



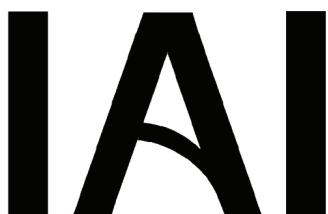
*Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland*  
*conference 2021 (online)*

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*Archaeology 2020 - where are we now, where are we going?*

*Presentations available online from  
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**Institute of  
Archaeologists  
of Ireland**

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



**Seirbhís Séadchomharthaí  
Náisiúnta  
National Monuments  
Service**



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

*Introduction by*  
**Malcolm Noonan**  
T.D. Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform

*Introduction by*  
**Mr James Kyle**  
Chairperson of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland

**Session 1**      **Archaeology in Large Scale Developments**  
Chair Mary Deevy - Transport Infrastructure Ireland

- 1      ***Steven Mc Glade - Archaeology Plan.***  
An ancient pathway and associated monuments in North Dublin. Excavation of a Site in Clonard or Folkstown Great, Co. Dublin.
- 2      ***Faith Bailey - Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.***  
Planning a new town in a heritage landscape: Cherrywood SDZ.
- 3      ***Graham Hull - TVAS (Ireland) Ltd.***  
Mixed Beaker period and Early Bronze Age pottery and a Late Bronze Age moss-lined timber trough with a burnt stone mound near Glenties, Co. Donegal.
- 4      ***Dr Edward Pollard, Anthony Corns, Sandra Henry, Robert Shaw and Dr Linda Shine- The Discovery Programme. Louise Barker, Dr Toby Driver and Daniel Hunt - The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. James Barry, Kieran Craven and Sean Cullen - The Geological Survey of Ireland. Dr Sarah Davies, Dr Patrick Robson - Aberystwyth University.***  
The CHERISH Project: Surveying Promontory Forts on the Copper Coast of Co. Waterford.
- 5      ***John Channing- Archaeological Management Solutions.***  
Ancestral Place. An Overview of current excavations at Gortnacranagh 2 on the N5 Project combined with a look at current and possible future site recording technologies.

## Session 2      **Archaeology in Plan**

Chair Professor Muiris O'Sullivan - University College Dublin

- 6      ***Michael MacDonagh - National Monuments Service.***  
Update from the National Monuments Service.
- 7      ***Mary Deevy- Transport Infrastructure Ireland.***  
Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Archaeology and Research.
- 8      ***Joseph Davis- Independent***  
Databases for Museums.
- 9      ***Dr Rowan McLaughlin - Department of Scientific Research, The British Museum.***  
Where we are, when we are: Irish archaeology in The Information Age.
- 10     ***James Kyle- Chair of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland.***  
Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland Three Year Plan.
- 11     ***Ken Hanley- Transport Infrastructure Ireland.***  
We all have stories to tell!.
- 12     ***Alison Stapleton, Dr Stephen Davis and Professor Louise McHugh- University College Dublin.***  
Assessing well-being in commercial archaeology on the island of Ireland: Preliminary results.
- 13     ***Dr Stephen Davis - University College Dublin.***  
Archaeological specialists: what next?.
- 14     ***Luke Hally – University College Dublin.***  
Steeds, Silk and Scourge: Analysing the precursor, extent and impact of Nerva - Antonine dynasty interactions with the Han Empire.
- 15     ***Dr Evan Hill – Queen's University Belfast, Prof. Chris Hunt – Liverpool John Moores University, Dr Tim Reynolds – Birkbeck, University of London, Dr Ryan Rabett – Queen's University Belfast, Prof. Graeme Barker – University of Cambridge.***  
Archaeology and the Contested Past: Examples from Iraq and Vietnam.

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### **Keynote address**

***Professor Eileen Murphy- Queen's University Belfast.***

Engaged Research and Community Archaeology in Archaeology & Palaeoecology,  
Queen's University Belfast.

