

Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland Conference 2022

Reflections - Challenges and Solutions

Friday 1 April – Saturday 2 April
Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast

www.iai.ie

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Local Government and Heritage

IAI Conference 2022: Reflections-challenges and solutions

The Wellington Hotel, Belfast.
Friday the 1st and Saturday the 2nd of April 2022

Friday 1st of April 2022

8.30	<i>Registration</i>	
9.10	Opening of the conference	James Kyle, Chairperson of IAI.
Session 1 Challenges and Solutions		
9.20-9.40	TII Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Guidelines and Standards 2022.	Bryn Coldrick. Archaeological Management Solutions.
9.40-10.00	Dublin City and County Archaeology GIS Project Phase 5.	Dr Yolande O' Brien, Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd.
10.00-10.20	A Mirror, Darkly – Reflections on Archaeological Specialist Practice.	Cian Hogan, Iarthar Heritage.
10.20-10.40	Indiana Jones and the last surprise.	Dave Pollock.
10.40-11.00	Challenges and Solutions – Developing a Strategic Archaeological Research Framework for the Island of Ireland.	Dr John O'Keefe, The Discovery Programme.
11.00-11.10		<i>Discussion</i>
11.10-11.30	<i>Tea and coffee</i>	

Session 2 Challenges and Solutions

11.30-11.50	Deep histories and Irish archaeology.	Dr Rowan McLaughlin, The British Museum.
11.50-12.10	The challenge of establishing a 'level playing field' – looking at the alignment of Standards and guidance for use in Northern Ireland.	Jen Parker Wooding, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
12.10-12.30	The Gothic Revival in Nineteenth Century Catholic America: Patrick Charles Keely (1816-1896) and his extensive contribution.	Julie Taylor, Queen's University Belfast.
12.30-12.50	Understanding the archaeological and natural landscape associations of Ireland's <i>Cillíní</i> .	Courtney Mundt, Queen's University Belfast.
12.50-13.00		<i>Discussion.</i>
13.00-14.00	Lunch	

Session 3 Challenges and Solutions

14.00-14.20	Preservation by Record? Realising the potential of the Irish archaeological record in the present and for the future.	Dr Katharina Becker, University College Cork.	Professor Derek Hamilton, University of Glasgow, SEURC.
14.20-14.40	Biomechanics of Physically Impaired Individuals in Medieval Ireland.	Jessica White, Queen's University Belfast.	
14.40-15.00	Recent excavations at Cathedral Hill, Downpatrick, Co. Down.	Brian Sloan, Centre for Community Archaeology, Queen's University Belfast.	
15.00-15.40	Keynote speech Bridging the commercial sector-academic divide in archaeological research: challenges and solutions.	Dr Gill Plunkett, Queen's University Belfast.	
15.40-16.00	Tea and coffee		
16.00-17.30	Annual General Meeting.		
19.00	IAI Table quiz and Photo Competition		

Saturday 2nd of April

9.30

Registration

Session 4 Wetland Archaeology

10.00-10.20 Drumclay crannog: that sinking feeling.

Dr John Ó Neill,
Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

10.20-10.50 Organic revolutions: new archaeological narratives from archived ecofacts.

Dr Penny Johnston, Dr Nick Overton and Dr Seren Griffiths.
Manchester Metropolitan University
University of Manchester.

10.50-11.20 Rediscovering Bog Butter in Ireland.

Karen O'Toole,
University College Dublin.

11.20-11.30

Discussion

11.30-12.00 *Tea and coffee*

Session 5 Wetland Archaeology

12.00-12.20 Idols, ards and severed heads: Three thousand years of deposition in a Roscommon fen.

Dr Eve Campbell,
Archaeological Management Solutions.

12.20-12.40 "From Opprobrium to Opportunity"? Irish Peatland Archaeology Four Decades from Corlea.

Dr Ben Gearey, Dr Ellen O'Carroll and Caitríona Moore.
University College Cork, University College Dublin
and Archaeological and Built Heritage.

Close of conference

Abstracts

Theme 1 Challenges and Solutions

Bryn Coldrick, Archaeological Management Solutions.

TII Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Guidelines and Standards 2022.

