



CAVAN COUNTY HERITAGE PLAN 2025 - 2030



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Ceangal
A Heritage Council programme
Clár den Chomhairle Oidhreachta



Foreword from John Paul Feeley, Cathaoirleach, Cavan County Council

Cavan County Heritage Plan 2025 – 2030 is a Strategic Management Plan for the heritage of County Cavan. I am delighted to welcome the publication of the Cavan County Heritage Plan 2025-2030.

This is the Strategic Management Plan to promote, conserve and manage our heritage in collaboration with other agencies and the wider community.

Cavan people are proud custodians of our Heritage. We realise the need to invest in and protect these important assets.

We must engage with and celebrate our heritage. This Plan will build upon the success of the previous Heritage Plan, through continued careful management, research, conservation and promotion of the rich heritage around us.

Through this plan, we aim to improve resources for heritage services, offer guidance to the wider public, and continue contributing to policy and legislation in this important area.

On behalf of Cavan County Council, I wish to congratulate and thank all those involved in the preparation of the Plan – the staff involved, the members of Cavan County Heritage Forum and the quiet and dedicated leadership of our Heritage Officer, Ann-Marie Ward. The work of the Heritage Office enjoys the full support of all Councillors.

I would also like to thank Savina Donohoe, Drumlin Creative Consultancy and Alison Walker, who facilitated the public consultations for their input into this Plan.

The Heritage Council provide invaluable ongoing support to Cavan Heritage Office. I look forward to our continued working relationship with the Heritage Council during the lifetime of this Plan.

This Plan will guide us in the stewardship of our Heritage over the coming years.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

John Paul Feeley
Cathaoirleach

Foreword from Eoin Doyle, Chief Executive, Cavan County Council

Cavan County Heritage Plan 2025 – 2030 sets out the priorities for heritage in County Cavan over the next five years. The preparation of Local Heritage Plans and the establishment of local fora has been Government Policy since the National Heritage Plan of 2022. Cavan County Heritage Plan 2025 - 2030 provides a framework for the delivery of heritage projects at a cross-agency level.

This Plan represents Cavan County Council's commitment to protecting, conserving, managing and celebrating our county's heritage assets. Cavan people continue to demonstrate their pride in their local heritage and the sense of belonging local heritage attributes. This was very much evident in the Heritage Plan process, which is based on the principles of participation and learning. This Plan reflects all aspects of our heritage including our culture, built, archaeological and natural heritage all of which shape us and inform us as people.

Cavan County Heritage Plan will build on the success of the previous Heritage Plan. This will be delivered by working in partnership with state agencies, heritage organisations and local communities. Our public consultation process during the making of this plan reached out to as many people and organisations across the county as possible. I wish to acknowledge Savina Donohoe of Drumlin Creative Consultancy and Alison Walker who facilitated this process. Achieving the objectives and actions within this plan are of paramount importance to ensure that the heritage resource within the county is conserved, managed and enhanced through public engagement and participation. Progress will only be made through the continued energy and effort of individuals and communities.

The support of the Heritage Council over the past 20 years must be acknowledged and we look forward to our continued working relationship during the implementation of this Plan. I wish Cavan County Heritage Forum well in delivering their vision “the unique and diverse heritage of County Cavan is conserved, sustained and, above all, cherished and celebrated by the people of the County”.

Le gach dea-ghuí
Eoin Doyle, Chief Executive

Foreword from Shane P. O'Reilly, Cavan County Heritage Forum

Cavan County is known as both the 'Lakeland County', due to its abundance of lakes - famously said to be 365, one for every day of the year - and the 'Drumlin County', as its landscape is richly shaped by rolling drumlins.

We are very proud of our rich heritage in County Cavan, and this Heritage Plan respects all aspects of our heritage, both tangible and intangible. I am delighted that the preparation of this Heritage Plan involved extensive consultation with communities across the county, and we have endeavoured to reflect their views and priorities throughout the plan.

I would like to thank my colleagues on Cavan County Heritage Forum for their efforts in developing this new five-year plan for the county. Cavan County Council Heritage Office will continue to seek resources and increase investment in Cavan Heritage. We will build upon our existing achievements working in collaboration to further enhance and develop Cavan Heritage.

Finally, I wish to thank Cavan Heritage Office for their expertise and commitment in producing Cavan County Heritage Plan and I very much look forward to its implementation over the next five years.

Shane P O'Reilly
Chairperson, Cavan County Heritage Forum





CONTENTS

Foreword from the Cathaoirleach **3**
Foreword from the Chief Executive **4**
Foreword from the Chairperson, Cavan
County Heritage Forum **5**
Our Guiding Principle **9**
County Cavan Heritage Plan 2025-2030 **10**
About this plan **10**
Who is the Heritage Council? **11**
Who we are – Cavan Heritage Office **11**
Our Aims **11**
How we created this plan **12**
What is the County Cavan Heritage Forum?
12
The Consultation Process **13**
How will we implement this plan **14**
Our Plan in Context **16**
Cavan County Strategic Context **17**

Case Study 1 | *Where We Belong* Podcast
20
Case Study 2 | The Golden Way **21**
Case Study 3 | Cavan's Historic Graveyard
Network **22**
Case Study 4 | Castle Saunderson and
Castle Caldwell **24**
Our Strategic Actions **26**
Learning is Connection **28**
Shaping the Future by Conserving the Past
29
Holding Space for Memories **30**
Keepers of the Landscape **31**
Appendices **33**
Our Gratitude **39**
Acknowledgements **41**





OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE

is to ensure that:

“the unique and diverse heritage of County Cavan is conserved, sustained and, above all, cherished and celebrated by the people of the county.”



The County Cavan Heritage Plan 2025 – 2030

This plan addresses all aspects of local heritage, including built heritage, such as historic buildings and archaeological monuments and structures, natural heritage comprising the county’s unique geology and waterways, flora and fauna, and our cultural heritage, notably Cavan’s oral and musical histories and traditions.

