

## Appendix 14-6- Longford, Roscommon and Westmeath County Development Plan



## 14.6 LONGFORD, ROSCOMMON AND WESTMEATH CDP

### County Longford Development Plan 2019-2027

Longford County Council has written policies on the preservation of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage remains in relation to permitted development in the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 ("the CDP"). The principal aim is to conserve, protect and enhance Longford's archaeological and cultural heritage. These policies relate to archaeological features and objects, built structures, views and scenic routes.

#### Architectural Heritage

**Record of Protected Structures (RPS) Policies - County Policy Objectives** It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:

**CPO 11.14** Review and update the Record of Protected Structures on an on-going basis and to make additions and deletions as appropriate.

**CPO 11.15** For the purposes of the RPS, identify and retain good examples of historic street furniture, e.g. cast-iron post boxes, water pumps, light fixtures and signage, as appropriate.

**CPO 11.16** Promote best conservation practice and encourage the use of appropriately qualified professional advisors, tradesmen and craftsmen, with recognised conservation expertise, for works to Protected Structures.

**CPO 11.17** Ensure the protection of structures included in the Record of Protected Structures by:

- Controlling development which would alter the character of Protected Structures and proposed Protected Structures.
- Monitoring the condition of Protected Structures and proposed protected structures to identify those endangered by neglect, vandalism or unauthorised development and taking appropriate action.
- Preventing the endangerment of Protected Structures in the Council's ownership.

**CPO 11.18** Consider the acquisition of Protected Structures, where possible and where economic constraints permit, if this is necessary to protect the structure.

**CPO 11.19** Encourage the rehabilitation, renovation and reuse of existing older buildings/buildings of architectural merit, where appropriate, in preference to their demolition and redevelopment. In certain cases, land use zoning restrictions may be relaxed in order to secure the conservation of the Protected Structure.

**CPO 11.20** Facilitate contemporary and innovative design providing that they are of a sufficient high quality and do not detract from the character of the historic fabric of the Protected Structure.

**CPO 11.21** Require applications for development where a Protected Structure or its setting is likely to be materially affected, to submit a detailed assessment of the building.

**CPO 11.22** Protect the setting of Protected Structures and refuse permission for development within the curtilage or adjacent to a Protected Structure which would adversely impact on the character and special interest of the structure, where appropriate.

**CPO 11.23** Issue Declarations as to the type of works that would affect the character of a Protected Structure and therefore require planning permission.

**CPO 11.24** Administer the DoAHG Historic Structures Fund including the assessment of applications, ensuring that the works enhance and do not adversely affect the character of a Protected Structure and have been carried out in accordance with the conditions of the fund.

**CPO 11.25** Promote and support the funding sources available for Protected Structures and built heritage within the County.

**CPO 11.26** Identify and seek further funding for the upkeep of Protected Structures within the County.

**Historic Gardens, Demesnes and Designed Landscapes Policies - County Policy Objectives It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:**

**CPO11.31:** Support the publication of a County Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, in order to promote the intrinsic character of those within the County.

**CPO11.32:** Encourage the protection and enhancement of heritage gardens and demesne landscapes, and to support, in consultation with the owners, the provision of public access to these sites as appropriate.

**CPO11.33:** Discourage development that would adversely affect the character, the principal components of, or the setting of historic parks, gardens and demesnes of heritage significance.

**CPO11.34:** Require that proposals for development in designated landscapes and demesnes include an appraisal of the landscape, designed views and vistas, including a tree survey, where relevant, in order to inform site appropriate design proposals and ensure the on-going and future sustainability of the estate.

**CPO11.35:** Continue the development, expansion and the protection of the (Albert Reynolds Peace Park (the Mall) in Longford town.

**Vernacular Architecture Policies – County Policy Objectives It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:**

**CPO 11.36** Encourage the retention, sympathetic maintenance and sustainable re-use of historic buildings, including vernacular dwellings or farm buildings and the retention of historic streetscape character, fabric, detail and features.

