



ULSTER
ARCHÆOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



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

DISCOVERY 2023!

SEVENTH ANNUAL REVIEW OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN ULSTER

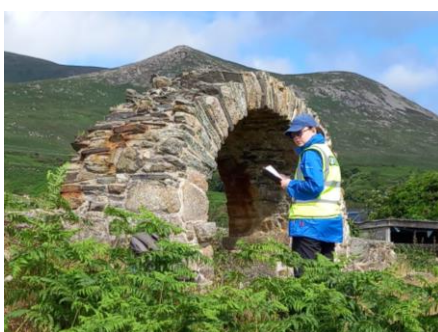
Saturday 18th November 2023
Main Lecture Theatre, Elmwood Building
Queen's University Belfast



Dr Alison Sheridan
Keynote Speaker



Brian Sloan



Louise Moffett



Malachy Conway



Dr Patrick Gleeson



Kate Robb



Camilla Brännström



Dr Kangkang Li



Stuart Alexander



Dr James O'Neill

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 2023! both in person and those joining us online. This is the seventh 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). As always, I must thank our friends and colleagues in Queen's for their support and ongoing collaboration. This conference is, once again, generously supported by funding from the Culture and Society Research Cluster in the School of Natural and Built Environment at QUB, and we are very appreciative of their contribution.

The last year has seen life gradually returning to the pre-pandemic "normal". Many of our usual activities have started to resume, and it has been a delight to get together in person again. Although some lectures were still on Zoom, a legacy of arranging the programme when Covid restrictions were still in place, they have more recently been hybrid in format, allowing wider access to members unable to come to Elmwood. We intend continuing the hybrid format where possible, but of course encourage members to attend in person.

Despite some logistic problems, our summer outings and field trips were up and running again this year, including a visit to Ballydugan Medieval Village, a castle tour to Greencastle and Carlingford, a visit to the 14 Chrono lab here at QUB and a pilgrimage tour around the Downpatrick area. We resumed our county study tours with a visit to Co. Carlow in the company of members of the Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society. We have also been able to run workshops face to face again (prehistoric flint knapping) and our thanks go to those involved in making all these activities possible.

The Survey Group, under the leadership of Mal Conway, has started an exciting programme of projects, with activities including land surveys, monument condition surveys, geophysical surveys and excavations.

Some of our members were involved as volunteers in the highly successful European Association of Archaeologists 2023 Conference which took place in Belfast this summer. It was an exciting event with a real buzz in the city with so many archaeology events happening at once. Congratulations to Eileen Murphy and her team for facilitating this prestigious event, and literally putting Belfast on the map for the thousands of delegates.

The UAS continues to go from strength to strength thanks to the hard work and dedication of the whole committee. In June we sadly lost our Hon. Sec., Ken Pullin, and his loss has been deeply felt by us all. Nevertheless, we carry on and hope to continue in our aim of advancing the education of the public in archaeology and history, particularly in regard to Ulster.

We are privileged to have Dr Alison Sheridan coming to give the keynote address on Friday evening and I would like to thank her and all of our conference speakers for taking the time from their busy schedules to talk to us about the many diverse aspects of archaeology which they have been involved with over the past year and more. We also are delighted to officially launch the long awaited "Ballynahatty: Excavations in a Neolithic Monumental Landscape" by Barrie Hartwell, Sarah Gormley, Catriona Brogan and Caroline Malone. Copies will be available to buy at a preferential rate.

I would also like to thank you all for coming along, or participating online, to learn about what is happening in the world of archaeology in Ulster and beyond. I hope that you all enjoy Discovery 2023! and I look forward to catching up with old friends and making new ones over this conference weekend. Here's to another year of exciting archaeology in Ulster and I hope to see you all again at future lectures and next year at Discovery 2024!

