

# COUNTY LONGFORD HERITAGE PLAN 2019 - 2024

## INCORPORATING THE LONGFORD BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

*A strategic plan for the protection and  
enhancement of the heritage of  
County Longford, prepared by the  
County Longford Heritage Forum*

MARCH 2020



## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
LONGFORD'S HERITAGE	3
AIM OF THE COUNTY LONGFORD HERITAGE PLAN	4
ACHIEVEMENTS COUNTY LONGFORD HERITAGE PLAN 2004-2009	4
PREPARATION OF THE COUNTY LONGFORD PLAN 2019-2024	5
IMPLEMENTATION	6
OBJECTIVES OF THE COUNTY HERITAGE PLAN	7
Actions under Objective 1 -	7
Actions under Objective 2	8
Actions under Objective 3	9
Actions under Objective 4	9
Actions under Objective 5	10
Actions under Objective 6	10
BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN	11
Actions under LBAP Objective 1	12
Actions under LBAP Objective 2	12
Actions under LBAP Objective 3	13
Actions under LBAP Objective 4	13
Actions under LBAP Objective 5	14
Actions under LBAP Objective 6	14
Actions under LBAP Objective 7	14
APPENDICES	15
Appendix I - Heritage Forum 2019	16
Appendix II - Appropriate Assessment	17
Appendix III – Public Consultation	17
Appendix IV – Glossary of terms	18

## INTRODUCTION

### **LONGFORD'S HERITAGE**

County Longford has a rich heritage steeped in the rural tradition. The county hosts sites of mythological, historic, archaeological, architectural, social and industrial importance, representative of Ireland's history and cultural heritage. Longford is an important location for events in Ireland's mythology, such as *An Táin Bó Cuailgne* (Cattle Raid of Cooley) and *Tochmairc Éitíne*, (the Wooing of Étain by Midir). A number of key events in Irish history took place in the county, including the Battle of Ballinamuck, the last great battle of the 1798 Rebellion. Longford is associated with General Seán Mac Eoin, a key figure in the Ireland's War of Independence, as well as Kitty Kiernan, the fiancée of General Michael Collins.

Longford has a wealth of architectural and archaeological heritage, ranging from pre-history to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the most significant visible monuments include including the portal tomb at Aughnacliffe; ringforts; standing stones; timber roadways or *toghers*, like that seen at the Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre, and the linear earthworks that make up the Black Pigs Dyke in north Longford. Our landscape also bears the remains of our ecclesiastical heritage in the form of church and abbey ruins, graveyards, pilgrim paths and holy wells.

County Longford has many significant sites of built heritage. Many historic castle sites remain, the most-impressive of which is the Norman motte-and-bailey castle that dominates the town of Granard. Important country houses within the county include Castle Forbes and Carriglas Manor which is associated with Thomas Langlois Lefroy, a paramour of Jane Austen, and the Irish architect James Gandon. Longford is especially associated with St. Mel's Cathedral, a magnificent Neo-Classical building that was beautifully renovated following a devastating fire. A variety of industrial heritage sites can be also found within the county, including mills, bridges, railways, along with a number of active vintage vehicle clubs and societies.

County Longford is closely associated with a number of significant writers and scientists. These include one of the writer and translator of the Irish language, Charlotte Brooke; inventor and scientist Richard Lovell Edgeworth and his daughter, the writer and educator Maria Edgeworth; playwright and poet Oliver Goldsmith; poet and educator John Keegan "Leo" Casey; writer, founding member of the Abbey Theatre and lecturer Padraic Colum, among others.

The county has an important resource of natural heritage, set within a subtle and varied landscape. Key features of this landscape include many lakes and waterways, including the Royal Canal, as well as several sites of geological interest. A number of protected Special Conservation Areas (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are found within the county, which help protect Longford's vibrant biodiversity.

It is the aim of this plan to protect, enhance and promote the rich tapestry of County Longford's heritage for the benefit of all and to safeguard it for future generations.

