

SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR BUILT VERNACULAR HERITAGE



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**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtas Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht**
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

CONTENTS

1. BUILT VERNACULAR HERITAGE	5
2. GENERAL SOURCES FOR IRISH VERNACULAR	6
2.1 WEB-BASED SOURCES.....	6
2.2 MUSEUMS OF VERNACULAR BUILDINGS & FOLK LIFE.....	7
3. OVERVIEW	8
3.1 VERNACULAR GENERAL	8
3.2 FURNITURE & INTERIORS.....	9
3.3 REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: COUNTY PUBLICATIONS.....	9
3.4 NORTHERN IRELAND: PUBLICATIONS	11
3.5 IRISH GEORGIAN SOCIETY THESES REGISTER.....	11
3.6 PODCASTS	11
4. CONSTRUCTION, MATERIALS & THEIR REPAIR	13
4.1 ROOFS: THATCH	13
4.2 ROOFS: CORRUGATED IRON	16
4.3 ROOFS: STONE & SLATE	16
4.4 WALLS: STONE	17
4.5 WALLS: TURF & SOD	18
4.7 WALLS: MUD	19
4.8 LIME & EARTH MORTARS.....	20
4.9 OPENINGS (WINDOWS & DOORS INCLUDING GLASS)	20
4.10 HISTORIC GROUND SURFACES & FLOORS	21
4.11 IRONWORK.....	21
4.12 SIGNWRITING.....	21
5. CONSERVATION ADVICE	22
5.1 REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: NATIONAL BUILT HERITAGE SERVICE ADVICE SERIES.....	22
5.2 NORTHERN IRELAND: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DIVISION REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE GUIDANCE	23
5.3 OTHER GENERAL CONSERVATION PUBLICATIONS	23
5.4 VERNACULAR CONSERVATION ADVICE	24
5.5 MAINTENANCE, DAMP, CONDENSATION & VENTILATION	24
5.6 ENERGY EFFICIENCY	25
5.7 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND VERNACULAR RETROFIT PROJECTS	28
6. TRAINING, SKILLS AND THIRD LEVEL COURSES.....	30
6.1 CONSERVATION SKILLS IRELAND	30

6.2	CONSERVATION SKILLS SCOTLAND & ENGLAND	32
6.3	THIRD LEVEL	32
7.	CONSERVATION CONTRACTORS, PROFESSIONALS & MATERIALS.....	34
7.1	CONTRACTORS	34
7.2	CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS	34
8.	REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: PLANNING GUIDELINES, NATIONAL POLICY & LEGISLATION	36
8.1	VERNACULAR STRATEGY	36
8.2	ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION GUIDELINES.....	36
8.3	GENERAL GUIDANCE.....	36
8.4	WILDLIFE	36
9.	NORTHERN IRELAND: PLANNING GUIDELINES, NATIONAL POLICY & LEGISLATION	36
9.1	GENERAL GUIDANCE.....	36
9.2	POLICY	37
10.	REPUBLIC OF IRELAND GRANT SCHEMES	38
10.1	NATIONAL BUILT HERITAGE SERVICE GRANT SCHEMES.....	38
10.2	THATCHING GRANT: DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT & HERITAGE	39
10.3	HERITAGE COUNCIL TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS GRANT SCHEME	39
10.4	OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY GRANT SCHEMES FOR VERNACULAR BUILDINGS.....	39
10.5	VACANT PROPERTY GRANT/CROÍ CÓNATHE	40
10.6	IRISH GOVERNMENT REPAIR & LEASING SCHEME	40
10.7	INFORMATION ON OTHER GRANTS AVAILABLE TO HOME OWNERS.....	40
11.	NORTHERN IRELAND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FUNDING & GRANTS	41
11.1	HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT REPAIR, REGENERATION, RESEARCH AND REVIVAL FUNDS 41	

1. BUILT VERNACULAR HERITAGE

Our built vernacular heritage is building outside of the world of professional contractors and architects.

In Ireland, our vernacular buildings are generally modest structures built by 'ordinary' people, using traditional techniques and materials, and following long established folk traditions. These locally available materials included thatch, stone, slate, earth, wattle and unsawn timber. Their form and orientation reflected local site conditions and climate to maximise comfort for occupants. These site-specific factors and use of local materials have resulted in highly regional styles found in dwellings, outbuildings and field enclosures. Particular house forms, layouts, walling and roofing techniques may be found in one region and not another. This contrasts with other design traditions that are less connected with place, tradition, climate and environment.

Not all modest buildings can be classed as vernacular. Buildings that are the work of professional builders and designers, such as estate buildings and social housing, including labourers' cottages and estate workers' houses, are not considered to be vernacular.

2. GENERAL SOURCES FOR IRISH VERNACULAR

2.1 WEB-BASED SOURCES

Republic of Ireland

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage: Information on thatch and vernacular buildings in Ireland: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/search-vernacular-thatch-building-surveys/>

National Folklore Collection (NFC) and its collections. A repository of information relating to local folk customs and vernacular building practices, much of which is now available online. <https://www.duchas.ie/en/info>

National Museum of Ireland: Country Life, Turlough Park, Castlebar, Mayo has a collection of original architectural drawings from the Irish Folklife Commission. These date from the 1930s and 1940s and include a selection of beautifully drawn and illustrated ground plans, elevations, crayon drawings and watercolours of houses. The earliest are the work of Swedish Scholars Åke Campbell and Albert Nilsson (later Eskerod). Later drawings, from the 1940s, are the work of architecture students from University College Dublin. <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Collections-Research/Collection/Traditional-houses-from-the-Irish-Folklife-Archite>

National Library of Ireland holds extensive collections of photographs, drawings and other sources relating to vernacular buildings and social history. Many of these have been digitized and are available online. <https://www.nli.ie/collections>

Northern Ireland

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division is the government lead on the historic environment of Northern Ireland. It offers general information on thatched and vernacular buildings, as well as guidance, grant funding, and thematic surveys and reports. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/traditional-or-vernacular-buildings>

National Museums Northern Ireland holds a wide collection of artefacts, photographs, drawings, paintings and interviews relating to vernacular buildings and traditional ways of life. Many of these have been digitised and are available online. <https://www.nationalmuseumsni.org/collections>

Northern Ireland Buildings Database: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/buildings-database> Information on listed and historic buildings in Northern Ireland. This can also be accessed through the HED Map Viewer: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/historic-environment-map-viewer>

Department for Communities Historic Environment Toolkit: An A-Z of useful advice, guidance, records and links for those dealing with, or interested in, the Historic Environment of Northern Ireland. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/historic-environment-toolkit>

The Clachan Project – A record of clachans (Rundale hamlets) in the Glens of Antrim. <https://antrimhistory.net/clachan-project/>

Oram, Richard and Stelfox, Dawson (2004) *Traditional Buildings in Ireland: A homeowner's Handbook*. Mourne Heritage Trust. https://www.nihe.gov.uk/getattachment/4923f389-c59a-4fd2-875c-9af560ca6f0c/traditional_buildings.pdf

2.2 MUSEUMS OF VERNACULAR BUILDINGS & FOLK LIFE

County Clare

Bunratty Castle & Folk Park: Major museum featuring over 30 buildings, in a 'living' village and rural setting, and collection of farm machinery. <https://www.bunrattycastle.ie/folk-park/>

County Donegal

Glencolmcille Folk Village: Local museum with replica thatched houses in a hamlet setting at Glencolmcille. <https://www.glenfolkvillage.com/>

County Down

Ulster Folk Museum, Cultra Manor, Hollywood: Major museum which includes 50-plus vernacular buildings. There is a library, an indoor museum gallery and an archive of material related to vernacular architecture and folk life in Northern Ireland. <https://www.ulsterfolkmuseum.org/visit> and <https://www.nationalmuseumsni.org/news/library-project>

County Dublin

National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin has display of vernacular furniture. <https://www.nuseum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Decorative-Arts-History/Exhibitions/Irish-Country-Furniture>

County Kerry

Muckross Traditional Farms, Killarney: Medium-sized museum, located within the estate of Muckross House in Killarney National Park, showing rural life in 1930s and 1940s Ireland. <https://www.muckross-house.ie/traditional-farms.html>

Kerry Bog Village: Local museum with group of replica houses. <https://www.kerrybogvillage.ie/>

County Mayo

Museum of Country Life, Turlough Park, Castlebar: One of four museums that make up the National Museum of Ireland. It has indoor gallery related to vernacular architecture and folklife in the Republic of Ireland. <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Country-Life>

County Tyrone

Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh: Major museum with original reconstructed houses and other buildings from both Ireland and the United States. Includes a local studies centre and tells the story of Ulster people's contribution to the establishment of modern North America. <https://www.ulsteramericanfolkpark.org/>

County Wexford

Johnstown Castle/The Irish Agricultural Museum: Extensive display of historic farm machinery and folklife material. <https://irishheritagetrust.ie/johnstown-castle-estate-museum-gardens/>

Irish National Heritage Park, Ferrycarrig: Replica prehistoric and early historic buildings. Experimental archaeology events are a feature of this site. <https://irishheritage.ie/>

County museums often have significant collections of folklife material. There are also some small **local museums** operated by private individuals or local groups

