

2007 - 2011

LOUTH

# Heritage Plan

2007 - 2011



Louth Heritage Forum



LOUTH

# Heritage Plan

2007 - 2011

A strategic, partnership-based vision for the heritage of Louth.

Developed by the Louth Heritage Forum, facilitated by Louth Local Authorities

AN  
CHOMHAIRLE  
OIDHREACHTA



THE  
HERITAGE  
COUNCIL

# acknowledgments

The Louth Heritage Forum wishes to acknowledge the work of, and the assistance afforded to it by, the staff of the County Council (including the Heritage Officer, the Conservation Officer, the County Museum Curator, the County Archivist and the Community and Enterprise section of the Council in general) throughout the Heritage Plan development process.

Louth Local Authorities would like to thank the Heritage Council for financial support in employing a Heritage Officer since July 2005 and for funding projects in both 2005 and 2006.



For further information please contact:

Brendan McSherry  
Heritage Officer  
Louth County Council  
Halla an Chontae  
DUNDALK  
County Louth  
IRELAND



Tel: 042 932 4109

Or by email at:

brendan.mcsherry@louthcoco.ie

**[www.louthcoco.ie](http://www.louthcoco.ie)**  
**[www.louthheritage.ie](http://www.louthheritage.ie)**

The development and implementation of the Louth Heritage Plan have been supported by the Heritage Council, for further details contact the Heritage Council at:

The Heritage Council,  
KILKENNY  
IRELAND

Tel: 056 7770777

Fax: 056 7770788

Email: [mail@heritagecouncil.com](mailto:mail@heritagecouncil.com)

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

Photographs are courtesy of:

- Clive Timmons (Golden Plovers)
- Breffni Martin (Birds and Insects)
- Louth Hospitality
- Louth, Newry and Mourne Film Commission
- Brendan McSherry, Louth Heritage Officer

# table of contents

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Foreword –</b>	<b>2</b>
Message from the Chairman of the Louth Heritage Forum	
Message from the Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council	
Message from the County Manager	
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Format of the Plan</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Louth's Heritage</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Objectives and Actions</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	
Membership of the Louth Heritage Forum & Working Groups	24
Additional members of the Working Groups	25
Participants in the public consultation	26
Relevant National and EU Legislation	28
International Conventions	
Bibliography	30



section

01

## Foreword

### *Message from the Chairman of the Louth Heritage Forum*

It is a great honour for me, as Chairman of the Louth Heritage Forum to present this first Louth Heritage Plan to you. The plan has been produced following a lot of hard work, by the Heritage Officer, other members of the staff of the Louth Local Authorities, the members of the Heritage Forum and its associated working groups and by the wide variety of people (more than 70 of them) who attended the public consultation meetings or made written contributions (more than two dozen) to the development of the plan. These people represented a wide variety of organisations: local authorities; central government agencies; other statutory bodies; Non-Governmental Organisations; local community-based groups, and, in many cases, just themselves, as individual citizens who care about making sure that we hand on to future generations the best of what we have inherited (the origin of the term 'heritage'). To all who took part in the process and to all who will be involved in implementing the Plan between now and 2011, I offer my most sincere thanks.

Cllr Declan Breathnach



### *Message from the Cathaoirleach, Louth County Council*

There is much more to Louth's heritage than the castles, ruined churches and abbeys that many people consider to comprise 'heritage'. There is also: an internationally important, and protected, coastline and its associated wildlife, landscapes, geology and archaeology. I feel strongly that our heritage should be first and foremost for the people of the County, for the people who make their living here. Often we 'natives' take for granted the heritage that has been the backdrop to our lives until it is too late to save it from the headlong pursuit of modernity and growth. I am delighted to support this heritage plan because it makes us more aware of and pledges us to protect the natural and cultural environment in which we live our lives and to protect what is best, for future generations. I am particularly pleased to thank the Heritage Council for its generous grant support to date and look forward to a productive and mutually profitable relationship between Louth Local Authorities and the Heritage Council continuing long into the future.

Cllr Jim Lennon

### *Message from the County Manager, Louth Local Authorities*

When I became County Manager in 2003, heritage was one of the priorities I identified for the work of the Louth Local Authorities. Though not a Louth native myself, I share the love of the people of this county for their own place, and so I welcome the production of this first heritage plan for Louth as the beginning of a new era for the protection, management and enhancement of the heritage of Louth. Louth County Council and the other Councils in the County, those covering the towns of Dundalk and Ardee and the Borough of Drogheda, have all pledged themselves to implementing the plan over the next few years, insofar as available resources allow. However, the Councils alone cannot implement this plan. Not only do we lack the resources to carry out all the work required but we cannot manage heritage on other people's land. For this plan to be successful, and I'm sure it will be, we need the full and active involvement of all the social partners, acting together, in partnership, in the common interest and most of all, we need you to play your part in caring for Louth's heritage. Finally I would like to thank all who have contributed to the development of this Plan, especially the Heritage Council, which has helped Louth Local Authorities to employ our Heritage Officer since July 2005 and which has already helped fund many projects in the County.

