

**Draft**

**County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy  
2023-2030**

**A partnership strategy prepared by  
County Sligo Heritage Forum**

**June 2023**



**Sligo County Council  
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh**

**Sligo.**

## **Introduction**

The County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2030 sets out the work of Sligo County Council working in partnership with agencies, groups and the wider community to deliver heritage and biodiversity projects within the county and is strategic in nature.

The strategy has been prepared with the advice of the County Sligo Heritage Forum and in consultation with the local community and local, regional and national organisations with an interest in and remit for the heritage and biodiversity of County Sligo.

The County Sligo Heritage Forum provides advice to Sligo County Council on the preparation and implementation of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy.

While the strategy is county specific it aligns with the National Heritage Plan - *Heritage Ireland 2030: A Framework for Heritage (2022)* and *Our Place in Time - The Heritage Council's Strategic Plan 2023-2028*.

The strategy aims to build on the achievements of previous heritage and biodiversity plans and takes account of changes in the heritage sector at local, national and international levels (legislation, heritage policy and resources).

Funding to implement the strategy is provided by Sligo County Council and its partners, The Heritage Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage through a range of grant schemes and funding supports.

## **Defining Heritage**

Under the Heritage Act (1995) heritage is defined as including the following: monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks and, inland waterways.

The County Sligo Heritage Forum, through its terms of reference, broadened the working definition of heritage to reflect the rich heritage of the County and added the following: folklore, local history and traditions, crafts, place names, traditional skills, biodiversity, museums and archives.

The County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2030 will address aspects of our built heritage, natural heritage, archaeology and cultural heritage as follows:

- Built Heritage: including architectural heritage, heritage gardens and parks, landscapes and seascapes, inland waterways.
- Natural Heritage: including biodiversity, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, geology.
- Archaeology: including monuments, archaeological objects, wrecks.
- Cultural Heritage: including museums and archives, heritage objects, folklore, local history and traditions, crafts, placenames, traditional skills.

*UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)*

The “intangible cultural heritage” means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.

Intangible cultural heritage includes traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as oral traditions, social practices, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts.

*Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention, 2005)*

The Faro Convention emphasizes the important aspects of heritage as they relate to human rights and democracy. It promotes a wider understanding of heritage and its relationship to communities and society. The Convention encourages us to recognize that objects and places are not, in themselves, what is important about cultural heritage. They are important because of the meanings and uses that people attach to them and the values they represent.

With an enhanced definition of heritage, emphasis on heritage communities and the principle of shared responsibility, the Faro Convention seeks creative ways of developing and managing community heritage assets with active civil society involvement.

*The Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)*

The Convention on Biological Diversity defines ‘biological diversity; as the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. Biodiversity provides a suite of ecosystem services either directly (clean air and water, carbon sequestration, pollination, soil) or indirectly (food, fibre, medicine), that sustain the planet and the species that depend upon it.

*World Heritage Convention (1972)*

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is embodied in an international treaty called the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

On the 21 July 2022, The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, and Minister of State with Responsibility for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan, announced a new World Heritage Tentative List for Ireland.

The Tentative List is an inventory of natural and cultural heritage sites that may have potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and are therefore considered suitable for nomination to the World Heritage List. It is a pre-condition for nomination that a site must be on the Tentative List for at least 1 year before work can formally begin on a nomination dossier. It is important to note that the nomination process does not necessarily result in the inscription of a site on the World Heritage List. A site can be inscribed on the World Heritage List only if the World Heritage Committee determines it is of Outstanding Universal Value for all of humanity.

In line with UNESCO guidance, in January 2019 the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage sought applications to a new Tentative List for Ireland, to replace the current list dating to 2010. All Local Authorities were requested to make applications to the Department with respect to any sites within their jurisdiction.

Six applications were received by the June 2021 deadline and the exhaustive and expert evaluation process concluded that three applications should be included on the new Tentative List for Ireland with details being sent to UNESCO Paris including 'The Passage Tomb Landscape of County Sligo'.

