

Laois Heritage Plan 2002 – 2006

The aim of Laois Heritage Forum is to promote an awareness and understanding, leading to a greater appreciation and ownership, of the built, natural and cultural heritage of the county, through the implementation of specific actions to optimise the unique character of County Laois.

A Partnership Heritage Plan for County Laois

Áras an Chontae
Portlaoise

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Chairman's Address

County Manager's Address

Introduction

The Heritage Act, 1995, defines national heritage as including monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks, inland waterways. The Laois Heritage Forum has also taken folklore and folklife and crafts into account.

This Laois Heritage Plan, developed by the Laois Heritage Forum, co-ordinated by Laois County Council, is the first Heritage Plan in County Laois and in Ireland. It signals a new approach nationally, to look at the individual needs of each county and to draw up a work plan that responds to these. This reflects the growing appreciation of the importance of heritage as an integral part of the county's development. Until now, care of heritage in County Laois has occurred through different agencies, interest groups and individuals but there has been no attempt to look at the range of issues on a county basis. The Laois Heritage Forum, established by Laois County Council in 2001, brings a wide spectrum of interests and backgrounds together to produce the Laois Heritage Plan.

This plan sets out to be a proactive document, to work with the constantly evolving dynamic of the county. Today in County Laois, there is an unprecedented level of development and hand in hand with this is the increasing awareness of quality of life as a major strength of the county, self esteem and a desire to promote the county as a tourist destination. We strongly support the development of the county, and recognise the need to ensure that a concern for all aspects of our heritage is integrated into planning at an early stage in order to ensure that heritage protection and enhancement is an integrated part of all development.

The Laois Heritage Plan is a framework for the whole county and will form an important part of the Laois county Strategy being prepared by the County Development Board. The plan has many implications for Laois County Council and when adopted by the Council will be implemented by the Council in a meaningful and planned manner.

The focus of the Plan is on gathering information, making it available to the public, raising awareness, working with communities, providing mechanisms for facilitating and enabling stakeholders in heritage to take care of it. Community development, partnership and working with the voluntary sector are central to the Plan. The key to caring for and appreciation for our heritage is to have knowledge, understanding and concern for it. There are already a number of agencies that provide capital grants for development of physical projects. The Plan focuses on raising awareness of the structures already in place.

The Plan set out to be realistic 5 year plan. The work listed below is aimed at being completed over the period 2002 – 2006. The plan is specific which will allow for monitoring and evaluation of progress, thus providing an opportunity to adapt the plan on an ongoing basis.

Key issues that provide the setting of the plan are;

1. **The National Heritage Plan** is being prepared by the Department of Arts, Heritage Gaeltacht and the Islands which reflects recognition at a national level that heritage is important as an integral part of our development.
2. **Local Agenda 21** An increasingly important role is emerging for the issue of sustainability, which was signed up to by world leaders at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. LA21 provides an opportunity for people to think through priorities for their local area and to establish action plans and work towards them. County Councils are in the process of formulating Local Agenda 21 plans.
3. **The National Biodiversity Plan** is currently being prepared by Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and Islands and is due for publication late 2001. It is likely that there will be requirements for counties to address biodiversity in their own areas. Local Biodiversity Plans would be a sub section of the County Heritage Plan.
4. **Laois County Development Plan.** The Laois County Development Plan is a statutory plan, which consists of a written statement and accompanying maps. It includes policies, statements and objectives for the County at large and for specific major settlements.
5. **Laois County Development Board** is developing a county wide cross agency County Strategy setting out a vision for the next 10 years. The Heritage Plan is a sub section of this County Strategy.
6. **Landscape Character Assessment.** In June 2000, the Department of the Environment wrote out to all County Councils to classify landscapes in their area with guidelines for Landscape Character Assessment. This is considered to be a strategic and pragmatic set of data to collect, which should provide key information for the development of County Laois.
7. **The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage** for County Laois, carried out by Duchas, is due to be published in autumn 2001. This will provide a detailed list of buildings some of which the Minister will recommend to become protected structures. This is a major step for architectural conservation in County Laois.
8. **Relationship to the Arts Office, Laois County Council.** Through discussions with the Arts Office a division was made between the performance of the arts and collecting data and folklore associated with the performance of the arts in times past.

Objectives and Actions

The following section sets out the objectives and actions. The actions fall under three main types, collecting information, making information available to all and providing guidance for project planning. Through these the sense of place and self esteem of the County will be given a focus.

