



ULSTER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



Centre for
**COMMUNITY
ARCHAEOLOGY**
Queen's University Belfast

DISCOVERY 2022!

**SIXTH ANNUAL REVIEW OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN ULSTER**

**Saturday 12th November 2022
Main Lecture Theatre, Elmwood Building
Queen's University Belfast**



Barrie Hartwell
Keynote Speaker



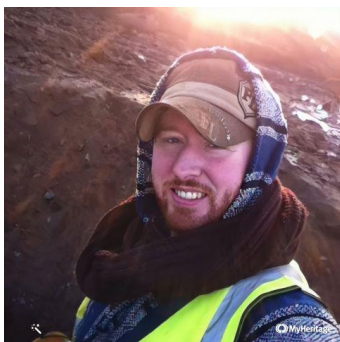
Prof. Alun Evans



Rhonda Robinson



Dr Paddy Gleeson



Stuart Alexander



Brian Sloan



Dr Cormac McSparron

Welcome from the Ulster Archaeological Society

On behalf of the Committee of the Ulster Archaeological Society (UAS) I would like to welcome everyone to Discovery 2022!, both in person and those joining us online. This is the sixth Annual Review of Archaeological Discoveries in Ulster conference organised by the Ulster Archaeological Society and the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's University Belfast (CCA, QUB). We particularly appreciate our ongoing collaboration with our friends and colleagues in Queen's.

The last year has continued to be challenging for everyone, in many different ways. Regrettably, Covid restrictions again curtailed many of our usual activities but these are now starting to resume. Our summer outings and field trips were sadly missed but work is ongoing to get these up and running again next year. The Survey Group met in September, and under the leadership of Mal Conway, an exciting programme of projects is underway, with activities including land surveys, monument condition surveys, geophysical surveys and excavations. We have recently been able to run workshops face to face again and our thanks go to those involved.

It is so good to be back together again in the Elmwood Lecture Theatre, after meeting on Zoom for so long. However, that technology has enabled us to keep in touch with each other, continue our committee meetings and maintain our lecture series and some of our workshops whilst we were unable to meet in person. A particular thank you must go to Dr Duncan Berryman for his unstinting efforts in setting up our Zoom and Teams events in addition to issuing quarterly Newsletters and updating the website and social media.

It can safely be said that the UAS continues to go from strength to strength thanks to the hard work and dedication of the whole committee. Despite the setbacks, and, the membership continues to grow, an indication of the value the population places on archaeology and heritage. Heritage has clearly tangible benefits for society, culture, and the economy, whether as a draw for tourism, an educational resource, or a backdrop to our daily lives, promoting local pride and a sense of place. It belongs to us all and it is our responsibility to cherish it and protect it for future generations.

The 15th October marked the 75th Anniversary of the UAS, an achievement worth celebrating in its own right. I hope that you all enjoy Discovery 2022! and I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones over this conference weekend. It is a great opportunity to discuss what is happening in the world of archaeology in Ulster and beyond. I would like to thank all of our speakers in advance for coming along to talk to us about the many diverse aspects of archaeology which they have been involved with over the past year and more.

Here's to another year of exciting archaeology in Ulster and I hope to see you all again next year at Discovery 2023!

Anne MacDermott
President, Ulster Archaeological Society

Welcome from the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's University Belfast

Welcome to the sixth annual review of archaeological discoveries in Ulster – the Discovery 2022! conference. After the disruptions caused by Covid-19 over the past two years, we are delighted to be once again able to hold our conference in person and not totally online. This is an important time of commemoration within our subject since it is 75 years since the Ulster Archaeological Society was established in 1947, while next year witnesses the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Department of Archaeology at QUB. It is highly fitting, therefore, that this year's keynote lecture will be delivered by Barrie Hartwell, UAS Vice-President and a former member of staff in Archaeology and Palaeoecology at QUB. For many years Barrie worked tirelessly to connect the UAS and QUB Archaeology-Palaeoecology and we are honoured that he agreed to give the keynote lecture this year.

