

IAI Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland

Winter Newsletter 2023



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Message from the Acting Chair Dr Ros Ó Maoldúin

Dear Members,

I hope our newsletter finds you well and that you are enjoying the festive season. 2023 has been a busy and important year for archaeology in Ireland, with the EAA (European Archaeological Association) meeting held in Belfast, the passing of the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill (2023), and the continued role out of Archaeology 2030 in Northern Ireland.

All reports suggest the EAA was a resounding success, and much credit is due to the organising, scientific, and advisory committees, all at Queen's University Belfast (QUB), and most especially Professor Eileen Murphy, who chaired both the organising and scientific committee. Many of our members attended and/or presented at the conference and our former chair James Kyle co-organised a workshop with CiFA's chair Peter Hinton and Clara Drummer of CiFA Deutschland, on 'Weaving Global Standards for Archaeology'. We (the IAI) continue our corporate membership of the EAA and plan to continue efforts to engage meaningfully with our European colleagues. This is only way we will have an opportunity to address political concerns from Archaeology at a European level. On this note, we are pleased to inform you that one of our members, Emmet Byrnes, is acting as national coordinator on the Political Strategies Community (PSC) of the EAA for Ireland and has been helpfully keeping our board abreast of developments. The next European elections will be held in June 2024, and we hope to assist Emmet and the PSC/EAA in their undertaking of a 'benchmarks project' providing evaluations of how archaeology and heritage friendly the various parties contesting the elections are.

The Historic and Archaeological Heritage Bill 2023 was passed in October of this year. Once enacted, it will replace the National Monuments Act 1930, and subsequent amending acts. Among the many adjustments, newly discovered archaeological sites will be afforded immediate legal protection, without the need for formal designation or registration, and a new integrated licencing system is to be introduced. In November we received an information note from the National Monuments Service on the timeline over which it is expected the new Act will come into effect. We circulated that note at the time of receiving it but given its importance I include it again at the end of this newsletter. The National Monuments Service (NMS) have committed to keeping us fully updated on the progress of any further provisions of the Act that will come into effect over time, and we will update you as they do.

In relation to Archaeological 2030, members of the board, myself included, have been attending working group meetings and I am delighted to include an update from Bronagh Murray in our features section.

We continue to implement our current 3-year plan (2021-2024) and are preparing to engage with you on the formulation of the next 3-year plan. With that in mind, we will be conducting a survey of your opinion in the coming year (2024). On a connected issue, we did call an EGM on November 11th to discuss the proposed rewriting of our AoAs, either in advance of or as part of this process. This is a fundamental issue to the running of our institution and a necessary process to bring us in line with the Companies Act (2014). Unfortunately, we did not make a quorum, so I dissolved the proposed EGM, and instead, those present (18 in total) had an informal chat about our current AoAs and possible future changes. In preparation, we had prepared a short PowerPoint, which has since been forwarded to you and we plan to push ahead with preparing a draft modern and more flexible constitution, for your consideration. This process may take some time and we will update you on progress at the 2024 AGM, if not before. There are a few interim changes that we believe will help our institute function more effectively. With this in mind, we have established a sub-committee to explore the legalities of and if possible, draft an additional article to allow for the digital participation of members in votes and at

AGMs and EGMs. It is anticipated that this subcommittee will report to us in advance of the AGM and should the drafting of such an amendment have been legally possible we hope to present it to you to vote on.

Our new Website is up and running. **If you have not yet had the opportunity, please log in (<https://www.iai.ie/member-login/>) and update your profile!** New fields for role and a short bio have been included to help members of the public, developers, and colleagues to find specialists and service providers. If you are having problems accessing the members area, you may need to request a new password by clicking 'forgot my password'. Please check your spam folder if it doesn't appear in your inbox. If you do not receive an updated password your account may be linked to an older email address. Please get in contact with the membership secretary, Maeve Tobin at membership@iai.ie to update your contact email.

Last year we commissioned Irish Archaeological Consultants (IAC) to conduct a scoping exercise to inform the further development of professional standards for archaeological practice in Ireland. This has now been completed and we intend, in 2024 to begin ramping up our efforts to commission and produce new guidelines and standards. It is envisaged that these will be commissioned through tender requests, and we plan to meet with funding bodies in the new year.

This year we were among several Irish bodies to commission one of the Council of British Archaeology (CBA)'s Archaeological Achievement Awards celebrating the work and projects of archaeologists from across the United Kingdom and Ireland. Although a CBA initiative, this is a United Kingdom and all Ireland award, and we would like to encourage more entrants from Ireland. We (the IAI), Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS), the NMS and the Department of Communities, NI (An Roinn Pobal) all contributed to the sponsorship this year. Our outgoing chair, James Kyle, acted as a judge and attended the award ceremony in York. We also contributed letters to the CBA's Letters to a young archaeologist series. We extend our congratulations to all winners, but especially Irish entrants that included:

- Shane Delaney of IAC and Professor Eileen O'Reilly of QUB on the shortlisting of their book and project The Forgotten Cemetery: Excavations at Ranelagh, Co. Roscommon in the Public Dissemination or Presentation section;
- Marie-Therese Barrett of IAC who was shortlisted in the Early Career Archaeologists section; and
- and to Tuatha who were shortlisted in the Archaeology and Sustainability Award section.