Martina Moloney

Far Left: Councillor Declan Breathnach, Chairman, Louth County Council

Middle: Councillor Jim Lennon, Cathaoirleach, Louth County Council

Right: Martina Moloney, County Manager, Louth Local Authorities

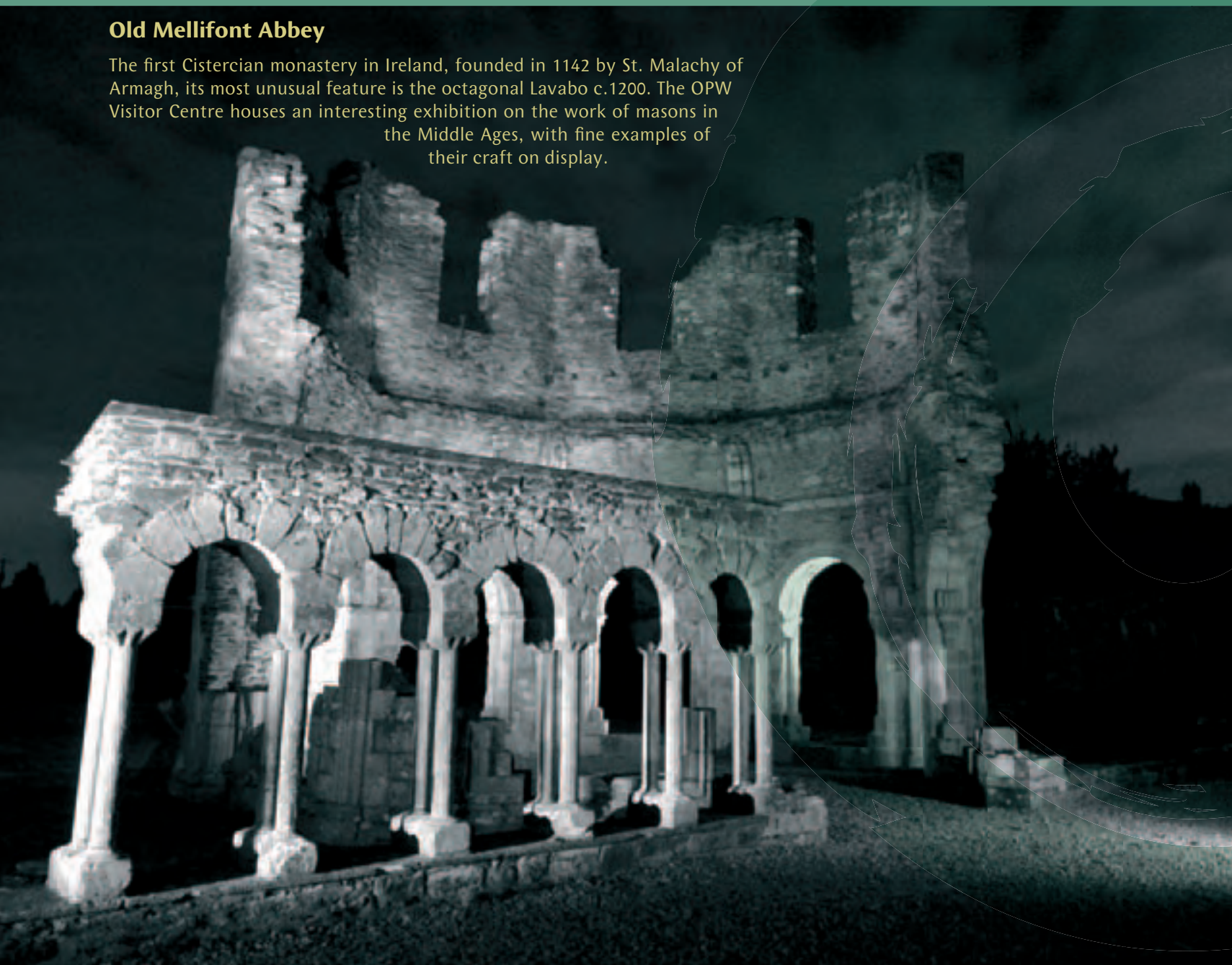
section

02

# introduction

## Old Mellifont Abbey

The first Cistercian monastery in Ireland, founded in 1142 by St. Malachy of Armagh, its most unusual feature is the octagonal Lavabo c.1200. The OPW Visitor Centre houses an interesting exhibition on the work of masons in the Middle Ages, with fine examples of their craft on display.



## Introduction

This first Louth Heritage Plan covers all of County Louth, that is, the administrative area of Louth County Council, together with the Borough of Drogheda and the self-governing towns of Ardee and Dundalk.

While the Louth Local Authorities have facilitated the development of this Heritage Plan, with generous funding and professional support from the Heritage Council, it is not, strictly speaking, a purely 'Council' document, such as the County Development Plan. The Plan is a non-statutory document prepared by the Louth Heritage Forum. It comprises an agreed, five year, joint workplan for a partnership of the many organisations (voluntary, social partners, statutory and local authority) and individuals with a direct involvement in Louth's heritage.

### Government requirements in relation to County Heritage Plans

The National Heritage Plan (published by the Government in April 2002), requires each Local Authority to set up a Heritage Forum and produce a Heritage Plan (Action 1.1) and to employ a Heritage Officer (Action 1.4). This Louth Heritage Plan was developed with the support of the Heritage Council, which was set up under the Heritage Act, 1995. This first Louth Heritage Plan covers all those aspects of the National Heritage that

are referred to in that Act:

*monuments; archaeological objects; heritage objects; architectural heritage; flora; fauna; wildlife habitats; landscapes; seascapes; wrecks; geology; heritage gardens and parks and inland waterways.*

In addition to these issues, the Louth Heritage Plan also covers other topics which the people of Louth identified as being part of their heritage.

### Aim for the Louth heritage plan

*"The aim of the Louth Heritage Plan is to coordinate the conservation, management and sympathetic development of the county's heritage and to encourage community pride in, and responsibility for, the implementation of the Plan."*

### Content of the Heritage Plan.

The Heritage Plan is a strategic, county-level, 'framework' plan. It contains three strategic objectives, and, for each of these, a set of actions which will be undertaken, on an agreed, partnership basis, over a five year period (2007 to 2011). The plan does not contain site-specific or short-scale "projects". Projects, budgets, timescales, lead agencies and partner agencies will be determined by the heritage forum on an annual basis and will appear in

annual implementation programmes. The process of developing the Plan has focussed on identifying what the people of Louth see as the priorities for their heritage and to work out what can realistically be done, with available resources, to conserve and enhance this heritage.

