

National Landscape Forum 2023

28th and 29th September 2023, Mount Congreve Waterford

What did you take?
What do you leave?



Methodology

The National Landscape Forum 2023 was held over two days at Mount Congreve in Waterford.

26 talks were held covering a wide-ranging topics relating to landscape in general and the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Ireland in particular.

Over 70 participants attended. They were invited at each break to add to poster-boards at the back of the room with post-its reflecting:

1. What they took?
2. What they would like to leave?

The 'takes' and 'leaves' were clustered into trends emerging from the event. These were presented orally at the end of the event, and are now summarised in this written report.



National Landscape Forum 2023

'From Landscape Past to Landscape Future'

Mount Congreve House, Kilmadeg, 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, Bird 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 Horizon' and local initiatives. The forum objective is to get the NLS working effectively for Ireland's future landscape!

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 27th – 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 28th – 9.00am to 5.00pm – Mount Cr.

9.00-9.30am – Registration

9.30am – Welcome Address by Councillor Joe

9.45 – Eamonn McAneaney, recently retired M: 'The Evolution of the Urban Landscape in Ireland

10.15 – Terry O'Regan, Landscape Alliance Ire: Who owns Ireland's National Landscape Strategy?

10.35 – Willy Cumming, Architectural Advisor: 'The Genesis of Ireland's National Landscape Str

10.55 – Refreshments Break

11.15 – Ruth Minogue, LAI & Minogue Assocs. & Laura Kearney, LCA Reframe WaterLANDS Projects, UCD

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

12.00 – Pere Sala i Martí, 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 Shinnott, Estate Manager, Mount Congreve 'The Landscape of Mount Congreve House & Gardens'

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

2.40 – Jack Workman, MKO Environmental 'Exploring the Ecology of Landscape'

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

3.20 – Refreshments Break

3.40 – Sinead Marcori, Sutherland School of Law, UCD 'Energy, Legislation and Landscape Strategy in Ireland'

4.00 – Paula Barnett, 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 will be optional 'car-share' field trips to Waterford's Viking Triangle, Tramore and/or Dunmore East'

Friday 29th – 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 Seascap/Mountainlandscape 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 following member 'The Forest of Misher and a few diversions'

2.20 – Dr. Sharon O'Brien, SETU Architectural Department, Waterford 'Farmers & their Fields: participatory research into spatial, cultural and social 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 present during Q&A sessions - if time permits.

Outputs: forum outputs are envisaged incl. night sustainably protect, manage and plan challenges whilst concurrently respecting th

Registration is now open on eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-landscape-forum-2023-tickets-728362023>

28 Sept 2023 at 09:00 | Eventbrite - Free

2day/1day E90E50 (if a recoverable work e: access/inclusion. Early booking is advised a 15th September, for further information con:

accommodation: the LAI team and a rural hotel which is close to Mount Congreve - a availability is limited - for best available rate

The BWLW 'Innovating Landscape and Community Finance' will take place on 8th and 9th 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 4th November together with the 'Your Landscape Photography Competition'.

The Irish Landscape Institute 30th 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 'Talámh' 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' (DNLGH website - publications)

info@vikinghof.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

Venue: For further information on Mount Congreve House and Gardens visit mountcongreve.com - car park will open at 8.30am each day and close at 6.00pm. (Shared bus 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 (IPI CPD credits) and the Irish Landscape Institute.

Associated Events: Waterford hosts landscape-aware events throughout the year from Spring to Autumn including 'Sprout', '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:

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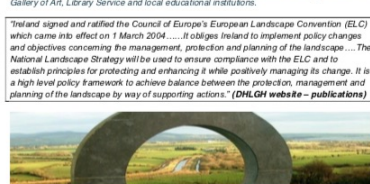
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What did you take?

Clusters of 'what did you take?' were identified from all responses shown in this picture, and summarised on the next page.



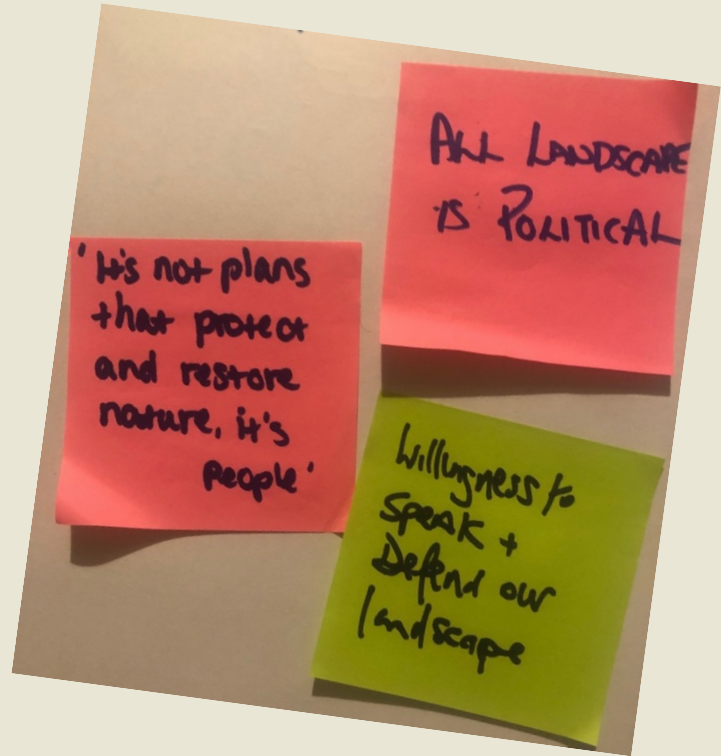
What did you take?

