



ULSTER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Newsletter

Winter 2020/21

Editor: Duncan Berryman

School of Natural
and Built Environment,
Queen's University Belfast
Belfast BT7 1NN

newsletter.ulsterarcoc@gmail.com

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A Message from the President

On behalf of the UAS Committee, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

The UAS Committee is currently in the process of finalising the UAS lecture and workshop programme for 2021 and we will be letting UAS members know about these in the next few weeks. For the immediate future in 2021, our lectures and workshops will continue to be held remotely and, as before, we will be providing members with the information about how to participate in these. We are also intending to put more UAS material up on YouTube throughout the year that UAS members can access. The UAS Committee will continue to carry out its role to disseminate information about new archaeological projects, research and publications in Ulster and beyond.

The production of the next volume of the Ulster Journal of Archaeology is proceeding and we hope that volume 76 will be published within this calendar year. Planning and preparation for our annual Discovery conference (Discovery 2021!), organised in conjunction with our colleagues in Archaeology & Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast, will commence in the spring.

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic forced the suspension of all UAS face-to-face archaeological activities such as lectures, field trips, workshops, excavations and the field survey of monuments in 2020. These will not resume in 2021 until it is safe once again to do so. The good news that vaccines for the coronavirus are now becoming available means that we are hopeful that face-to-face UAS activities may be able to resume at some point later this year. We will be reviewing this situation regularly, in line with current health and safety and medical guidance.

As always, my thanks to all of the members of the UAS Committee for their continued commitment, passion and hard work to ensure that the Society continues to function so efficiently.

Please keep checking the UAS website and UAS Facebook site regularly for details about UAS activities.

With all best wishes,
Ruairí

Ruairí Ó Baoill
President, Ulster Archaeological Society

Membership Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on the 1st January 2021. Please send cheques for £20 (full) or £25 (full non UK) or £7.50 (retired/student) or £10 (retired/student non UK) to the Hon. Treasurer, Lee Gordon, 135 Old Hollywood Road, Belfast BT4 2HQ. You can also use PayPal on the website – <http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/uas/JoinUs/>

If you are a U.K. taxpayer, you can increase the value of your contribution, at no extra charge to you, by signing a gift aid declaration. If you pay by PayPal you must tick the gift aid permission box even if you have previously signed a gift aid declaration to allow the society to claim the gift aid.

If you pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of gift aid claimed on all your subscriptions & donations in that tax year it is your responsibility to pay any difference.

N.B. Please notify the Hon. Secretary, Ken Pullin, (16 Knockbreda Park, Belfast BT6 0HB) if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Annual General Meeting

The 79th Annual General Meeting of the Ulster Archaeological Society will be held online via Zoom (<https://zoom.us>), the details are:

Date: Monday 7.30pm 22nd February 2021

Meeting ID: 823 6830 5893

Passcode: UAS_AGM_21

Voting will take place using the polling facility within Zoom. Only paid-up members can vote during the AGM

Agenda

1. President's Address.
2. Minutes of 78th AGM held on Monday 24th February 2020.
3. Honorary Secretary's Annual Report for 2020.
4. Honorary Treasurer's Annual Report for 2020.
5. Election of Officers.
6. Election of two Ordinary Committee Members (3-year term).
7. Election of Honorary Auditor.
8. Business of which notice has been given.
9. Any other business.

Notices of motion and nominations for officers and committee positions should reach Mr Ken Pullin, Hon. Secretary, Ulster Archaeological Society, (16 Knockbreda Park, Belfast BT6 0HB or email ulsterarchaeolsoc@gmail.com) not later than Monday 1st February 2021.

The President, three Vice Presidents, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Editor Ulster Journal of Archaeology, Hon. Editor UAS Newsletter and Hon. Auditor are elected annually. Two Ordinary Members of the General Committee retire annually and are not eligible for re-election for one year.

Discovery 2020! Fourth Annual Review of Archaeological Discoveries in Ulster conference

2020 has been a strange year, but the UAS wanted to retain some continuity and host our annual Discovery! conference. As large gatherings were not an option, we explored ways to deliver our conference online. After spending a few months gathering presenters and getting them to record their lectures, we were able to put everything live on Saturday 7th November. Over the day, we had 16 papers, which were enjoyed by about 100 conference participants.

The conference opened on Saturday with a welcome from Prof Eileen Murphy (head of ArcPal), Ruairí Ó Baoill (president of UAS), and Dr Duncan Berryman (conference coordinator). This was followed by a fascinating keynote by Dr Monique van den Dries (University of Leiden) on the importance of archaeology to communities and the positive impact it has on people's wellbeing.

