



# 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 (BWLW), Irish Landscape Institute (ILI), Waterford City & County Council (WCCC) & the local community is supported by BWLW, ILI, WCCC, Bord Bia, Southern Regional Assembly & MKO Planning & Environmental Consultants; it will review the evolution of Ireland's landscape management, thinking, action and success/failure to date, the many diverse players/stakeholders involved, their roles, responsibilities & resources. It will describe the co-ordinated, integrated structure required to deliver the National Landscape Strategy 2015-2035 (NLS) as per 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 initiatives. The forum objective is to get the NLS working effectively for Ireland's future landscape!

## **PROGRAMME**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>** – 6.00pm to 8.00pm – Waterford Gallery of Art, O'Connell St.

*'Celebrating Landscape & Art'* – a creative exploration of landscape perspectives, poetry, music, conversation & more

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

9.00-9.30am – Registration

9.30am - Welcome Address by Councillor Joe Conway, Mayor of Waterford

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

10.15 - Terry O'Regan, Landscape Alliance Ireland  
*'Who owns Ireland's National Landscape Strategy (and has it left the station yet?)'*

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

10.55 - Refreshments Break

**11.15 - Ruth Minogue, LAI & Minogue Assocs. & Laura Kearney, LCA Reframe /WaterLANDS Projects, UCD**

*'Landscape Character Assessment Reframe Project Update'*

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

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

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

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

**2.20 - Dr Amy Strecker, Sutherland School of Law, UCD**  
*'Landscape, Heritage and Irish Law - Undoing the Demos'*

**2.40 - Jack Workman, MKO Environmental**  
*'Landscape Change and the Green Energy Transition'*

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

**3.20 - Refreshments Break**

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

**4.00 - 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*

**4.20 - 5pm Q&A/Panel Discussion – possibly followed at 5.00pm by informal field trips (\*subject to participant 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 – 9.30am – Registration followed by Presentations as follows:**

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

**9.45 - Bernadette Guest, Heritage Officer, Waterford City & County Council**  
*'Landscape in the Planning Process-Policy and Practice in Natural and Cultural Heritage'*

**10.10 - Karen Foley, Irish Landscape Institute**  
*'Landscape must never be a Design Afterthought!'*

**10.30 - Dr. Jane Russell O'Connor, SETU Architectural Department, Waterford**  
*'People's relationship with the Seascape/Mountainscape in County Waterford'*

**10.50 - Refreshments Break**

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

*'Integrating Pollinator Plan with Landscape Strategy'*

**11.30 - Gretta McCarron, The Water Forum**

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

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

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

**12.10 - Andrew Doherty, 'Tides & Tales', Waterford**

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

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

**2.00 - Des Gunning, LAI founding member**

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

**2.20 - 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'*

**2.40 - Catherine Keena, Teagasc**

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

**3.00 - Refreshments Break**

**3.20 - Gary Graham, Hortitude**

*'The Landscape on your Doorstep'*

**3.40 - Yvonne Grace, SETU Horticulture Dept**

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

**4.00 – 5.00pm Q&A/Panel Discussion, reportage & Closing Address**

**Additional Information**

**Short Presentations:** 3 to 5 minute presentations by participants will be accommodated during Q&A sessions - if time permits.

**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

[lprennergast@vikinghotel.ie](mailto:lprennergast@vikinghotel.ie) – and referencing the ‘**Landscape Forum**’ may be useful. If the Viking is not an option, try the Majestic Hotel in nearby Tramore – [info@majestic-hotel.ie](mailto:info@majestic-hotel.ie)

**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** – The landscape forum is approved for CPD purposes by both the Irish Planning Institute (**7 IPI CPD credits**) and the Irish Landscape Institute.

**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:

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)

Additional landscape-linked events/projects are being organised involving Waterford’s Gallery of Art, Library Service and local educational institutions.

“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**)