3. OVERVIEW

3.1 VERNACULAR GENERAL

- Aalen, F.H.A., Whelan, K. and Stout, M. (editors) (1997, rev. 2012) *Atlas of the Irish Rural Landscape*. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy.
- Danaher, K. (1975, rev. 1991) *Ireland's Vernacular Architecture*. Cork: Mercier Press. Re-issued in colour as *Ireland's Traditional Houses*. Dublin: Bord Fáilte.
- Evans, E. E. (1957) *Irish Folkways*. London: Routledge.
- Gailey, A. (1984) *Rural Houses of the North of Ireland*, Edinburgh: John Donald.
- Howley, J. (2014), 'Lime kilns', in Loeber, R., Campbell, H., Hurley, L., Montague, J. and Rowley, E. (eds.), *Art and Architecture of Ireland: vol. 4 – Architecture 1600-2000*, pp.68-70. Dublin: Yale.
- McLoughlin, R. (2014), 'Vernacular farmsteads', in Loeber, R., Campbell, H., Hurley, L., Montague, J. and Rowley, E. (eds.), *Art and Architecture of Ireland: vol. 4 – Architecture 1600-2000*, pp.335-7. Dublin: Yale.
- Mullane, FI (2000) 'Vernacular Architecture', in Buttimer, N., Rynne, C. and Guerin, H. (eds.), *The Heritage of Ireland*, pp.71-9. Cork: Cork University Press.
- Mullane, F. (2014) 'Thatch' in Loeber, R., Campbell, H., Hurley, L., Montague, J. and Rowley, E. (eds.), *Art and Architecture of Ireland: vol. 4 – Architecture 1600-2000*, pp.55-57. Dublin: Yale.
- Nolan, D. (2014), 'Earth' in Loeber, R., Campbell, H., Hurley, L., Montague, J. and Rowley, E. (eds.), *Art and Architecture of Ireland: vol. 4 – Architecture 1600-2000*, pp.54-55. Dublin: Yale.
- Ó Danachair, C. (1945) 'The Questionnaire System: roofs and thatching', *Béaloides*, Vol. 15 (1945), pp.203-17.
- Ó Danachair, C. (1957) 'Materials and methods in Irish traditional building', *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, 87 (1957) pp.61-74.
- Ó Danachair, C. (1978) *A Bibliography of Irish Ethnology and Folk Tradition*. Dublin: Mercier Press.
- Oliver, P. (ed.) (1997) *Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Has various articles on Irish vernacular architecture. The forthcoming new edition will have more.
- O'Neill, T.P. (1977) *Life and Tradition in Rural Ireland*. London: Dent & Sons Ltd.
- O'Reilly, B. (2006) *Traditional Buildings on Irish Farms*. The Heritage Council/Teagasc.
- O'Reilly, B. (2011) 'Hearth and home: the vernacular house in Ireland from c. 1800', *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy: Archaeology, Culture, History, Literature*. Vol. 111C, Special Issue: Domestic life in Ireland, pp.193-215. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy.

O'Reilly, B. (2014), 'Corrugated Iron', in Loeber, R., Campbell, H., Hurley, L., Montague, J. and Rowley, E. (eds), *Art and Architecture of Ireland: vol. 4 – Architecture 1600-2000*, pp.77-78. Dublin: Yale.

O'Reilly, Barry & Maguire, Caroline (2021) *Caring for our Vernacular Heritage*. Department for Communities (Northern Ireland) and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Ireland) <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2021/12/Caring-for-Our-Vernacular-Heritage.pdf>

Pfeiffer, W. and Shaffrey, M. (1990) *Irish Cottages*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

Shaffrey, P. and M. (1983) *Buildings of Irish Towns*. Dublin: O'Brien Press.

Shaffrey, P. and M. (1985) *Irish Countryside Buildings*. Dublin: O'Brien Press.

3.2 FURNITURE & INTERIORS

Cotton, B. (1989) 'Irish Vernacular Furniture'. In *Regional Furniture*, Vol. 3, pp.1–26. <https://regionalfurnituresociety.files.wordpress.com/2017/01/irish-vernacular-furniture-bernard-d-cotton.pdf>

Danaher, K. (2003) 'Furniture'. In Shaw-Smith, D. *Traditional Crafts of Ireland*, pp.67–71). London: Thames & Hudson.

Gailey, A. (1966) 'Kitchen Furniture'. In *Ulster Folklife*, Vol. 12, pp.18-31.

Kinmonth, C. (1993) *Irish Country Furniture, 1700-1950*. London: Yale University Press. New edition 2020, titled *Irish Country Furniture 1700-2000*. Cork: Collins Press.

Kinmonth, C. (1996) 'Irish Vernacular Furniture: Inventories & Illustrations in Interdisciplinary Methodology'. In *Regional Furniture*, Vol. 10 (pp. 1–26). <https://regionalfurnituresociety.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/irish-vernacular-furniture-inventories-and-illustrations-in-interdisciplinary-methodology-claudia-kinmonth.pdf>

Kinmonth, C. (2006) *Irish Rural Interiors in Art*. New Haven and London: Yale.

Loughnan, N. (1984) Irish Country Furniture. In *Irish Heritage Series no. 46*. Dublin: Eason & Son Ltd.

Ó Lochlainn, C. (1964) 'The Three-Legged Chairs'. In *Béalaidias*, Vol. 32, pp.155–6.

Teahan, J. (1994) *Irish Furniture and Woodcraft*. Dublin: Country House in association with the National Museum of Ireland.

Shaw-Smith, D. (Editor) (2003) *Traditional Crafts of Ireland*. Thames and Hudson, London.

3.3 REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: COUNTY PUBLICATIONS

Donegal

Gallagher, J. & Stephenson, G. (2012) *Traditional Cottages of County Donegal*. Under the Thatch.

Symmons, C. & Harkin, S. (2004) *The Disappearing Irish Cottage: a case study of north Donegal*. Wordwell, Bray, County Wicklow.

Galway

Mullane, F. (2008) *The Thatched Roofs of County Galway*. Self-published.

Kerry

Fleming, É. (2016) *The Home Place: An inventory of traditional rural architecture in North and East Kerry*. Tralee: Kerry County Council.

O'Hare, P. (1993) A brief survey of the typical vernacular housing of a portion of east Kerry. In *Journal of the Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society*, vol. 26, pp.5-72.

Kildare

Ó Danachair, C. (1966-7) Some notes on traditional house types in County Kildare. In *Journal of the County Kildare Archaeological Society*, Vol. 14, pp.234-46.

Laois

Williams, M. A., Hughes, S. & Lanigan, B. (2011) *Thatch: voices from the traditional houses of County Laois*. Port Laoise: Laois County Council.
<https://laois.ie/departments/heritage/architecture/vernacular-buildings/>

Limerick

Ó Danachair, C. (1946-8) The traditional houses of County Limerick. In *North Munster Antiquarian Journal*, Vol. 14, pp.18-32.

Monaghan

Lotts Architecture/Monaghan County Council (2023) *Monaghan's Traditional Rural Houses*. Monaghan: Monaghan County Council.

Offaly

McKenna, R. (2022) *Traditional Architecture in Offaly: History, Materials and Furniture, 1800 to Present Day*. Tullamore: Offaly County Council.

O'Reilly, B. (2004) *Living Under Thatch: Vernacular Architecture in County Offaly*. Cork: Mercier Press.

Wicklow

Corlett, C. (ed.) (2008) *Beneath the Poulaphuca Reservoir: The 1939 Poulaphuca survey of the lands flooded by the Liffey Reservoir Scheme*. Government of Ireland.

Corlett, C. (2014) *Wicklow's Traditional Farmhouses*. Wicklow: Wicklow County Council.

Lotts Architecture and Urbanism (2008) *Traditional Houses of Rural Wicklow: An Inventory of Vernacular Architecture*. Report for Wicklow County Council.
[https://www.wicklow.ie/Portals/0/Documents/Planning/Conservation%20Built%20Heritage/Traditional%20Buildings/Traditional Houses of Rural County Wicklow Report 2008.pdf](https://www.wicklow.ie/Portals/0/Documents/Planning/Conservation%20Built%20Heritage/Traditional%20Buildings/Traditional%20Houses%20of%20Rural%20County%20Wicklow%20Report%202008.pdf)

Other sources

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage county introductions also feature vernacular buildings for the relevant county.

3.4 NORTHERN IRELAND: PUBLICATIONS

Buchanan, Ronald H. (1957) 'Thatch and thatching in north-east Ireland', *Gwerin*, 1 (1957), pp.123-42.

Gailey, A. (1984) *Rural Houses of the North of Ireland*. Edinburgh: John Donald.

Paterson, T.G.F. Housing and house types in County Armagh. In *Ulster Folklife*, Vol. 6 (1961), pp.8-17 and Vol. 7 (1961), pp.19-22.

Robinson, P. (1985) From Thatch to Slate. In *Ulster Folklife*, Vol. 31, pp.21-35.

Other sources

Department for Communities – A thematic survey of historic water pumps.

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/historic-water-pumps>

Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland: This projected 1830s topography of Ireland was planned to be published alongside the maps of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland using materials gathered by surveyors as they traversed the country. Due to expense, the project was cancelled in 1840 therefore material gathered before the cancellation mostly covers Ulster.

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/ordnance-survey-memoirs> and

<https://ulsterhistoricalfoundation.com/shop/products/ordnance-survey-memoirs-2>

3.5 IRISH GEORGIAN SOCIETY THESES REGISTER

The register of theses and dissertations is an academic resource tool that has been compiled by the Irish Georgian Society in collaboration with Ireland's academic institutions and with the support of Dublin City Council. It provides a centralised database of Irish theses and dissertations relating to architecture and the allied arts, which have been submitted as part of an academic qualification awarded on the island of Ireland. It should be noted that theses are held by the awarding university and not by the IGS. <https://www.igs.ie/education/register> Search under thatch, vernacular, traditional architecture, farm, rural, roofing, materials (slate, stone, earth, corrugated-iron, etc.).

3.6 PODCASTS

SPAB Ireland Podcast series 'Heart to Hearth: Chats about Irish vernacular buildings'. Three seasons of episodes: <https://heart-to-hearth.simplecast.com/episodes>

Season 1 2021	10 episodes includes conversations with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Triona Byrne and Róisín Beirne of SPAB Ireland• Barry O'Reilly, lead on the National Vernacular Strategy• Claudia Kinmonth, author of number of books on vernacular furniture• John Beattie, Architectural Conservation Officer and trained thatcher• Eoin Madigan and Dom Keogh, stone masons from Clare• Melanie McQuade, Westmeath Heritage Officer, and Bronagh Lanigan, built heritage consultant, speaking about the Westmeath thatch survey• Tom Pollard, stone mason and expert in earth mortar, based in Tipperary• Duncan MacLaren, conservation architect, based in Donegal• Louise Price, Artist and drystone waller
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Edden, Conservation Engineer
Season 2 2022	<p>10 episodes which includes conversations with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ken Curran, stone mason and chair of Drystone Walling Association • Sara Leach, thatcher • Feidhlim Harty, environmental consultant • Féile Butler, architect specialising in vernacular buildings and natural building materials • PJ McClay, who renovated a derelict thatched house in Donegal • Sinéad Hughes, conservation consultant, speaking about the Fingal thatch survey • Chris Corlett, archaeologist from Wicklow with an interest in vernacular buildings • Edel Barry, archaeologist and experienced NIAH building recorder from Clare • Shirley Clerkin, Monaghan Heritage Officer • Chat with three of the 2022 SPAB scholars & fellows: Sinéad Scullion, Serena Gildea and David McFerran
Season 3 2023	<p>11 episodes which includes conversations with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moses Jenkins, Senior Technical Officer with Historic Environment Scotland • Marianne Suhr, Conservation Building Surveyor and co-author of 'Old House Eco Handbook' • Jimmy Lenehan, Kilkenny-based thatcher • Tom Little, head of stone cutting and stone masonry apprenticeship in Kerry • Toby Slater, SPAB Millwright Fellow in 2022 • John Plunkett, Rory Galligan & Fergal McGirl speaking about repair of cobbled yard in Meath • Rachel McKenna Architectural Conservation Officer for Co. Offaly about her book "Traditional Architecture in Offaly" • Marie Mannion & others speaking about the Galway Forged Gate Project • Bob Clarke, director and curator of Auchindrain township in Scotland
Season 4 2025	<p>5 episodes which includes conversations with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primrose Wilson of the Follies Trust • Bernie Henry of the Clara Heritage Society • Michael Fortune, Folklorist designer of the annual Irish Dresser and Folklore Calendar. • Hannah Glass about the All Ireland Heritage Skills Programme • Killian & Petra O'Flaherty, stone masons

