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# IAPA NEWS

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*Bulletin of the Irish Association of Professional Archaeologists. No. 22 Spring 1996*

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# IAPA NEWS

THE EDITOR WOULD LIKE TO THANK  
THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS  
ISSUE OF THE IAPA NEWSLETTER.  
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT  
ISSUE SHOULD BE SENT TO THE  
EDITOR AT THE ADDRESS BELOW BY  
THE END OF MAY 1996.

CHARLES MOUNT  
C/O ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
51, ST STEPHENS GREEN  
DUBLIN 2



Cover illustration—  
Exterior view of the west doorway of the cathedral at  
Glendalough, from Petrie's *Ecclesiastical  
Architecture of Ireland*

## SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER

MEMBERS (*particularly those in arrears*) are requested to pay their subscriptions to the IAPA treasurer as soon as possible.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Full member	£15
Associate member	£10
Graduate member	£5

Cheques or postal orders should be made payable to  
The Irish Association of Professional Archaeologists  
and should be sent to:

IAPA TREASURER,  
MARTIN DOODY,  
THE DISCOVERY PROGRAMME,  
C/O O.P.W.,  
13-15 HATCH ST.,  
DUBLIN 2.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Members who have recently changed address are requested to inform Mary Cahill, C/o National Museum of Ireland, Kildare St. Dublin 2

## Journal of Wicklow Archaeology

This is intended to be a new annual publication on pre-historic, medieval and industrial archaeology in County Wicklow. It will have a medium-sized format, with a blue-coloured card cover, will be perfectly bound and printed to high quality paper. Articles (c. 5,000 words) will include brief reports of recent Wicklow archaeological sites and complexes. Shorter notes (c. 1,500 words) will be included describing various finds and discoveries. The authorship for the articles, notes and book reviews will be drawn from all interested professional archaeologists, historians, architects and geographers, as well as active local historians and amateur archaeologists.

Authors are invited to contact the editors regarding notes for contributors. Papers can be submitted on PC compatible or Apple Mac 3.5" disks, using standard word processing software. Illustrations can be accepted on disk from commonly used graphic programmes or as standard size line drawings. Article and notes should be submitted together with completed illustrations by May 31st of each year, for possible publication in September/October of that year. Copyright is to remain in the hands of the individual authors.

The editors are active in the newly formed County Wicklow Archaeological Society. The society organises a programme of lectures, field-trips and seminars on Wicklow archaeology. For details of membership of this society, and its programme of events, contact:

The Correspondence Secretary, Beaconsfield, Kimberely Rd., Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

# Publish, by all means

A RECENT ARTICLE in the *New Scientist* (No. 2011, 6 January 1996) considered the consequences of non-publication of results in the sciences, and the effect that biased under-reporting of research was having, tending 'to retard the growth of knowledge, and waste resources.' In clinical research under-publication of results was creating bias which 'lead to a rosier than justified assessment of the benefits and safety of individual elements of healthcare'. This is, of course, occurring in a field serviced by a mind boggling 16,000 journals world wide. While no one's health is riding on the results of archaeological excavation, at least not directly, the publication concerns of the sciences are equally applicable to archaeology. If the principle reason for carrying out an excavation in the first place is to contribute to the growth of our knowledge about the past, and the vast amount of these excavations are carried out to a high standard and produce results, either positive or negative, then non-publication is introducing a fundamental bias into the archaeological record.

How can this situation be remedied? How can it be made easier for archaeologists to publish their results. Perhaps one approach is to remove some of the steps involved. In the last decade every archaeologist from undergraduate to academician has been affected by the digital revolution. Where they once worked with typewriter and ribbon to produce a single copy of a manuscript, they now commit their work to the memory of an Apple, PC or laptop. But the world of publishing still lags far behind and conventional journals and books use up scarce resources of time and money turning the electronic medium, the virtual world of the 21st century, back into the print world of the 19th. This is the evolutionary equivalent of developing the eye and then going to live underground. What's more archaeologists must then use up their scarce resources, money and time again, buying and reading these anachronistic documents, which must be distributed and sold, stored and curated, catalogued and re-bound.

The solution is to leave out the print stage completely and 'publish' archaeological reports, after online editing, directly onto an electronic server. This is the route already being taken by many periodicals and newspapers world wide. The advantages are legion. The cost of paper, printing, binding and distribution can immediately be factored out of publication. This immediately reduces the costs of publication many times. By putting the 'publication' onto a widely accessible network like the Internet it can be accessed by anyone anywhere in the world who wishes to read it, in return for a small fee which can defray the cost of editing and setting up the Web site. In effect every journal or publisher ceases to be local and instantly becomes international. The advantages to the reader are also numerous. Ease of access to information, regardless of geographical location (anyone on fieldwork could access the latest journals as they became available or check important papers), the much reduced costs for individuals and libraries of taking the journal and books and the ability to electronically search articles, papers and books for relevant information. The solution to the publication problem may be to publish by all and every means. □

## IAPA NEWS

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Edited by  
Charles Mount  
Published by  
The Irish Association of Professional  
Archaeologists.  
Printed by  
Blackthorn Press  
Typeset by  
Wordwell Ltd  
Film output  
The Type Bureau

### TV QUIP



From the *Daily Mirror*, 20 January 1996

# IAPA AGM

GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL, SLIGO, SUNDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 1995

## Present:

C. Lynn (Chairman), M. O'Callaghan, C. McDermott, C. Sandes, J. Eogan, A. Given, C. Foley, M. Gowen, M. Doody, P. Walsh, I. Bennett, D. Simpson, D. Moore, C. Mount, B. Cullee, S. Desmond, J. Carroll, T. Moran, D. Sweetman, R. Meenan, S. Kirwan, C. Breen, G. Ramsey, J. Hickey, V. Buckley, R. Moynihan, J. Channing, A. Connelly, E. Gibbons, M. Gibbons, G. Byrne, C. Lawless, M. Moore, M. Timoney, M.A. Timoney, F. Ryan, B. Cassidy, C. Manning, J. Waddell, N. Bermingham, G. Walsh, D. Delaney, R. Crumlish, L. Morahan, T. Condit, D. Hurl (Secretary).

## 1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous IAPA business meeting (Ballinasloe, 5 November 1994) were read. The secretary reminded members that the previous meeting at the Metropole in Cork was inquorate and that the AGM would be constituted by the present business meeting. He further reported that there was one matter in the minutes which required correction. Under Item 12, it had been recorded that Sean Kirwan in response to an inquiry from M. Gibbons, would outline his job specifications in his new position within the Department of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht. Sean had subsequently written to the secretary stating that he had made no such agreement. The secretary accepted any responsibility for the misunderstanding and asked members of the Association to make note of the error. The minutes were approved by the meeting.

## 2. Matters arising

There were no further matters arising.

## 3. Officers' reports

The secretary read out the reports of the treasurer, the secretary and the representative on the National

Committee for Archaeology. These reports, which will be printed in the next *Newsletter* were proposed by the chairman and were accepted by the members.

Margaret Gowen, chairperson of the Standing Committee on Contract Archaeology introduced the new schedule of IAPA recommended rates of pay. She asked the membership to note that these were recommended minimum rates of pay. She also stated that the standing committee would welcome the views of the members on the new schedule and said that the standing committee would advise any members who were experiencing any difficulty with pay scales.

