



The Care and Conservation of a Medieval Castle Ruin

A Traditional Skills Course at
Ballintubber Castle, Co. Roscommon
28-29 July 2022



**NATIONAL
HERITAGE
WEEK** **h**

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council





Ballintubber phase 1 being carried out by
cunningham civil and marine

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Ballintubber locals at formal launch



The community of Ballintubber sits in the rural heartlands of County Roscommon, close to the ancient royal site of Rathcroghan, and with their own close associations to the former kings of Connaught, the great O' Conor dynasty. On the edge of the village lies an ancient monumental castle, built originally by the Norman, Richard de Burgh, but which fell into the hands of the O' Conor family by 1350. While the castle was used as a residence for hundreds of years, it was also the site of battles, and the Conor family were to lose the ruined bombarded Ballintober Castle circa 1700 at a time of Irish political upheaval and confiscations. The O' Conor Don branch of the family moved their home to Clonalis House near Castlerea in 1820, but regained ownership of the ruins of Ballintober Castle in the later 19th century. The ravages of time and ivy, however, have rendered parts of the castle unsafe, and the complex had to be closed off to the public for health and safety reasons.

The community of Ballintober are a very active community, with a commitment to the presentation of their village and to the interpretation of their built heritage. In the mid 2010's they started to work in partnership with the O' Conor's to attempt to save the castle, and to transform it into an important cultural and economic resource for the community, one which might also bring visitors to the village, which would in turn help to increase the viability of local businesses. Funding was secured from the Heritage Council to carry out a Conservation Management Plan for the castle. This work was carried out by Niall Brady, Medievalist archaeologist, and one of the leaders of the Castles in Communities annual archaeological dig

at Ballintober Castle, and Southgate Associates, a conservation engineering/heritage consultancy practice. The conservation management plan was used as the basis of a concerted fundraising campaign in early 2022 which saw significant funds secured for capital works from the Community Monuments Fund (CMF), Roscommon County Council (additional capital costs toward the conservation works and the costs of an official launch) and the Heritage Council under the Community Heritage Grant Scheme (to run a traditional skills course for the local people of Ballintubber and those involved in similar community heritage projects in County Roscommon and its near neighbours).

The intention of the course was to give local people involved in groups such as the tidy towns and the heritage group an understanding of the conservation process as they began this multi-phase project. The range of specialists involved in the conservation of a Medieval ruined structure of this nature were gathered and a series of workshops and talks were delivered which gave people a greater understanding of the castle, its history and the process of conserving it. Drawing on the skills and knowledge of all members of the team, whether that be community heritage/conservation officer of the local authority, ecologist, archaeologist, master mason's, heritage contractors, heritage product supplier (lime), conservation engineer, all of the elements of the delivery of a conserved building were present, and shown as a team. The participants were given hands-on training which allowed them to see the preparation of lime-based mortars using traditional methods, and to hone their skills in pointing and in the aftercare of mortars. The contractor in charge of the first phase of works at Ballintubber



Anthony Waldron and Deputy Micheal Ring at formal launch

2.0 FORMAL LAUNCH OF THE START OF CONSERVATION WORKS TO BALLINTUBBER CASTLE

Prior to the commencement of the 1.5-day traditional skills training programme, the village of Ballintubber chose to have a formal launch of the beginning of conservation works. Phase one concentrating on the consolidation of part of the southwest tower by Westport contractors Cunningham and Marine. Former Connaught-based Minister, Deputy Michael Ring (TD) was invited to formally launch the works programme. The occasion was one of celebration, with festivities beginning at 14:00 with a pageant on the castle's ancient fair green, with music provided by local musicians, in a field decorated with the Irish county flags, and a podium displaying the O'Conor family crest.

A speech was delivered by Councillor Anthony Waldon, of the Ballintubber Heritage Group, who introduced the day, and spoke about the importance of the castle to the past and also the future of the village, its position on the Suck Valley Way long-distance walking route, and the tourism potential of the castle. Deputy Michael Ring officially launched the festivities and emphasized the importance of projects such as the castle's restoration to the process of rural regeneration.

A speech was then delivered by the castle's owner, and descendant of the Kings of Connaught, Piers O'Connor Nash, who outlined the illustrious history of the family, and their long association with Ballintubber.

Archaeologist Dr Niall Brady and conservation engineer Chris Southgate also spoke about the castle and the importance of its conservation. Refreshments were then served in the local public house near the castle, Garvey's Bar and Lounge. Over 75 people attended the castle's opening, of which at least half enrolled on the traditional skills course.





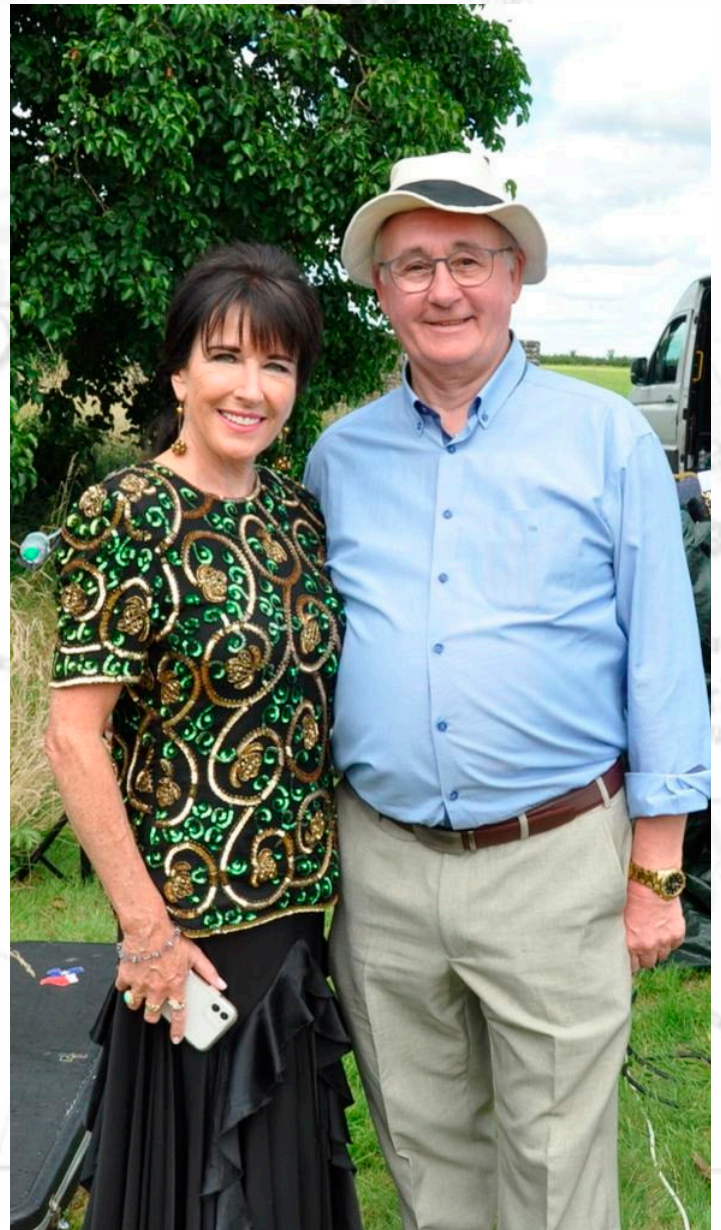
Chris Southgate, Angela Kenny, Peter Conway, Cllr. Anthony Waldron, Deputy Michael Ring, Daniele Cunningham, Eoghan Cunningham, Niall Brady, Frank O' Toole, Noel Greaney, Cllr. Orla Leyden, on left