Anne MacDermott

President, Ulster Archaeological Society

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

Welcome to the seventh annual review of archaeological discoveries in Ulster – Discovery 2023! Our conference this year is a little later in the calendar than is normally the case, the reason being that we were all so heavily involved in the organisation and delivery of the European Association of Archaeologists annual conference in Belfast during the period from 30 August through to 2 September. With 3,333 delegates this was the largest conference that has ever been held at QUB and we were very fortunate to have a host of UAS volunteers who helped out on the pre-conference fieldtrips and marshalling duties during the event. In the weekend before the conference commenced, and working with HED and Archaeology 2030 (see Bronagh Murray's lecture), a highly successful Festival of Archaeology was held on Sunday 27 August in the QUB South Dining Room with representation from across the archaeological and heritage sector, and including experimental archaeology displays and living history from Oireas Historical Services, concurrent with a festival of archaeologically-themed movies in the Queen's Film Theatre. The highlight for many of the 900 people who visited the festival was undoubtedly Dr John Martin and his array of replica prehistoric pots. John was selling these wonderful items and over the course of the conference he sold 100 and raised over £5,000 which he donated to the Simon Community NI. Our other major activity of this year has been in advancing the Development Phase of the Community Archaeology Programme Northern Ireland (CAPNI), funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, with Dr Heather Montgomery appointed on 7 November 2022 as our CAPNI Project Manager. Working alongside Michaela Clarke in the QUB Foundation, Heather has been extremely busy over the past 12 months, organising and structuring our Delivery Phase bid, informed by four Stakeholders events that commenced with a launch at the W5 Science and Discovery Centre in Belfast on 25 January 2023, and with welcomes from Professor Chris Johnson, Pro Vice Chancellor of Engineering and Science at QUB, and Sharon Archer, Investment Manager with the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The following three events were themed and located across Northern Ireland, with Down County Museum in Downpatrick (well-being) on 22 February, the Hill of the O'Neill and Ranfurly House in Dungannon (education) on 22 March, and the Harbour House at Derry-Londonderry (volunteering) on 19 April. The Level 1 undergraduate training excavation was held at Stranmillis University College in June 2023, directed by Brian Sloan, and this enabled us to hold "taster" sessions for children from two inner-city schools on the Shankill Road (20 June) and adult volunteers in conjunction with Dr Gerry Millar, Mary Donaghy and Macmillan Cancer Support (22 June). In addition, a "walk-and-talk" taster event was led by Colm Donnelly in Downpatrick for Down County Museum on 15 June. The bid for Delivery Phase funding was formally submitted to the Heritage Fund on 17 August and we are currently awaiting their decision, with a presentation and interview scheduled for 28 November. If we are successful in our application then CAPNI will commence in earnest in January 2024 and will run for three years.

We continued working with Aileen Cummins (QUB Public Engagement) and Jackie Redpath (Spectrum Centre), and on 30 October we held a very enjoyable Halloween event in Shankill Graveyard, ably assisted by our student volunteers, while we led “Discovering Our Past” archaeological workshops for school groups with Peter Lant at the Hill of the O’Neill and Ranfurly House in April. The CCA were also out and about through the year giving public lectures, including the WW1 archaeology at Magilligan to the Binevenagh Landscape Partnership on 27 February, the Lisdoo excavation in Lisnaskea for the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership on 17 April, the Vikings in Ireland to the Portglenone Historical Society on 21 September, Takabuti in Lisburn Museum on 29 September, Famine Roads on 9 February as part of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council’s “Rippling effects of the Great Famine” lecture programme, and Medieval Tyrone to the O’Neill Conference in Dungannon on 20 October. We also delivered a mini-festival of archaeology at the W5 on 26 November 2022 at the invitation of Victoria Denoon, Head of W5 Visitor Experience, with 329 participants. In addition, Brian led flintknapping workshops for our students (15 February and 18 February), and the UAS (18 September), while his lumper potato crop grown at Stranmillis University College in 2022 was harvested and presented to Marshall Calder, College Chef, in January 2023 to be turned into a wonderful potato meal for the college staff.

Over the past year we had also been involved in the reconstruction of the Ballintaggart Court Tomb with Ciaran Lavelle, Dr William Blair and Dr Greer Ramsey of the National Museums NI. Spring 2023 saw work commence on the reconstruction of the tomb at its new home within the Ulster Folk Museum, with the official opening held on Thursday 21 September. During the course of the year we received support from many members of the QUB student body and we are extremely grateful to them for all their sterling efforts.

