Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Heritage Ireland 2030

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Prepared by

An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

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Minister's Foreword

Josepha Madigan TD, Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Our heritage is around us in every sense. It is of the past in our monuments and the settlements of our ancestors. It is of the present in the diverse and beautiful landscapes we inhabit today which inspired our forebears to settle here thousands of years ago and whose biodiversity sustains us still. It is of the future in that the decisions we make today will shape and influence the heritage of our children and the generations to come.

Heritage is a valued amenity for communities, towns, villages and the countryside. It is an important resource for economic activity, including tourism and for the presentation of Ireland as an attractive destination for sustainable inward investment. This new national heritage plan fulfils a commitment in the Programme for Government to set the heritage tenor for the coming decade.

Our vision is simple - that heritage is valued and protected. ***Heritage Ireland 2030*** is built around that vision: that the way in which we identify and protect our heritage is the best it can be. We want everyone to enjoy our heritage and to have a sense of pride in it.

Heritage Ireland 2030 will bring together a tapestry of other relevant heritage initiatives, provide an overarching space for engagement and action over the next decade. It will integrate essential national heritage policy principles into the future strategy of the whole of Government. It will be supported by investment under Project Ireland 2040 and will provide a platform for priorities to be identified and resourced through the lifetime of the Plan.

Heritage Ireland 2030 will establish a framework for the next decade along three Themes-

- National Leadership and Heritage
- Heritage Partnerships
- Communities and Heritage

A series of draft objectives under each Theme is detailed in this document. We now invite your views on these to help shape our heritage strategy. An Action Plan will be drawn up under each Theme. Full and open and regular review of objectives will be important and details of that are detailed in this document.

Heritage is for everybody. We need to strengthen partnerships with communities across the country to help strengthen our heritage and I look forward to welcoming you to a series of regional workshops during the consultation process.

So whatever your heritage interest is, whether in our flora, our fauna, our castles, our parks, our historic buildings or our lakes, bogs and skies, I invite you now to be part of this important process that will guide our heritage strategy well into the 21st century.

Josepha Madigan TD,
Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

November 2018

What is Heritage Ireland 2030?

Have your say...

What is the most important thing Heritage Ireland 2030 needs to deliver?

Our heritage, built and natural, is at the historic and living heart of Ireland.

Our natural landscapes, wildlife, national parks and reserves, our waterways and seas enrich our lives and bring visitors to our shores.

Our historic buildings, monuments and towns and landscapes speak of our past and shape our future. Our heritage is the story of Ireland and supports our development and well-being as a nation.

As Ireland grows there is an opportunity and a need to rethink how we care for heritage so that it can be protected, celebrated and enjoyed now and long into the future.

Heritage Ireland 2030 is the Government's commitment to a revitalised and refreshed National Heritage Plan.

Heritage Ireland 2030 will recognise the vital role our heritage plays in our community, our economy and our society.

Heritage Ireland 2030 will be a coherent, comprehensive and inspiring framework of values, principles and strategic priorities which will guide and inform the heritage sector over the next decade.

Heritage Ireland 2030 will enshrine the shared responsibility of people, communities, businesses and local and national Government in protecting our heritage and ensuring it is cared for into the future.

Heritage Ireland 2030 will help us enjoy, understand and care for our heritage.

Heritage Ireland 2030 will be formed around three Themes, built on a vision of our heritage being valued and protected for future generations, cherished and enjoyed:

- **National Leadership and Heritage**
- **Heritage Partnerships**
- **Communities and Heritage**

Each of these Themes will have specific actions and objectives, shaped by this public consultation.

We thank those organisations who have been working with us in shaping this discussion paper.

Your views on objectives and actions to deliver the vision are important – they will help to shape our priorities.

Heritage Ireland 2030 – Vision

Have your say...

What do you think of the vision for Heritage Ireland 2030? Is there anything we should add?

Ireland's heritage is valued, enjoyed and protected for future generations.

Our heritage reflects our shared past, illuminates our understanding of the present and inspires and informs our decisions about the future.

Our landscapes are the foundation on which our society has been built. Diversity and richness in our heritage nurtures our sense of belonging, well-being, identity and place.

Access to heritage and opportunities to engage with it make an important contribution to our cultural, economic and social development.

Three Themes support the vision that sees Ireland's heritage valued, enjoyed and protected for future generations:

- National Leadership and Heritage
- Heritage Partnerships
- Communities and Heritage

Each Theme will have a series of specified objectives. The final Plan will identify lead agencies and a review process for the accompanying Action Plan.

A number of draft objectives have been identified as a starting point in this consultation document. They are designed to deliver the vision of ***Heritage Ireland 2030***.

Your views on these draft objectives are important – they will help shape the future of Ireland's Heritage.

Heritage in context

Have your say...

What are the biggest challenges facing our heritage?

