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Future Places

USING HERITAGE
TO BUILD RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES

—
*A Report on the symposium
hosted by the Council for Nature
Conservation and the Countryside,
the Historic Buildings Council and
the Historic Monuments Council.*

—
Cultra Manor, Ulster Folk and
Transport Museum, Co.Down.

23rd November 2016

Contents

CONTEXT	3
INTRODUCTION	4
A VISION FOR VALUING HERITAGE <i>Ian Ross</i>	6
CASE STUDIES	
<i>Tullaghoge Fort: Accessing historical and cultural heritage</i> Dr John O’Keeffe	12
<i>Living in heritage: home is where the hearth is</i> Margaret Gallagher	14
<i>Upland Farming Communities: heritage and hope for the future</i> Oisin Murnion	16
<i>The Future of Family Farms</i> David Laughlin	18
<i>Reviving town centres through regeneration</i> Alan Clarke	20
LOOKING AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT, BALANCING QUALITY OF LIFE WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A PERSONAL VIEW <i>Brian Black</i>	22
FUTURE PLACES, USING HERITAGE TO BUILD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES: DRAWING THE STRANDS TOGETHER	27
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS	30
CASE STUDY SPEAKERS	30
APPENDIX 1	32

CONTEXT

Heritage is a key factor in bringing communities together, creating jobs, making a healthy environment and forging identity and resilience. This is summed up by the idea of 'place-making'. Attractive places are also a key resource for communities in terms of attracting tourism and businesses.

The planning process is one of the drivers for successful place-making and the Local Development Plan process, with its emphasis on Community Planning, provides the immediate context for this symposium. Heritage also has great potential to contribute to the outcomes in the draft Programme for Government 2016-2021.

The focus of the day was on achieving these benefits across Northern Ireland and case studies showed how heritage can directly benefit both our rural and urban communities.

By hosting this symposium the CNCC, HBC and HMC provided an opportunity for key decision-makers to consider how we can take an integrated approach to the richness and diversity of our heritage assets in planning for the future.

Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside (CNCC)

Chair: Dr Hilary Kirkpatrick

CNCC uses its wide range of environmental experience in its role as statutory advisor to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). It provides advice on matters affecting the natural beauty or amenity of places, the establishment and management of National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Areas of Special Scientific Interest, nature reserves and the protection of wildlife species.

Historic Buildings Council (HBC)

Chair: Mr Marcus Patton

The council provides expertise in architecture, architectural history, planning, industrial heritage, building conservation and structural engineering throughout Northern Ireland. Its role is to advise the Department for Communities on the listing and delisting of buildings, listed building consent, buildings preservation notices (spot listing), urgent works to preserve buildings, Conservation Areas and matters of the industrial and defence heritage.

Historic Monuments Council (HMC)

Chair: Prof. Gabriel Cooney

The council advises the Department for Communities on archaeology, historic monuments and cultural heritage, in particular addressing the scheduling of monuments, conservation of monuments in state care, maritime archaeology, industrial and defence heritage and Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest. The Council also provides advice on planning and development issues affecting historic monuments and their settings, and on policy areas directly relevant to its statutory role.

INTRODUCTION

It was a pleasure for us as the chairs of CNCC (Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside), HBC (Historic Buildings Council) and HMC (Historic Monuments Council) to organise the symposium on this topic on 23 November 2016 and to hear the range of case studies and the discussion on key topics that involved everyone in the large attendance (see Appendix 1 for details).

We were very pleased that the symposium was enhanced by the presence of both the Minister of

Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, (DAERA) Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA and the Minister for Communities (DfC), Mr Paul Givan MLA. They spoke at the symposium and gave their support to the importance of demonstrating how heritage can benefit communities, both rural and urban, across Northern Ireland.

Until recently all three Councils were Statutory Advisory Councils to the Department of the Environment and were known informally as the 'SACs'. Following the re-organisation of Government Departments CNCC is now a statutory adviser to DAERA while HBC and HMC advise DfC. With the



assistance of our Departmental sponsors, the Natural Environment Division of DAERA and the Historic Environment Division of DfC, we have been working to ensure that these changes do not impact on our statutory roles and indeed to take this as an opportunity for us to work together in more co-ordinated way in the public interest. The organisation of the symposium was one outcome of this.

The roles of CNCC, HBC and HMC are set out above. We cover a very wide range of heritage and environmental issues in providing advice to our respective Departments. We are very pleased to acknowledge and thank the members of all three Councils who give so generously of their time and expertise in assisting with the work of the Councils.

Perhaps not surprisingly each of the Councils have a tendency to be particularly focused on their specific areas of responsibility and advice, but there are issues, such as those relating to landscapes and places, which remind us of the reality that for people living across Northern Ireland heritage is inter-connected. As the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) recently put it, heritage is networked and starts with people.

Our key focus in organising the symposium was on the economic, health and wellbeing benefits of heritage, its value in forging identity and resilience and to raise awareness of the potential of heritage to contribute to the outcomes in the draft Programme for Government. The Local Development Plan (LDP) process being conducted by the District Councils, and the emphasis on Community Planning and

place-making provided the immediate context and impetus for the symposium.



Photo: Marcus Patton, Michelle McIlveen MLA, Paul Givan MLA, Dr Hilary Kirkpatrick and Prof. Gabriel Cooney

A VISION FOR VALUING HERITAGE

Ian Ross

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is the statutory nature conservation body for Scotland and its role is to secure the conservation and enhancement of nature and landscapes, foster understanding of them and facilitate their enjoyment. It also promotes the sustainable use and management of nature and landscapes in Scotland. It aims to secure the enhancement of, and benefits from, the natural assets of Scotland for society and in does this by providing advice to Scottish Ministers and local authorities as well as working in partnership with public, private and voluntary sector bodies. This includes such organisations as Forestry Commission

Scotland (FCS), Sustrans, The Conservation Volunteers and NHS Scotland.

