

# Conservation Plan

An Mhí, agus An Bhóinn,  
Caomhnú, Athchóiriú, a chaomhnú



Meath, Kildare, Fingal and the Boyne  
Conservation, Restoration, Preservation  
Meath, Fingal, Kildare Development plans & Tara Skyrne Landscape Project.



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- 1) Newgrange, Photograph taken from the “sunbox” at Dawn at Imbolc 2008, Brides day (February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008)
- 2) Hogg’s Fall, on the Boyne River.
- 3) Bridget’s cross

## **Introduction.**

A Conservation Plan is a vital instrument to help conserve, restore and preserve any area which contains natural landscape, fauna, wildlife, ancient monuments, built heritage and dwellings which are considered to be of special interest, and of value to the local community and nation they reside within. Heritage therefore is also recent heritage, which in Ireland's case also includes areas which were associated with the rise of Ireland as a Republic, its modern birth of a nation. Architectural styles since 1916 and 1919 have of course changed and evolved and the modern built environment has included buildings now listed as protected structures.

Conservation plans can take many styles and formats, or mix them all, and the method chosen in this instance is a Conservation plan as story. This does preclude any other style and Conservation plans are meant to be flexible, and can of course include all styles or a mix of styles. The reasons for choosing this method of delivery arises, as it is impossible to deliver a conservation plan unless vast changes are made to planning, heritage and applications for planning within Ireland.

A Conservation plan seeks to prevent the following;

“Recording was seen as a punishment for bad applicants, rather than a beneficial process that could avoid damage to sites. Sites were being recorded because they were being damaged, not before they were damaged”<sup>1</sup>

Part of the problem which gives rise to this unfortunate situation is described as follows;

“There are two ways of seeing a Conservation plan. The first view sees Conservation Plans as nothing new; that this is an approach which is already well established, whether in the form of landscape restoration plans, countryside management plans, archaeological assessments, conservation area management appraisals, audits, environmental impact assessments, cultural mapping, building recording strategies, and museum object documentation or as World Heritage site document plans”<sup>2</sup>

“The second view sees Conservation planning as an area where the different heritage professions have been growing both complacent and isolated from each other, an area where heritage managers, architects, countryside managers, archaeologists, museum curators, ecologists, and others have different approaches, often to the same site”<sup>3</sup>

A third part of this problem is also given;

“A Conservation plan sets out why a place is significant and how that significance will be retained in any future use, alteration, development and management. The Conservation Plan process begins with understanding the site and moves logically through an assessment of significance, to understanding how that significance might be vulnerable and thus what policies or guidelines are needed to retain that significance”<sup>4</sup>

**“The conservation plan can be the first stage of a Management plan, but not vice versa”<sup>5</sup>**

Therefore a heritage plan and a management plan are secondary to making a Conservation plan; a conservation plan is produced first, and must include all stakeholders and concerns, as it is public property.

Therefore what is a conservation plan and what is not a conservation plan ?

## **A Conservation Plan**

### **Definitions**

“A Conservation plan is a process that seeks to guide the future development of a place through an understanding of its significance”<sup>6</sup>

“A Conservation Plan is something of a paradox. It must have a Scholarly basis yet be prepared in a commercial context, they should not include proposals for specific items of new work, but instead set out the policies that will be used to guide decisions”<sup>7</sup>

“At its simplest, a conservation plan is a document that sets out what is significant in a place and, consequently, what policies are appropriate to enable that significance to be retained in its future use and development”<sup>8</sup>

### **Unesco’s definition**

Ireland joined Unesco on 3 October 1961, it defines conservation as follows (first 7 articles only, please see the endnote 9 for full text)<sup>9</sup>

### **Convention Concerning the Protection of the Worlds Cultural and Natural Heritage**<sup>10</sup>

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization meeting in Paris from 17 October to 21 November 1972, at its seventeenth session,

Noting that the cultural heritage and the natural heritage are increasingly threatened with destruction not only by the traditional causes of decay, but also by changing social and economic conditions which aggravate the situation with even more formidable phenomena of damage or destruction,

Considering that deterioration or disappearance of any item of the cultural or natural heritage constitutes a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all the nations of the world,

Considering that protection of this heritage at the national level often remains incomplete because of the scale of the resources which it requires and of the insufficient economic, scientific, and technological resources of the country where the property to be protected is situated,

Recalling that the [Constitution](#) of the Organization provides that it will maintain, increase, and diffuse knowledge, by assuring the conservation and protection of the world’s heritage, and recommending to the nations concerned the necessary international conventions,

Considering that the existing international conventions, recommendations and resolutions concerning cultural and natural property demonstrate the importance, for all the peoples of the world, of safeguarding this unique and irreplaceable property, to whatever people it may belong,

Considering that parts of the cultural or natural heritage are of outstanding interest and therefore need to be preserved as part of the world heritage of mankind as a whole,

Considering that, in view of the magnitude and gravity of the new dangers threatening them, it is incumbent on the international community as a whole to participate in the protection of the cultural and natural heritage of

outstanding universal value, by the granting of collective assistance which, although not taking the place of action by the State concerned, will serve as an efficient complement thereto,

Considering that it is essential for this purpose to adopt new provisions in the form of a convention establishing an effective system of collective protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value, organized on a permanent basis and in accordance with modern scientific methods,

Having decided, at its sixteenth session, that this question should be made the subject of an international convention,

Adopts this sixteenth day of November 1972 this Convention.

## **I. DEFINITION OF THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

### **Article 1**

For the purposes of this Convention, the following shall be considered as "cultural heritage":

monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view.

### **Article 2**

For the purposes of this Convention, the following shall be considered as "natural heritage":

natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of outstanding universal value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view;

geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation;

natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.

### **Article 3**

It is for each State Party to this Convention to identify and delineate the different properties situated on its territory mentioned in Articles 1 and 2 above.

## **II. NATIONAL PROTECTION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

### **Article 4**

Each State Party to this Convention recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage referred to in [Articles 1](#) and [2](#) and situated on its territory, belongs primarily to that State. It will do all it can to this end, to the

utmost of its own resources and, where appropriate, with any international assistance and co-operation, in particular, financial, artistic, scientific and technical, which it may be able to obtain.

#### **Article 5**

To ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory, each State Party to this Convention shall endeavor, in so far as possible, and as appropriate for each country:

1. to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes;
2. to set up within its territories, where such services do not exist, one or more services for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage with an appropriate staff and possessing the means to discharge their functions;
3. to develop scientific and technical studies and research and to work out such operating methods as will make the State capable of counteracting the dangers that threaten its cultural or natural heritage;
4. to take the appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures necessary for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of this heritage; and
5. to foster the establishment or development of national or regional centres for training in the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage and to encourage scientific research in this field.

#### **Article 6**

1. Whilst fully respecting the sovereignty of the States on whose territory the cultural and natural heritage mentioned in [Articles 1](#) and [2](#) is situated, and without prejudice to property right provided by national legislation, the States Parties to this Convention recognize that such heritage constitutes a world heritage for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to co-operate.
2. The States Parties undertake, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, to give their help in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage referred to in paragraphs 2 and 4 of [Article 11](#) if the States on whose territory it is situated so request.
3. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes not to take any deliberate measures which might damage directly or indirectly the cultural and natural heritage referred to in [Articles 1](#) and [2](#) situated on the territory of other States Parties to this Convention.

#### **Article 7**

For the purpose of this Convention, international protection of the world cultural and natural heritage shall be understood to mean the establishment of a system of international co-operation and assistance designed to support States Parties to the Convention in their efforts to conserve and identify that heritage.

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The United Nations also defines preservation and restoration by using intrusive and protective techniques. The definition helps to minimise intrusive techniques and suggests that intrusive techniques are actually unnecessary as do all of the definitions above.

“ In general terms, conservation may be defined as the operations which together are intended to prolong the life of an object by forestalling damage or remedying deterioration”<sup>11</sup>

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Therefore, destroying a site or intrusively damaging a site cannot be a part of a conservation plan, and preserving an historic site by record is also not a part of archaeology or historic management. Preserving a site by record is not a classification of conservation and is illegal.

## **Conservation plan in brief.**

A conservation plan is a plan to manage an area's significance not a plan to manage a commodity. It is not a development plan, a management plan, a feasibility study, a condition survey, an annual inspection, or an archaeological summary or investigation.

It must include the following topographical and measured surveys

**1) Magnetometry**

**2) Resistivity**

**3) Magnetic susceptibility**

**4) Magnetic scanning**

**5) Metal detection**

**6) LIDAR**

**7) Hydrographical surveys (rivers and sea)**

**8) Laser Scanning Surveys (to produce 3D models)**

**9) GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) is a non-intrusive method of examining the sub-surface prior to excavation.**

A further survey, which must also be undertaken, is

**10) Geomantic.**

(as examples) Ecoarc <http://www.ecoarc.co.uk/geomancy.html>

Alanna Moore (Living architecture centre) <http://www.geomantica.com/aboutgeo.htm>

As we search for sustainable ecofriendly surveying techniques, all conservation plans should include a Geomancy survey. Since many historical groups and spiritual communities regard many archaeological areas as an inherent part of their spiritual beliefs, then as stakeholders, they must be recognised, and conservation plans must recognise them, as must the law and commercial business.

**11) Arborist surveys** (tree health and safety) with **Forestry Silviculture** surveys, that will focus on maintaining and restoring (especially) Oaks, Hazel and Ash and deciduous trees of all kinds including fruit and berry. This should be completed to the exclusion of non – national pines which are polluting the soil with its needles, killing flower, fauna and with rain run off polluting rivers and fish. Arborist surveys should include, Individual Tree Reports, Tree Hazard Surveys, Tree Health and Condition Surveys, Road and Street Tree Surveys, Wind-Throw Risk Surveys.

