

*South Dublin County  
Heritage Plan  
2010 - 2015*



## Acknowledgements

South Dublin County Council and The South Dublin County Heritage Forum wishes to acknowledge the role of the Heritage Council in initiating the preparation of this Heritage Plan in association with South Dublin County Council.

The County Heritage Forum gratefully acknowledges the support of the Heritage Council in its part-funding of the Heritage Officer post in association with South Dublin County Council.

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Comhairle Contae  
Átha Cliath Theas  
South Dublin County Council



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council





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Marie Corr - Mayor  
South Dublin County Council

I am very pleased to offer my support to the first Heritage Plan for South Dublin County.

Since very early Christian times ancient transport routes, which can still be traced through the County, facilitated the development of trade and industry on the plains and low hills south of the River Liffey. This activity offered key locations for residences and for nationally important sites of learning and teaching. This long cultural and economic history is reflected today in the subtle variety of industrial and residential architecture throughout the County, alongside a long-established agricultural heritage that is still alive and tangible today.

The beauty of the County's natural heritage is also just as varied, from the scenic backdrop of the upland grasslands and mountain bogs of Glenasmole and the hills overlooking Tallaght, to the low-lying patchwork of fields and ancient hedgerows in the west and south of the County, to the natural splendour of the Liffey River Valley to the north.

Heritage helps define us as a community. It is something we not only inherit from preceding generations but something we ourselves will also leave for the future. Planning for the protection and conservation of this valuable resource is therefore a pre-requisite to developing a sense of pride in our origins as a County and hence, a strong sense of cultural and community identity.

This County Heritage Plan is the product of a detailed process of public consultation and engagement with a wide range of heritage experts, community groups and individuals. This approach guarantees that the objectives and actions listed in the Plan were arrived at by a broad consensus, placing the ownership and protection of our County's heritage resource in our own hands. I feel certain that we as a County will rise to this challenge and will fully support the implementation of the objectives and actions listed in Plan.



Joe Horan - County Manager  
South Dublin County Council

When South Dublin County Council was first established in 1994, the importance of the County's rich historical and natural heritage was reflected in the design of the Council's crest and in the intent of its motto '*This We Hold in Trust – Ag Seo Ár gCúram*'. The County's resources of fertile land, rivers, and mountains, coupled with its infrastructure and strategic location close to Dublin city formed the basis of its long historical association with centres of learning and teaching, agriculture, industry and trade.

South Dublin County Council therefore recognises that our heritage is a vital component of our identity as a County and I see the adoption and implementation of our first Heritage Plan to be an important step towards providing a framework for the protection and conservation of this valuable resource into the future.

The objectives of the Heritage Plan strategically align with the Council's Corporate Plan and the County Development Plan. In the implementation of these plans, we strive to deliver a quality of life and promote a sense of identity and pride in a vibrant County which offers an attractive location for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

The Heritage Plan offers a partnership process within which communities and individuals can engage with Council to assist in the delivery of our heritage objectives. With support from the Heritage Council, South Dublin County Council's establishment of a Heritage Officer's post and the formation and operation of the South Dublin County Heritage Forum, demonstrates our commitment to the public's interest in the County's heritage.

I would like to extend my thanks to the members of the County Heritage Forum for their time, their interest, and their input to the production of the Heritage Plan. The continuing support of the Heritage Council is also welcome and I look forward to seeing the positive consequences of the Plan's implementation over the next five years.



## *Introduction*



### *Introduction*

Having a sense of pride in our origins and in the localities in which we live, is a pre-requisite to developing a strong sense of our own identity. In times past, strong community structures helped to foster that sense of local 'pride of place'. Every field and rocky outcrop had a name and local history and folklore perpetuated the memories of long gone heroic characters and deeds.

In the modern world, particularly in a more urbanised setting, retaining that sense of place and identity becomes more difficult. Community and family structures have changed and we are open to many more global influences than ever before. One of the opportunities offered by the formation of the new administrative area of South Dublin County in 1994, was the development and promotion of a strong vibrant county with an identity that is separate to the capital city, but which was nonetheless linked to it by virtue of our common heritage.

The concepts of identity and heritage are inextricably linked. The word 'heritage' is a broad term that refers to all that has come down to us from preceding generations, including natural, built, and cultural elements.

The Heritage Act 1995 defines it as including physical features such as "monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, inland waterways, geology, heritage gardens and parks".

Heritage is therefore all around us. It is reflected in the landscape in which we live and it is reflected in how we perceive that very landscape. The physical examples of our heritage may vary from place to place and from county to county, but what we should not underestimate is the influence that these physical features have on our outlook as individuals, as communities, as a County, and as a nation. Aspects of our heritage help to define us and they contribute to the development of a strong sense of identity and pride.



## *Heritage in South Dublin County*



### ***Heritage in South Dublin County***

While the current administrative boundaries to South Dublin County are of recent origin, the historic and cultural origins of the area enclosed by these boundaries are ancient and are to be seen all around us. The landscape of the County itself has shaped its development and its identity. As a wide, flat, fertile, plain located south and west of the early city of Dubh Linn, with the hills to the south east and the River Liffey to its north, this area offered significant opportunities for settlement, agriculture, trade, and industry.

#### **Built Heritage**

There is ample evidence of prehistoric presence in this area of Dublin, with the best examples surviving in the uplands where subsequent settlement has been less intense. Burial cairns and mounds dot the hills and there are examples of passage, portal, and wedge tombs representing the Megalithic period.

Connections to early mythology in the form of Fionn McCumhaill and the Fianna exist in the names of some of these hills rising from the flat plains e.g. Seefin, Seefingan, and Ballymorefinn. The valley of Glenasmole is said to

have been one of the regular hunting grounds of the Fianna while the townland name of Bohernabreena is also said to have mythological origins. Its Irish form, “Bóthar na Bruinne”, is believed to refer to “the road of the Hostel”, a reference to the bruidhean or house of hospitality of Dá Dearga, which may have been located higher up in the valley of Glenasmole.

The County also has lasting evidence of early Christian heritage. Most of the villages of South Dublin County are located on the sites of important ecclesiastical settlements e.g. Tallaght, Clondalkin, Newcastle, Saggart, and Rathfarnham. The fine example of a well- preserved round tower at Clondalkin sits impressively within the curving street pattern of today’s bustling village, reflecting the line of the original monastic enclosure. Located beside the River Camac, between the Liffey and the mountains, the foundation of Clondalkin’s first monastery is ascribed to St. Cronan (also known as Mochua) in the late 6th or early 7th century.