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### **County Sligo Heritage Office**

Established in 1999, the County Sligo Heritage Office is part of the Directorate of Planning, Community and Economic Development & Borough District of Sligo Municipal District within Sligo County Council. The County Sligo Heritage Office was established to:

- Raise awareness of Sligo's Heritage
- Provide advice and information on heritage matters to Sligo County Council and the public.
- Collect data and undertake research on aspects of Sligo's heritage
- Promote best practice and conservation in relation to heritage
- Develop heritage policy
- Implement the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy in partnership with the County Sligo Heritage Forum, The Heritage Council, key stakeholders and local communities.

The Heritage Council established the Heritage Officer Programme in 1999, through which it provides heritage programme funding and training support annually. The Heritage Officer Post is a strategic partnership between Sligo County Council and The Heritage Council under the Heritage Officer Programme.

The Heritage Officer provides advice on a wide range of Sligo County Council projects and is a member of Council's Culture Team and Climate Action Team.

### **County Sligo Heritage Forum**

County Sligo Heritage Forum is a non-statutory group established by Sligo County Council in 2002 to provide advice, support and partnership in support of the preparation and implementation of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy. The Heritage Forum is supported in its work by the County Sligo Heritage Office.

The Forum is composed of representatives from local government (elected representatives and officials), local development, state agencies, educational institutions, landowner/farming representatives, community/voluntary groups and heritage organisations and groups – all with a remit or active interest in Sligo's heritage.

The County Sligo Heritage Forum operates on the basis of real and meaningful partnership and co-operation. The continued active participation of Sligo Heritage Forum members is an important factor in supporting the successful delivery of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy and in realising the ongoing custodianship of Sligo's heritage for the benefit of all.

A review of the terms of reference and membership of the County Sligo Heritage Forum to support the implementation of the new heritage strategy will be undertaken in 2023.

## **Guiding Principles**

The following principles have been adopted by Sligo County Council and the County Sligo Heritage Forum to underpin the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2030. These principles will define and guide all stages of strategy implementation.

### *Leadership*

We will demonstrate leadership in the preparation and implementation of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2030.

### *Integrated Heritage Approach*

We understand that Sligo's heritage assets have multiple values (natural, built, archaeological and cultural, both tangible and intangible) which require an integrated and holistic heritage approach so that they can be appropriately protected, conserved, managed and promoted.

### *Supporting and Empowering Communities*

We acknowledge the vital role of communities in caring for and promoting heritage and will seek to support and empower communities in their custodianship of their local heritage.

### *Sustainable Development*

We embrace the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We understand the principle of sustainable development as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

### *Diversity and Inclusion*

We recognise the role that heritage can play in embracing diversity and supporting social inclusion within local communities. Every effort will be made to ensure that all events undertaken as part of the delivery of this strategy reflect the interests of the socially and culturally diverse community of the county, and are accessible to all citizens, whatever their age, background, physical or emotional needs.

### *Working in Partnership*

We will work in partnership with key stakeholders at local, regional and national level to deliver the priorities identified in the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy. We are committed to supporting the custodianship of heritage in public and private ownership and in the care of communities.

### *Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss*

We are committed to considering the related and cross cutting impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss in the delivery of this strategy.

## The Strategy in Context

### Policy

The County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy is a strategic framework to guide heritage actions in County Sligo over the next five years. It focusses on the identification, conservation, management, interpretation and promotion of Sligo's heritage. It provides a mechanism to identify Sligo's key heritage priorities and to forge partnerships to address these at local, regional and national levels.

