

CONTENTS

PAGE 3 | INTRODUCTION

PAGE 6 | TESTIMONIALS

PAGE 11 | WHAT IS ADOPT A MONUMENT?

PAGE 13 | WHAT TYPE OF SITES ARE ELIGIBLE?

PAGE 15 | HOW TO APPLY FOR ADOPT A MONUMENT

PAGE 19 | JOINING ADOPT A MONUMENT

PAGE 23 | KNOW YOUR 5K?

PAGE 25 | CONCLUSION

PAGE 26 | FIND OUT MORE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TEXT: ABARTA HERITAGE

GRAPHIC DESIGN: MÁRLA COMMUNICATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE HERITAGE COUNCIL: IAN DOYLE

IMAGES: NEIL JACKMAN

PARTICULAR THANKS ARE DUE TO ALL OF THE ADOPT A MONUMENT PARTICIPANTS FOR ALL OF THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION IN CARING FOR MONUMENTS, AND TO LOCAL AUTHORITY HERITAGE OFFICERS AND COLLEAGUES IN THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS SERVICE. ALL INFORMATION IS CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS © AN COMHAIRLE OIDHREACHTA/THE HERITAGE COUNCIL, 2020

© ISBN 978-1-906304-54-6



NTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Heritage Council's Adopt a Monument booklet. This booklet is a guide to the Adopt a Monument Scheme and is aimed at communities. groups and individuals interested in managing, protecting and promoting their local heritage. Throughout Ireland in recent years, community-driven projects have become a common way for groups and the general public to engage with their history, heritage and archaeology. Many successful community excavations, surveys, conservation projects, festivals and events have taken place across the country.

The Adopt a Monument
Scheme aims to empower local
communities to take an active
role in understanding, engaging
with and protecting their local
heritage. Community groups who
apply to take part in the scheme
select an archaeological or
historic monument in their locality.
If they are successful in their
application to join the scheme,
they 'adopt' this monument.

Securing a place in the scheme enables community groups to realise their aims and objectives for the monument and bring it into the heart of their community. Participation means that they can take a more active role in the management, research, protection, conservation and promotion of their chosen monument.

To assist and support them, they receive expert advice, training and guidance from the Adopt a Monument team. Participation in the scheme also involves collaborating with stakeholders and state bodies, as well as following best practice and abiding by National Monuments legislation.

The scheme confers special recognition, not only on the monument, but also on the community group who adopts it. Since the scheme was started in 2015 there have been over 200 applications from community groups across the country seeking to take part. 20 groups across Ireland have been selected for participation. The monuments vary from an ancient stone fort on a hidden island in Donegal to a nineteenth century lime kiln in Clare.

Many facets of Ireland's rich heritage are now represented in the range of monuments that have been adopted. Interest in the scheme is growing and the dedicated work demonstrated by the groups is both impressive and a great testimony to how important heritage and culture is to Ireland.

This booklet gives an overview of how the Adopt a Monument Scheme operates and provides guidance for community groups who are considering applying to take part. The testimonials which have been included document some of the challenges and successes/benefits/enjoyment that groups have faced in adopting their chosen monument. We hope that this booklet will answer any questions you may have about the scheme and if you have any further queries, contact details can be found at the back of the booklet.



If you are not a member of the Adopt a Monument scheme but are interested in preserving local heritage, we hope that the information here will help you to look with new eyes at the opportunities that heritage can provide.

In this section we profile three of our Adopt a Monument groups, their achievements and some of the challenges they have faced, all in their own words; the Church of the Rath adopted by Killeshandra Tidy Towns; Knockboy Church adopted by the Knockboy Church Conservation Group and Gallows Hill adopted by Gallows Hill Community Archaeology.

These stories give a great insight into the practicalities of the scheme.



ESTIMONIALS

CHURCH OF THE RATH: ADOPTED BY KILLESHANDRA TIDY TOWNS: HEATHER BOTHWELL & ANNE SHANLEY

Our Monument, The Rath Church, came under the guardianship of Cavan County Council following the closure of the graveyard.

