

The Irish Strategic Archaeological

Research Programme:

A review of the first two years of its operation and future development

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February 2010

Review of the INSTAR

Executive Summary

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Executive Summary

- The INSTAR Programme was set up in 2008 to help realize the potential of Ireland's archaeological record and to transform understanding of how Irish society has evolved.
- After two years of operation it is judged to be a spectacular success and a model for other countries to follow.
- The Programme is transforming the very nature of Irish archaeological endeavour by bringing together the academic, regulatory and private sectors to address highly relevant research topics including climate change and landscape and is creating new knowledge and understanding for the academic world and for the general public alike.
- By offering training opportunities in a competitive and innovative environment for a new generation of researchers the Programme is making a significant contribution to the vision laid out in *Building Ireland's Smart Economy*.
- To maximize the impact of the Programme and maintain the impetus it is necessary for the funding stream to be made available on a three year rolling basis.
- Consideration needs to be given for improving reporting procedures in order to make the results of the Programme widely available both to researchers and to the general public.
- INSTAR is a transformative programme which, if maintained and developed will put Irish archaeology at the cutting edge of the discipline in a world context. For a comparatively small financial investment the output in terms of new knowledge, new methodologies and the reputation of the discipline in Ireland have been massive
- **Recommendations**

1. The INSTAR Programme be instituted as a major ongoing platform in the development of Ireland's knowledge economy.
2. Funds should be provided to enable the current projects to be completed
3. The INSTAR Programme should henceforth be funded on a three year rolling programme
4. The annual programme of funding of should be reviewed to facilitate the more efficient running of projects.
5. Consideration should be given to the reporting system and new guidelines prepared.
6. The results of the INSTAR Programme projects should be presented at an annual conference.
7. An INSTAR website, accessible through the Heritage Council portal, should be set up to publicize the programme and to serve as a major research source for Irish archaeology.
8. Consideration should be given to providing a range of publications designed to communicate the new understanding gained through INSTAR research to the general public thus enhancing public enjoyment of Ireland's heritage.

1 Introduction

1.1 The Heritage Act of 1995 established the Heritage Council as a statutory body with a remit to propose policies and priorities for the protection, preservation and enhancement of the National Heritage and to promote interest, education, knowledge and pride in the National Heritage. In its *Strategic Plan 2007-13* the Council set out ways in which these objects could be achieved.

1.2 It was in the context of the *Strategic Plan* that the Council published a policy paper *Review of Research Needs in Irish Archaeology (2007)* the principal conclusion of which was that

To fully realize the potential of Ireland's archaeological record, and to transform our understanding of how society in Ireland has evolved, a National Archaeological Research Programme is required. Such a programme will provide a sharpened research focus for ongoing archaeological activity, thus fostering greater integration and information flow within the profession.

One of the main objectives of such a programme was to transform the very considerable amount of archaeological data that had accumulated over the last three decades or so, much of it as a result of work carried out in the context of the national Development Plan, into widely accessible knowledge about Ireland's past. To this end seven specific research themes were listed as being of immediate relevance.

1.3 In pursuance of this policy, and following discussion with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG), it was agreed to set up the Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research (INSTAR) Programme, the aims and scope of which are set out in para. 3.1. The programme was to be funded by the DEHLG on an annual basis, and managed by the Heritage Council as part of its grants programme.

1.4 The INSTAR Programme has now been running for two years, 2008 and 2009. For each of the funding years research proposals have been invited on three specific themes of the seven identified in *Review of Research Needs in Irish Archaeology*:

1. Cultural Identity, Territories and Boundaries
5. Environment and Climate Change
6. Landscapes and Settlements

1.5 In 2008 29 applications were received of which 14 were chosen for funding. In 2009 21 applications were made and 10 were funded. The success rate (c 50%) was conditioned by the level of grant available, many of the unfunded applications being of an academic potential worthy of funding.

1.6 After making two tranches of awards the Heritage Council decided to call for a review of the impact and relevance of the INSTAR Programme, and of its operational processes, under the following headings

- effectiveness of the overall programme in terms of meeting its key aims, process, transparency and collaboration.

- value for use of public money in terms of creation of research posts, outfit and public involvement
- ongoing anticipated need for the INSTAR programme, including resourcing
- consideration of the future development of INSTAR.

The review brief required the reviewer to assess a selection of the applications and successful projects and to hold discussion with practitioners, expert reviewers, applicants and grantees, including the State Heritage services, private practice and the academic world. The reviewer would also be cognizant of a selection of recent policy documents (noted in Appendix 1).

