



# EXECUTIVE REPORT – PUBLIC FEEDBACK SURVEY

## The Royal Sites of Ireland

Report Date: 10 June 2021

Prepared for Tipperary County Council / The Royal Sites of Ireland Group



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## Introduction

This report is based on an analysis of 1,559 responses to a public survey which was conducted between May 5th and June 1<sup>st</sup> 2021.

The survey was a joint exercise between the local authorities of Tipperary, Kildare, Meath, Westmeath, Roscommon, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

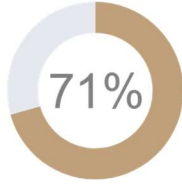
The survey was open to the general public via a dedicated website [www.royalsites.ie](http://www.royalsites.ie)

The purposes of the survey included:

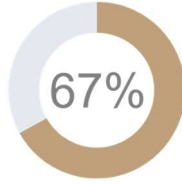
- to assess levels public awareness of and attitudes towards the Royal Sites of Ireland
- to measure awareness of UNESCO World Heritage Site status and its potential impact for the Royal Sites of Ireland
- to measure favourability towards UNESCO World Heritage Site for the Royal Sites of Ireland

## High Level Overview of Results

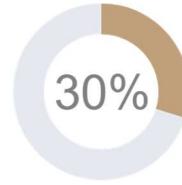
### Familiarity with Royal Sites n=1,559



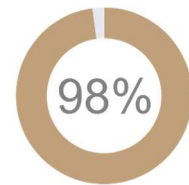
have visited the Royal Site closest to where they live



have visited more than one Royal Site



are aware of all six Royal Sites



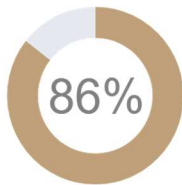
are interested in visiting Royal Sites if travelling in Ireland

### Significance of Royal Sites - % Feeling Significance is:

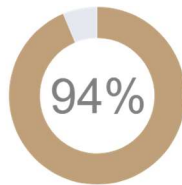
N=,1500 who perceive any significance



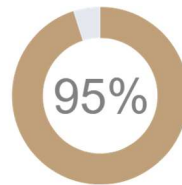
### UNESCO World Heritage Status n=1,559



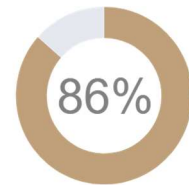
are familiar with existing UNESCO World Heritage Sites



support inclusion of the Royal Sites of Ireland on the new Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites



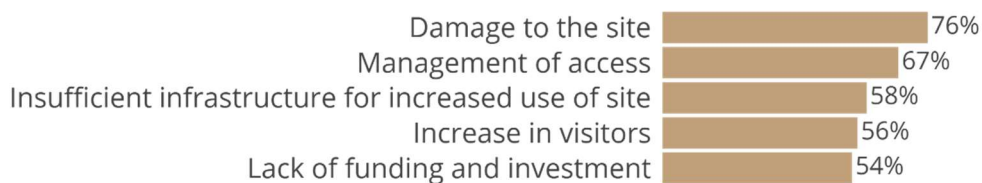
feel the impact of World Heritage Status for the Royal Sites of Ireland would be desirable



would be more likely to recommend a visit to a Royal Site if it was on the UNESCO World Heritage List

### Top 5 Challenges of UNESCO World Heritage Status

% identifying each challenge



## Summary of Results

### Respondent Profile

- A total of 1,559 respondents took part in the survey. 89% were living on the island of Ireland, with 11% living elsewhere. Among respondents living outside of Ireland, 45% were living in the USA.
- 58% of respondents identified as female, and 41% identified as male.
- 45 to 64 year-olds made up 47% of survey respondents.
- 83% of respondents had attained third level or higher education, and 69% of respondents were working at the time of the survey.
- 29% lived within 10 kilometres of a Royal Site.

### Familiarity with Closest Royal Site

- 71% of respondents had visited the Royal Site closest to where they live.

### Familiarity with Other Royal Sites

- 30% of respondents were aware of all six of the Royal Sites.

### Visiting More than One Royal Site

- 67% had visited more than one of the Royal Sites listed.

### Recommending a visit to a Royal Site

- 80% of respondents had recommended others to visit a Royal Site.

### Interest in Visiting Other Royal Sites

- 98% of respondents indicated that they would be interested in visiting other Royal Sites if travelling in Ireland.

### Is there a Particular Significance of the Royal Sites Group?

- 98% of respondents indicated that they felt that the Royal Sites as a group has a particular significance.

## What is the Significance of the Royal Sites Group?

- 95% of respondents felt that there was a **historical** significance
- 89% felt that there was an **archaeological** significance
- 89% felt that there was a **cultural** significance
- 66% felt that there was a **mythological** significance
- 53% felt that there was a **spiritual** significance

## Familiarity with Existing UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- 86% of respondents indicated that they were familiar with existing UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

## Desirability of World Heritage Status for the Royal Sites of Ireland

- 95% of respondents felt that the impact of World Heritage Status for the Royal Sites of Ireland would be desirable. This was consistently high across all regions, stakeholder counties, by gender identity, age group and education.
- Among those respondents who felt that the World Heritage Status would be “Desirable” (1,466 respondents), 58% felt that the impact would be local, 69% felt it would be national, and 89% felt that the impact would be international.
- Among those respondents who felt that the World Heritage Status would be “Undesirable” (9 respondents), 6 felt that the impact would be local, 6 felt it would be national, and 1 felt that the impact would be international.

## Positive Outcomes of World Heritage Status

- 89% felt that “More national and international recognition” would be a positive outcome and 85% felt that “Improved protection for future generations” would be a positive outcome.
- 59% felt that “Pride in locality” would be a positive outcome and this rose to 63% among those living within 10km of a Royal Site.

## Challenges of World Heritage Status

- 76% of respondents felt that “Damage to the Site” would be a challenge and 67% felt that “Management of access” would be a challenge.

### **Inclusion of Royal Sites of Ireland on Tentative List**

- 84% of respondents strongly supported the Royal Sites of Ireland being included in Ireland's new tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, with a further 10% somewhat supporting this – i.e. 94% indicating support.

### **Impact on Likelihood to Visit / Recommend a Visit to a Royal Site**

- 86% of respondents indicated that they would be more likely to visit or recommend a visit to a Royal Site if it was on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

### **Additional Thoughts or Comments**

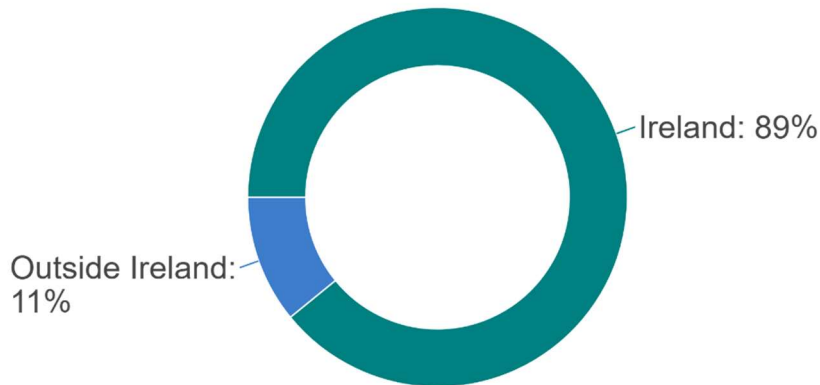
The vast majority of further comments received in respondents' own words were positive in nature. Common themes were:

- Important for protection of heritage / history / integrity of Sites
- It would raise awareness / profile of Sites
- General expression of support (e.g. "great idea")
- Comment on a specific Site / Sites
- It would be positive for Ireland (economic / tourism)

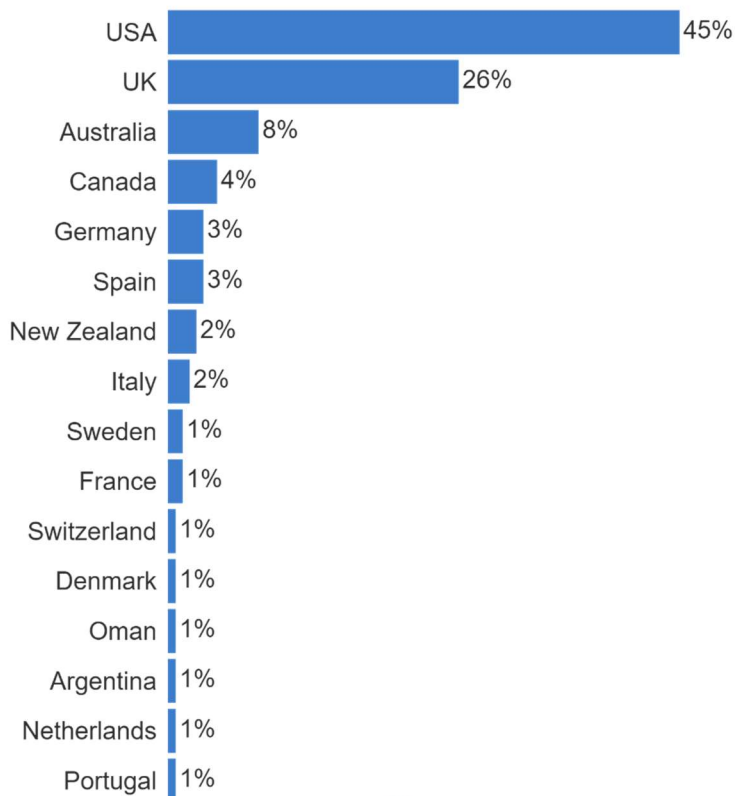
## Respondent Profile

A total of 1,559 respondents took part in the survey. 89% of respondents were living in Ireland.

Where do you currently live?



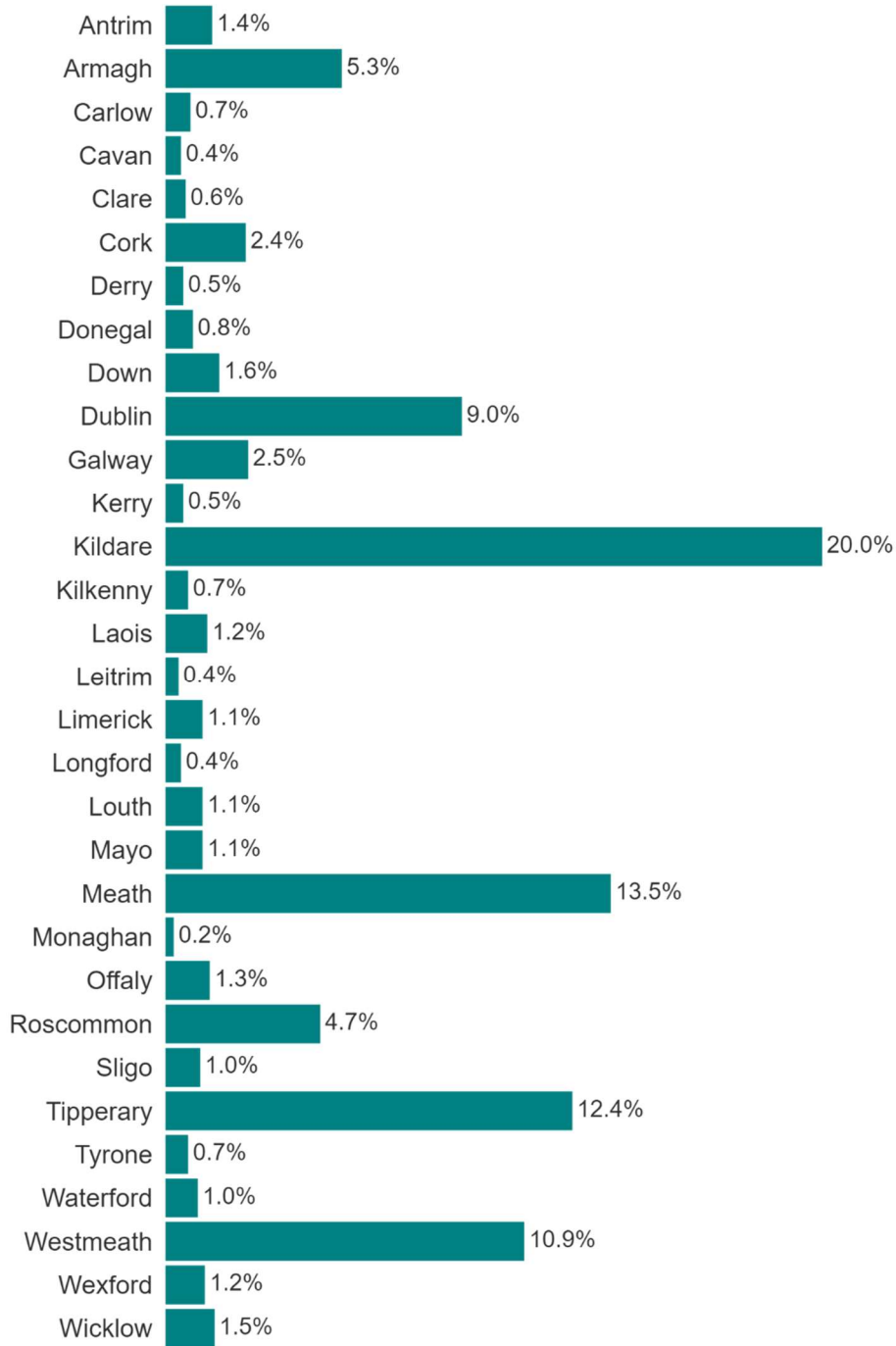
Among respondents living outside of Ireland, 45% were living in the USA.





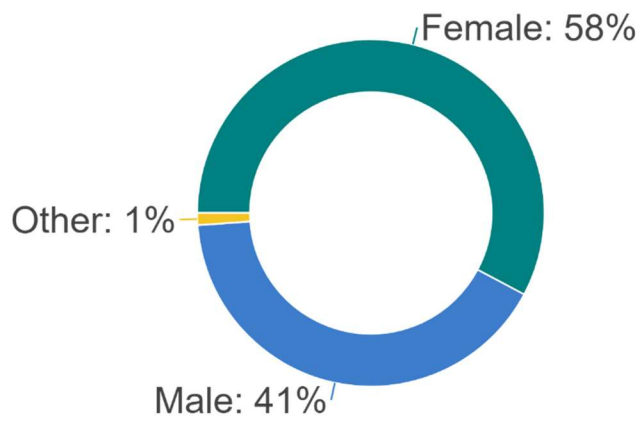
Respondents from across the island of Ireland took part in the survey.

### County



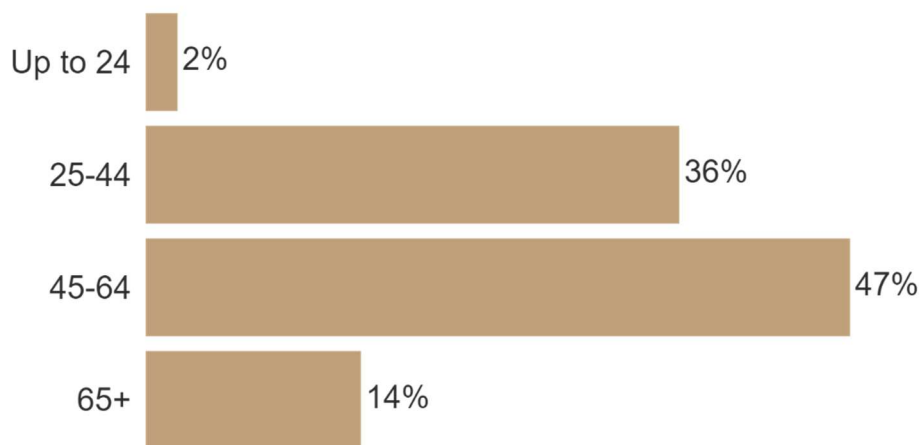
58% of respondents identified as female.

### What gender do you identify as?



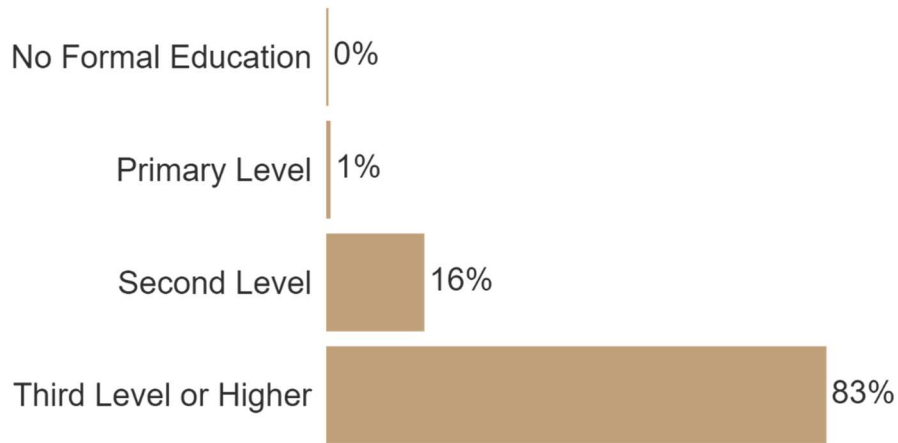
45 to 64 year-olds made up 47% of survey respondents.

### Age Group



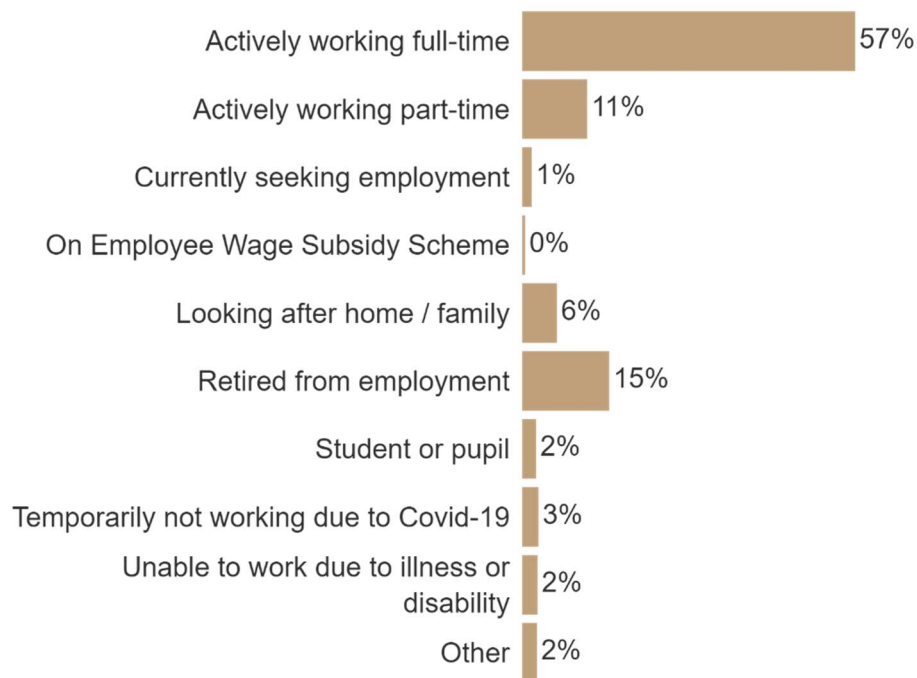
83% of respondents had attained third level or higher education.