Nearby in Tallaght, St. Mary’s Church Priory, St. Maelruain’s Church, graveyard, and tower, are all situated



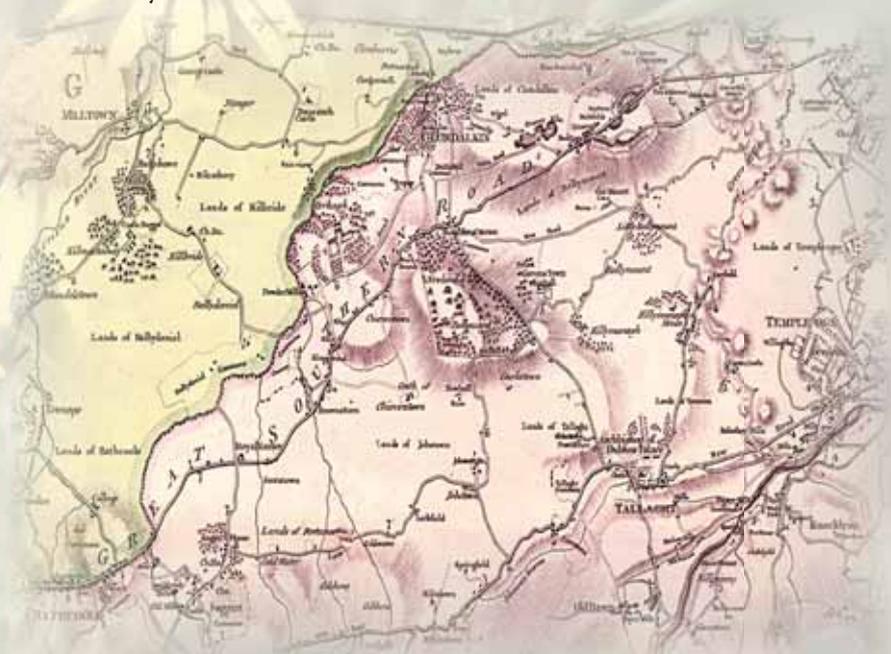
on the site of a monastery founded by St. Maelruain in the 8th century. This monastery was a very important national centre of learning and is known to have been associated with the conservative Céili Dé spiritual reform movement (the Culdees).

Saggart, located on one of the major routes southwards through the County, is said to take its name from the saint Sacer (Mosacer or Mosacra), who is reputed to have founded a monastery there in the 7th century. While few details exist, stone crosses that are attributed to the early Christian period can still be seen in the graveyard in Saggart village. In addition, throughout the County today, there are old holy wells that retain a long history of veneration.

Early Christian monasteries were frequently the focus of movement and travel. Trade and access through the area of the County at that time was facilitated via ancient roads such as the Slí Mhór, Slí Dhála, and Slí Chualann. Slí Mhór began in the centre of Dublin and extended through the region, linking to the great Eiscir Riada which traversed Ireland from east to west. Parts of this route can still be identified

in the County. Viking traders also ventured upstream along the River Liffey, establishing settlements and trading links along the way.

Following the arrival of the Normans, large estates and manors were established on the fertile plains, some of which became nuclei for the development of the villages that still occur in the County today. Until recently, the pattern of field systems and the medieval layout of the village of Newcastle in the south of the County remained largely unchanged since the 13th century.





While developing a strong agricultural base throughout the County, some of these early manorial estates also operated as a line of defence, linking parts of the semi-circular Pale Ditch that was constructed through these lands to fend off incursions by the dispossessed native Irish. Parts of the Pale Ditch can still be traced in both this County and in the neighbouring county of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.



Industry also featured high in the development pattern of South Dublin County. In addition to the River Liffey, the abundance of smaller rivers such as the Griffeen, Camac, Dodder and the

Owendover, all of which descend from the Dublin Mountains, supported corn, paper, oil, and gun powder mills throughout the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. The villages of Lucan, Palmerstown, Clondalkin, Tallaght and Rathfarnham all supported such industries. The well established agricultural base in the County supported this population and also the rapidly growing population of Dublin City.

The architectural legacy of the County reflects this mixed economic base with some fine examples of large country houses, mills and other industrial units, middle class suburban dwellings, the terraced homes of the industrial workforce, and the modest cottages of labouring workers. In the more rural area of the County, substantial farm houses and outbuildings were constructed while the more vernacular architecture of the settlements in the uplands also added to the County's rich architectural legacy.





The County also has some fine examples of ecclesiastical architecture. Some of these are located on early Christian or medieval sites while many others date to the later period of the 19th century. The Gothic Revival style of architecture is frequently seen, showing varying degrees of interpretation and decoration. Grand structures also exist that functioned as monasteries, convents, and schools. Both the Loreto Abbey in Rathfarnham and the Dominican Priory in Tallaght are impressive architectural examples.



Not to be forgotten as being part of our heritage are the less obvious elements of architecture. Gates, piers, old walls, old village pumps, pillar boxes, lamp standards, horse troughs, and other items of 'street furniture' all contribute to establishing local identity. Old ditches and embankments, often capped with a combination of hedgerows and old walls, also mark old townland or estate boundaries.

The Liffey, the Dodder, and the Poddle were primary sources of water for the city of Dublin and its growing suburbs. The impressive weir at Firhouse marks the location the old watercourse for the city tapped into the Dodder River. The presence of mineral springs on the Liffey and Dodder also led to the development of a number of socially popular spas in the 19th century. This significantly assisted in the growth of areas such as Lucan and Templeogue where fine structures were built to house the spa itself and to accommodate the numerous visitors during the summer season.





At the end of the 18th century, the first phase of construction for the Grand Canal project commenced close to Clondalkin, bringing further opportunities for trade and industry to the area. The architectural legacy of this landscape-changing project includes the numerous locks and bridges that were required, as well as lock keepers' houses, impressive canal block work and curving quay walls.

The location and development of the aerodromes at Tallaght, Baldonnel, and at Weston have also contributed not only to the development of the County, but also to the growth and development of civil and military aviation in Ireland as a whole. The first east-west flight across the Atlantic left from Baldonnel, which was also the first home of the national airline, Aer Lingus. Today, Casement Aerodrome in Baldonnel remains the home of the Irish Air Corps and retains much of its own fine architectural and aviation heritage.

This historic social and economic development is the source of the County's heritage legacy, traced today in the landscape we have inherited and in the range of monuments, structures, architecture, and artefacts left behind.



