

Chapter 2 Conservation and Heritage

2.1 Introduction

The *Louth County Development Plan 2003 – 2009* did much to highlight the County's rich architectural heritage and archaeology. This included the designation of protected structures and architectural conservation areas. The council actively promoted an integrated and pragmatic approach to the conservation of historic buildings and in so doing highlighted the appreciation of our architectural heritage by promoting best practice, disseminating information, and looking at buildings within their wider context. The highest standards of conservation practice were encouraged through the provision of grant-aid, advice and information. This has resulted in County Louth, by and large, retaining its rich legacy of built forms, all of which ultimately contribute to economic regeneration by attracting outside visitors and highlighting the county's heritage value.

2.2 Wider Benefits of Maintaining a Quality Natural and Built Heritage

Our built and natural heritage, whilst having its own high intrinsic value to the nation as a whole, also increasingly has an economic value based on its potential to attract visitor spend to particular areas. This is especially true of County Louth with its high concentration of both natural and manmade heritage attractors, all located within a relatively small area and within easy reach of the large urban markets of both Dublin and Belfast. The *Faillte Ireland Statement of Strategy 2008 – 2010* notes that the future tourist market is likely to bring more active older travellers seeking quality experiences and with an interest in heritage, culture and environmentally-based tourism. The market, in general, is likely to want short breaks, city breaks and customised holidays, tailored to personal leisure or activity interests. It is vital that the development plan protects the sensitive natural and built environment as a vital component of Louth's appeal as a tourist destination.

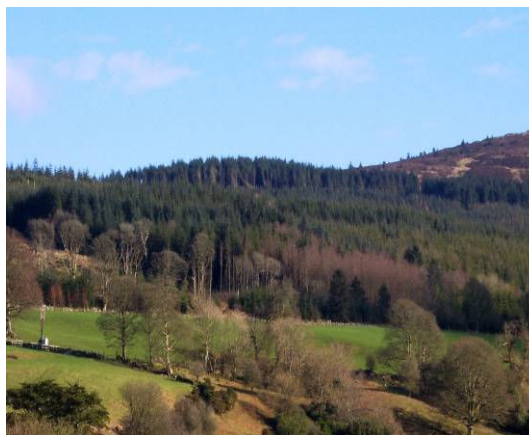


2.3 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity

Louth contains numerous natural assets including an extensive coastline stretching from Carlingford Lough to the Boyne Estuary, marine environments, wetlands, woodlands, rivers and upland habitats. Together, these support a rich variety of plant and animal species. The county is an important destination for wildlife, with Dundalk Bay being the top internationally important location for migratory wading birds in Ireland. An area equivalent to more than a seventh of the county, including marine and tidal areas, such as the Boyne Estuary, is designated under Irish and European

legislation for wildlife protection. In addition some of the upland areas in the Cooley peninsula are recognised as being some of the most beautiful and unspoilt in the country.

These resources define the county's character. In many cases, they are non-renewable and are becoming increasingly vulnerable due to infrastructure and development needs. It is considered that their unsustainable usage would cause irreparable damage to the county's economic prospects in the long term.



The Plan has a fundamental role in facilitating development whilst protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment.

2.3.1 Heritage

Heritage is defined under the *Heritage Act 1995* as items such as monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks and inland waterways.

The *National Heritage Plan 2002* sets out a vision for the management of the National Heritage and its aim is to “ensure the protection of our heritage and to promote its enjoyment by all”. A key objective of the *National Heritage Plan* is to promote the role that local communities play in protecting and enhancing local heritage. This is achieved through the preparation and adoption of local heritage plans by the local authority in which the public have an opportunity to input.



2.3.2 Louth Heritage Plan 2007 – 2011

The *Louth Heritage Plan 2007 – 2011* is a strategic framework plan which aims to co-ordinate the conservation, management and sympathetic development of the county's heritage. It comprises a five year joint work plan for a partnership of many individuals and organisations with an involvement in Louth's heritage. These projects include to date:

- A conservation plan for Drogheda's Town Walls and other defences
- A conservation and management plan for Carlingford's Town Walls and other defences, and

- *Louth Biodiversity Action Plan, 2008 - 2012*

Policy

- CON 1 To promote the implementation of the *Louth Heritage Plan*.
- CON 2 To promote greater involvement by landowners in the conservation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).
- CON 3 To raise awareness of the value of biodiversity and gather important information on the ecology of species and habitats.
- CON 4 To promote the designation of sites of geological interest as Natural Heritage Areas.
- CON 5 To promote the protection of the landscape through the implementation of the *Louth Landscape Character Assessment*.
- CON 6 To consider the designation of Landscape Conservation Areas to protect specific important landscapes.
- CON 7 To co-operate with the Regional Planning Authority and adjoining local authorities, public agencies and community interests to protect regionally significant heritage assets, environmental quality and to identify threats to existing environmental quality in a transboundary context throughout the region.

2.4 Landscape Character Assessment

In 2002, a landscape character assessment was completed for the entire county outside the major towns. This assessment was prepared in accordance with draft guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government. The aim of these guidelines is to:

- Heighten the awareness of the importance of landscape in all aspects of physical planning
- Provide guidance to planners and to others, as to how landscape considerations should be dealt with in development management decisions
- Indicate specific requirements for development plans and development centres.

