



Fingal Thatch Project 2022

Report

**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



CARRIG
conservation international

Cover Photo

Thatcher John Fanning c.1950

Provided by his grandson Martin Fanning

Fingal Thatch Project 2022

Carrig Project Team

Sinéad Hughes, Leila Budd, Aideen Herron & Aneta Nerguti

Preface

Fingal has a rich and celebrated heritage that is formed by its landscape and natural resources, historic settlements, towns, buildings, archaeology, traditions and people. The county's thatched buildings are an important part of this heritage; they are a physical connection between past and present-day generations and represent a vernacular tradition in which knowledge of building techniques, local materials, skills and craftsmanship was passed down along an unbroken chain for centuries.

With modernisation and cultural change, thatched buildings have become outmoded and divorced from their traditional contexts. The cultural landscapes¹ that supported them are gone or going. Changes in farming practices in the mid-twentieth century meant that straw went from being a widely available by-product of farming which needed only a limited amount of special handling to be suitable for use, to effectively being a specialist niche product which needed to be grown and harvested specifically for thatching. The homeowner is no longer able to carry out running repairs and maintenance themselves and the context in which thatchers work now is very different to what it was 100 or even 50 years ago. The picture on the cover of this report of thatcher John Fanning at work on a roof in about 1950 with a horse-drawn cart of locally grown straw at the foot of his ladder was once a common sight in Fingal but is now a piece of history. Where once thatched roofs were the easy, inexpensive option, they have become costly and challenging to maintain and sustain. Owners of thatched houses have become custodians of some of the last examples of a dying tradition and keeping a thatched roof well-maintained has now become a challenge that only the dedicated few have been able to meet.

As is the case across Ireland, Fingal's thatched buildings have been in decline since at least the 1950s and are a threatened cultural resource. Fingal County Council has commissioned the Fingal Thatch Project 2022 to review previous surveys of thatch in Fingal, document the county's surviving thatched building stock, engage with the community and custodians of thatched buildings, and better understand the issues that contribute to the loss. Findings from the project, which are presented in this document, are intended to add to the wider understanding of thatch in Ireland today so that positive actions can be implemented to safeguard this finite cultural resource.

¹ *'cultural landscapes represent the "combined works of nature and of man" ... They are illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal.'* The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) <https://whc.unesco.org/en/culturallandscape/>

Acknowledgements

The Carrig team are grateful to the owners and occupiers of the thatched buildings in Fingal who provided access to their properties and shared the stories of their homes and structures. We would like to thank all of those who contacted us to share photographs and information which have greatly enriched the project. We are also thankful to those who attended the Heritage Week event: *A Tour of Thatched Houses of Skerries* on 20th August 2022.

We are very grateful for the wealth of knowledge shared with us by the thatchers, both retired and active, who have worked in the past decades on the roofs of Fingal. These include Peter Childs, Alan Grimes, Brian Simpson, and Martin and Anthony Fanning. We are especially grateful to Martin Fanning, a fourth-generation thatcher from Skerries, who kindly shared numerous photos of thatched buildings and thatching in North Dublin, and to Martin and Anthony's sister Úna who also got in touch with information.

We would like to thank Dominic and Fionnuala Gryson and their family for showing us their work at Cornstown House, where they grow and keep a seedbank of varieties of straw suitable for thatching, and for the information they shared with us about growing and threshing straw for thatching from a farming perspective.

We are thankful to members of the public who shared their own research on Fingal's thatch and photographic collections with us. These include Ian Lennon, a passionate advocate of thatch in the Naul area, and Niall Gosson who has documented the thatch of Rush on his Kenure Park social media pages.

The team would also like to thank Jonny Dillon and Simon O'Leary of the National Folklore Collection for providing access to documents, publications and audio recordings held in the National Folklore Collection.

Carrig's team are grateful to Stephen McGinn and Emma Court of Fingal County Council's Active Travel Office for organising the Heritage Week tour of thatched houses in Skerries in August 2022.

Finally, the team would like to express gratitude to Fingal County Council's Heritage Officer, Christine Baker, who commissioned the Fingal Thatch Project 2022, and to her colleagues Helena Bergin and Laura Johnstone of the Fingal Conservation Office for their assistance, particularly in identifying sites for inclusion. We are also grateful to Barry O'Reilly, Architectural Conservation Advisor with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, for his assistance.

The Fingal Thatch Project 2022 was funded by the Heritage Council.



A tour of thatched houses was held in Skerries on 20th August 2022 during Heritage Week as part of the Fingal Thatch Project 2022. The event was organised by Stephen McGinn and Emma Court of Fingal County Council's Active Travel Office and Carrig Conservation. Sinéad Hughes of Carrig Conservation guided about 50 attendees on a tour of the town's five remaining thatched houses, discussed the Fingal Thatch Project 2022 and current issues relating to the thatched heritage of Fingal.

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1. Introduction

This report was prepared on behalf of Fingal County Council by Carrig Conservation International Ltd. under the direction of the Fingal Heritage Officer Christine Baker, with guidance from Fingal Architectural Conservation Officers Helena Bergin and Laura Johnstone and Architectural Conservation Advisor Barry O'Reilly of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). Presented below are the findings of the survey of thatched buildings in Fingal, a description of the survey and engagement process, an account of project limitations, and a list of recommendations. A gazetteer of the structures recorded in the survey is included as an appendix.

An Excel register of Fingal's thatched structures has also been produced as part of the project. The register is a record of the present thatched buildings in Fingal that were surveyed in 2022 and past thatched structures that are no longer extant. It also collates records of structures surveyed during the Vernacular Farm Survey of Fingal of 2007.

The Fingal Thatch Project 2022 was funded by the Heritage Council.

Project Objectives

Historically, North County Dublin was renowned for its thatched buildings, especially in the Skerries and Rush areas. However, there has been a marked reduction in the number of thatched structures in the county in the past 100 years. Those that have survived have often been extended or modified in order to facilitate their ongoing use and often this means that, although the thatch survives, there has been a loss of historic features. Owners are finding it increasingly difficult to retain and maintain their thatch in the face of a variety of issues including the effects of climate change. Local thatching practitioners face challenges and the ongoing transmission of this vernacular tradition is at risk.

Despite these challenges, there is a strong appreciation of the heritage of thatch amongst local Fingal communities and heritage groups. In recognition of this, Fingal County Council commissioned the Fingal Thatch Project 2022 to capture and preserve the story of thatch in Fingal for future generations, from the thatched dwellings past and present to those who lived in them and all the traditions associated with thatch in Fingal. The Fingal Thatch Project 2022 also aims to facilitate those who want an accessible means to share their memories, photos and documentation relating to this particular vernacular heritage. To meet these objectives Fingal County Council developed a set of key project tasks for the Fingal Thatch Project 2022 that fall under four categories: Review, Survey, Owners Input and Community. These project tasks are outlined below:

Review: The 2022 thatch survey should review all previous surveys in the county to produce a survey of survival of thatch in the county.

Survey: A comprehensive survey should be undertaken. The survey should include photographic evidence of the current condition, a building and roof covering description, and a description of curtilage and associated features.

Owner's Input: The owners should be contacted, where possible, to compile a database of the thatch history of the buildings including materials, thatchers employed, dates of thatching and other relevant detail. The conservation concerns of the owners and their views and needs in relation to future use of thatch should also be documented.

Community: The survey team should engage with community/heritage groups to collate a social history of thatch in Fingal including photos, memories, oral histories, thatcher's knowledge, videos/films, materials/artefacts associated with Fingal thatching; to examine the UCD folklore collection and School's folklore collection and to present the results via Storymap. A heritage week event should be held to raise awareness of the project during Heritage Week 2022.

2. Review of Previous Surveys and Studies

As defined within the objectives above, the review of previous surveys has been an important component of this project. The following chapter provides an overview of previous studies and surveys that have documented Fingal's thatched structures. When it comes to thatch and vernacular buildings, Fingal has been the most surveyed area in Ireland. Since the early 1900s, several desktop and field studies have been carried out to document the traditional buildings within the county. Repeated surveying has resulted in a significant body of information that provides us with an understanding of the surviving and lost thatched structures, rates of demise, and issues that have contributed to declining numbers.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.
FORM B. 1.—HOUSE AND BUILDING RETURN.

County, *Dublin* Parliamentary Division, *North Dublin* Poor Law Union, *Baberohy* District Electoral Division, *Skerries* Townland, *Skerries*

Parliamentary Borough, *Skerries* City, *Urban* District, *Skerries* Town or Village, *Skerries* Street, *Quay St* Barony, *Baberohy* Parish, *Skerries*

Note A.—When a Rowland or Street is situated in two Parliamentary Divisions, or in more than one District Electoral Division or Parish, or is partly within and partly without a Parliamentary Borough, City, Urban District, Town, or Village, a separate Return should be made for each portion.

No. of House or Building	Whether built or repaired since 1870	State whether built or repaired since 1870	Number of Rooms	In Habitable Condition	PARTICULARS OF INHABITED HOUSES				No. of Families	FAMILIES, etc.					
					Walls	Roof	Rooms	Windows		No. of Families	No. of Persons	Male	Female		
64	✓	✓	2	Yes	1	1	2	1	1	Richard Leaver	7	9	4	5	Loree McInerney
65	✓	✓	2	Yes	1	1	3	2	1	Flora McWilliam	5	6	3	3	Do
66	✓	✓	1	Yes	1	1	3	3	1	Alice McManus	5	3	2	1	Do
67	✓	✓	1	No											Do
68	✓	✓	1	Yes	1	0	2	2	1	Ester Hanagan	4	1	1	0	Do
69	✓	✓	1	No											Do
70	✓	✓	1	Yes	1	0	2	8	1	Edward Haligan	3	2	1	1	Do
71	✓	✓	2	Yes	1	0	2	2	1	Catherine White	3	1	1	0	Do
72	✓	✓	2	Yes	1	0	2	1	1	Michael McManus	3	6	2	4	Do
73	✓	✓	1	Yes	1	1	1	5	1	James Anderson	9	2	1	1	Do
74	✓	✓	2	Yes	1	1	2	9	1	William B. Hannon	9	4	2	2	Do
75	✓	✓	1	No											Do
76	✓	✓	1	No											Do
77	✓	✓	2	Yes	1	1	4	3	1	Catherine Ryan	8	2	1	1	Do
78	✓	✓	2	Yes	1	1	2	8	1	Thomas O'Neill	8	6	3	3	Do

Note B.—If one Room is occupied by more than one Family, the Names of the Heads of Families so occupying it should be bracketed together in Col. 11, then—
John Jones, and the Spouse 1 entered in Col. 12, against the middle of the bracket. See further Notes in Instructions, page 6.

Extract of Census of Ireland in 1911, Form B.1. – House and Building Return for Quay Street, Skerries

1911 Census of Ireland

The 1911 Census of Ireland is a valuable resource that quantified the numbers of thatched buildings in the country. Available to view online at [National Archives: Census of Ireland 1901/1911](https://nationalarchives.ie/census/), the census captured information about houses in each locality on Form B1. Under the heading *Particulars of Inhabited Houses*, were fields including *Walls, Roof, Rooms, Windows in Front*; the enumerator profiled and rated the class of each dwelling under these headings often using a prescribed symbol as a shorthand. For example, the descriptor of the Roof column reads *'if the roof is of slate, iron or tiles, enter figure 1 in this column; if it is thatch, wood or other perishable material, enter figure 0'*. In Ireland, thatch was by far the most common 'perishable' roofing material historically, and as such a '0' figure in the Roof column can be reasonably interpreted as a thatched roof. By counting the numbers of '0's for a street, townland or wider area, it is possible to tally the entire number of thatched houses in a locality.

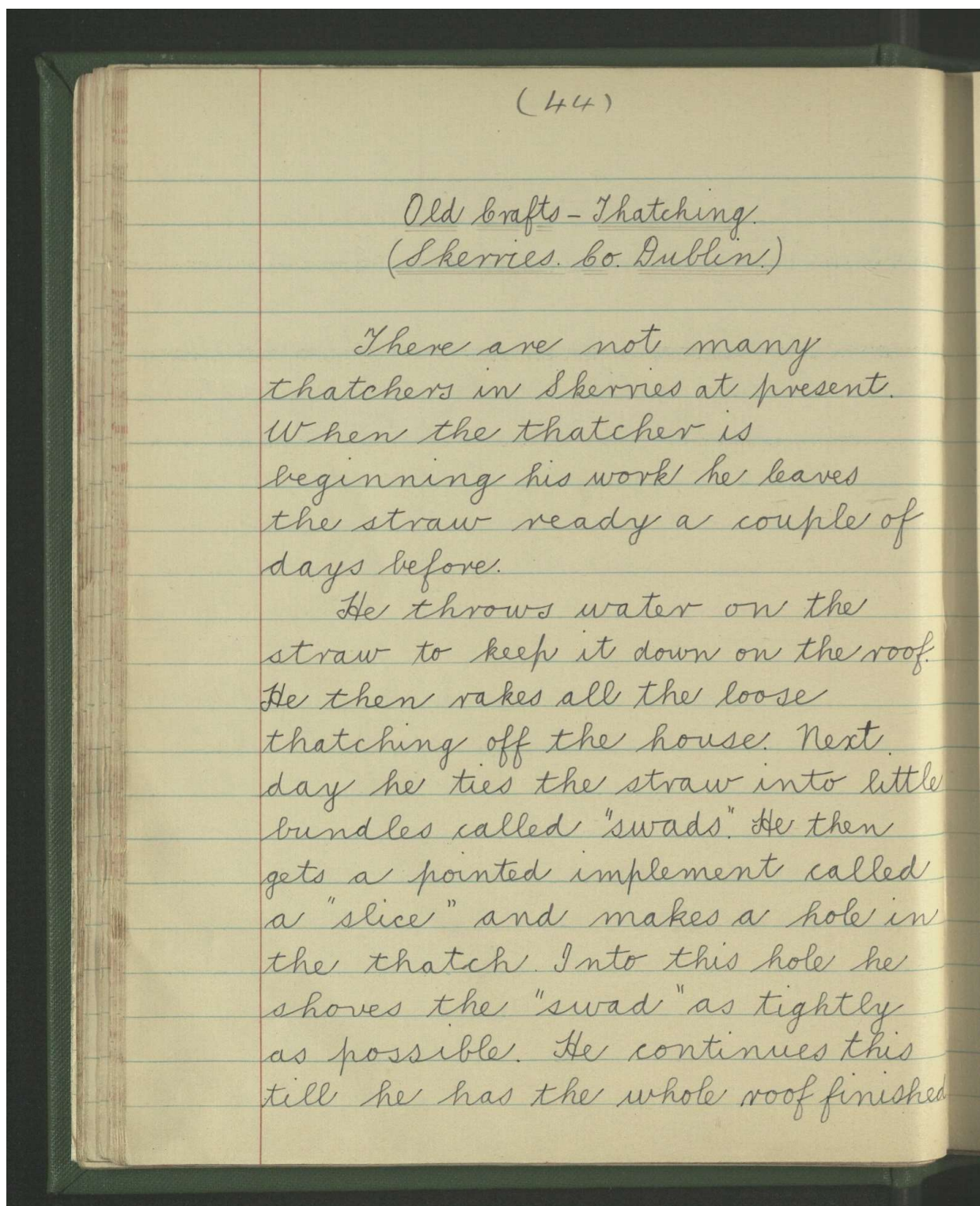
As a case study, the survey team counted the total number of houses in the townland of Townparks in the town of Skerries and came to a figure of 635. Of these, 211 houses or approximately 30% were thatched in 1911. Today, 111 years later, just five thatched houses remain in Skerries; this speaks to the devastating rate of loss of thatched roofs over the past century.

1937-9 Schools Folklore Scheme, Irish Folklore Commission

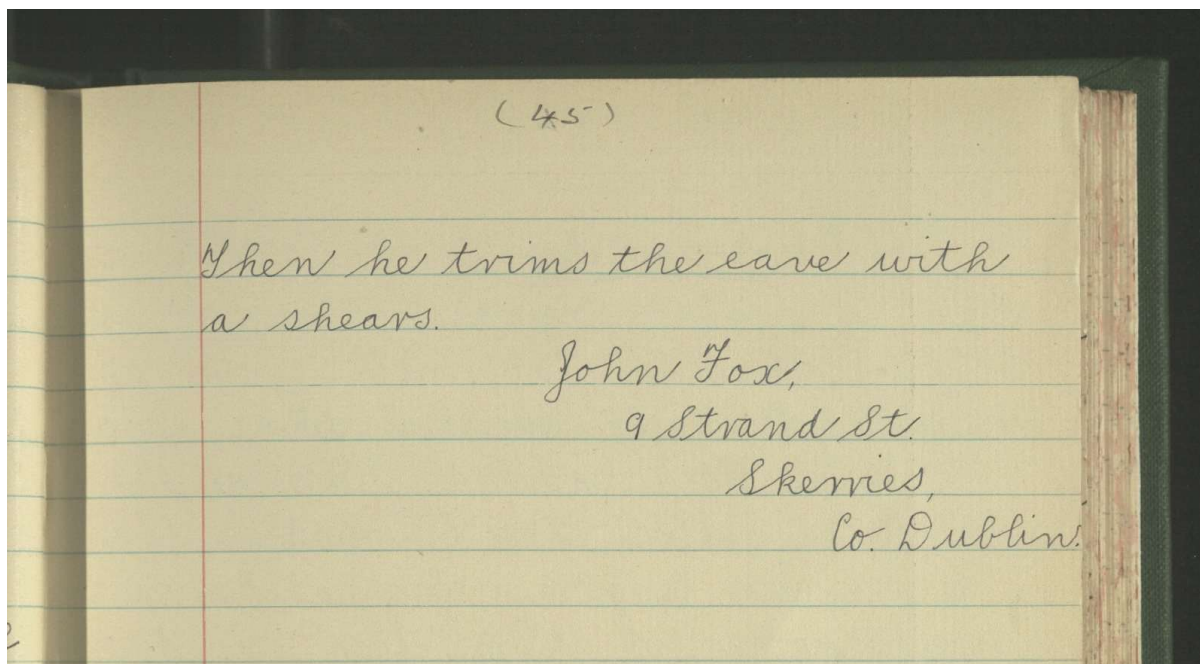
Between 1937 and 1939, the Irish Folklore Commission carried out the Schools Folklore Scheme under which national school children were invited to write about folklore and local traditions in a series of short essays. The collection of original exercise books, gathered by schoolteachers on behalf of the commission, is held in bound volumes in the National Folklore Collection at UCD and has been digitised. Each scanned essay from the Schools' Collection can be viewed online at [The Schools' Collection | dúchas.ie \(duchas.ie\)](https://duchas.ie)

The following extract was written by a young boy named John Fox who lived in Skerries and attended St Patrick's Boys' National School. In his essay, he provides a succinct description of thatching in his neighbourhood. John Fox's piece can be read online at [Old Crafts - Thatching | dúchas.ie \(duchas.ie\)](https://duchas.ie) and is one of four such essays on thatch in Fingal.

Of particular interest within the schoolboy's account is the word "swad" which he uses to describe a handful of straw that is twisted into a ball at the top so it can be thrust with a tool into a prepared hole in the roof straw. The word swad is not commonly used in descriptions of the thrust or slice thatching method. Instead, the word "wangle" is the usual term and appears in an essay on thatching by schoolgirl Kathleen Caffrey from Coolmine Cottages in Mulhuddard. Basing her account on information "collected from people in the village", she also writes about the use of straight scollops and peg-like sally rods to hold the straw down and the ornamental bobbins that finished ridges in her area. "Scalops [sic] are used to hold sally-rods down in the thatch and to keep it from rising on a stormy day. Then he puts knobs of straw on the very top of the roof for ornament." Kathleen Caffrey's essay confirms that the flush bobbin ridge, which is considered to be a traditional ridge type in Fingal, was in use in the 1930s. [Thatching | dúchas.ie \(duchas.ie\)](https://duchas.ie)



John Fox, Skerries, (St Patrick's: Boys) Page 44, Old Crafts- Thatching, The Schools' Collection, Volume 0785



John Fox, Skerries, (St Patrick's: Boys) Page 44, Old Crafts- Thatching, The Schools' Collection, Volume 0785

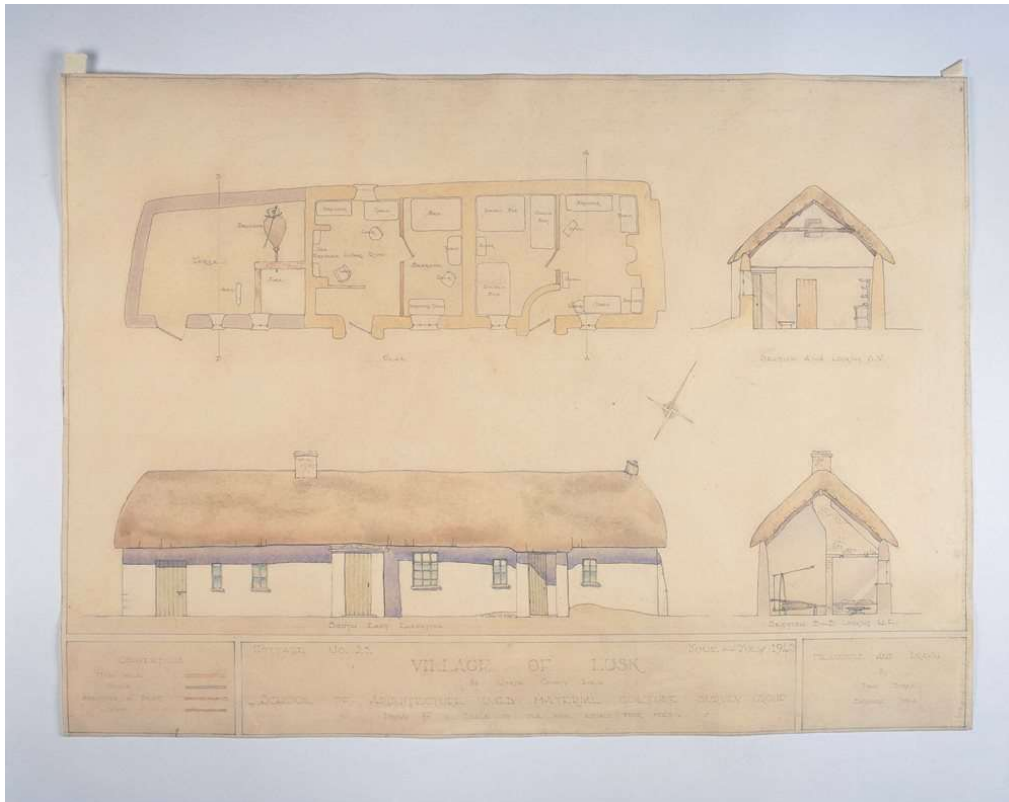
1943 UCD Material Culture Survey Group Dublin

In 1943, a group of architectural students from the Material Culture Survey Group Dublin (UCD) undertook a project to survey and illustrate thatched buildings in Lusk and other areas. The collection of drawings and watercolours was divided between the archives of the National Museum and the UCD Folklore Department. The hand-drawn plan of Lusk below shows 48 thatched structures dotted around the town. Today, just one house, Clay Cottage on the Dublin Road, retains its early thatched roof.

