



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

# Archaeology and Farming

Hugh Carey,  
Archaeologist,  
National Monuments Service.  
[hugh.carey@housing.gov.ie](mailto:hugh.carey@housing.gov.ie)  
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**Very brief rundown of types of archaeological monuments.**

**How and why monuments are protected.**

**Archaeology in the RDP agri-environment schemes.**

**The future.**

Series of 12 Farmers Journal articles by NMS staff available at:  
<https://www.archaeology.ie/publications-forms-legislation>



<a href="#">The first farmers in Ireland - Irish Farmers Journal - Week 1</a>	953 KB
<a href="#">Ireland's earliest farmhouses - Irish Farmers Journal - Week 2</a>	1.1 MB
<a href="#">The tombs of our ancestors - Irish Farmers Journal - Week 3</a>	1.3 MB
<a href="#">Ireland's first golden age - Irish Farmers Journal - Week 4</a>	1.9 MB
<a href="#">Life during the Iron Age - Irish Farmers Journal - Week 5</a>	127 KB
<a href="#">Early Christian Ireland - Irish Farmers Journal - Week 6</a>	1.3 MB
<a href="#">Early medieval farmsteads - Irish Farmers Journal - Week 7</a>	126 KB
<a href="#">The Vikings' legacy in Ireland - Irish Farmers Journal - Week 8</a>	171 KB
<a href="#">Medieval grange farms - Irish Farmers Journal - Week 9</a>	128 KB
<a href="#">Anglo-Norman castles - Irish Farmers Journal - Week 10</a>	1.2 MB
<a href="#">Ireland's Tower Houses - Irish Farmers Journal - Week 11</a>	1.7 MB
<a href="#">Fortified Houses of Ireland - Irish Farmers Journal - Week 12</a>	674 KB





- **c. 10000 B.C.    Earliest evidence for human activity in Ireland.**
- **c. 7500 B.C. Hunter-gatherers.**
- **c. 4000 B.C. Introduction of farming, more permanent settlements burial monuments etc.**



















































## Farming and archaeology

Until very recent times, most structures in the landscape were built by farming communities.

Largely a farming heritage that is being conserved.

Important to help farmers to preserve it.

## Farmer fined for destroying ring fort

© Sat, Mar 3, 2012, 00:00

ANNE LUCEY



A JUDGE has imposed a fine of €25,000 on a farmer in north Kerry for irretrievably destroying an ancient ring fort on lands he had bought just two months earlier. Ownership of property was a right, but this right was “not unfettered” and it was qualified by the fact that property was held in trust for the culture of the country, the judge warned.

Imposing the “significant penalty”, Judge Carroll Moran said he was taking into consideration a second charge of the destruction of a souterrain, or ancient underground passage, associated with the fort on lands occupied by John O’Mahony (64) at Clashmealcon, Causeway, in February 2008.

Prosecutor Tom Rice said the destruction of the fort, a recorded monument, was the more serious issue.

He also told the court the remaining parts – one-third of the fort and “what remained” of the souterrain – were subject to a preservation order.

The prosecution was brought under the National Monuments Amendment Act 1994 and 2004 and was on failure to notify the authorities of a proposal to carry out works near a monument and it carried maximum penalties of five years in prison and/or a €50,000 fine.



## Archaeology protected under:

## National Monuments legislation

## Planning legislation

## EIA

## Cross Compliance.





# Why protect archaeological monuments?



## Why protect archaeological monuments?







## Why protect archaeological monuments?

- Education/recreation resource for ourselves
- Important to many people as they contribute to a sense of place.
- When they are gone, they are gone: piecemeal destruction over time must be prevented.
- Of potential financial benefit to farmers (GLAS, agri-tourism, future schemes).
- Rural development asset for the wider community.
- Unique selling point for overseas visitors.



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Project Ireland 2040

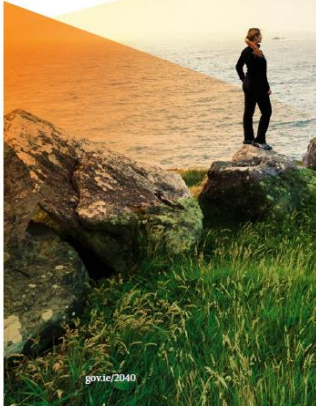
## National Planning Framework



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Project Ireland 2040

## National Development Plan 2018–2027



Rialtas  
na hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040

Infheistíocht inár gCultúr,  
inár dTeanga & inár nOidhreacht  
Investing in our Culture,  
Language & Heritage  
2018–2027



Developed by the Department  
of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht

Foarthú ag an Roinn Cultúr,  
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta



Ao Roinn Iompair  
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt  
Department of Transport,  
Tourism and Sport

PEOPLE, PLACE AND POLICY  
GROWING TOURISM TO 2025



Realising our  
Rural Potential  
Action Plan for Rural Development

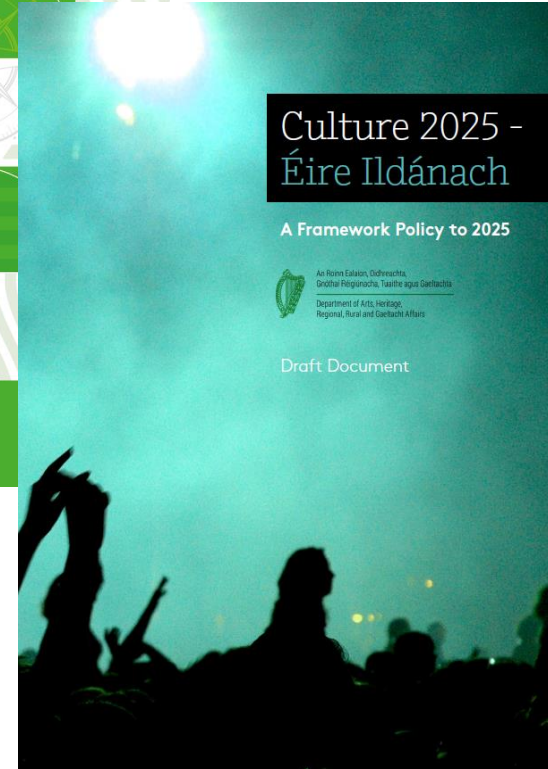


## Culture 2025 - Éire Ildánach

A Framework Policy to 2025

An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht,  
Gnóthaí Féilgriníochta, Taisíne agus Gaeltachta  
Department of Arts, Heritage,  
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

Draft Document







## **Archaeology in the RDP agri-environment schemes.**



- **Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS)- Archaeological actions. Closed July 2009.**
- **Agri-Environment Options Scheme (AEOS)- No archaeological actions. Opened in March 2010.**
- **Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS)-Archaeological actions. Opened in 2014.**



## REPS 1-3; Measure 7:



### Protect Features of Historical and Archaeological Interest.

- **Buffer areas, where no ground disturbance could take place, extending from the external perimeters of monuments.**
- **Extra payment for farmers who facilitated public access to their land for ‘environmentally friendly leisure and sporting activities’.**
- **Consideration of impacts ploughing at monuments with little or no surface trace.**
- **Increased awareness of monuments and incorporation into farm plans.**
- **Actions at monuments attracting payment.**
- **Management practices.**



## Management practices in REPS:

- **REPS 4: ‘Prescribe management practices that ensure the protection of these features.’**
- **Avoid damage by heavy machinery and continuous movement of animals.**
- **No dumping of materials on monuments.**
- **No storage of fertilisers, fodder or chemicals on monuments.**
- **Keep monuments and buffers free of scrub, by appropriate levels of grazing.**
- **Don’t fence off monuments.**
- **Correct method of felling trees and removing the timber.**
- **Don’t use historic buildings for livestock.**
- **Siting troughs carefully**



## REPS 4; Measure 7:

# Establish biodiversity strips surrounding features of historical and archaeological interest.



- Launched in 2007
- ‘All sites recorded in the Register (sic) of Monuments and Places, even where not visible, must be protected by buffer strips.’ (REPS 4 Farmer’s Handbook)
- Buffer zones around margins to become an ‘uncultivated and unsown margin’, which might ‘become a refuge for rare plants.’
- Dropped the public access option.
- Recommended that any ‘new sites’ (ie monuments not marked on Record of Monuments maps), should be reported to NMS.
- Clearly stated that monuments should not be fenced off and scrub generation should be kept in check by appropriate levels of grazing.

# GLAS Option 1: Establish and maintain a buffer margin around a visible archaeological monument in a tillage parcel.



## Requirements:

1.	Establish a 10m wide grass margin around at least one monument by sowing a grass seed mix in the plots that will be harvested by 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2017.
2.	The action must be delivered on a LPIS parcel(s). The monument(s) must be clearly identified on the map accompanying your GLAS application.
3.	The margin must extend from the external outer boundary of the monument. The margin must be established by light cultivation techniques – i.e. no ploughing is permitted.
4.	Soil cultivation or tractor operations cannot be carried out within the margin once established.
5.	The margin must be maintained by hand mowing or strimming throughout the year and for the duration of the contract.
6.	Grazing by livestock is permitted provided that no damage is caused to the monument.
7.	Pesticides are not permitted, except for spot treatment of noxious and invasive weeds (see appendix 14).
8.	Where there is encroaching vegetation (excluding established healthy trees) on/near the monument, this must be controlled but not between 1 <sup>st</sup> March and 31 <sup>st</sup> August annually. Note roots of plants cannot be removed. Further detail on this is set out in option 2 below.