## Natural Heritage

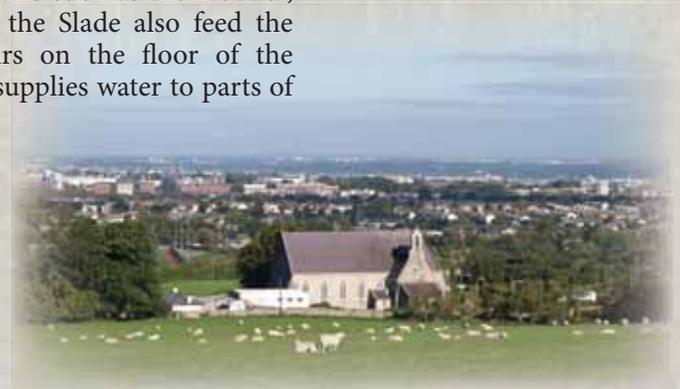
The County's landscape forms the foundation of its natural heritage resource. The topography of the County is varied and includes flat plains stretching away into Kildare, river valleys and streams, low foothills overlooked by higher mountains, with deep mountain valleys that reach back into the Wicklow Mountains.

The Dublin Mountains, which define the south eastern boundaries to the County, can be seen from most parts of the lowland plains. The lower hills that step gently down towards Tallaght offer visual respite and amenity opportunities for the inhabitants of the more densely populated areas of the County. On these lower slopes, a necklace of broadleaf, conifer and mixed woodlands extends from the Hellfire Cub to Saggart Hill.

Higher in the mountains, overlooking the spectacular Glenasmole Valley, the altitude offers a panoramic view over the whole of County Dublin, its coastline, and across the plains of Kildare and Meath. On a clear day, the Mountains of Mourne in Northern Ireland can be seen from this vantage point. The habitat of the mountain uplands is dominated by acidic grassland, heath, and blanket

bog, some of which has provided turf for the fires of Dublin homes over the centuries. Today, this upland habitat with its selection of rare and threatened species is mostly protected within the ecologically designated area of the Wicklow Mountains Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which includes a portion of the Dublin Mountains range.

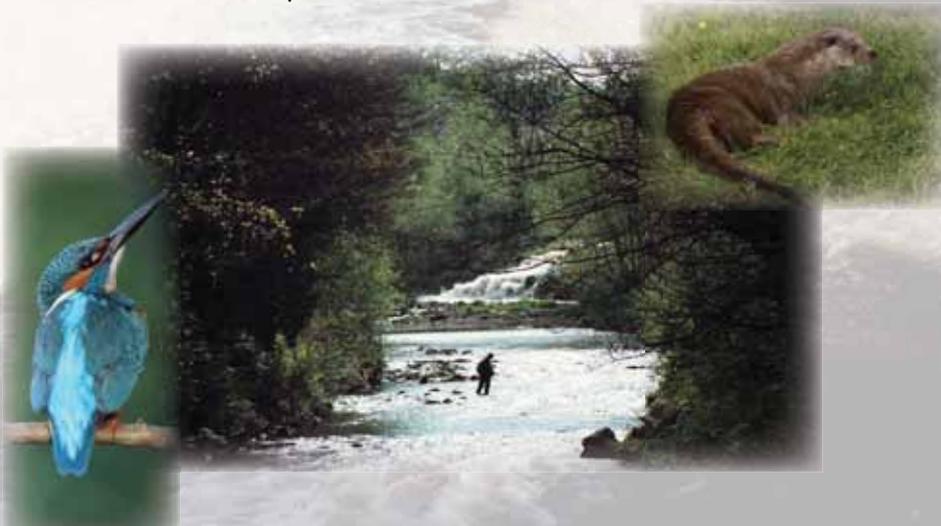
The unique habitats and species within the Glenasmole Valley itself also resulted in this area being designated as an SAC. The lower slopes of the valley are clothed in woodlands which contain areas of unique habitat such as calcareous springs. On the upper slopes, areas of dry orchid-rich grassland occur with wetter areas of species-rich grasslands in drainage channels. Rare plants and bat species also occur, making this valley a special area of biodiversity within the County. Streams such as the Dodder, the Cot, and the Slade also feed the twin reservoirs on the floor of the valley which supplies water to parts of Dublin.





There are also five additional areas of natural interest in South Dublin County which are protected within proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs): the Liffey Valley; the Grand Canal; part of the Dodder Valley; Slade of Saggart & Crooksling Glen; and Lugmore Glen. These sites represent important areas of river, wetland, and woodland interest for the County. A Special Area Amenity Order was also conferred on a part of the Liffey Valley due to its outstanding natural beauty. It supports impressive areas of woodland along the river banks which host rare plant species. Both the River Liffey and the Grand Canal act as vital corridors for wildlife and wetland species through the County, with the Grand Canal also forming a very important biodiversity link stretching all the way from the River Shannon to the Grand Canal Basin in Dublin City.

The Dodder River rises in the Dublin Mountains on the slopes of Kippure Mountain. It drops rapidly through the Glenasmole Valley, past Bohernabreena and on through the urban areas of Old Bawn, Templeogue, and Rathfarnham, where it then passes into the administrative area of Dublin City. That section of the river within the Dodder Valley NHA represents the last remaining stretch of natural river bank vegetation in the built-up Greater Dublin Area and includes wet woodland, gravel banks, woodland scrub, and rare orchid species. Other streams such as the Whitechurch stream, the Owendoher, the Griffeen, and the Camac also contribute significantly to the biodiversity resource of the County, offering corridors for protected species such as otter, kingfisher, and bats through the urban setting.



The Grand Canal, the River Liffey, the River Dodder and the Camac are also important fisheries. Small numbers of Brown Trout occur in these and other smaller streams while Atlantic salmon occur in both the Liffey and the Dodder. The Grand Canal is also an equally important fishery and hosts large populations of coarse fish. It also supports the protected species, the White Clawed Crayfish, which can be found in some overflow channels associated with the canal.

Linking all of these protected areas in the County is a network of public parks, open spaces, hedgerows, and private gardens. The protection of this network of natural heritage is vital, not only for biodiversity concerns, but also for the amenity potential and the improved quality of life that it offers the human inhabitants of the County.

Another element of the County's natural heritage is much more ancient than that already described. The geological history of the area enclosed within the County is mixed. The upland or southern areas of the County are comprised of granites and Silurian or Ordovician meta-sediments while the lowland areas are mostly of limestone. Very small deposits of sandstones and shales are also present along the border with Kildare.

This geological base has provided the raw material for quarrying industries down through the centuries and this is reflected in the County's current list of sites of geological interest e.g. quarries at Belgard, Clondalkin, and Ballinascorney. More recent road engineering works have also exposed interesting geological road sections which can be viewed at the M50/N4 interchange and at the Liffey Valley Centre.



### Cultural Heritage

The cultural heritage of the County is also rich and varied and reflects the different origins and development patterns of the villages that make up the County. The County is, in fact, an amalgamation of the previously industrial villages of Lucan and Palmerstown along the Liffey, Templeogue and Rathfarnham by the Dodder, the once rural villages of Tallaght and Clondalkin in the heart of the County, and the villages of Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart, and Brittas in the south which still retain aspects of a rural character today. In addition, a distinct cultural identity exists in the upland areas of Bohernabreena and Glenasmole.

