



# County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016

Incorporating County Roscommon Biodiversity Action Plan



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



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



Fóram Oidhreachta  
Chomhairle Ros Comáin

Roscommon  
County Council



Prepared by County Roscommon Heritage Forum



Roscommon County Council and County Roscommon Heritage Forum wish to acknowledge the role of the Heritage Council in initiating the County Roscommon Heritage Plan in association with Roscommon County Council. In particular, the Forum acknowledges the support of the Heritage Council through its part funding of the Heritage Officer post and its part funding of Heritage Plan Actions, in association with Roscommon County Council.

Roscommon County Council wish to acknowledge the role of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for providing the funding for the development of the Local Biodiversity Plans and the Heritage Council in initiating the development of the draft County Roscommon Biodiversity Action Plan, facilitated by Dr. Karina Dingerkus, Giorria Environmental Services, [www.giorria.com](http://www.giorria.com). In particular, the Forum would like also to acknowledge the role of the Roscommon Biodiversity Steering Group in that process.

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The aim of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan is to continue to create and promote an increased knowledge, awareness and appreciation of the natural, built and cultural heritage of County Roscommon and to conserve it for future generations.

## County Roscommon's Heritage

# Notice

{See, take in, observe, perceive, note,  
discern, detect, remark, spot, sight, make out}

# Care

{Mind, think about, heed, nurture, tending}

# Enjoy

{Take pleasure in, get pleasure from, like,  
benefit from, have the benefit of}

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## Foreword

### Message from the Mayor

As Mayor of Roscommon County Council I am delighted to welcome this, the second Heritage Plan for County Roscommon. The work commenced under the first Heritage Plan will be continued and I hope that great benefit will be reaped by community groups and people all around the county who work hard at a local level to care for their local area for the benefit of all who live there. The tag line to 'Notice, Care, Enjoy' is an apt summary of the aim of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan and I wish the County Roscommon Heritage Forum every success with the implementation of the plan.

**Cllr. Eugene Murphy, Mayor**

### Message from the County Manager

Roscommon County Council welcomes the County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016. The actions in the plan will contribute greatly towards meeting the mission of Roscommon County Council in enhancing quality of life in partnership with the community. Implementation of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan will help protect the natural and built environment in the county, as set out in the Roscommon County Council Corporate Plan 2009-2014. It will also contribute to many of the objectives and policies in the Roscommon County Development Plan 2008-2014 and the Roscommon County Development Board's priority actions for social, economic and cultural development, including Roscommon Tourism Strategy 2010-2014.

Heritage Week is a highlight of the Heritage Plan work programme annually. It is a week when people all around the county showcase their local area. Roscommon County Council supports Heritage Week annually through advertising and promotion of Heritage Week events. The PR value for Heritage Week 2010 on a national level was independently valued for the Heritage Council at €2.8 million - a return on investment of 12:1. This is of great benefit to Co. Roscommon and is welcome proof of the value of all the hard work put in by individuals, organisations, volunteers and community groups all around the county. There is the added value of the contribution to the quality of life in the county that heritage appreciation can bring.

I wish the County Roscommon Heritage Forum every success in their implementation of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016, and I wish to record my appreciation of the professional leadership and guidance of our Heritage Officer Nollaig Feeney.

**Frank Dawson, County Manager**

### Message from the Chairperson of the County Heritage Forum

Since being elected Chairperson of the County Roscommon Heritage Forum back in 2003, it has been an interesting experience to oversee the preparation of the first and now the second County Roscommon Heritage Plan. Having steered the implementation of the first Heritage Plan through the 'Celtic Tiger' boom years we are now bringing the experience we have gained into a new era with a different economic climate. Heritage Council research has demonstrated the economic value of County Heritage Plans - between 2004 and 2008 €6.15million was invested in County Heritage Plans nationwide. This supported the creation of 1,012 fulltime jobs in small businesses, with an estimated return of €30.1million to the economy, leading to an additional investment of around €10 million from other sources.

Implementation of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016 will see the work commenced under the first plan continued, in terms of raising awareness of heritage, collecting and disseminating heritage information and promoting best practice in heritage conservation and management. This work will contribute to national economic recovery.

**Cllr. Tom Crosby, Chairperson**



# Introduction

**The aim of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan is to create and promote an increased knowledge, awareness and appreciation of the natural, built and cultural heritage of County Roscommon, and to conserve it for future generations, in other words: notice – care – enjoy.**

## What is heritage?

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 County Roscommon Heritage Forum also considers that folklore; industrial heritage and local history are important aspects of the county's heritage.

County Roscommon has a rich and diverse heritage. We have a wide range biodiversity and natural heritage from sites of international importance such as the raised bogs, to the familiar whitethorn hedges and wildflowers found along every local road. We have archaeological sites of international importance such as the Rathcroghan Complex, down to the ringforts found throughout the county. We have a cultural landscape telling the story of the generations who have lived here since prehistoric times. We have towns and villages rich in classical architecture, such as King House or Strokestown Park House, down to the vernacular or 'every day' features like timber nameplates on shopfronts, water pumps and limestone kerbstones found throughout the county. Roscommon has a rich heritage of historic graveyards and medieval church ruins, most cared for by a committed local voluntary committee.