1.7 The review took place in December 2009 and January 2010.

2 Context: *The perceived needs of Irish Archaeology*

2.1 In recent years Irish Archaeology has been well served by a series of in-depth, independent studies focusing on the state of the discipline and its relevance to the wellbeing of the nation. The first of these, *Archaeology 2020: repositioning Irish Archaeology in the Knowledge Society* (UCD 2006) called for three Overarching Enabling Measures which it considered were fundamental in making Irish archaeology fit for future challenges. These were the establishment of

- Archaeological Implementation Partnerships
- A Bureau for Archaeological Publications
- An Inter-Institutional Collaborative Funding System

Subsequent reports, by the Royal Irish Academy, *Archaeology in Ireland: a Vision for the Future* (2007), and by the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland, *Rethinking*

Irish Archaeology: Old Ground, New Ideas (2007), arrived at broadly similar conclusion whilst adding detail relevant to their different perspectives. A central concern of all three was the need to bring the state, university and commercial sectors together within a structured research framework and to ensure that the huge amount of data that has been, and continues to be, generated by the commercial sector is integrated into academic debate and made available to a wide audience, including the general public, for the better appreciation of the National Heritage.

2.2 In parallel with these independent studies the Heritage Council embarked upon a far-ranging review initiated by a consultative document *Framework for Irish Archaeological Research* (2006) which was followed by a *Review of Research Needs in Irish Archaeology* (Heritage Council 2007). That there was a high degree of conciliation between the conclusions of the Heritage Council and those of the independent bodies speaks well for the coherence of the discipline in Ireland and gives assurance that the way forward that has been proposed has wide support.

In parallel with these deliberations the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government commenced a separate consultation exercise involving a review of policy, legislation and professional practice. The document *Review of Archaeological Policy and Practice: Identifying the Issues* (DEHLG 2007) also noted the need for greater dissemination of the results of archaeological excavations.

2.3 To manage the necessary change the Heritage Council signaled the need for

- a strategic collaborative funding mechanism for archaeological research
- the establishment of an Archaeological Records Archive

- the establishment of a Publications Bureau

The INSTAR Programme is a direct response to the first of these.

2.4 The direction which Irish Archaeology is taking sits well with the aims expressed in recent government strategy papers, most notably *Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation* (Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, 2006) and *Building Ireland's Smart Economy: A Framework for Sustainable Economic Renewal* (Dept. of the Taoiseach, 2008), the main thrust of which is the need to develop a knowledge economy in Ireland. Among the specific aspirations expressed in *Strategy for Science* are: the need to increase significantly the number of post graduates, so as to place Ireland firmly on the global map in terms of research excellence; to strengthen interaction between the commercial world and higher education; and to make the results of scientific research more widely available. The INSTAR Programme directly addresses these core issues.

3 *The aims and scope of the INSTAR Programme*

3.1 Responding to one of the key needs recognized by the heritage sector the Heritage Council designed the INSTAR Programme to be

a competitive and collaborative archaeological research programme and to bring about transformative change in the quality of research undertaken by the consulting sector (“industry”) in co-operation with the higher education and state sectors.

Such a strategic programme will address key archaeological issues, build research capacity, and facilitate access to unpublished archaeological excavations.

These ambitious aspirations were more closely specified in a series of key aims

- The programme will contribute to a better understanding of Ireland's

archaeological heritage by tackling key questions about our past

- Ensure results are disseminated to a wide audience
- Provide the necessary enabling capacity for archaeological research which leaves a durable impact in the archaeological sector and within Irish society generally.
- Contribute to building and maintaining the knowledge society by establishing a better understanding of past societies in Ireland.
- New researchers will be attracted from other disciplines such as science, environmental research and other disciplines
- Strategic partnerships and alliances will be created in Irish archaeological research through increased cross-sectoral collaboration.

3.2 Since the intention is to encourage the different components of the sector to work more closely together applications were solicited from research consortia composed of two or more partners from, the archaeological consulting sector, academic institutions on the island of Ireland, international academic and research bodies, and State bodies. Among the detailed advice set out in *Guide for Applicants* stress was laid on the work being truly collaborative, linked to results deriving from developer-led archaeology, and producing outcomes that will promote accessibility and enjoyment of the heritage.

3.3 It was envisaged that two types of project would be funded

- Desk-based or feasibility studies lasting between 6-12 months and costing up to €50,000, which might lead to further projects
- Large scale studies up to a maximum of three years costing up to €150,000 per annum.

Since, however, the Council receives the dedicated funding for the scheme annually, project funding could only be awarded on a year on year basis subject to satisfactory progress. This has caused difficulties for applicants not least in forward planning and staff management

3.4 Grants are awarded up to 75% of the total costs. Although institutional overheads are not covered in the grant such overheads can be submitted as a contribution from the institution towards the overall project cost.