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 2023!
SEVENTH 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 17th November 2023

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**
- 7.00-7.30** **Book launch: *Ballynahatty: Excavations in a Neolithic Monumental Landscape*** by
Barrie Hartwell, Sarah Gormley, Catriona Brogan & Caroline Malone
- 7.30-8.15** **Keynote Address: Dr Alison Sheridan** (National Museums Scotland)
Putting Ballynahatty in its broader Neolithic context

Saturday 18th November 2023

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

- 9.00-9.30** **Conference Registration**
- 9.30** **Conference Welcome:**
Professor Eileen Murphy (Deputy Head of the School of Natural and Built
Environment and Co-Director of the Centre for Community Archaeology, Queen's
University Belfast)
Anne MacDermott MBE (President of the Ulster Archaeological Society)

SESSION 1: SURVEY

Chaired by **Lisa White**

9.40-10.00 **Brian Sloan** (Centre for Community Archaeology, QUB and Ulster Archaeological Society)

A Tale of Two Monasteries in County Down

10.00-10.20 **Louise Moffett** (Queen's University Belfast)

Late Medieval Churches in the North of Ireland: The Physical Remains

10.20-10.40 **Malachy Conway** (National Trust and Ulster Archaeological Society)

Fieldwork carried out by the UAS Field Survey Group in 2022-2023

10.40-11.20 *Morning Tea/ Coffee break*

SESSION 2: RESEARCH

Chaired by **Pat O'Neill**

11.20-11.40 **Dr Patrick Gleeson** (Queen's University Belfast)

Re-discovering Emain Macha: ritual, religion and kingship in Later Prehistoric and Medieval Ireland

11.40-12.00 **Kate Robb** (John Cronin & Associates) & **Camilla Brännström** (John Cronin & Associates)

Earthen Monuments: Challenges, Trials and Future Thinking from Rathcroghan, Co. Roscommon

12.00-12.20 **Dr Kangkang Li** (Queen's University Belfast)

The Bronze Age population in eastern Tarim Basin (Lop Nur), Northwest China, and their subsistence environment

12.20-12.40 **Q & A for morning session**

12.40-1.40 *Lunch*

SESSION 3: EXCAVATIONS

Chaired by **Stephen Gilmore**

1.40-2.00 **Stuart Alexander** (Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd) & **Dr James O' Neill** (Ulidia Heritage Services)

A Case of Shot: Battlefield Archaeology at Charlemont, County Armagh

2.00-2.20 **Professor Audrey Horning** (University of William and Mary, Williamsburg, USA and Queen's University Belfast)
Exploring the Irish Diaspora: Archaeological investigations at the Keyes site, Lowell, Massachusetts

2.20-2.40 **Katy McMonagle** (Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd)
Digging Deeper into Kilmocholmóg

SESSION 4: MATERIAL CULTURE

Chaired by **Courtney Mundt**

2.40-3.00 **Dr Rena Maguire** (University College Dublin)
Driver's Seat: new evidence for horse drawn vehicles in Late Iron Age Ulster

3.00-3.20 **Ryan Montgomery** (Queen's University Belfast)
Investigating the Role of Dogs in Prehistoric and Medieval Ireland

3.20-3.40 **Clair Richardson** (Queen's University Belfast)
The Evolution of Stone-Lined Graves: An Early Medieval Irish Perspective

3.40-4.20 *Afternoon Tea/ Coffee break*

SESSION 5: HERITAGE MATTERS

Chaired by **Dr Colm Donnelly**

4.20-4.40 **Professor Eileen Murphy** (Queen's University Belfast)
Reflections on the EAA 2023 conference held in Queen's University Belfast

4.40-5.00 **Bronagh Murray** (Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities)
Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland - an update

5.00-5.20 **Dr Laura Patrick** (Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund)
The Regimental Museums of Northern Ireland: Who, What, When, Where, Why?

5.20-5.40 **Q & A for afternoon session**

5.40 **Conference concludes**

Conference Abstracts and Profiles

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Dr Alison Sheridan (National Museums Scotland)

Putting Ballynahatty in its broader Neolithic context

Keynote Speaker abstract

The recent publication of Barrie Hartwell's excavations at Ballynahatty has put the spotlight on one of the most important Neolithic sites in Northern Ireland, with the monumental Late Neolithic ceremonial timber site complementing the Giant's Ring henge, the simple megalithic passage tomb and Middle Neolithic graves in telling a fascinating story about the living and the dead in this part of Ireland between around 4000 BC and around 2500 BC. This lecture will try to set the different elements of the Ballynahatty complex in their broader Neolithic context, looking at similar monuments elsewhere in Ireland and Britain, to weave a fascinating story...with one or two loose ends...