## Context:

Under the National Heritage Plan (2002) it is an objective of the Government to ensure the protection of our heritage and to promote its enjoyment by all. Placing heritage at the heart of public life is an identified priority. The establishment of the County Roscommon Heritage Forum and the preparation and implementation of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan reflects Roscommon County Council's role in implementing the National Heritage Plan.

Under the National Biodiversity Plan (2002) it is an objective of the government to provide for biodiversity at local level. Each local authority must prepare a Local Biodiversity Plan and designate a contact officer for natural heritage conservation matters in its area. The County Roscommon Heritage Plan delivers this objective.

Both the National Heritage Plan and the National Biodiversity Plan recognise the important role of local authorities as key partners in delivering national objectives at a local level and the importance of heritage to the quality of life and sustainable development.

Roscommon County Development Plan sets out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Co. Roscommon. The County Roscommon Heritage Plan plays an integral role in contributing to the main strategic aims of the County Development Plan. This is done by collating baseline data that can guide policy formation and facilitating the provision of expert heritage advice where required by Roscommon County Council.

Roscommon's County Development Board Strategy 'Roscommon Common Vision' sets out the strategy for economic, social and cultural development in the county. County Roscommon Heritage Plan contributes to the achievement of priorities in this strategy.



### County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2004-2008:

The first County Roscommon Heritage Plan was intended to cover the years 2004-2008, however in reality it remained in operation until 2011. Implementation of that plan was an exciting learning curve for all concerned. Actions in that plan that could directly be implemented by the Heritage Officer were successfully achieved. Other actions, mainly those that couldn't simply be taken on and carried out by the Heritage Officer or partner organizations of the County Roscommon Heritage Forum, were not so readily 'do able'. Experience has shown us that achievement of actions is not a simple matter of ticking a box and marking an action as 'done'. Every action implemented has itself spawned a series of follow on actions - recommendations for further work or an identified need to re-run events and information actions on an ongoing basis to meet demand. Thus the work programme of the Heritage Office grew rather than diminished with the implementation of the first Heritage Plan.

There is huge support for all aspect of heritage in Co. Roscommon. This was evident through out the implementation of the first Heritage Plan where projects, events and publications produced as a result of the Heritage Plan were well supported and very positively welcomed by individuals, schools, organisations and community groups all around the county.

### Implementation of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2004-2008:

When the Heritage Plan was reviewed in May 2009, it was found that 61% of actions in the plan had been acted on and that those actions led on to twice that amount of projects taking place. So, while 39% of actions were not acted on, a considerable volume of work was carried out. Some achievements of the first Heritage Plan include:

#### Objective 1 to Raise Awareness of our Heritage – Achievements

- Promotion of Heritage Week each year and the provision of support to the many groups who organise events for Heritage Week.
- Education projects in the County facilitated visits to 103 primary schools, 2 secondary schools and one 3rd level course.
- Other projects, such as heritage exhibitions; support for archaeological research publications and excavation open days.
- Bat events, attended by over 120 people.
- County Roscommon Biodiversity Day in 2006 & 2007 and 'Notice Nature' Woodland Guided Walk. These events attracted nearly 300 people.
- Heritage 'infomercials' on Shannonside FM local radio.
- 'Roscommon Castle - A Visitors Guide' this book and summary leaflet have contributed to renewed interest in Roscommon Castle.
- Biodiversity Training for Roscommon County Council staff – 70 staff members attended.
- Archaeology Training for Roscommon County Council staff and elected members – 101 staff members and 11 elected members attended.

#### Objective 2 to Collect & Disseminate Heritage Information - Achievements

- County Roscommon Graveyard Survey located, inspected and documented over 200 graveyards around the county. The graveyard survey is available on [www.roscommoncoco.ie/services/heritage](http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/services/heritage).
- A Graveyard and Memorials Recording Training Project was carried out.
- Two seminars on 'The Care and Conservation of Historic Graveyards' attracted over 130 people.
- Another seminar, 'History from the Grave' on recording historic graveyards attracted c. 25 people.
- A 'Heritage Access Audit of County Roscommon' examined access at 82 sites around the County and led to the production of 3 interpretative panels and an accompanying leaflet for Tarmonbarry, Kilglass lakes and Kiltteevin. This project also produced a leaflet guide to heritage sites in County Roscommon.
- Research such as 'An Audit of Biological Datasets' and 'An Assessment of Thatching Needs in Co. Roscommon' have been carried out.
- The County Roscommon Folklore & Oral History Network has been established through a countywide network of fully trained folklore and oral history collectors who have to date created an archive of over 50 oral history recordings in the County Library.
- Roscommon County Council appointed an Archivist for a two year period.
- Habitat Mapping of four towns.
- Interpretation workshop and development of best practice guidelines.