## AIM OF THE COUNTY LONGFORD HERITAGE PLAN

*It is the overall aim of the County Longford Heritage Plan to encourage engagement and appreciation of Longford's heritage for the enjoyment of all as well as developing and supporting its protection for future generations.*

Heritage can be thought of as the elements of our shared history and environment, which make up how we live today. The Heritage Act, 1995, defines heritage as including:

- Landscape
- Flora
- Wildlife habitats
- Archaeological objects
- Heritage objects
- Inland waterways
- Wrecks
- Seascapes
- Fauna
- Monuments
- Architectural heritage
- Geology
- Heritage gardens and parks

In addition, the Heritage Forum has recommended that aspects of tangible and intangible cultural heritage which are of importance to County Longford be considered including:

- History and social development
- Genealogy,
- Placenames,
- The Irish language,
- Folklore,
- Crafts, sport and past-times
- Industrial and transport heritage
- Musical heritage.

## ACHIEVEMENTS COUNTY LONGFORD HERITAGE PLAN 2004-2009

The first County Heritage Plan was adopted by Longford County Council in December 2003. The primary aim of that plan was *“That our heritage will be part of life for everyone”*. This aim was supported by seventy-two actions, furthering five objectives:

1. To protect and enhance our archaeological and architectural heritage.
2. To promote interest and pride in the county's culture.
3. Develop a heritage education and awareness programme.
4. Provide heritage information which is available to all.
5. Protect and enhance the natural heritage.

This plan was maintained until all of its objectives were achieved, by delivering the actions contained within the Plan and developing supporting projects to further these objectives.

Where possible, these have been made accessible to the public through the Longford Library Service and on the Longford Heritage Office website. Key projects delivered include:

- The County Peatlands Survey,
- The County Hedgerow Survey,
- The Longford & Roscommon Wetlands Survey – Phase 1 (Desktop)
- An all-Ireland smartphone application to recognise and report invasive species.
- Audits of the major archaeological and cultural heritage artefact collections relating to County Longford.
- Research projects on built heritage, including a desktop survey of Longford’s industrial heritage; an archaeological survey of selected Anglo-Norman castles; Phase 1 of an inter-county cultural project on the Black Pigs Dyke/Dúncla monument.
- The development of themed school educational packs on important elements of Longford’s history and heritage, including the Royal Canal.
- Exhibitions to raise awareness of the local impacts of global events, including the Titanic disaster and World War 1.
- Participation in key elements of the Decade of Centenaries, including the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Easter Rising, the Battle of the Somme and the Sinking of the RMS Leinster, in which Longford people participated and/or lost their lives.

The County Longford Heritage Plan 2019-2024 intends to build upon the foundation laid by the previous heritage plan in protecting and promoting the cultural and natural heritage within Longford for the benefit of all.

## **PREPARATION OF THE COUNTY LONGFORD PLAN 2019-2024**

### ***The Heritage Plan:***

The Heritage Plan was prepared in accordance with guidelines set out by the Heritage Council. The Heritage Forum decided in 2009 to retain the current format of the Forum and agreed to proceed with the revision of the Heritage Plan. In May 2009 members of the public were invited to make submissions and observations on the Heritage Plan, primarily through the production of a newsletter and questionnaire promoted on the Heritage Office and Longford County Council website and local library network. The consultation process remained open-ended and submissions were encouraged over the course of the revision period.

Between 2010 and 2012 the Heritage Forum reviewed the first plan and decided upon a format that would allow a more flexible approach to the actions of the plan. This would enable Longford County Council to effectively adapt to changes in available funding, changes in national policy and the emergence of new heritage issues. In January 2012, a draft Heritage Plan was produced for discussion with the Planning and Cultural Development Strategic Planning Committee, the responses from which were carefully reviewed. The first County Heritage Plan remained in place throughout this time, to fully ensure that all of the objectives of this plan were achieved.

In 2015, the process of reviewing the County Longford Heritage Plan was continued. The plan was adapted to reflect the changes in local governance that took place in June 2013 with the abolition of Longford and Granard Town Councils. Further public consultations took place in 2015.

