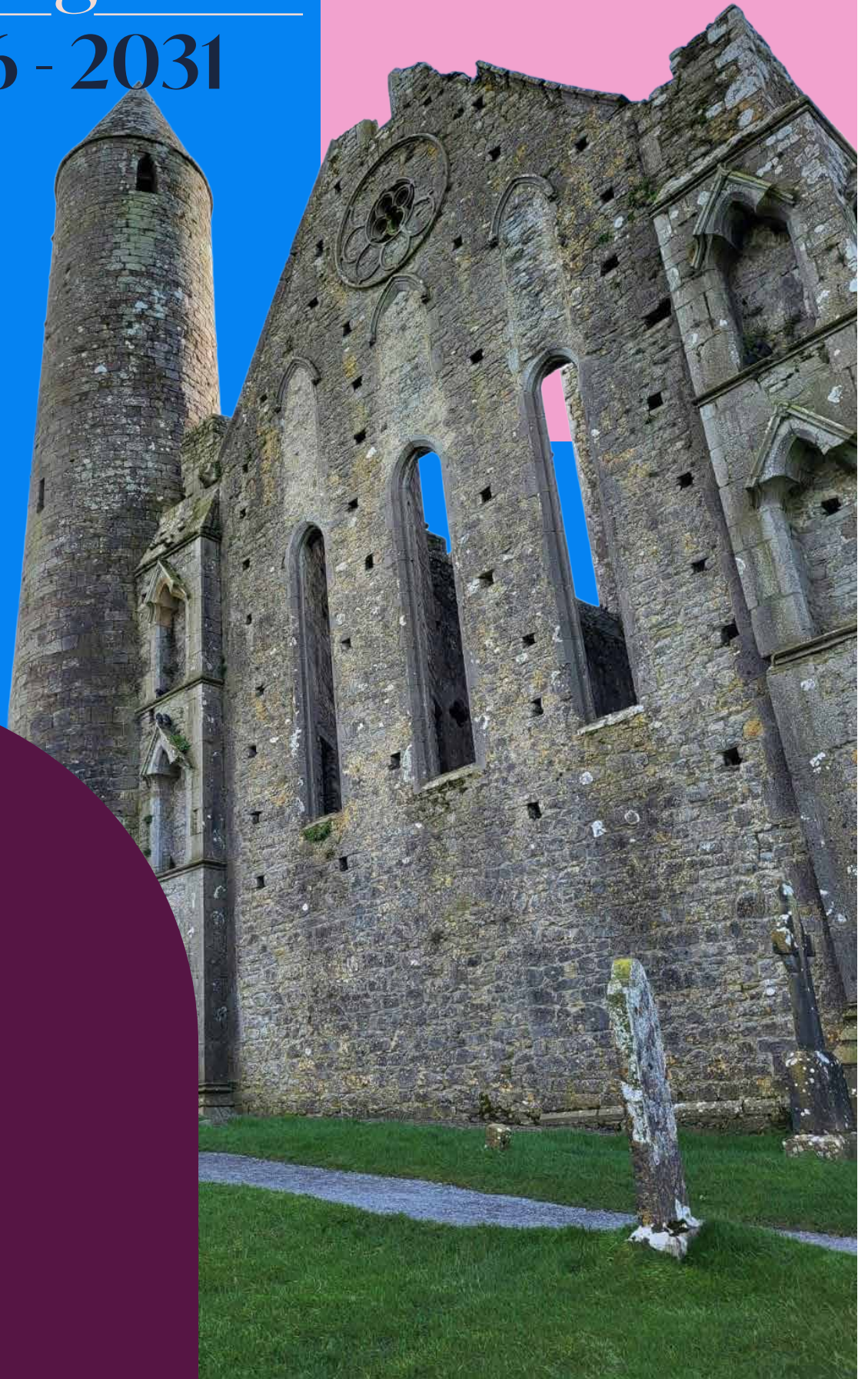
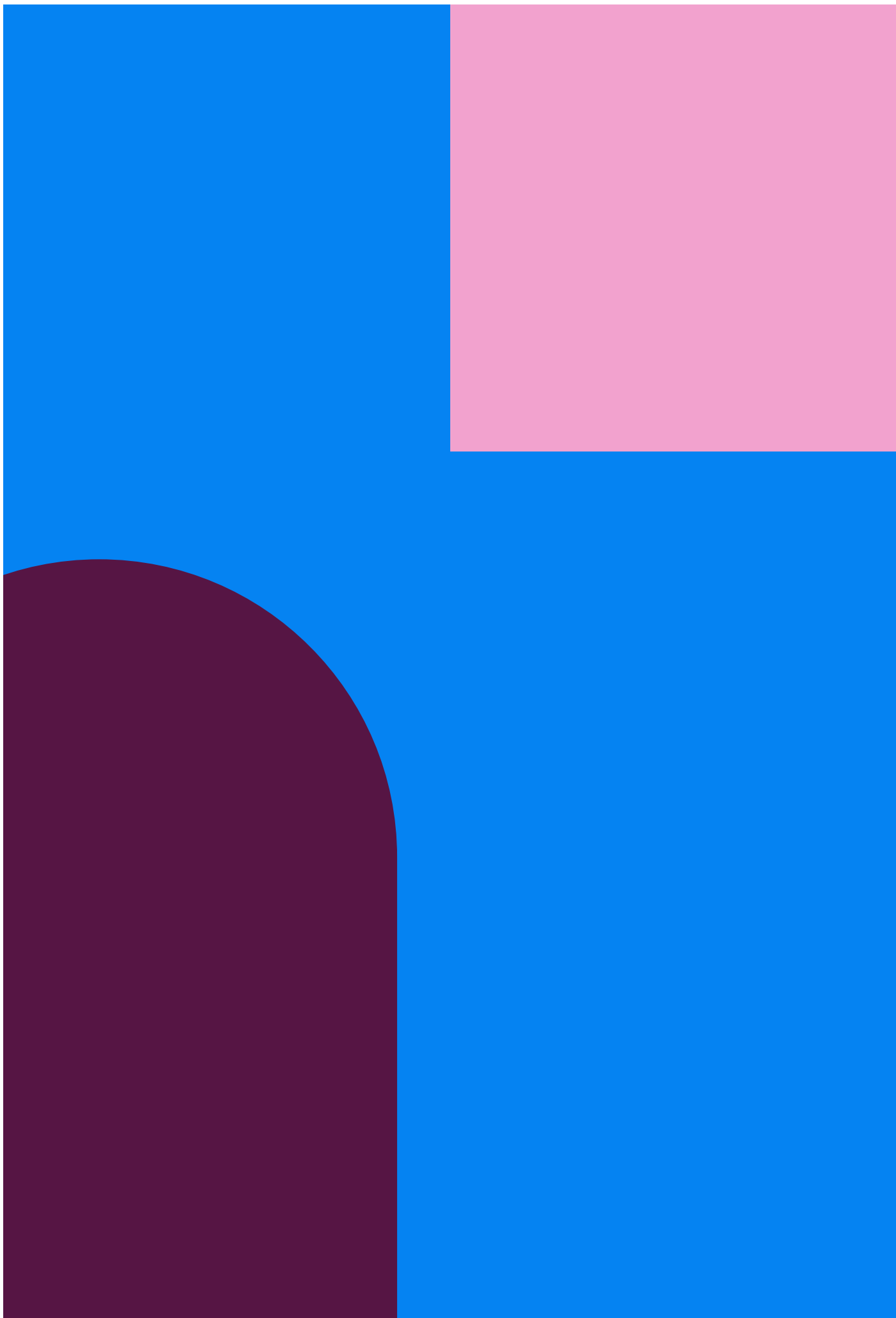


