

Draft County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022

A partnership plan prepared by the Wicklow Heritage Forum.

July 2017



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Foreword

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II. Introduction

This is the third The Heritage Plan for county Wicklow, covering the period 2017-2022. The Heritage Plan was prepared by the Wicklow Heritage Forum, a partnership group set up by Wicklow County Council and facilitated through the Heritage Officer.

The overall aim of the Plan is: To conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage of Wicklow and to foster a greater awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of this by all.

The Heritage Plan represents a strategic approach to the management of heritage in county Wicklow that is underpinned by both National and local heritage policy.

The term 'Heritage' encompasses a broad range of natural and built heritage elements as set out in the Heritage Act 1995. This includes monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks and inland waterways. Additionally the Wicklow Plan makes provision for other aspects of cultural heritage such as history, genealogy, traditional skills and placenames.

Context –National and Local

The National Heritage Plan: The preparation of a local heritage plan and establishment of a local heritage forum became part of Government policy in the National Heritage Plan (NHP) of 2002. The Heritage Council subsequently published guidelines on the preparation of Local Heritage Plans in 2003. The Wicklow Heritage Plan has been produced in accordance with those guidelines.

Culture 2025 & Creative Ireland : *Culture 2025 -Éire Ildánach A Framework Policy* was published by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in 2016. One of the priorities is to update the National Heritage Plan to identify priority actions in the heritage area. The Culture 2025 policy is underpinned by the implementation vehicle, *Creative Ireland Programme/ Clár Éire Ildánach 2017-2022*, which commits to increase investment in arts and heritage, the promotion of collaboration and the production of a Culture and Creativity Plan by each local authority. The development of multi disciplinary artistic and cultural collaborations through Wicklow's Culture & Creativity Plan to facilitate greater engagement of people with their local heritage is identified as an action in this Heritage Plan.

All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020: The production of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan in 2015 is a new approach to address the decline in pollinator species and protect pollinator services on the island of Ireland. The Plan is a cross agency and cross departmental strategy setting out steps to reverse pollinator losses and help restore populations to healthy levels over a five year period. The associated sectoral guidelines produced through the PollinatorPlan provide a valuable resource to promote collaboration in Wicklow and assist the implementation of related actions in the County Heritage Plan.

Waters and Communities: The establishment of Local Authority Waters and Communities Offices (LAWCO) in 2016 is a new approach to public participation in the management of our natural waters and delivery of the Water Framework Directive. It recognises the value of local partnerships in the management of local rivers, lakes or coastal waters and offers advice on technical issues and funding opportunities for community projects. There is great potential for such projects to enhance the water quality, habitat value and recreational use of Wicklow's water bodies and this has been identified as an action of the Wicklow Heritage Plan. .

The County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2009-14: The second Wicklow Heritage Plan covered the period 2009-2014, which in turn was extended by the Heritage Forum until 2016 to allow for the implementation of key actions. This is the third Heritage Plan for county Wicklow. It sets out to build upon the achievements of the previous two Plans, and identifies priorities for Heritage in Wicklow over the next 5 years, taking account of changes at local, national and international levels since the publication of previous plans.

The County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015

The Biodiversity Action Plan for Wicklow sets out thirty actions under four key objectives. The development and implementation of this Plan reflects the importance of this aspect of our heritage in Wicklow. The Heritage Plan is committed to supporting the implementation of actions in the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015 and the review and update of this Plan as required. Additionally it should be noted that the Heritage Plan promotes a fully integrated approach to heritage which encompasses built and natural heritage equally and this is reflected in the Heritage Plan actions which very much complement the Biodiversity Plan.

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-22

The Wicklow CDP sets out the statutory framework for land use planning and sustainable development in county Wicklow. The Heritage Plan sits within the policy framework of the CDP and aims to support and strengthen the role of the CDP and other land use plans by providing baseline information to inform policy for the protection, conservation, management and promotion of heritage.

Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-22

The Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is a six-year plan produced by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in conjunction with Wicklow County Council. It contains objectives and actions to promote and support economic development, and local and community development in County Wicklow both by Wicklow County Council itself and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. The contribution that heritage makes to quality of life and well-being in Wicklow is a key tenet of the Heritage Plan, as is the role that heritage can play in the strengthening of communities and the contribution to socioeconomic development.

