

## **Laois Heritage Plan Projects 2002 - 2006**

The Laois Heritage Plan was launched in February 2002. Following is a list of projects undertaken under this plan, from 2002 to 2006. Further information on many of these projects is available on [www.laois.ie/heritage](http://www.laois.ie/heritage), or from the Laois Heritage Officer, Catherine Casey, phone 05786-74348, e-mail [ccasey@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:ccasey@laoiscoco.ie).

### **Year 1. 2002**

#### *Heritage Council-funded*

- Microfilm of burial register and part of Poor Law Union material
- Multidisciplinary graveyard seminar for all management committees, FAS supervisors, Council staff, Parish Councils with follow up information provided in newsletters and on the website.
- Poster of types of archaeological sites found in Laois, to raise awareness of monument types.
- Two pilot village design statements (Clonaslee and Durrow).
- Audit of one town for wildlife present (Mountmellick), undertake enhancement and awareness raising programme.
- Pilot study on incorporating heritage considerations in Tidy Towns 5 year plan (Borris in Ossory).
- Annual day seminar on best practice and recent projects.
- Promote heritage appraisal of appropriate plans and provide training for staff.

#### *Other Projects*

In addition to these specified actions from the Heritage Council, the following actions were undertaken to deliver the Heritage Plan.

- Folklore project with Arts Office
- Tidy Towns Federation Judging
- Arranged for the cataloguing and transport of the Bannon collection of artefacts from the Infirmary Building.
- Commissioning of “Laois Heritage” information stand for Exhibitions
- Laois County Museum Feasibility / Development Plan for the Fort of Maryborough
- Reports for St Peter’s graveyard Portlaoise (Community grant from the Heritage Council)

### **Year 2. 2003**

#### *Laois Heritage Plan Projects*

- Survey of Industrial Heritage (Laois Heritage Plan Action 4.4)
- Heritage Interpretation seminar (Laois Heritage Plan Action 8.7)
- Laois Style Heritage Sign Design (Laois Heritage Plan Action 8.8)
- Laois Heritage Trail Upgrade – signs and leaflet (Laois Heritage Plan Action 13.8)
- Contribution to Laois Tidy towns judging (Laois Heritage Plan Action 8.6)
- Archive Shelving installed at Laois County Archives Facility (Laois Heritage Plan Action 3.2)

- Transfer of Laois County Council Cemetery Records to CD Rom (Laois Heritage Plan Action 3.4)

#### *Other Projects*

- Clonenagh Graveyard and St Fintan's tree Project
- Cultural Landscapes project
- Reminiscence and Social history training for community groups
- Poster and Calendar of Laois Monuments
- Launch of Interim Survey of Architectural Heritage of Laois
- Give a Hoot About Wildlife Exhibition
- Exhibition Stands
- Launch of Laois Heritage Society Journal
- Abbeyleix Fountains leaflet and launch

### **Year 3. 2004**

#### *Laois Heritage Plan Projects*

- A study of sustainability options for Laois Museums (Laois Heritage Plan Action 1.2)
- Training for best practice in hedgerow management, in preparation for introduction of Golden Mile competition (Laois Heritage Plan Action 9.5, 9.9)
- Seminar on best practice in heritage management of Laois and recent projects of the Laois Heritage Plan (Laois Heritage Plan Action 10.2)
- Pilot study to examine best practice in social history recording through different media and with differing groups (Laois Heritage Plan Action 8.6)
- Support for community heritage awareness through Laois Federation of Tidy Towns (Laois Heritage Plan Action 8.6)

#### *Other 2004 Laois Heritage Office Projects*

- Laois Natural Heritage Poster
- Laois Heritage Postcards
- Garden Heritage of Laois Brochure
- Laois Heritage Trail
- “Know your County” Tour
- 2005 Laois County Council Calendar “Laois Built Heritage”

### **Year 4. 2005**

#### *Heritage Plan Projects*

- Habitat survey, Laois Heritage Plan Action 8.2
- Mills Survey, Laois Heritage Plan Action 4.4
- Memorials Recording Project, Laois Heritage Plan Action 4.3, 13.2
- Esker survey, Laois Heritage Plan Action 8.14

- Raise awareness: Radio three slots, Laois Heritage Plan Action 13.2, 9.7, 8.10
- Raise Awareness: Laois Heritage Seminar , Laois Heritage Plan Action 10.2
- Laois Hedgerow Survey, Laois Heritage Plan Action 9.5
- Golden Mile Competition, Laois Heritage Plan Action 9.6

*Other projects*

- Conservation work at Durrow Courthouse
- 2005 Laois County Council Calendar “Laois Natural Heritage”
- Publication of Poster: “Laois Built Heritage”
- Canon O’Hanlon Centenary Celebrations
- Launch of Laois Heritage Trail
- Pride of Place Competition
- Heritage Appraisal of draft Laois County Development Plan
- Laois Federation of Tidy Towns Competition, in co-operation with Laois County Council Environment Section
- Slieve Bloom Eco-node project

**Year 5. 2006 (Underway)**

*Heritage Plan Projects*

- Habitats survey (Stage II), Laois Heritage Plan Action 8.2
- Habitat Map Digitisation, Laois Heritage Plan Action 8.2
- Audit of biological datasets, Laois Heritage Plan Action 8.10
- Survey of dry Canal Route, Mountmellick Branch, Laois Heritage Plan Action 12.1, 8.13
- Production of Midlands Heritage Radio pieces (with Westmeath & Offaly County Councils), Laois Heritage Plan Action 4.9, 7.2, 8.10, 13.8
- Survey of traditional crafts in Laois and Offaly (with Offaly County Council), Laois Heritage Plan Action 11.1
- Laois Golden Mile competition (with Laois LEADER), Laois Heritage Plan Action 9.5
- Heritage awareness & needs survey (with Offaly County Council)

*Other projects*

- Conservation work at Durrow Courthouse
- Pride of Place Competition
- Slieve Bloom Eco-node project