4. CONSTRUCTION, MATERIALS & THEIR REPAIR

4.1 ROOFS: THATCH

All Ireland

Consarc, Mullane, F. and Oram, R. (2005), *Report on the Present and Future Protection of Thatched Structures in Ireland*, (in association with National Built Heritage Service). Available on web: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Report-on-the-Present-and-Future-Protection-of-Thatched-Structures-in-Ireland-Volume-1-The-Action-Plan.pdf> & <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Report-on-the-Present-and-Future-Protection-of-Thatched-Structures-in-Ireland-Volume-2-Supporting-Information.pdf>

Mullane, F. Thatch: a metaphor for Ireland. In *Heritage Outlook*, Summer 2006, pp.8-12.

Republic of Ireland

Keohane, F. (November 2022) *Report on Insurance & Fire Safety in Thatched Properties* (November 2022). National Built Heritage Service, The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2023/01/Report-on-Insurance-and-Fire-Safety-in-Thatched-Properties-November-2022.pdf>

Mullane, F. (2014) 'Thatch', in Loeber, R., Campbell, H., Hurley, L., Montague, J. and Rowley, E. (eds), *Art and Architecture of Ireland: vol. 4 – Architecture 1600-2000*, pp.55-7. Dublin: Yale.

Nolan, D., O'Reilly, B. and Mac Cárthaigh, C., (2015) *Thatch: A Guide to the Repair of Thatched Roofs*. National Built Heritage Service Advice Series, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. [Thatch-A-Guide-to-the-Repair-of-Thatched-Roofs-2015.pdf \(buildingsofireland.ie\)](#)

National Built Heritage Service (2023) *Fire Safety in Thatched Properties*. The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2023/10/Fire-Safety-in-Thatched-Properties.pdf>

Ó Danachair, C. (1945) The questionnaire system: roofs and thatching. In *Béaloides*, Vol. 15, pp.203-17.

County/Regional Thatch Surveys

The earliest series of surveys was carried out by Michael Higginbotham of the Office of Public Works in 1986-1995 for counties *Carlow, Dublin, Galway (Aran Islands), Kildare, Kilkenny, Limerick, Louth, Meath, Wexford and Wicklow*.

Cavan

Cavan County Council (1999) *Thatched Roofs Report*.

Clare

Carrig International (2005) *County Clare Thatched Structures Survey* <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/planning/publications/heritageconservation/clare-thatched-building-survey-2005-27623.pdf>

Cork

Sleeman, M. (2005) *Thatched Houses of County Cork*. Cork County Council.

Fingal

Fingal County Council (2005) *Fingal Thatch Survey*.

Carrig International (2022) *Fingal Thatch Project*

https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2023-02/Fingal%20Thatch%20Project%202022_Report.pdf

Kildare

Duggan, C. (2005) *The Thatched Houses of County Kildare*

<https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Conservation/Thatch/The%20Thatched%20Houses%20of%20County%20Kildare.pdf>

Kilkenny

Lenahan, J. (1994) *Thatch Survey of Co. Kilkenny*. Report.

Laois

Architectural Research & Recording (2007) *Survey of Thatched Structures in Laois*

<https://www.laois.ie/wp-content/uploads/Laois-Thatch-Survey-2007-Vol-I-report-on-Survey-findings.pdf>

Leitrim

Mullane, F. (2019) *Thatch Survey of County Leitrim*. Report for Leitrim County Council.

Mayo

Dublin Civic Trust (2009) *Inventory of thatch Structures in County Mayo*. Report for Mayo County Council.

Meath

Fitzsimons, J. (1990) *Thatched Houses in County Meath*. Kells: Kells Publishing Co.

Offaly

O'Reilly, B. (2004) *Living under Thatch*. cork: Mercier Press.

Built Heritage Collective (2018). *Survey of Thatch Buildings County Offaly 2018*. Report.

Roscommon

Mullane, F. (2009) *Roscommon Thatch Building Survey and An Assessment of Thatching Needs in County Roscommon*. Unpublished reports held by Roscommon County Council.

Sligo

Prins, N. and Wood, J. (2003) *Inventory of Thatch Buildings of County Sligo*. Report for Sligo County Council.

Tipperary

Architectural recoding & Research (2005) *Inventory of Thatched Structures in South Tipperary*. Report for South Tipperary County Council.

Waterford

John Cronin & Associates (2007) *Waterford Thatch Survey*. Report.

<https://www.waterfordcouncil.ie/media/heritage/2008%20Thatch%20Survey.pdf>

Westmeath

Lanigan, B. (2021) *Report on Survey of Thatched Buildings in County Westmeath*. Report for Westmeath Co. Council.

Relevant videos

Kilkenny Thatch Project 2020, Conversation with owner Scott Rodgers of thatched building, thatcher Hugh O'Neill and Architectural Conservation Officer Francis Coady.

<https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/services/planning/conservation/thatch/>

Architecture Kerry presentation by architect Karol O'Mahony on Survey of Thatched buildings in Kerry <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zTVdXBUgXo>

Conversation with thatcher Gerry Agnew thatching with wheat straw. [Thatching an Irish Cottage - YouTube](#)

Cullahill, County Laois thatch repair by thatcher Matty Kelly by unknown. [Thatching in Southeast Ireland - YouTube](#)

Conversation with Wicklow thatcher Kyran O'Grady: <https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/homes-and-property/the-specialist-kyran-o-grady-master-thatcher-1.2081132>

Marika Leen speaking about how she became a thatcher in Ireland, and thatching a windmill in Roscommon. <https://www.irishtimes.com/video/video/2022/10/14/this-is-my-first-windmill-how-a-master-thatcher-is-keeping-the-ancient-tradition-alive/>

Evelyn Stevens talks to Dutch thatcher Marika Leen about the art/craft of thatching and how she came to learn the trade. Filmed in Cloonboo, Annaghdown, County Galway in summer 2020, at the thatched house of Pete Smith and Evelyn Stevens. An initiative of the Annaghdown Heritage Society. [Video: Thatching in Cloonboo, with Marika Leen – Annaghdown Heritage Society](#)

Fingal Thatch Project 2022 including former thatcher Brian Simpson speaking about thatching in Fingal and the use of slice thatching: <https://youtu.be/4YQcJhdZFO4>

1969 RTE film about thatched houses <https://youtu.be/oRzMY-LFzlc>

Northern Ireland

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division *Listed Building Maintenance: Roof Coverings* <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/listed-building-maintenance-roof-coverings>

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division *Technical Note: Roofs* <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/technical-note-roofs>

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division *Technical Note: Chimneys, flues and hearths* <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/technical-note-chimneys-flues-and-hearth>

Thatch Condition Survey 2021-22 Department for Communities Historic Environment Division. The survey made comparisons on building condition with the thematic survey completed in 2007. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/thatch-condition-survey-2021-22>

4.2 ROOFS: CORRUGATED IRON

Republic of Ireland

O'Reilly, B. (2014) 'Corrugated Iron'. In Loeber, R., Campbell, H., Hurley, L., Montague, J. and Rowley, E. (eds.), *Art and Architecture of Ireland: vol. 4 – Architecture 1600-2000*, pp.55-7. Dublin: Yale. <https://www.ria.ie/art-and-architecture-ireland-five-volume-set>

Scotland

Mitchell, D. (2008) *Inform Guide: Care and Maintenance of Corrugated Iron*. Historic Environment Scotland [Inform Guide: Care and Maintenance of Corrugated Iron | HES | History \(historicenvironment.scot\)](https://www.historicenvironment.scot/inform-guide/care-and-maintenance-of-corrugated-iron)

4.3 ROOFS: STONE & SLATE

Republic of Ireland

Bowen, L., Edden, L. & Matthews, N. (2010) *Roofs: A Guide to the Repair of Historic Roofs*. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This provides advice in relation to flagstone and schist roofs as well as slate. <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Roofs-A-Guide-to-the-Repair-of-Historic-Roofs-2010.pdf>

Stone Roofing Association: http://www.stoneroof.org.uk/Traditional/Roofing_traditions.html
Information on the history, geology and use of stone flags/tiles as a roofing material in Britain and Ireland.

Halpin, S (2003) Synopsis of thesis on stone roofed buildings in Clare and their repair: [Stone roofs of Clare](https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/planning/publications/heritageconservation/clare-stone-slate-roof-survey-2007-27625.pdf)

Halpin, S. (2007) *Stone Slate Roofs in County Clare: Information & Guidance Leaflet*. Clare County Council. <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/planning/publications/heritageconservation/clare-stone-slate-roof-survey-2007-27625.pdf>

Robinson, P. (1985) 'From Thatch to Slate'. In *Ulster Folklife*, Vol. 31, pp.21-35.

Symmons, C. & Harkin, S. (2004) *The Disappearing Irish Cottage: a case-study of north Donegal* (2004). Bray: Wordwell.

Northern Ireland

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division: *Technical Note - Roof drainage*.

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/technical-note-roof-drainage>

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division: *Listed Building Maintenance - Roof Coverings* <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/listed-building-maintenance-roof-coverings>

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division: *Technical Note - Roofs*

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/technical-note-roofs>

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division: *Technical Note - Chimneys, flues and hearths* <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/technical-note-chimneys-flues-and-hearth>

England

Hughes, T. (2013) '[Detailing and Conservation of Vernacular Slate and Stone Roofs](#)' *The Building Conservation Directory*. Tisbury: Cathedral Communications Limited.

