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Government of Ireland



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World Heritage in Ireland

Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Property Management Plan 2017–27 Action Plan – Progress Tracker

December 2023

Prepared by the Department of
Housing, Local Government and Heritage
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Green: Action completed.

Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

Blue: Action on track/ongoing.

Red: Action not started.

Action Plan Progress Tracker December 2023

Objective 1: To ensure the co-operation of the all stakeholders in the implementation of measures that seek to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Site (WHS) and to incorporate the protection of the OUV into relevant legislation, planning guidelines and policies.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
1.1	Establish a Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan Implementation Group.	Establishment of Group	2017	Blue
1.2	Appoint a Site Manager and Management Team.	In place	2017	Amber
1.3	Provide adequate funding, resources and logistical support.	Funding and resources available	Ongoing	Blue
1.4	Liaise with public agencies, e.g. the Heritage Council and Fáilte Ireland, non-governmental organisations and interest groups, as required, to ensure the effective implementation of the Management Plan.	Meetings held and actions agreed	Ongoing	Blue
1.5	Set up a Community Forum to meet at least twice a year (see main text for details).	Establishment of Community Forum	2017	Amber
1.6	Establish and maintain an ownership map for the Core Area with the aim of extending the ownership map out to the Buffer Zone.	Information gathered and updated	By 2027	Blue

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No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
1.7	Produce an annual report to be submitted to UNESCO and uploaded to www.worldheritageireland.ie to inform all stakeholders of progress.	Report completed and submitted	Annually	

Green: Action completed.

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Objective 2: To monitor and maintain the adequacy of the core and buffer zones that make up the WHS property – in particular the protection of the boundaries of the property and its setting.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
2.1	Carry out a review and study of the boundaries of the WHS property at regular intervals.	Produce annual statement.	By 2027	Blue
2.2	Monitor the effectiveness of the existing Core Area and Buffer Zones in the protection of the OUV of the WHS.	Produce a statement at year three and seven of the plan	2019 and 2023	Red
2.3	Promote knowledge and understanding of the significance of the WHS Core Area and Buffer Zones.	Production of information in appropriate media	Ongoing	Blue
2.4	Integrate protective measures for the WHS with development plans and other infrastructural development plans.	Inclusion of WHS references in relevant plans	Co-ordinate with relevant agencies at appropriate times	Green
2.5	Consult with the Community Forum before making any changes to the boundaries.	Consultation takes place	See 2.2	Red
2.6	Inform UNESCO of any large- scale or infrastructural schemes which may affect the WHS.	Prompt notification of such schemes	Notification when scheme comes in for planning	Blue

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Objective 1: To ensure the co-operation of the all stakeholders in the implementation of measures that seek to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Site (WHS) and to incorporate the protection of the OUV into relevant legislation, planning guidelines and policies.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
3.1	Request Meath County Council and Louth County Council to incorporate this Management Plan in their respective County Development Plans.	Inclusion of references to this Management Plan in the County Development Plans	Co-ordinate with relevant agencies at appropriate times	Green
3.2	Liaise with the Department in the review of the National Monuments Acts to seek particular protection for the sites within the WHS and protection of its OUV.	Inclusion of specific protection measures in forthcoming National Monuments legislation	Ongoing	Green
3.3	Ensure that all newly discovered monuments entered in the Sites and Monuments Record are registered immediately within the WHS.	Inclusion on Register of Historic Monuments	Ongoing	Red

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Objective 4: To promote a wider knowledge of the significance of the WHS and its OUV through the dissemination of information relevant to the WHS and the benefits of its ongoing preservation and conservation.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
4.1	Improve access to relevant information.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Blue
4.2	Disseminate such information in various media including websites and related media.	Production of information in appropriate media	Ongoing	Blue
4.3	Maintain liaison with Meath County Council and Louth County Council with regard to raising the profile of the WHS OUV.	Report on liaison and steps taken	Co-ordinate with relevant agencies at appropriate times	Blue
4.4	Improve access by way of virtual tours of the monuments not open to the public, e.g. Dowth.	Production of virtual tours	By 2027	Blue
4.5	Include more promotional material such as solstice events on www.worldheritageireland.ie	New regime in place	By 2027	Blue
4.6	Work with OPW to improve less formal access to Dowth (South) passage tomb.	Access improved	Negotiations to begin immediately	Red

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Red: Action not started.