The County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy considers and responds to the following policies:

- The National Heritage Plan - Heritage Ireland 2030: A Framework for Heritage (2022)
- Our Place in Time: The Heritage Council's Strategic Plan 2023-2028 (2023)
- National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021  
*Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) has been in development since October 2021. The Plan will set the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2027 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.*
- Places for People – The National Policy on Architecture (2022)
- A Living Tradition: a strategy to enhance the understanding, care and handing on of our built vernacular heritage (2021)
- Town Centre First Policy (2022)
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 (RSES) – Northern and Western Regional Assembly.
- Sligo County Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024
- Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023  
*A new Sligo County Development Plan 2023-2029 is in preparation.*
- Local Economic and Community Plan for Sligo (LECP) – Sligo 2030 One Voice One Vision.
- Sligo Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027
- Sligo Climate Adaptation Strategy (2019)
- Sligo Tourism Strategy 2018-2023

### Funding

The third County Sligo Heritage Plan 2016-2020 proposed a core programme budget of €850,000 (excluding staff costs) for the delivery of the plan over the five-year period. The aim was to realise an annual programming budget of €170,000. To date, funding for implementation of heritage plan actions has been provided by The Heritage Council through the County Heritage Plan Fund and the Community Archaeology Fund. Match funding is provided by Sligo County Council. In 2023, the core programme budget for heritage strategy implementation is €105,000.

In addition, funding continued at an increased level through two long established built heritage grant schemes, the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Historic Structures Fund. Both grant schemes are administered by the Heritage Office, Sligo County Council on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Recently, the potential to access heritage funding has increased through the availability of new heritage grant schemes including:

- Creative Ireland Programme – introduced in 2016 to support creativity in every community, it provides funding to Local Authority Culture Teams to support creative partnerships.
- Historic Towns Initiative – established in 2019, a grant scheme for heritage led regeneration administered by The Heritage Council on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan Fund – established in 2018, the funding is administered by the National Parks and Wildlife Service at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Housing. It provides funding to Local Authorities to undertake biodiversity actions to support the delivery of the National Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Community Monuments Fund – introduced in 2020, the scheme is administered by Sligo County Council on behalf of the National Monuments Service at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

In summary, the core programme budget for implementation of previous plans has been maintained at €105,000. It is proposed to move towards a core programming budget of €170,000 within the period of this strategy.

In addition, every opportunity will be taken to maximise the funding opportunities available under various heritage grant schemes to support heritage and biodiversity action in County Sligo.

Alternative funding streams will be examined, such as URDF, RRDF, Creative Ireland, the Rural Development Programme, the EU Structural Funds and Peace+, particularly for county wide heritage projects that are strategic, large in scale and may require multiannual funding. In light of the above, the delivery of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy will be subject to adequate resources (financial and human) being allocated to implement the key priorities proposed.

## **Resources**

A full-time Heritage Officer is employed by Sligo County Council to work with the County Sligo Heritage Forum and to co-ordinate the delivery of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy. The post is part funded by The Heritage Council. Administrative support is in place since 2022, which has allowed for increased delivery of heritage and biodiversity projects.



The Programme for Government sees the appointment of a Biodiversity Officer within each local authority. The scheme is being delivered by The Heritage Council on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. An increase in the capacity to support biodiversity action in the county would be positive and significant.

While the availability of human resources to support the implementation of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy have improved, significant gaps remain. There is a need to secure additional heritage specialists within Sligo County Council to meet the demands for local authority heritage services, such as a Conservation Architect/Officer, County Archaeologist, County Ecologist (with a planning remit) and a Community Heritage Officer.

These appointments will help build heritage capacity and enable the Local Authority to respond to the increased demand for heritage advice and support within the Local Authority and from local communities.

It is acknowledged that the provision of additional staff is an operational matter for Sligo County Council and is dependent on business needs, department sanction and the availability of resources.

The Heritage Office and Heritage Forum will work to address all areas of heritage in the county but acknowledge that specialist professional expertise will need to be accessed at certain times.

## **Preparation of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2030**

The County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2030 was prepared in accordance with the 'Methodology for Local Authority Heritage Officers on the preparation of County/City Heritage Plans' produced by The Heritage Council (2003).

The strategy has been developed through discussion with those involved in, or with a remit for Sligo's heritage. In developing the strategy, the focus has been to identify the key heritage and biodiversity priorities for Sligo over the next five years. In tandem with this, the availability of funding, partnerships and the need for active facilitation of projects by key stakeholders was examined.