The conference papers were organised into thematic sessions to make it as much like a normal conference as possible. The theme of the first session was community archaeology. Dr Heather Montgomery opened the session with an excellent talk about the excavations she led at Magilligan Military Training Centre, which provided an opportunity for local schools to learn about the history of the area. The excavations uncovered significant evidence of First World War training trenches, it was also the only community excavation carried out by the Centre for Community Archaeology in 2020 as it happened in March just before lockdown. This was followed by Dr Alastair Ruffell presenting work he did with Jonathan McNee and Liam Bradley on the discovery and excavation of two Second World War aircraft from County Monaghan, a Mk4 Spitfire and a P-38 Lightning. We then heard from Anthony Neville of the Resurrecting Monuments group in Baldoyle/Howth, he presented some of the group's work and reflected on the popularity of their book about the heritage of the

area. To close the session, Jonathan Barkley presented results from a community excavation at Arney Fort (County Fermanagh) and suggested that it may have been a Gaelic moated site rather than a fort.

Our second session focused on survey and excavation and started with Dr Paddy Gleeson. Paddy's paper presented the results of recent geophysical survey at Navan Fort and the wider landscape, much of which could change the way we view Emain Macha. This was followed by Dr Vicky Ginn presenting a summary of recent sites that have been excavated as a result of the planning process and by commercial companies.

Architecture and monuments was the theme of our third session. Dr Michelle Comber discussed the existence of square ringforts and her identification of them as supply centres, quite distinct from the purposes of the traditional circular ringfort. Continuing with the medieval period, Dr Michael O'Mahony presented some of his doctoral research into the structure of tower houses in the British Isles,

thinking about the groups of masons who constructed the towers. The final paper in this session was Dr Barry O'Reilly who introduced the Irish strategy for identifying and caring for vernacular architecture across Ireland; he illustrated this with many examples of rural and urban buildings and how such structures can be conserved.

The fourth session showcased some archaeological work that has been able to happen despite the Covid pandemic. Dr Colm Donnelly told us about how the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's has continued to work with its partners during lockdown through the creation of a digital toolkit. This has been an excellent project that allows communities to engage with their heritage while staying safe. This was followed by David Craig demonstrating how anyone can make use of online tools to investigate the landscape and to identify new archaeological features.

The final session of the day presented a range of research

topics from across Ireland. This started with Dr Lara Cassidy presenting the results of her recent research into the genomics of Irish Neolithic society and the changes from the Mesolithic. In particular, Lara discussed results of individuals from Newgrange who were the offspring of incest. Dr Connie Kelleher gave us a taste of her recent book on the pirates who used the Irish coast to control the Atlantic Ocean. Thomas McErlean has been working with the Historic Environment Division to produce Statements of Significance for several state care sites in western Ulster. Thomas discussed the purpose of these statements and presented some features of the sites he has been working on. The final paper of the day was provided by Dr David Tosh. The Ulster Museum has undertaken consultations about the display of human remains and David addressed such displays in the past and what might be the future. This was an interesting and thought-provoking paper asking some difficult questions about how and if we should display human remains alongside artefacts.

At the end of day, there was a virtual wine reception on Microsoft Teams. This allowed participants who were there on the day to see each other and have a chat over a glass of wine, a soft drink, or a cup of tea. To close the event, Ruairí Ó Baoill and Prof. Eileen Murphy said a few words and launched volume 75 of the Ulster Journal of Archaeology.

The whole event seemed to be a success and everyone who attended found something of interest. The pre-recorded videos for the papers certainly reduced the stress of organising the event on the day, but it lacked the interaction of a live event. Hopefully next year we will be able to be back in the lecture theatre for Discovery 2021!

If you weren't able to attend, you can still access the conference programme booklet (and all previous booklets) on the UAS website:

<https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/uas/Conference/>

Duncan Berryman
Conference Co-Ordinator

Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's 2020

2020 has been a year like no other because of the Covid-19 crisis but the workings of Archaeology and Palaeoecology in Queen's have gone on albeit with lots of the adjustments faced by people and organisations across the world. Our number one priority, beyond keeping everyone safe and well, was to ensure that our students completed their studies for the 2019-20 academic year. Classes were switched to a remote learning environment when the lock down commenced and efforts were made to ensure that students in each year group could chat online to a member of staff on a daily basis should they wish to do so. We made it through to the end of semester and held our Exam Board meetings online when we welcomed Dr Lisa Marie Shillito from the University of Newcastle as our new External Examiner. A remote graduation event (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7A303UnVH08>) was held on 10 July and staff and students watched the celebration together

via Teams. Despite our initial reservations it proved a great success and was actually a lot of fun, and it was great to connect with our students, many of whom are moving out into the world of work or onto university courses elsewhere. We were absolutely delighted to report in July that Archaeology and Palaeoecology once again came joint top in the UK for our subject area in the 2020 National Student Survey, with a score of 100% for Student Satisfaction.

