



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".

CHAPTER 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.



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..

9.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE



Archaeological heritage consists of the surviving material remains left behind by past societies and consists of known and as yet unidentified sites, objects and monuments whether situated on land or under water. Archaeology 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, and 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.

The *National Monuments Acts 1930-2014* is the legislative code addressing protection of archaeological heritage, protecting all archaeological objects and wrecks 100 or more years old, or monuments of archaeological or other categories of interest.

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.

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 of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht 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 Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG), 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.
Aghnaskeagh	Two Cairns	Aghnaskeagh	Guardianship	LH004-032 LH004-033	326
Athclare Castle	Castle	Athclare	Guardianship	LH018-040	Unknown
Mansfieldstown	Church	Bawn	Guardianship	LH015-004001-	480
Carlingford Castle	Castle	Carlingford	Guardianship	LH005-042002-	249
The Mint (Carlingford)	Urban Tower House	Carlingford	Guardianship	LH005-042008-	242
Dún Dealgan	Motte	Castletown	Guardianship	LH007-118007-	388
Donaghmore	Souterrain	Donaghmore	Guardianship	LH006-060001, LH006-060002	526
St. Laurence's Gate (Drogheda)	Town Gate	Drogheda	Guardianship	LH024-020	511
Dromiskin	Church & Round Tower	Dromiskin	Ownership	LH012-046001-, LH012-046003-	92
Greenmount	Motte	Greenmount	Ownership	LH015-012001-	144
Carlingford Abbey	Friary (Dominican)	Liberties	Ownership	LH005-042013-	623
Lisnaran Fort	Ringfort	Linns	Guardianship	LH015-015001-	579
Mellifont Abbey	Abbey (Cistercian)	Mellifont	Ownership	LH023-002	93

Name	Description	Townland	Legal Status	RMP No.	National Monument No.
Monasterboice	High Crosses, Churches & Round Tower	Monasterboice	Ownership	LH021-062007, LH021-062003, LH021-062004, LH021-062008, LH021-062009, LH021-062006	94
St. Mochta's House	Church	Priorstate	Guardianship	LH011-115002-	312
Proleek	Portal Tomb & wedge Tomb	Proleek	Guardianship	LH004-074, LH004-075	476
Clochafarmore	Standing Stone	Rathiddy	Guardianship	LH011-020	474
Ravensdale Park	Cairn	Ravensdale Park	Ownership	LH004-004	597
Castleroche	Castle	Castle Roche	Guardianship	LH003-029001	460
Rockmarshall	Court Tomb	Rockmarshall	Ownership	LH008-033	562
Roodstown Castle	Castle	Roodstown	Ownership	LH014-047-	298
Termonfeckin Castle	Castle	Termonfeckin	Ownership	LH022-041012	178
Townleyhall	Passage Tomb	Townleyhall	Ownership	LH024-008002	529

Source: 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	Casteltowncooley	LH008-054001; LH008-054002
2/1971	Lisnaran Fort	Linns	LH015-015001; LH015-015002; LH015-015003

PO No.	Description	Townland	RMP No.
2/1999	Dwelling	Milltown	Louth LH018-052
16/1977	Barrow	Milltown	LH021-037
05/1932	St. Mochtha'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 Draft Louth County Development Plan are referred to as Zones of Archaeological Potential, 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 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 Appendix 10, Volume 3. 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 Appendix 10, Volume 3. 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

BHC 1	To protect archaeological sites and monuments, underwater archaeology, and archaeological objects which are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), and seek their preservation (i.e. preservation in situ or in exceptional cases preservation by record) through the planning process and having regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
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Policy Objective

BHC 2	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

BHC 3	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

BHC 4	To protect and preserve in situ all surviving elements of medieval town defences as detailed in the Conservation and Management Plans available.
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Policy Objective

BHC 5	To retain the surviving medieval street pattern, building lines and burgage plot widths in historic walled towns.
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Policy Objective

BHC 6	To require, as part of the development management process, archaeological impact assessments, geophysical surveys, test excavations and/or 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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9.3.3 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.

