

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a massive global impact over the last year. Here in Ireland, as indeed all over the world, there has been widespread disruption of society. The impact of the pandemic has shaken economies, forced government to intervene with widespread lockdowns and has affected health, employment and even people's capacity to move outside their own area.

The Covid-19 pandemic has helped underline for many the fragility of our natural environment which is deeply threatened by climate change and global warming. Our current crises have encouraged a number of leading commentators to focus on value of natural and cultural heritage and the role they can play in social healing and sustainable economic recovery.

However, cultural and natural heritage are not only co-dependent and fragile resources, but they are also in need of remediation from under-funding and overexploitation. So, if we are to realise their true potential to contribute to quality of life, including generating sustainable employment, we need to manage them in an inclusive, informed and thoughtful way.

This year, 2020, marked the completion of the term of office of the 2016-2020 Heritage Council. Through the strategic plan, *Heritage at the Heart, Heritage Council Strategic Plan, 2018 -2022* the Council put in place structures which protect, promote and make available our rich heritage. I wish to thank all my former colleagues for their dedication, hard work and support.

In presenting the Heritage Council's Annual Report I am pleased to report on the transformation that has taken place in the manner in which we have carried out our work this year. Placing even greater emphasis on the co-dependency of nature and culture, we have cast our net to a wider public and provided a service that is more streamlined and yet even more relevant and beneficial to those who use it. The financial resources at our disposal have been strengthened and Council and its staff has remained steadfastly committed to their efficient and effective use within our new and challenging framework.

I look forward with optimism to Council continuing its work of increasing public participation in heritage in all its expressions.



MICHAEL PARSONS
Chairman





CEO'S REVIEW OF 2020

Contexts

In early 2020, the outbreak and spread of COVID-19 became the biggest crisis that Irish society has ever faced – here on the island of Ireland and right across the globe. While COVID-19 remains first and foremost a public health issue, this virus has had, and continues to have, unprecedented and extremely serious consequences for all aspects of our life and how we live and work across the island of Ireland. The heritage sector and the Heritage Council have not been immune from the impacts of the crisis and its broad ranging consequences.

Strategic Priorities

Like other public sector bodies, agencies and businesses our work in 2020 was defined by our response to the crisis presented by a global pandemic. Flexibility and innovation were demanded as we adapted to remote working and communicating virtually. Public health guidelines largely defined how we, as an organisation, fulfilled our strategic objectives, conducted our work and went about our daily lives. Re-imagining our work allowed the Heritage Council to continue to focus on our strategic priorities to serve citizens and communities and heighten their awareness of and appreciation for heritage in all its expressions. Immediately after the impact of the pandemic became apparent, the Heritage Council evaluated how we as an organisation could strategically contribute to supporting government, civil society and the heritage sector during the crisis.

An unexpected outcome of lockdowns was a new, or sometimes renewed, interest in and curiosity about our localities, their history, biodiversity, and uniqueness. Innovative responses to the needs of new audiences demanded that the Heritage Council develop citizen-led virtual programmes, such as 'Know Your 5K'.

Heritage in Schools is one of our critical strategic programmes which we continued to deliver throughout the pandemic. A series of online tutorials was developed between March and August. These tutorials complemented the existing library of resources already available on the *Heritage in Schools* website. The resources were both fun and educational and were designed to inspire and develop an appreciation and curiosity around Ireland's built, natural and cultural heritage, whilst supporting the aims and objectives of the SESE curriculum. Early in April RTÉ Learn was approached to discuss possible opportunities for collaboration and this led to the tutorials being published on the *RTÉ Home School Hub* during the month of May and profiled again in the lead up to National Heritage Week. The tutorials proved popular with children and families alike and the supporting competitions were well received. Many parents reported how the whole family thoroughly enjoyed the activities and the opportunities to engage with their local heritage.

Migrating the delivery of programme from the classroom to film media has been revolutionary. An innovative re-pivoting of the future delivery of the *Heritage in Schools* programme to a blended 'in person' and recorded format increases the



Mr Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive of The Heritage Council at Swords Castle, during National Heritage Week 2020.

geographical reach of the *Heritage in Schools* programme, as many remotely located schools can now access the sessions online. It is also a good value for money investment.

Determined to progress with National Heritage Week 2020, we worked with communities to support them in delivering an online celebration of heritage during August 2020. Re-pivoting our approaches to citizen and community engagement, through web-based communications, has increased participation in heritage activities and expanded the profile of heritage participants to include younger audiences and some members of communities that are new to Ireland.

Impacts of COVID-19 on the Heritage Sector

The heritage sector, like other sectors of society, has been severely impacted by COVID-19. The heritage sector has faced closures, job losses, delays and increased home working. Some heritage sites have seen increased pressure from visitor numbers and

many organisations have been busy developing new online content for those engaged in home schooling or cocooned.

To understand the impact on the sector the Heritage Council conducted a survey. This was open from 23rd April until 6th May (11 days) on the Survey Monkey platform. It is estimated that the survey, including social media reach, was circulated to approximately 1,500 individuals, bodies and agencies. 510 responses were submitted.

The survey provided a vital snapshot of the health of the heritage sector during the crisis. In response, the Heritage Council used the findings to make a submission to Government to secure funding for the sector as part of the COVID-19 Stimulus Funding Package which was announced in July 2020.

The results of the survey indicated that for larger heritage organisations and voluntary groups there were immediate issues regarding flexibility from funders and coping with diminished cash flow and other pressures. The importance of ongoing government and society-wide COVID-19 supports is

clear to respondents. However, a common thread in free-text comments provided by the survey was the need for grant supports and the realisation that matching funds will be problematical for many into 2021.

Additionally, we responded by refocusing our work programmes, streamlining our processes and working with partners to ensure that as much information as possible was available to the sector on the full range of Government and other support measures.

Rebuilding Heritage COVID-19 Stimulus Funding

In July 2020 the Heritage Council successfully secured €1m funding from Government to provide additional supports to the heritage sector and stimulate increased activity in capital works and enhanced our existing grant schemes. This scheme is intended to enable communities and heritage non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to continue their existing work programmes or to start new initiatives. The funding allowed us to reinstate the popular Community Grants Scheme, which focused on supporting capital projects that improve access and inclusion to heritage sites, and that applied good heritage practice to the management of places, collections, or objects (including buildings). The scheme also supported the purchase of essential equipment. This funding scheme proved to be hugely popular, and 313 applications were received for 68 projects were funded. The total funding that was sought was €2,731,031 and €538,968 was awarded for Community Projects. Other funding was used to strengthen the Historic Towns Initiative Scheme, the Irish Walled Towns Network and Irish Landmark Trust.

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Under the newly-formed Government, the heritage brief falls under the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage led by Minister Darragh O'Brien TD. In July 2020, we welcomed the news that Malcolm Noonan TD was appointed Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform.

At the Heritage Council we especially welcomed the decision by the Government to create a dedicated junior ministerial post to manage the heritage brief. Having a dedicated junior ministry is recognition of the importance that heritage has in the lives of every citizen, as well as the contribution it can make to tourism, economic recovery and, importantly, the future of our country.

Minister Noonan and Minister O'Brien demonstrated their interest in heritage through their engagement with sectoral groups and in events such as National Heritage Week 2020 and at Heritage Council meetings.

Heritage Council Term 2016–2020 and Appointment of Heritage Council Board

The Heritage Council's term ended in July 2020. Appointed in 2016, the outgoing Council, under the Chairmanship of Michael Parsons, oversaw the initiation and implementation of significant corporate governance reforms, which serve to strengthen the Council's organisational capacity and ensure its sustainability. The Council also developed Heritage at the Heart, Heritage Council Strategy 2018–2022. Launched in 2018 this plan sets out a vision for the Council and defines the route for achieving that vision.

Tree planting at The Heritage Council Headquarters to mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of The Heritage Council – Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive with Mr Malcolm Noonan TD, Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform at the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage



As a voluntary board, the members of the Heritage Council generously donate their time and expertise. This generosity is appreciated by all of us who work in the sector and especially the members of staff at the Heritage Council. I wish to acknowledge the contributions of the members of the former Council and personally thank them.

In November 2020 we welcomed the appointment of new members of the board of the Heritage Council, under the Chairmanship of Michael Parsons. Ministers O'Brien and Noonan both participated, virtually, in the inaugural meeting of the newly-appointed Council which was held on 3rd December 2020.

The Heritage Council marked the 25th anniversary of its establishment in 2020. Public health restrictions prevented the coordination of a public event. Minister Malcolm Noonan celebrated the anniversary by planting a yew tree in the Heritage Council gardens. The tree planting ceremony was an important symbolic event for the Council as it marked our accomplishments over the past quarter century.

Governance

The Board met 10 times in 2020 and the meetings, which took place mainly online (8 times) offered the opportunity for Board members to engage with the challenges facing the organisation in responding to the issues posed by the pandemic crisis.

Matters considered by the Board during the year included the approval of the draft statutory accounts for 2019; as well as the approval of the Review of the Heritage at the Heart, Heritage Council Strategy 2018-2022; Review of the Museums Standards Programme for Ireland; Strategic Work Force Plan; COVID-19 Response Plan; and the Business Continuity Plan. Reviews of operational management performance were ongoing, including regular updates on the impact of COVID-19 on operational performance. Throughout 2020, reports were received from the Audit, Risk and Finance and Strategic Planning Committees on various matters

Acknowledgements

The Heritage Council is very grateful for the continuing support which we have received in 2020 from the both the former Department of Arts, Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the newly-formed Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and from ministers, Josepha Madigan

TD (Minister for Arts, Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht 2016–2020), Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and Malcolm Noonan TD, Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform. Ministers were generous with their time in participating in various events and supporting our work. I am grateful, too, to the officials of at the Heritage Division, DHLGH, whose ongoing support and counsel I appreciate.

I would also like to thank our partners in local government, especially the local authority heritage officers, who have worked with us to support protection and celebration of heritage. The co-operation of our colleagues across a range of public service agencies and business continues to be an invaluable support in all aspects of our work as does the co-operation of civil society groups and the not-for-profit sector. I am very proud of their loyalty, commitment, energy and innovation in their work on behalf of the heritage sector.

Looking forward

At the end of 2018, the Heritage Council outlined our five-year ambition to place heritage at the heart of Irish life. The outbreak and spread of COVID-19 and events in 2020 have presented extraordinary challenges for global heritage – including the ongoing threat of climate change, uncertainty around Brexit, and economic and geo-political uncertainty.

In 2020 the Heritage Council demonstrated that we are resilient and equipped with the skills to deal with change and to adjust to new directions and ways of working. There is no question that the shape of our society and economy that emerges from this crisis will be very different than it was at the beginning of 2020. Our focus now will be on reshaping our vision and plans to respond to change. Everyone at the Heritage Council looks forward to getting back into full swing as soon as we can in order to face challenges and work with our partners to protect and celebrate heritage.



VIRGINIA TEEHAN
Chief Executive Officer

2.1 | WHO ARE WE?

The Heritage Council is a public body working in the public interest. Established under the Heritage Act, 1995, its statutory functions are to propose policies for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of our national heritage. The Heritage Act provides a comprehensive definition of heritage which includes monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects such as art and industrial works, documents and genealogical records, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens, parks and inland waterways.

The Heritage Council's vision is that by 2022, heritage will be at the heart of Irish society and decision-making and that Ireland will be internationally recognised as a centre of excellence in heritage management, conservation and community engagement. We will continue to work in partnership with local communities, local authorities, voluntary groups, government departments, various agencies and national cultural institutions in order to deliver this vision. Together we will sow the seeds of innovation and support projects that will have a positive and enduring social and economic impact.

2.2 | OUR BOARD

Heritage Council board members are appointed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Coming from diverse backgrounds and with wide ranging skills, each member provides an invaluable conduit of ideas and energy, enabling the organisation to lead, respond and deliver effectively. All expenses to board members are paid in accordance with the guidelines and rules set down by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. Details of expenses are published in our annual reports.



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1 Chairman: Michael Parsons

Chairperson Laois Heritage Society • Member of the Heritage Council since January 2012

The following members were appointed to the board in November 2020

2 Fionnuala May (Appointed July 2016, reappointed November 2020)

County Architect, Fingal County Council 2011-the present • Served as a member of the Heritage Council's Standing Committee on Architecture (2000-2010) • Member of Council RIAI 2016-2021 • Board Member Irish Architectural Archive

3 Michael Farrell

Former Corporate Secretary and Director of Human Resources, UCC • Chief Executive, Clinical Research Ireland, 2020 - date • Interim Chief Executive, Royal College of Physicians, 2018 – 2019

4 John Patrick Greene

CEO and Museum Director, EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, Sep 2019 – date • Consultant/Owner, Greene Associates, 2017 – 2019 • CEO, Museums Victoria in Melbourne, 2002 – 2017

5 Sammy Leslie

Custodian, Castle Leslie Estate (brand), 1991 – date • Director, C L Projects, 2005 – date • Trustee of Birr Castle OST 1990's to present • Irish Heritage Trust – Trustee 2006 to 2016

6 Deirdre McDermott

Principal, Deirdre McDermott & Associates, 2000 – date • Associate Director, Urban Initiatives, 2000 – 2002 • Associate, Brady Shipman Martin, 1994

7 Martina Moloney

Former Chief Executive, Louth County Council; Galway County Council • Member, The Arts Council, 2016 - date • Member, National Oversight & Audit Commission for Local Government, 2014 – date

8 Dr Patricia O'Hare

Assessor, Heritage Council Museum Standards Programme for Ireland, 2016 – date • Research and Education Officer for Trustees, Muckross House, Killarney, CLG, 1995 – date • Director, Castleisland District Archaeological Survey, Castleisland District Development Association, 1985 -1993

9 John G Pierce

Trustee, Charitable Infirmary Charitable Trust, 2018 – date • Chair, An Taisce, 2017 – 2019 • Director Portfolio & References Global Marketing, Fujitsu, 2016 - 2017

10 Sheila Pratschke

Chair, An Chomhairle Ealaíon/The Arts Council, 2014 – 2019 • Director, Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, 2007 – 2013 • Director, Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, 2001 - 2006

11 Dr Mary Tubridy

Principal, Mary Tubridy and Associates, 1995 - date • Director, Head of Research, Irish Uplands Forum

2.3 | OUR STAFF IN 2020

The staff of the Heritage Council is a small, flexible and highly motivated group of people. Their expertise, independence and their dedication to heritage define the culture of the organisation.



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1 VIRGINIA TEEHAN
Chief Executive Officer

HEADS OF SERVICE

- 2 IAN DOYLE**
Head of Conservation
- 3 BEATRICE KELLY**
Head of Research & Policy
- 4 MICHAEL O'BRIEN**
Head of Business Services
- 5 MARK O'REGAN**
Head of Communication & Education
- 6 PAULA DROHAN**
Head of Finance

PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS

- 7 ALISON HARVEY**
Planning Officer
- 8 COLM MURRAY**
Architecture Officer
- 9 ANNA MEENAN**
GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings Grant Scheme Project Manager
- 10 LORCAN SCOTT**
Wildlife Officer

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- 11 ANNE BARCOE**
PA to Chief Executive & Chairman
- 12 AMANDA RYAN**
Grants Administrator
- 13 GERARD CROKE**
Administrator
- 14 MARTINA MALONE**
Administrator
- 15 CHRISTENA RYAN**
Administrator

CONSULTANCY SERVICES

COMPASS INFORMATICS

National Biodiversity Data Centre

DHR COMMUNICATIONS

National Heritage Week Project Manager

LESLEY-ANN HAYDEN

Co-ordinator, Museum Standards Programme for Ireland

ABARTA HERITAGE

Irish Walled Towns Network Project Manager

PAT REID

Heritagemaps.ie Project Manager

MARIA WALSH

Heritage in Schools Project Manager

2.4 | WHAT WE DO

The Heritage Council is a public body working in the public interest. We seek to fulfill our priorities through the provision of expert advice, funding, education programmes and advocacy.





WE ADVISE

The Heritage Council proposes policy and priorities to the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on heritage issues that include sustainability, landscape management, high nature value farming, forestry and climate change.

WE EDUCATE

Education has always been at the heart of the Heritage Council's work programme. Our Heritage in Schools Scheme, in particular, plays a key role in encouraging interest and participation at primary level. We also support a wide range of professional development programmes that, to date, have dealt with landscape, planning, museums, archaeology, communications and traditional skills.

WE RAISE AWARENESS

Through our publications, promotions, social media and the hugely successful National Heritage Week we focus on contacting, informing, engaging and even entertaining as wide, as varied and as culturally-diverse range of audiences as possible. We are ever-conscious of the need to remind people of the value and beauty of heritage in a time where so many other issues and events compete for their attention.

WE WORK WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Community involvement is at the heart of the Heritage Council's vision for national heritage. Our work with local communities supports jobs, education and heritage tourism in our local areas, delivering a rich tourism experience and excellent practice in the care of our nation's valuable heritage assets.

Since our establishment in 1995, we have put in place heritage infrastructure and networks to enable communities to participate in and take responsibility for the development and conservation of the heritage of their areas. Success has been achieved

through working in partnership with local authorities and statutory agencies. The results of such projects include the Community-Led Village Design Toolkit, the Heritage Officer Programme, the Collaborative Town Centre Health Check Training Programme and a wide range of projects undertaken under the Heritage Management Grants Scheme.

WE WORK WITH PARTNERS

The Heritage Council works with partners, particularly at local level, to increase awareness of our national heritage and to highlight its importance to public policy and everyday life.

Most important is our ongoing relationships with local authorities across the country. Helping to build expertise and resources at local level has been a key objective of the Heritage Council since it was established in 1995. Management and responsibility of heritage at local level is often the best means to ensure its long-term care and sustainable use.

The Heritage Council has a complex national brief across natural, cultural and built heritage which places a heavy and welcome reliance on us to work with others to achieve common aims together. In addition, the Heritage Council provides core funding to a number of bodies in order to support the needs of the sector and to help achieve shared aims.

WE SUPPORT THE HERITAGE SECTOR

The projects and initiatives we fund, participate in or support in a range of ways are carried out in line with best conservation practice. They help support and maintain a wide network of highly-skilled heritage professionals that includes conservators, thatchers, builders, ecologists, archaeologists, conservation architects and museum curators. Our work complements and builds on the work of other state heritage bodies which have primary responsibility for the care of property in state ownership and the designation of protected areas.



PROGRAMMES & INITIATIVES

**National
Biodiversity
Data Centre**

A Heritage Council Programme



MSPI

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**HERITAGE
IN SCHOOLS**

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**NATIONAL
HERITAGE
WEEK**

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**Heritage Officer
Programme**

HeritageMaps.ie

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**ADOPT A
TMONUMENT**

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council





ROAD CLOSED
Fri 3rd Aug at 3pm to
Tues 7th Aug at 8am
Fri 10th Aug at 3pm to
Mon 13th Aug at 8am
Fri 17th Aug at 3pm to
Mon 20th Aug at 8am
Fri 24th Aug at 3pm to
Mon 27th Aug at 8am

2020 AT A GLANCE

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

PROJECTS | 2020
heritagecouncil.ie

IRISH WALLED TOWNS NETWORK

€313,960
Total Grants in 2020
32% Increase from 2019

€233,308
Capital / Conservation Works in 2020
55% Increase from 2019

€80,652
Interpretation and Events Grants in 2020
8% Decrease from 2019
Due to Covid restrictions

The IWTN Website
was Redesigned and Launched in Spring 2020

IWTN Action Plan 2020 - 2023
was launched at the AGM in February 2020

- A children's workbook was designed in April and launched
- A video about conservation works that took place on a section of Athlone's town walls was created
- A new magazine for IWTN network members was produced and circulated in December
- The IWTN Historic Building Study (in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) began with Kilmallock as the pilot walled town member to undertake the study
- Virtual medieval events were organised for Athenry, Loughrea, Athlone and Cork City

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PROJECTS | 2020
heritagecouncil.ie

Traditional Farm Buildings GRANT SCHEME

In partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

78 Projects
which includes

- 93 buildings
- several walling projects
- several pairs of gates
- one bridge

The roosts/nests of 124 protected species
identified and protected

Seminar and Skills Demo
held in Tullamore with over 180 attendees (pre-COVID)

Several short films
of projects made

Co-wrote Reusing Farm Buildings
with Dr Alan Hurley of TEAGASC for their Rural Development factsheets

Featured on RTE Countrywide and Radio na Gaeltachta
as well as numerous local and farming media

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NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK 2020
15-23 AUG

854 Projects shared on Heritageweek.ie

Over 770 Project Organisers

Projects by County

Derry: 2	Louth: 9
Donegal: 35	Mayo: 30
Down: 2	Meath: 30
Dublin: 130	Monaghan: 7
Fermanagh: 3	Offaly: 28
Galway: 77	Roscommon: 32
Kerry: 17	Sligo: 18
Kildare: 36	Tipperary: 26
Antrim: 2	Tyrone: 2
Carlow: 10	Laois: 12
Cavan: 13	Leitrim: 10
Clare: 34	Limerick: 32
Cork: 73	Longford: 15
	Wicklow: 44

Projects by Focus Area

Built Heritage: 194
Natural Heritage: 442
Cultural Heritage: 212

Benefits of Participation

- 72% of respondents gained a new skill
- 43% learned more about heritage
- 35% gained digital skills (online, video, social media, etc)
- 7% gained an appreciation of the value of and experience in collaborating with others

National Heritage Week Awards

Heritage Hero
Heritage on your doorstep
Relearning skills from our heritage

The heritage of education
Water heritage
County award

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PROJECTS | 2020
heritagecouncil.ie

Wildlife

Publications in 2020
A Guide to the Habitats in Ireland
Bats, Birds, Buildings & You

Dromore Stables Project
Lesser Horseshoe Bat Maternity Roost Survey

Ireland Wildlife Film Festival 2020
62 Films
2,028 film views
1,588 Website hits

Feature article by Wildlife Officer in BirdWatch Ireland "Wings"

LEGO® Children's Covid Competition

All 3 HC Wildlife Officers (past & present) took part in an on-line Heritage Week discussion "High Nature Value farming in Ireland"
340 Views on YouTube

Events featured and supported by the Heritage Council:

- World Wetlands Day (Feb 2nd)
- National Biodiversity Week (May)
- National Heritage Week (Aug)
- Earth Hour (March)



Web videos of
Traditional
Building Skills

Web videos of
Home
Maintenance
& Repair



First phase of
maintenance
and repair works
on the Heritage
Council's offices
in Kilkenny
completed



Essay written by Colm Murray,
Architecture Officer,
on Climate Change
Adaptation and
the Concept of
Resilience



Lecture Series
on Fundamentals of Energy
Renovations for Traditional
Buildings



80 Certificates
for those
who attended
these lectures

Submission on 'National
Policy on Architecture' to the
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the
Gaeltacht



Developed a series of online
tutorials in April and May to
support homeschooling families
Profiled on the RTE
Home School Hub



Developed a suite of 24 online
tutorials for social media
around the
themes for
Heritage
Week
2020 and
activities
for families



Selected a team of 15
Heritage Specialists
with experience in
the area of online
technology



Launched the pilot test of
a Virtual Heritage in
Schools Programme which
ran from September to December in
counties Donegal and Kilkenny with
support of the Education Centres and
Heritage Officers in both counties.
473 virtual visits were delivered to
over 9,000 children in 108 schools.



Ran two competitions in April
and May over social media
to coincide with the release
of tutorials and to encourage
families to explore heritage
locally

Surveyed primary schools in
June for input into the design
of a virtual Heritage in Schools
programme - 121 schools
contributed to the final design

During the year 984 visits
(virtual and in-person) were
delivered to an estimated
34,000 children in 377 schools

700 Heritage
Surveys in
Map-form



Your Free
All-Ireland
One-Stop-Shop
for Irish Heritage



7500 Heritage
Professionals
regularly use
HeritageMaps.ie



Over 50
Maps
on Ireland's
Coast and
Offshore

Large
Overseas
Following
in US & UK



- Access Traditional Music, Audio-guides, 3D Imagery and Excavation Reports
- Learn about Rock Art, Éire Signs, Sheela-na-Gigs and Stained Glass
- Find Ireland's Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage within your 5K
- Explore a wealth of previously unavailable maps from Local, Department and State Agencies
- Discover Ireland's Heritage for Yourself
- Plan, Draw and Make Maps for your Society, Scout Group or Family Trip

Museum
Standards
Programme
for Ireland (MSPI)
launched in 2007



The programme
acknowledges
excellence in
governance and
management



118
certificates
awarded
since 2007



Full accreditation
takes three
to five years

43 museums
fully accredited
by 2020



In 2020, the museums which
received accreditation are:

- The Glebe House and Gallery, OPW, Co Donegal
- The IFI Irish Film Archive, Dublin
- Kilmainham Gaol Museum, OPW, Dublin
- The Little Museum of Dublin
- Fota House, The Irish Heritage Trust, Co Cork
- The Hunt Museum, Limerick city
- Shackleton Museum, Co Kildare
- Waterford Treasures: Bishop's Palace and Medieval Museum
- Carlow County Museum
- Cork Public Museum

Included are National Gallery of
Ireland; Chester Beatty Library;
Kerry County Museum; Michael
Davitt Museum; GAA Museum; Hunt
Museum; Farmleigh; Butler Gallery;
Old Library, TCD; Knock Museum

3

STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES 2020



THE HERITAGE OFFICER PROGRAMME



The Heritage Officer Programme is a key strategic partnership between The Heritage Council and local authorities. This nationwide programme comprises 29 officers who are employed in local authorities. New Heritage Officer appointments in 2020 were Christine Baker with Fingal County Council and Deirdre Black with Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

The role of the Heritage Officer is to raise awareness of natural, built and cultural heritage; provide advice and information on heritage matters to the public and local authority staff; collect data and conduct research on aspects of heritage; influence and develop heritage policy; promote best practice in relation to heritage matters; and prepare and implement a County Heritage Plan in conjunction with a County Heritage Forum and The Heritage Council.

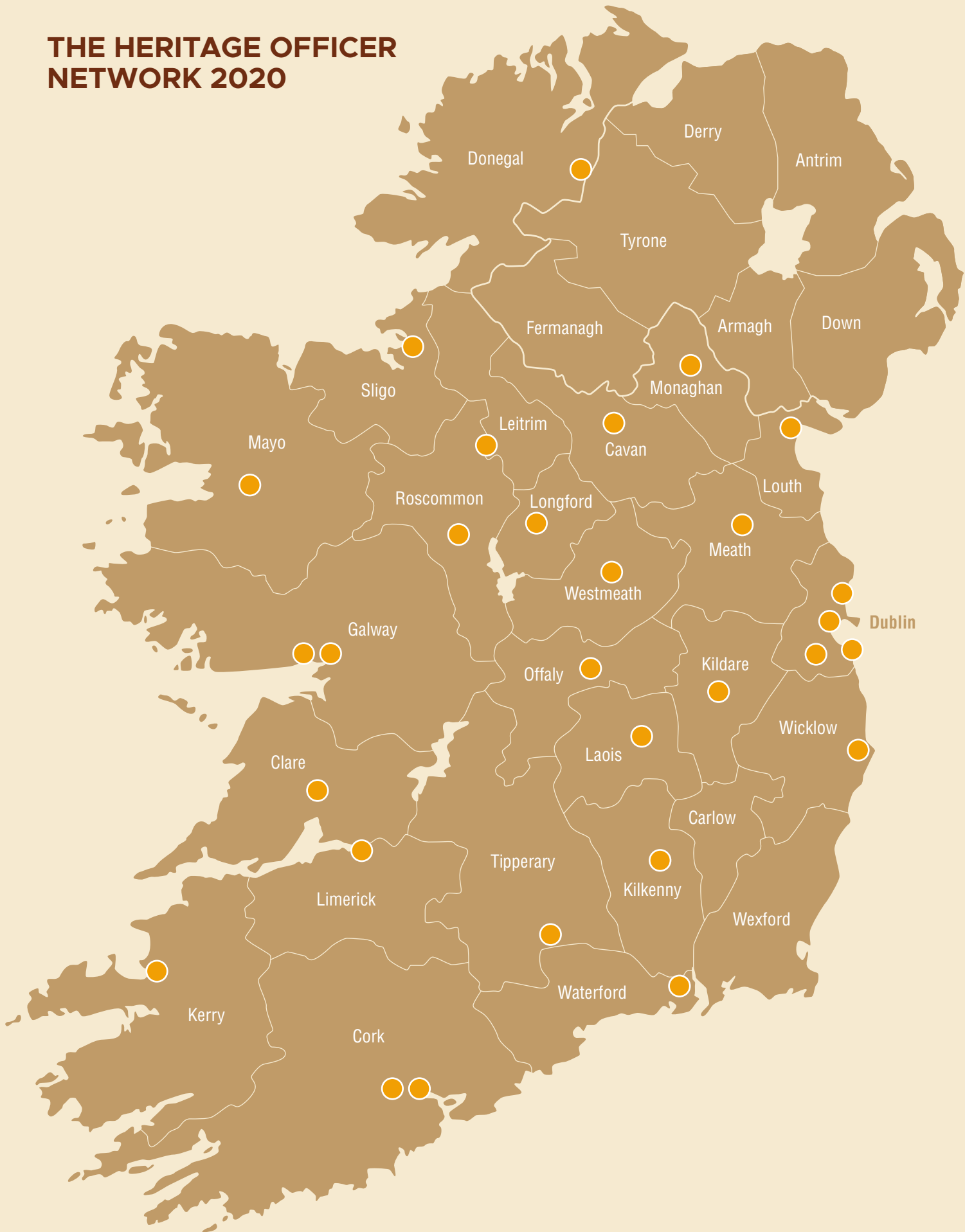
The Heritage Council provides part-funding for the post of Heritage Officer in local authorities; allocates a dedicated liaison person to coordinate the Heritage Officer Programme; organises the Heritage Training and Development Programme (continuing professional development and training for Heritage Officers); and provides annual match funding for the implementation of County Heritage Plans.

The Heritage Council supports heritage officers' training and development needs through the Local Authority Heritage Officer Network. Joseph Gallagher, Heritage Officer, Donegal County Council, is the current Chairperson of the Local Authority Heritage Officer Network and Conor Nelligan, Heritage Officer, Cork County Council, is Vice-Chairperson.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges to the work of Local Authority Heritage Officers and to the heritage sector. Responding to restrictions introduced as a result of the pandemic, Heritage Officers recognised the value of our natural, built and cultural heritage as a source of enjoyment, escape, engagement, learning, good health and comfort.

There was remarkable demand for the *Gardening for Biodiversity* booklet written by Juanita Browne and published with the support of the Local Authority Heritage Officer Network and the Heritage Council. Over 90,000 copies were distributed countrywide. Local Authority Heritage Officers worked with local communities, heritage groups and individuals in partnership with The Heritage Council to develop heritage projects and to move National Heritage Week online. Waterways Ireland and Inland Fisheries Ireland, in partnership with the Local Authority Waters Programme, Heritage Officer Network, The Heritage Council, supported the *Stories from the Waterside* story-telling competition and book. Several Local Authority Heritage Officer initiatives were recognised at national award ceremonies in 2020 including the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards, the Irish Planning Institute Awards and the Local Authority Members' Association Awards.

