



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

DRAFT 5 - 11 May 2017

Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan
2017-2022



Message from the Cathaoirleach (to be included when passed by Council)

Message from the CEO Galway County Council (to be included when passed by Council)

INTRODUCTION

Aim

The aim of the *Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017- 2022* is to place heritage and biodiversity at the heart of public life in the county through increasing awareness, participation, enjoyment, knowledge and understanding of our shared heritage to lead to its proper conservation, management and protection and safeguarding it for future generations.

Vision

The rich heritage and biodiversity of County Galway will be cherished, valued, conserved and enhanced in a manner that is respectful of our past, mindful of our present needs and sustainable for future generations.

Objectives

Three overarching objectives have been identified that will underpin the delivery of actions under five key themes (see below). These objectives are:

1. to increase awareness, appreciation and participation
2. to gather and share knowledge
3. to manage and conserve our heritage including biodiversity.

Themes

Actions will be specified under the following five themes:

1. community engagement
2. education and training
3. research and information
4. Galway County Council: people, property and works
5. stakeholder engagement and pursuing opportunities with other partners.

The actions

The aim, vision, objectives and themes will be delivered through a series of strategic actions that will be listed under each of them.

Aspects of heritage included in the *Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022*

The Heritage Act, 1995 defines heritage as including monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, inland- waterways and heritage gardens and parks. The *Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022* provides for the aspects of heritage that are defined in the Act. This plan also provides for aspects that are unique to the county and which the people of County Galway consider to be part of their rich heritage, including the Irish language, folklore and folklife, place names, traditional crafts, genealogy, local history and cultural heritage.

The term biodiversity is short for ‘biological diversity’ which is defined in the *United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity* as “the variability among living organisms from all sources

including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems” Put simply, biodiversity can be described as the variety of life on earth including the differences among all living things and the ways in which they interact with each other and the world around them.

THE HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY OF COUNTY GALWAY

Overview

County Galway is the second largest county in Ireland with an area of 6,148 square kilometres, a coastline of 689 kilometres and many offshore islands. It borders five other counties and has a rich and diverse built, natural and cultural heritage. Part of the county’s unique character is due to its great diversity of landscapes, seascapes and land uses. The landscape of west Galway is rugged and varied with its mountains, bogs, rivers, waterways and lakes, while limestone pavement with a myriad of drystone walls typifies the landscape of the Oileáin Árainn. The seascape is intricate, it includes many islands, peninsulas and deep coastal indentations. East Galway is characterised by a low-lying rolling topography of a fertile limestone plain, rich pasturelands, bogs, and the Suck-Shannon system with its callows and Lough Derg. While the lowlands of the Burren is characterised by its unique karstic landscape and hydrology. The vast expanse of Lough Corrib roughly separates the east from the west and its water flows into the iconic inner Galway Bay.

Natural Heritage

Seascapes vary from the dramatic cliffs of Oileáin Árainn to sandy beaches and the famous Trá an Dóilín (Coral Strand), west of An Cheathrú Rua, and the long fjord-like inlet of Killary Harbour which boasts some of the finest scenery in Ireland. The offshore islands of Inishbofin and Árainn offer another dimension to the beauty of the Galway coastline.

County Galway has a rich biodiversity with a great variety of habitats and species including a number of characteristic habitats which are rare in Ireland and the rest of the world such as turloughs, eskers, limestone pavement, river callows and machair grasslands. Flower rich semi-natural grassland and raised and blanket bogs, which have largely been lost across much of their range, are still found here in areas which have not been intensively farmed or exploited. These habitats support a range of plants and animals species and are especially important for insects such as bees and butterflies.

The wetlands of County Galway attract an abundance of over-wintering water birds each winter, while in summer the cuckoo, swallow and even a few corncrake-a critically endangered species-arrive to breed in the countryside. Our coast line is long and varied and supports a tremendous variety of marine life from algae to invertebrates, fish, birds and large marine mammals. The clean waters of our rivers and lakes are home to a host of fish species, birds and otters as well as rare invertebrates such as the white-clawed crayfish and the freshwater pearl mussel.

