



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Heritage Ireland 2030 Delivery

Summary Update

Prepared by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage  
[gov.ie/housing](https://www.gov.ie/housing)

## Programme for Government commitments in relation to heritage

**Green:** Action completed



**Amber:** Action ongoing












**Red:** Action not yet commenced












NO.	ACTION	STATUS
1.	Connect heritage with all relevant priorities within Programme for Government.	
2.	Publish and implement the new all-of-government heritage Strategic Policy [ <a href="#">Heritage Ireland 2030</a> ] and begin its nationwide implementation.	
3.	Explore multi-annual funding models and ensure adequate funding is made available for the implementation of each County Heritage Plan.	
4.	Continue to support the role of the Heritage Officers in the areas of heritage education, health and wellbeing and citizen science.	
5.	Encourage each local authority to appoint a Conservation and Repurposing Officer.	
6.	Build on community-led schemes such as the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Structures at Risk Fund, which provide grant aid to protect and maintain important historic buildings in our local communities.	
7.	Encourage traditional building skills in devising an apprenticeship programme with the sustainable construction sector focusing on heritage disciplines and crafts.	





Programme for Government commitments in relation to heritage *cont'd*

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
8.	Expand the Heritage in Schools Scheme so that more students can enjoy our rich natural and cultural heritage.	
9.	Continue with the expansion of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and include modern and industrial buildings.	
10.	Build the capacity of local authorities to lead locally and engage citizens on climate change and biodiversity.	
11.	Work with the Northern Ireland Executive to deliver the flagship cross-border Ulster Canal project in order to restore the all-island inland water system as a premier tourism attraction.	
12.	Expand the Environment Fund, taking account of the consultation process which has been completed, through the introduction of new levies, and ring fence this money for investment in biodiversity and climate initiatives, including a parks fund to support the development of new parks and wildlife areas.	
13.	Coordinate the actions in the Programme for Government regarding peatlands to maximise the benefits for biodiversity.	
14.	Progress the establishment of a Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity.	
15.	Promote biodiversity initiatives across primary, post primary and third-level sectors, and ensure that schools, colleges and universities across the country play an active role in providing areas to promote biodiversity.	
16.	Review the remit, status and funding of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to ensure that it is playing an effective role in delivering its overall mandate and enforcement role in the protection of wildlife.	





Programme for Government commitments in relation to heritage *cont'd*

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
17.	Ensure that every local authority has a sufficient number of biodiversity and heritage officers among their staff complement.	
18.	Support biodiversity data collection.	
19.	Publish a new National Pollinator Plan and encourage public bodies to promote and protect biodiversity.	
20.	Review the protection (including enforcement of relevant legislation) of our natural heritage, including hedgerows, native woodland and wetlands.	
21.	Develop a new National Invasive Species Management Plan.	
22.	Introduce policies on supports for urban biodiversity and tree planting.	
23.	Encourage and support local authorities to reduce the use of pesticides in public areas.	
24.	Continue implementation of the third National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 and build on the commitments made at the first National Biodiversity Conference.	
25.	Support local nature groups and local authorities to work in partnership on local biodiversity projects.	









Programme for Government commitments in relation to heritage *cont'd*

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
26.	Support nature-based solutions for land-use management.	
27.	Continue to raise awareness of biodiversity through initiatives like the Annual Biodiversity Awards Scheme.	
28.	Building on the success of the UNESCO Dublin Bay Biosphere, achieve further UNESCO designations for Irish sites.	
29.	Appoint Education Liaison Officers in each of our National Parks to work with schools across the country, to promote the importance of biodiversity and the natural world, and to involve pupils in the work that goes on in our National Parks.	

## Access

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
30.	Better seasonality at national parks and monuments and historic properties in the care of the State with extended opening hours where appropriate to do so.	
31.	Improve access to heritage through expanded visitor services and interpretation at national parks, nature reserves, monuments and historic properties in the care of the State.	
32.	Create more access to heritage through expanded visitor services and opening hours, where appropriate, at cultural institutions and local museums.	
33.	Develop a national management plan for national cultural heritage datasets.	
34.	Continue to support Fáilte Ireland partnerships to deliver enhanced and sustainable visitor experiences that can/will act as catalysts for economic activity.	
35.	Focus government investment in tourism capital projects on improving product quality and innovation, and the development and enhancement of cultural and heritage experiences to attract a wide range of visitors to Ireland.	
36.	Increase and improve universal access to heritage for the elderly, people with disability and children, including through the use of new technologies.	