The Centre for Community Archaeology (CCA) was thankfully able to resume many of its in-person activities in 2022 after the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic over the past couple of years. Our training excavation took place for a second season on the campus of Stranmillis University College and was directed by Brian Sloan over the four weeks from Monday 6 June to Friday 1 July. We also continued our work for the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership and Ruairí Ó Baoill directed a three-week community-based excavation at Lisdoon Lisnaskea, County Fermanagh, which explored an Early Medieval ringfort. CCA's work also extended across the Atlantic and Ruairí Ó Baoill joined Professor Audrey Horning for a two-week excavation at a 19th-century Irish-owned grocery store in historic Lowell, Massachusetts, in August in a project undertaken with UMASS Boston's Fiske Center for Archaeological Research.

Much of the year, however, has been devoted to the ground works associated with the Community Archaeology Programme Northern Ireland (CAPNI), with an application for funding made to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) by the CCA, the Vice Chancellor's Office and QUB Foundation in March 2022. We have now been given approval by the NLHF to proceed with the nine-month Development Phase of the programme and our CAPNI Project Manager's position was advertised and interviewed. The successful candidate – Dr Heather Montgomery – commenced work on 7th November 2022. We are hugely excited about the potential of this project since it would enable us to increase the reach of our community archaeology work across Northern Ireland in a more coordinated manner and with a focus on societal wellbeing. 2023 promises to be a hugely exciting year for archaeology in Northern Ireland since it will see the annual conference of the European Association of Archaeologists, with around 2000 delegates, come to QUB and Belfast in late August. The conference is predicted to have an impact of around £4 million on the city's economy and it will hopefully help demonstrate the value of archaeology to our tourism sector. We are delighted that UAS President, Anne MacDermott, is a member of the conference's National Advisory Board and we hope that members of the UAS will get involved.

It seems no time since we held the first Discovery! conference and we are delighted to have reached the sixth conference since it clearly demonstrates the appetite to learn more about the excellent archaeological work going on across a range of sectors in Ulster. Our shared annual conference provides us with an excellent opportunity to maintain QUB's important relationship with the Ulster Archaeological Society and we hope this will survive for another 75 years. We hope you will enjoy the conference and hearing about this year's range of exciting projects

Professor Eileen Murphy & Dr Colm Donnelly
Co-Directors of the Centre for Community Archaeology
School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast

DISCOVERY 2022!
SIXTH ANNUAL REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN
ULSTER

**Organised by the Ulster Archaeological Society and
the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's University Belfast**

Friday 11th November 2022

Common Room, Elmwood Building, QUB & Lecture Theatre (Room OG-029), Elmwood Building, QUB

- 6.00-6.30** **Conference Registration**
- 6.30** **Conference Launch and Wine Reception**
- 7.00-7.20** **Book launch:** *Irish Late Iron Age Equestrian Equipment in Its Insular and Continental Context. Queen's University Belfast Irish Archaeological Monograph No.2 by Dr Rena Maguire*
- 7.20-8.00** **Keynote Address: Barrie Hartwell** (Ulster Archaeological Society and Queen's University Belfast)
A Giant at the Table, an Elephant in the Room

Saturday 12th November 2022

Lecture Theatre (Room OG-029), Elmwood Building, QUB

- 9.30** **Conference Welcome:**
Professor Eileen Murphy (Co-Director of the Centre for Community Archaeology, School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast)
Anne MacDermott MBE (President of the Ulster Archaeological Society)