Keynote Speaker profile **E-mail:** a.sheridan@nms.ac.uk

Dr Alison Sheridan is emerita Principal Curator of Early Prehistory and currently a Research Associate at National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh and at the University of Edinburgh. She lived in Belfast during the late '70s and '80s when she wrote her Cambridge University PhD on the Irish Neolithic and was then a Junior Research Fellow at the Institute of Irish Studies at QUB, working on Early Bronze Age Food Vessel pottery. She was President of the Prehistoric Society 2010–2014 and is currently a Vice-President of Archaeology Scotland and a member of the Board of Trustees of Urras nan Tursachan, the Calanais Stones Trust. She was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2019 and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2020, won the Grahame Clark Medal for prehistoric research in 2018, and in 2020 was voted Current Archaeology's Archaeologist of the Year. She delivered the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland's Rhind Lectures on Neolithic Scotland in 2020...and has appeared on Harry Hill's TV Burp, 2013, as 'TV expert of the week'!

SESSION 1: SURVEY

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

A Tale of Two Monasteries in County Down

Abstract

This presentation will take two parts; the first will re-introduce the community excavation at Downpatrick which was carried out by the CCA in 2018 and 2019 and discuss the current status of

the post-excavation programme of works. This will be followed with the presentation of the results of a geophysical survey carried out at Erenagh Co. Down. This was the location of an important monastery founded in the early 12th Century and attacked by John de Courcy following his incursion into Ulster in 1177. Both Downpatrick and Erenagh played a significant role when we consider Medieval Lecale, particularly in the development of the church and society around the time of the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ulster.

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 high-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.

Louise Moffett (Queen's University Belfast)

Late Medieval Churches in the North of Ireland: The Physical Remains

Abstract

This paper is the result of fieldwork surveys of surviving medieval church remains across three dioceses in the north of Ireland, Armagh, Clogher and Down. The research is part of a PhD examining "The Place of the Late Medieval Church in the North of Ireland". This paper's focus is two-fold: recording the dateable architectural features to assess the phases of construction of medieval churches across a section of Ireland, and identifying local and regional trends in the construction of late medieval parish churches. Using evidence such as the styles of doors and windows, the type of stone used and the size and location of the church buildings, this paper will present initial results and discussion of the forms and features of medieval parish churches employed by Anglo-Norman and Gaelic-Irish communities in the north of Ireland.

Profile **E-mail:** fmoffett01@qub.ac.uk

Louise Moffett is a final year PhD Researcher in the Department for Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's. She completed a BSc in Archaeology & Palaeoecology here at Queen's in 2017, followed by a Masters' in Medieval Archaeology at the University of York in 2018. After two years working in commercial archaeology in England, she returned to Queen's for her PhD. She is particularly interested in medieval parish churches in Ireland, and their situation within the wider physical, socio-political and economic landscapes of late medieval Ireland.

Malachy Conway (National Trust and Ulster Archaeological Society)

Fieldwork carried out by the UAS Field Survey Group in 2022-2023

Abstract

Since 2022 the field survey group efforts have been primarily engaged in undertaking walk-over surveys across the National Trust properties at Divis and the Black Mountain and in townlands which extend down through the escarpment of the mountain including Altigarron and Ballygomartin in west Belfast. In Sept 2022 the group participated in an exploratory excavation carried out over an area to the north side of Divis Lodge, looking for prehistoric settlement or flint working evidence but revealing what appears to have been localised flax retting on the site. During its walk-over surveys the group have recorded sites including a 'Giant's Grave' and a ruined 19th century farming settlement in Altigarron townland, while in Ballygomartin townland surveys have extended across an area containing two ringforts, ruined farm buildings and related farm infrastructure in the area as well as localised limestone quarrying activity. Also, within Ballygomartin the team discovered some previously unrecorded features including buries or a warren on the slopes of the mountain and a defence heritage entrenchment feature which most likely dates to the WWII period. The survey activities of the group also included carrying out resistivity surveys in 2023; at Divis Lodge and across the Giant's Grave site in Altigarron while in the neighbouring Castlereagh Hills the group contributed to a large area resistivity survey of a field being investigated by National Trust which is located to the east side of the Rocky Road. The field, opposite the former WWII cemetery field had held a Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery during the second world war and the resistivity survey results present some interesting anomalies, suggesting much earlier phases of activity including settlement evidence.

