



# Chapter 9

## Built Heritage and Culture

*“To protect, conserve and manage the archaeological and architectural heritage of the County and encourage sensitive, sustainable development to ensure its survival and maintenance for future generations”.*

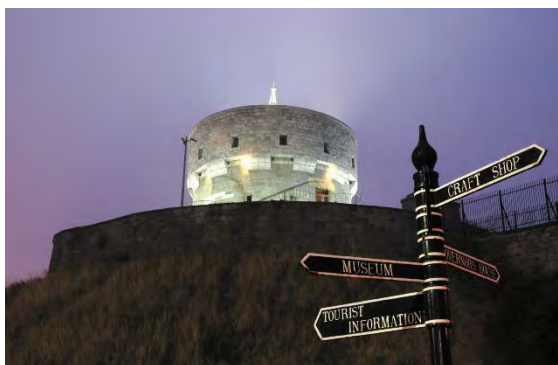


## 9 - BUILT HERITAGE AND CULTURE

### 9.1 INTRODUCTION

Louth's built heritage, linking the past to the present, is both rich and varied and manifested in the physical traces left in the landscape by previous generations in the form of archaeological sites and monuments, townscapes, historic buildings and vernacular structures. This archaeological and architectural heritage is an intrinsic part of our identity, and of the character and attractiveness of the County. It contributes to the vibrancy and attractiveness of places where we live, work and play in addition to serving as a catalyst in attracting tourism and investment.

It provides an opportunity to learn from the past, reinforce our sense of place and to serve as guardians for future generations.



The Council will seek to protect the County's built and archaeological heritage from the direct and indirect impacts from climate change.

The importance of the built and cultural heritage and access thereto is acknowledged and supported in the RSES and the associated Regional Policy Objectives. The Plan in the formulation of its Policy Objectives has been in accordance with the RSES.

### 9.2 POLICY CONTEXT

'Heritage' was not formally defined by the Heritage Act, 1995 which set up the Heritage Council. However, the Act referred to the following as aspects of Ireland's heritage: monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks and inland waterways.



The word 'heritage' therefore encompasses both natural and built resources and is extended to cover intangible and cultural heritage too.

Heritage therefore surrounds us, helps to define us and contributes to the development of a strong sense of place and identity.

The preparation of this chapter has had regard to relevant national legislation and guidelines, regional and local plans and policies, and the need to ensure that the Plan is compliant with all relevant EU and national legislation and regulations in relation to the protection of the built and cultural heritage of the County.

A new National Heritage Plan '*Heritage Ireland 2030*' is currently being drafted by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

It will be a coherent, comprehensive and inspiring framework of values, principles, strategic priorities and actions to guide and inform the heritage sector over the next decade. The National Planning Framework through NSO7 and NPO60 highlights the rich qualities of our natural and cultural heritage and their conservation and enhancement, in an appropriate manner to their significance. The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region recognises that culture and heritage are an integral part of Irish life ranging from their intrinsic value, to their wider social benefit and economic potential. The Council will consider full legislative provisions and supporting guidance and policy documents issued to give effect to legislative provisions.

There are a significant number of Section 28 and other government Guidelines which relate directly to the built heritage. The *'Architectural Heritage Protection – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2011)*, published by the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht is the main planning policy guidance document in respect of our built heritage. Other relevant guidance includes the *'Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage' (1999)*.

### 9.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

Archaeology is the study of past societies through their material remains and the evidence of their environment. It is not restricted solely to ancient periods; and includes the study of relatively recent societies. The archaeological heritage is comprised of all material remains of past societies with the potential to add to our knowledge of such societies.

It therefore includes the remains of features such as settlements, monuments, burials, ships and boats and portable objects of all kinds, from the everyday to the very special.

It also includes evidence of the environment in which those societies lived. Archaeological heritage occurs in all environments, urban and rural, upland and lowland, grassland, tillage and forestry, inland and coastal, dryland, wetland (including peatlands) and underwater (including watercourses, lakes and the sea).

Archaeological heritage may exist in the form of upstanding or visible remains, or as subsurface features with no surface presentation. Given the above, archaeological heritage is present and as yet unidentified in all environments. In addition it helps us to understand how humans in the past interacted with the environment, to formulate an explanation for the development of cultures and to preserve the history for present and future learning. It is a finite and fragile resource, which enriches our landscapes and townscapes, but which is vulnerable to modern development and land use changes. Its preservation is a legitimate objective against which the need for development must be balanced and assessed. National policy in relation to archaeological heritage is set out in the *'Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage'* (Government of Ireland 1999). The Plan will be guided by and will seek to ensure that policies set out therein will be taken into account and implemented appropriately through the planning process.

The *National Monuments Acts 1930-2014* is the specific national legislative code for protection of monuments, historic wrecks and archaeological objects providing legal protection for all archaeological objects, wrecks 100 or more years old and for a range of categories of monuments and places. Archaeological objects (which, in broad terms includes all moveable objects of archaeological importance) are comprehensively protected under the National Monuments Acts.

The protection of archaeological heritage and other features includes the following:

- Sites and monuments included in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) as maintained by the National Monuments Service (NMS);
- Monuments and places included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) as established under section 12 of the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994*;
- Historic monuments and archaeological areas included in the Register of Historic Monuments as established under Section 5 of the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987*;
- National monuments subject to Preservation Orders under the *National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014* and national monuments which are in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage or a local authority;
- Archaeological objects within the meaning of the National Monuments Acts;
- Wrecks protected under the *National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014* or otherwise included in the Wreck Viewer maintained by the National Monuments Service; and
- Archaeological features not as yet identified but which may be impacted on by development.

Presently, a monument is protected in one of four ways:

**1. Record of Monuments and Places (RMP):** This is the most widely applicable listing of all known monuments of archaeological interest and updated as and when previously unrecorded archaeological sites are discovered. Currently, there are approximately 1,600 archaeological recorded monuments in the RMP for County Louth.

The carrying out of any work at, or in relation to a Recorded Monument requires giving written notice to the Minister two months before commencing said work, to facilitate consideration of both the proposed works and the protection of the monument. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Louth can be inspected at [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).

**2. Register of Historic Monuments:** Historic monuments (i.e. any monument pre-dating 1700AD and any other monument of relevant interest) and archaeological areas are entered on this register.

The carrying out of any work at or in relation to a Registered Monument requires giving written notice to the Minister two months before commencing said work, to facilitate consideration of both the proposed works and any measures needed to ensure the protection of the monument.



*3. National monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media or a Local Authority:* A National Monument is any monument, the preservation of, which is a matter of national importance on grounds of archaeological, architectural, historical, traditional or artistic interest. Legal protection only comes into effect if the national monument is owned/in the guardianship of the Minister or a local authority or is the subject of a Preservation Order.

National monuments in State care include those in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, whose maintenance and upkeep are the responsibility of the State. A list of National Monuments in County Louth, which are in State Care, is available in Table 9.1.

The prior written consent of the Minister is required for any works at or in proximity to national monuments in State care.

National monuments may also be in the ownership or guardianship of Local Authorities which have similar responsibilities to the DCHG. The prior written consent of the Minister is required for any works at or in proximity to national monuments in the care of the Local Authority.

*4. National monument subject to a preservation order (or temporary preservation order):* A list of National Monuments in County Louth subject to a Preservation Order is available in Table 9.2. The prior written consent of the Minister is required for any works at or in proximity to national monuments subject to a Preservation Order.

Archaeological heritage encompasses designated and unknown archaeological heritage including; entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, underwater archaeology, entries to the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record, and Northern Ireland Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest and Archaeological Potential. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between archaeological heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.