### Objective 3 Promotion of Best Practice - Achievements

- Roscommon County Council appointed a Conservation Officer for a two year period.
- 'Working with Lime' workshop and demonstration attracted c.70 people.
- A seminar on 'Architectural Heritage' attracted c. 75 people and a 'To Have and to Hold' seminar for owners and carers of protected structures attracted c. 120 people.
- 4 seed collection events were held, mainly in conjunction with the National Parks & Wildlife Service, these were attended by c. 140 school pupils and c. 125 members of the public.
- 'Tulsk Gaelic Medieval Complex Conservation Management Plan' was commissioned.
- A Landscape Character Assessment of the County was undertaken as part of the review of Roscommon County Development Plan.
- 'County Roscommon Hedgerow Survey', 'County Roscommon's Hedges' leaflet, 'Looking into our Hedges' seminar in conjunction with Westmeath County Council and the resulting 'Hedgerow Translocation' project were undertaken.
- Over 1000 artefacts of Roscommon provenance were identified in storage in the National Museum of Ireland.
- A 'Survey to Document the location, number and extent of artefact and archival material collections' in Co. Roscommon identified 67 private collections around the county.



### Roscommon Heritage Publications:

Publications on many different aspects of Co. Roscommon's heritage have been one of the highlights of the first Heritage Plan, in particular the Roscommon Heritage Poster Series. All publications are available on the 'heritage' section of [www.roscommoncoco.ie](http://www.roscommoncoco.ie) and in hard copy from the Roscommon County Council Customer Service Desk. Publications include:

- Biodiversity in County Roscommon
- Wildflowers of County Roscommon
- Bogs of County Roscommon
- Turloughs of County Roscommon
- Exploring Roscommon Castle in Medieval Times
- The memorials of St. Coman's Church of Ireland Graveyard Roscommon
- County Roscommon's Graveyards
- County Roscommon Hedgerow Survey Report
- County Roscommon's Hedges
- Hedgerow Translocation - Documenting the Successful Translocation of a Mature Hedgerow
- Heritage in Roscommon – Where to Go? What to See?
- Landscaping your House in County Roscommon with Native Trees and Shrubs
- Loughnaneane Park Roscommon - Primary Schools Education Pack
- Roscommon Artefacts in the National Museum of Ireland
- Roscommon Castle – A Visitor's Guide
- Roscommon Castle – The History of a National Landmark
- Telling People About our Heritage – Interpretation and Signage Guidance
- Windows of Roscommon



## County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016:

Now that the 'celtic tiger' has left us we now find ourselves operating in a very different world. The economic climate has changed beyond recognition. Heritage is becoming increasingly viewed as a potential income stream, as a tourism product. The importance of a well presented, attractive county with lots to entice a visitor to explore and discover is well understood. But it is also important to remember the value and importance of heritage in the lives of those who live in the county - our sense of place, local distinctiveness, quality of life and enjoyment of our day to day existence is all sustained by a rich vibrant built, natural and cultural heritage.

The Heritage Council champions and resources heritage as: a vital part of our identity and sense of place, the backbone of our tourism offering, an intrinsic part of our everyday life, and an exceptional resource for recreation, health, learning and enjoyment (The Heritage Council Issues paper for drafting a Strategic Plan 2012-2017). This links in with the mission of Roscommon County Council which includes making Roscommon a vibrant place with an increasingly enhanced quality of life (Roscommon County Council Corporate Plan 2009-2014). This is a guide to the County Roscommon Heritage Forum in terms of prioritizing actions in the Heritage Plan so that we can demonstrate that heritage can be a resource for social and economic development and contribute to national recovery, even on a local scale.

### How was this plan prepared?

The preparation process followed guidelines set out by the Heritage Council for the preparation of local Heritage Plans. The full preparation process is set out in Appendix 2. Over 40 submissions were received from public consultation for the Heritage Plan. These were considered by the County Roscommon Heritage Forum. This has led to the identification of actions for the County Heritage Plan to achieve. Over 50 submissions were received from public consultation for the draft Biodiversity Plan. These have influenced the biodiversity actions incorporated in this plan. Actions are grouped into broad objectives of:

#### Objective 1: Collect and disseminate heritage information - 'Notice'

To facilitate the development of a comprehensive heritage database for the county, to make this information available to all.

#### Objective 2: Promote best practice in heritage conservation and management - 'Care'

To promote and advise on best practice standards for heritage conservation and management within the county.

#### Objective 3: Raise awareness of our heritage - 'Enjoy'

To increase knowledge, awareness, understanding and enjoyment of Roscommon's heritage.

### How does the draft County Roscommon Biodiversity Action Plan fit in?

Biodiversity is an integral part of heritage. Many submissions received from public consultation for the Heritage Plan related to biodiversity. Actions from the draft County Roscommon Biodiversity Action Plan (2007), prepared by Roscommon Biodiversity Steering Group, facilitated by Dr. Karina Dingerkus, have been incorporated in to the Heritage Plan, having regard to submissions received during the Heritage Plan public consultation. Thus the biodiversity actions set out in this plan constitute the Roscommon Biodiversity Action Plan, as required under the National Biodiversity Plan.



# Objectives and Actions

## Objective 1: Collect and disseminate heritage information - 'Notice'

To facilitate the development of a comprehensive heritage database for the county, to make this information available to all.