## **Abstracts**

### **1 Steven Mc Glade - Archaeology Plan.**

*An ancient pathway and associated monuments in North Dublin. Excavation of a Site in Clonard or Folkstown Great, Co. Dublin.*

Email: **steve@archaeologyplan.com**

An excavation was carried out in advance of the construction of a school in Clonard or Folkstown Great townland to the west of Balbriggan, Co. Dublin in 2015 and 2016. The excavation uncovered an intriguing prehistoric landscape informed and influenced by the wetlands located on the site and by a very early pathway that survived as a route through this landscape for millennia. Ceremonial and burial monuments from throughout the prehistoric period were uncovered between the pathway and the wetlands along with features associated with the exploitation of the natural resources of this environment. A pollen core of organic material from one of the wetland pools revealed a snapshot of the local environment throughout the Neolithic period. The excavation has added to our understanding of the prehistoric archaeology of this part of North Dublin, as well as hinting at the potential for further archaeological discoveries in the immediate vicinity. A later phase of medieval land division was also identified with evidence for small-scale metalworking using coal, however I will focus on the prehistoric aspects of the site.

## **2     *Faith Bailey - Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.***

*Planning a new town in a heritage landscape: Cherrywood SDZ.*

*Email: **FBailey@iac.ie***

Cherrywood Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) comprises c. 360 hectares of land in south County Dublin, extending across the townlands of Laughanstown, Brennanstown, Loughlinstown, Cherrywood, Glebe, and Ticknick. It is nestled in a rich archaeological landscape with several significant monuments contained within its boundary; including Tully Church and Crosses (DU026-023, Nat. Mon. 216 225), Wedge Tomb (DU026-024, Nat. Mon. 216), and Lehaunstown Castle (DU026-093). These fertile lands are perfectly situated for settlement located on a natural north–south routeway; with views of the coast to the east; the Dublin Mountains to the west and within sight of landmarks such as Killiney Hill and Ballycorous. Our knowledge of prehistoric and medieval life in the Cherrywood area has been augmented by a series of excavations undertaken prior to 2005 in advance of the M50, Luas, Cherrywood Business Park and residential developments.

The Planning Scheme for the Cherrywood SDZ was published by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council in 2014. This set out a framework for the assessment of impacts to the heritage resource within the SDZ. Since 2015 a series of Environmental Impact Assessments and subsequent archaeological investigations have been carried out for each element of proposed infrastructure and development, in consultation with the statutory bodies. Ground Investigations carried out to date include geophysical survey, test trenching, excavation, monitoring and licenced metal detection surveys; and works are currently ongoing. This paper will aim to provide an overview of the planning and assessment strategy for the SDZ and the key archaeological findings to date.

### **3     *Graham Hull - TVAS (Ireland) Ltd.***

*Mixed Beaker period and Early Bronze Age pottery and a Late Bronze Age moss-lined timber trough with a burnt stone mound near Glenties, Co. Donegal.*

*Email: **grahamahish@gmail.com***

Excavation in Letterilly townland in advance of the N56 Dungloe to Glenties (Kilraine) Scheme discovered the first known Beaker pottery from Co. Donegal. The probably jar-like domestic potsherds likely date to c. 2300 BC and reflect the wider pattern of coastal and riverine distribution of Irish Beaker settlements. Sherds representing three early Bronze Age bowl food vessels were found in close association in disturbed contexts. One of these vessels belongs to the beginning of the Bowl Tradition and there is a possibility that this is one of the first examples of contemporary use of these distinctive ceramics.

Approximately 1km away and dated to the mid-11th to late 10th century BC was a burnt stone mound with an alder and hazel lined trough. Moss had been packed between the timbers perhaps for insulation or to filtrate water seeping in from below.