### The role of the Heritage Forum

To ensure the legitimacy, inclusiveness and, crucially, the implementation of the Heritage Plan, it was drawn up by a County Heritage Forum. The members of this Forum were nominated from a wide range of organisations and groups (see page 24 for details). This Forum is itself the beginning of a partnership-based approach to the conservation of heritage in Louth. It is important that everyone involved with heritage in Louth supports the Plan. While the Louth Local Authorities facilitated the production of the Plan, they cannot carry out all the actions in such a complex programme on their own. The groupings represented on the Forum and those involved in the various consultations will be asked to buy into the Plan and to commit their own resources to achieving its aims and objectives. In addition, partnerships will be sought with like-minded individuals and bodies in other counties, nationally (including on a cross-border basis) and internationally.

section  
**03**

# format of this plan

## **Millmount**

Drogheda's Town Museum is found in the Millmount, where a complex of beautiful buildings and the Martello tower give wonderful panoramic views over the town and the surrounding Boyne Valley. [www.millmount.net](http://www.millmount.net)



## *Format of this Heritage Plan*

This actions in this Plan are presented under three 'Key Performance Areas' (or KPAs), using the Heritage Council's preferred layout. This approach brings together all similar activities, regardless of the heritage subjects to which they relate. For example, all actions relating to the collection, storage and presentation (or availability) of primary information are grouped together, regardless of whether the information concerned relates to, for example, old churches, quarries, wetlands or libraries.

### **KPA 1: Primary data acquisition and management**

- 6 The first logical step is to decide which factual, primary heritage data are needed, which data currently exist, where the existing data are located and in what format they are stored. Following this initial assessment we can then decide which additional information we need to gather or research and how those 'raw' heritage data might be made directly available to professional, expert users (researchers, state bodies, local authorities).



### **KPA 2: Interpretation and increased public involvement**

Information derived from these primary heritage data, which might be termed "secondary" or "interpreted" heritage data, can then be made available to two other groups of users. The first group, which is the subject of KPA 2, is the general public, which includes: local residents, farmers and other landowners, schoolchildren, hill-walkers, newspaper readers, visitors from other parts of the country and tourists from overseas. In terms of public interpretation and involvement, the aim is to increase:

i) public awareness of the heritage, respect for it and concern about its conservation and enjoyment

and ii) participation in heritage activities, including attending events, volunteering and passing information, documents or artefacts on to the appropriate authorities.

### **KPA 3: Improving current practice**

The second target group (or audience) is professional practitioners, people who directly affect the heritage in significant ways and whose behaviour we wish to modify in favour of the heritage. These are people whose

ordinary, day-to-day work activities and normal business practice can either damage or improve the heritage. This category includes: Local Authority elected members and staff (including: planners; area-, sanitary-, roads- and housing- engineers), teachers, farmers, staff of Teagasc, the Department of Agriculture and Food, Coillte and Fisheries Boards as well as private agricultural advisers and contractors, REPS planners, builders and developers, architects, planning and estate agents and solicitors. Home-owners, other landowners and private, non-commercial, house-builders may also fit into this category.

Improving current practice is also interpreted to include the adoption of new practices (and new projects) which have not previously been carried out here. These might include provision of bird or bat boxes or pro-actively managed bird-feeding sites, provision of improved access to heritage sites and the development of footpaths and greenways, in co-operation with supportive landowners.

**Brendan McSherry**  
Heritage Officer  
Louth Local Authorities  
December 2006

section

04

# louth's heritage



A Flock of Golden Plovers in Dundalk Bay  
Photograph by Clive Timmons

## *Louth's Heritage*

Louth is a place of contradictions. Ireland's smallest county, it has the two biggest provincial towns in the State. Lying midway between Dublin and Belfast, the 'Wee County' is at the heart of the island's economy and is traversed for its entire length by the primary national road and rail links. With Dundalk's Great Northern Works long the national centre of railway engineering, Ireland's most impressive railway engineering feat is undoubtedly MacNeill's magnificent Boyne Viaduct in Drogheda. Louth's long tradition of manufacturing industry has been revived and strengthened in recent years. Between 1996 and 2002 the population soared by more than 10%, from 92,166 to 101,821, further increasing by almost nine percent to reach 110,894 in 2006, an increase of more than 20% in just ten years.

Among Louth's most famous manufacturing industries is brewing, a reflection of the rich, fertile and productive nature of most of the County's farmland. A dry and sunny, easterly county, agricultural productivity is high and the county's farmland lends itself well to increasing specialisation and intensification.

All of this might suggest that Louth is a densely-populated, highly-

urbanised county with little green space but such an impression would be far from the truth. As well as supporting a burgeoning human population, Louth is a great place for wildlife, with Dundalk Bay being the top, internationally important place for migratory wading birds (waders) in Ireland. Including marine and tidal areas, such as the Boyne Estuary, an area equivalent to more than a seventh of 'The Wee County' is designated under Irish and European legislation for wildlife protection, while the Cooley peninsula and Carlingford Lough are recognised as having some of the most beautiful and unspoilt coastal and mountain scenery (and ecology) in the country.



