

# **Module 1, Part C**

## **The Chronology of Archaeological Monuments**

### **INTRODUCTION**

We looked at the subject of monuments and maps in part B, and this follow on section aims to help you recognise what time periods the different monuments date to. As mentioned before, there are a vast number of monuments that can be potentially marked on a map, or recorded in the National Monuments Record, some 417 in total. A full list of these is given at the end of this document, in appendix one. By no means are you expected to know them all, but it is important that you learn to recognise the most common features, and know what period they are likely to date to.

When archaeologists talk about periods or eras, they are referring to the way we have divided up the past. In order to ease our understanding of history and prehistory, time is divided up into eras. These sometimes correspond with the introduction of major technical innovations, such as the introduction of metals or farming. Sometimes they refer to the reign of an important leader or monarch, such as the Edwardian period. Occasionally they refer to other events that have a major social impact, as is the case with the Viking period.

It is important to remember that the end of one era and the beginning of the next is not always clear-cut. People did not simply set aside their stone tools, declaring the Stone Age over, and switch to metal overnight. There was transition and continuity for a long time, and cultures generally changed gradually. Great events like the coming of the Vikings did have profound changes on society, but many of these were gradual, and for most people life evolved and changed at a regular pace. The eras are useful divisions, but are not absolute.

### **IRELAND'S MAJOR ERAS**

Ireland was not always inhabited. In fact, in terms of European prehistory, Ireland was quite late in being colonised by humans. The oldest period of human prehistory is known as the Palaeolithic, meaning 'Old Stone Age'. This is the time period people associate with mammoth hunting, cave painting, and the move of humans out of Africa and into Europe. It stretches from the first hominids in Africa, some 2.5 million years ago, until about 10,000BC. There is no real evidence in Ireland for a human presence in the Palaeolithic period. Ireland was covered in great glaciers throughout the last Ice Age, so it comes as no real surprise that there is no evidence of occupation here at this time.

## **Mesolithic**

The first evidence we have for human habitation in Ireland comes from the Mesolithic period, which in Ireland stretches from 7000 to 4000 BC. The people of this time lived in small huts or shelters, and relied on nature for food, fishing, gathering and hunting. They used stone tools, and lived in a sparse settlement pattern. Monuments from this period are difficult to detect, and are mostly confined to sites under the soil, in the form of hut circles, charcoal spreads and stone tools.

## **Neolithic**

After this comes the Neolithic. This period stretches from 4000-2500 BC, and saw the introduction of farming and domesticated animals and plants, the development of new technologies such as ceramics, and the construction of great tombs such as dolmens and passage tombs.

## **Bronze Age**

Next comes the introduction of metals, and the ushering in of the Bronze Age, stretching from 2500 to 700 BC. New tools and weapons were developed in this period, along with new monument types such as stone circles, barrow cemeteries and hillforts.

## **Iron Age**

The Iron Age is considered to be from around 700 BC to 400 AD, although the exact nature of the transition between the Bronze Age and Iron Age is poorly understood, due to a lack of archaeological evidence dating to this time. The Iron Age is one associated with great ritual sites such as Tara or Emhain Macha, and great carved monoliths such as the Turoe Stone or the Lia Fáil. This is also the time when La Tene culture reached Ireland, one we usually associate with the people known as the Celts. Exactly how this culture reached Ireland is a question of great controversy, but the commonly held belief that great waves of invading Celts coming to Ireland is now thought to be outdated. Archaeologists now consider the possibility of Celtic culture arriving in Ireland through smaller movements of people, and a process of acculturation.

## **Early Christian Period**

The Early Christian Period, or Early Medieval Period, is usually defined by the advent of Christianity in Ireland. It is reckoned as being from around 400 AD to 800 AD, and saw the construction of ringforts, monasteries and crannógs. This is the beginning of Ireland's true historical period, with the advent of writing, brought in primarily by the Latin learning of Christians. The first writing is found in the form of inscriptions on stones in an alphabet known as Ogham, and is generally found in the southern half of the country. The language of Ogham is known as Primitive Irish, the earliest form of Gaelic. The manuscript traditions of later centuries provide us with a wealth of knowledge on early law, custom, history and poetry, as well as the great mythological and wonder tales of

saints and heroes. This was also the time of a great flowering of Irish art and culture, and saw the construction of great treasures such as the Book of Kells, the Tara brooch, and high crosses.

