



National Landscape Forum 2024

'Landscape - the Challenge of Change!'

The Rose Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry, Wed/Thurs 18/19 September 2024

Ireland is blessed with a landscape rich in natural and cultural heritage - long captured in word and song and latterly our increasingly landscape-aware tourism commodification. But it was accessible academic studies such as 'The Atlas of the Irish Rural Landscape', Aalen, Whelan & Stout (1997) where the theme of this year's forum was initially explored in depth. The atlas explained the evolution and dynamics of Ireland's landscape as exemplified by County Kerry, whose own landscape bounty is so generous that it risks the casual contempt of familiarity – almost a case of now you see it; now you don't!

Landscape is never static or frozen, it is evolving continuously both naturally and culturally; changes arising from our activities can be positive, but they can however also easily erode and degrade this foundation planetary resource – the 1990's witnessed a Europe-wide drive for an informed understanding of landscape to be integrated into all relevant decision-making to ensure sustainable landscape protection, planning & management, but the challenge of landscape change has not gone away: it has become even more formidable! The 1990's drive delivered legislation at European and National level on landscape policy, strategy, research, awareness-raising, procedures and skills intended to ensure landscape protection, management and planning. But success in this exercise requires active incremental implementation with all players and stake-holders working together continuously to maximise landscape as a resource/framework to facilitate achieving a sustainable quality of life balance between nature, culture, heritage, art & economic activity.

National Landscape Forum 2024 is very much part of that implementation process

Forum Programme

Wednesday 18th

9.00am – Registration

9.30am – 11.00 - Opening Address & Presentations

Jimmy Deenihan – former Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht – ‘National Landscape Strategy - it was a Long Road!’

Catherine Harry (Landscape & Sustainable Development Manager), NatureScot – ‘Landscape Management – the Scottish Experience’

Dr. Michiel Purmer, Heritage & Landscape Specialist, Natuurmonumenten, Netherlands – ‘A Century of Change – Protection of Landscape, Heritage & Nature in Nature Reserves’

Dr. Dan McCarthy, UCC Centre for Planning Education & Research (recently Waterloo University, Canada) – ‘Multiple Perspectives on Landscape: Case Studies in a Canadian Context’

11.00am – 11.30am – Refreshment Break

11.30am – 12.50pm – Presentations

Dr. George Bishop, University of Galway – ‘Ireland’s Landscape in 2050?’

Tony Williams, ILI & TII – ‘Landscape Observatories & the European Landscape Convention’

John Beattie, Architectural Conservation Advisor, DHLGH – ‘The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage – An Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Ireland’

Victoria McCarthy, Architectural Conservation Officer, Kerry CoCo - ‘Kerry’s Designed Landscapes: A Landscape Treasure’

12.50pm – 1.15pm - Panel Discussion & Open Forum

1.15pm - 2.15pm – Light Lunch

2.15 – 6.00pm – Field Trips/Workshops - ‘Reading a Local Landscape’

Field Trip Orientation Presentation - Victoria McCarthy, Architectural Conservation Officer, KCC, Dr. Noel Mulligan, Consultant Ecologist & Eleanor Turner, Biodiversity Officer, KCC – followed by guided Local Field Trips - two options:

Group ‘A’ will travel by bus to Blennerville & walk back along the Canal Walk.

Group ‘B’ will walk through Tralee Town Park & on to Denny Stret.

Both walks will take approximately 1.5 hrs and groups will return to The Rose Hotel for workshops to prepare input for the ‘brainstorming session’ on Thursday afternoon. (Sensible walking shoes and rain gear advised)

Thursday 19th

8.45am – Registration

9.00 - 10.40am – Presentations

Brendan O’Sullivan, UCC Centre for Planning Education & Research – ‘Making big decisions at the strategic scale: is it too late to act for landscape?’

Jack Workman, MKO - ‘LVIA from a practitioner’s perspective ... objectively assessing the subjective’

Jack O’Donovan Trá, Nature Conservation Consultant – ‘Fair Seas & Coastal Landscapes’

Marina Conway, Forester & former CEO Western Forestry Co-op – ‘Forestry, Communities & Timber – seeing the wood for the trees & the trees for the wood’

Cathal O’Meara - Fermoy-based landscape architect – ‘Sustainable Landscape Design for Today & Tomorrow?’

10.40am – 11.10am – Refreshment Break

11.10am – 12.30pm – Presentations

Daniel Long, Tipperary Farmer & founder member of Greenfarmer Co-op – ‘A Land Observatory for Ireland’

Lucy Taylor, Project Manager, Hometree – ‘Ecomuseums and dinnseanchas - case studies of community engagement and valuing local landscapes’

Stewart Stephens, Chairperson, - ‘The MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum’

Dr. Karen Ray, UCC Centre for Planning Education & Research – ‘Managing Urban Landscape Change: approaches & challenges for city growth’

12.30pm – 1.00pm - Panel Discussion & Open Forum

1.00pm - 2.00pm – Light Lunch

2.00 – 3.40 pm – Presentations

Laura Fitzgerald, Artist – ‘Local News, how art, local knowledge and folklore intersect ‘

Pietro Salvagno, MKO - ‘Technology and digital tools in landscape work’

Martha Farrell, Maharees Conservation Association – ‘Lessons from a Landscape of Shifting Sands’

Terry O’Regan, founder Landscape Alliance Ireland – ‘Honey, I Shrunk the Country Estate - Again!’

3.20pm – 4.00pm – Q&A combined with Refreshment Break

4.00 – 4.30pm – Forum will close with forward-looking brainstorming session - ‘*Managing Landscape Change 2025 – 2050*’ – including reports from Field Trip Workshops.

National Landscape Forum 2024, an LAI initiative has been sponsored/supported by the **National Built Heritage Service (DHLGH)**, **Kerry County Council**, **Irish Landscape Institute**, **Bord Bia**, **Southern Regional Assembly & MKO** convenes this year within the framework of **Architecture Kerry 2024** in partnership with Kerry County Council to advance our National Landscape Strategy; delivering on our European Landscape Convention & EU EIA/SEA Directives obligations, engaging with current landscape issues from ‘Urban Centre to Ocean Horizon’, building on, refine and structure existing knowledge, understanding and experience, to guide creative, sustainable responses to challenges of landscape change with sensitive, effective planning & development legislation and management.

Landscape Alliance Ireland greatly appreciates our supporters and sponsors, without whom the forum and its valuable work could not have taken place.



Registration for the forum is open on Eventbrite, registration fee € 120.00 including light lunch both days, concession fee € 50.00 for all who cannot treat fee as work expense. Accommodation at special rates may be available at The Rose Hotel. **CPD accreditation – ILI, IPI & EI accredited**, for additional information, if required contact terryjoregan@gmail.com

(Final Forum Programme - circulated on 10/09/2024)

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