The Killeshandra Community already has been involved in the maintenance of both the structure and the grounds for three decades. At the time of our application to Adopt a Monument the community was aware that a particular aspect of the building was in a perilous state. The survival of the 17th century brick vault ceilings became our primary objective.

However, a more holistic approach to the monument and its place in our community, encouraged by the Adopt a Monument team, helped us not get bogged down in this task. We were encouraged to see a much bigger picture.

We found ourselves involved in dressing up for colourful heritage days, explaining the history of the monument, discussing the biodiversity of the graveyard, writing the interpretive signs and staging a re-enactment of a historic funeral.

We also hosted several architectural talks, connected with other local heritage bodies such as the County Cavan Historic Graveyard Network. Thanks to funding from Creative Ireland we were able to attend numerous conferences and workshops around the country.

We applied for lots of grants, attended numerous meetings, and now the brick vault ceilings are not going to fall down! The process took a long time and required a lot of support, but we enjoyed it. We have learned that monuments need experts to advise and plan their future, but it takes the community to bring the story to life and not let it be forgotten. We also learned about the necessity of involving professionals to guide and support these projects. Their expertise, skills and knowledge are vital to preserving our monuments for future generations.

We are grateful for the support we received from the Adopt a Monument Scheme. We now look to the future thinking about how we can continue to bring our monument to life rather than worrying about when it will fall into ruin.

The work at Church of the Rath was a partnership between the community group, Anne Marie Ward, Heritage Officer, Cavan County Council and the Adopt a Monument team on behalf of the Heritage Council.

GALLOWS HILL PROJECT: ADOPTED BY GALLOWSHILL COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY: CHRISTINA O' CONNOR KNIGHT

Gallows Hill project was one of six community projects selected by the Heritage Council's Adopt a Monument Ireland in 2016. The project was established by members of the volunteer-led Waterford County Museum.

The group's aim was to understand the hill's history and develop local pride of place in a neglected monument. There were numerous challenges in developing a community project at Gallows Hill, particularly the negative local perception of the site. The hill had been a site of anti-social behaviour and damaged for years by annual Halloween bonfires.

Volunteers worked with the support of Adopt a Monument and related professionals to uncover the hill's history through archaeological investigations and on-site community events. The group have completed two seasons of geophysical surveys and three seasons of community excavations. The results of investigations have revealed a fascinating historical site that has been reused over many centuries as a defensive settlement.

The community's work is gradually improving the site's reputation and each year the project brings many visitors to Gallows Hill to participate in excavations, tours and medieval themed family events. The findings of community investigations will be used to promote a new positive story of the hill's history.

This information will connect Gallows Hill to the wider history of Dungarvan through wall murals, interpretation and heritage trails. The long-term hope for the project is the local and wider acceptance of Gallows Hill as an important Co. Waterford heritage site

The work at Gallows Hill has been a partnership between the community group, Waterford City and County Council Heritage Office, the Adopt a Monument team and professional archaeologist; Dave Pollock as well as other heritage professionals.

The group's activities at Gallows Hill have been funded by Royal Irish Academy Research Excavation Grants, Creative Ireland, Waterford City and County Council Heritage Office and the Heritage Council.





KNOCKBOY CONSERVATION PROJECT; ADOPTED BY KNOCKBOY CHURCH CONSERVATION GROUP - DR NORA WHITE

The site of the medieval parish church of Seskinan has seven ogham stones (an eighth is long lost), six of which were re-used as building material in the church, mainly as lintels over the windows and main door.

The church and historic graveyard is situated between the Comeragh and Knockmealdown mountains, in the heart of the ancient territory of Sliabh gCua, in the townland of Knockboy in Co. Waterford. The Knockboy Graveyard Committee (with a little help from Nora White, Ogham in 3D project), who were concerned about the stability of the church, were successful in their application to join the Adopt a Monument scheme in 2017.