## 4. New members

The following applicants were proposed and approved for membership of the Association:

Richard O'Brien, Nora Bermingham, Maeve O'Callaghan, currently graduate members were approved for full membership.

Rhoda Cronin was approved for full membership. The following were approved for graduate membership Eoin O'Sullivan, Deirdre Murphy, Cormac McSparron, Lisa Courtney, Chris Corlett, Clare McCutcheon.

## 5. Committee positions

The committee proposed the following for vacant committee positions: Declan Hurl, *Secretary*, Mueve O'Callaghan, *Meeting Organiser*, Victor Buckley, *Representative to the NCA*, Beth Cassidy, *Ordinary Member*, Tom Condit, *PRO*. Charles Mount would be taking over from Victor Buckley as editor of the *Newsletter*. These nominations were approved by the meeting.

Members were reminded that the maximum term for office for a committee position was three years and

there could be an election for committee positions at each AGM. At this point in the meeting Declan Hurl took over the secretarial duties.

## 6. Policy and Guidelines

Victor Buckley proposed acceptance of the Guidelines, as published in the *IAPA Newsletter* No. 20, as a working draft/reference document to be subsequently updated and amended; this was seconded by Derek Simpson and accepted by the meeting. It was widely felt that time was the essence, and Con Manning suggested that Members should submit proposed amendments to the Guidelines to the Chairman by the end of January '96; this was seconded by Sean Kirwan and accepted by the meeting.

## 7. Correspondence

The Chairman informed the members that he had received a letter from George Eogan, Director of the Discovery Programme, regarding the Archaeological Research Institute. IAPA was invited to nominate two members, one male and one female, to be considered for appointment to a Council of twelve, which would appoint five of the nine members of the Directorate of the Institute; the other four would be appointed by the Heritage Council. The Committee had welcomed this recognition of IAPA and had discussed the implications; it had requested further information from George Eogan and received a reply.

In response to general enquiries from the floor, John Waddell and Peter Woodman stated that the ARI would receive £1/2m p.a. from the Heritage Council, and that civil servants could serve on the Directorate with the permission of the Minister. The Council, the members of which would serve five-year terms, would select the core topics for the ARI to address and review progress, while the Directors, each serving three years,

would be responsible for the implementation of the programme.

Gerry Walsh proposed that the nominees be selected at the current meeting; Derek Simpson seconded the motion, and there was general acceptance. Those proposed were:

Mags Gowan (prop. D. Simpson, sec. C. Manning);

Beth Cassidy (prop. D. Sweetman, sec. V. Buckley);

Paul Walsh (prop. C. Manning, sec. M. Gowen);

Charles Mount (prop. S. Kirwan, sec. M. Gibbons); and

Tom Condit (prop. D. Sweetman, sec. D. Simpson).

The nominees were chosen by a show of hands, with those proposed leaving the room during the relevant vote. John Waddell and Peter Woodman did not vote; neither did the Chairman and the Secretary. The IAPA nominees are Mags Gowen and Tom Condit.

The Chairman informed the Meeting that there had been dialogue with the Institute of Field Archaeologists in Britain relating to reciprocal resolutions between the two bodies, and it was agreed that these should be published in the Newsletter.

#### 8 AOB

Beth Cassidy extended a general invitation to the members to attend a party marking the tenth anniversary of an esoteric archaeological society on 2 December.

Mick Moore informed the meeting that the first meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists had taken place last August in Santiago, Spain; the next meeting would be in Riga, Latvia next Autumn.

Mick Gibbons informed the meeting that a state-sponsored development had taken place on the site of a Franciscan Friary in Galway.

It was decided that the Spring conference would be held in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh.

# A Medieval Headache from Claremorris, Co. Mayo

Lauren Buckley and Victor M. Buckley.



Pl. 1—Charnel pit, some 10m long, 0.9m deep packed with disarticulated bone

IN AUGUST 1995, a report came into OPW of a mound "full of bones" being disturbed at Ballinsmaul, Claremorris. Visiting the site established that reclamation work in the field opposite the Carmelite Friary, founded in 1288-9, had uncovered a charnel pit, some 10m long, 0.9m deep packed with disarticulated bone (Pl.1). This turned out to be the remains of local 'restoration work' on the abbey, carried out in the early 20th century when the interior of the abbey was 'conserved' by being dug-out. The disarticulated bone was dumped in a hollow across the road and buried—hence our find. After sampling the only remedial action possible was for deep reburial in agreement with the developer. To quote Thomas Browne (1605-1682)—"But who knows the fate of his bones, or how often he is to be buried".

Examination of the dental wear showed that the material was most probably medieval in date. One skull exhibited an interesting example of trauma—a weapon wound on the left parietal bone, (Pl.2). The wound is 5.5cm long and ran anterior to posterior in the middle of the bone. The cut was very shapely defined

on the medial edge, and the smoothness of the cut shows a very sharp object was used. The lateral edge of the wound was roughly broken as if a sword had been twisted out of the skull thus breaking away the bone. The position of the wound suggests that it occurred during a fight with a right-handed opponent facing the victim and bringing the sword down heavily on the top of the head. No healing occurred and though the wound may not have been singularly terminal, wounds to other parts of the body (not recovered) may have been fatal.



Pl. 2—The weapon wound on the left parietal bone

# THE NAVE OF GLENDALOUGH CATHEDRAL

Con Manning



Pl. 1. The west end of the cathedral at Glendalough. Note the antae with a wide section at the top and the large stones in the lower course of the wall. (Photo O.P.W.)

THE NAVE OF GLENDALOUGH CATHEDRAL is a single-cell rectangular pre-Romanesque church with antae. Its internal measurements average 14.71m by 9.05m, giving a length of breadth ratio of 1.625:1. This is close enough to the *golden section* (1.618:1) to be confident that this important proportion was intended.

A notable feature of the nave is the exclusive use of large thin rectangular stones forming the lower facing courses of the walls. There are indications that these are in a secondary position and it is argued that they were reused from a smaller church on the same site built entirely of these stones, which was demolished to make way for the large church. There were only sufficient stones for a few courses and they continued to be built upwards in ordinary rubble masonry with putlog holes similar to those in the earliest masonry of Clonmacnoise Cathedral, dating from AD 909.

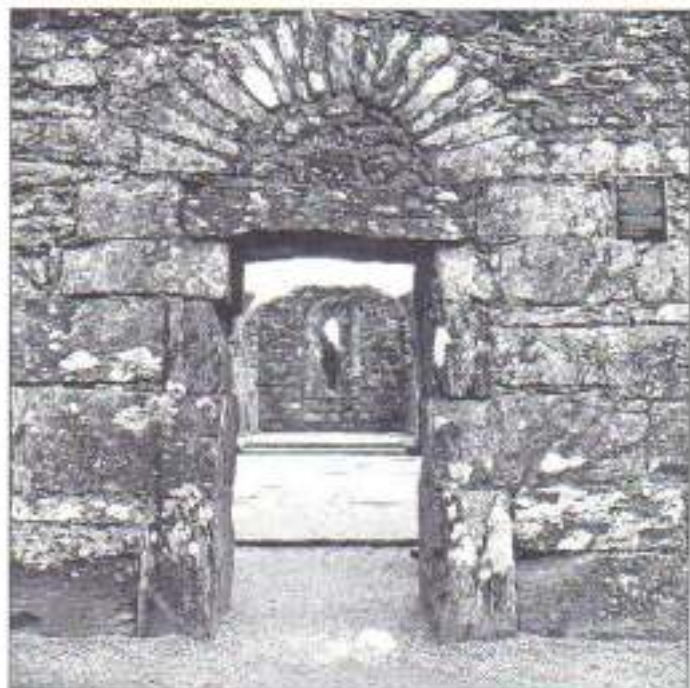
An unusual feature of this church is the fact that the antae, at 0.82m wide, are narrower than the walls which are 1.04m thick. The antae are largely made up of finely-cut stones with chamfered corners from the earlier church, making it prudent for them to retain the thickness of the earlier antae. As antae are almost invariably the same thickness as the church walls we can assume that the walls of the original church were 0.82m wide. It is worth noting in the present building that the antae widen out at the top to the full thickness of the nave walls.

