

## ***IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR VISITORS TO SCATTERY ISLAND***

As Ireland's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic continues to progress positively, so too do discussions regarding the re-opening of the National Monuments sites managed by the Office of Public Works (OPW).

Off the northern bank of the Shannon Estuary lies Scattery Island, the site of an early Christian settlement founded by St Senan. Every year from May to September, the OPW Guide Service welcomes visitors and provides free guided tours of this spectacular place.

In 2021, OPW asks for the understanding and patience of visitors to the island as some areas will be inaccessible due to nesting Hen Harriers and construction works.

As in previous years, it has been discovered that the Hen Harriers, once again, have returned to Scattery Island, an important nesting site for this unique species. The birds are protected by legislation and OPW, working closely with NPWS, endeavours to provide as safe an environment as possible for their chicks to hatch safely. Once their nesting locations are identified, nearby pathways are closed to give the protection afforded under the Wildlife Acts 1976 – 2018. As the chicks hatch and start to make their own way in the world, pathways will re-open. We cannot say yet when this will happen so please bear with us.

The Office of Public Works is also delighted to highlight two important works project currently on going on Scattery Island. The works involved are for the conservation, repair and restoration of the vernacular buildings on "The Street" and the north lagoon farmsteads. Priority must be given to the safety and wellbeing of OPW staff and visitors. Regrettably, therefore, it has become necessary to limit public access to those areas impacted by the works. Once complete, it is hoped that "The Street" will be accessible to future visitors allowing for a greater appreciation for the vernacular structures and a way of life that is no more.