



Fingal Heritage Plan **2024 – 2030**



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



FINGAL
HERITAGE
PLAN 2024-2030

fingal.ie





Foreword



A Message from the Chief Executive

I am delighted to see the publication of the fourth Heritage Plan for Fingal which covers the years from 2024 to 2030. This plan sets out a clear framework, through which we can meet the challenges to our heritage assets and protect, manage and celebrate Fingal's heritage. Building on the strength of previous plans and on work done to date, this plan also reflects new approaches to engage young and diverse new audiences with heritage. Our definition and perception of heritage has been broadened in recent years and this plan is cognisant of all aspects of our heritage, both tangible and intangible. I would like to thank all those who took part in the co-creation of this document, which reflects the ongoing commitment of Fingal County Council's Executive and Elected Members in protecting and promoting our heritage. I look forward to the implementation of the Fingal Heritage Plan 2024-2030 and the benefits it will bring to those living, working in and visiting Fingal.

AnnMarie Farrelly
Chief Executive



A Message from the Mayor

I very much welcome this new Heritage Plan which provides a strong foundation for collaboration and creativity across a range of heritage themes. The objectives set out here are the outcome of a comprehensive process of engagement with many groups, individuals, organisations and stakeholders. I extend my sincere thanks to all who contributed their time, ideas and knowledge to this process. I would also like to thank the members of the Fingal Heritage Forum, Fingal's Heritage Officer Christine Baker, and The Heritage Council who supported this process. This is very much a community-led and community focused plan and on behalf of Fingal County Council, I would encourage anyone to get involved in the actions set out here as we implement this plan together.

Cllr. Adrian Henchy
Mayor

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Introduction

What do we mean by heritage?

Our heritage is what we have inherited from the past, to value and enjoy in the present, and to preserve and pass on to future generations. It comprises: **the tangible** - our archaeological, historical sites, buildings, monuments, historic demesnes, artefacts, and archives; **the natural** - our seascapes, waterways, landscapes, geology, flora, and fauna; and **the intangible** – including our customs, sports, folklore, crafts, skills, and traditions.

About the Heritage Plan

The Fingal Heritage Plan 2023-2029 sets out a vision for protecting our shared heritage for all the people of Fingal and all the relevant agencies and groups within the county. The plan is underpinned by the principle of shared responsibility for heritage. Connecting with and celebrating our heritage, in all its diversity, promotes well-being and adds to a sense of belonging. Heritage in part of who we are.

In Fingal we have a growing, relatively young, and ethnically diverse community, a unique history and rich heritage. From our coastline landscape and biodiversity to our archaeological sites, historic houses and demesnes, and agricultural, industrial, and maritime traditions, we are surrounded by heritage. Our rich cultural heritage is reflected in our use of traditional skills, language, folklore, and music. This plan is to enable everyone to connect with the unique and diverse heritage on our doorstep by encompassing all aspects of heritage and highlighting how they intertwine and connect.

The Heritage Plan is a framework set out under six themes or areas of focus to guide the community, the Council and all stakeholders working across Fingal to protect, share and celebrate our unique heritage. These priorities were identified in consultation with the community and stakeholders across the local government, state, and non-governmental sectors. The Plan outlines a series of actions and outcomes for each theme.

Supporting Heritage

This is the fourth Heritage Plan for Fingal and will build on the work done to date to protect and celebrate our heritage. The following are some examples of projects delivered or supported by the Heritage Office, ranging from printed publications, to videos, digital maps and virtual tours exploring heritage themes from traditional skills and featuring the stories of people and places to climate action for heritage.



The Fingal Thatch Project and Report

The Fingal Thatch Project 2022 was designed to capture and preserve the story of thatch in Fingal for future generations, from the thatched dwellings past and present to those who lived in them, and all the traditions associated with thatch in Fingal. Through videos and a Storymap, the Fingal Thatch Project also aims to share the thatcher's and communities' memories, photos and documentation relating to this vernacular heritage.

See <https://www.fingal.ie/fingal-thatch-project-and-report>



Fingal's Heritage from Above

This is a series of films featuring the heritage sites of Fingal that was launched during Heritage Week 2020. A collaboration between Mark Broderick, Digital Officer and Christine Baker, Heritage Officer the series begins with the stories of the Skerries Islands and continues with Drumanagh Promontory Fort and Newbridge Demesne.