### Actions

- 1.1 Identify gaps in knowledge and facilitate research studies as required to gather data on all aspects of heritage in the county.
- 1.2 Seek collaboration with a 3rd level institute for data gathering, surveying & volunteering which could facilitate possible 'internship' for 3rd level students.
- 1.3 Establish a heritage bursary, which will sponsor annually a piece of 3rd level research on an under studied aspect of the county's heritage, such as for example fortified and 17th century houses.
- 1.4 Carry out an inventory of geological heritage in the county and a literature review of relevant geological research. Publish the findings.
- 1.5 Carry out baseline surveys and data gathering as necessary to inform the Roscommon County Development Plan. For example character assessments of architectural conservation areas, tree survey, habitat mapping, esker survey, turloughs survey, wetlands survey, bogs survey,
- 1.6 Compile and maintain an inventory of heritage assets in the care of Roscommon County Council.
- 1.7 Produce a guidebook for two significant heritage sites in the county, within the lifetime of the plan.
- 1.8 Disseminate results of information gathered from heritage research in the county, for example archaeological research.
- 1.9 Promote, update and expand the Heritage Office email mailing list as a means of disseminating heritage information.
- 1.10 Support the ongoing development and operation of the County Roscommon Folklore and Oral History Network.
- 1.11 Support the review of the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) as part of the review and preparation of the Roscommon County Development Plan.
- 1.12 Encourage school children to get involved in wildlife surveys, such as through the NPWS outreach education programme, the Green Schools Programme and the Heritage in Schools Scheme.
- 1.13 Compile a web based database of accessible local wildlife sites in Roscommon, and promote via the Roscommon County Council 'Virtual Roscommon' website.
- 1.14 Update every 5 years the 'Audit of Biological Datasets' carried out in 2007.
- 1.15 Summarise survey data from recent biodiversity surveys in the county and make available through Roscommon County Council website.
- 1.16 Promote and encourage participation in wildlife projects and surveys, which gather information on habitats and species throughout the county. Examples include: Red squirrel sighting records to [irishsquirrels@gmail.com](mailto:irishsquirrels@gmail.com) or [www.biology.ie](http://www.biology.ie); Bird Atlas of Ireland Survey; Daubenton's Bat Survey, Orchard Ireland Survey <http://www.habitas.org.uk/orchidireland/> and [www.invasivespecies.ie](http://www.invasivespecies.ie)

## Objectives and Actions

### Objective 2: Promote best practice in heritage conservation and management - 'Care'

To promote and advise on best practice standards for heritage conservation and management within the county.

#### Actions

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2.1  | Seek the provision of a designated county museum service for the county.   |
| 2.2  | Provide best practice information on the care and conservation and biodiversity value of historic graveyards.  |
| 2.3  | Review and revise as appropriate the existing system for facilitating the recording of graveyard memorials and inscriptions through to publication of the results online.  |
| 2.4  | Provide heritage training for community groups. Topics to include amongst others: Best practice in heritage conservation and management; Enhancement of biodiversity; and 'Heritage Audits' – how to identify sites of heritage interest and plan to conserve or enhance sites in your local area. |
| 2.5  | Provide a small annual bursary for a community heritage project.   |
| 2.6  | Provide heritage training for Roscommon County Council staff and elected members. Topics to include amongst others: Architecture.  |
| 2.7  | Implement an information programme for Roscommon County Council staff to follow up on training delivered and heritage data gathered.   |
| 2.8  | Promote best practice in heritage interpretation.  |
| 2.9  | Promote the 'leave no trace' concept & incorporate it, where possible, in Heritage Plan actions.   |
| 2.10 | Support implementation of the Rathcroghan Archaeological Complex Conservation Study.   |
| 2.11 | Support implementation of Tulsk Gaelic Medieval Complex Conservation Management Plan   |
| 2.12 | Support the implementation of the Rinn Duin Conservation and Management Plan   |
| 2.13 | Prepare a conservation policy for heritage assets in the care of Roscommon County Council & within this framework commission conservation and management plans as appropriate.   |
| 2.14 | Promote the concept of conservation and heritage management plans for heritage sites and buildings.  |
| 2.15 | Promote and support the provision of expert heritage advice to Roscommon County Council. For example architectural conservation, ecological and archaeological expertise.  |
| 2.16 | Promote best conservation practice in the care of heritage sites – historic buildings, buildings within architectural conservation areas (ACA's), monuments, habitats or landscapes.   |
| 2.17 | Seek support for the employment of a Biodiversity Officer to co-ordinate implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan and advise Roscommon County Council on biodiversity related matters.   |
| 2.18 | Continue biodiversity training for all Council staff; including planners, engineers and key personnel; Elected Members & Boyle Town Council.   |
| 2.19 | Organise biodiversity training / information events for community groups, REPS/AEOS participants, landowners & development agencies. Suggested topics include wildlife corridors.  |
| 2.20 | Support wildlife garden projects in Co. Roscommon.   |
| 2.21 | Promote regeneration of food sources for wildlife such as the 'LINNET' winterfeed scheme through biodiversity events on Roscommon farms.   |
| 2.22 | Promote woodland schemes; such as the 'Neighbourhood Scheme' and the 'Native Woodland Scheme' through open days and other events.  |
| 2.23 | Compile & make available a list of sites that show best management practice for range of conservation issues, e.g. coppice management, hedgerow management,  |
| 2.24 | Ensure all mechanical hedgerow cutting carried out by operators who have achieved the Teagasc proficiency standard MT 1302 – Mechanical Hedge Trimming.  |
| 2.25 | Promote a biodiversity friendly policy in the management of graveyards, open spaces, verges, drains, rivers and streams; for example with Roscommon County Council and Rural Social Scheme staff.  |
| 2.26 | Promote the implementation of recommendations from relevant biodiversity research publications, such as 'County Roscommon Hedgerow Survey Report', 2005 & 'Hedgerow Translocation – Documenting the successful translocation of a mature hedgerow', 2007 etc.                                      |
| 2.27 | Hold demonstration days on farms to show good farming practice; such as in Riparian corridors and hedgerow management.   |
| 2.28 | Work with Bord na Mona in relation to Bord na Mona cut over bogs in Co. Roscommon  |