THE HERITAGE OFFICER
NETWORK 2020



Carlow: Recruitment process underway

Cavan: Anne Marie Ward

Tel: 049 4378614

Email: amcurley@cavancoco.ie

Cork City: Niamh Twomey

Tel: 021 4924018

Email: niamh_twomey@corkcity.ie

Cork County: Conor Nelligan

Tel: 021 4285905

Email: conor.nelligan@corkcoco.ie

Clare: Congella McGuire

Tel: 065 6846408

Email: cmcguire@clarecoco.ie

Donegal: Dr. Joseph Gallagher

Tel: 074 9172576

Email: heritage@donegalcoco.ie

Dublin City: Charles Duggan

Tel: 01 2222856

Email: charles.duggan@dublincity.ie

Dublin South: Dr. Rosaleen Dwyer

Tel: 01 4149222

Email: rdwyer@sdblincoco.ie

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown: Deirdre Black

Email: dblack@dlrcoco.ie

Fingal: Christine Baker

Tel: 01-890 5691

Email: christine.baker@fingal.ie

Galway City: Jim Higgins

Tel: 091 526574

Email: jim.higgins@galwaycity.ie

Galway County: Marie Mannion

Tel: 091 509198

Email: mmannion@galwaycoco.ie

Kerry: Victoria McCarthy

Tel: 066 7183500

Email: VMcCarthy@kerrycoco.ie

Kildare: Bridget Loughlin

Tel: 045 980791

Email: bloughlin@kildarecoco.ie

Kilkenny: Dearbhala Ledwidge

Tel: 056 7794925

Email: derbhala.ledwidge@kilkennycoco.ie

Laois: Catherine Casey

Tel: 057 8664129

Email: ccasey@laoiscoco.ie

Leitrim: Sarah Malone

Tel: 071 9620005

Email: smalone@leitrimcoco.ie

Limerick: Tom O'Neill

Tel: 061 407229

Email: thomasoneill@limerick.ie

Longford: Máiréad Ní Chonghaile

Tel: 043 3340731

Email: mnichonghaile@longfordcoco.ie

Louth: Brendan McSherry

Tel: 042 9324109

Email: brendan.mcsherry@louthcoco.ie

Mayo: Dr. Deirdre Cunningham

Tel: 094 9064902

Email: dcunningham@mayococo.ie

Meath: Dr. Loreta Guinan

Tel: 046 9097507

Email: heritage@meathcoco.ie

Monaghan: Shirley Clerkin

Tel: 047 73722

Email: shclerkin@monaghancoco.ie

Offaly: Amanda Pedlow

Tel: 057 9346839

Email: apedlow@offalycoco.ie

Roscommon: Nollaig Feeney

Tel: 090 6637100

Email: nfeeney@roscommoncoco.ie

Sligo: Siobhán Ryan

Tel: 071 9114482

Email: heritage@sligococo.ie

Tipperary: Róisín O'Grady

Tel: 076 1066213

Email: roisin.ogrady@tipperarycoco.ie

Waterford: Bernadette Guest

Tel: 076 1102668

Email: bguest@waterfordcouncil.ie

Westmeath: Melanie McQuade

Tel: 044 9332098

Email: Melanie.mcquade@westmeathcoco.ie

Wexford: Recruitment process underway

Wicklow: Deirdre Burns

Tel: 0404 20100

Email: dburns@wicklowcoco.ie

COUNTY HERITAGE PLANS

The Heritage Council supports the implementation of County Heritage Plans operated by the Heritage Officers located in local authorities. The following is a selective summary of the work achieved by Heritage Officers in 2020.

Clare County Council Heritage Officer

All Ireland Pollinator Plan: On the 3rd February Clare County Council signed a framework agreement with the National Biodiversity Data Centre to undertake actions to support pollinators in County Clare.

Clare Biodiversity Best Practice Staff Manual & Training Project: The first phase of this project was a Gap Analysis report, which comprised of a review of current work practices and an examination of the biodiversity resource available to Clare County Council staff in order to identify training requirements and to examine how work practices may be altered to benefit biodiversity. This report along with a staff consultation and a Biodiversity Questionnaire has informed the development of the Biodiversity Resource Manual.

The draft of Biodiversity Resource Manual (including the Environmental Procedures on Hedgerow, Drainage, Grassland Management and Trees Management and the Use of Herbicides) has been updated in line with feedback from Roads Department and Planning Section. A training element on the use of the Manual has been delivered to Clare County Council staff early in 2021.

The Biodiversity Demonstration Sites: The biodiversity demonstration project aimed to showcase best practice in biodiversity management, creating awareness and a message for change.

The sites in question include Tim Smythe's Park, Ennis, Shannon Wetland, Shannon, Public green area on the Cooraclare road in Kilrush, Two Mile Gate, Ballycuggeran, Killaloe, Public park near to the Church in Miltown Malbay, Triangular area at junction of Liscannor/Ennistymon Road in Lahinch, Public road between Ennistymon and Lahinch, Picnic area across from Ennistymon Church on the Lahinch Road, Riverside Park, Scarriff, Ballycannon Graveyard, Meelick.

The Clare Holy Well Audit and Survey County

Clare has a very high density of Holy Wells per capita and relative to its area. There are 241 Holy Wells in the Record of Monuments and Places for County Clare. Holy Wells are sacred spaces in the landscape and are held in high regard by the people of the county. Michael Houlihan and Tony Kirby have populated a comprehensive data base of information, with a focus on the less well known or un-recorded Holy Wells or those not in present use. The next phase of the work will involve making the information available to the public and the project will continue raising awareness and knowledge of the rich heritage associated with Holy Wells and their settings in 2021.

Other heritage and biodiversity initiatives in 2020

included the completion of the County Clare Swift Survey 2020, the publication and video production of Building space for nature: wildlife and buildings. Events were held online during Biodiversity Week and Heritage Week, work continued on the Reading Your Local Landscape' courses and the Clare Community Heritage Archive Website iCAN. Funding was made available to Clare heritage under the Adopt a Monument programme and recent addition of the Community Monument Fund, Heritage Council Community Heritage grants among other heritage funding mechanisms.

Cork County Council Heritage Officer

As experienced by sectors throughout 2020, the heritage sector too has been significantly impacted upon by Covid-19. While this makes it difficult to project for 2021, if 2020 was anything to go by, funding of heritage in 2021 should remain strong as there is a growing means and understanding with regard to what heritage provides for society.

This is reflected in a significant increase in heritage expenditure in County Cork in 2020, compared with 2019 levels. 2021 will also see work on the rollout of the new National Heritage Plan 2030, with Cork County Council to shortly follow suit, with the undertaking of a new Heritage Plan for the County.

2020 saw a number of heritage projects undertaken in the County and the Heritage Unit received direct funding from the Heritage Council for two County Heritage Plan projects to the sum of €23,000. Supported by the Heritage Council, the Heritage Unit undertook a publication on the Archaeological



Holy Wells in Clare. Image courtesy of Michael Houlihan.



Mayor of the County of Cork Cllr. Ian Doyle; Senior Planner Thomas Watt, Chair of Cork County Council's Commemorations Committee Cllr. Susan McCarthy, County Cork Heritage Officer Conor Nelligan, pictured in Cobh to mark the heritage centenary of the change in name from Queenstown to Cobh.

Heritage of County Cork, and volume two of a colouring book depicting Cork's heritage and culture. 2021 will see a continuation in publications being produced by Cork County Council's Heritage Unit.

Investment in the county's heritage comes from a number of different sources, including through the Irish Walled Towns Network whose members include Bandon; Buttevant and Youghal.

In 2020, €9,800 was awarded for Interpretative Panels in Buttevant, and under the Heritage Council's Heritage Sector Support Fund 2020, Bere Island Projects Group received €18,000 towards the Bere Island Conservation Plan 2020.

Further investment came through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage through the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structures Fund (HSF).

Under the BHIS 10 different projects were supported to the value of €79,000, and under the HSF, four projects (one of which is a two-year project) received funding of €171,000.

This €250,000 represented almost a doubling of the funding received by County Cork under the same schemes in 2019.

In addition, a further €36,500 was allocated under the Government's National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund to Cork County Council through its Ecological Unit which helped fund a variety of projects.

The outlook for funding under these schemes in 2021 remains positive.

A further significant development was the announcement in September 2020 of the National Community Monuments Fund.

Under this fund, three successful projects in Cork County received funding.

The 2020 Heritage Council Community Grants Scheme saw seven successful applications from the County, with a combined allocation of €39,536.

The projects were located in Bere Island, Castletownroche, Cobh, Glenville, Glounthaune, Kilmurry and Mitchelstown.

Overall funding for heritage in County Cork through the Heritage Council and the parent Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage amounted to €455,201 in 2020.

This is a significant increase on funding levels in 2019, which was €189,197.

There is also investment in the County's heritage through the Creative Ireland Programme, and the delivery of the County Cork Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022.

In addition, heritage projects are being supported through a wide range of County Council grant schemes, such as the Arts Grant Scheme; Municipal District Grant Scheme, and Community Enhancement Fund.

A particular project supported by Creative Ireland was the undertaking of a short video to promote the County Cork School Garden's Competition. This production featured Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, Mayor of the County of Cork, in a local school in her home town of Youghal.

Cork County Council's Heritage Unit took in close to €4,000 over the course of 2020 through continued and projected sales of the Heritage of County Cork publication series, a series which will grow further in 2021.

The publication of this series is just one example of how Cork County Council's Heritage Unit endeavours to promote a greater appreciation of the County's heritage.

Through a regular mailing list update with over 1,750 recipients, and the continued upkeep of the Heritage website, which sees upwards of 30,000 visitors on an annual basis, extensive numbers of people are continually being reached. The heritage section of www.corkcoco.ie is updated regularly by Cork County Council's Heritage Officer.

While there was a reduction in the number of events and physical heritage activities in 2020, there was no shortage of activity through other mediums and projects.

During 2020, Cork County Council, together with many other Local Authority Heritage Officers, supported the Gardening for Biodiversity Publication, with hundreds of copies distributed by the Heritage Unit countywide. In addition, the Heritage Unit also contributed towards the National Heritage Map Viewer. Furthermore, the Heritage Unit distributed over 500 trees (which had been received from the Tree Council days prior to the cancellation of Tree Week 2020) and also worked with Limerick City and County Council by way of supporting a Nightjar

Bird study in both counties. Cork County Council's Heritage Unit also supported a Barn Owl Study by BirdWatch Ireland (also supported by CCC's Environment Directorate) and an archaeological survey of Béal na mBláth.

Cork County Council's Heritage Unit also supported the undertaking of a video for the '2020 Celebrating Cork Past Exhibition', which included an address from the Mayor of the County of Cork.

2020 also saw continuation in the production of Historic Town Maps for towns in the County (contributing therefore towards Project ACT), led by the County Archaeologist in conjunction with the local MD Offices. These are a significant asset to Cork County's tourism product and copies of the maps are available to download for free online on the 'Pure Cork' website (www.purecork.ie). 2021 will see the production of further maps for towns throughout the county.

Heritage Week

Heritage Week in 2020 was a very different undertaking, moving away from physical events to promoting online, and through print, radio and other media, a range of projects undertaken by groups throughout the County.

Cork County Council also highlighted projects as part of Heritage Week, including Cork County Council's Library Service, and close to 50 projects in total were promoted from County Cork.

Heritage Unit:

An important part of the Heritage Unit's role is advising at both preplanning and planning stage the impact development proposals may have on the County's heritage.

Natural Heritage is an important consideration, with the Heritage Unit and the Planning Policy Unit, working continuously towards the protection and promotion of this part of our heritage within the County.

The Heritage Unit also plays a strong role at community level, working closely with a range of key stakeholders to ensure that heritage is being protected, promoted and enhanced on the ground at the local level.

Commemorations:

Commemorative activity within the County was significantly curtailed due to Covid-19 in 2020, with many events cancelled or postponed.

However, some small scale commemorative events, in keeping with full public health guidelines were supported, such as the centenary of the change in name from Queenstown to Cobh in July 1920.

County Donegal Heritage Office

The Heritage Office raises awareness, provides advice, collects data, develops policy and promotes best practice in relation to heritage and implements the County Heritage Plan, in partnership with the County Heritage Forum (www.donegalcoco.ie/heritage).

Donegal County Council's Thatch Repair Grant Scheme won the 'Heritage and Built Environment' Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award and our Church Lane Historic Towns Initiative won the President's Highly Commended Project Award at the Irish Planning Institute Awards. Funding of €290,000 was secured from The Heritage Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht for the Ramelton Historic Towns Initiative and the pilot Community Monuments Fund was implemented on behalf of the National Monuments Service. These initiatives were co-managed by the Heritage Office and Conservation Office.

County Heritage Plan implementation included research on, and conservation works to, 'The Laurels' - playwright Brian Friel's mother's home in Glenties; Colmcille audio heritage guide and colouring book in preparation for the 1500th anniversary of the birth of St. Colmcille; the production of five 'Biodiversity in Your Back Garden' videos; a biodiversity radio campaign in partnership with Sligo & Leitrim Heritage Offices; the distribution of the highly-successful 'Gardening for Biodiversity' booklet produced by Heritage Officers; Ballyshannon Conservation Plan, and conservation reports on St. Naul's church and graveyard, Inver and the 'Wooden Bridge', Dunlewey.

The Heritage Office participated in the Heritage Council's pilot Heritage in Schools Virtual Programme, and sponsored the 'Wild About Nature' programme of children's workshops as part of Wainfest.

Funding was secured for a curlew project in partnership with BirdWatch Ireland, habitat assessments of historic graveyards and a 'Wildlife in Buildings' booklet in partnership with Kerry County Council and BirdWatchIreland. Despite COVID-19



Rope-Thatched Farmstead, Drimgorman, County Donegal.



County Galway virtual festivals.

limitations, Heritage Week in County Donegal was a success and recognised at the National Heritage Awards.

County Galway Heritage Office

During 2020, the Heritage Office of County Council continued its work to promote interest, education, knowledge and pride in the heritage of County Galway. The following are some of the projects undertaken in 2020:

An Illustrated Guide to the Ecclesiastical Heritage of the County of Galway launched in Loughrea Library

Cllr Gabe Cronnolly, Leas Cathaoirleach, Galway County Council launched the bi-lingual publication entitled, An Illustrated Guide to the Ecclesiastical Heritage of the County of Galway.

This 187 page publication, draws on audit reports, a photographic archive and documented findings from six years of community consultation, desk research and site visits to 140 churches in County Galway. The six-year audit involved photographing and recorded all identified artworks, furniture and fittings as well as consultation with stakeholders, including the church clergy, custodians, the local communities and the various artists associated with the artworks. Several websites and online databases were also consulted for information on artists and architects working in the field of church art and architecture in Ireland. They included dedicated sites for professional practitioners, artists' personal websites, online art galleries and general websites such as local community-based sites and the Galway Community Heritage website, www.galwaycommunityheritage.org. Information was collected and collated on the architecture of the churches as well as the architects and designers involved in church building and design. Local community websites and publications proved a very valuable source of information in several cases.

The depth of the audit can clearly be seen in this publication which gives a wonderful insight into the archaeological, historical, architectural, artistic, and visual significance of the ecclesiastical heritage resource in our county.

The book showcases the rich ecclesiastical heritage assets that are in the county. It gives the public, clergy, pastoral councils, administrators, academics,

artists and people interested in heritage a flavour of the wealth of ecclesiastical heritage in the County of Galway.

Geological Heritage Project

The aim of the project is to develop a geological resource guide for Junior Certificate Students. Given that the Geological Heritage Audit for Galway was completed at the end of 2019, and the raw materials were there to develop several educational and general information literature resources for the county, in which the initial step was the generation and development of a workbook for schools on the geological heritage of County Galway. The educational benefits of workbooks on somewhat complex scientific topics, such as geology, is long and well known. They allow children to work independently, as well as in groups. They promote interesting discussion, and in depth analysis of the subject topic. They are entertaining, and provide a solid education on the topic as the facts are correct. They teach critical thinking skills, none more so than those focussed on one's home area. And they fill in educational gaps, which has always been an issue with geology to some degree.

The workbook includes an everyday English summary of the geological history of Galway County, and includes numerous specifically-drafted diagrams to illustrate some of the more complex ideas behind the geological history of rocks in the county. Regional summaries of the bedrock history are given, and as much as possible, well known sites with specific geological features around the county are described and outlined. The text is punctuated with many high-quality colour photographs, and quizzes and queries help the enquiring nature of the workbook be applied constantly throughout. A substantial section at the end on geology in everyday life in Galway tries to relate the Earth's resources of the county to agricultural, industrial and heritage aspects. Additionally online Geoheritage videos of the Geology of Galway were produced for Heritage Week. It is intended to translate the text into Irish in 2021 and to print and design the workbook.

Joyce Country and Western Lakes geopark project

The aim of the project is to develop a geopark in the area surrounding Joyce Country on the Galway-Mayo border, and Loughs Mask, Carra and Corrib, with the intention of applying for full UNESCO Global Geopark status. Geoparks are

places of internationally important geology which are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and economic development. UNESCO Geopark status carries no additional legal status or planning restrictions to those already in place by local, national or EU legislation. The Heritage Officer is a member of the Steering group and attends meetings. For more information see: <https://joycecountrygeoparkproject.ie/en/>

Galway West of Ireland Region of Gastronomy Heritage Projects 2020

The Heritage Office continued working with local communities and organisations gathering information relating to the gastronomical heritage of the county and produce written, audio and video outputs for the website.

Alcock and Brown

Two bi-lingual workbooks relating to Alcock and Brown were designed and printed for Junior and Senior Classes in Primary Schools. The workbooks will be distributed to primary schools in the county of Galway.

Heritage Grant Scheme as part of Community Grants: Assessed grants, assigned conditions, provided assistance to groups and schools and processed grant payments.

Athenry Medieval Walled Town: Past and Present Booklet

Photo: Dominican Friary Athenry

This publication provides an easy insight into the rich medieval heritage of the town of Athenry. It also charts the conservation work that has been done over the past 13 years and lists resources that have been produced that are of interest to a variety of people including local schools, businesses and those interested in local history and heritage and visitors to Athenry. It also highlights the joint work of the local committee, community, Galway County Council, Heritage Council and IWTN in relation to conservation, managing and promoting this incredible medieval heritage resource that is the town of Athenry with its various heritage elements such as the North Gate, Dominican Friary, Castle etc. To see the online version of this publication go to <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/heritage-publications/athenry-medieval-walled-town-2>

Athenry Virtual Walled Towns Day

This family fun day was held on Sunday 16 August 2020 and the theme was 'Learning from our Heritage'. The events were programmed to suit all age groups and have a strong educational and awareness building theme. This year due to Covid19 Athenry Walled Town Day moved to a virtual platform. Athenry Virtual Walled Towns Day 2020 was designed to be inclusive, accessible, fun and free for all to view on our websites and social media platforms. The programme reflected the medieval history of Athenry and is on an online platform to showcase craft, food, art weaponry music, the rich heritage assets of the town. The 39 videos, podcasts and documents showcased the wealth of the built and cultural heritage in medieval Athenry. This was delivered online on Galway Beo Facebook and the <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/athenry-virtual-walled-town-day>

Loughrea Virtual Medieval Festival

Due to Covid19 Loughrea Medieval Festival had to move to an online platform. The festival theme was 'Learn, Connect & Celebrate our Medieval Past'. Over 40 videos, activities, and podcasts were developed and were designed to be inclusive, accessible, fun and free for all to view on our website and social media platform. This online event was premiered on Galway Beo Facebook page on 23rd August and the website <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/loughrea-virtual-medieval-festival>

It was developed in partnership with Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee and funded by Galway County Council and the Heritage Council. 41 videos, films, podcasts and documents were uploaded on the website and are available for all free of charge to enjoy and gain a greater awareness of the medieval heritage of Loughrea.

Loughrea Medieval Town: Past and Present Booklet

Loughrea Medieval Town: Past and Present seeks to create an awareness, knowledge and pride in the rich medieval heritage of Loughrea and this in turn will lead to better management and conservation of this important heritage resource. The booklet provides an outline of the history of the medieval town and highlights the key buildings, structures and documents that are available to help the local and visitor to have a broad appreciation for the

medieval aspects of the town. It also charts the work of Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee, Galway County Council and the IWTN and The Heritage Council from 2014 to present.

Creative Ireland:

The Heritage Office delivered the following projects as part of Galway County Council's Creative Ireland initiative in 2020:

'Golden Wings' reveals the secret world of Irish Barn Owls

'Golden Wings' follows the journey of a female Barn Owl from hatching to starting her own family, and all her encounters and experiences in between. The reader views the world through the eyes of 'Golden Wings', which provides a unique understanding the lives of Barn Owls and the challenges they face in the modern Irish countryside.

Like many other farmland birds in Ireland, the changing agricultural landscape has resulted in dwindling resources and suitable habitats available to the Barn Owl. Barn Owl populations have declined and although most people have never seen a Barn Owl in the wild, they remain one of our best-known and loved birds. 'Golden Wings' captures the innate interest that children have for Barn Owls and explores some of the reasons why they are so rare in the Irish countryside in a way that is accessible and appealing to children.

The book was produced by BirdWatch Ireland and Galway County Council Heritage Office and is an action of Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022 and the Galway County Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022. It was funded by Creative Ireland and Galway County Council.

Reading the Landscape: Mountbellew Project

In 2020 the second phase of this project resulted in the production of a pocket guide to the heritage of Mountbellew. Working in partnership with Mountbellew Heritage Tourism Network the booklet documents 28 heritage sites in and around the town of Mountbellew. Zena Hoctor, Heritage Consultant worked the local heritage and tourism group in Mountbellew who undertook the 'Reading the Landscape' to produce this booklet. In all 5000 booklets were produced and are being distributed locally.

GlanFest

Assistance was given to Glenamaddy Boyounagh Heritage Group in the development of GlanFest and online heritage festival for the diaspora. For more information see: <https://www.glenamaddyheritage.com/events/>

Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre

The Heritage Office worked in partnership with the Corporate Services Section on the development of education resources for the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre.

Biodiversity Project

The Heritage Officer provides advice and guidance on various aspects of biodiversity including tree planting, dealing with invasive species and pollinator plans to Tidy Towns, Community and Schools Groups throughout the county.

The Galway Buzz!

International Biodiversity Day took place on May 22nd the aim of which was to celebrate the value of biodiversity in our everyday lives. The theme for 2020 was 'Our solutions are in nature', reflecting the potential to use nature-based solutions to improve our quality of life and the natural world we depend on.

Galway County Council celebrated International Biodiversity Day and National Biodiversity Week virtually through 'The Galway Buzz'. There were different biodiversity-related theme every day of The Galway Buzz including a focus on birds, hedgerows and trees, the work of Tidy Towns groups, water and wildlife, pollinators, community-based biodiversity projects, resources for schools and children, and finally how to become a biodiversity champion.

The Galway Buzz was all about connecting people with nature and inspiring them to protect the natural world on which we all depend.

Many community groups, Tidy Towns groups and schools in Galway work tirelessly to protect and enhance our natural heritage and the Galway Buzz showcased some of their work and provide resources for future projects and activities. A week long competition was also held in partnership with Galway Bay FM and people were asked to share their biodiversity and wildlife photographs and prizes were given out each day.

To find out more information about this initiative

see: <https://biodiversity.galwaycommunityheritage.org/https://www.facebook.com/peopleandnature/>
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_bWW4CrzofP-4HIMWjTMfg

Galway County Council became a partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

Councils play a leading role in making the island of Ireland a place where pollinators can survive and thrive and therefore Galway County Council signed up to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in September 2020. <https://pollinators.ie/councils/council-partners/>

Carrownagappul Bog Video and Educational Resources

A video was by BirdWatch Ireland and Galway County Council, and funded through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (National Biodiversity Action Plan) called 'Life on the bog'; it showcases the rich biodiversity of Carrownagappul, the wildlife that is slowly returning to the bog and the efforts to restore this special site. The video was showcased on RTE news and has also featured on local and national press. In addition to the video other educational resources were produced relating to 'Galway's Living Bog'. For further information see: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/carrownagappul-bog>

Your Galway Genealogy

The records of our family history tell us about our ancestors and give us an insight into their lives. Every family is different but the process of finding out more about them is the same and involves a focus on people, place and time. A series of 9 tutorials has been produced to help people to understand the record sources available and how to interpret them. They range from the Tithe Applotment Books, Griffith's Valuation, Church parish records, births, deaths, and marriages and records of graveyard headstone transcriptions. Starting with what you know about yourself, you can work back to learn more about earlier generations. The records can give people information about the home place but it's the people who are at the centre of the story. To view these resources see: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/your-galway-genealogy>

Galway Virtual Tidy Towns

Tidy Towns groups throughout the County of Galway came together virtually to stay connected while staying safe during the Covid-19 outbreaks.

Williamstown Tidy Towns led the way by starting a Virtual Tidy Towns Facebook group for their area to provide a platform for people to show what they are doing in their own place in these challenging times for their family, community and the environment, and to celebrate their local heritage and biodiversity.

While everyone is staying at home and maintaining social distancing many people are still doing things such as cutting the grass (remembering to leave areas uncut for pollinators!), planting bee-friendly flowers in the garden, feeding the birds, preventing, reducing and segregating their waste, composting etc. Williamstown Virtual Tidy Towns encouraged people to send in a photo or description of what they are doing to share with others in their village and stay connected.

People were encouraged while out for a short walk near their homes (while maintaining social distancing) to send a photo, poem, story or picture to their local Tidy Towns group Facebook page to share with others.

Embedding best practice in Galway County Council in relation to biodiversity and pollinators

Online training and consultation sessions were held with staff in the main sections in Galway County Council in order to identify areas in the Council plans and work programmes that have the potential to impact positively and negatively on biodiversity.

The main aim of these sessions was to embed a best practice approach to the protection and conservation of biodiversity in all Galway County Council operations and to identify additional training needs and guidance to assist staff in their work.

The training and consultation sessions were tailored for the different sections in the Council and covered a wide range of topics including invasive species, grassland management for pollinators, protecting water quality, the legal framework protecting biodiversity, community projects, tree planting and managing trees etc. The short films that accompanied the Working near Water and Working with Heritage were promoted again during Biodiversity Week 2020 and Heritage Week 2020 (<https://biodiversity.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/new-contributions/water-and-wetlands>).

An Excel database of published and unpublished biodiversity and Galway-related reports and publications has been created. A comprehensive search of the internet was undertaken to identify relevant publications and links. NUI, Galway, GMIT staff and students, local experts and organisations were also contacted for submissions. The database should provide a useful resource for Galway County Council staff and those working on biodiversity and heritage projects in the county.

Invasive Species Working Group.

The Invasive Species Working Group comprises members from the Roads Section, Community Wardens, Environment Section, Community Waters Office and IT. The Invasive Species Working Group dealt with queries from members of the public in relation to invasive species on public lands. An invasive species decision support tool for staff of Galway County Council was produced in 2020. In addition to this a small number of select sites that had infestations of Gunnera and Japanese knotweed were treated.

Invasive Species Decision Support Tool

An Invasive Species Decision Support Tool has been developed for Galway County Council staff. It deals with the following topics:

What is an invasive species?

How do I identify invasive species?

Legal Framework

What is the economic impact of invasive species?

What is the approach of Galway County Council?

Who do I notify if I find an invasive species?

What should I do if invasive species are present in a current or potential works area? (e.g. road verge, public park, council-owned properties)

a. Japanese Knotweed

b. Giant Rhubarb

c. Himalayan Balsam

d. Giant Hogweed

How do I plan a control programme?

What do I need to consider when controlling invasive species on a site?

What are the control methods for invasive species?

Considerations for prioritising species for control

Specific advice for particular works

Hedgecutting

Road works

Use of herbicide as part of invasive species control programme

Grasscutting

Decade of Commemoration

Two new publications were produced in 2020, the first of which was entitled Defying Terror: Jeremiah Mee, Glenamaddy and the Listowel Mutiny, 1920.

This book was produced to mark the centenary of the Listowel Mutiny, led by Galway native, Jeremiah Mee, and his comrades in Listowel RIC barracks, who resigned from the police rather than had their barracks over the Crown Forces in June 1920.

The second publication is entitled The Life & Death of the Loughnane Brothers, Beagh, Co Galway. The kidnapping and murder of Volunteers Harry and Patrick Loughnane of Shanaglish in South Galway was one of the most brutal events of the War of Independence. This short study examines the events surrounding the murders, the local reaction in the district and the wider actions of the Volunteers and the Crown Forces in South Galway during this terrible period.

Further information was added to the Decade of Commemoration bi-lingual website in partnership with GMIT Heritage Studies.

‘Changing Times’ Loughrea Memorial Group Virtual Conference

This conference was organised by Galway County Council in partnership with Loughrea Memorial Group. This conference was supported by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under the Community Strand of the Decade of Centenaries programme. It is an action of Galway County Council’s Decade of Commemoration Strategy 2013-2023. The topics covered related to the following: Galway Soldiers who defied the Crown, James Daly and the Indian Mutiny of the Connaught Rangers; Treating ‘trauma’: Galway’s female revolutionary doctors; Connacht in the Military Service (1916 – 1923) Pensions Collection and Terror in County Galway: The Life and Death of the Loughnane Brothers of Beagh, 1920.

The online lectures have been viewed by over 5000 people to date.

Emigration and Diaspora Projects

Tuke Emigration Scheme Project

The Heritage Office continued to work with the Clifden 2012 Committee and Oughterard Heritage Group and Emigration Centre Carna on this project. Developed and produced online information relating to emigration and diaspora. See link <https://heritage.>

galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/galway-emigration-and-diaspora-connections

ICAN – Community Heritage website.

The Heritage Office continued to work in partnership with the Museum of Country Life Castlebar and various communities throughout the county to further develop this website. Both technical and heritage training has been provided to the groups throughout the year.

Féile na gCloch Virtual 2020

Working in partnership with Comhar Caomhain Teo and the Drystone Walling Association of Ireland, Tír Chonaill Stone Wall Fest, Stein und Wein (Austria) and Stone Carvers from USA a virtual festival was premiered on Galway Beo On Friday 18 and Saturday 19 September 2020. There are now 63 videos, films and articles relating to wall building, lettering, carving, paving, sketching and hot lime demo from all over the world included Ireland, Inis Oírr, Austria, USA, Korea, Switzerland, and Australia and are available to be seen on the website <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/feile-na-gcloth>

The mini walling and sketching competitions were extremely successful and saw many entrants from all over the world including Canada, USA, Australia and Austria.

Galway Beo

The Galway Beo Project was established in March 2020 due to covid-19 restrictions. People were asked to send in a photograph, drawing, poem or story to help celebrate the wonderful heritage of the County of Galway.

A Facebook page, interactive map, website and YouTube channel were set up. Videos were created for several weeks of selections of photos and paintings that were submitted see <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/places/galway-beo-project/galway-beo-video-01>

There was a huge response to this initiative with over 1000 photographs, paintings, poems, videos and stories being sent on by the people of the county of Galway. See <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/galway-beo-project> and Galway Beo Facebook page

Community Events, Conferences and Workshops

Assistance, advice, and support was also given to numerous Tidy Town groups, Community Heritage and schools groups in 2020 and included advice and guidance on heritage publications, development of heritage trails, oral heritage recordings, Heritage Week Events, graveyards, biodiversity, monuments, museums, heritage trails and signage, heritage training and relevant local heritage conferences and seminars etc.

Digital Mapping of Graveyards in the County

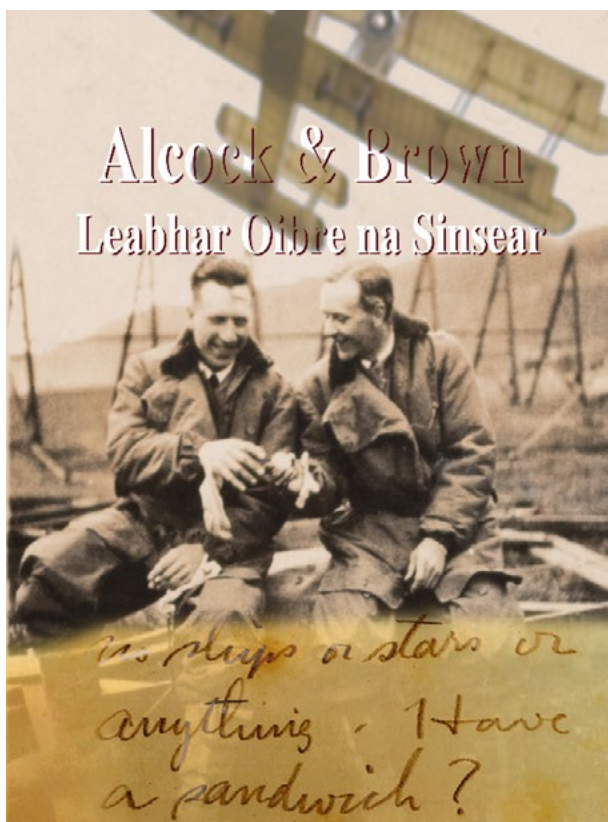
The Heritage Office and GIS Section of Galway County Council continued to work with Galway Rural Development and community groups on mapped and memorial inscriptions. These will be recorded and up loaded to www.galway.ie. We are currently working on a new mapping system with GIS Department to incorporate the use of drones and Survey 123. In addition to this, resources were developed in partnership with Galway Rural Development to assist groups manage, protect their graveyards and digitise memorials. See link: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/care-recording-and-conservation-of-graveyards>

The Beo Schools Project with INSIGHT, NUIG and Galway Education Centre is ongoing. The years online campaign seeking photos etc during the year which was very successful. Brendan Smith, INSIGHT, NUIG undertook online training sessions with local communities on the colourising of old photographs.

