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Irish
Georgian
Society



Traditional Skills Training for Local Authorities & ERDF THRIVE Projects

The Magazine Fort, Phoenix Park | 21st September 2026



Images © OPW



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Aitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



NBHS

An tAidil Oidhreacht
Tigh na hOidhreacht
Heritage Service

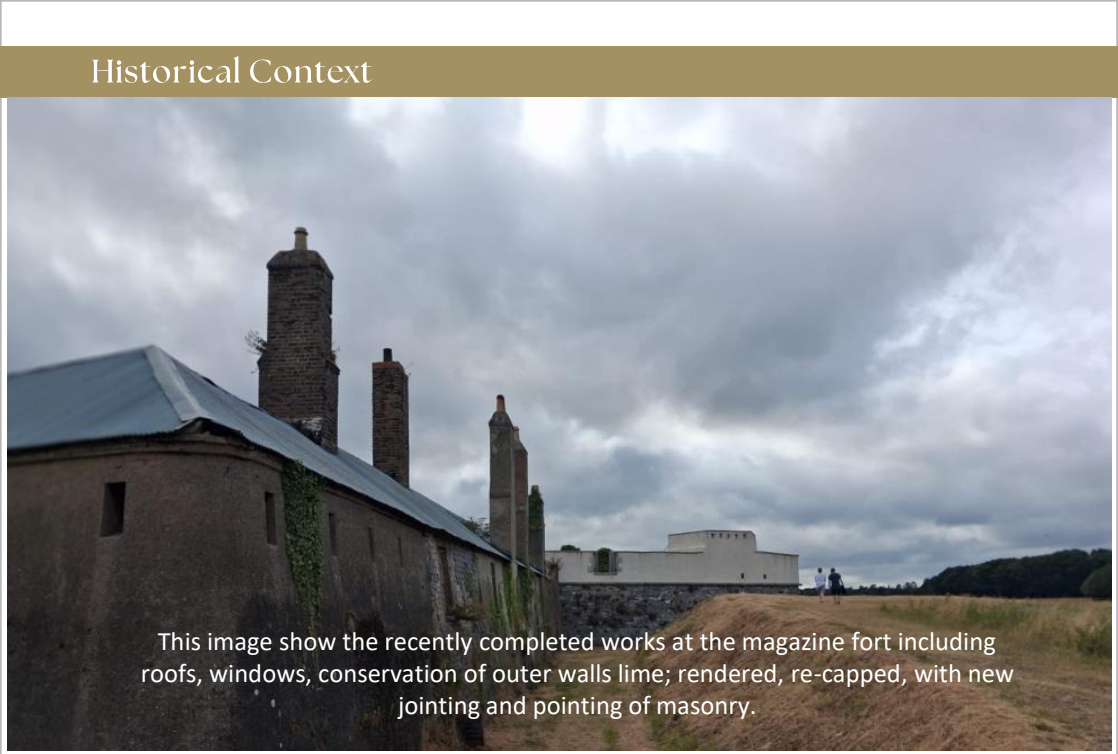


OPW

Óifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



***THRIVE** is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Northern and Western Regional Programme and the ERDF Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021-27.*



This image shows the recently completed works at the magazine fort including roofs, windows, conservation of outer walls lime; rendered, re-capped, with new jointing and pointing of masonry.

The recently conserved Magazine Fort, Phoenix Park, Dublin

Magazine Fort, Phoenix Park is in the ownership of OPW. After two years of meticulous work, by the Office of Public Works, the Magazine Fort stabilisation and restoration project in Phoenix Park has been successfully completed, breathing new life into one of Dublin's most significant historic military sites.

Built between 1734 and 1736 during the reign of King George II, the Magazine Fort was commissioned by the Duke of Dorset, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Designed by military engineer John Corneille, the fort was constructed as a secure 'magazine' to store and supply gunpowder and ammunition to British Government forces. Its classic square layout features four demi-bastions and is surrounded by a dry moat, embodying 18th-century military architecture. Works at the site also included the significant restoration works to the stone archway/entrance to the Magazine fort led by OPW.