- 4     Dr Edward Pollard, Anthony Corns, Sandra Henry, Robert Shaw and  
Dr Linda Shine- The Discovery Programme. Louise Barker,  
Dr Toby Driver and Daniel Hunt - The Royal Commission on the Ancient  
and Historical Monuments of Wales. James Barry, Kieran Craven and  
Sean Cullen- The Geological Survey of Ireland. Dr Sarah Davies,  
Dr Patrick Robson - Aberystwyth University.**

*The CHERISH Project: Surveying Promontory Forts on the Copper Coast of Co. Waterford.*

*Email: [edward@discoveryprogramme.ie](mailto:edward@discoveryprogramme.ie)*

This presentation is part of the EU-funded CHERISH (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands and Headlands) project that is developing field methodologies and toolkits to study climate change impacts on maritime cultural heritage. CHERISH is a collaboration between Wales and Ireland that utilises aerial photography, laser scanning, field walking, palaeo-environmental sampling, optically stimulated luminescence dating, and unmanned aerial vehicles, in order to identify threatened sites and determine erosion rates. Coastal promontory forts dating from Iron Age to the early medieval period, commonly found around the Irish and Celtic Seas, have been identified as a monument under threat from severe erosion due to their location in dynamic environments. This presentation discusses survey of a particular concentration of 26 promontory forts within only 24km on the southern coast of Ireland in Co. Waterford. There are large variations in the scale of promontory forts in height, aspect, width, length and features within the fort suggesting different purposes. The forts protrude into the sea making them an unmistakable part of the maritime landscape, monitoring marine traffic, and of vital importance to passing seafarers for navigation.

## **5     *John Channing- Archaeological Management Solutions.***

*Ancestral Place. An Overview of current excavations at Gortnacranagh 2 on the N5 Project combined with a look at current and possible future site recording technologies.*

*Email: [john@jchanning.ie](mailto:john@jchanning.ie)*

The talk gives an overview of a current excavation at Gortnacranagh 2 being undertaken in advance of construction of the N5 Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Road Project in County Roscommon by Archaeological Management Solutions for Roscommon County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

The site lies adjacent to a rath (RO022-035) on a ridge of raised ground overlooking wet summer pasture to the south. Excavations have revealed a burnt spread with three troughs, two ringditches, a circular enclosure, inhumation cemetery, relict field system and a set of cultivation furrows.

The enclosure, inhumation cemetery and one of the ringditches occupy the same space suggesting an evolutionary site development and chronology. Following a description of the main archaeological features, radiocarbon dates are presented and a speculative site evolution is presented. Finds are shown which range from Bronze Age stone tools to an Edward 1st silver penny.

The discussion turns briefly to the conference theme looking at the current system of site survey and recording before showing a glimpse of the future with an example of GPS enabled machinery.

Analysis is ongoing and it is anticipated that these remains together with the results of adjacent excavations conducted by Dr. Eve Campbell and Dr. Clare Mullins will lead to an understanding of the broader archaeological landscape greater than the sum of the individual sites.

## Session 2      **Archaeology in Plan.**

Chair Professor Muiris O'Sullivan - University College Dublin.

*Email:* **muiris.osullivan@ucd.ie**

### **6      *Michael MacDonagh - National Monuments Service.***

*Update from the National Monuments Service.*

*Email:* **Michael.MacDonagh@housing.gov.ie**

This presentation will give a summary update on various ongoing initiatives led by National Monuments Service (NMS) relevant to the archaeology profession in Ireland. Increased funding for archaeological research through the Royal Irish Academy Research Grant schemes, plans to develop a national archaeological research framework through the Discovery Programme and to roll out a new INSTAR research programme this year in partnership with the Heritage Council and the Irish Research Council will be detailed, along with an update on proposed new Monuments and Archaeological Heritage Bill (to replace the National Monuments Acts) and Heritage Ireland 2030, the new national heritage plan. NMS has increased support to the Institute for its Continuous Professional Development Programme and has commenced engagement with the Institute on the further development of guidance and professional standards. In terms of strengthening the regulation of archaeological excavations, NMS intends to commence a programme of regulatory inspections as we emerge from lockdown. The purpose of these inspections, which are aimed at supporting the profession, will be to check compliance with approved method statements and conditions of licences or consents. A new Community Monuments Fund (2 million euro for 2021) was established by NMS last year as a means to support jobs across the heritage sector and to improve the protection and promotion of Ireland's archaeological heritage. Many of these initiatives align with goals set out in Archaeology 2025 and a short update will be provided.