Forestry services such as the Woodland league should be consulted as soon as possible, as this left unchecked is a national agricultural emergency.

<http://www.woodlandleague.org/>

**12) Environmental Impact Studies.** Currently in Ireland the EU has ruled that all EIS reports carried out in Ireland have been carried out in error, and need to be reviewed and done again. This has massive implications.

**13) Astronomical Surveys, including Astro-Archaeological surveys.**

<http://www.mythicalireland.com/>

A recognition that megalithic (and indeed many buildings from the middle ages up to today) structures do carry a very sophisticated astro-archaeological design in its build and philosophy

Whilst a full archaeological survey of Ireland is taking place (see above) it is reported that many important sites are not included or have been missed, whilst some appear on earlier Ordnance Survey maps and then in more contemporary maps they have been left out. <http://www.osi.ie/>, whilst many institutions (including our national Universities) and individuals complain when they apply for certain maps they never receive them.



<http://www.archaeology.ie/ArchaeologicalSurveyofIreland/>

All sites of importance must be included.

In order to fulfill a complete picture, all archaeological sites and their location should be ascertained by consulting with local people, local historical groups, local libraries, academic universities and all ancient documents and archaeological evidence, in short the full historical record to include folklore and written and oral traditions in living memory.

## Archaeological area(s)

### What is an archaeological area and why is it important.

Stonehenge is an area that covers 6,500 acres of ground. European legislation states that work must not come within 500 meters of an archaeological site, which is within ¼ of an Irish mile.

With 700 sites at Stonehenge, and with Stonehenge at its centre, circling out to its outer edge (of the recognised 700 sites) its outer edge, must then also comprise a 500 meter buffer zone, with no works coming within ¼ mile of any of the archaeological sites from its outer edge. This means that one site is linked to its neighbour and so on making an archaeological area. Even if the site is not a world heritage site or protected area, linked sites must be recognised as being linked. In many cases ¼ mile may not be enough in any case as areas of natural outstanding beauty naturally preclude a road or industrial site, within its view.

### Does this distance apply in Ireland

The National Roads Authority in Ireland, have recognised this distance, within its own published documents.

National Roads Authority <http://www.nra.ie/>

And publications <http://www.nra.ie/Publications/> (and go to archaeology tab)

(And then) “Archaeology and the M3 - The M3 Clonee to North of Kells Motorway, Archaeology Information Series, National Roads Authority and Meath County Council, July 2005. This publication is available for downloading from the dedicated M3 website” - [please click here to access the M3 website.](#)

It states;

**“The pink route passes very close (450 meters) to Skreen to the Zone of Archaeological protection around Skreen”**

To locate this quote;

**This quote is taken from “M3 CLONEE TO NORTH OF KELLS MOTORWAY; ARCHAEOLOGY INFORMATION SERIES ” (scroll down a quarter of the page)**

*“The M3 Clonee to North of Kells Motorway, Archaeology Information Series, National Roads Authority and Meath County Council, July 2005. The publication has been divided up into the following documents: To view PDF documents you will need to [download Adobe Reader](#) from the Adobe website”.*

Please turn to “M3 section 2” and download (above) and at 2.2.1 page 2/5 “Pink route 1”, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph from the bottom.

This recognises that outside of the Zone of Archaeological protection (itself a considerable distance) **450 metres** is still too close to the hill of Skreen. Therefore, this route was rejected by distance, and was chosen to forgo one route, but ignored in choosing another. ?

Therefore, the Blue route was chosen although it is itself less than ¼ mile to the hill of Tara, and flouts EIS rules, in that it is clearly visible at Blundestown roundabout and Rath Lugh from the hill of Tara, flouting the EIS environmental impact report, which itself has been ruled to be carried out incorrectly and would make the visibility of the road even more illegal if carried out as per European legislation.

Further the blue route passed over the graves of the United Irishmen buried at the outer edge of the hill of Tara and also through Rath Lugh (the Rath of the Druids) which this same report describes as, either;

“cropmarks in the form of an enclosure and adjacent field system in Ross (RMP ME038-001 AND 002)” (in 2.2.1 Blue route 2 para) or  
“Due to a large spur of land to the north of Skreen” (para before 2.2.2 Pink route versus Blue route).

Therefore the whole of Lismullen was surveyed and the Rath of the Druids (Rath Lugh) would have been noticed ahead of any excavations. The Rath was removed from the Ordnance survey records many years before following a survey carried by Elizabeth Hicks, when it was listed as the Rath Lugh of the Druids.

Just how visible it would have been was the subject of a High Court injunction, which after granting a hearing, failed in the High Court following a hearing before Ms Justice Mary Lefoy. Thursday, 13 March 2008 Record Number 2008 1957P <http://www.indymedia.ie/article/86665>

Ms Justice Lefoy gave leave to appeal the hearing to the Supreme Court, and there are still many reasons to do so, not least that **no correct EIS report or Conservation plan was enacted**. A basic survey of the area is available to view here <http://www.sacredireland.org/rathlughsurvey.pdf> or here <http://www.pdfgeni.com/book/Peadar-pdf.html> (see Rath Lugh Independent Survey, scroll down)

Today the Rath of the Druids is still venerated as is the Bridget’s well on its slopes, as well as having pilgrimages in living memory, it has also seen recent pilgrimages and Bridget herself has been seen, both at Rath Lugh and Kildare. Pilgrimages to Skreen from St Bridget’s at Rath Lugh, well also existed and still exist, and vice versa.

This is recorded by the Tara Skreen Preservation group in their Unesco submission (page 12 in link below)

<http://www.savetara.com/>



[http://www.savetara.com/statements/TSPG\\_Submission\\_to\\_Tara\\_Landscape\\_Project.pdf](http://www.savetara.com/statements/TSPG_Submission_to_Tara_Landscape_Project.pdf) (page 12)

Minister John Gormley placed a protection order on a part of the Rath of the Druids (Rath Lugh), but not its full area. Initially providing protection like a cloak of protection, invoking Bridget’s cloak, which was laid out before sunset on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and brought in the following morning, and was used as a symbol of protection, it also symbolised the returning strengthening Sun.

However, in this instance and 5 months (approx) after the protection order was initiated, when the feast returned on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, the protection order was ignored and it only covered a small area of the ancient, documented Rath at one of Ireland’s most sacred sites. (it so later transpired, although this is a nonsense and a contrived way of saving face, when its wider borders could have been stipulated)

Stitching a cloak of 500 metres or more (500x500, for example) would constitute an archaeological area of sufficient proportions. A cloak or protection order is not just the broach or the fastening but the entire cloak.

Minister John Gormley opposed the High Court emergency injunction action to protect the Rath and Well, after placing a protection order upon it

## **Stonehenge as an archaeological area**

“ Together, Stonehenge and its landscape represent an incomparable testimony to prehistoric times.

The significance of the World Heritage Site and its outstanding universal value are further detailed in the Management Plan. To protect such a wealth of archaeological features, the Stonehenge World Heritage Site covers more than 2,600 hectares (6,500 acres) of chalk downland and mixed arable fields, extending from Larkhill to Lake in the Woodford Valley and from Amesbury to Longbarrow Crossroads.

### **Did you know?**

The Stonehenge World Heritage Site contains 415 scheduled monuments.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.8674>

### **Stonehenge (c. 3,000-1,600 BC)**

- 1st phase – earth monument - circular bank and ditch (c. 3,000 BC)
- 2nd phase – timber monument (c. 2,900 to 2,600 BC)
- 3rd phase – stone monuments (c. 2,500 to 2,000 BC) – bluestones and larger sarsens re-arranged in several phases. Abandoned after 1,600 BC.
- The tallest stone is 7.3m high and weighs over 45 tonnes. It is one of the 5 sarsen Trilithons. The sarsen circle was originally composed of 30 uprights (each weighing about 25 tonnes) capped by horizontal lintels (about 7 tonnes). The bluestones, weighing up to 4 tonnes each, came from the Preseli Hills in Wales, some 240km away.

### **Neolithic and Bronze Age Monuments**

- Other key monuments include the Stonehenge Avenue (c. 2,500-1,700 BC and 2.5km long), the Cursus (c. 3,600-3,400 BC and 2.7km long), Woodhenge (c. 2,300 BC), and Durrington Walls (c. 2,500 BC).
- The Stonehenge World Heritage Site (WHS) contains more than 350 prehistoric burial mounds. These include 10 Neolithic long barrows, the rest are Bronze Age round barrows. The key barrow cemeteries are Normanton Down, King Barrows, Cursus Barrows, Winterbourne Stoke, Wilsford and Lake Barrows.
- Altogether, the WHS includes more than 700 known archaeological features (including find spots), of which 415 are protected by scheduling within 180 scheduled areas ”

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.20466>

## **Essentials of a Conservation Plan ?**

Plan accords with international practice deriving from the ICOMOS *Burra Charter* and the principles developed by James Semple Kerr. It reflects the established processes of Conservation Plan preparation and the short, medium and long-term dynamics of a management cycle.

These aims can be defined as a series of objectives, which are specifically linked to the requirements of the Plan as identified in the Heritage Council brief:

- Identify and explain why the site - and its various component elements and setting - is significant.
- Provide guidance on the day-to-day operation of the property.
- Serve as a baseline from which to evaluate the impact of new, specific proposals or developments.
- Indicate how that significance is vulnerable to change or damage.
- Set out the management interests of all the stakeholder organisations. Make recommendations for strategic management changes.
- Devise a set of policies for managing and developing the site, insofar as possible, in harmony with its significance.
- Provide full consultation with the stakeholders, with consideration for their concerns and interests.