The present west doorway was also reused from the earlier

church and crudely heightened to suit the new building. Its jambs are the full thickness of the present wall but were made for the narrower wall where they would have projected on the inside. This narrow projection, though partly obscured by the present wall, is well finished on three faces and has two pairs of rectangular holes cut right through it. These were drawbar slots for timbers to secure the door from the inside (the position of the door is indicated by a rebate in the jambs and lintel and a pivot hole in the lintel at this point). At present these slots would be difficult to use but in the narrower wall of the earlier church, timbers could have been shoved through these holes from the side. This is a unique arrangement in Ireland and may be a skeuomorph of a wooden doorway.

There are three large D-shaped stones reused in the walls of the nave (a fourth was removed by the OPW many years ago and is now in Kevin's Kitchen). The theory that these were parts of chancel columns can be rejected as they vary in width. It is more likely that they were tympana over the door and windows of the earlier church like those over windows in Confey Church, Co. Kildare. The present west doorway of the nave has blind arches filled with masonry over the lintel internally and externally showing exactly how the D-shaped stones could have been used. The west doorway of Kevin's Kitchen has the same type of head with two stones in each face serving as the tympanum.

Dating either church is problematical and the annals are of little assistance. The nave could be as early as the 10th century but how much older the earlier church was is difficult to say.



Pl. 2 The west doorway from the outside. (Photo O.P.W.)



# EARTHWORK CASTLES

David Sweetman

THE CLASSIFICATION of certain types of archaeological field monuments and in particular medieval earthworks can be a problem. Little analytical work has been done on earthwork castles, such as ringworks and circular moated sites in Ireland. If we look at the earthwork castles in Glamorgan we can see sites which are very similar to our ringforts so we should be careful in assuming that most if not all ringfort-like enclosures belong to the pre-Norman period. Recently a number of cliff-edge forts have been found in Tipperary (North Riding) by Caimin O'Brien and excavated examples of this type site in Glamorgan have given medieval dates. Similar sites have also been located in other areas of the country such as Louth, Meath, Laois and Cork. Some large areas of Cork are noted for their lack of Mottes-and-Baileys and we should probably look more closely in these areas at the enclosures and ringforts to see if any of them could be classified as ringworks thus filling the vacuum of early Norman fortifications. In parts of county Wexford Michael Moore has found circular moated sites in areas where there are no Mottes-and-Baileys located. This type of site occurs in England in the initial phases of the Norman invasion.

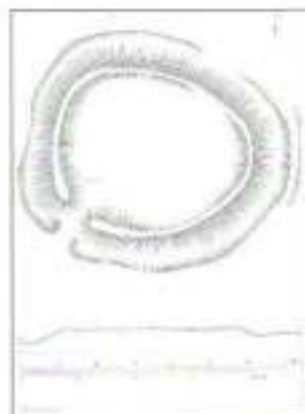
The fieldworker should therefore be forewarned that where there are no Mottes-and-Baileys in Norman occupied areas, there are other earthworks of that period to be found some of which may be very similar to ringforts but not sited in the same type of location and often being close to ecclesiastical remains.



Top—Caeran Castle ringwork, Glamorgan

Above—North Hill Tor ringwork, Glamorgan

Right—St Nicholas Gaer ringwork, Glamorgan



# Evaluation of Crannogs:

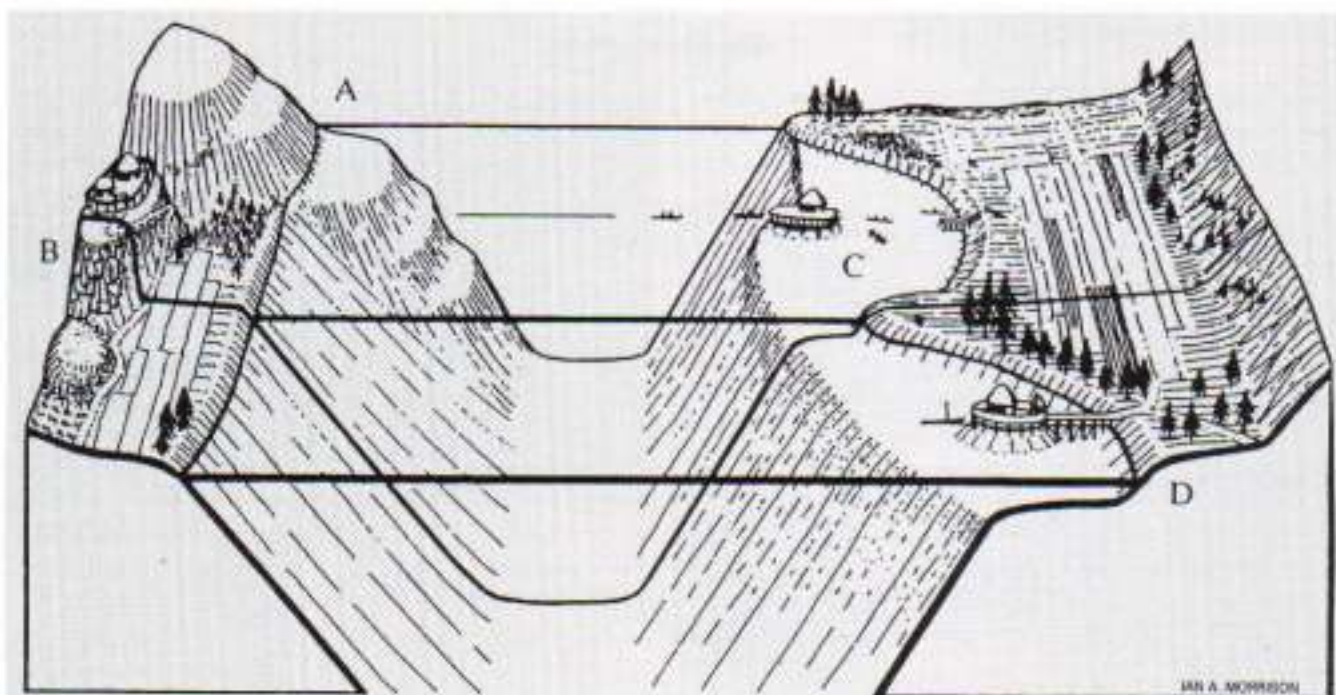
## A landscape approach based on Scottish experience

Ian A Morrison, Universities of Edinburgh and St. Andrews

DIGGING A CRANNOG tends to be slow and expensive, especially if diving is necessary. The preservative qualities of our cold peaty waters favours the copious survival of organic material (structural, domestic and environmental) within crannog mounds. This not only makes them complex to excavate, but raises major problems at the interface of economics with ethics, for conservation as well as research costs. There is thus little prospect of a significant proportion of these intriguing sites being excavated during our lifetimes, Scotland having approximately a thousand crannogs, and Ireland perhaps even more.

