# County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2004 – 2008





A partnership plan, prepared by the Wicklow Heritage Forum

The aim of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan is to conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage of the county, and to increase awareness and enjoyment of it among all the people of Wicklow.

Wicklow County Council and the Wicklow Heritage Forum wish to acknowledge the role of the Heritage Council in initiating the County Wicklow Heritage Plan in association with Wicklow County Council.

In particular, the Forum acknowledges the support of the Heritage Council through its funding of the Heritage Officer post, in association with Wicklow County Council. For further information please contact:

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### Message from the Chairperson of the Wicklow Heritage Forum

It is a great honour for me as chairman of the Wicklow Heritage Forum to be associated with this County Heritage plan. Since the formation of the Wicklow Heritage Forum in 2003 under the guidance of our heritage officer Deirdre Burns, an enormous amount of work has been achieved. The heritage plan is the product of a process involving the community, local authorities, heritage groups, the farming community and the business and state sectors. This is the first time that all the bodies with an interest in heritage have come together in this way, to develop a programme of practical measures for heritage in the county. I wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the members of the Forum who have assisted whole-heartedly in bringing this plan to fruition. I realise that over the next five years most, if not all, of what is set out in this plan will indeed be achieved.

I am confident that this plan will bring about a better understanding of the built, natural and cultural heritage of our County.

### Message from the Cathaoirleach

As chairman of Wicklow County Council I am very pleased to welcome county Wicklow's very first heritage plan. Our county – The Garden of Ireland – is one of the most beautiful counties in Ireland. It has been inhabited for at least 12,000 years, so it has a vast wealth of heritage, of which we are very aware and justifiably proud. This heritage must be protected and nourished so that it can be passed on intact, to future generations. I would like to praise and commend the Wicklow Heritage Forum members for their dedication and commitment in putting the plan together. The Forum has drawn on a wide range of expertise and experience through its membership and includes representatives from the Town Councils, Wicklow County Council, as well as many outside organisations and groups. The preparation of this plan was a huge undertaking, which brought together very many people with a wide range of backgrounds and interests. This widely inclusive approach is apparent in the resulting plan which is broad ranging and ambitious. The publication and implementation of this plan is in keeping with the Wicklow County Development Board's ten years strategy for the economic social and cultural development of Co. Wicklow

I would like to pay a special tribute, Deirdre Burns, the council's heritage officer, for her impressive input into the preparation of this plan

I wish the plan every success over the coming years

Bill O' Connell, Chairman, Wicklow County Counci

### Message from the Manager, Wicklow County Council

As County Manager, I am delighted that Wicklow County Council has taken the lead in the preparation of the first County Wicklow Heritage Plan. The aim of this plan is to set out a framework for the conservation, management and improvement of heritage in the county over a five year period. Wicklow is a county with a rich and varied heritage, one which contributes greatly to the quality of life for people living here as well as to the county's economic development. Heritage, like all resources, needs careful management and planning to ensure its protection and enhancement. The council as part of its commitment to protecting the natural and built environment of the county has liaised in recent years with the Heritage Council, to create the post of Heritage Officer. The Heritage Officer has been instrumental in initiating the setting up of the Wicklow Heritage Forum and in co-ordinating the production of this plan. The production of a County Heritage Plan for Wicklow represents a new partnership between Wicklow County Council, Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow Town Councils, relevant statutory bodies, business representatives, community and environmental groups and various social partners. The plan has been officially adopted and endorsed by the members of the Wicklow Local Authorities who have given a commitment to its delivery over the next five years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the preparation of this plan, in particular the Heritage Council for its continued support and guidance, the chairman of the Wicklow Heritage Forum, Cllr. Noel Keyes, members of the Forum, as well as all those who participated in other ways through working groups, seminars or meetings or through participation in the public consultation process. Finally, I would like to thank Deirdre Burns, Wicklow's Heritage Officer for her input into the development of the plan and to heritage matters in general in Wicklow.

This plan represents a new era of heritage management in Wicklow, I look forward to its implementation over the next five years, and feel confiden that it will bring many benefits for all those living, working, and visiting "The Garden of Ireland".



Cllr. Noel Keyes Chairperson of the Wicklow Heritage Forum



Cllr. Bill O' Connell, Chairman, Wicklow County Coun



Mr. Eddie Sheeh County Manage

### Introduction

The aim of the Wicklow County Heritage Plan is to conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage of the county, and to increase awareness and enjoyment of it among all the people of Wicklow

The heritage of Wicklow is composed of a whole range of different elements, which form the county's unique character. It is this heritage that distinguishes individual towns, villages and places, and offers direct benefits to all the people of Wicklow in terms a 'sense of place', quality of life, and economic well being.

When we think of heritage in Wicklow, different images may spring to mind; be it the big houses and wooded estates such as Powerscourt and Kilruddery; the Wicklow Mountains long used for settlement, farming and recreation; the National Park containing wildlife species and habitats of importance; the Viking influence in the pattern of our coastal towns, the Victorian architecture and seafront of Bray; the coastline of cliffs and beaches stretching the length of the county from Bray and Greystones south to Wicklow and Arklow; the mining heritage of the county; the hillforts of west Wicklow; the evidence of early monastic settlements; the Military road and history of 1798, the list goes on.

Today, perhaps more so than ever there is an awareness that our Heritage 'stock' is an important resource, and one which is under considerable threat from modern day pressures. Our heritage, although dynamic and continually evolving, is not replaceable, and thus, like all valuable resources needs careful management and planning to ensure its conservation and enhancement for present and future generations.

In April 2002, the government published the National Heritage Plan, which endorses the importance of developing a framework for the management of heritage. This Plan sets out a vision Nationally for heritage management, a key part of which centres on the management of heritage locally, through the preparation of Local Heritage Plans. The County Wicklow Heritage Plan has been produced in response to National policy, and in accordance with guidelines produced by the Heritage Council. This county Plan has been prepared by the Wicklow Heritage Forum, a partnership group set up by Wicklow County Council. The Forum consists of representatives from the relevant stakeholder groups in the county, including representatives from local government, statutory and non-statutory bodies, community and voluntary sector, heritage groups, farming and local development and business sectors.