Tipperary Heritage Plan 2026 - 2031

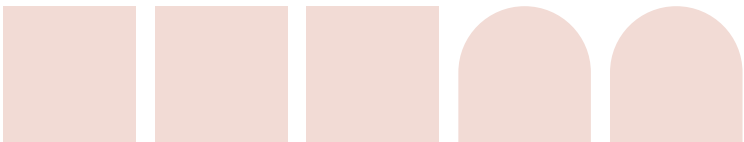
The **Past** and the
Present for the **Future**





Contents

Foreword.....	04
Introduction.....	07
Our Heritage.....	08
Who We are and What we do	10
Aim of the Plan.....	14
Preparation of this plan	15
Support/Funding.....	16
Promoting awareness and appreciation of the Heritage of the county.....	19
Conservation and caring for heritage sites and objects	20
Research and Heritage Data.....	22



Foreword

As Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive of Tipperary County Council we are delighted to introduce the Tipperary Heritage Plan 2026-2031.

Our heritage is about our past, our present and our future and contributes greatly to the quality of life in our urban and rural communities. It is shared by all and is fully inclusive. Interaction with our heritage not only provides physical and mental health benefits but contributes to overall wellbeing.

Our heritage gives Tipperary its unique identity and contributes to making the county an attractive place to live and to do business. It has always been greatly valued by the people of Tipperary and we can see this with the huge amount of ongoing work being carried out by communities and individuals around the county. Heritage is the key component in attracting domestic and overseas visitors to the county and has resulted in Tipperary being named as one of the world's top destinations to visit in 2026 by the Lonely Planet Guide.