The strategy aims to build collaboration, partnerships and capacity to enable the delivery of heritage and biodiversity priorities for Sligo. Critically, the priorities proposed must be within the scope of the funding available and what Sligo County Council, Sligo Heritage Forum and its partners can progress.

### **Stage 1 Pre-Draft Public Consultation**

Following a meeting of County Sligo Heritage Forum in February 2023, the strategy process began with a call for pre-draft submissions.

The general public, local businesses and public/community organisations were invited to identify the key issues/challenges and priorities for the Draft County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2030. A public call for pre-draft submissions was published on Sligo's County Council consultation portal (8<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023) and was promoted through the Councils website and social media channels, local newspapers and the Sligo PPN network. Email and social media were used extensively to distribute information. Sixty-eight pre-draft submissions were received online and directly by post/email, and all were subsequently uploaded to the consultation portal and are available to view via the following weblink: [consult.sligococo.ie](https://consult.sligococo.ie)

In April 2023, the County Sligo Heritage Forum held a workshop to consider all pre-draft submissions made and devised the vision and four strategic themes for the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy. Under each strategic theme a number of key priorities were identified to direct the actions to be undertaken in the delivery of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2030.

In June 2023, the Sligo Heritage Forum held a second workshop focused on shaping a draft Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy for Sligo, framing the strategic themes and considering key priorities for action. Based on these inputs, the draft strategy was prepared by Sligo County Council.

The final strategy will be subject to Appropriate Assessment, under the EU Habitats Directive, prior to implementation.

**The following table outlines some of the key milestones in the preparation of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2030:**

21 February 2023	Meeting of County Sligo Heritage Forum and commencement of County Sligo Heritage Plan Review.
8 - 31 March 2023	<b>Pre-Draft Public Consultation - Stage 1</b> Sligo County Council Public Consultation Portal opens for pre-draft submissions.
15 March 2023	Pre-draft public information/consultation session – Sligo Park Hotel
20 March 2023	Presentation to Borough of Sligo Municipal District
21 March 2023	Pre-draft public information/consultation session – Online
27 March 2023	Presentation to Ballymote Tubbercurry Municipal District
27 March 2023	Presentation to Drumcliff Municipal District
28 March 2023	Pre-draft public information/consultation session – Online
30 March 2023	Presentation to Sligo County Council Strategic Policy Committee (No. 3)
18 April 2023	Presentation to Sligo Comhairle na nOg
25 April 2023	County Sligo Heritage Forum – Heritage Plan Workshop I
15 June 2023	County Sligo Heritage Forum – Heritage Plan Workshop II
June 2023	Presentation of Draft Strategy to SCC Management Team
June 2023	Presentation of Draft Strategy to SCC Strategic Policy Committee No. 3
July 2023	Presentation of Draft Strategy to Sligo County Council
July - Aug 2023	<b>Draft County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy Public Consultation – Stage 2</b>
September 2023	Meeting of County Sligo Heritage Forum to review submissions from Stage 2 public consultation and to consider final draft strategy
October 2023	Presentation of final draft strategy to Sligo County Council for consideration and approval

## **Statement of Vision and Strategic Themes**

### **The aim of the County Sligo Heritage Forum is:**

'To inspire our community to know, value and care for Sligo's unique heritage and biodiversity and to increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our shared inheritance for all'

The following structure has been adopted for this strategy:

### **Strategic Themes**

These have been established to facilitate structured heritage development over the next eight years. These articulate the strategic areas of focus, which will guide the delivery of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2030.

- Raise awareness of Sligo's heritage and biodiversity
- Promote best practice in heritage management
- Support community participation in heritage plans and projects
- Commission research and collect heritage data

### **Key Priorities**

For each strategic theme, a number of key priorities have been identified to guide action in support of the delivery of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2030.

While the key priorities are listed and numbered, no prioritisation or hierarchy is inferred.