**CPO 11.37** Seek the retention of surviving historic plot sizes and street patterns in the villages and towns of County Longford and incorporate ancient boundaries or layouts, such as burgage plots and townland boundaries, into re-developments.

**CPO 11.38** Actively promote the retention and restoration of thatched dwellings as a key component of the built heritage of the County.

**CPO 11.39** Create and maintain and update the survey of surviving thatched structures in the County and to promote available grant schemes to assist owners with their retention and repair.

**CPO 11.40** Ensure that conversions or extensions of traditional buildings or the provision of new adjoining buildings, are sensitively designed and do not detract from the character of the historic building.

**CPO 11.41** Encourage the retention and appropriate re-use of vernacular buildings, where appropriate and encourage the retention of the original fabric such as windows, doors and other significant features of historic buildings.

**Industrial and Agricultural Heritage Policies - County Policy Objectives** It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:

**CPO 11.42** Create and maintain an inventory of Industrial and Agricultural Heritage assets within the County.

**CPO 11.43** Support the retention and appropriate repair/maintenance of historic bridges and other significant industrial heritage features in the County.

**CPO 11.44** Encourage appropriate change of use and reuse of industrial heritage structures provided such a change does not seriously impact on the intrinsic character of the structure and that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice, subject to compliance with normal planning criteria.

**CPO 11.45** Encourage the retention and appropriate re-use of vacant traditional farm buildings, where appropriate, and encourage the retention of the original fabric such as windows, doors and other significant features of interest.

**Archaeological Heritage Policy -County Policy Objectives**

**It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:**

**CPO11.47:**“Protect known and unknown archaeological areas, sites, structures, monuments and objects in the County.”

**CPO11.48:** “Protect the integrity of the settings of archaeological areas, sites, structures, monuments and objects in the County.”

**CPO11.49:** “Protect the National Monuments and monuments protected under Preservation Orders in the County (see Table 11.1: National Monuments In County Longford, Table 11.2: Monuments Protected under Preservation Orders and Appendix 6: Built and Cultural Heritage).”

**CPO11.50:** “Protect the monuments of Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Interest in the County (see Table 11.3: County Longford Monuments of Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Interest and Appendix 6: Built and Cultural Heritage).”

**CPO11.51:** "Encourage and promote the appropriate management and enhancement of the County's rich archaeological heritage, to include community initiatives."

**CPO11.52:** "Encourage and promote access to and understanding of the archaeological heritage of the County."

**CPO11.53:** "Seek to increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of the archaeological heritage for all, through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in co-operation with statutory and other partners."

**CPO11.54:** "Investigate and promote the provision of improved access to important archaeological sites."

**CPO11.55:** "Presume in favour of the physical preservation in-situ of archaeological remains and their settings, where appropriate, feasible and in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the County."

**CPO11.56:** "Consult with the National Monuments Service in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites."

**CPO11.57:** "Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites in riverine or lacustrine locations."

#### National Monuments listed in Co. Longford Development Plan

Site	Description Nat.	Mon No.	Status
Inchcleraun	Early monastery	91	State Ownership
Larkfield	Ringfort	640	State Ownership
Sonnagh	Ringfort	598	State Ownership
Aghaward	Ringfort	630	State Ownership
Granard	Motte	263	State Ownership
Corlea	Bog Trackway	677	State Ownership

## Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028

Policy objectives are included in this Plan relating to built heritage, including the protection of architectural and archaeological heritage features, structures and areas of special interest such as Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs).

### Built Heritage Objectives

It is a policy objective of Roscommon County Council to

#### BH 9.1

Ensure the protection of the architectural heritage of County Roscommon through the compilation of a Record of Protected Structures, the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas, the safeguarding of historic gardens, and the recognition of structures and elements that contribute positively to the vernacular and industrial heritage of the county.

BH 9.2 Protect all structures included on the Record of Protected Structures and their settings, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest.