How this Plan was prepared

This Heritage Plan was prepared in accordance with the Heritage Council's *Guidelines for the Preparation of City/County Heritage Plans*. The membership of the Wicklow Heritage Forum was renewed in 2015, with new organisations invited to attend and new members coming on board from the various nominating groups (See Appendix 1 for Heritage Forum members). The forum prepared a briefing document and questionnaire which was circulated at the end of 2015 along with a public invitation to make submissions to the pre draft plan. Thirty two submissions were received in total. The Heritage Forum has had regard to the issues highlighted in these submissions, and has used these as a basis of discussions which has resulted in the formulation of objectives and actions in this plan.

Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) as transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 requires that all plans and projects must be screened for potential significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)). Wicklow Heritage Forum is committed to the

implementation of the requirements of the Habitats Directive and an appropriate assessment of the final draft of the Wicklow Heritage Plan will be undertaken prior to its consideration by Wicklow County Council.

How this Plan will be implemented

The Heritage Plan will be implemented through the annual work programme, overseen by the Wicklow Heritage Forum and co-ordinated on a day to day basis by the Heritage Officer of Wicklow County Council. While the Wicklow Heritage Forum, Wicklow County Council and the Heritage Council are key partners in the delivery of the Plan, there is a significant role for the wider 'heritage community' in Wicklow which includes additional community groups, agencies, third level institutions and individuals. Successful implementation of the Plan is dependent on the continued active engagement, support and participation of this wider community in Wicklow.

Role of the Wicklow Heritage Forum: The Heritage Forum is made up of council, community, non-governmental organisation (NGO) and state sector representatives and is key to the delivery of the Heritage Plan. Members meet quarterly and make a huge commitment to co-ordinating and overseeing actions of the Plan. The Forum meetings provide a valuable opportunity for members to discuss issues, share knowledge, information and resources and build working relationships. The Forum is co-ordinated by the Wicklow Heritage Officer. Experience from the previous two Heritage Plans has shown joint community/agency projects to be an efficient and cost effective way to work.

Funding: Wicklow County Council is committed to delivering the 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 annual budget. The Council will also support the delivery of the Plan through the work of its Heritage Officer and other professional staff. Each year a detailed work programme is drawn up from the actions in this Plan, which will be submitted to the Heritage Council and other funding bodies as appropriate. 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. Delivery of the Heritage Plan is facilitated by an annual funding allocation from the Heritage Council in the range of €25-30,000 and co-funded by Wicklow County Council.

The commitment of other key partners to funding actions in the Plan will largely be dependent on their funding allocations and remits.

Partners: As the annual work programme is agreed, commitments will be sought from relevant partners, including other additional partners (as the need arises) for implementing key actions. 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 County 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 a minimum of four times annually to review and evaluate progress. Working groups will be convened as needed for the purposes of achieving specific actions in the work programme.

Availability of Resources and Expertise: Specialist professional expertise will be sought where required and as resources permit, to implement the actions of the Heritage Plan. The appointment of full-time, suitably qualified staff in the areas of community archaeology, architectural conservation and biodiversity would greatly assist the integration of heritage conservation fully into the day to day operation of Wicklow County Council. It is recognised however, that the provision of such staff is an operational matter for Wicklow County Council and is dependent on available resources.

III. The Plan: Strategic Objectives & Actions

- Raise awareness of, and enthusiasm for, Wicklow's heritage
- Increase understanding of the value of Wicklow's heritage
- Promote the conservation and management of Wicklow's Heritage
- Facilitate partnership and active community participation in heritage plan actions
- Record the heritage of Wicklow and disseminate existing information

