



**Date: 22nd October 2025**

**Subject: Coordinator Update #1 – UNESCO Nomination Process Update for Stakeholders**

The Royal Sites of Ireland was included on Ireland's World Heritage Tentative List in July 2022. These six archaeological landscapes have been included because they are a globally unique group of archaeological ceremonial complexes which demonstrate in physical form the development of power, ceremony and religion in Ireland during the Iron Age and early medieval period. As a group, they are still perceived as the historic power and spiritual centres of Ireland.

A project coordinator was appointed in September 2024 to manage the day to day activities of the process in conjunction with the various stakeholders. The coordinator is functionally employed by Tipperary County Council and works on behalf of all six local authorities who have a Royal Site under their jurisdiction - they can be contacted at [caitriona.oconnor@tipperarycoco.ie](mailto:caitriona.oconnor@tipperarycoco.ie).

In December 2024 a Memorandum on Understanding was signed between the five Local Authorities in the Republic of Ireland (Meath, Westmeath, Kildare, Roscommon, Tipperary), the National Monuments Service and the Office of Public Works to collaborate on progressing the nomination process. A separate corresponding MoU will be signed between Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and Tipperary County Council acting on behalf of the Republic of Ireland Local Authorities. A process is underway to request that Navan Fort in Northern Ireland be added to the UK's Tentative List.

Over the coming year the project coordinator will continue to meet with stakeholders at each site to define and map the heritage values and attributes at each location. This process will inform the development of site management boundaries. Site boundaries have not been defined. These will be developed in close collaboration with each Local Authority, relevant landowners, communities and other stakeholder groups and this process is expected to take 2-3 years. Where Conservation Management Plans are not in place, these will be developed with input from Local Authorities, National Monuments Service, the Office of Public Works, Landowners, Farmers, community groups and state agencies. A World Heritage Expert team; [IHM - Institute for Heritage Management](#) have been appointed to develop an overarching management framework for the six sites and to prepare the formal nomination dossier for UNESCO. Theirs is a 6-year appointment, reflecting the time required to engage with all six sites and to develop appropriate and sustainable management systems. They undertook their first visit to the sites in September 2025.

The Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage through the National Monuments Service have announced a [pilot funding scheme](#) to support strategic projects at listed and tentatively listed World Heritage Sites. Over €85k of grant funding was awarded for projects at Rathcroghan and Uisneach in 2025 and they hope to run the scheme again in 2025. The project coordinator is available to support with potential future project enquires at the email address above. They will continue to provide regular updates to the councils and stakeholders through the project Working Group and Steering Groups.