Profile **E-mail:** malachy.conway@nationaltrust.org.uk

Malachy Conway graduated in Archaeology from QUB in 1989. He has been a professional archaeologist for over 34 years and over the past 20 years has been the Regional Archaeologist for the National Trust, covering a wide and varied portfolio of properties owned and managed by the Trust across Northern Ireland. He has been a member of the Ulster Archaeology Society for much of his career and a member of the UAS Survey Group since it was first set up in 2005, assuming the role of Fieldwork Coordinator for the group in 2021.

SESSION 2: RESEARCH

Dr Patrick Gleeson (Queen's University Belfast)

Re-discovering Emain Macha: ritual, religion and kingship in Later Prehistoric and Medieval Ireland

Abstract

This lecture will present new results from large-scale geophysical survey in the Navan Fort landscape and targeted excavation of new parts of the Navan Fort complex itself. The results of this work transform our understanding of the Navan Fort and its wider landscape and regional context. Discoveries to be discussed include new medieval activity, Iron Age discoveries that transform our understanding of the Waterman excavations, and the identification and excavation of some of the largest and most complex monuments identified on the island of Ireland. Results will be contextualised in terms of how these discoveries illuminate the 'royal sites' as a group, and their wider Northern European comparanda.

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

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.

Kate Robb (John Cronin & Associates) & **Camilla Brännström** (John Cronin & Associates)

Earthen Monuments: Challenges, Trials and Future Thinking from Rathcroghan, Co. Roscommon

Abstract

Aspects of soil erosion and attrition at archaeological earthen monuments is a challenging issue, not least in the context of climate change. A particular focus of the Farming Rathcroghan EIP-Agri Project has presented a unique opportunity to trial bespoke and novel archaeological conservation methodologies.

Such solutions can help to sustain this unique royal landscape in having a harmonious balance of monument protection and management, while providing for farming capacity in a positive and viable way.

A brief overview of the Community Archaeologist role on the project will be presented, together with findings from recent on-site conservation trialling works at two high-profile monuments forming part of the Tentative World Heritage Royal Archaeological Site at Rathcroghan, Co. Roscommon.

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

Kate Robb is Senior Archaeologist & EIA Consultant with John Cronin & Associates (JCA). A graduate of University of Galway and with over fifteen years commercial industry experience, Kate has been involved in both large-scale Cultural Heritage EIAR development-led projects and community-based projects. She currently acts as Community Archaeologist for the Farming Rathcroghan EIP-Agri Project (2019-present) and is undertaking the Community Archaeologist role for the Donegal Community Archaeology Scheme on behalf of Donegal County Council (2022 & 2023).

Profile **E-mail:** camilla.brannstrom@johncronin.ie

Camilla Brännström is a Licensed Site Director with John Cronin & Associates. A graduate of Umeå University, Sweden, Camilla has over seventeen years' experience of working in the commercial archaeology sector in Ireland and has directed excavations on a number of road schemes, pipelines, strategic housing and renewable energy projects. She is also involved in the production of pre-development cultural heritage desktop assessments and EIARs for large-scale infrastructure projects, windfarms, schools, hospitals and urban regeneration schemes.

Dr Kangkang Li (Queen's University Belfast)

The Bronze Age population in eastern Tarim Basin (Lop Nur), Northwest China, and their subsistence environment

Abstract

The Bronze Age Tarim Basin, northwest China, is well known for its well-preserved desiccated corpses from the Lop Nur region associated with the Xiaohe Culture (ca. 2100-1400 BCE). The Xiaohe complex mainly consists of three iconic funeral sites and one settlement across the basin, which are surrounded by a harsh desert environment. The material remains of Xiaohe culture are composed of the decorated grass-woven basket, boated-shaped coffins, cereals, faunal remains and milk products, suggesting a successful adaptation to an inhospitable terrain. This presentation aims to introduce the archaeological discoveries of the Xiaohe complex and its site-level living environment. Subsequently, we will consider whether environmental and climatic changes influenced the rise and fall of the Xiaohe culture.

Profile **E-mail:** k.li@qub.ac.uk

Dr Kangkang Li is a postdoctoral researcher, and his work focuses on the topic of the Holocene human-environment interactions in the extremely arid Tarim Basin, northwest China, using multi-disciplinary methods. He received his PhD in Quaternary Geology from the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China.