Skerries Islands: <https://youtu.be/AbtzS1YxRHI>

Drumanagh Promontory Fort: https://youtu.be/pDR_k2DTe5s

Newbridge Demesne: <https://youtu.be/jkPc16v1LcQ>

Balbriggan: <https://youtu.be/UQbdtv9oxi8>

SNAPSHOTS of Fingal's Past

Snapshots of Fingal's Past

Snapshots of Fingal's Past presents photographs that capture Fingal's past and the stories that lie behind them. This heritage project takes the form of an online exhibition featuring the stories of people, places, sports, and traditions submitted by the people of Fingal. Members of the Fingal Heritage Network also present stories from their areas.

To view the Snapshots online exhibition, go to <https://youtu.be/-uWnyVcCjJk>



Fingal Heritage X Climate

Fingal Heritage X Climate Project is looking at the ongoing impact of climate change on the many heritage sites around the county including assessing the risks it poses to them and planning for their future. Fingal Climate Action Toolkit provides participants in Fingal with some tools required to aid in monitoring the impact of climate change on the heritage assets of the county.

Visit <https://www.fingal.ie/heritage-and-conservation> for more information on Fingal's heritage projects. Appendix 1 of this plan lists a range of potential projects that are the continuation of long-standing projects or have been suggested through the consultation process.

Policy context for Fingal Heritage Plan 2024-2029

Implementation of the Fingal Heritage Plan will be informed and contextualised by a range of policies and plans at international, national, and local level.

At international level

- **United Nations' Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs)** as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Transforming our World.
- **UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage** (Paris, 2001)
- **Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe** (Valletta 1992)
- **Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe** (Granada, 1985)
- **Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance** (Burra Charter, 1979)

At national level

- **The Heritage Act 1995.**
- **Project Ireland 2040, The National Planning Framework (NPF)**¹ is the Government's high-level strategic vision for shaping future growth and development in the entire country over a 20-year period, which identifies heritage as a strategic investment priority, recognising 'Enhanced Amenities and Heritage' as a National Strategic Outcome.
- **Heritage Ireland 2030**² a framework for the protection, conservation, promotion, and management of Ireland's heritage for the next decade and beyond.
- **Our Place in Time, Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2023–2028** underpinned by six strategic pillars; Leadership and Stewardship; Climate Change and Biodiversity; Research; Partnership; Communities; Education and Engagement.

1 Project Ireland 2040, The National Planning Framework [gov.ie - National Planning Framework - Ireland 2040 Our Plan \(NPF\) \(2018\) \(www.gov.ie\)](#)

2 Heritage Ireland 2030 [gov.ie - Heritage Ireland 2030 \(www.gov.ie\)](#)

At County level

- **The Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029** sets out the spatial framework to guide future development within the County acknowledges, supports, and reinforces the integral role heritage, culture and the arts play in sustaining and creating attractive, vibrant, and engaging places to live, work and enjoy.
- **Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2030** puts forward an ambitious programme of a hundred actions to reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2030.
- **Fingal County Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024** includes undertaking a Climate Change Risk Assessment of Fingal's Cultural Heritage to identify and survey the architectural and archaeological heritage sites and designed landscapes at risk.
- **Fingal County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024**
- **Fingal's Culture and Creative Strategy 2023-2027**
- **Fingal Local Community and Economic Plan (pending)**
- **Fingal Tourism Strategy 2023-2029**
- **Fingal Food and Drink Policy 2023 - 2029**
- **Fingal County Council 2019-2025 Arts Plan**
- **Fingal County Council Library Development Plan 2024-2029**
- **Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion Strategy 2019-2024**
- **Blas: Fingal's Food Heritage Strategy - Framework for project delivery 2023-2026**

Our Values

These are the values and guiding principles that will underpin the work carried out under this Heritage Plan.



Protect:

We will protect and celebrate our unique places and stories.



Include:

Our plan is for everyone living in Fingal and is enriched by diverse voices.



Cherish:

Cherishing our heritage through best practice and recording is fundamental to healthy place-making, sustainable development, and climate action.



Collaborate:

We advocate for the integration of cultural heritage into projects outside the heritage sector and will collaborate with partners and communities to develop new creative opportunities to share heritage.

Strategic Objectives

The Fingal Heritage Plan sets out six strategic objectives and themes around which we will focus our efforts for the next six years, with corresponding actions and desired outcomes for each. These themes were arrived at following a review of implementation of the previous heritage plan, and a process of consultation. The plan is focussed on inputs from the Fingal Heritage Forum, other relevant agencies, and the community in relation to priorities and key themes that should be addressed.



