

# 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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## A burnt mound at Ballinillaun 1, Co. Galway (E3888)

This entry is part 1 of 23 in the Issue [\[1\]](#) [08](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Burnt mound

This report constitutes the final excavation report for a group of pits and a small layer of burnt mound material in the townland of Ballinillaun, Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for N18 Gort to Oranmore Road scheme. The site was found within the Compulsory Purchase Order for the scheme during Phase 1 archaeological testing. The site consisted of a burnt mound with associated troughs and pits.

This site consisted of a poorly preserved, Middle Bronze Age, burnt mound. A series of three interconnecting pits were filled with charcoal-rich fills. Two more pits and a possible post-hole were located just to the north of the central pits and were partly overlaid by a layer of small to medium sized angular limestone. Although all the fills of the pits contained large proportions of charcoal there was no indication of burning in situ in the form of underlying fire reddened clay or lumps of scorched clay.

The site excavated at Ballinillaun 1 was one of a pair of poorly preserved burnt mounds identified in Ballinillaun townland during the Phase 1 testing. Three smaller pit groups (chainage 6520, 6200 and 5650) were excavated and recorded during Phase 1 in this townland while Ballinillaun 1 and 2 were excavated during the Phase 2 excavations. Some of the pits contained heat shattered stone as well as charcoal-rich deposits. It is likely that the pits are associated with the functions undertaken at burnt mound sites and the proximity to the two burnt mound sites in Moyveela townland and their similar location on the western edge of a large turlough would seem to support this theory. The pits may be associated with unrecorded burnt mound sites located outside the extent of the road scheme or they could be the surviving remnants of truncated burnt mounds.

**Authors:** Tori McMorran & Finn Delaney

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## A burnt mound at Ballinillaun 2, Co. Galway (E3886)

This entry is part 2 of 23 in the Issue [\[1\]](#) [08](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Burnt mound

This report constitutes the final excavation report for a poorly preserved burnt mound in the townland of Ballinillaun, Co. Galway (Fig 1). The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for N18 Gort to Oranmore Road scheme. The site was found within the CPO for the scheme during Phase 1 archaeological testing.

This site consisted of a poorly preserved, Early Bronze Age, burnt mound. Three pits were excavated and all the fills of the pits contained large proportions of charcoal and heatshattered limestone. A radiocarbon date of cal BC 1934–1773 were obtained from basal fill of a trough. This was one of a series of burnt mounds which clustered in Ballinillaun, Moyveela and Colwood which were located adjacent to a number of turloughs.

The site excavated at Ballinillaun 2 was one of a pair of poorly preserved burnt mounds identified in Ballinillaun townland during the Phase 1 testing. Three smaller pit groups (chainage 6520, 6200 and 5650) were excavated and recorded during Phase 1 in this townland while Ballinillaun 1 and 2 were excavated during the Phase 2 excavations. Some of the pits contained heat shattered stone as well as charcoal-rich deposits. It is likely that the pits are associated with the functions undertaken at burnt mound sites and the proximity to the two burnt mound sites in Moyveela townland and their similar location on the western edge of a large turlough would seem to support this theory. The pits may be associated with unrecorded burnt mound sites located outside the extent of the road scheme or they could be the surviving remnants of truncated burnt mounds.

**Authors:** Tori McMorran & Finn Delaney

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## A burnt mound at Ballyglass West, Co. Galway (E3870)

This entry is part 3 of 23 in the Issue **[1] 08**

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Burnt mound

This report constitutes the final excavation report of a large burnt mound and modern well in the townland of Ballyglass West, Co. Galway (Fig 1). The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for the N18 Gort to Oranmore road scheme. The site was discovered during Phase 1 archaeological testing of the new route under Ministerial Directions A045 (E3723).

