



SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR BUILT VERNACULAR HERITAGE

February 2024

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

 NATIONAL INVENTORY
of ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

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1. GENERAL SOURCES FOR IRISH VERNACULAR

1.1 WEB-BASED SOURCES

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 fantastic repository of information in relation 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 at Turlough, 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 (1891-1957) and Albert Nilsson (later Eskerod) (1904-1987). Later drawings dating 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>

1.2 MUSEUMS OF VERNACULAR BUILDINGS & FOLK LIFE

County Clare

Bunratty Castle & Folk Park, Bunratty: Bunratty Folk Park features over 30 buildings in a 'living' village and rural setting. <https://www.bunrattycastle.ie/folk-park/>

County Donegal

Glencolmcille Folk Village: Replica of a thatched hamlet at Glencolmcille. <https://www.glenfolkvillage.com/>

County Down

Ulster Folk Museum, Cúltra, Hollywood: Outdoor museum which includes 50-plus vernacular buildings. Has a library and 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 Kerry

Muckross Traditional Farms, Killarney: Located within the estate of Muckross House in Killarney National Park. The site shows rural life in 1930s and 1940s Ireland. <https://www.muckross-house.ie/traditional-farms.html>

Kerry Bog Village: The Kerry Bog Village explores Ireland's rural history, heritage and lifestyle. <https://www.kerrybogvillage.ie/>

County Mayo

Museum of Country Life, Turlough Bar, Castlebar: The Museum of Country Life is one of the four museums that make up the National Museum of Ireland. It explores Ireland's rural past and an almost vanished but recent way of life. <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Country-Life>

County Tyrone

Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh: This park tells the story of Ulster people's contribution to the establishment of modern North America. Includes a local studies centre on site. With original reconstructed houses and other buildings from both Ireland and the United States

<https://www.ulsteramericanfolkpark.org/>

County Wexford

Johnstown Castle: The Irish Agricultural Museum <https://irishheritagetrust.ie/johnstown-castle-estate-museum-gardens/>

Irish National Heritage Park, Ferrycarrig: <https://irishheritage.ie/>

2. OVERVIEW

2.1 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, Kevin (1975, rev. 1991) *Ireland's Vernacular Architecture*. Cork: Mercier Press. Re-issued in colour as *Ireland's Traditional Houses*. Dublin: Bord Fáilte.

Evans, E. Estyn (1957) *Irish Folkways*. London: Routledge.

Fitzsimons, Jack (1990) *Bungalow Bashing*. Kells.

Howley, James (2014), 'Lime kilns', in Loeber, Rolf, Campbell, Hugh, Hurley, Livia, Montague, John and Rowley, Ellen (eds), *Art and Architecture of Ireland: vol. 4 – Architecture 1600-2000*, pp.68-70. Dublin: Yale.

McLoughlin, Richard (2014), 'Vernacular farmsteads', in Loeber, Rolf, Campbell, Hugh, Hurley, Livia, Montague, John and Rowley, Ellen (eds), *Art and Architecture of Ireland: vol. 4 – Architecture 1600-2000*, pp.335-7. Dublin: Yale.

Mullane, Fidelma (2000) 'Vernacular architecture', in Neil Buttimer, Colin Rynne and Helen Guerin (eds.), *The Heritage of Ireland*, pp. 71-9. Cork: Cork University Press.

Ó Danachair, Caoimhín (1945) 'The Questionnaire System: roofs and thatching', *Béaloideas*, Vol. 15 (1945), pp.203-17.

Ó Danachair, Caoimhín (1957) 'Materials and methods in Irish traditional building', *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, 87 (1957) pp. 61-74.

O'Neill, Timothy P. (1977) *Life and Tradition in Rural Ireland*. London: Dent & Sons Ltd.

O'Reilly, Barry (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, Barry (2006) *Traditional Buildings on Irish Farms*. The Heritage Council/Teagasc.

Pfeiffer, Walter and Shaffrey, Maura (1990) *Irish Cottages*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

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

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

2.2 FURNITURE & INTERIORS

Cotton, Bernard David (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, Kevin (2003) 'Furniture'. In David Shaw-Smith. *Traditional Crafts of Ireland*. (pp. 67–71). London: Thames & Hudson.

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

Kinmonth, Claudia (1993) *Irish Country Furniture, 1700-1950*. Yale University Press, London

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

Kinmonth, Claudia (2020) *Irish Country Furniture 1700-2000*. Cork: Collins Press.