SESSION 1: HERITAGE PAST AND FUTURE

- 9.40-10.00** **Professor Alun Evans** (Queen's University Belfast)
The Ulster Journal of Archaeology: Conception, Gestation, Triplets!
- 10.00-10.20** **Rhonda Robinson** (Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities)
Looking Forward. New standards and guidance to help us deliver better archaeology
- 10.20-10.40** **Dr Paddy Gleeson** (Queen's University Belfast)
New horizons for heritage science in Northern Ireland: Capability for Collections and the Institute for Heritage and Environmental Science
- 10.40-11.20** *Morning Tea/ Coffee break*

SESSSION 2: EXCAVATIONS

- 11.20-11.40** **Stuart Alexander** (Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd)
A multi-period site at Killinchy Road, Comber, County Down
- 11.40-12.00** **Brian Sloan** (Centre for Community Archaeology, QUB and Ulster Archaeological Society)
Further excavations at Stranmillis University College, Belfast
- 12.00-12.20** **Dr Cormac McSparron** (Queen's University Belfast)
A previously unrecognised bawn at Prehen near Derry
- 12.20-12.40** **Q & A for morning session**
- 12.40-2.00** *Lunch*

SESSION 3: COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

- 2.00-2.20** **Dr Colm Donnelly** (Queen's University Belfast)
An introduction to the Community Archaeology Programme Northern Ireland (CAPNI)
- 2.20-2.40** **Grace McAlister** (Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Partnership)
Using archaeology to engage communities in the Binevenagh area

- 2.40-3.00** **Kate Robb** (John Cronin & Associates)
Archaeology, farming and landscapes: Grassroots community advice
- 3.00-3.20** **Ruairí Ó Baoill** (Centre for Community Archaeology, QUB and Ulster Archaeological Society)
A Community Excavation at Lisdoon Fort, Lisnaskea, County Fermanagh
- 3.20-3.50** *Afternoon Tea/ Coffee break*
- SESSION 4: RESEARCH**
- 3.50-4.10** **Niamh Baker** (National Museums Northern Ireland)
Revisiting the Armada collections at the Ulster Museum
- 4.10-4.30** **Courtney Mundt** (Queen's University Belfast)
Uncovering *cillíní* locations in Ulster through map analyses of Counties Fermanagh and Antrim
- 4.30-4.50** **Dr Rena Maguire** (University College Dublin) & **Jordana Maguire** (Queen's University Belfast)
'Doors and corners, kid-that's where they get you': A new examination of horse skulls found in vernacular Post-Medieval buildings
- 4.50-5.10** **Dr James Perkins** (Queen's University Belfast)
Niche construction and plant use in the Mesolithic
- 5.10-5.30** **Q & A for afternoon session**
- 5.30** **Conference concludes**

Conference Abstracts and Profiles

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Barrie Hartwell (Ulster Archaeological Society and Queen's University Belfast)

A Giant at the Table, an Elephant in the Room

Keynote Speaker abstract

The relationship between farming and archaeology is a long and complicated one. In the last 300 years 'modern' farming has revealed, altered and obliterated traces of earlier occupation and added further layers to our evolving landscape. An example of the familiar area of the Giant's Ring in Ballynahatty townland is taken to illustrate how, through time, the sometimes competing, sometimes supporting interests of the landowner, the farmer, the archaeologist and the State have shaped the present landscape and our understanding of this great Neolithic monument.

Keynote Speaker profile **E-mail:** barriehartwell@hotmail.com

Barrie Hartwell was formerly Senior Research Officer in Archaeology in the Queen's University of Belfast and now Honorary Curator of its Teaching Collection. He excavated the Late Neolithic timber enclosure at Ballynahatty for ten seasons during the 1990s and is a past President and vice President of the Ulster Archaeology Society.

SESSION 1: HERITAGE PAST AND FUTURE

Professor Alun Evans (Queen's University Belfast)

The Ulster Journal of Archaeology: Conception, Gestation, Triplets!

