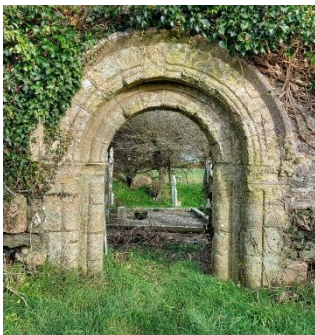


DRAFT

Wexford County

HERITAGE STRATEGY

2026-2031





1. Mayglass Church; 2. Kilmore Quay; 3. Pollinator in action; 4. Fleadh 2024;
 5. Courtown Harbour; 6. Re-enactors Vinegar Hill; 7. Wexford Town Wall;
 8. New Ross Corporation Minute Book 1663; 9. Camogie celebrations;
 10. Norman Re-enactors at Bannow Bay.

All images Wexford County Council except No.6 (National 1798 Rebellion Centre) and No.9 (Wexford Camogie)

Wexford County

HERITAGE STRATEGY

2026-2031

© Wexford County Council 2026

DRAFT



Foreword



*Eddie Taffe, CEO Wexford
County Council*

A message from the Chief Executive

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*Cllr Lisa McDonald, Chair
of Wexford County Council*

A message from the Cathaoirleach

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*Cllr Frank Staples, Chair of
the Heritage Forum*

A message from the Chair of the Heritage Forum

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Appendix 1:

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Feedback from the Public Consultation Process

Appendix 3:

Contributors to the Public Consultation Process

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Members of the County Wexford Heritage Forum

WEXFORD

A Snapshot of Wexford's HERITAGE



Recorded Monuments

4319



Historic graveyards

141



Castles

100+



Protected Structures

1503



Architectural Conservation

Areas: 12



Thatched cottages

200+



Geological Heritage

Sites: 42



Special Areas of

Conservation: 12



Nature Reserves

3

Snapshot of Wexford's heritage which includes 4,319 recorded monuments, 141 historic graveyards, 100+ castles, 1,503 protected structures, 12 Architectural Conservation Areas, 200+ thatched cottages, 42 Geological Heritage sites, 12 Special Areas of Conservation and 3 Nature Reserves.

SCALE OF IRISH MILES

SCALE OF ENGLISH MILES

7° Longitude West from Greenwich

1. Introduction

What do we mean by heritage?

Our heritage is what we have inherited from the past, to value and enjoy in the present and to preserve and pass on to future generations. It includes **tangible heritage** like historic sites and monuments, **intangible heritage** like culture, language and traditions, and **natural heritage** like our landscapes, seascapes and flora/fauna.

About this Strategy

The County Heritage Strategy provides a framework for the identification, protection, conservation, management, enhancement and interpretation of our built, natural and cultural heritage, led by the County Council. Preparation of the strategy offers an opportunity to identify issues and needs at county-wide level and to address them locally within a regional and national framework.

The overall goal is to protect, conserve and - where appropriate - enhance the natural, built and cultural heritage of the county and to encourage all to appreciate, enjoy, understand and care for our heritage to help enhance and secure it for future generations.

The Consultation and Drafting Process

The County Heritage Strategy was drafted by the Heritage Forum following a wide-ranging consultation process which included in-person discussion at local libraries, an on-line survey and a large number of detailed written submissions from organisations, societies and members of the public. The draft Strategy was presented to the management team at Wexford County Council, following which it was

again presented for public comment. It has also been screened for Appropriate Assessment.

About The Wexford County Heritage Forum

The County Heritage Forum is a consultative body that brings together representatives from a range of stakeholders, including heritage organisations, local agencies, and the community. It provides a forum for discussion and debate on heritage issues, and it advises the local authority on the creation and implementation of the County Heritage Strategy.



Once our heritage is gone, it cannot be replaced.

Comment from public consultation process

2. Policy Context

The policy context for the Wexford County Strategy is informed by national and county strategies as well as broader international goals and agreements.

At **international level** these include...

- The United Nations Sustainability Development Goals
- The 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage
- The 1992 Convention for Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe (The Valletta Convention)
- The 1985 Convention for Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe (The Granada Convention)
- The 1979 ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter).

At **national level** these include...

- The Heritage Act 1995
- The Disability Act 2005
- The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023
- The Heritage Council Strategy 2023-2028 *“Our Place in Time”*
- Project Ireland 2040
- The National Development Plan
- Heritage Ireland 2030
- The National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030
- The National Peatlands Strategy 2015
- The National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025
- The National Climate Action Plan 2021
- The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

- 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030
- National Planning Framework
- The National Strategy for Vernacular Heritage.
- The Built and Archaeological Heritage Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Climate Change

At **county level** these include...

- The Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028
- The Wexford County Council Corporate Plan 2025-2029
- Development and Local Area Plans
- The Town Centre First Plans
- Heritage-Led Regeneration Plans
- The Burial Ground Strategy and Bye-Laws
- The Climate Action Plan 2024-2029
- The forthcoming Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- The Wexford County Council Arts Plan 2023-2027
- The Wexford County Library Development Plan
- The Arts Ability Programme
- The Leader Programme 2023-2027
- The forthcoming Wexford Destination and Experience Development Plan
- The Disability Inclusion Strategy
- The Wexford Age Friendly Strategy
- The forthcoming Migrant Integration Strategy



Heritage should align with sustainability goals, address climate challenges and drive tourism and regeneration.