Sites of many of Galway’s most important natural and semi-natural habitats are afforded protection under European and national legislation by way of designation as National Heritage Areas (NHAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Various species of flora and fauna are also protected under European and National Legislation. Relevant international conventions, EU directives and domestic legislation pertaining to our heritage are listed in Appendix 1.

Built Heritage

Human interaction with the land and sea is evident from the earliest settlements up to the present, from archaeological remains to growing urban centres and cultivated land. The town and village streetscape, old estate houses, prehistoric tombs, castles, tower houses, medieval churches and abbeys, traditional cottages and other vernacular buildings, field fences and gates, old bridges, piers and small harbours are some of the aspects of the built heritage that add to the character of the county. The drystone walls form another feature that contributes to our county's identity.

Cultural Heritage

The traditions of County Galway can be appreciated and enjoyed by everyone who lives here or visits the county. The Irish language, folklore and folklife, traditional crafts, customs and seasonal traditions, local history, traditional Irish music, sean nós singing and dancing, and sport are important components of the cultural heritage of the county. Emigration has been an important part of the life cycle within County Galway; therefore, there is great interest in genealogy in the county. Immigration is now also creating new and more diverse communities so that the heritage of the county continues to evolve.

An Evolving Heritage

Our heritage is all around us. It is not just about the past, but it is evolving every day and it is important that we manage it by making conscious and informed decisions about its future. This can best be achieved by having a clear and coherent strategy in place that recognises the value of our heritage to the quality of life of the people of County Galway and its visitors.

Work of Previous Plans

The *Galway County Heritage Plan 2010-2016* and the *Galway County Biodiversity Plan 2008 - 2013*, through the co-operation and hard work of the Galway County Heritage Forum, the Galway County Biodiversity Steering Group and other partner organisations, undertook over 100 heritage and biodiversity initiatives during the lifetime of both plans. These initiatives are listed in Appendix 2. For more information please consult the following links:

<http://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>

<http://biodiversity.galwaycommunityheritage.org>

GALWAY COUNTY HERITAGE & BIODIVERSITY PLAN 2017 - 2022

The *Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017 - 2022* is a framework document to help us achieve our vision for heritage and biodiversity for County Galway over a 6-year period. The Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Forum will work in partnership with the Galway County Heritage Officer and Biodiversity Project Manager, co-ordinating and delivering the plan. This new Heritage & Biodiversity Plan aims to build upon the accomplishments of the 2004-2008 and 2010-2016 plans, while taking account of changes in the national and local environment since the publication of these plans.

The Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Forum comprises sectoral interests including local government, state agencies, non-governmental organisations, farmers and other landowners, local and regional development agencies, the education and heritage sector, and the community and voluntary sector.

The Heritage and Biodiversity Forum was established in 2004 to provide advice and guidance regarding the development and implementation of Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plans, and develop and review annual programmes of work.

Similar to the development of previous Galway County Heritage Plans, the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Forum established three working groups to assist in the development of the 2017-2022 plan. The membership of each working group was drawn from the Forum membership. Working groups can also invite persons who are not members of the Forum who have knowledge and expertise in relation to a specific action or initiative. Each working group considered the Heritage Plan 'Working Document' and all submissions that were received. The working groups and the aspects of our heritage that they considered are as follows:

the Biodiversity & Natural Heritage Working Group

• Flora • Fauna • Wildlife Habitats • Landscapes • Seascapes • Geology • Inland Waterways • Ecosystem Services • Natural Capital • Traditional Land Use Practices

the Cultural Heritage Group

• Archaeological Objects • Heritage Objects • The Irish Language • Folklore, Oral Heritage and Folklife • Genealogy • Museums and Archives • Local History • Heritage Education • Local History • Place names • Intangible Heritage • Floating Heritage • Maritime Heritage • Heritage Trails • Digital Heritage • Traditional Crafts

the Built Heritage Working Group

• Monuments • Architectural Heritage • Heritage Gardens and Parks • Wrecks • Industrial Heritage • Archaeological Structures • Inland Waterways

Working groups convene when needed to develop specific actions and initiatives. The members of the Forum and working groups are listed in Appendix 3.

