



**Green Infrastructure: Connecting Nature, People and Places**  
**4th & 5th November 2008**  
**Grand Hotel, Malahide, Co. Dublin**

**Conference Speakers**

**Colin Byrne** holds a Bachelor of Science and PhD in the area of aquatic ecology from University College Dublin and also holds qualifications in project management and environmental management systems. Colin has worked with fisheries boards and local authorities in the areas of aquatic monitoring, habitat enhancement and river basin management. He is currently an inspector with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government involved in implementing the Water Framework Directive in Ireland.

**Gerry Clabby** is the Heritage Officer with Fingal County Council. As a member of the Strategic Planning Unit in Fingal he contributes to the development of statutory land-use plans including the Fingal Development Plan 2005-2011, local area plans and the environmental assessments required for these plans. He also provides advice to Departments across the Council in relation to heritage issues and works closely with local heritage groups and organisations through the Fingal Heritage Network. He led the development of the first County Heritage Plan in 2005, which sets out key actions to be undertaken to protect and manage Fingal's heritage, and is now responsible for leading its implementation. Gerry is an ecologist and taught botany and environmental science from 1994-2000 at University College Dublin. This followed a period in the USA where he worked as an environmental consultant. Prior to working in Fingal he was Heritage Officer for Westmeath and Longford County Councils.

**Michael Edwards.** As the President and CEO of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, Michael Edwards administers the Business Improvement District Downtown, advocating for the business and property owners and marketing Downtown as the region's business and cultural center and the premier location to live, work, shop, dine, play and visit. In addition, the Partnership administers a range of Downtown programs in the areas of transportation, housing and economic development. Currently there is over \$3 billion in new private and public investment underway in Downtown Pittsburgh. Prior to joining the PDP, Mr. Edwards was the President of the Downtown Spokane Partnership in Spokane WA, Principal of The Saratoga Associates in Buffalo, NY and Executive Director of the Buffalo Place, Inc. in Buffalo, NY. Edwards, originally from Buffalo, NY, earned his B.A. from Canisius College in Buffalo and a Masters degree in Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

**Donna Erickson** is a land-use and landscape planning consultant in Missoula, Montana (USA) with particular expertise in open-space planning and the conservation of working lands. She is the author of *MetroGreen: Connecting Open Space in North American Cities*, published by Island Press in 2006. Erickson was a professor at the University of Michigan for 17 years. Her work in the UM School of Natural Resources and Environment included teaching and research on open-space and landscape-scale conservation planning. She was a Fulbright Scholar in 2003-04. She regularly collaborated with biological, physical, and social scientists in strategic planning for conservation lands. She was on the Landscape Architecture Program faculty and a participant in the School's nationally-regarded Ecosystem Management Initiative. Erickson holds landscape

architecture degrees from Wageningen University in The Netherlands and Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. Her research has been published in *Landscape and Urban Planning*, *Land Use Policy*, *Landscape Architecture*, *Landscape Ecology*, and *Environmental Management*, among other publications. Find more about current and recent projects and publications at [www.westernopenlands.com](http://www.westernopenlands.com).

**Richard T. T. Forman** is the PAES Professor of Landscape Ecology at Harvard University, where he teaches ecological courses in the Graduate School of Design and in Harvard College. His research and writing include landscape ecology, road ecology, changing land mosaics, land-use planning and nature conservation, urban region ecology, and, more broadly, spatially meshing nature and people on the land. He received a B.S. from Haverford College, Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Miami University, and honorary Doctor of Science from Florida International University. He formerly taught at Rutgers University and the University of Wisconsin, and received the Lindback Award for Excellence in Teaching. He served as president or vice-president of three professional societies, and has received awards and honours in France, Colombia, England, Italy, China, Czech Republic, Australia, and the USA. Professor Forman has authored numerous articles, and his books include *Landscape Ecology* (1986), the award-winning *Land Mosaics* (1995), *Landscape Ecology Principles in Landscape Architecture and Land-use Planning* (1996), *Road Ecology* (2003), *Mosaico territorial para la region metropolitana de Barcelona (Land Mosaic for the Greater Barcelona Region)* (2004), and *Urban Regions: Ecology and Planning Beyond the City* (Cambridge University Press, 2008).

**Andy Gale** is a Senior Specialist within Natural England's Planning, Transport and Local Government Policy Team. He is currently charged with taking forward the organisation's policies on green infrastructure and with coordinating Natural England's input to the UK government's housing agenda for England. He has previously worked for the Countryside Agency and its predecessor the Countryside Commission, working in areas as diverse as rural traffic management, developing new legislative arrangements for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the promotion of Village Design Statements, and approaches to improving and realising the environmental potential of the urban fringe.

