



ULSTER  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY



# DISCOVERY 2018!

SECOND ANNUAL REVIEW OF  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN ULSTER

**Saturday 3rd November 2018**

**Main Lecture Theatre, Elmwood Building**

**Queen's University Belfast**

## **Welcome from the Ulster Archaeological Society**

On behalf of the Committee of the Ulster Archaeological Society (UAS) I would like to welcome everyone to the **Discovery 2018! Second 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.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the Third Series of the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*. Volume 1 Part 1 was published in January 1938 and Volume 1 Part 2 in July of the same year. Today, 80 years on, the journal is still going strong and Volume 73 was published in July 2018. The *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* remains the foremost repository of excavation reports and other papers on archaeological research in Ulster.

The journal, and the establishment of the **Discovery** conference last year as an annual event, continue to help the Ulster Archaeological Society fulfil its core aim of disseminating information about new archaeological projects, research and publications in Ulster to both the archaeological profession and the general public alike. This conference also continues our more than 70 years of close and effective association with Queen's University, which began with the first meeting of the Ulster Archaeological Society at Queen's on October 15th 1947.

And like last year's successful inaugural conference, the range of papers at **Discovery 2018!** gives a taster of the important work currently being carried out across Ulster by heritage institutions and bodies, commercial archaeological companies and community groups. This conference is also an opportunity to meet old friends, make new ones and, above all, to discuss what is going on in Ulster archaeology. We hope that you find it both enjoyable and informative.

**Ruairí Ó Baoill**

**President, Ulster Archaeological Society**

## **Welcome from Archaeology & Palaeoecology at Queen's University Belfast**

Welcome to the second annual Discovery! Conference. We hope that this event is starting to become embedded as a key date in the calendar for archaeology in Ulster, and one that enables us to all come together to learn about the major discoveries being made in our discipline each year. 2018 was certainly a great year for Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's and we retained our position in the Top 100 Archaeology Departments in the *QS World University Rankings*, while for a second year running we were ranked joint-first in Archaeology across the UK for student satisfaction in the *2018 National Student Survey*. In addition, we have significantly increased our standing in major UK league tables; we are now ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the UK for Forensic Science and Archaeology in *The Guardian University Guide 2019*, and we are ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the UK for Archaeology in *The Times - Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019*. We also had a bumper intake of over 30 Undergraduate students this autumn, and the future is looking very bright for our subject within Queen's.

We have also been busy with a host of Community Archaeology activities and our staff have led a range of high-profile public outreach events across Northern Ireland. We participated in the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership's Archaeological Festival (funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund); a week-long series of archaeological workshops for schoolchildren at the Hill of the O'Neill in Dungannon for Mid Ulster Council; the Carey Historical Society's Bun Na Margáí Festival of Heritage; and a festival of experimental archaeology at Oxford Island with the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council. We have also been working with Mid Ulster Council on their PEACE IV project with Donegal County Council exploring Medieval Ulster with historical societies, the heritage sector and tour-guides in both counties. In addition to a programme of geophysical survey undertaken in Portrush on behalf of the Portrush Heritage Group (funded through the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's PEACE IV programme), we also delivered three community-based excavations; at Mountjoy Fort in Co. Tyrone (undertaken on behalf of the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership and the Heritage Lottery Fund); at Cathedral Hill in Downpatrick (undertaken on behalf of Down Museum, and funded through the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's PEACE IV programme); and at Boom Hall outside Derry City (on behalf of the Siege Museum and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Derry and Strabane District Council). We also worked with the Derry Tower Heritage Group, using the radiocarbon dating of mortar to re-identify the "lost" round tower of the Medieval monastery of Derry in the grounds of Lumen Christi College!

We at Queen's have long valued our relationship with our friends in the Ulster Archaeological Society and we are delighted to be working with them again on this year's conference.