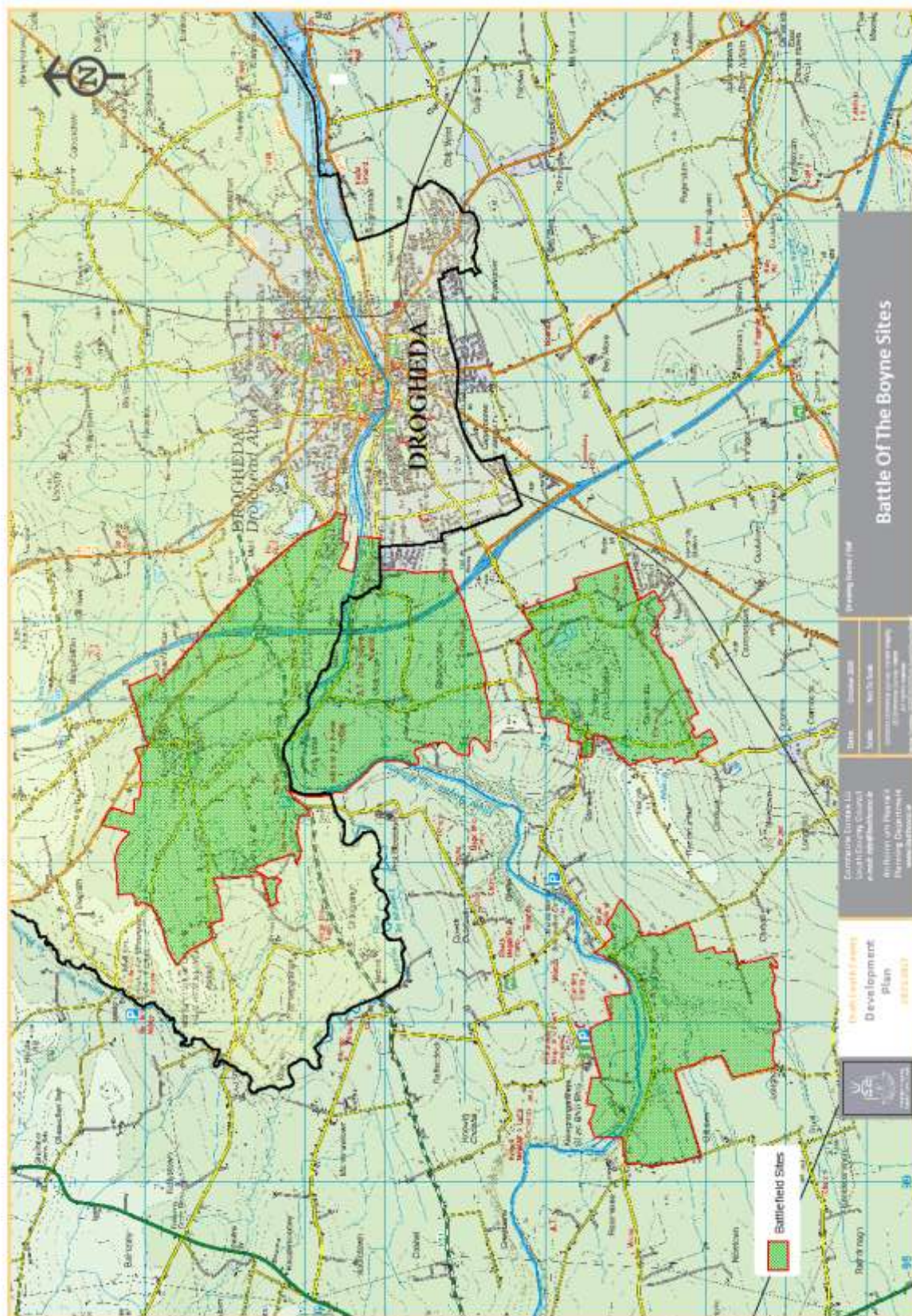
Policy Objective

BHC 7	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

BHC 8	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 The Irish Battlefields Project.
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Map 9.1: Battle of the Boyne Sites