Table 9.1 National Monuments in Louth in State Care

Name	Description	Townland	Legal Status	RMP No.	National Monument No.
<b>Aghnaskeagh</b>	Two Cairns	Aghnaskeagh	Guardianship	LH004-032 LH004-033	326
<b>Athclare Castle</b>	Castle	Athclare	Guardianship	LH018-040	Unknown
<b>Mansfieldstown</b>	Church	Bawn	Guardianship	LH015-004001	480
<b>Carlingford Castle</b>	Castle	Carlingford	Guardianship	LH005-042002	249
<b>The Mint (Carlingford)</b>	Urban Tower House	Carlingford	Guardianship	LH005-042008	242
<b>Dún Dealgan</b>	Motte	Castletown	Guardianship	LH007-118007	388
<b>Donaghmore</b>	Souterrain	Donaghmore	Guardianship	LH006- 060001, LH006-060002	526
<b>St. Laurence's Gate (Drogheda)</b>	Town Gate	Drogheda	Guardianship	LH024-020	511
<b>Dromiskin</b>	Church & Round Tower	Dromiskin	Ownership	LH012-046001, LH012-046003	92
<b>Greenmount</b>	Motte	Greenmount	Ownership	LH015-012001	144
<b>Carlingford Abbey</b>	Friary (Dominican)	Liberties	Ownership	LH005-042013	623
<b>Lisnaran Fort</b>	Ringfort	Linns	Guardianship	LH015-015001	579
<b>Mellifont Abbey</b>	Abbey (Cistercian)	Mellifont	Ownership	LH023-002	93
<b>Monasterboice</b>	High Crosses, Churches & Round Tower	Monasterboice	Ownership	LH021-062007, LH021-062003, LH021-062004, LH021-062008, LH021-062009, LH021-062006	94
<b>St. Mochta's House</b>	Church	Priorstate	Guardianship	LH011-115002	312
<b>Proleek</b>	Portal Tomb & wedge Tomb	Proleek	Guardianship	LH004-074, LH004-075	476
<b>Clochafarmore</b>	Standing Stone	Rathiddy	Guardianship	LH011-020	474
<b>Ravensdale Park</b>	Cairn	Ravensdale Park	Ownership	LH004-004	597
<b>Castleroche</b>	Castle	Castle Roche	Guardianship	LH003-029001	460
<b>Rockmarshall</b>	Court Tomb	Rockmarshall	Ownership	LH008-033	562
<b>Roodstown Castle</b>	Castle	Roodstown	Ownership	LH014-047	298
<b>Termonfeckin Castle</b>	Castle	Termonfeckin	Ownership	LH022-041012	178
<b>Townleyhall</b>	Passage Tomb	Townleyhall	Ownership	LH024-008002	529

Source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) accessed on 25th June 2014

**Table 9.2 National Monuments subject to a Preservation Order**

PO No.	Description	Townland	RMP No.
36/1934	Aghnaskeagh Cairns (Two)	Aghnaskeagh	LH004-032; LH004-032001; LH004-033-26
25/1976	Ringfort	Aghnaskeagh	LH004-031001; LH004-031002
3/1998	Archaeological Complex	Belpatrick	LH020-004001; LH020-004002; LH020-004003; LH020-004004; LH020-004005; LH020-012; LH020-013
8/1985	Souterrain	Benagh	LH008-051001; LH008-051002; LH008-051003
11/1973	Ringfort & Annexe	Castletowncooley	LH008-054001; LH008-054002
2/1971	Lisnaran Fort	Linns	LH015-015001; LH015-015002; LH015-015003
2/1999	Dwelling	Milltown	LH018-052
16/1977	Barrow	Milltown	LH021-037
05/1932	St. Mochta's House, Priorstate	Priorstate	LH011-115002
1/2002	Ringfort	Rampark	LH008-070001; LH008-070002
3/1971	Rathdrumin Rath	Rathdrumin	LH018-045001; LH018-045002

### 9.3.1 Zone of Archaeological Potential

Some recorded monuments are extensive in scale, covering the historic core of medieval towns in the County, whether or not they are currently urban (i.e. deserted medieval towns in addition to present day urban centres of medieval origin). In addition to noting upstanding remains, zones where likely subsurface archaeological remains exist, were also identified and included in the Record of Monuments and Places.

These recorded monuments in the Plan are referred to as Zones of Archaeological Potential (ZAP), of which there are thirteen in the County. These recorded monuments are protected under the *National Monuments Acts 1930-2014*.

These Zones of Archaeological Potential are listed in Table 9.3 and the associated maps are available in Appendix 9, Volume 3.

The qualities of archaeological and architectural interest are not mutually exclusive. Certain structures may be designated as both a Recorded Monument and a Protected Structure and may therefore appear on both the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Record of Protected Structures (RPS), Volume 4.

**Table 9.3: Zone of Archaeological Potential, County Louth**

Reference	Location
ZAP 1	Drogheda
ZAP 2	Dundalk
ZAP 3	Ardee
ZAP 4	Carlingford
ZAP 5	Castlering
ZAP 6	Castle Roche
ZAP 7	Collon
ZAP 8	Dromiskin
ZAP 9	Dunleer
ZAP 10	Grange
ZAP 11	Louth Village
ZAP 12	Monasterboice
ZAP 13	Termonfeckin

### 9.3.2 Maritime Archaeology

Ireland's waterways – both marine and freshwater – have been central to the development of life on this island and consequently Ireland has a longstanding maritime legacy. While a significant number of shipwrecks have been recorded from around the coast by the National Monuments Service (NMS), it is estimated that there are significantly more as yet undiscovered. Other cultural remains, such as submerged landscapes, harbours and landing places, attest to Ireland's rich underwater cultural heritage which is found in Ireland's designated waters, along the Irish coastline, in the rivers, canals, wetland environments etc.



Underwater cultural heritage is a finite and irreplaceable resource with both manmade and natural pressures threatening its preservation. The NMS is tasked with the protection and preservation of the country's underwater cultural heritage. It maintains the [Wreck Viewer](#) and Wreck Inventory of Ireland Database (WIID) which hold records of over 18,000 known and potential wreck sites and which serve as a tool to help manage and protect historic wrecks.

Any development either above or below water, including to river banks or coastal edges, within the vicinity of a site of archaeological interest, shall not be detrimental to the character of the archaeological site or its setting. Planning applications will be referred to the National Monuments Service where relevant.

### 9.3.3 Walled Towns

Ardee, Carlingford, Drogheda and Dundalk are all former walled towns in County Louth, which were founded between the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Each of these walled towns is regarded as a single recorded monument and all are Zones of Archaeological Potential. Maps of the Walled Towns of Drogheda, Ardee and Carlingford are available in Volume 3, Appendix 10. With the exception of Dundalk, Conservation and Management Plans were prepared by the Council, with support from the Irish Walled Towns Network, (part of the Heritage Council), for all of the walled towns.

Town walls and other defences are categorised as National Monuments under the National Walled Towns Policy 2008. Maps of the Walled Towns for Drogheda, Ardee, and Carlingford are available in Volume 3, Appendix 10. The upstanding remains of the walled towns in Drogheda, Ardee and Carlingford are identified as Protected Structures and included in the Record of Protected Structures, Volume 4.