Top: MacNeill's Boyne Viaduct, Drogheda

Middle: Black Guillemots at Gyles's Quay

Bottom: Ardee Castle

Far Right: Map of Natural Heritage Designations in Louth

## Beaulieu House

One of the earliest examples of an unfortified House in Ireland, Beaulieu was constructed between 1660 and 1666. Designed by a Dutch architect and built by Sir Henry Tichbourne, who was then a Marshall of the English army in Ireland and Governor General of Drogheda at the time of the restoration of Charles II. [www.beaulieu.ie](http://www.beaulieu.ie)



Far Right: Geological Map of County Louth and adjacent areas

Top: Carlingford House

Middle: Gate at Faughart

Bottom: Tholsel Street, Carlingford



The county's satisfying landscape is a result of geological diversity. Most of Louth forms part of the low-lying Longford-Down massif and is underlain by rocks deposited in the Silurian period. These 400 million year old shales and greywackes were formed from deep water sediments, laid down on the continental slopes and ocean floors of an ancient, now-vanished ocean (named the lapetus, after the father of Atlas, for whom the current, Atlantic Ocean is named). This ocean lay between a proto-Europe and a proto-North America, which advanced upon each other, swallowing up the intervening ocean floor and slamming (ever so slowly) into each other along a line which runs across Ireland from the Shannon Estuary to Clogherhead. The continental collision was accompanied by volcanism and the formation of towering, Himalaya-sized mountains, now eroded back to sand, silt and mud and Louth's fertile plains.

Towards the south of the county, and along the continental suture, the land rises into low hills, such as Mount Oriel, from which wonderful views can be had, both south, into the Boyne Valley, and north over the rest of the county. The Boyne Valley, as with much of the rest of the midlands, is dominated by



limestone and other rocks of Lower Carboniferous age, which also occur in a few other places in Louth.

The northern end of the county is, however, dominated in a very different, physical sense, by hard, resistant, igneous rocks. The Cooley peninsula has more in common with related igneous areas in South Armagh (Slieve Gullion, to the north-west) and to Down's Mourne (to the north and north-east) than with the rest of Louth. Approaching from the south these three mountain ranges appear like a huge barricade, controlling access into Ulster from

the rest of Ireland, or is it the other way around? In this area molten magma anciently forced its way up and into the existing 'country rocks', where it cooled and solidified, some 56 to 58 million years ago. Tens of millions of years of erosion, including several Ice Ages, have worn away the originally-overlying sedimentary rocks, exposing these bones of the landscape at the surface.

Between the Cooley Mountains and the southern hills, which separate the Boyne valley from the rest of the county, most of Louth is rolling farmland on a broad, well-watered coastal plain. In the north-west of the county however, the Drumlin Belt of southern Ulster, another result of the Ice Age, makes its appearance, creating a further barrier between the northern Province and the rest of the country. These rounded hills of clay, though not high, shelter lakes, bogs and swamps and long formed a further defence-in-depth along the ancient border of Ulster.

Much of the special character of the area's man-made environment stems from Louth's longstanding role as a borderland, a tradition that dates far back into the prehistoric past, if the localised distribution of several different classes of ancient

monuments, especially souterrains (mediaeval 'fall-out shelters'), is anything to go by. The gaps between the barrier of hills and bogs and lakes were augmented by Iron Age earthworks, later given fanciful names like the Black Pig's Dyke, the Dane's Cast and the Dorsey.

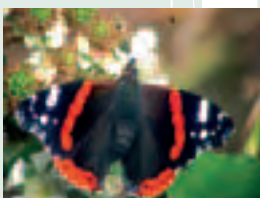
The County, in common with several European cities, takes its name from Lugh, the 'Celtic Sun-god'. Louth figures strongly in Ireland's ancient literature, especially as the setting for the Táin Bó Cúailgne, with its tragic battle in Ardee between the foster-brothers Cú Chulainn and Ferdia, champions of "the men of Ireland" and the "defenders of Ulster", which then ran down to the Boyne. Louth boasts many splendours from Ireland's ecclesiastical history too, with important monastic sites from many eras, such as the early Christian 'Celtic' monasteries at Dromiskin and Louth villages and the reputed birthplace of Saint Brigid, known in Irish as the Mary of the Gael, at Faughart, between Dundalk and the present border. Monasterboice was one of the greatest of the early christian, native monasteries, an importance still reflected in its fine



Left: Sculpture of Ferdia carrying Cú Chulainn in Ardee

Below: Map of the National Monuments in Louth





Top: View of Carlingford Lough

Middle: Recreation of the Battle of the Boyne

Bottom: Red Admiral Butterfly

High Crosses and it was in due homage to this that Saint Malachy of Armagh founded Ireland's first, Continental-style, Cistercian monastery at nearby Mellifont in 1142.

The county of Uriel/Oriel, later changed to Louth, after Louth village, once the site of a Bishop's See, was one of the first round of counties founded, on conquered Gaelic territory, by the Anglo-Norman invaders of the late twelfth century. The failure of the Anglo-Normans to complete their conquest, especially of the north and west of Ireland, left Louth small and precariously exposed to the predations of the Gaelic Irish, while it also acted as a garrison and as a stepping-off point for English incursions further into Ulster (of which Louth was then a part). The Anglo-Normans established eleven 'Boroughs' across the county, several of them later becoming major, walled towns and thriving to this day (Ardee, Carlingford, Drogheda – which was two separate towns, in two different counties, until 1412 – and Dundalk), while others are now long abandoned and almost entirely forgotten (for example Castlering and Castle Roche). Louth was fairly thoroughly colonised, and remained, by and large, loyal to the English crown throughout the mediaeval period. On Mayday 1316, Edward de Bruce, less-famous brother

of the Scottish king, Robert, crowned himself King of Ireland, in Dundalk. Two years later he was killed by the English at Faughart Hill, nearby. In the later Middle Ages the English power retreated further, resulting in the physical delineation of the area that remained under English government control by the erection of a bank, topped by a fence of sharpened stakes (a paling). Most of Louth lay within this retrenched colony, still referred to as 'the Pale'.