Hughes T., Wood. C. & Macdonald, S. (2005) *Stone Slate Roofing Technical Advice Note*, Historic England. <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/stone-slate-roofing-technical-advice-note/>

4.4 WALLS: STONE

Republic of Ireland

Quinlan, M., Hanna, M., & Kelly, D. (2010) *Ruins: the conservation and repair of masonry ruins*. National Built Heritage Service Advice Series, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Ruins-The-Conservation-and-Repair-of-Masonry-Ruins-2010.pdf>

McAfee, P. (1997) *Irish Stone Walls*. Dublin: O'Brien Press.

McAfee, P. (2010) *Stone buildings: conservation, repair, building*. Dublin: O'Brien Press.

McAfee, P. (2014) 'Drystone walls', in Loeber, R., Campbell, H., Hurley, L., Montague, J. and Rowley, E. (eds.), *Art and Architecture of Ireland: vol. 4 – Architecture 1600-2000*, pp.61-2. Dublin: Yale. [p.61 is text; p.62 has nice section and elevation drawings]

McAfee, P. (2015) *A Field Guide to the Drystone Walls of County Donegal*. Donegal Heritage Series 3 <https://www.donegalcoco.ie/culture/heritage/heritageneews/afieldguidetodry-stonewallsofcountydonesgal/>

Irish Stone Walls and Stone Buildings <http://homepage.eircom.net/~mcafee/>

Pavia, S., Bolton, J. (2000) *Stone, Brick & Mortar: Historical Use, Decay and Conservation of Building Materials in Ireland*. Bray: Wordwell Ltd.

Northern Ireland

The Natural Stone Database for Northern Ireland. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/natural-stone-database>

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division: *Technical Note - Chimneys, flues and hearths* <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/technical-note-chimneys-flues-and-hearths>

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division: *Technical Note - Repointing stone and brick* <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/technical-note-repointing-stone-and-brick>

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division: *Technical Note - Stonework repairs* <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/technical-note-stonework-repairs>

Scotland

Jenkins, M. (2020) *Inform Guide: Dry Stone Walls*. Historic Environment Scotland. [Inform Guide: Dry Stone Walls | Historic Environment Scotland](#)

Jefferson, D. & Henry, A. (2016) *Sourcing stone for historic building repair*. Historic England. <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sourcing-stone-for-historic-building-repair/>

Maxwell, I. (2007) *Inform Guide: Repointing Rubble Stonework*. Historic Environment Scotland. [Inform Guide: Repointing Rubble Stonework | Hist Env Scotland \(historicenvironment.scot\)](#)

Maxwell, I. (2008) *Inform Guide: Domestic boundary walls*. Historic Environment Scotland. <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=c28d6be5-ca16-43ed-92e9-a59500b5b10e>

Maxwell, I., & Torney, C. (2014) *Inform Guide: Repointing ashlar masonry*. Historic Environment Scotland. [Inform Guide: Repointing Ashlar Masonry | Hist Env Scotland | History \(historicenvironment.scot\)](#)

4.5 WALLS: TURF & SOD

Mullane, F. (2019) 'Croiceann cruaidh féarmhar an talaimh: a material culture of the skin of the earth – the example of roofing with sod parings in Ireland'. In *Folklife*, Vol. 57, Issue 1.

Evan, E.E. (1969) 'Sod and Turf Houses in Ireland'. In J. G. Jenkins (ed.), *Studies in Folk Life – Essays in Honour of lowerth C. Peate*: 79-90. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

4.6 WALLS: BRICK

Pavía, S., Bolton, J. (2000) *Stone, Brick & Mortar: Historical Use, Decay and Conservation of Building Materials in Ireland*. Bray: Wordwell

Roundtree, S. (2023) *Brickmaking in Ireland: A Gazetteer*. Bray: Wordwell.

4.7 WALLS: MUD

All Ireland

O'Reilly, B. (2011) Earthen architecture in Ireland. In *Terra Europae: Earthen Architecture in the European Union*, pp.132-5. Pisa: Edizioni ETS.

Nolan, D. (2014), 'Earth', in Loeber, R., Campbell, H., Hurley, L., Montague, J. and Rowley, E. (eds.), *Art and Architecture of Ireland: vol. 4 – Architecture 1600-2000*, pp.54-5. Dublin: Yale.

Republic of Ireland

Reeners, R. (compiler) (2003) *A Wexford farmstead: the conservation of an 18th-century farmstead at Mayglass*. Kilkenny: The Heritage Council.

Relevant videos

Fingal County Council (2021) *Handmade mud and straw bricks used in the conservation of Rolestown Mills*. <https://youtu.be/sSjgT55HDcM>

Northern Ireland

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division: *Technical Note - Masonry walls*. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/technical-note-masonry-walls>

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division: *Technical Note - Historic external wall finishes*. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/technical-note-historic-external-wall-finishes>

Britain

Jenkins, M (2015) *Inform Guide: Earth and clay construction*. Historic Environment Scotland. <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=e4ed6470-454e-4de1-a978-a59500bbe276>

Historic Environment Scotland Refurbishment-case-study-30 (2018): 'Repairing a mudwall house'.

Describes works to repair a mudwall domestic building and considers the technical and management challenges involved with the project, and demonstrates that it is possible to meet these challenges and deliver good-quality, traditional repairs to mudwall buildings. <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=23ed113d-f89f-43c5-9467-a98f00f99437>

Keefe, L. (2005) *Earth Building: Methods and Materials, Repair and Conservation*. London: Taylor & Francis.

4.8 LIME & EARTH MORTARS

Republic of Ireland

McAfee, P. (2010) *Lime Works*. Limited number of copies available from BLFI and available for reference in most libraries. <https://www.buildinglimesforumireland.com/>

SPAB Ireland & The Heritage Council (2020) *Homeowner maintenance series: render and mortar*. <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/2.-Maintenance-Sheets-Render-Mortar-A4-v4.pdf> and video <https://youtu.be/ekzgQ6C5SLg>

Building Limes Forum Ireland: *Hot Mix Lime Mortar Guide*.
[1c8e6a_3af324cd2df34050941f1b71d3f5447b.pdf](https://www.buildinglimesforumireland.com/files/1c8e6a_3af324cd2df34050941f1b71d3f5447b.pdf) ([buildinglimesforumireland.com](https://www.buildinglimesforumireland.com))

Relevant videos

- What you wanted to know about lime mortar but were afraid to ask. Engineers Ireland presentation by Chartered Engineer Ivor McElveen. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0zycioctlg>
- The Art of Plastering an interview with George O'Malley, master craftsman plasterer [The Art of Plastering: an interview with George O'Malley - YouTube](#)
- The Lime King. Interview with Paddy Byrne, Heritage Contractor. [The Lime King - YouTube](#)

Britain

Copsey N, (2019) *Hot Mixed Lime and Traditional Mortars: A Practical Guide to Their Use in Conservation and Repair*. Ramsbury: Crowood Press Ltd.

Napier, W. & Jenkins, M (2018) *Inform Guide: Plain lime plastering*. Historic Environment Scotland
[Inform Guide: Plain Lime Plastering | Historic Environment Scotland](#)

Curtis, R., (2015) *Inform Guide: Clay mortars for masonry buildings*. Historic Environment Scotland.
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=11182834-3ddc-4011-88f3-a59500b04c8b>

Snow, H. (2015) *Inform Guide: Hot mixed lime mortars*. Historic Environment Scotland. [Inform Guide: Hot-Mixed Lime Mortars | Historic Environment Scotland](#)

4.9 OPENINGS (WINDOWS & DOORS INCLUDING GLASS)

Republic of Ireland

Roche, N. (2007) *Windows: A Guide to the Repair of Historic Windows*. National Built Heritage Service Advice Series, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Windows-A-Guide-to-the-Repair-of-Historic-Windows-2007.pdf>

SPAB Ireland & The Heritage Council (2020) *Homeowner maintenance series: wood and ironwork*.
<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/1.-Maintenance-Sheets-Wood-Ironwork-A4-v6.pdf> and video <https://youtu.be/AKFbjhc8T50>

Northern Ireland

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division: *Guidance for Historic Windows*.

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/guidance-historic-windows>

4.10 HISTORIC GROUND SURFACES & FLOORS

Republic of Ireland

McLoughlin, R., Lotts Architecture & Urbanism Ltd. (2015) *Paving, The Conservation of Historic Ground Surfaces*. National Built Heritage Service Advice Series, Department of Housing, Local Government and Housing. <http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Paving-The-Conservation-of-Historic-Ground-Surfaces-2015.pdf>

4.11 IRONWORK

Republic of Ireland

Davey, A. (2009) *Iron: the repair of wrought and cast ironwork*. National Built Heritage Service Advice Series, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Iron-The-Repair-of-Wrought-and-Cast-Ironwork-2009.pdf>

SPAB Ireland & The Heritage Council (2020) *Homeowner maintenance series: wood and ironwork*.

SPAB Ireland & The Heritage Council. <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/1.-Maintenance-Sheets-Wood-Ironwork-A4-v6.pdf> and video <https://youtu.be/AKFbjhc8T50>

Irish Artist Blacksmiths Association (2013) *Guide to the best practices for the restoration of Irish historic ironwork*. <https://www.irishblacksmiths.ie/wp-content/uploads/Guide-to-the-Best-Practises-for-the-Restoration-of-Period-and-Heritage-Ironwork-Doc-10.pdf>

Caulfield, S. (2013) *The Vernacular Forged Wrought Iron Field Gate: Our History, Our Heritage, Our Responsibility*. Kilkenny County Council. A brochure about vernacular forged wrought-iron field gates which illustrates and tells the story behind the vernacular wrought iron Irish field gate. <https://kilkennyheritage.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Brochure-Vernacular-Gates-KK.pdf>

4.12 SIGNWRITING

Northern Ireland

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division: *Technical Note 350: Signs & Signwriting*.

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/technical-note-350-signs-and-signwriting>

5. CONSERVATION ADVICE

5.1 REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: NATIONAL BUILT HERITAGE SERVICE ADVICE SERIES

The National Built Heritage Service has published a number of conservation advice books covering the repair of windows, thatch, ruins, roofs, places of worship, paving, maintenance, iron, energy efficiency, disaster, bricks and providing access. These are all available to download for free:

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/resources/>

Arnold, P. (2010) *Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings*.

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Energy-Efficiency-in-Traditional-Buildings-2010.pdf>

Bowen, L., Edden, L. & Matthews, N. (2010) *Roofs: A Guide to the Repair of Historic Roofs*.