Pyres O'Connor Nash addressing crowd with crest of O'Connor family



Musicians; Fiona Sirr, Denis Igoe, Patsy Finan, PJ Shanagher at formal launch



Musicians: Annette Griffin and John Staunton



Pyres O' Conner Nash, Deputy Micheal Ring and Anthony Waldron at formal launch



Ballintubber locals Emma and Kylie Towey



Edward Byrne's demonstration, Traditional Lime Company



Shane and Edward Byrne



Damien Condon demonstrating pointing techniques

3.0 THE TRADITIONAL SKILLS BUILDING COURSE

The course, funded by a Heritage Council grant under the Community Heritage Scheme, was intended to attract people from Ballintubber who shall be involved in the multiple phases of the castle's conservation in the years ahead, through the various local voluntary associations with an interest in the heritage of the village. It also had the intention to build capacity and enthusiasm for community heritage projects within the wider area of County Roscommon, though some near neighbours from across the county boundaries in Sligo and Galway were also accepted. The intention was to build a network of support and mutual help between community heritage groups and private projects, which would help to increase the enthusiasm of local people to tackle heritage conservation projects in their communities. This is very much in line with the vision expressed within Heritage Ireland 2030, the new 2022 government vision for building community engagement with heritage and knowledge of traditional skills in the years ahead. The course was widely advertised on social media and posters in County Roscommon and was also circulated by the Heritage Office of Roscommon County Council to all relevant community heritage groups, and individuals, who might have had an interest in attendance.



Dr. Niall Brady addressing participants on historical context

While the majority of participants were members of community groups (or indeed individual owners) trying to conserve local heritage structures, whether castles, round towers, graveyards, tower houses, railway stations and old industrial mills, there was also an appeal to those already specialist in the field, and participants included archaeologists, conservation architects, archaeological students from the United States who were in Ballintubber as part of the Castles in Communities summer field school, tradesmen and young persons from a local training scheme in the area. There was even one Ukrainian refugee who attended the course for a few hours. As such, the course successfully brought together many of those with a professional interest and a voluntary enthusiasm for built heritage.

The course was not intended to be a dry approach to teaching about the conservation of Medieval buildings, but instead to be a lively hands-on active experience, which would build a greater understanding of the conservation process for all concerned, while also allowing participants to share detail about their projects and what they have themselves learnt in the process of looking for funding/getting consents/motivating others in the community etc. This model provided detail and technical discussion for some who wanted it, and groups chose various (more or less technical options at various points). The talks were mostly held at and around the cas-

tle complex (except for those who necessitated a PowerPoint to show comparative or technical information (where the restored old School House provided a very appropriate venue). Good weather helped to allow the majority of talks to take place outdoors, allowing the history to be told while walking around the castle with the archaeologist, and the conservation priorities to be identified by looking at the challenges of the actual building with the conservation engineer. Most important of all, hands-on sessions delivered an understanding of the Medieval methods of creating and using hot lime, 'common mortar', old Medieval tools, the workings of lime kilns and the aftercare of lime pointing work in the days and weeks ahead.

A good atmosphere was felt by all on the course, participants were able to absorb informative talks from the speakers, conduct practical and interactive skills training, and break into different groups to discuss issues with specialists or colleagues. The following section represents a breakdown of some of the individual sessions in the course, linked to the individual specialists involved.



Chris Southgate at Southwest Tower

The course involved the following speakers and demonstrators:

1. Dr Niall Brady (Mediaeval archaeologist):
outlined the history of the castle

2. Chris Southgate (Conservation engineer):
outlined the process which would be followed to conserve the castle and consolidate its stonework, focusing in particular on the needs of the castle's south-west tower

3. Edward Byrne (Traditional lime Company):
lime burning demonstration with a continuous kiln, advice on specification of lime products, both hot lime and natural hydraulic lime. Edward Byrne was assisted by Shane Byrne during the talks and demonstrations.

4. Jim Owens (Ecologist of Oran Ecology):
gave an informative talk in the Community Hall on ecological issues, outlining the particular challenges of planning work in the short grant season on an ivy-covered building such as Ballintubber, where legislation protects wildlife nesting or living there, and ecological reporting is necessary to ensure that it is safe to proceed with works.



Damian Condon demonstrating hot lime techniques



Jim Owens talks in community building

5. Damian Condon (Building conservator of CALX Restoration):

mediaeval mixing and preparation of lime mortar together with a pointing demonstration using mediaeval techniques, including pozzolanic additives authentic to the period, and using medieval implements and tools. Brenda O'Meara, archaeologist demonstrated the use of Medieval pointing tools, including antlers, and other objects used historically to point. Tommy Bolger, conservation plasterer, also assisted the demonstrations and helped to guide participants through the skills of pointing with lime mortars.

6. Nollaig Feeney (Heritage Officer for Roscommon County Council):

gave an informative talk on the castle grounds on the role of the heritage/conservation officer in assisting individuals and groups to navigate their way through the complex world of seeking funding, achieving the necessary statutory and owner consents where needed, and ensuring that ecological surveys etc are carried out. Nollaig provided an invaluable handout to potential funding sources which are available to community heritage groups, and others for the conservation of local heritage structures.

7. Peter Conway (Contract Manager of Cunningham and Marine at Ballintubber Castle works):

described recent work at three Galway castles, where they had recently completed conservation works.





Participants pointing at course

4.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY INDUCTION

The site was inspected prior to the commencement of the course, to plan the spaces which could be utilized from a health and safety perspective. An area of the site adjacent to the conservation works of the southwest tower where the conservation contractor Cunningham and Marine were commencing operations, was extended to accommodate the lime demonstration by Edward Byrne of the Traditional Lime Company and Damien Condon of CALX Restoration.

Participants were informed of the health and safety considerations when they entered the castle complex. The area concerned was cordoned off using timber stakes and PVC red-and-white tape to delineate the demonstration areas. There was no risk of falling masonry within these areas and therefore there was no requirement for hardhats.

The construction site was also out of bounds for course participants and was fenced off, prohibiting entrance. Lime is a hazardous material and is capable of severe burns to the skin and can be highly dangerous in the event of lime entering the eye. To prevent potential hazards, course participants handling lime were required to wear gloves and protective eyewear when within the demonstration areas and using lime.

Course demonstrators were made aware of the risks concerned and course organisers surveyed course participants during all practical demonstrations and interactive opportunities. No participants were unsupervised while adjacent to the castle walls or carrying out pointing.



Construction site out of bounds



Course participants wearing eye and hand protection



Dr. Niall Brady showing participants the North-West tower

5.0 HISTORY OF BALLINTUBBER CASTLE, CO. ROSCOMMON WITH DR. NIALL BRADY



groups through the complex in order to give them some understanding of the castle. While detailing some of the key dates and the main owners, more emphasis was placed on recreating the atmosphere of what it was like to see this building in all its glory in the 13th and 14th centuries.

