



# National Landscape Forum 2023

*'From Landscape Past to Landscape Future'*

Mount Congreve House, Kilmeaden, Co. Waterford & Waterford City Centre

Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 27/28/29 September 2023

Crowning **'Waterford's Month of Landscape'** NLF 2023, a Landscape Alliance Ireland initiative in partnership with Bioregional Weaving Lab. Waterford, Irish Landscape Institute, Waterford City & County Council & the local community is supported by BWLW, ILI, WCCC, Bord Bia, Southern Regional Assembly & MKO Planning & Environmental Consultants. The forum will review the evolution of Ireland's landscape management, thinking, action and success/failure over the past 60 years, the many players/stakeholders involved & their respective roles, responsibilities & resources. It will describe the co-ordinated, integrated structure required to deliver an effective National Landscape Strategy 2015-2035 (NLS) as required by the European Landscape Convention 2000 (ELC) and EU EIA/SEA Directives. The forum will highlight current landscape-related issues from 'Urban Centre to Ocean Horizon' and local landscape-linked initiatives. The prime forum objective is to structure, energise & inform an effective sustainable strategy/action plan for Ireland's future landscape.

## **PROGRAMME**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>** – 6.30pm to 8.00pm – Waterford Gallery of Art, O'Connell St.

*'Celebrating Landscape & Art' – landscape perspectives, poetry, music & more*

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>** – 9.00am to 5.00pm\* – Mount Congreve House

9.00-9.30am – Registration followed by Welcome Address & Presentations:

**Eamonn McAneaney, recently retired Museum Director, Waterford Treasures**  
*'The Evolution of the Urban Landscape in Ireland's oldest City'*

**Terry O'Regan, Landscape Alliance Ireland**  
*'Evolution of Landscape Awareness/Policy/Strategy/Action over 17 millennia & 15 minutes!'*

**Willy Cumming, Architectural Advisor (retired) from Department of Heritage etc.**  
*'The Genesis of Ireland's National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025'*

**Ruth Minogue, Landscape Alliance Ireland & Minogue Associates & Laura Kearney, LCA Reframe Project, Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy, UCD**  
*'Landscape Character Assessment Reframe Project Update'*

**Refreshments Break** Speaker from the Department responsible for the NLS implementation

*'Reviewing NLS 2015-2025 & Preparing for NLS 2025-2035'*

**Dominic Walsh, Regional Planning Officer, Southern Regional Assembly**  
*'The Regional Dimension of Ireland's National Landscape Strategy'*

**Pere Sala I Marti, director, Landscape Observatory of Catalonia**  
*'The Landscape Observatory of Catalonia – Structure & Experience'*

**Q&A/Panel Discussion – followed by lunch (1.00- 2.00pm)**

**Ray Sinnott, Estate Manager, Mount Congreve**  
*'The Landscape of Mount Congreve House & Gardens'*

**Dr Amy Strecker, Sutherland School of Law, UCD**  
*'Landscape, Law and Spatial Injustice in Ireland'*

**Jack Workman, MKO Environmental**  
*'Exploring the Ecology of Landscape'*

**Refreshments Break**

**Irish Planning Institute Speaker**  
*'The Planning Process needs a fully-fledged National Landscape Strategy!'*

**Sinead Mercier, Sutherland School of Law, UCD**  
*'Energy, Legislation and Landscape Strategy in Ireland'*

**Paula Barrett, Visual Artist**  
*'Turf Projects' - catalogues the particular quality of light and colour experienced in the Irish landscape in a unique series of colour palettes*

**Andrew Doherty, 'Tides & Tales', Waterford**  
*'The Landscape of Waterford's Coast, Estuaries & Rivers has a Story to Tell'*

**Q&A/Panel Discussion – possibly followed at 5.00pm by informal field trips**  
*(\*subject to interest & weather at 5.00pm there may be optional 'car-share' field trips to Waterford's Viking Triangle, Tramore and/or Dunmore East)*

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> – 9.00am to 5.00pm – Mount Congreve House**

**9.00 – 9.20am – Registration followed by Presentations as follows:**

**Sarah Prosser, Programme Weaver, Bioregional Weaving Lab, Waterford**  
*'Weaving a Bioregional Landscape Plan'*

**Dr. Emily Shakespeare, SETU & Landscape Research Group**  
*'Assessing the "Deep Place" : Applying Landscape Biography to Irish Landscapes'*

**Alison Harvey, MSc (DENI S'ship. 2 yrs) BSc (Hons) PG Dip PM**  
*'Landscape Strategy and the UN Sustainable Development Goals'*

**Bernadette Guest, Heritage Officer, Waterford City & County Council**  
*'The Role of Landscape Strategy in managing Natural/Cultural Heritage'*

