

# National Monuments in State Care: Ownership & Guardianship

4th March 2009

Clare



Comhshaol, Oidhreachta agus Rialtas Áitiúil  
Environment, Heritage and Local Government

National Monuments Service  
Seirbhís na Séadcomharthaí Náisiúnta

[www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)

## **Disclaimer**

These data sets are based on records many of which date to the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. Research to clarify the number and exact extent of some of the monuments brought into care, is ongoing. Consequently, the information presented here should be considered as a work in progress and changes will be implemented from time to time. While every effort has been made in preparing this data no responsibility is accepted by or on behalf of the State for any errors, omissions or misleading statements on these pages or any website to which these pages connect.



## NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN STATE CARE

### What is a National Monument?

The term 'national monument' as defined in Section 2 of the National Monuments Act (1930) means a monument 'the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto...'

### What is a National Monument in State Care?

National monuments in State care include those which are in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG). Other owners of national monuments are empowered under Section 5 of the National Monuments Act (1930) to appoint the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government as guardian of such monuments. This means in effect that while the property of such a monument remains vested in the owner, its maintenance and upkeep are the responsibility of the State.

Monuments which may be defined as national monuments are also in the ownership or guardianship of Local Authorities which have similar responsibilities under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004) to DEHLG. These monuments are not included in the data sets presented here.

### How many National Monuments are in State Care?

In October 1874 the first group of monuments, those on the Rock of Cashel, Co. Tipperary, was taken into State care. Since then, over 1,000 individual monuments at 760 locations, have been taken into ownership or guardianship. These range from megalithic tombs of the neolithic period to medieval churches and castles, industrial mills and historic buildings of more recent times. One of the core functions of the National Monuments Service is to ensure the preservation of the monuments in its care for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. To view a list of monuments in state care go to [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).

### Who looks after National Monuments in State Care?

A partnership of the National Monument Services of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works, looks after the national monuments in State care. The conservation and presentation of these monuments is project-managed by the OPW with responsibility for the archaeological aspects of projects resting with DEHLG. The consent of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government is required for any works at or in proximity to national monuments in State care.

The country is divided into six works districts, each with a team of specialist craftsmen and general operatives reporting to a district works manager, under the general direction of a senior conservation architect. [www.opw.ie](http://www.opw.ie).

### Which National Monuments can I visit?

Not all monuments in State care are open or accessible to the public. To view those which provide visitor facilities go to [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie).



## National Monuments in State Care Database

This list of National Monuments in State care includes those which are in the ownership and guardianship of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Over 1,000 individual monuments at 760 locations are represented. In most cases, each entry on the list represents an individual monument however, where a group of monuments form a discreet entity e.g. Lough Crew passage tomb cemetery, Glendalough monastic settlement, these are treated as one entry.

### Format of the database

The database contains the following fields:

1. **NAME:** This is the common or popular name of the monument or group of monuments. In the absence of a commonly known name the townland name is used.
2. **DESCRIPTION:** This identifies the type of monument e.g. castle, church, passage tomb cemetery, etc. The terminology used does not strictly follow the classification of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) e.g. the term 'ringfort' is used for earthen forts and 'cashel' is used for stone forts.
3. **TOWNLAND:** The townland names used are in accordance with those used by the Ordnance Survey. If a monument extends over more than one townland, all townlands will be listed.
4. **COUNTY:** The county in which the monument is situated.
5. **LEGAL STATUS:** This indicates whether the site is in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
6. **RMP NUMBER:** Each monument is entered in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. A unique identifying number is assigned to each monument and place in the record. The RMP number provides the link to the records of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) which contains further information on the monument in question.
7. **NATIONAL MONUMENT NUMBER:** When a monument is taken into State ownership or guardianship its details are added to a National Monuments Register. In the earlier years, when a number of monuments were taken in State care at the same time, they were all given the same register number e.g. the monuments on the Dingle peninsula are all registered under number 221. Similarly, groups of monument such as the passage tombs at Lough Crew will have the same registration number. The register is not entirely up-to-date with the result that some of the more recent acquisitions have yet to be assigned numbers.



