

IRISH TABULATIONS

In all Tables any entry of ‘?’ alone means unknown, but added after another symbol or number it implies a high level of doubt. ‘c’ before any number means that it is an approximation.

Table IR1: Locations and Dimensions

KEY: Column Headings reading from the left

No. ≡ Unique identifying number for every bridge, made up from a 1-letter province identifier and a number based on alphabetical ordering of bridge names in the county. So, U ≡ Ulster, C ≡ Connaught, M ≡ Munster, L ≡ Leinster.

Bridge ≡ Name of the bridge, if possible the most generally accepted one; Cl. ≡ Clapper Bridge.

OS Location ≡ Standard 7-symbol position

River ≡ Name of the river crossed by the bridge, unless it is un-named.

Catchment, if the named river does not flow directly to the sea, the river which does carry its contents to the sea; exceptions are sometimes made for major rivers which flow into others.

Arch No., shown as ‘River Arches + Flood Arches’, or ‘Arches Now (Original Number)’ where appropriate.

Arch Shape, symbols; G ≡ Gothic, or Pointed, (shaded, xxxx) S-C ≡ Semi-circular, 4-C ≡ 4-centred or Tudor, 3C ≡ 3-centred, Se ≡ Segmental, E ≡ Elliptical, R ≡ Rectangular including Square. Superscript * ≡ stilted.

Arch Span ≡ the span of the largest original arch, prior to extension or rebuilding.

OW ≡ Bridge Width, the width of the original bridge, as built, prior to widening operations, normally measured between parapets, or rails.

Date, refers to the oldest surviving part of the bridge, and ‘Arch Span’ & ‘OW’ will normally relate to it.

The appropriate columns are shaded according to whether they have arches spanning more than 7.5m, xxxx; widths less than 2.2m, (effectively footbridges of all types including packhorse and clapper bridges), xxxx

No.	Bridge	OS Location	River	Catchment	Arch No.	Arch Form	Arch Span	O W	Date
U1	Arney Br.	H 208 370	R. Arney		3	Se	c5.5m	3.5m	17 th C
U2	Assaroe Br.	G 869 622	Abbey R.		2	Se	?	c3m	17 th C
U3	Ballyhaise Br.	H 452 116	R. Annalee	R. Erne	6	E	c5m	3m	c1700
U4	Bloody Br.	J 384 250	R. Midpace		1	Se	c6.5m	2.4m	17 th C
U5	Bovagh Br.	C 885 194	R. Agivey	R. Bann	4	Se	6.1m	3.9m	16 th C?
U6	Callan Br.	H 866 452	R. Callan	R. Blackwater	4 + 1	Se*	5.5m	4.1m	17 th C
U7	Clady Br.	H 292 940	R. Finn	R. Foyle	9	Se	c6.5m	3.6m	c1680
U8	Conn O'Neill's Br	J 364 734	Conn's W.		1	Se	?	?	16 th C?
U9	Crown Br.	J 108 275	R. Clanrye	Newry R.	4	Se	?	c5m	17 th C
U10	Finea Br.	N 402 814	R. Inny	R. Shannon	6 + 1 (9)	Se	?	?	17 th C
U11	Kate McKay's Br.	J 210 408	R. Bann		5 + 2	S-C	?	5m	c1700