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Roofs-A-Guide-to-the-Repair-of-Historic-Roofs-2010.pdf>

Davey, A. (2009) *Iron: the repair of wrought and cast ironwork*.

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Iron-The-Repair-of-Wrought-and-Cast-Ironwork-2009.pdf>

Donnelly, J. (2007) *Maintenance: A Guide to the Care of Older Buildings*.

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Maintenance-A-Guide-to-the-Care-of-Older-Buildings-2007.pdf>

Howley Hayes Architects (2011) *Places of Worship: The Conservation of Places of Worship*.

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Places-of-Worship-The-Conservation-of-Places-of-Worship-2011.pdf>

Lynch, G., Roundtree, S. & Shaffrey Associates Architects (2009) *Bricks: a guide to the repair of historic brickwork*.

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Bricks-A-Guide-to-the-Repair-of-Historic-Brickwork-2009.pdf>

McLoughlin, R., Lotts Architecture & Urbanism Ltd. (2015) *Paving: The Conservation of Historic Ground Surfaces*. <http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Paving-The-Conservation-of-Historic-Ground-Surfaces-2015.pdf>

Nolan, D., O'Reilly, B. & Mac Cárthaigh, C. (2015) *Thatch: A Guide to the Repair of Thatched Roofs*.

[Thatch-A-Guide-to-the-Repair-of-Thatched-Roofs-2015.pdf](https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Thatch-A-Guide-to-the-Repair-of-Thatched-Roofs-2015.pdf) ([buildingsofireland.ie](https://www.buildingsofireland.ie))

Roche, Nessa (2007) *Windows: A Guide to the Repair of Historic Windows*.

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Windows-A-Guide-to-the-Repair-of-Historic-Windows-2007.pdf>

Shaffrey Associates Architects & Fionnuala Rogerson Architects (2011) *Access: Improving the Accessibility of Historic Buildings & Places*.

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Access-Improving-the-Accessibility-of-Historic-Buildings-and-Places-2011.pdf>

Quinlan, M., Hanna, M., & Kelly, D. (2010) *Ruins: the conservation and repair of masonry ruins*.
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Ruins-The-Conservation-and-Repair-of-Masonry-Ruins-2010.pdf>

Quinlan, M., & Kelly, D. (2020) *Disaster: A Guide to Prevention & Preparedness in the Historic Built Environment*.
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2020/12/Disaster-A-guide-to-preparedness.pdf>

5.2 NORTHERN IRELAND: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DIVISION REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE GUIDANCE

Guidance material to support those responsible for the maintenance of Listed Buildings.

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/repair-and-maintenance-guidance>

- Technical Note 4a: Windows a guidance booklet on opening
- Technical Note 8.30: Securing windows and doors
- Technical Note 14: Conservation of historical glass
- Technical Note 35: Fanlights
- Technical Note 36: Photographing historical buildings
- Technical Note 37: Repointing stone and brick
- Technical Note 39: Stonework repairs
- Technical Note 42: Chimneys, flues and hearths
- Technical Note 43: Roofs
- Technical Note 44: Roof drainage
- Technical Note 45: Masonry walls
- Technical Note 46: External wall finishes
- Technical Note 47: Internal wall finishes
- Technical Note 48: Windows and doors
- Technical Note 49: Ferrous metals
- Technical Note 50: Paint
- Technical Note 51: Fire Protection
- Technical Note 53: Floodlighting of buildings
- Technical Note 54: Glazed external protection for windows
- Technical Note 56: Burglar alarms
- Technical Note 350: Signs and signwriting

5.3 OTHER GENERAL CONSERVATION PUBLICATIONS

Department for Communities – An Owner’s Guide – Listed Historic Buildings of Northern Ireland - [An Owner’s Guide - Listed Historic Buildings of Northern Ireland | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk)

While these two books are not aimed specifically at vernacular buildings they contain useful advice for ANY traditionally constructed building.

Keohane, F. (2015) *Irish Period Houses: A Conservation Guidance Manual*. Dublin Civic Trust.

Hunt, R. & Suhr, M. (2008) *The Old House Handbook: The Essential Guide to Care and Repair*. SPAB.

5.4 VERNACULAR CONSERVATION ADVICE

Bowen, L. & Matthews, N. (2007) *Reusing Farm Buildings: A Kildare Perspective*.

<https://kildarecoco.ie/YourCouncil/Publications/Planning/Reusing%20Farm%20Buildings.pdf>

Oram, R. and Stelfox, D. (2004) *Traditional Buildings in Ireland: A homeowner's Handbook*. Mourne Heritage Trust. https://www.nihe.gov.uk/getattachment/4923f389-c59a-4fd2-875c-9af560ca6f0c/traditional_buildings.pdf

Reeners, R. (compiler) (2003) *A Wexford Farmstead: The Conservation of an 18th-Century Farmstead in County Wexford*. Kilkenny: The Heritage Council.

Hurley, A. M. & Meenan, A. (2020) *Reusing Farm Buildings*. Teagasc & The Heritage Council.

<https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/rural-economy/rural-development/diversification/7-Diversification-Reusing-Farm-Buildings.pdf>

5.5 MAINTENANCE, DAMP, CONDENSATION & VENTILATION

Republic of Ireland

Donnelly, J. (2007) *Maintenance: A Guide to the Care of Older Buildings*. National Built Heritage Service Advice Series, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Dublin. <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Maintenance-A-Guide-to-the-Care-of-Older-Buildings-2007.pdf>

SPAB Ireland & The Heritage Council (2020) *Homeowner Maintenance Series*. <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/homeowner-maintenance-advice>

Relevant videos

Heritage Council YouTube videos on maintenance: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIKz_D-MJSUKEcOQp2zhltIS885a1Tfy1

Northern Ireland

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division: *Listed Buildings - Repair and Maintenance*. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/buildings-advice-and-maintenance>

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division: *Technical Note – Ventilation*. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/technical-note-ventilation>

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division: *Flooding advice for Listed Building owners*. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/flooding-advice-listed-building-owners>

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division: *Listed Building Maintenance-Checklist*. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/listed-building-maintenance-checklist>

Ulster Architectural Heritage

Heritage: How to? Guides. Guide 4: Maintain Historic Buildings: <https://www.handsonheritage-ni.org.uk/heritage-how-to-guides/>

Britain

Curtis, R., Jenkins, M., & Snow, J. (2014) *Maintaining Your Home*. Historic Environment Scotland Short Guide <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=9b3ca2e8-afcc-42ba-92c3-a59100fde12b>

Curtis, R. (2008) *Inform Guide: Ventilation in Traditional Houses*. Historic Environment Scotland. [Inform Guide: Ventilation in Traditional Houses | Hist Env Scotland \(historicenvironment.scot\)](https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=9b3ca2e8-afcc-42ba-92c3-a59100fde12b)

Curtis, R. & Kennedy, A. (2007) *Inform Guide: Damp. Causes and Solutions*. Historic Environment Scotland <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=bd396452-624b-4b87-9ae4-a59500b4dff4> Jenkins, M (2020) *Inform Guide: Condensation*. Historic Environment Scotland [Inform Guide: Condensation | Historic Environment Scotland | HES](https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=bd396452-624b-4b87-9ae4-a59500b4dff4)

Historic England, RICS, PCA. (2022) Investigation of moisture and its effects on traditional buildings: Principles and competencies. <https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/advice/joint-position-statement-investigation-moisture-traditional-buildings/>

Jenkins, M. (2020) *Inform Guide: Mould Growth*. Historic Environment Scotland [Inform Guide: Mould Growth | Historic Environment Scotland | HES](https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=9b3ca2e8-afcc-42ba-92c3-a59100fde12b)

Kent, D. (2018) *Control of Dampness*. Technical Advice Note. SPAB. https://www.spab.org.uk/sites/default/files/Control_of_Dampness_0.pdf

SPAB French drains: <https://www.spab.org.uk/advice/french-drains>

SPAB 'What is Rising Damp': [What is rising damp? \(spab.org.uk\)](https://www.spab.org.uk/advice/what-is-rising-damp/)

SPAB publications: <https://www.spab.org.uk/shop/product-category/publications>

Ward, P. (2022) *The Warm Dry Home: A practical guide to understanding the causes and solutions of damp in buildings*. Heritage House Building and Restoration.

5.6 ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Republic of Ireland

Arnold, P. (2010) *Energy Efficiency in Tradition Buildings*. National Built Heritage Service Advice Series, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Energy-Efficiency-in-Traditional-Buildings-2010.pdf>

Fab Trads Project: FabTrads involves the testing and characterisation of the thermal and hygrothermal properties of a wide range of traditional and historic building wall fabrics and constituent materials. For more information see: <https://www.ucd.ie/biace/projects/fabtrads/>

National Built Heritage Service (2023) *Improving Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings, Guidance for Specifiers and Installers*. Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

Government of Ireland. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/18cb9-improving-energy-efficiency-in-traditional-buildings-guidance-for-specifiers-and-installers-2023/>

Purcell C. E. (2018) *Deep Energy Renovation of Traditional Buildings: Addressing Knowledge Gaps and Skills Training in Ireland*.
https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Deep_Energy_Renovation_of_Traditional_Buildings.pdf

Relevant videos

- Reducing Energy and Carbon use in Traditionally built Houses. 2022 Presentation by Colm Murray, former Architecture Officer with The Heritage Council.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0IRpyG0U5c>
- Introduction to solid wall insulation for traditional buildings by Rosanne Walker in 2020
<https://youtu.be/yGbuh8ZWx7M>
- Reducing heating costs in pre-WW2 homes by Fergal McGirl, Conservation Architect in 2019
<https://youtu.be/EUnuhGAvWuU>
- Dublin Civic Trust list of CPD webinars on traditional building topics including energy efficiency in traditional buildings: <http://www.dublincivictrust.ie/learn/courses--seminars->
Note these are pay to view

Northern Ireland

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division.