<https://heritageireland.ie/2025/12/restoring-history-the-magazine-fort-revival/>

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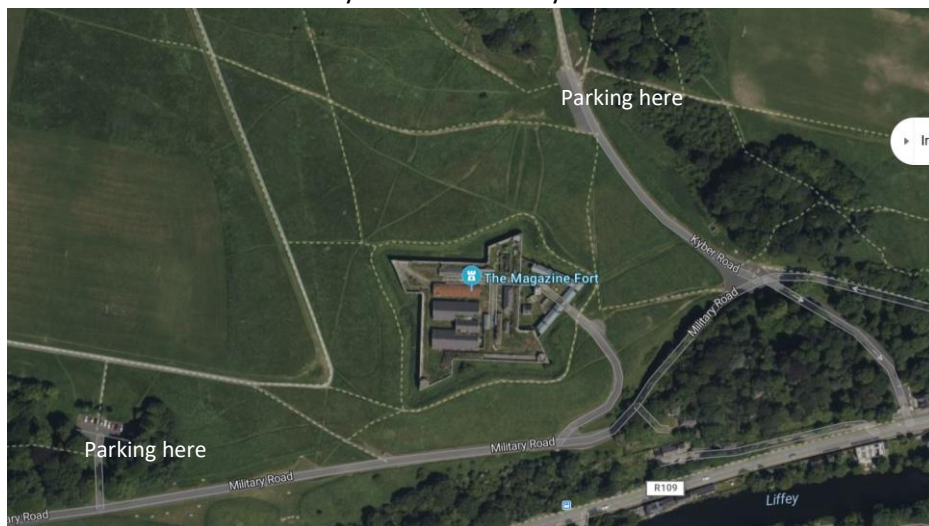
Venue

The Magazine Fort Phoenix Park is immediately accessible to all attendees via Heuston or Connolly Stations, which in turn connect to Luas cross city routes. The site is accessible from nearby bus route Conyngham Road, by taxi from Heuston Station, and from car parking areas within the Phoenix Park. Refer to; <https://www.transportforireland.ie/plan-a-journey/>

- Bus 80 towards Liffey Valley to stop 1474 takes approx. 12 mins
- Red line/Luas plus Bus 80 takes approx. 40 mins

This will be an outdoor event in the main with repaired ancillary covered fort spaces used if weather deteriorates. The presentations during the course of the day will take place within the historic ammunition storage building.

Lunch and refreshments will be available on site throughout the day. Good footwear and warm layers are necessary.



Note; This event will be recorded/filmed and attendance at the event is accepted as consent to take photographs/film on the day. If this is an issue please contact nicola.matthews@housing.gov.ie directly.

Traditional Skills for Local Authorities & Design Teams of ERDF THRIVE Funded projects, 21st September 2026.

'**Head, Hands and Heart**' practical experience will take place in the Magazine Fort, Phoenix Park. A bespoke programme arising from the unique project at the Magazine Fort in Phoenix Park, to be led by Shane Nolan of Nolan's Group Conservation & Restoration Ltd., supported by OPW Heritage Services and project managed by the Irish Georgian Society (IGS) with National Built Heritage Service (NBHS). IGS through its Conservation Education Programme (CEP) supported by the Heritage Council, are a leading stakeholder in terms of delivering and hosting traditional skills training days. OPW are the recipient's of the Europa Nostra Grand Prix for **Training Programme to Improve Energy Efficiency in Heritage Properties** and the **RIAI Conservation Award 2026** for the works at the Magazine Fort, Phoenix Park.

The Magazine Fort is the venue to gather at and to be orientated to the site etc. A series of lectures will be part of the programme for the day and include a talk on the OPW's Improving the ***Energy Performance of Heritage Properties in State Care Initiative***, which won the **Europa Nostra Grand Prix Award 2026**. Further talks will be delivered by the Magazine Fort's main contractor, **Kelbuild** (Register of Heritage member) who will provide an overview of the conservation works to the Magazine Fort and Shane Nolan, MD of **Nolan's Group** (Register of Heritage Contractors member) on the specialist sub-contractors' skills required for the project. Accompanying the talks will be hands on practical demonstrations of those specialist traditional skills by **Nolan's Group** (Register of Heritage Contractors) (brick, stone and lime work); **Timeless Sash Windows** (historic joinery and windows repairs); **Crannog Roofing** (slating) and **Bushy Park Ironworks** (ironwork conservation).

