

## **Public Statement**

### ***Ethics and Standards in Irish Archaeology***

*30 June 2008*

The Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland emphatically rejects the inference made by Maggie Ronayne that archaeological practice in Ireland is unregulated and can be exercised without reference to professional Codes of Ethics.

At a national level, all members of the Institute are bound by its Code of Ethics, its Code of Practice and its guidance documents on best practice.

Furthermore, Ireland has ratified the European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, which sets out a very clear ethical code in relation to standards in archaeological practice.

Every individual archaeological excavation in Ireland is either licensed to the National Monuments Section at the Dept. of Environment, Heritage and Local Government or undertaken under Ministerial Direction and Consent.

All applications require a detailed method statement setting out the nature and purpose of the excavation and every licence application is approved by the National Museum of Ireland in advance granting.

Margaret Gowen  
*Chairperson*