



Monthly eNewsletter

September 2020

Hi everyone,

We have now been in some form of lockdown for 6 months, and it looks like it might continue for another 6 months (if not longer). Normally we would be about to restart our programme of lectures, but these are still currently on hold. The committee continues to review activities for the coming months. We hope to have more news for you soon. In the meantime, we are preparing for our conference and the full programme is on the website. More details are on the next page.

This month I'm also pleased to bring you an article on metal detecting in the Republic of Ireland, a companion piece to Ken Neill's article earlier this year. We also have another interesting research article by the Antrim County Archaeological Society.

Best wishes,

Duncan

Editor

Discovery 2020!

	ULSTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY	 Centre for COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY Queen's University Belfast
<h1>DISCOVERY 2020!</h1> <h2>FOURTH ANNUAL REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN ULSTER</h2>		
ORGANISED BY THE ULSTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND THE CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST		
Saturday 7th November 2020 @ 9.30am	Conference keynote lecture by Dr Monique van den Dries (University of Leiden) <i>"Discovering Archaeology's Treasures: The Public Benefits of Archaeology According to the Public"</i> Followed by a range of lectures on recent archaeological discoveries, research and activities across Ulster including: <i>Community Excavations at Magilligan Military Training Estate</i> <i>WW2 Aircraft Crash Sites in Monaghan</i> <i>Navan Fort and Environs</i> <i>Ireland's Golden Age of Piracy</i> <i>The Genomics of Megaliths</i> <i>A Gaelic Moated Site at Arney Fort, Co. Fermanagh</i>	
The conference is FREE but registration is required to access lectures. Go to: https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/uas/Conference/ More information will be added in the coming weeks so keep checking the QUB and UAS Facebook sites.  Archaeology at Queen's Ulster Archaeological Society		

We now have all speakers confirmed and the full programme is available on the conference website

You can now sign up for the conference on the UAS website - <http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/uas/Conference/>

Metal Detection and the National Monuments Acts



The Ulster Archaeology Society Monthly eNewsletter of June/July 2020 included an informative overview of metal detection and archaeology in Northern Ireland by Ken Neill of Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities. This brief article attempts to give a similar concise overview of the law as it applies in Ireland and we wish to thank the UAS for the invitation to do so.

In terms of protection of our archaeological heritage, the principal legislation is a suite of Acts known as the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014. The 1930 Act and subsequent amending Acts set out various ways archaeological monuments and archaeological objects are protected within the State and provides for regulation.

The policy underlying the legislation is that unregulated and inappropriate use of detection devices causes serious damage to Ireland's archaeological heritage. The legislation therefore provides for regulation of use of detection devices for archaeological purposes, with breach of the regulatory requirements being a serious offence. This is dealt with primarily in section 2 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987 and section 7 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. Under the Acts, "detection device" means a device designed or adapted for detecting or locating any metal or mineral on or in the ground, on, in or under the sea bed or on or in land covered by water, but does not include a camera.

In summary, it is illegal to be in possession of or use a detection device at a site or monument protected under Ireland's National Monuments Acts or to use a detection device to search for archaeological objects anywhere within the State or its territorial seas without the prior written consent of the Minister. The scheme of protection for all wrecks over 100 years old (section 3 of the 1987 Act) prohibits any unlicensed surveys of such wrecks. It is important to note that following the 1994 Amending Act, the vast majority of known and recorded archaeological monuments in the State are afforded legal protection under the National Monuments Acts.

The term "archaeological object" is defined in the National Monuments Acts and, as applies in Northern Ireland, has a broad meaning in terms of date and type of object. Objects commonly



found by detectorists such as coins, buttons, seals, fasteners, weights, strap ends and belt mounts may all come within the definition of archaeological object regardless of date or antiquity. Objects from relatively recent periods and 20th century material may also be considered archaeological objects. It is important to note, that the ownership of archaeological objects found with no known owner is vested in the State and not individuals or landowners. Significantly, failure to report the discovery of an archaeological object to the National Museum of Ireland or designated museum within 96 hours of the discovery (whether by metal detection or chance find) is a serious offence for which there are severe penalties and/or imprisonment. Other offences relating to archaeological objects include those concerned with acquisition or sale. Altering of archaeological objects or export out of the jurisdiction is regulated by the National Museum of Ireland.