<http://www.kilkennyarchaeologicalsociety.ie/conservationplanfulltextPT1.htm>

It can be further summarised as follows.

1. Understanding the site
2. Assessment of significance
3. Issues and Vulnerability
4. Conservation policy
5. Implementation

### 1. Understanding the site

Analysis of fabric (buildings, landscape, archaeology), documentary research, architectural history, archaeological understanding.

### 2. Assessment of significance

The values that make the site important, architecturally, historically, ecologically, archaeologically, socially, spiritually, educationally, to be community based.

All of the above must explain how these values relate to the surviving fabric.

### 3. Issues and vulnerability

An assessment of the way in which significance could be vulnerable e.g.

Management structure, physical condition, legislation and regulation, lack of appropriate use, changing conservation policy, damage (inc vandalism, and contractors), conflicts between types of significance, lack of understanding of the site.

#### 4. Conservation policy

Policies or guidelines for retaining the sites significance in any future use, alteration, repair, or management.

They might include; Philosophical basis for conservation, protection of particular elements of the building or site, definition of repair priorities, identification of appropriate uses security experiments.

#### 5. Implementation.

Explains how the organisation responsible for the site will put the plan into operation e.g.

Identification of responsibilities, procedures for ensuring new work is in accordance with the plan.

Without all of the above a conservation plan cannot be called a conservation plan, and it must be participatory (include all stakeholders) as a right within legislation.

This requires legislation in place to enact a conservation plan, Ireland currently does not have that required legislation, and the misunderstanding of just what a Conservation plan actually is, and its need to preserve that new understanding in legislation, as a first step before a development plan has led for some groups to call for a change in the law.

<http://www.tarawatch.org/>

[http://www.tarawatch.org/?page\\_id=836](http://www.tarawatch.org/?page_id=836)

## **What is the significance of Meath, Westmeath, Kildare and the Boyne river**

Most people today think of the Boyne will automatically think of Bru na Boinne (Newgrange) which translates as the *Palace of the Boyne*, and they will automatically think of the battle of the Boyne.

Yet the most distinguishing feature of the Boyne or An Bhóinn, or Abhainn na Bóinne, is itself as a river over 112 kilometres or 70 miles in length. Abhainn or river is also a name attributed to its deity in megalithic times.

Bru na Boinne also includes Knowth and Dowth within its area as a Unesco World heritage site, and is an Archaeological area by definition. (note it is more than 500 meters or ¼ of a mile between these sites), and there are over 40 sites within its World heritage site area status.

Although these are very significant places and events in Irish history and the history of the Boyne, they are 5000 years apart in their origins.

5000 years is a long time, and yet there is evidence that links the Boyne with older settlement than Bru na Boinne, which is itself older than the Pyramids of Egypt along its famous Nile River, with its flood plains that rise and fall to give life.

The Boyne also marks the battle of the Boyne a battle which on one level was fought between Roman Catholics and Protestant dissenters, but also on another level (across both sides) a battle between older ideas of the world and a awakening towards a newer renaissance. Both sides arguing they were leading that renaissance.

At the heart of identifying the significance of the Boyne River is this misinterpretation of the old and the new, and it also the centre of the problem without adequate and correct Conservation plans to help develop that significance.

To take an example Bru na Boinne (Newgrange) was excavated from 1961 to 1975, by Micheal J O'Kelly, who realised that Newgrange or the home of Aoengus, son of the Dagda of the Tuatha De Danaan, was a construct celebrating a wider religion. He also listened to local folklore, which was a compilation of beliefs, of living memory, within also living memory

It was widely believed that the Sun on the Winter Solstice entered the chamber of Bru na Boinne and illuminated it. Okelly was the first person to see this phenomenon in 5000 years (or so), and excavations revealed this local folklore and living memories was correct<sup>12</sup>.





Newgrange as it looks today



Newgrange is one of four (main) passage tomb sites in Ireland (the others are Brú na Bóinne, Carrowkeel and Carrowmore and Lough Crew Passage Tomb (or in As Gaelige *Sliabh na Caillí* in Westmeath ). Martin Brennan in 1980 published his book<sup>13</sup> which shows that Cairn T in Lough Crew aligns with the autumn and spring equinoxes, as well as other alignments in Knowth and Dowth

Martin Brennan was guest of honour at the recent “Boyne Valley revision conference” held at the Newgrange lodge in December 2009.

<http://www.mythicalireland.com/theboynevalleyrevision/>

A message concerning the significance of Newgrange and Loughcrew promoted the conference.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdHnMpFa\\_Ns&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdHnMpFa_Ns&feature=related)

The connections between Newgrange and Loughcrew are shown in longer and greater detail.

Cairn L Loughcrew <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SF8k6kCtBs&feature=related>

Cairn T Loughcrew <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yKJUFU7BXo>

It is interesting that the House of Aoengus, (Newgrange) son of the Dagda a keeper of Swans, also a part of ancient Irish texts relates the story of the pursuit of Diarmuid and Grainne which went as far as Sligo in Connaught. Near this area are the famous Cairns of Carrowkeel which are older than Newgrange and one of the Cairns at Carrowkeel also contains a “roof box” for the Sunlight exactly as Newgrange does.

Clearly in living memory, ancient manuscripts and archaeological evidence across Ireland these ancient megaliths are linked and are not houses of the dead (passage tombs) but multiplex’s of various significant uses. Both in time, over thousands of years and over vast areas of land in Ireland sophisticated instruments of solar observation practiced from these larger megaliths existed, as well as from the vast number of lesser (in size only) sites spread across the nation.

After 5000 years Newgrange as a Solar timepiece is only now 4 minutes out of time. This accuracy is truly impressive when we consider our own modern day efforts at timekeeping, and given the rotating axis of the earth’s orbit which causes variation over thousands of years.

Experiments with atomic clocks set together, with one remaining on earth and the other taken into orbit in space around the earth, resulted in different times when the second atomic timepiece was returned. Yet on earth together they remained constant over the same time period. This makes Newgrange even more impressive.

### **What is the connection to Newgrange, Bru na Boinne and Meath and the River Boyne. What is their significance?**

Bridget’s feast is traditionally the 1st/2nd of February, and traditionally it is known as Imbolc in the eight fold Celtic year, which has Four main feasts, Beltane, Lughnasagh, Samhain and Imbolc. Samhain for example is now sometimes called all souls or hallow eve for example, and is celebrated on 31. October every year.

February 2nd is also the time to plough the fields which are wet but lacking frost, it is also the time that the Winter Sun reborn at the Winter Solstice in late December first begins to thaw the soil, and spring returns.

Bridget was also associated with Fire, as the Goddess of Fire, and unusually as the Goddess of the Sun, many hymns in Christian churches are known to the “Queen of Heaven” as Mary Mother of God, and these Hymns have their root in Brid or Bo or Bui which is a name echoing the river Boyne (Boann who gave her name to the river Boyne was Bridget’s mother) in County Meath, which was always considered as a Royal river. River Boyne and Knowth <http://www.knowth.com/aerial/knowth-boyne-700.jpg>

Bo in Irish means “cow” Bo Finne, White Goddess, and the Goddess, the sacred river rolled away into the horizon. In Meath it rolled from its source in Kildare at Neachtain’s (or just near the Well) Well in at the hill of Carbury, [http://www.themodernantiquarian.com/site/8314/carbury\\_hill.html](http://www.themodernantiquarian.com/site/8314/carbury_hill.html) all the way to Drogheda coastline where the Sun in the East would rise in the morning, and at night the stars and the Milky Way would appear, and cows giving milk was considered a sacred drink to Celtic tribes.

Following the river Boyne from its source in Carbury, leads you past many ancient sites including Tara, Knowth, Dowth, Newgrange and into “Inbher Colptha” or Baileys strand in Drogheda made famous by William Butler Yeats play of the same name. Today this is a pilgrimage as it always was for thousands of years.

Brid or Bo was also associated with Healing, Poetry, Metalwork (three aspects of the triple Goddess) or Smithy, divination and prophecy, a Goddess who brings out dreams and where the inner world and outer world are the same at once.<sup>14</sup>

Her three sons Brian, Iuchar, and Iucharba gave rise to tribes not only in Ireland but also in Britain, and throughout Europe, \* interestingly they are also the same three names of the sons of the Goddess Danu, who is also known as Anu and the Morrigan\*

It is speculated that Bridget, the Morrigan and Danu are the same (the three one and the same), to

explain this Bridget is the Goddess of war (the Morrigan) but she is also the Goddess of medicine and healing (Bridget), Danu was the river Goddess, and her associated animals are the cow, hare, snake and White mare. Here she has similarities with Epona the Celtic Goddess who is carved on the chalk hills at Uffington in what is known today as "Oxfordshire" or actually Albion when "Ceridwen" a Welsh Goddess assumed the form of a white mare. Interestingly a 200 foot statue of a white mare is to be erected in Kent. A horse of metal exists (of similar height) outside of Glasgow.

Brigit was daughter of the Dagda, Druid to the Tuatha De Danaan, whose wife was Boand.(Boyne) Bridget was also one of a set of triplets, and Aoengus mac Og (from W.B. Yeats poem "The Song of a Wandering Aoengus") was her brother. This is why she is sometimes associated with the White Swan also Oengus or Aoengus was the keeper of Swans, and Cygnus the star constellation of the Swan is associated with Tara and other Celtic site such as Glastonbury Tor.

The Tuatha De Danaan are named as one of the five tribes of ancient Ireland, and who are, it is said to have arrived in Ireland in county Leitrim. It is written that the Tuatha De Danaan also settled what is today known as Britain.(which would have had Welsh as it's native language.). This suggests a West - to - East migration of the Celts, (not East to west) as Ireland's ancient constructions are older than Britain's (Scotland of course not being Britain). Later, these tribes would of course have also returned back to Ireland. One may travel into the rising sun around the globe or into the setting sun following either way (and meet in the middle perhaps !)