About this plan

This plan was developed through research, site visits, and feedback from key stakeholders and the general public during a consultation process held in late 2023.

It presents the aims, guiding principle and strategic actions that will guide the conservation of County Cavan’s unique and multifaceted heritage, alongside other local initiatives, such as the County Cavan Biodiversity and Climate Action Plans, as well as The Heritage Ireland 2030 Plan, and within the wider context of European and global heritage conservation.

What is a Heritage Plan?

This Plan is a five-year strategic action plan for the identification, conservation, management, promotion, and interpretation of heritage.

Why we need this plan

The County Cavan Heritage Plan 2025 – 2030 will provide a framework that

will guide the implementation and coordination of heritage conservation activities through Cavan County Council cross-departmental collaboration, with volunteer and non-government (NGO) organisations sector involvement.

Who this plan is for?

This plan is developed for all the people of County Cavan in order to protect the places of significance they hold dear.



Who is the Heritage Council?

The Heritage Council is a statutory body established under the Heritage Act 1995 with a mission to engage, educate and advocate to develop a wider understanding of the vital contribution that heritage makes to social, environmental and economic well-being.

The Heritage Council's Strategic Plan 2023- 2028 guides engagement with local authorities, communities, and other stakeholders. Supporting the development of city and county Heritage Plans is a crucial component of this work, as it sets out a strategic framework for the conservation, management, and promotion of heritage at local level.

Who we are – Cavan Heritage Office

Cavan Heritage Office is responsible for protecting, enhancing, and promoting the built and natural heritage of County Cavan.

This includes not only architectural and cultural heritage, but also protected areas of national and international importance in terms of biodiversity.

These areas include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), National Heritage Areas (NHAs) and RAMSAR sites.



Our Aims

- To conserve, protect, and manage heritage throughout County Cavan.
- To sustain the rich and diverse heritage of County Cavan for present and future generations.
- To enable the people of County Cavan to cherish and celebrate their heritage.
- To ensure that heritage-related matters are communicated effectively to all sectors.

This will be achieved through the core values that serve as a foundation for creating positive change and ensuring that the plan is inclusive, sustainable and equitable.



What is the County Cavan Heritage Forum?

Cavan County Heritage Forum was established in June 2005 as an advisory service representing the wider interests of the community. The forum's remit is to consider the most effective means by which the natural, built and cultural heritage of County Cavan can be conserved, sustained and promoted.

It comprises a cross-sectoral advisory body, whose membership includes local authority (elected representatives and officials), community, non-government organisations, state agency, and educational representatives who advise on the preparation and implementation of County/ City Heritage Plans.

How we created this plan

This plan was prepared following a process of stakeholder and public consultation. The information collected was reviewed, and used to draft preliminary reports.

This work was undertaken in accordance with guidelines developed by the Heritage Council and published by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.





The Consultation Process

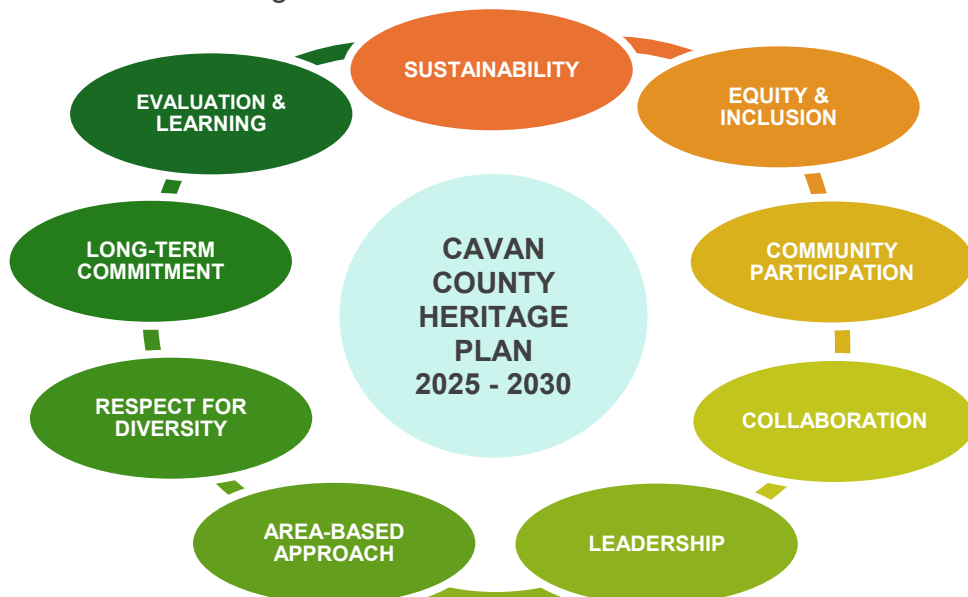
In preparation for the development of the Cavan County Council Heritage Plan 2025 – 2030, the Heritage Office conducted a programme of public consultations within the county of Cavan in accordance with the National Heritage Plan 2024 – 2029 and the Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028.

In conjunction with the Cavan Heritage Forum, a number of issues, opportunities and challenges were identified which subsequently informed the criteria for the public consultations, that took place in diverse locations around the county, including Cavan Town, Ballyjamesduff, Bailieborough and Bawnboy.

The feedback received from the Heritage Forum and the public consultations worked with our guiding principle to inspire a plan based upon four strategic actions:

1. Learning is Connection.
2. Shaping the Future by Conserving the Past.
3. Holding Space for Memories.
4. Keepers of the Landscape.

In turn, these strategic actions were constructed upon the core values of sustainability, equity and inclusion, community participation, collaboration, leadership, an area-based approach, respect for diversity, long-term commitment, and evaluation and learning.



How will we implement and monitor this plan?