- *Heritage & Climate Change*: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/heritage-and-climate-change>
- *Retrofit of traditional buildings - what to consider when planning for the future*:
<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/retrofit-traditional-buildings-what-consider-when-planning-future> & <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-02/dfc-retrofit-of-traditional-buildings-consider.pdf>
- *Thermal upgrade of traditional buildings*: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/thermal-upgrade-traditional-buildings> & <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/communities/dfc-thermal-upgrade-traditional-buildings-guidance.pdf>

Construction Industry Training Board Northern Ireland. <https://www.citbni.org.uk/Heritage-Project/The-Older-Buildings-for-a-Greener-Future-project/Retrofit-Infographics.aspx>

Scotland

Arregi, B., Ferraro, C. & Little, J. (2015) *Technical Paper 15: Assessing risks in insulation retrofits using hygrothermal software tools, Heat and moisture transport in internally insulated stone walls*. Historic Environment Scotland. <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=8a2a7b9d-e3b2-4c7d-8c17-a59400a8387b>
This paper provides an introduction to the basics of hygrothermal building physics, discusses assessment methodologies, including related methods, standards and software tools and illustrates these in a case study.

Baker, Paul (2008) *Technical Paper 02 (2008) In-Situ U-Value Measurements in Traditional Buildings - Preliminary Results*. Historic Environment Scotland.
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and->

[research/publications/publication/?publicationId=7fc3d5f6-5992-4106-92bf-a59400bf430c](https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=7fc3d5f6-5992-4106-92bf-a59400bf430c)

This report summarises results of in situ U-value measurements of various solid stone walls in five traditional Scottish buildings. It assesses the actual performance of the traditional building envelope in order to provide guidance for energy performance assessment. The report also includes results from the testing of a solid ground floor concrete slab with and without retrofitted insulation.

Curtis, R. and Jenkins, M., (2021) *Guide to Energy Retrofit of Traditional Buildings*. Historic Environment Scotland.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationid=47c9f2eb-1ade-4a76-a775-add0008972f3>

This guide describes retrofit measures which can be used to improve the energy efficiency of traditional buildings, whilst maintaining as much of their historic fabric and creating healthy indoor environments. These measures are backed up by research and showcased in various case studies, as trialled by Historic Environment Scotland. The guide also looks at compatibility with the existing fabric, compliance with building standards and the planning process. The purpose of the guide is to inform and provide guidance to homeowners, local authority building control officers, architects, designers and installers on how to approach the refurbishment of such buildings and balance various requirements.

Curtis, R. & Jenkins, M. (2014) *Inform Guide: Improving Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings*. Historic Environment Scotland [Inform Guide: Improving Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings \(historicenvironment.scot\)](https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationid=179c1909-3679-4486-9583-a59100fa98c1)

Historic Environment Scotland (2013) *Short Guide 1 – Fabric Improvements for Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings* <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=179c1909-3679-4486-9583-a59100fa98c1>

England

Historic England advice (2016) Draught-proofing windows and doors: energy efficiency and historic buildings. <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/eehb-draught-proofing-windows-doors/>

Historic England advice (2016) Insulating pitched roofs at ceiling level: energy efficiency and historic buildings. <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/retrofit-and-energy-efficiency-in-historic-buildings/insulating-roofs-in-historic-buildings/>

Historic England (2016) Insulating pitched roofs at rafter level: energy efficiency and historic buildings. <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/retrofit-and-energy-efficiency-in-historic-buildings/insulating-roofs-in-historic-buildings/>

Historic England - Energy Efficiency in traditional Homes. <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/energy-efficiency-and-traditional-homes-advice-note-14/>

Historic England - Installing Heat Pumps in Historic Buildings. <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/retrofit-and-energy-efficiency-in-historic-buildings/low-and-zero-carbon-technologies/installing-heat-pumps-in-historic-buildings/>

Historic England - Secondary glazing.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/imagesbooks/publications/eehb-secondary-glazing-windows/heag085-secondary-glazing/>

Historic England - Technical Tuesday webinar recordings including energy assessment, Part F and Part L regulations, use of heat pumps. <https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/training-skills/training/webinars/recordings/#previoustechnicaltuesdaywebinars>

Hunt, R., McCloud, K., & Suhr, M. (2019) *The Old House EcoHandbook: A Practical Guide to Retrofitting for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability*. London: White Lion Publishing.

5.7 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND VERNACULAR RETROFIT PROJECTS

Historic Environment Scotland refurbishment case studies. Range of case studies describe the repair and upgrade of traditionally constructed buildings and components. Building typologies include vernacular buildings. Please note that the Irish building control system is different and some advice provided here needs to be agreed in advance with local Building Control Officer to ensure it is acceptable to Irish standards.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/about-us/what-we-do/conservation/refurbishment-case-studies/>

Refurbishment Case Study 3 (2012) *Roof and wall insulation to detached two-storey house with rubble stone exposed walls and tiled roof*. This case study describes upgrade work carried out to a detached stone house, Wee Causeway, in Culross, Fife. The house is owned by the National Trust for Scotland and is situated in a small village on the Firth of Forth. Wee Causeway was used in trials to explore different options of wall and roof insulation upgrades, in order to improve the thermal performance of the building. The project aimed to retain as much of the original building fabric as possible whilst bringing about the greatest improvement to thermal performance and vapour permeability. <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=345e856a-5ef2-46e5-8315-a59300fc3995>

Refurbishment Case Study 6 (2016): *Wall, roof and window insulation to detached island single storey house with dormer windows in exposed location*. This case study describes upgrades to a detached rural house on the island of South Uist. The aim was to demonstrate different methods and materials that could be used to improve the thermal performance of a traditionally constructed building of this type, whilst maintaining good levels of water vapour permeability of the building fabric. During this project, sympathetic consideration was given to the aesthetic and fabric requirements of the building, and also to the nature of the building's exposed location. Upgraded during this project were the walls, roof and windows.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=62dee846-2f4e-4674-8879-a59300ff84fa>

Refurbishment Case Study 16 (2015): *Insulation to floors, ceilings and walls in detached single-storey house with dormer windows*. This case study describes the thermal improvements made to the fabric of a mid-19th century granite farmhouse in Aberdeenshire. While thermal refurbishment of domestic properties is well established, there are many aspects of the refurbishment of traditionally constructed properties where more evidence is needed to inform best practice, from the point of view of both the on-going health of the building and, more importantly, the occupants. This case study will describe interventions to the floors, coombed ceilings and walls of a building that is typical of the rural architecture of north east Scotland. <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=524a5482-439d-467f-8dac-a59300f92260>

Refurbishment Case Study 22 (2016): *Repairs and thermal upgrades to detached vernacular house with corrugated iron-roof and porch*. This case study describes works to a small vernacular building in a rural location close to the town of Braemar. The building had been unoccupied since the 1930s, and due to a modern plantation of Douglas fir and spruce, had been largely hidden. A change of ownership in recent years resulted in a plan to refurbish the cottage for holiday accommodation. During this process the almost unique nature of its survival and the importance of the building was recognised. <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=134ef4b1-90e5-4dcc-b1da-a6dc00a9b4ee>

Refurbishment Case Study 27 (2018): *Ventilation and insulation improvements to semi-detached farmhouse with exposed rubble stone walls and dormer window*. Holm Farm Cottage. This Refurbishment Case Study looks at a building which suffered from mould growth due to poorly specified energy efficiency measures. It details the works undertaken to fix the problems whilst still making the building more energy efficient. <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=3c1f6e98-c854-4ef0-80c9-a93800e4438c>

6. TRAINING, SKILLS AND THIRD LEVEL COURSES

6.1 CONSERVATION SKILLS IRELAND

General

Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust runs regular training events including traditional skills. <https://ccght.org/>

CITB NI Events: Traditional skills training, taster days in heritage skills and retrofit of historic buildings. <https://www.citbni.org.uk/Events.aspx>

Dublin Civic Trust: Dublin Civic Trust list of CPD webinars on traditional building topics. <https://www.dublincivictrust.ie/>

Heritage Careers Guide (3rd edition). [2024-2025 Heritage Careers Guide](#)

Irish Georgian Society: The Irish Georgian Society run an extensive programme of annual events including the annual Conserving your Dublin Period House whole course 2023 which while Dublin focussed provides useful information for any traditionally built structure. <https://www.igs.ie/events>

The Heritage Council in Kilkenny hold a variety of conservation conferences and training days each year. <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/>

The Irish National Heritage Park in Wexford runs a variety of short courses including on mud, stone walling and blacksmithing. <https://irishheritage.ie/events/>

Lough Erne Landscape Partnership runs regular training events, including traditional skills. <https://lelp.org.uk/>

National Built Heritage Service: Provides regular taster training courses in vernacular building skills - lime mortars, earth mortars, thatch and dry stone walling. <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>

SPAB Ireland: Irish branch of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings which was founded in 2017. The branch runs regular events including traditional skills working weekends. Particularly good on vernacular. They also have a podcast 'heart to hearth'. <https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/heart-to-hearth-spab-ireland-bHz-qwIpf8Y/> Check out their social media page for updates. <https://www.spab.org.uk/about-us/spab-ireland>

Ulster Architectural Heritage Society: The Ulster Architectural Heritage operates across the nine counties of Ulster promoting the value of built heritage, encouraging its protection, conservation and heritage-led regeneration. They run an extensive range annual events for anyone interested in built heritage. <https://www.ulsterarchitecturalheritage.org.uk/> and <https://www.ulsterarchitecturalheritage.org.uk/events/>

Ulster Folk Museum, Cultra, County Down runs courses in traditional skills training from time to time. <https://www.ulsterfolkmuseum.org/whats-on>

Blacksmithing

Moneypennys Forge outside Portadown, County Armagh offers classes for beginners and advanced metal works in traditional blacksmithing.

<https://www.facebook.com/moneypennyblacksmithsworkshop/>

Hot Milk Forge in County Antrim is a Blacksmithing and Bladesmithing School based in the Glens of Antrim. Hot Milk runs evening, weekend and day classes in Basic to Advanced Artist Blacksmithing and Bladesmithing. <https://www.artistblacksmithschool.com/book-a-course-in-blacksmithing>

Ben's Hollow Forge in County Tyrone offers day and evening classes in traditional blacksmithing. Check their Facebook page for details.

Lime & Earth Mortars

Building Limes Forum Ireland: The Building Limes Forum Ireland (BLFI) is an all-Ireland organisation and brings together all those involved in the use of natural lime in the building industry from built heritage to sustainable new-build. The BLFI provides information on all aspects of lime (natural hydraulic lime [NHL], hot lime, and earth mortars) its uses and offers a platform for discussion, sharing experiences and making friends and contacts. They regularly run training and events for members and non-members. <https://www.buildinglimesforumireland.com/news-events> The Building Limes Forum Ireland also publish an annual newsletter. The BLFI newsletters include general information on lime related projects across the country and are all available online at Building Limes Forum Ireland. <https://www.buildinglimesforumireland.com/>

Damien Condon, Calx Restoration: Lime plasterer based in Tipperary, runs courses in the use of traditional lime mortars. Specialises in hot limes. <https://calxrestoration.com/>

Earth Building UK and Ireland (EBUKI): Runs regular training events on earth building. <https://www.ebuki.co/events>

Eoin Madigan, stone mason in County Clare, runs regular traditional lime training workshops specialising in hot limes. Check Facebook under 'Madigan Traditional Masonry'.