**Professor Eileen Murphy**

**Head of Archaeology and Palaeoecology**

**School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast**

## **DISCOVERY 2018!**

### **SECOND 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 2nd November and Saturday 3rd November 2018*

## **Programme**

### **Friday evening, 2nd November 2018**

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

- 6.30**            **Conference launch and wine reception.**
- 7.00-7.20**       **Book launch: *Life and Death in Medieval Gaelic Ireland. The Skeletons from Ballyhanna, Co. Donegal* by Dr Catriona McKenzie and Professor Eileen Murphy. Four Courts Press.**
- 7.20-8.00**       **Keynote address: Michael MacDonagh** (Chief Archaeologist with the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht).  
**The work of Ireland's National Monuments Service in managing archaeological discovery.**

### **Saturday, 3rd November 2018**

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

- 9.00-9.30**       **Conference registration.**
- Session 1:       Chaired by Dr Ian G. Meighan (Ulster Archaeological Society)**
- 9.30-9.40**       **Conference welcome:    Professor Eileen Murphy** (Head of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, QUB) & **Ruairí Ó Baoill** (President of the Ulster Archaeological Society)
- 9.40-10.00**      **Mike King** (Down County Museum)  
**What's going up in Down?**
- 10.00-10.20**     **Brian Sloan** (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB)  
**Unearthing medieval Downpatrick.**
- 10.20-10.40**     **Dr Catriona McKenzie** (University of Exeter)  
**'In sickness and in health': Medical treatment and care of the sick in early medieval Donegal.**

- 10.40-11.00**     **Dr Patrick Gleeson** (Archaeology and Palaeoecology, QUB)  
**Remote sensing Emain Macha: recent geophysical discoveries at Navan Fort.**
- 11.00-11.30**     **Morning tea/ coffee break.**
- Session 2:**     **Chaired by Grace McAlister (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB)**
- 11.30-11.50**     **Dr James O' Neill** (Ulidia Heritage Services)  
**'This land of ire': The landscape and archaeology of Tyrone's Rebellion.**
- 11.50-12.10**     **Ruairí Ó Baoill** (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB and Ulster Archaeological Society)  
**Excavations at *Mountjoy Fort, Brocagh, Co. Tyrone.***
- 12.10-12.30**     **Dr Heather Montgomery** (Archaeology and Palaeoecology, QUB)  
**“For forts sake” – Grey Point Fort, Co. Down, and Lenan Head, Co. Donegal, WW1 coastal defence batteries.**
- 12.30-12.50**     **Liam Bradley** (Monaghan County Museum)  
**From the stoney grey soil – The archaeological collections of Monaghan County Museum.**
- 12.50-1.00**     **Q & A for morning session.**
- 1.00-2.00**     **Lunch**
- Session 3:**     **Chaired by Malachy Conway (National Trust for Northern Ireland)**
- 2.00-2.20**     **Dr Harry Welsh** (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB and Ulster Archaeological Society)  
**The activities of the Ulster Archaeological Society's Field Survey Group during 2018.**
- 2.20-2.40**     **Mark Lusby** (Friends of the Derry Walls and PhD researcher, QUB)  
**Rediscovering the Derry Walls – how the Plantation town looked in 1619.**
- 2.40-3.00**     **Stephen Gilmore and Tom McCrudden** (Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd)  
**Investigations at a late-nineteenth century munitions tunnel and railway at Carrickfergus Castle, Co. Antrim and Excavations at a multi-period site at Carryduff, Co. Down.**
- 3.00-3.20**     **Marie-Therese Barrett** (PhD researcher, QUB)  
**Drumclay, Co. Fermanagh: examining a crannog's response to environmental, socio-political and economic changes at an annual resolution.**
- 3.20-3.35**     **Dr Ian Meighan** (Ulster Archaeological Society)  
**Important geological discoveries from Ulster monuments.**

**3.35-4.00**      ***Afternoon tea/ coffee break.***

**Session 4:**      **Chaired by Dr David Bell (Visiting Research Fellow, QUB)**

**4.00-4.20**      **Barrie Hartwell (Ulster Archaeological Society and Archaeology and Palaeoecology, QUB)**  
**Ballynahatty prehistoric landscape – new evidence from aerial survey.**

**4.20-4.40**      **Sarah Gormley (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB)**  
**Lignite bracelet production in the north of Ireland: a reassessment.**