### Education



68% of respondents were actively working (full-time or part-time) at the time of the survey.

### Occupation



## Proximity to a Royal Site

*“The Royal Sites of Ireland are a group of six unique collectives of largely prehistoric monuments and sites associated in early medieval and medieval texts as the principal ancient sites of royal inauguration in Ireland. Spread through the island, four of the sites represent the ancient Kingdoms of Ireland and its current provinces of North Emain Macha / Navan Fort (Co. Armagh), South Rock of Cashel (Co Tipperary), East Dun Ailline (Co. Kildare) and West Rathcroghan (Co. Roscommon), while Ancient fifth province of Midhe Tara (Co. Meath) was the seat of the High Kings of Ireland and Uisneach (Co. Westmeath) the centre or omphalos where the five kingdoms met.”*

Respondents were asked to indicate the distance from where they lived to the nearest Royal Site.

29% lived within 10 kilometres of a Royal Site.

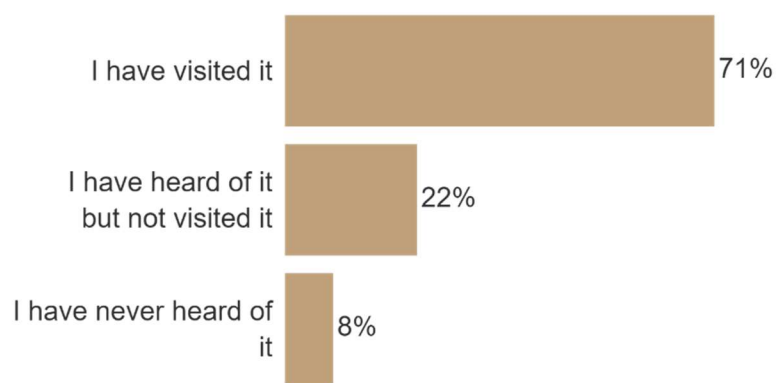


## Familiarity with Closest Royal Site

Respondents were asked to indicate their familiarity with the Royal Site that was closest to where they live.

71% had visited the Royal Site closest to where they live.

How familiar are you with the Royal Site listed above that is closest to where you live?



Respondents in Munster (87%) and Ulster (83%) were more likely to have visited the Royal Site closest to where they live.

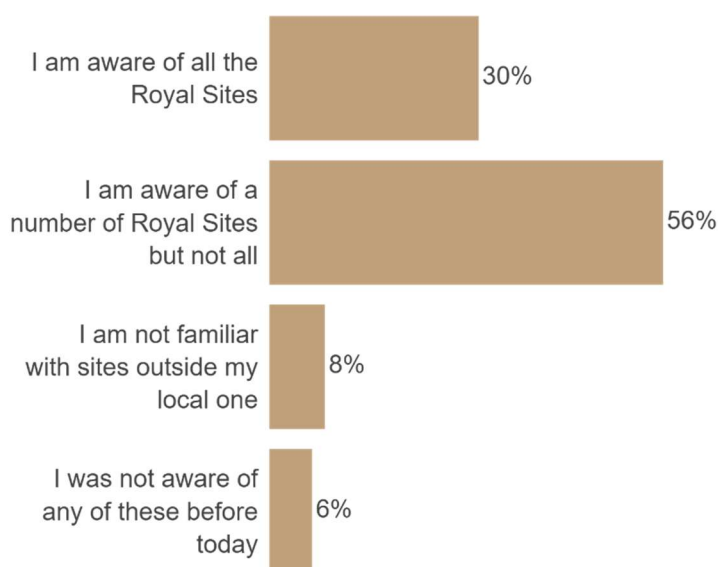
Among respondents from the stakeholder counties, those from Armagh, Meath and Tipperary were most likely to have visited the Royal Site closest to where they live.

## Familiarity with Other Royal Sites

Respondents were asked to indicate their familiarity with the Royal Sites other than that closest to where they live.

30% were aware of all six of the Royal Sites.

### Are you aware of the Royal Sites in other counties?



Respondents living in Connacht (43% aware) were more likely to be aware of all of the Royal Sites.

Respondents living in Tipperary (22% aware) were less likely than average to be aware of all of the Royal Sites.

Male respondents were more likely to be aware of all of the Royal Sites (36%).

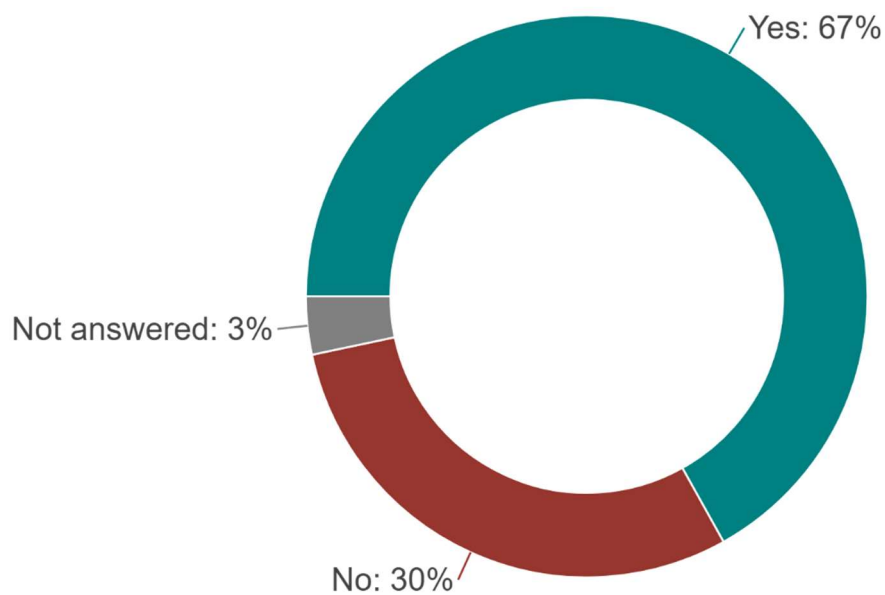
Respondents aged 25-44 were less likely than others to be aware of all of the Royal Sites (27%).

Respondents with Third Level or higher education more likely to be aware of all Royal Sites.

## Visiting More Than One Royal Site

Respondents were asked if they had visited more than one of the Royal Sites listed.  
67% had visited more than one of the Royal Sites listed.

Have you ever visited more than one of the Royal Sites listed?



Respondents living in Munster were less likely to have visited more than one of the Royal Sites (57%), while respondents living in Leinster (ex Dublin) (73%) were more likely to have done so.

Respondents living in Kildare and Meath were more likely than average to have visited more than one Royal Site (74% and 76% respectively).

Younger respondents were less likely than older respondents to have visited more than one Royal Site.

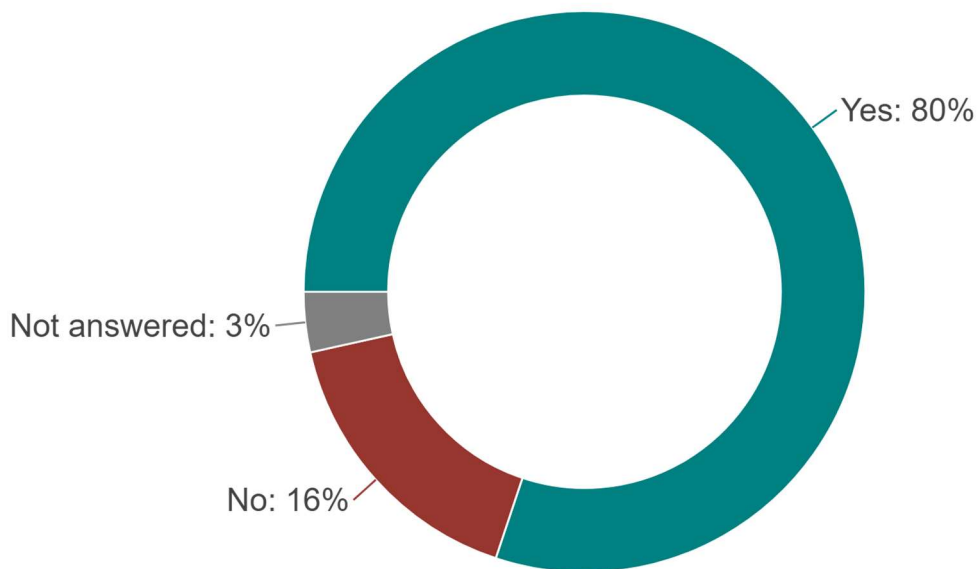
Respondents with Third Level or higher education more likely to have visited more than one Royal Site.

Respondents living closer to a Royal Site were more likely to have visited more than one Royal Site.

## Recommending a Visit to a Royal Site

Respondents were asked if they had ever recommended others to visit a Royal Site.  
80% of respondents had recommended others to visit a Royal Site.

Have you ever recommended others to visit a Royal Site?



Respondents living in Meath (94% recommending) and Westmeath (88% recommending) were more likely than average to have recommended a visit to a Royal Site.

Younger respondents were more likely than older respondents to have recommended a visit to a Royal Site.

Respondents with Third Level or higher education more likely to have recommended others to visit a Royal Site.

Respondents living closer to a Royal Site were more likely to have to have recommended others to visit a Royal Site.

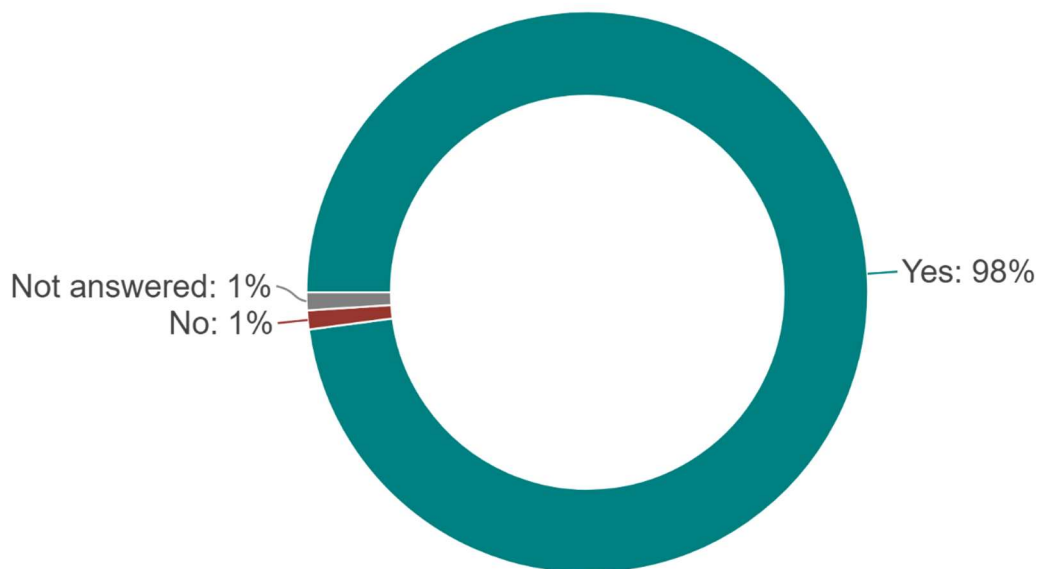


## Interest in Visiting Other Royal Sites

Respondents were asked if they would be interested in visiting other Royal Sites if travelling in Ireland.

98% of respondents indicated that they would be interested in visiting other Royal Sites if travelling in Ireland.

If you were travelling in Ireland would you be interested in visiting other Royal Sites?



Interest in visiting Royal Sites was consistently high among respondents from all regions and stakeholder counties.

Interest in visiting other Royal Sites was high among males and higher still among female respondents.

Interest in visiting other Royal Sites was high among all age groups, although lower than average among those aged 65 or over.

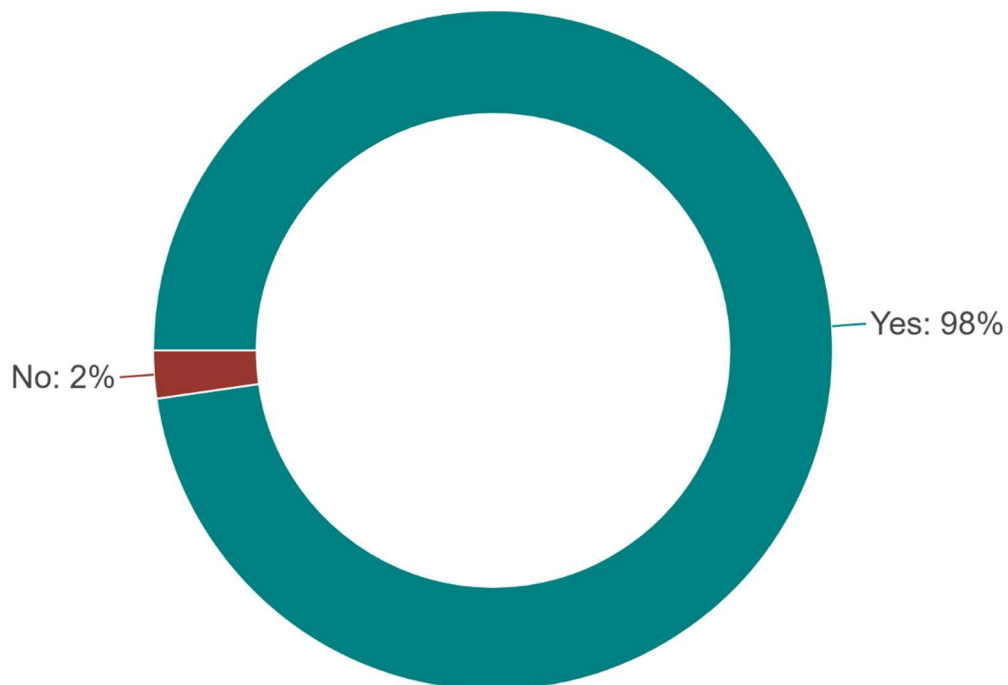
Interest in visiting other Royal Sites was particularly high among those living within 10km of a Royal Site.

## Is There a Particular Significance of Royal Sites Group?

Respondents were asked if they felt that the Royal Sites of Ireland as a group have a particular significance.

98% of respondents indicated that they felt that the Royal Sites as a group has a particular significance.

Do you feel that the Royal Sites of Ireland as a group have a particular significance?



The significance of the Royal Sites Group was felt similarly among respondents from all regions, stakeholder counties and demographics.

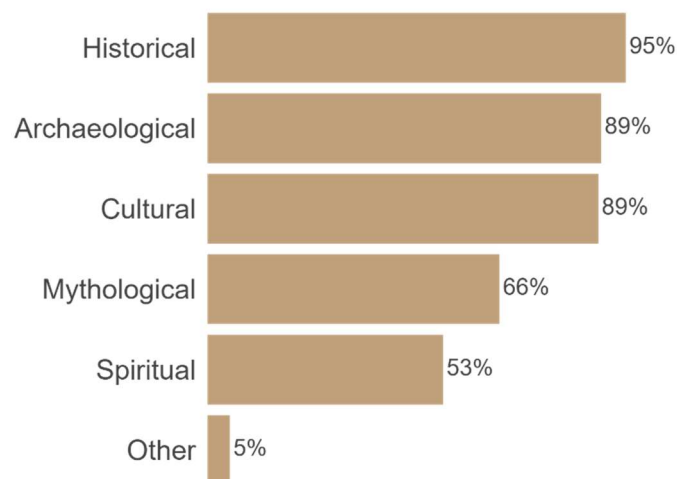
## What is the Significance of the Royal Sites Group?

Respondents who felt that the Royal Sites of Ireland as a group have a particular significance were asked to indicate what they felt that significance was.

95% felt that there was a historical significance. 89% felt that there was an archaeological significance, 89% felt that there was a cultural significance. 66% felt that there was a mythological significance and 53% felt that there was a spiritual significance.

Do you feel the significance is (please tick all that apply)

base: those who feel there is a significance



Respondents in Connacht were more likely to indicate a mythological significance. Munster respondents were less likely than average to indicate any significance with the exception of “historical”. Ulster-based respondents were more likely to indicate a spiritual, mythological or cultural significance. Dublin-based respondents were most likely to indicate an archaeological significance.

Armagh respondents were more likely to attach a spiritual, mythological or cultural significance to the Group, while Kildare respondents were less likely than average to attach a spiritual or mythological significance to the group.

Respondents based in Meath and Roscommon were more likely to indicate a spiritual or mythological significance.

Tipperary and Westmeath respondents attached less archaeological significance to the Group than average. Spiritual and mythological significance was also lower than average among Tipperary respondents, while spiritual significance was higher than average among Westmeath respondents.

Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to attach spiritual, mythological and cultural significance to the Royal Sites Group.

Respondents aged 65 or over were less likely than younger respondents to attach a spiritual or mythological significance to the Royal Sites Group.

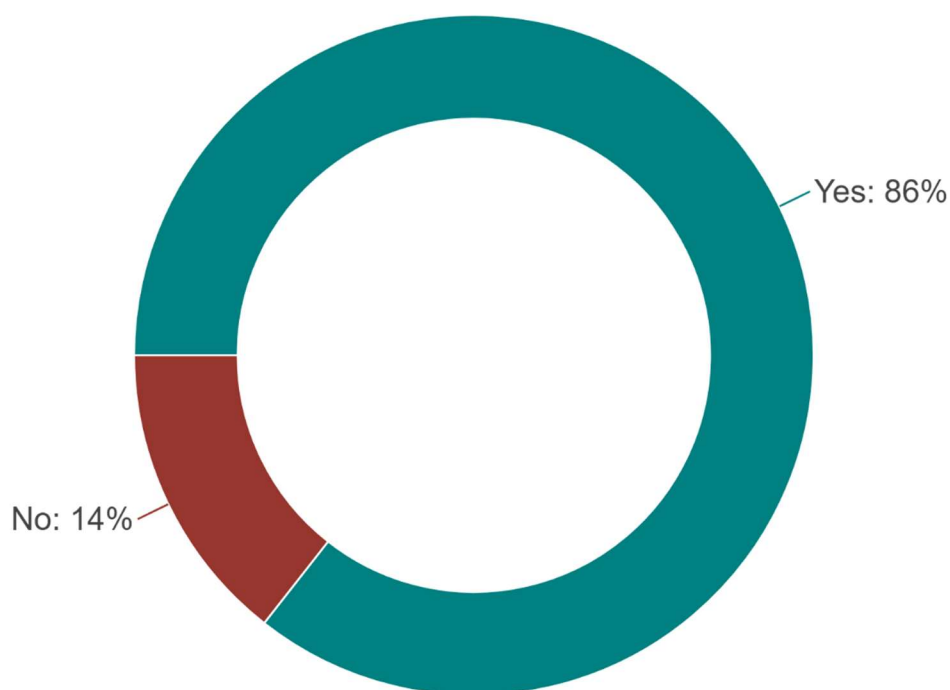
Respondents with Third Level or higher education were more likely to attach archaeological, mythological and cultural significance to the Royal Sites Group.

