

# Eachtra Journal

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Eachtra Archaeological Projects

[www.eachtra.ie](http://www.eachtra.ie)  
[info@eachtra.ie](mailto:info@eachtra.ie)

## 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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## Early Neolithic pits at Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Early Neolithic pits

The excavations at Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary uncovered three areas of pits. The pits in two areas (Areas 2 and 3) were isolated and did not contain notable artefacts or environmental evidence. However, at Area 1 there were several pit clusters and artefacts and radiocarbon dates indicated occupation (probably intermittent rather than permanent) during the Early Neolithic.

**Author:** Julianna O'Donoghue

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[3] Archaeological Report - Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary (Ireland): <http://www.slideshare.net/eachtra/archaeological-report-kilsheelan-co-tipperary-ireland>

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## Early medieval kilns and medieval moated site with associated annexe at Busherstown, Co. Offaly

This entry is part 2 of 5 in the Issue [\[1\]](#) [13](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Early medieval kilns and medieval moated site with associated annexe

Archaeological excavation of the site at Busherstown revealed a complex multi-period site with six phases of activity. In broad outline they confirmed the use of the area from the Early Neolithic period to the present time. The first period of activity was prehistoric in date and comprised a small assemblage of lithics and a circular structure (Structure A) dated on typological grounds to the Bronze Age. The second phase was dated to the early medieval period, when the area was used for cereal processing, as evidenced by the discovery of at least 17 cereal-drying kilns and a further seven possible kilns. The majority of the kilns were located in a line that extended for a distance of 80 m in a NW-SE direction. The firing chambers of the kiln were for the most part located at the NE. A small number of the kilns were partially enclosed (Structures D and E). The third phase of activity was defined by an enclosure (ditches C.68 and 447) which was probably contemporary with the cereal processing. The continuous use of the area of the enclosure in the medieval period was confirmed when certain areas of the site were enclosed through the construction of deep, wide ditches (ditches C.54 and C.63). The ditches (ditches C.227 and C.78) were re-cut in the later medieval period to function as an annexe to a moated site. A substantial ditch, 5.5 m wide by 1.7 m deep, defined the moated site. Only the southern corner of the moated site was located within the road corridor. However, the entire outline can be clearly seen in aerial photographs of the adjoining field to the north-east. Two structures (C and D) were contemporary with the moated site. The post-medieval period was represented by a large number of furrows crossing the site and material which had been dumped into the top fills of the ditches. The site was levelled in the recent past.

**Authors:** Ewelina Chrobak, Jacinta Kiely and Tori McMorran

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## Fulacht fiadh at Mungret, Co. Limerick

This entry is part 4 of 5 in the Issue **[1] 13**

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Fulacht fiadh and isolated pit

In May 2005, Eachtra Archaeological Projects excavated a fulacht fiadh and an isolated pit in Skehacreggaun td., Mungret. The fulacht fiadh dates to the Middle Bronze Age, within the usual date range for these monument types. The isolated pit is likely to date to the Bronze Age and it contained the only artefact recovered through these archaeological works. The scraper suggests craft and subsistence since prehistoric times.

**Author:** Jacinta Kiely, Antonia Doolan and Aidan Harte

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## A ring-ditch, three cremation burial cemeteries and a four Fulachta Fiadh at Kilbane, Co. Limerick

This entry is part 5 of 5 in the Issue [\[1\]](#) [13](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### A ring-ditch, three cremation burial cemeteries and a four Fulachta Fiadh

Kilbane is testimony to a long-standing tradition of cremation burial within unenclosed flat cemeteries. Three cemeteries were excavated under the current license, a fourth was dug by Limerick County Council, 03E1343 (McCutcheon, 2006), and finally Aegis Archaeology Ltd (Hayes, 2006) excavated a small example, also in the townland of Kilbane, 02E1707.

The cemetery in Area 1 was small but elaborate. It included eight cremation pits, one of which had been surrounded by a circle of stake-holes and a ring-ditch. Three phases of burials were discerned. An extensive unenclosed flat cremation cemetery was excavated in Area 2. 89 cremation pits with burials of at least 54 individuals were excavated. Social stratification was evidently part of society in Kilbane, with mature individuals primarily buried separately and all juveniles buried with a mature person. Adolescents, once they had reached puberty, were likely to have been buried in their own pit as mature adults.

The cemetery in Area 6 was a small example, with just three burial pits recorded.