This event is targeting multi-disciplinary heritage teams from Local Authorities /appointed design teams in receipt of ERDF THRIVE Funding. Local Authority attendees are essential to allow good interaction and knowledge sharing between projects and craftsmen and to create a long-term legacy from THRIVE. The Southern Regional Assembly (SRA) with Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) have requested an immersive day on traditional skills to enhance and add to the beauty criteria of **NEB** projects delivered under the ERDF THRIVE Funding programme. A well repaired building appropriate to its character has a recognisable and tangible quality. Local Authorities will have the opportunity to explore how similar traditional skills training days can become a legacy of their respective THRIVE project, supporting the local economy, adaptive reuse of vacant town centre buildings and supportive of the circular economy.

21st September 2026

9.30 Registration with Coffee

10.00 Welcome

Jacqueline Hall, Chairperson, Irish Georgian Foundation (IGS) & **Emmeline Henderson** Conservation Manager & Assistant Director, IGS.

10.05 Official Launch

Kevin 'Boxer' Moran, Minister of State, Office of Public Works.

10.15 Introduction to the Magazine Fort

Overview of the project with **Kenny Davy**, **Kelbuild**, Registered Heritage Contractor, CIF and Traditional Skills- **Shane Nolan**, **Nolan's Group** Conservation & Restoration Ltd.,

10.30 Looking at Brick in Historic Buildings

Susan Roundtree, retired Conservation Architect, FRIAI (non-practising)

10.50 Looking at Windows in Historic Buildings

Dr Nessa Roche, Senior Architectural Advisor (NBHS)

11.10 Site Tours

With Audrey Farrell, **Angela Rueda**, **Shane Nolan**

12.30 'Head, Hands and Heart'

Traditional Skills in Action on site with **Nolan's Group** Conservation & Restoration Ltd., **Timeless Sash Windows**, **Bushy Park Ironworks & Crannog Roofing**.

Light Lunch, Refreshments served in the former Bakery building.

14.30 Improving Energy Efficiency in Heritage Properties

Dr. Caroline Engell Purcell, Office of Public Works, **Europa Nostra Grand Prix**;

15.00 Hands on Trad / Traditional Building Skills & THRIVE -

Michael Scott, Architectural Conservation Officer, Galway City Council

15.20 A culture of Adaptation & Reuse –

climate change action, maintenance, thermal efficiency circular economy, **Nicola Matthews**, Senior Architect, (NBHS) with **Tom Pollard**, Pollard Conservation & Restoration.



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Office of Public Works



NBHS

An tAidilín / Aidilíníocht
Tighthe Níallóire
National Parks
Heritage Service



Ciste na gCultúir

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

Biographies



Emmeline Henderson is the Conservation Manager & Assistant Director at the Irish Georgian Society. Responsible for the IGS's Conservation Education Programme (CEP), which is delivered with the support of NBHS, encompassing: the Society's *Traditional Building & Conservation Skills in Action Exhibition*, which is held annually in partnership with Local Authority Architectural Conservation Officers and Heritage Officers; the IGS's *Conserving Your Dublin Period House* course, a collaboration with DCC; the IGS's online conservation skills and academic registers; as well as other seminars, conferences and study days relating to the conservation and promotion of Ireland's architecture and decorative arts. Emmeline holds an MA in Architectural History (UCD), the Masters in Urban & Building Conservation (UCD)



Caroline Engel Purcell, PhD is an advisor to Office of Public Works and specialises in the energy upgrade and hygrothermal analysis of traditional and heritage buildings. She is the technical lead on the OPW 'Improving the Energy Performance of Heritage Properties in State Care' Initiative and is developing an internal programme of building fabric performance analysis. Prior to this, she conducted in-situ U-value tests for the UCD FabTrads project and was a lead author on the DHLGH Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings Guidance (2023).