## Familiarity with Existing UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Respondents were asked if they were familiar with any of the existing UNESCO World Heritage Sites on the island of Ireland or in other countries around the world.

86% of respondents indicated that they were familiar with such sites.

Are you familiar with any of the existing UNESCO World Heritage Sites on the island of Ireland or in other countries around the world?



Familiarity with Existing UNESCO World Heritage Sites was lower among respondents living in Munster (76% familiar).

Familiarity with Existing UNESCO World Heritage Sites was higher among respondents in Meath (92%) and lower than average among those in Tipperary (74%).

Respondents with Third Level or higher education were more likely to be familiar with existing UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

## Desirability of World Heritage Status for the Royal Sites of Ireland

Respondents were asked if they felt that World Heritage Status for the Royal Sites of Ireland would be desirable, undesirable, or have no impact.

95% of respondents felt that the impact would be desirable.

Do you think that World Heritage Status for the Royal Sites of Ireland would be...



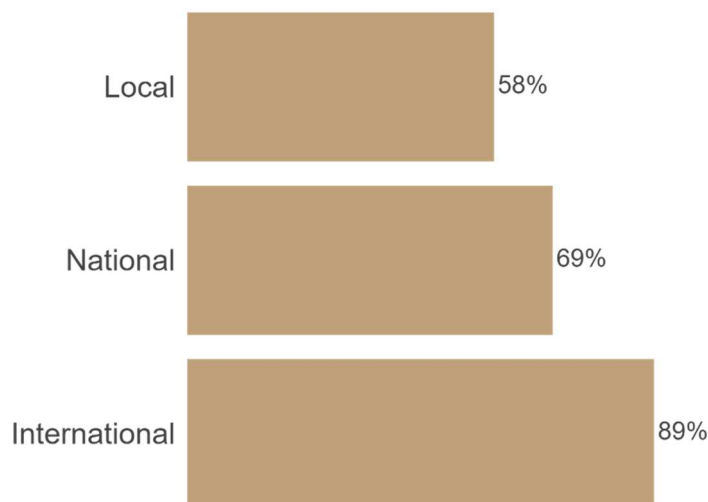
Desirability of World Heritage Status for the Royal Sites of Ireland was consistently high across all regions, stakeholder counties and demographics.

## Impact of World Heritage Status – Among Those Feeling this would be “Desirable”

Respondents were asked if they felt that the impact of World Heritage Status for the Royal Sites of Ireland would be local, national or international.

Among those respondents who felt that the World Heritage Status would be “Desirable” (1,466 respondents), 58% felt that the impact would be local, 69% felt it would be national, and 89% felt that the impact would be international.

Do you think that the impact would be (please tick all that apply)  
base: those who feel World Heritage Status is desirable

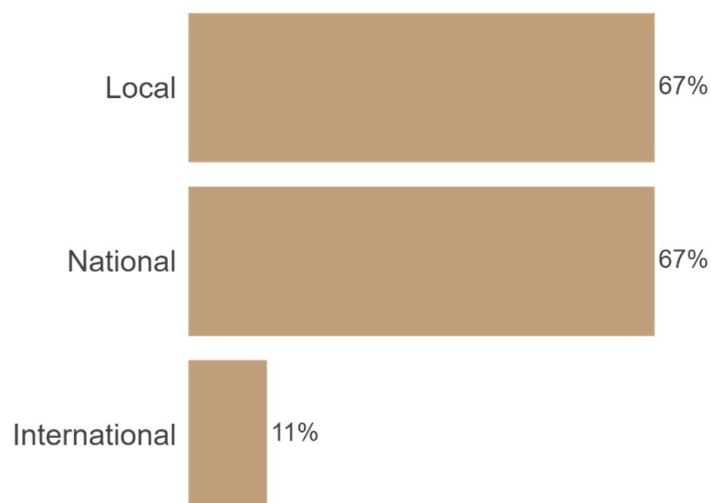


## Impact of World Heritage Status – Among Those Feeling this would be “Undesirable”

Among those respondents who felt that the World Heritage Status would be “Undesirable” (9 respondents), 6 felt that the impact would be local, 6 felt it would be national, and 1 felt that the impact would be international.

Do you think that the impact would be (please tick all that apply)

base: those who feel World Heritage Status is undesirable





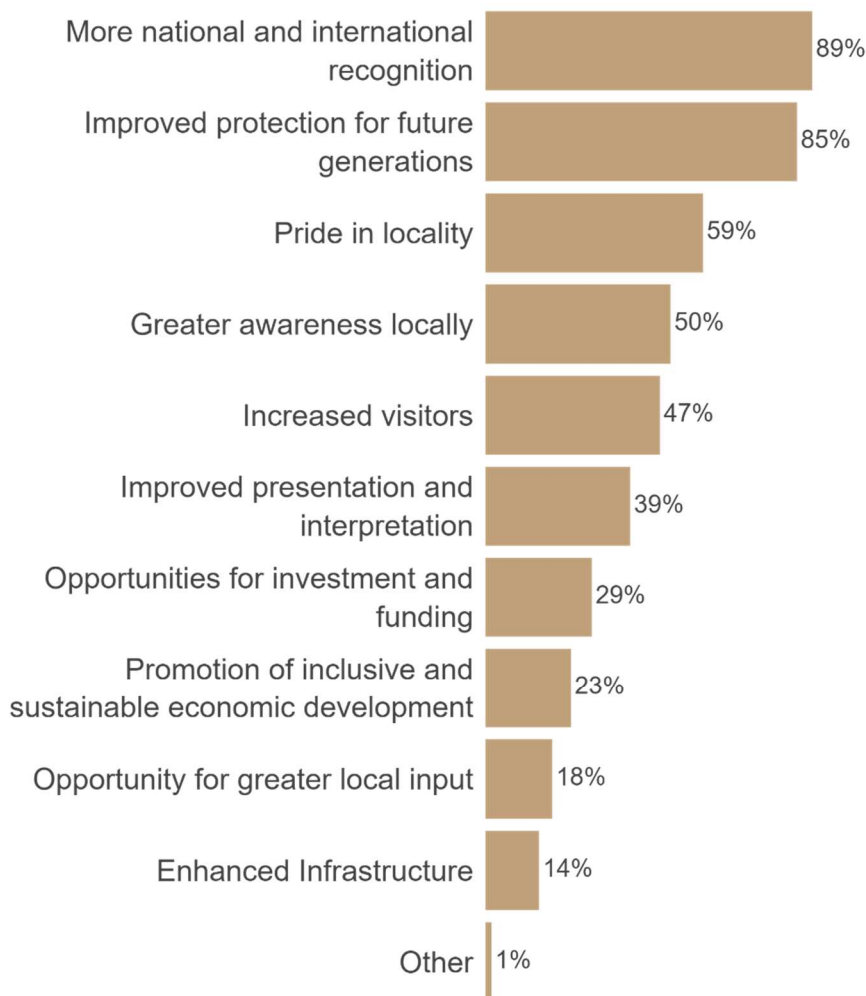
## Positive Outcomes of World Heritage Status

Respondents were presented with a range of potential positive outcomes of World Heritage Status for the Royal Sites of Ireland. They were asked to select up to 5 items from this list which they considered would be the main positive outcomes.

89% felt that “More national and international recognition” would be a positive outcome and 85% felt that “Improved protection for future generations” would be a positive outcome.

“Pride in locality” rises to 63% among those living within 10km of a Royal Site.

What do you consider the positive outcomes of World Heritage Status for the Royal Sites of Ireland would be? Please select up to 5



## “Other” Positive Outcomes Specified

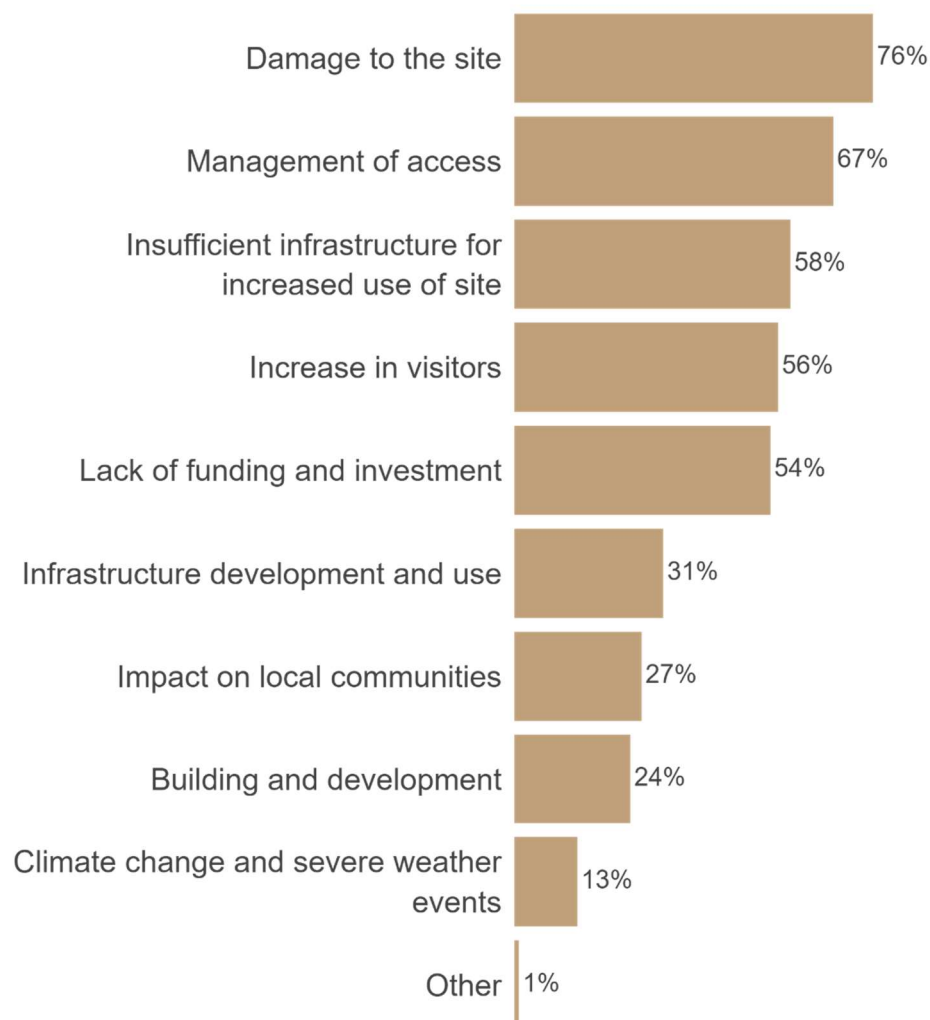
- *I know that the Hill of Tara is coming under serious pressure for one off dwellings in the area which will eventually undermine the purpose of what ye are trying to protect.*
- *Cause more problems than help in maintaining the site*
- *Connection to and understanding of the past history and how our ancestors lived and valued the landscape and their understanding of their world, and their engineering techniques*
- *Cultural enrichment*
- *Funding for more archaeological research at all sites*
- *Greater leverage in securing nearby land, opening it up to study and protecting the adjacent archaeological landscape.*
- *Honestly, having worked professionally on a number of UNESCO sites, without state authorities taking ownership and management, UNESCO status is a tickbox exercise offering no practical benefits beyond a 'hook' for marketing*
- *It might cause the County Council and OPW to do something positive rather than sitting on their hands doing nothing or engaging consultants to write reports that end up on a shelf.*
- *National government responsibility clearly defined and enforced*
- *Opportunities to develop wider knowledge of myths and legends of the land and explore deeper archaeology of land*
- *Promotion/awareness of ecology and materials/technics used by engineers/crafts people with indigenous/intergenerational knowledge of landscape/architecture (positive and negative impact on longterm eco-systems)*
- *Remembering cultural identity*
- *Revitalizing an ancient energy grid*
- *Spiritually*
- *There are some very problematic quarry developments which impact on the Royal Sites; this is particularly true of Dun Aillin in Kildare; there is a quarry at the foot of it and another application in the pipeline.*
- *Too many visitors*
- *Tourism*
- *With Dun Ailinne privately owned the locality is very much deprived of it. This could help protect and open it to public visitation*

## Challenges of World Heritage Status

Respondents were presented with a range of potential challenges that might arise as a result of World Heritage Status for the Royal Sites of Ireland. They were asked to select up to 5 items from this list which they considered would be the main challenges.

76% felt that “Damage to the Site” would be a challenge and 67% felt that “Management of access” would be a challenge.

What do you consider the challenges of World Heritage Status for the Royal Sites of Ireland would be? Please select up to 5



## “Other” Challenges Specified

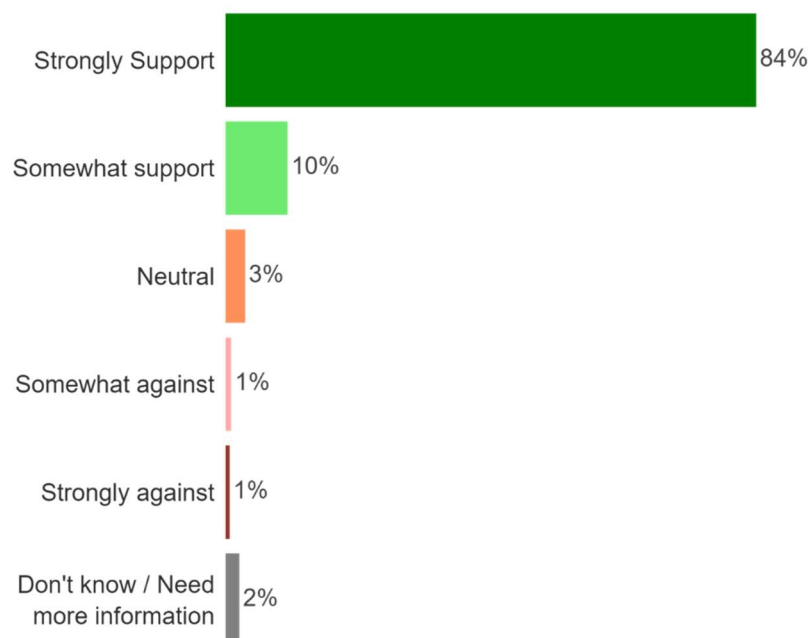
- Awareness
- Awareness of how we re-tell history, as today's interpretation of history can become tomorrow's truth
- Buffer zones and impact on local families and businesses
- continuous commercialisation of our historic structures thus losing the spiritual element of the sites, the peace, the tranquillity, losing the places to reflect & connect for a poor exchange of financial gain
- Fooling around site
- Getting UNESCO status.
- I would caution against promoting all sites for tourism. There are important national and spiritual sites; don't wreck everything with buses of tourists; Sleave League in Donegal is a victim of this.
- Increased regulation and charging for accessing sites
- Insurance issues for land owners
- Lack of access for local people, lack of respect for religious aspects.
- Lack of local level commitment to the designation
- Local no longer being allowed free access to a site they grew up around, and now have to pay.
- Locals potentially being less able to visit own heritage sites due to increased tourism and damage to area, like had occurred in Scotland (Orkney, Lewis etc), which has counter effect. Thankfully it's not as bad as Stonehenge which is terrible to visit
- Management of world heritage sites in Ireland is a very important issue to be addressed for all sites, including the royal sites
- Not being able to access sites unless you pay I'm Irish and this is my heritage I expect to be able to visit these sites whenever possible and not to have to pay
- Pollution from increased traffic, litter, water usage and sanitary services
- The fact that Dún Ailline is "private property" and not publicly accessible along with the disregard towards the protection of the curtilage and landscape context of all these monuments, which have been degraded by one-off housing and quarry encroachments
- The inclination to monetise all heritage or cultural sites to the detriment of access to all
- The site would be lost to the local communities. Fences would be erected and access limited which would suit the OPW and Councils perfectly.

## View of Inclusion of Royal Sites of Ireland on Tentative List

Respondents were asked to indicate their view on the inclusion of the Royal Sites of Ireland on the Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

84% of respondents strongly supported the Royal Sites of Ireland being included in Ireland's new tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, with a further 10% somewhat supporting this.

What is your view on the Royal Sites of Ireland being included in Ireland's new Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites?



Support was high across all regions, and slightly lower than average in Munster at 90% (strongly + somewhat support).

Support for the inclusion of the Royal Sites of Ireland on the Tentative List was high across all stakeholder counties, and particularly high among respondents in Armagh at 100%.

Support was consistently high across all other demographics.

## Impact on Likelihood to Visit / Recommend a Visit to a Royal Site

Respondents were asked if they would be more likely to visit / recommend a visit to a Royal Site if it was on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

86% of respondents indicated that they would be more likely to visit or recommend a visit to a Royal Site.

Would you be more likely to visit/ recommend a visit to a Royal Site if it was on the UNESCO World Heritage List?



