

# MONUMENTS and ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTS



Graveslabs, Fuerty Abbey.



La Tène Stone, Castlestrange.

## What is Archaeology?

Archaeology is the study of past societies through the material remains left by those societies and the evidence of their environment.

These material remains may consist of sites and monuments or much smaller remains such as pottery, jewellery, clothes even ancient human, animal or plant remains.

Archaeological sites and monuments vary greatly in form and date, examples include earthworks of different types and periods. Archaeological sites may have no visible surface features, but archaeological deposits and features may survive beneath the surface and remain invisible unless uncovered through ground disturbance

## Why is archaeology so important?

Our archaeological heritage can be used to gain knowledge and understanding of the past. It is of great cultural and scientific importance. Only a portion of the material remains of past societies have survived, this is why all the available evidence is of archaeological significance.

## What exactly are monuments?

A monument is any **building, structure or erection** such as a castle or dolmen eg. **Boyle Abbey**. A monument is also a **cave, stone or natural produce** which has been worked on carved, sculpted or moved to position, such as Castlestrange Stone, with its Celtic La Tene decorations. A monument is also a **tomb, grave, burial deposit, ritual, industrial or habitation site**, such as the features at Rathcroghan eg **Rathmór**.

Any place comprising any **traces of the above** is also considered a monument eg Rindoon castle, the fortifications here date from 1227.

Monuments does **not include** any building habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes.

## Where can I find out about sites and monuments in my locality?

All known sites and monuments are identified and listed for protection by the National Monuments and Historic Properties Service, in the **Record of Monuments and Places**, a statutory inventory of sites protected under the National Monuments Acts.

The Record of Monuments and Places is a set of 6" maps of County Roscommon with an accompanying index which shows all the sites, monuments and zones of archaeological potential identified to date in the county. This inventory concentrates on pre 1700AD sites.

The Record of Monuments and Places is available to the public at the Planning Office of Roscommon County Council, Church Road, Roscommon, open 9.30am - 1.00pm, 2.00pm - 4.00pm Monday to Friday, and at the following locations:

<b>Roscommon</b>	Roscommon County Council Offices, The Courthouse, Roscommon
	Roscommon County Library, Abbey Street, Roscommon and other main branches
	Roscommon County Museum, John Harrison Memorial Hall, Market Square, Roscommon
	Farm Development Service Office, Main Street, Castlerea
	Farm Development Service Office, Church Street, Roscommon
	Teagasc Office, Church Road Roscommon and local offices
	Boyle Town Council, Boyle

## What does inclusion on the Record of Monuments and Places mean?

Under Section 12(3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 monuments and places included in the record are protected as follows:

*"When the owner or occupier (not being the commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded under subsection (1) of this section or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice".*

This notice should be sent to the National Monuments and Historic Properties Service, Dún Sceine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2. Telephone 01 4117100.

## Who owns sites and monuments?

Only a small section of our ancient monuments are in state ownership. The remainder are protected by the state under the National Monuments Acts but the care and preservation of these features depends largely on the interest and respect of the individual landowner.

### **What are Heritage Objects?**

These are objects over 25 years old which are works of art or industry (including books, documents and other records, including genealogical records) of cultural importance.