## **Strategic Theme 1: Raise awareness of Sligo's heritage and biodiversity**

Raising awareness to communicate the value of Sligo's heritage and biodiversity to all through engagement and education is critical in promoting a shared understanding and appreciation of our heritage.

### **Key Priorities**

#### **Engagement**

1. Develop and maintain [www.sligococo.ie/heritage](http://www.sligococo.ie/heritage) and the Sligo Heritage Office social media accounts to promote Sligo's heritage and biodiversity and to communicate the implementation of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy.
2. Promote awareness of Sligo's heritage through coordinating and managing Biodiversity Week and Heritage Week in partnership with key stakeholders.
3. Host an annual Sligo Heritage Seminar to report on the delivery of the heritage strategy.
4. Support conferences, seminars and talks on themes relevant to the understanding, promotion and conservation of Sligo's heritage.
5. Support improved access to and interpretation (including digital) of heritage sites.
6. Support and commission high quality publications on Sligo's heritage.

#### **Education**

7. Promote the 'Heritage in Schools' Programme to primary schools across Sligo in partnership with Sligo Education Centre.
8. Engage with ATU Sligo, MSLETB and the National Biodiversity Data Centre to examine opportunities for lifelong learning and citizen science initiatives in respect of Sligo's heritage.
9. Establish a Sligo Naturalists Field Club and annual programme of activities.

## **Strategic Theme 2: Promote best practice in heritage management**

The protection, conservation and management of Sligo's heritage assets requires expert guidance and the adoption of best practice methods to inform decision making and guide future investment in key heritage sites and programmes.

### **Key Priorities**

#### **Promoting Best Practice**

1. Continue to support and advocate for the development of a County Museum, meeting National Museum of Ireland standards, for Sligo.
2. Support the conservation of heritage assets in public and private ownership through the management of conservation grant schemes including the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, Historic Structures Fund, Historic Towns Initiative, Local Biodiversity Action Fund and the Community Monuments Fund.
3. Prepare conservation management plans and undertake conservation works to medieval churches in Council ownership.
4. Review the County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan (2011-2015) and prepare a new plan in 2024.
5. Continue to implement the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in County Sligo.
6. Compile a register of heritage assets in local authority ownership to inform appropriate management, interpretation, access and climate change risks. Use register to establish a fund for the maintenance and care of heritage assets in Local Authority ownership.
7. Engage with key stakeholders (e.g. Sligo Leader) to develop a best practice conservation and management protocol for historic graveyards in local authority ownership.
8. Support the conservation of the vernacular built heritage of County Sligo.
9. Liaise with key stakeholders in the care and maintenance of Sligo's built heritage and public realm through, policy, best practice guidance, public realm planning, heritage led regeneration and the promotion of traditional building skills.
10. Continue to support the work of the County Sligo Placenames Committee.

11. Support the work of the Sligo County Library Local Studies Section in the care and management of the county archive.

#### **Investing in key heritage sites and programmes**

12. Review, prepare and continue to implement conservation plans for the following key heritage sites in partnership with relevant stakeholders; Sligo Gaol, Inishmurray, the Green Fort and Drumcliffe Monastic Site.
13. Support the preparation and submission of a nomination dossier for 'The Passage Tombs of County Sligo' (as listed on Ireland's World Heritage Sites Tentative List) for nomination of the site to the World Heritage List.
14. Liaise with the National Monuments Service, Office of Public Works, National Parks and Wildlife Service and key stakeholders in the conservation, management and presentation of key heritage sites in public ownership or guardianship e.g. Spanish Armada wreck site at Streedagh, Co. Sligo.

### **Strategic Theme 3: Support community participation in heritage plans and projects**

Supporting local communities in their custodianship of our shared heritage will enable communities to conserve, manage and celebrate local heritage assets. This in turn will support placemaking and resilient communities with a strong sense of identity and social cohesion.