Comment from public consultation process

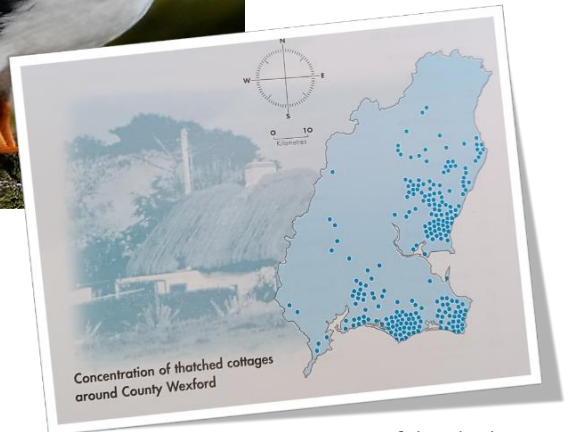
3. Wexford's Heritage

Wexford has a rich and varied heritage stretching back nearly 10,000 years in terms of human activity and over 600 million years in relation to geology, with some rock formations near Kilmore Quay amongst the oldest in Ireland. The natural heritage of the county extends from upland to coast and includes woodlands, wetlands, hedgerows, unique kame-and-kettle landscapes, coastal/riverine environments, off-shore islands, and internationally important bird colonies.



Puffins on the Saltee Islands (salteeislands.info)

Wexford's modern-day landscape has been shaped by human activities and has a highly visible built heritage. The oldest upstanding structure in the county is a Neolithic portal tomb at Ballybrittas, which was erected over 5000 years ago by our first farming communities. The county is particularly rich in monuments¹ from the medieval period, including castles, abbeys, towerhouses and historic towns. More than 200 thatched cottages survive (Wexford has more thatched cottages than any other county except Donegal and Galway).



Concentration of thatched cottages around Wexford. (County Wexford Partnership, 2001)

¹ Many of these monuments are on private property and the permission of the landowner should always be sought before visiting.

The county's industrial tradition is reflected in the fine mills and maltings surviving. The 'Big House' tradition is also well represented here, with many houses still in family possession. An extensive documentary collection is preserved and made accessible through the County Archive.

Wexford also enjoys a unique cultural landscape extending from traditional music to opera and from storytelling to literature, as well as rich archive of oral history collected by the Library and Archive service². Traditions like mumming, seasonal customs, local pilgrimages, patterns and fairs add colour and connection, while traveller traditions are increasingly appreciated. Traditional crafts are valued and the county has proud sporting heritage. A local language pool spanning Irish, English and Yola reflects an almost unrivalled ethnic diversity that speaks to Gaelic, Viking, Norman, French, Welsh and English ancestry. This cultural diversity will continue to expand as the county welcomes new residents from other countries.



'Le convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali' Wexford Festival Opera 2024 (© Patricio Cassinoni).

Each of these elements contributes to the mix that makes Wexford's heritage one of the richest in Ireland.

² The full collection is preserved on The Digital Repository of Ireland www.repository.dri.ie and can be accessed directly or via the Library's oral history page <https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/libraries/more-library-services/local-studies-service/oral-history-recordings>

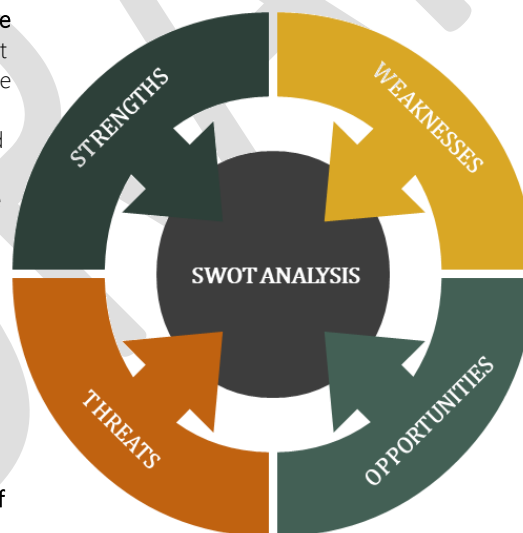
4. Setting our Goals

Through its own discussions and informed by the public consultation process, the Heritage Forum has identified some of the key challenges and opportunities for Wexford's heritage over the next five years.

A SWOT exercise carried out by the Forum highlighted the richness of Wexford's heritage and the sense of identity it brings but also drew attention to the fragility of the resource and the need for better protection. Lack of awareness and lack of funding were the two main weaknesses identified, with clear opportunities for better engagement with communities, expanding the knowledge-base and realising the economic potential.

Wexford was seen as having a strong **sense of identity**. There was wide agreement that the **abundance, visibility and diversity** of the heritage resource was a major strength, offering real potential. This was supported by public **enthusiasm**, the number of heritage societies and events and the role played by the **libraries**.

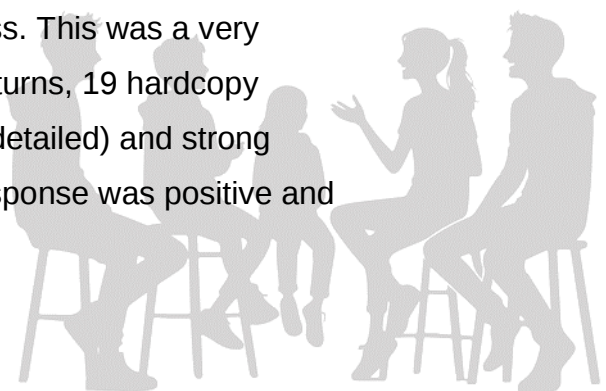
Many of the threats identified turned on the **fragility of the resource** – loss of sites, inappropriate development, coastal erosion, inadequate storage and even theft of portable antiquities. Lack of **enforcement** seen to be an issue along with a wider **lack of awareness** and an overall loss of knowledge, expertise and resources.