The consultation process will include further consultation with the Local Authority partners, Strategic Policy Committees, and Public Participation Network. Further consultation will be held through public workshops and liaison with local heritage organisations and community groups. After the consultation process, any necessary revisions will be made and approved by the Heritage Forum. Once complete, the final Heritage Plan will be approved by Longford County Council and adopted.

***The Biodiversity Action Plan:***

The Draft Biodiversity Action Plan prepared by Dr. Amanda Browne, on behalf of the Heritage Council for the County Longford Heritage Forum, initially in 2007. The Biodiversity Action Plan forms part of the Heritage Plan to afford equal protection and awareness of the cultural and natural heritage of County Longford.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN**

The Heritage Plan will be implemented through an annual work programme by the County Heritage Office, agreed with the Heritage Council, and advised by the County Longford Heritage Forum. This will be co-ordinated on a day-to-day basis by the County Longford Heritage Officer. Where feasible, projects will be carried out in co-operation with partners within the county, or with neighbouring counties.

The Heritage Office will also seek to cooperate with heritage and community organizations on projects that further the aims and objectives of the Heritage Plan. The final projects will be made available to the public through the County Longford Library, Heritage & Archive Service and on the Heritage Office website, where possible.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE COUNTY LONGFORD HERITAGE PLAN

1. Implement key Strategic Actions over the lifetime of the Heritage Plan to achieve greater awareness and protection of all aspects of the heritage of County Longford
2. To develop knowledge, appreciation and access to Longford's heritage through research and innovation.
3. Promote the protection and best practice in heritage management within the county
4. Promote heritage education and awareness.
5. Support organisations and communities in promoting sustainable enjoyment of Longford's countryside, waterways and heritage
6. Implement the County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan.

### **Objective 1: Implement key Strategic Actions over the lifetime of the Heritage Plan to achieve greater awareness and protection of all aspects of the heritage of County Longford**

- 1.1 Seek and support the establishment of a heritage and cultural centre for Longford, incorporating the functions of an accredited County Museum.
- 1.2 Support and promote the regeneration of important towns and villages within Co. Longford, including the Camlin Quarter (Longford town), Granard and Edgeworthstown
- 1.3 Produce paper- and web-based publications on Longford's key heritage sites and features, and foster proposals for appropriate access to same.
- 1.4 Improve accessibility to heritage information through the Heritage Office website, social media and emerging technologies, including the *Explore Longford* app.
- 1.5 Coordinate and develop Heritage Week events in partnership with heritage organisations and community groups.
- 1.6 Support and assist projects to protect Longford's wetlands, and promote awareness and appreciation of their ecological, recreational and heritage value.
- 1.7 Support and assist innovations driving research and awareness of our cultural and natural heritage.
- 1.8 Participate in the Longford County Council Longford Placenames Committee.
- 1.9 Seek to provide, promote, encourage and enhance appropriate and managed access to heritage sites - such as national monuments and natural heritage sites - in partnership with stakeholders including landowners.
- 1.10 Cultivate and promote education of best practice models in heritage protection and

heritage management.

**Objective 2: To develop knowledge, appreciation and access to Longford's heritage through research and innovation.**

- 2.1 Support the provision of specialist officers to ensure the protection of Longford's heritage in a proactive manner, to include the maintenance of the Longford Heritage Office and the appointment of a Biodiversity Officer and Conservation Officer, subject to the necessary resources being made available.
- 2.2 Support the County Library & Archives Service and collections.
- 2.3 Develop public exhibitions on aspects of Longford's heritage.
- 2.4 Support local and national innovations for access to heritage information and sites, including those with disabilities.
- 2.5 Support the public's use of the Royal Canal and its towpaths as walking and cycling routes.
- 2.6 Contribute heritage information to the creation and promotion of tourism and amenity trails within the region.
- 2.7 Develop accessible heritage information databases, including traditional skills practitioners; historic words and sayings; longford crafts and craftspeople.
- 2.8 *Collaborate with tourism, heritage and community stakeholders to assist in the development of innovative cultural, heritage and eco-tourism initiatives, that contribute to the overall understanding, protection and conservation of Longford's heritage.*
- 2.9 Seek to provide heritage information in a wider range of languages and formats, including Irish, to encourage cultural tourism to the county.
- 2.10 Undertake and contribute to graveyard and memorial recording programmes.
- 2.11 Develop informational and directional signage for publicly-accessible sites of archaeological, geological and natural heritage, to improve awareness of and accessibility to these sites, in partnership with key stakeholders.
- 2.12 Identify knowledge gaps in relation to Longford's heritage and undertake projects to bridge those gaps.
- 2.13 Survey and promote Longford's intangible cultural heritage, including oral history, social history, placenames and folklore.
- 2.14 Undertake surveys of Longford's built and industrial heritage.
- 2.15 *Promote and undertake research of Longford's ecclesiastical heritage and spiritual*