Each year the Forum proposes and consider actions that it hopes to deliver during the following year. Proposals may also come from local heritage organisations, schools or community groups that have identified a particular heritage need at local level, and they may also come from academic institutions and government organisations.

Working in partnership

Working in partnership with as many people and organisations as is possible has been policy since the first heritage and biodiversity plans were established. The plan has also been developed with this approach. It will be implemented through strategic partnerships to ensure that the people of County Galway are involved in the delivery of the plan. The Forum will also endeavour to ensure that the principles of social inclusion are fully integrated into all aspects of the delivery of the plan. Consultation at all levels has been central in the development of the plan. Appendix 4 gives a detailed overview of the consultation process.

The Forum further endeavours to undertake a range of small and large-scale projects encompassing as many aspects of heritage as is possible in each of the five municipal districts of the local authority area. Actions that converge with the policies and programmes of relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations will be prioritised.

Heritage Best Practice

The principles of sustainable development will be applied to all actions undertaken by the Forum, and any future actions arising from the *Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017–2022* will be undertaken in accordance with evolving good practice and in compliance

with all relevant legislation. No projects will be permitted that will have a negative impact on a heritage site, object or any protected sites.

The Forum will seek to ensure that all reports, surveys and studies carried out under the auspices of the *Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017–2022* are made as widely available as possible. In accordance with this guiding principle an end-of-year report which gives an account of the actions undertaken is submitted to the Forum, Galway County Council and the Heritage Council. Project outputs will be made available in a digital format where practical. The delivery of actions and initiatives takes cognisance of the budgets that are available.

Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022 in relation to the National Heritage Plan, Culture 2025 and the National Biodiversity Plan, Creative Ireland, Galway County Cultural Plan, Galway 2020 – further text will be added in relation to the above plans etc

National Heritage Plan

The National Heritage Plan sets the framework for this new plan as it did for the previous plans. In Spring 2002, the Government published the National Heritage Plan which stated that *it is an objective of the government to ensure the protection of our heritage and to promote its enjoyment for all. The key to achieving this goal is the preparation and adoption of Local Heritage Plans involving local heritage fora, bringing together communities, local authorities and the Government. Local heritage plans will identify the steps necessary for the protection and enjoyment of heritage at the local level. The National Heritage Plan also stated that Local Heritage Plans will provide the means for a significant broadening of community participation in the protection of heritage.*

A key concept of this national plan is to ‘place the protection and enjoyment of heritage at the heart of public life’. This concept promotes the idea of increased community ownership of the protection of heritage. This ownership is seen as an integral element in achieving sustainable development and a good quality of life for all.

The *Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022* echoes many of the policies and objectives of the *National Heritage Plan* and the *National Biodiversity Plan*, such as placing heritage and biodiversity at the heart of public life, promoting awareness of our heritage, acquiring and disseminating knowledge and protecting our heritage and biodiversity. Both national plans recognise that heritage is best managed and protected at the local level and the need to develop local heritage and biodiversity action plans. The *Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022* aims to raise the profile of heritage and biodiversity as a priority within the county while adhering to the national framework.

Endorsement by SPC – text to be added here at a later date

GUIDING DOCUMENTS, PLANS AND STRATEGIES

A comprehensive list of guiding documents, plans and strategies is provided in Appendix 5, including Culture 2025, Creative Ireland, Galway County Cultural Plan, Galway Information on these plans and initiatives will be given at a later date as some are currently being finalised.

ROLE OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, THE HERITAGE OFFICER AND THE BIODIVERSITY PROJECT MANAGER

Galway County Council initiated the County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan process and facilitated its development through Galway County County Heritage Officer, the Galway County Biodiversity Project Manager and the Galway County Heritage Office.

COMMUNICATION

The Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Forum considers that consultation and communication have a central role to play in the effective development and delivery of the *Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan*. The Forum is committed to having open channels of communication among all stakeholders and with the public in the implementation of this plan.

