

# Eachtra Journal

ISSN 2009-2237

Issue 10

April-June 2011



Eachtra Archaeological Projects

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## Introduction to the Journal

It is our intention to use this web-based Journal to "narrate our work".

As we complete research articles, lectures, posters and other documents we will publish them here. Miscellaneous items of interest will also be recorded along with upcoming events.

In this way we intend to marry the strong Irish tradition of publication in journals with modern web-based media.

In this printed version of the Journal some slide presentations and reports in pdf format are not reproduced and must be viewed online.

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# A burnt mound, metalworking area & post-medieval settlement at Ballinglanna North, Co. Cork

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## Archaeological Excavation Report

### Burnt mound, metalworking area & post-medieval settlement

The excavation of the site at Ballinglanna North 1 revealed a range of features dating to the Late Bronze Age, the early medieval period and the modern period. The site was located on the western bank of the Glencorra Stream and most of the activity recorded on site was associated with this water source. The earliest evidence, a single flint blade, from the site dated to the Mesolithic. A small group of stone tools including flint debitage was dated to the Early Bronze Age but none of the features recorded on site could be assigned to the Early Bronze Age. A fulacht fiadh was dated to the Late Bronze Age. The mound overlay a substantial rectangular trough. The trough was connected to a well. A small number of post-holes were located to the south of the trough. The site was suitable as a location for metalworking, specifically iron smithing, in the early medieval period. A large ditch was excavated parallel and to the west of the Glencorra Stream. A large quantity of slag was recovered from the fills of the ditch and a small amount from a small group of pits on the eastern edge of the ditch. No certain features of metallurgical origin were recorded at the site. Two large storage pits and an area of domestic occupation are associated with the early medieval phase of activity. Finally the site was occupied in the modern period. A small stone structure, some linear features and a revetment wall on the western side of the Glencorra Stream date to the modern period.

**Authors:** Nick Garland, Jacinta Kiely and John Tierney

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## A group of pits at Ballinglanna North, Co. Cork

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Group of pits

The excavation of the site at Ballinglanna North 2 E2415 was divided into three areas of excavation. No archaeology was recorded in Area 1. The archaeological features at Area 2 comprised four hearths, a pit, three post-holes, and a stake-hole. The archaeological features excavated at Area 3 included 16 pits and a post-hole. Modern field boundaries were recorded within the area of excavation. A small assemblage of flint artefacts dating to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period was recorded at the site. An early medieval radiocarbon date was returned from one of the pits in Area 3.

**Authors:** John Tierney and Andrew Thompson

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## Two Neolithic Structures and two Fulachta Fiadh at Ballinglanna North, Co. Cork

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Two Neolithic Structures and two Fulachta Fiadh

The excavation of the site at Ballinglanna North 3 revealed the remains of one well-preserved rectangular building (Structure 1) that was dated to the Early Neolithic. There was also evidence for extensive activity in the area outside Structure 1. A second building (Structure 2) was also rectangular in plan and pottery from the area suggests that this was also Early Neolithic in date. This second house was, however, disturbed and somewhat truncated. Other archaeological activity at this site included the remains of two burnt mounds/fulachta fiadh (Burnt mound 1 and 2).

**Authors:** Penny Johnston & John Tierney

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# An Iron Age Pit and Modern Agricultural Features at Ballinglanna North, Co. Cork

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## Archaeological Excavation Report

### Iron Age Pit and Modern Agricultural Features

The excavation of the site at Ballinglanna North 4 comprised a single pit dated to the Iron Age and a group of field boundaries, furrows and small burnt areas which formed part of a field system, or systems, associated with agricultural production in the post-medieval period.

**Authors:** John Tierney and Andrew Thompson

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## Prehistoric pits at Ballinglanna North, Co. Cork

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Prehistoric pits

The archaeological excavations at Ballinglanna North 5 comprised two isolated pits. Both pits were dated to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, the northern pit by a radiocarbon date and the southern pit by the recovery of a flint scraper, (05E1150:2:1), recovered during the testing phase.

**Authors:** Linda Hegarty and Penny Johnston

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## A Fulacht Fiadh and a Pit at Ballinglanna North, Co. Cork

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Fulacht Fiadh and Pit

The site at Ballinglanna North 6 was divided into two areas. An early Mesolithic flint blade (E3972:1:1) was recovered from the topsoil. Area 1 comprised a burnt mound/fulacht fiadh that extended beyond the limit of the excavation to the west. The mound overlay a trough that had been re-cut. An Early Bronze Age date was returned for the mound. Area 2 was located 65 m to the north of Area 1. A pit was located on the northern edge of the area of excavation and extended beyond the baulk. A flint blade (E3972:21:2), dating to the first half of the Neolithic and a fragment of a quern stone (E3972:21:1) were recovered from the fill of the pit. Two hearths and associated stake-holes and two pits dating to the early modern period were also excavated in Area 2. An early modern date was returned for one of the hearths. The entire area of excavation was truncated by land drains, furrows and field ditches.

**Authors:** John Tierney

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## A dry water course at Ballynacarriga, Co. Cork

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Dry water course

The excavation of the site at Ballynacarriga 1 revealed a dry water course. The stream may have been diverted during construction works associated with the nearby Ballynacarriga House. A flint flake and sherds of 18 th /19 th century pottery were recovered from the sands and gravels of the dry water course. The flint flake dates to the Neolithic period.

