

Appendix 13. Cultural Heritage

Appendix 13-4 Glossary and Definition of Archaeological Terms

Bridge: A structure of wood, stone, iron, brick or concrete etc., built to span a river or ravine in order to facilitate the crossing of pedestrians or vehicles. These date from the medieval period (5th–12th centuries AD) onwards.

Castle – motte: An artificial, steep-sided, earthen mound on or in which is set the principal tower of a castle. Constructed by the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th and early 13th century AD.

Castle - tower house: A fortified residence in the form of a tower, usually four or five storeys high, and for the most part slightly more rectangular than square in plan. They were constructed by a lord or landholder and were often partially or completely enclosed by a bawn. The majority date to the 15th and 16th centuries AD.

Cathedral: The principal church of a diocese in which the cathedra or bishop's throne may be found. These date from the 12th to the 19th century AD.

Church: A building used for public Christian worship. These can be of any date from c. AD 500 onwards.

Cist: A rectangular or polygonal structure used for burial purposes, constructed from stone slabs set on edge and covered by one or more horizontal slabs or capstones. Cists may be built on the surface or sunk into the ground or set within a cemetery cairn or cemetery mound. They date to the Bronze/Iron Ages (c. 2400 BC–AD 400).

Coffin-resting stone: A stone found on route to a graveyard on which the coffin is rested during transportation. These can date from the late medieval period (c. AD 1400) onwards.

Burnt mound: A circular or irregularly shaped mound of material consisting of burnt stones, ash and charcoal with no surface evidence of a trough or depression. Levelled examples can appear as a spread containing burnt stones. These can be of any date from the Bronze Age (c. 2400–500 BC) to the early medieval period (5th–12th century AD). See also *Fulacht fia*.

Earthwork: An anomalous earthen structure usually raised and occurring in a variety of shapes and sizes, that on field inspection was found to possess no diagnostic features which would allow classification within another monument category. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards.

Enclosure: An area defined by an enclosing element (e.g. bank, wall, fosse, scarp), or indicated as such cartographically, and occurring in a variety of shapes and sizes, possessing no diagnostic features which would allow classification within another monument category. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards.

Field boundary: A continuous linear or curving bank, wall or drain which defines the limits of a field. These date to any period from the Neolithic (c. 4000–2400 BC) onwards.

Fulacht fia: A horseshoe-shaped or kidney-shaped mound consisting of fire-cracked stone and charcoal-enriched soil built up around a sunken trough located near or adjacent to a water supply, such as a stream or spring, or in wet marshy areas. The first recorded use of the Irish term '*fulacht fiadh/fia*' (cooking pit of the deer or of the wild) as relating to ancient cooking sites was in the 17th century. These are generally interpreted to have been associated with cooking and date primarily to the Bronze Age (c. 2400–500 BC).

Furnace: A chamber in which minerals, metals etc., are subjected to continuous intense heat. These can date from the Bronze Age (c. 2400–500 BC) to the 17th century AD.

Hearth: A place where a fire is made but where there is insufficient evidence to indicate habitation. These may date to any period from prehistory (c. 8000 BC–AD 400) to the medieval period (5th–16th centuries AD).

Hillfort: A large area, from 3 to 22 hectares, located on and often following the natural contours of a hill, enclosed by an earth or stone bank/banks and fosse/fosses which can be internal or external. They may have been important ceremonial tribal centres and/or permanent or temporary settlements. They have been dated to the Late Bronze Age (c. 1000–500 BC) with examples of reoccupation in the later Iron Age (c. AD 100–400).

House – vernacular house: A house which is non-formal, built of local materials using local skills and craftsmen within the parameters of their own local building tradition. In Ireland the majority are single storey, rectangular in plan and only one room deep, with the main hearth/kitchen forming the core of the house for domestic and social activities. These date from the AD 17th to the early 20th century.

Megalithic tomb - passage tomb: A round mound, usually surrounded by a kerb of large stones, enclosing a burial chamber, usually with a corbelled roof, which is entered by a passage, usually lintelled. Many tombs have side and end recesses opening off a central chamber, resulting in a cruciform plan. Cremation was the predominant burial rite in passage tombs which primarily date from 3300 to 2900 BC though some simpler tombs in Carrowmore, Co. Sligo have produced radiocarbon dates suggesting use even earlier in the Neolithic, c. 4000 BC.

Metalworking site: A place where metal is produced. These may date from the Bronze Age (c. 2400–500 BC) onwards.

Midden: A refuse heap sometimes surviving as a layer or spread. These may be of any date from prehistory (c. 8000 BC–AD c. 400) up to the medieval period (5th–16th centuries AD).

Pit: A circular or sub-circular cropmark/maculae or soil-mark, usually identified from aerial photography, which appears to be the visible evidence of a filled-in excavated hole or cavity in the ground. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards.

Ringfort – cashel: A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by a stone wall or walls. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from AD 500 to 1000. See Ringfort - rath for earthen equivalent.

Ringfort – rath: A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by an earthen bank with an external fosse. Some examples have two (bivallate) or three (trivallate) banks and fosses, but these are less common and have been equated with higher status sites belonging to upper grades of society. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from AD 500 to 1000.

Ringfort – unclassified: A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by an earthen bank with an external fosse (see Ringfort - rath) or a stone wall (see Ringfort - cashel). The term Ringfort - unclassified is used in instances where the surviving remains are insufficient to determine whether the monument was originally a rath or cashel. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from AD 500 to 1000.

Road - road/trackway: A way, or section thereof, which has been deliberately constructed between places. These may be of any date from prehistory onwards.

School: An establishment in which people, usually children, are taught. These date from the late medieval period (c. 15th century AD) onwards.

Settlement deserted – medieval: An abandoned medieval settlement dating from AD 1400 to 1550 consisting of a group of houses in close proximity with associated land plots, associated with a parish church and/or castle or tower house, often evident as earthworks.

Souterrain: An underground structure consisting of one or more chambers connected by narrow passages or creepways, usually constructed of drystone-walling with a lintelled roof over the passages and a corbelled roof over the chambers. Most souterrains appear to have been built in the early medieval period by ringfort inhabitants (c. AD 500–1000) as a defensive feature and/or for storage.

Standing stone: A stone which has been deliberately set upright in the ground, usually orientated on a north-east–south-west axis, although other orientations do occur, and varying in height from 0.5 m up to 6 m. They functioned as prehistoric burial markers, commemorative monuments, indicators of routeways or boundaries and date from the Bronze and Iron Ages (c. 2400 BC–AD 500), with some associated with early medieval ecclesiastical and burial contexts (c. 5th–12th centuries).