Objective 5: To promote and use the existing research framework in order to encourage projects that will inform not only archaeological research but also management of the WHS.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
5.1	Draft terms of reference for, and appoint an Expert Advisory Committee to advise on best practice for a publication programme and future research.	Production of terms of reference and appointment of Expert Group	2017	Red
5.2	Review research framework at appropriate intervals.	Report of review	By 2027	Blue
5.3	Enhance visitors' experience of visiting the site through increasing knowledge of Brú na Bóinne and by encouraging research and ensuring research results are disseminated.	Report of ongoing enhancements	Ongoing	Blue
5.4	Support any relevant national research programmes.	Document support as appropriate	Ongoing	Blue
5.5	Implement the research framework and promote the participation of universities and interested parties in research programmes.	Report on ongoing implementation	Ongoing	Blue
5.6	Establish a research archive.	Archive already established	By 2027	Green
5.7	Update the exhibition at the WHS Visitor Centre in light of new information and research.	Exhibition launched	By 2027	Green

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Objective 5: To promote and use the existing research framework in order to encourage projects that will inform not only archaeological research but also management of the WHS.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
5.8	Work on the new visitor facility at Knowth House and ensure a high quality of information and presentation.	Facility opened to the public	By 2027	Green
5.9	Continue to give grant aid to the Royal Irish Academy for the Directed Archaeological Research grant scheme.	Continuance of grant aid	By 2027	Blue

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Objective 6: To preserve the cultural heritage of the WHS and sustain and enhance the WHS OUV through the conservation of its archaeology including its structures, artwork and landscape.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
6.1	The condition and vulnerability of all archaeological sites and monuments throughout the WHS will be reviewed regularly to guide future management action and priorities.	Report of review	At appropriate intervals	Amber
6.2	All artwork (at three main mounds) will be monitored annually and vulnerabilities used to inform work plans.	Report received	Annually	Amber
6.3	The setting of visible monuments and sites in the landscape and their inter-relationships will be maintained and enhanced with particular attention given to achieving an appropriate landscape setting for the passage tombs and other key monuments.	Monitoring reports	Ongoing	Blue
6.4	A framework for archaeological survey of the Core Area will be created with an aim of extending the survey out to the Buffer Zone.	Framework developed	By 2027	Red

Green: Action completed.

Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

Blue: Action on track/ongoing.

Red: Action not started.

Objective 7: To preserve the cultural heritage of the WHS and sustain and enhance its OUV through the conservation of its archaeology and landscape setting.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
7.1	Draft a full pre-works survey and a detailed specification for each phase of future works, in advance of any work commencing on the site.	Production of project design	Project deadline	Blue
7.2	Prepare a formal, structured maintenance programme for all conserved structures.	Report received	Ongoing	Amber
7.3	Produce a detailed stratigraphic report of the archaeological excavations for lodgement in the Archive Section, DHLGH, and for publication on website	Submission and publication of excavation report	On project completion	Amber
7.4	Produce a detailed report on all conservation interventions for lodgement in the Archive Section, DHLGH.	Submission of conservation report	On project completion	Red

Green: Action completed.

Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

Blue: Action on track/ongoing.

Red: Action not started.

Objective 8: To identify and protect the natural heritage of the WHS.				
No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
8.1	Prepare and implement a five- year biodiversity plan for the WHS.	Production of five-year plan	2017	
8.2	Maintain close co-operation, including regular meetings, between the project team, the guide service and the NPWS.	Meetings held	Ongoing	
8.3	Issue, as necessary, consent for notifiable activity.	Consents issued	Ongoing	
8.4	Ensure an Appropriate Assessment for any plan or project (either individually or in combination) likely to have a significant effect on the species and their habitats for which the SPA and the SAC has been designated.	Production of list on Appropriate Assessment	As required	

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Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

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Red: Action not started.