### **Viking Period**

The Viking period stretches from around 800 to 1170 AD, and began with a series of coastal raids on monasteries. The following centuries saw great changes, with the Vikings settling and introducing new ideas in coin production, shipbuilding and trade. The Vikings founded Ireland's first real towns, such as Limerick, Waterford and Dublin. Some of the street plans in these cities retain the original layout of the Viking towns. It is important to stress that, throughout this period, Irish society was not solely defined by their experience with the Vikings. Irish culture continued to evolve along its own lines, and despite the significant influence of the Vikings, it was they who assimilated into Irish culture, not vice versa. They did, however, have a very important impact, and the national monuments often bear witness to this.

### **Norman/Medieval Period**

The next major period is the Norman Era. This officially began with the landing of Richard de Clare's forces in Wexford in 1169, and the first of a series of Anglo-Norman invasions and conquest. The Normans quickly spread out and conquered large parts of Ireland, building towns, fortified settlements known as Mottes, and later building great castles. A great many of these towns survive to this day, and in the case of the earlier Viking towns, they were expanded greatly and often fortified under Norman control. Anglo-Norman rule was greatly contested in Ireland, and in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries there was a period of Gaelic Resurgence, where native rule was one more enforced in great parts of the country. While the Norman period is considered to be from roughly 1170-1536, this is also referred to as the Medieval Era in Ireland. Castles, towns, abbeys and tower houses are all typical monuments of this period.

### **Early Modern Ireland**

Early Modern Ireland is generally considered to begin in 1536 with the beginning of the Tudor Conquest of Henry VIII of England, when he declared himself king of the country. He aimed to place the whole island under direct English control, and impose English law, taxes and religion. The Norman lords of Ireland often had divided allegiances, and were culturally closer to the native Irish than the English. Events like the Desmond Rebellion of 1569 and the Nine Years' War of 1594-1603 saw attempts by Irish Lords to resist this re-conquering of Ireland, and eventually led to the defeat of the Irish lords. Many fled the country, in what became known as the Flight of the Earls, and settled in Continental Europe. English rule was complete at this time. Monuments that date to this period include star-shaped forts, shipwrecks and tower houses.

## **Protestant Ascendancy**

The period known as the Protestant Ascendancy is generally considered to date from 1691 to 1801. It begins with the Battle of the Boyne, and ends in 1801 with the Act of Union. This is the time when the Penal Laws were enforced, aimed at preserving an Anglican hegemony in Ireland. This was a period of landlords and the consolidation of protestant authority, where an elite ruling class of ethnically English landowners held most of the power. It culminated with the failed rebellion of 1798, and the creation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in 1801. Typical monuments dating to this period include manor houses, limekilns and water mills.

## **Union**

Finally comes the period from 1801 to the advent of independence, including the Home Rule Bill of 1912 and the Easter Rising of 1916. This period too was one of great change, with the Great Hunger of 1845-59, and the decline of the Irish language. Nationalist uprisings occurred in 1803, 1848 and 1867, and efforts at Catholic Emancipation by Daniel O'Connell were typical of the feeling amongst the Native Irish towards English and Ascendancy rule. The growth in Nationalism eventually paved the road to independence, and ushered in the Irish Free State and later the Irish Republic. This period too left its mark on the Irish landscape, and monuments such as holy wells, vernacular houses and industrial sites date to this era.