In terms of retrieval of objects identified by metal detection, it is an offence to dig or excavate for the purpose of searching for archaeological objects or dig or excavate anything of archaeological interest without an excavation licence (section 26 of the 1930 Act as amended) or a Ministerial consent for works to national monuments (section 14 of the 1930 Act as amended). Only the Minister is authorised to grant detection device consents for searching for archaeological objects within the State (or possession of detection devices at protected monuments) or grant archaeological excavation licences or Ministerial consent in respect of national monuments. There is no other permit for approval in relation to detecting for archaeological objects.

The National Monuments Acts also provides certain powers to An Garda Síochána to seize detection devices without warrant unless detection device consent is in place (section 7, 1994). Furthermore it is prohibited, in accordance with the National Monuments Acts (section 2, 1987), to promote, whether by advertising or otherwise, the sale or use of metal detectors for the purpose of searching for archaeological objects.

The possession and use of a detection device on a protected monument, the use of detection device for the purposes of searching for archaeological objects generally, the excavation for retrieval of archaeological objects and failure to report discovery of archaeological objects are among the most serious offences listed under the National Monuments Acts. In our experience, the majority of metal detection cases investigated involve more than one offence and many landowners are unaware of the multiplicity of

serious offences being committed on their lands. This is however changing.

The number of cases of unauthorised metal detection and heritage crime in general reported to the authorities is on the increase. The joint publication by the National Museum of Ireland and the National Monuments Service of an information leaflet in 2014 entitled "Advice to the public on the use of metal detection devices" has provided clarity on the legal position and its underlying policy. It now appears on most Local Authority websites and An Garda Síochána website www.garda.ie. It sets out the legislative position in a simple FAQ format and highlights the damage inappropriate metal detecting causes.



UAS readers are encouraged to refer to the leaflet for further information. This document will shortly be updated and translated into more languages. Both the National Museum of Ireland and the National Monuments Service work closely on the regulation of detection devices and cases where offences have been committed and are together looking at new ways to raise awareness of the issues, particularly among landowners and members of the public.

Lastly, as Ken Neill points out, and quite apart from restrictions on detection devices set out in our respective legislation, there are legal restrictions regarding entry onto land regardless of whether it is known to contain archaeological monuments or be of archaeological potential. Land is in public or private ownership and no-one has the right to enter onto any lands without owners' permission. Entry on lands without necessary permission is likely to be trespass, and causing damage to land may even be a criminal offence.

We look forward to future knowledge sharing with our Northern Ireland colleagues on this and many other topics of mutual interest.



Pauline Gleeson

Senior Archaeologist

National Monuments Service

Maeve Sikora

Keeper of Irish Antiquities

National Museum of Ireland

Further Information

To download "Advice to the public on the use of metal detection devices" see <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/advice-on-use-of-metal-detection-devices.pdf>

For further information on our archaeological heritage and the work of the National Monuments Service see www.archaeology.ie

For further information on the work of the National Museum of Ireland see www.museum.ie and <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Collections-Research/The-Law-on-Metal-Detecting-in-Ireland>

For full text of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 see www.irishstatutebook.ie

What to do if you witness unauthorised metal detection

Report the incident to local An Garda Síochána and the National Monuments Service or National Museum of Ireland

It is not recommended to approach or challenge the detectorist in case it leads to confrontation

