

# The Heritage Council Annual Report 2015

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



**CELEBRATING**  
**20 YEARS 1995-2015**

Working for heritage | Working with communities

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The Writers Centre, 19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1

Published by the Heritage Council

The Heritage Council of Ireland Series

ISBN 978-1-906304-33-1

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# CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

2015 saw the Heritage Council mark the 20th Anniversary of its establishment and this Annual Report illustrates the extent of Council's outreach into communities in every corner of Ireland during those two decades.

It was right and proper that in holding an event in June in Kilkenny to celebrate its achievements that the Council invited President Michael D. Higgins to provide the key note address. It was after all in 1995 as the then Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht that President Higgins appointed the first Chairperson and members to the Council. These appointments set Council on a path to develop frameworks and structures to support, enable and empower communities to actively engage with, and develop the significance and understanding of the value of their natural and cultural heritage. The President's reflections were to prove very significant.

Over 300 representatives of those communities joined us to listen to the President on the 6th June. None of us anticipated the energy and commitment which the President would bring to the event. In sharing matters of historical significance relating to Council's establishment, and welcoming what has been done to date, the President set all present, and indeed the heritage sector and our government a series of challenges which we would need to rise to if the next 20 years is to prove as successful. His address of some 40 minutes was very future focused and indeed is available for anyone to watch on [www.heritagecouncil.ie/newsmedia/video](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/newsmedia/video)

The sentiments expressed by the President, I sought to emphasise in my own words on the day. I stated that a very large portion of the work and focus of the Heritage Council over the next 20 years will concentrate on the role that heritage plays in creating and repairing community cohesion, collective wellbeing and belongingness. There is no doubt that communities the length and breadth of Ireland are turning to heritage, after more than a decade of social and financial flux, to begin the process of self-healing, of bonding and regeneration. This is particularly so in rural Ireland where heritage always ranks high on the list of assets and strengths.

Our evidence base shows that at local and community level there is a movement and indeed a desire for frameworks to support meaningful participation in heritage led regeneration. We have the models that can do just that and we have to believe that investment in such approaches will be made possible as we move post 2016 to the development of our new Strategic Plan.

In acknowledging the beneficial impact of our work in 2015 I must pay tribute to 4 of our longest standing Heritage Council Members, all of whom finished their second period of appointment in October 2015. Gabriel Cooney, Brendan Dunford, Caro-Lynne Ferris and Mary Keenan were stalwarts for 10 years. They gave freely of their time and knowledge over a 10 year period that saw Council build a successful heritage infrastructure and then survive the worst that the economic crisis could throw at us. That we did so is in no small way due to their support, energy and imagination. They are already sorely missed and we await new appointments to fill the huge gap they have left.

**Conor Newman**  
**Chairman**



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

It was possible in 2015 to look to the future. Whilst from an operational point of view we still struggle with a lack of capacity (human and financial) with which to maintain the quality of our community based service, our 20th anniversary afforded us the opportunity to reflect on what we had done and what we wanted to do in the future.

The characterisation of all our work in to Policy Proposals, Infrastructure Support and Grants Programmes provided a natural vehicle with which to focus on the future, hoping to make a difference in 2016 and beyond.

Policy Proposals placed before the Minister in 2015 included

- Proposals for Ireland's Towns to include the establishment of A Rural Towns and Villages Network
- Establishing 10 Uplands Partnerships
- Establishing a National Land Use and Habitat Mapping Programme

Infrastructure Support was maintained for the National Biodiversity Data Centre, the Discovery Programme, the Irish Landmark Trust, as well as partnership and support for Woodlands of Ireland, Wicklow Uplands Council, Bere Island, Ireland Reaching Out, Burren Beo and a range of other smaller community based organisations. The Heritage Officer Network and the Museums Standards Programme, despite ongoing restrictions on their capacity, continue to extend their influence and impact and we are constantly working with all of the above to gain recognition for, and investment in, the potential they offer.

Public appetite in all things heritage continues to grow as evidenced by the phenomenal rates of participation in Heritage Week and the demand for expert input in to the education of all our children through the Heritage in Schools Programme which far outstrips our ability to deliver it.

A modest community based grants programme was re-introduced following provision of additional funds of €250k from the Minister, but placed in the context of the overall needs of the sector such sums when spread throughout the 26 Counties struggle to make an impact.

Communities in every corner of Ireland can make a difference through using heritage led regeneration to aid social and economic recovery. During 2015, building on the momentum identified during the 20th Anniversary celebration Council sought support for 6 ways in which to help them make that difference. These included the need to resolve the current crises in our rural towns and villages through the establishment of a Towns and Villages Network and the development of a series of Partnerships in Ireland's Uplands. A modest and incremental growth of €2m was sought to kick start these and other proposals. They would really have shown we are on the right track and that people and communities would now be supported to improve the quality of their place in the way in which they wanted and with their full participation in that process.

An additional €500k allowed us to run the Community Grants Programme but no additional capacity was provided to kick start the new initiatives. However they remain core to our list of priorities for 2016 and beyond. We will continue to work hard on behalf of the sector in the hope that sense will prevail and the value offered by this community led approach can be realised through investment in focused and targeted structures that will make it work.

**Michael Starrett**  
Chief Executive



# 2015 AT A GLANCE

## JANUARY

- Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) AGM with website training
- Minister Heather Humphreys visits the Heritage Council.

## FEBRUARY

- The Burrenbeo Trust annual Learning Landscape Symposium in the Burren: Connecting People with Places: Education Weekend
- Heritage Council represented in Trinity College, Dublin, at the symposium: What can 'The Digital' do for Architecture & its History, in Ireland?
- Heritage Council represented at European Heritage Days Steering Group Meeting.
- Heritage Council representative spoke at joint Irish Landscape Institute (ILI) and Irish Georgian Society (IGS) seminar 'Historic Landscapes: Love, Lost or in Limbo?'

## MARCH

- Heritage Council co-organiser of ICOMOS Vernacular NSC Field Trip to Sligo/Leitrim
- Heritage Council presented at the Weather Beaten Archaeology Conference in Sligo. It was the first of its kind, creating a forum for the exchange of experiences of extreme weather events and their impact on archaeological sites.
- Forum to discuss the facilitation of loans between Irish National Cultural Institutions and the Irish Museum Sector
- Heritage Officer Training Day in Waterford on Community Archaeology attended by a range of external speakers
- Closing event of Joint Programming Initiative for Cultural Heritage organised by the Heritage Council in Rome
- Closing Date for Community Grants Scheme
- The IWTN supported Exhibition on Medieval Dublin by UCD's Department of Archaeology launched

## APRIL

- Heritage Council Meeting.
- National Pilgrim Paths Day: A nationwide series of walks organised by local communities based on Ireland's medieval pilgrim walking routes
- National Heritage Week Training Day took place at Dublin Castle and included Event Organiser Training on audience development and social media
- A group of European Heritage Days Coordinators visited the Heritage Council for meetings and a field trip around the heritage sites of Kilkenny
- Walled Towns Day review and social media masterclass
- The launch of the study on Carrick-on-Suir by DIT's Planning Department which was supported by IWTN

## MAY

- Information Day took place in Dublin for TDs and senators
- Heritage Council represented at a Heritage Plan Programme in Kosovo
- Heritage Council representative presented at the conference Cultural Landscapes and Heritage Values at UMass Amherst, USA
- Burren in Bloom Festival: A series of illustrated talks and walks on Burren
- Heritage Council representative visited the Scottish Lime Centre
- Heritage Council representative visited Wales Local Councils
- IWTN information leaflets were created

## JUNE

- Heritage Council Meeting
- Heritage Officer meeting in Kilkenny Castle, Kilkenny
- 20th Anniversary Celebration at the Heritage Council
- The NLS Forum kick-started the recently launched National Landscape Strategy. The 25 speakers included Conor Newman, Heritage Council Chairman.
- Heritage Council board members visited the conservation facilities at five of our cultural institutions and met with the interns who showed the range of the work they are carrying out
- Heritage Council represented at European Heritage Days Steering Group Meeting.

## JULY

- Heritage Council Meeting
- Heritage Week Launch at Guinness Storehouse, Dublin
- Heritage Council represented at the Russborough Lime Kiln, Burn
- The Beara Breifne Way (BBW) marketing plan was launched in Toomevara, Co. Tipperary
- MSPI Awards. Seven Museums achieved accreditation in 2015.

## AUGUST

- National Heritage Week 2015 took place from 22 to 30 August and celebrated Ireland's Industrial Heritage
- Stories Well Told- Interpreting Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Resources took place at the Heritage Council
- Tours of the Heritage Council building, the Bishop's Palace, Kilkenny, took place during Heritage Week
- Visitor surveys were conducted at Cork and Youghal's Medieval Festivals

## SEPTEMBER

- Heritage Council represented at the European Association of Archaeologists Conference in Glasgow, Scotland. Heritage Council presented at Heritage Tourism Session and was joint organiser of public participation in the Archaeology Round Table.
- Heritage Council took part in Electric Picnic, Stradbally, Co. Louth, for the first time.
- Heritage Council went to the National Ploughing Championships
- Heritage Council represented at the IGS Glendalough Traditional Building Skills Weekend, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow
- The IWTN Expansion Proposal Document was launched

## OCTOBER

- Heritage Council represented at the ICCROM Course in Italy, Promoting People-Centred Approaches: Engaging Communities in the Conservation of Nature and Culture.
- The Heritage Council highly commended in Irish Landscape Institute Landscape Awards category Landscape Management, Policy and Research for 'The Onshore Wind Farm Sector In Ireland'.
- Heritage Council represented at the IPI and European Council of Town Planners (ECTP) Biennial in Dublin
- A series of events at the Burren Winterage Weekend highlighted, celebrated and supported the Burren as well as the broader significance of pastoral farming in shaping much of the Irish landscape
- Consultation sessions on Culture 2025 by Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

## NOVEMBER

- The Heritage Council presented at EBUKI Earth Building Day in Sligo which was the launch of Earth Building UK and Ireland in Ireland. A REPS4 grant recipient also spoke on the project he carried out restoring a mud walled building.
- The conference Realising the Hidden Potential of Ireland's Towns examined how the historic urban characters of many of our main streets are losing their vitality and value
- Developing Tourism in your Historic Town: the IWTN Network hosted a free half-day seminar on tourism in historic towns
- The IWTN'S Solving our own Problems report nominated for an Irish Planning Institute Award
- MSPI Training Day
- National Heritage Week Award winners announced.
- Heritage Week 2016 Planning Meeting brought together representatives from the public and voluntary sectors to discuss new ideas
- Dublin City & County Archaeology GIS Workshop and the launch of the Dublin Archaeology Data Viewer ([www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie))
- Heritage Council Working Group on NLS met
- Heritage Council spoke at DIT Regeneration 2015 conference 'New Beginnings - the city and economic resilience.'
- Heritage Council spoke at Irish Landscape Institute Seminar on developments in landscape character assessment.

## DECEMBER

- Heritage Council Meeting
- The President of Ethiopia, Mulatu Teshome, visited the Heritage Council
- Heritage Council represented at the ERASMUS SLCT Winter Working with Lime course in Scotland

# OUR WORK IN NUMBERS

IN 2015 THERE WERE

# 614

COMMUNITY BASED HERITAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS AND **€413,000** WAS SHARED AMONG 168 PROJECTS



THERE ARE 14 STAFF AND THREE PROJECT CONSULTANTS AT THE HC

# 85

COUNTY HERITAGE PLAN PROJECTS SHARED FUNDING OF **€557,000**



THERE ARE 28 HERITAGE OFFICERS ACROSS THE WHOLE COUNTRY

# €2.6M

WAS INVESTED IN NATIONAL GRANT PROGRAMMES IN 2015

FOR THE LAST

# 20

YEARS THE HERITAGE COUNCIL HAS BEEN HIGHLIGHTING THE ROLE HERITAGE PLAYS IN ALL OUR LIVES

SINCE 1998 THE HERITAGE COUNCIL HAS FUNDED OVER

# 6,000

HERITAGE PROJECTS, MANY SMALL SCALE, ALL RELEVANT

# 96,000

CHILDREN HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE HERITAGE IN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

# 322

HISTORIC FARM BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN RESTORED SINCE 2005

# 61

PARTICIPANTS IN THE MUSEUM STANDARDS PROGRAMME

# 22 TOWNS

ARE RESTORING THEIR HISTORIC WALLS

# 3 MILLION

RECORDS ON IRELAND'S BIODIVERSITY ARE AVAILABLE VIA THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY CENTRE

IN AUGUST 2015 HERITAGE WEEK ENCOMPASSED

# 1,826

EVENTS MANAGED BY

# 16,000

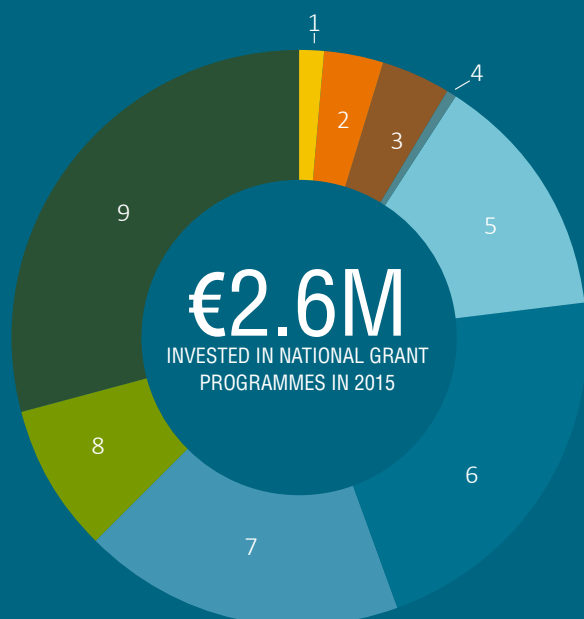
PEOPLE AND ENJOYED BY

# 400,000

PEOPLE

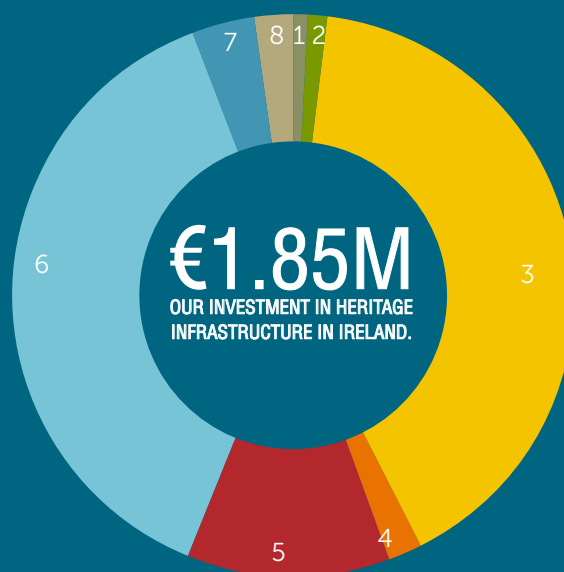
SCHEME TITLE	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	AMOUNT PAID
County Heritage Plan Projects	95	85	€556,980
IWTN projects - Capital Works	15	10	€101,089
IWTN projects - Interpretation & Events	43	28	€87,063
Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research (INSTAR)	4	1	€39,961
Community Based Heritage	614	190	€463,442
Infrastructure Partner awards	29	24	€360,435
<b>Totals</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>€1,608,970</b>

# SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAMMES



		€
1	Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research	39,961
2	Irish Walled Towns Network Grants towards Walled Towns Days	87,063
3	Irish Walled Towns Network Grants towards Capital Works	101,089
4	Management Grants	12,590
5	Policy & Infrastructure Grants	360,435
6	County Heritage Plan Grants	556,980
7	Community Based Heritage	463,442
8	Irish Landmark Trust Ltd. Note 15	220,000
9	County Heritage Plan Grants	750,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,591,560</b>

# SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL AND REGIONAL HERITAGE INFRASTRUCTURE IN IRELAND – ALLOCATION OF FUNDS



Heritage Infrastructure	Heritage Element	Location/Base	HC Funding in 2015 (€)
1. Bere Island	Cultural Landscapes/ Seascapes	Bere Island, Co. Cork	20,000
2. Burrenbeo Trust	Cultural Landscapes and Biodiversity	Kinvara, Co. Galway	20,000
3. Discovery Programme	Archaeology	Dublin	750,000
4. Ireland Reaching Out	Genealogy	Loughrea, Co. Galway	34,219
5. Irish Landmark Trust	Built Heritage and Landscapes/Seascapes	Dublin	220,000
6. National Biodiversity Data Centre	Biodiversity	Waterford	705,177
7. Wicklow Uplands Council	Cultural Landscapes	Roundwood, Co. Wicklow	65,000
8. Woodlands of Ireland	Native Woodland Species	Murrough, Co. Wicklow	40,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,854,496</b>

# HERITAGE AWARENESS

Research carried out in 2015 by Behaviour and Attitudes on Awareness and Understanding of Irish Heritage on behalf of the Heritage Council had some good news about people's interest and involvement in heritage locally.

The purpose of the study was to investigate the public's level of awareness and understanding of heritage and to draw comparisons, where possible, using previous surveys of 1999 and 2004. An additional objective was to evaluate the public's perception of the value of heritage to the economy and society.

Despite the increasingly fragmented nature of our media, and the growing pull towards a more individualistic lifestyle, we still find time to contribute by volunteering in towns, villages or more rural settings. We have a growing understanding of the value of heritage as it contributes to our identity, wellbeing and economy. The qualitative evidence strongly indicates that people believe there is an economic value to preserving our heritage through providing jobs in the hospitality and tourist industries.

## 45%

OF PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT OUR HERITAGE IS ABOUT IRISH HISTORY AND CULTURE  
(UP FROM 21%)

## 2/3

OF ALL ADULTS IN 2015 BELIEVE IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO PROTECT OUR HERITAGE (UP FROM 46% IN 1999) AND 93% BELIEVE IT IS VERY OR FAIRLY IMPORTANT (UP FROM 86% IN 1999)

WANTING TO PROTECT HERITAGE HAS INCREASED TO

## 76%

(UP FROM 59% IN 1999 AND 66% IN 2004)

THE MOST DOMINANT SOURCE OF HERITAGE INFORMATION/ EDUCATION IS THOUGHT TO BE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

(46% IN 2004 AND 42% NOW).

THE INTERNET PLAYS A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE (WHILE NOT MEASURED IN 2004 IT IS NOW 30%).

SOCIAL MEDIA IS ALSO ENTERING THE ARENA (AT 12% IN MOST RECENT SURVEY).

## 7 IN 10

BELIEVE THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT COSTS OUR HERITAGE SHOULD BE PROTECTED (THIS WAS 64% IN 2004)

## 66%

OF PEOPLE NOW RATE THEMSELVES VERY PROUD; AN INCREASE FROM 50% IN 1999 AND 57% IN 2004

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IS INCREASING; IN APPROXIMATELY 15 YEARS ACTIVELY INVOLVED INCREASED FROM

## 7% UP TO 19%

## 8 IN 10

BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD OFFER INCENTIVES TO PEOPLE TO ENCOURAGE HERITAGE PROTECTION (MUCH THE SAME AS 2004)



Top: Minister Heather Humphreys with Heritage Council staff on her visit to the Heritage Council in January 2015

Bottom left: 20th Anniversary of the Heritage Council

Bottom right: 20th Anniversary Event. L-R Martina Malone, Anne Barcoe

# ABOUT THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

Heritage gives each place its identity, character and distinctiveness. Plans for the future need to include the future of our heritage so that the best elements, those which enhance communities and enrich lives, are passed on to our children and to their children in turn. In doing so, we also ensure that our local areas and communities are good places to live and work.

The Heritage Council takes an integrated approach; its responsibilities include both cultural and natural aspects of heritage. The Heritage Act's definition of heritage is truly comprehensive in its scope, heritage includes:

- Monuments
- Archaeological objects
- Heritage objects (such as art and industrial works)
- Documents and genealogical records
- Architectural heritage
- Flora and fauna
- Wildlife habitats
- Landscapes and seascapes
- Wrecks
- Geology
- Heritage gardens
- Parks and inland waterways

As prescribed in the Heritage Act the Heritage Council has particular statutory responsibilities: '...to propose policies and priorities for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of Irish heritage'. In addition, it has a specific role '...to promote interest, education, knowledge and pride in, and facilitate the appreciation and enjoyment of the national heritage'.

We are a public body working in the public interest. The vision - that heritage is to be enjoyed, managed and protected for the vital contribution that it makes to all our wellbeing and futures - informs everything we do. Our current priorities are to support jobs, education and heritage tourism in local communities. Importantly, this not only complements but also 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.

## 20 YEARS OF THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

In 2015 the Heritage Council celebrated the 20th anniversary of its establishment; an event that brought over 300 people from across Ireland together. The guest of honour was President Michael D. Higgins. In 1995, as the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Minister Higgins brought the Heritage Act into law to establish the Heritage Council and appointed Freda Rountree as the first chairperson of the statutory body. Still a relatively small body, with only 15 full-time staff, the Heritage Council continues to meet its original aims.

Twenty years on, we are proud that our work -and more importantly the future value of Ireland's heritage - was celebrated by the President Michael D. Higgins. For him it was a return visit; for us the warm affirmation from an old friend who was a first foundational influence.

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



CELEBRATING

20 YEARS 1995-2015

Working for heritage | Working with communities

#Heritage

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



CELEBRATING  
20 YEARS 1995-2015

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**“The heritage of Ireland belongs to  
the people of Ireland in perpetuity.”**

President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins



# Enjoy Heritage: Facilitating Education, Awareness and Appreciation

The first of the three goals set out in the Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2012-2016 is to promote and facilitate knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of our heritage.

# CHILDREN AND THE OUTDOORS

A growing body of evidence suggests that play patterns among children are changing; fewer children are playing outdoors and outdoor play is increasingly centred on the home rather than natural settings.

Children's reduced contact with nature has given rise to significant concern among those who work for, with and on behalf of children as regular access to the natural environment is fundamental to children's health, development and wellbeing. Furthermore, lack of access to natural spaces infringes on children's rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (CRC).

Sharing in the widespread concern regarding children's declining access to the outdoors and the dearth of research on this issue from an Irish perspective, the Heritage Council commissioned a research team from the Child Law Clinic, School of Law, University College Cork to conduct a review of contact with the outdoors and natural heritage among children aged 5-12.

The main findings are as follows:

- In Ireland, children's relationship with the natural environment has received little attention or support in national law and policy.
- An explicit and overarching national policy which supports children's engagement with the outdoors is yet to be developed.
- Research shows that the changing nature of children's lives is a major concern in Ireland and that the child-nature connection is under serious threat.
- There are significant benefits, including to health and well-being, to contact with the outdoors and the environment.
- Barriers include school rules in relation to break-times, sports, and access to the outdoors as well as the role played by gatekeepers (e.g. parents, teachers) whose attitudes influence children's behaviour.

In light of this research, the Heritage Council is encouraged to consider the following:

- Policy - consideration should be given to how best to advocate for a cross-government approach (working towards a national policy) to promote greater use by children of the outdoors and the natural environment.
- Schools - a number of concrete measures are suggested to encourage children's access to the outdoors in the school setting.
- Children - the Heritage Council should adopt the principle of children's participation into its way of working, in line with national policy, to ensure that children's perspectives inform its programmes, policies and initiatives.
- Evaluating Progress - consideration should be given to developing a children's rights framework for evaluating children's contact with the outdoors.