A party was held in January to mark the retirement of Dr Finbar McCormick after 27 years of service to Queen's. It was a bittersweet affair but Finbar is still very much involved with ArcPal and we hope he will continue to do so long into the future. The recent staff promotions round was a great cause for celebration with Dr Paddy Gleeson and Dr Will Megarry being promoted to Senior Lecturer and Dr Dirk Branderm and Dr Maarten Blaauw becoming Readers. Dr Michael O'Mahony gained his PhD, which focused on tower houses in Britain and Ireland, in July and we are delighted to report that seven new PhD

students will be joining us this autumn. The quality of the academic work of our students and staff has been recognised through awards of international prizes and PhD graduate Dr Jeanna Loyer (2019) won the PhD dissertation prize of the Société d'Anthropologie de Paris for her thesis entitled 'Life, health, and death in the steppe: a bioarchaeological study of Bronze Age and Iron Age populations of the Volga-Don region, Russia'. Dr Paddy Gleeson won the Martyn Jope Prize, awarded by the Society for Medieval Archaeology, for an article ('Archaeology and myth in early medieval Europe: making the Gods of Early Ireland') published in *Medieval Archaeology*. Dr Gill Plunkett was elected President of the Irish Quaternary Association (IQUA), Dr Dirk Brandherm became Editor of the *Journal of Irish Archaeology* and Prof Eileen Murphy was delighted to become a Vice-President of the Ulster Archaeological Society. As always, we had a lot of exciting fieldwork ventures planned for 2020 but many of these had to be put on hold. In January Dr Colm Donnelly made a trip to Boston

and Lowell in the United States where he and Prof Audrey Horning attended the annual Society for Historical Archaeology conference and then met with Dave McKean and Walter Hickey, friends from previous fieldwork ventures in Lowell, and Prof Stephen Mrozowski, founding director of the Fiske Center for Archaeological Research at UMASS Boston. We had intended to start a new transatlantic programme of excavation in the city this August, but obviously that has had to be put on hold. We had also planned to run a field school for US students, alongside our training excavation for Queen's students, and hopefully that too can be resurrected in 2021.

A lot of interesting articles by ArcPal researchers have been published this year in journals including the *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*, *Journal of Archaeological Science*, *Journal of Paleolimnology*, *Journal of Quaternary Science*, *Medieval Archaeology*, *Nature*, *Nature Scientific Reports*, *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*, *Polar Research*, *PNAS*, *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, *Quaternary*

Research, Quaternary Science Reviews, Radiocarbon, and magazines Archaeology Ireland and History Ireland, as well as chapters in prestigious new books. Dr Dirk Brandherm's new edited volume – Aspects of the Bronze Age in the Atlantic Archipelago, volume 3 in the Archaeologia Atlantica – was published in February. In March we launched our very own Irish Archaeological Monograph Series with Archaeopress. Volume 1 - Burials and Society in Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Ireland by Dr Cormac McSparran will be out very soon. Submissions are very welcome and you can find out more at:

<http://archaeopress.com/ArchaeopressShop/Public/defaultAll.asp?SubSeries=Queen%27s+University+Belfast+Irish+Archaeological+Monograph+Series>

In late January Prof Eileen Murphy was involved in a story that attracted a lot of media attention when some of the new findings of the Takabuti Research Project, including the discovery that she had been murdered, were released by the Ulster Museum to coincide with the 185th anniversary of the

mummy's unwrapping in the Old Museum in Belfast. Eileen and Prof Rosalie David, University of Manchester, have recently completed an edited book on Takabuti that provides an overview of these new scientific studies as well as exploring what life may have been like for her as a wealthy young woman in ancient Egypt and what happened to her remains when they arrived in Belfast in 1834. The book will be published by Liverpool University Press in March 2021. Another story attracted a lot of media interest in July and involved Dr Paddy Gleeson's collaborative geophysical work at Navan Fort which was recently published in the Oxford Journal of Archaeology. Dr Will Megarry was also involved in a major media story in relation to the launch of the collaborative 'Heritage on the Edge Project' in January. The project uses state-of-the-art 3D capture technologies alongside interviews and videos to record both climate change impacts and local responses at World Heritage Sites in Rapa Nui, Peru, Bangladesh, Scotland and Tanzania. It is well worth a look - <https://artsandculture.google.com/>

[project/heritage-on-the-edge](https://www.discovermagazine.com/planet-earth/the-ancient-practice-of-child-labor-is-coming-to-light). Dr Melie Le Roy's fascinating work on child labour in the past featured in Discover magazine in May (<https://www.discovermagazine.com/planet-earth/the-ancient-practice-of-child-labor-is-coming-to-light>).

Dr Ryan Rabett has continued with his major SUNDASIA project which is exploring how prehistoric tropical communities adapted to cycles of coastal inundation over the last 60,000 years in northern Vietnam, and how these data can help inform models and responses to modern climate-induced rising seas in this region (<https://sundasia.com/>). The multi-disciplinary research project is focused on the archaeological, geological and ecological history of the Trảng An massif World Heritage site, Ninh Binh, Vietnam. The long-standing project has been going from strength to strength and new funding was obtained through a UK Department for the Economy (DfE) – Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF) Award (2020/21 Round) for a spin-out pilot project: 'Post-2020 local community-based management contributions in the