## Built and Archaeological Heritage








NO.	ACTION	STATUS
37.	Integrate heritage considerations into urban and rural regeneration to ensure that built and natural heritage objectives underpin the planning and development process and inform the 'Town Centres First' policy approach.	
38.	Promote our vernacular built heritage and support associated traditional skills and availability of materials, especially in rural Ireland, and on a cross-border basis in cooperation with the Northern Ireland Executive.	
39.	Work with the insurance industry to facilitate affordable insurance for thatch structures, Protected Structures and historic buildings.	
40.	Publish and implement the <i>A Living Tradition: Understanding, Minding and Handing on Our Built Vernacular</i> by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.	
41.	Enact new Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill with appropriate communication and training strategy in place.	
42.	Review the structure of conservation grants schemes to allow for the introduction of greater flexibility in the spending of funds and a more structured approach to their allocation.	
43.	Devise a programme supporting early intervention and maintenance of the historic built environment.	
44.	Direct resources to safeguard buildings that are most at risk to include a dedicated fund for local authorities to enable them undertake emergency stabilisation works or acquire properties by compulsory purchase.	

## Built and Archaeological Heritage *cont'd*






NO.	ACTION	STATUS
45.	Implement the recommendations of the Expert Advisory Committee Report on the Review of Operation of Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000.	
46.	Demonstrate the benefit of routine maintenance and sympathetic conservation repairs of architectural and archaeological heritage through the publication of exemplars funded under relevant heritage grant schemes.	
47.	Support the expansion of the Historic Towns Initiative, Community Monuments Fund, Historic Structures Fund and Built Heritage Investment Schemes.	
48.	Support expansion of existing grant schemes for biodiversity protection and enhancement.	










## Climate Change

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
49.	Implement the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plans for Biodiversity and Built and Architectural Heritage, working also with the Northern Ireland Executive.	
50.	Collaborate with other government departments and agencies on the implementation of relevant actions in their Sectoral Adaptation Plans.	
51.	Carry out Climate Change Risk Assessments in every local authority area to establish a baseline of information from which the benefits and impacts of Climate Change Actions on the built and natural heritage can be measured and documented.	
52.	Pilot case studies in every local authority on the appropriate and sensitive energy upgrading of traditional buildings to use as exemplars for other home and building owners.	
53.	Establish Regional Panels of Historic Building Energy Assessors to specify appropriate and non-damaging interventions to retrofit historic buildings.	
54.	Deliver the relevant actions of the <i>Climate Action Plan 2021</i> , many of which contribute directly or indirectly to heritage.	
55.	Continue to support the work of the Climate Heritage Network.	









## Communications

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
56.	Support the establishment of a Heritage Youth network.	
57.	Improve communication about and understanding of the benefits of heritage laws, regulations and policies, and address crimes against heritage.	
58.	Improve interpretation and visitor management at our national monuments, national parks, national nature reserves and at national heritage properties.	
59.	Design outreach programmes to assist social inclusion and civic pride in areas of economic deprivation.	
60.	Ensure heritage information produced by State bodies meets international Plain English standards and seek the Plain English mark from the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).	





## Community

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
61.	Recognise the importance, and broad understanding of local cultural heritage to communities, and support its collection and promotion.	
62.	Build support for community-led heritage schemes and put in place structures to facilitate access to these and support volunteerism.	
63.	Collaborate with heritage partners in the EU, Northern Ireland and Britain on areas of mutual interest.	
64.	Ensure that openness, inclusivity and transparency are at the heart of heritage policy and the approach with which Heritage Ireland 2030 will be implemented.	
65.	Develop a 'Heritage and Inclusion' policy in collaboration with disability organisations, immigrant and asylum seeker representative groups, ethnic minority groups i.e. Traveller Representative Organisations, Roma Representative Organisations, and other hard to reach groups.	
66.	Develop a Code of Practice for appropriate citizen engagement with the public heritage estate.	
67.	Build on community heritage initiatives such as Heritage Week, Adopt a Monument and the Community Wetlands Forum, and other public engagement activities.	






## Education/Skills/Heritage Data

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
68.	Review and audit heritage skills and address gaps in heritage skills education/training opportunities.	
69.	Establish a National Centre for Traditional Building, Conservation and Maritime Skills.	
70.	Develop and implement a Heritage Skills Action Plan in conjunction with the National Skills Strategy.	
71.	Develop a coherent policy for the management of Ireland's digital heritage data.	
72.	Support the expansion of education services at national parks and national monuments, including recruitment of more specialist education staff to provide enhanced interpretative services and outreach programmes.	
73.	Work with local authorities to review the existing heritage staff complement to ensure that the service is adequately resourced at the local level, taking into consideration the findings of the 2021 review of the Heritage Officers Network.	
74.	Develop Junior Ranger Programmes.	
75.	Work with custodians of heritage in protecting the heritage in their care.	