# OIREACTHAS INFORMATION DAY

On 13 May 2015 the Heritage Council held an Oireachtas Information Day in Buswell's Hotel, Dublin for TDs and Senators.

Chief Executive of the Heritage Council, Mr. Michael Starrett spoke at the event attended by 60 TDs and senators. 12 heritage organisations from around the country to explain to TDs and Senators the valuable work they are doing, and the importance of continuing financial support.

We wanted our legislators to understand how important it is to provide reasonable financial support for local heritage projects and events, and the enormous payback it secures both in terms of quality of life and economic activity.

Nearly 90% of tourists who come to Ireland say that our natural heritage is an important factor influencing their decision to holiday here, and Ireland's historic environment directly supports over 25,000 jobs and contributes in excess of €1.5 billion to the economy annually.

The Heritage Council asked TDs and Senators to support local community organisations in developing our economy through valuing, and investing in, our local heritage assets. Given the welcome, if slow economic recovery now under way, this is the time to start investing once again in these communities in a phased and incremental way over the next few years.



'Heritage Council staff pictured with members of the various Infrastructure groups the Heritage Council support during Oireachtas Information Day in Buswells'

# NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK

National Heritage Week has been coordinated by the Heritage Council since 2005. It celebrates Ireland's heritage in all its forms: built, natural and cultural. 1,826 events took place 22 to 30 August 2015. These were run by 960 event organisers, including many voluntary and community groups; there was an estimated attendance of almost 500,000. In 2015 organisers reported increased numbers at events all over the country.

Local enthusiasts led the events, of which 87% were free, and the wide range of activities offered included: Archaeological digs in Swords, High Nelly Bicycle tours in Laois, Linen-making in Monaghan, Exploring the Victorian Water Works in Cork, Steam engine rides in Stradbally, Louth, Copper mining in Allihies, West Cork, Navigating the Boyne canal.

National Heritage Week is a part of European Heritage Days, which is celebrated in over 40 countries across Europe. In 2015, 33 countries agreed to share a common theme to help raise the profile and awareness of the value of industrial and design heritage to people across Europe. Our focus for 2015 was our industrial and design heritage, including our extensive inland waterways and canal systems, railways and mills.

A group of European Heritage Days Coordinators visited the Heritage Council on 29 April for an exchange of views and training on the European Heritage Days Industrial Heritage Communities Initiative. They also attended industrial heritage field trips around Kilkenny and Belfast.

[www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie)

## Heritage Awards

The Heritage Awards showcased the best of National Heritage Week 2015 and recognised the excellent work of the event organisers and volunteers.

### Winner of the Heritage Hero Award - Ursula Leslie, Tarbert, Co. Kerry

Nominations were accepted for individuals or organisations that made an outstanding contribution to the protection and promotion of heritage. Tarbert Development Association nominated Ursula Leslie from Tarbert, Co. Kerry.

Over the past forty years Ursula has been consistent in her generous support for local initiatives to preserve and promote heritage in all its diverse aspects. As a founding member of the American-Ireland Fund, Ursula has helped local heritage tourism projects obtain seed funding, these include: the Lartigue Railway Museum, the St. John's Arts Centre in Listowel, the Hunt Museum in Limerick and the Tarbert Bridewell Heritage Centre.

For many years Ursula has been involved in local activities during National Heritage Week. Some twenty years ago, she and her late husband John, opened up the woods and parkland surrounding their home for public access. The John F. Leslie Woodland Walk is a wonderful local amenity that is greatly appreciated and enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

**Winner of the Hidden Heritage Award -**

**Ellen Hutchins Festival, Bantry Historical Society & National Parks & Wildlife Service, Co. Cork**

This award shines a light on Ireland's hidden heritage. The Ellen Hutchins Festival 2015 commemorated Ireland's first female botanist and celebrated her life and work on the 200th anniversary of her death. Despite dying aged only 29 years Hutchins made a significant contribution to the field of botany. She discovered many species new to science - particularly in the more difficult plant groups i.e. bryophytes, lichens and algae – yet Hutchins was largely forgotten by history.

The festival explored all aspects of her life and work with a series of walks, talks, exhibitions, a boat trip, a children's event and art demonstration. The project was funded by the Heritage Council under the Community Based Heritage Scheme.

[www.ellenhutchins.com](http://www.ellenhutchins.com)

**Winner of the Reaching Out Award -**

**Chinese Day Out in the Boyne Valley, Kells Tourism Forum, Co. Meath**

This award celebrated events that reached out to new audiences.

An estimated 60,000 ethnic Chinese live in Ireland, a large percentage are based in Dublin where they have settled to run businesses or attend university. Although the Boyne Valley region is on their doorstep they may be hesitant to venture outside the more familiar city, particularly because many of them are not fluent English speakers. The 'Far East to Ancient East' initiative encouraged the Chinese community to visit Ireland's Heritage Capital and enjoy the rich history of the area.

[www.kellstourismforum.com](http://www.kellstourismforum.com)

**Winner of the Cool for Kids Award - West Inishowen History and Heritage Society**

**Family Fun Day, West Inishowen History and Heritage Society, Co. Donegal**

This award was open to event organisers who encouraged children and families to participate in National Heritage Week. The winner assembled an imaginative Family Fun Day which included:

an archaeology workshop where children participated in a dig with a local archaeologist, creating cardboard looms and weaving cloth based on the history of the mills and linen industry, writing with a quill pen and illuminated letters based on monastic history, painting rocks based on inishowen's rock art, dressing up in viking costume based on the viking raids on inishowen.

Each fun activity was accompanied by a fact sheet featuring different aspects of history. Local history and heritage was presented in engaging interactive ways that all the family could enjoy.

[www.buncranahistory.com](http://www.buncranahistory.com)



Top: European Heritage Days Meeting Strasbourg June 2015 Middle left: Chinese Day Out in the Boyne Valley. Winner Reaching Out Award  
 Middle right: Ellen Hutchins Festival. Winner Hidden Heritage Award Bottom left: Ursula Leslie, Heritage Hero Winner 2015  
 Bottom right: West Inishowen History and Heritage Society Family Fun Day. Winner Cool for Kids Award.

# The Heritage Council Online

The Heritage Council is encouraging and supporting heritage communities throughout Ireland. Through social media we engage with communities frequently and also connect them with each other.

Social media gives us the chance to show the human side of the work we do and makes the Heritage Council more accessible. We are building a heritage community by keeping in touch with the people and organisations we work with, sharing heritage news, and communicating the value of our work to more people.

The Heritage Council's Facebook (FB) page and Twitter accounts were both set up in 2011 to bring interesting daily heritage-related news and stories to the general public in Ireland and abroad. We share news stories from local and national media on our FB page and inform people of nationwide heritage events including: Heritage Week, festivals, training, heritage programmes and projects, jobs, tender opportunities, recent publications/studies, and funding opportunities.

## Facebook

By the end of 2015 the recorded FB Likes on the page was over 6,000 (up 20% from 5,000 in 2014). The majority (83%) of our Likes in 2015 were from people resident in Ireland. The core age profile of people who 'like' our page is between 35-44 years, followed closely by the 25-34 years group, 61% are women and 39% men.

In 2016 the Heritage Council will undertake further work on the page to develop a global community, ensure that this audience continues to grow and that it is linked to the Irish heritage tourism sector, particularly in rural areas.

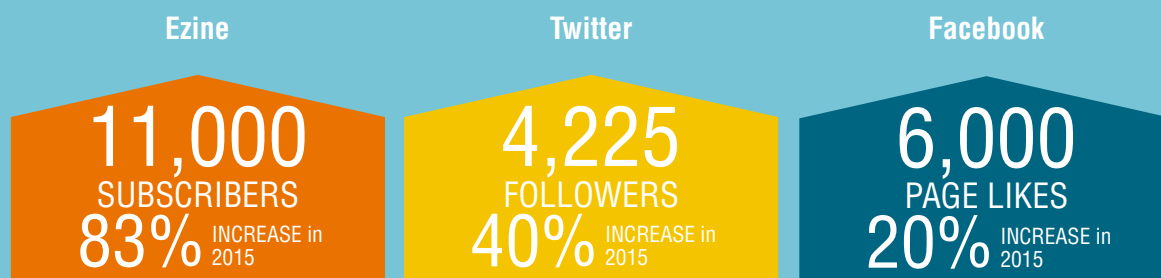
## Twitter

The Heritage Council is on Twitter @HeritageHubIRE. We had 4,225 followers by the end of 2015, up 40% from 3,025 followers at the start of the year. 57% are women and 43% men, similar to the activity on FB.

The Heritage Council will further develop our Twitter account in 2016 in collaboration with local heritage groups and schools.

## Ezine

The HC's monthly ezine had over 11,000 subscribers at the end of 2015 (up from 6,000 in 2014). The ezine contains information on heritage news, events, tenders and employment opportunities.



# HERITAGE IN SCHOOLS

The Heritage in Schools Scheme is Ireland's leading outdoor education programme for primary school children and is operated by the Heritage Council. The Scheme is unique in Ireland and provides a panel of 176 diverse Heritage Specialists who work directly with children in primary schools throughout the country. It is leading the way in promoting outdoor education and encouraging children to engage directly with the natural and cultural heritage that surrounds them.

The scheme facilitates visits to primary schools nationwide by a range of experts on Ireland's natural and cultural heritage. At a time when great value is placed on understanding and using technology we feel that it is just as vital that children have an appreciation of 'place' and respect for the natural and cultural world on which we depend. The aim of this scheme is to encourage both teachers and pupils to engage with their local heritage in a hands-on, interactive and meaningful way. In particular, the scheme aims to address the increasing decline in time spent outdoors by Irish children. In order to achieve these aims, the Heritage Council encourages the Heritage Expert visits to take place outdoors where ever possible, regardless of the 'weather'!

The experts on the Heritage in Schools Scheme are specialists in diverse aspects of Ireland's heritage and share a contagious enthusiasm for their work. The experts' lesson plans are tailored to suit the requirements of the SESE curriculum subjects of History, Geography and Science and many of them have extensive experience of working with children in the classroom setting. Even with reduced budgets the scheme continues to bring heritage expertise directly into the classroom reaching approximately 120,000 children each year and we look forward to seeing these numbers continue to grow in the coming years. This is due to the support and willingness of the Specialists to reduce costs to ensure as many visits to children as possible can take place throughout the year.

Since the scheme was launched in 2000 it has successfully generated a wider interest, knowledge and appreciation of our heritage in children throughout the country. The Heritage Council hopes that the scheme will continue to support both teachers and pupils as they venture outside the classroom to enjoy their local heritage.

[www.heritageinschools.ie](http://www.heritageinschools.ie)

<b>Year</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>No. of Visits</b>	1,331	2,001	1,922
<b>No. of children involved in HIS visit</b>	77,165	96,644	91,184
<b>No. of schools who avail of scheme</b>	606	865	736
<b>No. of bookings from DEIS Schools</b>	260	393	713
<b>No. of children from DEIS schools involved in HIS scheme</b>	23,716	30,043	30,144
<b>No. of schools who availed of more than 1 visit</b>	226	352	
<b>No. of 5 Series bookings</b>	116	145	
<b>Timescale for HIS booking</b>	Feb 2013-Dec 2013	Jan 2014-Sept 2014	Jan 2015-Sept 2015

## Heritage in Schools (HIS) Scheme 2015

	No. of visits
Carlow	14
Cavan	18
Clare	56
Cork	115
Donegal	161
Dublin	312
Galway	272
Kerry	52
Kildare	91
Kilkenny	32
Laois	15
Leitrim	16
Limerick	84
Longford	52
Louth	43
Mayo	101
Meath	24
Monaghan	11
Offaly	16
Roscommon	48
Sligo	37
Tipperary	34
Waterford	46
Westmeath	21
Wexford	208
Wicklow	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,922</b>

*'Thank you for another wonderful heritage in schools visit, the children look forward to visits so much, the heritage in schools programme has enriched our school community beyond measure'*

### **Scoil Naomh Duigh, Co Donegal**

*'Very productive visit. We are currently working on our Greenschool Biodiversity Programme so the field trips around our school lent itself to what we are trying to achieve.'*

### **Scoil Bhríde NS, Co Offaly**

*'A fantastic hands on experience of all sorts of natural creatures linked to biodiversity. The visiting hedgehog was a fantastic treat'*

### **Howth Road Mixed NS, Dublin**

# MUSEUM STANDARDS PROGRAMME OF IRELAND

In 2015 two museums joined the programme:

1. The Computer and Communications Museum, Galway
2. Thomas MacDonagh Heritage Centre Museum, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary

This brings the total number of participants to 58; 26 sites have now achieved full accreditation, 12 sites interim accreditation.

## Training

MSPI was pleased to partner for the first time with the Irish Film Institute and the Irish Oral History Network. It continued to partner with the Institute for Conservator Restorers in Ireland to put on care of collections workshops.

With the support of the National Gallery of Ireland, MSPI organised a forum to discuss the facilitation of loans between National Cultural Institutions and the Irish museum sector. Speakers represented a cross-section of museums and galleries in Ireland and the Department of Arts. Elaine Sansom, a UK based museum consultant and MSPI Assessor, made the keynote speech reflecting on practice in the UK. Notes arising from the forum were published on both the Heritage Council's and Irish Museums Association's websites.

## Accreditation

The Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys, TD, presented certificates to:

Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane has achieved Full Accreditation.

The Zoological Museum, TCD, has achieved Full Accreditation

Dublin Castle State Apartments, OPW, has achieved Interim Accreditation

Clare Museum has achieved Interim Accreditation

The Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda, has achieved Interim Accreditation

Farmleigh, OPW, has maintained Full Accreditation

The GAA Museum has maintained Full Accreditation

MSPI published its first information brochure. In addition to information about participants and standards it includes sections on:

- Why we need museums and collections
- What is a museum
- What our participants say
- What MSPI does for museums



Top: MSPI Awards July 2015  
Bottom: L-R Lesley Anne Hayden, Minister Heather Humphreys and Beatrice Kelly

# SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## **‘Stories Well Told’ Interpretation Workshop, The Heritage Council, Kilkenny**

Communicating about heritage has never been more important. The acknowledgement of the importance of cultural heritage for tourism suggests that telling our stories should be a stronger element of heritage practice.

Over three days in Heritage Week 2015 leading experts in heritage interpretation discussed:

- Key messages
- Audience engagement
- Interpretative media
- Tourism
- The role of new technologies
- International best practice

A fieldtrip to the deserted medieval town of Newtown Jerpoint, Co Kilkenny, was a core part of the workshop. The programme has been designed in partnership with former US National Parks Service staff.

## **Conservation Internship Scheme**

Since 2006 the Heritage Council has supported the conservation internship scheme with the conservation departments of several national cultural institutions.

Firstly, the intern gains work experience within a prestigious professional institution with quality supervision. Secondly, the host institution benefits both from the intern’s recent training and because it gains an extra staff member with a range of skills to facilitate projects not otherwise achievable. During 2015 five interns were appointed to:

- Chester Beatty Library - Puneeta Sharma
- Trinity College Dublin - Camille Dekeyser
- National Library of Ireland - Mariam Marco Navarro
- National Gallery of Ireland - Gina Grond
- National Archives of Ireland - Amandine Camp



Clockwise: Stories Well Told Workshop; Puneeta Sharma, Conservation Intern at the Chester Beatty Library; Venice, Queen of the Adriatic, Crowning the Lion of Saint Mark by Domenico Tintoretto after treatment by Gina Grond NCI Conservation Intern



# **Value Heritage: Contributing to Identity, Well-Being and Health**

The second goal set out in the Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2012-2016 is to increase the understanding of heritage's contribution to our identity, our wellbeing and health, as well as towards sustainable development.

# HERITAGE POLICY

## Working Group on National Cultural Policy

The Heritage Council established a working group to advise on the response to the Culture 2025 process towards drafting a National Cultural Policy which was launched in July 2015 by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The group met twice in September and November and was chaired by Fidelma Mullane.

### Other Board Members:

Ciara Bhreathnach  
Ted Creedon  
Catherine Heaney  
Kieran O Conor  
Michael Parsons

### External Members:

Pat Cooke, UCD and on the Advisory Group for the MSPI  
Helen O Carroll, Director, Kerry County Museum  
Brian Magee, Cork Archives  
Zoe Reid, National Archives Conservation Department from the Institute of Conservators and Restorers in Ireland  
Gerry Clabby, Heritage Officer, Fingal County Council  
Adrian Roche, Oral History Network  
Chairperson Grainne Shaffrey  
Conservation Architect Edel Bhreathnach  
DP Director?  
Joint Programming Initiative for Cultural Heritage (JPICH)

As part of its involvement in the EU Commission FP7 funded JPICH the Heritage Council organised a closing event in Rome in March. Professor Jukka Jokilehto, former Assistant Director General of ICCROM gave a key note address. The Heritage Council continues to maintain the [www.heritageportal.eu](http://www.heritageportal.eu) web site with support from a range of government partners.

## Planning Policy

A General Scheme of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill No. 1 was published by the DoECLG in late 2014 – the Heritage Council made a summary submission to the DoECLG in January 2015.

In line with its statutory duties, Council also prepared detailed policy submissions in late 2015 in relation to the following:

- The Review of Revised Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements and Advice Notes for preparing Environmental Impact Statements issued by the EPA in September 2015;
- The Review of An Bord Pleanála undertaken by an expert panel appointed by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government;
- The Review of Prescribed Bodies undertaken by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government;

Council's detailed submissions are available to download from the Council's website.

### Innovation 2020 and Cultural Heritage

In March 2015 the Heritage Council and the Discovery Programme made detailed submissions to the Department of Enterprise, Jobs and Innovation emerging document Innovation 2020: Ireland's Strategy for Science, Technology, Research and Development. Among other issues this submission called for the inclusion of cultural heritage as a research priority within the new strategy document.

### National Landscape Strategy Working Group

In May The National Landscape Strategy (NLS) was launched by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in Dublin Castle; in June Council agreed to set up a working group to prepare an action plan arising from the NLS and to identify areas where Council may wish to influence the actions of others involved. Some of the issues considered include:

- Landscape digital datasets
- Mechanisms to underpin community stewardship of landscape
- Means to ensure that multi-disciplinary and multi-agency approaches to landscape are maintained

The group, made up of external experts coupled with Council members and staff, had its first meeting in November 2015 with a view to reporting to Council by Easter 2016.

#### National Landscape Strategy Working Group Members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Tony Williams	Irish Landscape Institute
Ruairí Ó Conchúir	CEO Mountaineering Ireland
Brendan McGrath	B McGrath Planning
Cara Heraty/Phillip Geoghan	Wicklow Uplands Council
Tadhg O'Mahony/Alaine Clarke	Environmental Protection Agency
Dr James Moran	IT Sligo
Prof Gabriel Cooney	School of Archaeology UCD
TJ O'Mahoney	Heritage Officer, Kerry County Council
Dr Tim Collins	NUI Galway Centre for Landscape Studies
Bernie Guest	Heritage Officer, Waterford County Council
Dr Fidelma Mullane	Heritage Council board member
Conor Newman	Heritage Council Chair and NUI Galway
Terry O'Regan	Landscape Alliance Ireland



Top left: Loughrea Walled Towns Festival 2015. Top right: Swords Castle - Digging History  
 Bottom: R-L Cllr John Crosse, Tom Hayes T.D, Cllr Seamus Hanafin Cathaoirleach Tipperary County Council, Noel Coonan T.D, Alan Kelly TD, Cllr Ger Darcy and Marcella Corcoran Kennedy TD, Michael Parsons of the Heritage Council, Matt Ryan of The Ormond Way Association.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Irish Walled Towns Network

The role of the IWTN is to unite and coordinate the strategic efforts of Local Authorities involved in the management, conservation and enhancement of historic walled towns in Ireland, both north and south.

For the IWTN 2015 was another busy year. Once again the network funded conservation work, supported festivals, wrote advisory documents, facilitated research from third-level institutes, and ran training events. The two grant streams were responsible for much of this activity.

In 2015 the IWTN provided €162,740 to ten town-wall conservation projects. Two particularly interesting projects were the conservation work in Carrick - which has really grabbed the imagination of the locals - and the work in New Ross which has allowed a previously closed laneway to become accessible again.

From the interpretation fund €90,130 was provided to 19 towns for the running of Walled Towns Festivals and other educational activities. Roughly 48,000 people attended IWTN supported events. During Heritage Week in County Galway, Loughrea's Medieval Weekend attracted almost 15,000 people; it's now Ireland's largest free medieval festival.

In addition to the AGM the IWTN organised or helped to organise four training events and conferences. In total 175 people attended training events in 2015:

1. Cultural Tourism for Historic Towns
2. Festival Project Management
3. Walled Towns Day Review (with social media masterclass)
4. Heritage Interpretation Course led by Ian Doyle.

Although most publishing activities in 2015 were directed towards celebrating ten years of existence and positioning IWTN to obtain a substantially increased budget. The publication *Bored of Boards: Ideas for Interpreting Heritage Places* was substantially added to.

In-house research was completed with the support provided to third level institutes. UCD's Archaeology Department used various libraries in Dublin as a location for a pop-up exhibition; DIT's Planning Department published an in-depth Public Realm Plan for Carrick-on-Suir.

## Key Statistics

- 48,000 attended Walled Towns Day
- 175 people attended IWTN training events
- c.60 jobs were supported by the IWTN's capital fund
- Surveys ascertaining visitor satisfaction were held at Cork and Youghal's medieval festivals. Approximately 100 people were interviewed and the results were really gratifying; visitor satisfaction was high at both events.
- The average expenditure per person was €25. Taking that as an average across the 48,000, the economic impact (without adding a multiplier effect) was €1,200,000 to the Irish economy.

### **Beara Breifne Way**

The BBW is an ambitious undertaking by over 50 community groups to develop a walking and cycling route along the spine of the country, from Beara in Co. Cork to Breifne, Co. Leitrim. It follows the line of the historic march of O'Sullivan Beara in 1602. In the aftermath of the Battle of Kinsale, Donal Cam, Chieftain of the O'Sullivan Beara clan and his followers undertook this epic 14-day march. Many clans were involved in both the march and in the skirmishes which took place. The story lends a fascinating historical theme to the route.

### **Community Archaeology Programmes**

In recent years community-led archaeology projects have emerged internationally. In Ireland this has been marked by the work of Field Monument Advisors in counties Galway, Clare and Fingal who have moved towards community archaeology focused projects. In Fingal during 2015 with support from the Heritage Council the County Council established a community excavation at Swords Castle during August and September 2015 (Swords Castle: Digging History).

- Over 100 members of the community volunteered for archaeological excavation
- A significant increase in understanding of Swords Castle was achieved
- The event received extensive and enthusiastic coverage in local press, on radio and on TV, both locally and nationally
- It was an event that caught the public imagination
- It contributed to the Swords Cultural Quarter regeneration

As part of the Community Archaeology project a Fingal Community Archaeology Strategy was drafted after public consultation. Similar programmes continued in Co Clare and Co. Galway. Michael Lynch continues to work with the Burren Farming for Conservation Locally-led agri-environment programme providing advice on the identification and care of archaeological monuments. While in Co Galway, Dr Christy Cunniffe (through Galway County Council) maintained a strong programme of training, field trips, visits and talks with communities in the county.