## Objectives and Actions

### Objective 3: To raise awareness of our heritage - 'Enjoy'

To increase knowledge, awareness, understanding and enjoyment of Roscommon's heritage

#### Actions

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 3.1  | Ensure a schools heritage project takes place annually. Aim to cover every school in the county within the plan period. Targeted topics include: Historic Graveyards, Turloughs, Bogs; Wetlands, Water and Geology. |
| 3.2  | Promote and support Heritage Week in Co. Roscommon  |
| 3.3  | Promote and support Biodiversity Week in Co. Roscommon  |
| 3.4  | Promote heritage open days and events in the county through the Roscommon County Council website and the Heritage Office email mailing list.  |
| 3.5  | Seek to support the provision of temporary access to a heritage site which is not usually accessible to the public, such as an event for Heritage Week or Biodiversity Week.  |
| 3.6  | Promote awareness of the value of heritage. For example its quality of life value, health value, economic value etc.  |
| 3.7  | Promote awareness and enjoyment of significant heritage assets in the county. For example Roscommon Castle.   |
| 3.8  | Establish a regular heritage column in local newspapers. Seek submissions of articles suitable for publication. Ensure all aspects of heritage are covered, within the lifetime of the plan.                        |
| 3.9  | Participate in and support, where possible, ongoing heritage projects or initiatives in the county.   |
| 3.10 | Promote awareness our Roscommon's geological heritage, for example hosting a geology exhibition.  |
| 3.11 | Raise awareness of the importance of Lough Ree for built, natural and cultural heritage.  |
| 3.12 | Review and update annually the 'Heritage' Section of <a href="http://www.roscommoncoco.ie">www.roscommoncoco.ie</a>   |
| 3.13 | Hold a minimum of four biodiversity events for the public every year. Advertise through a calendar of wildlife events.  |
| 3.14 | Run outreach education programme for schools with aim of reaching 40 schools each year.   |
| 3.15 | Produce leaflets highlighting Roscommon's biodiversity and ensure good distribution through web and other means.  |
| 3.16 | Promote the work of the National Biodiversity Data Centre <a href="http://www.biodiversityireland.ie">www.biodiversityireland.ie</a>  |
| 3.17 | Raise awareness of the threats to biodiversity, e.g through an information leaflet  |
| 3.18 | Raise awareness of the threats to biodiversity posed by invasive species and raise awareness of best practice in management of invasive species.  |

## How this plan will be implemented

The County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016 is a five year plan. Each autumn the County Roscommon Heritage Forum will discuss actions to be prioritised for the year ahead. While questions such as; how urgent is each action, which actions are likely to be most effective on achieving the objective, how much enthusiasm and support is needed for each action, which partnerships are required and which actions could help to build more support or gain more resources; are taken in to account. The practical consideration of sourcing any funding required is also a factor.

A funding application will be submitted to the Heritage Council's Heritage Plan funding scheme each year. Match funding is required from Roscommon County Council. The funding application must have regard to the Heritage Council's Strategic Plan, as the Heritage Council may only fund actions that contribute towards achieving their strategic themes. Actions which are local priorities and not necessarily fitting in with the Heritage Council's Strategic Plan will have to be funded from other sources, such as from Heritage Forum member organisations. Upon notification of available funding, actions will be commenced in the new-year. Budget timeframes dictate that actions have to be completed by the early autumn. Occasionally funding opportunities crop up unexpectedly, such as a grant scheme advertised at short notice. The County Roscommon Heritage Forum works in a flexible manner to allow uptake of every opportunity to avail of funding to implement actions in the Heritage Plan.

Not all actions are dependant on funding, some are dependant on time – the Heritage Officer may be able to carry out some of the actions 'in-house'. Experience from implementation of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2004-2008 has shown that the challenge is to balance work commitments under budget timeframes and requirements which inevitably receive priority, with work commitments for actions which are time dependent rather than funding dependant.

Other actions will be carried out by partner organisations under their own work programme. Partner organisations include those on the County Roscommon Heritage Forum. Other partners are encouraged and welcome to get involved where opportunities exist.