Their very numerousness may however be turned to advantage. Conclusions about the purpose of an unexcavated site must often remain speculative if it is considered individually. However, by identifying consistently repeated patterns in the relationships of many sites to their landscape settings, insights may be obtained into their roles. Crannogs lend themselves particularly well to this kind of approach. Though many are now wholly submerged, systematic searches combining air photography with diving can allow something approaching a 'total cull' of their remains to be mapped in a lake (Morrison 1985). Such distribution

maps are of particular interest because they are free of some of the problems intrinsic to distributions of many categories of dry-land sites: for example, the tendency for earlier patterns to be erased in the areas of the best land, because of the intensity of later activities there. There was little incentive to dredge up the remains of crannogs when they fell out of use, and though some were deliberately wrecked their debris remains on the lakebed. Areas where drainage of lakes and swamps may have led to losses can usually be identified. Compared to the palimpsest of successively over-written cultural landscape traces which so



Characteristic landscape criteria for siting crannogs in a Scottish Loch.

- (a) Suitable underwater ledge, but no arable potential: crannog unlikely
- (b) Good land, but too steep offshore; dun an alternative possibility
- (c) Shallow shelf, good land: but crannog as far offshore

as possible. A "Worried Man's Crannog", accepting exposure to storms and inconvenience of boat access, presumably in times of strife ashore.

- (d) Shallow shelf, good land: crannog close inshore, with gangway. Presumably reflecting lesser perception of human relative to natural hazards, than (C).

often confronts us on shore, many lakes thus offer a chance of recovering a distribution pattern which is complete enough to suggest something of the original priorities in the location of crannogs, both in relation to characteristics of the waterbody, and to the surrounding landscape.

For example, at Loch Awe in Argyll, many areas where crannogs could conveniently have been built showed no signs of them, whereas 17 out of 20 built-up islets, spread out along the 40km length of the loch, lie immediately adjacent to patches of land of good arable potential in an otherwise inhospitable glacially scoured hinterland. It thus seems reasonable to suspect that farming did play a major part in locational decisions there.

Once consistent patterns of association embracing many sites have been identified, attention can then be focused on seemingly anomalous cases.

Historical records, placenames and oral testimony offer clues as to the range of possibilities which may be considered in relation to crannogs' lacustrine and landscape contexts.

Roles for which islets were built-up in our Scottish lochs included the following. It will be interesting to find how far these correspond with perceived motivation for building in the loughs of Ireland.

**(1) Refuges:** Certainly a primary role — secure accommodation in times of trouble for people and goods, but not only for innocents; some were headquarters for cattle raiders such as Allan Rod Sark.

**(2) Rule and Misrule:** Including the aggressive emplacement of strongpoints in the territory of rivals (e.g. the MacIntoshes and the Cummings both built islands in Loch Lochy to that end). There were also Treaty Island crannogs (neutral ground for diplomacy).

**(3) Routeway Functions:** From hospices offering a safe stop-over, to guard points controlling fords and cattle-swimming stations.

**(4) Agriculture:** From full-scale homesteads down to small ancillary establishments (vermin proof crop stores?). Byre deposits on some with gangways show beasts were kept on them, presumably for protection from wolves as much as from two-footed predators.

**(5) Manufacture:** Crafts (ranging from textiles to metal working) were often part of homestead life on crannogs, but it will be interesting to see whether Scotland can match Ireland's 'high security island industrial estate' in Moynagh Lough.

**(6) Recreation:** Besides direct use by wildfowling and fishing, some were 'hunting lodges' for deer stalking ashore. Tigh nam Fleadh (House of Feasts) islets saw notable drinking bouts.

*Reference:*

Morrison, I. 1985 *Landscape with Lakedwellings*  
Edinburgh University Press.

## NATIONAL MONUMENTS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1994

### [Section 12: Recorded Monuments]

As part of the implementation of Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, the National Monuments Service has produced updated Sites and Monuments Record maps and listings for the eight counties listed below. Updating of the remaining counties is in progress and copies should be available by the end of 1996.

#### Counties released to date:

**Carlow**  
**Laois**  
**Leitrim**  
**Offaly**  
**Sligo**  
**Waterford**  
**Wexford**  
**Wicklow**

Under the ministerial regulations, copies of this Recorded Monuments material is statutorily available for public inspection in the local authority offices and libraries of each county. In addition, Department of Agriculture offices and Teagasc offices have also received copies.

Section 12 gives for the first time statutory protection to all archaeological sites which are mapped and listed as Recorded Monuments.

Copies of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 may be obtained through Government Publications Sales Office, Sun Alliance House, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2. Price £4.80. The National Monuments (Exhibition of Record of Monuments) Regulations, 1994 are likewise available, price 80p.

### IRISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONOGRAPHS

In response to increasing demand for a speedy publication vehicle, Wordwell Ltd is happy to announce a new series of publications to be entitled **Irish Archaeological Monographs**. We invite authors to submit suitable works which fall in the 80–100,000 word range and which are intended for academic consumption.

Interested authors should contact Gabriel Cooney at 01-7068163 or Nick Maxwell at 01-2862649.

# Preliminary Report on the Excavation of an Inhumation Cemetery at Ardnagross, Co. Westmeath.

James Eogan and Cara Murray

## The first excavation:

This site first came to light in November 1994 when human remains were found by quarry workers while extending a sand & gravel quarry in this townland into a previously undisturbed area. When it became clear that quarrying was going to proceed the O.P.W. asked J. Eogan to carry out a rescue excavation to establish the nature and extent of the site. The excavation was carried out over a two week period in April/May 1995.

Excavation of a cutting (6m x 7m) revealed two rows of burials, six individuals in the eastern row & eight in the western. In general the burials were badly preserved, due to poor soil conditions and modern disturbance. They were all placed with their heads at the west. There were 11 extended supine inhumations; two flexed burials (one facing north, the other facing south); and a single burial which may have been interred in a prone position, due to modern disturbance it is not possible to be definite on this point.

Due to the very stony nature of the natural a number of the burials gave the impression of being in partially stone-lined pits, an infant burial is the only one which was placed in a definite stone-lined grave. An adult burial had a stone placed on either side of the skull forming an "ear muff" feature. There were five instances of later interments disturbing earlier ones, in two cases the remains of a disturbed burial were carefully placed by the feet of the later interment.

A small (1.7cm ext. diam.) bronze annular ring of rounded cross-section was excavated from beside the femur of one of the extended burials by Mr. Andy Halpin on the initial site inspection. It is the only find from the excavation that is

**Townland name:** Ardnagross

**Parish:** Lickbla

**County:** Westmeath

**National grid reference:** N 445 777

definitely associated with a burial.

## The second excavation:

Further inhumations came to light when quarrying recommenced in August and C. Murray was asked to carry out a second, week long, rescue excavation.

The burials were all in very poor condition, having been badly disturbed by machinery. The partial remains of six extended inhumations were excavated. Only one of the skeletons was complete and it was oriented northwest-southeast with the head to the north-west. Only the legs of the other burials remained and their orientation appeared to be roughly west-east, with their heads to the west. A chert scraper was found close to one of the burials, however, it came from a disturbed context.