Protecting
our Place



Sharing our
Stories



Climate Action
for Heritage



All Our
Voices



Creating
Knowledge



Accessible
Heritage



Protecting our Place

1. Protecting our Place

We will conserve, manage, protect, and enhance the archaeological, architectural, natural, and cultural heritage of the County, which are valuable and finite resources, through good management, sensitive interventions, and sympathetic development. We will protect our heritage and nurture a sense of place through collaboration and community engagement.

Action	Outcome
1.1 Collaborate on the implementation of the Fingal County Biodiversity Plan 2022 – 2030; the Fingal Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2029; the Forest of Fingal - A Tree Strategy for Fingal 2023-2032 and the Fingal Tourism Strategy 2023-2029	Integrated implementation of Heritage, Biodiversity, Tourism and Climate Action Plans.
1.2 Promote best practice for heritage by ensuring that the requirements of relevant national and EU legislation are met by the Council and through guidance and training at community level.	Mainstreaming of heritage in policy and practice.
1.3 Build capacity for practice of traditional skills and community-led heritage projects at local level by developing a series of workshops, demonstration days and events for farmers, vernacular and historic building owners, local communities and interested individuals.	Inclusive ways for people to enjoy learning about and getting involved with their local heritage.
1.4 Continue to work with the owners of archaeological sites to conserve archaeological monuments utilising the Community Monuments Fund.	Custodians are supported in protecting and consolidating archaeological monuments for the future.
1.5 Build capacity within the Heritage Office for implementation of the Heritage Plan and to resource heritage protection and public engagement.	Improved delivery and increased capacity for heritage services in Fingal.
1.6 Continue to resource and review the implementation of existing Conservation Management Plans and encourage the use of the conservation management plan process for heritage assets in both the private and community sectors.	The conservation (management) plan process is the foundation for managing heritage places and sites in Fingal - whether these are in public, private or community ownership and care.
1.7 Collaborate with Fingal Leader to support and develop best practice guidance for heritage-based community-led enterprise projects.	Protection and promotion of heritage through community-led enterprise projects.



Sharing our Stories

2. Sharing our Stories

Share stories of places and people, and connect with the whole community through high quality, relevant, interpretation and communication which is locally focussed, cocreated or community led.

Action	Outcome
<p>2.1 Support community-led Heritage Audit & Interpretation Plans for an integrated holistic approach to local heritage identification and interpretation.</p> <p>2.2 Develop toolkits for community-led projects, provide best practice guidance (Fingal Heritage Signage and Trails Guidance 2021) and training events.</p> <p>2.3 Facilitate the learning/sharing of traditional skills in relation to built, maritime and natural heritage.</p> <p>2.4 Promote funding opportunities for local, community-led heritage projects.</p>	<p>The community is enabled to share and celebrate local stories, traditions, and heritage through authentic and appropriate community-led interpretation and heritage projects, informed by robust research.</p>
<p>2.5 Holistic implementation of recommendations of Heritage Audits & Interpretation Plans.</p> <p>2.6 Raise public awareness of cultural heritage and improve legibility by providing appropriate interpretation at buildings, areas, sites, villages, and towns.</p> <p>2.7 Promote and enhance the understanding of the heritage of Fingal through the development of talks, exhibitions, and publications; increase digital access through interactive maps, videos, virtual exhibitions, and podcast and through the development of cultural tourism products.</p> <p>2.8 Promote understanding of biodiversity as part of our heritage by highlight the biodiversity aspects of Fingal's heritage properties, demesnes, designed landscapes and sites in guides, leaflets and online materials.</p>	<p>The community and visitors are connected to stories of Fingal's places and people through high quality, relevant, interpretation and communication of heritage which is locally focussed.</p>
<p>2.9 Support capacity building projects and events within communities of place and interest and facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience between communities.</p>	<p>Expansion of the Fingal Heritage Network.</p>
<p>2.10 Continue to record fieldnames and placenames to preserve traditional and historic names and local knowledge and inform new place naming.</p>	<p>Preserve old placenames and fieldnames of Fingal, and their meaning into the future.</p>
<p>2.11 Leverage opportunities to address shared heritage themes across departments e.g., Arts, Architects, Heritage, Libraries, Tourism, Biodiversity and Community e.g., Working with the Fingal Arts Office and practitioners to integrate artistic interpretation as a way for people to access heritage.</p>	<p>An integrated approach to supporting heritage projects.</p>



Climate Action for Heritage

3. Climate Action for Heritage

Take urgent climate action to ensure that we protect our past and our future.