Contact details

National Monuments Service

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Custom House

Dublin 1

Email: nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie

Phone: +353 1 8882000

National Museum of Ireland

The Duty Officer

Irish Antiquities Division

National Museum of Ireland

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

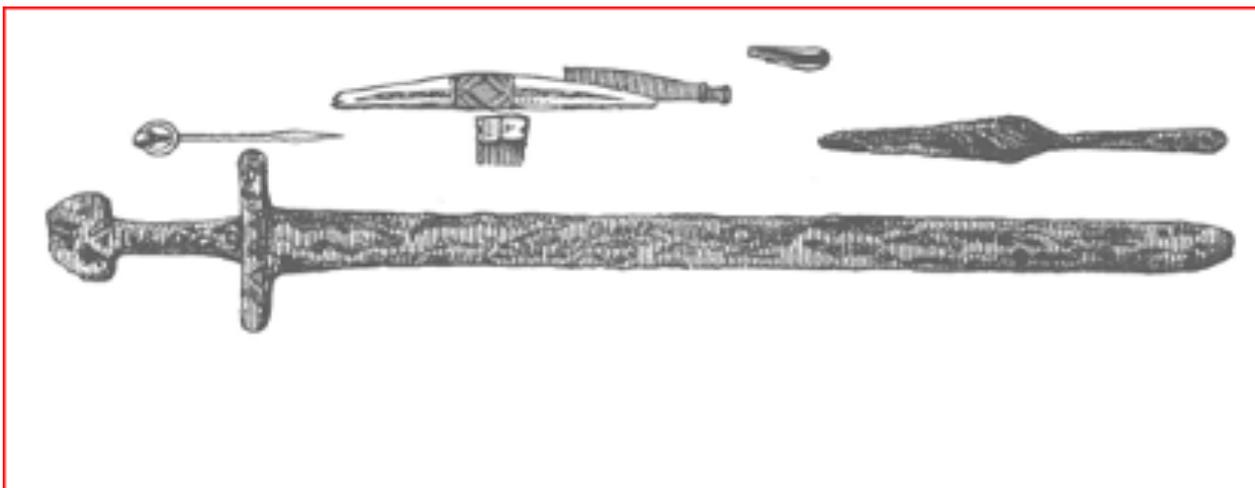
Email: antiquitiesdo@museum.ie

Phone: + 353 1 677444

Rediscovering the lost sites ...

The Larne Viking Burial

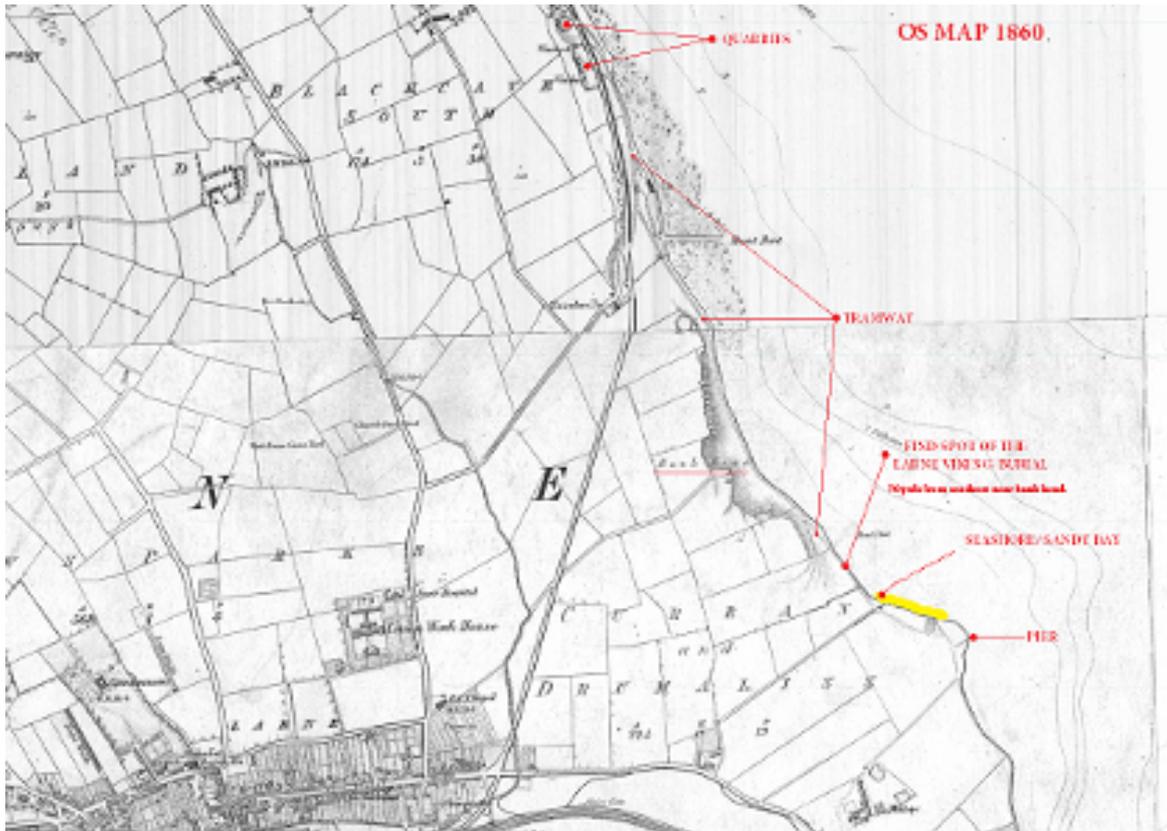
In 1840, workmen constructing a tramway on the coast near Larne, Co. Antrim discovered a skeleton of 'gigantic proportions' and associated grave goods. From the description of the grave goods it was believed to be the burial of a viking warrior. The antiquarian Joseph Huband Smith dealt with the find and published this brief description: "some lime quarries having been lately opened along the shore, at a distance from the jetty, or a wooden pier, at which small coasting vessels, trading between Larne and the opposite ports of Scotland, usually taking their cargoes, it became necessary, for the greater convenience of transporting limestone from the newly opened quarries, to construct a rail or tramway. In levelling the line marked out for the purposes of such construction, in the afternoon of the 7th of last November, the workmen discovered these remains at a spot three quarters of a mile distant from the town of Larne, about seventy yards from the sea shore, and about five feet above the level of high water mark".



