

# UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne – A Local Authority Perspective



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National Monuments Service – World Heritage Seminar  
September 12<sup>th</sup> 2013  
Dublin Castle



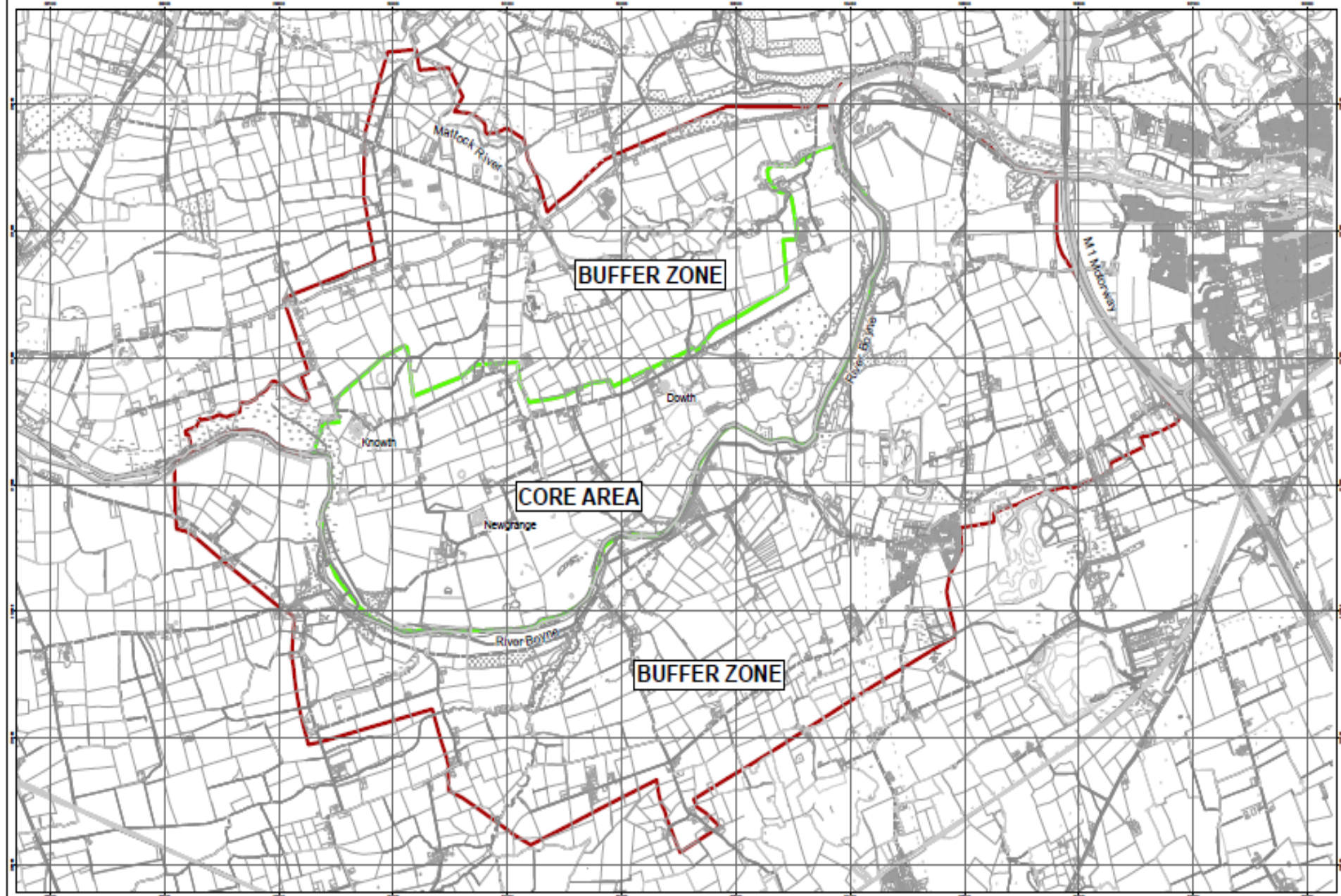
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# Presentation Outline

- UNESCO Brú na Bóinne - Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne World Heritage Site
- Role of Local Authority
- World Heritage Site – Opportunity or constraint?