1. Raise awareness of, and enthusiasm for, Wicklow's heritage

- 1.1 Maintain and develop the online community heritage archive for County Wicklow, *Our Wicklow Heritage* OWH www.countywicklowheritage.org as a platform for disseminating information about the nature, history and cultural heritage of Wicklow and as a hub for the sharing of information about upcoming events and activities.
- 1.2 Develop a Wicklow Heritage E-zine
- 1.3 Maintain and develop the heritage content on the Wicklow County Council website www.wicklow.ie as a means to communicate the work of the Wicklow Heritage Forum and provide information about the statutory provisions in place to protect and manage Wicklow's heritage.
- 1.4 Work with Wicklow County Tourism to develop the heritage content on www.visitwicklow.ie and to develop heritage themes on existing trails.
- 1.5 Continue to use exhibitions, competitions, publications, digital technologies, local media and social media to raise awareness of key aspects of Wicklow's heritage.
- 1.6 Continue to promote wider awareness of all aspects of Wicklow's heritage with key stakeholders through an annual heritage awareness programme and through participation in national programmes such as Heritage Week, Biodiversity Week and other relevant heritage events.
- 1.7 Organise conferences, talks, seminars and demonstration events to provide information and promote awareness of different aspects of Wicklow's heritage.
- 1.8 Continue to promote National Heritage Week in Wicklow through the production of a county event guide.
- 1.9 Work with education providers and outdoor education centres in Wicklow to support the delivery of relevant heritage education programmes to primary, post primary pupils, teachers and the school community.
- 1.10 Commission and support the production of high quality heritage guides and publications to showcase different aspects of Wicklow's heritage.

2. Increase understanding of the value of Wicklow's heritage

- 2.1 Research and develop county heritage trails/themed heritage trails, with a focus on publicly accessible heritage sites and attractions in co-operation with other organisations, communities and landowners.
- 2.2 Assess the current level of access to National Monuments and publicly owned archaeological monuments in the county and, where possible, encourage partnerships to provide appropriately managed access, protection and interpretation of these sites.
- 2.3 Work in partnership with chambers of commerce, local businesses and community groups to develop innovative and engaging means to present information about the natural, built and cultural heritage of towns and villages.
- 2.4 Continue to support the efforts of groups to look after and record the heritage of their local roadsides as part of their participation in the PURE Mile project and continue to provide an online archive of this on *Our Wicklow Heritage*
- 2.5 Liaise with relevant sectors in the development of greenways/ walking/cycling routes to ensure that such projects are developed in a sustainable manner and that every opportunity is taken to promote the natural and built heritage along such routes.
- 2.6 Continue to support and advocate for the development of suitable and sustainable visitor facilities to display heritage collections in Wicklow.

3. Promote the conservation and management of Wicklow's Heritage

- 3.1 Promote integrated conservation planning and sustainable development through heritage appraisal of development plans.
- 3.2 Encourage participation among towns and villages in Wicklow in national initiatives such as the Heritage Council's Historic town's initiative.
- 3.3 Liaise with key stakeholders to support the preparation of conservation and visitor management plans for the following areas :
 - The former mining landscape at Avoca
 - Glendalough Valley to include the monastic complex, historic graveyard, monuments , mining features and natural landscape.
 - The Murrough, Wicklow Town.
- 3.4 Liaise with the Office of Public Works, National Monuments Service, landowners and key stakeholders to address the conservation, management and presentation of significant heritage sites in Wicklow, including (but not limited to) Glendalough Monastic Complex, Baltinglass Abbey, Baltinglass Hillfort Complex, Rathgall Hillfort, Aghowle Church.
- 3.5 Engage key stakeholders in developing and implementing best practice care and conservation of historic graveyards (including masonry ruins) in County Wicklow
- 3.6 Support the implementation of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan in county Wicklow.
- 3.7 Undertake a heritage audit of council owned properties in order to identify conservation needs and opportunities.
- 3.8 Undertake awareness raising initiatives to highlight the threat of invasive species and liaise with relevant stakeholders to develop appropriate recording and control initiatives.
- 3.9 Liaise with key stakeholders in the care and maintenance of Wicklow's built heritage and public realm through, policy, best practice guidance, public realm planning, heritage led regeneration and the promotion of traditional building skills.
- 3.10 Support the integration of Green Infrastructure in Wicklow through the compilation of information about habitats and ecosystem services.
- 3.11 Support the implementation of actions in the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015 and the review and update of this Plan as required.