Many of you will have contributed to The Discovery Programme (DP)'s online survey on Research Frameworks in November. The DP will run a series of workshops around the country to further this research, early in 2024. These will provide an opportunity for early engagement, and we would like to encourage you to participate.

I was co-opted as Acting Chair by the board during the year and intend to stand for election as Chair at the AGM, this coming April. I am happy to report that we currently have a full board and reasonable attendance at our bimonthly board meetings. I would like to extend our appreciation to all our members, board, funders (NMS and the Heritage Council) and a particular thanks to our outgoing chair, James Kyle, for his service past and continued to the Institute.

Mise le meas,

Acting Chair

Dr Ros Ó Maoldúin MIAI

Board Updates

Over the past few months there have been several changes to personal on the board with a number of people moving on and some replacements taking over. The IAI board would like to extend its sincerest thanks and appreciation to the members who stepped down this year. We wish you all the best for 2024 and success going forward!

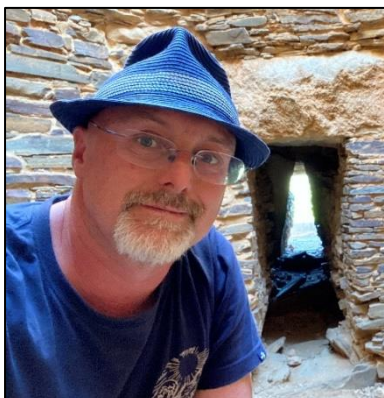
List of Current Board of Directors

- Dr Ros Ó Maoldúin (Acting Chairperson) – chair@iai.ie
- Dr Steve Davis (Vice- Chairperson) – vice.chair@iai.ie
- Robyn Kelly (Hon. Secretary) – secretary@iai.ie
- Maeve Tobin (Membership Secretary) – membership@iai.ie
- Elaine Lynch (Conference Organiser)
- Brigid Melloy (Public Relations Officer) – media@iai.ie
- Dr. David Stone (Editor IAI News) – newsletter@iai.ie
- Dr. Niamh McCullagh (Treasurer) – treasurer@iai.ie
- Dr. Alan Hawkes (Ordinary Member – JIA Convenor)
- Dr. Susan Curran (Ordinary Member – RIA Representative)
- Sally Siggins (Ordinary Member)
- James Kyle (Ordinary Member)
- Deborah Buchanan (Student Representative)

IAI CPD Co-Ordinator and Administrator

- Dr Niamh Kelly – iaiarchaology@gmail.ie

New and current Board Members



Dr Ros Ó Maoldúin (Acting Chairperson): Ros joined us as Acting Chair in June 2023. He has been a full member of the Institute for over 20 years and previously served as Membership Secretary and Conference Organiser. He is currently a Senior Archaeologist with Archaeological Management Solutions - AMS - where he is overseeing the write-up of the archaeological findings from the N5 Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Road Project and managing several state services contracts. He completed his PhD in 2015 and on Exchange in the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age in Ireland and has a broad range of research interests. Details of some of his archaeological publications can be found on

<https://independent.academia.edu/RosOMaolduin>.



Dr Steve Davis (Vice Chair): Previously an Ordinary Board Member, Steve stepped up to the role of Vice Chair at the AGM in March 2023. Steve has been a lecturer in archaeology in UCD since 2006. He was initially appointed as an environmental archaeologist with a specialism in insects, pollen and testate amoebae. However, since 2010 he has focused more widely on aerial archaeology and remote sensing. He is a former editor of the *Journal of Irish Archaeology*, committee member of the Irish Quaternary

Association and current chairman of the Aerial Archaeology Research Group. In particular, he has spent several years working in Brú na Bóinne and the wider Boyne Valley, with projects at the Hill of Ward and more recently Dowth, where he is principal archaeological advisor to the Devenish Lands at Dowth.



Robyn Kelly (Honorary Secretary): Robyn completed her BA in History and Archaeology at UCD in 2020, during which she served as auditor of the Archaeology Society for 2 years. She has worked on a number of excavations in a wide range of site types and periods in Ireland and the UK since 2020, including large scale infrastructure schemes in both Ireland and the UK. Additionally, Robyn has worked on accessions in the National Museum of Ireland, and in 2023 moved into post-excavation, where she is currently the Post-Excavation Supervisor for AMS.



Maeve Tobin (Membership Secretary): Maeve joined the IAI in 2008, served as the Membership Secretary for four years (2018-2021), and has now returned to the position. She has worked in commercial archaeology since 2004 and is now an Osteoarchaeologist and Senior Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Consultant with IAC Archaeology. With over 19 years' experience in the identification, excavation, and analysis of human skeletal remains she has analysed and reported on inhumation and cremation burials from over 90 sites. Recent publications include a detailed account of the osteological findings from the medieval cemetery of the Abbey of St Thomas the Martyr in Medieval Dublin XIX and two unusual Iron Age burials from Carroweighter, Co. Roscommon in the *Journal of Irish Archaeology*. Maeve also produces Archaeological Impact Assessments for EIAR on large-scale infrastructure, commercial and

residential developments throughout Ireland. As part of her role in IAC she creates and manages their social media and website content. Maeve is a member of several organisations including the ClfA, EAA, and IAPO; and is the current News Editor for *Archaeology Ireland*.