The excavation of a large burnt mound at Ballyglass West revealed a number of archaeological features. The mound itself contained up to 16 different deposits consisting of varying amounts of stone, burnt stone and charcoal-rich black silty clay. Eight potential troughs were identified below the burnt mound deposits one of which appeared to be stone lined, and others had internal and external stakeholes. Five pits of varying size and shape were also excavated. A natural spring towards the centre of the burnt mound material was used and adapted as a well in the modern period comprising an encircling drystone wall and entrance steps. A single chert flake from the early prehistoric period was recovered from a layer in the burnt mound. Other more recent finds, associated with the well, such as copper alloy pins and a button, clay pipes and ceramic pottery fragments were also uncovered. A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered during the excavation. The analysis of the plant remains revealed that Ballyglass West is among the few burnt mound sites that have yielded cereal remains, albeit in very small amounts. The four radiocarbon dates acquired for the site revealed dates ranging from the Early Bronze Age to the Middle Bronze Age.

**Authors:** Agnes Kerrigan & Finn Delaney

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## A burnt mound at Caherweelder 1, Co. Galway (E3880)

This entry is part 4 of 23 in the Issue **[1] 08**

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Burnt mound

This report constitutes the final excavation report on a burnt mound in the townland of Caherweelder, Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for N18 Gort to Oranmore road scheme. The site was found within the lands acquired for the scheme during phase 1 archaeological testing. The site consisted of the western extent of a burnt mound, a re-cut trough and a well.

The new road clipped the western edge of a burnt mound. The excavation revealed the presence of a large trough and a well. Both features were located below the remains of the burnt mound material. Two Late Bronze Age radiocarbon dates were obtained from basal fill of the trough and the well.

The burnt mound site known as Caherweelder 1 is located on low ground on the western edge of an area of improved rough pasture. The surrounding area is prone to flooding. A turlough lies just to the north-east and a small pool named Pollbaun is located to the south-east. A preference for wetland margins has been consistently noted by other commentators (Gowen et al. 2007). Grogan (2007) states that in the 'Mooghaun area of south-east Clare the majority of fulachta fiadh occur along the margins of turloughs, bogs and marshy areas'. The burnt mound sites at Moyveela (to the north) which were excavated as part of the same programme of excavations had a similar location on slightly raised ground on the edge of a turlough.

**Authors:** Agnes Kerrigan & Finn Delaney

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## A burnt mound at Caherweelder 2, Co. Galway (E3890)

This entry is part 5 of 23 in the Issue [1] 08

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Burnt mound

This report constitutes the final excavation report of a burnt mound in the townland of Caherweelder, Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for N18 Gort to Oranmore Road scheme. The site was found within the lands acquired for the scheme during Phase 1 archaeological testing. The site consisted of a small layer of burnt mound material, a large trough and two interconnecting pits located just to the north of the mound, which may also have served as troughs.

A small burnt mound was located at the intersection of three field boundaries. The excavation revealed a central trough and two interconnecting pits which lay just to the north of the mound. Whilst shallow, the interconnecting pits may have served as troughs too. Both the mound material and the fill of one of the pits contained animal bone fragments. Two Middle Bronze Age radiocarbon dates were acquired from two samples: one from the burnt mound material and one from the lower fill of the trough. No artefacts were found.

The burnt mound site known as Caherweelder 2 is located on low reclaimed ground on the western edge of an area of rough pasture. The surrounding area is prone to flooding and a turlough lies just to the north-east. A preference for wetland margins has been consistently noted by other commentators (Gowen et al 2005 and Grogan 2007). Grogan (2007) states that in the 'Mooghaun area of south-east Clare the majority of fulachta fiadh occur along the margins of turloughs, bogs and marshy areas'. The burnt mound sites at Moyveela (to the north) which were excavated as part of the same programme of excavations as the present site had a similar location on slightly raised ground on the edge of a turlough.

**Authors:** Enda O'Mahony & Finn Delaney

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## A burnt mound at Caherweelder 3, Co. Galway (E3889)

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Burnt mound

This report constitutes the final excavation report of a burnt mound in the townland of Caherweelder, Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for N18 Gort to Oranmore Road scheme. The site was found within the lands acquired for the scheme during Phase 1 archaeological testing. The site consisted of a small burnt mound, a large central trough and a smaller secondary trough.