## Dating:

Samples of bone from two of the burials from the initial excavation have been dated. A flexed inhumation is dated to 1360±70BP (OxA-5991), an extended inhumation is dated to 1420±40BP (OxA-5992). These dates, when calibrated at 2σ (i.e. 95% confidence), show that this part of the cemetery was in use from 540 to 820 cal AD.

## Conclusions:

Unfortunately the full extent of the cemetery has not been ascertained, let alone excavated, quarry workers spoke

of a number of burials having been removed before archaeological investigations commenced & the post-excavation analysis is not yet complete. Nonetheless, some general points can be made in conclusion. Burial was organised with care, with at least two parallel rows of inhumations. Treatment of the dead was remarkably consistent, the vast majority of the burials being placed supine in simple dug graves, oriented west-east. No evidence was uncovered for any structures within the cemetery, nor is there evidence (cartographical or archaeological) for an enclosing element around the site. In view of the mid 6th-early 9th century cal AD date range of the <sup>14</sup>C dated samples, and the style of burial, it seems likely that this is a Christian cemetery. There are no known ecclesiastical associations with the site, however, the townland name Ardnagross (?The height of the cross) may preserve a distant folk memory of the Christian ritual site which was uncovered in the excavations.

## HELP WANTED

### MARTIN COMEY

is seeking help in finding wooden vessels of the ECP for examination for organic residue research prior to conservation. Any excavation directors who can help him can contact him at:

The Institute of Archaeology,  
University College London,  
31-34 Gordon Square,  
London WC1H 0PY.

# Excavations at Ballydavis, Co. Laois

Valerie J. Keely

DURING ARCHAEOLOGICAL monitoring on the Portlaoise By-Pass the Ballydavis site was discovered. Subsequent excavation uncovered an extensive Iron Age complex and features. The site was situated in the townland of Ballydavis on a low knoll (130 OD) some 4km north east of Portlaoise town. The complex consisting of 4 ring-ditches and 7 furnaces was spread over an area of approximately 250m x 130m.

The largest ring-ditch (Site 1) measured 16m in diameter. Its entrance was oriented due east and measured 3.20m in width. The substantial ditch measured up to 0.91m in depth with a maximum width of 2m at the terminals. The interior of the monument yielded a central burial deposit, which consisted of a bronze box, cremated human bone and associated artifacts including a bronze fibula, bronze wire and over 80 beads.

The ditch yielded a significant amount of material including an iron blade, iron nails, part of a bronze bracelet and a pin fragment. Evidence of metalworking was found in the form of iron slag and crucible fragments. A series of well defined phases of use is indicated in the stratigraphic profile of the ditch. The layers containing the artifacts, charcoal and cremated bone were interspersed with sterile layers, and slippage. There was one extensive area of burning, which documented a fire of great intensity lighting for a significant time shortly after the ditch was dug. This in situ burning, possibly of a ritual nature, was found around approximately 33% of the base of the ditch, opposite the entrance. It was defined by oxidised clay and carbonised brushwood.

Site 2 consisted of a smaller ring-ditch which measured 8m in diameter. It lay some 40m to the east of Site 1. It was sealed under a layer of cobble-like stones. The ditch measured 0.70m in depth and had a maximum width of 1.50m. Its entrance was orientated south-east. Finds from the ditch include four fragments of



Bronze box and associated artifacts from Site 1, Ballydavis

stone bracelets, part of an iron blade and one fragment of bronze. Animal bones were also found in the ditch.

In proximity to Site 2 were located a series of shallow pits. One of these yielded a bronze fibula.

Two smaller ring ditches (Sites 3 & 4) were also discovered and excavated. Site 3 measured 6m in diameter and lay 26m to the north-east of the main large site. The ditch which contained a mixed fill of charcoal and burnt bone measured 0.50m in depth and had a maximum width of 1.20m. There was no entrance to this site. Finds from the ditch included four decorated glass beads of Guido's classification "Meare-spiral" type, 3 decorated bone pieces, a possible hilt of bone and a bead spacer of stone. The fourth ring ditch measured 6m in diameter. It had a maximum depth of 0.60m and a width of 1m. The entrance was orientated north-west and measured 2.2m in width. The fill was mixed with a significant amount of charcoal.

Several furnaces were also excavated. These features yielded evidence for metal smelting and are an indication of the additional aspect of industrial activity on the site.

The box from Site 1 is made of tinned bronze. It consists of a sheet of bronze riveted together along one side. The base

is a circular plate of bronze held in place by a binding strip (the lid is similarly constructed and has a centrally placed mount). It measures 110.2mm in diameter and 63.4mm in height. The mount is of iron, it bears red enamel and has a central bronze rivet with a cross hatch pattern. The bronze handle of the box has a central mounting with three circular knobs, each having three concentric circles bearing enamel. The beads are made of stone and of glass. They vary in size from 2mm to 26mm and include rounded and cylindrical shapes. The colours include, blue, green and yellow. One of the blue glass beads is according to Guido's classification of Class 6a, "Oldbury" type, measuring 19.8mm x 13.23mm x 8.2mm. The fibula, of safety pin type is made of bronze with a scroll type decoration at the spring. It measures 38.6mm in length. It appears to be of Nauheim type, which is significant in the dating of the assemblage.

Burials reliably dated to the Pagan Iron Age are very rare in Ireland and the Ballydavis complex now offers a well documented site providing both a complex of surprisingly well preserved monuments and rich finds. The site has similarities with the Celtic Royal cemeteries of Cruachain and Tara and Tumulus 8 at Carrowjames in Co Mayo. There are also interesting connections with similar finds in Northern Britain and on the Continent. The finds of glass beads and brooches have parallels with similar material from Kiltierney, Co Fermanagh, Oran Beg and Grannagh, Co. Galway in broadly similar contexts. The closest parallel for the box comes from the chariot burial of a female from Wetwang Slack, Yorkshire.

#### Reference

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# GRAVEYARD SURVEY: A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON CLONMACNOISE

Harold Mytum

THERE HAS BEEN considerable interest in recent years in the conservation issues regarding graveyards, resulting in discussions at IAPA meetings and reports in the *Newsletter* (Kirwan 1992, Fitzpatrick 1994). There have also been guides for conservation (de Hora 1987-88, Hamlin 1983) and recording (Jones 1979, Dublin Archaeological Society 1987), but surprisingly few comprehensive graveyard studies have been carried out with archaeological rather than genealogical intentions. Important research has been undertaken on some particular designs (most notably by Longfield 1948 and references therein), but not on particular graveyards and what an analysis of such sites can reveal. In this context, it is hoped that the Clonmacnoise survey can illustrate the potential of such data, and so help to justify the concerns over clearance and conservation at so many graveyards.

The graveyard at Clonmacnoise consists of two parts, that in the historic core of the monastery, and that to the east which is the modern cemetery extension. It is planned to record both areas completely, but the first season concentrated on the earlier burial ground, of which about 75% has been recorded. Standard recording forms were used, and selective photographs taken; as yet no rubbings have been attempted but this will form part of the 1996 research programme.