Thanks to funding from the Heritage Council, work began in that year with a conservation assessment of the church ruin, along with 3D recording of the church and its ogham stones. Following the careful and supervised removal of vegetation from the structure, a conservation consultant prepared a prioritised schedule of work for 2018, commencing with the stabilising and pointing of the most vulnerable west gable.

Conservation work at Knockboy continued in two major phases in 2019. The first involved the completion of pointing of the west gable, as well as much of the east gable.

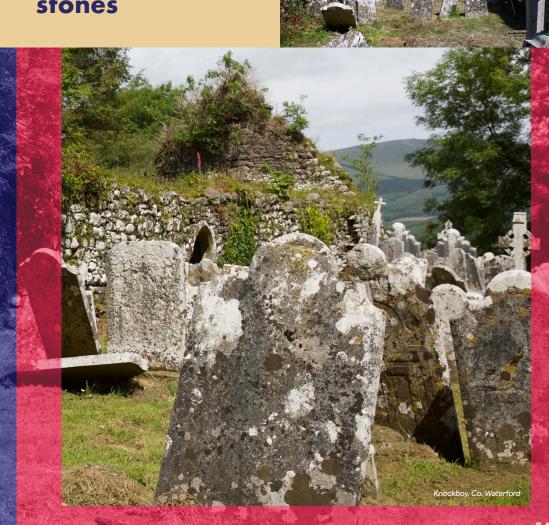
A second prioritised phase of the work was made possible by the Adopt a Monument Grant Scheme, for which we are very grateful to the Heritage Council and Creative Ireland.

This phase focused on the stabilisation of a window lintel and surrounding wall on the point of collapse. The lintel, which had been propped since 2018, contains an ogham inscription which possibly commemorates the descendant of an individual named as King of Cashel in the early king-lists. The lintel was carefully lifted under archaeological supervision and safely stored on site while the wall was stabilised.

Once stabilisation was complete the lintel was carefully replaced. Although there is more conservation work required, in particular on the east gable and the walls of the church, the successful completion of this prioritised work is a huge milestone for the project and means that considerable progress has been made this year.

The work at Knockboy is a partnership between the community group, Dr Nora White, Waterford City and Council Heritage Office, the Adopt a Monument team and heritage professionals including stone masons, archaeologists and conservation architects. Funding for projects at Knockboy has been supplied by Creative Ireland, Waterford City and County Council and the Heritage Council.

The site of the medieval parish church of Seskinan has seven Ogham stones



MHAT

Adopt a Monument is an initiative supported by the Heritage Council, a statutory body which works to ensure that Ireland's heritage is managed, protected and enjoyed. The scheme is project managed on their behalf by Abarta Heritage.

Adopt a Monument began in Ireland in 2015 and it takes its inspiration from the successful Adopt a Monument Scotland scheme, established in the 1990s by Archaeology Scotland. There is also a similar award-winning scheme in operation in Finland.

Adopt a Monument aims to empower communities to become more involved in the conservation and protection of their local monuments and to help them raise awareness about their heritage.

By adopting a monument, a group can bring their chosen monument into the heart of their community. They can learn more about the monument, work towards ensuring that any necessary conservation works are carried out and cultivate a greater appreciation for it among locals and visitors.