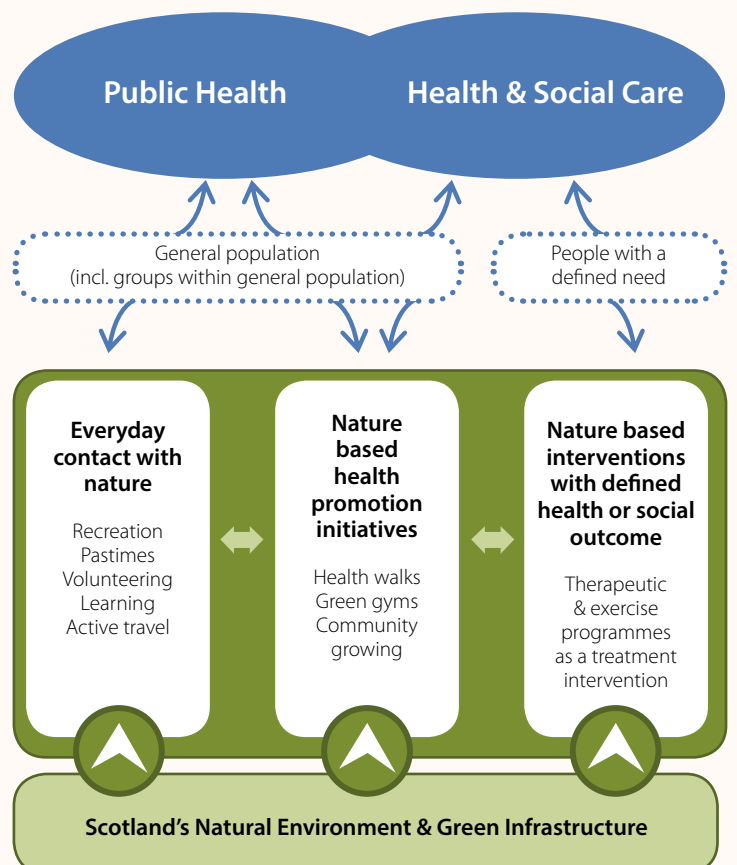
Our vision is that “people value Scotland’s natural assets because they generate benefits for all, sustaining us and improving our economy, health, lifestyles and culture”. Our work can be summarised as about caring for nature and landscape, enabling people to enjoy it and helping people to understand and appreciate it and supporting those who manage it. In our Corporate Strategy and Plan work is set out under four distinct but interconnected portfolios. These are caring for the natural world, enriching people’s lives, supporting sustainable economic growth and delivering a high quality public service.

Outcome

A step change in using the outdoors to deliver physical, mental and social health and well-being outcomes

Measures of success

- **Greater public awareness** of the benefits & opportunities for contact with nature as part of everyday lives.
- **An increase in the number of people being active** through contact with the nature.
- **Greater awareness in health professionals** of the contribution of nature-based health promotion and interventions to physical and mental health and well-being.
- Public Health and Health & Social Care sectors routinely embracing **nature-based health promotion and interventions** across the full range of relevant programmes for prevention, treatment and care.
- Increased **commissioning of, and stable funding** for, nature based health promotion programmes and interventions by health and social care partnerships.
- Role of nature-based health promotion and interventions main streamed in **the planning and use of the public estate**.



Realising the value of the heritage of Scotland for the nation requires a number of factors. These are political support, legislation, the use of collaborative approaches and partnerships, and aligned and compatible strategies. Public benefit outcomes need to be explicit. Nature and heritage can function both as an enabler and delivery means.

Political support is crucial to success. For example the Scottish Government has taken the lead in enabling the development of walking and cycling trails by designating the National Walking and Cycling Network (NWCN) as a national development in the latest National Planning Framework. The development of a strategic network of well-maintained long-distance paths and trails through Scotland will enhance visitor and recreation experiences for all users, as well as supporting active travel and improving health and well-being. SNH, along with Sustrans and Scottish Canals, are leading this project. We have produced a project plan setting out the project aims and vision, and outlining a programme of route implementation. The NWCN will build on existing networks of paths and trails by closing key gaps, upgrading connecting routes, encouraging multi-use of paths and linking with public transport. New routes in this project are characterised as either five-year priority routes with national development status and requiring planning consent, other priority routes without national development status which can be progressed in five years or other routes which require early action to secure delivery in the long-term. The goal over twenty years is to deliver 1750 miles of paths and trails in 50 projects.

New legislation can be an important enabler and driver. The background to these new routes was the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 which provided for increased public access to land and was accompanied by the production of an Outdoor Access Code. A range of additional legislation has also been enacted to promote greater access, use and benefit from nature.

The planning system also has an important role to play and in SNH we have worked with Local Planning Authorities and the Scottish Government to embed wider nature based considerations in Planning Policies and Development Plans. This type of involvement is described as “upstream engagement” and has included such approaches as officer secondment and close working at the policy and plan development stage. The key output is that “nature aware” policies and plans are significant considerations in planning appraisals and determinations. It also contributes to place-making and the many benefits this can deliver.

Within SNH we are promoting greater public awareness of the benefits of everyday contact with nature and the opportunities that are available. Seventy percent of the population of Scotland have usable local greenspace within six minutes of home and there are 15,000 miles of signposted paths and routes across Scotland. Ninety percent of the population live within 10 miles of one of Scotland's Great Trails.

The John Muir Way opened in 2014 and at 134 miles (215km) is one of Scotland's Great Trails. It runs between Helensburgh in the west to Dunbar on the east coast, the birthplace of John Muir. It is a flagship project of the Central Scotland Green Network. Scotland's Great Trails are nationally promoted trails for people-powered journeys and are at least 25 miles in length. Each is distinctively waymarked with a range of visitor services and is largely off-road. These trails are suitable for multi-day walking as well as day trips and collectively the 28 different routes provide over 1,700 miles of well managed paths offering opportunities to explore the best of Scotland's nature and landscapes, history and culture. The Central Scotland Green Network is a long-term initiative to connect green and blue spaces in towns and cities with each other and with the wider countryside and coast. It stretches from Ayrshire and Inverclyde in the west, to Fife and the Lothians in the east. The initiative will create attractive landscapes for a range of uses, including new businesses, by restoring vacant and derelict land. It will improve networks for cycling and walking, encouraging more 'active travel' and healthier lifestyles. It will help to absorb carbon dioxide by managing carbon-rich soils and significantly increasing woodland expansion, enhance biodiversity by connecting fragmented habitats to facilitate species movement in response

to climate change and make central Scotland a more attractive place to live in, do business and visit.

Bo'ness Natural Connections was a John Muir Way legacy project and aimed to connect the local community to the John Muir Way as well as improving local paths and habitats for wildlife and encouraging visitor spend in the town. It was a partnership of SNH, Falkirk Council and Room 8 Studio artists. The project explored a range of questions including how the natural environment and industrial heritage defines local communities, what prevents people engaging more with nature and how nature and wilderness can be experienced in accessible everyday landscapes. The approach was artist-led and they developed a shared agenda with the community. Lasting legacies were created through art installations and film. Students at Bo'ness Academy designed plaques for new benches on the route and students worked with the local iron foundry. The project demonstrated the value of nature in addressing wider social agendas.

Scotland and SNH wish to see an increase in the number of people who adopt a more active lifestyle through contact with nature. There is a need to promote a greater awareness among health professionals of the contribution of nature-based health promotion and interventions to the physical and mental health and wellbeing of Scotland's population. SNH have worked with the NHS to produce the publication *Scotland's outdoors – Our Natural Health Service* and are collaborating on the evidence base. A Green Exercise Partnership has been established between SNH, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and the NHS.

We would like to see the public health and social care sectors routinely embracing nature-based health promotion and interventions across the full range of relevant programmes for prevention, treatment and care. We are also seeking increased commissioning of, and sustainable funding for, nature-based health promotion by health and social care partnerships. The role of nature-based health promotion and interventions should be mainstreamed in the planning and use of the public estate. The measures of success will be greater public awareness of the benefits and opportunities for contact with nature as part of everyday life, an increase in the number of people being active through contact with nature, and greater awareness in health professionals of the contribution of nature-based health promotion and interventions to physical and mental wellbeing. There has been an increasingly robust evidence base to support the positive link between nature and health improvement.

