

CHAPTER 8 THE BUILT AND NATURAL HERITAGE

8.1 BACKGROUND

The Council recognises the value of natural, built and cultural heritage with regard to quality of life and daily activities. The Council also recognised that such heritage must be managed in a sustainable manner for future generations based on models of best Conservation Practice. Our heritage makes a significant contribution to the character, quality and distinctiveness of the County's landscape. Landscape, habitats, other forms of natural heritage and archaeological and built heritage constitute the heritage items considered in this section.

GOAL

To conserve and protect the County's natural, built and cultural heritage for future generations while encouraging appreciation and enjoyment of these resources at present.

OBJECTIVES

- Seek the conservation and wise management of areas of natural environmental value.
- Protect, and where possible enhance, plant and animal species and their habitat, which have been identified under the EU Habitats Directive, EU Birds Directive, the Wildlife Act and the Flora Protection Order.
- Protect landscapes of highest scenic amenity and views and prospects of specific importance.
- Adopt and encourage a sustainable approach for the management of the County's natural, built and cultural heritage.

8.2 NATURAL HERITAGE

8.3 POLICIES AND PROPOSALS

POLICY BNH1: DESIGNATED NATURE CONSERVATION SITES (HABITATS)

European and National legislation now protects the most valuable of our natural heritage areas. This is achieved through the designation of sites as proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). All designated cSACs and SPAs will, in the future, be designated as part of the European wide Natura 2000 Network of prime natural heritage sites.

The designation of these sites at national level is the responsibility of the DoEHLG, but it is a common responsibility to secure their protection for the future. The process of site designation is ongoing with new sites being added and/or upgraded in terms of their conservation status, and the boundaries of existing sites being adjusted as better information becomes available. In addition, there are a range of plants and animals and their associated habitats that are protected under European and National legislation. The extent of the pNHAs, cSACs and SPAs are shown on the attached Map No. 8, and listed in Appendix A Development Guidelines and Technical Standards (6.4).

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Proposed NHAs encompass nationally important, semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms and geomorphological features, wild plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. It is important that the conservation value of these areas be maintained.

Under the Habitats Directive, each EU State is required to designate cSACs in order to support habitat and plant and animal species that are rare or threatened in Europe and which require particular conservation measures. While cSACs are fully protected under the EU Habitats Directive, the term 'candidate' refers to the fact that the sites are currently under consideration by the Commission of the European Union.

Under the Birds Directive, each EU State is required to designate SPAs for the conservation of natural areas that support populations of particular bird species that are rare or threatened in Europe.

It is Council policy to:

- Maintain, and where possible enhance, the conservation value of the all pNHAs, cSACs and SPAs, as identified by the Minister for the DoEHLG, as well as many other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan.
- Ensure development proposals do not destroy or damage any sites of international or national importance, designated for their wildlife/habitat significance, including pNHAs, cSACs and SPA's.

POLICY BNH 2: TREES, STONE WALLS AND HEDGEROWS

Trees, stone walls and hedgerows within County Donegal contribute significantly to biodiversity and landscape character. In addition, hedgerows and stone walls constitute an important natural and historic resource, given their contribution to landscape quality, their ecological importance as wildlife habitats and historical significance as townland and field boundaries.

It is County policy to:

- Promote the protection of trees and hedgerows from development that would impact adversely upon them and enhance existing hedgerows by seeking increased coverage in conjunction with new development.
- Promote the protection of stone wall boundaries; where the demolition of stone walls is proposed/required, suitable provision must be made for the reinstatement of same, at revised location/set back within site.
- Retain, through the development management process existing trees, hedgerows etc. and to encourage further planting as part of development proposals.
- Investigate the possibility of protecting trees/woodlands through a process of consultation with the community and landowners, including the use of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's).
- Ensure the protection and conservation of hedgerows as natural heritage corridors.

POLICY BNH 3: HERITAGE PLAN AND BIODIVERSITY PLAN

The National Heritage Plan (2002) requires that local authorities prepare and implement Local Heritage Plans. This will assist in 'placing heritage at the heart of public life' as advocated in the National Heritage Plan (2002). The National Biodiversity Plan (2002) requires that local authorities prepare and implement Local Biodiversity Plans. Accordingly it is Council policy to:

- Prepare and implement a five-year Heritage Plan as required under the National Heritage Plan (2002).
- Prepare and implement a five-year Biodiversity Plan as required under the National Biodiversity Plan (2002).
- Establish a process of Heritage Appraisal.