4 *Procedures*

4.1 The procedures by which calls for grants are announced are entirely appropriate. A short Preliminary Notice is published explaining the programme and announcing the date when the application form will be available and the date by which applications must be received. When published, the application form is accompanied by a *Guide for Applicants* which lays out in detail the scope and conditions of the scheme carefully explaining the evaluation processes. The document is clear and helpful and is a model of its kind.

4.2 Evaluation is carried out at two levels. The application are first seen by a panel of external assessors composed of professional archaeologists from outside Ireland, chosen to have the appropriate range of period and subject expertise, as well as knowledge of Irish Archaeology. Each application is seen, independently, by two panel members who score and comment on the individual components of the proposal. The application together

with the assessors reports are then considered by the Research Advisory Committee comprising representatives from the profession and the wider research community in Ireland enforced by archaeologists from outside Ireland (1 in 2008 and 2 in 2009). The Research Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Heritage Council. Limited feedback is given to unsuccessful candidates, but if further information is sought, the peer review marking sheets are provided. The evaluation procedure is thorough and fair and accords well with best practice elsewhere in Europe.

4.3 Two reports are required from successful candidates – a “midterm” and final report. No advice is given as to the nature and length of the documents with the result that there is considerable variation in length and detail. It would be advantageous to all if some guidelines were offered.

4.4 The INSTAR Programme has now been running for two years. In the first year, 2008, details of the competition were announced in early February with a closing date for application of 7th March. Successful applicants were informed of the award on 16th April and required to confirm acceptance by 2nd May. They were informed of the requirement to submit a “mid-term” report by 25th July and a final report by 5th December. Although the timetable was extremely tight, that it was successfully accomplished reflect the energy and ability of the Principal Investigators of the successful applications.

The unsatisfactory nature of the timetable was fully recognized by the Heritage Council who proposed that for the next round (2009) application would be invited in Autumn 2008 in advance of notification of the grant by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Accordingly the closing date for applicants was set at 24th October and the review procedure was completed by mid December. However, a delay in the announcement of the level of grant available from the Department meant that successful

candidates could not be notified until 18th May 2009. As in the previous year a “mid-term” report was required by 1st July with a final report submitted by 27th November.

The successful applicants have, understandably, found difficulties in working within such restricted timetables. The apportionment of staff time and the recruitment of new staff, the involvement of post graduate researchers, and the planning of field work programmes have all had to be done at very short notice while the reporting procedure – perfectly acceptable with a full year of funding – is onerous. Another timetabling difficulty is that all funds have to be spent within the calendar year. For those projects where outside specialists are employed to analyse data, to get work done and bills in on time has required much ingenuity.

Clearly there is a major issue to be resolved here.

5 *The Outputs*

5.1 Of the successful applications in 2008, 8 were presented as multi year projects and 6 as single year projects with possible run-ons. In 2009 all but one of multi year programmes were accepted for a second year of funding, one of the single year projects successfully applied for a second year, and two new multi-year programmes were chosen. Thus at the end of the second year 10 multi-year programmes are in active operation and 6 single-year programmes have been completed.

5.2 In total, 44 organization have been involved in the INSTAR Programme, 19 university departments, 12 state sector institutions, 12 commercial operations and one professional association. Some of the participants have contributed to more than one project. Seven of the academic partners and two of the state sector partners are from

overseas. (See Appendix 2)

The 16 funded projects were proposed by 9 local organizations: University College Dublin (5); The Discovery Programme (3); Queens University Belfast (2); University college Cork (1); Natural University of Ireland, Galway (1); University of Ulster (1); University of London (1); Dublin County Council (1); and Kilkenny Archaeology (1).

5.3 The project has attracted an impressive array of participants from across the sector and has amply achieved its aim of being truly collaborative. That a healthy number of partners are from abroad (some 20%) also meets one of the projects aspirations. The lead organizations are heavily biased to the academic sector. There are a number of reasons for this, the most significant are that the universities are more used to applying for research grants and have the supporting financial infrastructure already in place while the consultancy sector are already committed to ongoing projects and have less capacity to respond quickly. As the INSTAR Programme becomes established it is likely that the imbalance will begin to adjust. Among the academic lead organization University College Dublin is dominant: this no doubt reflects the relatively large numbers of staff actively involved in various kinds of archaeological research within the University.

5.4 The range and breadth of the projects, both completed and ongoing, fairly reflects the vitality of Irish archaeology. Their variety and ingenuity make them difficult to classify but broadly speaking they fall into three broad groups:

- Landscape surveys: Boyne Valley; Burren; Ceidefields; Eastern littoral zone; and Offshore.
- Urban surveys: Kilkenny; Dublin – agenda for research; and Dublin cultural understanding.

- Island wide themes: climate change in the wetlands; earliest farming; Early Medieval archaeology; Christian landscapes; burial practices; and health and demography of prehistoric populations.