Much bone was missing from the pits. Possibly samples of burials had been ritually deposited in nearby watercourses, perhaps the Groody river or the Shannon, only 5km to the west. Ritual deposits of bone may also be accounted for by the small pockets of cremated bone recorded in Areas 3, 4 and 5.

Two 14 C dates were recorded for the current site. These span the Early to Middle Bronze Age which, considering the complexities involved in the Bronze Age community achieving the quality of cremated bone at Kilbane, is further evidence of the long-standing tradition of cremation burial in this area.

The extensive collection of LBA pottery, with 30–35 flat-bottomed vessels represented, together with the remains of four Fulachta Fiadh in the overall site, all pay credence to the existence of a large, well-established community in the area at that time. However, the location of settlement evidence has yet to be established beyond the fact that all of the LBA pottery originally derived from domestic contexts.

**Author:** Niamh O'Callaghan

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## Roscrea Spring Conference 2012

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*The 50th Consecutive Conference - 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2012*

*at Mount St Joseph Abbey, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, Ireland*

### From Citeaux to Roscrea and Celebrating fifty conferences at Roscrea

#### Programme:

#### FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL

6.00 Snack supper and registration

6.45 Reception hosted by Roscrea Heritage Society

7.25 *Welcome*: Dom Richard Purcell, ocsa, Abbot of Mt St Joseph

7.35 *Official opening of the 50th Conference*

*The Cistercian World Today*

Dom Eamon Fitzgerald, ocsa, Abbot General of the Cistercian Order

8.10 *The Region of the Isles*

Dom Richard Purcell

8.40 *The Monastery and the Academy: Brief remarks on a 12th Century turbulence.*

Dr Pádraig Hogan, Education Dept., NUIM

8.50 *Are we there yet? From Citeaux to Roscrea and beyond.*

Dr John Feehan, author, botanist, geologist

9.10 *A Cistercian colophon*

George Cunningham

9. 20 *Hospitium*

#### SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL

3.45 Optional rise for vigils

7.30 *An early morning walk on the landscape of Mt St Joseph*

John Feehan

9.30 *Religion and Higher Learning: Reflections on the Spirituality of Bernard of Clairvaux*

Pádraig Hogan

10.05 *The Cistercians in Medieval Ireland: a Benedictine perspective*

Dr Colmán Ó Clabaigh, osb, Glenstal Abbey

10.40 *Fr Luke Wadding OFM and his Cistercian contacts in Italy and Ireland, c1618- c1657*

Dr Ben Hazard, Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute, UCD

10.55 Coffee

11.25 *The Cistercians return to Ireland – early days at Mount Melleray*

An tAthair Uinseann Ó Maidín, ocsó, archivist, Mt Melleray

11.55 *The Story of Mount St Joseph, Roscrea - Part 1*

Dom Richard Purcell, ocsó, Dom Laurence Walsh, ocsó

12.55 *The Cistercian Nuns of the Isles*

Sr Lily Scullion, ocsó, Farm Manager, Glencairn Abbey

1.25 Discussion

1.35 Snack Lunch

3.00 Launch of *A Carnival of Learning...celebrating 50 conferences at MSJ*.

Edited by Peter Harbison and Valerie Hall.

Official launch by Dom Eamon

5.30 Vespers

5.55 *Sherry Reception: honouring the recent publication of A Monastic Landscape: the Cistercians in Medieval Ireland by Dr Breda Lynch.*

6.35 Dinner

8.15 *Celebrating 50 conferences*

9.15 Hospitium

### **SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

9.30 *The Story of MSJ, Roscrea – part 2*

Dom Richard, Dom Laurence

10.30 Concelebrated High Mass

11.30 Coffee

11.55 *Going forth from Roscrea – the story of its daughter houses*

Dom Peter Garvey, Abbot of Bolton Abbey, Moone

12.25 *The scholarship of 50 Roscrea Conferences: reflections*

a) *Leaves on trees and leaves in books - joining the evidence.*

Valerie Hall, Professor Emerita of Palaeoecology,

QUB

b) *Dead saints resurrected; Roscrea 1987-2012*

Pádraig Ó Riain, Professor Emeritus of Early and

Medieval Irish, UCC

c) *The Fastest Conference Ever Seen — Nought To Fifty In Fifteen Minutes*

An tOllamh Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, Roinn na Staire,

NUIG

*Fête Accompli*

Professor Peter Harbison, author and art historian

1.40 *Summing up and close of conference*

George Cunningham



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PHP, Wordpress customization, Design, CSS

by

Maurizio Toscano

and

Lidia Bocanegra