

EXTENT

PEOPLE-CENTRED
HERITAGE

IRL

GLENDALOUGH, IRELAND

THE PROJECT

Glendalough is nestled within a narrow valley in County Wicklow, the Republic of Ireland. It has been a sacred place to Irish Christians since at least the sixth century, when tradition has it that St. Kevin founded a centre of religious observation and learning there. Today, the location is characterised by archaeological sites, thousand year old ruins and buildings, and holy places of great antiquity and reverence. Extent Heritage and Research + Dig were engaged by the Republic of Ireland to identify and assess the place's attributes of Outstanding Universal Value. Together, we provided strategic advice to assist the Republic to determine whether or not to pursue a nomination of Glendalough to the World Heritage List.

SERVICES

- Historical research
- Mapping (GIS and LiDAR)
- Heritage assessment
- Strategic advice
- Built heritage assessment

VALUE UNLOCKED

Glendalough is an iconic site in Ireland, loved by tourists and locals alike. Our inputs have assisted the Republic to decide whether it will recognise this status through the site's nomination to the World Heritage List. Extent Heritage and Research + Dig have identified those parts of Glendalough that embody Outstanding Universal Value, including a fabric assessment to establish the levels of 'authenticity' of the extant buildings. We also identified the most appropriate nomination assessment criteria, while establishing an appropriate boundary and buffer for a possible future nomination through viewshed analysis and research. Overlaps between World Heritage management processes and existing local statutory protections were identified, providing reassurance for local landowners that a World Heritage Listing would not result in onerous changes for them.