**Authors:** John Lehane and Jacinta Kiely

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## An early medieval enclosure at Ballynacarriga, Co. Cork

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Early medieval enclosure

The site at Ballynacarriga 2 E2413 comprised a D-shaped enclosure on the edge of a limestone reef overlooking the Funshion River. The ditch enclosed the northern and eastern sides of the site. The edge of the reef was located on the western side. No convincing enclosing element was recorded on the south-western side. The entrance was likely to have been in the south-east. Structure 1, rectangular in plan, was located in the centre of the site. Structure 2 was located 5 m to the north-east. A small group of pits, possibly associated with metal-working was located to the immediate north-west of Structure 2. A group of pits, associated with the domestic occupation of the site, were located 10 m south of Structure 2. A dry-stone built souterrain was recorded in the north-western portion of the site. It comprised an entrance, passage and corbelled circular chamber. The entrance faced south-east. Five post-holes were located in the area of the entrance and may have formed a shelter or structure around the entrance.

Lithic stone tools, dating to the second half of the Neolithic were recovered from secondary contexts on site. Three coarse stone tools dating to the early medieval period were recovered from the ditch and the souterrain. A small archaeometallurgy assemblage including slags from both iron smelting and smithing was recovered from the ditch, souterrain and features associated with Structure 2. The ditch was used as a repository for food waste. Over 2000 animal bone fragments, the majority identified as cattle and a small quantity of plant remains, wheat, barley and oats were recovered from the ditch fills. Five early medieval, between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> century, radiocarbon dates were returned from the ditch, souterrain, Structure 1 and Structure 2.

**Authors:** Jacinta Kiely and John Lehane

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## Prehistoric site with enclosure, structures, two ring ditches and associated cist burials at Ballynacarriga, Co. Cork

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Prehistoric site with enclosure, structures, two ring ditches and associated cist burials

The excavation of the site at Ballynacarriga 3 revealed a multi-period site with several phases of activity including an Early Neolithic hearth, some Middle Neolithic pottery (probably re-deposited), a Late Neolithic settlement with identifiable structures, some Beaker pottery, Early Bronze Age burials and associated ring ditches. There was some Iron Age activity, mostly represented by radiocarbon dates. An enclosure that surrounded the Late Neolithic settlement appears to be medieval or later in date, and was probably associated with later field systems.

**Authors:** John Lehane, Penny Johnston & Debbie Leigh

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## Prehistoric activity at Ballynamona, Co. Cork

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Prehistoric activity

The excavation of the site at Ballynamona was spread over two areas (Area 1 and Area 2). Excavation revealed nine pits, two post-holes and a linear feature in Area 1 and 12 pits and two linear features from Area 2. Some finds of prehistoric pottery indicated Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity.

**Authors:** John Tierney and Penny Johnston

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# Neolithic and Beaker Features, Middle Bronze Age Structures and Iron Age Industrial Activity at Ballynamona, Co. Cork

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## Archaeological Excavation Report

### Neolithic and Beaker Features, Middle Bronze Age Structures and Iron Age Industrial Activity

The archaeology from Ballynamona 2 included a large amount of activity that dated from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age/early medieval period. It is likely that the excavation at Ballynamona 2 only identified a small portion of the settlement evidence at this site, and that there is more archaeological material to the north of the structures, outside the area of the road take. There was evidence for several phases of occupation, including evidence from the Early Neolithic, the Late Neolithic, Beaker/Chalcolithic period, the Middle Bronze Age, the Late Bronze Age and the Iron Age. Sometimes this evidence was artefactual (in particular pottery and lithics) but radiocarbon dating also suggested that Middle Bronze Age settlement was extensive, with less widespread evidence for some industrial activity in the Iron Age.

**Authors:** Linda Hegarty

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## Burnt Mound at Caherdrinny, Co. Cork

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Burnt Mound

A layer of burnt mound material was recorded on the banks of a small stream at Caherdrinny 1 on low marginal ground. Many theories speculate as to the actual use of burnt mound/fulacht fiadh sites (e.g. O'Kelly 1954; Ó Drisceoil 1988). We recognise the sites archaeologically by the remains of charcoal and heat shattered stones but as Ó Néill (2004) points out, these are the remains of a technology (the use of hot stones known as 'pyrolithic technology'), rather than specific indications of the aims of the process.

Burnt mounds are the most common Bronze Age sites found in Ireland. Estimates suggest that at least 4,500 examples are known, over 3,000 in Co. Cork and an usual high density specifically in North Cork (Power 2000). The characteristic site-type is found in low-lying and damp ground and consists of a mound of charcoal-rich black sediment that is packed with heat shattered stones and forms a horse-shoe shape around a pit or trough that filled with water. In many cases all that survives to the present day are black charcoal rich deposits with fragments of shattered stones visible in ploughed fields.

These sites are associated with the process of roasting stones to heat water. The remains of these 'pyrolithic technologies' (terminology follows Ó Néill 2004) produce the tell-tale deposits rich in charcoal and heat-affected stone. Debate continues about their use, as hot water is required for many processes including cooking, brewing, washing, dyeing and, most recently it has been argued that some burnt mounds were primarily used to boil and cure meat for long term storage (Roycroft 2006).

Traditionally these sites have been interpreted as ancient cooking places, where large stones were heated in fires and then added to the water filled trough the extreme heat of the stones eventually heating the water in the trough until it reached boiling point.

The inventory for North Cork lists over 1600 burnt mounds located in North Co. Cork. (Power 2002) (Figure 5). Many more have been recorded since the inventory was published. A total of seven burnt mounds including Caherdrinny were excavated on the N8 Fermoy to Mitchelstown. Three burnt mound sites were excavated on the N8 Mitchelstown Relief Road, and 12 on the N8 Mitchelstown to Cashel.