In March the Heritage Council organised a training day for Local Authority Heritage Officers and archaeological staff on Community Archaeology in Waterford. Several archaeological projects with very strong community foundations were funded in 2015 through the grants programme.

### **Adopt a Monument**

The Heritage Council issued a tender in 2015 to develop an Adopt-a-Monument Scheme (AaM). This aims to empower communities to become actively involved in the conservation and interpretation of local archaeological heritage sites. By providing expertise, mentoring and support an AaM programme assists community groups in learning and caring for their heritage. As developed in Scotland by Archaeology Scotland, AaM provides people of all ages with the opportunity to engage with heritage. It empowers and educates participants, while promoting a sense of ownership and civic pride. In late 2015 the tender was awarded to Abarta Heritage Ltd and the five sites will be selected after a public call in February 2016.

The Heritage Council has been involved with the BBW since 2001 and most recently has funded the marketing plan for the route in 2014/2015.

The BBW is unique; both as the biggest community heritage project in the country and because of the scale involved. It crosses ten counties and offers walkers the whole range of Ireland's beautiful scenery from seascapes, mountains, woodland, bogs, riversides and rolling farmlands.

For the Heritage Council the BBW demonstrates how a sense of place and community engagement with local heritage can create innovation around heritage tourism, education and community social capital.

The marketing plan, written by Harriet Emerson, was launched in June 2015 in Toomevara Co Tipperary by Alan Kelly, TD (then Minister for the Environment).

### **Tidy Towns Heritage Award**

The Heritage Council has been involved with the Tidy Towns Competition since 1999. Since then the number of entries has grown considerably on an annual basis. The Heritage Award seeks to promote a greater awareness of the value of our heritage to our quality of life and to sustainable economic development. With that in mind, the Heritage Council seeks to recognise projects that benefit heritage, involve the community and raise awareness. All entries are assessed by a panel of judges appointed by the Heritage Council and the winning application receives €1,000 in prize money.

**Winner of the 2015 Tidy Towns Heritage Award -  
Mote Park, Co. Roscommon for their documentary 'A Time and a Place'.**

Mote Park is an area steeped in history. It is a refuge of natural beauty, home to many species of flora and fauna. Situated in a forest setting of 650 acres just outside Roscommon Town, it was the seat of the Crofton Family from the 16th century up until the 1940s.

The film chronicles some of the history of the area, introduces viewers to its vibrant, raw beauty and diverse wildlife, interviews those with stories to tell, - before memories of another generation are lost -and meets with the major stakeholders of its resources to query their plans for Mote Park. The film had the backing of Mote Park Conservation Group.

[www.tidytowns.ie](http://www.tidytowns.ie)

# HERITAGE IN THE TOURISM AND AGRICULTURAL SECTORS

## REPS 4 TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS GRANTS SCHEME

The Heritage Council ongoing management of the REPS 4 Traditional Farm Buildings Grants Scheme is in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. €200,000 was invested in the scheme in 2015. 11 projects were supported conserving 16 buildings. As the priority of the scheme is the repair of the traditional farm building, it requires the engagement not just of skilled crafts people and professionals but sometimes the owners themselves.

The scheme offers a unique opportunity to:

- a. Protect our rural built heritage at minimal cost
- b. Provide environmental benefits
- c. Sustain rural employment while allowing these farm buildings to continue in active use

A Heritage Council representative attended the Cultural Landscapes and Heritage Values conference at the University of Massachusetts in Boston in May and presented a paper entitled Repairing Old Farm Buildings as a Means of Conserving the Irish Rural Landscape at. The Heritage Council also spoke on the same topic at Earth Building UK and Ireland (EBUKI) inaugural conference in November in Sligo. Support of the Hot Limes Mortar Project which is managed by the Building Limes Forum of Ireland (BLFI) was ongoing.

The Heritage Council exhibited and created interactive events at the Electric Picnic and National Ploughing Championships (both in Laois) and the Traditional Buildings Skills Exhibition (Wicklow).

Thanks to funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Environment and Climate Change a Heritage Council representative was able to attend the course Promoting People-Centred Approaches: Engaging Communities in the Conservation of Nature and Culture. It was held in Italy and organised by the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) in partnership with the World Heritage Centre. It was a valuable opportunity to learn from other practitioners, from both cultural and natural heritage sectors, who are actively involved with communities.

## Mud Walled Farm Building

James Barrett's family farm in Co. Limerick had an original mud wall (cob) cottage and outbuildings including a mud wall cowshed that was in poor condition. Being interested in traditional building methods, he successfully applied to the Heritage Council for a grant to repair the wall under the REPS 4 Traditional Farm Buildings Grants Scheme.

James received training and carried out all of the earth construction himself. Having enjoyed the process, he is turning his focus to the mud wall farm cottage. As secretary for the Great Southern Greenway and owner of Pedal Pursuits Bike Hire, James can see the touristic value in the restoration of such traditional buildings both as attractions and accommodation.

When owners understand the materials used in the construction of their own buildings and know how to carry out the repairs themselves, the buildings have a much better chance of surviving into the future.



Mud Walled Building, Co Limerick. REPS 4 Traditional Building Grants Scheme - before and after.

## IRISH LANDMARK TRUST

The Heritage Council provides core-funding to the Irish Landmark Trust (ILT) on an annual basis. The ILT was founded in late 1992 to rescue and save part of Ireland's built heritage and to give these saved properties a new life so they could be enjoyed by present and future generations. Established as an educational trust it is committed to policies which encourage people to learn about their built heritage, to have access to it and to get involved and enjoy it.

Two new properties were added to Irish Landmark's portfolio in 2015.

1. Inchiquin House in Corofin, Co. Clare was originally built c.1800 (some say even earlier), it is marked as 'Inchiquin Cottage' in the first edition of the Ordnance Survey map of around 1840.
2. Knocknalosset House in Canningstown, Co. Cavan is an endearing two-storey farmhouse in roughcast with a hipped roof. The authentic lime-washed interior is a very rare survivor, with low-ceiling rooms and good 19th century panelled doors and shutters. Georgian maps show the existence of a house here before 1775.

An intern commenced working in June tasked to do three very specific actions: prepare fire exit maps for the back of every bedroom door in all Irish Landmark properties; create floor drawings of all properties to better help guests understand room layouts; and scan all old photographs into digital format.

A process to develop a new strategic plan for the period 2016-2018 began in 2015. The early steps included workshops with staff and trustees, managed by an external facilitator.

The annual House Manager Day took place in May. In addition to the normal review of property management, Irish Landmark's new Child Protection Policy was formally introduced and a workshop devoted to this.

ILT was part of the Heritage Council's 20th anniversary celebrations in June and took part in an event on May 13 in Buswells Hotel to promote heritage to TDs and Senators.

In 2015 the ILT completed the new process to achieve a charity number from the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and also completed formal registration with the new Charities Regulatory Authority in the Republic of Ireland. The new charity numbers are NIC101205 and 20028909 respectively.

Board membership was augmented, as planned, in 2015.

March: Eugene Downes and Bill Wolsey

May: Mary Finan

September: Mary Apied.

The intention is to formally commence board rotation in May 2016.

[www.irishlandmark.com](http://www.irishlandmark.com)



Landmark Trust Front facade Knocknalosset House after conservation

# MANAGING IRELAND'S LANDSCAPES

## Burrenbeo Trust

The Burrenbeo Trust had a very successful year in 2015. It added new events to existing programmes and carried out 46 different programmes (38 in 2014). The Trust hosted HRH Prince Charles, one of the world's most influential supporters of environmental sustainability. It continued to lead the drive for place-based education for teachers, adults and children and held the first international Winterage Conference in the Burren. All of this - and much more - was carried out on a small budget due to an outstanding amount of volunteer input and valuable support from the Heritage Council.

Along with the Burren Life Programme, the Trust coordinated and hosted the visit of HRH Prince Charles to the Burren. They also Coordinated the fourth Learning Landscape Symposium. The Trust delivered two teaching training courses and facilitated further courses for trainee teachers, which encouraged them to use local resources as a means for teaching and (within the constraints of the curriculum) to bring children outdoors more often.

The Trust carried out its very first Burren Wild Child for visually impaired children and further walks for visually impaired adults and wheel chair users. It developed a Young Burren Ambassador Bursary Fund in memory of Ann O'Connor Dunford.

The Trust coordinated the first International Burren Winterage School which was attended by 120 delegates from 15 countries. It was directly followed by the successful Burren Winterage Weekend. The Trust continued to deliver ever successful Monthly Walks series, which, with the additional Burren in Bloom festival in May and the winter talk series, amounted to over 1000 attendees in 2015. Out of 230 charities the Trust was shortlisted in the Social Entrepreneur of Ireland Awards; the only environmental charity shortlisted.

The Trust received an all-time record number of applications for the EcoBeeo course in schools demonstrating the demand for this place-based learning programme. The Trust organised 19 different events for Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers with more than 200 attendees.

[www.burrenbeo.com](http://www.burrenbeo.com)



Image: © Martin Kiely

## Woodlands of Ireland

Woodlands of Ireland (WOI) was very active on a number of issues in 2015, especially the revamped Native Woodland Scheme, launched at the National Ploughing Championship in late September. Technical input to the Forest Service was provided for the new NWS draft. In order to achieve the targets outlined in the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 active promotion of the scheme commenced with both public bodies (i.e. National Parks and Wildlife Service and Coillte) and also private landowners.

As Chair of the Irish Forum on Natural Capital the WOI participated in numerous steering and working group meetings. Of particular note was the member's workshop to develop a two-year work programme for the working groups. The workshop was oversubscribed, evidencing the considerable interest in this initiative.

[www.naturalcapitalireland.com](http://www.naturalcapitalireland.com)

After consultation with stakeholders, WOI finalised a five-year Native Woodland Strategy and secured the support of its sponsor organisations, all of which have native woodlands as part of their policy and remit. WOI sponsor organisations:

1. The Heritage Council
2. National Parks and Wildlife Service (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)
3. Forest Service (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine).

Detailed submissions were made to Coillte regarding the public consultation on the draft Business Area Units Strategic Plans. Emphasis was placed on the management of native woodlands, the management of upland plantations, recreation forests and natural capital/public goods policy.

WOI finalised the NWS Training Course videos from the course held in 2014. This invaluable resource is accessible on the WOI website:

[woodlandsofireland.com/native-woodland-scheme-training](http://woodlandsofireland.com/native-woodland-scheme-training)

Technical suggestions on how to improve the Tree Planting and Hedgerow modules of the GLAS programme were submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Subsequently, Teagasc requested technical assistance from WOI on promotional and training literature for farmers which was provided.

WOI also attended the launch and stakeholders meeting of the EU Kerry Life project in Glencar, Co. Kerry. This project will involve farmers, forestry owners and local communities in the Caragh and Blackwater catchments in an effort to restore the Freshwater Pearl Mussel populations, which are highly endangered in Europe. WOI developed the forestry actions for this project during the application phase. [www.kerrylife.ie](http://www.kerrylife.ie)

Finally, as a member of the Irish Deer Management Forum, WOI attended all steering committee meetings and Data Collection and Research working group meetings, which will address requirements for future deer management nationally.

[www.woodlandsofireland.com](http://www.woodlandsofireland.com)

## Wicklow Uplands Council

In 2015 Wicklow Uplands Council (WUC) continued to represent the shared interests of the Wicklow uplands on a range of different committees and policy making forums. Communication was high on the agenda in 2015. Lenka Mulligan was employed as the new Communications Officer to develop and improve communications. Lenka has played an important role in promoting WUC and implementing the new Communications Plan (developed in 2015). In October 2015 a well-attended open workshop was held with WUC's four panels. It focused on shaping the future of the Wicklow uplands using a community led approach.

A big project for WUC in 2015 was the development of a trail route linking the village of Laragh to Rathdrum, the Avonmore Way (Slí Abhainn Mór). The trail development was completed in 2015 and is due to be launched in early 2016. The long-term vision for the route is an eastern Greenway.

WUC continued to support hill farming and worked towards the recommendations of our 2013 report, 'A Study to Identify Best Management of Upland Habitats in County Wicklow'. A key recommendation of this was the establishment of a Locally-led Upland Agri-Environment Scheme. WUC worked hard for the establishment of such a scheme for upland areas and following the review of the Rural Development Programme in 2015 there is now provision for it.

In preparation for an expected competitive application process WUC completed of 'An Inventory of Biodiversity for the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands' to establish a baseline of biodiversity for the area. After years of lobbying for an extension in burning dates the December 2015 announcement of the proposed pilot measures to allow for controlled burning during March was welcomed.

WUC submitted on the review of Section 40 of the Wildlife Act in 2015 and advocated the need for an extension of the burning season to allow for best practice in upland habitat management. This will be crucial for the success of the Locally-led Scheme.

In 2015 WUC continued to administer the Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments project (PURE). Since its establishment in 2006 the PURE Project had removed over 2,400 tonnes of illegal dumping from the landscape and engaged over 70 local community groups to take ownership of a PURE Mile. This is an outstanding project which has greatly benefitted the upland communities.

WUC ran a very successful photography competition in 2015 themed 'From Corries to Coast - A Celebration of Wicklow's Geological Heritage'. The aim was to acknowledge the diversity, beauty and significance of geology in County Wicklow and its contribution to quality of life, health and wealth. The winners were displayed at an exhibition in Blessington, Co. Wicklow, as part of Heritage Week 2015.

- WUC represents over 50 diverse member groups and individuals
- Every €1 received from the Heritage Council is matched by €2.40 in leveraged core and project funding
- The PURE project was officially launched in September 2006 and at the end of 2015 had:
  - Received over 7,435 reports of illegal dumping,
  - Collected waste from over 7,348 individual sites
  - Removed over 2,463 tonnes of rubbish from the landscape
- WUC has developed 13 village interpretative panels to date in local communities with their support

[www.wicklowuplands.ie](http://www.wicklowuplands.ie)



View between Lough Dan & Lough Tay, Wicklow - c Nichola Keegan

### **Wise Use of Wetlands Conference**

Wetlands are the key biodiversity and ecosystem resource in County Monaghan and their mapping, survey and promotion have been important activities for the County Heritage Plan since 2006. The conference was delivered as a partnership between Monaghan County Council, Heritage Council and the Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee (IRWC).

The conference attracted an audience of one hundred and had both a national and an international dimension to it. It aimed to build collaboration between scientists, policy makers, practitioners and community groups; connections were successfully made.. The Secretary General of the International Ramsar Convention for Wetlands, Mr. Christopher Briggs, delivered a keynote address at the conference and attended the IRWC meeting the following day in Monaghan. The Minister for DoAHG opened the conference.



Top left: Avonmore Way, Wicklow Top right: © Martin Kiely BurrenBeo Trust  
 Bottom left: At the Launch of the Forest Service Native Woodland Scheme at the National Ploughing Championship in September were (l to r) Declan Little, Woodlands of Ireland, Tom Hayes, TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Forestry at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and John Madden, Forest Service Inspector, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.  
 Bottom right: Archaeologists from Rubicon Heritage undertaking a dig at Ardagh Martello Tower, Bere Island in October 2015

# INCREASING SUSTAINABILITY

## Bere Island Project Group

The Bere Island Conservation Plan was created in 2003 in order to preserve the island's unique environment and heritage and to promote the sustainable development of the island.

Lonehort Battery is the largest of Bere Island's World War One fortifications. A licence has been obtained from the Department of Defence to develop the battery as a visitor attraction. In late 2015 funding was awarded from Cork County Council to erect fencing around the perimeter of a deep moat surrounding the battery. Island workers on FAS and RSS schemes continue to work in the battery undertaking basic maintenance.

A number of events were organised for Heritage Week including:

- Two guided military history walks
- An exhibition of old island photographs
- A talk by Rubicon Heritage on Bere Island's 19th Century Napoleonic Defences

The Conservation Plan continues to promote cultural events on Bere Island. In 2015 the island held four performances by the West Cork Fit Up Theatre Festival, and an artist-in-residence project was facilitated which culminated in an exhibition 'The Museum of Miniature.'

Rubicon Heritage was facilitated in the continuance of their work on the island's Napoleonic Defences, and a dig was undertaken adjacent to Ardagh Martello Tower to expose a gun emplacement.

The Conservation Plan continued to support the Bere Island Tourism and Environment Group. Four walking weekends were arranged throughout the year and a flyer promoting island events and businesses was produced.

The work of the Waste Management Group and Tidy Island Committee was supported in 2015, overseeing the running of the island's recycling centre and the removal of scrap cars. Bere Island won the Tidy Towns award Tidy Island for the ninth consecutive year.

The Conservation Plan Development Worker continued to work closely with the Bere Island Heritage Centre, assisting with historical research and genealogy queries, and promoting events marking the island's history.

The Bere Island Aquaculture Group was supported in their work of cultivating oysters and seaweed. In 2015 the group sold their entire first crop of mature oysters, continued work with the current crop, and purchased a further 20,000 oyster seed.

In 2015, in consultation with the island population, a full review of the Conservation Plan was carried out; findings are now being finalised.

[www.bereisland.net](http://www.bereisland.net)

# ENGAGING THE IRISH DIASPORA

## Ireland Reaching Out

Ireland Reaching Out (Ireland XO) is a volunteer-based, non-profit initiative which builds vibrant, lasting links between the global Irish diaspora and parishes of origin in Ireland. It is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and also receives Heritage Council support and funding. The programme is based on a simple idea; reverse genealogy. Instead of waiting for people of Irish descent to trace their roots IrelandXO volunteers worldwide are networking with people in their local areas, helping to build bridges between the present and the past by connecting them with their ancestors' home parishes.

### Ireland XO 2015

- Continued to develop its national and international volunteer networks
- Supported parishes in setting up local Reaching Out groups to engage with diaspora
- In June the new IrelandXO website was launched. It offers every local community an enhanced parish profile and platform from which to connect with diaspora. The theme -Awaken Your Irish Spirit- speaks to both those whose ancestors are long gone from Irish shores and also recent emigrants who can remain involved with their parish of origin while abroad.
- IrelandXO produced an online exhibition - promoted on social media - Water Pumps in North Galway during National Heritage Week. Their design and location give an indication of how life was (particularly in rural Ireland) before mains water was available
- In July the images from Water Pumps in North Galway were recorded and GPS co-ordinates listed so that everyone can access them
- Clare Doyle, the Heritage Resource Manager, represented IrelandXO at the Athenry Medieval Festival
- In August, to coincide with the Tulla Reaching Out Weekend of Welcomes, the Epic Journeys exhibition was launched. The 71 stories researched as part of Epic Journeys reflects the lives of those emigrants and their descendants. This project will evolve as others add to it
- The Volunteers of the Year Awards were presented by Minister Deenihan at the NLI Dublin in December. Awards went to: Tim Lee of Bourney, Co. Tipperary; Carmel O'Callaghan, Bailieborough, Co. Cavan; Tom Hussey, Cahir, Co. Tipperary.
- IrelandXO had significant online reach in 2015 with 8,600 Facebook likes, 80,500 registered users and 23,800 message board posts.

[www.irelandxo.com](http://www.irelandxo.com)



Ireland xo Website launch: June 2015 with Minister Deenihan at Iveagh House, Dublin

# DEVELOPING TRADITIONAL SKILLS

The inaugural Mulranny Stone Wall and Lime Workshop (May 8 - 10 2015) by Mayo Heritage Office was held in conjunction with Building Limes Forum. Ireland. . The aims of the workshop were:

1. To promote awareness of these traditional skills and keep them alive
2. To encourage expertise and understanding in the use of building lime
3. To take care of our heritage

Aimed at local authority staff, RSS participants and the local communities, the workshop consisted of a combination of talks, practical work, case studies and demonstrations by conservation professionals and experienced craftsmen. The Stone Wall Workshop was led by renowned Irish stone wall expert and author, Pat McAfee, and Canadian traditional restoration mason and dry stone wall craftsman, John Shaw-Rimington. During the weekend a section of the collapsed stone wall on the Great Western Greenway approach to Mulranny was repaired.





# **Manage Heritage:** Managing and Conserving for Sustainable Development

The third goal laid out in the Heritage Council  
Strategic Plan 2012-2016 is to manage and conserve heritage  
to contribute to sustainable development.

# IMPROVING HERITAGE DATA

## Discovery Programme

The Discovery Programme (DP) is an all-Ireland centre for archaeology and heritage research; the Heritage Council is its core funder. Its primary aim is to benefit the community by enhancing the understanding of Ireland's past - through research in the humanities and sciences - and promoting an appreciation of Ireland's archaeological heritage - through education and outreach programmes.

This was a busy year for the DP with significant advances in new and ongoing projects. The Late Roman and Iron Age project came to completion with the publication of a volume of essays (DP Report 8): The Monastic Ireland AD 1100-1700: Landscape and Settlement Project. Funded by the Irish Research Council, it is collaboration between the DP, TCD and UCD.

Successful field surveys carried out:

1. Ferns, Co. Wexford
2. Kilmacduagh, Co. Galway
3. Kilcrea, Co. Cork
4. Moyne, Co. Mayo.

In August 2015 a major international conference entitled 'Monastic Europe: Landscape and Settlement' was held in Ennis. The Fáilte Ireland funded 'Monastic Ireland; Wild Atlantic Way' (Series 1) booklet, was launched at this event.

Dr Roseanne Schott was appointed to the Tara Research Project in December. Roseanne began the analysis of all the topographical survey data collected over the last ten years with a view to publication of a volume and drawing up a research strategy for Tara. This project also involves collaboration with NUI Galway and the Römisch-Germanische Kommission, Frankfurt.

The EU projects continued to develop their work:

- The LoCloud Project focused on the Leo Swan Aerial Photography online project and the collections of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland
- The 3D Icons Project continued to record further sites and research other applications for this technology. Their digital collection ([www.3dicons.ie](http://www.3dicons.ie)) was launched by the Minister for DoAHG in April.

Staff members took part in a wide range of national and international conferences as well as the Archaeofest event for National Heritage Week. Collaborative projects with the OPW and the Ogham in 3D project with the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies continued with the recording of sites such as Skellig Michael and further ogham stones in state care.

<https://ogham.celt.dias.ie>

Archaeology 2025 was initiated by the Royal Irish Academy Standing Committee on Archaeology and with funding from the DP, Mary Teehan was appointed coordinator. The aim is to produce a ten year strategy which will inform the course for Irish archaeology and its place in the national cultural heritage infrastructure. Consultation with stakeholders at an all-island and EU level is taking place and a series of focus groups were held in November.

As set out in the Articles of Association of the DP Ltd. the Heritage Council appoints three ordinary members to the Board of Directors and the Chair of the Board. In 2015 the Heritage Council publicly advertised these pro-bono vacancies through the new website [stateboards.ie](http://stateboards.ie). Consequentially, four members were appointed to the board of the DP: Dr Ruth Johnson, Ms Beatrice Kelly, Dr Finbar McCormack (Chair) and Ms Deirdre O'Hara.