The collection is beautiful and showcases the artistic skills of the students as well recording the thatched buildings in faithful detail. In recognition of the quality and importance of the illustrations, they were exhibited at the National Museum of Ireland in Collins Barracks in the early 2000s. At the time of writing, an exhibition of the collection is taking place at Lusk Cultural Centre, Katie Hunt's Cottage by Lusk Community Council and the National Museum of Ireland Folklife with funding from Creative Ireland.



Lusk, Co. Dublin (NMI Collection - F:2006.225)



Lusk, Co. Dublin (NMI Collection)



Lusk, Co. Dublin (NMI Collection)

1945 Irish Folklore Commission

Between 1938 and 1945, the Irish Folklore Commission, under the guidance of Caoimhín Ó Danachair (Kevin Danaher) produced and distributed a series of questionnaires to gather information from across the country on aspects of traditions and culture. Over the course of eight years, questionnaires were carried out on several topics of research by the Irish Folklore Commission including Old-time Dress, The Feast of St Brigid, Christmas Customs, and Roofs and Thatching. In 1945, the commission received responses on the latter subject from two Fingal residents, Patrick Connolly from the Parish of Naul and James B Monks from Loughshinny. As shown in the questionnaire below, which was filled out by James B Monks, the form captured information about location, the form of roofs, the presence or absence of a sod layer, the thatching materials, and local methods of thatching.

6
8 DEC 1945

THE IRISH FOLKLORE COMMISSION

QUESTIONNAIRE : ROOFS AND THATCHING

All over Ireland, thatch is the traditional roofing material. Several different methods of thatching are (or were) used. Below is a series of questions about thatched roofs of the traditional houses of your district. Please fill in the answer in the blank space after each question.

Name of Writer James B. Monks.
 Address Loughshinny N.S., Keweenaw, Co Dublin
 District to which the information refers Loughshinny & neighbourhood.
 Co. Dublin Barony Balbrithany (E) Parish Rush.

(1) In some districts the thatched houses have hip-roofs, that is, the end walls of the house are about the same height as the side walls, and the roof slopes down at the ends as well as at the sides. In other places the thatched roof slopes only at front and back, and the gables rise up to the ridge of the roof. Which type is found in your district? If both are found, in what proportion (roughly) do they occur? Both types - one hip roof to 20 with gables rising to ridge.

(2) Is there a layer of some material, such as sods, attached to the roof timbers under the thatch? Sods are nailed to the rafters when house is being thatched for it. Small bundles of straw are tied to lattice with twisted twine. When sods are covered like this ordinary thatching is done.

(3) What material is used for thatch? Reed, different kinds of straw, heather, rushes, mountain grass or other materials? Straw - of wheat or oats.

(4) Which is considered the best material? Wheat straw.

(5) How often is a house thatched? Varies from 8 to 10 yrs.

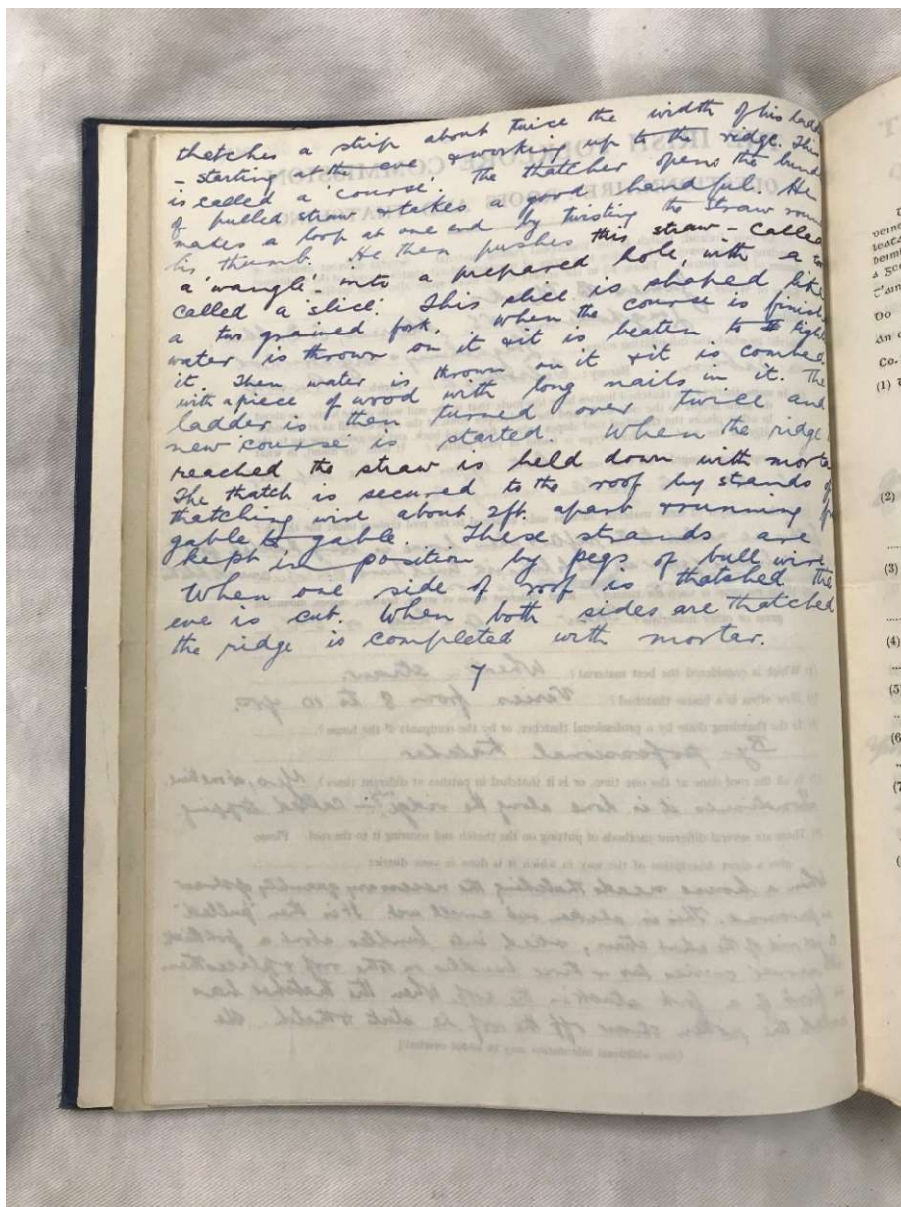
(6) Is the thatching done by a professional thatcher, or by the occupants of the house? By professional thatcher.

(7) Is all the roof done at the one time, or is it thatched in patches at different times? Yes, at one time. Sometimes it is done along the ridge - called topping.

(8) There are several different methods of putting on the thatch and securing it to the roof. Please give a short description of the way in which it is done in your district. When a house needs thatching the necessary quantity of straw is procured. This is shaken out a well web. It is then pulled to get rid of the short straw, tied into bundles about a foot thick. The carrier carries two or three bundles on to the roof & places them on top of a fork stuck in the roof. When the thatcher has reeled the rotten straw off the roof, he starts to thatch. He

[Any additional information may be added overleaf.]

Questionnaire: Roofs and Thatching, 1945, MS1080, National Folklore Collection, UCD



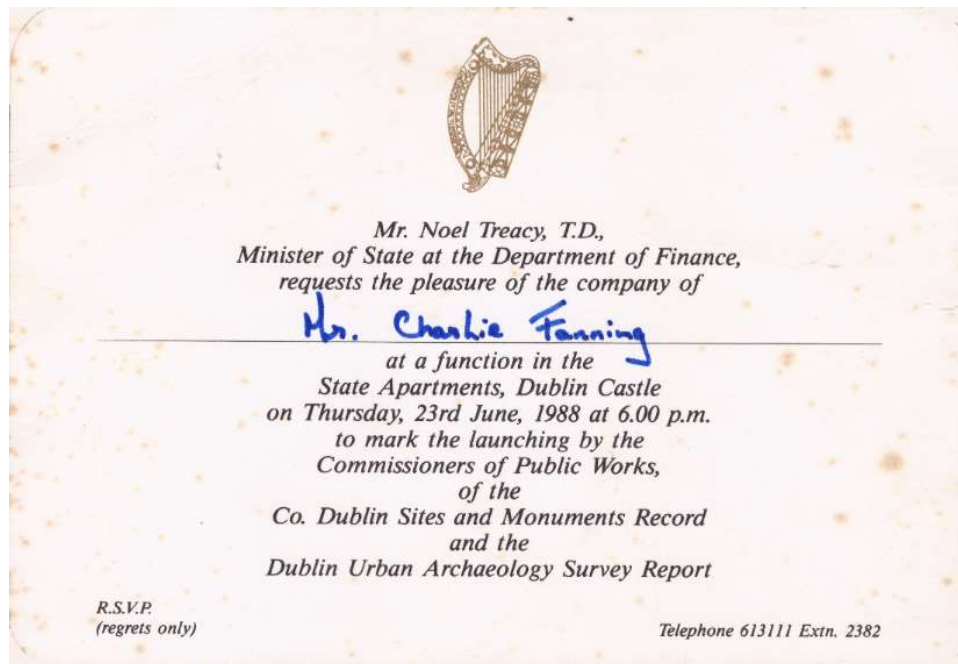
Questionnaire: Roofs and Thatching, 1945, MS1080, National Folklore Collection, UCD

1980 Urban Folklore Project, Department of Irish Folklore, UCD

The Urban Folklore Project (Dublin) carried out in 1979-1980 by the Department of Folklore of UCD under the direction of Séamas Ó Catháin in which collectors recorded audio interviews with local people on various subjects including thatching.

In a recorded interview for the Urban Folklore Project, Roseanne Meenan interviewed Skerries thatcher Charlie Fanning about thatching, sources of material, roofing and building techniques. Other collectors recorded interviews with Larry Carty and Andy (Willie) Monks from Rush, Dan Sherry from Lusk and Frank Ryan from Loughshinny, who described thatching in their areas. The

recordings, which are now digitised, are held within the UCD Delargy Centre for Irish Folklore and the National Folklore Collection (formerly the UCD's Department of Irish Folklore). In addition to the audio recordings, the National Folklore Collection holds a video recording of Charlie Fanning who was interviewed whilst repairing a roof using the north Dublin slice thatching method. The video recording is now over four decades old and is an important primary source of information.



Charlie Fanning's invitation to the launch of the survey led by Michael Higganbotham of the Office of Public Works. Courtesy of Martin Fanning

1986-7 Michael Higganbotham, Office of Public Works

In 1988, Charlie Fanning received an invitation to a launch at Dublin Castle of a survey carried out by Michael Higganbotham for the Office of Public Works. The Survey of Thatched Houses of Dublin which was completed in the winter of 1986/7 was a field study of the remaining thatched structures of Dublin. The OPW survey covered 86 structures, 80 of which were in the Fingal area, and employed a check box table to describe each structure. Accompanied by a colour photograph, recorded information included the name of the owners, the location of the house, the type of thatch material, the building fabric, its finishes and features.

Of the 80 structures recorded in Fingal, 72 of them had thatched roofs.

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The form below was used to record the house on 16 Lower Main Street, Rush. Many of the houses identified and surveyed by the OPW were subsequently listed under the Fingal Development Plan (superseded by the Record of Protected Structures).


The launch at Dublin Castle was covered in the Irish Press by journalist Síle Yeats. In her piece titled The Vanishing Thatch, which was published the day after the launch on 24th June 1988, she wrote:

“The survey, by Mr Higginbotham of the Office of Public Works, found that owners were abandoning thatch for mainly practical reasons – rethatching was costly, and frequently owners believed thatch was inferior to other forms of roofing.

Launching the report yesterday, the Minister of State for the Office of Public Works, Mr. Noel Treacy, said he hoped the true value of thatch would soon be recognised as an important part of our heritage.”

Site No. 39	COUNTY DUBLIN	TOWNLAND RUSH	N.G.R.	6" SHEET NO. 8
OWNER Mr. Sands.	DATE 1-12-86	SURVEYED BY <i>WJH</i>		
OCCUPIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNOCCUPIED	WELL MAINTAINED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEGLECTED	IN RUINS

Thatch <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wheat	Rye	Flax	Bent
Water Reed	Heather	Barley	Rushes	Oats <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Blind Scallop	Exposed Scallop	Pegged	Roped	corrugated iron
Number of Chimneys/1	Stone	Brick <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	String Course <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rendered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stone Walls	Random	Ashlar	Undressed	Quarried
Field	Quoins	Lintels	Sills	part clay <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unrendered	Plaster <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cement	Rough Cast <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pebble Dash
Uncoloured	Whitewash	Colour Wash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Painted Quoins	
Half Door	Modern <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replacement	Panelled <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Windbreak <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fanlight
Rectangular <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Window Openings	Elliptical Headed	Semi/Circular	Relieving Arches	Brick Surrounds
Wood Frames <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Metal Frames	Castment	Sash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Modern Replacement
Parting Bead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Parting Bead			



18.5.91 - occupied well maintained
16 Main Street Lower, Rush *4/33.*

1988 Dev Plan Ref. List 21487

Extract from the Office of Public Works Survey of Thatched Houses of Dublin

1987-88 Barry O'Reilly The Vernacular Architecture of Nethercross, Co. Dublin: a systematic field survey

In 1987-88, Barry O'Reilly conducted a field survey and documentary study for his MA thesis titled *The Vernacular Architecture of Nethercross Co. Dublin: a systematic field survey* (1988). During fieldwork in the Nethercross barony, which lies in the south of Fingal, 151 vernacular sites were recorded. Eight structures had thatched roofs with 25 others having thatch surviving under corrugated iron sheeting. A finding of particular interest noted in an article by O'Reilly (1991) was that "within our vernacular architecture, there is a definite association between walling, roofing and plan form (in houses). There appear to exist two opposing 'packages' of (a) clay walls, hipped roofs and lobby entry plan form and (b) stone walls, gabled roofs and direct-entry plan. This is mirrored to a large extent in Nethercross. For example, stone buildings are nearly always gabled, or lobby-entry houses are more frequently hipped and of clay rather than gabled and of stone."

1992-3 Dublin Heritage Group Vernacular Building Survey of Fingal

In 1993, The Dublin Heritage Group embarked on a survey of the vernacular buildings of Fingal. Under a Fás scheme, participants were trained in the recording methodology and conducted a field survey of 612 vernacular sites and archival research. 16 box files held within Dublin City Archives contain the survey and research data. An index of the survey contents is presented in an appendix to this report.

2002 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Fingal County Survey

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage conducted the Fingal County Survey in 2002 which focused on a cross-section of post-1700 AD structures. Site types included large country houses, urban houses, industrial heritage sites, vernacular sites and thatched buildings. The NIAH surveyors recorded and photographed the exteriors of 39 thatched structures in Fingal. [Buildings of Ireland: National Inventory of Architectural Heritage](#)

2007 Survey of Vernacular Farm Complexes and Associated Fixtures and Fittings of Fingal, Brendan Lynch for Fingal County Council

In 2007, Brendan Lynch completed a thesis on the vernacular architecture of Fingal and subsequently produced *A Survey of Vernacular Farm Complexes and Associated Fixtures and Fittings of Fingal* on behalf Fingal County Council. The field survey was an action of the heritage plan (2005-2010). Lynch recorded 155 farm complexes, many of which contained buildings with corrugated iron or asbestos sheeting over historic thatch. On page 39 of the accompanying report, he notes that the survey included 43 vernacular structures with corrugated iron over thatch.

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2005, 2013, 2022 Fingal County Council Architectural Conservation Officer inspections

Fingal County Council's conservation office visited the sites recorded by Michael Higginbotham in the OPW's survey of 1986/7 on three occasions in 2005, 2013 and 2022. Photographs were taken and any changes to the structures or their roofs were noted during site inspections. The list of buildings compiled by Fingal County Council during this work provided the basis for the 2022 survey.

Chronology of Surveys and Studies

1911 Census of Ireland

1937-9 Schools Folklore Scheme, Irish Folklore Commission

1943 UCD Material Culture Survey Group Dublin

1945 Irish Folklore Commission

1980 Urban Folklore Project, Department of Irish Folklore, UCD

1986-7 Michael Higginbotham, Office of Public Works

1987-88 Barry O'Reilly The Vernacular Architecture of Nethercross, Co. Dublin: a systematic field survey

1992-3 Dublin Heritage Group Vernacular Building Survey of Fingal

2002 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Fingal County Survey

2007 Survey of Vernacular Farm Complexes and Associated Fixtures and Fittings of Fingal, Brendan Lynch for Fingal County Council

2005, 2013, 2022 Fingal County Council Architectural Conservation Officer inspections

In addition to the formal surveys and studies which have documented the thatched and vernacular structures, members of the public and thatchers working in Fingal have photographed the county's thatched buildings over the years; these include Jack Benton, Martin Fanning, Brian Simpson, Ian Lennon and Niall Gosson.

3. Survey of Thatched Structures

Survey Preparation

At project commencement, the survey team began preparations for fieldwork. The team held meetings with steering group members to discuss the project's objectives, survey process, potential limitations, community outreach and the previous surveys undertaken. They then began a desktop study to review existing survey material and relevant publications.

The heritage officer issued a press release to inform the public of the upcoming survey and to invite them to share any information or photographs of Fingal's thatched buildings. A dedicated email address (fingalthatchsurvey2022@gmail.com) was set up to facilitate members of the public, owners of thatched structures and interested parties to get in contact and share material. Awareness of the project was also raised via social media pages.

Outreach proved successful as members of the public began to contact the survey team immediately and provide information about their thatched buildings, old photographs and stories. The team made several appointments to visit and record structures through this medium.

In addition to public engagement, the survey team reached out to thatchers who have worked over the years on the roofs of Fingal. These included Peter Childs, who for many years has thatched and repaired roofs throughout north Dublin; Martin Fanning who is a retired part-time thatcher from Skerries and comes from a line of thatchers of which he, and his brother Anthony, are at least the fourth generation; Brian Simpson who is a retired thatcher from Skerries; and Alan Grimes who is a thatcher from Skerries. The team interviewed each of these thatchers to gather information about structures they had worked on, and thatching techniques and materials used in Fingal over the years. In addition to providing detailed information about thatching in Fingal, Martin Fanning provided the team with an extensive photographic collection of thatched houses from the 1980s and 1990s.

Following discussions with Fingal County Council on how best to capture and present the survey data, the team developed a survey register in an Excel document. The spreadsheet format allowed previous and present survey data to be collated together in a format that would be searchable and adaptable. Data from Fingal County Council Record of Protected Structures, previous surveys including the OPW survey of 1986/7, the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage of 2002, the Survey of Vernacular Farm Complexes and Conservation Officer's surveys were included within the 2022 register.

The survey team met with steering group members to discuss the development of recording forms that would allow for the systematic gathering of data when out in the field. Three recording forms were produced for use during the survey to capture information about each building. The first form was used to record the description of the thatched structure and site. The second form was used to document information received from the owner about the building's history, thatching history, thatchers and materials. And the third form was used to gather specific information on house insurance of thatched buildings which is a significant issue at present. The insurance information was gathered on an anonymous basis to protect the privacy of homeowners.

Survey Fieldwork

During survey preparation, Fingal County Council provided the team with a list of 60 structures for inclusion in the survey. The list was a schedule of known surviving thatched structures in Fingal, modern thatched buildings, and structures that were now thatched but had been previously weathered by corrugated iron or other solid roofing material. During fieldwork, two further thatched structures were identified and recorded bringing the total number of recorded sites to 62.

Survey fieldwork began in early summer of 2022. The surveyor called to each structure and, whenever possible, engaged with the owner or occupants in person, by phone or email. In some cases, the structures were unoccupied or temporarily vacant so contact could not be made.

When recording the building and its context, the surveyor followed the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) recording standard to describe the building, its roof, site and curtilage features. A series of photographs including elevations, details and context images were taken using a digital camera. If contact was made with the occupant, the surveyor conducted an interview using the Owner and Insurance forms to record information about the history of the building, thatching history and insurance issues. Additionally, the surveyor gave owners or occupants a letter of introduction from Fingal County Council which informed them about the survey. Where structures were unoccupied or temporarily vacant, the surveyor left the letter on site and requested that they be contacted so that another site visit could be arranged.

Whilst it was an aim of the steering committee and survey team that each thatched structure would be fully recorded, that all internal roof spaces would be accessed and that all owners or occupants would be interviewed, this was not possible. In certain cases, houses were clearly unoccupied and inaccessible. In others, there was no one at home and it was not possible to arrange access at a later date. Attempts were made to contact owners and occupants, and many got in touch and were extremely helpful in facilitating access and providing

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information, others did not engage and as a result, full surveys and interviews could not be conducted.

A total of 25 interiors were accessed during the survey. Only six internal roof structures were recorded because of access limitations or due to the presence of ceilings without access hatches.

All data gathered during fieldwork was subsequently entered into the project register within the relevant fields. Each site record was given a unique record number and the corresponding folder of photograph was labelled with this unique site record number and the name and location of the structure.

Distribution Map



Distribution map of structures included within the Fingal Thatch Survey 2022

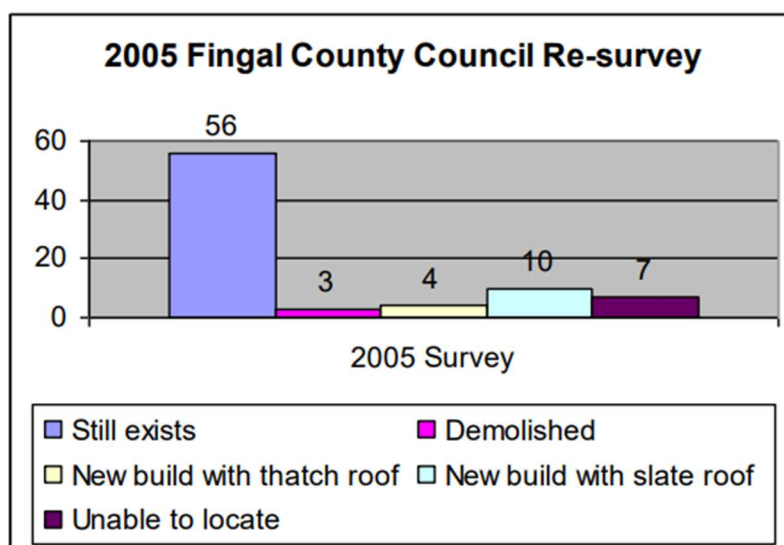
©Carrig Conservation International Ltd

The distribution map plots the location of each recorded thatched structure in Fingal. Concentrations of sites are found in the towns of Rush and Skerries, which historically had significant numbers of thatched buildings. The remainder of the recorded sites are spread across the county with few thatched structures surviving within the densely populated south of the county.