Implementation of Cavan County Heritage Plan will be overseen by Cavan County Heritage Forum and co-ordinated by the Heritage Officer through the development and delivery of an annual work programme. This Annual Work Programme will be funded by Cavan County Council, the Heritage Council and through other targeted funding streams.

The delivery of actions within Cavan County Heritage Plan will require strong and robust partnerships and collaborations within Cavan County Council. Collaborations with the Biodiversity Office, Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, Community & Enterprise, Cavan County Museum, Cavan Library Services, the Climate Action Team, Cavan Arts Office and the Culture and Creativity Team will be further enhanced where work areas align.

Cavan County Heritage Office build on the success of previous collaborations with key stakeholders to ensure the successful delivery of this plan. Such stakeholders include the Heritage Council, state agencies, non-governmental organisations and local heritage and community groups. We endeavour to deliver this plan with energy and we will very much continue to engage, support and work with heritage ambassadors across the county.

Cavan County Heritage Forum will meet quarterly to monitor and evaluate progress in implementation of the projects and actions in the annual work plan. An annual funding application will be made for part-funding to the Heritage Council for County Heritage Plan Implementation. Cavan County Council and the Heritage Council will provide core funding for the implementation of Cavan County Heritage Plan. Cavan County Heritage Forum will deliver an annual programme of actions that address the four strategic actions in Cavan County Heritage Plan. Cavan Heritage Office will co-ordinate and manage the day-to-day implementation of Cavan County Heritage Plan. Progress reports will be provided to the Senior Management Team and Elected Members of Cavan County Council and to the Heritage Council. At the end of the plan period, an evaluation of the implementation of the Strategic Actions, and of the actions arising from them, will be undertaken.





*Scatter of islands,
flood of light from the lake.
Attune yourself to a new rhythm,
let the lake water go through its motions,
the oar blades cut the steel-grey light,
up and down of boats and cots,
ripple and popple of lake-water.*

*Noel Monahan,
'Meditation on Lough Oughter', Salmon Press*





*... this tree dreams
perhaps of a forest,
snatched pulse of the land,
a note or two of birdsong...*

*Heather Brett, 'This Beech',
'Witness'*

Our Plan in the National Context

Our plan is guided and informed by the Heritage Acts of 1995 and 2018, the Heritage Ireland 2030 plan, and *Our Place in Time*, The Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027. These enterprises recognise the value of Ireland's multivariuous heritage as a source of social unity and as a means for generating economic growth.

Our Plan in the European Context

The County Cavan Heritage Plan is also situated within the wider context of a range of global and European policies such as the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, *Transforming our World*, and the Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe 1992.



*Everywhere
you look, mountains, Cavan
mountains, Monaghan,
Fermanagh, Leitrim, Down
mountains, Gullion, The Cooleys,
pre-birth the mountains own us.*

Tom MacIntyre, 'The Mountains'



Cavan County Strategic Context

This plan will be informed and supported by a range of interconnected heritage legislation, guiding documents, strategies, policies, and plans. It is expected that in some areas where there is similarity, various policies and plans may intersect and work together to achieve a common objective.

➤ Heritage Ireland 2030

Ireland’s National Heritage Plan was launched in February 2022. It is built around a vision of our heritage, in all its forms, at the centre of local and national discourse, valued by all and cared for and protected for future generations. The framework has 3 themes: communities, leadership and partnerships.



➤ National Biodiversity Action Plan 2024-2030

Ireland’s fourth National Biodiversity Action Plan which aims to ensure that everyone has an awareness of biodiversity and its importance. This plan also highlights a key role for local authorities in biodiversity conservation.



➤ Our Place in Time, Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028

Launched in February 2023, this plan seeks to promote Ireland’s Heritage whilst identifying the challenges to be overcome. The six strategic pillars include leadership and stewardship, climate change and biodiversity loss, research, partnership, communities, and education and engagement.

➤ All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025

This plan seeks to strengthen pollinator friendly management of public parks and green spaces. Cavan County Council have officially signed up as a partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and is committed to working with the National Biodiversity Data Centre to deliver relevant actions.

➤ The National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025

This plan acts as a framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of landscape.



➤ **Climate Action Plan 2024**

This plan sets out actions to meet the national climate objective of pursuing and achieving the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050.

➤ **The National Volunteering Strategy 2021-2025**

This strategy recognises and supports the unique value and contribution of volunteers to Irish society.

➤ **Culture 2025**

Culture 2025 is a policy framework which ensures a unified and coherent approach to culture policy across government and to planning and provision across the culture sector. The Creative Ireland Program is the implementation framework for the promotion and strengthening of culture and creativity throughout Ireland.

➤ **The National Volunteering Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028**

This plan sets out the policies and objectives for the development of the County over a six-year period. It seeks to develop and improve, in a sustainable manner, the social, economic, environmental and cultural assets of the County.

➤ **County Cavan Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029**

This plan sets out a range of actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It stimulates effective local action, creates awareness, and promotes biodiversity in the local authority level of the County.

➤ **Cavan Culture and Creative Strategy 2023-2029**

Guided by the Creative Ireland Program 2020 - 2020, this plan aims to support the participation of Cavan people inclusion and expression within communities, and strengthen local creative economies.



➤ **County Cavan Corporate Plan 2019-2024**

The primary aim of this plan is to make Cavan a better place to live, work, invest, socialise, and above all, participate in. It focusses on sustainable growth, enhancing democracy, positivity, and effective management of services for the people of Cavan.

➤ **County Cavan Local and Community Economic Plan 2023-2029**

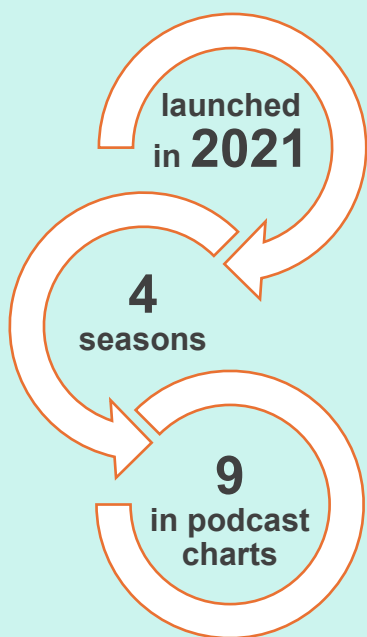
The LCEP is a statutory plan that sets out high-level goals, objectives and actions needed to promote and support economic development and local and community development for the County.