**Authors:** Linda Hegarty and Nick Garland

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## Pits and Postholes at Caherdrinny, Co. Cork

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Pits and Postholes

The site comprised a cluster of ten pits and post-holes and a series of plough furrows. There was also a small feature containing charcoal located 5 m south of the main cluster of features. Caherdrinny 2 appears to be the remains of a funerary pyre. There is no evidence that the cremated remains were buried at the site. The site does not suggest more than a single episode of burning. The absence of in situ scorching of the subsoil suggests either that the pyre was built on the topsoil or that it was raised above ground, with the posts smouldering down to their base, leaving no evidence of in situ burning. A radiocarbon date suggested that activity at the site dated to the Middle Bronze Age.

**Authors:** Nicholas Bower and Penny Johnston

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## Linear Features, Field Drains and Stake-holes at Carrigane, Co. Cork

This entry is part 16 of 37 in the Issue [\[1\]](#) [10](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Linear Features, Field Drains and Stake-holes

The excavation of the site at Carrigane 1 comprised six linear features, field drains and stake-holes. The majority of these features appeared to be post-medieval in date.

**Authors:** Simon O'Faoláin

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## Smithing Hearth Pit at Garryleagh, Co. Cork

This entry is part 17 of 37 in the Issue **[1]** [10](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Smithing Hearth Pit

The excavation of the site at Garryleagh revealed a smithing hearth pit and associated short length of ditch and modern agricultural features. Metallurgical residues were recovered from the fills of the hearth C.13 and the ditch C.9 and were derived from iron-working (smithing). A medieval radiocarbon date, indicating use in the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries, was obtained from the fill of the hearth.

**Authors:** Simon O'Faolain

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## Cremation Pit, Post-Holes, Pits, Linear Features, a Hearth and a Stake-Hole at Glenatlucky, Co. Cork

This entry is part 18 of 37 in the Issue **[1]** **[10](#)**

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Cremation Pit, Post-Holes, Pits, Linear Features, a Hearth and a Stake-Hole

The excavation of the site at Glenatlucky revealed a cremation pit, four post-holes, a hearth, three pits, one stake-hole and four linear features. The cremation pit contained the remains of a young adult of indeterminate gender and fragments of an encrusted urn, indicating a burial date in the Early Bronze Age. Charcoal from the cremation pit returned a post-medieval or modern radiocarbon date, evidently an anomalous result. Charcoal from another pit indicated an Early Bronze Age date. This is more generally representative of the activity at the site than the modern radiocarbon date from the cremation pit. Only a portion of the cremated body and the funerary pottery were found, suggesting secondary re-deposition of the original burial.

**Authors:** Linda Hegarty & Penny Johnston

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## Prehistoric activity, including a Bronze age structure at Gortnahown, Co. Cork

This entry is part 19 of 37 in the Issue **[1]** **[10](#)**

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Prehistoric activity, including a Bronze age structure

The excavation of the site at Gortnahown 1 comprised two separate areas of excavation. A group of over 30 pits, post-holes and stake-holes were excavated in Area 1. An Early Bronze Age and an Iron Age date were returned from pits in Area 1. At Area 2 there were 26 cut features, these included six slot trenches, five pits, eight stake-holes and four post-holes, which represented the truncated remains of a Bronze Age house. A saddle quern, a small quantity of charred animal bone and a token deposit of the cremated remains of a juvenile were recovered from the Bronze Age house.

**Authors:** Julianna O'Donoghue

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## Prehistoric Activity and Early Medieval Settlement Site with Iron Working at Gortnahown, Co. Cork

This entry is part 20 of 37 in the Issue [\[1\]](#) [10](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Prehistoric Activity and Early Medieval Settlement Site with Iron Working

The site at Gortnahown was divided into five separate cuttings. Areas 1 and 2 comprised one cutting. Area 3 was located 80 m to the south-west. Area 4 was located 110 m south-west of Area 3 and Area 5 was located 65 m south of Area 4. Areas of activity centred on hearths were dated to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period. One of the hearth-side groups was associated with flint knapping. Two substantial roundhouses and two ancillary structures, including a workshop were dated to the early medieval period. Evidence for all phases of metalworking including the manufacture of bronze coated iron bells was recorded at the site. The area was enclosed by a ditch in the medieval or post-medieval period.

Evidence for Early Neolithic and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age occupation was recorded in the form of a number of pits and post-holes in Area 3. Post-medieval pits and ditches were recorded in Area 4. The truncated remains of two possible medieval houses and a number of pits were recorded in Area 5.

**Authors:** Jacinta Kiely and Julianna O'Donoghue

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## Prehistoric activity at Gortnahown, Co. Cork

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Prehistoric activity

The excavation of the site at Gortnahown 3 revealed prehistoric settlement remains. These were concentrated in the eastern part of the site and they included a hearth and a group of pits and stake-holes dated to the Late Bronze Age. In the western part of the site a small concentration of stake-holes, a pit and two post-holes was found clustered around a hearth. In between the eastern and the western concentrations of archaeological features there was a single isolated hearth dated to the Iron Age. Lithic artefacts dating to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and sherds of Domestic Cordoned Urn were recovered from some of the pits.

**Authors:** Julianna O'Donoghue, Debbie Leigh & Penny Johnston

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## Ex-situ burnt mound at Gortnahown, Co. Cork

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Ex-situ burnt mound

The excavation of the site at Gortnahown 4 revealed deposits of disturbed burnt mound material overlain by re-deposited subsoil. The layers of burnt mound material were ex situ. They may have been removed from their original location during land reclamation works. No radiocarbon date was obtained for this site.