STATEMENT OF STRATEGY

Introduction

The *Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022* is action based. The Forum will oversee the overall implementation of the plan. Partners may be included at the implementation stage of various actions if the need arises. Galway County Council is a lead partner while the Galway County Heritage Officer, the Galway County Biodiversity Project Manager and the Galway County Community Archaeologist in many cases will co-ordinate projects, and may be assisted by members of the Forum as appropriate.

Timeframe

The *Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022* sets out actions for a six-year period. Each year the Forum will agree on a detailed work programme drawn from the actions listed in the current plan and include a timeframe for delivery of the actions, identify sources of funding, set out any projects proposed under the actions and agree on lead and associate partners. This will be subject to the availability of resources and funding for that year.

Finance

The Forum has taken cognisance of current economic circumstances but is mindful that economic climate and other variables may change during the timespan of the plan. Some proposed actions may not be delivered during the lifetime of this plan due to financial and other restrictions.

A budget of approximately XXXX is estimated for the delivery of the actions during the timespan of the 2017-2022 plan.

The Heritage Council provides partial funding for implementation of local authority Heritage and Biodiversity Plans. To qualify for this funding a Heritage and Biodiversity Plan must be agreed and adopted by the elected members of Galway County Council. Funding will also be sought annually from Galway County Council's own budget and from partner organisations. Some partners may provide benefit in kind such as expertise and office space.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Galway County Heritage Forum will monitor the annual work programme. Progress will be evaluated annually.

Galway County Biodiversity & Natural Heritage Plan 2017 – 2022

Objective 1 Awareness, Appreciation and Participation	Objective 2 Knowledge Gathering, Sharing and Education	Objective 3 Conservation and Management		
Themes	1	2	3	
Community Engagement				
Engage with the community using an inclusive approach.	✓	✓		
Promote and facilitate citizen science – encourage and equip groups to take part in national citizen science campaigns e.g. Coastwatch, Butterfly monitoring or Volunteer bat surveys.	✓	✓	✓	
Develop Local Biodiversity and Natural Heritage Plans with communities.	✓	✓	✓	
Develop practical conservation and restoration projects and encourage communities to become involved in the management of sites of local biodiversity interest.	✓	✓	✓	
Encourage and support communities to apply for funding through other agencies for biodiversity and natural heritage projects.	✓	✓	✓	
Encourage communities to work in partnership with various agencies on biodiversity and natural heritage projects.	✓	✓	✓	
Highlight, promote and assist the work of community groups through www.galwaycommunityheritage.org , social and other media.	✓	✓		
Produce guidance notes for community groups undertaking biodiversity or natural heritage projects on issues that need to be considered before embarking on a project.	✓	✓	✓	
Education and Training				
Facilitate interactive sharing and community based learning between different groups.	✓	✓		
Keep abreast of good practice and all legislative requirements in heritage, natural heritage and biodiversity care and conservation and provide training in same.	✓	✓		
Assist in the development of biodiversity and natural heritage skills – for communities, volunteer organisations and GCC personnel ranging from species identification and recording to practical conservation activities.	✓	✓	✓	

Objective 1 Awareness, Appreciation and Participation	Objective 2 Knowledge Gathering, Sharing and Education	Objective 3 Conservation and Management		
Themes	1	2	3	
<p>Assist the business and industry sector with biodiversity and natural heritage education and training e.g. in the areas of ecotourism, geo tourism, sustainable resource management, natural capital.</p> <p>Assist schools, third level and vocational training centres with biodiversity and natural heritage projects for the benefit of nature and the wider school community.</p> <p>Develop technological skills and tools to assist in biodiversity education.</p>	✓	✓	✓	
<p>Research and Information</p> <p>Collect, collate and procure data and knowledge on biodiversity and natural heritage in County Galway to strengthen the knowledge base of decision makers.</p> <p>Maintain and develop links with researchers, educational institutes, museums, libraries.</p> <p>Promote and develop biodiversity and natural heritage mapping e.g. geological heritage sites and freshwater and marine heritage sites.</p> <p>Seek to share information with relevant organisations and agencies.</p>	✓	✓	✓	
<p>Galway County Council: People, Property and Works</p> <p>Integrate biodiversity and natural heritage into relevant aspects of the work of Galway Co Council</p> <p>Policy: Ensure biodiversity and natural heritage are considered at earliest stages in the development of new plans and strategy documents.</p> <p>Projects: Promote the integration of biodiversity into work plans and developments at earliest (design) stage of projects.</p> <p>Planning – streamline systems for biodiversity in development applications.</p> <p>Develop resources and supports to inform decision makers.</p> <p>Establish full time biodiversity officer position in Galway County Council.</p>	✓	✓	✓	