[discoveryprogramme.ie](http://discoveryprogramme.ie)

### **Dublin Excavations Data**

Dublin Archaeology Data brings together the licensed excavations reports with the topographic files from the National Museum and planning data from the local authorities. The Heritage Council is delighted by the outcome of this four year project. It was supported from the outset by the County Heritage Plan Programme, after starting in Dublin city it expanded into a fruitful co-operation between four Local Authorities, the National Monuments Service and the National Museum.

It is led by the Dublin City Heritage Officer and Dublin City Archaeologist of the Dublin Local Authorities, and involves many of their colleagues. The Dublin Archaeology viewer is a much needed tool – a ground breaking step - to advance archaeological research and practice, not only in the Dublin region but across the entire country.



Top: Laser scan pointcloud of Askeaton Castle, Co. Limerick. This image is generated from more than 1 billion individual scan points  
Bottom left: Padraig Brennan Bord Bia, Dr Liam Lysaght National Biodiversity Data Centre, Michael Starrett signing the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.  
Bottom right: A view from the south peak of Skellig Michael.

### National Biodiversity Data Centre - Continued Growth of National Biodiversity Database

2015 saw continued growth in the amount of data mapped through the online biodiversity data portal Biodiversity Maps. At the end of 2015 the system mapped 3,704,613 records of 15,195 species from 117 datasets. The Data Centre provides online record management system to 1,800 recorders, who submitted on average 3,500 records per month through the records submission system. This data contributes to the National Biodiversity Database and is available to inform decision-making.

[maps.biodiversityireland.ie](http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie)

### Publication of All-Ireland Pollination Plan 2015-2020

In September, the National Biodiversity Data Centre published the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The Plan has been endorsed by 68 governmental and non-governmental organisations, and identifies 81 actions to make Ireland more pollinator-friendly. With the publication of the Plan, Ireland now joins a small number of countries in Europe to have developed a strategy to address pollinator decline and to protect the pollinator services.

[www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/irish-pollinator-initiative/all-ireland-pollinator-plan](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/irish-pollinator-initiative/all-ireland-pollinator-plan)

### National Biodiversity Indicators

The National Biodiversity Data Centre has released the first set of National Biodiversity Indicators, designed to summarise trends in the health of Ireland's species, landscapes and seascapes. They also track broad changes in Irish society's relationship with wildlife. The suite of indicators was compiled from information provided by both governmental and non-governmental organisations.

For the first time in Ireland, the National Biodiversity Indicators provide a unique insight into how Ireland is fairing in terms of meeting its national and international targets for conservation. Taken together, the indicators demonstrate that more concerted action is needed if Ireland is to meet targets set out in the National Biodiversity Plan; the European Union; and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Ireland is now the fifth country in Europe to develop a suite of National Biodiversity Indicators.

The assessment reveals:

- Inadequate progress on 60%
- Good progress on 32%:
- Uncertain results on 8%

[indicators.biodiversityireland.ie/](http://indicators.biodiversityireland.ie/)

## Heritage Maps

Work continued on the development of our new, upgraded Heritage Maps viewer which will benefit from a more sophisticated user-interface and improved dataset quality. A working version is available at [heritagemaps.ie](http://heritagemaps.ie). The new viewer interface allows the development of individual thematic viewers within the Heritage Maps portal.

Work continued on the previous year's datasets, which were created by the Heritage Council, including: Museums, Archives, Collections; Irish Pilgrim Paths and IWTN. These, and other datasets, were published in open-data formats on both [data.gov.ie](http://data.gov.ie) (as part of the Dept. of Public Expenditure and Reform initiative) and also on the Irish Spatial Data Exchange.

Visits were made to Local Authorities to collect and collate many new heritage-related datasets from Heritage Officers and GIS/Planning departments. The Local Authorities visited in 2015 were Clare, Cork, Dublin City, Fingal, Kildare, Kilkenny, Limerick, Laois, Waterford and Wicklow. The new datasets from these visits is now available on [heritagemaps.ie](http://heritagemaps.ie).

Heritage Maps Usage:

- Over 2,200 individual users last year, over 50% of which were consistent repeat users
- Dublin City accounted for almost 40% of entire usage
- Over 30% of user traffic came from outside Ireland
- UK and US users accounted for 20% of Heritage Maps usage

[www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)

## Oscail Cultural Heritage Data Programme

In order to bring forward a proposal for Oscail (a cultural heritage data programme) the Heritage Council and DP have been working with a group of agencies and departments including:

1. The National Monuments Service,
2. The National Museum of Ireland,
3. The Transport Infrastructure Ireland
4. The Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI)

The proposal draws attention to the wealth and potential of Ireland's cultural heritage archives and proposes a long-term infrastructural strategy to bring this data into the digital age. Oscail builds on previous work by the Heritage Council for the National Biodiversity Data Centre and Heritage Maps, and that of the DP on the EU ARIADNE programme and also investment made in the DRI. Our joint discussions have already produced results, including the findings of an in-depth survey undertaken by the DP under the ARIADNE project and the preparation of the National Roads Authority's archaeological datasets for absorption into DRI.

The DRI has invested five years of research into creating a long term preservation and access solution for humanities and social science data. Oscail builds on this, creating a cultural heritage data hub consisting of a federation of agencies and government departments. A core central team, in collaboration with the DRI, provide management.

A primary objective of this proposal is to tackle issues relating to the curation of archives in each agency and government department and to support the infrastructure needed to make these archives available online, and where possible, as open data.

Initially, it is proposed that Oscail's activities focus on archaeological data, as access to recent excavation data is limited. Later phases of the programme will examine the potential of other datasets of national importance, such as cultural landscapes and oral history.

### **National Landcover and Habitat Mapping Programme: Joint Proposal**

The Heritage Council is involved in a consortium of six departments and agencies (HC, NPWS, EPA, OSI, Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, Teagasc) which is seeking support for a national programme on land cover and habitat mapping. This programme will build on the best practice guidance developed by Council for habitat survey and mapping in 2011.

Since 2012 this consortium has sought support on the most effective way to collect this much needed national data set. The proposal evolved out of high level negotiations between the partners over two and half years, and research on remote land cover mapping techniques pioneered by the EPA.

This data set is vital to a wide variety of areas:

1. Land use planning
2. Key infrastructure developments
3. Agricultural and forestry strategies
4. Water management
5. Environmental monitoring and reporting
6. Climate change mitigation and adaptation
7. Heritage management
8. Tourism and recreation planning

A land cover dataset will inform the NLS by providing identification of landscape character areas, and will assist in meeting international responsibilities under European Landscape Convention, Habitats and Birds Directive, EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.

In the late spring of 2015 the memo was sent to Minister Heather Humphreys TD, presenting options for delivering an efficient, cost-effective national land cover and habitat mapping programme ('The Programme'). The minister's response to The Programme was positive and the NPWS has been charged to advance the idea with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, while simultaneously exploring other options for funding with the organisations involved in the initiative.



Top left: Ecclesiastical Audit by Kerry Heritage Officer

Top right: Heritage Guide to Monasterboice, Co. Louth

Bottom: (left to right) Mary Lalor, Cllr. Willie Aird, Matt Barrett, Anna Marie Delany (then Director of Services with Laois County Council, now Chief Executive of Offaly County Council) and Teddy Fennelly attending the launch of the Laois Heritage Plan at Round wood House, Mountrath. The picture is by Michael Scully.

# The Heritage Officer Programme

## The Heritage Officer Programme - a Partnership Between Local Authorities and the Heritage Council

28 County Heritage Officers are employed in County and City Councils in a joint venture between the Heritage Council and Local Authorities. Heritage Officers work to promote the value of our wildlife, buildings, archaeology and landscapes in local communities and within local authorities.

The Heritage Council provides financial, technical, training, development and networking support for County Heritage Officers. A subvention of 25% towards salary costs is paid by the Heritage Council to Local Authorities who participate in the County Heritage Officer Programme.

County Heritage Officers establish County Heritage Fora which are a working committee of heritage stakeholders who advise and input on the preparation and implementation of County Heritage Plans. The Heritage Council provides financial assistance of 75% for the implementation of an agreed number of County Heritage Plan projects on an annual basis.

The Heritage Council advocates for both an enhanced County Heritage Officer and broader heritage service at county level. The Heritage Council favours the establishment of a comprehensive County Heritage Service providing Local Authorities with an enhanced level of heritage expertise and capacity through the employment of a full cohort of County Heritage Officers, Assistant Heritage Officers, County Biodiversity Officers, County Archaeologists, County Archivists, County Curators and Conservation Officers.

Heritage Officers work to promote the value of our wildlife, buildings, archaeology and landscapes in local communities and within local authorities.

Here is just some of the work done in 2015 by Heritage Officers across Ireland with the support of the Heritage Council County Heritage Plan Grants.:

### Co. Clare

The North Clare Bridge Survey aimed to improve understanding of the stock of bridges of heritage interest in the county. This study is the first step towards the management and conservation of bridges of all types, which form a part of the civil engineering heritage of County Clare. 168 bridge sites were identified and surveyed. The survey recommends that 12 more bridges are worthy of statutory protection and should be included on the RPS for Clare and many bridges were judged to be of local significance.

### Cork City

Cork Heritage Open Day focuses on built heritage. On the first Saturday of Heritage Week, 40 buildings which are not usually open to the public opened their doors for one day, free of charge. A varied programme of nearly 50 events included the Coal Quay Festival and Medieval Day with an estimated highest visitor number yet of 25,000 people participating on the day.

### Cork County

The publication 'Heritage Churches of County Cork' provides a background to Christian places of worship in Cork and examines how they developed over time. This project involved the active engagement of the Heritage Unit in consultation with Dan Noonan Archaeological Services and numerous Heritage groups throughout the County. It is the third instalment in a series which was shortlisted for the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2015.

### **Co. Donegal**

Over 70 people attended the Dry-Stone Walls Seminar and Demonstrations organised by the County Donegal Heritage Office in conjunction with the Dry Stone Wall Association of Ireland in Gleann Cholm Cille / Glencolmcille on Saturday, June 20. The aims of the seminar were:

1. To raise awareness of dry-stone wall types and methods of construction
2. Disseminate information on regional variations of types, geology and historical field patterns
3. Engage people in their conservation and convey their cultural heritage significance and promote best practice in their management

### **Galway County**

The Lough Derg Heritage Project continued with the launch of 'Go Wild in Lough Derg', a natural heritage trail and associated seminar in the Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna in April 2015. During Heritage Week a bus tour - 'Go Explore: Lough Derg' – went from Portumna around the lake. Work continued on A Cultural Trail for Lough Derg and the services of a heritage Consultant were procured to write the text. The booklet will be printed at the end of 2015.

### **Co. Kerry**

In April 2015 Kerry County Council begun phase 1 of a detailed Ecclesiastical Heritage Audit of the County. Heritage consultants John Cronin & Associates were commissioned to undertake the audit. The aims for phase 1 were to:

- Audit, record and document the interior fabric of all post 18th Century buildings of active worship within the South and West Kerry Municipal District Area.
- To design a Kerry Ecclesiastical Heritage database and website onto which the collected data would be uploaded.
- To provide training to the clergy and other local custodians of the post 18th Century buildings of active worship in the use of the database and to provide a user friendly manual both in a digital and paper format.

### **Co. Kilkenny**

The Kilkenny Fieldnames Project comprised the following: recording over 1000 fieldnames in 25 townlands; providing training & support to volunteers in Castlecomer, Conahy, Freshford, Inistioge, Lisdowney and Goresbridge; also to teachers of transition year students Colaiste Mhuire Johnstown; organising exhibitions about the project for Heritage Week, in Castlecomer Library; Ionad Dara Centre Goresbridge; Abhainn Ri Community Centre Inistioge; analysis of all 6000 fieldnames collected to date and translation of Irish fieldnames.



Top: Members of the Wicklow Heritage Forum with Minister Simon Harris at the Heritage Buildings Show held in Glendalough in Sept. 2015 Middle left: Drystone Workshop-3662 Middle right: The stonecutting tradition of Ballyknockan, Co. Wicklow can be seen all around the village in the buildings of granite and in this lane used by the stonecutters. Bottom: St Colmans Cathedral in Cobh

### Co. Leitrim

The role of Heritage Officer was re-established in Leitrim in 2015 after a 12 year absence; this reflects a growing commitment to the value and importance of heritage generally within the county. Most of the work undertaken during 2015 concentrated on collecting and collating heritage data, identifying and liaising with heritage interest groups, heritage awareness and promotion.

### Co. Limerick

This year the Council, under the guidance of the Council Archaeologist, commissioned a structural and condition survey of Bouchier's Castle. This was part-funded by the Heritage Council. Bouchier's Castle is tower house located in Lough Gur, an archaeological landscape with over 130 listed monuments ranging from Neolithic to medieval times.

### Co. Longford

In partnership with the Geological Survey of Ireland, (GSI), a survey of 15 sites of geological interest in Co. Longford was undertaken. This produced detailed survey reports on 15 key sites in the county. This project was funded by the Heritage Council under its County Heritage Plan Scheme.

### Co. Louth

It was agreed that an attractive, concise guide to aspects of Louth's heritage was required. The magazine Archaeology Ireland produces four editions every year, each accompanied by a full colour guide to a particular aspect of Ireland's heritage. It has included Cooley, Drogheda, Faughart, and Louth. The Louth Heritage Officer has previously ordered reprints of these guides. In addition, Archaeology Ireland has been requested to produce Heritage Guides to Monasterboice and to the Route of An Táin Bo Cuailgne in Co. Louth. Louth's Local Enterprise Office has also commissioned a further one for Ardee in 2016.

### Co. Mayo

Biodiversity training was provided to seven Mayo communities, including Ballinrobe, Ballycastle, Cong, Kilkelly, Killala, Knock and Louisburgh. The main aim of the biodiversity training was to prepare local nature and wildlife plans for the selected towns and villages. The plans consist of a list of projects that will run over a three year period for the benefit of nature and wildlife, and the environment, and the local community.

### Co. Monaghan

The County Monaghan Traditional Buildings Survey records a representative sample of the rural vernacular architecture of Co. Monaghan. Some 400 sites were recorded on between July and September 2015. This is intended as a sample rather than a comprehensive survey. There are 160 full records with an additional 250 records with photographs and location. The outlook for the stock of buildings surveyed is difficult. Co. Monaghan's vernacular heritage is seriously threatened by:

- Changes in the rural economy
- Modern expectations in housing
- Lack of understanding of the heritage value of traditional houses

This study will increase the knowledge of what remains and be part of a larger national study shedding light on regional characteristics.

### **Co. Offaly**

Working closely with Offaly History and the Library Service a County Archive Strategy was drawn up. Archivist Lisa Shortall carried out the substantial task of sorting and cataloguing the Offaly County Archives in Tullamore Central Library. Particular focus was given to cataloguing the Belmont Mill collection (donated in 2003 following Offaly Mills Survey). The 17th century De Renzi manuscripts were conserved by the Muckcross Bindery along with the 1916 Minute Book. Work has also been done on the Offaly History Centre's extensive archive collection. Activity in this area resulted in the donation of Frances Johnson's drawings date? of St Catherine's Church of Ireland.

### **Co. Roscommon**

A Graveyard Survey Update and Recording project reviewed and updated the 2005 Roscommon Graveyard Survey and collated available data in electronic format for addition to the Graveyard Survey webpage. The updated graveyards webpage will be a central 'go to' site for all available data relating to graveyards in Co. Roscommon. The project also offered training for community groups in recording graveyards. A series of workshops were held around the county which concluded with a session in the IS Suite in the County Library where 15 participants were shown how to upload their data on to [www.historicgraves.com](http://www.historicgraves.com).

### **South Dublin County, Fingal , Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and Dublin City**

The fourth and final year of work on this joint Dublin Heritage Officers' project the Dublin County GIS Archaeology Project saw the completion of the collation and mapping on GIS all of the mainly inaccessible archaeological excavation licences and reports for the County of Dublin. Key stakeholders involved were The Heritage Council who provided grant assistance, The DoAHG, and the National Museum of Ireland. Other stakeholders included Wordwell Press, publisher of The Excavations Bulletin and host of the website [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie), and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland.

This year's project represents the fourth and final phase of this project - initiated by DCC Heritage Officer – which aimed to bring records for all of County Dublin into the database.

### **Co. Waterford**

Projects included Pattern and Patrons –a publication on the history, traditions and associated saints and cures of Holy Wells in Waterford. Written by local historian Eugene Broderick, the book provides a guide to the sacred wells around the county with the aim of encouraging people to re-visit these sites and appreciate one of the most ancient aspects of our heritage and their significance in terms of archaeology, history and culture.

### **Co. Wicklow**

The Blessington Lakeside Heritage Project was initiated by the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council in partnership with the communities of Ballyknockan, Lacken, Vallemount and Blessington. It is to create a digital oral history archive of the area and provide baseline information about the locality for the development of local tourism potential.

This accessible online database of local points of interest includes: Folklore, Heritage, Interviews/stories, History.

The information compiled to date is a permanent archive of the area. It is hosted on the county's community heritage website and can be expanded in coming years. The archive serves to provide the basis of developing local tourism outputs (e.g. brochures, trails, and signage). A heritage trail map has been designed as part of this project.

[www.countywicklowheritage.org](http://www.countywicklowheritage.org)

## County Heritage and Biodiversity Plans

In partnership with City and County Heritage Forum, Heritage Officers develop and implement heritage and biodiversity plans for their city or county. They contribute to new heritage policy at regional and national level. In 2015 85 County Heritage Plan projects shared Heritage Council funding of €719,345.

Heritage Officers work with other specialists within the Local Authority ensuring that legislation relating to natural and built heritage is considered at an early stage when projects are being developed. This protects heritage during necessary developments.

Heritage Officers contribute to the development of policy in City and County Development Plans. The plans highlight the strategic importance of heritage and each plan outlines proposals for management and promotion at a county level. In addition, Heritage Officers contribute to related plans and strategies, such as the new Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs) and County and City Heritage Plans.

The Cork City Heritage Plan (2015-2020) was launched in December 2015 with the Lord Mayor and the Heritage Forum present. The aim is: 'To protect and promote the heritage of Cork City and to place the care of our heritage at the heart of the community.'

This is the second Heritage Plan for Cork City and was prepared by the Cork City Council Heritage Officer, the Cork City Heritage Forum and Working Groups in consultation with the HC.

The County Donegal Heritage Office and the County Donegal Heritage Forum in partnership with the Heritage Council prepared the new five-year County Donegal Heritage Plan. The aims are:

- a) To raise awareness, understanding and appreciation of the rich and diverse heritage of the county
- b) To promote its conservation, enhancement and enjoyment
- c) To sustainably harness the economic, social and cultural benefits of heritage for current and future generations

The plan was adopted unanimously by Donegal County Council in July 2015 and will be launched in 2016.

A new Draft County Longford Heritage Plan - incorporating the County Biodiversity Action Plan - was developed and public consultation was invited. It will be formally adopted and published in 2016.

During 2015, the Heritage Office worked with Sligo Heritage Forum (SHF) to prepare a new Sligo County Heritage Plan for the period 2016-2020. Following a call for written submissions, the draft plan was prepared by the SHF. The draft plan was then presented to Sligo County Council (SCC) in advance of public consultation during Oct - Nov 2015. The Forum considered any further amendments prior to the adoption of the Heritage Plan by SCC in December 2015. The plan is scheduled to be launched in March 2016. Successful implementation of the third Sligo Heritage Plan will be dependent on the continued support of SCC and the HC, as well as sufficient resources of staff and funding.

### **Report on Value of Heritage**

The Heritage Officers in Kilkenny, Meath, Kildare and Cork City Councils commissioned Fitzpatrick's & Associates and Ecorys to undertake a Scoping Report to identify evidence-based data on the value of heritage. This project examined the value of heritage under these headings, at a local level, in four counties. The project was co-funded by the Heritage Council under the County Heritage Plan Programme.

### **County Heritage Forums**

County Heritage Forums are non-statutory advisory groups established to provide advice and guidance regarding the development and implementation of the County Heritage Plan. This is a partnership plan, co-ordinated by the Local Authority through the Heritage Officer, supported by The Heritage Council.

A County Heritage Forum comprises sectorial interests such as:

- Local government
- The County Development Board
- Landowners and farmers
- State agencies
- Local development agencies
- The education and heritage sector
- The community and voluntary sector

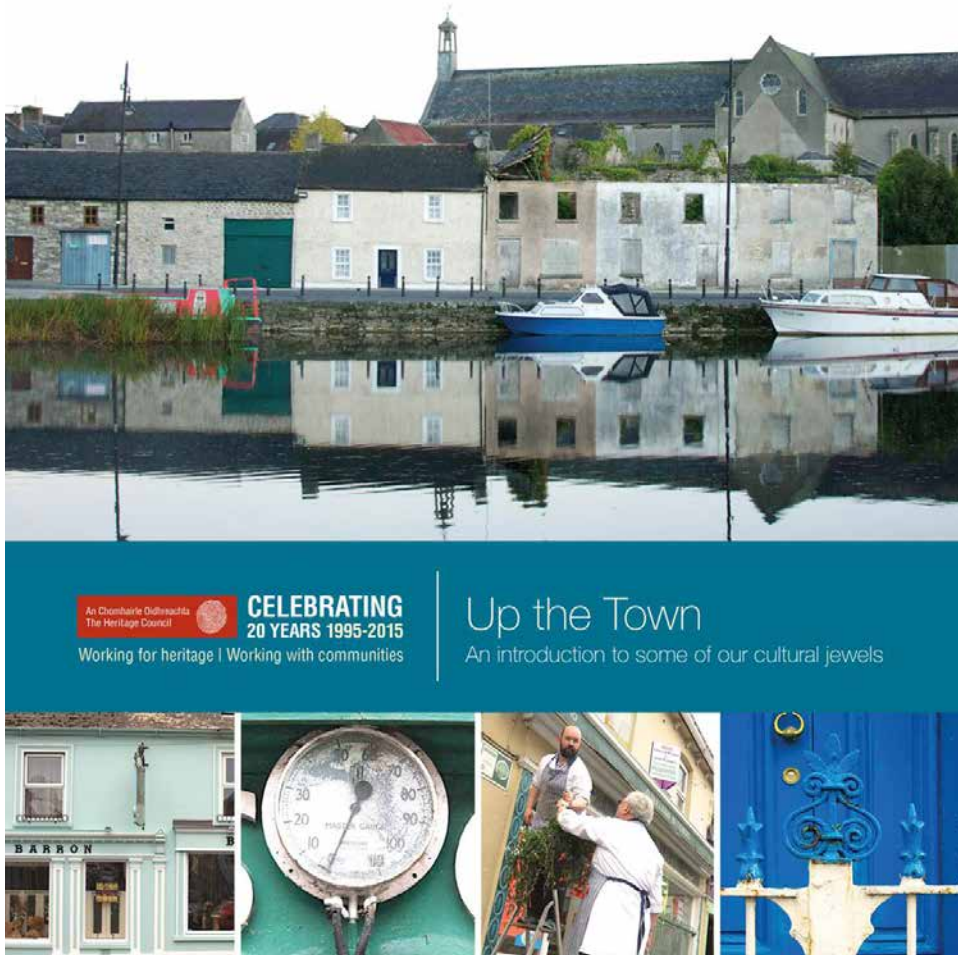
Each year the Forum considers and proposes actions and related projects that it hopes to deliver in the following year. Proposals may come either from local heritage organisations, schools or community groups - who have identified a particular heritage need at local level - or academic institutions, government organisations, the heritage officer or forum members.

# HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE

The Irish Landscape Institute and the Irish Georgian Society invited the Heritage Council to give a presentation at their joint conference in February 2015 entitled – Historic Landscapes: Loved, Lost or in Limbo?, which took place in Dublin. The Planning Officer's paper Landscape Management and Planning: Bridging the Gap highlighted the overwhelming need for innovative landscape legislation, policy and programmes and joined-up implementation of the NLS.

National Landscape Forum, 25th June 2015 – the Heritage Council was invited to give a presentation on the award-winning LCA CPD Course (2009-2011) and the Community-led VDS Toolkit and associated Training Workshop (for 100 civic leaders).

The Heritage Council worked in collaboration with the Irish Landscape Institute and the DoAHG on the delivery of a LCA Training Seminar in Dublin in November 2015. Council gave a presentation on Public Participation and Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). Council also co-organised the afternoon workshop which was entitled – The NLS: What Next?



# HERITAGE AND URBAN REGENERATION

## Realising the Hidden Potential of Ireland's Towns Policies and Priorities for Their Future

Council took part in DIT's annual Regeneration Conference in Dublin, which included international speakers from Holland and the UK along with other speakers from Ireland. The theme of the event was New Beginnings: The City and Economic Resilience. Council's Planning Officer gave a paper on the award-winning Community-led VDS Toolkit which included an overview of how to design successful regeneration projects.

One third of Irish people live in towns which have suffered from a policy vacuum, poor planning and external pressures over the years. On 5 November 2015, the Heritage Council hosted a one day conference in Kilkenny to coincide with the launch of our 'Policy Proposals for Ireland's Towns'. The conference examined:

- The loss of vitality and value to the historic urban characters of many of our main streets, through both under-use and over-development.
- The need to better understand the social and economic factors which drive towns in order to manage the process of change and maximize the towns' value

The history of our governance and planning is one where thematic policy has been trumped by the electoral cycle. In that context towns have slowly become a 'hidden-Ireland' in policy terms. Individual towns, lacking the heft of numbers, have not had the policy or political pull to advance an agenda or command attention.

The programme gathered an extensive group of thought-provoking speakers whose aim was to agree a policy agenda to advocate for the economic future of Ireland's towns. Speakers included: Prof. Cathal O'Donoghue, Head of Teagasc Rural Economy and Development Programme; Grainne Shaffrey, Architect and Urban Designer; Kevin Leyden, Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, NUIG; Orla Murphy, Architect and author of the book 'Town'

In addition to planners and architects, the conference was of particular relevance to policy decision-makers working in community, regional and rural development.

## How Are Towns Doing?

On 4 November 2015, the day before the above conference, workshops and walking tours were held to compliment the conference. These explored Kilkenny to ascertain if it shared some of the problems and opportunities as other Irish towns. Themes included the links between towns and heritage tourism, the role of shopping in towns, and the Living City Initiative. The workshops encouraged participants to draw comparisons between Kilkenny and their home towns in advance of the conference the next day. The differences and similarities informed the discussions.

## Up The Town: An Introduction to Some of Our Cultural Jewels

Many Irish towns have unique features – significant historical monuments, beautiful riverside walks and fine architectural heritage. This Heritage Council publication aims to celebrate these individual attributes that add so much distinctive character to our towns for locals and visitors to enjoy.

It features the town of  
Fethard, Co Tipperary  
Killmallock, Co Limerick  
Cappoquin, Co Waterford  
Graiguenamanagh, Co Kilkenny  
Birr, Co Offaly

# DEVELOPING GOOD PRACTICE

## Management Plans

### Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan

In March 2015 the Heritage Council provided input to the draft Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan. The Heritage Council has a strong record of involvement in this World Heritage Site:

- As a research funder for Brú na Bóinne Research Framework, as a partner and co-o-funder of the Meath County Heritage Plan
- As a co-funder of aspects of the Knowth post-excavation analysis

Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan is due to be published in 2016.

### Listowel Heritage Regeneration Plan

As a follow-up to the pilot Historic Towns Initiative of 2013 – 14 the Heritage Council a co-funded a heritage regeneration plan for Listowel, Co Kerry. The plan, which is due to be finished in 2016, proposes a range of actions to support Listowel in managing its heritage and creating an attractive place to visit and live. A range of consultative workshops took place in 2015.

### Mayo Habitat Mapping and Management Plans

The habitat mapping project continued on from 2014. It involved the Mayo Heritage Officer, in partnership with the Heritage Council, and the local communities in each of the towns and villages. . Habitat surveying and mapping was undertaken at five locations in Mayo: Ballina, Foxford, Crossmolina, Balla and Mulranny. The aim of this project is to assess and evaluate the natural heritage of each of the towns and villages, and to prepare a biodiversity management plan for each area. Detailed recommendations in relation to habitat and biodiversity management were formulated to assist the local communities, including Tidy Town committees to realise the potential of their local areas.

The plans:

1. Identify opportunities for appropriate biodiversity enhancement and conservation
2. Recommend practical measures aimed at conserving and enhancing the natural heritage of the towns/villages
3. Explore opportunities for the development of educational and interpretative facilities for the towns and villages
4. Are of value to planners, engineers and other local authority staff for assessing and developing proposals for these areas

# GRANT PROJECTS

Here is a selection of Heritage Council grant aided projects. Many of these projects support rare and threatened aspects of our heritage and all of them tell a story. They contribute to local economies, improve our tourism product and allow people to be involved and contribute to their places.

## **Shackleton's Last Expedition: The Quest Cabin - Treatment & Interpretation**

The Athy Heritage Centre-Museum in Co. Kildare acquired the only surviving element of a polar expedition ship commanded by the Irish Polar Explorer Ernest Shackleton. The Heritage Council awarded a grant of €5,000 under the Community Based Heritage Grants Scheme towards conserving and interpreting the cabin - from the ship RYS Quest in which Shackleton died in 1922 - in the place of his birth and providing a permanent display of national and international significance.

The project will act as a focal point for the permanent display on Ernest Shackleton and his family's links with Kildare going back to the 17th century. Internationally, Shackleton stands as a colossus in terms of his leadership and achievements; this is a huge opportunity to reclaim his Irishness.

## **Swift Conservation Project**

The Heritage Council awarded a grant under the Community Based Heritage Grants Scheme towards this nationwide project continuing the very successful national volunteer-led survey of breeding Swifts to locate and record buildings and structures containing Swift colonies in villages, towns and cities across Ireland. Best-practice guidelines were produced for homeowners, business owners and groups such as Tidy Towns on how to conserve and encourage new colonies of Swifts in urban areas. The project raises awareness of the declines of Swifts in Ireland and the importance of urban areas for birds and biodiversity.

The Bird Atlas 2007-11 shows a 26% loss in range in Ireland since 1970 for Swifts. Volunteer research and survey work across Ireland is needed to help accurately map Swift colonies at town and street level, allowing for better protection of these important nest sites. The data collected will allow relevant authorities and decision makers to make informed decisions on planning and construction matters, and will also encourage them to implement best management practices for Swift conservation.

## **Ireland's Mineral Heritage: Contributions from the UCD mineral collection**

The Heritage Council awarded a grant of €4,000 under the Community Based Heritage Grants Scheme towards research and conservation of around 400 historic Irish minerals within the rescued UCD mineral collection.

Twenty volunteers computer catalogued all types of labels in the UCD mineral collection, researched individual specimens, added data to a National Museum of Ireland (NMI) database, photographed minerals, cleaned and cared for specimens, set up Flickr and Pinterest sites (each called 'Ireland's Mineral Heritage'), and were engaged in writing handouts on Irish minerals that occur in the UCD mineral collection on a county-by-county basis.

The second tranche of about 3,000 UCD minerals were rescued from the School of Geosciences in UCD, including Irish material. Minerals were analysed using UCD's desktop scanning electron microscope. Many articles, both peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed, were written to publicize the project and its ongoing results: these were in national and international journals or newsletters; and a book by Patrick Roycroft (648 Billion Sunrises: A Geological Miscellany of Ireland, 2015; Orpen Press) strongly featured aspects of Ireland's mineral heritage within it. Heritage Week events included a public talk and workshop on Ireland's mineral heritage, a geological walk to investigate the origin of the silver in Glendalough, and a guided tour of the building stones of Dublin.

Overall, Ireland's mineral heritage is being assembled, assessed, and publicized, and a substantial momentum now exists to grow awareness of Ireland's natural history, hitherto almost unknown both to the public and to geologists.

### **Conservation and Restoration of the only known Sand-boat in Ireland**

The Heritage Council awarded a grant of €3,500 under the Community Based Heritage Grants Scheme to West Cork Maritime Heritage Company towards the conservation and restoration of the only known sand-boat in Ireland. WCMHC was set up in Baltimore to promote the heritage of the village primarily through its maritime heritage.

Sand dredging using small boats formed a routine part of Irish rural life. This project set out to conserve and restore the only known surviving Irish Sand Boat 'The Saint Mary'. Lying in the boat yard at Old Court, Baltimore, the Sand Boat is now in poor condition. A report and photographic record was prepared identified which parts of the boat can be conserved along with what requires restoration. This specific phase of the project has concentrated on building a steel cradle to stabilize the Sand Boat, which will also allow it to be moved without further damage. A custom cradle was fabricated on site and built around the sand boat. In parallel with this stabilization process, volunteers conducted an extensive publicity campaign.

This project is the first phase in rescuing a piece of local heritage and culture, forming a focus for the retention and development of local expertise and community awareness.

### **Dromore Stables Bat Roost**

Dromore Stables in Co. Clare are an internationally important breeding site for the lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*),. The presence of the colony at the Stables has been known since the mid 1970s. The Heritage Council purchased the property in 1998 and since then measures have been taken to further safeguard and enhance both the roost and the surrounding habitat.

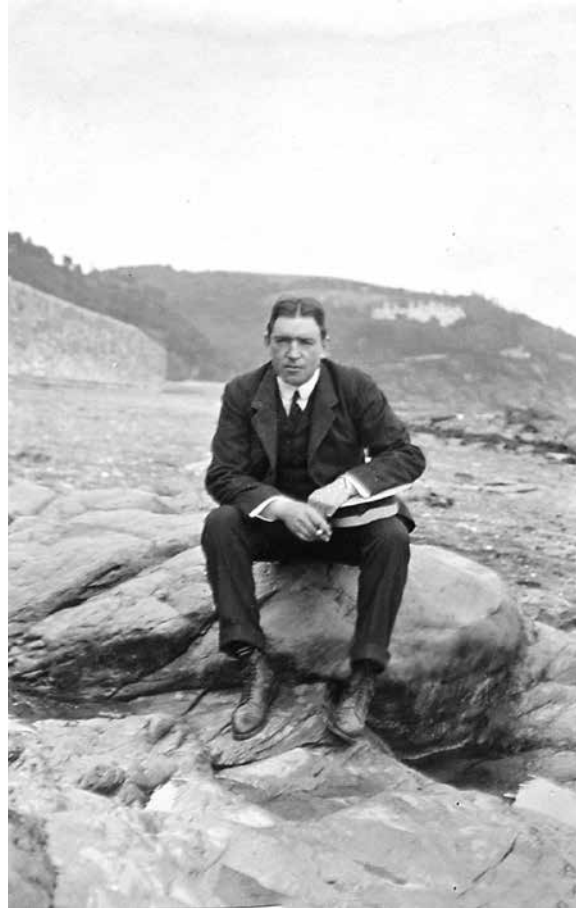
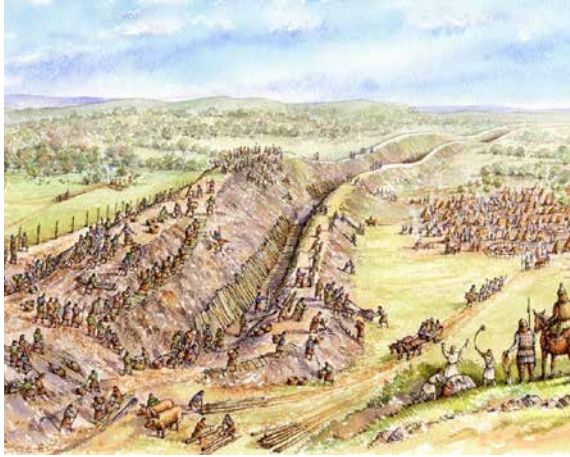
The lesser horseshoe bat is the smallest European horseshoe bat, but with the most northerly distribution. It is the only Irish bat species listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive and is the only horseshoe bat species to occur in Ireland.

Since January 2010 The Vincent Wildlife Trust has worked with The Heritage Council to undertake a range of measures to manage and monitor the Stables at various times.

Since 2007, emergence counts have been undertaken following guidelines from the National Parks and Wildlife Service; each summer bats are counted at dusk as they leave the building on two nights at fortnightly intervals, between the last week in May and the first week in July. Such counts reflect the number of adult bats, and the juveniles that have survived their first winter, and give some indication of the success of the colony from year to year.

Four emergence counts were undertaken with assistance from the Heritage Officer in Clare County Council and volunteers. The colony continues to undergo a sustained increase; the count of 305 adults in June 2015 is the highest count since 2002. Count results were passed to the NPWS and Bat Conservation Ireland.

This venture relies on cooperation between the Heritage Council, state agencies, voluntary bodies and volunteers.



Top left: Black Pigs Dyke at Agheragh West, Co. Monaghan  
Top right: Ernest Shackleton  
Middle: Sand Boat, Baltimore, Co. Cork  
Bottom: Uisneach, Co Westmeath

### **Gallon Church**

The Heritage Council awarded a grant of €4,000 under the Community Based Heritage Grants Scheme to the Killinkere Heritage Group towards repairs to this medieval church in Co. Cavan. The local community saw its repair as a key priority and negotiated the project through specification, consent under the National Monuments Act and on site conservation works.

### **Sustainable Future for the Historic Urban Core**

Under the Joint Programming Initiative for Cultural Heritage (JPICH) Joint Common Call for research projects one Irish project was funded in 2013. This project concluded in 2015. The project entitled a Sustainable Future for the Historic Urban Core (SHUC) is a collaborative project with the universities of TU Delft, Newcastle University, and University College Dublin. It was based on the premise that the management of the historic urban cores of European towns, which are a major European cultural asset face a range of challenges. The project set out to examine how varying management approaches have influenced functions and economic roles in the historic urban core, how can these relationships be captured in a common conceptual framework, as well as how approaches are reformed in each country.

### **Black Pigs Dyke**

This project, funded through the County Heritage Plan programme, continued in 2015. The Black Pigs Dyke is a series of later prehistoric linear earthworks (banks and ditches) running intermittently across the north midlands and south Ulster. This joint action by the Heritage Officers in the County Councils of Monaghan, Cavan, Longford, Roscommon and Leitrim carried out field work and survey, analysed environmental remains from the 1982 excavations on the Black Pigs Dyke earthwork at Aghareagh West, Co Monaghan, and carried out further sample analysis. The focus in 2016 will be on further analysis and on communicating the results of the investigations.

### **The Hill of Uisneach**

The Heritage Council awarded a grant of €5,000 under the Community Based Heritage Grants Scheme towards a Conservation Plan for the Hill of Uisneach in Co. Westmeath, an exceptionally rich cultural landscape and 'royal site' traditionally regarded as the umbilical centre of Ireland. The study characterises and assesses the heritage significance of Uisneach to facilitate effective management and conservation. It is hoped that the plan can be completed in 2016.

### **Conservation Repair Works on the Salthouse at Slade Harbour**

In 2015 the Hook Residents Association continued their strong record in heritage projects by starting conservation works on the Salthouse at Slade Harbour, on the Hook Peninsula, Co Wexford. This follows the completion of a Conservation Report (part funded by the Heritage Council in 2014) on the seventeenth century salt works. The Heritage Council awarded a grant of €3,500 under the Community Based Heritage Grants Scheme towards the project. Works in 2015 included developing a specification, the supervision of works and physical repair works to the stone building.



Slade Salthouse, Co Wexford

# Heritage Council Priorities For 2016

To date the Heritage Council has played a lead role in creating and supporting a community-based heritage infrastructure in Ireland that has delivered returns way beyond the State's investment. From Loop Head to Bere Island, from the Wicklow Uplands, to the Burren and beyond, rural community organisations, with modest support from the Council, are undertaking sustainable economic initiatives that generate jobs, support conservation and improve people's quality of life.

Many of these people and projects have won international awards for their work, and now need further financial investment if they are to continue to grow and develop. Working with them we have shown what is possible and that these benefits should be available everywhere in Ireland.

The Six-Point Plan can ensure the benefits of our national heritage are realised by local communities.

## Heritage Council's Six-Point Plan

### 1. Develop a Rural Towns and Villages Network

One third of Irish people live in towns, but over many years towns have suffered from a policy vacuum, poor planning and external pressures. Extensive research highlights the financial and employment benefits that arise from the conservation and restoration of historic buildings and streetscapes that help define the character of our towns. The development of a network would provide the targeted support so many towns in Ireland need. The Heritage Council proposes that this network is modelled on our Irish Walled Towns Network. The Network has produced and implemented Conservation Plans for many of the towns involved as well as bringing the story of our walled towns to the general public through events and festivals, resulting in aesthetic, economic and social improvements for the towns involved. Proof of the Network's ability was recognised in 2013 when the network was awarded a Europa Nostra Award for the innovative structure and collaborative approach adopted by the Network. The Living Cities tax initiative is welcome but needs to be reformulated if it is to be effective. It is recommended that a Living Towns Initiative should be devised and introduced that would provide allowances against income tax for owner-occupiers and investors. A much broader range of buildings should also be included.

### 2. Develop ten Irish Upland Partnerships

Modelled on the success of the Wicklow Uplands Council, these would tackle the ongoing crisis in the management of our rural areas and uplands. Recent research carried out by the Irish Uplands Forum identified the need for such partnerships in areas such as the Blackstairs mountains, the Comeraghs, the Bluestacks and many more. The complex network of users and beneficiaries of our uplands, including farmers, recreational users, wildlife conservationists, and those who live there is leading to an increasing number of issues that require a special community based management structure. The divided administrative boundaries result in a lack of joined-up approaches to resolving the competing interests of these various stakeholders. The proposed upland partnership model would provide a framework within which these could be resolved.

### **3. Enhanced Community Grants Programme**

Since 1995 the Heritage Council has supported over 6,000 heritage projects across Ireland with small-scale financial support. Many of these have gone on to gain recognition at national and international level as models of sustainable development. This funding support has helped change the way communities understand their heritage, and the value placed on it. It has supported the enthusiasm and interest of community organisations, working with professionals whose skills and expertise ensure good management and long-term care of heritage at local level. Ongoing support for community based heritage is essential. Because of the severe cuts to its budget during the recent recession, in 2013 the Heritage Council was unable to provide any support for its community grants scheme and in 2015 a budget of €547,042 supported 190 projects across Ireland. It is essential that this community grants scheme is restored to more realistic levels in the coming years.

### **4. Expanded Partnerships and Networks**

The work of the Heritage Council reaches into the heart of communities across Ireland through its network of 28 County Heritage Officers, who are employed by the Local Authorities. County Heritage Officers provide a structured and co-ordinated approach to managing and promoting local heritage and have played an important role in Local Authorities since 1999. The Heritage Council wants to see this local network given the resources they need to meet the demands at local level.

### **5. Expanded Schools Programme**

The Council's Heritage in Schools Scheme provides a panel of 175 heritage specialists who visit primary schools throughout the country. The specialist's areas of expertise range from bats to whales, from Vikings to the history of bread, from story-telling to traditional dance, and from charcoal making to military heritage. Over 80% of school visits take place outdoors. The scheme supports the school curriculum and provides an additional educational tool and resource for teachers. The visit is part-funded by the school and the Heritage Council. In 2015, 864 schools participated in the scheme, reaching 97,000 children. The success of the Heritage in Schools Programme is hampered by a lack of resources and capacity.

### **6. Programme to Enhance Local and Regional Museums**

Currently there is no policy or legislative basis for museums other than the national institutions. Supporting access to significant historic collections through an expanded Museums Standards Programme, including digitising collections, would have a range of advantages. On-line access to manuscripts, library and archival documents allows more people the opportunity to engage with these collections, whether for learning, developing new businesses, or enjoyment. Our cultural heritage collections and sites have the potential to become a new source of funding for research projects, enabling Ireland to take part in the European research funding programme, Horizon 2020.

# BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF 2015

## Council Board Members

1. Conor Newman (Chair)
2. Dr Ciara Breathnach
3. Prof. Gabriel Cooney (M)
4. Ted Creedon
5. Dr Brendan Dunford (M)
6. Dr Caro-Lynne Ferris (M)
7. Catherine Heaney
8. Mary Keenan
9. Dr Fidelma Mullane
10. Dr Kieran O'Connor
11. Michael Parsons



## Staff

1. Michael Starrett (Chief Executive)
2. Anne Barcoe
3. Gerard Croke
4. Ian Doyle
5. Paula Drohan
6. Alison Harvey
7. Beatrice Kelly
8. Martina Malone
9. Anna Meenan
10. Colm Murray
11. Amanda Ryan (M)
12. Christena Ryan (M)
13. Isabell Smyth
14. Liam Scott (M)



## Project Consultants

1. Lesley-Ann Hayden
2. Liam Mannix
3. Eimear O'Connell
4. Niamh Donnellan (M)

(M) - Missing from photograph

Four long standing Heritage Council members finished their second period of appointment in October 2015: Prof Gabriel Cooney, Dr Brendan Dunford, Caro-Lynne Ferris and Mary Keenan.



# RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY

## Heritage Council Board – Key Activities in 2015

The Heritage Council Board met formally on six occasions during 2015, as follows:

1. Thursday Feb 12th
2. Thursday April 23rd
3. Thursday June 18th
4. Thursday July 30th
5. Thursday October 1st
6. Friday December 4th

## Heritage Council – Staff 2015

In accordance with the provisions of existing and proposed national heritage legislation, the Heritage Council started 2015 with a very small team consisting of 14 full-time employees. This includes administrators, technical staff, a financial officer, and the Chief Executive. The Heritage Council's post of Wildlife Officer remains unfilled due to the on-going freeze on public sector appointments, which has been in place since 2008. It should also be highlighted that the post of the Heritage Council's Museums Officer has also remained unfilled since 2009 - again due to the recruitment freeze. These core staff reductions, coupled with the substantial reduction in the annual budget year on year since 2008, have had an enormous knockon effect on policy formulation, programmes, and initiatives aimed at the promotion, conservation, and protection of Ireland's world-renowned built, cultural and natural heritage.

Due to its diminished budget and staff numbers, the Heritage Council had four consultants who project manage the following heritage programmes and initiatives:

1. All-Island Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN)
2. Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI)
3. EU Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage (JPI CH)
4. Heritage Week Coordinator.