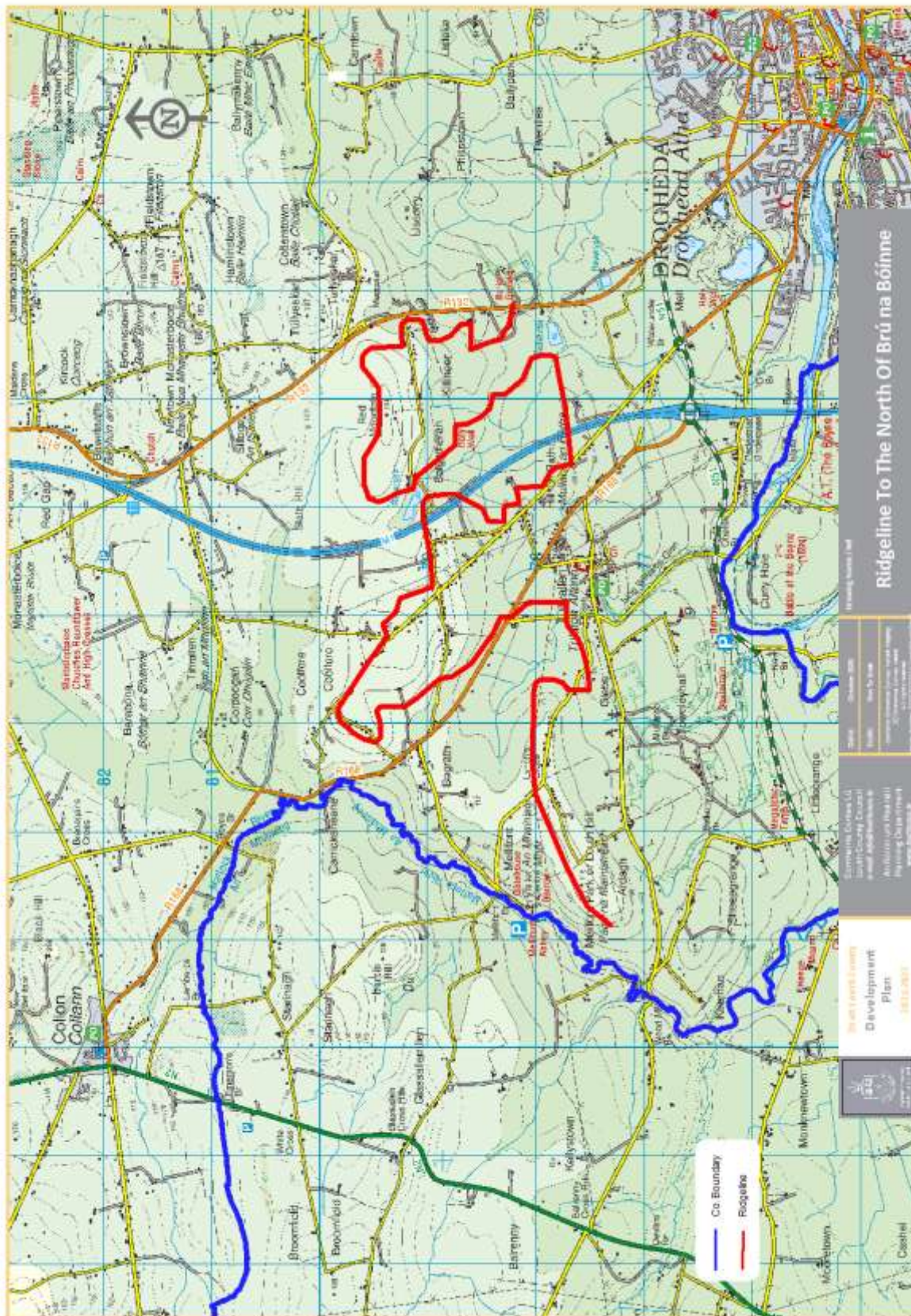
9.3.4 UNESCO World Heritage Site – Brú na Bóinne

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



9.3.5 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.

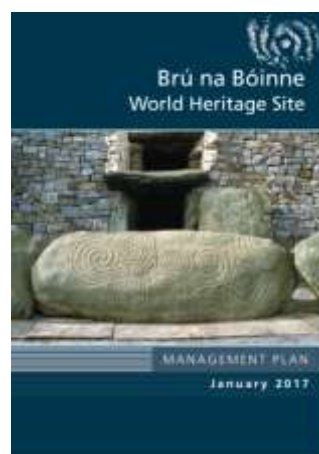
Criterion (iv): The passage grave, here brought to its finest expression, was a feature of outstanding importance in prehistoric Europe and beyond.

9.3.5.1 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 (2013), every site contained on the World Heritage list, is required to have a management plan explaining how the Outstanding Universal Value is to be maintained. The current *Brú na Bóinne Management Plan, 2017* which is a non-statutory plan, was submitted to UNESCO by the Department of Heritage, Culture and the Gaeltacht.

