

# HERITAGE OUTLOOK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

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SUMMER/AUTUMN 2007



CELEBRATING BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2007  
*The Butterflies and Moths of Northern Ireland*

THE LANDSCAPES WE DESERVE  
*conserving Ireland's landscapes before it is too late*

BOUNDLESS HORIZONS  
*Historic Landscape Characterisation*

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC • LOCAL BIODIVERSITY AREAS • THE INDIAN MUGHAL MINIATURES



*The Heritage Council works to protect and enhance the richness,  
quality and diversity of our national heritage for everyone.*

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# HERITAGE OUTLOOK

C O M M E N T

## AMBITIONS

Council's new Strategic Plan 2007-2011 is ambitious. It builds naturally on some of Council's very notable achievements, including its grant programmes; the establishment of the Heritage Officer Programme in partnership with local authorities; the establishment of the National Biodiversity Data Centre; the setting up of a Museum Standards Programme; the Heritage in Schools Programme; and the Buildings at Risk Scheme. Council also has a suite of policy papers on a range of topics, such as landscape, maritime heritage, woodlands, and inland waterways, which require further resources if they are to be effectively implemented.

However, the ambitions of Council (as they should with any organisation) rightly extend beyond the work it has already carried out. Council cannot, no more than our landscapes, stand still. This new Plan is dynamic and innovative, allowing Council to take action where there is either a deficit of information or a deficit in the will of others to act. Such an approach allows the success of previous Plans to continue and ensures Council stays fresh and ready for new challenges, adding more value to all its work.

This approach is reflected in the vision articulated in the Plan to: *work in partnership for the conservation of our national heritage through encouraging its accessibility and enjoyment by everyone.*

Key words are **partnership, conservation, accessibility and enjoyment**. *Partnership* and *Conservation* reflect ongoing commitments from Council, providing a solid base for Council and its stakeholders. *Accessibility* and *Enjoyment* are reflective of a new emphasis, providing opportunities that focus on people and their access to, and enjoyment of, their national heritage.

Council's success in implementing its Plan depends to a large extent on the resources it secures, both human and financial. The continued buy-in from its stakeholders to maintain and redouble their efforts in support of Council is also essential and this is reflected in their influence on the Plan's content. Success will, to an even larger extent, depend on Council itself maintaining the openness and accessibility for which it is known and, of course, the partnership approach which it sees as a trademark. Only then can the conservation of our national heritage flow naturally and be complemented by the enjoyment of that heritage by the largest possible section of the general public.

**MICHAEL STARRETT** Chief Executive

# HERITAGE NEWS

## THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DATA CENTRE

The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) was established in January 2007 to ensure the management of data on Ireland's biological diversity. Biological data provide information on where species and habitats occur, which areas are important for conservation, and how the status of species and habitats change over time. Biological data will be used to assess the impact of changing land-uses, climate change and introduction of invasive species. Information of this kind is required for decision-making and policy formulation, research and monitoring, and public awareness programmes.

A policy paper on the establishment of a National Biological Records Centre was proposed to Government in October 2003, pursuant to Section 6 of the Heritage Act (1995). As a consequence of that policy advice, the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government requested a National Biological Records Centre be established under the remit of the Heritage Council.

The NBDC is located at Beechfield House, Waterford Institute of Technology, West Campus, Carriganore, Co. Waterford. Tel. 051-306 240. Information will soon be available on [www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie)



Sylvia and Julian Reynolds present their publications to the National Biodiversity Data Centre at the launch of the facility. Also in the photo is Gearóid Ó Riain, Director, Compass Informatics (left) and Dr. Liam Lysaght, Director of the new National Biodiversity Data Centre.

## LAUNCH OF THE HERITAGE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2007-2011



John McGuinness TD; Dick Roche TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government; Dr Tom O'Dwyer, Chairman of the Heritage Council; and Cllr Martin Brett, Mayor of Kilkenny, pictured at the launch of the Heritage Council's Strategic Plan for the next four years, which took place in Kilkenny Castle on 19th April. *Picture Dylan Vaughan.*



Michael Starrett, Chief Executive of the Heritage Council, speaking at the launch of the Heritage Council's Strategic Plan 2007-2011.

*Picture Dylan Vaughan.*



# HERITAGE NEWS

## HOW TO DEVELOP NEW WALKING TRAILS IN YOUR AREA

Are you interested in developing a new walking trail or upgrading an existing one in your area? If so, a recent publication, based on experience in County Wicklow, should prove of benefit. The guide, entitled *Developing a New Trail – A step by step guide for community groups*, was produced by the Wicklow Sustainable Trails Network (WSTN) and supported through Fáilte Ireland's Tourist Product Development Scheme.

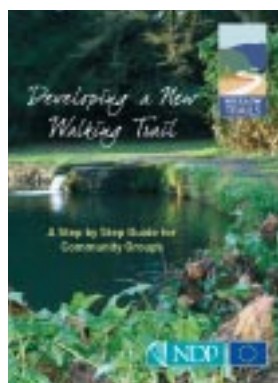
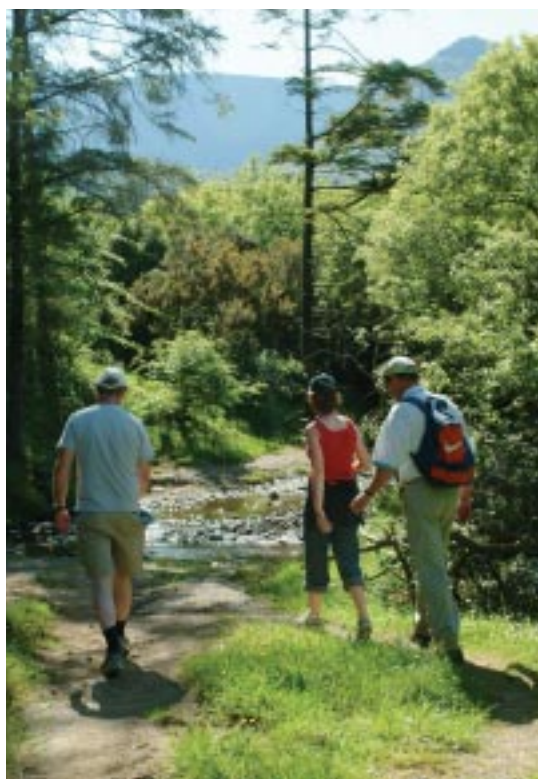
There can be little doubt that walking allows people to be regularly exposed to their local architecture, wildlife, history or archaeology. A Heritage Awareness study carried out in Wicklow in 2005 provided a good insight into attitudes among people in the county to their built, natural and cultural heritage. One of the strong themes to emerge from the study was the high level of interest in heritage generally, with almost 8 out of 10 people believing that heritage contributed to their quality of life. More specifically, however, the study showed a high level of interest in recreational walking as a means to access and experience this heritage, with more than 80% of people expressing an interest in walking. The main motivational factor given for 'visiting' heritage was the physical beauty of the areas visited, followed closely by the need for relaxation. The Wicklow survey to a large extent mirrors national findings, which show that walking is now the preferred recreational activity of 47% of Irish people.

It is no surprise that, given this interest in walking, there is likewise a strong interest among community groups and individuals in developing new or upgrading existing walking routes in their local area, whether it is a heritage trail, woodland or riverside walk, or a 'Slí na sláinte'. Very often while the interest exists, a community group may be at a loss as to how to get started or where to go for advice and support.

This new guide covers planning the trail, negotiating access, insurance, getting recognition from the National Trails Office of the Irish Sports Council, management and maintenance, marketing, funding and support available.

The Wicklow experience has shown that trails can evolve through a variety of ways, often depending on where they occur (e.g. on private, Coillte-owned or public land), the nature of the terrain (e.g. urban area or rugged terrain), or how they are promoted and man-

aged, e.g. by a local community group/local authority/Coillte or through funding from local LEADER company, the Heritage Council, the Forest Service's Neighbourwood scheme or others. A trail that has been well planned, and that has involved all relevant parties has a far better chance of long term sustainability than one that was rushed to meet grant application or other requirements.



Copies of the guide and further information is available from the Wicklow Heritage Officer,  
Tel: 0404-20100  
or from Wicklow Uplands Council,  
Tel: 0404-43958.

## BLACKROCK'S WILDLIFE REVEALED

In February 2007, Dermot Ahern TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs, launched a report from Blackrock Tidy Towns Committee that reveals the incredible wealth of wildlife to be found in and around the Louth seaside town of Blackrock.

The report, *The Ecology of Blackrock* written by ecologists Julie Roe and Oscar Merne, points out that Dundalk Bay, on which Blackrock is situated, is the single most important site for wading birds on the whole island of Ireland, and is also the third most important Irish site for all waterbird species combined. The report reveals that the mudflats and sandflats at Blackrock are themselves of international importance for a number of migratory waterbirds that feed there in autumn, winter and spring. About 50,000 waterbirds regularly use areas around Blackrock, including many thousands of Oystercatcher, Golden Plover, Lapwing, Knot, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew and Redshank.

Prior to this study very little information had been gathered on non-breeding waterbirds in the area. The survey found that significant numbers of Oystercatcher, Curlew and Common Gull were feeding and roosting there through the summer months. In addition to Blackrock's birds, the report contains comprehensive information on other wildlife in and around the town, including plants, bats and butterflies.

The mammal survey was marked by the discovery that five bat species are present – the scarce Leisler's and Daubenton's Bats, the recently discovered Soprano Pipistrelle, and the common Brown Long-eared Bat and Common Pipistrelles. The Irish butterflies are well represented here, with 17 species recorded, including resident and migrant species.

With the ongoing expansion of Blackrock, natural and semi-natural habitats are under considerable pressure from development. However, the tidal flats, saltmarshes and coastal fringe remain largely intact, while inland there are several small freshwater marshes, streams, stands of fine trees, varied and mature hedgerows, and fields with a good variety of wild flowers.

Copies of *The Ecology of Blackrock* are being distributed to schools, libraries, and relevant organisations. If you would like a copy, email Blackrock Tidy Towns at [lama@eircom.net](mailto:lama@eircom.net)



Golden Plover  
Flock  
Photo:  
Clive Timmons

## NEW ATLAS OF DUNDALK

A new atlas tracing historical Dundalk was launched in November 2006, and shows the growth of Dundalk from its origins to 1900. Streets, churches, mills, schools, smithies and wells are among over 1,300 features of the town identified and chronicled by Dr Harold O'Sullivan, who has been researching the history and archaeology of Co. Louth and its neighbourhood for almost 50 years. Two c. 1785 maps and a reconstruction plan of the town from c. 1835 are included among the many maps presented.



Author Dr O'Sullivan points out that "while much of the Dundalk we know may date from the last two centuries of the modern era, the place names of the town have existed from early medieval times... Founded in the late 12th century as a corporate town by the Normans, the roads and streets of that ancient town have continued in use over the centuries to the present day". Readers can discover where the 17 tanneries or the 42 smithies were located, as well as the locations of the eight gates in and out of the walled town of Dundalk. We learn that in 1683 there were 36 ale-houses in the town. And did you know that Dundalk was one of the first towns in Ireland with public lighting?

*Dundalk* is no. 16 in the Irish Historic Towns Atlas series, a Royal Irish Academy project. This series will eventually cover some 40 towns/cities for the country.

*Dundalk* is on sale in bookshops. Price €30. It is also available from the Royal Irish Academy: phone (01) 6762570; email [publications@ria.ie](mailto:publications@ria.ie).

Order online at <http://shop.ria.ie/shop/publications.asp>

# HERITAGE NEWS

## HALTING THE INVASION – JAPANESE KNOTWEED

In winter, Japanese knotweed dies back but it can still be recognised by its distinctive stems, which are green with purple or red specks and resemble bamboo canes. In summer it can be recognised by large oval leaves and the sprays of small creamy white flowers carried on zigzag stalks.



The spread of invasive alien plant and animal species is one of the greatest threats to global biodiversity – never more so than today, with increasing foreign trade and travel. An ongoing research project by NUI, Galway, in conjunction with ‘People and Nature’, the Galway County Biodiversity Project, is investigating the spread of the invasive non-native plant, Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) in Co. Galway. The researchers are now asking for help from the public to identify affected parts of Galway.

Away from its origins in Asia, Japanese knotweed is one of the most invasive plant species in the world and is now a severe problem in many countries. This ‘super-weed’ grows at a phenomenal rate of up to 10cm a day and will reach between 2 to 3m in height in the summer. One little plant may look innocent enough, but spreading by underground rhizomes, it can rapidly colonise large areas, quickly forming tall dense knotweed ‘jungles’ that

crowd out native plants and animals. It can also cause huge financial losses – through structural damage to roads, paths, graveyards and other structures – and it can be extremely difficult and expensive to control. It has no natural enemies in this part of the world to help control its spread.

Japanese knotweed is a particular problem in the UK, where it is regarded as their most destructive weed, and is rapidly becoming a problem here in Ireland. Only a small fragment of the plant is needed to start a new colony so it is increasingly found along waterways, roadsides and disturbed ground where fragments of the weed have been introduced by fly tipping, soil movement or simply washed ashore by the river. Therefore, care must be taken when trying to remove the weed, as cutting it may actually help spread it even further!

It has come as little surprise that Japanese knotweed is thriving in the mild damp conditions in the west of Ireland and parts of Galway City and county are already heavily infested, particularly next to rivers and canals in the city and along roadsides in Connemara. By reporting sightings you can help prevent its spread through Galway and protect our native flora and habitats. Information leaflets can be downloaded from: [www.alienspecies.ie](http://www.alienspecies.ie) or [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie).

For further information, please contact Michael Crowley at 091-492719 or email: [galway-knotweed@gmail.com](mailto:galway-knotweed@gmail.com) or Elaine O’Riordan, ‘People and Nature’ Project Manager at 091-493863 or [elaine.oriordan@nuigalway.ie](mailto:elaine.oriordan@nuigalway.ie)

## TRADITIONAL FIELD BOUNDARIES – SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

In December 2006, over 130 people attended two free seminars and workshops on the conservation of traditional field boundaries organised by the County Donegal Heritage Office.

