



MONAGHAN  
HERITAGE  
OFFICE

Heritage  
Officer  
Programme



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



# Role of Heritage Officers in supporting Climate Action

Embedding climate in heritage Webinar

27.01.22

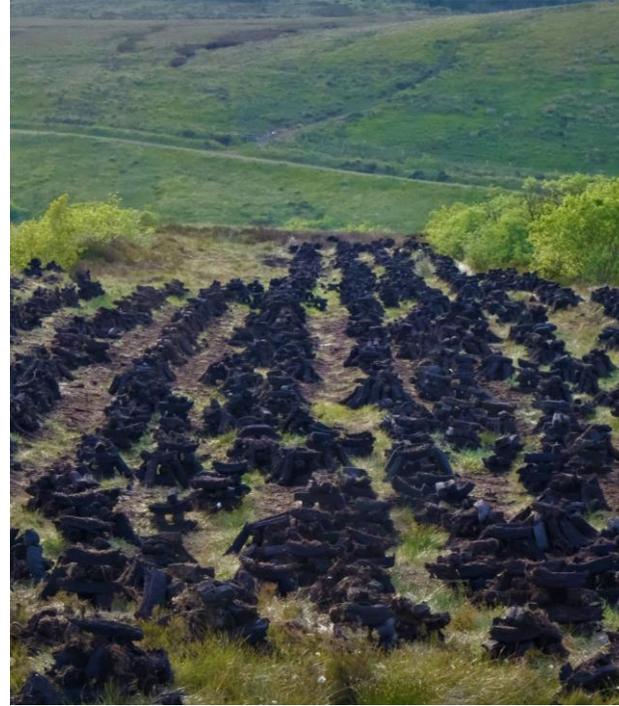
Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Monaghan County Council

31 Local authorities  
Initiative from HC in 1999  
1995 Heritage Act, co-operation.



## Heritage Officer has a socio-cultural-environmental role

- **A socially meaningful role that has participation at its core and facilitates and enables communities, local authorities & other stakeholders to engage with the tangible and intangible heritage of our places towards a sustainable future.**



Pics - Monaghan Photographic society  
Heritage competition 2021



Heritage is natural, cultural and built.

Heritage is tangible & intangible.

All heritage is local but can have internationally significant values.

# Heritage Futures

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"Heritage has very little to do with the past but actually involves practices which are fundamentally concerned with assembling and designing the future...in anticipation of an outcome that will help constitute a specific (**social, economic or ecological**) resource in and for **the future**" (Harrison, 2015).

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Sustainable Development is "the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and **cultural** well-being of Wales" by taking action in accordance with the sustainable development principle, with the aim of achieving the well-being goals. (Well-being of Future Generations Act, 2015, Wales).



To use the world well, to be able to stop wasting it and our time in it, we need to relearn our being in it".  
– Ursula K. LeGuin



# Reality bites in VUCA

Volatile, Uncertain, increasingly Complex, Ambiguous world

Interconnecting triple-whammy:

Biodiversity crisis.

Climate change.

Pollution and waste problem.

## Structure of this strategic plan

This Biodiversity and Heritage Strategic Plan combines the areas of heritage and biodiversity into a strategic plan for County Monaghan. It contains thirteen priority themes for the county. These are aspects of heritage and biodiversity that are especially resonant or important for Monaghan. An action plan is an integral part of the strategy that will be undertaken over the next five years to enable positive outcomes for our biodiversity and heritage.

### OUR MISSION

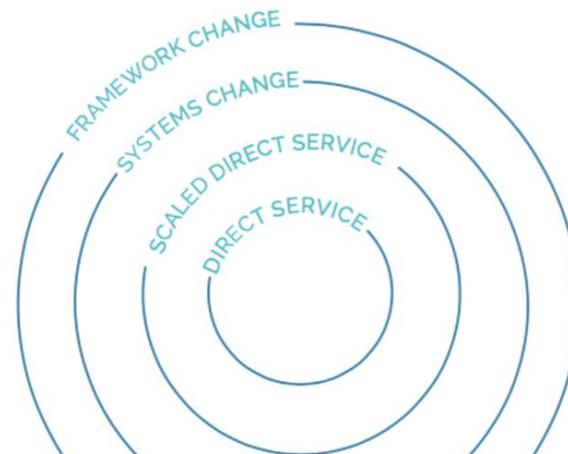
To protect, conserve and advocate for our biodiversity, tangible and intangible heritage, contributing to sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

### OUR VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY AND HERITAGE IN MONAGHAN

By 2025 the role of heritage and biodiversity for climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable communities, functioning ecosystems, health and well-being is generally accepted in the county and embedded in the activities of Monaghan County Council.