The impact on likelihood to visit or recommend a visit to a Royal Site was positive across all regions and stakeholder counties. It was particularly high among respondents in Kildare with 92% more likely to visit or recommend a visit to a Royal Site if it was on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

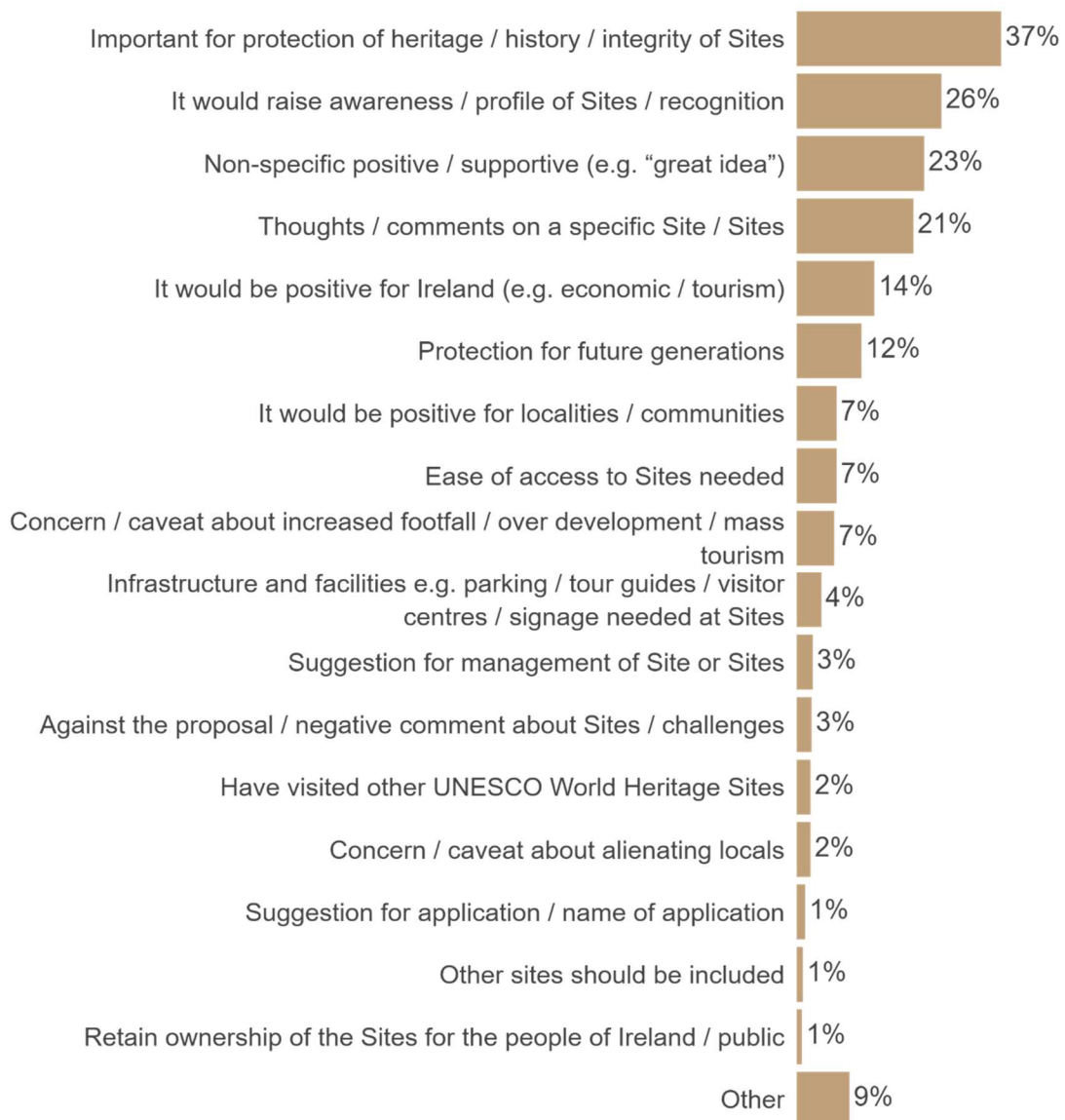
The impact of inclusion on the Tentative List on likelihood to visit or recommend a visit was higher among those living within 10km of a Royal Site, with 91% of these more likely to visit or recommend a visit to a Royal Site if it was on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

## Any Additional Thoughts and Comments

At the end of the survey questionnaire respondents were asked to provide any further thoughts or comments on the topic, in their own words.

These comments were later categorised for analysis, and the breakdown of themes is presented below. The vast majority of comments were positive in nature. Verbatim comments received in response to this question are included in Appendix A of this report.

Please provide any thoughts or comments you may have on the proposed application to have Royal Sites included on the Renewed National UNESCO Tentative List.



## Appendix A – Additional Thoughts and Comments (verbatim)



- Application must be convincing and thorough ... otherwise not worth applying.
- "Royal" suggests the sites would be limited to certain counties. It does not seem to include other sites.
- 1) Early consent and continual involvement of landowners and local community in proposal of local monument for inclusion in the list
- 2) Financial rewards and community dividend to be discussed and agreed with landowners and local community
- 3) A professional condition survey to be carried out on each monument to benchmark and quantify its conservation status prior to any proposal for inclusion in a list or opening to the general public.
- 4) Written contracts with landowners and local community for a regular programme of professional, independent monitoring and mitigation of tourist impacts and natural erosion of the monuments and access to them.
- 5) Transparency in the availability in the public domain of all documents, maps, plans, assessments etc relating to any and all applications and decisions made
- 6) Regular local public meetings to report on progress on any application and subsequently should a monument be included in the list and opened to the public
- 7) A research framework to be developed for each site with an annual project-based budget for work to be carried out. Projects open to tender by qualified individuals or institutions.
- 8) Copy of submission to be emailed to responders if email address has been provided
- A great chance to put out Irish heritage on the world map
- A great initiative
- A great initiative, fair play to you. Best of luck with it.
- A lot of these sites, especially ones on private property are not protected and are at risk of damage or destruction unless they are included on lists like this
- "To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child. For what is the worth of human life, unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?" - Marcus Tullius Cicero
- Absolutely essential to protect and promote the fantastic prehistory of Ireland.
- Access should be free.
- Additional challenge of private ownership and inaccessibility
- Advertisement is needed to let visitors become aware of all Ireland has to offer
- Agree that Ireland's sites would benefit from more funding with greater promotion of smaller historic sites.
- Aid in recognition & preservation of sites
- All for the future to for our children and all who are yet to come

- All Royal Sites in Ireland have to be recognised, protected and accredited as a UNESCO world heritage site, in particular Dun Ailinne in co. Kildare.
- All such sites should be invested and owned by the people of Ireland.
- All the sites are different so a one size fits all strategy/approach would not work . Where there are many owners of sites the impact locally of the world heritage status has to be looked at before it happens not after. There has to a broad look at both positive and negative impacts on the local area. Will this affect farming in any way? etc. Will a management plan curtail farmers/locals in anyway. For it to work and get local buy in there must be an incentive.This would come down to funding though. With this in mind if there was a benefit to locals then I could see it working . Take for example the Farming Rathcroghan EIP.Archaeology was once looked at as a negative in the area but now it is being looked at in a more positive light. It has now become an opportunity for farmers to make an extra income as a result of the archaeology while preserving ,maintaining and enhancing it at the same time. A win win for all
- All these sites important and referred to in the manuscripts re the Táin.the Fianna and Ulster cycle. Important references in literature and that would link the written with the actual sites.
- Allow the sites to remain in public ownership for those that walk the lands for spiritual purposes to access them unhindered. These sacred sites are akin to a Catholic church and should be capable of being accessed without charge or restriction
- Although based in Australia, I am an archaeologist from Kilcullen, next to Dun Ailinne and have been one of the few locals able to visit this site, which is sadly under very limited access and with a very low profile in our society. It makes enormous sense to string these sites together for many reasons and to combine the listing of the World Heritage sites as has been done with the Roman frontiers.
- Although I live in the San Francisco Bay Area now, I feel such pride to tell people that I am from Cashel and to share images of the majestic Rock of Cashel. As once the seat of the High Kings of Ireland I think this site deserves to be added to the Royal Sites list.
- Although there may be benefits of site protection for future generations of custodians and the world wide community who are 'connected' to the sites, I have reservations about compromising the ancient integrity of sites by unsympathetic/unempathetic business models and commercialisation to the exclusion of those who have historical and deep connection to a site, whether in person or remotely

- Amazing underdeveloped site that need to maintained for future generations to enjoy
- An understanding of irelands history
- Ancestral sites will finally have the recognition and protection they deserve. Plus Ireland will have bragging rights to more World Heritage sies.
- Any assistance to protect, promote, enhance and support not only the sites, but the rural communities around need to happen. It is paramount that current knowledge, wisdom and business dedicated to these sites (Rathcroghan Visitor Centre) are developed in line with and adjunct to the sites themselves. Strategic and nonpeacemeal development is vital.
- Any increase in visitor numbers should only happen after appropriate measures in place to protect the integrity of each part of each site. this should be accompanied by increased signage an/or interpretative guides. All staff should receive proper training in pronunciation and translation of Irish names and titles, UNLIKE the situation currently.
- Any site, such as a passage tomb or mound, ring Fort or standing stones, should be unesco certified and protected and run and cared for by local historical societies.
- Anything that raises the cultural profile of Ireland is welcome. Hopefully will lead to more protection of these sites.
- Anything that will protect our history, increase awareness and create more interest to visitors can only be a positive in my opinion.
- Apart from the royal site at Cashel, and Tara very little is known about the other sites, and access to Dun Ailline, and Uisneach is difficult at present. olary
- As a child growing up in the shadow of DunAilinn I was always fascinated by the mystery and intrigue surrounding it. Since the campaign has begun I have been educated by a lot of the publications in print and on social media. I think it's a sleeping giant in Ireland's great history whose time has finally come.
- As a dual citizen, I would love to see an increased awareness of culturally significant sites worldwide, but especially in Ireland. They shouldn't be Disneyfied, but they certainly deserve attention for educational purposes. I think too many tourists have no idea of the depth and mystery of the real Ireland, and done right, this program to elevate and connect the Royal Sites would be a game changer. The profound effect of the experiences of Irish people on the anglophone world alone is immeasurable and needs renewed focus.
- As a local of Westmeath with a keen interest in ancient Irish history I think it would be a fantastic addition to both the local and regional areas around these sites if

they are included on the UNESCO tentative list. It will help younger generations engage and appreciate the history of their local areas.

- As a tourist guide and a student in archaeology, I might be biased. I believe however that the inclusion of the Royal Sites in the Unesco list would give them an increase value in the eyes of everyone and that would help protect them. Not sure if that matters but I am French living in Ireland
- "As above; don't destroy Irelands heritage with mass tourism. But do protect it form developments such as quarrying which is wholly inappropriate and incompatible"
- As Important to Ireland as the Pyramids are to Egypt. Important to heritage an ancient one.
- As Irish, it would give us a greater sense of our heritage and where we came from as well as a greater appreciation of who we are
- As long as there is very careful planning and visitor numbers control .Also visitor centers can be overly obtrusive Integrity of sited should be preserved always .All sites should be protected and preserved for future heritage and cultural enjoyment if Irish people too
- Awareness that people with disabilities be included in making sites accessible .include braille signage .
- Ba chóir go gcuirfí an t-iarratas seo chun tosaigh go tréan de bharr go spreagfaí toradh maith suim nua in ár n-oidhreacht I measc aos óg na hÉireann.
- Be great for the next generations if easy to access and not too expensive
- Because it is our heritage and we are a small island of Ireland compared to other countries who are much larger, we should strive to protect these sites. We are a country with strong and natural beauty and the sites should be recognised and protected the same as any others in the world. It would also encourage tourism which can contribute to the National Economy of our country.
- Being on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites will help to get this wonderful Gem- which is The Rock of Cashel better known Globally for this and future generations. I think all Archeological sites and all buildings of historic and architectural value ( even if they don't get on the list of World UNESCO Heritage Sites) should be preserved and looked after because we didn't inherit them we borrowed from our children.
- Being on the 'Tentative' list would raise awareness of the sites and their importance both archaeologically and historically. This awareness could lead to increased protection of the site and possibly bring tourism and its accompanying economic benefits

- Being originally from Dublin I now live between Tara Hill, Newgrange & Slane Hill. These sites should without doubt be listed. We as a family of 24 regularly go to Tara and it's just magical. The children can tell the history it's just wonderful. We have relatives in Cashel and visit the Rock of Cashel any time we in Tipp. Amazing castle and history. We spend Summer Solstice on Tara and the ceremony, costumes & music is wonderful. I met a Mam in Navan who lives within 2 km of Tara and had never been there. Unreal, I took him there and he loves to visit now. Also Michael Maguires restaurant is renowned to visit for food after a wonderful visit to Tara Hill. God bless & stay safe
- Best of luck with the application.
- Best of luck with the submission! So proud of our Irish heritage and would be thrilled if these sites were recognised by UNESCO. Such an important legacy for generations to come.
- Best of luck with your application
- Best of luck with your endeavours.
- Brilllent idea.....
- Bring in more visitors
- By giving such a deserved status to all the Royal sites it will broaden the publics perspective and enlighten future generations on how Ireland successfully developed through the Bronze and iron ages, without to a large extent being influenced by foreign powers or on the contrary being joined at the hip through royal marriages and merchant trade. to Wales, Scotland and other coastal territories all along the north west coast of Europe. By drawing peoples attention to this period in our history, it will help Academia focus and better explain our Maritme interactions between ourselves Britian and greater Europe, giving our story so much more depth and colorful to allow our countries forests lakes and mountains reclaim the personalities and great status granted to them during this period that remain in stories and poems.
- Conferring of WHS status brings huge responsibilities to those involved in management of the sites. There are very significant impacts on local communities in terms of restrictions on development etc. You need to be very clear about these impacts - the costs of having a WHS - before rushing headlong into seeking WHS status. The experience at Bru na Boinne is one that you need to look at closely to understand how the state parties have approached management of the site and how their approaches have negatively impacted the local communities in the area. The proposers of WHS status for the Royal Sites group need to be very clear and realistic as to what they expect would be the outcome of such an application in terms of tourism, monument protection, landscape protection, economic activity,

infrastructural development. Many of the responses you will receive to this questionnaire are not informed responses - they will not tell you what is likely to happen; they just tell you what people think should or might happen. My advice as an archaeologist who lives close to the Bru na Boinne WHS is to be very careful what you wish for - do not make any assumptions as to what the (positive) impacts of WHS status will be unless you have clear evidence. There are likely to be many unforeseen negative consequences for local communities which must be considered.

- Currently I feel there is little or no signage about the sight nearest to me, (Dun Ailline). I've lived in Kilcullen and only once was I able to visit the site as the site is now seen as private. I was at an open day at the site. This I feel is ridiculous that a place of such importance is now off limits to the public. I feel this should be addressed as there's little point in protecting this site if no one can actually ever go to it.
- Delighted to see this application. However, the severe lack of conservation investment at the sites over the last number of years is extremely worrying and needs to be considered as the application progresses.
- Develops awareness of our past.
- Dun Ailinne land should be bought back from the farmer and given back to state ownership. The site should be accessible. support the farmer and encourage him to figure a safe way for people to visit the site.
- Dun Ailline needs to be taken into State ownership with sufficient parking, noticeboards provided and all year access to the site enabled.
- Emphasis should be on the quality of the proposed application and therefore assessment of the proposal should include the critical elements of Time, Cost and Performance.
- Even though I'm a citizen of the United States, my heritage is from the British Isles and Ireland. Their ancient history is my ancient history it deserves to be preserved and UNESCO can help make that happen.
- Excellent initiative which would be a great addition and achievement for all of these amazing sites. I live nearby the Navan Fort and believe world heritage status would help it to get the recognition that it truly deserves.
- Excellent, progressive thinking .
- Fantastic opportunity to bring further awareness of our history nationally and internationally
- Fantastic Work & Opportunity - keep it up
- Faraor tá an suíomh agus an ceistneoir seo i mBéarla amháin. Ba chóir ar fáil as Gaeilge freisin. Maidir leis an iarratas chun Stádas Oidhreachta UNESCO, tacaíonn

Conradh na Gaeilge go láidir leis an iarratas seo. Go deimhin bhí céad uachtarán Chonradh na Gaeilge Dubhghlas de hÁ de ag feachtasaíocht ag tús an chéid seo chaite chun Teamhair na Rí a chosaint ó dhamáiste. Aithníonn Conradh na Gaeilge tábhacht na láithreacha sin sa chultúr Gaelach. Is Gaeilge a bhí á labhairt ag na Ríthe agus gach duine a bhí ina chónaí agus ag obair ann. Molann Conradh na Gaeilge go gcuirtear an 7ú suíomh ar an liosta, Tulach Ág i gContae Thír Eoghain más féidir, áit a raibh Ríthe Uí Néill sealbhaithe. Is gá gach fógra maidir leis na láithreacha sin a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla dé bharr gurb í an Ghaeilge an teanga náisiúnta agus príomhtheanga oifigiúil ó dheas agus is teanga atá faoi chosaint ag an Chairt Eorpach um Theangacha Réigiúnacha nó Mionlaigh ó Thuaidh. Is gá mar sin teanga na Ríthe a thógáil san áireamh sa tionscnamh tábhachtach seo.