## **7 Mary Deevy - Transport Infrastructure Ireland.**

*Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Archaeology and Research.*

*Email:* **mary.deevy@tii.ie**

What is TII's relationship to research? TII has a published Strategy for Research and Development, and heritage is one of several headings under which research activities may be carried out. A Research Call for Proposals has recently been advertised on etenders, which includes an applied research topic on LiDAR for archaeology.

More broadly TII contributes indirectly to archaeological research by generating vast amounts of data and making that data freely and openly available. But is the data being collected and presented in ways that realise the full potential of all that information? What are we doing to improve the quality and accessibility of that data? How has collaboration helped to realise the transformational impact of over 20 years of discoveries?

## **8     *Joseph Davis - Independent.***

*Databases for Museums.*

*Email:* **fifthnormalform@hotmail.com**

This video presentation explains the basic principles of database normalisation, and is intended for anyone who needs to turn raw data or a spreadsheet into a relational database or who would like to improve an existing database. It is applicable to any relational database type. No previous experience is required.

**9     *Dr Rowan McLaughlin - Department of Scientific Research, The British Museum.***

*Where we are, when we are: Irish archaeology in The Information Age.*

*Email: [rmclaughlin@britishmuseum.org](mailto:rmclaughlin@britishmuseum.org)*

Archaeology in Ireland has produced a prodigious quantity of data in recent decades. In this talk I share my ideas and some preliminary results from an on-going mission to view these data through the lens of information science. For example, evidence is emerging for Late Mesolithic hunter-gatherer intensification; a very significant island population during the Early Neolithic period and throughout the Bronze Age; a traumatic event around 800 BC that echoed throughout Europe; rapid growth at 450 BC; continuity of industrial activity and enclosure building through the 'Late Iron Age Lull'; strong growth beginning at AD 200 and culminating in the apogee of early medieval civilization that flourished around AD 700; and a medieval population decline that continued in some form until the 17th Century. All this is achieved through contextualisation and spatiotemporal statistical modelling of radiocarbon and dendrochronological data from (mainly) developer-led sites. These models provide new theories about the dynamics of the past, involving demographic-structural cycles, networks, and edge effects, and can be used to construct falsifiable explanations of the demographic forces that shaped the Irish landscape and the slow sweep of cultural change.

## **10 James Kyle- Chairperson of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland.**

*Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland Three Year Plan.*

*Email: **chair@iai.ie***

As Chairperson of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland and as a professional practitioner it is vitally important to me, as it should be to all of our members, to ensure that the Institute is placed on a firm footing for the future. The Board has endeavoured to produce a Three Year Plan, which we believe will deliver real and achievable goals during its three year timeline and beyond, to the benefit of all of our members. The talk will comprise a review of the content of the Institute's draft Three Year Plan 2021-2023 (to be circulated in advance of the talk) and if time allows a brief update on current Institute business. No plan for the future of the Institute would be viable without the inputs and consent of the membership and as such submissions and comment are most welcome, either following the talk or in response to receipt of the draft plan, which will not be adopted until a formal vote at our forthcoming online AGM, later this year.

## **11 Ken Hanley - Transport Infrastructure Ireland.**

*We all have stories to tell!.*

*Email: **Ken.Hanley@tii.ie***

The development of on-line 'Story Maps' has opened up a whole new toolset for archaeologists. In recent years, the Archaeology & Heritage Section of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), in partnership with various local authorities and archaeological consultancies, has begun using the on-line GIS services provided by ESRI to share tales of archaeological discovery with both domestic and international audiences. Story Maps provide a visually pleasing, easy to use, multimedia format that allows us to weave compelling stories and publish them on-line for the world to see. This presentation will give examples of Story Maps published by TII and will explain the relative ease by which these can be created.