#### Policy Objective

<b>BHC 1</b>	To protect and enhance archaeological sites and monuments, underwater archaeology, and archaeological objects listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), and/or the Register of Historic Monuments and seek their preservation (i.e. presumption in favour of preservation in situ or in exceptional cases, at a minimum, preservation by record) through the planning process and having regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the principles as set out in the <i>'Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage'</i> (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands 1999).
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#### Policy Objective

<b>BHC 2</b>	To protect the built heritage assets of the county and ensure they are managed and preserved in a manner that does not adversely impact on the intrinsic value of these assets whilst supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.
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#### Policy Objective

<b>BHC 3</b>	To protect known and unknown archaeological areas, sites, monuments, structures and objects, having regard to the advice of the National Monuments Services of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
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#### Policy Objective

<b>BHC 4</b>	To promote awareness and knowledge of the archaeological resources of the County and support initiatives where appropriate that provide better access to the historic built environment.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 5</b>	To protect all sites and features of archaeological interest discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places (i.e. preservation in situ or in exceptional circumstances, at a minimum preservation by record) having regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 6</b>	To ensure any development, either above or below ground, adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of a recorded monument or a Zone of Archaeological Potential (including formerly walled towns) shall not be detrimental to or detract from the character of the archaeological site or its setting and be sited and designed to protect the monument and its setting. Where upstanding remains exist, a visual impact assessment may be required.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 7</b>	To require applicants seeking permission for development within Zones of Archaeological Potential and other sites as listed in the Record of Monuments and Places to include an assessment of the likely archaeological potential as part of the planning application and the Council may require that an on-site archaeological assessment is carried out by trial work, prior to a decision on a planning application being taken.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 8</b>	To protect and preserve in situ all surviving elements of medieval town defences (both upstanding and buried) and associated features in accordance with the Conservation and Management Plans as applicable and with ' <i>National Policy on Town Defences</i> ' (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2008).
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 9</b>	To retain the surviving medieval street pattern, building lines and burgage plot widths in historic walled towns.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 10</b>	To require, as part of the development management process, archaeological impact assessments, geophysical surveys, test excavations and monitoring, as appropriate, where development proposals involve ground clearance of more than half a hectare or for linear developments over one kilometre in length or for developments in proximity to areas with a density of known archaeological monuments and history of discovery, as identified by a licensed archaeologist.
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### 9.3.4 Battlefield Sites

Albeit that they represent historically transient events, the importance of famous battlefield sites as key locations in Irish history is widely recognised. Historically, Louth has been the scene of several major battles, none more so than the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. The conservation, management and protection of Battlefield Sites is complex, and an emerging field of study nationally.

The *'Irish Battlefields Project'* is a study researching key battlefield sites in Irish history, their location, extent, and historical and archaeological backgrounds, all of which will increase our knowledge and understanding of such momentous events. Its work has been completed and currently with the National Monuments Service. If published during the lifetime of the Plan, it is the intention of the Council to propose a variation of the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 for its incorporation. The Boyne Battlefield Sites are illustrated on Map 9.1.

#### Policy Objective

<b>BHC 11</b>	To work in partnership with Meath County Council, relevant agencies and the public to promote, understand, conserve and sustainably manage the Battlefield site of the Battle of the Boyne whilst protecting and enhancing its cultural landscape.
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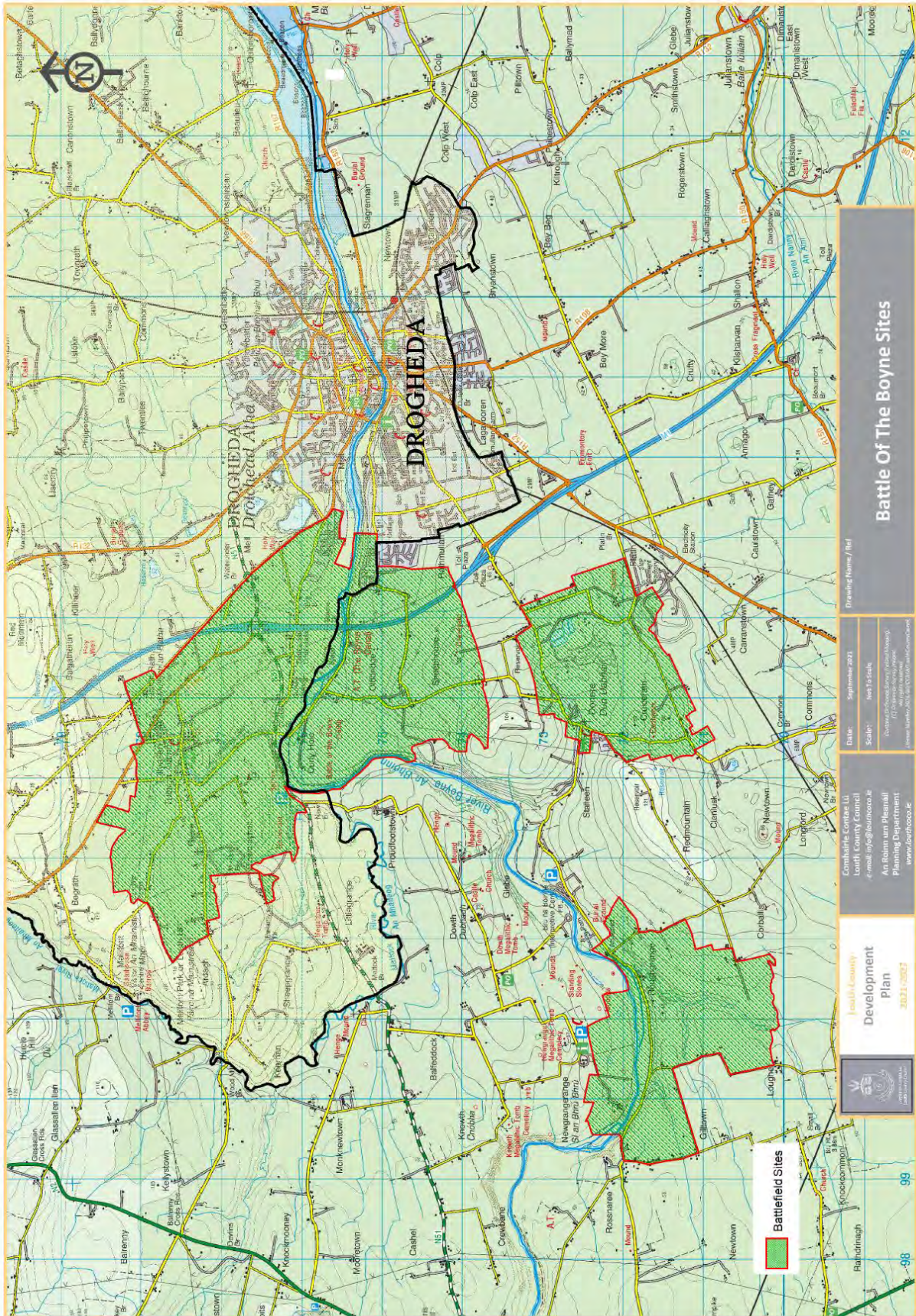
#### Policy Objective

<b>BHC 12</b>	To propose a variation of the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027, if required, to make appropriate amendments to the Plan, as a result of any recommendations arising from the publication of <i>'The Irish Battlefields Project'</i> .
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#### Policy Objective

<b>BHC 13</b>	To seek to protect historic and archaeological landscapes including battlefields, from inappropriate development.
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Map 9.1: Battle of the Boyne Sites