Action	Outcome
3.1 Use the findings of the <i>Fingal Cultural Heritage and Climate Change Risk Assessment</i> to develop appropriate adaptation, mitigation, and palliative methodologies for heritage assets in in the Council's ownership.	Coordinated, collaborative, evidence-based mechanisms to develop resilience, adapt or mitigate the impact of Climate Change on the archaeological and built heritage of the County.
3.2 Support and develop citizen science projects such as <i>Fingal Heritage X Climate</i> as a means of monitoring climate change impacts on Fingal's heritage assets and raising public awareness of the value of heritage for the community, enterprise, sustainability and well being	
3.3 Co-operate with other agencies in the assessment of the potential for climate change to impact on coastal, riverine, inter-tidal and sub-tidal sites and their environments including shipwreck sites.	



All Our Voices

4. All Our Voices

Diverse voices, both today and from the past, make up the distinctive and unique multicultural heritage of Fingal, and are reflected in our music, oral histories and traditions. We will facilitate all voices, past and present being heard.

Action	Outcome
<p>4.1 Work with communities and stakeholders to cocreate heritage projects that are relevant and accessible to underserved audiences.</p> <p>4.2 Work cross departmentally within the Council and leverage the opportunities presented by Creative Fingal, to develop and implement innovative, integrated ways of public engagement with heritage, targeting new and underserved audiences across all social, ethnic and age groups with programmes and events.</p>	Projects that include and represent the heritages of new, diverse, and historically unrepresented communities.
<p>4.3 Work with a range of stakeholders including schools, youth groups, heritage organisations and heritage sites to cocreate initiatives that support young people engaging with their local heritage in ways which they find relevant and appealing e.g., heritage themed competitions for primary and secondary schools, events locally in Youth Cafés or music venues, intergenerational local heritage/oral history projects.</p> <p>4.4 Work with Fingal Local Studies and Archives to leverage the extensive collections and information on local history to engage young people in interactive and enquiry-led ways.</p> <p>4.5 Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to promote and develop existing programmes for schools (for both teachers and learners), which support delivery of the current and evolving curricula and subject specifications at primary and post primary level e.g., Heritage in Schools Scheme, Fingal Creative Schools, Department of Education accredited teacher Summer Courses.</p>	Enhanced opportunities for young people to engage with local heritage in relevant and appealing ways, both in school and during leisure time.
<p>4.6 Undertake an audit of folklore collections and oral histories of the people of Fingal to enhance our understanding of our people and their stories.</p>	Heritage projects that recognise, share, and celebrate our oral history and the connection it provides to place.
<p>4.7 Identify opportunities to incorporate Gaeilge and the range of spoken languages in Fingal into heritage plan implementation e.g., Create an Irish language events page on the Fingal website.</p> <p>4.8 Identify opportunities to collate the songs and music heritage of Fingal and celebrate local musicians and their legacy.</p>	Language, oral traditions, music and intangible heritage that reflect our community, past and present, are celebrated, and recognised as part of our heritage.



Creating Knowledge

5. Creating Knowledge

Build knowledge through research, and audits to inform evidence-based approaches to heritage management, and authentic, relevant, and relatable interpretation and best practice guidance.

Action	Outcome
<p>5.1 Continue to identify knowledge gaps and collect and share heritage data (basic research, thematic surveys, and reports), to archive this data according to best practice guidance.</p>	<p>An enhanced, accessible knowledge base on Fingal's heritage informing management, interpretation, and best practice.</p>
<p>5.2 Ensure heritage research presented by the preparation of Local Area Plans, Environmental Assessment Reports and other planning and policy frameworks and strategies, is accessible and adds to our knowledge.</p>	
<p>5.3 Continue to support and develop the Fingal Community Archaeology Programme and the dissemination of findings of licenced archaeological activity in Fingal through the Dublin County Archaeological GIS project, publications, public lectures, and events.</p>	
<p>5.4 Collaborate with the Conservation Office to identify and develop audit, research, and dissemination projects e.g., 20th century-built heritage.</p>	
<p>5.5 Undertake audits of historically significant elements of community heritage and the public realm such as kerbstones, postboxes and historic water pumps.</p>	



Accessible Heritage

6. Accessible Heritage

Facilitate the local community and visiting tourists engaging with heritage by maximising access in terms of physical sites and assets, beyond social barriers, and in the digital context.