BH 9.3 Encourage the sympathetic re-use and secure the long-term viability of Protected Structures without detracting from their special interest and character.

BH 9.4 Review and update the Record of Protected Structures on an on-going basis and make additions and deletions as appropriate.

BH 9.5 Ensure that new developments within or adjacent to an ACA respects the context of the area and contribute positively to the ACA in terms of design, scale, setting and material finishes.

BH 9.6 Protect existing buildings, structures, groups of structures, sites, landscapes and features such as street furniture, which are considered to be intrinsic elements of the special character of the ACA, from demolition or removal and non-sympathetic alterations.

BH 9.7 Ensure that all new signage, lighting, advertising and utilities to buildings within an ACA are designed, constructed and located in a manner that is complementary to the character of the ACA.

BH 9.8 Undertake an assessment to inform the potential ACA designation of special character areas considered by the Planning Authority to be worthy of such protection in County Roscommon.

### Vernacular Architecture

BH 9.9 Encourage the retention, appreciation and appropriate revitalisation of the vernacular heritage of County Roscommon. Discourage the replacement of good quality vernacular buildings with modern structures and by protecting vernacular buildings where they contribute to the character of an area or town and/or where they are rare examples of a structure type.

BH 9.10 Support proposals to refurbish vernacular structures that are in a run-down or derelict condition, provided that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice.

## Industrial Architecture

BH 9.11 Encourage appropriate changes of use and reuse of industrial heritage structures provided such a change does not adversely impact on the intrinsic character of the structure and that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice.

## Heritage Gardens, Demesnes and Designated Landscapes

BH 9.12 Encourage the protection and enhancement of heritage gardens and demesne landscapes, and to support, in consultation with the owners, the provision of public access to these sites as appropriate.

## Archaeological Heritage

BH 9.13 Secure the preservation (i.e. preservation in situ or, as a minimum, preservation by record) of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally. In securing such preservation Roscommon County Council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

### 14.1.3 Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027;

## Cultural Heritage Policy

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| <b>CPO 14.1</b> | Improve accessibility to our cultural heritage and maximise its potential as a learning resource.   |
| <b>CPO 14.2</b> | Promote the understanding of cultural heritage in terms of its inherent and unique character and to recognise what elements should be preserved, conserved or enhanced.   |
| <b>CPO 14.3</b> | Support the implementation of objectives and actions of the Westmeath County Heritage Plan 2018-2023 and update during the lifetime of the Plan.  |
| <b>CPO 14.4</b> | Support the growth of cultural tourism in the County, including the potential for niche heritage based tourism products by facilitating the development of heritage events, festivals and infrastructure in a sustainable manner. |

## Archaeology Policy Objectives

It is a policy of Westmeath County Council to:

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| <b>CPO<br/>14.5</b>  | Seek to ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of archaeological heritage, and in this regard applications will be referred to the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht for comment.   |
| <b>CPO<br/>14.6</b>  | Seek to ensure the protection of archaeological sites and monuments and their settings and archaeological objects that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are the subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments. Seek to ensure the protection and preservation of archaeological sites, which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places. |
| <b>CPO<br/>14.7</b>  | Ensure that any development adjacent to an archaeological monument or site shall not be detrimental to the character of the archaeological site, or its setting and shall be sited in a manner which minimises the impact on the monument and its setting. Development which is likely to detract from the setting of such a monument or site will not be permitted.   |
| <b>CPO<br/>14.8</b>  | Seek to ensure the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites in riverine or lacustrine locations.   |
| <b>CPO<br/>14.9</b>  | Encourage and promote the appropriate management and maintenance of the County's archaeological heritage, including historical burial grounds, in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines.  |
| <b>CPO<br/>14.10</b> | Consult with the National Monuments Service in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites.   |
| <b>CPO<br/>14.11</b> | Ensure that archaeological excavation is carried out according to best practice as outlined by the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht, The National Museum of Ireland and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland.  |
| <b>CPO<br/>14.12</b> | Prepare conservation plans for the management of archaeological sites and monuments in Council ownership.  |