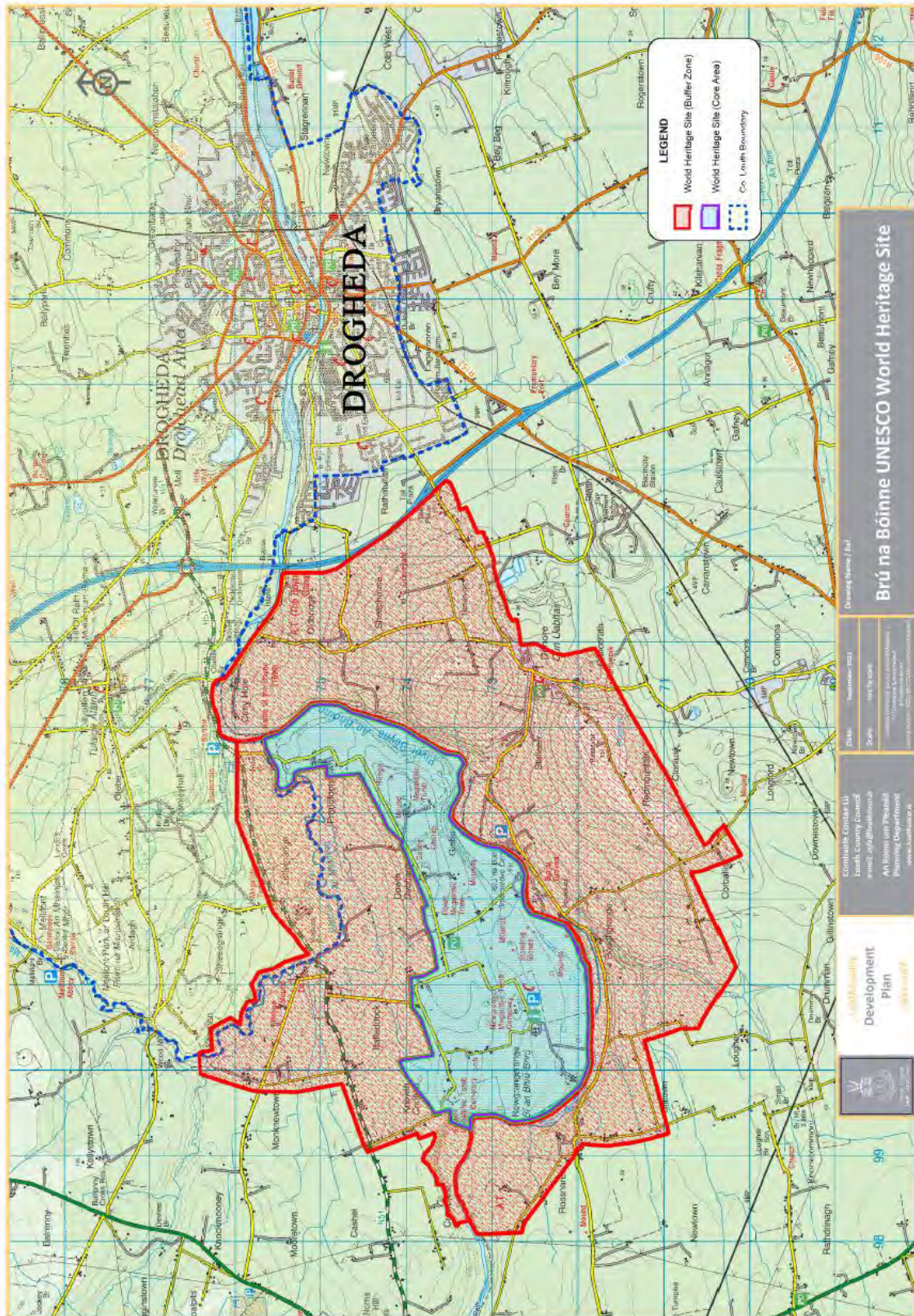
### 9.3.5 UNESCO World Heritage Site – Brú na Bóinne

Brú na Bóinne is one of the world’s most important archaeological landscapes, and Europe’s largest and most important concentration of prehistoric megalithic art, a fact recognised by its inscription in 1993 by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site (WHS). It is an archaeological landscape, also known as “The Bend of the Boyne,” containing the three main prehistoric sites of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. This

WHS covers a Core Area and a Buffer Zone the majority of which is situated in County Meath. However, an area contained within the Buffer Zone is located in County Louth in the townland of Littlegrange as illustrated on Map 9.2. The World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne is 4.8km west of Drogheda and almost the same distance from Slane in County Meath.



Map 9.2: Brú na Bóinne UNESCO World Heritage Site



### 9.3.6 Outstanding Universal Value

The inscription of the World Heritage Site obliges the State to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne to the highest international standards. The Outstanding Universal Value of a site is derived from; statements on universal value, how it fits UNESCO criteria, and statements on authenticity and integrity. The OUV forms the basis for the protection, management and conservation of a World Heritage Site, its core area and buffer zones, as identified in the inscription.

The Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne was assessed by UNESCO to be of Outstanding Universal Value, meeting three of the six criteria regarding cultural heritage as outlined below:

**Criterion (i):** The Brú na Bóinne monuments represent the largest and most important expression of prehistoric megalithic plastic art in Europe.

**Criterion (iii):** The concentration of social, economic and funerary monuments at this important ritual centre and the long continuity from prehistory to the late medieval period makes this one of the most significant archaeological sites in Europe.

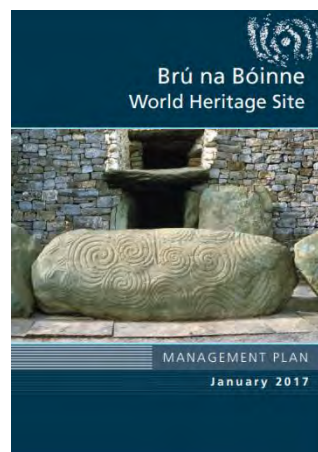
**Criterion (iv):** The passage grave, here brought to its finest expression, was a feature of outstanding importance in prehistoric Europe and beyond.

#### 9.3.6.1 Sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value

The first Management Plan for the UNESCO World Heritage Site - Brú na Bóinne was published in December 2002 by the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government (DECLG).

In accordance with the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2019), each nominated property should have an appropriate management plan or other documented management system which must specify how the Outstanding Universal Value of a property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means. The current *Brú na Bóinne Management Plan, 2017* which is a non-statutory plan, was submitted to UNESCO by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The planning authority is cognisant of the potential irreversible and adverse cumulative impact of incremental piecemeal development in this unique landscape. It is critically important that further new development is not permitted to erode the heritage significance of this landscape.



Rural Policy Zone 1 covers, *inter alia*, the sensitive landscape of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne, the Tentative World Heritage Site of Monasterboice and the battlefield site of the Battle of the Boyne, which seeks to protect its heritage and cultural landscape. In this regard it is the intention of the Council to prepare a Framework Plan for this area.

**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 14</b>	To work in partnership with Meath County Council, relevant agencies and the public to promote, understand, conserve and sustainably manage the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne to maintain its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 15</b>	To ensure no development which might have significant deleterious impacts upon the character of the World Heritage Site is permitted.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 16</b>	To protect the northern ridgeline (Chapter 13, Map 13.1) which frames the views within and from the World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne from visually intrusive and inappropriate development, subject to the Development Management Assessment Criteria detailed in Chapter 13 and using view-shed analysis as a tool to guide and inform development management.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 17</b>	To encourage the retention, appropriate re-use and conservation of vernacular buildings in Rural Policy Zone One in preference to their replacement or the construction of new buildings on green-field sites and require all development herein to be subject to the Development Management Assessment Criteria as detailed in Chapter 13.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 18</b>	To prepare a Framework Plan for the protection, development and promotion of lands subject to Rural Policy Zone One (as applicable to the lands including the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne, the Tentative World Heritage Site of Monasterboice, and the Battle of the Boyne Battlefield site).
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**9.4 EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT**

Development is not exempt from the obligation of applying for planning permission, if it would; interfere with the character of a landscape, or a view or prospect of special amenity value or special interest, the preservation of which, is an objective of the Plan, or consist of the excavation, alteration or demolition of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological, geological, or historical, scientific or ecological interest, the preservation of which is an objective of the Plan.

