

# Citizen Survey Report for: Archaeology, Building Conservation and Heritage Office

## Summary Report



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council



Economic Development Office  
Dublin City Council

Report Date: 13/07/2021

Survey Fieldwork: June 2021

Report by:



**Delve Research**  
Survey Research & Analysis

[www.delve-research.com](http://www.delve-research.com)

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- Online survey, 8th June - 18th June 2021
- 830 respondents from the "Your Dublin, Your Voice" opinion panel
- 17% response rate
- Global margin of error +/- 3.4%
- Robust panel in existence since 2010, recruitment through various channels

# Respondent Profile

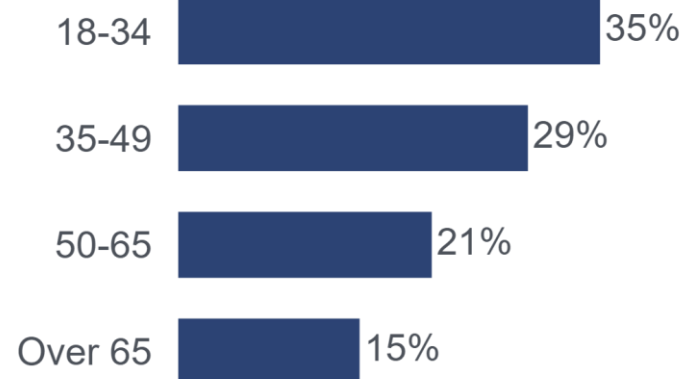


49%

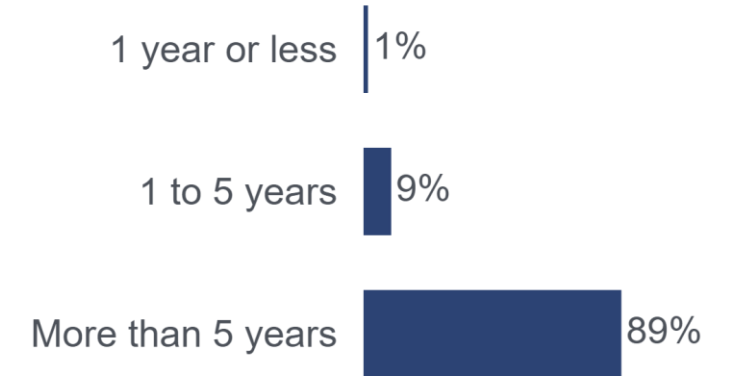


51%

## Age Group

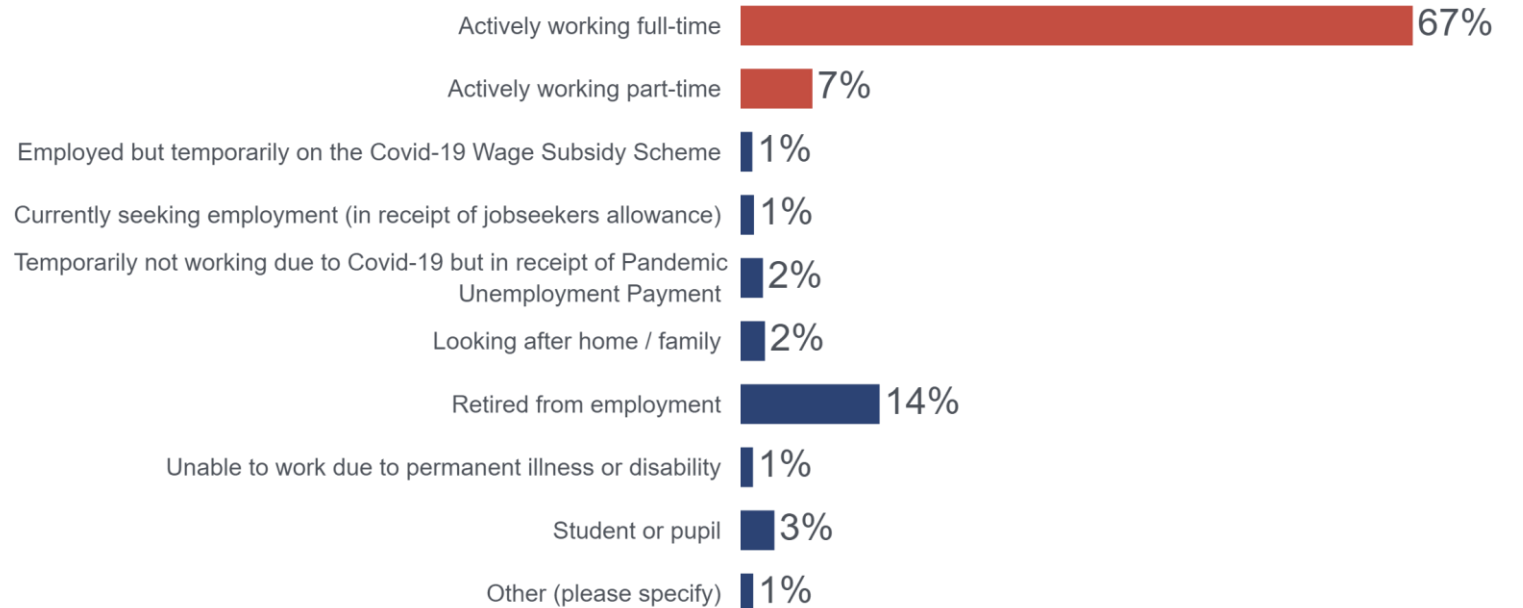


## Time Living in Dublin



22% with dependent  
children in household

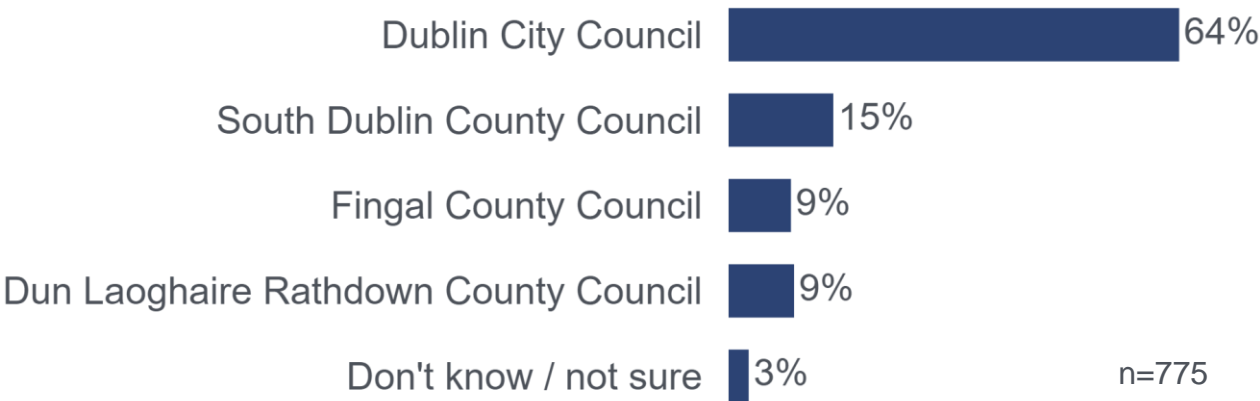
## Employment Status



31 nationalities represented on this survey, 90% Irish



## Local Authority

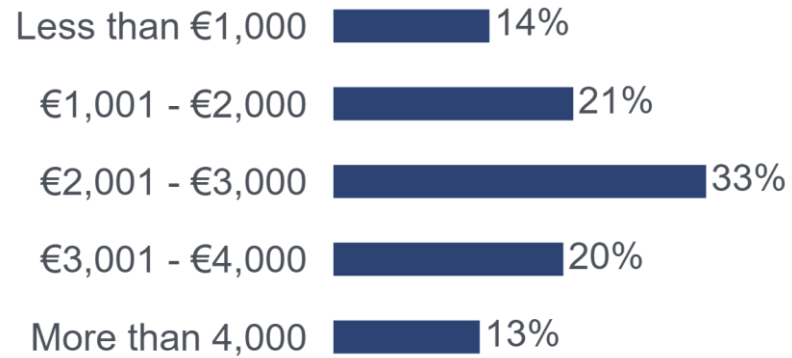


n=775

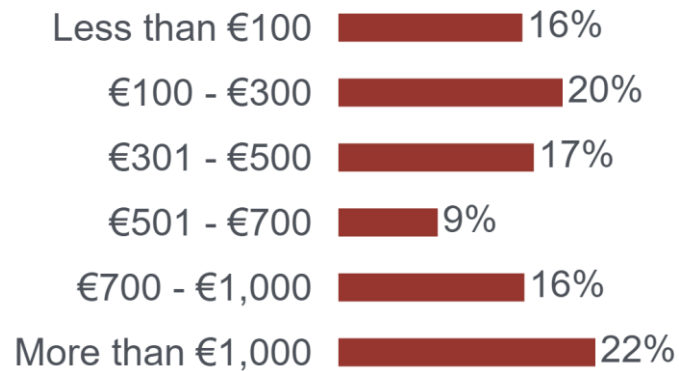
## Current Area of Residence

	%
Outside County Dublin	6%
Dublin 1	3%
Dublin 2	2%
Dublin 3	6%
Dublin 4	3%
Dublin 5	4%
Dublin 6	4%
Dublin 6W	3%
Dublin 7	9%
Dublin 8	11%
Dublin 9	7%
Dublin 10	1%
Dublin 11	5%
Dublin 12	9%
Dublin 13	4%
Dublin 14	4%
Dublin 15	2%
Dublin 16	2%
Dublin 17	0%
Dublin 18	2%
Dublin 20	1%
Dublin 22	1%
Dublin 24	3%
County Dublin	10%
NET	100%

## Monthly Income After Taxes, Before Bills

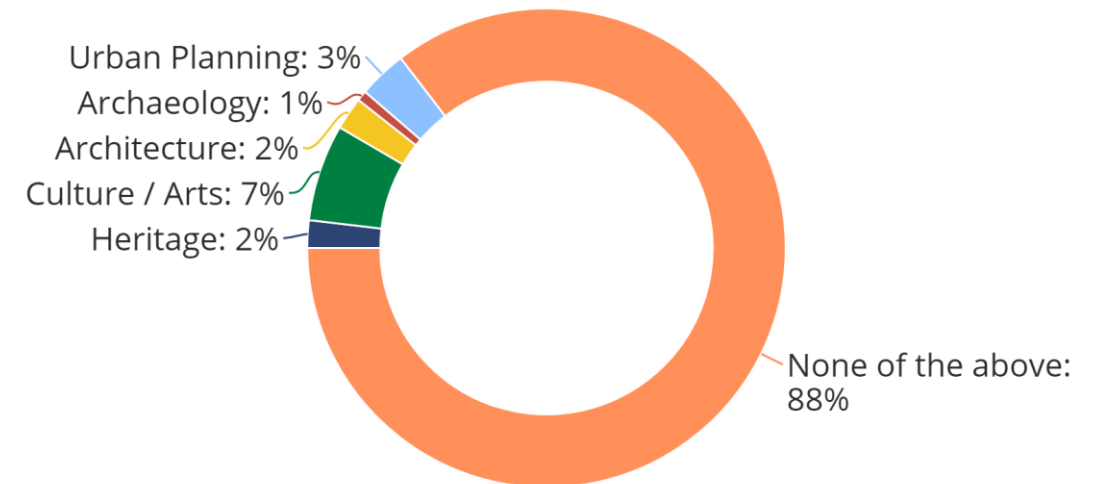


## Monthly Disposable Income After Bills Are Paid



## Working in Related Areas

Do you work in any of the following:



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## Engaging with Archaeological Heritage

- "Through museums and exhibitions" and "Via walking and other tours" were the most commonly selected ways to engage with archaeology and related activities which people found attractive.
- Engaging with archaeological heritage "Through festivals and events" was higher among 18-34 year-olds while interest in doing so in the local community was higher among over 65s. Interest in online options was also higher among over 65s.