Key take-aways:

- **All landscape is political:** Political and administrative action is required now. If not we will go backwards. We might well prove to be 'terrible' at this!
- **Increase capacity to deliver:** There is a need for **increased capacity and resources** to be allocated in order to be able to deliver on commitments. This includes capacity building and **education – also of politicians**. And leadership. And a commitment to participatory democracy.
- **We own the strategy:** Collaboration, alliances and collective ownership are key – as is people-ownership of the strategy. The common good should be at the heart of it. Be proactive to make change, find and build alliances.
- **Intangible and emotional** aspects are fundamental – passion, gazes, new angles, new narratives, new words like weaving...

Additional take-aways:

- **Maps** can be powerful
- **Landowners** own the change
- **Memories, heritage and history** play an important part – they are written in the landscape
- **Sense of place** is essential
- **Cities, cars and population** size matter
- Waterford, and Ireland are, and always have been, part of **European trends**.
- **Diversity** of perspectives is so important.
- **Seascapes** must be included. Water is the indicator of climate change. What would the river say?



What did you leave?

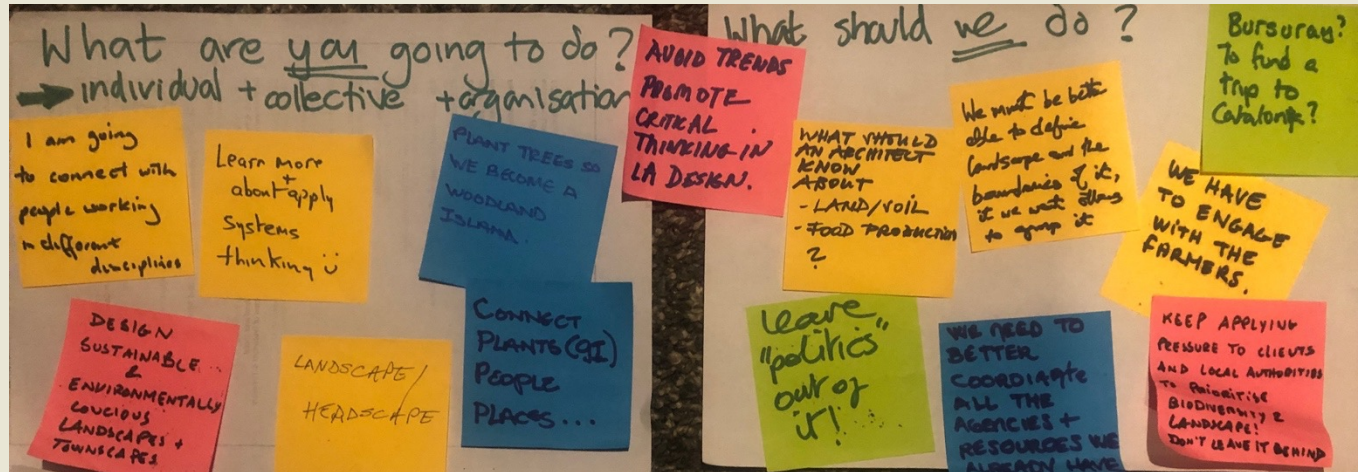
The questions of 'what do you leave?' was divided into collective and individual responses.

Individual commitments:

- To connect more **interdisciplinary**
- Learn more about **systems change**
- **Plant trees**
- **Connect** plants, people and place