As it is an objective of this Plan to protect and enhance the landscape, views and prospects in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne, many developments, which would be considered exempt in other areas may require planning permission. Those considering undertaking development works within the area of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne should first consult Louth County Council before commencement of any works.

## 9.5 TENTATIVE WORLD HERITAGE SITES

A Tentative List is an inventory of properties, which a country intends to consider for nomination to the World Heritage List. The most recent Tentative List was submitted to UNESCO in 2010 with one site in Louth included therein, which is:

- Early Medieval Monastic Sites (including Monasterboice).



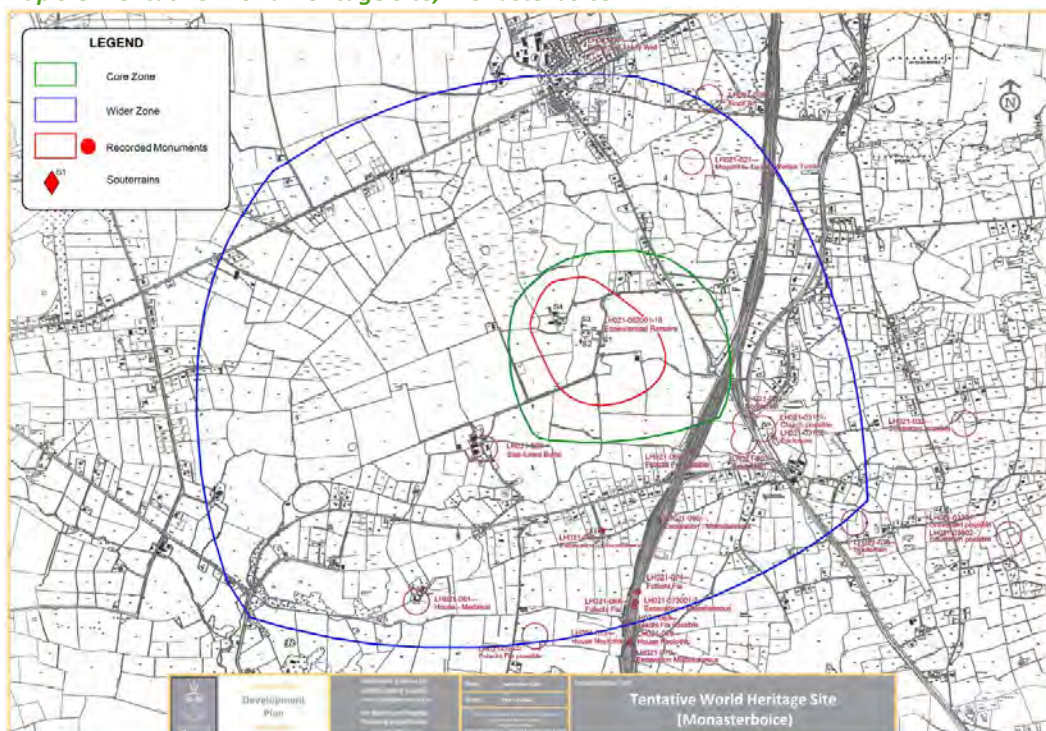
While formal designation of Monasterboice and other sites is likely to be many years away, it is important that this Plan protects the landscape and other values contributing to the site's nomination and ensure that this is not damaged in any way. The Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht invited applications for Ireland's Tentative List of properties for potential future nomination to the World Heritage List 2020-2030.

The nomination of any property from the new Tentative List for inscription on the World Heritage List will only take place after consultation with relevant stakeholders, interested parties and local communities. The Tentative World Heritage Site of Monasterboice is illustrated in Map 9.3.

### Policy Objective

**BHC 19** To maintain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Tentative World Heritage Site of Monasterboice and support its nomination as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Map 9.3: Tentative World Heritage Site, Monasterboice



## 9.6 ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Our architectural heritage is an irreplaceable resource and a valuable expression of our past, whose sustainable appropriate maintenance and reuse has economic and environmental benefits, and which serves as historic evidence of social changes through time.

Architectural heritage encompasses that which is designated or included within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), NIAH Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Records of Protected Structures and Northern Ireland's Listed Buildings and Northern Ireland's Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between architectural heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships. Further details in relation to the NIAH can be found at [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie).

County Louth is fortunate to host a rich and varied heritage of buildings and structures of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical importance.

The principle mechanism for protection of these buildings and structures is by inclusion in the 'Record of Protected Structures'.

This affords positive recognition of the structures importance, whilst seeking the protection of its special character from adverse impacts.

In accordance with Part IV of the *Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)* the Council is required to maintain a Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Unless otherwise stated it includes:

- The exterior and interior of the structure;
- The land lying within its curtilage;

- Any other structures and their interiors lying within that curtilage; and
- All fixtures and features, which form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures.

The RPS is a live register and structures may be added and deleted from the RPS during the review process of the Development Plan (Section 12) and outside of the review process (Section 55). This Plan includes the full RPS for the County in its entirety including the urban areas of Drogheda, Dundalk and Ardee. The RPS is both listed and mapped in Volume 4.

The placing of a structure on the RPS seeks to ensure the character of the structure is maintained and any changes or alterations to it are carried out in such a way as to retain and enhance its character. This does not mean that development or alterations to a protected structure are not possible, but rather, if proposed works would materially affect the character of a protected structure, planning permission will be required.

Exempted development regulations may not apply to protected structures. Owners or occupiers of protected structures can seek a Declaration under Section 57 of the *Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)* to list the type of works that do and do not affect the character of the structure and therefore do or do not require planning permission.

*The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)* places the onus on owners and occupiers of protected structures to ensure that the structure (or any element of the structure, which contributes to its special interest) is not endangered, either through neglect or inappropriate works.

Owners and occupiers are encouraged to consult with Louth County Council if considering works to a protected structure.

Proposals for works to Protected Structures should be:

- Accompanied by appropriate documentation as described in the *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DAHG)*, to enable a proper assessment of the proposed works and their impact on the structure or area;
- In keeping with the character of the building and to preserve the special architectural or historical character and any features it possesses;
- Of a quality of design and sympathetic in terms of scale and form to the original building and in the use of materials and other details of the period and style; and
- Carried out in accordance with best practice *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities* and supervised by an appropriately qualified professional.

**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 20</b>	To ensure that any development, modification, alteration, or extension affecting a protected structure and / or its setting is sensitively sited and designed, is compatible with the special character and is appropriate in terms of the proposed scale, mass, density, layout, and materials of the protected structure.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 21</b>	The form and structural integrity of the protected structure and its setting shall be retained and the relationship between the protected structure, its curtilage and any complex of adjoining buildings, designed landscape features, designed views or vistas from or to the structure shall be protected.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 22</b>	To prohibit inappropriate development within the curtilage and/or attendant grounds of a protected structure. Any proposed development within the curtilage and/or attendant grounds must demonstrate that it is part of an overall strategy for the future conservation of the entire complex including the structures, demesne and/or attendant grounds.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 23</b>	To require that all planning applications relating to protected structures contain the appropriate documentation as described in the <i>Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)</i> or any subsequent guidelines, to enable a proper assessment of the proposed works and their impact on the structure or area.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 24</b>	To require the retention of original features such as windows, doors, renders, roof coverings, and other significant features which contribute to the character of protected structures and encourage the reinstatement of appropriately detailed features which have been lost, to restore the character of protected structures as part of development proposals.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 25</b>	To promote best conservation practice and the use of skilled specialist practitioners in the conservation of and for any works to protected structures.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 26</b>	To encourage the retention, sympathetic reuse and rehabilitation of protected structures and their settings where appropriate and where the proposal is compatible with their character and significance. In certain cases, development management guidelines may be relaxed in order to secure the conservation of the protected structure and architectural features of special interest.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 27</b>	To permit the demolition or significant modification of a protected structure, only in exceptional circumstances.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 28</b>	To ensure the protection of architectural features of special interest as part of any proposed re-development where there is conflict with other development plan requirements such as open space, car parking etc.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 29</b>	To review and update the Record of Protected Structures on an ongoing basis and to make additions and deletions as appropriate.
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**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 30</b>	To seek funding streams for specific priority projects and to assist owners with the repair and conservation of protected structures and aim to make the structure climate resilient.
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### 9.6.1 Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs)

An Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or townscape that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or contributes to the appreciation of protected structures.

