



Ministerial Review of Archaeological Policy and Practice

Non-legislative Aspects

Notes for IAI Summer Conference
Dublin 2009

Follow-up to legislation after enactment

- What secondary regulations are likely to be required
- What new policy documents and guidelines are likely to be required
- Guidelines/criteria for assigning Level 1 or Level 2 protection to monuments
- Policy on Monuments in State care
- Criteria for protecting wrecks less than 100 years old
- Policy on acquisition of monuments by the State, and which should be subject to management plans
- How do we brief the archaeological community post enactment about the new legislation (**pre-enactment briefing?**)

Licensing

- How to ensure compliance with ‘developer pays’ policy, particularly as this relates to post-excavation analysis and reports
- Licensing process is too slow and uncertain and needs to be standardised
- A review of licensing interviews required
- Archaeological monitoring should be licensed
- Need for clearer guidance on when monitoring is required
- Requirement (currently) more focused on impact (excavation) than outcomes (the record)
- Appeal process - structure and operation

Archaeological Practice - Excavation: **out of the ground**

- Public notice before excavations start
- Excavation standards, **what should change?**
- **Assessment phase,**
- How to ensure best practice,
- Need for Code of Practice covering archaeologists operating in the commercial sector
- Recording methods,
- Adequacy of testing, including centre-line testing
- Extent to which hand testing is required
- Selective sampling
- Top-soil removal,
- Storage and access to excavation archive

Post Excavation – practice into the record

- Guidelines on format and content of excavation reports
- How to improve quality and standards of report writing, including training issues (mandatory standard?)
- Need for separate method statement for post excavation analysis and reports
- Who should review report standards
- Enforcement (re. submission and standards)
- Dissemination of reports and access to them, (web, libraries?)
- Role of third level institutions
- Better use of technology for the standardising of archives and data management
- Guidance on which excavations should go to publication

Archaeology and Planning

- Guidelines needed for archaeological assessment **and the preparation of development impact statements**
- Guidelines on how to address archaeology in context of Environmental Impact Assessment
- Guidelines on how to address archaeology in local area plans, development plans
- Guidelines for attaching archaeological conditions to planning permissions
- Guidelines on applications that need to be referred to the Department
- How to ensure compliance with the planning referrals process **(suggestions included a bond redeemable when full report approved by NMS)**

Dissemination and Research

- How can we better link archaeological practice to knowledge creation?
- Improved (**standardised**) archiving of archaeological records
- Can better use be made of 'grey' literature?
- Inadequate arrangements for publication
- Formulation of a research agenda; research frameworks
- How to link the research agenda and frameworks to licensing and practice of archaeology
- Need for a National Archaeological Plan, and if needed what it should contain in broad terms

Awareness

- Need for an awareness strategy
- Need for professional consolidation and greater cross-sectoral dialogue and activity
- Improving awareness of archaeology in local communities
- Promoting knowledge of archaeology and its importance
- Integrate archaeology into other educational courses e.g. in agriculture
- Drawing from other European models

Organisational Structures

- Archaeological services are too fragmented - should the National Monuments Service of the Department and OPW be re-integrated?
- Should we go further and seek to promote a new Department (or Agency) of Heritage with responsibility for Archaeological and Architectural Heritage, certain cultural Institutions (archives, museums, libraries etc) and incorporating the NMI and the OPW.
- How can archaeological issues be better addressed across Departments e.g. REPS, forestry?
- Role and composition of a National Monuments Advisory Council
- **Local Authority Archaeologists?**

Priority issues (1)

assume these are all in red!

- Communication on proposed legislation with the archaeological profession
- Consolidation at professional practice level in line with proposed consolidation of legislation
- Far greater communication across sectors of the profession in relation to practice, standards the record and outcomes
- List/definition on areas of proposed/possible secondary legislation
- Statutory guidance documents: how many – what areas of legislation

Priority issues (2)

- Guidelines on Practice that might be drafted by IAI in partnership with Dept.
- Licensing and any proposed changes to same
- Regulation, auditing and enforcement – especially for reports
- Professional training to address changes in legislation - and management of that (joint IAI/Dept.?)
- Proposed web-based publication by the Dept. of all licensed work – timeline?

Priority issues (3)

- Development of discussion on the integration of survey/EIS-based data into the RMP (especially geophysical surveys which are undertaken under license in any case and reports submitted to the Dept.)
- Response of state bodies and NMI to the significant issues of artefact and archival security/curation/storage