The two main weaknesses identified were lack of **awareness** and lack of **funding**. Poor communication and public involvement were identified along with a lack of resources, expertise and practitioners. **Deterioration** of some sites and **loss of access** was also recognised. The absence of a **Heritage Plan** is a major strategic weakness.

Wide range of opportunities, particularly for **community engagement**, reviving old customs and fostering pride. Public forums would drive input and ownership. County's **maritime heritage** not yet fully appreciated. Overall **knowledge base** could definitely be developed. Significant **commercial** opportunities also recognised in tourism and building connections (eg Fleadh and 2027 Year of the Normans).

The views of the Forum were very much reflected in the feedback received from the public consultation process. This was a very successful process, generating 80 online returns, 19 hardcopy returns, 26 written submissions (often very detailed) and strong attendance at most public sessions. The response was positive and



pragmatic, recognising that action was required but also that not everything could be done at once. The critical role of the County Council in managing this process was emphasised, with 79% of respondents seeing this as ‘very important’ or ‘important’, while 95% underlined the importance of the forthcoming strategy to them and their communities.

The public consultation process also identified **key challenges and goals**. The key challenges identified include lack of funding, inappropriate development and public awareness. The key goals included involving communities more in efforts to preserve our heritage, building local supports and increasing general awareness of the richness and importance of Wexford’s heritage. These are discussed in more detail in Appendix 2 but are summarised here in the wordclouds below.

WORDCLOUD OF KEY CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED THROUGH PUBLIC CONSULTATION



Kathleen Browne Festival 2018

- Preserve and protect our heritage
- Expand our knowledge base
- Build awareness
- Involve and empower communities
- Realise the economic potential

1. To protect, conserve and where appropriate enhance the natural, built and cultural heritage of the county.
2. To encourage everyone to appreciate, enjoy, understand and care for our heritage and to help secure it for future generations.

and

n to

Taghamon Castle (Colm Moriarty)



Our Goals

1.

To protect, conserve and where appropriate enhance the natural, built and cultural heritage of the county.

2.

To encourage everyone to appreciate, enjoy, understand and care for our heritage and to help secure it for future generations.

5. Strategic Themes

The Wexford Heritage Strategy sets out five **Strategic Themes** around which we will focus our efforts for the next five years. These themes reflect the challenges and goals identified by the Heritage Forum through its own discussions and feedback from the public consultation process. The Themes chosen are:

- A. Protecting and managing our heritage
- B. Research and creating knowledge about heritage
- C. Encouraging and supporting greater awareness of heritage
- D. Connecting People and Place
- E. Biodiversity

For each of these Themes we have selected a number of **Actions** and together these provide the framework for our programme of work over the next five years and for ongoing assessment and performance management.

Each year an annual programme will be drawn up in consultation with the Heritage Forum and presented for approval to Senior Management. Funding, resources and other supports will be allocated as part of the Council's annual Estimates process. Progress on delivery will be reviewed mid-year and end-of-year.

The entire Strategy will be subject to a **mid-term review** to assess progress and consider any amendments which may be required.



Real change and progress can only be achieved by having a programme of specific actions and objectives.

Comment from the public consultation process



Visitors to Tulach a' tSolais, Oulart Hill. ©Uto Hogerzeil



PROTECTING & MANAGING OUR HERITAGE

*Conserving the Town Wall,
Wexford. (Colm Moriarty)*



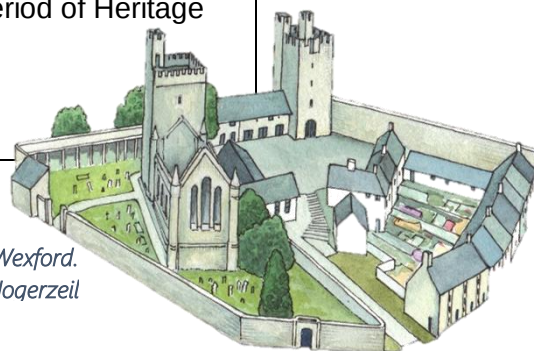
***We need to identify and
preserve the most at risk
sites.***

**Comment from public
consultation process**

A: Protecting and managing our heritage

Our aim is to protect, conserve and where appropriate enhance the natural, built and cultural heritage of the county as well as helping realise its economic potential.

Action		Desired Outcome
A.1	Create an inventory of built and natural heritage assets in Council ownership, including at-risk-status (noting climate risks too), and ensure that structures of significant interest (historic, archaeological, architectural, cultural or other) are included on the Record of Protected Structures.	Completed Inventory available and published by end-2028.
A.2	Leverage funding opportunities to enable the care, conservation and promotion of heritage assets by the Council, private owners, custodians and communities.	Increased investment by local authority and private/community owners and custodians.
A.3	Prepare conservation management plans for key sites & monuments, based on risks identified (inc climate); rank and prioritise.	6 no. CMPs prepared over period of Heritage Strategy.
A.4	Revitalise Town Centres with heritage-led regeneration.	Heritage properties acquire function, streetscapes enhanced, town-centre living encouraged.
A.5	Feed heritage input and advice into wider strategic discussions within Council.	Robust heritage protections built into Council programmes and plans, wherever relevant.
A.6	Build links with Heritage teams in other local authorities and develop joint/regional heritage initiatives, including targeting EU funding opportunities.	Two cross-county initiatives launched over period of Heritage Strategy.