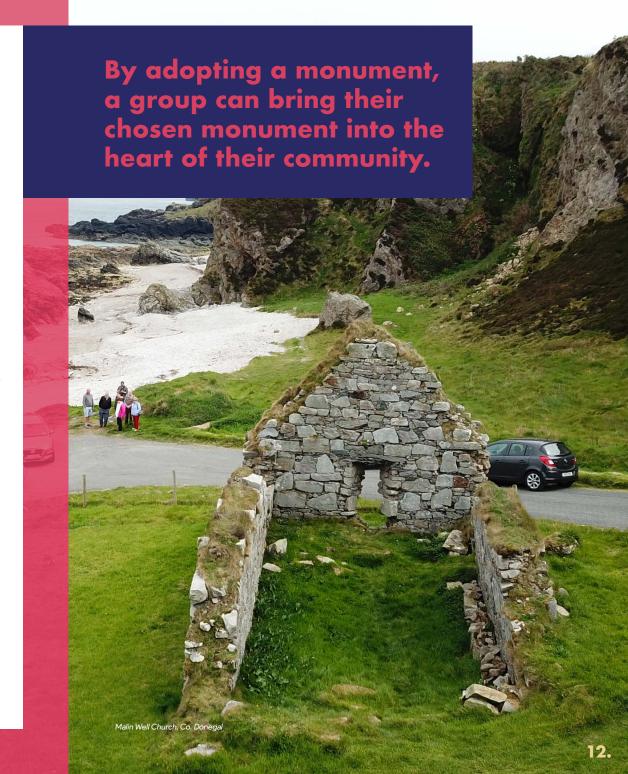
Applications are welcome from any voluntary group or organisation, for example Tidy Towns committees, Heritage, Historical and Archaeological Societies, Community Councils, Community Development Organisations, Men's Sheds or any voluntary group committed to the ethos and objectives of the scheme.

The scheme is community led and it is very much up to the group to determine their aims and objectives for their monument and what they want to achieve. Given the community ethos of the scheme, applications from individuals cannot be considered.

One of the core aims of Adopt a Monument is to assist in creating positive partnerships between local community groups and other stakeholders, including state agencies, local authorities, heritage professionals, archaeologists, academia and other experts working in the heritage and cultural sector.

The advice, mentorship and training that is part of the Adopt a Monument scheme is designed to help the groups navigate their way through funding, organisational and legislative matters.

At the core of the scheme is the idea of best practice, where the group and all the stakeholders strive to achieve the highest standards of research, understanding, care and conservation.



Any type of monument dating from any historical period is eligible for inclusion in the scheme.

Already a broad spectrum of monuments are represented, ranging from prehistoric forts and megalithic tombs, to medieval churches, castles and motte & bailey fortifications, to more recent 19th century built heritage including a walled garden, a lime kiln, a coastal defence battery and mining-related heritage.

The key factor for a community in selecting a monument is that they have a vision for how it could benefit from being chosen for the scheme. The only ineligible monuments are National Monuments in State Care i.e. under the ownership or guardianship of the Minister

for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. A list of these monuments in each county can be found on www.archaeology.ie (click on the link for National Monuments in State Care).

If you are unsure as to whether your monument is eligible please do get in touch with your Local Authority Heritage Officer or with the Adopt a Monument team.

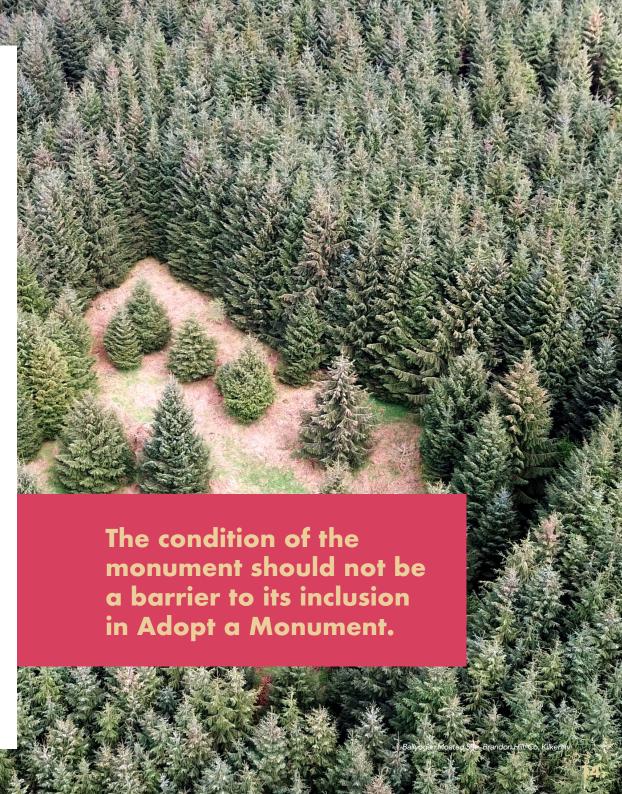
Otherwise, any type of historic or archaeological monument is eligible for inclusion as long as landowner consent has been obtained. This is of vital importance for any application.

