

Environmental CPD with the Environmental Archaeology in Ireland and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland

Event title: *Environmental remains from archaeological excavations: an introduction to sampling and analysis.*

Course Outline.

The aim of the one-day course is to highlight the importance of recovering and studying environmental remains from Irish archaeological sites and the contribution that such studies can make to our understanding of the interaction with and the impact on the environment of past peoples.

The course will introduce participants to a range of environmental material via introductory presentations and 'hands on' laboratory practical sessions.

The focus will be on a range of environmental remains: -

- (i) Micro plant remains as proxies, principally pollen.
- (ii) Plant macro remains of wood and charcoal.
- (iii) Plant macro remains of fruits, seeds, and grains.
- (iv) Micro faunal remains principally the insects.
- (v) Soil micromorphology: a principal technique of the geoarchaeologist.
- (vi) Phytoliths and dental calculus.

The talks will put in place some basic introductory information. The emphasis will be on participation from attendees.

Presentations and practicals are divided on the basis of main preservation conditions of the biological environmental remains; either by becoming charred in various types of fire or by becoming incorporated in a waterlogged – anoxic/anaerobic – environment. In the micromorphology session the participants will be introduced to the issues that micromorphology can address, the types of deposit that can be sampled and the basics of analysis. Similarly, there will be a demonstration of the potential for the study of phytoliths and dental calculus.

Sampling strategies will also be examined, with reference to the *TII Palaeo-Environmental Sampling Guidelines* (https://www.tiipublications.ie/downloads/SRM/18-TII_palaeo-environmental-sampling_guidelines_Dec-2015.pdf) and other approaches. The workshop will start at 10am and finish at 4-20 pm.

Date: Wednesday 15th March 2023

Venue: Ardmore Annexe, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4

Presenters/Trainers: The trainers are Members of *Environmental Archaeology in Ireland*.

Dr Steve Davis (School of Archaeology, University College Dublin) (insects)

Nikolah Gilligan (Independent specialist) (plant macro-remains)

Dr Penny Johnston (School of Archaeology, University College Dublin) (plant macro-remains)

Dr Helen Lewis (School of Archaeology, University College Dublin) (geoarchaeology and micromorphology)

Dr Karen Molloy (Geography, Archaeology, and Irish Studies NUI Galway) (Pollen and Micro-remains)

Dr Ellen O'Carroll (Independent specialist) (wood and charcoal)

Dr Robert C. Power (SFI-IRC Pathway fellow at the School of Archaeology, University College Dublin). (phytoliths and dental calculus)

Dr Daisy Spencer (Independent specialist based in Geography, Archaeology and Irish Studies NUI Galway) (pollen and micro remains)

Dr David Stone (Discovery Programme)(plant macro-remains)

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this workshop, the participants will:

1. Understand how sampling strategies can be applied during the excavation process,
2. Experience how specialists identify common types of plant macro-remains, pollen, wood and insects and the study of micro-morphology samples from archaeological deposits.
3. Be familiar with available guidance and the benefits of applying such guidance.

Registration:

Members can book their place on this course by emailing Niamh at iaiarchaeology@gmail.com

Please note: Tea/coffee will be available free. LUNCH is not included.

Venue Location, Public Transport & Parking facilities

Venue Location – Ardmore Annexe, UCD – close to Main Gate from the Stillorgan Dual

Carriageway: http://www.ucd.ie/archaeology/files/UCD_Archaeology_School_Location_Map_v2015_3.pdf

Public Transport information: <http://www.ucd.ie/students/newstudents/transport.html>

Public parking is available on the UCD campus, parking fee apply in car parks and clamping is in operation.

Please note: We will allocate places on a first-come first-served basis.

Biographies of EAI Trainers/Presenters for IAI CPD Course

Dr Daisy Spencer

Dr Daisy Spencer is currently a Postdoctoral Researcher with the Palaeoenvironmental Research Unit the National University of Ireland, Galway. She is an environmental archaeologist and pollen specialist. She has experience working on several palynological investigations across Ireland including on TII infrastructure projects.

Dr Robert C. Power

Dr. Robert C. Power is an SFI-IRC Pathway fellow at the School of Archaeology, University College Dublin. His research investigates human diet and adaptation in Eurasia and Africa using microbotanical remains. In UCD he leads the "The Evolution of Dietary Diversity and the Transition to Agriculture in Europe" project to explore change and development in Neolithic diets.

Dr Karen Molloy

Dr Karen Molloy is a member of the Palaeoenvironmental Research Unit, University of Galway who specialises in pollen analysis to reconstruct past human impacts on the Irish landscape and vegetation change through time.

Dr Ellen OCarroll

Dr Ellen OCarroll's specialist environmental archaeology skillsets include charcoal, pollen, waterlogged wood and worked wood analysis. Having worked as an archaeologist in Ireland for over 20 years, she has completed hundreds of wood, charcoal and pollen reports. During this time Ellen has collaborated with specialists around Ireland and developed strong research contacts throughout Europe across all environmental archaeology specialisms. She has also published her work in many Journals and books.

Ellen's PhD research led to her co-authoring the extensive document on TII Palaeo-environmental guidelines. She has implemented these guidelines on a wide range of TII projects and for all the major Irish consultancies, both as a Project Environmental Specialist (PES) and as a palaeoenvironmental specialist.

Dr Steve Davis

Dr Stephen Davis has spent the best part of 30 years looking at environmental remains of one sort or another, from pollen and testate amoebae to insect remains, which is what he currently spends most time on. He is especially interested in 'natural' faunas and also on urban/proto-urban insect remains.

Dr Helen Lewis

Dr Helen Lewis is an archaeologist and geoarchaeologist working primarily on later prehistory in both Northwest Europe and Southeast Asia. She co-directs a 15-year excavation and field training project in Palawan Island, the Philippines, jointly with UP Diliman and the National Museum of the Philippines. She also runs a project looking at deposits in Irish caves, with the aim of contextualising evidence for ancient environments. She has also been collating information regarding geoarchaeology standards of practice in the USA and EU. Previous and ongoing projects include research based in Laos, Malaysian Borneo, Japan, India, across the EU, UK as well as in Ireland. Dr Lewis is an archaeological soil micromorphologist,

studying archaeological features, monuments, cave deposits, and buried soils to investigate landscape history and use of space on sites.

Nikolah Gilligan BA MSc

Nikolah has worked in archaeology since 1999 gaining her site director's licence in 2007 and has since worked in commercial archaeology as a freelance site director. In 2010 she was awarded an MSc in Environmental Archaeology from University College London and since then has also worked as an Environmental Archaeological Consultant, specialising in Archaeobotany. She has worked on a range of sites of different scales and in different capacities in Ireland but also in Australia, Greece and Wales.

Dr Penny Johnston

Dr Penny Johnson's research interests range from archaeobotany to oral history and ethnography. She has examined plant remains from a wide variety of excavation sites in Ireland and is currently writing up the archaeobotanical results from a three-season excavation project at a Cistercian grange in Bey More, Co. Meath. She is a Research Scientist based in the School of Archaeology in UCD, one of the team working on FOODSEC (Food Security in Bronze Age Ireland).

Dr David Stone

Dr David Stone is a Project Archaeologist at The Discovery Programme Centre for Archaeology and Innovation Ireland, and an environmental archaeologist specializing in the analysis of non-wood plant macro remains. His main research interests focus on agricultural practice in early medieval–medieval Ireland and the Sasanian–Islamic transition in Azerbaijan, especially the history of the cultivation of barley, millet, and rice. David is a board member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI) and a committee member of the Association of Environmental Archaeologists (AEA).