1. Objective – To Develop a Sustainable Museum Service

At present, County Laois has 6 museums / heritage centres. This section looks at how we can provide support and lay the basis for a sustainable museum service. A county museum would be designated to hold and collect artifacts from the National Collection which are currently stored in the National Museum of Ireland.

	Action	Proposed Partners
1.1	Feasibility Study on developing a County Museum and its links with the present museums	Laois County Council, Heritage Council
1.2	Provide ongoing support for museums / heritage centres already open.	Laois County Council, Irish Museums Assoc. Heritage Council, Laois LEADER
1.3	'Running a Museum on a Shoestring' Course	Abbeyleix Heritage House, Laois LEADER, Laois County Council, Heritage Council
1.4	Access advice for groups and individuals planning to open museums	Laois County Council, Laois LEADER, Irish Museums Assoc.
1.5	Purchase items necessary for county collection	Laois County Council,
1.6	Keep relevant collections in the County where appropriate	Community Groups, owners of collections Laois County Council
1.7	In the absence of a designated repository in Laois (see Cultural Institutions Act 1997), all archaeological objects that come to light should, by law, be deposited with the National Museum, as they belong to the State. (Under the National Monuments Amendment Act 1994).	National Museum of Ireland, finders of objects

2. Objective – To Have Improved Access to the Genealogy Records in Laois

In 1982, the Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society (OHAS) became the designated genealogy centre for Counties Laois and Offaly and they have been inputting records for both counties since then. The physical records remain in County Laois but the computerised version is with the OHAS

	Action	Proposed Partners
2.1	Explore options with the Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society for better access to the records in Laois and Offaly	Laois County Council, OHAS, Laois Heritage

3. Objective - To Establish and Maintain a Permanent County Archive in County Laois

Under the 1994, Local Government Act, section 65, County Councils are required ‘to make arrangements for the proper management, custody, care and conservation of local records and local archives and for inspection by the public of local archives.’ Laois County Council has commenced work on a temporary archive and is planning a permanent archive. At present, Laois County Council shares an archivist with Offaly, Westmeath and Longford County Councils.

	Action	Proposed Partners
3.1	Appoint a fulltime archivist to oversee and maintain archives services and public outreach	Laois County Council ,Dept of Environment
3.2	Provide a building for storage of archives as a temporary reserve, including equipping it to BS 5454 standards	Laois County Council, Dept of Environment
3.3	Provide a permanent county archive in Laois	Laois County Council, Dept of Environment
3.4	Microfilm of burial registers and part of Poor Law Union material	Laois County Council, Parish Councils
3.5	Listing and arrangement of key Laois collections, with a view to microfilming them	Laois County Council, Laois Heritage, Heritage Council, Owners of Collections, Slieve Bloom Association
3.6	Purchase items of archival interest for the county archive	Laois County Council

4. Objective – To Maintain the Archaeological Sites of County Laois

The Archaeological Inventory of County Laois was completed and printed by Dúchas in 1995. A total of 1052 sites are listed. It is not a definitive list and new sites are added regularly. Its main focus is on pre 1700AD sites. Unlike protected structures, the owners of the sites are not notified directly and may be unaware of what they have on their land.

	Action	Proposed Partners
4.1	Provide contact point in Laois for information	Laois County Council
4.2	Multidisciplinary Graveyard Seminar for all management committees	Laois County Council, Dúchas, Laois Heritage, FAS

4.3	Ongoing advice for graveyard committees	Laois County Council, Dúchas
4.4	Record key Laois industries, interviews, photographs, archives	Laois County Council Laois Heritage
4.5	Summarise research done on post 1700AD sites to inform decision on action needed. (Pre 1700AD surveyed by Dúchas)	Laois County Council, Slieve Bloom Dev. Assoc., Laois Heritage, Community /Development Groups.
4.6	Information evenings for hill walkers to help identify archaeological sites in Slieve Blooms	Laois County Council, Slieve Bloom Rural Dev., Laois Heritage, Slieve Bloom Association, Dúchas, Coillte, Laois Sports Partnership,
4.7	Investigate options for notifying landowners if they have a National Monument site on their land	Dúchas, Laois County Council
4.8	Work with Teagasc to provide information for REPS participants (eg not to fence off sites)	Teagasc, Dúchas, Laois County Council
4.9	Raise awareness of monument types	Dúchas, Laois County Council, Development / Heritage Societies, Schools, Laois Tourism