### Monitoring and Evaluation

The primary indicator of the implementation of the Heritage Plan is completion of the actions which are set out in the plan and the extent to which they contribute to the achievement of the objectives. Evaluation criteria will include:

- Probity – were the resources spend on the action they were allocated for (this is a requirement of Heritage Council Funding).
- Effectiveness – have the best possible results been produced?
- Efficiency – could the same level of quality be achieved with reduced resources?
- Appropriateness – has the Heritage Plan produced the desired outcome?

County Roscommon Heritage Forum will monitor and evaluate the progress of the Heritage Plan at regular intervals.





Notice  
Care  
Enjoy



A photograph of a field of tall green grass with several pink, daisy-like flowers in bloom. The flowers have many thin, pink petals and dark centers. The background is a soft-focus green field. Overlaid on the image are several thin, white diagonal lines.

# Notice Care Enjoy



## Appendix 1

# Membership of County Roscommon Heritage Forum

Within the sectors represented on the Heritage Forum individual members may change over time. Members listed below are those involved at the time of preparation of this Plan.

Sector	Organisation	Name
Local Government	Elected Representative Planning Department, Roscommon County Council County Librarian, Roscommon County Council	Cllr. Tom Crosby Tracy Davis  Richie Farrell
State Agencies	Teagasc National Monuments Service National Parks & Wildlife Service	Oliver Burke Laura Claffey Dr. Judit Kelemen
Local Development	Roscommon Integrated Dev. Co. Roscommon Integrated Dev. Co.	Tom Coppinger Thomas Mannion
Land Owner Representative	Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association	Jack Devine
Community & Voluntary	South Roscommon Community Forum North Roscommon Community Forum	Kevin McBrien Helena Poole-Stapleton
Heritage Groups	County Roscommon Historical & Archaeological Society.	Mary O'Connell

### County Roscommon Biodiversity Steering Group:

County Roscommon Biodiversity Steering Group, a sub committee of the County Roscommon Heritage Forum, was established in 2007 to over see the preparation of the draft County Roscommon Biodiversity Action Plan. Membership of the Biodiversity Steering Group included:

Organisation	Name
Botanical Society of the British Isles	Michael Archer
Teagasc	Oliver Burke
Arigna Leader	Claire Carty
Mid South Roscommon Rural Development Co. Ltd.	Patsy Daly
Roads Section, Roscommon County Council	Jacinta Carlos-Ward
Planning Section, Roscommon County Council	Geraldine Kavanagh / Tracy Davis
Environment Section, Roscommon County Council	Marion Parker
Shannon Regional Fisheries Board	John Devaney
Coillte	Frank Donlon / James Casserly
Bord na Mona	Tom Egan / David Fallon
North Midlands Peatland Park	John J. Fallon
Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association	John Flynn
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Dr. Judit Kelemen / Louise McAlavey
Optimize Consultants	Dr. Craig Bullock

## Appendix 2

### Process of Formulating the Plan

The County Roscommon Heritage Plan was developed by the County Roscommon Heritage Forum. The process followed guidance set out in 'A Methodology for Local Authority Heritage Officers on the Preparation of County/City Heritage Plans' as proposed by the Heritage Council, 2001.

County Roscommon Heritage Plan	
Date	Task
April 2009	Meeting of County Roscommon Heritage Forum to discuss preparation of new Heritage Plan.
May 2009	Public Consultation Carried out: Preparation of new Heritage Plan and call for submissions was advertised in the Roscommon Herald. Press releases were issued to local media and received considerable coverage in the Roscommon Herald, Roscommon Champion and Roscommon People newspapers.
	A Consultation Newsletter was prepared and circulated widely to Heritage Office contacts around the county and beyond.
	A submission template was also circulated to assist those making submissions.
June 2009	41 written and 2 telephone submissions were received. Acknowledgement of submissions.
	Meeting of County Roscommon Heritage Forum to discuss submissions and identify heritage issues and needs.
March 2010	Meeting of County Roscommon Heritage Forum to discuss heritage issues and needs and formulate draft Heritage Plan actions.
Feb 2011	Meeting of County Roscommon Heritage Forum to agree broad objectives and discuss draft Heritage Plan actions.
Apr 2011	Meeting of County Roscommon Heritage Forum to further discuss draft Heritage Plan actions.
July 2011	Draft of Heritage Plan adopted by County Roscommon Heritage Forum.
Aug 2011	Public Consultation on draft Plan: The draft Heritage Plan was circulated to all who had made previous submissions and to all elected members of Roscommon County Council. The public consultation process was advertised in the Roscommon Herald, through the Heritage Office email mailing list and on <a href="http://www.roscommoncoco.ie">www.roscommoncoco.ie</a> . Press releases were issued to local media. Public consultations were held in libraries around the county with one evening consultation in Roscommon town. 22 submissions were received.
Sept 2011	Meeting of County Roscommon Heritage Forum to discuss submissions received and recommend amendments to the draft Plan. The draft Plan was submitted to the Housing, Social, Cultural & Community Strategic Policy Committee of Roscommon County Council for their consideration.
Oct 2011	A Report on Submissions Received Following the Public Consultation Process on the Draft County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016 was presented to the Housing, Social, Cultural & Community Strategic Policy Committee of Roscommon County Council. A Report to Elected Members on the Draft County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016 was presented, following which the County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016 was adopted, at the October meeting of Roscommon County Council.



