Eachtra Archaeological Projects

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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Fulachta fiadh, ring ditch and iron/copper working areas at Ballydowny, Co.Kerry (02E0055)

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Archaeological Excavation Report

Five fulachta fiadh, a ring ditch with cremation burial, two Medieval iron working areas and a prehistoric site with evidence of copper working

The development site was a green field site, used for pasture for horses belonging to the Equestrian Centre, located in the western suburbs of Killarney town, to the north of the N72 linking Killarney to Killorglin. Killarney National Park is located to the south of the site. Ballydowny is bordered to the north by Groin townland and the development site holds panoramic views of Tomies Mountain and the Magillycuddy Reeks to the south-west.

Nine areas were excavated within the proposed development site. This included the excavation of five fulacht fiadh together with their associated hearths and troughs, a ring ditch with a cremation burial and the remains of two Medieval iron working areas and a prehistoric site with evidence of copper working. The radiocarbon results show occupation in these areas from the Neolithic period, through the Bronze Age, Iron Age and up to the Early Medieval period. The excavation of these new sites highlights the concentration of archaeological monuments, particularly fulacht fiadh, in this area north of Lough Leane.

Authors: Jacinta Kiely and Niamh O'Callaghan

[2] <u>Archaeological Report - 02E0055 Ballydowny, Killarney, Co.Kerry</u>

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URL to article: **http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/02e0055-ballydowny-co-kerry/**

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[1] 7: **http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/issues/7/**
[2] Archaeological Report - 02E0055 Ballydowny, Killarney, Co.Kerry: **http://www.slideshare.net /eachtra/archaeological-report-02e0055-ballydowny-killarney-cokerry**
[3] documents: **http://www.slideshare.net/**
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Medieval town walls and cemetery at Castledermot town, Co. Kildare (04E0750)

Archaeological Excavation Report

Medieval town walls and cemetery

This report comprises the Final Report of excavations undertaken by Eachtra Archaeological Projects along the line of the proposed Castledermot Sewerage Scheme in 2004. Kildare County Council proposed to upgrade the sewerage system in Castledermot village running from the Lerr River to the south along Abbey St. and Main St. to Skenagun to the north. The present town contains extensive archaeological remains, both upstanding and subsurface, of the earlier Medieval town (KD040-002).

Therefore in 2002, an archaeological assessment of the proposed line of the sewerage trench was carried out (Byrne 2000). This was followed by a programme of test excavations (Lynch 2002). The results of this work led to a decision to archaeologically resolve the line of the proposed pipe trench in advance of commencement of construction works. Eachtra Archaeological Projects excavated the line of the proposed trench between June and December 2004 under excavation licence number 04E0750.

While the excavated trench was narrow, it offered a lengthy cross-section of the Medieval and Post-Medieval town. The excavation revealed a number of facets of the town during these periods including the Medieval town walls and a cemetery. Following archaeological resolution of the trench, it was backfilled to be opened at a future date for the insertion of the sewerage pipes.

The defences revealed indicated a development from concentric ditches to the addition of town walls with the subsequent disuse of the earlier ditches. It is likely that the external ditches and the town wall were contemporaneous for at least some time. The layout of these ditches most likely reflected upon the design of the town wall, particularly the location of the gateways. It was well defended and considered strategically important and a centre for administration for the area.

Furthermore, the ditches identified both north and south of the town wall, appeared to dictate the position of the religious houses. The role of the town as a religious centre continued from the Early Medieval period and expanded with two more foundations. They provided both medical and religious services until the end of the Medieval. The market place survives today by name only. However, the variety of goods available indicates a vibrant and busy town. As well as the town, the market also reflects on the hinterland which also supplied the market.

The evidence relating to the economy of Castledermot highlights the importance of self sufficiency in the Medieval period. Local pottery and abundant agriculture products indicate this. The trade routes appear to have stabilised into the Post-Medieval period with greater quantities and varieties of pottery. The diet of the townspeople seemingly changed little between the 13 th and 17 th centuries, relying heavily on cattle, sheep, pigs, wheat, barley and oats. Metal, both artefacts and waste from processing, again suggests a dependence of local smithing and the evidence of secondary produce from the faunal record compliments this. Although the excavated trench was a narrow transect of the Castledermot, the information recovered in this investigation has furthered the knowledge of the town during the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods and supports the general corpus of knowledge of Irish Medieval towns achieved to date. Castledermot was typically an inland, walled Medieval town of moderate standing, which fluctuated in importance through time.