SESSION 3: EXCAVATIONS

Stuart Alexander (Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd) & **Dr James O' Neill** (Ulidia Heritage Services)

A Case of Shot: Battlefield Archaeology at Charlemont, County Armagh

Abstract

Between October 2021 and December 2022 an excavation in advance of development was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Ballycullen Road, Charlemont, County Armagh. Archaeological mitigation the site included an initial metal detector survey, monitored topsoil stripping and excavation/recording of archaeological features. In addition to some prehistoric archaeology a large artefactual assemblage dating to the post medieval period was uncovered. Some of this material was related to the numerous battles and skirmishes that took place around the historic fort and village of Charlemont during the 17th century. Other material recovered and excavated demonstrate the use of Charlemont as a military garrison during the 18th and 19th century and also reflect the rural landscape surrounding the village during the 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 Masters Degree in Professional Archaeology. Stuart has worked for most of the major archaeological companies in Northern Ireland. He has been able to hold archaeological excavation licences since 2013 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.

Profile **E-mail:** ulidiaheritage@gmail.com

Dr James O' Neill worked in archaeology in Northern Ireland for 16 years, where he specialised in battlefield archaeology and Twentieth Century defence heritage. He received his doctorate at Queens University Belfast in 2013 and has published extensively on the Nine Years War, including a monograph titled *The Nine Years War 1593-1603: O'Neill, Mountjoy and the Military Revolution*. He recently completed the resurvey of 20th-century defence heritage structures in Northern Ireland for

the Historic Environment Division: Department for Communities and is now Collections Officer at the Northern Ireland War Memorial Museum in Belfast.

Professor Audrey Horning (University of William and Mary, Williamsburg, USA and Queen's University Belfast)

Exploring the Irish Diaspora: Archaeological investigations at the Keyes site, Lowell, Massachusetts

Abstract

Lowell, Massachusetts is famed as America's first industrial city; a textile-manufacturing powerhouse whose canals and mills were first constructed by Irish labourers in the 1820s. Over the course of the nineteenth century, the Irish emerged as a significant political and cultural force in Lowell. Excavations at the site of a nineteenth- to early twentieth-century grocery once run by prominent Irish entrepreneur Patrick Keyes, at 509 Market Street, were conducted in 2022 in partnership with University of Massachusetts Boston and University Massachusetts Boston. The results of this excavation are placed in conversation with the findings from the 2010-2012 excavations at St Patrick's, Lowell, directed by Colm Donnelly, and with archaeological studies of the Irish Diaspora beyond Lowell. The latter studies emphasise the alienation of immigrant Irish within American society but the archaeological and documentary evidence suggests that the Lowell case is different.

Profile **E-mail:** ajhorn@wm.edu

Professor Audrey Horning FSA, FSAScot is Chair of the Anthropology Department and holds the Forrest D Murden Professorship, William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, USA. She is also Professor of Archaeology (Hon), and Fellow of the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute of Global Peace, Security and Justice at Queen's University Belfast. She was just elected as the President of the Society for Historical Archaeology, which is the largest international scholarly organisation dedicated to the study of the archaeology of the modern world.

Katy McMonagle (Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd)

Digging Deeper into Kilmocholmóg

Abstract

Digging Deeper into Kilmocholmóg, will present the results of two seasons of community excavations undertaken at Kilmocholmóg Field, Lurgan, County Armagh.

In August 2022, Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, working in partnership with local community volunteers through the Lurgan Township Heritage Scheme, undertook an excavation at a site believed to contain the remains of an ancient church. Geophysical analysis of the field was

undertaken in late 2021 by Alastair Ruffell from Queen's University Belfast, who identified a large right-angled anomaly. Archaeological investigation of this determined it to be the remains of a collapsed souterrain dating to the Early Medieval period.

Between June and July 2023, a three-week community excavation in which Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, worked in partnership with the Craigavon Historical Society to expand upon the 2022 excavations. This season consisted of the hand excavation of nine test trenches, revealing a potential ditch, and a sub soil cut feature which maybe evidence of a structure. Finds included significant quantities of iron slag, spilt quartz pebbles, broken anvil stones, an ingot mould, Souterrain Ware pottery, hone stones, a blue glass bead fragment and a piece of a lignite bracelet

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

Katy McMonagle is a Senior Site Director with Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. She graduated with a degree in Archaeology from the University of Wales, Trinity St David in 2014 and with an MA in Field Archaeology from the University of York in 2016. Katy began her archaeological career in 2014, and first began working for Northern Archaeological Consultancy in 2017. She has been licence-eligible to hold excavation licences since 2018. In addition to undertaking onsite testing and management of excavations, Katy also undertakes lithic analysis and surveying. Katy is a member of the Ulster Archaeological Society, the Prehistoric Society, Lithics Studies Society and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland.