## Interest in Archaeological Heritage

- "Preservation and presentation of archaeological features", "Enhancement of the medieval city and cathedral quarter" and "Repair and maintenance of the surviving medieval city walls and defences" were the activities of most interest to respondents.

## Other Opportunities for Improved Conservation, Accessibility and Interpretation

- Suggestions for "Better on-site displays / information / interactive media / audio guides / augmented reality" were the most common suggestions made by respondents in their own words for improving conservation, accessibility and interpretation of monuments and archaeological sites.

## Dublin's Viking Age Archaeology

- Establishing an Archaeology Park to protect the remaining buried levels and monitoring water levels to prevent drying was a preferred option for conserving Dublin's Viking Age archaeology for 66% of respondents.

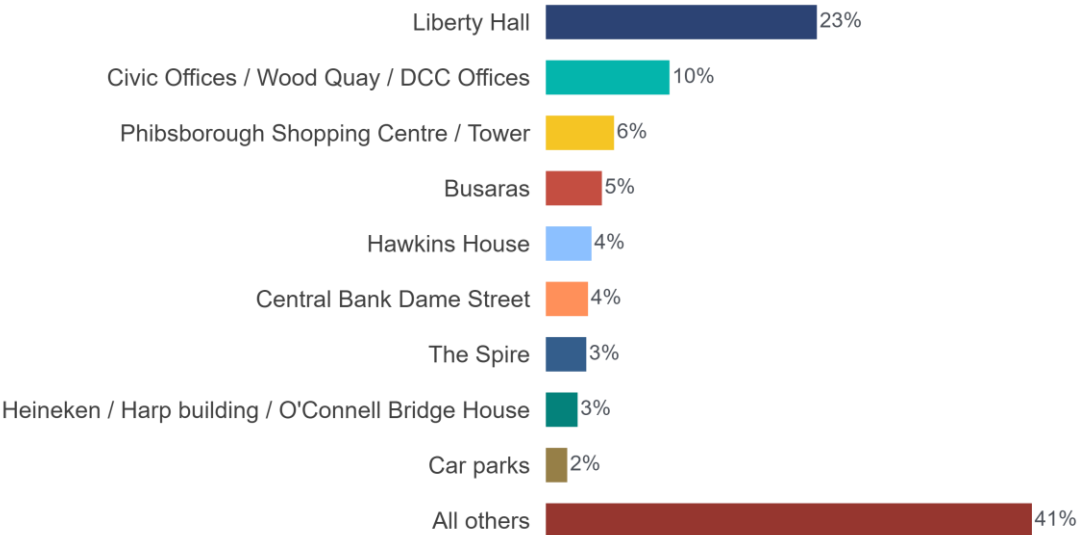
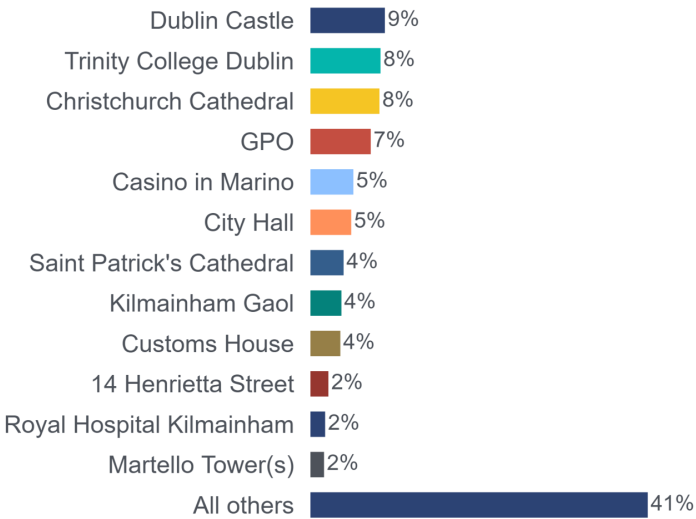
## Museum of Dublin

- 59% of respondents felt that there is a need for a Museum of Dublin. This rose to 65% among males and 64% among 18-34 year-olds.
- Among those in favour of a Museum of Dublin, 52% were in favour because they felt it would be beneficial for promoting local history and heritage.



## Favourite Historical Buildings

- When asked to identify their favourite historical buildings in Dublin City and suburbs, Dublin Castle, Trinity College Dublin and Christchurch Cathedral were the three most commonly mentioned buildings. There was a large variety of other buildings mentioned which were each mentioned by 1% or fewer respondents.



## Least Favourite Building

- When asked to identify their least favourite building, 23% of respondents mentioned Liberty Hall.
- Common reasons given for selecting their least favourite building included “eyesore”, “looks out of place” and “needs renovating”. There was a large variety of other buildings mentioned which were each mentioned by 1% or fewer respondents.

## Challenges Facing Architectural Heritage

- 81% of respondents felt that “Neglect, demolition and replacement of unprotected buildings” was one of the top challenges facing architectural heritage in the city and suburbs.
- Construction of overly large / high buildings was more likely to be perceived as a challenge by older respondents, and by females.
- Inappropriate alterations were more likely to be perceived as a challenge by those working in professions related to architecture, archaeology, heritage or culture.

## Opportunities For Architectural Heritage

- 70% of respondents felt that “Heritage to promote a sense of place and local identity” was one of the main opportunities for architectural heritage in the city and suburbs. This was followed by “Circular economy – imaginative adaptive reuse of buildings and reinvigoration of neglected areas” (63%) and “Reimagining streetscapes and the public realm” (58%).
- "Reimagining streetscapes and the public realm" was more likely to be perceived as an opportunity among younger respondents.
- "Heritage as a cultural tourist asset" was less likely to be seen as an opportunity among those working in related professions.

## Dublin’s Historic Urban Villages

- 31% of respondents were familiar with Dublin’s historic urban villages. A further 28% had heard the term but were not sure what these are. Awareness rose to 39% among over 65s.

## Conservation Grant Funding

- 43% of respondents were aware of conservation grant schemes available for built heritage, rising to 62% among those working in related professions.
- Among those aware of conservation grant schemes, 38% were aware of where to get information on these schemes.
- Among those aware of conservation grant schemes, 45% did not feel that the schemes were sufficient, and 49% did not know.
- 72% of those aware of conservation grant schemes felt that grant funding for the protection of heritage should be extended to buildings of local importance that are not Protected Structures and outside of ACAs.

## Architectural Heritage – Preferred Periods

- When asked to select their top 3 preferred periods which they would like to see researched and published, 71% of respondents selected “Medieval (up to 1720s)”. 68% selected Georgian / Regency and 60% selected Victorian.
- Those working in related professions had a stronger preference for the post-war period than those not working in related professions.

## Sources of Information about Architectural Heritage

- Wikipedia was a source of information about architectural heritage for 53% of respondents. This was highest among 18-34 year-olds at 68%.
- The use of heritage maps, Dublin City Council Libraries and Dublincity.ie as sources of information about architectural heritage was higher among older age groups.

## Priorities for City Heritage Plan

- The top 4 areas selected by respondents as priorities for the new Heritage Plan were:
  - A museum of Dublin's social, archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage (55% selecting in top 4)
  - Support production of local cultural heritage plans (one for each of the five administrative areas of Dublin City) (52% selecting in top 4)
  - Develop projects that reflect a sense of a shared heritage (50% selecting in top 4)
  - Social history research and publication (48% selecting in top 4)

## What does “Heritage” mean to you?

- When asked to describe in their own words what “Heritage” meant them, 43% of respondents responded along a theme of “Our history / background”
- 26% felt that heritage meant “Social history / sense of people / community”.

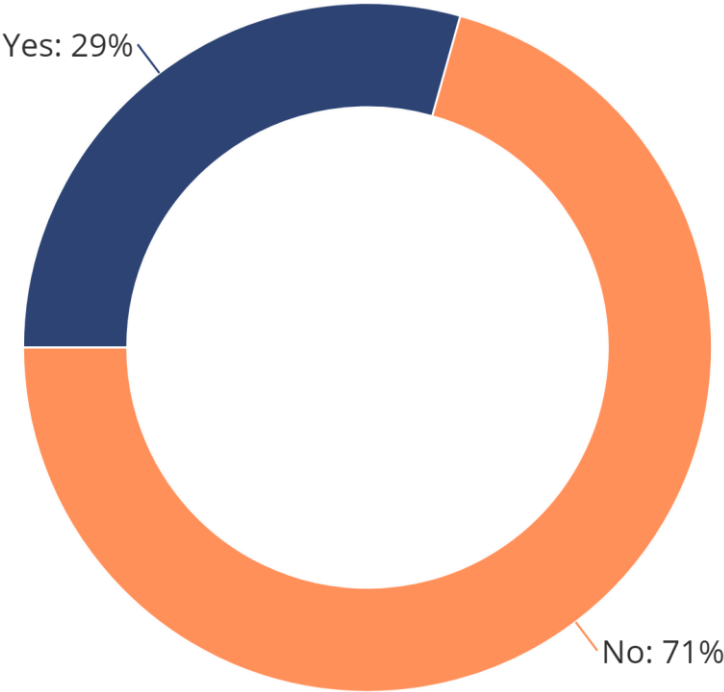
## One Heritage Project to be Delivered

- Respondents were asked to suggest one heritage project to be delivered in their area. Among those making suggestions, 34% suggested the restoration / development / preservation of an existing site.
- 23% suggested the collection and promotion of history and oral history.



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Before today were you aware of the Dublin City Heritage Plan?