## Staff Training in 2015 – Investing in People

The Heritage Council is committed to continuing professional development (CPD) for all staff and to protecting and enhancing staff welfare on a day to day basis. Internal and external staff training undertaken in 2015 focused on a wide range of topics, as follows:

- Information Management Programme
- Heritage Council Phone System
- Heritage Council Safety Statement
- Risk Assessment Training
- Occupational First Aid Refresher Course
- Heritage and Community Fieldtrip to Graiguenamangh, Co. Kilkenny
- Staff Safety

## Sustainability – ‘Dual Use’ of Heritage Council HQ Building and Overview of Energy Usage in 2015

‘Dual Use’ of HQ Building The Heritage Council’s national headquarters – Áras na hOidhreachta (formerly the Church of Ireland Bishop’s Palace) is a national landmark building and protected structure on an elevated historic site in Kilkenny City Centre within the medieval Cathedral Quarter. The HQ building plays an important role in the daily life of Kilkenny City and is available for use throughout the year by the local community and public bodies as a venue for meetings and events, both during the day and in the evening.

A list of organisations that used the Heritage Council facilities in 2015 include (in alphabetical order):

- Allegro Community Orchestra;
- Barnstorm Theatre;
- HSE Health Promotion Department;
- Kilkenny Arts Festival;
- Kilkenny Scouts;
- LEADER Groups;
- Lifeline Kilkenny
- Mountaineering Ireland;
- The Butler Gallery; and
- Representative Church Body (RCB) Bishop of Cashel & Ossory, the Right Reverend Michael Burrows.

### HQ Building - Overview of Energy Usage in 2015

The Heritage Council’s headquarters dates from the fourteenth-century. The restoration of the building during 2007 took great care in preserving and protecting as much of the original fabric of the building as possible. It is difficult to introduce modern energy-conscious materials to a building of this kind while protecting its history.

The energy use for 2015 is down on the previous year, it is still in line to meet the 2020 deadline for a 33% reduction on the 2009 baseline. Energy usage is illustrated in the diagrams below.

In 2015, The Heritage Council consumed 164.9 mWh of energy, consisting of:

- 44.75 mWh of electricity;
- 120.1mWh of fossil fuels (Natural Gas).

### Actions Undertaken in 2015

In 2015 The Heritage Council undertook the following initiative to improve our energy performance, including:

- We under took a review of the electricity supply supplier and the MIC tariff applied to the building, the result of which was a change of electrical supplier and a change of the MIC applied to the supply of electricity which will result in an annual saving of approximately €3,300.
- We have registered with to SEAI for their energy advice and mentoring programme.

### Actions Planned for 2016

In 2016 The Heritage Council intends to further improve our energy performance by undertaking a reconfiguration of the boiler plant area, which would improve the efficiency of the solar collectors.

### Sustainable Travel - Heritage Council Travel to Work Area (TTWA) and Mode of Travel

The Heritage Council has a travel to work area (TTWA) which includes County Wicklow and County Carlow in the East, Wexford Town in the south east, and Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, in the south. 44% of the Heritage Council Team (8 out of 18 staff members walk, cycle, or get a lift to work either all year or during part of the year; and 100% of the Heritage Council Team (6 out of 6 staff members) who live in Kilkenny City walk, cycle or get a lift to work. The number of overall Heritage Council staff cycling to work has increased in recent years due to the Cycle to Work Scheme, which was introduced by the Irish Government in 2009.



# Heritage Council and Corporate Governance

The financial statements included in this section have not been certified by the Comptroller & Auditor General and are draft only.

Audit field work in respect of 2015 has been carried out but the financial statements cannot be certified by the Comptroller & Auditor General until the board is appointed and the financial statements are approved by the board.



## 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 Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies published by the Department of Finance in 2009.

The Heritage Council has established a Finance and Audit 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 complies with Government guidelines for the appraisal and management of Capital Expenditure in the public sector. The Heritage Council complies with all aspects of Government requirement for public procurement and competitive tender, including EU guidelines. Government policy on pay and directors' fees is also complied with. The Heritage Council is fully tax compliant and does not engage in 'offensive' tax avoidance transactions.

The Heritage Council is required to Comply with the requirements European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2012 (S.I. 580 of 2012).The Council's standard terms of credit taken, unless otherwise specified in contractual arrangements, are 30 days from the receipt of the 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 against material non-compliance.

A review of all payments made during the year ended 31 December 2015 shows 8 payments totalling €8,198.98 giving rise to an interest penalty of €422.03 under the above regulations.

With effect from 1 July 2011 The Heritage Council was required to comply with Government Decisions S29296 of 19 May 2009 and 2 and 8 March 2011 in relation to the 15 day prompt payment rule. The disclosures required in the memorandum for government supporting the above decisions are now detailed below.

### Period Covered: 01.01.2015 to 31.12.2015

Details	Number	Value (€)	Percentage (%) of total number of payments made
Number of payments made within 15 days	1686	1,509,920	91.58
Number of payments made within 16 days to 30 days	110	294,966	5.98
Number of payments made in excess of 30 days	45	209,523	2.44
Total payments made in Period	1841	2,014,409	100.00
[1]Disputed Invoices	0	0	

[1] Invoices received during the quarter and still under dispute at the end of the quarter.



# Financial Statements of the Heritage Council for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

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# REPORT OF COMPTROLLER & AUDITOR GENERAL

The Comptroller & Auditor General cannot issue his report until the accounts are approved by the board and signed. This cannot happen until the board is appointed by Minister Humphreys.

# STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL

Section 21(1) of the Heritage Act, 1995 requires the Council to prepare financial statements in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht after consultation with the Minister of Finance.

In preparing the financial statements, the council is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate
- to presume that the Heritage Council will continue in operation
- 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 proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Council and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with section 21(1) of the Act. The Council is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Heritage Council and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Council Member \_\_\_\_\_

Council Member \_\_\_\_\_

# STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL

On behalf of the members of Council I wish to acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated.

The system can 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 would be detected within a timely period.

## Key Control Procedures

- i) The council has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment is in place by:
- Agreeing a detailed work programme for each year, monitoring and evaluating progress against the work programme
  - Implementing financial procedures to control the significant financial elements of The Heritage Council's business
  - Maintaining a comprehensive schedule of insurances to protect The Heritage Council's interest
  - Reviewing and approving all Council policies and procedures
  - Establishing an Audit and Finance Committee to review the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control. The Committee met on 5 occasions in 2015. They reviewed reports from management on Procurement, Prompt Payments, Chair & CEO credit card expenditure, 2014 Financial Statements, budgets, internal financial meetings, finance circulars, Finance and Audit Committee terms of reference, data protection vis a vis financial statements, time and frequency of review of SIFC, matters raised by the C&AG arising from his audit and Prompt Payment Code. All suppliers with turnover in excess of €5,000 per annum with Council were also reviewed in detail.
  - Production of regular management information, segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability
  - Compliance with Department procedures as regards reporting and draw down of funds
  - Immediate and positive response to all items drawn to Council's attention in management letters from the Comptroller and Auditor General.
- ii) The system of internal financial controls is based on a framework of regular management information, a system of delegation and accountability, a set of financial procedures, administrative procedures including segregation of duties, and rigorous checks of the finance function. In particular it includes:
- Restricting authority for authorising disbursement of Council monies to designated officers.
  - Modern computerised Financial Accounting, Payroll and Fixed Asset Register software systems to underpin the internal financial controls of The Heritage Council.
  - Detailed procedures for engaging consultants.
- iii) The Council will develop a strategy for internal audit in 2016.
- iv) The Heritage Council is in the process of adopting the 2009 Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and the adoption of same is tabled at Council meetings from time to time. The Heritage Council is in the process of adopting a Code of Business Conduct for directors and employees in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice.

## Annual Review of Controls

The Council did not conduct a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial controls in operation in 2015. If resources allow a review will be carried out in Q4 2016.

Conor Newman \_\_\_\_\_

# STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND RETAINED REVENUE RESERVES

	Notes	2015 €	2014 €
<b>Income</b>			
Oireachtas Grant	2	5,996,398	5,978,000
Other Income	3	242,578	318,573
Net deferred funding for pensions	9 (c)	511,000	415,000
Transfer from Capital Account	4	252,583	223,796
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>7,002,559</u>	<u>6,935,369</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Grants	5	2,591,560	2,822,922
Policy Development	6(a)	817,571	925,472
Support for Heritage Infrastructure	6(b)	1,507,104	1,401,246
<b>Administration</b>			
Council members' honoraria & expenses	7	46,758	51,328
Committee members' expenses		2,307	968
Staff costs	8	1,360,738	1,285,677
Establishment expenses	10	268,810	249,174
Office supplies and administration	11	236,553	186,424
Depreciation	12	263,380	262,195
<b>Total Administration</b>		<u>2,178,546</u>	<u>2,035,766</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<u>7,094,781</u>	<u>7,185,406</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	22	(92,222)	(250,037)
Balance at 1st January, 2015		<u>758,861</u>	<u>1,008,898</u>
<b>Balance at 31 December 2015</b>		<u>666,639</u>	<u>758,861</u>

The results for the year relate to continuing operations.

The statement of Accounting Policies, Notes 1 to 24 and Schedule 1 form part of these financial statements.

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Council Member                  Council Member

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Council Member                  Council Member

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Michael Starrett                  Chief Executive

# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Notes	2015 €	2014 €
Surplus/(deficit) for year		(92,222)	(248,961)
Experience gains/ (losses) on pension scheme liabilities	9 (d)	(45,000)	94,000
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of pension scheme liabilities		<u>509,000</u>	<u>(1,896,000)</u>
Adjustments to Deferred Pension Funding		371,778	(2,050,961)
Total Recognised (Loss)/Gain for the year	9 (b)	<u>(464,000)</u>	<u>1,802,000</u>
		<u>(92,222)</u>	<u>(248,961)</u>

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Council Member                  Council Member

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Council Member                  Council Member

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Michael Starrett                  Chief Executive

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Notes	2015 €	2014 €
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	12	6,571,129	6,823,712
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors and Prepayments	13	286,143	235,179
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>980,523</u>	<u>1,172,993</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>1,266,666</b>	<b>1,408,171</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>			
General Creditors and Accruals		491,770	483,392
Grants Outstanding		<u>108,258</u>	<u>165,920</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	14	<b>600,028</b>	<b>649,312</b>
Net Current Assets		666,638	758,860
Total Assets less Current Liabilities Before Pensions		<u>7,237,767</u>	<u>7,582,572</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after one year</b>			
Deferred Pension Funding	9(b)	6,144,000	6,097,000
Pension Liabilities		<u>6,144,000</u>	<u>6,097,000</u>
		0	0
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>7,237,767</u>	<u>7,582,572</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>			
Capital Account	4	6,571,128	6,823,711
Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves		<u>666,639</u>	<u>758,861</u>
	22	<u>7,237,767</u>	<u>7,582,572</u>

The statement of Accounting Policies, Notes 1 to 24 and Schedule 1 form part of these financial statements.

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Council Member                  Council Member

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Council Member                  Council Member

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Michael Starrett                  Chief Executive

# STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

	Notes	2015 €	2014 €
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>			
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		<u>(92,222)</u>	<u>(250,037)</u>
<b>Adjustments for:</b>			
Depreciation		263,380	262,195
Amortisation		<u>(263,380)</u>	<u>(262,195)</u>
		0	0
Decrease/(Increase) on Debtors		(50,964)	14,268
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors and Accruals		<u>(49,284)</u>	<u>66,832</u>
		<u>(100,248)</u>	<u>81,100</u>
<b>Net Cash (used)/ generated from operating activities</b>		<u>(192,470)</u>	<u>(168,937)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of Tangible Assets		(10,797)	(38,400)
Receipt of Capital Government Grants		<u>10,797</u>	<u>38,400</u>
<b>Net Cash generated from investing activities</b>		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<u>(192,470)</u>	<u>(168,937)</u>
Cash and Cash equivalents at 1 January		1,172,993	1,341,929
<b>Cash and Cash equivalents at end of year</b>		<u>980,523</u>	<u>1,172,993</u>

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Council Member                  Council Member

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Council Member                  Council Member

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Michael Starrett                  Chief Executive

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Heritage Council was established under the Heritage Act, 1995. The general function of the Heritage Council is to propose policies and priorities for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of the national heritage and to promote its appreciation.

## ADOPTION OF FRS102

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with applicable Irish accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 - 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Financial Reporting Standard 102).

This is the first accounting period in which the financial statements have been prepared under Financial Reporting Standard 102. The date of transition to Financial Reporting Standard 102 is 1st January 2015.

Please refer to note 22 for an explanation of the impact of the transition to Financial Reporting Standard 102.

## Note 1. Accounting Policies

### 1. Oireachtas Grants

Oireachtas Grants are accounted for on a cash receipts basis.

### 2. Other Income

Other income is recognised when the right to receive the income has accrued to The Heritage Council.

### 3. 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 31 December 2015 are given in note 17.

### 4. Tangible Fixed Assets

Fixed assets of the Heritage Council are shown at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated in order to write off the cost of tangible assets over their estimated useful lives by equal annual instalments.

The depreciation rates used are:

Buildings	2.50%	Office Furniture	10%/20%
Leasehold	10.00%	Computers	25%
Office Equipment	20%	(Hardware & Software)	
Works of Art	0%	Reference Material and	20%
Motor Vehicles	20%	OSI Licences	
Plant & Equipment	20%/10%		

### 5. 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.

### 6. Stock

Stock comprising stationery and publications is written off in the year of purchase.

### 7. Leasing

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and included in tangible fixed assets and depreciated in accordance with

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

the Council policy.

## 8. Employee Benefits

The company provides a range of benefits to employees including paid holiday arrangements and defined benefit pension plans.

### (i) Short term benefits

Short term benefits, including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

## 9. Pensions

The Council operates a defined benefit pension scheme which is funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies provided by the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht and from contributions deducted from staff salaries. Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees in the period and are shown net of staff contributions which are retained by the 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 Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Pension liabilities represent the present value of future pension payments earned by staff to date. Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht.

## Note 2: Oireachtas Grants

The amount of €5,996,398 comprises Grants from the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht and the Environment Fund managed by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government as follows

	2015	2014
	€	€
Administration Grants (Department of Arts Heritage & Gaeltacht Vote 33, Subhead B.3.1)	1,468,000	1,468,000
Non-Capital Grants (Department of Arts Heritage & Gaeltacht Vote 33, Subhead B.3.2) (National Lottery funded)	1,587,000	1,337,000
Non Capital Grants (Department of Arts Heritage & Gaeltacht, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage)	25,569	25,000
Non Capital Grants (Environment Fund: Natural Heritage)	377,829	370,000
Capital Grants (Department of Arts Heritage & Gaeltacht, National Monuments Service)	0	40,000
Capital Grants ( Department of Arts Heritage & Gaeltacht Vote 33, Subhead B.3.1) (National Lottery funded)	1,688,000	1,688,000
Capital Grant (Environment Fund : Built Heritage)	850,000	1,050,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>5,996,398</u>	<u>5,978,000</u>

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Note 3: Other Income

	2015	2014
	€	€
Dept. of Agriculture Contribution towards Traditional Farm Buildings Scheme (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Vote 30, Subhead C.3.1)	65,848	75,272
Faite Ireland - Grant to Support Heritage Week	30,000	30,000
Irish Walled Towns Membership Fee & Seminar Income	67,500	65,807
Contribution of Local Authorities to Heritage Viewer Project	20,000	16,000
Council of Europe Funding towards Joint Programme for Cultural Heritage - Communications Element	30,486	79,183
Council of Europe Funding towards Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo - Delegation Visit to Ireland	0	9,400
Council of Europe Funding towards European Heritage Days Website Development	0	9,500
Council of Europe Funding towards European Heritage Days Workshop	1,190	0
Erasmus Train the Trainer Grant re: Buildings Limes	10,568	0
Conferences	10,265	0
Heritage Week Advertising	5,524	7,970
Insurance Settlements	1,114	25,325
Miscellaneous	83	106
Publications	0	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>242,578</u>	<u>318,573</u>

## Note 4: Capital Account

	2015	2014
	€	€
Balance at 1 January	6,823,711	7,047,507
<b>Transfer (to)/from Income and Expenditure Account</b>		
Amount allocated to fund fixed asset purchases	10,797	38,399
Less: Amortisation in line with depreciation	<u>(263,380)</u>	<u>(262,195)</u>
	<u>(252,583)</u>	<u>(223,796)</u>
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<u>6,571,128</u>	<u>6,823,711</u>

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Note 5: Grants

	2015	2014
	Total	Total
	€	€
Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research	39,961	43,873
Irish Walled Towns Network Grants towards Walled Towns Days	87,063	97,111
Irish Walled Towns Network Grants towards Capital Works	101,089	145,824
Management Grants	12,590	569,168
Conservation Led Plan Grants	0	20,838
Museum Standards Programme of Ireland Commemoration Conservation Grants	0	1,248
Policy & Infrastructure Grants	360,435	340,015
County Heritage Plan Grants	556,980	634,845
Community Based Heritage	463,442	0
Irish Landmark Trust Ltd. Note 15	220,000	220,000
Discovery Programme Ltd. Note 16	750,000	750,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>2,591,560</u></b>	<b><u>2,822,922</u></b>

Schedule 1 contains details of grants payable during the year

## Note 6(a) : Policy Expenditure

	2015	2014
	Total	Total
	€	€
Pilgrim Paths Promotion	2,775	1,151
Articulation of Heritage in National Landscape Policies	3,248	45,633
Evaluate Heritage Publications	400	1,975
Heritage in Schools	205,730	243,382
Heritage Week	295,552	272,758
Communciation of Council activities	112,386	71,015
Research & Studies	63,805	64,871
Publications	4,033	31,969
Council of Europe Funding towards Joint Programme for Cultural Heritage - Communications Element	30,486	79,183
Conservation Internships	14,444	40,000
Promotion of Preventative Maintenance	84,712	73,535
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>817,571</u></b>	<b><u>925,472</u></b>

Staff costs in respect of Traditional Farm Buildings Reps 4 project administration is included in "Promotion of Preventative Maintenance" of €84,712.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2015	2014
	Total	Total
	€	€
<b>Note 6(b): Heritage Infrastructure</b>		
National Biodiversity Data Centre	705,177	683,272
Field Monument Advisors database development	0	2,140
Museum Standards Programme	111,308	114,708
Heritage Officer Programme	538,160	501,810
Heritage Viewer	73,714	10,985
Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo - Delegation Costs	0	9,252
Irish Walled Towns Network Administration	78,745	79,079
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>1,507,104</u>	<u>1,401,246</u>

## Note 7: Council Members Fees & Expenses

	Fee	Expenses Claimed	Accommodation & Meals Provided	Total
	€	€	€	€
Conor Newman	0	4,251	462	4,713
Caro lynne Ferris	4,988	1,512	478	6,978
Gabriel Cooney	0	0	128	128
Mary Keenan	1,995	273	0	2,268
Brendan Dunford	0	0	0	0
Michael Parsons	0	1,365	270	1,635
Catherine Heaney	5,985	140	156	6,281
Fidelma Mullane	5,985	3,988	855	10,828
Ted Creedon	5,985	3,288	1,052	10,325
Ciara Breathnach	0	0	0	0
Kieran O'Conor	0	3,071	531	3,602
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>24,938</u>	<u>17,888</u>	<u>3,932</u>	<u>46,758</u>

Certain civil and public servants are not entitled to fees as Council members of The Heritage Council

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Note 8: Staff Costs

The average number of staff employed by the Heritage Council for the year was 14. This is comprised of The Heritage Council complement of 13 staff together with contract staff employed for specific projects. (2014 -14).

	2015	2014
	€	€
Staff salaries and wages	851,291	850,998
Pension Costs	454,000	358,000
Staff Well Being & Settlements	240	0
Travel and Expenses	48,875	58,228
Training	4,894	8,775
Holiday Accrual (Note 21)	1,438	9,676
	<u>1,360,738</u>	<u>1,285,677</u>

€56,371 was deducted from staff by way of pension levy and was paid over to the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht.

## CEO Remuneration Package

The CEO received salary payments of €109,451 in 2015. No bonus payments were made to the CEO. The CEO received recoupment of travel and subsistence expenses of €6,311. The CEO is a member of an unfunded defined benefit public sector scheme and his pension entitlements do not extend beyond the standard entitlements in the public sector defined benefit superannuation scheme.

	2015	2014
Employee benefits salary category	Number of employees	Number of employees
€60,000 TO €69,999	5	4
€70,000 TO €79,999	3	2
€80,000 TO €89,000	0	0
€90,000 TO €99,999	0	0
€100,000 TO €109,999	1	1

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Note 9: Superannuation Scheme

There was a defined contribution scheme with Scottish Provident in operation until 1 February 2003. In accordance with Section 20 of the Heritage Act 1995, the Council sought to establish a superannuation scheme for all permanent staff in line with the public sector model. Accordingly, two defined benefit schemes were approved by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht with effect from 1 February 2003 on an operational basis and apply to staff employed at that date in respect of qualifying past service. The Schemes are the Heritage Council Employee Superannuation Scheme, 2003 and the Heritage Council Spouse's and Children's Contributory Pension Scheme, 2003. These schemes are unfunded.

### (a) Analysis Of Total Pension Costs Charged To Expenditure

	2015	2014
	€	€
Gross Current Service Cost	376,000	265,000
Interest on Pension Scheme Liabilities	140,000	155,000
Employee Contributions	(62,000)	(62,000)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>454,000</u>	<u>358,000</u>

### (b) Changes to the present value of the defined benefit obligation during the period under review

	2015	2014
	€	€
Net Pension Liability at 1 December	(6,097,000)	(3,880,000)
Current Service Cost	(314,000)	(203,000)
Interest Cost	(140,000)	(155,000)
Employee Contributions	(62,000)	(62,000)
Actuarial gain/(loss)	464,000	(1,802,000)
Pension Payable	5,000	5,000
Net Pension Liability at 31 December	<u>(6,144,000)</u>	<u>(6,097,000)</u>

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## (c) Deferred Funding Asset For Pensions

The Heritage Council recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for pensions 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 superannuation scheme, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding of 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 Pensions recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account was as follows:

	2015	2014
	€	€
Funding Recoverable in respect of current year	516,000	420,000
Pension Payable	(5,000)	(5,000)
Total	<u>511,000</u>	<u>415,000</u>

The deferred funding asset for pensions at 31 December 2015 amounted to €6,144m (2014: €6.097m)

## (d) Experience gains and losses

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000
Experience Gains/ (Losses) on Scheme Liabilities *	(45)	94	267	1	51
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	-0.70%	1.54%	6.88%	0.03%	1.70%

\* 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.

## (d) General Description Of The Scheme

The pension 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 (one eightieth per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (three eightieths 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.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## (d) General Description Of The Scheme (contd.)

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 2015. 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 31 December 2015 and 31 December 2014.