No.	Bridge	OS Location	River	Catchment	Arch No.	Arch Form	Arch Span	O W	Date
U12	Massereene Br.	J 148 866	Six Mile W.	L. Neagh	6	E*	c4.5m	c2.5m	1708
U13	Morley Brig	J 258 895	R. Doagh	Six Mile W.	3	Se*	?	?	c1700
U14	Moville Br.	C 608 386	R. Bredagh		1	S-C	?	?	c1600
U15	Roe Br.	C 668 229	R. Roe		6	Se*	11.1m	5m	c1700
U16	Shaw's Br.	J 325 690	R. Laggan		5	Se	8.8m	c4.3m	1709
C1	Abbeystown Br.	G 807 028	R. Boyle	R. Shannon	5	S-C	3m	4.9m	c1190
C2	Ballinasloe Br.	M 855 312	R. Suck	R. Shannon	4	4C, 3C, Se	3.6m	4m	1570
C3	Claregalway Br.	M 373 332	R. Clare		9	Se	c3.7m	c4.4m	1710
C4	Craughwell Br.	M 511 199	R. Dunkellin		6	G	2.4m	3m	c1600
C5	Lennox's Br.	G 816 574	R. Drowes		8	G, Se*	c5m	c3m	17 th C
C6	New Br.	G 693 360	R. Garavoge		7	S-C	c3.3m	c6m	1682
M1	Adare Br.	R 470 466	R. Maigue	R. Shannon	16 (5)	G	4.6m	5m	14 th C
M2	Aghakista Br.	V 684 464	Aghakista Str.		2	Se	c3.9m	c3.7m	17 th C
M3	Ardfinnan Br.	S 083 176	R. Suir	R. Barrow	13	S-C, Se	?	c3m	17 th C?
M4	Askeaton Br.	R 342 503	R. Deel	R. Shannon	6 (3*)	G	3.6m	c3.0m	15 th C
M5	Athassel Priory Br.	S 012 364	Moat		4	Se*	2.9m	3.6m	13 th C
M6	Ballingeary Cl. Br.	W 148 666	R. Lee		18	R	c1.5m	c0.75m	17 th C?
M7	Ballybeg Cl. Br.	R 543 079	R. Awbeg	R. Blackwater	? (3)	R	c2.7m	1.2m	13 th C?
M8	Barry's Br.	S 129 587	R. Suir	R. Barrow	7	G*	c3.1m	?	c1650
M9	Buttevant Br.	R 544 093	R. Awbeg	R. Blackwater	4	G	3.5m	4.6m	13 th C
M10	Carrick-on-Sur O. Br.	S 399 216	R. Suir	R. Barrow	8	Se	6.1m	4.8m	15 th C
M11	Carrigadrohid Br.	W 414 724	R. Lee		6	Se*	6.1m	3.6m	c1600
M12	Castletownroche Br.	R 685 024	R. Awbeg	R. Blackwater	3+	S-C	?	?	17 th C
M13	Clonmel Old Br.	S 202 222	R. Suir	R. Barrow	3 (17)	Se	5.6m	5.4m	14 th C
M14	Cromwell's Br.	V 908 710	R. Finnihy		1	Se*	c3.9m	c2.5m	17 th C?
M15	Derrainy Br.	R 749 915	unknown		4	Se	3.45m	4.6m	17 th C
M16	Garfinny Br.	Q 476 021	Garfinny R.		1	G*	3.8m	c2m	16 th C?
M17	Glanworth Br.	R 759 040	R. Funcheon	R. Blackwater	13	S-C	5.3m	2.9m	16 th C?
M18	Holycross Br.	S 090 541	R. Suir	R. Barrow	8	G	4.05m	c3.2m	15 th C
M19	Kilcrea Br.	W 509 684	R. Bride	R. Lee	1 (8)	S-C	4m	2.9m	17 th C?
M20	Kilcummer Br.	R 691 005	R. Awbeg	R. Blackwater	6	S-C	c3.9m	?	c1650
M21	King John's Br.	S 438 155	R. Clodiagh	R. Suir	3	Se*	c10.5m	?	17 th C?
M22	St. John's Br.	S 608 120	Johns R.	R. Suir	2 (4)	G, Se	4.6m	3.3m	c1300
M23	Sir Thomas's Br.	S 239 229	R. Suir	R. Barrow	5 + 1	Se	12.2m	c2.5m	1690
M24	Tallow Bridge	W 999 943	R. Bride	R. Blackwater	11	S-C	c5.8m	c5.8m	c1700
M25	Watergate Br.	S 209 348	R. Clashawley	R. Suir	5	Various	?	c4.1m	c1600
L1	Babe's Br.	N 892 700	R. Boyne		11?	G	5.2m	4.5m	13 th C
L2	Ballykilcavan Br.	S 596 972	R. Stradbally	R. Nore	5	Se	?	c3.5m	17 th C?
L3	Bective Br.	N 859 598	R. Boyne		10 + 1	S-C*	4.3m	5.5m	17 th C
L4	Bellew's Bridge	J 019 099	R. Creggan	Castletown R.	6	Se*	?	c6.4m	1674
L5	Birr Old Br.	N 059 047	R. Camcor	R. Shannon	4	Se/S-C	?	?	c1660
L6	Blackfriars Br.	S 503 562	R. Breagagh	R. Nore	3	Se	?	?	1633
L7	Caragh Br.	N 853 208	R. Liffey		6 (3)	Se*	5.7m	4.1m	c1600
L8	Clara Br.	T 169 921	R. Avonmore	R. Avoca	6	3-C	6.3m	3.15m	c1690
L9	Clynan Br.	N 214 586	R. Inny	R. Shannon	8	S-C*, Se*	c5m	c5.2m	17 th C
L10	Crooked Br.	O 036 248	R. Camac		4	Se	5.5m	4.8m	17 th C