Holy Wells Audit Phase 1

The Audit of the Holy Wells in the County of Galway was initiated in order to collect and collate as much information as possible about this valuable aspect of our intangible heritage.

Information about our holy wells may be in danger of being lost due to a largely, older generational knowledge base and development pressures, including land clearance. It is planned to undertake the Galway County Audit in a series of phases, due to the geographical spread of the County and the number of recorded (Records of Monuments and Places – National Monuments Service) and potentially unrecorded holy wells present. Phase One was undertaken between May and October 2020.



Two bi-lingual workbooks relating to Alcock and Brown.



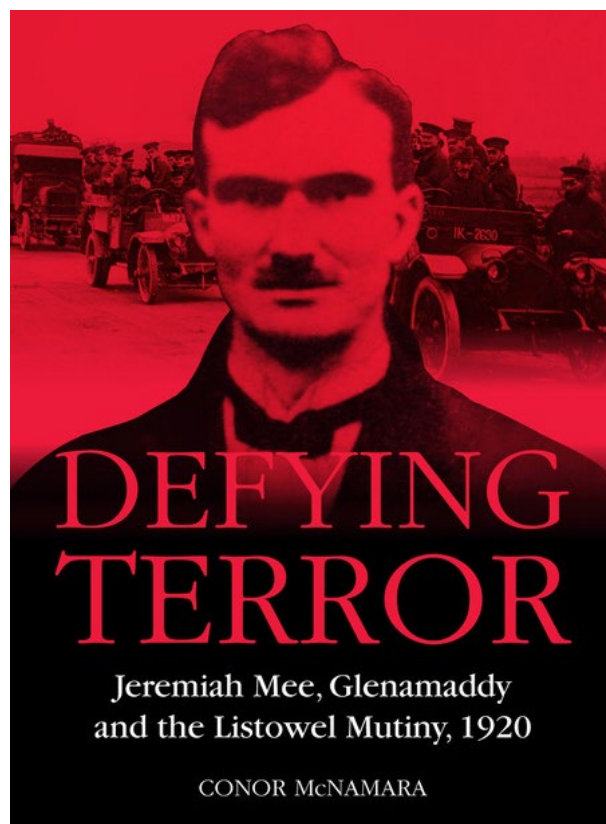
Lydacan Tower House, Kiltartan.



Dominican Friary Athenry.



An Illustrated Guide to the Ecclesiastical Heritage of the County of Galway launched in Loughrea Library.



New publication: Defying Terror: Jeremiah Mee, Glenamaddy and the Listowel Mutiny, 1920.

The focus during this phase was: the planning and development of a comprehensive, future proofed, digital field data collection methodology and a searchable database for storage and dissemination of information, the collecting of baseline information on each of the recorded holy wells in the County, through desk research and community consultation, awareness raising in regard to the Audit and facilitation of community participation in data collection.

Derrynacrag Holy Well

Outputs consisted of: the development of a comprehensive data collection, storage and dissemination model (mobile app and web based platform) which is ready to use for future field data collection during subsequent phases of the Audit and is transferable to other Counties for similar purpose, the uploading of desk research and community derived background data on each of the recorded holy wells within the County to an EXCEL sheet, a community consultation programme which resulted in a comprehensive awareness raising and socially interactive data gathering process which can be repeated during each subsequent phase of the Audit.

Two videos were also produced one for National Holy Wells Day and another one for Heritage Week. For more information see <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/holy-wells-of-the-county-of-galway>

Community Archaeologist Programme

The Community Archaeologist worked with numerous groups in the county with regards to the provision of advice and guidance with regards to their archaeological heritage. Due to Covid19 the role and work of the Community Archaeologist had to be reviewed and changed to take cognisance of our new reality. In the early days of Covid19 a lot of the work of the Community Archaeologist was spent creating online resources and communicating with the communities and people in a virtual way. As restrictions were lifted she was able to undertake site visits but taking Covid19 guidelines into account. This approach worked very well and there is a large bank of online information available for all to use including Archaeology and Tidy Towns and Funding advice with regards to the Community Monument Fund. She also provided advice to several community groups with regards to the Community Monument Fund. To see these resources please see <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>

Reading the Landscape

The aim of the project 2020 was to update the text and images of the publication *Reading Your Local Landscape – A Heritage Audit Toolkit for Local Community Groups* to include new resources and sources of information that have come online since original publication date and methods of survey which have been developed/updated since 2015. In addition to this an online course was developed and held online with 30 people attending the course. The course dealt with the following subject matters: Course Introduction and Townland survey basics, The Shape of the Landscape, An Introduction to Archaeology, The basics of Architectural Design, Voices from the past: An Introduction to Oral Tradition & Oral History and Digital Outputs: An overview.

Heritage Week Events:

The Heritage Office provided advice and assistance to several groups in the county with regards to developing digital/online Heritage Week events.

In addition to this the following initiatives were held during Heritage Week:

Online Traditional Song Workshops for Children, Heritage Week 2020

Traditional Singer Rachel Uí Fhaoláin delivered an online programme of Traditional Song Workshops for Children during Heritage Week 2020 for the Heritage Office, Galway County Council. These online tutorials in traditional song were delivered on the 17th, 19th and 21st of August through Zoom from 10am -11am. The workshops focused on the process of writing songs in the traditional style while using local existing airs from the tradition and the Irish language.

Galway and Its Diaspora

On Friday 14th August the Heritage Office of Galway County Council in partnership with Galway Bay FM held a live discussion on 'Galway Talks' about our long history of emigration.

Townland Research

Working with Galway Community Heritage, Forum Connemara, Galway Rural Development, Carna Emigration Centre and Cornamona on recording and documenting townland historical research. <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/townlands-of-county-galway>

The following are links to this work specific to areas in the county:

Conemara Townland Research : There are now 360 townlands recorded and documented see: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/connemara-roots-nw-connemara-heritage>

Ceantar Dhúiche Sheoigheach: There are now 87 townlands recorded and documented see: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/joyce-country-places/joyce-country>

East Galway Townland Research: There are now 190 townlands recorded and documented see: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/galway-east-townland-research>

The **Golden Mile Calendar** will be produced in December 2020 in partnership with Galway Rural Development.

Digital Skills Training for Heritage

This 4 session online course was run online in October and November 2020 . The course deal with using your phone to make a video, using YouTube, Zoom, Facebook, video publishing and video conferencing.

Traditional Singing For Families

Traditional singer Rachel Uí Fhaoláin delivered an online programme of Traditional Singing for Families. This initiative involved Galway County Council Heritage Office, the Galway Age Friendly programme and Healthy Ireland: Keep Well in your community. This online programme of traditional song was delivered on the 17th of December through Zoom. The workshop was a special virtual gathering where Rachel brought children, their parents & grandparents, friends and extended family at home and abroad together to share traditional songs in English agus as Gaeilge and they enjoyed this special evening together for Nollaig 2020.

Community Monument Fund 2020

The Community Monuments Fund was established as part of the €1.4m in additional capital earmarked for national monuments under the Stimulus Plan. The core objective of the Community Monuments Fund was to support the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of local monuments and historic sites. It contained several different

measures aimed at enabling conservation works to be carried out on monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support, encouraging access to monuments and improving their presentation and building resilience in monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change. Galway Community Archaeologist and Heritage Officer worked with several community groups in the county and the following four projects received funding in 2020:

Abbeygormican Church and Graveyard Recorded Monument GA107:002

Abbeygormican Cemetery Committee were successful in their funding application for conservation works to a collapsed medieval wall within the graveyard. This wall was part of the medieval abbey. The following works were undertaken in 2020:

Essential repairs to chancel walls of abbey, including the removal of trees and ivy

Removal of ivy from nave wall, transept chapel and tomb

Conservation management plan, including input from archaeologist, structural engineer, Heritage Officer, community archaeologist and community

3D photogrammetry record of chancel wall and double piscina

Archaeological monitoring, recording and reporting including proposed outline for future reconstruction of chancel piscina (subject to future funding)

Ballinastack Megalithic Monument and Children's Burial Ground Recorded Monument GA006:005

Ballinastack Megalithic Monument and Children's Burial Ground is on privately owned land. The owner appreciates the importance of allowing the public to visit this site. Maintenance of recorded monuments required permission from the National Monuments Service and archaeological supervision. The following works were undertaken.

Clean-up and removal of overgrowth at Recorded Monument GA006:005 (Megalithic Tomb and CBG), monitored by Consultant Archaeologist and recorded using 3D Photogrammetry. A short film was produced showing the benefits of Community Monuments Funding to the landowner, custodian of a Recorded Monument and the wider community.



Pollanassy Waterfall, Co. Kilkenny. Photo, Dylan Vaughan.



Chair of the Heritage Council Michael Parsons at the launch of the new Gardening for Biodiversity Book in the People's Park Portlaoise, with author Juanita Browne and Laois Heritage Officer Catherine Casey. Photo Dominic Reddin.



Liam Delaney and John Moran of the Killabban Monastic Site Committee with their Heritage Week County Award. The committee has been working on conserving the medieval church on site since 2014. Photo Trudy Carmody.

Kilclooney Tower House

Kilclooney Tower House, is one of Milltown's most impressive antiquities. This ruined tower house, popularly known as Kilclooney Castle, was once the seat of a bardic school. It lies roughly halfway between Tuam and Claremorris just off the N17. The following works were undertaken Conservation management plan by conservation architect, with archaeological and structural engineering input from approved professionals. Purchase and installation of harris fencing for immediate protection of structure.

Lydacan Tower House, Kiltartan

Lydacan Castle is a tower house on lands adjacent to a turlough in the ownership of Galway County Council. The works included a Conservation management plan (Including Archaeological Input). Essential repairs to vault within tower house. Gate design, manufacture and installation and archaeological monitoring and reporting.

Kilkenny County Council Heritage Office

Supporting Community Wellbeing during COVID 19

The Kilkenny County Council Heritage Office co-ordinated a programme of wellbeing projects to support community resilience, and engagement with local heritage, during the COVID-19 pandemic. This included the "My Local Area" series, commissioned in partnership with KCLR, where 18 members of the public created podcasts about heritage in their 5km area. The podcasts were aired on KCLR during April 2020, and hosted on the National Heritage Week website.

Recording Kilkenny's Heritage

The Kilkenny County Council Heritage Office, with co-funding from the Heritage Council under the County Heritage Plan Programme, recorded aspects of Kilkenny's rich heritage, including:

Ogham Stones in 3D

County Kilkenny has the fourth highest concentration of ogham stones in Ireland, after Kerry, Cork and Waterford. Of the 15 known ogham stones in the county eight had not previously been recorded in 3D. In 2020, the eight ogham stones from Shankhill, Churchclara, Lamoge, Legan Castle, Fiddaun Upper and Cloghabrody were researched and digitally

recorded by Ogham-in-3D; eight awareness and education videos were produced; and the project was hosted on the National Heritage Week website.

Mapping the Wetlands of County Kilkenny

Over 250 wetland areas in Co. Kilkenny were identified, mapped and recorded by Wetland Surveys Ireland as part of a county wide desk-based audit of wetlands. 17% of the wetlands in designated sites, and 83% are located in the wider countryside. 15 of the wetlands identified were surveyed in detail.

Archaeological Landscapes

The Heritage Office and Forward Planning Section of Kilkenny County Council jointly commissioned a "Preliminary Audit of Archaeological Landscapes of Co. Kilkenny". The report identified 18 potential archaeological landscapes which are of cultural, economic, social and environmental value, including the Lingaun Valley, Tory Hill and Freestone Hill. The recommendations of the report were approved at Strategic Policy Committee level and have informed a new policy on archaeological landscapes in the Kilkenny County Development Plan 2020-2026.

Laois Heritage Office

Gardening for Biodiversity

The "Gardening for Biodiversity" Booklet written by Juanita Browne and Illustrated by Barry Reynolds was published in April and received very positive response. It was followed up with a special children's version with coloring pages. The books were printed and distributed nationwide by the Local Authority Heritage Officer Network. The publication was released just as the first lockdown of Covid 19 got started and it tapped into a widespread interest in nature and gardening among the public.

The Irish Examiner printed a special "pull-out" edition of Gardening for Biodiversity for Biodiversity Week in May 2020, which was distributed with 40,000 copies of the newspaper. In total including both books almost 100,000 copies have now been distributed for free.

To build on the popularity of the books a series of six short "how to" video guides were commissioned with the support of funding under the National Biodiversity Action Plan. These are available on the Laois Heritage Youtube Channel www.youtube.com/laoisheritage and have a combined total of over 20,000 views.

Killabban Monastic Site

Killabban in South Laois near the Kildare and Carlow borders marks the site of an early Christian monastery and a deserted medieval settlement. The 15th Century church on the site had become extremely fragile and was largely overgrown when a local committee was formed to look after it in 2014. With the support of the Heritage Council and the Laois Heritage Officer, the group commissioned a condition report and started a programme of careful conservation works.

Since then the Killabban Community have worked with the Laois Heritage Officer to carry out planned masonry conservation each year, with funding from the Heritage Council and Laois County Council. In 2020 they were in a position to take advantage of the new Community Monuments Fund operated by the National Monuments Service and completed a lot of conservation work. They have saved the site from loss and have built up great heritage conservation knowledge as well as a great sense of the importance of the place to their local community and their sense of place. The Killabban Monastic Site Restoration Committee took part in Heritage Week 2020 by registering their project online, and were delighted to be selected as Laois Winners in the National Heritage Week Awards for 2020.

Leitrim Heritage Office

The **Leitrim Heritage Plan 2020 – 2025** was adopted at the March Council following the second public consultation phase from 15th January to 12th February 2020. The adopted Heritage Plan was translated into Irish and was published in April. Funding was sought and secured for several heritage projects which matched the Heritage Plan objectives and actions. These projects included:

Leitrim Public Awareness Programme 2020, funded by The Heritage Council.

Several initiatives were launched as part of the Public Awareness Programme under the banner 'Connecting through Heritage'. The first initiatives under this programme focused on wellbeing and included 'Harnessing Leitrim's Oral History' which encouraged people to interview an elderly family member or friend remotely and share the interview highlights. 'Leitrim's Garden BioBlitz' encouraged people to explore the biodiversity in their gardens, and surrounding area, and record what they found.

Two further initiatives were developed as part of the Public Awareness Programme, namely a Leitrim Heritage Podcast series, and a series of nine Leitrim Heritage themed videos to be displayed on YouTube. Both the podcast and video series were launched in August during Heritage Week.

Leitrim Heritage Youtube Series: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_OzMPyGWs-GCfGlvoULgDg

Leitrim Heritage Podcast: <https://leitrimheritage.buzzsprout.com/>

Leitrim Geological Heritage Sites Audit, funded by The Heritage Council.

For its relatively modest size, County Leitrim has an extensive and diverse range of geological heritage sites. The Leitrim County Geological Heritage Sites Audit documents what is currently understood by the Geoheritage Programme (Irish Geological Heritage Programme) of Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) to be the most important geological sites within County Leitrim. It proposes them as County Geological Sites (CGS), for inclusion within the Leitrim County Development Plan. The Geological Heritage Audit was carried out over the summer of 2020. The outputs from the project include a full audit report, 33 individual sites reports, a GIS dataset and an educational video.

Leitrim Swift Survey and Bat Survey, funded under the National Biodiversity Action Plan Local Authorities Biodiversity Project Fund.

Funding was granted under the National Biodiversity Action Plan for two projects - Undertake a swift survey in Co. Leitrim and Undertake a bat survey of all publicly accessible Council owned properties. Field work for the Swift Survey was undertaken throughout the summer and positive results submitted in the final report included identifying strong Swift populations in ten locations across Leitrim. The Bat Survey was undertaken throughout the summer, and guidance has also been produced on how best to manage bats in certain buildings and locations.

Leitrim Mumming Project, funded by Creative Ireland

The Leitrim Mumming Project was funded through the Creative Ireland Programme. The intention for the project initially was to revive the mumming tradition in Leitrim by forming multi-generational groups in the county to explore the mumming traditions and put on a performance. However,

due to COVID-19 restrictions, the focus of the project changed to well-being and celebrating the Leitrim mumming traditions. A group consisting of a traditional dancer, musician and singer reenacted mumming performances outside the homes of self isolating elderly members of the community.

Heritage Week took place virtually in Leitrim in August 2020, with community groups, organisations and individuals from across the county submitting heritage projects online which celebrated both new heritage initiatives, and projects which have been carried out over a number of years.

Mayo County Council Heritage Office:

Heritage Officer: Dr Deirdre Cunningham

In 2020, several projects were undertaken in Mayo, with the support of the Heritage Council, as part of

the County Mayo Heritage Plan programme. The ongoing Biodiversity Plan programme for Mayo's towns and villages continued with the preparation of Local Biodiversity Action Plans for the three major towns of Castlebar, Ballina and Belmullet. The aim of these plans is to identify areas that are important for plants and other wildlife, and to identify opportunities and recommend practical measures for enhancing and conserving the natural heritage of the towns. Support was provided to several communities in Mayo under the Communities for Biodiversity project, including providing advice and assistance with planting, vegetation and habitat management and invasive species control. The Mayo Swift Project continued in 2020, with swift boxes being installed in municipal and community buildings, and schools throughout the county, as appropriate. The Ballina Town Centre Health Check summary report was prepared. This report highlights the results of the collaborative town centre health check, which was undertaken by Mayo County Council, Ballina Chamber, GMIT and RED C, with support from the Heritage Council.



Seed collection and saving in Mayo.

County Meath Heritage Office

Irish Walled Town Network – Trim: Eight videos were produced which documented ten years of archaeological excavations at the Black Friary. The films were launched during Heritage Week 2020.

Blackfriary Community Heritage and Archaeology Project (BCHAP) (Town and Village Renewal Project Funding):

A Landscape Architect was appointed to prepare a master plan of the Black Friary site.

Five new interpretative panels were designed and installed.

Supported the publication of Archaeology Ireland Guide No. 90 Black Friary, Trim, Co. Meath A guide to the excavations at the medieval Dominican friary.

Detailed recording and conservation of exposed walls.

National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding:

Two online Pollinator and Citizen Science Workshops.

All Ireland Pollinator Plan Workshop was held with Local Authority Staff in partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Seven online workshops were held to support the implementation of Community Biodiversity Action Plans in Ratoath, Slane, Kells, Stamullen, Rathcairn, Julianstown and Longwood.

The Swift Nest Box Project was launched, in partnership with Birdwatch Ireland and Tidy Town groups.

Commissioned three biodiversity short videos.

All Ireland Pollinator Plan radio communications campaign was undertaken with coverage on LMFM.

Care and Conservation of Historic

Graveyards: Supported the implementation of Meath County Council's Burial Group Grant Scheme.

Heritage Week 2020: Encouraged and supported local groups to prepare projects – 30 projects showcased from County Meath.

Kells Printworks: Working with a paper conservator to conserve the Kells Printworks Poster Archive.

County Heritage Plan Fund 2020: Appointed Industrial heritage archaeologist to complete field survey of Meath's Industrial Heritage (Phase I), supported publication of Knowth Volume on Megalithic Art and acquired an archive of high-quality photographic and drone video images from photographer, Ken Williams.

Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2020: Sixteen local heritage projects were supported.

Kells Creative Placemaking Project: Multi-faceted collaborative project between Meath County Council and project stakeholders (artists, festivals, community volunteers, property owners and local business) which focuses on the regeneration and re-use of four key heritage buildings into the social, cultural and economic fabric of Kells;

Appointed a design team for the Kells Printworks Project and held two workshops

Finalised business plan for Kells Creative Placemaking Project

Kells Courthouse Cultural Hub

Community Monuments Fund 2020: This new scheme launched by the National Monuments Service saw three projects funded from County Meath: Rathmore Graveyard Wall; Conservation Report

County Offaly Heritage Office

Developing a County Archive Service

The development of the Offaly County Archive Service is one of eight objectives of the Offaly Heritage Plan 2017-21.

It has received Heritage Council Heritage Plan funding each year of the plan.

The Service has been developed and is run by the Offaly History Society, supported by Offaly County Council and the Heritage Council.

Offaly History has a considerable archive collection and they also manage the Offaly County Council archives through a Service Level Agreement. The specially designed archives building in the Axis Business Park, Tullamore, opened in the spring of 2020, is fully operational, albeit with Covid 19 restrictions. Lisa Shortall is employed as full time archivist and heads up the service.



The launch of the Ballina Consumer Survey Report- Peter Hynes, Chief Executive, Mayo County Council, Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive, The Heritage Council, Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development Michael Ring, Deirdre Cunningham, Heritage Officer Mayo County Council and Alison Harvey, CTCHC Project Manager, The Heritage Council.



Modern Day Mummers in Leitrim.

Work is ongoing, developing the county archive service website www.offalyarchives.com, which hosts the catalogues and certain digitised material.

Heritage Awareness through YouTube and Publications

Switching focus from physical events to online in 2020 opened up a whole new avenue for heritage awareness. John Feehan undertook filming the series of Wildflowers of Offaly. These videos were all made locally and broadcast on Offaly Heritage YouTube channel.

The series for 2020 has 50 videos, all featuring different flowering plants in season, and detailing their structure, medical uses in the past and present, and their context in folklore. By the end of the year the series had over 25,000 views.

A stunning black and white photographic book documenting the Derrinlough Briquette Factory by photographer James Fraher was launched online by Cathaoirleach Peter Ormond. This project was carried out in partnership with Jimmy Shortt, as foreman at the Bord na Mona factory, who is also an active member of Birr Historical Society. It marked the 60th year of production for the factory. There is an accompanying exhibition which is currently on display at Aras an Chontae, Tullamore, and will travel to other venues when possible.

Two memorial recording books were supported and published.

Forgotton Souls by local historian James Scully documents the burials and memorials at St Rynagh's church and graveyards in Banagher.

Birr Military Cemetery by Stephen Callaghan records all those buried at Birr Barracks burial ground in Crinkill near Birr. We worked with Offaly History to publish a book about poet Egan of the Meelaghans, with a biography and selected poems, which was launched online in April.

Roscommon County Council Heritage Office

The Heritage Office, in conjunction with the County Roscommon Heritage Forum, works to implement the County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2017-2021 which sets out the strategic heritage goals for the county.

Táin March Festival: Twenty schools expressed interest in availing of a schools visit with Heritage in

Schools expert Chris Thompson under the theme of 'Táin - Stories in the Landscape'. These had to be cancelled due to the closure of the schools in March. In autumn, those schools were invited to participate in a programme of online workshops instead. Six schools opted to take part in the 'virtual' Táin March 'Oenach' project. A selection of the work has been shared on the project facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/oenach20>. Feedback on the virtual workshops has been very positive. This project is funded by Creative Ireland.

'The Guided Tour' series: Three sites have been featured in the series - Roscommon Castle, Roscommon Abbey & Elphin Windmill. There are long & a short edits of each tour. They can be viewed on the Roscommon County Council Youtube page https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8TrSg5JgK_yTZdK2KMLatQ/videos This project is funded by Creative Ireland.

Farming Rathcroghan European Innovation Partnership (EIP): John Cronin & Associates were appointed to support the Farming Rathcroghan project team and operational group with archaeological elements of the project design, development and implementation. A video 'Farming in a Royal Archaeological Landscape' was produced for National Heritage Week <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1MSOkCFI7U&t=21s>

This project is funded by the Heritage Council and Roscommon County Council.

Conservation Specifications for Masonry Ruins: Conservation Reports have been completed for Rahara Medieval Church & the Owen O'Connor Mausoleum in Ballintuber Graveyard. This project is funded by the Heritage Council and Roscommon County Council.

Several projects were funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht under their National Biodiversity Action Plan funding:

Gardening for Biodiversity: These books were hugely popular during the COVID-19 lockdown in spring and were posted out widely around the county.

One Change for Biodiversity – Pollinator & Biodiversity Advice for Community Groups:

Over 70 Community groups were sent copies of 'Gardening for Biodiversity' and other guidance resources from the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Dr. Karina Dingerkus, Giorria Environmental Services, was commissioned to provide remote advice on how

six groups could make One Change for Biodiversity. Groups were: Cloontuskert Development & Tidy Towns Association CLG; Westview Residents' Association, Cloonfad; St Aidan's Recreational Community Development Committee, Ballyforan; Castlecoote Tidy Towns; Residence Association, Antogher Court, Roscommon Town & SICAP Project Officer, Boyle. Their 'One Change for Biodiversity' action plans were finalised and delivered to the community groups.

Ballintubber Biodiversity Photography

Competition: Heritage Office sponsored professional wildlife photographer to judge the competition.

Wildflower Verge in Elphin: Certified Irish wildflower seed mix was bought for Elphin Tidy Towns to sow on an agreed strip of road verge in the town, as part of an ongoing road enhancement programme.

Pollinator Infomercials:

In support of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, in conjunction with the Heritage Offices of Mayo CoCo & Longford CoCo, a series of nine radio adverts raising awareness of how people can act to help pollinators were aired on Shannonside FM & Mid West Radio. This also formed part of the #inthis-together campaign.

#natureisgoodforyou: a national radio campaign, in support of the keep well campaign. This was a series of five radio 'infomercials' which started in November on MidWest Radio and on Shannonside FM, in conjunction with the Heritage Offices of Mayo & Longford CoCos.

County Roscommon Swift Survey: 40 localities (towns and villages) in the county were surveyed by Birdwatch Ireland. 117 active Swift nest sites were confirmed. The main Swift populations were found to exist in Roscommon Town, with 44 active nests confirmed followed by Boyle and Ballaghaderreen with 14 and 12 respectively. The key to ensuring a future for Swifts in the county is to protect existing colonies which act as a source population. To ensure this happens it is important to encourage individual communities to take ownership and responsibility for their local swifts and to carry out the required actions to protect them into the future.

Full details of the report can be found on <http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Heritage/Biodiversity-Publications/Roscommon-Swift-Survey/>

Several projects were carried out in support of the #InThisTogether & #KeepWell campaigns:

Mysterious Monuments:

This aimed to encourage people to become heritage explorers from their own home and see what they can find out about a monument that takes their interest in the county using a Monument Research Tool Kit <http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Heritage/In-this-together-Roscommon-Heritage-Online/Mysterious-Monuments/> Five projects were submitted and the winner was Vincent Delany.

#knowyour5k:

This initiative from the Heritage Council and National Museum of Ireland invites people to share their discoveries and insights about the hidden heritage of their locality. The project helps the public to use a wealth of online resources to find out more about the story of their locality. #knowyour5k is a follow on from our Mysterious Monuments initiative. A series of ongoing regular social media post support this initiative. A Free heritage guidebook is given to anyone who makes a submission from Co. Roscommon. See <http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Heritage/In-this-together-Roscommon-Heritage-Online/-knowyour5k/> for full details.

#Biodiversityinyour5k:

This series of social media posts aimed to raise awareness and enjoyment of nature and wildlife that people are noticing or might spot within their 5k. Biodiversity themed social media posts were posted and shared Roscommon County Council socials. This also encourages participation in citizen science <http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Heritage/In-this-together-Roscommon-Heritage-Online/Record-your-Biodiversity/>

National Heritage Week: Over 30 projects in Co. Roscommon were registered on www.heritageweek.ie Heritage Office publicised all projects in local media and on Roscommon County Council media. Four videos were commissioned for the week, two of which were specifically for children:

Virtual Dig It – the archaeological experience for Kids - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_Pi7juMU4E&t=105s

Make a mini Bug Hotel for Buzzbee - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICZYzzWxloc&t=6s>

Demo of Roscommon Cemeteries



Offaly Archives Building in Tullamore, a custom built archive, hosting the County Archive Service developed and managed by Offaly History Society supported by Offaly County Council and the Heritage Council.



Roscommon: Kilteevan Cemetery Committee have been working to conserve the masonry.



Bee Lodges at Dungarvan Civic Offices.

Mapviewer - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCv0zQLCgIA&t=17s>

Farming in a Royal Archaeological Landscape at Rathcroghan - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1MSOkCFI7U&t=3s>

Rathcroghan - Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage Tentative List Application: Work is progressing on completing the application.

Autumn Heritage Bucket List: This was shared on Roscommon County Council social media in September and was very popular. The Facebook post got 125 shares!

Community Monuments Fund 2020: The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage allocated €65,356 for five projects under this scheme. The scheme generated 171 days of skilled employment. The projects were:

Vegetation clearance and ivy treatment at Rahara Medieval Church in Rahara Graveyard

Vegetation clearance and ivy treatment at Owen O'Connor Mausoleum, Ballintubber Graveyard

Conservation Report and specification and schedule of works for Elphin Cathedral

Conservation works to Kiltreevan Medieval Church in association with Kiltreevan Graveyard Committee

Conjectural reconstruction drawings for 8 sites and monuments around the county.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme: The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage allocated €60,000 for ten projects. The scheme generated total project spend of €180,064.18 and generated 393 days of skilled employment in the county.

Historic Structures Fund: The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage provided €40,000 for 2 projects. The scheme generated total project spend of €50,396 and generated 152 days of skilled employment in the county.

July Stimulus Funding - HSF/BHIS Additional Funding: The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage provided €17,929 in funding for 2 projects. The scheme generated total project spend of €35,858 and generated 117 days of skilled employment in the county.

Waterford Heritage Office

Soldier to Statesman- A Conference on Richard Mulcahy was hosted by Waterford City and County Council in February 2020 as part of an ongoing programme to mark the Decade of Centenaries. The conference included talks by John Bruton, Dr. Pat McCarthy, Pat Taffe, David McCullagh, Kate Manning, Gabriel Doherty and James Ryan. The conference was attended by around 150 people including many members of the Mulcahy Family. A military history biography of Richard Mulcahy, written by Pat Taaaffe, was launched by Minister of Defence Paul Kehoe TD.

Biodiversity

Waterford City & County Council collaborated with the Irish Native Honey Bee Society and West Waterford Eco-Group to install a number of Bee Lodges and Swift Nesting boxes at Dungarvan Civic Offices. Greenway users can view the wildlife lodges as they cross over the Colligan Estuary.

Kilgobnet Graveyard Management Plan

A management plan was prepared by Archaeologist John Tierney of Eachta Archaeology for the historic graveyard at Kilgobnet north of Dungarvan. The site is of heritage interest due to its unusual hillside location, the association with St. Gobnait also known as St. Abigail and the Patron Saint of Bee keepers and the presence of early Medieval church remains. The assemblage of 18th and 19th century mortuary monuments is of regional significance. The plan details the heritage interest of the site and management issues. Key actions arising from the plan include improving biodiversity of the graveyard by reinstating soil cover and meadow grasses, repair of loose stonework using conservation approach, and improving heritage interpretation.

Westmeath Heritage Office

The following is a report on the main projects and activities carried out in 2020. The Westmeath Heritage Forum met three times during the year.

Westmeath County Council signed up as partners for the All Ireland Pollinator Action Plan

Pollinator friendly actions carried out by Westmeath County Council in 2020 included reduced mowing and pollinator friendly planting, which were logged

with the National Biodiversity Data Centre: <https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/>

Heritage Projects

Three projects were supported by the Heritage Council, under the County Heritage Plan Funding 2020, and Westmeath County Council. These were: preparation of a Conservation Management Plan for the Hill of Uisneach; the Westmeath Field Names Recording Project and Recording the Industrial Heritage of Westmeath. The latter two projects also received funding from Creative Ireland.