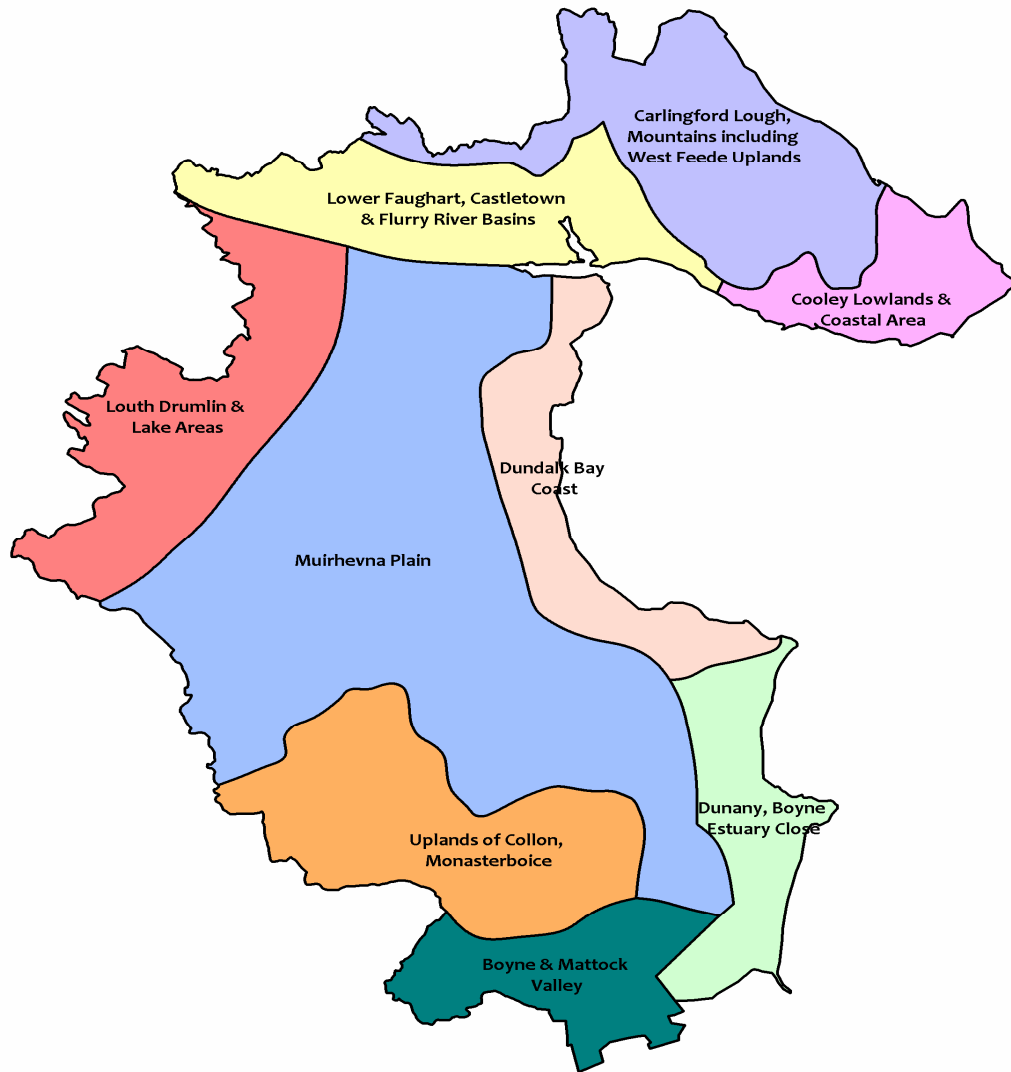
Nine landscape character areas were identified in County Louth. They represent geographical areas with a particular landscape type or types, and are listed in table 2.1 and identified on map 2.1 below.

Table 2.1: Landscape Area Classification

International	Carlingford Lough and Mountains including West Feede Uplands
National	Boyne and Mattock Valley
Regional	Dundalk Bay Coast, Dunany to Boyne Estuary Coast, Uplands of Collon and Monasterboice

Local	Cooley Lowlands and Coastal Area Lower Faughart, Castletown and Flurry River Basins, Louth Drumlin and Lake Areas Muirhevna Plain
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Map 2.1: Landscape Character Areas



Source: Landscape Character Assessment 2002, Louth County Council

The classification of each landscape character area is based on a matrix of the following factors:

1. Landscape quality – the interactions of the landscape and the condition of features and elements.
2. Scenic quality – landscapes which appeal primarily to the visual senses.
3. Rarity – the presence of rare features and elements in the landscape.
4. Conservation Interests – the presence of features and particular wildlife, earth science, archaeological, historical and cultural interest which can add to the value of a landscape as well as having value in their own right.

5. Wildness – the presence of wild character within the landscape which makes a particular contribution to a sense of place.
6. Recreational opportunity – the degree of open-air recreation within the landscape in proximity to centres of population.
7. Cultural association – with particular people, artists, writers, historical events, legends etc.
8. Tranquillity – relates to low levels of built environment, traffic, noise and where artificial lighting (public and private) is at a minimum.
9. Stakeholder representative – whether the landscape contains a particular character and/or features and elements which are felt by stakeholders to be worthy of representation (stakeholder describes the entire range of individuals and groups who have an interest in the landscape).

Agriculture, increased population, forestry, rural housing, new roads, industrial and commercial development, tourism and recreation, overhead lines, telecommunication masts, wind farms, and quarrying are perceived in this study as the major forces for change in these rural landscapes.

Policy

- CON 8** To afford protection to the landscapes and natural environments of the county, by permitting only those forms of development that are considered sustainable in rural areas and do not unduly damage or take from the character of the landscape or natural environment.
- CON 9** To co-operate with adjoining local authorities, both north and south of the border, to ensure that the environment is maintained in a sustainable manner and to support the co-ordinated designation of sensitive landscapes and policy approaches with adjoining areas.

2.5 Biodiversity

Biodiversity or biological diversity refers to the whole variety of life on earth. It includes habitats and ecosystems, covering all plants, animals and micro-organisms both on land and in water. It relates to both wildlife and domesticated crops and animals.

2.5.1 EU Policy on Biodiversity

Over the last 25 years, the European Union has built up a vast network of over 26,000 protected areas covering all the Member States and a total area of around 850,000 km², representing more than 20% of total EU territory. This vast array of sites, known as the *Natura 2000 Network* - the largest coherent network of protected areas in the world, is a testament to the importance that the EU attach to biodiversity. The legal basis for the Natura 2000 Network comes from the *Birds Directive* which dates back to 1979 and the *Habitats Directive* from 1991. Together these Directives constitute the backbone of the EU's internal policy on biodiversity protection.

The *Convention on Biological Diversity*, which Ireland has signed and ratified and the *National Biodiversity Plan* aim to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. The *National Biodiversity Plan 2002* requires all local authorities to prepare local biodiversity plans.

The *Biodiversity Action Plan for Louth 2008 –2012* sets out five main objectives:

- To create a system for the protection of local biodiversity areas
- To integrate biodiversity and local authority activities
- To raise awareness and appreciation
- To gather information on Louth's natural resources
- To monitor the effectiveness of the *Biodiversity Action Plan*.