Case Study 1 | *Where We Belong* Podcast



Where We Belong is a heritage and culture podcast about County Cavan, produced by the Cavan Heritage Office. It explores the county's history, culture, and natural heritage through episodes featuring local stories, interviews with residents, and discussions about significant landmarks.


Directed and produced by Alan Bradley and commissioned by the Cavan Heritage Office, the first season of *Where We Belong* was launched in 2021 and proved a big hit all over the globe, even reaching number nine in the Austrian podcast charts. The podcast can be found on all major streaming platforms.

Case Study 2 | The Cavan Golden Way

The Golden Way project is a rural community initiative run by Cavan County Council with support from the Heritage Council. Its objectives are to inform and support rural communities, enabling them to identify and promote outstanding country roads and walks within a safe and interesting environment for recreational walking and exercise.



It also recognises and rewards the efforts made by rural communities in conserving the heritage features of those roads and walkways, and promotes best practice in the recording and management of the rural heritage features of country roads, and strengthens the bonds of the rural community.



Ghosts of spring bluebells
stillwash the light, and shadows
bruise clumps of rushes, wild garlic,
and wet, compacted peat.
The trees huddle, and bared trunks
lean back from the wind,
hum from sparse leaf to sparse leaf,
birch to ashwood, oak to sprawling beech...

Heather Brett, 'This Beech', 2022

Case Study 3 |

CAVAN'S Historic Graveyard NETWORK

*A flotilla of dandelions glided up through
the grass,
Pursued by ranks of cow parsley,
parading the lane.
At their feet, in the ditch,
regiments of green bracken...*

*Kate Ennals
'Spring Invasion', 'At the Edge',
Lapwing Publications*

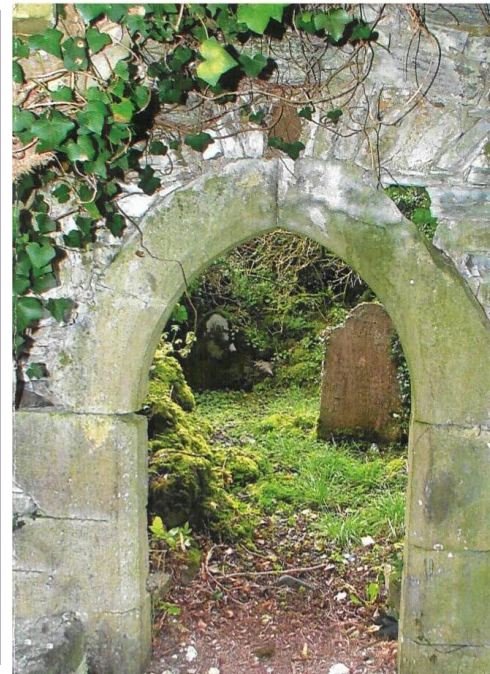
Cavan's Historic Graveyards... Where Nature Finds Sanctuary

**Discover Local History And Natural Beauty
In Cavan's Ancient Graveyards**



*A time of clay and water
When Brigid was loved and feared
And we knelt at the Cloutie Well, tied
ribbons and rags to a lone bush and
prayed Brigid would spare us.*

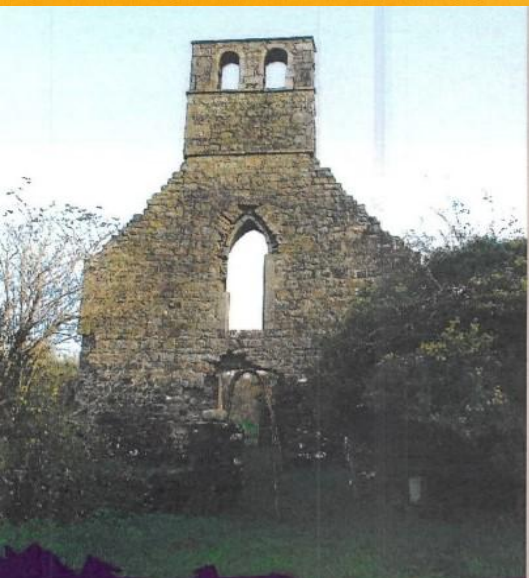
Noel Monahan
*'Harvest of Healing'
'Meditations on Lough Oughter'
Salmon Press*



The aim of the network to improve access to these sites, help undertake essential repairs and provide directional signage and interpretative panels.

Researching your Cavan family history? We plan to record all headstone inscriptions and make them available to the public through www.historicgraves.ie. This work has already begun! Over time we hope to expand our work to historic graveyards dotted all over County Cavan. We hope you'll support our work!

Cavan's historic graveyards are ready to tell their story.



Established in 2017, Cavan's Historic Graveyard Network aims to promote our wonderful historic graveyards and connect groups working to protect and maintain them.

Historic graveyards are located on hilltops, in fields, in towns and in the most scenic parts in the county. Some are unnoticed, others are cherished, but all of them are of great historical and cultural value.

For more information please visit www.cavanheritage.ie.

What makes an historical graveyard worth protecting and why visit one?

An outdoor museum

Our historic graveyards are a unique historical and genealogical record of a parish and collectively of County Cavan. Visit Cavan's historic graveyards to learn about family names in the area and perhaps find your own family.

Our historic graveyards are places of ancient history, the last resting places of our beloved ancestors with a

wonderful spiritual atmosphere. Visiting Cavan's historical graveyards is a great way to get off the beaten track and discover folklore, our history and local traditions.