Developing effective local green health partnerships must begin with mapping the green exercise assets, followed by targeted investment in green infrastructure and green exercise programmes. There is a need for information and training for GPs, clinicians and other health practitioners and a range of information products such as information panels, maps, digital information, DVDs and walking leaflets. There is also a need for better integration into other health initiatives such as the Well Connected programme and Sports hubs. Examples of initiatives include Get Walking Lanarkshire and Active Cairngorms.

There are low levels of awareness within health sector staff of the opportunities green exercise offers for physical and mental health. The support

of GP Practice Managers is a key component in the success of any initiative promoted by a GP surgery. Information on green exercise assets must be succinct, accurate and easily updated to compete successfully for attention and uptake in a busy practice setting. Information may be made available through existing mechanisms such as advisory services or social prescribing schemes. Awareness-raising of the wide benefits of green exercise amongst health sector staff is essential to secure its onward promotion to patients. While targeting patients and high risk groups is important it is also equally important to encourage prevention.

An important asset is land, with an important example being the land holding of FCS. This covers some 8% of Scotland. FCS has also produced a suite of linked policy documents – such as *Woods for Health* and *Woods for Learning*. An example of the active use of woodland resource is that of Mountain Bike Trails. This encourages active participation; is particularly effective in embedding the habit of regular exercise amongst young people; and also creates a very valuable tourist resource.

Green Infrastructure

Improving the quality and accessibility of green infrastructure close to where people live, particularly in more deprived areas, through our ERDF Green Infrastructure scheme and be supporting the Central Scotland Green Network.



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- £40 million investment in urban environments
- Expected programme of 15-20 projects
- Targeted at areas suffering higher levels of disadvantage
- c.34,000 households within 300m of potential projects predominantly “Underprivileged & Inactive”
- Development of local initiatives to activate and sustain use



© Lorne Gill / SNH



SNH is leading on the Green Infrastructure (GI) initiative - this is about improving the quality and accessibility of green infrastructure close to where people live, particularly in more deprived areas, through our European Regional Development Fund GI scheme and by supporting the Central Scotland Green Network. Delivery is through a Challenge Fund and we invite applications for projects which will improve the environment in some of Scotland's poorest and most disadvantaged communities. Two projects have been approved in the first round

of bids (both in Glasgow) and are underway while a further group of projects are currently being assessed in round 2. Originally the project was expected to deliver some 15-20 projects and a £40 million investment in urban environments over two phases. As a consequence of the BREXIT decision it is now anticipated that only phase 1 will take place and deliver £20m of investment, including £8.25m of European funding. The ERDF is one of the operational programmes for the European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 Programme

and its aim is to meet EU2020 targets of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. In Scotland the current ERDF programme is being delivered through a suite of Strategic Interventions, large scale funding allocations delivered and managed by Lead Partners. SNH was approved as lead partner for the Green Infrastructure Intervention.

One of the approved projects in Glasgow is the 'Canal and North Gateway' in an area in the bottom 5% for multiple deprivation, and in fact the second worst in Scotland. It has chronic socio-economic challenges which are symptoms of severe post-industrial decline that left fragmented and isolated communities, abandoned land, lack of social cohesion and identity and poor access to employment and other opportunities. The contribution SNH is making through the GI Fund is to develop a new Local Nature Reserve, improve greenspace and connectivity along the canal corridor, providing community allotments and growing space and managing water levels in the canal to improve surface drainage and reduce flood risk.

Another example is the Greater Easterhouse Integrated Green Infrastructure Project which will benefit 40,000 people living within Greater Easterhouse, Blairtummock, Cranhill and Ruchazie, among the most disadvantaged communities in Scotland. Substantial new housing is planned for the area and GI funding will allow local communities to be involved in designing their local greenspaces, regenerate derelict land and provide footpath and cycleway links between greenspaces. This area is also covered by the Seven Lochs Partnership which has recently received Heritage Lottery Funding to help develop Scotland's largest urban nature park in the north-east of Glasgow. SNH is a member of the Partnership.

A great deal has been done, particularly through effective collaboration and partnership working; strong political support and leadership; an effective suite of legislation and policies; a well expressed and robust evidence base; and a recognition of nature as a key enabler and delivery agent for crucial and necessary public benefit outcomes. But it is important to recognise that much more has still to be done.

CASE STUDIES

Tullaghoge Fort: Accessing historical and cultural legacy

Dr John O’Keeffe

Tullaghoge Fort is situated on the crown of a prominent hill about 4km southeast of Cookstown, near the village of Tullaghoge. It is of significant importance to County Tyrone and the Mid-Ulster District Council area as it was on this hilltop enclosure that the ruling members of each

generation of the Cenel nEogain (later to be known as ‘The O’Neills’) were inaugurated from the 11th to the end of the 16th century AD. Tullaghoge Fort is a monument in State Care and hence the site and its setting is identified as being of regional importance. The site is also protected by the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995, one of the primary pieces of legislation used to protect built heritage across Northern Ireland. Up until 2016 access to the site comprised a car park, with its entrance on a difficult corner at the western foot of the hill from which a path leads uphill to the site.



Tullaghoge Fort (HED)

The Historic Environment Division, DfC (formerly NIEA) and Mid-Ulster District Council (formerly Cookstown District Council) are working in partnership to preserve, protect and safeguard the heritage of Tullaghoge Fort and to promote increased public awareness and accessibility of the site. A key step in this project was the transfer of land surrounding the site from the ownership of the then Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) to NIEA.

In the context of providing a better understanding of the site so that the archaeological impact of any development could be assessed a programme of landscape research was carried out, in phases, from 2011-2015. This included geophysical and LIDAR survey, which revealed the presence of additional features on the hill and around it. This was followed by archaeological excavation (conducted by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast) which provided the opportunity for the active engagement with local schools. The most important features revealed were late medieval buildings at the bottom of the western side of the hill. This required an amendment to the plans to preserve these new discoveries and incorporate them into the interpretation and presentation of the site.

Development works delivered a new car parking area (with safe access), interpretative signage and related features and a new path to the monument. The investment at Tullaghoge preserves and protects this valuable heritage asset for future generations. It also demonstrates the value of the historic environment for local communities and for wider society. Tullaghoge is a key asset to the tourism economy of Mid-Ulster. The enhanced access and resources at the site will enable greater footfall at the monument

which, in turn, will result in an economic boost for tourism and local business.

The comments of visitors indicate a very positive response to the development and its key wider role as a heritage asset in promoting heritage, notably the Hill of the O'Neill and related exhibition in Ranfurly House Arts and Visitor Centre, Dungannon. Partnership with the District Council was a vital aspect of the project; without this it would not have been the success that it is. This partnership continues, with DfC and the Council jointly working to present and animate the site, to continue engagement with the local community and stakeholders and to apply the lessons learnt to new projects.

Living in Heritage: Home is where the hearth is

Margaret Gallagher

We are rightfully proud of where we come from, whether it be an urban street or a golden vale. So it is with me. I grew up on the bog bank, with the turf spade, the turf barrow and the turf creel as common features in my life. It is a rich habitat for wildlife and plants and, as a living organism, one of the world's finest landscapes. When I was growing up, however, the bog bank was a place where you were always hungry, where midges ate you alive and where you were wet and dirty. But when you completed your six week stint with a bent back you said 'Thank God', for we were more than aware that the bog afforded us a source of heat for the cold winter ahead!