## **RECAP**

<b>Mesolithic</b>	7000 BC – 4000 BC
<b>Neolithic</b>	4000 BC – 2500 BC
<b>Bronze Age</b>	2500 BC – 700 BC
<b>Iron Age</b>	700 BC – 400 AD
<b>Early Christian Period</b>	400 AD – 800 AD
<b>Viking Period</b>	800 AD – 1170 AD
<b>Norman/Medieval Period</b>	1170 AD – 1536 AD
<b>Early Modern Ireland</b>	1536 AD – 1691 AD
<b>Protestant Ascendancy</b>	1691 AD – 1801 AD
<b>Union With Britain</b>	1801 AD – 1912 AD
<b>Independence</b>	1912 AD – Today

## **DATING MONUMENTS**

Obviously, there are far too many different types of monuments to be able to identify them all, or to know off hand what period they date to. The aim of this section is to identify and date the most frequently encountered monument types. Some monuments are self-explanatory, like churches and mills, although these can date anywhere from the early medieval period until relatively recently. Others are less familiar, and require further study.

### **Ringforts**

By far the most likely monument you will encounter is the ringfort. These are slightly erroneously named, as they are homesteads rather than forts in any militaristic sense. They generally date to the Early Medieval Period, c.400-800 AD, though many continued in use until the medieval period. Originally they would have been one or more round or rectangular houses, surrounded by an earth or stone wall. Some ringforts were constructed entirely of stone, and are known as cashels. Many of the earthen forts have a ditch surrounding the outer wall. Some more substantial examples have several banks and ditches, and are known as multivallate ringforts, whereas single bank and ditched forts are referred to as univallate forts. Some ringforts had underground passages of drystone construction. These are known as souterrains, and were likely used for storage and defence. Occasionally, souterrains have been found outside the context of a ringfort.

The names of these monuments in Irish include *rath*, *lios*, *dún*, *caiseal* and *cathair*, and can be found in a large variety of Irish placenames. Nowadays, it is usually just the enclosing walls of the fort that survives, although sometimes traces of internal buildings can be seen. These are the monuments most often referred to as fairy forts, and folk belief imbued them with a supernatural aura, believing them to be connected to otherworldly beings. This is likely the reason why so many survive, since until recently people were very reluctant to interfere with them, for fear of repercussion.

Ringforts are so numerous that on OS maps they have their own symbol, in the form of an open circle, and are generally otherwise unmarked. Most other monuments have a label informing you of the monument type, or in some instances the specific monument in question.



**Ringfort**

### **Crannógs**

These are artificial islands, or enhanced natural islands, upon which people built buildings and an enclosing fence or palisade. They are almost always located in lakes, and began to be built in the Bronze Age, 2500-700 BC. Some show traces of being inhabited in the Iron Age, but for the most part they date to the Early Christian Period, 400-800. Again, some continued in use until much later. They were usually approached by boat, though a few show traces of having causeways connecting them to the mainland.



**Crannóg**

### **Hillforts**

These are great elevated sites that enclose the top of a hill, usually by stone or earthen construction. Excavation reveals that these sites were mostly built in the Bronze Age, although they occasionally continued to be used in later periods. They are different to hilltop ringforts, insofar as they are built to enclose the entire hilltop, and usually show

evidence of being defensive in nature, or at least giving the impression of being defensive. They could be symbolic structures, representing the power of a local leader or group.



**Hillfort**

### **Promontory Forts**

These are forts built on cliff edges or precipices, either on coasts or elevated hill sites. They can be U-shaped, and built against a sheer drop on at least one side. The open side fulfilled the role of a defensive wall, making entry at this point difficult for any would-be attackers, who would have to climb the cliff. Sometimes a single wall was all that was needed to enclose a bluff, with sheer drops on all other sides. These generally date to the Iron Age and Early Christian period.





**Promontory Fort**

### **Megalithic Tombs**

'Megalithic' comes from the Greek words for 'large' and 'stone', and these monuments are generally of large stone construction. They come in varying types, and date to different periods. Passage Tombs, Court Tombs and Portal Tombs date to the Neolithic Period 4000-2500 BC, while Wedge Tombs span the end of the Neolithic and the

beginning of the Bronze Age. As well as being repositories for the dead, these were likely to be sites for other rituals, and monuments such as Newgrange show signs of being used for elaborate rituals involving sunlight on the winter solstice.



**Neolithic Portal Tomb – also known as a Dolmen**

### **Mounds, Cairns and Barrows**

Large mounds of earth are a common monument type. They can be anything from a Norman Motte to a prehistoric burial place. Sometimes they can even be a garden feature from the post-medieval period.

