

Local Authority Heritage Services

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Association of Irish Local Government – Training Event
Killarney, County Kerry
Friday, May 20, 2016



**Cork
County Council**
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



New Programme for Government

- Provide new National Heritage Plan
- Strengthen the role of Heritage Officers at local authority level
- Input from Heritage Officers to cultural tourism
- Annual Built Heritage Investment Scheme
- Prioritise the publication of *Culture 2025*, the first National Cultural Policy
- Establish an Historic Towns Initiative
- Support for regional museums and increased loans from National Cultural Institutions

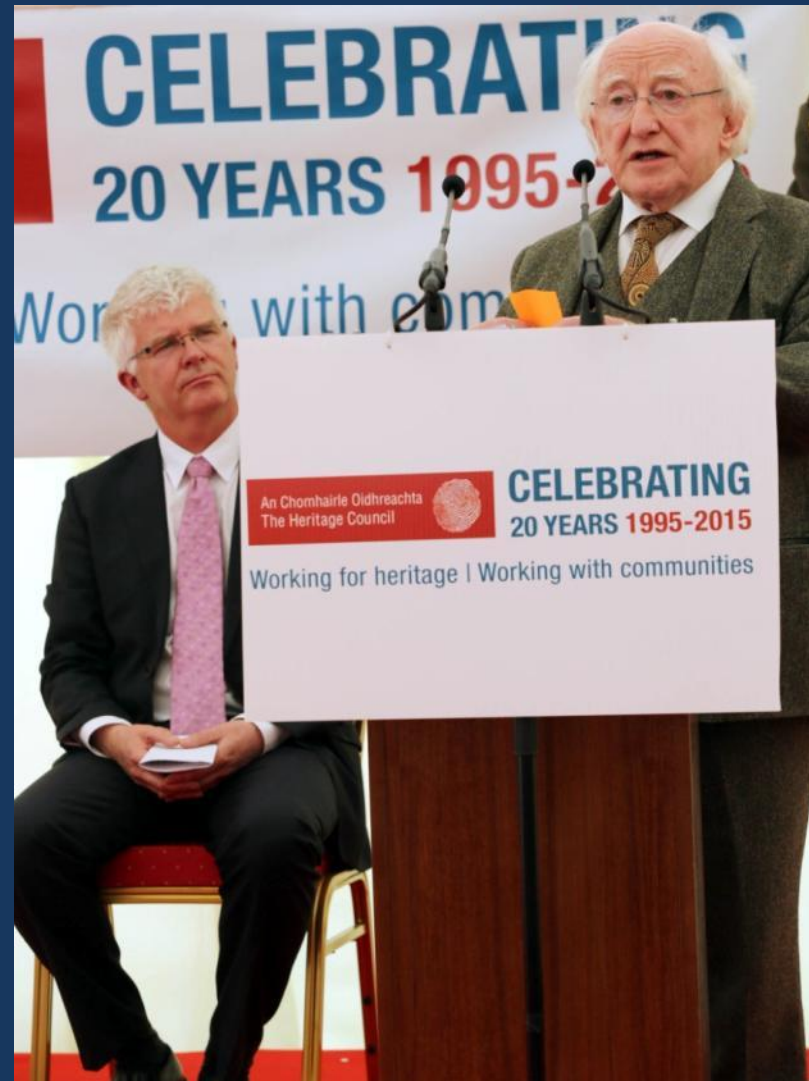
The Heritage Council

- 14 staff
- Board of 17 members
- National remit
- Heritage Act 1995
- Established 1996
- Independent Semi-state
- Based in Kilkenny
- Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage



Functions of The Heritage Council

- Promote Heritage
- Protect, preserve and enhance national heritage
- Policy advice to Minister
- Co-ordination of heritage activities



Heritage is . . .