Drawing on the findings of recent archaeological digs, and in particular the most recently completed dig at the castle gate, he described in detail the way that visitors would have experienced arriving into the castle complex, the sense of awe as they walked over the drawbridge and the moat, through the relatively narrow gates, and up an incline covered in cobble stones, with the monumental towers rising above their vision as they came into the inner courtyard. As such, the person arriving was made to feel small, to have a sense of awe toward the power and strength of the castle owner, and to learn due respect before meeting them. Dr. Brady brought this theatre of Medieval times to life for listeners.

Dr. Brady described the findings about buildings internal to the large courtyard spaces, one of the largest internal spaces of a castle in Ireland. In addition, Dr. Brady went on to give listeners a greater sense of the settlement that surrounded the castle externally, as their digs have unearthed a sizable settlement, probably of earlier origin than the castle, and probably associated with the old church and well, which were located alongside Garvey's public house.

Dr Niall Brady, medieval archaeologist has had a long association with Ballintober Castle, having run a summer archaeological dig there over many summers, in association with two American universities, under the title of 'Castles in Communities'. He was co-author with Chris Southgate, conservation engineer, of the Conservation Management Plan for the castle in 2016, and is now the archaeologist charged with supervising works to the castle from an archaeological perspective, while Chris Southgate is charged with supervising the conservation engineering works, to stabilize and consolidate the stone work.

In order to give course participants an experience of the historical story of the castle, Dr. Brady took



Historic photo of Ballintubber Castle

Ballintober Historical and Archaeological Overview: key points for understanding

The primary function of Ballintober Castle is as a heritage site and a powerful symbol of the medieval history of the area. The castle is believed to have been built at the very start of the fourteenth century by Richard de Burgh, Earl of Ulster and one of the most powerful and influential men of the day in Ireland. Its construction marks a significant step in the progressive settlement of Connacht by Anglo-Norman interests, and the context of the castle complex is interlinked with the construction of the Royal castle of Roscommon from 1269, some 20km to the south, and another de Burgh castle a little to the north at Ballymote, which was also built in the early 1300s. De Burgh's interests remained strong and the castle was the centre of a profitable manor within his much larger estate but not for long. By the 1360s, Ballintober fell to O'Connor's hands and in 1385 it becomes the caput of the O'Connor Don line, who remained in residence more or less continuously until the O'Connor's abandoned the site in the 1700s for their new demesne at Clonalis, Castlerea, 10km to the north. During the 3-400 years of its occupancy, Ballintober was an active settlement and served as a backdrop to the wider political movements that swept across Ireland. In 1598, O'Donnell bombarded the castle with cannon as he returned from his victory over Royal forces at the Battle of the Curlews. The castle recovered and enjoyed a

prosperous moment in the early seventeenth century when Hugh O'Connor Don's estate was both opulent and secure. The castle once again came under threat in 1642, when parliamentary forces intent on tackling the Catholic forces stopped short of attacking it, for fear of being overwhelmed.

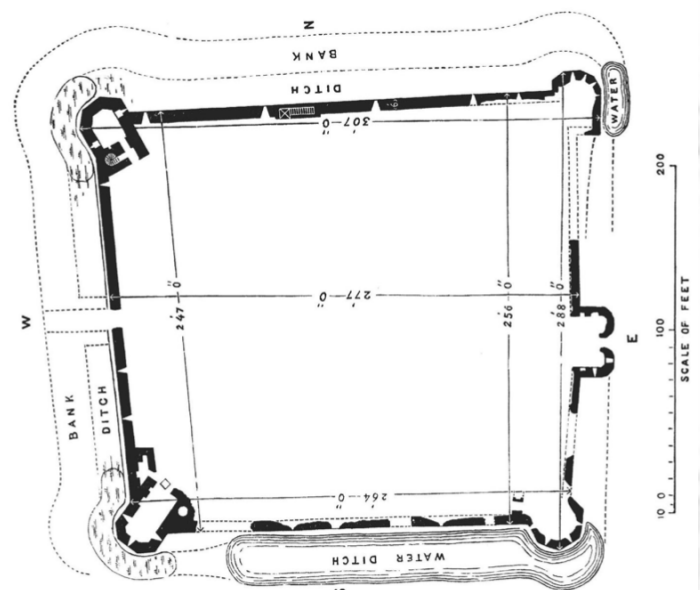
The castle complex consists of an irregular square-shaped area that measures approximately 73.8m North/South by 80.5m East/West. It is enclosed by a perimeter wall that stands in places more than 4m high externally above its base batter. There are four corner towers, which appear to be all polygonal in plan. A double-bastioned entrance on the east wall has two protruding rounded towers. A substantial external ditch survives on the north, south and west sides, and also in the south-east corner. The castle structure is overgrown by ivy, which in places is very well established.

Geophysical resistance and ground penetrating radar survey of the castle interior have revealed an arrangement of features within the open space that is not entirely in symmetrical alignment with the standing perimeter walls. The features that stand around this open space include one long hall-like building in the southwest quadrant and one smaller building in the northeast quadrant. The chronological association of these features and the open space they define remains unknown, and while the features appear to be stone structures, there is no indication yet for direct or



The northwest corner tower, photographed by Martina Cleary

chronological associations between these features and the surrounding greater complex. Gradiometry survey, in turn, presents a further sequence of anomalies that appear to relate to activities conducted within the interior and may reflect pre-castle usage. As a site that was only built in the early 1300s, it would be in keeping to discover earlier strata. It is also clear that during its three or four centuries of occupation, the castle complex was inhabited by many groups and was a contested place.



A 'keepless' castle
O' Conor Don (Charles) 'Ballintubber Castle,
County Roscommon.
Journal of the Royal Society of
Antiquaries of Ireland 9
(1899) 24-30.



Southwest Tower covered in ivy prior to works

6.0 THE CONSERVATION OF BALLINTUBBER CASTLE WITH CONSERVATION ENGINEER CHRIS SOUTHGATE OF SOUTHGATE AND ASSOCIATES

Philosophy

Chris Southgate outlined some of the considerations when conserving a Medieval structure such as Ballintubber Castle. In particular, he concentrated the group's learning on looking at the lessons that could be gained from examining the challenges posed at the southwest tower of the castle, where works are just about to begin. Scaffolding was erected in the preceding weeks, and a programme of ivy removal of the surfaces was carefully carried out. The removal of ivy was carried out by Cunningham and Marine under the supervision of Jim Owens, of Oran Ecology after he received permission by the local wildlife officer to proceed with the work. Niall Brady, Archaeologist was also present for this process, and carried out an archaeological laser scan survey of the building immediately after the ivy was removed.

Southgate outlined the philosophical position which underpins the conservation of Ballintubber, and his work more generally, noting that the approach to the conservation of the SW tower is based on a policy of minimum intervention. The approach avoids conjectural restoration, and instead worked forensically with the evidence that is found on the actual building.

Southgate outlined that the first consideration in starting the conservation of the SW tower of Ballintubber Castle was to deal with the widespread presence of ivy on the structure, which prevented an accurate structural assessment of the condition of masonry before the beginning of works.