Abstract

The Belfast Natural History Society was founded in 1821. The Invitation to the opening of its Museum in 1831 demonstrated the Society's wide interests, displaying not only objects pertaining to Natural History, but also a megalith. At the British Association's meeting in Belfast in 1852, the Museum exhibited a 'Collection of Antiquities.' The following year, the First Series of The Ulster Journal of Archaeology, edited by Robert Shipboy MacAdam, was launched. It folded in 1862, to be followed by two further Series. In 1917, the Society established its Archaeological Section, and, in May 1932, it financed Estyn Evans' excavation at Goward, Co Down.

Profile **E-mail:** a.evans@qub.ac.uk

Alun Evans qualified in Medicine at Queen's in 1968. He subsequently trained as a physician, before developing an interest in Epidemiology. In 1982 he became the Principal Investigator of the WHO MONICA (MONItoring in CARdiovascular disease) Project in Belfast. He was elected to the Steering Committee of MONICA in 1990 and chaired it from 1994-7. He coordinated the Project's completion in 2004. He took part in an extensive research programme with France; and led a pooling project of cardiovascular cohorts in 12 European countries, which is still running. He has several hundred medical publications to his name. He was awarded a Personal Chair in Epidemiology in 1990. His current focus is on Medical History, with an emphasis on Social and Public Health, and has published around 50 papers in this area. Until recently he was Secretary to the Medical History Section of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland. He is a member of Academia Europaea, and is currently the President of the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society.

Rhonda Robinson (Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities)

Looking Forward. New standards and guidance to help us deliver better archaeology

Abstract

As the government body regulating archaeological practice in NI, Historic Environment Division (HED) is working in partnership with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) to undertake a review of the application of standards and guidance documentation, produced by CIfA and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI), to archaeological practice here. This project emerged as a result of Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland, in which the archaeological sector identified revised standards and guidance as a key need. This presentation discusses what we hoped to achieve from the project, and how the results are being implemented.

Profile **E-mail:** Rhonda.Robinson@communities-ni.gov.uk

Rhonda Robinson is a Principal Archaeologist with Historic Environment Division, where she has worked in a variety of roles for over 20 years. Her current focus includes archaeological archives, legislation and policy review, and leading delivery of Archaeology 2030 in partnership with the archaeological sector across NI.

Dr Paddy Gleeson (Queen's University Belfast)

New horizons for heritage science in Northern Ireland: Capability for Collections and the Institute for Heritage and Environmental Science

Abstract

In 2022 QUB was awarded £3 million to fund a major upgrade of the Archaeology and Palaeoecology laboratories. This upgrade has established a world-leading institute in heritage and environmental

science, as part of the Arts and Humanities Research Council's (AHRC) Capability for Collections (CapCo) fund. Securing investment from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), this CapCo funding represents a landmark investment building regional capacities to support galleries, libraries, archives and museums (GLAMS). Our QUB bid was supported by colleagues in the National Museums of Northern Ireland, National Museum of Ireland, and the Historic Environment Division of Northern Ireland, in order to secure an open and accessible state-of-the-art facility for conservation, heritage and environmental science. The investment creates leading facilities in isotope analysis, materials characterisation and elemental mapping, conservation and wider archaeological science, intended to support the heritage and environmental science sector of Northern Ireland and beyond. It underlines QUB's recent investment in this area through the Heritage HUB @ QUB, and is aimed at now offering an all-island hub for collections-based research and archaeological science. This presentation will outline the background to the bid, as well as the capacities and research potential for archaeological science that it offers.

Profile **E-mail:** P.Gleeson@qub.ac.uk

Dr Patrick Gleeson is a Senior Lecturer in early medieval archaeology at QUB. His research examines the archaeology of later prehistoric and medieval Europe, with a focus on landscapes of cult, kingship and assembly in the first millennium AD. He has led excavations and remote sensing at a number of major royal sites, including the Rock of Cashel, Navan Fort, Dunseverick and Lagore Crannog as a part of funded and collaborative research projects. He is a recipient of the Philip Leverhulme Prize 2022.

