



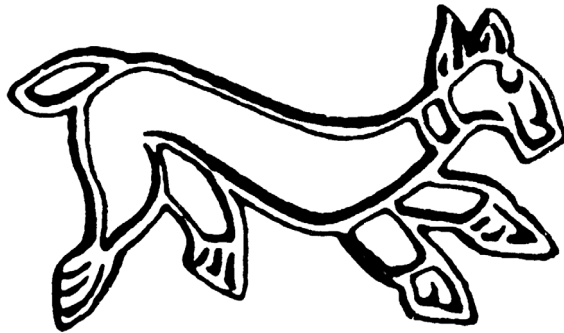
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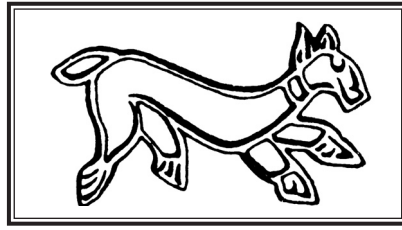
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STYLE GUIDELINES

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Editorial

Helen Lewis

University College Dublin

The articles in this year's *Journal of Irish Archaeology* are fairly diverse, ranging from the Neolithic through to recent historical archaeology, with reviews of historical data and past discourse in relation to archaeological objects and monuments, reviews of important datasets, the application of certain scientific approaches to the Irish archaeological record, and reports on research on artefacts, landscapes and on aspects of heritage and archaeology.

One type of article that is not well represented this year is the paper based on excavation findings from CRM archaeology. There are several of these in the pipeline but creating a balance between reporting on a fascinating site and the discussion of specific research issues is sometimes complicated. This issue has been raised recently as well by EAI (Environmental Archaeology Ireland) with regard to producing peer-reviewed articles of interesting environmental archaeology results from CRM contracts, and it is one with which many of us have grappled: how to rewrite a field or lab report on something of interest or importance to bring an article to publication. EAI is intending to try to begin to address this through some continuing professional development courses, and I have been asked whether I would be part of that. I am not sure that I have any special knowledge, as I also struggle with this, but having seen the meticulous work done by the expert peer reviewers for all the papers in this volume and for articles in the pipeline, perhaps there are some tips I can pass on to my environmental archaeology colleagues. One point that comes up frequently that I will apply to my own future submissions is to focus on a specific research issue throughout, relegating site or excavation information to a background section, which can be extensive if necessary. A second is to ensure that the article discusses the international significance of the research; sometimes this is not immediately obvious—or is so obvious that we neglect to discuss it. In any case, I am leaving the *JIA* editorship (my two years are up) knowing that there are some great articles to come under the next editor's stewardship.

This year's volume is somewhat skewed towards articles by authors conducting research in universities or government agencies and by independent scholars, with one exception: Roisin O'Droma's short article on archaeobotanical results from CRM excavations at a Napoleonic-era military kitchen in Cherrywood in

Dublin reports on a rare opportunity to explore the remains from diet and of fuel from a military kitchen in Ireland, in comparison to historical records and to findings from similar sites in other parts of Europe. The *JIA* is very interested in receiving and publishing articles on the many amazing sites and analyses stemming from CRM archaeology, and we encourage authors to persevere with the refereeing process and get their important findings into peer-reviewed publication. Also related to this issue, in my mind at least, is Charles Mount's article summarising the work of Bord na Móna excavations in Irish peatlands. This article expressly sets out to provide a full listing of the unpublished and published reports that are available, as well as a brief review of the types of monuments and objects revealed over the years, highlighting the resource of data and interpretative literature available. This summary of works carried out is not a standard type of journal article, in that it does not have an argument or a research aim, but all reviewers agreed that it is extremely useful to have this published because it highlights a research archive which should continue to see a great deal of study in the future, as well as condensing some key findings from past research.

The majority of the articles in this volume are focused on legacy material or museum collections but add new data and interpretations. Ken Williams provides a reinterpretation of certain aspects of chronology at Newgrange in relation to the Great Circle monument, arguing that particular features of the monument recorded in excavation reports and noted through his research on rock art suggest that it may be earlier than proposed. A review of dating is also the core of an article on Navan Fort by Patrick Gleeson, James O'Driscoll, Gordon Noble, Eileen Murphy and Jacqueline McDowell, who present new radiocarbon dates on human bone samples from previous excavations. They discuss the funerary aspects of the Navan Fort environs, and the long and complex history and phasing of the site from the Iron Age through into post-medieval times.

In a new study of museum artefacts, Rena Maguire and Brian Scott explore horse harness finds from Portstewart, Co. Antrim, and Kilrea, Co. Londonderry, in the context of other evidence from Ireland and Britain for driving vehicles. They suggest possible Late Iron Age dates on the basis of style and decoration and

consider connections between regions as well as issues in relating harness evidence to vehicles versus horse-riding. A second article that focuses on artefacts is John Ó Néill's discussion of a gold object now identified as a lunula from Moytirra East, Co. Sligo, that played a role in a historical controversy about Ireland's past. The article includes a review of nineteenth-century correspondence revealing aspects of how archaeological finds were recovered, interpreted and even played a role in politics, as well as discussion of the lunula in the context of Periods 1 and 2 goldwork across Atlantic Europe and issues of connectivity and local traditions.

Bruce Watson presents a detailed reappraisal of what is known about medieval Irish bridges, based on available historical, archaeological and architectural data, and a review of the important corpus of information presented in O'Keeffe and Simington's seminal volumes on Irish stone bridges (1991 and revised 2016 editions; see Watson's article below for references). The article, like the volumes it takes as a baseline, is comprehensive in its review, incorporating online databases and recent studies.

In a different type of study, Liamóg Roche reports on the application of UAV-based thermal imaging to Irish archaeological sites. This study uses Ireland as a test case for employing aerial thermography in a temperate, maritime climate, in comparison to some previous work in Britain focused on crop-stress indicators, and better-known applications in more arid or continental climates. The potential for future application is discussed in relation to results from experiments over rath and cashel sites in County Leitrim, Rathcroghan Mound, Co. Roscommon, and

Clare Abbey, Co. Clare. In many ways it is no surprise to learn that there is potential for this approach, particularly in comparison to other remote-sensing methods and field-based verification, and it is welcome to see a demonstration of this and a discussion of how modern approaches to thermal imaging could be of use to future studies in Ireland.

Sharon Greene and Neil Jackman present the results of a study of well-being and community archaeology in Ireland, focusing on Irish archaeological projects with community involvement and exploring indicators of impact on well-being at an individual and a community level. The article uses specific community archaeology projects as examples and case-studies and considers how archaeological projects could both become more involved with local communities and develop ways to record the impact—both positive and negative—of such engagement. The authors suggest that archaeology and heritage should be formally included in national well-being strategies in Ireland, as has been seen elsewhere. I am sure that all the readers of this journal would agree that there are enormous mental and physical health and well-being benefits from archaeology, and this article might inspire us to become even more engaged with local communities in our areas of research.

I offer many thanks to all the readers, contributors and referees of the *JIA* as I hand over editorship. It has been a pleasure to have the opportunity to edit this journal, in particular because of the teamwork, guidance and assistance of the *JIA* editorial board, and especially the patience and expertise of Nick Maxwell and the team at Wordwell.

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