No.	Bridge	OS Location	River	Catchment	Arch No.	Arch Form	Arch Span	O W	Date
L11	Ennisnag Br.	S 523 438	Kings R.	R. Nore	6 + 2	Se	3.7m	3.7m	13 th C
L12	Gormanstown Br.	O 170 658	R. Delvin		2	G	4m	c4m	15 th C?
L13	Grace Dieu Br.	O 178 523	Un-named		1	Se	4.6m	3.4m	15 th C?
L14	Harristown Old Br.	N 877 095	R. Liffey		7	Se*	8m	5.2m	17/18 th
L15	Irishtown Br.	S 504 563	R. Breagagh	R. Nore	2	S-C	?	?	17/18 th
L16	Kilcam Br.	N 884 655	R. Boyne		11	S-C	6.7m	3.6m	16 th C
L17	King John's Br.	O 040 343	R. Griffeen	R. Liffey	1 (3)	Se	2.4m	2.75m	1600?
L18	Kinnegad Br.	N 601 452	R. Kinnegad	R. Boyne	7?	Se	?	5.5m	17 th C
L19	Leabeg Br.	O 296 063	Un-named		3	S-C	c1m	6.15m	c1680
L20	Leighlin Br.	S 691 654	R. Barrow		9	Se	9.1m	3.9m	c1650
L21	Lissenhall Br.	O 186 482	†		5	Se*	3m	4.6m	c1500
L22	Mabes Br.	N 736 773	R. Blackwater	R. Boyne	6	S-C	3.8m	3.8m	13 th C
L23	Maudlin Br.	O 050 683	R. Nanny		3	S-C	3.2m	3.7m	14 th C
L24	Milltown Br.	O 168 302	R. Dodder		2	Se*	7.25m	3m	17 th C
L25	Monk's Br ^{††}	S 412 832	R. Nore	R. Barrow	8	G	3.5m	3.3m	13 th C
L26	Newtown Br.	N 815 568	R. Boyne		5	G*/Se*	5.8m	4.3m	15 th C
L27	Roganstown Br.	O 150 502	†		4 + 1	Se*	3.3m	4.3m	17 th C
L28	Slane Br.	N 963 736	R. Boyne		5 (13)	G*	5.3m	4.5m	14 th C
L29	Tintern Abbey Br.	S 796 099	Tidal inlet		3 + 1	G	4.6m	4.9m	16 th C
L30	Tower Br.	S 490 636	R. Dinin	R. Nore	2	Se	?	c3.5m	1647
L31	Trim Br.	N 801 570	R. Boyne		4	G*	4.9m	6.4m	14 th C
L32	Watercastle Br.	S 425 805	R. Nore	R. Barrow	4 + ?	Se*	3.7m	c4m	16 th C
L33	Wicklow Br.	T 316 940	R. Leitrim		7	Se	c5m	c3.3m	1690

† ≡ River Broad Meadow, †† ≡ assumes rebuild follows the configuration of the original

