

Launch of ‘The Vernacular Handbook: Repair, Maintenance and Conservation’

Derrynaflan Theatre, The Horse & Jockey Hotel, Horse & Jockey, Co. Tipperary, E41AP86

Tue 1 Dec 2026 09:15 - 16:30

NBHS

An tSeirbhís Oidhreachta
Tógtha Náisiúnta
National Built
Heritage Service

Join us for a **National Built Heritage Service Conference to celebrate** the launch of **'The Vernacular Handbook: Repair, Maintenance and Conservation'**.

The day will bring together practitioners, professionals, building owners and others. A programme of talks will include an introduction to vernacular buildings, traditional building methods and materials, maintenance and energy efficiency.

The handbook provides detailed and authoritative technical information for the conservation of vernacular buildings.

Registration is free and all are welcome. Booking link here:
https://www.tickettailor.com/events/nationalbuiltheritageservicedhlgh/2437457

Tea, coffee and a light lunch will be provided.

Please note that the event will be filmed and photographs will be taken.

The event will also be livestreamed online for those who cannot attend in person. Please email vernacular@housing.gov.ie to register for the livestream link.



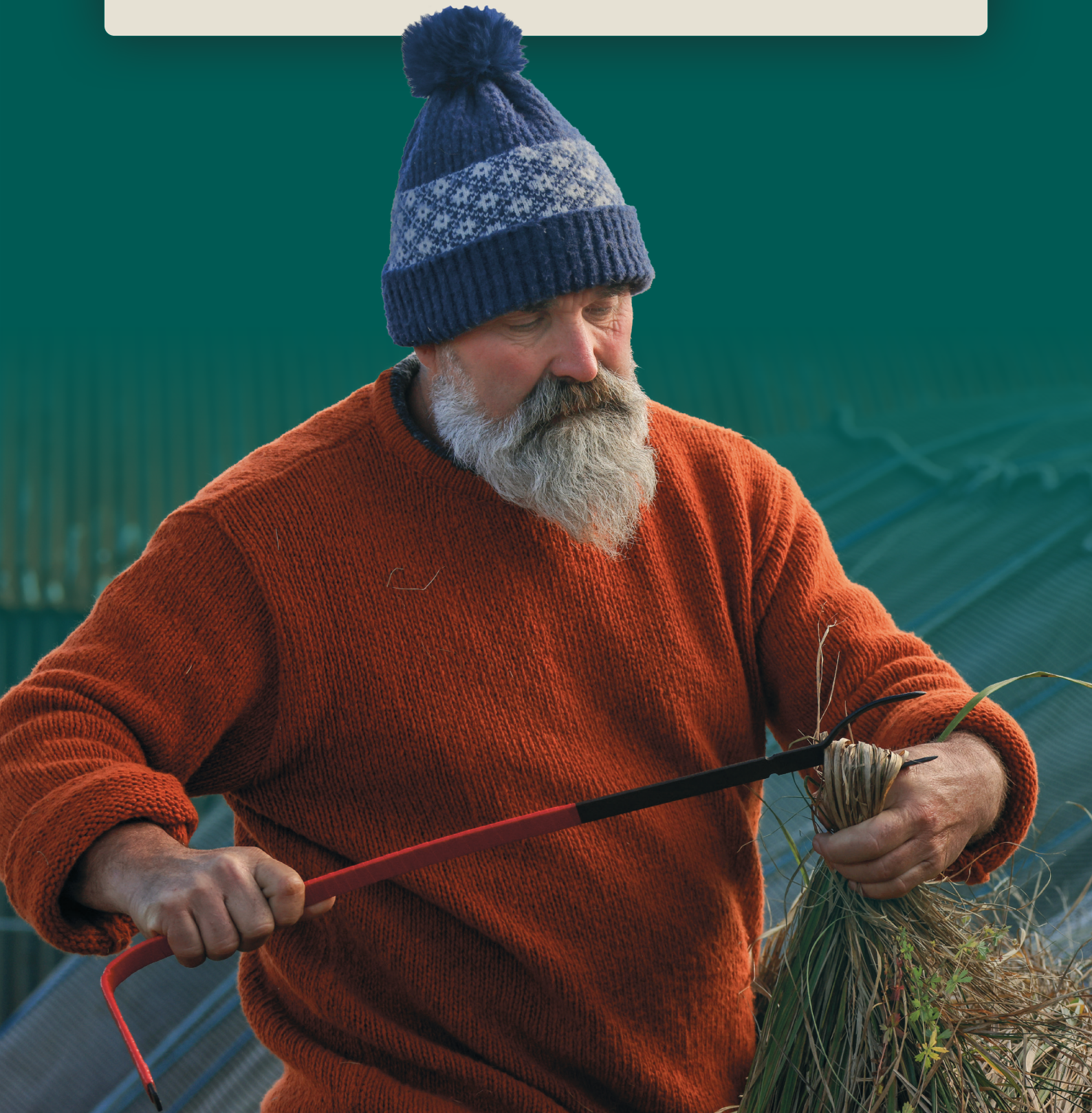
Time	What	Contributors
9.15-9.45	**Registration**	
10.00-10.15	**Welcome & Opening Address. Formal launch of 'The Vernacular Handbook'.**	Christopher O'Sullivan TD, Minister of State for Heritage & Sarah Waters NBHS
	Session 1:	*Moderator: Duncan McLaren, Dedalus Architecture*
10.15-10.35	**Introduction**	Barry O'Reilly, NBHS
10.35-10.55	**Stone Walls & Lime Mortars**	Julia Gebel, Gebel & Helling and Damien Condon, Calx Restoration
10.55-11.15	**Mud Walls & Earth Mortars**	Tom Pollard, Pollard Conservation & Restoration
11.15-11.45	**Tea & Coffee**	
	Session 2:	*Moderator: Rosemary Ryall, Waterford Architectural Conservation Officer*
11.45-12.05	**Roof Structures**	Richard McLoughlin, Lotts Architecture
12.05-12.25	**Overview on Thatch**	Jimmy Lenehan, Thatcher
12.25-12.40	**Stone Roofs**	Sarah Jane Halpin, NBHS
12.40-12.55	**Slate Roofs**	Gareth O'Callaghan, JCA Architects
12.55-13.10	**Corrugated roofs**	Barry O'Reilly, NBHS
13.10-14.00	**Lunch**	
	Session 3:	*Moderator: Natalie O'Rourke, Department for Communities, Northern Ireland.*
14.00-14.20	**Windows**	Nessa Roche, NBHS
14.20-14.40	**Drystone walls**	Ken Curran, Earthstone
14.40-15.00	**Interior Decoration**	David Skinner, wallpaper maker and conservator
15.00-15.10	**Comfort Break**	Grab a coffee/tea
	Session 4:	*Moderator: AnnMarie Cusack, Galway Architectural Conservation Officer*
15.10-15.30	**Maintenance**	Dawson Stelfox, Architect
15.30-15.50	**Services**	Frank Keohane, Surveyor
15.50-16.10	**Energy Conservation**	Carl Raftery, NBHS
16.10-16.15	**Close**	Sarah Jane Halpin, NBHS