Objective 1 Awareness, Appreciation and Participation	Objective 2 Knowledge Gathering, Sharing and Education	Objective 3 Conservation and Management		
Themes	1	2	3	
<p>Seek the employment of full time ecologists in Galway County Council.</p> <p>Galway County Council to take a proactive role in implementing legislative requirements and national strategies for heritage/biodiversity such as: National Pollinator Plan, National habitat and species management plans and the National Biodiversity Plan.</p> <p>Implement the Galway County Invasive Species Strategy</p> <p>Promote biodiversity led management of parks and green spaces including verges and hedgerows, drains, ditches and rivers. (Participate in Green Parks scheme).</p> <p>Conduct an audit of biodiversity of Galway County Council owned properties.</p> <p>Use sustainable and environmentally friendly materials in publications, developments and events.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	
<p>Stakeholder engagement and pursuing opportunities</p> <p>Collaborate with stakeholders for effective action on biodiversity and natural heritage</p> <p>Seek funding opportunities and work with project partners to achieve the aims of the Biodiversity and Natural Heritage Plan.</p> <p>Encourage dialogue between stakeholders and relevant government departments and agencies regarding conflicting legislation and policies relating to land use and management.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	

Cultural Heritage Plan 2017 - 2022

Objective 1 Awareness, Appreciation and Participation	Objective 2 Knowledge Gathering and Sharing	Objective 3 Conservation Policy and Action		
Themes	1	2	3	
<p>Community and Local Engagement</p> <p>Support the invaluable role of local communities in conserving and promoting cultural heritage throughout the county.</p> <p>Facilitate and develop partnerships, foster and increase links with all levels of the community including local groups, individuals, schools, academic institutions, statutory and non- statutory agencies.</p> <p>Promote and facilitate citizen science.</p> <p>Promote and encourage the use of the Irish Language in our heritage in our actions, projects, activities and resources.</p> <p>Encourage and support individuals, groups, NGOs and the education sector in applying for heritage funding and resources.</p> <p>Collect, record and share cultural heritage information and make this information available in an easily accessible format.</p> <p>Work with local communities in developing models of best cultural heritage practice.</p> <p>Highlight, promote and assist the work of community groups through www.galwaycommunityheritage.org , social and other media.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	
<p>Education and Training</p> <p>Facilitate community- based learning between different groups.</p> <p>Develop courses, workshops and training that will assist in achieving our objectives in relation to cultural heritage.</p> <p>Develop technological skills and tools to assist in cultural heritage learning.</p> <p>Promote best practice on researching, compiling and producing heritage publications.</p> <p>Promote existing relevant accredited courses and investigate the development of further courses.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	

