



APPENDIX 12-6

GLOSSARY AND DEFINITION OF ARCHAEOLOGY TERMS



Rialtas na hÉireann
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Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



The Hodson Bay Waterfront Park Project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund

Castle – motte An artificial, steep-sided, earthen mound on or in which is set the principal tower of a castle. Constructed by the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th and early 13th century AD.

Castle - tower house A fortified residence in the form of a tower, usually four or five storeys high, and for the most part slightly more rectangular than square in plan. They were constructed by a lord or landholder and were often partially or completely enclosed by a bawn. The majority date to the 15th and 16th centuries AD.

Church A building used for public Christian worship. These can be of any date from c. AD 500 onwards.

Earthwork An anomalous earthen structure, usually raised and occurring in a variety of shapes and sizes, that on field inspection was found to possess no diagnostic features which would allow classification within another monument category. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards.

Enclosure An area defined by an enclosing element (e.g. bank, wall, fosse, scarp), or indicated as such cartographically, and occurring in a variety of shapes and sizes, possessing no diagnostic features which would allow classification within another monument category. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards.

House – vernacular house A house which is non-formal, built of local materials using local skills and craftsmen within the parameters of their own local building tradition. In Ireland, the majority are single storey, rectangular in plan and only one room deep, with the main hearth/kitchen forming the core of the house for domestic and social activities. These date from the AD 17th to the early 20th century.

Ringfort – cashel A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by a stone wall or walls. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from 500 to 1000 AD. See Ringfort - rath for earthen equivalent.

Ringfort – rath A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by an earthen bank with an external fosse. Some examples have two (bivallate) or three (trivallate) banks and fosses, but these are less common and have been equated with higher status sites belonging to upper grades of society. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from AD 500 to 1000.

Ringfort – unclassified A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by an earthen bank with an external fosse (see Ringfort - rath) or a stone wall (see Ringfort - cashel). The term Ringfort - unclassified is used in instances where the surviving remains are insufficient to determine whether the monument was originally a rath or cashel. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from 500 to 1000 AD.

Road - road/trackway A way, or section thereof, which has been deliberately constructed between places. These may be of any date from prehistory onwards.