# GLAS Option 2: ‘Managing vegetation around a visible archaeological monument in an eligible grassland parcel(s).’



## Requirements:

1.	Manage vegetation on and around at least 1 visible monument initially by 30 November 2018 and annually thereafter.
2.	The action must be delivered on a LPIS parcel(s). The monument(s) must be clearly identified on the map accompanying your GLAS application.
3.	Remove all encroaching vegetation (excluding established healthy trees) on/near the monument. Roots of plants cannot be removed.
4.	All works must be done with hand tools (e.g. with a saw, slash hook, secateurs and/or pruning shears) or motor-manually (e.g. with a chainsaw/brush cutter/trimmer). Tractors or diggers cannot be used to cut or remove vegetation.
5.	Small trees and plants like gorse, whins, rhododendron, laurel and other individual plants should be removed by cutting at the base and treating the stump with an appropriate herbicide to prevent re-growth.
6.	Larger trees should be pruned to above head height to open up access to the site or monument. Pollarding of trees is allowed.
7.	Management of vegetation must NOT be carried out between 1 <sup>st</sup> March and 31 <sup>st</sup> August annually. The one exception to this rule is the cutting or thrashing (flailing) of bracken and ferns which can be carried out in the middle of June.
8.	Remove dead or unstable trees: Cut as close as possible to ground level, leave stump in place and replace root plate in the existing depression.

9.	Felled or dead trees must be cut into pieces where they fall and the pieces taken away.
10.	Strim ground cover within 3m of the exterior of the monument.
11.	The killing or removal of well-established ivy or trees, whose root systems have invaded the fabric of masonry structure, is not permitted.
12.	Spot treatment of herbicides is permitted. All herbicides must be systemic.
13.	Any fallen masonry discovered during work must be left untouched.
14.	New shoots of woody plants which become established in the walls of the structure must be removed provided this does not damage or de-stabilise the monument.
15.	The interior of masonry monument(s) must be inaccessible to livestock. Ensure that new vegetation does not take hold within the structure, in the absence of grazing. This should not involve any degree of ground disturbance.
16.	Grazing by livestock throughout the year is permissible around the monument(s) but care should be taken in the autumn and winter months to ensure no damage is caused to the monument(s).

**Option 2 aims at controlling certain types of:**

**Re-seeded or quickly colonising trees and invasive woody plants.  
Other problematic plants.**

# **A short history of biodiversity at archaeological monuments in the RDP:**



- **Biodiversity strip in REPS 4.**
- **National Monuments Service had asked that monuments would attract greening payment as ecological focus areas.**
- **In 2015, protected archaeological sites were designated as Landscape Features by the Dept. of Agriculture.**
- **This meant that their biodiversity value was recognised and that, in theory, they could be used as ecological focus areas.**
- **SO, BIODIVERSITY VALUE OF PROTECTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES HAS BEEN ACCEPTED.**
- **But, Greening is no more, so has the moment passed?**

















## What do we know about CAP Strategic Plans?

- **Must address 3 General Objectives and 6 Specific Objectives.**
- **Most relevant here are:**
- **G.O. 2. to bolster environmental care and climate action and to contribute to the environmental- and climate-related objectives of the Union;**
- **G.O. 3. to strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural areas.**
- 
- **S.O. f. Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes**



## What do we know about CAP Strategic Plans?

- Strategic Plans will answer national problems & needs, aligned with EU objectives.
- Enhanced conditionality.
- Plans should be ambitious for the environment and climate.
- Plans should establish a clear baseline and lay down ambitious actions to exceed it.
- Actions should tie in to relevant EU legislation and national plans
- Actions should be capable of attracting large numbers of farmers and not be too specialist.



## What kind of actions might be needed?

- Not re-wilding.
- The GLAS actions still of value.
- Establishment of buffer areas might be converted to provision of species rich grassland or permanent grassland.
- Provision of bird boxes and bat boxes.
- Minimum tillage.
- Taking monuments with no surface trace out of production.
- Re-wetting.
- Reducing stock numbers on/near a monument.
- Need to consider other natural heritage and farm management measures and see which of them can be implemented at or near a monument without risk to the monument.





**Monuments functioning as a focus of biodiversity, with a broader area around them going over to organic or high nature value farming?**

**Archaeologists need advice from other disciplines.**

Thank You.

[hugh.carey@housing.gov.ie](mailto:hugh.carey@housing.gov.ie)

