

Eachtra Journal

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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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Pits, a post-medieval stone-built well and two post-medieval walls at 11 Patrick Street, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny

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Archaeological Excavation Report

Pits, a post-medieval stone-built well and two post-medieval walls

Most of the archaeological features recorded during this excavation were pits, 26 in total, two walls and a well were also excavated. Most of the contexts were dated according to the artefacts retrieved from their fills. Therefore, pits with exclusively or almost exclusively medieval pottery were classified as medieval, whereas pits with medieval and post-medieval finds were classified as post-medieval. However, as most of the excavated features were backfilled, it is possible that some of the cut features that contained deposits, with inclusions of post-medieval artefacts, were actually open and in use in the medieval period. The remains uncovered can be divided into medieval, post-medieval and modern. The pits were in general sub-circular and oval in plan, and, with the exception of pit C.98, were on average 2.06 m in length by 1.36 m in width by 0.61 m in depth. The fills of the pits were a mix of dark grey brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of animal bone and pottery. A total of 26 pits, two walls and a well were recorded.

Author: Jacinta Kiely

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Medieval rubbish pits, post-medieval walls and four linear features at 26 Patrick Street, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny

This entry is part 2 of 7 in the Issue [\[1\]](#) [14](#)

Archaeological Excavation Report

Medieval rubbish pits, post-medieval walls and four linear features

The buildings to the rear of 26 Patrick St. were demolished. The area of the extension to the rear to the hotel measured 20m by 13m. The area of excavation was bounded by a stone wall to the south, by a building site to the north and west and by the Georgian building, 26 Patrick St., due for refurbishment to the east.

Occupation evidence dating to the 13th century and later post medieval activity associated with the demolished extension to 26 Patrick St. was excavated. The medieval activity was recorded at the western side of the site. Post-medieval construction, associated with the red brick foundations of the extension to the rear of the Georgian building which fronts onto Patrick St., had truncated medieval activity at the eastern end. The destroyed earlier medieval activity is evidenced by the occurrence of both medieval and post-medieval pottery in the same strata.

The pits at the west of the excavation trench were medieval in date and are likely to have served as rubbish dumps. The artefactual material, plant remains and the faunal remains recovered from the various fills would support this hypothesis. There was no evidence that they were used for industrial practises. They are located in the area of the medieval house burgage plots. No evidence of medieval structures was recorded. It is likely to exist under the foundations of the existing house structures on Patrick Street.

The pottery assemblage from the site was examined by C. McCutcheon. The assemblage is typical of domestic occupation ware. Over 82% of the medieval pottery from the site consisted of Kilkenny-type ware and a further 8.6% was Leinster cooking ware and almost 7% Kilkenny-type cooking ware. Two sherds of non-native pottery were recovered. A sherds of Saintonge from pit C3 and a sherd of Ham Green B from C18 which had both medieval and post-medieval pottery. The absence of Ham Green is surprising as this consisted of the largest group of medieval pottery from Waterford where it was recovered from 12th and 13th century contexts (Hurley et al 1997, 293-4).

Leinster Ware was the most widespread medieval pottery type in Leinster, and was in widespread usage by the 13th century, though the date at which it came into use is not known. At Waterford it was most commonly found in 13th and 14th century contexts in the form of cooking pots (ibid. 327). The Kilkenny and Kilkenny-type wares indicate local pottery production. Saintonge ware, jugs and cooking pots, represents the wealthier tastes. At Waterford it consisted of the largest group of continental pottery on the site (ibid. 308). This ware, from the south-west of France, dates to the 13th and 14th centuries. The bone assemblage from the site was examined by M. McCarthy. The plant remains were examined by A. Brewer.

Author: Jacinta Kiely

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Medieval and post-medieval pits and ditches in Kilkenny city burgage plots

This entry is part 3 of 7 in the Issue [1] [14](#)

Archaeological Excavation Report

Medieval and post-medieval pits and ditches in Kilkenny city burgage plots

Eachtra archaeological projects undertook excavation of Stratham's garage in January and February of 2005 under licence 99E0757, an extension to a pre-existing licence. In total some eighty pits were excavated with a small number of linear features and post-medieval wall foundations, drains and a cobbled surface also present. There was no evidence for a medieval structure in this area of the site and many of the pits were filled with refuse. The excavated area was interpreted as the partial remains of four medieval burgage plots. Recent excavations of the area immediately north and adjacent to this site will hopefully provide material comparable to the results from the Stratham's Garage site.

Authors: Bruce Sutton and Penny Johnston

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[3] [Archaeological Report - Stratham's Garage, Patrick Street, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny \(Ireland\)](#)

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Medieval moated site at Shandon td., Dungarvan, Co. Waterford

This entry is part 4 of 7 in the Issue [1] [14](#)

Archaeological Excavation Report

Medieval moated site

The greatest proportion of archaeological features encountered at Shandon relate to Medieval activity. While nothing dateable was recovered from the sub-rectangular enclosure ditch itself, the discovery of 12th/13th century pottery from features inside and immediately outside the enclosure provides a strong case that the ditch is contemporaneous.