Map showing boundaries of UNESCO designated World Heritage Site, Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne, (Brú na Bóinne), Co. Meath, Ireland.

#### Legend:

- Core Area boundary (area: 770 hectares)
- Buffer Zone boundary (area: 2560 hectares)



#### Map sources:

The World Heritage Site boundaries were sourced from Meath County Council, as used in the Meath County Development Plan 2007-2013.  
 The background map is sourced from Ordnance Survey of Ireland 1:5000 vector map series (edition: 2004-2005).  
 The map datum used is Irish National Grid.



# UNESCO Brú na Bóinne - Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne World Heritage Site – A place of Outstanding Universal Value

Lost and Found Professor George Eogan, Niall de Buitléar, Fiona Hallinan, Anna MacLeod, Sabina MacMahon



## Criterion [i]

The Bend of the Boyne monuments represents the largest and **most important expression of prehistoric megalithic plastic art in Europe.**



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# UNESCO Brú na Bóinne - Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne World Heritage Site – A place of Outstanding Universal Value



## Criterion [iii]

The concentration of social, economic and funerary monuments at this important ritual centre and the long continuity from prehistory to the late medieval period **make this one of the most significant archaeological sites in Europe**



# UNESCO Brú na Bóinne - Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne World Heritage Site – A place of Outstanding Universal Value



## Criterion [iv]

The **passage grave**, here brought to its finest expression, was a feature of **outstanding importance in prehistoric Europe and beyond**.

# Outstanding Universal Value

- *‘...means cultural and/or natural significance which is **so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity**. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole. The Committee defines the criteria for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List’ (Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention – WHC- July, 2012)*



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**Top ten historical sites to visit in Ireland - SEE PHOTOS**

By CATHY HAYES, IrishCentral.com Staff Writer

Published Tuesday, September 14, 2010, 7:27 AM  
Updated Wednesday, September 15, 2010, 8:25 AM

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Here is [IrishCentral.com](http://IrishCentral.com)'s pick of the top ten historical sites in Ireland - [IrishCentral.com](http://IrishCentral.com)

## 1. Newgrange, County Meath

Dating back to 3200 B.C the passage tomb at Newgrange is older than the pyramids in Egypt and is officially a World Heritage site.

A large mound, spread over an acre is surrounded by 97, uniquely carved kerbstones. The cremated remains of the dead were buried in large stone basins under the mound in a chamber assessable by a narrow passage.

At dawn on the December 21, the shortest day of the year, every year, sunlight shines directly into the central chamber of the tomb. It is believed that this was an ancient way of measuring the passage of time, like a calendar for the ancient farmers, or that the light has some religious significance for those in the afterlife.

Newgrange is part of the Bru na Boinne complex which includes similar tombs at Knowth and Dowth.

## 2. Hill of Tara, County Meath

The Hill of Tara is also located near the River Boyne in Meath. It is an archaeological complex that runs between Navan and Dunshaughlin and contains a number of ancient monuments. According to tradition it was the seat of the High King of Ireland (Árd Rí na hÉireann).

The oldest archaeological site at Tara is the Mound of Hostages, which dates back to 2500 B.C.

The hill itself is 500 feet high and has some of the most panoramic views of the plains in Meath.

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## Newgrange tops heritage site poll

Friday, August 26, 2011

by Caroline O'Doherty

ONLY a handful of people ever get to see it in its full splendour but Newgrange still remains the country's best-loved heritage site.

# The Meath Chronicle

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## Newgrange nation's favourite

Tuesday, 20th August, 2013 3:26pm

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For the fourth consecutive year, Newgrange is once again the nation's favourite heritage site, according to research conducted by specialist heritage insurer Ecclesiastical Ireland to mark National Heritage Week 2013.