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

BHC 9	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

BHC 10	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

BHC 11	To protect the northern ridgeline (Map 13.1, Chapter 13) 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

BHC 12	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

BHC 13	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 Draft Development 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 Draft Plan.

As it is an objective of this Draft 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).



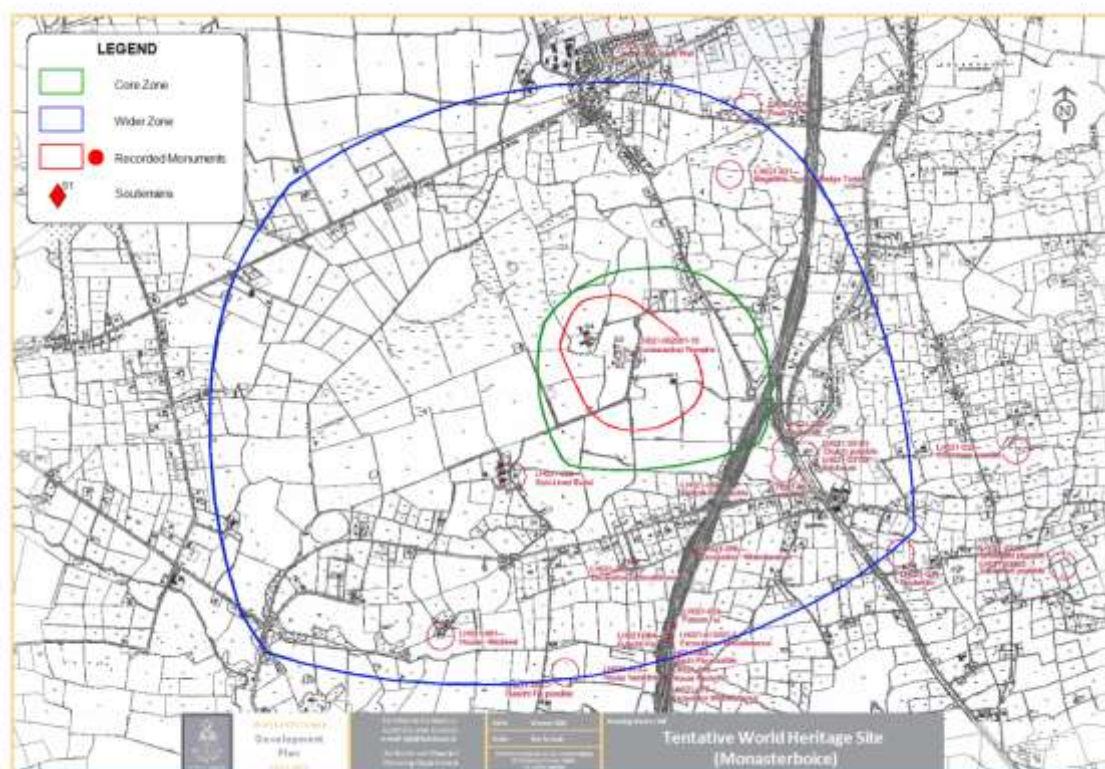
While formal designation of Monasterboice and other sites is likely to be many years away, it is important that this Draft Plan protects the landscape and other values contributing to the site's nomination and ensure that this is not damaged in any way. The Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht 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 14	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.
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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

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 principal 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 Draft 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;
- Carried out in accordance with best practice Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities and supervised by an appropriately qualified professional.

Policy Objective

BHC 15	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

BHC 16	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

BHC 17	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

BHC 18	To require that all planning applications relating to protected structures contain the appropriate documentation as described in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011) or any variation thereof, to enable a proper assessment of the proposed works and their impact on the structure or area.
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Policy Objective

BHC 19	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

BHC 20	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

BHC 21	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

BHC 22	To permit the demolition or significant modification of a protected structure, only in exceptional circumstances.
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Policy Objective

BHC 23	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

BHC 24	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

BHC 25	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 (ACA's)

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 ACA's can be the basis for their designation.