Over time, the location of this important discovery faded and until recently, the exact location was thought to be lost. Recent research by Antrim County Archaeological Society has brought new details to the fore. The society has been researching the lesser known sites of east Antrim for over 20 years and has rediscovered eight sites previously thought lost. Using historical records, maps, local newspapers, local knowledge and industrial heritage records the society was able to identify the area of the Larne viking burial. The 1st edition OS map shows a quarry in the Blackcave townland in an area known as Waterloo. This quarry was owned by William Agnew of Kilwaughter Castle who had a lease of Curran and Drumalis townland and was responsible for building a quay or pier just north of the present harbour. The 2nd edition OS map shows that the quarry operation had moved north of the 1830 workings. This move may have been necessary due to the construction of the Antrim coast road. The route of the tramway can be seen on the map.

A newspaper article from the Larne Weekly Reporter dated 1872 reports the following story:

“The lands of Corran and Drumalis being thus contiguous to Larne lough were of course witness to various events, which, since the beginning of time, have happened in that lough or it’s immediate neighbourhood. These events however, belong rather to the history of the lough than to the history of the lands, but I may mention that in the year 1840 when excavations were being made by Mr Agnew for the construction of a tramway between the Corran of Larne and the limestone quarries along the shore, the labourers discovered near the Bankheads, a human skeleton of rather gigantic proportions, together with a sword of corresponding size, and some ornaments of an antique and curious construction. These were probably the remains of some Scandinavian invader of our shore, for Larne lough was in ancient times very much frequented by the Norsemen who were sea-pirates, and history tells us that in the year 1018 our lough was the scene of a great sea fight between the Orkney jarl Einar and Connor King of Ireland, in which the Norsemen were defeated and driven from our coast.”



The Antrim County Archaeological Society research team were able to identify the quarries, the route of the tramway, the lime kilns (HB06/08/007) and pier, north of the present harbour.

Image by National Museum Scotland



Acknowledgements: we are deeply indebted to Robert M. Chapple and Alastair Lings for their assistance.

Dr. Ingrid Prunner and Stephen A. Cameron

Online Activities

Land, Sea and Sky: the archaeology of coasts and islands

The sea is a natural highway, linking islands to islands and peninsulas to peninsulas. Our concept of an Atlantic world was created by voyages of exploration and settlement bridging far-flung coastlines.