**4.40-5.00**      **Dr Cormac McSparron (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB)**  
**The enigma of aceramic periods in the Irish late-prehistoric and early historic eras.**

**5.00-5.20**      **Andrew Gault (Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities)**  
**Unearthed – new discoveries in development-led archaeology in Northern Ireland.**

**5.20-5.30**      **Q & A for afternoon session.**

**5.30**              ***Conference concludes.***

## Abstracts and Profiles

### Session 1

**Mike King** (Down County Museum)

#### **What's going up in Down?**

##### **Abstract**

*What's Going Up in Down?* will describe two projects relating to the recording, preservation, replication and interpretation of two very different historic monuments. Firstly, an account will be given of the 18-month Newry, Mourne and Down District Council project to scan the three surviving fragments of St Patrick's Cross in Down Cathedral, and create a replica in the same Mourne granite on Cathedral Hill; secondly, plans to recreate in 2019 a 100-year old gabled timber Armstrong Hut from Ballykinlar Camp within the Museum will be outlined, to tell the stories of its diverse occupants, drawing on EU PEACE IV funding.

**Profile** Michael.King@nmandd.org

**Mike King** is Heritage Manager at Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, having been Curator of Down County Museum from 2000 to 2018. In the 1990s he worked in Scotland at Perth Museum and Art Gallery and as Curator of North-East Fife District Museum Service. In Down he has continued the development of the Museum, first opened in 1981, through the £1.5m HLF Governor's Residence Access Project (2002-6), the £700k EU INTERREG Downpatrick High Cross Extension (2010-2015), and EU PEACE projects. He takes a keen interest in the Early Christian period, in particular the preservation and interpretation of stone sculpture.

**Brian Sloan** (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB)

#### **Unearthing medieval Downpatrick.**

##### **Abstract**

Cathedral Hill in Downpatrick, Co. Down, has long been associated with the early medieval and medieval ecclesiastical story of Ireland. Numerous excavations have been carried out in the vicinity of the present day cathedral, and although largely unpublished have indicated a wealth of evidence exists just beneath the sod! The site played host to Channel 4's 'Time Team' who carried out small scale excavation in a number of locations across the site in 1997. This revealed evidence of the Benedictine Abbey to the north-west of the cathedral, most notably a stone structure provisionally identified as the kitchen. In the summer of 2018, the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork carried out a community-led investigation to build upon the information already gathered on the site. The investigation revealed the structure to be in good preservation and midden pits excavated along the outside wall yielded a large material culture assemblage. A trench excavated adjacent to the present car park revealed a substantive medieval cemetery with the skeletal remains of 14 individuals being uncovered. These burials are provisionally dated to the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> Century and provide an opportunity to investigate both the living and the dead of medieval Downpatrick.

**Profile** b.sloan@qub.ac.uk

**Brian Sloan** has worked for the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast, since 2003 and has been directing archaeological projects since 2005. He has carried out a variety of excavations, most notably

on Rathlin Island, Co. Antrim, and at Tullaghogue Co. Tyrone. Brian has a particular interest in the study of lithic artefacts and has compiled a number of specialist reports on these.

**Dr Catriona McKenzie** (University of Exeter)

**'In sickness and in health': Medical treatment and care of the sick in early medieval Donegal**

**Abstract**

A total of 1269 skeletons were excavated from the medieval graveyard at Ballyhanna in Co. Donegal. Of these, very few skeletons (n=16) were identified as individuals who were laid to rest during the early medieval period. However, a high proportion of these skeletons (25%; 4/16) exhibited significant palaeopathological lesions in their skeletal remains, indicative of long-term ill-health. This paper will discuss four individual case studies and will consider how these individuals may have been treated and cared for by the wider community.

**Profiles** C.Mckenzie@exeter.ac.uk

**Dr Catriona McKenzie** is a Lecturer in Human Osteoarchaeology in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Exeter. She specialises in palaeopathology, bioarchaeology and funerary archaeology, and her research to date has focused predominantly upon the analysis of skeletal collections from medieval Ireland.