South Dublin County can be proud of the range of talented authors, musicians, artists, poets, and scientists that have lived and worked in the County down through the years. These include Katherine Tynan Hinkson, Nora Tynan O'Mahoney, Austin Clarke, Charles Level, and Patrick Pye. Key individuals involved in strategic national political and military events are also associated with the County, for example the Pearse brothers and Robert Emmet.

The more recent inward movement of people from other parts of Dublin, Ireland, and indeed, other parts of the world, has added to the County's cultural mix.



## Why a Heritage Plan?



### *Why a Heritage Plan?*

While the County has seen considerable change since early times, the rate of change in more recent times has been significantly greater than ever before. The County has developed a vibrant and modern outlook and has attracted business, development, and higher-density settlement. While enjoying the benefits of this progress, care must be taken to ensure that aspects of our built, natural, and cultural heritage are protected and managed in such a way that they can continue to inform and influence our sense of identity and pride. Preparing a plan for the protection, management, and promotion of the County's rich and varied heritage is a pro-active means to achieve this.

At a national level, the importance of heritage was recognised with the publication in 2002 of the National Heritage Plan. This document sets out a comprehensive strategy for the protection and management of the country's heritage, recognising that heritage must be valued not only for its intrinsic worth, but also for the economic, educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities that it offers.

One of the priorities of the National Heritage Plan refers to "placing heritage at the heart of public life", a concept which encourages actions from a wide range of interested groups and individuals, including regional and local authorities and agencies, non-governmental organisations, individuals, communities, and the private sector. The National Heritage Plan therefore reminds us that we all have a role to play in the protection and promotion of our heritage, making the concepts of partnership and consultation a valuable and underlying principle in the process.

The National Heritage Plan recognises that local authorities are key partners in the integration of heritage conservation at local levels. With the creation of Heritage Officer posts within local authorities throughout the country, and with the preparation and implementation of County Heritage Plans for these counties, community participation in the appreciation, protection, and enjoyment of our heritage has significantly increased.



## *How a Heritage Plan Functions*



### *How a Heritage Plan Functions*

A County Heritage Plan is a way to reach consensus on how local heritage can best be conserved and managed on a partnership basis, offering a broad context within which the efforts and initiatives of local groups, individuals, and state agencies can operate. It is an opportunity to identify heritage issues and needs at a local level, and to address them locally, within a regional and national framework.

Employing a partnership approach, a County Heritage Plan functions as a cross-agency strategy. It seeks to integrate the various aspects of the County's heritage, encompassing its natural, archaeological, architectural, and cultural elements. It is an agreed and a realistic action plan, with reference to delivery and monitoring mechanisms. It is, therefore, both a strategic statement about what a county wants to achieve in terms of heritage management and conservation over a defined time period, while also being a list of achievable actions which will be undertaken to achieve those aims and objectives.

It is important that a County Heritage Plan works within the framework of other developmental plans and objectives. At a county level, the actions listed in a Heritage Plan aspire to inform the decision-making process with regard to the policies of the County Development Plan and Local Area Plans. It can also overlap with Local Agenda 21 Plans or complement the work of the County Development Board in its strategy for economic, social and cultural development. In addition, a County Heritage Plan can also lead to the preparation of other plans such as a County Biodiversity Plan.



*Preparation of the South Dublin  
County Heritage Plan*





### ***Preparation of the South Dublin County Heritage Plan***

Acquiring a better understanding and appreciation of the origins and continuing development of South Dublin County's heritage legacy, while appreciating how that influences our sense of identity and our sense of pride of place, is one of the central objectives of the South Dublin County Heritage Plan.

The Plan has emerged as a result of a consultative and a partnership process. The interest in heritage issues in South Dublin County was reflected in the response to the public consultation period in the late summer of 2008 which yielded a range of positive suggestions and recommendations.

To assist in the preparation and future implementation of the plan itself, an advisory group was established, the South Dublin County Heritage Forum. This group reflects a broad range of heritage interests in the County and includes representatives from elected members, County Council staff, local heritage interest groups, business/commercial bodies, tourism, environmental NGOs, community groups, individuals, and other relevant government agencies.



Five working groups were established to assist the work of the Heritage Forum, focusing on the topics of archaeology, architecture, natural environment, cultural heritage, and education. These smaller working groups offered the opportunity for additional individuals and groups in the County to participate in the partnership process while also bringing further heritage expertise and experience to the table.

A second period of public consultation presented the draft Heritage Plan for South Dublin County for comment during May/June 2009, following which a final plan was agreed and adopted.



### *A heritage strategy for South Dublin County*

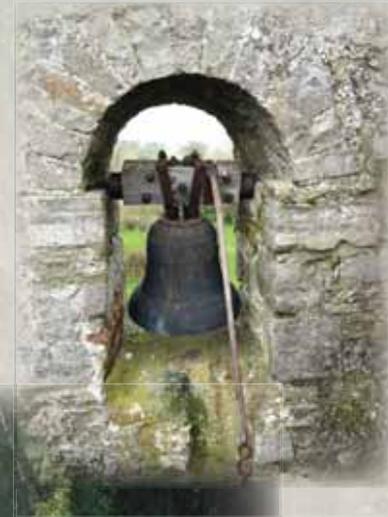
The South Dublin County Heritage Plan is much more than a policy document. It is a five-year strategy listing a series of agreed objectives and actions that aim to establish and raise the profile of the County's heritage resource and to increase access to and enjoyment of our heritage. In order to achieve these objectives, partnerships and co-operative initiatives with others are essential.

The Heritage Plan's objectives and actions are grouped under four linked themes:

- Collate, record, and disseminate heritage information
- Provide information to raise awareness, appreciation, and enjoyment of the County's heritage
- Promote best practice with regard to heritage conservation and management
- Establish and promote partnerships to achieve heritage objectives

Each of these themes leads to a series of objectives and practical actions by which the aim of the theme can be achieved. The Heritage Forum will assist by overseeing and directing the progress of the Plan over the next five years.

The first of the Plan's themes to "*Collate, record, and disseminate heritage information*" is key to establishing and confirming the County's heritage resource and hence, consolidating the County's identity and 'pride of place'. There is already a strong store of information existing in relation to the various heritage elements in the County but much more information also needs to be recorded. Once collected, providing easy access for all interested parties to that information is also seen to be a priority in the Plan. Knowing what we have is the foundation to building a strong sense of identity and pride in our surroundings.



The second theme, *“Provide information to raise awareness, appreciation, and enjoyment of the County’s heritage”*, builds upon knowledge that has been recorded and collated. The effective promotion of our heritage by encouraging residents and visitors alike to participate in and to enjoy heritage experiences is central to raising awareness levels and appreciation of what South Dublin County has to offer. This is also the route by which we develop a sense of shared ownership of our heritage.