Objective 9: To protect the sustainability and encourage the viability of the communities living within the Core Area and Buffer Zone of the WHS. Key to the sustainability of these communities is their ability to continue to live, work and play within the area.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
9.1	Establish a Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Community Forum to discuss issues relating to the WHS in general and to make observations on the implementation of the plan.	Forum established	2017	Amber
9.2	Work with Local Authorities to develop a guidance document which provides advice on siting and design in relation to residential and agricultural development within the WHS.	Production of guidance document	2017	Amber
9.3	Work with the Local Authorities to facilitate 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.	Record of meetings with Local Authorities	Ongoing	Blue
9.4	Work with the Local Authorities and other relevant agencies in encouraging sustainable economic development in the area, particularly in tourism and agriculture enterprises.	Development of tourism and agriculture enterprises	Ongoing	Blue

Green: Action completed.

Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

Blue: Action on track/ongoing.

Red: Action not started.

Objective 9: To protect the sustainability and encourage the viability of the communities living within the Core Area and Buffer Zone of the WHS. Key to the sustainability of these communities is their ability to continue to live, work and play within the area.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
9.5	Make all reports referenced in this Plan available to the public.	All plans to be put on www.world-heritageireland.ie	2017	Red
9.6	Examine and, where possible, rectify issues raised in the consultation process which have no impact on the OUV of the site.	Progress to be shared with the local community	Immediate and ongoing	Red
9.7	Discuss transport and signage issues with the relevant authorities.	Progress to be shared with the local community	Already begun	Amber
9.8	Work with OPW to deliver an online ticketing service.	Progress to be shared with the local community	2017	Green
9.9	Ensure that the Community Forum has access to site managers and officials from DHLGH and OPW on a regular basis.	Effective liaison	Ongoing	Amber
9.10	Work with the Community Forum to ensure that its terms of reference are developed in such a way as to provide influence, accountability and relevance to the Forum and the local community.	Stakeholder satisfaction	Ongoing	Amber

Green: Action completed.

Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

Blue: Action on track/ongoing.

Red: Action not started.

Objective 10: To protect and preserve the OUV of the WHS and its setting by assessing risks and potential risks, reviewing current preparedness and suggesting appropriate corrective measures.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
10.1	Identify and evaluate the protection of the WHS and OUV from risks and potential risks.	Risk evaluation/vulnerability report	Ongoing	Amber
10.2	Document risks and potential counter-measures.	Production of risk report	Ongoing	Red
10.3	Recommend monitoring systems and possible preventative measures and plans.	Report of recommended preventative measures	Ongoing	Amber

Green: Action completed.

Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

Blue: Action on track/ongoing.

Red: Action not started.

Objective 11: To develop the sustainable tourism potential of the site and to achieve an appropriate balance with the protection and preservation of the OUV of the WHS and its setting.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
11.1	Ensure that all practices are consistent with the maintenance of the OUV of the WHS.	No threat to OUV	Ongoing	Blue
11.2	Maintain ongoing assessment of visitor numbers and management to ensure early identification of potential threats to the OUV.	Report on threats to OUV	Ongoing	Red
11.3	Develop an integrated approach with Ireland's Ancient East, the Boyne Valley Tourism Office, Fáilte Ireland, local tourism networks, and Local Authorities in their development of a tourism strategy for the greater area.	Report of current and future tourism initiatives	Ongoing	Blue
11.4	Identify monuments in private ownership which could be made accessible to the public with co-operation from the landowner.	Produce ownership map with accessible monuments	Ongoing	Red
11.5	Identify, in conjunction with the local community and local tourism networks, sustainable agritourism initiatives appropriate to the WHS.	Development of sustainable agritourism activities in the WHS	Ongoing	Blue
11.6	Advise landowners proposing to allow	Report on meetings	Annually	Blue

Green: Action completed.

Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

Blue: Action on track/ongoing.