In the Welsh tradition Aoengus mother was "Rhiannon", (Boann, Boyne) who was made famous or rather popular by Fleetwood Mac who had a song by that name. Boann and Rhiannon are one and the same it is also safe to say, yet ---- (and we may mention "Q and P Celtic") <http://www.maryjones.us/jce/qceltic.html> and how the language separated with minor differences, Q Celtic being "Irish" and P Celtic "British" ) ---- whilst Bridget is associated with both cow (bo) and mare, the "british" tradition (Brigantes) links her closer to the white mare. Ancient texts state that the Tuatha De Danaan came to Ireland via Greece from Southern India where the Ganges is of course a sacred river, and a giver of life's milk. Hindus regard Cows as sacred to this day.

Soldiers who fought for her formed themselves into Brigades, and her British name was given to her from the Romans as Brigantes, or Brigantia as they simply could not pronounce Celtic words. This has given rise to controversy of a separate identity for "British Celts" when Roman systems of naming tribes are employed to describe a less unified status than indigenous "Celtic" tribes would have seen. The Romans also wanted geographical identity distinctions to divide and conquer Celtic tribes. Brigantes was simply our Irish / Welsh Celtic tribes of Bo and White Mare (River)

In brief all of the areas of these Islands would have spoken a form of as gaelige, into Breton and wider. The same tribes which built Stonehenge and Carnac are the same as those who built Carrowkeel and Orkney.

To read more of the basic aspects of Brigit, read the basic aspects of Brigit's history here <http://www.druidry.org/obod/deities/brigid.html>

In our modern country of Ireland Bridget is still revered, and at the beginning of February people still make a "Bridget's cross" from dried leaves. Ireland's early Brigades (watch the film The Wind that Shakes the Barley) were named after her and were inspired by her, and it is a little known fact that almost simultaneous to the formation of the Citizens army of James Connolly, before of course the 1916 rising in Dublin, (1913) the Cumman na Bhan (league of woman) formed Brigades as part of the military strategy of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, as a part of the Irish Volunteers. They continued with a hard-line stance after the 1916 rising.( and today)

<http://www.triskelle.eu/history/cumannnamban.php>

<http://www.irishdemocrat.co.uk/features/de-valeras-betrayal/women-of-1916.jpg.html>

The Art Nouveau movement is directly inspired by this Celtic renaissance, as was the Arts and Crafts movement.

Brigid's flame was an inspiration to these brigades, it was originally tended by nineteen virgins in pre-Christian days and by nuns in later Christian days. As such it brought a purity and a fire that inspired

“brigades” in all Celtic countries from Ireland, Celtic Britain, to Brittany, France Gaul and Spain and beyond. However Brigid was also was the sister to Aoengus Og the God of love.

Ireland’s most sacred site and royal residence was of course Tara, known throughout the Celtic world and Irish Diaspora. Many Brigit’s wells surround the ancient city which has over 200 main sites throughout county Meath in Ireland. Its most revered is situated less than a mile away at an ancient fort known as the Rath of the Druids. (Lismullen)

Today (as then) many cultures regard Tara as a central place in the world, a place that is sacred and certainly so the Irish.

Today a motorway is being driven through this area and has desecrated the fort of Rath Lugh, in part although in part (over part of it ) a protection order was placed. Yet this protection order is being ignored, please see the related indymedia sites at the end of this introduction. It is symbolic of how Ireland in seemingly disconnected events is being destroyed. A world heritage site must undo this road area, and any submission must reflect this requirement.

The area in Tara in question is displayed in this article <http://www.druidschool.com/site/1030100/page/809109> note the fifth road or gold road, which leads down to Rath Lugh/Druids and Lismullen (and towards Opus dei which is near the site of the “henge”), between the Rath of the Druids (Rath Lugh) and Tara runs the new motorway, and into the Valley of the Gabhra, the valley of the Goddess.

In and around Tara (a Heritage site known the world over) and in part protected by Unesco (although this has not stopped the road passing through the “World Heritage Area” Unesco area, a small part of the total area it should actually cover.

Tara has over 200 sites covering an area from Kildare in the South, up to Louth and beyond in the North. There has been a media blackout on this destruction of which 60 sites similar to Newgrange have already been destroyed by Bulldozers and tarmac. Even within Ireland this is not well known, burial areas and burial sites have been bulldozed through and bones have been strewn everywhere (ancient graves) even the graves of the United Irishmen who fought for Ireland in 1798 have been bulldozed through. All of this within 40 minutes drive of the capital and the government. Bodies have been exhumed and removed and have not been returned.

As mentioned one site, (Rath Lugh or the Rath of the Druids) one of the seven defensive sites around Tara has been bulldozed in part, and has been described as one of the most important Archeological discoveries of the century was bulldozed away and tarmacked over.

This site known as the “Henge” (next to Rath Lugh, at Lismullen) was in fact one of the earliest Astronomical time clocks ever discovered and was used to calculate Sun, Moon and Venus movements as well as charting the Suns movements through the various ages, from Taurus, into Aries into Pieces and (if in use) into Aquarius.

It alone shows us that early man and early civilizations were advanced further than we were 150 years ago.

Early Christianity from as early as 140 ad (and earlier) settled sporadically in this area, most likely coming from Egypt (as with St Anthony) to Ireland, and their Christianity was not that of “St Patrick” or of “St Columba” (of Iona) but a much different version than we have today.

What is a Celtic Cross ?, what is an ancient civilization doing calculating fine points of the Universe before Galileo (who lived in the middle ages) in Ireland thousands of year before the “enlightenment”. We would find it difficult to construct those “tombs” even today and they are as accurate as they were 6000 years ago.

The book of Kells displays Druidical Celtic knot work around its pages and they tell a story in themselves. St Columba who professed to be a Druid got into a copyright dispute over the book, and many similar books were most likely compiled before the book of Kells (which is a town only 15 miles away), in the preceding three centuries. The borders of Celtic knot work tell a story like Egyptian hieroglyphs tell a story, and has been placed into a animated film the “Secret of Kells”

In Drogheda from Inbher Colptha (named from Colptha the Milesian hero close to bailes strand) in mid Eastern Island, as the Sun rises you can follow a straight line through Slane, through this (now destroyed) Henge near Tara and onto to Croagh Patrick in Mayo and at Caher Island behind Croagh Patrick which was originally a pilgrimage to Lugh and before this Crom Dubh ( it is of course a place of pilgrimage even today).

Early Christians knew this, they knew of earth energy lines and built their churches on top of them,

why ? because early Christianity knew of the divine feminine as did the “Judised, Pauline type” of Christianity, and Roman Christianity was late on the scene in Ireland, as was Palladius and “St Patrick”. We do not hear sermons preached on earth energy lines, yet many preachers use a compass when hill walking or mountaineering. (It always points North, and yet we take this for granted). Like Oisín in his dialogue with St Patrick (who was not Ireland's first Christian) neither convinced the other, but at least Oisín travelled to both Tir Na Óg and Ireland, (and therefore could assess both) before returning to the much changed nation, which had diminished into patriarchy.

Drogheda at this ancient site of Yeats play (near bailes strand) the Irish government have planned to build a deep water port.? <http://www.indymedia.ie/article/92550>

A great book on this subject (of the ancient monuments and the Tara city complex) is available entitled Island of the Setting Sun <http://www.mythicalireland.com/iotss/island-of-the-setting-sun.php> by Anthony Murphy and Richard Moore, who also display their book on Mythical Irelands <http://www.mythicalireland.com/><sup>15</sup>

Local historian Sean Gilmartin, and also the Meath Archaeological and Heritage Society <http://community.meath.ie/mahs/index.php> have researched this subject in depth.

What is interesting and very significant concerning Tara, Meath and Bru na Boinne, is the relationship between Myth and story, and Myth as a code to tell another story, in this case the myth as astronomical story. Yet it is unsettling to many that the myth and story surrounding the Boyne seems to have developed to such an extent and its culture became so sophisticated (even beyond what our modern science can perceive or achieve) that the myth, the code and real people became entwined into one. This is unusual and its significance cannot be undervalued or left to chance.

Whilst there have been many “Bridget's” throughout Pagan and Christian history there is always an originator of the name, and in Ireland it is likely to have originated around the Boyne or close to it. The Tuatha De Danaan after arriving in Ireland moved eastwards, even into the land we now know as Britain, and the tribes of Danu would have valued water, lakes and rivers as sacred and practically for reasons of health would have maintained anu or abhainn (aine) along its whole length.

Tara is also a journey and was mapped as such. At the mound of the hostages, which is called Duma na Giall, it has a orthostat which can be observed through the gate.

This is a stone map which is lit on both February 2nd at Imbolc, and on Samhain November 1<sup>st</sup>, by the sun and moon, and is an astronomical wonder (given it is older than the pyramids) The stone orthostat comes alive in moon light and sunlight and maps the immediate surroundings and wider area and also maps it astrologically, and in inner thought.

This is displayed to full effect in the following Anam Tara video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBdJKLrEYFO>

Like wise the Boyne is a pilgrimage and Bridgit associated also with Faughart in Louth, as Ireland has had many “Holy Woman” and female warriors.