SESSION 2: EXCAVATIONS

Stuart Alexander (Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd)

A multi-period site at Killinchy Road, Comber, County Down

Abstract

This paper presents the results of an excavation carried out from November 2020 to April 2021 at Killinchy Road, Comber, County Down, that uncovered archaeological material spanning from the Late-Mesolithic to the Early Post-Medieval Period.

Profile **E-mail:** stuart@northarc.co.uk

Stuart Alexander graduated from Queen's University Belfast in 2010 with a BA in Archaeology and Ancient History and again in 2011 with a Master's Degree in Professional Archaeology. He has worked for most of the major archaeological companies in Northern Ireland and has been employed by NAC Ltd since 2016. In addition to undertaking onsite testing and management of excavations, Stuart also takes responsibility for NAC's post- excavation unit.

Brian Sloan (Centre for Community Archaeology, QUB and Ulster Archaeological Society)

Further excavations at Stranmillis University College, Belfast

Abstract

In the summer of 2022, Queen's University Belfast made a return to the grounds of Stranmillis University College for the annual student excavation module. This investigation built upon a previous season of excavation carried out in 2021, when tantalising evidence of previously unknown prehistoric occupation was recovered. The 2022 investigation attempted to refine the dating and extent of this activity, as well as archaeologically test other areas of the campus. As always, a few surprises were met along the way!

Profile **E-mail:** b.sloan@qub.ac.uk

Brian Sloan is an excavation director with the Centre for Community Archaeology, School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast. Since he graduated from QUB in 2003, he has worked on and directed numerous excavations throughout Northern Ireland, including hi-profile community excavations at Tullaghogue County Tyrone and Downpatrick County Down. He is a lithics specialist and is leading the development of an experimental archaeology programme within the School.

Dr Cormac McSparron (Queen's University Belfast)

A previously unrecognised bawn at Prehen near Derry

Abstract

The Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (now the Centre for Community Archaeology), Queen's University Belfast, was asked by the NIEA to carry out a community excavation at Prehen House, Derry~Londonderry, as part of the City of Culture 2013 celebrations in association with the Derry City Council and the Tower Museum. Local historian, Ansley Malley had, some years previously, identified masonry in an outbuilding of Prehen House that he believed might be a fragment of a flanker of a 17th century fortified house / bawn. This was confirmed by a geophysical survey and evaluation excavation carried out there in February/ March 2013, followed by a full excavation of the flanker and surrounding areas in June 2013. The excavation revealed the foundations of a large flanker and tentrancewayway into the flanker from the rest of the fortified house or bawn, to the northeast. After the flanker partially collapsed, what remained may have been reworked into a garden feature in the later 18th or 19th centuries, perhaps using the existing remnants of flanker fabric to make a picturesque ruin.

Profile **E-mail:** c.mcsparron@qub.ac.uk

Dr Cormac McSparron, School of Natural and Built Environment QUB is an archaeologist who graduated with a BA in Archaeology and Modern History from QUB, an MPhil degree from QUB

entitled "The Medieval Coarse Pottery of Ulster" and a PhD from QUB, "Statistical analysis of the single burial tradition in Early Bronze Age Ireland and some implications for social structure".

He has directed and published a number of important excavations of varying types and periods and other works on Irish archaeology including, in 2021, *Burials and Society in Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Ireland*. Queen's University Belfast Irish Archaeological Monographs No. 1. Cormac has a wide range of research interests, including the early Irish Neolithic period, early and later Medieval Coarse potting traditions, the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Ages, funerary archaeology, the emergence of complex societies, archaeological theory, the archaeology of migration and the application of radiocarbon dating to archaeological problems.