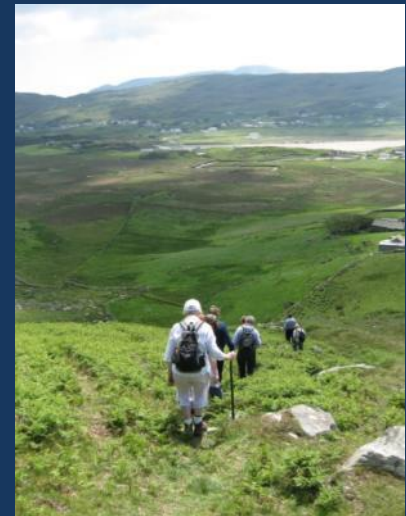
A word cloud of heritage-related terms. The words are arranged in a roughly triangular shape, pointing to the right. The colors used are white, yellow, orange, and blue. The words vary in size, with 'parks' and 'monuments' being the largest. The words include: parks, monuments, wrecks, seascapes, fauna, heritage, building, flora, geology, heritage objects, landscape, archaeology, wildlife, architecture, and gardens.

parks
monuments
wrecks seascapes fauna
heritage building flora geology
heritage objects landscape
archaeology wildlife
architecture
gardens

Heritage Act 1995

Value of Heritage

- Intrinsic Value
- Economic / Employment
 - Tourism
 - Job Creation (including FDI)
- Quality of Life
- Health



Heritage & Local Authorities

- Heritage Officer Programme - strategic and proactive approach
- Integration – not seeing ‘heritage’ issues in isolation
- Inclusion – promoting partnership approaches

Heritage Officer Programme

- Partnership Arrangement
- The Heritage Council of Ireland
- County and City Councils
- 28 Heritage Officers



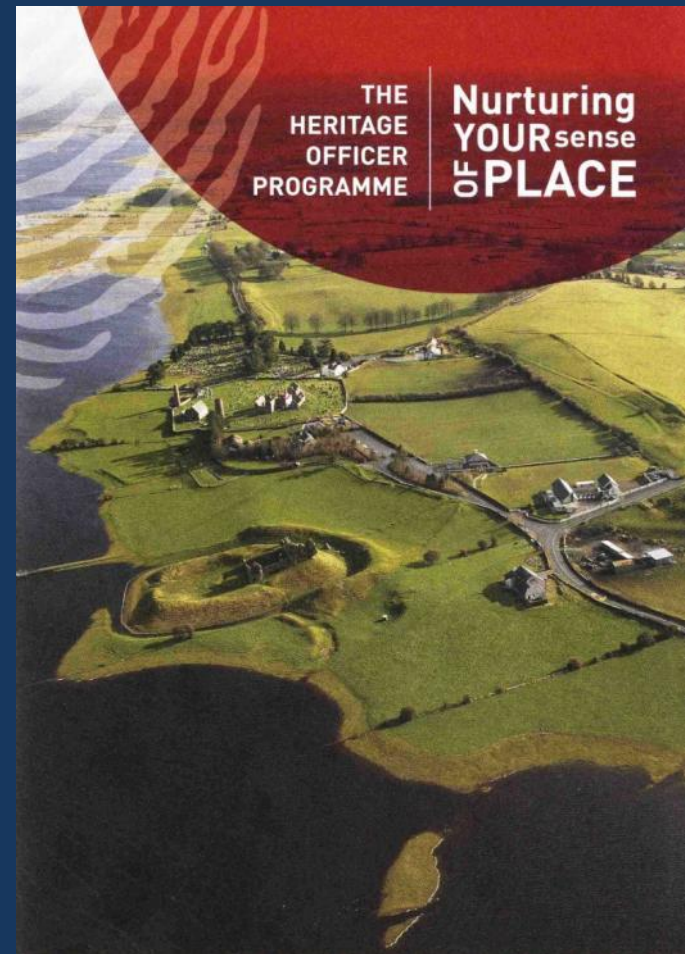
Heritage Officer

- Employed by local authority
- Supported by Heritage Council:
 - Training
 - Development
 - Network
 - Finance
 - Operational Plans



Heritage Officer Programme

- Local needs and requirements
- Heritage remit – broad
- Different professional backgrounds
- Heritage Training & Development Programme



Role of County Heritage Officer



Conor Nelligan
County Cork Heritage Officer
Cork County Council



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Placing Heritage at the Heart of Public Life





Heritage creates a sense of place

Heritage reinforces the character of our towns and villages





Heritage contributes to landscape character

Heritage inspires . . .