Perhaps because Louth has been long-settled, it has excellent public records, more reminiscent of those to be found in England than the paucity generally prevailing in war-ravaged Ireland. The 1996 Archives Steering Group report (based on a survey of public archives) reported that Louth has "a good quantity of archives ...and they are of high quality....the urban archives are particularly good in Co Louth; Drogheda has one of the largest and best collections seen and those of Ardee are one of the oldest in the country. The Drogheda Harbour Commissioners' records are also among the best of their type in the country". There are also many good private archives, which are of great value to researchers.

With the wars of the late sixteenth

## Listoke Gardens

Situated two miles outside Drogheda, Listoke Gardens covers six acres and is lovingly cared for by expert gardener Patricia Barrows, who is on hand to talk you through this beautiful garden. Features are the laburnum walk, arboretum and the Robinsonian style planting.





Above: Ballymascanlan Cottages

Below Top: Four Spotted Chaser

Below Middle: Fungal Medley

Below Bottom: Castlebellingham



century and the Plantation of the early seventeenth century, Louth, now in Leinster, found itself on a different border, with a 'more British' Ulster to its north, rather than being the English land on the edge of Gaelic Ulster. Since 1922 this border has had a formal, legal character, which has led to other problems, in the recent past. It has also separated places which traditionally share the rich cultural heritage of Oriel, in Irish language song and poetry and in music. The 'poets' trails' wind across the border from south Armagh, into north Louth, reflecting the life and times of men like Peadar Ó Doirnín, author of the nationally-known 'Úrchnoic Chéin Mhic Cáinte', referring to the Hill of Kane and to Killen, near Dundalk.

Louth shared, to a considerable degree, in the industrialisation of north-eastern Ireland, which is usually seen as being confined to Ulster. Grain was grown throughout, and

the brewing and distilling tradition continues today, while the linen industry was, perhaps surprisingly, stronger in the County's south (where Drogheda's new shopping centre is named for a 'Scutching Hall', site of an essential operation in the processing of retted flax). This has led to the county being rich in industrial heritage remains such as mills and railway bridges.

As a borderland, war has played an unfortunately large role in Louth's history (and, almost certainly, in pre-historic times too), including, most famously, Cromwell's bloody taking of Drogheda in 1649 and, 41 years later, William of Orange's successful crossing of the Boyne nearby, despite the best efforts of his uncle and father-in-law, James II, to prevent his progress from Carrickfergus to Dublin.

Now, in this new century, as we move, we hope, away from conflict and bloodshed, we must respect and protect the markers of our sometimes violent past and learn from them how we can create a fairer, more equitable and better, more peaceful future. Our heritage is an important part of who we are and where we have come from. We should cherish it as an essential aspect of a good quality of life for all.

section  
**05**

# objectives and actions



Castletown Motte, Dundalk

# Objectives and Actions

Colour coding for the various aspects of heritage in the tables below

**A** = All aspects    **B** = Built heritage only,    **C** = Cultural heritage    **N** = Natural heritage

## KPA 1: Primary data acquisition and management

All aspects	
1	<p>Identify all existing sources of heritage information relating to Louth, especially data collected and held by local and national voluntary bodies and NGOs.</p> <p>Determine gaps requiring further research.</p> <p>Commission and carry out additional research, where necessary</p> <p>Collate information (and see KPA 2, below)</p> <p>Produce heritage inventories (databases) for County Louth, including as examples:</p> <p>important industrial heritage, eg railway bridges and other abandoned or redundant infrastructure that needs regular maintenance.</p> <p>The county’s valuable ecosystems, most of which have never been fully, properly surveyed.</p> <p>Public access to heritage sites, rights of way, greenways, coastal walks and areas requiring special management in relation to public access.</p> <p>Identify all ancient trees; landmark trees; those associated with folklore and traditions; ancient woodland sites; long-established woods (since first Ordnance Survey in 1835); all biodiverse, semi-natural woods; all historic, named plantations; Demesnes; Arboreta.</p>
2	<p>Measure public awareness of and attitudes to heritage (as a baseline study and for purposes of national comparison).</p>

Built heritage	
3	Carry out a condition survey of all 'statue-type' public memorials.
4	Research the history and current condition of the mediaeval defences of Louth's historically walled towns. Prepare remedial conservation and management action plans.
Cultural heritage	
5	<p>Support the development and promotion of the County's Archives and Museum Services, as vital resources for anyone donating, or researching, locally-relevant historic documents or artefacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Ensure that priority collections are processed within a reasonable timeframe to make them accessible to the public;</li> <li>(b) Develop and implement outreach activities &amp; educational programmes;</li> <li>(c) Ensure that provision is made for adequate storage space for the accrual of collections;</li> <li>(d) Support the provision of adequate, suitable support staff;</li> <li>(e) Support the donation of private archives and artefacts from individuals, businesses, etc by developing a scheme (e.g. tax incentives).</li> </ul>
6	Involve volunteers and scheme participants in collection, compilation and promotion of local heritage information. In particular in relation to Oral History schemes, in transcribing the Folklore Commission work from the 1930s (where necessary). Involve volunteers as data recorders in collecting new material, collate, archive and publish further work.