**Authors:** James Lyttleton and Antonia Doolan

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## Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity on the banks of the River Funshion, Gortore Co. Cork

This entry is part 23 of 37 in the Issue [\[1\]](#) [10](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Early Bronze Age activity on the banks of the River Funshion

The excavation of the site at Gortore 1b E2410 comprised three areas, 1, 2 and 3. The site was located on the southern bank of the River Funshion. A truncated house and a group of pits and post-holes were excavated in Area 1. A group of pits, some dating to the Mesolithic period, were excavated in Area 2. A large concentration of pits, post-holes and hearths, which formed at least two possible structures, were excavated in Area 3. The underlying limestone geology and the formation of sink holes in Area 3 were problematic.

An important assemblage of lithic artefacts, dating from the Early Mesolithic to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, was recovered, in particular from Area 2 and Area 3. An assemblage of Early Neolithic carinated bowls and Middle Neolithic gobular bowls was also recovered from the site. A corn-drying kiln dated to the early medieval period was recorded in Area 1.

**Authors:** Julianna O'Donoghue

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## Post-medieval Ditches and Linear Features at Gortore, Co. Cork

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Post-medieval Ditches and Linear Features

The site at Gortore 2 was discovered during Phase 2 geophysical testing when a possible ditched enclosure was identified. The excavated site comprised as series of ditches, linear features and furrows that were probably post-medieval in date.

**Authors:** John Tierney, Debbie Leigh and Penny Johnston

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## Fulacht fiadh at Kildrum, Co. Cork

This entry is part 25 of 37 in the Issue **[1]** **10**

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Fulacht fiadh

The excavation of the site at Kildrum revealed a fulacht fiadh with five troughs with numerous fills of burnt mound material. The actual burnt mound survived only as shallow layers truncated by a deep field boundary. Two of the troughs were large in size and showed evidence of lining as stake-holes were recorded in the base of the troughs. Early Bronze Age dates were returned from charcoal from two of the fills of the troughs. The site was truncated by a field boundary, several land drains and a modern forest plantation.

No water source is evident in the immediate surrounds of the site but running water was recorded in the base of the field boundary. Analysis of charcoal from the site suggests that almost equal amounts of hazel, oak, and alder charcoal were used in the fires at the site.

**Authors:** John Tierney and Andrew Thompson

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## Bronze Age habitation at Kilshanny, Co. Cork

This entry is part 26 of 37 in the Issue **[1]** [10](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Bronze Age habitation

The excavation of the site at Kilshanny 1 revealed the remains of Bronze Age habitation that included a round house, a possible associated structure and an enclosing component. The remains of a post-medieval field system were also excavated. Radiocarbon dates from the site were very diverse and the range of results included Early Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age, Iron Age and medieval dates.

**Authors:** James Lyttleton & Nick Garland

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## Pits at Kilshanny, Co. Cork

This entry is part 27 of 37 in the Issue **[1]** [10](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Pits

The excavation of the site at Kilshanny 2 revealed five pits spread over two fields, labelled A and B. It is likely that these were post-medieval in date. A single radiocarbon date acquired for the site revealed a date for the Middle Bronze Age.

**Authors:** James Lyttleton & Nick Garland

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## Burnt Mound at Kilshanny, Co. Cork

This entry is part 28 of 37 in the Issue **[1] 10**

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Burnt Mound

The excavation of the site at Kilshanny 3 comprised a burnt mound. The mound overlay a large rectangular trough, two pits and a post-hole. Two Late Bronze Age radiocarbon dates were returned from the fills of the trough and a pit. A small quantity of charred cereals and plant remains were recovered from the burnt mound.

**Authors:** James Lyttleton & Nick Garland

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## Middle Bronze Age houses at Mitchelstown, Co. Cork

This entry is part 31 of 37 in the Issue [\[1\]](#) [10](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Middle Bronze Age houses

The site at Mitchelstown 1 was discovered during archaeological investigations along the route of the Mitchelstown Relief Road. The site comprised three houses constructed in at least two phases, one of the houses having been cut by the other two. The houses were approximately 10m in diameter and were roughly D-shaped in plan, with entrances centrally located on the straight side, facing east. One of the houses showed clear evidence of having had an internal division in the form of a slot trench running between two structural postholes. The slot trench could have held a wattle wall separating the entrance area (approximately one-third of the floor area) from the remainder of the house.

Little evidence was found of the material culture or economy of the inhabitants of the Mitchelstown houses. No pottery was recovered from the site and the few lithics were undiagnostic.

The number of cereal grains recovered from the soil samples was too small to allow any interpretation of the economy or diet of the population. A striking aspect of the environmental material however was the large number of seeds of the Dock family. These are usually considered to be weed seeds brought into houses inadvertently along with cereals. However, that is unlikely here, given the paucity of cereal grains on the site, and it may be that Dock seeds were deliberately gathered as a food source. Parallels for this have been found in Britain and Denmark where Dock seeds have been found in the gut contents of bog bodies.

The Mitchelstown houses have numerous parallels among the growing numbers of Middle Bronze Age houses now being discovered in recent Irish excavations and add to the expanding settlement pattern of the period.

**Author:** Eamonn Cotter

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## Early Bronze Age pit and burnt mound at Mitchelstown, Co. Cork

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Early Bronze Age pit and burnt mound

The recording of three Early Bronze Age pots within a small pit is a very significant find. There are no parallels for the two small pots, one of which was decorated to represent a human face or body. The pit containing the pottery was located on the northern bank of the Gradoge River on the western fringe of the road corridor, it is possible that further archaeological features are located to the west. The pit maybe associated with the burnt mound. The radiocarbon date returned for the pottery would overlap with Early Bronze Age dates returned for Fulachta Fiadh in Stagpark 3 (04E1119), located 2200m to the south, and are almost identical to dates returned for Early Bronze Age activity in Stagpark 1 (04E1120), located 1400m to the south.