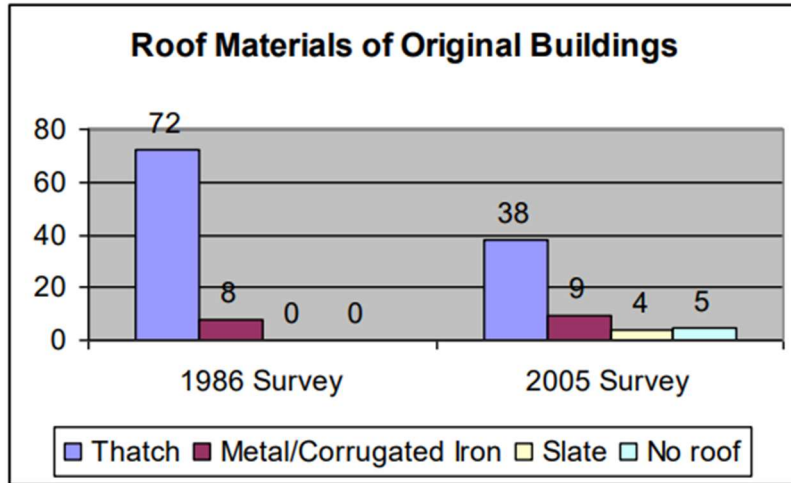
4. Survey Findings

Overview of Recorded Structures

In 2005, Fingal County Council revisited the 80 thatched structures recorded by the OPW in 1986/7 and found that 56 of them were still extant. Three had been demolished, four had been rebuilt with new thatched roofs, ten had been rebuilt with slate roofs and seven could not be located. Of the 72 that still had thatched roofs in the 1980s, just 38 had thatched roofs in 2005.

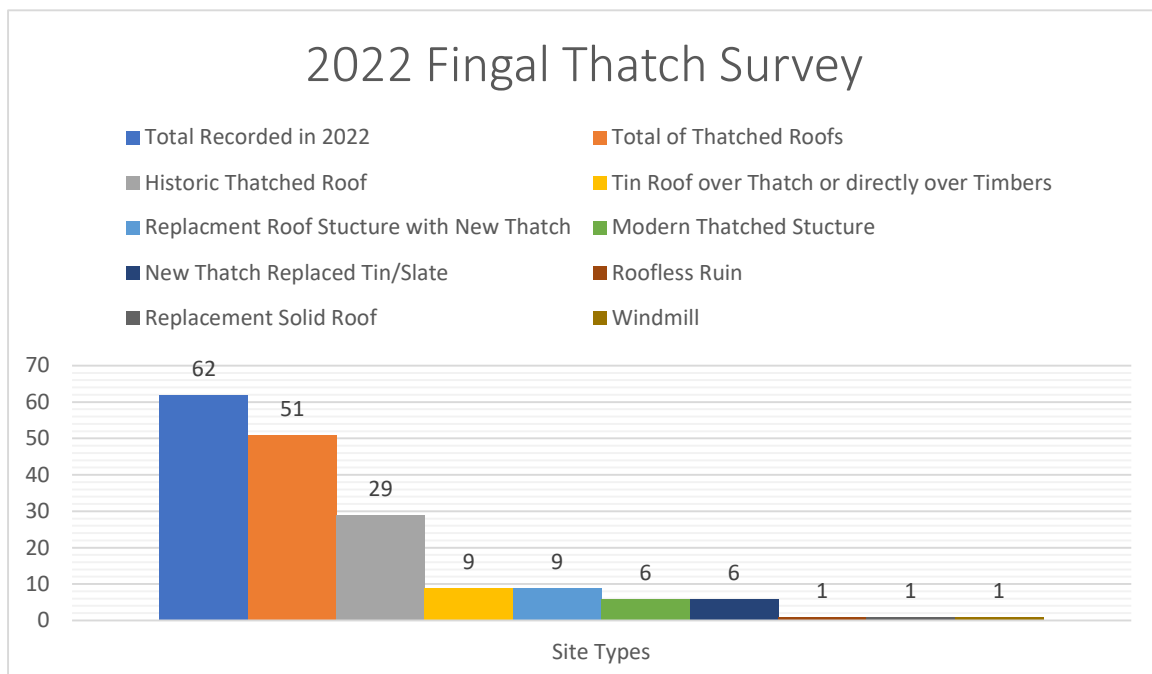


Graph extracted from Fingal County Council Survey of Thatched Houses in 2005



Graph extracted from Fingal County Council Survey of Thatched Houses in 2005

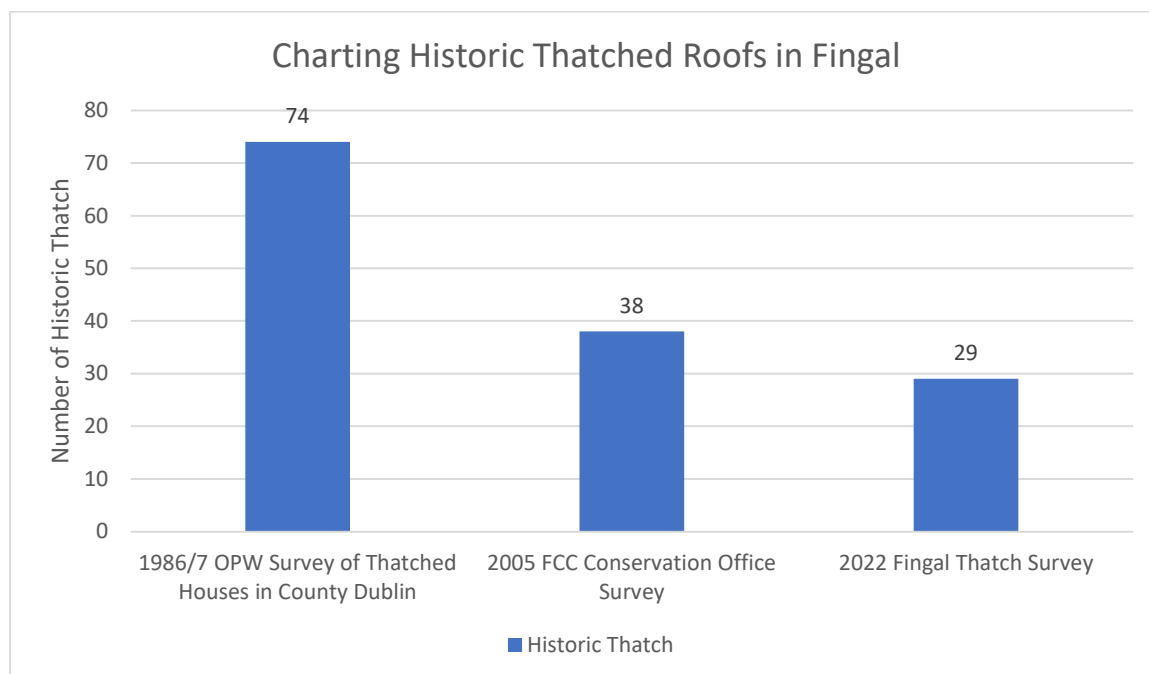
Fingal County Council provided the survey team with a list of structures for assessment in 2022. Principally, the list amounted to 60 sites and included all surviving historic thatched buildings, structures that had been thatched in recent years following the removal of an interim tin roof, and modern thatched buildings. A further 2 structures with thatched roofs were identified during fieldwork, bringing the total number of recorded sites to 62.



Types of Sites Recorded in 2022

The graph above displays a breakdown of the types of structures recorded in 2022. Of a total of 62 structures, 51 were thatched. 29 structures were found to have historic thatched roofs. Nine structures had corrugated sheeting over early coats of thatch or directly over the roof timbers. Nine thatched buildings had replacement timber roof structures with thatch over. Six were modern buildings with thatched roofs. Six were structures where an interim solid roof such as corrugated iron had been replaced with a new thatch in recent years. One house was a roofless ruin. One house had recently had its thatch removed and now had a solid roof. And finally, one structure was the reconstructed windmill at Skerries.

The graph below plots the number of historic thatched structures recorded in Fingal during the 1986/7 OPW survey, the 2005 Fingal County Council survey and the 2022 survey. Today, 29 historic thatched roofs are extant in the county.



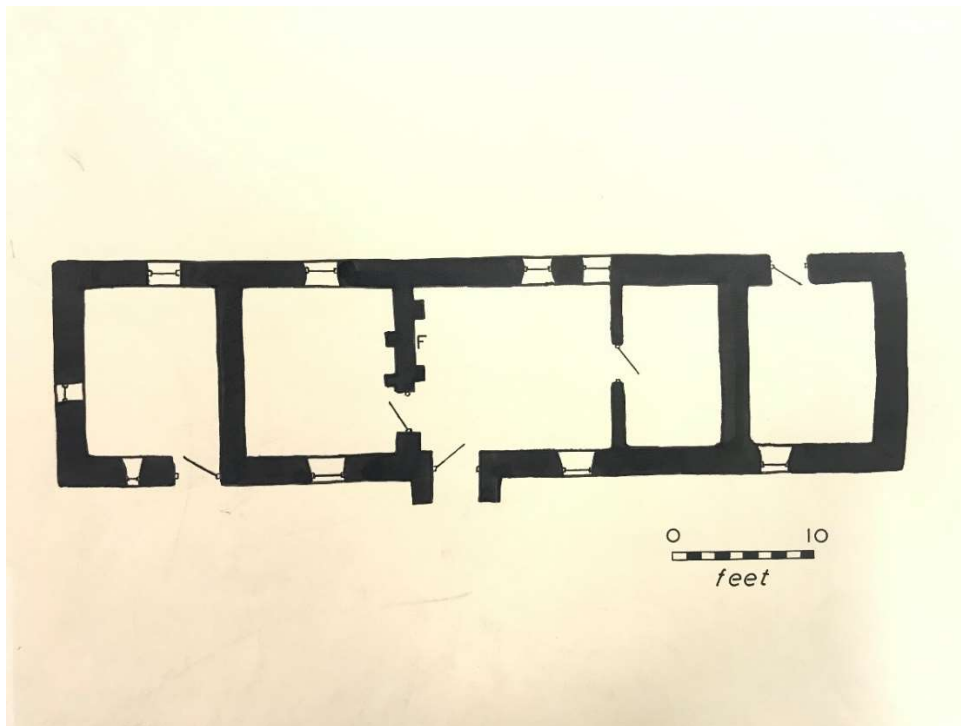
Graph plotting historic thatched roofs from 1986 to 2022 in Fingal

Structural Forms

The thatched houses of Fingal generally have one of two prominent types of plan forms: direct-entry and lobby-entry. As illustrated below, in a direct-entry plan, the main entrance door opens directly to the original kitchen with the hearth being located on an original end wall. In a lobby-entry plan, the main door opens to a small lobby or hall which is in line with the hearth and a perpendicular jamb wall. The jamb wall or partition protects the kitchen and hearth from draughts.

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In recent decades, many of the recorded houses have been altered internally and have lost the early partition walls and as a result the lobby-house arrangement has been lost.



Photograph of a direct-entry floor plan by Caoimhín Ó Danachair, National Folklore Collection, UCD



Photograph of a lobby-entry floor plan of a house in Lusk from the Material Culture Survey Group Dublin (1943), held in National Folklore Collection, UCD

Extensions

The extension of vernacular houses is something that has always occurred. Traditionally, houses were extended in a linear fashion with an extra room or partitioned rooms being added to one or two ends of the house. In the mid-twentieth century, vernacular houses in Fingal and throughout Ireland were often extended with the addition of a back kitchen to accommodate a new electric cooker and bathroom as traditional ways of living evolved. During the 2022 survey, it was noted that recently constructed extensions to the rears of thatched houses are much larger structures than earlier extensions, often comprising two floors. In such cases, the original rear yard or garden of the domestic plot had been completely altered by the new structural additions. In two cases, modern extensions extended directly from the roof ridge and the rear slope had been subsumed by the extension.

Interior Features

Where vernacular buildings were accessed during the survey, it was noted that most have lost their early interior features and fittings. Commonly, interiors had been refurbished and modernised to meet contemporary needs and comforts. In a house at Dardistown, good quality internal window and door joinery were present. In 16 Lower Main Street, Rush, a lugged and kneed door architrave and corresponding panelled door, more commonly found in grander buildings of the mid-18th century, were recorded upstairs.

A well-preserved vernacular interior was recorded at a farm complex at Baldongan. The house, which was surveyed in detail in 2007 by Brendan Lynch as part of the Vernacular Farm Complex Survey of Fingal, retains its traditional central kitchen with open hearth, partitioned bedrooms and timber stairs that rises to a loft room.

At a farmhouse at Carnhill to the south of Skerries, there were two notable features of interest. One was a brick bread oven and the other was a niche erected to house a now-lost grandfather clock.



Left: A lugged and kneed architrave from the mid-18th century which is an unusual feature within a thatched house.

Right: A steep flight of timber stairs rises at the jamb wall to a loft bedroom.



Left: A niche which was built to house a grandfather clock at the house at Carnhill

Right: The interior of the brick-built bread oven within the house at Carnhill.

Roof Structures

Both the hipped roof and gable-ended roof types were traditionally employed in Fingal's buildings. In Fingal, traditional vernacular roofs were usually supported by couple trusses which comprised a front and back rafter connected at the

apex and tied with a collar. In earlier roofs, couple trusses were formed with rough timbers and an example of this can be seen in one of the pair of houses at Bisset Strand, Malahide. According to the late thatcher Charlie Fanning, ship timbers were often recycled and used in the houses in coastal areas such as Skerries. Evidence to support this assertion can be seen in the roof of 42 Quay Street, Skerries, where an oar was used as the horizontal tie or collar in one of the couple rafters. In later roofs, more uniform, sawn timbers were employed but again were usually formed into couples.

In other parts of Ireland, a sod layer or scraw was placed between the timber roof structure and thatch. In Fingal and other regions of Ireland including lowland areas of Leinster, the base coat of straw was sewn directly to the roof timbers using tarred twine or súgán ropes.



Roofing timbers with additional supports to Clay Cottage, Dublin Road, Lusk

Thatching Methods

Traditionally, the slice thatching method, known elsewhere as thrust thatching, was carried out in North Dublin. Slice thatching, as demonstrated by Charlie Fanning in a video from the 1980s held by the National Folklore Collection, was

used for both annual repairs and for the full re-thatching of roofs. In the 1980 interview with Roseanne Meenan for the Urban Folklore Project, Charlie Fanning described the traditional slice thatching technique: he stated that the best time to cut wheaten straw for thatching was when the crop was still “a bit rare”. The thatcher would ask the farmer to cut the wheat about two weeks earlier than normal. This also suited the farmer as it meant the ears wouldn’t fall off during stooking. The farmer would tie up the stooks prior to threshing. Following threshing, the thatcher could take the straw away to prepare it for thatching. The thatcher would shake the straw out and mix the tails and heads to create a bond. The thatcher would prepare the straw by gathering it into bundles. Wangles would be made for thatching with a pronged thatching fork known as a slice. According to Charlie Fanning, a thatcher could prepare about 5000 wangles a day which were lengths of straw tied at the top with a knot that could be thrust into a prepared hole in the existing straw roof.

Retired thatcher Brian Simpson described the importance of wetting straw used in the slice thatching method. He said that by wetting the straw, it made it workable and supple and would draw out the wax.

Since the 1990s, the scollop thatching method has been commonly used in Fingal. Peter Childs, who has thatched most of the structures in North Dublin, favours this method as it allows the thatcher to place a far deeper coat of thatch on a roof than the slice thatching method. During scollop thatching, the thatcher secures straw in place using straight sally or hazel scollops which are pinned with hairpin scollops. Bull wire “skivvers” or pins were frequently used in place of scollops and were often used to hold protective chicken wire on thatched roofs. In the case of modern roof structures in Fingal, new thatch was secured using baling twine and or screw and wire fixings.



Thatcher Alan Grimes demonstrates the knotting of a wangle in oaten straw outside 17 Church Street, Skerries in 2022



A photograph of Martin Fanning, son of Charlie, slice thatching a roof in Fingal. Courtesy of Martin Fanning



A bundle of hairpin scollops ready for use by thatcher Alan Grimes

Charlie Fanning described the use of a diluted clay mixture which would be thrown over the straw roof following thatching. Once dry, the mixture became quite hard and would help to protect the straw. Today, this process is no longer used, but thatcher Peter Childs says that he has seen clay in roofs in Fingal. Barry O'Reilly has written about the use of clay in thatched roofs, a process known as staple thatch, and notes that it is a tradition also found in roofs in County Down.

Ridge Types

Currently, the flush bobbin ridge is considered the traditional ridge type in Fingal and its use is encouraged by Fingal County Council. A bobbin ridge is formed by the threading of bobbin-ended straw onto a length of bamboo. The completed section of ridge is then set into place, straddling the apex, and is pinned with scollops or bamboo rodding. The image below shows thatcher Christie Brereton with a length of bobbin ridge ready for installation.

Thatcher Peter Childs creates flush bobbin ridges on newly thatched roofs but believes that when a roof's thatched covering is in its second phase of life, a block ridge should be installed to prolong the life of the coat. Block ridges, both plain and ornamental, can be seen around Fingal today but are discouraged from a heritage perspective as they are not traditional in the county.

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Whilst the flush bobbin ridge is considered appropriate, they are not the only ridge type to have been used in Fingal. Early black and white photos held in the Lawrence and Valentine Collections of the National Library and taken by Kit Sheridan of Rush show that clay ridges were commonly used to cap Fingal's roofs.

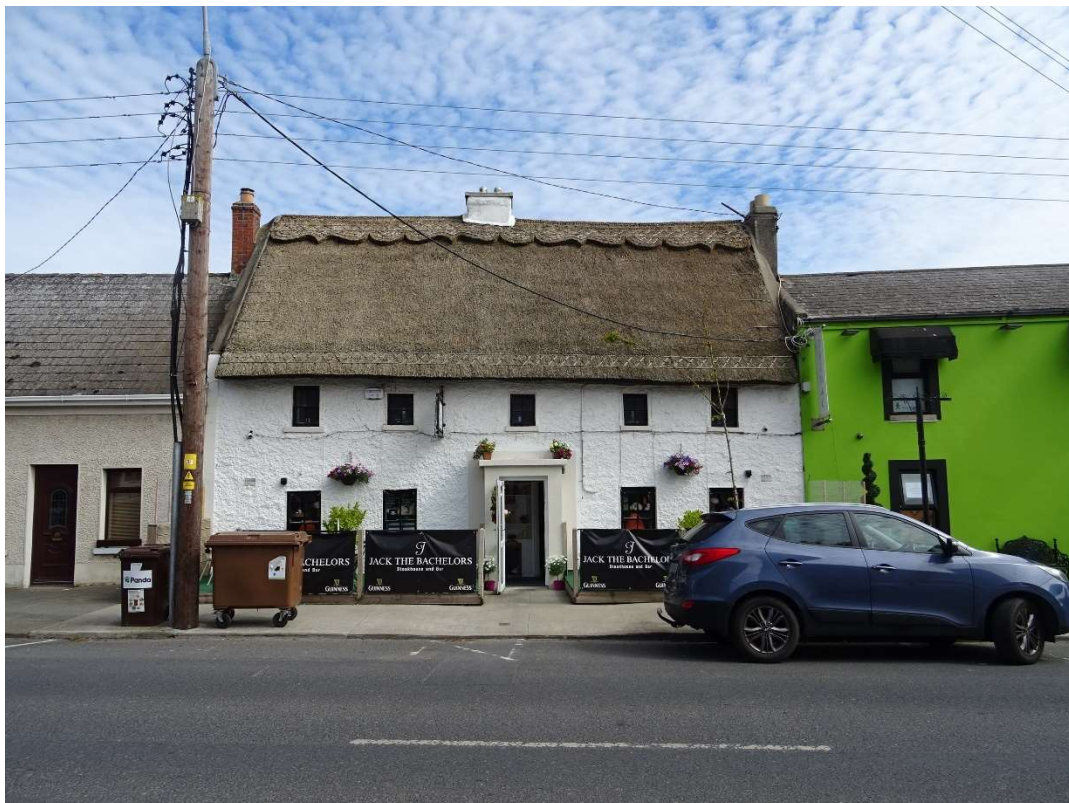
In addition to clay or straw ridges, other fabric such as timber planks, felt or steel have been used in Fingal to protect the tops of roofs. In the case of the last historic thatched house in Lusk, Clay Cottage, the roof is weathered with a steel ridge.



Christy Brereton at the house known as Gensita at Drishoge, 1997. Photograph courtesy of Martin Fanning



18&19 Thomas Hand Street, Skerries with a flush bobbin ridge



16 Lower Main Street, Rush has an ornamental block ridge. The imported style, common to UK thatched houses, is not traditional to Fingal



A clay ridge to Johnny Donnelly's house at Lower Main Street, Rush, now demolished.
Photograph taken by Kit Sheridan c.1975, courtesy of Niall Gosson



Clay Cottage, Dublin Road, Lusk which has a steel ridge

Thatching materials

Wheaten straw was the predominant thatching material in Fingal until the mid-1950s when the combine harvester was introduced. The combine harvester process produces a poor-quality straw that will not last if used for thatch. This is due to several related factors which have had a negative impact on the length and strength of the straw and on the damage that it undergoes in harvesting.

The timing of the harvest is important, straw for thatching should be cut when the stalks are at the 'rainbow stage' or 'rare' with the green retreating but still visible at the nodes of the stalks. (This means it still has its strength and it keeps that strength.) Previously the crop would have been cut and gathered into sheaves and stooked in the field where the grain would continue to ripen on the cut stalks. With modern combine harvesters, the crop is cut when the grain is ripe, by this stage wheaten straw will have lost its strength and become brittle. Because of this there was a shift away from wheaten to oaten straw which would still be green when the grain was harvested; oat grain ripens before the straw in contrast to wheat where the straw ripens before the grain. Additionally, the development and use of growth regulators such as Cycocel, which shortened stalks to support larger, higher yield wheat ears, rendered modern straw unsuitable. Straw historically was much longer and stronger and was therefore better for thatching.

The threshing process is also very important in the production of straw suitable for thatching use. Previously the reaper & binder was one machine and the thresher was another separate machine. These functions were then combined into the combine harvester. On a threshing machine the way you would feed the stalks in was different for thatching straw than if you were just threshing for the grain. For grain you would feed the stalks in head first and the heads would get knocked by the serrated rasp bars in the drum; this is faster and more efficient in removing the grain from the stalks, but would damage the stalks going around the drum. For thatching straw, you would feed the stalks side on rather than lengthways so that they would go around the drum without getting bent and battered. This is more time-consuming as you must take care to keep the load on the drum uniform.