The older part of Clonmacnoise graveyard is like that many other Irish historic burial grounds in that it clusters around early Christian and medieval ecclesiastical monuments. The enclosed spaces of the churches, and the open areas between them and the various other monuments such as the crosses, provide a framework within which choices over

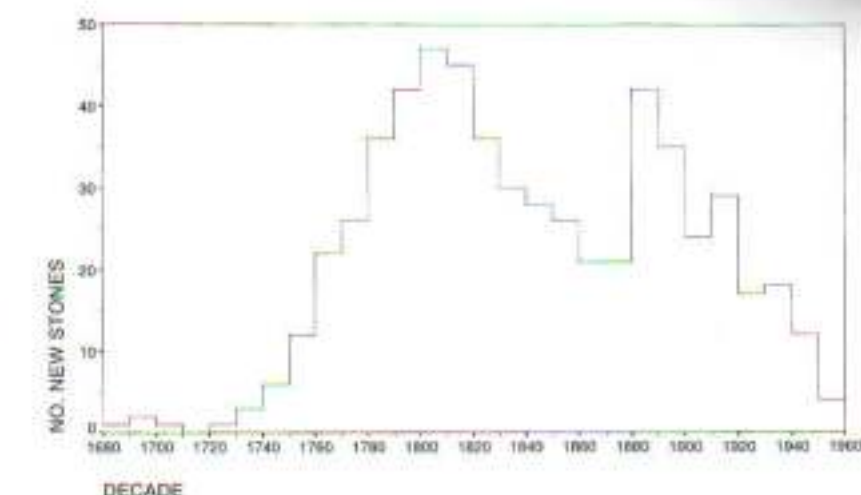


Fig 1—Number of memorials erected by decade

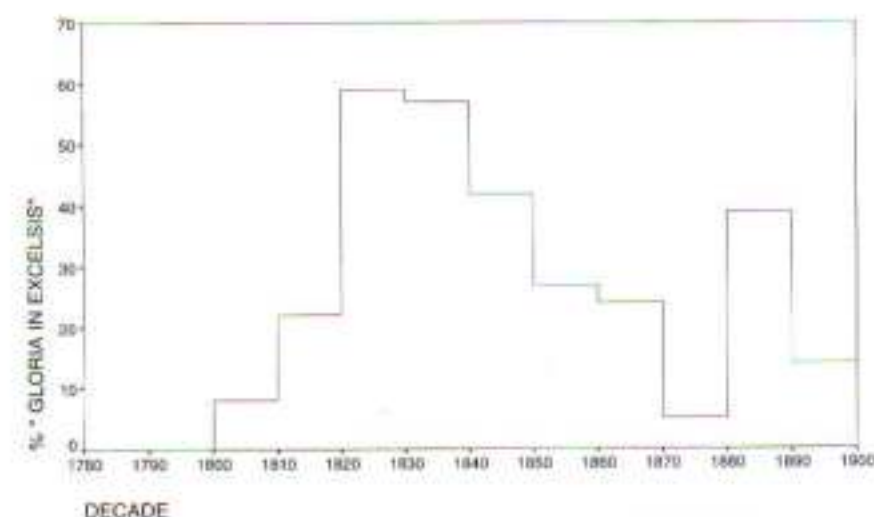


Fig 2—Percentage of memorials including Gloria in Excelsis in the design, by decade

burial location and method of marking were decided. Moreover, the natural topography of the Clonmacnoise site and the position of the Church of Ireland church provided additional features which affected the choices made by families with regard to their family plots.

The area does not now look like it did when it was a burial ground, because there has been landscaping and selective removal or laying flat of memorials to improve the visibility of the more ancient remains by the OPW. The translation of many of the large Celtic

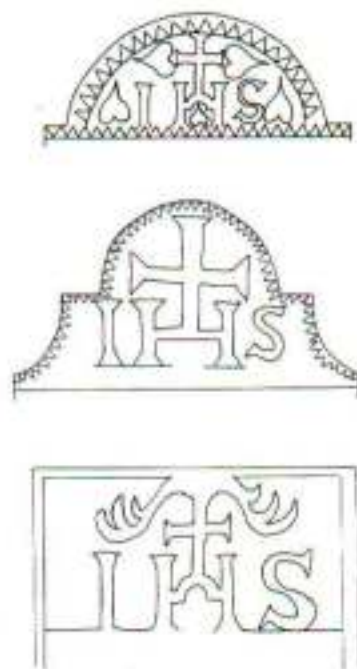


Fig 3—Sketch drawings, not to scale, of some designs on 18th century memorials

crosses to the new cemetery removed later visual competition for the high crosses, though the burial plots were marked by small slabs set in the turf. Numerous older monuments were laid flat, and most are now becoming overgrown by grass. This has had both a damaging and beneficial effect on these stones. Those parts in the centres of the stones exposed to the weather and on which water has collected have been badly eroded, but the peripheral areas quickly covered by the turf have been well preserved. The headstones that have been left standing are moderately well preserved, though often covered with lichen. One Clonmacnoise stone has already been illustrated in this *Newsletter* (O'Brien 1994). Where possible the partially buried stones have been recorded by temporarily peeling back the turf, though often this has been a slow and painstaking task.

The new cemetery area, yet to be recorded, contains the moved crosses and a fine selection of 20th century memorials, a valuable source of information on popular culture and religion. In this respect it naturally follows on from the earlier monuments, though the shift to exotic materials, already seen with some monuments in the old graveyard with the use of marble

and granite, is much more striking. Technological and social changes are also apparent, but until recording and analysis is finished, discussion will here concentrate on the earlier memorials.

The date range of monuments so far recorded from the earlier graveyard runs from the 1680s to the 1950s, but there are only few from the period before the mid-18th century, and popularity was waning throughout the 20th century (Fig. 1). At the moment there is a bimodal peak of popularity, with over 40 new stones per decade, in the 1800s and 1880s, though this pattern may change somewhat when the remaining stones are included.

Patterns of rising and falling popularity are already becoming apparent in a range of attributes of the stone and inscription. For example,

headstones with crosses of some sort on top appear in the 1840s, and peak in the 1890s. The phrase "*Gloria in Excelsis Deo*" appears in the 1800s, rises to be used on over 50% of monuments erected in the 1820s and 1830s, thereafter declining, only to rise briefly in popularity again in the 1880s (Fig 2). A typology of iconographical symbols, notably IHS and the use of hearts, is also being constructed, and may allow the identification of particular masons (Fig 3). Social interpretations can be derived from the spatial arrangement of stones by family and religion, the latter identifiable in many cases by the choice of introductory phrases, though these also change in popularity through time. The significance of age and gender can also be examined by considering the order of those commemorated, the

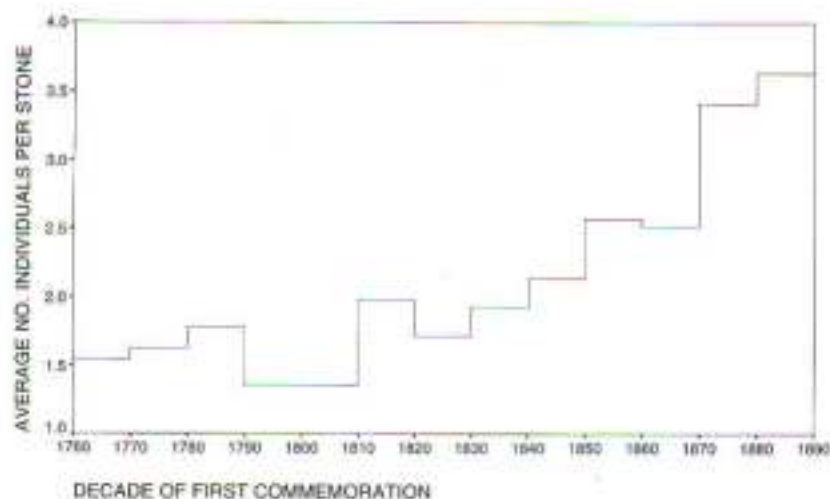


Fig 4—Average number of individuals recorded on stones, by decade of their erection