. . . our writers

. . . our artists

. . . our musicians

. . . our craftsmen

. . . our young people

. . . all of us

Heritage engages people of all ages



Heritage invokes our Diaspora





Value of biodiversity to Ireland of at least €2.6 billion per annum

(Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government, 2008)

Cultural tourism is estimated to be worth over €2 billion annually to the Irish economy

(Fáilte Ireland, 2012)



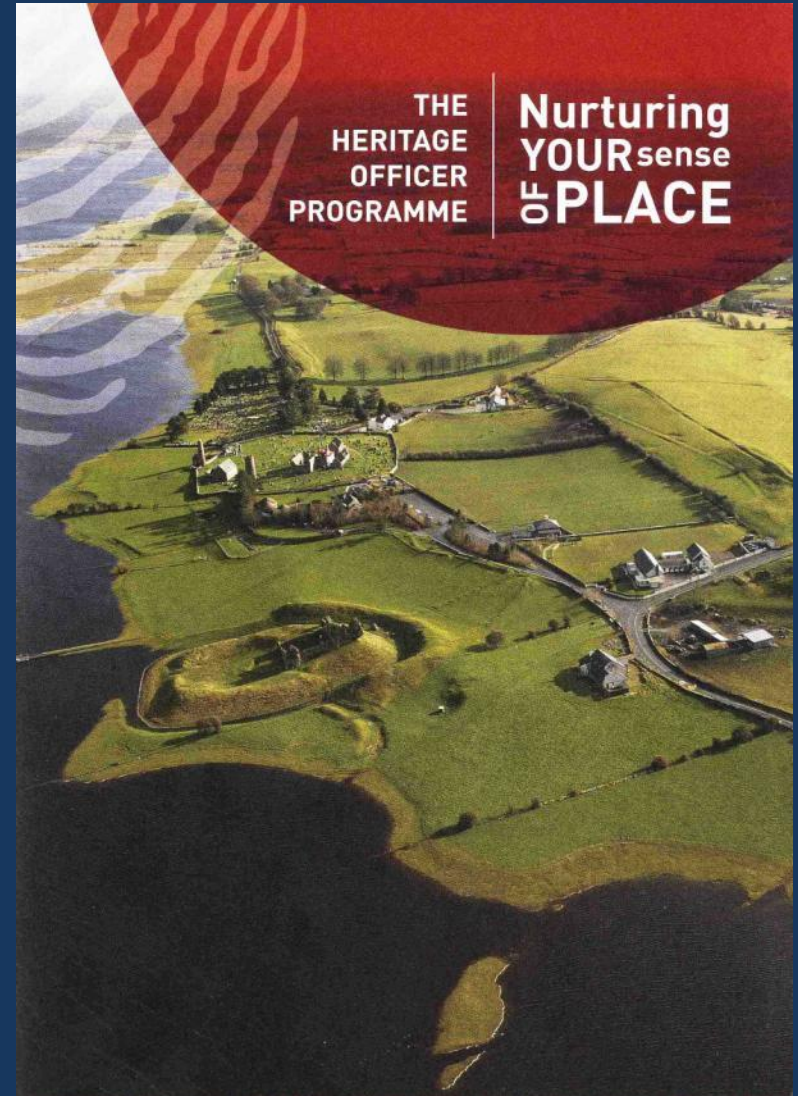


Ireland's historic built environment directly supports more than
25,000 full-time jobs?