Hence the need to protect the 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 life-time 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 26	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.
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Policy Objective

BHC 27	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.
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Policy Objective

BHC 28	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.
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Policy Objective

BHC 29	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.
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Policy Objective

BHC 30	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.
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Policy Objective

BHC 31	To ensure that the 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.
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Policy Objective

BHC 32	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

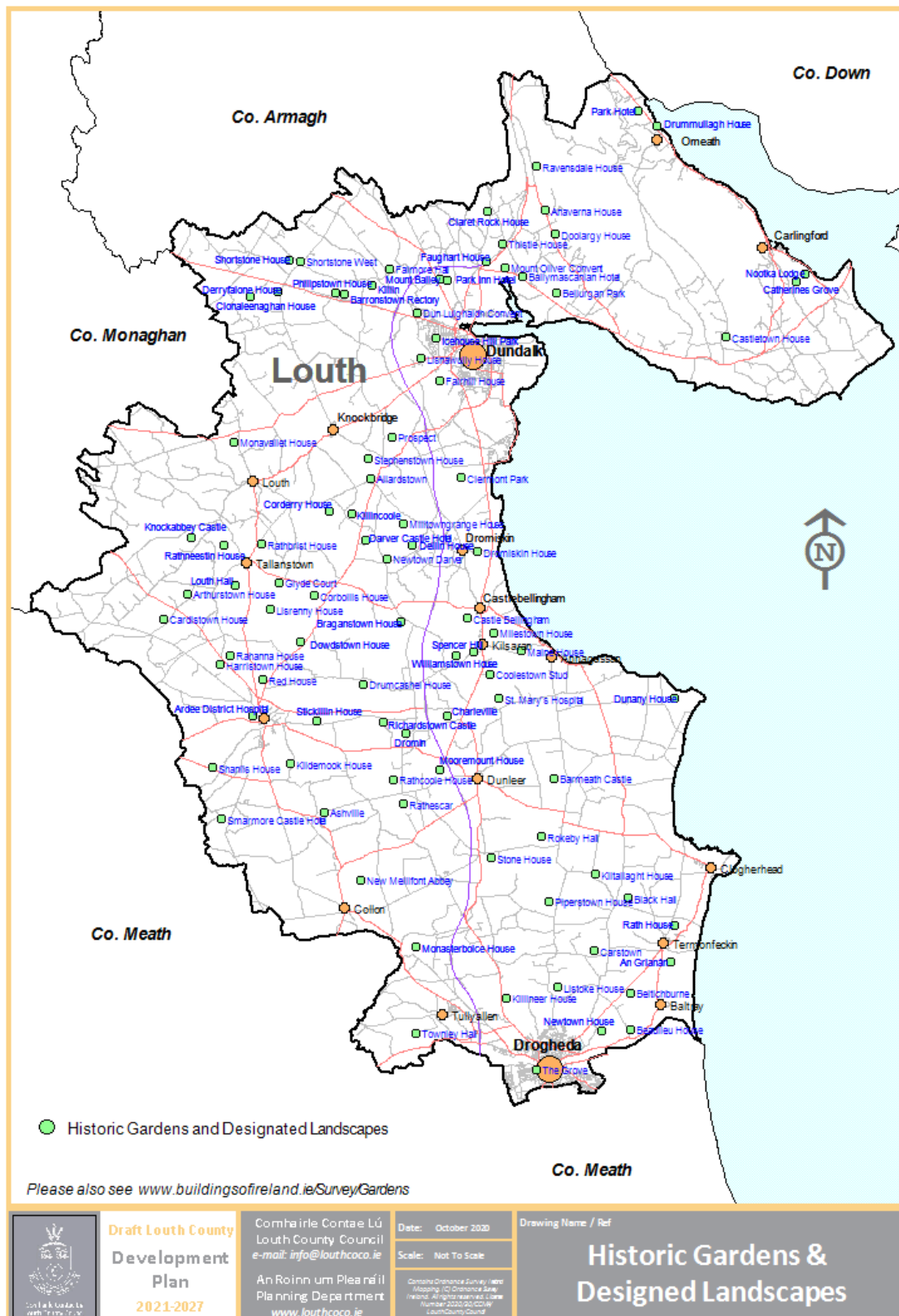
	Name	Garden ID	NIAH Buildings	RPS
1.	Allardstown	LH0032	NA	NA
2.	An Grianán (Termonfeckin)	LH0055	13834001	Lhs022-010
3.	Anaverna House	LH0001	13900422 - 13900425	Lhs004-006 - 006c
4.	Ardee District Hospital (Ardee House) St Joseph's & St Brigid's & Tower House	LH0002	13823032 , 13823033 , 13823035 , 13823036	Lhs017-035, Lhs017 -037, Lhs017- 038
5.	Arthurstown House	LH0003	NA	NA
6.	Ashville (Funshog)	LH0075	13901702 13901703	NA
7.	Ballymascanlan Hotel	LH0004	13900416 , 13900747 - 13900753 , 13900756 - 13900760	Lhs004-024, Lhs007-007 -Lhs007- 013 Lhs007-022 - Lhs007- 025
8.	Barmeath Castle	LH0005	13901816 , 13901817	Lhs018-020
9.	Barronstown Rectory	LH0006	13900604	Lhs006-005
10.	Beaulieu House	LH0007	13902506 - 13902519	Lhs025-001 Lhs025-002 - Lhs025- 002i
11.	Bellurgan Park	LH0008	13900746	Lhs007-014
12.	Beltichburne	LH0009	13902528 - 13902530	Lhs025-018
13.	Black Hall	LH0010	13902207 , 13902206	Lhs022-003 - Lhs022- 004
14.	Braganstown House	LH0011	13901517	Lhs015-048
15.	Cardistown House	LH0076	13901303 , 13901304	Lhs013-003 Lhs013-004