As South Dublin County continues to grow and develop, the management and conservation of the County’s heritage resource will require a careful and balanced approach. The actions listed under the third theme, *“Promote best practice with regard to heritage conservation and management”*, will assist in this. Agreed policies, frameworks, and guidance in best practice and sustainability will be put in place to ensure that the County’s heritage assets are protected into the future.

Finally, the successful implementation of the Heritage Plan’s objectives and actions cannot occur without the participation, co-operation, and the continued involvement of a wide

range of agencies, bodies, groups, and individuals. While South Dublin County Council will be a leading partner in the five-year strategy, support from others will be essential. Very often, engaging with agencies and groups that have similar goals and objectives to our own increases the likelihood of success for all. The Plan’s fourth and final theme, *“Establish and promote partnerships to achieve heritage objectives”*, lists ways in which these partnerships can be developed for the successful accomplishment of our shared objectives.



## *Implementation of the Heritage Plan*



### ***Implementation of the Heritage Plan***

The objectives and actions of the Heritage Plan will be addressed over a five year period between 2010 and 2015. On an annual basis, priorities for action will be identified and agreed by the County Heritage Forum and the Heritage Officer. Funding mechanisms for individual projects will be sought and timeframes for the completion of the individual actions will be agreed.

Consultation, engagement, and partnerships are key strategies to ensure success in achieving annual objectives. Over the period of the Plan, this process will continue to connect with additional, new partners. This will facilitate the involvement of as wide a range of interested groups and individuals as possible while also drawing in additional expertise and potential funding opportunities. The County's heritage belongs to us all and we all have a part to play in its protection and promotion.

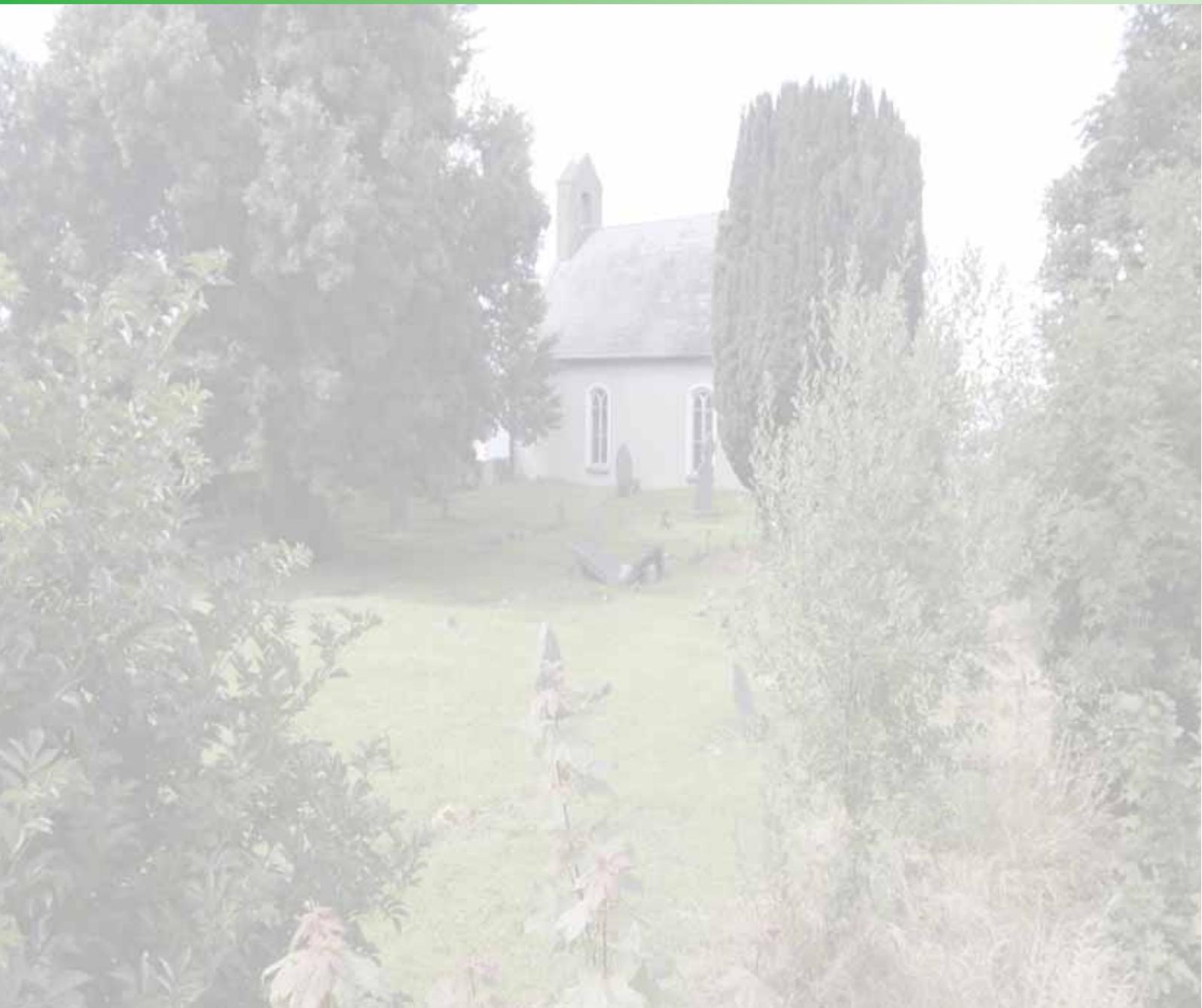
The implementation of the Plan itself and of each of the project actions will be monitored by the Heritage Forum. Annual reports will be presented to the Heritage Forum, South Dublin County Council, and the Heritage

Council, while individual projects will be showcased in the County at special heritage events.

The Heritage Council is a key partner in heritage initiatives throughout the Country. It has played a strategic role in the development of the Local Authority Heritage Officer network and has supported the development and facilitated the implementation of County Heritage Plans. Through its work, it has significantly raised general awareness levels and active participation in the appreciation and promotion of our national and local heritage. Subject to normal funding criteria, the Heritage Council will consider part-funding projects listed in the South Dublin County Heritage Plan which are compatible with its own objectives.

As a leading partner, South Dublin County Council fully supports the implementation of the Heritage Plan and in partnership with others, it is committed to the delivery of the actions listed in the Plan. The confirmation of the County's heritage identity and the protection and promotion of that legacy for the benefit of both residents and visitors alike is seen to be a high priority in the continued development of this vibrant County.