Chris Southgate addressing participants at Southwest Tower

Ivy tends to root at the base or top of the wall or on shelves, all edges, at windowsills etc. In some cases, it roots into the wall, making it more difficult to deal with. Ivy can destroy a building, leading to stones being displaced and falling, eventually leading to the collapse of the structure. Over time the ivy and building can become so enmeshed that the ivy can be holding up the building. The removal of ivy, therefore, is a complex and specialist task, which must be undertaken slowly and carefully, with a programme of stone consolidation immediately following the ivy removal, and being followed by multiple phases of consolidation of the walls as the ivy shrinks back and dies over several years. Areas of ivy should not be removed unless sufficient financial and human resources are available to consolidate the exposed area, as the danger of unconsolidated stonework can be to cause potential collapse. Therefore, only areas to be immediately consolidated must be stripped of ivy.

The particular situation found on the southwest tower of Ballintubber Castle was that the heavy ivy coverage of the structure was heavily rooted into the wall in many places. In other situations ivy can sit like a curtain over a historic structure, and can be pulled off in long strips, here this was not the case, and the ivy was deeply rooted into the building. At the edges and corners, the ivy has caused the displacement of stones and can be pulled off in long strips.

In order to remove it, it is necessary to cut ivy flush with the surface of the masonry, in order to avoid disturbance. Having carried out this work, it is then necessary to point stones around ivy roots to ensure stability where stones may have loosened. The ivy establishment was quite severe on the vertical eastern edge of the tower but at the top of the walls, a turf capping was evident with grass growing from it. This naturally occurring capping prevented ivy's growth on the tops of the walls (see image below), is not as invasive, and is, therefore, a positive finding. Some work may be needed here in the future, but the main emphasis this year will be on treating ivy within the wall structures and consolidating the stonework around it.



Loose stone around window openings



Ivy rooting into wall

Ivy Treatment

Where ivy is growing into the wall, the substantial roots present are often more than 25 mm in diameter. The proposal here is to drill the cut roots and insert 15 mm copper pipes deep into the root within the wall structure. This will allow treatment at later stages, probably during the course of next year, and it may take a while for the ivy to be killed off completely. Smaller roots will be treated with a copper nail. The presence of copper acts as a natural preservative even if no treatment is carried out. Regarding the treatment of ivy, questions were asked regarding the use of glyphosate treatments such as "Roundup". This was not an easy question to answer because cultural control using nonchemical methods would generally be preferred. Glyphosate cannot be used in the presence of wildlife such as bats, nesting birds and other wildlife. General growth can be treated with spray during the growing season when there is no risk to wildlife. Care must be taken that wind does not carry treatment onto surrounding vegetation or grass. Ivy also can have glossy leaves which are resistant to spray treatment and topical treatment of roots by pairing back the bark and applying the paste and covering with a polythene bag or other waterproof protection is a preferred treatment method.

Mortars

Southgate then went on to talk about the mortars found at Ballintubber Castle. Samples of the mortars were taken, and were tested in a 'garage laboratory' by Kevin Holbrook, conservation mason/plaster expert. Visual examination showed that the lime was produced in a batch kiln, as a result of the large lumps of lime present in the sample. Acid dilution showed a slower reaction than pure limes showing a presence of slight hydraulic properties. This could have partly been due to soil (clay) in the burning process which acted as an impurity strengthening the mix. In addition, a pozzolanic additive may be present. The mediaeval mortar was found to be quite hard, in fact surprisingly hard, and the deterioration of stonework in the castle was possibly due more to possible previous 'robbing' of stonework for other local projects rather than the failure of the lime mortars. Modern thinking is that lime mortars, particularly hot lime mortars are valuable due to their softness, but mediaeval castle builders were interested in making the mortar as hard as possible because their life depended on it! For this reason, mortar masons were very highly paid and only gained the secrets of mortar mixing when they have served their time, after a productive career and had obtained sufficient practical skills. This was the origin of the guild system. Masons would never share their secret of what ingredients they used because their livelihood depended on it; therefore, there are not many records of the



Ballintubber Castle before works began

additives used. Typically, they may have been ash, clay, and brick dust (at a later period) to name but a few.

Repair

Once the ivy is treated, consideration can be given to the structural integrity of the building. It is most important to tie the tower across crack positions. In this case, the vertical crack in the SW tower must be tied using Helical ties 800mm long at 450 mm c/c horizontally across the crack positions. Other breaches in the walls can be caused by vertical shafts, garderobes etc, and may require strengthening on both sides of the wall. Southgate Associates has been involved in many dangerous castle restorations in recent years, including emergency work in 2021/2022 at Boulabaun and Coolquill Castles in County Tipperary, both structures having suffered recent collapses. These were due to vertical cracks between arrow slits. In Boulabaun tie-down straps were placed around the entire castle to keep masonry together before masonry work was carried out as an important temporary measure to ensure stability.



Ivy's establishment was quite severe before works began



Face of wall showing missing
stone voussoirs

Capping and Window Surrounds

Protection of the tops of walls using mortar capping is another important consideration in planning conservation works, and, in the case of Ballintubber Castle, a lime mortar capping with small stones will be used. Rebuilding will be required around window openings to stabilise the masonry and in this case, the external cut limestone window surround which is missing. The masonry will be finished simply with straight reveals as if cut limestone could be fitted later. To support masonry at the top of the opening stainless-steel angle will be used, etched primed in acid to create a dull finish. On the inside of the arches, stone voussoirs will have to be replaced and any breaches of the masonry made good.

Hot Lime

It is intended to use a hot lime mortar which has a sticky consistency and is excellent for stone rebuilding purposes and this will be gauged with NHL 3.5 hydraulic lime. Whilst there are other possibilities of using pozzolanic additives, in the case of this castle, a tried and tested pozzolan is essential. Modern quicklime available in Ireland is nonhydraulic and is very pure and is not suitable for repair work unless a strong reliable additive is used.



works beginning on the removal of ivy from southwest tower



Jim Owens (ecologist), addressing course participants

7.0 ECOLOGICAL CONCERNS IN THE CONSERVATION OF BALLINTUBBER CASTLE WITH ECOLOGIST, JIM OWENS OF ORAN ECOLOGY



Jim Owens of Oran Ecology gave an interesting PowerPoint presentation in Ballintubber's old schoolhouse on the ecological concerns to be managed when planning a conservation project. He gave the group an insight into the importance of old buildings as habitats, and the species that are likely to be found in old stone structures, and nesting in dense ivy, like that found at Ballintubber Castle. He went on to outline the specific National and EU Legislation regarding the protection of wildlife in such circumstances and outlined the responsibilities of contractors under the Wildlife Acts 1976-2021, EU Habitats Directive and EU Birds Directive. In these circumstances, ecological surveys must be carried out prior to any work, and these surveys must be carried out in specific weather and light conditions.

Sign-off is necessary from the local wildlife officer, and derogation licenses may be issued under certain circumstances. Given the short time scale of grant funding allocation and delivery dates, if wildlife such as bats or owls are found to be present on the site in question, it can mean that projects may not be able to proceed, particularly in the breeding season. Listeners were also educated on how to avoid impacting negatively on wildlife when carrying out projects, and also on the potential for projects to enhance habitats for wildlife. Cross-pollination was also outlined, an opportunity for the cross-over of buildings and wildlife conservationists!