This was a small disturbed burnt mound located in reclaimed ground on the western edge of an area of rough pasture located to the south of the turlough in Caherweelder townland. A large irregular central trough was located below the undisturbed lower burnt mound deposit. A smaller sub-circular trough was located to the south of the main trough and the burnt mound deposits.

The burnt mound site known as Caherweelder 3 is located on low ground on the western edge of an area of reclaimed rough pasture. The surrounding area is prone to flooding and a turlough lies just to the north-east. The excavations revealed that the burnt mound was located on the interface of the between good and wet land. A preference for wetland margins has been consistently noted by other commentators (Gowen et al. 2005 and Grogan 2007). Grogan (2007) states that in the 'Mooghaun area of south-east Clare the majority of fulachta fiadh occur along the margins of turloughs, bogs and marshy areas'. The burnt mound sites at Moyveela (to the north) which were excavated as part of the same programme of excavations had a similar location on slightly raised ground on the edge of a turlough.

**Authors:** Enda O'Mahony & Finn Delaney

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## A well at Caherweelder 4, Co. Galway (E3708)

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### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Well

This report constitutes the final excavation report of a recorded (GA103:084) well in the townland of Caherweelder, Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for N18 Gort to Oranmore road scheme. The site was located within the lands acquired for the scheme and was identified during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and was subject to archaeological testing at Phase 1 (E3708) which identified the remains of the backfilled well.

A well, marked on the Down Survey map from the 1650s was named as Peter's Well on the first edition Ordnance Survey map and was listed as a Recorded Monument (GA103:084). Local information suggests that the well was backfilled about 100 years ago and that a nearby pool known as Toberawoneen Pool was deepened and widened by machine and replaced it as the local well. The excavation revealed the location of the blocked up well which was identified by the remains of a stone revetment which enclosed it. A number of ditches and the possible remains of a hard standing were also identified.

The well appears to have been a very simple structure and nothing was found to expand or contradict the historical information gleaned from the landowner, Mr Greaney. The well was identified on the Down Survey map from the 1650s and was in use up to 100 years ago. The well bears the name Peter's well but has no known religious associations. It is one of a number of wells in Caherweelder townland with Toberawoneen Pool located to the north and William Connolloy's well to the north-west. A small spring named Pollbaun is located to the south. These small functional wells are a feature of the south Galway landscape. Another well was excavated at Ballyglass West in association with a Bronze Age burnt mound during the course of the current project. The well at Caherweelder is also located close to a number of burnt mound sites (Caherweelder 1, 2, 3 5 and 6). This association reflects the valuable commodity that is a reliable water source across all time periods.

**Authors:** Enda O'Mahony & Finn Delaney

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## A burnt mound at Caherweelder 5, Co. Galway (E3866)

This entry is part 8 of 23 in the Issue **[1] 08**

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Burnt mound

This report constitutes the final excavation report of a previously recorded (GA103:083) burnt mound in the townland of Caherweelder, Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for N18 Gort to Oranmore road scheme. The site was located within the lands acquired for the scheme and was identified during the EIS and was subject to archaeological testing at Phase 1 (E3692) in order to establish the full extent of the burnt mound deposits.

This was a previously known classic kidney shaped burnt mound which was listed as a Recorded Monument (GA103:083). The site was located within the lands acquired for the N18 Oranmore to Gort scheme and was fully excavated. The large mound consisted of a series of deposits consistent with those from other burnt mounds. A single oval shaped trough was located partially under the mound and to the north-west of the expected trough location at the centre of the kidney shape. Some slag and a chert scraper (E3866:23:1) were recovered from stratified deposits within the mound.

The burnt mound site known as Caherweelder 5 is located on low ground on the western edge of a turlough. This preference for wetland margins has been consistently noted by other commentators (Gowen et al 2005 and Grogan 2007). Grogan (2007) states that in the 'Mooghaun area of south-east Clare the majority of fulachta fiadh occur along the margins of turloughs, bogs and marshy areas'. The burnt mound sites at Moyveela (to the north) which were excavated as part of the same programme of excavations had a similar location on slightly raised ground on the edge of a turlough.