*traditions. Support the appropriate promotion of spiritual heritage sites.*

- 2.16 Support and participate in heritage research with partner organisations, community groups and individuals.
- 2.17 Foster further 3<sup>rd</sup> Level, post-graduate and independent research on heritage in Longford and the Midlands.

### **Objective 3 - Promote the protection and best practice in heritage management within the county**

- 3.1 Develop and implement heritage-related policies within current and future County Longford Development Plans, Corporate Plans, Local Area Plans, regeneration strategies and statutory plans.
- 3.2 Engage with sections throughout Longford County Council to achieve joint aims and objectives with regard to cultural, built and natural heritage awareness and protection.
- 3.3 Oversee and guide the implementation of regional, national and EU-wide heritage policies and legislation.
- 3.4 Continue to review and advise on the Record of Protected Structures.
- 3.5 Host workshops and lectures on conservation and maintenance of heritage sites, including public spaces, sensitive habitats and historic structures.
- 3.6 Advise on the potential heritage impacts on flood risk management and assessment in Co. Longford.
- 3.7 Provide information and assistance on grant and funding applications for the conservation and promotion of Longford's heritage.

### **Objective 4 - Promote heritage education and awareness**

- 4.1 Support and promote the education and awareness-raising work undertaken by Longford County Council and Heritage Forum partners, in particular where they highlight and promote the links between multiple aspects of heritage, including best-practice conservation, climate action, and quality of life, among others.
- 4.2 Promote the use of heritage resources in education, in particular the *Heritage in Schools Scheme*, the National Monuments Services archaeological education packs, and local heritage-education packs.
- 4.3 Continue to develop schools education packs on aspects of Longford's history, cultural heritage, and architectural heritage.
- 4.4 Support events in schools during awareness weeks, including *Seachtain na Gaeilge*, Biodiversity Week and Science Week.

- 4.5 Develop and support innovative and collaborative initiatives for heritage education, including training programmes for teachers based on Longford's history, cultural and natural heritage, where possible, utilising heritage facilities within the county.
- 4.6 Promote heritage awareness and education at key local events.
- 4.7 Support education programmes for farmers and landowners on best practice heritage maintenance, including national monuments, hedge laying and conserving traditional farm buildings.

**Objective 5 - Support the sustainable enjoyment of Longford's countryside, waterways and heritage**

- 5.1 Raise awareness of heritage as an asset to the community and rural development; support and encourage local and community heritage publications and events including oral history, placenames collection and local history.
- 5.2 Engage in projects to foster awareness, appreciation and protection of Longford's heritage including: cultural and literary heritage; industrial & transport heritage; history, oral history, folklore, archaeological and built heritage.
- 5.3 Host seminars and talks on aspects of heritage for community and local heritage groups.
- 5.4 Provide guidance and support to community and local heritage organisations on heritage projects.
- 5.5 Seek additional funding sources for implementing Heritage Plan objectives and community-based initiatives.
- 5.6 Engage with neighbouring Heritage Offices, Local Authorities, Regional Assembly and national agencies in projects and initiatives to foster awareness and the protection of the heritage of the Irish Midlands.
- 5.7 Promote increased access to our natural and cultural heritage, through supporting the development of the networks of walking, cycling and waterways routes, trails, parks and cultural sites within the county. Also to provide advice and guidance on appropriate access, maintenance and interpretation.

**6.0 Objective 6 - Implementation of the County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan.**

See County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan.