KPA 2: Interpretation and increased public involvement and awareness

All aspects	
7	<p>Make heritage information more easily accessible to non-specialists (ordinary people, including school-teachers and school-children). Focus primarily on interesting, unusual ‘anecdotes’, eg produce a compendium, perhaps a leaflet or booklet, of interesting information “fifty fascinating facts about Louth’s heritage” – that can be added to after time.</p>
8	<p>Develop a Louth Heritage Communications Strategy, for promoting the county’s heritage in general, to include, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· email newsletters,</li><li>· quarterly, paper newsletters,</li><li>· lectures and guided tours,</li><li>· outreach programmes for the County archive and museum</li><li>· leaflets,</li><li>· booklets,</li><li>· press releases/coverage,</li><li>· regular coverage of heritage issues on local radio</li><li>· shops’ fliers,</li><li>· with events making a contribution too and</li><li>· a clearly identifiable Louth Heritage Logo.</li></ul> <p>Develop a Louth Heritage website (possibly at the domain name <a href="http://www.louthheritage.ie">www.louthheritage.ie</a>).</p> <p>Make all heritage information available on a web-basis too, not just as physical documents. With e-mapping – all “heritage sites” should be searchable through Internet –GIS.</p>
9	<p>Provide clear and easily-accessible information and advice on the various heritage designations, targeted particularly at developers, who need and want this information.</p>

10	Develop a strategic heritage education plan/outreach programme for Louth, for all ages. Develop local education resources, highlighting local, visitable example sites etc. Develop a Louth history curriculum (and other subjects), with guest speakers etc.
11	Develop a county strategy for heritage week (and take part in/advantage of other national and international events, such as Biodiversity Day).
12	Provide heritage training induction courses for all new (and, eventually, existing) staff and councillors. Tell new staff (including planners) what is most important and let them know how they can find out more for themselves, when they need it.
13	Councils to issue a clearly stated public policy commitment on enforcement.
14	Copy and make available TV programmes of local interest.
<b>Built heritage</b>	
15	Involve young people in heritage by making history/heritage/archaeology “cool” – involve local sports stars – eg Gary Kelly – and Louth GAA players, to promote heritage.
16	Set up an outreach scheme for farmers (Built & Natural) Inform farmers about all important and protected heritage (Built and Natural) on their land (see also 32).
17	Raise the heritage awareness of developers. Create public training programmes and resources for them (see also 9).
<b>Cultural heritage</b>	
18	Promote the Táin, Cú Chulainn etc. Emphasise and promote the Ulster Cycle’s links to Louth.
19	Pilot a programme to erect Townland nameplates, to preserve and enhance awareness of townland names.
20	Erect a “Historic marker” in each community, manor, lordship – to act as “History books on a plaque”. This information could also be added to the website, with Internet - GIS.
<b>Natural heritage</b>	
21	Develop a voluntary Beach Warden/CoastWatch programme for schools. Involve school children in monitoring the condition of our coastlines/shorelines – get them to take part in a carefully planned and managed clean-up and to report problems to the Council’s Environment Section. Ensure that it’s attractive and meaningful for participants. Include groups working on these projects under the Council’s insurance cover.

22	Promote the value of our hedgerows and 'Louth Banks' and raise awareness of the need to conserve these. Provide applicants for Planning Permission with a leaflet/flier on hedgerows and 'Louth Banks'.
23	Develop a natural heritage/wildlife/geology interpretation strategy for the county. Promote biodiversity in general and protected sites in particular to the public and school children.

### KPA 3: Improving current practice

All aspects	
24	Communication should be made more systematic, so that people who need to know what is going on are told automatically, rather than finding things out 'by accident' –ie "design a better loop". This would involve better sharing of information – e.g. archaeological licences, discoveries, annual reminders re 'days' and close of hedgerow trimming season.
25	Provide on-going, specialist in-house expertise/back-up, for planners and engineers, in natural and architectural heritage and in archaeology, where necessary and requested. Monitor development applications that might damage important heritage sites.
26	Provide assistance and advice, in relation to heritage issues, for overall co-ordination of local, voluntary heritage groups e.g. FÁS schemes, Tidy Towns. Assist them with fund-raising applications and in managing projects.
27	Check all information for signs etc with knowledgeable local experts (volunteers).
28	Develop a "Heritage Access Plan" for Louth, so that there is better public access to Louth's heritage and more accessible information on it too.
29	Develop a Heritage Plan for the Boyne Valley, in partnership with Meath County Council. Assess the implementation of the Integrated Development Plan produced in 1996.
30	Ensure that Independent Heritage Appraisal (as part of SEA) is carried out for all development (and analogous) plans.
31	<p>Develop a list of projects, including those suggested during the public consultation, which will assist with the achievement of the objectives and actions in this plan. Integrate these into annual implementation programmes and go looking for money to carry them out.</p> <p>Develop expertise in funding heritage projects and assist third-parties to fund and run their own projects (including publications), where these are supported by but not a priority of the heritage forum.</p>

Built heritage	
32	Employ a Field Monuments Advisor to inspect field monuments and advise landowners on best management practice.
33	<p>Promote the various architectural conservation funding schemes to assist owners of Protected Structures. Assist and advise on applications for such funding. Encourage renovation or refurbishment of old houses, rather than their demolition and replacement.</p> <p>Investigate additional funding possibilities, including lobbying for further tax relief schemes, for the owners of protected structures and perhaps relief from some aspects of development contribution levies.</p> <p>Promote good practice in building conservation. Raise awareness of architectural conservation, including through engaging with the public in, eg. Village Design Statements and through producing leaflets on architectural conservation areas.</p>
34	Set up a Louth Buildings Trust, a rolling fund that could ensure that important buildings don't fall down – that they be bought and maintained, then sold on and the money re-used. Similar schemes are run by the 'Hearth' Housing Association in the North generally and in the Mournes in County Down, by the Mournes Heritage Trust.
35	Make information on traditional skilled crafts available, improve access to the details of specialist practitioners. Ensure transmission of skills eg drystone-walling, use of lime mortars etc-through running workshops, seminars etc.
Cultural heritage	
36	<p>Establish a formal Placenames Policy for Louth Local Authorities.</p> <p>Set up a "Coiste Cultúrtha" to suggest appropriate names for new developments.</p> <p>Compile manuscript material in the County Library that was produced during research to establish the official Irish forms of names in Louth.</p> <p>Produce a booklet/map on placenames in Louth, with explanations and translations. Make this information available to schools in the form of a education pack.</p>
Natural heritage	
37	Produce a Louth biodiversity plan and associated species/habitats action plans. Pay special attention to biodiversity/habitats in urban areas. Assess, monitor condition of these. Protect and promote existing major protected areas, such as SPAs and SACs.