The principal actuarial assumptions used by independent qualified actuaries to calculate the liabilities under FRS 102 are set out below:

<b>Assumptions</b>	<b>31/12/15</b>	<b>31/12/14</b>
Inflation	1.90%	1.80%
Rate of general long-term increase in salaries	3.40%	1% for one year and 3.3% thereafter
Rate of increase in state benefits	1.90%	0% for one years, 1.8% thereafter
Rate of increase in deferred benefits	2.40%	0% for one year and 2.3% thereafter
Pension Increases	2.40%	0% for one year and 2.3% thereafter
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	2.75%	2.30%

### **Mortality Assumptions**

At 31st December 2015, we have used updated 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 updated mortality assumptions, would be as follows (31 December 2014 life expectancies also provided for comparison):

	<b>31/12/15</b>	<b>31/12/14</b>
Life expectancy at age 65 (in years)		
Male, now aged 45	24.7	24.6
Male, now aged 65	22.8	22.7
Female, now aged 45	27.1	27.0
Female, now aged 65	25.0	24.9

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Note 10: Establishment expenses

	2015	2014
	€	€
Rent and service charge	23,884	30,066
Power, heat and light	20,914	21,706
Canteen, catering and cleaning	27,347	29,207
Meetings	15,624	18,012
Repairs, maintenance & security	94,414	119,998
Insurance	18,871	30,185
Year of 20th Anniversary Commemoration	67,756	0
	<u>268,810</u>	<u>249,174</u>

## Note 11: Office supplies and administration

	2015	2014
	€	€
Telephone and postage	21,510	24,829
Stationery, printing & office equipment repairs	29,893	13,824
Library	156	260
Computer supplies and maintenance	97,000	67,612
Professional fees	60,789	55,623
Sundry	3,437	2,067
Legal Fees	1,609	531
Subscriptions	8,184	8,152
Audit fee	9,900	9,900
Interest & Charges	2,029	3,086
Gifts	2,046	540
	<u>236,553</u>	<u>186,424</u>

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Note 12: Tangible Fixed Assets

	Buildings	Leasehold	Office Furniture	Office Equipment	Plant & Equipment	Computers	Reference Material & OSI Licences	Motor Vehicles	Works of Art	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
<b>COST</b>										
As at 1										
January 2015	8,064,752	429,417	224,812	184,341	18,147	801,308	457,204	20,703	203,217	10,403,901
Additions	0	0	0	8,785	0	2,012	0	0	0	10,797
Disposal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
As at 31										
December										
2015	8,064,752	429,417	224,812	193,126	18,147	803,320	457,204	20,703	203,217	10,414,698

## Accumulated Depreciation

As at 1 January										
2015	1,553,752	372,163	217,256	181,453	12,407	765,251	457,204	20,703	0	3,580,189
Charge for year	201,619	42,942	481	3,770	1,291	13,277	0	0	0	263,380
On disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
As at 31										
December 2015	1,755,371	415,105	217,737	185,223	13,698	778,528	457,204	20,703	0	3,843,569

## Net Book Amounts

As at										
1 January 2015	6,511,000	57,254	7,556	2,888	5,740	36,057	0	0	203,217	6,823,712
As at 31 December										
2015	6,309,381	14,312	7,075	7,903	4,449	24,792	0	0	203,217	6,571,129

## Note 13: Debtors and Prepayments

	2015	2014
	€	€
Debtors	12,793	11,988
Prepayments & Other Debtors	273,350	223,191
	<u>286,143</u>	<u>235,179</u>

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Note 14: Creditors and Accruals

	2015	2014
	€	€
Creditors	246,717	219,718
Accruals	<u>245,053</u>	<u>263,673</u>
General Creditors & Accruals	491,770	483,392
Grants Outstanding	108,258	165,920
	<u>600,028</u>	<u>649,312</u>

## Note 15: 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 Council's Five Year Plan, the Irish Landmark Trust's Corporate Plan, and Council's overall budgetary position.

## Note 16: Discovery Programme Ltd.

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 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 17: Grant Commitments

At 31 December 2015 the Council had entered into grant commitments in connection with activities due to take place after that date. The amount involved of €441,701 is not reflected in these Financial Statements.

	2015	2014
	€	€
Grants committed at 1 January	291,065	253,247
Approvals in year	2,939,848	3,020,361
Grants decommitted & write offs	(197,652)	(159,621)
Grant expenditure in the year	<u>(2,591,560)</u>	<u>(2,822,922)</u>
Grant Commitments at 31 December	<u>441,701</u>	<u>291,065</u>

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## **Note 18: Council Members Disclosure of Interest**

In the normal course of business the Council may approve financial assistance to undertakings in which the Council members are employed or otherwise have an interest.

The Council adopted procedures in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Finance in relation to the disclosure of interests by Council members and these procedures have been adhered to during the year.

The following members disclosed an interest in organisations to which financial assistance was approved in the year

Professor Gabriel Cooney	€2,000.00 for Community Based Heritage Grant CBH05371 €3,000.00 for Community Based Heritage Grant CBH04787 €3,500.00 for Community Based Heritage Grant CBH05114 €2,500.00 for Community Based Heritage Grant CBH05310
Dr. Fidelma Mullane	€1,000.00 for Community Based Heritage Grant CBH05068
Dr. Kieran O'Conor	€9,573.38 for County Heritage Plan Grant C04666 €6,938.00 for County Heritage Plan Grant C04683. Not paid in 2015 but included in commitments of €523,101 at Note 17 €2,000.00 for Community Based Heritage Grant CBH04930 €1,971.92 for Community Based Heritage Grant CBH04740
Michael Parsons	€9,000.00 for County Heritage Plan Grant C04595 €2,085.00 for County Heritage Plan Grant C04598 €10,500.00 for County Heritage Plan Grant C04600 €6,000.00 for Community Based Heritage Grant CBH04967 €3,000.00 for Community Based Heritage Grant CBH05155
Ted Creedon	€2,500.00 for Community Based Heritage Grant CBH05094
Dr. Brendan Dunford	€3,500.00 for Community Based Heritage Grant CBH04989
Dr. Ciara Breathnach	€3,000.00 for Community Based Heritage Grant CBH04748

The members withdrew from the meetings when the projects were being discussed and played no part in the decision to grant funding.

## **Note 19: Going Concern**

The Council draws funds from the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht as and when required. It recognises this income on a cash receipts basis but recognises expenditure on an accruals basis. The Council believes that the department will continue to fund its approved activities and on this basis it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Note 20: Premises

The Heritage Council operates from a premises at Aras na hOidhreachta, Church Lane, Kilkenny which it occupies and owns.

## Note 21: Transition to FRS 102

Prior to 1 January 2014 The Heritage Council prepared its financial statements under previously extant Irish GAAP. From 1 January 2015, the council has presented its annual financial statements in accordance with FRS 102.

The comparative figures in respect of the 2014 financial statements have been restated to reflect The Heritage Council's adoption of FRS 102 from the date of transition at 1st January 2015.

Set out below are the changes in accounting policies which reconcile deficit for the financial year ended 31st December 2015.

## Note 22: FRS 102 PRINCIPAL ADJUSTMENTS

The reconciliation of the profit and loss prepared in accordance with Irish GAAP and in accordance with FRS 102 for the year ended 31st December 2014 and the reconciliation of the amounts before and after the application FRS 102, is as follows:

	(Deficit)/Surplus for year ended 31st December 2014 €	Total Reserves as at 31st December 2014 €
As reported under Irish GAAP	(240,361)	7,592,248
Impact of:		
Holiday pay accrual (a)	9,676	9,676
As reported under FRS 102	<u>(250,037)</u>	<u>7,582,572</u>

### (a) Holiday Pay Accrual

#### Irish GAAP

Under Irish GAAP provisions for holiday pay accruals were not recognised and holiday pay was charged to the profit and loss as it was paid

#### FRS 102

FRS 102 requires short-term employee benefits to be charged to the profit and loss account as the employee service is received.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## **(c) Statement of cash flows**

### **FRS 102**

Under FRS 102, cash flows are required to be shown separately for three categories only, namely, operating, investing and financing.

Additionally cash flow statement reconciles to cash and cash equivalents whereas under previous Irish GAAP cash flow statement was not required.

### **Impact**

Cash flows from returns on investments and servicing of finance shown under Irish GAAP are included as operating activities under FRS 102

### **Note 23: Non Adjusting Post Balance Sheet Event**

The Heritage Council had no board or Finance and Audit Committee in place from 25th January 2016 until

### **Note 24: Approval of Financial Statements**

The Financial Statements were approved by Council on



**The Heritage Council  
Schedule 1 to the  
Financial Statements**

IRISH NATIONAL STRATEGIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GRANTS				
Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	Amount Paid €
AR04557	University College Cork	Later Prehistoric Settlement and Landscapes	All of Ireland	39,961

IRISH WALLED TOWNS NETWORK WALLED TOWNS DAY GRANTS				
Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	Amount Paid €
WD04429	St. Johns Parish Heritage Group	Interpretative and Miscellaneous Signage at Rindoon	Roscommon	1,532
WD04430	Galway City Council	Outline Plan and Design Approach for dedicated Medieval Walled Town Gallery at Galway City Museum.	Galway - Galway City	6,500
WD05535	Athy Heritage Company Limited	Medieval Festival 2015	Kildare	641
WD05536	Athy Heritage Company Limited	Woodstock Castle-Geophysics Project	Kildare	1,465
WD05541	Cork County Council	Youghal Medieval Festival 2015	Cork - Cork County	8,000
WD05545	Bandon Walled Town Committee	Bandon Walled Town Festival 2015	Cork - Cork County	6,500
WD05546	Galway County Council	Loughrea Medieval Festival 2015 'Gathering of the Clans'	Galway - Galway County	8,000
WD05549	Kildare Town Tourism Group	Kildare Town Medieval Festival	Kildare	3,500
WD05550	Galway County Council	Athenry Walled Town Day 2015	Galway - Galway County	7,000
WD05556	Buttevant Heritage	Buttevant Medieval Walking Tour Map	Cork - Cork County	2,700
WD05560	Buttevant Heritage	Buttevant Medieval Walking Tour Flyer	Cork - Cork County	400
WD05561	Athlone Arts & Tourism Ltd	Athlone Castle Visitor Centre Interpretation	Westmeath	2,500
WD05564	Dublin City Council	Web-Based Heritage Education/ Tourism Resource on Medieval Dublin	Dublin - Dublin City	5,000
WD05570	Loughrea Medieval Festival	Conservation Management and Interpretation Plan for Loughrea Medieval Town	Galway - Galway County	9,401
WD05573	Galway County Council	Irish Walled Towns: Past, Present & Future	Galway - Galway County	1,500
WD05575	Cork County Council	Scaled Model of Youghal Medieval Town	Cork - Cork County	5,000
WD05576	Kilkenny County Council	Talbots Tower Interpretation 2015	Kilkenny	4,500
WD05582	Limerick City & County Council	Kilmallock's Medieval Day	Limerick - Limerick County	1,000
WD05583	Wexford County Council	Heritage Trail Map for New Ross showing sections of Town Walls and other Heritage Buildings	Wexford	2,400
WD05585	Waterford Treasures at the Granary Limited	Re-enactment of Norman Siege and Capture of Waterford 1170 and Marriage of Strongbow & Aoife	Waterford - Waterford County	1,000

IRISH WALLED TOWNS NETWORK WALLED TOWNS DAY GRANTS (contd)				
Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	Amount Paid €
WD05589	Omeath District Development Co	Carlingford and Surrounds Heritage Guide Training	Louth	2,500
WD05590	Galway County Council	Athenry Town Walls: Schools Project 2015	Galway - Galway County	800
WD05595	Cork City Council	Cork City Medieval Day 2015	Cork - Cork City	3,353
WD05598	Fethard Historical Society	Connecting Schools and Locals to Fethard Town Walls	Tipperary - Tipperary South	900
WD05600	Limerick City & County Council	Heritage Week talks on Limerick Walls	Limerick - Limerick County	750
WD05601	Cork City Council	City Wall Interpretation Panel Cork City	Cork - Cork City	221
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>87,063</b>

IRISH WALLED TOWNS NETWORK CAPITAL GRANTS				
Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	Amount Paid €
W05547	St. Johns Parish Heritage Group	Urgent Conservation Works to Wall at Rindoon	Roscommon	34740
W05566	Bandon Walled Town Committee	Structural and Condition Survey of Bandon Town Walls	Cork - Cork County	5,000
W05568	Wexford County Council	Restoration of Goat Hil zone of New Ross Town Walls	Wexford	20,000
W05572	Galway County Council	Works to Athenry Town Walls	Galway - Galway County	15,000
W05574	Cork County Council	Works to Section K of Youghal Town Walls	Cork - Cork County	15,000
W05584	Waterford City and County Council	Conservation of Waterford City Walls	Waterford - Waterford County	8,349
W05588	Tipperary County Council	Works to Fethard Town Walls	Tipperary - Tipperary South, Waterford - Waterford County, Westmeath, Wexford	3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>101,089</b>

HERITAGE MANAGEMENT GRANTS				
Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	Amount Paid €
M01161	Trinity College	Improvements to long-term storage and management of Zoological Museum's boxed collections	Dublin - Dublin City	4,000
M04104	Elene Negussie	Managing Dublin City as a Historic Urban Landscape re:Prospect of World Heritage Nomination	Dublin - Dublin City	4,000
M04331	Design & Crafts Council of Ireland (CCol)	Development & Conservation of Kilkenny Design Workshops (KDW) National Collection	Kilkenny	4,590
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>12,590</b>

POLICY & INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS				
Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	Amount Paid €
D04528	National Association of Principals & Deputy Principals	Creative Engagement Award 2015	Ireland	10,000
D04562	European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism	EU project to develop and test pilot results-based agri-environment measures RBAPS	Wexford	40,000
D04568	The Institute of Conservator-Restorers in Ireland (ICRI)	CPD & Accreditation bursaries & CPD training workshops for conservator-restorers	All of Ireland	7,137
D04572	National Biodiversity Data Centre	National Invasive Species Initiative	Ireland - Republic of	30,000
D04573	Burren Community Charter	Burren Community Charter 2015	Clare, Galway - Galway County	4,980
D04575	Burrenbeo Trust	Conservation of the Burren through education and information provision.	Clare, Galway - Galway County	20,000
D04581	Bere Island Project Group	Bere Island Conservation Plan 2015	Cork - Cork County	20,000
D04585	High Nature Value Services Ltd	Field Monument Advisor (FMA) Scheme 2015	Clare	15,000
D04587	Ireland Reaching Out	Ireland Reaching Out Programme	Galway - Galway County	34,319
D04599	Woodlands of Ireland	Woodlands of Ireland Project	Ireland - Republic of	40,000
D04601	Irish Uplands Forum	Irish Uplands Forum work programme 2015	All of Ireland	12,000
D04604	Wicklow Uplands Council Ltd	Wicklow Uplands Council Work Programme 2015	Wicklow	65,000
D04606	Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland	Funding for CPD Co-ordinator and Administrator with IAI for 2015	All of Ireland	10,000
D04608	Irish Archives Resource, web portal	Irish Archives Resource Digital Resource Pack	All of Ireland	2,799
D04645	Irish Museums Association Ltd	Irish Museums Association Work Programme 2015	All of Ireland	8,500
D04680	Building Limes Forum Ireland	Development of, indigenous, low cost high performance hot-lime mortars for conservation and restoration of heritage structures.	Cavan	1,000
D05612	Landscape Alliance Ireland	National Landscape Forum 2015	All of Ireland	1,500
D05619	An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht & Gaeltachta	Year 2 of Aran LIFE Project	Clare	10,000
D05638	Roots Architecture	Sponsorship for Earth Building Ireland Conference 2015	Sligo	500
D04468	Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland	Funding for CPD Co-ordinator/Administrator with the IAI 2014	All of Ireland	10,000
D04474	Kilkenny Education Centre	Local Teaching Materials for the Decade of Commemorations	Kilkenny	4,000
D05611	Beara Tourism and Development Association Ltd	Beara-Breifne Way Marketing Office Development	Cork - Cork County	5,000
D05616	National Association of Principals & Deputy Principals	Creative Engagement Award 2014	Ireland	8,700
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>360,435</b>

COUNTY HERITAGE PLAN GRANTS				
Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	Amount Paid €
C04561	Galway City Council	Historic Metal Work - Poster and Leaflet	Galway - Galway City	2,024
C04563	Waterford City and County Council	Oidhreacht Liteartha na nDéise - Waterford's Literary Heritage	Waterford - Waterford County	2,932
C04564	Waterford City and County Council	Survey of Waterford City 's Historic Burial Grounds	Waterford - Waterford City	5,166
C04565	Waterford City and County Council	Publication of Holy Wells of Waterford Book	Waterford - Waterford County	5,250
C04569	Waterford City and County Council	Heritage and Biodiversity Week Events	Waterford - Waterford County	896
C04571	Kilkenny County Council	Survey of Historic Plaques, Signs and Monuments in Co. Kilkenny	Kilkenny	6,000
C04576	Kilkenny County Council	Kilkenny Fieldname Recording Project 2015	Kilkenny	9,500
C04577	Kilkenny County Council	Heritage Week 2015 events	Kilkenny	2,762
C04578	Kilkenny County Council	Study of the value of heritage in 4 counties	Kilkenny	4,099
C04579	Kildare County Council	Study of the value of Heritage in 4 counties	Kildare	4,099
C04580	Offaly County Council	Offaly Archives project	Offaly	14,294
C04584	Wicklow County Council	Lakeside Area Heritage Project	Wicklow	3,750
C04588	Offaly County Council	Connecting with Communities - Artefact display	Offaly	2,500
C04589	Galway County Council	People and Nature: Galway County Biodiversity Project 2015	Galway - Galway County	27,598
C04590	Galway County Council	Field Monument Advisor Project 2015	Galway - Galway County	15,000
C04591	Galway County Council	Ecclesiastical Heritage Audit Project 2015: Ballinasloe Electoral Area	Galway - Galway County	11,992
C04592	Galway County Council	Local Area Heritage Audit Project 2015	Galway - Galway County	5,543
C04593	Galway County Council	Lough Derg: Heritage Project 2015	Galway - Galway County	4,000
C04594	Galway County Council	Next Stop – Stories from Galway's Railways	Galway - Galway County	4,000
C04595	Laois County Council	Heritage Awareness activities 2015	Laois	9,000
C04596	Donegal County Council	Dry-Stone Walls Seminar & Workshop (Action 1.6)	Donegal	7,112
C04597	Donegal County Council	'County Donegal in 1916' Heritage Education Pack (Action 3.4)	Donegal	8,500
C04598	Laois County Council	Rock of Dunamase Book, Phase II	Laois	2,085
C04600	Laois County Council	Connecting Communities - Engaging with Heritage (Phase I)	Laois	10,500
C04602	Galway City	Graveyard Heritage Survey - Claddagh	Galway - Galway City	2,025
C04607	Clare County Council	A Study of Trees in Towns and Villages in County Clare	Clare	8,000
C04609	Clare County Council	Community Training for Graveyard Recording and Management	Clare	7,500
C04610	Galway City	Conservation and Management Plan for 3 Galway City Castles: Menlo, Doughiska/Merlin Park and Terryland	Galway - Galway City	11,600

COUNTY HERITAGE PLAN GRANTS (contd)				
Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	Amount Paid €
C04612	Cork City Council	Cork Heritage Open Day and Heritage Week	Cork - Cork City	15,000
C04613	Tipperary County Council	Heritage Survey of the River Suir	Tipperary - Tipperary North, Tipperary - Tipperary South	14,391
C04614	Galway City	Fortress Ireland - 5th Galway International Galway City Heritage Conference	Galway - Galway City	4,569
C04616	Kerry County Council	'Listowel Heritage and Community Led Regeneration Strategy 2015-2020'	Kerry	5,000
C04617	Cork City Council	Study of the Value of Heritage in 4 Counties	Cork - Cork City	4,099
C04618	Cork City Council	Evaluation of Discover Cork Schools Heritage Project	Cork - Cork City	2,000
C04619	Louth County Council	Conservation planning and works at Drogheda's Old Abbey	Louth	15,000
C04621	Kerry County Council	The Michael O'Donohoe Memorial Heritage Project Castleisland.	Kerry	4,000
C04622	Louth County Council	Conservation planning for 'Faughart' County Louth	Louth	1,845
C04624	Dublin City Council	20th Century Architecture Research Project (phase 4)	Dublin - Dublin City	14,000
C04626	Tipperary County Council	Lough Derg Heritage Project 2015	Tipperary - Tipperary North	4,000
C04628	Dublin City Council with Fingal County Council/ Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CoCo/ S	Dublin City and County Archaeology GIS Project	Dublin - Dublin City, Dublin - South Dublin, Dublin - Fingal, Dublin - Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	7,553
C04630	Meath Local Authorities	Meath Heritage Awareness Programme 2015	Meath	5,124
C04631	Longford Local Authorities	Geological Heritage Audit of County Longford	Longford	2,925
C04632	Clare County Council	Lough Derg Heritage Project 2015	Clare	4,000
C04633	Clare County Council	Bridge Survey 2015	Clare	7,499
C04634	Cavan County Council	Cavan Golden Way - 2015	Cavan	6,750
C04635	Kildare County Council	The Buildings of Ireland Laois, Offaly & Kildare Volume Architectural drawings, maps and photography	Kildare	5,250
C04636	Kildare County Council	Kildare Heritage Colouring Book	Kildare	3,000
C04637	Kildare County Council	Curragh Audio Trail	Kildare	4,250
C04638	Kildare County Council	Travelling Exhibition on Thatched Cottages of County Kildare	Kildare	3,726
C04639	Kildare County Council	Biodiversity Week in Kildare	Kildare	2,500
C04640	Cork County Council	Publication: Heritage Churches of County Cork	Cork - Cork County	18,000
C04643	Cavan County Council	Feasibility Study for the Provision of a Walking Trail to Cuilcagh Mountain	Cavan	8,275
C04646	Dublin City Council with Fingal County Council/ Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CoCo/ S	Decorative Plasterwork Conservation Guidance Manual-design for publication	Dublin - Dublin City	5,000
C04647	Donegal County Council	Study of the Maritime Built Heritage of County Donegal (Action 5.8)	Donegal	11,000

COUNTY HERITAGE PLAN GRANTS (contd)				
Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	Amount Paid €
C04648	Kerry County Council	Ecclesiastical Heritage Audit for Kerry	Kerry	11,716
C04651	South Dublin County Council	Dublin City and County Archaeology GIS Project	Dublin - Dublin City, Dublin - South Dublin, Dublin - Fingal, Dublin - Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	7,553
C04653	Monaghan County Council	Monaghan Traditional Buildings Survey	Monaghan	12,600
C04654	Cavan County Council	Public Realm Plan for Abbeylands, Cavan	Cavan	5,625
C04657	Wicklow County Council	Publication on Wicklow's Historic Headstones	Wicklow	6,664
C04658	Monaghan County Council	Heritage Events and Public Awareness Programme 2015	Monaghan	7,650
C04660	Fingal County Council	County Dublin Archaeology GIS Project	Dublin - Dublin City, Dublin - South Dublin, Dublin - Fingal, Dublin - Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	7,553
C04661	Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	Dublin City and County Archaeology GIS Project	Dublin - Dublin City, Dublin - South Dublin, Dublin - Fingal, Dublin - Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	7,553
C04662	Mayo County Council	Habitat Survey and Biodiversity Management Plans	Mayo	14,298
C04663	Fingal County Council	Fingal Industrial Heritage Project (Phase 3) 2015	Dublin - Fingal	11,873
C04664	Mayo County Council	Mayo Heritage Awareness & Communications Programme 2015	Mayo	11,835
C04665	Louth County Council	Produce new Archaeology Ireland Heritage Guides	Louth	4,300
C04666	Longford Local Authorities	Non-invasive Archaeological Research Project 2015	Longford	9,573
C04667	Meath Local Authorities	Study on the value of heritage in four counties	Meath	4,099
C04668	Meath Local Authorities	Biodiversity Training for Community Groups	Meath	8,726
C04670	Wicklow County Council	Traditional Building Skills Weekend	Wicklow	4,500
C04672	Fingal County Council	Field Monuments Advisor/Community Archaeologist	Dublin - Fingal	15,000
C04674	Wicklow County Council	Wicklow Living History Event	Wicklow	4,125
C04673	Wicklow County Council	Support Seamus Heaney Hedge School	Wicklow	4,500
C04685	Roscommon CoCo	2015: Mosaics Conservation Project	Roscommon	6,856
C04686	Roscommon CoCo	2015: Graveyard Survey Update & Recording	Roscommon	7,225
C05604	Limerick City and County Council	Natural and Built Heritage Project - Limeick's Golden Mile Competition 2015	Limerick - Limerick County	2,000
C05605	Limerick City and County Council	A structural, condition and significance report for Bouchier's Castle, Lough Gur	Limerick - Limerick County	4,673
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>556,980</b>