Our historic graveyards are places of great scenic beauty and are often a refuge for wildlife and native flora. Take this opportunity to discover an undiscovered part of County Cavan.



Historical Burial Grounds – Cavan County Council

Case Study 4 | 'Our Shared Heritage', Where We Belong – Castle Saunderson and Castle Caldwell

The Heritage Office and Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark successfully secured Shared Island Funding through the Department of the Taoiseach for an ambitious and unique Shared Heritage and outdoor recreation project at Castle Saunderson in County Cavan and Castle Caldwell in County Fermanagh.

This project will have far reaching transformative potential utilising both tangible and intangible heritage. It will provide a platform and infrastructure for interpretation of important aspects of our shared heritage, together with ancillary recreational facilities that will enhance the Ulster Canal connection from Clones to Upper Lough Erne.

These two locations were chosen specifically for this project because of their shared history as former plantation castle sites their

strategic border setting, and their significant yet untapped amenity and tourism potential.

They also share strong commonalities, being situated within the Geopark and connected through the Finn river, Shannon Erne Waterway, and Erne River system.

Both sites are located on lands in public ownership, Castle Saunderson having been purchased by Cavan County Council, and Castle Caldwell under the stewardship of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council through a long-term licence agreement with Forest Service NI.

Their peripheral border location provides another shared trait, the two castle sites being situated on different sides of the border following partition.

Castle Saunderson demesne, directly on the border between Fermanagh and Cavan, the Republic and the North of Ireland, adds a further dimension of significance.

Castle Caldwell sits close to the Fermanagh--Donegal border yet is strategically linked with neighbouring Geopark sites through a shared heritage. The area places a strong emphasis on recreational heritage-themed trails and offers access to the water.

The area within which both locations are

greatly, both socially and economically as a result of their border location in the years following partition.


This, coupled with border road closures and thirty years of conflict, further left its mark on the communities from both traditions that live there.

Blackwood Associates Architects were appointed by Cavan County Council in October 2023. This team will develop detailed plans, drawings, schedules and specifications for the development of capital works at the Castle Saunderson site, and a conservation plan for the Castle Caldwell site.

An assessment of the current vegetation on both structures and a management plan for the removal of this vegetation will be implemented through Shared Island Funding.

This would include a detailed schedule of works for the Castle Saunderson site which will enable Cavan County Council to undertake necessary conservation works.





*...to plant your seeds, the catch of your hair
in the branch of a tree, the breath in your throat as you
watch a blackbird hop in the tinkle of a fuschia bell
as it rings forth, the crackle of alder seeds as they whirl to earth.
The moist of damp clay roots in the palm of my hand...*

Kate Ennals, 'Teorainn na hEireann', 'Elsewhere', Vole Books



Our Strategic Actions

Inspired by our guiding principle, aims and the feedback received from the Heritage Forum and public consultations, our vision for this plan is driven by four strategic actions:



1

LEARNING IS CONNECTION

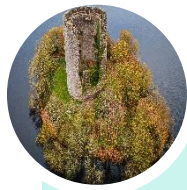
Inspire greater engagement with local heritage.

Encourage and support greater participation of young people in heritage matters.

Build knowledge.

Raise awareness.

Accessible heritage for all.



2

SHAPING THE FUTURE BY CONSERVING THE PAST

Conserve and manage our architectural and built heritage.

Conserve and manage our archaeological heritage.

Empower communities, heritage groups and individuals to become active heritage champions.



3

HOLDING SPACE FOR MEMORIES

Use modern technology to capture stories from the past.

Engage people in recording stories that capture personal narratives and experiences for preservation and sharing.

Promote greater use of the Irish language recognising the cultural impact of the Irish language.



4

KEEPERS OF THE LANDSCAPE

Enhance and nurture biodiversity.

Developing resilience in the landscape against climate change.

New council led initiatives and projects to include biodiversity and climate resilience.





*Sheep falling asleep
in the twilight of blue
grass
above the woollen sky*

Noel Monahan
*'Mirror at Dawn', 'The Funeral
of the Game', Salmon Press*

1

LEARNING IS CONNECTION

Building knowledge and raising awareness in order to encourage community engagement with local heritage through education, experiential learning, sharing of stories and wisdom, and targeted promotion.

	Actions	Outcomes
1.1	Promote best practice for heritage by ensuring that the requirements of relevant EU and national legislation are met by the council.	Mainstreaming of heritage in policy and practice and ensuring compliance with legislation.
1.2	Encourage and support local heritage groups to provide traditional skills demonstrations and training, workshops, outreach, seminars, tours and lectures to engage all sections of their communities.	Inclusive ways for people to enjoy learning about and getting involved with their local heritage by facilitating and supporting groups to participate in heritage.
1.3	Support the Heritage in Schools program and its launch into senior schools.	Enhanced opportunity for young people to engage with local heritage in schools.
1.4	Continue to identify knowledge gaps and share heritage data through research, and surveys of the County's tangible and intangible heritage assets for the new heritage-led digital archive.	To begin to build an enhanced and accessible knowledge base for Cavan heritage through the creation of a digital archive.
1.5	Seek to develop a Cavan Community Archaeology Program.	Community engagement and experiential learning.
1.6	Recognise the potential of the County's heritage as a resource for developing sustainable tourism. Work with key stake holders to encourage visitors to participate and experience Cavan heritage.	The protection and sustainable management of heritage is a key consideration in the development of heritage-based tourism in the county.
1.7	Continue to promote national and European heritage themed events, eg Heritage Week and Biodiversity Week.	Greater participation by heritage groups and the general public/ visitors across the County.
1.8	Cultivate interest through the promotion of Cavan heritage across various media channels such as newspapers, radio, social media, podcasts, games/ apps, the incorporation of QR codes on signage, and printed materials.	

