

25 BLOGS

A written history of Rubicon Archaeology...

25 YEARS



RUBICON
archaeology

CONTENTS

FOREWARD 25 YEARS BY COLM MOLONEY	3
1 - N9/N10 KILCULLEN TO CARLOW SCHEME: A RIVER FLOOD PLAIN IN PRUMPLESTOWN, CO. KILDARE 2008.....	4
2 - THE BIG DIG AT CAHERDUGGAN CASTLE: CRACKING CASTLE AND MEGA MOAT 29/10/2011	9
3 - RUBICON & GREATER LIBERTON HERITAGE PROJECT MAKE SIGNIFICANT MEDIEVAL DISCOVERY IN EDINBURGH 20/6/2014.....	14
4 - A BIRDS EYE VIEW OF GEORGIAN INVERNESS 8/8/2014.....	16
5 - SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRELAND 18/8/2016.....	19
6 - RUBICON HERITAGE CELEBRATE TWO MAJOR UK MILESTONES 6/10/2017.....	23
7 - REVEALING THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE 1798 VINEGAR HILL BATTLEFIELD 3/11/2017	24
8 - STEM CAREER DAY IN SOUTH WALES SUPPORTED BY RUBICON HERITAGE SERVICES 17/8/2018	31
9 - HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY AT MORENISH CHAPEL 30/11/2028	33
10 - RICHMOND PENITENTIARY CHOLERA CEMETERY EXCAVATION, GRANGEGORMAN, DUBLIN. 20/2/2020 BY DAWN GOONEY.....	38
PROJECT BACKGROUND	38
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	38
CHARNEL PIT	39
11 - THE SHARP END OF THE STICK. WORKED WOOD FROM A BURNT MOUND IN CO. MAYO. 26/6/2020 BY BRUCE SUTTON.....	41
THE MOUND.....	41
TROUGH 021 & ASSOCIATED FEATURES	43
TROUGH 022 & ASSOCIATED FEATURES	46
REFERENCES.....	48
12 - AN AMUSING DITCH FEATURE: RECORDING OF A HA-HA ON THE N25 DUNKETTLE INTERCHANGE PROJECT 27/7/2020 BY JOHN O CONNOR	49
13 - INVESTIGATING THE 1388 BATTLE OF OTTERBURN 8/9/2021.....	54
14 - ONE IN 1500: IN SEARCH OF ANTHONY DONLEAVEY 25/11/2021 BY TERESA BOLGER.....	59
15 - M28 CORK TO RINGASKIDDY PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT 9/2/2022.....	67
16 - N25 KILLEAGH PAVEMENT STRENGTHENING SCHEME – ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS ENTERS STAGE (IV) 1/4/2022 BY JONATHAN MILLAR	69
17 - ROMAN CASTLEFORD 7/5/2022 BY DAVE GILBERT	71
18 - RESEARCHING THE ANARCHY OF THE PAST WHILE TRAINING THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF THE FUTURE 24/5/2022 DAVE GILBERT	72

19 - MEDIEVAL 'CEMETERY SETTLEMENT' DISCOVERED IN MONEYGALL, COUNTY OFFALY 11/4/2023 BY COLM MOLONEY	74
ORIGINS (6TH CENTURY AD)	75
THE CEMETERY SETTLEMENT (7TH / 8TH CENTURY AD)	76
MEDIEVAL METAL-WORKING	78
DEVELOPED CEMETERY	79
CONCLUSION	80
20 - GRADUATE TRAINEE PROGRAMME 25/01.2023 BY MEGAN MCGRATH	82
21 - NEW FINDINGS AT LOWER HAZEL! 23/6/2023 BY JOEL SULLIVAN	85
22 - RUBICON HERITAGE SERVICES WINS ARCHAEOLOGY CONTRACT FOR A9 DUALLING PROJECT! 12/12/2024	87
23 - RUBICON ARCHAEOLOGY OPENS NEW OFFICE IN WÜRZBURG, DEEPENING EUROPEAN COLLABORATION 07/10/2025	88
24 - RUBICON ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE GERMAN MEDIA SPOTLIGHT 19/11/2025	90
PART OF AN IRISH TRADE MISSION TO GERMANY	90
SHOWCASING RUBICON: 25 YEARS, A REBRAND AND A BIGGER EUROPEAN FOOTPRINT	90
SUEDLINK: ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE HEART OF A MEGAPROJECT	91
WIDE-RANGING MEDIA COVERAGE ACROSS SECTORS	91
WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR CLIENTS AND PARTNERS	92
25 - RUBICON ARCHAEOLOGY RECOGNISED FOR EXCELLENCE ON THE M3 JUNCTION 9 PROJECT 15/12/2025	93
CLOSING REMARKS	95

FOREWARD | 25 YEARS | BY COLM MOLONEY

When I founded Rubicon Archaeology 25 years ago, I could not have imagined the journey we would take - across Ireland, the UK, and now deep into Europe. This book, *25 Blogs, 25 Years*, is more than a collection of stories; it is a written history of our people, our projects, and the landscapes we've had the privilege to explore.

From the floodplains of Prumplestown to the battleground of Vinegar Hill, from medieval chapels in Edinburgh to the SuedLink megaproject in Germany, every page reflects the essence of what we call The Rubicon Approach: Irish in spirit, poetic in its respect for place, and always client led. Every project begins with trust—your plans, your vision, and the land itself. Before the first shovel touches soil, we listen, we understand, and we shape the right path forward together.

Over the years, we've grown from a small consultancy into a pan-European team of more than 150 archaeologists, working on projects that range from single homes to infrastructure that will serve generations. We've uncovered Bronze Age troughs in Mayo, medieval cemetery settlements in Offaly, and even a 12,000-year-old mammoth tusk in Germany. Each discovery reminds us that archaeology is not just about the past—it's about how we connect heritage with progress, ensuring development respects and records what came before.

This book celebrates that ethos. It captures the creativity of our in-house teams, the precision of our fieldwork, and the passion that drives us to share knowledge—through blogs, talks, films, and public engagement. Because archaeology belongs to everyone, and its stories deserve to be told.

As you read these 25 blogs, you'll see the challenges we've faced, the milestones we've achieved, and the culture we've protected - a people-first environment where care, curiosity, and expertise flourish. These are not just projects; they are chapters in a shared history, written in soil and stone, and now in words.

Thank you to every client, colleague, and partner who has walked this path with us. Here's to the next 25 years of bringing archaeology to life.



Colm Moloney
Founder & CEO, Rubicon Archaeology

1 - N9/N10 KILCULLEN TO CARLOW SCHEME: A RIVER FLOOD PLAIN IN PRUMPLESTOWN, CO. KILDARE | 2008

Rubicon carried out a 3000 m² excavation in the flood plain of the River Lerr as part of the N9/N10 Kilkullen to Carlow Road scheme on behalf of the National Roads Authority (now Transport Infrastructure Ireland - TII) and Kildare County Council. A complex logistical and methodological approach was devised to excavate the area while controlling the frequent inundations the site experienced. A series of Iron Age and early medieval brushwood trackways within the floodplain were uncovered. The highlights of the excavation were the discovery of an early medieval wooden tread-trap a Late Iron Age spear shaft and a Bronze Age wooden adze haft.











2 - THE BIG DIG AT CAHERDUGGAN CASTLE: CRACKING CASTLE AND MEGA MOAT | 29/10/2011

The following blog is the first in a series we are preparing on our excavations of the Castle and Moat at Caherduggan near Doneraile in County Cork. These are being prepared at the request of Cork County Council (our client) and will be targeted at school children in county Cork. We hope that everyone else will enjoy the series too!



Week 1: October 2011

Why are we digging at Caherduggan Castle?

A new road is being built by Cork County Council between New Twopothouse and Doneraile. When roads are built in Ireland archaeologists are employed to check for archaeology before any construction begins. Back in May Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd were employed by Cork County Council to check the road corridor for archaeology. We removed the topsoil and identified archaeology at a number of locations. One area was particularly rich in archaeology and after some test excavations we realized we had identified the foundations of Caherduggan Castle and its moat.



What are we doing?

We have two jobs at Caherduggan:

1. Firstly, we will record and preserve the foundations of the castle. Cork County Council recognise that this is a very important site and have decided to move an element of the road in order to allow the castle to be preserved for the future.
2. A very large ditch or moat once surrounded the castle. The people who lived in the castle dug this to help defend themselves and show everyone else that this was their land. Our second job is to excavate and record a section of this moat before construction begins.



What have we found so far?

Before Caherduggan Castle was built the area was ruled by a local clan called the Duggans. The local townland is called Caherduggan which translates as 'the fort of the Duggans'. A ringfort which is located next to our site is believed to have been an important site for the Duggans. During our excavations we uncovered the foundations of three buildings which we believe date to the early medieval period (400-1169 AD) when the ringfort was probably occupied by a local chieftain. We also found a kiln which was used to convert limestone in quicklime. Quicklime is spread on fields to make them more fertile.



We also uncovered the foundations of a stone castle or tower which we believe dates to the later medieval period. The castle is surrounded by a very large defensive ditch or moat. The castle was built by the Normans and possibly by a family called the Roches who are known to have been very important in the area.



Around the castle and the moat, we have found pieces of pottery which we know dates to the 16th century and also animal bone which can tell us the type of animals that were kept by the people living in the castle.



What happens next?

We are now just starting to excavate the moat which surrounds the castle. We hope that we will find out when this was built and what kind of things happened in the castle and the surrounding landscape. This is a very big ditch, and it will take us a long time to excavate it. Come back next week to see how we are getting on and to see what we find during the week!

3 - RUBICON & GREATER LIBERTON HERITAGE PROJECT MAKE SIGNIFICANT MEDIEVAL DISCOVERY IN EDINBURGH | 20/6/2014



RUBICON AND GREATER LIBERTON HERITAGE PROJECT MAKE SIGNIFICANT MEDIEVAL DISCOVERY IN EDINBURGH

After an exciting week of archaeological excavation, funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund Sharing Heritage grant at Bridgend Farm steading and supported by the City of Edinburgh Council, the trenches are now backfilled for this year.

The excavations focussed on the site of a medieval chapel constructed in 1518 and unearthed clues which prove there was activity in the area at the time the chapel was constructed and in use. A fragment of possible medieval floor tile indicates a building of high status in the area – showing that it is not just a farm building. Pottery from one trench shows even earlier activity during the 13th and 14th century, demonstrating the area was utilised before the establishment of the chapel. One of the most exciting features discovered was located in Trench 2– a circular stone-lined medieval well which could pre-date the chapel.



Greater Liberton Heritage Project Volunteers (Rubicon Heritage)



The volunteers from the Greater Liberton Heritage Project did a great job of digging, recording and finds washing under the guidance of the staff of Rubicon Heritage Services. The week saw many visitors to the site, especially on the open afternoon and an enthusiastic scout group had a go at using archaeological tools and successfully completed a pictorial treasure hunt. Who could have guessed that such an unassuming building has such a fascinating history? We hope

this is the first of many seasons of work at Bridgend. It's now time to start on the analysis and reporting of our exciting finds at Bridgend as part of the process of unravelling the interesting past of this building and area- stay tuned for more news!

4 - A BIRDS EYE VIEW OF GEORGIAN INVERNESS | 8/8/2014



In our latest blog, Rubicon's Jonathan Millar describes the techniques we used on a recent project to record a Georgian building in Inverness. Rubicon were in the Highland capital to carry out work for Stuart Farrell on behalf of William Gray Construction Ltd.





Rubicon recently undertook a photogrammetry and instrument survey of a large Georgian townhouse on Academy Street, Inverness as part of ongoing works prior to development of the site. Louise Baker and I carried out the survey over the course of two sunny days in June. The photogrammetry process requires the creation of a wireframe model of the principal structural features using a Total Station Theodolite, and a comprehensive photographic survey of the exterior elevations of the structure. A cherry picker was employed to get undistorted images of the three-storey building frontage from an elevated vantage point.

Off site and back in the office, the survey and photographic images were combined digitally using a mixture of AutoCAD, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator to create 'rectified' (geometrically accurate and scaled) images of each face of the building. In many instances, these rectified images are used to create stone-by-stone elevation illustrations, to facilitate interpretation of the structural phases recorded in the fabric of a building. This level of recording was not considered necessary for the Academy Street property, but is a process we have employed frequently on other projects.

Photogrammetry is not used as frequently as it once was, mainly due to the increased availability and economy of 3D laser-scanning. The two techniques do complement each other however, and undertaking both methods of survey on the same property can provide a fuller understanding and more detailed record of the structure. In addition to the photo-rectification, a 3D laser scan was made of the building, along with a full structural survey of the interior. Evaluation trenches were also excavated in the grounds to establish the nature and extent of any surviving archaeological deposits within the plot.