Guest speakers on the hedgerow programme included David Hickie, editor of *Irish Hedgerows*; Anja Murray, An Taisce; Steven Meyen, Teagasc; Stuart Dunlop, manager of the ‘Donegal Hedgerow’ website; and Andy Booth, Conservation Services. Guest speakers at the stone walls seminar/workshop included Dr. Jonathan Bell, former director of the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum; Ralph Sheppard, Donegal Biodiversity Project; James Conliffe, Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences, NUI, Galway; and Patrick McAfee, stonemason and author of *Irish Stone Walls*.

The seminars and workshops were designed to raise awareness of the heritage value, historic signifi-

cance and landscape character of stone walls and hedgerows in the landscape. These traditional field boundaries are coming under continued threat from increasing development pressures, the changing nature of agriculture and the lack of availability of local traditional building and conservation expertise.

**Joseph Gallagher**, Heritage Officer,  
Donegal County Council



Patrick McAfee, Stonemason, supervises the rebuilding of a collapsed section of a dry-stone wall near the old Church of Ireland rectory in Glencolmcille as part of the free stone walls workshop organised by the County Donegal Heritage Office.



## DONEGAL'S CHANGING TOWNS AND VILLAGES

In March 2007, Geography students from Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, visited County Donegal to study the changing built environment and layouts of the county's towns. About 30 undergraduate students spent three days in the county undertaking field research in Ballyshannon, Bundoran, Donegal Town, Lifford, Ramelton and Raphoe. Using maps, historical documents and visual evidence, the students attempted to establish stages in the evolution of the towns selected for field research. The students also noted contrasts in architectural styles, craftsmanship and building materials between historic buildings and modern developments. The field research formed part of the students' assessment in historical geography.

More research on our built heritage and historic settlement patterns is needed in order to inform policy, management and planning of these changing built environments. Understanding traditional settlement patterns and conserving our built heritage can contribute to better planned, sustainable and more attractive places to live. One of the actions in the draft County Donegal Heritage Plan (2007-2011) is to undertake Village Design Statements in consultation with local communities. A Village Design Statement

highlights and describes the qualities and characteristics of a village that contribute to its distinctive identity and that are appreciated and valued by local residents. In partnership with The Heritage Council and Udarás na Gaeltachta, Donegal County Council hopes to create a number of Village Design Statements this year.

**Joseph Gallagher**, Heritage Officer,  
Donegal County Council



Geography students and staff from Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, during their field trip to County Donegal, pictured near the Bishop's Palace in Raphoe, the 17th-century Recorded Monument and Protected Structure.

## DONEGAL COUNTY ARCHIVES EDUCATION OUTREACH



In the past year Donegal County Archives Service has undertaken a programme of activities aimed at students and education providers in County Donegal. The objective was to increase awareness of the importance of local archives and of the extensive collection of documents

preserved by the County Archives in Lifford.

As part of the programme, in March 2006, the service launched its 'Schools Facsimile Pack', an innovative primary school history curriculum project supported by the Heritage Council and the Donegal Education Centre. The aim was to introduce children to archival material at a young age, providing an excellent learning opportunity while demonstrating the value of archival material. The pack is a very versatile teaching aid for use in history, geography, civics or social studies classes and is easily manipulated in the classroom.

Archival material demonstrates the nature of evidence, introducing the concept of primary and secondary sources and can also help develop a broad range of investigative and interpretive skills in students. Documents in the pack are arranged

under topics taken straight from the primary school curriculum and include: Homes and My Locality, Schools, Life in the 19th Century, Fishing and Farming, and Transport.

The Archives Service has also produced a guide to the archival collection aimed at teachers and students, which will be launched in the summer of 2007. Primary teachers visited the archive collections as part of teacher training courses during the summers of 2005 and 2006.

The outreach programme is now being extended to include secondary schools for the first time. Donegal is hosting a major commemoration this year, to mark the 400th anniversary of the Flight of the Earls. As part of this commemoration the Archives Service has produced a 'Document Study Pack' for secondary schools in Counties Donegal, Tyrone and Derry. The pack contains a selection of facsimiles of 16th and 17th century documents covering the events leading up to the Flight of the Earls of Tyrone and Tír Chonaill and the subsequent Plantation of Ulster. It also contains an introduction to the history of the Flight and worksheets. The pack will be distributed to secondary schools in the three counties with the support of the International Fund for Ireland.

For more information please contact: Donegal County Archives Service, Three Rivers Centre, Lifford, County Donegal. Tel:074-9172490/455 or email: [archivist@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:archivist@donegalcoco.ie)



# Capturing Your Landscape

*Terry O'Regan offers a community tool for active participation in sustaining and enhancing our landscapes – the Landscape Circle Template*



Rightly or wrongly the stability of our lives is anchored to assumptions, some not well founded – one is our expectation of an unchanging quality in our familiar, everyday landscape, an assumption so strong we often do not perceive negative landscape change until it is too late to intervene effectively.

Landscape and people are inseparable and where you have people, you have memory. It was no accident that Simon Schama gave the title *'Landscape and Memory'*<sup>1</sup> to a book that was really about landscape and people. Memory is about time and the human perception of time changes a two-dimensional picture into a multi-dimensional deep landscape.

The most common question I have faced over the past 12 years has been "What can we do about the destruction of our landscape?" In response, I urge people not to treat their landscape as something remote, but to consciously 'see' their landscape, perhaps for the first time – to try to understand the processes that shape their landscape - i.e. to 'capture' it!



Simon Schama describes this as “a journey through spaces and places, eyes wide open, that may help us keep faith with a future for this tough, lovely old planet.”

## EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

The Council of Europe (Coe) European Landscape Convention<sup>2</sup> (ELC), now in force, is about ‘capturing’ the landscape of Europe. Communities should turn to the Convention for support, direction and encouragement. The Convention places great stress on consultation, but citizens must have a more participative role to play if we are to achieve and sustain the high quality landscape envisaged by the Convention.

Ireland has been slow, at all administrative levels, to respond to the European Landscape Convention in a meaningful way. At home and on the European stage the inadequacies of the official response has been masked by the work of the Heritage Council and Landscape Alliance Ireland<sup>3</sup> (LAI).

The former has been very dynamic with its Policy Paper on Landscape and the National Heritage (2002); its fostering of awareness and understanding of landscape through initiatives such as County and City Heritage Plans and Village Design Statements; and its call for a landscape act and national proactive landscape management.

Landscape Alliance Ireland made the original call for a national landscape policy and has facilitated discussion, understanding and knowledge-sharing through National Landscape Forums and involvement with the ELC.

Irish landscape management, to date, has concentrated on the top-down approach of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and its use to inform policies and planning decisions of equally top-down administrators. Local authorities are slowly grasping the nettle of LCA – a useful, if limited, management tool.

Stakeholder consultation, where undertaken during LCA, provides a short-term, bottom-up gesture, often seen as token unless it forms an integral part of an ongoing community engagement with landscape.

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*I urge people not to treat their landscape as something remote, but to consciously ‘see’ their landscape, perhaps for the first time.*

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## THE LANDSCAPE CIRCLE TEMPLATE

The ‘Landscape Circle Template’ is designed to help communities capture and own their landscape. For many of us our landscape has slipped its collar, is running loose, spending too much time with those who do not have its best interests at heart!

I have found that communities are not easily awakened to their landscape unless it is imminently threatened or abruptly altered. The ‘Landscape Circle Template’ is the most recent LAI initiative to provide an integrated community tool for active participation in sustaining and enhancing landscape quality, with the added value of engaging smoothly with scientific and administrative landscape management machinery.

I first introduced the ‘Landscape Circle Template’ last autumn as part of a West Cork Leader FETAC accredited training course organised by Dr. Harriet Emerson on the maintenance and care of local heritage.

A ‘Landscape Shamrock’, the core of the template consists of a trinity of interlinked processes involving a novel circle-based scoping approach, the LANSWOT analysis tool – a landscape variation of the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) business management tool, coupled with a Landscape Image Observatory<sup>4</sup>.

The value of this three-pronged landscape approach is its capacity to integrate economic progress and heritage/environment/landscape in a community-based management framework. Embedded in the local landscape, it guarantees a ‘sense of place’ and a ‘sense of belonging’ to one’s own area and articulates the importance of local distinctiveness in reinforcing key life values.



**Opposite Top:**  
Castlefreck gate lodge - castle in background.

**Opposite Bottom:**  
A gatepost to trump any old concrete eagle!

**Left:**  
Castle Freke demesne as seen from Galley Head.

## THE SEVEN STEPS OF 'THE LANDSCAPE CIRCLE'

1. Scoping the study area – a circle on a Discovery Map – c.1km radius for urban locations, 2km for a village/surrounds, and 3-5km for rural areas.
2. Research<sup>5</sup> – reading and looking at pictures.
3. Creating an Image Observatory – a landscape photograph album.
4. Information gathering – listing the landscape ingredients in the circle.
5. Evaluating your landscape – the LANSWOT analysis – prioritising the lists.
6. Identifying actions and actors linked to the prioritised lists.
7. Completing the report, publicising/communicating its conclusions and becoming a landscape-active community.

The sequential steps assist communities in identifying, assessing and valuing the elements of their landscape, equipping them to proactively protect existing landscape quality, and to intervene creatively in the processes of change and development at work in the local landscape.

Designed for individuals and groups, it can focus on landscape or facilitate a landscape/heritage study, as in West Cork. While ideally introduced over a number of workshop sessions, it is also suited to 'distance learning'. A handbook is available from LAI, which introduces the concept of landscape, describing the seven steps and providing references, checklists, guidelines and templates for standard recording sheets. We recommend a landscape circle study time frame of at least six months to allow subjectivity to mature into objectivity.



### AN EXAMPLE: CAPTURING THE RATHBARRY/ CASTLEFREKE LANDSCAPE

I recently set out to capture the particularly well-endowed 'Rathbarry / Castlefreke Landscape' as part of a community landscape management initiative. Located south-west of Clonakilty, with a radius of 2km, it demonstrates how a relatively small circle contains a landscape of diversity and high distinctiveness and yet is manageable for a small group or individual as a study area.

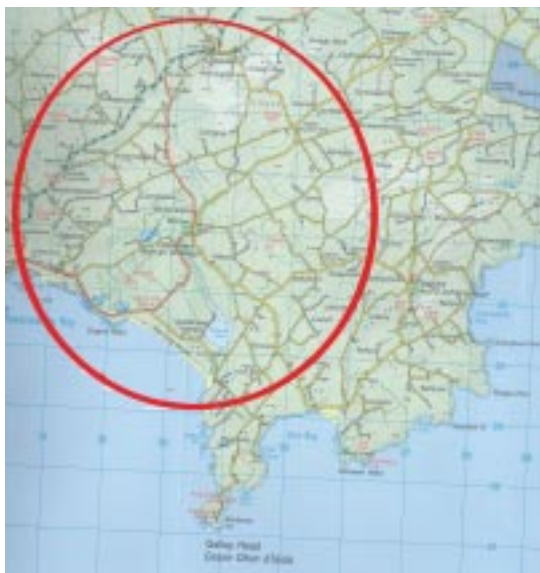
It contains many of the landscape elements common to the coastal areas of South West Cork – a gently rolling agricultural landscape, fields enclosed with earthen banks, gorse and some hawthorn hedgerow, with a more open, 'former demesne', landscape in the vicinity of Castlefreke Castle.

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*For many of us our landscape has slipped its collar, is running loose, spending too much time with those who do not have its best interests at heart!*

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The circle also includes coniferous and deciduous woodland, public pathways, streams, a small river, a lake, wetlands and reed beds, an exceptional sand and shingle beach with dunes, and rocky headlands. The features making it a very distinctive area relate to the impact of the Castlefreke demesne which gave rise to a 'landscape ensemble' – the Castle ruins, the Protestant Parish Church, the stone gate-lodges and other stone buildings in the vicinity. The Irish vernacular village pub is the exception. The location for the castle was chosen to command a sweeping view of the surrounding landscape and Rosscarbery Bay to the Southwest.



**Opposite Top:** The abandoned Protestant Parish Church.

**Opposite Bottom:** The Sprigging School.

**Left:** Wanted - preferably alive - The Rathbarry-Castlefreke Landscape. Ordnance Survey Ireland Permit No. 8329 © Ordnance Survey Ireland and Government of Ireland

**Above:** The Castlefreke-Rathbarry Landscape Circle.

But in particular the landscape impact of the Castlefreke demesne relates to the boundary walls along the roadways and around the estate, constructed from the very distinct local slate-type stone quarried in the immediately adjoining fields, and set in both vertical and horizontal alignment, radiating out from the castle as 'landscape corridors'.

The local community has achieved great success in the Tidy Towns competition. While some of the improvements have verged on the domestic, in the greens in the village area, they have recognised and largely protected the unique quality of their landscape and engaged in ongoing works, such as woodland footpaths and restoring the Sprigging School (originally erected by Lady Carbury to teach young ladies the skills of lace, crochet and needlework).

This landscape circle illustrates the difficulties of trying to take cognisance of a very strong local landscape characteristic – new residential entrances inserted into the distinctive roadside walls are constructed in stone, but in different non-local stone and clashing building styles.

The integrity of the Rathbarry/Castlefreke landscape is very vulnerable; it deserves wider recognition on an Irish, and possibly on a European, scale. A landscape circle study would crystallise the local understanding of landscape, and assist those contemplating large or small interventions to do so in a manner that is fully cognisant of its very unique landscape character.

Not every landscape circle will be as blessed with natural and cultural heritage, but each 'Landscape Circle' study will reveal local landscapes of character and distinctiveness – each requiring its own balanced strategy of protection, management and enhancement/planning.

A living landscape requires community engagement and this will not happen easily of its own accord in our frenetic tiger economy. To meet the challenges of tomorrow's landscape we need to ask questions of today's landscape. The community has the answers and must be heard.

The most disturbing pattern that emerged from contributions by community representatives at successive LAI National Landscape Forums has been their sense of powerlessness in the face of rapid landscape change. Powerless citizens will turn their backs on their landscape regardless of research, legislation, landscape character maps, guidelines or, ironically, even the European Landscape Convention. It is vital that we marshal the energy and interest of all citizens into the process of day-to-day landscape management.

The West Cork experience indicates that 'Landscape Circle' studies could achieve important goals in building and strengthening landscape awareness, ownership and respect at community level; influencing and contributing to best practice for the enhancement/management of our landscape. Together we can create a new dynamic landscape awareness throughout the island of Ireland.