**Authors:** Enda O'Mahony & Finn Delaney

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## A burnt mound at Caherweelder 6, Co. Galway (E3871)

This entry is part 9 of 23 in the Issue **[1]** **08**

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Burnt mound

This report constitutes the final excavation report for a burnt mound in the townland of Caherweelder, Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for N18 Gort to Oranmore Road scheme. The site was found within the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the scheme during Phase 1 archaeological testing. The site consisted of a burnt mound and six associated troughs.

The excavation revealed the presence of a shallow burnt mound located along the break in slope on the western edge of a former turlough. Six troughs of varying size and shape were also identified below the burnt mound. Two Early Bronze Age radiocarbon dates of cal BC 2195–2040 was given for samples from the mound and a basal trough fill. A late Mesolithic chert blade (E3871:5:1) was recovered during the excavation. This was one of a cluster of burnt mounds located in Caherweelder townland.

The burnt mound site known as Caherweelder 6 is located straddling the break in slope on the western edge of a turlough. This preference for wetland margins has been consistently noted by other commentators (Gowen et al 2005 and Grogan 2007). Grogan (2007) states that in the 'Mooghaun area of south-east Clare the majority of fulacht fiadh occur along the margins of turloughs, bogs and marshy areas'. The burnt mound sites at Moyveela (to the north) which were excavated as part of the same programme of excavations had a similar location on slightly raised ground on the edge of a turlough.

**Authors:** Linda Hegarty & Finn Delaney

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## An iron working site at Caherweelder 7, Co. Galway (E3826)

This entry is part 10 of 23 in the Issue [\[1\]](#) [08](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Iron working site

This report constitutes the final excavation report on an Iron Age smithing hearth or smelting furnace in the townland of Caherweelder in south Galway (Fig 1). The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction of the N18 Gort to Oranmore road scheme. The site was discovered during Phase 1 archaeological testing of the new route under Ministerial Directions A045 (E3826).

The excavation of a charcoal-rich layer atop a gravel ridge at Caherweelder revealed an ironworking hearth or furnace which produced two Iron Age dates. A single chert piece, identified as a possible hone stone, was found, and along with a small but varied animal bone assemblage, including cattle, pig, sheep/goat and red deer may represent detritus from a broad time span. Charcoal analysis identified that a range of species were collected for ironworking with alder dominating one lower layer and charcoal from hawthorn/apple-type dominating a higher layer of the ironworking pit. The two radiocarbon dates acquired for the site revealed dates tightly clustered in the Iron Age period (cal BC 85–80 – cal AD 54–59; cal BC 91–69 – cal AD 36–52).

It is hypothesized that the main factor affecting the location of the newfound sites in Caherweelder was the proximity to fuel. Both burnt mounds and this Iron Age ironworking site have high fuel requirements. The charcoal identifications from all sites in Caherweelder indicate the presence of a mixed deciduous scrub cover, involving a mosaic of species including hazel and willow with ash and other species present. Repeated cutting of the woodland for fuel would have resulted in adventitious coppicing.

**Authors:** Linda Hegarty

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## A burnt mound at Coldwood/Foorkill, Co. Galway (E3887)

This entry is part 11 of 23 in the Issue **[1]** [08](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Burnt mound

This report constitutes the final excavation report for a disturbed burnt mound in the townland of Coldwood/Foorkill, Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for N18 Gort to Oranmore Road scheme. The site was found within the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) area for the scheme during Phase 1 archaeological testing. The site consisted of the very disturbed remains of a burnt mound. A barbed-and-tanged flint arrowhead was uncovered during the excavation.

The excavation uncovered the disturbed remains of, an undated, burnt mound with no other associated archaeological features. The burnt mound was disturbed by land improvement works which were undertaken during the 1980s. A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from the burnt mound. Two chert flakes and a barbed-and-tanged flint arrowhead were recovered from possible buried topsoil which survived in places below the burnt mound deposit.

The three lithic artefacts from the archaeological excavation at Coldwood are late Neolithic in date. A small number of lithics were recovered from five of the other burnt mound sites.