The name cairn is given to mounds of stones, which often occur on elevated sites and hilltops. Sometimes these are Neolithic in date, and contain a burial or even a passage tomb. Some are Bronze Age, while others are of recent origin, as a result of religious practices or folk traditions of placing stones in a heap at important sites.

Barrows are mostly circular features that show a trace of a shallow ditch and a low-lying central mound. They often contain burials, and generally date to the Bronze or Iron Age.



**Ring Barrow**

### **Fulachta Fiadha**

These enigmatic sites are characterised by a mound of burnt stones, and occasionally a visible trough. They most likely occur in wet sites, near rivers or streams. They date to the Bronze Age, and seem to have been used in the following way. A trough was dug into the ground, and filled with water. Then a fire was lit, and stones placed in the fire. When the stones were hot, they were placed in the trough, heating the water. Exactly what function they then served remains a mystery.

Often it is said that they were used for boiling meat. Experiment shows that they can indeed be used in this way, but evidence for their use as cooking sites is not conclusive. Archaeologists have considered a wide variety of possible functions, including bathing or sauna sites, leather or wool production sites or even for brewing beer. Their precise function, however, is far from decided.



**Trough of a Fulacht Fiadh**

### **Stone Circles, Stone Rows and Standing Stones**

These megalithic monuments generally date to the Bronze Age, and are part of a series of monuments that were likely created for ritual or ceremonial purposes. Stone circles can be very small, with as few as five stones arranged in a circle, or be much bigger, spanning tens of metres. Stone rows are two or more stones arranged in a line, which some archaeologists speculate might be aligned to specific astronomical events or important places in the landscape. Standing stones are single upright stones, and occasionally bear examples of abstract Bronze Age art, which includes motifs like circles, spirals and cup marks.



**Bronze Age Rock Art**

Some stones are inscribed with a later type of design, known as La Tene art, and are likely to date to the Iron Age. These often differ in shape from Bronze Age standing stones, with the former being deliberately shaped, while the latter tend to be natural rocks.

Furthermore, some standing stones may not be ancient at all. Farmers sometimes erect natural boulders in fields in order to provide cattle with a scratching post!

## Ogham Stones

These are inscribed stones, bearing the earliest type of writing in Irish, and date to the end of the Iron Age and the Early Christian Period, generally from the fourth to sixth centuries.



Ogham Stone

## **Monasteries and Abbeys**

Some monastic settlements date to the sixth and seventh centuries, and elements of the site may be as old as their foundation. The vallate, or surrounding bank, of some monasteries are certainly from the medieval period, while extant stone buildings such as round towers and churches, date to later centuries. The more formal monasteries and abbeys, with cut stone cloisters and refectories, date to the arrival of monastic orders such as Franciscans, Benedictines and Cistercians in the late twelfth and following centuries.



**Medieval Abbey**

## **Castles**

The Normans were the first to introduce castle building in Ireland. Early Norman fortified structures came in the form of motte and baileys, where earthen mounds were fortified by wooden fences, and a wooden tower was built on top of the mound. Later came the true castles, with stone walls enclosing an easily defended space, known as a bawn. Often, though not always, they had a strengthened internal building called a keep, and a fortified gate. Many of Ireland's great stone castles date to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.



**Norman Castle**



## **Tower Houses**

Tower houses evolved from the central fortified keep of a castle, where the large defensive wall was greatly reduced or dispensed with, with the focus almost entirely on the central building. These were initially built by the Anglo-Normans, but were soon adopted by the native Irish. This is the monument type most commonly thought of as castles in Ireland, but archaeologists refer to them as tower houses, for they were usually simply the home of a rich landowner or merchant. Sometimes the distinction is not always clear, and there is no clear division between larger tower houses and smaller castles. There are over 2000 surviving tower houses in Ireland, although it is likely that many more were built in the past. Their construction begins in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and sometimes continued into the 17<sup>th</sup>, although by then they were beginning to be replaced by fortified houses.