Pat Hickey, stone mason in County Wexford, runs regular training in the use of earth and traditional lime mortars in the National Heritage Park in Wexford: <https://irishheritage.ie/>

Tom Pollard, stone mason in County Tipperary, runs regular training in using traditional lime and earth mortars. Specialises in hot limes: <https://pollardconservationrestoration.ie/>

Rock Stone Masonry in County Antrim, offers traditional skills training to beginners in letter carving, lime pointing and drystone walling. <https://www.therockstonemasonry.co.uk/carved-at-the-castle/>

For further training in the use of lime mortars see section 7.3 which lists suppliers who also provide training in the use of lime mortars – mainly NHLs.

Dry Stone Walling

Drystone Walling Association: Run regular training events on drystone walling.

<https://www.dswai.ie/>

Sustainable Building Skills

Common Knowledge: Common Knowledge in County Clare is a non-profit social enterprise based in North Clare which aims to provide people with the skills to repair existing buildings and build new homes. <https://www.ourcommonknowledge.org/>

The Hollies Centre for Sustainability: The Hollies is a centre for learning in practical aspects of Sustainable Living Skills at Castletown Kinneagh, Enniskeane, County Cork. They run regular one day workshops on mud-wall ('cob'). <https://www.thehollies.ie/cob/>

6.2 CONSERVATION SKILLS SCOTLAND & ENGLAND

The Engine Shed, Stirling, Scotland: The Engine Shed Scotland's dedicated building conservation centre. They run an extensive range of short courses on various aspects of building conservation. [What's On | The Engine Shed | Part of Historic Environment Scotland](#)

Scottish Lime Centre: The Scottish Lime Centre Trust (SLCT) is a 'not for profit' organisation registered as a charity in Scotland. Aims & objectives includes education through the provision of advice, training and practical experience in the use of lime for the repair and conservation of traditional buildings. They run a wide range of vocational and professional courses combining theory and practical working sessions. <https://www.scotlime.org/>

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB): They provide training schemes, courses, advice and research. <https://www.spab.org.uk/learning/about-our-courses>

Weald and Downland Living Museum, Chichester, England: Offers courses in traditional building skills, crafts and conservation. <https://www.wealddown.co.uk/courses/>

West Dean College, Chichester, England: Centre for training in the conservation, arts and design education. Includes short courses, diplomas and masters in building conservation. Short courses include repair of traditional slate/stone roofs, use of lime, masonry repairs, structural repairs etc. <https://www.westdean.org.uk>

6.3 THIRD LEVEL

All Ireland

All-Ireland Heritage Skills Programme. The All Ireland Heritage Skills programme supports those working in the construction sector to push their skills to the next level to becoming the next generation of master craftspeople.

<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/our-work-with-others/all-ireland-heritage-skills-programme>

Republic of Ireland

Conservation Letterfrack in Connemara, County Galway is a specialist company of conservator-restorers, craftspeople and other specialists in the conservation, restoration and collection care of wooden artefacts and historic timber interiors. They offer internships for students in their conservation and restoration workshop. They occasionally run CPD courses.

<https://conservationletterfrack.ie/>

Solas is the State Agency that oversees the Further Education & Training Sector in Ireland (FET). They run a number of courses in stone carving, furniture making and woodworking and traditional stonewall construction. <https://www.fetchcourses.ie/>

Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) Limerick 'Certificate in Energy Renovation for Traditional Buildings (Level 8)'. The aim of the-30 week programme is to upskill building professionals to develop knowledge and skills that allow them to design and deliver high-quality, energy-efficient renovations to existing traditional buildings (pre-1940s). This will also place them in

a position to contribute to meeting Ireland's climate action and energy targets in relation to the green renovation of buildings.

<https://tus.ie/courses/certificate-energy-renovation-for-traditional-buildings/>

Trinity College Dublin, Applied Building Repair & Conservation Post Grad Diploma: One-year postgraduate course designed to provide a solid knowledge of materials and built fabrics, both modern and traditional, the causes and mechanisms of failure and the traditional as well as the most advanced ways to repair and preserve them. The student is expected to successfully complete a research project, produce specifications for conservation work, and to develop an understanding of how to manage a conservation project. This course has been approved by Engineers Ireland and the RIAI (Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland).

<https://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/courses/applied-building-repair-and-conservation-pgraddip/>

University College Dublin School of Irish, Celtic Studies & Folklore: Undergraduate and Graduate Programmes in Irish Folklore. <https://www.ucd.ie/icsf/en/studywithus/>

University College Cork, Department of Folklore & Ethnology: Undergraduate and graduate programmes. <https://www.ucc.ie/en/bealoideas/>

Northern Ireland

Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) in Northern Ireland run training in a number of traditional skills. <https://www.facebook.com/CITBNorthernIreland/>

See also Kings Foundation Building Craft Programme below:

United Kingdom

Kings Foundation Building Craft Programme The Building Craft Programme is a full time, 8-month course which gives practical experience in traditional building skills and the opportunity to work towards a Level 3 NVQ in Heritage Skills. <https://kings-foundation.org/study/all-ireland-heritage-skills-programme/>

Level 3 Award in Energy Efficiency Measures for Older and Traditional Buildings Historic Environment Scotland and other UK organisations run Level 3 Award in Energy Efficiency Measures for Older and Traditional Buildings. <https://www.engineshed.scot/learning/>

SPAB Scholarship The Scholarship is a unique training programme for early career architects, surveyors and engineers to gain the skills and knowledge they'll need to work with traditional buildings. <https://www.spab.org.uk/learning/scholarship>

7. CONSERVATION CONTRACTORS, PROFESSIONALS & MATERIALS

7.1 CONTRACTORS

The Irish Georgian Society maintains a list of professionals and heritage contractors experienced in dealing with historic/traditionally constructed buildings. IGS traditional building skills register:

<https://www.igs.ie/conservation/register>

Irish Construction Federation Heritage Contractors <https://heritageregistration.ie/>

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage hosts a list of thatchers operating in Ireland:

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/search-vernacular-thatch-building-surveys/>

Local Authority Architectural Conservation Officers and/or Heritage Officers sometimes have their own lists but can't provide recommendations.

Ulster Architectural Heritage Society: <https://www.ulsterarchitecturalheritage.org.uk/directory-traditional-building-skills/>

7.2 CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS

Republic of Ireland

Conservation Architects: <https://www.riai.ie/work-with-an-architect/conservation-skills>

Conservation Surveyors: <https://scsi.ie/building-conservation-accreditation/>

Conservation Engineers: <https://www.engineersireland.ie/Professionals/Communities-Groups/Engineering-Divisions/Structures-and-construction/Conservation-Accreditation-Register-for-Engineers>

Note: The assigned conservation professional as listed above should be able to can act as an assigned certifier in relation to Building Control. (1) Architects on register pursuant to Part 3 (Registration of Architects) of the Building Control Act 2007 or (2) Building Surveyors on register pursuant to Part 5(Registration of Quantity Surveyors) of the Building Control Act 2007 or (3) Chartered Engineers on register pursuant to Section 7 of the Institution of Civil Engineers of Ireland (Charter Amendment) Act 1969. The regulations specifically require the Assigned Certifier to be competent to inspect and certify the works.

Northern Ireland

Royal Society of Ulster Architects (RSUA): Find an Architect – search under 'Conservation' specialism. [Find an Architect - Royal Society of Ulster Architects \(rsua.org.uk\)](http://rsua.org.uk)

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA): The RIBA Conservation Register includes specialists in all aspects of historic building conservation. <https://www.architecture.com/working-with-an-architect/conservation-register>

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS): Building Conservation Accreditation. [Building Conservation Accreditation \(rics.org\)](http://rics.org)

General

The Institute of Conservation (ICON) Conservation Register. <https://www.conservationregister.com/>

Institute of Conservator-Restorers in Ireland <https://www.icriconservation.ie/>

Institute of Historic Building Conservation: <https://ihbc.org.uk/accredited/>

<https://www.ciob.org/learning/specialist-certification#building+conservation+certification>

7.3 LIME MATERIALS & SUSTAINABLE BUILDING PRODUCTS

Ecological Building Systems in Athboy, Co. Meath sells sustainable and ecological building materials. <https://www.ecologicalbuildingsystems.com/>

Heritage Ltd is a Ballymena, Co. Antrim-based heritage company that supply materials and provide heritage training. <https://www.heritageltd.com/training>

Round-Tower Lime is based in Inishannon, Co. Cork and supply lime-based products and natural building materials to the conservation and ecobuild sector, and also offer regular training in this area. <https://www.roundtowerlime.com/> & <https://www.roundtowerlime.com/training>

Stoneware Studios are based in Youghal, Co. Cork manufacture and supply and promote an extensive range of materials and services for the repair of historic buildings. <https://www.stonewarestudios.com/>
They also run regular training courses on the use of lime mortars (repointing & plastering) and insulating plasters. <https://www.stonewarestudios.com/craft-training-2/>

Traditional Lime Company, Tullow, Co. Carlow. Supply Lime, lime mortars and breathable paints. <https://www.traditionallime.ie/>

8. REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: PLANNING GUIDELINES, NATIONAL POLICY & LEGISLATION

8.1 VERNACULAR STRATEGY

National Built Heritage Service (2021) *A Living Tradition: A Strategy to Enhance the Understanding, Minding and Handing on of Our Built Vernacular Heritage*.
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2021/12/A-Living-Tradition.pdf>

8.2 ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION GUIDELINES

National Built Heritage Service (2011) *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines*. For Protected Structures and structures located in Architectural Conservation Areas.
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Architectural-Heritage-Protection-Guidelines-for-Planning-Authorities-2011.pdf>

8.3 GENERAL GUIDANCE

O'Reilly, B. & Maguire, C. (2021) *Caring for our Vernacular Heritage*. Department for Communities (Northern Ireland) and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Ireland)
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2021/12/Caring-for-Our-Vernacular-Heritage.pdf>
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/guidance/>