Through this heritage plan, we develop the framework to raise awareness of this valuable asset and take the necessary steps to conserve and protect it. The adoption and implementation of the plan will contribute to achieving a number of the strategic goals in both our County Tipperary Development Plan 2022-2028 and our Corporate Plan 2024-2029 Reshaping Tipperary's Future together as well as meeting the commitments within the Tipperary County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. In fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of our built, cultural and natural heritage, we aim to inspire stewardship and encourage suitable practices in heritage management.

We wish to acknowledge the work of the Heritage Forum and those who contributed to the development of this Heritage Plan. We would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support of the Heritage Council, particularly in regard to the implementation of the plan.

We look forward to the implementation of the actions of the Tipperary Heritage Plan 2026-2031 and to seeing many successful projects realised over the next five years.



Cllr John Carroll,
Cathaoirleach



Sinead Carr,
Chief Executive



‘Our heritage is everything of natural, historic and cultural value in our urban and rural environment.

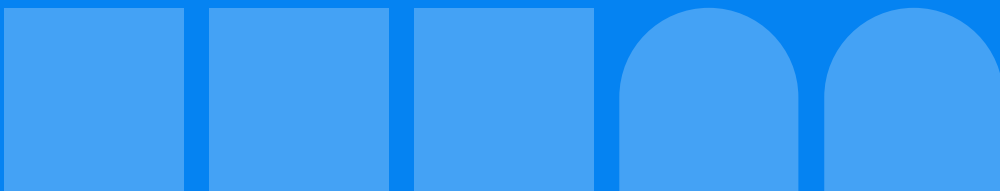
It’s the significant public and private buildings in our cities towns villages and countryside.

It’s our local parks, woodlands, lakes, rivers, mountains, farmlands and coastal regions.

By valuing and interfacing with heritage, we can nurture a sense of local identity and support employment in tourism, agriculture, forestry, archaeology, architecture, cultural services research and technology’

Nurturing your sense of place:

The Heritage Officer Programme,
The Heritage Council 2015





Introduction

Tipperary, situated in the heart of Ireland is a vibrant county with a rich and diverse heritage and a long tradition of cultural and creative activity.

It is the sixth largest county in Ireland with a land mass of 4,303 km squared. It is completely landlocked and is bordered by eight counties. With a population at the last census of 167,661 it is one of the most populated rural counties nationally with a settlement pattern based on a strong network of vibrant and robust towns and villages.

The name Tipperary comes from the Irish Tiobraid Árann, which means ‘the well of Ara’, referring to the river Ara which runs through Tipperary town. The county was created and named after the town in 1328,

It has a rich and varied landscape, the large and fertile plains of the Golden Vale that are framed by the Galtee, Knockmealdown and Comeragh Mountains in the south and the Slieve Feilm, Silvermines, Arra Hills and Slieve Blooms to the east and north. Most of the county is drained by the river Suir, the north western part by tributaries of the River Shannon and Lough Derg. An extensive and diverse geological heritage county which was explored in the Geological audit of the county carried out as an action of the last heritage plan. It has a rich tapestry of grassland, bogs and wetlands which are key habitats in the county.

Human interaction with the landscape is evident from the earliest settlements right up to the present day. The county has almost 8500 sites registered on the Sites and Monuments record of the National Monuments service, many of which are of national and some of international significance. The Rock of Cashel is part of the Royal Sites of Ireland included on the World Heritage Tentative List for Ireland in 2022. Our architectural heritage old and new is evident in our towns and villages, contributing to a character and distinctiveness which contributes to a sense of place connecting people and communities.

It is a county rich in tradition and culture, something that is appreciated and enjoyed by locals and visitor alike. Folklore, traditional crafts and customs, local history, traditional Irish music and our language, song, story and sport are all important parts of the cultural heritage of the county.

The Tipperary Heritage Plan 2026-2031 sets out the work of Tipperary County Council working in partnership with groups, agencies and colleagues to deliver heritage projects across the county for the next five years.