## **Medieval Tower House**

## **Holy Wells**

These are water sources considered to be holy places, or to have the power to cure certain ailments. It is unclear exactly when holy wells first came into use, with some possibly having an ancient pedigree. What is clear is that during Penal times, their popularity grew, and many wells continue to be visited to this day. They are commonly dedicated to a saint, and often on the patron saint's feast day, or pattern day, wells are a place of prayer and celebration. Some wells have no particular religious association, but are known for supposed cures. Most of the shrines, statues and paths associated with holy wells date to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, although some are undoubtedly older.



**Holy Well Shrine**

## **Medieval Earthworks**

These can refer to the remains of motte and bailey structures built by the Normans in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, or may refer to rectangular bank and ditch enclosures that once surrounded medieval houses and farmsteads. Sometimes medieval hamlets and field systems can be traced by the earthworks they left behind after being deserted.



**Norman Motte**

## **Lime Kilns**

This is a common monument type, and relates to the burning of vast quantities of limestone and charcoal in order to produce lime for mortar or agricultural fertilisation. They are often built into banks and hillsides, often resembling arches or doorways, with a brick or stone outlet known as the eye of the kiln. Though some are medieval in age, Irish examples often date to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century, declining in the 19<sup>th</sup>.



**Lime Kiln**

## **Cillíns**

These are small graveyards, where infants and sometimes adults were buried. It was once a rule in Catholic Ireland that certain people could not be buried in sacred ground, and therefore infants who died before being baptised, people who committed suicide and the bodies of unrecognised strangers would be buried in unofficial burial grounds, known as cillíns. Sometimes these cillíns formed in the grounds of old churches and monastic sites, where people buried their dead in formerly sacred ground. They may date to the late medieval or post medieval period, and continued in use until the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



**Child's Grave Being Excavated in a Cillin**

## Crop Marks

Archaeologists and surveyors sometimes recognise the existence of monuments under the soil by the effect they have on crops growing above them. The footprints of buildings and features under the soil sometimes affect the way plants grow, and therefore aerial survey and photography can reveal traces of former structures. This is a useful way to detect archaeological monuments without excavation.



Crop Marks

## CONCLUSION

The above list is only a selection of Ireland's field monuments. It represents the most common types, but it is far from exhaustive, and there are many hundreds more, as you can see in the appendix.

You can download a useful field guide to Irish Monuments at the following address:

<http://www.kerrycoco.ie/en/allservices/heritage/irishfieldmonuments/thefile,2409,en.pdf>

## APPENDIX

The following is a list of Irish field monuments. It is for information purposes only, to show the wide variety of monument types.

ALMS - Almshouse  
ALTR - Altar

ASTG - Anomalous stone group  
RODO - Architectural feature  
ARFR - Architectural fragment  
ARMO - Armorial plaque  
ASYL - Asylum  
AXEF - Axe factory

BAKE - Bakery  
BARN - Barn  
BARR - Barrack  
BOBA - Barrow - bowl-barrow  
DTBA - Barrow - ditch barrow  
EMBR - Barrow - embanked barrow

MOBR - Barrow - mound barrow  
POBA - Barrow - pond barrow  
RGBA - Barrow - ring-barrow  
STBA - Barrow - stepped barrow  
BARO - Barrow - unclassified  
STSF - Bastioned fort

BATY - Battery  
BATT - Battlefield  
BAWN - Bawn  
BEAC - Beacon  
BEBO - Bee-boles  
BLOC - Blockhouse

BOOL - Booley hut  
BOBU - Boulder-burial  
BOCA - Boundary cairn  
BOMO - Boundary mound  
BOST - Boundary stone  
BGGR - Bowling green

BRWA - Breakwater  
BREW - Brewery  
BRWO - Brickworks  
BRID - Bridge  
BUIL - Building  
BULA - Bullaun stone

BULL - Bullring  
BURI - Burial  
BUGR - Burial ground  
BUMO - Burial mound  
BURM - Burnt mound  
BUPI - Burnt pit