#### **Key Priorities**

##### **Supporting Community Participation in Heritage**

1. Continue to support and work with community and heritage groups to plan and undertake heritage and biodiversity projects.
2. Support Tidy Towns groups in Sligo to include heritage and biodiversity projects in their plans and annual work programmes.
3. Continue to support community heritage and biodiversity projects through Sligo County Council's Community & Voluntary Grant Scheme.
4. Continue to deliver the Sligo Community Archaeology Project in partnership with The Heritage Council.
5. Continue to support graveyard memorial recording by local communities through the Sligo Historic Graves Project.
6. Develop a pilot project to support digital community archives (where communities can collect and share their local history and heritage online) in partnership with the Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN).
7. Establish a pilot project to survey and record placenames in partnership with local communities.
8. Establish a pilot project to support the collection of oral histories in partnership with the Oral History Network of Ireland and local communities.
9. Support the work of local museums and heritage centres in County Sligo.



#### **Strategic Theme 4: Commission research and collect heritage data**

Document the heritage and biodiversity of County Sligo in order to provide the strong evidence base required to improve our knowledge base, inform decision and policy making and guide future investment. Encourage community participation in the collection of heritage data to capture local knowledge and community experience.

#### **Key Priorities**

##### **Documenting Sligo's Heritage**

1. Undertake a review of heritage and biodiversity surveys and inventories undertaken to date and address knowledge gaps through partnership projects.
2. Develop databases for heritage and biodiversity resources in County Sligo.
3. Ensure that heritage data is available to the public (via the Council website) and to decision makers (via in-house Geographical Information Systems).
4. Commission surveys of habitats and species of conservation concern and invasive alien species.
5. Commission a survey of historic demesnes in County Sligo.
6. Commission a survey of historic shop fronts in County Sligo.
7. Commission a survey of holy wells in County Sligo.
8. Commission a survey of the heritage of the following railway corridors; SLNCR and MG&WR.
9. Commission a survey of Architectural Conservation Areas and historic streetscapes in County Sligo.
10. Commission a study on the vernacular architecture of County Sligo.
11. Commission a pilot climate risk assessment of heritage assets along Sligo's coastline.

## **Implementation and Monitoring**

The County Sligo Heritage Office, Sligo County Council in partnership with the County Sligo Heritage Forum will oversee the implementation of the new County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2030.

Collectively, the four strategic themes of the heritage strategy provide an enabling framework, which seeks to ensure that the aim of Sligo Heritage Forum - *'To inspire our community to know, value and care for Sligo's unique heritage and biodiversity and to increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our shared inheritance for all'* is appropriately considered when projects and programmes are in development.

This strategic framework will support the development of Annual Action Plans, as well as guiding the sustained development of projects and programmes in an integrated way. This approach is designed to ensure that Annual Action Plans are appropriately balanced in maintaining a strategic focus and delivering on the overall aims and objectives, while also ensuring that Sligo can respond to opportunities and priorities as they arise.

An annual funding application will be made to The Heritage Council for strategy implementation. Sligo County Council and The Heritage Council will provide core funding for the implementation of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy.

There is a strong heritage network in County Sligo, and many community groups, agencies and individuals have played a significant role in supporting the implementation of previous plans. The County Sligo Heritage Forum will continue to work in partnership with key stakeholders and the local community to deliver an annual programme of actions that address the strategic objectives and key priorities set out in the strategy.

The County Sligo Heritage Office will coordinate and manage the day-to-day implementation of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy. The County Sligo Heritage Forum will monitor progress as regards the delivery of the heritage strategy at its quarterly meetings.

The Annual Action Plans will form the basis for annual monitoring and review by Sligo County Council, in partnership with County Sligo Heritage Forum.

At the end of the strategy period, an evaluation of implementation of the strategic objectives and key priorities will be undertaken.

**Appendices**

**Appendix 1** Membership of County Sligo Heritage Forum (2023)

**Appendix 2** Timetable for the preparation of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy

**Appendix 3** Relevant Heritage and Biodiversity Policy

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