4. Facilitate partnership and active community participation in heritage plan actions.

- 4.1 Develop multi disciplinary artistic and cultural collaborations through Wicklow's Culture & Creativity Plan to facilitate greater engagement between people and their local landscape.
- 4.2 Support the existing and new community led archaeological and heritage recording initiatives by providing training, advice, resources, and networking opportunities.
- 4.3 Encourage 'Citizen Science' in Wicklow through the promotion of the various recording initiatives available, the work of the National Biological Data Centre (NBDC) and the tracking of 'actions for pollinators' by Tidy Towns and other groups .
- 4.4 Support the activities of historical societies in county Wicklow through providing opportunities for networking and for reaching new audiences.
- 4.5 Re-establish Wicklow County Councils Community Heritage Grant Scheme to support local communities to undertake heritage projects.
- 4.6 Develop a project to support community led graveyard memorial recording
- 4.7 Develop a project to support the collection of oral histories by communities.
- 4.8 Continue to participate in and support the work of the Glendalough Heritage Forum to improve our understanding and awareness of the heritage of the Glendalough valley
- 4.9 Encourage increased active participation by the public in Our *Wicklow Heritage* OWH by; expanding the editorial steering committee to include interested individuals; developing a category for individual heritage groups; host public training days in association with Wicklow Library service; and develop an annual award to recognise contributors.
- 4.10 Work in partnership with the Local Authority Water and Communities Office (LAWCO) and local stakeholders on initiatives to enhance the water quality, habitat value and recreational use of Wicklow's water bodies.

5. Record the heritage of Wicklow and disseminate existing information

- 5.1 Ensure that information generated through the implementation of the Heritage Plan and previous Heritage Plans, is accessible to all, and available through www.wicklow.ie and/or www.countywicklowheritage.org
- 5.2 Commission studies on; the architectural character of towns and villages and the demesne landscapes of Wicklow. Disseminate this information through talks/ exhibitions and publications and incorporate this information into policy.
- 5.3 Support the production of new publications on the Geology of Wicklow and reprints of publications on Mining Heritage, Wildlife Guides and Archaeology of County Wicklow
- 5.4 Continue to develop the *Our Wicklow Heritage* online community heritage archive as a key repository for the storage and dissemination of heritage information with a focus on increasing oral history and biodiversity content.
- 5.5 Further develop the content of existing local heritage recording projects carried out in West Wicklow, Blessington Lakes and River Liffey, and initiate additional heritage recording projects themed on the Military Road and The Wicklow Way

IV APPENDIX

Membership of the Wicklow Heritage Forum

1. Noel Keyes (Chair) – Individual
2. Cllr. Mary McDonald -Arklow Municipal District
3. Cllr Thomas Cullen – Blessington Municipal District
4. Cllr Stephen Mathews- Bray Municipal District
5. Cllr Grainne McLoughlin- Greystones Municipal District
6. Cllr John Snell - Wicklow Municipal District
7. Enda Mullen- National Parks & Wildlife Service- Dept. of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht
8. Chris Corlett - Cultural Heritage Representative
9. Donnachadh Byrne- Inland Fisheries Ireland
10. Oonagh Duggan– Birdwatch Ireland
11. Bob Sherriff - Teagasc *
12. Frank D’Arcy – County Wicklow Partnership *
13. John Medlycott – Wicklow Uplands Council
14. Patricia Butler –Garden Historian/Author
15. John Doyle – County Wicklow Chambers of Commerce
16. Joan Kavanagh – Local Historical Society Rep. (Rathdrum HS)
17. Brendan Martin – Wicklow County Council Library Service
18. Catherine Wright – Archives/ Genealogy Service, Wicklow County Council
19. Deirdre Burns – Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council