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

Ó Lochlainn, C. (1964). 'The Three-Legged Chairs'. In *Béaloides*, Vol. 32 (pp. 155–156).

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

The Knight of Glin & Peil, James (2007) *Irish Furniture: Woodwork and Carving in Ireland from the Earliest Times to the Act of Union*. London: Yale University Press

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

See also Irish National Museum Permanent exhibition 'Irish Country Furniture' in Collins Barracks, Dublin: This exhibition contains the furniture typically found in the traditional rural Irish home. It shows both the range of styles from different areas of the country, the functional nature of each piece, and the skill of native Irish craftsmen. The display also highlights the evolution and development of traditional furniture and furnishings as Ireland's social and economic circumstances changed through the 19th and 20th centuries.

<https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Decorative-Arts-History/Exhibitions/Irish-Country-Furniture> & <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Collections-Research/Art-and-Industry-Collections/Art-Industry-Collections-List/Furniture/Irish-County-Furniture-FAQs>

2.3 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.

Kerry

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

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/>

Offaly

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

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

Wicklow

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

Ulster/Northern Ireland

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

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

Robinson, P. Dr. (1985). From Thatch to Slate. In *Ulster Folklife*, Vol 31. Ulster Folk & Transport Museum.

2.4 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.)

2.5 PODCASTS

SPAB Ireland Podcast series ‘Heart to Hearth: Chats about Irish vernacular buildings’. 3 seasons of episodes: <https://heart-to-hearth.simplecast.com/episodes>

<p>Season 1 2021</p>	<p>10 episodes includes conversations with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triona Byrne and Róisín Beirne of SPAB Ireland • Barry O’Reilly, lead on the National Vernacular Strategy • Claudia Kinmouth, 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, from Tipperary • Duncan McLaren, Conservation Architect based in Donegal • Louise Price, Artist and passionate drystone waller • Lisa Edden, Conservation Engineer
<p>Season 2 2022</p>	<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 • Sinead 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
<p>Season 3 2023</p>	<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 • Marie Mannion & others speaking about the Galway Forged Gate Project • Bob Clarke, director and curator of Auchindrain township in Scotland

3. CONSTRUCTION, MATERIALS & THEIR REPAIR

3.1 ROOFS: THATCH

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>

Consarc, Fidelma Mullane & Richard Oram (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>

Keohane, Frank (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, Fidelma (2014) 'Thatch', in Loeber, Rolf, Campbell, Hugh, Hurley, Livia, Montague, John and Rowley, Ellen (eds), *Art and Architecture of Ireland: vol. 4 – Architecture 1600-2000*, pp.55-7. Dublin: Yale.

Nolan, Dermot, O'Reilly, Barry & Mac Cárthaigh, Críostóir, (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](https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2015/04/Thatch-A-Guide-to-the-Repair-of-Thatched-Roofs-2015.pdf) ([buildingsofireland.ie](https://www.buildingsofireland.ie))

County/Regional Thatch Surveys:

Various: Higginbotham, Michael (1986-1995) *OPW Surveys: Dublin, Kildare, Meath, Louth, Wicklow, Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny, Limerick and Aran Islands*. Dublin - 86, Kildare - 91, Meath -55, Louth - 74, Wicklow - 15, Wexford - 232, Carlow - 6, Kilkenny – 98, Aran - 47, Limerick - 145. Highlights the decline of rate of buildings surveyed DOEHLG (NIAH) & UCD.

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

Fingal: 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>

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>

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

Waterford: John Cronin & Associates (2007) *Waterford Thatch Survey* The purpose of this dataset was to create a record of the surviving thatched houses in Waterford County.
<https://www.waterfordcouncil.ie/media/heritage/2008%20Thatch%20Survey.pdf>

Wicklow: Lotts Architecture and Urbanism (2008) *Traditional Houses of Rural Wicklow: An Inventory of Vernacular Architecture*
[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_Houses_of_Rural_County_Wicklow_Report_2008.pdf)

Northern Ireland: *Thatch Condition Survey 2021-22* Historic Environment Division, Department of Communities. 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>

Relevant videos:

Kilkenny Thatch Project 2020, Conversation with owner Scott Rodgers of thatch 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 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>

3.2 ROOFS: CORRUGATED IRON

Mitchell, D (2008) *Inform Guide: Care and Maintenance of Corrugated Iron*. Historic Environment Scotland [Inform Guide: Care and Maintenance of Corrugated Iron | HES | History \(historicenvironment.scot\)](http://informguide.hes.scot.nhs.uk/Inform-Guide-Care-and-Maintenance-of-Corrugated-Iron)

O'Reilly, Barry (2014) 'Corrugated Iron'. In Loeber, Rolf, Campbell, Hugh, Hurley, Livia, Montague, John and Rowley, Ellen (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>

3.3 ROOFS: STONE & SLATE

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.stonerroof.org.uk/Traditional/Roofing_traditions.html Great source of 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](#)

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. Ulster Folk & Transport Museum.