Threshing machine at Cornstown House (1917 Ransome Colonial)

Changes in farming practices in the mid-twentieth century meant that straw went from being a widely available by-product of farming which needed only a limited amount of special handling to be suitable for use, to effectively being a specialist niche product which needed to be grown and harvested specifically for thatching.

In accessible historic roofs spaces in Fingal, wheaten straw was always recorded as the base coat during the survey. Today, Fingal's roofs are generally repaired with oaten straw, wheaten straw or a mixture of both. According to Martin Fanning, barley straw was used in the mid-1980s rethatching of a house on Sandy Road in Rush.

Water reed is still relatively uncommon as a principal thatching material in Fingal. It has been used on five houses, three of which were constructed in the

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1990s. While reed is grown in Ireland, thatchers who use it do not favour Irish-grown reed due to its high concentrations of nitrate. Instead, reed is imported for sale from regions in France, Poland and Turkey.

Thatchers Brian Simpson and Peter Childs suggest that it is good practice to use water reed at eaves level to support upper coats of straw and prevent collapse. Water reed can be seen under the eaves in several straw roofs in Fingal today.

Charlie Fanning, in the 1980 interview with Roseanne Meenan, said that his preferred variety of wheat was Winter Velveteen. Today in Fingal, thatchers normally source Irish-grown straw from suppliers or grow their own. Retired thatcher Brian Simpson stated that he had to import Triticale wheat in the early 2000s from the UK when thatching the roof of 78 Church Street, Skerries.

The Gryson family from Ashbourne grow wheaten straw varieties that were developed for their suitability in thatching. Varieties grown include N59 which was developed in the UK in 1959, Maris Widgeon, Marris Huntsman and Apollo. They also grow oats and have a number of historic harvesting machines.



Dominic Gryson of Cornstown House grows varieties of straw and oats that are suitable for thatching.

Bluestone

Copper sulphate, commonly known as bluestone, is generally added to the straw roofs of Fingal by a thatcher each spring. The well-established practice has prolonged the lifespan of roofs by preventing germination of seeds which could encourage bird activity. Bluestone crystals are mixed with washing soda crystals and diluted prior to spraying on a thatched roof. The addition of soda crystals makes the copper sulphate solution adhere to the thatch. The process brings up or preserves the golden colour of straw, which is particularly bright in the case of oaten straw roofs. When interviewed during the survey, some owners stated that they had availed of grant assistance under the Stitch in Time grant to help with the funding of annual bluestoning.



Copper sulphate or bluestone crystals ready for use by the thatcher Alan Grimes

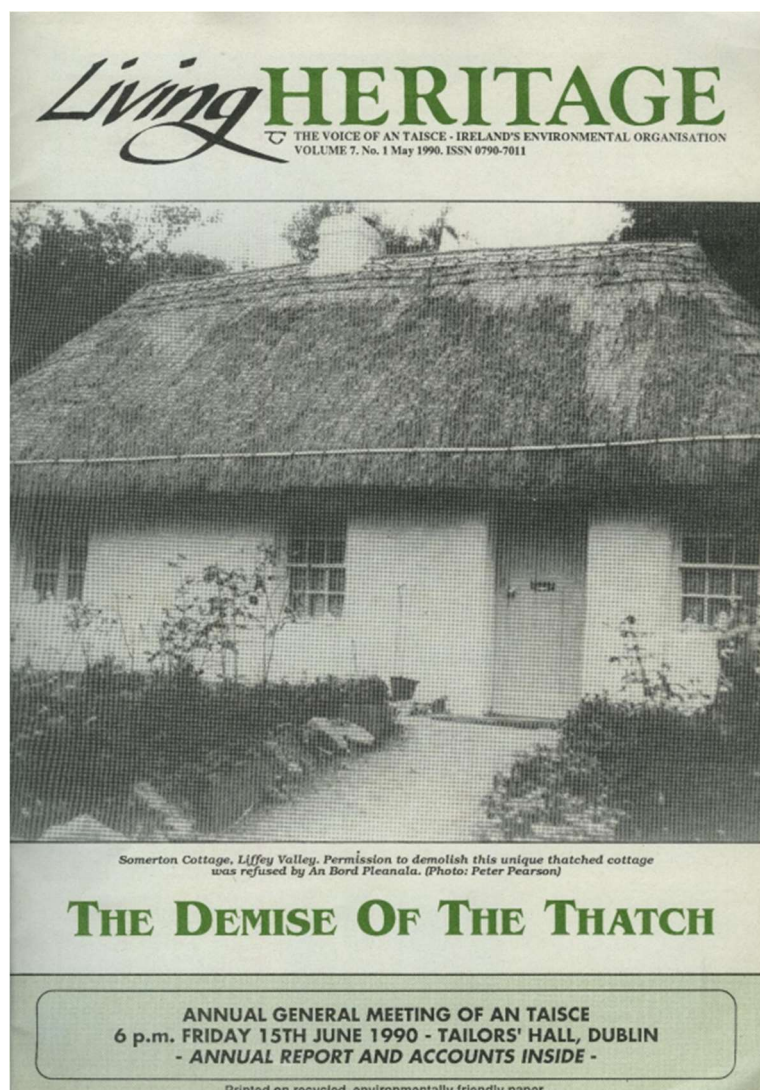
Grant Funding

Of the 15 owners and custodians interviewed during the survey, 13 stated that they had received grant funding from either Fingal County Council under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, the Stitch in Time Grant Scheme or via the Department's Thatching Grant Scheme.

Continued Demise

The demise of thatch is not a new phenomenon. Kevin Danaher (Caoimhín Ó Danachair), who was an author and ethnographer with the Irish Folklore Commission, was fully aware of the pending loss of thatch in Ireland in the 1960s. In the chapter 'Thatch and Whitewash' in his book *In Ireland Long Ago* (1962), Danaher stated, "New ways of life and new fashions are calling for new houses. The thatched roof is doomed to extinction, together with many features of the past."

In a 1980 interview Charlie Fanning described how the introduction of the modern harvesters in the 1950s radically changed the harvesting process, yielding wheat and oaten straw unsuitable for thatching. According to Fanning, access to good straw became difficult and many people in Skerries removed their thatched roofs and turned to asbestos.



Front Cover of Vol 7 of Living Heritage, published May 1990

Writing on the demise of thatch in 1990, Barry O'Reilly, who presently works at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, provided precise figures for the rates of loss in towns including Lusk, Rush and Skerries which once had very high numbers of thatched buildings. "Overall, in the period 1964-89, Rush has lost some eighty-five percent of its thatched roofs. Even more startling, Skerries and Lusk have lost ninety and ninety-five percent respectively. Skerries has lost an average of three thatched roofs each year since 1964, i.e., one roof every four months for the last twenty-five years." At the time of writing, O'Reilly noted that Skerries had just seven thatched roofs left; today it has only five.

In response to the dramatic loss of Fingal's historic thatched buildings, a group of concerned volunteers formed the Fingal Thatch Preservation Society in the early 1990s. Members included passionate advocates for the county's thatched and vernacular heritage, some of whom could also thatch. Founding member Brendan Lynch said that at the time, just two houses were "listed buildings" and "sound houses across the county were being levelled – some with furniture inside."

The group held meetings to discuss what they could do to stem the loss. Charlie Fanning's son Martin volunteered to carry out repairs on vulnerable roofs. Brian Simpson joined the society and began thatching with Martin in the mid-1990s. To raise funds, the society held sponsored cycles, and they donated money to owners to help fund repairs. Brendan Lynch, who is an artist, exhibited a collection of watercolours of Fingal's thatches. He also bought and restored two thatched houses in Rush.

In conversation with the writer of this report, Brendan Lynch described the group as "doers" and said they were "fearless". They "kept an eye on thatch around the county" and developed good relationships with many of the owners. They volunteered their time at weekends to repair and thatch people's houses. One such structure was the picturesque house at Oldtown, which Brendan described as a rare type given that the principal entrance was on the gable end. The society members worked on the house every weekend to thatch the roof but unfortunately the house was subsequently demolished.

Following the introduction of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, the remaining historic thatched structures of Fingal were added to the Record of Protected Structures and became eligible for annual grant funding. According to Brendan Lynch, the society remains in existence but became less active after the thatches were protected and the grants were introduced.

Given the costs involved and the difficulties in maintaining thatched buildings, further loss in Fingal has occurred. In recent years, a house on School Lane, Corduff near Lusk has lost its straw roof and just the front and side elevations remain standing today. However, positive stories from the county include the recent re-thatching of a formerly thatched, tin-roofed house at Balscadden, the thatching of a previously tiled roof on a house at Sea Road in Malahide and the restoration of the Casino on the Dublin Road, Malahide.

5. Owners' Concerns

During discussions with owners of Fingal's thatched structures in the course of the 2022 field survey, many raised concerns that impact their ability to preserve and maintain their traditional roofs. Issues including the high cost of thatching, the need to repair a roof on a regular basis, and limited access to insurance cover were frequently cited as major problems by owners. Many owners felt burdened by their thatched roofs and found them to be a source of stress.

Despite grant support, many owners stated that they struggle to fund large repair jobs or full re-thatching. One older owner found the local authority Built Heritage Investment Scheme grant application process too cumbersome and no longer tried to avail of funding.

Additionally, owners expressed concerns about birds, particularly seagulls in coastal areas, which can cause significant damage to thatched roofs. Birds often pick at straw to avail of material when nest building or to find insects. During a survey of Bremore, Balbriggan, the surveyor noted that gulls had built their nest on top of the ridge out of roof straw.



Gulls on the ridge of Bremore Cottage with a nest made of straw from the roof.

Some owners and thatchers expressed concern over the possibility of the occurrence of a roof fire. Fires had previously caused damage to the roofs of houses at Bremore, Darcytown, Skerries Road, 18 & 19 Thomas Hand Street and 5 Convent Lane, Skerries. Martin Fanning recalled that the roof at Convent Lane went on fire on 11th September 2001. Brendan Lynch, who saved and restored two thatched houses in Rush in the 1990s, said that each Halloween he was nervous of fireworks and worried that someone might intentionally set the roof alight.

In addition to the destructive force of fire, flooding was a concern of three of the owners interviewed during the survey. In all cases, the flooding of the public road outside their houses had caused water to ingress into their properties. The owners had engaged with Fingal County Council to rectify matters.

A fourth owner expressed concern for a tree growing within the public realm directly outside of the house. The owner believed the tree, which overhangs the thatched roof, causes unnecessary deterioration of the straw.

The most pressing matter of concern for owners of thatched houses in Fingal in 2022 is the issue of home insurance. The problem is not just a Fingal issue but a national one. In many cases, homeowners did not have house insurance either because of the high cost of premiums or because they could not get a policy. Some owners stated that they could just about afford premiums but if policies increased further, they would have to cancel their insurance. In their frustration, one owner explained that he had recently written to his local TDs and government ministers for assistance with the matter, whilst another owner contacted national media and spoke on RTÉ radio to share his concerns.

6. Recommendations for Positive Action

Work has been carried out at county and national levels by Fingal County Council, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), and the Heritage Council to promote the preservation of thatched structures. Fingal County Council has added all historic thatched structures to its Record of Protected Structures, provides conservation advice to owners and occupiers of thatched buildings, and coordinates annual grant schemes. Under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS), Historic Structures Fund (HSF), and Architectural Heritage Fund - Stitch in Time schemes, grants are awarded for thatching and conservation repairs to eligible buildings.

Fingal County Council through the Stich in Time grant enables owners of thatch to carry out routine maintenance work such as patching and bluestoning. This

greatly assists with ensuring the longevity of thatch in the county. Following the success of the Stitch in Time grant scheme in Fingal, Donegal County Council now offer funding under this model. The DHLGH also provide funding for thatching under the Thatching Grant scheme.

At national level, the DHLGH set out a series of actions identified in the publication *A Living Tradition, a strategy to enhance understanding, minding and handling of our built vernacular heritage (2021)*. Recommendations of the document that are currently being actioned include the undertaking of research into insurance for thatched structures in Ireland and the collating of data from all previous county-based thatch surveys to create a national profile of thatched structures. The Department has also produced *Thatch: a guide to the repair of thatched roofs (2015)* which provides guidance to custodians and professionals. Copies of both publications can be downloaded from the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage's (NIAH) webpage: [Resources - Buildings of Ireland](#)

In 2022, the Heritage Council launched a webpage dedicated to thatch that provides useful information for owners: [Thatched Properties - Heritage Council](#)

In addition to the work carried out to date, the 2022 Fingal Thatch Survey team recommend a series of further actions to help safeguard Fingal's thatched buildings.

Recommended Actions at Local Level

1. *Register of Thatched Buildings in Fingal:* In 2022, Fingal County Council commissioned a register to document all extant historic and modern thatched structures as well as past structures that have been demolished or have lost their thatched roofs. All thatched structures on the NIAH survey and the Fingal County Council Record of Protected Structures were included in the document. It is recommended that the 2022 register remain as a live document to include additional buildings with thatched roofs under tin. A copy of the Fingal register should be provided to the Department of Housing, Local Government, who are presently collating a national survey of thatched buildings in Ireland.
2. *Thatch Surviving Under Tin:* The 2022 survey aimed principally to capture information on those thatched buildings that are still in active use. It is thought that a significant number of thatched roofs survive in Fingal, to a greater or lesser degree of preservation, under tin roofs directly over the thatch or over the roof timbers with layers of thatch stripped off. Fingal County Council should continue to request that where planning applications for structures with thatch under tin roofs are made, that the buildings should be recorded.

3. *Grant Assistance:* Fingal County Council and other grant-funding agencies should continue to offer annual funding to owners or occupiers of thatched houses. During eligibility-screening of applications, thatched vernacular buildings or structures with corrugated sheeting over thatch should continue to be prioritised for the allocation of funding.
4. *Outreach:* It is recommended that Fingal County Council review mechanisms and forums to reach out to owners of thatched buildings on a regular basis to provide information on grant funding and assistance. The conservation office is best placed to offer practical advice and assistance. This could be done in an effective way through engagement with a forum of Fingal's thatch heritage community.
5. *Heritage Week or Information Events:* The appetite for information and the appreciation of thatch amongst the public was clear at the Heritage Week tour of Skerries and the active use of social media pages that are dedicated to thatched buildings. Fingal County Council could help foster this interest in thatch by hosting thatch-specific information events annually or biannually, and invite all owners, custodians and other interested people.
6. *Storymap:* The Storymap produced to present the community's contributions and data on the social history of thatched structures in Fingal as part of the 2022 project should be promoted by Fingal County Council to the public.

Recommended Actions at National Level

1. *Support to suppliers of materials for thatching:* changes in farming practices in the mid-twentieth century fundamentally altered the cultural landscape in which thatch had previously thrived. Any serious attempt to preserve thatched roofs and the tradition of thatching in existence needs to look holistically at the whole process including the growing and supply of the materials that form the thatch. The growing and processing of straw suitable for thatching requires an approach that is different to contemporary farming practices. This can present challenges to the grower in navigating farming regulations and grant processes. Recognition of the cultural heritage value of what is now a specialist process and its role in the vernacular tradition of thatching could assist in providing a framework in which thatching straw could be grown. This would require cross-sectoral communication and support for the growers. Just as the skills and knowledge for thatching a roof are now at risk after centuries of transmission, similarly at risk are the skills and knowledge in relation to growing and preparing straw for thatching. The accelerated disappearance of thatch since the 1950s shows the importance of the

supply of suitable straw to the survival of thatch and the integral connection of this vernacular tradition to the cultural landscape.

2. *Thatching Grant*: The maximum grant of €3,180 available under the thatching grant scheme coordinated by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage should be increased.
3. *Climate Change and Energy*: It is recommended that at county and national level, a portfolio of best practice case studies for the appropriate conservation and fabric retrofit for vernacular thatched houses should be developed. Case studies should cover the restoration of character, the impacts of incremental changes and fabric retrofit to improve energy efficiency of a building. Such case studies could be disseminated to owners and occupants as part of outreach and at pre-planning application meetings.
4. *Building Insurance*: At the time of writing, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have commissioned a study on the insurance of thatched structures in Ireland. Having discussed the matter of insurance with numerous owners in Fingal, this report recommends that the situation must be addressed at a national level so that homeowners can insure their properties annually for a reasonable fee.
5. *Tax Incentives*: At national level, measures such as incentives or rebates should be investigated and implemented to help reduce the cost of thatching. Incentives should also be provided to professional thatchers and the growers of straws that are suitable for thatching.

7. Grant Funding for Architectural Heritage

Grant schemes can assist owners and occupiers in preserving heritage buildings and structures in Fingal. Grant funding is provided by Fingal County Council for conservation works to protected structures and non-protected structures within an ACA. Please visit fingal.ie for further information on the eligibility of your project and how to apply.

Historic Structures Fund (HSF) for Stream 1 grants of between €15,000 to €50,000 and Stream 2 grants of between €50,000 and €200,000.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) for grants of €2,500 and €15,000.

Fingal County Council's Architectural Heritage Fund "Stitch in Time Grant" for grants of between €100 and €2,500.

Department of Housing Thatching Grant

A grant of two thirds of the approved cost, up to a maximum of €3,810 euro, is available. A higher level of assistance of up to €5,714 euro is available for houses on specified offshore islands. Householders with a medical card may be eligible for thatching grants up to a maximum of €6,350 euro (or €8,253 euro in the case of houses on the offshore islands). In such cases the grant may cover up to 80% of the approved cost of works subject to the maximum grant.



Varieties of wheat grown at Cornstown House near Ashbourne which are suitable for traditional thatching.

8. Sources of Information

www.heritagecouncil.ie/our-work-with-others/thatched-properties

The Heritage Council launched a helpful page 2022 on their website dedicated to thatch in Ireland. The webpage aims to provide useful information on various issues now facing owners and prospective buyers of thatched properties.

www.buildingsofireland.ie/resources/

A resource dedicated to the conservation and study of thatched buildings in Ireland including details of thatchers and suppliers of thatching materials.

www.fingal.ie/heritage-and-conservation

Fingal County Council's website includes a section for Heritage and Conservation.

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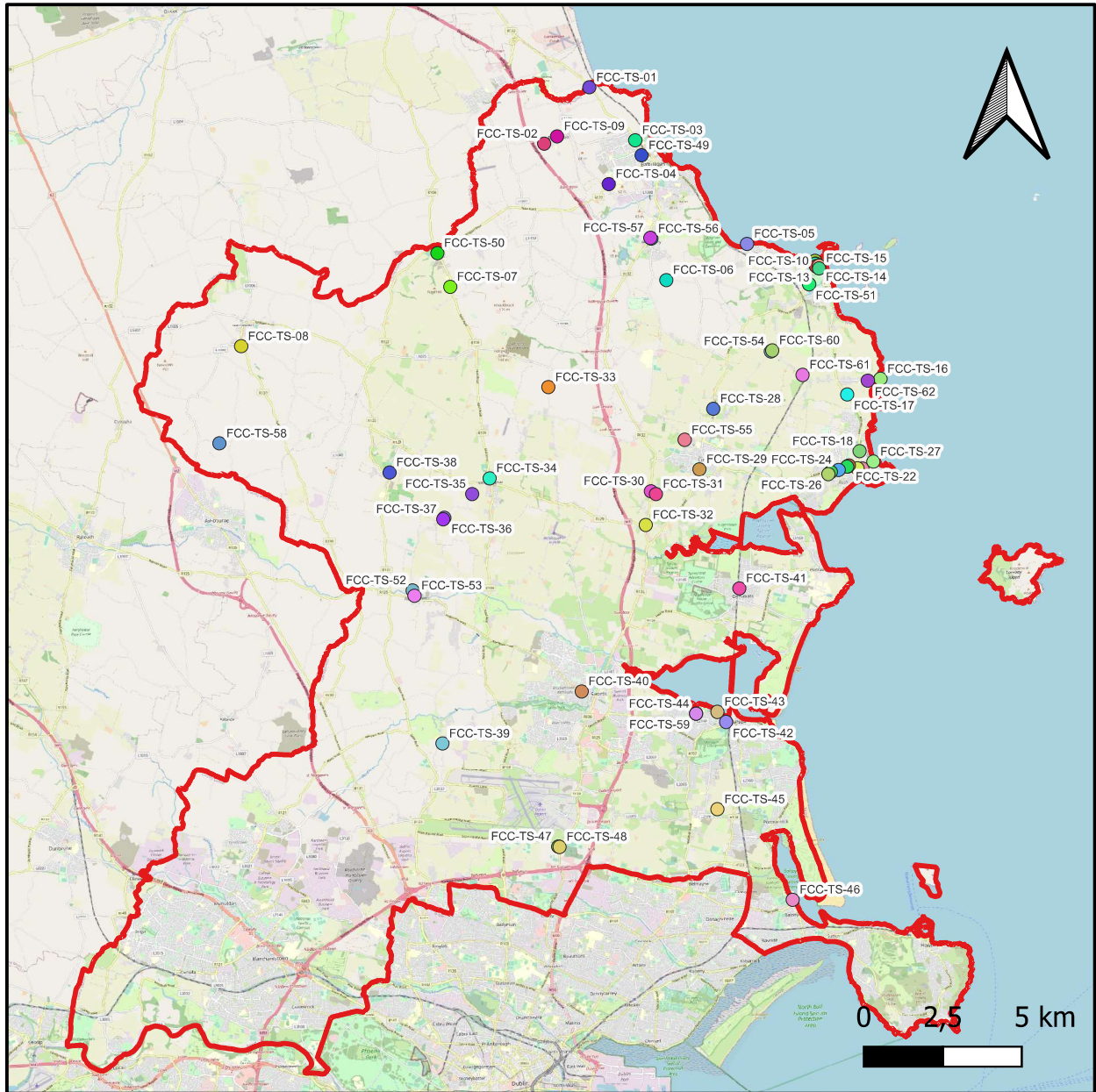
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10. Appendix: Maps and Gazetteer