**12    *Alison Stapleton, Dr Stephen Davis and Professor Louise McHugh-  
University College Dublin***

*Assessing well-being in commercial archaeology on the island of Ireland: Preliminary results.*

*Email:* **alison.stapleton@ucdconnect.ie**

Despite concerns regarding field archaeologists' physical and mental well-being, there is a dearth of empirical data on well-being in commercial archaeology on the island of Ireland. The present study examined key indicators of well-being in a population of field archaeologists relative to two comparison groups, namely archaeologists not working as field archaeologists (ANFAs) and employed general arts and humanities graduates (GAHGs). Via an online survey, participants completed self-report measures of job satisfaction, physical activity, sleep quality, mental well-being, and psychological distress. Quantitative data were examined descriptively and qualitative data were synthesised using a narrative analysis procedure. Field archaeologists reported substantially lower job and salary satisfaction in addition to lower emotional, social, and psychological well-being than did ANFAs and GAHGs. More field archaeologists and GAHGs met clinical cut-off criteria for severe and extremely severe depression, anxiety, and stress than did ANFAs. Qualitative data from field archaeologists highlighted the bittersweet nature of the industry; the feelings associated with excavation and excitement of discovery contrasted with insufficient pay, a lack of job security, a lack of opportunities for progression, and abrasive work environments. The present data highlights an important need for relevant organisations to address issues within commercial archaeology in the Irish context.

### **13 Dr Stephen Davis - University College Dublin.**

*Archaeological specialists: what next?*

**Email: Stephen.Davis@ucd.ie**

Archaeological specialists are a crucial part of the excavation and post-excavation process, yet despite the value placed on their expertise the number of specialists continues to dwindle. Why is this? This paper offers a personal perspective on archaeological specialisation – its past, present and future. In particular it will address routes into specialist work, staying in specialist fields and consider whether it is possible to make a living by specialist work alone. It is argued that ‘traditional’ specialisms are becoming increasingly difficult both to train and retain specialists in. In part this is owing to a diversification in the range of specialisms now available – some of which are more attractive to funding agencies than seemingly ‘old school’ methods. Teaching constraints are also a consideration: the numbers of students that want to train as specialists has never been high, while the demands of the modern university system are aimed at maximising the appeal of modules and programmes. What, if any, are the solutions to this ongoing decline? I will attempt to address this by looking back as well as forward, exploring how routes into specialism have operated in the past and how they might be addressed in the future.

## **14     Luke Hally – University College Dublin**

*Steeds, Silk and Scourge: Analysing the precursor, extent and impact of Nerva-Antonine dynasty interactions with the Han Empire.*

**Email: [lukepjdhally96@gmail.com](mailto:lukepjdhally96@gmail.com)**

This thesis outlines a multidisciplinary perspective approach upon the extent of the interactions of the empires of Rome and Han China during the Nerva-Antonine period. This comprehensive analysis elucidates further clarity within the academic discourse of this matter. Assessing these interactions through a tripartite structured manner, in which the individual components of the precursor, extent and impacts of these interactions are thoroughly researched. These components serve to strengthen the comprehensive clarity of this particular focus, through analysis of the precursor of the establishment of the Silk Road, the extent of the evidence of interactions of the two empires during the Nerva-Antonine period, along with the impacts resulting from these interactions. This scope allows for an in-depth assessment of the nature of these interactions, their developments and the impacts that result from them. The three components of this thesis will specifically focus on the catalysing precursor of the Han-Dayuan War in 102 BC, the extent of Roman/Han interactions reflected through the extrapolation of the most recent data and the impacts of the scourge of plague that proliferated through these lines of contact. Within these components, the developmental trajectory of the transfers and exchanges of the two civilization spheres will be consistently outlined to bolster the clarity of perspective on how the two distant geographic entities interacted across the continents of Europe and Asia. The multidisciplinary approach of this thesis incorporates a wide array of academic disciplines. These include archaeological, philological, epidemiological, and anthropological means of data analysis. This analysis is further incorporated through the development of a comprehensive impact model, which is aided through political, economic and military assessment. A secondary component of this thesis incorporates a comparative model of political and economic assessment of the contemporary implementation of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative, and the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic with regards to their effects upon the European Union. The Nerva-Antonine period reflects the highest frequency of the extent and evidence of interactive transfers with the Han Empire and forms the basis of the core focus of this thesis. This 2nd century period reflects the greatest territorial extent of both empires and the highest frequency of primary data findings, thus offering a useful insight on furthering comprehension on this matter.