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

England

Hughes, Terry (2013) '[Detailing and Conservation of Vernacular Slate and Stone Roofs](#)', *The Building Conservation Directory*, Cathedral Communications Limited, Tisbury.

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/>

3.4 WALLS: STONE

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

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

McAfee, Patrick (2014) 'Drystone walls', in Loeber, Rolf, Campbell, Hugh, Hurley, Livia, Montague, John and Rowley, Ellen (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, Patrick (2015) *A Field Guide to the Drystone Walls of County Donegal*. Donegal Heritage Series 3 <https://www.donegalcoco.ie/culture/heritage/heritagenews/afielddguidetodry-stonewallscountydonegal/>

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

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 \(historicenvironment.scot\)](#)

3.5 WALLS: TURF & SOD

Mullane, Fidelma (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*, Journal of Ethnological Studies, 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.

3.6 WALLS: BRICK

Roundtree, Susan (2023) *Brickmaking in Ireland: A Gazateer*. Bray: Wordwell.

3.7 WALLS: MUD

Ireland

Nolan, Dermot (2014), 'Earth', in Loeber, Rolf, Campbell, Hugh, Hurley, Livia, Montague, John and Rowley, Ellen (eds), *Art and Architecture of Ireland: vol. 4 – Architecture 1600-2000*, pp.54-5. Dublin: Yale.

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/sJgT55HDcM>

Scotland

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'. This Refurbishment Case Study describes the works done to repair a mudwall domestic building. It 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>

3.8 LIME & EARTH MORTARS

Ireland

McAfee, Patrick (2010) '*Lime Works*' (2010). Not widely available, 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=-Ozycioctlg>
- The Art of Plastering an interview with George O'Malley, master craftsman plasterer [The Art of Plastering: an interview with George O'Malley - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TheArtofPlastering)
- The Lime King. Interview with Paddy Byrne, Heritage Contractor. [The Lime King - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TheLimeKing)

Scotland

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

England

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

3.9 OPENINGS (WINDOWS & DOORS INCLUDING GLASS)

Ireland

Nessa Roche (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>

3.10 SURFACES & FLOORS

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>

3.11 IRONWORK

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, Shem (2013) *The Vernacular Forged Wrought Iron Field Gate: Our History, Our Heritage, Our Responsibility*. Kilkenny: 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>

5. CONSERVATION ADVICE

5.1 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, Paul (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>

Bowen, L., Edden, L. & Matthews, N. (2010) *Roofs: A Guide to the Repair of Historic Roofs*. National Built Heritage Service Advice Series. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

<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*. 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>

Donnelly, Jacqui (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>

Howley Hayes Architects (2011) *Places of Worship: The Conservation of Places of Worship*. . National Built Heritage Service Advice Series, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Dublin.

<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) *Brick: a guide to the repair of historic brickwork*. National Built Heritage Service Advice Series, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Dublin.

<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*. National Built Heritage Service Advice Series, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Dublin.

<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Paving-The-Conservation-of-Historic-Ground-Surfaces-2015.pdf>

Nolan, Dermot, O'Reilly, Barry & MacCárthaigh, Críostóir (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](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*. 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>

Shaffrey Associates Architects & Fionnuala Rogerson Architects (2011) *Access, Improving the Accessibility of Historic Buildings & Places*. National Built Heritage Service Advice Series, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Dublin.
<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*, 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>

Quinlan, M., & Kelly, D. (2020) *Disaster: A Guide to Prevention & Preparedness in the Historic Built Environment*. National Built Heritage Service Advice Series, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Dublin.
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2020/12/Disaster-A-guide-to-preparedness.pdf>

5.2 OTHER GENERAL CONSERVATION PUBLICATIONS

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

Keohane, Frank (2015) *Irish Period Houses: A Conservation Guidance Manual*. Dublin Civic Trust. Very good guidance and overview of repairs and upgrades to any traditionally constructed buildings.

