

Heritage Council proud to host Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Archaeological Excavation Reports on HeritageMaps.ie

Monday 19th June 2017: [The Heritage Council](#) and [HeritageMaps.ie](#) are pleased to announce the addition of Transport Infrastructure Ireland's *Archaeological Excavation Reports* dataset to our map-viewer HeritageMaps.ie.

This collection consists of previously unpublished excavation reports generated in the course of National Roads Schemes under the auspices of the National Roads Authority and Rail Procurement Agency, now Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

Consideration of archaeology is fully integrated into the national road and light rail scheme planning process and is directly managed by the TII Archaeology & Heritage Section.

TII's key objectives are to complete all archaeological works in advance of the commencement of construction and to ensure that the vast quantity of information created by TII-funded work can be realised to its full potential and that the knowledge generated feeds back not only into the decision making and project planning process, but also that this knowledge is disseminated to the general public. These activities also make a valuable contribution to promoting a greater awareness of the past among local communities through which national road schemes pass.

Following completion of site works the study and analysis of all the records and finds that were retrieved from a site commences. This phase is called post-excavation and is an essential part of the process as it ensures that the site is fully recorded and documented for future generations. A report detailing the preliminary results of the excavation is produced initially. Following this the results of the detailed study and analysis, along with photographs and drawings are compiled into a final illustrated report of the site.

These reports have now been made fully available to the public via the [HeritageMaps.ie](#) map-viewing platform. Speaking about the launch, **Pat Reid of HeritageMaps.ie** stated 'the launch of the TII Archaeological Excavation Reports will bring new depth to our understanding of Ireland's vast archaeological resource. It will allow professional archaeologists, researchers, students and local communities to access, and better understand, their local history and archaeological environment. The TII reports are a very welcome addition to the wealth of heritage data that is currently available on [HeritageMaps.ie](#).'

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About HeritageMaps.ie: *HeritageMaps.ie has been developed by the Heritage Council and a range of partners including the local authority Heritage Officers. There are over 600 datasets displayed in map form available on the viewer, with over 150,000 mapped points of heritage and cultural interest. HeritageMaps.ie allows people to create customised maps and explore a vast range of Ireland's heritage including pilgrim paths, burial grounds, museums, archaeological sites, maritime collections and walled towns - all from their phone, tablet or desktop.*

HeritageMaps.ie has been developed by the Heritage Council, working over the past 18 months with local authorities, the National Biodiversity Data Centre, the Discovery Programme and Compass Informatics.

About the Heritage Council: *The Heritage Council is the statutory body charged with identifying, protecting, preserving and enhancing Ireland's national heritage. National heritage includes Monuments, Archaeological objects, Heritage objects, Architectural heritage, Flora, Fauna, Wildlife habitats, Landscapes, Seascapes, Wrecks, Geology, Heritage gardens and parks, and Inland waterways.*

Established under the Heritage Act 1995, and operating under the aegis of the Department of Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, the Heritage Council provides advice to the Minister, and partners and networks with Local Authorities and a wide range of other organisations and individuals to promote Ireland's heritage.

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