ecotourism sector: An interdisciplinary assessment of World Heritage Sites in Vietnam and Sri Lanka'. Elsewhere, Prof Caroline Malone's major ERC-funded FRAGSUS project, which has been investigating cultural continuity and change in the Neolithic of Malta, is ending and several monographs have been submitted for publication. Back in February ArcPal staff and students played an active role in the fabulous NI Science Festival with events including a workshop on Lackan Bog, Co. Down, held in Rathfriland and led by Dr Gill Plunkett and Level 3 student, Adam Purvis; a workshop on the ArcPal teaching collection lead by our postgraduate students and a weekend festival of archaeology, involving many ArcPal staff and students, that took place in the Navan Centre. Our Belfast Young Archaeologists' Club had its regular monthly meetings at the start of the year but moved to remote sessions in May and so far has covered topics on dinosaurs, mummies, artefacts and excavation. We plan to continue the remote meetings for as long as necessary but hope to be able to

resume face to face meetings very soon. We would be delighted to have more involvement in the YAC from members of the UAS whether as Assistant Leaders or with younger family members. If this is of interest, please email - belfastyac@qub.ac.uk – to find out more.

Centre for Community Archaeology

Staff in the Centre for Community Archaeology (CCA) were also busy though many have been on furlough for the past few months. We were thrilled in February when their sterling work was recognised at the QUB Staff Excellence Awards ceremony for 2020 and they won the university's 'Community Impact' award which recognises the significant contribution that members of the university's staff have made to the local community and wider society. We were also delighted that the CCA's Grace McAlister was awarded DfE PhD funding in January to commence doctoral research on community archaeology and its impact on school children. The National Heritage Lottery Fund-funded

'Journeying Beyond Westeros' project was completed in March and the associated story book can be read online:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/communityarchaeology/OurProjects/StoryMaps/>

Films were launched of projects involving the CCA on excavations at Boomhall in Derry and Downpatrick and these can be viewed on the ArcPal YouTube site:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGI1c_dt-Mg58f9nELc93zA

As part of our activities to commemorate the 175th anniversary since the start of the Great Famine in 1845 the CCA had planned an experimental archaeological project growing Lumper potatoes on the Meharg's family farm near Dundrod in the Belfast hills, in association with the Belfast Hills Partnership and Glens of Antrim Potatoes. A variety whose name is most associated with the Blight at the heat of the Great Famine, the Lumper had been almost consigned to history until Michael McKillop from Glens of Antrim Potatoes got hold of some 'heirloom' seed potatoes about 10 years ago and recommenced growing the variety.

When it became clear that we would be unable to run a community project Brian Sloan planted some of the potatoes in his own vegetable patch and has provided updates on their progress on the 'QUB – Archaeology at Queen's' Facebook site.

At the start of March CCA was excited to report on the first of its programme of excavations for the year – little did we know then that this would turn out to be probably our only excavation in 2020. A team, led by Dr Heather Montgomery, undertook a community project commissioned by the Ministry of Defence/Defence Infrastructure Organisation, supported by 2 Royal Irish Engagement Team and in collaboration with the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust on the MoD/DIO Magilligan Training Estate. The key purpose of the project was to connect local people with the First World War heritage in their area and to increase understanding of the life of the soldiers and the training regime within the camp during the First World War.

Some CCA fieldwork commenced in late August when Dr Siobhán

McDermott, Dr Alastair Ruffell (Geography) and Dr Colm Donnelly undertook a geophysical survey at Killyloughran Fort in south Armagh. In partnership with the Creggan Local History Group, and supported by the Newry Mourne and Down District Council, the CCA had made a successful application to the Royal Irish Academy for funding to support the work at this enigmatic site. Local tradition states it was the location of a Medieval church that was in use prior to the establishment of a new church in nearby Creggan in the 16th century. We are looking forward to hearing more about what the results have revealed.

The CCA is currently working with the UAS Committee to establish the programme for the forthcoming Discovery 2020! conference which will be held in November. The event will be remote and online this year, but we have assembled a great programme of lectures and no doubt it will be a very informative event. Dr Siobhán McDermott of the CCA received seed funding from the QUB Engaged Research Fund to establish a digital resource

so we can continue to engage with community groups. Working in collaboration with the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership, this 'Community Archaeology Toolkit' has been designed to provide insight into how archaeologists undertake their work, while providing information that the participants might then use to inform their own research into the monuments in their localities and make funding applications to support this work. The Toolkit will be launched imminently and may be of interest to members of the UAS so please keep an eye on our Facebook site for further information.

14CHRONO Centre for Climate, the Environment and Chronology Staff in the 14CHRONO Centre for Climate, the Environment and Chronology have also been busy. Earlier this year, it launched its new website (<http://14chrono.org>) which is packed with interesting information about the techniques used in the Centre. Prof Paula Reimer and Dr Svetlana Syvatko were awarded funding from the Leverhulme Trust for a project exploring 'Migration or adaptation:

emergence and development of nomadism in the Altai'. Dr Gerard Barrett was awarded funding from the Royal Irish Academy for an exciting new project on 'Northern Ireland's Round Towers: Establishing a Chronology and Technological Understanding through mortar'. The work of the lab was integral in the exciting discovery of the remains of the seventh-century St Eanswythe, granddaughter of King Ethelbert, in a church in Kent!