Nollaig Feeney, addressing
course participants

8.0 LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNDING AND SUPPORTS FOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION WITH ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL HERITAGE OFFICER, NOLLAIG FEENEY

Heritage Officer Nollaig Feeney outlined the financial and advisory support her office could offer to any community group or individual contemplating taking on the conservation of a local heritage structure. The following sources of possible funds were outlined, and advice is given on securing them.

Nollaig Feeney, Heritage Officer, Roscommon County Council,
Contact:

nfeeney@roscomonccoco.ie
087 9078860

First things First - You need to check a few things

- Is your site protected under the National Monuments Acts? Look on <https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>



First things First You need to check

- Is your site protected under the National Monuments Acts? Look on <https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>
- Is your site a Protected Structure? You will find the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) for Co. Roscommon on <https://www.rosdevplan.ie/roscommon-county-development-plan-2022-2028/>
- Is your site in a designated area – A Natural Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation or Special Protected Area? <https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba>

If any of these apply – contact the Heritage Officer for guidance on how to proceed. Funding schemes change all the time. New schemes come along, old ones stop, detail of existing schemes may change.

Get up to date heritage information: The Heritage Office operates a Heritage Office News email mailing list, which sends out heritage news and information, including funding opportunities, all year round. If you wish to be added to the Heritage Office email mailing list please email nfeeney@roscomonco.ie with 'Mailing List' in the subject box.

Grant Schemes & Timeframes

Roscommon County Council Heritage Office administers several grant scheme for the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. These schemes currently are: Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS), Historic Structures Fund (HSF) & Community Monuments Fund (CMF).

These usually are announced in November each year, advertised by RCC in local press, RCC website & social media, and through the Heritage Office News emails, in December with a closing date for applications early in the new year. Works have to be completed over the summer and invoices submitted to RCC in early October.

You need to be thinking about and planning your project well in advance of the application deadline!

Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS)

Every year a BHIS scheme circular is produced by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage which sets out all the scheme details and requirements – the 2022 one is on <https://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Heritage/Built-Heritage/Historic-Structures-Fund-2022-and-Built-Heritage-Investment-Scheme-2022-/BHIS-2022-Circular.pdf>

Purpose of BHIS Scheme

The aim of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme is to leverage private capital for investment in a significant number of small-scale, labour-intensive conservation projects throughout the country and to support the employment of conservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespersons in the repair of the historic built environment.

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 2022. Structures in Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), or within the amenity of a National Monument, where exceptional circumstances are deemed by the Department to apply.

Funding of Projects

The minimum funding awarded for successful projects will be €2,500 up to a maximum of €15,000. The local authority shall allocate funding for projects based on a proper assessment process. Priority should be given to small-scale, labour-intensive projects. Projects should demonstrate a range of conservation skills, and should not be concentrated in a particular geographical area or on a particular type of structure. 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.

Matching Funds

Under BHIS, the total value of all public funding provided for individual projects must not exceed 50% of the total project cost.



Payment

As per DPER Circular 13/2014, Section 3.11 (f), the default position is that grants should be paid on the basis of vouched expenditure. Grantees making claims for grant funding on the basis of vouched expenditure are required to state to their grantors that:

- the invoices used to support their claims relate to activities and services appropriate to the grant scheme objectives
- the amounts invoiced have been paid
- the invoices have not and will not be used in support of another claim for reimbursement from any other funder(s) (except as provided for in agreed joint-funding arrangements)

Qualifying and Non Qualifying Works Are set out in the BHIS scheme circular.

Historic Structures Fund (HSF)

Every year a HSF scheme circular is produced by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage which sets out all the scheme details and requirements, the 2022 one is on <https://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Heritage/Built-Heritage/Historic-Structures-Fund-2022-and-Built-Heritage-Investment-Scheme-2022-/Historic-Structures-Fund-2022-Circular.pdf>

The core aims of the HSF fund are to:

- enable larger scale conservation works to be carried out on heritage structures which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support;
- encourage the regeneration and reuse of heritage properties and to help to secure the preservation of protected structures and/or historic-culturally significant assets;
- support the investment of private capital in labour-intensive projects to conserve historic structures in public and private ownership for community use.
- support employment in the conservation and construction industries.
- build resilience in our heritage properties to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change.

The Historic Structures Fund for 2022 was structured as follows:

1. Stream 1 will offer grants from €15,000 up to €50,000 and is aimed at essential repairs and smaller capital works for the refurbishment and conservation of heritage structures.
2. Stream 1, Historic Shopfronts sub-stream – As in 2021, to incentivise the conservation of historic shopfronts each Local Authority is invited to submit an additional application under Stream 1 for eligible essential repairs and small capital works for the refurbishment and conservation of historic shop facades, windows, signage and other associated details to safeguard them and keep them in use. Local Authorities are also invited to make an addition-

Stream 2 will offer a small number of grants from €50,000 up to €200,000 for larger enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects involving heritage structures, where:

- A clear community or public benefit has been demonstrated, or
- A clear residential benefit has been demonstrated (such projects must be advanced through the planning process as necessary)
- A grant of over €200,000 may be awarded in exceptional circumstances where a case is made by the applicant in relation to the significance of the project and the works proposed.

Vernacular Structures Stream:

In the context of the forthcoming strategy for built vernacular, the pilot stream for vernacular structures introduced in 2021 will be retained, with funding of €50,000. 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.

- Who can apply? Owners of vernacular structures that are not listed in a Record of Protected Structures.
- RCC only put forward one application from the county to the Department for under the Vernacular Stream.

HSF Qualifying Structures

The Historic Structures Fund provides capital funding for works to qualifying structures which include the following:

- Protected Structures: Structures in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) of each Local Authority
- Structures eligible for or proposed for inclusion in the RPS but not yet formally approved for inclusion. Such structures must meet the criteria for inclusion in the RPS by the Local Authority, i.e. must be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view;
- Structures or works within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), or within the amenity of a National Monument, where exceptional circumstances apply.



Selection Criteria

1. Significance of the structure
2. Efficacy of the grant in achieving the aims of the Historic Structures Fund
3. Quality of the methodology and technical merit of the works proposed
4. Contribution of the proposed works to keeping the structure in use, or bringing it back into use

Quality of Works

Conservation works must be designed, specified and overseen on site by appropriately qualified and experienced building conservation professional(s) who will be required to confirm that works have been carried out to a satisfactory standard. The building professional should ideally have a demonstrable competence in the relevant area of building conservation. Where the specific expertise lies with a practitioner, e.g. a thatcher or stone mason, they may be considered to fulfil the role of the conservation building professional for a particular project.

Qualifying Works

The scheme circular sets out the qualifying and non-qualifying works.

Application

You apply to RCC and RCC assesses the applications and submits the allowed number under each stream to the Department for consideration. Applications are highly competitive and you have a much improved chance of success if there has been professional involvement in your application, eg to prepare a Method Statement and costs estimates etc.

Community Monuments Fund (CMF)

Every year a CMF scheme circular is produced by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage which sets out all the scheme details and requirements – the 2022 one is on <https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/6dac6-circular-cmf2022-community-monuments-fund-2022/>

The Community Monuments Fund was first established in 2020 to provide investment in Ireland's archaeological heritage. Part of this funding is prioritised for local authorities, private owners and custodians and community groups for the care, conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of archaeological monuments. Total funding available nationally for projects under Community Monuments Fund 2022 will be €5,000,000.