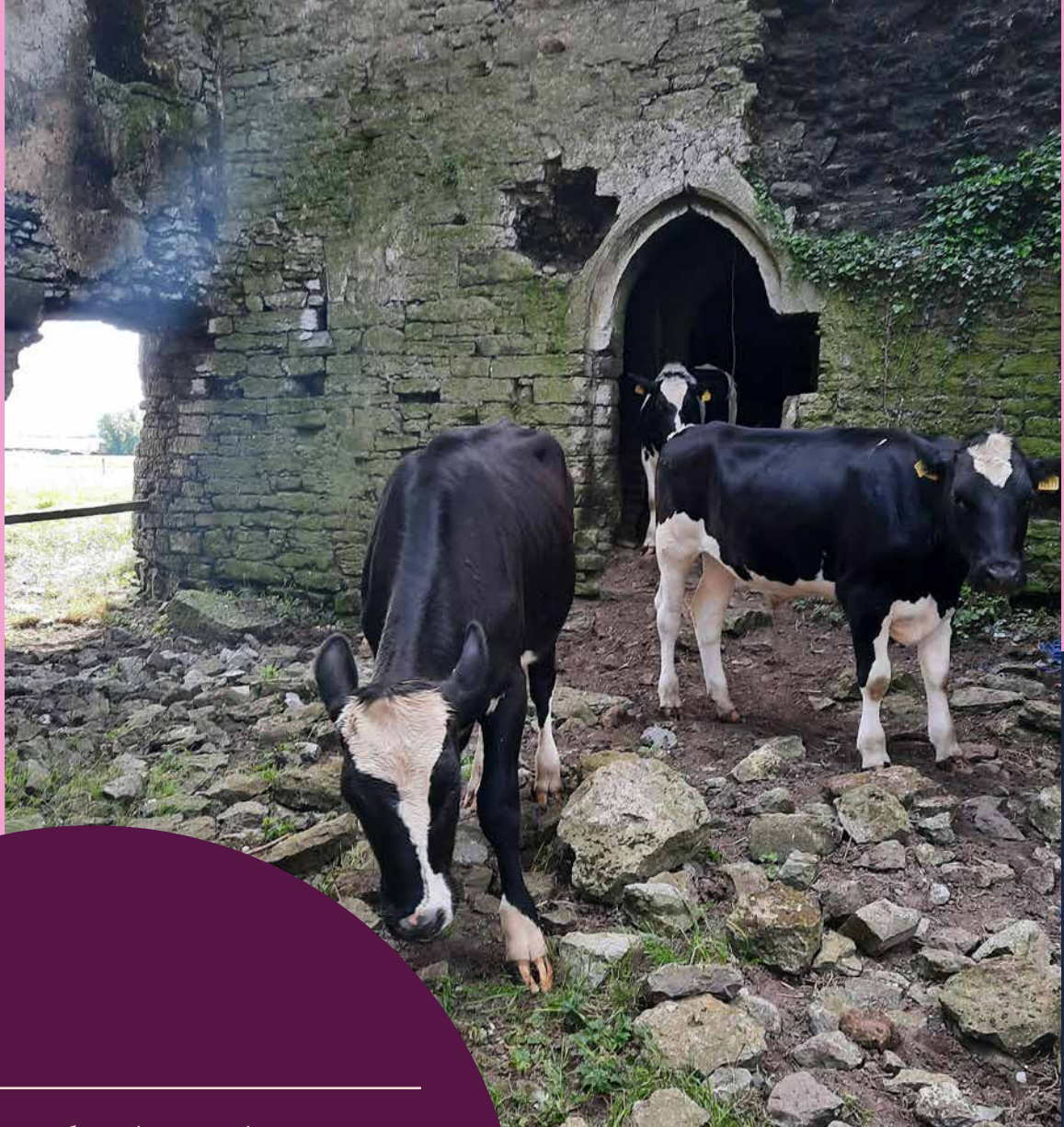
Our Heritage

The word ‘Heritage’ embraces our history, our landscape both natural and built and our culture.

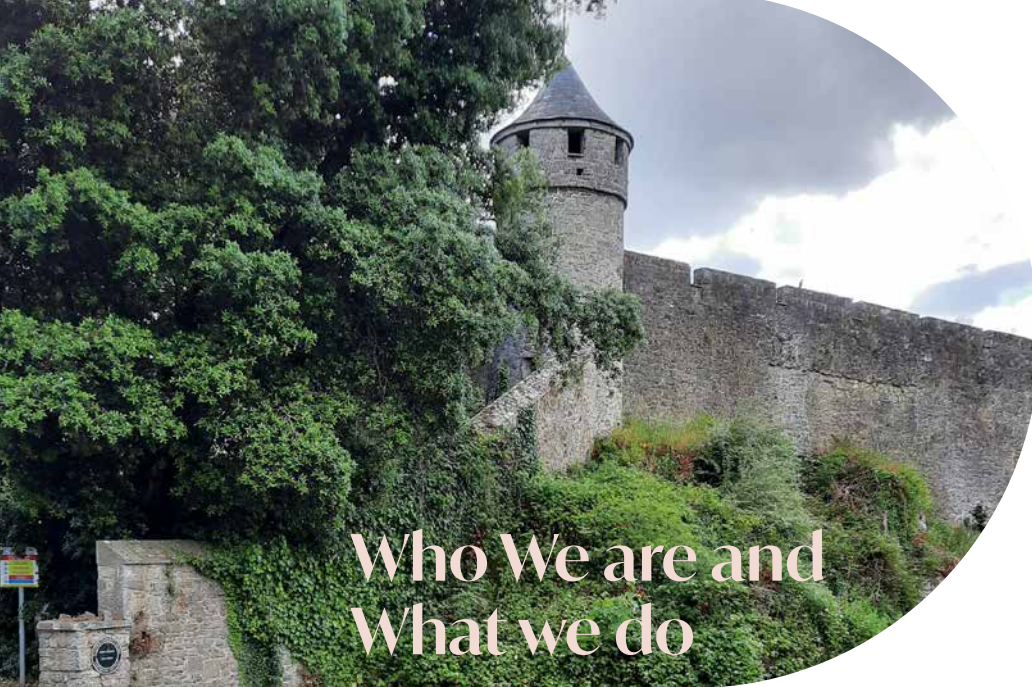
It defines us as a community and gives us our individual identity. Our heritage is not a fixed thing, we need to protect and conserve it while welcoming responsible change and development to ensure the heritage of future generations.