Other themes include the creation of a wood and charcoal database and the development of a Web GIS tool to investigate spatial archaeological landscapes. All are data-rich projects generating extensive databases which are being made widely available. The majority of the projects make extensive use of, or are substantially based on, unpublished archaeological data. All score highly when compared with the Key Aims of the INSTAR Programme.

5.5 In all some 28 posts were created in support of the 2008 programme running for between 3 and 12 months. These include: Masters degree studentships (2); Doctoral degree studentships and postdoctoral (4); Research Assistants (11); database / GIS specialists (5); artists in residence (2). In 2009 24 posts were created: Doctoral degrees studentship and postdoctoral (5) Research Assistants (15); other specialists (4).

5.6 The projects have all set up websites, some of them making accessible extensive datasets. Others are preparing papers and monographs for publication. Other public output includes: giving papers at conferences and symposia; public lectures; poster presentations; television documentaries; and exhibitions. While the quality and style of the output varies from project to project what has actually been provided compares closely with the aspirations presented in the individual project designs.

5.7 A requirement of the programme has been that no more than 75% of the total project costs is provided by INSTAR, the rest coming from other sources. This has been

achieved. Some of the Principal Investigators report that the prestige of having received an INSTAR award has proved to be effective leverage for generating additional grants. While detailed figures are not available the programme must have brought a total of well in excess of €400,000 for the benefit of archaeological research.

6 *Assessment*

6.1 The massive growth in commercial archaeology over the last three decades is a phenomenon experienced across much of Western Europe though, arguably, the strength of the Irish economy during its “Celtic Tiger” phase has exacerbated the situation here. With it have come problems most notably the accumulation of huge quantities of data stored in archives where they remain largely unexplored and difficult to access due to lack of proper assessment and publication.

The lack of feedback which results inhibits the development and research strategies while the general public gains little in terms of knowledge or appreciation of the heritage in spite of a very considerable annual financial investment in developer-led archaeology. An ancillary problem of no less concern is that young practitioners working in the commercial sector spend much of their time data gathering with little opportunity for transforming the data into knowledge. This wastes skills and creates an unhealthy divide between the academic and commercial sector.

6.2 The INSTAR Programme is a bold attempt to address this central problem by focusing a dedicated funding stream on carefully specified collaborative research. Since there is no comparable scheme elsewhere in Europe the programme has generated much interest internationally and is looked on as a highly innovative initiative and one that could serve as a model elsewhere. It is being eagerly followed.

6.3 The results generated by the first two years of the Programme leave little doubt that it has been highly effective in meeting its key objectives. Its principal achievements are:

- the generation of a considerable body of new knowledge through carefully targeted research
- the dissemination of that knowledge by a variety of media to the sector and to the general public
- the development of new research tools from existing but undeveloped databases
- the presentation of new strategies for future research
- the setting up of innovative partnerships
- the provision of learning opportunities for younger practitioners
- the attraction of funding from additional sources for archaeology

Reviewing the outputs in some detail one cannot fail to be impressed, not only by the way in which the Programme has greatly enhanced our understanding of the Irish heritage, but by the stimulus which it is giving to the archaeological profession across the sector. It is a transformative programme which, if maintained and developed will put Irish archaeology at the cutting edge of the discipline in a world context. For a comparatively small financial investment the output in terms of new knowledge, new methodologies and the reputation of the discipline in Ireland have been massive.

6.4 Inevitably, in a programme of this scale in the first two years of its life, a number of shortcomings have been identified. These are largely procedural and can be easily dealt with.

6.5 The first issue derives from the way in which the funding stream is procured. At present the Heritage Council receives notice of its grant annually from the DEHLG. There is no assurance of year on year continuity or of a consistent grant level. Moreover notification has come late in the year, seriously delaying the start of projects, while accounting procedure require that all funds be spent within the calendar year.

The best solution, from the point of view of the academic institutions which, at present, constitute the majority of the lead partners, is for the Programme to be synchronized with the academic year, beginning in October and ending in September. Since, however, present government funding procedures require calendar year funding, in order to improve the situation the Heritage Council needs to know the level of the grant in sufficient time for the applicants to be informed of the awards by the beginning of December at the latest so that projects can run for a full year. A related problem is the requirement to complete spending by the year-end. This is unduly restrictive given the nature of the research. It ought to be possible to devise a system whereby the lead organization is allowed, on the provision of suitable documentation, to make payments for up to two months following the year-end.

6.6 Another issue is the allocation of funding to the Heritage Council on a yearly basis. This means that there can be no assurance that a programme planned to last for three years, will continue to receive funding in years 2 and 3. Such uncertainty inevitably leads to inefficiencies and makes it impossible to fund Doctoral students or research staff in a humane manner. The solution would be for the Department to guarantee a level of funding on the basis of a three year rolling programme. This would provide PIs with some assurance of continuity subject to satisfactory performance.