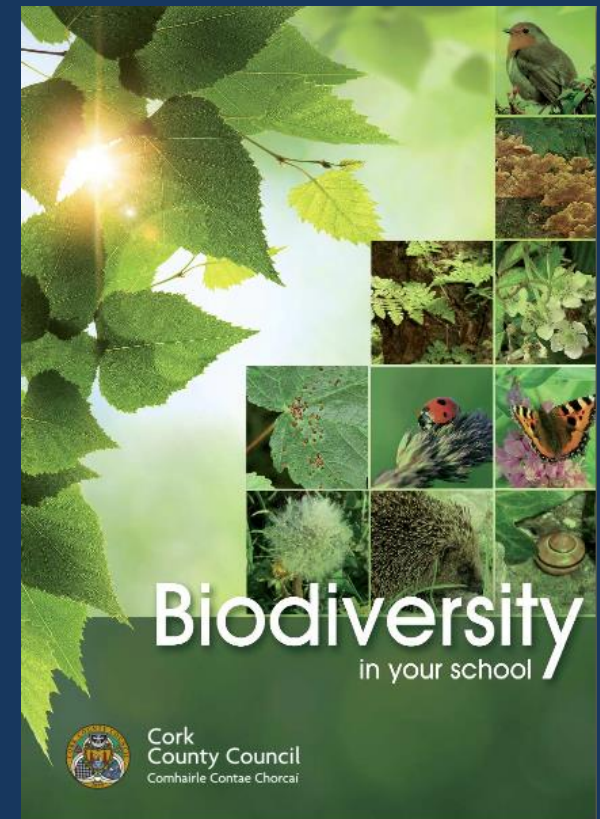
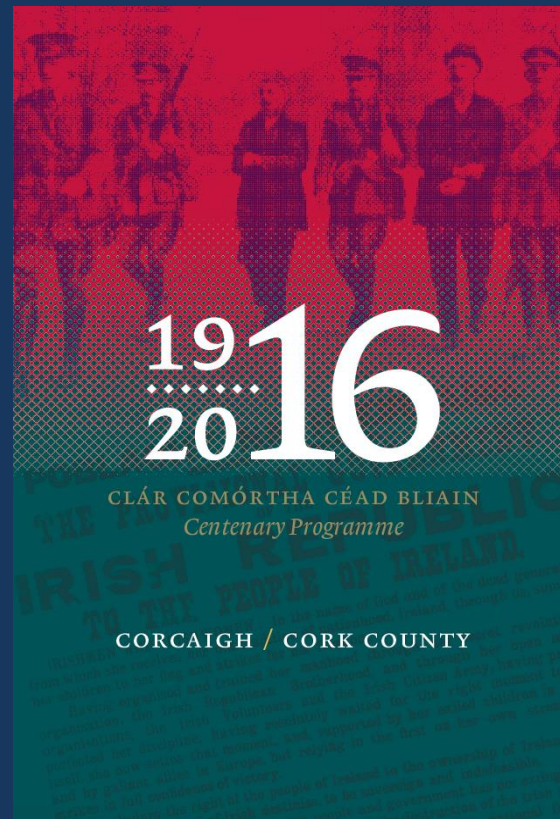
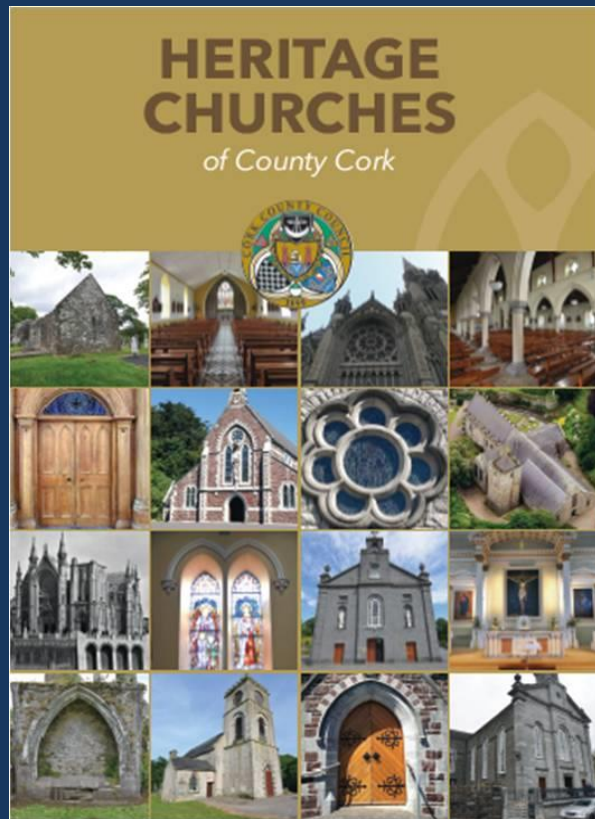
(Ecorys & Fitzpatrick Associates, 2011)