Table IR2: Bridge Characteristics

KEY: Column Headings reading from the left

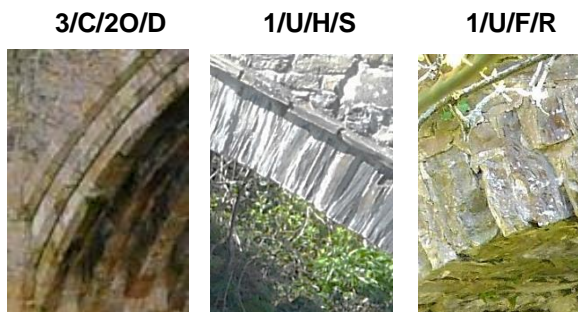
No. & Bridge as in Table IR1

Fabric, the building material, A ≡ ashlar, CR ≡ Coursed Rubble, R ≡ Random Rubble, B ≡ Brick, W ≡ Wood; if two types are present in significant proportions, it is shown A/CR.

Profile, as seen from upstream or downstream, where possible referring to the original bridge, F ≡ Flat, P ≡ Rising to a central Peak, H ≡ Humped, C ≡ Gently curved.

Refuges, total number, referring if possible to the original bridge; NA entered for single-arch bridge

Arch Rings with nomenclature **W/X/Y/Z** where **W** ≡ number of arch rings, **X** is an indicator for chamfering ≡ C, or not ≡ U, **Y** describes the arrangement of the arch rings with categories F ≡ Flush, R ≡ Recessed, H ≡ Hood Mould, above, 2O ≡ Arch Rings in two orders, etc., and **Z** indicates the finish on the individual voussoirs in the arch rings with R ≡ Rough, unshaped, S ≡ Shaped, D ≡ Dressed, finely machined. 3 examples are given below.



Soffits and Ribs Features, number of ribs, and whether they are chamfered ≡ C (as above, left), or not ≡ U

Pier Width, subjective estimate, B ≡ Broad, U ≡ Unexceptional, S ≡ Slender, C ≡ Pierced Causeway, & NA for a bridge with 1 arch

Parapet Features, entries only if non-standard, R ≡ Railings, C ≡ Corbelled Out, S ≡ Splayed Out at ends, Low, None.

W <-- >, entries indicate whether the bridge has been widened, No, Yes (but how unknown), U ≡ Upstream Face, D ≡ Downstream Face, B ≡ Both Faces

Date as in Table IR 1

Shading in the relevant columns means chamfered arch rings, **xxxx**, hood moulds, **xxxx**, and ribs, **xxxx**. In cases where chamfering and hood moulds are present, I have added ** to the former

No.	Bridge	Fabric	Profile	No. of Refuges	Arch Ring Features	Soffits & Ribs Features	Pier Width	Parapet Features	<--> W	Date
U1	Arney Br.	R	F	4	1/U/F/S	0	B		No	17 th C
U2	Assaroe Br.	R	H	0	1/U/F/S	0	U		No	17 th C
U3	Ballyhaise Br.	R	F	8	1/U/F/D	0	B		No	c1700
U4	Bloody Br.	R	F	NA	1/U/F/R	0	NA		D	17 th C
U5	Bovagh Br.	R	?	0	1/U/F/?	0	?		U	16 th C?
U6	Callan Br.	R	C	8	1/U/F/R	0	B		No	17 th C
U7	Clady Br.	R	F	16	1/U/F/S	0	B		No	1680
U8	Conn O'Neill's Br.	R	C	NA	1/U/F/R	0	NA	None	No	16 th C?
U9	Crown Br.	R	H	NA	1/U/F/R	0	C		No	17 th C
U10	Finea Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	U		U	17 th C
U11	Kate McKay's Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/R	0	U		No	c1700
U12	Massereene Br.	CR	F	0	1/U/F/D	0	B		D	1708
U13	Morley Brig	R	C	0	1/U/F/S	0	B	None	No?	c1700
U14	Moville Br.	R	C	NA	1/U/F/R	0	NA		No	c1600
U15	Roe Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/R	0	B		D	c1700
U16	Shaw's Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		No	1709
C1	Abbeytown Br.	R	C	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		No	c1190
C2	Ballinasloe Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/R	0	C		B	1570
C3	Claregalway Br.	R/CR	F	0	1/U/F/D	0	U		No	1710