The landowner has to be informed about the application process and the scheme as well as the group's vision for the monument. In order to proceed with the application the landowner must provide their written consent.

It is also important to check the legal status of the monument before applying. Known archaeological monuments in Ireland are included in the Record of Monuments and Places (see archaeology.ie for more details). Historic structures that date from the 18th century onwards may be included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. Some monuments and historic buildings may also be included in the Record of Protected Structures for the county, which is compiled by the Local Authority.

You can use the mapviewer on www.heritagemaps.ie to check if your monument is included in any of these databases. The condition of the monument should not be a barrier to its inclusion in Adopt a Monument. On the contrary, the fact that a monument is a ruin in need of conservation work can be an argument for its inclusion.

In addition, if you know little or nothing about the monument or its history, that does not impact negatively on your application. Researching and surveying monuments is a major part of Adopt a Monument and many of the current groups have learned a lot about their monuments since joining the scheme.



The selection of participants in the Adopt a Monument Scheme is decided through a competitive application process. The next call for applications to the scheme will be posted on the Heritage Council's website:

www.heritagecouncil.ie, and on the Adopt a Monument social media pages (Facebook, Twitter).

The application process for Adopt a Monument is designed to be as thorough and transparent as possible. The first stage is completion of a standard application form. Supporting documentation such as maps, photographs, reports and letters of support can be submitted with the completed application.

There has been strong interest in the scheme in previous application rounds, so you should aim to submit a high-quality application to be in with a chance of success. Bearing this in mind, you should consider the five key criteria below and make sure to address these in your application.

1. LANDOWNER CONSENT:

Identify the landowner on whose property the monument is situated and secure permission from them. You should seek written permission from them endorsing your application and allowing your group to access the site for the purposes of Adopt a Monument. Note that the landowner may be a public body, such as a Local Authority or a State Agency, or a private

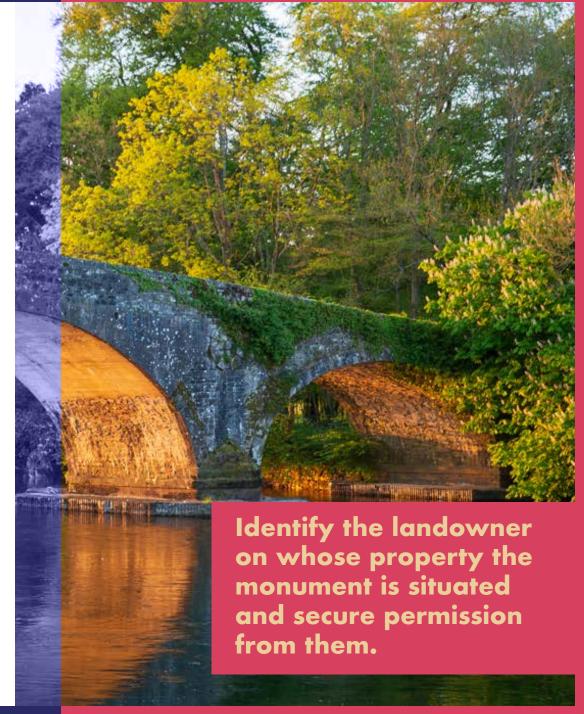
individual. Submitting written evidence of landowner consent is a vital part of the application process. If you are unable to establish who owns the land, you should submit evidence of the steps you have taken to investigate ownership.