Dendrochronologist, David Brown, was able to conduct field projects again in August and he helped David McMeekin from Garvagh Museum to establish a date for a timber that was used to support a pew in the gallery of the old First Garvagh Presbyterian Church, that was built sometime in the early 17th century and was demolished in 1971. He also visited Laurel Cottage near Waringstown, Craigavon, to see if dendrochronological dating of the cottage's roof timbers could establish if it dates to the 17th century, as is the case with other buildings in the area.

Recently the latest INTCAL calibration curves were published and you can read more about these in a piece just published in The Conversation that involves Prof Paula Reimer (<https://theconversation.com/from-cave-art-to-climate-chaos-how-a-new-carbon-dating-timeline-is-changing-our-view-of-history-143620>). While most ArcPal staff are still working remotely the 14CHRONO team were the first to resume work on campus at the start of July and they have been beavering away clearing the backlog of samples submitted for radiocarbon dating put on hold because of the lock down.

Despite the pandemic it is clear that the ArcPal team has been as busy as ever and we have all been getting used to the new remote way of working. To keep up to date with our activities and events please keep an eye on our Facebook site – 'QUB – Archaeology at Queen's'.

Eileen Murphy
Department of Archaeology
Queen's University Belfast

Current Research by postgraduate students within QUB ArcPal

The number of postgraduate researchers in ArcPal has grown in recent years and they wanted to take this opportunity to update UAS members on the current areas of research.

Researcher Name: Judith Findlater

Project Title: Feeding Medieval Carrickfergus – A Multi-proxy Study of Livestock Husbandry in a Frontier Town

Project Abstract: The project is to ascertain how Carrickfergus operated within the Gaelic landscape throughout the medieval period. This is to be achieved through the study of historical sources, maps, landscape survey, zooarchaeology and isotopic analysis. The relationship/interactions between Carrickfergus town and the hinterlands are to be explored using the above resources. This is to provide new socio-economic data through livestock economy of the time. The amalgamation of

historical sources and previous works will be completed and new studies will be made on previously unanalysed zooarchaeological assemblages. This information will be reviewed with the study of isotopic elements of Strontium, Oxygen and Sulphur (and possibly Carbon and Nitrogen) on some of the faunal assemblages that will enable an analysis of the mobility of the livestock throughout the medieval period to be carried out. It is also hoped that the results gathered will aid in providing additional isotopic data for the baselines in Ulster.

Researcher Biography: I completed my BSc in Archaeology/Palaeoecology at QUB, MSc in Osteoarchaeology at Bournemouth University and have just started my PhD, funded by Northern Bridge Consortium, at QUB in collaboration with Historic Environment Division (DfC).

Researcher Name: Sarah Ferrandin

Project Title: Investigating the Timing and Causes of Nitrogen Cycle Changes in Bronze Age Ireland

Project Abstract: My project aims to uncover changes in climate and land-management strategies in the Irish Bronze Age using a multi-proxy approach. I will analyse peat and lake sediments from locations of known Bronze Age settlements in Ireland as well as archaeobotanical, zoological, and human remains.

The peat cores will be sampled from ombrotrophic bogs, as changes in land-management strategies should not affect their $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ values. Comparison with nitrogen stable isotopic values from lake sediments will help me uncover whether changes in the nitrogen cycle were caused by palaeoclimate changes and/or land-management strategy changes. Other stable isotopes will also be recorded ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$), and pollen analysis will be performed. Testate amoebae will be counted alongside pollen in peat cores.

Stable nitrogen isotope analyses will be performed on archaeobotanical, zoological, and human remains. Herbivore bone collagen $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ values reflect several years of dietary intake and

hence provide a broader spatio-temporal perspective.

Researcher Biography: I am a French-born chemist who is really passionate about the use of radiocarbon dating and stable isotopes in Archaeology. I have a Master of Chemistry from the University of Aberdeen, and have just started a PhD funded by QUADRAT in Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's University Belfast.

Researcher Name: Louise Moffett

Project Title: The Place of the Late Medieval Church in Ulster

Project Abstract: This thesis will examine how power and cultural identity were negotiated and displayed in local parish churches in medieval Ireland (c.1169-1530AD). It focusses on the northern dioceses of the ecclesiastical province of Armagh as a case study (similar to the modern province of Ulster). It will investigate how the local lords and lay communities related to and invested in their local parish churches, and how these local churches were impacted by and in turn themselves affected the

physical, social, political, and economic landscapes of medieval Ireland.

Researcher Biography: I graduated from Queen's University Belfast with a BSc in Archaeology-Palaeoecology and the University of York with an MA in Medieval Archaeology, before working in commercial archaeology in England for a couple of years. My dissertations in my degrees both focussed on small aspects relating to late medieval parish churches in different counties of Ulster, and this PhD is the opportunity to build on earlier interests and really investigate parish churches in the landscapes they were a part of.