**Dr Patrick Gleeson** (Archaeology and Palaeoecology, QUB)

**Remote sensing Emain Macha: recent geophysical discoveries at Navan Fort.**

**Abstract**

This paper discusses recent discoveries from a large scale remote sensing project at Navan Fort, principally geophysical survey, working with colleagues in the University of Aberdeen and the German Archaeological Institute, and how this changes the way we think about Navan and its landscape.

**Profile** P.Gleeson@qub.ac.uk

**Dr Patrick Gleeson** is a lecturer in medieval archaeology at Queen's University Belfast, with research interests in cult, kingship and governance in the first millennium AD in Northern Europe. He has ongoing projects examining Dunseverick, Navan Fort, the Rock of Cashel, Lagore Crannog, and Knockainy, Co. Limerick, as well as projects examining kingship and population change in Ireland and Scotland.

## Session 2

**Dr James O' Neill** (Ulidia Heritage Services)

**'This land of ire': The landscape and archaeology of Tyrone's Rebellion.**

**Abstract**

Tyrone's Rebellion, 1593-1603, also known as the Nine Years War, represented the climactic clash between the forces of the native Irish and the Tudor state. Much historical research has focused on key protagonists such as Hugh O'Neill, earl of Tyrone, Robert Devereux, earl of Essex or Red High O'Donnell, Lord of Tirconnell. However, James O' Neill secured the opportunity to research the broader aspects of the conflict and to examine the technology, economy, logistics and violence of the war. A broad palate of study indeed, but this was made more



so as James came from a background in archaeology. The combination of historical method with its documents and archives, coupled with fieldwork and an eye for landscape enables a fresh perspective to be taken on the conflict. James will discuss how the use of archaeology, history and landscape analysis helped enrich his research, and raised a few surprises along the way.

**Profile** joneill30@qub.ac.uk

**Dr James O' Neill** worked in archaeology in Northern Ireland for 16 years, where he specialised in battlefield archaeology and twentieth century defence heritage. In 2008 he jumped ship to the join the history fraternity at Queen's University Belfast. His doctoral research focused on the military aspects of the Nine Years War, also known as Tyrone's Rebellion. During a two-year fellowship in University College Cork, he rewrote this work into a monograph which has been recently published by Four Courts Press entitled *The Nine Years War 1593-1603: O'Neill, Mountjoy and the Military Revolution*.

**Ruairí Ó Baoill** (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB and Ulster Archaeological Society)

**Excavations at *Mountjoy Fort, Brocagh, Co. Tyrone.***

#### **Abstract**

Mountjoy Fort is located at Brocagh on the south-west shores of Lough Neagh in Co. Tyrone. It was one of the many earthen campaign forts erected during the Nine Years War (1593-1603) that took place between the Gaelic Irish lords and the forces of Queen Elizabeth I. Because of their often ephemeral nature, this type of monument has been little studied by archaeologists until comparatively recently. This talk presents the results of the excavation that took place within Mountjoy Fort in June 2018.

**Profile** r.obaoill@qub.ac.uk

**Ruairí Ó Baoill** is an excavation director with the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast and is President of the Ulster Archaeological Society. 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 medieval 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).

**Dr Heather Montgomery** (Archaeology and Palaeoecology, QUB)

**'For forts sake' – Grey Point Fort, Co. Down, and Lenan Head, Co. Donegal, WW1 coastal defence batteries.**

#### **Abstract**

As the various powers in Europe geared up for what became WW1, fears of potential enemy strikes on vital shipping ports around Ireland intensified. The British War Office defensive strategy to counter possible threats included the development of new coastal defence batteries at locations such as Grey Point Fort, Co. Down, and Lenan Head in Co. Donegal. Recent archaeological investigations have revealed comparative and previously undetermined defensive characteristics associated with the early construction phases of these fortifications, thus providing a better understanding of their evolution and use during WW1.