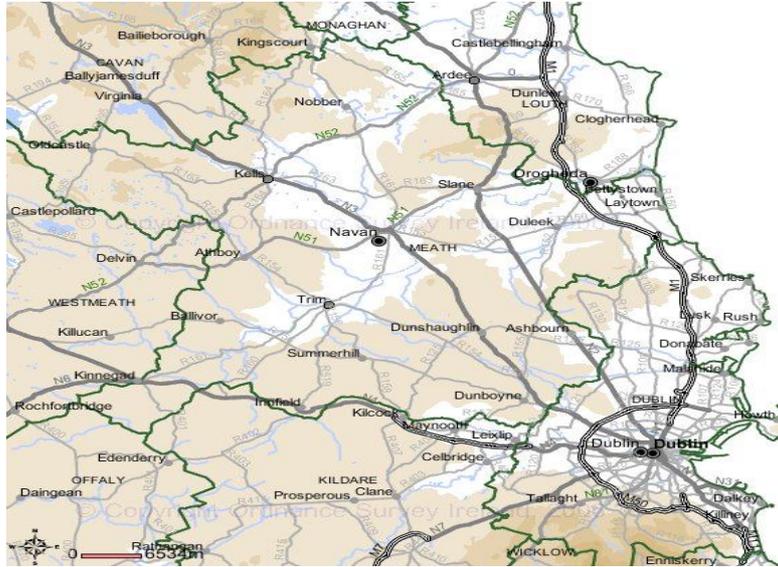
This is reflected in the enormous numbers of settlements of outstanding interest along its banks. Mother Goddess, associated with magic cows and flowing milk, and yet today the Boyne is polluted by works and industry as the road building continues.

The source of the Boyne is still considered a Holy Place, below are maps taken from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

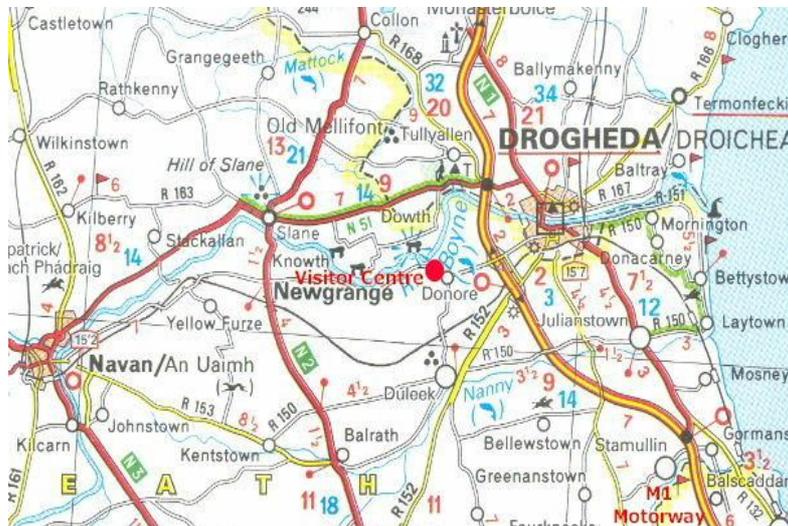


Carbury Hill (OS Ref (IE): N685348 / Sheet: 49.  
 Latitude: 53° 21' 32.33" N and Longitude: 6° 58' 15.71" W) is close to Trinity Well, the source of the River Boyne that runs by Brú na Bóinne. Known as the well of the Blessed Trinity, and Nechtains well it is situated to the South East of the picture (lower right, red circle) where the Boyne first begins to rise. To the west, where it eventually flows through Meath and into the sea at Drogheda. The Barrows at Carbury date to the Bronze age, although this is a conservative dating estimate, as the Boyne would have been revered all through Irelands settlement, an attitude extending back to before the settlements at Carrowkeel in County Sligo, which are older than Bru na Boinne.





Map(s) showing the full length of the Boyne



The Sun rises at Drogheda, at the mouth of the Boyne.

The Four maps above display the length and breadth of the Boyne as it winds its way into the sea from its source in Kildare.

Annually Kildare Town hosts the Feile Bride, A Spiritual and cultural annual event

<http://www.solasbhride.ie/events/previous-events/41-feile-bride-2010>

From Kildare (and Uiesneach, Irelands centre, not very far away) all the way to Drogheda, including Westmeath, Lough Crew, Four Knocks, Tara, onto Bru na Boinne along the river Boyne you will find, the Universe mapped out on the earth by the megaliths, natural landscape and streams and tributaries of the Boyne itself. The river runs into the Milky way, and a marker to Orion, is the Northern cross constellation, just as Deneb the brightest star marks the cross in the constellation Cygnus, or the Swan constellation, as the Dagda was a keeper of Swans, so to today that tradition rolls on to our modern Swans.

It is very significant.

Cygnus Enigma

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ubif9jLPxUY&feature=related>

## Conclusion (& Summary, following)

Heritage in Ireland took a leap forward with the Ancient monuments act of the 1880's

<http://www.jstor.org/pss/25507943>

This was improved and enlarged in 1930, with the National Monuments act of 1930, enacted at the time of Eamonn Develra, O'Higgins and Cosgrave and this act was superseded by the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004*, which includes provisions for the partial or complete destruction of National Monuments by the Government.

This is against any Conservation plan. It is against Conservation, Preservation & Restoration, and therefore against heritage and culture. A Conservation plan must precede heritage, and development plans, and their protection in law if violated must be a criminal offence.

A list of some of the heritage cases since 2004 are listed here

<http://www.ucc.ie/law/irlii/index.php> and here <http://www.nuigalway.ie/law/GSLR/1998/case7.html>

How the National Monuments act of 1930 – 2004 <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1930/en/act/pub/0002/index.html>

was removed from the Statutes without referendum or public consultation is given in this simple timeline below and followed on from court cases (replaced by the the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004*)

A simple timeline (supplied by Indymedia)

”1) FF dropped the Heritage Portfolio in 2001.

2) Martin Cullen abolished Dúchas in 2003- leaving the Irish people with no statutory agency to implement the National Monuments Act.

3) In 2004 the NMA was amended to allow for 'Preservation by record' of National Monuments within 28 sitting days of the Oireachtas- or the 'Granting of Unreviewable discretionary powers to the sitting Minister of the Environment.

4) The Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) 2002 Act allowed Gardai and contractors sweeping powers in relation to protest (including impounding of vehicles).

5) and the SIB finished the thing off , by allowing for a re-structuring of the Irish courts and Planning System which reduces citizen say and ameliorates the crony developer role.”

<http://www.indymedia.ie/article/85637>

Further to this the European Courts have ruled that a typical EIS (Environmental Impact Study) was carried out illegally and without due care. Since it is typical it means that all EIS studies have been incorrectly carried out, and must be redone and new conclusions drawn.

Here is one current example, Abbeydrive Development Ltd -v- Kildare County Council. Supreme Court <http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2010/0301/1224265369809.html>

The *National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004* is against the Irish constitution and against natural law, and is illegal, and is subservient (as any executive should be) to the rulings in *Mc Garry v Sligo*

County Council 1983 No 4846P, in which a partly destroyed National Monument had to be restored as was.

Further the Burren action group, Supreme Court Victory over the Government, is a re-enforcing of the McGarry Sligo case.

Protecting these areas by direct action resulted initially in many arrests, yet the way legislation was removed by stealth, which had formally protected these areas and the fact the European Union had cited the M3 road as illegal, gave a valid cause and motive for direct action. Subsequently all those arrested were deemed to have been arrested illegally and were exonerated in court. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3RzPO71txs&feature=player\\_embedded#!](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3RzPO71txs&feature=player_embedded#!)

Further many Garda and Ban Garda confided in the Tara protestors that they were against the road (and roads), preferring different routes or widening of the existing road with high speed train links. Many contractors and members of the judiciary and legal establishment also confided that they were against the road.

However even without these court cases the Constitution and common sense must prevail.

One further problem, even with a full and proper Conservation Plan, with correct Environmental Impact Studies supporting it, concerns the level of workmanship which then follows any projects implementation.

Please see the following video, which highlights the lack of skills required for heritage restoration and preservation.

### **Skellig Michael: The Fabrication of History**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpXgBveqjY>

This a Unesco World heritage Site and a recent fall by an American Woman to her death at the site highlights the problems we face in heritage.

The problems of poor workmanship are not purely the office of public works fault as the onus is on the department of the environment and the government to provide training and funds, to allow superior craftsmen to be trained up within the office of public works. Even then they cannot be expected to work to a plan which has not been drawn by a supporting Conservation Plan, with correct and legal Environmental Impact Studies.

A newly formed group the Tara Skryne Preservation Group has outlined the need for protection of the entire area

Although the area of Tara Skryne is outlined, the Boyne flows through this area, and both its source and its exit into the sea must also be protected, as well as its entire length, as this area map is trying to achieve.

[http://www.meath.ie/LocalAuthorities/Planning/TaraSkryneLandscapeProject/File\\_41572.en.pdf](http://www.meath.ie/LocalAuthorities/Planning/TaraSkryneLandscapeProject/File_41572.en.pdf)

Tara Skryne Protection Group have submitted outline plans and documents and reports as follows.

<http://www.meath.ie/LocalAuthorities/Planning/TaraSkryneLandscapeProject/>

A conservation area to protect its heritage old and new is being sought, and as with all preservation areas a correct conservation plan and EIS supporting statements must underpin it.

## **Examples of Conservation plans**

### St Marys Norfolk

[http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Publications/Archaeology/St\\_Mary\\_s\\_Conservation\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/Archaeology/St_Mary_s_Conservation_Plan.pdf)

### Henrietta Street, Dublin

[http://www.dublincity.ie/SiteCollectionDocuments/plean\\_caomhantais\\_shraid\\_henrietta\\_street\\_conservation\\_plan.pdf](http://www.dublincity.ie/SiteCollectionDocuments/plean_caomhantais_shraid_henrietta_street_conservation_plan.pdf)

Maurice Craig was a former employee of Dublin City Council and his book (a true individual's pursuit of heritage protection), points out that Conservation must come first, and you will note that the Conservation plan here is an action following on from the heritage plan, instigated by the development plan. Conservation plans must arrive first or exist in order to shape the development plan.