Heritage Officer Programme

- Facilitate a structured heritage service at county level
- Enhance and improve the status of heritage
- Promote greater understanding, conservation and protection of our heritage



Role of Heritage Officer



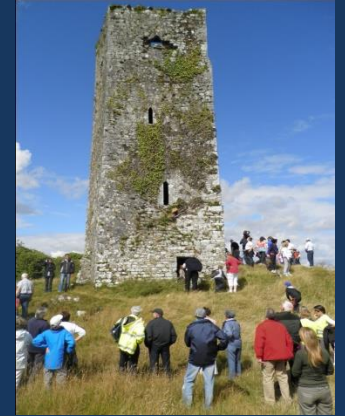
- To raise awareness of the built, cultural & natural heritage

National Heritage Week

- Saturday, August 20 – Sunday, August 28, 2016
- ‘100 Years of Heritage’ Theme
- Over 1,700 events

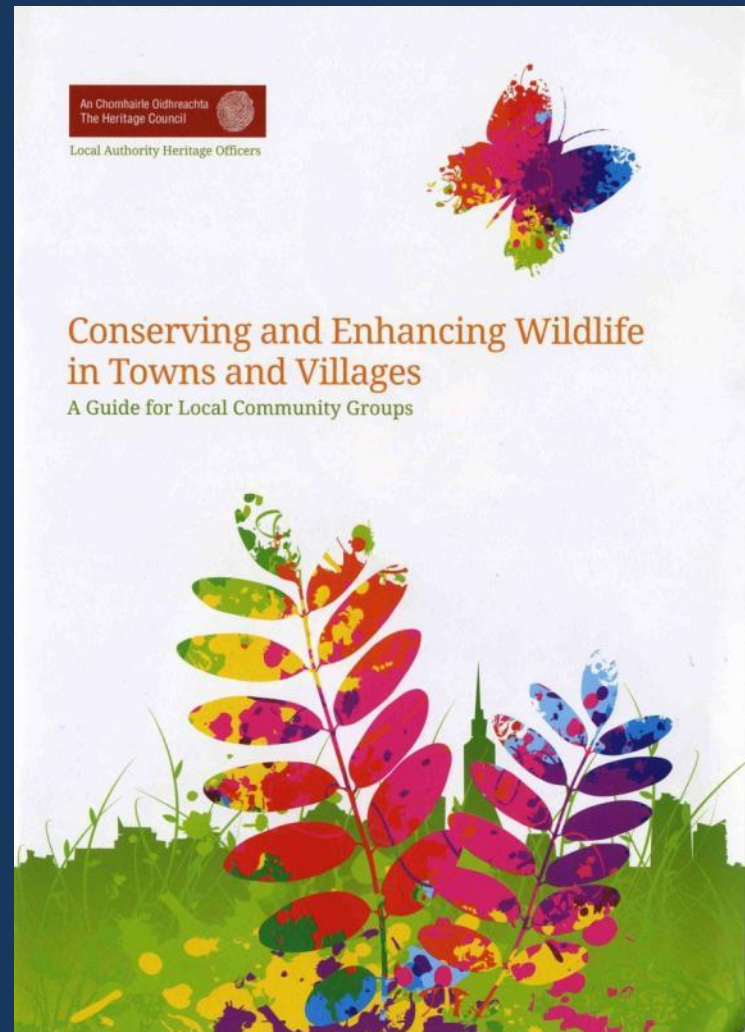
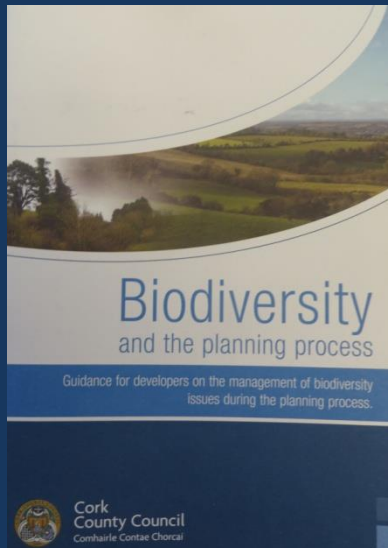