Located in the townland of Mullylusty, three miles from Belcoo, our home was a pre-Famine cabin, rateable valuation £10; it is now a listed building. My grandfather bought the house in 1887 from his cousins who were emigrating and, as they couldn't write, they just put an 'X' on the indenture by way of signature. The document still proudly hangs on the wall in my kitchen. My grandfather would have been fully aware that the main components of the house he had just bought came from the bog and the immediately surrounding landscape. The timber was all bog oak, as were the wattles to hold the scraws, and the scallops of sally rods that were bent hairpin-fashion to secure the thatch - all indigenous resources, as too were the stones, the lime-mortar and the plaster.



Cow dung, pigs' blood, hot lime, purlins, wattles, skewers, cupples, rushes, scallops, flags, whitewash, distemper, bluestone, hanging table, porringer, pounder, smoothing iron, crook, tongs, wick, globe, creepie, tea chest, goose wing, white horse embrocation, pinade, tea canister, St Bridget's cross, stirabout, fadge, scouder, duke, and stray sod. These are all words and phrases that sit comfortably together in a house such as mine.

My father was born into the house in 1888 and no alterations were ever carried out to it during his lifetime other than regular thatching, and the renewal of plaster. The plaster on the house is the type that was used on all the better houses: cow dung, pigs' blood and roast lime. The house remains unaltered to this day. There is no electricity in the house or running water. Water is obtained from the well a few hundred yards down a field. This is a marl spring and wash day means many buckets of water being carried. We never progressed to the tilley lamp but we did have a hurricane or storm lamp for going outside at night. The lamps had to be filled each day with oil and have their wicks trimmed.

There are three rooms in the house. The Upper Room (the best room in the house), the Under Room and the kitchen. In my younger days the Upper Room was used for the priest attending my father and elderly neighbours. The Under Room is the bedroom, but the most important room in the building is the kitchen. It hosts the hearth fire which is the very heart of the house. The fire produces light and heat and provides cooking facilities. Without a constant fire the roof timbers would decay and the roof would collapse. As such, large fires are the norm. We didn't have a crane crook, only the basic crook - one bar secured into the chimney brace on which we had numerous crooks to hang the pot hooks.

A high wind was dreaded. Heavy snowfall also brought its worry. The weight of the snow would damage the timbers, especially when it thawed and slid. In addition, if it lay on the roof it accelerated rot in the thatch and the little red worm that lurked there was a tasty snack for the blackbird. The blackbird tore with its little legs until a drop-down occurred, so the roof had to be darned. My father budgeted for regular thatching and cut back the sally rods in order to ensure plentiful supplies of scallops.

My father married a woman from the townland of Aughnaglack in 1938. I arrived in good time to witness the big snow of '47 and I distinctly remember the problems associated with it; clearing the lane to the road, a pass to the byre, the haystack and the spring well, as well as the efforts that were made to keep the snow swept from the roof.

We farmed 12 acres of land and had two cows. We milked the cows, fed the calves by bucket, set potatoes and other vegetables, sewed corn for thatching and cut the turf. My father mowed the meadows by scythe for the annual hay crop, which was won by rake and pitchfork. My father read the *Daily Mail* religiously. We only collected it on a weekly basis so the news we were getting was one week old, and my father read the paper aloud. When I say he read it religiously I mean he started at the top of the front page *Daily Mail price 2d* and continued reading every scrap of news aloud and then the paper was closed.

People confuse standard of living with quality of life. I may only have a house with a rateable valuation of £10 but it is my sanctuary and in today's world it is a great leveller. School children that visit the house always ask how much it is worth. My answer: 'Nothing in terms of money, but priceless in terms of heritage.'

Upland Farming Communities: Heritage and hopes for the future

Oisín Murnion

To Oisín Murnion, heritage is his family farm and roots that stretch back at least three hundred years in the Mourne Mountains. Oisín, his wife, Anne-Marie, and daughter, Joelene, manage 25 acres of in-by-land and also have grazing rights. The shared grazing of the Mourne Mountains West is of international importance for nature conservation and is designated under the EU 'Habitats' Directive as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Farms in the Mournes region are small and the area has a long tradition of combining farming and other income streams. In his talk Oisín pointed out that these so-called marginal landscapes produce many public goods which contribute to wider government

agendas, as well as being an environment people want to visit.

Oisín and Anne-Marie developed their interest in Galloway cattle because they are a breed which can be kept on mountain pasture. As they are hardy animals which can live outdoors the business costs of housing for livestock are reduced, all relevant factors to a young couple starting out. In researching and working with the Galloway breed Oisín came to the discovery that cattle grazing also produces environmental benefits.

Research has demonstrated that on certain types of European vegetation the rich biodiversity is the result of centuries of interaction of people and livestock. With agricultural intensification and the increased use of artificial fertilisers and feeds such land is falling into disuse, despite often being designated for its biodiversity. Selective grazing by suitable livestock

NEW OPPORTUNITIES - WITH A BASIS IN HERITAGE

Discovered benefits for biodiversity from cattle grazing - conservation grazing.

Put skills into action with organisations who needed specialist and management - NT & MOD.



can help keep more vigorous species under control and thus maintain a wider range of species.

Oisín developed a business providing conservation grazing services to a number of clients, including environmental organisations as well as landowners of designated sites, such as the National Trust. Oisín stressed that here his product is 'nature' and that they manage the grazing to either maintain certain desired conditions or use the animals as tools to rehabilitate the land.

Oisín and Anne-Marie now graze three islands in Strangford Lough. In 2007 they took on a contract with the Ministry of Defence to graze dunes and coastal heath. They liaise with environmental scientists and conservation managers to develop grazing systems that benefit nature. In addition the land management has to accommodate live firing on MOD ranges! Oisín noted that thanks to the cattle keeping the vegetation at the right height 40 pairs of lapwing now nest on the range.

Oisín and Anne-Marie were pioneers in NI in their use of heritage farming skills to deliver biodiversity outcomes. They now have a herd of 100 Galloway suckler cows and three bulls and manage 640 acres (256 ha) of land. While the Galloway cattle breed does an excellent job as a management tool to produce nature and it is easy to calve, it is slow to finish compared to intensive beef breeds. Therefore a conservation grazer primarily provides a service to the client, rather than the client providing land which is an opportunity for the grazer to produce beef.

Their home farm provides the base for the business and all the relevant farm overheads still apply. It forms an integral part of the conservation grazing

business, even if some of the activities (and costs) are not immediately visible to the casual observer. For those not directly involved in the livestock trade there can be a tendency to assume that nature can still be produced as a by-product of farming with the farmer's income coming from the sale of the animal. In reality, the income comes from public money, currently via the EU Common Agricultural Policy. Most upland farms would struggle to survive without access to CAP support in the Basic Payment Scheme. Oisín and Anne-Marie's land (including the land they manage for other bodies) attracts a Basic Payment Scheme of £24,000 and the NI Countryside Management Scheme brings in £31,000. Unlike the Basic Payment Scheme, agri-environment schemes, such as the NI Countryside Management Scheme are irregular in the time they open and close and often there is a long wait for payment. Their current fear is that it could be three years before another higher level agri-environment payment is available for the sort of land they manage.