The Heritage Act 1995 defined 'Heritage' for the first time in Ireland, as consisting of thirteen different elements; monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, inland waterways, heritage gardens and parks. The Wicklow Heritage Forum has taken this definition of heritage on board, and has also decided to include cultural heritage and written heritage within the scope of this Plan.

The production of a Heritage Plan for Wicklow is a first for the county, and represents a new approach to heritage management. The setting up of the Heritage Forum offers for the first time a framework in which various bodies, organisations and groups with responsibility for the care and conservation of Heritage in county Wicklow can work together in partnership, in a strategic way to achieve an agreed vision.

The County Wicklow Heritage Plan has had regard to other frameworks in place in Wicklow, namely the ten- year strategic plan for County Wicklow, "Outlook" which was produced in 2002 by the County Development Board. Likewise the Heritage Plan has had regard to the aims and objectives of the council, as set out in the County Wicklow Development Plan 1999.



### **Process**

The process of preparing the Wicklow Heritage Plan commenced in March 2003, where at the first Forum meeting the overall aim "to conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage the county, and to increase enjoyment and awareness of it among all the people of Wicklow" was agreed.

Following this, a public briefing document was prepared, the process widely advertised, and the public invited to make submissions. The submissions received fell under three main themes, Natural Heritage, Built Heritage and Local communities and Heritage.

In July 2003, the Heritage Forum set up three working groups; Natural Heritage, Built Heritage and Local Heritage and Culture, whose task it was to come up with proposed actions and partners for the Heritage Plan, based on their own input, and the information received from the public through the various mediums.

The results of the deliberations of the Working Groups are contained in the draft Wicklow Heritage Plan under 'objectives and actions'. While every effort was made to include all issues raised in submissions in this Plan, given the countywide remit, it was not possible to include location- specific issues. In all eight objectives were identified:

- 1. To raise awareness, and disseminate information about heritage among the public.
- 2. To ensure the integration of heritage conservation into Local Authority actions.
- 3. To promote and develop interest and knowledge in heritage through education and training programmes.
- 4. To increase access to heritage for all.
- 5. To encourage initiatives to benefit heritage and culture at a local level.
- 6. To protect and enhance the built heritage of the county.
- 7. To protect and enhance natural heritage and landscape.
- 8. Encourage written history and the conservation of archival material.

The proposed actions in the Plan seek to complement and support the work of many agencies, organisations and individuals, and require a level of commitment from each of the proposed partners. The key elements of the Plan centre around the enhancement of heritage through partnership, the collection of information, and increasing heritage awareness from a local level, in order to encourage greater community led actions.

The actions contained in this Plan are realistic and achievable over a five-year period. The Plan will be monitored throughout its lifetime by the Heritage Forum to ensure that objectives are being met. The Heritage officer will have a role to play in co-ordinating the monitoring and implementation of the Plan.

This Plan marks the start of a new mechanism for managing heritage in Wicklow, one that will seek to improve the lot of Heritage in the county, strengthen the relationships between various groups and organisations, and empower local people and communities to play a larger part in managing and promoting their own heritage resources.



### **Objectives & Actions**

Objective 1: To raise awareness, and disseminate information about heritage among the public

1.1 Promote the Wicklow Heritage Plan and ensure that the public are kept updated about its implementation via progress reports/ newsletters, public events and media coverage.

**Proposed partners: Heritage Forum** 

1.2 Carry out a study to determine public attitudes towards heritage in county Wicklow, and to gauge the current level of awareness about heritage.

**Proposed partners: Heritage Forum** 

1.3 Raise awareness about heritage through the production of a series of 'Heritage Information Briefs' on selected topics, to be made widely available to the public in leaflet and/or CD ROM form.

Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, Teagasc, Heritage Council

1.4 Make information on heritage more easily accessible to the public on the Wicklow County Council website, and link this site with other relevant websites.

Proposed partners: Wicklow County Council, Heritage Forum

1.5 Increase awareness and keep the public updated on different aspects of heritage through local media. Look at developing a 'heritage slot' in local media.

**Proposed partners: Heritage Forum** 

1.6 Explore the possibility of developing a Heritage Website specific to Wicklow to provide information, and to facilitate better communication among groups and interested individuals.

Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, Wicklow Library Service

1.7 Produce a series of Heritage Guides for County Wicklow to highlight the overall heritage value of the county, as well as individual sites and places.

**Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, Tourism Bodies** 

1.8 Raise awareness through the production and display of exhibitions throughout the county, focussing on different aspects of heritage.

Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, ENFO, Wicklow Library Service

1.9 Raise the profile of heritage through the organisation of events such as public seminars, open days, guided walks and talks, throughout the year, but in particular during "Heritage Week".

**Proposed partners: Heritage Forum** 

1.10 Develop a Heritage Network in County Wicklow to facilitate communication among different individuals and groups.

Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, Community fora

1.11 Liaise with Community forums regarding the dissemination of information on upcoming events and activities as widely as possible to the public through targeting community based groups.

**Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities** 







### Objective 2: To ensure the integration of heritage conservation into Local Authority actions

- 2.1 Support the employment of staff within Wicklow Local Authorities to ensure that adequate expertise is available to fulfil responsibilities under various National and international legislation regarding the conservation of natural and built heritage. Support the following appointments as resources permit:
  - ► Architectural Conservation Officer
  - ► County Wicklow Archivist (full time)
  - ▶ Biodiversity Officer
  - ▶ Regional archaeologist (in accordance with National Heritage Plan)

Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities, Department Of The Environment, Heritage And Local Government

- Undertake Heritage Appraisal of all future County, Town, and Local Area Plans to ensure that the full range of heritage (as defined in the Heritage Act 1995) is included in plans.

  Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities, Heritage Council
- 2.3 Ensure that provision is made through planning conditions attached to the development control process, for the protection, and where possible enhancement of natural and built heritage (in particular the protection of features which have no other legal designation such as hedgerows, traditional stone walls, moveable heritage objects, wildlife habitats, natural floodplains)

  Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities
- 2.4 Review current consultation practices between Wicklow local Authorities and other organisations, with the aim of identifying where practices can be improved, and how.

  Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities, Heritage Forum
- 2.5 Ensure that large developments offer direct benefits for bio-diversity enhancement, through provisions (following consultation with relevant bodies) made during the development control process, in particular, promote the use of native and locally occurring species in new planting schemes.

  Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities
- 2.6 Promote the protection of water and air quality in Wicklow through ensuring that best standards of practice are set and followed by Wicklow Local authorities. Ensure that wastewater treatment facilities in the county do not exceed their design capacity, and that existing overloaded facilities are upgraded to deal with demand.

  Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities
- 2.7 Promote Conservation Plans as the initial requirement for any proposals that may have an impact upon structures of high architectural, historic, mining/industrial heritage significance.

  Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities, Department Of The Environment, Heritage And Local Government, Irish Georgian Society, Mining Heritage
  Trust of Ireland, Industrial Heritage Association Of Ireland
- 2.8 Produce recommendations for local authorities on best practice for the naming new developments to reflect local heritage and townland name.

  Proposed partners: Heritage Forum
- 2.9 Support the production of policy papers and 'best practice' guidelines by Wicklow County Council on various aspects of heritage management to set high standards of practice for all.
  - ► Landscaping and bio-diversity guidelines
  - ▶ Bio-diversity and road design
  - Integrating new buildings in the countryside in Wicklow- guidelines on design, siting, and materials
  - ▶ Water Quality protection and new development

Proposed partners: Wicklow County Council, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Heritage Council, Eastern Regional Fisheries Board, Forest Service, National Waymarked Ways Association, Mountaineering Council of Ireland (MCI).

- 2.10 Provide opportunities for training to Local Authority staff on different aspects of heritage conservation.
  Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, Wicklow Local Authorities, Department Of The Environment, Heritage And Local Government
- 2.11 Promote the use of local stone wherever possible in infrastructure developments in Wicklow. **Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities**



### Objective 3: To promote and develop interest and knowledge in heritage through education and training programmes

- Carry out an audit of existing heritage education providers in the county and look at opportunities that exist for curriculum based as well as adult education programmes.

  Proposed partners: Heritage Forum
- Liaise with education providers to explore the possibility of developing new, and expanding existing, education programmes at schools. Look at possibilities for incorporating heritage modules along with environmental awareness, and art.

  Proposed partners: Wicklow County Council, INTO, VEC
- Liaise with other organisations to explore the possibility of developing new, and expanding existing heritage content of adult training and education programmes.

  Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, Teagasc, ITGA
- Organise training opportunities for owners, managers and others with an interest in conserving historic properties.

  Proposed partners: Wicklow County Council, Department Of The Environment, Heritage And Local Government, Chambers Of Commerce, Irish Georgian Society.
- Promote training opportunities for the public, and volunteer work groups in traditional skills such as drystone walling, stone cutting, thatching, hedge-laying, lime rendering, and in practical skills such as path maintenance and management.
   Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, Department Of The Environment, Heritage And Local Government, Wicklow Rural Partnership, Heritage Council, Networks for Nature.



### Objective 4: To increase access to heritage for all

4.1 Set up a working group to examine issues relating to access to the countryside in Wicklow, make recommendations on how issues can best be resolved, and investigate the potential role of an access officer in the county.

Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities, Wicklow Mountains National Park, Wicklow County Council, Coillte, Mountaineering Council Of Ireland, Wicklow Uplands Council, Irish Farmers Association, Keep Ireland Open (KIO).

4.2 Support an integrated approach to the sustainable management of existing walking routes in Wicklow, in particular the Wicklow Way, St. Kevin's Pilgrim Path and existing coastal walking paths.

Proposed partners: Wicklow Way Management Committee, Heritage Council, Heritage Forum, Mountaineering Council of Ireland (MCI).

4.3 Support initiatives to develop new walking trails and 'Greenways' throughout the countryside as well as in towns and villages, in particular the development of trails to facilitate disabled access.

Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, Wicklow Way Management Committee, Heritage Council

4.4 Support the provision of heritage information in towns and villages, and the development of Heritage Trails in all major towns in Wicklow.

Proposed partners: Wicklow County Council, Tidy Towns Associations, Chambers Of Commerce, Wicklow Rural Partnership, Wicklow Tourism bodies

Develop a design template for local heritage signage and interpretation material. This template would provide a consistent cross- county image while allowing scope in the content to reflect local heritage and character.

**Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, Tourism Bodies.** 









5.1	Produce a register of traditional skills and expertise in the county to provide a useful reference for local authorities as well as the public.
	Proposed partners: Wicklow County Council, Irish Georgian Society, Wicklow Rural Partnership
5.2	Produce a 'Funding Brief' for county Wicklow to advertise different sources of funding available to local groups to carry out heritage based initiatives  Proposed partners: Wicklow County Council, Heritage Forum
5.3	Produce a comprehensive Heritage Directory for county Wicklow to make a wide range of information available to the public.  Proposed partners: Heritage Forum
5.4	Develop a local heritage recording methodology, and make this available to schools and communities in Wicklow to focus on natural habitats, built heritage, local and oral history, culture and folklore.  Proposed partners: Heritage Forum
5.5	Support local publications and research initiatives aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness of local heritage, culture and traditions.  Proposed partners: Wicklow County Council, Heritage Council, Wicklow Rural Partnership
5.6	Facilitate a 'Running a Museum on a Shoestring' course in County Wicklow to provide advice for local communities interested in setting up their own local museums.  Proposed partners: Heritage council, Wicklow Rural partnership, National Museum of Ireland, Wicklow County Council
5.7	Provide advice, training and support through workshops for local communities on best practice for the conservation and care of graveyards.  Proposed partners: Wicklow County Council, Department Of The Environment, Heritage And Local Government, Heritage Council
5.8	Liaise with third level institutions to explore the possibilities for co-operation between students (as part of course work), and local communities, on projects to aid local research or development.  Wicklow County Council, Dublin Institute Of Technology, University College Dublin, other third level institutions.
5.9	Work with Tidy Towns groups, Residents associations and other such community led groups to look at how best to support their initiatives. Look at providing assistance through production of "Best Practice" guidance to encourage wildlife friendly practices, and to promote best practice regarding the preservation of built heritage.  Proposed partners:Heritage Forum, Wicklow County Council, Heritage Council, Wicklow Tidy Towns association
5.10	Promote the "Neighbourhood" scheme operated by the Forest Service to encourage the development of woodlands as recreational facilities in and around towns and villages  Proposed partners: Wicklow County Council, Forest Service

Pilot a "Heritage Watch" scheme for Wicklow, to encourage communities and individuals to 'look-out' for their local land-scapes and associated heritage (bio-diversity, archaeological and historical sites, structures and objects).

Proposed partners: Wicklow County Council, Dept. Of The Environment, Heritage And Local Government, Coillte, Farming Bodies, Wicklow Uplands Council















### Objective 6: To protect and enhance the built heritage of the county

- Compile, in co-operation with other organisations and bodies, datasets that exist in the county into a Built Heritage Database, accessible though weblinks and/or CD ROM.

  Use this information to inform planning decisions, to identify where gaps in available information occur and to aid research projects.

  Proposed partners: Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Wicklow Local Authorities, Forest Service, Coillte, Mining Heritage

  Trust of Ireland, Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland, Wicklow Library Service.
- Promote and advertise the work of the NIAH and ensure that the completed inventory is made available to all Wicklow local authorities to inform their Record of Protected Structures (RPS), and future designation of Architectural Conservation Areas.

  Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities, NIAH
- Support efforts, to conserve buildings of historic merit, which are in danger of deterioration, and to find (appropriate) functions for these structures to ensure their long-term survival.

  Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities, Heritage Council, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Irish Georgian Society, Wicklow Rural Partnership
- Investigate the viability of developing a County Museum for Wicklow, and investigate the availability of other suitable facilities in the county for loan and display of National Museum artefacts (particularly those of Wicklow origin).

  Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, Wicklow Local Authorities, National Museum Of Ireland, Heritage Council
- Carry out an inventory and assessment of sites and structures of archaeological, architectural, or historic merit which are owned by Wicklow Local Authorities (including graveyards) and set up an in-house advisory group to explore issues of management and maintenance.

  Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities, Department Of The Environment, Heritage And Local Government, NIAH, Heritage Council
- 6.6 Produce a mining/ industrial heritage inventory for county Wicklow accessible on GIS. Assess the condition of sites and individual features and make recommendations regarding future management, protection, access and promotion.
  - Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, Mining Heritage Trust Of Ireland, Industrial Heritage Association Of Ireland, Tourism Bodies
- 6.7 Promote Town & Village Design Plans as a mechanism to identify important characteristics of towns and villages and to encourage public and statutory co-operation into planning for the enhancement and revitalisation of these. Pilot Town & Village Design Statements in selected settlements in the county.

  Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities, Wicklow Rural Partnership, Heritage Council
- 6.8 Carry out relevant studies to provide baseline information needed by Wicklow Local Authorities to inform the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas in towns and Villages in County Wicklow as a means protect architectural character, and to revitalise town centres.

  Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities
- 6.9 Support research studies by third level institutions on various aspects of the built heritage (architectural and archaeological) of Wicklow. **Proposed partners: Wicklow County Council, Third level institution**
- Liaise with the Monuments section of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the National Museum of Ireland to organise the dissemination of posters, booklets and education packs on different aspect of built heritage.
  - Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, National Museum of Ireland, Department Of The Environment, Heritage And Local Government

### Objective 7: To protect and enhance natural heritage

7.1 Compile, in co-operation with other organisations and bodies, datasets that exist in the county into a Natural Heritage Database, accessible though weblinks and/or CD ROM.

Use the results of this project to find out where there are gaps in knowledge about the Natural Heritage resource in Wicklow, and set about investigating ways to fill these gaps.

Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities, National Parks and Wildlife (DOEHLG), Eastern Regional Fisheries Board, Coillte, Forest Service, Birdwatch Ireland, Teagasc, Geological Survey of Ireland

7.2 Support research on threatened wildlife species and habitats in county Wicklow **Proposed partners: Heritage Forum** 

7.3 Explore the possibility of mapping the natural habitats of county Wicklow, and making this information available to inform future plans, strategies or landscape conservation area designations.

Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities, National Parks and Wildlife (DOEHLG), Eastern Regional Fisheries Board, Coillte, The Forest Service, Birdwatch Ireland, Teagasc

7.4 Promote the carrying out of a Landscape Character Assessment for county Wicklow (in accordance with Department of the Environment guidelines 2000)

Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, Heritage Council

- 7.5 Support efforts to have vulnerable landscape areas in Wicklow designated as Special Amenity Area Orders (SAAO) by Wicklow Local Authorities **Proposed partners: Heritage Forum**
- 7.6 Support initiatives that promote conservation of wildlife and promote sustainable recreation and tourism on Natura 2000 (designated) Sites. **Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, Wicklow County Council**
- 7.7 Prepare a County Bio-diversity Plan (in accordance with National Bio-Diversity Plan 2002). This plan will identify actions to be taken to protect and enhance wildlife habitats in County Wicklow.

Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, Natural Heritage Working Group, Heritage Council

- 7.8 Explore the possibility of introducing bye- laws to restrict the recreational use of motorised, off-road vehicles in environmentally sensitive areas of the county, i.e. upland and coastal areas, and landscapes containing features of mining and industrial heritage importance

  Proposed partners: Wicklow County Council, Department Of The Environment, Heritage And Local

  Government, Gardaí, Coillte, Farming Bodies
- 7.9 Carry out a survey of specimen trees in the county with a view to informing future proposals for statutory protection **Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities**
- 7.10 Produce guidelines and provide advice to planning authorities, developers and landowners regarding the integration of bio-diversity conservation into the development process

**Proposed partners: Natural Heritage Working Group, Teagasc** 

7.11 Prepare an inventory of sites of geological importance in County Wicklow, in association with the Geological Survey of Ireland.

Proposed partners: Wicklow County Council, Geological Survey Of Ireland, Heritage Council

7.12 Encourage the continuance of the Native Woodland scheme as operated by the Forest Service, and promote greater take up of this scheme in County Wicklow.

Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities, Forest Service, Community fora







### Objective 8: Encourage written history and the conservation of archival material

- 8.1 Set up a County Archive, providing facilities for the collection, storage, cataloguing and public accessing of Wicklow's archival material.

  Proposed partners: Wicklow County Council, Wicklow Library Service, Association of archivists Ireland
- 8.2 Produce a comprehensive heritage bibliography for Wicklow as a reference to aid research.
  Proposed partners: Wicklow Library Service, Heritage Forum, Department Of The Environment, Heritage And Local Government
- 8.3 Support historical publications and investigate the possibility of making new publications, and those that are out of print, available in digital format through CD ROM or on the web.

  Proposed partners:Wicklow County Council, Wicklow Library Service, Heritage Council, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- 8.4 Explore the possibility of developing a Heritage Acquisition Policy by Wicklow Local Authorities Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities
- 8.5 Support the establishment of a building conservation reference library.
  Proposed partners: Wicklow Library Service, Heritage Forum, Irish Georgian Society, Dept. Of The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Heritage Council
- 8.6 Promote and advertise and the services offered by Wicklow County Libraries, and support the further expansion of 'local studies' sections in libraries, in particular the digitisation initiative, "Cultural Heritage Project" embarked upon by Wicklow Library Service.
  Proposed partners: Heritage Forum, Wicklow Library Service
- 8.7 Create a database of all archaeological reports and EIS's from county Wicklow, and ensure that copies of all such reports are lodged with the County Library and made accessible to the public.
   Proposed partners: Wicklow Local Authorities, Department Of The Environment, Heritage And Local Government
- Promote the publication of archaeological excavation reports of importance in county Wicklow.

  Proposed partners: Department Of The Environment, Heritage And Local Government, Wicklow Local Authorities, Heritage Council





## Statement of Strategy

#### Introduction:

The County Wicklow Heritage Plan is a countywide plan with many partners sharing a responsibility for its implementation. The Heritage Forum was formed in March 2003 to oversee and advise on the preparation of the Heritage Plan, once the Plan has been prepared, the Heritage Forum will be responsible for monitoring its progress over its five year life span. While Wicklow County Council is the lead organisation, each of the town councils, Bray, Wicklow, Arklow, and Greystones have a role to play where their administrative areas are concerned. The Heritage Officer will in many cases act as co-ordinator for projects identified in the Plan. The Heritage Forum will seek the participation of key partners in all the actions that it carries out. As the County Wicklow Heritage Plan is a 'first' for Wicklow and represents a new framework, it will be important to allow for flexibility when it comes to implementing actions as the new structure evolves.

#### Timescale:

The Plan sets out actions for a five-year period, 2004 to 2008. Each year a detailed work programme will be drawn up from the actions in this Plan, setting out proposed actions for the year, the partners, timeframe and the body responsible for delivery. The proposed work programme will be influenced by the available budget for that year. The Heritage Forum will propose the annual work programme in agreement with all partners.

#### Finance:

A budget of approximately €500,000 is estimated for the delivery of the actions over the lifetime of the Plan, excluding staff costs. This requires an average annual budget of €100,000 over this period. It is likely that the initial funding required will be less than this amount, but once annual work programmes are successfully implemented, it is hoped to increase the annual budget to those levels required for successful implementation of the Plan. It should be remembered that some of the actions contained in the Plan will require little or no funding, while others such as the creation of Special Amenity Area Orders (SAAOs) or development of a County Archive, while supported by the Forum, fall outside of the remit of the Plan to deliver.

The Heritage Council has agreed, in principle, to consider the Plan as a five-year strategic funding application. The Heritage Council will consider funding actions in the Plan, consistent with normal funding criteria, which are compatible with its objectives.

Wicklow County Council is committed to delivering the County Wicklow Heritage Plan in partnership with others over the next five years as resources permit. The Council will consider funding allocation for the delivery of the Plan in accordance with the estimates for 2004. The Council will also support the delivery of the Plan through the work of its Heritage Officer and other professional staff.

The commitment of other key partners to funding actions in the Plan, will largely be dependant on their funding allocations and remits, and will be decided when work programmes are being drawn up.

The National Heritage Plan, published in 2002 indicates that €12.7 m will be made available over a five year period for the implementation of Local Heritage Plans. There has been no indication to date from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, that funding allocations will be made available to support the delivery of Heritage Plans in 2004.

#### Partners.

The partners identified for carrying out actions in the Plan are listed in the Plan. As the annual work programme is agreed, commitments will be sought from relevant partners, including other additional partners (as the need arises). There will be ongoing consultation with other relevant organisations regarding participation in proposed actions. The lead partner responsible for ensuring the delivery of actions will be highlighted as part of the agreed work schedule.

### Monitoring and Evaluation:

The Wicklow Heritage Plan sets out a series of actions to be achieved over a five-year period. The annual work programme will detail the projects to be undertaken, and the partners responsible for their delivery. The Wicklow Heritage Forum will monitor the annual work programme, and will meet on a regular basis to review and evaluate progress.