## Appendix 2

### Process of Formulating the Plan

Draft County Roscommon Biodiversity Action Plan	
Date	Task
June 2007	Dr. Karina Dingerkus, Giorria Environmental Services, was appointed by the Heritage Council to facilitate the plan preparation process.
July 2007	Initial call for submissions for Biodiversity Action Plan – advertised in local media and through a Heritage Office mail shot. 35 submissions received.
Aug 2007	1st meeting of Roscommon Biodiversity Steering Group
Oct 2007	2nd meeting of Roscommon Biodiversity Steering Group
Nov 2007	Draft Roscommon Biodiversity Action Plan prepared and circulated for public consultation. 23 submissions received
Dec 2007	Presentation by Dr. Karina Dingerkus of the draft Plan to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) of Roscommon County Council.
March 2010	3rd Meeting of Roscommon Biodiversity Steering Group.
April 2010	4th Meeting of Roscommon Biodiversity Steering Group
June 2010	Incorporation of actions from the Draft County Roscommon Biodiversity Action Plan in to the County Roscommon Heritage Plan.



## Appendix 3

### Public Consultation Process

#### County Roscommon Biodiversity Action Plan Initial submissions were received from:

Sarah Malone, Irish Peatland Conservation Council  
 Bill Hester, Croghan Organic Garden  
 Jack Devine, Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association  
 Mary O'Connell, Co. Roscommon Historical & Archaeological Society  
 Mary Gallagher  
 Siobhan Garvey  
 Eamonn Kelly  
 Michael Ewing, Centre for Sustainability  
 Ken Bond, Dept of Zoology, Ecology & Plant Science, University College Cork  
 John Brady, Co. Roscommon Historical & Archaeological Society  
 Laszlo Kenderesi, Crossna Community Co-op  
 Ann McNamara, VEC Adult Education  
 Melissa Newman  
 Craig Bullock  
 Peter Kelly  
 Ernie Keenan, MCC  
 John Connor, MCC  
 Paul Hamilton, Boyle Task Force  
 Anne Coyne  
 Sara M Ainge  
 Anja Murray, An Taisce  
 Claire Carty, Lisacul Golden Mile Club  
 Richard Collins, St. John's Parish Heritage Group  
 Lora O'Brien, Cruachan Ai Heritage Centre, Tulsk  
 John Kelly  
 James Cogan, Ballaghaderreen C/E  
 Ballaghaderreen Angling Club  
 Eilish Feely, Mote Park Conservation Group  
 Dr. Susan Mannion  
 Sean Beirne / Ml Ward, Kilbegnet Dev. Association  
 Anne Healy, Ballyfarnon Community Enterprise Group Ltd, in conjunction with Eamon Keavney, Coillte  
 John Larkin  
 Margaret Garvey  
 Patsy Daly, Mid South Roscommon Rural development Co. Ltd.

#### County Roscommon Biodiversity Action Plan Submissions on the draft plan were received from:

Margaret Nugent, Roosky Residents Association  
 Madam Felicity Mac Dermot  
 Paul Blackwell  
 Brian Garvey  
 Mary O'Connell, Co. Roscommon Historical & Archaeological Society  
 Jimmy Cogan, Ballaghaderreen Angling Club  
 John Larkin, Roscommon Tidy Towns Association  
 Dr. Susan Mannion  
 Margaret Garvey  
 Sarah M. Ainge, Blackfallow Arts Group  
 Sean Treacy  
 Peter & Lily Kelly  
 Jacinta Carlos Ward, Roads Section, Roscommon County Council  
 David Fallon, Bord na Mona



## Appendix 3

### Public Consultation Process cntd.

Ann Golden Rowan  
 Greg O'Donnell, Roads Section, Roscommon County Council  
 Bill Hester, Croghan Organic garden  
 John Flynn, Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association  
 Tim Guilbride  
 Gene Anderson  
 Declan O'Callaghan, Ballaghaderreen & District Development Ltd.  
 Roscommon Forestry Forum  
 Oliver Burke, Teagasc  
 Michael Archer, Botanical Society of the British Isles  
 Ken Bond, Dept of Zoology, Ecology & Plant Science, University College Cork  
 Craig Bullock  
 Padraig O'Donnell, National Parks & Wildlife Service  
 Cliona O'Brien, the Heritage Council