People enjoying a Dragonfly Workshop at the Ballybay Wetlands Centre in 2019



Heritage Offices are leading **systems change** from within local authorities, by recognising the interconnectivity of environmental, social, cultural and economic systems AND working to find solutions and co-benefits of actions.

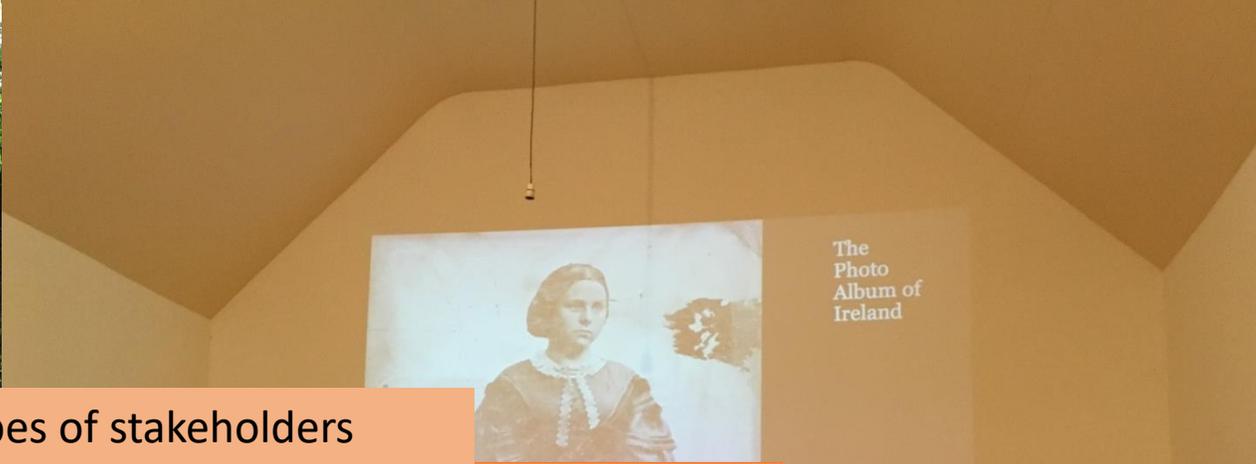
## County Heritage Plans

- Understanding, collecting information
- Minding, conserving and restoring
- Advocating, educating, handing on



Work with different types of stakeholders

Grasp and influence mechanisms for change



Putting heritage and biodiversity AND communities at the centre of decision making.



Listen to different perspectives



Principle of subsidiarity & locally led



Co-create innovative solutions



Collaboration & cooperation



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- A close-up photograph of several fluffy ducklings in a grassy field. The ducklings are covered in brown and tan down feathers and have dark, pointed beaks. They are looking in various directions, some towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus green field.
- Heritage is a cultural anchor.
  - Rootedness through culture & sense of place builds resilience in society to feel secure.
  - It enables us to think & respond to big challenges that we face **together**.

# National Adaptation Framework

Prescribed role of Local Government sector. Requires us to build resilience by integration of climate actions across local authority activity.

Asks us to demonstrate leadership.

Be part of Climate Action Teams.

Sectoral Adaptation Plans – Natural & Cultural Capital theme.



## CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION



**Mitigation**

Responses to actual or expected climate change and its effects.



**Adaptation**

Efforts to reduce or prevent Greenhouse gases (GHGs) or to enhance our climate sinks.

*Pic: Richard Duff*

# Webinars will cover some of these solutions...

## Mitigation examples

- Bog & wetland restoration
- Coastal studies & sand dune restoration
- Habitat surveys to identify environmental trends & important areas for biodiversity
- Hedgerow surveys & education
- Ecosystem services
- Pollinator plan actions

## Adaptation examples

- Conservation of archaeological monuments
- Re-use of vernacular & other historic buildings
- Town Centre first & Historic Towns Initiative
- Building capacity in communities to respond to new challenges
- HeritageXClimate