SESSION 3: COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

Dr Colm Donnelly (Queen's University Belfast)

An introduction to the Community Archaeology Programme Northern Ireland (CAPNI)

Abstract

In February 2022 the Centre for Community Archaeology (School of Natural and Built Environment) and the QUB Foundation (the university's charitable wing) submitted an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) in support of a major new three-year community-based archaeological programme for Northern Ireland - the Community Archaeology Programme NI (CAPNI). The objective of the programme would be to inspire and engage diverse communities with their local heritage through a range of outreach activities designed to enable the public to learn about, appreciate and participate in archaeological fieldwork and other activities. The proposal was approved by the NLHF in September 2022 and funding was secured for a nine-month Development Phase, during which time the programme's contents would be advanced and finessed. CAPNI has just appointed its Project Manager for this Development Phase, Dr Heather Montgomery, and we intend to submit our Delivery Phase application to the NLHF in early summer 2023.

Profile **E-mail:** c.j.donnelly@qub.ac.uk

Dr Colm Donnelly is the Co-Director of the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's University Belfast. A historical archaeologist and experienced field archaeologist, he has published on Medieval and 17th century buildings, Gaelic Medieval Ireland, children's burial grounds, the Irish diaspora in nineteenth-century Massachusetts, and community archaeology.

Grace McAlister (Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Partnership)

Using archaeology to engage communities in the Binevenagh area

Abstract

In 2020 the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme was awarded £3.4 million to invest in heritage projects across three themes: natural heritage, outdoor recreation and historic environment. This talk will explore how the Landscape Partnership Scheme is using both archaeological techniques and archaeological sites to engage people with wider heritage within the project area which stretches from Articlave to Ballykelly.

Profile **E-mail:** grace@ccght.org

Grace McAlister graduated from Queens University with a BSc Archaeology-Palaeoecology in 2009 and from 2011 to 2019 worked for the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's. In 2020 she began working for the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme in a part-time role as Historic Environment Officer. In this role she coordinates several heritage lottery funded projects which encompass building conservation, volunteer research, archaeological excavation and heritage skills training. While working part-time Grace is carrying out PhD research which explores how children engage with archaeology. Grace is a UAS committee member and an assistant leader with Belfast Young Archaeologists' Club.

Kate Robb (John Cronin & Associates)

Archaeology, farming and landscapes: Grassroots community advice

Abstract

The *Farming Rathcroghan EIP-Agri Project* is a European Innovation Partnership (EIP) funded by DAFM. The primary objective of the project is to support a sustainably managed and archaeologically-rich cultural landscape, while facilitating a vibrant farming community. Innovative in approach, the project is now in its fourth year of a five-year programme.

Community-based archaeological support at grassroots level can assist the EIP with farmer-led approaches to safeguard archaeological monuments within a unique royal landscape at Rathcroghan, Co. Roscommon. A brief overview of the Farming Rathcroghan EIP Community Archaeologist role to date will be presented.

Profile **E-mail:** kate.robb@johncronin.ie

Kate Robb is Senior Archaeologist with John Cronin & Associates (JCA). A graduate of NUI Galway and with over 15 years' commercial industry experience, Kate has been involved in a wide range of both development-led and community-based projects. She currently acts as Community Archaeologist

for the Farming Rathcroghan EIP-Agri Project (2019-present) and as Community Archaeologist for the Donegal Community Archaeology Scheme on behalf of Donegal County Council (2022).

Ruairí Ó Baoill (Centre for Community Archaeology, QUB and Ulster Archaeological Society)

A Community Excavation at Lisdoon Fort, Lisnaskea, County Fermanagh

Abstract

This talk presents the results of a community excavation carried out in September 2022 by the Centre for Community Archaeology, Queen's University Belfast at Lisdoon Fort, a bivallate rath and probable Maguire residence, in Lisnaskea, County Fermanagh.