Objective 1 Awareness, Appreciation and Participation	Objective 2 Knowledge Gathering and Sharing	Objective 3 Conservation Policy and Action		
Themes	1	2	3	
<p>Cultural Heritage Research and Information</p> <p>Identify gaps in cultural heritage knowledge and develop a plan of action to address these gaps.</p> <p>Work with academic institutions, local communities, schools, other agencies with regards to cultural heritage research.</p> <p>Seek to assist local communities in researching their cultural heritage to best practice standards.</p> <p>Develop templates of best practice with regards to cultural heritage research and delivery of project outputs.</p> <p>Digitise and make available cultural heritage research to as wide an audience as is possible.</p> <p>Undertake oral heritage projects.</p> <p>Research lesser known aspects of our cultural heritage.</p> <p>Promote and further develop www.galwaycommunityheritage.org and www.galwaydecadeofcommemoration.org</p> <p>Continue to work in collaboration with the people and communities of County Galway.</p> <p>Undertake an audit of privately held archives and provide guidelines for their proper storage and recording.</p>			✓	✓
<p>Galway County Council: People, Property and Works</p> <p>Develop materials, guidelines, courses and technologies that will assist in conserving our cultural heritage and promoting best practice.</p> <p>Conduct an audit of local museums and heritage centres in the county.</p> <p>Provide training, produce and circulate guidelines on how to undertake cultural heritage audits.</p> <p>Seek to digitise and make available historic records and materials relating to the county to best practice.</p> <p>Further develop and support the Archives service to ISO standards.</p>			✓	✓

Objective 1 Awareness, Appreciation and Participation	Objective 2 Knowledge Gathering and Sharing	Objective 3 Conservation Policy and Action		
Themes	1	2	3	
Continue to develop www.galwaycommunityheritage.org website and provide assistance to communities in producing heritage information and materials for uploading onto the website.	✓	✓		
<p>Stakeholder engagement and pursuing opportunities</p> <p>Collaborate with stakeholders for effective action on cultural heritage.</p> <p>Seek funding opportunities and work with project partners to deliver shared cultural heritage projects.</p> <p>Participate in heritage events such as Galway 2020, European Regional of Gastronomy 2018, Heritage Week, Tree Week, Culture Night, Crinniú na gCásca, European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, Creative Ireland, Crinniú na mBád and other themed events programmes.</p>	✓	✓		

Built Heritage Plan 2017 - 2022

Objective 1 Awareness, Appreciation and Participation	Objective 2 Knowledge Gathering and Sharing	Objective 3 Conservation Policy and Action		
Themes	1	2	3	
<p>Community and Local Engagement</p> <p>Assist communities including local groups to achieve their heritage projects and objectives to the standards of good heritage practice and to encourage co-operation and compliance with partners.</p> <p>Develop training programmes and projects in partnership with local communities and other bodies that showcase built heritage good practice.</p> <p>Facilitate connections between local communities with stakeholders.</p> <p>Encourage and support local communities in applying for funding for built heritage projects.</p> <p>Promote and facilitate citizen participation in public science projects.</p> <p>Highlight and promote heritage engagement through www.galwaycommunityheritage.org and other websites, social media, and publications.</p> <p>Promote dialogue and engagement between the arts, built heritage and the cultural sectors.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	
<p>Education and Training</p> <p>Facilitate interactive, community based learning between different groups.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>		

Objective 1 Awareness, Appreciation and Participation	Objective 2 Knowledge Gathering and Sharing	Objective 3 Conservation Policy and Action		
Themes	1	2	3	
Develop awareness of built heritage and conservation evolving good practice and provide training in same.	✓	✓	✓	
Develop technological and craft skills and tools to assist in built heritage education.		✓	✓	
Research and Information				
Strengthen and seek to sustain the knowledge base for decision makers. Identify gaps in knowledge around built heritage for the information of decision makers.	✓	✓		
Procure and make accessible information on heritage legislation, protected sites, Recorded Monuments and Protected Structures etc.	✓	✓		
Develop and maintain links with researchers, educational institutes, museums, libraries and archives.	✓	✓		
Encourage information sharing between third level institutions and built heritage interests.	✓			
Galway County Council: People, Property and Works				
Promote heritage evolving good practice in relation to conservation of built heritage.	✓		✓	
Provide targeted traditional skills training for staff.	✓	✓	✓	
Continue to implement and develop the Community Archaeology Project.	✓	✓	✓	
Undertake audits and surveys of the built heritage of the county.		✓		
Increase awareness of the built heritage of the county.	✓	✓		
Raise awareness and provide training where appropriate of existing heritage legislation and enforcement measures.	✓	✓	✓	
Encourage appropriate re-use of historical buildings and their settings.				
Work in partnership with the Heritage Council, Monument Services, Built Heritage Advisory Service, various relevant professional bodies, academic institutions, local communities and others on the	✓		✓	
	✓	✓	✓	