Education/Skills/Heritage Data *cont'd*

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
76.	Work with key bodies to pilot regeneration projects.	
77.	Expand and develop Waterways Ireland education programme.	
78.	Build heritage awareness into school curricula.	
79.	Expand citizen science programmes for heritage and provide support for citizen-science initiatives.	




## Funding

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
80.	Examine use of fiscal incentives to drive investment in heritage and biodiversity.	
81.	Improve uptake of relevant EU funding streams, including through establishment of EU Heritage Funding Officers to identify and target relevant EU Programmes in coordination with local authorities.	
82.	Increase support for not-for-profit heritage-centred organisations.	
83.	Collaborate with the OPW and local authorities on caring for, maintaining and improving access to our national heritage estate.	
84.	Resource the heritage sector to ensure engagement with and delivery of Heritage Ireland 2030.	

## Developing the Sector

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
85.	Increase support to local authority heritage services and others tasked with providing access to our heritage.	
86.	Ensure that all heritage professional gaps within all local authorities are identified and filled.	
87.	Engage with and develop national, cross-border and international networks on a partnership basis to share knowledge appropriately in relation to relevant aspects of heritage practice.	
88.	Devise standards and guidance on best practice in the conservation and care of heritage.	
89.	Develop a professional accreditation system for heritage management.	
90.	Expand Ireland's participation in relevant international programmes and initiatives such as the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme and Green Flag/Green Heritage accreditation programmes.	

## Innovation










NO.	ACTION	STATUS
91.	Encourage innovation in the heritage sector through continued support of standards programmes, awards, advice series and targeted research.	
92.	Seed collaboration and research between the third-level education sector and heritage managers/practitioners.	
93.	Improve social media reach for heritage initiatives.	











## Intangible and Cultural Heritage

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
94.	Expand the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage.	
95.	Nominate practices from the National Inventory of Intangible Heritage for international recognition by UNESCO.	
96.	Develop a Vision, Mission and set of Principles for Intangible Cultural Heritage in Ireland.	
97.	Enhance engagement with practitioners, communities and stakeholders, such as government departments, the Heritage Council, local authorities and the Arts Council, on the recognition, promotion and safeguarding of Ireland's intangible cultural heritage.	
98.	Support nature-based solutions for land-use management.	










## Natural Heritage

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
99.	Enhance and expand natural and cultural heritage results-based Agri-Environmental Schemes and initiatives to deliver on biodiversity, climate adaptation and heritage benefits.	
100.	Support and resource the National Biodiversity Data Centre to collect, collate, manage, analyse and disseminate data on Ireland's biological diversity, working also with partners in Northern Ireland.	
101.	Initiate a new plan period of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (2021-25) and publish the review of the outgoing plan, taking account also of all-island factors and cooperation opportunities.	
102.	Support more all-island approaches to biodiversity protection, including by investing to conserve cross-border region peatlands, building on the success of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.	
103.	Explore development of a new National Marine Park around the Skelligs and Blasket Islands, subject to all required environmental assessments and screening.	
104.	Establish a Citizen's Assembly on Biodiversity.	
105.	Establish a Youth Forum on Biodiversity (with Comhairle na nÓg) to inform National Biodiversity Action Plan.	
106.	Make available on an electronic portal a register of all Appropriate Assessments carried out in the State.	
107.	Increase local-community engagement with the Natura 2000 network across Ireland.	







Natural Heritage *cont'd*

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
108.	Promote our inland waterways and their heritage to increase recreational and tourism access and participation, working also with the Northern Ireland Executive and supporting the work of Waterways Ireland across the island.	
109.	Undertake survey of historic gardens, demesnes, monuments and parklands to increase protection, awareness and appreciation of their cultural heritage value and the biodiversity they support.	
110.	Advance the implementation of the National Landscape Strategy and completion of a National Landscape Characterisation Assessment.	
111.	Prioritise the restoration of raised and blanket bog Special Areas of Conservation and Natural Heritage Areas and restore other protected habitats and species.	
112.	Raise awareness of invasive species through a nationwide programme.	
113.	Advance measures to protect and enhance coastal and marine heritage, both natural and cultural in the context of the developing National Marine Spatial Plan.	
114.	Advance measures to protect historic gardens, demesnes and other cultural landscapes.	
115.	Ensure the built heritage structures of the waterways are maintained and restored, to ensure their ongoing appreciation and use.	