- "Fear of damage to sites sensitive layers.  
Fear of mismanagement to the detriment of local communities.  
Major issue with no access available to general public at Dun Ailinne  
Lack of infrastructure and access to and at sites  
The usual likelihood of too many stakeholders at some sites, with no real authority for/from any"
- Feel that they are worthy of inclusion as not only important sites in an Irish context but also within a European and worldwide context.
- From a Tipperary Tourism perspective the full delivery of this project would add very significantly to the sustainable and responsible development of tourism, culture and heritage in county Tipperary, regionally and nationally. This project has the full support of Tipperary Tourism.
- From an archaeological standpoint, making these sites UNESCO, they would be protected and more research could be done on our history.
- Given the iconic nature of St Patrick's Rock it would be an ideal candidate for inclusion on the UNESCO list
- Go for it
- Go for it
- Go for it
- Go for it
- Good for tourism.
- Good idea
- good idea to create awareness and appreciation
- Good initiative but please stop using the word Connaught. It should be Connacht
- good luck
- Good Luck with application



- "good luck. may the wind be behind you.  
think of all those with seen and unseen difficulties when thinking of access and infrastruture. "
- Great for tourism and protection of areas near royal sites
- Great idea
- Great idea to put Irish heritage on the world map
- Great idea, long overdue, hugely significant cultural sites in Ireland that deserve international recognition. Our own local site, Rathcroghan, is very well managed and presented but would benefit from further investment and visitors, a fabulous site that is under-recognised nationally
- Great idea. Important that these sites are shared more widely as they are important historical sites, detailing real parts of irish history
- Great initiative to try to get this prestigious status. We wholly support it. Good luck!
- Great initiative. Need to protect our national heritage for future generations
- Great opportunity to get our sites on the world status and media
- Great to know that an application is in progress. Every good wish with this. ðŸ™
- Grew up in Cashel and very proud of Our culture and heritage. Recognition is powerful
- Have accessible interpretative centres to ensure the sites are truly inclusive .
- Have visited UNESCO world heritage sites. The Irish Royal sites have such history they deserve the same recognition. The hill of Uisneach is on our doorstep where we live and we love visiting it. I know internatio ally it would be beneficial to have UNESCO status as people recognise it as something special.
- "Have visited:  
Dún Ailinne  
Cashel  
Tara Complex"
- Having grown up on the doorstep of such a historical site, the lack of recognition for such a meaningful place that is integral of the long history of Ireland and extremely important to the history saddens me.
- Having sites both north and south of border as connected, highlights our similarities and not our differences.
- Having the Royals sites as a UNESCO status would be a great boot to local communities in the region's. It would provide a sense of pride locally, regionally and nationally. By promoting the sites as a group the less visited sites such as Rathcroghan would benefit. It can only help to educate people on the importance of these sites.
- Having UNESCO status is hugely prestigious and advantageous



- Having worked as a tour guide for over 20 years I saw the changes to historic places that became commercialised either through new management practises and/or through more advanced, strategic marketing - the spirit and wonder of these places changed, though never for the better. I actually have witnessed people with check lists of places to visit with absolutely no connection to, no understanding or reflection of what they have seen. Bucket list visitors. Explanations of historic sites on billboard or signs have their uses, but too much, and the marvel of a place is gone, it becomes just another 'attraction' like a fun fair, a destination rather than a personal journey. Management practises also render historic places all too manicured to the loss of providing a sense of what was actually there, even if it is to our modern minds unwelcoming. However, the inclusions of these royal sites on the UNESCO Tentative List provide fantastic opportunities to protect these important monuments and sites that may otherwise be left to perhaps slow degradation due to the high costs of preservation, conservation and protection. The inclusion on the UNESCO heritage list also enhances a site as something more than special, something that is rare and of national and international importance and magnitude. However, it needs to be established on how these important royal sites, especially those which are not already in state ownership, are going to be managed, marketed, presented, protected and how infrastructure is being employed to be in one way practical, but on the other hand is very sensitive to the wider natural, man-made and spiritual environment around the sites. Our largest dolmen, the Brownshill Dolmen in Carlow, is one example where a unique historical and religious site loses its vital significance and its otherwise impressive setting in the landscape by being ring-fenced with a modern steel fence. The worst changes I personally witnessed was the Giant's Causeway, having visited many times when there was only a small car park, a path and no buildings and one could take in that natural breathtaking spectacle at ones own leisure, examine the geological structures, admire the scenery, A decade later I was horrified to see commercial buildings, cafes, large car parks some distance away, small tour buses going down a tarmacked road to the Causeway to set down the tourists and pick others up. There were so many tourists that actually one could no longer see the geology of the Causeway (people were sitting on top of the pillars or standing on mass in front of them), an incredible noise level from the sheer number of visitors that drowned out the waves of the ocean and the paths as busy as Henry Street at Christmas. It was anything but enjoyable and have not been back since. This is to my mind very bad management of an incredible unique site that is destroyed by commerce. If these Royal Sites are to be included on the UNESCO Heritage

Tentative list, far better management and ideology must be devised, employed and proven to work positively to avoid losing the critical significance and the exceptional phenomenon of all these royal sites. The Hill of Tara and Newgrange are quite well represented and managed by the OPW. I cannot comment on the Rock of Cashel, as I have not been there for a while; Skellig Michel is of course restricted to people numbers due to its location. Dun Ailinne is on a private site and so not open to visitors and must be therefore be treated very carefully and with the utmost consideration. If there is to be a tentative list of the royal sites, is the Baltinglass Hill Complex, probably the largest historic site of its kind in Europe, to be included?

- "Highlighting our heritage and sharing it with within our country and internationally could only be a positive

I would suggest that we create a 3d theatrical cinema that can showcase all of our heritage sites like they have in Malta and other countries (we always go to them when we travel) "

- Highly important for heritage, tourism, and social economic reasons. As well as national pride in our history.
- Hill of Tara is sacred
- Historical structures awaken some deep past connection within us - for a while taking us out of ourselves - and when we return it; feels as if we have travelled to somewhere very different, very distant - where we came from and where we still belong - a soul feeling too full to express which is needed to be experienced every so often
- History of the island needs to be recognised
- Hope that this is successful. Very important for tourism and culturally.
- Hopefully it will bring more Recognition to this Irreplaceable Ancient Site
- Hopefully UNESCO listing would lead to improved long term national protection of, and public access to the sites.
- Hoping the Rock of Cashel gets the recognition it deserves
- I am an American with Irish Heritage. I have been to Ireland twice, and I think these sites deserve International recognition, support and protection.
- I am concerned that a large increase in visitors would damage the site. Consider investing in Virtual Reality to present the sites in such a way that most visitors won't actually be tramping over it, just viewing it from carefully positioned vantage points. Restrict full access to scholars and VIPs.
- I am excited that our local site will be included
- I am from Armagh, although living in England currently. This would be a boost for the local community.

- I am greatly encouraged by this and truly hope that the application is successful. It is hugely important for generations to come to understand our past and embrace this as part of our identity, I feel if these sites achieve this status they will get the protection and continued state and citizen support that they demand and that more research can be done to enhance our understanding of society, life, culture etc. at that time.
- I am in favour if it means more funding to protect the sites and make Irish people more aware of them, but not if it only results in buses of tourists arriving to take photos.
- I am in Ireland often and believe the potential for such sites has yet to be fully tapped. I would hope that increased visiting would not only be a strong educational experience, but would help locally with jobs.
- I am interested in old sites and I never heard of royal sites. There should be access to all these sites and they should be looked after
- I am interested in the prehistoric - this would enhance presentation and attract people to discover more of the amazing heritage.
- I am planning on visiting most of them already anyway, protected by UNESCO or not. I don't know if it would bring more tourists but hopefully it would give more protection to the site.
- I am so smitten with the incredible ingenuity involved in the creation of these structures. They are among the most brilliant creations by humans anywhere on earth.
- I believe it is imperative that a very strong application is submitted to have the Royal Sites included on the renewed National UNESCO Tentative List. The possible benefits for Ireland Inc with regards to tourism are phenomenal.
- I believe it is very important to retain our natural heritage in a sustainable manner and in particular that it is protected by local authorities through their county development plans. Including sites on the list is part of the way to achieving that. I have a particular interest in Tara being included on the list and for Meath County Council to progress with the conservation objectives as set out in the 2010 Tara - Skryne conservation area plan.
- I believe it would create a greater awareness of and pride in the places so listed. It would also enhance the interest of each future generation of Irish people.
- I believe Knockainey in Limerick was also a royal site, and should also be included.
- I believe that by having the sites placed on the list it will guarantee their protection for future generations
- I believe that inclusion on the list would help to protect and preserve our national historical, spiritual and cultural sites. It would emphasise the importance we

attach to these places and would prevent any damage being done by over development or commercialisation.

- I believe that Irish are proud of their heritage and it is really important to preserve and protect it. Irish heritage is always a curiosity for people far and wide due to the influence of the movement of Irish people globally and therefore there is a lot of interest in our culture. It is something we need to preserve for all to enjoy and understand how we came about. Our youth needs to be able to engage in these sites to fully understand where they come from too so they have a deeper understanding of themselves.
- I believe that this would be a very positive development
- I believe these sites are a huge part of our cultural heritage and therefore should be protected. By having a UNESCO status I think they would be given that protection.
- I believe they should be UNESCO heritage sites especially after studying them for a dissertation
- I believe we should do everything we can to protect our heritage and these historical sites for our future generations. We have a very rich history which is not promoted as it should be, but I think this would help to promote it in a better way.
- I bring students to Ireland annually and we have visited most of these sites. It would be nice to see visitors center at sites like Hill of Tara, where we have hired local guides
- I can only see positive outcomes if the application is successful. It will promote a visceral awareness to future generations of Irish, new Irish and those interested in Ireland, of the Island's history, a boost to the economic landscape locally, and opportunities to safeguard and explore the archeology of these important sites. It may be possible to engage local and international archeology students like in the Blackfriary archeological site in Trim.
- I cannot believe the original listing was not pursued by the various county councils. IN the film, "Field of Dreams", Kevin Costner was told, if you build it they will come. Our ancestors built these Royal sites. If we present them properly, people will come to visit them. A bonus for us all surely.
- I don't feel that Ireland's ancient past is taken as seriously internationally as the ancient past of other countries and this might help to highlight it more. Especially Royal sites. With recent discoveries about our ancestors this will be even more relevant as we discover more about ourselves and how we developed into the country we are now, and perhaps sadly what we've lost.
- I dont know enough about these sites or that period in history, so I am not in a position to make a valid comment

- I Don't know why you want to change it , but the likes of tara hill or new Grange will be destroyed if it's not on the heritage list. I used to live in trim road with my parents and go to tara every day . Millions go to tara and on events like halloween people stay in tents. It will become a homeless shelter or something . It will be destroyed. Advice :keep tara , keep trim castle, keep new Grange ,dowth cant remember the third one but that one too, ect , the castles up in tipperary, keep giants causeway, keep the old haunted houses in wexford or was it Waterford , instead of renewing what deserves , better to do something to get people interested in it . Promote more . Make ads , or mini show where people visit the places or something. People love that kind of thing . Simple get a camera or a phone and start rolling. It's the thing kids do this days. Watch abandoned places on youtube . It can be a thing too Watch abandoned historical sites of ireland ect. Put it on rte1 for all ages and youtube , Not just throw them away ;)
- I don't think there's any point unless you can have easy unobstructed access to the site which isn't the case at the moment, it's the same with other historical sites in kildare, such as the castle in rathcoffy
- I feel a national directory of Royal Sites broken down by county with a synopsis of each site should be created. This publication should be available at all tourist offices and hotels throughout Ireland. It should also be available to download as an app to your mobile phone.
- I fully support having the Royal Sites included on the renewed list as all are an example of great historical value of sites that were first established at a time in our history where the works required were of a huge scale.
- I fully support it and think it is a wonderful idea. When I travel I am strongly influenced by the UNESCO World Heritage sites list when planning where to go and what to do. I hope this will have a similar positive impact on visitor numbers to Ireland.
- I fully support the proposed application for all the sites and have a particular interest in seeing Tara succeed, and in seeing more input in improving the visitor experience there as it is poorly managed at present.
- I fully support this application
- I have been to both the UNESCO World Heritage Site that is the Giants Causeway and the UNESCO Global GeoPark that is the cross border site of The Marble Arch Caves in Counties Cavan and Fermanagh. Both sites impressed me greatly and I would love to see the Royal Sites in Ireland under their banner. I have known of Tara my whole life as my Mothers family were from the area but I have considered Kildare my home for decades now and never knew about Dún Ailinne in the Curragh close to where I live. Watching the fires in Uisneach this year I feel there

is a great interest in and a need for us as a people to learn more about this part of our history and culture.

- I have great interest in the Royal Sites I visit Tara a few times a week. It's historical, magical and I have been going there for 68 years and it's one of my favourite places
- I have lived in Cashel all my life & truly appreciate the beauty of The Rock. It would be lovely to have it appreciated around the world
- I have only visited Ireland once in my life, and was able to walk around Tara during that visit. I've studied Irish history and mythology, and being in the spot that so many important moments took place was just an impressive and awe-inspiring time for me. I know that there are more people out there that feel the same way, and with these Royal Sites being placed on the UNESCO list, hopefully more will be inspired to visit.
- I have visited a site in Puglia which doesn't compare to The Rock of Cashel which is more majestic.
- I have visited Rathcroghan and live quite close but had no idea before visiting how amazing it was..the centre and site are so well looked after by a great team, an absolute pleasure to visit and I wish all sites and local authorities the best of luck with this application, would be wonderful to see these magical places recognised on a world stage
- I have visited the other sites in Ireland and UNESCO sites in Greece and Albania. This matches those.
- I hope it will have a successful outcome
- I hope it would not lead to too much rebuilding as I think Cashel has been spoiled by the lack of historically accurate renovations.
- I hope the royal sites when granted unesco status are not turned in to theme parks. I hope that they are treated with the respect they deserve and not modified in any way that takes away from their uniqueness.
- I hope this application helps the Rock of Csshel.
- I hope this goes ahead and is successful. It is an absolute disgrace how our Royal Sites are managed. Signage is appalling and marketing of these sites is quite poor
- I hope you manage to get the Royal Sites included in the list, but hopely keeping them in a profile which benefit local communities above great firms and huge de-personalising plans/results.
- I know that the Hill of Tara is coming under serious pressure for one off dwellings in the area which will eventually undermine the purpose of what ye are trying to protect..

- I live close to Dún Ailinne which is already close to two active quarries . Permission is been sought for a third quarry close to Dún Ailinne. UNESCO World Heritage status would go along way to protecting this Royal Site for future generations to enjoy. We need to protect the views & landscape our Royal ancestors would of used.
- I live close to one of the royal sites, Knockaulin, and hope that it can be included on the Tentative List because I believe that it would help to provide protection to this site to enable it to be handed down to our next generations of children without be damaged or degraded in any way. In particular, I would would hope that this status would protect the site from planning permissions that would have a detrimental effect on the rural landscape around the site, the site itself and on the sightlines from the top of Knockaulin to its surroundings. More specifically, Kilsaran Concrete are shortly planning to double the size of their quarry at Suncroft, and it would have a massive impact and be highly intrusive from the top of the site. They also have an appeal in with An Bord Pleanala for a quarry site at Racefield, Ballyshannon which, if granted, could be seen from Knockaulin. The rural landscape of the two greenfield sites mentioned would be transformed by industrial scale quarrying, and it would be totally intrusive to this site. I therefore hope that all the royal sites in Ireland would be included on the new Tentative List to protect them from degradation in any way for our future generations.
- I live close to the Rathcroghan Site. Recognition as a Heritage Site would have a massive impact locally, as well as finally raising awareness of the significance of the site. One challenge that was not listed in the above options will be to gain the trust of the landowners, who will no doubt block access to the sites on their land.
- I live in a community with a UNESCO site, Taos Pueblo in Taos ,NM. It attracts visitors from all over the globe. Recently they have been funded for a VC and other infrastructure. Our airport is expanding to regular flights by small jets that will bring people from far off. We are not on a main hwy so increasing access has been a challenge. The town and citizens are very proud and happy to see the visitation (except during Covid. Our first cases came from Europe to Taos to ski).
- I live near Dún Ailinne in Kilcullen and have lovely memories of visiting this as a child, would like to have the opportunity to visit it again with my children and nieces
- I live near Dún Alainne and cycle past it regularly but have no idea how to access it or if it is private property. It seems to be a forgotten monument. I would say that not many in Kildare even know of its existence and would be baffled to find a UNESCO site (hopefully) on their doorsteps. The profile of these sites needs to be raised locally through schools and by the local councils.



- I live overlooking Dun Alainne, we bought our house from the landowners on which the site is located. I cannot ever imagine public access being possible here.
- I live very close to the Dun Ailinne & had never heard of it - would be interested in hearing more
- I lived in Armagh for most of my life I have always loved the Navan Fort and would love it to have this recognition.
- "I love this idea, however I also encourage caution with how much is done to the site and/or 'restored'. There is magic in these sacred sites being left undisturbed. They are ancient. We are not looking for 'new'. They also must be protected/held sacred as priority 1."
- I personally like the Ratchrogan Site in Co.Roscommon I have lived near there Sadly it has lacked investment for years, We were never told or mentioned at School about this lovely place.
- I really hope this goes through,so important.
- I said above I am not more likely to visit/ recommend a visit to a royal site because it is on UNESCO list directly , but indirectly if being on that list enables preservation of the site to allow continued visitation/access then I am indirectly more likely to be able to visit/recommend visiting it.
- I strongly commend the six sites for taking this joint approach. I believe that their application is not only absolutely justified, UNESCO Heritage status will have an overwhelmingly positive effect on the sites' local areas.
- I strongly support the proposed application. However I fear that if approved, there would be widescale development of buildings and infrastructure which would damage the environmental and aesthetic qualities of the sites and would not be sympathetic to the spiritual and mythical aspects.
- I support the application to the UNESCO list as a good strategy to preserve, through promotion and enhanced access, our unique cultural history. Great for us, tourists, our grandchildren.
- "I support the process however I feel that of 6 sites the one in Kildale is least well known and very much inaccessible noting its marked in this survey as on private land.

This gives the impression that people are not welcome to visit it. While Uisneach is also on private land there is great access with tours available and owners that take an active part in promoting it, I am unaware of any such interest in the Kildale site even though I participate in historical recreation, live within 80km of the site and work in the tourism and hospitality industry."



- "I support the protection of all these wonderful sites however the infrastructure to protect the sites and their access would need to be in place before the visitor increases as once a site is declared a UNESCO site the number increase ten fold. Also I feel that the local community may not be aware or even briefed on what the impact to them is to have a World heritage site. These sites general have exclusion zones etc and as such planning and development could be greatly impacted to the extent that future planning would not be allowed. As most of these sites are in rural Ireland where agriculture is the main enterprise and if said farmer wanted to expand or diversify their holding, having a UNESCO site in its vicinity this could be a huge barrier to that.

I do believe the people living in the area of these sites need to be adequately informed and at the same time the sites do need to be protected to."

- I think any action taken should very much ensure protection.. and proper facilities nearby so people are not climbing on cairns or just generally disrespectful of the area as they are considered "sacred ground" to some still .
- I think anything that is as ancient and unique as the sites listed deserves positive consideration for inclusion as World Heritage. It would be valuable also in the protection of these sites, It would promote interest in and education about our past and our origins and place in Europe.
- I think for the economic growth of local tourist areas aswell as the preservation of sites this would be most beneficial
- I think having Royal Sites included is a great idea as they have such an important role to play in teaching us about our past. If managed correctly they have such huge potential for locals and visitors alike. I would certainly visit myself and encourage others to do so as I am particularly vocal on visiting areas of particular significance within Ireland amongst my family and friends as well as friends visiting Ireland from abroad.
- I think it can only be of benefit to be included as it will increase awareness and appreciation of these sites and hopefully lead to improved access
- I think it is a good idea to have these sites on UNESCO list. It is important to preserve our historical sites, but they should be done with great sensitivity. I do believe we should be particularly careful in relation to siting any interpretive centres, however, as we have not been sensitive enough in the past, in relation to centres.
- "I think it is an interesting and original proposal. There are certainly a number of challenges;  
Individually, the sites are not particularly impressive for visitors and require a lot of interpretation. That includes the more significant ones at Uisneach and Tara.

The connection between the sites are loose in the culture today and have to be expanded from the annals and mythology. There is a danger of cultural bias towards their interpretation...