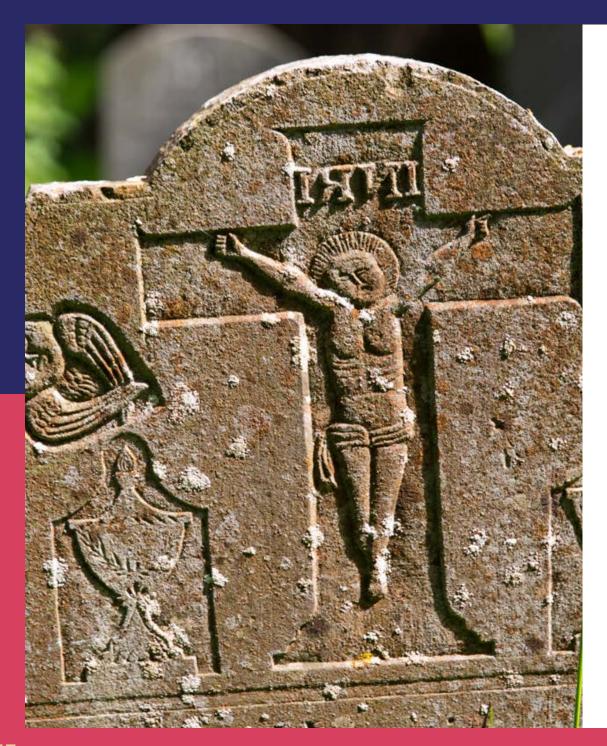
2. SITE STATUS:

If your site is eligible, you should gather information about its current status e.g. whether it is included on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR, available at www.archaeology.ie) or the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH, available at www.buildingsofireland.ie), or if it is included in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS, available from the relevant Local Authority).

You should also note the SMR number, the NIAH Registration Number or the RPS number for the monument. Your Local Authority Heritage Officer may be able to help in determining the status of the monument.

National Monuments in State Care cannot be considered for inclusion in the scheme.





3. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Your application needs to be supported by a strong community group and you need to demonstrate that your group is well-established with a clear organisational structure

The experience of group members, both collectively and individually, is also significant. The application form provides you with an opportunity to list projects and events that your group has undertaken in the past and to tell your success stories. In the evaluation process, the strengths and attributes of the applicant group are just as important as the monument.

4. SAFETY AND ACCESS:

You should consider access to the monument and any safety issues related to the monument itself at the earliest stage. Issues to think about are rough or steep terrain, the presence of livestock, rivers, lakes or other water hazards, and structurally unstable buildings/ruins.

In some cases there may be a desire to improve public access to the monument, but you should think carefully about whether this has the potential to damage the monument.

While access and safety issues do not exclude a monument from being considered for the scheme, it is best to identify and highlight any issues at the application stage.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Use the mapviewer on www.heritagemaps.ie to see if your monument is within a protected area i.e. a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) or Natural Heritage Area (NHA). This may give an indication if there are any protected species - flora or fauna - on site. You should also consider whether any plans you have for the monument might necessitate a specialist ecological study.

With the exception of ownership and site status, failure to adhere to each of these five criteria does not necessarily exclude an application from being considered, but it does help to identify any potential issues that will have to be addressed if the monument is chosen.

If the initial criteria are successfully met, the application is then assessed by a panel of heritage experts and a shortlist of applications is agreed. The Adopt a Monument team visit every community on the shortlist to discuss their application in detail and visit the monument. This helps them to gain a first-hand impression of both the community and the monument. This information is then reviewed and a final decision is made on the most appropriate monuments for selection.

A key determinant, reflecting the ethos of the scheme, is that it is not just the monument that is selected, it is also the community group. This is a community led scheme and the community group is always of the utmost importance. Applicant groups that appear to be sustainable, who have clear and appropriate aims or objectives, that are willing to collaborate with others and who will adhere to best practice are selected.