Elaine Lynch (Conference organiser): Elaine continues as our conference organiser. She has worked in the archaeological sector for over 17 years in both the commercial sector and on research excavations, including field and post-excavation work. In 2011 she completed an MPhil in Archaeology from University College Cork, where my research entitled '*A study of Grooved Ware in Ireland*'. In recent years, she has been focusing on her specialism and producing prehistoric pottery reports. She has worked on a range of illustrations over the years from digitising site plans to artefact illustrations, a number of which have been published. For the past two years, she

has joined the Field Monument Advisor Programme in Co. Clare. She also holds and excavation licence.



Brigid Melloy (Public Relations Officer):

Brigid completed her BA in Creative Writing with Archaeology and Celtic Civilisation in 2020 before completing her MA in Landscape Archaeology in 2021, both at the University of Galway in 2021. During her time as a student, she served as the vice-auditor and then auditor of the Archaeology Society. She joined AMS as a report-writing archaeologist shortly after graduation and has since worked on post-excavation and final reports for a variety of excavations, method statements for licence applications, and several community archaeology projects.



Deborah Buchanan (Student Representative):

Deborah graduated from the University of Leicester in 2019 with an MA in Archaeology and Heritage and is currently finishing an MSc in Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology at UCD. She plans to start a PhD in January looking at the chaîne opératoire of Moynagh Points to better understand what they are and how they were made. She is looking forward to getting to know our student members and representing their perspectives on the board.



Sally Siggins (Ordinary Member): Sally is an archaeologist and tour guide. She has worked as a guide at Carrowmore in County Sligo for several seasons and this year (2023) was appointed head guide. Sally completed a BSc (Hons) in Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Technology, Sligo (now ATU, Sligo) in 2016 and a Certificate in Local and Regional Guiding, Tourism at ATU, Donegal in 2021. She has served on several voluntary boards, including as Vice President of the Sligo Field Club, and volunteered at three of our Archaeofests (2014-2016).

Dr Niamh McCullagh: (Treasurer): Niamh has a BA and an MA in Archaeology (University College Cork), an MSc in Forensic Archaeology and Crime Scene Investigation (Bradford University) and a PhD in Forensic Archaeology (Queens University Belfast). Niamh joins the board as a Forensic Archaeologist specialising in the search, location and recovery of human remains in a forensic context with over 23 years' experience as an archaeologist and 17 years' experience as a specialist. Her work and research focus on homicide in Ireland and on improving the search for the remains of homicide victims that have been disposed of in a clandestine manner. She has worked nationally and internationally on both current and historic cases and has assisted government providing advice and in drafting legislation. Niamh's current and previous roles include: Senior Forensic Archaeologist to the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims Remains, Forensic Archaeologist to the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation, Forensic Archaeologist and Search Specialist with An Garda Síochána. Niamh is also qualified in the delivery of Expert Witness testimony.



Dr David Stone (Newsletter editor): David continues as our newsletter editor. David is a Project Archaeologist with the Discovery Programme Centre of Archaeology and Innovation Ireland and environmental archaeologists specialising in the analyses of plant macro remains. He holds a bachelor's degree (Hons.) in Archaeology from the School of Archaeology (University College Dublin) and a Masters in Archaeology from the Institute of Archaeology/Kellogg College (University of Oxford). He was awarded his PhD in 2021 from UCD, where he led an archaeobotanical research project focusing on the Late Antique and Islamic period agriculture in Azerbaijan. David is also a Fulbright Ambassador and a former Fulbright scholar and the recipient of the first Fulbright-Creative Ireland Museum Fellowship at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC where as a Smithsonian Fellow he conducted research on the dissemination and digital curation of ecofacts recovered from excavations. His research interests revolve around the use of environmental archaeological techniques to inform archaeologists about agricultural practice, diet and landscape changes in the past.



James Kyle (Ordinary Board member): Previously our board Chairperson, James stepped down at the AGM, March 2023, but has kindly agreed to stay on as Ordinary Board Member. He graduated from University of Wales, Bangor in 1998 with a Bachelor of Sciences Degree in Zoology with Marine Zoology and subsequently graduated with a Higher Diploma in Irish Archaeology from UCC in 2006. He has worked exclusively in the Irish commercial archaeology sector since 1999 and has held an excavation license since 2007, working as both a site director and senior archaeologist on a variety of high-profile projects. He is currently the branch secretary of UNITE the Union's Archaeology Branch.



Dr Alan Hawkes (JIA Convener): Alan continues as our Journal of Irish Archaeology Convener. He is a graduate of University College Cork and holds a doctoral degree in archaeology. He is a license eligible archaeologist and has worked on several major research projects. He has published widely in both national and international peer reviewed journals and in 2018 published a book on prehistoric burnt mound archaeology in Ireland. For the past six years he has worked for Maurice F. Hurley Archaeological Consultants (MFH), conducting both small and largescale excavations, surveys, and pre-planning test-trenching/ monitoring briefs nationwide. He also carries out consultancy work as part of his own company (Hawkes Archaeological Services), conducting site surveys and assessments for private developments. He continues to work closely with University College Cork and over the past three years has been the recipient of a prestigious research excavation grant from the Royal Irish Academy conducting excavations at a large Neolithic enclosure, near Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow.