Conservation Management Plan for the Hill of Uisneach

A Conservation Management Plan was prepared for the Hill of Uisneach, under Action 2.4 of the County Westmeath Heritage Plan 2018-2023 “...Liaise with stakeholders, including landowners, to support the preparation of conservation management plans for key sites...” The Plan included a Condition Survey of the Monuments on the Hill prepared by Consultant Archaeologists AMS, a targeted Habitat Survey and a survey of hedgerows on the Hill of Uisneach by Ecologists Flynn Furney. The Plan was prepared following consultation and a series of stakeholder meetings.

Westmeath Field Names Recording Project

Action 2.4 of the County Westmeath Heritage Plan 2018-2023 “Initiate and develop a project to record field names in partnership with local communities”, commenced with a pilot project in 2018. The project was expanded in 2020, with support from the Heritage Council, Creative Ireland and Westmeath County Council. Meetings of groups were suspended in March due to Covid-19, but some recording continued via post and email. A booklet with an update on the project is now available in print and on the Council website: <https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/media/FieldnamesProject20192020web.pdf> In 2020 field names were collected to from townlands in the parishes of Multyfarnham, Rochfortbridge, Fore, Kinnegad, Ballymore, Mount Temple and Tang. The names of the fields collected have been uploaded to the website [Meitheal Logainm.ie](https://meitheal.logainm.ie/westmeath-field-names/) and can be viewed here: <https://meitheal.logainm.ie/westmeath-field-names/>. Interest in the project extended beyond the County and it featured in The Irish Times, the online publication Agriland.ie and in an episode of Creedon’s Atlas of Ireland on RTÉ. (Plate)

Industrial Heritage of Westmeath

A project to record the Industrial Heritage of Westmeath (Phase 2) was carried out under Action 2.1 of Westmeath Heritage Plan 2018-2023; addressing gaps in existing datasets (few industrial heritage sites are recorded in National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for Westmeath). Recording the Industrial Heritage was also an objective of the County Development Plan 2014-2020. A representative sample 10 of sites listed in the Inventory of Industrial Heritage sites, compiled in 2019, were selected for field survey. The survey report is available on WCC website: <http://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/planning/conservationheritage/heritageresources/>.

As part of the ‘Remembering the Industries of Westmeath Oral History Project’, interviews were recorded with people who worked in five different industries in the County. Industries represented include Locke’s Distillery, boat making, stone cutting, sawmills and printing. Sound files, transcripts and summaries of these interviews have been given to the Local Studies section of Westmeath Library, where they will be available to researchers.

Irish Walled Towns Network

Funding was received from The Heritage Council via the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) for conservation works to the lower battlements of Athlone Castle, and to one of the earlier surviving sections of the Town Wall at Court Devenish/Railway View (Plate). The IWTN commissioned a video on the Conservation works to Athlone town Wall: <https://bit.ly/3tH3V8a>

Biodiversity Projects

Three projects received funding from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under their National Biodiversity Action Plan Grant Scheme; Preparation of a Management Plan for Invasive Alien Species at Belvedere House, Gardens and Park; Westmeath Wetland Survey (Phase 2: Field Survey) and a programme of pollinator infomercials on Midlands Radio 103FM.

Management Plan for Invasive Alien Plant Species at Belvedere House, Gardens and Park

This plan was prepared by Invas Biosecurity Ltd, who undertook detailed survey of the grounds at Belvedere and recorded the location and extent of Invasive Alien Plant Species present. Belvedere adjoins Lough Ennell (SAC, SPA) and the Plan was screened for Appropriate Assessment (AA). Phase 1 of the plan was implemented in the Autumn, this included spraying and stem injecting of Knotweed and management of Laurel.

Wetland Survey

Following on from the Desktop survey of Wetland sites undertaken in 2019, field survey of twelve Wetland sites of County Value in Westmeath was undertaken by Blackthorn Ecology. The survey was carried out under the Westmeath Heritage Plan 2018-2023; Action 2.1 'Address knowledge gap in existing survey of heritage by implementing a programme of research and surveys...'

Pollinator infomercials on Midlands Radio 103 FM

In collaboration with Laois and Offaly Heritage Offices, a series of seasonally appropriate tips to assist pollinators, scripted by Ecologist Juanita Browne, aired as infomercials on Midlands Radio 103.

Biodiversity Week 2020

In line with Covid-19 restrictions, no physical events were scheduled for Biodiversity Week 18th – 22nd May 2020. It was marked by a series of interviews on biodiversity topics on Midlands Radio 103 and Athlone Community Radio.

Heritage Week 2020

Heritage Week 15th – 23rd August, in line with covid-19 restrictions, featured projects and virtual events. There were 36 projects registered for Westmeath: <https://www.heritageweek.ie/projects/?q=&where%5B%5D=westmeath#listings>. Mount Temple Baylin Heritage Group won the County Award for their film 'The Blacksmith of Moydrum' (Plate). <https://www.heritageweek.ie/projects/creating-the-voices-of-generations-gone-1>

Community Monuments Fund

Funding under this new stream operated by the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage was awarded to:

Conservation works to Athlone Town Wall (Church St) included rebuilding a section of collapsed wall, stabilising and repointing.

The preparation of a Conservation Plan for The Old Gaol in Fore, with input from a Conservation Engineer, Conservation Architect and Archaeologist.

LiDAR survey of Hill of Uisneach; a survey was flown over the Hill and the resulting data was analysed.

THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DATA CENTRE

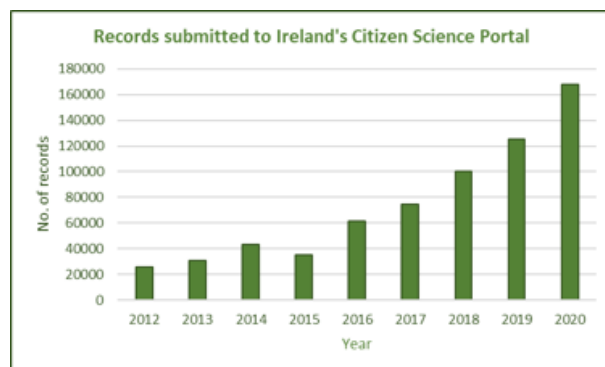
The National Biodiversity Data Centre continues its work to improve the state of knowledge on Ireland's biodiversity, and to ensure that data and information is available to inform decision-making for the benefit of the conservation of biological diversity.

The Data Centre operates Biodiversity Maps as the national platform to publish and provide access to biodiversity data. At the end of 2020, 4.5 million records from 156 different datasets were published, providing occurrence data on 16,800 different species.

Ireland's Citizen Science Portal provides an online system to enable recorders to submit records and to contribute to the national biodiversity database. 2020 was a phenomenal year for biological recording activity with a huge surge experienced in April, coinciding with the first COVID-19 lockdown and a period of fine weather. This increased recording activity continued for the rest of the year, resulting in more than 168,000 records submitted during 2020. This was a 34% increase on the total number of records submitted in 2019.

The Data Centre continues to manage a national monitoring scheme to generate valuable information on how Ireland's biodiversity is changing. These schemes are all delivered by citizen scientists who give freely of their time and expertise to generate high-quality data that is used to track how issues such as land use and climate change are impacting on biodiversity. Monitoring schemes cover butterflies, bees, dragonflies and rare plants. A new Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme was introduced in 2020 and this has had exceptional uptake in its first year.

The Data Centre has active programmes to build the evidence base on different aspects of biodiversity including pollinators on farmland through the Protecting Farmland Pollinators EIP programme and intertidal biodiversity. It is assisting the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reporting to the European Commission on the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulations. The first All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020, coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, ended in 2020. It has achieved such success that a new plan for the period 2021-2025 was included as an action in the Programme for Government.



NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK

Heritage connects us with our past, builds our resilience and improves our health. The impact of COVID-19 restrictions on social gatherings and social distancing has taken a toll on our well-being. Bearing this in mind, the Heritage Council has considered its role and particularly the role of National Heritage Week in contributing to societal recovery. National Heritage Week is part of European Heritage Days, which has become a visible expression of community engagement and social cohesion.

In response to the challenges facing our population, the Heritage Council, in consultation with the Department of Arts, Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, decided that National Heritage Week 2020 should go ahead. It was necessary to adapt the format because of the public health restrictions, but we maintained community engagement and social cohesion as the essence of National Heritage Week. Our new approach saw individuals, communities and organisations invited to develop Heritage Week projects, rather than focus on individual events, as the primary output.

Project organisers were invited to develop a new approach to creating projects. They were encouraged, for example, to advance research about a particular place in their locality, or revisit or build on a heritage project that they had already worked on, showcasing research they had completed in the past. These projects were launched and available during National Heritage Week on a dedicated website, www.heritageweek.ie. In addition, the Heritage Council provided extra resources to support groups to make videos and digital presentations providing technical guidance and supports about how to upload this material to the website.

The theme for National Heritage Week 2020, *Heritage in Education; Learning from our Heritage* was divided into the following subthemes:

- Heritage on your doorstep – inviting people to explore their localities – for much of the spring and early summer people could travel no more than 5km from their homes
- Relearning skills from our heritage
- Heritage and education

We were delighted as 854 projects were shared on heritageweek.ie. More than 770 project organisers coordinated projects which compares with 1,124

organisers in 2019. We surveyed project organisers about their experience afterwards and the findings show that many felt they had gained new skills as well as deepening their interest in heritage. A crucial outcome of the virtual event was the increased reach. Many people were able to participate in events outside of their locality as they could view them online. This is an important learning outcome which will help to inform the approach to the coordination of future events.

NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK AWARDS 2020



The 2020 National Heritage Week Award online ceremony was presented by RTE Broadcaster and Journalist, Anne Cassin.

Recognising and celebrating the efforts of individuals, families and community groups across Ireland to ensure the preservation, protection and promotion of Ireland's built, natural and cultural heritage is recognized by the Heritage Council at the annual National Heritage Awards. Hosted by the Heritage Council, the event took place virtually and was presented by RTÉ broadcaster, Anne Cassin.

To take account of restrictions on gatherings due to COVID-19, rather than focusing on the organisation of in-person events this year, more than 770 heritage groups and enthusiasts developed projects around this year's theme of *Heritage and Education: Learning from our Heritage*. Comprising online talks and exhibitions, videos, podcasts, slideshow presentations, blogs, websites, social media accounts, as well as small, restricted social gatherings, more than 850 projects were submitted. Award categories comprised: the Heritage Hero Award; the Heritage on Your Doorstep Award; the Re-Learning Skills from Our Heritage Award; the Heritage of Education Award and the Water Heritage Award. Each project was considered also for a National Heritage Week Award.

The National Heritage Week Awards were expanded this year to include an award for the best project in each county across the island. Projects were assessed based on their local reach and community engagement, educational value and the level to which they involved different age groups.

The volume and variety of projects received this year reflects the dedication of individuals and communities to capture, celebrate and share Ireland's rich and varied heritage. Commenting, Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD said: "The annual National Heritage Awards offer important recognition of the tireless work undertaken by people – not just during National Heritage Week, but year-round – to ensure the story of Ireland's heritage continues to be told in a meaningful way. I am delighted to see the interest and excitement generated by the Awards among communities across the country and offer congratulations to all winning and nominated projects."

The winners of the National Heritage Week Awards 2020 are:

The Heritage Hero Award: Christy Cunniffe from Clonfert, Co Galway:



Christy Cunniffe has more than 30 years of involvement with heritage. Recently retired as the archaeological field monument advisor for Co. Galway, during his time in the role Mr Cunniffe went above and beyond to work with local communities and assist heritage groups. He has worked with several villages to carry out heritage audits resulting in the identification of heritage sites, he was also involved with the Beara Breifne way, the Clonfert Conservation Plan and the forthcoming national heritage plan, Heritage Ireland 2030. His work in the Slieve Aughty uplands engaged local communities in Clare and Galway and promoted the heritage, archaeology and culture of this unique shared

region. Mr Cunniffe is being recognised for his efforts to engage and include local communities and heritage groups, to spread his own knowledge and enthusiasm among those around him.

The Heritage on Your Doorstep Award: The Killeshandra Tidy Towns Heritage Group from Killeshandra, Co Cavan:

Using the Census returns of 1911 the Killeshandra Tidy Town Heritage Group produced sketches, old photographs and census records detailing the houses, shops, and public buildings and people who lived in the town and presented it online. The result is a valuable resource for learning about the town's cultural and built heritage and provides genealogical resources which supports research.

The Re-Learning Skills from Our Heritage Award: Johnny Shiels from Glenswilly, Co Donegal:

Mr Shiels is a third-generation wheelwright, and this project involved the restoration of a rare, old Donegal flax / wool-spinning wheel. Assisted by his two sons, this project sees the passing of knowledge of wheel-making and restoration across generations. Mr Shiels has used digital technology and social media to share the process of the restoration with a wide audience and plans to engage with local schools to teach pupils about spinning and weaving, and to ensure continued interest in the project and the tradition itself.

The Heritage of Education Award: Rathmullan & District Local History Society from Rathmullan, Co Donegal:

For this project, Rathmullan and District Local History Society set out to record the intangible heritage of schooldays, including the friendships, sports, games played, songs and lessons remembered, the customs and the ways of life in school and in the community. This was chosen to encourage a sense of connection which would involve the whole community. The first part of the project used their recently created Facebook page to showcase the histories, stories and photographs of their townlands, and the group also produced a video based on earlier interviews with former pupils in the school from the late 1930s to 2005.

The Water Heritage Award: The Ellen Hutchins Festival from Bantry, Co Cork:

Ellen Hutchins (1785-1815), born in Ballylickey, West Cork, was Ireland's first female botanist, with seaweeds being her specialist. This Ellen Hutchins Festival project involved the production of family-

friendly resources enabling people to explore, understand, respect and protect seaweeds and the natural heritage of the shores of inner Bantry Bay. High quality multimedia items, including photographs and a video were included in the resources.

The Runners-up of the National Heritage Week Awards 2020 are:

Heritage on Your Doorstep

Cork Jewish Heritage Virtual Walk Ruti Lachs

Why is Disert important to me? Disert Heritage Group

Re-Learning Skills from our Heritage

Traditional Sheep Farming & Sheep dog training

Donie Anderson



Donie Anderson

Milltown's Heritage Food Project

Milltown Heritage Group

The Heritage of Education

Labasheeda Ar Scoil - An Educational Journey

Labasheeda Projects Group

Gilson for the 21st Century: Learning from our Heritage

Sue Russell

Water Heritage

Back to the Past, Valuing Water in the Community

Tullahought Community Development Ltd.

Shannon Town Community Wetlands Project

Shannon Town Community Wetlands

County Award Winners

Antrim

Mapping Places- Exploring Heritage on Our Doorsteps through Maps

Heritage Hub, Queens University Belfast.

Carlow

Education through the ages in Myshall Parish

Myshall Muintir Na Tíre

Cavan

Meet the Caretakers

Cavan's Historic Graveyard Network

Clare

Clarecastle on film in the 1950s

Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife Group

Cork City

Cork Jewish Heritage Virtual Walk

Ruti Lachs

Cork County

A Decade of Celebrating Heritage of Bantry

Bantry Historical & Archaeological Society

Derry

Horrible Histories of Lough Neagh

Spreading the Words: Irish Language & Heritage

Donegal

Stories in Our.... lockdown project

Donegal G.A.P. Heritage and History Group

Down

Uncovering Monuments in the Ulster Landscape

Ulster Archaeological Society

Dublin City

Wordsteps - The Grand Canal, Dublin

Camilla Fanning

Dublin -Dun Laoghaire Rathdown

Airfield Dromartin Jersey Herd - Butter Making

Airfield Estate

Dublin- Fingal

Snapshots of Fingal's Past

Fingal County Council

Dublin- South Dublin

Traditional Sheep Farming and Sheepdog Training

Donie Anderson

Fermanagh

Remembering the Landscape - Cuilcagh to

Cleenish: A Great Place

Barney Devine

Galway County

Milltown's Heritage Food Project

Milltown Heritage Group

Galway City

Exploring Mammals in Merlin Woods

Friends of Merlin Woods

Kerry

Young Explorer with Neil Hyland

Wild Derrynane



Neil Hyland

Kildare

The Irish Draught Horse Yesterday and Today

Kildare Branch Irish Draught Horse Breeders Association

Kilkenny

Back to the Past, Valuing Water in the Community

Tullahought Community Development Ltd.

Laois

Killabban Monastic Site Project

Killabban Monastery Restoration Committee

Leitrim

Back to the future through Memories and Songs

Fionnuala Maxwell

Limerick

An audio-visual tour of Knockfierna

Knockfierna Heritage Society

Longford

Let me tell you!

Rath Mhuire Men's Social Club

Louth

A Glimpse behind the Shopfront

Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust

Mayo

Mulranny Down through the Decades

Mulranny Old Photos Group

Meath (2 projects)

Travellers Workshop, Photo Exhibition, Pack and DVD

Meath Travellers Workshops

Boyne Currach Heritage

Boyne Currach Heritage Group

Monaghan

Sharing school & church memories across the generations

St. Salvator's Church Youth

Offaly

Lighting Up the Night

Birr Vintage Week & Arts Festival

Roscommon

Bringing Kiltewan Schools Folklore Collection to the parish audience

Kiltewan Graveyard Committee

Sligo

The Rosses Point Coastal Way Project

The Rosses Point Coastal Way Group

Tipperary

A Harvest Knot for Lughnasa

Nenagh Arts Centre

Tyrone

If Stones could Speak - The Archaeological Landscape of Tyrone

Derry City & Strabane District Council

Waterford

Knockboy Ogham Stones

Ogham in 3D

Westmeath

Creating the Voices of Generations Gone

Mount Temple Baylin Heritage Group

Wexford

Courtown Woods - Our Heritage

Seal Rescue Ireland

Wicklow

Glendalough Heritage Forum: short films, website, promoting heritage

Glendalough Heritage Forum

National Heritage Week Projects to highlight in response to Covid-19 Restrictions

7 project organisers tell us about their projects

Stories in Our.....Lock down Project

County: Donegal

Organiser: Donegal G.A.P. Heritage and History Group

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

From May 2020, when we realised that we would not be able to organise real gatherings, we picked a new object type, place or event relating our culture and heritage. We came up with the idea hoping people would enjoy and perhaps capture memories from the past. These were posted once weekly on our Facebook page (Donegal GAP Heritage), to keep in touch, encouraging people to collect and share stories of their own about our local history. The plan would be to display our stories when we can in the future.

Community Involvement: Local historians, enthusiasts and landowners were contacted to contribute their knowledge, photographs and information. As barns, outhouses and attics were being cleared out this year, many artifacts and their memories came to light which have been shared with us. New insights into our cultural and built landscapes were provided by our local community.

Local Age Groups involvement: Families, relatives and friends used this opportunity to explore 'Stories in...'; their own local areas.

Local Community Awareness: Our 'Stories in Our....' Series to you all". were and will continue to be hosted on our Facebook page and our Website. We will continue to draw on the rich culture, history and heritage of our area and its community.

Resources Consulted: Local history publications, websites and oral histories.

Links to Social Media pages:

www.facebook.com/DonegalGAPHeritage/

Rock Art Paint or draw a Castle on the shore

County: Clare

Organiser: Paint or draw a Castles or a stone cottage on the rocks

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

In March 2020 we encouraged our community members to draw or paint on shoreline rocks and leaving them on the ocean break wall to inspire others. At first some disappeared but we told the children not to give up. With Easter greetings on the rocks they began to grow. Now there are 100's and 100's of painted rocks for all to enjoy from all generations 2 yrs. old to 98 years old.

At first we painted local castles and cottages on the rocks. Then smiley faces, lighthouses, and everything possible began to appear.

We contacted the Clare Heritage Officer and provided guidance from an architectural heritage specialist.

Community Involvement: At first we painted local castles and cottages on the rocks. Then smiley faces, lighthouses, and everything possible began to appear.

Its gathered its own momentum from word of mouth advertising. All were delighted to see it on the 6.01 RTE News and on Newstalk. Now its gone viral.

Local Age Groups involvement: From babies to seniors, everyone joined in and contributed to our Shoreline Rock Art project. The natural stone face of a castle made it easier to create one. You just had to search the shoreline for the suited shape of your local heritage: a castle, a cottage, a round fort, a lighthouse and lots more.

Local Community Awareness: Its gathered its own momentum from word of mouth advertising. All were then delighted to see their stone art on the 6.01 RTE News and on Newstalk. Now its gone viral.

Resources Consulted: We contacted the Clare Heritage Officer and other qualified people who provided guidance.

We then had an architectural heritage specialist introduce us to Towerhouses, and many other types of architectural heritage features, their details, their history and their purpose.



Rock Art Paint or draw a Castle on the shore.

COVID Time Capsule and Diary - Carlow Library Service

County: Carlow

Organiser: Carlow County Council Library Service

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Carlow County Council Library Service captured the living history of the COVID-19 period in the county using a COVID Time Capsule form. Children, young people and adults were asked to fill out the form and return it to the County Library and Archives Service where it will be stored in archival boxes and under the correct preservation conditions for the next 25 years.

The Library Service asked for details such as photographs, special memories, how you passed the time and things to remember to be recorded. All submissions will be safely and confidentially archived for 25 years.

Community Involvement: All were invited to partake. We distributed the COVID Diaries through Age Friendly Wellbeing Packs, through Carlow Community Call, to Library users and visitors and we will engage with the schools in September.

Local Age Groups involvement: The project is intergenerational. It is hoped families will fill out the forms together and return them for storage giving a snapshot of how 2020 was for all generations.

Local Community Awareness: We have publicised widely through radio, print media, social media and to any visitors to any of our libraries in Carlow.

Resources Consulted: The forms are based on a template from Long Creations and adapted for Carlow.

Links to Social Media pages:

www.facebook.com/carlowcountylibraries

www.twitter.com/carlowlibraries

Keeping connected during Covid 19 by virtual communication in Louisburgh.

County: Mayo

Organiser: Louisburgh-Killeen Heritage

Theme: The heritage of education

Since the lockdown in March 2020 began a Louisburgh man, Des Grealis, has gathered together not just the community, but reached out to a global audience by way of a weekly Facebook TV channel. Showcasing local skills, talent and interesting pastimes of old, the weekly shows have educated us on our local area and reached out to our family and friends all over the world.

He started out with a small idea to entertain the locals during the lockdown, and it quickly grew to include everything from cookery classes; yoga; Irish dancing; heritage visits; gardening; a butchery demonstration; knitting classes; art; poetry; literature; and music of all genres by all age groups.

Making the broadcast accessible on YouTube also ensured that anyone not signed up to Facebook could watch the shows.

Participation by different hosts, from their own homes, anywhere in the world, was possible by taking over the 'Live Feed' at designated times on Friday nights.

Heading in to its 25th week, Louisburgh Community TV has become a beacon of hope, laughter and source of comfort to all. While perhaps not directly under the heading of Heritage it has most definitely educated us on the wealth of talent and skills, both from the past and still present today, and the unwavering community spirit within our small coastal area of Louisburgh.

In years to come, when researching 2020, we feel that the videos will be a huge resource of information for everyone and form part of our vast heritage.

Community Involvement: There have been over 100 contributors to our community project with many more waiting to submit material. Without the contributors we wouldn't have content. We have reached 170,000 viewers worldwide through our online presence in the short time we have been making the shows.. anyone can contribute and interact with our weekly program.

Local Age Groups involvement: We have had all ages contribute to our project by making videos, posting photos or going live on our weekly shows.

We hope to showcase the programs to our community members that may not have online capacity at a future date when restrictions are lifted.

Local Community Awareness: We are using social media and also website www.louisburgh-killeenheritage.org to highlight the project, that will continue after August 2020 as we feel this project has the drive to further educate and develop.

Resources Consulted: We have always upheld the heritage council ethos of good practice and used www.heritageweek.ie guidelines to adhere to.

Links to Social Media pages:

www.facebook.com/louisburghtv/

[www.youtube.com/c/LouisburghCommunityTV/](https://www.youtube.com/c/LouisburghCommunityTV/videos)
videos

Lockdown Longford Lore: Creative folklore engagement with glocal communities

County: Longford

Organiser:

Theme: The heritage of education

Cáit Ní Bhradáigh was a Longford schoolteacher who collected local folklore, a selection of which was published in the journal *B'aloideas* in 1936. As her granddaughter and great-granddaughter, the organisers wanted to increase learning of, and engagement with local folklore, and more specifically with Cáit's collection.

Some of the folklore and proverbs Cáit collected you will recognise but some are less well-known. This project aims to awaken those lost sayings, proverbs and cures that are part of our rich cultural heritage.

Therefore, the project organisers invited people to interpret the folklore in whatever creative manner they so wished. They gave people a selection of lore to work with which resulted in creative responses such as art, writing, music and photography. Interpretation was open and simplicity was encouraged!

They are grateful to the participants, young and old, from Ireland, England, Europe, Asia, Australia and the U.S.A. without whom this project would not have been possible. The website is the result of their efforts. Thank you!

The project will continue until end of Heritage Week. We would like to invite you too to participate in our



Lockdown Longford Lore.

project. If interested please email and we'll send you a folklore prompt. All welcome.

Community Involvement: During lockdown we all needed some outlet to ensure our sanity and well-being. A creative arts project, one that would engage people in creative learning about past traditions and ways of life seemed appropriate in this time of crisis. Therefore, we gave people 'creative challenges' based on Cáit Ní Bhradáigh's folklore collection. We asked them to respond in whatever creative manner they preferred, whether that be through art, writing or photography. We wished to include as many local people in re-awakening the lore, therefore we carried out a personal invitation campaign where we asked local people to join us. We were keen that the project was 'by' and 'with' participants rather than a project 'for' people. Additionally, we wanted to include local diverse voices. Furthermore, we instigated a social media campaign to further highlight the project and reach out to more people and Irish diaspora throughout the world.

Local Age Groups involvement: Yes, as part of our call out to people we particularly encouraged the participation of children. The local and global children that participated in the project did so in conjunction with their parents and/or grandparents. Discussion and dialogue between the generations about cultural heritage, e.g. folklore, are ways of passing on traditions and ways of life, resulting in meaning-making and learning, important not only for children's development but for heritage education. Some of our child participants are also polish nationals, living now in Ireland. Therefore their engagement with Irish heritage, and likewise for the many other new citizens, fosters a sense of belonging, inclusion being vital to children's future lives and the sustainability of all our communities. During Heritage Week we will be highlighting selected creative responses to our

creative challenges on our social media. One day is specifically earmarked for the creative work of children (with their permissions).

Local Community Awareness: One of our team is deeply involved with local community, and has many personal connections within north Longford, where our personal, non-affiliated, project is based.

Through Meadhbh's many years of working with local people she has gained trust and respect from locals, affording active participation from near and far. Sally's expertise in digital technologies enabled the project to seamlessly expand from the local to the global, through the diaspora and online creative communities. Through the social media campaign and the website, both designed and run by Sally, it was possible to move beyond local physical spaces and boundaries and collaborate with people throughout the world. The pathway to the global starts at our own front door and Meadhbh and Sally, as educators and enthusiasts of creative arts practices, reached out to family, friends, neighbours, artists and poets ensuring a variety of creative glocal responses to their project.

Resources Consulted: Yes, we had a look at them but we didn't use the resources as fortunately for us one of our team has good digital skills!

Links to Social Media pages:

www.facebook.com/Lockdown-Longford-Lore

twitter.com/LockdownLore

www.instagram.com/LockdownLore/

Back to the future through Memories and Songs

County: Leitrim

Organiser: Fionnuala Maxwell - Traditional Singer

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

In April/May 2020, project organiser and traditional singer Fionnuala Maxwell was starting to suffer withdrawal symptoms from lack of human contact and the day-to-day chats and interactions that were part of normal life.

In an attempt to create a conversation space for a generation who grew up in an analog era and to bridge that digital divide, she introduced some of our cocooning citizens to the world of Zoom.

They told stories of growing up in rural Ireland and the changes that they have witnessed from the 1930s, reminisced, laughed and sang their way

through lockdown. More specifically, they focused on tales of growing up in rural Ireland pre-electricity, tales of school-days, religious occasions, fair-days and patterns, the meitheal and the join, cures, customs and superstitions, dance halls, cinemas and the arrival of radio and television and of course the songs and how they connect us and are part of our rich heritage.

Fionnuala created a Zoom compilation film of those moments, that were shared over six weeks, interspersed with photographs and songs from the past.

There is so much for the wider community to enjoy, learn and identify with in this film which will premiere on Saturday August 15th at 8pm on YouTube.

Community Involvement: Initially, contact was made via text and phone, with the help of my local community day-care centre, whose clients had to cocoon and would suffer most in terms of lack of communication during lockdown. Many were made aware of the project but were unable to participate due to lack of internet. With the help of their families, I managed to bring six local cocooners together by the power of Zoom and it was beneficial that each of these would have their local area in common, as well as a shared lack of technical skills and their own personal background stories. Common threads and memories meant that someone else's shared memory had the ripple effect of spawning further conversation thus enriching the idea of this being a communal experience. The knock-on effect was that conversation flowed more naturally as the weeks went on and many culturally interesting memories were shared.

Local Age Groups involvement: At the heart of this project, was the idea of intergenerational communication. None of the main participants had used Zoom before so they relied on their children and grandchildren to set up the initial communication. Many of these children or grandchildren sat with the participants during the conversations to assist with technical aspects such as microphones or speakers not functioning. They enjoyed listening to tales that had shaped them or their family in some way. Similarly, by sharing this film on YouTube it is hoped that the younger, more tech savvy generation will assist the less technically able to access the film and make it a shared experience that bridges the generation gap somewhat.

Local Community Awareness: From the beginning of the initial Zoom communications, I have been sharing images and memories on my social media account which have been shared by many local organisations.

I created a teaser of the film to share also which included clips and a general overview of the film. I have uploaded the film to premiere and shared that link and asked people to share. I have also shared it to various organisations that I know have members who enjoy traditional singing, heritage pieces and history. I have made an appeal to local youth groups, such as GAA and Foroige that they might assist someone who does not have the technology to access the film. I have also advertised in local media (newspaper and radio) and will continue to do so up until the film premieres.

Resources Consulted: In order to set up initial conversations and to become familiar with relevant topics, I accessed a number of resources, including, Duchas School's Collection

ITMA website and digital resources

Local publications - History of Drumsna, Annaduff, Dromod area by Tony Ward

Kilclare and Gortletteragh National Schools' commemorative booklets

Galway Library digital resources

Irish News archives - Leitrim Observer.

Community Involvement: The teenagers of Louisburgh contacted many different community sectors during their development of this project. They also consulted with their adult leaders and parents. By using local notes in the newspaper and social media the message was brought to everyone in the community.

Local Age Groups involvement: Having teenagers who were willing to work on their own at home during Lock Down was fantastic. They came up with the ideas but also carried out the work needed by communicating with their adult leaders weekly. They then communicated with the senior members in the community to get information. This brought young and old together while isolated and staying apart during a very difficult time in 2020.

Local Community Awareness: Using all social media platforms and local notes in news papers and of course word of mouth in a close knit community.