POLICY BNH 4: AREAS OF GEOLOGICAL INTEREST

Sites of geological interest have not been comprehensively covered by existing nature conservation designations. The DoEHLG and the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) are currently drawing up a list of sites of national geological interest that will be proposed as NHAs. In the interim, the Council has listed in this Plan the geological features of National and County importance with the objective of maintaining their conservation value. (See Appendix A, Development Guidelines and Technical Standards Paragraph 6.3.)

It will therefore be Council Policy to:

- Seek the preservation and maintain the conservation value of important features of geological interest within the County.

POLICY BNH 5: LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

The areas of especially high scenic amenity (EHSA) in the County have been identified and illustrated on the map attached. These areas are of the highest landscape quality in the County, characterised by wilderness and few, if any, man made structures. They include the high cliffed coastal zones and upland mountain areas.

The core principles underlying the Council's policies for landscape conservation, are to give the highest degree of protection to the areas of highest scenic landscape quality and to adopt a positive attitude to development proposals in areas of relatively low scenic landscape quality. Accordingly only very limited development will be considered in the areas of especially high scenic amenity.

Within this landscape identified as EHSA there may be small pockets which do not fully meet the definition of the designation e.g. where small clusters of dwellings exist or coniferous afforestation has occurred. Such anomalies in landscape designation shall be considered individually should an application for development be submitted with them. The onus shall be on the applicant to demonstrate that the site does not meet the characteristics of the EHSA and that any development applied for shall not adversely affect the landscape value of the wider EHSA within which the site is located.

The Council will also seek to preserve the views and prospects of special amenity value and interest, in particular, views between public roads and the sea, lakes and rivers. In this regard, development proposals situate on lands between the road and the sea, lakes or rivers shall be considered on the basis of the following criteria:

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- Importance value of the view in question.
- Whether the integrity of the view has been affected to date by existing development.
- Whether the development would intrude significantly on the view.
- Whether the development would materially alter the view.

In operating this policy, a reasonable and balanced approach shall be implemented so as to ensure that the policy does not act as a blanket ban on developments between the road and the sea, lakes and rivers.

The Council will seek to preserve the main approach roads to Glenveagh National Park.

It is Council Policy to:

- Limit new residential development within the areas of Especially High Scenic Amenity in accordance with the policies set out in the Housing Section of this Plan (Chapter 5). In addition public development tied to a fixed resource or which falls within the strategic infrastructural corridors will be facilitated.
- Not consider favourably Natural Resource Development (wind quarries) in EHSA, See Chapter 7. Other Natural Resource Developments within EHSA will be assessed on their own merits, having regard to policy guidance. New agricultural developments within an existing farm complex will be considered on their merits within areas of Especially High Scenic Amenity.
- Consider appropriate extensions, change of use and renovations of existing intact buildings within areas of Especially High Scenic Amenity provided they do not materially alter the character of the building and its associated curtilage.
- Not consider favourably development which would restrict, intrude significantly or materially alter any of the views and prospects designated on the attached map.
- Protect the character of the approach roads to Glenveagh National Park through the development management procedure. These approach roads are
 - Glendown to Doochary Road
 - Dunlewy to Termon Road
 - Churchill to Termon/Dunlewy Road
 - Muckish Gap to Cabiber Bridge
- Overhead power lines will not be permitted along these roads.
- Not favourably consider applications for telecommunications antennae and support structures in areas of Especially High Scenic Amenity save for the development of the North West Broadband Arc project or similar project.
- Not favourably consider applications, which provide for an increase in the height or width of telecommunications antennae and support structures in areas of Especially High Scenic Amenity save for the development of the North West Broadband Arc project or similar project.
- It is an objective of the Council to prepare a Local Area Plan for the area of designated EHSA located at Ardnagappary Common and Maghergallon, the precise boundaries of which will be agreed with the Council.

POLICY BNH 6: PROTECTION OF SHORE WALKS

The integrity of the Shore Walks from Moville to Greencastle, from Bundoran to Tullaghan, from Buncrana to Stragill and also the walkway encircling Trusk Lough, Ballybofey shall be protected, by the control of development which would be considered to intrude upon or inhibit the amenities of the walks and the surrounding areas.