An ACA can be entire streetscapes, a terrace of houses, a town centre or structures associated with a specific building such as a country house. The spatial character of ACAs can be the basis for their designation.

Hence the need to protect elements such as public realm, planting, traditional settlement patterns and building materials, by controlling the nature of alterations and new development.

The protected status of an ACA applies to the exteriors and the streetscape, and any works which would materially affect its character requires planning permission. However, the designation of an area as an ACA is not intended to bring excessive restrictions on development but rather to be a positive influence, to ensure that new development makes a positive contribution to an area that has been identified as being of significant importance. Changes to the buildings or the public realm, signage and public infrastructure can alter the character of an ACA and need to be assessed for the possible impact on its character.

In total, including Drogheda and Dundalk, there are 36 designated Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's) in County Louth which are identified in Table 9.4. The boundaries of the designated ACA's within the County, Drogheda and Dundalk identified in Table 9.4 are mapped and available in Appendix 11, Volume 3.

The designated ACA's within Dundalk are accompanied by Guideline Objectives for development, while the designated ACA's within the County are accompanied by objectives and a brief character appraisal all of which are available in Appendix 11, Volume 3.

A detailed Character Appraisal has been prepared as a guidance document for the Ardee ACA. This is available in Appendix 12, Volume 3. It is intended that further ACA Character Appraisals will be carried out during the lifetime of this Plan, including West Street in Drogheda and Clanbrassil Street in Dundalk.

**Table 9.4: Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's)**

County	Drogheda	Dundalk
Ardee	Bolton Square/Green Lanes	St Mary's Road
Carlingford	Clinton's Lane	Roden Place
Castlebellingham	The Dale	The Crescent
Collon	Fair Street	Clanbrassil Street
Greenore	Laurence's Street	Jocelyn Street / Seatown Place
Monasterboice	Legavoureen Park	Soldiers Point – Coastguard Houses
Newtown – Monasterboice - Clachan	Magdalene Street (North)	Magnet Road/The Demesne
Salterstown	St. Mary's Cottages	The Crescent, Blackrock
Whitestown	Millmount	
Townley Hall Demesne	North Quays/Back Lanes	
Oldbridge Demesne (Co. Meath)	St. Peter's Church and its Environs	
	Railway Terrace	
	Windmill Road (part of)	
	West Street and surrounding shopping streets forming Drogheda's shopping core	
	Leyland Place	
	Ship Street	
	Old Abbey Lane	
	Merchant's Quay	

**Note: ACA guidance as outlined below is available at the following [link](#).**

- Guidelines for works in Architectural Conservation Areas (Appendix 13, Volume 3)
- A Guide to Architectural Conservation Areas in Louth (Appendix 14, Volume 3)
- Development Management Guidelines for ACA (Appendix 15, Volume 3)

**Policy Objective**

**BHC 31** To require that all development proposals within or affecting an Architectural Conservation Area preserve or enhance the character and appearance of that area, protect architectural features of special interest and ensure that the design respects the character of the historic architecture in terms of height, scale, layout, and materials. All development proposals shall have regard to the Architectural Conservation Area objectives in Appendix 11, Volume 3 and objectives contained in applicable Character Appraisals where available.

**Policy Objective**

**BHC 32** To retain any building within an Architectural Conservation Area which makes a positive contribution to the character or appearance of the area. Demolition of such structures, the removal of features and street furniture which contribute to the character of the area shall only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Applications for demolition shall be accompanied by a measured and photographic survey, condition report and architectural heritage assessment.

**Policy Objective**

**BHC 33** To ensure any new service infrastructure (installed by the Local Authority or Public/Private Sector Utility Companies) shall not be located where it will be detrimental to the character of the Architectural Conservation Area.

**Policy Objective**

**BHC 34** To ensure that the protection of architectural features of special interest within an Architectural Conservation Area are retained as part of any proposed re-development. In certain cases development management guidelines may be relaxed in order to secure their conservation.

**Policy Objective**

**BHC 35** To require that any development on the periphery of an Architectural Conservation Area does not detract from the existing character of the designated Architectural Conservation Area.

**Policy Objective**

**BHC 36** To ensure that new trading bays and all associated signage shall not be located where it will be detrimental to the character of the Architectural Conservation Area or any important building or vista in the Architectural Conservation Area.

**Policy Objective**

<b>BHC 37</b>	To retain surviving medieval plots and street patterns in the Architectural Conservation Areas and other towns and villages where in evidence and in the course of development, to record and mark evidence of ancient boundaries and layouts etc.
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**9.7 HISTORIC GARDENS AND DESIGNED LANDSCAPES**

Louth has a rich heritage of gardens and designed landscaped gardens consisting of public parks, private gardens, and landscapes associated with country estates and demesnes. These landscapes often include tree-lined avenues, formal ornamental woods, water-features, planned gardens, terraces and other formal features. In some cases, the house and buildings are no longer extant, but the demesne and designed landscape remains.

The Council recognises the importance of these historic gardens and designed landscapes and their role in providing the setting for protected structures and therefore seeks to ensure that they are protected from encroaching or adjacent development. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) has conducted a field survey, which has listed 93 historic gardens and designed landscapes in County Louth. These are listed in Table 9.5, illustrated on Map 9.4 and are also available on the Buildings of Ireland [website](#).

*Table 9.5 Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes*

	Name	Garden ID	NIAH Buildings	RPS
1.	Allardstown	<a href="#">LH0032</a>	NA	NA
2.	An Grianán (Termonfeckin)	<a href="#">LH0055</a>	<a href="#">13834001</a>	Lhs022-010
3.	Anaverna House	<a href="#">LH0001</a>	<a href="#">13900422</a> - <a href="#">13900425</a>	Lhs004-006 - 006c
4.	Ardee District Hospital (Ardee House) St Joseph's & St Brigid's & Tower House	<a href="#">LH0002</a>	<a href="#">13823032</a> , <a href="#">13823033</a> , <a href="#">13823035</a> , <a href="#">13823036</a>	Lhs017-035, Lhs017-037, Lhs017-038
5.	Arhurstown House	<a href="#">LH0003</a>	NA	NA
6.	Ashville (Funshog)	<a href="#">LH0075</a>	<a href="#">13901702</a> <a href="#">13901703</a>	NA
7.	Ballymascanlan Hotel	<a href="#">LH0004</a>	<a href="#">13900416</a> , <a href="#">13900747</a> - <a href="#">13900753</a> , <a href="#">13900756</a> - <a href="#">13900760</a>	Lhs004-024, Lhs007-007 -Lhs007-013 Lhs007-022 - Lhs007-025
8.	Barmeath Castle	<a href="#">LH0005</a>	<a href="#">13901816</a> , <a href="#">13901817</a>	Lhs018-020
9.	Barronstown Rectory	<a href="#">LH0006</a>	<a href="#">13900604</a>	Lhs006-005
10.	Beaulieu House	<a href="#">LH0007</a>	<a href="#">13902506</a> - <a href="#">13902519</a>	Lhs025-001 Lhs025-002 –Lhs025-002i