No.	Bridge	Fabric	Profile	No. of Refuges	Arch Ring Features	Soffits & Ribs Features	Pier Width	Parapet Features	<--> W	Date
C4	Craughwell Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		B	c1600
C5	Lennox's Br.	CR	F	0	1/C/F/D	0	B		No	17 th C
C6	New Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/R	0	B		U?	1682
M1	Adare Br.	R	F	3	1/U/F/R	0	B		D	14 th C
M2	Aghakista Br.	R/CR	H	0	1/U/F/R	0	U	None	No	17 th C
M3	Ardfinnan Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		D	17 th C?
M4	Askeaton Br.	R	C	0	1/C/F/S	0	B		U	15 th C
M5	Athassel Priory Br.	R	C	0	1/U/F/S	0	B	None	No	13 th C
M6	Ballingeary Cl. Br.	R	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	None	No	17 th C?
M7	Ballybeg Cl. Br.	NA	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	None	No	13 th C?
M8	Barry's Br.	R	F	2	1/U/F/D	0	B		U	c1650
M9	Buttevant Br.	R	C	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		U	13 th C
M10	Carrick-on-Suir O. Br.	R	F	6	1/U/F/R	0	B		No	15 th C
M11	Carrigadrohid Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	U		No	c1600
M12	Castletownroche Br.	R	C	0	?	0	B		D?	17 th C
M13	Clonmel Old Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		D	14 th C
M14	Cromwell's Br.	R	H	NA	1/U/NA/R	0	NA	None	No	17 th C?
M15	Derrainy Br.	R	H	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		No	17 th C
M16	Garfinny Br.	R	C	NA	1/U/F/S	0	NA	Low	No	16 th C?
M17	Glanworth Br.	R	C	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		No	16 th C?
M18	Holycross Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		D	15 th C
M19	Kilcrea Br.	R	C	1	1/U/F/S	0	U		No	17 th C?
M20	Kilcummer Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		U	c1650
M21	King John's Br.	R	C	4	1/U/F/S	0	U	Low	No	17 th C?
M22	St. John's Br.	R	C	0	1/C/F/S	0	B		D	13/14 th C
M23	Sir Thomas's Br.	R	C	0	1/C/F/S	0	B		No	1690
M24	Tallow Br.	R	F	0	1/C/F/S	0	B		No?	c1700
M25	Watergate Br.	R	C	0	1/U/F/S	0	B/U		No?	c1600
L1	Babe's Br.	R	?	0?	1/U/F/R	0	B		No	13 th C
L2	Ballykilcavan Br.	R	F	4	1/U/F/S	0	U		No	17 th C?
L3	Bective Br.	R	F	2	1/U/F/S	0	U/B		No	17 th C
L4	Bellew's Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		No?	1674
L5	Birr Old Br.	R	F	?	?	0	B		Y	c1660
L6	Blackfriars Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/D	0	U		Yes?	1633
L7	Caragh Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		No	c1600
L8	Clara Br.	R	C	0	1/U/F/S	0	U		No	c1690
L9	Clynan Br.	R	C	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		No?	17 th C
L10	Crooked Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	U	None?	No	17 th C
L11	Ennisnag Br.	R	C	1	1/U/F/S	0	B		D	13 th C
L12	Gormanstown Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B	High	D	15 th C?
L13	Grace Dieu Br.	R	C	NA	1/U/F/R	0	NA	None	No	15 th C?
L14	Harristown Old Br.	R	C	0	1/U/F/S	0	U		No	17/18 th C
L15	Irishtown Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	U		U	17/18 th C
L16	Kilcarn Br.	R	F	1(D) + ?	1/U/F/S	0	B		U	16 th C
L17	King John's Br.	R	H	0	NA	0	?	None	No	1600?
L18	Kinnegad Br.	R	?	?	1/U/F/R	0	B		No	17 th C