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Also in regard to the Control Points at Moville (see Appendix F – Town and Village Control Points Maps Booklet) The lands located on the seaward side of an indicative line between control points labelled, H, I and J are excluded from the control point area. This exclusion applies to multiple residential developments and to proposals that may avail of the Resource Related Tourism Projects policy.

POLICY BNH 7: BLUE FLAG BEACHES

No development will be considered which adversely compromises the recreational and environmental amenity of designated and proposed Blue Flag Beaches.

POLICY BNH 8: HERITAGE GARDENS

The Council will safeguard the legacy of Heritage Gardens within the County due to their intrinsic amenity, heritage value and their potential for tourism.

8.4 BUILT HERITAGE

BACKGROUND

There are many influences affecting the built fabric of County Donegal, two major factors are the geographical and socio-political elements of a given time. Donegal is the northernmost County in Ireland, lying to the north west of the country and bounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the south-west, east and north, with a border of some 140km with Northern Ireland, and 9km with the rest of the country.

Of the 1.2million acres of land that is County Donegal, almost 800,000 acres of land is rough pasture and upland bog, this topography adds space to the rugged beauty of the County and has shaped our building form by constraints of function and economy rather than aesthetic. This is identified by the stepped gable wall/roof juncture of the cottage and outbuilding, built with parapet walls or copings to provide shelter from the prevailing wind and rain, which consider primarily the elements of site topography and shelter.

This physical and political climate has moulded the County's very specific and unique identity, with layers of social, historical, political, economic, physical, scientific and emotional reference embedded in the built fabric of our landscape and manifesting itself in our towns, villages and perhaps more pre-dominantly in our rural settlements and homesteads. The distinct qualities in our built heritage, particularly in Donegal's rural architecture, are as important to our cultural identity as the spoken and written word or verse.

There are many factors affecting our daily lives, perhaps none more so than the built environment within which we live, work and play. The existing built fabric of our homes, National Schools, Churches, Church Halls, our places of work; banks, shops, restaurants, farmyards and offices give us an insight into how our ancestors or neighbours lived their lives, allowing us a glimpse of history that has shaped generations.

The ongoing recognition of the importance of our built heritage and its association with our past has shaped our County's identity and is recognised as being a valuable asset in promoting economic development and a sense of being, regeneration and sustainability.

The principle national legislation relating to the built environment is the National Monuments Act 1930-1994, and more specifically when dealing with the Record of Protected Structures, the Planning and Development Act 2000-2004. Previous to this there were two lists of buildings, the Planning Act 2000 however, replaced the concept of listing of buildings, combining structures worthy of protection onto one list, which is now known as the Record of Protected Structures (hereafter referred

to as the RPS). Refer to the Appendix A Development Guidelines and Technical Standards - Section 11 for further details regarding the RPS.

Vernacular Architecture

Houses and farm buildings lie at the very centre of Irish architecture and culture; they are as constant and as typical as the network of fields, mountains and lakes which surround them. Built with rubble stone or earthen walls, covered with painted plaster, roofed with slate, tin or straw, they stand in courtyards with solid outbuildings, often enclosed by banks of tall trees which serve both as windbreak and as a mark of habitation in an empty landscape'.

(from 'A Lost Tradition The Nature of Architecture in Ireland' Niall McCullough & Valerie Mulvin)

These homes and farm buildings, often referred to as rural vernacular architecture, have been built over years by local families using local materials to meet their own needs within specific site restraints. More often than not these buildings evolved through time unaffected by architects, formal styles or fashionable trends. As such the formations of our outbuildings and cottages are very site specific and very often the hand of the thatcher in Inishowen is different to that in Gweedore, likewise the profile of dry stone walling varies from Malin Head to Bundoran. It is these strategic subtleties that make what remains of our built heritage valuable and worthy of retention.

It is also worthwhile to note and identify the evolution of these buildings, how they have changed and adapted over the years and this evolution must be allowed to continue whereby direct entry or gable entry cottages are retained, restored and added to, so as to facilitate the spatial requirements of modern day needs.

With regard to matters of the Building Regulations, energy efficiency and sustainability, addressing issues such as the egress of radon, penetration of damp, insulation values and fire regulations, the Conservation Officer is working with the Building Control Officer in the Council to set up workshops and information sheets answering queries and concerns on such subjects. It is suffice to say that the very essence of sustainability must be the re-use of that which we already have, and the utilisation of local materials and local craft.