The Community Monuments Fund invests in archaeological heritage and helps owners and custodians of archaeological monuments to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public. The impacts of climate change on our monuments is increasingly evident. With increased weathering and severe climate events, the repair cycle on built heritage is likely to become shorter. Increased maintenance and repair will be key to building resilience in our monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of a changing environment.

Core Aims of the Fund

The core aims of this Fund are the conservation, maintenance, protection and presentation of archaeological monuments. It will:

- enable conservation works to be carried out on monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support
- build resilience in our monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change
- encourage access to monuments and improve their presentation.
- The Department encourages project promoters to incorporate a traditional skills training element in projects.

Streams 1-3

The Community Monuments Fund has 3 Streams:

- Stream 1 will offer grants up to €85,000 aimed at essential repairs and capital works for the conservation and repair of archaeological monuments
- Stream 2 will offer grants of up to €30,000 for development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports that are aimed at identifying measures for conservation of archaeological monuments and improving public access.
- Stream 3 will offer grants of up to €30,000 for enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation (including virtual/online) at archaeological monuments (including COVID 19 public health measures).

Eligible Projects

The Community Monuments Fund provides funding for projects in relation to:

- Archaeological Monuments that are included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) under the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended)
- Archaeological Monuments that are identified in the Sites and Monuments Record compiled by the National Monuments Service.

Eligible projects will be drawn from the following categories:

- projects proposed by a Local Authority in relation to archaeological monuments in public ownership, where a clear heritage focus and community or public benefit has been demonstrated
- projects proposed by a Local Authority on foot of applications from private applicants who are the owners or custodians of relevant archaeological monuments where there is a tangible public benefit
- projects with a clearly defined heritage focus and community or public benefit proposed directly to the Department by a State-funded organisation working in the heritage area.

How to Apply

To find out more and to apply, please download the following document: [Circular CMF2022 - Community Monuments Fund 2022](#)

Heritage Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme

This scheme's priorities change from year to year. You need to read the scheme information document carefully & tailor your application to meet the scheme priorities if you can. The 2022 scheme was based as follows:

Aims of the Community Heritage Grant Scheme in 2022:

The aim of this scheme is to support capital projects that improve access and inclusion to heritage sites; that apply good heritage practice to the management of places, collections, or objects (including buildings). The scheme also supports the purchase of essential equipment. This scheme is intended to enable communities and heritage non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to continue their work in this area or to start new initiatives.

Project Timeframe:

Only projects that can be commenced after an offer date in mid-April and completed before mid-September can be considered under this scheme.

Who can apply?

- Voluntary and community groups including not for profit trusts
- Heritage-related non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) participants
- Adopt a Monument Programme participants
- Second and third level educational bodies (excludes private institutions)

Funding available:

The most you may ask for is 80% of the funding of the total project value, from a minimum of €2,000 up to a maximum of €20,000. Match funding of 20% by way of valuing your voluntary contribution or benefit in kind is acceptable.

How to apply?

You must apply online for this grant scheme.

What types of projects does this scheme cover? In 2022 it covered:

1. Access and Inclusion
2. Traditional Building and Craft Skills
3. Development of Digital Heritage Resources
4. Community-led surveys and audits that will inform future management of sites
5. Community-led conservation reports and plans
6. Conservation work Purchase of specialised equipment or items that support the conservation or improve access to heritage

What do I need to support my grant application?

1. Supporting Documents Needed:
2. Quotations
3. Evidence of an appropriately qualified practitioner
3. Approvals, permissions, licences, and consents
4. Current and clear photographs
5. A Map
6. Letters of support

Community Awareness and Engagement:

You should plan to include an event for National Heritage Week/National Biodiversity Week. You need to acknowledge your funders.

For all these schemes you will need a Method Statement

The Method Statement must describe the condition of the structure, and give details of how conservation/repair works will be carried out. This document does not need to be unduly long but it must be appropriate to the nature and scale of the proposed works, e.g. a Method Statement in relation to re-thatching will not require as much detail as one for structural or masonry repairs. It should not exceed TEN A4 pages. Works should be in line with best conservation practice and should aim to employ methods of minimal intervention. Works should be based on a proper understanding of the structure, and make use of appropriate materials. Replacement of original material should be kept to a minimum and should only be carried out when absolutely necessary. The proposed works should only be undertaken by appropriately qualified conservation practitioners who have experience in the use of historic materials and techniques. The Method Statement must include:

1. A concise description of the structure. The structure as it currently exists, noting all its salient features, its appearance, setting, form, present function, significance, brief architectural history (if available/relevant) and the materials of which it is composed.

2. A description of the works proposed. This should identify the issues that are causing risk, what remedial works are proposed, how the work will be done, what materials will be used, and how the fabric of the building will be conserved. It must include relevant plans, drawings and supporting visual media such as video clips, photographs or other illustrations and should typically include the following issues:

- a) Are the works temporary or permanent?
- b) What types of repairs are being proposed and in which locations?
- c) What treatment/replacement of damaged fabric is envisaged?
- d) What replacement materials (if any) will be incorporated?
- e) Details of on-site supervision and monitoring;
- f) A brief schedule or sequence of works;
- g) An estimated project cost.

Photographs must be of high quality, submitted in jpeg format, clearly identified with the name of the relevant project



3. Impact statement and proposed mitigation measures (if applicable). Any likely impact of works on a structure and ways of mitigating adverse impacts. Mitigation may include design, timing and methodology (i.e. roof repairs timed to avoid interfering with bat colonies or rendering works timed to allow lime mortar to set), reversibility, careful choice of materials, etc.

Quality of Works Required for all these Schemes:

Conservation works must be designed, specified and overseen on site by appropriately qualified and experienced building conservation professional(s) who will be required to confirm that works have been carried out to a satisfactory standard.

Statutory Requirements for all Schemes:

Grant-approved works must meet all statutory requirements, including planning permission. Where works are proposed to sites/monuments protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004, the statutory requirements for notification or for Ministerial consent under those Acts must be complied with.

Professional involvement:

Not all projects put forward by the local authority may be successful. Applications are increasingly competitive and professional involvement in the application will greatly increase your chance of success.

Heritage Resource Guide

The Heritage Council have prepared a list of resources you might find helpful when planning and developing your heritage project. The Heritage Resource Guide compiles a range of online heritage resources including archives, digital collections, data bases and inventories, GIS applications, video, mobile apps, most of which can be accessed freely on personal devices. It covers numerous subjects e.g. archaeology and history, architecture, coastal and marine, habitats and species, museums and collections. An extract from this list is included here. You can view the full list on <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/advice-and-guidance/resources>

GIS-based websites to discover the built, natural and intangible heritage of your area.

- [Heritagemaps.ie](#) provides information on built and natural heritage.
- [The Historic Environment Viewer](#) focuses on archaeological monuments and architectural heritage
- [Biodiversity Maps](#) is a national portal that compiles biodiversity data from multiple sources and makes it freely available on-line.
- [Dúchas.ie](#) is dedicated to local folklore.
- [National Library of Ireland Catalogue](#) explore thousands of digitised materials (maps, photos, letters, and other printed materials).

