



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

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



STUDY OF LIME KILNS IN COUNTY DONEGAL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

May 2017

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

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

There were circa 5,000 lime kilns known to have existed in the nineteenth-century rural landscape of County Donegal.¹ Despite their abundance, surprisingly little is known about their distribution, form, and use, and little research has been done on the products they produced. The proposed study will investigate the distribution of lime kilns; identify their forms, components and construction; develop a typology; document specific case studies; suggest possible conservation measures and produce the text and illustrations for a booklet to assist with their interpretation and conservation.

This study of lime kilns addresses an overlooked aspect of our industrial heritage and cultural landscape, and provides an opportunity to capture some of the local knowledge associated with the use of lime kilns that is disappearing as the local practices and traditions associated with them are forgotten or considered redundant.

The study will be based on a methodology that involves desktop research, selected field investigation and the development of interpretive narratives. The selected methodology will draw upon local knowledge and existing documentary, cartographic and/or material evidence to identify the heritage value of lime kilns and to interpret, present and communicate their cultural significance.

The mapping and the establishment of a database of lime kilns will draw upon the interrogation of existing datasets and GIS mapping to identify their location and provide a description of known survivals. Preliminary research undertaken by the GIS Project Office, Donegal County Council will be made available to the successful researcher(s). The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage has already documented some of the lime kilns that still survive.² The GIS database will include coordinates in decimal degrees latitude and longitude in WGS84 or Irish National Grid.

Selected field survey will take place based on analysis of secondary sources and feedback from the public. The assistance of the general public and of landowners will be sought in identifying surviving examples of lime kilns for the study. Social media, local press and local radio will be utilised to enlist the cooperation of the public in identifying existing lime kilns and practices associated with them.

The development of a typology of lime kilns in County Donegal will be based on the empirical evidence and the limited academic research on lime kilns. A typology of lime kilns will be established (including draw kilns and flare kilns) and specific case studies will be developed highlighting the variety of lime kilns that exist. These case studies will include narratives that address issues such as form, function/use and conservation potential. Structural components such as the furnace shaft, masonry casing, draw-hole/smoke-hole and kiln head will be addressed to improve understanding and appreciation. The case studies will elaborate our understanding

¹ Research undertaken by GIS Project Office, Donegal County Council

² www.buildingsofireland.ie

of the various aspects of lime kilns and their emergence in cultural landscape of which they were an integral part.

Local and imported sources of limestone for lime kilns in County Donegal will be outlined in the study. Burning the limestone in lime kilns decomposed the limestone and converted it to quick lime or burnt lime. The lime was used in traditional building techniques (such as lime mortar or lime wash) and in agriculture (such as the application of lime to soils to reduce acidity and improve fertility) and as such the story of lime kilns has the ability to communicate part of the story of County Donegal's cultural landscape, built heritage and the practice of agriculture. The contribution that lime kilns make to the character of County Donegal's regional landscapes will also be addressed.

The study will also involve the preparation of text and illustrations for an A5-size booklet on the heritage of lime kilns in County Donegal to be published as part of the 'Donegal Heritage Series' in 2018. The dissemination of this information to a general audience has the potential to investigate, conserve or re-animate lime kilns in their own localities.

1.2 Objective

This Heritage Plan action addresses architectural heritage and landscapes as defined under the Heritage Act (1995). The proposed study of lime kilns addresses Action 5.5 in the County Donegal Heritage Plan which is to "Undertake a study of rural industrial heritage [such as lime kilns]" and addresses Strategy 1 in the Heritage Council Strategic Plan (2012-2016) and one of its key actions to "Communicate on the value and importance of lesser appreciated types of heritage (such as . . . poorly understood or studied aspects of . . . industrial archaeology) and Strategy 8 in the Heritage Council Strategic Plan to "Promote best practice in the conservation and management of our heritage, including in the management of non-protected heritage."