The Council are very aware of the numbers of vernacular buildings in the County that add to the beautiful and rugged landscape synonymous with Donegal but that are not present in the current RPS. The addition of these structures to the RPS is an area the Council are exploring, in an attempt to prevent these buildings being demolished, while also working within the guidelines of the Rural Housing Strategy to encourage the re-use of many of the derelict roadside cottages and homestead collection of buildings. The re-use of these buildings ensures that the existing built fabric of the County remains as an integral part of a living and working community, yet is also reminiscent of our valued past.

Conservation can play a key part in promoting economic prosperity by ensuring that an area offers attractive living and working conditions which will encourage inward investment. In return economic prosperity can secure the vitality of historic towns, villages and local communities.

Industrial Architecture

Our industrial architecture is all encompassing and includes the Warehouses in Ramelton, the Mills in Convoy, Newmills and Ballyshannon, the coastguard stations and lighthouses in many of the fishing villages through-out the County from Moville to Killybegs, from post offices and post boxes to lime kilns and brickworks, as well as the roads, bridges and railways servicing these activities.

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During the late 1800's, as a result of the Industrial Revolution in Britain, many of our urban industries, such as those in Ramelton, started to develop. Activity was based mainly on the processing of agricultural products through utilising resources most easily accessed, usually water, which resulted in the quantity and varying quality of the remaining mills and warehouses. These structures are very often situated beside water courses or sources, which are scattered across the County.

Many of these sites continued in use until fairly recently, now redundant, these buildings are currently undergoing a process of active deterioration. To curtail this process of decline a programme of preservation, restoration or adaptive re-use should be implemented. In all instances the importance of thorough historical and photographic research of the site should be completed and documented for future reference and archive.

Design Standards when adapting Historic Buildings

The Council will encourage the extension or alteration of a Recorded Structure, employing quality contemporary architectural philosophy working in tandem with informed conservation principles, in an attempt to retain historic buildings while adapting them accordingly to meet the needs of the present day. The characteristics and importance of simplicity, restraint, proportion and the quality of materials in our historic buildings are elements to be protected and nurtured, used appropriately with new materials and applications they provide a reference of the present day for future generations to come.

GOAL

To preserve and enhance the built heritage of County Donegal by raising awareness of the importance and value of our fields, towns and villages, farm buildings, cottages, churches, schools, courthouses, banks and homes, not only as a tool to encourage regeneration and employment in our rural and urban environment, but as integral elements of the matrix that shapes our daily lives.

OBJECTIVES

- To preserve, protect and record the architectural heritage of Donegal for future generations.
- To encourage the identification, retention and development of traditionally skilled crafts throughout the County.
- To promote awareness among owner/occupiers of historic buildings and all generations, of the general public to the importance and value of our architectural heritage.
- To encourage the appropriate re-use of traditional cottages in our towns and particularly in rural settings across the County.
- To promote economic growth and sustainability through the ongoing regeneration of our built environment.
- To promote the development of a positive system of fiscal incentives at both local and national level to encourage the protection of historic buildings which often suffer more from decay and neglect rather than more deliberate active destruction.
- To ensure any development, modifications, alterations or extensions affecting a protected structure, adjoining structure or structure within an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) are sited and designed appropriately and are not

detrimental to the character of the structure, its setting or the character of the ACA.

POLICIES AND PROPOSALS

POLICY BNH 9: It is the policy of the Council to preserve, protect and record the architectural heritage of Donegal for future generations through the following:

- (i) Employ best Conservation practice at all times when working with historic buildings.
- (ii) Protect structures of architectural, artistic, historical, archaeological, cultural, scientific, social, technical value or interest across the County.
- (iii) Review and subsequently alter, by adding or deleting structures to and from the RPS, as necessary during the lifetime of the Plan, thus providing a comprehensive schedule for the protection of structures of special importance in the County.
- (iv) Undertake architectural heritage inventories of historic towns, villages and settlements by engaging local community groups and publishing completed findings for public reference.
- (v) Include an inventory of architectural heritage in all Local Area Plans.
- (vi) Prepare an audit of all marine architecture, watch-towers, lighthouses, coastguard cottages, signal towers, Marino towers and harbours, in liaison with local community groups and organisations while implementing a programme of awareness of the importance of and the evolution of fishing villages in the County.
- (vii) Protect and enhance through active partnership with owner/occupiers the County's industrial heritage e.g. mill in Raphoe, warehouses in Ramelton.
- (viii) Collate a reference document of transport infrastructure; bridges, railways, railway stations, roadside features.
- (ix) Carry out an audit and assess the condition of all Protected Structures within the Council's ownership and devise, working with the Property Section of the Council, a management/maintenance plan for all these structures.
- (x) Protect important non-structural elements of the built environment such as stone walls, pillars and associated boundary conditions, holy wells, mass rocks, telephone boxes, post-boxes, curtilage features, garden furniture, memorials. The Council will promote awareness and best practice in relation to these elements.