Action	Outcome
6.1 Accommodate and improve universal access to Council owned heritage sites open to the public, where possible, while ensuring the archaeological, architectural, and ecological heritage significance of the site is taken into account when providing such access and is not damaged or compromised.	Removal physical, social and cultural barriers resulting in improved access for all to the heritage of Fingal.
6.2 Research current heritage audiences to identify ways to increase cultural engagement for minority groups such as people with disabilities, members of the Travelling community and LGBTQ+ community members and identify ways of removing barriers to accessing and celebrating heritage for all.	
6.3 Document Fingal heritage and biodiversity and ensure that all partners have access to the data, insights and expert guidance required to inform decision-making and guide future investment.	
6.4 Support access to heritage data in the digital context by enhancing online resources and mapped data.	
6.5 Explore the use of innovative and emerging technologies to promote Fingal's heritage and engage with a wide range of audiences.	

Implementation

Fingal County Council is a key partner and will lead delivery of many projects and actions with the support and input of a range of stakeholders. Collaboration cross-departmentally within the Council, and with a range of other agencies and organisations will be required to effectively implement the Heritage Plan.

An implementation plan will be developed each year, setting out specific actions. Each year the Heritage Officer will prepare a report on progress in implementation of actions to inform the priorities for the following year, acknowledging that many projects undertaken are multi-annual. The annual progress reports will be presented to the Heritage Forum and submitted to the Community Development, Heritage, Culture & Creativity Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) of Fingal County Council.

Adequate resourcing, through provision in operational and capital budgets, across all Departments of Fingal County Council, will be required to implement the Heritage Plan. Specific finance requirements will be addressed on an on-going basis as part of planning for implementation.

Evaluation at the end of the plan delivery period will allow the results of the plan to be quantified.

Appendix 1.

Potential Projects

The following potential projects are reflective of the feedback from the public consultation; align to objectives of other relevant plans or have been suggested by stakeholders. The undertaking of projects will be clarified through the annual implementation plan process and dependant on the resources available.

Protecting our Place

Actively seek sites for applications to the Community Monuments Fund and the Adopt a Monument Scheme.

Update County Dublin Archaeology GIS Project in 2025.

Update Managing Fingal's Archaeological Resource for internal stakeholders

Examine efficacy of the policy of preservation in situ of archaeological sites in open space including protection, condition, maintenance and awareness.

Update and publish the Fingal Industrial Heritage Survey to outline the history of the development of industry in the County

Assess the condition of all Protected Structures within the Council's ownership and pilot a management/maintenance plan as a template for these structures.

Pilot a disaster risk management plan for a Council owned heritage property to serve as a template for other historic buildings in the Council's ownership

Promote effective ongoing maintenance of historic homes in digestible leaflet form.

Produce a thematic architectural survey of places of worship in Fingal and a review of adaptive re-use case studies.

Identify Fingal owned sites requiring Conservation Management Plans

Develop proposals for submission to the Historic Towns Initiative.

Heritage-led regeneration-training and community engagement workshops with the newly formed regeneration office.

Identify suitable Marine and coastal heritage projects

Traditional skills training and workshops such as traditional ironwork, working with lime, dry stone walling and hedgelaying.

Support the Biodiversity office in mapping townland boundary hedgerows on green infrastructure maps.

Sharing our Stories

Support community-led Heritage Audit & Interpretation Plans

Provide Community Heritage Audit Tool Kit and Training

Explore potential for heritage initiatives based on local and doorstep such as sustainable food production and foraging, and traditional uses of local trees and plants.

Explore potential collaborations with UCD's National Folklore Collection.

Project/training around old local crafts and piseoga, stories from the oral tradition, and the Irish language or the old Fingal language

Heritage conservation, making people aware of our heritage and what it is through historical tours of our area.

Revitalise the Fingal Fieldnames project

Explore the potential for niche heritage-based tourism products

Explore the feasibility of joining the ICAN Network-community based history programme

Ensure heritage stop off points, links and views are incorporated into Fingal Coastal way

Climate Action for Heritage

- Pilot a project to map the history of rivers and floodplains in Fingal
- Undertake Climate Change animation to reach younger audiences
- Revisit climate change risk assessments in face of new evidence and updated methodologies
- Explore traditional land management skills for biodiversity e.g. scythe meitheal at Drumanagh
- Support and expand citizen science projects such as Fingal Heritage X Climate as a means of monitoring climate change in Fingal
- Develop resilience and adaptation strategies for the built and archaeological heritage in the Council's ownership