	Name	Garden ID	NIAH Buildings	RPS
11.	Bellurgan Park	<a href="#">LH0008</a>	<a href="#">13900746</a>	Lhs007-014
12.	Beltichburne	<a href="#">LH0009</a>	<a href="#">13902528</a> - <a href="#">13902530</a>	Lhs025-018
13.	Black Hall	<a href="#">LH0010</a>	<a href="#">13902207</a> , <a href="#">13902206</a>	Lhs022-003 - Lhs022-004
14.	Braganstown House	<a href="#">LH0011</a>	<a href="#">13901517</a>	Lhs015-048
15.	Cardistown House	<a href="#">LH0076</a>	<a href="#">13901303</a> , <a href="#">13901304</a>	Lhs013-003 Lhs013-004
16.	Carstown House	<a href="#">LH0013</a>	<a href="#">13902116</a> , <a href="#">13902202</a> , <a href="#">13902203</a>	Lhs021-010 Lhs022-027 Lhs022-028
17.	Castlebellingham (Bellingham Castle)	<a href="#">LH0014</a>	<a href="#">13826003</a> , <a href="#">13826005</a> , <a href="#">13826008</a> , <a href="#">13826009</a> , <a href="#">13826010</a> , <a href="#">13826011</a> , <a href="#">13826012</a>	Lhs015-005 Lhs015-006 Lhs015-007 Lhs015-008 Lhs015-009 Lhs015-010 Lhs015-011 Lhs015-033
18.	Castletown House (Castletown Cooley)	<a href="#">LH0077</a>	<a href="#">13900809</a>	Lhs008-015
19.	Catherines Grove (Mullatee Carlingford)	<a href="#">LH0016</a>	NA	NA
20.	Charleville	<a href="#">LH0017</a>	NA	NA
21.	Claret Rock House	<a href="#">LH0018</a>	<a href="#">13900408</a>	NA
22.	Clermont Park	<a href="#">LH0019</a>	<a href="#">13901215</a> , <a href="#">13901216</a>	Lhs012-021 Lhs012-023, Lhs012-027
23.	Clonaleenaghan House	<a href="#">LH0020</a>	<a href="#">13900601</a>	Lhs006-003
24.	Coolestown Stud Greenmount, Kilsaran	<a href="#">LH0038</a>	<a href="#">13901509</a>	Lhs015-045
25.	Corbollis House	<a href="#">LH0022</a>	<a href="#">13901427</a>	Lhs014-029
26.	Corderry House	<a href="#">LH0023</a>	<a href="#">13901115</a>	Lhs011-037
27.	Darver Castle Hotel	<a href="#">LH0024</a>	<a href="#">13901118</a>	Lhs011-028
28.	Dellin House (Dromiskin)	<a href="#">LH0080</a>	<a href="#">13901203</a>	NA
29.	Derryfalone House	<a href="#">LH0025</a>	NA	NA
30.	Doolargy House	<a href="#">LH0063</a>	<a href="#">13900433</a>	Lhs004-038
31.	Dowdstown House	<a href="#">LH0082</a>	<a href="#">13901416</a>	Lhs014-008
32.	Dromin House	<a href="#">LH0081</a>	<a href="#">13901833</a>	Lhs018-003
33.	Dromiskin House	<a href="#">LH0083</a>	<a href="#">13829002</a>	Lhs012-036
34.	Drumcashel House	<a href="#">LH0084</a>	<a href="#">13901402</a> , <a href="#">13901403</a>	Lhs014-011
35.	Drummullagh House	<a href="#">LH0027</a>	<a href="#">13833006</a>	NA

	Name	Garden ID	NIAH Buildings	RPS
36.	Dun Luighaidh Convent	<a href="#">LH0015</a>	<a href="#">13900737</a>	D089, D090, D091, D092
37.	Dunany House	<a href="#">LH0028</a>	<a href="#">139011902</a>	Lhs019-009
38.	Fairhill House	<a href="#">LH0030</a>	NA	NA
39.	Falmore Hall	<a href="#">LH0031</a>	<a href="#">13900401</a>	Lhs004-012
40.	Faughart House	<a href="#">LH0032</a>	NA	NA
41.	Glyde Court, Tallanstown	<a href="#">LH0012</a>	<a href="#">13901425</a>	Lhs014-007
42.	Harristown House, Ardee	<a href="#">LH0039</a>	NA	NA
43.	Icehouse Hill Park (Dundalk House)	<a href="#">LH0029</a>	<a href="#">13704017</a>	D179
44.	Kildemook House, Ardee	<a href="#">LH0036</a>	<a href="#">13901708</a> , <a href="#">13901709</a>	Lhs017-089, Lhs017-090
45.	Killin	<a href="#">LH0040</a>	<a href="#">13900739</a>	Lhs007-001
46.	Killincoole House & Castle, Knockbridge	<a href="#">LH0085</a>	<a href="#">13901116</a>	Lhs011-026
47.	Killineer House	<a href="#">LH0041</a>	<a href="#">13902428</a> , <a href="#">13902429</a> , <a href="#">13902430</a>	Lhs024-003 Lhs024-003b Lhs024-003c
48.	Kiltallaght House	<a href="#">LH0042</a>	NA	NA
49.	Knockabbey Castle	<a href="#">LH0072</a>	<a href="#">13901130</a>	Lhs011-004
50.	Lisnawully House	<a href="#">LH0043</a>	NA	D035
51.	Lisrenny House, Tallanstown	<a href="#">LH0044</a>	<a href="#">13901418</a> , <a href="#">13901419</a>	Lhs014-005 Lhs014-023,
52.	Listoke House, Drogheda	<a href="#">LH0045</a>	<a href="#">13902432</a>	Lhs024-015 Lhs024-018
53.	Louth Hall	<a href="#">LH0046</a>	<a href="#">13901426</a>	Lhs014-004
54.	Maine House	<a href="#">LH0047</a>	NA	NA
55.	Milestown House	<a href="#">LH0048</a>	NA	Lhs015-026
56.	Milltowngrange House	<a href="#">LH0037</a>	<a href="#">13901208</a> , <a href="#">13901209</a>	Lhs012-044, Lhs012-045
57.	Monasterboice House	<a href="#">LH0049</a>	<a href="#">13902101</a> - <a href="#">13902104</a>	Lhs021-001 Lhs021-002 Lhs021-002b Lhs021-002c
58.	Monavallet House	<a href="#">LH0050</a>	<a href="#">13901105</a>	Lhs011-007
59.	Mooremount House	<a href="#">LH0051</a>	NA	NA
60.	Mount Bailey (Carnbeg)	<a href="#">LH0052</a>	NA	NA
61.	Mount Oliver Convent	<a href="#">LH0053</a>	<a href="#">13900414</a>	Lhs004-003
62.	New Mellifont Abbey	<a href="#">LH0021</a>	<a href="#">13828001</a> Collon House	Lhs020-009

