

# Archaeology

Humans have occupied Ireland for the past 10,000 years, leaving us with a rich legacy of archaeological monuments and landscapes. We work to conserve this unique archaeological heritage.

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## Adopt a Monument Ireland

The Heritage Council in conjunction with Abarta Heritage and Archaeology Scotland are currently seeking applications from community groups across Ireland to participate in the inaugural year of the Adopt a Monument Ireland scheme.

The Adopt a Monument scheme aims to empower communities to become actively involved in the conservation and interpretation of local archaeological and cultural heritage sites. By providing expertise, mentoring and support, this programme will assist community groups to help move their heritage site from the periphery to the very heart of the community.

The scheme will be carried out throughout 2016 and five archaeological or cultural sites with opportunity for significant community engagement will be selected for participation in this scheme. You can [download an application form here](#), the **deadline for applications is midnight on the 22nd January 2016**. If you have any questions about the scheme please do send us a message via [adoptamonument@heritagecouncil.ie](mailto:adoptamonument@heritagecouncil.ie)

You can follow the project on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/AaMIreland> or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AdoptaMonumentIreland>



## More About the Scheme

Around every corner in Ireland you can discover an echo of the past. Ireland's landscapes, cities, towns and villages abound with an incredible variety of heritage sites, ranging from prehistoric tombs or stone circles, early monasteries, medieval walled towns, mighty castles, churches and graveyards and landed estates to industrial and agricultural heritage like mines, kilns and mills to more recent cultural sites like handball alleys, traditional houses and architecture or key areas from social history such as battlefields, or sites associated with political struggle.

The Adopt a Monument Scheme has the potential to become a vital cog in the protection, engagement and promotion of Ireland's heritage. It is a new way of bringing monuments and local heritage from the periphery into the heart of a community. As identified by Archaeology Scotland, the Adopt a Monument scheme can provide a powerful mechanism to connect monuments with communities for the benefit of both.

For participants and communities the Adopt a Monument Scheme offers opportunities to work collaboratively together as a community, to get active and participate in community development, to boost regional tourism and business and employment opportunities and to develop and understand the story of their locality. For the monuments, the scheme has the potential to ensure ongoing maintenance and care, greater protection through increased civic value, and much higher standards of interpretation and understanding.

## FAQs

### Who is eligible to take part in the Adopt a Monument Scheme?

Any voluntary group or organisation is eligible to take part in this scheme, for example Tidy Towns committees, archaeological societies, local history groups, Men's Sheds, Community Development Organisations or more. At this time we do not recommend adoptions by individuals, as the workload is too great for one person to manage alone.

### What type of monument can be included?

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**Are there any monuments that are unsuitable for this scheme?**

Access and health and safety are key issues for suitability for participation. Full consent from the land owner must be obtained before acceptance into the scheme. If you are unsure as to whether your monument is eligible please do get in touch via our initial contact form.

**What does the Adopt a Monument Scheme Involve?**

The Adopt a Monument Scheme will facilitate and empower local communities to develop a sense of shared ownership of their heritage and will develop their skill-set for effective management and promotion of their local monument. It will also help to improve access to the site, ensure the conservation of the monument and help to raise awareness.

**Will training be provided to successful applicants?**

Yes, successful applicants will undergo training to help empower them to manage their monument for the future. Training may include best practice in survey, conservation, maintenance and outreach as well as other topics based on the individual community and monument needs.

**Will this scheme cost our community group any money?**

Participation in this scheme is free. All we need is your time and interest. Any works needed for the site will require funding through the usual channels.

[Download the application form](#) or email us with any queries at [adoptamonument@heritagecouncil.ie](mailto:adoptamonument@heritagecouncil.ie)