



A Guide to Protected Structures



WHY PROTECT OUR HISTORIC BUILDINGS?

The lands and coast of Fingal has attracted human settlement for millennia and these people have left behind a legacy in the buildings they constructed as places to live, work, worship, learn or used for leisure and recreation. The historic buildings that have survived to the present day (be they churches, castles, thatched cottages, farm houses & farm outbuilding complexes, large country estates, harbours, bridges, schools, libraries, historic terraces and townhouses) help create the special and unique character of a place. They contribute to the attractiveness or charm of a street, town, village or rural area, and often are key landmark buildings. There is a sense of history to them that they have stood for so long with some having specific associations with significant events or personalities of the past.

Many of the traditional materials and craft skills used to build them are no longer common practice and so they give us an insight into construction methods of the past that used locally sourced materials such as thatch, mud, lime, stone, and timber that still survive and function centuries after. The elaborate decoration of some show true artistry in the sculpting of stone, carving of timber, mounding of decorative plasterwork, or creation of stained glass windows that is rarely seen nowadays in modern construction.

They can demonstrate the evolution of technical or innovative advances in construction methods. They can also be a rare or unique example of their structure type and so their loss or inappropriate alteration can have far-reaching implications. Their retention and re-use embodies the principles of sustainable development of not discarding or wasting resources. The protection of our historic buildings by designating Protected Structures is to ensure that we safeguarded our architectural heritage into the future for the next and subsequent generations.

WHAT EXACTLY IS A PROTECTED STRUCTURE?

A protected structure is a building or structure that has been identified as being of special

- Architectural Interest
- Historical Interest
- Archaeological Interest
- Artistic Interest
- Cultural Interest
- Scientific Interest
- Social Interest
- Technical Interest

A Protected Structures does not necessarily have to be attractive to look at to merit protection but could be of interest as an example of a rare or declining building type in the county, or may be a simple structure that has an association with a significant historical person or event or has a very special meaning to the local community, or it can be an example of innovative construction methods for its time.

The protected designation covers all parts of the structure that contribute to its character and special interest and so (unless otherwise specifically stated in the description in the Record of Protected Structures) includes the exterior, interior, fixture and fittings, the land within the curtilage (boundary), and any ancillary buildings within the curtilage.

HOW IS A BUILDING ADDED TO THE RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES?

Every local authority is legally obliged to have a Record of Protected Structures. Additions to the Record of Protected Structures can be made during the review of the Fingal Development Plan or outside of this time by using Section 55 of the Planning and Development Acts. The first step is to visit and assess the structure. A judgement is then made whether the structure is of sufficient special interest to continue with the process to add it to the Record. If it is decided to proceed to