Red: Action not started.

Objective 11: To develop the sustainable tourism potential of the site and to achieve an appropriate balance with the protection and preservation of the OUV of the WHS and its setting.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
	access to monuments on their land of best practice for visitor management and assist, where possible, with proposals to provide tours or visitor services.			

Green: Action completed.

Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

Blue: Action on track/ongoing.

Red: Action not started.

Objective 12: To sustainably manage tourism strategies and initiatives in the light of obligation to preserve, conserve and maintain the OUV of the WHS.				
No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
12.1	Continue to review the optimum number of visitors to the individual sites consistent with site protection.	Report on visitor figures	Ongoing	Blue
12.2	Review education values by carrying out a detailed visitor assessment of visitor impact and trends.	Review of education values	Ongoing	Red
12.3	Collect visitor statistics for each season and analyse trends.	Report of analysis of visitor trends	Ongoing	Blue
12.4	Continue to explore sustainable cultural tourism initiatives which have the potential to further deepen the engagement of the local community, visitors and tourists with the WHS.	Report at annual meeting	Annually	Blue
12.5	In the spirit of co-operation and to ensure conservation obligations are communicated to tourism agencies; continue to liaise with Fáilte Ireland and local tourism bodies.	Include section in annual report	Annually	Red
12.6	Investigate future uses for Knowth House.	Completion of actions	By 2027	Amber
12.7	Provide an online booking/ticketing system to enable a	Online booking system in place	By 2027	Green

Green: Action completed.

Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

Blue: Action on track/ongoing.

Red: Action not started.

Objective 12: To sustainably manage tourism strategies and initiatives in the light of obligation to preserve, conserve and maintain the OUV of the WHS.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
	more flexible and open approach to the tourist experience (see Action 9.8 above).			

Green: Action completed.

Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

Blue: Action on track/ongoing.

Red: Action not started.

Objective 13: To ensure that visitors have a safe and informative experience when they visit the site and that a quality service is provided for them.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
13.1	Maintain a quality guide service to enhance the visitor experience by ensuring that there are relevant training programmes in place for the guides.	Delivery of training programmes	Ongoing	Blue
13.2	Continue to balance the need to preserve the National Monuments and facilitate public access with appropriate management.	Provision of appropriate access	Ongoing	Blue
13.3	Liaise with Transport Infrastructure Ireland, and Meath and Louth Local Authorities to place internationally recognised UNESCO WHS signage at the boundaries of the site.	Erection of signage	Ongoing	Blue
13.4	Liaise with relevant bodies on a review of the current directional signage.	Report on review of signage issues	By 2027	Blue
13.5	Make use of the arts to interpret and promote the WHS to the people of Ireland and the world.	Development of new arts projects	Ongoing	Blue
13.6	Examine in co-operation with the Local Authorities and residents the issues relating to road traffic, buses and parking raised by the local	Improved access to the WHS and approval of residents	Regular meetings	Amber

Green: Action completed.

Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

Blue: Action on track/ongoing.

Red: Action not started.

Objective 13: To ensure that visitors have a safe and informative experience when they visit the site and that a quality service is provided for them.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
	community during the consultations associated with the making of this Plan.			

Green: Action completed.

Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

Blue: Action on track/ongoing.

Red: Action not started.

Objective 14: To protect and preserve the OUV of the WHS and its setting by reviewing the condition and vulnerability of the sites and monuments and their setting within the WHS and to adjust management actions and guidance accordingly.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
14.1	Monitor and document at appropriate intervals the condition and vulnerability of monuments within the WHS.	Production of monitoring reports	Ongoing	
14.2	Identify potential threats to the monuments and the OUV.	Report of threats as appropriate	Ongoing	
14.3	Take appropriate action and prioritise the protection of monuments.	Report relevant interventions	As required	

Green: Action completed.

Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

Blue: Action on track/ongoing.

Red: Action not started.