It must be considered a possibility that the enclosure at Shandon is a Medieval moated site. The latter have been defined as "all rectangular enclosures bounded by banks and moats of Medieval date, whether they enclosed a major house or simply a garden or cattle pen" (Barry 1987, 84). While there was no definite evidence of a bank at Shandon, there is a suggestion that one may have existed. Moated sites date to the 13th and 14th century (ibid., 85) and the local pottery found at Shandon overlaps with this date range.

It must also be considered that the Shandon enclosure relates to Hiberno-Norse activity. Prior to the present work, the motif piece was the sole indicator of such activity. However, this find is now further substantiated by the discovery of an 11th century Hiberno-Norse coin (Plate 12). Because of preservation by redesign and avoidance, a large proportion of archaeological features at Shandon were not excavated and consequently it is quite possible that further diagnostic Hiberno-Norse material survives on the site. However, one coin and a trial piece do not a Hiberno-Norse settlement make and it is plausible that the coin was deposited in Anglo-Norman times long after its original period of manufacture and use.

Authors: S. Elder, E. Dennehy, J. Tierney, D. Noonan & A. Doolan

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Sub-circular enclosure and Bronze Age settlement site at Knockhouse Lower, Co. Waterford

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Archaeological Excavation Report

Sub-circular enclosure and Bronze Age settlement site

The site consisted of a sub-circular enclosure with a diameter of approximately 36 m; it was initially identified as a crop mark on an aerial photograph, with no trace at ground level. Three sides of the enclosure were formed by two ditches (recorded as the 'east ditch' and the 'west ditch'). The fourth side was characterised by large pits/postholes and slot trenches which probably continued the line of the enclosure, despite the absence of a ditch. The enclosure surrounded a Bronze Age settlement site, with a sub-circular post and stake-built structure excavated near the centre of the enclosed area and an ancillary structure to the west. This report details the results of excavation at the site and the descriptions are broken down into context complexes: the enclosure, the internal structure, the ancillary building, other internal features and external features.

Author: Penny Johnston

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Bronze Age pits, structures and a furnace at IDA Arklow Business & Technology Park, Ballynattin, Co. Wicklow

This entry is part 6 of 7 in the Issue [\[1\]](#) [14](#)

Archaeological Excavation Report

Bronze Age pits, structures and a furnace

The site was excavated under licence no. 04E0712. It was divided into ten areas of excavation: Areas 1-6, Area 6W, Area 7, Area 10 and Area 12. The earliest evidence for human activity was an Early Neolithic radiocarbon date obtained from the fill of a ditch in Area 6. However, there is no evidence for associated Early Neolithic activity. Most of the archaeological features excavated at Ballynattin were Bronze Age. Bronze Age pits were found in Area 6W, there was a spread of Bronze Age material in Area 3 and three partial Bronze Age structures were found in Areas 6 and 7. These were truncated and approximately only one third of each structure survived for excavation. A furnace excavated in Area 2 may also be Bronze Age in date; it has no associated radiocarbon dates but a saddle quern and flints were found within the furnace fill. The remaining features excavated at the site were primarily post-medieval, including a hearth excavated in Area 4, drains and ditches (Areas 1, 4 and 5) and a 19th century cobbled surface (Area 5).

Authors: Bernice Kelly, Bernadette Doherty, Penny Johnston and Antonia Doolan

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Medieval pits, post-medieval well and boundary wall at 56-60 South Main Street, Wexford Town, Co. Wexford

This entry is part 7 of 7 in the Issue [\[1\]](#) [14](#)

Archaeological Excavation Report

Medieval pits, post-medieval well and boundary wall

Occupation evidence dating to the 13th century and later post medieval activity, in the form of a well and boundary wall, associated with the demolished buildings on Peter Street was excavated. The medieval activity was recorded at the central southern part of the site. The area of excavation measured 11.5m north-south by 12m east-west.

All the pits in the excavation trench were medieval in date and are likely to have served as rubbish dumps. The artefactual material and the faunal remains recovered from the various fills would support this hypothesis. There was no evidence that they were used for industrial practises, though waste material from industrial activity was mixed with domestic refuse. They were located in the area of the medieval house burgage plots. No evidence of medieval structures was recorded. It is likely to exist under the foundations of the existing upstanding structures on South Main Street.

The pottery assemblage from the site was examined by the ceramic specialist Clare McCutcheon. The majority of the pottery consisted of local and Irish wares, comprising of Lenister Cooking ware, Wexford-type coarse ware, ware, fine ware and cooking ware. The English wares consisted of Minety-type, Ham Green and Redcliffe wares. The Wexford-type wares indicate local pottery production, although no medieval pottery kilns have as yet been located in Wexford. The French wares particularly the Saintonge ware, from the southwest of France, jugs, represented the wealthier tastes.

Author: Jacinta Kiely

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PHP, Wordpress customization, Design, CSS

by

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