Objective 1 Awareness, Appreciation and Participation	Objective 2 Knowledge Gathering and Sharing	Objective 3 Conservation Policy and Action		
Themes	1	2	3	
development of projects and evolving good practice.				
Stakeholder engagement and pursuing opportunities				
Collaborate with stakeholders for effective action on built heritage.		✓	✓	
Work in partnership with Government and local agencies in the development of built heritage projects and initiatives.	✓			
Seek funding opportunities and work with project partners on developing various initiatives relating to the built heritage.	✓	✓	✓	

APPENDIX I: RELEVANT EU DIRECTIVES, DOMESTIC LEGISLATION & INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

European Directives	
Planning & Built Heritage	SEA Directive 2001/42/EC (Strategic Environmental Assessment) EIA Directive 1985/37/EEC (as amended) (Environmental Impact Assessment)
Archives and Record Management	European Communities Act, 1972 (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 1998 INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC – Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community)
Natural Heritage	Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC) Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) Freshwater Fish Directive (Council Directive 78/659/EC) Water Framework Directive (Council Directive 2000/60/EC) Environmental Liability Directive (Council Directive 2004/35/EC)

International Conventions	
Archaeology	European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention), 1997
Architecture	European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention), 1997 Burra Charter adopted 1999 Nizhny Tagil Charter for the Industrial Heritage, 2003 Joint ICOMOS-TICCIH Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes 2011 (<i>The Dublin Principles</i>)

Natural Heritage	<p>Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention), 1979</p> <p>Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), 1979</p> <p>Agreement on Conservation of Bats in Europe (Bonn Convention), 1993</p> <p>Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), 1971</p> <p>Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992</p> <p>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), 1974</p> <p>Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) (Bonn Convention), 1996</p> <p>International Tropical Timber Agreement 1994, (1996)</p> <p>Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy</p>
Culture and Natural Heritage	<p>UNESCO Convention for the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</p> <p>ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Preparation of Cultural Heritage Sites</p> <p>The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/697</p>
Landscape	European Landscape Convention, 2000

National Legislation	
Planning & Built Heritage	<p>National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Act (NIAH) 1999</p> <p>Planning and Development Act, 2000</p> <p>Planning and Development Regulations, 2001</p> <p>Heritage Act 1995</p>
Archaeology & Archaeological Objects	<p>National Monuments Act 1930 and subsequent amendments of 1954, 1987, 1994 & 2004</p> <p>National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997</p>
Heritage Objects, Museums, Archives & Records Management	<p>National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997</p> <p>Local Government Act, 2001, S.80</p> <p>National Archives Act, 1986</p> <p>Data Protection Act, 1988</p> <p>Freedom of Information Act, 1997</p> <p>The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/697</p>
Irish Language	Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012
Natural Heritage	<p>Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2012</p> <p>Fisheries (Consolidation) Act, 1959</p> <p>Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1999</p> <p>Flora (Protection) Order, 2015</p> <p>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and 2013</p>
Landscape	<p>Local Government (Planning and Development Acts, 1963-1999)</p> <p>Planning and Development Act 2000</p>

Appendix 1 Relevant international conventions, EU directives and domestic legislation pertaining to our heritage

Appendix 2 The Galway County Heritage Plan and the Galway County Biodiversity Plan 2010-2016 initiatives

Appendix 3 All members of the Galway County Heritage Forum and of the Galway County Biodiversity Steering Group and working groups

Appendix 4 Overview of the consultation process

Appendix 5 Guiding documents, plans and strategies

Galway County Development Plan 2015 – 2021

Galway 2020 Bid Book

Galway County Council Cultural Plan

Galway County Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2016 - 2022

Tourism Strategy for County Galway

National Heritage Plan

National Biodiversity Plan

Culture 2025

Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022

Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020

Appendix 6 Glossary of Terms