Heritage Ireland 2030 will build on heritage commitments in Project Ireland 2040 and inform other relevant initiatives at national and local level.

Heritage Ireland 2030 will focus on our built and natural heritage. Other important aspects of our heritage are dealt with in other plans and strategies and lie outside the scope of this document. These include artistic and cultural traditions such as music, dance, games and language which are all essential and central parts of our heritage.

Most people's primary experience of our heritage is as part of daily life in their local communities. ***Heritage Ireland 2030*** will support local communities in caring for their heritage. It will underpin the increasingly important role that local authorities play in protecting and managing heritage for the enjoyment and benefit of all, providing a framework and context for local heritage plans.

Our management and protection of Ireland's heritage sits within a broad framework of national, cross-border, international and EU legislation and policy. It is affected and influenced by developments on the wider international stage.

Heritage Ireland 2030 will ensure a flexible, modern approach to caring for, managing and celebrating our heritage informed by best practice internationally.

Relevant Initiatives

Project Ireland 2040, Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage 2018-2027, the National Biodiversity Action Plan, the National Landscape and Peatland Strategies, National Planning Framework, Action Plan for Rural Development, Heritage Council Strategy, Climate Change Adaptation and Architectural and Archaeological policies and initiatives such as Archaeology 2025, and local heritage plans as well as Culture 2025, Éire Ildánach and the Creative Ireland Programme.

Theme 1: National Leadership and Heritage

Our heritage is central to our national identity and underpins our culture, economy and society.

At the national level, we must have an effective policy and regulatory framework for heritage that balances the needs of a modern society with a profound respect for the beauty and irreplaceability of our built heritage and habitats.

Have your say...

What do you think of the draft objectives in the document?
In your view, is there something important missing?

Objectives:

1. An effective policy and regulatory framework and governance structure that supports an integrated approach to the protection, conservation and use of heritage.
2. Key heritage protection and management considerations integrated into the work of all Government Departments.
3. A coordinated framework for heritage policies and initiatives to maximise impact.
4. Better identification, conservation and restoration of heritage and measures to assess impacts on heritage, including climate change.
5. Better care of our built and natural heritage through increased investment from the economic return that it generates for society.
6. Investment in heritage training at all levels, creating jobs and providing business opportunities across the country.
7. Heritage investment at national and local level to deliver the best possible outcomes in terms of public good.
8. Improved use of technology to inform evidence-based decision making in heritage and to make heritage information accessible and available to all.
9. Strengthened and resourced regulation and enforcement.
10. Support and leadership for Ireland's continued participation in the World Heritage Convention and other relevant international frameworks.

Theme 2: Heritage Partnerships

Have your say...

What changes are happening right now that might impact on our heritage?

Our heritage belongs to every person who lives within and around it every day. At a national and local level we must work better together to protect, manage and promote it. This cannot be done without the help and support of partner organisations such as the Heritage Council, the local authority Heritage Officers, schools, community groups, businesses and experts who inform and advise on their various areas of expertise.

Heritage Ireland 2030 will help form stronger and better heritage partnerships at all levels to ensure our heritage is valued, protected and enjoyed.

Objectives

1. National and local government working effectively together to protect, manage and promote our heritage.
2. Effective partnerships between national government, local government, the private sector, NGOs and local communities.
3. Support for the Heritage Council's Strategy and its work in developing and improving educational outreach and community engagement.
4. Investment and innovation in heritage research, management and interpretation.
5. Strong education and apprenticeship programmes providing opportunities for retention and development of traditional heritage skills.
6. Improved partnerships and links between educational institutes, museums, business and others.
7. Improved quality of heritage information, guidance and advice as a resource for stakeholders, visitors, researchers and general public.
8. Strengthened co-ordination with the Office of Public Works, local authorities and private owners in the management and maintenance of our national heritage estate.

Theme 3: Communities and Heritage

Have your say...

How can we work better together and engage all our communities under Heritage Ireland 2030?

Local communities have a vital role to play in managing their heritage and should be able to learn about, care for, enjoy and share those things that are special about their places and their history.

Heritage Ireland 2030 will listen to and respect the voices of communities and help and support them in taking care of their valued heritage.

Objectives:

