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## Seminar programme

Westbury Hotel, Dublin, 9 September 2004

Introduction

*Michael Egan,  
Head of Corporate Affairs, National Roads Authority*

Minor ailments, furious fights and deadly diseases—Investigating life in Johnstown, Co. Meath 400 AD–1700 AD

*Linda Fibiger,  
Osteoarchaeologist*

Two Neolithic Houses in Granny Townland, Co. Kilkenny

*Joanne Hughes,  
Site Director, Headland Archaeology Ltd*

From Valley Bottom to Hill Top—6,000 years of human activity along the route of the N4 Sligo Inner Relief Road

*Michael MacDonagh,  
Project Archaeologist, Donegal County Council National Roads Design Office*

Iron Age toe-rings from the N2 Finglas–Ashbourne Scheme

*Holger Schweitzer,  
Site Director, Cultural Resource Development Services Ltd*

Archaeology and the M3 Clonee–Kells Motorway

*Mary Deevy,  
Project Archaeologist, Meath County Council National Roads Design Office*

Bronze Age Ballybrowney, Co. Cork

*Eamonn Cotter,  
Site Director, Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd*

A 17th-century coin hoard from Ballinvinny South, Watergrasshill, Co. Cork

*Ken Hanley,  
Project Archaeologist, Cork County Council National Roads Design Office*

From Mountain to Sea—Excavating Townlands in South County Dublin

*Matthew Seaver,  
Site Director, Valerie J Keeley Ltd*

People, Roads and Rivers—Archaeology and the M1 Dundalk Western Bypass

*Niall Roycroft,  
Project Archaeologist, Meath County Council National Roads Design Office*

A saddle quern from the N25 Waterford Bypass

*Linda Hegarty,  
Site Director, Headland Archaeology Ltd*

*Recent Archaeological Discoveries on National Road Schemes 2004*

The discovery and excavation of a Moated Site at Coolamurry, Co. Wexford

*Grace Fegan,  
Site Director, Valerie J Keeley Ltd*

The Viking Site of Woodstown, Co. Waterford

*Richard O'Brien,  
Project Archaeologist, Tramore House Regional Design Office  
and  
Ian Russell,  
Site Director, Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd*

A selection of Viking finds from Woodstown, Co. Waterford

*Siobhan McNamara,  
Finds Supervisor, Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd*

Travels Through Time

*Dáire O'Rourke,  
Senior Archaeologist, National Roads Authority*

## Glossary

**Adze** A stone or metal woodworking tool that has its working edge perpendicular to the long axis of the haft.

**Archaeological monitoring** Archaeological monitoring involves an archaeologist being present during the course of development works, such as topsoil removal, so as to identify and protect archaeological deposits, features or objects.

**Archaeological resolution** Preservation by record of archaeological sites or monuments due to be removed by development.

**Artefact** Any movable object that has been used, modified or manufactured by humans.

**Assemblage** All of the artefacts found at a site, including the sum of all sub-assemblages at the site.

**Bailey** Fortified enclosed courtyard or ward within a medieval castle (see motte and bailey).

**Barbed-and-tanged arrowhead** A triangular-shaped stone arrowhead with a rectangular tang on the base and symmetrically set barbs at each side.

**Barrow** An earthen burial mound, which generally dates to the Bronze Age and Iron Age.

**Beaker period** A period from the later Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age, named after a characteristic pottery introduced from the Continent.

**Boulder burial** Type of Bronze Age burial covered by a large boulder found mainly in south Munster.

**Bronze Age** The period (*c.* 2000–500 BC) succeeding the Neolithic, which saw the introduction of bronze for tools and weapons.

**Burnt mound** A mound of burnt stones that can be found in isolation or in association with a *fulacht fiadh* (see below).

**Cairn** A mound of stones.

**Capstone** A slab or block of stone forming the top of a burial cist or the roof of a chambered tomb.

**Carinated/carination** A break in the profile of a pottery vessel, which forms a keel or ridge, usually marking the junction of the body with the neck.

**Causewayed enclosure** A Neolithic enclosure with circuits of ditch interrupted by causeways. An embankment or palisade stood within the ditch.