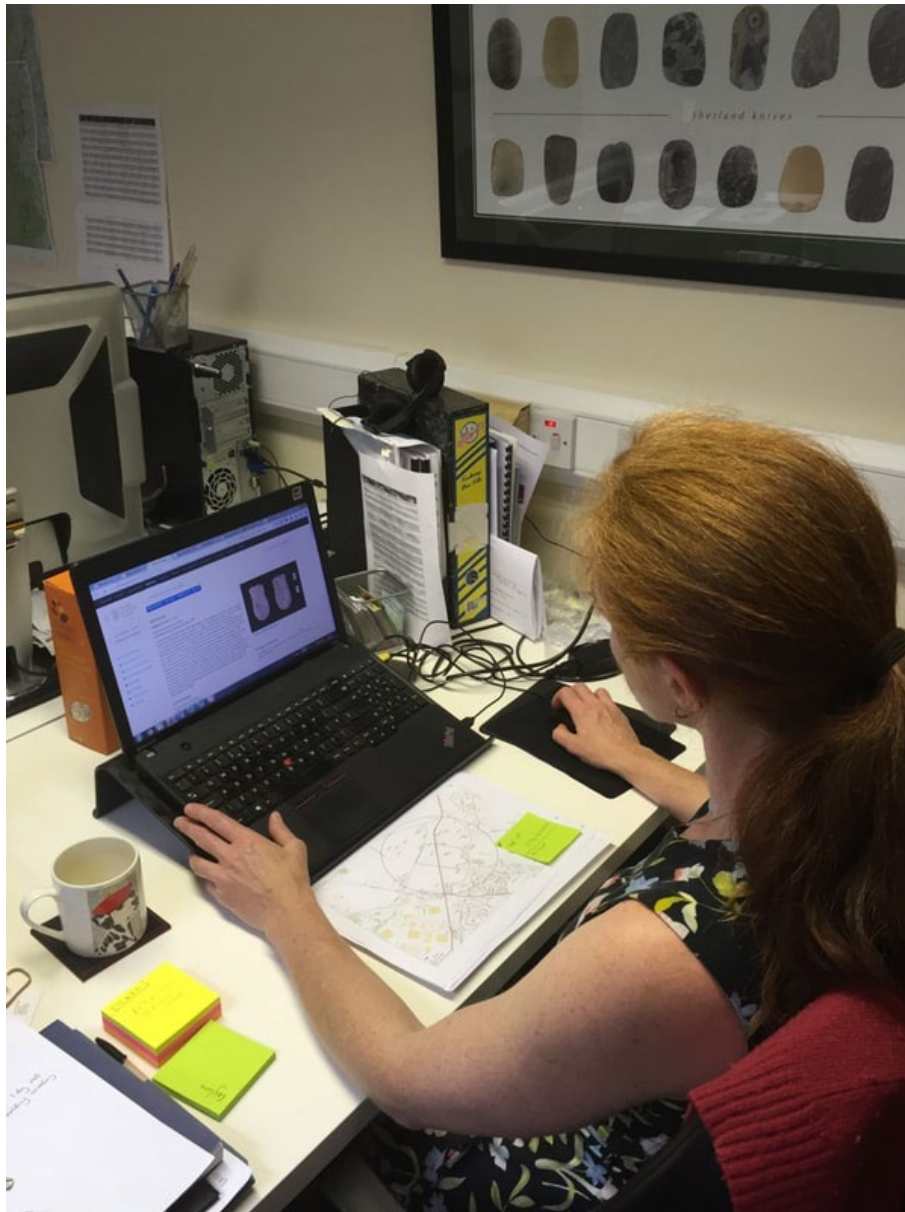




A Solar Farm (Wikipedia)

In recent months the number of solar photovoltaic (PV) projects (or solar farms) being put forward for development in Ireland has increased significantly. Assessing the impacts on archaeology has proven to be a significant element of the associated planning process. With no clear instruction from the National Monument Service to the local planning authorities or archaeological consultants on how to approach these sites, developers have been fielding varied requests for further information and planning conditions.

Rubicon Heritage Services are successfully guiding solar farm developers through the planning process. Rubicon's experience in dealing with these site types firstly in the UK and now in Ireland means we can help to pin-point the archaeological risks and take measures to quantify them prior to a planning application being submitted. Knowing what to expect at this early stage in the project allows the design team to factor in archaeology and prevent any surprise effects on the project.



Obtaining archaeological advice during the early stages of a project is more likely to avoid planning problems.

The sites are often chosen due to their location on south facing slopes within greenfield sites – also a favoured location for past settlements! This potentially causes an impact to buried archaeological deposits and also upstanding heritage assets such as ruins or earthworks. Such impacts can result in significant risk for solar farm developers including cost, delay and, in extreme cases, the complete abandonment of developments.

We recommend a staged approach for our clients focused on avoidance and cost saving. This involves the following:

- Desk based assessment (DBA) – A rapid assessment of readily available documentary and cartographic sources highlighting areas of high archaeological potential.
- Geophysical and topographical survey – where areas of higher potential are identified we can quickly scan the ground to see if buried archaeology can be traced as geophysical anomalies. Rubicon employ a unique geophysical survey system which also produces accurate 3D topographic models of survey areas as a complimentary added value element for our clients. In some areas, County Cork for instance, geophysical survey is requested by the County Council on all large solar farms.



Geophysical survey, used effectively to obtain an overview of a site without breaking the ground. The results can inform a program of targeted test-trenching

Testing – Where archaeology is identified in DBA and geophysical survey, archaeological trenching will be undertaken of a sample percentage of the site to determine its depth and nature. This allows a mitigation strategy to be developed which can allow for the preservation of archaeology in situ and avoid the expense and delay of a full-scale archaeological excavation.



Machine test-trenching under archaeological supervision, to establish and characterize surviving archaeological deposits.

All of these services are routinely carried out in-house by Rubicon. Many of our staff are fully licenced by the state to carry out all forms of archaeological fieldwork and we have the confidence of the planning archaeologists employed by local and central government.

6 - RUBICON HERITAGE CELEBRATE TWO MAJOR UK MILESTONES | 6/10/2017



Some of the Rubicon team who reached our two major milestones in September!

We were delighted to mark two major milestones for our UK operations this September. The month saw us reach 150 successfully completed projects and also marked the point where our team has expanded to more than 50 staff across the UK.

In September alone we have been on the ground in Glamorgan, Monmouthshire, Bristol, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Edinburgh and Suffolk. Our current programme see us working for a wide range of clients on housing development and infrastructure projects, finding some fantastic archaeology along the way- including two Roman villas, a prehistoric cemetery and rediscovering the early industrial docks of Leith. Our client-driven, problem-solving approach continues to see the company grow and expand throughout the UK, and we are looking forward to many more such milestones in the future!

7 - REVEALING THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE 1798 VINEGAR HILL BATTLEFIELD | 3/11/2017



We are currently working in partnership with Earthsound Archaeological Geophysics and Sligo Institute of Technology to finalise the Preliminary Report for the major fieldwork recently carried out on the 1798 Vinegar Hill battlefield. Rubicon's Damian Shiels was the archaeological director for the licensed battlefield survey, and gives a brief insight into what it has revealed.



The licensed archaeological survey in progress.

It was a great privilege to have an opportunity over the summer to carry out fieldwork on the 1798 battlefield of Vinegar Hill. Aside from being the most iconic engagement of the Rebellion, the survey itself also constituted the largest of its kind yet attempted in the Republic of Ireland. Metal detection in the country is illegal unless carried out under license from the State, legislation that is designed to protect our finite archaeological resource. The results we garnered during the course of our fieldwork demonstrate the immense importance of only conducting metal detection surveys on battlefields when a strict methodological framework is being applied, and highlighted the scale of information that can be lost if these type of conflict sites are subjected to illegal detection (something that will be explored again in a future post).



Archaeologists surveying methodically along defined transects. Each artefact's location was recorded to sub-cm accuracy using GPS, which is vital if information is not to be lost.

Rubicon had previously been involved with the archaeology of the Vinegar Hill battlefield when we undertook a report on the site as part of the Irish Battlefields Project, in partnership with Eneclann Ltd. This time our efforts form just one element of the large-scale Wexford-County Council funded Longest Day research project, which intends to uncover as much detail as possible about the battlefield in order to inform its future management. The team we brought to the field for the licensed archaeological survey was a multi-national one, and included archaeologists from Rubicon, Earthsound, Sligo I.T. and Cotswold Archaeology.



Battlefield archaeologist Sam Wilson during the licensed survey. Each find was uniquely identified and numbered and flagged so it could be recorded. As archaeologists we are also careful never to excavate below the topsoil level, to avoid damaging any preserved archaeological levels.

Vinegar Hill is the most famous battle of the 1798 Rebellion. The action there was the culmination of General Gerard Lake's Crown invasion of the county that had begun on 18/19 June and which had the main United Irishmen camp on Vinegar Hill as its ultimate target. The fighting took place on 21 June 1798 when a force of 10-15,000 Crown troops attacked the Hill. The United Irishmen encampment is thought to have contained between 20,000 and 30,000 persons, but this figure included women, children and other non-combatants. At around 4am, Lake's artillery began to bombard the Rebel lines. This was lifted some three hours later, and a general assault began. The Crown troops attacked in three columns under Generals Duff, Dundas and Loftus, advancing on the Hill from multiple directions.

At the same time another column under General Johnson was attacking the far side of Enniscorthy town, with the intent of taking the bridge over the River Slaney that linked the town with Vinegar Hill. After some heavy fighting Johnson managed to reach the bridge but was held back there by the United Irishmen. Meanwhile, as the main attack columns approached the Hill, the defenders launched a number of countercharges in an effort to break their assault, but ultimately were pushed back. At around 9am the United Irishmen began a retreat, and the summit of Vinegar Hill fell to the Crown troops. A rearguard action

combined with the defence of the bridge allowed the main body of United Irishmen to escape from the field. As Dr. John Cronin has noted, estimates of United Irish casualties during the battle vary from between 500 and 1200.



A heavily impacted lead bullet fired during the Battle of Vinegar Hill

Our licensed survey took place over two week-long phases in May and August. Future posts on the topic will describe this work in more detail but suffice it to say here that the results were extremely significant. Although we uncovered signs of damage that has taken place at the site as a result of both developmental pressures and almost certainly by illegal metal-detection, our most significant finding was intense evidence for combat on 21 June 1798. In fact, the archaeological results are the most impressive yet uncovered on a battlefield in the Republic of Ireland.



A flintlock hammer recovered during the licensed archaeological survey shown beside a modern replica

The majority of this material likely relates to the fighting between United Irishmen and the Crown column led by General Dundas (who was accompanied in the field by General Lake). The methodological approach and scientific recording techniques that the licensed survey employed means that we can identify potential firing lines, with dozens of both fired and unfired bullets providing indications of the approximate areas where troops may have been standing during combat. Many of these bullets show evidence for having been fired at extremely close range. As well as the small projectiles, the survey also produced evidence for the artillery bombardment launched by the Crown artillery to 'soften-up' their target, as well as the use of close-artillery support during the fighting itself, in the form of anti-personnel 'grapeshot.' Weapon fragments bore testament to the intensity of activity, while various personal objects and non-military items bear testament to the presence of the United Irish encampment.



A flintlock musket ramrod guide from the Battle of Vinegar Hill

The licensed survey represents only a small-first step in investigating one portion of this battlefield, but has already shown what archaeological techniques can bring to our understanding of the fighting– as well as indicating what is lost when it is removed illegally. The project is now moving into the detailed analysis phase, and over the coming months much more will be revealed as we begin to further assess and interpret the material. Stay tuned for future project updates. In the meantime, if you would like to see a lecture on the work that was delivered in the midst of the fieldwork, you can do so at the link below.

8 - STEM CAREER DAY IN SOUTH WALES SUPPORTED BY RUBICON HERITAGE SERVICES | 17/8/2018



Rachel Morgan of Rubicon Heritage with students attending a STEM careers day event in South Wales

The Royal Academy of Engineering recently asked Rubicon Heritage to provide a STEM Ambassador for their annual STEM Careers and Activities Day in South Wales.

The aim of the day was to encourage 10 to 12-year olds from a variety of local schools into choosing STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) as they progress their education. The Connecting STEM Teachers programme has been running for seven years and has created a UK-wide support network for STEM teachers through a chain of Teacher Coordinators providing free training and resources, and promoting collaboration. It is led by the Royal Academy of Engineering and has received generous support from Shell, the Helsington Foundation, Petrofac and Boeing UK.

Our local Teacher Coordinator, Peter Thomas, has run the annual STEM Careers and Activities Day since it began. Rubicon are very pleased to be involved in making this year's event the first time archaeology was represented. The organisers were especially keen to provide role models to encourage girls into science

subjects, so we sent one of our Project Officers from the Cardiff office, Rachel Morgan, to chat with the children.

The set-up of the morning was very informal with groups of ten or so children at a time asking questions about the career paths of the Ambassadors and how they use the STEM core subjects in their everyday work. However, once the children realised archaeologists dig up treasure they became extremely interested in what the most valuable thing was Rachel had found! Many of the children asked very intelligent questions about what they needed to study to become archaeologists and if there were other non-academic skills which were also important. After Rachel had explained the variety of work and opportunities for travel in a career in archaeology, one astute child even asked: "Doesn't it affect your social life?!"