	Name	Garden ID	NIAH Buildings	RPS
16.	Carstown House	LH0013	13902116 , 13902202 , 13902203	Lhs021-010 Lhs022-027 Lhs022-028
17.	Castlebellingham (Bellingham Castle)	LH0014	13826003 , 13826005 , 13826008 , 13826009 , 13826010 , 13826011 , 13826012	Lhs015-005 Lhs015-006 Lhs015-007 Lhs015-008 Lhs015-009 Lhs015-010 Lhs015-011 Lhs015-033
18.	Castletown House (Castletown Cooley)	LH0077	13900809	Lhs008-015
19.	Catherines Grove (Mullatee Carlingford)	LH0016	NA	NA
20.	Charleville	LH0017	NA	NA
21.	Claret Rock House	LH0018	13900408	NA
22.	Clermont Park	LH0019	13901215 , 13901216	Lhs012-021 Lhs012-023, Lhs012-027
23.	Clonaleenaghan House	LH0020	13900601	Lhs006-003
24.	Coolestown Stud Greenmount, Kilsaran	LH0038	13901509	Lhs015-045
25.	Corbollis House	LH0022	13901427	Lhs014-029
26.	Corderry House	LH0023	13901115	Lhs011-037
27.	Darver Castle Hotel	LH0024	13901118	Lhs011-028
28.	Dellin House (Dromiskin)	LH0080	13901203	NA
29.	Derryfalone House	LH0025	NA	NA
30.	Doolargy House	LH0063	13900433	Lhs004-038
31.	Dowdstown House	LH0082	13901416	Lhs014-008
32.	Dromin House	LH0081	13901833	Lhs018-003
33.	Dromiskin House	LH0083	13829002	Lhs012-036
34.	Drumcashel House	LH0084	13901402 , 13901403	Lhs014-011
35.	Drummullagh House	LH0027	13833006	NA
36.	Dun Luighaidh Convent	LH0015	13900737	D089, D090, D091, D092
37.	Dunany House	LH0028	139011902	Lhs019-009
38.	Fairhill House	LH0030	NA	NA
39.	Falmore Hall	LH0031	13900401	Lhs004-012
40.	Faughart House	LH0032	NA	NA