The sites are all mounds but have large surrounding lands with clear connections to them. How big will the WHS border extend to ? That will have implication for planning with the locals..."

- I think it is important
- I think it would be amazing for Navan Fort to be a UNESCO world heritage site. A true international recognition of its importance.
- I think it would be great to have these historical, royal sites recognised as world heritage sites. While travelling in other countries, people visit sites similar to these from the list so why not give our sites the recognition too
- I think it would be really beneficial to have the royal sites listed as UNESCO world heritage sites due to their historical and cultural importance locally and nationally for the people of Ireland and the fact that they represent significant historical times for Ireland and their representation of medieval and Celtic sites internationally
- I think it would be very positive. I have gone to UNESCO heritage sites in other countries too and have always enjoyed them. I think it would lead to a greater awareness of archaeology in Ireland.
- I think it would be wonderful to have the Royal Sites included on the National UNESCO Tentative List, with the ambition of the sites eventually becoming UNESCO World Heritage Sites. When planning holidays to other countries, my first Google search is always for UNESCO sites in the vicinity of my proposed destination. With adequate interpretative centres to tell their stories, Ireland's Royal Sites are of a standard to match any international sites. As a nation, we undervalue the wonderful heritage sites we have in the country.
- I think it would help to increase awareness of these sites and how important they are
- I think it'll be positive for Ireland to potentially be able to protect and maintain these sites in many ways and maybe get more funding etc, and these sites are important to preserve, however there are the risks of what increased tourism brings, but I think Ireland may manage this better than some places that have allowed wonderful (and important sites) to become theme parks, and increase in damaged landscape and attempts to build horrendous infrastructure and tat nearby to appease American tourists.
- I think its a fantastic idea, our royal sites need world recognition and protection
- I think it's a great idea & very positive move for the country

- "I think it's a great idea, but, it's vital that the site must be fully protected from visitor wear.  
No development should be done at the expense of wildlife of the area. "
- I think it's a great idea.
- I think it's a great idea. I don't think Irish people really look out for our history and this would be a great boost. I think it's extremely important that we advertise and show off our rich history. Our history is unique and should be kept and looked after for the next generation.
- I think its a necessary application to apply to be part of the UNESCO World Heriatge Site. To include Cashel for us here in Tipperary is vital. Its status puts Tipperary on the world map and also ensures the historical context and story around this collective is past onto many generations to come. The security and conservation of these sites is imperative especially as environmental impacts on these sites are are an ongoing concern.
- I think people lack knowledge of the true historical value of the Royal sites. I think by including on the renewed National UNESCO list it would be a fabulous opportunity to attract and educate people.
- I think the Rock is a Hidden treasure and should be shown more
- I think the royal Sites are of huge importance to future generations, and being on the renewed National UNESCO Tentative list would help preserve them into the future.
- I think there should be a drive made for greater awareness of these Royal Sites. I've seen the Rock of Cashel but didn't know the one closest to me
- "I think these Royal sites should be included to create more worldwide awareness ,I know some of them are well known but there are possibly some that are not that well known yet and this could be improved I would hope by including them on National UNESCO Tentative list.  
after all I do believe my ancestors could of sat and been part of one of the clans at Tara {the O Ruaidri and Mac Ruaidri son of Ruaidri the red king."
  - I think these sites are extremely important historically & culturally. UNESCO recognition would encourage visitors & hopefully help people appreciate these sites & their connection with the past.
  - I think this a really positive proposal. I've travelled to other UNESCO sites around the world and understand that interpretation of the site is very important, especially archaeological ones like these.
  - I think this can only be a positive thing for the cultural preservation of these sites. Best of luck.

- I think this is a great idea. While these sites may only be known locally in some cases, it is great that they could reach a much larger audience, if they were included as world heritage sites. People travel from all over the world to Newgrange in Co. Meath as it has such recognition. Its also very important to ensure these sites are protected and available for the generations for come.
- i think this is an amazing idea, these sites are some of my favourites to visit in Ireland, particularly Uisneach which has a special place in my heart and the added support this would give to the Clarke family who has worked so tirelessly to prompt and protect the hill at Uisneach.
- I think this is an excellent initiative. These sites deserve to be listed, they are central to the fabric of our country and may become more prevalent in the coming years as the landscape changes and evolves.
- I think this is an excellent project which will focus local interest and pride, a major plus would be the global exposure which would increase visitor interest and footfall.
- I think this is important as it may help protect the sites but improved infrastructure is needed to facilitate getting to these places, as well as proper facilities (toilets etc).
- "I think this is long over due. Please protect these magnificent ares of Special interest. Ireland has a fantastic History and these monuments feature heavily in Ireland's story.  
Good luck. I hope this happens."
- I think this overall would be a positive development
- I think this would be a welcome recognition for these globally significant sites. However, careful planning for their development must be carried out to ensure no needless infrastrucutre is created which would jeopardise the stability of the site and the surrounding area.
- I visit the Hill of Tara regularly. The joy of it that you have freedom to wander and take in the beauty of the site. I would hate to think that, that would be taken from us or like Stonehenge only view from a diatance
- I was employed as a guide on the Rock of Cashel for two summers while a student. The impact of the site on visitors is phenomenal - the geographic impact, the history, the architecture and archaeology, the story.....the magic. The breath and depth of the history of the site, royal & religious, means it tells the story of a huge span of Irish history. That it is not more widely known outside of Ireland is tragic - it should be known as well as Delphi, the Acropolis, the Colosseum. If inclusion on the list helps this to happen, I wholeheartedly support inclusion.

- I wasn't aware until today I'm very happy this work is being done. It is important to Tourism and our cultural unique identity going forward.
- I will be delighted to have the Royal Sites included on Renewed National UNESCO Tentative List, as it will enhance Ireland on the World Stage, giving extra reasons for Irish people, especially locals, to visit them and also attract tourists.
- I wish the applicants every success with the application.
- I wish the initiative well.
- I worry that calling more attention to the numerous neolithic sites across Ireland will aggravate the wrath of conservative thinkers globally and potentially bring ire directed at the sites (not to mention attracting more idiot teenagers who carve graffiti into the monuments as has recently happened). If not for these concerns, I'd be all in for UNESCO status.
- I would be afraid that too many visitors would damage the sites.
- I would be delighted to see this great recognition being awarded to Ireland! It would be time to do so
- I would be happy with it
- I would be most supportive of the application as I believe we have a wealth of history on our doorstep and many are not aware of this
- I would be strongly supportive of the proposal, particularly on the basis UNESCO status would ensure proper protection and maintenance of the Royal Sites
- I would be very supportive of the bid. There is a unique story to be told by bringing together these amazing sites and preserving them for future generations.
- I would fully support this initiative, thank you.
- I would like to see more access and information at each site before attracting extra visitors by giving them UNESCO status.
- I would like to see the site gain greater international recognition and also increased awareness of the importance of these sites and the requirements to protect them. As proven at Loughcrew recently, these sites are extremely exposed to vandalism and neglect under their current status
- I would like to see them included as I think they are not known as much as they should be
- "I would love for Navan Fort and all the other Royal Sites in Ireland to receive National UNESCO recognition. Especially in the case of Navan Fort with its rich history. Very few ancient places in the entire world have history, mythology and archeology to back up the myths. Navan Fort has all three yet it receives minimal protection and since covid it has suffered from vandalism and the flora and fauna there have been poorly managed with ancient trees which formed part of the landmark growing there being felled unnecessarily.

Navan Fort was the Royal and spiritual seat of Kings of Ulster and fully deserves UNESCO protection."

- I would love the hill of Tara to be preserved and decrease traffic across the sites
- I would love to and hope to visit some if not all of these sites this summer.
- I would think there would be more protection for the sites and increased awareness to more people. But on the other hand, I don't know if this might negatively impact the sites due to more foot traffic. While my visit to Oweynagat is something I will always cherish, I don't know that the site could hold up to a greater volume of visitors.
- I would want the sites to be developed in ways that respect the local environment, including all its inhabitants, not just the humans!
- "I would worry about over crowding at these sites....there should be a limit to how many people are allowed visit. The sites have been there for thousands of years and they need to be properly protected for the future generations"
- I'd like to see more promotion of them.
- I'm planning on visiting all these royal sites now I've found this site I'll stay at least 1 nite in each place I can't wait to see them now
- "If included , further infrastructure and accessibility urgently needs to be addressed.

For example at the Hill of Tara , there are already major issues, parking , accessibility and also the gathering of some people who light fires and block up the entrance . This is awful considering it's so heavily promoted by Failte Ireland and Ireland's ancient east . People arrive to the site and are shocked and disappointed at the complete chaos and lack of facilities or care taken.

If the Royal Sites were included, people would be correct in expecting a similar "UNESCO" experience like Brú na Bóinne where it is completely evident and clear how respected the site is . Some of the sites listed in the Royal Sutes are sadly just neglected or not taken care of "

- If it would help with funding to help better protect these sites then I am all for it
- If sucessfull. All sites should be given proper facilities.
- If these special sites are included, they should be protected as well from any potential impact from tourism increasing to make sure they are here for future generations.
- I'm related to the Mac Coistealbh, now known as Costello.
- impacts on local landowners and their property rights is no where considered in your questionnaire. The effects in the locality of such a designated site could be total steralisation of any type of development without any regard to existing uses.

These sites are already protected under National legislation and do not need another layer of protection.

- Imperative the essence of the site is preserved and developed in a sustainable way with support from all stakeholders. The potential to attract people/investment to Kildare for a point of interest other than horse racing and Kildare village is immense. And that is not saying that these points of interest are not valid. But the amount of historical and geographical, architectural points of interest in Kildare that are not receiving the attention is not helping local investment; attracting visitors and their ability to spend. There appears to be a disjointed approach to promoting the merits of visiting Kildare. Developing a Royal Site would change the perception of visiting Kildare and what it has to offer....think Newgrange Visitor Centre.
- Important historical sites need to be preserved for future generations and improved access and proper funding and management is necessary to enhance development of these ancient places for visitors
- Improved access would be good, but no charge to entry and a small interpretive centre. Not one that would cause any damage. The Hill of Allen would have to be preserved and quarrying stopped and repairs to the hill carried out.
- In need of strong and sustained Government support.
- In reference to Tara. This site is not being properly cared for at present. We do not need UNESCO what we do need is for the OPW to consult with the local community and act on items like hedges, access path, the state of local roads, the need for double yellow lines to prevent indiscriminate parking, Most of all we need a year round authoritative presence at the site. Both the OPW and the County Council fail to cooperate on management of the site. It would be better under the Parks Department with a Parks Ranger on site. UNESCO will do none of this for Tara. So the proposal is a waste of time.
- Include Kells Monastic site and High Crosses
- Include links or associations for family names or clans that were common to each region.
- "Including these sites on the tentative list preserves the ancient and the present geomythoceltic physical and liminal space, place and culture for our future generations.
- Applying the old knowledge from the spirit of the sacred terrain will help us navigate the world now and through the Anthropocene."
- Inclusion in the UNESCO list will ensure that Governments enhance access so that the sites are more able to contribute to the local and national economy through enhanced tourism



- Increased awareness would be a great thing but balance is important.
- "Ireland has a history of neglecting its archaeological sites of great importance. One of the reasons I ceased my studies as an archaeologist because I saw no point in trying to work in a system where the state can dismiss up to date data in favour of outdated data to fund projects that will damage sites, like what happened at Tara.  
These royal sites need to be included on this list of UNESCO sites. "
- Ireland has fantastic historical sites and this would help recognise and more importantly protect them. Important that all government policies, frameworks, offices etc. protect same.
- "Ireland have great royal sites, all over the country ,and should be recognised al over the world,but needs funding and sites needs to be protected from.weather and people, But deserves recognition in there own rites .ireland is blessed with the mythological sites "
- Ireland is Éire and her beauty and heritage should be kept available but shouldn't need outside influences
- "Ireland is both lucky to have such remarkable ancient sites that were so significant to our culture and ancestors way of life, still visible on our landscapes! We must take great care and place great value on there preservation and having them valued amongst other world cultures sites "
- Ireland should be protecting all sites and not forgetting its history
- Ireland should promote itself on the world stage with other like minded unesco sites and counties have done
- Ireland's sites are unique. Open and develop them for people to access them. Pictures and interpretative models are no good.
- "Ireland's three existing world heritage sites are I believe fairly unique and thus qualify as being significant enough to qualify as World Heritage Sites. While I do believe that the royal sites are important as artifacts of our past, I reluctantly dont feel that they are of the same unique importance as Newgrange, Scellig Michael or the Giants causeway. I say reluctantly, because although I have a commercial interest in tourism personally (as indeed our whole country does), I also have a great interest in authentic Irish history, especially Ireland before the Normans. Most of what we know about early Irish Kingship and Royal sites comes to us from our literature, be that saga, dindshenchas, hagiography, law-tracts as well as annals and Genealogies. Early Irish Literature itself,as the earliest non-classical vernacular literature in Europe is probably worthy of joining the above three world heritage sites on its own, it is that important. In fact early Irelands contribution to western Europes cultural development is little known and should be heralded.



My fear in over-blowing the importance of these 'royal sites' is that there is a danger of diminishing their importance to Ireland's cultural heritage by making claims internationally that won't withstand scrutiny. Little remains of many of them beyond earthen mounds. This does not mean they aren't worth visiting. They all are. Each one has its own significance and charm. Cashel is probably the best preserved, from a 'something to see' point of view, and obviously is important historically and architecturally. Tara, Dun Ailinne, Rathcroghan and Emain Mhaca are earthen mounds which really require interpretation. Granted Rathcroghan and Emain Mhaca both of very good interpretive centres and Emain also has a wonderful reconstruction of an early Irish ring fort.

Uisneach similarly has merely got earthen mounds to suggest what might have been. I don't think that it even could be described as a royal residence. Yes it is a very important site as witnessed by its frequent mention in the literature. Yes it offers a commanding view of the surrounding low-lying midlands. Macalister identified the figure of eight fort as 'the palace' of Tuathal Teachtmair a supposed early Irish king of whom we are not even sure if he actually existed. Subsequent archaeology has indicated that the site had seen continuous use down to as late as the 9th/10th century. Yes, the Clann Cholmáin kings sometimes referred to themselves in the annals as Ríge Uisnig (Kings of Uisneach) but this more than likely refers to the area surveyable from the summit of Uisneach rather than a royal residence, which was more likely to have been at Cró Inis or Dún na Sciath at Lough Ennell. What remains on Uisneach from a "Palace" point of view might suggest that Irish Kings were quite primitive. Granted, the idea of 'Royal' in early Ireland should not be thought of in terms of excessive luxury or grandiose architecture. Professor F.J. Byrne maintained that at any given time in Ireland from the fifth century down to the twelfth centuries there were no less than 150 kings in the country.

I do believe that Uisneach may have been used as an inauguration site, even if only a gut-feeling. It is certainly associated with assemblies as witnessed by its frequent mention as such in the literature. It is certainly a very special place. However to consider putting it and the other 'royal sites' forward as being significant and unique enough to be World Heritage sites, is to risk ridicule and to actually belittle or lessen the value of truly outstanding world heritage sites.

By all means link them to Early Irish literature and highlight its importance to the spread of learning and the development of literature in a Medieval European context. Link them with places like Clonmacnoise and Bangor where the literature was produced or with the spread of monasticism. Annals at Iona, surviving manuscripts on the continent in old Irish, Ireland has such a culturally rich history

that we don't have to make it up. People when they come to Ireland to discover Irish culture, I believe are in pursuit of something authentic. Plastic shamrocks, leprachauns and Temple bar theme-parks are not really what they are after. Let's offer something authentic with real roots and endeavour to be honest. If it's just the quick buck we are after, our tourism industry won't survive for long."

- Ireland's unique and cultural history should be known worldwide. It would instill a pride in the younger generation in this beautiful land.
- Irish culture is international in its reach and this comes in part from a strong Celtic past to which these royal sites are an integral part.
- It can only be positive for the Country.
- "It is a good proposal and I hope it succeeds.

However, there is an issue re management of our existing world heritage site. As yet there has not been a manager of either of the existing world heritage sites on the island of Ireland. This lack must be addressed and resolved and must be applied to the royal sites if included as world heritage sites. It is absolutely vital that there is a proper management team for these sites particularly given issues for local communities who are living in the areas involved. "

- It is a great idea. Plus it will offer protection for the sites.
- It is a great initiative and I wish all well with it. The Rock of Cashel is a worthy of recognition and a great symbol of Ireland; history; spirituality; resilience and Tipperary.
- It is a place of historical interest which should be developed further in terms of tourism and school education
- It is a positive move and possibly more sites should be included
- It is crucial that all aspects of the sites are appreciated fully and equally to include the fascinating early Irish literature associated with several sites that is crucial to their perception as so-called 'royal' residences though this is at odds with the archaeological evidence. Information at these sites needs to be updated, accurate and accessible. It would be desirable to have Dun Ailinn accessible to the public and the landowner should be supported to facilitate this.
- "It is fantastic to see this great ancient ceremonial monument being given the recognition it deserves. The Council area has a lot to offer, however, the Armagh area in particular has an amazing amount to offer to global tourism. This is the jewel in the crown of tourism to this area and every effort should be made to include the Navan Fort on the map of not just Armagh and Ireland but internationally. Don't waste any more time writing strategies around local/staycations and getting this fantastic offering out to just the people of

Ireland, promote it on the world stages such as the 'Royal Sites' and the local people will hear about it anyway.

Lets plan for the future beyond Covid, etc. and put the Navan Fort on the map!"

- It is great to seem them being looked at in a collective way!
- It is imperative that site specific conservation management plans are put in place as a matter of urgency at each royal site to be included in the tentative list. Consultation with local communities in the hinterlands of the royal sites should take place in parallel to promote awareness of benefits and avoid subsequent opposition at later stages of the UNESCO application process .
- It is important that we ensure awareness of these historical and cultural places in society and that we everything we can to promote and share our culture and history but in a sustainable manner.
- It is lovely to hear that you are trying to protect and preserve these Sites, for current and future generations.
- It is our duty to protect, cherish and preserve the past - it is our gift to the future
- It is very important to know more about our ancestors, not only from personal interest, but from a psychological perspective. It is also important to know more about our mythology and to be able to walk on these sites and feel the atmosphere is also very important spiritually.
- It is vital that these unique sites be included on that list. They provide a basis for sustainable and long term development in terms of national and international visitors and tourists. It is essential that access be arranged to those sites which are not currently accessible (e.g Dun Ailinne)
- It is vitally important that these Royal Sites are preserved for future generations. Being included on the World Heritage List will bring all sites into more focus and protect against uncontrolled development in their vicinity that will ultimately detract from their importance / future relevance.
- It seems important for these sites to be recognized in the way that only a UNESCO designation can accomplish. And yet, with that recognition comes the added responsibility of protecting local communities as well. Understanding the ancient heritage of Ireland is important to the world.
- "It seems like a good idea to be on the UNESCO World Heritage List. However, a question arises about the primary focus of promotion of these sites - who are we doing it for?

