

# AUDIT OF COLUMBAN CULTURAL HERITAGE IN COUNTY DONEGAL & DERRY CITY & STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

May 2018



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



Derry City & Strabane  
District Council  
Comhairle Chathair  
Dhoire & Cheantar  
an tSratha Báin  
Derry Cittie & Strabane  
Districk Council



Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme  
2017–2022



Foras na Gaeilge

OUR HERITAGE:  
WHERE THE PAST  
MEETS THE FUTURE

2018  
EUROPEAN YEAR  
OF CULTURAL  
HERITAGE  
#EuropeForCulture

*An Action of the County Donegal Heritage Plan funded by  
Donegal County Council, The Heritage Council,  
Derry City & Strabane District Council & Foras na Gaeilge*

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Context

St. Colmcille (also known as St. Columba) is one of Ireland's patron saints, a distinction that he shares with St. Patrick and St. Bridget. The audit of Columban cultural heritage will assist in planning for forthcoming commemorations of the 1,500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Colmcille's birth in 2021. The audit will provide essential baseline information for identifying key aspects of Columban cultural heritage, key stakeholders and resources/opportunities for commemoration.

St. Colmcille was born in Gartan, County Donegal on December 7, 521 A.D. or 520 A.D. There are many sites associated with his life and many more that are dedicated to him. In 545 A.D., St. Colmcille founded his first monastery in Derry / Doire Cholm Cille. St. Colmcille and twelve monks sailed from Derry to the island of Iona in Scotland in 563 A.D. He died on Iona on June 9, 597 A.D. and his feast day is commemorated on that date every year.

This audit presents an important opportunity for Donegal County Council, Derry City & Strabane District Council, Foras na Gaeilge, The Heritage Council and local community heritage groups to plan for the commemoration of the 1,500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of St. Colmcille which will take place in 2021. The audit will identify and map heritage sites, objects and archives associated with St. Colmcille and his life. This will range from well-known heritage sites to places associated with St. Colmcille in local folklore and will include objects and archives in national and local repositories. The research will highlight the links between the Columban material culture and aspects of folklore, folk traditions, language, placenames and intangible cultural heritage which are considerable. The audit will identify and map the archaeological monuments and protected built heritage associated with St. Colmcille. It will help to highlight conservation works that may be required to Columban built and archaeological heritage.

The identity of history and heritage groups and individuals, and their role in the preservation, conservation and promotion of Columban heritage will be recorded in the audit. It will also outline local historical and heritage venues capable of hosting events as part of the 2021 commemorations. This will help to establish the local and community capacity to undertake commemorations in 2021.

The audit will establish a database of information to be agreed with the steering group but will include aspects such as (i) name of heritage site/object/archive, (ii) brief description, (iii) protected status, (iv) location, (v) contact details, (vi) organisation/heritage group/community/individual, (vii) conservation priorities/opportunities, (viii) community priorities, opportunities and commemoration plans, (ix) short-term/medium-term/long-term goal and (x) local venue and capacity. There have been various initiatives over the years that have highlighted the heritage associated with St. Colmcille such as the 'Colmcille Heritage Trail' by Donegal County Council, 'Audit of Rural Columban Sites in Derry City Council Area' by Derry City & Strabane District Council and 'Slí Cholmcille' by Foras na Gaeilge as well as works by national and local scholars and historians such as Dr. Brian Lacey that will provide useful reference material for the audit. The audit will contribute to the development of future Columban heritage initiatives in the study area.

## **1.2 Objective**

This Heritage Plan action supports cross-border cooperation between Donegal County Council, Derry City & Strabane District Council and Foras na Gaeilge. The audit will help to provide an evidence base for 1,500<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations of the birth of St. Colmcille which will take place in 2021.

The audit will also contribute to the achievement of Action 5.19. in the County Donegal Heritage Plan to "Undertake a study of ecclesiastical sites within the county . . . such as Slí Cholmcille" and Goal iii, Strategy 1 (Commission and support research and survey work on heritage) in the Heritage Council Strategic Plan. The audit contributes to the achievement of aims to "Explore, research, record and document the culture, heritage and creative resources of County Donegal" (Action 4.2) and to "Collaborate on a cross border, national and international basis in order to identify and celebrate cultural linkages and to create and sustain new linkages" (Action 5.1.) as outlined in Cultúr: A Strategic Vision for Cultural Services (2016-2020). The audit will also assist in the achievement of the strategic priority in the Culture & Creativity Strategy for County Donegal (2018-2022) to "Scope out plans for Colmcille 2021 commemorations".