A example of this is the Meath heritage plan. Why for example has a wider plan to plant oaks all along the existing scar from Dublin up to Derry, intensive, close together and with a supporting sixty year plan not been included.

[http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/fileadmin/user\\_upload/heritageplans/Meath\\_Heritage\\_Plan\\_07-11.pdf](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/heritageplans/Meath_Heritage_Plan_07-11.pdf)

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“The heritage plan is not a policy document and does not contain land use policies which would effect development. The Heritage plan will seek to compliment the development plan, and other statutory plans through the collection of relevant Data, and by undertaking actions which ensure heritage policy is properly implemented”

“It is an objective of the County Meath development plan 2007 -2013 to prepare and implement a five year heritage plan.”

Clearly in the understanding of European legislation, United Nations directives and correct procedures for Conservation plans, this is putting the cart before the horse. Minister John Gormley has stated Development in and around the existing M3 motorway (itself illegal) should be non-existent, in that it is in breach of heritage, conservation and UNESCO guidelines.

## **Further examples of Conservation plans**

Bere Island County Cork [http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/fileadmin/user\\_upload/heritageplans/bere\\_plan.pdf](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/heritageplans/bere_plan.pdf)

This is a heritage plan not a Conservation plan, although it has much to commend it.

### Rochester Castle

[Conservation Plan: Understanding and significance](#) (pdf 9,336KB)

[Conservation Plan: Executive summary](#) (pdf 234KB)

[Conservation Plan: Issues and policies](#) (pdf 3,890KB)

More examples of Conservation Plans <http://conservationplans.yolasite.com/links.php>

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (Spab) <http://www.spab.org.uk/>

## Summary

A series or multitude of conservation plans cannot be implemented without a reversal of the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004*. They cannot be relied upon without direct training and implementation of Environmental Impact Studies, and currently they cannot be relied upon as they are carried out incorrectly.

Further, Conservation plans cannot be carried out when the National Roads Authority are overseeing the Archaeological excavations it instigates, ignores and decides upon, all surveys have to be independent from the department of transport, Archaeology must be independent from the National Roads Authority.

Conservation plans must not be a heritage plan or development plan or a report, but a fully viable Conservation plan as this document lays out, they must come first and be independent of Government, but be answerable to the people of the nation of Ireland.

### Disability & Access issues

Also they must include full Disability legislation (DDA 1995 – 2008) which Ireland currently only carries half (in practice), and where it conflicts with conservation protection legislation, specialists must be hired to unite and harmonise these areas.

Once this has been achieved then a true spirit of Conservation can be put in place across all time periods in history and this in the long term will bring renewed prosperity and development that is sustainable.

An interesting example of an attempt to bring history (for one day) into a sustainable and earth friendly focus was the recent festival of fires at Uiesnach in May 2010, when for the first time in 1500 years approximately the fires were lit and spread around Ireland from its centre.

<http://www.festivalofthefires.com/history.html>

Just as “The Village” <http://www.thevillage.ie/> in Tipperary has succeeded despite the economic downturn, an economic downturn which has left us with over 600 ghost housing estates of unsustainable development all over Ireland, the Village at Cloughjordan is a type of eco development with reasonable affordable houses and dwellings it’s significant for Meath in an area with Housing problems. This is why “folklore” of Cormac Mac Airt and the falling “sloping sides”<sup>16</sup> is still very relevant today.

Planning needs to change not only in ancient heritage but also in modern dwellings. Normally developers are required to build all roads, shops, street lighting, schools, parks, swimming pools, crèche, social centers, Gymnasium, hospitals etc, before they build a house or many houses. In Ireland local authorities make developer charges to ensure they are completed, but developers should pay for these directly before building estates and the local authority by building control, surveys and strict examination should make sure they are completed before house building occurs. They then should supply services. Housing which is carbon friendly, to protect the O-Zone layer, but which still allows people to have open fires to counteract “stale air” in airtight designs (allowing air circulation) should be reconsidered.

Just as these obvious changes should be made in modern (eco-sustainable) housing estates in planning so to changes need to be made in conservation and heritage and in-particular conservation plans.

Other areas which should be considered as solutions in a Conservation plan is tunnelling as an alternative to road schemes, solar and wind energy, and pylons are unnecessary in Meath, there are alternatives.

Many of these matters were shouted by the Tara protestors and if they had been listened too, Ireland would be a different country now, and many of those who are spiritually inclined should be allowed to return to the Hill of Tara to seek further guidance.

This document opposes the Meath development plan 2007 – 2013, and also the M5 which threatens Croghan Ai and surrounding area in County Roscommon, it also opposes the Fingal Development plan

and the Kildare development plan on the grounds of the conclusions and summary (and main text) of this conservation plan.

All EIS statements and conservation plans are illegal and cannot be valued or help as supporting documents to legislation or development plans.

The development of the new M3 motorway breaches International law, Irish constitutional law for heritage protection, and also discriminates against equality law, both in terms of human rights and the spiritual religious beliefs of Irish people indigenously and culturally.

The natural and built heritage in Ireland is under threat, and also the intangible heritage, (Oral tradition and language, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe of the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts) which is a living tradition along the Boyne, in Meath and Ireland generally. Much of the motorway building in Meath has also destroyed religious sites and thousands of graves. As it has destroyed religious site sand areas it is a sacrilege and an offence against that spiritual belief. As such it is opposed by Eireannach Indigenous Spiritual and Heritage Community.

We are opposed on cultural, spiritual, ecological, economic and legal grounds against the continued developments and development plans in Meath and wider.

Conservation plans and Environmental Impact studies are inadequate and illegal. Changing the law (or re-instating it) brings many sustainable jobs in the short term and healthy prosperity in the long term.

As matters stand and as the new Toll road opens on the M3, spiritual and heritage groups and all the people of Ireland are being discriminated against, the equality authority is being undermined, as are human rights and indigenous rights, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfi/> the Irish statutes and constitution which also specifies religious rights are further undermined. As such compensation and restitution is sought.



## Letter to the Meath Chronicle

by Joe Fenwick,  
Department of Archaeology,  
National University of Ireland, Galway

Meath Chronicle, Saturday January 27th 2008

### Tara 'sold to highest bidder'?

(Editor Meath Chronicle)

Dear sir - It is rather depressing that only now, somewhat late in the day, Meath County Council has become united in its opposition to the M3 twice-tolled motorway. For motorists obliged to use this motorway for commuting purposes the daily toll will amount to e5.20 (or e26.00 a week). But the multiple tolls are only part of the price we, as Irish citizens, will be obliged to pay.

Tara is internationally recognised as a symbol of our nationhood. It is a cultural icon and part of our world heritage. Yet this motorway, and interchange at the very foot of the hill, is destined to gouge its way through Tara's Gabhra Valley and irrevocably undermine the physical integrity of this landscape forever. A rash of secondary development that will inevitably come in its wake will compound the damage still further.

It appears that Tara has been sold to the highest bidder, a business consortium that will stand to reap a substantial profit at our inestimable loss. To add insult to injury, each time we pass through the M3's toll-plaza barriers, we will do so in the knowledge that part of our money will be used to offset the costs of this cultural desecration.

The real toll will be more than monetary; it will be at the expense of our self-respect as a people and dignity as a nation.

Yours,  
Joe Fenwick,  
Department of Archaeology,  
NUI, Galway.



Hill of Skryne (From Tara Hill, the Sun rises behind Skryne every Summer Solstice)

**For submissions and objections (both)  
Forwarded too;**

Ireland

Draft landscape conservation area for Tara Skreen (by 10.6.2010) &  
East Meath pre- draft local area plan (by 01.12.2010, held in abeyance for draft display to public)

Mr Michael Griffin  
Planning Department,  
Meath County Council  
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Navan,  
County Meath.  
[mgriffin@meathcoco.ie](mailto:mgriffin@meathcoco.ie)   [planningsubmissions@meathcoco.ie](mailto:planningsubmissions@meathcoco.ie)

also emailed to Loreta Guinan  
[lguinan@meathcoco.ie](mailto:lguinan@meathcoco.ie)

Fingal County Council draft development plan 2011- 2017 (by 11.6.2010)

Mr Peter Tuck  
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Fingal County Council  
Swords,  
County Dublin.  
[p.tuck@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:p.tuck@fingalcoco.ie)

Drogeghda Borough Council / Louth draft development plan (by 27.5.2010)

Ciara King  
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Kildare draft development plan 2011-2017

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Director of World Heritage Centre  
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C/O Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues,  
United Nations, 2 UN Plaza  
Room DC2-1454  
New York, NY, 10017

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**Emailed only too,**

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Sacred Ireland

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Eireannach Co-operative Society Ltd (Eireannach Indigenous Spiritual and Heritage Community, listed with the World  
Interfaith Council)  
& email  
[eireannachs@gmail.com](mailto:eireannachs@gmail.com)

## Bibliography

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<sup>1</sup> Clark, Kate. (Editor) 1999 “Conservation plans in action” Pub by English Heritage & Copyright 1999 Page XXII

<sup>2</sup> Ibid Page IV

<sup>3</sup> Ibid Page XXIV

<sup>4</sup> Ibid Page VVIV

<sup>5</sup> Ibid page XXIV

<sup>6</sup> Ibid Page 9

<sup>7</sup> Ibid Page 9

<sup>8</sup> Kerr, James Semple, “Conservation plan, 5<sup>th</sup> ed”, New South Wales, National Trust of Australia. 2000

<sup>9</sup> **Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization meeting in Paris from 17 October to 21 November 1972, at its seventeenth session,

Noting that the cultural heritage and the natural heritage are increasingly threatened with destruction not only by the traditional causes of decay, but also by changing social and economic conditions which aggravate the situation with even more formidable phenomena of damage or destruction,

Considering that deterioration or disappearance of any item of the cultural or natural heritage constitutes a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all the nations of the world,

Considering that protection of this heritage at the national level often remains incomplete because of the scale of the resources which it requires and of the insufficient economic, scientific, and technological resources of the country where the property to be protected is situated,

Recalling that the [Constitution](#) of the Organization provides that it will maintain, increase, and diffuse knowledge, by assuring the conservation and protection of the world's heritage, and recommending to the nations concerned the necessary international conventions,

Considering that the existing international conventions, recommendations and resolutions concerning cultural and natural property demonstrate the importance, for all the peoples of the world, of safeguarding this unique and irreplaceable property, to whatever people it may belong,

Considering that parts of the cultural or natural heritage are of outstanding interest and therefore need to be preserved as part of the world heritage of mankind as a whole,

Considering that, in view of the magnitude and gravity of the new dangers threatening them, it is incumbent on the international community as a whole to participate in the protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value, by the granting of collective assistance which, although not taking the place of action by the State concerned, will serve as an efficient complement thereto,

Considering that it is essential for this purpose to adopt new provisions in the form of a convention establishing an effective system of collective protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value, organized on a permanent basis and in accordance with modern scientific methods,

Having decided, at its sixteenth session, that this question should be made the subject of an international convention,

Adopts this sixteenth day of November 1972 this Convention.