2

SHAPING THE FUTURE BY CONSERVING THE PAST

Conserve and protect the County’s wealth of tangible heritage and built cultural assets. Monitor, conserve and protect built heritage, including historic buildings and architecture, archaeological monuments and structures.

	Actions	Outcomes
2.1	Continue to promote and resource conservation and management plans for buildings of historic interest and archaeological sites within public and private ownership.	The Heritage Office will continue to engage with private individuals and the council to ensure improved access, knowledge and management of heritage sites.
2.2	Continue to work with owners of protected sites (architectural and archaeological) in private ownership to access potential sources of funding.	Enable owners to conserve and sustainably manage their heritage assets for the future.
2.3	Continue the use of information plaques and QR codes on buildings of historic interest.	Greater access to Cavan’s heritage.
2.4	Work with communities to maintain, expand and improve biodiversity at sites within the Cavan Historic Graveyards Network.	Enhance and manage areas of natural biodiversity at historic graveyard sites.
2.5	Identify and explore various funding streams in order to develop and enhance all aspects of heritage.	Increased access to heritage funding for projects by working collaboratively with key stake holders (statutory, non-statutory and the community and voluntary sector).
2.6	Seek to commence an audit of council-owned heritage sites.	Database of heritage sites in council ownership.
2.7	Work with Cavan County Council planning department and other statutory organisations in the implementation of policies, best practice, and planning with regard to the care-taking and maintaining of the County’s built heritage.	Built and natural heritage protection and management is a key consideration in the preparation and implementation of Cavan County Council Strategic documents.

3

HOLDING SPACE FOR MEMORIES

Collect and preserve the County’s intangible cultural heritage assets as a resource for future learning and engagement.
 Launch a central digital archive for the collation of all oral and digitised heritage records.

	Actions	Outcomes
3.1	Initiate and conduct an intergenerational project to record oral histories and folklore.	The consolidation and organisation of all heritage recordings, encompassing oral histories, podcasts, traditional music, digitised historical records, genealogy, as well as photographic and film collections.
3.2	Conduct an audit of all existing heritage recordings within the County as the first part of a process to establish a publicly accessible Central Digital Archive	
3.3	Recognise the valuable role Irish language plays in the cultural heritage of the County by supporting heritage groups and/ or landowners and /or schools in projects such as Townlands and Field Names to research and publish the names and histories of their townlands, and to inform new place-naming.	Language, oral traditions, intangible heritage that reflects our community, past and present, are celebrated and recognised as part of our heritage.
3.4	Support the work of Cavan Library and Cavan County Museum in the care and management of the County’s historic collections.	Continued inter-departmental collaboration.
3.5	Encourage the creative work of all artforms in their interactions and responses to Cavan heritage, to address shared heritage themes across departments eg. arts, tourism, community, Cavan County Museum, etc.	Work with creatives to integrate artistic interpretation as a way for people to access heritage.
3.6	Continue to support the Cavan Historic Graveyards Network in the recording of headstones and grave memorials within their communities.	Expansion of Cavan Historic Graveyard Network.

4

KEEPERS OF THE LANDSCAPE

Focus on the protection of the County’s unique natural heritage. Prioritise natural heritage in all heritage initiatives alongside the Cavan Biodiversity Plan and the Cavan Climate Action Plan.

	Actions	Outcomes
4.1	Collaborate on the implementation of Cavan County Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030 and the Cavan Climate Action Plan 2025 – 2030, and the Development Plan Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark 2021 – 2030.	Coordinated inter-departmental delivery of heritage, biodiversity, and climate action plans.
4.2	Promote existing heritage walks, trails, Green Ways and Golden Ways, and implement new trails that link sites of heritage interest and value.	Increased education and awareness of and access to heritage trails.
4.3	Continue to conserve and promote interest in the County’s unique waterscape. Encourage communities to research history and folklore of local rivers/ lakes and inform public through signage/ QR codes, and publish on central digital archive.	Increasing awareness of water-based heritage within the County.
4.4	Engage and equip farmers and landowners with knowledge, expertise, and best practice to conserve the natural landscapes within their property, and to prioritise sustainability in their farming and land management practices.	Develop a greater awareness and understanding of the importance of sustainable practices among farmers and landowners.
4.5	Implement a project identifying trees in the County that are of specific cultural heritage significance.	Raise awareness of the folklore and historical significance associated with particular trees within communities throughout the County.
4.6	Review previous and existing heritage surveys, tangible natural and intangible, to identify and address knowledge gaps.	To collect and share relevant data.
4.7	Implement surveys of at-risk species and habitats, and invasive species, within the County. Encourage participation in Citizen Science projects throughout the County.	Raise awareness and increase community participation and further increase our knowledge base.



Appendix 1 | About Our Heritage

Our Built Heritage

County Cavan is made up of many distinct communities of people. Our shared past, the unique or special nature of the area in which we live, and our feeling of belonging combine to create sustainable communities in which people wish to live. Essential in achieving this is the recognition, protection, and enhancement of our built heritage and archaeology.

County Cavan has a rich and diverse architectural heritage which consists of man-made features, including residential dwellings, farmhouses, old schools, churches, castles, thatched cottages, industrial buildings, gate lodges, shop fronts and walls, to name but a few.





Our Natural Heritage

Our natural heritage includes a variety of life all around us. The Heritage Act (1995) defines natural heritage as including flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, inland waterways, heritage gardens and parks.

County Cavan has a landscape filled with a rich and varied flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, heritage gardens, and unique geological makeup.

There are a number of designated sites to protect areas of natural heritage importance in County Cavan. These include Natural Heritage Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, and Ramsar Sites.





Our Cultural Heritage

Cultural Heritage is the legacy of physical artefacts and intangible attributes inherited from past generations that are valued in the present and preserved for the future.

It includes tangible heritage monuments, buildings and artworks, and intangible heritage, such as oral traditions and social practices.