The audit is in keeping with Derry City & Strabane District Council's Strategic Growth Plan to create and support greater local, national and international cultural heritage exchanges and cross-border collaboration. The audit will also contribute to Foras na Gaeilge's strategic plan for the language and heritage project 'Slí Cholmcille' which links Columban sites in Ireland and Scotland.

## **1.3 Aims & Outputs**

The aims of this Heritage Plan action are to:

- (i) conduct audit and mapping of heritage sites, objects and archives associated with St. Colmcille, his life and contemporaries;
- (ii) highlight conservation works required to the archaeological and built heritage associated with St. Colmcille;
- (iii) identify historical and heritage venues associated with, or near heritage sites associated with, St. Colmcille capable of hosting events as part of the 2021 commemorations;
- (iv) identify history and heritage groups and individuals, their mission statements and their role in the preservation, conservation and promotion of the cultural, built and natural heritage associated with St. Colmcille;
- (v) highlight links between the material culture associated with St. Colmcille and aspects of folklore, folk traditions, language, placenames and intangible cultural heritage; and
- (vi) deliver a report, database and two public presentations on the audit's findings.

The study will cover Donegal County Council & Derry City and Strabane District Council administrative areas that include all of County Donegal and parts of counties Derry and Tyrone.

## **2. RESPONSE TO TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Proposals in response to these terms of reference should set out how the study will be approached, methodology, and any other relevant matters. The proposal should include:

### **2.1 Required Skills and Experience**

Proposals should contain clear details of the skills and experience of the researcher(s), and the CV(s) of the researcher(s). Details should also be given of the relevant experience including examples of previous relevant work.

### **2.2 Methodology and Timetable**

The researcher(s) shall furnish a method statement and timetable regarding the delivery of the work. It is expected that the proposal will include:

**2.2.1 Method statement:** including reference material to be used, methodology, fieldwork, consultation planned, data analysis, outline of audit and a detailed timetable.

**2.2.2 A Resource Plan:** showing the breakdown of person hours and costs.

## **3. GENERAL ISSUES**

### **3.1 Timescale**

The project will start in June 2018 and a draft final report will be due for submission by November 16, 2018. The researcher(s) appointed must be in a position to begin immediately once appointed.

### **3.2 Project Management**

A steering committee comprising representatives of the County Donegal Heritage Forum of Donegal County Council, Derry City & Strabane District Council & Foras na Gaeilge will guide the development of this project. Day-to-day contact will be with the Heritage Officer. The steering committee will meet regularly to review progress.

### **3.3 Budget**

The maximum budget for this Heritage Plan action is €22,500 (including VAT and all other expenses).

**3.4** The researcher(s) shall effect and maintain insurance necessary to cover their liabilities under this Heritage Plan action.

### **3.5 Copyright and Confidentiality**

The researcher(s) will be required to assign copyright of the text, illustrations, maps and/or photographs to Donegal County Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council. Copyright for any illustrations or other material used should be cleared by the researcher(s). The study will be made available for public use by Donegal County Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council.

### **3.6 Freedom of Information**

Donegal County Council operates under the Freedom of Information Act 1997 and all information held by the Council (including proposals submitted in response to this brief) may be subject to requests under the Act.

### **3.7 Evaluation of Proposals & Selection of Researchers**

Evaluation of proposals will be based on the ability of the researcher(s) to deliver the skills and outputs detailed above within the specified timeframe. Interviews may be held with selected candidates prior to the final evaluation. Donegal County Council is not obliged to accept any proposal or the proposal with the lowest bid, and no person making a submission will be remunerated for any expense incurred in preparing a submission. It is envisaged that the successful researcher(s) will demonstrate:

- (i) evidence of skills and experience relating to the material culture, history and folklore associated with St. Colmcille (20%);
- (ii) proven experience of undertaking research and field investigation (20%)
- (iii) an ability to liaise with key stakeholders and engage with the public (15%);
- (iv) a clear approach to the achievement of the aims and outputs of this Heritage Plan action in the proposed methodology (25%);
- (v) experience of writing a clear, concise and engaging narrative account for a general audience and provision of detailed timetable with key tasks and milestones to complete the audit (15%); and
- (vi) competitive price (5%).

The decision of the evaluation panel will be final.

### **3.8 Closing Date**

E-mailed submissions to [heritage@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:heritage@donegalcoco.ie) will be accepted prior to the closing date but please forward a paper copy of your proposal also even if it arrives after the closing date. Submissions should be sent to:

Audit of Columban Cultural Heritage,  
c/o Joseph Gallagher,  
Heritage Officer,  
County Donegal Heritage Office,  
Donegal County Council,  
Station Island,  
Lifford,  
County Donegal.

<b>The closing date for receipt of proposals is 4 p.m. on Friday, June 1, 2018.</b>
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Proposals cannot be accepted after this deadline.