*Awaiting replacement nominee

Heritage Plan Actions 2009 to present: An overview

HP OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS TAKEN
<p>1. Raising Awareness and promoting appreciation of Wicklow's Heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our Wicklow Heritage: Community Archaeology Event 2017 ● Production of Blessington Lakeside Heritage Trail 2016-17 ● West Wicklow and South West Wicklow Heritage Trails 2017 ● Wicklow Town Coastal Biodiversity Public Event 2017 ● Wicklow 1916 Exhibition, Public Collections Day and events ● Glendalough Heritage Forum programme 2014-2017: Talks, Community excavation, exhibitions, tours, graveyard trail, children's events ● Annual Heritage Week programme of events 2010-17 ● Sponsorship of Heritage Week events at Tinahely Courthouse Art Centre ● Seamus Heaney Hedge school of Glanmore programme 2015 ● 'Corries To Coast' Photography competition & exhibition 2015 ● Wicklow Heritage Building Show 2015 ● 18th Century Headstones of Wicklow publication 2015 ● Traditional Farmhouses of Wicklow Publication 2014 ● Preban Exhibition for Heritage Week 2014 ● Exhibition on Wicklow's Wetlands for Biodiversity Week 2014 ● Industrial Heritage Conference - <i>Forgotten State of Industry</i> in Glendalough 2013 ● Footsteps in Time Trail with Wicklow Historical Society 2014 ● Viking Re-enactment and Pop up museum for Wicklow Arts Festival 2013 & 2014 ● Wildlife leaflets – Reprints (Biodiversity Poster, Woodlands, Coastline, Mountains) and Murrough Visitor Guide 2013 ● Family Wetland Safari event with IWT - Wicklow Town 2013 ● Wicklow Traditional skills Day - Held Sat 9th Oct at Wicklow Gaol. Talks, demonstrations, stalls and displays (2010) ● Heritage Open Day at Avondale 2009 ● Biodiversity Week Programme of events - Wild Wicklow Week 2013 ● Preban historic graveyard film 2013 ● Seminar on Protected Structures– held in Arklow Bay (2010) ● Glens of Lead genealogical workshop 2013, walk, talks and demonstrations 2012. ● Heritage input to Tidy Towns Seminar Aughrim 2009 ● Talk on Biodiversity Study of Bridges for Dippers and fish barriers 2013 ● Event for International Sites and Monuments Day 2009 on Cpt. Halpin at Tinakilly House ● Creation and co-ordination of Wicklow's Online Community Heritage Archive and Facebook 2012 ● Heritage Week - Production of County Guide, Advertising & Promotion 2009-14 ● Wicklow Villages book (2011) ● Heritage Wicklow Newsletter 2009-2011

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of x4 short promotional videos 2010 • Coastal Signage - Wicklow's Living Coast Project 2010 • Vernacular Exhibition talk and launch in Blessington Library 2009
2. Enhance the protection of Wicklow's Heritage through Best Practice and practical actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Biodiversity Actions Plans for Blessington, Arklow, Rathdangan and Wicklow Town 2016 • Heritage Gardens Seminar at Russborough 2016 • Traditional Skills Open Day (exhibitions, demonstrations and talks) 2015 • Glens of Lead – Digital recording of historic mining landscape and Conservation Plan for Glendalough (2013) • Co. Wicklow Wetlands GIS map (2012) • Heritage Viewer - Heritage Council and Local Authority GIS tool (2011-2017) • Architectural Conservation Area appraisals and additions to RPS (ongoing) • County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2010 • Shopfronts of Wicklow Town inventory and guidance (2010) • Landscape Study for Great and Little Sugar Loaf 2010 • Wicklow Town Public Realm Plan 2010
3. Gathering information about Wicklow's Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glendalough Heritage Forum Research 2014-2017 • River Liffey Heritage Recording project 2016 • Wicklow 1916 Collections Day & Digitisation project • Blessington Lakeside Heritage Recording project 2015-16 • County Wicklow Geological Heritage Audit 2014 • Wicklow Bridges Study 2012 • Wetlands Surveys I & II (2011 & 2012) • Glens of Lead Metal Links project - recording historic mining heritage features in Glendalough, Glendasan and Glenmalure (2010-13) • Great and Little Sugar Loaf landscape study 2009 • Compilation information on people, places and topics through online archive. 2012-17 • Creation of PURE Mile archive of information about specific places
4. Encouragement of partnership and greater community participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to community archaeology/heritage group recording and promotion activities (Glenmalure Adopt a monument, Medieval Bray Project, Glendalough Heritage /Forum, Valleymount Heritage Committee) 2017 • Participation in the Glendalough Heritage Forum collaboration and programme 2012-2017 • Wicklow's Online Community Heritage Archive Launch 2014 • PURE Mile Competition 2009-14 • Preban Community Graveyard project 2013 • Wicklow's Living Wetland photo competition with BWI on 2013 • Wicklow Uplands Council Village Signage project - 2009-14 • Invasive species workshop in Bray - July 2012 • Wicklow's Living Landscape photo competition with WUC 2012 • Wicklow's Living coast photo competition with Coastcare 2011 & 2010 • Support to Carnew Local History research project and exhibition for Heritage Week 2013 • Oral History Recording workshop Glendalough 2012 • Red Kite Public talk - Woodenbridge 2011 • Support of community actions through Community & Heritage Awards

	<p>2009 & 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bat Identification Training workshop 2010• Coastcare Survey workshop 2013
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