



Architectural Heritage Fund

STITCH IN TIME GRANT

Grants for Maintenance,
Repairs, Improve Climate
Resilience & Conservation
Advice Reports



WHAT IS THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE FUND 'STITCH IN TIME' GRANT?

Fingal County Council operates an annual conservation grant scheme to help owners with the cost of minor repairs, maintenance works and works to improve climate resilience of historic buildings. A 'Stitch in Time' grant is also available for commissioning building condition reports/surveys, method statements and climate change risk assessments of your building.

ELIGIBLE STRUCTURES

- Protected Structures
- Proposed Protected Structures
- Historic or Older Buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) that enhance the place or street
- Rural and Urban Vernacular Buildings
- Non-designated Historic Buildings
- Industrial Heritage Structures
- Maritime Heritage Structures
- Military Heritage Structures
- 20th Century Architectural Heritage Buildings (rare or distinctive building types)

Buildings or structures with statutory architectural heritage designations of Protected Structure or within an ACA will be given priority when allocating funding. For all other structures the applicant should provide in writing an explanation along with photographs as to why the building or structure merits considered under the scheme.

WORKS — TYPE OF WORKS THAT QUALIFY

The scheme is targeted at small-scale works. There are other national conservation grant schemes available for medium-sized or large-scale conservation projects.

The Stitch In Time Grant is suitable for minor repairs to the original fabric of the building, works that will extend the lifespan of a historic building and works that support a traditional building skill such as thatching or stone masonry. The grant is also available to help your historic building be more resilient to withstand the effects of climate change.

Examples of eligible works eligible include:

- Patch repairs to thatched roofs
- Minor repairs to natural slate roofs
- Chimney repairs
- Repair of lead or copper roof valleys
- Repair of sections of cast iron rainwater goods (gutters and downpipes)
- Iron railing or gate repairs
- Lime mortar or lime render repairs
- Repair of stone gate piers or boundary walls
- Minor historic door or windows repairs, including repair of window surrounds, doorways, historic timber shop or pub fronts.
- Repairs to internal decorative features such as plasterwork, fireplaces, staircases.

In certain circumstances the re-instatement of a feature that had previously been removed may be eligible but photographic or documentary evidence would have to be provided for this to be considered.

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic buildings are vulnerable to climate change impacts especially in exposed marine environments and areas prone to flooding and high wind speeds. Ireland is expected to experience more frequent and extreme weather events and an increase in rainfall levels. Funding is available through the Stitch in Time grant for works to improve climate change resilience such as repairs to chimneystacks, rainwater goods and exterior renders or pointing.

REPORTS—CONSERVATION ADVICE, SURVEYS AND CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENTS

Applications can also be submitted for funding for conservation advice and reports and climate change risk assessments. Applicants must select experienced conservation professionals with proven and appropriate conservation expertise to produce the reports. The documents should conclude with recommended conservation measures, with prioritisation for the outlined works. The professions of architects, surveyors and engineers operate conservation accreditation registers which can be found on the websites of RIAI, SCSi and Engineers Ireland.

To accompany the application:

- Details of the conservation professions accreditation or statement of conservation qualification and demonstrated conservation experience.
- An outline by the conservation professional of the content of the proposed report should be provided with the application form. (For guidance on what should be contained in such a report see Historic England direction on Conservation Report Structure <https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/advice/conservation-reports-structure-mar18pdf/>)

On competition of survey/assessment

- Copy of the Final Report needs to be submitted to Fingal County Council's Conservation Office as evidence before the grant can be paid. It is recommended that when the initial draft of the report is produced that the Conservation Professional consult with Fingal's Conservation Office so that any comments can be considered prior to finalisation of the report.
- The Final Report should conclude with recommended conservation measures or works. These should be prioritised based on significance and urgency.

GRANT AMOUNTS

Grants of 50% to max 80% of the total cost of the eligible works may be awarded.

Minimum Grant €100 Maximum Grant €2,500

Please note that payments of the grant will be by electronic transfer only and so successful applicants will need to provide the Council with bank details to facilitate this.

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms must be completed and returned to the Conservation Officer at the address provided overleaf. Forms are available to download online or can be requested by phone or email. The form must be accompanied by

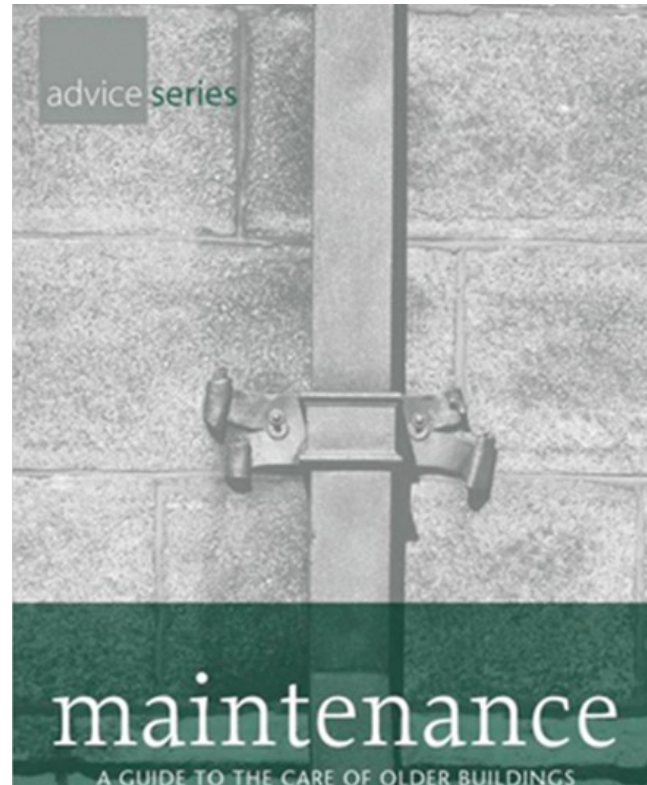
- *Quotation* - or estimate from a contractor

for the proposed works or conservation professional for a report

- *Specification* - from the contractor for the repair stating the materials and methods to be used
- *Statement of Conservation Professionals Qualifications and Experience* - where application for report
- *Outline of Conservation Report/ Climate Change Risk Assessment* - Brief summary of the content and format of the Conservation Report being commissioned.
- *Photographs* - showing the current condition of the feature or element to be repaired
- *Evidence of Contractor's Tax Compliance* - tax clearance certificate or details to check tax clearance online

For further guidance on maintenance and specific features or issues relating to older buildings see National Government's Advice Series available for free from NIAH website

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



If you have further queries please contact:

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