Irish perspectives - the challenges and opportunities for heritage

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World Heritage UK
Annual Conference
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Llangollen
Ireland’s World Heritage

• World Heritage Convention ratified by Ireland in 1991

• Brú na Bóinne inscribed 1993

• Sceilg Mhichíl inscribed 1996
Sceilg Mhichíl
Brú na Bóinne
Brú na Bóinne

- Core Area: 780 hectares
- Over 150 monuments and rising
Prehistoric enclosure in Boyne Valley World Heritage Site
Summer 2018
• Rural community
• A living landscape
• About 200 residents
• Challenges of OUV vs development and planning
• Mistakes made in the past with lack of community involvement
Community has always been central to Bru na Boinne
Ongoing €5 million investment in visitor facilities and interpretation- to open next month
Management Plan

Renewed focus by us as State Party to engage with implementation of Plan with community participation as central

Establishment of Community Forum, & a wide stakeholder Steering group
Review of the World Heritage Tentative List

Process for Ireland’s Tentative List 2020

• January 2019 - call for applications announced - the Department is assisting, meeting and advising applicants.
• Quarter 1 2020 - Workshop to engage communities and stakeholders in the process of developing World Heritage Site nominations.
• June 2020 - Closing date for applications
• Post-June 2020 - screening and Expert Advisory Group review and recommendations
• Department will make the final decision.
• We are informed by failures of the past to properly engage communities in the process - bottom up.
Building bridges - Shared & Contested Heritage
Ireland’s Soft Power
• Global Ireland- Government strategy to double the scope and impact of Ireland’s global footprint by 2025.
• Diaspora of between 80-100 million.
• Five high-profile Cultural Ambassadors appointed.