Oisín and Ann-Marie hope that they can build something up that can be passed on to the next generation. Their work helps protect nationally and internationally important sites and landscapes that attract tourists and contribute to the clean and green image of Northern Ireland. Oisín believes that what they produce is just as much a product of farming as beef and that delivery of valued public goods is also 'productive' agriculture. But with the UK about to trigger Article 50 and an EU exit the question of who will pay for the public goods they produce is at the forefront of their minds. The heritage of farming skills and the resource of the family farm has enabled them to develop a business at the forefront of new services from land. Their case study links to a wider debate as to what we as a society want and need from our land.

The Future of Family Farms

David Laughlin

David Laughlin is Managing Director of Culmore Organic Farm, the family farm his grandfather bought in 1922 for £10 an acre. With his son's graduation from Queen's University with a degree in agriculture the fourth generation is about to make its mark on the land.

When his grandfather started to farm the land (1922-1947) all the work was done manually or with the help of horses. In fact 25% of the farmland had to be used for 'energy crops', that is, horse feed, so that the farm could feed the family and produce products to be sold. The farm was a mixed enterprise farm

and included pigs and hens as well as the cows that had to be milked by hand twice a day. Crops were grown, particularly oats, flax and potatoes. As well as supplying produce that could be used by the family, such as eggs, the farm produced a range of crops and produce which were sold for cash.

David's father took over the farm in 1947 and introduced the first generation of milking machines. These enabled farmers to keep more cows and thus produce more milk but farmers were still tied to the twice daily routine of milking and family and social life fitted around this routine. Horses and farm labourers were gradually replaced by tractors and other machinery and the first marketing boards and co-operatives were formed. As the farm lies in the floodplain of the river Bann, the second



generation witnessed the effects of arterial drainage schemes. In the post-WWII era, farmers were intensifying production and there was increased use of agrochemicals. David's father saw the UK join the EEC (European Economic Community) and the impact of the Common Agricultural Policy on farming in NI.

David studied agriculture at Queen's University and took over the farm in 1983. Technological advances enabled him to introduce robotic milking which was a big advance on the conditions his father worked under. With increasing awareness of sustainability issues David took the decision to convert to organic practices. In order to secure the long-term future of the farm David decided to look towards products with added value and develop direct links to consumers. He regards himself as a traditional farmer and emphasises that organic systems place great emphasis on good husbandry skills, but he also makes use of modern technology.

He has embraced established organic techniques like crop rotation and the use of clovers/ legumes but also robotic milking and cleaning. He also invested in renewable energy technology (wind, solar and wood) and now produces about 80% of the farm's electricity requirements. No heating oil is needed for the main dwelling house which makes a big difference to the family budget as heating comes from home-grown timber.

David also planted 25 acres of sustainable hardwood forestry and welcomes school groups to it as well as organising dawn chorus walks in conjunction with the local Council's Biodiversity Officer.

His aim is to produce wholesome food and he deplores how much food is wasted. He points out

that 'sell by dates' result in thousands of tons of food being thrown away annually as 'not fit for human consumption'. At Culmore Organic Farm raw milk is sold to customers and must have a six day shelf life even though testing showed they could safely put a 10-12 day shelf life on it. Culmore Organic Farm has partnered with City Cheese in Ballywalter. The firm is owned and run by Christo and Angelique Swanepoel and they make the only raw organic cheese in Northern Ireland, using a 600 year old Dutch recipe.

A major driver in the decision to sell food from the farm was the desire to offer people high quality food that had not been processed or sprayed with agrochemicals. David is an advocate of healthy eating and quotes growing evidence of the link between a poor quality diet and poor health. Over time he found that many of the farm's customers were motivated to access organic products because of underlying health issues.

While healthy food was a major driver David was also aware of the level of control that direct selling can give the farmer so that Culmore Organics is a price-setter rather than a price-taker and with no supply chain costs can still offer value for money. He notes that Northern Ireland is a net exporter of food but farmers are controlled by processors on product price and they, in turn, are ultimately controlled by the multiple retailers. Large multinationals also control many of the farmer's input costs and the end result is that often, given the volatility of global commodity markets, farmers are taking less than the cost of the food production.

David argues that as an innovative family farmer he contributes to community resilience in a number of ways.

Reviving Town Centres Through Regeneration

Alan Clarke

Having been involved with the building preservation trust movement for some years I have seen many examples where the restoration of a derelict or unloved building has been the trigger for a more general revival of economic and social activity in a town. However this presentation focuses specifically on the scheme carried out at Bridge Street Lisburn under the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) scheme initiated by the Heritage Lottery Fund, where the regeneration was of a group of buildings rather than an individual property.

Bridge Street is a steep street in the centre of Lisburn, comprising mostly 18th century buildings that had fallen into dereliction following failed redevelopment proposals that had also created a large gap site at the lower end of the street.

The THI scheme used funding from the HLF, Lisburn City Council and the DoE to assist owners in bringing their buildings back into economic use. A team including a conservation architect advised owners on the restoration of their property and ensured that the scheme worked to good standards of conservation as well as meeting the owners' needs for practical improvements. Over twenty properties in the street were improved under the scheme, many bringing

Creating Communities = Real Regeneration



former shops and pubs back into life with new traditionally-painted shopfronts.

It was recognised that the area would not thrive on retail activity alone, and Bridge Street THI were keen to persuade the NI Housing Executive to reinvigorate the area, using their "Living Over the Shop" (LOTS) scheme. This provides a grant to shopkeepers to bring the upper floors of their building, which are often disused and frequently suffering from water ingress or even pigeons, back into use as accommodation. Despite some initial reluctance, the experience of the scheme has been that having tenants in the upper floors provides additional security to the shop, and the 24-hour use of the premises brings life to the area at all times of day. City-centre residents of course also patronise local shops, creating a virtuous circle. Having people living in the street means not only use of the upper floors, but often brings life to rear returns and yards as well, creating a sense of place that is more than just a frontage.

The sense of new life brought about by the scheme, coupled with modest rents, attracted start-up businesses to the area, drawn by the sense of adventure in bringing the street back to life and no doubt also by the distinctive character of the old buildings and their newly traditional frontages. Whilst some entrepreneurs have expanded to premises elsewhere, some have stayed and built their livelihood in these restored fit-for-purpose shop units that continue to attract new retail and service offerings.

Regeneration is not just a matter of physical rebuilding. To be effective it has to create genuine communities of people with a common interest and a determination to make the area work. The distinctive character of the old buildings made creating that identity simple, and its proximity to the city centre of Lisburn made economic success feasible. But bringing back people to live there is what made regeneration work. There must be many more areas of towns and cities that could benefit from a similar targeted approach to regeneration - not by demolition as has so often happened in the past, but by building on an identity that has taken over a hundred years to create.