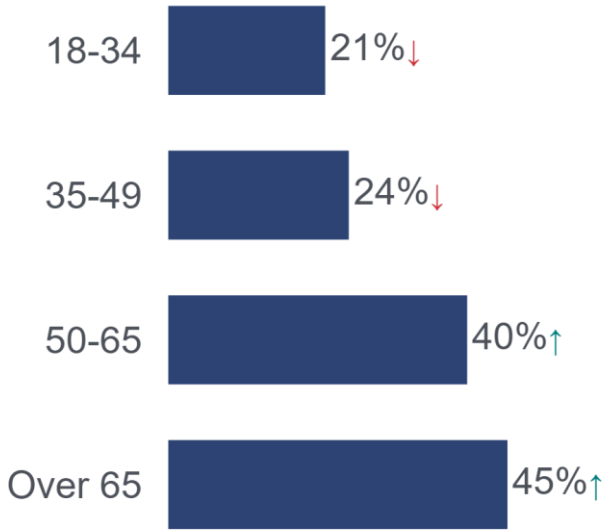


Awareness was higher among those working in related areas at **49%**

29%

of respondents were aware of the Dublin City Heritage Plan.

Awareness was higher among those aged 50 or over.



Before today were you familiar with the work of the Archaeology, Building Conservation and Heritage Office of Dublin City Council?



40%

of respondents were familiar with the work of the Archaeology, Building Conservation and Heritage Office.

Awareness was higher among those working in related areas at **61%**

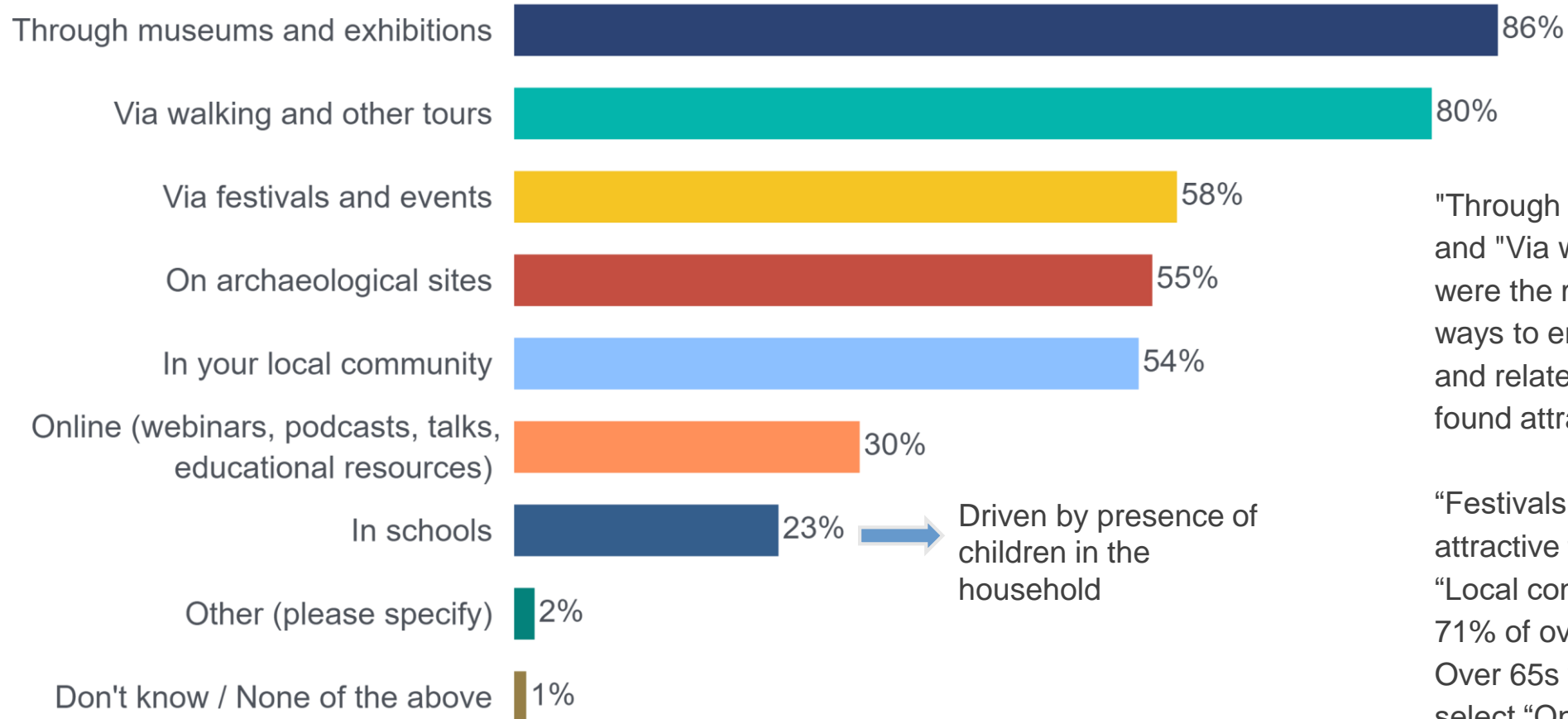
Awareness higher among those aged 50 to 65 at 52%

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There are many ways that people can engage with archaeology and related activities. From the following list please select the top 4 that are most attractive to you.

% selecting in top 4

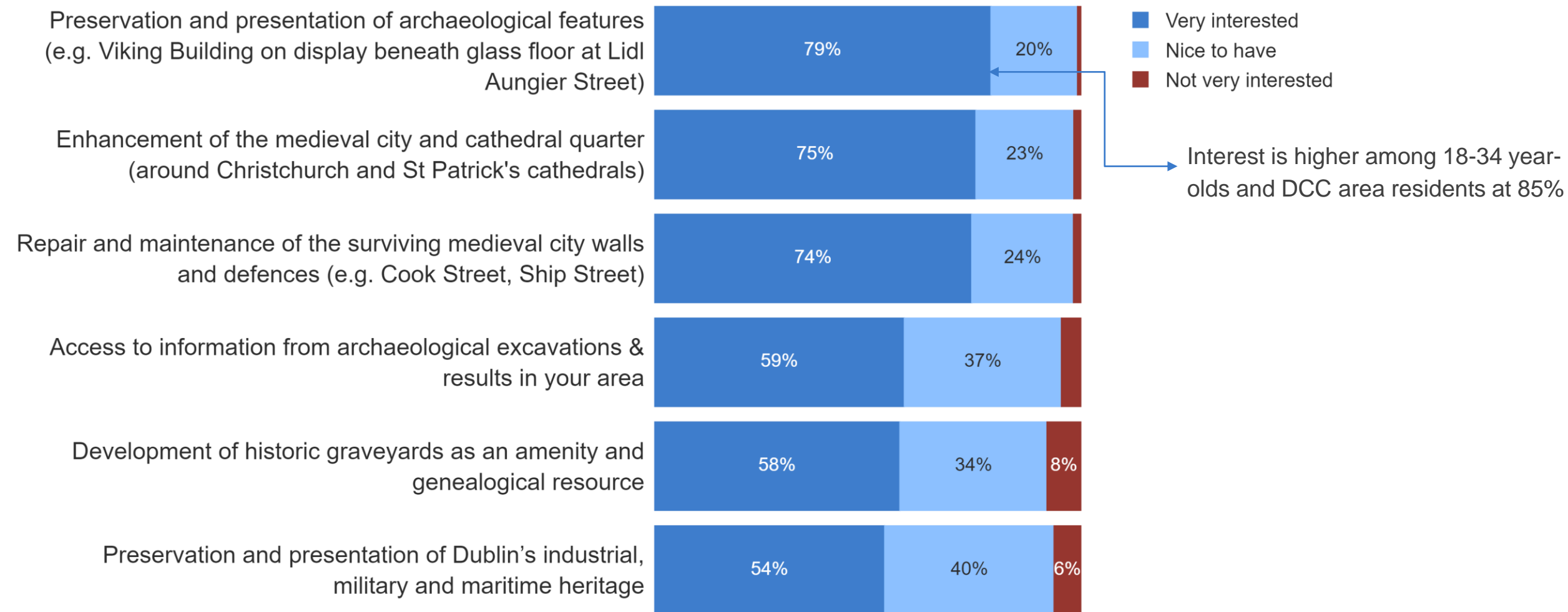


Driven by presence of  
children in the  
household

"Through museums and exhibitions" and "Via walking and other tours" were the most commonly selected ways to engage with archaeology and related activities which people found attractive.

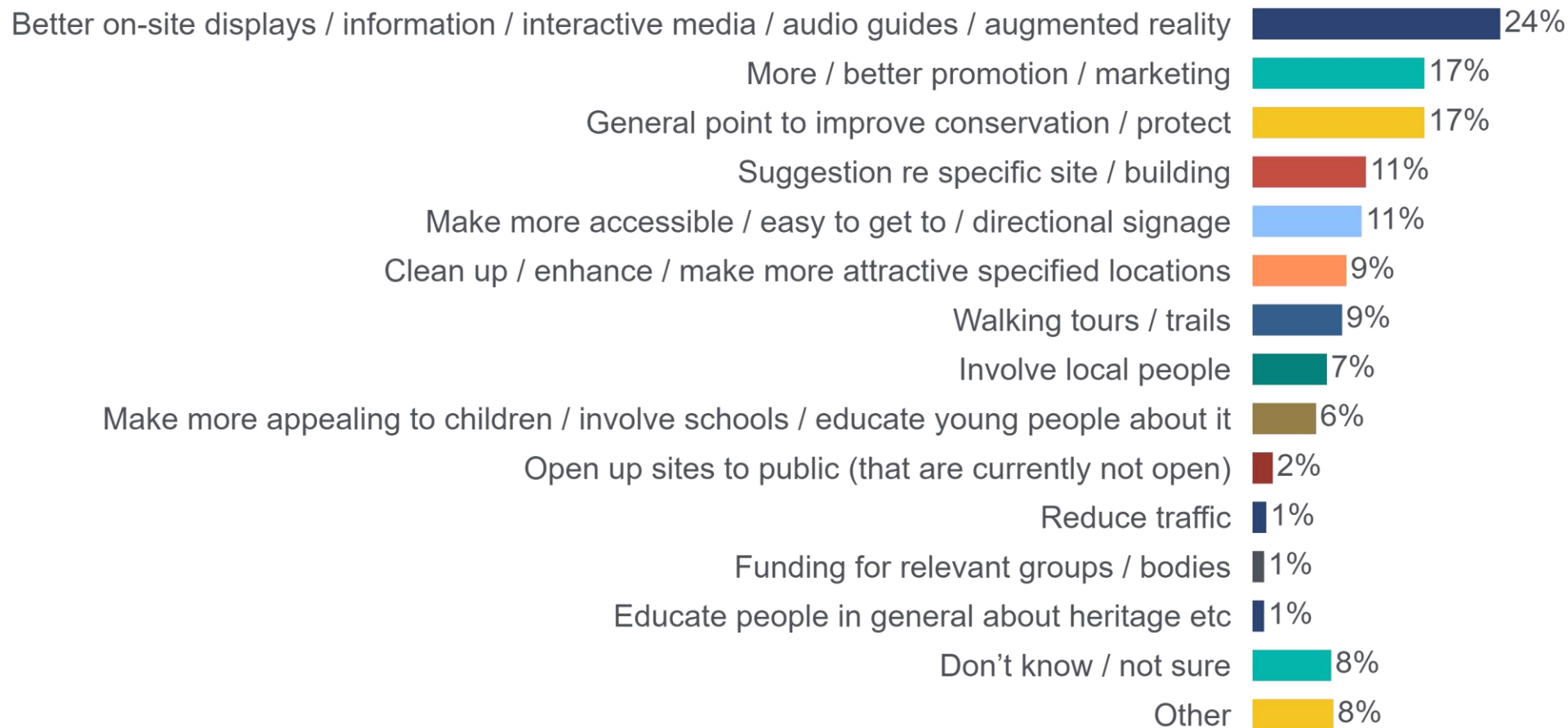
"Festivals and events" were more attractive to 18-34 year-olds (75%). "Local community" was preferred by 71% of over 65s. Over 65s were also more likely to select "Online" (43%)

Please indicate your level of interest in each of the following:



What other opportunities do you see for improved conservation, accessibility and interpretation of national monuments, monuments and archaeological sites in Dublin city and suburbs?