38	Produce a Coastal Zone/Floodplain Management Plan, to promote a strategic approach to coastal zone management, sea level rise, coastal protection, retreat.
39	Develop a Special Landscapes Protection and Management Policy. Assess selected landscapes/areas of countryside that require protection and management and investigate mechanisms for achieving this. Maintain a watching brief across the border regarding proposals to develop a Mourne National Park.
40	Develop a Marine Conservation Plan for Louth.
41	Develop a scheme to protect minor biodiversity sites i.e. wildlife and habitats which will never be designated at a National or International level, involving purchase, management agreements and a protective designation for county level sites.
42	Promote the retention of existing roadside boundary hedgerows and replacement planting, where these have been degraded or lost. Promote anticipative replanting where roadside hedges are identified for removal in future, planned road works. Strengthen enforcement of conditions in relation to hedgerows. Ensure that contradictory conditions are not imposed, through better communication between the Councils' planning and roads sections.
43	Investigate and remedy the decline in the condition of our rivers – especially the Castletown River. Continue the development of river basin district conservation plans (ERFB & Loughs Agency).



St Mochta's House, Louth Village

Top: War of Independence Memorial, Ardee

Middle: Ward Marker, Drogheda

Bottom: Horse Riding in the Cooley Mountains



## *Membership of the Louth Heritage Forum*

The Heritage Forum is a non-statutory, advisory group, established by Louth Local Authorities to provide them with advice on the preparation and implementation of a Heritage Plan. The Heritage Forum comprises members of bodies and groups from four main sectors (modelled along the lines of the National Social Partnership Agreements, as is the County Development Board): Local Government; Local Development Companies (LEADER etc); the Statutory sector and the 'Social Partners' (Business, Trades Unions; Farming and the Community and Voluntary Pillars).

### **1 Local Government Sector**

The Chairman of the Forum is Councillor Declan Breathnach, an elected member of Louth County Council and Chairman of the County Development Board (CDB).

Cllr Pádraig McKenny represents Ardee Town Council, Cllr Paul Bell represents Drogheda Borough Council and Cllr Mark Dearey represents Dundalk Town Council.

### **Local Authorities' staff:**

Brendan McSherry, heritage officer (secretary of the heritage forum)

Jill Chadwick, conservation officer

Brian Walsh, curator, the County Museum, Dundalk

Ann Ward, County Librarian

Lorraine Buchanan, County Archivist

Alison Condra, Tourism Officer

Tony Davis, Head of Finance

Terry Savage, Executive Planner/  
Marguerite Quinn, Senior Executive Planner

Sean Molony, Senior Executive Engineer, Infrastructure (Roads)

### **2 Local Development Sector**

The Local Development Companies are represented by Ms Maureen Ward of the Louth LEADER company, who also represents them on the CDB.

### **3 The Statutory Sector is represented by:**

Auriel Robinson/ Victor Buckley of National Monuments Service (DEHLG)

Maurice Eakin, The National Parks and Wildlife Service of the DEHLG

Eamon Cooney, Louth VEC (CDB member)

Martin Maguire, DkIT

Derick Anderson, The Loughs Agency

Michaela Kirrane, Eastern Regional Fisheries Board

Martina O'Dwyer, East Coast and Midlands Regional Tourism Organisation

Niall Ó Lamhna, Louth Teagasc

Seamus Dunne/Suzanne Jones, Forestry Inspectors, the Forest Service

#### **4 The Social Partners' members are:**

- a Business Pillar – Pauric McKeivitt, Dundalk Chamber of Commerce and Eugene Kierans, Drogheda Chamber of Commerce
- b Farming Pillar - Liam Woods, IFA (CDB representative)
- c Community and Voluntary Pillar – Breeda Tuite (CDB representative)

#### **Local Historical Societies**

Noel Ross (CLAHS)

Betty Quinn (Old Drogheda Society)

Ann McNee (Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust)

#### **Wildlife Societies**

Frank O'Reilly (BirdWatch Ireland, Boyne Valley)

Penny Butler (Earthwatch Drogheda)

#### **Additional Working Groups' members**

(who attended and took part in the work of the three specialist working groups and who are not also members of the heritage forum)

#### **Built Heritage**

Tom Reilly, Drogheda Monuments Protection Society, historian, journalist and author

Nick Reilly, Project Manager and Acting Director of the Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda

Gavin Collins, Property Developer (and former archaeologist), Drogheda.

#### **Cultural Heritage**

Brian Harten, Arts Officer, Louth County Council

Síle O'Sullivan, Arts Officer, Dundalk Town Council

#### **Natural Heritage**

Breffni Martin, Chairman of the North Louth Branch of BirdWatch Ireland

Participation in the Initial Public Consultation process

Attendance at public meetings

VENUE	DATE	MAX ATT.	FORMS*	Percent
Dundalk	17/11/2005	29	22	75.9
Ardee	22/11/2005	9	7	77.8
Carlingford	23/11/2005	17	8	47.1
Drogheda	24/11/2005	17	14	82.4
TOTAL		72	51	70.8

\* Response forms returned, either collected at the meeting or sent back by post.

