

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



ADVANCE NOTICE OF Thatch Conservation Grant Scheme 2017

An information guide for applicants

The online application system will be open on March 1st 2017.

We must receive your application (including supporting documents) by 5pm 24th March 2017.

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Advance notice

We are giving you this outline of our Thatch Conservation Grant scheme to give you more time to plan your projects. The full application form will be available online from **1st March 2017**. We can only accept online applications (no paper applications). This notice looks at:

- the aim of the scheme,
- funding available,
- grant scheme criteria, and
- what your application must show.

Aim of the Thatch Conservation Grant Scheme

The aim of this scheme is to conserve historic thatched roofs to make sure that the buildings are usable and remain part of the cultural landscape of Ireland.

The Heritage Council will support projects that apply good practice in thatch conservation, as set out in the document 'Thatch: a guide to the repair of thatched roofs' (2015)*. As a result, we may need to you to make modifications to the proposed works or repairs (specification) after we inspect the building.

Funding available

We have allocated €70,000 to this scheme. The most you may ask for is 75% funding of the total project expenditure up to a maximum sum of €10,000.

The following may impact on the funding decision for your project:

- the condition of the building,
- the materials you propose using and how you will use them, and
- if you will help to pass on the skill of thatching.

Building inspection

Before we make any offer, we will visit the building to make sure that the:

- works are necessary,
- materials and technique are appropriate, and
- potential offer of grant support will make a material difference to the building.

* [www.buildingsofireland.ie/FindOutMore/Thatch%20-%20A%20Guide%20to%20the%20Repair%20of%20Thatched%20Roofs%20\(2015\).pdf](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/FindOutMore/Thatch%20-%20A%20Guide%20to%20the%20Repair%20of%20Thatched%20Roofs%20(2015).pdf)

Purpose of building is relevant

We are interested in how the building is used. If it is a private dwelling or has some other public or social use, the investment of public funds will create more public good and be better value for money, than if there are no plans to use the building.

An unused building is also more vulnerable to unnoticed deterioration. A project that will give a building a definite use will be a higher priority than an unused one.

Passing on skills is important

The skill of thatching has an uncertain future, and passing it on is almost as important as the thatched building itself.

It will make the project better value for the Heritage Council if:

- your project includes some activity that helps to transmit thatching skill, for example by a public demonstration of thatching, or
- the thatcher is using the project to teach a trainee.

Make sure you include details of any proposals about this.

Grant Scheme criteria

What must I include in my application?

As well as meeting certain criteria (detailed after this table) your application **must include the following six types or pieces of information** so we can assess your project:

- for its heritage value, and
- on how you propose to carry out the repairs.

Checklist

1. Maps

You must include a location map or maps to show us how we can get to your individual building from a National road.

2. Photographs of the exterior

You must include clear photographs of:

- the exterior of the building and its roof from all sides (unless there is a good reason why this is not possible), and
- close-ups of the eaves, chimneys and areas where the thatch is in poor condition.

3. Photographs of the attic

If you can get access to the attic safely, you must include clear photographs of the attic interior of the building showing:

- the timber structure where it is accessible, or
- if the roof is in poor condition.

4. Use of the building

You must tell us what the building is, or will be, used for.

5. Quotation from thatcher

You must show us a quotation from a thatcher that includes an outline of the:

- works to be done for the price given, and
- materials they intend to use.

6. Other funding

You must tell us about any other sources of funding you are getting or applying for (including grants from any other public bodies that you are getting or applying for).

What else must my application show?

Time plan and costs

You must show that the project will be completed between:

- May 2017 - 17 November 2017.

If you have a time plan for how this is to be achieved, please show how your application has been planned and thought out.

Value

The project must be fully costed, and offer good value. You must detail all the other sources of funding in the application so that we can understand how the project will be completed if we offer a grant.

Good conservation practice

The project must be in line with the conservation principle of minimum intervention (a repair that fixes what is wrong, but does not set out to do too much work).

Sustainability

The project must be sustainable. By this we mean that a well-used building is more likely to be looked after in the long term with limited funds and so represent a good investment for grant aid.

Communications about the project

Your application must show us that you are clear about:

- the broad audiences you want to communicate with, and
- how these audiences will find out about your project.

For example, you could provide a demonstration project on thatching.

You must hold a Heritage Week event

You must show us that you will hold an event, related to this proposal, during Heritage Week, 19-27 August 2017. You must publicise this locally or nationally through the:

- Heritage Office in the County Council, or
- Heritage Week website.

Heritage Council contact details

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