Fingal Thatch Locations



Thatch Locations

- FCC-TS-01 Knocknagin Cottage, Coney Hill, Balbriggan
 - FCC-TS-02 Balcadden, Balbriggan
 - FCC-TS-03 Bremore Cottage, Drogheda Road, Balbriggan
 - FCC-TS-04 Clagheder Farm Complex, Clagheder Crossroads, Clonard Road. (White Hart Lane in FCC Survey)
 - FCC-TS-05 Thatch Cottage, Barnageeragh, Skerries
 - FCC-TS-06 Bamber's Cottage, New Lane, Darcytown, Balbriggan
 - FCC-TS-07 Cabn Hill, Naul
 - FCC-TS-08 Ball's Cottage, Garristown
 - FCC-TS-09 Adamstown Cross Roads, Garristown
 - FCC-TS-10 42 Quay Street, Skerries
 - FCC-TS-11 18 and 19 Thomas Hand Street, Skerries
 - FCC-TS-12 O'Learys, 39 The Square, Skerries
 - FCC-TS-13 78 Church Street, Skerries
 - FCC-TS-14 5 Convent Lane, Skerries
 - FCC-TS-15 17 Church Street, Skerries
 - FCC-TS-16 Harbour View, Loughshinny Harbour
 - FCC-TS-17 Lizzy's Farm, Carnhill, Skerries
 - FCC-TS-18 The Thatch Cottage, Skerries Road, Rush
 - FCC-TS-19 Jack the Bachelors, 16 Main Street Lower, Rush
 - FCC-TS-20 14 Main Street Upper, Rush
 - FCC-TS-21 Tigin, Sandy Road, Rush
 - FCC-TS-22 Shamrock Cottage, Sandy Road, Rush
 - FCC-TS-23 Sandy Road, Rush
 - FCC-TS-24 Sandy Road, Rush
 - FCC-TS-25 Mill Bank, Chapel Green, Rush
 - FCC-TS-26 6 Channel Road, Rush
 - FCC-TS-27 Kibush House, Kibush Lane, Rush
 - FCC-TS-28 Rose Cottage AKA Roseville, Skerries Road, Greatcommon, Lusk
 - FCC-TS-29 Clay Cottage, Dublin Road, Lusk
 - FCC-TS-30 Drogheda Road, Corduff
 - FCC-TS-31 Thatched Cottage, School Lane, Corduff
 - FCC-TS-32 Drogheda Road, Lusk (Corduff part of)
 - FCC-TS-33 Cosy Cottage, Knightstown Road
 - FCC-TS-34 The Brew, Main Street, Ballyboghil
 - FCC-TS-35 The Grange, Drishoge Lane, Oiltown
 - FCC-TS-36 Gensta Cottage, Drishoge Lane, Oiltown
 - FCC-TS-37 Drishoge Lane, Oiltown
 - FCC-TS-38 Cathy's Cottage, Oiltown
 - FCC-TS-39 Killeek, St Margarets
 - FCC-TS-40 Rathbeals Road, Swords
 - FCC-TS-41 The Cottage, Balesk Street, Donabate
 - FCC-TS-42 Casino, Dublin Road, Malahide
 - FCC-TS-43 Thatched Cottage, Bisset Strand, Malahide
 - FCC-TS-44 Peagram's Cottage, Sea Road, Malahide
 - FCC-TS-45 The Thatched Cottage, Strand Road, Portmarnock
 - FCC-TS-46 1 Main Street, Baldoyle
 - FCC-TS-47 Swords Road, Claghra, Swords
 - FCC-TS-48 Dardistown House, Swords Road, Dardistown, Swords
 - FCC-TS-49 Tankardville, Brecan Close, Balbriggan
 - FCC-TS-50 Seamus Ennis Centre, Main Street, Naul
 - FCC-TS-51 The Small Windmill, Skerries Mill
 - FCC-TS-52 Detached House and Former Thatched Dwelling, Rowlistown
 - FCC-TS-53 Killossery Mill, Killossery, Rowlistown Village
 - FCC-TS-54 Vernacular Farm Complex, Baltongan Cross Roads, Skerries
 - FCC-TS-55 Thatched Cottage, Quickpenny Road, Lusk
 - FCC-TS-56 Thatch Cottage, Coach Road, Balrothery
 - FCC-TS-57 The Thatch Cottage, School Lane, Balrothery
 - FCC-TS-58 Man O'War Bar & Restaurant, Courtinough, Balbriggan
 - FCC-TS-59 10 Sea Road, Malahide
 - FCC-TS-60 Vernacular Farm Complex, Baltongan Crossroads, Skerries
 - FCC-TS-61 St Anthony's, Baltongan, Lusk, Co. Dublin
 - FCC-TS-62 Hill Vue, Loughshinny
- Fingal Boundary

Rush Thatch Locations



Thatch Locations

- FCC-TS-18 The Thatch Cottage, Skerries Road, Rush
- FCC-TS-19 Jack the Bachelors, 16 Main Street Lower, Rush
- FCC-TS-20 14 Main Street Upper, Rush
- FCC-TS-21 Tigin, Sandy Road, Rush
- FCC-TS-22 Shamrock Cottage, Sandy Road, Rush
- FCC-TS-23 Sandy Road, Rush
- FCC-TS-24 Sandy Road, Rush
- FCC-TS-25 Mill Bank, Chapel Green, Rush
- FCC-TS-26 6 Channel Road, Rush
- FCC-TS-27 Kilbush House, Kilbush Lane, Rush

Skerries Thatch Locations



Thatch Locations

- FCC-TS-10 42 Quay Street, Skerries
- FCC-TS-11 18 and 19 Thomas Hand Street, Skerries
- FCC-TS-12 O'Learys, 39 The Square, Skerries
- FCC-TS-13 78 Church Street, Skerries
- FCC-TS-14 5 Convent Lane, Skerries
- FCC-TS-15 17 Church Street, Skerries
- FCC-TS-51 The Small Windmill, Skerries Mill

Record No. FCC-TS-01

NIAH 11302002

RMP

RPS

ITM east 718014.4777

ITM north 766186.3285

Name Knocknagin Cottage

Address Coney Hill, Balbriggan

Townland Knocknagin

Description South-facing detached lobby-entry four-bay single-storey with dormer attic former gate lodge to Knocknagin House with corrugated-iron roof. House was restored c.2000. Set perpendicular to road. Half-hipped corrugated-iron roof which was covered with straw thatch until 2022. Corrugated-iron roof was added c. 2000 when house was renovated following deterioration. Horizontal battens, baling twine and areas of chicken wire, which held thatch, remain in place. Pebbledash-rendered chimneystack to ridge with terracotta pot and lead flashing. Some early roof timbers remain in situ with additional steel support. Three dormer windows with timber casements to front and rear slopes of roof. Timber-framed external porch with trellis and horizontal plank walls to each side and pitched corrugated-iron roof. Painted pebbledash walls to house with smooth plinth. Square-headed window openings with painted concrete sills and replacement two-over-two timber sash windows. Lean-to extension to west with flat-roofed extension to rear. Interior of house has been modernised. Front door opens to open-plan living room and kitchen. Bedrooms to attic level accessed via modern stairs. Garden bounded to road by pebbledash-rendered wall with rubble stone coping. Garden bounded to west by timber fence. Gravel-covered front site to south.

Appraisal Knocknagin Cottage was originally the gate lodge for Knocknagin House. It was in very poor condition in the 1980s but was restored. It received a coat of thatch over a corrugated-iron roof but this was removed in 2022. The house, with its half-hipped roof having dormer windows, is attractive. Its interior has been modernised and the house has been extended.



Record No. FCC-TS-02

NIAH

RMP

RPS 8

ITM east 716587.7611

ITM north 764405.7214

Name

Address Balscadden, Balbriggan

Townland Toberstown Commons (Balscadden)

Description Southeast-facing detached lobby-entry four-bay single-storey thatched house with two-bay slate-roofed section to east, modern flat-roofed porch front and split-level two-storey extension to rear. Pitched oaten straw with flush bobbin ridge with bamboo rodding and lattice band. Straw roof replaced galvanised roof. Original timbers and basecoat of wheat straw in situ. Basecoat tied to timbers with tarred twine. Smooth-rendered chimneystack to centre of ridge with concrete brick chimneystack to west gable. Painted smooth lime plaster. Walls comprise clay, straw and horsehair. Underside of roof is no longer internally accessible. Interior has been modernised. Extension to rear was added in 2020. Enclosed garden and patio to west. Outbuildings to northeast.

Appraisal The house at Balscadden has been recently renovated and a new thatched roof replaced corrugated-iron sheeting of the late 20th century. The house is one of the only thatches in its locality. The house was modernised and extended to designs by architect Mark Stephens in 2020.



Record No. FCC-TS-03

NIAH 11304003

RMP

RPS 15

ITM east 719469.1530

ITM north 764509.6816

Name Bremore Cottage

Address Drogheda Road, Balbriggan

Townland Bremore

Description East-facing detached direct-entry eleven-bay single storey thatched former house re-roofed c.2009 following fire. Slate-roofed extensions to rear. Now in three privately owned units. Part of a complex of six residential units. Enclosed garden to front. Half-hipped straw thatched roof with flush bobbin ridge. Chicken wire to ridge. Four smooth-rendered chimneystacks with clay pots and lead flashing. Rows of bamboo to ridge with single row of bamboo eaves rodding. Slate-roofed half-hipped bay terminates north end of roof, which was added to prevent further arson attempts. Pebbledash render to walls. Square-headed window openings with replacement two-over-two timber sash windows. Pitched-roofed porch with parapet wall to front. Segmental-headed door opening to porch with fanlight and replacement timber battened door. Vents below windows. Boundary wall to road is pebbledash rendered with circular piers and wrought-iron pedestrian gate. Stone gate piers and pedestrian timber gate to north. Linear slate-roofed range of residential units to rear runs parallel with thatched house. Car park to rear of complex.

Appraisal Bremore Cottage is a notably long thatched house set within its own grounds and is of architectural interest. The roof was largely reconstructed following a fire. Its parapet-roofed entrance porch with segmental-headed door opening adds a sense of formality to the entranceway. The house has been subdivided into residential units and the rear garden has been developed with further accommodation.



Record No. FCC-TS-04

NIAH

RMP

RPS

ITM east 718632.3156

ITM north 763124.9855

Name Clogheder Farm Complex

Address Clogheder Crossroads, Clonard Road. (White Hart Lane in FCC Survey)

Townland Clogheder

Description South-facing detached lobby-entry multiple-bay single-storey farmhouse with corrugated-iron roof. Outbuildings to east and south with farmyard to south. Enclosed garden to front bounded to road by wrought-iron railings. Half-hipped roof corrugated-iron roof with two red brick chimneystacks. Ivy covers entire front elevation. Pebbledash over roughcast render to west side elevation. Rear outbuilding is set at an angle to the house with pedestrian gate between the two buildings. Slate roof to roof of rear outbuilding. Square-headed door opening with battened door to west elevation of outbuilding. Stone gate piers with automated mild steel vehicular to west of house open to farmyard. Wrought-iron railings enclose front garden. Cast-iron piers with wrought-iron gate open to garden. To east of house is an outbuilding with a hipped corrugated iron roof and clay walls with a base course of rubble stone. Limewash over the clay elevation is visible below the eaves. Straw is visible beneath the corrugated iron of the outbuilding. Wrought-iron vehicular gate between east end of house and outbuilding.

Appraisal Situated at the end of a rural road, the farm complex is of architectural interest. The unoccupied farmhouse is largely enveloped by ivy and inaccessible. It is part a larger vernacular farm complex a second tin-roofed, formerly thatched structure to the east. The corrugated-iron sheeting has saved the clay-walled house and adjacent outbuilding. In addition to the buildings, the complex has good wrought-iron iron gates.



Record No. FCC-TS-05

NIAH -
RMP
RPS 180

ITM east 723006.3715
ITM north 761234.3667
Name Thatch Cottage
Address Barnageeragh, Skerries
Townland Barnegeeragh

Description West-facing detached lobby-entry four-bay single-storey thatched house with flat-roofed porch to south two-storey barrel-roofed extension to rear. House is lower than the roadway to the west. Pitched reed roof with straw ornamental bobbin block ridge with rows of bamboo and lattice band and latticework to scalloping. Smooth-rendered chimneystack with terracotta pot. Raised gable walls to each end. Painted pebbledash render to walls. Square-headed window openings with patent reveals, painted concrete sills and timber casement windows. Square-headed door opening to facade with glazed timber door. Porch has glazed side lights and battened door with brick step. Two-storey extension to rear has standing seam zinc-covered barrel-vaulted roof with smooth rendered walls with square-headed windows and aluminium-framed windows and glazed door. First-floor terrace to south side. Gravel driveway to south. Garden is bounded to road by painted smooth plinth walls with box hedging and pedestrian gate piers that open to the concrete-paved front site. Painted smooth rendered vehicular and pedestrian gate piers with timber gates to south open to gravel yard. Modern outbuilding to south with pitched slate roof and smooth-rendered walls.

Appraisal The thatched house, which is occupied and in good condition, is of architectural interest. The block ridge, which is an ornamental feature, is not traditional to Fingal. To the rear of the road-facing house is a large two-storey extension which has modified the character of the site.



Record No. FCC-TS-06

NIAH 11310002

RMP

RPS 176

ITM east 720451.9385

ITM north 760088.3555

Name Bamber's Cottage

Address New Lane, Darcytown, Balbriggan

Townland Darcytown

Description East-facing detached direct-entry four-bay single-storey thatched house with porch to east and single-bay single-storey slate-roofed addition having gable to road and single-storey corrugated-iron-roofed addition to south. Yard to front and garden to rear. Roof structure and thatch installed following fire in 2016. Pitched oaten straw thatched roof with bobbin ridge having rows of bamboo and lattice band. Bamboo eaves rodding. Horizontal rows of bamboo to verges. Painted rendered chimneystack with terracotta chimneypot and spark arrestor. Replacement slate and ridge tiles to south. Square-headed window openings with painted sills and replacement timber casement windows. New timber battened half door. Concrete brick paving to front site with artificial grass lawn. Gate piers with timber vehicular gates and rendered wall enclose gravel-covered yard to east. Enclosed rear garden to west.

Appraisal The recently renovated house is of architectural interest and is one of the last surviving thatched houses in the area. The restoration, which followed a house fire in 2016, has been carried out sensitively and has allowed the dwelling to retain its traditional vernacular character and footprint. The house sits at an angle to the straight road known as the New Lane.



Record No. FCC-TS-07

NIAH -

RMP

RPS -

ITM east 713618.3446

ITM north 759872.7183

Name

Address Cabin Hill, Naul

Townland Cabinhill

Description South-facing detached direct-entry four-bay single-storey with attic house with corrugated-iron roof having single-storey extension to south and single-storey extension to rear. Hipped corrugated-iron roof with concrete block chimneystack to south end and brick and pebbledash roof to north. Cast-iron gutter and timber fascia. Painted pebbledash rendered walls, smooth-rendered plinth and smooth-rendered quoins. Enlarged square-headed window openings at ground floor with patent reveals, painted concrete sills and uPVC casement windows. Small square windows directly below eaves level to façade. Square-headed door opening with timber panelled and glazed door and tiled front step. House is set back from the road with a small concrete-surfaced yard to front. Garden to rear accessed through gate piers and mild steel gate to south of house.

Appraisal The unoccupied house has been protected by its corrugated-iron roof for several years. The interior was not accessed during the survey, so it is unclear if early timbers and thatch remain under the metal sheeting. The small eaves windows add character to the facade however, the enlarged windows at ground-floor level have modified its traditional appearance.



Record No. FCC-TS-08

NIAH 11313003

RMP

RPS 124

ITM east 707006.7316

ITM north 757995.1643

Name Ball's Cottage

Address Garristown Village

Townland Garristown

Description Southeast-facing detached lobby-entry four-bay single-storey with loft thatched house with slate-roofed porch and single-bay slate-roofed extension to south. House is set at an angle to the road. Presently covered with green tarpaulin, added 2019, to protect it from the elements. Thatched roof not seen during survey. Concrete chimneystack with wire cowls to centre of ridge. Painted smooth render is visible behind tarpaulin to front elevation. Square-headed door opening to porch with timber battened door. Extension to south has pitched slate roof with terracotta ridge tiles, pvc gutter and timber fascia, smooth render over masonry elevations. Smooth render to clay and stone boundary wall to south of house having a square-headed vehicular opening that is presently boarded up by plywood. Entrance gate to north end with roughcast render and brick coping to walls. Vehicular gate to yard formed in galvanised sheeting. Farmyard to rear with a series of corrugated-iron haybarns and outbuildings.

Appraisal The thatched house is a landmark along the country lane just outside the village of Garristown. At the time of the survey, it was protected by a large tarpaulin and a planning application for refurbishment had been lodged with FCC. A site notice was dated 29th April 2022. The house retains its early roof structure and straw beneath the protective sheeting. Set at an angle to the road, the vernacular house is of architectural interest.



Record No. FCC-TS-09

NIAH 11314001

RMP

RPS 138

ITM east 716997.6767

ITM north 764634.6695

Name

Address Adamstown Cross Roads, Garristown

Townland Adamstown (BA. W BY)

Description Southeast-facing detached four-bay single-storey thatched house with windbreak to façade and extension added to rear c.2008. Set within its own grounds at a crossroads. Hipped wheaten straw thatched roof reconstructed in 2008. Block ridge with bamboo rodding and bamboo lattice band. Painted roughcast-rendered and brick chimneystack with terracotta pots to centre of ridge. Bamboo rodding to eaves. Painted roughcast-rendered walls. Square-headed window openings with uPVC windows and painted sills. Windows at former loft level to end walls. Square-headed door opening to windbreak with uPVC and glazed door. Felt to roof of windbreak. Interior was fully refurbished c.2008. Walls were drylined. New ceilings installed. New lobby walls installed. New fireplaces installed. Loft and stairs were removed. Extension to rear comprises single-storey flat-roofed link which connects house to pitched dormer-roofed section. Tiled roof with painted smooth-rendered walls, square-headed window openings with timber casement windows and timber battened door. Enclosed front garden. Garden to rear with modern shed to north. Modern timber palisade fence to north and east with timber gate. Early circular-plan stone gate pier to east.

Appraisal The attractive house is a pleasing landmark at the Adamstown crossroads. Its original roof was entirely replaced in 2008. The interior has been modernised and drylined with the loss of all early fixtures and fittings. The block ridge, which was installed in 2018, is not traditional to the Fingal area.



Record No. FCC-TS-10

NIAH 11311023

RMP

RPS 182

ITM east 725158.9114

ITM north 760700.4685

Name

Address 42 Quay Street, Skerries

Townland Townparks (BA. E. BY)

Description South-facing semidetached four-bay single-storey lobby-entry thatched house with windbreak to front and two-storey extension to rear. Fronts directly onto street. Pitched straw roof with ornate block ridge having rows of bamboo and lattice band. Ridge has been raised. Rebuilt red-brick chimneystack to centre of ridge having wire cowls to terracotta pots and flashing to base. Bamboo eaves rodding. Chicken wire to eaves with bull-wire skivvers and hairpin scollops. Lenses of mortar visible between layers of thatch at eaves and under the ridge. Horizontal bamboo rods to verges. Flashing to verges. Apex of extension roof abuts ridge of thatched house. Roof space is accessible via a door at the top of the staircase. Couple rafters with horizontal battens. Base coat of straw is sewn directly to timbers. Additional timber bracing installed to roof structure in 2016. Painted roughcast render to façade with projecting windbreak. Replacement half door. Square-headed window openings with painted sills and nine-pane timber casement windows. Painted pebbledash to west gable. Rear extension, built 2001, has flat roof, smooth and pebbledash render and uPVC windows doors. House internally drylined in 1980s. Steel gate to side wall opens to rear garden.

Appraisal The house is one of just five remaining historic thatches in Skerries and it is of architectural importance. The original roof timbers are in situ and are notable for the use of an oar as a tie in a couple truss. The reuse of the oar speaks to the story of vernacular buildings, materials and the house's proximity to the harbour. According to Charlie Fanning, in his 1980 interview with the Urban Folklore Project, many of the locality's houses were built using ship timbers.



Record No. FCC-TS-11

NIAH 11311006

RMP

RPS 194

ITM east 725175.9068

ITM north 760605.4889

Name

Address 18 and 19 Thomas Hand Street, Skerries

Townland Townparks (BA. E. BY)

Description East-facing detached pair of four and two-bay single-storey direct-entry houses with loft to south end with southern gable to road. Number 19 is a house and Number 19 most recently used as office accommodation. Vacant at present. Single-storey extensions to rear. Pitched scollop-thatched roof repaired c.2005 following fire. Roof was formerly slice thatched. Pitched wheaten straw roof with English-style gable and timber barge-board to south. Reconstructed brick chimneystack to north gable. Red brick chimneystack with lime mortar to centre of Number 19 has been demolished above ridgeline. Flush bobbin ridge having three rows of bamboo and a lattice band. Mortar visible to underside of ridge. Bamboo lattice band to eaves. Horizontal rows of bamboo to verges. Concrete to north verge. Chicken wire to eaves held in place with hairpin scollops and skivers. Roof space is accessible to Number 19 but not to Number 18. Sawn timber couple trusses at c.1m centres with horizontal battens and base coat of wheat straw. Painted ruled-and-lined render to front elevation. Painted pebbledash to south gable. Painted roughly rendered random-coursed stonework to rear elevation. Clay or mortar is visible at ridge from within roofspace. Square-headed window openings with painted sills to front. Two-over-two pane timber sash windows with ogee horns and replacement glazed panelled door to Number 19. Three-over-six pane sash windows with convex horns and replacement battened timber door to Number 18. Two-over-two pane timber sash window with convex horns to gable at loft level. uPVC windows and doors to rear. Garden to rear with decked area. Galvanised mono-pitched roof to rear extension.

Appraisal This pair of structures contributes greatly to the streetscape and are of architectural significance. In 1911, a third of all dwellings in Skerries were thatched. Today, just five thatched houses remain. As such, 18 and 19 Thomas Hand Street are a notable pair. The houses also have good quality early sash windows and timber doors which are now rare amongst the thatched building stock of Fingal.



Record No. FCC-TS-12

NIAH -

RMP

RPS -

ITM east 725154.9111

ITM north 760596.4910

Name O'Learys

Address 39 The Square, Skerries

Townland Townparks (BA. E. BY)

Description South-facing terraced three-bay single-storey direct-entry thatched house rebuilt c.1999. Fronts directly onto street. Pitched oaten thatched roof with painted rendered chimneystack to east. Rethatched c.2016. Owl statue to west end of ridge. Block bobbin ridge with rows of bamboo and a lattice band. Chicken wire to ridge. Bamboo eaves rodding. Diagonal rods of bamboo and lead flashing to verges. A fireproof membrane was put over the rafters followed by counter battens and battens. Oaten straw was tied on with baling twine. Ornate painted render mimics random-coursed stonework. Square-headed windows openings with painted concrete sills and timber casement windows. A timber fireplace forms the decorative window surround to the facade. It comprises timber fluted pilasters with console brackets and fascia with raised lettering reading "O'Leary's". Replacement timber battened half door with granite threshold.

Appraisal The house known as O'Leary's was largely reconstructed with the addition of a new roof and front wall in the late 1990s. Whilst reconstruction respected the original form of the terraced house, the structural interventions resulted in a loss of early fabric. The small house, which terminates a vista from Church Street and is two doors down from 18 and 19 Thomas Hand Street, has a modern extension that extends to the full length to the plot. Today, this house is one of just five thatched structures in the town of Skerries. In 1911, a third of all dwellings in the heart of the town were thatched. Although it has been largely reconstructed, it's exterior contributes to the character of the Square.