No.	Bridge	Fabric	Profile	No. of Refuges	Arch Ring Features	Soffits & Ribs Features	Pier Width	Parapet Features	<--> W	Date
L19	Leabeg Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	U		No	c1680
L20	Leighlin Br.	R	C	0	1/U/F/S	0	B/U		U	c1650
L21	Lissenhall Br.	R	F?	0	?	0	B		B	c1500
L22	Mabes Br.	R	F	?	1/U/F/R	0	B		U	13 th C
L23	Maudlin Br.	R	F	1	1/U/F/R	0	B		D	14 th C
L24	Milltown Br.	R	H	1	1/U/F/D	0	U	Low	No	17 th C
L25	Monk's Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		No	13 th C
L26	Newtown Br.	R	F	1	1/U/F/S	0	B		No	15 th C
L27	Roganstown Br.	CR	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		D	17 th C
L28	Slane Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		U	14 th C
L29	Tintern Abbey Br.	CR	F	0	1/C/F/D	0	U		No	16 th C
L30	Tower Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		U	1647
L31	Trim Br.	R	C	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		No	14 th C
L32	Watercastle Br.	R	?	0	1/U/F/R	0	?		D	16 th C
L33	Wicklow Br.	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		U	1690

Table IR3: Dating Summary – Ireland

Province	No. OF BRIDGES	17 th C	16 th C	15 th C	14 th C	13 th C	12 th C
Ulster	16	13	3	0	0	0	0
Connaught	6	3	2	0	0	0	1
Munster	25	12	4	3	2	4	0
Leinster	33	17	5	4	3	4	0
Totals	80	45	14	7	5	8	1

Notes:

1. As shown in Table S3 there are 80 extant Irish bridges incorporating substantial elements, e.g., one or more arches, built before 1700, including allowance for those about which there is some doubt, as indicated above. Of the total, 45 are thought most likely to date from the 17th century, 14 from the 16th century, 7 from the 15th century, 5 from the 14th century, 8 from the 13th century, and 1 from the 12th century. Whether the latter, Abbeystown Bridge in Roscommon is indeed the oldest surviving bridge in Ireland is a matter for debate. It is important to stress that only survivals in some form are recorded in the compendium, because there were certainly other bridges in Ireland in the 14th century, and earlier, but they have left no traces.

2. As to the locations of the bridges, it is noticeable that none built before the 16th century survives in Ulster, and apart from the aforementioned Abbeystown Bridge, the same is true of Connaught. So the oldest Irish bridges are to be found in the other 2 provinces.

3. As regards the fabric of Irish masonry bridges, it is striking that saving the voussoirs which were often shaped and occasionally dressed, all built before 1700 are of rubble; to emphasise the point, Table IR2 shows no Irish bridge built before 1700 was ashlar. Presumably this is a measure of the cost and difficulty of obtaining such a finish on hard rocks.

4. There are 16 bridges with a Gothic (or pointed) arch shape, and of them 11 are thought to have been built prior to 1500, so this is indeed a marker of age though not any sort of condition.

5. Table IR1 shows that only 7 Irish bridges surviving from build-dates before 1700 have any arch spanning more than 7.5m, and none of those was built before 1600. In fact the typical Irish old bridge has many small arches spanning 5m or less separated by massive piers of breadths approaching the arch spans. The contrast with Northern England and Scotland where one might guess landscape and river behaviour to be similar, is quite remarkable.

6. Irish bridges are very plain, so the features that characterise older bridges elsewhere are largely absent. No Irish bridge in the compendium has ribs in the soffits, none has multiple arch rings, there is no recessing of arch rings, and chamfering, i.e., tapering or rounding the corners which is seen occasionally is not a reliable marker of age.

7. This Appendix differs critically from the main part of the compendium, because most of the Irish bridges have not been visited by myself, or an associate. I say more about the process of developing the compendium in the general text, but in essence the initial process of identification of candidate bridges was a desk exercise based on the documents referenced, and study of photographs and other representations, and this part only has been undertaken for most of the bridges listed here. The second stage involving some deselection, adjustments of descriptions and build-dates has largely been omitted. There is no doubt that the credibility of the main part of the project rests heavily on the large number of visits made. However in the interest of completing the picture, I have decided to present Irish results. This has only been possible because of the work of O'Keeffe & Simington, and I hope that my heavy borrowing will be excused by the fact that I have at least brought their results together with results for the wider British Isles.