**Chert** A flint-like material, usually black or dark brown in colour, that is a form of very fine, crystalline silica.

**Cist** Stone-lined burial pit, sometimes sealed below a barrow mound, within which cremation or inhumation burials were placed.

**Collared Urn** A type of Bronze Age pottery vessel with a flat base, conical body, and a heavy overhanging rim or collar.

**Context** A generic term for the smallest identifiable stratigraphic unit recognised in an excavation.

**Cordoned Urn** A type of Middle Bronze Age pottery probably derived from Collared

Urns (see above). The outer face is decorated with applied cordons.

**Cremation** The practice of burning the dead. The ashes were commonly placed in a pottery vessel and buried in a pit.

**Cropmarks** Patterns or variations in the colour or growth rates of planted crops, often these relate to archaeological features.

**Drystone walling** Walls constructed of stone without the use of mortar.

**Enclosure** A piece of ground surrounded by a boundary such as a wall, bank or ditch.

**Encrusted Urn** Bronze Age pottery with heavy applied decoration in horizontal and vertical bands around the upper portion of the body.

**Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** A process for anticipating the effects on the environment caused by a development. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the document produced as a result of that process.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** A description of the likely effects on the environment of a proposed development. By law, every large-scale road planning application must include an EIS.

**Faience** Blue-coloured artificial glass-like material made from baked siliceous clay.

**Feature** This term refers to any component of an archaeological site such as a post-hole, pit, wall, ditch or any deposits that may have accumulated on the site.

**Fieldwalking** Walking over the land in a structured manner, often through dividing the area into transects.

**Flint** A hard, brittle siliceous rock with conchoidal fracturing properties that is highly suitable for the manufacture of edged tools.

**Food Vessel** Heavily decorated biconical or bowl-shaped Early Bronze Age pot. They are mainly associated with cremation burials.

**Fulacht fiadh** A site, generally dating to the Bronze Age, consisting of a horseshoe-shaped mound of burnt stones, a hearth(s) and a trough(s). These sites were used to heat water for a variety of purposes. Also known as ancient cooking places.

**Geophysical survey** Methods of exploring below the surface of the ground by measuring the soil's magnetic susceptibility, electrical resistivity and other properties.

**Henge** A more or less circular enclosure, normally with the bank outside the ditch and often enclosing a circle of stones.

**Inhumation** The name given to the burial custom by which the body was laid in a grave.

**Iron Age** Final period of prehistory, beginning around 500 BC. Iron superseded bronze for the manufacture of tools and weapons in this period.

**Lithics** General archaeological term applied to all collections of stone tools, working debris, and raw materials.

**Magnetometer** An instrument for the measurement of changes in the magnetism of the earth's surface.

**Medieval** Period succeeding the Iron Age, from the advent of Christianity in the 5th century, up to the early 16th century AD.

**Megalith** A large stone used in the construction of prehistoric tombs, stone circles and stone alignments.



**Metalling/metalled surface** The hard-packed surface of a road, track, or street, usually comprising layers of gravel and stone.

**Midden** A mound of accumulated domestic waste such as shells and animal bones.

**Mortise** A hole cut into a beam or plank to take a tenon, which is a projection cut on the end of another beam.

**Motte** A Norman fortification consisting of a round mound, flattened on top, used by the Normans as a fortification.

**Motte and bailey** A Norman military stronghold comprising a motte, surrounded by a ditch, with an adjoining separately defined enclosure known as a bailey.

**Neolithic** The Late Stone Age dating to *c.* 4000–2000 BC. Frequently defined by the beginning of farming.

**Norse** The people and cultural traditions of communities living in, or migrating out from, Norway during the later 1st and early 2nd millennia AD.

**Osteology/Osteoarchaeology** A branch of archaeology that deals with the study and analysis of human and animal skeletal remains.

**Palaeoenvironment** An ancient or past environment.

**Palisade** A stake-built or post-built defensive barrier, often positioned on top of an embankment or rampart.

**Passage tomb/passage grave** A type of chambered tomb where the chamber is reached from the edge of the mound via a long passage.