**LOOKING AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT,
BALANCING QUALITY OF LIFE WITH
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:
A PERSONAL VIEW**

Brian Black



Kilclief Castle, Co. Down (HED)

In a previous incarnation I was an environment correspondent. Life has moved on and I am now doing other things, but still keeping a close eye on how we value our heritage and natural assets. So I am speaking not as a journalist dealing in facts, but as an observer who has travelled widely and seen what is happening elsewhere and then reflecting on what has been going on, or more to the point what has not been going on, here in Northern Ireland.

I sometimes think that a major obstacle to an informed and positive debate that would benefit everyone is the word 'environment'. This tends to conjure up images of tree huggers in direct opposition to farming and economic development. So I would like to state clearly that where I am going in this address is along a route towards the sustainable use of conservation. We are all living in and affected by 'the environment', so our health, wealth and well being are the key issues at stake here.

But we can't go forward until we reflect on past errors and where we are getting it wrong today. I have just returned from the Highlands of Scotland where my daughter lives. And right away I must compliment Ian Ross for the way Scottish Natural Heritage and various state agencies respect, value and sensitively exploit 'the environment'. Walking trails, camp sites, outdoor pursuits, bike trails, nature tourism, bed and breakfast accommodation, you name it and it is bringing money and economic vitality to the countryside.

Before that I was in Wales, in the Snowdonia National Park. The place is throbbing with life. Visitors are there in numbers, but the manner in which the landscape is managed means that their impact is negligible,

while at the same time the hill farms are thriving. Although surprisingly the farmers were complaining about the price of mutton. Sometime ago I walked the Pembroke coastal path. And what an economic driver that is! For every pound spent in creating the track and access facilities, the local communities benefit fivefold.

Back home at Kilclief on my doorstep in County Down we have possibly the best preserved state - owned medieval tower house in Ireland, a splendid beach and on a good summer's day hundreds of day-trippers. This has become a tourist hot-spot over the years, yet there is nothing to facilitate the visitors – no café, no local engagement and especially no toilets. So what do all these people do to answer the calls of nature? The local development association realise the potential here for a working relationship with the Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities to replace the adjoining derelict site with a toilet block, a bunk room, a pop-up café and interpretation. All concerned see the opportunity to create some part-time employment, making good use of heritage and enhancing the experience of visitors. But here is the rub, there is no funding currently available to make this happen. Such opportunities should not be lost.

Nearby at Audleystown, one of the best megalithic tombs in Ireland to visit and once again a Monument in State Care, is located in a field overlooking and with a view across Strangford Lough. But the access gate is locked. And even if you do squeeze past to squelch through the mud, there is the very real hazard of confronting cattle. We need to improve access to such public assets.

Let me take you to County Fermanagh, to the magnificent Plantation castle at Tully, overlooking Lough Erne. Once this was lovingly preserved but now the carefully laid ornamental garden has gone to rack and ruin with weeds growing everywhere, probably a victim of budget cuts that have sliced through government. Again, investment is clearly required.

Our coastline is noted as a ships' graveyard, centuries of seafaring have left an untold number of shipwrecks, yet there is currently one state protected shipwreck site (*La Girona* – an Armada ship). There are hundreds of significant wrecks still to be discovered or explored, yet only one marine archaeologist working with the Historic Environment Division. Where is the appreciation of value, either in terms of heritage or wreck-diving tourism potential?

But I must put the record straight here. In a talk at the symposium we heard Dr John O'Keeffe talking about the project at Tullaghoge. That is a wonderful example of how local councils (in this case Mid-Ulster) can get involved in heritage and both the Council and the Historic Environment Division deserve great credit for this imaginative collaboration.

I am sure you can see where I am going with this. Assets, opportunities, our irreplaceable heritage and natural capital and to date limited appreciation of their potential, and how to make them work for the good of us all. And it is this issue of the public good that lies at the heart of what I am saying today. We are all in this and there is no reason why it cannot bring benefits across the board.

It is all about planning for the future, something we are not good at in Northern Ireland. How we shape this place is a fundamental problem which traditionally has brought bitter, contested views to the fore. Perhaps the challenge of Brexit will bring us to our senses so that the wise use of landscape and place can benefit us all.

This brings me to reflections on agriculture and farmland management. We have no legal right of access here, as exists elsewhere in the UK. And to put it mildly we have to be aware that people generally do not mix well with livestock and crops. I frequently walk the countryside with my dog, and everywhere I go now there is more barbed wire and notices telling me to keep out. But it does not have to be this way. Where appropriate there could be more walking trails and greater access to woodlands and glen. In some places this has worked. I am thinking of the partnership agreements that underpin the Marble Arch Cave Geopark of Fermanagh and Cavan and that work in some parts of the Mourne. Farmers and the general public in the main rub along together without major conflict.

It is imperative that we get away from a sense of threat and conflict of interests. Capacity building is essential to ease the concern of farmers and to turn 'the environment' into a positive feature. Now bear in mind that as a result of habitat loss generally and the impoverishment of natural fertility due to sprays and insecticides, we have lost something like 60% of species in the last 50 years. This is the result of the disappearance of habitats, breeding grounds and food sources.

Let's take the case of farming in the less favoured upland areas. The demographic of a typical farmer in

these areas suggests an aging population with little prospect of the next generation working land that is economically marginal (18,000 farmers working 70% of the Northern Ireland land mass). But this can be important habitat for wildlife and many in the environmental sector would be keen to become more actively involved in enhancement schemes. So, what about some sort of agri-environment scheme where public money would be directed towards such things as scrub clearance and bog enhancement instead of the subsidies that have flowed from Europe? The key philosophy is that public good should come from public funds. With no CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) to underwrite non-productive farming, it is reasonable to assume that the government will want to re-think where the money goes. Farming must be supported and we need to ensure food security but surely it is time to look at things differently?

Roll this thinking out a bit and you could envisage paying farmers where appropriate to manage their land differently. Encouraging streams to meander off the hill, slowing the rush of water into streams and hence diminishing the likelihood of floods. Planting trees that will enhance biodiversity, making sure that there are sufficient wild flowers for the bees that are essential for pollination, for example the apple orchards of Armagh. And at the core of all this should be a recognition that the rural economy needs to be protected so that people can have every expectation of jobs out of the environment.

But a lead must come from somewhere and that can only be from the top. In the Programme for Government there is an acknowledgement that the environment matters. But in my reading of it the emphasis is on measuring the process, not focusing on specific outcomes. In the meantime



Mourne Mountains, Co. Down (HED)

planning consents are flowing out, many of them to agricultural units with insufficient thought been given to the cumulative effects for example on the fresh water system. A simple indicator, but one that points to a worrying lack of environmental sensitivity – is the regularity of fish kills. It is no coincidence that these occur at weekends, when staff cuts mean there is less chance of anyone being around to identify the source. And the problem is bigger than that. The courts do not impose sufficiently painful penalties – where is the ‘polluter pays’ concept?