There are 16 Bronze Age burials, comprising cist burials, Food Vessel burials, Urn burials and pit burials, recorded within a 13 km radius of the site. The burials are generally located on low-lying ground between 60 m and 100 m OD. Some are located within 500 m of the Funshion River and its tributaries, the Sheep River, the Tooraleagan River and the Gradoge River. Generally, Early Bronze Age burials tend to be concentrated in low-lying areas such as valley floors, while the associated settlement sites are probably located on higher ground along the valleys (Cooney & Grogan 1999, 103). While the majority of graves contain the remains of one individual, multiple burials, either collective or successive, also occurred. The majority of the Cordoned Urns are associated with burials and the simple pit grave is the commonest type (Waddell 2000, 149).

The Mitchelstown pit and pottery group shares some characteristics of Early Bronze Age burial practices in terms of the low-lying location in the river valley, the simple form of the pit itself, and the deposition of the Cordoned Urn. However, many aspects are very different. The creation of a face and human features on Vessels 2 and 3, the positioning of the ears, anatomically incorrect, on both vessels and the inclusion of a spoon are all unusual. In addition, despite the inclusion of a Cordoned Urn - usually a funerary vessel, there was no evidence of burial recorded at the site. The deposition therefore points away from burial and towards other ritual, for instance libation to a deity. It is also possible that this pit does not exist in isolation and other archaeological features, including burials, may be located in the area to the west, beyond the edge of the road corridor.

**Authors:** Jacinta Kiely and Bruce Sutton

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## Bronze Age and Iron Age features at Stagpark, Co. Cork

This entry is part 33 of 37 in the Issue [\[1\]](#) [10](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Bronze Age and Iron Age features

A group of over a hundred pits, postholes and stakeholes were located on the hilltop at Stagpark. The features dated from the Early Bronze Age to the Middle Iron Age which would suggest that the hilltop was occupied over a long period of time. Four pits containing burnt fills were recorded in Area A and Area C. The pits were similar in terms of morphology, size and date. The two sets of pits were located within 1m of each other and c. 40m apart. Almost identical Early Bronze Age dates were returned for two of the pits. The pits may have functioned as cremation pits, although minute traces of burnt bone was recorded in only one of the fills. They may also have been utilised for a domestic purpose. One of the two large pits (C.1001) in Area B was dated to the Early Bronze Age. It is difficult to interpret the function of these pits as they are exceptionally large. Stakeholes recorded on the upper sides of pit C.1001, these may have formed a frame or covering for the pit.

The recovery of two sherds of Late Bronze Age coarse ware from a pit, in the vicinity of the hearth-pit C.22, in the northwest section of Area A, would indicate that this area was utilised during the Late Bronze Age. A cluster of three pits and eight stakeholes were located to the southeast of the hearth. Four of the stakeholes in particular could have formed a shelter around the hearth open to the west. Although no dating evidence was obtained from the features in the vicinity of the large pits C.66 and C.90 it is possible that they are associated with the Late Bronze Age activity surrounding the hearth C.22.

A Middle Iron Age date was returned from the later re-cut of the large pit C.110. An L-shaped alignment, consisting of three pits, 13 stakeholes and three postholes, extended to the north and east of the pit. The alignment measured c. 6m north-south by 13m east-west. It could be associated with the Middle Iron Age pit C.110, the Early Bronze Age cremation pits or the Late Bronze Age features. A number of fulachta fiadh were recorded downslope to the north and south of the site. Three burnt mounds were recorded (CO019-019, -020 and -021) within 500m of the site, while four other burnt mounds were excavated as part of this road project; Stagpark 1 (04E1119) was 600m to the south, Stagpark 2 (04E1121) was 200m away to the north and Mitchelstown 2 (04E1071) was 1.5km to the north. The fulachta fiadh are located on heavier clay subsoil. Radiocarbon dates obtained from some of the burnt mounds would suggest that these sites were utilized during the Early Bronze Age.

The site, possibly located on the margins of prehistoric settlement, forms an interesting contrast to a Middle Bronze Age settlement site excavated at Mitchelstown 1 (04E1072). The remains of at least three circular houses were excavated at Mitchelstown 1. The site was located on a limestone ridge on the northern bank of the Gradoge River. The opposing site on the southern bank of the Gradoge River was subsequently occupied by the Anglo Normans in the thirteenth century. The material evidence recorded on site was scant. No associated pits and stakeholes were associated with the structures. It is possible that these features were located outside the route corridor.

**Author:** Bruce Sutton

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## Fulacht fiadh and corn drying kiln at Stagpark, Co. Cork

This entry is part 34 of 37 in the Issue [\[1\]](#) [10](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Fulacht fiadh and corn drying kiln

##### Bronze Age

The site occurs within an area where a cluster of Bronze Age fulachta fiadh sites have been identified. Three burnt mounds were recorded (CO019-019, -020 and -021) within 800m of Stagpark 2, while two other burnt mounds were excavated as part of this road project within Stagpark townland; Stagpark 3 (O4E1119) was 800m away to the south. The intense use of this small area for the purposes of heating stones and water has produced a date range that suggests occupation on a long-term, if perhaps intermittent basis from at least the Early Bronze Age. Additional evidence from another fulacht fiadh (Mitchelstown 2, 1200m to the north) augments the general suggestion that many of the fulachta fiadh sites in this area were primarily in use during this period, as it was found in association with pits that produced an Early Bronze Age date. With the exception of the burnt mound at Mitchelstown 2, which was located on the northern bank of the Gradoge River, the remaining burnt mounds are not located adjacent to any known or contemporary water sources. The underlying subsoil is however a heavy clay which holds water very effectively being almost impermeable. The heavier wetter ground in the area was used for sites such as these, but archaeological evidence indicates that contemporary occupation occurred on the higher drier ground, for example the extensive occupation site found at Mitchelstown 1 (O4E1072), found just 2km to the north and the occupation site at Stagpark 1 (O4E1120) 200m to the south.