#### **County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016**

##### **Initial submissions were received from:**

Sean Browne  
 Cecil English  
 Matt McGarry  
 Killian Harrington  
 Liam Byrne  
 Martha Sweeney, Tusk Tidy Towns  
 Howard Preston, Roscommon Community Foru  
 Tom Geraghty  
 Francie Geelan  
 Mary Shivan, Ballyfarnon Community Enterprise Group Ltd.  
 Christina Carty  
 Patrick J. Moffitt  
 Breege Callaghan, Castlereagh Community Arts Group  
 Ballaghaderreen & Districts Development Ltd.  
 Edward Egan, Drum Heritage Ltd.  
 Annette Leydon  
 Shane Lynskey  
 Patrick Fitzmaurice  
 Michael Archer  
 Beatrice Kelly, the Heritage Council  
 Henry Owens  
 Sophie Preteseille, Irish geological Heritage Programme  
 Brian J. Goggin  
 Maureen Hanly, Strokestown Community Development Association  
 Cllr. Orla Leyden  
 Kathleen Shanagher, Roscommon Tidy Towns Association  
 Dr. Daniel Tietzsch-Tyler  
 Lora O'Brien, Tusk Action Group Ltd.  
 Margaret Garvey  
 Christina Gormley, Ballinlough/Granlahan Heritage Group  
 Yvonne White, Ballintubber Tidy Towns Committee  
 Gregory Tiernan  
 James Dockery, Co. Roscommon Folklore and Oral History Network  
 John Larkin  
 Kevin Finnerty, Castlecoote House  
 Denis O'Connor  
 Colm Keane, Arigna Mining Experience  
 John J. Fallon, North Midlands Peatlands Park



## Appendix 3

### Public Consultation Process cntd.

Marie Fullard  
 Marguerite O'Connor-Nash, Clonadis House  
 Isabell Smyth, the Heritage Council  
 Marie O'Dowd, Drumlino Community Council  
 Louise McAlavey & Eimear Byrne, National Parks & Wildlife Service  
 Roger Garland, Keep Ireland Open



#### County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016

##### Submissions on the draft plan were received from:

Padraig Roche, Birdwatch Ireland, Roscommon Branch  
 John Flynn, Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association  
 Roger Garland, Keep Ireland Open  
 Sean Brown  
 Vivian McDermott  
 Cllr. Francie Geelan, Boyle Town Council  
 Cllr. Marie Egan Paul, Boyle Town Council  
 Cllr. Christy Brady, Boyle Town Council  
 Breege Cailagham, Trinity Arts Project, Castlereagh  
 Martin Dunne, Rural Recreation Officer  
 Shane Gilleran  
 Ballaghaderreen & District Development Ltd.  
 Sophie Preteselle, Geological Survey of Ireland  
 Henry Owens  
 Mary Rattigan, Elphin Resource Centre Ltd.  
 Margaret Garvey  
 Kathleen Shanagher, Roscommon Tidy Towns Association  
 John Larkin  
 Jim Waldron, Athleague Tidy Towns & Development Association  
 Alan Moran, An Taisce Northwest Association  
 Beatrice Kelly, The Heritage Council  
 Anton Lennon



## Appendix 4

# Relevant Heritage Legislation

### National and EU Heritage Legislation

#### Heritage and Planning

- Planning and Development Act, 2000
- Heritage Act, 1995
- Environmental Impact Assessment (Council Directive 85/337/EEC, as amended)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (Council Directive 2001/42/EC)

#### Built Heritage

- National Monuments Acts 1990–1994
- National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) & Historic Monument (misc. provisions) Act 1999
- Planning and Development Act, 2000

#### Natural Heritage and Waterways

- Wildlife Act, 1976
- Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000
- European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997
- Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC), 1979
- Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC), 1992
- Water Framework Directive (Council Directive 2000/60/EC), 2000

#### Museums and Archives

- National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997
- Local Government Acts 1994 and 2001

#### Landscapes and Heritage Gardens & Parks

- Planning and Development Act 2000

### International Conventions and Agreements, which Ireland has signed and ratified

- UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (ratified, 1992)
- European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe. (Granada Convention), 1997
- European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention), 1997.
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), 1974.
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), 1971 (ratified, 1984)
- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention), 1979 (ratified, 1982)
- Convention of Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), 1979 (ratified, 1983)
- Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992 (ratified, 1996)
- Agreement on Conservation of Bats in Europe (Bonn Convention), 1993 (ratified, 1995)
- International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994 (1996)
- Agreement of the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) (Bonn Convention), 1996
- Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (endorsed 1995)
- European Landscape Convention, 2000 (ratified, 2002)



## Appendix 5

# Useful Sources of Heritage Information

### Roscommon County Development Plan 2008-2014

There is a wealth of heritage information in the Roscommon County Development Plan. It can be viewed at the Planning Section of Roscommon County Council. It is also available on the Planning Section of [www.roscommoncoco.ie](http://www.roscommoncoco.ie).

Archaeology Information contained in the County Development Plan includes:

Chapter 7: Table 28: National Monuments in County Roscommon.

Chapter 7: Table 29: Preservation Orders on Monuments in County Roscommon.

Chapter 7: Table 30: National Monuments in the Rathcroghan Archaeological Complex

Biodiversity Information contained in the County Development Plan includes:

Chapter 8: Table 31: Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) in County Roscommon.

Chapter 8: Table 32: Special Protection Areas (SPA's) in County Roscommon.

Chapter 8: Table 33: Natural Heritage Areas (NHA's) in County Roscommon.

Chapter 8: Table 34: Sites of Geological Importance in County Roscommon.

Chapter 8: Table 36: Inland Waterways in County Roscommon.

Architecture Information contained in the County Development Plan includes:

Record of Protected Structures



### Some Useful Websites

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[www.shannon-fishery-board.ie](http://www.shannon-fishery-board.ie)

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

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





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



Prepared by County Roscommon Heritage Forum