## COUNTY LONGFORD BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

*The aim of the Longford Biodiversity Action Plan is to promote, protect and enhance the biodiversity of County Longford.*

The County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) was devised to identify key actions to effectively promote Longford's natural heritage and to protect and enhance biodiversity in the county. It is an objective of the County Longford Heritage Plan 2015 - 2020 to implement the LBAP.

### 6.0.1 The definition of biodiversity

Biodiversity is a term used to describe the variety of living things on the Earth. Biodiversity is fundamental to our daily lives, providing us with all our food, much of our raw materials and many of our medicines. Ireland is a land of varied habitats: a patchwork of farmland, woodland, sand dunes, caves, heath, grassland, wetlands, turloughs, lakes and ponds, rivers and springs, contained within 7,800 kilometres of coastline. These habitats contain a host of species, some of which are unique to Ireland.

### 6.0.2 The importance of biodiversity

All the living organisms on this planet have evolved over millions of years and adapted to their own role in their natural environment. Plants and animals depend on each other for survival. We depend on biodiversity to provide us with all the necessities of life including food, shelter, medicine and services such as air and water purification.

When biodiversity is damaged or compromised, this can interfere with the delicate balance of nature which may have far-reaching consequences for ourselves and the living world around us. The conservation of biodiversity through the implementation of this Action Plan preserve our unique biodiversity and prevent further loss of this valuable natural heritage. In turn, this will benefit the wider community by conserving biodiversity to support the tourist industry, as well as improving the quality of life for those who live and work here.

### 6.0.3 The purpose of a Biodiversity Action Plan

In Longford as in other parts of the country, some of the threats to biodiversity include, but are not limited to, loss of habitat through development and intensification of agricultural practises. The LBAP is designed as a framework for conserving biodiversity at a local level. It will contribute to achieving national and international targets for the conservation of biodiversity, while at the same time addressing local priorities.

### Biodiversity Action Plan Goals

- a) To help conserve the habitat and species diversity of Longford, in conjunction with key

partners and stakeholders throughout the County.

- b) To increase the knowledge and awareness of biodiversity in the county by supporting projects and initiatives and facilitating and gathering the distribution of biodiversity information.
- c) To promote participation in biodiversity issues throughout all sectors of the community.

## **6.1 LBAP OBJECTIVE 1 – To put in place resources to ensure implementation of the Longford County Biodiversity Action Plan.**

### **Actions**

- 6.1.1 Set up a Biodiversity Working Group to assist and inform the implementation of the LBAP.
- 6.1.3 Administer the National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund to develop practical measures to improve biodiversity within County Longford.
- 6.1.2 Support the appointment of a County Biodiversity Officer to implement the LBAP, and to accurately advise the Local Authority and local stakeholders on biodiversity-related issues and legal obligations, subject to funding being made available.

## **6.2 LBAP OBJECTIVE 2 – To research and conserve local-, national- and internationally-important species and habitats in Longford**

### **Actions**

- 6.2.1 Undertake audits on available information on biodiversity and habitats in Co. Longford to identify information gaps.
- 6.2.2 Develop criterion for the identification of sites that support high levels of Biodiversity.
- 6.2.3 Undertake surveys and habitat mapping and surveying on important ecological habitats including woodland, riparian and wetland areas and turloughs.
- 6.2.4 Develop objectives and policies to safeguard biodiversity within County Longford for local and regional planning documents.
- 6.2.5 Support the protection of biodiversity on the Royal Canal and its management as a navigation and ecological amenity.
- 6.2.6 Seek the improvement of riparian corridors by promoting appropriate management for improved habitat viability.
- 6.2.7 Assist in the identification of ecological networks or ‘econets’ in Longford linking with core conservation areas within the county and in neighbouring counties.
- 6.2.8 Support local and national organisations in raising awareness of the cultural and natural heritage of Longford’s wetlands.
- 6.2.9 Promote the conservation Longford’s bogs, and the rehabilitation of Longford’s industrial cutaway bogs as biodiversity corridors.
- 6.2.10 Follow on from National Grassland Survey (O’Neill *et al.* 2009) by developing practical means of protecting and conserving species-rich grassland habitats.