NAME	DESCRIPTION	TOWNLAND	COUNTY	LEG_STATUS	RMP NUMBER	Nat_Mon_No
Corcomore Abbey	Abbey (Cistercian)	Abbey West	Clare	Ownership	CL003-029002-	11
Ballyallaban	Ringforts	Ballyallaban	Clare	Ownership	CL005-094002-, CL005-040----	648
Tau Cross (Cross Inneenboy)	Cross	Ballycashen, Roughan	Clare	Ownership	CL016-052002-	574
Ballyhickey	Wedge Tomb	Ballyhickey	Clare	Ownership	CL034-137001-	484
Brian Boru's Fort	Ringfort	Ballyvally	Clare	Ownership	CL045-031----	591
Bunratty Castle	Castle	Bunratty East	Clare	Guardianship	CL062-001004-	478
Caheraphuca	Wedge Tomb	Caheraphuca	Clare	Ownership	CL026-015----	466
Cahermacnaghten	Cashel	Cahermacnaghten	Clare	Ownership	CL009-001001-	354
Canon Island Abbey	Abbey (Augustinian)	Canon Island	Clare	Ownership	CL060-011002-	195
Clareabbey	Abbey (Augustinian)	Clareabbey	Clare	Ownership	CL033-120001-	197
Dromore Castle	Castle	Dromore	Clare	Ownership	CL025-078001-	583

NAME	DESCRIPTION	TOWNLAND	COUNTY	LEG_STATUS	RMP NUMBER	Nat_Mon_No
Drumcliffe	Church & Round Tower	Drumcliffe	Clare	Ownership	CL033-033001-, CL033-033003-	204
Ennis Friary	Friary (Franciscan)	Ennis	Clare	Ownership	CL033-082001-	170
Gleninagh Castle	Castle	Gleninagh	Clare	Ownership	CL002-007001-	509
Inchicronan Abbey	Abbey (Augustinian)	Inchicronan	Clare	Ownership	CL026-014001-	14
Inishcaltra	Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Site	Inishcaltra or Holy Island	Clare	Ownership	CL029-009----	5
Kilfenora	Church	Kilcarragh	Clare	Ownership	CL016-012001-	7
Kilfenora Abbey	Friary (Franciscan)	Kilfenora	Clare	Ownership	CL016-015001-	9
Kilfenora	Cathedral & Crosses	Kilfenora	Clare	Ownership	CL016-015002-, CL016-015011-, CL016-015012-, CL016-015013-, CL016-015006-, CL016-015007-, CL016-015008-	8
St. Molua's Church	Church	Killaloe	Clare	Ownership	CL045-033015-	279
Leamaneah Castle	Castle	Leamaneah North	Clare	Guardianship	CL016-032002-	448
Dysert O' Dea	Church, Round Tower & Cross	Mollaneen	Clare	Ownership	CL025-091001, CL025-091003-, CL025-091004-	16

NAME	DESCRIPTION	TOWNLAND	COUNTY	LEG_STATUS	RMP NUMBER	Nat_Mon_No
Mooghaun	Hillfort	Mooghaun South	Clare	Ownership	CL042-074001-	649
Killone Abbey	Abbey (Augustinian)	Newhall	Clare	Ownership	CL041-062001-	176
Oughtmama	Three Churches	Oughtmama	Clare	Ownership	CL003-032002-, CL003-032003-, CL003-032004-	12
Ruan	Church	Portlecka	Clare	Ownership	CL025-070001-	17
Poulnabrone	Portal Tomb	Poulnabrone	Clare	Guardianship	CL009-034001-	632
Quin Abbey	Friary (Franciscan)	Quin	Clare	Ownership	CL042-027002-	15
Carrigaholt Castle	Castle	Rinemackaderrig	Clare	Guardianship	CL065-100001-	427
Scattery Island	Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Site	Scattery Island	Clare	Ownership	CL067-024001-	10
St. Flannan's Church	Church	Shantraud	Clare	Ownership	CL045-033003-	6
Slievenaglasha	Wedge Tomb	Slievenaglasha	Clare	Ownership	CL010-064023-	270
Temple Cronan	Church	Termon	Clare	Ownership	CL010-021002-	13

NAME	DESCRIPTION	TOWNLAND	COUNTY	LEG_STATUS	RMP NUMBER	Nat_Mon_No
Magh Adhair	Inauguration Site	Toonagh	Clare	Ownership	CL034-095001-, CL034-095002-, CL034-095003-, CL034-095004-, CL034-095007-	224
Tullycommon	Wedge Tomb	Tullycommon	Clare	Ownership	CL010-064006-	270
Cashlaungarr	Cashel	Tullycommon	Clare	Ownership	CL010-057----	270
Cahercommaun	Cashel	Tullycommon	Clare	Ownership	CL010-064003-	270