And all of this in the wake of the Mourne National Park debacle, the National Trust’s attempt to protect the World Heritage Site at the Giant’s Causeway from inappropriate development, and the lack of creative thinking around the A6. The point is that the road is being driven through Seamus Heaney country; are we favouring growth irrespective of what it might do to enduring and irreplaceable assets that have a known economic value, in a world where visitors look for unique cultural experiences? You only have to look at the phenomenal success of *Game of Thrones* and the tourists that flock to the filming sites of this TV programme on a daily basis to get a sense of the potential of our natural and built heritage. And it is not just *Game of Thrones* – there is *The Fall*, *My Mother and Other Strangers* and other productions featuring the landscape of Northern Ireland and bringing it to a world-wide audience which elsewhere has led to significant tourist opportunities.

But if the gradual erosion of what we have left in our landscape continues then what will be safe? And as it goes, so does the product and identity of Northern Ireland.

Let’s look at something else. I understand that a major deep-litter unit has been approved next to Ballinahone Bog, a major environmental issue in the 1980s which led to its preservation as an internationally recognised specimen bog. What measurement has been made of the nitrogen flume- the most damaging of the greenhouse gases- that will inevitably settle on it?

We may be a small country but we have wide responsibilities to a threatened world and the protection of our peatlands and wooded areas as carbon sinks can demonstrate our commitment to help mitigate climate change. This is bound to affect out coastal communities in particular while buildings in river catchments will also be at risk. Planning policies should prevent building on flood plains, yet a current development in Newcastle near the Shimna River appears to suggest the opposite. Responsibility for planning is now with local authorities. What reassurance is there that they have the skills and knowledge to co-ordinate appropriate, environmentally sensitive policies across Northern Ireland?

I realise that what I have been saying is more about questions than answers, I suppose that is where we are in Northern Ireland. So, let me conclude with another question - where is the public interest in all of this? Part of the answer is to capitalise on the knowledge that already exists, for example on the statutory advisory councils (CNCC, HBC and HMC) and the NGOs that have the experience and breadth of knowledge based on working with government while at the same time bringing a wealth of expertise about habitat and heritage. Perhaps an expanded and more assertive role for them at a time when local councils are finding their way could create a template for the environmental way ahead.

In the long term, how we shape our future place is a fundamental issue that needs an urgent and coherent programme from government that should start with a debate and head rapidly towards delivery so that the public can feel they are part of a changed attitude to 'the environment' which balances quality of life with economic development.

FUTURE PLACES, USING HERITAGE TO BUILD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES: DRAWING THE STRANDS TOGETHER

The talks from the invited speakers were followed by a lively round table discussion in which everyone who attended the symposium participated. Collation of the comments and observations from the day's discussion emphasised a number of key themes which are discussed below.

In his keynote presentation Ian Ross, drawing on his Scottish experience, provided a very useful checklist for success in developing heritage as a community asset. He stressed just how important political support is in order to successfully realise the value of heritage. He referred to the role that new legislation in Scotland has played in promoting greater access, use and benefit from heritage. He emphasised the importance of working with local planning authorities to embed natural and cultural heritage considerations in the wider countryside within the planning process.



The value of Northern Ireland's heritage to local communities

In her talk Margaret Gallagher talked of 'pride of place', where we come from as individuals and as communities. Her memories resonate with lived experience of her built heritage and of the surrounding nature and landscape. Compared to the 'nature-deficit' of many children today her childhood was filled with experience of nature and community. Her presentation demonstrated the richness of our linguistic heritage associated with rural communities and their daily lives.

Both Oisín Murnion and David Laughlin talked about the heritage of family farming that, over centuries, has shaped our rural landscapes and communities. Oisín emphasised that, unlike some other rural regions of Europe, many young people here want to stay in the rural community and to farm. David explained how he created resilience in his family's farm by being an innovative farmer. While stressing the importance of understanding and working with natural systems he drew on the scientific understanding of such systems and their resilience. He was an early adopter of innovative technology such as robotic milking and renewable energy to reduce costs and undertook direct selling to gain more control over the supply chain. An awareness of his customers and their health concerns enabled him to market products that met their wellbeing needs.

Critical to any discussion is the question of how heritage acquires value at the community level. Ironically the problem here is not lack of knowledge as there is rich documentation of the landscape and the historic environment, the problem is the presentation of this knowledge in a format that is accessible to the majority. Archaeological, built and natural heritage assets also need to be appreciated

in their totality rather than in a piecemeal fashion as was often the case in the past. The importance of making connections between heritage and other policy areas such as health and wellbeing and tourism was referred to in discussion and linked with the sense of calmness and quietness that are significant for many visitors.

Heritage as an asset in Community Planning

The Community Planning component of the Local Development Plan process provides an important new opportunity for community and voluntary groups to put value on their heritage. To be successful the process must incorporate a comprehensive inventory of the natural, built and cultural heritage assets of an area and an understanding of their significance so that they can be recognised and valued. Raising the profile of heritage assets is important. In the discussion the need to build capacity within communities in the audit and appreciation of their heritage assets was raised.

Connectivity and an integrated approach are important. From an ecological perspective natural habitats need to be connected to allow birds and animals to move around in the landscape and access the different resources they need. The modern landscape also needs to be seen as the result of layers of human activity in the past, many of which can still be seen and read.

Participants at the symposium emphasised the current problem of the loss of revenue to localities with tourists based in Belfast travelling by coach to a major attraction and then going straight back to the city - and indeed, not stopping to explore Belfast in any depth either. Creating opportunities

to increase spend in local communities is important to develop the maximum benefit from a heritage asset. Grouping of heritage attractions and the development of regional interpretative frameworks can assist in achieving longer stays by visitors. This was emphasised in John O’Keeffe’s presentation on Tullaghoge Fort where the Historic Environment Division and Mid Ulster District Council have worked in partnership to create a potential hub for heritage in the area. This approach together with the provision of opportunities to spend will ensure maximum local benefit is achieved in terms of employment and local income from tourism. Visitor-retention strategies such as walking trails or bike trails that provide access to heritage and the landscape and attract visitors to stay longer were recognised as useful approaches.

The contribution of heritage to the social and economic priorities of District Councils and the Programme for Government

It needs to be emphasised that heritage can be an important contributor to wellbeing. In his talk Ian Ross stressed the benefits of everyday contact with nature and the links between nature and improvements in health outcomes. He also highlighted the usefulness of the Green Infrastructure (GI) concept to deliver benefits at community level and referred to projects which were currently being undertaken in some of the most disadvantaged urban communities in Scotland.

We should recognise that heritage has the power to bring people together, however realising that aspiration is not always straightforward because understanding and appreciation of the value of heritage can vary widely between communities, and indeed among individuals within them. We need to focus on interpreting and communicating heritage that is accessible to communities who ironically

because of the very familiarity of a local landscape, such as a peatland, can struggle to see its value in an international context.

The potential contribution of heritage assets to the economy of Northern Ireland, for example through regeneration and tourism, was highlighted as was the allied potential for business growth. In his talk about the Bridge Street Townscape Heritage Initiative in Lisburn Alan Clarke noted that regeneration is not just a matter of physical rebuilding. To be effective it has to create genuine communities. The distinctive character of the old buildings made creating that identity simple, and the proximity of the street to the city centre of Lisburn made economic success feasible. But the key was bringing people back to live in the street. This gave the initiative firm roots.