**By Terry O'Regan, Landscape Alliance Ireland  
Tel. 021-4871460 email: lai.link@indigo.ie**

*Landscape Alliance Ireland would like to hear from communities and individuals interested in undertaking a 'Landscape Circle' study in their area. The handbook is available from LAI and information may also be obtained from the LAI website. A special 'Landscape Circle' National Landscape Forum will be organised later this year.*

1 Simon Schama, (1996) 'Landscape & Memory', Fontana Press, London. 2 <http://www.coe.int/europeanlandscapeconvention>

3 <http://www.landscape-forum-ireland.com> 4 Based on the French Landscape Photographic Observatory.

5 The Coe European Rural Heritage Observation Guide is recommended as a supporting text as it deals with landscape in a very tangible, non-technical, vernacular and Europe-embracing manner. [http://www.coe.int/t/e/cultural\\_co-operation/environment/cemat/paneuropean\\_co-operation/Guide\\_EN.pdf?L=E](http://www.coe.int/t/e/cultural_co-operation/environment/cemat/paneuropean_co-operation/Guide_EN.pdf?L=E)





# CLASSICALLY modern

*We take a look at the  
Contemporary Music Centre,  
the advocate and champion  
of modern Irish classical music*

The Contemporary Music Centre (CMC) is based in Temple Bar, Dublin, and celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2006. During its short life it has raised the profile, virtually single-handedly, of 20th and 21st century Irish composers to unprecedented levels both at home and abroad. Today there is no area of the Irish classical music scene with which the CMC is not involved. Its activities over the last two decades – including everything from concert promotion, to publishing, to podcasts – has helped to redefine the multi-faceted, multi-accented identity of Irish music for a new generation of composers, musicians and audiences.

Essentially a political lovechild of the EU-sponsored European Year of Music in 1985 (one of triplets, as it happens, its siblings being Music Network and the Irish Traditional Music Archive), CMC has grown from inauspicious beginnings – “One small room with no facilities, no catalogue, no collections, one staff member and no money!” recalls its Director, Eve O’Kelly – to a position of international respectability, its pivotal position on the world stage the most eloquent tribute to the success of its endeavours.

CMC exists to support and encourage the composition and performance on both sides of the border of what might be called ‘serious’ music. It does so in a series of innovative partnerships with composers, performers, broadcasters, audiences, funding bodies and like-minded organisations. With financial assistance from the Irish Music Rights Organisation (IMRO), for example, it administers a music-copying service to meet the costs of preparing instrument-parts of new Irish compositions for first performance.

At the very heart of what the CMC is and does is its library and archive, housed in its Fishamble Street headquarters, next door to where Handel’s mighty oratorio, *Messiah*, was first heard in 1742. Currently some 3,000 scores by 150 Irish composers (with 150-200 new scores added each year) can be accessed by anyone with an interest in seeing them. Similarly, you’ll find more than 5,000 recordings of performances, interviews and talks, the bulk of them generously donated by RTE, which offer their own vital aural history of Irish music over the last half-century and more. Add to that its own established publishing imprints, *CMC Editions* and the popular *Soundworks* imprint aimed at schoolchildren, and what begins to come into focus is a unique and wholly pleasurable resource.

“Anyone can come into the centre to use

our library as a reading or research facility, to get information about upcoming events, or to talk to us about a project. Musicians use us to source repertoire, as do programmers and promoters looking for suitable works for concerts or festivals, both at home and abroad,” explains Eve O’Kelly. We dispatch immense amounts of music to all corners of the world. We’ve just sent a huge order to the Wuhan Conservatoire in China. It could easily be the Philippines today, Berlin tomorrow and New York the next day”.

But it's not just on the printed page that CMC promotes Irish composers. The sixth volume of ‘Contemporary Music from Ireland’ was released last year, a ‘free-on-request-CD-as-cultural ambassador’ series that has so far featured the work of some 45 Irish composers. And demonstrating its awareness that music is best heard when it is heard live, the ‘Salon Series’, operated in association with near neighbour, the Project Arts Centre, has regularly showcased new chamber music in well-received live performances since 2003.

Undoubtedly the best shop window that CMC offers for Irish composers is its own elegantly designed, easily navigated website – [www.cmc.ie](http://www.cmc.ie) – which attracts 100,000 visitors every month and is crammed full to its digital seams with all manner of useful information and advice. And keeping pace with the MP3 generation, CMC offers its own monthly podcasts of musically illustrated interviews with composers.

Having celebrated the first 20 years, the CMC team will not rest on their laurels for too long. Already their sights are set on the creation of a live venue that would become “the place to go” and an indigenous record label dedicated to new classical music.

**The Contemporary Music Centre,  
19 Fishamble Street, Temple Bar,  
Dublin 8. [www.cmc.ie](http://www.cmc.ie)  
Tel: 01-6731922**



*Currently some 3,000 scores by 150 Irish composers can be accessed at the Contemporary Music Centre by anyone with an interest in seeing them.*



The official opening of the new Contemporary Music Centre in Fishamble Street, Temple Bar, Dublin, by President Mary McAleese in 2001.

*All photos © the Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland*

# The Burren

*Preserving an outstanding cultural landscape?*



The Burren, Co. Clare, which covers over 600 square kilometres, is one of Ireland's main tourist attractions as well as being one of the country's most important heritage assets. According to the cartographer and writer Tim Robinson, the Burren is one '*vast memorial to bygone cultures*'. While the area is famed for its natural heritage, such as orchids, the blue gentian flower, and feral goats, it also contains a wealth of archaeological remains. The Burren is home to 72 wedge tombs dating from the later Neolithic – early Bronze Age period, and while these tombs represent the ritual monuments of the earliest farming communities, recent fieldwork has also revealed the settlements and field walls people used to manage the landscape. A little further on in time, during the early medieval period, farming communities built and lived in enclosures and ringforts, and some 630 of these survive.





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*monuments once intended to be visible as markers in the landscape were gradually becoming shrouded by dense vegetation*

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According to the European Landscape Convention, which Ireland has ratified, a landscape is *'an area perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'*. Clearly the Burren is a prime example of such a fusion of natural elements (e.g. geology, flora and fauna) with the cultural elements of several millennia, such as agricultural activity, settlement, commemoration of the dead, etc. What this adds up to is a distinctive and striking cultural landscape. This important cultural resource has been the focus of research by scholars such as Westropp in the early 20th century and the Harvard Archaeological Expedition during the 1930s. The Burren continues to attract foreign and Irish researchers due to the quality and quantity of the archaeological resource. In short the physical traces of past generations, from the time of the first farmers to the present day, are preserved in this part of Co. Clare.

Yet this landscape is undergoing a slow and subtle form of change. A major new study, commissioned by the Heritage Council, has found that the archaeology of the Burren is being endangered by the growth of scrub vegetation. The landscape of the Burren has been shaped and managed by a long tradition of farming. The established pattern of winter grazing has helped maintain the archaeology and has ensured its visibility.

Recent changes in farming practices, particularly lower levels of grazing, have allowed the regeneration of hazel and blackthorn scrub. This is not a new phenomenon for the Burren - analysis of historic pollen sequences has detected a complex interplay between hazel regeneration and agricultural decline during

the Iron Age (circa 500 BC to 500 AD) followed by a decline in hazel and an expansion in farming during the early medieval (circa 500 AD - 1000 AD) period. It now appears that a similar relationship is at work again, as can be seen by regular visitors and locals and is quantifiable by studying satellite imagery and from basic fieldwork.

### INTO THE SCRUB

Through fieldwork and aerial survey, using satellite imagery, the report finds that the Burren's archaeology is being threatened by scrub encroachment. Comparison of specially acquired 2005 Quickbird satellite imagery (see following page) with aerial photography from 1973/74, 1995 and 2000 has provided an accurate picture of the spread of scrub vegetation. The results indicate that in five 1km-square sample areas hazel scrub has nearly doubled during the period from 1974 to 2005. What is interesting is that the spread of scrub has accelerated in recent years. In the first 21 years there was an average increase of 1.6%; however, during the period 2000 to 2005 the rate of growth has increased to 4.4% per year.

Scrub was found to be damaging archaeological monuments at a structural level, whereby important built elements were being displaced and dislodged, where sub-surface deposits such as cremations and burials in tombs were at risk of being disturbed and where monuments once intended to be visible as markers in the landscape were gradually becoming shrouded by dense vegetation. Moreover, there is a danger that monuments would be at risk of future loss/damage through inadvertent scrub clearance.



**Far Left:** A wedge tomb dating from the Late Neolithic - Early Bronze Age (circa 2500 BC) in Baur North townland is completely enclosed in a thicket of hazel and has a mature hazel tree growing in the burial chamber.

**Left:** A Late Neolithic - Early Bronze Age wedge tomb in Baur south townland in the 1950s sits within a clear and open landscape free from scrub.



# Leonardo da Vinci

*The Codex Leicester - Reflections on Water and the Moon*

*13 June - 15 August 2007*



*The Codex Leicester*, an autographed manuscript by Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) containing his observations on the nature and properties of water as well as other aspects of science and technology, is one of the most famous and important of Leonardo's scientific notebooks. Composed circa 1508-1510 and consisting of 18 loose double sheets in which Leonardo illustrated and wrote down ideas and observations in his distinctive mirror script, the manuscript is a lively record of the thoughts of the great Italian Renaissance artist and scientist.

Water is the central theme of the *Codex Leicester*, which also presents Leonardo's notes on subjects ranging from hydraulics to canalization, from astronomy to atmosphere and meteorology, and from physical geology and palaeontology. These provide substantial evidence for the study of his approach to science and technology, especially his understanding of the effects produced by moving water on the earth and in the sky. The notebook includes practical inventions, such as designs for strengthening bridges and for flood control, a number of which were used in Leonardo's time and are still in use today. The *Codex Leicester* also contributes to a deeper understanding of Leonardo's art, in that the *Mona Lisa* and other late paintings offer a visual synthesis of the artist's scientific knowledge as summed up in the *Codex*.

The Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, will display the *Codex* in an historical context,

together with borrowed works and manuscripts from the Library's own holdings, including a rich collection of manuscripts of Arabic science – some dating as far back as the late ninth century – which are of great significance as they transmitted to the western world the fruits of the learning of the classical world. An honorary committee of leading scientists has been assembled to assist the Library in developing the exhibition and the accompanying education programme. This will include interactive computer stations providing a multimedia programme through which visitors can learn about Leonardo's observations and their influence on Renaissance thought as well as their enduring influence today. The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue.

The *Codex* travels to no more than one country every year and will be displayed only at the Chester Beatty Library during its stay in Ireland. The manuscript has never been displayed in Ireland and is unlikely to return in the foreseeable future.

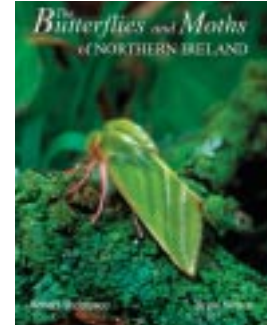
*Admission to the exhibition is free but booking is essential. For the widest choice of dates and times, we strongly recommended that you book online at [www.cbl.ie](http://www.cbl.ie) from 14 May. A limited number of tickets will be available to book by telephone, 01-4070769, from 14 May between 10am and 12 noon, Monday-Friday, and also for collection at the Library daily from 1 June.*

Images: Seth Joel/© Corbis



## GALLERY *The Butterflies and Moths of Northern Ireland*

The following beautiful images are taken from this fabulous book, *The Butterflies and Moths of Northern Ireland*, by Robert Thompson and Brian Nelson. This unique book is the first complete account of the Lepidoptera of Northern Ireland - the species that live there, their habitats, the threats they face, the places to find them and the best ways to study them in the field. Written for the general naturalist, and especially for those who would like to develop their interest in these captivating insects, the book gives an account of each of the almost 500 species that have been recorded in Northern Ireland, including information on their status, habitat and flight period. Each species account is complemented by a distribution map and often by a photograph.



Beautifully produced and lavishly illustrated, with text that is both authoritative and easy to read, this is an unmissable book for anyone who is interested in the natural world and its conservation.

Published by National Museums Northern Ireland. No. of pages: 440; Size: 274x219mm. ISBN: 0-90076-147-4.

Can be purchased directly from: Blackstaff Press, 4c Heron Wharf, Sydenham Business Park, Belfast BT3 9LE. [www.blackstaffpress.com](http://www.blackstaffpress.com) Direct Orderline: +44 (0) 113 399 4040.



**Elephant Hawkmoth** *Deilephila elpenor* (Linnaeus)

The beautiful Elephant Hawkmoth is recorded throughout Northern Ireland but most frequent in the southern counties and Antrim. Elephant Hawkmoth is found in large woodland clearings that have been colonised with Rosebay Willowherb, damp grassland, sand dunes, hedgerows and gardens. Adults become active around dusk and visit flowers, especially Honeysuckle, to feed.



**Garden Tiger** *Arctia caja* (Linnaeus)

While butterflies are the most flamboyant of the insects, gaudily proclaiming their identity, moths are much more understated and secretive, most only revealing themselves after dark; however, many moths are highly attractive insects. The Garden Tiger is a large, colourful moth that is widespread in Northern Ireland, but less abundant than it has been in the past. Garden Tiger is found in a wide variety of habitats, including woodland, bogs, coastal heaths and dunes as well as gardens.





**Early Thorn** *Selenia dentaria* (Fabricus)

This common moth is found in broadleaved woodland and wherever there are trees, including heaths, wooded bogs and urban and suburban sites. Recent analyses of the distribution of butterflies and moths of Britain have shown significant declines in many species. The largest decline amongst the butterflies have been in habitat-specialist species, those whose ecological requirements are the most specific. Two-thirds (226 species) of the moths surveyed showed a decreasing population trend over a 35-year study. The total population of all species had declined by 30 per cent in 35 years. Whether the declines reported in Britain have been paralleled in Ireland is unknown, but given the similar trends in the countryside in both islands, it would seem likely to be so.