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## **I. DEFINITION OF THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

### **Article 1**

For the purposes of this Convention, the following shall be considered as "cultural heritage":

monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view.

### **Article 2**

For the purposes of this Convention, the following shall be considered as "natural heritage":

natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of outstanding universal value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view;

geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation;

natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.

### **Article 3**

It is for each State Party to this Convention to identify and delineate the different properties situated on its territory mentioned in Articles 1 and 2 above.

## **II. NATIONAL PROTECTION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

### **Article 4**

Each State Party to this Convention recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage referred to in [Articles 1](#) and [2](#) and situated on its territory, belongs primarily to that State. It will do all it can to this end, to the utmost of its own resources and, where appropriate, with any international assistance and co-operation, in particular, financial, artistic, scientific and technical, which it may be able to obtain.

### **Article 5**

To ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory, each State Party to this Convention shall endeavor, in so far as possible, and as appropriate for each country:

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1. to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes;
  2. to set up within its territories, where such services do not exist, one or more services for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage with an appropriate staff and possessing the means to discharge their functions;
  3. to develop scientific and technical studies and research and to work out such operating methods as will make the State capable of counteracting the dangers that threaten its cultural or natural heritage;
  4. to take the appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures necessary for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of this heritage; and
  5. to foster the establishment or development of national or regional centres for training in the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage and to encourage scientific research in this field.

#### **Article 6**

1. Whilst fully respecting the sovereignty of the States on whose territory the cultural and natural heritage mentioned in [Articles 1](#) and [2](#) is situated, and without prejudice to property right provided by national legislation, the States Parties to this Convention recognize that such heritage constitutes a world heritage for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to co-operate.
2. The States Parties undertake, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, to give their help in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage referred to in paragraphs 2 and 4 of [Article 11](#) if the States on whose territory it is situated so request.
3. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes not to take any deliberate measures which might damage directly or indirectly the cultural and natural heritage referred to in [Articles 1](#) and [2](#) situated on the territory of other States Parties to this Convention.

#### **Article 7**

For the purpose of this Convention, international protection of the world cultural and natural heritage shall be understood to mean the establishment of a system of international co-operation and assistance designed to support States Parties to the Convention in their efforts to conserve and identify that heritage.

### **III. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURALHERITAGE**

#### **Article 8**

1. An Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Heritage of Outstanding Universal Value, called "the [World Heritage Committee](#)", is hereby established within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It shall be composed of 15 States Parties to the Convention, elected by States Parties to the Convention meeting in general assembly during the ordinary session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The number of States members of the Committee shall be increased to 21 as from the date of the ordinary session of the General Conference following the entry into force of this Convention for at least 40 States.
2. Election of members of the Committee shall ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world.
3. A representative of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property ([ICCROM](#)), a representative of the International Council of Monuments and Sites ([ICOMOS](#)) and a representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources ([IUCN](#)), to whom may be added, at the request of States Parties to the Convention meeting in general assembly during the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, representatives of other intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations, with similar objectives, may attend the meetings of the Committee in an advisory capacity.

#### **Article 9**

1. The term of office of States members of the World Heritage Committee shall extend from the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference during which they are elected until the end of its third subsequent ordinary session.
2. The term of office of one-third of the members designated at the time of the first election shall, however, cease at the end of the first ordinary session of the General Conference following that at which they were elected; and the term of office of a

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further third of the members designated at the same time shall cease at the end of the second ordinary session of the General Conference following that at which they were elected. The names of these members shall be chosen by lot by the President of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization after the first election.

3. States members of the Committee shall choose as their representatives persons qualified in the field of the cultural or natural heritage.

#### **Article 10**

1. The World Heritage Committee shall adopt its Rules of Procedure.
2. The Committee may at any time invite public or private organizations or individuals to participate in its meetings for consultation on particular problems.
3. The Committee may create such consultative bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

#### **Article 11**

1. Every State Party to this Convention shall, in so far as possible, submit to the World Heritage Committee an inventory of property forming part of the cultural and natural heritage, situated in its territory and suitable for inclusion in the list provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article. This inventory, which shall not be considered exhaustive, shall include documentation about the location of the property in question and its significance.
2. On the basis of the inventories submitted by States in accordance with paragraph 1, the Committee shall establish, keep up to date and publish, under the title of "[World Heritage List](#)," a list of properties forming part of the cultural heritage and natural heritage, as defined in [Articles 1](#) and [2](#) of this Convention, which it considers as having outstanding universal value in terms of such criteria as it shall have established. An updated list shall be distributed at least every two years.
3. The inclusion of a property in the World Heritage List requires the consent of the State concerned. The inclusion of a property situated in a territory, sovereignty or jurisdiction over which is claimed by more than one State shall in no way prejudice the rights of the parties to the dispute.
4. The Committee shall establish, keep up to date and publish, whenever circumstances shall so require, under the title of "[List of World Heritage in Danger](#)", a list of the property appearing in the World Heritage List for the conservation of which major operations are necessary and for which assistance has been requested under this Convention. This list shall contain an estimate of the cost of such operations. The list may include only such property forming part of the cultural and natural heritage as is threatened by serious and specific dangers, such as the threat of disappearance caused by accelerated deterioration, large-scale public or private projects or rapid urban or tourist development projects; destruction caused by changes in the use or ownership of the land; major alterations due to unknown causes; abandonment for any reason whatsoever; the outbreak or the threat of an armed conflict; calamities and cataclysms; serious fires, earthquakes, landslides; volcanic eruptions; changes in water level, floods and tidal waves. The Committee may at any time, in case of urgent need, make a new entry in the List of World Heritage in Danger and publicize such entry immediately.
5. The Committee shall define the criteria on the basis of which a property belonging to the cultural or natural heritage may be included in either of the lists mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 4 of this article.
6. Before refusing a request for inclusion in one of the two lists mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 4 of this article, the Committee shall consult the State Party in whose territory the cultural or natural property in question is situated.
7. The Committee shall, with the agreement of the States concerned, co-ordinate and encourage the studies and research needed for the drawing up of the lists referred to in paragraphs 2 and 4 of this article.

#### **Article 12**

The fact that a property belonging to the cultural or natural heritage has not been included in either of the two lists mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 4 of [Article 11](#) shall in no way be construed to mean that it does not have an outstanding universal value for purposes other than those resulting from inclusion in these lists.

#### **Article 13**

1. The World Heritage Committee shall receive and study requests for international assistance formulated by States Parties to this Convention with respect to property forming part of the cultural or natural heritage, situated in their territories, and included or potentially suitable for inclusion in the lists mentioned referred to in paragraphs 2 and 4 of [Article 11](#). The purpose of such requests may be to secure the protection, conservation, presentation or rehabilitation of such property.

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2. Requests for international assistance under paragraph 1 of this article may also be concerned with identification of cultural or natural property defined in [Articles 1](#) and [2](#), when preliminary investigations have shown that further inquiries would be justified.
  3. The Committee shall decide on the action to be taken with regard to these requests, determine where appropriate, the nature and extent of its assistance, and authorize the conclusion, on its behalf, of the necessary arrangements with the government concerned.
  4. The Committee shall determine an order of priorities for its operations. It shall in so doing bear in mind the respective importance for the world cultural and natural heritage of the property requiring protection, the need to give international assistance to the property most representative of a natural environment or of the genius and the history of the peoples of the world, the urgency of the work to be done, the resources available to the States on whose territory the threatened property is situated and in particular the extent to which they are able to safeguard such property by their own means.
  5. The Committee shall draw up, keep up to date and publicize a list of property for which international assistance has been granted.
  6. The Committee shall decide on the use of the resources of the Fund established under [Article 15](#) of this Convention. It shall seek ways of increasing these resources and shall take all useful steps to this end.
  7. The Committee shall co-operate with international and national governmental and non-governmental organizations having objectives similar to those of this Convention. For the implementation of its programmes and projects, the Committee may call on such organizations, particularly the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (the Rome Centre), the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), as well as on public and private bodies and individuals.
  8. Decisions of the Committee shall be taken by a majority of two-thirds of its members present and voting. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

#### **Article 14**

1. The World Heritage Committee shall be assisted by a Secretariat appointed by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
2. The Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, utilizing to the fullest extent possible the services of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property (the Rome Centre), the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) in their respective areas of competence and capability, shall prepare the Committee's documentation and the agenda of its meetings and shall have the responsibility for the implementation of its decisions.