- 6.2.11 Develop practical ways to conserve and protect undesignated woodland sites throughout the county.
- 6.2.12 Improve awareness and protection of heritage hedgerows in the county. Promote training for their protection and management.
- 6.2.13 Improve awareness of significant bird species within the county including the kingfisher and swift, by undertaking/supporting awareness programmes, and promoting the protection and enhancement of their habitats through the production of publications and community-based initiatives.
- 6.2.14 Improve awareness and protection of protected species and their habitats, to include, but not be limited to: bats, the marsh fritillary, the white-clawed crayfish and pollan.
- 6.2.15 Support local Tidy Towns Committees in achieving their biodiversity goals.
- 6.2.16 Facilitate the development of conservation management plans for biodiversity areas in the towns and villages in County Longford.
- 6.2.17 Implement the appropriate national and international legislation regarding discharge into lakes /waterways
- 6.2.18 Undertake invasive species surveys. Develop a management strategy on invasive species for Longford.
- 6.2.19 Implement the appropriate by-laws to restrict the use of high-powered boats and jet-skis from water bodies that may disturb sensitive wildlife, in cooperation with neighbouring local authorities.
- 6.2.20 Support initiatives for climate change research and management, including the Longford County Council Climate Change Strategy.

### **6.3 LBAP Objective 3 – To improve integration of biodiversity issues into Local Authority policy & planning**

#### **Actions:**

- 6.3.1 Provide biodiversity training for local authority staff and Members.
- 6.3.2 Provide training to key Local Authority personnel and contractors on biodiversity issues such as hedgerow and invasive species management.

### **6.4 LBAP Objective 4 – To promote best practice in biodiversity management & protection**

#### **Actions:**

- 6.4.1 Produce and disseminate information regarding best practice for biodiversity management for land owners, community organisations and the public.
- 6.4.2 Host and/or promote educational talks/workshops and initiatives to promote best practice within key groups, including Tidy Towns Committees, community groups and the farming community.

## **6.5 LBAP Objective 5 – To facilitate the dissemination of biodiversity information**

### **Actions:**

- 6.5.1 Provide online access to information on biodiversity and related projects, including the supporting information from the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 6.5.2 Produce a glossary of scientific, common and local names of habitats and species.
- 6.5.3 Manage the Longford County Council Library of Flora & Fauna Illustrations available to local groups for the promotion of Longford's natural heritage.

## **6.6 LBAP Objective 6 – To raise awareness and encourage participation in Longford's biodiversity**

### **Actions:**

- 6.6.1 Increase engagement with biodiversity and the natural environment among schools, communities and the public, and support initiatives to increase access to the natural environment.
- 6.6.2 Support local, regional and national initiatives to raise awareness of biodiversity; that make biodiversity more accessible and that improve the biodiversity value of amenity sites, in partnership with key stakeholders. This shall include, but not be limited to the National Biodiversity Action Plan, All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

## **6.7 LBAP Objective 7 – To monitor & review the Local Biodiversity Action Plan**

### **Action:**

- 6.7.1 Regularly monitor the progress of implementing the County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan and its effectiveness.

## APPENDICES

## LONGFORD HERITAGE FORUM 2020

Organisation	Representative
Longford County Council	Cllr Turlough McGovern
	Cllr Peggy Nolan
	Cllr Paul Ross
Longford County Council staff	Ms Aoife Moore
Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht (National Parks & Wildlife Service)	Ms Susan Moles
Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht (National Monuments Service)	Mr Paddy O' Donovan
Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine	Mr Jhan Crane
Teagasc	Mr Ciaran Beatty
Inland Fisheries	Mr Fergus Lynch
Local Authority Waters Programme	Ms Karen Kennedy
Waterways Ireland	Ms Jean Errity
Bord na Móna	Open
County Longford Public Participation Network	Mr. Brendan Farrell
County Longford Historical Society	Ms Camilla Kelly
Leo Casey History Group	Mr Paddy Egan
County Longford Tourism Committee	Dympna Reilly
Longford Community Resources Ltd.	Adrian Greene
Irish Farmers Association	Mr Andrew McHugh
Representative, ASTI/ TUI	Mr William O'Meara