6.7 The present system requires the provision of a mid-term report in July and a final report in December of each funded year. A July date for the submission of a mid-term report is entirely reasonable if the funding year begins in January, but has comparatively little value if it begins in June. If it is to be retained a clear indication should be given of what is required and a maximum length should be stated. Given the vigorous selection process it may be assumed that the PI is responsible and efficient in which case the mid term report could be quite short.

The nature and timing of the final report needs some consideration. To require that a full report of a project which is data-rich be produced within the year imposes an arduous constraint. A distinction should be made between an end-of-year report on the progress of the project and the final report presenting the full academic results. Some leeway might be given for the latter, with say, submission up to 6 months of the project end. Clear guidance needs to be provided.

6.8 As the system is at present structured there is little provision for fee back to the PIs. There would be some advantage in providing this at the beginning of the programme by inviting the reviewers to provide a paragraph or two which could be transmitted anonymously to the grant recipient. In addition, at the end of each year, a 1 or 2 day conference should be arranged at which each project presents its results. The audience would comprise the project teams, invited members of the sector and other stakeholders. This should be regarded as an essential part of the reporting procedure.

6.9 The nature of the INSTAR Programme and of its developing output deserves to be widely known not only in Ireland but also across the world. This could be achieved in a variety of ways.

- The establishment of a dedicated website accessed through the Heritage Council portal. Here announcements about the programme can be posted together with all the submitted reports and references to project web addresses. This will raise awareness of the programme across the sector. The website should also host all final reports and databases, providing the PI's with the facility to up-date as they think necessary. In this way the website will fast become an essential resource for all engaged in research into Ireland's archaeological heritage. It will be an exemplar of good practice in a world forum.
- Consideration should be given to publishing an attractive booklet summarizing projects on an annual basis and geared to the general public. A publication of this kind could be made widely available to all stakeholders and to the general public.
- There would be much to be said for the publication, on a periodic basis, of a more substantial book containing articles submitted by PI's at the completion of their project and written for a broad general readership. The aim of such a volume would be to inform the general public of new insights into the islands heritage in a way that would help them increase their understanding and enjoyment.

To implement the suggestion in this paragraph has cost and personal implications which could best be met by top-slicing the INSTAR grant to provide the Heritage Council with a dedicated staff member.

7 Summary and Recommendations

7.1 The INSTAR Programme has been carefully designed to meet the current and

foreseeable needs of Irish Archaeology. The results of the first two years of operation amply demonstrate that it is being highly successful in achieving its objectives.

The programme has succeeded in attracting an impressive range of proposals from across the sector – significantly more than can be funded from the grant currently available. The results to date leave little doubt that the Programme will have a transforming effect on Irish archaeology. It will be a major stimulus to innovative research and will enable the excitement of the developing discipline to be widely disseminated to the public.

Recommendation 1 The INSTAR Programme be instituted as a major ongoing platform in the development of Ireland's knowledge economy.

7.2 The selection procedures in place are fair and transparent.

7.3 The majority of the ongoing projects have been conceived as three-year programmes and therefore further funding is needed in 2010 and 2011 to complete them and thus to maximize on the investment already made.

Recommendation 2 Funds should be provided to enable the current projects to be completed.

7.4 The quality of the application received in the first two years shows that there is a real appetite among Irish archaeologists to engage with the challenges set by the INSTAR Programme: it is stimulating a new energy and much innovative thought across the sector. The present programme focuses on three of the seven themes listed by The Heritage Council in their preliminary list of Research Themes. The scope for further research is therefore considerable.

The current system, whereby funding from the Department is notified on an

annual basis, presents considerable difficulties for grant recipients and leads to inefficiency.

Recommendation 3 The INSTAR Programme should henceforth be funded on a three year rolling programme.

7.5 The current funding system has made it impossible for grant recipients to run a full 12 month programme because the level of grant is not known until well into the year and present government rules require funds to be spent before the calendar year end. Since current practices preclude that the funding programme be brought into line with the academic year, the most practicable solution would be to ensure that the grant is made available from 1st January.

Recommendation 4 The annual programme of funding should be revised to facilitate the more efficient running of the projects.

7.6 At present little guidance is given as to style and length of mid-term and final reports. There is much to be said for distinguishing between end of year reports designed to report progress and final reports prepared for publication. The timetable for the submission of the latter might be extended.

Recommendation 5 Consideration should be given to the reporting system and new guidelines prepared.

7.7 The INSTAR Programme is generating much new data and many new approaches to data analysis and presentation. It would be a considerable advantage if these were shared between grant recipients and the sector at an annual end-of-year conference.

Recommendation 6 The results of INSTAR Programme projects should be presented at an annual conference.