**Elaine Gibb** is Enabling and Learning Coordinator at Greenspace Scotland. She is responsible for developing, promoting and sharing practice on all aspects of greenspace activity and developing and managing Greenspace Scotland's network membership. Elaine also plays a key role in developing and supporting strategic greenspace partnerships across Scotland and influencing and informing policy development within Government, local authorities and agencies. Prior to joining Greenspace Scotland she has worked in a variety of roles across the environmental and public sectors including; supporting urban communities with the Groundwork Trust, establishing the first Black Environment Network development project in Scotland, and working on strategy and community engagement in relation to Housing and Regeneration within a local government context.

**John Gormley** was educated in St. Munchin's College Limerick, Univeristy College Dublin and Freiburg University, Germany. He contested his first general election in 1989. In 1991 he was elected to Dublin City Council and was Lord Mayor of Dublin from 1994 - 1995. In June 1997 he was elected to the Dáil. In June 2007 he was appointed as Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. He is the author of the Green Guide for Ireland, Wolfhound Press 1990. He has held many positions in The Green Party including Campaign Director for the successful anti-smog campaign in the 1980's. In 2002 he was elected as the party's first Cathaoirleach and was elected Party Leader in July 2007. He had the distinction of being the first elected representative in Ireland to have an email address. John is married to Penny Stuart. They have a daughter and a son and live in Ringsend in Dublin.

**Kevin Halpenny** is the Senior Parks Superintendent with Fingal County Council. The Council's Parks Service is responsible for the management of 2,000 ha of open space in Fingal. Kevin is a graduate of University College Dublin with a primary degree in landscape design. He also holds a postgraduate diploma in Environmental Engineering from Trinity College Dublin. He has 23 years experience working in Local Government Parks Services both in Ireland and the UK and has a particular interest in heritage landscapes and gardens. Kevin has been involved in a number of restoration projects including the parkland and gardens at Belvedere House, Co. Westmeath as well as garden design and restoration work in Fingal.

**Liam Heneghan** is an ecosystem ecologist working at DePaul University where he is a Professor in the Environmental Science Program. His research has included studies on the impact of acid rain on soil foodwebs in Europe, and on inter-biome comparisons of decomposition and nutrient dynamics in forested ecosystems in North American and in the tropics. Recently, Heneghan and his students at DePaul have been examining the impacts of invasive species on nutrient cycling and soil organisms in Midwestern woodlands. Heneghan is co-director of DePaul University's Institute for Nature and Culture and is co-chair of the Science Team with Chicago Wilderness. This presentation is co-authored with Peter Crane (Geophysical Sciences, University of Chicago), Francie Muraski-Stotz (The Brookfield Zoo), Melinda Prueett-Jones (Chicago Wilderness Consortium), Laurel Ross (The Field Museum), Alaka Wali (The Field Museum), and Lynne Westphal (U.S.D.A. Forest Service).

**Hans Kampf** is a Senior Policy Advisor for Nature with the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, in Ede, The Netherlands. He has a long record in the development of nature policy in The Netherlands on a provincial and national level, especially ecological networks, nature development and nature management. For the last 10 years he has become more and more involved with the development of ecological networks in Europe, both in neighbouring countries, and in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The challenge in this work is how to develop good ideas or "dreams" and how to ensure that these ideas work in practice: from ideas, via planning towards reality. Hans also chairs a local government advisory board for spatial planning and the environment in his own village of Soest in the Province of Utrecht. He is also a keen bird watcher. For more information and examples, please see his website about ecological networks and grazing animals: <http://www.grazingnetworks.nl>

**Beatrice Kelly** has worked with The Heritage Council on matters relating to inland waterways, maritime heritage and recreation projects at national and European levels. These include the Beara Breifne Way, the Pilgrim Paths Millennium project and REVER, an INTERREG funded project for a European green network. Through these, she has gained experience with green infrastructures, mainly recreational, in Ireland and other European countries, which will inform her talk.

**Stewart Logan** is a Senior Executive Planner with Fingal County Council. He trained as a town planner in Edinburgh and has over 10 years experience practising in the UK and Ireland. His current responsibilities include planning policy formulation, infrastructure co-ordination and local area plans/strategies for the western part of the county. Stewart is also the planner for the Hansfield Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) which is a planned new community of some 3,000 new homes situated in West Dublin.