SESSION 4: RESEARCH

Dr Rena Maguire (University College Dublin)

Driver's Seat: new evidence for horse drawn vehicles in Late Iron Age Ulster

Abstract

Archaeological evidence for the use of wheeled vehicles with horses in Ireland is remarkably scant for the Bronze and Iron Ages. However, an object which may be a linch-pin cap, which was found at Portstewart's Barmouth sandhills, and a harness-ring from Kilrea, Co. Derry/Londonderry- both neglected in recent years- bear distinctive ornamentation indicating a Later Iron Age date of circa AD 50-450.

Re-examination in the 21st century suggests close and complex associations with northern Roman Britain, and as both are matching components, they offer the first indication of driving vehicles in Ireland's protohistory.

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

Dr Rena Maguire gained her PhD in QUB and is currently an IRC-Funded Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in University College Dublin, Ireland. She specialises in Iron Age material culture, particularly metalwork, but especially ancient equitation and lorinery and has published extensively on these topics, including the Times Literary Supplement-recommended *Liminal Horse* (Trivent publications), and *Irish Late Iron Age Equestrian Equipment in its Insular and Continental Context* (Archaeopress), with an edited volume, *Ideal Homes*, on domestic artefacts, due in early 2024.

Ryan Montgomery (Queen's University Belfast)

Investigating the Role of Dogs in Prehistoric and Medieval Ireland

Abstract

This MRes project investigates the role of dogs in prehistoric and Medieval Ireland by using data from archaeological excavations and isotopic analysis. This presentation will discuss the various roles and how they evolved along with human society.

Profile **E-mail:** rmontgomery21@qub.ac.uk

Ryan Montgomery is currently exploring the relationships between humans, animals, and their environments on various ecclesiastic sites in Ulster as part of his PhD research at QUB.

Clair Richardson (Queen's University Belfast)

The Evolution of Stone-Lined Graves: An Early Medieval Irish Perspective

Abstract

The study of funerary remains in first-millennium AD Ireland has been transformed in recent years through the discovery and excavation of a wide range of cemeteries, large-scale dating programmes, and major synthesis of funerary data (e.g., Mapping Death Project). There is now considerable scope for fine-grained analysis of burial data, to understand the complexity and development of burial rites through time. This paper presents preliminary data from research which suggests potential for developmental change in stone-lined graves from 'rough-hewn', sub-angular stone-lined graves to slab-lined graves around the 6th century AD in Ireland. The most common burial furnishing in early medieval Ireland was that of stone or slab linings (often with lintels). Two separate categories of stone-linings are analysed; rough-hewn, sub-angular, rounded stones placed around the circumference of the graves and slab-lined graves with or without a lintel top and paved floor. A sample of 81 radiocarbon dates from human remains, excavated from slab-lined and rough-hewn stone-lined graves are analysed. These suggest that, although there is an overlap around the 6th century, rough-hewn stone-lined graves are often earlier in date than slab-lined graves indicating a growing preference for more elaborate encasements of the human body. The potential for this data to

illuminate changing fashions/traditions, a move from ancestral burial grounds to larger cemeteries, and processes of Christianisation are analysed.

Profile **E-mail:** crichardson09@qub.ac.uk

Clair Richardson is currently a PhD researcher at Queen's University Belfast conducting a geospatial and statistical analysis of complex early medieval cemeteries in Ireland. Her academic background ranges from forensics to osteoarchaeology and archaeology and she has worked as a commercial archaeologist between her studies.

SESSION 4: RESEARCH

Professor Eileen Murphy (Queen's University Belfast)

Reflections on the EAA 2023 conference held in Queen's University Belfast

Abstract

The 29th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) in Belfast, Northern Ireland, took place from 30 August to 2 September 2023 and was organised by Queen's University Belfast and the European Association of Archaeologists. A total of 3333 delegates from over 60 countries attended the Annual Meeting – 2417 onsite and 916 remotely. Altogether, 278 sessions were held, involving 2576 presentations. The academic programme was complemented by keynote lectures, excursions and social events. To ensure a public engagement component to the conference, a film series and a Festival of Archaeology also took place. Visit Belfast estimated that the conference was worth £3.4 million to the local economy. The paper will provide an overview of this major event.