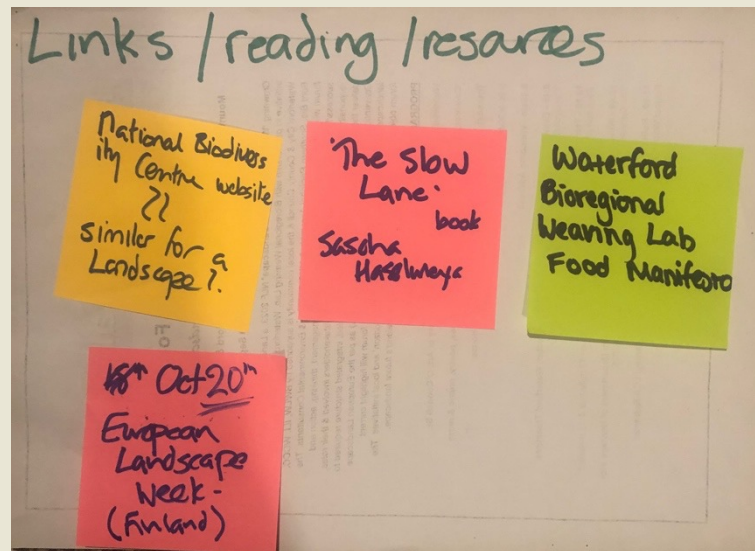
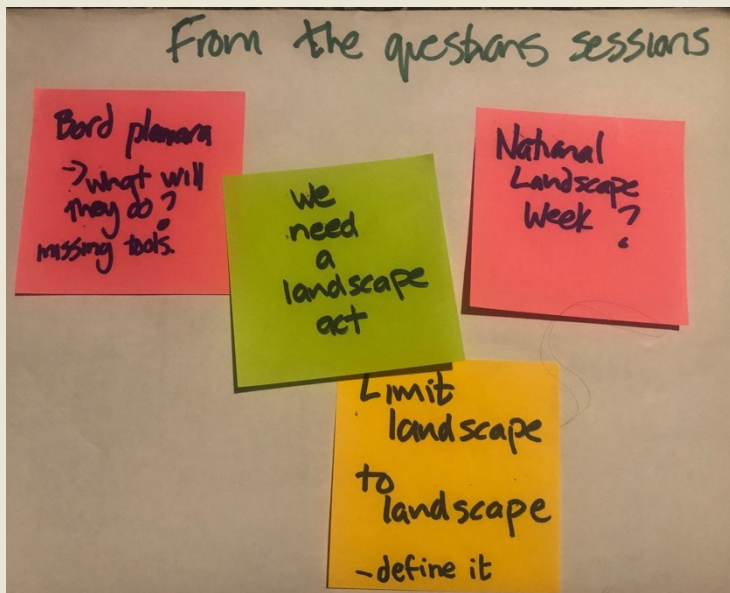
Collective recommendations/commitments:

- Find out what a **landscape architect should know** about soil, land and food production
- **Leave politics** out of it.
- Engage with the **farmers**
- Apply pressure to LA to **prioritise biodiversity** and **landscape**
- Fund a **bursary** to the Catalonian Observatory
- **Define** landscape definition boundaries.
- Promote **critical thinking** in LAs



What did you leave?

Additional clustering came from some questions and needs expressed in discussion after the conference talks, and recommendations for further reading and online links.



National Biodiversity Centre website (do we need the same for landscape?)

<https://biodiversityireland.ie/>

Bioregional Weaving Lab manifesto:

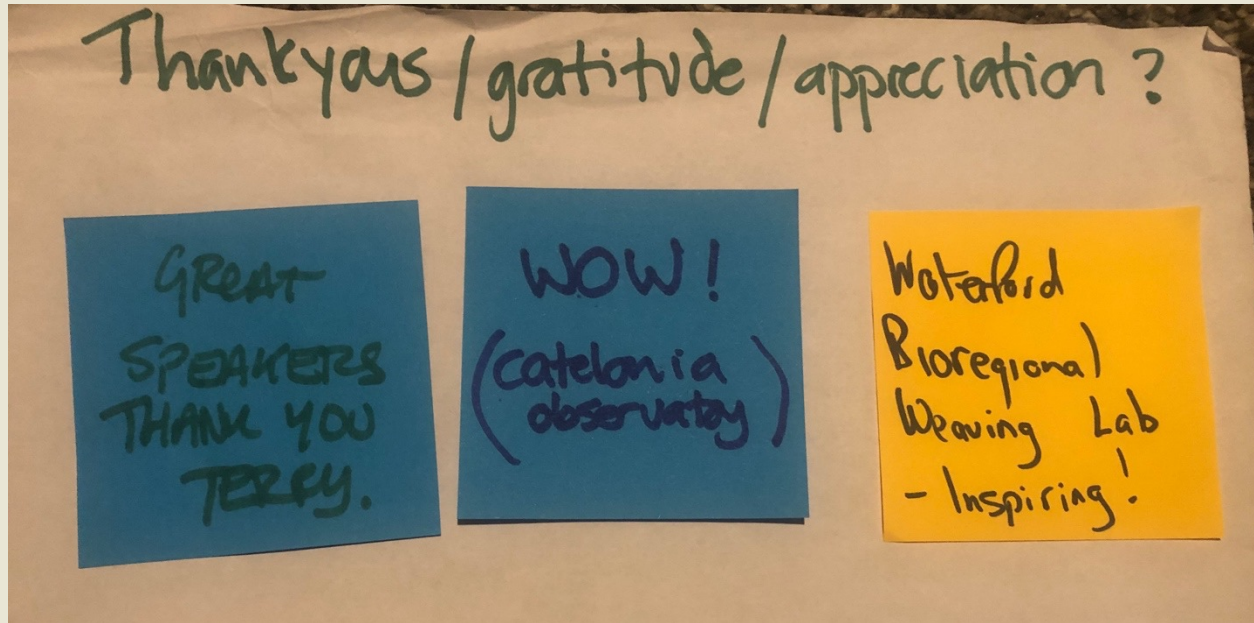
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1C22mo5ta4>

The Slow Lane:

<https://slowlane.us/author/sascha/>

What did you leave?

A final invitation to leave gratitude:



Thank you to everyone who contributed to
generating these key 'takes and leaves'
while attending the
National Landscape Forum 2023.

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