Researcher Name: Jim Bright

Project Title: 'Digital phenomenology': interrogating the experience of diachronic ritual landscapes through combined remote sensing, 3D reconstruction and virtual reality modelling.

Project Abstract: This project harnesses the potential for combining photogrammetry, 3D-modelling and virtual-world engines, as integrated analytical tools for spatial and cognitive

analysis and simulation of multi-period landscapes. It focuses on a selection of Ireland's 'royal-sites': Navan Fort, Tara, Rathcroghan, Knockaulin and Cashel. It will systematically address the changing nature and role of these landscapes through Iron Age and medieval periods, by:

- (i) interrogating the effect of structures on the organisation and experience of space at 'royal' sites
- (ii) examining how older monuments impacted the evolution and imagination of these spaces through time

Researcher Biography: Jim completed his Master's degree in Orkney, Scotland focusing on digital heritage and creating 3D models at The Cairns and The Ness of Brodgar excavations. Before moving to Belfast to begin his PhD research, he worked for the Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology, in a professional capacity, and became a digital heritage consultant specialising in photogrammetry and geographical information systems.

Rediscovering the lost sites: The Larne Viking Burial

In 1840, workmen constructing a tramway on the coast near Larne, Co. Antrim discovered a skeleton of 'gigantic proportions' and associated grave goods. From the description of the grave goods it was believed to be the burial of a viking warrior. The antiquarian Joseph Huband Smith dealt with the find and published this brief description: "some lime quarries having been lately opened along the shore, at a distance from the jetty, or a wooden pier, at which small coasting vessels, trading between Larne and the opposite ports of Scotland, usually taking their cargoes, it became necessary, for the greater convenience of transporting limestone from the newly opened quarries, to construct a rail or tramway. In levelling the line marked out for the purposes of such construction, in the afternoon of the 7th of last November, the workmen discovered these remains at a spot three quarters of a mile distant from the town of Larne, about seventy yards from the sea shore,

and about five feet above the level of high water mark”.

Over time, the location of this important discovery faded and until recently, the exact location was thought to be lost. Recent research by Antrim County Archaeological Society has brought new details to the fore. The society has been researching the lesser-known sites of east Antrim for over 20 years and has rediscovered eight sites previously thought lost. Using historical records, maps, local newspapers, local knowledge and industrial heritage records the society was able to identify the area of the Larne viking burial. The 1st edition OS map shows a quarry in the Blackcave townland in an area known as Waterloo. This quarry was owned by William Agnew of Kilwaughter Castle who had a lease of Curran and Drumalis townland and was responsible for building a quay or pier just north of the present harbour. The 2nd edition OS map shows that the quarry operation had moved north of the 1830 workings. This move may have been necessary due to the construction of the Antrim

coast road. The route of the tramway can be seen on the map.

A newspaper article from the Larne Weekly Reporter dated 1872 reports the following story:

“The lands of Corran and Drumalis being thus contiguous to Larne lough were of course witness to various events, which, since the beginning of time, have happened in that lough or its immediate neighbourhood. These events however, belong rather to the history of the lough than to the history of the lands, but I may mention that in the year 1840 when excavations were being made by Mr Agnew for the construction of a tramway between the Corran of Larne and the limestone quarries along the shore, the labourers discovered near the Bankheads, a human skeleton of rather gigantic proportions, together with a sword of corresponding size, and some ornaments of an antique and curious construction. These were probably the remains of some Scandinavian invader of our shore, for Larne lough was in ancient times very much frequented by the Norsemen who were sea-pirates, and history tells us that in the year 1018 our lough was the scene of a

great sea fight between the Orkney jarl Einar and Connor King of Ireland, in which the Norsemen were defeated and driven from our coast.”

The Antrim County Archaeological Society research team were able to identify the quarries, the route of the tramway, the lime kilns (HB06/08/007) and pier, north of the present harbour.

Acknowledgements: we are deeply indebted to Robert M. Chapple and Alastair Lings for their assistance.

Dr. Ingrid Prunner and Stephen A. Cameron

Metal Detection and the National Monuments Acts

The Ulster Archaeology Society Monthly eNewsletter of June/July 2020 included an informative overview of metal detection and archaeology in Northern Ireland by Ken Neill of Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities. This brief article attempts to give a similar concise overview of the law as it applies in

Ireland and we wish to thank the UAS for the invitation to do so. In terms of protection of our archaeological heritage, the principal legislation is a suite of Acts known as the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014. The 1930 Act and subsequent amending Acts set out various ways archaeological monuments and archaeological objects are protected within the State and provides for regulation. The policy underlying the legislation is that unregulated and inappropriate use of detection devices causes serious damage to Ireland’s archaeological heritage. The legislation therefore provides for regulation of use of detection devices for archaeological purposes, with breach of the regulatory requirements being a serious offence. This is dealt with primarily in section 2 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987 and section 7 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. Under the Acts, “detection device” means a device designed or adapted for detecting or locating any metal or mineral on or in the ground, on, in or under the sea bed or on or in land

covered by water, but does not include a camera.