**15            Dr Evan Hill – Queen’s University Belfast, Prof. Chris Hunt –  
Liverpool John Moores University, Dr Tim Reynolds – Birkbeck,  
University of London, Dr Ryan Rabett – Queen’s University  
Belfast, Prof. Graeme Barker – University of Cambridge.**

*Archaeology and the Contested Past: - examples from Libya, Iraq and Vietnam.*

*Email: **e.hill@qub.ac.uk***

Archaeology often has ‘strings attached’. The past is never neutral and frequently contested. We typify archaeological concerns and their roles in contested pasts using three examples.

The Haua Fteah lies in heritage-rich NE Libya. It has the longest occupation sequence in North Africa, Regional politics, before and after the Libyan revolution, cast a long shadow.

Shanidar Cave in the Zagros Mountains is iconic, with c.100,000 years of activity and ten Neanderthal skeletons. Four modern states divide the Zagros - the Kurdish homeland. Shanidar was a refuge for local Kurds during the Anfal genocide of the 1980s and civil war of the 1990s. It receives thousands of visitors every year, mostly Kurds.

Trang An is a spectacular tower-karst landscape, a biodiversity refugium containing rich archaeological monuments, from prehistoric caves to the first medieval Vietnamese state capital, critical to post-colonial, post-conflict Vietnamese identities. It is visited by millions of tourists, mostly Vietnamese, annually.

These are places of unique international heritage value, but also of singular importance for national and, in the case of Shanidar, cross-national identities. Archaeologists in these places have to operate amongst - and negotiate with - stakeholders with conflicting expectations and demands of ‘management’, ‘preservation’, ‘ownership’, ‘exploitation’ and ‘dissemination’.

## **Keynote address**

**Professor Eileen Murphy - Queen's University Belfast.**

*Engaged Research and Community Archaeology at Queen's University Belfast.*

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In recent years there has been an increasing awareness of the benefits that archaeology and heritage can bring to society in terms of enhancing well-being. Community archaeology is now an important strand of archaeological practice and seeks to connect modern people with both each other and those that went before them. In the process it provides participants with the opportunity to learn about the tangible and intangible heritage within their locales, while also raising awareness of the importance of protecting our archaeological heritage.

Archaeology at Queen's has a long history of undertaking community-based archaeological investigations and engaged research. This became solidified in 2017 with the establishment of the Centre for Community Archaeology (CCA). The unit has pioneered and facilitated community involvement in archaeological projects across Northern Ireland, work which has been developed and delivered through partnerships with a network of public, voluntary and community-based organisations and funders. By engaging with local communities in this manner the CCA has been able to facilitate members of the public – of all ages, backgrounds and abilities – to participate in a range of archaeological projects involving excavation, survey, experimental archaeology, digital archaeology and oral history. The professional archaeologists work to support members of the public as they examine their past through direct involvement in such activities. The lecture will provide an overview of the types of projects that have been undertaken by us as we endeavour to place communities at the heart of community archaeology and share the findings of our research with the general public.

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