POLICY BNH 10: It is the policy of the Council to encourage the identification, retention and development of traditionally skilled crafts throughout the County through the following:

- (i) Establish a register of traditional skills.
- (ii) Promote the importance of informed decision making with regard to any intervention to a protected structure or historic building by encouraging the

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engagement of a suitably qualified conservation specialist with regard to material specification and application.

- (iii) Work with statutory bodies to establish training courses promoting the necessary skills required to maintain our valuable built environment.
- (iv) Demonstrate best conservation practice with regard to custodianship of Protected Structures in the Council's ownership/care.
- (v) Provide an in-house training programme for Council staff carrying out repair and maintenance work to bridges and stone walls and produce guidance notes on this subject for contractors and local community groups.
- (vi) Organise annual workshops for planning officials working with historic buildings to equip them with the skills necessary to provide informed judgements when working with historic buildings.
- (vii) Establish links with local Building Control officers and provide guidelines and advice for owner/occupiers when restoring or altering a protected structure.

POLICY BNH 11: It is the policy of the Council to promote awareness among owner/occupiers of historic buildings and all generations of the general public of the importance and value of our architectural heritage through the following:

- (i) Develop, through discussion and workshops with the public, an increased awareness of the built environment.
- (ii) Nurture the existing advisory and educational support systems within the Council with regard to our built heritage.
- (iii) Work with historical groups and societies and local community groups both in Donegal and across the border to explore our heritage and the impact it has on our daily lives.
- (iv) The County Council will work with the DoEHLG and the OPW to protect and enhance the setting of National Monuments in State Care in the County.

POLICY BNH 12: It is the policy of the Council to encourage the appropriate re-use of traditional cottages in our towns and particularly in rural settings across the County through the following:

- (i) Positively consider the reuse, alteration, and/or extension of an existing building. This avoids the generation of unnecessary building demolition waste, helps to foster the development of conservation skills whilst sustaining an historic building as an element of historical reference.
- (ii) Prepare an audit of all remaining vernacular buildings, derelict or in use, in the County and subsequently propose a long-term programme, on the back of these findings, to actively encourage the re-use of these buildings. These buildings, becoming active again, secures their position for future generations to learn from and enjoy.
- (iii) Prepare an audit of surviving thatched structures in the county and promote the DOE thatching grant and Conservation Grant Scheme to assist owners with the repair of thatched roofs.

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- (iv) Encourage the appreciation, protection, retention and appropriate revitalisation of traditional architecture in County Donegal, considering existing field boundaries, stonewalls, and hedgerows in order to maintain the character of the rural landscape of County Donegal.
- (v) Positively encourage the development of existing derelict stone homesteads and/or roadside cottages which are to be complemented with good quality contemporary design to meet the individuals' spatial requirements while also having regard to other relevant and associated planning policies.

POLICY BNH 13: It is the policy of the Council to promote economic growth and sustainability through the ongoing regeneration of our built environment through the following:

- (i) Continue to work with various directorates within the Council to actively encourage the re-use of protected structures and historic buildings, and adopt collaborative conservation led approaches as the basis for successful regeneration initiatives.
- (ii) Forge links with directorates within the Council as well as other statutory and public bodies both locally and nationally to collate a pool of information resources and contacts to facilitate successful regeneration within the County.

POLICY BNH 14: It is the policy of the Council to promote the development of a positive system of fiscal incentives at both local and national level to encourage the protection of historic buildings which often suffer more from decay and neglect rather than more deliberate active destruction through the following:

- (i) Promote funding possibilities to assist with the retention and repair of historic buildings and protected structures; DoEHLG thatching grants, the Council Conservation Grant Aid, Heritage Council Buildings at Risk and Local Heritage grant aid and funding available from the Donegal Task Force for Peace and Reconciliation.
- (ii) Consider Development Charge reductions/exemptions for the sensitive re-development of derelict buildings for residential use which may act as a catalyst for sustainable development.

