



OUR WICKLOW HERITAGE: COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY EVENT

27TH MAY 2017 Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh.

The following is a summarised record of the views expressed as part of the group workshop exercise and discussion. Compiled by: Deirdre Burns.

1. List the main obstacles that you experience in carrying out community archaeology

- How to get started? Knowing the range of stakeholders and who to ask for advice
- Getting archaeological support/ advice as required
- Insurance
- Finance
- Managing people's expectations - e.g. many assume the overall successful end result is undertaking an excavation; however this may not always be the desired outcome and, depending on the project may entail unnecessary expense and disappointment.
- Need to have a balance of professional and non professional expertise within the group.
- Sustainability –sustaining membership, volunteers, activity and enthusiasm
- Data generated – where should this go to?
- How to drum up local support and attract new audiences
- Voluntary commitment
- Accessing private property
- Availability of required expertise
- Ownership of graveyards is sometimes unclear
- Knowledge of technology available and what is most appropriate for your project
- Preconceived notions of 'community' need to be broadened to outside the geographic area
- Public Awareness of the significance of archaeology

2. What supports would help your group work more effectively?

- The upcoming Community Archaeology guide from the *Adopt a Monument Scheme*
- The setting up of a Community Archaeological Network – e.g. an online discussion forum for sharing information among groups

- The availability of a common ‘umbrella’ insurance policy for community archaeology groups
- Advice & Information e.g. a guide to archaeological resources, information on funding sources, good governance advice for setting up and running community groups
- A pool of equipment for loan to groups along with training as appropriate e.g. Geophysical equipment
- A dedicated Community Archaeologist for County Wicklow
- More events such as the Our Wicklow Heritage Community Archaeology Day
- Availability of assistance through worker e.g. in Tús schemes or similar (however workers need to be interested/ have skills required)
- Dedicated Training
- More signs at sites would highlight their significance and raise public awareness
- Resources for local societies doing school visits and TY talks
- More promotion of group’s activities on the ‘Our Wicklow Heritage’ website.

3. Any ideas for how community archaeology groups in Wicklow can work together/ help each other?

- Develop a network to communicate and share knowledge and experiences.
- Collaborate more to share resources and data
- Established groups could advise/ mentor other groups

Any other ideas/ suggestions

- There may be opportunities under Creative Ireland and the development of the County Wicklow Cultural Plan.
- Hold an annual training day
- Funding and/marketing opportunities may exist through Fáilte Ireland and Irelands Ancient East
- Seek a dedicated Community Archaeologist for County Wicklow
- More Wicklow groups should get involved in the *Adopt a Monument Scheme*
- Opportunities exist to make better use of existing resources to assist local projects e.g. Google Earth, old LIDAR surveys