Is it for our own benefit and that of our children?

Is it for the education of our bureaucrats, who seem to care little for heritage and antiquity? (Referring to the damage around Tara from roadworks and the serious destruction visited on Viking Dublin)

Will we retain a concern for the ordinary local people or cause major disruption in their lives, enforced by blind adherence to ""Standards"" set by uncaring academics?"

- It should be done
- It should have been included before now. This is a very important opportunity not to be missed.
- "It would be beneficial to the tourism industry in Ireland.  
To pinpoint the cultural and historical heritage Ireland had to offer.  
Allow further generations to enjoy and learn about the past. "
- It would be fantastic to have our Royal sites included. Wouldn't it also be wonderful to immediately have managers, or a manager, employed to care for Tara & Uisneach.
- It would be fantastic to have world heritage status
- It would be great to have a landmark recognised so close to where we live. And that it would be protected for future generations
- It would be great to recognise these sites. I know the Rock of Cashel well but have not heard of some of there other Irish sites. I would love to learn more about them and will visit them now that I am aware of them
- It would be marvellous to extend awareness of such special places to a wider population and if the application is successful greater care of the sites would be ensured which would be of such benefit to future generations.
- It would create more awareness about the importance of this site.
- It would ensure that the sites would be maintained for future generations and it would be good for tourism in the area, which will be so important in helping our economy recover post Covid
- It would have many benefits but needs to benefit local communities also not just bus tours whisked in and whisked away.
- It would help people realise the significance of the sites and help raise awareness so that damage to sites would totally out of the question.
- It would increase awareness and pride in our ancestry, and local heritage
- It's a brilliant opportunity to protect these sites for future generations
- It's a nice objective, all the ramifications need to be identified in advance for people to consider how it affects their neighbourhood and livelihoods, there's no reason why it can be a nearly universally positive undertaking and a wonderful addition to the cultural landscape of the country.
- It's about preserving the sites for future generations
- Its about time. These sites are amazing places to visit and learn

- It's an opportunity to educate people about their own culture/history and showcase it to international visitors. A UNESCO status also provides a great level of protection to the sites and helps create awareness of the importance of preserving heritage for future generations.
- "It's incredibly important, it arcs back to an Irish cultural and social structure we are still only piecing together. The scale of each of the sites is spectacular and can't be comprehended from text books or from the road. Protecting, researching and reclaiming these sites is a matter of national importance and is certainly our earliest heritage. With so much of the world claiming Irish Ancestry, these sites signify we were a structured and cultured people, these were Irish people's first ancestors.

They tell us that we as a people built things, made things, grew things, had a hierarchy and political structure, we gathered for major equal events, we had a community and a culture. The more modern and expansive suburbia becomes the further we seem to get from this original identity.

I couldn't agree more with this initiative and look forward to it's outcome."

- It's the way to go but it won't go far if the government don't get behind it properly. Heritage tourism is one of the few viable and sustainable industries this country has left. These sites need proper funding, protection and management and have the potential to benefit generations.
- It's very important for the future of Ireland and for the future generations to come. To preserve our history and show it off to the world.
- keep the climate change in mind
- Keeping the sites on the List is a must, however care is necessary to ensure "footfall" is controlled so as not to impact the fragile environments, there is also a need to strengthen infrastructure to service the sites and slightly removed Interpretive Centers could be the answer to preserving the sites while giving the visiting public the required presentations and experience.
- Leave it as it is
- Little is known internationally about the ancient royal system in Ireland - this provides a more expansive view of Ireland's heritage - and a greater understanding of the unique history of Ireland.
- Locals who grew up in area surrounding site, no longer allowed free access to a site they might have played on as kids. Ultimately catering for international tourist than the locals. If locals were allowed free access then they could repay that kindness by helping in projects.
- Lots of underdeveloped sites around the country, on farms, in small villages that are somewhat off beat and track, that don't have man power to attend to, people

dont have the marketing skills, dont have the vision, cant cooperate between different communities, should be part of networks of tours, networks of development, pooling resources.

- Love the Rock of Cashel
- Maintaining the history is vitally important
- May prove difficult to agree access to the site currently on private land.
- Missing Aileach from the list :(
- More information concerning these sites would be useful.
- more publicity vital.....more history type leaflets should be sent to all schools, primary and secondary and university..... ty students should get special packs.....asap.....better signage would be big help
- Much of Ireland's pre-Christian history and culture was lost due to British occupation and Christian conversion. What we do know is fascinating. Protecting and celebrating our ancient history should be a priority.
- My birthname is Fitzgerald. I did a 23andme. My DNA goes all the way back to when God was a child. I'm very interested in all aspects of my Irish Heritage.
- my Daughter age 6 loves the hill of Tara and the books got in the local shop there of Fionn MacCumhail's epic adventures, amazing stories, tales from Ireland tell her of all the other sites which we would love to bring her to see. My husband is from Wexford and his family have given us a family pass for the heritage site in Wexford, it would be brilliant if the Royal Sites could have the same esteem.
- "My interest would be related to The Hill of Tara and its environs. I am so unimpressed with the OPW and Co. Co. that I would lack belief in the ability of either to measure up to the requirements of UNESCO whatever they might be. This webpage does not give any indication of the requirements of UNESCO so it is difficult to answer questions about benefits and downsides of UNESCO recognition."
- "My local ""royal site"" has no public access nor is such access feasible without a costly purchase of land to create an access corridor
- In addition the earthwork based royal sites (as distinct from, say, Cashel) have little tangible impact on the general tourist and I do not see all of them becoming significant attractions. Which is not to say that they should not be valued and studied for what they are. "
- My main desire for the Royal Sites addition to the World Heritage list is their increased protection. Archaeological sites in Ireland are notorious vulnerable to damage from landowners etc. I.E. Loughnashade beside Emain Macha & the recent criminal demolition at Tailtann (Teltown).

- My Masters' thesis (at University College Dublin with Dr. Claire Cave's World Heritage Programme) was based on the Royal Sites of Ireland and the importance of including intangible heritage elements into management plans. I visited all the Royal Sites, created a detailed literature review on the sites and on management plans from other World Heritage Sites from around the world, and I also provided recommendations for the sites and their interpretation/presentation in my final thesis. My thesis was published as part of the programme in 2016 and since then I have begun my PhD in World Heritage at UCD with Dr. Cave. There could be an opportunity to collaborate, if you're interested.
- My middle name is Uisneach!
- My nearest royal site is Dun Ailing which is on private land and therefore has limited access. It is not that well known locally.
- My O'Neill family left Ireland during the famine. It would be so wonderful to have a location affiliated with our ancestors recognized as a world heritage site.
- My only concern is Tara is used by many local clubs/individuals for training/walking/running. My fear is that if this is a UNESCO sight would locals have reduced access to it or would they incur a charge accessing it. This would be a shame as it's a great amenity for locals.
- My recent participation in Westmeath CoCo heritage programme has given me a greater understanding of the importance of Royal Sites in Ireland.
- Navan Fort is a jewel in Ireland's crown
- Need extra hotels to support the visitor numbers
- Need for better local infrastructure and access- generally + signage
- On the whole, I would have confidence in the OPW (and NI equivalent) to look after the sites, if given that responsibility, as they are largely in charge of half of the sites already, ie Tara, Navan, Cashel, and their care for Brugh na Boinne.
- One of the main issues with all of the sites is access and availability at facilities for parking, there are infrastructural deficits at all locations where the sites actually are.
- One of the sites is private interpretive centres should be in nearest villages with eco shuttles to the site.
- "Only 3 are really well known.Cashel,Tara and Navan. The others are sadly need8ng huge attention to make them seem as relevant and 8mportant as they once were.  
Then,a comprehensive trail could be developed to 8ncluded all the sites ,today they are not seen as being particularly relevant to each other or tha5 era."
- Only lived in Ireland for less than a year, but a badge such as Unesco site is something I look for when planning trips



- opportunity to enhance facilities and interpretation, make areas more accessible to a wider audience
- Our heritage and historical sites must be promoted and protected. Our young people know less and less about the places where they live and having places like Uisneach promoted in this way can only be a good thing for the locality in which they sit.
- Our Heritage was an oral tradition Story telling was so important so to relate to those tales these sights are of International importance
- "Our Royal Sites are of great cultural significance. By having them included on the Renewed National UNESCO Tentative List, I feel it will bring them to the attention of more people in Ireland and internationally."
- Our Royal Sites are uniquely part of our pre-Christian Celtic past and represent our ancient culture. They are an educational tool for present & future generations to come. They are linked to our mystical stories and legendary champions. They are known and appreciated throughout the world. They are our link to our ancient past.
- Our sites need to be saved for future generations. We have to protect our history
- Outside Ireland, and outside the small field of specialists, Ireland's cultural heritage is still little known.
- Over lockdown we as a family have visited many local historical sites in our 5km & 20km, some we didn't know of, and many were dirty and unkept, bins overflowing, broken beer bottles, dog poo etc. We have beautiful sites and they should be looked after.
- Overall positive towards this. But concerned about too many visitors, and over-interpretation of the site to the detriment of its essential nature.
- People all over the world are bewildered by dark happenings not of their making. They are turning to the old order to seek new ways to build up confidence again. World leaders are pushing all of us more and more into war rather than peace. Where can we find that peace? In the places where our ancestors did. The heritage sites.
- Please consider easier public access process for Dún Ailline. We live very close and haven't visited it. One time we tried we were told bulls were being kept there.
- Preservation of our historical identity and culture as an island is imperative, not just for the immediate future but for generations to come.
- Promotion of all sites together would be fantastic and great incentive for local & foreign visitors to visit all sites
- Promotion of an awareness of our past life style and experience informs our present and future perspective.



- Protection and support of these sites is vital. They are important historically, archaeologically, and culturally to the people of Ireland and the world. We can't lose them!
- Public access to sites should be a priority. Such important sites should not be privately owned but under the protection of the state, as is the case with Dun Ailinne.
- Quality visitor centres are key to promoting these sites. Most consist of little more than mounds of grass and you need to use your imagination to get a better picture. Scale models/video/digital exploration are all needed so people understand what each site actually looked like. Tourists would better appreciate these if they knew what they were looking at.
- Really very interested
- Recognition of our ancient heritage is a positive thing, especially in light of the fact that Irish heritage and culture is recognised all over the world.
- Regardless of whether UNESCO Status is achieved I believe the sites need further investment to protect them for future generations. They can be a huge draw for domestic and international tourism but locals must be engaged with and impact of visitors has to be considered. Responsible and regenerative tourism projects working closely with heritage and local community groups.
- Royal sites are known by local communities and those with knowledge of archaeology and history but little beyond that
- Royal sites are wonderful to see, to visit, and have a guided tour to get information about the sites. The sites I have visited have enhanced my life and have given me pleasure and a spiritual uplift.
- "Sadly I think they are badly maintained as is .the Rock of Cashel is an iconic site readily identified from photos.  
But a visit to the site is such a let down .  
It should have been reroofed yezrs ago and turned into a museum for all the artifacts locked up in Dublin.  
The High Cross damaged in a storm in the seventies was being used as a stepping stones for those looking out over the town of Cashel last time I visited a few years ago ."
- Sites that have been identified but are not open to the public should also be included.
- So important for the Irish culture to be promoted and preserved for the future generation.
- Sounds like a good thing
- Sounds like a great idea!

- Sterilizing the area of UNESCO designated sites has a negative affect on local communities.
- Strongly support
- "Strongly support - but although understand focus on these sites would hope other sites (eg Tullyhoge, Crewe Hill etc) wouldn't be ignored completely - perhaps scope for complementary network, as satellites of 'main' sites"
- Strongly support it for recognition and recording for future generations
- Strongly support the proposal. The links to intangible heritage should also be included especially the Ancient Irish literature associated with the sites - Ulster Cycle in Armagh.
- Submit application as soon as possible to make the world aware of these sites
- Tara and Cashel are the sites I am most familiar with. I've never been to Uisneach or Emain Macha but have heard of them / know them fairly well from social media / history. The others though I never heard before. Some form of interpretative centre would be needed at each if the plans succeed. Cashel is a good example of something well done, while Tara is the opposite extreme. It seems to be quite popular and there is a building on site but I've never seen it open.
- Tara and the other Royal sites of Ireland represent a tangible link to our ancient heritage. They need to be protected, and maintained for future generations of Irish, as well as those travelling from abroad, so we may teach the future generations about our past. From the myths and legends of the Royal Mansion of Tara, to the historical elements ranging from its beginnings in the Neolithic Period, to the coming of St. Patrick to Tara, to Daniel O'Connell address to the people of Ireland. We have a duty and responsibility to ensure the royal site of Tara, and all Royal sites in Ireland are preserved and maintained. A listing on the World Heritage Sites list would assist in that endeavour.
- Tara in particular has been damaged due to the volumes of families, people using it as a sports training ground, running track, dog walking etc (the list goes on) and generally using it as an open public recreational park. It's a disgrace. It should have been put on the World Heritage Site list many many years ago. It would really help to preserve this very important site (as well as others) before they get walked into oblivion with the coming decades and generations. We have a vast culture of antiquities and sacred sites in this country and overall, we have little real respect of thirst for it. It's a wonder they haven't been sold out for building developments!!
- Tara is just breath taking. A very deep, spiritual place.
- Thanks for information, no knowledge previously, not born in Ireland
- The case needs to be made for their international significance. All places have ancient capitals/royal sites etc - why is this set in Ireland of international

significance? A lot of the things I have read seem very firmly focused on the Irish significance, not even the European significance much less the international importance of these sites. I think this needs a lot more attention if the WHS status application is to be successful. There are also management issues - I would not like to see similar local issues to those seen at Newgrange. It would be good to hear how these sites will be managed if WHS status were granted. I would also hate to see infrastructural development of the sort seen elsewhere - one of the most appealing and important aspects of these sites is their relative lack of interference, despite all being important sites for visitors.

- The challenge is to both promote and protect the site. With increased status there may be more respect and better understanding and interest locally and nationally.
- The commitment made by the nation to protect UNESCO sites is invaluable. With ever increasing population and urban spread the pressure on land and these sites is putting them at risk. The cultural significance of these sites are both nationally and internationally important.
- The importance of Ireland's ancient past has been widely overlooked partly due to its recent turbulent history. Ireland was one of the great civilisations of the world along with the Egyptians and Greeks. These ancient sites must be given the recognition that they deserve and preserved for future generations.
- The importance of the natural world, and the preservation of old ways of interacting with our shared environment need to be highlighted for the future generations of both Irish people and overseas visitors.
- The island of Ireland has a unique culture and heritage dating long before pre-Christian times and our Gaelic language is one of the oldest languages in Europe.
- The Kildarr Heritage Service is brilliant
- The link to tourism in light of the impact of covid should be considered. These sites are all incredible and yet a huge amount of local people do not really understand their importance, identifying them as local culture, as a link to the island of Ireland as well as the rest of the world should continue.
- The midlands do need due recognition for the rich archaeological heritage which has gone almost unnoticed. Our landscape is constantly under threat from more intensive farm practices and the loss of important heritage sites is becoming more and more alarming.
- The only fear I have is when you give unesco recognition to too many sites you cheapen unesco recognition.
- The potential for protection of these sites and at the same time the possibilities from an economic and tourism perspective are enormous.

- The Private nature of the lands of Dún Ailinne would need to be fully resolved before application is made.
- The protection of the Irish heritage is vitally important from a cultural and historical view and this protection would be greatly beneficial if on the UNESCO LIST .Protection of all historical sites is vital to benefit future generations.
- The Rock of Cashel is a landmark structure that is recognised all over the world. It is a symbol of Ireland's history and heritage that deserves inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- The rock of Cashel is a truly amazing site historical and an amazing feature
- The rock of Cashel is an iconic site and would well suit its inclusion. It has rich architectural history.
- The rocks of Cashel being so imposing and emblematic should definitely be included.
- The Royal Sites are interesting in terms of their context - not in and of themselves. Interpretation at the sites should include contextualisation with associated lower status sites. Fit them into their contemporary landscape - use the elites to talk about all.
- The Royal site of Uisneach is a special place.when you walk up the hill the peace that descends upon you is not explainable. I watched the Bealtaine fire from my phone but I was astonished to see my children from all over ireland and the UK also watch it. You have to walk uisneach to get its magical and peaceful feel
- The Royal Sites are a huge part of the historical & cultural history of Ireland & worthy of the international recognition that being a UNESCO site brings.
- The Royal Sites are a most precious heritage for generations to come. If not given the protection and recognition they deserve, much of them will be lost forever. As UNESCO heritage sites they would receive better protection which these sites need more than anything. Also the research conducted would be better financed which will contribute to these sites revealing parts of history that for the time being are completely unknown. They are priceless in importance as much as they are in beauty. If there's one patch on this entire earth that should be made a priority for UNESCO protection, the Royal Sites of Ireland are at the top of the list.
- The Royal Sites are of international interest and importance. The landscape heritage of Ireland is being / has been pillaged over the past few decades by both state and non state actors. A very much needed outcome from this application must be ensuring that local and central government take responsibility for protecting and safeguarding our landscape treasures. I was a young engineer in Roscommon in 1982 tasked with some surveying work in the Tulsa area . At the time nobody talked to me or seemed to know about Rathcroghan. Thanks to the

subsequent work of the community organisation, much needed research has been undertaken.