Profile **E-mail:** eileen.murphy@qub.ac.uk

Eileen Murphy is Professor of Archaeology and Co-Director of the Centre for Community Archaeology in the School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast. She was the Lead Organiser and Chair of the Scientific Committee of EAA Belfast 2023.

Bronagh Murray (Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities)

Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland - an update

Abstract

Archaeology 2030 is a ten-year project to develop a strategic approach for archaeology in Northern Ireland. The strategic vision of Archaeology 2030 is for "archaeology to be accessed and valued by as many people as possible, led by a sector which is healthy, resilient and connected". The Strategic Vision has five aims: Archaeology on the ground; Understanding the past; Sustaining the Historic

environment; Engaging and enriching lives; Innovation, understanding and skills. Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland, sets out how Northern Ireland, as a society, can develop our engagement with, and understanding of, our archaeology.

The project is currently in its strategic delivery phase, establishing a Project Board which is led by a cross-sectoral membership that represents different groups within the archaeological community of Northern Ireland. Eight strategic Working Groups chaired by Project Board members actively contribute to the development and delivery of the key objectives of the Archaeology 2030 strategy. This paper aims to present an updated account of the development, aims and key milestones of Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland to date.

Profile **E-mail:** Archaeology2030@communities-ni.gov.uk

Bronagh Murray is an archaeologist within Heritage Records and Designations Branch (HED) and Project Officer for Archaeology 2030. Bronagh has a BA in Archaeology (QUB) and an MA in Social Anthropology (QUB) and holds a PG Certificate in Environmental Management. Bronagh's specialist research areas are in Iron Age and Early Medieval sculpture and Victorian funerary architecture. She has worked on numerous excavations throughout Northern Ireland from prehistoric settlements to 19th century vernacular dwellings.

Dr Laura Patrick (Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund)

The Regimental Museums of Northern Ireland: Who, What, When, Where, Why?

Abstract

The Heritage Sector has faced many challenges in a post-covid world, and the regimental museums of Northern Ireland are no different. To preserve our collections, archives and stories for future generations, 'The Consolidated Museum' project is bringing together six collections for the first time! Dr Laura Patrick will provide an update on the project, an overview of how it came into being, audience development and plans for the future.

Profile **E-mail:** project-manager@royal-irish.com

Dr Laura Patrick has been working with the Royal Irish Regiment since May 2021 as their Regimental Heritage Officer. Initially starting as a volunteer in Carrickfergus Museum in 2014, she worked part-time as Education Officer for the Carrickfergus Townscape Heritage Initiative from 2017, while also undertaking her PhD. Working in the museum sector for the last 9 years, Laura is passionate about audience engagement and ensuring history and heritage is accessible to everyone. She is currently responsible for the Regiment's Consolidated Museum Project.

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), Gina Baban (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, Patrick O'Neill, Courtney Mundt and Kacey Quigley (Committee members).

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

Website: <https://ulsterarchaeology.org>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheUlsterArchaeologicalSociety>
Facebook: @UlsterArchaeologicalSoc
X/Twitter: @UlsterArcSoc
Email: secretary@ulsterarchaeology.org

The Ulster Archaeological Society is registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC101151

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

For further information about Archaeology & Palaeoecology at Queen's and our activities please see our

Websites: www.archaeology-palaeoecology-qub.com
www.qub.ac.uk/schools/NBE/
Facebook: @archaeologyatqueensbelfast
TX/witter: @ArcPalQUB
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ArchaeologyAtQueensBelfast>
Email: arcpal@qub.ac.uk

Acknowledgements

The Committee of the Ulster Archaeological Society and the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's University Belfast would like to thank especially Dr Duncan Berryman for the huge amount of work he put into the technological side of staging the conference. Our thanks also go to Libby Mulqueeny, Queen's University Belfast, who provided the graphics for the conference poster and booklet.

Last, but not least, we would like again to thank all the participants in the conference who have so generously agreed to share their discoveries with us.

The conference was hosted by Queen's University Belfast and our thanks to the University for facilitating it.

NOTES

NOTES



Prof. Audrey Horning



Katy McMonagle



Dr Rena Maguire



Ryan Montgomery



Clair Richardson



Prof. Eileen Murphy



Bronagh Murray



Dr Laura Patrick

Book launch:

Ballynahatty: Excavations in a Neolithic Monumental Landscape

by Barrie Hartwell, Sarah Gormley, Catriona Brogan & Caroline Malone

(published by Oxbow Books)