Resources Consulted: national heritage website for guidelines

Links to Social Media pages:

www.facebook.com/Louisburghforoige/

Louisburgh Foroige enhance their community with innovation during Covid 19

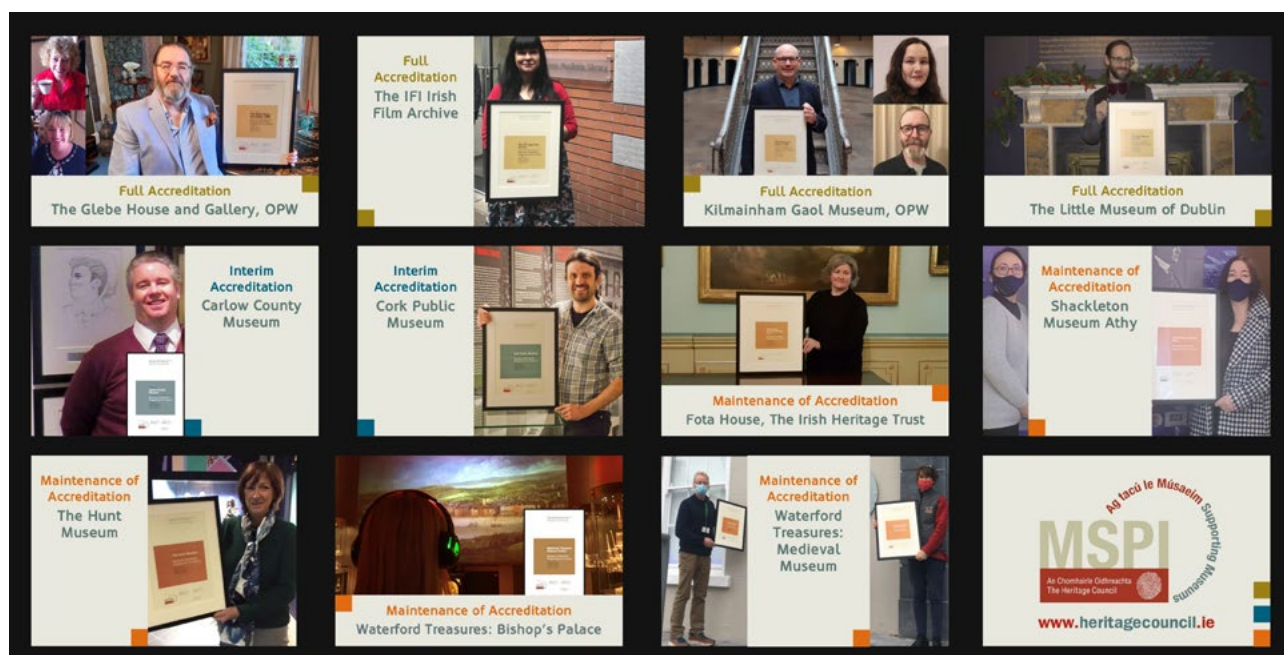
County: Mayo

Organiser: Louisburgh-Killeen Heritage

Theme: The heritage of education

Louisburgh Foroige had to close its doors in March 2020 due to the covid 19 pandemic. Not to be found lacking in imagination, the leaders up-skilled and were able to offer the 100 plus young people of Louisburgh weekly meeting online via Zoom. Feeling sorry for their grandparents and those who had to cocoon the teenagers set about writing to senior members of the community to let them know that someone was thinking of them. Then the teenagers wrote to the front line workers in the community offering support and gratitude for the continued work. Currently the teenagers are organising individual 'Time Capsules' for members of the community which will be buried in Jan 2021 and not opened for ten years. The leaders are tremendously proud of the teenagers for the ideas and respectful way in which they carried out their challenges. The recording of the Lock Down in Louisburgh will no doubt be fascinating reading in years to come.

MUSEUMS STANDARDS PROGRAMME FOR IRELAND



Museum Standards Programme Accreditation Awards 2020

The Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) was established by The Heritage Council to benchmark and promote professional standards in the care of collections and to recognise through accreditation the achievement of those standards within the Irish museum sector. During 2020 the MSPI continued its work to support museums and galleries during the pandemic. In addition, virtual site visits were carried out.

Before the pandemic, MSPI assessments required an onsite visit from two assessors (First Assessment as well as Accreditation applications) or one Assessor (Maintenance of Accreditation applications).

In 2020 the following museums were awarded accreditation:

- The Glebe House and Gallery, OPW, Co. Donegal (Full accreditation)
- The IFI Irish Film Archive, Dublin (Full accreditation)
- Kilmainham Gaol Museum, OPW, Dublin (Full accreditation)
- The Little Museum of Dublin (Full accreditation)
- Fota House, The Irish Heritage Trust, Co. Cork (Maintenance of full accreditation)

- The Hunt Museum, Limerick city (Maintenance of full accreditation)
- Shackleton Museum, Co. Kildare (Maintenance of full accreditation)
- Waterford Treasures: Bishop's Palace and Medieval Museum (Maintenance of full accreditation)
- Carlow County Museum (Interim accreditation)
- Cork Public Museum (Interim accreditation)

Public health restrictions placed restraints on the management of the MSPI and assessments of participants were by and large held online. Measures were put in place to allow MSPI assessments to be held while also aiming to protect the integrity of the assessment process.

A very successful MSPI Awards Ceremony was held virtually in February 2021. This event celebrated the success of those participants who achieved accreditation in 2020.

CONSERVATION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

In 2020, the Heritage Council continued its support of the internationally recognised Conservation Internship scheme, run with the key cultural institutions.

During 2020, despite the restrictions on work in museums due to COVID-19, the scheme hosted two recent conservation graduates at the Conservation Departments of The Chester Beatty Library and a shared internship between the National Gallery of Ireland and the Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane.

Sophie Coulthard became the Heritage Council Intern in Conservation at The Chester Beatty in November 2019. She graduated from Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts London in August 2019 with an MA in Conservation, specialising in works of art on paper. Over the course of her internship, Ms Coulthard's primary focus has been the conservation, treatment and rebinding of CBL In 12, a mid-18th century Indian manuscript of Dastur-e Himmator Model of Resolution. Ms Coulthard presented a lecture on this subject, 'Conservation and Craft: Learning through Book Structures', as part of Heritage Week on 20 August 2020, and has also published two blog posts on the treatment of this manuscript, via The Chester Beatty Conservation blog. Thanks to the financial support of The Heritage Council and The Chester Beatty patrons, Ms Coulthard's internship contract has been extended until the end of October 2021.



Federica Traversa working Reconstruction of the Face of Christ. The Lamentation of Christ by Gerard Seghers, 1630-1635. Permission of National Gallery of Ireland and Federica Traversa.

Federica Travers spent twelve months between the Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane, and The National Gallery of Ireland. During her time at the Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane, Ms Travers worked with two artworks: *Big Bird* by Niki de Saint Phalle (1982) and *Grosse Spirale* by Günther Uecker (1967). *Grosse Spirale* is composed of a painted canvas anchored to a wooden panel by about 6,000-7,000 painted iron nails. The goal was to bring the work back, as much as possible, to its original appearance and above all to slow down the degradation caused by rust. While looking at *Big Bird*, she had the opportunity to do some analysis such as infrared spectroscopy. At the National Gallery she worked on *The Lamentation of Christ* by Gerard Seghers, 1630-1635.



Sophie Coulthard working on CBL Per 235; during repair. Permission Chester Beatty Library and Sophie Coulthard.



The last surviving circular tower of the medieval town defences in Kells, Co Meath, peaks out from behind a tree at the top of the slope. The Heritage Council funded a conservation plan for the town walls in Kells through grant-aid to Meath County Council.

IRISH WALLED TOWNS NETWORK

IWTN Grants 2020 Conservation Projects

The IWTN focuses on uniting and co-ordinating the strategic efforts of local authorities and communities involved in the management, conservation and enhancement of historic walled towns in Ireland. At present, there are 29 member towns located across Ireland (both North and South).

Our member towns are Athenry, Athlone, Athy, Bandon, Buttevant, Carlingford, Carrickfergus, Carrick-on-Suir, Cashel, Castledermot, Clonmel, Cork City, Derry-Londonderry, Drogheda, Dublin City, Fethard, Galway City, Kells, Kildare Town, Kilkenny, Kilmallock, Limerick City, Loughrea, New Ross, Rindoon, Trim, Waterford City, Wexford Town and Youghal.

The following is a summary of the projects undertaken and grants awarded in 2020:

- Six conservation projects were undertaken at Carrick-on-Suir, Kilkenny, Limerick, Rindoon, Fethard and Athlone.
- Conservation Management Plans were created for Kells town walls and the Tholsel in Carlingford.
- Applications for support was received from sixteen projects, while ten received funding.
- A total of €232,858 in grants was awarded for conservation projects in 2020.

Interpretation and Events Project:

The following is a summary of events which were held which supported the interpretation of the history of walled towns:

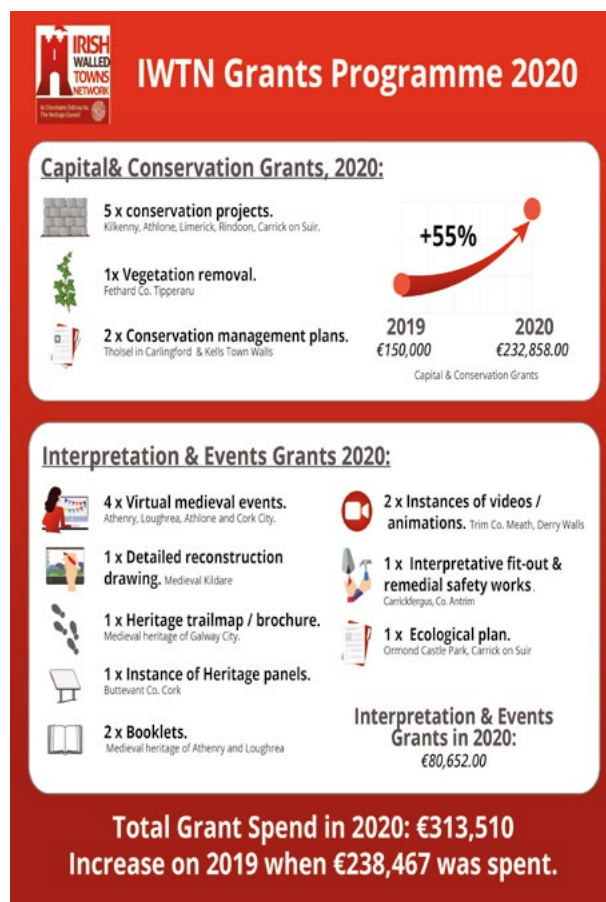
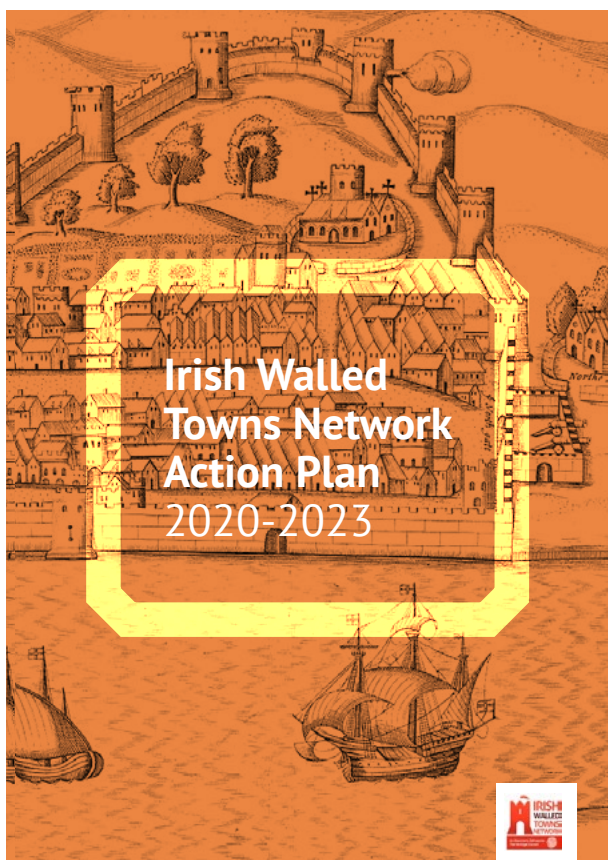
- Virtual medieval events were organised for Athenry, Loughrea, Athlone and Cork City.
- A detailed reconstruction drawing of medieval Kildare was produced.
- A collaboration between an artist and photographer created a brochure promoting the medieval heritage of Galway City.
- Interpretative panels were installed in Buttevant, Co. Cork.
- Booklets exploring the medieval heritage of Athenry and Loughrea were published.
- An animated video about the history and heritage of Derry's walls was created.
- A series of videos showcasing ten years of archaeological excavation at Blackfriary in Trim, Co. Meath, were produced.
- Remedial safety work was carried out at Athlone Castle.
- The Guard Room in Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, received funding for an Interpretative fit-out. Remedial safety works were carried out on steps at Athlone Castle.

- An ecological plan was produced for Ormond Castle Park, Carrick on Suir.

A total of €80,652 was spent on interpretation and events projects in 2020. The total grant allocation of €313,510 was spent on IWTN projects in 2020. This compares with €238,467 allocated in 2019.

Other IWTN Outputs:

- The creation of a children's workbook for IWTN members about walled towns was made available for download from the Irish Walled Towns Network website (<https://irishwalledtownsnetwork.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/IWTN-Childrens-Booklet-V3.pdf>)
- A video regarding conservation works in Athlone was developed, documenting the work undertaken by heritage professionals. The film was uploaded to the Heritage Council's YouTube channel.
- A new IWTN Magazine was launched for the network, containing features about walled towns, and different projects that can be undertaken to promote their stories. The first edition was issued in December. Subsequent editions will be issued bi-monthly.
- The IWTN Historic Building Study, in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, was created. The pilot study is now underway in Kilmallock.
- The IWTN Action Plan 2020-2023 was launched at the IWTN Workshop and an AGM which was held on 14th February 2020. Over 30 network members attended representing 19 towns.



ADOPT A MONUMENT SCHEME

Despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Heritage Council continued to work closely with community groups through the Adopt a Monument programme. Activities in 2020 included the development of a toolkit for community groups interested in researching monuments, the development of the Know Your 5k initiative, and an introductory booklet on Adopt a Monument.

Several Adopt a Monument groups benefitted from a dedicated Adopt a Monument grant fund. This funding was kindly provided to the Heritage Council by the National Monuments Service, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Adopt a Monument Online Sources Toolkit

This toolkit provided people with free online resources which could be used to learn more about the heritage in their area. This toolkit was circulated to all Adopt a Monument participants, as well as added to the Adopt a Monument webpage on the Heritage Council's website. www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Adopt-a-Monument-Research-Toolkit.pdf

Adopt a Monument 'Know Your 5K'

The 'Know Your 5K' project was developed by the Adopt a Monument team, in conjunction with the National Museum of Ireland, to allow people from across Ireland post a heritage-related photo, story, poem or song from their local area during the first national lockdown. www.ouririshheritage.org/content/category/archive/place/knowyour5k

The database received over 120 entries from all over the island of Ireland.

Adopt a Monument Booklet

This booklet acts as a guide for the Adopt a Monument Scheme and is aimed at communities, groups and individuals interested in managing, protecting and promoting their local heritage. It explains the work of the Adopt a Monument scheme and instructions on how to apply. It also features testimonials from community groups involved with the scheme. www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/A-Guide-to-the-Adopt-A-Monument-Scheme.pdf



Kilkeiran Napoleonic Battery aerial photo.

Ongoing Support and Mentoring for the Adopt a Monument Groups

The active Adopt a Monument groups in 2020 were:

1. Malin Well Old Church, (Malin Well Old Church Conservation Group), Inishowen, Co. Donegal
2. Doon Fort, (Donegal GAP History and Heritage Group), Ardara, Co. Donegal
3. Kilbarron Castle, (Kilbarron Castle Conservation Group), Co. Donegal
4. Moygara Castle, (Moygara Castle Conservation Group), Co. Sligo.
5. Church of the Rath, (Killeshandra Tidy Towns), Killeshandra, Co. Cavan
6. St Finian's Church & Graveyard, (Society for Old Lucan), Esker, Lucan, Co. Dublin
7. Mountbellew Walled Garden (Mountbellew Heritage and Tourism Group), Mountbellew, Co. Galway
8. Kilkerrin Battery, (Labasheeda Projects Group), Labasheeda, Co. Clare

9. Kilmurry Lime Kiln, (Kilmurry Tidy Towns), Kilmurry, Co. Clare
10. Ballyogan Moated Site (Tyndall Mountain Club), Brandon Hill, Co. Kilkenny
11. Graves of the Leinstermen (Arra Historical and Archaeological Society), Co. Tipperary.
12. Round Hill Motte and Bailey (Lismore Heritage Centre), Lismore, Co. Waterford
13. Gallowshill Motte (Gallowshill Community Archaeology), Dungarvan, Co. Waterford
14. Knockboy Church and Graveyard (Knockboy Church Conservation Group), Co. Waterford

Throughout the year, support and advice were provided to Adopt a Monument groups on how best to progress projects. In September 2020, advice was provided to all active groups to help them complete funding applications for the Community Heritage Grants Scheme (Heritage Council) and Community Monument Fund Scheme (NMS). Most applicants received funding for a variety of projects.



The important seventeenth century Rath church at Killeshandra, Co Cavan, revived funding to digitally survey the memorials, this included a drone survey. The Heritage Council is grateful to the National Monuments Service for supporting this fund.

HERITAGE MAPS

Heritage Maps is an online facility which allows users to look at a wide range of built and natural heritage data sets in map form, many of which have never been accessible to the public before. Heritage Maps can be used to create customized maps, measure area and distance, identify points of interest and study local flora and fauna, as well as many other uses, both recreational and research-based. These datasets were collected by both government departments and local authorities and some datasets are only available on an individual county basis. The project is co-ordinated by The Heritage Council.

The Heritage Maps viewer acts as a 'one stop shop' discovery tool, as it provides access to heritage data along with contextual data from a wide range of sources. The user can create cross-disciplinary views from hundreds of datasets - crossing administrative boundaries, subject boundaries, and the land-sea boundary. The Heritage Maps viewer offers a unique perspective, building up national coverage of heritage datasets from local authority sources as well as using existing national datasets. It uses web services to access live data where possible, thereby increasing data reliability.

Importantly, there are datasets unique to this project such as soil susceptibility to coastal erosion, museums datasets and a range of thematic county heritage surveys, creation of which have been supported by the Heritage Council and the Heritage Officer Network.

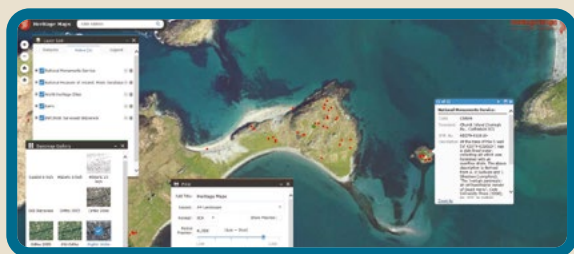
The service witnessed an increase in users in 2020. User numbers and other key statistics are summarised below.

User numbers:

- HeritageMaps.ie user numbers grew 24.6% in 2020 – up from 19.4% growth through 2019
- Since 2015 there has been annual growth in user numbers of 808%, currently maintaining steady growth of 20% to 25% year on year

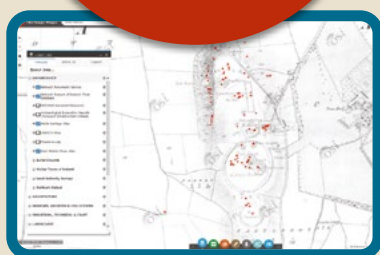
Session numbers:

- Session numbers grew by 28.1% in 2020 - up from 26.7% growth in 2019
- This represents an increase of 828% since 2015



The free
one-stop-shop
for Ireland's built,
cultural and natural
heritage data.

HeritageMaps.ie is the A-Z of Ireland's Heritage: from Archaeology to Zoning. Explore a vast range of Ireland's heritage including pilgrim paths, burial grounds, bat landscapes, maritime collections & walled towns, all accessible from any device.



New & forthcoming datasets include:

- Irish Traditional Music Archive
- NI Heritage Destinations
- Ireland's Éire Signs
- Irish Round Towers
- County Holy Well Surveys
- 3D Heritage Surveys

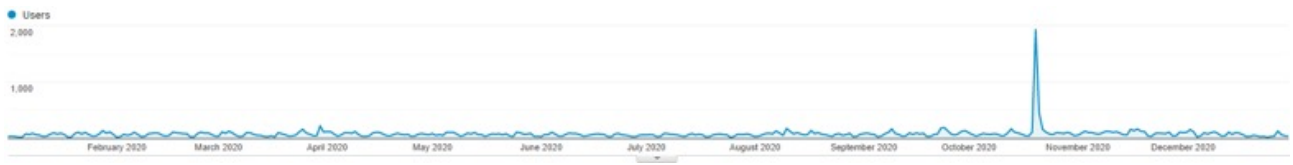


Fig. 1: User graph for 2020 from Google Analytics, accessed January 5th, 2021.

User Groups:

- Our core user-base remains unchanged, having about 3,200 users that access the viewer between once and five times per week all year round
- Analytics now identify a set of users, numbering 4,300, that use the viewer regularly between 10 and 50 times per year
- Returning users account for over 50.7% of all 2020 user sessions
- Made up of cultural heritage professionals - archaeological, architectural, ecological and environmental consultants, planning, local government and academic sectors
- 26.1% of 2020 users accessed from outside Ireland – down from just over 38% in 2019
- Mobile phone access has grown by 26.3% through 2020, bringing total mobile access to HeritageMaps.ie to 32.3%.

These figures tell us that we have a core professional Irish userbase which is far larger than initially estimated, with regular user numbers of 7,500. From this data we can see that a huge portion of Irish heritage professionals use the viewer regularly to access information.

Our non-Irish audience has severely declined owing to the current pandemic. From this we can extrapolate that a large portion of non-Irish visitors were accessing the site in order to research heritage/activities/travel in Ireland relating to the tourism sector.

In our 2016 redevelopment we future-proofed HeritageMaps.ie for mobile phone access and this has facilitated and encouraged the large increase in mobile phone users. Desktop access has dropped by 3.2% in 2020 while mobile access has increased significantly. Tablet access is down 50% and it

appears to be diminishing as the boundary between phones and tablets erodes. The mobile user figures may indicate the need for development of a specific HeritageMaps.ie phone app.

2020 New Datasets:

- Local Authority data – By continuing to work with Heritage Officers, new datasets are regularly added. However, owing to travel restrictions, planned visits to discuss and gather data with Heritage Officers were postponed leading to far lower deployment of local authority data for 2020. There will likely be few datasets added through 2021 as it is difficult to carry out surveys under current conditions. A small number of maps were deployed including archaeology, industrial heritage and natural heritage audits of the River Suir, geological surveys and cemetery datasets.
- Irish Traditional Music Archive – A collaboration with ITMA saw the introduction of the first of many music datasets aimed at promoting Irish traditional musical heritage. 'The Humours of...' mapped a series of tunes with titles identifying towns, villages and townlands across Ireland.
- Coillte – As part of a project with Fáilte Ireland, new data was introduced from several Irish organisations, including various trail types and forestry locations from Coillte.
- Geological Survey of Ireland – Several more counties, including Galway, Tipperary and Westmeath, were introduced in this important series of datasets funded and made available by the GSI.
- Wild Atlantic Way – Several datasets of destinations and signature points were introduced, courtesy of Fáilte Ireland.
- Abarta Audioguides – The locations of some of Ireland's best-known landmarks were mapped,

which have freely downloadable audio-guides discussing the built and cultural heritage of each site. This dataset is courtesy of Abarta Heritage.

- An Taisce – The latest Blue Flag and Green Coast datasets were acquired from An Taisce during 2020 and are now live on the viewer.
- Ireland's Blueways and Greenways are now available on HeritageMaps.ie.
- WW2 Éire Signs and Lookout Posts –These important coastal heritage sites have been mapped and the most comprehensive listing of the remaining sites created.
- Ireland's Harbours –Ireland's large and smaller harbours were mapped in one comprehensive dataset with contact and harbour links and details.
- Northern Ireland data - With Brexit looming, it was felt important to work with colleagues in Northern Ireland and deploy as much of Northern Ireland's mapped heritage as possible. Datasets on geology, trails, cemeteries, beaches, world heritage sites and many others were deployed.

Promotion

HeritageMaps.ie is promoted mainly through social media, conference display and *Archaeology Ireland* magazine. Tweets were the main form of promotion during 2020 as other opportunities were closed off. Tweet activity is bringing HeritageMaps.ie to an increasing audience:

- Followers increased from 1,400 to 2,500 through 2020.
- One tweet, showing a GIS map of Ireland's river network on no background, went viral creating over 100,000 impressions and bringing 250 new followers to our twitter account.

HeritageMaps.ie continues to grow at a healthy, steady pace. Its core professional audience of 7,500 users is growing strongly. It is much larger than originally anticipated and represents all sectors of the heritage industry.

We are intent on realising its potential for heritage promotion within the tourism sector at home and internationally. Liaison with Fáilte Ireland will continue in order to promote Ireland's Heritage. HeritageMaps.ie can play an important part in wooing tourists back to a post-pandemic Ireland.

The collation, creation and conservation of data will continue from all levels of state agency on this platform as HeritageMaps.ie grows and matures. Collaboration is actively sought and has already been successful with many non-Governmental bodies in mapping their heritage data.

2020 saw continued, strong growth for HeritageMaps.ie considering the global pandemic. Although non-Irish interactions dropped, increased Irish activity ensures that the viewer userbase grew healthily.

HERITAGE IN SCHOOLS

The Heritage in Schools Scheme is a primary school heritage education initiative which facilitates visits to primary schools by a range of experts on Ireland's natural, cultural and built heritage and is the Heritage Council's main activity for primary schools. Visits are part-funded by the school and the remainder of the fee and travel expenses are funded by the Heritage Council.

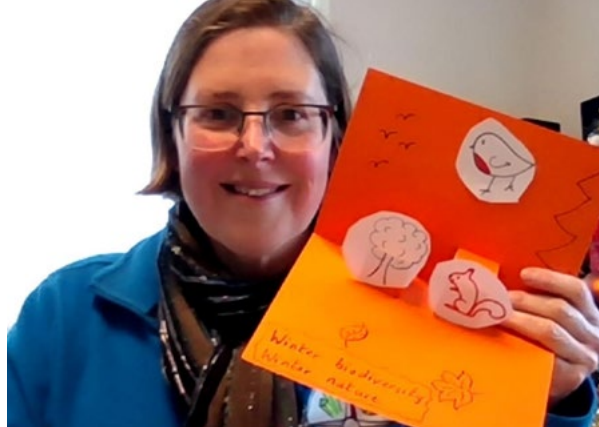
The scheme was launched in 2000 following a successful pilot conducted in Dublin/Wicklow and Galway/Clare during the previous year. In the early years the Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO) collaborated with the Heritage Council by administering the scheme through its Professional Development Unit at an annual cost to the Heritage Council.

Schools were provided with a Heritage Specialists' Directory to facilitate booking a full or half-day visit by a specialist. In 2003 the scheme began to offer a five-visit series, either consecutively or spread over the calendar year, at a reduced rate. This initiative aimed to support deeper, sustained engagement with heritage among participating teachers and pupils and to foster relationships between schools and specialists. During the 2012-2013 academic year the INTO ceased to be involved in the administration of the scheme and this task has since been undertaken by the Heritage Council.

In 2000 when the scheme was launched a panel of 49 specialists was recruited and 187 school visits were undertaken. Update has grown steadily since then with a panel of approximately 160 active members delivering 2,500 visits in 2019.

COVID-19 severely impacted this programme. Following school closures nationally, visits to schools were suspended from 12 March 2020, and efforts were immediately put into offering online resources, which would support home-schooling efforts and encourage meaningful exploration of local heritage.

A series of online tutorials was developed between March and August. These tutorials complemented the existing library of resources already available on the Heritage in Schools website. The resources were both fun and educational and were designed to inspire and develop an appreciation and curiosity around Ireland's built, natural and cultural heritage, whilst supporting the aims and objectives of the SESE curriculum. Early in April *RTÉ Learn* was approached to discuss possible opportunities for collaboration



Creating a biodiversity map of your garden with Michele Castiaux.

and this led to the tutorials being published on the *RTÉ Home School Hub* during the month of May and profiled again in the lead up to Heritage Week. The tutorials proved popular with children and families alike and the supporting competitions were well received. Many parents reported how the whole family thoroughly enjoyed the activities and the opportunities to engage with their local heritage.

With continued uncertainty around the primary school environment from September 2020 onwards, planning and discussions began in June around how the Heritage in Schools scheme would operate over an online platform. A pilot virtual programme was rolled-out in September, offering a mix of pre-recorded and live interactive sessions for children and teachers. The pilot programme was offered to schools in Counties Kilkenny and Donegal and supported by the Heritage Officers and Education Centres in both counties. The virtual draft template was designed following consultation with primary schools, Education Centres and education consultants. This thrust from hands-on, interactive, outdoor education into the virtual classroom meant a sudden and deep learning curve for specialists – many of whom were enthusiastic about this new approach and were innovative and creative in adapting visit content and presentations for remote delivery. The pilot proved that virtual visits were viable and that the panel of specialists had successfully adapted their programmes for remote delivery; visits were engaging and very well received and highly rated by teachers. It was proven that remote delivery could extend the reach of the Scheme and, in addition, facilitating specialists working over an unlimited geographical area.

In 2020 we continued our Heritage in Schools contribution to *InTouch*, which is the Irish National Teachers' Organisation's magazine that issues eight or nine times a year to over 40,000 teachers and education stakeholders. In the articles, heritage specialists provide practical advice as well as information or tips that teachers could put into action in the classroom.

COLLABORATIVE TOWN CENTRE HEALTH CHECK (CTCHC) PROGRAMME

Key Activities

The Collaborative Town Centre Health Check (CTCHC) Programme was created by the Heritage Council and its now over seventy partners in late 2016. The programme has grown exponentially since its inception and was included in the Programme for Government, published in June 2020. Since its inception, the CTCHC Programme has enabled the Heritage Council to be recognised as a 'champion' of heritage-led and data-based historic town centre regeneration, both nationally and internationally (see <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/town-centre-health-check-training-programme>).

During the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown the CTCHC Programme, which has 15 member towns, grew substantially and now has over 40 towns on a waiting list wanting to join Phase 1.

Key programme outputs in 2020 included the publication of two important CTCHC Workshop Feedback Reports in January and February 2020:

1. *'Pilot' CTCHC Workshop for Owners/ Leaseholders of Vacant Property in Dundalk Town Centre*, written and published by the Heritage Council's CTCHC Programme, January 2020;
2. *Strengthening the Ireland: Scotland Collaboration on Town Centres*, written and published by the Heritage Council's CTCHC Programme, February 2020.

At the start of the first lockdown in March 2020, the Heritage Council set up a Children's Colouring-in Project for eight historic town centres, which was launched in early April to enable young children to reconnect to 'Place'. Two ministerial launches were organised in August and October 2020 with Minister Malcolm Noonan TD, in relation to the first-ever *Tipperary Town Heritage Action Plan 2020-2023* and the first-ever *Sligo CTCHC Report 2020*. Both documents were written by the Planning Officer who is also the co-ordinator of the CTCHC Programme (see <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/news/news-features/tipperary-towns-unique-heritage-is-celebrated-in-first-ever-heritage-action-plan-2020-2022>; <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Sligo-Collaborative-Town-Centre-Health-Report-2020.pdf>).

The Planning Officer also gave over ten presentations to various regional and local authorities, government agencies and NGOs in Ireland and elsewhere in relation to the work of the CTCHC Programme and its innovative role in driving a collaborative approach to heritage-led regeneration in Ireland.

In November and December, a ten-episode podcast series (plus bonus episode for Christmas 2020), 'Putting Town Centres First' was created and produced by the CTCHC Programme. This was the first-ever podcast series by the Heritage Council and has '5 Stars' on Spotify.



Tipperary Town Heritage Action Plan 2020-2023 Launch, with Minister Noonan.

