

Legacy of Landscape: The People & Heritage of Lough Erne

The LELP Online Heritage Campus. Five exciting, free, heritage toolkits that will provide you with the knowledge and skills that underpin our two year programme of heritage projects.



Project Summary

The **Lough Erne Landscape Partnership (LELP)** invites you to join our exciting new two-year engagement programme – Legacy of Landscape: The People and Heritage of Lough Erne.

There are 5 key heritage studies within the programme that are focused around the themes of:

- Memory Map: Life on Lough Erne
- Studying Vernacular Building
- Enniskillen: The Development of the Island Town
- Mapping the Built Heritage of the Islands
- People, Place, Power & Pageantry: Exploring Fermanagh in the Times of the Maguires

These projects are focussed on discovering, celebrating and preserving the culture and traditions of the Lough Erne region, both past and present.

Supported through funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Community Foundation Northern Ireland, the innovative heritage programme will be delivered in collaboration with the Centre for **Community Archaeology (CCA)** and the **Centre for Data Digitisation and Analysis (CDDA)** at **Queen's University Belfast**. Focusing on the built and cultural heritage of Lough Erne, volunteers can enrol to get access to a suite of FREE 'at home' learning opportunities to develop and learn new skills and share valuable stories, capturing and promoting the unique and special heritage of the Fermanagh's landscape and communities. Having completed their online training, our volunteers will have the opportunity to put into practice the skills they have learned in the virtual classroom through fieldwork and engagement.

The Lough Erne Landscape Partnership is delighted to be collaborating with Queen's University Belfast, working with the Centre for Community Archaeology and the Centre for Data Digitisation and Analysis. We are grateful for the continuing support of the RSPB and the ongoing advice from Catherine Scott (Fermanagh & Omagh District Council – Fermanagh County Museum), Ronan McHugh (Historic Environment Division, Department of Communities) and all those from the Lough Erne region who have been so generous with their time and enthusiasm.



Memory Map: Life on Lough Erne

About the Project

Oral history is a powerful resource in County Fermanagh that can help us understand how our ancestors lived in the recent past. As such, we place great importance on the collection of oral testimony from across the county as part of our programme. To achieve this objective, we recognise that training is required for volunteers and we have designed an online campus specifically to enable participants to learn how to conduct and record oral history interviews. Securing oral histories for future generations is an important part of our remit and to facilitate this we intend to embed the collected narratives into an interactive Memory Map that will showcase the unique story of Lough Erne, while linking diverse themes by both people and place.

Get Involved

Through our LELP Online Heritage Campus, 'Gathering and recording oral histories', volunteers will learn about how to conduct and record an oral history interview. You will explore the various recording solutions available, how to conduct an interview and how to transcribe or summarise the results. It is hoped that volunteers will be more confident in capturing oral histories and local stories which can then help populate the Memory Map: Life on Lough Erne.

Key Resources and Online Training - **Start Date 31st May 2021**

- Online training programme, communication tools and support via LELP Online Heritage Campus, a four-week module where you can dip in and out at times that suit you.
- Supervision of learning for this module.
- Understanding and training in why oral histories are important
- Training on how to carry out an oral history interview will be provided, with a series of themes identified to assist the interviewer.
- How to use audio recorders, smart devices and computers to record an oral history. To support this a lending library via LELP is available.
- Training on how to find a geographical location.
- Training on how to transcribe an oral history interview

Studying Vernacular Buildings

About the Project

This project will assist in the recording of Fermanagh's vernacular architectural heritage. Vernacular architecture constitutes the ordinary small houses of the recent past where the material, form and design were dictated by the experience and expertise of the craftworkers who constructed the buildings and the resources that were locally available. Often thatched, these dwellings have now been largely abandoned and are fast falling into ruin, and vanishing as a component of our cultural landscape. This virtual learning experience is designed to provide participants with the knowledge and training required to not only 'read' a building but also undertake basic measured surveys and associated historical research on buildings in their own locality, empowering local communities to better engage with their built heritage. Volunteers can also avail of a series of local awareness raising events and webinars, one of these will be dedicated to 'Learn more about Vernacular Heritage', and have the opportunity to participate in summer field schools to put what they learn into practice. No previous experience will be necessary and the course is available for anyone from the novice to amateur enthusiast.

Get Involved

Through our LELP Online Heritage Campus 'Recording and surveying historic buildings' provides a detailed overview on vernacular architecture, how to research a building's history, how to read the fabric of an historic building to understand how it functioned in the past, and how to record buildings in the field.

Once completed volunteers are welcome to participate in the recording of some of the vernacular buildings around Lough Erne on our volunteer survey summer field schools, the first of which is planned for August 2021.