Written submissions (including those made by email)

Title	Name	Family	Subject
Mr	Canice	O'Mahony	Difficulties publishing local history
Ms	Deirdre	Howard Russell	Various sites and monuments in Drogheda
Ms	Bernadette	Martin	Wildlife in Boycetown Quarry
Mr	John	Woods	Public R.O.W. in Carlingford area
Dr	Paul	Gosling	Rock Art and souterrains of Louth
Mr	Owen	McCann	Various, in Cooley area
Ms	Nicola	Carroll	Hedgerows, Derelict houses, loss of Bio-Diversity
Mrs	Anne	Callan-Doherty	Visits to schools
Mrs	Catherine	Duncan <i>et alia</i>	Carlingford



Top: Magdalene Tower, Drogheda

Middle: A "Louth Bank" (drystone wall)

Bottom: Carlingford Coat of Arms

Mr	Brian	Hanratty	Drogheda and the Battle of the Boyne
Mr	Eddie	Quinn	Drogheda, especially the walls
Mr	Michael	Harris-Barke	Carlingford
Mr	Breffni	Martin	Wildlife in the Dundalk and Carlingford areas
Ms	Sarah	Fields	Wildlife in general
Ms	Marguerite	Arbuthnot-O'Brien	Trees and woods
Mr	Roger	Garland	Public access to the countryside

**Written submissions (including those made by email) on the draft heritage plan (July – Oct 2006)**

Ms	Breeda	Tuite	General comments
Mr	Breffni	Martin	Surveying of wildlife sites
Dr	Sarah	Gatley	Louth's geological heritage
Mr	Larry	Magnier	General comments
Mr	Paul	Keane	'Legendary Louth' garden
Mr	John	Woods	Use volunteers to supplement resources
Mr	Pat	McKenna	Raising the importance of our hedges
Mr	Roger	Garland	Public access to the countryside

Plus comments made by several staff of Louth Local Authorities

Top: A Painted Lady Butterfly

Middle: Dundalk Station

Bottom: A Thatched Cottage in Clogherhead



## *Relevant National and EU Heritage Legislation*

### **Planning Legislation & Built Heritage:**

- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Act (NIAH), 1999
- Local Government (Planning and Development Acts, 1963-1999)
- Planning and Development Act, 2000
- Heritage Act, 1995
- EC Directive 85/337/EEC – re. Environmental Impact Assessment
- EC Directive 2001/42/EC – re. Strategic Environmental Assessment

### **Archaeology and Archaeological Objects:**

- National Monuments Act 1930 and subsequent amendments of 1954, 1987, 1994 & 2004.
- National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997.

### **Natural Heritage:**

- Wildlife Act, 1976.
- Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000.
- EU Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC), 1979

(transposed 1985).

- EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC), 1992 (transposed 1997).

### **Heritage Objects / Museums and Archives:**

- National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997.
- Local Government Act, 1994

### **Landscapes and Heritage Gardens and Parks:**

- Local Government (Planning and Development Acts, 1963-1999).
- Planning and Development Act, 2000.

### **Archives and Record Management:**

- National Archives Act, 1986
- Data Protection Act, 1988
- European Communities Act, 1972 (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 1998
- Local Government Acts, 1994 and 2001
- Freedom of Information Act, 1997
- Employment Equality Act, 1998
- E-Commerce Act, 1999

- Planning and Development Act, 2000
- Health & Safety Act, 1989
- Organisation of Working Time Act, 1997
- ISO 15489, 2001

### **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS:**

- UNESCO Convention for the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (ratified 1992).

### **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.

### **Natural Heritage:**

- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention), 1979 (ratified, 1982)

- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), 1979 (ratified, 1983)
- Agreement on Conservation of Bats in Europe (Bonn Convention), 1993 (ratified, 1995)
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), 1971 (ratified, 1984)
- Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992 (ratified, 1996)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), 1974.
- Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) (Bonn Convention), 1996.
- International Tropical Timber Agreement 1994, (1996).
- Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, (endorsed 1995).

### **Landscape:**

- European Landscape Convention, 2000, (ratified, 2002)

## *Bibliography*



Top: Carlingford Castle

Middle: Holy Trinity Cemetery, Carlingford

Bottom: Swans in Dundalk

- National Heritage Plan, Dept. Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands, 2002
- National Biodiversity Plan, Dept. Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands, 2002
- Recorded Monuments of County Louth, Archaeological Survey of Ireland, The Office of Public Works, 1991
- Dublin City Heritage Plan, Dublin City Council, 2002
- Laois Heritage Plan, Laois County Council, 2002
- Offaly Heritage Plan, Offaly County Council, 2002 (not published)
- Sligo Heritage Plan, Sligo County Council, 2002
- Carlow Heritage Plan, Carlow County Council, 2003
- Clare Heritage Plan, Clare County Council, 2003
- Fingal Heritage Plan, Fingal County Council, 2005
- Westmeath Heritage Plan, Westmeath County Council, 2003
- Wicklow Heritage Plan. Wicklow County Council, 2004
- A Methodology for Local Authority Heritage Officers on the Preparation of County / City Heritage Plans, The Heritage Council, not published.
- Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, Dept. Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands, 1999
- Architectural Heritage Protection – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, Dept. Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands, 2002
- Evaluation of Environmental Designations in Ireland, The Heritage Council, 1996
- Guidelines for the Developing & Marking of Waymarked Ways, The Heritage Council & The Irish Sports Council, 2002
- County Louth – The Urban Archaeology Survey, Office of Public Works, 1983\*
- Wexford Heritage and the Challenge of Change, County Wexford Partnership, 2001
- The Care & Conservation of Graveyards, Dúchas – The Heritage Service, 1997
- Landscape Characterisation Assessment – DELG Draft Guidelines, 2000

\* Unpublished