Venue

Horse and Jockey is a village in County Tipperary. It lies on the R639 road, where it meets the N62 road to Thurles. It lies just off junction 6 of the M8 motorway.

If planning on coming by public transport, refer to https://www.transportforireland.ie/plan-a-journey/

If planning on travelling by car, refer to https://www.google.com/maps



Notes on Contributors

Damian Condon is a lime plasterer and managing director of Calx Restoration, based in County Tipperary.

Ken Curran is an archaeologist and drystone waller, based in County Tipperary.

AnnMarie Cusack joined Galway County Council in August 2024 as the Architectural Conservation Officer working to protect, promote and conserve the County's historic buildings.

Julia Gebel is a stonecutter/sculptor and stone conservator, and works as an independent conservation consultant, based in County Tipperary.

Sarah Jane Halpin is an architectural conservation advisor with the National Built Heritage Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Frank Keohane is a chartered building surveyor accredited in conservation (SCSI) and a writer, based in County Dublin.

Duncan McLaren is a conservation architect (RIAI Grade 1) and director of Dedalus Architecture, based in County Donegal.

Richard McLoughlin is a conservation architect (RIAI Grade 1) and director of Lotts Architecture & Urbanism, based in Dublin.

Gareth O'Callaghan is a conservation architect (RIAI Grade 1) and director of JCA Architects, Cork

Dr Barry O'Reilly is an architectural conservation advisor with the National Built Heritage Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.









Natalie O'Rourke is a senior conservation architect in the NI Department for Communities' Historic Environment Division and is currently drafting the first Historic Environment Policy for Northern Ireland.

Tom Pollard is a stonemason and owner of Pollard Conservation and Restoration, based in County Tipperary.

Carl Raftery is an architectural conservation advisor with the National Built Heritage Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Dr Nessa Roche is an architectural conservation advisor with the National Built Heritage Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Rosemary Ryall is architectural conservation officer with Waterford County Council.

David Skinner is a wallpaper maker, conservator and researcher, based in Dublin and County Leitrim.

Dawson Stelfox is a conservation architect, former chair of Consarc and currently organises the RSUA Conservation Training Courses and is based in Belfast.

Acknowledgements

This conference is presented by the National Built Heritage Service (NBHS). The publication of the handbook completes Action 9 of 'A Living Tradition: A Strategy to Enhance the Understanding, Minding and Handing on of Our Built Vernacular Heritage' buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2021/12/A-Living-Tradition.pdf

If you wish to be added to our vernacular mailing list and hear about the subsidised traditional skills training events we fund around the country, please email vernacular@housing.gov.ie



Image credits in order of appearance.

1. Cover: vernacular house (Sarah Jane Halpin); combing straw (Martin Fanning) & repairing drystone wall (Ken Curran)
2. Detail of straw bobbin (Marika Leen)
3. Risteard Ó Loideoin, thatcher (Valerie O'Sullivan)
4. Repairing mud wall (Tom Pollard)
5. Stonework (Julia Gebel)
6. Blacksmith at work (Shem Caulfield)
7. Schist roof house (NIAH)
8. Repairing drystone wall (Simon Bates courtesy of the IGS)
9. Rope thatching (Donegal Thatch School)
10. Lime Washing (Damien Condon/Brenda O'Meara)
11. Lime parging to under side of slates (Karol O'Mahoney)

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