Selskar Abbey, Wexford.

©Uto Hoerzeil

A photograph of several students in a library or archive setting. In the foreground, two female students are leaning over a large table, examining an open, very thick, old newspaper. The student on the left is wearing a green and white striped shirt, and the student on the right is wearing a red and white shirt. They are both wearing white gloves. The newspaper they are looking at has the masthead 'The Independent' visible. In the background, other students are seated at tables, also looking at books or papers. A sign on the wall in the background reads: 'Gloves must be worn at all times while consulting original materials. Book reports and mapping games outside of request.'

RESEARCH & CREATING KNOWLEDGE

Students from Georgia Southern University, Savannah, undertaking research in Wexford County Archive, 2014. (Wexford County Archive)

“

We should create a comprehensive digital heritage map of Wexford's natural, built and cultural assets.

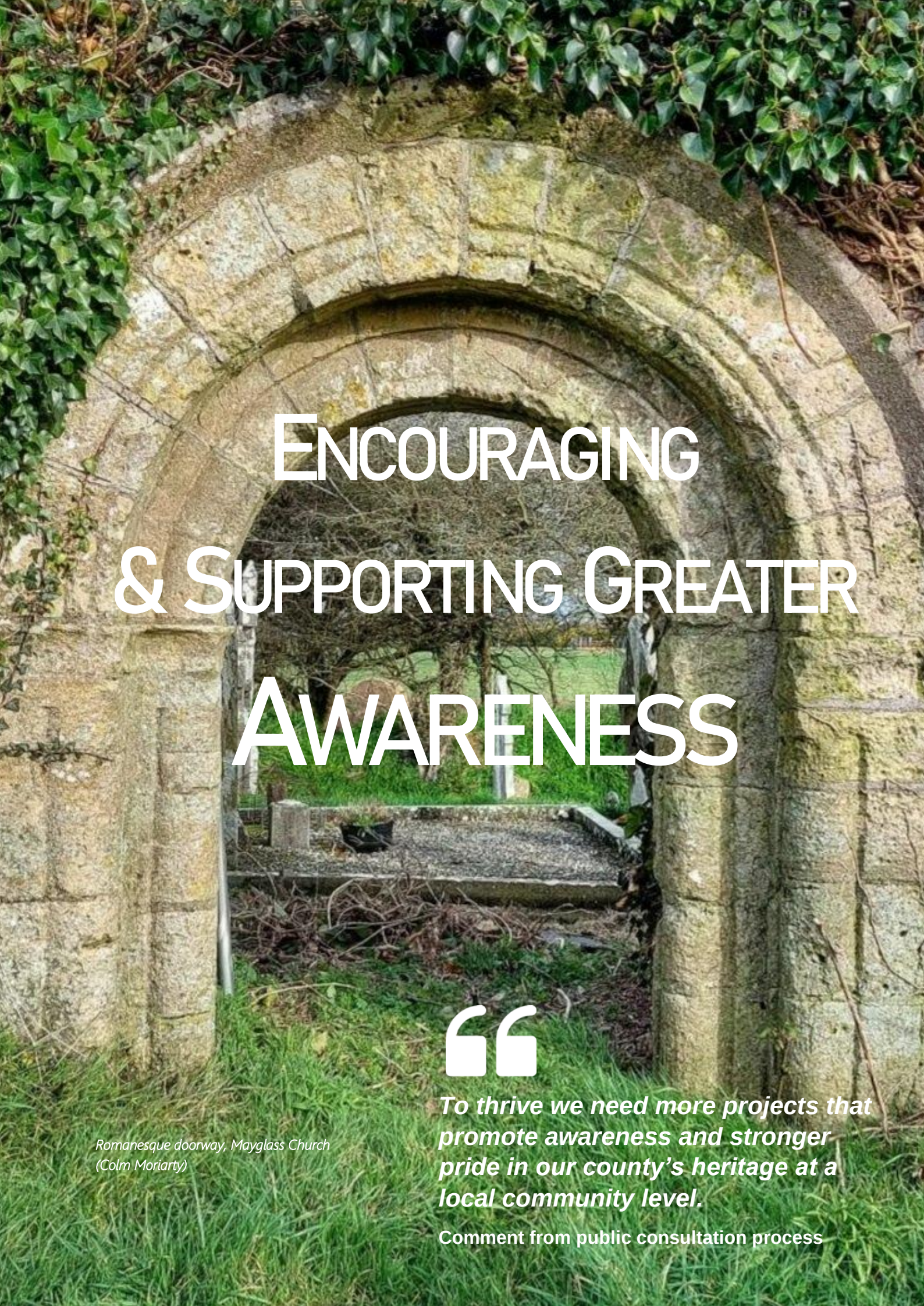
B. Research and creating knowledge about heritage

Our aim is to establish a secure knowledge base, to expand that through research and to make that information widely available. This is to inform an evidence-based approach to heritage management as well as authentic and reliable interpretation.