June 2002:	Agreement received from Management Team of Wicklow County Council to proposal to prepare a County Wicklow Heritage Plan.
June 2002:	Presentation of proposal to prepare Wicklow Heritage Plan made to planning Strategic Policy Committee by Heritage Officer.  Agreement from committee received to process.
Sept 2002:	Heritage Officer presents proposal to Wicklow County Council members, agreement received to process of preparing a Plan, and suggestions made regarding composition of Forum.
Nov 2002:	Presentation by Heritage Officer to Bray Town Council of proposal to prepare a County Wicklow Heritage Plan, agreement to process received from members.
Nov/Dec 2002:	Circulation of proposal to Bray, Arklow, Wicklow and Greystones Town Councils.
Jan 2003:	Nominations sought for Forum membership.
March 2003:	Inaugural meeting of the Wicklow Heritage Forum. The forum elected a chairperson and deputy chair, agreed to group working principles, to the process ahead, and to overall aim.
March/April 2003	3: Process advertised, briefing document prepared and submissions invited from the public.
May 2003:	Meeting of the Wicklow Heritage Forum (second). Discussion on submissions received and identification of themes. Agreement to the setting up of working groups, and to the holding of a one- day public information exchange event.
July 2003:	One-day information seminar "Heritage in Wicklow" held. The day included workshop sessions to involve participation from members of the public and representatives from relevant organisations and groups.
July- Sept 2003:	Setting up of three working groups; Natural Heritage, Built Heritage and Local Heritage and Culture. Meetings held for each working group. Position papers prepared by Heritage Officer outlining issues, proposed actions and proposed partners.
Sept 2003:	Meeting of Wicklow Heritage Forum (third). Circulation of position papers from each working group and a pre-draft Heritage Plan document prepared by Heritage Officer, incorporating objectives and actions contained in position papers.
Oct 2003:	Meeting of the Wicklow Heritage Forum (fourth). Discussion on contents of pre draft plan, and recommendations made.
Nov 2003	Meeting of the Wicklow Heritage Forum (fifth) to discuss and agree proposed amendments.
Dec 2003/ Feb 2004	Circulation and presentation of proposed Draft Heritage Plan to SPCs, Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow Town Councils and to Wicklow County Council elected members. Adoption of draft plan by members of Wicklow County Council.
Feb - March	Draft Heritage Plan advertised followed by a public consultation period of six weeks where public are invited to make submissions on the draft. Five public meetings held at the following locations: Wicklow Town, Poullaphuca, Woodenbridge, Bray and Glendalough.
April 2004	Meeting of the Wicklow Heritage Forum (sixth). Review of submissions received and amendments agreed.
April 2004	Presentation by Heritage Officer of amendments to members of Wicklow County Council. Adoption of the Heritage Plan by members.

# Appendix 1

The Heritage Plan Process <sup>2</sup>



<sup>\*</sup> This process was informed by the Heritage Council's " A Methodology for Local Authority Heritage Officers on the Preparation of the County / City Heritage Plans"

# Appendix 2

Membership of the Wicklow Heritage Forum & associated Working Groups

### Membership of Wicklow Heritage Forum

N/	AME	ORGANISATION	SECTOR
1.	Ms. Enda Mullen	Wicklow Montains National Park	State Body
2.	Mr. Fergus Moore	Forest Service	State Body
3.	Mr. Cormac McCarthy	Eastern Regional Fisheries Board	State Body
4.	Mr. Michael Brady	East Coast and Midlands Tourism	Local Government
5.	Cllr Kathleen Kelleher	Greystones Town Council	Local Government
6.	Cllr Pat Byrne	Wicklow Town Council	Local Government
	Cllr Noel Keyes (Chair.)	Bray Town Council	Local Government
8.	Cllr Pat Fitzgerald	Arklow Town Council	Local Government
9.	Cllr Tommy Cullen (Dep. Chair)	Housing Strategic Policy Committee SPC	Local Government
10.	Cllr George Jones	Water & Environment SPC	Local Government
	Cllr Derek Mitchell	Transportation & Roads SPC	Local Government
	Cllr Michael Lawlor	Community, Cultural and Social Development SPC	Local Government
	Cllr Pat Vance	Economic Development & Planning SPC	Local Government
	Mr. John Byrne	Irish Farming Association	Social Partner (Agriculture)
	Mr. Bob Galvin	Wicklow Planning Alliance	Social Partner (Environment)
16.	Mr. Leslie Armstrong	Construction Industry Federation	Social Partner (Dev/Construction)
	Mr. John Doyle	Bray & District Chamber of Commerce	Social Partner (Business/Commercial)
18.	Ms. Eileen Cullen	Wicklow Uplands Council	Community & Voluntary
19.	Ms. Sharon Corcoran	Wicklow Arts Network	Culture / Arts
20.	Mr. Brian Kehoe	Wicklow Rural Partnership	Local Development
	Mr. Oran O'Sullivan	Birdwatch Ireland	Non Governmental Organisation
	Mr. Nick Kirwan	Coillte	Semi-State



### Membership of Working Groups

### **Natural Heritage Working Group**

Enda Mullen, National Parks and Wildlife, DOEHLG

Fergus Moore, The Forest Service

Oran O Sullivan, Birdwatch Ireland

Cormac Mc Carthy, Eastern Regional Fisheries Board

Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council

### **Built Heritage Working Group**

Paddy Hooper, Senior Planner, Wicklow County Council

Derek Hennessy, Architect, Wicklow County Council

Emmet Byrnes, Archaeologist, The Forest Service

Flora O Mahony, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

John Doyle, Bray & District Chamber of Commerce, (Heritage Forum Member)

Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Wicklow county Council

### **Local Heritage and Culture Working Group**

Margaret Malone, Community and Enterprise, Wicklow County Council

Brendan Martin, Wicklow Library Service

Fiona Scannell, Wicklow Library Service

Sharon Corcoran, Wicklow Arts Network

Eileen Cullen, Community Rep. Heritage Forum

Brian Kehoe, Wicklow Rural Partnership

Colin Murphy, Wicklow Uplands Council

Helena Caulfield, Wicklow Communities Networking.

Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council













### Appendix 3 Public Consultation

March- April 2003 Written submissions were received from the following:

#### **State Bodies & Local Government**

Dept. of Agriculture & Food Dept. of Education & Science -

Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Government

Eastern Regional Fisheries Board

Geological Survey Of Ireland – Matthew Parkes

National Roads Authority

Wicklow County Council – Housing Section

Wicklow County Council - Environmental Awareness

Office

Wicklow County Council – Planning Section Wicklow Library Service – Brendan Martin

#### **Individuals**

William Wright, Sylvester Bourke Dorothy Keane Paul Gorry Richard Nairn Nick Coy John Doyle

### **Non Governmental Organisations**

Rathnew Heritage Group – Mary Dowling Wicklow Historical Society - Stan J. O Reilly

South Wicklow Countryside Awareness- David Wilkinson

An Óige - Fionáin De Barra

Irish Steam Museum – Robert Guinness

Bray Head Residents Association – Ultan Fitzsimmons

Save Our Head Organisation – Colm Kirwan

Bray Strollers Social & Walking Club

Wicklow Uplands Council

Ballyknockan Heritage & Community Group - Don O'Sullivan

West Wicklow Historical Society - Donal McDonnell

Blessington Family / Local History Society - Maureen Phibbs

Save Our Seafront - Paddy Mulligan

The friends of Historic Rathdown

Irish Georgian Society - Donough Cahill

Society of Archivists, Ireland - Joanne Rothwell



### 26th July 2003

Attendance/ participation in "Heritage in Wicklow" information seminar and workshop held at Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh, Co.Wicklow.

Aidan Ffrench Andy Merrigan Anthony McElelerhor

Billy Flynn

Bob Galvin

Brian Kebog

Cannon Robert Jennings Caroline Burrell (MacCaughey)

Cathal Crean
Chris Lawlor
Claire Chamb
Claire Kelly

Colin Murphy
Debbie Darcy
Deirdre Burns

Eileen Byrnes Elaine Dromey Elanor Sheehan Fionan De Barra Finnoula Lynch

Gavin Lynch

Holon Corroll

Helen Cunningham

Joan Kavanagh
John Murphy
Judy Osborne
Karen Coffey
Kathleen Cullen

Lyndsay Blackmore

Maire Lynch

Margaret Crean

Marie McDonnell Marie Merrigan Mary Dowling Matthew Parkes Michael Rossiter

Muriel Beckett Myles Carroll Noel Keyes (cllr)

Noel Wood
Paddy Crawford
Pat Byrne (cllr)
Patrick Power

Richard Nairn Siobhan Ryan Solomon Arobo

Stan O Reilly

Stephanie McDonald

Helga Mullen Jack Murphy Jim Fitzpatrick

Sylvia Desmono Tony Pratschke Uto Hogerzeil William Mullen Willy Cimming



### Attendance at Public Consultation Meetings, February 2004

### 17/02/04 - Wicklow Town, Grand Hotel

1.	Ivan Sheane	Colley Row, Wicklow.
2.	Andrew O Brien	Wicklow Town.
3.	Roger Garland	43 Butterfield Drive, Dublin 14.
4.	William Keefe	Redcross, Co. Wicklow.
5.	Cormac McCarthy	Eastern Regional Fisheries Board.
6.	Liam Mosney	Roundwood Park, Roundwood.
7.	CIIr. Pat Byrne	Wicklow Town Council.
8.	Enda Mullen	National Parks and Wildlife.
9.	Paula De Courcey	Planning section, Wicklow County Council.
10	Michael Rossiter	Planning section Wicklow County Council

#### 19/02/04 - Poullaphuca, Blessington

Deirdre Burns

19/02	/04 - Poullaphuca, Bless	ington
1.	Beth Halligan	Crosscoolharbour, Blessington.
2.	Janet Halligan	Old Court, Manor Kilbride, Blessington.
3.	Maureen Cassidy	Hempstown Commons (Blessington), Co. Kildare.
4.	Tom Cassidy	Hempstown Commons (Blessington), Co. Kildare.
5.	Séan Byrne	53 Moorefield Park, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.
6.	Neville Gynes	Haylands House, Blessington, Co. Wicklow.
7.	Donal McDonnell	West Wicklow Historical Society, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow.
8.	C. Breslin	Shroughan, Carraig Lane, Blessington.
9.	J. Flannery	Shroughan, Carraig Lane, Blessington.
10.	Hugh O Neill	Troodus Carraig Lane, Blessington.
11.	Carmel O Neill	Troodus Carraig Lane, Blessington.
12.	Fergal Loughlin	Sin É, The Crosses, Trooperstown.
13.	Eileen Cullen	Wicklow Communities Networking.
14.	Louise Magee	Carraig Lane, Blessington.
15.	David Magee	Carraig Lane, Blessington.
16.	Cllr. Noel Keyes	Bray Town Council.
17.	Michael Rossiter	Planning Section, Wicklow County Council.
18.	Solomon Aroboto	Planning Section, Wicklow County Council.
19.	Deirdre Burns	Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council.

Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council.