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Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) is in the process of revising the 2005 NRA guidelines for the assessment of archaeological heritage and architectural heritage impacts of National Road Schemes. The new Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) guidance and standards, which are currently in preparation, aim to provide guidance on the assessment of the impacts on Cultural Heritage of projects funded by or carried out under the auspices of TII. They will also set out the expected requirements for undertaking CHIA and the production and delivery of the Cultural Heritage outputs for inclusion with Constraints Reports, Option Selection Reports, Environmental Impact Assessment Reports and/or Environmental Reports for TII Projects. Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS) has been working with TII on delivering this important initiative, which has involved a literature review examining current national and international best practice, and extensive consultation both internally within TII and with a wide range of external stakeholders. A Public Consultation took place from 21 January to 21 February 2022, which was widely advertised on social media. In this presentation, AMS will provide an update on the project and an overview of the current draft of the new guidance and standards and their key requirements. Cultural Heritage Professionals undertaking CHIAs for TII Projects will be expected to adopt and adhere to these new guidelines and standards. This presentation is an important opportunity for practitioners to find out how TII has undertaken this major review of their Cultural Heritage guidance, and a chance to become familiar with the proposed new requirements.

Dr Yolande O' Brien, Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd.

Dublin City and County Archaeology GIS Project Phase 5.

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The Dublin City and County Archaeology GIS Project is a joint initiative of the four Dublin local authorities. It is a continuation of the Dublin City Archaeology GIS Project that was initiated by Dublin City Council in 2012 with County Heritage Plan funding provided by the Heritage Council and the support of the National Monuments Service and the National Museum of Ireland. The County Dublin Archaeology GIS data has mapped and provided links to 2,264 available archaeological reports down to 2012 for Dublin City and County. It comprises excavations, dive surveys and detection surveys. The reports are freely accessible for the archaeology profession, development planning, researchers, and the broader public on www.heritagemaps.ie.

This presentation will provide an update to Phase 5 of this project, which involved updating this resource for the years 2013-2017. The Covid-19 Pandemic created challenges in procuring licence reports through the DHLGH archives. It was therefore necessary to seek the assistance of the profession, and correspondence was duly sent to consultancies and sole traders operating in County Dublin. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and hundreds of reports were received from colleagues within the profession. The successful completion of this phase will provide an invaluable tool for archaeologists and other professionals operating in County Dublin, as well as providing user-friendly platform for members of the public to engage with the archaeological resource.

Cian Hogan, Iarthar Heritage.

A Mirror, Darkly – Reflections on Archaeological Specialist Practice.

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Problems relating to standards of practice, or how archaeologists operate, are uncovered during research projects or experience through practice. However, the response more often seen involves a discussion specific to a project – what the impact/influence was, and how/if they were addressed. Comment rarely, if ever, moves to a scale that encompasses the practice of multiple operators.

This commentary draws on personal experience garnered over five years of study for a Master of Literature. There is a focus on lithic analysis; although, the validity of criticisms to other specialist areas can be considered. Lithic analysis has been a cornerstone of archaeological research from antiquarian days – typologies and interpretations developed by Knowles and others in the 1800's are still used today. However, there is no centralised documentation for present-day analysts to refer to. Basic standards of scientific practice are ignored. In very few cases, it could be said that the presented research in reports is independently reproducible and replicable. Necessities are left out – glossaries are negligible, referencing is scant, and methodologies are bare.

Ultimately, this is a comment on the transmission of knowledge from one generation of specialist practitioners to the next - which is inconsistent at best, non-existent at worst. This creates its own issues, and compounds other problems.

Dave Pollock.

Indiana Jones and the last surprise.

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Most field archaeologists get a thrill from discovery, from coming across the unexpected. For some of us that is our motivation.

We are in a traditional craft industry, antiquated, notoriously unproductive, with only a veneer of science, and very little mechanisation, but it can be quite sociable, in the fresh air, and occasionally in pleasant surroundings. Everything changes though, even field archaeology. Mechanisation has been creeping in, productivity has (perhaps) been rising, and the sociability and general quality of the workplace has (perhaps) been falling.

Putting an even bleaker wash on the picture, technology of another kind is now on the brink of challenging our mental health. We are edging closer to the day when we can get a 3-d picture of what lies below our feet. When that day arrives surprises in the field will become a thing of the past, and our motivation will evaporate. Or will it?