Dr Susan Curran (RIA Representative): Susan is our Royal Irish Academy Representative. Susan is a Project Archaeologist at the Discovery Programme on the TII ALS Machine Learning and ARIADNEplus Project. She studied archaeology at University College Dublin, acquiring BA (2010) and MA (2012) degrees before securing an IRC Government of Ireland postgraduate scholarship to pursue a PhD in archaeology (awarded 2020). Susan's main research interests include landscape archaeology, remote sensing (primarily lidar & geophysics), GIS, and early medieval Ireland with a particular focus on early medieval settlement and society. These interests combined to form the basis of her PhD thesis which applied remote sensing techniques (lidar & geophysical survey) to explore early medieval settlement within case study areas in counties Roscommon, Leitrim, and Monaghan. Over the course of her studies, Susan developed a particular interest in geophysical survey, participating in a number of Discovery Programme projects including LIARI and Monastic Ireland, in addition to several UCD projects such as those at the Hill of Ward and Dowth estate. Before joining the Discovery Programme, Susan worked as a geophysical surveyor in the commercial sector for over three years, undertaking surveys at a range of sites throughout the country, spanning multiple archaeological periods and site types.

Vacancies on the Board

At present we are delighted to say that we have a full board; however, this is an often-changing situation and if you are interested in becoming involved make sure to make it to our next AGM at our Spring conference in Limerick, on 12th April 2024.

Our CPD Co-Ordinator and Administrator



Dr Niamh Kelly (CPD Co-Ordinator and Administrator): Niamh joined us as CPD Co-Ordinator and Administrator in 2022 and continues to bring a professionalism to the role for which we the board are very grateful. Niamh completed her doctoral thesis with the UCD School of Archaeology focusing on the social and economic values of coarse stone tools from the Mesolithic and Neolithic in Ireland and the Irish Sea region. Her work explores the chaîne opératoire of these tools and the roles they play in defining task, self, culture and ritual. Before joining us at the IAI, Niamh worked at the National Print Museum where she co-ordinated Cultural and

Heritage Studies Programme.

CPD Coordinator update from Dr Niamh Kelly

Over the last year, the IAI has been delighted to work with a range of professionals both within and outside our sector to support the delivery of our 2023 CPD programme. Our 2023 programme has seen us continue to develop strategic links and included partnerships with Historic Environment Division NI, Royal Irish Academy, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), Environmental Archaeologists Group, Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN), Engineers Ireland, Dundalk IT, UCD School of Archaeology, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), and the Royal Society of Ulster Architects (RSUA). This year our CPD programme included:

- Royal Irish Academy Grants schemes info session, Friday March 10th 2023, Online
- Environmental remains from archaeological excavations: an introduction to sampling and Analysis, Wednesday March 15th, 2023, UCD School of Archaeology, Dublin.
- An Introduction to field walking techniques for ploughzone archaeology, Saturday April 15th, 2023, Pollerton Little, Co. Carlow
- Governance Training with Paul A. White from Governance Ireland, Saturday June 17th 2023, Online
- An introduction to the collections of the Digital Repository of Ireland, Thursday October 26th, Online
- Pottery Analysis Course, Saturday Oct 14th, Nov 4th, Dec 2nd Online
- CIfA and IAI – Informing climate change responses: the role of archaeology, Conservation in Common, Thursday November 10th 1pm, Online

The last of these CPDs - Informing climate change responses: the role of archaeology – was part of a wider CPD programme we participated in called Conservation in Common. This programme was cross-disciplinary series of events for professionals working in the built heritage sector and included two in person and five online CPDs throughout 2023. The IAI also provided three online CPD events in early 2023 for members of iCAN introducing Irish Archaeology. These sessions were part of a reciprocal CPD programme between IAI and iCAN and we look forward to iCAN hosting us for new CPDs in 2024.

We have again continued to take a hybrid approach to our CPD programme in 2023, and this approach is one we see lasting into the future, offering both online and in-person events where appropriate. The flexibility offered by online CPDs is inarguable and enabling those unable to travel due to physical, financial, or occupational constraints to participate in our CPDs. However, certain topics undoubtedly benefit from in-person participation, so we do decide on a case-by-case basis which medium for delivery is more appropriate. Our current Pottery Analysis Course with Clare McCutcheon will be our first to have both online and in-person sessions, with our in-person events planned for Limerick and Dublin in early 2024. We are the process of finalising the core of our 2024 CPD programme, but it will include partnerships with the Discovery Programme, TII, National Monuments Service, and iCAN among others. Please keep an eye on our social media channels, our members emails and the CPD section of the IAI website for updates.