BUSP - Burnt spread  
CAIR - Cairn  
CACE - Cairn circle

CAFO - Cairnfield  
CANA - Canal  
CAST - Castle - Anglo-Norman masonry castle

HAHO - Castle - hall-house  
MOTT - Castle - motte  
MOBY - Castle - motte and bailey  
RINK - Castle - ringwork  
RKBY - Castle - ringwork and bailey  
TOHO - Castle - tower house

UNCA - Castle - unclassified  
CATH - Cathedral  
CAUS - Causeway  
CAEN - Causewayed enclosure  
CAVE - Cave  
CECA - Cemetery cairn

CEMO - Cemetery mound  
CENO - Cenotaph  
CEEN - Ceremonial enclosure  
CHAP - Chapel  
CHBS - Charcoal-making site  
CHHO - Charnel house

CHBG - Children's burial ground  
CHUR - Church  
CHYD - Churchyard  
CHCR - Churchyard cross  
CIST - Cist  
CIRN - Cistern

CLBR - Clapper bridge  
CLCA - Clearance cairn  
CLFO - Cliff-edge fort  
CLOC - Clochan  
COAH - Coach house  
COFS - Coffin-resting stone

COLL - College  
COEN - Concentric enclosure  
CRST - Corn stand  
CORS - Corn store  
CYHO - Country house  
COHO - Courthouse

COUR - Courtyard  
CRAH - Crane house  
CRAN - Crannog  
CREA - Creamery  
CRBU - Cremated burial  
CRPT - Cremation pit

CREM - Crematorium/pyre site  
CROS - Cross  
CRIP - Cross-inscribed pillar  
CRIS - Cross-inscribed stone  
CRSL - Cross-slab  
CRPL - Crucifixion plaque

CURI - Cultivation ridge  
CUMS - Cupmarked stone



CUST - Cursing stone  
CURS - Cursus  
CUHO - Custom house  
DAMM - Dam

DEST - Decorated stone  
DECO - Decoy pond  
DEER - Deerpark boundary  
DERE - Defensive redoubt  
AVEN - Designed landscape - avenue  
BELV - Designed landscape - belvedere

FOLL - Designed landscape - folly  
ORLA - Designed landscape - ornamental lake  
SUMM - Designed landscape - summer house  
TEHO - Designed landscape - tea house  
TREE - Designed landscape - tree-ring  
LAFF - Designed landscape feature

DIST - Distillery  
DOVE - Dovecote  
EART - Earthwork  
ECCE - Ecclesiastical enclosure  
ECCR - Ecclesiastical residence  
ECSI - Ecclesiastical site

EFFI - Effigy  
ELGS - Electricity generating station  
EMEN - Embanked enclosure  
ENCL - Enclosure  
EXMI - Excavation - miscellaneous  
EXFI - Exhibitionist figure

FACT - Factory  
FEHO - Fever hospital  
FIBO - Field boundary  
FISY - Field system  
FIPA - Fish palace  
FIPO - Fish-pond

FLCE - Flat cemetery  
FONT - Font  
FORD - Ford  
FORG - Forge  
FORT - Fortification  
FNTN - Fountain

FOPO - Four poster  
FUFI - Fulacht fia  
FURN - Furnace  
GALL - Gallows  
GASW - Gasworks  
GALO - Gate lodge

GATH - Gatehouse  
GATE - Gateway  
GIBB - Gibbet  
GLWO - Glass works  
GLAS - Glasshouse  
GRSL - Graveslab

GRAV - Graveyard

GUIL - Guildhall  
HASI - Habitation site  
HEST - Headstone  
HEAR - Hearth  
HENG - Henge

HERM - Hermitage  
HICR - High cross  
HILL - Hillfort  
HIEN - Hilltop enclosure  
HITO - Historic town  
HOLE - Holed stone

HOSP - Hospital  
HOLS - House - 16th/17th century  
HOEC - House - 18th/19th century  
HOBA - House - Bronze Age  
HOIA - House - Iron Age  
HONE - House - Neolithic

HOVK - House - Viking/Hiberno-Norse  
HOEM - House - early medieval  
FOHO - House - fortified house  
HOUS - House - indeterminate date  
HOMD - House - medieval  
HOPR - House - prehistoric