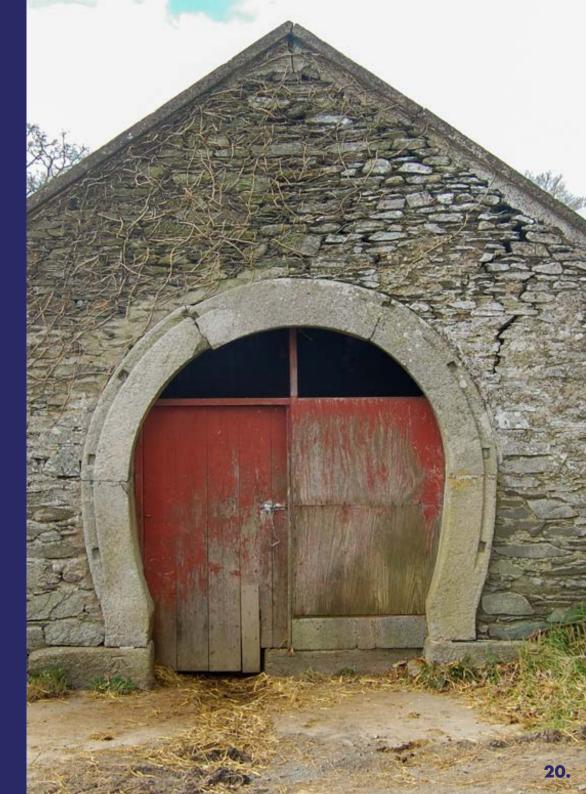
17. 18.

ADOPT A MONUMENT PARTICIPANTS

Twenty groups have been chosen as Adopt a Monument participants since 2015. They represent a range of communities across Ireland and a variety of monument types. Much has been learned as a result of the work they have undertaken.

MONUMENT	GROUP	COUNTY
Doon Fort	Donegal GAP History & Heritage CLG	Donegal
Malin Well Old Church	Malin Well Old Church Conservation Group	Donegal
Kilbarron Castle	Kilbarron Castle Conservation Group	Donegal
Church of the Rath	Killeshandra Tidy Towns	Cavan
Moygara Castle	Moygara Castle Research & Conservation Group	Sligo
Mountbellew Walled Garden	Mountbellew Heritage & Tourism Network	Galway
Kilmurry Lime Kiln	Kilmurry Tidy Towns	Clare
Kilkerrin Battery	Labasheeda Projects Group	Clare
St. Finian's Church & Graveyard	Society for Old Lucan	Dublin
Brandon Hill moated site	Tyndall Mountain Club	Kilkenny
Roundhill motte & bailey	Lismore Heritage Company	Waterford
Gallows Hill motte	Gallows Hill Community Archaeology	Waterford
Knockboy Church	Knockboy Church Conservation Group	Waterford
Graves of the Leinstermen	Arra Historical & Archaeological Society	Tipperary
St. Peter's Church & Graveyard	Portlaoise Tidy Towns	Laois
Kilfinane Motte	Kilfinane Community Council	Limerick
New Crusher Building, Baravore	Glenmalure PURE Mile Group	Wicklow
Powder House & Earlshill Colliery, Slieveardagh	Slieverardagh Mining Group	Tipperary
Ballintleva Handball Alley	Ballintleva NS Board of Management	Roscommon
St. Mullins Mill Race	St Mullins Amenity & Recreational Tourism	Carlow

Group Ltd (SMART Ltd)





When a new group joins the Adopt a Monument scheme, they are asked to sign a Partnership Agreement which sets out the terms and conditions for their participation and briefly outlines agreed objectives and goals. They are also strongly encouraged to complete a Management Plan for their monument.

The Adopt a Monument team supplies a Management Plan template along with guidance to complete this important document. However the onus is on the group to take the lead and outline their ambitions.

The process of preparing the Management Plan helps the group to prioritise their aims and objectives for the monument. It encourages the group to take a broad perspective and to consider a range of topics including research, conservation, interpretation, tourism, access, health & safety and community involvement.

Producing a Management Plan gives the group a clear roadmap to guide their work and is very useful when they engage with other stakeholders and seek funding.