	Action	Desired Outcome
B.1	Develop audit, research and dissemination projects.	Expand knowledge base of Wexford's heritage.
B.2	Establish current state of knowledge and key information gaps.	Commission and publish review by end 2028.
B.3	Support projects that address identified information gaps.	One such project initiated annually. Expanded knowledge base results.
B.4	Work with partners to digitise historical records and make available to the public.	One major project commenced over period of Heritage Strategy.
B.5	Develop links and explore funding opportunities with Third Level institutions at home and abroad to encourage research and mapping of Wexford's heritage.	Two pilot projects in place with third level partners by end of Strategy programming period.
B.6	Record and highlight intangible heritage like oral history, folklore, local placenames and fieldnames, language (Irish, Yola, Shelta, accents), mumming, song and sports.	One such project initiated annually and greater awareness/use of existing archive of oral history produced by Wexford Library and Archive Service.



View onto Wells House, Gorey. ©Uto Hogerzeil



ENCOURAGING & SUPPORTING GREATER AWARENESS



*Romanesque doorway, Mayglass Church
(Colm Moriarty)*

*To thrive we need more projects that
promote awareness and stronger
pride in our county's heritage at a
local community level.*

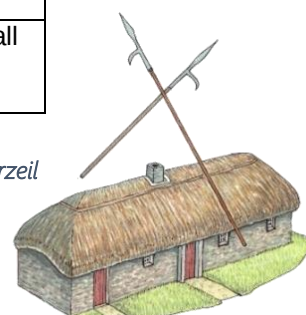
Comment from public consultation process

C. Encouraging & supporting greater awareness of heritage

We want to encourage everyone to appreciate, enjoy, understand and care for our heritage and to help secure it for future generations.

We hope to raise awareness by sharing our stories with the whole community and with visitors to the county through effective communication, outreach and high-quality interpretation.

Action		Desired Outcome
C.1	Encourage participation in heritage initiatives and projects at community level through schools, voluntary groups and statutory bodies and dedicated outreach programmes.	Active involvement by all sectors of the community in heritage, with real sense of place and ownership; children and young people get to connect with their heritage.
C.2	Extend the existing Heritage Trail network, support development of new trails and work with relevant partners/professionals to develop accurate and appropriate interpretation at heritage sites, including technological solutions to engage a wider audience.	Number of Heritage Trails developed and interpretation enhanced in collaboration with relevant partners and professionals. Increased visibility and acknowledgement of local heritage in public spaces.
C.3	Promote and enhance the understanding of Wexford's rich heritage by supporting existing heritage centres and through the development of new exhibitions, pop-up museums and digital content and by highlighting existing archival and artefact collections.	Development of a thriving front-facing heritage sector.
C.4	Promote greater awareness of Wexford's rich maritime, riverine and upland heritage and cross-reference with climate action programmes.	Increased awareness of an underappreciated part of our heritage.
C.5	Support heritage events and festivals throughout the year, particularly during Heritage Week, Biodiversity Week and others where built heritage, archaeology, nature, culture and local history are celebrated.	Rich and varied calendar of heritage related events.
C.6	Support the county's Irish-speakers and promote the use of the Irish language.	Increased use and visibility of Irish at all levels across the public domain.





CONNECTING PEOPLE & PLACE

*Re-enactors on Vinegar Hill
(National 1798 Rebellion Centre)*

“

*There is a growing
hunger for connection
and collective wonder
at what ‘makes’ a place.*

Comment from public
consultation process

D. Connecting people & place

Our aim is to connect local communities to their heritage, involve them directly in its management and interpretation and empower them through training and resources to carry out appropriate works in line with best practice. As our communities welcome new people we want to ensure that they feel connected also and that their voice is also heard.

	Action	Desired Outcome
D.1	Build community capacity for locally-led projects including best-practice training, heritage-audits, traditional skills and leadership.	High quality locally-led heritage projects are enabled.
D.2	Engage key stakeholders in the management, conservation and recording of historic graveyards, promote best practice and develop a conservation programme for historic graveyards.	Annual training course developed and delivered
D.3	Encourage the development of locally-led heritage projects by communities and individuals and secure/promote funding opportunities to support these.	A range of inclusive and vibrant collaborations in place that result in enhanced protection, promotion and enjoyment of Wexford's heritage
D.4	Work with communities and stakeholders to co-create heritage projects that are relevant and accessible to underserved audiences.	
D.5	Improve accessibility to heritage and cultural sites, allowing people of all abilities to experience and enjoy them with dignity.	Programme in place to respond to accessibility needs, including both physical and digital solutions.
D.6	Celebrate and explore the heritage of all our communities in Wexford.	Greater awareness and respect for the heritage contribution of all our communities (old, new, diverse and historically unrepresented).

Tá rian na Gaeilge le sonrú i logainmneacha an chontae in éineacht le Yola agus Béarla.