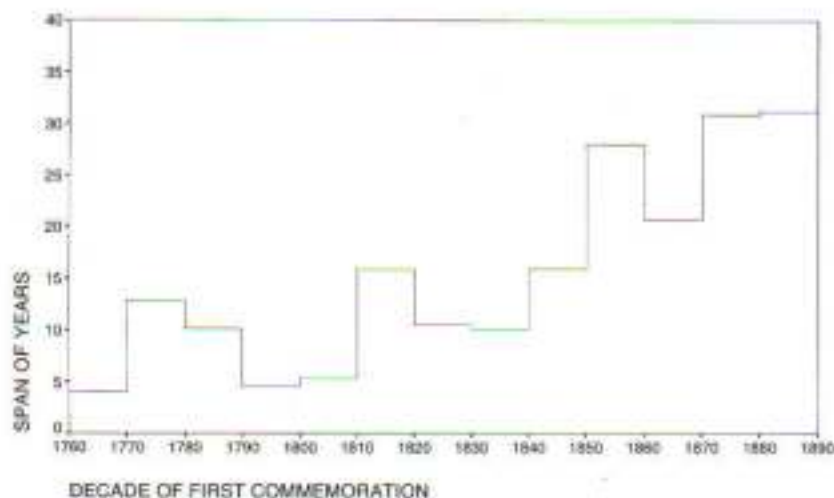


Fig 5—Average span of years between earliest and latest person commemorated on stones, plotted by decade of their erection

typographic and textual detail, and the use of symbols or epitaphs. The use of burial plots can also be considered by the number of individuals recorded on each stone (Fig 4), and the length of time from first to last death commemorated (Fig 5).

It is therefore clear that even from this preliminary fieldwork that a great deal can be elucidated about Irish culture, belief and society from graveyard data of the 17th to 20th century. Indeed, the examination of material culture of the present day, in its direct historical context, links then and now in a particularly poignant way. Preservation and conservation are therefore essential so that this tangible yet also academically important part of the heritage can be appreciated by future generations.

#### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all those at Clonmacnoise for their help and co-operation, and to the students who took part in the project. Special thanks goes to Robert Evans for his day-to-day supervision of the recording, and to Sabine Clifford for her preliminary consideration of the data on which the graphs are based.

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## THE LATE BRONZE AGE COMPLEX AT KILLYMOON

Declan P. Hurl

AFTER BEING NOTIFIED by the land-owner that his cattle were dislodging ancient stone artefacts from the edge of a rise in a peatbog outside Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, the site was fenced off and an excavation was mounted by Environment Service: Historic Monuments and Buildings, DoE(NI) in the Summer of 1995. A radiocarbon date in the 10th century BC had resulted from an analysis of a sample taken by the Palaeoecology Centre, QUB from the disturbed section.

#### The Site

The oval rise, approximately 22 x 13m, was excavated in quadrants, and was found to contain three mounds composed of up to a dozen alternating layers of charcoal and baked clay; the central mound, measuring 3.5 x 2.5m and 0.5m high, was the largest. The central and southerly mounds had stone settings at their bases: sandstone slabs for the central mound and limestone boulders for the southerly mound. The northerly mound, at 2m in diameter and 0.2m high, was the smallest, and had small charred wooden planks at the base. The absence of flues, voids or chamber makes the interpretation of the features problematic, though the obviously high temperatures generated would imply some sort of industrial process.

Emanating from the mounds was a layer of ashy soil, overlying which was size-

able spreads of charred barley and deposits of burnt material, possibly derived from the mounds.

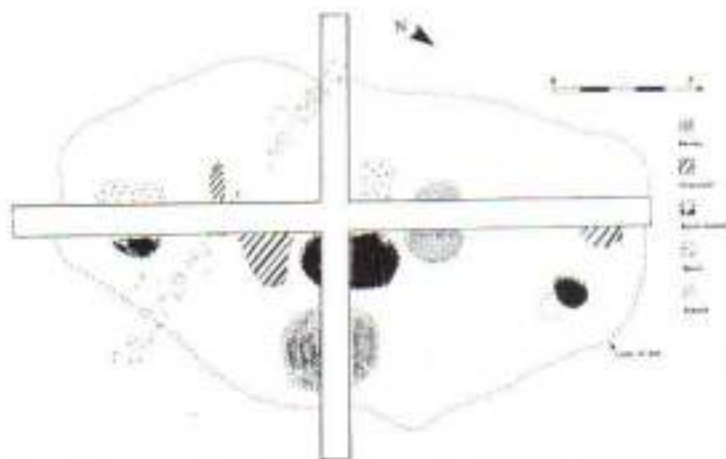
#### Finds

It was at the base of one of those deposits near the centre of the site that we found the two gold artefacts, a 'dress-fastener' and a 'sleeve-fastener'; the former was quite large and undecorated, whilst the latter had the longitudinal grooves and criss-cross terminal decoration commonly found on such artefacts.

Also uncovered at this level were a bronze socketed axe, clay moulds, saddle querns, stone spindle whorls, polished stone axes and quantities of coarse pottery; much of the pottery was directly associated with the charred barley. Organic remains included woollen cloth and fibre, and human and animal hair.

#### Pathway

Beneath the uppermost layer of peat, on which the 'industrial' contexts sat, we found a 0.8m-wide band of stakes and brushwood running east-west across the site. The arrangement appeared to be somewhat haphazard within the limits of the band, but it did seem to run towards a previously unrecorded drumlin-top enclosure some 300m to the west. A geophysical survey of the site could well yield valuable data, through its location on a golf course could prove to be a bit of a handicap!



# Minutes of IAPA Committee Meeting

51 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, 17 January 1996.

*Present:* C.J. Lynn (Chairman), V.M. Buckley, M. Cahill, B. Cassidy, T. Condit, M. Doody, C. Mount, M. O'Callaghan, P. Walsh, D.P. Hurl (Secretary)

1. The minutes of the previous committee meeting (3rd November '95) were read and approved. The Chairman also took the opportunity to welcome the new members of the committee.

## 2. Matters arising: Re item 7 — correspondence

M. Cahill informed the committee that the ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE was to be called DISCOVERY PROGRAMME LTD, and that it was planned to be set up at the start of the present calendar year. M. Doody confirmed that it was to be constituted as a company that week. The Council had not yet been appointed, with both the Academy and UCD withholding their nominations. It was agreed we should await developments.

## 3. New Members

(i) Paul Stevens applied for Graduate Membership, having satisfied the education and experience requirements. He had sent in a CV but not a completed application form, which was forwarded to him. His application was approved.

(ii) Norman Crothers applied for Full Membership, proposed by D.P. Hurl and E. Halpin. Although he had no formal qualifications in archaeology, he had been working in excavation, post-excavation and surveying for eighteen years and had been directing excavations for five years. His application was conditionally approved, with final assessment upon receipt of his CV.

(iii) Carra Murphy applied for Full Membership, proposed by T. Condit and D.P. Hurl. She had an honours degree and an MA in archaeology and had started field-working in 1985, her experience including excavation and post-excavation work, monitoring and surveying. She was now directing her own sites. Her application was approved.