**Profile** hmontgomery03@qub.ac.uk

**Dr Heather Montgomery** is an archaeologist at Queen's University Belfast. She was awarded her Doctorate from the School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, QUB, for her research on the historical archaeological landscape analysis of Ireland's First World War training camps, with her thesis entitled '**Training Kitchener's New Army, 1914-18: An Archaeological Perspective on the Irish Experience**'. Over the last two decades she has directed or participated in a number of WW1 archaeological projects including WWI training trenches at Birr Military Barracks, Crinkill, Co. Offaly; at Ballykinlar Military Training Estate; Grey Point WW1 coastal defence battery and at the Somme WWI trenches at Thiepval Wood, France. She is a Researcher on The Ballykinlar History Hut PEACE IV project with CDDA & Down County Museum and is a Researcher/Archivist on Men Behind the Glass, WW1 HLF project at Campbell College. Heather is a member of Defence Heritage Advisory Board for Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme and was recently, facilitator to the Council for British Archaeology, designing and delivering interactive workshops to local community groups, primary and secondary schools. In 2017, she was a winner of DIO Sanctuary Awards, '**Heritage Project 2017**' for work at Ballykinlar carried out with the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB. She is also Education Officer for the North Down branch of WFA.

**Liam Bradley** (Monaghan County Museum)

**From the stoney grey soil – the archaeological collections of Monaghan County Museum.**

#### **Abstract**

Monaghan County Museum first opened its doors to the public in 1974 becoming the first professionally staffed local authority museum in the Republic of Ireland. Since its inception, it has amassed a collection of over 50,000 objects which tell the story of the region from the end of the last Ice Age to modern times. The presentation will focus on some of the key items in the museum's archaeological collection as well as some of the sites in the county with which they are associated.

**Profile** lbradley@monaghancoco.ie

**Liam Bradley** has been the Curator of Monaghan County Museum for 15 years. He studied archaeology and paleoecology at Queen's University Belfast before completing his Masters at the University of Ulster. He is the current chair of the Local Authority Museums Network, which is the presentative body for all of the local authority museums in the Republic of Ireland. He also serves on the assessment panel for the Museums Standards Programme for Ireland.

### **Session 3**

**Dr Harry Welsh** (Ulster Archaeological Society and Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB)

**The activities of the Ulster Archaeological Society's Field Survey Group during 2018.**

#### **Abstract**

This talk will provide an overview of the field surveys undertaken by the UAS Field Survey Group in 2018. This turned out to be a fascinating year of survey, with many new discoveries made, enhanced by the deployment of the recently-acquired geophysical survey equipment and the use of drone and photographic technologies. This year's sites include several sites at Mount Stewart, including a Second World War RAF structure, the remains of

a revolving summer house, the Gamekeeper's Cottage and associated buildings and a piggery. A possible prehistoric ring barrow was investigated at Island Magee and the abandoned gardens of Redburn House were surveyed in Holywood. The group also carried out excavations and surveys at a scheduled historic landscape at Castle Ward, Co. Down. Geophysical surveys were also carried out at Cathedral Hill, Downpatrick and at the Yew Terraces, Castle Ward.

**Profile** h.welsh@qub.ac.uk

**Dr Harry Welsh** has taken part in archaeological excavations for 20 years, in the commercial and public sectors. He has written several books and articles on various archaeological subjects, such as prehistoric burials, sites of prehistoric life, excavation and survey reports, safety at excavations and public outreach events. He has been a Committee member of the Ulster Archaeological Society for sixteen years and has coordinating the efforts of the Field Survey Group since its foundation in 2005. He has been working with the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB, since 2008.

**Mark Lusby** (Friends of the Derry Walls and PhD researcher, QUB)

**Rediscovering the Derry Walls– how the Plantation town looked in 1619.**

#### **Abstract**

Near the end of 1618 Captain Nicholas Pynnar, the official Inspector of fortifications in Ireland, had been appointed to survey the progress of the Ulster Plantation and specifically: "the Works and Plantation performed by the City of London in the City and County of London-Derry'." His report, dated 28th March 1619, provides the first official certification of the completeness of the Derry Walls: "The Cittie of London Derry is now compassed about with a verie strong wall, excellentlie made and neatlie wrought, beinge all of good lyme and stone'." This survey is supported by the first illustration of the complete city walls. Working with a heritage illustrator, historians and archaeologists, the Walls Friends are in the process of producing a realistic visualisation of the walled city in 1619. The work to date has raised interesting questions about the present-day monument and how it has evolved since 1619.