**Conor Newman** is a graduate of University College Dublin (UCD), and joined the staff at the National University of Ireland, Galway, in 1996 where he teaches late prehistoric and early medieval archaeology. His research interests include the archaeology of the 4th-6th century transition from pagan to Christian Ireland and later prehistoric 'royal' centres, in particular the archaeology and landscape of Tara. He was director of the Discovery Programme Tara Survey and his work has been extensively published. He has pursued post-graduate research in Britain, France and Italy and was visiting professor of Celtic Archaeology at the University of Toronto. He is also editor of the Journal of Irish Archaeology. He is co-Director, with Dr Mark Stansbury (NUI

Galway) of a research project *Columbanus: Life and Legacy*. Conor was appointed Chairperson of The Heritage Council in June 2008.

**David O'Connor** is County Manager with Fingal County Council, a post he has held since November 2007. Prior to his appointment David served as Director of Planning and previously as County Architect with the Council. He studied at Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) Bolton Street and qualified as an architect in 1976. After 9 years in private practice he joined the City Architects Office in Dublin City Council (then Dublin Corporation). During this time he was the project Architect for Phase II of the redevelopment of the Civic Offices. In 1995 he joined Fingal County Council as County Architect. While in this position he oversaw the Council's Housing Construction Programme, the construction of County Hall in Swords and the development of Draiocht Arts Centre and the Council's Library & Offices in Blanchardstown, Dublin 15. In 2003 he was promoted to Director of Planning for the authority. During his time as Director he was responsible for the development of a number of key documents including the Fingal County Development Plan 2005-2011, The Dublin Airport Masterplan and *Metro North – a Link to the Future*.

**Michael O'Donovan** has been an elected member of Fingal County Council for over 15 years. He represents the Mulhuddart/Clonsilla Ward of Blanchardstown. The key political issues he pursues include: the delivery of community facilities and of infrastructure in tandem with development; working with new communities; the timely provision of new schools; planning for sustainable development; the protection of the Liffey Valley and the Green Belts. He is a teacher by profession and has lived in the Blanchardstown area for over 25 years. He was elected Mayor of Fingal in June 2008.

**Ciaran O'Keefe** is a Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and local Government and is responsible for science and biodiversity issues. He was manager of Glenveagh National Park and the northwest region for 15 years before moving to Dublin in 1999 to work largely on Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and other related issues.

**Thomas Stoll** is an architect and urban planner at the Planning Department of the Stockholm City Planning Administration. He is the Senior Urban Planner for the City Development Project of Värtan Port Area. In the past, Thomas has studied and worked as an architect and urban planner in Italy and Germany. In 1999 he started working for a private architectural firm in Stockholm dealing with planning, preliminary design and the detailed design of a number of housing projects as well as several urban design projects for private developers and local authorities. Since 2003 he has been working with the City of Stockholm City Planning Administration as a Senior Urban Planner and has been mainly concerned with detailed development planning and with City development on a more comprehensive scale. He has also been involved in EU projects including BERI (Brownfield European Regeneration Initiative) and Coastman (Coastal Zone Management in the Baltic Sea region).

**Peter Studdert** is the lead Planning Director advising the Joint Planning Committees that have been set up between Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council to determine the planning applications for the major growth sites being planned on the edge of Cambridge and at the proposed New Town at Northstowe to the north-west of Cambridge. An architect and town planner by training, from 2004-2007 Peter was Director for Sustainable Communities at Cambridgeshire Horizons, the publicly-owned company set up by the Cambridgeshire Local Authorities to project-manage the major growth sites. He was responsible for drawing up the Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Cambridge Sub-region in 2006. Prior to 2004 he was Director of Environment and Planning at Cambridge City Council. He currently serves on English Heritage's Advisory Committee and also on the Regional and Planning Advisory Committees of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE). He is a Past Chairman of the English Historic Towns Forum.

**Abraham Vreugdenhil** is a Landscape Ecologist and Conservation Planner with the Province of Gelderland in the Netherlands. He was educated at the University of Groningen and at the International Institute for Aerial Survey and Earth Sciences and has held positions in the Netherlands with the International Institute for Aerial Survey and Earth Sciences, National Forestry Department, National Commission on National Parks and the National Institute for Nature Management. He has worked extensively on ecological networks at a regional level and has been closely involved in surveying and proposing areas for inclusion in the regional ecological network. He works closely with the regional government and regional council in Gelderland and with other stakeholders to ensure that the network is being established. He is also involved in work to create cross-border ecological corridors between Natura 2000 sites in the Netherlands and Germany and is an initiator and coordinator of *Veluwe 2010* - an ambitious ecological restoration programme for the largest semi-natural area of the Netherlands.

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council