**Dr John O’Keefe, The Discovery Programme.
Challenges and Solutions – Developing a Strategic Archaeological Research Framework for the
Island of Ireland.**

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Over the past two years the Discovery Programme has facilitated a series of seminars on the subject of archaeological research frameworks. This is an ongoing discussion, and the seminars have highlighted both benefits and challenges in the development and use of these frameworks. In January 2022 the Discovery Programme ran a ‘pulse survey’ to try to gauge levels of interest in developing a Strategic Research Framework that encompasses the island of Ireland. The results of that survey are now being analysed, with encouraging responses that developing a Strategic Research Framework is a worthwhile proposal, and that people want to be involved.

In partnership with the National Monuments Service and with the Heritage Council, the Discovery Programme is seeking to move the conversation forward in 2022. We want to broaden the conversation to help shape a framework that does not constrain research but which addresses challenges around articulating the value of archaeological work across this island, including the results of development-led investigations, and sharing the new insights that can be gained from continuing archaeological research.

Dr Rowan McLaughlin, The British Museum.

Deep histories and Irish archaeology.

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Archaeology adds much value to society but a key challenge is explaining how. Whilst growth within the discipline may be faltering, there is no denying the vast and still-increasing amount of raw data we have to deal with within the profession, let alone how our excavations and specialist reports will help society more generally achieve a better understanding the world around us. These issues are especially applicable to Ireland, given the vast amounts of legacy data we have, the island’s history, and the thorny issues in relating the archaeological records of Ireland to Britain and to those from further afield. In this paper I introduce a new IRC-funded project that will apply data science to make sense of the complexities of archaeological data. I will share my thoughts on how legacy data represents considerable societal capital, and how comparisons can be drawn between the records from Ireland and elsewhere so that the global situation of the island through time can be realised.

Jen Parker Wooding, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

The challenge of establishing a 'level playing field' – looking at the alignment of Standards and guidance for use in Northern Ireland.

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The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) was commissioned in 2021 by the Department for Communities, Historic Environment Division (HED) to undertake a project focused on reviewing the applicability of Standard and guidance documentation (produced by CIfA and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI)) to archaeological practice in Northern Ireland. The project addresses recommendations in *Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland* and aligns with an ongoing CIfA initiative to ensure that their suite of Standards and guidance are up-to-date, accessible, and relevant across all the jurisdictions (where CIfA members practice). Working with consultants from IAC Archaeology this project focused on

- enabling the profession to deliver archaeological activities to consistent and professional standards, to support the delivery of public benefit
- enabling HED, as the regulatory and licencing body for Northern Ireland, to ensure consistent and appropriate standards are applied
- providing a 'level playing field' for all organisations participating in archaeological works or activities in Northern Ireland
- providing clear and consistent information which allow those commissioning archaeological works to understand processes and requirements
- benefiting the conservation of archaeological sites and their associated artefacts, records, and data by providing specific Northern Ireland guidance to help ensure their continued enjoyment by future generations

This paper will introduce the project, highlighting the challenges involved in aligning Standards and guidance for use across jurisdictions whilst emphasising the potential solutions associated with doing just that.

Julie Taylor, Queen's University Belfast.

The Gothic Revival in Nineteenth Century Catholic America: Patrick Charles Keely (1816-1896) and his extensive contribution.

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Born in Tipperary in 1816, Patrick Charles Keely emigrated to the United States in 1842 and was to become arguably the USA's greatest nineteenth-century architect. He was responsible for the design of hundreds of Roman Catholic churches and cathedrals in the eastern states in a career spanning six decades until his death in 1896. He was also instrumental in transforming contemporary Catholic church design through his introduction and popularisation of Gothic Revival styles from the 1840s onwards, helping it to become the dominant style for Catholic church construction across the USA. Keely continuously developed the style in line with changing architectural concepts and fashions and modified his own version of Gothic to make it affordable for less affluent congregations. Despite Keely's immense contribution, his work has been seriously understudied by academics when compared to that of contemporary Protestant American ecclesiastical architects; he tends only to receive notice in research publications for the impact of his work on Protestant churches. The study of Keely's ecclesiastical architecture, therefore, adds another dimension to the impact of the Gothic Revival on American church building in general, and enables Catholic church buildings to be set alongside their Protestant contemporaries. It also contributes to the legacy of the establishment of the Catholic Church in the USA and its associated Irish heritage, as well as raising the profile of Patrick Keely himself and his architectural legacy.