**Authors:** Enda O'Mahony & Finn Delaney

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## A lime kiln at Cullenagh More, Co. Galway (E3881)

This entry is part 12 of 23 in the Issue **[1] 08**

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Lime kiln

This report constitutes the final excavation report of a previously unrecorded lime kiln in the townland of Cullenagh More, Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for N18 Gort to Oranmore road scheme. The site was located within the lands acquired for the scheme and was identified during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and was subject to archaeological testing at Phase 1 (E3708) which identified the remains of the lime kiln.

This excavation revealed the extant remains of a late medieval, mixed feed, permanent lime kiln in the townland of Cullenagh More. The lime kiln consisted of a square structure with a kiln pot measuring, roughly, 3.5 m across and with a surviving depth of 1.5 m. There was a central flue in each of the four walls. In its later days the kiln was used as a storage shed and although disused, was known locally, into the 20th century. A late medieval date was returned from the kiln.

There was a square, stone-lined subterranean main chamber with flues to the north, south, east and west. In form and dimensions it generally conforms to the pattern expected from relatively early Irish lime kilns and charcoal from the eastern flue produced a late medieval/post-medieval radiocarbon date. No evidence for a lime-slaking pit was found during the excavation and it seems more likely that the lime kiln was built here to process the limestone at source and the calcined limestone was transported to the building site after burning when it would have been almost half its former weight.

**Authors:** Tori McMorran and John Tierney

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## A cashel at Derrydonnell More, Co. Galway (E3867)

This entry is part 13 of 23 in the Issue **[1]** **08**

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Cashel

This report constitutes the final excavation report for a destroyed and levelled cashel in Derrydonnell More townland, Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for the N18 Oranmore to Gort road scheme. The site was a Recorded Monument (GA096:085) located within the lands acquired for the new road. Surviving sub-surface remains were identified by archaeological testing during Phase 1 investigations (E3702) along the route. The excavation revealed the partial outline of a destroyed and levelled cashel. One possible stone feature was all that survived internally.

The site was a recorded early medieval enclosure or cashel (GA096:085) which was depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of the area. The site was levelled and destroyed by land clearance and was not visible above ground. The foundation level of a non-circular wall, which consisted of an inner and an outer face with an internal rubble core, was partly traced around the perimeter of a low knoll. One small, internal, stone feature was identified below a stone deposit which covered the entire interior of the site. A beautifully preserved baluster-headed ringed pin, dated from the 7th to the 8th century, was recovered during the excavation along with a crinoid fossil bead of possibly similar date. No suitable dating material was recovered during the excavation.

**Authors:** Tori McMorran & Finn Delaney

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## A field system at Drumharsna North, Co. Galway (E3868)

This entry is part 14 of 23 in the Issue [1] 08

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Lime kiln

This report constitutes the final excavation report for a relict field system that occupied the location of a recorded ringfort and cillín (GA 113: 109) for which no trace was found. The site was located in Drumharsna North townland in Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for the N18 Oranmore to Gort road scheme. The site was located within the lands acquired for the new road. The excavation revealed the subsurface remains of the footings for a large field boundary which formed part of an old field system which was destroyed in the late 19th century.

The site was identified by McCaffrey in 1952 during the course of fieldwork for an MA thesis and was subsequently added to the Record of Monuments and Places as a ringfort and cillín (GA113: 109). The site was not marked on any of the Ordnance Survey map editions and no trace of an early medieval enclosure or any human skeletal remains were identified during the excavation. It was established that the footings for a large field boundary wall which formed part of a field system marked on the first edition Ordnance survey maps was located below the present sod and topsoil. The field system had been removed by the time of the survey for the 25-inch Ordnance Survey map in 1897. Three fragments from the upper stone of a rotary quern were recovered, which appeared to have a cross-shaped decoration on its upper surface. An iron socketed arrowhead was also recovered. Post-medieval finds included clay pipe stems, 19th and 20th-century pottery, an Irish halfpenny and some iron nails. A residual assemblage of eight lithic artefacts including a possible retouched chert knife was also recovered. The lithic assemblage is technologically and typologically diagnostic and most likely dates to the first half of the Neolithic period.