Cultural heritage reflects a community's history, identity and values, playing a crucial role in their lives, and influencing their values, beliefs and sense of belonging.



Appendix 2 | Report on County Cavan Heritage Forum and Public Consultations 2023

Introduction

In preparation for the development of the Cavan County Council Heritage Plan 2025 – 2030, the Heritage Office conducted a programme of public consultations within the county of Cavan in accordance with the National Heritage Plan 2024 – 2029 and the Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028.

What is a Heritage Plan?

A Heritage Plan is a five-year strategic action plan for the identification, conservation, management, promotion and interpretation of heritage.

The Consultation Process

The public consultation process took place over a period of two months. It began with a workshop and lunch with the Cavan Heritage Forum.

A Heritage Forum is a cross-sectoral advisory body, whose membership includes local authority (elected representatives and officials), community, NGO, state agency, and educational representatives who advise on the preparation and implementation of County/ City Heritage Plans.

The issues, opportunities and challenges identified during this meeting informed the criteria for the public consultation process.

Four public consultations were conducted in diverse locations around the county, including Cavan Town, Ballyjamesduff, Bailieborough and Bawnboy. These meetings were advertised on social media. In addition, submissions were invited by email for individuals and organisations unable to attend in person.

In total, there were 42 attendees, 3 submissions by email, and one submission by phone call.

Key Questions

Attendees were asked to consider the following six key questions:

1. What makes our County's heritage unique, and how do we celebrate its uniqueness?
2. As someone who is interested in Cavan's heritage, what do you consider important?
3. Can you give examples of projects you would like to see in Cavan?
4. What do we want to focus on in this plan for 2025- 2030?
5. How are we adapting to the changes of the 21st century?
6. How do we pass on our passion for heritage to the next generation?

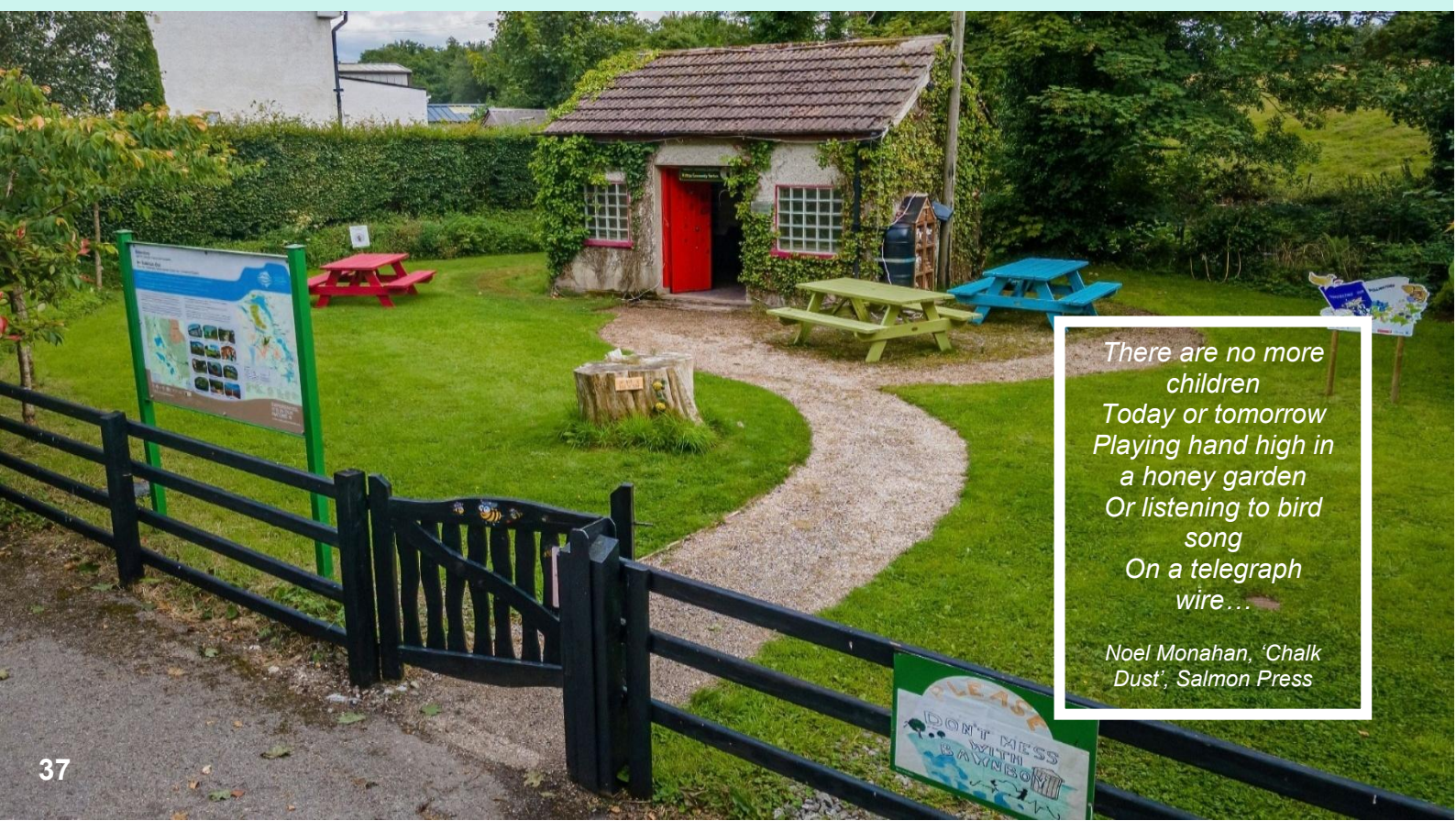
Summary of Results

In summary, it is clear that participants acknowledge the value of the county's heritage as a vital component contributing to a shared sense of identity, place and community. Participants recognise Cavan's heritage not only as a unique resource for tourism and economic benefit, but also as a vehicle for education and developing a sense of belonging in an increasing, more ethnically diverse population.