Working with monuments and buildings

- [Guidance for the Care, Conservation and Recording of Historic Graveyard](#)
- [Adopt a monument: guidance for community archaeology projects \(2017\)](#), The Heritage Council
- [Adopt A Monument Research Toolkit- Tips and Resources on researching your local monuments](#)
- [Ruins: the conservation and repair of conservation ruins \(2010\)](#), Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- [Rock Art- Prehistoric Rock Art in Ireland](#)
- [Ogham Stones in Ireland](#)
- [Heritage Council Resource page for Conservation and repair of historic buildings \(i.e. constructed before World War 2\)](#)
- [Buildings of Ireland resource page](#) which contains Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage publications and statutory guidance, relevant legislation, local contacts, advice series and reports which may be of assistance to you as an owner or as an agent working on a protected or any historic structure.

- [Heritage Council & SPAB Ireland Maintenance Advice Series- Wood and ironwork, render and mortar, roofs, rainwater goods, vegetation.](#)
- [Wildlife in Buildings- Linking our built and natural heritage](#)
- [The Conservation of Places of Worship](#)
- [Paving- The Conservation of historic ground surfaces](#)
- [Architectural Conservation Officers in Local Authorities Nationwide \(May 2022\)](#)
- [Sourcing a Conservation Consultant for your built heritage project](#)
- [Conservation building contractors: Irish Georgian Society Traditional Building Skills Register and Register of Heritage Contractors](#)

Climate change & energy efficiency

- Heritage Council Resource page for Conservation and repair of historic buildings (i.e. constructed before World War 2) includes a section on Adapting to climate change with leaflets on insulation, heat pumps, and draught proofing.
- Climate Change and Historic Towns- Adapting to Change
- Cities 100: 100 solutions for climate change in cities (2016), Sustainia, C40 Cities & Realdania
- Energy efficiency in traditional buildings (2010), Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
- Event manager's resource pack: 4 steps for a cleaner, greener event (2012), LAPN Network
- How communities are working together to save energy (2018), Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
- [sparkchange.ie](https://www.sparkchange.ie), provides resources on how you can make your community more sustainable. It also has a list of inspirational projects from across Ireland.



Towns and Villages

- Community-led village design statements in Ireland: toolkit (2012), The Heritage Council
- The Heritage Council's Collaborative Town Centre Health Check Programme
- Putting Town Centres First- Heritage Council Podcast
- Ballybrilliant: Heritage-led Regeneration in 5 Irish Towns
- Creating places for people: the RIAI town and village toolkit (2019), RIAI & Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
- Design manual for urban roads and streets (2013), Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
- HerO (heritage as opportunity) the road to success: integrated management of historic towns (2011), URBACT
- Streets for all: advice for highway and public realm works in historic places (2018), Historic England
- [Tourism for Townsm](#) An introduction to developing a sustainable tourism sector in your town

Wildlife, biodiversity & water heritage

- Heritage Council Publications & Links:
- A Guide to Habitats
- Bats, birds, buildings and you!
- Conserving Hedgerows
- Homeowner maintenance series: vegetation, 2020, SPAB Ireland & The Heritage Council
- Conserving and enhancing wildlife in towns and villages: a guide for local community groups (2005), The Heritage Council:
- Biodiversity presentations on the Heritage Council's YouTube channel

How can the Heritage Officer help you?

The heritage officer can help guide you through all the steps involved in planning your project, put you in touch with relevant professionals and provide advice and information to guide you to ensure compliance with best conservation practice



Peter Conway and Sebastien addressing course participants

9.0 CONSERVATION OF THREE GALWAY CASTLES, BY PETER CONWAY, CONTRACTS MANAGER OF CUNNINGHAM MARINE CONSERVATION CONTRACTORS

Peter Conway, contracts manager of Cunningham Marine, who is currently in charge of works at Ballintubber Castle, drew upon past examples of similar work on Medieval castles in the West of Ireland. He gave participants an understanding of the structural challenges often faced by contractors in consolidating buildings of this height and age. In particular, Conway focused on the conservation works to three Medieval Galway castles, including Merlin, Tirellan, and Menlough Castles as Part of the Three Castle Project, Galway (see the detail of this work by contractor Cunningham Marine outlined in an Engineers Ireland webinar at the following hyperlink: <https://www.engineersireland.ie/listings/event/8166>)

Two examples shown involved the substantial restoration of cut stonework carried out by Sebastian Ouch, of Galway Stone Design. Sebastian is now working on Ballintubber and is a Polish mason trained in Ireland by a French master mason from the Compagnie de Devoir. Sebastien started his life in Poland as a carpenter and took on a three-year apprentice in Ireland. examples given by Conway differed from Ballintubber Castle as there was sufficient cut limestone available to inform a restoration project without conjecture. An interesting discussion followed regarding conservation versus restoration, and the discernability of new work.

Examples given by Conway differed from Ballintubber Castle as there was sufficient cut limestone available to inform a restoration project without conjecture. An interesting discussion followed regarding conservation versus restoration, and the discernability of new work.

Lastly, an example was given involving ivy removal where ivy was only rooted in the ground and could be removed from the castle walls relatively easily which again provided an interesting contrast to the work being provided in Ballintubber. This session allowed participants, who are present at the beginning of a long multi-phase conservation process at Ballintubber, to see the results of conservation works at similar sites. While allowing course attendees the opportunity to discuss conservation objectives and decision-making processes which occurred during these other building works, this talk also provided an interesting conclusion to the course, allowing listeners to see finished castle conservation projects, and to envisage the impact on Ballintubber once it has been through this process.

Link to video of 3 castles:
<https://fb.watch/eQwxUQ8Cc4/>



Tirellan
Castle



Merlin
Castle



Menlough
Castle



Edward and Shane Byrne from the
Traditional Lime Company

11.0 PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATIONS

11.1 EDWARD BYRNE OF THE TRADITIONAL LIME COMPANY

Edward Byrne from the Traditional Lime Company set up a safe space within the castle complex where a continuous burning lime kiln could be demonstrated. This version of the kiln has layers of fuel and limestone ensuring an even temperature distribution throughout the kiln ensuring that the limestone is thoroughly burnt. This ensures the best quality lime production and allows the kiln to be continuously fed. On the other hand, a batch kiln is a simple process involving a single firing.