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

5.3 VERNACULAR CONSERVATION ADVICE

Bowen, Laura & Matthews, Nicola (2007) *Reusing Farm Buildings: A Kildare Perspective*.
<https://kildarecoco.ie/YourCouncil/Publications/Planning/Reusing%20Farm%20Buildings.pdf>

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

Reeners, Roberta (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>

5.4 MAINTENANCE, DAMP, CONDENSATION & VENTILATION

Ireland

Donnelly, Jacqui (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>

Heritage Council YouTube videos on maintenance: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIKz_D-MJSUKEcOQp2zhlIS885a1Tfy1

Scotland

Jenkins, M (2020) *Inform Guide: Condensation*. Historic Environment Scotland [Inform Guide: Condensation | Historic Environment Scotland | HES](#)

Jenkins, M (2020) *Inform Guide: Mould Growth*. Historic Environment Scotland [Inform Guide: Mould Growth | Historic Environment Scotland | HES](#)

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, Roger (2008) *Inform Guide: Ventilation in Traditional Houses*. Historic Environment Scotland. [Inform Guide: Ventilation in Traditional Houses | Hist Env Scotland \(historicenvironment.scot\)](#)

Curtis, Roger & Kennedy, Amy (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>

England

Kent, Douglas (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/what-is-rising-damp/)

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

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

5.5 ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Ireland

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

Arnold, Paul (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/>

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

Scotland

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.

Arregi, Beñat; Ferraro, Calina & Little, Joseph (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.

Curtis, Roger & Jenkins, Moses (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>

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>

This report summarises results of in situ U-value measurements of various solid stonewalls 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.

England

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

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

Insulating pitched roofs at rafter level: energy efficiency and historic buildings, 2016, Historic England <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/>

Secondary glazing - Historic England advice: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/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/#previousstechnicaltuesdaywebinars>

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

5.6 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. <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 cottage, Wee Causeway, in Culross, Fife. The cottage 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 cottage 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/>

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 cob, clay and stone walling and blacksmithing. <https://irishheritage.ie/events/>

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

SPAB Ireland: Irish branch of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings which was founded in 2017. The branch runs regular events including a traditional skills working weekend. Particularly good on vernacular. They also have a podcast 'heart to hearth' which is very good. <https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/heart-to-hearth-spab-ireland-bHz-qwlpf8Y/> 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 operating 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>

Blacksmith

Moneypennys Forge outside Portadown, County Armagh offers classes for beginners and advanced metal works in traditional blacksmithing. <https://visitarmagh.com/places-to-explore-2/moneypennys-lockhouse/>

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>

Lime & Earth Mortars

Building Limes Forum Ireland: The Building Limes Forum Ireland, BLFI, 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 and 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/>

Féile Butler, architect in County Sligo, provides advice and training on earth mortars: <http://www.mudandwood.com/outline-of-courses.html>

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

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

Tom Pollard, stone mason in County Tipperary, runs regular training in using lime and earth mortars: <https://tompollard.ie/>

Rock Stone Masonry in County Antrim, offers traditional skills training to beginners in letter carving, lime pointing, drystone walling etc. <https://bookings.therockstonemasonry.co.uk/courses/>

For further training in the use of lime mortars see also *Roundtower, Heritage Ltd* and *Stoneware Studios* below.

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 cob. <https://www.thehollies.ie/cob/>

6.2 CONSERVATION SKILLS SCOTLAND & ENGLAND

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/>

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>

Earth Building UK and Ireland (EBUKI): Runs regular training events on earth building. <http://ebuki.co/about.htm> <http://ebuki.co/events.htm#sthash.519WxB7D.dpbs>

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

The Engine Shed, Stirling, Scotland: The Engine Shed Scotland's dedicated building conservation centre. It runs an extensive range of short courses on various aspects concerning building conservation.

[What's On | The Engine Shed | Part of Historic Environment Scotland](#)

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 and continue on their journey to becoming the next generation of master craftspeople.

<https://www.kings-foundation.org/education/all-ireland-programme>

<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/news/news-features/irish-craftspeople-encouraged-to-carve-out-a-career-in-built-heritage>

Republic of Ireland

Conservation Letterfrack in Connemara, County Galway is a specialist company of highly-skilled conservator-restorers, craftspeople and other specialists to provide a professional service and consultancy throughout Ireland in the conservation, restoration and collection care of wooden artefacts and historic timber interiors. They offer internships for students in a busy conservation and restoration workshop. They occasionally run CPD courses. <https://conservationletterfrack.ie/>

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

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

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 up-skill 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. This course is run in conjunction with the Heritage Council.