### 23/02/04 - Bray Town Hall

1.	V. Keating	Bray Head Residents Association, 80 Newcourt Road, Bray.
2.	M. Murray	'Ventour', Loretto Ave. Bray.
3.	Patrica Hamilton	30 Ballygall Road East, Glasnevin, Dublin 11.
4.	Paddy Mulligan	Hoeyfield Mews, Putland Rd. Bray.
5.	Alan Stephens	Newtownmountkennedy Tidy Towns, 25 O Neill Park.
6.	Cllr. Kathleen Kelleher	Greystones Town Council.
7.	Paddy Hooper	Planning section, Wicklow County Council.
8.	Tracey Flanagan	Planning section, County Council.
9.	Paula De Courcey	Planning section, County Council.
10	Doirdro Rurns	Horitago Officor Wicklow County Council

### 24/02/04 - Woodenbridge, Co. Wicklow

1.	Colin Murphy	Wicklow Uplands Council.
2.	Margaret Murphy	Saville House, Rathdrum.
3.	Padraig McCarthy	Avoca, Co. Wicklow.
4.	Alice O Loughlin	Templelusk, Avoca.
5.	Liam O Loughlin	Templelusk, Avoca.
6.	Nancy Keogh	56 Ferrybank, Arklow.
7.	Donald Keogh	56 Ferrybank, Arklow.



William O Brien	Woodenbridge
Fergal Loughlin	The Crosses, Trooperstown.
	Construction Industry Federation
Paddy Hooper	
Solomon Aroboto	
	Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council.

#### 28/02/04 - Glendalough, Co. Wicklow

Gay Needilalli	37 Cherry Court, Mount Tallant Ave., Dublin 69
Claire Chambers	Anna Carter, Roundwood.
Joan Kavanagh	
Catherine Wright	
	MHTI/ ERA Maptec.
	Planning section, Wicklow Town Council
Deirdre Burns	Heritage Officer Wicklow County Council



#### Feb- March 2004 Written Submissions received from the following:

Andrew O Brien	39 Glenview Goad, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklo
Keep Ireland Open	Roger Garland
Bray Head Residents Association	V Keating 80 Newcourt Road Bray

ociety of Archivists, Ireland

Carol Quin. Boole Library, University College Cork

Jewtown & Dist. Tidy Towns

Alan Stephens. 25 O Neill Park, Newtownmountkenned

Lower Fitzwilliam St. Dublin 2

Industria	al Heritage	Association	of Ireland	R.	Сох.	Tailors Hall,	Back L	ane,	Dublin	8.

Jim Rees 3 Meadows Lane, Arklow

Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland (MHTI)

Forest Service

Forest Service

Enmet Byrnes

Fergus Moore

Enniskerry Community Alliance

Mayntainearing Council of Ireland (MCI)

Mike Daglay

Mountaineering Council of Ireland (MCI) Mike Dagley
Dept. Of the Environment, Heritage and

local government (DOEHLG)

An Bord Pleanála

Dept. of Agriculture and Food

Dept. Of the Environment, Heritage and

local government (DOEHLG) National Roads Authority NRA Martin Cullen Minister 64 Marlborough St, Dublin 1

Joe Walsh. Minister

Mairead O Boyle, Development Applications Unit

Waterloo Road, Dublin 4



### Appendix 4 Relevant Legislation

National and EU Heritage Legislation

### Heritage and Planning

Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963-2002 Heritage Act, 1995 Environmental Impact assessment (Council Directive 85/337/EEC, as amended) Strategic Environmental Assessment (Council Directive 2001/42/EC)

### **Built Heritage**

National Monuments Acts 1930-1994 National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Act (NIAH), 1999 Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963-2002

### **Natural Heritage**

Wildlife Act, 1976
Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000
European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997
Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC), (ratified 1985)
Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC), (ratified 1997)
Water Framework Directive (Council Directive 2000/60/EC, 2000
Forestry Acts 1946, 1956 and 1988

### **Cultural Heritage including Museums and Archives**

National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 Local Government Acts 1994 and 2001

### Landscapes and Heritage Gardens & Parks

Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963-2002

### International Conventions and Agreements which Ireland has signed and ratified

UNESCO Convention for the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (ratified 1992). European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention), 1997. European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention), 1997.

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), 1971 (ratified, 1984)

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), 1974.

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

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), 1979 (ratified, 1983)

Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992 (ratified, 1996)

Agreement on Conservation of Bats in Europe (Bonn Convention), 1993 (ratified, 1995)

International Tropical Timber Agreement 1994, (1996).

Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) (Bonn Convention), 1996.

Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, (endorsed 1995).

European Landscape Convention, 2000, (ratified, 2002)

### Appendix 5 Bibliography

### Guiding documents, strategies and plans

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A Methodology for the Preparation of County Heritage Plans, The Heritage Council

The Heritage Council Plan 2001-2005, The Heritage Council

National Biodiversity Plan, Dept. of Arts, Gaeltacht & The Islands, 2002

'Outlook' Wicklow County Development Board Strategy 2002

Wicklow County Development Plan 1999, Wicklow County Council

Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2004-2010, Wicklow County Council

Bray Development Plan 1999

Corporate Plan, Wicklow County Council 2001-2004

Wicklow Arts Plan 2003-2006, Arts Office, Wicklow County Council

Wicklow Indicative Forestry Strategy, Wicklow County Council 2002

A Guide to the Habitats in Ireland, The Heritage Council 2000

Dublin Heritage Plan, Dublin City Council, 2002

Carlow Heritage Plan, Carlow County Council, 2003

Clare Heritage Plan, Clare County Council, 2003

Kerry Heritage Plan, Kerry County Council, 2003

Offaly Heritage Plan, Offaly County Council, 2002

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Westmeath Heritage Plan, Westmeath County Council, 2003

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Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities, Dept. of Arts, Gaeltacht & The Islands. 2002

The Care and Conservation of Graveyards, Dúchas, The Heritage Service, 1997 Evaluation of Environmental Designations in Ireland, The Heritage Council, 1996

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Code of Best Forest Practice- Ireland, Forest Service 2000

Guidelines for the Developing & Marking of Waymarked Ways,

The Heritage Council and Irish Sports Council, 2002

A Community Based Strategy for the Forest and

Timber Industry in Co. Wicklow, Wicklow Uplands Council 2002

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# Notes