##### Medieval Period

Corn-drying kilns were used to dry cereal grains and other crops in order to facilitate crop processing, to harden grains prior to grinding and to convert the grain into malt; the process of making malt is described in some early texts, and differs only minimally from the manner of malt preparation today (Binchy 1980). Lowering the moisture content of the grains also made them less susceptible to mould, fungal and insect attack and therefore increased the likelihood that they would come through storage intact. Drying kilns first appear in Britain during the Roman period, and it is possible that their use may have been due to necessity; to fumigate the grain crops in order to stop the spread of the stored product pest, the grain weevil (*Sitophilus granarius*): the earliest findings of these beetles from archaeological contexts in Northwestern Europe are all from within the Roman Empire (Reilly 2003). It is not known when the grain weevil was introduced into Ireland, the earliest example found to date is from late Viking/early Anglo-Norman levels at Waterford (Reilly 2003) and the use of kilns in this country predates this (e.g. a radiocarbon date of Cal AD 410-485 was obtained from Kiltinan North, Co. Limerick: O2E0666). Their use continued in some parts of Ireland into the relatively recent past, Scott (1951) described several kilns that were still in use up to the beginning of the twentieth century.

These examples demonstrate that the timeframe during which these monuments were in use was vast, spanning revolutionary changes in the approach to and organisation of agriculture in Ireland. O'Sullivan and Downey (2005) suggest that the geographical distribution of kilns is predominantly northern and western based on patterns in early nineteenth century Ordnance Survey maps. However, this pattern is because they were used in these areas in the more recent past; many archaeological examples of corn drying kilns have been found in Leinster and Munster during the course of recent infrastructural development. This suggests that they are a common archaeological site type and medieval texts suggest that there may even have been one kiln for communal use in every rural neighbourhood (Kelly, 1998).

**Author:** Bruce Sutton

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## Two Fulachta fiadh at Stagpark, Co. Cork

This entry is part 35 of 37 in the Issue [1] [10](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Two fulachta fiadh

The site occurs within an area where a cluster of Bronze Age fulachta fiadh sites have been identified. Three burnt mounds were recorded (CO019-019, -020 and -021) within 500m of the site, while two other burnt mounds were excavated as part of this road project; Stagpark 2 (04E1121) was 800m away to the north and Mitchelstown 2 (04E1071) was 2km to the north. The intense use of this small area for the purposes of heating stones and water has produced a date range that suggests occupation on a long-term, if perhaps intermittent basis from at least the Early Bronze Age. The lower heavier wetter ground in the area was used for sites such as these. With the exception of the burnt mound at Mitchelstown 2, which was located on the northern bank of the Gradoge River, the remaining burnt mounds are not located adjacent to any known or contemporary water sources. The underlying subsoil is however a heavy clay which holds water very effectively being almost impermeable. The archaeological evidence indicates that contemporary Early Bronze Age occupation occurred on the higher drier ground, at Stagpark 1 (04E1120) 600m to the north. An extensive occupation site, dating to the Middle Bronze Age, was located on a limestone ridge on the northern bank of the Gradoge River at Mitchelstown 1 (04E1072) 2.8km to the north.

**Author:** Bruce Sutton

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## Neolithic house at Caherdrinny, Co. Cork

This entry is part 37 of 37 in the Issue [1] [10](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Neolithic house

The excavation of the site at Caherdrinny 3 comprised several phases of activity. The main phase of activity dated to the Early Neolithic Period and comprised a large rectangular house and associated pits, occupation surfaces, hearths and post-holes. Early Neolithic pottery and lithics were recovered. The other phases of activity at Caherdrinny 3 included the Mesolithic, Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (Beaker), Early Bronze Age, Iron Age and medieval.

**Authors:** Nicholas Bower, Linda Hegarty, Sebastian Lugowski and Magda Miciak

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[6] «Previous entry: <http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/en-tierras-de-guadix-el-conocimiento-arqueologico-de-las-ciudades-historicas/>



- Eachtra Journal - <http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/> -

## Early Medieval Archaeology Student Symposium

Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow

This entry is part 1 of 37 in the Issue [1] 10

25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2011

The fifth Early Medieval Archaeology Student Symposium will take place at the University of Glasgow from Wednesday 25th - Friday 27th May, 2011. The conference will consist of two days of papers (25th and 26th), with a Wine and Whisky reception to be held at Govan Old Parish Church, which is home to an impressive collection of early medieval sculpture. An optional fieldtrip to the Perthshire region is scheduled for the third day (27th); the itinerary will include Dupplin high-cross, Meigle Pictish Stone museum, Dunkeld Cathedral, and Muthill 11th century church tower.

### Registration:

Details on how to register are already available on the [2] [symposium Facebook page](#) and [3] [website](#).

In the meantime, you can have a look to the [4] [poster](#), [5] [provisional programme](#), and a document with information on [6] [how to register and pay](#).