<https://lit.ie/ga-ie/courses/certificate-in-energy-renovation-for-traditional-b>

<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/news/news-features/certificate-in-energy-renovation-for-traditional-buildings>

Trinity College Dublin, Applied Building Repair & Conservation Post Grad Diploma: One year postgrad course is 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 also expected to successfully complete a research project and produce specifications for conservation work. The student is expected 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/>

University College Dublin, Masters of Architectural Science (MArchSc) Programme Conservation & Heritage: The programme is a 12-month taught masters. It provides the student with expert and specialised training as part of a wider and interdisciplinary environment. The focus is on developing a student's skills in the analysis, critique and management of conservation and heritage projects. The decision-making processes surrounding architectural and landscape conservation and heritage, at both national and international levels, will also be investigated and critiqued. The one-year full-time programme is aimed at both recent graduates and professionals alike from disciplines such as architecture and architectural technology, landscape architecture, engineering, planning, archaeology, art history, geography and other cognate disciplines. https://www.ucd.ie/t4cms/MArchSc_Conservation_Heritage.pdf

University College Dublin, Masters in Urban & Building Conservation: The principal difference between the MUBC programme and the M.Arch.Sc programme is the scope and ambition of the thesis requirement. The thesis for the MUBC degree must contain research warranting the award of 60 credits. The MUBC programme requires four semesters full-time attendance for completion. The thesis content of the MUBC programme is spread over semesters two, three and four. <https://www.ucd.ie/apep/study/graduateresearchprogrammes/mastersinurbanbuildingconservation/>

Britain

Historic Environment Scotland and other UK organisations also run Level 3 Award in Energy Efficiency Measures for Older and Traditional Buildings. [Learning | The Engine Shed | Part of Historic Environment Scotland](#)

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/>

Thatching: The National Inventory Of Architectural Heritage hosts a list of thatchers operating in Ireland: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/resources/>

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

Ulster Architectural Heritage Society: [Directory of Traditional Building Skills - UAH \(ulsterarchitecturalheritage.org.uk\)](http://www.ulsterarchitecturalheritage.org.uk)

7.2 CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS

Conservation Architects: <https://www.riai.ie/work-with-an-architect/conservation-skills> & <https://www.architecture.com/working-with-an-architect/conservation-register>

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. and Competent: The regulations specifically require the Assigned Certifier to be competent to inspect and certify the works.

7.3 LIME MATERIALS & SUSTAINABLE BUILDING PRODUCTS

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

Heritage Ltd is a Ballymena based heritage company which supplied material and provides heritage training. <https://www.heritageltd.com/training>

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

Stoneware Studios based in Youghal, County Cork manufacture, supply and promote an extensive range of quality 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, County Carlow. Supplies Lime and lime mortars as well as breathable paints. <https://www.traditionallime.ie/>

8. PLANNING GUIDELINES, NATIONAL POLICY & LEGISLATION

8.1 NATIONAL 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>

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>

8.2 ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION GUIDELINES

National Built Heritage Service (2011) *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines* (2011) For Protected Structures and structures located within Architectural Conservation Areas.

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Architectural-Heritage-Protection-Guidelines-for-Planning-Authorities-2011.pdf>

8.3 GENERAL GUIDANCE

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

8.4 WILDLIFE

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>

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))

8.5 NORTHERN IRISH POLICY

Historic Environment Section, Department of Communities: *Information on Vernacular Buildings in Northern Ireland*: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/traditional-or-vernacular-buildings>

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

Historic Environment Section, Department of Communities (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>

9. GRANT SCHEMES

9.1 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/>

Multi-annual grant scheme, so 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).

9.2 NATIONAL BUILT HERITAGE SERVICE GRANT SCHEMES

Built Heritage Investment Scheme:

Deadline is normally in January but is different in each Local Authority. Check with your local authority what the deadline is. Apply directly to local authority in which your building is located.

It should be noted that the 2023 and 2024 Built Heritage Investment Scheme included a ring-fenced fund of €500,000 for conservation repairs to thatched structures to maximise the availability of financial assistance to such owners, helping them offset other costs.

Eligible Structures

- *Protected structures:* Structures included in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) of each Local Authority area.
- *Proposed Protected Structures:* Structures proposed for inclusion in the RPS but not yet formally approved. Such structures must be added to the RPS by 31 December 2023
- *Structures in Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), or within the amenity of a National Monument:* where exceptional circumstances are deemed by the Department to apply.
- *Vernacular Stream:* For the ring-fenced thatch funding, historic thatched structures not otherwise covered in the above categories will be eligible. This is at the discretion of the local authority.