Timeline of CTCHC Programme Activities in 2020

January	'Pilot' CTCHC Workshop for Owners/Leaseholders of Vacant Property in Dundalk Town Centre, written and published by HC's CTCHC Programme (graphics: Ian Barry)	https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Workshop-for-Owners-and-Leaseholders-of-Vacant-Property-in-Dundalk-Feedback-for-agreement.pdf
February	Strengthening the Ireland: Scotland Collaboration on Town Centres, Workshop Feedback Report written and published by HC's CTCHC Programme (graphics: Ian Barry)	https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Ireland-Scotland-Collaboration-on-Town-Centres.pdf
April	Launch of CTCHC children's colouring-in sheets for eight historic town centres in the CTCHC Programme (graphics: various artists)	See Facebook
June	HC Policy Paper on the CTCHC Programme produced (never published by HC?)	https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Policy-Paper-on-the-Collaborative-Town-Centre-Health-Check-CTCHC-Programme.pdf
	Programme for Government published – inclusion of commitment to Town Centres First Policy (as advocated by HC's CTCHC Programme since late 2019). TCF to be led by CTCHC approach – see pages 12-13 of the PfG	https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7e05d-programme-for-government-our-shared-future/
	Joint Webinar with Dept of Housing and RIAI re emerging National Policy on Architecture – presentation on HC's CTCHC Programme	Surveyors Journal: https://issuu.com/thinkmedia/docs/sujo_spring_web/12
	CTCHC Programme featured in Surveyors Journal (Summer issue)	
August	Ministerial launch of first-ever Tipperary Town Heritage Action Plan 2020-2023 by Minister Malcolm Noonan TD, written and published by CTCHC Programme. This is the first HAP for a town in Ireland. (graphics by Ian Barry)	https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Tipperary-Town-Heritage-Action-Plan-2020-2022.pdf
September	RTÉ EcoEye programme recording in Tipperary Town Centre re CTCHC Project and heritage-led regeneration	https://youtu.be/nZH-49uLPtY
October	Ministerial launch of first-ever Sligo CTCHC Report 2020 by Minister Malcolm Noonan TD – written and published by CTCHC Programme (graphics by Darragh Kerrigan, Sligo)	https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Sligo-Collaborative-Town-Centre-Health-Report-2020.pdf Virtual launch: https://youtu.be/MTInAU8IUCA
	CTCHC Workshop with Portaferry Regeneration Ltd, Northern Ireland	
November	Launch of Heritage Council's first-ever podcast series – 'Putting Town Centres First!' – ten podcast series – 5 Stars on Spotify	https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/podcast-series-putting-town-centres-first
	Presentation on CTCHC Programme at Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland Annual Conference	
	Detailed submission on the Tipperary County Development Plan	
December	Launch of bonus podcast episode – A Christmas Wish for Ireland's Town Centres!	https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/podcast-series-putting-town-centres-first

4

HERITAGE COUNCIL GRANT SCHEMES AND FUNDED ORGANISATIONS



**Historic
Towns
Initiative**
€1.152m



**Heritage
Sector
Support
Fund**
€1.258m



**GLAS
Traditional Farm
Building Grant
Scheme**
€1m



**County
Heritage
Plans
Grant
Scheme**
€0.535m



**Community
Heritage Grant
Scheme**
€0.522m



**IRISH
WALLED
TOWNS
NETWORK**
**Capital
Grants**
€0.233m



**IRISH
WALLED
TOWNS
NETWORK**
**Interpretation
Grants**
€0.081m

The Heritage Council operates a range of grant schemes designed to support the built, natural and cultural heritage. The schemes provide vital supports for communities, not-for-profit organisations, NGOs, professional bodies, heritage workers and practitioners and others across Ireland who are committed to heritage protection, awareness and access. Collectively the grants stimulate local economies and contribute hugely to national health and well-being during a very challenging year.

The Heritage Council provides funding for two organisations: The Discovery Programme Centre for Archaeology and Innovation, which received €740,000 in 2020 in funding to support its operations and work; and Irish Landmark Trust, which received €266,000 in 2020. Both organisations are structured as not-for-profit companies and the Heritage Council devised annual service level agreements clarifying the roles and responsibilities of each agency in the funding arrangement.

HISTORIC TOWNS INITIATIVE GRANT SCHEME

Historic Towns Initiative (HTI) is a joint undertaking by the Heritage Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage which aims to promote the heritage-led regeneration of Ireland's historic towns. The programme has been running since 2018.

Despite the disruption caused by the pandemic the Historic Towns Initiative proceeded in 2020. A workshop for prospective applicants took place in January 2020 in the Heritage Council's headquarters. Awards were made to seven towns to carry out heritage-led regeneration projects across Ireland. Despite the challenges of the year, the local authority grantees, contractors, building owners and residents carried out successful conservation projects.

Project details and awards under the Historic Towns Initiative 2020

Tralee, Co Kerry: This funding supported the planned regeneration of Tralee's historic buildings by promoting conservation-led improvements to the historic fabric in Denny Street and Day Place. It is expected that this will ensure continued occupancy in the Denny Street and Day Place area of the town. Specifically, railings and joinery were the focus of conservation works. €307,000.

Roscommon, Co Roscommon: The works carried out were in the older parts of the town which have suffered decline. Conservation works were carried out to the street frontage of a number of historic buildings. €157,000.

Under the Historic Towns Initiative conservation works were carried out in Tralee, including to these historic iron railings at 12 Denny Street.



Clones, Co Monaghan: This project addressed the setting of the round tower, sarcophagus and ‘Wee Abbey’ by removing intrusive infrastructure, improving access and conserving key attributes. €103,000.

Sligo, Co Sligo: This project has involved private owners working with Sligo County Council to undertake the heritage-led regeneration of O’Connell Street (an Architectural Conservation Area) in Sligo town through streetscape conservation and enhancements. €220,000.

Ramelton, Co Donegal: This project worked with local property owners to conserve the historic built environment, facilitate sustainable heritage-led regeneration, reinforce civic pride, enhance attractiveness and promote the tourism potential of Ramelton’s historic core. €290,000.

Ballina, Co Mayo: This project continued works started in 2019 with HTI funding to enable essential structural repairs and conservation works to eight properties in the Pearse Street Architectural Conservation Area in order to address dereliction, allow for occupancy and promote sustainable adaptive re-use. €140,000.

Callan, Co Kilkenny: This project carried out conservation work on the historic iron railing and stone elements of Saint Mary’s Church on Green Street and Mill Street, as well as conservation works to the Kings River foot bridge. €80,000.

A Historic Towns Initiative grant to Mayo County Council enabled a continuation of conservation work in the Pearse Street Architectural Conservation Area. Works to the former Heffernan’s shop included works to clean the façade, repair joinery and conserve the ceramic elements of the shop-front as seen in these before and after images..



HERITAGE SECTOR SUPPORT FUND

The Heritage Sector Support Fund aims to strengthen/stabilise the heritage sector in Ireland by providing support towards the core costs for heritage organisations in delivering a programme of work that contributes to heritage priorities at a national level.

The Heritage Sector Support fund supported eighteen organisations in 2020 offering much need help to organisations as they navigated through the difficulties that emerged due to the pandemic. The overall value of the grant scheme was €1.28m and it resulted in 2,947 Employment Days and 331 Voluntary Equivalent Employment Days.

Heritage Sector Support Fund Awardees 2020

High Nature Value Services (HNVS) Ltd

Clare Field Monument Advisor (FMA) Scheme 2020, €12,000

Institute of Conservators and Restorers Ireland (ICRI)

Professional Accreditation, CPD and Outreach, €3,783

Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland

CPD Coordinator and Administrator, €8,000

Irish Museums Association

Core Funding, €8,500

Wicklow Uplands Council

Core Funding, €52,000

Irish Uplands Forum

Upland Partnership Support 2020, €6,113

Burrenbeo Trust

Place-based Learning and Community Stewardship 2020, €16,000

Bere Island Projects Group

Implementation of the Bere Island Conservation Plan, €18,000

European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP) (Ireland)

High Nature Value farming 2020, €32,000

Woodlands of Ireland

Core Funding, €32,000

Burrenbeo Trust

Burren Community Charter 2020, €4,000

National Biodiversity Data Centre

Irish Vegetation Classification project 2020, €29,400

National Biodiversity Data Centre

Supporting plant recording through citizen science 2020, €11,693

Mayglass Farmstead, Co Wexford

Urgent roof repairs, €3,411

The INSTAR (Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research) Programme

University College Cork Wet Futures Year 2, €15,022

Service Level Agreements

The Discovery Programme

Core Funding 2020 €740,000

Irish Landmark Trust

Repairs at Termon House, Donegal & Loop Head Lightkeeper's House, Co. Clare & Core Funding, €266,000



Termon House.



Loop Head.

GLAS TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDING GRANT SCHEME

The GLAS (Green Low Carbon Agri Environment) Traditional Farm Buildings Grant Scheme has always set out to protect the ‘ordinary’ buildings used in agriculture, as these buildings and other features of the farm add value to the Irish landscape. An important focus are the environmental aspects of this scheme. There is significant effort put into the retention, repair and reuse of existing materials for not only their heritage value, but also for the inherent durability present in many historic building materials.

“I ré seo na hathcursála, tá sé tábhachtach aitheantas a thábhairt don tslí a mhair na daoine a d’imigh romhainn. Bhíodar fláithiúil agus cúramach, bhain siad usáid as na hachmhainí áitiúla agus d’obrígh siad go díograsach. Féach ar na tithe, botháin agus cróanna a thóg siad go snasmhar seiftiúil agus a sheasann fós tar éis na cianta” (Joseph Buckley, feirmeoir i gCiarraí).

In 2020, just under 10,000m² of historic building stock was conserved for use on the farm. Seventy-seven grantees were supported to conserve ninety buildings and nine other related structures, including several walling and gates projects, an arch and a bridge. The smallest building supported was a branding shed in Co. Westmeath at just over 8m², while the largest structure supported was just under 400m² at Shankill Castle, Co. Kilkenny. The reuse and recycling of historic building stock is an important part in combatting climate change in 2020.

Anna Meenan, project manager, co-authored with Dr Alan M. Hurley of TEAGASC, the latter’s ‘Reusing Farm Buildings’ guidance. It is anticipated that further research on capturing carbon on the grant scheme will be carried out in 2021.

The grant scheme recognises that Ireland’s built and natural heritage are inextricably connected, and all conservation works are carried out with careful consideration of both. Traditional farm buildings, as well as serving many purposes, support a range of wildlife which have become synonymous with farming. The nests/roosts of 124 protected species were discovered during wildlife surveys carried out in 2020. Modern farm buildings, while considered essential in the drive to increase productivity, do not support the same abundance of wildlife. The experience gained in protecting and enhancing wildlife as part of the works on this grant scheme served as a contributor this year to



The smallest building supported in 2020 was this branding shed in County Westmeath at just over 8m².

BirdWatch Ireland’s *Wildlife in Buildings* publication. In 2021, all biodiversity data collected since 2016 under the grant scheme will be submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre to document the biodiversity discovered. This and other data will also be uploaded to HeritageMaps.ie portal in 2021.

In 2020, in collaboration with the Heritage Council’s Traditional Building Skills Initiative, a short film was made on the repairs carried out to the gates and walls at Inchiquin House, Co. Clare. Further short films on other projects have been made and will be released in 2021 along with accompanying written guidance. For the first time this year, several applicants also made their own short films, and these are available to view on the Heritage Council’s YouTube channel. Due to COVID-19, very few open days were held. Instead, radio interviews, newspaper articles, as well as website and social media posts, were carried out on different projects throughout the country to disseminate the scheme’s ethos. One find that generated wide interest was the discovery of two pike heads hidden in the wall plate of a building in Co. Laois and these were reported to the National Monuments Service.

The GLAS scheme is managed in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, who make all payments under this grant scheme. During the Rural Development Programme’s two-year transitional period in 2021 and 2022, and its place within the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), areas have been identified where further significant outputs can be affected and we look forward to bringing these to fruition with the agreement of the Department.

Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2020

In April this year the Heritage Council launched a survey into the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the heritage sector in Ireland. From visitor sites to heritage skills practitioners, the impacts were immediate and grave. The findings were presented to the then Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. As a result, the Community Heritage Grant Scheme, launched in September 2020, was part of the rescue package announced by the Minister for State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD.

The aim of this scheme was to support capital projects that apply good heritage practice to the management of places, collections or objects (including buildings). The scheme also supported projects that improved access and inclusion to heritage.

Project Timeframe

The scheme opened for applications through the Heritage Council's online grants management system on 1st September 2020 with a closing date of 5pm on 15th September 2020. Only projects that could be commenced after an offer date at the end of September and completed before 23rd November 2020 could be considered under this scheme.

The data below represents the interest in the scheme versus the number of projects the Heritage Council was able to fund:

Number of Applications: 313

Total Funding Sought: €2,731,031

Number of Successful Applications: 68

Total Funding Awarded: €538,968

SOME SAMPLE PROJECTS

Project Title: CMC Cassette Digitisation Project

Ref. Number: CH08599

Award: €9,000

Organisation: Contemporary Music Centre (CMC) Dublin

Website: www.cmc.ie

PROJECT IMPACT

Supporting Employment: 64 days

This project realised the digitisation of 391 cassettes from CMC's unique audio collection which were starting to show signs of degradation.



These cassettes hold recordings of works by contemporary composers, and date from the mid-1990s to early 2000s, and many are unique recordings, not available to the public anywhere else. This collection will be more easily shared and used with researchers, musicians, composers and other CMC Library users, particularly during Covid-19 restrictions when CMC's Library is not as accessible to the public.

CMC showcased this project as part of Library Ireland Week 30th November to 6th December #LIW20, and have published a feature on the CMC website which looks at just a few of the works digitised: <https://www.cmc.ie/features/through-digital-door-library-ireland-week-2020>

The recordings are mostly of performances of works, though a number include introductions from composers about their work, and you'll hear a number of these included in clips used in the feature linked above. There are also a small number of interviews and discussions, by composers, by then-CMC staff, which help to provide a social and cultural picture of contemporary music in Ireland at various points of time.

This is a small selection of the composers included

in the project: Seóirse Bodley, Brian Boyde, Marian Ingoldsby, Gerald Barry, Deirdre Gribbin, Gerard Victory, Roger Doyle, Jennifer Walshe, Frank Corcoran, John Buckley, Deirdre McKay, Ronan Guilfoyle.

Project Title: Traveller History Animated Video



Ref. Number: CH09922
Organisation: Cork Traveller Women's Network (CTWN)
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Cork-Traveller-Womens-Network-752270951645072/>
Award: €3,600

PROJECT IMPACT
Supporting Employment: 10 days

The animation is a new resource raising awareness of the heritage and history of Irish Travellers in a positive accessible format. Traveller history and heritage is part of broader Irish heritage and so generating accessible information on Traveller history is of benefit to support broader society understanding hidden aspects of Irish history.

The video content was based on research completed in 2019 to create a Traveller history leaflet. CTWN assembled a team of three Traveller women to link with Animator Hazel Hurley, who worked together virtually to develop a script, which dictated the overall content and image style. CTWN connected with the Cork City Heritage Officer during this process. The team also recorded the voice over narration.

CTWN will organise a physical screening of the animation video in Cork city with one of their

partners in the culture and heritage sector when Covid-19 restrictions allow.

Project Title: Conservation of Collection, Kells Printing Works, Co Meath 2020



Ref. Number: CH09768
Organisation: Kells TypeTrail
Website: <http://www.kellstypetrail.com/>
Award: €7,500

PROJECT IMPACT
Supporting Employment: 46 days

Susan Corr, paper conservator specialist, has undertaken conservation work on 32 posters and Sven Habermann of Conservation Letterfrack treated recently acquired wooden furniture and woodblock used in the printing process. The posters provide a fascinating social record dating from 1920s to the 80s and include some of the State's earliest election posters are also included, the work was all done by hand, by master printers.

Kells is renowned for its association with lettering and visual language through the Book of Kells. This was continued through the Victorian era with the first printing of the Meath Chronicle on these presses in the 19th Century. The social and commercial history of Kells and Meath is witnessed through the extensive paper archive.

Susan Corr, paper conservation specialist, also provided a 21 minute video of the conservation process (<https://youtu.be/kRc-xXx7kr8>).

Future Plans

The restoration work is the catalyst to develop Ireland's first typographic centre celebrating lettering

as an art form, capitalizing on Kells unique history of lettering. This will create a focal point for tourism, education and art in Meath and further afield.

The project benefits the community by the collaboration between the council, academics, third level students, schools, historians, letterpress enthusiasts and tourists thus providing an economic benefit to the town. The paper archive is an invaluable resource of local social history spanning over 100 years. The restored Print Works will attract visitors increasing both spend and length of stay. It also gives a sustained artistic outlet for the community to engage with, from letterpress classes to talks and exhibitions.

Project Title: Jack Butler Yeats Conservation Project 2020



Ref Number: CH08672

Organisation: The Model, home of The Niland Collection

Website: <https://www.themodel.ie/>

Award: €13,000

PROJECT IMPACT

Supporting Employment: 29 days

Works by Jack Butler Yeats including 9 of his model boats and a very special wooden travelling case lined with Jack's own original watercolour drawings, joined the Niland Collection in 2018. They were part of an acquisition of a considerable body of artworks from the Yeats Family sale at Sotheby's. Following the sale an anonymous donor had presented both, the boats and the case, as a permanent gift to The Model, home of The Niland Collection.

Unexpected Discoveries

The unexpected outcome after completion of the conservation process was the discovery of 2

additional artworks and several prints, including a hand coloured wood print, under the layer the conservator had just removed. This is not only a discovery of additional unexpected and valuable artworks for the Sligo municipal art collection but also of great interest for the understanding of the designing and completion of this storage chest made and used by the artist Jack B Yeats. The appearance of further, and never-before exhibited art works, will equally attract art historians and scholars to the Model. A second exciting and important discovery was that of a small painted cardboard figure "Theodore the Pirate" - a character invented by Jack B Yeats, in the Irish Girl, in one of the model boats. This small toy figure further supports the assumption that the boats were actually used for the sailing adventures as described in Yeats' publication of "A Little Fleet".

Future Plans

The works are part of Sligo's municipal art collection and will be available for the public to see as a distinct exhibition immediately after conservation. After that, they will be exhibited regularly together, as well as alongside other works by the artist for our audience; and we will also tour them to other museums with appropriate display standards nationwide. A new, ambitious schools' programme is planned where our curators will take the storage case (with facsimiles) out to local primary schools so children can see the works, and to encourage families & schools to come to see the work on display at The Model, thereby engaging further with our shared cultural heritage in workshops, lectures and educational resource material. The Yeats Summer School attracts International academics and scholars to the region annually. The newly conserved works are unseen to date and have the potential to attract national and international scholars as well as culture-seeking tourists.

'We are extremely grateful to the Heritage Council for supporting us in our endeavours to secure these Yeats treasures for the public good.'

Project Title: Knockboy Church, Co. Waterford, Consolidation Works Phase 4

Recorded Monument WA013-034

Ref. Number: CH08582

Organisation: Knockboy Church Conservation Group (KCCG)

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/KnockboyOghamChurch/>

Amount Awarded: €12,000.00

PROJECT IMPACT

Supporting Employment: 90 days

Knockboy Church (also known as Seskin Church) located in rural County Waterford is a fine example of a Medieval parish church. The church is highly significant as it contains a number of important ogham stones. The church requires ongoing conservation work to help stabilise and protect the structure.

In 2020, the KCCG were able to continue with their laudable work to conserve and stabilize the church ruin at Knockboy, concentrating on the interior and exterior of the south wall of the church. The group are committed to promote a better awareness and understanding of the significance of the site and despite the restrictions of Covid- 19 the KCCG used social media platforms during Heritage Week to showcase one of the ogham stones each day. They were awarded the Heritage Week county award for Waterford for their online event here: <https://ogham.celt.dias.ie/site.php?lang=en&site=Knockboy>

The Knockboy Church Conservation Group primarily consist of the Knockboy Graveyard Committee, a local voluntary organisation that was set up in the early 1990s. This group consists of local landowners and residents, and several other people from the community, many of whom have relatives and ancestors interred within the graveyard that surrounds the church. The group are supported by Dr Nora White (the principal investigator on the Ogham in 3D Project) and are participants in the Heritage Council's Adopt a Monument programme.

To date the group have worked hard and with support from Waterford City & County Council, they have resurfaced the old boreen that leads to the graveyard and carried out a graveyard survey and historical analysis, with all of the information detailed on a large panel at the entrance to the site.

With support from the Heritage Council, the group had an Archaeological Assessment of the site carried out by archaeologist Dave Pollock and a Conservation Assessment of the site to identify priorities for the conservation of the church. Conservation works on the gables of the church took place during 2018. Support from Waterford City & County Council has also been important for the project.

In 2019, the group received support under the Heritage Council Adopt A Monument Scheme. They commissioned stonemason, Tom Pollard to continue

conservation and stabilisation of the church ruin and ogham stones at Knockboy Church, particularly an ogham stone situated in the north window.

'We are grateful to the Heritage Council for the continued support which has allowed us to progress conservation works at Knockboy to an advanced stage.'

Project Title: Digitisation and Conservation of Historic Institute for the Deaf Minute Books 1845-1953 & related Documents, included the digitisation of rare Glass Plate Negatives



Ref. Number: CH08707

Organisation: The Deaf Heritage Centre (DHC)

Website: www.deafheritagecentre.com

Award: €7,788

PROJECT IMPACT

Supporting Employment: 27 days

The completed project saw the digitisation of 20 volumes, approx 18,050 pages and 272 Glass Plate Negatives. Master images and surrogate jpegs and pdfs were created. Volumes and glass plate negatives were transferred to acid free boxes for return to the Deaf Heritage Centre.

This Digitisation is of major importance to the deaf community in Ireland. These books provide a veritable history of all primary and secondary deaf school children in the two Cabra schools for the deaf from the 1840s to the 1950s. These accounts cover all details in relation to each child: birth, family, address, admission, sponsoring agency, education, sacraments administered, vocational training and,

in some cases, apprenticeship placing on leaving school.

A collection of 272 Glass Plate Negatives on various themes were vulnerable but are now equally safe and secure for viewing or researching. They are a fitting testament to the dedication of teachers in the schools for the deaf towards the end of the 1800s and the early 1900s. The glass plate negatives opened up a whole new world for deaf pupils, and enhanced their education, by stimulating interest and discussion on a wide collection of coloured projected scenes and images.

The DHC now has this primary information in a searchable database now available for research, investigation and evaluation. This is a living, hidden treasury which is so important to the deaf children, and their families, who attended the schools over the years. It is fitting that they and their descendants now have access to the evolution of a wonderful system of education. These records benefit all the people involved in the different organisations for the deaf in Deaf Village Ireland (DVI). The database benefits the all- Ireland deaf community who look upon the Cabra schools as their 'homeland'.

The Cabra schools from the 1840s onwards supplied the local population with farm produce that came from the then campus farm, bought fruit and apples from a well cultivated orchard, with milk and eggs from the campus also, and rented out rooms and fields for meetings, shows, gymkhana and sports. The locals also used the Church facilities. The local hearing population interacted well with the school administrators and personnel to everyone's advantage. Nowadays, Deaf Village Ireland has become the new centre of mixing deaf with hearing people, in a thriving Sports centre. These documents benefit the Irish diaspora whose ancestors attended the schools in times gone by.

Future Plans

Over the last few years, students from the Centre for Deaf Studies in Trinity College, Dublin, have engaged in work experience and research in the Deaf Heritage Centre (DHC). With this new digitisation, it is hoped to build on this initiative. It is also hoped to attract further research from professionals, educationalists, linguists and others, deaf and hearing alike, to use the stored information for the continued improvement of the education of the deaf in Ireland. The DHC will highlight this Digitisation to its members, other deaf organisations and the public at large, by multi-media means, and also through the

DHC's Website and Facebook.

When Covid-19 Restrictions abate in early 2021 hopefully, the DHC will launch this completed project to an invited group representing educationalists, professionals, public bodies and Government support agencies, to advertise the importance of this watershed Project. The Minute Books are now safe in acid free boxes and appropriate tissue for long term preservation. The Digitisation of the 272 Glass Plate Negatives is a major achievement and are suitably stored for long term preservation.

'In this Covid era, and with the increased availability of multi-media, the deaf community throughout Ireland will have an enhanced chance to discover their past online, thereby enhancing their mental health. This also covers the deaf in mainstream schools.'

IRISH WALLED TOWNS NETWORK GRANT SCHEME

The Irish Walled Towns Network Grant Scheme supports the work of the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) programme, which serves to preserve and promote the rich heritage of Ireland's walled towns. The following is a summary of those towns who received grant funding for capital and interpretative projects in 2020.

Capital Projects

- Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary, €80,550.00
- Kilkenny city, €42,308.00
- Limerick city, €44,000.00
- Rindoon, Co. Roscommon, €27,500.00
- Fethard, Co. Tipperary €1,500.00
- Athlone, Co Westmeath. €17,000.00

Funding awarded for Conservation Management Plans:

- Kells town walls, Co. Meath €12,000
- The Tholsel in Carlingford, Co. Louth €8,000



Stabilisation works in progress at Rinn Duin town wall, Co Roscommon.

Additional funding for interpretative and other projects:

- Virtual medieval events were organised for
 - Athenry, €5,500
 - Loughrea, €5,500
 - Athlone, €2,904
 - Cork city, €1,500
- A detailed reconstruction drawing of medieval Kildare was produced, €2,480
- A collaboration between an artist and photographer created a brochure promoting the medieval heritage of Galway city, €3,500
- Interpretative panels were installed in Buttevant, Co. Cork, €9,668
- Booklets exploring the medieval heritage of Athenry and Loughrea, €8,100
- An animated video about the history and heritage of Derry's walls, €6,000
- A series of videos showcasing ten years of archaeological excavation at Blackfriary in Trim, Co. Meath, €5,500
- Remedial safety work was carried out at Athlone Castle, €8,000
- The Guard Room in Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, received funding for an interpretative fit-out, €12,000
- An ecological plan was produced for Ormond Castle Park, Carrick-on-Suir, €10,000



Urgent Conservation Repairs at Talbots Tower, Kilkenny.



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Heritage Council's policy is to maintain the highest standards of corporate governance. In line with generally-accepted policies and practices. The Council is committed to complying with the relevant provisions of the new Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies published in 2016.

The Heritage Council has established an Audit, Risk and Finance Committee, which regularly reviews the system of internal control and engages external expertise in the carrying out of its functions, including the internal audit function, as appropriate. The Heritage Council is fully tax-compliant and does not engage in 'offensive' tax avoidance transactions.

Prompt Payments 2020

The Heritage Council is required to comply with the requirements of S.I. No. 580/2012 European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations, 2012 and its predecessor, the Prompt Payments of Accounts Act 1997 (collectively known as the 'Regulations'). The Council's standard terms of credit taken, unless otherwise specified in contractual arrangements, are 30 days from the receipt of invoice. Procedures have been implemented which provide reasonable assurance against material non-compliance with the Regulations. While the procedures are designed to ensure compliance with the Regulations, they can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance material noncompliance with the 1997 Act and SI No 580/2012

A review of all payments made during the year ended December 31st 2020 shows 10 payments totaling €15300.23 giving rise to an interest penalty of €303.36 under the above regulations.

With effect from July1st 2011, the Heritage Council was required to comply with government Decisions S29296 of March 2nd and 8th 2011 and 28 March 2017 in relation to the 15-day prompt payment rule. The disclosures required in the Memorandum of Government (MoG) supporting the above decisions for the period January1st 2020 to December 31st 2020 are detailed below:

Details	Number	Value (€)	Percentage (%) of total number of payments made
Number of payments made within 15 days	984	1,656,143	82.34
Number of payments made within 16 days to 30 days	121	310,433	10.13
Number of payments made in excess of 30 days that were subject to late payment interest	10	14,914	0.84
Number of payments made in excess of 30 days that were not subject to late payment interest	80	523,004	6.69
Amount of late payment interest paid	N/A	303	N/A
Amount of compensation costs paid	N/A	550	N/A
Total	1195	2504494	100.00

Promoting Diversity and Inclusion

The Heritage Council is an equal opportunities employer. Through our Dignity in the Workplace policy, our staff are ensured a workplace environment that is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination.

Members of the board come from a variety of backgrounds all with a shared interest and expertise in heritage. At the end of 2020 there were eleven Board members seven of whom were female (64%) and four male (36%). At the end of 2020, there were 15 members of staff in the Heritage Council, with a 66%/33% female/male ratio. The highly successful annual Heritage Week has grown to involve over 1,000 projects from every county in Ireland. Heritage Week projects are managed by local communities, the diversity of which mirrors the diversity in life in Ireland today.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE HERITAGE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORT

The Heritage Council was established under the Heritage Act 1995. The functions of the Council are set out in section 6 of this Act. The Council is accountable to the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and is responsible for ensuring good governance and performs this task by setting strategic objectives and targets and taking strategic decisions on all key business issues. The regular day-to-day management, control and direction of The Heritage Council are the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the senior management team. The CEO and the senior management team must follow the broad strategic direction set by the Council, and must ensure that all Council members have a clear understanding of the key activities and decisions related to the entity, and of any significant risks likely to arise. The CEO acts as a direct liaison between the Council and the management of The Heritage Council.

Council Responsibilities

The work and responsibilities of the Council are set out in the Standing Orders and Reserved Functions, which also contain the matters specifically reserved for Council decision. Standing items considered by the Council include:

- declaration of interests,
- reports from committees,
- financial reports/management accounts and,
- reserved matters.

Section 21 of the Heritage Act requires the Council of The Heritage Council to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, all proper and usual accounts of money received and expended by it.

In preparing these financial statements, the Council of the Heritage Council is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that it will continue in operation, and
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Council is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position and enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with S.21 of the Heritage Act 1995. The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on The Heritage Council's website is the responsibility of the Council.

The Council is responsible for approving the annual plan and budget. An evaluation of the performance of The Heritage Council by reference to the annual plan and budget was carried out on 25th February, 2021.

The Council is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Council considers that the financial statements of The Heritage Council give a true and fair view of the financial performance and the financial position of The Heritage Council at 31st December 2020.

Council Structure up until 19th July 2020

The Council consisted of a chairperson and ten ordinary members, all of whom are appointed by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The current Chairman of the Council was appointed acting Chairman from 9th December 2016 to 4th October 2017 and was appointed Chairman from 5th October 2017 for a period of 4 years. The Members of the Council were appointed for a period of 4 years and met 5 times in 2020. The table below details the appointment period for chairperson and previous members:

Name	Role	Date Appointed
Michael Parsons	Acting Chair, Chairman	9th December 2016 - 4th October 2017, 5th October, 2017 - 5th October, 2021
Kieran Coughlan	Council Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Mary Gallagher	Council Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Muiris O'Sullivan	Council Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Brian Walsh	Council Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Sinead Mc Cartan	Council Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Miriam Fitzpatrick	Council Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Marie Bourke	Council Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Ivor Mc Elveen	Council Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Jane Maxwell	Council Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Fionnuala May	Council Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020

Council Structure from 3rd November 2020

The Council consists of a chairperson who was appointed on 5th, October 2017 and will continue in office until the 5th October, 2021 and ten ordinary members, all of whom were appointed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The Members of the Council were appointed for a period of 5 years and met 2 times in 2020. The table below details the appointment period for current members:

Name	Role	Date Appointed
Michael Parsons	Acting Chair, Chairman	9th December 2016 - 4th October 2017, 5th October, 2017 - 5th October, 2021
Michael Farrell	Council Member	3rd November, 2020 to 3rd November, 2025
John Patrick Greene	Council Member	3rd November, 2020 to 3rd November, 2025
Sammy Leslie	Council Member	3rd November, 2020 to 3rd November, 2025
Fionnuala May	Council Member	3rd November, 2020 to 3rd November, 2025
Deirdre McDermott	Council Member	3rd November, 2020 to 3rd November, 2025
Martina Moloney	Council Member	3rd November, 2020 to 3rd November, 2025
Dr Patricia O'Hare	Council Member	3rd November, 2020 to 3rd November, 2025
John G Pierce	Council Member	3rd November, 2020 to 3rd November, 2025
Sheila Pratschke	Council Member	3rd November, 2020 to 3rd November, 2025
Dr Mary Tubridy	Council Member	3rd November, 2020 to 3rd November, 2025

Up until 19th July, 2020 the Council had established three committees/groups, as follows:

1. The Audit, Risk & Finance Committee (ARFC) comprises four Council members and one independent member who was appointed on 21st November, 2017. The meetings are also attended by the chairperson of the Council. The role of the ARFC is to support the Council in relation to its responsibilities for issues of risk, control and governance and associated assurance. The ARFC is independent from the financial management of the organisation. In particular the Committee ensures that the internal control systems including audit activities are monitored actively and independently. The ARFC reports to the Council after each meeting.

The members of the ARFC are: Kieran Coughlan (Chairperson); Jane Maxwell; Mary Gallagher from 13th December 2018; Muiris O Sullivan and Ray Pembroke (external member).