1.3 Aims & Outputs

The aims of this Heritage Plan action are to:

- (i) provide historical and present-day contexts for lime kilns in the cultural landscape,
- (ii) establish a searchable database of lime kilns (with special emphasis on surviving examples),
- (iii) undertake a selected field survey of lime kilns and develop a typology,
- (iv) compile specific case studies based on form, use, contribution to landscape character, demonstration of traditional skills, contribution to agrarian practices and conservation potential,
- (v) prepare the text and illustrations for an A5-size booklet on the heritage of lime kilns in County Donegal to be published as part of the 'Donegal Heritage Series' in 2018 and
- (vi) deliver a report and public presentation on the findings of the study.

2. RESPONSE TO TERMS OF REFERENCE

Proposals in response to these terms of reference should set out how the study will be approached, methodology, and any other relevant matters. The proposal should include:

2.1 Required Skills and Experience

Proposals should contain clear details of the skills and experience of the researcher(s), and the CV(s) of the researcher(s). Details should also be given of the relevant experience including examples of previous relevant work.

2.2 Method statement and timetable

The researcher(s) shall furnish a method statement and timetable regarding the delivery of the work. It is expected that the proposal will include:

2.2.1 Method statement: including reference material to be used, methodology and survey sampling, fieldwork, consultation planned, data analysis, outline content of booklet and a detailed timetable.

2.2.2 A Resource Plan: showing the breakdown of person hours and costs.

3. GENERAL ISSUES

3.1 Timescale

The project will start in June 2017 and a final report will be due for submission by November 17, 2017. The researcher(s) appointed must be in a position to begin immediately once appointed.

3.2 Project Management

A steering committee comprising representatives of the County Donegal Heritage Forum will guide the development of this project. Day-to-day contact will be with the Heritage Officer. The steering committee will meet regularly to review progress.

3.3 Budget

The maximum budget for this Heritage Plan action is €12,000 (including VAT and all other expenses).

3.4 The researcher(s) shall effect and maintain insurance necessary to cover their liabilities under this Heritage Plan action.

3.5 Copyright and Confidentiality

The researcher(s) will be required to assign copyright of the text, illustrations, maps and/or photographs to Donegal County Council. Copyright for any illustrations or other material used should be cleared by the researcher(s). Particular attention should be given to those that will be used in the proposed booklet. The study will be made available for public use by Donegal County Council.

3.6 Freedom of Information

Donegal County Council operates under the Freedom of Information Act 1997 and all information held by the Council (including proposals submitted in response to this brief) may be subject to requests under the Act.

3.7 Evaluation of Proposals & Selection of Researchers

Evaluation of proposals will be based on the ability of the researcher(s) to deliver the skills and outputs detailed above within the specified timeframe. Interviews may be held with selected candidates prior to the final evaluation. Donegal County Council is not obliged to accept any proposal or the proposal with the lowest bid, and no person making a submission will be remunerated for any expense incurred in preparing a submission. It is envisaged that the successful researcher(s) will demonstrate:

- (i) a good knowledge of the built heritage, traditional practices, cultural landscape and community use associated with lime kilns in County Donegal (20%);
- (ii) proven experience of field survey and architectural recording (20%)
- (iii) an ability to liaise with key stakeholders and engage with the public (15%);
- (iv) a clear approach to the achievement of the aims and outputs of this Heritage Plan action in the proposed methodology (25%);
- (v) experience of writing a clear, concise and engaging narrative account for a general audience and working to fixed deadlines (15%); and
- (vi) competitive price (5%).

The decision of the evaluation panel will be final.

3.8 Closing Date

E-mailed submissions to heritage@donegalcoco.ie will be accepted prior to the closing date but please forward a paper copy of your proposal also even if it arrives after the closing date. Submissions should be sent to:

Study of Lime Kilns,
c/o Joseph Gallagher,
Heritage Officer,
County Donegal Heritage Office,
Donegal County Council,
Station Island,
Lifford,
County Donegal.

The closing date for receipt of proposals is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31, 2017.
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Proposals cannot be accepted after this deadline.