7.8 The INSTAR Programme deserves to be widely known in the academic world and its aims, methodologies and results made easily accessible. The most appropriate way to facilitate this is to set up a dedicated website to serve as both a notice board and a repository for reports and databases which can be updated and augmented as necessary.

Recommendation 7 An INSTAR website, accessible through the Heritage Council portal, should be set up to publicize the programme and to serve as a major research resource for Irish archaeology.

7.9 One of the objectives of the INSTAR Programme is to disseminate a new understanding of the Irish heritage to the general public. This can most appropriately be done through the website and through popular publications.

Recommendation 8 Consideration should be given to producing a range of publications designed to communicate the new understanding gained through INSTAR research to the general public, thus enhancing public enjoyment of Ireland's heritage.

Appendix 1 Principal Bibliography

- *Archaeology 2020: repositioning Irish Archaeology in the Knowledge Society*
(UCD 2006)
- *Archeology in Ireland: a vision for the future* (Royal Irish Academy 2007)
- *Rethinking Irish Archaeology: Old Ground, New Ideas* (Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland 2007)
- *Review of Archaeological Policy and Practice: identifying the Issues* (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2007)
- *Review of Research Needs in Irish Archaeology* (Heritage Council 2007)
- *Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation* (Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment 2006)
- *Building Ireland's Smart Economy: A Framework for Sustainable Economic Renewal* (Department of the Taoiseach 2008)
- INSTAR Programme: Final Project Reports 2008
- INSTAR Programme: Final Project Reports 2009

Appendix 2 Participants in INSTAR Programme Projects 2008 and 2009

Academic Institutions

Ireland: UCD: Michael Ó Cléirigh Institute

School of History and Archives

School of Archaeology

School of Geography

School of Art History and Cultural Policy

NUI Galway: Department of Archaeology

NUY Maynooth: Department of History

Trinity College Dublin: Department of Medieval History

Queens University Belfast: School of Geography, Archaeology and
Palaeocology

University of Ulster: Centre for Maritime Archaeology

Maritime Institute, Galway

Abroad: University of London: Department of Geography

Institute of Archaeology

University of Newcastle: Department of Archaeology

Memorial University of Newfoundland: Department of Archaeology

University of Oxford: Institute of Archaeology

University of Southampton: School of Archaeology

University of York: Environment Department

State Sector

Ireland: Department of Environment, History and Local Government

Digital Media Centre, DIT

Discovery Programme

Dublin City Council

National Monuments Service

National Museum of Ireland

National Roads Authority

North Ireland Environment Agency

Office of Public Buildings and Work

Ulster Museum

Abroad: Dutch State Service for Archaeology, Cultural Landscapes and Monuments

National Museums of Scotland

Commercial Sector etc

Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd

Archaeological Development Services Ltd

Aegis Archaeology Ltd

CREATE

Cultural Resource Development Services Ltd

Kilkenny Archaeology Ltd

Lisa Edden Engineers

Margaret Gowen & Co Ltd.