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URLs in this post:

[1] 10: <http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/issues/10/>

[2] symposium Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/EMASS2011>

[3] website: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/archaeology/newslinks/emass/>

[4] poster: [http://eachtra.ie/../../new\\_site/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/EMASS\\_POSTER.pdf](http://eachtra.ie/../../new_site/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/EMASS_POSTER.pdf)

[5] provisional programme: [http://eachtra.ie/../../new\\_site/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/PROVISIONAL\\_PROGRAMME.pdf](http://eachtra.ie/../../new_site/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/PROVISIONAL_PROGRAMME.pdf)

[6] how to register and pay: [http://eachtra.ie/../../new\\_site/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/PaymentOptions.pdf](http://eachtra.ie/../../new_site/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/PaymentOptions.pdf)

[7] Next entry»: <http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/interpreting-identity-our-construct-or-theirs/>

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[7] Next entry»: <http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/interpreting-identity-our-construct-or-theirs/>

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## Interpreting identity. Our construct or theirs?

This entry is part 2 of 37 in the Issue **[1]** **10**

### A two day symposium exploring prehistoric identity in Europe

**27th-28th May 2011**  
**School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology**  
**Queen's University, Belfast**

#### International keynote speaker:

Prof. Helle Vandkilde, University of Aarhus

#### Guest closing speaker:

Dr Joanna Brück, University College Dublin



[2] If the assumption that prehistoric identities are intrinsically intertwined with the physical remnants of material culture is accepted, then how can the archaeological record be interpreted to help us understand who our predecessors were? Where does the individual end and the collective begin?

This two-day symposium will explore the theme of identity within a pan-European prehistoric context, with a focus on Ireland and northwest Britain. Speakers will present a case study to discuss the role that the construction and consumption of artefacts, settlement, burial, or ritual monuments has had in generating and maintaining a social identity within a small geographic region, or on a wider, island-wide or intra-island scale.

#### Session Titles:

Material culture of the dead  
Material culture of the living  
Architectural and ritual expressions  
Our construct or theirs?  
Debate session

#### Registration Fee: Free to all

#### For further details and a registration form:

[3] <http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/gap/News/Events/#d.en.225746>

or

[4] <http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/gap/>

Deadline for registration: 13th May 2011.

[5] [Facebook page](#)

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[1] 10: **<http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/issues/10/>**

[2] Image: **[http://eachtra.ie/new\\_site/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/interpreting\\_identity.jpg](http://eachtra.ie/new_site/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/interpreting_identity.jpg)**

[3] <http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/gap/News/Events/#d.en.225746>: **<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/gap/News/Events/#d.en.225746>**

[4] <http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/gap/>: **<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/gap/>**

[5] Facebook page: **<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Interpreting-Identity-Our-construct-or-theirs/160843387301127>**

[6] «Previous entry: **<http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/early-medieval-archaeology-student-symposium/>**

[7] Next entry»: **<http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/e2414-ballinglanna-north1-co-cork/>**

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## Communicating Archaeology - A forum for professionals and the public

**Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland and the**

This entry is part 29 of 37 in the Issue **[1]** **10**

**NRA**

**Harbour Hotel, Galway, 16 June 2011**

This event will focus on the communication and consumption of archaeological information by professionals and the public.

What works? What does not? What needs support? What new media are available and how do they compare with the old?

Keynote speakers will set the scene with discussion points but most of the time will be for all who attend to air views and share experiences.

### **Programme**

11 am – 12 noon

#### **Regulation and resources**

Keynote speaker: Jerry O'Sullivan, NRA Archaeologist

What is the role of the regulatory authorities? Is the education system producing competent communicators? Who pays for information and where is it all stored?

12 noon – 1 pm

#### **Printed publications**

Keynote speaker: Dr Michael Potterton, Four Courts Press

Is the Age of the Book at an end? Who writes and produces archaeological books and periodicals? Who buys them and how do they use them? What should we put in them?

1 pm – 2.15 pm

#### **Lunch**

2.15 pm – 3.15 pm

#### **Other media and new media**

Keynote speaker: John Tierney, Eachtra Archaeological Projects

What is the value of exhibitions, posters, websites and events? Are thoughtful argument and a permanent record sacrificed in the pursuit of mass communications and high impact media?

3.15 pm – 4.30 pm

#### **Archaeology in the news**

Keynote speaker: Peigín Doyle, freelance journalist and archaeological author

Is archaeology a conflict story? Is good news ever reported? Is two minutes on the evening news worth 2000 printed pages? What is the secret to 'selling' a story?

The day will conclude with the launch of NRA scheme monograph 7:

[2] [In the Lowlands of South Galway](#) by Finn Delaney and John Tierney.

### **Registration**

Attendance is free but places are limited. Booking is strongly advised.

Register in advance to reserve a place by post, phone or e-mail.

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[1] 10: <http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/issues/10/>

[2] *In the Lowlands of South Galway*: <http://eachtra.ie../book-launch-in-the-lowlands-of-south-galway>

[3] «Previous entry: <http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/e2432-kilshanny3-co-cork/>

[4] Next entry»: <http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/book-launch-in-the-lowlands-of-south-galway/>

- Eachtra Journal - <http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal> -

## Book launch: In the Lowlands of South Galway

Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland and the

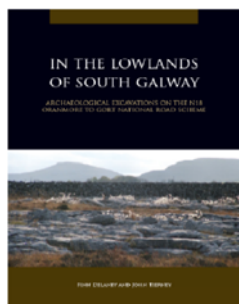
This entry is part 30 of 37 in the Issue **[1] 10**

**NRA**

**Harbour Hotel, Galway, 16 June 2011**

5 pm – 6.30 pm

### Book launch



[2] Professor **Noël Wilkins**, President of the **Galway Archaeological and Historical Society**,

will launch **NRA scheme monograph 7: *In the Lowlands of South Galway***.

