

Appendix 13.6 LONGFORD COUNTY HERITAGE PLAN 2019- 2024

The County Heritage Plan is a strategic plan for the protection and enhancement of heritage within County Longford, prepared by the County Longford Heritage Forum. The Heritage Plan incorporates the County Biodiversity Action Plan and 6 no. specific objectives as follows: -

1. Implement key Strategic Actions over the lifetime of the Heritage Plan to achieve greater awareness and protection of all aspects of the heritage of County Longford.
2. Develop knowledge, appreciation and access to Longford's heritage through research and innovation.
3. Promote the protection and best practice in heritage management within the county.
4. Promote heritage education and awareness.
5. Support organisations and communities in promoting sustainable enjoyment of Longford's countryside, waterways and heritage.
6. Implement the County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan.

Cultural heritage is the fabric of our lives and societies. It surrounds us in the buildings of our towns and cities, our landscapes, natural sites, monuments and archaeological sites. Cultural heritage brings communities together and builds shared understandings of the places we live. Intangible cultural heritage refers to the practices and traditions that are central to the lives and identities of our communities, groups and individuals.

Architectural Heritage

Local authorities, through their city and county development plans and designation through the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), enable places of architectural value to be protected. Good heritage management should be incorporated into spatial planning to promote the benefits of heritage led urban regeneration in historic towns, for example through the protection of historic urban fabric, the reuse of historic buildings and the enhancement of places of special cultural or natural interest.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is an invaluable built heritage resource for local authorities and the general public. Heritage-Led Regeneration Planning for the regeneration of a historic town needs an integrated approach that balances the protection of the built heritage and the sustainable development of historic urban areas with the needs of modern living and takes account of the concerns and aspirations of the community and key stakeholders. This requires the coordination and management of sometimes conflicting demands and interests of different stakeholders. However, the development of a common vision for the town, supported by a coordinated and integrated series of objectives and a programme of realistic, achievable actions, will balance the conservation of the heritage with the needs of those who live in and use the historic town.

Archaeological Heritage

The Region's historic environment, represented in its built form, landscape heritage and archaeology, provides a depth of character that benefits the Region's economy, culture and quality of life. The built environment, combined with its historic landscapes, provides a unique sense of place, whilst layers of architectural history provide an environment that is of local, national and international value.

Record of Monuments and Places

The National Monuments and Historic Properties Service, carries out the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. All known sites and monuments are identified and listed for protection in the Record of Monuments and Places, a statutory inventory of sites protected under the National Monuments Acts.

The Record of Monuments and Places is a set of 6" maps of County Longford with an accompanying index which shows all the sites, monuments and zones of archaeological potential, recorded to date and protected in the county. The inventory concentrates on pre 1700 AD sites.

The Record of Monuments and Places is available to the public at the Planning Office, Heritage Office and Libraries of Longford County Council.

Archaeological heritage is a non-renewable resource. Under Section 12 (3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 monuments and places included in the record are protected as follows:

"When the owner or occupier (not being the commissioners) of a monuments or place which have been recorded under subsection (1) of this section or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice"

Archaeological Objects

The National Museum of Ireland is the repository of the national collection of archaeological objects. As there is no county museum or designated repository in County Longford all archaeological objects that are discovered should, by law, be deposited with the National Museum, as they belong to the State. (Under the National Monuments Amendment Act 1994)