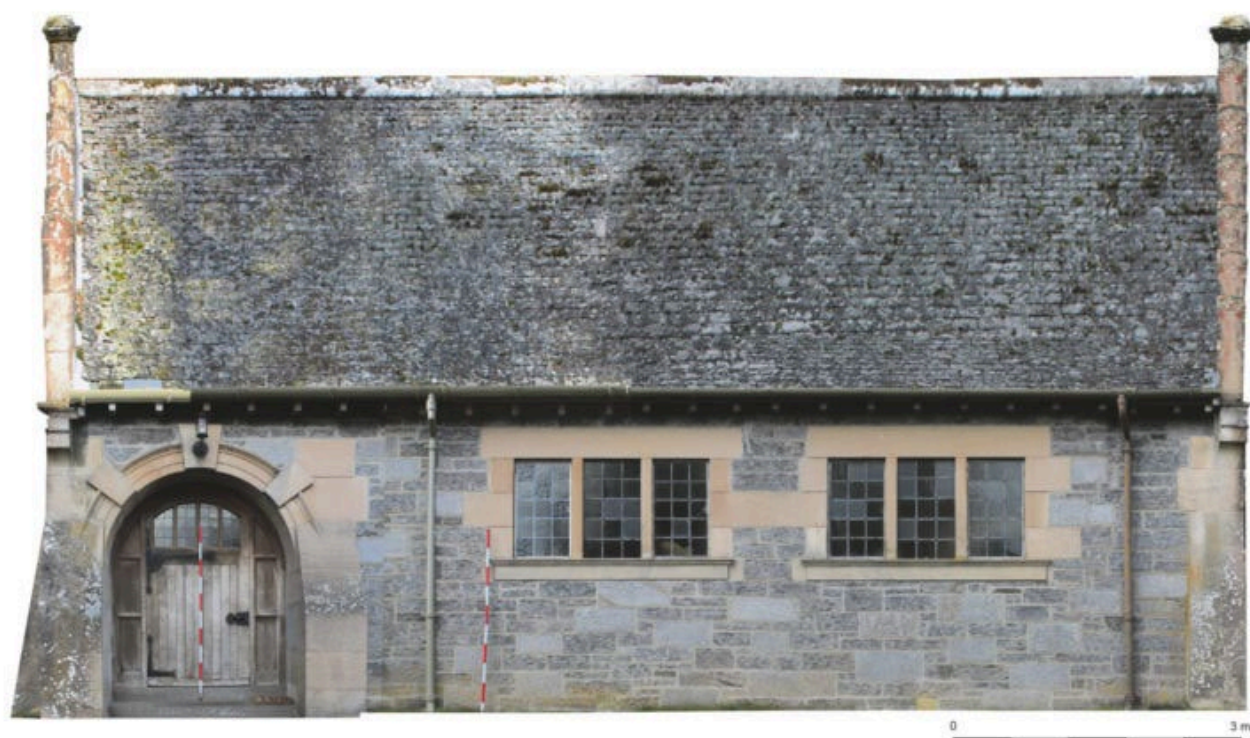
Other Ambassadors on the day included engineers from the Engineering Education Scheme Wales, British Gas and GE Aviation, an astronomer and a geologist (with whom there was a 'friendly' competition to prove Indiana Jones was cooler than Jurassic Park – it was a draw). The children also took part in a virtual reality experience and problem-solving exercises to test their engineering skills, but the highlight of the afternoon was launching bottle rockets to see which team could get their highest. One teacher said to Rachel after the event that one of her pupils now wants to be an archaeologist, so look out for him in ten years' time!

9 - HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY AT MORENISH CHAPEL | 30/11/2028



A survey team from Rubicon Heritage Services recently completed an historic building survey of a fascinating building on the banks of Loch Tay in Scotland. The survey consisted of measured drawings of the external elevations together with rectified photography.

Morenish Chapel is a fine example of a memorial chapel with richly symbolic crafted decoration to the interior and highly decorated sarcophagi to the exterior. The building was constructed in the Arts and Crafts Style which was an influential movement which attempted to re-establish the skills of craftsmanship and rebelled against industrialisation and mass production in the 19th century (RIBA Architecture).



The survey was undertaken using a reflectorless EDM supported by PenMap to produce accurate plans and elevations. These were tied into the national grid using a dGPS. A full photographic survey was undertaken of the building which was rectified using the elevations produced by the instrument survey.

Chapels of this type are more commonly found on large estates and in crypts and mausoleums in church graveyards. Morenish chapel was commissioned in 1902 by Aline Elizabeth Todd, wife of Sir Joseph White Todd, Baronet, in memory of her daughter Elvira who died in childbirth. Aline and Joseph are buried in the Sarcophagi located immediately to the east of the chapel. The chapel was constructed near Morenish Lodge, the Highland Residence of the Todd family. While the architect is not known it appears to be similar other buildings attributed to George Penrose Kennedy Young.



The chapel was executed to a high specification for its scale and location, with a wealth of architectural treatment and attention to detail to its interior and exterior. The centre piece of the building was an elaborate stained glass window which dominated the east gable and depicted Elvira and her four children in a central roundel. The window was made in Tiffany Studios in New York. Unfortunately the window was removed in 2015.





A pair of sarcophagi are located immediately east of the chapel. These are bronze with inscriptions and decorative floral reliefs in the Art Nouveau style. The north sarcophagus contains the remains of Aline Elizabeth wife of Sir Joseph White Todd, Baronet. The south sarcophagus commemorates Sir Joseph White Todd, Baronet.

10 - RICHMOND PENITENTIARY CHOLERA CEMETERY EXCAVATION, GRANGEGORMAN, DUBLIN. | 20/2/2020 | BY DAWN GOONEY



Post-excitation view of graves

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Archaeological monitoring of construction groundworks was carried out in conjunction with construction of Luas Cross City, a light rail project that extended the Luas Green Line northwest through the centre of the city. These works were undertaken by Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd. for SISK Steconfer Joint Venture Ltd (SSJV) on behalf of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). Archaeological test trenching identified two NE–SW orientated parallel ‘charnel’ trenches—containing disarticulated human remains and archaeological excavations were carried out over winter from October 2015 to February 2016.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

During the 18th and 19th centuries the Grangegorman area became the focus for the development of a series of institutions to cater for the sick and indigent. Construction of the Richmond Penitentiary commenced in 1812 to a design by Francis Johnston, it served as a penitentiary from 1820 to 1831 and as a hospital during

the 1832 Cholera Epidemic. Original accounts from the period state that the garden of the Richmond Penitentiary was used as an overflow cemetery when the epidemic reached Dublin, in March 1832. In 1870, the Midland Great Western Railway acquired land from the adjacent Richmond Female Penitentiary site to facilitate the expansion of the rail yard at Broadstone. Accounts of the expansion note the discovery of burials and their reburial within these lands.

THE EXCAVATION

Working shot of archaeologists cleaning charnel pit The investigation methodology at the site was complicated by the presence of Japanese Knotweed (*FALLOPIA JAPONICA*) in part of the site. Under Section 49 of the European (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 it is prohibited to introduce or cause the dispersal of this species. A concentration of knotweed roots was found adjacent to the Richmond Penitentiary wall which formed the north-western boundary of the site. Ground reduction across this area was under strict archaeological and ecological supervision and two rows of previously undisturbed graves were identified in addition to the charnel trenches.

CHARNEL TRENCHES

CHARNEL PIT

The longest and deepest of the two charnel trenches extended for 45 m in a NE-SW direction. The second, shallower trench lay to the northwest of the first and contained less concentrated amounts of bone. To maintain an approximate count of individuals whose remains had been re-interred in the trenches, each complete or almost complete cranium and mandible was accorded a number and its location within the trench was recorded. The final number of crania recorded on site was 1697. In places, some attempt had been made to carefully place the remains within the trench, this could be seen in the way layers of crania were found in the bottom of the trench; though most of the trench had more likely been filled by bones tipped in from carts or wheelbarrows. A single headstone was deposited within the larger of the two trenches. This was the only grave marker found during the investigation and commemorated one Anthony Donlevy (sic) with a death date of 28 July 1832 during the peak of the cholera epidemic in Dublin.

THE BURIAL GROUND

A total of 30 burials were identified which were set out in two discrete parallel rows. The burials were orientated NW–SE (heads NW) perpendicular to the Richmond Penitentiary boundary wall. The outer row contained 16 burials and the inner row contained 14 burials. The excavation results have indicated that apart from one, all the deceased were buried in coffins and there were no instances of intercutting graves.

OSTEOARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Since this is a catastrophic assemblage it provides an important snapshot of the pre-Famine population of Dublin city. Osteological analysis has shown that of the 30 articulated skeletons recovered, 12 were male, 14 females, two of ambiguous sex determination, one adolescent and one infant. The articulated burials were radiocarbon dated to cal AD 1680–1940 (2 σ , SUERC-72381).

A total of 1,672 disarticulated human crania were recorded during analysis, with 1,543 minimum number of individuals, based on the left parietal bone. Adult remains comprised the majority of the material, 97.5%, compared to just 2.5% subadults. Males represented 43.4% of the disarticulated crania in the assemblage, females 44.7% and unsexed adults 11.8%. A male cranium from the disarticulated assemblage was radiocarbon dated to cal AD 1641–1928 (2 σ , SUERC-72382).

Poor dental health was a feature in this population, with a higher rate of females affected by caries and ante-mortem tooth loss, and more males displayed calculus and periodontal disease. Males were affected more by non-specific infectious diseases and both sexes were equally susceptible to dietary deficiencies or illness. Males were more likely to be smokers and were involved in heavy physical work from a younger age than females. Specific infections present included syphilis and tuberculosis, and metabolic conditions such as scurvy and rickets were also identified. There were also conditions present that are normally associated with an ageing population and slightly more males than females were victims of interpersonal violence. There was also evidence of post-mortem dissections from the disarticulated assemblage on cranial and vertebral fragments.

ISOTOPIC ANALYSIS

The strontium and oxygen isotope data indicate that most of the 23 individuals analysed are likely to have been local to Dublin. The carbon and nitrogen data suggest that there was a difference between the dietary inputs of the males and females, with some of the males consuming low levels of marine resources as adults. The females appear to split into two groups, one of which may have had maize in their diet; this might be the result of the greater likelihood of women and children seeking aid in workhouses. The range of results may also reflect the mixture of social classes affected by cholera.

DISSECTION AND THE ANATOMY ACT, 1832

The peak of the cholera epidemic coincided with the introduction of the Anatomy Act 1832. During the cholera epidemic in Dublin there was a genuine fear among the poor that if they died in hospital their bodies would be handed over for dissection by medical students; evidence from the site suggests people were correct in their suspicions.

DISCUSSION

The cholera epidemic is a period of Irish history which has tended to be somewhat overshadowed by the devastating effects of the later Great Famine of the 1840s and the results of the excavation and the skeletal and isotopic analysis have shed some light on this period of Dublin's history. A significant number of important institutions dealing with the sick, indigent and criminal were located nearby; though it is presumed that most of the individuals buried at the site were victims of the cholera epidemic. The site also challenges the conventional wisdom that a short-lived, short-purpose cemetery would primarily have had internments in collective pits; individual graves were potentially more common, and this was a closely planned and rigorously managed cemetery for the duration of its usage.

11 - THE SHARP END OF THE STICK. WORKED WOOD FROM A BURNT MOUND IN CO. MAYO. | 26/6/2020 | BY BRUCE SUTTON

As part of works along the N26 Cloongullaun Bridge Realignment Scheme, Co. Mayo, Rubicon Heritage completed the excavation of a large intact burnt mound with two underlying wood lined troughs and associated features. The works were directed by Bruce Sutton, who led a small experienced team of four archaeologists. All works are managed by Mayo County Council National Roads Office and funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Archaeological works were administered by the Project Archaeologist Richard Gillespie, who also completed the initial test-trenching which identified the site in 2019. Ongoing post-excavation works, based on dating, specialist analyses and research will help further interpret the site.

A series of aerial photographs were taken of the burnt mound site during excavation. Links to the 3D reconstructions compiled from these photographs can be found throughout this article. These can be rotated 360° and zoomed in and out. All photographs for 3d images were taken by Bruce Sutton using a DJI Mavic Pro equipped with a 12MP camera.

THE MOUND

A large burnt mound of charcoal and heat shattered stone lay across the excavation area, measuring 11 m northwest-southeast and 9 m northeast-southwest, with a maximum depth of 0.9 m. It lay within a depression in the landscape that had filled naturally with peat, both before site use and after. The resulting peat build-up had sealed the mound, which was only discovered during test-trenching works in 2019. Two smaller spreads of burnt material lay to the northeast and southeast, possibly separated from the main mound by a machine cut drain that snaked across the site.



Pre-ex aerial view of Pollsharvoge 1, facing west.

As is typical with burnt mound sites the mound was divided into quarters (quadrants) and opposing quadrants excavated to give cross sections across the mound layers. This revealed several similar layers of material with a stained red layer located towards the centre, likely the result of mineral (iron) deposition during the build up of water. All mound layers contained abundant charcoal and at least 50% heat-shattered sandstone, often differing only in colour.



Burnt mound, mid-excavation of south east quadrant. The excavated sections clearly show the variation in the mound layer colours. Facing NW.

Two wood lined troughs and a stone path were recorded on-site. In total 115 wood elements with 164 worked ends were recorded on-site, and these are to be sent for further analysis as part of the post-excavation works.

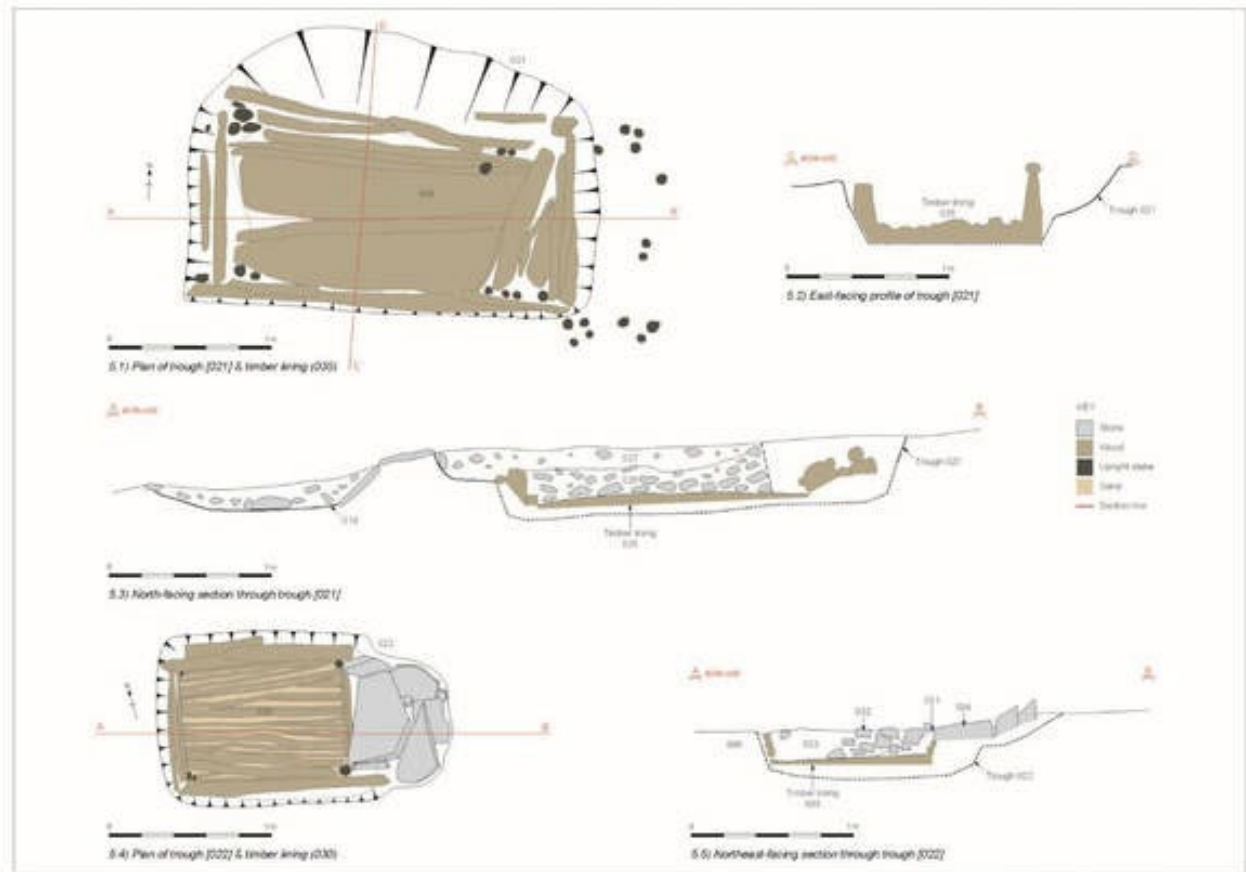


Figure 1 - Polishanrøge 1: Troughs [021] & [022].