POLICY BNH 15: It is the policy of the Council to ensure any development, modifications, alterations or extensions affecting a protected structure, adjoining structure or structure within an Architectural Conservation Area are sited and designed appropriately and are not detrimental to the character of the structure, its setting or the character of the ACA through the following:

- (i) Encourage the retention of original windows, doors, renders, roof coverings and other significant features of historic buildings whether protected or not.
- (ii) Seek the retention of historic shop fronts and pub fronts as part of the language of roads, streets, towns and villages of both urban and rural Donegal.
- (iii) Discourage the replacement of good quality and rare examples of traditional building types with inappropriate structures.

- (iv) Encourage individuals to alter, extend and restore, with the guidance of a suitably qualified conservation architect and in accordance with good conservation policy guidelines, an historic building to meet present day spatial requirements for future generations whilst using good examples of contemporary architecture.
- (v) Ensure that all planning applications relating to protected structures, proposed protected structures or buildings of architectural merit be referred to the Conservation Officer and all prescribed bodies for comment prior to a decision being made.
- (vi) Conserve and enhance the special character of any Architectural Conservation Areas, including their traditional building stock and material finishes, spaces, streetscape, landscape and setting.
- (vii) It is the policy of the Council to investigate Derelict Sites in a number of towns in the County on a pilot basis. Mechanisms such as tax relief incentives or reductions in development contributions may be applicable. Furthermore the powers contained within the Derelict Sites Act 1990 may be applied in order to address problem sites.

8.5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

BACKGROUND

Archaeological Heritage represents the study of past societies through the material remains left by those societies and the evidence of their environment. Archaeological heritage includes structures, constructions, groups of buildings, developed sites, all recorded monuments as well as their contexts, and moveable objects situated both on land and underwater. The Council recognises that protection and conservation of the County's archaeological heritage is a shared responsibility between national government, the Council, communities and individuals.

Historic Towns in the County include Ballyshannon, Donegal Town, Killybegs, Lifford, Ramelton, Rathmullan and St. Johnston, guideline boundaries for these towns are illustrated in the Record of Monuments and Places. In addition the Council has designated the following towns as 'Heritage Towns'; Ardara, Ballyshannon, Merville, Raphoe, and Ramelton.

The Council has 30 burial grounds in its ownership/care and is committed to ensuring that best conservation practice is employed in the protection, conservation, management and maintenance of the natural, built and archaeological heritage in these burial grounds.

GOAL

To conserve and protect the County's archaeological heritage for future generations while encouraging its appreciation and enjoyment.

OBJECTIVES

- To establish an integrated system and a sustainable approach to management for the consideration of archaeological heritage issues in the Council's plans, programmes and policies.
- To consider fully archaeological heritage issues based on expert advice, best conservation practice and local knowledge.

POLICIES AND PROPOSALS

POLICY BNH 16: It is Council policy to:

- (i) Protect and enhance the integrity of archaeological monuments and their settings and all subsequent monuments/sites identified within the Plan period and also to secure the preservation (in-situ or, as a minimum, by record) of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places and of sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally.
- (ii) Have regard to Zones of Archaeological Potential when planning works in towns and villages. Particular attention should be given to Heritage Towns and towns designated under the Urban & Village Renewal Programme. Retain street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.
- (iii) Protect and conserve burial grounds on the Record of Monuments and Places in cooperation with the DOEHLG and establish a system of maintenance based on best conservation practice for burial grounds in the ownership/care of the Council.
- (iv) Work in partnership with the National Monuments Section, Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government and the Office of Public Works to protect, preserve, promote and enhance archaeological heritage and National Monuments including inter alia Beltony Stone Circle and Griannan Aileach. Also to consult with the DoEHLG in relation to any proposed developments adjacent to designated archaeological sites or resources and to adopt the 'precautionary principle' in reviewing such developments. Also to promote public awareness of the rich archaeological heritage of County Donegal.
- (v) To seek archaeological assessments as part of a planning submission when proposed development could affect a Recorded Monument, a Zone of Archaeological Potential or their settings, also to require an archaeological assessment (including visual impact assessment) to be submitted detailing the potential impact of any development on both upstanding and buried structures/deposits when considering development in the vicinity of all upstanding remains.
- (vi) To protect the character, settings and views of, and to be enjoyed from, internationally important archaeological sites like Griannan Aileach and Beltony Stone Circle etc. and to control development which would be considered to intrude upon or inhibit the enjoyment of the amenities of these sites.