VEHO - House - vernacular house  
HUSI - Hut site  
HYDO - Hydro  
ICEH - Icehouse  
INAU - Inauguration site  
INST - Inauguration stone

INCH - Industrial chimney  
INDU - Industrial site  
INNI - Inn  
INSL - Inscribed slab  
INSC - Inscribed stone  
KBCR - Kerb circle

KILN - Kiln  
BRKI - Kiln - brick  
CODK - Kiln - corn-drying  
KELP - Kiln - kelp drying  
LIME - Kiln - lime  
MAKI - Kiln - malting

POTT - Kiln - pottery  
TILE - Kiln - tile  
LATR - Latrine  
LEAC - Leacht  
LECU - Leacht cuimhne  
LEHO - Leper hospital

LIBR - Library  
LIGT - Lighthouse  
LINE - Linear earthwork  
LKTC - Linkardstown burial  
LOCK - Lock  
MAGA - Magazine

MAGS - Maltings  
MAHE - Mansion house  
MACR - Market cross  
MAHO - Market-house  
MATO - Martello tower  
MAHS - Mass-house

MARO - Mass-rock  
MAUS - Mausoleum  
MAYP - Maypole  
MEHO - Meeting-house  
MEST - Megalithic structure  
COTO - Megalithic tomb - court tomb

PATO - Megalithic tomb - passage tomb  
POTO - Megalithic tomb - portal tomb  
UNMT - Megalithic tomb - unclassified  
WETO - Megalithic tomb - wedge tomb  
MEMS - Memorial stone  
IRON - Metalworking site

MIDD - Midden  
MIST - Milestone  
MICA - Military camp  
BLMI - Mill - bleaching  
CAMI - Mill - carding  
CLMI - Mill - cloth

COMI - Mill - corn  
CTMI - Mill - cotton  
FLMI - Mill - flax  
FUMI - Mill - fulling  
GUMI - Mill - gunpowder  
PAMI - Mill - paper

SAMI - Mill - sawmill  
SPMI - Mill - spade mill  
THRA - Mill - threshing  
MILL - Mill - unclassified  
WOMI - Mill - woollen  
MLCO - Milling complex

MIQU - Millstone quarry  
MINE - Mine  
BAMI - Mine - barytes  
ANCM - Mine - copper  
LEMI - Mine - lead  
MIEH - Mine engine house

MISE - Miner's settlement  
MICO - Mining complex  
MINS - Mining structure  
MOSI - Moated site  
MONU - Monumental structure  
MOND - Mound

NAUS - Naust  
OGHA - Ogham stone  
ORAN - Orangery  
PARK - Park  
PATA - Passage tomb art  
MABH - Penal Mass station

PEST - Penitential station  
JETT - Pier/Jetty  
PILL - Pill-box  
PIST - Pillar stone  
PILS - Pillory  
PITT - Pit

PTAL - Pit alignment  
PICI - Pit circle  
PITB - Pit-burial  
DETR - Pitfall trap  
PITF - Pitfield  
PLAM - Platform

PLAT - Platform - peatland  
POOF - Post office  
PORO - Post row - peatland  
POWO - Pottery works  
POND - Pound  
FLSC - Prehistoric site - lithic scatter

PRIS - Prison  
PROM - Promontory fort - coastal  
PFIN - Promontory fort - inland  
PUMP - Pump  
PUHO - Pump-house  
QUAR - Quarry - medieval

MEQU - Quarry - prehistoric  
QUAY - Quay  
RAWA - Rabbit warren  
RACO - Racecourse  
RACA - Radial-stone cairn  
RASE - Radial-stone enclosure

RAIL - Railway  
RABR - Railway bridge  
RAST - Railway station  
NOAN - Redundant record  
RHAC - Religious house - Augustinian canons  
RHAF - Religious house - Augustinian friars

RHAN - Religious house - Augustinian nuns  
RHAA - Religious house - Augustinian, of Arrouaise nuns  
RHBM - Religious house - Benedictine monks  
RHBN - Religious house - Benedictine nuns  
RHCF - Religious house - Carmelite friars  
RHCI - Religious house - Cistercian monks