Plans and section illustrations of the two timber-lined troughs

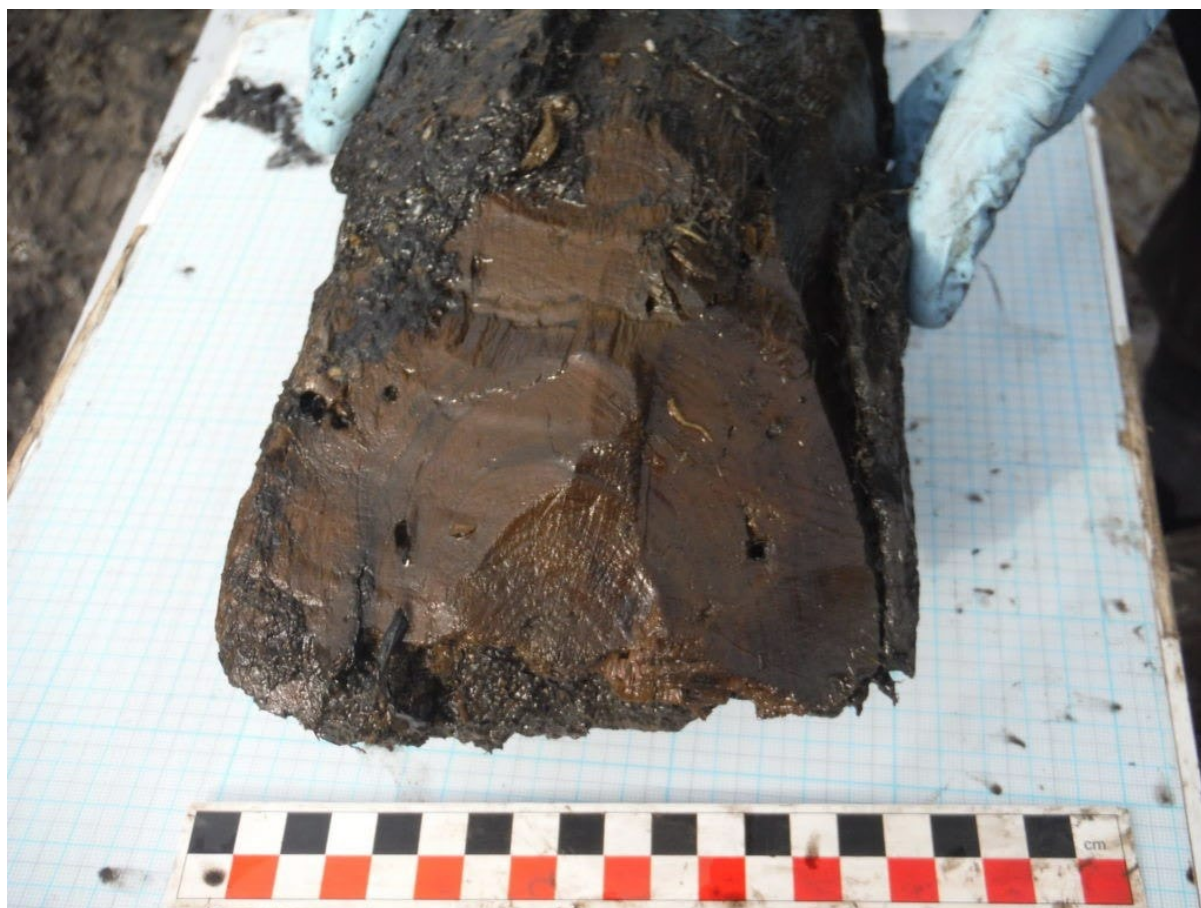
TROUGH 021 & ASSOCIATED FEATURES

This large trough feature was orientated east-west, measuring 2.5 m x 1.65 m x 0.4 m deep. It was cut directly into the natural peat and located at the northern edge of the main mound. A layer of sand and moss had been laid down across the base of the feature. This is often interpreted as a filtration layer for water filling the trough, especially when recorded under a timber lining and was first identified as being part of trough construction at Ballyvourney I, Co. Cork (O'Kelly 1954).

Above the moss and sand was a substantial timber lining which consisted of forty-six individual pieces of wood. All wood elements were waterlogged and many were soft to touch, with several being badly degraded, and all displaying damage caused by sphagnum roots. The lining comprised a plank and roundwood base, with plank and roundwood sides and twenty-three pegs; stone was also incorporated into the construction.

In total there were forty-seven worked ends identified in the timber lining; ten chisel points, nine wedge points, twenty pencil points and eight ends worked but not specified. Four ends were too damaged or degraded to identify if they were worked. All identified facets were relatively flat, suggesting a flat metal axe was used. A small fragment of burnt bone was recovered from fill layers directly above the timber lining.





A series of wooden stakes were hammered into the peat around the eastern end of the trough. Stakeholes external to trough features are a well-documented occurrence on burnt mound sites, often interpreted as forming fence-lines, windbreaks or drying racks (Hawkes 2018, 104). The linear arrangement of several stakes suggests that a temporary structure was located here. A similar stake arrangement at Fauleens II, Co. Mayo was interpreted as supporting a possible covering for the end of the trough (Gillespie & Kerrigan 2010, 117).

A stone path ran from the western end of trough 021, continuing off-site outside the edge of excavation. It is also unusual to see a linear pathway constructed across such sites, which would have provided a stable surface to walk upon. Very few examples of stone pathways associated with burnt mounds have been recorded in Ireland, with only 7 stone examples listed in the recent study by Hawkes (2018, 93). The rough stone path connects trough (021) with an off-site area to the northwest, suggesting people accessed the site from this direction, possibly from a settlement located uphill. A similar example of this was recently recorded at Slieveragh 2, Co. Cork (Sutton 2019), where a path of large stones led to trough and well features from outside the excavated site extent.



Stone path 029, facing north.

TROUGH 022 & ASSOCIATED FEATURES

This smaller sized trough was located along the southern side of the main mound, measuring 1.3 m long, 1 m wide and 0.4 m deep. The trough was finished with a brushwood and roundwood lining and a stone platform (hearth) was located at the eastern end, in a shallower semi-circular cut. The timber lining consisted of 52 individual wood elements close to the cut edge. All pieces of wood were waterlogged and many were soft to touch. The lining consisted entirely of brushwood and roundwood and included base, four sides and corner pegs. In total there were sixty-one worked ends identified; twenty-six chisel points, twenty-four wedge points, four pencil points and 7 ends worked but not specified. Twenty-nine ends were too damaged or degraded to identify. All identified facets were relatively flat.

At the eastern end of the trough was a stone platform that lay directly over the eastern end timbers. This comprised one large sandstone slab laid flat, with other stones arranged at an angle around this central stone. All stones appeared heat-affected and large charcoal pieces lay between the stones, suggesting this acted as a hearth, with charcoal and heated stones pushed directly into the adjacent trough.



The traditional interpretation of these typically Bronze Age monuments is that they were cooking sites, a view supported by the early texts, folk memory and experimentation, and recent publications also put forward the use of burnt mounds as communal feasting sites (Hawkes 2018). However, their use as cooking sites is an interpretation that fallen in popularity in the last 20 year and other theories about their use have also been put forward. These include bathing, use as sweathouses, brewing of beer, butter production, leather-working, fulling/dyeing, horn antler working, or as multifunctional sites. However, none of the above theories have been definitively proven and any such function cannot be confirmed without more physical evidence. It is most likely that burnt mounds were multifunctional or that different sites were used for specific purposes. Determining a specific use for individual sites is difficult in large part because of the lack of definitive evidence and recovered finds.

As with the vast majority of burnt mound sites across Ireland, with a lack of animal bone, or other artefactual remains to give a clear indication as to its purpose, there is no direct indication at Pollsharvoge 1 to suggest what the site was used for, other than the heating of water. Food refuse is rarely recovered from these site types, but it is unclear if the site conditions would have preserved any food production waste products. The presence of the burnt bone in trough 021 suggests that cooking was being undertaken on-site in a fire, although the level of this is likely limited and possibly as a secondary product of heating stones.

It is hoped that we will be able to have a more defined interpretation of the function of the two trough features once post-excavation analysis has been completed on the worked wood and environmental samples recovered.

REFERENCES

Gillespie, R. F & Kerrigan, A 2010 OF TROUGHS AND TUYERES: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE N25 CHARLESTOWN BYPASS. Dublin. National Roads Authority Scheme Monograph 6.

Hawkes, A 2018 THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF PREHISTORIC BURNT MOUNDS IN IRELAND. Archaeopress, Oxford.

O'Kelly, M J 1954 'Excavations and experiments in ancient Irish cooking places' in JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUITIES IN IRELAND, Vol. 95, 105-155.

Sutton, B 2019 N22 BAILE BHUIRNE-MACROOM ROAD SCHEME (LOT 1) ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES CONTRACT STAGE (III) – EXCAVATION. POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR SLIEVEREAGH 2 (E004988) IN THE TOWNLAND OF SLIEVEREAGH, CO. CORK. Unpublished Rubicon Heritage report for Cork County Council.

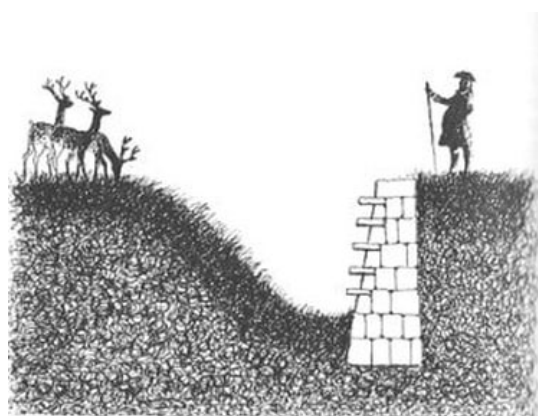
12 - AN AMUSING DITCH FEATURE: RECORDING OF A HA-HA ON THE N25 DUNKETTLE INTERCHANGE PROJECT | 27/7/2020 | BY JOHN O CONNOR

'Navigate their way around the ha-ha, keep their distance from the ho-ho and completely ignore the he-he' (Terry Pratchett – Snuff)



It's not often that a quote from the works of Terry Pratchett comes to mind while recording a ditch, but this was the case as I looked at one of the more unusual features uncovered on the N25 Dunkettle Interchange Motorway Improvement Scheme, Co. Cork. These works, conducted by Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd. on behalf of Transport Infrastructure Ireland, included the recording of a suspected ha-ha ditch at Dunkettle House.

Before mechanical lawn mowers, a common way to keep large areas of grassland trimmed was to allow livestock to graze the grass. A ha-ha prevented grazing animals from gaining access to the lawn and gardens adjoining the house. Ha-ha ditches were commonly used in landscaped gardens and parks in the eighteenth century. They were built by digging a deep dry ditch where, in most cases, the inner side would be built up to the level of the surrounding turf with either a dry-stone or brick wall. The opposite side was designed to slope steeply upwards before levelling out again into turf. The ground was then levelled off to be the same height as the retaining wall, which resulted in the feature becoming less visible as the observer moved away from the ditch. This provided the viewer with a continuous vista, to create the illusion that the garden and landscape were one and undivided, whilst also providing a barrier to grazing livestock accessing the landscaped gardens.



The ha-ha in its current form is thought to have originated in late 17th or early 18th century France. They were certainly a part of French gardening practice by 1709, when the form was described by Dezallier d'Argenville in his book *La Théorie et la Pratique du Jardinage*, which was subsequently translated into English by the architect John James in 1712. According to d'Argenville the origin of the name 'ha-ha' came from the exclamation of surprise elicited from the unobservant visitor upon discovery.



The Dunkettle ha-ha consists of a revetted drystone wall, built into the almost vertical southern bank of a ditch with a gently sloping northern edge. The ground level to the south continues level with the top of the wall. In places this must have required the ground level to be raised, with material thrown up from the ditch excavation. The best-preserved stretches of the ha-ha exist beyond the project to the north, or in ground that was inaccessible for trenching due to dense mature woodland.