	Name	Garden ID	NIAH Buildings	RPS
63.	Newtown Darver	<a href="#">LH0097</a>	<a href="#">13901204</a>	Lhs012-040
64.	Newtown House (Newtownstalaban)	<a href="#">LH0054</a>	<a href="#">13902436</a>	Lhs024-017
65.	Nootka Lodge (Carlingford)	<a href="#">LH0056</a>	NA	NA
66.	Park Hotel Drummullagh, Omeath	<a href="#">LH0095</a>	NA	NA
67.	Park Inn Hotel (Carnbeg)	<a href="#">LH0094</a>	NA	NA
68.	Philipstown House	<a href="#">LH0057</a>	<a href="#">13900603</a>	Lhs006-004
69.	Piperstown House	<a href="#">LH0087</a>	<a href="#">13902112</a>	Lhs021-015
70.	Prospect (Cavan Hill)	<a href="#">LH0058</a>	NA	NA
71.	Rahanna House	<a href="#">LH0065</a>	<a href="#">13901408</a> , <a href="#">13901409</a> , <a href="#">13901410</a>	Lhs014-016,
72.	Rath House	<a href="#">LH0059</a>	<a href="#">13902201</a>	Lhs022-011
73.	Rathbrist House	<a href="#">LH0088</a>	<a href="#">13901121</a>	Lhs011-038
74.	Rathcoole House	<a href="#">LH0060</a>	<a href="#">13901828</a>	Lhs018-047
75.	Rathescar House	<a href="#">LH0061</a>	<a href="#">13901826</a> <a href="#">13901827</a>	Lhs018-001 Lhs018-046
76.	Rathneestin House	<a href="#">LH0089</a>	NA	NA
77.	Ravensdale House (Ravensdale Park)	<a href="#">LH0062</a>	<a href="#">13900419</a> , <a href="#">13900420</a> , <a href="#">1390043</a>	Lhs001-001 Lhs004-027 Lhs004-028, Lhs004-035 Lhs004-040
78.	Red House (Ardee)	<a href="#">LH0064</a>	<a href="#">13901401</a>	Lhs014-006
79.	Richardstown Castle	<a href="#">LH0090</a>	<a href="#">13901712</a> , <a href="#">13901711</a> , <a href="#">13901713</a>	Lhs017-051
80.	Rokeby Hall, Dunleer	<a href="#">LH0066</a>	<a href="#">13901801</a> , <a href="#">13901802</a> , <a href="#">13901803</a> , <a href="#">13901809</a> , <a href="#">13901810</a>	Lhs018-019 Lhs018-019, Lhs018-035, Lhs018-036
81.	Shanlis House	<a href="#">LH0091</a>	<a href="#">13901706</a>	NA
82.	Shortstone House	<a href="#">LH0067</a>	NA	NA
83.	Shortstone West	<a href="#">LH0096</a>	<a href="#">13900305</a>	Lhs003-005
84.	Smarmore Castle Hotel	<a href="#">LH0068</a>	<a href="#">13901701</a>	Lhs017-050
85.	Spencer Hill	<a href="#">LH0034</a>	<a href="#">13901513</a>	Lhs015-047
86.	St. Mary's Hospital (Drumcar)	<a href="#">LH0026</a>	<a href="#">13901503</a>	Lhs015-027
87.	Stephenstown House	<a href="#">LH0069</a>	<a href="#">13901114</a>	Lhs011-042
88.	Stickillin House	<a href="#">LH0098</a>	<a href="#">13901716</a>	NA
89.	Stone House (Mullary Cross, Dunleer)	<a href="#">LH0070</a>	<a href="#">13902110</a>	Lhs021-006

	Name	Garden ID	NIAH Buildings	RPS
90.	The Grove Ballsgrove House & Gate	<a href="#">LH0101</a>	<a href="#">13621018</a> , <a href="#">13621015</a>	DB-219 DB-220
91.	Thistle House	<a href="#">LH0071</a>	<a href="#">13900411</a>	Lhs004-021
92.	Townley Hall	<a href="#">LH0073</a>	<a href="#">13902411</a> , <a href="#">13902412</a> , <a href="#">13902414-13902417</a> , <a href="#">13902419</a>	Lhs025-001a Lhs025-001j
93.	Williamstown House	<a href="#">LH0074</a>	<a href="#">13901511</a> , <a href="#">13901512</a>	Lhs015-003

Map 9.4: Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes



**Policy Objective**

**BHC 38** To ensure new development will not adversely affect the site, setting or views to and from historic gardens and designed landscapes of heritage significance.

**Policy Objective**

**BHC 39** To require proposals for new development in designed landscapes and demesnes include an appraisal of the landscape, designed views and vistas, and an assessment of significant trees or groups of trees, where appropriate, in order to inform site appropriate design proposals.

**Policy Objective**

**BHC 40** To require that proposals for large scale developments within Designed Landscapes and Demesnes to utilise 3D Digital Survey Modelling tools or such other processes/tools acceptable to the Planning Authority, to demonstrate that the proposed development does not adversely affect the site or its setting.

**Policy Objective**

**BHC 41** To have regard to the *'Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines' (2011)* and the *'Guidance Notes for the 'Appraisal of Historic Gardens, Demesnes, Estates and their Settings' (2006)* in the appraisal and description of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, and any subsequent Guidelines.

## 9.8 VERNACULAR HERITAGE

Scattered throughout the countryside and within the towns and villages of County Louth, there is an extensive stock of historic buildings and structures built by local people, using local skills and materials, such as thatch, reflecting the unique local history and character of a place. In architectural terms, they constitute Vernacular Heritage, expressing the culture of a community and forming a vital component of the landscape. While these older buildings may not merit specific designation as Protected Structures, their form, scale, materials and orientation contribute positively to the rural landscape in addition to the towns and villages of Louth, establishing the distinctive character of a particular area. Characteristics of vernacular buildings are as contained in Appendix 16, Volume 3.



Vernacular structures, including thatched cottages, are extremely vulnerable due to the changing needs and demands of the modern generation and many are lost through demolition, replacement, or dereliction and consequently, what was once commonplace is becoming increasingly rare.

The Council will encourage and promote the re-use of vernacular buildings rather than their replacement, while recognising the need for such buildings to evolve and survive.

The loss of vernacular architecture relates not only to the loss of entire structures, but also the gradual attrition of architectural details. Alterations to individual buildings can have a significant and cumulative effect on streetscapes and landscapes. Any changes proposed to a vernacular structure should be sympathetic to its special features and its character, while ensuring its continued use.

### 9.9 HISTORIC BUILDING STOCK

In the interest of sustainability, it is considered that the re-use and adaptation of existing buildings including thatched cottages is preferable to their demolition. The Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015 suggests all public authorities address the re-use of existing building stock, regardless of protected status or otherwise.

#### Policy Objective

<b>BHC 42</b>	To promote, where feasible, the protection, retention, sympathetic maintenance and appropriate revitalisation and use of the vernacular built heritage, including thatched cottages and other structures in both urban and rural areas, which contribute to the streetscape and landscape character and deter the demolition of these structures.
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#### Policy Objective

<b>BHC 43</b>	To maintain and refurbish stone kerbs and paving stones where feasible and where new kerbs are necessary, ensure they are of a high quality and in character with the existing.
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#### Policy Objective

<b>BHC 44</b>	To encourage the re-use and adaptation of existing historic buildings in a manner compatible with their character.
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### 9.10 LINGUISTIC CULTURAL HERITAGE

The 2003 UN Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage recognises the vital role of language in the expression and transmission of living heritage. It notes that all intangible cultural heritage depends on language for its day-to-day vitality, and to ensure it is passed from one generation to the next. Louth has a rich language and literary tradition. The Oriel Irish dialect continued to be spoken in Omeath until just after the middle of the 20th century. In recognition of this, and the increasing numbers of Irish language speakers setting up home in the area, the Omeath branch of Conradh na Gaeilge was set-up in July 2014 to promote the Irish language in Omeath and its surrounding area. The Council recognises the importance of and will support initiatives in promoting the Irish language in the County.

#### Policy Objective

<b>BHC 45</b>	To support initiatives promoting the Irish language within the County.
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