Profile **E-mail:** r.obaoill@qub.ac.uk

Ruairí Ó Baoill is an excavation director with the Centre for Community Archaeology, Queen's University Belfast and was President of the Ulster Archaeological Society from 2016 to 2022. He is a founder member and former Chair of the Irish Post-Medieval Archaeology Group (IPMAG) and has sat on the Board of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI). Ruairí has directed and worked on a large number of excavations across Ireland. His research interests include Viking-Age Ireland, the archaeology of Irish towns, the Post-Medieval archaeology of Ireland and Irish folk life. Amongst his many publications are books on the archaeology of Carrickfergus (2008), Belfast (2010) and Derry~Londonderry (2013).

SESSION 4: RESEARCH

Niamh Baker (National Museums Northern Ireland)

Revisiting the Armada collections at the Ulster Museum

Abstract

The Spanish Armada of 1588 has always captured people's imagination. This fascinating story is reflected in the Armada collections both on and off display at the Ulster Museum. The artefacts from the *Girona*, discovered by Robert Stenuit in 1967, and *La Trinidad Valencera*, found by divers of the City of Derry Sub Aqua Club in 1971, tell us about the lives of the people aboard both Armada ships in the sixteenth century. This paper will revisit the Armada collections at National Museums NI and sets out the work currently going on to care for and make them accessible.

Profile **E-mail:** Niamh.Baker@nmni.com

Niamh Baker has a background working within the museum sector with experience at local authority museums across NI and ROI. She has worked at National Museums NI for fourteen years and has

recently taken up her current post as Curator of Archaeology, having been Curator of Making the Future since 2018. She is currently completing her Associateship of the Museum Association (AMA), looking at the archaeology collections of National Museums NI. She is also a member of the Ulster Archaeological Society and has had articles published in the Social History Curators Group journal *Social History in Museums*, Vol. 44, Spring 2021 and the Irish Museums Association journal, *Museum Ireland*, 2021, Vol. 28. She is currently a member of the Committee for the Society of Museum Archaeology and a member of the Royal Irish Academy, Standing Committee for Archaeology.

Courtney Mundt (Queen's University Belfast)

Uncovering cillíní locations in Ulster through map analyses of Counties Fermanagh and Antrim

Abstract

Cillíní (unconsecrated children's burial grounds) were used from about the 17th to mid-20th centuries to bury unbaptised and stillborn children, as well as adults deemed ineligible for burial in consecrated ground. One of the main objectives of my PhD research has been to analyse the Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NI SMR) supplementary documentation for evidence of unrecorded and/or misrecorded *cillíní* in two of my case study counties, Antrim and Fermanagh. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, oral history interviews and fieldwork were only completed in County Fermanagh across 2 weeks in Summer 2021. These combined techniques have resulted in the *cillíní* count being doubled for both Fermanagh and Antrim, as well as almost doubling the number of *cillíní* recorded in Northern Ireland. This research hopes to prove the value of these techniques and to submit these results to the Department for Communities (DfC) so that they can update the SMR and further protect these little-researched, vulnerable sites.

Profile **E-mail:** cmundt01@qub.ac.uk

Courtney Mundt is a 4th year self-funded PhD researcher at Queen's University Belfast. She completed her BSc Hons in Archaeological Science at Penn State University in 2013 and her MA in Archaeology at University College Dublin in 2017. Courtney then worked as a commercial archaeologist for two years in the Republic of Ireland before moving to Belfast in 2019. Her dissertation research focuses on mapping and researching the origins of *cillíní* (unconsecrated children's burial grounds). Her PhD title is "Mapping the Physical and Religious Influences Behind *Cillíní* Distribution on the Island of Ireland: With Counties Antrim, Fermanagh, and Meath as Case Studies." Courtney's Fermanagh fieldwork in Summer 2021 was funded by the Royal Irish Academy's R.J. Hunter Research Bursary Scheme and the Jack Kerr Fieldwork Scholarship, QUB ArcPal. She is also a member of the Ulster Archaeological Society and helps run UAS's social media pages as part of the PR team.