Courtney Mundt, Queen's University Belfast.

Understanding the archaeological and natural landscape associations of Ireland's cillíní (unconsecrated children's burial grounds) using GIS in County Mayo.

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This presentation hopes to highlight that the full potential of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology is yet to be utilised more consistently in Irish archaeology and to encourage others to try and gain a better understanding of all GIS tools offered in these programmes. In 2017, masters research was undertaken to better understand the locations and associations of cillíní in Ireland. The term cillíní refers to the unconsecrated burial grounds used primarily for the burial of unbaptised and stillborn children from the late medieval into the early modern period in Ireland. There are almost 1700 cillíní recorded across Ireland, with more than 50% of cillíní found in three western counties (Galway, Kerry and Mayo). County Mayo has the third highest amount at the current count of 224 cillíní but is the least studied of the three counties. By mapping the archaeological and natural landscape associations of the then 208 cillíní recorded in County Mayo in 2017 and using the full potential of the more complicated tools offered by GIS programmes, a better understanding of cillíní was established than would have been found by just using the basic GIS tools more commonly utilised.

Dr Katharina Becker (University College Cork) Professor Derek Hamilton (University of Glasgow, SEURC), Linda Cagney, Brian O'Hara, Dr Paul Stevens, Dr John Ó Neill (Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd) and Dr Lorna O'Donnell (Independent).

Preservation by Record? Realising the potential of the Irish archaeological record in the present and for the future.

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The landscape of archaeological methods has significantly changed over the last couple of decades. In Ireland, radiocarbon dating and other methods of scientific analysis have been finding enthusiastic support and uptake in a commercial and research context, especially in comparison to many other countries. However, they remain blunt tools in their use outside of updated methodological frameworks that specifically embrace their application. New methodologies now need to find entry into our practice and become subject of training. This paper seeks to demonstrate the advantages of the new methods and associated processes, using real life case studies from the *N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin road scheme in Co. Sligo*. We seek to demonstrate also how such informed sampling strategies have the potential to provide for the long-term preservation of the research potential of sites, therefore adding significantly to our efforts to preserve the full potential of sites by record.

Jessica White, Queen's University Belfast.

Biomechanics of Physically Impaired Individuals in Medieval Ireland.

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It is difficult to visualise how individuals in the past would have functioned with physical impairments and how treatment may have increased their mobility. Disability is not defined by a set of disease conditions; individuals will have different experiences of their condition depending on the nature of their environment, culture, social status, and skills. Thus, the day-to-day quality of life of an individual, and associated limitations in activity or restriction in participation, cannot be inferred from macroscopic analysis of bone alone. Bone can adapt according to the mechanical stresses placed on it. By assessing the amount of cortical bone in long bones using radiographs, allows comparison of limbs for signs of weight bearing, revealing the level of function after injury/illness. This along with macroscopic analyses will reveal if the individual used walking aids following incapacitation of their lower limbs. From this, the level of care they may have required can be established, revealing information about the type of community these individuals lived in. Three-dimensional musculoskeletal models of the impaired individuals will be developed to allow visualisation of their gait revealing how they may have functioned. Assessing the impact of physical impairment in an archaeological setting will reveal information about the care and treatment in the past and will show the development and outcome of diseases and injuries if left untreated medically.

Brian Sloan, Centre for Community Archaeology, Queen's University Belfast.

Recent excavations at Cathedral Hill, Downpatrick, Co. Down.

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The Centre for Community Archaeology QUB carried out a community-based archaeological excavation of an area known as the 'tennis courts' at Cathedral Hill, Downpatrick. The excavation took place over two years, 2018 and 2019, and focussed on large midden pits that were in use when a Benedictine Abbey was located on the site between the 12th – 16th Centuries. A large assemblage of medieval artefacts was recovered giving important evidence for the everyday life of the monastery. The excavation also revealed evidence of Early Medieval and Prehistoric activity. Despite the Covid pandemic, the post-excavation programme has continued and has revealed a wealth of previously unknown information about this important site.

Keynote Address

Dr Gill Plunkett, Queen's University Belfast.