The traditional focus of maritime archaeology has been on the ships that carried people across the sea, all too often ending up on the seabed as wrecks. There is also, however, a diverse range of sites and features in coastal and intertidal areas. Similarly, archaeologists have tended to focus narrowly on the concept of the island as something that could be looked at in isolation, as a laboratory for understanding how insular societies develop, but island life is underpinned by linkages and interchanges across the sea.

Taking this wider perspective provides us with an opportunity to explore how people created distinctive island and coastal worlds. How did people create distinctive maritime heritage and traditions? How does the evidence reflect the balance between the notion of islands as fixed and bounded and the fluidity and interconnectivity of the movement of people, with the sea as both boundary wall and gateway?

Currently, islands and coastal environments are experiencing the powerful impact of the climate crisis. Rising sea levels are leading to the erosion and submerging of coastlines, and we are faced with the challenge of recording their rich archaeology. It seems timely to explore the archaeology and settlement of islands, coastal areas and the sea that links them.

This conference sets out to explore the connections of archaeological heritage with local and coastal communities and its role in establishing a sense of place.

The programme, developed by conference adviser Professor Gabriel Cooney (UCD), provides an interdisciplinary gathering of eminent scholars and practitioners to explore the connections between islands and mainlands—what have come to be called ‘islandscapes’. The notion of archipelago worlds and the sea as a highway is a reminder of the importance of longer voyages and the ability of seafarers from earliest times to use the currents, to move along coastlines, to use the intervisibility of mountains to ‘island

hop' and, more importantly, to connect seemingly distant lands. These contacts were often the spark of major social change.

[To register for these online Presentations Click here](#)

Highland Archaeology Festival

Celebrating Highland Archaeology, History and Heritage

The festival is provided by the Highland Council and runs over two weeks each October to celebrate the heritage of the Highlands from earliest settlers to modern times, below ground and above. Whether you are a seasoned archaeologist or a complete beginner, the festival will let you explore an amazing range of places and collections. There's something to suit everyone and many of the events are free!

Festival of Talks

There will also be no physical conference, and the Highland Council Historic Environment Team has arranged an exciting series of online nightly talks on weekdays between 25th September to 12th October at 7:30pm. As at the annual conference, these will feature recent discoveries and research. Further details on the programme and how to book is available [here](#). As talks are organised they will also be listed in the Events Calendar.

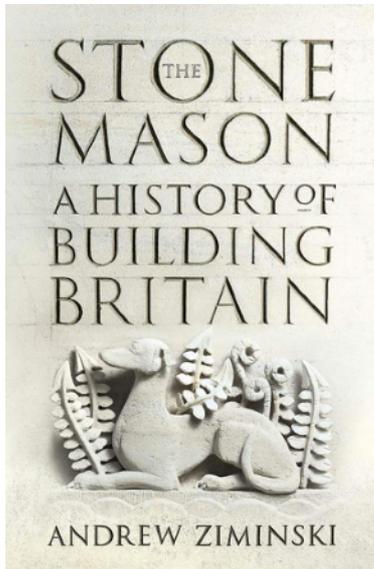
<https://www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org/index.asp>

DNA Cailte

(Lost DNA - Broadcast on 2 Sep on TG4 in Irish but with English subtitles)

<https://www.tg4.ie/en/player/categories/top-documentaries/play/?pid=6186667760001&title=Bun%C3%BAs&series=DNA%20Cailte&genre=Faisneis&pcode=095980> (switch on subtitles)

New Books



The Stone Mason: A history to building Britain - Andrew Ziminski

John Murray Books, £20

This book is focused on the history of England, but takes an interesting perspective on the past. Andrew Ziminski is a practicing stone mason and he discusses the history of these islands through his encounters with the buildings and landscapes. As someone carrying on an ancient tradition, with many aspects remaining unchanged, he brings a different perspective to how we can look at medieval buildings or prehistoric monuments. His working life has brought him face-to-face with our built heritage, in its many forms, and these experiences gave him an interest in the people of the past and how they lived and worked. This collection of anecdotes and observations helps to bring our past to life and reminds us of important aspects of the study of archaeology.