Dr Rena Maguire (University College Dublin) & **Jordana Maguire** (Queen's University Belfast)

'Doors and corners, kid - that's where they get you': A new examination of horse skulls found in vernacular Post-Medieval buildings

Abstract

The phenomenon of horse skull placements in the doorways and floors of vernacular buildings has been noted across Ireland – particularly Ulster - as much as Britain. Once considered a sacrificial act, the reasoning behind the practice has been questioned, with many folkloric. There is evidence of early medieval practice, then an absence until the 16th/17th centuries AD. This paper examines the placements of the earliest skull depositions, comparing them with others in Europe to suggest possible cultural origins, and if they have any relevance to the post-medieval examples. However, by applying GIS models to the known provenances, we suggest a surprising reason and possible history for the post-medieval skulls, in which the location and turbulent past of Ulster plays a major role.

Profile **E-mail:** rena.maguire@ucd.ie

Dr Rena Maguire obtained her MSc and PhD from Queen's University Belfast, specialising in Iron Age equestrianism. She is currently a Government of Ireland Postdoctoral researcher in UCD., funded by the Irish Research Council. The project, Making Time, examines societal change and technology in the Irish Iron Age.

Jordana Maguire is a PhD student in Queen's University Belfast, Archaeology Dept, examining conservation and future-proofing of living museums. Before her MSc in Built Heritage, she worked as a GIS professional, and a research assistant in QUB School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy & Politics.

Dr James Perkins (Queen's University Belfast)

Niche construction and plant use in the Mesolithic

Abstract

Archaeobotanical and pollen records from Britain and north-west Europe indicate that Mesolithic people constructed niches by creating small-scale woodland clearances and intensively exploiting/managing wild plants. In contrast, the human-plant interactions of Ireland's Mesolithic settlers and their environmental impacts are poorly understood. This is because systematic reviews of the periods archaeobotanical records are lacking and few pollen studies have specifically targeted hunter-gatherer sites. To address this knowledge gap, a systematic review of Ireland's Mesolithic plant-use record was conducted alongside palynological studies of three areas with known Mesolithic activity. This paper presents the main results and conclusions of these investigations.

Profile **E-mail:** jperkins01@qub.ac.uk

Dr James Perkins is a recent PhD graduate from the School of Natural and Built Environment. He completed both his Bachelors and Masters degrees at QUB, during which he developed a strong interest in 'hunter-gatherer' palaeoecology. His PhD research, funded by Northern Bridge Doctoral Training Partnership, examined the human-plant interactions of Ireland's Mesolithic settlers using palynological and archaeobotanical evidence

Further information and Acknowledgements

Information about the Ulster Archaeological Society

The current Committee of the Ulster Archaeological Society comprises: Anne MacDermott MBE (President), Professor Eileen Murphy, Ruairí Ó Baoill and John Moore OBE (Vice Presidents), Ken Pullin BEM (Honorary Secretary), Lee Gordon (Honorary Treasurer), Cormac Bourke (Honorary Editor, *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*), Grace McAlister (Honorary Assistant Editor, *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*), Dr Duncan Berryman (Honorary Editor: UAS Newsletter), Malachy Conway (Honorary Fieldwork Coordinator) Randal Scott, Roisín McCaughan Brian Sloan, David Craig, Leo van Es, Barrie Hartwell, Dr Rena Maguire, Heidi Johnston and Patrick O'Neill (Committee members).

For further information about the activities of the Ulster Archaeological Society please see our

Website: <https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/uas/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheUlsterArchaeologicalSociety>

Facebook: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/The-Ulster-Archaeological-Society-190943297657719/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ulsterarcsoc>

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Further information about Archaeology & Palaeoecology at Queen's University Belfast

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Websites: www.archaeology-palaeoecology-qub.com

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Book launch:

Irish Late Iron Age Equestrian Equipment in Its Insular and Continental Context
Queen's University Belfast Irish Archaeological Monograph No.2

Dr Rena Maguire (published by Archaeopress)



Irish Late Iron Age Equestrian Equipment in its Insular and Continental Context

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