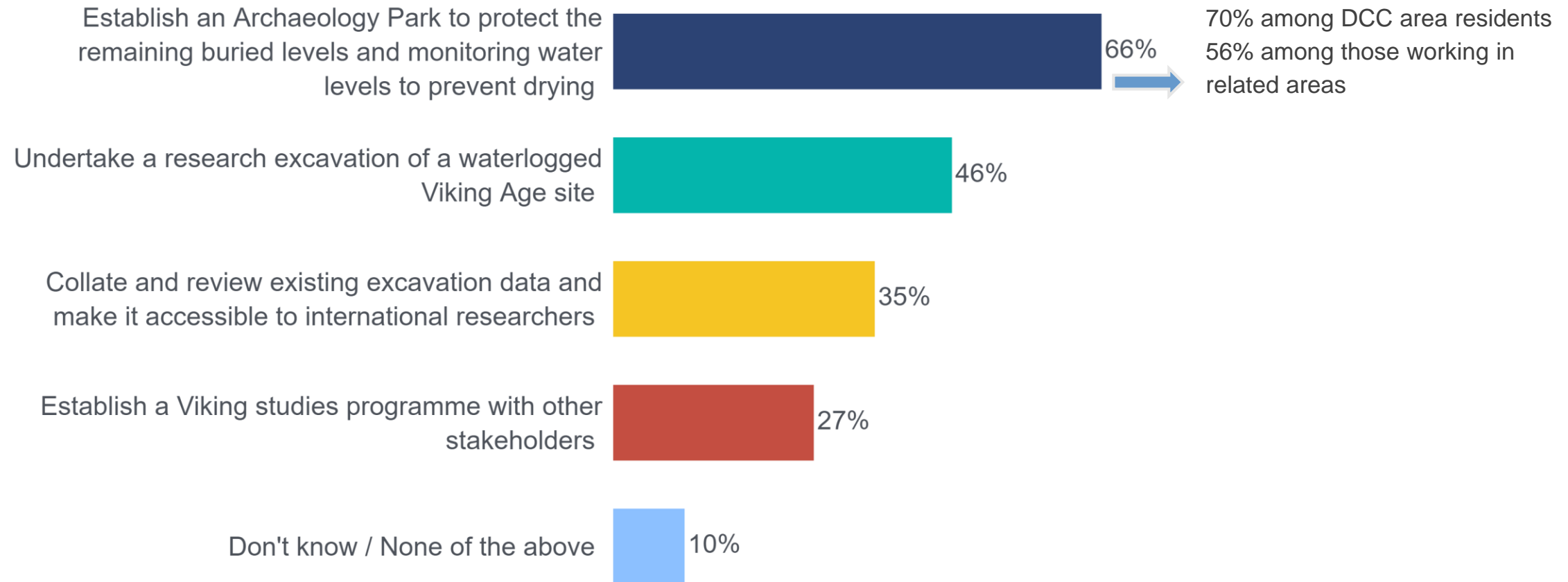
open-ended responses categorised - %



Dublin's Viking Age archaeology is preserved in its waterlogged environment and is of international significance.

Please select your two preferred options for conserving and learning from this.

% selecting in top 2

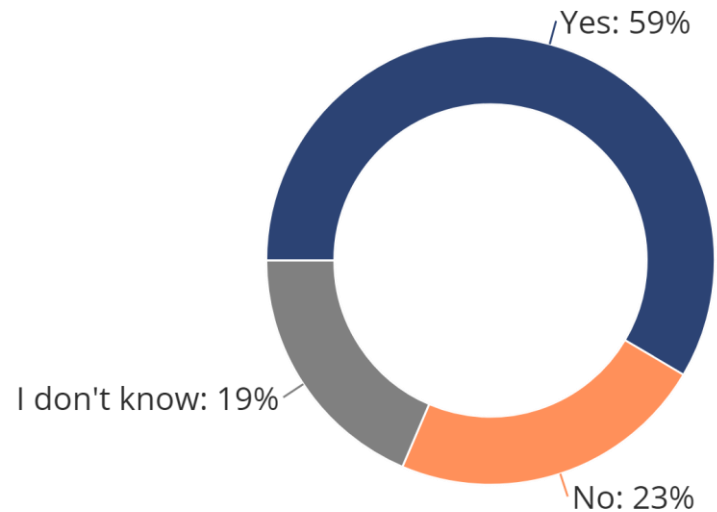




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Dublin is the hub for the National Museum of Ireland, the National Gallery of Ireland, the National Library of Ireland and other national cultural institutions. In your view is there a need also for a Museum of Dublin?



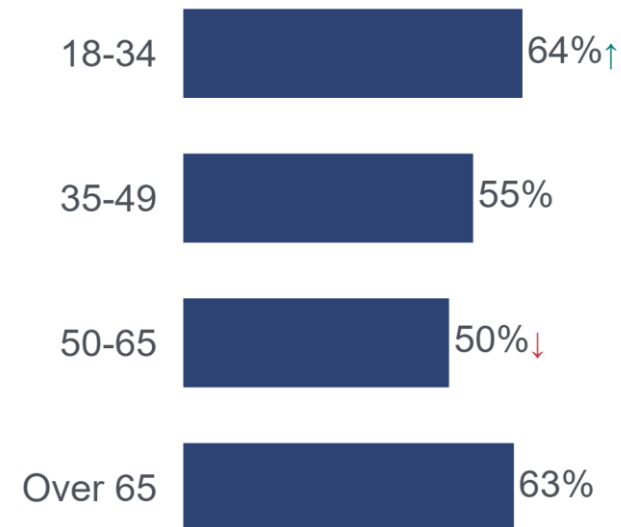
No significant difference in favourability among those working in related areas.

59%

of respondents felt there is a need for a Museum of Dublin.

This is higher among males at 65%.

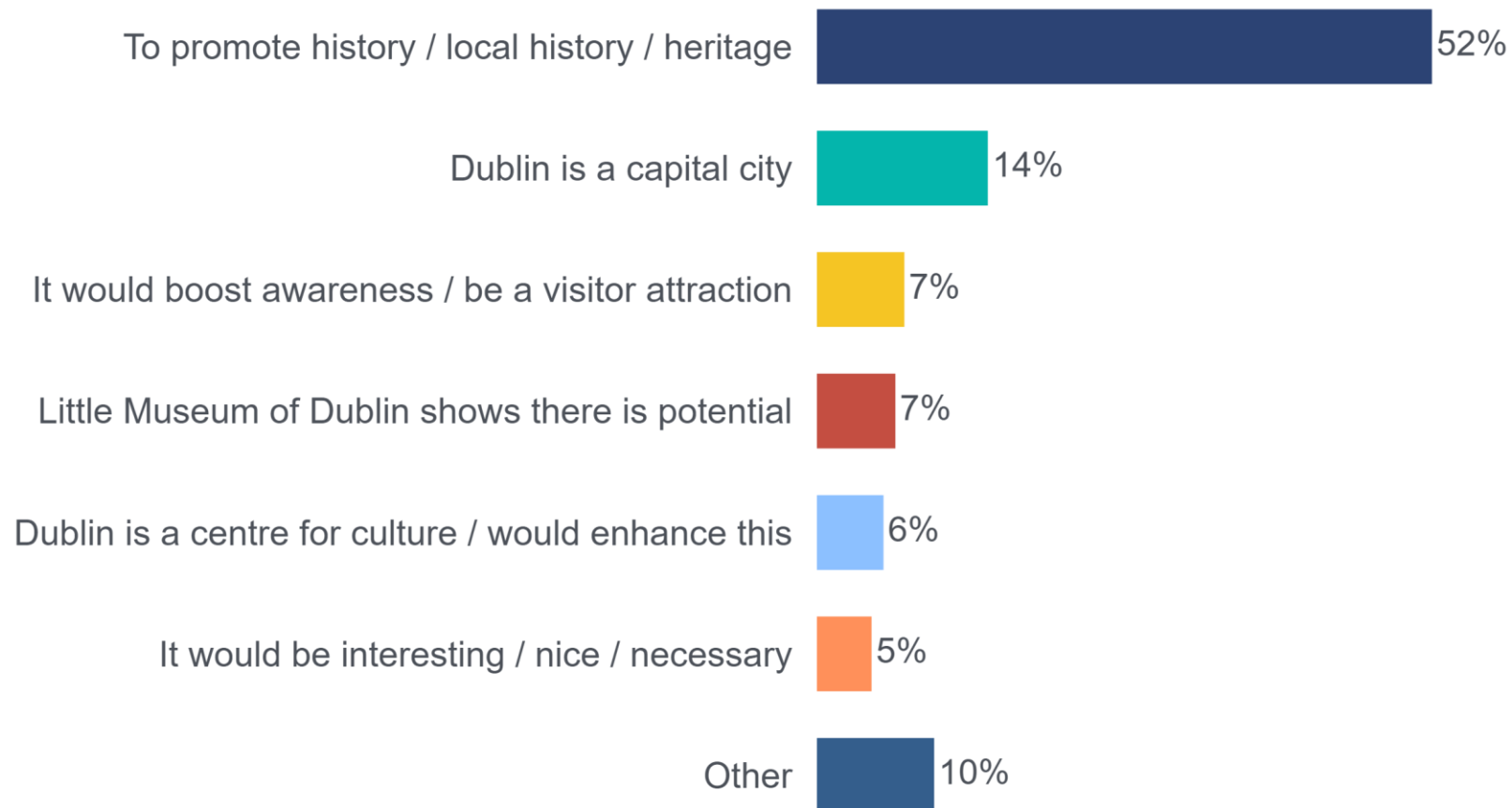
Favourability towards a Museum of Dublin is higher among 18-34 year-olds and lower among 50-65 year-olds.