All Our Voices

- Under an intergenerational Schools Manuscripts Folklore project
- Undertake child-based interpretation of heritage projects
- Fingal Sound Map-collection of sounds and stories from around various towns
- Carry out a baseline audit of oral history collections relevant to Fingal to identify gaps and support new oral history initiatives based on best practice.
- Identify opportunities to celebrate the heritage of local musicians, writers and artists of note.
- Develop an oral history programme of capturing Fingal voices and memories across the community in line with Irish Oral History Network guidance.
- Support Heritage themed competitions and events for primary and secondary schools.
- Create an Irish language events page on the Fingal website

Creating Knowledge

- Continue Blas-Fingal's Food Heritage project
- Fingal's Sporting Heritage
- Support the research and fieldwork for Buildings of Ireland volume: Dublin Suburbs and County.
- Explore the transport heritage of Fingal-from aviation, railways, canals, motorsport etc.
- work with communities to continue the series of Heritage Guides and Heritage from Above for sites, villages and towns across Fingal
- Support synthesis and publication of archaeological excavations in Fingal.
- Grow and develop the Fingal Community Archaeology Programme
- Stained Glass Windows of Fingal Study
- Fingal's Textile Heritage
- Investigate feasibility of digitising important Glass Lantern Slides held by historical societies for greater access
- Develop a marine themed project with a skills element e.g. boat maintenance
- Undertake audits of historically significant elements of community heritage and the public realm such as kerbstones, postboxes and historic water pumps
- Develop with the Conservation Office a 20th century-built heritage project.
- Support graveyard recording work with local communities.
- Promote awareness of Fingal's industrial, military, maritime, aviation, canal and railway heritage.
- Examine initiatives and scientific developments such as aDNA and rare breeds research that will contribute to our understanding of Fingal's agricultural heritage.

Accessible Heritage

- Heritage of Disability
- Document the heritage of new communities in Fingal.
- Explore digital, creative, guided approaches, podcasts, temporary and permanent outdoor trails, enhancing existing interpretation, celebrating key viewpoints and improving the setting of / access to heritage features through place-making and orientation.
- Explore sensory needs and initiatives in heritage interpretation.
- Integrate with digital opportunities, developments and initiatives in order to ensure strong communications for both visitors and residents of Fingal.
- LGBTQ+ Heritage Project
- Explore social histories through historical events

Appendix 2.

Fingal Heritage Services

Fingal County Council has a team of professional staff across a range of Departments that collaborate to deliver an integrated approach to managing, protecting, and promoting all aspects of heritage.

Heritage Officer

The Heritage Office is based in the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Department, and working with the Fingal Heritage Forum, leads the formulation and implementation of the County Heritage Plan. The Heritage Officer supports the Fingal Heritage Network and other community groups, co-ordinates the Council's input to National Heritage Week administers the Community Monuments Fund.

Contact: Christine Baker, Heritage Officer

Tel: 086 778 4669

Email: christine.baker@fingal.ie

Biodiversity Office

The Biodiversity Office consists of four staff led by the Biodiversity Officer. The main role of the Biodiversity Officer is formulating and implementing the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan, which provides a framework for biodiversity action for the period from 2022-2030. The plan aims to halt the loss of biodiversity in Fingal by focussing the efforts and resources of Fingal County Council and other nature conservation groups to respond to the escalating ecological crisis and climate emergency.

Contact: Hans Visser, Biodiversity Officer

Tel: 01 890 5605

Email: biodiversity@fingal.ie

Conservation Office

The Conservation Office which is staffed by two, is based in the Architects Department, and advises Council staff, owners, and the general public on the architectural heritage of the County, including Protected Structures (RPS), Architectural Conservation Areas [ACAs] and Fingal's surviving historic and vernacular buildings.

Contact: *Helena Bergin, Architectural Conservation Officer*

Tel: 087 769 5304

Email: conservation@fingal.ie

Fingal Local Studies & Archives

Fingal Local Studies & Archives are based at 46 North Street, Swords. The service collects, preserves and makes available historic records relating to Fingal and Dublin generally by transfer, donation and purchase. Outreach includes exhibitions, publications, talks, the Fingal Festival of History and participation in Heritage Week and Culture Night.

The **Local Studies** collections include photographs, postcards, maps, artwork and an extensive printed collection of local history books and periodicals, reference works, directories and general genealogical and historical books. The **Archive** contains records of local government in County Dublin from 1775 to the present day including the Turnpike Trusts, County of Dublin Grand Jury, Poor Law Unions, Rural District Councils, Howth Urban District Council, Balbriggan Town Commissioners, Dublin County Council and a variety of private collections including the Hely-Hutchinson Papers, Holmpatrick Papers and Hone Papers.