The IAI would like to offer a sincere thanks to all the trainers and participants who took part in our 2023 programme. We would also like to give a special thanks to the UCD School of Archaeology for providing a venue for our environmental CPD last March and our upcoming Pottery CPD session in January 2024 and to Dr Séamus Ó Murchú who allowed us to use his family land for our Fieldwalking CPD in April. Finally, the IAI would like to offer it's sincere thanks to our funders the National Monuments Service and the Heritage Council for their continued support of our CPD Programme. Without their continued financial support, our CPD Programme would not be possible.

Heritage Week 2023 update from Dr Niamh Kelly

For this year's Heritage Week, the IAI partnered with the FOODSEC (Food security in Bronze Age Ireland) to showcase some of the research being undertaken by the team from UCD School of Archaeology and ACSU. The IAI and FOODSEC team worked with video production company Bailey and Blake to film, produce and edit a 15-minute video entitled 'Unlocking the story of prehistoric food storage' as one of our primary contributions to Heritage Week 2023.

This video began concept in May 2023 with the idea of focusing in on a research project being undertaken by some of our members to give it a platform outside of the immediate archaeological community. While the general public often of what archaeology is, why we undertake research, how set about finding questions to ask and how we go about answering those questions is perhaps not always clear. By focusing in on a single project we were able to provide a snapshot of archaeological research in an engaging and interesting way that was easily digestible by the public.

A number of project archaeologists and participants including Prof. Meriel McClatchie, Dr Kerri Cleary, Dr Penny Johnston, Dr Erin Crowley-Champoux and Dominic Greyson were interview as part of this video at the UCD School of Archaeology and at a heritage crop farm in North Dublin in June and July 2023. Various members of the IAI from across Ireland very kindly allowed for their photos, images and videos to be used as part of this production and the final product was made available to view through our YouTube page in August 2023. If you have yet to watch, you can do so using the link below.

<https://youtu.be/pb5vFiOwZcw?si=XbRoK7S8YPXAnaYo>

Our second contribution for Heritage Week was hosting an online talk for entitled 'Excavations at Tlachtga, Athboy Co. Meath 2014-2016' presented by our members Dr Steve Davis and Cathy Moore. This talk detailed the findings of excavations at the Hill of Ward, Co. Meath from 2014-2016, funded by the Royal Irish Academy and Meath Co. Council. It outlined the biography of the monumental complex, from Bronze Age enclosure to high-status early medieval site ('Tlachtga') through at least four stages of development. Artefactual and ecofactual evidence was discussed in an attempt to provide context for this significant place, its landscape and how it has changed through four millennia. This talk took place on Tuesday August 15th, and we were delighted that this talk was fully booked out. If you didn't manage to catch this live, you can watch our edited video of this on our YouTube channel at the link below.

<https://youtu.be/ElvEsICAs00>

Treasurer update from Dr Niamh McCullagh

The Institute finances are in good health. Our 2022 accounts were filed and signed by the Chair and Treasurer in August 2023. We are in good standing with the CRO and with Revenue. We have recently been registered for Corporation Tax and after a number of years of disorder our financial records, our accounts and our legal obligations in this respect are up to date. This has been a significant undertaking for the Board and their effort in this regard must be acknowledged. IAI members can access our accounts here: <https://www.iai.ie/institute-accounts/>

Student Representative update

Deborah Buchanan took up the roll of Student Representative only recently and we expect to have her first update at the AGM in Limerick this coming March. We, the board, hope to encourage the reawakening of the often wonderful AYIA conference and to engaging with our student members and the wider student body studying archaeology in Ireland. Should you wish to get involved or have Deborah represent your perspectives on the board, please do contact her @ deborah.buchanan@ucdconnect.ie.

Features and other news

Women of the Viking World

University of Liverpool, 27-28 August 2024



Research on women of the Viking world has gained momentum in recent years, with new perspectives and possibilities being introduced. Traditional views are still prominent however, with women often diminished to spectators within a patriarchal society. However, there is growing evidence to suggest women enjoyed more active and varied societal roles which are far more significant than have previously been considered. Thus, this conference aims to bring together scholars from all disciplines of the field to deliver this new broader perspective on women of the Viking world.

Topics can include (but are not limited to):

- Texts and literature
- Archaeology, iconography and material culture
- Power, politics and the economy
- Religion and seiðr
- Norse diaspora and the wider Viking World

To apply, please submit an abstract of no more than 250 words to info@vikingagewomen.com with your name, brief biography and paper title as the subject line by March 2nd 2024. Please also include information on any affiliation with your submission. Please note, we are planning for the conference to be in-person, however we are happy to discuss online options. If you would like to discuss the possibility of presenting online, please let us know in your submission email.

Details regarding conference registration, sessions, accommodation etc will be released in spring 2024. See website and social media for details.

- Website www.vikingagewomen.com
- X [@vikingagewomen](https://twitter.com/vikingagewomen)
- FB [@vikingagewomen](https://www.facebook.com/vikingagewomen)
- Instagram [#vikingagewomen](https://www.instagram.com/vikingagewomen)

This conference is being organised by Elizabeth West, Hannah Evans, and Ian Russell with support from the University of Liverpool, Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd and the Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool (as of November 2023). Our background image is courtesy of Jennifer Robinson.