	Name	Garden ID	NIAH Buildings	RPS
41.	Glyde Court, Tallanstown	LH0012	13901425	Lhs014-007
42.	Harristown House, Ardee	LH0039	NA	NA
43.	Icehouse Hill Park (Dundalk House)	LH0029	13704017	D179
44.	Kildemook House, Ardee	LH0036	13901708 , 13901709	Lhs017-089, Lhs017-090
45.	Killin	LH0040	13900739	Lhs007-001
46.	Killincoole House & Castle, Knockbridge	LH0085	13901116	Lhs011-026
47.	Killineer House	LH0041	13902428 , 13902429 , 13902430	Lhs024-003 Lhs024-003b Lhs024-003c
48.	Kiltallaght House	LH0042	NA	NA
49.	Knockabbey Castle	LH0072	13901130	Lhs011-004
50.	Lisnawully House	LH0043	NA	D035
51.	Lisrenny House, Tallanstown	LH0044	13901418 , 13901419	Lhs014-005 Lhs014-023,
52.	Listoke House, Drogheda	LH0045	13902432	Lhs024-015 Lhs024-018
53.	Louth Hall	LH0046	13901426	Lhs014-004
54.	Maine House	LH0047	NA	NA
55.	Milestown House	LH0048	NA	Lhs015-026
56.	Milltowngrange House	LH0037	13901208 , 13901209	Lhs012-044, Lhs012-045
57.	Monasterboice House	LH0049	13902101 - 13902104	Lhs021-001 Lhs021-002 Lhs021-002b Lhs021-002c
58.	Monavallet House	LH0050	13901105	Lhs011-007
59.	Mooremount House	LH0051	NA	NA
60.	Mount Bailey (Carnbeg)	LH0052	NA	NA
61.	Mount Oliver Convent	LH0053	13900414	Lhs004-003
62.	New Mellifont Abbey	LH0021	13828001 Collon House	Lhs020-009
63.	Newtown Darver	LH0097	13901204	Lhs012-040
64.	Newtown House (Newtownstalaban)	LH0054	13902436	Lhs024-017
65.	Nootka Lodge (Carlingford)	LH0056	NA	NA
66.	Park Hotel Drummullagh, Omeath	LH0095	NA	NA
67.	Park Inn Hotel (Carnbeg)	LH0094	NA	NA

	Name	Garden ID	NIAH Buildings	RPS
68.	Philipstown House	LH0057	13900603	Lhs006-004
69.	Piperstown House	LH0087	13902112	Lhs021-015
70.	Prospect (Cavan Hill)	LH0058	NA	NA
71.	Rahanna House	LH0065	13901408 , 13901409 , 13901410	Lhs014-016,
72.	Rath House	LH0059	13902201	Lhs022-011
73.	Rathbrist House	LH0088	13901121	Lhs011-038
74.	Rathcoole House	LH0060	13901828	Lhs018-047
75.	Rathescar House	LH0061	13901826 13901827	Lhs018-001 Lhs018-046
76.	Rathneestin House	LH0089	NA	NA
77.	Ravensdale House (Ravensdale Park)	LH0062	13900419 , 13900420 , 1390043	Lhs001-001 Lhs004-027 Lhs004-028, Lhs004-035 Lhs004-040
78.	Red House (Ardee)	LH0064	13901401	Lhs014-006
79.	Richardstown Castle	LH0090	13901712 , 13901711 , 13901713	Lhs017-051
80.	Rokeby Hall, Dunleer	LH0066	13901801 , 13901802 , 13901803 , 13901809 , 13901810	Lhs018-019 Lhs018-019, Lhs018-035, Lhs018-036
81.	Shanlis House	LH0091	13901706	NA
82.	Shortstone House	LH0067	NA	NA
83.	Shortstone West	LH0096	13900305	Lhs003-005
84.	Smarmore Castle Hotel	LH0068	13901701	Lhs017-050
85.	Spencer Hill	LH0034	13901513	Lhs015-047
86.	St. Mary's Hospital (Drumcar)	LH0026	13901503	Lhs015-027
87.	Stephenstown House	LH0069	13901114	Lhs011-042
88.	Stickillin House	LH0098	13901716	NA
89.	Stone House (Mullary Cross, Dunleer)	LH0070	13902110	Lhs021-006
90.	The Grove Ballsgrove House & Gate	LH0101	13621018 , 13621015	DB-219 DB-220
91.	Thistle House	LH0071	13900411	Lhs004-021
92.	Townley Hall	LH0073	13902411 , 13902412 , 13902414 - 13902417 , 13902419	Lhs025-001a Lhs025-001j
93.	Williamstown House	LH0074	13901511 , 13901512	Lhs015-003

Map 9.4: Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes



Policy Objective

BHC 33	To ensure new development will not adversely affect the site, setting or views to and from historic gardens and designed landscapes of heritage significance.
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Policy Objective

BHC 34	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.
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Policy Objective

BHC 35	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.
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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

BHC 36	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

BHC 37	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

BHC 38	To encourage the re-use and adaption of existing historic buildings in a manner compatible with their character.
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