Bridging the commercial sector-academic divide in archaeological research: challenges and solutions.

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Recent decades have seen a transformation in how and why archaeological research is conducted. Once the pursuit mainly of academics investigating the material remains of the past at specially chosen sites, the growth of commercial archaeology has significantly multiplied the accumulation of data, and has shed light on a wider range of archaeological sites than typically tackled by research-focused excavations. At the same time, the demands of the university environment increasingly place constraints on academic research time. The balance of primary data generation has, consequently, shifted to the commercial sector. While generating a wealth of data now open to a greater range of investigative techniques than ever before, the sheer amount of information poses many challenges for the commercial, public and academic sectors in terms of interpreting, synthesising, contextualising and communicating key findings. This paper will explore some of these challenges, as seen from an academic perspective, considering the role of research, the barriers faced by investigators, and issues of communicating research effectively to broad and often multiple audiences. In the absence of endless time and funds, some pragmatic ways forward will be posited to streamline processes and develop effective inter-sector synergies from post-excavation to publication.

Theme 2 Wetland Archaeology

Dr John Ó Neill, Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

Drumclay crannog: that sinking feeling.

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The Drumclay crannog site in Co. Fermanagh was excavated during construction of the A32 link road amid some controversy. Excavations were directed initially by Declan Hurl and then by Dr Nora Bermingham. Post-excavation analysis is ongoing and is currently being undertaken by Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, under the guidance of the Historic Environment Division of the Department for Communities.

The site itself is located within fen peat that formed on the margin of an inter-drumlin lake, Knockalough. Use of the immediate location began in the early ninth century AD and within two years saw the deposition of wooden platforms, on which buildings were erected and rapidly replaced. In a short period of time a series of layers of wood and clay were deposited at the site. Over the course of two centuries of occupation almost three meters of archaeological deposits accumulated, with around 5m of deposits present by the seventeenth century.

As a wetland site, Drumclay produced a diverse array of materials including wooden artefacts, textiles and leather as well as the likes of insect assemblages, parasites and pollen. That richness presents challenges, in terms of resourcing, and in adequately synthesising the results into a meaningful narrative. Understanding the development and accumulation of the crannog presents significant difficulties that illustrate some of the issues raised by wetland archaeology.

The archaeological deposits at Drumclay mainly built up over a period of around 600 years. During this time these deposits became submerged in 4-5m of fen peat. Typically peat in Ireland forms at rates of less than 1mm per year. A model of the macrotaphonomy of the Drumclay crannog suggests that it was preserved because material deposited on the surface was pushed down into the peat. Additional layers increased the weight and pushed the earlier layers further into the peat. By around 1400 AD several metres of archaeological deposits had sank beneath the surface. Variations and dynamics within the stratigraphy caused by these pressures provide a better understanding of the development of the crannog.

Dr Penny Johnston¹, Dr Nick Overton² and Dr Seren Griffiths¹

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Organic revolutions: new archaeological narratives from archived ecofacts.

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Organics from excavated sites ('ecofacts') are a valuable resource that have served as the raw materials for new scientific analyses (e.g. isotopes, aDNA) and have allowed us to build new and revolutionary narratives of the past. In this paper we review the ecofact retention guidelines for institutions in Europe, which are set against a backdrop of a widespread 'curation crisis' in museums. We argue for more comprehensive and standardised approaches to long-term ecofact retention and we discuss the potential of this material for future research projects.

Karen O'Toole, University College Dublin.

Title: Rediscovering Bog Butter in Ireland.

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Bog butter is one of the most common finds recovered from Irish wetlands, yet it remains relatively poorly understood. Dating from the early Bronze Age to the post-medieval period (and perhaps later), the practice of bog butter deposition is certainly unique in Irish archaeology as a whole, and Irish wetland archaeology in particular. The development of specialist analyses such as organic residue analysis, compound-specific radiocarbon dating and aDNA sequencing in recent years have re-ignited archaeological interest in this unique object. These demonstrate its potential to inform us about early agricultural practices on the island of Ireland and beyond. However, the results of these analyses cannot adequately be interpreted if the nature of the bog butter assemblage is not fully understood. How many bog butters are there on the island of Ireland? What do they look like? Where are they found?