## GALLERY

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**Orange Tip** *Anthocaris cardamines* (Linnaeus)

The males of this attractive well-known species are often seen on warm sunny spring days, fluttering along roadside hedges, flashing their orange-tipped forewings in search of females. The pace of change in the Irish countryside has been increasing over the last 60 years. Northern Ireland is becoming much more urbanized with an increasing acreage of land under housing and infrastructure; and most of lowland Northern Ireland is dominated by agricultural land, and only small, often isolated, fragments of natural habitats survive. It is in these refuges that the rarer species tend to be concentrated.

The pressure on these precious sites seems bound to increase, creating greater problems for our coexisting wildlife.

In the next 100 years, the impact of global climate change may be even more profound.



**Emperor** *Saturnia pavonia* (Linnaeus)

Emperor is one of the most generally distributed moths in Northern Ireland. It is found chiefly on wet heaths, bogs and moorland, but also in wet meadows and fens. It is absent from areas of intensive agriculture.

# THE LANDSCAPES WE DESERVE

## *If Only...*

**Michael Starrett** makes an appeal to protect Ireland's unique landscapes,  
in a real and tangible way, before it is too late



*“Landscape is an area, as perceived by people, the character of which is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.”<sup>1</sup>*

*or*

*Where we live, work and play!*

**I**t all seems so simple really. Whether rural, urban or peri-urban, landscape is about people. It is about where we live, work and play, and above all how we interact and behave towards others who share that landscape. That being the case one would imagine we would treat our landscapes well, plan carefully for their future use, and make sure that at the very least we would maintain their quality. That quality has, after all, a proven and direct benefit to our own wealth, health and sense of wellbeing.

At this juncture please remember how devastated you felt when you last visited, or took a friend or visitor to view, one of your favourite places and found it trashed. Trashed, either literally – through all the litter dumped on the streets – or metaphorically, through the insensitive design and location of some new development or the removal/destruction of some natural or cultural feature that you valued.

Such experiences show that despite its

importance to our quality of life, landscape has an image problem, particularly within Ireland. This is something of a paradox as the definition of landscape given above is about how people look at or perceive the natural and cultural settings in which they spend their lives. Ireland is renowned for its natural and cultural landscapes and yet we really do pay them little or no respect. Is this just inherent in our attitudes or are there deeper and more profound reasons for such behaviour? At a European level, all countries bar Ireland have legislation, structures and resources dedicated to conservation, management and development of their landscapes. Why not us?

For example, a look at the Irish statute book shows there is no specific provision to allow us to manage and develop our dynamic landscapes in an integrated manner, in such a way that embeds their economic value fully within their environmental and health value.

<sup>1</sup> The European Landscape Convention, Article 1, Definitions.



Living, working and playing in first class Irish Landscapes

We rightly change and use our landscapes for a plethora of economic reasons including building in them; attracting tourists to them; growing our food in them; and exploiting the natural and cultural resources they contain. Yet no specific connection seems to be made between those economic values and the environmental and health values of our landscapes. There are lots of agencies and individuals doing lots in the landscape and yet the connections between them all from a landscape perspective are just not being made.

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*At a European level, all countries bar Ireland have legislation, structures and resources dedicated to conservation, management and development of their landscapes. Why not us?*

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A little pause for thought would show we could have the best of both worlds, i.e. a first rate economy and first-class landscapes. **The solution is simple. Legislate or use existing legislation differently.**

### SIMPLE SOLUTIONS

In any democracy the interests of people, primarily their economic, social and environmental wellbeing are provided for in legislation and, as a consequence, the programmes and projects of government reflect those interests. In France, major infrastructural projects proudly proclaim “*L’Etat investit dans votre avenir*”, i.e. “*the State is investing in your future*”. A careful piece of marketing one might say. It is, however, a bit more than that. Examination of the French statute book, and those of other European countries, shows legislative provisions for their landscapes that really do put us to shame. Legislation exists not only for protected landscapes, such as national parks and

regional parks, but also contains provisions that ensure proper account is taken of the interests of people in the wider countryside and their urban and peri-urban landscapes.

What is more, French legislation is backed up by guidelines and resources to put structures in place that make a real difference on the ground. There is, as a result, a real sense of national, regional and local government working with people, bringing real and tangible benefits for natural and cultural elements of the landscape and for the socio-economic development of regions. Visit the French countryside and see how well the towns and villages (to say nothing of their roads) are developed and their character maintained. Travel to one of 40 Regional Parks and see how cultural tourism and eco-tourism bring real benefits to the wider population, helping to sustain rural communities. These are *Living landscapes*, combining care of environment with the social and economic wellbeing of people.

### COMPARISONS

Comparisons are they say invidious but why oh why is our image of how to develop and manage our landscapes so different to the rest of Europe? Or should that be ‘diffident’.

We have no specific legislation, not even for our National Parks. In terms of Government programmes, the recently published National Development Plan makes only passing reference to landscape issues. Traditionally one might turn to the Town and Country Planners to address these issues and yet effectively only one section in the 2000 Planning Act<sup>2</sup> refers to landscape and its designation. This section hasn't been used at all since 2000. No local authority and no Government Minister has seen fit to use this provision in the Act. This must be part of the same image problem, or is it *there are none so blind as those who don't want to see*. And, just in case the planners think I am having a

2 Section 204 Of the 2000 Planning Act provides for designation of Landscape Conservation Areas by Local Authorities and/or the Minister of Environment Heritage and Local Government.





French, Italian and other European Regional and National Parks, such as Briere and Cinques Terres, provide structures for vibrant rural economies

go at them, it is fair to point out that some of the major forces for change in our landscape, for example, forestry, agriculture and major infrastructural developments, fall outside their direct control of influence.

For its part, the Heritage Council has been working with the forestry and agriculture industries on landscape issues for nearly 10 years and in fairness some progress has been made. Council has also worked with infrastructural agencies such as the National Roads Authority (NRA) and with the local authorities on planning and development issues. But the structures don't exist to build on this progress. Council has fulfilled its statutory functions by proposing to Government a national landscape policy, a national landscape programme and a Landscape Ireland Act. It has evaluated and it has reviewed. Lots of words, and some action, but there seems to be a blockage to what seems such a simple solution. New structures and dedicated resources are needed to meet specific and agreed objectives for our landscapes.

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*With current rates of change to our very dynamic landscapes, our generation only has one opportunity to safeguard and indeed enhance their value for ourselves and for our children.*

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### WHY THE BLOCKAGE?

So, why this image problem? Why the blockage?

Is it the fault of Europe? The European Union is hung up on directives for nature conservation, while the Council of Europe concentrates on the cultural, some might say 'more woolly and less scientific' aspects of the landscape.

Is it due to the compartmentalised nature of our government departments, where all have an impact on our landscapes and yet none seem to have overall responsibility for sustaining them into the future?

Is it because if we pay attention to landscape it might itself block development?





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*we are currently treating our landscapes  
with a real lack of professionalism.*

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The *blockage* is in fact a combination of the above and more. To quote Denis Hickie after the recent loss of the Six Nations championship, Grand Slam et al. “*we have no one to blame but ourselves*”. Take the eye off the ball for one minute and it’s gone. With current rates of change to our very dynamic landscapes, our generation only has one opportunity to safeguard and indeed enhance their value for ourselves and for our children. One opportunity to do something special.

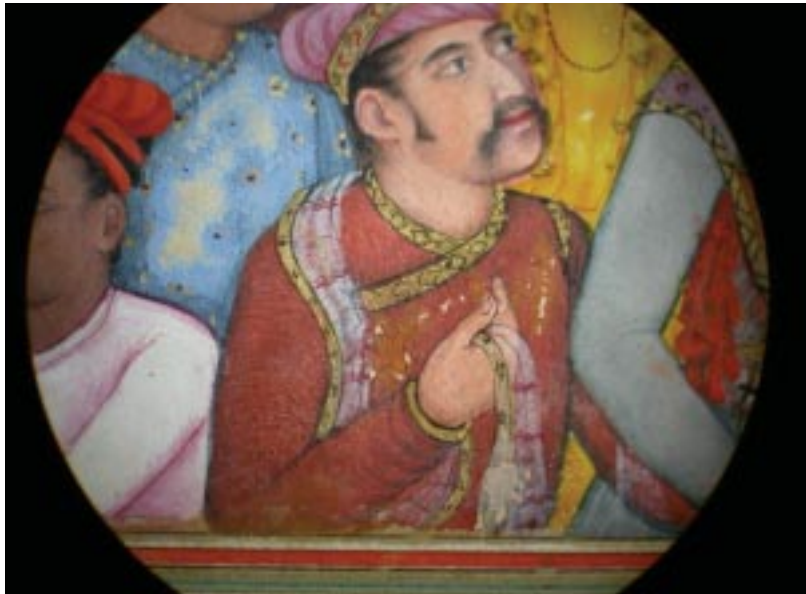
And yet we are currently treating our landscapes with a real lack of professionalism. In sporting terms we are still running around with an old leather football, laces and all, at a time when others are using modern equipment, methods and training. We have some very exciting landscapes but we have taken our eye, quite literally, off that ball. Or at

least our management has. As a result we will, like the Irish rugby team, ultimately finish second best. We deserve better and could do better, but a few lapses in concentration will cost us dear. The rugby team will have a second chance, but unless we act we will end up with the landscapes we deserve. No point in looking back, no point in analysing why. Accept what we have and live in it, work in it and play in it. And what about the tourists? They won’t care. They will have gone off to spend their money elsewhere. And what about us? Will we care? After all, we live in this landscape. What a shame it may be second-class.

If only...

**By Michael Starrett, Chief Executive,  
The Heritage Council**





# THE INDIAN MUGHAL MINIATURES

*Conserving the intricate artworks  
of the Indian Emperors*



*In 2006, the first Heritage Council-supported conservation intern, Rachael Smith, began work at the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, in a scheme co-funded by the Heritage Council and the Library's Contributing Members.*

*The main focus of the internship has been the conservation of the Library's outstanding Indian Mughal miniature collection, under the supervision of Conservation Manager, Jessica Baldwin. Here, Rachael tells us a little about her work...*





**Opposite Top:** Detail of flaking pigment from an Akbarnama manuscript, c.1603-5, CBL In3.168.

**Opposite Bottom:** Detail of Mughal women celebrating the festival of holi, c.1615-20, CBL In07A.4.

**Above Top:** Detail of flaking blue pigment from a Baburnama manuscript, c.1589, CBL In06.6.

**Above Bottom:** Detail of a portrait of the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, c.1640, CBL In07B.28.

Rachael Smith, Conservation Intern at the Chester Beatty Library, is working on the conservation of the Indian Mughal miniatures. Commissioned by the Emperors of northern India between the late 16th to mid 17th centuries, the paintings range in size from a few centimetres up to approximately A4.



The artworks, dating largely from the late 16th to mid 17th centuries, were commissioned by the Emperors of northern India. Although termed ‘miniature’, the paintings range in size from a few centimetres up to approximately A4. Many of the paintings were manuscript illustrations; they often have text alongside and would originally have been bound into books. Others are individual portraits, later mounted with highly decorative borders and calligraphy on the reverse, and bound into opulent albums for the emperor’s perusal.

The miniature paintings reflect the splendour and wealth of the imperial court; the pigments include ground gold and silver, the semi-precious stone lapis lazuli, and the minerals azurite and malachite. Artificially created pigments were also used, such as lead white, red lead and vermillion, and a range of earths and organic pigments. These included Lac, a glossy dark red created from insect exudations, and Indian Yellow, from the urine of cows fed on mango leaves.

The paintings were executed on paper supports, the pigments bound with gum and applied with water. Thin applications were built up to create a thick, opaque layer of pigment sitting on the surface of the paper, which was burnished at each stage to give a smooth, polished finish. Large areas of colour would first be blocked in, then shading and detail added with brushes of increasing fineness. Examination under the microscope has revealed the minute and lively details that the paintings are imbued with, as well as subtle surface textures and contrasts. My research has concentrated on the use and application of gold. Different tones of gold are applied alongside each other, or selectively burnished, and occasionally applied over coarsely ground pigment to create a sparkling finish. The gold is often punched and incised to suggest the texture of textiles or jewellery, contrasting with small details of thicker raised paint, particularly of white dots imitating pearls.

In the near future, a collection of the miniatures will form an international travelling exhibition. The paintings will inevitably be placed under certain stresses from vibrations during transport, increased handling, exposure to light and varying environmental conditions. The role of a conservator is to ensure that these effects are minimised, and to stabilise the condition of the objects prior to travel.

Although generally in good condition, like all works of art, the paintings have undergone some deterioration with time, the result of fluctuating temperatures and humidity,



exposure to light, tunnelling insects, and poor handling.

There are a number of further problems inherent to the objects' construction, which may continue to cause deterioration. These include a beautiful green pigment from a corrosion product of copper, which is intrinsically unstable. Over time it discolours brown and causes the paper beneath to become very brittle, often leading to cracking and loss. Recent research has suggested that gelatine may be able to bond with the copper ions responsible for the degradation, and its use as a repair adhesive is currently being considered at the Library, with the aim of slowing the rate of deterioration.

Another problem is widespread cracking and flaking of the thick pigment away from the smooth paper surface. This is due to insufficient or deteriorating binding material, flexing of the pages as they were turned, or subsequent shock and vibration.

Although most losses are barely perceptible to the naked eye, under the microscope they become very apparent, and areas vulnerable to further loss can be identified. These areas can be stabilised by applying an adhesive to the paint to re-adhere the pigment particles to each other and to the paper. This carries obvious risks, particularly of disrupting the appearance of the painting, both immediately and as the adhesive ages over time.

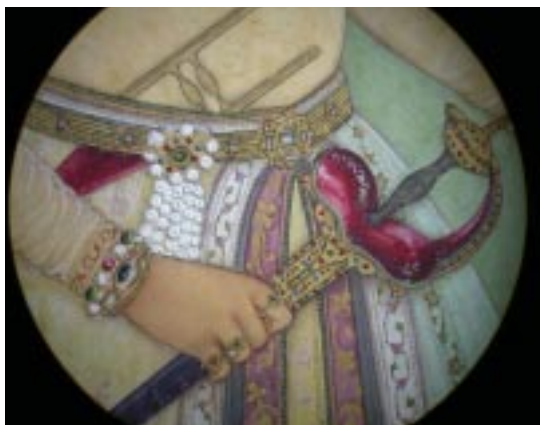
As part of my internship, I visited a number of UK institutions with comparable material to learn more about options for treating these problems. I am currently testing these methods and materials on pigment samples at the Chester Beatty Library in order to determine an appropriate conservation policy for the Indian miniature collection.

