

Eligible works

What types of works will be funded?

The Scheme is intended to fund the appropriate repair and conservation of historic structures with works that:

- Are sympathetic to the character and special interest of the structure
- Are of a standard that matches the historical detailing, materials and techniques

Certain works may be funded that will improve the energy efficiency of historic buildings.

What types of works will not be funded?

The Scheme cannot be used to fund the following types of works:

- Routine maintenance and minor repairs
- Alterations and improvements (except certain approved works to improve energy efficiency)
- Demolition (except where this is part of an approved project of careful dismantling prior to reinstatement)
- Works of conjectural reconstruction where there is no sound physical or documentary evidence of the earlier state of the structure or element

Further information on eligible works can be found in Circular BHIS 17/1.

Where to get further information

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme is administered by the local authorities. Further information, including a circular outlining the details of the Scheme (BHIS 17/1), together with application forms, are available on the website of each local authority.

Applicants should contact the relevant planning section or architectural conservation officer in their local authority with any queries regarding this Scheme.

For guidance on architectural heritage conservation principles and undertaking works to historic buildings, please refer to the *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities* published by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The Department's *Advice Series* gives guidance on how best to repair, maintain and adapt historic buildings. These publications can be purchased from Government Publications or through any bookshop or can be downloaded from the Department's website:

<http://www.ahg.gov.ie/app/uploads/2015/07/Architectural-Heritage-Protection-Guidelines-2011.pdf>

A guide to the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2017



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Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2017

Background and purpose of the BHIS

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme seeks to encourage the investment of private capital in a number of small-scale, labour-intensive projects to repair and conserve historic structures and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craft workers and tradespeople. The scheme is designed to assist the owners/occupiers of protected structures. It will operate through 2017 and be administered by the local authorities.

Which structures are eligible?

The categories of structures eligible for funding under this scheme are:

- **Protected structures**
- **Proposed protected structures** (where these have been added to the Record of Protected Structures before 31 December 2016)
- Structures that contribute to the character of an **Architectural Conservation Area**

Who can apply?

An applicant must be the owner or occupier of the building. Where the applicant is not the owner, written proof of the owner's consent to the project will be required.

What funding is available?

The minimum award of funding under this scheme will be €2,500 up to a maximum of €10,000. The successful applicant will be required to fully match the funding awarded.

How to apply

Application forms and a circular outlining the details of the scheme (BHIS 17/1) are available on the website of each local authority or by contacting the relevant section of the local authority. Applicants should read circular BHIS 17/1, complete **Form A** and submit it to the local authority before the advertised deadline. Applicants should note that the deadline will be in **February 2017**. The local authority will assess all applications received and issue notices of provisional approval to a number of projects. Successful applicants may then be required to prepare a detailed **method statement** on the nature and scale of the proposed works. If approved by the local authority, a firm offer of funding will then be made.

No application for funding can be considered where the relevant works have already started.

Statutory consents

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all necessary statutory permissions and/or consents are obtained before any works commence. This includes planning permission or, in the case of structures or sites also protected under the National Monuments Acts, notification or Ministerial Consent, as appropriate.

How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed by the local authority based on the following criteria:

- **Significance of the structure:**

All protected structures, proposed protected structures and structures in architectural conservation areas which are of special interest under one or more of the following categories: architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical.

It is a matter for the local authority to determine the level of significance of the particular structure for which works are proposed.

- **Effectiveness of the works:**

The proposed works should demonstrate value for money and make a significant contribution to eliminating risks to architectural heritage and prevent further deterioration of the structure, thus ensuring its survival into the future.

- **Employment benefits:**

The value of job creation for the particular project should also be taken into account including the estimated total number of days of employment required for the duration of the project and the types of jobs.