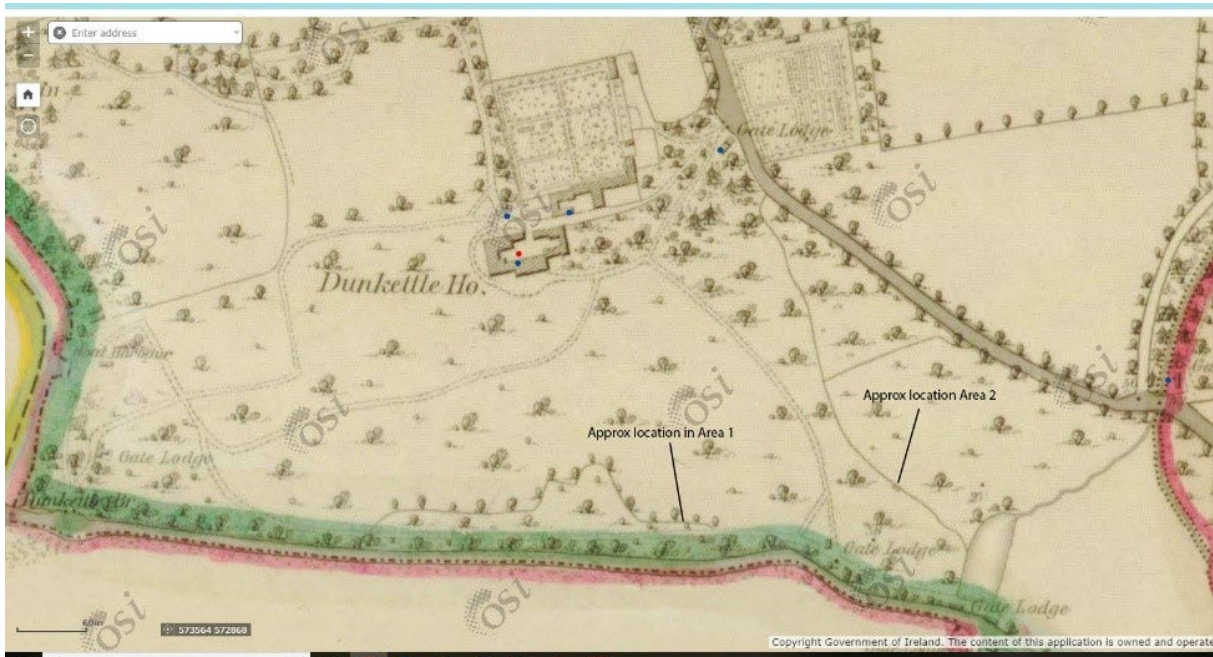


The stone revetment is composed of uncoursed rough limestone with evidence of mortar bonding in places. The wall survives to a maximum height of 1.1 metres and has an average height of 0.8 metres. Further sections of wall foundations were discovered in the open ground to the east, but in poorer condition. One of these sections corresponds to a change in the boundary layout at this location, as evident in the difference between the 6" and 25" Ordnance Survey maps.



The route of the ha-ha is eccentric with the most irregular and interesting portion immediately parallel to the main façade of Dunkettle House, which is most likely an intentional element of the design. On the 1st Edition map the recorded section of ha-ha (Area 1) is marked as extending to the edge of an estate track, extending

from east to west through the parkland to the north of the public road. Within the estate the feature would have been visible from both the south-east and south-west approaches to the house and likely served an aesthetic role, adding interest to the view from Dunkettle House and the southern approaches, whilst also providing a raised platform for tree-planting to mask the tidal mudflats of the bay and frame the broader vista of Cork Harbour. The ha-ha would have been invisible to anyone passing the estate on the public coastal road. Without access to Dunkettle house it is unclear whether the revetment wall itself was visible from the house or whether the alteration of the landscape hid the wall from view. During the project a second section of ha-ha (Area 2) was noted but not recorded in detail.



Initially, it was a matter of debate as to whether the Dunkettle ditch is actually a ha-ha. It appears to face the wrong way for a typical ha-ha, which kept animals from accessing the interior, and would have kept animals within the Demesne lands, rather than outside; more in keeping with the older deer-leaps than a traditional ha-ha (a deer-leap was a Norman feature that allowed deer to enter a park but not leave, and had its retaining wall on the outside face of the ditch, rather than the inside face). The reason for this reversal in construction may be two-fold; to prevent livestock from Dunkettle House escaping down to the road to the south, which lay down a very steep slope and directly alongside the estuary on the 1st edition 6" map, and to maintain an unrestricted view across the estuary from the house itself. While its visibility from Dunkettle House is not clear, what is clear is that it undoubtedly functioned as a physical boundary associated with the original construction of Dunkettle House, to inhibit the movement of stock or cattle across the landscape in some way.

The ha-ha appears to have been a relatively common feature of Irish country estates with fine examples located across the country. Although the ha-ha at Dunkettle is not accessible to the public those at Doneraile Park and Mallow Castle, both in County Cork, are. Other examples can be visited at Coole Park, and Portumna Castle, both in Co. Galway; Lough Rynn Castle Estate, Co. Leitrim and Malahide Castle, Co. Dublin to name but a few.



Sam Wilson on site at Otterburn battlefield, leading a systematic metal detection survey.

In August 2021 I was privileged to be part of a collaborative project in the beautiful county of Northumberland as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded Project 'Revitalising Redesdale'. Led by Northumberland National Park Authority it also included archaeologists from Wessex Archaeology, battlefield specialist Dr Glenn Foard, landscape archaeologist Dr Tracey Partida as well as a small army of local volunteers. My role as a battlefield archaeologist was to lead a systematic metal detector survey to search for unstratified artefacts from the battle.

The battle itself was fought in August 1388 (the exact date is disputed) between English and Scottish forces during the ongoing border wars of the period. The English commander was the famous Henry 'Hotspur' Percy who was captured at the battle and later killed at the 1403 Battle of Shrewsbury after rebelling against King Henry IV. Fought as the sun set, Otterburn was a pyrrhic victory for the Scots as, although they ultimately won the field, their commander James 2nd Earl of Douglas was killed.



A multi-disciplinary team of battlefield and landscape archaeology professionals and local volunteers get to grips with the survey equipment in the gorgeous Northumberland countryside.

The survey aimed to recover objects that had been dropped or broken in combat such as buckles or weapon fittings which might indicate where the epicenter of the battle took place. A recently discovered sketch map in a private archive seemed to indicate the original position of a monument marking where Douglas fell, within the enticingly-named field 'Battle Riggs', so this formed the focus of the area surveyed. Wessex Archaeology were also undertaking widespread geophysics to the south of the River Rede in the hope of establishing the line of the medieval road which would have been integral in bringing the armies to the place of battle and indicating the position of the Scottish camp.



The monument marking the location where James 2nd Earl of Douglas fell at the battle of Otterburn. A recently discovered map suggests the monument was originally sited elsewhere - the survey focused on this new location, in a field called 'Battle Riggs'.

Detection transects were closely spaced in parallel lines, with the positions of any finds of interest precisely recorded with a GPS point. The volunteers were trained in the operation of the metal detectors, the methodology for setting up transects as well as recording. They were also able to get hands on with some test pitting and auger survey under the supervision of Wessex Archaeology.



Colourful transect marker-flags define the parallel lines to be surveyed. This methodical approach assists data collection and post-survey analysis.

Working in an upland environment with ground that hasn't been cultivated (and thus bringing artefacts closer to the surface) for a number of centuries presents its own set of challenges and the results were unfortunately limited. There were no finds which could confidently be associated with the battle, the only possible relevant find being a buckle, but which could only be broadly dated to the later medieval/early post-medieval period. The medieval road also appeared elusive, although the geophysics results more accurately mapped the medieval extent of the river, useful information in understanding the wider topography of the battlefield as it may have been in the 14th century. However, the main achievement was the engagement with numerous local volunteers who were able to explore a more unusual aspect of the local heritage of their area. A local public event at Elsdon Church one evening even gave the chance to update people on the survey as it was happening, alongside a programme of Otterburn-themed entertainment and discussion.



No definitively 'battlefield related' artefacts were recovered during the survey, but this buckle can be broadly dated to the later medieval/post-medieval period and as such could potentially be a relic of the battle.

14 - ONE IN 1500: IN SEARCH OF ANTHONY DONLEAVEY | 25/11/2021 | BY TERESA BOLGER



As part of the archaeological works associated with Luas Cross City (LCC), Rubicon Heritage Ltd. carried out an archaeological excavation at Grangegorman East. The location, which was to form a pedestrian access route from the LCC Grangegorman Stop to TU Grangegorman campus, had been flagged as the site of a potential cemetery in the original Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the scheme. A discrete programme of targeted archaeological test excavations in August 2015, identified two NE–SW orientated parallel trenches containing disarticulated human remains (i.e. charnel trenches).

The subsequent archaeological excavations—carried out from October 2015 to February 2016—revealed the remains of 1,573 individuals—30 articulated remains (in 27 surviving graves) and 1,543 disarticulated remains (in the two charnel trenches).

Trigger warning: Some images within the blog show skeletal human remains in an archaeological setting.



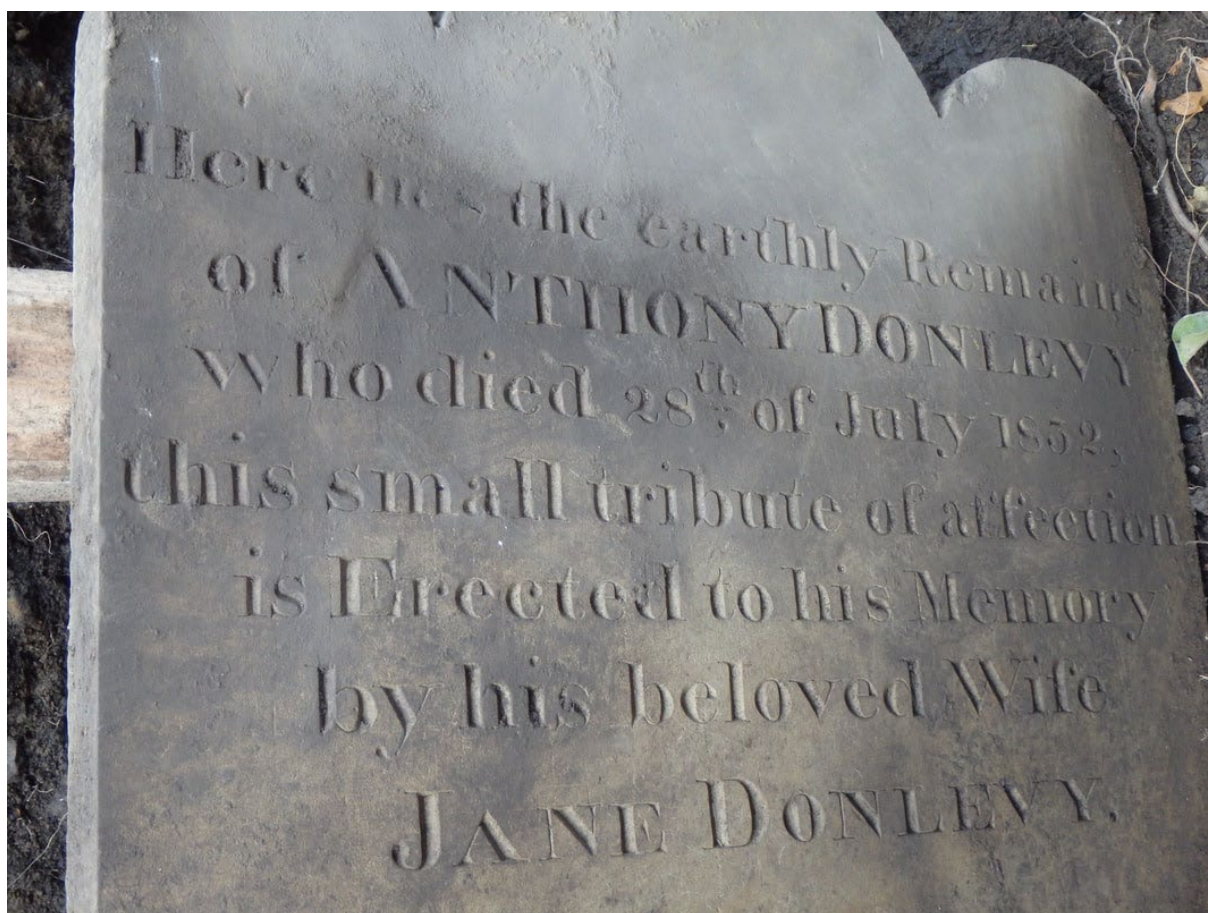
The cemetery site once formed the original gardens of Richmond Penitentiary. The Midland Great Western Railway (MGWR) purchased 3 acres of these Penitentiary lands in the 1870s to facilitate expansion of their adjacent Broadstone railway (the former MGWR terminus). Accounts of these expansion works noted that burials had been disturbed, exhumed and reinterred in a 'patch of ground', which accounted for the presence of the two charnel trenches identified in 2015.

A rumoured association between this disturbed cemetery and the Cholera Pandemic of 1832 was also established in the LCC EIAR. However, it was unclear if the cemetery was confined to this single activity or if it had had a longer period of use. In the 19th century the site was surrounded by institutions concerned with the poor, destitute and marginalised in society—the Dublin North Union, the aforementioned Richmond Penitentiary and the Richmond

Asylum being but three examples. Rubicon Heritage Services research has identified contemporary correspondence which definitively confirms that this cemetery site was established as part of the city's response to the 1832 pandemic. This was achieved by transforming the Richmond Penitentiary into the Dublin Cholera Hospital; the use of the associated gardens as a cemetery commenced around April of that year. The cemetery was then closed in March 1833.