In May 2008, over 80 of the most important miniatures will form a travelling exhibition entitled *'Muraqqa': Imperial Mughal Albums from the Chester Beatty Library*. The exhibition will visit five venues in North America, providing a rare opportunity to view this exceptional collection.

By **Rachael Smith**, Conservation Intern,  
Chester Beatty Library

For more information email: [rsmith@cbl.ie](mailto:rsmith@cbl.ie)

*All images © The Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin*



**Top:** The Mughal Emperors with courtiers, 1630, CBL In07A.19.

**Middle:** Detail of raised and flaking pigment in a portrait of the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, c.1627-9, CBL In07A.10.

**Bottom:** Detail of incised and punched gold on an Imperial Mughal parasol, 1630, CBL In07A.19.



# Local Biodiversity Areas

## Nature On Our Doorstep

*Richard Nairn argues that local nature sites also need protection and the best people to care for them are the landowners themselves.*



Everybody knows one. It's the little stream that runs along the bottom of the garden; or the patch of trees behind the school; even the local graveyard could be a valuable area for nature in your parish or townland. It might be the place where you started birdwatching or where you first saw a deer in the wild. They are the local habitats for nature. They are not important enough to merit designation as, for example, Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Natural Heritage Area (NHA). Usually, we take these areas for granted. We have grown up with them. They are part of the local landscape in a way that we thought would never change. But it is only when they are threatened by dumping or pollution, by construction of a house or a larger development such as a motorway, that we take much notice of them.

Richard Mabey, Britain's foremost nature writer, wrote that: "Conservation begins pre-

cisely where the pain and destruction of modern development are most keenly felt – in the parish, that indefinable territory to which we feel we belong, which we have the measure of" (*The Common Ground: A place for nature in Britain's future*. Hutchinson, 1980).

### LOCAL BIODIVERSITY AREAS

Ireland is unusual among European countries in that we have no protected areas for biodiversity below the level of national importance. The Natural Heritage Areas network is protected under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, although even this has been slow to take effect as many proposed NHAs have not yet been formally designated. NHAs have a certain amount of protection through the Planning Acts as they are generally listed and mapped in Local Authority Development Plans and Local Area Plans. There is a requirement to include objectives for the protection of the natural environ-



ment along with national monuments and listed buildings. However, there has been an over-reliance on these designations, together with a widespread but mistaken belief that these are the only areas of importance for nature.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Environmental Impact Assessments for large developments, such as roads and pipelines, often list hundreds of locally important habitat sites that have no legal protection at all. Also, the absence of national habitat surveys and inventories means that many important smaller sites may be unknown, and much is yet to be learnt about important sites for the more numerous but less known and less visible species groups, such as insects or molluscs.

A recent Inventory of Habitats in Galway City (jointly sponsored by the Heritage Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service) listed a total of 12 Areas of High Biodiversity within the jurisdiction of Galway City Council alone<sup>1</sup>. This report coined the term Local Biodiversity Areas (LBAs). Most of these areas lack protection under national legislation, but now the City Council has undertaken to implement the recommendations of the report and undertake annual monitoring. The City Manager has stated his intention to establish a committee to monitor the protection of these areas and to prepare a management plan for one of them on a trial basis.

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*Ireland is unusual among European countries in that we have no protected areas for biodiversity below the level of national importance.*

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## LANDOWNERS ARE THE CUSTODIANS

Most of the locally important nature areas are privately owned but they may contain some public land, such as parks, seashore or wetland. Some of the land, such as heathland or bog,

Limestone pavement, Galway



may be jointly owned by a number of people as commonage. The listing of a piece of land as a Local Biodiversity Area does not confer any legal restriction on the site but simply confirms its value to nature. Nor does the LBA listing suggest that there is any right of access to the land. In fact the first priority should be for the



Tomnafinnoge Wood

landowners to be visited by an expert who can explain to them the importance of their land for nature. A valuable lesson has been learnt through the pilot Field Monument Advisor programme in Counties Sligo and Clare. Here each of the known archaeological sites was visited by a local expert and most of the landowners were found to be interested in “their” monuments and wanted more information about them. This direct personal approach is also likely to be the best way of encouraging the custodians of nature areas to take a pride in their natural heritage.

Clearly, unless something is done to protect the natural areas around Galway City, they will be eroded rapidly by development. Housing is encroaching on limestone pavement, heath and species-rich grassland in the east of the city, and on bog and acid heath in the west. Dockland development is gradually infilling more of the natural shoreline. The city is expanding upstream along the banks of the River Corrib, eating away at the natural corridor that links the lakes to the sea.

## LINKS IN THE LANDSCAPE

Local nature areas all have a role to play in the conservation of wildlife and their habitats. Larger animals do not live in isolated islands of nature. They move about the landscape throughout the season and through their life cycle. An otter may live a solitary life for most of the year, feeding along the coast, and on lakes or canals and moving between them along rivers, streams or even over land where there is

1. Natura Environmental Consultants (2005) Galway City Habitat Inventory and Habitat Map. Galway City Development Board. Available on the website [www.galwaycity.ie/cbd](http://www.galwaycity.ie/cbd)

enough cover. It leaves its droppings or spraints in prominent positions on the water's edge where they act as 'smellagrams' to inform other otters who exactly has passed this way. If the streams or drains are culverted or infilled, the otter may have no choice but to move out of cover and many become road casualties.

Bats are also dependent on a network of habitats for feeding, roosting and commuting. They may be prevented from using some of the habitats due to barriers to open spaces, lighting and infrastructure such as roads.

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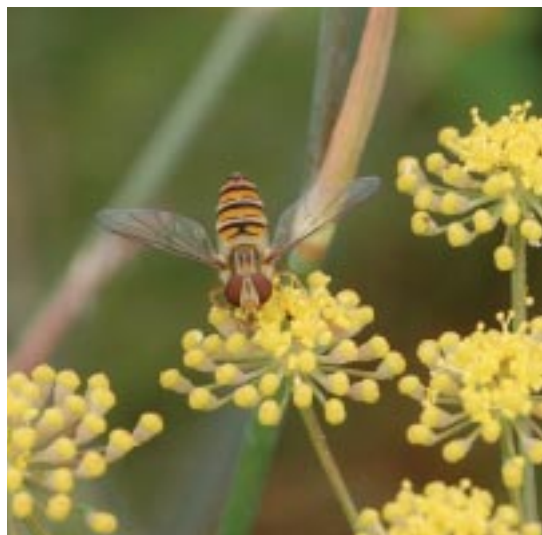
*Local nature areas all have a role to play in the conservation of wildlife and their habitats. Larger animals do not live in isolated islands of nature.*

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Salmon are among several types of fish which can live equally well in the sea and in freshwater. Each year a spawning salmon makes an amazing migration from the ocean to the river or stream of its birth, via the estuary and the main river channel which may have many obstacles and hazards. These migration highways are as vital for the survival of the species as their spawning grounds in the headwaters. So, the corridors or stepping stones of habitat which link larger, more important sites, are equally valuable in maintaining wildlife populations.

### THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY

Identifying the Local Biodiversity Areas is one thing, finding a mechanism through which these can be offered legal protection is another. The incorporation of information about LBAs into the planning process through the preparation of Local Area Plans by Planning Authorities is one such mechanism. The Planning and Development Act 2000 requires Local Authorities to prepare Local Area Plans



Droheda  
Docklands

for towns and villages within their functional areas which satisfy specific criteria<sup>2</sup>.

In 2006, Wicklow County Council, through its Heritage Officer, and with support from The Heritage Council, has commissioned reports on Local Biodiversity Areas for the towns of Greystones/Delgany, Rathdrum and Blessington, to inform the preparation of Local Area Plans for these settlements. In each case the most important surviving features - woods, treelines, grasslands, ponds and streams - have been identified, with the linkages or habitat networks which connect them together. This information has been incorporated into the Plans and is supported by policy objectives and zoning. The Local Area Plans go through various public consultation stages before final adoption. The Local Area Plan sets out a framework to ensure that development occurs in a planned and sustainable (environmental, economic and social) manner over the plan's six-year lifetime. Having LBAs included as part of the Local Area Plan ensures that the presence of locally important wildlife areas and habitats are considered from the earliest stages.

Richard Mabey also knew how the local areas should be conserved. "They are the features which the local community is uniquely placed to protect, either formally through parish organisations, or through the informal business of day-to-day living. Even features of wider interest often stand a better chance of being saved because of contacts between a landowner and his neighbours than because of any pressures from outside". So, if you value a local area for wildlife, bring it to the attention of the landowner and the Heritage Officer in your local authority. This way, at least there is a chance that it will not be overlooked when the pressure for development inevitably comes.

*Richard Nairn is a writer and environmental scientist who leads a team of ecologists in Natura Environmental Consultants. He is grateful to Deirdre Burns and Julie Fossitt for comments on an early draft of this article.*

2. Section 10 (2) (c) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, states that a development plan shall include objectives for "the conservation and protection of the environment including, in particular, the archaeological and natural heritage and the conservation and protection of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph". Section 19 (2) of the Act states that a local area plan shall be consistent with the objectives of the development plan.

# BOUNDLESS HORIZONS

## *Historic Landscape Characterisation*

*Graham Fairclough introduces Historic Landscape Characterisation, a powerful tool used in England to provide a framework, within the aims of the European Landscape Convention, for broadening our understanding of the whole landscape and contributing, particularly through spatial planning and land management policy, to decisions affecting tomorrow's landscape.*



**Ireland:**  
Landscapes such as this, of great historic character, would be prime candidates for HLC.  
(photograph G. Fairclough)

### INHERITING LANDSCAPE

The designed landscape – whether jewel-like garden or panoramic vista – is only one of the many ingredients that make up the English historic landscape. Most historic landscape lies beyond the park pale, and reflects the lives of ordinary people in the past. This wider landscape is arguably the most fundamental aspect of the historic environment yet until quite recently it was largely ignored or poorly understood. But it provides the setting for everything else and reveals the long interaction, sometimes harmonious but often not, of people with nature. This wide view of the landscape matches policy at the highest level and democratic aspirations at the most grassroots level, especially since the European Landscape Convention ([www.coe.int/t/e/cultural\\_co-operation/environment/landscape/](http://www.coe.int/t/e/cultural_co-operation/environment/landscape/)) was launched in 2000 (and since it came into force in Ireland in March 2004 and in most of the UK three years later).

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) looks beyond individual buildings, ornamental landscapes or archaeological sites to establish a generalised, but comprehensive, historic view of the whole landscape. Nowhere is left out because in all places landscape can be shown to have some historic and cultural dimensions which may be very important locally even if not ‘nationally’ important. HLC does not zoom into special places, whether focused on outstanding monuments or beautiful landscape, but works on the principle that landscape exists

wherever people live and interact with their environment. It operates through a concern not for the past but for the present day – people’s quality of life, landscape as the physical manifestation of human rights – and with an eye on the future – how do we ensure that our successors can inherit a historic landscape?

### CONTENTS AND FRAMEWORKS

HLC includes components of the landscape that seem ‘natural’ but are actually the product of centuries of human action, such as hedgerows, woodland, ponds and modified watercourses or the very covering of the land. It takes account of more intangible matters reflected in its physical structure: time-depth, and patterns such as settlement, land-use and the mixture of enclosed and non-enclosed land, arable and grazing, woodland and parkland. And, of course, it takes account of the activities and products of people over long spans of time – past and present settlements and their patterns, of archaeological sites, of the human-made structure of the landscape, of the historic and cultural dimension of places and, more important, of the whole landscape.

HLC is carried out in England at a county level, by local authorities with English Heritage support. The ambitious scale of the project required such a broad-brush approach, and the county as a working scale offered practical advantages, notably co-location alongside our other historic environment databases, close links to the level at which spatial planning and the



management tools are operated, and the need for a scale of work midway between the local and the national.

## UNDERSTANDING THE HISTORIC DEPTH OF THE WHOLE LANDSCAPE

Before HLC, it was difficult to discuss the historic character of the whole landscape. There were many exemplary local studies of landscape history and archaeological landscape work, but no overall view. There was a common belief that the most important historic landscapes were simply the areas with the most and the best buildings or monuments - for a pre-historian, Dartmoor or Salisbury Plain; for an architectural historian, Bath or Westminster; for a garden historian, Stow or Chatsworth. Ordinary places, with their commonplace and typical qualities - where most people live - were overlooked, and the term 'Historic Landscape' was in danger of becoming just another badge of quality to pin on all the usual suspects.

With HLC, English Heritage adopted an approach to allow any area's historic landscape character to be recognised independently. HLC can study and understand (and thus facilitate its management) on its own terms using archaeological analysis of its material remains. It is important, however, to regard HLC as an interpretation of landscape, not as hard data; this strengthens its ability to generalise, and to connect to other disciplinary or public viewpoints of landscape. It also recognises the role of perception in landscape highlighted by the European Landscape Convention and offers the potential to raise public awareness of the historic environment on everyone's doorstep, not just in designated areas.

In creating its new basic understanding of the historic dimension of the whole landscape, HLC borrows some of its methods from Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), a technique used by landscape architects to grasp the overall character of landscape. LCA, how-

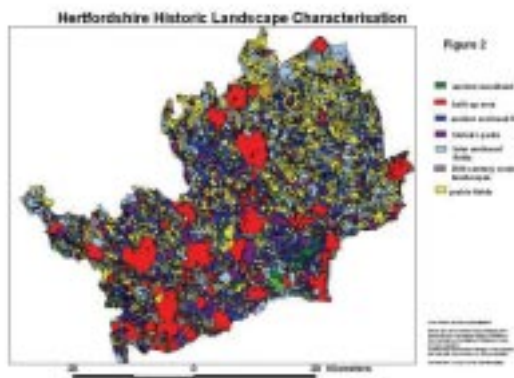
ever, is driven by aesthetic judgements, and is based on an assumption that geology, soils and geomorphology determine a landscape's appearance. Between these poles of aesthetic and environmental factors, however, lies history and archaeology, which HLC can add to the mixture. The shared methods and nested scales of LCA and HLC, however, allow the two techniques to 'speak' to each other as part of creating more integrated, inter-disciplinary and holistic appreciations.

## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPES

The basic source for HLC is the landscape itself, as portrayed on the latest maps and aerial photographs. Other sources are used, mainly modern mapping or digital data, for example, of semi-natural woodland or current mineral sites. Historic maps are used as guides to earlier periods, including those older than the maps themselves, to analyse the present-day rather than past landscape. Site-based data (e.g. archaeological sites, parks and gardens, conservation areas or habitats) are used with completed HLCs to provide a further level of understanding.

It is an important aspect of HLCs that they are computerised on highly sophisticated Geographic Information Systems (GIS). An HLC is not simply a single map, but a system that can be used (and continuously updated or enhanced) in many different ways: broad summaries of a county's historic landscape character, more detailed portrayals of aspects of it, explanations of historic processes that have shaped the land.

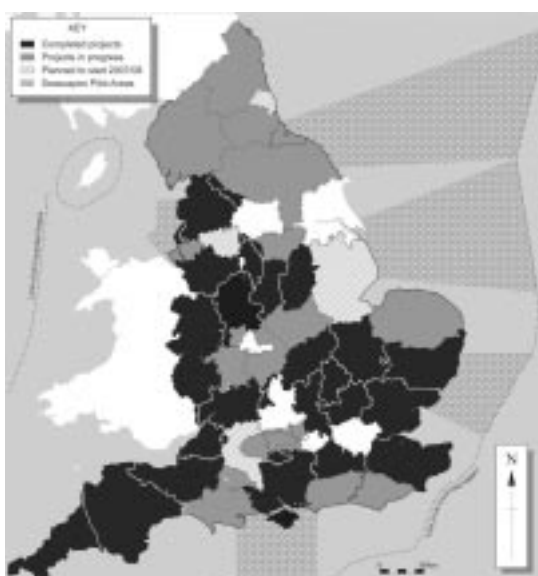
HLC uses GIS to attribute to each block of land a range of Historic Landscape Types, some contemporary, some past, and usually at both broad and detailed levels. The basic building block is a group of fields or other land parcels. The size of the blocks varies according to the grain of the landscape, and is therefore a product of an area's history. GIS databases allow the judgements and interpretations that



## HLC maps of Hertfordshire

On the far left, an HLC map of the county of Hertfordshire showing Broad Types (red is urban) and on the left a summary of this divided into HL Character Areas on the basis of each area's predominant historic character; these have immediate practical value to provide evidence for strategic planning and other uses. *(created by Lynn Dyson-Bruce; Isabel Thompson, Stewart Bryant in Hertfordshire CC for EH)*

The current extent of Historic Landscape Characterisation (and Seascapes) in England. English Heritage's HLC programme was designed in the mid-1990s to support these new ideas that are growing widely in acceptance. National coverage is already approaching completion. (Map drawn by Vince Griffin, English Heritage)



underlie the HLC to be made explicit, and it allows multiple maps to be produced at whatever degree of certainty or detail is required for a particular purpose. Type descriptions, or correlations between the pattern of Types and other information – such as prehistoric monument distributions, ecological data or even socio-economic data – can be used to provide evidence for decisions about future land use. Types can also be aggregated into distinctive but mixed areas of character to provide a more strategic higher level of evidence.

Historic Landscape Types are based on historic processes, land-use and appearance. They take into account ‘time-depth’, the sequence of changes and layers in the contemporary landscape of any area that reflects its history. Previous landscape character can also be described, to show the chain of actions and events that lie below the surface of today’s perception. Examples of Types include different types of woodland (recent plantations, ancient woodland), heath-land and common (and sometimes former areas of heath and common), land used in the 20th century for military purposes (airfields) and still retaining military character, areas mainly characterised by mineral extraction or industry or ornamental designed landscape. Most notably, HLC Types cover the great diversity of land enclosed by hedges, walls and other boundaries that form perhaps the most important component of the English historic landscape, frequently assigning earlier dates for more areas than hitherto suspected, and filing out the deep-seated regional variations revealed by the Settlement Atlas.

## OBJECTIVES OF HLC

Improved understanding by experts is not HLC’s main goal. It involves a distillation of

existing knowledge more often than the creation of new academic research. HLC aims to codify understanding in ways that can be appreciated not just by other archaeologists but by farmers and planners, or by the population at large. Its information is designed to have practical applications. The context it gives for individual hedges, for example, is useful to guide decisions such as which hedge should be protected by the Hedgerow Regulations because of its own historic significance, not only because of how many rare birds or plants it might support.

HLC aims to provide strategic information for spatial planning and development policies, to influence the character and location of change, and to inform agriculture and land-use policy. It aims to integrate heritage with other facets of conservation, specifically countryside and nature conservation, but it also provides a wider context for our knowledge of the individual parts of the historic environment. At the same time we hope that by raising public awareness it will encourage people to decide for themselves what they value in their historic landscape.

## WHAT NEXT?

HLC captures a particular view of the present landscape-day. Updating will be necessary as the landscape (and our understanding of it) changes, and as people’s perceptions grow. The contribution of farmstead diversity is currently being incorporated into the HLC picture, so providing a wider context for the protection of that part of the landscape as they pass increasingly from agricultural to residential use. Nor does landscape stop at the urban fringe. Towns and cities are landscape, too - or townscape - as the ELC emphasises, and the principles and practices of HLC have been added to existing methods of urban archaeological survey, all the way along the scale from small market towns in Cornwall through historic cities such as Lincoln to conurbations such as Merseyside and even to Greater London. Nor does it stop at land’s edge: we have just completed ‘Seascapes’ work, first in Liverpool Bay and this year in four other pilot areas, to present the historic character of the seabed and the sea, from the inter-tidal zone to (in the latest work) the median line with England’s overseas neighbours.

A greater challenge is to expand HLC to embrace the intangibles of landscape, such as cultural and psychological perceptions and historical associations: the ways in which ‘landscape’ embraces all the senses of belonging or

alienation, familiarity or strangeness. HLC needs to incorporate how people react to landscape, often not through the accepted rules of aesthetics. A starting point is that a number of HLCs are now available in simplified form on the web, but we need to go very much further. 'Our' landscape within HLC and its parallel forms of characterisation are still 'experts' landscape'. What landscape do normal people see?

By **Graham Fairclough**,  
Head of Characterisation, English Heritage

English Heritage is the British Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment, and is an Executive Non-departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. English Heritage exists to protect and promote England's spectacular historic environment and ensure that its past is researched and understood.

[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

*This is a revised and updated version of 'Boundless Horizons' first published by English Heritage in Conservation Bulletin 40, 2001,*



*[www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/boundless\\_horizons.pdf](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/boundless_horizons.pdf). More recent material (including the reports of two HLC reviews of HLC methods and HLC uses – "Taking Stock of the Method" [Aldred O & Fairclough G 2003] and "Using Historic Landscape Characterisation" (Clark J, Darlington J and Fairclough G 2004) and issue 47, 2005 of Conservation Bulletin entitled "Characterisation") can be downloaded at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/characterisation](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/characterisation).*

Human interaction with nature in the Isle of Man. Landscape, defined by the European Landscape Convention, is "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors", exemplified by this view (though Man has not yet ratified the ELC). (photograph G. Fairclough)

## THE LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORY OF CATALONIA

The *Observatori del Paisatge* (Landscape Observatory of Catalonia) is a landscape advisory body to the Government of Catalonia and to Catalan society in general. Its creation responds to the need to study the landscape, prepare proposals and sensitise Catalan society to the need for better protection, management and planning of the Catalan landscape in the framework of sustainable development.

One of the main purposes of the *Observatori del Paisatge* is to increase public awareness of Catalan landscapes and to support the application of the European Landscape Convention. In this sense, the *Observatori del Paisatge* is the meeting point between the Government of Catalonia, local authorities, universities, professional groups and the public, in everything referring to the management and preservation of the landscape.

### WHY IS LANDSCAPE IMPORTANT?

- Because people's quality of life depends on landscape.
- Because it reflects the good or ill health of the relationships between society and the land. It is an excellent indicator of environmental quality.
- Because it is another factor in wellbeing. The

European Landscape Convention makes the quality of landscape into a right (the right to enjoy agreeable, harmonious landscapes, not degraded, which transmit various cultural and territorial identities).

- Because it offers pleasing sensations (aesthetic, sensory, emotional).
- Because it identifies us with the land, with the country. Landscape is a reflection of past lifestyles and, specifically, our history, and thus it has value as part of our heritage.

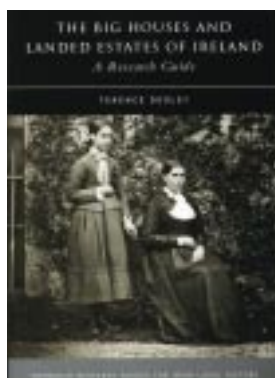
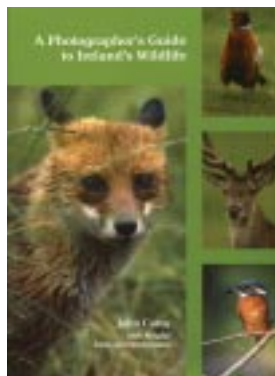
The Observatory prepares the landscape catalogues of Catalonia, destined to identify and evaluate the various landscapes, and proposes actions directed to the improvement, restoration or creation of landscape. It also organises seminars, courses, conferences and exhibitions on landscape policies.

The Landscape Observatory was conceived as a centre for thought and action in relation to landscape. Its functions include establishing mechanisms of observation of the evolution and transformation of landscape, and fixing criteria to establish landscape quality and measures of protection, management and planning of landscape necessary to achieve these objectives.

See [www.catpaisatge.net/eng/index.php](http://www.catpaisatge.net/eng/index.php)



# “BOOKS”



## A Photographer's Guide to Ireland's Wildlife – *helpful hints and techniques*

*By John Carey*

Ireland is blessed with a diverse wealth of wildlife, presenting photographers with a whole range of unique challenges and rewards. As interest in nature photography has grown, it has become apparent that there is a gap in the market for a guide dealing with photographic techniques relating specifically to Irish flora and fauna. This book by John Carey, one of the country's top wildlife photographers, and an acclaimed contributor to BirdWatch Ireland's publications, now fills this gap, offering an invaluable reference to all photographers, be they budding amateurs or established professionals, who want to capture Ireland's wildlife in all its glory. Illustrated throughout with John's own beautiful shots, I have no hesitation in recommending this book to any photographer with an interest in documenting Ireland's natural history.

- By Niall Hatch, BirdWatch Ireland

Published by Gaelscoil Ó Doghair, Caislean Nua Thair, Contae Luimnigh

To contact the author/photographer, John Carey, telephone 087-9550305.

ISBN 0-9540545-3-9



## Limerick Nature Walks

*By Geoff Hunt*

The Limerick landscape is rich in geology, archaeology and wildlife. There are a wide range of habitats to explore, from mountain peaks, upland blanket bogs and heaths to lowland areas of woodlands, parks, calcareous grasslands, rivers, loughs, fens, raised bogs, and the majestic Shannon Estuary. While the nearby attractions of the Burren and Killarney National Park are popular destinations for the people of Limerick, only a few are well acquainted with the Limerick countryside itself. Perhaps this is due to a lack of awareness of where to go, what to look for and when to look for it. The Limerick landscapes may not have all the visual impact of the Burren and parts of County Kerry; they offer, nonetheless, a sense of solitude and remoteness that is often lacking in other more popular areas.

This nicely illustrated book contains 35 walks, accompanied by maps showing you where to go, information on the wildlife, and the best time to visit. It also contains the first species lists for birds, butterflies, and dragonflies recorded in Limerick.

Geoff Hunt is a Heritage Specialist with the Heritage in School Scheme and visits national schools in Limerick and Kerry.

Published by Gaelscoil Ó Doghair, Caislean Nua Thair, Contae Luimnigh

To contact the author, email: [geoffreyhunt@eircom.net](mailto:geoffreyhunt@eircom.net)

ISBN 0-9540545-2-0

## The Big Houses and Landed Estates of Ireland A Research Guide

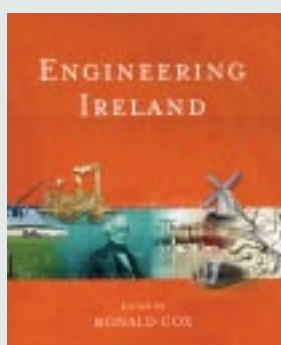
*By Terence Dooley*

This book is designed to provide historians and all those interested in local history, specifically the history of landed estates and Irish big houses, with practical advice regarding the availability of primary sources, their locations, their strengths and their limitations. It significantly expands on the sources for the history of landed estates in Ireland published by the same author in 2000 by also taking into account the vast array of sources that are available for the study of big houses, other than estate papers, such as auction catalogues, photographs, oral archives and architectural drawings. This book also provides a very broad outline of the history of landed estates and big houses in Ireland from the 16th to the end of the 20th century.

Published by Four Courts Press

ISBN 1-85182-964-4

These books are supported under the Heritage Council's Publications Grant Scheme:



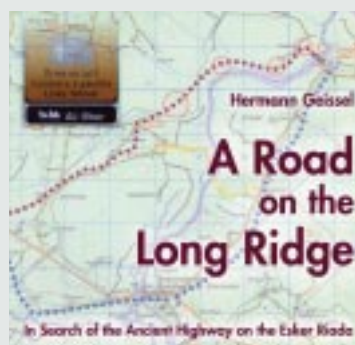
## Engineering Ireland

*Edited by Ronald Cox*

*Engineering Ireland* is a project of the Irish Academy of Engineering, a learned society of the engineering profession founded in 1998. Its aim is to advance the science and practice of engineering in Ireland as an essential element in the development and advancement of living standards. One of the objectives of the Academy is to stimulate interest in the preservation and presentation of Ireland's engineering heritage, and to identify and highlight outstanding Irish engineering achievements. It was decided to chronicle the story of engineering on the island of Ireland. This book aims to reflect the nature of engineering in all its facets, from military, civil, mechanical, electrical and other branches of the profession, to the successful completion of projects throughout Ireland. The first part presents an overview of the history of engineering in Ireland, how the profession evolved, education and training, and the establishment and growth of institutions such as the Institute of Engineers of Ireland. In succeeding chapters, the historical development of the different areas of engineering application is presented in more detail. This provides an insight into the activities of the engineering profession and enables members of the public to appreciate the significant and invaluable contributions made by Irish engineers over many decades to the quality and advancement of Irish life.