Once the Management Plan is completed, the Adopt a Monument team will work with the group towards its implementation. The type of support provided is varied and will depend on the specific aims and objectives of the group, but can include the following:

- Linking the group with relevant stakeholders such as their local Heritage Officer, the National Monuments Service and other state agencies.
- Connecting the group with specialists and experts in archaeology, heritage, history and other disciplines who can advise on plans for their chosen monument.
- Advising the group on legal and regulatory issues in relation to their monuments.
- Supporting the group with research and recording of their monument and helping them to identify historical sources.
- Notifying the group about funding programs and deadlines, as well as assisting with funding applications.
- Working with the group to raise awareness of the monument and to promote events, particularly during Heritage Week.
- Providing guidance and advice on how best to tell the story of the monument through highquality interpretation.
- Providing training to the group on varied topics such as site maintenance, interpretation and promotion.
- Discussing the organisational structure of the group and other issues such as insurance and health & safety.

KNOW YOUR

KnowYour5k' is a new initiative from the Heritage Council and National Museum of Ireland (as part of the Adopt a Monument Scheme) which provides an opportunity to share discoveries about our hidden heritage. The project provides a platform for people to share stories, drawings, poems, information about natural heritage or photos of the wonderful heritage that surrounds them.

Due to Covid 19 we became much more familiar with our immediate locality. This has helped us to see things in a new light by noticing what we may have overlooked before.

The Know Your 5k project is all about sharing the story of your local place and uncovering the hidden heritage that surrounds us all.

You might have photographs or letters from long ago about a time or place, or you might know a folk tale behind a particular bridge or fairy tree. Was the old dilapidated ballroom once the scene of romance? Was a field once the venue for hurling or football matches against the local rivals? Do the ruins of an old cottage at the end of the lane have a story to tell?'

You can find more information about KnowYour5k at OurlrishHeritage.org. https://www.ouririshheritage.org/ content/ category/archive/place/ knowyour5k

Our Irish Heritage is the home of the Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN), a National Museum of Ireland project that is dedicated to improving access to Irish history and heritage by helping communities share their local collections online.

On the website you can find a how-to section to help you to research your locality, you can browse other people's submissions to see what they have in their area or you can submit your own through an easy to use form.

The hope is that the KnowYour5k project will help people to discover the heritage that surrounds us all!





CONCLUSION

Adopt a Monument is a scheme that focuses on the local community, empowering them to become actively involved with their heritage. Through this process monuments and local heritage can be brought from the periphery into the heart of a community. The scheme aims provides a mechanism to connect monuments with communities for the benefit of both.

For participants the Adopt a Monument Scheme offers many opportunities. From a community perspective, the group can work collaboratively, participate in community development and bring new members into their organisation.

Economically, participation in the scheme has the potential to boost regional tourism and business and employment opportunities.

For the monuments, the scheme has the potential to ensure ongoing maintenance and care, increased protection through increased civic value, and increased standards of interpretation and understanding.

We hope that this booklet has answered your questions about the Adopt a Monument Scheme. Please do not hesitate to get in contact if you have any further queries.



IND OUT MORE

Below is a list of websites where you can find information that may be useful when compiling an application for Adopt a Monument.

The Heritage Council's website has a specific page on the scheme (https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/adopt-a-monument) there you can download our manual - Adopt a Monument: Community Guidance for Archaeology Projects - which has further information and advice.

The Heritage Council Abarta Heritage Heritage Maps Heritage Week

National Monuments Service

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

Ordnance Survey of Ireland

Placenames Database

National Folklore Collection

National Parks and Wildlife Service

National Library of Ireland

National Museum of Ireland

National Archives of Ireland

OPW Heritage sites

Database of Irish Excavation Reports

www.heritagecouncil.ie

www.abartaheritage.ie

www.heritagemaps.ie

www.heritageweek.ie

www.archaeology.ie

www.buildingsofireland.ie

www.osi.ie

www.logainm.ie

www.duchas.ie

www.npws.ie

www.nli.ie

www.museum.ie

www.nationalarchives.ie

www.heritageireland.ie

www.excavations.ie



25. 26.