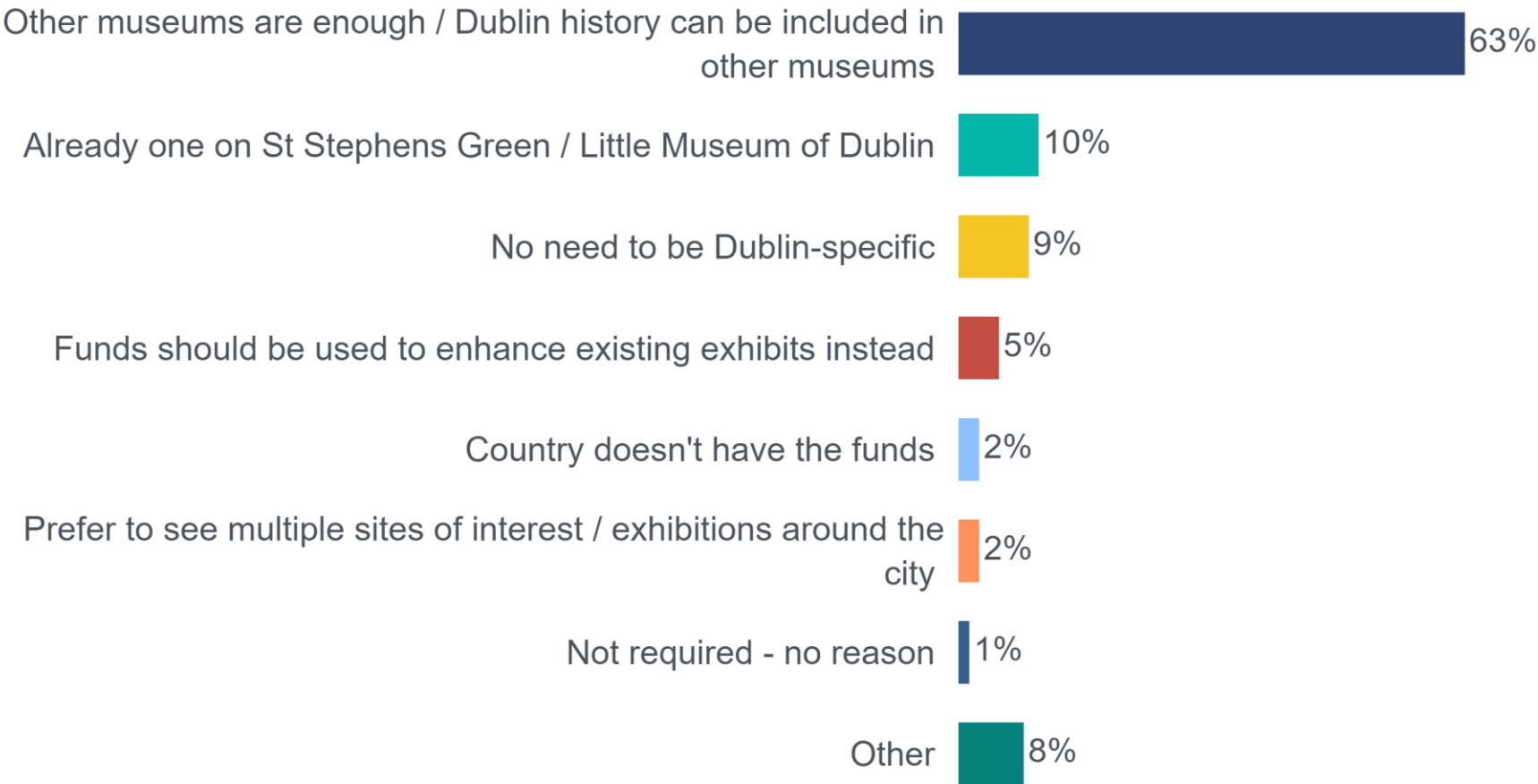
In your view is there a need also for a Museum of Dublin? - Yes

What is your reason for the answer above?

open-ended responses categorised - %



In your view is there a need also for a Museum of Dublin? - No  
What is your reason for the answer above?  
open-ended responses categorised - %

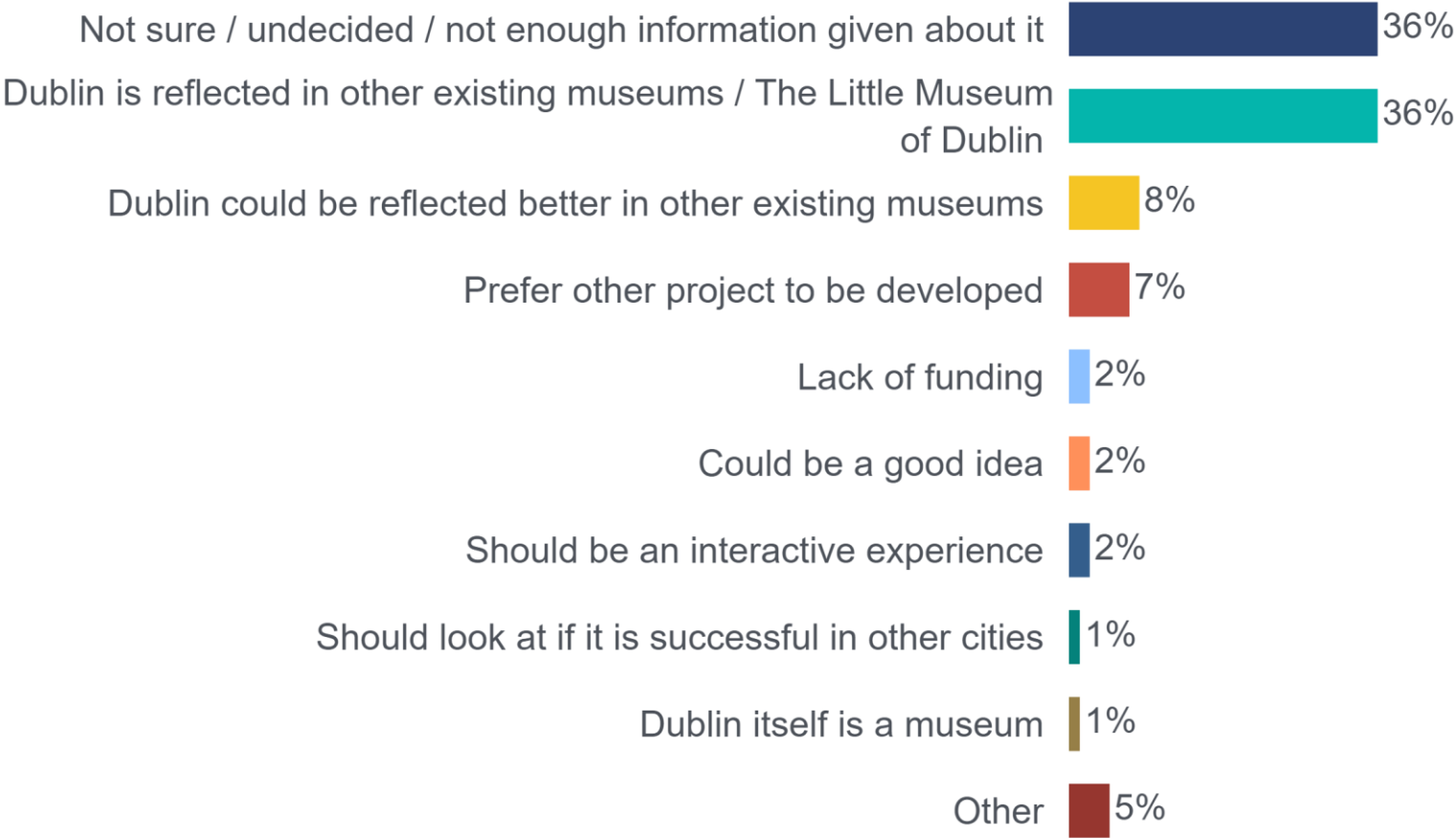




In your view is there a need also for a Museum of Dublin? - Don't know

What is your reason for the answer above?

