

## The Field Monument Advisor Scheme

This scheme has been initiated by the Heritage Council and Fingal county Council. The job of the Field Monument Advisor is to support landowners and provide information about the various archaeological monuments on their land. The purpose is to assist landowners to preserve and protect archaeological monuments in their landscape.

If you farm or own land in Fingal and require information on archaeological monuments or recently discovered artefacts contact your **Field Monument Advisor, Christine Baker**.



## Fingal's Archaeological Heritage

Fingal has a wealth of archaeological monuments spread throughout the county, from mounds and tombs to castles and churches. The archaeology of Fingal dates from the earliest period and extends over thousands of years from flint scatters and stone axes to ringforts, mill races and demesnes. Archaeology reflects all aspects of human existence and contains irreplaceable information about how the people of the Fingal region lived, worked and died.

## Contacts

→ **Fingal Field Monuments Advisor**

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→ **Fingal Heritage Officer**

Gerry Clabby  
T. 01 890 5697  
Gerry.clabby@fingalcoco.ie

→ *If an archaeological site is found, contact:*

**National Monuments Section**

Department of Environment,  
Heritage & Local Government  
T. 01 888 3109  
nationalmonuments@environ.ie

→ *If an archaeological object or human remains are found, contact:*

**National Museum of Ireland**

T. 01 677 7444  
Ask for the Duty Officer



# Fingal Field Monument Advisor Scheme



## What is Archaeology?

Archaeology is the study of past people through their monuments, sites and artefacts. Some monuments such as mounds, castles, crosses and churches are highly visible. Others such as barrows, ringforts, walls and enclosures may only be traced as low earthworks on the ground. Still more have been levelled by hundreds of years of landuse and may only be visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs or through geophysical survey.

## Where Can I Find Out About Archaeological Sites?

The Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) is the statutory list of all known monuments (about 700) in Fingal. It consists of Ordnance Survey maps with the recorded monuments marked by circles and is accompanied by a list detailing the exact position and classification of each monument. The RMP is available to view at the Planning Public Counter of Fingal County Council (Swords & Blanchardstown), Local Libraries and can also be accessed through the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government's website [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie). Archaeological Monuments and Places are protected by the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.

## How Can I Recognise Archaeological Sites?

New discoveries are frequently being made in Fingal often by farmers and landowners. Ploughing can bring artefacts such as flint, pottery tiles, human and animal bone to the surface. It can also highlight areas of blackened or stony soil which may indicate burning. Sub-surface features such as walls and ditches can lead to differences in cereal crop growth with stunted growth or early ripening. There may also be local traditions or names associated with certain fields or springs.

## How to Care for Archaeological Monuments

- Be aware of the locations of monuments on your land.
- Ensure contractors/employees know the position and size of sites and are aware that it is important not to damage them.
- Leave upstanding monuments as islands in cultivated ground and protect with a minimum margin of 5m-7m.
- Minimise plough depths and avoid use of sub-soilers, mole-ploughs and spiking.
- If possible put levelled or crop-mark sites into pasture.
- Control growth of gorse and scrub-cut at base and treat stump-and avoid tree planting in the vicinity of a monument as root action can cause damage.
- Maintain correct stock levels to prevent poaching or erosion of monuments.
- Place feeding troughs, land drainage works and access tracks away from monuments.
- Contact the National Monuments Service or the National Museum of Ireland if you discover ancient objects or structures.

## Activities to Avoid

- Do not use historic buildings such as castles, churches and even old farm buildings to shelter livestock.
- Avoid ground disturbance or landscaping of archaeological sites.
- Do not remove material from or add material to sites.
- Avoid tracking machinery across or near sites (especially after rain).
- Do not carry out burning on or in the vicinity of monuments.
- Avoid deep ploughing over levelled or cropmark sites.
- Do not uproot gorse, trees or scrub by their roots.
- Do not pull ivy from buildings.
- Do not embark on the clean up of graveyards without archaeological advice.
- Avoid removing field boundaries, gateposts, stiles and old farm buildings.