As home to the prehistoric site, Meath was also voted the county most rich in Irish heritage.











# The role of the Local Authority





## *Extract from Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 (Chapter 9 – Cultural and Natural Assets)*

- CH OBJ 1 *To protect and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the cultural landscape in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne in accordance with the relevant guidelines and national legislation, so that its integrity, authenticity and significance is not adversely affected by cumulative inappropriate change and development, and to enhance views within and adjacent to the site.*
- CH OBJ 2 *To protect the ridgelines which frame views within and from the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne from inappropriate or visually intrusive development.*
- CH OBJ 3 To encourage and facilitate pre-planning consultation with applicants regarding the siting and design of developments affecting the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne, and the scope of any necessary impact assessments.
- CH OBJ 4 To encourage the retention, conservation, and appropriate re-use of vernacular and traditional buildings within the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne in preference to either their replacement, or the construction of new buildings on green field sites.







- CH OBJ 5 To utilise available LiDAR<sup>[1]</sup> imagery data and viewshed analysis derived from it as a tool to guide and inform development management of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne.
- CH OBJ 6 To develop a World Heritage Site page in the meath.ie website to disseminate information and provide initial planning guidance for those living and working in and around the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne

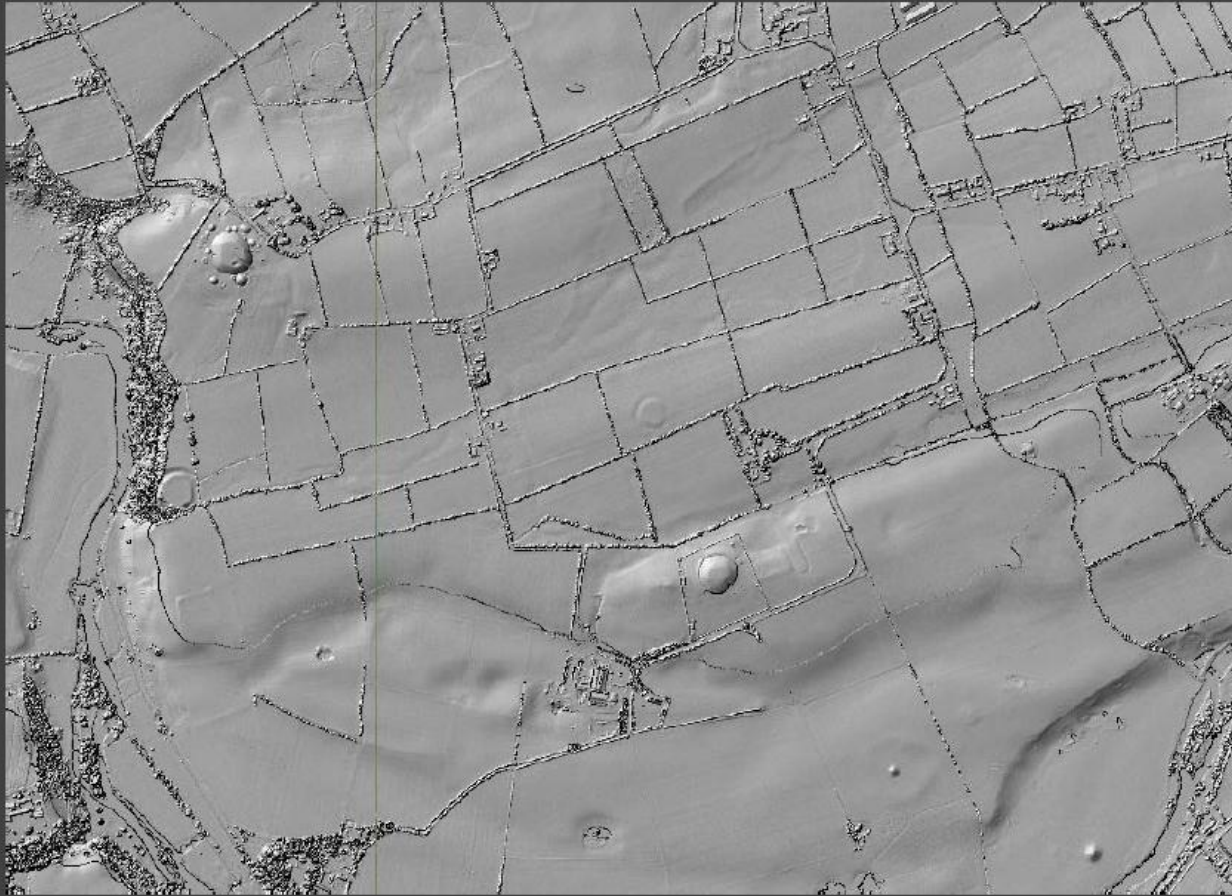
<sup>[1]</sup> LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) Survey (2007)