open-ended responses categorised - %



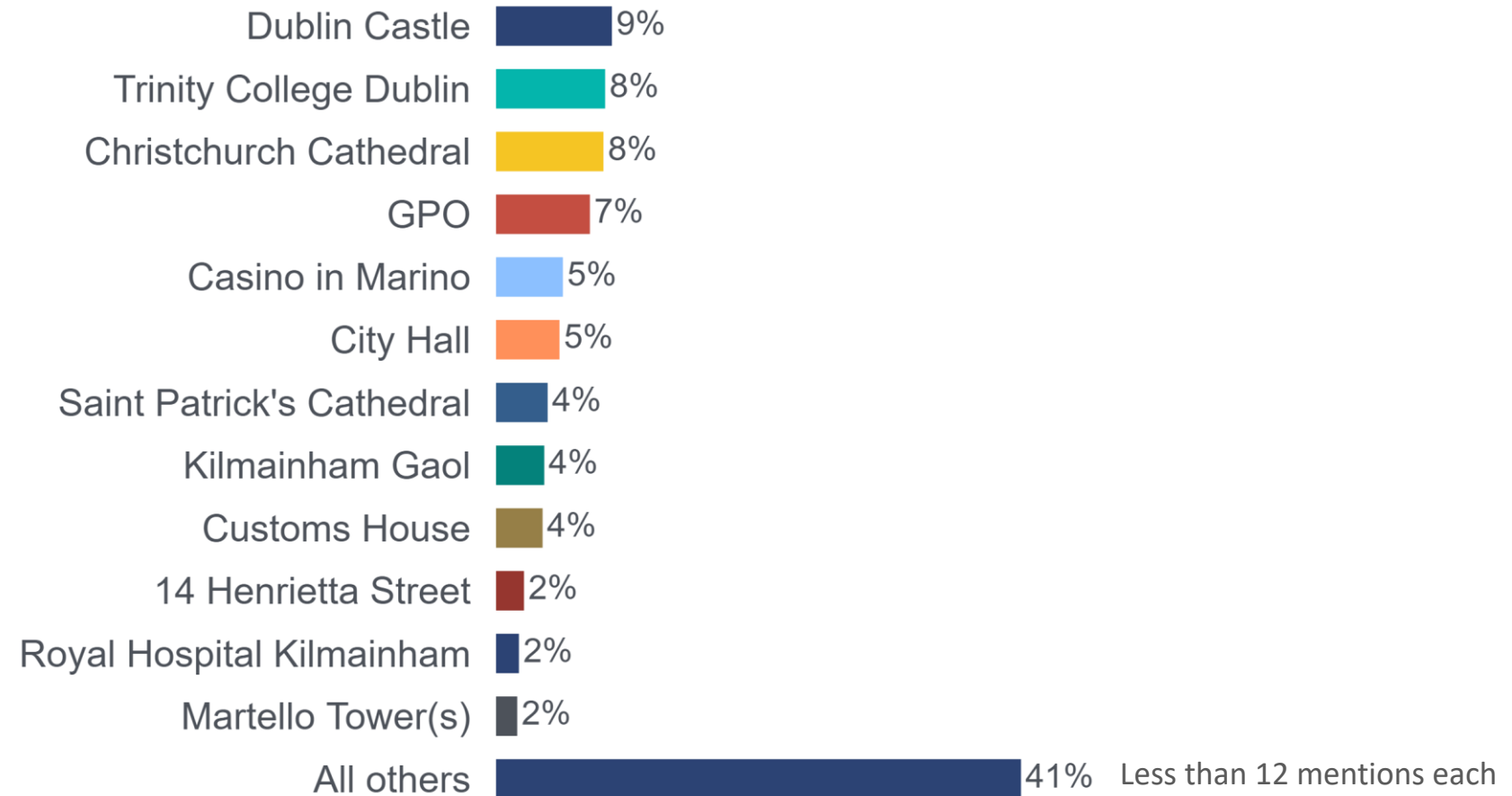
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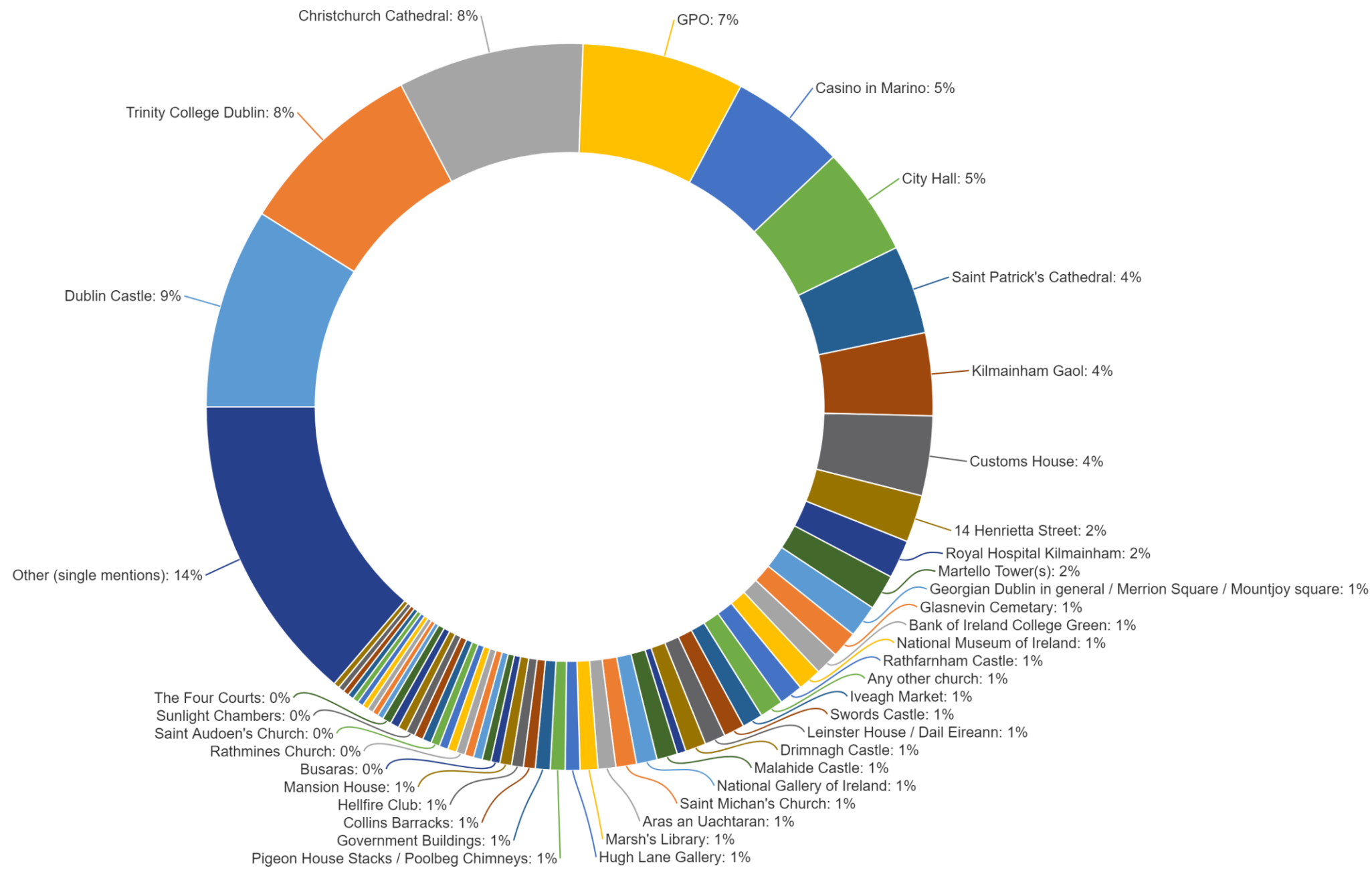
# Favourite Historical Buildings - 1st Mention

Please name up to five of your favourite historical buildings which you think enrich where you live and other places across Dublin city and suburbs

% 1<sup>st</sup> mentions

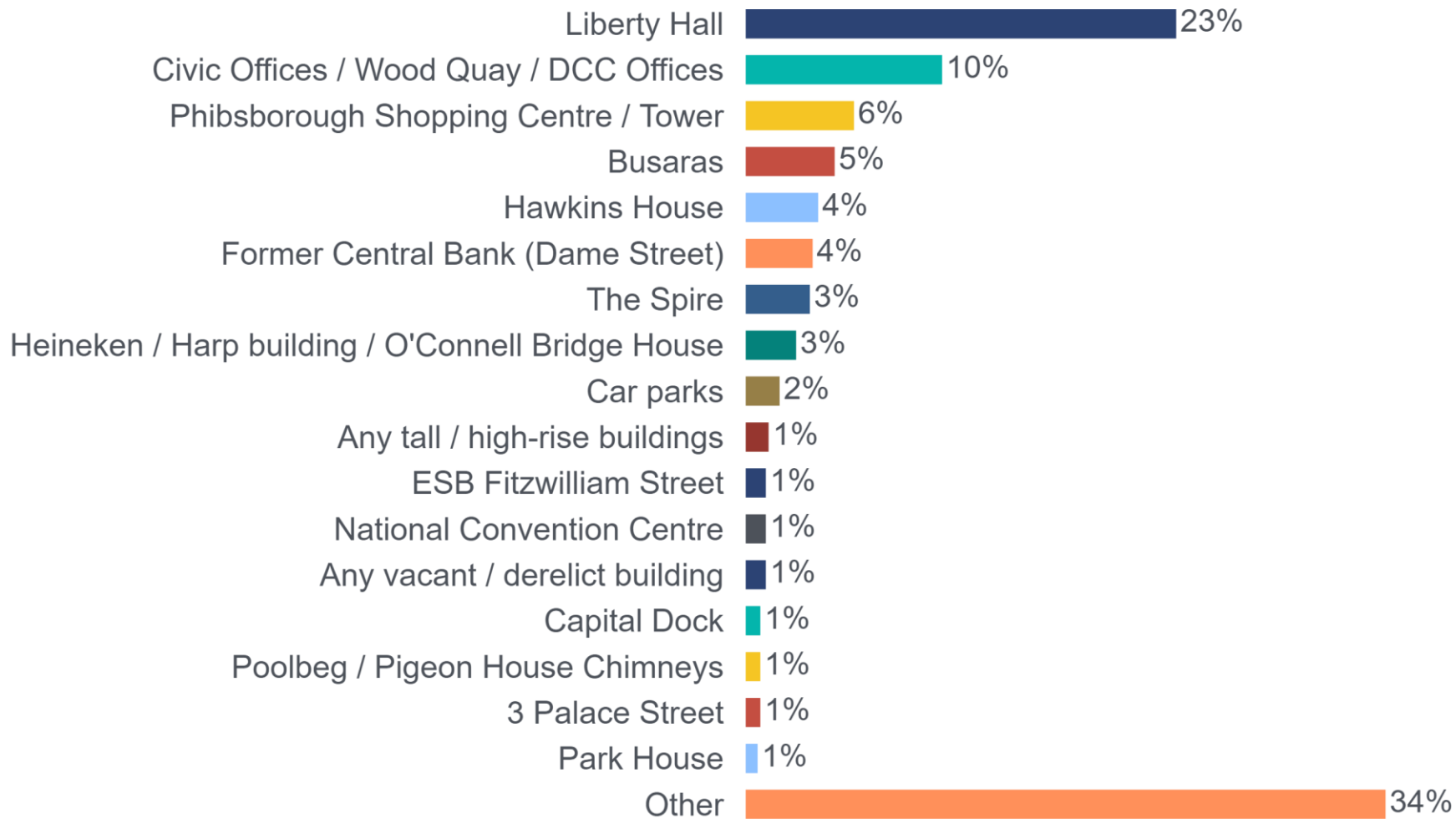


# Favourite Historical Buildings - 1st Mention



What is your least favourite building in Dublin city or suburbs?