5. Objective – The Forum supports Dúchas in its policy of Conservation and Preservation of the Rock of Dunamase

	Action	Proposed Partners
5.1	Continue to influence Dúchas and the Department for the consolidation work to be completed on the Rock by Dúchas	Laois Heritage, Laois Tourism, Laois County Council,
5.2	Publish information booklet about the site for visitors	Dúchas
5.3	Prepare Visual Impact Statement for Rock	Laois County Council, Dúchas, Heritage Council, Local Community

6. Objective – To Preserve the Architectural Character of County Laois

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for County Laois, carried out by Dúchas, is due to be published in autumn 2001. This will provide a list of buildings, some of them will be recommended by the Minister to become protected structures. This list is an interim measure and not all properties have been covered. This will have an immediate impact and a conservation officer will be needed to deal with the increased work load.

	Action	Proposed Partners
6.1	Appoint full time conservation officer	Laois County Council Dept of Environment

6.2	Identify and list and protect all buildings of merit.	Laois County Council, Dúchas
6.3	Draw up a database of owners of protected structures	Laois County Council
6.4	Annual seminar on care of protected structures	Laois County Council, Laois Heritage, Irish Georgian Society,
6.5	Update database on any new information / booklets / seminars	Laois County Council
6.6	List protected structures on Laois web site	Laois County Council
6.7	Promote the Architectural Conservation Areas	Laois County Council
6.8	PR on key issues such as render and sash windows – Windows Exhibition	Laois County Council An Taisce, Irish Georgian Society
6.9	Produce external design guidelines for new houses including promotion of modern architecture where appropriate.	Laois County Council, Dept of Environment, Development Associations, Heritage Council
6.10	Guidelines on siting of houses in the landscape	Laois County Council Heritage Council
6.11	Carry out village design statements	Community, Laois County Council, Tidy Towns
6.12	Carry out and integrated area plan for the development of historic Portlaoise	Laois County Council, Dúchas, Heritage Council

7. Objective - To Quantify the Asset of Heritage Gardens and Parks in County Laois and to Understand their Needs

The first step in this area is to find out the existing situation, having collected the data, the situation can be reviewed.

	Action	Proposed Partners
7.1	Survey county to establish the range, number and types and their needs	Laois County Council, Heritage Council, Gardens of Ireland
7.2	Public talk on gardens of Laois to raise awareness	Gardening Societies, Laois County Council,

8. Objective – To Maintain and Enhance the Landscape Quality of County Laois

Whether we are reviewing, promoting or marketing County Laois for inward investment, a place to live or a place to invite tourists to, the landscape is a key influencing factor. This section focuses very strongly on how the landscape will evolve in the coming years and sourcing information to inform decisions.

	Action	Proposed Partners
8.1	Carry out landscape character	Laois County Council, Dept of Environment,

	assessment of County Laois	Heritage Council, Coillte, Bord na Mona, Forest Service, Laois LEADER
8.2	Parish Natural Heritage Survey to collect baseline information on habitats	Laois County Council, Communities, Heritage Council
8.3	Explore uplands management options for the Slieve Blooms to ensure the area develops as vibrant and sustainable	Landowners, Teagasc, Slieve Bloom Rural Dev, Slieve Bloom Association, Laois & Offaly County Councils, Communities, Laois LEADER, Farming Organisations, Dúchas, Coillte
8.4	Audit two towns for wildlife present, carry out enhancement and awareness programme	Heritage Council, Laois County Council
8.5	Seminar for Tidy Towns re incorporating wildlife	Laois Tidy Towns Federation, Laois County Council
8.6	Ongoing support for Tidy Towns through the Federation of Tidy Towns	Laois Federation of Tidy Towns, Dúchas, Heritage Council, Laois County Council
8.7	Course for local interpretation options	Laois LEADER, Laois County Council, East Coast and Midlands Tourism
8.8	Research, list and erect plaques for appropriate historical / noteworthy sites	Laois Heritage, Laois Tourism, Laois County Council, Dúchas
8.9	Pilot the ECO golf idea	Laois Tourism, Golf Course Owners, Laois County Council
8.10	Promote awareness of SACs, SPAs, NHAs and importance of biodiversity	Dúchas, Laois County Council
8.11	Promote the concept of conservation plans	Laois County Council, Heritage Council
8.12	Promote enhancement as planning condition	Laois County Council
8.13	Explore suitable sites for developing greenways	Communities, Laois County Council, Heritage Council,
8.14	Survey the ridge esker from Tullamore to Portlaoise and make proposals for its preservation	Laois County Council, Offaly County Council, Geological Survey of Ireland
8.15	Audit of County Council property and the heritage responsibility of same	Laois County Council
8.16	Increase access to heritage sites by lobbying for changes in the public liability laws.	Laois County Council, Heritage Council, Farming Organisations, Development Associations
8.17	Explore options of conserving one raised and one blanket bog for preservation.	IPCC, Bord na Mona, Laois County Council, Coillte, Dúchas
8.18	Establish research project to survey natural regeneration of cutaway and cutover bogs, establish permanent	Bord na Mona, IPCC