In the Heritage Act of 1995, heritage is defined as: Monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks and inland waterways.

For the purpose of this plan, the Heritage Forum also includes cultural and intangible heritage such as music, dance, traditions and folklore, industrial and agricultural heritage, local and oral history and the Irish language.



*Our heritage is not a
fixed thing, we need to
protect and conserve
it while welcoming
responsible change
and development*



Who We are and What we do

The Heritage Office

Following the merger of South Tipperary and North Tipperary local authorities in 2014, the Heritage Office became an all county role. The Heritage Office currently sits in the Libraries, Biodiversity and Cultural Services Directorate and is part of a culture team which includes Libraries, Biodiversity Office, Arts Office and County Museum. The Heritage Officer is a joint initiative between Tipperary County Council and the Heritage Council as part of the Heritage Officers Programme.

The role of the Heritage Office is to

- » Raise awareness of Tipperary's built, archaeological and cultural heritage
- » Provide advice and information on heritage matters to the public and Tipperary County Council
- » Collect data and conduct research on aspects of County Tipperary's Heritage
- » Promote best conservation practices in relation to our heritage
- » Develop heritage policy
- » Implement the Tipperary County Heritage Plan in association with Tipperary Heritage Forum, The Heritage Council, key stakeholders and local communities.

Tipperary Heritage Forum

The Heritage Forum is a non-statutory advisory group established by the local authority to provide observations on the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the County Heritage Strategy. The role of the Heritage Forum is to collaborate with the local authority Heritage professionals on the County Heritage Strategy, assist in delivery of the Objectives and Actions of the Strategy, to monitor progress and to evaluate impacts of the Strategy.

The Heritage Forum:

- » Promotes exchange of information, good practice and a discussion of heritage updates.
- » Provides observations to the County Heritage Strategy
- » Creates potential for collaboration among member organisations
- » Helps raise awareness of all aspects of heritage
- » Assists with community engagement and communication

The Heritage Council – Ceangal Programme

The Heritage Council is a statutory body established under the Heritage Act (1995), with a mission to engage, educate and advocate to develop a wider understanding of the vital contribution that heritage makes to social, environmental and economic well being. Its role is to

- » propose policies and provide advice on heritage protection and management
- » promote public engagement and education,
- » collaborate with public bodies, educational institutions, and communities to fulfil these aims.
- » provides ongoing professional development

Ceangal Programme

The **Ceangal Programme** marks a new phase in the long-standing partnership between Tipperary County Council and the Heritage Council. Delivered in partnership with the County and City Management Association (CCMA), it provides a shared identity for the county's heritage service, which brings together the work of the Heritage Officer, Biodiversity Officer, Archivist, Architectural Conservation Officer and Museum Curator.

The Heritage Council works particularly closely with the heritage and biodiversity officers, while also supporting the wider team through training, professional networks, and initiatives such as the Heritage Stewardship Scheme. The Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) further supports the work of the museum sector in the county.

Ceangal makes the connections between built, natural and cultural heritage more visible to communities and reflects the collaborative way in which heritage services are delivered in Tipperary. It supports more integrated working at local level and helps the Heritage Council and local authorities identify shared challenges, needs and opportunities across the country. By strengthening visibility and coherence, Ceangal ultimately helps to improve outcomes for heritage and communities alike.



Tipperary County Council

The Heritage Officer is part of the Libraries, Culture and Biodiversity Directorate in Tipperary County Council. Collaboration is a key part of the role with other colleagues in the Directorate such as Biodiversity Officer, Museum, Arts Office and Library Service. Collaboration is not however confined to within this department and work relationships have evolved over the years with Municipal Districts, Community and Economic Department, Planning Department and Environment Section. The council also employs an Architectural Conservation Officer and Archivist.