In summary, it is illegal to be in possession of or use a detection device at a site or monument protected under Ireland's National Monuments Acts or to use a detection device to search for archaeological objects anywhere within the State or its territorial seas without the prior written consent of the Minister. The scheme of protection for all wrecks over 100 years old (section 3 of the 1987 Act) prohibits any unlicensed surveys of such wrecks. It is important to note that following the 1994 Amending Act, the vast majority of known and recorded archaeological monuments in the State are afforded legal protection under the National Monuments Acts.

The term "archaeological object" is defined in the National Monuments Acts and, as applies in Northern Ireland, has a broad meaning in terms of date and type of object. Objects commonly found by detectorists such as coins, buttons, seals, fasteners, weights, strap ends and belt mounts may all come within the definition of archaeological object regardless of

date or antiquity. Objects from relatively recent periods and 20th century material may also be considered archaeological objects. It is important to note, that the ownership of archaeological objects found with no known owner is vested in the State and not individuals or landowners. Significantly, failure to report the discovery of an archaeological object to the National Museum of Ireland or designated museum within 96 hours of the discovery (whether by metal detection or chance find) is a serious offence for which there are severe penalties and/or imprisonment. Other offences relating to archaeological objects include those concerned with acquisition or sale. Altering of archaeological objects or export out of the jurisdiction is regulated by the National Museum of Ireland.

In terms of retrieval of objects identified by metal detection, it is an offence to dig or excavate for the purpose of searching for archaeological objects or dig or excavate anything of archaeological interest without an excavation licence (section 26 of the 1930 Act as amended) or a

Ministerial consent for works to national monuments (section 14 of the 1930 Act as amended). Only the Minister is authorised to grant detection device consents for searching for archaeological objects within the State (or possession of detection devices at protected monuments) or grant archaeological excavation licences or Ministerial consent in respect of national monuments. There is no other permit for approval in relation to detecting for archaeological objects.

The National Monuments Acts also provides certain powers to An Garda Síochána to seize detection devices without warrant unless detection device consent is in place (section 7, 1994).

Furthermore it is prohibited, in accordance with the National Monuments Acts (section 2, 1987), to promote, whether by advertising or otherwise, the sale or use of metal detectors for the purpose of searching for archaeological objects.

The possession and use of a detection device on a protected monument, the use of detection device for the purposes of searching for archaeological

objects generally, the excavation for retrieval of archaeological objects and failure to report discovery of archaeological objects are among the most serious offences listed under the National Monuments Acts. In our experience, the majority of metal detection cases investigated involve more than one offence and many landowners are unaware of the multiplicity of serious offences being committed on their lands.

This is however changing.

The number of cases of unauthorised metal detection and heritage crime in general reported to the authorities is on the increase. The joint publication by the National Museum of Ireland and the National Monuments Service of an information leaflet in 2014 entitled "Advice to the public on the use of metal detection devices" has provided clarity on the legal position and its underlying policy. It now appears on most Local Authority websites and An Garda Síochána website www.garda.ie. It sets out the legislative position in a simple FAQ format and highlights the damage inappropriate metal detecting causes.

UAS readers are encouraged to refer to the leaflet for further information. This document will shortly be updated and translated into more languages. Both the National Museum of Ireland and the National Monuments Service work closely on the regulation of detection devices and cases where offences have been committed and are together looking at new ways to raise awareness of the issues, particularly among landowners and members of the public.

Lastly, as Ken Neill points out, and quite apart from restrictions on detection devices set out in our respective legislation, there are legal restrictions regarding entry onto land regardless of whether it is known to contain archaeological monuments or be of archaeological potential. Land is in public or private ownership and no-one has the right to enter onto any lands without owners' permission. Entry on lands without necessary permission is likely to be trespass, and causing damage to land may even be a criminal offence.

We look forward to future knowledge sharing with our Northern Ireland colleagues on this

and many other topics of mutual interest.

Pauline Gleeson
Senior Archaeologist
National Monuments Service

Maeve Sikora
Keeper of Irish Antiquities
National Museum of Ireland
Further Information

To download "Advice to the public on the use of metal detection devices" see

<https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/advice-on-use-of-metal-detection-devices.pdf>

For further information on our archaeological heritage and the work of the National Monuments Service see www.archaeology.ie

For further information on the work of the National Museum of Ireland see www.museum.ie and

<https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Collections-Research/The-Law-on-Metal-Detecting-in-Ireland>

For full text of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 see www.irishstatutebook.ie

What to do if you witness unauthorised metal detection

Report the incident to local An Garda Síochána and the National Monuments Service or National Museum of Ireland

It is not recommended to approach or challenge the detectorist in case it leads to confrontation

Contact details

National Monuments Service
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Custom House
Dublin 1

Email:

nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie

Phone: +353 1 8882000

National Museum of Ireland
The Duty Officer
Irish Antiquities Division
National Museum of Ireland
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: antiquitiesdo@museum.ie