This friendly and efficient service is available to anyone interested in local, social or family history in Fingal and Dublin generally.

Contact: *Karen de Lacey, Archivist*

Tel: 01 870 4486

Email: archives@fingal.ie

Management of Fingal's Heritage Properties

The Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development Department are responsible for the management of Fingal's diverse and unique Heritage Properties. The Department oversees the day-to-day management of the properties that are currently open to the public and their requirements for capital investment to safeguard their future for the enjoyment of the generations to come; these are Malahide Castle & Gardens, Malahide Casino, Newbridge House & Farm, Ardgillan Castle, Skerries Mills and Swords Castle.

Contact: Stephen Hand, Senior Staff Officer

Tel: 087 238 0894

Email: stephen.hand@fingal.ie

Appendix 3.

Methodology and Contributors

How was the Plan developed?

Following a review of the previous Fingal Heritage Plan, we embarked on a comprehensive process of engagement and consultation. A two stage public consultation was undertaken.

Stage 1: Pre-Draft Consultation-April-May 2023

In order to gather the views of as wide an audience as possible, an online survey was hosted on the Fingal County Council website (www.fingal.ie) was promoted to the public, community groups and other organisations in Fingal through social media. The survey was also shared with Fingal Public Participation Network, and organisations involved in the Fingal Integration Forum.

Drop-in sessions were held during May 2023 in Balbriggan and Blanchardstown Libraries and Newbridge House and Demesne, where members of the public were invited to complete the survey online using their phones (paper copies were also available). Consultation meetings and workshops were held with the Fingal Heritage Forum, the Fingal Heritage Network and Fingal Comhairle na nÓg (with the kind assistance of Foróige).

A total of 266 participated in the online survey, which consisted of prompts and open questions designed to identify their priorities for heritage action up to 2030 and explore ideas around the importance of heritage, the key themes that should be addressed by the plan, and key challenges to managing and protecting Fingal's heritage. A full report on the pre-draft consultation was circulated to the Fingal Heritage Forum, presented to the Community Development, Heritage, Culture & Creativity SPC and is available at <https://www.fingal.ie/FingalHeritagePlan2024-2030>

To summarise participants recognise heritage as important for a wide range of reasons, primarily relating to an attractive historical environment, a sense of place and community, shared social history, and cultural connections. Heritage is important for wellbeing and identity and the value of heritage as a finite resource and in terms of tourism, sustainability, and economic benefit was acknowledged.

Respondents to the public survey and other stakeholders consulted, identified conservation, and caring for heritage sites (e.g., monuments, protected buildings, historic graveyards, natural heritage sites) as a priority theme for the Heritage Plan. A focus on local heritage e.g., vernacular buildings, recording oral histories and placenames also emerged as a popular theme among survey respondents and the local history and heritage groups involved in the Heritage Network³.

³ The Fingal Heritage Network brings together heritage groups from around the county to work together and pool information and resources. The network also represents the views of its members and seeks to inform policy making in Fingal County Council and other relevant organisations [Heritage Groups and Societies](#) | [Fingal County Council](#)

A wide range of sub-themes such as marine and coastal heritage, agricultural heritage, sport, food, traditional skills, Irish language, and industrial heritage also emerged as valued and important during consultation.

Not surprisingly for a county which is growing rapidly and has a young and ethnically diverse population, raising awareness, communicating heritage, and engaging everyone including young people and new communities was seen as a key theme for the plan. Raising awareness that heritage encompasses biodiversity, cultural heritage, and stories of how we lived highlights how heritage extends beyond monuments, archaeology, and architectural heritage.

Recording the heritage of Fingal through research, audits and inventories, and training and education programmes (e.g., traditional skills, biodiversity) were also identified as important and there is a strong level of interest in taking part in practical heritage projects or training.

Climate change, which is a theme across all aspects of Fingal County Council's policies and operation to 2030 and beyond, was identified as a priority by many. The recently completed climate change risk assessment for heritage will inform the Heritage Plan.

Heritage is a key driver of tourism in Fingal and integrated approaches to delivery of tourism and heritage projects can support accessible and inclusive community engagement. Heritage based community-led enterprise projects also offer potential in this regard.

Respondents to the survey perceive the key challenges facing Fingal's heritage as pressure from development, lack of awareness or engagement and lack of funding, resources, and capacity for managing and protecting heritage.

