

Thatch Repair Grant Scheme 2026

Information

County Donegal is home to one of the largest surviving concentrations of thatch structures in Ireland. Our thatched buildings are one of the most iconic and enduring images of County Donegal. They lend character to our cultural landscapes; they are indicative of our sense of place, our traditional skills and our resourcefulness; they can be sensitively adapted to meet modern family demands; they invoke our diaspora and support our tourism industry. Despite their importance and potential, the loss of our thatched buildings, especially in recent years, has been considerable.

Donegal County Council recognises the contribution that thatched dwellings and outbuildings make to our built heritage, cultural landscape, employment, economy and tourism. The aims of the Thatch Repair Grant Scheme are to (i) provide specialist advice to owners on the conservation of their thatched structures; (ii) allocate funding for small-scale thatch repairs and associated works to vernacular buildings; and/or (iii) facilitate homeowners to undertake thatch repairs under conservation supervision.

Important note:

All sections of the form must be completed by the applicant.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

For further information:

Please contact Donegal County Council's Conservation Officer or Heritage Officer

E-mail: thatch@donegalcoco.ie

Telephone: (074) 915 3900



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



Ceangal

Clár den Chomhairle Oidhreachta
A Heritage Council programme

*An Action of the County Donegal Heritage Plan
Funded by Donegal County Council & The Heritage Council*

The Small Print

1. The Thatch Repair Grant Scheme provides funding for small-scale thatch repairs between €500 and €3,000. Larger allocations may be made in exceptional circumstances and as limited resources allow.
2. The application submission deadline is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

Applications can be submitted by e-mail to:
thatch@donegalcoco.ie

Application can also be sent by post or delivered in person to:
Thatch Repair Grant Scheme,
c/o Heritage Officer / Conservation Officer
Donegal County Council,
County House,
Lifford,
County Donegal.

3. All works must be completed by end of October 2026.
4. It is important that you provide as much detail as possible on your application form as applicants will be marked in accordance with the application criteria set out below and shortlisted on this basis. **Recent front and rear photographs of your thatched property (including a photograph of the whole building exterior) must be included with your application.** Internal photographs of the roof timbers (where possible) would also be helpful. Photographs submitted will be used to shortlist thatched buildings for consideration for funding.
5. Funding under this scheme cannot be used to remove historic thatch, timbers or roof carpentry. Note that an historic thatched roof cannot be replaced without prior written permission from Donegal County Council as it constitutes a material alteration to the structure.
6. Any works that have not received prior approval will not be considered for funding. To be eligible for recouping funding, works to historic thatch roofs must comply with best conservation practice and the overall ethos of the Thatch Repair Grant Scheme.
7. Please submit Eircode (or nearest Eircode), a site location map, Google screenshot or hand-drawn map to show the exact location of your thatched property.
8. Applications will be assessed under the following criteria:

Application Criteria:

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| ▪ Significance of historic thatch and/or thatching method and evidence of original building fabric | 30 marks |
| ▪ Essential repairs to safeguard the building and appropriate nature of proposed repairs | 40 marks |
| ▪ Experience and confirmed availability of thatcher to undertake the work | 20 marks |
| ▪ Private investment/in-kind contribution by owner/occupier and commitment of owner as guardian of the building | 10 marks |

Total

100 marks