**Authors:** Gerry Mullins & Finn Delaney

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## A cashel at Drumharsna South, Co. Galway (E3872)

This entry is part 15 of 23 in the Issue **[1] 08**

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Cashel

This report constitutes the final excavation report for a destroyed and levelled cashel that straddles the boundary between Drumharsna South and Owenbristy townlands in Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for the N18 Oranmore to Gort road scheme. The site was a recorded monument (GA113:121) located within the lands acquired for the new road. The excavation revealed the footprint of the cashel wall, which had an entrance to the south.

The site was a recorded early medieval enclosure or cashel (GA113:121) which was depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of the area. The site was levelled and destroyed by land clearance in recent decades and was not visible above ground. The remains of a small 19th-century farmstead are located just to the east of the site. The footprint of the cashel was identified during the excavation as a doughnut-shaped rise in the natural subsoil. Some remains of the original cashel wall survived below one of the field boundaries that intersect the site. A possible entrance was also identified. The stone-built field walls represent townland boundaries dividing Drumharsna North, Drumharsna South and Owenbristy. Analysis of the animal bone, plant remains and charcoal from the site was undertaken and the finds were also assessed. The find and sample assemblages from the site were mixed with material relating to the nearby post-medieval settlement.

**Authors:** Linda Hegarty & Finn Delaney

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## A tenant farm at Lavally, Co. Galway (E3869)

This entry is part 16 of 23 in the Issue **[1] 08**

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Tenant farm

This report constitutes the final excavation report for an estate farmstead that included three buildings and a cobbled yard in the townland of Lavally, Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for N18 Oranmore to Gort road scheme. The site was located within the lands acquired for the new road and was identified during the course of The Environmental Impact Assessment for the scheme. A survey of the dilapidated up-standing remains and hand excavation of a number of trenches during Phase 1 (E3709) investigations along the route confirmed the existence of at least two structures. The Phase 2 excavations revealed the presence of three buildings in all, a cobbled yard and a series of associated features.

The complex of three buildings represents a mid19th-century farmstead likely to have been constructed by a tenant farmer of the Lavally Estate in post-famine times. The farmstead was probably abandoned in the earlier half of the 20th century.

**Authors:** Finn Delaney, Alison McQueen & Gerry Mullins

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## A burnt mound at Moyveela 1, Co. Galway (E3883)

This entry is part 17 of 23 in the Issue **[1] 08**

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Burnt mound

This report constitutes the final excavation report for a burnt mound remnant in the townland of Moyveela, Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for N18 Gort to Oranmore Road scheme. The site was found within the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) area for the scheme during Phase 1 archaeological testing. The site consisted of a burnt mound with associated troughs and pits.

A small, Late Bronze Age, burnt mound was identified consisting of a large sub-rectangular pit which was interpreted as a trough and a smaller roughly oval-shaped pit which may also have been a trough. The large trough had internal stake-holes and pits. A radiocarbon date of 731–406 Cal BC was returned for the site.

**Authors:** Gerry Mullins & Finn Delaney

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## A burnt mound at Moyveela 2, Co. Galway (E3884)

This entry is part 18 of 23 in the Issue [\[1\]](#) [08](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Burnt mound

This report constitutes the final excavation report for a burnt mound in the townland of Moyveela, Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for N18 Gort to Oranmore Road scheme. The site was found within the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) area for the scheme during Phase 1 archaeological testing. The site consisted of a burnt mound with associated troughs and pits.

The excavation revealed the presence of a burnt mound with associated pits and troughs. The two troughs both had internal stakeholes suggesting in one case some form of lining and in the other some form of suspension rack. The remains of a H-frame suspension frame was situated north-west of the largest trough. A number of external pits and stakeholes hinted at related structures or activities. Two Late Bronze Age dates were returned for the site cal BC 1010–909. A cow horn and a shed red-deer antler were found in the abandonment fills of a pair of boiling pits.

The burnt mound site at Moyveela 2 is located on slightly raised ground on the western edge of a large turlough. This preference for wetland margins has been consistently noted by other commentators (Gowen et al 2005 and Grogan 2007). Grogan (2007) states that in the 'Mooghaun area of south-east Clare the majority of fulachta fiadh occur along the margins of turloughs, bogs and marshy areas'. The burnt mound sites at Caherweelder (to the south) which were excavated as part of the same programme of excavations had a similar location on slightly raised ground on the edge of a turlough.