### **IV. FUND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

#### **Article 15**

1. A Fund for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of Outstanding Universal Value, called "the World Heritage Fund", is hereby established.
2. The Fund shall constitute a trust fund, in conformity with the provisions of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
3. The resources of the Fund shall consist of:
  1. compulsory and voluntary contributions made by States Parties to this Convention,
  2. Contributions, gifts or bequests which may be made by:
    1. other States;
    2. the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, other organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme or other intergovernmental organizations;
    3. public or private bodies or individuals;
    3. any interest due on the resources of the Fund;
    4. funds raised by collections and receipts from events organized for the benefit of the fund; and
    5. all other resources authorized by the Fund's regulations, as drawn up by the World Heritage Committee.
  4. Contributions to the Fund and other forms of assistance made available to the Committee may be used only for such purposes as the Committee shall define. The Committee may accept contributions to be used only for a certain programme or

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project, provided that the Committee shall have decided on the implementation of such programme or project. No political conditions may be attached to contributions made to the Fund.

#### **Article 16**

1. Without prejudice to any supplementary voluntary contribution, the States Parties to this Convention undertake to pay regularly, every two years, to the World Heritage Fund, contributions, the amount of which, in the form of a uniform percentage applicable to all States, shall be determined by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention, meeting during the sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. This decision of the General Assembly requires the majority of the States Parties present and voting, which have not made the declaration referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article. In no case shall the compulsory contribution of States Parties to the Convention exceed 1% of the contribution to the regular budget of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
2. However, each State referred to in [Article 31](#) or in [Article 32](#) of this Convention may declare, at the time of the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession, that it shall not be bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article.
3. A State Party to the Convention which has made the declaration referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article may at any time withdraw the said declaration by notifying the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. However, the withdrawal of the declaration shall not take effect in regard to the compulsory contribution due by the State until the date of the subsequent General Assembly of States parties to the Convention.
4. In order that the Committee may be able to plan its operations effectively, the contributions of States Parties to this Convention which have made the declaration referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, shall be paid on a regular basis, at least every two years, and should not be less than the contributions which they should have paid if they had been bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article.
5. Any State Party to the Convention which is in arrears with the payment of its compulsory or voluntary contribution for the current year and the calendar year immediately preceding it shall not be eligible as a Member of the World Heritage Committee, although this provision shall not apply to the first election.

The terms of office of any such State which is already a member of the Committee shall terminate at the time of the elections provided for in [Article 8](#), paragraph 1 of this Convention.

#### **Article 17**

The States Parties to this Convention shall consider or encourage the establishment of national public and private foundations or associations whose purpose is to invite donations for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage as defined in [Articles 1](#) and [2](#) of this Convention.

#### **Article 18**

The States Parties to this Convention shall give their assistance to international fund-raising campaigns organized for the World Heritage Fund under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. They shall facilitate collections made by the bodies mentioned in paragraph 3 of [Article 15](#) for this purpose.

### **V. CONDITIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE**

#### **Article 19**

Any State Party to this Convention may request international assistance for property forming part of the cultural or natural heritage of outstanding universal value situated within its territory. It shall submit with its request such information and documentation provided for in Article 21 as it has in its possession and as will enable the Committee to come to a decision.

#### **Article 20**

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of [Article 13](#), sub-paragraph (c) of [Article 22](#) and [Article 23](#), international assistance provided for by this Convention may be granted only to property forming part of the cultural and natural heritage which the World Heritage Committee has decided, or may decide, to enter in one of the lists mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 4 of [Article 11](#).

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#### **Article 21**

1. The World Heritage Committee shall define the procedure by which requests to it for international assistance shall be considered and shall specify the content of the request, which should define the operation contemplated, the work that is necessary, the expected cost thereof, the degree of urgency and the reasons why the resources of the State requesting assistance do not allow it to meet all the expenses. Such requests must be supported by experts' reports whenever possible.
2. Requests based upon disasters or natural calamities should, by reasons of the urgent work which they may involve, be given immediate, priority consideration by the Committee, which should have a reserve fund at its disposal against such contingencies.
3. Before coming to a decision, the Committee shall carry out such studies and consultations as it deems necessary.

#### **Article 22**

Assistance granted by the World Heritage Committee may take the following forms:

1. studies concerning the artistic, scientific and technical problems raised by the protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of the cultural and natural heritage, as defined in paragraphs 2 and 4 of [Article 11](#) of this Convention;
2. provisions of experts, technicians and skilled labour to ensure that the approved work is correctly carried out;
3. training of staff and specialists at all levels in the field of identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of the cultural and natural heritage;
4. supply of equipment which the State concerned does not possess or is not in a position to acquire;
5. low-interest or interest-free loans which might be repayable on a long-term basis;
6. the granting, in exceptional cases and for special reasons, of non-repayable subsidies.

#### **Article 23**

The World Heritage Committee may also provide international assistance to national or regional centres for the training of staff and specialists at all levels in the field of identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of the cultural and natural heritage.

#### **Article 24**

International assistance on a large scale shall be preceded by detailed scientific, economic and technical studies. These studies shall draw upon the most advanced techniques for the protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of the natural and cultural heritage and shall be consistent with the objectives of this Convention. The studies shall also seek means of making rational use of the resources available in the State concerned.

#### **Article 25**

As a general rule, only part of the cost of work necessary shall be borne by the international community. The contribution of the State benefiting from international assistance shall constitute a substantial share of the resources devoted to each programme or project, unless its resources do not permit this.

#### **Article 26**

The World Heritage Committee and the recipient State shall define in the agreement they conclude the conditions in which a programme or project for which international assistance under the terms of this Convention is provided, shall be carried out. It shall be the responsibility of the State receiving such international assistance to continue to protect, conserve and present the property so safeguarded, in observance of the conditions laid down by the agreement.

### **VI. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES**

#### **Article 27**

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1. The States Parties to this Convention shall endeavor by all appropriate means, and in particular by educational and information programmes, to strengthen appreciation and respect by their peoples of the cultural and natural heritage defined in [Articles 1](#) and [2](#) of the Convention.
  2. They shall undertake to keep the public broadly informed of the dangers threatening this heritage and of the activities carried on in pursuance of this Convention.

#### **Article 28**

States Parties to this Convention which receive international assistance under the Convention shall take appropriate measures to make known the importance of the property for which assistance has been received and the role played by such assistance.

### **VII. REPORTS**

#### **Article 29**

1. The States Parties to this Convention shall, in the reports which they submit to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on dates and in a manner to be determined by it, give information on the legislative and administrative provisions which they have adopted and other action which they have taken for the application of this Convention, together with details of the experience acquired in this field.
2. These reports shall be brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee.
3. The Committee shall submit a report on its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

### **VIII. FINAL CLAUSES**

#### **Article 30**

This Convention is drawn up in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, the five texts being equally authoritative.

#### **Article 31**

1. This Convention shall be subject to ratification or acceptance by States members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures.
2. The instruments of ratification or acceptance shall be deposited with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

#### **Article 32**

1. This Convention shall be open to accession by all States not members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization which are invited by the General Conference of the Organization to accede to it.
2. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

#### **Article 33**

This Convention shall enter into force three months after the date of the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession, but only with respect to those States which have deposited their respective instruments of ratification, acceptance or accession on or before that date. It shall enter into force with respect to any other State three months after the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession.

#### **Article 34**

The following provisions shall apply to those States Parties to this Convention which have a federal or non-unitary constitutional system:

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1. with regard to the provisions of this Convention, the implementation of which comes under the legal jurisdiction of the federal or central legislative power, the obligations of the federal or central government shall be the same as for those States parties which are not federal States;
  2. with regard to the provisions of this Convention, the implementation of which comes under the legal jurisdiction of individual constituent States, countries, provinces or cantons that are not obliged by the constitutional system of the federation to take legislative measures, the federal government shall inform the competent authorities of such States, countries, provinces or cantons of the said provisions, with its recommendation for their adoption.

#### **Article 35**

1. Each State Party to this Convention may denounce the Convention.
2. The denunciation shall be notified by an instrument in writing, deposited with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
3. The denunciation shall take effect twelve months after the receipt of the instrument of denunciation. It shall not affect the financial obligations of the denouncing State until the date on which the withdrawal takes effect.

#### **Article 36**

The Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization shall inform the States members of the Organization, the States not members of the Organization which are referred to in [Article 32](#), as well as the United Nations, of the deposit of all the instruments of ratification, acceptance, or accession provided for in [Articles 31 and 32](#), and of the denunciations provided for in [Article 35](#).

#### **Article 37**

1. This Convention may be revised by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Any such revision shall, however, bind only the States which shall become Parties to the revising convention.
2. If the General Conference should adopt a new convention revising this Convention in whole or in part, then, unless the new convention otherwise provides, this Convention shall cease to be open to ratification, acceptance or accession, as from the date on which the new revising convention enters into force.

#### **Article 38**

In conformity with [Article 102](#) of the [Charter of the United Nations](#), this Convention shall be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations at the request of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Done in Paris, this twenty-third day of November 1972, in two authentic copies bearing the signature of the President of the seventeenth session of the General Conference and of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and certified true copies of which shall be delivered to all the States referred to in [Articles 31](#) and [32](#) as well as to the United Nations.

<sup>10</sup> Paris Recommendations Unesco XXXII 2003

<sup>11</sup> Traditional Restoration Techniques: a RAMP study/ prepared by Vicente Viñas and Ruth Viñas for the General Information Programme and UNISIST, Paris, Unesco, 1988 iv, 80 p 30 cm (PGI-88/WS/17)

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