Comment from public consultation process



NATURAL HERITAGE

“

*We need to take
urgent, immediate
action.*

Comment from public
consultation process

Pollinator in action. (Colm Moriarty)

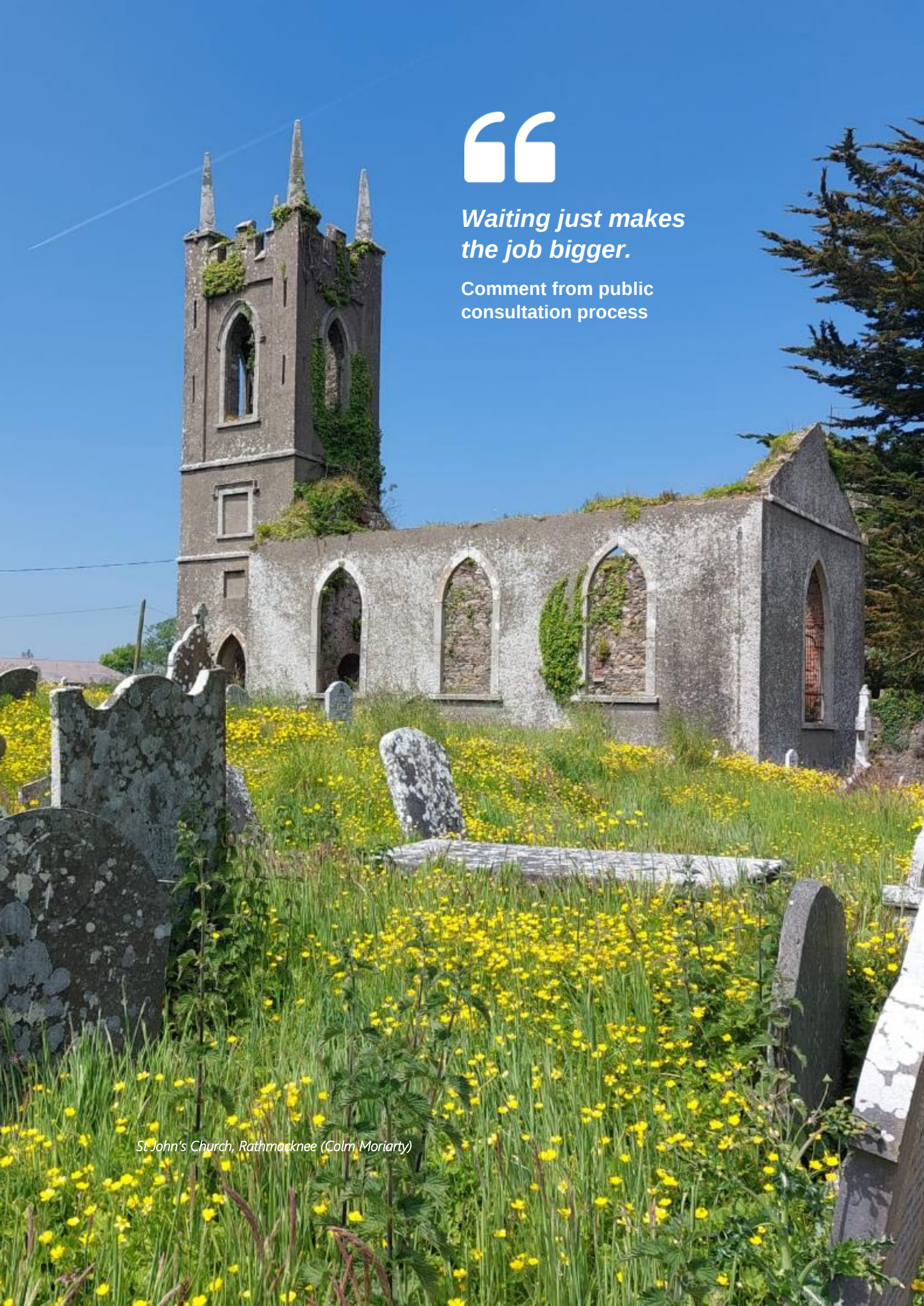


E. Biodiversity

Our aim is to restore, protect and celebrate our unique biodiversity, for its own sake, for our sake and for the sake of future generations.

Action		Desired Outcome
E.1	Develop dedicated Biodiversity Action Plan for Wexford.	Dedicated Plan in place by 2026.
E.2	Ensure Biodiversity Action Plan is fully integrated with the wider Heritage Strategy.	Integrated response ensures that heritage in its broadest sense informs all Council programmes and plans.
E.3	Monitor performance as part of the annual and mid-term reviews of the Heritage Strategy.	Meaningful dialogue leads to improved outcomes by end of planning period.





“

*Waiting just makes
the job bigger.*

Comment from public
consultation process

St John's Church, Rathmacknee (Colm Moriarty)

6. Implementation

The Wexford County Heritage Strategy has been developed under the aegis of Wexford County Council. The Council will lead implementation of the strategy with the support and input of a range of stakeholders. Cross-collaboration between various departments within the Council and with other agencies and organisations will be necessary for effective implementation of the strategy over the next few years.

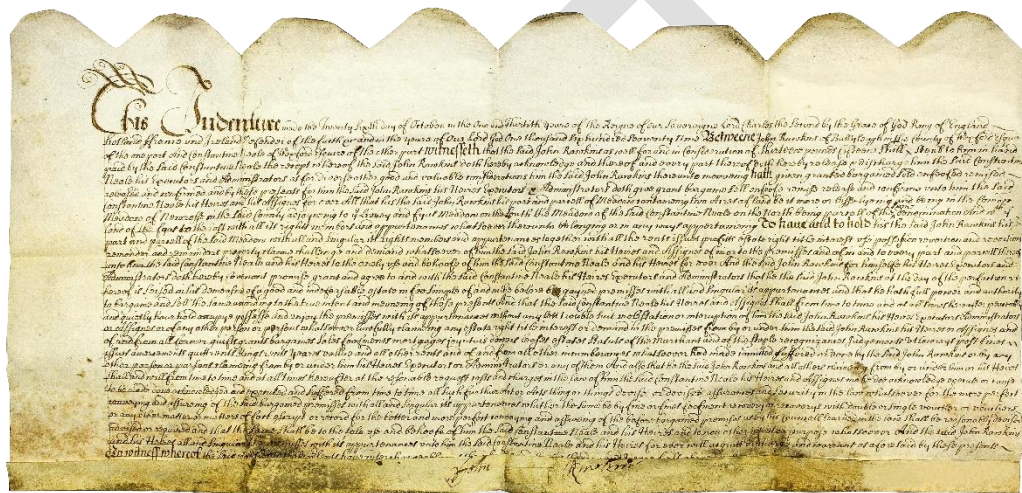
Each year an **annual programme** will be drawn up by the Heritage Officer in consultation with the Heritage Forum and presented for approval to senior management. Funding, resources and other supports will be allocated as part of the Council's annual budget process. Progress on delivery will be reviewed by the Heritage Forum mid-year and end-of-year.