Policy

CON 10 To promote and develop the objectives of the *Biodiversity Action Plan for Louth 2008 - 2012*.

2.6 The Natural Environment

2.6.1 Local Amenities

Local open spaces provide essential visual breaks in built up areas, contribute to local amenity, can assist in nature conservation and are capable of meeting recreational and community needs. It is important, not only to protect open space from inappropriate development, but also to ensure that opportunities are taken to improve their amenity value and increase public access and use.

2.6.2 Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA)

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has proposed twenty-four NHAs in the county. NHAs are sites that support elements of our natural heritage which are unique or are of outstanding importance at a national level. These are listed in table 2.2 and identified on map 2.2. The process of designation of these sites is ongoing, with new sites being added and boundaries of existing sites adjusted. It is anticipated that a number of proposed NHAs will be given full designated status during the course of this plan.



Map 2.2: Location and Extent of proposed Natural Heritage Areas

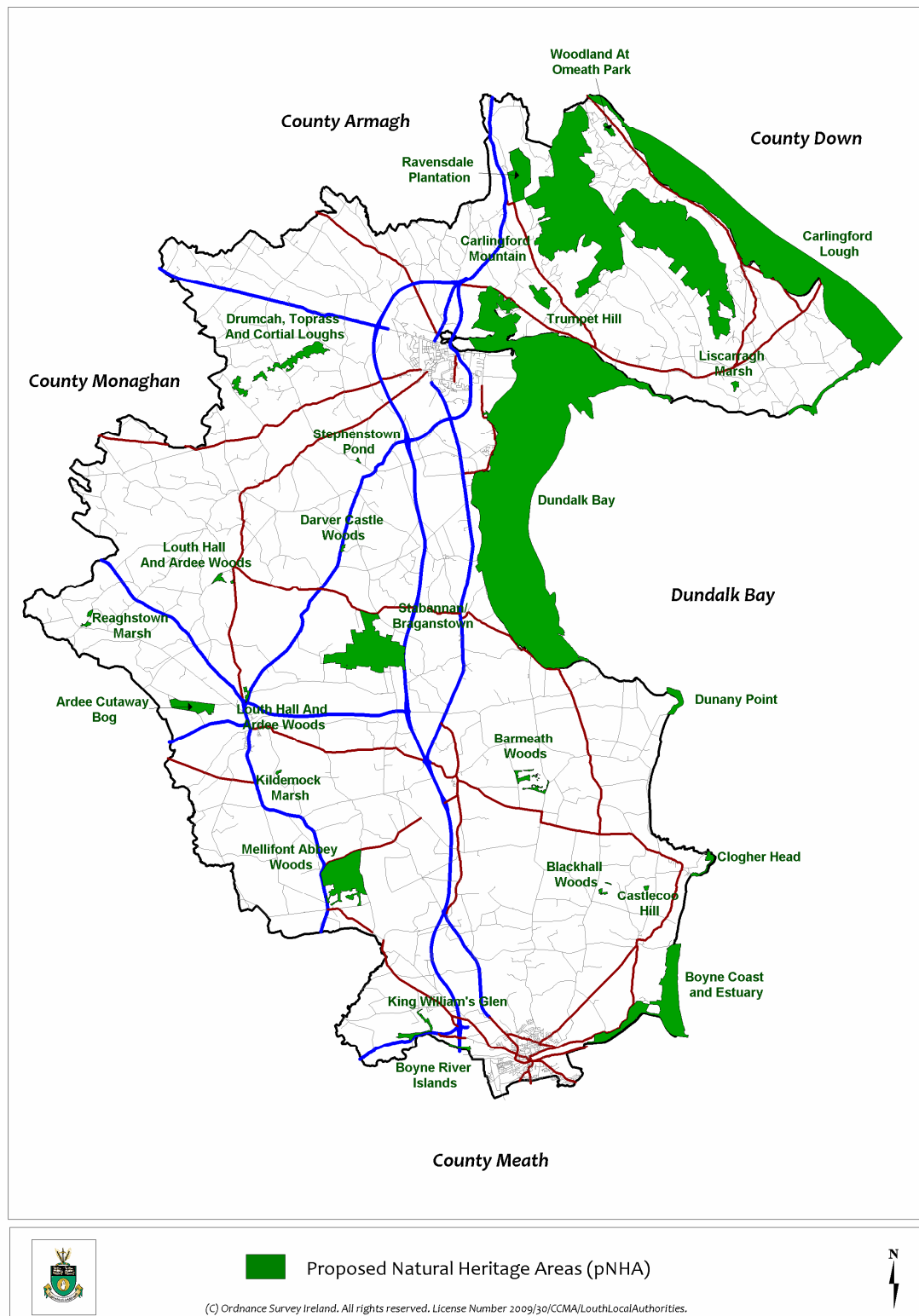


Table 2.2: Proposed Natural Heritage Areas

Ref.	Location
NH1454	Ardee cutaway bog
NH1801	Barmeath Woods
NH1293	Blackhall Woods
NH1957	Boyne coast and estuary
NH1862	Boyne river islands
NH452	Carlingford Lough
NH453	Carlingford Mountains
NH1458	Castlecoo Hill
NH1459	Clogherhead
NH1461	Darver Castle woods
NH1462	Drumcah, Toprass and Cortial Loughs
NH1856	Dunany Point
NH 455	Dundalk Bay
NH1806	Kildemock Marsh
NH1804	King Williams Glen
NH1451	Liscarragh Marsh
NH1616	Louth Hall and Ardee Woods
NH1464	Mellifont Abbey Woods
NH1805	Ravensdale Plantation
NH1828	Reaghstown Marsh
NH456	Stabannan- Braganstown
NH1803	Stephenstown Pond
NH1468	Trumpet Hill
NH1465	Woodland at Omeath Park

Policy

CON 11 To resist any development that would be harmful to or that would result in a significant deterioration of habitats or disturbance of species.

2.6.3 Sites of Geological Interest

The National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Geological Heritage Programme acting in partnership, have selected the most important candidate geological sites in the county. Some of these candidate sites will eventually become Natural Heritage areas but others will only qualify as County Geological Sites or Local Biodiversity Areas. The location of these sites is illustrated on map 2.3 in appendix 3.