The Policy Context

Heritage Ireland 2030, Ireland's national Heritage Plan, was launched in February 2022. It is built around a vision of our heritage, in all its forms, being at very centre of local and national discourse, valued by all and cared for and protected for future generations. In action 148 there is a commitment to 'Continue the preparation and implementation of County/City Heritage Plans and resource their implementation with a view to maximising their effectiveness and assistance in the delivery of Heritage Ireland 2030', our plan is an opportunity to identify heritage issues and needs in Tipperary and address them locally.

The **County Tipperary Development Plan 2022–2028** is the legal and strategic land use management plan for the county, setting out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the county. The Tipperary Heritage Plan complements the County Development Plan, and other statutory plans, by aiming to promote the policies and objectives contained in these plans, and by setting out practical measures that can be taken to identify, protect and manage our heritage at the local level.

As a partner of the Heritage Council the plan aims to reflect the relative objectives and actions of the **Heritage Council Strategy 2023-2028 'Our Place in Time'** Acknowledging the longstanding partnership between local authorities and the Heritage Council in their strategy the heritage council commits to engage communities more actively in Heritage 'through increased support for Heritage Officers and other heritage services offered through local authorities'.

The **Built & Archaeological Heritage Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019** addresses the threats posed by climate change to Ireland's heritage assets. Under Ireland's National Adaptation Framework, this plan sets out adaptation and mitigation goals and actions to protect our archaeological and built heritage from impacts like flooding and storm damage

The **National Biodiversity Action Plan 2022**, calls for a “whole of government, whole of society” approach to the governance and conservation of biodiversity that will ensure that every citizen, community, business, local authority, semi-state and state agency has an awareness of biodiversity and its importance, and of the implications of its loss, while also understanding how they can act to address the biodiversity emergency as part of a renewed national effort to “act for nature”. This strategy calls for the Heritage Officer and Biodiversity Officer to work collaboratively to ensure that natural heritage and biodiversity objectives at a local level are augmented and delivered.

The **Tipperary County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029** sets out how the Council is reducing energy use and increasing energy efficiency across its own properties, facilities and fleet, and also how the Council through its actions is actively influencing, facilitating and advocating for climate action across other sectors and communities in how they achieve their own climate actions and targets.

‘**A Living Tradition**’ developed by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage aims to enhance the understanding, care and handing on of our built vernacular heritage. Tipperary Heritage Forum will support this strategy through the implementation of County Heritage Plan actions that will identify, record and conserve our rich vernacular architecture, traditional building skills and cultural landscape character.

Other plans taken into consideration include the **National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025**, **Tipperary Corporate Plan 2024-2029** and **Culture 2025**



Aim of the Plan

The aim of this plan is to connect the citizens of Tipperary to their heritage, raise awareness and appreciation of this rich asset and ensure its protection for future generations. We aim to make it an integral part of everyday life at the core of our communities.

Guiding Principles

The Tipperary Heritage Plan seeks to adhere to the following guiding principles in its implementation

- » **Leadership:** Tipperary Heritage Office and Tipperary Heritage Forum will demonstrate leadership in the implementation and delivery of priorities and objectives of the Heritage Plan
- » **Holistic and integrated heritage approach:** Tipperary Heritage Office in partnership with Tipperary County Council and Tipperary Heritage Forum recognise the opportunity presented by the Heritage Plan to consider the integrated nature of our heritage, built, cultural and natural together with its tangible and intangible aspects. A holistic perspective is key to safeguarding, conserving, enhancing and promoting our heritage.
- » **Creative collaboration:** The implementation of the plan seeks to facilitate collaboration between all stakeholders. There is an active heritage sector in the county and consideration will be given to how we can work together to deliver the best outcomes for this plan and support the sector.
- » **Equality and inclusion:** Our heritage is a shared resource and engagement with or involvement with managing and caring for it can bring people together within communities. Through implementing the plan we will strive to promote equal and inclusive engagement for all.
- » **Informed best practice:** Delivery of the plan will be based on best practice models. We will work with stakeholders and relevant government departments to promote best practice models for all heritage projects.
- » **Climate action:** A biodiversity and climate change crisis was declared by the Dáil in 2019. Tipperary County Council with Tipperary Heritage Forum are committed to taking a responsible approach with the delivery of this plan to address these national priorities deliver on climate action and mitigation throughout the lifetime of this plan.

Preparation of this plan

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

This plan will be implemented over five year period and is subject to resources. An annual action plan will be prepared in consultation with the Heritage Forum and subject to available funding.

Tipperary Heritage Forum will monitor the annual work programme and progress will be evaluated annually in the form of an annual report which will detail actions undertaken. This will be submitted to the Heritage Forum, Tipperary County Council and the Heritage Council.



Support/Funding

The funding of the Heritage Office and its programmes has changed considerably since the last Heritage Plan.