Published by The Collins Press

ISBN 1-905172-06-0



## A Road on the Long Ridge – In Search of the Ancient Highway on the Esker Riada

*By Hermann Geissel*

Hermann Geissel gives an absorbing account of his attempt to trace and map out the Slí Mhór on the Esker Riada. This ancient routeway, extending from the Átha Cliath Maree at the mouth of the Clarin River on Galway Bay, formerly linked east and west while dividing the island into two similar halves. The results of this research were first presented as *An tSlí Mhór*, a six-part television documentary on TG4, and since then the investigation has been revised and expanded into the present account. The outcome is a fascinating story of a personal odyssey undertaken by the author, together with historian Seamus Cullen, lavishly illustrated with striking photographs and equipped with helpful maps and informative appendices. Anecdotal humour and scholarly references sit together easily in the text, providing an enthralling and enlightening story of a little-known aspect of our medieval heritage.

Published by CRS Publications

ISBN 0-9547295-1-X



## Irish Travellers

### – Representations and Realities

*By Michael Hayes*

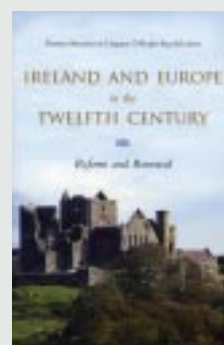
The Traveller “question” has been a major source of debate in Ireland for many decades and Irish society appears as divided on the issue today as it has been at any time in the past few centuries. For as long as Travellers have migrated along Ireland's roads they have been subjected to, at best, a sort of mythic and romanticised condescension, and at worst, vilification and outright hostility - but always as the “Other” of Irish ethnic identity.

Michael Hayes closely examines how images of Irish Travellers have been created and distorted over the past few centuries ranging from the nineteenth century Victorian “gypsylorist” movement to more modern studies in the area of sociology and anthropology. In particular, the book focuses on the manner in which “Othering” in an Irish context related to the definition of Irishness that accompanied Ireland's independence.

The book also traces the changes in the attitudes of “official” Ireland as represented in State policy and academic commentary in the latter half of the twentieth century. Where, in all of this, does the everyday reality of the Traveller community fit?

Published by The Liffey Press

ISBN 1-904148-79-4



## Ireland and Europe in the Twelfth Century

### Reform and Renewal

*Edited by Damien Bracken & Dagmar Ó  
Riain-Raedel*

This book examines the attempt to reform the Irish Church, the developing ideas of Irish nationhood, and the revolutionary impact new artistic ideas had on Irish art, architecture and literature in the course of the twelfth century.

Contents include: ‘Canterbury’s perspective on church reform and Ireland, 1070-1115’; ‘Women and marriage in late pre-Norman Ireland’; ‘Were early Irish church establishments under lay control?’ and ‘Bishops, liturgy and reform: some archaeological and art historical evidence’.

Published by Four Courts Press

ISBN 1-85182-848-6

# Poetry

## An Ghaeilge

Tugadh dó é mar bhronntanas,  
is mar pháiste a thuigean maitheas an roinnt,  
scap sé é don sásamh céanna.  
Ba é seo an rud ceart dó.

Níor cháinigh éinne é ach fós níor labhair ach leath scór,  
Fiú leis an teanga acu níor labhair ach leath scór,  
de bharr eagla, leithscéalta nó cúis ar bith eile,  
níor thug daoine aon cabhair is rinneadh othair di.

I mbun a chroí anois a mhaireann iad a spreag sé,  
mar seodra ag cur críoch le píosa álainn ór,  
ag scapadh, ag spreagadh is cinnte í a chaint.  
Is ar son a theanga a sheas sé lena leath scór.

By Cormac Ó Feinneadh



## ÓGRAS

Bhunaigh Conradh na Gaeilge i 1969 le deis a thabhairt do dhaoine óga idir 13 - 18 mbliana d'aois teacht le chéile mar chlubanna a bheadh ag feidhmiú trí mheán na Gaeilge. I 1988 bunaíodh Óg-Ógras do pháistí idir 8-12 bliana d'aois. Tá clubanna ag Ógras ar fud na tíre agus eagraíonn siad imeachtaí réigiúnda, náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta rud a thugann deis do na baill casadh le daoine óga as gach páirt den tír seo chomh maith le tíortha thar lear. Le hÓgras bíonn deis ag na daoine óga an Ghaeilge a úsáid agus a chleachtadh i gcomhlúadar taitneamhach.

Conradh na Gaeilge established Ógras as its youth organisation in 1969 to give young people between 13 and 18 years of age the opportunity to meet up with other young people in Irish language youth clubs throughout the country. In 1988 Óg-Ógras was set up to cater for children of 8-12 years of age. Ógras is a national organisation and holds many regional and national events. Members also have the opportunity to participate in annual international events. With Ógras the young people have the opportunity to use and practice their Irish in a pleasant social setting.

Ógras, 6 Sráid Fhearchair, Baile Átha Cliath 2.  
Teil : 01 4751487

[www.ogras.ie](http://www.ogras.ie) [www.bendigeidfran.com](http://www.bendigeidfran.com)

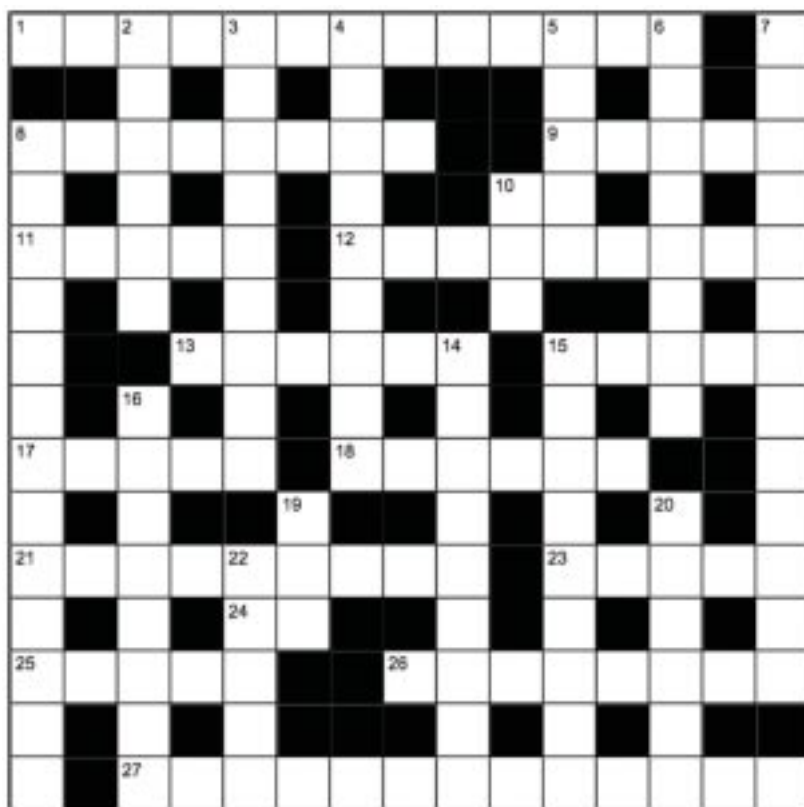
The editor welcomes your letters. Please send submissions to:

The Editor, Heritage Outlook,

The Heritage Council, Rothe House, Parliament St, Kilkenny.

Or email: [mail@heritagecouncil.ie](mailto:mail@heritagecouncil.ie)





## Crossword No.8

(compiled by Nóinín)

### ACROSS

1. Building material for Yeats's small cabin (4,3,6)
8. Structure for grinding such as at Blennerville or Skerries (8)
9. Characteristic of sheep (5)
10. It's definitely not a definite article! (2)
11. Slán ... auf wiedersehen ... arrivederci (5)
12. Ceremonial induction into a position (9)
13. In a straight unbroken line of descent (6)
15. Relating to audible sound (5)
17. Buildings in irrecoverable state of devastation (5)
18. Garden shrub whose leaves turn brilliant colour in autumn (6)
21. Wide bodies of water where fresh and salt water mix (9)
23. Venomous snake (5)
24. Ancient hawk-headed Egyptian sun god (2)
25. Depleted of strength or energy (5)
26. Single great stone in form of a column (8)
27. Is this technical game the greatest challenge of 21st century? (7,6)

### DOWN

2. Virgil's epic poem (6)
3. Arsenals or structures for storing military equipment (9)
4. Crude, slim stringed instruments used in folk music (9)
5. Leather strip that forms part of a whip (5)
6. One who leaves one country to settle elsewhere (8)
7. 14th Century epidemic of Europe and Asia (3,5,5)
8. Worn by exposure to outdoors (7-6)
10. Black and white web-footed diving bird (3)
14. Sedimentary rock consisting mainly of calcium carbonate (9)
15. Garment formerly worn as an indication of remorse (9)
16. Belonging to or famous in the past (8)
19. Period marked by distinctive character (3)
20. 19th Century builder of tower on Cliffs of Moher (6)
22. High king such as Rory O'Connor (3-2)

To win a book voucher worth €50, please send your completed grid, plus name and address, to:

HERITAGE OUTLOOK  
Crossword Competition,  
Attention: Isabell  
The Heritage Council,  
Rothe House, Parliament  
Street, Kilkenny,  
Co Kilkenny.

Closing date: August 1st 2007

Congratulations to  
**Sr Eileen Kelly**, St Pauls  
Convent, Kilfinane, Co Limerick  
who sent in the winning entry to  
our last crossword competition.

Solution to Crossword No. 7, Heritage  
Outlook Winter 2006/Spring 2007:

ACROSS: 1. Terminal; 5. bronze;  
9. moraine; 10. hallway; 12. silt;  
13. Celtic; 14. Rio; 15. pinhead;  
18. nun; 19. nog; 21. pottery; 22. sun;  
23. aromas; 24. oast; 28. aniseed;  
29. edifice; 30. foyers; 31. turlough.

DOWN: 1. tombs; 2. rural; 3. iris;  
4. axe-head; 6. Newgrange;  
7. etymology; 8. thatch; 11. locknut;  
15. pikestaff; 16. nonentity;  
17. engrave; 20. isolate; 21. plateau;  
25. adieu; 26. teeth; 27. Gill

# Notice Board

## IRISH WILDLIFE TRUST: NATURE IN OUR LIVES

Each evening from **21 to 25 May** the Irish Wildlife Trust will present 'Nature in Our Lives', a visual talk on biodiversity awareness. The five evening talks will take place in five libraries around Dublin, yet to be confirmed.

For details contact the IWT at 01-8602839, or see [www.iwt.ie](http://www.iwt.ie) (event listings).

## WILDLIFE DAY AT THE EAST COAST NATURE RESERVE

**Saturday 26 May** - Wildlife Day at the East Coast Nature Reserve, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow. Organised jointly by Wicklow County Council Heritage Office and Birdwatch Ireland the day will feature the launch of the 'Biodiversity in County Wicklow' poster and 'A Guide to the Murrrough Wetlands', followed by Wildlife Art with Don Conroy and Guided Nature Walks on the reserve with Chris Wilson and staff from Birdwatch Ireland. An opportunity to explore the newly developed nature trails and take part in the 'name the ponies' competition and a quiz with great prizes. Suitable for all the family. Starting at 11am, with shuttle buses available from Newcastle village. Contact Birdwatch Ireland on 01-2819878, or the Wicklow Heritage Officer on 0404-20100 for more details.

## WICKLOW FAMILY HERITAGE DAY

**Sunday 26 August** - Wicklow Family Heritage Day at Avondale House and Park, Rathdrum. This heritage day will take place in a marquee in the ancestral home and parkland of Charles Stuart Parnell (now owned by Coillte) as part of Heritage Week 2007. Similar to last year it is planned to have an action packed day focusing on wildlife, and the historical and cultural heritage of county Wicklow. The day will feature a mixture of activities to suit young and old, including talks, guided walks, displays, drama performance, story-telling, a treasure hunt and demonstrations. Contact the Wicklow Heritage Officer for more details on 0404-20100.

## THIRD 'BELTANY' HERITAGE CONFERENCE

**Friday 5 October - Sunday 7 October** - Raphoe, County Donegal. Raphoe Community-in-Action will run its third 'Beltany' Heritage Conference, which will address themes dealing with the archaeological, built, cultural and natural heritage of the area in the vicinity of Beltany Stone Circle, a National Monument. To learn more about the conference please see [www.beltany-circle.com](http://www.beltany-circle.com) or contact Mary Harte, Raphoe Community-in-Action, Volt House, The Diamond, Raphoe, County Donegal, at 074-917 2966 or email: [mary.harte@ireland.com](mailto:mary.harte@ireland.com)

## PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR HERITAGE AND DEVELOPMENT

- Projects, policies and practice Beyond Either/Or II, a conference organised by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

**11-12 October.** Following on from the very successful conference in 2005 this conference once again looks at the vexed issue of heritage and development. Speakers from Spain, Germany, the United States, Sweden, Britain and Ireland will speak on a wide variety of subjects relating to how the built and natural heritage and development can interact. This conference will be of particular interest to planners, architects, ecologists, archaeologists, politicians and those with an interest in heritage and development. For further details contact Tim Carey, Heritage Officer, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, County Hall, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, 01-2054868, [tcarey@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:tcarey@dlrcoco.ie)

## BAT CONSERVATION IRELAND

Bat Conservation Ireland will run two workshops simultaneously on **8-10 June** in Muckross Venture Centre, Killarney, Co. Kerry. The Bat Detector Workshop is open to inexperienced and experienced bat workers. Course content will include lecture based day-time sessions and night-time fieldwork on the use of heterodyne bat detectors in identifying Irish bat species. An additional course, the Bat Handling Course, is open to experienced bat workers only. A limited number of people will be trained in the correct live bat handling procedure. Course content will also include species identification skills and recording of biometric measurements. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Tina Aughney: 046-9242882 or email: [tinaaughney@eircom.net](mailto:tinaaughney@eircom.net)

## IRISH BAT CONFERENCE 2007

The 5th Irish Bat Conference will take place at the Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen, on **12-13 October**. The event will start with a wine reception on Friday evening and talks will be held on Saturday. Prof. John Altringham, of Leeds University, is the Keynote Speaker. The event will include excursions, posters, displays and sale exhibits. Full booking details will be given on the Bat Conservation Ireland website: [www.batconservationireland.org](http://www.batconservationireland.org)

## IRISH WHALE AND DOLPHIN GROUP

**1-3 June** - IWDG Weekend Whale Watching Course at Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. Contact: [padraig.whooley@iwdg.ie](mailto:padraig.whooley@iwdg.ie) Tel. 023-38761. Cost €90, €70 IWDG members.