Funding: The minimum funding awarded for successful projects will be €2,500 up to a maximum of €15,000. For projects awarded funding under the pilot scheme for works of routine maintenance and minor repairs, the minimum amount will not apply. The maximum award for such projects will be €2,500. For the ring-fenced thatch funding awards of up to €20,000 can be allocated.

Matching Funds: In exceptional circumstances the LA may, with written agreement from the Department, allocate funding to a project where the total public funding exceeds 50% of the total project cost (80% in the case of ring-fenced thatch funding). The Department does not anticipate that such exceptional circumstances would arise for more than 20% of a local authority's total allocation.

Historic Structures Fund

Deadline is normally in January but is different in each Local Authority. Check with your local authority what the deadline is. Apply directly to local authority in which your building is located.

Vernacular Structures Stream: In the context of the forthcoming strategy for built vernacular, the pilot stream for vernacular structures introduced in 2021 was retained, with increased funding of

€150,000. The purpose of the stream is to support conservation repairs and small capital works to vernacular structures that are not listed in local authority Records of Protected Structures or otherwise legally protected. Such structures may be located within an Architectural Conservation Area. All local authorities can apply for funding for specific projects of between €5,000 and €10,000 for eligible projects. Grant can cover up to 80% of eligible costs max

Who can apply: Who can apply for the Vernacular Structures Stream?

- Owners of vernacular structures that are not listed in a Record of Protected Structures
- Owners of vernacular structures within an Architectural Conservation Area, but not otherwise subject to statutory protection.

Works Funded: Previous types of works funded under the Vernacular Stream include masonry repairs as well as repairs to roofs, windows, chimneys and walls, including dry stone walls. Works such as vegetation removal and rendering and repointing have also been funded.

Note: Highly competitive fund so quality of application is key. Apply directly to local authority and only one application can be put forward by the Local Authority.

9.3 HERITAGE COUNCIL TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS GRANT SCHEME

The objective of this scheme is to ensure that traditional farm buildings and other related structures that contribute to the character of the landscape and are of significant heritage value, are conserved for active agricultural use. Up to now only farmers approved in the Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS) were eligible to apply. In 2023 the scheme was open to participants in GLAS as well as participants in other RDP (Rural Development Programme) or CSP (CAP Strategic Plan) funded schemes such as Agri-environment schemes, eco schemes, EIPs and Organic Farming schemes. In 2023 grant amounts varied between €4,000 and €30,000. A grant award will not be for more than 75% of the cost of the works with a maximum available grant of €30,000. 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>

9.4 CONSERVATION ADVICE SCHEME FOR VACANT TRADITIONAL FARMHOUSES

This was a pilot scheme which ran in 2023, to provide grants for expert conservation advice to owners of vacant farmhouses in private ownership who are availing of and/or considering the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant. The aim of the grant was 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. It is hoped that this scheme will run again in 2024. **PLEASE NOTE FUNDING HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED FOR THIS SCHEME IN 2024**

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/c8cba-pilot-conservation-advice-grant-scheme-for-vacant-traditional-farmhouses/>

9.5 OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY GRANT SCHEMES FOR VERNACULAR BUILDINGS

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

- **Fingal Stitch in Time Grant Scheme:** The Fingal Conservation Section '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. Application deadline is 23rd of January 2023.
<https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/architectural-heritage-fund-stitch-time-grant>
- **Donegal Thatch Grant.** 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 to Donegal County Council's Thatch Repair Grant Scheme include repairs to the eaves, the ridge, flashings around the chimney, holes, furrows, fixings, ropes, wire netting, the gable and the roof timbers or carpentry. Depending on funding allocation may also include re-thatching grant allocation up to maximum of €15,000 for one or two buildings. The thatch buildings must be historic thatched structures which are of landscape, tourism, historical or cultural value to the county. Full details and deadline for 2023 scheme has yet to be announced.
<https://www.donegalcoco.ie/culture/heritage/heritagenews/thatchrepairgrantsscheme/>
- **Kildare Thatch Grant:** Kildare County Council Conservation Section runs an annual thatching grant. They have a fund of €10,000 for small scale repairs.
<https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Conservation/Thatch/>

9.6 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. You 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/>

9.7 IRISH GOVERNMENT REPAIR & LEASING SCHEME

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

9.8 INFORMATION ON OTHER GRANTS AVAILABLE TO HOME OWNERS

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

9.9 NORTHERN IRELAND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FUNDING & GRANTS

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>

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