	monitoring stations, examine future options for cut away	
8.19	Highlight the necessity of a National Fen survey.	Dúchas, Bord na Mona, Teagasc, IPCC
8.20	Recommend adoption of list of fens in County Development Plan	Laois County Council
8.21	Examine areas of raised and blanket bog in Coillte land in Slieve Blooms that may be suitable for restoration projects.	Coillte
8.22	Monitor developments that affect blanket bog - watching brief.	IPCC, Laois County Council
8.23	Survey the remnants of raised bogs around the cut away	IPCC, Dúchas, Bord na Mona
8.24	Carry out desk survey of all paleoecological studies.	Laois County Council, Heritage Council
8.25	Promote the Neighbourhood and Native Woodland Schemes	Forest Service, Laois County Council, Tree Council of Ireland

9. Objective – To Recognise and Value Hedges and Verges as an Integral Part of the Landscape

One of the key features that shapes the landscape in County Laois is the predominance of hedges and to a certain extent they have been taken for granted.

	Action	Proposed Partners
9.1	Provide training for hedge cutters and contractors	Crann, Laois County Council, Farming Organisations, ESB, Teagasc
9.2	Provide training for farmers	Teagasc, Farming Organisations., Crann
9.3	Replant native / local species as part of road widening projects	Laois County Council, NRA
9.4	Maintain or replace hedges / walls where possible as part on new development	Laois County Council, Developers
9.5	Promote the Golden Mile competition	Laois LEADER, Crann, Laois County Council
9.6	Carry out a hedgerow survey in County Laois	Laois County Council, Heritage Council, Crann, Irish Wildlife Trust
9.7	Advertise in local papers and radio in autumn to start hedge cutting 1/9 and be finished by 1/3	Laois County Council
9.8	Pilot areas of hedge laying	Laois Tidy Towns Federation, Crann, Laois County Council, land owners
9.9	Set best practice examples of hedge management	Laois County Council, Laois Tidy Towns Federation, Crann, Farming Organisations, ESB

10. Objective – To Establish a Reservoir of Folklore / Folklife Material which Reflects the Character of the Area

This is an area which attracts great interest but there has been little overall co-ordination. In order to do this, the information already gathered and best practice needs to be established. The type of information would include placenames, storytelling, style and diction etc

	Action	Proposed Partners
10.1	Survey what has been collected to date	Library Service, Laois Heritage, Slieve Bloom Rural Dev. Association. Folklife Department UCD, Local Communities
10.2	Examine best practice on collecting data through different media	Library Service, Laois Heritage, Slieve Bloom Rural Dev. UCD, Slieve Bloom Association, Local Communities
10.3	Create awareness of importance	All Partners

11. Objective – To Identify, Preserve and Maintain the Crafts of the County

	Action	Proposed Partners
11.1	Establish what materials crafts and skills were traditional and examine mechanisms to preserve same.	Library Service, Laois Heritage, ICA, Development Associations

12. Objective – To Value and Protect our Inland Waterways/ Railways

	Action	Proposed Partners
12.1	Preserve the dry canal route from the Grand Canal to Portarlinton and onto Mountmellick	Laois County Council, Waterways Ireland, Heritage Council, land owners
12.2	Monitor the pilot study on inland waterways corridor planning undertaken by Galway and Offaly Co. Council	Laois County Council, Waterways Ireland, Communities

13. Objective – To Make Heritage Accessible to the Public and to Promote Best Practice

Many of these actions focus on trying to provide contact points between communities and agencies to develop improved working relations. These are in addition to the actions above. The use of IT should be developed and good PR and information must be advocated to communicate effectively.