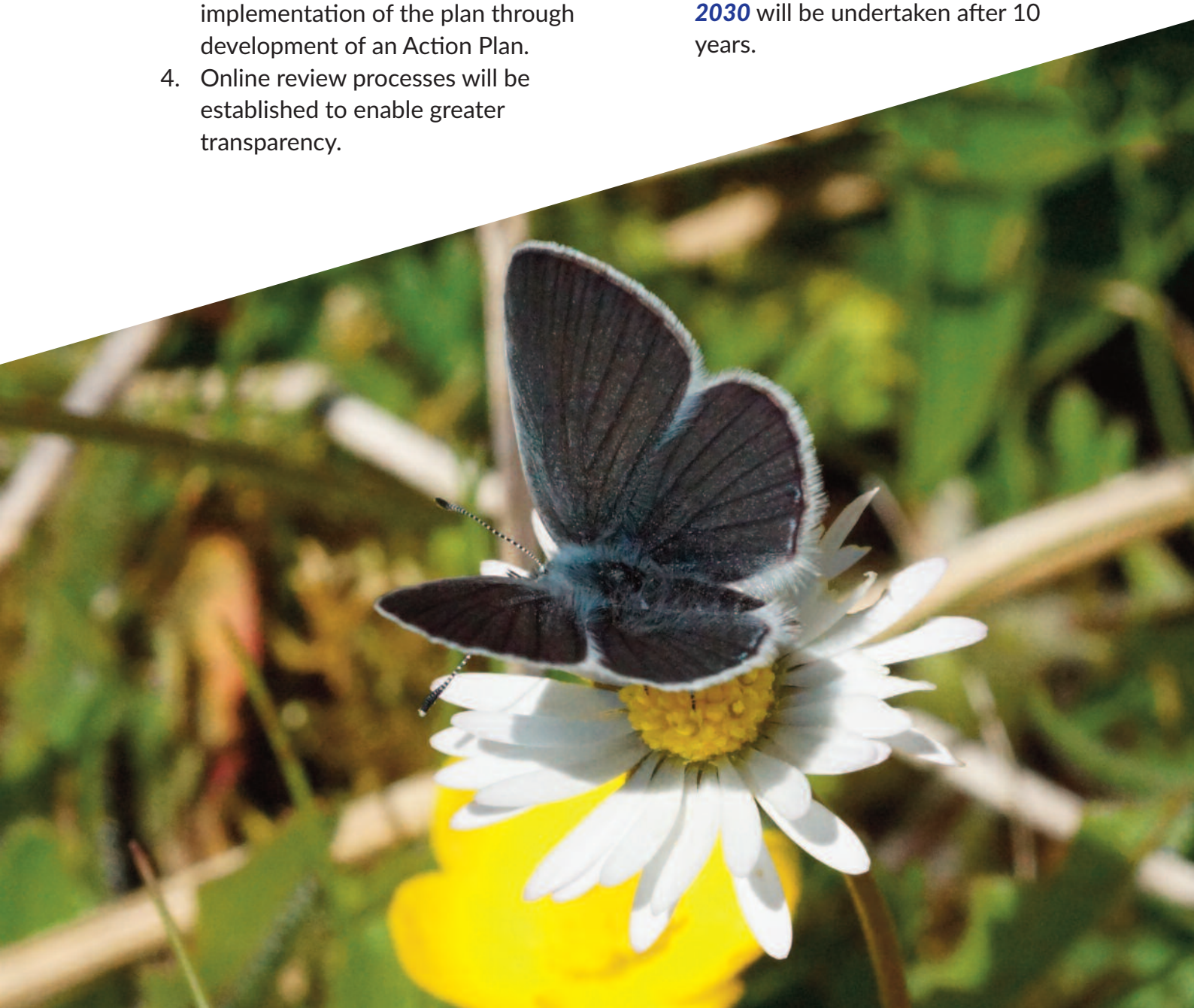
1. Improved levels of public engagement with heritage across the country.
2. Better supports for communities working to care for and promote their local heritage.
3. Improved access to natural and built heritage resources, public and private.
4. Access for all to archives, museums and heritage records.
5. Improved presentation and interpretation of heritage, including making better use of technologies.
6. Strengthened and well-resourced measures to protect local heritage.
7. Better opportunities and supports for people and organisations working in the heritage area.
8. Improved involvement of young people in understanding, caring for and celebrating their heritage.

How will the impact of Heritage Ireland 2030 be reviewed?

1. ***Heritage Ireland 2030*** will be reviewed every 3 years. A progress report will be produced after each review with clear recommendations.
2. Actions and objectives within the plan will be revised as progress is reviewed.
3. A steering group of stakeholders will oversee the roll out and implementation of the plan through development of an Action Plan.
4. Online review processes will be established to enable greater transparency.
5. A full review of ***Heritage Ireland 2030*** will be undertaken after 10 years.

Have your say...

How can we ensure Heritage Ireland 2030 delivers?



Have your say...

It is really important that we get your views. They will help shape ***Heritage Ireland 2030*** and our vision for Ireland's heritage for years to come.

A series of questions have been posed throughout this document, to guide the process, though we welcome views on all aspects of heritage and how we can best protect and value it. Please contact us through any of the contact routes below with your thoughts on the consultation questions and any other comments or views around ***Heritage Ireland 2030***.

- Online survey at www.chg.gov.ie/heritage/heritageireland2030
- Email the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht at heritageireland2030@chg.gov.ie
- By post to:
  Heritage Ireland 2030
  Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
  Custom House Dublin 1
  D01 W6XO

Note – consultation closing date 28 February 2019

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