## Heritage in State Care






NO.	ACTION	STATUS
116.	Develop an MOU between NPWS, National Monuments Service and OPW Heritage Services to enhance biodiversity at National Monuments sites across the State.	
117.	Ongoing review of existing heritage policies to identify where statutory actions may help to enhance the protection of lands owned and/or controlled by the State.	
118.	Review existing administrative arrangements underpinning care of NPWS infrastructure both in terms of land and buildings to ensure their optimum efficiency and effectiveness.	
119.	Achieve optimum levels of heritage staff so that they are enabled to perform at world class level the broad spectrum of habitat, species and built and archaeological heritage protection duties in our national parks and nature reserves.	
120.	Ensure high quality standards for heritage interpretation.	
121.	Sponsor quality research initiatives around the heritage estate in State care.	
122.	Pursue a broad programme of academic engagement and publication on the heritage estate.	
123.	Use quality research to directly inform better visitor engagement and interpretation.	
124.	Support the National Parks and Wildlife Service to deliver <i>Experiencing the Wild Heart of Ireland: A Tourism Interpretative Plan for Ireland's National Parks and Coole-Garryland Nature Reserve.</i>	

## Heritage in State Care *cont'd*

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
125.	Develop a trail-management programme for the 400-kilometre National Parks and Wildlife Service trails and walks network, subject to necessary environmental and planning provisions, to ensure sustainable management of habitats and species.	
126.	Develop strategies in relation to the portfolio of properties in State care in terms of management, interpretation, care of collections and specific policies bespoke to historic houses, and landscapes and historic parks and gardens.	
127.	Continue the work of the Outdoor Amenities Group.	
128.	Support appropriate projects and programmes intended to digitise archives and collections associated with the State's heritage assets and make them more widely accessible to citizens.	
129.	OPW to develop a corporate Biodiversity Strategy to include specific actions relating to the National heritage estate in its care.	
130.	Professionalise the administration of the heritage estate.	

## Policy/Research/Strategy

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
131.	Ensure that our heritage policies recognise and protect the heritage and cultural identities of minority communities and that the <b>Heritage Ireland 2030</b> implementation structures reflect this.	
132.	Develop public procurement strategies which acknowledge specific competences required for conservation and heritage projects.	
133.	Implement a <i>Heritage Skills Action Plan</i> in accordance with the <i>National Skills Strategy</i> .	
134.	Ensure heritage policy coherence with UN Sustainable Development Goals.	
135.	Support the implementation of <i>Archaeology 2025: Strategic Pathways for Archaeology in Ireland</i> , as developed by the Royal Irish Academy, including development of a National Archaeological Research framework.	
136.	Support the roll-out of the new <i>National Policy on Architecture</i> .	
137.	Review existing built- and natural-heritage policy/legislation to identify where improvements can be made.	
138.	Implement the key recommendations contained in the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) report.	
139.	Work closely with stakeholders to develop research methodology which ensures that future heritage policy is evidence based and data driven.	









NO.	ACTION	STATUS
140.	Support research in environmental sustainability in respect of existing historic buildings.	
141.	Support the development of a centre of excellence in biodiversity/ecological and landscape management for terrestrial and marine environments.	
142.	Articulate a national research agenda for heritage and provide dedicated funding and investment in this to inform best practice in management of the State's heritage assets and improved interpretation and visitor experience outcomes and to ensure that our heritage policy is evidence based and data driven.	
143.	Develop a dedicated research framework to examine the beneficial links between heritage and well-being to help understand which heritage characteristics best promote personal and societal well-being.	
144.	Support the further development of policy for cultural heritage and collections.	

## Structures

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
145.	Establish the structures for delivery of <b>Heritage Ireland 2030</b> , as outlined in this document.	
146.	Enhance Local Authority heritage professional resources.	
147.	Position Ireland as an active and respected contributor to international policies and the debate on natural and cultural heritage.	
148.	Continue the preparation and implementation of County/City Heritage Plans and resource their implementation with a view to maximising their effectiveness and assistance in the delivery of <b>Heritage Ireland 2030</b> .	
149.	Continue development of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.	



## International co-operation and action in protection of heritage

NO.	ACTION	STATUS
150.	Advance the implementation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the World Heritage Convention.	
151.	Adopt a World Heritage Strategy for Ireland and support the nomination of Tentative List sites onto the World Heritage List.	
152.	Strengthen Ireland's participation in international co-operative efforts to protect heritage.	
153.	Maintain active engagement with intergovernmental organisations dealing with natural and cultural heritage, in particular UNESCO and the Council of Europe.	
154.	Undertake to implement Ireland's relevant obligations under the various International Conventions which Government has already signed and ratified and review key international conventions in this area which Ireland is not currently party to.	
155.	Participate actively in the work of the international conventions in this field to which Ireland is already party.	
156.	Set out the steps to put in place the necessary domestic legislation and structures for the 2005 Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention) recognising the associated benefits to the furtherance of our cultural heritage and particularly in the context of the European Union.	
157.	Ensure that the obligations under international conventions continue to be fully implemented through domestic legislation and actions.	
158.	Review key international conventions in this area which Ireland is not currently party to, with a view to deciding which should be ratified and putting in place the necessary domestic legislation and structures to allow such ratification.	