Stage 2: Draft Heritage Plan Consultation – August-October 2023

The Draft Heritage Plan 2024-2030 was formulated to reflect the views of the public and stakeholders expressed during Stage 1 of the consultation process. The Draft Plan set out a vision and strategic objectives for our shared heritage. It includes all types of heritage, how they interlink and connect and how we can best protect and access our heritage. Submissions and observations were invited via the consultation portal <https://consult.fingal.ie> or in writing.

Timed to take advantage of the rise in public awareness for heritage, following Heritage Week 2023 the consultation period for the Draft Plan extended from Wednesday 23 August to Wednesday 04 October 2023 (inclusive). The consultation process was promoted extensively via the Fingal Communications Unit, the fingal.ie website and through social media. A live online webinar with the Heritage Officer took place on Tuesday 26th September, which was recorded and could be viewed, subsequently. A total of 10 submissions were received. A report on the submissions and amended Draft Plan was presented to the Fingal Heritage Forum, and subsequently brought to Council, where it was approved on the 11th December 2023.

Contributors

Thank you to all who contributed their time, ideas and thoughts during the engagement process

The following organisations responded to the pre-draft consultation survey and gave their consent to be included in the list of contributors:

- Skerries Mills
- Baldoyle Wild Towns
- Ballyboughal Community Council
- Ballyboughal Hedgerow Society
- Ballyboughal Tidy Towns
- Blanchardstown Castleknock History Society
- Cllr Adrian Henchy
- Dublin Climate Action Regional Office
- Fingal Comhairle na nÓg
- Fingal Heritage X Climate 2021
- Fingallians GAA
- Hackett Agricultural Consultants
- Gaelcholaiste Reachrann
- Irish Farmers Association
- Inbhir die Drive and Close Residents Association
- Loughshinny Community Association
- LoveLusk
- Lusk Community Council
- Naul Community Council
- Ongar Village Residents Association
- Porterstown Village Residents Association
- Resurrecting Monuments
- Rush Tourism
- Scoil Seamus Ennis
- Swords Men's Walk and Talk Group
- The Ward Valley Heritage Group
- Local An Taisce group (working title)

Thank you to Sinéad Begley of Sinéad Begley & Associates Ltd. for her support in the consultation and formulation of the Heritage Plan.

Fingal Heritage Forum

Thank you to the members of the County Heritage Forum Steering Group for advice and guidance during the making of this plan.

The Fingal Heritage Forum, facilitated the Heritage Officer, inputs to the preparation and implementation of a Heritage Plan for Fingal to protect local heritage, and increase awareness, appreciation, and enjoyment of this valuable asset among the community. Membership aims to be representative of the diversity of the Fingal population, reflecting gender, geography and cultural interests and may be drawn from local government, local development, state agencies, educational institutions, landowner/farming representatives, community and voluntary groups, and heritage organisations/groups. The Forum members bring a range of expertise and experience to the process of working in partnership to protect Fingal's heritage.

Current membership

- Cllr. Pamela Conroy, Fingal County Council
- Cllr. Brendan Ryan, Fingal County Council
- Cllr. JK Onwumereh, Fingal County Council
- Cllr. Cathal Boland, Fingal County Council
- Cllr. Howard Mahony, Fingal County Council
- Christine Baker, Heritage Officer, Fingal County Council
- Karen de Lacey, County Archivist, Fingal Local Studies & Archives
- Catherine Keane, Senior Librarian, Fingal Local Studies & Archives
- Sarah O'Neill, Arts Office, Fingal County Council
- Helena Bergin, Conservation Officer, Fingal County Council
- Fionnuala May, County Architect, Fingal County Council
- Kevin Halpenny, Senior Parks Superintendent, Fingal County Council
- Hans Visser, Biodiversity Officer, Fingal County Council
- Roisin Burke, Senior Planner, Fingal County Council
- Elaine O'Sullivan, Fingal Tourism, Fingal County Council
- Eilish Harrington, Fingal LEADER
- Roisin O'Callaghan, Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)
- Tom Condit, National Monuments Service
- Thomas Murphy, Fingal Heritage Network
- Richard Williams, An Taisce
- Mairead Stack, National Parks, and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
- Charlotte Sheridan, The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI)
- James McGrane, Irish Farmers' Association (IFA)
- Brian Arnold, Fingal Public Participation Network
- Dr Jessica Smyth, School of Archaeology, UCD
- Teresa Bolger, Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI)

Heritage Plan co-ordinator: Christine Baker, Heritage Officer, FCC