open-ended responses categorised - %





# Agenda

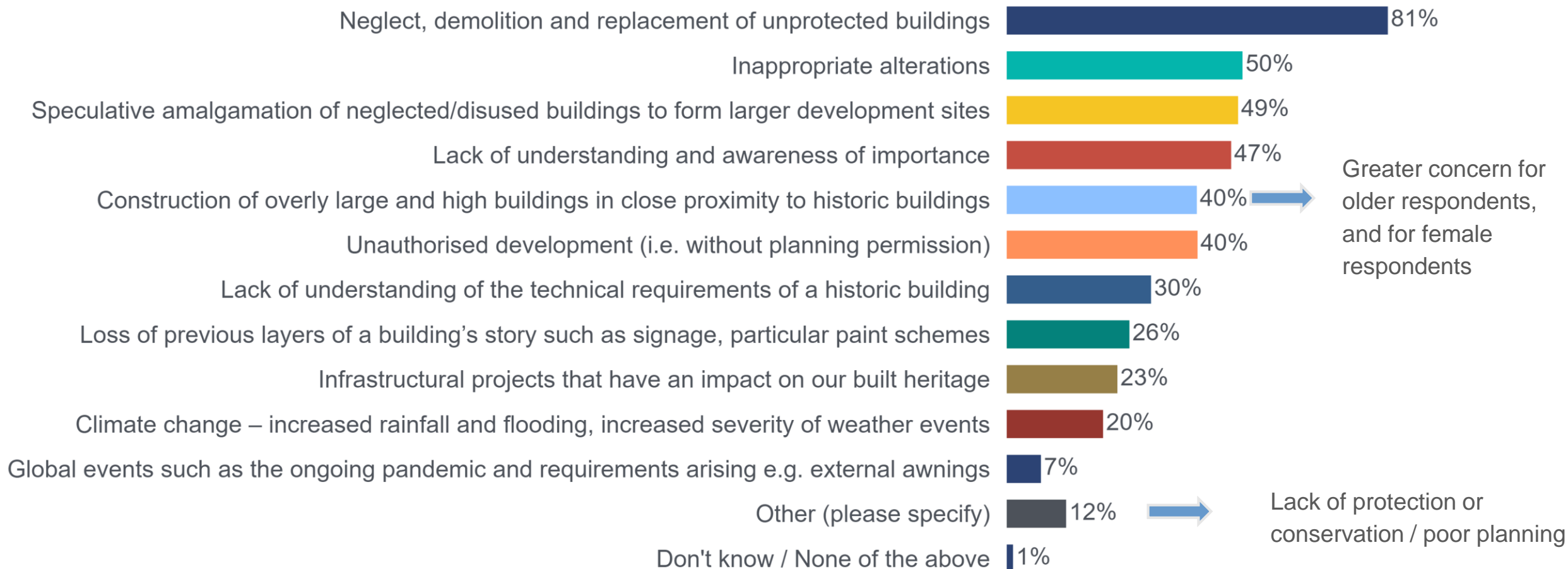
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# Challenges Facing Architectural Heritage

What in your view are the main challenges facing our architectural heritage and character of the city and suburbs?

Please select up to 5 options from the following list.

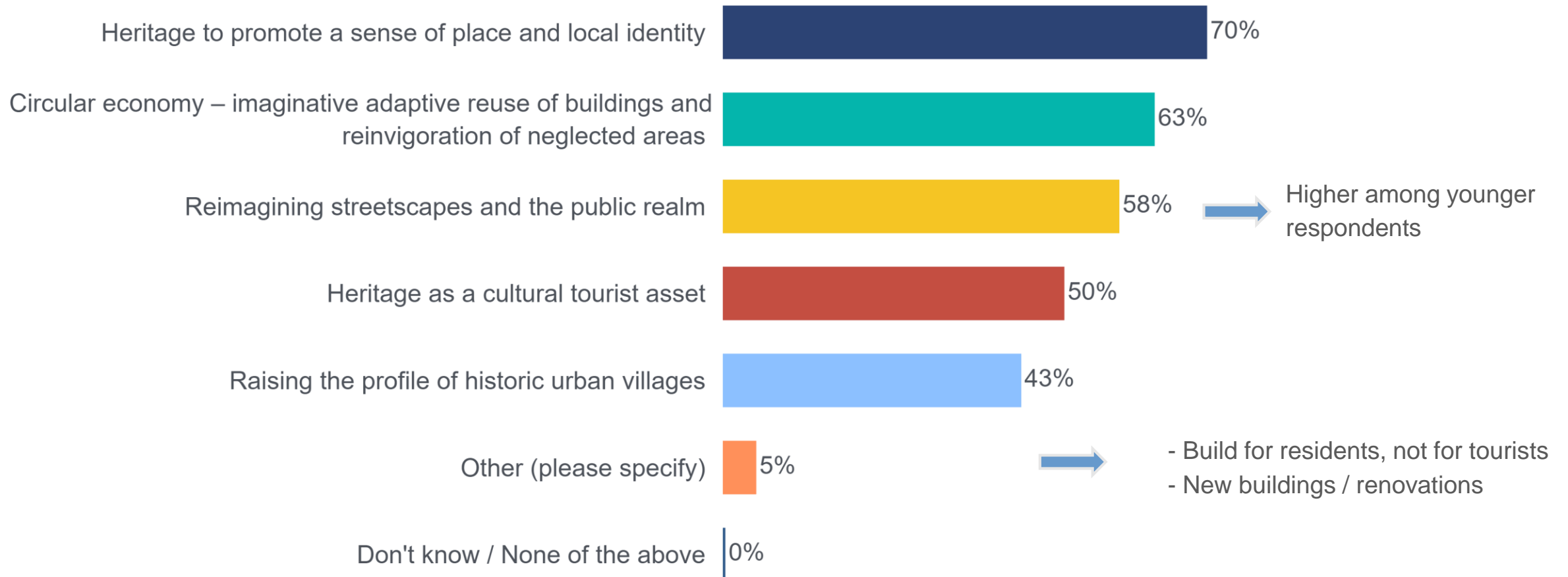
% selecting in top 5



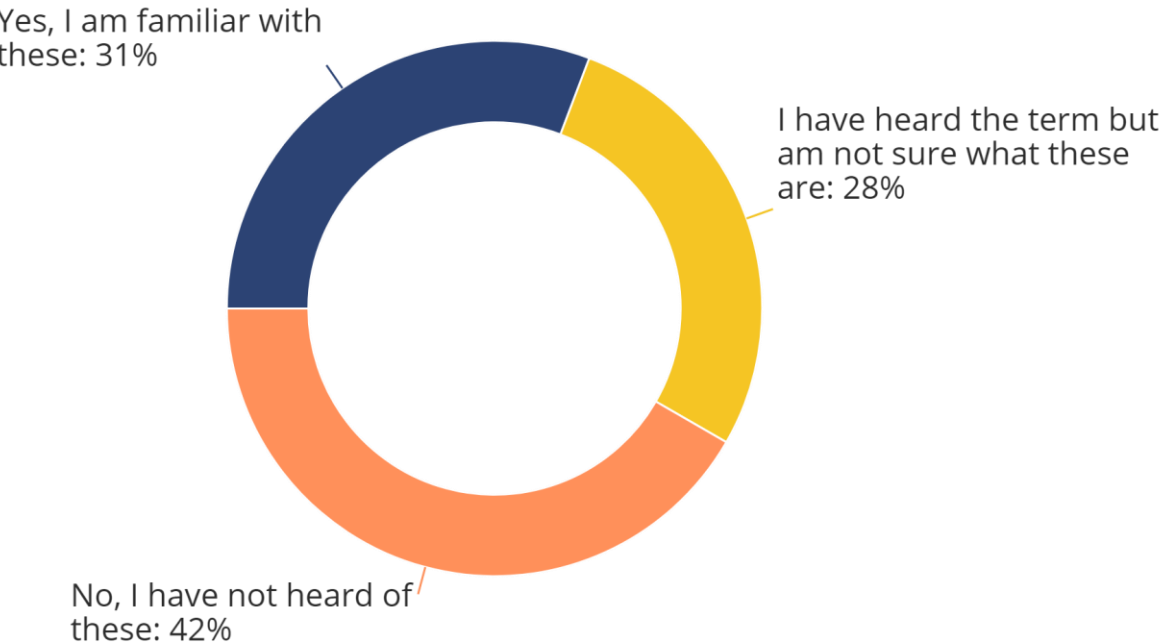
What in your view are the main opportunities for the architectural heritage and character of the city and suburbs?

Please select up to 3 options from the following list

% selecting in top 3



Are you aware of Dublin's historic urban villages?



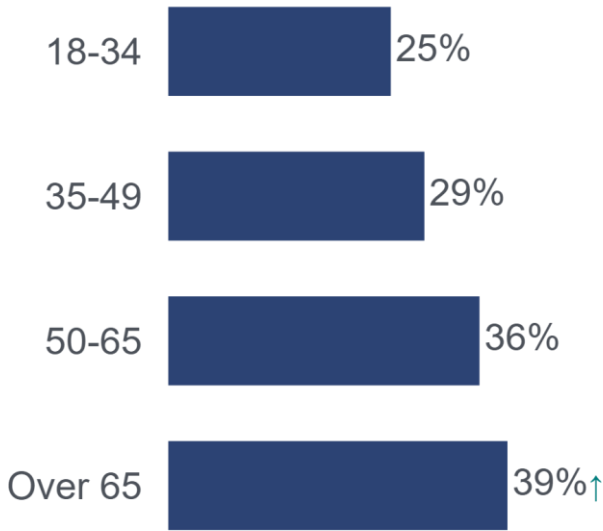
**44%** of those working in related professions were familiar with Dublin's historic urban villages

Awareness was higher among males at **38%**

31%

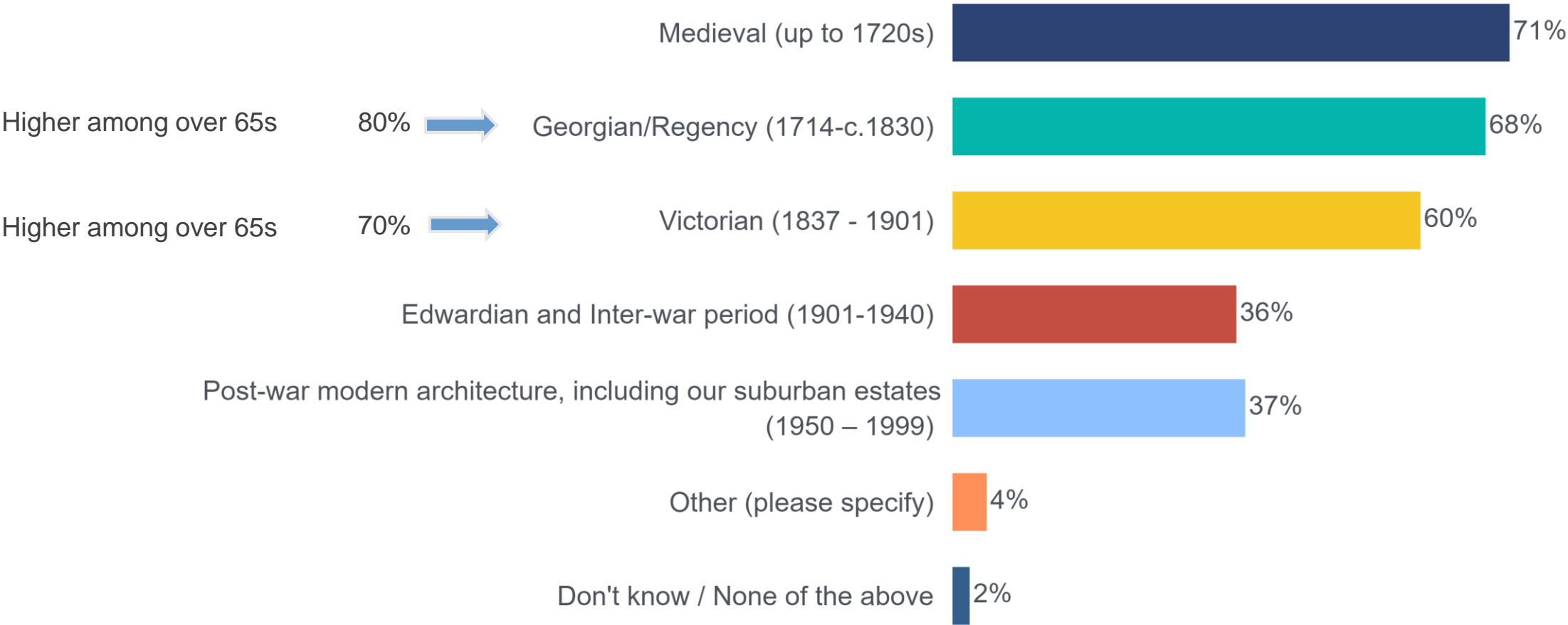
were familiar with Dublin's historic urban villages

Awareness was higher among those aged over 65.