8.4 WILDLIFE

Aughney, T., Copland, A. & Duggan O. (2009) *Bats, birds, buildings and you!* The Heritage Council.
https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/bats_birds_buildings_you_2009_3mb.pdf

SPAB Ireland & The Heritage Council (2020) *Homeowner maintenance series: Vegetation 4.- Maintenance-Sheets-Vegetation-A4-v3.pdf* ([heritagecouncil.ie](https://www.heritagecouncil.ie)) Sullivan, Irene & Lusby, John (2021) *Wildlife in Buildings: Linking our Built and Natural Heritage*. Bird Watch Ireland.
<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Wildlife-in-Buildings-linking-our-built-and-natural-heritage.pdf>

9. NORTHERN IRELAND: PLANNING GUIDELINES, NATIONAL POLICY & LEGISLATION

9.1 GENERAL GUIDANCE

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division: *Traditional or Vernacular Buildings*.
<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/traditional-or-vernacular-buildings>

Oram, Richard and Stelfox, Dawson (2004) *Traditional Buildings in Ireland: A homeowner's Handbook*. Mourne Heritage Trust. https://www.nihe.gov.uk/getattachment/4923f389-c59a-4fd2-875c-9af560ca6f0c/traditional_buildings.pdf

O'Reilly, B. & Maguire, C. (2021) *Caring for our Vernacular Heritage*. Department for Communities (Northern Ireland) and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Ireland) <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2021/12/Caring-for-Our-Vernacular-Heritage.pdf>

9.2 POLICY

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division *Conservation Principles*. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/conservation-principles>

Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS 6) Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage (1999) https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/PPS06%20Archaeology%20and%20Built%20Heritage_0.pdf

Department for Communities Historic Environment Division (1996) *A Sense of Loss: The Survival of Rural Traditional Buildings in Northern Ireland*. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/sense-loss-survival-rural-traditional-buildings-northern-ireland>

10. REPUBLIC OF IRELAND GRANT SCHEMES

10.1 NATIONAL BUILT HERITAGE SERVICE GRANT SCHEMES

Note: These grant schemes are competitive and the quality of the application is key.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme

The deadline for the 2026 scheme is the 26th September 2025 but can vary in each Local Authority. Please check with your own local authority and apply directly to them.

Eligible Structures

- *Protected structures*
- *Proposed Protected Structures*
- *Structures in Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs)*
- *Vernacular Structures*
- *Historic Shopfronts*
-

Funding & match funding

Total value of public funding must not exceed 80% of the cost. Owners must contribute at least 20% of the cost of the works, but in most instances this figure will be higher.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-housing-local-government-and-heritage/services/built-heritage-investment-scheme-bhis/>

Note: Apply directly to your local authority.

Historic Structures Fund

The 2026 Scheme will be advertised in November 2025. Apply directly to local authority in which your building is located.

This scheme is aimed at enabling larger-scale conservation works on historic structures deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support, with larger grants of between **€50,000** and **€200,000**. This fund is aimed at larger structures which have a community/public benefit so is generally not suitable for more modest vernacular buildings.

Note: Apply directly to your local authority; only a limited number can be put forward by the Local Authority.

Historic Structures Fund Conservation Advice Grant

This scheme is aimed at private owners of vacant houses who are availing of and/or considering the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant. The aim of the grant is to support building owners seeking professional conservation advice. It assisted building owners to get a conservation expert with proven and appropriate expertise to visit the property, conduct a survey, and compile tailored conservation advice for the property owner. The completed report outlined the condition of the building, suggested conservation repairs and improvements which would improve the building and enhance the building's character, energy efficiency, integrity, and amenity. The deadline for application in 2026 has not yet been announced.

In 2025 there were two streams:

1. Towns: Protected Structures and historic buildings in Architectural Conservation Areas
2. Farmhouses: Protected structures, rural ACAs and non-protected vernacular farmhouses

The maximum grant is 67% of cost of approved conservation professional. Grant does not exceed €5,000.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/7241b-conservation-advice-grant-scheme-for-vacant-traditional-houses/>

Again, please note that the above schemes are competitive and the quality of the application is key.

10.2 THATCHING GRANT: DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT & HERITAGE

Housing Grants Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Government Buildings, Ballina, County Mayo. <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/32e72-thatching-grant/>

This is a multi-annual grant scheme, with no set deadline. A grant of up to €3,810 or two-thirds of the approved cost (whichever is the lesser) may be payable towards necessary works to renew or repair the thatched roofs of houses. A higher grant (up to €5,714) may be payable for houses on specified Islands. For Medical Card holders, the maximum grant is €6,350, or up to 80% of the approved cost (€8,252 for Islands).

10.3 HERITAGE COUNCIL TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS GRANT SCHEME

The objective of this scheme is to ensure that traditional farm buildings and other related structures (cobble, gates etc.) that contribute to the character of the landscape and are of significant heritage value are conserved for active agricultural use.

In 2025, the scheme was open to farmers in the Republic of Ireland participating in and accepted into one of the following Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine schemes:

- Approved participants in ACRES.
- Participants in EIP (European Innovation Partnership) Calls 1, 2 and 3, Hen Harrier and Pearl Mussel Projects and The Burren Programme.
- Approved participants of the Organic Farming Scheme

The grant amounts vary between €4,000 and €30,000. A grant award will not be made for more than 75% of the cost of the works. Please note some grants will be for less than 75% of the cost of the approved works. For more information, see:

<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/traditional-farm-buildings-grant-scheme>

10.4 OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY GRANT SCHEMES FOR VERNACULAR BUILDINGS

In addition to the above, a number of Local Authorities operate small-scale grant schemes which thatched buildings.

- **Fingal Stitch in Time Grant Scheme:** The Fingal Conservation Section's 'Stitch in Time' grant assigns a lot of its budget to patch repairs of thatch and blue-stoning but does allow for works to other buildings too.
<https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/architectural-heritage-fund-stitch-time-grant>
- **Donegal Thatch Repair Grant Scheme.** The Donegal Conservation and Heritage office generally offers thatch repair grant allocations of between €500 and €3,000. Types of small-scale thatch repairs that might be eligible for this scheme include repairs to eaves, ridge, flashings around chimneys, holes, furrows, fixings, ropes, wire netting, gables. and roof timbers/carpentry. The

thatch buildings must be historic thatched structures which are of landscape, tourism, historical or cultural value to the county. The deadline for the 2025 scheme was the 17th of April.

<https://www.donegalculture.ie/en/services/heritage/heritage-funding/thatch-repair-grant-scheme-2025/>

- **Kildare Thatch Grant:** Kildare County Council Conservation Section runs an annual thatching grant for small scale repairs. The deadline for the 2025 scheme was the 15th of April.
<https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Conservation/Thatch/Grants/>

10.5 VACANT PROPERTY GRANT/CROÍ CÓNAITHE

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant provides funding under the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund for the refurbishment of vacant and derelict homes in both rural and urban areas. It can also be used to renovate properties that have previously not been in residential use. As of the 1st of May 2023, the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant scheme includes properties which are made available for rent and not just owner-occupied. Applicants can receive up to €50,000 to renovate a vacant property (vacant for two years or more); with an additional top-up grant of up to €20,000 available if the property is derelict (i.e. structurally unsound and dangerous).

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c2183-croi-conaithe-towns-fund/>

10.6 IRISH GOVERNMENT REPAIR & LEASING SCHEME

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/d32c4-repair-and-leasing-scheme-rls-further-information/>

10.7 INFORMATION ON OTHER GRANTS AVAILABLE TO HOME OWNERS

https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/housing/housing_grants_and_schemes/

11. NORTHERN IRELAND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FUNDING & GRANTS

11.1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT REPAIR, REGENERATION, RESEARCH AND REVIVAL FUNDS

Information on financial supports available to owners and groups to repair, research, and regenerate historic buildings, historic monuments, and the wider historic environment in Northern Ireland.

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/historic-environment/historic-environment-funding-grants>

Other grant programmes include:

- The Shared Island fund gov - Shared Island (www.gov.ie) - The ROIs government's Shared Island initiative aims to harness the full potential of the Good Friday Agreement to enhance cooperation, connection and mutual understanding on the island and engage with all communities and traditions to build consensus around a shared future.
- King Charles III fund King Charles III Charitable Fund - Transforming lives and building sustainable communities (www.kccf.org.uk) (community-based funding)
- [Grants Online](#) Grants Online is the UK's most comprehensive and up to date UK grant funding information service. Updated on a daily basis, Grants Online informs you of grant funding opportunities from the European Union, UK Government Agencies, the Lottery as well as Grant Making Trusts & Foundations. Sign up to the newsletter and they alert you about new funds. <https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/>
- Gov.uk – Find a grant: <https://www.gov.uk/> funding (NI filter) - [Searching for all grants, 3 filtered results - Find a grant](#) ; and [Search for tools, tips and ideas - MyCommunity](#)
- Grants and Funding | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (www.daera-ni.gov.uk)
- The Architectural Heritage Fund (<https://ahfund.org.uk/grants/northern-ireland/>). The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) can provide grants to help with the viability or development stages of a project in Northern Ireland. Examples are included below:
 - The first two stages of the Village Catalyst programme, which are administered by AHF, aimed at charities, social enterprise and other not for profit groups in rural villages of less than 5,000 people, who want to tackle rural poverty and social isolation in their area, by developing a sustainable use for a disused historic building in their village. The buildings must be listed or in a Conservation Area.
 - Funding can be provided for up to £10k for Viability (Stage 1) and £20k for Development (Stage 2), which takes a project up to the point where they are ready to start on site. The third and final stage, up to £200k for Delivery, is capital spend for construction works through to completion and this administered by HED.
 - The Heritage Impact Fund: The Heritage Impact Fund, also administered by AHF. This is designed for charities and social enterprises that are looking to make a positive social impact by acquiring, reusing, or redeveloping buildings of historic or architectural importance with loan amounts of £25,000 to £500,000.
 - Harnessing Heritage which provides advice and early-stage grant funding to heritage and community-led regeneration projects. Project Viability Grants of up to £10,000 are available to test early-stage plans for re-use of an historic building. Project Development Grants of up to £20,000 are also available to further develop a project to the point of delivery.

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Note for residents of the Republic of Ireland in relation to references to Northern Ireland, Scottish and English Publications: Please note that the Republic of Ireland building control system is different from the United Kingdom and some advice provided here needs to be agreed in advance with local Building Control Officer to ensure it is acceptable to Republic of Ireland standards.

gov.ie/housing
communities-ni.gov.uk



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Rialtas Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht**
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