**Porcellanite** A type of metamorphic rock used in the manufacture of stone axes.

**Portal tomb** Megalithic tomb with above-ground chambers consisting of a heavy capstone, supported on three or more uprights.

**Post-excavation** A general term applied to those tasks to be undertaken following the fieldwork stage of an archaeological project.

**Post-hole** The void or soil-filled hole where a post once stood.

**Post-medieval** The period after the medieval period, often taken to be the period after the dissolution of the monasteries around AD 1540.

**Prehistoric** Any period for which there is no contemporary documentary evidence.

**Pygmy Cup** A small ceramic vessel found in Early Bronze Age burials, usually in association with an urn of some kind.

**Quern** A large stone used for grinding grain into flour.

**Radiocarbon dating** A dating method that measures the decay of the radioactive isotope Carbon 14, which is present in all organic material.

**Rath** A circular earthen enclosure, otherwise known as a ringfort.

**Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)** A list of archaeological sites with accompanying maps recorded on a county-by-county basis by the State. Inclusion in the list affords archaeological sites certain legal protections.

**Revetment** Facing of hard, solid material given to a body of softer, less stable material to retain and support it.

**Ring-barrow** A prehistoric ritual monument comprising a circular bank of earth or stones surrounding a hollow central area.

**Ring-ditch** A circular shaped monument, very similar in structure to a henge. Many have been discovered to be ploughed-out barrows.

**Ringfort** A small circular enclosure or fort, bounded by one or more concentric earthworks comprising a bank and outer ditch.

**Ring pin** Early medieval dress fastener, usually of copper-alloy, with a swivel ring inserted through a perforation in the pin.

**Scarp** A steep slope; the inner side of a fosse or ditch.

**Scraper** Stone tool comprising a round or horseshoe-shaped flake shaped deliberately with an extreme oblique angle to provide a working edge.

**Side-scan sonar** A survey method used in underwater archaeology, which provides the broadest view of the sea floor.

**Site** A term used to define places of archaeological interest.

**Slag** Partly vitrified non-metal residue and waste material left behind after the smelting of a metal ore or in glass making.

**Souterrain** A long, narrow stonewalled subterranean gallery, usually with a slab roof. Some have small chambers off the main passage.

**Spindle whorl** A small, perforated disc of stone or pottery, which acts as a flywheel, maintaining the momentum of a spindle.

**Standing stone** A block or slab of stone set upright as a marker, dating mainly to the Neolithic and Bronze Age.

**Stone axe** A block of stone fashioned into a triangular or trapezoidal shape with an oval cross-section and a blade at the broader, thicker end.

**Stone circle** A setting of upright stone pillars forming a ring. They broadly date to the later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age.

**Stone row/alignment** A line of upright stones set at intervals along an axis. They generally date to the later Neolithic and Bronze Age.

**Stratigraphy** The laying down of layers one above the other. A succession of layers should provide a relative chronological sequence.

**Test excavation** Test excavation is a limited form of archaeological excavation where the purpose is to establish the nature, extent and, if possible, the date of archaeological deposits and features by excavating small areas.

**Topographical survey** A detailing of site topography where three-dimensional relief is expressed in two dimensions by the use of contour lines.

**Tower house** Fortified private residence commonly built from the 15th century through to the 17th century.

**Trial trench** A small exploratory excavation designed to determine a site's depth and composition prior to full excavation.

**Tumulus** A mound of earth or stones, usually covering a burial or burials.

**Vase tradition** A Bronze Age burial tradition, usually cremation, which included the use of Vase Urns and Encrusted Urns.

**Vertical mill** A type of medieval millwheel driven by water directed onto paddles from below or from above.

**Viking** (*Vikingur*) Scandinavian word for seafaring raiders from Norway, Sweden and Denmark who ravaged the coasts of Ireland from about seventh century AD onwards.

**Wedge tomb** An Early Bronze Age megalithic tomb with a long narrow chamber of orthostats supporting capstones, and without a separate entrance passage.

**Western Neolithic pottery** Style of plain or slightly decorated Neolithic pottery, which is round-based bowls, with a shouldered profile.

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