	Action	Proposed Partners
13.1	Appoint a full time heritage officer	Laois County Council, Heritage Council
13.2	Provide link to information and	Laois County Council

	agencies through Heritage Office	
13.3	Promote Heritage in Schools Programme	Heritage Council, Laois County Council Development Associations,
13.4	Press for extension of Heritage Panel for the Schools programme to be made available to other groups at Parish level	Heritage Council, Laois County Council
13.5	Have heritage related material including this Plan on the web site	Laois County Council
13.6	Annual day seminar on best practice and recent projects	Laois County Council and relevant agencies
13.7	Seminars on specific themes for target audiences in heritage venues where possible	Laois County Council and relevant agencies
13.8	Encourage visits to County Laois sites by Laois people 'Get to Know Your County'	Laois Tourism, Laois Heritage, Laois County Council
13.9	Promote Heritage Appraisal of appropriate plans. Provide training for staff.	Laois County Council and relevant agencies

Statement of Strategy

This section addresses how the Laois Heritage Plan will be delivered. It is a countywide Plan with many partners responsible for implementing it. Laois County Council is a key partner and the heritage officer will in many cases act as co-ordinator for projects. It is important to recognise that this is a new approach and this is the first time that a County Heritage Plan has been developed. Therefore there will have to be a certain amount of flexibility in the implementation as the new structure is teased out.

Timeframe

The Plan lays out actions for the five year period, 2002 - 2006. Each year a detailed work programme will be drawn up from the actions in this Plan when the annual budget is confirmed. The annual work plan will detail the projects proposed for the year, the partners, timeframe and the body responsible for delivery. The Heritage Forum will propose the annual programme in agreement with all partners.

Finance

A budget of £500,000.00 (excl. staff costs) is estimated for the delivery of the actions over the five years. The aim is to build up to an annual budget of £100,000.00.

1. The Heritage Council has agreed in principle to look at the Plan as a comprehensive five year application for funding. The levels of funding projects will be consistent with their normal funding criteria.
2. Laois County Council is considering an allocation of £20,000.00 as a minimum contribution needed to secure the Heritage Council funding.
3. The Department of Arts, Heritage Gaeltacht and the Islands is aware of the preparation of the County Heritage Plans nationally but has no allocation as yet to support them. The preparation and provision for County Heritage Plans is a commitment in the current Programme for Government.
4. The commitment of other key partners will be dependent on their annual funding allocations and their remit.

Partners

The partners listed are proposed partners. As the time frame is not confirmed, many organisations cannot be sure if they will have funding to participate at a certain time. As the work programme for each coming year is agreed, commitments will be obtained from relevant partners. The lead partner will be highlighted in each project when the priorities are agreed.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Draft Laois Heritage Plan lays out the framework of actions for the 5 year period. The annual work programme will detail the projects to be undertaken by the partners for each year. The annual work programme will be monitored by the Laois Heritage Forum and progress will be evaluated at regular intervals. The primary indicator will be the completion of the actions and the extent to which they contribute to the achievement of the related objective.

Appendix - Process of Formulating Plan

The process for developing the County Laois Heritage Plan 2002 – 2006 was informed by the guidance set out in ‘A methodology for Local Authority Heritage Officers for the Preparation of County Heritage Plans’ as produced by the Heritage Council 2001.

1. 17 April 2001, Laois Education Centre. First meeting of Laois Heritage Forum. Introduction by Paddy Mathews, Heritage Council, Michael Malone, County Manager, Laois County Council and Amanda Pedlow, Heritage Officer. Discussion and agreement by the Forum on how the process would proceed.
2. 22 May 2001, Laois Education Centre. Presentation by Dermot Mulligan, Laois LEADER and Ciara Farrell of County Development Board on research carried out to date. It was decided to break up into three working groups to develop objectives and actions.
3. 6 June 2001, Abbeyleix Heritage House. Museums, Archives, Genealogy, Folklore, Folklife, Craft working group.
4. 13 June 2001, County Hall. Archaeology / Architecture working group. Camin O’Brien from Dúchas attended.
5. 14 June, 2001, Poets Cottage, Camross. Landscape, Geology, Inland Waterways, Flora, Fauna, Wildlife Habitats working group.
6. 22 June 2001, Kinnity Castle. Joint Laois Offaly information session on Landscape Character Assessment and Conservation Plans
7. 28 June 2001, Oisín Park, Killeslin. All the objectives and actions of the working groups were brought back for discussion by the whole group.
8. 30 July 2001, Ballaghmore Castle. Objectives and actions were put into a framework with partners. Additions and recommendations were made. Budgeting and priorities were discussed. Forum view that €100,000 would be needed for implementation of the plan per annum, index linked.
9. Public Consultations were held in the 5 electoral areas from 22nd to 30th August in Borris in Ossory, Mountmellick, Emo, Pedigree Corner and Portlaoise. An average of 15 – 20 people attended each meeting. Views incorporated into the draft Plan
10. 10th September 2001, SPCs discussed draft Heritage Plan and 24th September, Laois County Council adopted draft Heritage Plan
11. October November 2001, 6 weeks public consultation, Forum incorporated amendments and County Council adoption of final plan
12. Launch of Plan – Spring 2002