**Authors:** Gerry Mullins & Finn Delaney

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## A clachán at Moyveela 3, Co. Galway (E3907)

This entry is part 19 of 23 in the Issue **[1] 08**

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Clachán

This report constitutes the final excavation report for a portion of a clachan excavated in the townland of Moyveela, Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for N18 Oranmore to Gort road scheme. The site was located within the lands acquired for the new road and was identified by field-walking during Phase 1 (E3723) investigations along the route. A survey of the entire clachan, including the area outside the lands acquired for the new road, identified sixteen buildings, and three of these were located within the lands acquired for the new road. The excavations revealed the presence of two more buildings – thus five in total were excavated within the lands acquired for the new road, along with other related features, including a bank, a trackway, a pavement and platforms. The total number of buildings identified within the clachan is 18 and this, based on the excavation results, can be viewed as a minimum number.

The five buildings and associated features excavated represents part of a larger pre-famine clachan settlement likely to have been constructed by a group of tenant farmers from the Moyveela Estate. The clachan was probably abandoned prior to the Great Famine of 1845–49 as it is not depicted on the Ordnance Survey first edition map.

**Authors:** Finn Delaney, Linda Hegarty & Allison McQueen

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[3] Archaeological Report - Moyveela 3, Co. Galway (Ireland): <http://www.slideshare.net/eachtra/moyveela-3-journal>

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## A cashel and a burial ground at Owenbristy, Co. Galway (E3770)

This entry is part 20 of 23 in the Issue [\[1\]](#) [08](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Cashel and burial ground

This report constitutes the final excavation report on a cemetery settlement identified in the townland of Owenbristy, Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for N18 Oranmore to Gort road scheme. The site was located within the lands acquired for the new road and was identified during the course of Phase 1 testing (E3723) as an overgrown and partly destroyed stone enclosure or cashel. Testing revealed the presence of burials inside the remains of the circular enclosure. The Phase 2 excavation revealed the presence of a cemetery within the enclosure alongside other evidence for occupation and later ridge and furrow agricultural activity.

The excavated enclosure at Owenbristy has been categorised as a cemetery settlement, however, it may also have been an early church or minor ecclesiastical site. A number of possibly pre-enclosure features including a large burnt pit and a number of early finds hint at a possible Beaker phase. The partly upstanding, roughly circular stone enclosure was 44 m in diameter and defined a space located on a small promontory projecting into a seasonal lake or turlough. The enclosure is located close to a probable 18th-century townland boundary and it is likely that the site may have originally being located within Killeenhugh townland, which borders it to the north.

While a large part of the interior revealed itself to be lacking identifiable archaeological features, a number of pits, postholes and possible hearths were identified toward the centre of the enclosure. A clearly defined cemetery area was also identified in the eastern and south-eastern sector of the enclosure. Skeletons of 95 individuals were identified within the cemetery and 1 individual was found within the enclosure wall. The cemetery contained 39 simple pit graves and 26 slab-lined graves with or without lintels. The northern half of the cemetery was arranged in two to three north/south rows of east/west burials.

An extensive programme of radiocarbon dating was undertaken and based on the results of this programme and on the stratigraphic sequence and the character of the burials 75 have been assigned to an early medieval burial phase ranging from cal AD 548 – 972. The early medieval cemetery was then reused as a place for mainly infant and child burials which date from cal AD 1219 – 1445. This second phase of burials was confined to the southern half of the cemetery.

The orderly north/south rows of burials were interrupted by a series of pits and postholes which represent a wooden structure or structures. Two radiocarbon dates ranging from cal AD 580 – 687 were obtained from the charcoal-rich fills of two of the postholes, which would have formed the northern wall of the proposed timber structure(s). The smaller proposed structure may have been a small wooden church. If this site did once lie in Killeenhugh townland and not in Owenbristy, then perhaps the cashel once housed an early medieval church and cemetery dedicated to St Aodh.