National Heritage Week



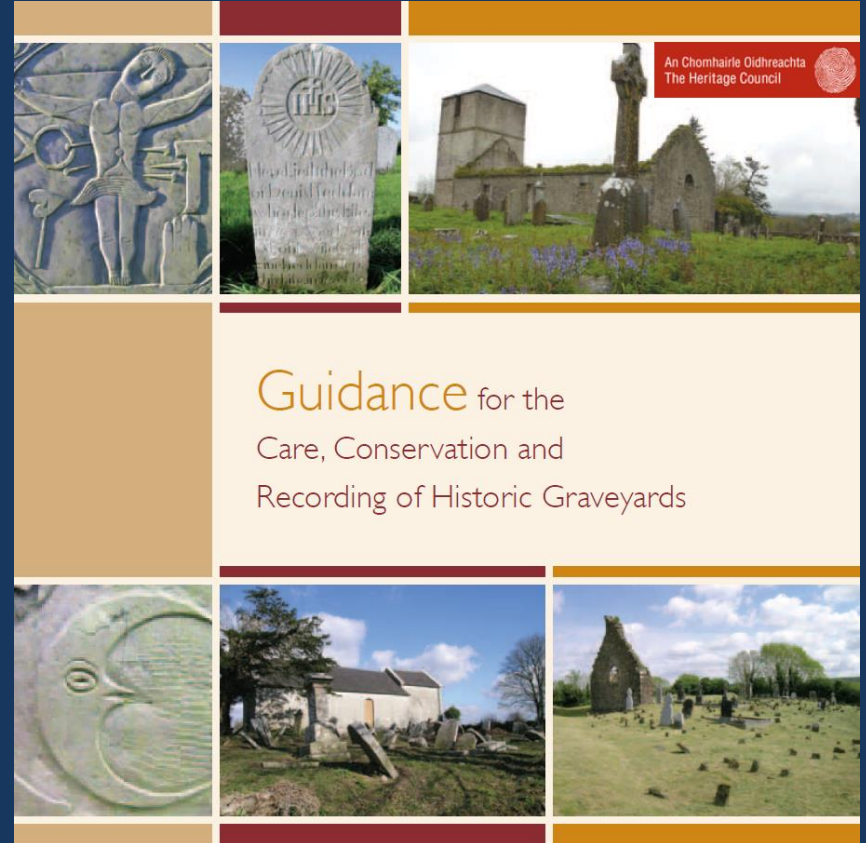
Role of Heritage Officer

- To provide advice and information to members of the public, County Council and its staff on heritage matters



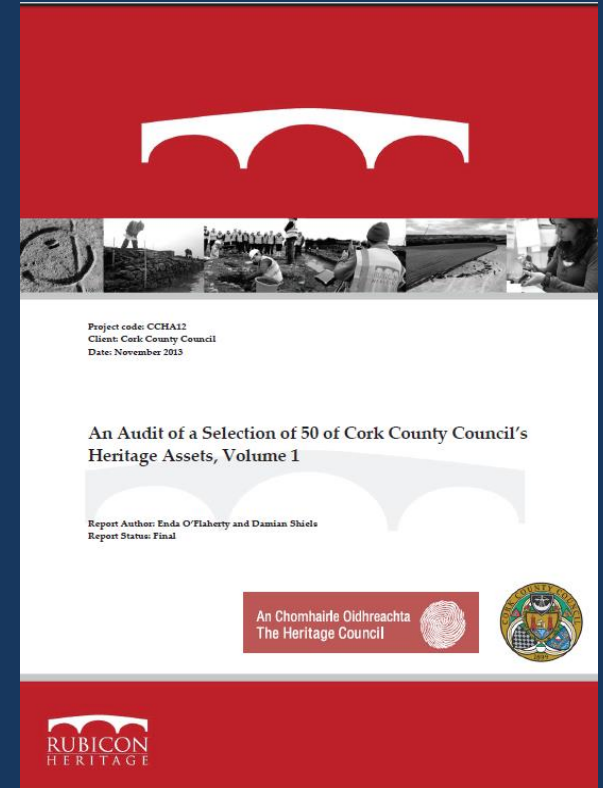
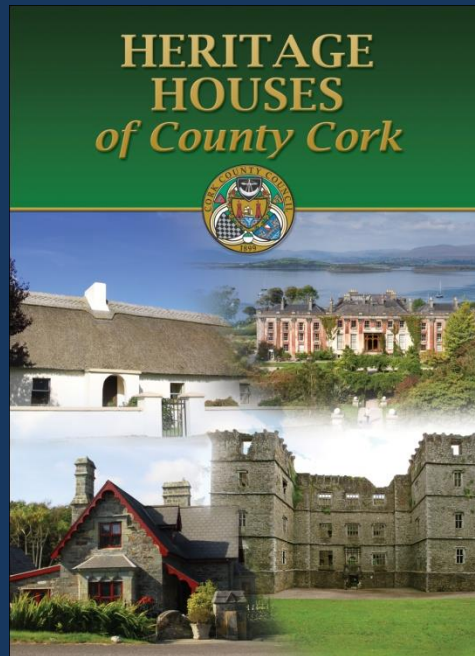
Role of Heritage Officer