There has been a welcome increase in investment in the Heritage Sector over the last number of years which has had significant impact in project delivery on the ground. Tipperary County Council provides a core annual budget that is used as a match fund for Heritage Council funds and other schemes as they arise. This happens through the County Heritage Plan fund which this plan implements. In addition to this funds can be allocated through

Irish Walled Town Network capital and Interpretation schemes: The Heritage Office pays an annual subscription for the 4 Walled town members Cashel, Clonmel, Carrick on Suir and Fethard and has access to funds from these schemes.

Historic Towns Initiative : Competitive annual fund run by Heritage Council based on Heritage led regeneration, Tipperary County Council successfully leveraged funding in 2018, 2019 and 2022

Community Monuments Fund: Introduced as part of the July Stimulus Fund in 2020, this scheme is a significant investment in the county's archaeological heritage, providing funding across 3 streams Capital, Conservation Management Planning and interpretation and access and is open to private landowners and local authorities.

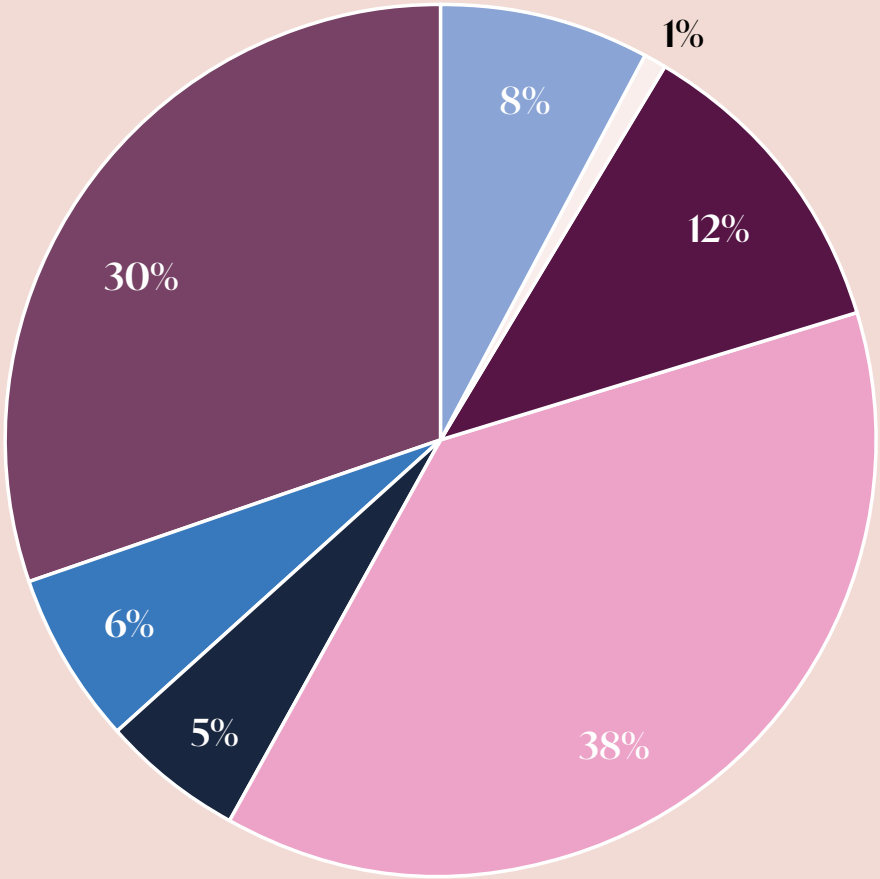
Commemorations Funding: Since 2016 and the Ireland 2016 programme an annual allocation has been available for the purpose of local commemorations.

Creative Ireland : An all Ireland Culture Programme overseen by the Tipperary Cultural Team of which the Heritage Officer is a member and through which the funds are administered.

The table opposite sets out funds leveraged by the Heritage Office over the period 2017-2025.



Income Leveraged Heritage Office 2017 - 2025



 County Heritage Plan	€300,586
 Irish Walled Towns Network	€36,981
 Historic Towns Initiative	€448,000
 Community Monuments Fund	€1,462,815
 Local Authority Biodiversity Action Fund**	€205,628
 Commemorations Programme	€240,000
 Creative Ireland Programme*	€1,169,387

***Local Authority Biodiversity Action Fund moved to Biodiversity Office at end of 2023*



*Our heritage is shared
between all of us
and when we work
together to promote
its value and benefits
we are on the road to
protecting it.*

1

Promoting awareness and appreciation of the Heritage of the county

Understanding is the key to appreciation, and we can only celebrate and raise awareness of our rich heritage when we fully appreciate it.

Promoting awareness is at the very core of this plan. Our heritage is shared between all of us and when we work together to promote its value and benefits we are on the road to protecting it. Engagement with all of our citizens is the key and the Heritage Forum is committed to ensure that knowledge and awareness of our heritage reaches the widest possible audience and that its value and benefit is something that reaches everyone.