Key Resources and Online Training – **Start Date 19th July 2021**

- Online training programme, communication tools and support via LELP Online Heritage Campus, a four-week module where you can dip in and out at times that suit you.
- Supervision of learning for this module.
- Online training in how to 'read' a building
- Online training on how to conduct a photographic survey of a building.
- Online training on how to conduct a measured survey.
- Online training in how to write a building survey report
- Opportunity to take part in a survey field school
- Training in best practice
- Training in Health & Safety

Field School – 2 Weeks – **Start Date 9th - 20th August 2021**

Enniskillen: The Development of the Island Town

About the Project

Enniskillen is our beautiful island town, the only island town in Ireland, this project seeks to investigate the history and development of this settlement on the Erne since Medieval times. As part of this project we intend to run an archaeological excavation in the town in September 2021 that will offer opportunities for the members of the public to volunteer to participate in a genuine archaeological research investigation, stimulating their imagination and interest in their local heritage, while at the same time promoting personal well-being and increasing their sense of place. The project will be spearheaded by the Centre Community Archaeology (CCA) at Queen's University Belfast who have pioneered community-based research excavations across Northern Ireland.

The CCA define a community-based excavation as one in which professional archaeological fieldworkers facilitate and support members of the local community to examine their area's past through direct participation on a research-driven fieldwork programme. The core objective is always to ensure that the participating volunteers are as deeply involved and embedded in the project as is practicable and that they know they have made an active contribution to the work, discovering more about their heritage through the process of creating new knowledge. The function of the CCA is to provide professional guidance for the volunteers' involvement.

Get Involved

Our LELP Online Heritage Campus, 'The archaeology of Enniskillen', will host a course on archaeological excavation which will offer participants the opportunity to explore the process and practice of field archaeology - why we dig, how do we select sites for investigation, how we record the layers and features we encounter, how we set our findings into their archaeological context, and how we communicate our discoveries to the public. The course will have an emphasis on urban archaeology and the recording and treatment of artefacts. The online course will have provided participants with a sound knowledge that they can then choose to put into practice by volunteering to take part on our community excavation in the environs of Enniskillen.

Key Resources and Online Training – **Start 1st August 2021**

- Online training programme, communication tools and support via LELP Online Heritage Campus
- Online training in various archaeological field techniques
- Research articles about the site/period of the fieldwork
- Health & Safety advice and instruction

Excavation 2 Weeks- **Start 30th August - 10th September 2021**

People, Place, Power & Pageantry: Exploring Fermanagh in the Times of the Maguires

About the Project

The Maguires were the lords of Medieval Fermanagh with the heartland of their power based in the Lisnaskea area where they had their inauguration site at Cornashee. This project seeks to investigate the rich heritage associated with the Maguires and will include a community-based research excavation in the landscape around Lisnaskea during 2022 that will offer opportunities for members of the public to volunteer to work alongside the Centre for Community Archaeology (CCA) at Queen's University Belfast. Building on the content of the online archaeological excavation training, the project will look at how archaeologists undertake their work in a rural context with a landscape-based approach. Volunteers will learn about the Maguire lordship and the important role the lineage played in the story of Medieval Ulster, while also investigating everyday life for the people of Fermanagh in Medieval times. The CCA have delivered over 20 community-based research excavations across Northern Ireland over the course of the last six years and have expertise in the involvement of the public in such projects.

Get Involved

The LELP Online Heritage Campus, 'The archaeology of the Maguires', will host a course that provides participants with an introduction to historical archaeology, the story of the Maguires, our understanding of life during the Medieval period in Ulster, and the process and practice of landscape approaches to archaeology. This training will then prepare volunteers to take part in the community excavation in the Lisnaskea area, home to the Maguire lordship.

Key Resources and Training **2022**

- Online training programme, communication tools and support via LELP Online Heritage Campus
- Online training in the various archaeological field techniques
- Research articles about the site/period of the fieldwork
- Health & Safety advice and instruction

Mapping the Built Heritage of the Islands

About the Project

Lough Erne's network of over 150 islands has a rich and important history, one of rural life and the uniqueness that comes with island living. Mapping the cultural history of the islands is fundamental to fostering greater knowledge and understanding of Fermanagh's unique inland water-based heritage. This project will identify and map a selection a minimum of 10 previously occupied islands on the lough and will aim to find out what life was like for the people who lived on them in the recent past. To achieve this, volunteers will be trained in desktop research techniques, field survey and report writing. Volunteers will also be able to put into practice the skills they have previously learned on the surveying of buildings and in gathering oral history recordings to help us chart the story of the islands and their occupants in the past.

Get Involved

Through our LELP Online Heritage Campus, 'Mapping the built heritage of the islands' we will explore what makes island settlements so special, what is unique to Lough Erne, what islands were inhabited, what survives today, and how to record it.

Volunteers will use freely available online resources to identify settlement on the islands. Once completed they have the opportunity to use a mobile app to record the built heritage of the islands themselves.

Key Resources and Training **2022**

Heritage Volunteer Opportunities & Training

So, what do we expect from you?

All we expect is an enthusiastic attitude and an interest in conserving and promoting the heritage of the region. Our online tutors will be available to help, advise, and support you from 10am-4pm Monday to Friday. You do not need to have any previous experience in any of our topics. We will see you through!

For further details about the projects, or how to **register as a volunteer**, please visit <https://www.lelp.org.uk/heritage-volunteer-opportunities-training/> or contact Hazel Long.

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