**Profile** mark.lusby@icloud.com

**Mark Lusby** volunteers as Project Coordinator of the Friends of the Derry Walls, a charity with the mission of becoming the voice of the walls, raising ambitions for their care and presentation, driving public engagement with the walls and ensuring that the walls are fully exploited as a resource for educational, cultural and economic development. He is currently undertaking PhD research in Planning in the School of Natural and Built Environment, QUB.

**Stephen Gilmore and Tom McCrudden** (Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd)

**Investigations at a late-nineteenth century munitions tunnel and railway at Carrickfergus Castle, Co. Antrim and Excavations at a multi-period site at Baronsgrange, Carryduff, Co. Down.**

#### **Abstracts**

##### *Carrickfergus Castle*

To facilitate the renovations of the roof of Carrickfergus Castle keep it was decided to reopen and excavate the late 19<sup>th</sup> century munitions railway tunnel which connected the harbour and the Inner Ward of the Keep. This

involved clearing the tunnel of 120 years of accumulated and deliberately dumped debris, recording the structures revealed and presenting it to the passing castle visitors.

### *Baronsgrange*

Baronsgrange is situated 10km south of the Belfast city centre in the modern suburb of Carryduff. In summer 2018 an archaeological excavation was carried out by Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd in advance of a housing development. Artefacts and settlement activity dating from the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Early Medieval periods were uncovered. The results of the excavation will be presented.

**Profiles**            stephen@northarc.co.uk    tommccrudden@gmail.com

**Stephen Gilmore** graduated with a BSc. in Archaeology from Queens University, Belfast in 1990. Since then he has worked as a field archaeologist at all levels of responsibility up to Project Manager and on all types of site dating from the Mesolithic to the Twentieth Century. In 1998 Stephen was a co-founder of Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd which he continues to run. His areas of interest include Bronze Age burial practice and industrial archaeology, specifically brick-making technology, especially the development of continuous kilns. He is currently pursuing an MPhil on this topic in Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

**Tom McCrudden** first got involved in archaeology in 2000 when he completed two week's work experience with Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, during his GCSE school year. He then went on to Bournemouth University, graduating in 2006, and immediately began working with NAC full time. Since then he has progressed from a trainee to a site director for the company. He has worked on sites dating from the Mesolithic right through to the Medieval periods, from earthworks through to brick and stone structures. He has also worked on a large number of sites, from small-scale projects to multi-phase large scale developments.

**Marie-Therese Barrett** (PhD researcher, QUB)

**Drumclay, County Fermanagh: examining a crannog's response to environmental, socio-political and economic changes at an annual resolution.**

### **Abstract**

Drumclay crannog, which was excavated between 2012 and 2013, was comprised of seven metres of waterlogged archaeological deposits. The initial construction of the site has been dated to the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD. This presentation shows how it is possible to scrutinise life in Early Medieval Ireland at an annual resolution using a combination of tree-ring analysis of alder timbers, radiocarbon dating and wiggle matching, with close analysis of the archaeological record. The results reveal the pace at which the site developed and provide an unrivalled view of crannog evolution in time and space. This multidisciplinary approach allows us to consider life on the crannog at a timescale relevant to human history in relation to major environmental, socio-political and economic changes.

**Profile**            mbarrett08@qub.ac.uk

**Marie-Therese Barrett** graduated with a BA in Archaeology and History and an MPhil degree in Early Medieval Archaeology from University College Cork. She worked in commercial archaeology for a number of years (including the excavation of Drumclay crannog itself) before returning to complete an MSc in Dating and Chronology in Queen's University Belfast. She is currently undertaking a PhD in Archaeology and

Palaeoecology, QUB. Her thesis is focused on constructing an annual chronology for Drumclay crannog, entitled: *Drumclay crannog: a tree-ring-dated narrative for Irish settlement.*

**Dr Ian G. Meighan** (Ulster Archaeological Society)

### **Important Geological Discoveries from Ulster Monuments**

#### **Abstract**

Geology has contributed substantially to study of Archaeology, principally in the identification and sourcing of lithic materials. Indeed, geoarchaeology is now an internationally recognised discipline. Conversely, Geology can also gain from Archaeology as evidenced by two local (Ulster) examples that show how important geological information may be obtained by examining glacial erratics utilised by our prehistoric ancestors to build monuments-. Creggandevosky Court Tomb, Co. Tyrone and Ballynoe Stone Circle, Co. Down.