Archaeological excavations on the N18 Oranmore to Gort national road scheme, by **Finn Delaney** and **John Tierney**, of **Eachtra Archaeological Projects**, describing investigations commissioned by **Galway County Council** in 2007–10 with funding from the **NRA**.

The book launch will be preceded by [3] [Communicating Archaeology - A forum for professionals and the public](http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/communicating-archaeology-a-forum-for-professionals-and-the-public)

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[1] 10: <http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/issues/10/>

[2] Image: [http://eachtra.ie/new\\_site/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/picture1.png](http://eachtra.ie/new_site/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/picture1.png)

[3] Communicating Archaeology - A forum for professionals and the public: <http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/communicating-archaeology-a-forum-for-professionals-and-the-public>

[4] «Previous entry: <http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/communicating-archaeology-a-forum-for-professionals-and-the-public/>

[5] Next entry»: <http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/04e1072-mitchelstown1/>

## En tierras de Guadix. El conocimiento arqueológico de las ciudades históricas

This entry is part 36 of 37 in the Issue **[1] 10**  
**Biblioteca Municipal.**

**Plaza San Francisco nº1  
Guadix, Granada, Spain  
18th - 22th July**

**D. José M<sup>a</sup> Martín Civantos.**

Departamento de Historia Medieval y CCTTHH.  
Universidad de Granada.

Next July, near Granada, the [2] [Mediterranean Centre of the University of Granada](#), will hold a course about the archaeological knowledge of the historical towns.

Eachtra will participate with a lecture about the GIS applications in the management of archaeological excavation data.

The course aims are to reflect on the usefulness and potential of Archaeology for knowledge of historic towns, their management, planning and development from the cultural, social, urban and economic point of view. Archaeology has often been seen as an obstacle rather as an advantage for the citizenship. However, various examples of intervention, planning and management demonstrate the contrary, offering a different perspective for both citizenship and the rest of professionals involved in the development of historical towns.

### Programme

#### **Monday 18th July:**

9.00.– Presentation.

#### **Session 1: La Arqueología como fuente de conocimiento histórico de las ciudades**

9.30.– Cartas Arqueológicas y planificación de las ciudades históricas. Gestión, patrimonio y desarrollo.

**Dña. Mónica Blázquez Ruíz.**

Arquitecta. Asesoría en urbanismo y planificación patrimonial.

11.00.– Break.

11.30.– El aporte de la Arqueología al conocimiento histórico de la ciudad de Carmona (Sevilla).

**D. Ignacio Rodríguez Temiño.**

Director del Conjunto Arqueológico de Carmona.

#### **Tuesday 19th July:**

9.00.– El aporte de la Arqueología al conocimiento histórico de la ciudad de Córdoba.

**D. Alberto León Muñoz.**

Universidad de Córdoba.

11.00.– Break.

11.30.– El aporte de la Arqueología al conocimiento histórico de la ciudad de Mérida.

**D. Miguel Alba Calzado.**

Director del Consorcio de la Ciudad Monumental de Mérida.

#### **Wednesday 20th July:**

9.00.– Guadix: del parque arqueológico de la Alcazaba al proyecto de estudio de la ciudad y su patrimonio.

**D. José M<sup>a</sup> Martín Civantos.**

11.00.– Break.

11.30.– Las excavaciones del teatro romano de Guadix.

**D. Antonio López Marcos.**

GDR Guadix.

## **Session 2: La gestión infomática de la documentación arqueológica en las ciudades**

### **Thursday, 21th July:**

9.00.– La morfología urbana histórica a través de los GIS.

**D. Keith D. Lilley.**

School of Geography, Archeology and Palaeocology.

11.00.– Break.

11.30.– Gestión del análisis arquitectónico-constructivo a través de los GIS.

**D. Vincenzo Valente.**

Universidad de Padua. Italia.

### **Friday, 22th July:**

9.00.– Gestión de la excavación de urgencia a través de los GIS.

**D. Maurizio Toscano.**

Eachtra Archaeological Projects. Irlanda.

11.00.– Break.

11.30.– Gestión de la ciudad histórica a través de los GIS.

**Dña. Ana Bejarano Osorio y D. Isidoro Arroyo**

Barrantes. Consorcio de la Ciudad Monumental de Mérida.

14.00.– Closing session.

[3] [Download the porgramme](#)

## **Information and registration:**

E-mail: [cemed@ugr.es](mailto:cemed@ugr.es)

Web: [4] [www.centromediterraneo.com](http://www.centromediterraneo.com)

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URLs in this post:

[1] 10: <http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/issues/10/>

[2] Mediterranean Centre of the University of Granada: <http://www.ugr.es/~cm/index.htm>

[3] Download the porgramme: [http://eachtra.ie/new\\_site/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/En-Tierras-de-Guadix.pdf](http://eachtra.ie/new_site/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/En-Tierras-de-Guadix.pdf)

[4] [www.centromediterraneo.com](http://www.centromediterraneo.com): <http://www.centromediterraneo.com>

[5] «Previous entry: <http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/04e1119-stagpark3/>

[6] Next entry»: <http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/e2422-caherdrinny3-co-cork/>





PHP, Wordpress customization, Design, CSS

by

Maurizio Toscano

and

Lidia Bocanegra