Membership of Laois Heritage Forum

1	Cllr Jerry Lodge	Chair Housing & Culture SPC, Laois County Council Chair Laois County Development Board
2	Eric Lewis	Member of Community Forum, Laois County Development Board
3	Teddy Fennelly	Laois County Development Board
4	Andrew Murray	Planning, Laois County Council
5	Martina Bracken	Environment, Laois County Council
6	Noreen Byrne	Laois Federation of Tidy Towns
7	Dermot Mulligan	Laois LEADER Rural Development Company
8	Mary Lalor	Laois Heritage Society
9	Mick Dowling	Slieve Bloom Rural Development Association
10	Andy Cole	Laois Tourism
11	John Finlay	Farming Interest
12	Tom Egan	Bord na Mona
13	John Prior	Coillte
14	Con Maloney	Teagasc
15	Amanda Pedlow	Laois Offaly Heritage Officer

Consultees

Members of the following are represented through the Forum

Laois County Development Board
Community Forum,
Laois County Development Board
Teagasc
Bord na Mona
Coillte
Laois Heritage Society
Laois Tidy Towns Federation
Laois Tourism
Laois LEADER
Slieve Bloom Rural Development
IFA

Presentations to

Laois County Council
Portlaoise Town Commissioners
Mountmellick Town Commissioners
Laois Heritage Society
Slieve Bloom Rural Development
Slieve Bloom Association

Documents Consulted

Laois LEADER Area Based Community
Development Plans
Laois County Development Board
research
Laois – J. Feehan
Laois Rural Regeneration Partnership
Document
Heritage Council Plan 2001-2005

Groups Consulted

An Taisce
Birdwatch Ireland
Crann
Dúchas
Irish Peatland Conservation Council
Inland Waterways Association of Ireland
Laois for Investment
Laois Environmental Awareness Group

Public Meetings

Mountmellick
Borris in Ossory
Pedigree Corner
Gandon Inn
Portlaoise

Glossary

BSBI	Botanical Society of British Isles
SAC	Special Area Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
NHA	National Heritage Area
OHAS	Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society
IPCC	Irish Peatland Conservation Council

List of Relevant Heritage Legislation

Heritage and Planning Legislation

The Local Government (Planning and Development Acts, 1963-2000).
The Heritage Act, 1995.

European Planning Legislation

EC Directive 85/337/EEC - re EIS.

Archaeology and archaeological objects

National Monuments Act 1930 and subsequent amendments of 1954, 1987 and 1994.
National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997.

Built Heritage

The Local Government (Planning and Development Acts, 1963-2000).
The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Act (NIAH), 1999.

Natural Heritage

The Wildlife Act, 1976.
Wildlife Amendment Bill, 2000.
EU Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC), 1979 (ratified 1985).
EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC), 1992 (ratified 1997).

Heritage Objects / museums and archives

National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997.

Landscapes and heritage gardens and parks.

The Local Government (Planning and Development Acts, 1963-1999).
Planning and Development Bill 2000.

International Conventions

General

Unesco Convention for the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (ratified 1992).

Archaeology

European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention), 1997.

Architecture

European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention), 1997.

Burra Charter

Natural

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention), 1979.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), 1979.

Agreement on Conservation of Bats in Europe (Bonn Convention), 1993.

Conservation of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), 1971.

Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), 1974.

Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) (Bonn Convention), 1996.

International Tropical Timber Agreement 1994, (1996).

Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, 1995.