**24 June** - One day Whale and Dolphin Workshop at the Dolphin Centre, Kllrush, Co. Clare. Contact: [simon.berrow@iwdg.ie](mailto:simon.berrow@iwdg.ie) Tel. 086-8545450 Cost 25 (TBC).

**6-7 July** - IWDG Weekend Whale Watching Course at Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. Contact: [padraig.whooley@iwdg.ie](mailto:padraig.whooley@iwdg.ie) Tel. 023-38761.

**5 August**, 2-5pm - Whale Watch Ireland 2007 - at headlands throughout the four provinces. Free land-based event, open to all. For more details, please see [www.iwdg.ie](http://www.iwdg.ie) Tel. 023-38761.

**17-19 August** - IWDG Weekend Whale Watching Course at Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. Contact: [padraig.whooley@iwdg.ie](mailto:padraig.whooley@iwdg.ie) Tel. 023-38761. Website: [www.iwdg.ie](http://www.iwdg.ie)

# Notice Board

## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND - COUNTRY LIFE

- Turlough Park, Castlebar, Co. Mayo

**Wednesday 6 June**, 2.30-5pm - *Playboy of the Western World*, Talk & Film - Synge's *Playboy of the Western World* made its stage debut a century ago. Sean Lysaght introduces DruidSynge's renowned 2005 production, directed by Garry Hynes. Age 7+

**Sunday 17 June** - 'Door to An Other-World: The Holy Well' - Dr. Stiofán Ó Cadhla discusses the traditions associated with holy wells in Irish folklore and vernacular culture focusing on rituals, healing and beliefs. Age 7+

**Wednesday 20 June** - Irish Food (talk) Join food historian and author Regina Sexton to learn about Irish food in the past and the introduction of different foods into Ireland. Age 7+.

**Coming Soon... Join us for our exciting range of activities throughout the summer. These include:** Seminar on Labour Migration; Hands-on Summer Schools for children and Courses for adults

For further information or to make a booking for any of our activities contact the Education and Outreach Department. Tel: 094-9031751/ 01-6486304.

Email: educationtph@museum.ie www.museum.ie

**26-27 May** (12-5pm) - Féile na Tuaithe- Turlough Park: A Celebration of Country Life Today. A weekend-long celebration of country life featuring a packed programme of events with something for all the family to enjoy. Attractions will include a wide variety of craft and food stands, musical and children's entertainment and demonstrations as well as a full range of activities for adults and children. Admission free.

For further information please contact the Museum  
Tel: 094-9031755; e-mail tpark@museum.ie or visit  
www.museum.ie

## BURREN IN BLOOM FESTIVAL

Ballyvaughan - **May 1st to May 27th**. A month-long celebration of the Burren's rich biodiversity, with free talks, walks and much more. Visit [www.ballyvaughantourism.com](http://www.ballyvaughantourism.com)

The Changing Colours Festival - Gort, **May 27th**, featuring the Carnival Parade. Tel. 091-631203.

## KERRY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

**Sunday 10 June** - Minard - Roibeard Ó Cathasaigh, Lios Póil & University of Limerick. Meet at Minard Beach, Annascaul, 2.30pm.

**Thursday 21 June** - Adhadoo Abbey - Fr. Tom Looney PP - Meet at Abbey at 7.30pm.

**Sunday 8 July** - Listowel - Lartigue Memorial Trip and talk with Jack McKenna. 2.30pm. Meet at Lartigue Railway.

**Sunday 22 July** - Newcastlewest - John Cussen, Historian. Meet at Desmond Castle, The Square, 2.30pm.

**Sunday 12 August** - Dún Chaoin. Omós Micéal Ó Dubhshláine

Siúlóid le Donal Mac a 'tSithigh, Staráí. Meet Ionad an Blascaod, 2.30pm.

**Sunday 2 September** - Heritage Sunday - Inch Beach. Meet at Car Park, 2.30pm.

**Tuesday 25 September** - 'The Penal Laws in 18th Century Ireland - Reconsidered' - lecture by Liam Irwin, University of Limerick. Tralee Library, 8pm.

County Library, Moyderwell, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Tel. 066-7121200, email: kaks@eircom.net, [www.kerrycolib.ie/kaks](http://www.kerrycolib.ie/kaks)

## HOP TO IT - JOIN THE 2007 IRISH FROG WATCH

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) are encouraging people to hop along to their local wetland to keep a watch out for frogs or frogspawn! Believe it or not, one of the best places to begin your frog watch is the back garden, especially if you have a garden pond. In fact you do not even need a pond, if you have any wet spot, an old bath, a dustbin lid, a bucket or a puddle, the frogs may use it to lay their spawn. IPCC need information on frogs in every county in Ireland so that we can monitor the health of our wetlands and the countryside in general. Look out for adult frogs, frog spawn, tadpoles, froglets.

You can file your records on line by visiting [www.ipcc.ie/hop-to-itintro.html](http://www.ipcc.ie/hop-to-itintro.html) - you can also learn how to bake a frog cake, how to make a frog mask, see the largest frogs in the world, learn a few frog jokes or you can take on a bigger project such as making a frog friendly pond in your garden. It's all there on the Hop to It Frog Website.

IPCC have been collecting frog records since 1997. So far there are over 3,000 records for frogs in Ireland. Frogs are found in every county in Ireland, however records are still needed from counties Donegal, Antrim, Galway and Clare.

Survey cards can be obtained directly from the IPCC. For further information please contact the Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare. Tel. 045-860133. [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie) bogs@ipcc.ie



## OFFALY HERITAGE PLAN 2007-2011

Offaly Heritage Forum is delighted to have launched its second Heritage Plan, this time for the period, 2007-2011.

The Plan sets out the achievements of the last five years and the actions to be addressed over the next five. Copies of the Heritage Plan are available from Offaly's Heritage Officer, Amanda Pedlow, at email: [apedlow@offalycoco.ie](mailto:apedlow@offalycoco.ie) or Tel. 057-9346839.



# Biodiversity Week 2007

## May 20th - May 26th

The first ever Irish National Biodiversity Week will run from Sunday May 20th to Saturday May 26th. Over the course of the week the environmental NGOs will host a range of interesting events around the country in association with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's 'Notice Nature' public awareness campaign. Environmental NGOs are working together to organise a week of activities to celebrate the many aspects of Biodiversity in Ireland and the highlights include:

- **BioDiversity Snapshot photo record of May 22nd.**
- **Butterfly walk with the Irish Peatland Conservation Council in Kildare, May 22nd.**
- **Biodiversity Open Day with the Irish Seed Savers Association in Co. Clare, Sunday May 20th.**
- **Symposium on Biodiversity and Climate Change in Cultivate Centre, Dublin, May 22nd.**
- **There will also be 14 Bat Walks at various locations throughout the country.**
- **National Dawn Chorus Day gatherings at 25 locations nationwide.**
- **A River Lee Catchment Festival organised by the Coomhola Salmon Trust in West Cork**
- **Eco-drama and games for young people in Dublin City.**

International Biodiversity Day is Tuesday 22nd May and biodiversity events will take place around the world on that day. Biodiversity Week 2007 will highlight international issues, such as deforestation and species loss. Invasive alien species, such as the Zebra Mussel, are a concern as are the wide-ranging implications of global climate change.

The emphasis for the week will be on participation. There is something for everybody - from family days out in beautiful natural amenities to information and discussions about threats to biodiversity. The week aims to foster an Active Citizenship for Biodiversity, with people getting involved in local and international conservation projects.

Further information on the Biodiversity Week events is available from the websites: [www.noticenature.ie](http://www.noticenature.ie) and [www.eengosec.ie](http://www.eengosec.ie) or by emailing [biodiversityweek@gmail.com](mailto:biodiversityweek@gmail.com)



### NEW BIODIVERSITY WEBSITE -

The Heritage Council, in conjunction with Biology.ie has created a new interactive biodiversity website for Ireland. The primary function of the site is to increase the public's awareness of the term 'biodiversity' in the Irish context. The site's interactive mapping facility will allow users to place plants and animals from their own locality onto a map of Ireland. The site will remember the user's last input location, encouraging return visits. Fundamental to this approach is the use of habitats as a way to find a species. If you live, for example, near a woodland, you can search the website's woodland database and enter what you saw, similarly for other habitats such as the seashore or bogland. Other interactive features include a Biodiversity Blog/Discussion where the public can initiate and participate in discussions on Ireland's biodiversity and environmental issues. The biodiversity website can be accessed from [www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie) or from [www.biology.ie](http://www.biology.ie)

Paul Whelan, the founder of Biology.ie, said the Heritage Council's biodiversity project is an exciting addition to Biology.ie. The existing Nature's Calendar aspect of the site has also been expanded with better mapping tools and descriptions of phenological events. Lichenologists will also have access to an interactive mapping facility and online database of some of the lichens found in Ireland. This database will be complimented by high quality photographs to help budding lichenologists identify this rich and hidden side of Ireland's biodiversity. The site will continue to host the National Parks and Wildlife Road Kill survey on Annex IV species until at least January 2008.



### NOTICE NATURE - [www.noticenature.ie](http://www.noticenature.ie)

Notice Nature is Ireland's public awareness campaign on biodiversity. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and to encourage everyone to play their part in its protection. It is hoped this will help halt the damage being done to our plants and animals and the landscapes, waters and habitats in which they live.

For more information, see [www.noticenature.ie](http://www.noticenature.ie)

## HERITAGE COUNCIL STAFF

**Michael Starrett**  
Chief Executive

**Anne Barcoe**  
P.A. to Chief Executive  
and Chairperson

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Heritage Week Coordinator

**Ger Croke**  
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**Liam Scott**  
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**Isabell Smyth**  
Communications and  
Education Officer

## What is Heritage?

Under the National Heritage Act (1995), 'heritage' is defined as including the following areas:

- Monuments
- Archaeological Objects
- Heritage Objects
- Architectural heritage
- Flora and Fauna
- Wildlife Habitats - Landscapes
- Seascapes and Wrecks - Geology
- Heritage Gardens and Parks
- Inland Waterways

Heritage Council staff can be contacted at:

**The Heritage Council**, Rothe House, Parliament Street, Kilkenny, Co Kilkenny.

Tel. 056-7770777 Fax. 056-7770788 Email: mail@heritagecouncil.com

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

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# Biodiversity Week 2007

**MAY 20TH – MAY 26TH**

The first ever Irish National Biodiversity Week will see environmental NGOs host a range of interesting events around the country in association with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's 'Notice Nature' public awareness campaign. Environmental NGOs are working together to organise a week of activities to celebrate the many aspects of Biodiversity in Ireland - from family days out in beautiful natural amenities to information and discussions about threats to biodiversity. Biodiversity Week will highlight international issues, such as deforestation, extinction, invasive alien species, and climate change. The week aims to foster an Active Citizenship for Biodiversity, with people getting involved in local and international conservation projects.

Further information on Biodiversity Week events is available at:

**[www.noticenature.ie](http://www.noticenature.ie)** and **[www.eengosec.ie](http://www.eengosec.ie)**  
or email: **[biodiversityweek@gmail.com](mailto:biodiversityweek@gmail.com)**



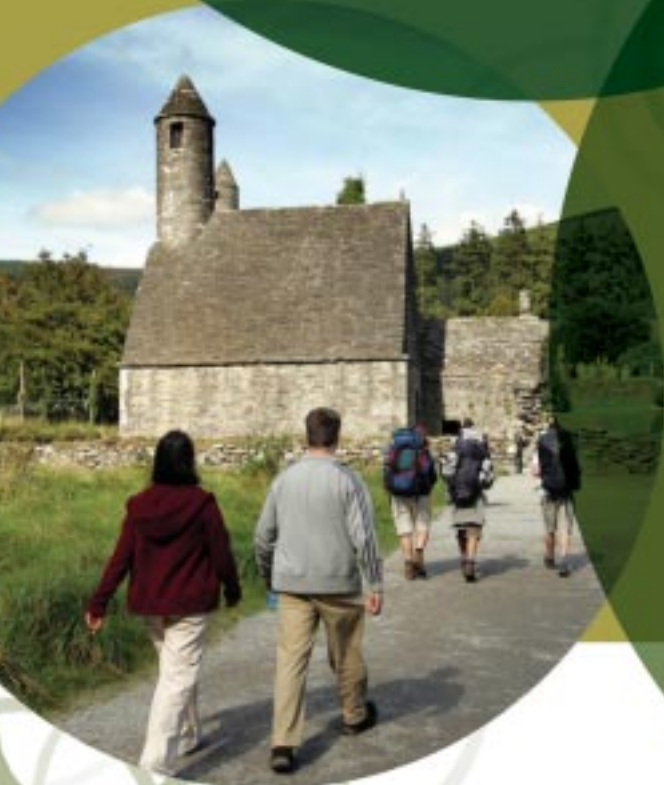
# Heritage Week 2007

**AUGUST 25TH – SEPTEMBER 2ND**

Heritage Week is a week-long celebration of who we are and where we've come from. Each year, national and local community organisations participate in Heritage Week by organising events around the country. There is something to appeal to everyone and the aim is to create awareness of our built, natural and cultural heritage thereby encouraging conservation and preservation.

There is something taking place in every county and most activities are free of charge or offer great value for money. Everyone is encouraged to get involved and activities range from fairs, night-time bat walks, wildlife tours and lectures to music recitals, historical re-enactments, and outdoor activities. Many heritage sites and stately homes will offer free admission or special concessions.

To register your event or find out more, please see **[www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie)** Callsave **1850 200 878** or email: **[events@heritagecouncil.com](mailto:events@heritagecouncil.com)**



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