It was noted that in the new planning process District Councils now have a key role to encourage communities to safeguard heritage through the Community Planning process and the follow through into the Local Development Plans to encourage communities to safeguard heritage. In his talk Alan Clarke emphasised the achievements that are possible when communities of people with a common interest and a determination to make places work come together.

In the discussion participants stressed that heritage assets may cross Council boundaries so a co-ordinated approach between Councils is important as well as strategies at regional level. It was noted in discussion that elected representatives would benefit from greater awareness of heritage assets. There tends to be a focus on short-term economic benefits rather than the slower, but more sustainable, process of maintaining durable assets.

In his concluding keynote address Brian Black reminded us of the issues we face in shaping our future places and the need for a changed attitude to our 'environment' which recognises the public interest need to balance environmental, economic and community wellbeing.

Concluding comment

In conclusion and drawing the strands of the discussion together the key recommendation that we would make arising from the symposium is for the full contribution of heritage for our futures to be recognised in the draft Programme for Government and in the Community and Local Development Plans of District Councils. This will require the connections between the built, natural and cultural heritage in Northern Ireland to be recognised and made explicit.

We are committed to achieving that goal and we look forward to continuing the discussion.

Dr. Hilary Kirkpatrick, *Chair CNCC*

Marcus Patton, *Chair HBC*

Prof. Gabriel Cooney, *Chair HMC*

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Ian Ross
OBE, FICFor, FRSA, Chair of Scottish Natural Heritage

Ian Ross was a Highland Councillor for 13 years and is a past chair of both the Highland Council Planning, Environment and Development Committee and its Sustainable Development Committee. He has been active on sustainability, renewable energy and community engagement issues. He has been involved in community forestry in the Highlands and across Scotland for some 20 years and chaired the Forestry Commission's Forestry for People Advisory Panel. Mr. Ross recently chaired the Forest Enterprise Scotland's Community Engagement "health check".

Brian Black
FRGS

Best known for his programmes on UTV Brian has produced documentaries on wildlife and ecology ranging from China, the Caspian Sea to the High Arctic during which he has encountered most of the problems concerning our environment and heritage both natural and human. He cares strongly about his subject with well-considered ideas about where we are getting it wrong and suggestions about what we can do to put things right.

CASE STUDY SPEAKERS:

Dr John O'Keeffe is Assistant Director/Principal Inspector, Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities. At the Tullaghoge Fort State Care Monument a partnership approach between the Mid-Ulster District Council and the Department for Communities has enhanced public access and understanding of this key site, linking it to historic woodlands and the wider heritage, tourism and recreational infrastructure in the area.

Margaret Gallagher is a former member of the Historic Buildings Council. Margaret has been heavily involved in community work in Belcoo and in the promotion of an understanding of the importance of built heritage, particularly through the Rural Repository of Heritage. Ms Gallagher's work and commitment demonstrates how heritage can become a community asset.

Oisín Murnion is a member of the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside. He is an upland farmer with a farm/ family business in the Mourne. He is a passionate advocate of nature conservation using farming skills and has addressed the key issue of managing designated land. Mr Murnion has served as the UK Chair of the National Beef Association.

David Laughlin is a lowland farmer. He studied agriculture at Queen's University, Belfast, started farming his family's land in 1983 and converted to organic production in 1999. He is the managing director of Culmore Organic Farm and co-founder and Director of United Irish Organics as well as Secretary of Organic NI. Mr. Laughlin is also active in his local community as Chair of the local Enterprise Group.

Alan Clarke is Development Officer with Maze Long Kesh Development Corporation. He has extensive experience working as Chartered Surveyor in urban regeneration with Laganside Corporation on the Laganside and Cathedral Quarter initiatives. From this Alan branched out into Town Centre Management, with Antrim Towns Development Company and Lisburn City Centre Management. Across all these roles he has advocated the case for and delivered practical examples that demonstrate the economic, social and cultural value of heritage to our community. Alan has acted as a past Chairman of The UK Association of Preservation Trusts and is currently a voluntary director of Lisburn & Castlereagh Buildings Preservation Trust.

Attendee	Organsation
Helen Anderson	Director, NED, DAERA
John Anderson	HBC
Ciaran Andrews	HBC
Peter Anketell	HED, DfC
Gina Baban	HED, DfC
Graeme Bannister	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Joseph Birt	HBC
Brian Black	Keynote speaker
Ken Bradley	NED, DAERA
Fionnuala Bradley	HED, DfC
Dr Liam Campbell	HBC
Malachy Campbell	National Trust
Paul Catton	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Dr Sue Christie	CNCC
Alan Clarke	Speaker
CLlr Sean Clarke	Mid-Ulster District Council
Jayne Clarke	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Siobhan Clarke	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Prof. Gabriel Cooney	HMC
Bill Darby	HMC
Manus Deery	HED, DfC
Karen Dickson	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
Ruth Dickson	HED, DfC
Dr Colm Donnelly	NBE, QUB - Director of Archaeological Field Work
Donna Fletcher	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council
Louise Flinn	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Rosie Ford-Hutchinson	HBC
Margaret Gallagher	Speaker

Attendee	Organisation
Paul Givan MLA	Minister for Communities
Iain Greenway	Director, HED, DfC
Angela Gregg	HED, DfC
Therese Hamill	Ring of Gullion AONB
Fred Hamond	FLAME
Andrew Hay	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Caroline Herron	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Judy Hewitt	HED, DfC
Emma Hudson	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
Peter Hutchinson	Irish Landscape Institute
Sean Kelly	CNCC
Thom Kerr	HED, DfC
Dr Hilary Kirkpatrick	CNCC
David Laughlin	Speaker
Kate Laverty	HMC
Louise Macquarrie	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Leona Maginn	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Marcus Malley	Biodiversity Officers Forum
Emma Mathers	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Dr Stephen McCabe	CNCC
Jennifer McDonald	NMNI
Stuart McDougall	NED, DAERA
Warren McIlmoyle	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
Michelle McIlveen MLA	Minister of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs
Brian McKervey	HED, DfC
Paul Mullan	Head of Heritage Lottery Fund, NI
Oisín Murnion	Speaker
Des Murphy	Ring of Gullion AONB
Caroline Nolan	Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership

Attendee	Organsation
John O'Boyle	NED, DAERA
Trevor Ogborne	Lagan Rivers Trust
Dr John O'Keeffe	HED, DfC
Natalie O'Rourke	HED, DfC
Marcus Patton	HBC
Prof. Howard Platt	CNCC
Gary Potter	Belfast City Council
Nigel Quinn	DAERA (Sustainable Rural Communities)
Jim Ramsey	NED, DAERA
Cllr Kenneth Reid	Mid-Ulster District Council
Rhonda Robinson	HED, DfC
Ian Ross	Keynote speaker
Graeme Seymour	Outdoor Recreation Forum
Geoff Sloan	HED, DfC
Emily Smyth	CNCC
Cllr Howard Thornton	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
Brenda Turnbull	Lagan Navigation Trust
Nicola Waddington	MAG
Cllr Bert Wilson	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
Primrose Wilson	Irish Georgian Society
Robert Wilson	HMC

Future Places

TO BUILD RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES

