



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



**1. AUDIT OF HERITAGE BOATS  
AND TO  
2. PRODUCE A PRIORITY LIST OF BOATS IN URGENT  
NEED OF CONSERVATION  
AND AN ASSOCIATED METHOD STATEMENT**

**(For the Electoral Areas of Conemara, and Loughrea)**

**PROJECT BRIEF**

**May 2008**

*An Action of Galway County Heritage Plan 2004-2008  
Funded by The Heritage Council & Galway County Council*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### Background

Galway County Heritage Forum considers an Audit of Heritage Boats in Co. Galway to be a very important action given Galway's maritime / boating tradition. It is also considered important due to the fact that immense changes have been taken place in the fishing industry over the past twenty five years which have lead to the abandonment / lack of the use of numerous boats, in particular boats that have a rich historic legacy. There are a number of boating organisations in the country that promote rich heritage of the craft including the *Galway Hooker Association*, founded in 1978, whose aim is promoting the restoration and preservation of traditional boats, especially the Galway Hooker.

Members of some of these organisations have voiced their concerns to the Heritage Officer that there is no listing and strategy for the conservation of heritage boats in the county and also the need for a priority listing of boats that are in urgent need of conservation. They have also stated that they will assist in identifying boats, their owners and current location. Some organisations also have their own listings and would provide same for the development of an inventory of heritage boats in the county.

An Audit of Maritime Collections, compiled by Darina Tully for the Heritage Council in 2006 highlights that "boats constitute the largest number of maritime artefacts, it is the sector least represented in official collections throughout the country".

The proposed project is in line with the following recommended actions of this Policy Paper.

No 60. p. 63 'Record surviving tradition/heritage boats, including technical details, using standardised procedures'.

No 63. p. 64 'Where possible examples of heritage boat types should be preserved afloat and in use but in particular cases they may need to be conserved....'

## 2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the current project is to produce an Audit and Inventory of Heritage Boats in the electoral areas of Conemara and Loughrea in County Galway (both inland and maritime).

The Heritage Boat Association defines heritage boat as "any boat over 25 years old which is of significance because of it's intrinsic construction or because of it's association with the commercial, cultural, economic, industrial, military, political, social or other history of the country." This includes mainly work boats (fishing, trading and ferry boats), but also certain 'classic' pleasure boats. The majority of these types are of wooden construction, but will also include early steel and iron-hulled boats of coastal and inland waters. A number of steel curachs have even been produced which, because they still display traditional design principles, are worthy of inclusion in the survey. In certain cases GRP- (fibreglass) covered boats will also qualify – an example of these are small boats (including curachs) of traditional design coated with fibreglass to extend their lives, or GRP boats produced from moulds taken from wooden models. Some early GRP boat types are also important because they show the transition from timber to GRP construction, for example early GRP lake angling boats built by Sullivans.

Recently-built GRP yachts, dinghys, punts etc., while they may acquire ‘heritage’ status at some future date, are not considered here.

This Audit and Inventory should include the condition of the boats, location, ownership, pictorial records and history. The project team should also record information on any associated oars or ancillary boat objects. This will be presented in an agreed database format. Liaison with Galway County Council’s GIS Officer will also be required to map the distribution of boats.

To produce a priority list of boats that are in urgent need of conservation and an associated method statement for their future conservation by identifying and quantifying resources required for the delivery of the conservation and programme.

To provide an historical outline of heritage boat usage, taking account of demographic and socio economic changes in history that effected boating in these electoral areas of County Galway.

To record oral history of identified fishermen and boat builders or take from recorded material to help them narrate the story of the heritage boats.

### **3. PROJECT DETAIL**

- Undertake an audit of lists, reports or printed sources currently available regarding heritage boats in county Galway.
- A review of all available relevant literature on heritage boats will be needed in order to place the heritage boats identified and audited in their historical, cultural, societal and economic contexts. Consultants should also familiarise themselves with boat terminology – consistency in this regard is critical when the information which is recorded in the course of the survey is later analysed. Cognisance will also be taken of other related initiatives, (current or previous) in the county or country and any national government initiatives, which would have a bearing on the study and inventory e.g. that undertaken in County Donegal in 2007 and linkages should be forged between similar projects in County Clare and Mayo.
- Cognisance should be taken of the methodology outlined in Surveying Heritage Boats prepared by Mac Cárthaigh, Becker and Kearon (This is an unpublished document and is available from Galway County Council’s Heritage Office on request.), and An Audit of Maritime Collections, Tully, 2006, A Survey of the Traditional Irish Boat Sector for the Heritage Council (2003).
- All potential locations of boats and related infrastructure should be marked clearly on maps in advance of the survey. It might prove useful to number all possible locations clearly on Ordnance Survey Discovery Series (1:50,000) maps before entering the field. In the course of the survey, and when the process of cataloguing and archiving material begins later, a numbering system such as this will prove invaluable.
- Field work will be greatly facilitated by establishing a network of potentially helpful contacts throughout the county. Consultation with local libraries, newspapers, local historians etc. will be of immense benefit in gaining access to otherwise hidden boats, and in smoothing the way for field workers. The consultants must bear in mind that some people may be suspicious of the survey’s motives in recording the history of their boat (for a variety of reasons). Transparency is vital in this regard, and forward advertising and

promotion of the survey will pay dividends in the field. Making prior contact with enthusiastic local residents (including boatmen, fishermen etc.) is critical to the success of the survey. Without the cooperation of local men and women, the past history of a boat cannot be ascertained.

This audit will provide baseline information for the conservation of heritage boats associated in County Galway. The inventory (database) on boats should include the following:

- Name of boat
- Boat owner
- Location of boat (on GPS)
- History/heritage of boat.
- Construction details to include boat builder, methodology of building
- Uses of boat
- Condition of boat
- Priority listing for conservation.

The data collected should be analysed and the key issues that emerge should be assessed and analysed in local and national contexts. The report will also contain priority listing for conservation, method statement for how boat should be conserved, sources for funding for conservation, and long term maintenance and management. The final report will be a bi-lingual publication. A short bi-lingual non technical leaflet will also be produced. Two presentations regarding the findings of the project will be given.

#### **4. RESPONSE TO PROJECT BRIEF**

The response should give a detailed description of the proposed methodology, which should include:

- How the applicant proposes to carry out this project: method statement, reference material to be used, consultation planned and a detailed timetable.
- A resource plan showing the breakdown of person hours between professions (if applicable) and stages.
- A detailed breakdown of the estimated costs of carrying out all elements of the survey including the production of the bilingual publications.
- Previous experience of the applicant in gathering local information based on local contacts and enquiries - such as from local heritage groups boat owners, boating organisations and boating enthusiasts and interested individuals who may have information on heritage boats. A clear strategy as to how to manage the consultation process of meeting with the public should be outlined.
- Proposals should contain clear details of the skills and experience of the project team, including the range of relevant professional skills which would be brought to bear, and the names and CVs of all proposed team members. Details should also be given of the relevant experience of the personnel proposed including the project leader. Previous experience of the applicant in gathering similar information from existing datasets

## 5. GENERAL ISSUES

### **Recording in the Irish language**

County Galway has a large Gaeltacht area and it is anticipated that the Irish language may yield important information on heritage boats, particularly in the Gaeltacht areas, which may need to be recorded through the medium of the Irish language. The consultant(s) should consider how they will address the recording of relevant information on such heritage boats in the Irish language.

### **Budget and tax clearance certificate**

The available budget for this project is **€22,000**. This includes VAT and all expenses involved in completing the project such as travel, phone calls, research, cost of production of publications etc.

### **Requirements of Galway County Council**

- A current tax clearance certificate will be required. Galway County Council will deduct withholding tax.
- Public Liability Insurance (to indemnifying Galway County Council).
- A Safety Statement.

### **Timescale**

The project will start in **June 2008**, with interim reports due in **August 2008** and final reports due for submission **31 October 2008**.

### **Report formatting and standards**

- Production of a final report which will be a bi-lingual publication (to be agreed with the Heritage Officer). The report will include a priority listing for conservation, a method statement for how boats should be conserved, sources for funding for conservation, and long term maintenance and management.
- One loose hard colour copy of the final report with original photographs.
- Eight bound colour copies of the final report.
- Electronic copy of all reports (in Microsoft Word / ACCESS format), with all photographs, figures etc.
- Information will also be in a format that will be capable of being loaded onto the Council's GIS system.
- Fully labelled set of all raw data cards used during the survey including maps and field sheets.
- Labelled copy of all photographs taken, copyrighted to Galway County Council, as hard copy and on disk (at resolution capable of reproduction at 7" x 5" print quality). Please note: All photographs should be digital and of high resolution (300dpi).
- Two presentations regarding the findings of the project will be required.
- Production of a short bi-lingual non technical leaflet (to be agreed with the Heritage Officer).

### **Copyright and confidentiality**

The consultant appointed will be required to assign the copyright of this survey photographs and text for booklet etc. to Galway County Council. Copyright for any illustrations or other material

used should be cleared by the consultant. Sections of the report may be made available for public use by Galway County Council.

### **Archiving**

All materials should be archivally stable. Style and content of reports should be as detailed in the Heritage Council document *Standardisation of publication styles for Heritage Council reports*, available at <http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/publications/index.html>.

### **Freedom of information**

Galway County Council operates under the Freedom of Information Act, 1997, and all information held by the Council may be subject to requests under this Act.

### **Interview**

Interviews **may** be held with selected candidates prior to final evaluation.

### **Communication**

To ensure equality between applicants, Galway County Council will not enter into any correspondence or discussions with the applicants or their agents during the preparation period for applications.

Galway County Council and its partners will take due cognisance of any clarification which might have been required, provided this is notified in the submission by the applicants.

### **Project management and monitoring**

A steering group from Galway County Council and Galway County Heritage Forum will manage the project. The client will be Galway County Council. Day to day contact will be with the Heritage Officer, Galway County Council.

### **Responses to this brief should be addressed to:**

All applications should be marked '**Heritage Boats Audit 2008**' and sent to:

Brid Higgins  
Temporary Heritage Officer  
Forward Planning  
Galway County Council  
Prospect Hill  
Galway

<b>Deadline for receipt of applications is 4.00pm Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008.</b>
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**Proposals cannot be accepted after this deadline  
Emailed or Faxed Applications will not be accepted**