COMMUNITY BASED HERITAGE GRANTS				
Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	Amount Paid €
CBH04696	Roseanne Schot	Conservation Plan for the Hill of Uisneach (Phase 1)	Westmeath	5,000
CBH04714	Kilmurry Historical and Archaeological Association Ltd.	Conservation of selected artefacts at Kilmurry Museum Co.Cork	Cork - Cork City	3,000
CBH04715	Sliabh Coillte Heritage Group	The Remote Sensing of the Kilmokea Enclosure	Wexford	2,000
CBH04716	St. Mary's Church of Ireland	Conservation Plan for St. Mary's Church of Ireland Dungarvan	Waterford - Waterford County	3,000
CBH04718	Kilberry Amenity & Heritage Group	Geophysical Survey of Hill of Balsaw	Meath	1,951
CBH04723	Killinkere Heritage Group	Preservation of ancient church wall at Gallon Graveyard Killinkere, Co Cavan	Cavan	4,000
CBH04738	Greystones Tidy Towns	Interpretive Signs for Rathdown Heritage Park, Greystones	Wicklow	3,000
CBH04740	Taughmaconnell Historical & Heritage Group	Dundonnell Castle Archaeological Survey Project	Roscommon	1,972
CBH04748	Irish Heritage Trust	Collective Voice... Strokestown Park Famine Petitions Community Collection Pilot Project	Roscommon	3,000
CBH04750	Boyne Currach Heritage Group	Bovinda Sea Trials - Re-enacting our ancient Neolithic Sea Journeys, linking coastal communities	Meath	3,000
CBH04753	Dunfanaghy Parish Church	Repointing of Holy Trinity Church, Dunfanaghy, Co Donegal	Donegal	1,814
CBH04765	Athy Heritage Company Limited	Shackleton's Last Expedition - The Quest Cabin - Proposal on Treatment and Interpretation	Kildare	5,000
CBH04768	Mountshannon Community Council	Exhibition of images of Inis Cealtra	Clare	1,800
CBH04770	Waterford Institute of Technology	Combining Citizen Science and DNA Technology to Monitor Otters in the Waterford Estuary	Waterford - Waterford County	3,998
CBH04787	UCD School of Archaeology	Excavations at Tlachtga: digital recording and community presentation	Meath	3,000
CBH04803	Kilteevan Community Development Group Ltd	Restoration of Tonleegge Wayside Cross	Roscommon	2,000
CBH04811	Kilkenny Archaeological Society	To create an inventory of Kilkenny Archaeological Society's archival collections	Kilkenny	1,800
CBH04812	Offaly County Council	Memories of Turraun: the heritage of early industrial peat harvesting	Offaly	1,000
CBH04820	Derek McLoughlin	Schools in Nature Conservation (SINC): A tool for delivering long-term biodiversity benefits	Ireland - Republic of	4,000
CBH04821	Ballydangan Grouse Project	Ballydangan Bog Red Grouse Project	Roscommon	4,000
CBH04823	Kerry County Council	Killaclohane Portal Tomb Conservation & Excavation	Kerry	1,200
CBH04824	National Association of Regional Game Councils	Development of Best-Practice Guidelines for Red Grouse on Irish SAC Raised Bogs	Ireland - Republic of	2,000

COMMUNITY BASED HERITAGE GRANTS (contd)				
Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	Amount Paid €
CBH04826	Irish Wildbird Conservancy	Termoncarragh & Annagh grasslands Conservation Management Plan	Mayo	4,000
CBH04827	Irish Wildbird Conservancy	Restoring Conservation Grasslands for birds, pollinators & people at ECNR	Wicklow	3,000
CBH04830	Paul Rondelez	The Sliabh Aughty Furnace Project - Conservation Management Plans	Clare	3,500
CBH04831	Aughrim Community Development Company Ltd.	Production of Ashton's play The Battle of Aughrim	Galway - Galway County	1,000
CBH04839	Forest Environmental Research and Services Ltd	Involving the Congregation - the importance of rural Church buildings as bat roosts	Meath	2,500
CBH04844	Athlone Arts and Tourism Ltd	IMA Museum Basics in Athlone	Westmeath	2,000
CBH04849	Kilkenny Archives Ltd.	Catalogue the Political Papers of Ms. Margaret Tynan, former mayor of Kilkenny.	Kilkenny	1,784
CBH04854	Irish Peatland Conservation Council	Restoration and Management of Girley Bog NHA, Co. Meath	Meath	4,000
CBH04858	Irish Wildbird Conservancy	Inishee Island - predator proof fence maintenance 2015	Galway - Galway County	3,500
CBH04861	Cork County Council	Completion of Graveyard Trail Final Phase. St. Mary's Collegiate Church.	Cork - Cork County	2,000
CBH04869	Donegal Famine Heritage Centre (Dunfanaghy) Limited	Dunfanaghy Heritage Trails	Donegal	1,000
CBH04884	Elphin Area Community Enterprise Ltd	Elphin Windmill Community Resource Development Project	Roscommon	2,000
CBH04888	Tarbert Development Association (TDA)	A Historical Walk through Tarbert	Kerry	1,000
CBH04892	Pilgrim Paths Ireland	Enhancing the attractiveness of Ireland's pilgrim paths	Ireland - Republic of	4,500
CBH04899	Glenamaddy Community Development Company	Glenamaddy Heritage Audit	Galway - Galway County	4,000
CBH04906	Banagher Tidy Towns	Saving Banagher's Swifts	Offaly	1,335
CBH04911	Glanmire Heritage Society	Old Rathcooney Graveyard Project	Cork - Cork County	732
CBH04913	Hugh Sheppard	Derrinlough to Durrow High Nelly Heritage Cycle	Laois, Offaly, Tipperary - Tipperary South	2,000
CBH04928	Maghery Heritage Group	Conservation of Templecrone Church	Donegal	4,000
CBH04930	Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement	Lough Ree: historic lakeland settlement. Book of essays	Ireland - Republic of	2,000
CBH04933	West Clare Tourism	Loop Head Heritage Audit 2015 (Phase 2)	Clare	3,000
CBH04934	Irish Wildbird Conservancy	Swift Conservation Project 2015	Ireland - Republic of	5,000
CBH04936	Marine Dimensions	To improve information available for management of Ireland's threatened species of skate and ray.	Ireland - Republic of	4,000
CBH04939	The Meitheal Trust	Structural Engineers report for the Fort buildings & replace the current temporary door.	Donegal	1,300
CBH04941	Kilbarron Castle Conservation Project	The conservation of the ruins of Kilbarron castle	Donegal	4,000

COMMUNITY BASED HERITAGE GRANTS (contd)				
Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	Amount Paid €
CBH04949	Waterford Treasures at the Granary Limited	Conservation and reinstatement of 17th century window	Waterford - Waterford County	5,000
CBH04959	Mucklagh Community Development Company Limited	Lynally Medieval Church conservation method and tender documents	Offaly	4,000
CBH04960	Michele Castiaux	Geology and Geomorphology of the Landscape of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, Co. Laois.	Laois, Offaly, Tipperary - Tipperary South	1,000
CBH04967	Portarlinton Arts & Heritage Committee	Putting the Lea Castle Conservation Report into Action	Laois	6,000
CBH04974	Sligo County Council	The Conservation of Notebooks of the McCann Boat-builders, Moneygold, Co. Sligo	Sligo	967
CBH04976	Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland	Irish Wildlife Crime Conference 2015	Meath	2,500
CBH04981	Kilrush Tidy Towns	Kilrush Biodiversity Training and Action Plan	Clare	2,000
CBH04986	Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne	Logainmneacha Chnoc Bhreannán Naofa	Kerry	2,500
CBH04989	Burrenbeo Trust	Tenalach Trainers - Each place is a learning tool	Clare, Galway - Galway County	3,500
CBH04966	Dunmore East Woods and Park Trust	Biodiversity Management Plan for Dunmore East Woods	Waterford - Waterford County	2,000
CBH04995	Joan Tolin	Re-thatching of venacular cottage 170y ears old in Co. Wexford	Wexford	3,500
CBH05023	Durrow Development Forum	Phase 1 of Refurbishment of the Methodist Church Durrow by Durrow Development Forum	Laois	4,000
CBH05029	Monasteraden Church	Repair of stained glass windows at St Aidens Church, Monasteraden	Sligo	2,000
CBH05030	Kells Union of Parishes	Repairs to the roof and walls of The Priory, (Rector's residence) Kells. Co. Kilkenny.	Kilkenny	4,000
CBH05031	Killereerin Heritage Society	Publication of Killereerin parish history	Galway	3,000
CBH05042	Irish Wildbird Conservancy	Managing Corncrake habitats in Donegal and Mayo	Donegal, Mayo	5,000
CBH05046	Philip Byrne	Industrial Yarns - an oral history heritage collection project	Wicklow	3,000
CBH05048	wexfordharbour.info	Interactive heritage map and chart for Wexford Harbour	Wexford	4,000
CBH05056	Grauguenamanagh Historical Society	Grauguenamanagh Heritage Interpretation Strategy	Kilkenny	1,000
CBH05062	Clarecastle Community Development Ltd	Clarecastle Community Development Limited - Village Development Strategy	Clare	3,000
CBH05068	IRD Duhallow	Community Orientated Programme of Events for Heritage Week 2015	Cork - Cork County	1,000
CBH05072	Marsh's Library	Marsh's Library Conservation & Management Plan	Dublin - Dublin City	3,500

COMMUNITY BASED HERITAGE GRANTS (contd)				
Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	Amount Paid €
CBH05076	Four Courts Press	Publication - Wilhelmina Geddes: life and work by Dr Nicola Gordon Bowe	All of Ireland	3,000
CBH05077	Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo	Publication - Dordan Dúlra An Introduction to the Natural Landscape of Cill Chomáin in the Barony of Erris, County	Mayo	2,000
CBH05087	St. Mullins Amenity and Recreational Tourism (SMART)	A Conservation and Management Plan for the Pilgrim Route at St. Mullins	Carlow	3,000
CBH05088	Mulranny Community Futures	Mulranny GeoDesign Workshop	Mayo	1,000
CBH05094	Dingle/Corca Dhuibhne Timeline	Dingle/Corca Dhuibhne Timeline	Kerry	2,500
CBH05095	Kevin Barton	Schools Archaeological Remote Sensing (SARS) Project	Mayo	1,200
CBH05096	Killybegs History & Heritage Committee	St. Catherine's Church Conservation Project	Donegal	3,500
CBH05099	Wexford County Council	Duncannon Fort Conservation Plan	Wexford	4,000
CBH05102	Lynda Huxley	Swift Conservation Ireland	All of Ireland	1,800
CBH05105	St Columba's Straid Conservation Group	Conservation plan for St Columba's Church of Ireland, Straid, Clonmany, Co Donegal	Donegal	2,500
CBH05107	Ballinamore Protestant Church	Fenagh Church of Ireland Church Restoration	Leitrim	2,000
CBH05118	Aileen/Michael Lambert/Fortune	The Duffry - a place based digital mapping project	Wexford	2,500
CBH05128	Tus Office, Carlow County Development Partnership	A social history recording of former employees of Governey's Boot Factory	Carlow	1,000
CBH05134	Rosscarbery and District History Society	A New Timeline for Rosscarbery Featuring the 1755 Tsunami	Cork - Cork County	3,000
CBH05136	Harvey Appelbe	Reinstate one water wheel in Woollen Milss of Ballymore Eustace	Kildare	5,000
CBH05137	Ballygar Tidy Towns	Restoration of flat bar gates in Ballygar	Galway - Galway County	2,500
CBH05141	Irish Wildbird Conservancy	Conserving Irish Dippers in the Upper Nore Catchment	Laois, Tipperary - Tipperary South	1,000
CBH05147	Virginia and District Historical Society	Deerpark Forest interpretative panels on built heritage of Golden Way	Cavan	1,200
CBH05148	Raphoe Cathedral Parish	Restoration and maintenance of the fabric of St. Eunan's Cathedral, Raphoe	Donegal	2,000
CBH05149	Longford Tidy Towns	Swift Boxes for Longford Town	Longford	2,000
CBH05150	Cork County Council	Cork 1912-22 in Archives: School Outreach Programme	Cork - Cork City	4,000
CBH05155	Laois Heritage Society	Conservation plan on the Fort of Maryborough (Fort Protector). Phase One: Understanding the site	Laois	3,000
CBH05167	Co Louth Archaeological and Historical Society	The Conservation of Carstown Manor, Co Louth - A unique Jacobean Dwelling	Louth	1,300
CBH05174	Moyra Manifold	The rambling house project	Galway - Galway County	500

COMMUNITY BASED HERITAGE GRANTS (contd)				
Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	Amount Paid €
CBH05178	Ardclough Community Council	Bee Happy Project, Ardclough	Kildare	1,500
CBH05179	Mote Park Conservation Group	Mote Park Interactive Heritage Tour	Roscommon	4,000
CBH05181	St Johns Old Cemetery Restoration Group	Nobber Heritage Centre - Interpretive Plan and Feasibility Study	Meath	3,000
CBH05182	The Hunt Museum	Revisiting Ranks, a Limerick Industry	Limerick - Limerick County	4,500
CBH05185	An Taisce, the National Trust for Ireland.	Conservation of the Gort Weigh House	Galway - Galway County	4,000
CBH05187	Kenmare Bay Project Community Group	Kenmare Heritage Awareness	Kerry	4,500
CBH05192	Clare Archaeological and Historical Society (CAHS)	Templemaley East Window Conservation	Clare	4,000
CBH05194	Bernician Studies Group	Early Christian Landscapes of Inishowen: Moville	Donegal	2,000
CBH05201	Julianstown and District Community Association	Research, write & perform drama to commemorate The Battle of Julianstown 1641	Meath	1,000
CBH05217	Woodford Gun Club	Moyglass Red Grouse Conservation Project	Galway - Galway County	3,000
CBH05218	Kerry Japanese knotweed survey and awareness project	Kerry Japanese knotweed survey and awareness project	Kerry	3,484
CBH05222	Abbeyfeale Men's Shed	Abbeyfeale Men's Shed Portrinard Castle Project	Limerick - Limerick County	3,952
CBH05224	Molaga Tidy Towns	Brochure for Timoleague Abbey	Cork - Cork County	1,500
CBH05228	Kerry County Council	Understanding 1916 in Tralee - Creating a legacy of conserved objects	Kerry	2,000
CBH05229	The Select Vestry of St. Bartholomew's Church	St. Bartholomew's Church Conservation Plan	Dublin - Dublin City	3,000
CBH05233	Hook Residents Association	Conservation Repair Works on the Salthouse at Slade Harbour	Wexford	3,500
CBH05239	Mountmellick Development Association	Restoration of Quaker Map Samplers	Laois	1,500
CBH05244	Thomas MacDonagh Heritage Centre	Conservation of the MacDonagh Museum Collection	Tipperary - Tipperary South	3,500
CBH05247	Patrick Roycroft	Ireland's Mineral Heritage: Contributions from the UCD mineral collection	Dublin - Dublin City	4,000
CBH05248	Friends of Merlin Woods	The Galway City Community Archaeology and Heritage Project	Galway - Galway City	2,000
CBH05255	Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society	Historical Re-enactments and walking tours of Carlow	Carlow	2,000
CBH05261	Knockainey Historical & Conservation Society	Conservation Report for the Roof of St. John's Church, Knockainey, Co. Limerick	Limerick - Limerick County	600
CBH05266	Lisne Murrough Foundation	The Murrough Way: Heritage, History, Culture & Community 50 BC - 2015	Wicklow	2,000
CBH05269	South East Galway IRD	Safeguarding the special heritage interest of former women's building, Portumna Workhouse.	Galway - Galway County	4,000
CBH05270	John and Linda Hardiman	Protecting Castleconnell Castle (LI001-003) from further deterioration	Limerick - Limerick County	1,832

COMMUNITY BASED HERITAGE GRANTS (contd)				
Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	Amount Paid €
CBH05271	Ballon Improvement Group	Biodiversity Audit and management plan for Ballon	Carlow	2,500
CBH05273	Saint Coman`s Church of Ireland Group, Roscommon,	Repair of clock and windows at St Coman's Church, Roscommon	Roscommon	3,500
CBH05276	Old School Boxing Club	Repairs to the buildings roof, gutters, stone wall and painting of facia and interior of windows of Old School Boxing Club	Monaghan	4,000
CBH05278	Old School The Commons.	The Mining Museum Project	Tipperary - Tipperary South	3,000
CBH05279	Inch Island Gun Club	Inch Island Partridge Project	Donegal	4,000
CBH05282	Freshford Old Graveyard Group	St Lachtain's Old Graveyard Interpretation Plan	Kilkenny	1,200
CBH05284	Mulranny Community Futures	Mulranny Greenway Stone Wall Repair Workshop Weekend	Mayo	1,500
CBH05291	Burtonport Heritage Group	Burtonport, The Cooperage: Conservation Specifications for Urgent Repair Work	Donegal	2,406
CBH05292	Killymard Old Church Restoration Committee	Killymard Old Church Restoration - Feasibility Report	Donegal	2,000
CBH05293	Kilabban Monastery Restoration Society	Conservation Works to the East Gable of Kilabban Medieval Church, Co. Laois	Laois	4,500
CBH05294	Rector and Chuch Wardens Christchurch	Conservation plan for ChristChurch and glebelands, Bunrana	Donegal	2,000
CBH05296	West Cork Maritime Heritage Company	Conservation and Restoration of the only known Sand-boat in Ireland	Cork - Cork County	3,500
CBH05300	Clare Heardman	Celebrating the life and work of Ellen Hutchins (1785-1815), Ireland's first female botanist.	Cork - Cork County	1,500
CBH05308	Bantry Estates Company	Renewal of original windows at Bantry House	Cork - Cork County	4,000
CBH05310	The School of Irish Archaeology	Creating website - www.dublinuncovered.ie	Dublin - Dublin City	2,500
CBH05323	Athenry Community Council Trust Limited	Creating an Interactive Digital 3D Reconstruction of Medieval Athenry	Galway - Galway County	4,000
CBH05326	Hollyfort Development Group	River Bann Nature Trail Amenity and Interpretative Signage	Wexford	1,000
CBH05331	Portumna Tidy Towns	Portumna Courthouse: Urgent Remedial Repairs to Annex	Galway - Galway County	1,200
CBH05339	Moore History Group	Recording Moore South Graveyard, Co. Roscommon	Roscommon	975
CBH05341	Hello Camera	Birr From The Air	Offaly	4,000
CBH05347	Loughrea Medieval Festival	A Digital 3D Reconstruction of Medieval Loughrea	Galway - Galway County	3,000
CBH05349	Dublin City Council	Conservation Survey of Works on Paper - Hugh Lane Gallery	Dublin - Dublin City	3,500
CBH05360	The San Marcos Project & Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd	Underwater search programme for the "San Marcos"	Clare	2,000
CBH05366	Slane Community Forum	Hill of Slane Geophysical Survey Training	Meath	1,000
CBH05371	UCD School of Archaeology	Glendalough Graveyard Survey: community archaeology, research & management	Wicklow	2,000

COMMUNITY BASED HERITAGE GRANTS (contd)				
Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Areas	Amount Paid €
CBH05376	Comhchoiste Gaeltacht Uíbh Rathaigh	Digitising all the Place Names of the Iveragh Peninsula	Kerry	3,000
CBH05378	Louth County Council	Conservation of 1916-22 Related Louth Archives	Louth	1,300
CBH05387	Pallasgreen Templebraden Historical Society	Pallasgreen Templebraden Co Limerick Field Name Survey	Limerick - Limerick County	1,140
CBH05390	Bandon Walled Town Committee	Timber Framed House Restoration Project	Cork - Cork County	4,000
CBH05392	Thoor Ballylee Development Ltd	Thoor Ballylee: Conservation and Management Plan	Galway - Galway County	5,000
CBH05398	Select Vestry of St. John's Church Cloverhill	Restoration of Pipe Organ in St. John's Church Cloverhill	Cavan	5,000
CBH05400	Kilkenny Archaeology	A Digital 3D Model of Medieval Kilkenny	Kilkenny	5,000
CBH05405	Martina Haugh	GraveYard Artwork, Mapping & Interpretation on the Loop Head Peninsula	Clare	1,200
CBH05408	Glenfarne Gun Club	Instructional Documentary Video on Best Practice for Upland Management	Leitrim	4,000
CBH05418	Limerick City and County Council	Seminar Tait's Army Clothing Factory, Limerick: A Testament to Time	Limerick - Limerick County	4,000
CBH05432	Inspirational Homes	Green Door Festival 2015	Leitrim	1,000
CBH05439	Kerry Earth Education Project	Gortbrack Wildlife Study Area	Kerry	1,000
CBH05446	Sligo Field Club	Conference - Sligo's Neolithic: The Atlantic Connection?	Sligo	1,000
CBH05447	Irish Wildbird Conservancy	Linking communities with nature through conservation of raptors	Galway - Galway County, Galway - Galway City, Kerry	3,500
CBH05449	O'Briens Bridge Community Group	Repair and Restoration of damaged riverside wall	Clare	1,000
CBH05451	Mary Kerrigan	HISTORIC STREETS ALIVE 2015 Communities co-create street visions in Letterkenny and Derry	Donegal	3,000
CBH05464	Arles Parish Church Project Group	Conservation report for Arles (R.C.) Parish Church Project	Laois	4,000
CBH05470	Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust	Feasibility study for the development of the ancient port of Carlingford as an urban square	Louth	3,000
CBH05481	Royal Irish Academy	Cartographic projects to plot Galway sites c. 1200 to c. 1660	Galway - Galway City	3,000
CBH05486	Friends of the Derry Walls	The Derry Walls Heritage Education Project	Ireland - Northern	2,000
CBH05488	Ulster-Scots Agency	Raphoe Ulster-Scots Heritage Weekend	Donegal	2,500
CBH05490	Irish Wildbird Conservancy	Cutaways for Communities: Turraun Conservation Plan	Offaly	2,500
CBH05491	Louth Nature Trust	Little Tern protection scheme at Baltray	Louth	7,500
CBH05494	Blackstairs Farming For Conservation Group	Updated Habitat Mapping for Locally Led Farming For Conservation Project in the Blackstairs Uplands	Carlow, Wexford	7,500
CBH05497	The Little Museum of Dublin	Create 8ft scale Nelson's Pillar	Dublin - Dublin City	1,500
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>463,442</b>