## *Actions & Objectives*



## Actions & Objectives

Working Themes:

- Archaeological      ● Architectural      ● Cultural      ● Natural

### 1. Collate, record, and disseminate heritage information

#### Objective 1: Establish the existing resource of heritage information in the County

- i. Establish a County Heritage Database to collate archaeological, architectural, cultural and natural heritage records for the County.
- ii. Collate information on holy wells, mass rocks and mass paths in the County and develop a strategy to appreciate and protect these heritage features wherever possible.
- iii. In conjunction with the Geological Survey of Ireland, identify and collate information on geologically important sites in the County.
- ● iv. Liaise with the National Museum of Ireland and other stakeholders to identify and list artefacts held by these bodies that originate in South Dublin County.

#### Objective 2: Gather heritage information

- i. Identify the full range of features of architectural interest in the County, including those of local heritage interest, and implement a strategy to gain better understanding of their contribution to the County's heritage identity.
- ii. Review the current list of protected structures in the County and identify any additional features suitable for inclusion.
- ● iii. Identify potential Archaeological Landscapes in South Dublin County.
- iv. Undertake a County Habitat Survey and prepare a County Habitat Map.
- v. Assess the conservation status of those species afforded special protection under the EU Habitats Directive.
- vi. Support and promote the work of the County Library in its collection and digitization of local historical, cultural, and environmental heritage information.
- vii. Undertake an audit of traditional crafts and skills in the County.

Objective 3: Provide better access to information

- i. Develop a Heritage Website for South Dublin County which will act as a central hub for all heritage information for the County.
- ii. Develop an interactive GIS system which would present all heritage information for the County in a usable and accessible manner.
- iii. Support the provision of a digitally accessible version of the Urban Archaeological Survey.
- iv. Support the continued development of the database of Protected Structures in the County which is currently being established by SDCC.
- v. Produce a Heritage Map of the County.
- vi. Investigate strategies to improve the availability and distribution of heritage information books and leaflets currently produced by SDCC.
- ● vii. Build partnerships with the archaeological community and other stakeholders to make reports on archaeological excavations and assessments more accessible to all.



## Working Themes:

- Archaeological      ● Architectural      ● Cultural      ● Natural

## 2. Provide information to raise awareness, appreciation, and enjoyment of the County's heritage

### Objective 1: Raise the profile of South Dublin County's rich and varied heritage

- i. Co-operate with other stakeholders to develop a heritage brand or logo for South Dublin County, for use on heritage promotional material and directional signage.
- ii. Support the establishment of a County museum and assess the feasibility of establishing local heritage centres in conjunction with other stakeholders.
- ● ● iii. Raise public awareness of the archaeological, architectural, and natural heritage of South Dublin County by publishing 'County Guides' to these heritage themes.
- ● ● ● iv. Encourage local media in South Dublin County to give a higher positive profile to heritage issues and contribute regular articles on heritage to the Council's own newsletters.
- ● ● ● v. Develop a programme to deliver awareness-raising exhibitions, conferences, seminars and training courses on heritage related issues to Council staff and the public in general.
- vi. Raise the profile of the County's literary and artistic heritage.
- vii. Work with Council Departments and other stakeholders to develop strategies to research and commemorate local historic events and renowned residents of the County.

### Objective 2: Highlight aspects of the County's heritage that have made significant contributions to the development of the County since early times

- ● i. Highlight and promote the historic and national importance of the ancient trade and access routes through the lands of South Dublin County (e.g. Slí Mhór and Slí Chualann).
- ● ● ii. Highlight and promote the significance of the early Christian settlements in the County.
- ● ● iii. Raise the profile and promote the national importance of the medieval history of Newcastle and its environs.
- ● ● ● iv. Trace the development of the County's rural villages and highlight their contribution to the economic and cultural development of the County.
- ● ● v. Research and promote the significance of the County's long industrial heritage.
- ● vi. Document the changes that have occurred in the rural and agricultural heritage of the County and assess the historically important clachan settlement pattern still recognisable in Glenasmole.
- ● ● ● vii. Promote the industrial, natural, historical, and architectural heritage of the County's waterways e.g. the Grand Canal, the River Liffey, the River Dodder etc.

Objective 3: Highlight the military history and heritage of South Dublin County.

- i. Record and publish details on the military heritage in South Dublin County
- ii. Promote the historical, architectural, natural, and cultural significance of Casement Aerodrome in Baldonnel.
- iii. Undertake a feasibility study to establish a National Aviation Museum in the County which would promote the association and the development of Irish military and civil aviation.
- iv. Highlight the key involvement of local residents and the strategic importance of local buildings and meeting places to events such as the 1916 Easter Rising and other incidents of historical military importance.
- v. Develop the concept and location of a 'Peace Park' in South Dublin County, to commemorate those who served or gave their lives during national and world conflicts and on peace-keeping service.

Objective 4: Encourage active participation and enjoyment of heritage features

- i. Support the sustainable development of walking routes and heritage trails throughout the County, developing a design concept for signage to secure a high quality, coordinated approach to heritage display information.
- ii. Promote active participation in heritage celebration events and support initiatives such as National Heritage Week, National Biodiversity Day, National Tree Week etc.
- iii. Support the provision of appropriate and managed access for all to heritage features in public parks and open spaces under the control of SDCC.
- iv. Assess the current level of access to archaeology and national monuments in the County and where possible, encourage partnerships to provide appropriate managed access for all to these features.

Objective 5: Develop and support education initiatives to improve understanding of heritage issues in the County.

- i. Support and promote existing primary school programmes that encourage appreciation and enjoyment of local heritage.
- ii. Develop and promote an architectural education information pack for schools.
- iii. Develop a strategy with project partners to develop additional heritage educational programmes for delivery to other interest groups such as secondary schools and adult education initiatives.
- iv. Promote research into aspects of South Dublin County's natural, cultural, built, and historic heritage by encouraging partnership projects with educational, professional institutions, and business enterprises.

## Working Themes:

- Archaeological      ● Architectural      ● Cultural      ● Natural

### 3. Promote best practice with regard to heritage conservation and management

#### Objective 1: Develop policies and frameworks to direct the management of heritage in the County

- i. Forge strong operational links between the objectives of the Heritage Plan and those of other County development strategies such as the County Development Plan and the work of the County Development Board.
- ii. Identify additional areas suitable for designation as Architectural Conservation Areas and support their appropriate assessment under the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines.
- iii. Secure an on-going review of the condition of Recorded Monuments in the County.
- iv. Undertake an audit of all protected structures and designated sites (Natural Heritage Areas) in SDCC ownership and promote a high standard of maintenance and conservation management of such properties.
- v. Compile a 'Buildings at Risk Register' so that immediate action can be taken in terms of safeguarding existing structures.
- vi. Expand on the Council's Landscape Character Assessment for the County and commence Historic Area Assessments with a view to constructing a County Historic Landscape Characterisation.
- vii. Support the production of additional Village Design Statements and investigate the feasibility of designating 'Heritage Villages' or 'Historic Villages'.
- viii. Prepare a County Biodiversity Plan.
- ix. Support the establishment of a County/Regional Archaeologist post in accordance with the National Heritage Plan.
- x. Support the establishment of a Biodiversity Officer post, in accordance with the national Biodiversity Plan.



**Objective 2: Promote and assist in the design of an integrated Network of Green Spaces for the County.**

- i. Continue to develop a sustainable, integrated, network of green spaces in the County that will provide a functioning, sustainable, connective link for people and wildlife between parks, protected sites, gardens, and other areas of biodiversity, geological and recreational importance.
- ii. Support and assist the advancement of the objectives as stated in the County Development Plan 2010-2016 in relation to the development of the Liffey Valley Park and the provisions for a Dodder Linear Park and other projects relating to similarly important riverine systems.
- iii. Support the continued development of ecologically sensitive areas in public parks.
- iv. Undertake a County Hedgerow Survey to identify important hedgerow networks.
- v. Provide information and support to Council, residents and landowners on how to encourage greater biodiversity in parks, suburban gardens and green spaces.
- vi. Update current information on the County's listed Champion, Specimen, and Heritage Trees, and promote their heritage and amenity value.

**Objective 3: Develop and promote best practice guidelines.**

- i. Produce guidelines on the conservation of the traditional and historical landscape, both urban and rural, to be promoted to a wide range of stakeholders including planners, archaeologists, architects, conservation architects, utility companies etc
- ii. Develop guidelines to encourage the retention, integration, and enhancement of existing heritage and biodiversity features where possible in new and more established developments.
- iii. Publish and effectively disseminate guidance leaflets on preventative maintenance to owners of monuments and protected structures, including guidance on appropriate maintenance of curtilage areas.
- iv. Provide workshops and guidelines on the management, care and maintenance of historic graveyards.
- v. Produce best-practice guidelines promoting the value and the use of traditional materials and construction methods in heritage related construction and repair projects.
- vi. Promote best practice in relation to hedgerow maintenance.
- vii. Support the Dublin Mountains Partnership in promoting best practice in the maintenance of the Dublin mountain and woodland recreational areas.

Working Themes:

- Archaeological    ● Architectural    ● Cultural    ● Natural

#### 4. Establish and promote partnerships to achieve heritage objective

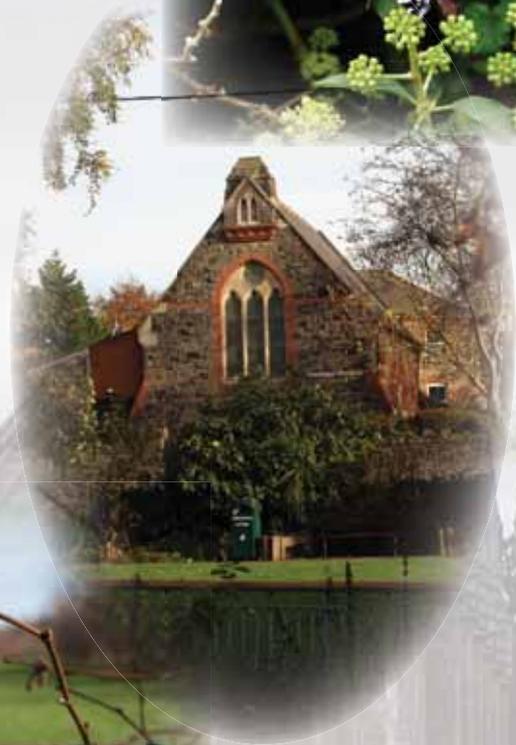
Objective 1: Develop links with local groups and interest groups to more fully integrate heritage issues into local consciousness.

- i. Assist in the development of local pride and sense of place by facilitating and supporting community development initiatives to incorporate and promote heritage in local projects.
- ii. Develop partnerships and projects with owners of heritage sites, buildings and gardens, to facilitate access at appropriate times e.g. during Heritage Week.
- iii. Develop partnerships between SDCC and local communities and interest groups, to initiate local area tree-planting programmes under the Forest Service's 'NeighbourWood Scheme'.
- iv. Liaise with local groups and landowners to assist in the development of heritage and biodiversity plans for their local areas.
- v. Foster strong links with local interest groups to encourage better communication and better exchange of heritage information.

Objective 2: Engage with businesses and national and local agencies to accomplish shared objectives

- i. In conjunction with South Dublin County Tourism and other agencies, assist in the development of sustainable Heritage Tourism in the County.
- ii. Foster partnerships with local business interests to assist in the development and promotion of local identity by participating in heritage related initiatives.
- iii. Develop links between SDCC and other agencies at a national, regional, County, and local level, to work together to address heritage related issues within the County.
- iv. Liaise with the Forest Service and Coillte to forward an Indicative Forest Strategy for South Dublin County.
- v. Liaise and co-operate with state bodies and other agencies in relation to the protection of natural heritage designations in the County.
- vi. Develop co-operative projects with adjacent County Council areas to accomplish shared heritage objectives.

*Appendices*



## Appendix 1

### *Formulation of the Heritage Plan*

April - June 2008	Heritage Plan preparation process presented to South Dublin County Council Special Policy Committees, Local Area Committees.
June 2008	Establishment of Heritage Forum agreed at O.P. and F. Committee meeting and elected members nominated to participate on Forum.
15th July 2008	Inaugural meeting of South Dublin County Heritage Forum.
July – September 2008	Commencement of public consultation process including newspaper advertisements, newsletters, letter and email circulation, and four local area public consultation meetings.
24th September 2008	Second meeting of Heritage Forum where five heritage working groups were established to focus on natural, archaeological, architectural, cultural, and educational issues.
November – December 2008	Each of the five working groups met 3 times in this period to assist in the assessment of public consultation submissions and in the preparation of Heritage Plan actions.
February – April 2009	Draft Heritage Plan was prepared by Heritage Officer and presented to the Joint Heritage Forum and Working Group unit for review and agreement.
October 2009	Joint Heritage Forum and Working Group unit meet to propose an implementation programme for 2010.
February - March 2010	Presentation of draft Heritage Plan to South Dublin County Council committees and Council meeting for agreement.
April 2010	Second period of public consultation on draft Heritage Plan.
May 2010	Meeting of Joint Heritage Forum and Working Group unit to review results of consultation process.
June 2010	Adoption of the South Dublin County Heritage Plan.