2. The Strategy Review Group comprises nine Council members. The role of the Strategy Review Group is to advise Council on the development of a new strategic plan. The Strategy Review Group reports to the Council after each meeting.

The members of the Strategy Review Group are: Muiris O'Sullivan (Chairperson), Michael Parsons, Miriam Fitzpatrick, Ivor McElveen, Marie Bourke, Sinead McCartan, Fionnuala May, Jane Maxwell and Brian Walsh.

3. A subcommittee of the ARFC was established in March 2019 to oversee the review of The National Biodiversity Data Centre and to develop a roadmap of its future development and governance. The members of this subcommittee are : Ray Pembroke (Chair), Mary Gallagher, Virginia Teehan, Ciaran O'Keeffe (NPWS) and Rachel Kenny (Chair of Management Council of The National Biodiversity Centre).

On 3rd December, 2020 the Council established two committees, as follows:

1. The Audit, Risk & Finance Committee (ARFC) comprises three Council members . The meetings are also attended by the chairperson of the Council. The role of the ARFC is to support the Council in relation to its responsibilities for issues of risk, control and governance and associated assurance. The ARFC is independent from the financial management of the organisation. In particular the Committee ensures that the internal control systems including audit activities are monitored actively and independently. The ARFC reports to the Council after each meeting.

The members of the ARFC are: Martina Moloney (Chairperson); Michael Farrell (Vice Chairperson) and John Patrick Greene. The external member of the Committee is Phil Walsh who was appointed on 15th January, 2021.

2. The Strategy Review Group comprises five Council members. The role of the Strategy Review Group is to advise Council on the development of a new strategic plan. The Strategy Review Group reports to the Council after each meeting.

The members of the Strategy Review Group are: Sheila Pratschke (Chairperson), John G Pierce, Fionnuala May, Sammy Leslie and Dr Patricia O'Hare.

Schedule of Attendance, Fees and Expenses

A schedule of attendance at the Council and Committee meetings for 2020 is set out below. The expenses received by each member are included in Note 9 to the financial statements on page 118,

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORT contd.

Up until 19th July, 2020

Attendee	Council	Audit, Risk & Finance Committee	Strategy Review Group	National Biodiversity Review Group
	Number of Meetings	Number of Meetings	Number of Meetings	Number of Meetings
	5	5	4	1
Michael Parsons	5	5	4	N/A
Kieran Coughlan	5	5	3	N/A
Mary Gallagher	5	4	N/A	1
Muiris O'Sullivan	5	5	4	N/A
Brian Walsh	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sinead Mc Cartan	5	N/A	3	N/A
Miriam Fitzpatrick	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marie Bourke	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ivor Mc Elveen	5	N/A	4	N/A
Jane Maxwell	5	5	N/A	N/A
Fionnuala May	5	N/A	3	N/A
Ray Pembroke	N/A	5	N/A	1
Ciaran O'Keeffe	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
Rachel Kenny	N/A	N/A	N/A	1

From 3rd November, 2020

Attendee	Council	Audit, Risk & Finance Committee	Strategy Review Group	National Biodiversity Review Group
	Number of Meetings	Number of Meetings	Number of Meetings	Number of Meetings
	2	1	N/A	0
Michael Parsons	2	1	N/A	N/A
Michael Farrell	2	1	N/A	N/A
John Patrick Greene	2	1	N/A	N/A
Sammy Leslie	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fionnuala May	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Deirdre McDermott	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Martina Moloney	2	1	N/A	N/A
Dr Patricia O'Hare	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
John G Pierce	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sheila Pratschke	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dr Mary Tubridy	2	N/A	N/A	N/A

Key Personnel Changes

There were not key Personnel Changes in 2020

Disclosures Required by Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016)

The Council is responsible for ensuring that The Heritage Council has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies ("the Code"), as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016. The following disclosures are required by the code:

Employee Short-Term Benefits

Employee Short-Term benefits breakdown is included in Note 10 to the financial statements

Consultancy Costs

Consultancy costs include the cost of external advice to management and exclude outsourced 'business-as-usual' functions.

	2020	2019
	€	€
Legal advice	26,398	57,374
Business improvement & Governance	74,258	55,943
Human Resources & Recruitment	11,898	836
Internal Audit	6,292	18,388
S1003 Assessments	614	1,111
Covid 19 - affects on Heritage Sector and advice for internal operations	4,674	0
ICT Security	3,893	0
Pensions	2,952	0
Procurement	14,002	0
TOTAL	144,981	133,652

Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

Travel and subsistence expenditure is categorised as follows:

	2020	2019
	€	€
Domestic		
Council & Committee ^{*1}	5,952	25,428
Staff	14,834	52,005
International		
Council	0	1,194
Staff	207	2,502
Total	20,993	81,129

*1: Includes travel and subsistence of €5,192 paid directly to Council & Committee members in 2020 (2019: €22,931). The balance of €760 (2019: €2,497) relates to expenditure paid by The Heritage Council on behalf of the Council members.

Legal Costs and Settlements

The Heritage Council did not incur any legal costs, settlements or conciliation and arbitration payments relating to contracts with third parties. All costs associated with general legal advice received by The Heritage Council is included in Consultancy costs above.

Hospitality Expenditure

The Income and Expenditure Account includes the following hospitality expenditure:

	2020	2019
	€	€
Administration, Working Group & Committee Meetings	140	764
Award Ceremonies	0	1,323
Programme Development Meetings & launches	4,671	3,001
Programme Workshops & Training & Conferences	0	2,683
Total	<u>4,811</u>	<u>7,771</u>

Hospitality includes food, accommodation and beverages incurred in relation to the delivery of The Heritage Council programmes during 2020. The nature of and attendance at events does not facilitate a meaningful split of hospitality expenditure between staff and clients as required by the Code of Practice.

Statement of Compliance

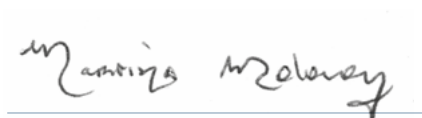
The Heritage Council has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016, with the following exceptions:

An appraisal of the Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee overseen by the Chairperson of the Board did not take place. There was no board in place from 20th July, 2020 until 3rd November, 2020 and the current Chair was appointed on 3rd December, 2020. The appraisal of the newly appointed Chair will take place later in 2021.

The Council did not comply with its policy for the procurement of some goods and services in 2020. Notwithstanding the progress in the area of procurement as evidenced by implementation of recommendations on internal audit reports during 2019, the adherence to procurement guidelines has and will remain a priority of Council.

An evaluation of the Board and committees was not carried out in 2020. A derogation was received for this.

The Council did not comply with the timeline regarding the review of the effectiveness of the System of Internal Control. The review was carried out on 6th May 2021.



Martina Moloney

Council Member

23rd September, 2021



Michael Farrell

Council Member

23rd September, 2021

STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL

Scope of Responsibility

On behalf of The Heritage Council I acknowledge the Council's responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016).

Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it. The system can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way.

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, has been in place in The Heritage Council for the year ended 31 December 2020 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Heritage Council has an Audit, Risk & Finance Committee (ARFC) comprising three Council members, one of whom is the Chair, and one external member with financial and audit expertise. The ARFC met 6 times in 2020.

The Heritage Council has also appointed external consultants to carry out the internal audit function which is adequately resourced and conducts a programme of work agreed with the ARFC.

The ARFC has developed a risk management policy which sets out its risk appetite, the risk management processes in place and details the roles and responsibilities of staff in relation to risk. This Risk Policy was approved by the Council on 17th July, 2020. The policy has been issued to all staff who are expected to work within The Heritage Council's risk management policies, to alert management on emerging risks and control weaknesses and assume responsibility for risks and controls within their own area of work.

Risk and Control Framework

The Heritage Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks.

A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing The Heritage Council and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the ARFC on a bi-annual basis. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The Council reviewed the Risk Register on 6th May, 2021.

The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and the responsibility for operation of controls assigned to specific staff. I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- procedures for all key business processes have been documented,
- financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability,
- there is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget, which is kept under review by senior management,
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of information and communications technology systems,

STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL contd.

- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets, and
- control procedures over grant funding to outside agencies ensure the adequate control over approval of grants and monitoring and review of grantees to ensure grant funding has been applied for the purpose intended.

Ongoing Monitoring and Review

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes, and control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action and to management and the Council, where relevant, in a timely way. I confirm the following ongoing monitoring systems are in place:

- key risks and related controls have been identified, and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies,
- reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned, and
- there are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual performance and financial reports which indicate performance against budgets.

Impact of Covid 19 on the Control Environment

The Heritage Council carried out an assessment in line with the OCAG questionnaire to evaluate the control environment in 2020 and the impact of Covid 19 on same, and has considered the response of management to the challenges presented by Covid 19 to the control environment.

The key findings were:

- Working remotely required a change to the method of approving invoices from manual to electronic approval and that the authorisation of supplier bank details is overseen by the Head of Finance to prevent phishing.
- A Covid 19 plan which mainly relates to Health and Safety is in place and was approved by The Heritage Council . Covid 19 is a recurring agenda item at senior management team meetings.
- There was no impact to the control environment as the systems are mostly automated and were adapted easily to remote working.
- Security configuration was unchanged and no additional privileges or access was put in place.
- The risk register was updated to consider the impact of Covid 19 and is discussed at regular meetings of the executive and the board.

Procurement

I confirm that The Heritage Council has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines. Matters arising regarding controls over procurement are highlighted under “Internal Control Issues”

Review of Effectiveness

I confirm that The Heritage Council has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. The Heritage Council’s monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the ARFC which oversees their work, and the senior

STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL contd.

management within The Heritage Council responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

I confirm that the Council conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls for 2020 which consisted of a Review of Internal Financial Controls and Internal Control Questionnaire on 6th May, 2021.

Internal Control Issues - High Priority

There was one “High Priority” weakness identified by the 2019 audit conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General. This related to the non compliance with timelines laid out in the Code of Practice as follows: The Heritage Council did not carry out a review of the effectiveness of the internal Control until 22 December, 2020. The Code States that this should be carried out by 31st March each year. The review was not carried out in the required timeline as a result of Covid-19, the associated remote working requirements and delays with the appointment of a new Board.

Procurement

The Heritage Council was largely compliant with procurement guidelines. A review of all suppliers that received over €5,000 in 2020 identified expenditure of approximately 3.8% or €80,150 (including VAT) that was incurred in relation to goods and services where the procedures employed did not comply with procurement guidelines, This was due to the following factors:

- The provision of ongoing services by system installers.
- The incorrect number or no quotations being sought.
- The expiration and rolling over of contracts.
- The exceedance of a contract value.

Compliance with public procurement guidelines is a high priority of the Board. There has been significant progress in this area over the last number of years and robust policies and procedures have been introduced and implemented. This area will continue to be monitored closely and action taken to address areas where non-compliance has been identified.



Michael Parsons

Council Chairman

23rd September, 2021



Ard Reachtair Cuntas agus Ciste **Comptroller and Auditor General**

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

Heritage Council

Opinion on the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of the Heritage Council for the year ended 31 December 2020 as required under the provisions of section 21 of the Heritage Act 1995. The financial statements comprise

- the statement of income and expenditure and retained revenue reserves
- the statement of comprehensive income
- the statement of financial position
- the statement of cash flows and
- the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Heritage Council at 31 December 2020 and of its income and expenditure for 2020 in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 — *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland*.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of the Heritage Council and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Report on information other than the financial statements, and on other matters

The Heritage Council has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the annual report, the governance statement and Board members' report, the statement on internal control and a schedule of grant payments. My responsibilities to report in relation to such information, and on certain other matters upon which I report by exception, are described in the appendix to this report.

I have nothing to report in that regard.

Mary Henry
For and on behalf of the
Comptroller and Auditor General

29 September 2021

Appendix to the report

Responsibilities of Board members

As detailed in the governance statement and Board members' report, the Board members are responsible for

- the preparation of financial statements in the form prescribed under section 21 of the Heritage Act 1995
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS 102
- ensuring the regularity of transactions
- assessing whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, and
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under section 21 of the Heritage Act 1995 to audit the financial statements of the Heritage Council and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

My objective in carrying out the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so,

- I identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.
- I evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.

- I conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, on whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Heritage Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Heritage Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- I evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Information other than the financial statements

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information presented with those statements, and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, I am required under the ISAs to read the other information presented and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or with knowledge obtained during the audit, or if it otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

Reporting on other matters

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. I report if I identify any material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I report if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.

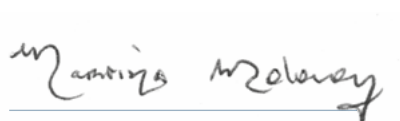
I also report by exception if, in my opinion,

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

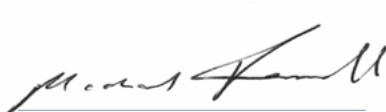
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND RETAINED REVENUE RESERVES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
Income			
Oireachtas Grants	2	7,994,924	7,504,142
Other Income	3	764,704	571,775
Net deferred funding for pensions	11 (c)	<u>501,000</u>	<u>370,000</u>
Total Income		<u>9,260,628</u>	<u>8,445,917</u>
Expenditure			
Grants	5	3,779,796	3,812,427
Policy Development	6(a)	59,322	77,288
Programmes	6(b)	725,609	908,813
Support for Heritage Infrastructure	6(c)	<u>1,970,912</u>	<u>1,760,340</u>
Total Grants, Policy & Infrastructure		6,535,639	6,558,868
Administration			
Establishment expenses	7	172,605	128,340
Office supplies and administration	8	296,269	276,236
Council & Committee members expenses	9	5,952	26,622
Staff costs	10	1,618,696	1,599,749
Depreciation	12	<u>212,114</u>	<u>211,302</u>
Total Administration		2,305,636	2,242,249
Total Expenditure		<u>8,841,275</u>	<u>8,801,117</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		419,353	(355,200)
Transfer from Capital Account	4	201,557	199,571
Balance brought forward at 1 January		<u>291,653</u>	<u>447,282</u>
Balance carried forward at 31 December		<u>912,563</u>	<u>291,653</u>

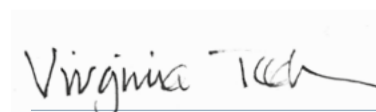
The Statement of Cash Flows and Notes 1 to 23 form part of these financial statements.



Martina Moloney
Council Member
23rd September, 2021



Michael Farrell
Council Member
23rd September, 2021

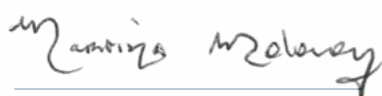


Virginia Teehan
Chief Executive
23rd September, 2021

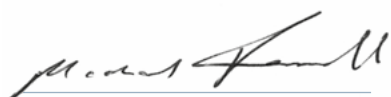
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
Profit/(Deficit) for year		419,353	(355,200)
Experience (losses)/gains on retirement benefit obligations	11 (d)	12,000	140,000
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of retirement benefit obligations & demographic assumptions		<u>(1,324,000)</u>	<u>(1,246,000)</u>
Total actuarial (loss)/gain in the year		(1,312,000)	(1,106,000)
Adjustments to deferred retirement benefits funding		<u>1,312,000</u>	<u>1,106,000</u>
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		<u>419,353</u>	<u>(355,200)</u>

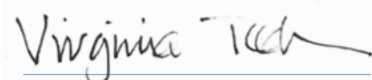
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23rd September, 2021



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23rd September, 2021

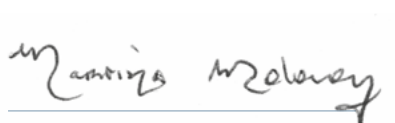


Virginia Teehan
Chief Executive
23rd September, 2021

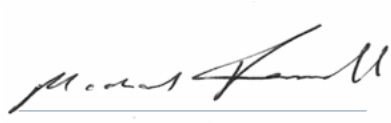
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
Fixed Assets			
Property, plant & equipment	12	5,534,941	5,736,498
Current Assets			
Receivables	13	242,933	168,259
Cash and cash equivalents		<u>1,312,845</u>	<u>618,915</u>
		1,555,778	787,174
Current Liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)			
Payables	14	<u>643,215</u>	<u>495,521</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>912,563</u>	<u>291,653</u>
Retirement Benefits			
Retirement Benefit Obligations	11(b)	(10,550,000)	(8,737,000)
Deferred Retirement benefit funding asset	11(b)	<u>10,550,000</u>	<u>8,737,000</u>
		0	0
Total Net Assets		<u>6,447,504</u>	<u>6,028,151</u>
Representing			
Capital Account	4	5,534,941	5,736,498
Retained Revenue Reserves		<u>912,563</u>	<u>291,653</u>
		<u>6,447,504</u>	<u>6,028,151</u>

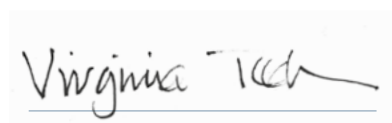
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Martina Moloney
Council Member
23rd September, 2021



Michael Farrell
Council Member
23rd September, 2021



Virginia Teehan
Chief Executive
23rd September, 2021

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
Cash flow from operating activities			
Profit/(Deficit) for the year		419,353	(355,200)
Depreciation	12	212,114	211,302
(Increase)/Decrease in receivables		(74,674)	(81,801)
Increase/(Decrease in payables)		<u>147,694</u>	<u>(168,481)</u>
Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities		<u>704,487</u>	<u>(394,180)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments to acquire property, plant & equipment	4	<u>(10,557)</u>	<u>(11,731)</u>
Net Cash Flows from investing activities		<u>(10,557)</u>	<u>(11,731)</u>
Cash flows from Financing Activities		0	0
Net Cash Flows from Financing activities		0	0
Net increase /(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		<u>693,930</u>	<u>(405,911)</u>
Cash and Cash equivalents at 1 January		<u>618,915</u>	<u>1,024,826</u>
Cash and Cash equivalents at 31 December		<u>1,312,845</u>	<u>618,915</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 1. Accounting Policies

The basis of accounting and significant accounting policies adopted by The Heritage Council are set out below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the year and for the preceding year.

a) General Information

The Heritage Council was set up under the Heritage Act 1995, with a head office at Áras na hOidreachta, Church Lane, Kilkenny. The Heritage Council's primary objectives as set out in Section 6 of The Heritage Act 1995 are as follows: to propose policies and priorities for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of the national heritage and to promote its appreciation.

b) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of The Heritage Council for the year ended 31st December 2020 have been prepared in compliance with the applicable legislation, and with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council in the UK.

c) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis, under the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities as explained in the accounting policies below. The financial statements are in the form approved by the Minister for Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht with the concurrence of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform under The Heritage Act, 1995. The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to The Heritage Council's financial statements.

d) Revenue

Oireachtas Grants

Revenue is generally recognised on an accruals basis; one exception to this is in the case of Oireachtas Grants which are recognised on a cash receipts basis.

Other Revenue

Other revenue is recognised on an accruals basis.

e) Grant Payments

The Heritage Council offers grants to various bodies and individuals to carry out works under its heritage grant schemes. When a grantee accepts the terms and conditions of a grant offer from Council, Council enters into a commitment with that grantee. That commitment is recognised as an accrual only when the grantee is seen to have fulfilled the full terms and conditions of the grant offer. Details of grant commitments at 31st December 2020 are given in note 18.

f) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation, adjusted for any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided on all property, plant and equipment, other than freehold land and artwork, at rates estimated to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of each asset on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Buildings	2.50%	Office Furniture	10%/20%
Office Equipment	20%	Computers	25%
Works of Art	0%	(Hardware & Software)	
Motor Vehicles	20%	Reference Material and	20%
Plant & Equipment	20%/10%	OSI Licences	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Residual value represents the estimated amount which would currently be obtained from disposal of an asset, after deducting estimated costs of disposal, if the asset were already of an age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

If there is objective evidence of impairment of the value of an asset, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Reserves in the year.

g) Capital Account

The capital account comprises income allocated for the purchase of fixed assets. It is amortised in line with the depreciation of the related assets.

h) Leasing

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and included in property, plant and equipment and depreciated in accordance with the Council policy.

i) Employee Benefits

Short-term Benefits

Short term benefits such as holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the year, and benefits that are accrued at year-end are included in the Payables figure in the Statement of Financial Position.

Retirement Benefits

The Heritage Council previously established its own defined benefit pension scheme, funded annually on a pay-as-you-go basis from monies provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and from contributions deducted from staff and members' salaries.

The Heritage Council also operates the Single Public Services Pensions Scheme ("Single Scheme"), which is a defined benefit scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1st January, 2013. Single Scheme members' contributions are paid over to Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER).

It should be noted that, currently The Heritage Council does not have any Single Scheme members.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees, and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are retained by The Heritage Council. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains or losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The financial statements reflect, at fair value, the assets and liabilities arising from The Heritage Council's pension obligations and any related funding, and recognises the costs of providing pension benefits in the accounting periods in which they are earned by employees. Retirement benefit scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method.

j) Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the reporting date and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The following judgements have the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less cost to sell and value in use. For the the purpose of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash generating units). Non financial assets that suffered impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

Depreciation and Residual Values

The Council have reviewed the asset lives and associated residual values of all fixed asset classes, and in particular, the useful economic life and residual values of fixtures and fittings, and have concluded that asset lives and residual values are appropriate.

Retirement Benefit Obligation

The assumptions underlying the actuarial valuations for which the amounts recognised in the financial statements are determined (including discount rates, rate of inflation, rates of increase in future compensation levels, mortality rates and retirement age) are updated annually based on current economic conditions and for any relevant changes to the terms and conditions of the pension and post-retirement plans.

The assumptions can be affected by:

- (i) the discount rate, changes in the rate of return on high quality corporate bonds
- (ii) future compensation levels, future labour market conditions; and
- (iii) mortality rates and age of retirement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 2: Oireachtas Grants

The amount of €7,994,924 comprises Grants from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Vote 34) and the Environment Fund managed by the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment (Vote 29).

Up until the 8th September, 2020 The Heritage Council was under the aegis of the The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

	2020	2019
	€	€
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage		
Administration Grant	1,595,000	1,565,656
Non-Capital Grants	2,322,000	2,334,344
Capital Grants	2,594,175	2,658,243
Non Capital Grants	0	0
Non Capital Grants	0	0
July Jobs Stimulus Package Funding	<u>982,749</u>	<u>0</u>
	7,493,924	6,558,243
Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment		
Non Capital Grants	501,000	461,540
Capital Grant	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	501,000	461,540
Department of Rural and Community Development		
Funding towards Development of Beara Breifne Way	<u>0</u>	<u>484,359</u>
TOTAL	<u>7,994,924</u>	<u>7,504,142</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 3: Other Income

	2020	2019
	€	€
Contribution towards Traditional Farm Buildings Scheme (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)	84,404	85,573
Faite Ireland - Grant to Support Heritage Week	35,000	30,000
Irish Walled Towns Membership Fees	70,093	67,502
Conference Fees Charged	14,324	21,485
Contribution of Local Authorities to Heritage Viewer Project	30,000	22,500
Bord Bia Contribution to Pollinator Co-Ordinator Post in National Biodiversity Data Centre	0	30,000
Heritage Week Advertising	0	1,200
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland - Funding towards Research into Retrofit of Buildings	38,012	75,666
Repayment of Costs of Seconded Staff of Heritage Council	92,896	70,942
Life 11 ENV/IE/922 Burren GeoparkLIFE project costs refunded	0	2,848
European Innovation Project LLOC2004 "Protecting Farmland Pollinators" (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)	330,882	66,013
Creative Ireland	0	97,000
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage - Historic Structures Fund and July Jobs Stimulus		
Package Funding towards repairs and maintenance of HQ of The Heritage Council	58,412	0
Town Centre Health Check	10,000	0
Miscellaneous	681	1,046
TOTAL	<u>764,704</u>	<u>571,775</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 4: Capital Account

	2020	2019
	€	€
Balance at 1 January	5,736,498	5,936,069
Transfer (to)/from Income and Expenditure Account		
Amount allocated to fund fixed asset purchases	10,557	11,731
Less: Amortisation in line with depreciation	(212,114)	(211,302)
	(201,557)	(199,571)
Balance at 31 December	<u>5,534,941</u>	<u>5,736,498</u>

Note 5: Grants Payable

	2020	2019
	Total	Total
	€	€
Irish Walled Towns Network Grants towards Current Projects	80,652	91,967
Irish Walled Towns Network Grants towards Capital Works	232,858	150,000
Policy & Infrastructure Grants	233,489	322,501
Joint Programming Initiative for Cultural Heritage Changing Environments	15,022	31,338
County Heritage Plan Grants	534,862	650,843
Community Based Heritage Grants	430,187	0
Thatch Conservation Grants	0	0
Museum Standards Programme Grants	0	3,500
European Year of Cultural Heritage Community Themed Grants	0	1,253
Historic Towns Capital Grants	1,150,692	967,222
Adopt a Monument Grants	92,623	79,829
Beara Breifne Way Development (Note 15)	0	627,974
Thatch Grant	3,411	0
Irish Landmark Trust Ltd. (Note 16)	266,000	176,000
Discovery Programme: Centre for Archaeology and Innovation Ireland (Note 17)	<u>740,000</u>	<u>710,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>3,779,796</u>	<u>3,812,427</u>

The Schedule of grant payments contains details of grants payable during the year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 6(a) : Policy Expenditure

	2020	2019
	Total	Total
	€	€
Built Heritage Publications	5193	0
Wildlife Publications	2001	0
Articulation of Heritage in National Landscape Policies	<u>52,128</u>	<u>77,288</u>
Total	<u>59,322</u>	<u>77,288</u>

Note 6(b) : Programmes

	2020	2019
	Total	Total
	€	€
Heritage in Schools	235,532	454,652
Heritage Week	369,517	313,431
Communication of Council activities	39,794	63,385
Research & Studies	0	0
Publications	0	0
Joint Programme for Cultural Heritage - Communications Element	0	1,763
Conservation Internships	29,937	33,196
Promotion of Preventative Maintenance	24,323	19,470
Implementation of Traditional Skills Working Group Recommendations	25,830	8,302
Creative Ireland Funded Programmes with NCBI & Assylum Seekers	676	1,573
European Year of Cultural Heritage	<u>0</u>	<u>13,041</u>
Total	<u>725,609</u>	<u>908,813</u>

Note 6(c): Heritage Infrastructure

	2020	2019
	Total	Total
	€	€
National Biodiversity Data Centre	1,038,580	828,113
Field Monument Advisors database development	2,140	2,140
Museum Standards Programme	132,643	117,682
Heritage Officer Programme	581,345	539,185
Heritage Viewer	63,373	62,355
Urban Heritage (including Irish Walled Towns Network Administration)	<u>152,831</u>	<u>210,865</u>
Total	<u>1,970,912</u>	<u>1,760,340</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 7: Establishment Expenses

	2020	2019
	€	€
Storage	11,948	14,652
Power, heat and light	10,443	13,360
Canteen, catering and cleaning	10,466	23,056
Meetings	2,161	9,668
Repairs, maintenance & security	116,794	45,665
Insurance	20,043	18,564
Rental of Art Works	<u>750</u>	<u>3,375</u>
	<u>172,605</u>	<u>128,340</u>

Note 8: Office Supplies and Administration

	2020	2019
	€	€
Telephone and postage	14,584	17,817
Stationery, printing & office equipment repairs	7,394	9,221
Annual Report & Strategic Plan	8,969	5,590
Library	237	387
Computer supplies and maintenance	84,020	76,458
Professional fees	127,695	86,075
Sundry	1,066	1,131
Legal Fees	26,398	57,374
Subscriptions	7,806	7,971
Audit fee	14,000	12,000
Interest & Charges	1,972	1,870
Gifts ¹	<u>2,128</u>	<u>342</u>
	<u>296,269</u>	<u>276,236</u>

¹ Gifts include gifts to Council and Committee Members in appreciation of the term served as Council and Committee members up to 19th July, 2020 (€1,848), gifts to Minister O'Brien and Minister Noonan to mark the first meeting of Council who were appointed on 3rd November, 2020, funeral flowers for mother of Head of Finance of The Heritage Council (€60) and funeral donation to Irish Cancer Society for mother in law of PA to CEO of The Heritage Council (€50)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 9: Council & Committee Members Expenses

	Expenses Claimed	Accommodation & Meals & Travel Provided	Total
	€	€	€
Michael Parsons	1,818	0	1,818
Sinead McCartan	263	190	453
Jane Maxwell	0	0	0
Mary Gallagher	281	85	366
Kieran Coughlan	1,370	0	1,370
Muiris O'Suilleabhain	793	85	878
Marie Bourke	345	210	555
Miriam Fitzpatrick	120	0	120
Fionnuala May	0	0	0
Ivor McElveen	0	190	190
Brian Walsh	141	0	141
Ray Pembroke (Committee Member)	61	0	61
Total	<u>5,192</u>	<u>760</u>	<u>5,952</u>

In line with their letters of appointment no fees are payable to Council Members.

Note 10: Remuneration

(a) Analysis of Staff Costs

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
Staff salaries		1,126,545	1,086,882
Recruitment Costs		644	0
Pension Costs	11(a)	451,000	454,000
Staff Well Being & Settlements		2,373	1,015
Travel and Expenses		15,041	54,507
Training		18,440	7,732
Holiday Accrual		<u>4,653</u>	<u>(4,387)</u>
		<u>1,618,696</u>	<u>1,599,749</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 10: Remuneration contd.

(b) Aggregate Employee Benefits

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
Staff short-term benefits		1,031,490	996,550
Employer's Contribution to Social Welfare		<u>95,055</u>	<u>90,332</u>
Sub Total		1,126,545	1,086,882
Retirement Benefit Costs		<u>41,000</u>	<u>176,000</u>
		<u>1,167,545</u>	<u>1,262,882</u>

The total number of staff employed (WTE) by the Heritage Council at year end was 16. This is comprised of The Heritage Council complement of 14 staff together with one contract staff member employed for a specific project. (2019 - 15) and includes one staff member who was seconded to the Office of Public Works from 6th August, 2019. The costs of this seconded staff member are recouped by The Heritage Council on a quarterly basis in arrears.

No overtime or termination benefits were paid in 2020.

With effect from 1st January, 2020 the pension related deduction (PRD) was replaced by the additional superannuation contribution (ASC). The ASC paid to the Department of Housing, Local Government in respect of 2020 was €39,237. The total number also includes the CEO who was seconded from University College Cork with effect from 1st February, 2019 and the Head of Education and Communications who was seconded from Department of Justice with effect from 19th October, 2020.

(c) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel in The Heritage Council consists of the members of the Council, the Chief Executive, the Heads of Service and the Head of Finance. The Council does not receive any remuneration. The total value of employee benefits for key management personnel is set out below:

	2020	2019
	€	€
Salary	<u>518,472</u>	<u>533,902</u>

This does not include the value of retirement benefits earned in the period. The key management personnel, except the current CEO who was appointed with effect from the 1st February, 2019 and who is seconded from University College Cork and except the Head of Education and Communications who was seconded from Department of Justice with effect from 19th October, 2020 are members of The Heritage Council pension scheme and their entitlements in that regard do not extend beyond the terms of the model public pension scheme.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 10: Remuneration contd.

(d) Chief Executive Officer Salary and Benefits

	2020	2019
	€	€
Basic Pay - Former CEO - date of retirement 27th January, 2019	0	9,745
Basic Pay - Current CEO - date of commencement 1st February, 2019	<u>113,293</u>	<u>98,595</u>
	<u>113,293</u>	<u>108,340</u>

The current CEO was appointed with effect from 1st February, 2019 and is seconded from University College Cork and is not a member of The Heritage Council pension scheme. University College Cork pays the CEO and recoups this salary by way of invoice to The Heritage Council.

(e) Employee Short-Term Benefits Breakdown

Employees' short-term benefits in excess of €60,000 are categorised into the following bands

	2020	2019
Salary Category	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
€60,000 TO €69,999	4	3
€70,000 TO €79,999	1	2
€80,000 TO €89,999	3	2
€90,000 TO €99,999	1	1
€100,000 TO €109,999	0	0
€110,000 TO €119,000	0	0

The numbers included in the salary categories above include one staff member who was seconded to the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (DPER) with effect from 22nd June 2017 until the 19th May, 2019 and then to the Office of Public Works with effect from 6th August, 2019.