- To promote best practice in the management of heritage



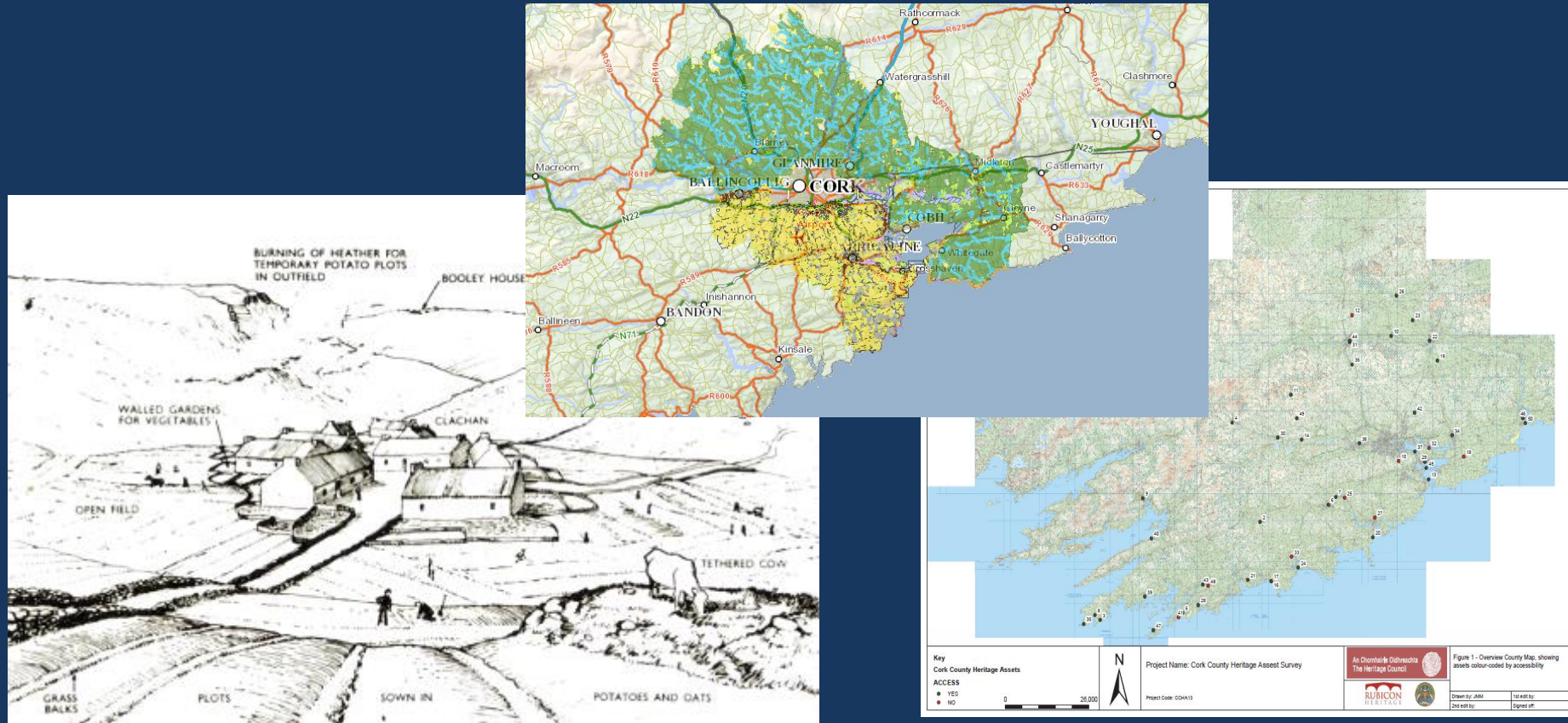
Role of Heritage Officer

- To raise awareness of heritage both internally and externally



Role of Heritage Officer

- To collect data and conduct research on heritage



Role of Heritage Officer

- To provide liaison among and between the County Council, state agencies, heritage organisations and community groups



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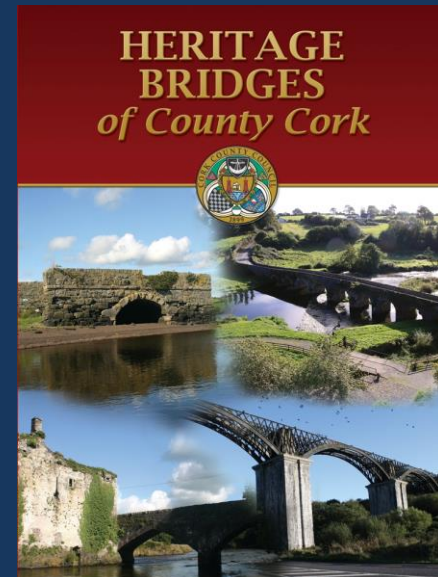
An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Liaising with Council committees

Role of Heritage Officer

- Liaising with community
 - Training / Advice
 - Securing Grants
 - Historic Graveyard Projects
 - Conservation of Structures
 - Heritage Interpretation
 - Walled Towns Network
 - Oral Recording Projects
 - Commemorative Projects
- Advocate for heritage at local level
- To assist in the preparation of heritage policy for County Development Plans and LAPs



Role of Heritage Officer

- To prepare and implement the County Heritage Plan in conjunction with the County Heritage Forum



County Heritage Forums: Membership Structure

- Local Government
- Local Development
- State Agencies
- Educational Institutions
- Landowner/Farming Representatives