O'Connor, Sutton, Cronin and Associate Engineers

Talamh Ireland

The Archaeological Diving Company Ltd

TVAS Ireland Ltd

Professional Associations

Irish Wood Anatomists Association

Appendix 3: INSTAR Projects 2008 and 2009

Contact name	Principal Applicant	Applicant name with partners	Project title	Project summary	Amount awarded 2008
Nicholas Branch	Royal Holloway, Department of Geography, University Of London	Royal Holloway with Archaeological Development Services Ltd	Examining the relationship between climate change and human activities in the wetland of Ireland	Funding to compile a high - resolution chronological and palaeoclimatic framework for the six ombrogenous bogs and their associated archaeology in the Midlands of Ireland. The tephrochronological and stable isotope research we propose to undertake part of a major programme of research involving collaboration between Archaeological Development Services Ltd and the Department of Geography, University of London.	€50000.00
Dr Edel Bhreathnach	UCD Micheal Ó Cléirigh Institute	UCD Micheal Ó Cléirigh Institute with UCD School of History and Archives, Discovery Programme	Mapping Death: People, Boundaries & Territories in Ireland 1st to 8th Centuries AD	Aims to interpret burial practices as indicators of social practices, social hierarchies, cultural intrusions, boundary markers, taking possession of territories, the establishment of dynasties, religious conversion & external relationships.	€59362.00
Dr Tomas Ó Carragain and John Sheehan	UCC Department of Archaeology	UCC, Aegis Archaeology Ltd, University of Newcastle,	Making Christian Landscapes	This project brings together a cross - sectoral, international, interdisciplinary team to realise the added value of some of the most important ones. Through multi - layered research these sites would be placed in their landscape context. Subsequently these landscapes would be systematically compared.	€71,347.00
Prof Tadgh O Keefe	UCD School of Archaeology	UCD School of Sociology; UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy; Dublin City Council; CREATE	Archaeology in Innercity Dublin	This project will develop a multi-media exhibition and interactive website representing two Dublin communities to catalyse new (inter) Cultural understandings of the Irish past as it informs the contemporary lived landscape.	€140,000.00
Dr Helen Lewis	UCD School of Archaeology	UCD School of Geography; Meath County Council; University of Southampton School of Geography; Talamh Ireland	An integrated, comprehensive GIS model of landscape evolution & landuse history in the River Boyne Valley	Aims to develop an integrated & comprehensive landscape archaeological model of the evolution of the Boyne catchment & hence develop an environmentally contextualised understanding of a key element of Ireland's archaeological heritage.	€78,500.00
Dr Aidan O' Sullivan	UCD School of Archaeology	Queens University Belfast School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology; Cultural Resource Development Services Ltd, Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd; Margaret Gowen & Co Ltd;	Early Medieval Archaeology Project	Through a sustained, island-wide programme of collaborative research & analysis of c.900 selected unpublished archaeological sites and the publication of a series of edited published thematic reports, book & articles, EMAP will help to transform 'data into knowledge', providing a basis for comparative archaeological research.	€120,000.00
Dr Rory Quinn	Centre for Maritime Archaeology, Ulster University Coleraine	Environment and Heritage Services Northern Ireland; Marine Institute	Archaeological Applications of the Joint Irish Bathymetric Survey	To assess the seafloor data generated by the Joint Irish Bathymetric Survey for archaeological signatures (shipwrecks & submerged landscapes) & will result in detailed mapping of the seabed using multi-beam sonar, from	€43,294.00

				Inishown, Co Donegal to Rathlin Island in Co Antrim, extending from the coastline to 3 nautical miles.	
Anthony Corns	Discovery Programme	Digital Media Centre, DIT; Margaret Gowen & Co Ltd; UCD School of Archaeology	SHARE I.T. (Spatial Heritage & Archaeological Research Environment I.T.)	Aim is to investigate spatial archaeological landscape data in Ireland and to develop a WebGIS tool pilot for its exploration for use in further research.	€50,000.00
Dr. Carleton Jones	National University of Ireland, Galway	National Monuments Service; TVAS Ireland Ltd	Burren Landscape and Settlement: Developing a Research Framework	To establish a research framework for Burren Archaeology through a cumulative research dynamic combining data and methodologies from five ongoing lead studies.	€154,992.00
Dr Niall Brady	Discovery Programme	The Archaeological Diving Company Ltd; Queens University Belfast School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology; UCD School of Archaeology	Littoral Archaeology Project	Feasibility study that seeks to assemble the information for the east coast, and to merge it with discussions that identify the nature of human activity along the coastline since early prehistory to c 1800 AD.	€37,393.65
Cóilín Ó Drisceoil	Kilkenny Archaeology	Department of History, NUI Maynooth	Archaeological Investigations in Kilkenny City 1975-2007: Phase 1, A Proposal for Knowledge Creation	Kilkenny archaeological record can be considered to be of international significance, however, the city has one of the worst publication records of any of Irelands major medieval towns. The production of a report which aims to detail a strategy to reverse this situation through a process of publication, public dissemination and knowledge creation.	€40,837.00
Dr. Ingelise Stuijts	Discovery Programme	Irish Wood Anatomist Association; Dutch State Service for Archaeology, Cultural Landscape and Monuments (RACM);	Developing a wood and charcoal database for Ireland	Development of a digital archive for archaeological and biological information, one for wood and one for charcoal.	€33,300.00
Donnacha O Dulaing	Dublin City Council	Margaret Gowen & Co Ltd; Department of Medieval History, Trinity College Dublin; O'Connor Sutton, Cronin & Associates Engineers; Lisa Edden Engineers	Medieval Dublin City Archaeological Research Agenda	To undertake an archaeological research agenda for the medieval city.	€40,000.00
Dr Nicki Whitehouse	Queens University Belfast School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology	Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford; Meriel McClatchie; National Roads Authority; Cultural Resource Development Services Ltd; School of Archaeology UCD; National Museums Scotland; Institute of Archaeology, University College London; Environment Department, University of York;	Cultivating Societies: assessing the evidence for agriculture in Neolithic Ireland	This project will establish the nature, extent and timing of the earliest farming in Ireland through collation, integration and analysis of published and unpublished archaeobotanical, zooarchaeological, palaeoecological, C14, stable isotope and archaeological data.	€54,095.00

