

THE
HERITAGE
OFFICER
PROGRAMME

Nurturing
YOURsense
to PLACE



Get Involved!

Attend a LOCAL HERITAGE EVENT

VOLUNTEER at a LOCAL HERITAGE SITE or project

Organise HERITAGE TALKS or WALKS in your community

Let your local COUNCILLORS, TDS, SENATORS and MEPS know that you VALUE YOUR HERITAGE

SUPPORT LOCAL HERITAGE BUSINESSES - Shop in historic towns and villages



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How can I contact my heritage officer?

Photographs:
Joe O'Sullivan (aerial view of Clonmacnoise), Pat Moore (Children at Jerpoint Abbey, Kilkenny), Catherine Casey (Thatching demonstration), Michael Scully (Traditional musicians), Paul Tierney (North Bull Wall Concrete Shelter), Conor Nelligan (Bantry Bay Heritage Week), NPWS (Matchstick Lichen), James Fraher (Stained Glass Window, Mount St. Joseph's Abbey)

Heritage Officers are based in Local Authority offices. The countrywide Heritage Officer Programme is run in partnership with Local Authorities and the Heritage Council. You can get contact details of your local Heritage Officer on www.heritagecouncil.ie and on your Local Authority website.

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



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Our Heritage

Our heritage is everything of natural, historic and cultural value in our urban and rural environment. It's the significant public and private buildings in our cities, towns, villages and countryside. It's our local parks, woodlands, lakes, rivers, mountains, farmlands and coastal regions. By valuing and interacting with our heritage, we can nurture a sense of local identity and support employment in tourism, agriculture, forestry, archaeology, architecture, cultural services, research and technology.

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Heritage Officers

Heritage Officers work to build a better understanding and appreciation of our natural and built heritage. They work within the Local Authority to safeguard our heritage, strengthen communities and support jobs. They research and evaluate local heritage with the view to creating new amenities and services for local communities. They also highlight the importance of our historical buildings and unique landscapes through collaborative policy development with other Local Authority officials.

Heritage Officers encourage us to celebrate the built, natural and cultural heritage of our cities, towns, villages and countryside through year-round activities and especially during National Heritage Week. They help communities to identify the aspects of our heritage that need to be nurtured for future generations. They work with conservation architects, archaeologists, sustainable forestry and agricultural advisors, ecologists, cultural and eco-tourism businesses, researchers and innovators who find new ways for the public to interact with, record and protect their local environment.

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Roles and Responsibilities of Heritage Officers

- They work with other specialists within the Local Authority to develop policies which place importance on our natural and built heritage when planning for the future.
- They co-ordinate and implement Heritage Plans in partnership with City and County Heritage Fora. They also help inform, develop and implement national and regional heritage policy at local level.
- They carry out surveys and write reports on areas of natural or architectural significance, adding to the local bank of knowledge.
- They help promote places of beauty, encouraging commercial and community initiatives to set up walking/cycling trails and heritage festivals for national and international visitors.
- They work with local environmental and community groups to organise events throughout the year and especially during National Heritage Week.