RHCN - Religious house - Cistercian nuns  
RHCM - Religious house - Cluniac monks  
RHDF - Religious house - Dominican friars  
RHTO - Religious house - Franciscan Third Order Regular  
RHFF - Religious house - Franciscan friars  
RHFN - Religious house - Franciscan nuns

RHFC - Religious house - Fratres Cruciferi  
RHFS - Religious house - Friars of the Sack  
RHKH - Religious house - Knights Hospitallers  
RHKT - Religious house - Knights Templars  
RHOT - Religious house - Monks of the Order of Tiron

RHTA - Religious house - Order of St Thomas of Acon

RHPC - Religious house - Premonstratensian canons

RHTI - Religious house - Trinitarians

UCRH - Religious house - unclassified

RGCN - Ring-cairn

RGDH - Ring-ditch

CASH - Ringfort - cashel

RATH - Ringfort - rath

RIFO - Ringfort - unclassified

HOLY - Ritual site - holy tree/bush

HOWE - Ritual site - holy well

HOST - Ritual site - holy/saint's stone

PONN - Ritual site - pond

REVT - Riverine revetment

GRAR - Road - gravel/stone trackway (peatland)

HOLL - Road - hollow-way

ROAD - Road - road/trackway

TOGP - Road - togher (primary)

TOGS - Road - togher (secondary)

TOGT - Road - togher (tertiary)

TOGH - Road - togher (unclassified)

ROCA - Rock art

ROCS - Rock scribing

RSFA - Rock scribing - folk art

ROSH - Rock shelter

ROTR - Round tower

SAWR - Salt works

SARC - Sarcophagus

SCHO - School

SEWA - Sea wall

SEST - Seaweed stand

SEID - Settlement cluster

SEDE - Settlement deserted - medieval

SEPL - Settlement platform

SHAM - Shambles

SHEE - Sheela-na-gig

SHSH - Sheepfold

SHRI - Shrine

TELE - Signal tower

SLLB - Slab-lined burial

SLIP - Slipway

SOUT - Souterrain

SPWB - Spa works/bath

STAB - Stable

STST - Standing stone

STPA - Standing stone - pair

STAT - Statue

STES - Stepping stones

STEP - Steps

STCI - Stone circle

BASC - Stone circle - embanked

FISC - Stone circle - five-stone

MUSC - Stone circle - multiple-stone

STHE - Stone head  
STRO - Stone row

STSC - Stone sculpture  
STSA - Stone sculpture (aniconic)  
STAI - Stone sculpture (iconic)  
STTR - Stone trough  
STRU - Structure  
ARWO - Structure - peatland

SUND - Sundial  
SWEA - Sweathouse  
TANN - Tannery  
TACR - Tau cross  
TAVE - Tavern  
TECO - Tennis court

TECR - Termon cross  
TERR - Terrace  
THEA - Theatre  
TIMI - Tide mill - unclassified  
TICI - Timber circle  
TOLH - Tollhouse

TOMB - Tomb  
ALTA - Tomb - altar  
EFTO - Tomb - effigial  
TOWN - Town  
TODE - Town defences  
BAST - Town defences - bastion

MUTO - Town defences - mural tower  
TOGA - Town defences - town gate  
WAGA - Town defences - water gate  
TOHA - Town hall  
TRAD - Tram depot  
TUNN - Tunnel

TULA - Turf stand  
URNB - Urn burial  
VIAD - Viaduct  
WALG - Walled garden  
WARH - Warehouse  
CEWH - Watchman's hut - burial ground

WATO - Watchtower  
WAHO - Water mill - horizontal-wheeled  
WAMI - Water mill - unclassified  
WAVE - Water mill - vertical-wheeled  
WACO - Watercourse  
WAWO - Waterworks

WACN - Wayside cairn  
WACR - Wayside cross  
FIWE - Weir - fish  
WEIR - Weir - regulating  
WELL - Well  
WIND - Windmill

WOHO - Workhouse