Objective 15: To protect and preserve the OUV of the WHS and its setting by the prevention of negative impacts from current practices, and changes to any current benign practices which would result in a negative impact on the OUV of the WHS.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
15.1	Monitor at appropriate intervals agricultural practices within the WHS.	Report of monitoring at appropriate intervals	2020, 2023, 2026	Red
15.2	Identify potential threats to the OUV.	Report of threats and vulnerabilities	Ongoing	Amber
15.3	Ensure that all practices are consistent with the maintenance of the OUV of the WHS.	Recommend good practice	Ongoing	Blue
15.4	Liaise with the farming body (IFA) and Teagasc to produce good practice guidelines in relation to farming practices within WHSs.	Publish guidelines	By 2027	Red

Green: Action completed.

Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

Blue: Action on track/ongoing.

Red: Action not started.

Objective 16: To protect and preserve the OUV of the WHS and its setting by providing appropriate guidance and advice to Local Authorities and development agents concerning the protection of the OUV of the WHS.

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
16.1	Protect the WHS and OUV from adverse development impacts.	Report of monitoring at appropriate intervals	Ongoing	Blue
16.2	Offer appropriate advice and guidance to Local Authorities and relevant development agencies and agents.	Report of threats and vulnerabilities	Ongoing	Blue
16.3	Implement the provisions of the Local Authority Development Plans and other relevant legislation/ regulations.	Recommend good practice	Ongoing	Blue
16.4	Encourage, where appropriate, the conservation and sustainable re-use of existing traditional and vernacular buildings within the WHS.	Develop series of re-use case studies, disseminate findings and continue to provide advice to owners of traditional buildings	Ongoing	Blue
16.5	Monitor and document at appropriate intervals the nature and density of development within and around the WHS.	Report on development trends and issues	Ongoing	Red
16.6	Continue in conjunction with Meath County Council to provide an integrated pre- planning service where the Council's and DHLGH's officials will jointly comment on pre-planning issues within the WHS.	Report annually to the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan Implementation Group on the work of the service	Ongoing	Amber

Green: Action completed.

Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

Blue: Action on track/ongoing.

Red: Action not started.

Objective 17: To protect and preserve the OUV of the WHS.				
No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
17.1	Continue to promote the WHS as a learning resource to schools and local communities.	Satisfied customers	Ongoing	Blue
17.2	Upgrade the information in the Visitor's Centre to the highest standard and ensure it is reflective of recent archaeological research.	Upgrade completed	By 2020	Green
17.3	Examine the uses of Knowth House for educational purposes.	Report to the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan Implementation Group	2017	Amber
17.4	Ensure that the new facility in Knowth House complements the information from the main Visitor Centre.	Upgrade completed	By 2020	Green
17.5	Create a virtual visit to the monuments for people unable to visit them.	Virtual visit completed	By 2020	Amber
17.6	Ensure that academic publications are followed up with non-specialist material based on the results of the academic work.	Report annually	Ongoing	Blue

Green: Action completed.

Amber: Action started, but behind schedule.

Blue: Action on track/ongoing.

Red: Action not started.

Objective 18: To ensure protection of the Boyne Canal sections of the Boyne Navigation where it passes through the WHS.				
No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
18.1	Establish a Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan Implementation Group.	Regular meetings with An Táisce	Ongoing	
18.2	Appoint a Site Manager and Management Team.	Regular meetings with An Táisce	Ongoing	
18.3	Maintain close co-operation and levels of consultation with An Táisce, as owners of the Boyne Navigation in all matters relating to same.	Regular meetings with An Táisce	Ongoing	
18.4	Maintain public access to, and on, the existing towpath which runs alongside the Boyne Canal.	Regular meetings with An Táisce	Ongoing	
18.5	Facilitate navigation along the Boyne Canal and relevant sections of the River Boyne where the Navigation passes through the WHS and Buffer Zone whilst ensuring that it does not pose any likely significant effects on archaeology, or on the conservation objectives of the relevant Natura 2000 sites.	Regular meetings with An Táisce	Ongoing	
18.6	Facilitate the provision of a walking and cycling track on the towpath.	Liaison with Local Authority	Ongoing	

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