Table 2.3: Candidate sites of Geological Interest

Ref.	Location
G1	Oriel Brook, Collon
G2	Clogherhead
G3	Collon Quarry
G4	Tullyallen Quarry
G5	Mapastown
G6	Dunany Point
G7	Cooley Point
G8	Cloghmore
G9	Carlingford
G10	Port
G11	Lins Moraine, Dundalk Bay
G12	Rathmore Complex
G13	Drakestown
G14	Tullyallen
G15	Castlebellingham Shore
G16	Dundalk Bay
G17	Trumpet Hill
G18	Dromeena Quarry
G19	Salterstown
G20	Windy Gap at Carlingford
G21	Rampark
G22	Cooley Castle Quarry
G23	Clogher Head Lamprophyre
G24	Barnavave Hill
G25	Slieve Foy
G26	Barnavave Quarry
G27	Mullaghattin
G28	John's Castle
G29	Rosemount Quarry
G30	Templetown Raised Beach
G31	Greenore
G32	Ardee Moraine Ridges
G33	Castlebellingham Morainic Complex
G34	Bush Delta

Policy

CON 12 To promote awareness and protect, where appropriate, areas of geological interest.

2.6.4 European Sites

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have been established under the *EU Habitats Directive* (Council Directive 92/43/EC 21/5/1992). These are the prime wildlife conservation areas in the country which are considered to be important on a European as well as Irish level. County Louth contains six SACs which are listed in the table 2.4 and illustrated on map 2.4.

Map 2.4: Location and Extent of SACs

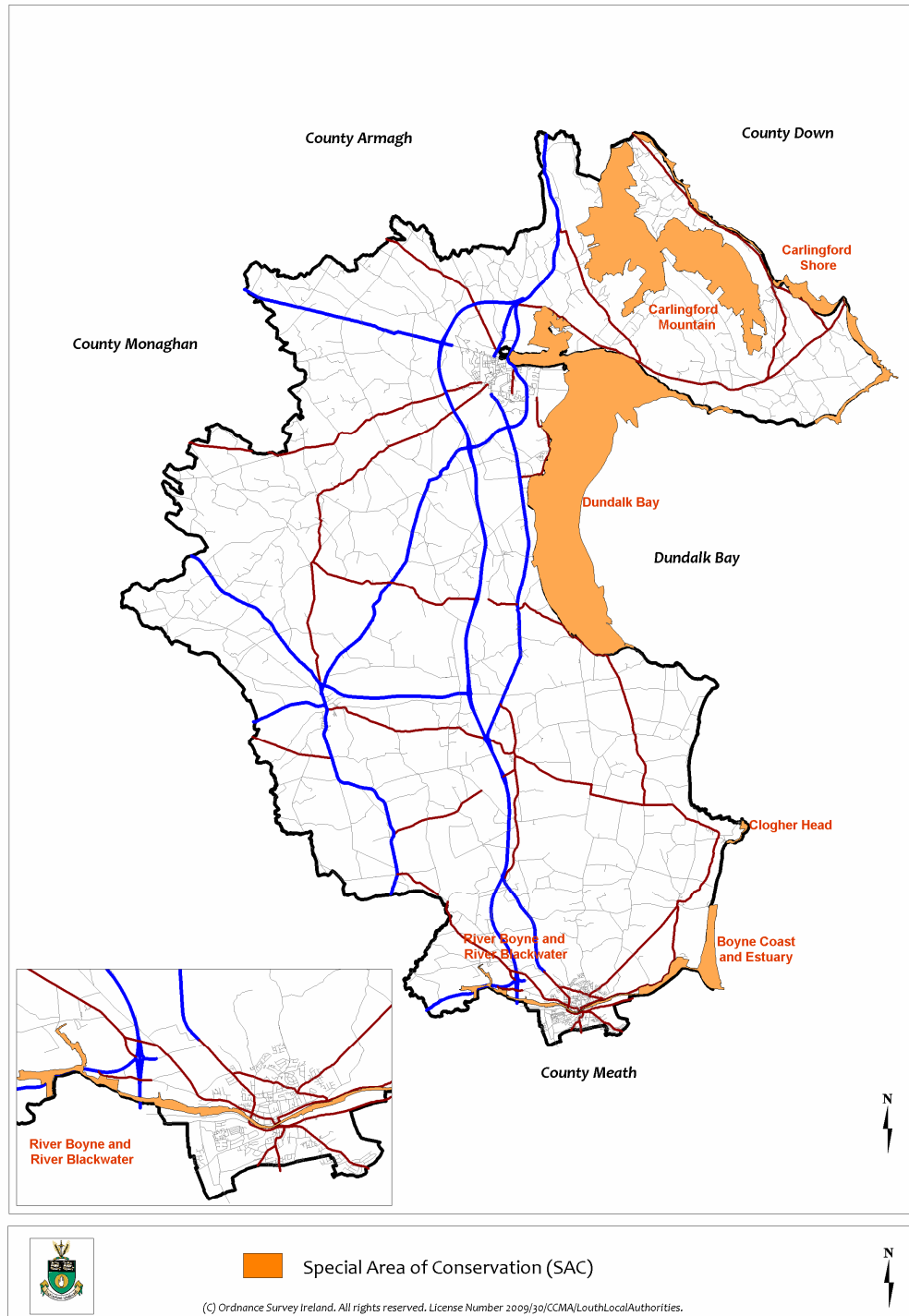


Table 2.4: Special Areas of Conservation

Carlingford Shore
Carlingford Mountain
Dundalk Bay
Clogherhead
Boyne Coast and Estuary
River Boyne and River Blackwater

Policy

- CON 13** To ensure that an appropriate assessment* of the implications of any proposed development on a SAC or development likely to impact on a SAC that is outside the designated area or any other SAC identified during the period of this plan is undertaken in view of the sites conservation objectives.
- CON 14** To resist any development that would be harmful or that would result in a significant deterioration of habitats or disturbance of species in a SAC.

**Appropriate assessment in this instance refers for the requirement of an assessment of the proposal by suitably qualified persons.*

The European Community Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC) requires member states to preserve a sufficient diversity of habitats for wild birds to maintain populations which are listed as rare, vulnerable or regularly occurring migratory species. This is to be achieved through the designation of Special Protection Areas. County Louth has four SPAs which are listed in table 2.5 and illustrated by map 2.5.