Audrey Farrell, is an Office of Public Works Senior Conservation Architect (Grade I RIAI Conservation Accredited). She is responsible for maintenance, restoration and adaptation works across a range of heritage buildings and parks, including Dublin Castle, the Four Courts, the Magazine Fort in the Phoenix Park, Emo Court, and Kilmacurragh House at National Botanic Gardens. Audrey recently led the OPW 'Improving the Energy Performance of Heritage Properties in State Care' Initiative to develop guidance with supporting case-studies and training.



Nessa Roche, works as a senior architectural adviser in National Built Heritage Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. She holds a PhD in architectural conservation from Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, on the development of the window in Ireland c.1560-c.1860 and the implications for conservation. Nessa is the author of several publications including *The Legacy of Light: A History of Irish Windows* (Wordwell, 1999), and *Windows* edition of the Departmental Advice Series.

Biographies



Michael Scott was appointed as Galway City's first Architectural Conservation Officer in 2024, with key focus areas being the protection of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas, energy retrofit, adaptive reuse, grant support, buildings archaeology, vernacular heritage, public engagement, THRIVE, and bringing historic structures in GCC's ownership back into use. Michael has been utilising a vernacular farm complex in GCC's ownership, known as Fahy's Farm, as a hands-on training classroom for traditional building skills.



Susan Roundtree is a retired conservation architect with practice experience in both the public and private sectors. She obtained a Masters in Urban & Building Conservation from UCD in 1991 and a Master of Letters by research in TCD in 1999 for her research on Irish brickwork. She has contributed to a number of publications on building and architectural history and is author of 'Brickmaking in Ireland – a Gazetteer' published in 2023. She is an active member of the Building Limes Forum of Ireland, The British Brick Society, The Irish Georgian Society and ICOMOS Ireland.



Shane Nolan, is Director of Nolan's Group Conservation & Restoration Ltd., a well-respected specialist conservation firm working in the Irish conservation field for over 25 years. The firm employs a team of highly skilled employees, offering a combination of traditional skills and innovative repair techniques to cater for the conservation and sustainability demands presented by historic buildings. Nolan's Group have worked on some of Ireland's largest and most significant conservation projects, ranging from McKee Barracks for the Department of Defence, No. 3 Henrietta Street and many Georgian buildings in the various different squares in Dublin. Shane Nolan maintains a keen interest in the use, development and promotion of building limes, sensitive masonry repair and cleaning techniques, and serves on the board of the Building Limes Forum Ireland.



Nicola Matthews is a Senior Architect in National Built Heritage Service, (NBHS) and participates in the EU OMC working group and the implementation of EU architectural policy, 'Towards a shared culture of Architecture'. Nicola is the National Contact Point for the New European Bauhaus (NEB), an advisory role on cultural heritage regeneration and on integrating the NEB approach into the ERDF THRIVE Funding programme. transferring of EU architectural policy, knowledge, practice, and research, with the New European Bauhaus values and principles of beauty, sustainability, and inclusiveness, into Irish Towns.

Acknowledgements

This conference is presented by the Irish Georgian Society in partnership with the [National Built Heritage Service \(NBHS\)](#) and the [Office of Public Works \(OPW\)](#). The conference forms part of the IGS's Conservation Education Programme (CEP). The IGS wishes to acknowledge the vital support of NBHS of the CEP, as well as **The Heritage Council** for their wider support of the IGS through their [Heritage Organisation Fund 2026](#). The programming of the workshop was made possible by the support of many contributors, with expert input shaping the conference concept and bringing it to life. We extend particular thanks to **Nicola Matthews**, Senior Conservation Architect, National Contact Point New European Bauhaus, to **Audrey Farrell**, OPW Heritage Services and **Margaret Gormley**, Chief Park Superintendent Phoenix Park for providing access to such an inspirational setting for this training programme. We are also especially grateful to the skilled traditional craftsmen and expert conservation speakers, who have been so generous in sharing their knowledge and experience. Thanks to Southern Regional Assembly and the Northern and Western Regional Assembly for their support of the event and their on-going collaboration in delivering ERDF THRIVE Funding programme.



Image by National Built Heritage Service



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Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the
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Tionól Réigiúnach
an Tuaiscirt & an Iarthair
Northern & Western
Regional Assembly



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt
Southern Regional
Assembly