## 4. Committee positions

The Chairman (C.J. Lynn), vice-chairman (P. Walsh), treasurer (M. Doody)

and an ordinary member (M. Cahill) complete their three-year terms at the next conference, and suggestions were sought concerning nominations for the vacancies. After some discussion, and V. Buckley phoning people thus suggested to assess their views, committee nominations were:

D. Sweetman as chairman, E. Halpin as vice-chairman, and A. O'Sullivan as treasurer. Several people were to be contacted regarding ordinary member nomination.

A question was raised regarding the apparent policy of excluding OIA committee members from holding similar office in IAPA: there is, however, nothing in the constitution regarding this matter, and it was felt not to be an obstacle at this time.

## 5. Policy and guidelines

At the AGM on 4th November '95 it was accepted that the discussion papers on 'Guidelines, procedures and standards' should be adopted as a working draft, with proposed amendments submitted to the current chairman by the end of January 1996. None had been received, although M. O'Callaghan informed the chairman that the Wetlands Unit would be submitting proposed amendments in the near future. It was agreed that it should remain a standard agenda item for committee meetings and AGMs, and that amendments would be communicated to the Association's membership each year. B. Cassidy said that it would define the expected working practice and standards for new members, and it was suggested that copies of this document as well as the constitution should be sent out to new members.

## 6. Maritime archaeology

D. Hurl said that a growing amount of maritime, riverine and lacustrine projects were being undertaken by ordinary divers concerned about the disturbance and destruction of sub-aquatic archaeological features, sometimes by the elements but more often by other divers. They had founded the Irish Underwater Archaeological Research Team to assist archaeologists with the identification and survey of such features. These archaeologists were becoming involved directly

with this work, and it was felt that a sub-committee should be established to bring this area of fieldwork into the professional mainstream (sic), and to recognise the qualifications currently offered by the Nautical Archaeology Society in Britain.

This motion was warmly welcomed and agreed, with IAPA members currently concerned with sub-aquatic research to be nominated as members of the sub-committee. C. Lynn also observed that this would involve amendments to the 'Policy and guidelines' document.

## 7. Correspondence

(i) C. Butler, secretary for the Working Group of the Dept. of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht's Heritage Policy Division sent a letter requesting a submission from the Association regarding the protection and conservation of the archaeological heritage, especially with regard to the planning process and the role of local authorities. Presumably the Working Group considered such submissions before forwarding advice to the Minister.

The question of the aims of the Working Group arose, as did its composition: were any of its members in IAPA? It was felt that a holding letter, acknowledging the request and asking for time to consider it, should be dispatched.

(ii) It was agreed that the letter of mutual recognition *viz.* the IFA in Britain should be published in the Newsletter for consideration by the membership. It was a stated aim of the Association to 'establish contact with similar organisations of professional archaeologists' (IAPA Constit. 2.4).

## 8. AOB

There was no further items for discussion.

9. The Spring Conference shall be held on 9-10th March in the Killyhevlin Hotel, Dublin Road, Enniskillen, Co. Tyrone. The topic shall be: 'The Future of Archaeological Research: Aims, Methods and Techniques'.

D.P. Hurl,  
Secretary, 22 January, 1996.

## **Submissions sought**

The Chair has received a letter from the Department of Arts Culture and the Gaeltacht seeking submissions from the association and its members.

Dear Dr. Lynn,

The minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht has, *inter alia*, responsibility for the physical heritage. He is particularly concerned for the protection of the archaeological heritage.

This Department has set up a Working Group which includes representatives of the National Monuments and Historic Properties Service, the National Museum of Ireland and the Department of the Environment.

The terms of reference of the Working Group are to examine the following issues:

1. Archaeology in the Planning Process.
2. The archaeological implications of road construction and service schemes.
3. Conservation of historic and national monuments in local authority ownership/guardianship.
4. The broader role of local authorities in relation to the protection of the archaeological heritage.

The Working Group is consulting relevant bodies in relation to these issues. Accordingly, as secretary to the Working Group, I am to invite you to forward, on behalf of your association, a written submission in relation to the above issues. In addition, if any members of your Association also wish to forward written submissions to the Working Group, these would be most welcome. Submissions from yourself, and from any other member of your Association, should be forwarded to reach me by the earliest possible date. Should you, or any members of your Association, wish to forward copies of relevant reports, papers etc. with submissions, this would, of course, be greatly appreciated.

Ciaran Butler,  
Secretary to Working Group,  
Heritage Policy Division.  
4 December 1995.

## **Proposed reciprocal arrangements between IAPA and IFA**

James Drummond Murray of the IFA has forwarded to the chair a draft for reciprocal arrangements between IAPA and IFA seeking approval from IAPA. The agreement has already been presented to the IFA council and approved.

### **IFA—INSTITUTE OF FIELD ARCHAEOLOGISTS**

The University of Manchester, Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9PL 0161-275 2304

*Draft 1 — Sept 1995*

### **Irish Association of Professional Archaeologists and Institute of Field Archaeologists Reciprocal Resolutions and Agreements**

#### **Professional Recognition**

1. The IFA/IAPA recognises IAPA/IFA as the appropriate professional body to represent archaeologists in Ireland.
2. The IFA/IAPA recognises that membership of the IFA/IAPA is open to IAPA/IFA members through the normal validation procedures.
3. IFA/IAPA members will support the IAPA/IFA standards and give guidance in those areas where it is thought appropriate.

#### **Representation**

1. There will be no IAPA/IFA representation on the IFA/IAPA council.
2. IFA/IAPA council agenda papers and minutes will be sent to either the IAPA/IFA Liaison Officer or its Chair (at the IAPA/IFA mailing address).

#### **Mailings, Publications, Events**

1. The IFA/IAPA agree to free enclosure of IAPA/IFA mail shots within IFA/IAPA mailings, so long as the appropriate number of copies is supplied.
2. Free and continuing exchange between Councils of membership publication: The IFA/IAPA will forward one copy of *The Field Archaeologist*, the IFA/IAPA Newsletter, the IFA/IAPA Directory, the IFA/IAPA Annual Report and occasional membership publications (Eg Standards) to the IAPA/IFA central mailing address
3. Free exchange between Councils of technical Papers; IFA/IAPA will forward one copy of technical Papers to the IAPA/IFA, central mailing address.
4. IAPA/IFA members may purchase IFA/IAPA Technical Papers at the same price as IFA/IAPA members.
5. IAPA/IFA members may attend IFA/IAPA conferences, seminars, training courses, or other similar events for the same fee as IFA/IAPA members.
6. IFA/IAPA regional groups will supply IAPA/IFA with a list of Regional Group Contacts.
7. An IAPA/IFA representative may attend the IFA/IAPA AGM.

#### **Exclusions**

1. There is no discount in membership fees for IAPA/IFA members who are also members of the IFA/IAPA.
2. There is no discount to IAPA/IFA members for IFA/IAPA Occasional Papers and publications.
3. The IAPA/IFA may not vote at the IFA/IAPA AGM (Unless a Member, Associate or Practitioner of the IFA/IAPA).

It is agreed by the Irish Association of Professional Archaeologists and the Institute of Field Archaeologists that these arrangements should come into force from .... and stand for a period of 2 years.

*Signed for IAPA/IFA*

*Signed for IFA/IAPA*