Total expenditure 2008

€973120.65

Contact Name	Principal Applicant	Applicant Name with partners	Project Title	Project summary	Amount awarded 2009
Dr Edel Bhreathnach	UCD Micheal Ó Cléirigh Institute	UCD Micheal Ó Cléirigh Institute with UCD School of History and Archives, Discovery Programme	Mapping Death: People, Boundaries and Territories in Ireland 1st to 8th Centuries AD. Phase II	Aims to interpret burial practices as indicators of social practices, social hierarchies, cultural intrusions, boundary markers, taking possession of territories, the establishment of dynasties, religious conversion & external relationships.	€80,458.00
Dr Rory Quinn	Centre for Maritime Archaeology Coleraire	Centre for Maritime Archaeology Coleraire with Memorial University Newfoundland, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Marine Institute	Archaeological applications of the joint Irish Bathymetric Survey Data - Phase II.	Phase II aims to assess the seafloor data generated by the Joint Irish Bathymetric Survey for archaeological signatures (shipwrecks & submerged landscapes) & will result in detailed mapping of the seabed using multi-beam sonar, from Inishown, Co Donegal to Rathlin Island in Co Antrim, extending from the coastline to 3 nautical miles.	€44,138.00
Dr Aidan O Sullivan	University College Dublin	UCD School of Archaeology with Queens University Belfast, Cultural Resource Development Services Ltd, Archaeological Consulting Services Ltd, M Gowen Ltd,	Early Medieval Archaeology Project (EMAP) Phase II	Through a sustained, island-wide programme of collaborative research & analysis of c.900 selected unpublished archaeological sites and the publication of a series of edited published thematic reports, book & articles, EMAP will help to transform 'data into knowledge', providing a basis for comparative archaeological research.	€100,000.00
Dr Ingelise Stuijts	Discovery Programme	Discovery Programme with RACM (Netherlands), Irish Wood Anatomists Association, University of Utah, BIAX Consult., Ranketing GmbH,	Developing a wood and charcoal database for Ireland Phase II	Development of a digital archive for archaeological and biological information, one for wood and one for charcoal.	€72,000.00
Graeme Warren	University College Dublin	University College Dublin with OPW, Belderrig Research and Study Centre, NUI Maynooth, NRA	Neolithic & Bronze Age Landscapes of North Mayo: Phase I	This project proposes the full publication of survey, excavations & environmental research at Ceide Fields & related sites.	€63,449.00
Dr Helen Lewis	University College Dublin	University College Dublin (Schools of Archaeology and Geography), with Meath County Council, Dundalk IT, University of Southampton, Talamh Ltd	An integrated, comprehensive GIS model of landscape evolution and land use history in the River Boyne valley: Phase II.	Aims to develop an integrated & comprehensive landscape archaeological model of the evolution of the Boyne catchment & hence develop an environmentally contextualised understanding of a key element of Ireland's archaeological heritage.	€72,935.00
Dr Tomás Ó Carragáin & John Sheehan	University College Cork	University College Cork with University of Newcastle, ACS Ltd, Munster Archaeology, Aegis Archaeology	Making Christian Landscapes. Phase II	This project brings together a cross - sectoral, international, interdisciplinary team to realise the added value of some of the most important ones. Through multi - layered research these sites would be placed in their landscape context. Subsequently these landscapes would be systematically compared.	€74,787.00
Dr Nicki Whitehouse	Queen's University Belfast	Queen's University Belfast with University of Oxford, NRA, CRDS Ltd, UCD, National Museum of Scotland, University College London, University of York	Cultivating societies: assessing the evidence for agriculture in Neolithic Ireland. Phase II	This project will establish the nature, extent and timing of the earliest farming in Ireland through collation, integration and analysis of published and unpublished archaeobotanical, zooarchaeological, palaeoecological, C14, stable isotope and archaeological data.	€89,898.00
Dr Nicholas Branch	University of Reading	University of Reading with Archaeological Development Services Ltd	Examining the relationship between human activities and climate change in the wetlands of Ireland. Phase II	Funding to compile a high - resolution chronological and palaeoclimatic framework for the six ombrogenous bogs and their associated archaeology in the Midlands of Ireland. The tephrochronological and stable isotope research we propose to undertake part of a major programme of research involving collaboration between Archaeological Development Services Ltd and the Department of Geography, University of London.	€37,000.00

Dr Eileen Murphy	Queen's University Belfast	Queen's University Belfast with and UCC, NRA, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, DoEHLG, The Ulster Museum, National Museum of Ireland, Aegis Archaeology Ltd, Eachtra Archaeology, Northern Archaeology Consultancy, M Gowen Ltd	The People of Prehistoric Ireland: Health and Demography - The collation of baseline data on collections of Irish prehistoric human remains. Phase I	The People of Prehistoric Ireland research project focuses on the collation of baseline data on collections of Irish prehistoric human remains. It aims to produce of an up-to-date, live, online database that includes details of all collections of prehistoric human remains recovered during excavations in Ireland to date.	€40,540.00
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Total Expenditure 2009

€675205.00