In particular, there emerged a strong desire to involve children and young people in heritage projects in order to foster heritage guardians of the future. The conservation of built heritage and prehistoric structures in the county was acknowledged as a priority, as was the need to conserve the county's oral culture.

Similarly, participants highlighted a requirement for the recruitment of more historians, heritage guides and tour guides, archivists and volunteers to manage and promote Cavan's heritage, and suggested that a central archive for the collation of information around funding, for example, would be useful as a resource for local community groups and to facilitate networking and the pooling of shared experience between local projects.

Participants recognised the biggest challenges as encouraging the participation of young people in heritage, and raising awareness generally. Concerns were also expressed over the impact of population growth and housing development on local landscapes and biodiversity. Additionally, the promotion of sustainable tourism was seen as a key factor, while challenges and opportunities were identified with regard to funding, resources and capacity for managing and protecting built heritage.



*There are no more
children
Today or tomorrow
Playing hand high in
a honey garden
Or listening to bird
song
On a telegraph
wire...*

Noel Monahan, 'Chalk
Dust', Salmon Press

Appendix 3 | Example Key Performance Indicators

KPI	Measure	Outcome
Signed Service Level Agreement between Cavan County Council and the Heritage Council	In Place (Y/N)	
Current County Heritage Plan	Plan in Place (Y/N)	
Heritage Forum in Place & Operating	Heritage Forum in Place Number of Forum Meetings per year Record of attendance at meetings Minutes of Meetings	
Annual Heritage Action Plan	Heritage Officer Annual Action Plan	
Annual Report Submitted to the Heritage Council	Heritage Officer (Y/N)	
TRAINING		
Participation in Heritage Council training and development programme Participation in Cavan County Council Training	Number of training events attended per annum	
FUNDING		
Amounts drawn down from accessible national funds by the Heritage Team	Total direct heritage spend by Cavan County Council	
EVENTS		
Number of Events for National Heritage Week Other Heritage Events	Number of Heritage Events per annum	
Public Engagements		
Social media posts, adverts, press releases, interviews, talks, presentations, seminars	Number per year	
Influencing Local Strategic Policy		
Cavan County Council Strategic Documents	Number per year	
Up to date Accessible Heritage Information		
Cavan Heritage Website & related websites	Cavan Heritage & Cavan County Council Website	
BEST PRACTICE HERITAGE GUIDANCE		
Number of materials promoted annually		



Our Gratitude

Cavan Heritage Office would like to thank all those who participated in the Heritage Forum, the Public Consultations, and all members of the public who made a submission to the Heritage Office during the consultation process.

Cavan Heritage Forum Members

Cllr Shane P O'Reilly (Chairperson)	Ballyjamesduff Municipal District
Cllr Brendan Fay	Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District
Cllr Clifford Kelly	Bailieborough - Cootehill Municipal District
Cllr Trevor Smith	Ballyjamesduff Municipal District
Cllr Stiofán Conaty	Bailieborough - Cootehill Municipal District
Anne Gerety Smyth	Cavan County Museum Curator
Mairead Sheridan	Senior Executive Planner
Mairce Galligan	Senior Executive Planner
Karina Charles Lynch	Arts Officer
Mary Sullivan	Cavan Genealogy
Dr Brendan Scott	Cumann Seanchais Bhreifne & Historian
John Kelly	Principal - Teagasc Ballyhaise
Ailish Kane	Inland Fisheries Ireland
Chris Liu	NPWS
Savina Donohoe	County Cavan PPN
Elizabeth Orminston	Local Historian
Grainne O'Connor	Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark
Martina O'Neill	Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark
Deborah Leahy	Community & Enterprise
Patrick Cassidy	Cavan Institute
Ian Elliott	Corravahan House
Terry Hyland	CEO, Breffni Integrated CLG
John O'Hanlon	IFA
Brona Keating	Climate Action Coordinator
Tara Smith	Community Climate Action Officer
Paul O'Doherty	NPWS
Elaine Halpin	Breffni Integrated CLG
Grace Fegan	National Monuments Service
Brian Callaghan	County Cavan PPN

Cavan County Council would also like to thank all Heritage Focus Groups for their participation in the Public Consultation process.

Heritage Focus Groups

**Virginia & District Historical Society
St. Kilian's Heritage Centre
Clifferna Heritage Group
Killeshandra Tidy Towns
Drumlane History and Heritage
Town and District Association
Markethouse Ballyconnell
West Cavan Boys
Bawnboy Tidy Towns
Cavan Public Participation Network
West Cavan Bog Association
Jampa Ling Buddhist Centre
Cill na Sean Rátha
Bailieborough Heritage Society
MBM Contractors
Bailieborough Courthouse
Loughanleagh & Muff Heritage Trust
Green Groups
Nature's Patch
Moybologue Historical Society
Cotehill Famine Graveyard
Ballyjamesduff Community Council
Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre
Belturbet Railway Museum
Templeport Development Association**

Acknowledgements

Cavan County Council and Cavan County Heritage Forum wish to acknowledge the support of the Heritage Council in the preparation of Cavan County Heritage Plan 2025 – 2030, through its part funding of the Heritage Officer post and the provision of annual funding for the implementation of Cavan Heritage Plan projects.

Cavan County Council and Cavan County Heritage Forum acknowledge the role of the staff and Elected Representatives and Consultants, Savina Donohoe, Drumlin Creativity, and Alison Walker, in formulating the County Heritage Plan and all of those who took part in the consultation process.

Appropriate Assessment Screening and Strategic Environmental Assessment undertaken by Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants.

Photo credits: Isabel Duggan Rofé

Designer: Alison Walker

For further information, please contact:

Anne Marie Ward,
Heritage Officer,
Cavan County Council,
Farnham Centre,
Farnham Street,
Cavan.
Telephone: 049 4378600
Email: cavanheritage@cavancoco.ie