- The royal sites are unique to Ireland
- The Royal sites in Ireland are hugely important to the history and culture of the country. They should be protected and recognised as such. They are likely connected in ways we are only starting to discover. They connect the whole island.
- The Royal Sites of Ireland alone could tell the story of Ireland's ancient and medieval past. They are places where history, archaeology, mythology, culture and folklore come together to tell the story of Ireland. They have stood the tests of time for thousands of years and are an important part of the culture and heritage of Ireland. The stories from these places would not look out of place in a Hollywood blockbuster like the Lord of the Rings or an epic TV miniseries like Game of Thrones. Irish visitors can take enormous pride from our royal sites and international visitors will want to come back for more after visiting them.
- The Royal Sites of Ireland are an invaluable part of our cultural heritage, but they are at risk by not having UNESCO recognition. Farming and housing developments are threatening them and the existing infrastructure on some (such as the Hill of Tara) are not fit for purpose, or do not exist at all. Local authorities (in particular Planning and Transport Departments) need to be aware and properly appreciate these heritage sites. The National Monuments Service and OPW likewise need to properly manage these sites, often left to deteriorate whilst lengthy reports and plans are made, published and forgotten. Tourism can be a boon to these areas, but only if it is sustainable and managed; simply increasing visitor numbers (the most common metric of tourism 'success') is not the answer. Well-funded bodies such as Failte Ireland need to build sustainable tourism for Ireland. Most of these sites, in particular Tara and Cashel, are used extensively to sell Ireland as a heritage-capital of Europe, but if these sites are not properly managed they will suffer irreversible damage.
- "The royal site of Dún Áilinne is virtually unrecognised in Kildare except by some enthusiasts and archeologists. Recent works indicate a site of greater antiquity and history than previously thought. Not to recognise its place in our pre-history in an appropriate way is to be negligent of that important past."
- The sites have a great cultural significance. Their inclusion may spark the mind , into understanding the importance of the fables in educating people of today that the fables were a way of imparting an ethos and an ethic of the essence of the people.
- The sites mentioned and surrounding land needs protection

- The sites proposed cannot be defined or described or promoted as "royal". The sites do not present a sufficient or substantial presence to sustain interest or benefit from actual human traffic on and around them.
- The sites should be recognised for what there are and not exploited
- "The sites taken as a whole are even greater than the individual locations which would still be invaluable. Worth interpreting together as part of the fundamental fabric of Ireland.

Strongly recommend considering the dark sky character of these sites. In ancient times, that must have been an integral aspect of each site. "

- The sites would be better served by preparing management plans for those sites which do not already have one.
- The sites would have increased status and this would hopefully ensure they would be looked after in perpetuity. They are important in our history and would be of considerable value in education. Newgrange is very well maintained, it's a wonderful educational resource- and attracts visitors too. These visitors are interested in history and value such sites - here and in Europe. Having sites with such a designation would surely help maintain our heritage.
- The support of the local community is essential to the inclusion of the royal sites to the World Heritage List. The benefits both locally and nationally will far outweigh the disadvantages and has the potential to sustain a long-term economic boon to rural areas outside the capital. It is important to communicate the benefits and promote inclusiveness in the ownership and development of plans towards World Heritage status. It will also promote a pride in our unique heritage and provide a greater awareness of its value and importance.
- The wider context of each site would need to be understood and presented otherwise they really won't make sense. We have no manager for the WHS sites we have and incoherent management of same. How will additional multi locational sites be managed properly if we can't do it for what we have already. Local impacts, fears and expectations will need very careful consideration. This is still an ongoing problem with Bru na Bóinne.
- There are so many ancient sites of importance round Ireland that sit on people's private property and cannot be visited. At least let us elevate the ones of most significance and perhaps increase the respect shown to such monuments to our ancestor's endeavours.
- There are so many wonderful historic sites in Ireland which go unrecognized. Historically they could be invaluable.

- There as yet has not been a manager or co-ordinator appointed for either of our existing world heritage sites, (Brú na Bóinne and Skellig Michael). This is something that needs to be addressed
- There is a need for info and signage, and maybe loads of recruitment and training of volunteers, etc etc etc
- There is absolutely no question that these Royal sites and even other important historical locations should be given international recognition.
- "There is another site in Tipperary called Mullach Inneona which was the site used to crown the king of the Deise, not sure if it has ever been investigated.  
<https://www.google.com/maps/@52.3928117,-7.7904025,616m/data=!3m1!1e3>"
- There is growing interest internationally in Celtic/Irish Mythology. This is a great opportunity to use that increased interest to promote visitors. This will in turn lead to funding to preserve, archaeological investigation and interpretation of these wonderful sites. Plus it is our duty to preserve them for future generations.
- There is much information that can be gleaned from carefully studying and preserving these sites. Inclusion on this list could help to spread awareness about the history, culture, and significance of the sites with the wider world and bring in further revenue for Ireland's tourism trade if handled carefully to preserve the site but open more access to the public and to researchers.
- There shouldn't be any question about it. Those Royal sites are an important part of our past
- There would have to be a condition that it wouldn't be destroyed by building visitor centres all around them.
- These are hugely important sites and should be recognised and protected for future generations.
- These are our heritage. We are the sum of all that has gone before us and just a part of the equation of that is to come and we have a responsibility to maintain these sites and foster a great pride in where we have come from and these sites are equivalent to the pyramids and Vatican and Mayan temples.
- These are very special cultural sites and are important to keeping alive an ancient culture
- These older sites seem overlooked for historic locations of the Georgian and Victorian periods and deserve revival and recollection. Their genuine existence combines magically with Irish mythology.
- These royal sites are the most important places of history on the island . To stand or walk around the site is a privilege. A poem that was written by Tommy Murray sums up the atmosphere. "ONCE ON TARA'S PLAIN"



- These sites are fantastic because they are not overdeveloped. Over development -interpretive centres, paid car parks, lots of people, take away the joy and feeling of what it was like in the past. When large infrastructural development is involved you become just another paying tourist. Great for local employment etc but the place becomes just another tourist stop. Locals will soon tire of big buses. Once a big fancy interpretive centre is built I would probably never go again. That said, the little private centre in Tusk is fantastic. It is just at the right scale, employs local people and does not encroach on any site. The key element here is scale. The royal sites deserve recognition, but not to the detriment of overdevelopment.
- These sites are of huge importance and need to be preserved in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way for future generations.
- These sites are part of our culture and history and should be protected.
- These sites are priceless and not in monetary terms. They are irreplaceable and therefore, it is vitally important that not only do we preserve them for future generations, we must engage with them (the young) so that they understand and appreciate their archaeological, historical and cultural significance. Identifying with a particular culture is part of who we are and gives us a sense of belonging, otherwise we belong nowhere.
- These sites are vital resources for all generations now and in the future and deserve protection and support.
- These sites need more protection for example Emain Macha, Navan fort which has an eyesore of a quarry beside it. Which at one time threatened to destroy it completely.
- These sites need more recognition for what they are. Local people are very proud of our historic sites and lands around them should be kept as they are for viewing, archaeologically and historically.
- These sites provide a rich historical and archaeological resource for the world and particularly Ireland, of its cultural, political and societal origins. A relatively untapped resource that would benefit the rich and varied history of the island and its many different peoples and communities with greater understanding and recognition.
- These sorts of places need as much protection as possible. Our government, has historically demonstrated a tendency to appease big investors with zero interest in preservation, to the point where important archaeological finds have either been damaged or completely eradicated.
- They are vital to our collective psyche as a people especially since we have lost so much culturally through the centuries



- They are hugely important to future generations and deserve to be on the world map
- They are vital to the history and the future of Ireland. By studying the Royal sites we learn how the society was structured and inform future generations in the need for a strong community and respect for the living history of the Irish people
- They would need a manager(s) or co-ordinator(s) to be appointed
- They've been on the tentative list for the past 10 years, perhaps it's time for a bit more action now. Good to see that some publicity is being given to this. We're great at SPOTS (Strategic Plans on Top Shelves), but some push on this agenda is required.
- Think good idea but needs to be promoted nationally too
- Think it would be VERY important to be included on the UNESCO Tentative List!!
- Think that sites like Tara need to be better excavated and developed for visitors, before they can be included on UNESCO
- This application seems to be the logical choice to enable the progression of the concept.
- This is a brilliant proposal, and long overdue. We have incredible history in this spaces - and when compared to how ancient royal sites are treated around the world, it seems crazy that we haven't yet protected our own.
- "This is a fantastic idea and much luck with the project. It has great cultural and historical significance for the whole island of Ireland and will be great for North/South collaboration and tourism."
- This is a great idea.
- This is a very worthwhile survey and I hope the project goes ahead
- This is an absolutely essential initiative, which if duly evaluated on the basis of evidence/public opinion, should undoubtedly be successful in achieving its aims!
- "This is of strategic importance. However Local Authorities, OPW et al have a poor record of identification, protection and information sharing of many smaller sites. *(name redacted)*, President of the Fogra Society"
- This is our cultural heritage and should be acknowledged and protected. Emphasis has always been on our Christian heritage and colonization and its effects but what happened before should be remembered and celebrated too.
- This is wonderful proposition. It is proper that our mythology and real lived history is revealed to each successive generation so that each generation can contribute to this long uninterrupted lineage of life as live in this country for millennia.
- This is your opportunity to get a media student to make a documentary on them
- This should be advertised nation wide so that the public can get behind it
- This site MUST feature on the "Ireland's Ancient East" MUST visit list.

- "This website and all the Royal Sites should be at least bilingual Irish/English. I already submitted my survey but forgot to mention this.Thanks!"
- This would be a great asset to recognising the cultural history of Ireland. I know it would help my children realise the history of our wider region
- This would be amazing to have Ireland's royal ancestors detailed and presented as their homes are preserved
- This would be great for Cashel
- To get to know the past helps us in the future.
- to show our history and culture
- Toilet access is essential. Parking facilities with an element of security are needed or a park and ride like Newgrange would be preferable.
- Tour guides would provides a much more enriching and effectiv experience for local and international visitors so that that would truly come away with a thorough understanding of what it actually is that that have come into contact with.
- tourism
- Uisneach county westmeath
- Uisneach is magical ,heard of it locally ,literally no one I know has heard of it such a shame
- Unfortunately I have seen over the years that the presence of such sites on lists encouraged the presence of those who just wished to see the site as a tick box. Not as something to be explored and understood. This further exerbated by those who wished to financially exploit the asset while giving little in return. Eg the gross contamination of doolin groundwater by sewage by b&b owners, the damage to cliff walks, the destruction of calm along the wicklow way. Covid thankfully last summer and winter brought a quite dignity to these places and a chance to safely sit and wonder at the old cairns, forts and walkways.
- Unless the most modern infrastructure is put in place to keep the essence of the sites intact, them becoming UNESCO sites would, in fact, be undesirable. Every measure has to be designed with a view to allowing the people of Ireland and other genuinely interested parties to treasure the sites, not to just allow them to become another box to tick on Instagram selfie tours of Ireland with hundreds of thousands of people trampling over them just because Lonely Planet said they should. I have seen that type of tourism at other places in Ireland and around the world and it's completely unsustainable. Intrusive visitor infrastructure ought to be kept to a minimum with visitor centres located some distance from the site. Emain Macha already does a particularly good job with this. The Newgrange/Knowth visitor centre is also a good example with the idea of bussing

people to the site from a nearby location possibly being a solution to retaining the spirit of what makes Rathcroghan such a great site to visit.

- Very desirable initiative = international recognition very important - bolsters historical knowledge
- Very good idea, will increase international recognition and boost local pride.
- Very Important that this is done.
- Very important to have these sites on the Renewed National UNESCO Tentative List. This is our heritage and important that they are maintained for future generations to enjoy.
- Very important to keep the sites upgraded
- Very supportive of royal sites in Ireland being included on the UNESCO Heritage list to promote awareness. tourism and preservation of sites. Hope sites are on the school educational curriculum.
- Virtual tours and virtual interpretive talks and discussions should be an important part of public "access" to the sites.
- Visitors come to Ireland for the rich history, and a recognitions of world heritage will certainly increase the influx of visitors from foreign and national tourism
- We are a land of treasures, not just the Royal sites, so much rich heritage in danger if we do not provide funding for protection, to have our sites given this status will I feel give us pride in all the smaller gems all around our beautiful country.
- We as Irish people are very aware and proud of our past,we need our Royal Sites to be preserved and protected for future generations
- We have a rich cultural history going back centuries and more and more emphasis should be made to such sites
- We have an absolute wealth of sites of interest that have yet to be excavated properly.
- We have been visiting people in Roscommon, for the last 30 years. This survey is the first time I've heard of a site in Roscommon. More advertising need
- "We have rich history of historical sites in Ireland and a lot of them have gone on notice, they have been demolished, torn down just to build houses and industrial estates. it's about time we stop our historical sites from disappearing for ever. "
- We have to protect our ancient sites, it's who we are and we're we've come from
- We must protect and preserve these sites not exploit and not over run them or have too many feet clambering about . Make videos, do virtual tours but keep people away from them . Buy them or nationalise them from private ownership. They are treasures of the nation no less valuable because they are in a field some where Never allow film crews on as Ireland did over Skelligs . Limit access as China

has done and now Machu Pechu has to be restricted . These sites are too precious to be commercialised and sold. They can never be replaced.

- We need to get UNESCO to recognise our historical sites
- We need to promote these more nationally and highlight importance to Ireland. We have a wealth of cultural and archaeological history that we should be proud of - I hadn't heard of site in Roscommon but have visited Rock of Cashel and obviously Tara is always mentioned.
- We need to protect our heritage and preserve it for future generations
- We need to protect our heritage, but also bring some of these amazing features back into use, restoration using Tax incentives or crowd funding possibilities
- We owe it to those gone before us to protect all these wonderful buildings . Just think of the hard labour involved in their construction
- We should be proud of our heritage and anything that teaches us about our ancestors should be preserved and celebrated.
- Well done to the great effort to date and continued success with your great work to educate us all to our heritage past that was virtually unknown to most of us
- Well worth proceeding with this
- Well, I am writing two books set on and around the Rock of Cashel, so I would be delighted to see greater awareness of the significance of the Rock in particular! The books will also reference Tara (and you are now giving me a notion I might include the other sites). I also have a rake of ancestors buried on the Rock (in the Walsh family grave, just outside the corner of Cormac's Chapel). I buried my grandmother there a few years back, and my parents, Dick and Betty Gough, have the last two official burial slots on the Rock (the Office of Public Works won't allow any more after they are planted). So my connection to the place goes deep; or as deep as four feet of topsoil will allow. If can be of any use, give me a shout.
- Went to Cashel and Tara in May '19. Waved at Tara as there was NO PARKING. Loved Cashel. UNESCO recognition could be a double edged sword. If you don't do it right you'll end up looking inept at best. Don't violate the KISS rule. (Keep It Simple Stupid). Start small and learn as you move on to the next and improve. So much changes so quickly it's easy to get behind the curve. Just don't mess it up! Good luck!
- When a site is on the UNESCO World Heritage List I can mention this to my friends from abroad and they're impressed and more likely to visit that site. They also want to know more about the history, mythology and culture associated with the site.
- When we learn more of our history our understanding grows. Preserving the past enhances our enjoyment of the present.

- While being on the UNESCO world heritage list demonstrates the importance of a site or group of sites I think that the huge upturn in footfall that comes with it is not desirable. Our two (three if you include the Giant's Causeway) sites are extremely busy and have to restrict access to maintain any kind of control over e.g. erosion etc. This then results in a commodification of tourism - e.g. people being shunted through a visitor centre and not actually having much of a chance to spend a decent amount of time at the monument. It also means that people have to pay quite substantial sums to visit our national heritage. I would prefer if the sites continued essentially as they are, but with good investment to protect them and to provide unobtrusive interpretation for visitors.
- While I now live in England I grew up close to the Royal Site of Emain Macha (though I have to say I would query the use of 'Royal' in this regard) and have always been proud of its association with the Ulster Cycle, the tales of Cuchulainn and Conor MacNeasa and Deirdre of the Sorrows. It's such an important site, historically and culturally, and I fully support the campaign to have it - and the other 'Royal' sites in Ireland under consideration - named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- While site like the Hill of Tara should become recognised on the UNESCO, I would however be be cautious that these sites would be like the Newgrange site where there is no allowances given to local people and they are charged to see their own heritage sites.
- While the proposal is good, given the spread out location of each site I believe the title would be diluted.
- Why the filtering questions on page one
- Why would they not be on it?
- Will help to bring greater awareness of these sites to the general public and a renewed sense of pride in our heritage.
- With an increase worldwide on goddess and earth spirituality I am super worried about visitors to sites that are not protected. So many pagans and diaspora of Ireland in USA are looking to heritage /visiting sites for sense of belonging and spiritual tourism. I hope unesco will be able to protect these sites for future generations
- World heritage sites throughout the world tend to be under state ownership or care and publicly accessible. They form part of the narrative of the history, and/or mythology, and cultural heritage of the respective countries and are generally are well known, accessible, and cherished by citizens. Dún Ailline is little known to even people who live within a few kilometers of the site. In Ireland, it seems, our heritage is only valued when tourist revenue can be generated for local small and

medium businesses, for example, gift shops, restaurants, hotels and B&Bs (that are usually sited inappropriately and detract from the historic site in question), and the jobs such businesses can generate. Given the unique extent of historical and archaeological sites in Ireland, it is a poor reflection on our heritage protection, promotion, and the value placed on heritage by local and national governments, that we have so few World Heritage Sites compared with our close neighbours such as France or Britain. It is a clear indication that in Ireland heritage tends not to be valued by local or central authorities for its intrinsic value. As a result, proper contextual protection is rarely considered when planning permission is sought for commercial or residential developments, roads, and quarries in the landscape curtilage and landscape context of these, and most, historic and archaeological monuments in Ireland. The fact that Dún Ailinne is “private property” and not owned by the state nor accessible to the public speaks volumes about the true priorities and value the state puts on our heritage and in particular our pre-Norman early medieval heritage; most Irish people know little to nothing about our rich early medieval history or heritage beyond High Crosses and Round Towers and Vikings. If World Heritage status of the Royal Sites was to be taken seriously by the local and national authorities, they would need to change the decades long disregard shown to the protection of these sites in their landscape settings. A change in attitude is needed that places these heritage sites' cultural value over and above the unsustainable practice of granting planning permission to private one-off housing in the countryside, as well as the extremely damaging quarrying present adjacent to Dún Ailinne and Emain Macha. The inaccessibility and private ownership status of Dún Ailinne also makes a farce of this proposal in my opinion. Can you name any World Heritage Site that is privately owned and inaccessible to the general public; and comes with warning to that effect?

- Worthy of pursuing.
- Would be of huge benefit to the town of Cashel and the surrounding locality
- Would be wonderful for Ireland and especially the Midlands to have Uisneach on the List of UNESCO sites. There is so much history attached to it making it a very important site.
- Would be wonderful to have this recognition!
- Would consider another word instead of royal
- Would need to be careful not to damage the sites or make them less accessible by obliging people to go around a museum before looking at the sites.
- Yes I would recommend visitors go to any local historic sites, but if UNESCO allows sites greater protection, with respect, good public access, run well and sufficient

funding, than it is easier to recommend to visitors and have enjoyable experience whilst not endangering local sites or ecology.

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