**Profile** iangmeighan@hotmail.co.uk

**Dr Ian G. Meighan** was a Senior Lecturer in Geology/Geochemistry at Queen's University Belfast until the closure of the department in 1999. He also taught essential basic Geology for archaeology students. He has published extensively on geoarchaeology (including on Newgrange, porcellanite stone axeheads, pitchstone, stone circles, Nendrum millstones, gold, Easter Island) and is currently involved in non-destructive geochemical sourcing of the granites used as basin stones in Irish passage tombs (Newgrange, etc).

## **Session 4**

**Barrie Hartwell** (Ulster Archaeological Society)

### **Ballynahatty Prehistoric Landscape – new evidence from aerial survey.**

#### **Abstract**

A brief look at an historical description of Ballynahatty townland in the 1855 edition of the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, later aerial surveys of the Giant's Ring and targeted excavations indicate the intense prehistoric ritualisation of this landscape. This sets the scene for the excellent results of a drone survey, undertaken by David Craig of Irishsights.com, of the extensive cropmarks which appeared here in the dry summer of 2018.

**Profile** barriehartwell@hotmail.com

As Senior Research Officer in Archaeology at Queen's University, **Barrie Hartwell** specialised in aerial photography and site survey and developed taught modules in artefact studies and site location techniques. An aerial survey of the Giant's Ring in Co. Down in 1989 led to his 10 year excavation of the Ballynahatty timber enclosure. He retired in 2010 but still curates the artefact Teaching Collection in Archaeology and Palaeoecology, QUB. He has served as Honorary Secretary and President of the Ulster Archaeological Society and is currently a vice president and the nominal archivist.

**Sarah Gormley** (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB)

**Lignite bracelet production in the north of Ireland: a reassessment.**

**Abstract**

Despite being ubiquitous finds on sites of the early medieval period in Ireland, lignite bracelets have received little academic attention. A large quantity of waste from the production of bracelets was recovered during excavation of the ecclesiastical site at St Patrick's Church, Armoy, Co. Antrim. This paper will present the results of the analysis of the material and outline how this work has allowed a reassessment of the evidence for lignite bracelet production to be undertaken. The resulting fuller understanding of the artefact type and the associated craft working processes will be discussed.

**Profile** s.gormley@qub.ac.uk

**Sarah Gormley** obtained her undergraduate degree in History and Archaeology from Queen's University Belfast in 2000 and commenced work within the School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology immediately upon graduating. She has worked within Queen's since that time and is a highly skilled and experienced field archaeologist and project manager within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork. She is currently completing an Archaeological Research Framework for Derry~Londonderry, and has just published a major paper on "lignite" bracelets in the 2017 edition of the *Journal of Irish Archaeology*.

**Dr Cormac McSparron** (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB)

**The enigma of aceramic periods in the Irish Late-Prehistoric and Early Historic eras.**

**Abstract**

The ceramic history of Ireland is full of type, forms, decorations, and.... gaps. Sometime in later prehistory the use of domestic pottery ceased. It remained unused, except perhaps for a few craft and industrial purposes, for many centuries. When pottery appears once again in the archaeological record in the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD, it is initially limited almost entirely to east and central Ulster. Why did domestic pottery use decline in Ireland and why when it reappeared was it made and used in such a geographically limited area? It will be suggested that the feasting culture of later prehistory in Ireland and adjacent countries is directly connected to the decision to eschew pottery, and that concepts of identity which are often expressed through food and food production, limited the spread of domestic pottery use when it reappeared.

**Profile** c.mcsparron@qub.ac.uk

**Dr Cormac McSparron** is an excavation director with the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast. He has directed and published a number of important excavations of varying types and periods and has a wide range of research interests, including; Bronze Age funerary archaeology, archaeological theory, multilineal social evolution, cognitive archaeology, the early Irish Neolithic, early and later medieval coarse potting traditions and the application of radiocarbon dating to archaeological problems.