Tuam and the ODAIT

An update from Dr Niamh McCullagh

The IAI would like to acknowledge the establishment of the Office of the Director of Authorised Intervention at Tuam (ODAIT) and welcome Director Daniel MacSweeney to his post. The ODAIT will administer the excavation and the recovery of the significant amounts of human remains that were located at the site of the former Mother and Baby Home in Tuam in 2017. The Institutional Burials Act (2022) which established the ODAIT requires that human remains here are excavated to international best practice. The Institute welcomes the ODAIT to draw on the significant pool of expertise and professionalism among the Irish Archaeological community.

TII's new Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Guidelines

An update from Bryn Coldrick

TII's new Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Guidelines are expected to be published on tiipublications.ie in the New Year. The new guidelines, and the associated standards (to be published later in 2024), will replace the existing guidelines for the assessment of archaeological and architectural heritage impacts of national road schemes published by the National Roads Authority (NRA) in 2005.

The new guidelines and standards were prepared by Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS) who worked in partnership with TII's Archaeology and Heritage Team and in consultation with key stakeholders including the National Monuments Service, the National Museum of Ireland, the IAI and industry practitioners. AMS convened a multidisciplinary team for the task, led by Bryn Coldrick MIAI, that was supported throughout by external consultants. This combined expertise aims to ensure that the new guidelines are comprehensive and reflect best practice in the assessment and mitigation of impacts on archaeological heritage, built heritage and intangible heritage.

The new guidelines and standards promise to become a useful reference in carrying out cultural heritage impact assessment in Ireland and an essential guide for those working on TII projects.

A newly identified charcoal –making complex in West Wicklow

By Alan Hawkes and Robert Hanbidge



In 2023, a number of surface features were recorded on the northern slope of Tuckmill, Hill, near the town of Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow. The previously unknown and unrecorded sites are part of a group of at least seven broadly circular hollows, some with associated mounds that were brought to our attention by the landowner, Mr Donal McDonnell†. The hollows (7 in total) are situated in a sloping field of rough pasture. Unlike other areas of this landscape, the north-eastern side of Tuckmill Hill has not been reclaimed for agricultural purposes, remaining largely untouched, allowing for the preservation of the surface archaeology. They range in size from 1.8m–2.5m in diameter are 0.4m deep on average. The hollows are concentrated in two distinct rows over an area of c.1.2ha (Plate 1).

Two sites were subsequently sampled by excavation (Licence 23E0289) and confirmed to be charcoal production sites of the ‘pit-kiln’ variety.

There are two types of charcoal kiln found in Ireland: the pit kiln, which is of relevance here, and the earth mound kiln (built entirely above ground on level platforms). While charcoal-production platforms associated with ‘mound kilns’ are known from many parts of Ireland and generally dating to the post-medieval period, the survival of earlier ‘pit-kilns’ are rare, albeit for many truncated examples excavated on linear infrastructure schemes (see Kenny 2010, 99–115).

Both excavation trenches at Tuckmill Hill revealed large pits with *in situ* deposits of lump charcoal, fuel residues and some charred plant remains (Plate 2). The upper sides of each of the pits also displayed evidence of intense heat. On the surface, near the edge of the pits were additional spreads of charcoal residue, separated by deposits of soft clay forming small mounds; these layers are related to the opening of the earth covering and the clearing out of the pit over successive episodes of use.

The operation of a pit kiln is quite complex but at a most basic level the charcoal was produced when the wood was stacked in a pit and burned, raising the temperature high enough for charring. The pit was then covered with organic material such as bracken and a layer of earth, allowing the air supply to be constricted preventing complete combustion of the wood. After a considerable period of cooling, the kiln would be dismantled and the charcoal extracted. The excavated kilns on Tuckmill Hill produced evidence for this entire process, and form part of an important and unique complex of well-preserved pit kilns; the current excavation is only the second instance a charcoal production pit has been

investigated under research conditions in Ireland, the other being an example excavated in the Barees Valley, Co. Cork in 2004, which is dated to AD 1300–1410 (See Michelle Comber, in O'Brien 2009, 271–75).

The production of charcoal is closely linked to iron-working and Co. Wicklow is well known for the industry, particularly in areas such as Shillelagh, Carnew, Glenmalur and the Vale of Clara from the seventeenth century onwards. At Glendalough, mound kilns have been confirmed by excavation near the Upper Lake dating to the late 17th and early 18th centuries (Warren et al. 2012). They are broadly comparable to examples at Knockoe Hill, on the western flanks of the Blackstairs Mountains, Co. Carlow.

The discovery of charcoal kilns near Baltinglass is difficult to interpret until such time radiocarbon dating has been completed. No comparable features have been found in the area or, indeed elsewhere in this region of West Wicklow. The location of the complex suggests a small medieval industry supplying a local iron-working site or forge.

The kilns are broadly comparable to archaeological discoveries made on recent road schemes, which survive as truncated charcoal-filled pits dating from the early to Late Medieval periods. However, the examples on Tuckmill Hill are rare examples of kilns untouched by destructive modern agricultural practices.

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Warren, G, McDermott, C, O'Donnell, L and R. Sands. 2012. Recent excavations of charcoal production platforms in the Glendalough valley, Co. Wicklow. *The Journal of Irish Archaeology* Volume XXI, 85–112.

Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland

By Bronagh Murray (Archaeology 2030 Project Officer)



Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland aims to deliver future benefits to the economy and people of Northern Ireland and a legacy of knowledge and appreciation of our past. The strategy is the collaborative product of a range of people from across the sector, representing different disciplines and roles in, or related to, archaeology.

The key vision statement of Archaeology 2030 is 'We want archaeology to be accessed and valued by as many people as possible, led by a sector which is healthy, resilient, and connected'.

Preceded by 'The way forward for Archaeology', a symposium in 2016, and the resultant consultation document, 'The Way Forward for Archaeology', published in 2017, 'Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland', was launched in December 2020. Five aims are central to the strategy:

- **AIM 1: ARCHAEOLOGY ON THE GROUND**
Standards, guidance, and procedures that enable good archaeological practice.
- **AIM 2: UNDERSTANDING THE PAST**
Making knowledge and understanding more accessible.
- **AIM 3: SUSTAINING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**
Protecting and actively caring for the historic environment.
- **AIM 4: ENGAGING AND ENRICHING PEOPLE'S LIVES**
Communicating the benefits of archaeology to as many people as possible.
- **AIM 5: INNOVATION, UNDERSTANDING AND SKILLS**
Developing learning and skills to equip current and future generations.



Governance of Archaeology 2030

Archaeology 2030 is overseen by a Project Board comprising of members of the archaeological community in Northern Ireland and beyond. Seven working groups were established in 2022 that focus on: Standards and Guidance; Regulatory Activities; Archives and Collections; Legislative Reform; Engagement and Outreach; Sectoral Communications and Advocacy and Professional Skills, Training and Specialisms. The Discovery Programme are leading a major new project on Research Frameworks, which will incorporate Northern Ireland, helping to deliver another important aim of Archaeology 2030. A project officer oversees the day today running of the strategy. The project team will produce an annual newsletter and progress report, along with regular social media posts providing updates on Archaeology 2030 news and events.

Some key milestones to date

- The Archaeology 2030 website was launched in March 2023, its development was made possible with the support of the Historic Environment Fund, Department for Communities.
- Promotion and Publicity of the Archaeology 2030 strategy at the annual meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists in Belfast 30th August and 2nd September 2023 and the annual Discovery 2023! conference held between 17th and 18th November 2023.
- Forthcoming publication of a suite of four Standards and Guidance documents for archaeological practice in Northern Ireland in 2024 along with planned training for the sector.
- The Professional Skills, Training and Specialisms working group is releasing a skills survey, winter 2023-24 which will identify skills gaps faced by the sector today.

To find out more about Archaeology 2030 visit our website <https://archaeology2030.org> if you would like to get in touch with us or join our mailing list, contact us at Archaeology2030@communities-ni.gov.uk



Images - Archaeological Excavation at Dunluce historic settlement complex Co. Antrim, Wooden shipwrecks at Whiteabbey Bay, Co. Antrim, Volunteers celebrating after completion of restoration work at Slieve Gullion passage tomb, Co. Armagh.

Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland Conference 2024

An update from Elaine Lynch

The annual IAI Conference 2024 will take place on Friday 12th to Saturday 13th April at the Absolute Hotel in Limerick City V94WP52. The AGM will be held on Friday 12th at 4:30pm. This year's theme is Common Trends: Recent excavations, finds and research.

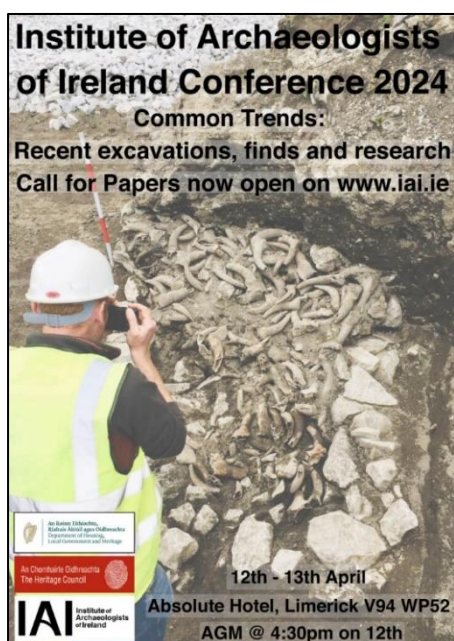
The call for papers is now open and will close on Friday 26th January 2024. If you would like to submit a presentation or poster, please contact the conference organiser Elaine Lynch (elainelynych113@gmail.com) with a title and abstract of no more than 200 words. Presentations should be between 15 and 20 minutes in length (no longer than 20 minutes). All persons with a successfully accepted presentation will get free admission to the conference.

We are also accepting posters for the conference. If you wish to propose a poster, please submit a short abstract (max 80 words) on the poster topic by Friday 26th January 2024. There will be time allocated during the conference to discuss poster presentations with the attendees. During this time poster authors should attend their posters and attendees will have an opportunity to view the posters and discuss their research with them.

Students who are successful in making the presenters list for the conference have travel expenses covered up to the value of €150 (vouched). Successful student poster submissions will receive a €50 one4all voucher (all poster submissions must be accompanied by the student).

