



VILLAGES AND CONSERVATION IN IRELAND

Alison Harvey, Planning and Development Officer
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1. The Heritage Council of Ireland - 'Our Heritage Infrastructure'



The Heritage Act 1995

Est. of The Heritage Council of Ireland:

- **Board - 17 No. Members**
- **Staff –Chief Executive, 9 No. Professional Officers plus support staff (5 No.)**
- **Based in Kilkenny**



Core Function of The Heritage Council:

‘To Propose policies and priorities for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of the national heritage’



Ireland's National Heritage?

• Archaeological Objects	• Inland Waterways
• Architectural Heritage	• Landscapes/Seascapes
• Flora and Fauna	• Monuments
• Geology	• Wildlife Habitats
• Heritage Gardens & Parks	• Wrecks
• Heritage Objects	



Local Authority Heritage Officers' Programme:

- 1996 – No. LA Heritage Officers = None
- 2006 - No. LA Heritage Officers = 27



2. Role of The Heritage Council in the Irish Planning System:



‘Prescribed Authority’:

- Planning & Development Act 2000;*
- Planning & Development Regs 2001;*
- Draft P & D Regs 2004.*

Provide 'Evidence-Based' Policy Advice:

- National
- Regional
- County
- Local

National:

- Legislation & Regs
- Guidelines & Directives
- NDP & NSS
- Undertake Nat. Studies & Eval
- Est. Networks - IWTN
- Nat. Requirements - Int. Protocols



Regional:

- Regional Planning Guidelines
- Review of RPG's
- Undertake Regional Studies and Evaluations



County:

- Preparation/Making of Draft County Development Plans
- Variations of DP's
- County Heritage Plans

Local:

- Development Control (DC)- ‘Nat/Reg Significance?’, e.g. Athenry
- Significant Local Heritage Grants

***3. ‘Heritage Appraisal’
A Key Planning Tool***



What is Heritage Appraisal?

- In-depth Assessment Process
- Impact of Draft Plan/Strategy on Heritage
- Cross-Compliance of Objectives and Policies – Benefits
- Move towards Sustainable Plans



Appraisal Process – 7 Steps

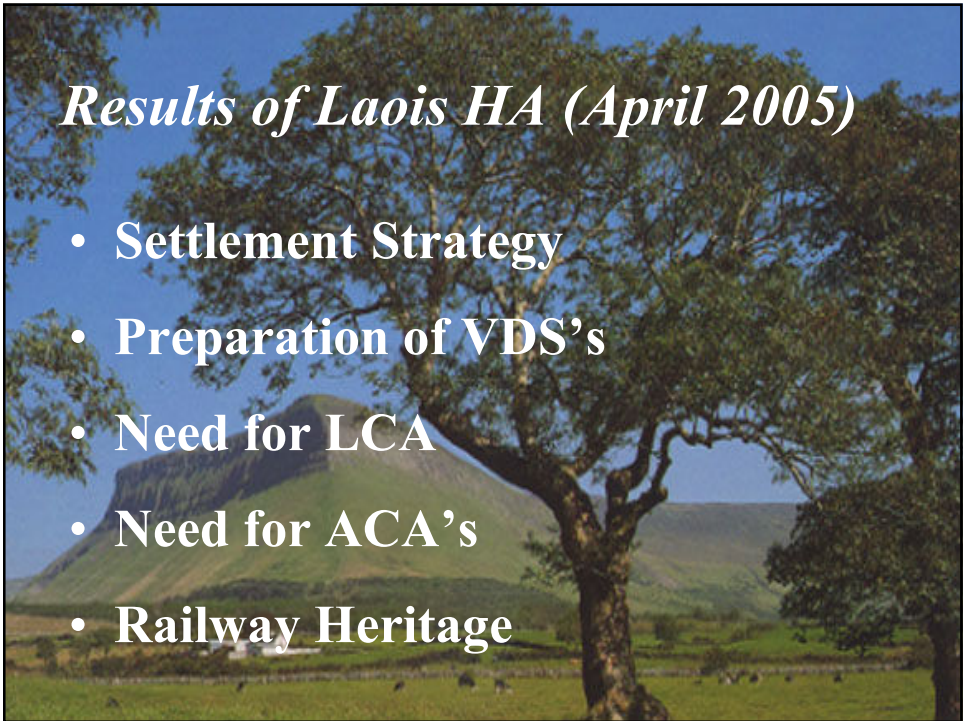
1. Define Scope of HA
2. Set Agreed Aims for Heritage
3. Set Agreed Goals for DP
4. Scoping Policies of DP
5. Appraisal of Aims, Obj & Policies – Effects?
6. Appraise Effects of Proposals
7. Set Requirements for Monitoring



Since 2000 Over 40 HA's have been undertaken

2005:

- Laois Draft County Development Plan
- Donegal Draft County Development Plan



Results of Laois HA (April 2005)

- Settlement Strategy
- Preparation of VDS's
- Need for LCA
- Need for ACA's
- Railway Heritage



Results of Donegal HA (Sept 2005)

- Landscape Strategy revisited
- Overwhelmingly Need for LCA
- Need for Landscape Conservation Areas
- Preparation of VDS's
- Seascape and ICZM



Future Challenges for Ireland's Heritage?

- **International Conventions - Landscape**
- **Next NDP**
- **Villages**
- **Development Contribution Schemes**
- **SEA & Sustainability Appraisals**