Record No. FCC-TS-13

NIAH -
RMP
RPS 210

ITM east 725188.9032

ITM north 760525.5061

Name

Address 78 Church Street, Skerries

Townland Townparks (BA. E. BY)

Description North-facing end-of-terrace lobby-entry five-bay single-storey thatched former house, now in use as a Montessori school. Fronts directly onto road. Two-storey residential extension added to rear site. Pitched scollop-thatched English-sourced Tritacale wheaten straw roof, rethatched c.2000. Ridge rethatched and patch repairs carried out in 2022. Flush bobbin ridge with four rows of bamboo with a lattice band. Single row of bamboo eaves rodding. Bamboo rods laid diagonally at verges. Concrete to western verge. Chicken wire to front pitch. Painted ruled-and-lined render to façade. Limestone step to wet door. Battened half door to main door entrance. Square-headed window openings with single-pane sash windows. Replacement three-light windows. uPVC windows and concrete sills. Interior now comprises two rooms that are used a play school. Entrance lobby has been removed. Ceilings have been installed. Underside of the roof has been lined with plasterboard. Brick chimneybreast and fire openings have been exposed. Covered yard to rear used as outdoor play area by children.

Appraisal In 1911, a third of all dwellings in Skerries had thatched roofs. Today, the house on Church Street is one of just five thatched houses in the town. The building is of architectural interest as it is a thatched vernacular house. Alterations have included the replacement of door and windows, the removal of the internal jamb wall and the addition of boarded ceilings. According to the thatcher Brian Simpson, a good deal of historic thatch survives on this roof. The house is of architectural interest.



Record No. FCC-TS-14

NIAH 11311025

RMP

RPS 195

ITM east 725278.8844

ITM north 760543.5016

Name

Address 5 Convent Lane, Skerries

Townland Townparks (BA. E. BY)

Description South-facing terraced direct-entry three-bay single-storey house with single-bay addition to west and full-height extension to rear. Fronts directly onto street. Pitched slice-thatched front pitch of roof. Base coat of wheat with oaten straw over. Rear pitch is no longer thatched. Grooved timber planks to ridge with bitumen felt flashing. Lattice band with chicken wire below ridge. Horizontal bull wire to verges. Bamboo lattice band to eaves with chicken wire over. Painted rendered chimneystack to west end. Early coupled rafters are in situ. Corrugated-iron roof to western end with painted PVC rainwater goods. Painted ruled-and-lined render to façade with smooth-rendered plinth. Painted steel casement windows. Glazed and panelled timber door. Painted roughcast render to west end with timber casement windows. Flat-roofed extension to ridge height to rear.

Appraisal 5 Convent Lane is a beautiful thatched house with a corrugated-roofed bay to the west. As a vernacular house, it is of architectural interest. It is also of cultural interest as it was the home of Charlie Fanning who was a well-known thatcher from Skerries. The house continues to be maintained by the family who use the traditional slice thatching method. Modern interventions include the addition of a rear extension. According to Martin Fanning, the roof's early timbers are extant and may have been repurposed ship timbers. In 1911, a third of all dwellings in the town of Skerries had thatched roofs. Today this house is one of just five thatched structures in the town.



Record No. FCC-TS-15

NIAH 11311019

RMP

RPS 205

ITM east 725280.8830

ITM north 760456.5204

Name

Address 17 Church Street, Skerries

Townland Townparks (BA. E. BY)

Description South-facing semidetached direct-entry five-bay single-storey thatched house with extension to rear. Fronts directly onto street. Used as a holiday house in the early 20th century. Pitched thatched roof reconstructed in 2008. Steel structural supports installed. Reed below straw at eaves. Wheat straw base coat attached to timbers with screws, wires and 8mm steel sway. Repairs carried out in oaten straw. Flush bobbin ridge with four rows of bamboo and one lattice band. Bamboo eaves rodding. Horizontal bamboos to verges. Reconstructed red brick chimneystacks to gables. Cement render to verges. Replacement painted ruled-and-lined render to façade. Pebbledash render to east gable. Square-headed window opening to façade with double-glazed single-pane sash windows with ogee horns. Replacement panelled door. Fibre cement tiles roof of extension. Open-plan interior has been modernised. Plasterboard to underside of roof. Replacement timber stairs to modern mezzanine level.

Appraisal The attractive house contributes to the streetscape and is of architectural interest. The roof was entirely replaced in 2008 but the present roof replicates the aesthetic of its predecessor.



Record No. FCC-TS-16

NIAH 11318006

RMP

RPS 249

ITM east 727225.4345

ITM north 756966.2613

Name Harbour View

Address Loughshinny Harbour

Townland Loughshinny

Description South-facing semidetached direct-entry three-bay single-storey with loft thatched house with thatched L-plan extension to rear. Fronts directly onto road by Loughshinny Harbour. Pedimented windbreak to front. Pitched wheat straw roof with reed to eaves. Block bobbin ridge with lattice band and chicken wire. Raised concrete verges with painted smooth-rendered chimneystack to west. Dormer window to rear of extension. Painted replacement smooth-rendered walls with pediment to façade windbreak having replacement timber half door. Square-headed windows with painted sills, single-pane timber sash windows with ogee horns. Metal beading to reveals have superficial corrosion that has rust stained the paintwork.

Appraisal Harbourview is an attractive house with a unique pedimented windbreak. As it is the last early thatched house to survive in Loughshinny and it greatly contributes to the character of the harbour area, it is of architectural heritage interest. The rear extension is modern.



Record No. FCC-TS-17

NIAH 11318002

RMP

RPS 251

ITM east 726172.6514

ITM north 756468.3755

Name Lizzy's Farm

Address Carnhill, Skerries

Townland Carnhill

Description South-facing detached direct-entry six-bay single-storey with loft thatched farmhouse with slate-roofed entrance porch, former dairy and bread oven projection to rear. House is abuted to east by slate-roofed outbuilding. Brick-built outhouse to east. Set within its own yard with entrance gates to west and farmyard with outbuildings to south. West gable to road with yard to south having a series of slate-roofed farm outbuildings. House was originally two structures but central structure was built to connect them, c.1900. House originally associated with Kenure Park. Pitched oaten straw thatched roof with ornamental block ridges with bobbins, bamboo rodding and lattice band. Ridges protected with chicken wire. Soffit of eaves has reed for strengthening. Roof to east end was replaced. Painted smooth-rendered chimneystacks with terracotta pots. Roof to west has horizontal bamboo rodding to eaves and vertical rodding to verges. Roof to east has lattice band to eaves and to verges. Roof to west has early A-frame trusses with additional rafters added for strengthening. Pitched slate roof to former dairy to rear. Mono-pitched fibre-cement tiled roof to projecting bread oven to rear. Painted random-coursed stone walls. Square-headed window openings with painted sills and replacement timber sash and casement windows. Timber battened door to slate-roofed entrance porch. Double-leaf timber battened doors to east end of façade. Entrance door opens to porch which has a niche on the east wall the once housed a grandfather clock. Clock is no longer extant. Timber floors. Loft stairs to west has been reconstructed. Brick chimneybreasts. To south of present kitchen is a dining room that has a brick-built bread oven to east section projects to rear.

Appraisal The farmhouse and wider vernacular farm complex has a unique character and is of architectural interest. The eastern part of the roof has been reconstructed however, according to the owner, early roof timbers can be found in the western section. The house has unique elements including a wall niche for a grandfather clock in the hallway and a rare brick bread over which projects through the rear elevation. Barry O'Reilly notes that the presence of the bread oven suggests the house is of a c.1700 date.



Record No. FCC-TS-18

NIAH 11324024

RMP

RPS 263

ITM east 726566.5486

ITM north 754676.7598

Name The Thatch Cottage

Address Skerries Road, Rush

Townland Rush

Description West-facing detached lobby-entry four-bay single-storey thatched house with loft and windbreak to front. Single-storey extension was to north was demolished, north end was reconstructed and new two-storey extension built to rear c.2020. North end of house was reconstructed. New pitched wheaten straw thatched roof with ornamental block ridge with bobbins, four rows of bamboo rodding and a lattice band. Bamboo eaves rodding. Raised rendered gable ends and three painted smooth-rendered chimney stacks. Painted flashing to base of chimneystacks. Fibre-cement tiles to porch. Painted smooth render renewed c.2022. Square headed windows with concrete sills, replacement timber casement windows. Square-headed door opening with battened door. Two-storey extension to rear is clad with stone and has a standing seam zinc roof. Yard to north.

Appraisal The attractive house facing directly onto the Skerries Road has been renovated in recent times. Its north end was reconstructed during works and it received a new thatched roof with block ridge, which is not traditional or appropriate in Fingal, new windows and doors. To the rear of the house is a large extension which has greatly modified the rear site. Whilst restored and modernised, the exterior retains its early vernacular character.



Record No. FCC-TS-19

NIAH 11324022

RMP

RPS 266

ITM east 726655.5238

ITM north 754124.8784

Name Jack the Bachelors

Address 16 Main Street Lower

Townland Rush

Description South-facing terraced lobby-entry five-bay two storey thatched former house with windbreak to front. Now used as a restaurant. Restaurant extension to rear. Pitched wheaten straw roof with central painted smooth-rendered chimneystack. Concrete coping to verges. Painted roughcast-rendered front elevation with painted smooth-rendered porch having uPVC door. Square-headed windows with small 4-paned casement timber windows to central bays at first floor. Larger two-over-two sashes with convex horns to rest of facade openings. Lobby opens to east and west rooms which have been converted for use as restaurant. Fireplaces to central hearths. Kitchen and restaurant extension to rear. External al fresco dining area to rear. Single flight of stairs rises to two first-floor rooms. Front room has battened door. West room has lugged-and-knead architrave with raised-and-fielded panelled door from c.1740.

Appraisal 16 Main Street Lower is said to have been the home of a renowned 18th-century smuggler named Jack the Bachelor. The house is of architectural interest and is a very rare example of a thatched, two-storied urban dwelling. The interior retains a notable lugged-and-knead architrave and corresponding panelled door at the top of the stairs which is a feature common to fine mid-18th-century buildings. The block ridge is ornamental and not traditional or appropriate in Fingal. Thatcher Brian Simpson recalls that he saw a wattle and daub chimney in this house.



Record No. FCC-TS-20

NIAH 11324021

RMP

RPS 267

ITM east 726496.5575

ITM north 754132.8777

Name

Address 14 Main Street Upper

Townland Rush

Description North-facing semidetached direct-entry four-bay single-storey with attic house. Fronts directly onto street. Steeply pitched wheaten straw roof with flush bobbin ridge having lattice band and rows of bamboo. Bamboo rodding to eaves and horizontal bamboo rows to verges. Painted pebbledash render to clay walls with smooth-rendered plinth. Partially exposed mud-wall construction to east party wall. Square-headed window openings with patent reveals and timber casement windows. Square-headed door opening with patent reveals and c.1940's glazed timber door. Door accessed via two concrete steps. This building will be given to the community for community use under planning ref F21A/0445.

Appraisal The house has a particularly steep roof which give it a distinctive character. Internally, there is a suspended floor with sand on the grade, and according to thatcher Brian Simpson, the base coat of straw is visible. The windows, door and pebbledash on the front elevation date from the mid-20th century. As one of the last five remaining buildings with intact early thatched roofs in Rush, the vernacular building is of architectural interest.



Record No. FCC-TS-21

NIAH 11324018

RMP

RPS 269

ITM east 726185.6238

ITM north 754187.8678

Name Tigín

Address Sandy Road

Townland Rush

Description North-facing terraced direct-entry two-bay single-storey with dormer attic thatched house and flat-roofed extension to rear. Fronts directly onto street. Steeply pitched French reed roof with plywood and lead sheet to ridge, chicken wire to eaves and eyebrow dormer window to rear. Torch on felt roof to rear extension. Painted smooth render to mud-walled construction with base batter. Square-headed window opening to front with painted concrete sill and timber casement window. Square-headed door opening with glazed and battened half door. Flat-roofed extension to rear with torch on felt roof and painted smooth-rendered walls. Garden to rear.

Appraisal The small house is set in the middle of a terrace of formerly thatched buildings. It was modernised in the 1990s with a new French reed roof which has an eyebrow-shaped dormer window to the rear. As one of a group of vernacular thatched houses, it is of architectural interest.



Record No. FCC-TS-22

NIAH 11324019

RMP

RPS 268

ITM east 726172.0153

ITM north 754188.6216

Name Shamrock Cottage

Address Sandy Road

Townland Rush

Description North-facing end-of-terrace lobby-entry thatched house with windbreak to front. Galvanised sheeting over straw. Fronts directly onto street. Plywood to eaves. Thatch is visible where plywood sheeting has decayed at eaves. Ruled-and-lined cement-based render to front elevation with smooth plinth course. Front wall appears to be bowing forward. Square-headed window openings with concrete sills, now boarded up with plywood or timber planks. Projecting entrance with earlier galvanised sheeting to its roof. Square-headed door opening with plywood sheeting. Multiple-pane pivot timber window to east gable lighting loft. Ruled-and-lined render to gate pier. Mass concrete to boundary wall to east. Garden to rear.

Appraisal The vernacular house is typical of many in Fingal as it has a projecting windbreak. The thatch survives below its protective galvanised roof. As part of a terrace of formerly thatched houses, it is of architectural interest.



Record No. FCC-TS-23

NIAH 11324017

RMP

RPS 270

ITM east 726170.6269

ITM north 754183.8688

Name

Address Sandy Road

Townland Rush

Description North-facing end-of-terrace direct-entry three-bay single-storey thatched house with galvanised sheeting to roof over straw. Fronts directly onto street. Pitched roof with eaves fascia and plywood to west gable. Exposed gable to west. Smooth-rendered chimneystack to east with tape applied as flashing to base. Painted cement render to front elevation with plinth course and rendered eaves course. Exposed mud construction to west gable. Structural cracking to northwest corner. Enlarged square-headed window openings with painted concrete sills. Windows are blocked by plywood. Timber raised-and-fielded panelled door. Garden to rear.

Appraisal The terraced vernacular house is of architectural interest as it is one of the last remaining thatched buildings in Rush. The galvanised roof has saved the building from complete loss, however it is in vulnerable condition.



Record No. FCC-TS-24

NIAH 11324005

RMP

RPS 271

ITM east 725900.6829

ITM north 754082.8923

Name

Address Sandy Road

Townland Rush

Description North-facing detached direct-entry three-bay single-storey thatched house with flat-roofed concrete-block extension to rear connected to house proper by link structure with corrugated plastic roof. House fronts directly onto street. Pitched wheaten straw roof with brick chimneystacks to each end. Painted smooth cement-based render with layers of paint. Random-coursed rubble stone gable to east. Square-headed window openings with 3-over-6 pane sash windows with convex horns. Garden to rear is enclosed by rubble stone boundary wall.

Appraisal The three-bay thatched house is presently empty but appears to be in good condition. It is of architectural interest as it is one of the last five remaining buildings with intact early thatched roofs in the town of Rush.



Record No. FCC-TS-25

NIAH 11324001

RMP

RPS 277

ITM east 725652.7347

ITM north 754017.9080

Name Mill Bank

Address Chapel Green

Townland Rush

Description East-facing semidetached L-plan direct-entry two-bay single-storey thatched house with gable to road with extensions to rear. Windbreak to front. House is attached to the hall used by St Maur's Pipe Band. Pitched L-plan oaten straw roof. Roof to front wing is hipped to west end. Smooth-rendered chimneystacks with terracotta pots and wire cowls. Extensions to rear with pitched asbestos-tiled roof and flat roof with torch on felt. Roughcast-render to front elevation. Random-coursed stonework to south gable. Painted smooth render to rear extension. Timber casement windows. Front site is enclosed by concrete-block garden wall with steel pedestrian gate. Artificial grass to front site. Garden to rear. Wrought-iron vehicular gate with stone piers opens to rear site. House built to rear garden.

Appraisal The L-plan house is of architectural interest and gives a great deal of character to the green where it is located. Internal modernisation was carried out in recent decades and a kitchen extension was built to the rear. The house is one of the last five remaining buildings with intact early thatched roofs in the town of Rush.



Record No. FCC-TS-26

NIAH -

RMP

RPS Delisted from RPS 2016 as so greatly altered

ITM east 725576.7500

ITM north 753948.9234

Name

Address 6 Channel Road

Townland Rush

Description Reconstructed south-facing end-of-terrace direct-entry five-bay single-storey thatched house with flat-roofed extension to rear. House reconstructed c.2006. Pitched wheaten straw roof with brick chimneystack to east. Random-coursed rubble stone walls with cement-mortar pointing. Square-headed window openings with two-over-two pane timber sash windows with ogee horns. Battened timber door. Enclosed front site bounded by cement-rendered walls with steel gates. Brick paving to front yard.

Appraisal The house on Channel Road was reconstructed to replicate the earlier thatched house that stood on the site. Although it is a modern building, the thatched roof adds character to the streetscape helps to promote the thatching industry.



Record No. FCC-TS-27

NIAH 11324032

RMP

RPS 264

ITM east 727000.8903

ITM north 754343.8243

Name Kilbush House

Address Kilbush Lane

Townland Rush

Description West-facing detached lobby-entry seven-bay single-storey with dormer attic thatched house with flat-roofed entrance porch to front and kitchen extension to rear. Terminates Kilbush Lane. Garden to rear. Pitched wheaten straw roof with flush bobbin ridge. Four rows of bamboo to ridge with a lattice band. Single row of bamboo to eaves. Horizontal scollops to verges and above dormer windows. Smooth render to chimneystack with concrete blockwork to top. Pebbledash render to facade with smooth-rendered plinth. Painted random-coursed stone to rear elevation. Painted smooth render to rear extension. Square-headed window openings with concrete sills and timber casement windows. Porch has flat bitumen felt roof with timber framed glazing and glazed panelled door. Corrugated-iron roofed extension to north end with pebbledash rendered walls. Pitched bitumen felt roof to southern extensions with pebbledash rendered walls and timber battened door. Pebbledash-rendered concrete block boundary wall encloses small front site.

Appraisal Kilbush Houses is a fine thatched home at the end of Kilbush Lane. Although it has been modernised in the 20th century with the enlargement of windows and the addition of a porch and back kitchen, it has an attractive character. Today it is one of the Rush's last remaining thatched houses and it is of architectural interest. Kilbush House is one of the last five remaining houses with intact early thatched roofs in the town of Rush.



Record No. FCC-TS-28

NIAH 11323022

RMP

RPS 306

ITM east 721936.5424

ITM north 756013.5006

Name Rose Cottage AKA Roseville

Address Skerries Road, Greatcommon, Lusk

Townland Greatcommon

Description East-facing detached lobby-entry five-bay single-storey thatched house with windbreak to front. The vernacular house faces a busy road between Lusk and Skerries. Set back from the road with small, enclosed garden to front bounded by wrought-iron railings. Large garden to rear with outbuilding. Pitched wheaten straw roof is hipped to south and gabled to north. Flush bobbin ridge with four rows of bamboo with a horizontal lattice band. Secured with hairpin scollops. Single row of bamboo eaves rodding. Two red brick chimneystacks with concrete to bases and terracotta pots. Rear of roof has been covered with corrugated iron. Satellite dish and aerial to north. Tiled pitched roof to porch. Painted roughcast render to clay walls with painted ruled-and-lined render to porch. Square-headed window openings with patent reveals, painted sills and two-over-two timber sash windows. Projecting porch to rear elevation with lean-to slate roof having cast-iron gutter, hopper and downpipe. Timber battened door. Pair of round-profile painted random-coursed stone vehicular gate piers to south open to rear site. Painted random-coursed rubble to north of house bounds the plot to road. Outbuilding to rear has corrugated-iron roof with roughcast and smooth render to walls. Exposed area of clay wall to north elevation.

Appraisal The façade of the vernacular thatched house retains early features including its sash windows and windbreak. The roof has an appealing historic thatched roof that is hipped at one end and gabled at the other. Today, the rear slope of the roof is no longer thatched but instead is covered with galvanised sheeting. The ornamental garden with iron railings and long rear site provides the house with a charming setting. The house is of architectural interest.



Record No. FCC-TS-29

NIAH 11323024

RMP

RPS 295

ITM east 721496.6154

ITM north 754100.9166

Name Clay Cottage

Address Dublin Road, Lusk

Townland Part of Ballagh

Description West-facing detached direct-entry four-bay single-storey thatched house with flat-roofed porch and tiled-roofed extension to rear. Set back from the road. Hipped wheat straw roof with painted steel apex ridge c.2012. Painted cement-rendered chimneystack with painted flashing to base and clay pots with cowls to centre of ridge. Thatch is secured in place with c.15 horizontal rows of bull wire sways pinned with wire skivvers. Chicken wire to eaves and hips. Painted roughcast-rendered façade with smooth-rendered quoins. Painted smooth render to gables with batter to north. Square-headed window openings with patent reveals, painted sills and multiple-pane timber casement windows. Two-over-two pane timber sash window to north gable. Flat-roofed porch has painted smooth-rendered side walls and a segmental arch opening. Recessed vertical battened and glazed door. Painted inscribed plaque to south of façade reads 'J O E G 1754'. Yard to front is bounded to road by modern concrete block and rubble plinth wall with mild steel railings and pedestrian gate. Wrought-iron vehicular gate to north. House was originally extended c.1950 and the extension was renovated c.2000. Extension was reroofed. Yard to rear. Cast-iron water pump to front of house with a second to the west. Pumps may not be original to the house.

Appraisal Clay Cottage has a wonderful character and is the last surviving thatched house in Lusk. Its date stone reads 1754. The house has good casement windows and a 20th century porch with entrance door. Internally, the house was opened up with the loss of original transverse walls or any partitions. Early sawn roof timbers and straw survive and can be seen in the attic space but appear not to be the original. A large modern extension has been built to the rear of the house. The present thatch is held down with many rows of bull wire and the ridge is covered with metal which is not the original thatching style. The vernacular house is of architectural interest.



Record No. FCC-TS-30

NIAH NO LONGER ON NIAH, WAS 11323031

RMP

RPS 315

ITM east 719964.9329

ITM north 753405.0767

Name

Address Drogheda Road, Corduff, Lusk

Townland Corduff (Hackett)

Description West-facing detached direct-entry three-bay single-storey thatched house with large extension, built c.2021 to rear. House is lower than the external pavement and road level. Pitched oaten straw roof with rendered chimneystack to south gable with bobbin ridge with four rows of bamboo and a single horizontal lattice band secured with hairpin scollops. Lattice band in bamboo to eaves with hairpin scollops. Horizontal scollops to verges. Painted smooth lime-rendered walls with batter to north gable and projecting plinth to façade. Square-headed windows openings with replacement uPVC windows and painted concrete sills. Square-headed door opening with timber battened door. Front site is bounded by metal railings and a vehicular gate. Driveway to south leads to new extension which is now the principal part of the residence. According to owner, there is an iron bar set into the fire opening for hanging pots.