1.1 Facilitate collaboration and networking between local heritage groups, key heritage stakeholders and organisations and the local authority through a programme of conferences, seminars and workshops through the life time of the plan.

1.2 To continue funding support for local groups, communities and Council Services to facilitate showcasing their work and local heritage during National Heritage Week

1.3 Highlight Heritage Assets including lesser known sites and artefacts as well as cultural heritage both tangible and intangible through traditional and new forms of media.

1.4 Provide training opportunities for groups and communities to support them in protecting and raising awareness of their local heritage (know your 5k, oral heritage, social media etc

1.5 Seek to promote engagement with young people through targeted activities during heritage week and explore developing suitable heritage related material aimed at younger audiences.

1.6 Circulate a regular monthly heritage newsletter, highlighting upcoming events, project updates/ successes and funding opportunities.

1.7 To advocate for improvements to access and appropriate information/interpretation at heritage sites.

1.8 Work with local authority colleagues through Creative Ireland programme, Commemorations, Culture night, Bealtaine and other relevant programmes to highlight aspects of heritage and its value.

1.9 To work with the relevant statutory bodies to highlight protection afforded to all aspects of heritage and to communicate this to the public

1.10 Collaborate with relevant council services to provide workshops for groups and organisations on funding applications and funding schemes

2

Conservation and caring for heritage sites and objects

Protection and conservation of our heritage are central to this plan.

We will promote best practice in terms of conserving our heritage and provide advice and training where the need arises to ensure its protection into the future.

2.1 To deliver a programme of training events for local volunteers and heritage groups to provide practical advice and guidance on conservation and maintenance of heritage sites.

2.2 Support relevant staff training within the local authority with regard to heritage assets in council ownership.

2.3 Host grant clinics (in partnership with other council services) for communities and interested parties focusing on heritage funding supports offered through various departments in the council.

2.4 Support guardians of our heritage both public and private through managing relevant funding schemes such as Community Monuments Fund and Historic Towns Initiative and any other relevant schemes that may come throughout the lifetime of the plan.

2.5 Complete case studies on conservation projects documenting best practice and climate mitigation elements.

2.6 Set up a Walled Towns Forum of interested parties from each of the four Walled Towns in the Irish Walled Towns Network-use the forum to promote maintenance of the Town walls in partnership with the Local Authority and/or local groups and also to facilitate interpretation and other projects through the funding scheme.

2.7 Continue to support the inclusion of the rock of Cashel on the UNESCO World Heritage list as part of the Royal Sites of Ireland through active participation on the Working Group and Steering group and in any other areas that arise throughout the lifetime of this plan.

2.8 Commission an audit of archaeological and built heritage assets in council ownership and assess their vulnerability with regards to the impact of climate change

2.9 Promote awareness of the need for the conservation and proper storage of artefacts and promote services of our Museums, Local Studies, Archives and Heritage Centres.

2.10 Advocate for funds to carry out assessments on Council owned sites to support funding applications for necessary conservation works



*Commission an audit
of archaeological and
built heritage assets*

3

Research and Heritage Data

Gathering and dissemination of information on the heritage of our county is an important objective of our heritage plan.

The data we gather informs much of our projects. Our challenge with the current plan is that we have a geographical change in the area we are working in and we must broaden our horizons to gather the data that tells us all the stories of Tipperary. Material gathered not only promotes awareness and protection of these sites but can also be used to interpret them.

3.1 Commission/Support surveys and studies of aspects of the county's heritage and landscape

3.2 Support the work of the Irish Community Archive (iCAN) in Tipperary and in partnership with them seek to increase the number of Tipperary sites by 10 during the lifetime of this plan

3.3 Use the Heritage Office iCAN website www.heritagetipperary.org as a tool to facilitate making heritage data collected in one off projects accessible to the public where appropriate.

3.4 Seek to publish commissioned research by the Heritage Office where possible either in print or on www.heritagetipperary.org.

3.5 Seek to pilot a publication grant scheme for local authors publishing books on aspects of the county's history and heritage .

3.6 Investigate hidden or overlooked heritage assets as a basis for action 1.3 and explore options with regards to creating alternative heritage trails.

3.7 Share where appropriate datasets or survey reports with relevant Council Service



*Commission/Support
surveys and studies
of aspects of the
county's heritage and
landscape*

The **Past** and the **Present** for the **Future**

Heritage Office,

Tipperary County Council,
Ballingarrane House,
Cahir road,
Clonmel,
Co Tipperary
heritage@tipperarycoco.ie



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council



Ceangal

Clár den Chomhairle Oldhreacht:
A Heritage Council programme

Heritage
Logo