### **Appendix II - Appropriate Assessment**

Under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, an Appropriate Assessment must be carried out to determine if impacts on important conservation areas, including Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, are likely as a result of plans or projects. These include County Development Plans, Local Area Plans or any other regional planning guidelines, as well as project-level developments. The plan was screened by a licenced ecologist. The screening report is available at [longfordlibrary.ie/heritage](http://longfordlibrary.ie/heritage)

### **Appendix III - PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Responses, submissions and observations were received from the following groups and individuals during the public consultation phases during the development of the Heritage Plan.

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
The Heritage Council
County Longford Historical Society
Environmental Protection Agency
Geological Survey of Ireland
Granard Motte Community Enterprise Ltd.
Aidan O'Hara
Keep Ireland Open
Newtownforbes Tidy Towns Committee
No To Derryadd Windfarm Committee
Ounamoun Nature Reserve

#### **Attendees at public consultation drop-in meetings at Ballymahon, Granard, Longford**

Peggy Baxter
Sr Maeve Brady

Nancy Carr
Dónal Farrell
Áine Fenner
Eamonn McIntyre
Pat and Derek Martin
Des Mooney
Brendan Quigley
Anne Skelly
Noeleen Walshe

### **Appendix IV - Glossary of terms used in the plan**

**All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020:** This is an all-island framework led by the National Biodiversity Data Centre and supported by multiple agencies to collectively protect Irish pollinators and the service they provide into the future.

**Archaeology:** The study of our past through material remains that include artefacts and monuments. Monuments found in County Longford include motte-and-bailey castles, tower houses, ringforts and hillforts, mounds, cairns, stone circles and other less visible types which may occur largely below the surface eg. fulachta fiadh and souterrains.

**Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs):** An Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or townscape, taking account of building lines and heights, that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific or technical interest or that contributes to the appreciation of a protected structure, and whose character it is an objective of a development plan to preserve (as set out in section 81 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended). There are currently two ACAs in Co. Longford – Battery Road ACA in Longford town and Ardagh Village ACA.

**Archive:** The accumulated materials and records created or received by a person, family or public or private organisation, preserved because of the enduring value or evidence contained therein. They can come in a range of formats, including written, photographic, maps, moving images, sound, analogue, digital and electronic. Archives in Longford County Council are managed by the County Archivist.

**Biodiversity:** The variability among living organisms on the earth, including the variability within and between species, or within and between ecosystems.

**Conservation:** The act of preventing something from being lost, wasted, damaged or destroyed, through appropriate management, repair or enhancement – including buildings, objects or the natural environment. A conservation plan assess the significance of the feature and sets out appropriate policies to enable that significance to be retained in its future use.

**Core conservation area:** An area of high biodiversity value, e.g. protected site.

**Cultural Heritage:** An expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values. Cultural Heritage is often expressed as either Tangible or Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICOMOS, 2002). Tangible heritage includes aspects of our shared heritage that we can physically see and touch, including monuments, heritage objects and biodiversity. Intangible heritage includes the non-physical aspects of our heritage that cannot be touched, including: oral traditions, stories and music, rituals and festivals, and knowledge and skills to understand nature, produce traditional crafts and agricultural practices, among others.

**Cutaway bog:** Bog completely exploited for industrial peat extraction  
**Cutover bog:** Bog from which peat has been cut; the ‘cutover’ is gradually re-colonised by plants, shrubs and trees and may develop a rich variety of wildlife.

**Folklore:** Traditional beliefs, customs and stories of a community, passed through generations by word of mouth.

**Flora and Fauna:** Flora refers to all plants, both terrestrial and aquatic, that occur in the wild. Fauna refers to all wild animals, (terrestrial, avian and aquatic), , that occur in the wild, with some exceptions.

**Geology:** The study of the planet Earth as a whole or in part: the materials of which it is made, the processes that act and have acted upon these materials and the products and structures formed by such actions.

