

The HMAC is a Cork County Council committee consisting of a range of external members, elected representatives and the relevant in-house staff. The HMAC is keen to promote an appreciation of the historic attributes of Cork County and this leaflet is one of a series that gives practical advice and information regarding the county's archaeological heritage.

There may be potential sources of funding from time-to-time. Please contact the Heritage Unit for advice in this regard.



Useful Contacts

Heritage Unit
021 427 6891
Cork County, Council, Floor 3,
County Hall, Cork. T12 R2NC.
<https://www.corkcoco.ie/arts-heritage>

National Monuments Service
01 888 2169
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Customs House, Dublin 1. D01 W6X0.
www.archaeology.ie

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Customs House, Dublin 1.
www.chg.gov.ie/heritage

The Heritage Council
056 777 0777
Church Lane, Kilkenny. R95 X264.
www.heritagecouncil.ie

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Works to an Archaeological Monument

Continued

There is growing interest in the conservation and promotion of archaeological monuments by community groups throughout the county. This is welcome as it raises awareness and ultimately contributes to the long-term preservation of these monuments. However, it is important that any proposed work is carried out in accordance with the legislative provisions and in keeping with best conservation practice.

Where restoration or conservation works are being considered, the principal objective is to ensure the preservation of the monument whilst maintaining its unique character. Each archaeological monument will have different conservation needs. Conservation works should involve minimum intervention with an emphasis on repair rather than replacement, all of which will determine the scope, timing and methodology required. The appointment of an appropriate consultant at an early stage will ensure the sensitive treatment of the monument and that works are carried out appropriately.

Where works are being considered it is strongly advised to contact the Heritage Unit of Cork County Council and/or the National Monuments Service for general advice on the status of the monument and the suitability of the proposal prior to commencement. They will also steer the group in the right direction in terms of best practice, legal requirements and where and when professional advice is needed. **Any works** at or near a Recorded Monuments will require two months notification to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, so advance planning is essential.

Cork County Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht have produced several helpful resources in regards to archaeology and built heritage and these are available to download from their web sites (see useful contacts). The Heritage Council's 'Adopt a Monument' initiative is also useful as it outlines the steps and procedures needed to care for an archaeological monument and is available to download from their web site (www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/adopt-a-monument).



Ringfort, Clonakilty. (C0135-018)

Recommendations before Beginning Works

- Consult with the National Monuments Service and/or the Heritage Unit of Cork County Council, check all legal requirements (Notification/Consent/Planning Permission).
- Obtain the owner's permission.
- Seek professional advice.
- Prepare a plan for the proposed works, which should include:
 - Location, SMR Number and Legal status.
 - Objectives (short and long term).
 - Research, including the inventory entry and relevant local information.
 - A brief written description of the monument including sketch plans/elevation drawings and a photographic record that demonstrates a understanding of the monument.
 - A programme of works, methodology and time frame, team members and specialist input where required.
 - Permissions from the relevant authorities.
 - Long-term management plan.
 - Budget/cost estimates and funding source.

Care of Archaeological Monuments



Introduction

Cork has a unique and diverse range of archaeological heritage dating back to the first arrival of people around 10,000 years ago. It is an objective of Cork County Council to protect, preserve and promote the archaeological heritage of the county. Many individuals and community groups are taking an interest in their local heritage and the aim of this leaflet is to assist them by providing a brief outline of the relevant information. This leaflet forms part of the Heritage Guides produced by the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee, Cork County Council.

What is Archaeology?

Archaeology is the study of people and how they lived in the past through the physical remains they have left behind. These remains are divided into two categories: monuments and artefacts. Artefacts are portable objects like those on display in museums. Monuments are part of the landscape, like castles, forts, fulacht fiadha, stone circles, churches and graveyards. Archaeological monuments are the focus of this leaflet.



Kanturk Castle. (C0023-120)



Glanworth Church and Graveyard. (C0027-04100112)

Archaeological Monuments of County Cork

There are over 19,000 known archaeological monuments on record for County Cork. Amongst the earliest of these are stone-built tombs and stone circles. These tell us much about ancient beliefs and ritual practices from the pre-historic period. The need for defence and habitation often leaves its mark on the landscape and, in the Early Christian period, farmsteads were protected by an encircling earthwork. These ringforts, known in Gaelic as ráth or lios, are unique to Ireland. The medieval period is well represented in the landscape with numerous castles, monasteries and churches attesting to the skill of workmanship in stone at that period. Monuments can also be from the more recent past, such as old water-powered mills, bridges, houses and lime kilns.

Where to find information on archaeological monuments

The results of the Archaeological Survey of County Cork, carried out in the 1980s/90s, are published in a series of five inventories covering the entire county: West Cork, East & South Cork, Mid Cork and North Cork. The fifth volume contains newly discovered sites and monuments across the county. Each volume has a succinct description of individual site and general monument type as well as an extensive bibliography. This information is also available in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) on the **Monument Map Viewer** available at www.chg.gov.ie/heritage/national-monuments-service. Each site has a unique number, e.g. Kanturk castle is C0023-120.

The SMR is a database that is updated on a regular basis. The terms 'monument' and 'site' are generally interchangeable, however 'monument' usually refers to an upstanding feature while 'site' may indicate that only subsurface remains are present, the secrets of which are uncovered through systematic archaeological excavation.

Protection

The legal protection of our archaeological heritage comes under the National Monuments Act (1930-2004). The National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht is responsible for the recording, preservation, protection and promotion of the country's archaeological heritage. The vast majority of the county's archaeological monuments are in the Record of Monuments and Places (**RMP**) (www.archaeology.ie/publications-forms.../record-of-monuments-and-places). This is a published list with accompanying maps providing legal protections. Under the legislation anyone carrying out works at or in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument must **notify** the Minister of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht at least two months before the works commence. The other main category are **National Monuments**. These are generally in the ownership or guardianship of the State or in the ownership of the Local Authority. Under the legislation any works at or in proximity to a National Monument require the written **consent** of the Minister. Application forms for both Notification and Ministerial Consent can be downloaded from the web (www.archaeology.ie/publications-forms-legislation/forms).



St. Abigail's Well, Glantane. (C0041-031002)



Derreenataggart Stone Circle, Castletownbere. (C0115-011002)

Works to an Archaeological Monument

Works can be considered as anything outside of routine maintenance such as conservation, construction, excavation, demolition, alteration, repair or renewal. Works can also include the removal of vegetation, cleaning and re-pointing of masonry, signage, landscaping and the construction of pathways or trails. If in any doubt contact the Heritage Unit or the National Monuments Service for clarification. It is also an offence under the National Monuments Act to use a metal detector on or near an archaeological monument or to use one to search for archaeological artefacts without a licence from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. All archaeological excavations are carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Prior to carrying out any works, it is important to check whether the site is subject to any other heritage designations such as Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and /or Natural Heritage Area (NHA). In addition some monuments are architectural in nature and may be included in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) or within an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). These have their own legal requirements and it is important to ensure that these are met. These designations can be checked by consulting with Vol. 2 Heritage & Amenity section in the Cork County Development Plan, which is available online (www.corkcocodevplan.com).