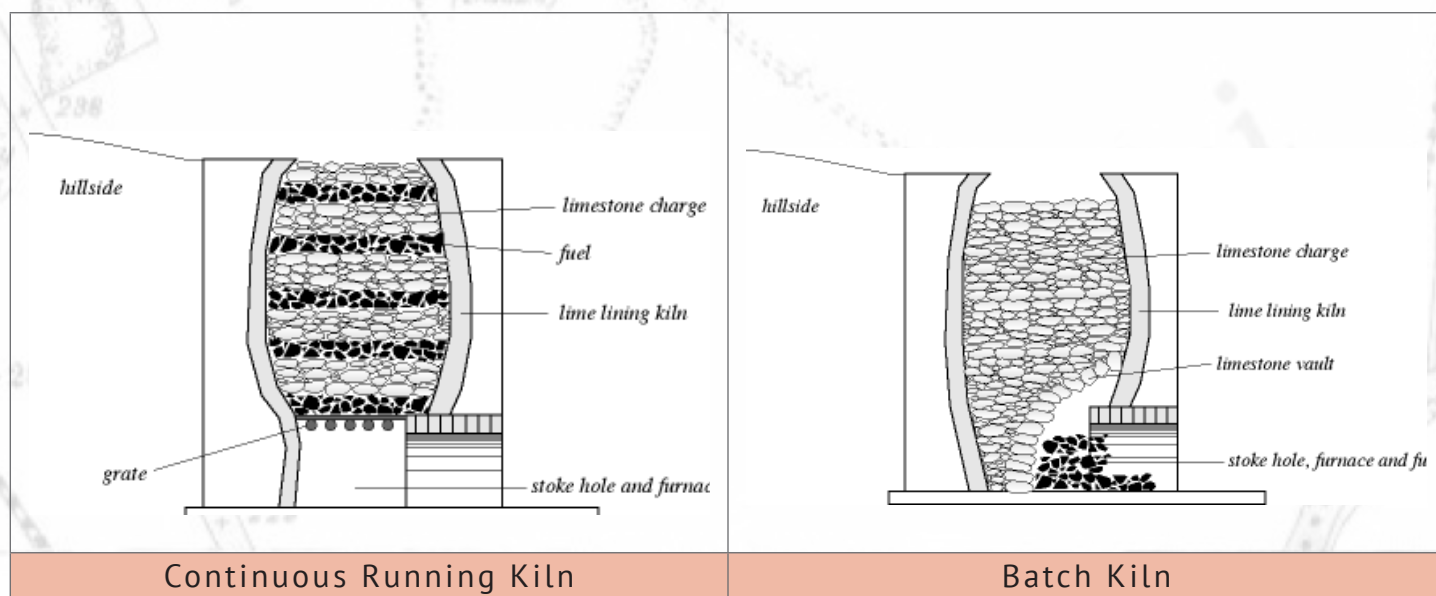
Byrne then went on to explain the lime cycle process and the difference between various types of lime including NHL (naturally hydraulic limes) of different strengths: NHL 2, NHL 3.5, NHL 5 and a fast-setting lime called 'Prompt' often used on occasions where fast work is necessitated, such as underwater or work before the tide comes in. These range from feebly hydraulic to eminently hydraulic. These various products were compared with cement by asking course participants to form a line representing the strength of the binder. Those representing lime stood over a 5 m length in front of Edwards's demonstration, whilst Portland cement involved people standing near the boundary of the castle and when it came to white cement that would be in the housing estate across the road! This interactive learning helped course participants to understand the issues involved.

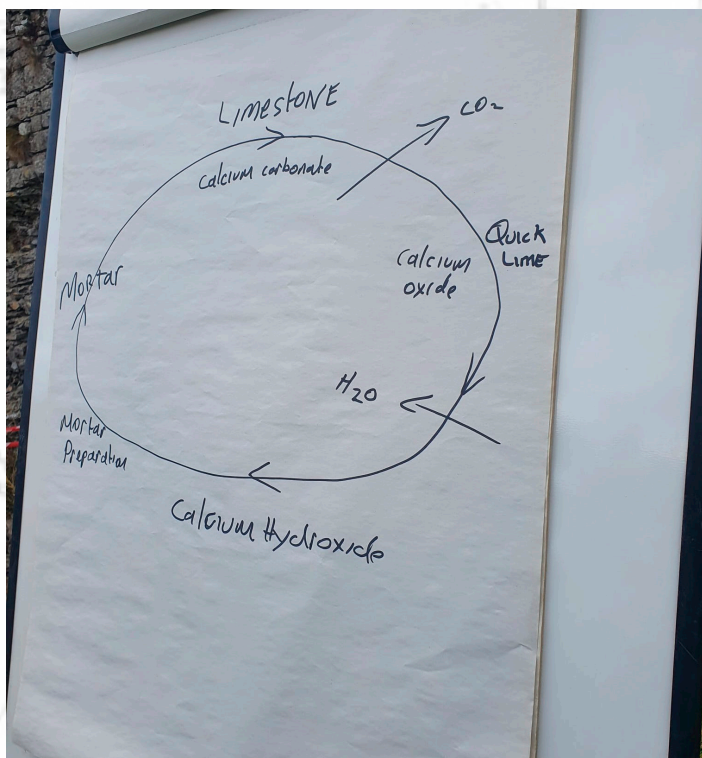
between cement and lime in terms of material properties and it is possible to 'engineer' a cement to be weaker and more flexible than lime. When it came to discussing hot lime the relative advantages and disadvantages were discussed. In Ireland sources of quicklime are feebly hydraulic and hot by mixes require the addition of a pozzolanic additive and often this is NHL 3.5 or NHL5.

Contact:

Traditional Lime Company Ltd,
Rath, Shillelagh Road, Tullow,
Co. Carlow,
R93D5D5

059 9151750





Flipchart by Damien Condon



Deer Anthler used for pointing by Tommy Bolger

11.2 DAMIEN CONDON OF CALX RESTORATION

Contact:
CALX Restorations,
Arklow,
Co. Wicklow

086 8882987

calxrestoration@gmail.com

Damien Condon demonstrated mixing lime in batches on the ground using hot lime in an original manner. His demonstration was as a re-enactment of Medieval mixing and pointing techniques. His assistant archaeologist Brenda O'Meara had conducted much research on mediaeval mixing and additives. What was most interesting about Damien's demonstration is that he is a practitioner who uses hot lime commercially. This was a realistic demonstration and not an academic one.

After demonstrating mixing and discussing pozzolanic additives such as potash, clay brick dust etc, then came the opportunity for course participants to attempt pointing part of the mediaeval walls of Ballintubber Castle. Many course participants took part in the hands-on tasks, some using deer antler as pointing tools and others using modern steel small tools. Techniques of pointing were demonstrated as well as the requirements for careful after-care and compacting.

The practical demonstrations were arranged so that people had a choice as to where to go for their specific learning requirements, and participants were free to pass from one demonstrator to the other. The demonstrations were organised to give a break between talks to offer variety to the occasion.



Damien Condon mixing
hot lime



Brenda O'Meara, archaeologist of
CALX Restoration





Certificate time!

12.0 FEEDBACK

Many positive comments were received, and it was felt that it could be worthwhile to run a similar course next year at Ballintober Castle, which might also include other Medieval skills such as stone carving and green timber work, in addition to the practical mortar demonstrations. Further feedback and suggestions should be made to Southgate Associates at info@chsa.ie



*"I just wanted to thank you... for a fantastic event at Ballintubber Castle last Thursday and Friday. I have attended lots of different heritage events in my 25 years plus working in Irish archaeology but this one stood out for the fantastic collaboration between different specialists, community, local authorities, and representatives. I learned a lot from the various talks and demonstrations and met lots of lovely folks.
Many thanks again for a wonderful event.
Best wishes
Angela Wallace, Atlantic Archaeology."*



National Heritage Week

A Heritage Council programme



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

An Chomhairle Oidhreacht
The Heritage Council




SOUTHGATE
ASSOCIATES
HERITAGE CONSERVATION SPECIALISTS

ROS
COM
MON

Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council