Phone: + 353 1 677444

New Books

Gaelic Ulster in the Middle Ages - Katherine Simms
Four Courts Press, €65/£55

This impressive book is based on decades of research by Katherine Simms, beginning with her BA dissertation in 1969 and continuing to to present day. The first section covers the social history of Ulster from the Iron Age to the 16th century, discussing the rivalries between the Gaelic families and their kingdoms. This reveals the complexity of Gaelic society in Ulster and its interactions with the wider island. The second section deals with the culture of Gaelic Ulster. This section has chapters on kingship, the church, poets, 'men of art', warfare, and women. The final chapter looks at the everyday life of people, in particular their settlements, housing, clothing, and living conditions. This is a scholarly work and will form the cornerstone of all future studies of Gaelic Ireland, but it is written in an accessible manner for the non-academic audience. The book is vital for anyone studying medieval Ulster, or Ireland more generally, and there are many details that will

be informative for anyone who has an interest in medieval Ulster and its Gaelic families. Katherine Simms is recognised as one of the foremost scholars on the Gaelic world and this volume demonstrates why. She is able to intertwine history and archaeology and bring the people, events, and landscapes alive for the reader.

Mapping Death: Burial in Late Iron Age and Early Medieval Ireland - Elizabeth O'Brien
Four Courts Press, €55

O'Brien's study provides a comprehensive overview of burial practices in Iron Age and Early Medieval Ireland. Each chapter is dedicated to a particular aspect, starting with cremation and progressing to inhumation. Other chapters consider the grave goods, graveyards, and Atypical burials. O'Brien has also been able to carry out isotope analysis on several burials to find whether they grew-up and lived locally to where they were buried. Unlike Cahill and Sikora's excellent catalogue, *Breaking Ground, Finding Graves*, this study provides a context and historical narrative for understanding the burials.

O'Sullivan *et al.*'s *Early Medieval Ireland* did much to change how we saw and understood life in Early Medieval Ireland and this volume will do the same for death and burial. O'Brien brings together archaeological, historical, and literary sources to investigate the changing burial practices in Ireland. She is also very interested in the unusual, discussing deviant burials, exceptional female burials and grave goods; all these aspects are used to tell a story and deepen our understanding of the communities responsible for the burials. This is a vital book for the study of Early Medieval Ireland as it tells us so much about life and death at that time.

Belturbet, County Cavan, 1610-1714: The Origins of an Ulster Plantation Town - Brendan Scott
Four Courts Press, €9.95

This is a small book but is highly informative about the 17th-century history of the town of Belturbet. We find out about the town's history from its plantation in 1608, the destruction of parts of it in the 1641 rising and its growth in the later 17th-century. We also learn something of the society of the

town, with chapters on the religious practices and the physical remains of the buildings. This research brings the history of the town to life and makes extensive use of contemporary voices from the documents.

Ecclesiastical Landscapes in Medieval Europe - Marron Sánchez-Pardo & Tiplic Crîngaci (eds)
Archaeopress, £40 (paperback) £16 (ebook)

This volume of papers takes us from Ireland and Galicia in the west to Transylvania and Bohemia in the east, and cover a wide range of topics. The Irish paper looks at kin-groups and their relationship with churches in early medieval Ireland. There are also two papers on the Isle of Man, reminding us of its close connection to Ireland. Also of interest is a paper on monastic gardens, their contents, and the symbolism of the plants and layout. The range of papers from Eastern Europe provides an interesting comparison to the normal western focus, revealing the similarities and differences in churches and monastic landscapes across Europe. This volume includes many

interesting and thought-provoking papers that help to expand our understanding of the monastic landscape within Europe.

Images in the making: Art, process, archaeology - Ing-Marie Back Danielsson & Andrew Meirion Jones (eds)

Manchester University Press, £73

This is a wide-ranging volume, with papers covering images of Nile hippos in ancient Egypt to gold foil figures in Iron Age Scandinavia. The papers all discuss the creation and use of images and art. This volume does take a theoretical and art historical approach to images and artefacts. However, it is interesting to think about the more abstract meanings of objects like rock art and the enigmatic carved stone balls of Northeastern Scotland. The paper on these stone balls is most interesting, as it used experimental archaeology to understand how these objects were created and discusses the issues with only seeing objects as ritual or functional. Throughout this volume there are informative observations and discussions of how we should understand and

think about art and images in the past.

The Stone Mason: A history to building Britain - Andrew Ziminski
John Murray Books, £20

This book is focused on the history of England, but takes an interesting perspective on the past. Andrew Ziminski is a practicing stone mason and he discusses the history of these islands through his encounters with the buildings and landscapes. As someone carrying on an ancient tradition, with many aspects remaining unchanged, he brings a different perspective to how we can look at medieval buildings or prehistoric monuments. His working life has brought him face-to-face with our built heritage, in its many forms, and these experiences gave him an interest in the people of the past and how they lived and worked. This collection of anecdotes and observations helps to bring our past to life and reminds us of important aspects of the study of archaeology.

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