All the individuals buried there remain anonymous with one notable exception. A single gravestone was uncovered within one of the charnel trenches with an inscription reading:

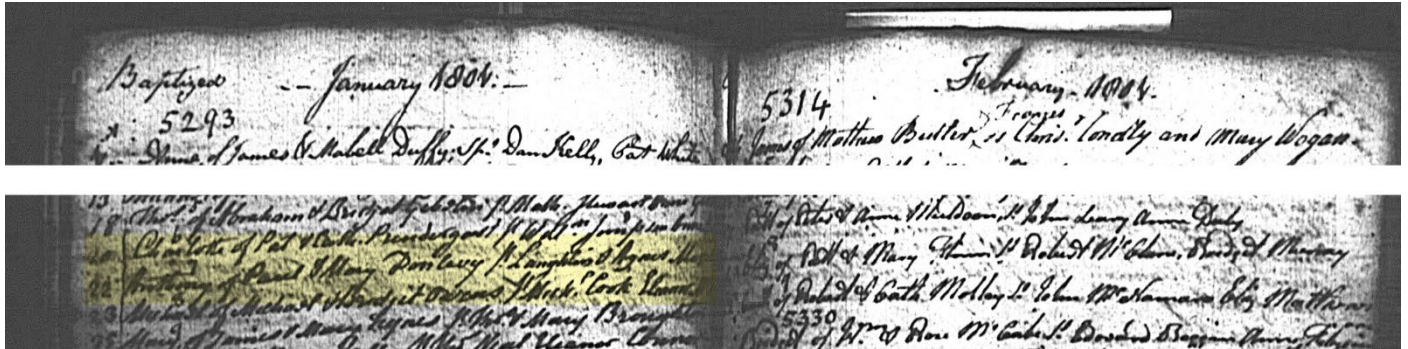
*Here lies the earthly remains
of Anthony Donlevy
who died 28th July 1832
this small tribute of affection
is erected to his memory
by his beloved wife
Jane Donlevy*



So, the question arises who was Anthony Donlevy and can we identify him in historical records of the period?



The baptism records for the parish of St Paul's on the northside of Dublin record an Anthony Dunlavy, the son of Paul and Mary Dunlavy, baptised 22 January 1801. There is also a record of an Anthony Donlevy at Kilmainham Jail in 1820. This could be the same person or two different people who could plausibly still have been alive and living in Dublin at the time of the pandemic.



The strongest candidate, though, is Anthony Dunlevy (also Dunlavy or Dunleavy) Corporal (and then Sergeant) of the 9th Dragoons. On 17 April 1798, his marriage to a Jane Delaney is recorded at Kilcullen, Co. Kildare. This gives two points of similarity with the headstone.

There are available records relating to his military service surviving in the UK National Archives. His discharge records reveal that he was born in Cliffony, Co. Sligo and had originally enlisted in October 1790 as a private, with a promotion to corporal c. 1796 and then sergeant c. 1799. He retained the rank of sergeant up until his discharge on 3 May 1815. The personal description notes that he was 5' 9¾" tall with grey hair and eyes, blind in the right eye and a weaver by trade. The reasons for his discharge are on the basis that he was: 'being worn out and being very sorely afflicted by the Rheumatism and having lost an Eye by a Stroke of his Horse's Tail when on duty in Carlow with the Regt on the 20th day of May 1798'.

The 9th Regiment of (Light) Dragoons was a light cavalry regiment that was involved in the battles at Kilcullen, Carlow and Vinegar Hill during the 1798 rebellion. It seems most likely that Anthony Dunlevy was attached to a unit operating at Carlow. The date for his eye injury is five days before the Battle of Carlow, and also before the battle of Kilcullen so may have ruled him out of participation in both engagements, or the recorded date could be a clerical error with the injury related to battle. Whether or not he would have recovered enough to participate at Vinegar Hill a month later in June is also uncertain. Despite his partial blindness he served a further 17 years. During this period, the 9th Dragoons were involved in military campaigns and actions on two continents culminating in deployment to Portugal during the Peninsular War, fighting against the Napoleonic forces.

On his discharge on 31 May 1815—aged around 50 years—he was enrolled as a pensioner at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham. His discharge papers include the following signed and hand-written commendation or recommendation from Simon George Newport, Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment:

I do certify that the within named
 Anthony Dunleavy has maintained
 an excellent Character as a well
 conducted Soldier during the Period
 of his Service in the Regt- and I do
 most strongly recommend him as
 highly deserving His Majesties Bounty
 of Kilmainham - S.M.

I do certify that the within named Anthony
 Dunleavy has maintained an excellent character as a
 well conducted soldier during the period of his
 service in the Regt and I do most strongly
 recommend him as highly deserving of His Majesties
 Bounty of Kilmainham.

The Royal Hospital Kilmainham was established in 1679 to provide housing and medical care to military veterans. It had both In-Pensioners who were housed at the hospital and Out-Pensioners who lived elsewhere but whose pensions were managed by the hospital.

No records for Anthony have been identified after his enrolment so we cannot confirm that he definitely survived up to 1832, but equally we cannot rule this out. Kilmainham Pensioners had access to on-going medical care as well as housing and other supports, more than would have been available to the general populace. He would have been aged around 67 years old at the time of the pandemic which would have placed him in a very vulnerable category if he had indeed contracted cholera. Adults of his potential age range are present within the excavated assemblage (approximately a quarter were aged greater than 45 years).

If he contracted the disease in Dublin he could have ended up at the Dublin Cholera Hospital at Grangegorman—though correspondence indicates that the medical staff at Kilmainham were seeking a 'better' option for their patients and military veterans. Cholera cases definitely occurred at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham and there was a designated isolation ward there.



Kilmainham Pensioners were normally buried on the grounds, though a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) like Anthony Dunlevy would probably have been interred at the nearby Bully's Acre rather than the officer's burial ground there. However, as a direct result of the pandemic Bully's Acre had exceeded its capacity early on in the pandemic, by all accounts the conditions by mid-1832 were appalling with bodies lying partially or wholly exposed. This cemetery was therefore officially closed for burial on 30 June 1832 almost a month earlier than the death-date on the headstone.

Official military burials at Kilmainham continued down to 1954 and it is not clear how these were affected by the 1832 closure. It is possible that they too could have been temporarily suspended and this would account for how a Kilmainham Pensioner, even if treated within the Royal Hospital, might have come to be buried at Grangegorman.



HIS MAJESTY's *South* Regiment of *Artillery*
whereof *General the Earl of Kintore* is Colonel.

THESE are to certify, that *Anthony Dunbar* *Private*
in *Captain Dalry* Troop in the Regiment aforesaid,
born in the Parish of *Clifden* in, or near the Town of *Clifden*
in the County of *Donegal* was enlisted at the Age of *Twenty* Years,
and hath served in the said Regiment for the Space of *Three* Years and *One* Month and *Twenty*
Days, as well as in other Corps, after the Age of Eighteen, according to the following
Statement, but in consequence of *ill health and being sick* effects
with *Worms* and *fever* in *the* *Year* *1798* *he* *was* *discharged* *on* *the* *24th* *Day* *of* *May* *1798*
is considered unfit for further Service, and is hereby discharged, having first received all
just Demands of Pay, Clothing, &c. from his Entry into the said Regiment, to the Date
of this Discharge, as appears by the Receipt on the Back hereof.

And to prevent any improper Use being made of this Discharge, by its falling
into other Hands, the following is a description of the said *Anthony Dunbar*
He is about *Twenty* Years of Age *Five* Feet *Six* Inches in height,
Fair Hair *Grey* Eyes *Dark* Complexion, and by Trade a *Blacksmith*
Widow of the Capt. Dalry

STATEMENT OF SERVICE.

In what Corps.	Period.		Sergeant Major.		Dr. Mast. Sergeant.		Sergeant.		Corporal.		Trump- or Drummer.		Private.		Total Service.		Full East or West in discharge included in the subjoining Total.
	From.	To.	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	
<i>Capt. Dalry</i> <i>1798</i>																	
Total.																	

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Regiment at *Dublin*
South Day of *May* 1798

Witness my Hand and Seal.

15 - M28 CORK TO RINGASKIDDY PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT | 9/2/2022

Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd is delighted to announce we have successfully tendered for and won the M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Project - Archaeological Consultancy Services Contract, Stages (i) to (iv).



The archaeological services contract was recently signed between Rubicon and Cork County Council. The archaeological services are being undertaken in advance of the M28 project, which is being progressed by Cork County Council on behalf of Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

The project proposes to upgrade the existing N28 road between the N40 near Douglas Village, Carrigaline and Ringaskiddy, providing much needed improvements to the local infrastructure and alleviating traffic congestion for the thousands of commuters who use the route daily.

The contract will require the excavation of over 50,000 metres of test-trenching under direct archaeological supervision, with subsequent

excavation of any identified, previously unknown (and known) archaeological sites within the proposed route footprint.

The contract will require the excavation of over 50,000 metres of test-trenching under direct archaeological supervision, with subsequent excavation of any identified, previously unknown (and known) archaeological sites within the proposed route footprint.



A multi-disciplinary team of professional archaeologists has been assembled by Rubicon to undertake the investigations in accordance with the mitigation commitments made to An Bord Pleanála in its approval of the project and in compliance with the Code of Practice for Archaeology.

16 - N25 KILLEAGH PAVEMENT STRENGTHENING SCHEME – ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS ENTERS STAGE (IV) | 1/4/2022 | BY JONATHAN MILLAR



Rubicon Heritage are pleased to announce that Stage (iv) archaeological works (specialist analyses and reporting) have commenced for the N25 Killeagh Pavement Strengthening Scheme. The fieldwork was undertaken from 2016 to 2017 on behalf of MEIC Ltd. The project was funded by Cork County Council on behalf of Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

The focus of archaeology on this project was the excavation of human remains outside the Old Killeagh Parish Church and Graveyard. In

addition to archaeological excavation, the project also included archaeological monitoring of the construction phase of the scheme throughout Killeagh Village during 2016 and 2017.



The risk of encountering archaeological remains on the scheme was highlighted in a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment undertaken in 2016 (Hanley 2016). An advance programme of archaeological test trenching (carried out under a separate contract) confirmed the presence of human remains beneath the road surface outside the Old Killeagh Graveyard (Noonan and Hegarty 2016).



The subsequent excavation of the identified remains revealed a total of 207 burials, in addition to various archaeological features including boundary ditches and walls, with evidence for metalworking activity also identified.

Returned radiocarbon (C14) dates taken from selected samples during the project have established dates from the 6th century AD to the 1600s.

The excavation was divided into two areas located on either side of the road carriageway to facilitate the flow of traffic through the village for the duration of the works.

The final report detailing the results of the excavation and specialist analyses undertaken on the human remains, artefacts and samples is expected to be issued later this year.



As part of the Castleford Roman Festival on Saturday 18th June Phil Weston, one of Red River Archaeology's senior project managers, attended to lend his expert knowledge to proceedings and show support for the festival.

Phil assisted the "Artificial Dig" run by Pontefract's Young Archaeologists Club (YAC) that gave kids the chance to try their hand at digging up the past. The children were able to dress up as an archaeologist, dig for artefacts and learn about the tools and benefits of archaeology.

Pontefract YAC is based at Pontefract Museum, it is run by a dedicated group of volunteers and usually meets once a month. Phil assisted the "Artificial Dig" run by Pontefract's Young Archaeologists Club (YAC) that gave kids the chance to try their hand at digging up the past. The children were able to dress up as an archaeologist, dig for artefacts and learn about the tools and benefits of archaeology.

Pontefract YAC is based at Pontefract Museum, it is run by a dedicated group of volunteers and usually meets once a month. Phil assisted the "Artificial Dig" run by Pontefract's Young Archaeologists Club (YAC) that gave kids the chance to try their hand at digging up the past. The children were able to dress up as an archaeologist, dig for artefacts and learn about the tools and benefits of archaeology.

Pontefract YAC is based at Pontefract Museum, it is run by a dedicated group of volunteers and usually meets once a month. Other activities on the day gave people the opportunity to explore a Roman-themed market with demonstrations and activities such as Roman toy making, science experiments, and pottery throwing. Dozens of people turned up to the archaeological to support the YAC artificial dig, including the Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper.

18 - RESEARCHING THE ANARCHY OF THE PAST WHILE TRAINING THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF THE FUTURE | 24/5/2022 | DAVE GILBERT

This week saw the start of Bristol University's departmental excavation at a site near Alveston, South Gloucestershire, which forms part of the University's South West Anarchy Research Project. Red River Archaeology are providing experienced archaeologists to undertake the training of the students as part of their Chartered Institute for Archaeologists accredited BA in Archaeology and Anthropology.



The Anarchy period lasted from 1135 until 1153 CE when Empress Matilda and King Stephen fought for the united throne of England and Normandy. With the death of Henry I's legitimate son and heir, William Adelin, in a shipwreck in 1120 Henry sought to ensure his daughter, Matilda, was recognised as his lawful heir.



However, when Henry died in 1135 his nephew Stephen of Blois seized the throne with the backing of the Church. The then pregnant Matilda was in Normandy, and it wasn't until 1139 that she was able to launch a campaign to retake her throne, with the ensuing conflict plunging the country into civil war.

The fieldwork forms part of the University's compulsory six-week training in archaeological survey, excavation, and post-excavation methodologies, as well as heritage and community engagement. Supervised by professional archaeologists the excavation of the building complex in Lower Hazel will provide undergraduate students with practical archaeological skills and experience as they investigate the social dynamics of the Anarchy Period in the southwest of England through excavation and study of the buildings and the wider landscape.

19 - MEDIEVAL 'CEMETERY SETTLEMENT' DISCOVERED IN MONEYGALL, COUNTY OFFALY | 11/4/2023 | BY COLM MOLONEY



It is common practice for planners to attach conditions to Planning Permission for housing developments where there is potential to uncover archaeology. In a lot of situations, such conditions require 'archaeological monitoring' to be undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of houses and associated infrastructure.

In 2006, Rubicon Heritage undertook archaeological monitoring for a 30-unit housing scheme in Moneygall, County Offaly. The investigation resulted in the identification of human activity covering approximately 1,100 years from the 6th century AD to the 17th century. Central to this activity was what is referred to as a cemetery settlement. The following blog explores the development of this intriguing site!