At the end of each year the Heritage Officer will prepare a **Progress Report** on implementation of the strategy to date, which will in turn inform the priorities for the following year. The annual Progress Reports will be presented to the Heritage Forum and to senior management, as well as the relevant Strategic Policy Committee.

The entire Strategy will be subject to a **Mid-Term Review** to assess progress and consider any amendments which may be required.

A full **Evaluation** will be carried out at the end of the implementation period, which will include learnings to be carried forward into the design of the next Strategy.

APPENDICES



Deed of sale of a meadow in New Ross by John Rawkins to Constantine Neale, Oct 1679 (Wexford County Archive)

Appendix 1

Possible Projects

The projects below are drawn from those suggested as part of the public consultation process or suggested by one or more stakeholders. These are illustrative of the type of projects which could be carried out, depending on annual priorities and funding.

Protecting and Managing our Heritage

- Conservation works to historic town walls in Wexford and New Ross
- Create design guidelines for historic shopfronts and streetscapes
- Develop annual programme of conservation works for sites in care of Council
- Utilise grant schemes such as the Community Monuments Fund to support conservation works on archaeological monuments such as castles, churches etc
- Create a protocol for philanthropic donations
- Assess condition of all Protected Structures in Council ownership
- Assess economic contribution of heritage and cost/benefit of investment
- Assess exposure of county heritage sites/assets to climate events
- Co-ordinated (cross-department) approach for developments of historic sites and streetscapes
- 'Guide to Funding' Handbook for community/private investment

Research and Creating Knowledge

- Research Programme on county's medieval towns
- Digitising Hore: digitise the published and unpublished works of Philip and Herbert Hore and make available
- Field/Placename Surveys, audit of Holy Wells etc
- Street Furniture Audit
- Record aspects of Wexford's maritime/riverine heritage (inc intangible heritage)
- Create regional heritage 'character profiles' as basis for strategic actions
- Battlefields of 1798 – inventory, map, designation
- Stained Glass windows of Wexford study

Encouraging and Supporting Greater Awareness

- Explore idea of new 'Heritage Ambassadors'
- Seek loan of local finds in National Museum for display locally
- Develop a Wexford Community Archaeology Programme
- Strengthen collaboration with Visit Wexford and Fáilte Ireland
- Events programme for Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Explore feasibility of a County Museum
- Install information boards at recorded geological heritage sites to raise awareness
- Develop heritage-themed walking routes and digital guides, highlighting themes or landmarks across the county (eg battlefields, Norman sites)
- 2027 Year of the Normans events
- Strengthen placenames policy in association with Logainm, Placenames Branch, and Conradh na Gaeilge

Connecting People and Place

- Develop outreach programme for Schools
- Develop outreach programme for new county residents
- Feasibility study for crowd-sourced heritage database
- Annual small grants scheme for local heritage projects and priorities
- Support oral history projects, eg maritime or locally-based projects capturing placenames, fieldnames, surnames, and traditions
- Locally-led Historic Graveyards Programme and audits of significant elements of community heritage (like historic water pumps)
- Provision of space for Irish language classes and events
- Training Programme for community stakeholders (inc traditional skills)
- Develop new 'Pride of Place' programme for local communities
- Develop new Blackstairs Heritage Project

Biodiversity

- Addressed separately through the Biodiversity Action Plan.



General image of property deeds from Wexford County Archive's legal collections (Wexford County Archive).