This presentation will focus on the results of my PhD research on the Irish bog butter phenomenon, exploring the composition, chronology, distribution, and context of bog butter finds in Ireland. It will highlight the vast scale and character of the assemblage, comment on its distribution across time and space, and describe its potential to enhance our understanding of the past.

Dr Eve Campbell, Archaeological Management Solutions.

Idols, ards and severed heads: Three thousand years of deposition in a Roscommon fen.

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In July 2021 archaeologists from Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS) hit the headlines with the discovery of a late Iron Age anthropomorphic notched figure from a riverside fen at Gortnacranagh, Co. Roscommon. The artefact, almost 3m long and carved from oak, yielded a date of cal. AD 252–413, making it the latest such figure to have been found in Ireland. Beyond its rarity and late date, the figure is significant because of the rich archaeological context in which it was found. Excavations at Gortnacranagh lasted a year, uncovering a complex site with evidence for several millennia of wetland deposition. In addition to the wooden figure, an assemblage of material encompassing metal, wooden, bone and ceramic artefacts, human remains, and animal bone were deposited in the fen from the Late Neolithic to the early medieval period. This talk will introduce the site of Gortnacranagh, outlining the character of the wetland archaeology with specific reference to wetland deposition and associated practices. It will also briefly discuss the methodological approach to excavating the site.

Dr Ben Gearey (University College Cork) Dr Ellen OCarroll (University College Dublin) and Caitríona Moore (Archaeological and Built Heritage)

“From Opprobrium to Opportunity”? Irish Peatland Archaeology Four Decades from Corlea

It is nearly forty years since the publication of Professor John Coles' (1984) paper 'Irish Bogs: the time is now', in which he expressed critical remarks concerning the lack of apparent interest in the potential of the country's wetlands for archaeological research. Less than 15 years after this, in a keynote conference at the WARP conference at UCD, Coles described his relationship with the Irish authorities as having shifted from ...opprobrium to opportunity... and looking '...with some confidence to the future...' (Coles, 2001: 1). In large part, this reflected the progress made by the late Prof Barry Raftery's excavations at Corlea, in the Mountdillon Bog Complex (Raftery 1998) and the subsequent establishment of the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit. In this paper we consider the state of Irish peatland archaeology another two decades on: what progress has been made? What lessons have been learnt, what role has commercial archaeology played? How might the next years look in terms of the remarkable archaeological record of Ireland's peatlands.

Poster presentations

Judith Findlater, Queen's University Belfast.

Feeding Carrickfergus – Animal Husbandry in a Medieval Garrison Town.

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Abstract - Carrickfergus, County Antrim, was an urban garrison town with a thriving port throughout the Medieval Period. Using faunal assemblage data from excavations undertaken in the town since the 1980s the poster will outline how PhD research is aiming to understand how Carrickfergus was provisioned with animal resources. The focus of the poster will be to demonstrate how, in addition to the analysis of zooarchaeological data, isotopes such as Carbon, Nitrogen, Oxygen, Sulphur and Strontium can be studied to gain an insight into the husbandry methods and mobility of the main domestic animals. Application of Zooarchaeology by Mass Spectrometry (ZooMS) will make it possible to distinguish between sheep and goat remains which cannot be reliably differentiated using standard morphological and biometrical analyses. It is hoped that inclusion of this approach will aid in the interpretation of the role of the goat in Medieval Carrickfergus. The multi-proxy scientific study of the faunal assemblage will enable a greater understanding of the role and impact of the main domesticated animals in Medieval Carrickfergus, thereby shedding light on animal husbandry practices and human-animal interactions in this garrison town.

By Paul Stevens PhD, MIAI

Jet-like Jewellery Finds Analysis: New evidence from recent excavations (2017-2022)

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This poster presents some of the most significant and important findings from the last five years of independent research. Over 2500 objects of jet-like jewellery have been recovered from archaeological excavations or as stray finds in Ireland, with the majority early medieval bangle/bracelet or waste fragments. A now well-established chronology of artefact typologies for Ireland is summarised and illustrated by recent examples from the Bronze Age, Late Roman and Viking periods. These are discussed in terms of developing patterns of distribution and trade links and large scale ecclesiastical production.

KEY WORDS: Jet, Lignite, early medieval, Bronze Age, Late Roman, Jewellery, Trade, Ireland, Ecclesiastical, Manufacture.

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