

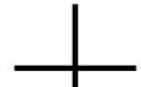








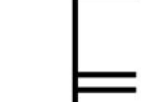













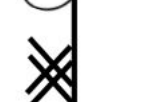
An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



# ogham stones

**Our Ancient Landscapes:**  
Ogham Stones in Ireland

# ogham alphabet

|   |   |  |   |   |    |
|---|---|--|---|---|----|
|    | A |    | I |    | S  |
|    | B |    | L |    | T  |
|    | C |    | M |    | U  |
|    | D |    | N |    | Z  |
|    | E |    | O |    | EA |
|    | F |    | P |    | OI |
|   | G |  | Q |  | UI |
|  | H |  | R |  | IA |







**Ogham is a script method that was used mostly by Irish Celts**





## Where are ogham stones found?

Ogham stones are found in most counties in Ireland, but occur in highest numbers in the south-west, in counties Kerry, Cork and Waterford. Kerry alone has approximately a third of the total and the Dingle peninsula has the highest concentration with approximately 60 ogham stones originating in this relatively small area. Ogham stones are also found in Britain, primarily in areas of post-Roman Irish colonisation, in Wales, Devon and Cornwall in the south-east, Scotland and the Isle of Man. Interestingly, most of the Welsh inscriptions are bilingual, in Latin (script and language) on the face of the stone, and in ogham (and the Irish language) on the edge. One of the rare examples with both scripts in Ireland is from Killeen Cormac, Colbinstown, Co. Kildare and is on display in the National Museum of Ireland.

A stone with text in both ogham and Latin script from Killeen Cormac, Colbinstown, Co. Kildare. Although some doubt has been expressed about the authenticity of the Latin text, most experts believe it to be genuine. This is now on display in the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin. It measures 1.57m in height.

(Photograph National Monuments Service, © National Museum of Ireland)



A holed ogham stone at the early church site of Kilmalkedar (Cill Maoilch adar), Co. Kerry.  
( Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland)



This probable prehistoric standing stone overlooks Ballycrovane Harbour at Faunkill and the Woods, Co. Cork. The ogham inscription is a likely later addition. At 4.70m in height this is the tallest known ogham stone from Ireland.

some have been moved from their original context, many ogham stones appear to be associated with early church sites, which fits well with the linguistic dating of the inscriptions to the early medieval period (4th to the 7th century AD). Indeed, some are also cross-inscribed but it can be difficult to say whether or not the inscription and the cross are contemporary. A high percentage (c.40%) of ogham stones are found re-used later as building material, mainly in souterrains and particularly in Co. Cork. In these cases, the original site is often difficult or impossible to identify, although it is

Distribution map of  
ogham stones in  
Ireland and Britain.



| <b>English</b> | <b>Irish</b>       | <b>Spanish</b>  |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Friendship     | <b>Cáirdeas</b>    | Amistad         |
| Happiness      | <b>Sonas</b>       | Felicidad       |
| Prosperity     | <b>Rath</b>        | Prosperidad     |
| Love           | <b>Grá</b>         | Amor            |
| Health         | <b>Sláinte</b>     | Salud           |
| Blessings      | <b>Beannachtaí</b> | Bendiciones     |
| Courage        | <b>Misneach</b>    | Coraje/Valentia |
| Strength       | <b>Brí</b>         | Fuerza          |
| Peace          | <b>Síocháin</b>    | Paz             |
| Hope           | <b>Dochas</b>      | Esperanza       |
| Gratitude      | <b>Buíochas</b>    | Gratitud        |
| Beloved        | <b>Ionúin</b>      | Amados          |