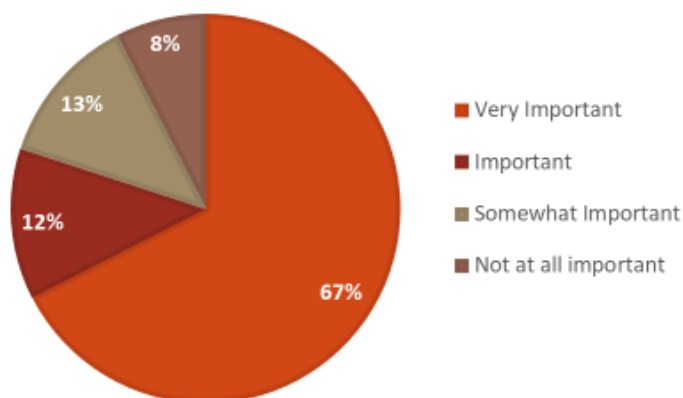
Appendix 2

Feedback from the Public Consultation Process

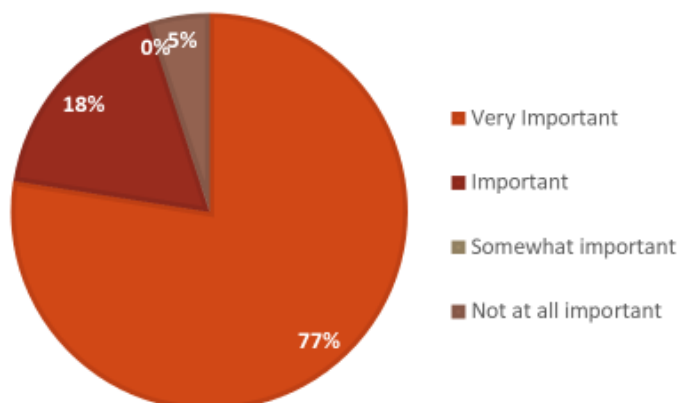
- 80 online returns
- 19 hardcopy returns, of which 2 were sufficiently detailed to be regarded as full written submissions
- 26 'formal' written submissions
- Strong attendance at most public sessions

79% think WCC is important/very important in preserving Wexford's heritage.
95% say the new Plan will be important/very important to their communities.

IMPORTANCE OF WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL IN CARING FOR
AND PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE



IMPORTANCE OF THE NEW HERITAGE PLAN TO YOU AND YOUR
COMMUNITY?



Three key questions were asked of survey participants and their responses were consolidated in the form the word-clouds below:

Q1: What do you see as the biggest challenge facing Wexford's Heritage?



Q2: What overall goals would you like to see for heritage in Wexford?



[illegible]

Overall, quite a balanced picture of strengths and weaknesses emerges from the feedback received. The richness and variety of Wexford's heritage is widely stressed, as is its value and its economic potential; there is awareness of the scale of the challenge and that it needs to be tackled pragmatically; the proposed new strategic approach welcomed and the commitment of local communities is evident throughout. There is also no shortage of ideas!

Insofar as the weaknesses are concerned, lack of funding stands out alongside (at present) a lack of strategic thinking as well as a lack of wider public awareness/appreciation. The central role of the Council is recognised by all and seen as key to an effective response.



*Stitching the Ros Tapestry (New Ross
Needlecraft Ltd)*

Appendix 3

Contributors to the Public Consultation Process

Thanks to all who contributed their time, ideas and thoughts during the public consultation process:

The following made detailed written submissions (some as part of their survey response) and have consented to their names being included here:

Dr Richard Gem	Brendan Roche
Neville Knott	Brian Donovan
William French	Aidan Ryan
P.J. Lawless	Jacqui Hynes/Brian Ó Cléirigh
Anna Skrine	Kilmore Quay (anon)
Peter Pearson	Eamonn Doyle
Mary Foley	Patrick Kinsella
Bernard Brown	Bannow Historical Society
Dominic Berridge	Tides and Tales CLG
Jonathan Hughes	Kilmore Quay Conservation Group
Cleariestown/Rathangan Heritage Group	Conradh na Gaeilge
North Wexford Groups (jointly)	Matthew Doyle
<i>Kilnerin Tidy Towns Heritage Group, North Wexford Historical Society, Old Kilnener Historical Society, Tara Hill CDA, Kilnerin-Ballyfad CDA, Gorey Tidy Towns Group, Gorey CDA, The Gap Tidy Towns and Heritage Group, Hollyfort Development Group.</i>	Faythe Residents and Community
	Tomhaggard CDG
	Castlebridge Inspire
	Thomas Leggett
	Cory Cashman

80 people responded to our online survey, anonymously, and again we thank each of these for the time taken to reply to the survey and for the evident thought that went into those replies. A further 19 replied in hardcopy and for consistency these replies are also treated as anonymous, even where signed.

Finally, we would like to thank the many people who dropped into our various public sessions and shared their concerns, hopes and ideas.

Every single contribution is valued and has significantly informed the shape of our new Heritage Strategy.



*Boulder-strewn shore at St Helen's Bay
(Ronan O'Flaherty)*

Appendix 4

Members of the County Wexford Heritage Forum

Thank you to the members of the County Wexford Heritage Forum for their advice, ideas and guidance during the preparation of this plan.

Chairs

Cllr. John Fleming (New Ross): Jun-Sep 2025
Cllr. Frank Staples (Rosslare): Sep 2025-

Heritage Officer
Colm Moriarty

Members

▪ Maura Bell Public Participation Network ▪ Grace Corbett National Monuments Service ▪ Caroline Creane WCC Community Section (Jun-Sep 2025) ▪ Yvonne Doyle Curtis WCC Architectural Conservation Officer ▪ Grainne Doran County Archivist ▪ Hazel Doyle National Parks and Wildlife Service ▪ Willie French Wexford Historical Society ▪ Jarlath Glynn Wexford Borough Heritage Committee ▪ Claire Goodwin Biodiversity Officer, WCC	▪ Hore, Elizabeth Director of Services, WCC ▪ Cllr.Pat Kehoe Elected Member (Enniscorthy) ▪ Anne-Marie Kirwan An Taisce ▪ James Lavin WCC Planning ▪ Peter O'Connor North Wexford Historical Society ▪ M.J. Scallan Irish Farmers' Association ▪ Ger Shortle Teagasc ▪ Yvonne Smith Library Services ▪ Cllr.Joe Sullivan Elected Member (Gorey-Kilmuckridge) ▪ Helen Corish Wilde Wexford Borough Heritage Committee
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