Appraisal The three-bay house has been modernised recently and a large extension was built to the rear. The house is very attractive and adds to the character of the streetscape. In addition to its architectural interest, the house's association with Irish patriot Thomas Ashe, who worked in the National School next door, is of historical interest.



Record No. FCC-TS-31

NIAH NO LONGER ON NIAH REG NO. WAS 11323025

RMP

RPS 314

ITM east 720123.8983

ITM north 753318.0945

Name Thatched Cottage

Address School Lane, Corduff, Lusk

Townland Corduff (Hackett)

Description Ruin of north-facing lobby-entry four-bay single-storey thatched house with windbreak. Set back from the road behind a plinth wall with piers and railings. Garden to rear. Front elevation, porch, both gables, west end of rear elevation and two transverse walls with red brick chimneybreasts are extant. West brick chimney has a steel brace. Roof and rear elevation have been demolished. West gable is set at an angle to the façade. Façade constructed in a combination of random-coursed rubble limestone with a c.300 mm band of clay to eaves. Voids in clay of former rafters present. Section of red brick infill to west end of façade Roughcast render with layers of limewash to east of porch. Square-headed window openings with painted sills and two-over-two pane timber sash windows with ogee horns. Plywood sheeting and timber buttresses applied to west of porch to stabilise and save the building from further deterioration. Porch has scalloped slates and a lead flashing to ridge roll. Painted smooth render to porch with timber battened door and segmental-headed fanlight. Upper section of east gable has been reconstructed with concrete blocks. Timber casement window with painted concrete sill to east gable. West gable built from random-coursed limestone with mortar and concrete coping to the top. Timber buttresses to gable ends. Interior was accessed from rear. Lath and plaster ceiling to entrance porch. Clay tiles to kitchen floor. Timber niche cabinet north wall of kitchen. Internal timber shutters to windows. Panelled doors leading from kitchen to rooms to east and west. Front site is bounded by smooth-rendered plinth wall with piers and wrought-iron railings. Outbuilding to east.

Appraisal The loss of the thatched house, which was in reasonable condition in recent decades, impacts on the architectural heritage of Fingal. As one of the last surviving thatches, it was an asset to the locality. The shell of the house is vulnerable to the elements. An unusual design feature of this house is the southern gable wall which is set at an angle to the front elevation.



Record No. FCC-TS-32

NIAH

RMP

RPS 316795311

ITM east 719801.9565

ITM north 752339.3082

Name

Address Drogheda Road, Lusk

Townland Corduff (part of)

Description East-facing detached lobby-entry four-bay single-storey thatched house with windbreak to front and single-storey extension to rear. House and ancillary outbuildings to north and south are arranged around three sides of a yard. Entrance gates to road opposite house. Hipped oat straw thatched roof with reed to eaves. Flush bobbin ridge with row of bamboo rodding and lattice band to ridge. Row of bamboo eaves rodding. Galvanised sheeting and timber fascia to roof of windbreak. Lead flashing between porch and thatched roof. Limewashed smooth-rendered walls. Façade partially rebuilt with hemp blocks following collapse. Square-headed window openings with limestone sills and two-pane timber casement windows. Battened door with glazed pane to porch. Painted smooth render to adjacent outbuildings to front. Large garden to rear. Gravel-covered driveway leads southwards to functioning entrance gate to south.

Appraisal The house has been sensitively repaired and enlarged in recent years. It is of architectural interest and is one of the last remaining thatched houses in the hinterland of Lusk.



Record No. FCC-TS-33

NIAH

RMP

RPS 171

ITM east 716720.6548

ITM north 756702.3844

Name Cosy Cottage

Address Knightstown Road, Johnstown

Townland Johnstown

Description West-facing detached lobby-entry five-bay single-storey house with windbreak to front and flat-roofed extension added to rear c.1980. Thatched roof to north and tiled roof to south. House fronts onto pavement. Windbreak to façade. Flat-roofed extension to rear. Hipped slice-thatched oaten straw roof with block bobbin ridge having bamboo lattice band. Smooth-rendered chimneystack to north end with terracotta pot and spark arrestor and mortar flashing. Chicken wire to thatch is pinned in place with hairpin scollops. Original roof timbers are in situ, according to owner, but are inaccessible due to a ceiling. Pitched tiled roof to northern extension with PVC rainwater goods and timber fascia. House has stone walls to front and to north end with clay walls and stone to rear. Stone was quarried across the road. Smooth lime render to walls, renewed c.2011. Square-headed window openings with lime render over sills and replacement double-glazed one-over-one timber sash windows having ogee horns. Enlarged square-headed window opening to north gable with uPVC casement window. Square-headed door opening with replacement timber battened half door. Engraved polished stone plaque at front door reads "Cosy Cottage Built In The 1700s". Lantern lights flank entrance door. Log-burning stove in living room with range in kitchen. Flat-roofed extension added to rear with felt roof, smooth-rendered chimneystack, smooth-rendered walls and uPVC casement windows and door. Yard and garden to rear accessed via vehicular gate to north. Timber palisade fencing to south.

Appraisal The house is of architectural interest and was restored a decade ago. It is the sole surviving thatch in Johnstown and contributes to the architectural heritage of Fingal.



Record No. FCC-TS-34

NIAH 11321004

RMP

RPS

ITM east 714865.0198

ITM north 753817.0197

Name The Brew

Address Main Street, Ballyboghil

Townland Ballyboghil

Description Rebuilt east-facing end-of-terrace direct-entry three-bay single-storey with attic thatched cafe abutted to north by single-bay two-storey stone-built building and two storey extension to rear. Constructed c.2000 on site of an earlier thatched house. Thatched and stone structure are not used as a café. Thatched building is set with a complex of commercial units on the main street of Ballyboghil. Replacement pitched reed thatched roof with ornamental straw bobbin block ridge. Rows of bamboo and a lattice band with lattice detailing to scalloped ridge. Exposed rafter end detailing to timber soffit of eaves. Monocouche rendered walls. Square-headed window openings with painted timber double-glazed casement windows. Stone building to north has pitched fibre-cement tiled roof with sproketed eaves, PVC fascia and rainwater goods. Random-coursed stone walls with brick surrounds to windows. Gate to south opens to side yard. Yard is bounded to south by random-coursed rubble stone wall.

Appraisal The modern, reed-thatched building in the village of Ballyboghil was reconstructed c.2000 on the site of an earlier thatched house. With its adjoining stone bay, its attractive character contributes to the streetscape.



Record No. FCC-TS-35

NIAH 11321008

RMP

RPS 151

ITM east 714310.1328

ITM north 753317.1313

Name The Grange

Address Drishoge Lane, Oldtown

Townland Grange (Ballyboghil)

Description Recorder was not permitted to carry out survey by owner on day of site visit. NIAH record reads:
Detached four-bay single-storey thatched house, c.1800, with a projecting entrance porch. Single-bay extension to right-hand side, c.1920. Outbuildings to rear. ROOF: Hipped thatch roof to original four-bays and corrugated iron to extension; nap rendered chimney stack to centre of original house and cement rendered to roof; double pitched corrugated iron roofs to farm buildings; barrel vaulted; corrugated iron hay barn to rear. WALLS: Rough cast render and nap rendered plinth; rubble stone and mud wall farm buildings. OPENINGS: Square headed window openings with rendered reveals; concrete and stone cills; timber single pane sash and casement windows; timber panelled door, c.1980.

Appraisal The thatched vernacular house is occupied and in good condition. Located on a country lane, it contributes to the character of streetscape. The house is of architectural interest.

Recorder not permitted to take photos by owner.

Record No. FCC-TS-36

NIAH

RMP

RPS 152

ITM east 713431.3124

ITM north 752569.2985

Name Gensita Cottage

Address Drishoge Lane, Oldtown

Townland Drishoge (Ballyboghil)

Description Southwest-facing detached lobby-entry three-bay two-storey thatched house with thatched porch to front and lean-to extension to east. Reconstructed in 1996. Set within its own grounds with garden to front. Hipped wheaten straw roof with ornamental block bobbin ridge with bamboo rods and lattice band. Single row of bamboo eaves rodding. Bluestone staining to ridge. Patch repairs carried out in oaten straw to eaves. Painted smooth-rendered chimneystack with terracotta pots and cowls. Replacement painted textured render. Square-headed window openings with replacement two-over-two timber casement windows that mimic sashes. Replacement timber battened door to west side of porch with round-headed timber-framed with margin lights to south. Timber battened door and sidelights to lean-to extension. Front site is bounded by box hedge. Two pedestrian gates with concrete piers and mild steel gates. Principal gate c.1940. Painted cement-rendered gate piers opens to rear yard with steel vehicular gate to north.

Appraisal Significant renovations saw the rebuilding of the roof and parts of the walls of this house. The two-storey vernacular house has a hard cement render that does not let the building fabric breathe. Despite this, the cottage and mature garden is an ornamental feature along the country lane.



Record No. FCC-TS-37

NIAH

RMP

RPS 153

ITM east 713395.3196

ITM north 752520.3093

Name

Address Drishoge Lane, Oldtown

Townland Grange (Ballyboghil)

Description South-facing detached lobby-entry six-bay single-storey formerly thatched farmhouse with porch. Gable to road. House extended to east and west. Hipped roof recently covered with corrugated panels. Painted smooth-rendered chimneystack. PVC rainwater goods. Porch roof has been replaced with pitched profile. Painted roughly rendered walls. Exposed stonework to west end of south elevation. Concrete blockwork rebuilding to central bays of rear elevation. West gable wall is possibly clay construction. Square-headed window openings with painted stone having two-over-two timber sash windows with varied horn types. Small two-pane timber casement window to west of entrance porch. Concrete lintel to rear door. Replacement timber and glazed doors to front and rear. Front site is enclosed by concrete plinth wall and modern timber and wire fence. Ruined stone outbuilding to southeast.

Appraisal The vernacular farmhouse lost its thatched roof in recent years. The present covering was installed as a temporary measure to save the building and prevent its collapse. The house's character would greatly benefit from the installation of a new traditional straw roof.



Record No. FCC-TS-38

NIAH

RMP

RPS

ITM east 711700.6945

ITM north 753999.0000

Name Cathy's Cottage

Address Oldtown Village

Townland Oldtown

Description South-facing detached L-plan lobby-entry five-bay single-storey thatched house with dormer attic with porch, built 2004, on site of earlier thatched house. Enclosed front and rear gardens. Hipped wheaten straw with reed to eaves. Flush bobbin ridges to main roof and porch with rows of bamboo and lattice band. Bamboo eaves rodding and diagonal bamboo rods to verges. Chicken wire to eaves. Concrete block walls with painted textured render. Square-headed window openings with concrete sills and four-pane double-glazed timber casement windows. Granite threshold step. River to west and lane to east.

Appraisal The house at the heart of Oldtown Village was entirely rebuilt in 2004. The modern house, which is attractive and well kept, adds a notable aesthetic character to the rural village, but it is not an authentic vernacular structure. The previous house was a rare example of thatched houses with its principal entrance on its gable end.



Record No. FCC-TS-39

NIAH 11342006

RMP

RPS 636

ITM east 713373.2555

ITM north 745427.8447

Name

Address Killeek, St Margarets

Townland Killeek

Description South-facing detached lobby-entry six-bay single-storey thatched farmhouse with L-plan flat-roofed porch added c.1960. House is set perpendicular to road with farm complex to south. Hipped thatched roof with wheaten straw over earlier coats of wheaten straw. Flush bobbin ridge with bamboo rodding. Painted rendered chimneystack to centre of ridge. Chicken wire to eaves and hips held in place with skivvers. Internal roof space is accessible via ceiling hatches in the lobby or from the western bedroom. Hipped roof is supported by sawn couple rafters with horizontal battens. Base coat of wheat straw is tied to the roof with twine. Lime-washed roughcast-render to walls with batter to west wall. Two wrought-iron pegs nailed below eaves over rear elevation. Square-headed window openings to facade with painted concrete sills, replacement timber casement windows. Wrought-iron pedestrian gate within painted random-coursed rubble boundary wall opens to front yard from road. Farmyard to south is enclosed by outbuildings to east and west. Detached five-bay single-storey with lofts outbuilding with hipped corrugated-iron roof over wheaten straw roof. Roof timbers comprise couple rafters with a base course of wheat straw. Lime-washed roughcast render to clay and stone walls. Two square-headed door openings with braced and battened plank doors c.1700. Dairy to north end accessed through end wall. Across the yard to east is a detached multiple-bay single-storey with loft outbuilding with lean-two sheds to rear, lean-to shed to south and piggery to southeast corner. Reconstructed pitched slate roof, random coursed stone walls, brick-arch opening and ventilation loop openings.

Appraisal The house, outbuildings and yard at Killeek form an important vernacular farm complex in North Dublin. Well preserved and maintained, the site is of great architectural interest. The traditional straw roof of the house retains early coats of wheaten straw and roof timbers. The tin-roofed farm building to the yard is a highly significant traditional outbuilding. The bright-red galvanised roof has saved the roof timbers and historic straw. Features of note include the clay-built principal walls and random-coursed transverse walls, sash windows and two rare plank doors of c.1700 with long iron hinges are found on the east elevation.



Record No. FCC-TS-40

NIAH 11335014

RMP

RPS 344

ITM east 717775.3336

ITM north 747071.4608

Name

Address Rathbeale Road, Swords

Townland Commons West

Description South-facing detached lobby-entry three-bay single-storey thatched house with lean-to porch and flat-roofed extension to west. Set within its own grounds behind a wall to Rathbeale Road. House is lower than external pavement and road. Hipped wheaten straw roof. Bamboo to apex of ridge is held in place by skivvers. Bamboo may have supported a ridge of bobbins. Straw held in place by hairpin scollops and skivvers. Channel of decayed thatch to east end. Chicken wire upstand at abutment of lean-to extension. Chicken wire to eaves at east hip. Skivvers project from straw above eaves. No chimneystack. Corrugated iron roof with PVC rainwater goods to lean-to porch. West end wall is battered. Pebbledash render to walls. Cement-render repairs carried out to east end wall. Enlarged square-headed window openings with patent reveals, concrete sills and timber casement windows with lattice-detailed glazing. Triple-light timber casement window to front of entrance porch. Square-headed windows opening to east end of house with timber battened door opening to side passage. Timber-clad extension with flat roof added c.1960. Pebbledash-rendered boundary wall with smooth plinth to road. Steel vehicular gate to west end of house opens to driveway. Garden to rear.

Appraisal The last remaining thatched house in Swords is hidden from view by a tall pebbledashed wall. It is presently unoccupied and its roof is in a vulnerable condition. Mid-20th century porch and extensions were constructed to modernise it and windows were enlarged. As an early vernacular building, it is of architectural interest.



Record No. FCC-TS-41

NIAH 11329015

RMP

RPS 514

ITM east 722762.3075

ITM north 750332.7231

Name The Cottage

Address Ballisk Street

Townland Ballisk Common (Donabate)

Description East-facing detached lobby-entry three-bay single-storey thatched house with porch to front. South end wall is to road. Hipped oaten straw roof with flush bobbin ridge having a row of bamboo and lattice band. Bamboo lattice band to eaves. Bamboo rodding to eaves of hip. Ends of ridge terminate in thatched pinnacles. Straw has a blue tinge due to the application of bluestone. Red brick chimneystack to centre of ridge. Porch to front formerly had a thatched roof. Roof is now pitched and tiled with a lead ridge. Buttress to northeast corner of house. Painted render to walls with ruled-and lined render to north end and northeast buttress. Smooth painted render to rear. Painted random-coursed stonework to south end. Painted roughcast render to porch. Square-headed window openings with replacement timber casement windows. Square-headed door opening to with glazed timber battened half door to porch. Wrought-iron pedestrian gate and railings to small enclosed yard to front of porch.

Appraisal The fine house with its hipped roof and clay and stone walls has a notable architectural character and is the last surviving thatched buildings in Donabate. It makes an important contribution to the area's architectural heritage.



Record No. FCC-TS-42

NIAH 11344016

RMP

RPS 385

ITM east 722340.3528

ITM north 746106.6400

Name Casino

Address Dublin Road, Malahide

Townland Malahide

Description South-facing L-plan detached eight-bay single- and two-storey thatched cottage orné, built c.1780 and restored in 2019, with three-bay two-storey curved entrance bow to centre of west. Houses the Cyril Fry Model Railway Collection. Set within its own grounds and is accessed from the Dublin Road via a driveway. Extended to rear c.2019 by Fingal County Council. Thatched wheat straw roof which curves around bowed bays to south and west. Flush bobbin ridge having rows of bamboo rodding and lattice band. Lattice band to eaves. Rear slope of roof at east end is slated. Roughcast-rendered chimneystacks. Stone walls have been re-rendered with roughcast lime-based render. Square-headed window openings with granite sills and nine-over-six or six-over-six timber sash windows. Segmental-headed opening with spiderweb fanlight, sidelights and panelled timber door. Two-storey bowed bay with glazed porch to west elevation with scalloped lead flashing and six-over-six timber sash windows with double-leaf glazed timber door. Interior has been refurbished. New herringbone parquet flooring and stone floor tiles to ground floor. Polished stone fireplaces to chimneybreasts. Run-in-situ plasterwork cornices to coved ceilings of principal rooms. Entrance hall opens to reception rooms to east and west and a central rotunda with a coved ceiling with glazed cupola. Rotunda is accessed via double-leaf panelled doors with applied beading and segmental-headed spiderweb fanlight. Round-arched niches to walls. Stair hall with dog-leg timber staircase with interlocking strings balusters rises to first floor on west side of building.

Appraisal The Casino at Malahide has historic associations with the Castle. It has been recently conserved under the guidance of Fingal County Council and houses the Cyril Fry Model Railway Collection. The house is a Cottage Orné which references Neoclassical design and detailing. Internally, the main body of the former house is laid out on a symmetrical plan. Features of note include door and window joinery and a dog-leg staircase interlocking strings. The Casino is a wonderful amenity just outside of the village of Malahide.



Record No. FCC-TS-43

NIAH 11344045

RMP

RPS 381a and b

ITM east 722066.4144

ITM north 746426.5726

Name Thatched Cottage

Address Bisset Strand

Townland Malahide

Description Northeast-facing pair of semi-detached direct-entry two- and three-bay single-storey thatched houses with buttressed end bay to right-hand side and 1983 extension to rear. Houses front to raised pathway that runs parallel to the road. Facing the sea, they were likely built to house fishermen. Individually renovated and refenestrated, c.1950 - 1970. Houses were built separately but formed part of a large row of thatched dwellings. Owner believes the at the gable end was originally the gable house that was demolished. House to west is hipped and house to east is gabled. Previous thatched built up the ridgeline of one house so both would be at the same level. Pitched roof is hipped to west and gabled to east. Oaten straw roof with flush bobbin ridge. Bamboo rodding to ridge. Bamboo rodding to eaves pinned with skivvers. Localised chicken wire to eaves. Painted roughcast render to clay walls. Square-headed window openings with deep reveal through buttress. Replacement timber casement windows with concrete sills to east. Square-headed door openings with glazed timber panelled doors. Flat roofed corridor connects thatched house to rear pitched-roofed extension which is used by both dwellings. Felt roof to corridor with fibre-cement tiles to kitchen and bathroom extension. Smooth-rendered walls to rear extension. Timber casement windows and glazed panelled doors. Interior of house to east has a living room with a reconstructed chimneybreast with wood-burning stove. Ceiling of living room has tongue-and-groove panelling. Hewn collars of couple trusses are visible. Additional purloin support to roof timbers installed in 1980s. Partitioned bedroom to east. Ladder rises to modern mezzanine level over bedroom.

Appraisal The pair of houses, which were originally part of a larger terrace, read as a single dwelling. As vernacular thatched structures, they are of architectural interest and contribute to the character of the locality. Notable features include hewn roof timbers and a large buttress to the front.



Record No. FCC-TS-44

NIAH -

RMP

RPS 380

ITM east 721390.5575

ITM north 746369.5893

Name Peagram's Cottage

Address Sea Road, Malahide

Townland Yellow Walls

Description Southeast-facing semidetached direct-entry five-bay single-storey thatched house, built c.1830 as a labourer's cottage for Malahide Castle, with flat-roofed extension to rear. Set within its own grounds. Pitched oaten straw roof with flush bobbin ridge having bamboo rodding and lattice band. Bamboo rodding to eaves. Scollops to verges. Concrete coping to party line and to north gable. Painted render and brick chimneystacks with yellow terracotta chimneypots. Painted roughcast render. Square-headed window openings with painted sills and timber casement windows. Square-headed door opening to façade with replacement glazed and battened timber half door. House originally had a single bedroom and a living room. The owner partitioned the bedroom but opened up the room and installed an en suite bathroom. Extension replaced earlier one c.2012. Painted rendered garden wall to road with timber pedestrian and vehicular gates. Mature garden to front and north with yard to rear.

Appraisal The thatched vernacular house is of architectural interest. It has been sensitively restored over the years and is beautifully kept. It is one of the last surviving historic thatches in the area.



Record No. FCC-TS-45

NIAH 11351006

RMP

RPS 479

ITM east 722066.3825

ITM north 743348.2390

Name The Thatched Cottage

Address Strand Road

Townland Burrow (Co By.) Malahide ED. Portmarnock

Description South-facing detached three-bay single-storey thatched house with gable to road. Mid-20th-century flat-roofed porch was removed from façade to facilitate construction of thatched lobby entrance bay and a formerly thatched four-bay single-storey extension, both added to south in 1975. Set within its own grounds. Pitched wheat straw thatched roof with flush bobbin ridge and bamboo rodding and skivvers. Chicken wire to ridge and east end of roof. Bull wire sways to rear slope with skivvers. Brick and concrete chimney stacks with yellow terracotta pots can concrete mortar to base. Painted smooth render to north rear elevation and painted random-coursed stonework to gable at road. Square-headed window openings to north elevation with replacement timber casement windows without sills. Thatched roof was removed from the 1975 extension and a new metal roof was installed. Brick and concrete chimneystack to ridge with terracotta pot. New two-storey house built to eastern part of garden. Random-coursed rubble stone walls to road. Timber palisade fence on inside of boundary wall. Reconstructed stone gate piers with timber and steel vehicular gate that replaced wrought-iron gate piers. Pedestrian gate to south with brick archway.

Appraisal The house, which sits perpendicular to Strand Road, is the last surviving thatched building in Portmarnock, and as such is of architectural interest. The roof is presently in need of attention and the formerly thatched rear extension has been reroofed with new sheeting. The site has been greatly modified with the building of a large dwelling to the east which has eroded the character of the traditional setting.