The finds from the site formed a typical early medieval assemblage and consisted of several bone and metal pins, a bone-handled iron knife, several other iron knife or blade fragments, several possible whetstones, a plain metal ring – possibly from a horse bridle, two blue glass beads, two fragments of a lignite wristband and several rotary quern fragments. The stone macro tools are predominantly associated with metalworking activities, which may have taken place at the site. A number of slag residues also point towards on site metalworking.

The faunal remains indicate the site was not a large and busy settlement and the economy seems to have been based on cattle and a few sheep and pigs. The predominance of livestock remains displaying butchering marks and the evidence for cooking through charring and burning is proof of some sort of occupation of the site, despite the dearth of domestic buildings within the enclosure.

The interior of the enclosure was later used for ridge-and-furrow cultivation. The furrows appear to

have been used prior to the partial destruction of the enclosure wall and the natural or deliberate dispersal of the stone from the inner core of the wall across the site. The furrows appear to avoid the burial area.

**Authors:** John Lehane & Finn Delaney

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## A burnt mound at Roevehagh 1, Co. Galway (E3885)

This entry is part 21 of 23 in the Issue [1] 08

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Burnt mound

This report constitutes the final excavation report for a poorly preserved burnt mound in the townland of Roevehagh, Co. Galway. The site was excavated as part of the archaeological excavation programme in advance of construction for N18 Gort to Oranmore Road scheme. The site was found within the CPO for the scheme during Phase 1 archaeological testing.

This was a small, poorly preserved burnt mound from which a Late Bronze Age date was returned. A shallow trough contained a number of stakeholes in the base of the pit. No finds were found. One Late Bronze Age date was returned from the basal fill of the trough.

The burnt mound in Roevehagh is located on slightly raised ground on the northern edge of a former turlough. The preference for locating burnt mound sites on wetland margins has been consistently noted by other commentators (Gowen et al 2005 and Grogan 2007). Grogan (2007) states that in the 'Mooghaun area of south-east Clare the majority of fulachta fiadh occur along the margins of turloughs, bogs and marshy areas'. The burnt mound sites at Caherweelder (to the south) and Moyveela (to the north) which were excavated as part of the same programme of excavations as the present site also had a similar location on slightly raised ground on the edge of a turlough.

**Authors:** Tori McMorrany & Finn Delaney

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## A tenant farm at Roevehagh 2, Co. Galway (E4012)

This entry is part 23 of 23 in the Issue **[1]** [08](#)

### Archaeological Excavation Report

#### Tenant farm

This report outlines the results of an archaeological survey and excavation in Roevehagh townland Co. Galway at the site of the overgrown remains of three structures and associated field boundaries. The structures and field boundaries were identified during scrub clearance by machine across areas covered in hazel and blackthorn and underlain by limestone bedrock. The scrub clearance was undertaken within the lands acquired for the N18 Gort to Oranmore road scheme. The archaeological investigations were undertaken under a registration number (E4012) for construction/site clearance monitoring from the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government.

This report analyses the individual structures and researches the historical and social background of a small group of buildings in Roevehagh townland which were subject to survey and test excavations. The group included a pair of buildings and a single, similar building, located c. 45 m to the north. This building group appears to represent two pre-famine farming households likely to have been constructed by a group of tenant farmers at Roevehagh. It is likely to have been abandoned prior to the Great Famine 1845–49. Structure 1 is depicted on the 1838 OS map and is partly depicted on the 1895 OS map. It is depicted only as a small outline, indicating that it is roofless on the 1929 OS map. These buildings probably went out of use after the earlier 19th century village of Roevehagh was established, as a response to changes in the socio-economic structures in Galway.

**Authors:** Enda O'Mahony & Finn Delaney

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## The N18 Archaeological Excavations and the Use of GIS

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A lecture given by Finn Delaney and Maurizio Toscano of Eachtra at the [2] [IAI Autumn Conference](#) 2010 in Belfast.

### **[3] [Presentation - IAI Autumn 2010](#)**

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PHP, Wordpress customization, Design, CSS

by

Maurizio Toscano

and

Lidia Bocanegra