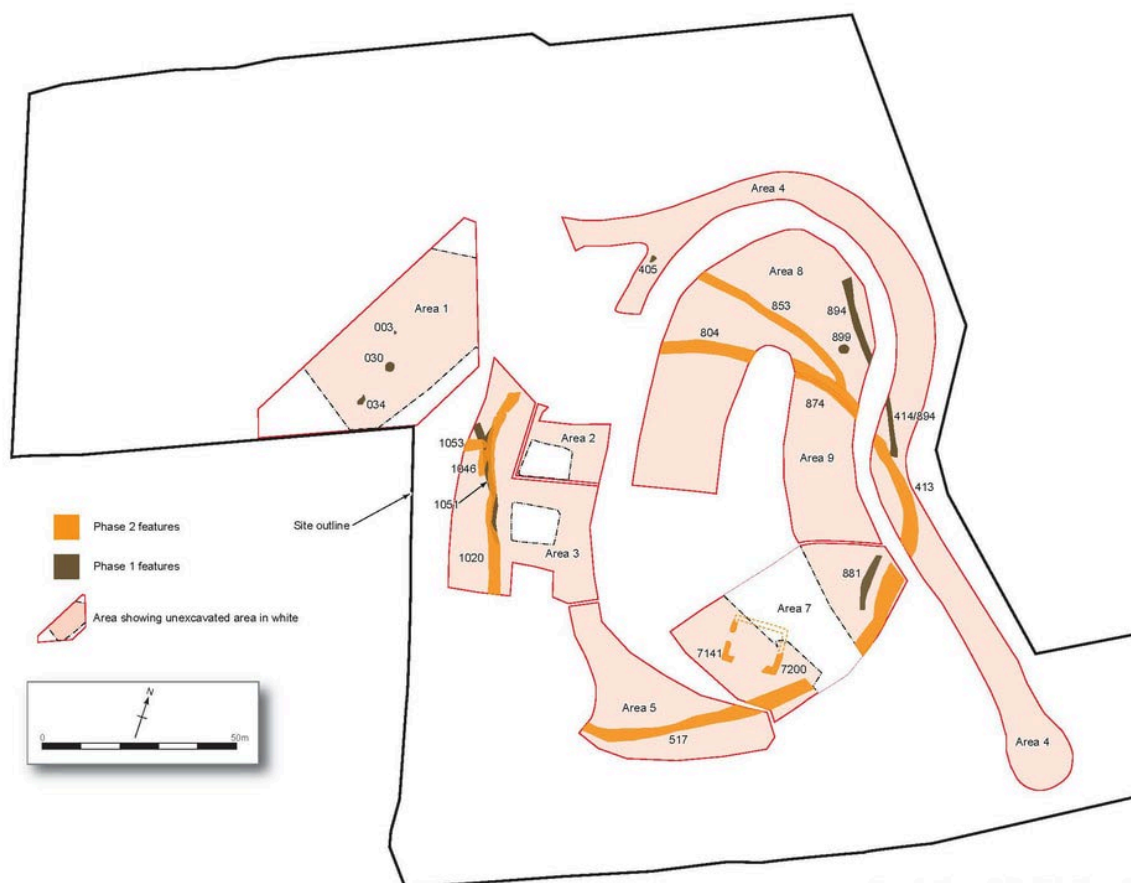


Figure 3 - Moneygall, Co. Offaly; Phases 1 & 2

ORIGINS (6TH CENTURY AD)

The earliest archaeology identified on the site dated to the 6th century and consisted of a series of ditches believed to represent field boundaries. This is likely to represent the division of the local area into fields, presumably used for managing or enclosing livestock. At the beginning of the 7th century, a large oval enclosure with a diameter of just over 100m was established at the site and the field system became redundant. The enclosure was defined by a large ditch 2.5m wide and 1m deep. This would originally have had an internal bank, possibly with a timber palisade on top.

The earliest feature identified inside the enclosure was located in the southeast of the main enclosure, initially focused on a small, east-west aligned rectangular enclosure. This was defined by a ditch and measured 14m by 12m, with an entrance on the west side.



Unfortunately, this was heavily disturbed by later archaeological activity, making interpretation very difficult, although no evidence of either a timber or stone structure was identified. However, what is clear is that this location at the southeast of the main enclosure became the focus of a cemetery which was used for over 1,000 years.

THE CEMETERY SETTLEMENT (7TH / 8TH CENTURY AD)

A total of 41 articulated burials and a further 10 dis-articulated burials were excavated during the investigations. The earliest burials were contemporary with the small rectangular enclosure and dated to the first half of the 7th century. These consisted of a group of 13 skeletons, which varied between east to west aligned graves and, more unusually, north to south aligned graves.

While the initial phase of burial was developing at the southeast of the site, a very different form of activity was initiated at the north end. Here, evidence was identified for settlement, agricultural activity, and also light industry in the form of metal working. A 'four-poster' or elevated platform is believed to represent an elevated grain store, the elevated position both keeping the grain dry and providing some protection from rodents. A 'six-poster' structure was also identified, again interpreted as a grain store. Environmental analysis confirmed that hulled barley and oats were being stored at the site.



Also associated with this group of features was a ring-ditch enclosing an oval area measuring 5m by 3.5m, possibly representing the foundations of a small structure or shelter. A large assemblage of quern stones, 22 in total, again confirmed that cereal was being processed into flour on site. A horseshoe and worked antler provided evidence for some of the other activity occurring on the site at this time.



MEDIEVAL METAL-WORKING

The initial settlement activity in the north of the enclosed area gave way to industrial activity in the later medieval period, with a focus on metalworking. A number of small penannular features were excavated, which were defined by small ditches. All of the ditches of these features were filled with large quantities of slag, a waste product of iron-working. A hearth was also identified, which had residues consistent with copper-working, indicating that both iron and copper were being worked by the people who occupied the enclosure.



DEVELOPED CEMETERY

The earliest burials were interred within the small rectangular space defined at the south of the main enclosure, a possible indication of a ritual significance for this area of the site. These burials were of two alignments: east to west with the head to the west, and (less typically) in the later examples, north to south with the head to the north. The ratio of female to male in the sample recovered of the interred population was 2:1, which would not support the concept of a monastic settlement.



The cemetery continued in use throughout the medieval period, with a gradual expansion towards the east. Towards the end of the medieval period, evidence for occupation / settlement at the site disappeared, but the cemetery continued to be used up to the 16th / 17th century, with a radiocarbon date of CAL AD 1539-1635 achieved from one of the later burials. It would appear likely that inhumations dating to this later period relate to individuals excluded from burials in established Christian cemeteries. Post-medieval linear features, probably related to agricultural activity, extend across the burial site, suggesting that it ceased to be used for burial from sometime around the 17th century.

CONCLUSION

The Moneygall site appears to fall into the category of settlement cemeteries identified in recent years, notably as a result of the national road building programme. The dichotomy apparent in these sites between domestic / industrial zones for the living and cemeteries for the dead is striking.

The small rectangular enclosure identified at the south of the enclosure is intriguing: It may be a coincidence that the earliest burials appear to focus on this location, but it may also serve as an indication that this location was significant to the local inhabitants at this time. The enclosing trench did not appear suitable to serve as a foundation for either a timber or stone structure, and no structural evidence was preserved within the enclosed space. The possibility that the enclosed space defined a ritually significant area, possibly a form of shrine could explain the later focus of burial on this location.



The archaeological monitoring undertaken at Moneygall identified extensive and significant archaeological remains. Due to the excellent working relationship between Rubicon and the house builder, the archaeology was programmed efficiently within the development programme, which ensured there was adequate time for the archaeological recording and no delay to the development progress. However, it is worth noting that best practice in this case would be to undertake the archaeological works in advance of the commencement of construction works in order to minimise risk of delay to the developer. Rubicon Heritage staff have extensive experience of planning programmes of archaeological work on construction projects and minimising risks of delays through planned and controlled mitigation strategies.



Before starting the Graduate Trainee Scheme with Rubicon Heritage, the only experience of archaeology I had outside of a classroom was a two-week field school I participated in during college. I thought that had somehow given me an idea of what working in commercial archaeology would really be like; I was very wrong. I came into the scheme with very little practical experience of what archaeology was like as a profession, but I feel that I have gained so much experience and knowledge in just six short months with the help of all the amazing staff here at Rubicon.



I'd heard a lot about working in archaeology throughout my time at school and in college, but to actually experience it is very different from what I imagined. There isn't anything specific that stands out as being different from what I expected, but rather just the overall atmosphere and environment. The sheer scale of things surprised me, from the project to the site and even the archaeological features themselves, everything is just at a much bigger scale than I had expected. I also never expected there to be such a vast array of people

from all over the world, with differing backgrounds and experiences and I feel like this lent itself well to my learning more about archaeology on a global level.

While being out in the wind, rain and cold is an often unpleasant aspect of the job, overall I enjoyed every facet of the work I've had the opportunity to be involved in both in the field and in the office. If I had to decide on a favourite part, I would have to say that I really loved showing the children from the local school around the site and teaching them about the history of the area and archaeology in general; I really like community outreach and engagement and would love the opportunity to get more involved in this. I've also found that I really enjoy working outdoors and being active, particularly if the weather is cooperating, of course.



I've learned a lot about how to conduct an archaeological excavation, including all the recording and sampling that is involved and feel that I could transfer these skills onto any future excavation I find myself on.



I've also had the opportunity to learn a lot about the post-excavation process, including the processing of samples and the archiving of finds. All in all, I feel that the vast array of experiences I have gained during my time at Rubicon will serve me well in any future jobs I may have in the archaeology sector as they have given me a great foundation in the many aspects that go into development-led archaeology. This experience has given me a great overview of the many different aspects of professional archaeology, which I feel will help me in deciding my future career goals and ambitions.

I am very grateful to Rubicon and to all the staff here who have helped me over the last six months and put up with my constant questioning and rookie mistakes. They really made me feel welcome from the first moment I stepped on site, which made the entire experience even more enjoyable, and I feel really aided in my learning. Overall, I have greatly enjoyed my time as a Graduate Trainee with Rubicon Heritage and feel that

this is a great first step in my archaeological career



Come Friday lunchtime, all this training does catch up with you!

21 - NEW FINDINGS AT LOWER HAZEL! | 23/6/2023 | BY JOEL SULLIVAN

Last week marked the end of Bristol University's departmental excavation at Lower Hazel, near Alveston, South Gloucester. Red River Archaeology undertook the training of the students in support of Bristol University staff as part of their Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) accredited BA in Archaeology and Anthropology.



Supervised by myself, the excavation of the building complex in Lower Hazel provided the undergraduate students and volunteers with practical archaeological skills and experience across several aspects of the site. This was inclusive of both positive and negative archaeological features, which provided the students with useful experience in excavating and thereupon recording their findings. It was a pleasure to supervise this project and to see the students' skills develop throughout each week. In regards to my professional development, I improved my ability to communicate and demonstrate excavation principles to learners in a fun and engaging manner.

The primary aims of the ongoing excavation are to identify the phasing of the buildings present, and to identify and characterize features and associated deposits where possible. The pottery recovered on site appears to represent typologies broadly dating from the 11th - 13th centuries, and the bone assemblage tells of a highly variable utilization of species ranging from cattle to domestic fowl, which is typical of this period. Numerous bulk and OSL (Optically stimulated luminescence) samples were taken, which will aid in the identification of site economies, site formation processes, and will help clarify the dating and phasing of the site.



Following on from the findings of last year's excavation, the students investigated the buildings as well as several linear features. One of these linear features was situated in Trench 2, which clearly pre-dates the adjacent walls, the pottery from this feature is similarly of an earlier typology than that found elsewhere within the buildings. This could possibly represent a foundation slot for a previous structure, though further investigation will be required to definitively identify its function.

Similarly, toward the north-east of site (Trench 1), two ditch cuts were identified, the excavation of which exposed a previously undiscovered wall. The pottery associated with these features likewise represented earlier typologies than the frequent Ham Green pottery found across site. These features therefore represent an earlier phase (or phases) the site. The implications of this will be investigated further in the upcoming international summer school, and in future years of excavation on the site.

22 - RUBICON HERITAGE SERVICES WINS ARCHAEOLOGY CONTRACT FOR A9 DUALLING PROJECT! | 12/12/2024

Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd. Wins A9 Dualling Archaeology Contract!

"Delighted to have won this contract. We have worked very hard to build our team across the UK in Ireland and this project will see us drawing expertise from both sides of the Irish Sea. We are delighted to be working with Transport Scotland and grateful for the opportunity. I would also like to acknowledge the great support received from Enterprise Ireland, the Consulate General of Ireland in Scotland and our many fantastic colleagues in Causeway, Ireland Scotland Business Exchange."

-Colm Moloney
Founder, Rubicon



Big news from Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd.! We're thrilled to announce that we've been awarded the archaeological investigations contract for the A9 Dualling project between Tay Crossing and Ballinluig. This is a major milestone for us, and we couldn't be more excited to get started!

This project involves a range of archaeological investigations, including a particularly fascinating opportunity to study the Kindallachan Cairn, a scheduled monument located near the project area. It's not every day you get to explore such a significant historical site, and we're ready to uncover and share its stories.

A Message from Our Founder

Our founder, Colm Moloney, shared his excitement about the project, saying:

"Delighted to have won this contract. We have worked very hard to build our team across the UK and Ireland, and this project will see us drawing expertise from both sides of the Irish Sea. We are delighted to be working with Transport Scotland and grateful for the opportunity. I would also like to acknowledge the great support received from Enterprise Ireland, the Consulate General of Ireland in Scotland Jerry O'Donovan, and our many fantastic colleagues in Causeway: Ireland Scotland Business Exchange."

What's Next?

At Rubicon, we're committed to delivering this project to the highest standards. Beyond the archaeological work, we're passionate about engaging with the local community. Keep an eye out for opportunities to join us at educational lectures and site visits as the project progresses.

23 - RUBICON ARCHAEOLOGY OPENS NEW OFFICE IN WÜRZBURG, DEEPENING EUROPEAN COLLABORATION | 07/10/2025



Rubicon Archaeology has officially opened its new European office in Würzburg, Germany, marking a significant milestone in the company's expanding international footprint. The new space is located in the same building as INFRA Europe JV, Rubicon's long-standing partners in archaeological infrastructure delivery across the continent.