The numbers also include one staff member who was seconded from University College Cork with effect from 1st February, 2019 and the Head of Education and Communications who was seconded from Department of Justice with effect from 19th October, 2020.

For the purposes of this disclosure, short-term employee benefits in relation to services rendered during the reporting period include salary, overtime allowances and other payments on behalf of the employee, but exclude employer's PRSI.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 11: Superannuation Scheme

(a) Analysis of total retirement benefit costs charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

	2020	2019
	€	€
Current Service Costs	429,000	392,000
Interest on retirement benefit scheme liabilities	113,000	154,000
Employee Contributions	(91,000)	(92,000)
Total	<u>451,000</u>	<u>454,000</u>

(b) Movement in net retirement benefit obligations during the financial year

	2020	2019
	€	€
Net retirement benefit obligation at 1 January	(8,737,000)	(7,261,000)
Current Service Cost	(429,000)	(392,000)
Interest Cost	(113,000)	(154,000)
Actuarial (loss)/gain	(1,312,000)	(1,106,000)
Pensions paid in year	<u>41,000</u>	<u>176,000</u>
Net retirement benefit obligation at 31 December	<u>(10,550,000)</u>	<u>(8,737,000)</u>

(c) Deferred Funding for retirement benefits

The Heritage Council recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for retirement benefits on the basis of the set of assumptions described below and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the retirement benefit scheme, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including the contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. The Heritage Council has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

The Net Deferred Funding for retirement benefits recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Reserves was as follows:

	2020	2019
	€	€
Funding Recoverable in respect of current year retirement benefit costs	542,000	546,000
State grant applied to pay retirement benefits	(41,000)	(176,000)
Total	<u>501,000</u>	<u>370,000</u>

The deferred funding asset for retirement benefits at 31st December 2020 amounts to €10.550m (2019: €8.737m)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 11: Superannuation Scheme contd.

(d) History of defined benefit obligations

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000
Defined Benefit Obligations	10,550	8,737	7,261	7,536	6,654
(Losses) on Scheme Liabilities *	12	140	262	(53)	1,095
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	0.10%	1.60%	3.60%	-0.70%	16.50%

* This item consists of gains/(losses) in respect of liability experience only and excludes any change in liabilities in respect of changes to the actuarial assumptions used.

(e) General Description Of The Scheme

The retirement benefit scheme is a defined benefit final salary pension arrangement with benefits and contributions defined by reference to current “model” public sector scheme regulations. The scheme provides a pension (1/80 per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (3/80 per year of service) and spouse’s and children’s pensions. Normal Retirement Age is a member’s 65th birthday, and pre 2004 members have an entitlement to retire without actuarial reduction from age 60. Pensions in payment (and deferment) normally increase in line with general public sector salary inflation.

The disclosures below have been prepared for the Heritage Council in relation to benefits payable from the Heritage Council Employee Superannuation Scheme 2003 and Spouses and Children’s Scheme. The schemes are un-funded of the defined benefit type, providing retirement benefits based on service and pensionable salary. The valuation used for FRS 102 disclosures have been based on a full assessment of the liabilities of the Schemes as at 31 December 2020. The present values of the defined benefit obligation and the service cost were measured using the projected unit credit method. This disclosure note includes balance sheet and assumption details for the financial year ended 31st December 2020 and 31st December 2019.

The principal actuarial assumptions used by independent qualified actuaries to calculate the liabilities under FRS 102 are set out below:

Assumptions	31/12/2020	31/12/2019
Inflation	1.70%	1.70%
Rate of general long-term increase in salaries	3.20%	3.20%
Rate of increase in state benefits	1.70%	1.70%
Rate of increase in deferred benefits	2.20%	2.20%
Pension Increases	2.20%	2.20%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	0.70%	1.30%

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 11: Superannuation Scheme contd.

Mortality Assumptions

At 31st December 2020, we have used mortality assumptions for current and future pensioners based on standard mortality tables allowing for future mortality improvements. The life expectancies from age 65 for sample ages, as derived from these mortality assumptions, would be as follows (31st December 2019 life expectancies also provided for comparison):

Life expectancy at age 65 (in years)	31/12/2020	31/12/2019
Male, now aged 45	25.0	25.1
Male, now aged 65	23.3	23.2
Female, now aged 45	27.2	27.6
Female, now aged 65	25.5	25.4

Note 12: Property, Plant and Equipment

	Buildings	Office Furniture	Office Equipment	Plant & Equipment	Computers	Reference Material & OSI Licences	Works of Art	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
COST								
As at 1st January 2020	8,064,752	226,171	198,634	18,147	835,640	457,204	203,217	10,003,765
Additions	0	0	529	1,873	8,155	0	0	10,557
Disposal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
As 31st December 2020	8,064,752	226,171	199,163	20,020	843,795	457,204	203,217	10,014,322
Accumulated Depreciation								
As at 1st January 2020	2,561,847	219,785	198,221	17,056	813,154	457,204	0	4,267,267
Charge for year	201,619	282	1,361	302	8,550	0	0	212,114
Reclassification of Depreciation	0	0	-850	850	0	0	0	0
On disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
As 31st December 2020	2,763,466	220,067	198,732	18,208	821,704	457,204	0	4,479,381
NET BOOK AMOUNTS								
As at 1st January 2020	5,502,905	6,386	413	1,091	22,486	0	203,217	5,736,498
As at 31st December 2020	5,301,286	6,104	431	1,812	22,091	0	203,217	5,534,941

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 13: Receivables

	2020	2019
	€	€
Debtors	89,841	31,499
Prepayments & Other Debtors	<u>153,092</u>	<u>136,760</u>
	<u>242,933</u>	<u>168,259</u>

Note 14: Payables

	2020	2019
	€	€
Creditors	240,396	217,858
Accruals	<u>402,818</u>	<u>277,663</u>
General Creditors & Accruals	643,214	495,521
Grant Accruals	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>643,214</u>	<u>495,521</u>

The Heritage Council incurred rental payments in respect of a lease on the property occupied by the National Biodiversity Centre Costs at Note 6 (c). The lease is a ten year lease, with a break clause that can be exercised by The Heritage Council at 6 months notice.

Note 15: Beara Breifne Way Development

The Beara Breifne Way follows the line of the historic march of O'Sullivan Beara in 1603 from the Beara Peninsula in Co. Cork to Blacklion in Co. Cavan. This grant towards the development of the Beara Breifne Way has been provided by the Department of Rural Affairs to The Heritage Council and is being managed by Comhar na nOilean on behalf of the Heritage Council. Development costs include signage, finger posts pathway installation and gates to ensure that all aspects of the route's heritage are presented along the walk.

Note 16: The Irish Landmark Trust Ltd.

The Irish Landmark Trust Ltd was established in 1992 as a non profit company with the objective of saving historic buildings that were abandoned or at risk. This is achieved by giving them a useful and viable function as short term holiday accommodation, which would secure their long term future. The level of Council funding each year is determined by reference to Councils' Five Year Plan, the Irish Landmark Trust's Corporate Plan, and Council's overall budgetary position.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 17: Discovery Programme: Centre for Archaeology and Innovation Ireland

The Council funds the Discovery Programme that was established in 1991 and was registered as a company, limited by guarantee on 15 January 1996. The Council is responsible for appointing the chair of the Discovery

Programme and three of its directors. The Chief Executive or his/her nominee is one of Council's representatives on the Board

of the Discovery Programme. The level of Council funding each year is determined by reference to Council's Five Year Plan, The Discovery Programme's Corporate Plan, and Council's overall budgetary position.

The purpose of the programme is to enhance our understanding of Ireland's past through research and archaeological excavations.

Note 18: Grant Commitments

At 31st December 2020 the Council had entered into grant commitments in connection with activities due to take place after that date. The amount committed of €37,746 is not reflected in these Financial Statements.

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
Grants committed at 1 January		4,759	327,377
Approvals in year		4,102,769	3,697,713
Grants decommitted & write offs		(289,986)	(207,904)
Grant expenditure in the year	5	<u>(3,779,796)</u>	<u>(3,812,427)</u>
Grant Commitments at 31 December		<u>37,746</u>	<u>4,759</u>

Note 19: Related Party Disclosures

Key management personnel in The Heritage Council consists of the members of the Board, the Chief Executive, the Heads of Service and the Financial Controller. The Board does not receive any remuneration. For a breakdown of the remuneration and benefits paid to key management personnel, please refer to note 9 and note 10.

The Heritage Council adopts procedures in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform covering the personal interests of Board members. In the normal course of business, The Heritage Council may approve grants and enter into other contractual arrangements with entities in which The Heritage Council Board members are employed or otherwise interested.

In cases of potential conflict of interest, Board members do not participate in or attend discussions regarding these transactions. A register is maintained and available on request of all such instances.

The following members disclosed an interest in organisations to which financial assistance was approved in the year. It should be noted that Traditional Farm Building Grants are approved by The Heritage Council but paid by The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and are therefore not reflected in the financial statements of The Heritage Council.

Ivor McElveen

€21,286 for Traditional Farm Buildings Grant Glas 5080

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 20: Going Concern

The Council draws funds from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage as and when required. It recognises this income on a cash receipts basis but recognises expenditure on an accruals basis. The Board considers that, as the entity provides a public service that is 93% funded by moneys provided by the Exchequer, via its parent department, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, it is appropriate to prepare these financial statements on a going concern basis.

Note 21: Premises

The Heritage Council operates from a premises at Áras na hOidhreachta, Church Lane, Kilkenny which it occupies and owns.

Note 22: Appointment of Board of The Heritage Council

The current Board of The Heritage Council was appointed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 3rd November, 2020.

Note 23: Approval of Financial Statements

The Financial Statements were approved by Council on 6th May, 2021

THE HERITAGE COUNCIL SCHEDULE OF GRANT PAYMENTS

Irish Walled Towns Network - Current Grants

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	€
WD08498	Westmeath County Council	Athlone Castle Annual Medieval Fair	Westmeath	2,904
WD08499	Galway City Council	Galway Within and Without the Walls - A Walking Trail and Guide to Galway's Medieval Fortifications	Galway - Galway City	3,500
WD08501	Buttevant Heritage Group	Buttevant Interpretative Panels 2020	Cork - Cork County	9,668
WD08502	Kildare Town Heritage CLG	Reconstruction & Illustration of Kildare Town in the Late Medieval times 15th - early 16th Century	Kildare	2,480
WD08503	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	Carrickfergus Museum- The Guard Room - interpretative fit-out project	Ireland - Northern	12,000
WD08509	Westmeath County Council	Remedial and Safety Works to improve the Athlone Castle Visitor Experience and stonework conservation	Westmeath	8,000
WD08513	Derry City and Strabane District Council	'A Walk Along the Walls' - An Animated Video Introduction to History & Heritage of Derry's Walls	Ireland - Northern	6,000
WD08517	Cork City Council	Cork City Medieval Day	Cork - Cork City	1,500
WD08518	Galway County Council	Athenry Walled Town Day 2020	Galway - Galway County	5,500
WD08519	Galway County Council	Loughrea Medieval Festival 2020	Galway - Galway County	5,500
WD08520	Galway County Council	Athenry - A Medieval Town Past and Present	Galway - Galway County	3,500
WD08521	Galway County Council	Loughrea - A Medieval Town Past and Present	Galway - Galway County	4,600
WD08527	Meath County Council	Finding the Postern Gate: the link between the town and the Blackfriary in Trim	Meath	5,500
WD08533	Tipperary County Council	Ormond Castle Park Ecological and Amenity Improvement Scheme	Tipperary	10,000
			TOTAL	80,652

Irish Walled Towns Network - Capital Grants

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	€
W08491	Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust	Tholsel Conservation Plan 2020	Louth	8,000
W08506	Tipperary County Council	Fethard Town Walls 2020	Tipperary	1,500
W08507	Westmeath County Council	Athlone Town Wall Conservation works	Westmeath	17,000
W08510	Tipperary County Council	Carrick on Suir Town Walls Stabilisation and Conservation of Section I - 03	Tipperary	32,500
W08511	Limerick City & County Council	St. John's Hospital and the Black Battery (The Gables)	Limerick	44,000
W08514	Kilkenny County Council	Talbots Tower Urgent Conservation Repairs	Kilkenny	2,500
W08528	St. John's Parish Heritage Group	Urgent Conservation Works to Rinn Duin Town Wall, Co Roscommon	Roscommon	27,500
W08531	Meath County Council	Kells Town Wall Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan	Meath	12,000
W09732	Carrick on Suir Town Council	Carrick on Suir Town Walls Stabilisation and Conservation	Tipperary	48,050
W09740	Kilkenny County Council	Urgent Conservation Repairs to Talbots Tower, Kilkenny	Kilkenny	39,808
			TOTAL	232,858

Policy & Infrastructure Grants

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	€
D08370	High Nature Value Services (HNVS) Ltd	Clare Field Monument Advisor (FMA) Scheme 2020	Clare	12,000
D08372	ICRI Institute for Conservation	2020 Professional Accreditation, CPD and Outreach programme	All of Ireland	3,783
D08373	Wicklow Uplands Council	Wicklow Uplands Council Core Funding 2020	Wicklow	52,000
D08375	Irish Uplands Forum	Upland Partnership Support 2020-Core Funding	All of Ireland, Ireland - Northern, Ireland	6,113
D08377	Burrenbeo Trust	Place-based Learning and Community Stewardship 2020	Clare, Galway - Galway County	16,000
D08381	Irish Museums Association	Irish Museums Association (IMA) Programme 2020- Core Funding	All of Ireland	8,500
D08382	Bere Island Projects Group	Implementation of the Bere Island Conservation Plan 2020	Cork - Cork County	18,000
D08383	European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism	High Nature Value farming Programme 2020	All of Ireland	32,000
D08384	Woodlands of Ireland	Woodlands of Ireland (Wol) Programme 2020- Core Funding	All of Ireland	32,000
D08385	Burrenbeo Trust	Burren Community Charter 2020-Core Funding	Clare, Galway - Galway County	4,000
D08386	Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland	CPD Training Programme - Video production	All of Ireland	8,000
D09998	Compass Informatics Ltd	Irish Vegetation Classification project 2020	All of Ireland	29,400
D09999	Compass Informatics Ltd	Supporting plant recording through citizen science 2020	All of Ireland	11,693
			TOTAL	233,489

Joint Programming Initiative for Cultural Heritage Changing Environments

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	€
D08395	University College Cork	Wet Futures Project- Year 2	All of Ireland	15,022
			TOTAL	15,022

Local Authority County Heritage Plan Projects

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	€
C08392	Monaghan County Council	Black Pigs Dyke Monograph - year 3	Monaghan	7,532
C08396	Laois County Council	Laois Heritage Conservation & Awareness Programme 2020	Laois	23,000
C08397	Waterford City and County Council	Community Archaeology Projects Support	Waterford	9,000
C08398	Waterford City and County Council	Richard Mulcahy Conference, Waterford 2020	Waterford	2,172
C08399	Westmeath County Council	Westmeath Field Names Recording Project 2020	Westmeath	2,100
C08400	Waterford City and County Council	Publication of Woodstown Viking Site Conservation Management Plan	Waterford	7,500
C08401	Westmeath County Council	Industrial Heritage Survey Phase 2	Westmeath	2,600
C08403	Westmeath County Council	Conservation Management Plan for the Hill of Uisneach	Westmeath	18,300
C08404	Leitrim County Council	Leitrim County Geological Sites Audit	Leitrim	7,351
C08406	Meath County Council	Meath Heritage Awareness Programme 2020	Meath	9,375
C08407	Offaly County Council	County Archive Programme 2020	Offaly	13,000
C08410	Offaly County Council	River Camcor / Little Brosna Himalyan Balsam Control Project Year Two Application	Offaly	10,000
C08413	Roscommon County Council	2020 Field Monument Advisor (FMA) Farming Rathcroghan EIP	Roscommon	15,000
C08414	South Dublin County Council	'The Buildings of Ireland, an Architectural Guide to Dublin' - 2020 contribution	Dublin - South Dublin	3,500
C08415	South Dublin County Council	Survey for Swifts in South Dublin County, 2020	Dublin - South Dublin	11,025
C08418	Galway County Council	Galway County Geological Heritage Project 2020	Galway - Galway County	8,000
C08419	Galway County Council	Audit of Holy Wells of County Galway Phase 1 (Ballinasloe, Loughrea, Gort/ Kinvara LEAs)	Galway - Galway County	10,000
C08420	Galway County Council	Reading your Local Landscape Workshops and Publication	Galway - Galway County	4,911
C08421	Roscommon County Council	2020 - Historic Churches Conservation Specifications Project	Roscommon	8,000
C08422	Monaghan County Council	County Monaghan Community Archaeology Programme - 2020 - Holy Wells Project phase 1	Monaghan	2,020
C08423	Monaghan County Council	County Monaghan Public Awareness Programme - 2020	Monaghan	8,650
C08424	Cork City Council	Cork Heritage Open Day 2020	Cork City	18,000

Local Authority County Heritage Plan Projects contd.

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	€
C08425	Kildare County Council	Kildare County Heritage Awareness 2020	Kildare	11,000
C08429	Clare County Council	A study of Holy Wells in County Clare	Clare	10,632
C08430	Galway County Council	Galway County Community Archaeology Project 2020	Galway - Galway County	15,000
C08432	Leitrim County Council	Leitrim Heritage Awareness Programme 2020	Leitrim	14,394
C08433	Cork City Council	Architectural Conservation Area Awareness and Celebration	Cork - Cork City	4,000
C08435	Clare County Council	Planning for biodiversity management on Clare County Council land	Clare	12,000
C08437	Kilkenny County Council	Co. Kilkenny Wetlands Audit (Phase 1) 2020	Kilkenny	20,000
C08438	Kerry County Council	Kerry Building Conservation Project: Rejuvenating our built heritage	Kerry	6,397
C08439	Dublin City Council	Twentieth Century Architecture in Dublin City Research Project 2020	Dublin - Dublin City	12,000
C08440	Donegal County Council	Donegal Heritage Awareness Programme 2020	Donegal	23,000
C08441	Cork County Council	Archaeological Heritage of County Cork Publication	Cork - Cork County	16,000
C08442	Cork County Council	The Colourful Heritage of County Cork Volume 2	Cork - Cork County	7,000
C08445	Tipperary Heritage Office	Geophysical Survey Graves of the Leinstermen	Tipperary	5,489
C08447	Tipperary Heritage Office	Tipperary County Heritage Awareness 2020	Tipperary	12,059
C08449	Kilkenny County Council	Kilkenny Ogham Stone Project 2020	Kilkenny	3,000
C08450	Dublin City Council	The Wood Quay Excavation Oral History Project	Dublin - Dublin City	7,433
C08451	Longford County Council	County Longford Industrial Heritage Survey - Phase 2- Corn & Flour Mills	Longford	8,813
C08452	Mayo County Council	Habitat Mapping and Biodiversity Management Plans, Co. Mayo	Mayo	22,500
C08453	Longford County Council	Longford Wetlands Survey Project 2020	Longford	4,725
C08454	Meath County Council	Meath Industrial Heritage Survey - Phase II - Field Study	Meath	13,159
C08455	Limerick City and County Council	Pollinator Friendly Public Planting Schemes	Limerick	9,000
C08456	Cavan County Council	Cavan's Historic Graveyard Network 2020	Cavan	7,327
C08457	Galway City Council	Galway's Heritage in Stone Volume 6 : The Marriage Stones of Galway 1570 - 1680	Galway - Galway City	1,718

Local Authority County Heritage Plan Projects contd.

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	€
C08459	Sligo County Council	Sligo (FMA) Community Archaeology Project 2020	Sligo	14,999
C08461	Wicklow County Council	Wicklow Community Archaeology Project	Wicklow	12,000
C08462	Longford Heritage Office	County Longford Education Heritage Project 2020	Longford	4,025
C08463	Sligo County Council	Conservation Report and Conservation of Easkey Abbey	Sligo	9,617
C08465	Cavan County Council	Cavan Golden Way - 2020 activities	Cavan	7,650
C08467	Wicklow County Council	Biodiversity Wicklow: Connecting People + Nature	Wicklow	9,707
C08468	Cavan County Council	Explore Lough Oughter 2020	Cavan	6,837
C08469	Galway City Council	Bohermore Cemetery Recording Project and Publication	Galway - Galway City	4,356
C08474	Galway City Council	Annual Galway City Field School	Galway - Galway City	2,675
C08536	Rathdown County Council	Cherrywood - the history of a new town children's publication	Laoghaire/Rathdown	3,516
C08537	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County	Carrickmines Castle Interpretation Plan 2020	Dublin - South Dublin	7,260
C08538	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	Other Voices - Marlay House and Cabinteely House - an interpretation refresh	Dublin - Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	4,538
			TOTAL	534,862

Community Heritage Grant Scheme

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	€
CH08545	Inishtrahull Bird Observatory	3D mapping, Aerial vehicle survey, Access and recreation survey of Inishtrahull Island, Co. Donegal	Donegal	14,899
CH08549	Brigown Arts and Heritage Centre	Energy Condition Report and Energy Improvement Plan for Saint George's Arts and Heritage Centre, Mitchelstown, County Cork	Cork - Cork County	10,332
CH08569	Kerry County Council	Conservation of Kerry Militia Uniform at Kerry County Museum	Kerry	6,958
CH08580	Kylemore Trust	Kylemore Abbey - 2020 Conservation Plan (Neo-Gothic Church & Victorian Walled Gardens)	Galway - Galway County	14,000
CH08595	Irish Heritage Trust	Conservation of late 18th-early 19th century leases in Strokestown Park Archive at Strokestown Park and National Famine Museum	Roscommon	8,000
CH08599	Contemporary Music Centre	CMC Cassette Digitisation Project	Dublin - Dublin City	9,188
CH08619	Athy Heritage Company CLG	The Digitisation of the Museum's collections	Kildare	1,900
CH08631	Waterford Treasures	Showcase to safely display the mechanism of a giant, ca. 1550 turret clock, the earliest mechanical timepiece in Ireland.	Waterford	12,800
CH08634	The Irish Heritage Trust	The Irish Agricultural Museum Archive: Improving the Preservation, Conservation & Access	Wexford	15,000
CH08635	Lissadell and Munninane Churches Select Vestry	Conservation Report for Lissadell Church of Ireland, Co. Sligo	Sligo	11,000
CH08638	Irish Traditional Music Archive	Boscaí Ceoil: Preserving the legacy of traditional musicians	Dublin - Dublin City	5,600
CH08641	12 O'Clock Hills Project	Repair works to stone cottage at Knockanuara 12 O'Clock Hills Co Clare	Clare	14,000
CH08668	Ramelton Georgian Society	House on the Brae, Ramelton conservation works 2020	Donegal	15,000
CH08670	A K Ilen Company Limited	Conservation & refurb of vessel Ilen's accommodation/belowdeck areas	Limerick	6,000
CH08672	The Model Arts & Niland Gallery	Jack Butler Yeats Conservation Project	Sligo	13,000
CH08676	Clare County Council	Clare Museum Community Access Project	Clare	10,200
CH08682	Michael Davitt National Memorial Co Limited	Conservation Grade Display Units for artefacts at Michael Davitt Museum	Mayo	8,500
CH08683	Irish Film Institute	IFI content (Digital Collections) Submission Portal - Media Shuttle	Dublin - Dublin City	6,160

Community Heritage Grant Scheme contd.

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	€
CH08686	Mayo Dark Skies Association	Newport, Mayo Lighting Master Plan 2020	Mayo	14,900
CH08702	Bere Island Projects Group	Restoration of Barrack Room at Lonehort Battery Bere Island for use as a visitor area 2020	Cork - Cork County	2,144
CH08706	South East Galway IRD CLG	Irish Workhouse Museum Exhibition Upgrade Project 2020	Galway - Galway County	14,500
CH08707	Deaf Heritage Centre	Digitisation and Conservation of Historic Institute for the Deaf Minute Books 1845- 1953 & related Documents, included the digitisation of rare Glass Plate Negatives	Dublin - Dublin City	7,740
CH08711	Dublin Civic Trust	Mid-18th century sash window conservation and restoration - 67 Arran Street East, Dublin 7	Dublin - Dublin City	15,000
CH09729	Achonry Mullinabreena Community Enhancement	Survey & Conservation Report for Carrowmore School, Co Sligo	Sligo	1,500
CH09731	Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland	Preservation of the RSAI Collections and improvement of access	Dublin - Dublin City	11,756
CH09749	Loch Garman Band	Friends Meeting House, Wexford, Conservation Management Plan & Energy Performance Assessment 2020	Wexford	8,000
CH09765	Cavan County Council	Purchase of Museum Standard Exhibition Cases for Natural History Memorabilia at Cavan County Museum	Cavan	7,000
CH09768	Kells Type Trail	Conservation of Collection of Kells Printing Works, Kells, Co Meath	Meath	7,500
CH09772	South Presentation Centre CLG	Nano Nagle Place, Cork, Accessibility Improvement Plan 2020	Cork - Cork City	7,000
CH09777	Murroe Community Council	Murroe Muintir na Tíre Hall Condition & Conservation Report 2020	Limerick	3,700
CH09783	Gay Project CLG	Purchase of specialised equipment vital to improve preservation and access to collection at Cork LGBT Archive	Cork - Cork City	7,023
CH09798	Offaly Heritage Centre Ltd	Offaly History and Archives Access Improvements 2020	Offaly	13,000
CH09802	St Carthage's Cathedral	Cotton Library - Lismore, Collection Conservation Phase 1	Waterford	8,452
CH09806	Trinity College Dublin	Book of Kells and Old Library Exhibition, Access and Inclusion project 2020	Dublin - Dublin City	10,000
CH09808	Naul Community Council	Naul, Co. Dublin - Graveyard and Village Conservation Project 2020	Dublin - Fingal	8,500
CH09837	Moate Museum & Historical Society	Purchase of Archival Boxing for vulnerable Documents and Textiles	Westmeath	2,400
CH09842	Ionad Cultúr agus Dearadh	All Saints Heritage Centre Conservation Plan and Condition Report	Galway - Galway County	5,954

Community Heritage Grant Scheme contd.

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	€
CH09843	Church of Ireland (wexford)	Saint Iberius Church Disabled Access project	Wexford	15,000
CH09857	Stokeen Ltd t/s D-Light Studios	D-Light Studios, Dublin North Inner City Conservation Management Plan 2020	Dublin - Dublin City	6,000
CH09863	Lackagh Museum and Community Development Association	Lackagh Museum Collections Management Audit and Improvement Works 2020	Galway - Galway County	3,500
CH09868	Kilmurry Historical and Archaeological Association	Independence Museum Kilmurry Artefact Conservation 2020	Cork - Cork County	1,300
CH09891	Glounthaune Community Association	Harper's Island Benthic Assessment	Cork - Cork County	4,154
CH09897	Monaghan County Council	Monaghan County Museum-Conservation of Archival Collection & purchase of equipment for documentation of the collection for online use	Monaghan	5,634
CH09922	Cork Traveller Women's Network	Traveller history animated video	Cork - Cork City	3,600
CH09941	The Brian Friel Trust	Documenting the Material Culture of Brian Friel's 'The Laurels', Glenties	Donegal	4,900
CH09945	Donaghmore Famine Workhouse & Agricultural Museum CLG	Donaghmore Workhouse Access Audit 2020	Laois	2,000
CH09949	Mountmellick Development Association	Museum Conservation Project 2020	Laois	10,000
CH09951	Sirius Arts Centre	Emergency Stabilisation works at the East Wing, Old Yacht Club, Cobh, Co Cork	Cork - Cork County	14,993
CH09965	Tipperary County Council	Tipperary Museum's Conservation & Display of significant 1919 - 1921 material, November 2020	Tipperary	8,500
CH09978	Royal Dublin Society	Conservation of Dun Emer Guild Irish-made Rug, circa 1928.	Dublin - Dublin City	12,000
			TOTAL	430,187

Historic Towns Initiative

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	€
HT08428	Kerry County Council	Community-led regeneration Denny St and Day Place, Tralee Co Kerry	Kerry	200,000
HT08460	Roscommon County Council	Regenerating Roscommon Town Spire Quarter 2020	Roscommon	165,000
HT08472	Monaghan County Council	Enhancement of Monastic Sites in Clones Heritage Town	Monaghan	72,680
HT08477	Sligo County Council	Heritage Led Regeneration of O'Connell Street, Sligo (Phase 1)	Sligo	140,270
HT08482	Donegal County Council	Historic Towns Initiative, Ramelton, County Donegal	Donegal	200,000
HT08485	Mayo County Council	Historic Core Facade Improvement Scheme Phase 2: Ballina, Co. Mayo	Mayo	126,256
HT09748	Kerry County Council	Additional works at Denny St and Day Place, Tralee Co Kerry	Kerry	105,498
HT09750	Sligo County Council	Additional Funding towards Decoration Works at O Connell Street, Sligo	Sligo	13,251
HT09763	Donegal County Council	Additional funding for urgent Conservation repairs to The Old Stewart Arms, Ramelton, Co Donegal	Donegal	90,000
HT09764	Kilkenny County Council	Callan Heritage Regeneration Project 2020	Kilkenny	37,737
			TOTAL	1,150,692

Adopt a Monument Grant Scheme

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	€
CH08542	St. Kieran's Labasheeda Community Centre	Conservation Report for Kilkerrin Napoleonic Battery, Labasheeda (NMS)	Clare	8,000
CH08582	Knockboy Graveyard Committee	Knockboy Church, Co. Waterford, Consolidation Works Phase 4 (NMS)	Waterford	11,999
CH08624	Disert Heritage Group	Conservation of quernstone artefact/ relic at Disert Co. Donegal (NMS)	Donegal	1,500
CH08632	Killeshandra Community Council Ltd	Gravestone digital recording of the Rath Church, Killeshandra (NMS)	Cavan	3,300
CH08659	Donegal G.A.P. Heritage and History Group	Ecological Survey of Loughadoon, Co. Donegal (NMS)	Donegal	1,500
CH08684	Moygara Castle Research Project	Moygara Castle -Gate House Conservation, 2020 (NMS)	Sligo	10,000
CH09733	Abbeyside Church	Re-pointing of Portion of Bell Tower at St Augustine's Church, Abbeyside (NMS)	Waterford	10,000
CH09736	Clonaslee Community Development Association Ltd	Conservation Plan for Kilmanman Church and Graveyard, Clonaslee	Laois	5,000
CH09743	Kilkenny Civic Trust	St Mary's Graveyard Monument and Ecology Survey (NMS)	Kilkenny	7,000
CH09775	St James Parish Church Ruins Conservation	Stradbally Medieval Church Ruins Conservation 2020 (NMS)	Waterford	6,524
CH09801	Glenville Community Council	Community survey of mortuary monuments in Ardnageehy West graveyard, Co. Cork (NMS).	Cork - Cork County	3,250
CH09818	Rothe House Trust	External repair works to Rothe House Museum and Garden (NMS)	Kilkenny	7,000
CH09819	Fethard Community Development	Fethard Castle Conservation Management Plan 2020 (NMS)	Wexford	6,000
CH09885	Sisters of St Louis Community Fund	Bellews Castle, Castletown, Co. Louth; fire safe and disabled access plan (NMS)	Louth	5,000
CH09903	Castletownroche Tidy Towns	Community survey of mortuary monuments in St. Mary's graveyard, Castletownroche Co. Cork (NMS)	Cork - Cork County	3,300
CH09943	Ardcath & Clonalvy Historical Society	Ardcath, Clonalvy Historic Graves survey & recording (NMS)	Meath	3,250
			TOTAL	92,623

Architecture Grants

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	€
D09995	Leo & Eileen Casey	Urgent roof repairs to Mayglass Farmstead, Co Wexford	Wexford	3,411
			TOTAL	3,411



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Church Lane, Kilkenny

Phone: +353 56 777 0777

E-mail: mail@heritagecouncil.ie

www.heritagecouncil.ie

www.facebook.com/TheHeritageCouncil

Twitter: @HeritageHubIRE