## Appendix 2

### Membership of the South Dublin County Heritage Forum

Cultural Heritage Working Group	
Member	Sector/Organisation
Councillor Eamonn Walsh*	Local Authority Elected Member
Jerry Judge**	Community Services, SDCC
Billy Coman	Housing, SDCC
Michael Hannon	Parks Department, SDCC
Orla Scannell	Arts Officer, SDCC
Michael Whelan	Curator, Baldonnel Aviation Museum
Sile Coleman / Kieran Swords	South Dublin County Library, SDCC
Joe Williams	Clondalkin History Society
Rosaleen Dwyer	Heritage Officer, SDCC
* Replaced on Heritage Forum in 2009 by Cllr. Tony Delaney	
** Replaced on Heritage Forum in 2009 by Su Clarke, Community Worker	

**Natural Environment Heritage Working Group**

Member	Sector/Organisation
Councillor Eamonn Tuffy	Local Authority Elected Member
Frank Doyle	BirdWatch Ireland
Brian Sheehan	Parks Department, SDCC
Marguerite Osborne*	South Dublin County Tourism
Peter Byrne	South Dublin Chamber
John McLoughlin; Gerhardt Gallagher	Tree Council of Ireland
Terry Doherty	DoEHLG, Wildlife Conservation Ranger
Paula Treacy/Eamonn Horgan	Waterways Ireland
Pat Neville	Coillte
Gretta Hannigan/Brian Becket	Eastern Regional Fisheries Board
Sandra Scully	Loc Canáil Community Group
Rosaleen Dwyer	Heritage Officer, SDCC
*Replaced on Heritage Forum in 2009 Gail McGibbon	

**Architectural Heritage Working Group**

Member	Sector/Organisation
Councillor Eamonn Maloney	Local Authority Elected Member
Michael Whelan	Curator, Baldonnell Aviation Museum
Maire O'Connor	Planning Department, SDCC
Irenie McLoughlin	Conservation Officer, SDCC
Liam Roche	Saggart Heritage Group
Glascott Symes	
Rosaleen Dwyer	Heritage Officer, SDCC

<b>Archaeological Heritage Working Group</b>	
<b>Member</b>	<b>Sector/Organisation</b>
Councillor Eamonn Tuffy	Local Authority Elected Member
Maire O'Connor	Planning Department, SDCC
Ken Wiggins	DoEHLG, Archaeologist
Judith Carroll	Archaeological Consultant
Michael Whelan	Curator, Baldonnell Aviation Museum
Pat Slattery	Newcastle-Lyons Historical Society
David Hutchinson Edgar	Early Christian Historian (Virginia Heights Residents' Association + Heritage Officer for TRCU)
Stephen Rhys Thomas	Planning Department, SDCC
Naomi Ambury	Corporate Services, SDCC
Andy Halpin	Assistant Keeper, National Museum of Ireland.
Rosaleen Dwyer	Heritage Officer, SDCC

<b>Education Working Group</b>	
<b>Member</b>	<b>Sector/Organisation</b>
Tomás Maher	Tallaght Historical Society
Michael Fewer	Architect, Historian, Author
Mary Mulhall	Local Historian, Lucan
Sile Coleman / Kieran Swords	South Dublin County Library, SDCC
Breda Bollard	Whitechurch Library, SDCC
Phil Moore	Rural Development Programme
Ann Marie O'Gara	Primary School Teacher
Rosaleen Dwyer	Heritage Officer, SDCC

## Appendix 3

### Public Consultation

Public Consultation Meetings:	
Monday 28th July 2008	Lucan Library, Superquinn Shopping Centre, Newcastle Road, Lucan.
Thursday 31st July 2008	Ballyroan Library, Orchardstown Avenue, Rathfarnham.
Thursday 28th August 2008	County Library, County Hall, Tallaght.
Tuesday 2nd September 2008	Rathcoole Community Centre, Main Street, Rathcoole.
Thursday 4th September 2008	Clondalkin Civic Centre, 9th Lock Road, Clondalkin.



<b>Submissions Received From:</b>	
Prescribed Bodies	An Taisce Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government National Roads Authority
Groups	Brittas & District Community Association Glendoher & Districts Residents Association Irish Air Corps Museum & Heritage Project Finnstown Input Group Forest Enterprises Ltd Keep Ireland Open Lucan Planning Council Liffey Valley Park Alliance Newcastle-Lyons & Districts Residents Association Newcastle-Lyons Historical Society Old Bawn Residents Association Rathcoole Heritage Society South Dublin Conservation Society Tallaght Residents Community Umbrella Willbrook Lawn Residents Association Woodlands of Ireland
Individuals	Catherine Aspell, Dorothy Corrigan, Catherine Cross, Anne Curran, Tom Dowling, Kieran Fagan & Paul Mulhern, Patricia Goff, Sue Hassett, David Hutchinson Edgar, Maeve Lynch, Joseph Lyons, Ciaran McCabe, Rita McCawley, Ronan McDermot, Martin Mongan, Deaglan O'Ainle, Liam Roche, Ercus Stewart, David Tracy.

## Appendix 4

### *Heritage Legislation\* International Conventions & Agreements*

#### Heritage and Planning

**Heritage Act (1995)**

**Planning and Development Act (2000)**

**Environmental Impact Assessment:** Council Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment 85/337/EEC, as amended.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment:** (Council Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes, with the exception of land use planning, on the environment 2001/42/EC.



## Natural Heritage

**Wildlife Act** (1976) and Wildlife Act Amendment (2000)

**Habitats Directive:** Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna.92/43/EEC

**Bird's Directive:** Council Directive on the conservation of wild birds 79/409/EEC

**Water Framework Directive:** Council Directive on establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy 2000/60/EC

**Bern Convention:** Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats 1979 ([www.conventions.coe.int](http://www.conventions.coe.int))

**Bonn Convention:** Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 1979 ([www.cms.int](http://www.cms.int))

**Ramsar Convention:** Convention on Wetlands of International Importance  
European Landscape Convention 1971 ([www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org))

**Convention on Biological Diversity** 1992 ([www.biodiv.org](http://www.biodiv.org))

**CITES:** Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species 1973  
([www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org) )

**UNESCO Convention** for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage  
(<http://whc.unesco.org> )

**European Landscape Convention 2000** ([www.conventions.coe.int](http://www.conventions.coe.int))

### Architectural Heritage

**Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1999)**

**Planning and Development Act (2000)**

**Granada Convention:** European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1997) ([www.conventions.coe.int](http://www.conventions.coe.int))

### Archaeological Heritage

**National Cultural Institutions Act (1997)**

**National Monuments Acts (1930-1994)**

**Valletta Convention:** European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1997) ([www.conventions.coe.int](http://www.conventions.coe.int))

### Museums and Archives

**National Cultural Institutions Act (1997)**

**Local Government Acts (1994 and 2001)**

**National Archives Act (1986)**

\* Full Text of Irish Legislation is available at [www.irishstatutebook.ie](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie)  
EU Legislation is available at [www.europa.eu/documentation/legislation/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu/documentation/legislation/index_en.htm)