The ribbon-cutting ceremony last week brought together members of the growing INFRA Europe team and Rubicon leadership to celebrate the launch. The atmosphere was one of genuine excitement and pride, reflecting the strength of a partnership forged through two years of collaboration and shared challenges.

"This trip to Germany was outstanding," said Colm Moloney, CEO of Rubicon Archaeology. "We gathered with the growing team from INFRA JV | INFRA Europe to cut the ribbon at the official opening of our new European HQ in the lovely city of Würzburg."

The partnership began with a series of virtual meetings and quickly evolved into a close working relationship. *“David Bonner initially reached out to potential German partners,”* Moloney recalled. *“Myself and Mark Collard joined on a number of Teams meetings where we started to build a true bond... which has developed into a genuine friendship and lasting business relationship.”*

Rubicon’s European venture now includes over 150 archaeologists, working across multiple countries and organisations including SPAU, ADW Archäologische Dienstleistungen, Wolff Network Archaeology, and Südwest-Archäologie. The new office is expected to further strengthen collaboration, streamline operations, and support continued growth.

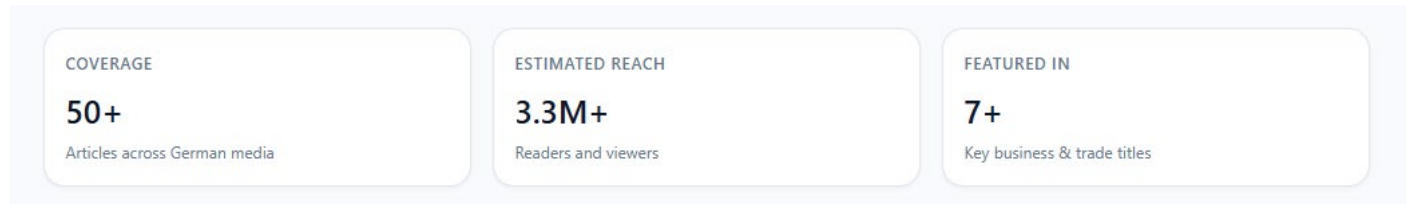
The Würzburg office also plays a key role in supporting Rubicon’s work on the SuedLink project, one of Germany’s most significant energy infrastructure initiatives. The archaeological teams have already made major discoveries along the route, including a 12,000-year-old mammoth tusk near Lauda-Königshofen, the oldest find yet on a SuedLink site.



Rubicon’s presence in Würzburg complements its existing offices in Cork (Ireland), Cardiff (Wales), and Bathgate (Scotland), forming a strong network of regional hubs that support both national and international projects.

“We are continuously improving our delivery and growing an incredible team,” Moloney added. *“And yes, we celebrated the event as would be expected by a bunch of happy archaeologists!”*

The Würzburg office represents not just a physical expansion, but a symbol of Rubicon’s commitment to building lasting partnerships and delivering high-quality archaeological services across Europe.



Rubicon Archaeology has had a busy autumn in Germany – not just in the field, but in the headlines. As part of a high-profile Irish trade and investment delegation to southern Germany, our 25th anniversary, European expansion and work on the SuedLink megaproject have been highlighted across German business, logistics and regional media.

From Munich to North Rhine-Westphalia, Rubicon has been featured in more than 50 articles, with an estimated reach of over 3.3 million readers, in titles including *Frankfurter Neue Presse*, *tz München*, *Westfälische Anzeiger*, *Logistik inside*, *Startbase*, *wallstreet-online* and *SB-Finanz*.

PART OF AN IRISH TRADE MISSION TO GERMANY

The recent wave of coverage grew out of a joint trade mission organised by Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland, Ireland's export and inward-investment agencies. Led by Minister Niamh Smyth T.D., Minister for Trade Promotion, Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation, the delegation visited Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg to deepen cooperation with German industry in key sectors including construction, agritech, automotive, aerospace and advanced manufacturing.

Germany is a cornerstone partner for Ireland, with trade between the two countries more than doubling over the last decade and Irish companies employing tens of thousands of people across the German market. Against this backdrop, the delegation programme in Munich included meetings with political and business leaders, networking events with decision-makers, and site visits showcasing Irish innovation in sustainable construction, advanced manufacturing, medtech and more.

Rubicon Archaeology was selected as one of the featured Irish companies demonstrating how specialist expertise from Ireland is supporting major infrastructure and development programmes across Germany and continental Europe.

SHOWCASING RUBICON: 25 YEARS, A REBRAND AND A BIGGER EUROPEAN FOOTPRINT

German media coverage has underlined three big messages:

1. We're marking 25 years in business. Founded in Ireland, the Rubicon Archaeology Group has grown over a quarter of a century into one of Europe's leading independent archaeology

consultancies, supporting clients on roads, energy schemes, residential developments and large-scale infrastructure.

2. We are rebranding and evolving as a European group. Our new group structure reflects our growth from a national consultancy into a pan-European service provider. This evolution supports our work with multinational clients who need consistent archaeological standards and delivery models across borders.
3. We're strengthening our on-the-ground presence in Germany and wider Europe. The trade mission emphasised our commitment to long-term engagement in Germany – not just as visiting experts, but as a partner embedded in local planning, permitting and infrastructure ecosystems.

These themes appear in coverage from outlets such as *Logistik inside*, business platforms like *wallstreet-online*, startup and innovation media including *Starbase*, and multiple regional newspapers that republished the official delegation release.

SUEDLINK: ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE HEART OF A MEGAPROJECT

A key reason Rubicon stands out in the delegation is our work on SuedLink, one of Germany's most important energy infrastructure projects. As archaeological consultants on sections of the route, our teams are helping ensure that the transition to a low-carbon energy system is delivered in a way that respects and records the past.

Our teams provide comprehensive archaeological consultancy for SuedLink – from survey and evaluation through to excavation and reporting – managing archaeological risk so that construction can proceed responsibly and efficiently. We bring international experience in linear infrastructure archaeology to one of Europe's flagship energy corridors.

The story that has particularly caught media attention is the discovery of a 12,000-year-old mammoth tusk along the project corridor. Finds like this vividly demonstrate how major infrastructure does more than connect regions with cables or roads – it can reconnect communities with landscapes that were inhabited at the end of the last Ice Age.

For Rubicon, SuedLink showcases what we do best: combining scientific rigour, practical project management and clear communication so that archaeology supports, rather than hinders, strategic infrastructure delivery.

WIDE-RANGING MEDIA COVERAGE ACROSS SECTORS

The trade mission story – and Rubicon's part in it – has travelled widely across German media. Highlights include:

- Over 50 articles in print and online
- An estimated 3.3 million people reached
- Coverage across several media categories:

- Regional and local daily press – including *Frankfurter Neue Presse*, *tz München* and *Westfälische Anzeiger*
- Sector and trade media – such as *Logistik inside*, focusing on logistics, construction and industrial supply chains
- Startup and tech platforms – for example *Startbase*, which framed Rubicon's story within a broader roundup of innovation-driven Irish companies active in Germany
- Business and finance portals – including *wallstreet-online* and *SB-Finanz*, where the delegation was positioned in the context of investment, trade flows and corporate expansion

For readers in Germany who may not have encountered archaeological consultancy before, these articles provided an accessible entry point: why archaeology matters to infrastructure, what's special about SuedLink, and how a specialist Irish company has become a go-to partner for complex European projects.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR CLIENTS AND PARTNERS

For Rubicon Archaeology, this media moment is about more than name recognition:

- It signals confidence in archaeology as an enabler for major development – something we have been advocating for 25 years.
- It demonstrates that international collaboration works: an Irish-headquartered team working hand-in-hand with German authorities, planners and engineers on nationally significant schemes.
- It underlines our long-term commitment to Germany and continental Europe, as we continue to expand our footprint, invest in local partnerships and bring best-practice methods to every project.

Most of all, the coverage reinforces a simple message: when infrastructure, heritage and innovation are aligned from the outset, everyone benefits – from developers and regulators to communities, researchers and, yes, even long-extinct mammoths.

25 - RUBICON ARCHAEOLOGY RECOGNISED FOR EXCELLENCE ON THE M3 JUNCTION 9 PROJECT | 15/12/2025

At Rubicon Archaeology, collaboration, professionalism, and social value are central to how we work on major infrastructure projects. We're proud to share that our work on the M3 Junction 9 improvement project has been independently recognised by the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS), achieving an excellent score of 45/45 in a recent Monitor's Report.

SCORING

Respect the **Community**

Excellent • 15 / 15

Care for the **Environment**

Excellent • 15 / 15

Value their **Workforce**

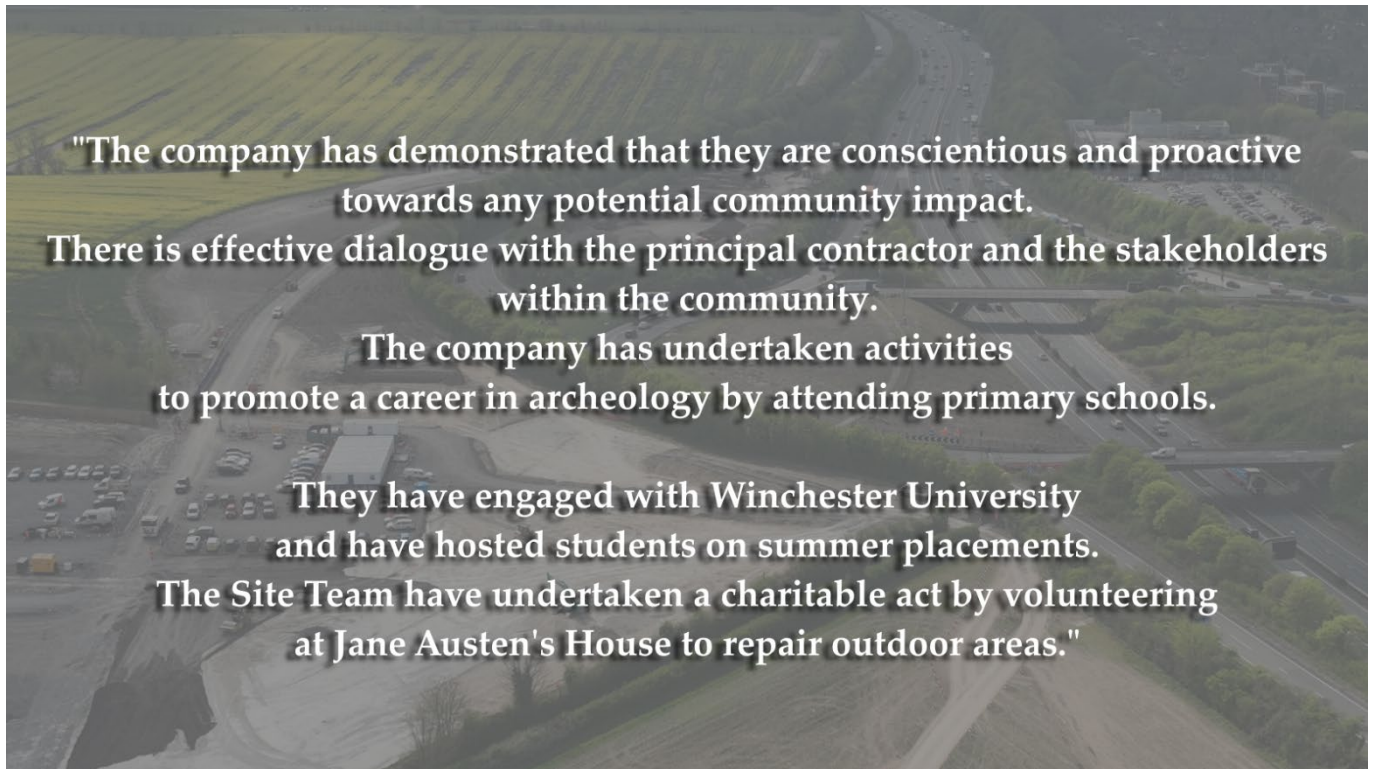
Excellent • 15 / 15

Total Report Score

Excellent • 45 / 45

Delivered in close collaboration with Balfour Beatty plc, alongside VolkerFitzpatrick Ltd and National Highways, the project demonstrates what can be achieved through strong partnerships and shared values on site.

The CCS report highlighted Rubicon's proactive approach to community engagement, effective communication with stakeholders and the principal contractor, and a strong commitment to education and social value. This included supporting local schools, working with Winchester University to host student placements, and volunteering at Jane Austen's House to support the local community.



"The company has demonstrated that they are conscientious and proactive towards any potential community impact. There is effective dialogue with the principal contractor and the stakeholders within the community. The company has undertaken activities to promote a career in archeology by attending primary schools. They have engaged with Winchester University and have hosted students on summer placements. The Site Team have undertaken a charitable act by volunteering at Jane Austen's House to repair outdoor areas."

This recognition reflects the positive, collaborative culture fostered across the project and Rubicon's commitment to maintaining high standards in health, safety, environmental management, and community consideration.

We're delighted to be working with Balfour Beatty, VolkerFitzpatrick, and National Highways, and would like to thank our project partners and site team for their continued professionalism and dedication.

CLOSING REMARKS

As we mark 25 years of Rubicon Archaeology, we want to acknowledge the people who made this milestone possible. To our clients—thank you for your trust and partnership. To our dedicated staff—your professionalism and expertise have been the foundation of our success. To our friends and families—your support has enabled us to grow and deliver at the highest standards.

This collection reflects our commitment to excellence in archaeological consultancy and our belief that heritage and development can work hand in hand. Looking ahead, we remain focused on delivering innovative, client-led solutions across Ireland, the UK, and Europe.

For more information on our services, recent projects, and future initiatives, visit rubiconarchaeology.com or contact us directly at info@rubiconarchaeology.com. We look forward to continuing this journey with you.