Record No. FCC-TS-46

NIAH 11358037

RMP

RPS 545

ITM east 724446.8459

ITM north 740481.8440

Name

Address 1 Main Street, Baldoyle

Townland Stapolin

Description East-facing detached three-bay single storey thatched house with single and two-storey extension to rear. Fronts directly onto road. Enclosed yard to north. Pitched oaten straw roof with reed to eaves, rethatched in 2022 at time of survey. Ornamental block ridge with bamboo lattice and rodding was removed and replaced with a flush bobbin ridge. Bamboo eaves rodding. Roughcast-rendered chimneystacks to gables with terracotta chimney pots. Three-light rooflight to rear slope of thatch. Roughcast render to walls with smooth coping to raised gables which were formed in concrete blockwork. Square-headed window openings with double-glazed single-pane timber sash windows and granite sills. Square-headed door opening with replacement timber battened doors. Internal wall partitions have been removed from the interior of the thatched house to form a single room. Mezzanine storage area under roof. Timber battened double leaf gates to north open to small yard. Front door to house is set within the single-storey bay of the extension. Standing-seam zinc roof with rendered and timber clad walls. Square-headed window openings to extension with aluminium casement windows.

Appraisal The house at Baldoyle is the last thatched vernacular building in the area. It was renovated in recent years and was being rethatched at the time of the 2022 survey by Peter Childs. The interior of the thatched building is presently used as a single room, having lost its internal partitions. A large modern extension is situated to the rear.



Record No. FCC-TS-47

NIAH 11349003

RMP

RPS 604

ITM east 717034.4428

ITM north 742164.5282

Name

Address Swords Road, Cloghran, Swords

Townland Collinstown

Description East-facing detached three-bay single-storey thatched house with loft, flat-roofed porch, renovated in 2017. Four-bay single-storey extension with loft to north and extension to rear, added 2019. Set within its own grounds. Pitched wheaten straw roof with ornamental bobbin block ridge having bamboo lattice and rodding to ridge and bamboo rodding to eaves and verges. Red brick chimneystack with terracotta pots to junction between thatch and slate roofs. Pitched slate roof to north extension with roof lights, PVC soffit and rainwater goods and fascia. Renewed lime render to clay walls of house. Batter to south gable which was rebuilt following collapse c. 2000. Monocouche render to north extension. Square-headed window openings with uPVC windows and painted concrete sills. Stone-clad walls to porch with flat felt-covered concrete roof. Square-headed door opening with replacement uPVC door. North extension having square-headed door opening with uPVC door and side lights. Flat roof to rear extension. Pebbledash render to front boundary wall have smooth coping and wrought-iron railings. Wrought-iron pedestrian entrance gate. Palisade timber fence to north end of garden.

Appraisal The house has been recently restored and has an ornamental block ridge which is not traditional within Fingal. It is one of two located in the immediate area close to Dublin airport. As a rare thatched house, it is of architectural interest.



Record No. FCC-TS-48

NIAH 11349004

RMP

RPS Was on RPS but delisted

ITM east 717073.4344

ITM north 742153.5303

Name Dardistown House

Address Swords Road, Dardistown, Swords

Townland Dardistown

Description South-facing detached L-plan direct-entry seven bay single-storey house with rear returns to north. Set within its own grounds. Hipped reed thatched roof reconstructed in 1988-1990, gabled to east and to rear returns. Painted timber barge-boards to gables. Timber A-frames were installed over concrete ring beam to carry the reed roof. Butt-up reed ridge with chicken wire over. Rebuilt smooth-rendered chimneystacks with terracotta pots and cowls. Painted smooth cement render to clay, brick and stone walls. Square-headed window openings with replacement triple-glazed casement windows. Windbreak has round-headed door opening that accesses square-headed door opening with lead overlight and bolecion-panelled door. Front door opens to linear hallway that runs the length of the front elevation. Dining room and bedroom to east, kitchen, breakfast room and bathroom to north and sitting room and bedroom to west. Breakfast room has terrazzo to floor and to dado level of walls. Internal window joinery including architraves and shutters throughout. Door architraves and flat-panelled doors to interior rooms. Painted fireplaces to dining room and sitting room. According to owner, early partition walls were constructed in cob. Enclosed rear yard to north with blocked pedestrian gate pier within boundary wall. Garden and driveway to south of house. Property is bounded to road by painted rendered wall and entrance gates.

Appraisal The L-plan house is well maintained and complemented by a mature garden. The roof was entirely replaced c.1988 with reed. At the time a ring beam was constructed. Internally, notable features include a terrazzo floor and walls to a rear room and window and door joinery. The windows were recently replaced to block out the excessive sound associated with the airport.



Record No. FCC-TS-49

NIAH

RMP DU002-011----

RPS 16

ITM east 719669.1059

ITM north 764036.7824

Name Tankardville

Address Breacan Close, Balbriggan

Townland Tankardstown

Description North-facing detached L-plan multiple-bay single-storey thatched former house with round entrance hall to front, L-plan slate-roofed section to north and extension to rear. Set within its own grounds with gardens to front and rear. Breacan Close estate built on its former lands to south. Now used as creche. Thatched roof replaced galvanised sheeting. To east, pitched oat over wheat straw roof with reed to eaves. Flush bobbin ridge with rows of bamboo rodding and a lattice band. Semi-circular roof over front entrance hall. Lattice band to eaves. Pitched slate roof with terracotta ridge and eaves flashing to west. Painted smooth-rendered chimneystacks with clay pots and wire cowls. Plastic rainwater goods to north. Painted smooth-rendered walls. Square-headed window openings with low painted line-tooled stone sills and six-over-six pane and two-over-two pane timber sash windows. Six-pane timber casement windows to circular entrance hall. Painted timber doorcase with four panelled door and tooled limestone step. Internally, early floor tiles are situated in teh hall. Cast-iron fireplaces have been boxed in. Historic outbuildings and enclosed yard to west are no longer extant.

Appraisal The former house is notable for its circular-plan hall and tall sash windows. It has a sense of formality which separates it from vernacular houses. The house is on the Record of Monuments and Places and is believed to be on the Down Survey.



Record No. FCC-TS-50

NIAH

RMP

RPS 108

ITM east 713212.4413

ITM north 760939.4903

Name Seamus Ennis Centre

Address Main Street, Naul

Townland Naul

Description West-facing detached lobby-entry seven-bay single-storey thatched arts centre and café. Originally a house and a café. Restored and thatched c.1999. Located on a corner in Naul Village and fronts directly to road. Pitched reed thatched roof replaced galvanised sheeting c.1999. Bobbin block ridge with bamboo rodding. Bamboo eaves rodding. Raised gables with concrete coping. Roofing membrane over rafters. Painted pebbledash render to walls with smooth rendered plinth. Concrete blockwork to each gable. Square-headed window openings with patent reveals, painted concrete sills and two-over-two pane timber sash windows with ogee horns. Square-headed door openings with glazed and battened timber doors. Transverse wall at north end is clay at attic level. New timbers, roofing membrane and ceilings installed. Fire upgrades works done c.2011. Refurbished café located within thatched building. Further offices, theatre and facilities to rear with yard and stage to north.

Appraisal The Seamus Ennis Centre was thatched following the removal of earlier corrugated sheeting. It is of architectural interest and enlivens the heart of Naul Village. Internally, a clay transverse wall can be seen within the roof space.



Record No. FCC-TS-51

NIAH 11311030

RMP

RPS 230

ITM east 724967.9436

ITM north 759956.6302

Name The Small Windmill, Skerries Mill

Address The Small Windmill, Skerries Mill

Townland Townparks (BA. E. BY)

Description Free-standing circular plan stone windmill with conical reed-thatch roof having wind vane to apex. Four timber sails. Set within parkland to south of Skerries Mill complex. Second windmill to northwest. Windmill reconstructed. Coursed random rubble walls. Concrete ring beam. Thatch apex having horizontal lattice band with chicken wire over. Projecting canopy over sail mechanism having chicken wire over. Chicken wire to eaves soffit with timber scollops and metal skivvers. Ridge repaired c.2015 with wheaten straw by Alan Grimes.

Appraisal The windmill has a reconstructed roof and sails. As a site of industrial heritage interest it an important local amenity.



Record No. FCC-TS-52

NIAH 11327006

RMP

RPS 331

ITM east 712426.5039

ITM north 750266.8030

Name

Address Detached House and Former Thatched Dwelling, Rowlestown Village

Townland Killossery

Description South-facing detached three-bay single-storey former thatched house, set within a farm complex. Hipped corrugated-iron roof with timber soffit. Painted roughcast-rendered walls with exposed random-coursed stonework to base. Square-headed window openings. Square-headed door opening with timber battened door to façade with concrete and stone steps. Square-headed window opening to east side wall with timber boarding. Mature yew tree directly to east. House faces a four-bay single-storey outbuilding with pitched corrugated-iron roof and painted random-coursed stone walls. Corrugated-iron hay barn, farmyard and later outbuildings with smooth cement render to south. Detached three-bay two-storey storey farmhouse, built c.1900 to southwest, with hipped tiled roof, smooth cement render, canted-bay windows and hipped-roofed porch, and replacement uPVC windows. Random-coursed stone boundary wall to road with circular-plan gate pier.

Appraisal The corrugated-iron sheeting has saved this uninhabited thatched house from ruin. The house, opposing outbuilding and wider farm structures are a good example of traditional vernacular farm complexes in North Dublin. The former house lies to the north of the important mill site at Killossery.



Record No. FCC-TS-53

NIAH

RMP DU011-057002-

RPS 334

ITM east 712487.4894

ITM north 750102.8381

Name Killossery Mill

Address Killossery, Rowlestown Village

Townland Killossery

Description East-facing detached single-storey former miller's house with corrugated-iron roof having entrance porch on east wall. Set within a complex to the south of the river. Hipped corrugated-iron roof. Painted roughcast-rendered walls. Painted flat-arch brick window and door openings with brick reveals and painted sills. Painted gable-fronted entrance porch with tiled roof, timber fascia and rainwater goods. Small square-headed opening in east wall above apex of porch roof. Openings are propped with timber. Site was secured and not accessible. Structure was recorded from the road.

Appraisal The mill complex at Rowlestown is an important site of architectural and industrial heritage interest. In recognition of its significance, it is both a protected structure and recorded monument. The site was not accessed during the survey.



Record No. FCC-TS-54

NIAH

RMP

RPS 887

ITM east 723757.1765

ITM north 757831.0966

Name

Address Vernacular Farm Complex, Baldongan Cross Roads

Townland Baldongan

Description Vernacular farm complex located at crossroads across road from a second vernacular farm complex. Complex comprises house with front site, rear farmyard, a series of outbuildings and boundary wall. North-facing detached lobby-entry four-bay single-storey farmhouse with corrugated asbestos roof and windbreak to façade. Two-bay single-storey with loft stable attached to east end and ruined single-bay single-storey lean-to outbuilding abutting west end. Farmhouse is set within a vernacular farm complex. House faces road with enclosed garden to front. Pitched thatched roof and early timber structure were replaced with concrete ring bands to front and rear, sawn roof timbers and corrugated asbestos sheeting c.1950. Painted roughcast-rendered walls. Square-headed window openings with remains of three-over-six timber sash windows and painted stone sills. Square-headed door openings to façade windbreak and to rear elevation with timber battened doors. Detached three-bay single-storey outbuilding is located at the northwest corner of the complex and is built along the front boundary wall. Pitched corrugated-iron roof with painted random-coursed stone walls. Two-bay piggery to northeast corner of front site. Piggery has random-coursed stone walls with a lean-to corrugated-iron roof abutting the curved corner of the boundary wall. Enclosed yards to front of piggery with wrought-iron gate. Outbuilding to south of piggery forms complex's eastern boundary. Outbuilding was used to house barley and oats as well as a tractor.

Appraisal The farm complex at Baldongan crossroads is a significant vernacular complex. Although the farmhouse lost its thatched roof in the 1950s, the replacement sheeting saved the original interior which contains a loft stair, open hearth, partitioned bedrooms and a parlour. The traditional farmyard with associated outbuildings, gates, piggery and walls is a fine example of traditional Irish agricultural complexes.



Record No. FCC-TS-55

NIAH

RMP

RPS 897

ITM east 721033.7233

ITM north 755034.7178

Name Thatched Cottage

Address Quickpenny Road, Lusk

Townland Regles

Description East-facing former pair of detached houses, renovated and thatched c.2005 to form lobby-entry four-bay single-storey house with two-bay linear extension to north and slate-roofed extension to rear connected to the thatched house by a flat-roofed link. Windbreak to front and lean-to porch to north gable of thatched house. House fronts directly to street. Pitched reconstructed oaten thatched roof with shallow eaves. Flush bobbin ridge with bamboo rodding and chicken wire. Bamboo rodding to eaves and verges. Chicken wire to verges. Reconstructed painted smooth-rendered chimneys with copper flashing to bases. Patch repairs in straw secured with bull wire sways and skivvers. Bull wire sways and skivvers to verges. Copper flashing to north verge where original house meets the northern addition. Concrete coping to gables. Lead-flashed flat roof to porch. Painted roughcast-rendered walls. Square-headed window openings with replacement limestone sills and replacement one-over-one sash windows. Timber battened door to porch. Painted roughcast-rendered gate piers with metal vehicular to south of house opens to rear site.

Appraisal Formerly two vernacular houses that were in poor condition, the dwellings were combined, renovated and thatched in the early 2000s. The thatched home contributes to the streetscape and character of the Lusk area. The present coat of thatch is quite shallow in comparison to historic roofs.



Record No. FCC-TS-56

NIAH

RMP

RPS

ITM east 719978.0132

ITM north 761404.3486

Name Thatch Cottage

Address Coach Road, Balrothery

Townland Balrothery

Description West-facing detached lobby-entry four-bay two-storey thatched house, reconstructed c.1995, with thatched porch and thatched two-storey extension to rear. Set back from road behind timber picket fence. Pitched dormer reed roof thatched in 1990s. Block bobbin ridge with four rows of bamboo rodding and a lattice band. Copper flashing to top of porch roof. Raised rendered gables. Painted smooth-rendered chimneystack to centre of ridge. Painted smooth rendered walls. Square-headed window openings with painted concrete sills and four-over-four pane casement windows. Square-headed door opening to porch with timber battened door. Timber gate to south.

Appraisal The house was reconstructed, enlarged and rethatched with a reed roof in the 1990s. It is no longer of architectural heritage importance although it does contribute to the character of the streetscape. The reed roof and dormers are not traditional features in Fingal.



Record No. FCC-TS-57

NIAH

RMP

RPS

ITM east 719949.0195

ITM north 761421.3452

Name The Thatch Cottage

Address School Lane, Balrothery

Townland Balrothery

Description South-facing detached four-bay single-storey with dormer attic thatched house, built c.1995. Built directly to east of another modern thatched house. Half-hipped reed thatched roof with recently renewed straw ornamental bobbin block ridge. Trefoil scalloping detail to block ridge with rows of bamboo and a band of latticework. Central chimneystack to ridge with terracotta pot, cowl and aerial. Painted smooth-rendered walls. Square-headed window openings with painted concrete sills and timber casement windows. Square-headed door opening to south with timber battened door. Enclosed yard to south side with timber palisade gate. Flagstone paving at base of house. House is approached from the east via a gravel-covered driveway that is bounded by a steel vehicular gate. Driveway runs parallel to School Lane.

Appraisal The house was entirely constructed in the 1990s and is not of architectural heritage importance.



Record No. FCC-TS-58

NIAH 11319005

RMP

RPS

ITM east 706315.8500

ITM north 754923.8328

Name Man O'War Bar & Restaurant

Address Courtlough, Balbriggan

Townland Courtlough

Description East-facing end-of-terrace lobby-entry six-bay single-story thatched public house, built 1595, with windbreak to front and extensions to south and rear. Fronts directly onto road. Public house and restaurant extends into adjoining buildings within the row south. Beer garden and car park to rear of pub. Hipped reed-thatched roof with block ridge having lead flashing to ridge. Painted rendered chimneystacks. Bamboo rodding and chicken wire to ridge. Roof is hipped to north. Painted textured render to façade. Square-headed window openings with two-over-two pane timber sash windows with painted sills. Square-headed door opening with double-leaf timber battened door to façade with panelled door to rear elevation. Directly to south of the thatched pub is a three-bay two-storey former house with pitched fibre-cement tiled roof having rooflights, painted smooth-rendered walls, uPVC casement windows and a timber panelled door. To the south is of this is single-bay single-storey section with an integral carriage arch having a pitched fibre-cement tiled roof having rooflights and painted textured rendered walls. Group is terminated by a two-bay single-storey structure with pitched fibre-cement tiled roof with painted textured rendered walls having a timber casement window and battened timber door with cast-iron wall-mounted post box. Porch of thatched pub opens to lobby that affords access to bar to north and lounge bar to south. Interior of thatched pub has a mosaic-tiled floor to entrance porch. Pub to north and lounge bar to south. Open fires to north and south. Recorder was not permitted to inspect roof space.

Appraisal The Man O'War Bar & Restaurant is a landmark within the locality. The thatched structure is part of a larger terrace. The early lobby entry arrangement with rooms to each side remain to this day. According to the owner, the deeds date from 1595, however this date has not been confirmed by documentary evidence. The public house is a building of architectural and social interest.



Record No. FCC-TS-59

NIAH

RMP

RPS

ITM east 721395.5564

ITM north 746371.5889

Name

Address 10 Sea Road

Townland Yellow Walls

Description Southeast-facing semidetached formerly direct-entry five-bay single-storey house with two-storey extension to east and rear under renovation at time of survey. Set within its own grounds. House was newly thatched in 2022 following removal of asbestos roof tiles. Pitched oaten straw roof with reed supporting eaves to front elevation. Flush bobbin ridge having bamboo rodding and lattice band fixed with hairpin scollops. Bamboo rodding to eaves. Scollops to verges. Screw and wire fixings hold the base course of straw in place. Concrete coping to party line and to north gable. Smooth-rendered and brick chimneystacks with yellow terracotta chimneypots. Exterior elevations rendered with Diasen Diathonite to be finished with a lime-based roughcast render. Vertical charred larch battens to elevations of new extension. New two-over-two timber sash windows. Original front door converted to window. Door opens to stair hall. Two room to west and new kitchen extension and utility to rear. Timber stairs rises to first floor bedroom, bathroom and closet. Under floor heating with air to water heat pump. Polished concrete flooring to ground floor. Yards to front and rear. Ceiling to first floor formed with two layers of 12 mm MultiPro fire cement boards which is staggard and tapped.

Appraisal 10 Sea Road has been newly thatched, renovated and enlarged in 2022. The oaten straw roof, by Peter Childs, was designed to mirror the existing historic thatched roof of the adjacent cottage. The new thatch replaced a tiled mid-20th-century roof. The installation of a new straw roof, in keeping with the traditional style of Fingal, contributes to the thatching industry which supports thatchers and suppliers of materials.



Record No. FCC-TS-60

NIAH

RMP

RPS

ITM east 723802

ITM north

757860

Name

Address Baldongan, Skerries

Townland Baldongan

Description Corner-sited vernacular farmyard complex situated across the road from a second vernacular house and farmyard complex. Row of three single-storey outbuildings aligned on a north-south axis with farmyard to west. Pitched corrugated-iron roofs. Central structure has a red brick chimneystack to north end. Concrete coping to verges. Painted roughcast-rendered walls. Square-headed window openings with remains of window frames and chicken wire. Square-headed door openings with sheet steel and timber battened doors. Group of three corrugated-iron and steel-framed haybarns to south. Circular-profile rubble stone gate piers to road. Rubble stone and concrete boundary walls to roads were recently painted.

Appraisal The farm complex at Baldongan crossroads is a significant vernacular complex and is situated across the road from a second complex.



Record No. FCC-TS-61

NIAH

RMP

RPS

ITM east 724763

ITM north

757087

Name St Anthony's

Address Baldungan, Lusk, Co. Dublin

Townland Baldongan

Description Southwest-facing L-plan four-bay single-storey with dormer attic house, built c.1903 as a two-roomed labourer's cottage for Ardgillan Castle. West wing and thatched dormer attic added in 1995. Original part of house is to south. Conservatory added c.2020. Set within its own grounds to the north of Ballaghstown Lane. Pitched French reed thatched roof with eyebrow-shaped timber casement dormer windows. Marine ply and lead sheet flashing to ridge. Smooth-rendered chimneystack. Raised gables. Early part of house constructed with mud walls. Extension built in blockwork. Some blockwork to west gable has been affected by pyrite. Concrete ring beam added. Painted smooth cement render. Square-headed window openings with concrete sills and double-glazed timber casement windows. Square-headed door opening to front with salvaged timber battened door. Sidelights flank door. Hipped terracotta-tiled roof to conservatory. Detached three-bay single-storey with loft studio built to west of house with pitched Turkish reed thatched roof having raised gables. Marine ply and lead sheet flashing to ridge. Painted smooth-rendered walls. Square-headed window openings with painted concrete sills and double-glazed timber casement windows. Square-headed door opening with timber battened door. Wrought-iron gate to east.

Appraisal The L-plan house is a modern thatched residence with a reed roof that incorporates the original slate-roofed labourer's cottage in the 1990s. According to the owner, the original slate-roofed cottage is the part of the house that is abutted by the modern conservatory. The house is of modest architectural interest.



Record No. FCC-TS-62

NIAH

RMP

RPS

ITM east 726825

ITM north

756907

Name Hill Vue

Address Loughshinny

Townland Loughshinny

Description Semidetached direct-entry three-bay single-storey with loft house with gable-fronted porch to front and extension to rear. Formerly one of a group of three thatched houses. Fronts directly onto road. Thatched roof replaced a tiled roof. Pitched reed thatched roof with ornamental bobbin block ridge and chicken wire throughout. Bottom half of rear slope is tiled. Straw used on porch and ridge. Bamboo lattice band to ridges of roof and porch. Bamboo eaves rodding. Smooth-rendered chimneystack to gable with terracotta pot and cowl. Painted smooth-rendered façade and porch with pebbledash render to west gable having smooth cement render to coping. Square-headed window openings with uPVC casement windows and painted concrete sills. Square-headed door opening to porch with timber battened door. Conservatory roof to kitchen extension to rear. Entrance porch opens to living room. Replacement timber stairs rises to loft. Exposed random-coursed stone walls with plaster to dado level to living room. Rendered and painted chimneybreast to west with segmental-headed hearth opening. Timber floorboards. Kitchen and bathroom to rear. Bedroom to loft.

Appraisal The house in the village of Loughshinny may have been built to house a miner, according to the owner. The roof was not always thatched and was previously tiled. The previous owners decided to thatch it. The house was extended to the rear with a conservatory-style kitchen. The house is of modest architectural interest.