Map 2.5: Location and Boundaries of SPAs

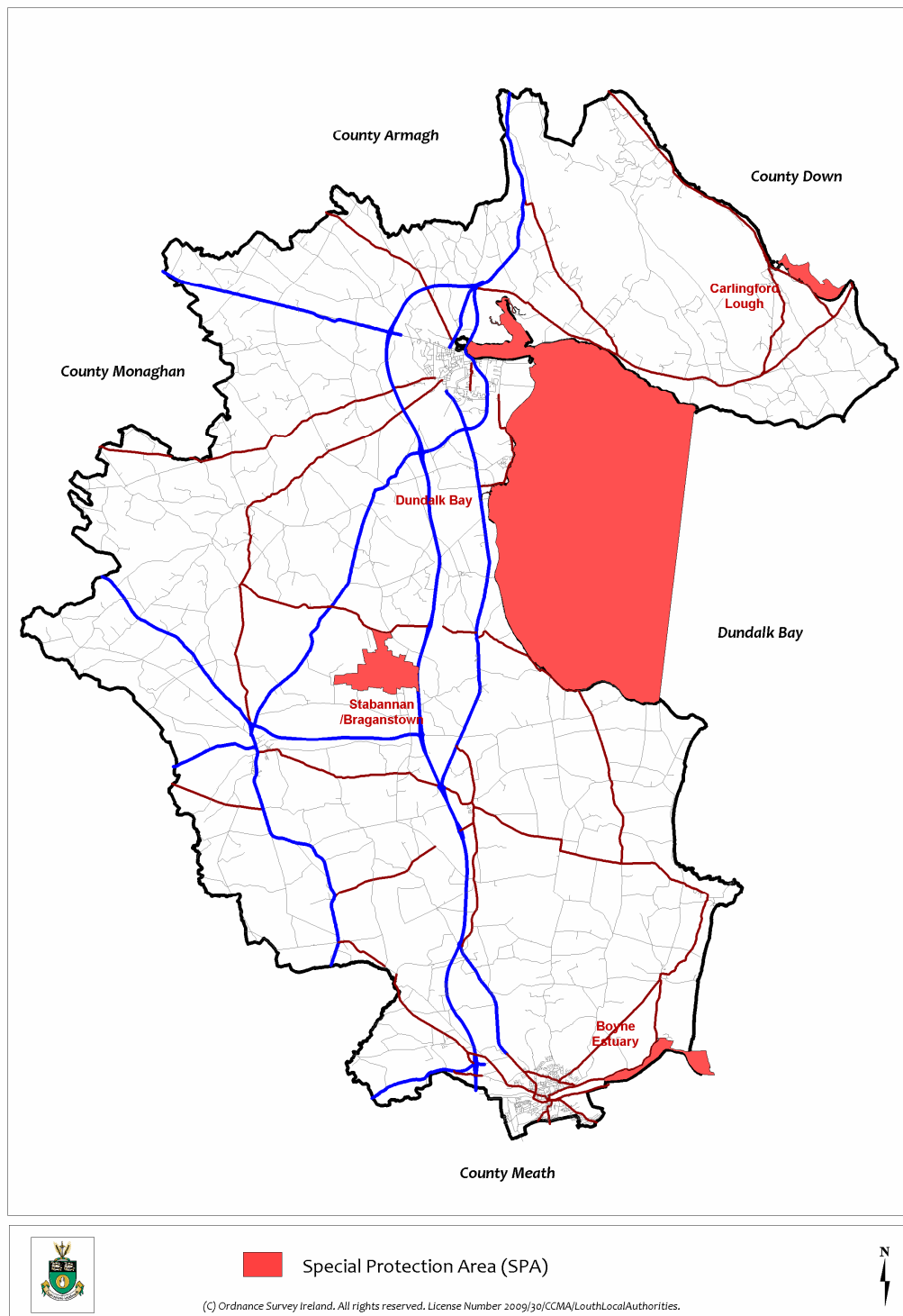


Table 2.5: Special Protection Areas

Ref. No.	Location
452	Carlingford Lough
455	Dundalk Bay
456	Stabannan and Braganstown
1957	Boyne Estuary

Policy

CON 15 To ensure that an appropriate assessment* of the implications of any proposed development on a SPA or development likely to impact on a SPA that is outside the designated area or any other SPA identified during the period of this plan is undertaken in view of the sites conservation objectives.

2.6.5 Trees and Woodlands

Trees and woodlands contribute greatly to Louth's natural landscape and biodiversity. They provide visual amenity in the rural and urban environment, shelter and clean air and play a significant role in carbon storage. Our native woods are habitats for species that have survived many centuries.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service have commissioned a *National Survey of Native Woodland* in Ireland. Over the centuries, conversion of woodland to agricultural farmland has resulted in the near total removal of this habitat in Louth. Today, only 0.18% of the land cover is considered native woodland. Louth has one of the lowest coverage of native woodlands in Ireland.

The Tree Council of Ireland and the Irish Tree Society initiated the *Tree Register of Ireland (TROI)* project in 1999 with the aim of compiling a database of trees in Ireland. Eight Champion Trees were identified in the county area as part of this project. It is considered that these trees are of significant environmental value to the county and that such trees should be protected from development pressure where necessary. Table 2.6 details champion trees located in Louth.

Table 2.6: Champion Trees

Species	Location	Dimensions
<i>Cedrus libani</i> (Cedar of Lebanon)	Red House, Ardee	7.41 @ 1.5 m × 36 m
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> <i>Atropurpurea</i> (Copper Beech)	Red House, Ardee	4.91 @ 1.3 m × 29.50 m
<i>Juglans regia</i> (Walnut)	Red House, Ardee	4.50 @ 0.6 m × 22m
<i>Abies procera</i> <i>Glaucia</i> Group (Noble Fir)	Red House, Ardee	4.48 @ 1.5 m × 39 m.
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> (Tulip Tree)	Red House, Ardee	4.46 @ 1.5 m × 23m
<i>Cedrus deodara</i> (Deodar Cedar)	Red House, Ardee	3.81 @ 1.5 m × 31.30m
<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> <i>Elegans</i> Group (Japanese Red Cedar)	Castlebellingham	3.17 @ 0.8 m × 17.70 m.
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> (Holly)	Red House, Ardee	2.31 @ 1.5 m × 21.30 m.