- Community/Voluntary Sector
- Heritage Organisations/Groups

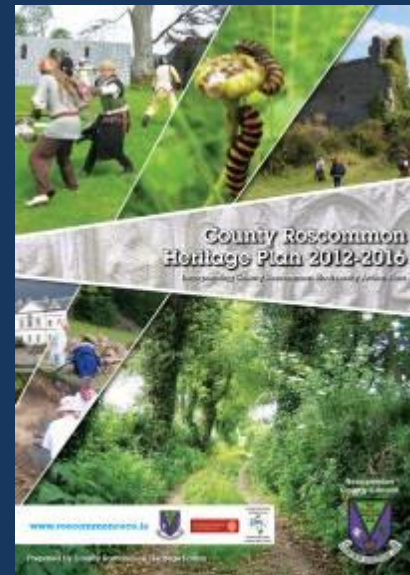


County Heritage Plan

- Why is it important?
 - Provides five-year strategic plan for heritage in the county
 - Implements government policy
 - Identifies and addresses local heritage issues
 - Based on a partnership approach
 - Secures benefits for heritage
 - National funding channelled through Heritage Plan

County Heritage Plans

- Heritage Council funding of €700k (2016)
- €27,000 per county
- Matched by Local Authority
- €15 million county-based heritage projects since 2003
- Heritage Plan adopted by Councillors (RF)
- Annual budgets adopted by Councillors (RF)



Summary

Heritage Officers support local authorities and councillors when helping communities to preserve and value the natural, built and cultural heritage for future generations



Conclusion

- Heritage Officer post - nearly universal
- Heritage Officer service is positive for local authorities, counties and communities
- Growth of heritage service and heritage resource within local authorities
- Gratitude to all Councillors for support over many years

Go raibh maith agaibh

Any Questions?

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**Comhairle Contae
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