<b>CPO 14.13</b>	Encourage increased awareness of and public access to monuments within Council ownership.
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## Architectural Heritage and Protected Structures

### Protected Structures Policy Objectives

It is a policy objective of the Council to:

<b>CPO 14.24</b>	Protect and conserve buildings, structures and sites contained in the Record of Protected Structures and to encourage the sympathetic re-use and long-term viability of such structures without detracting from their special interest and character.
<b>CPO 14.25</b>	Protect the architectural heritage of Westmeath through the identification of Protected Structures, the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), the safeguarding of designed landscapes and historic gardens, and the recognition of structures and elements that contribute positively to the vernacular and industrial heritage of the County.
<b>CPO 14.26</b>	Applications for modifications, alterations, or extensions to a Protected Structure will be assessed in accordance with the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011 and should be sensitively sited and designed, compatible with its special character, and appropriate in terms of the proposed scale, mass, height, density, layout, and materials so that the integrity of the structure and its curtilage is preserved.
<b>CPO 14.27</b>	Seek that the form and structural integrity of Protected Structures is retained as part of any redevelopment proposal and that the relationship between the Protected Structure and any complex of adjoining buildings, designed landscape features, or designed views or vistas from or to the structure is considered.
<b>CPO 14.28</b>	Encourage rehabilitation, renovation and re-use of existing Protected Structures for their own economic benefit and that of the area in which they are located.
<b>CPO 14.29</b>	Carry out an audit and assess the condition of Protected Structures within the Council's ownership and devise a Conservation Management Plan/maintenance regime for these structures.

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| <b>CPO<br/>14.30</b> | Carry out an audit of Protected Structures within the Council's ownership to identify any Protected Structures that are under threat directly or indirectly due to climate change.  |
| <b>CPO<br/>14.31</b> | Integrate climate change adaptation measures into future heritage management plans.   |
| <b>CPO<br/>14.32</b> | Provide guidance for owners of protected structures or historic buildings on upgrading for energy efficiency and climate resilient measures and promote the principles of sustainable building design in conservation.  |
| <b>CPO<br/>14.33</b> | Ensure a sustainable future for Protected Structures and buildings sited within ACAs by encouraging and supporting works to upgrade the environmental performance of such structures together with the implementation of measures to address the impacts of climate change. Such works should not adversely affect the special character of the structure including impact on historic fabric, traditional construction, visibility, siting and design. The installation of renewable energy measures and equipment will be acceptable where sited and designed to minimise the visual impact, where it does not result in any significant loss of historic fabric or otherwise affect the significance of the structure. |
| <b>CPO<br/>14.34</b> | Incentivise the restoration of Protected Structures in towns and villages.  |
| <b>CPO<br/>14.35</b> | Facilitate contemporary and innovative designs providing that they are of a sufficient high quality and do not detract from the character of the historic fabric of the Protected Structure.  |

**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.

**County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2017- 2021**

The County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2017- 2021 will work to deliver those national priorities at a local level. Roscommon County Council and County Roscommon Heritage Forum will work in partnership with the Heritage Council to support the priorities set out in Heritage Council Priorities 2016 and beyond.

**Westmeath Strategic Heritage Plan 2024-2030**

The aim of the plan is to increase awareness and appreciation of our County's Heritage and safeguard it for present and future generations.

The objectives are as follows:

Objective 1 Encourage and support a greater awareness and appreciation of our Heritage  
Objective 2 Expand knowledge, develop skills, deepen research and understanding of our heritage

Objective 3 Protect and safeguard our County's Heritage

Objective 4 Ensure our Heritage is accessible and inclusive

**Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2019-2031**

The RSES makes a strong reference to the heritage value of the region's towns and settlements. The RSES identifies the specific significance of Cultural Heritage, Architectural Heritage, Heritage Led Regeneration and Archaeological Heritage, as set out accordingly:

## **Cultural Heritage**

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)