**Andrew Gault** (Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities)

**Unearthed – New Discoveries in Development-led Archaeology in Northern Ireland.**

**Abstract**

The vast majority of archaeological excavations in Northern Ireland happen as a result of requirements placed on developers in the planning process. *Unearthed: New Discoveries in Development-led Archaeology in Northern Ireland* will provide an overview of some of the most significant archaeological discoveries from pre-development archaeological works since planning responsibilities were devolved to local councils in 2015.

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**Andrew Gault** is a Senior Archaeologist in the Department for Communities' Historic Environment Division. He manages a team of archaeologists who provide expert advice to planning authorities, government agencies, consultants and applicants on archaeological matters in the planning process in NI.

## Further information and Acknowledgements

### **Information about the Ulster Archaeological Society**

The current Committee of the Ulster Archaeological Society comprises: Ruairí Ó Baoill (President), Prof Audrey Horning, Barrie Hartwell and Patrick O'Neill (Vice Presidents), Ken Pullin BEM (Honorary Secretary), Lee Gordon (Honorary Treasurer), Cormac Bourke (Honorary Editor, *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*), Grace McAlister (Assistant Honorary Editor, *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*), Dr Harry Welsh (Leader, UAS Field Survey Group), Anne MacDermott MBE (Assistant Secretary Events), Dr Duncan Berryman (Honorary Editor: UAS Newsletter), Ian Gillespie, David Craig, Aaron McIntyre, Dr Ian Meighan, Randal Scott and Roisín McCaughan (Committee members).

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

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

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

or e-mail us at: [ulsterarchaeolsoc@gmail.com](mailto:ulsterarchaeolsoc@gmail.com)

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](http://www.archaeology-palaeoecology-qub.com)

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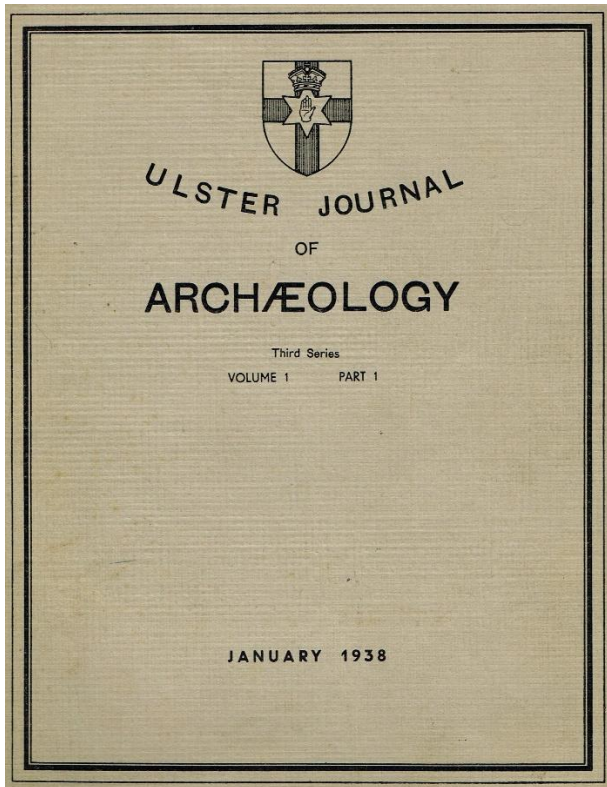
### **Acknowledgements**

The Committee of the Ulster Archaeological Society and the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's University Belfast would like to thank the following people for their assistance with the conference: especially Grace McAlister, Libby Mulqueeny, Dr Siobhán McDermott, Dr Duncan Berryman and the very many enthusiastic Queen's University Belfast Archaeology & Palaeoecology students and Ulster Archaeological Society members who have helped with this event. Our thanks are due to all the participants of the conference who have so generously agreed to share their discoveries with us.

The conference was generously supported by funding from the Culture and Society Research Cluster in the School of Natural and Built Environment at Queen's University Belfast.



**NOTES**



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