# Partnership between Meath County Council, the Heritage Council and Discovery Programme

## Brú na Bóinne



Applying new  
technologies –  
LiDAR of World  
Heritage Site



# Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site

## Research Framework



Comhaltas, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil  
Environment, Heritage and Local Government

An Chomhairle Oidhreacht  
The Heritage Council



United Nations  
Educational  
Scientific and  
Cultural  
Organisation



© Eoin Clarke



## Engaging with local communities





An integrated, comprehensive  
GIS model of landscape evolution and  
land use history in the River Boyne valley

Phase II Report 2009



Helen Lewis, Colman Gallagher, Stephen Davis, Jonathan Turner, Gerald Foster,  
Lisa Courtney, Kieron Goocher, Robert Scalls, Catherine Langdon, Naomi Holmes,  
Gareth Mulrooney, Michael J. Allen, Conor Brady, Loreto Gulnan, Anthony Brown,  
Thomas Cummins and Robert Meehan

With contributions by Kevin Barton, Donal Lennon and Beta Analytic Inc.

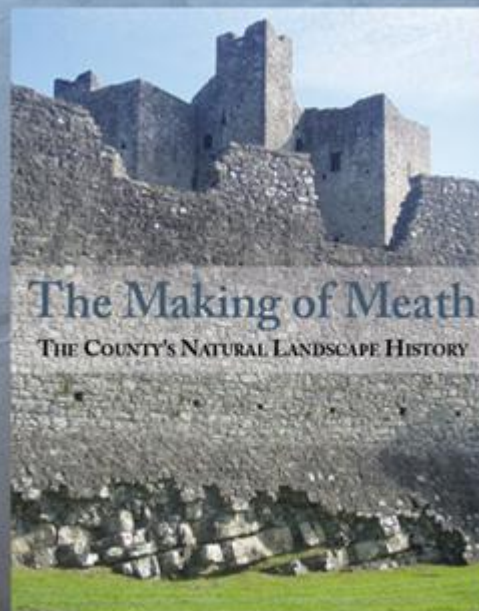
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School of Archaeology  
School of Geography, Planning  
and Environmental Policy  
School of Agriculture, Food Science  
and Veterinary Medicine

Talamhíreland

University of Southampton

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The Making of Meath  
THE COUNTY'S NATURAL LANDSCAPE HISTORY

ROBERT MEEHAN

MEGALITHIC ART  
*in*  
COUNTY MEATH



Professor George Eogan

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# ***My Landscape: People and place (2010/2011)- stained glass project – Meath County Council, Skryne NS, Glashaus Studios and the Heritage Council***









A young girl with blonde hair styled in a long braid, wearing a white dress with a purple floral pattern, is shown from the side. She is pointing her right index finger towards a large, textured rock surface. The rock has some faint, circular patterns etched into it. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting sunlight. The text "Thank you" is written in a white, cursive font on the left side of the image.

*Thank you*