Source: Tree Register of Ireland

The *Planning and Development Act 2000* sets out the legal framework and procedures to make a tree preservation order (TPO). The council has made two TPOs and currently proposes two. Their locations are listed in table 2.7.

Table 2.7 Trees Protected by Tree Preservation Orders

Ref.	Location
TP01	Fox Covert, Ardee
TP02	Ardee Golf Club
TP03*	Red House Ardee
TP04*	Mell, Drogheda

*Proposed

Map 2.6: Trees Protected by Tree Preservation Orders

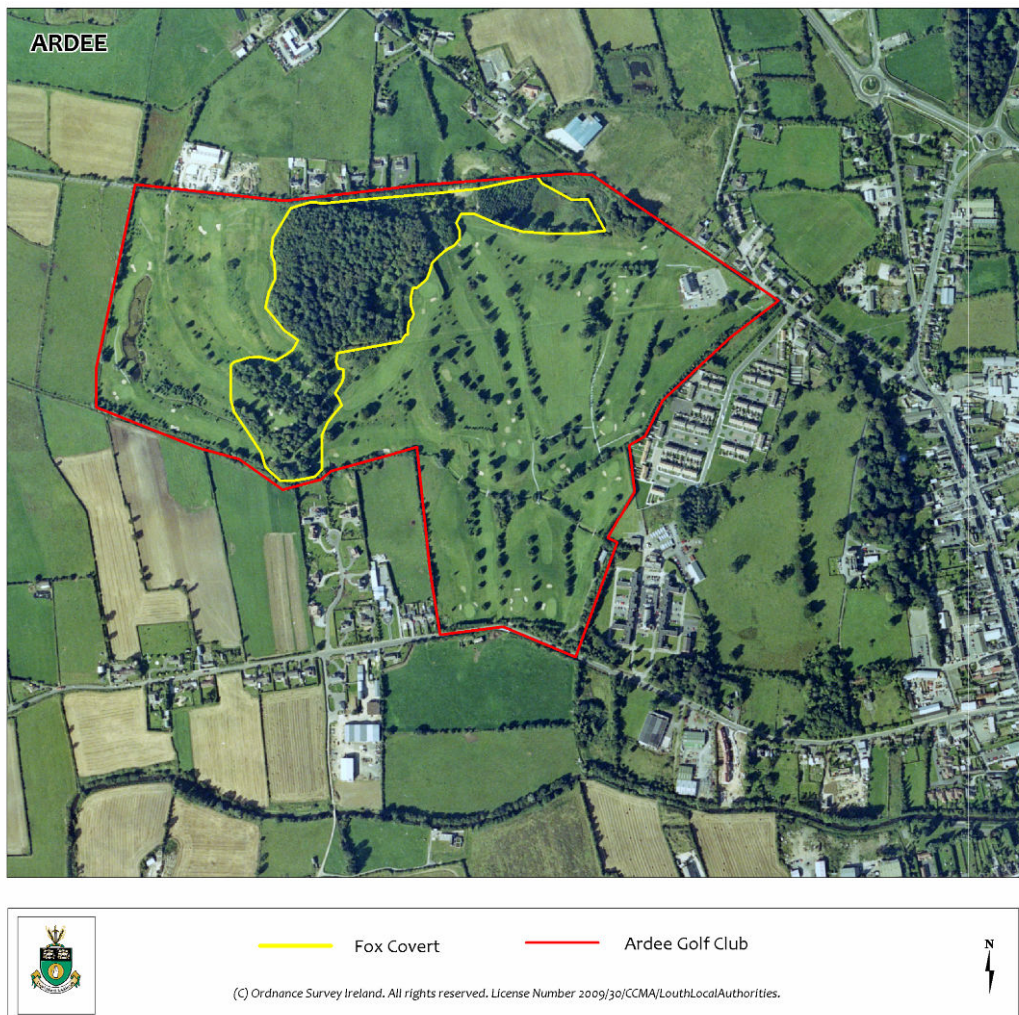


Table 2.8: Trees and Woodlands of Special Amenity Value

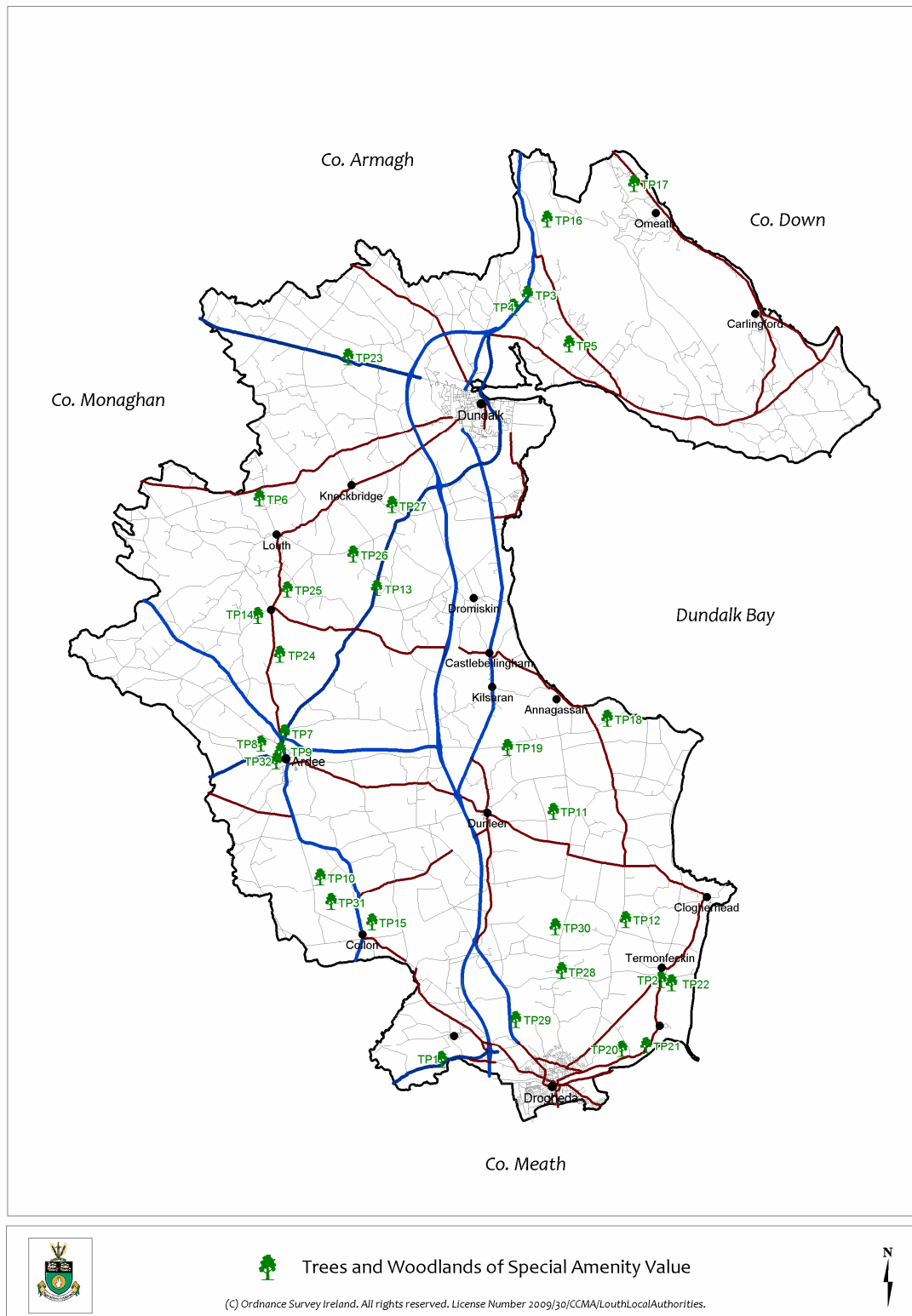
Ref.	Location
TP1	Townley Hall / King William's Glen
TP2	Termonfeckin Village
TP3	N1 at Aghnaskeagh