Authors: Aidan Harte and Aine Richardson

[2] Archaeological Report - Castledermot Town, Co. Kildare (Ireland)

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[2] Archaeological Report - Castledermot Town, Co. Kildare (Ireland): **http://www.slideshare.net /eachtra/final-castledermot-report-journal-5075437**
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YOUGHAL CELEBRATES HISTORY - 24-26 SEPTEMBER 2010

YOUGHAL CELEBRATES HISTORY

THE MEDIEVAL WALLED TOWNS

24-26 SEPTEMBER 2010

MALL ARTS CENTRE,

YOUGHAL, CO CORK

EMAIL: [2] ytta@eircom.net

WEB-SITE: [3] www.youghalcelebrateshistory.com

PHONE: 353 24 81010/ 087 9666554

Conference Programme

Friday evening: Registration , Reception and Opening of Conference followed by : an evening of stories, legends and music with local raconteur and broadcaster John Kennedy.

Saturday morning : 9.30 Registration

9.45 : Official Opening of Conference - Raghnall Ó Floinn, Head of Collections , National Museum of Ireland, Dublin

10.00 : John Bradley (NUI - Maynooth) "Youghal and the Mediæval Towns of Ireland".

10.30 Coffee.

11.00 : Dagmar Ó Riain-Raedel (UCC) "When miracles happened at Youghal: Our Lady of Graces."

11.30 : Colmán Ó Clabaigh (Glenstal Abbey) "Monks, Medicine and Malpractice - the Benedictine Hospital in Mediæval Youghal".

12.00 : Discussion and Question Time.

12.30 : Lunch

2.30 : Tadhg O'Keeffe (UCD) " Youghal's Mediæval Gates".

03.00 : David Kelly (Youghal) " The architecture of St. Mary's Collegiate Church".

03.30 :Máire Geaney (UCC) "The Mediæval Oak Roof of St. Mary's, Youghal - an Irish gem with a French connection".

04.00 Tadhg O'Keeffe, David Kelly "The Historic Towns Atlas for Youghal".

08.00 Buffet Dinner

Sunday

9.30 :Registration

9.45 : Opening Remarks :

10.00 :Catryn Power (Cork County Council) "Youghal Before the Walls".

10.30 : Coffee

11.00 : Margaret Gowen (Dublin) "Youghal's Mediæval Town Walls - Heritage and Opportunity".

11.30 Katherine Desmond and Dan Noonan (Youghal) : "Mediaeval Youghal as seen through its Archaeology".

12.00: Gerard Crotty "The Armorial Heritage of Youghal" .

12.30 : Discussion, Questions.

13.00 : Lunch

15.00 : Field Trip - A guided Walking Tour of Mediæval Youghal with entertainment.

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Monuments, Memory and Maps. Discovering Kilkenny's Archaeological Landscapes

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"Monuments, Memory and Maps. Discovering Kilkenny's Archaeological Landscapes". The conference will take place on Sat 9th and Sun 10th Oct in Kilkenny.

The conference is an action of the Kilkenny Heritage Plan.

If you would like to book a place please contact:

Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer, Kilkenny County Council, John's Green House, John's Green, Kilkenny

Tel: 056-7794925)

Email: [2] dearbhala.ledwidge@kilkennycoco.ie

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GIS Ireland Conference 14/10/2010
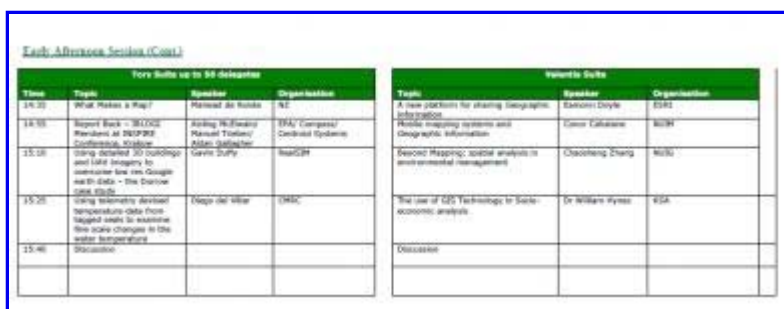
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Outline schedule

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discovering-kilkenny%e2%80%99s-archaeo
logical-landscapes/**

PHP, Wordpress customization, Design, CSS

by

Maurizio Toscano

and

Lidia Bocanegra