**Habitat:** The ecological environment in which organisms and communities thereof thrive.

**Habitats Directive:** The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) was transposed into Irish Law in the European Union (Natural Habitats) Regulations, in 1997. This directive, on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, lists sites which must be protected. The directive lists (Annex 1) certain habitats that must be protected through the establishment of Special Areas of Conservation. The directive also lists (Annex 2) species, which must be afforded protection. The directive seeks to establish “Natura 2000”, a network of protected areas throughout the European Community.

**Heritage:** Heritage can be thought of as the elements of our shared history and environment, which make up how we live today. The Heritage Act, 1995, defines heritage as including: archaeological objects, monuments, architectural heritage, flora and fauna, landscapes, wildlife habitats, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks, inland waterways and heritage objects. This Heritage Plan also respects other aspects of Longford’s heritage including, among others: history and social development; genealogy; placenames; the Irish language; folklore; crafts, sport and past-times; industrial and transport heritage and musical heritage.

**Heritage Council:** The Heritage Council was established as a statutory body under the Heritage Act 1995. Its role is to propose policies and priorities for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of the national heritage. It is also charged with the responsibility to promote interest, education, knowledge and pride in the national heritage.

**Heritage in Schools Scheme:** The Heritage in Schools Scheme provides a panel of 160 Heritage Specialists who visit primary schools throughout the country, supporting the stated aims and objectives of the Social, Scientific and Environmental Education (SESE) curriculum and provides an additional educational tool and resource for teachers.

**Heritage Gardens & Parks:** Areas of natural heritage, gardens and parks whose plant collections, design, design features, buildings, setting, style or association are of significant scientific, botanical, aesthetic or historical interest or which illustrate some aspect of the development of gardening or of gardens and parks.

**Heritage Objects:** Objects over 25-years-old which are works of art or of industry (including books, documents and other records, including genealogical records) of cultural importance.

**Heritage Officer:** A person employed within a local authority who seeks to promote interest, education, knowledge and pride in the natural and cultural heritage of a local authority area. The Heritage Officer Programme represents a partnership between the Heritage Council and the Local Authority.

**Inland Waterways:** Are canals, canalised sections of rivers and lakes, navigation channels in rivers and lakes, and their associated navigational features.

**Invasive Species:** Species of plants or animals which have been introduced to a new territory outside their natural range, but proliferate. In the absence of natural controls such as predators or diseases, potentially causing environmental, health or economic problems.

**Landscape:** Sites, vistas and features of scenic, archaeological, geological, historical, ecological or scientific interest.

**Natural Heritage Area (NHA):** Natural Heritage Areas protect sites of wildlife importance on a national level. The Wildlife Amendment Act 2000 provides the statutory basis for which these sites can be designated and protected. This process is still ongoing, the undesignated sites are known as proposed NHAs (pNHA). Some NHAs may also include SAC and SPA designations.

**Oral History:** The collection and study of historical information using recordings of interviews with people having personal knowledge of past events.

**Protected Structure:** A structure, or part of a structure, that a planning authority considers to be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view. Protected structures are included on the Record of Protected Structures, which is a list compiled by a planning authority and published in the County Development Plan.

**Special Area of Conservation (SAC):** These are prime wildlife conservation areas in the country, considered to be important on both a national and a European level. The legal basis on which SACs are selected and designated is the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). This was transposed into Irish law in European Union (Natural Habitats) Regulations of 1997. The Directive lists (Annex 1) certain habitats that must be protected within SACs. There is also a list (Annex 2) of species, which must be afforded protection. The Directive seeks to establish "Natura 2000" a network of protected areas throughout the European Community, and it is the responsibility of each state to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to protect habitats and species,

and which together with the Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) form “Natura 2000”.

**Special Protection Areas (SPA):** These are prime areas of importance to birds, both on a national and a European level. The EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) forms the legal basis for SPAs, it was transposed into Irish Law by the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations 1985. It requires member states to designate sites for rare and vulnerable bird species (listed on Annex 1), and migratory species. Together with SACs, SPAs form the pan-European network, *Natura 2000* (N2K).