Chapter 2 Conservation and Heritage

TP4	N1 north of Greenore junction
TP5	Trumpet Hill
TP6	Monvallet east of ESB station
TP7	Red House, Ardee
TP8	Fox Covert, Ardee
TP9	St. Joseph, Ardee
TP10	Mullaghesh, Collon
TP11	Barmeath Woods
TP12	Blackhall Woods
TP13	Darver Castle Woods
TP14	Louth Hall
TP15	Mellifont Abbey Woods
TP16	Ravensdale Plantation
TP17	Woodlands at Omeath Park
TP18	Salterstown
TP19	Drumcar
TP20	Beaulieu
TP21	Drogheda – Baltray Road
TP22	Newtown House
TP23	Church at Milltown
TP24	Lisrenny House, Tallanstown
TP25	Rathbrist House, Tallanstown
TP26	Corderry House, Readypenny
TP27	Stephenstown Pond
TP28	Ballymakenny Church
TP29	South of Killineer
TP30	Piperstown House
TP31	North of Mount Oriel
TP32	The Rectory, Ardee

The locations of the above are illustrated on below on map 2.7.

Map 2.7: Trees and Woodlands of Special Amenity Value



Policy

- CON 16** To protect trees and woodlands of special amenity value and where appropriate put in place tree preservation orders for this purpose.
- CON 17** To investigate the feasibility of carrying out a survey of all trees of special amenity value within the county.
- CON 18** To require an assessment of the implications of any proposed development on significant trees and hedgerows and streams located on lands that are being considered for development. Survey and protection procedures detailed in the appendix 10 will be required by the council.
- CON 19** To increase deciduous native tree coverage in the county by promoting the planting of suitable trees along public roads, residential streets, parks and other areas of open space.
- CON 20** To promote such initiatives as private and community driven tree planting schemes.

2.7 The Built Environment

Support for the preservation and enhancement of Louth's built heritage is an important objective of the Plan. County Louth contains an extensive variety of built heritage sites and a rich archaeological resource of monuments. These range from megalithic tombs, souterrains, ring forts, mottes and ecclesiastical sites, to architectural heritage of notable town centre buildings, tower houses, churches, country houses, demesnes and vernacular buildings. The county also contains many items of industrial heritage such as mills, road and rail bridges and associated infrastructure.

2.7.1 Archaeology

Archaeological remains constitute important evidence of Louth's past and are a finite and fragile resource, very vulnerable to modern development and land use changes. The council considers that the archaeology of the county is an important asset and that its preservation is a legitimate objective against which the needs of development must be carefully balanced and assessed. The archaeological heritage consists of known and, as yet unidentified sites, monuments, objects and environmental evidence. These include round towers, high crosses, burial sites, ringforts, tower houses and souterrains.



There are three categories of monuments under the *National Monuments Acts* covering the timeframe 1930 – 2004. These include:

- National monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a local authority or national monuments which are subject to a preservation order
- Historic monuments or archaeological areas recorded in the Register of Historic Monuments
- Monuments or places recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places.

The *Record of Monuments and Places of County Louth* contains the location of all Recorded Monuments which are protected under the *National Monuments Acts*.

Within County Louth, there are some 2000 recorded monuments. In addition there are a number Areas of Special Archaeological Interest, which, in some cases, are extensive and cover, for example, the historic core of towns. These archaeological features are afforded protection under the *National Monuments Acts*.

County Louth contains eleven Areas of Special Archaeological Interest. The locations of these are listed in table 2.9 and mapped in appendix 4.

Table 2.9: Areas of Special Archaeological Interest

Ref.	Location
AR1	Ardee
AR2	Collon
AR3	Carlingford
AR4	Dunleer
AR5	Louth Village
AR6	Termonfeckin
AR7	Dromiskin
AR8	Grange
AR9	Castlering
AR10	Castleroche
AR11	Newtown Monasterboice

Policy

- CON 21** To ensure that any development, both above and below ground, adjacent to a site of special archaeological interest shall not be detrimental to the character of the archaeological site or its setting and be sited and designed with care to protect the monument and its setting.
- CON 22** Within Areas of Special Archaeological Interest and other sites of archaeological potential, the council will require applicants to include an assessment of the likely archaeological potential as part of the planning application and may require that an on site assessment is carried out by trial work prior to a decision on a planning application being taken.