**Karen Foley, Irish Landscape Institute**

*'Landscape must never be a Design Afterthought!'*

**Dr. Jane Russell O'Connor, SETU Architectural Department, Waterford**

*'People's relationship with the Seascape/Mountainscape in County Waterford'*

#### **Refreshments Break**

**Dr. Una Fitzpatrick, National Biodiversity Centre**

*'Integrating Pollinator Plan with Landscape Strategy'*

**Gretta McCarron, The Water Forum**

*'A Framework for Integrated Land & Landscape Management – a catchment-based approach for water, climate and nature outcomes'*

#### **Q&A/Panel Discussion – followed by lunch (1.00-2.00pm)**

**Des Gunning, LAI founding member**

*'The Forest of Midhe and a few diversions'*

**Dr. Sharon O'Brien, SETU Architectural Department, Waterford**

*'Farmer's & their Fields: participatory research into spatial, cultural and social ties/relationships between farmers & their fields in rural landscape of Waterford & Tipperary'*

**Dr Karen Ray, Centre for Planning Education and Research, UCC**

*'A Hard Look at Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity in face of Renewable Energy Targets'*

**Catherine Keena, Teagasc**

*'Hedgerow Management - securing livestock, biodiversity & carbon'*

#### **Refreshments Break**

**Helen Lawless, Mountaineering Ireland**

*'Sharing Up-landscape Space?'*

**Gary Graham, Hortitude**

*'The Landscape on your Doorstep'*

**Yvonne Grace, SETU Horticulture Dept**

*'Old Trees are too Busy to Talk!'*

#### **Q&A/Panel Discussion, reportage & Closing Address**

#### **Additional Information**

**Outputs:** forum outputs are envisaged including recording participant's views on how Ireland might sustainably protect, manage and plan its landscape in the face of current & emerging challenges whilst concurrently respecting the integrity of its rich cultural/natural heritage.

**Registration** is now open on eventbrite: [National Landscape Forum 2023 Tickets, Thu 28 Sep 2023 at 09:00 | Eventbrite](#) - Fee includes refreshments and light lunch each day – 2day/1day €90/€50 (if a recoverable work expense) and €50/€25 for all others to maximise access/inclusion. Early booking is advised as places are limited - booking will close on the 15<sup>th</sup> September, for further information contact LAI at [terryjoregan@gmail.com](mailto:terryjoregan@gmail.com).

**Accommodation:** the LAI team and a number of the speakers will be based at the Viking Hotel which is close to Mount Congreve – early booking is strongly recommended as availability is limited – for best available rate book direct with Louise Prendergast [lprendergast@vikinghotel.ie](mailto:lprendergast@vikinghotel.ie) – and referencing the ‘**Landscape Forum**’ may be useful.

**Venue:** For further information on Mount Congreve House and Gardens visit [mountcongreve.com](http://mountcongreve.com) – car park will open at 8.30am each day and close at 6.00pm. (Shared taxis will be organised where feasible – email us your travel plans)

**CPD** – please check LAI website - [lai-ireland.com](http://lai-ireland.com) for updates on CPD recognition

**Associated Events:** Waterford hosts landscape-aware events throughout the year from Spring to Autumn including ‘Spraoi’, ‘Waterford Walls’, ‘Festival of Architecture’ & ‘Imagine Arts Festival’; but this year September is ‘**Waterford’s Month of Landscape**’ with the National Landscape Forum & the following (with further events likely to be added):

The BWLW ‘**Innovating Landscape and Community Finance**’ will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September. It is an international event to consider new models and approaches to funding whole communities and landscapes in ways that support and drive long-term positive change towards a thriving and regenerative future.

The exhibition ‘**A Survey of the Landscape**’ will be continuing at the Waterford Gallery of Art, 31/32 O’Connell Street, Waterford until the 4<sup>th</sup> November together with the ‘**Your Landscape Photography Competition**’.

**The Irish Landscape Institute 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition** - “a wonderful celebration of the many incredible landscape projects that have transformed our country over the past 30 years” will be on view at the SETU Granary Campus, Merchants Quay, Waterford.

The Copper Coast International Land Art ‘Talamh’ Festival (15-24 Sept)

The Waterford Harvest Festival (8-10 Sept)

NLF 2023 coincides with this year’s Sustainable Development Goals Week (18-22 Sept)

“Ireland signed and ratified the Council of Europe’s European Landscape Convention (ELC) which came into effect on 1 March 2004.....It obliges Ireland to implement policy changes and objectives concerning the management, protection and planning of the landscape.... The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the ELC and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing it while positively managing its change. It is a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions.” (**DHLGH website – publications**)

**Penultimate programme as of 01/09/23**