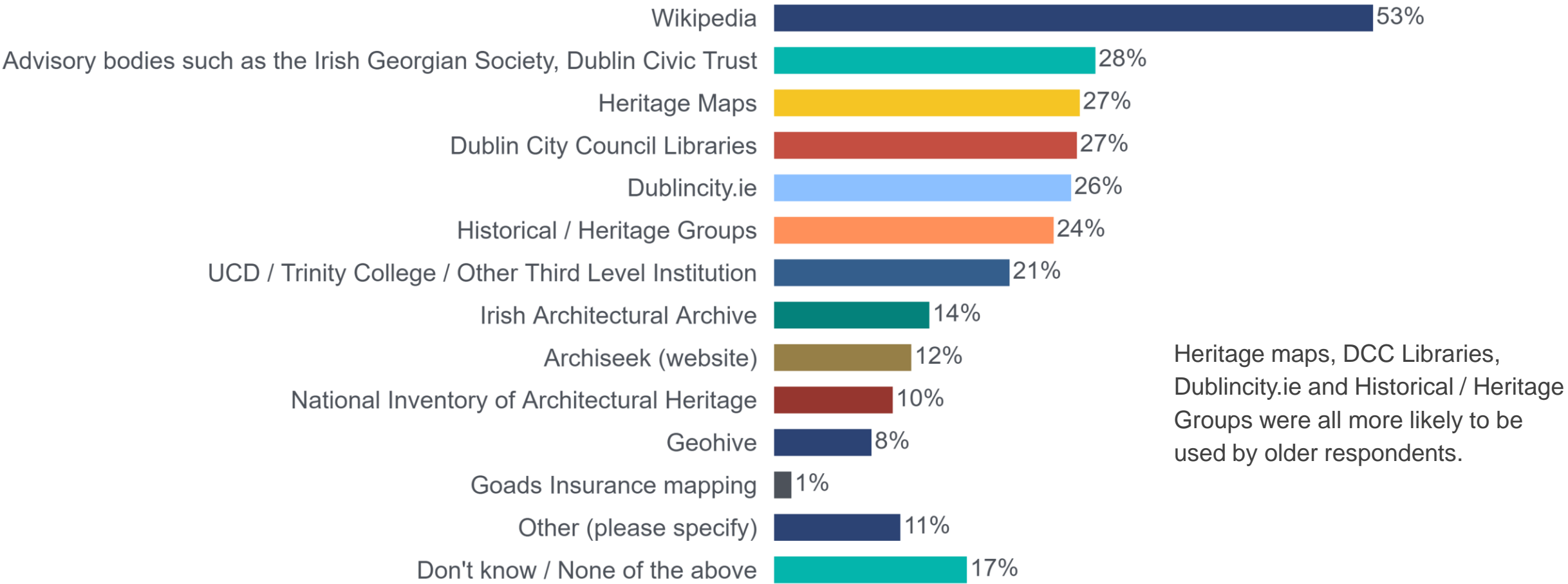


What types of buildings, features, or period of architectural heritage would you like to see researched and published? Please select your top 3 preferred periods

% selecting in top 3



What sources of information do you use to find out about architectural heritage? Please select as many as apply  
% selecting





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Before now were you aware of conservation grant schemes that are available for built heritage?



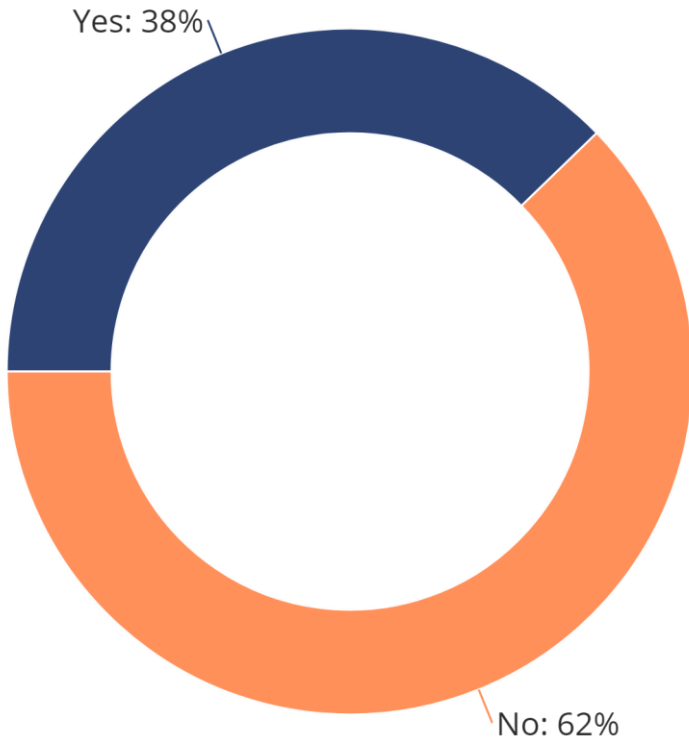
**43%**

were aware of the conservation grant schemes.

Awareness was higher among those aged 50-65 at 50%.

**62%** of those working in related professions were aware of the conservation grant schemes

Before now were you aware of where to get information on the various levels of conservation grant funding available?



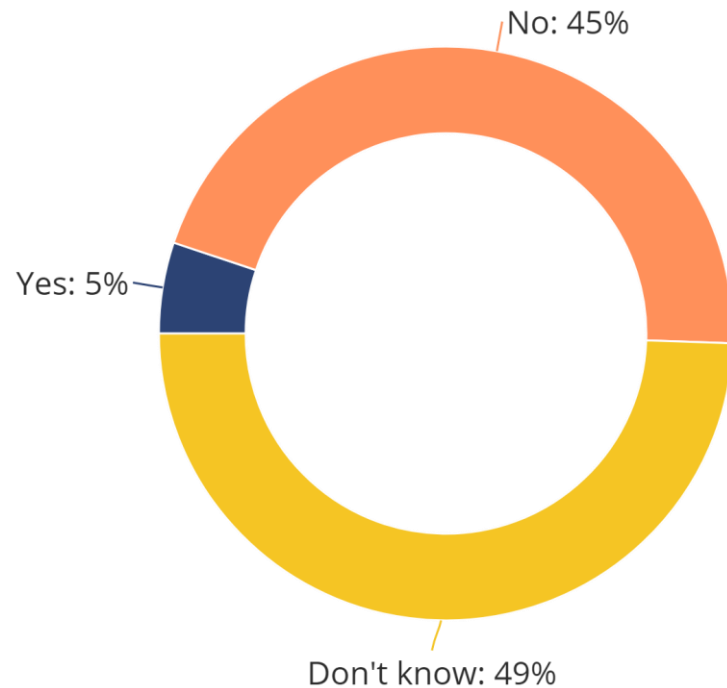
**Base:** 363 respondents who were aware of conservation grant schemes

**38%**

of those aware of conservation grant schemes were aware of where to get information on these schemes.

Awareness was higher among those aged 50-65 at 51%.

Do you think grant funding for heritage is sufficient?



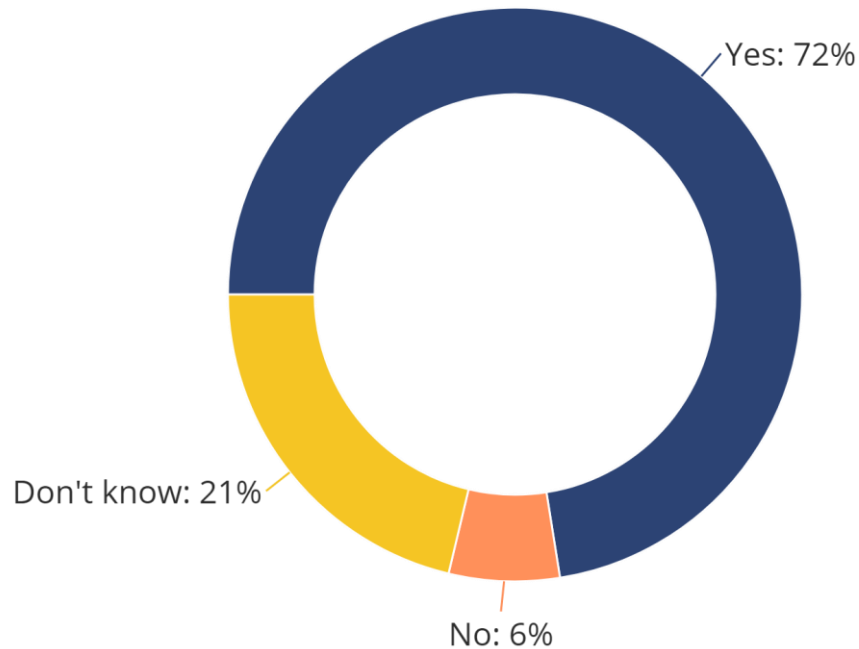
**Base:** 363 respondents who were aware of conservation grant schemes

45%

of those aware of conservation grant schemes did not feel that grant schemes for heritage were sufficient.

Awareness was higher among those working in urban planning at 73%.

Do you think grant funding for the protection of heritage should be extended to buildings of local importance that are not Protected Structures and outside of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs)?



**Base:** 363 respondents who were aware of conservation grant schemes

72%

of those aware of conservation grant schemes felt that grant funding for the protection of heritage should be extended to buildings of local importance that are not Protected Structures and outside of ACAs.

There were no significant variances by demographics or profession.

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From the following list please select the top 4 areas you would like to see prioritised in the new Heritage Plan.

% selecting in top 4



"Heritage" can mean a lot of different things to different people. What does heritage mean to you?  
open-ended comments categorised



If you could choose one heritage project to be delivered in your area, what would that be?  
open-ended comments categorised





For further information please  
contact:

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Dublin City Council  
01 222 5611  
[research@dublincity.ie](mailto:research@dublincity.ie)



Comhairle Cathrach  
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