The conference will be a two-day event full of exciting recent archaeological projects and research. The annual quiz night with spot prizes will be held on the Friday at 7.30pm, where we will do our best to make sure everyone goes home a winner.

The Absolute Hotel in Limerick is giving a 10% discount to conference attendees. Just use promotion code CORPORATE when booking online. Eventbrite has been set up if you would like to purchase your conference tickets in advance. Here is the link <https://www.eventbrite.com/myevent/738599078727/invite-and-promote/?showSuccessAlert=1> Lunch and tea/coffee breaks will be included with your ticket purchases.



Information Note on the Enactment of Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 and the position pending its entry into force.

On 13th October 2023 Uachtarán na hÉireann (the President of Ireland) signed the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill in accordance with Article 25 of Bunreacht na hÉireann (the Constitution of Ireland), following its passage by both Houses of the Oireachtas (i.e. the Dáil and the Seanad). This means that the Bill has been enacted, and became on that date the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 (“the Act”).

While the Act is now law, it is important to be aware that (as is standard with most Acts) most of its provisions will not enter into force until the Minister has made one or more of what are known as “Commencement Orders”. Please refer to subsections (7) to (13) of section 1 of the Act in that regard.

As of now, no Commencement Orders have been made and therefore none of the Act other than section 225 and a number of non-heritage related “miscellaneous” provisions in Part 13 of the Act have entered into force (section 225 and certain of the non-heritage provisions were not subject to a requirement for Ministerial commencement and therefore entered into force immediately on enactment – see section 16 of the Interpretation Act 2005 for the general rules on entry into force of Acts).

Section 225 provides that the Minister will be required to report to the Oireachtas on the operation of the Act within three years of its enactment (i.e. three years after 13th October 2023) and at five year intervals thereafter.

As no other aspects of the Act have entered into force, this means that section 7 of the Act (which provides for the repeal of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and related legislation) has not entered into force. Accordingly, the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and other legislation which section 7 of the Act will, when it comes into force, repeal, remain fully in force as they stood on 13th October and continue to do so for the time being.

As set out in section 1 of the Act, Ministerial Commencement Orders can be made generally or in respect of one or more provisions of the Act. Given the wide scope of the Act and the need for a range of administrative procedures and secondary legislation (e.g. regulations made by the Minister) to be in place, or ready to be put in place, as soon as key aspects of the Act are commenced, it is anticipated that commencement will take place on a phased basis over the next two years, with a number of Commencement Orders being necessary. The National Monuments Service will be liaising closely in that regard with the other bodies having key functions under the Act, in particular the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport, Gaeltacht and the Media, the National Museum of Ireland and the Office of Public Works. Consultation with other stakeholders and the public generally will also take place as appropriate, for example in regard to Prescribed Monuments Regulations which the Minister will make under section 12 of the Act.

It should also be noted that the Act contains transitional provisions which will, if necessary, enable certain aspects of the existing National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 to continue in operation notwithstanding their repeal post-commencement of the Act while successor provisions are being brought fully into operation. An example of this would be provisions enabling the Record of Monuments and Places to continue to have effect pending the establishment of the new Register of Monuments (see section 48 of the Act). Further information on any such arrangements will be provided in due course where necessary.

A copy of the Act in both HTML format and PDF can be found on the Irish Statute book website, which is maintained by the Office of the Attorney General: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2023/act/26/> Commencement Orders made in respect of the Act will be able to be checked at this website and information on secondary legislation in the form of Ministerial Regulations made under the Act will also be provided here. A link is also available to the relevant webpage on the Houses of the Oireachtas website providing copies of the Bill as amended at each stage as it progressed through the Oireachtas.

Further guidance and information on the content of the Act will be made available by the National Monuments Service in the coming months.

Key Points

- The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 (“the Act”) was enacted on 13 th October 2023 when it was signed by Uachtarán na hÉireann (the President of Ireland) following the passage of the Historic and Archaeological Heritage Bill 2023 by both Houses of the Oireachtas.
- With limited exceptions, the provisions of the Act are not yet in force.
- A series of Ministerial Orders (“Commencement Orders”) will be made to bring the Act into force. It is anticipated this will be done over a two year period.
- During this time, work will be ongoing to ensure that, as each provision of the Act is brought into force, the necessary administrative procedures and secondary legislation are in place to support it.
- Pending the commencement of the provisions of the Act which will repeal the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and related legislation, those Acts and related legislation remain fully in force as they stood on 13th October 2023.
- Even when the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 have been repealed arising from the commencement of relevant provisions of the Act, certain aspects of them (e.g. the Record of Monuments and Places) may continue in force under transitional provisions of the Act pending certain things being done under the Act (e.g., in the case of the Record of Monuments and Places, the establishment of the new Register of Monuments).
- The National Monuments Service will be liaising closely with the other key bodies having functions under the Act in regard to commencement of the Act and will consult other stakeholders and the public as appropriate.
- An important provision of the Act which entered into force immediately on enactment is that the Minister will be required to report to the Oireachtas on the operation of the Act no later than three years after enactment.

Please note that the above is provided for information only and is not a legal interpretation.

National Monuments Service

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

November 2023

Social Media

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