2.7.2 Protected Structures

The planning authority recognises the importance of protecting historic buildings which are a unique and special resource. The *Planning and Development Act 2000 – 2006* requires every development plan to include a record of protected structures or parts of structures which are part of the architectural heritage and which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

County Louth is fortunate in having a large number of structures that are considered to be of special interest. A number of these, including Townley Hall, Rokeby Hall, Barmeath Castle, Bellurgan House and Beaulieu House are of national importance. The *County Development Plan 2003 - 2009* contained a list of 359 protected structures. On the recommendation of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government it is proposed to include an additional 401. It is further proposed to delete 51 items. Details of these are set out in Volume 2.



A protected structure, unless otherwise stated in the *Register of Protected Structures* (RPS), includes the exterior and interior of the structure, the land lying within its curtilage, any other structures and their interiors lying within that curtilage, plus all fixtures and fittings which form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures. An up-to-date RPS, incorporating any additions or deletions within the lifetime of the Plan, will be maintained on the council's website or can be checked in the council's offices. Structures may be added to the RPS outside of the Plan review process



without the requirement to make a variation of the Plan. Developers and persons proposing to purchase buildings are advised to check the updated RPS.

Proposals for works to protected structures should be:

- Accompanied by appropriate documentation as described in the *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities* of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 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 they possess
- 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 DoEHLG *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities* and best practice and supervised by an appropriately qualified professional.

Policy

- CON 23** To permit the deletion of structures from the *Register of Protected Structures* and the demolition or significant modification of a protected structure, only in exceptional circumstances.
- CON 24** To ensure that new development either adjacent to or at a distance from a protected structure shall complement and be sympathetic to the structure or its setting in terms of its design, scale, height, massing, alignment and use of material.
- CON 25** To encourage the sympathetic retention, reuse and rehabilitation of protected structures and their settings.

2.7.3 Architectural Conservation Areas



The *Planning and Development Act 2000* empowers the planning authority to designate architectural conservation areas (ACAs), where it is of the view that this designation is necessary for the preservation of the character of a place, area, group of structures or townscape which is of special interest or contributes to the appreciation of protected structures.

The following ACAs were designated in the previous plan:

1. Salterstown
2. Whitestown
3. Newtown Monasterboice
4. Collon (part of)
5. Ardee (part of)
6. Monasterboice – Monastic site
7. Carlingford (part of)
Milltown*

* It is proposed to remove Milltown from this designation as it is considered that the buildings within it are afforded adequate protection as they are listed in the RPS.

It is proposed to designate the following two areas because of their special character and historic significance:

8. Castlebellingham
9. Greenore

The boundaries of the nine ACAs are defined on maps contained in appendix 5. A brief character appraisal and objectives particular to each area accompanies each map.

Policy

- CON 26** To require that any development within or affecting an ACA preserves or enhances the character and appearance of the architectural conservation areas. Any development should respect the character of the existing architecture in scale, design and materials.
- CON 27** To ensure that the redevelopment of the towns of historic interest including Ardee, Carlingford, Collon, Termonfeckin and Dunleer, includes the retention of existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.
- CON 28** To retain any building in an ACA that makes a positive contribution to the character or appearance of the area.
- CON 29** To require that any development proposal takes account of the council's specific ACA objectives contained in appendix 5.
- CON 30** To require that any new development on the periphery of Whitestown, Newtown Monasterboice and Salterstown does not detract from the existing character of the designated ACA.

2.7.4 Heritage Gardens and Designed Landscapes



Louth has a rich heritage of gardens and designed landscaped gardens. *The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage* has conducted a survey which has listed some seventy - four heritage gardens and designed landscapes within County Louth. These are listed in table 2.10. Fieldwork is now in progress to compile more

accurate data and site assessments. Care needs to be taken to ensure that these gardens and parks are protected from encroaching or adjacent development.

Table 2.10: Heritage Gardens and Designed landscapes

Anaverna	Harristown House
Ardee House	Killin House
Arthurstown House	Killineer House
Ballymascanlan House	Kiltallaght House
Barmeath	Lisnawully House
Barronstown Rectory	Lisrenny House
Beaulieu House	Listoke House
Bellurgan House	Louth Hall
Beltichburne	Maine House
Black Hall	Milestown House
Braganstown House	Monasterboice
Burnhill House	Monavallett
Carstown	Mooremount House
Castle Bellingham	Mount Bailey
Castletown Castle	Mount Pleasant
Catherines Grove	Newtown House
Charleville	Newtown House
Claret Rock House	Nootka Lodge
Clermont	Philipstown
Clonaleenaghan House	Prospect
Collon	Rath House
Corbollis House	Rathcoole House
Corderry House	Rathescar
Darver Castle	Ravensdale House
Derryfalone House	Ravensdale Lodge
Drumcar	Red House
Drummullagh	Rohanna House
Dunany House	Rokeby Hall
Dundalk Park	Shortstone House
Fairhill House	Smarmore Castle
Falmore House	Stephenstown House
Fane Valley	Stone House
Faughart House	Thistle Lodge
Glebe House , Arthurstown	Thomastown Castle
Glebe House, Millockstown	Townley Hall
Glebe House, Kilsaran	Williamstown House
Grange House	Kiltallaght House
Greenmount Lodge	Lisnawully House

Policy

CON 31 To ensure that new development will not adversely affect the site, setting or views to and from heritage gardens and designed landscapes.

2.7.5 Vernacular Heritage

Traditionally each country, region and locality had their own distinctive styles for everyday buildings, suited to its particular climate and environment and built using materials which were readily available in the locality. These styles reflect the way of life of the people of the area and are known as vernacular. Vernacular architecture comes from the ordinary people and follows time-honored patterns and practices whose reasons and origins may be long forgotten. It is an expression of the culture of a community and of cultural diversity.

Vernacular structures are extremely vulnerable due to the changing needs and demands of the modern generation and are facing serious problems of becoming obsolete. Thatched buildings in particular and traditional farm buildings are under



increasing threat as they are seen to be no longer economically viable on the modern farm. Generally these structures are of mud-wall or rubble stone construction with external lime renders. In some cases, the agricultural outbuildings belong to large estates are of fine cut stone, with excellent detailing of features.

Policy

CON 32 To encourage the protection, restoration and appreciation of the vernacular heritage of Louth in both the towns and rural areas of the county.

