



FINGAL COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY STRATEGY 2019-2023

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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Naul Graveyard

CONTENTS

A Message from the Chief Executive	4
A Message from the Mayor	5
Introduction	7
Why Archaeology Matters	8
What is Community Archaeology?	11
Strategic Context	15
Existing Objectives	16
Community Archaeology in Fingal	17
Community Archaeology Initiatives in Fingal	18
Consultation	21
Challenges	23
Opportunities	25
Vision for Fingal Community Archaeology	27
Community Archaeology Strategy Objectives	28
Implementation	30
Conclusions	31
References	32
Appendix 1 - Legislative Framework	33
Appendix 2 - Consultation Results	35



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Fingal has a wealth of archaeological sites and monuments spread throughout the county, from mounds and souterrains to castles, shipwrecks and medieval churches. Caring for such a widespread and diverse resource means that the engagement and involvement of the public is crucial. The emergence of a strong interest in community archaeology in recent years is an important development. I am proud that Fingal County Council is leading the way nationally, by promoting awareness, best practice and understanding of the local archaeological resource among individuals and community groups. Through projects such as the community excavations at Bremore Castle and Drumanagh promontory fort, geophysical survey of our open spaces, exhibitions and school-based events, we are working to empower communities, new and old, to access and protect their local monuments and heritage landscapes.

By developing a strategic approach to community archaeology in Fingal we are ensuring not only the protection of this finite resource but are providing contributions to policy areas such as education, tourism, climate change, social inclusion, and well-being. The Community Archaeology Strategy is the result of a participative process formulated on the basis of over 600 contributions by the public and is an action of the *Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023* and the *Fingal Heritage Plan 2018-2023*. Developing community participation in archaeology links the past to the present and creates a sense of place, shared heritage and identity. By encouraging people to take part in the excitement of archaeological discovery and providing them the opportunity to do so, Fingal County Council is building capacity for all sections of society to engage directly with their past. I look forward to the implementation of this strategic framework over the coming years and I believe it will bring benefits for both our archaeological heritage and through public participation, help build strong and cohesive communities in Fingal.

AnnMarie Farrelly

Chief Executive



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



As Mayor of Fingal County Council, I am delighted to be associated with the publication of the *Fingal Community Archaeology Strategy 2019-2023*. Fingal's archaeology tells the story of our county and its people, from earliest times to the present day. It also enriches our quality of life and well-being by contributing to place-making, helping to create identities, connecting communities, fostering civic engagement, developing societal understanding, and generating knowledge. Increasingly, local communities are realising the value of their local archaeological resource and there is a demand for greater community involvement with the county's archaeology whether through directly experiencing sites and monuments, or by developing heritage trails, exhibitions or events. I am proud that Fingal County Council's pioneering work in partnership with the Heritage Council through projects such as *Swords Castle: Digging History and Digging Drumanagh* are seen as leading the development of community-based heritage projects in Ireland.

As a RedC survey undertaken by the Heritage Council shows that 92% of Irish adults believe having archaeological remains is an advantage for a town and 90% believe that archaeology is important for tourism, it is welcome that Fingal County Council has developed a strategy to promote this important resource and communicate its value to the next generation and our new residents. Community archaeology has a powerful contribution to make to the quality of life of today's citizens in terms of social inclusion, environmental protection and sustainable development. On behalf of Fingal County Council, I would like to thank all those who have made invaluable contributions to this ground-breaking Community Archaeology Strategy and I look forward to its implementation.

Cllr. Eoghan O'Brien
Mayor





Excavations at Naul

INTRODUCTION

Fingal has a wealth of archaeological sites and monuments, over a thousand of which have been recorded to date. All of these sites contain precious information about our past and those people who lived in Fingal before us. They are an important resource for identity, communities, education and tourism. Fingal County Council's pioneering work in partnership with the Heritage Council through projects such as *Swords Castle: Digging History and Digging Drumanagh* are seen as leading the development of community-based heritage projects in Ireland.

There has been an increasing thirst among communities to learn about their past and to share it with interested visitors. Community archaeology provides an interesting opportunity for communities to engage with the archaeology, heritage and traditions of their local area. This can result in an increased awareness of and protection for the valuable archaeological resource; build engagement within and between communities, and deliver economic benefits via tourism. This strategy will inform the approach to developing, encouraging, supporting and facilitating community archaeology in Fingal.

The aims of the Fingal community Archaeology Strategy are:

- To foster collaboration between communities, agencies, networks and individuals through the medium of heritage, to build strong and cohesive communities in Fingal.
- To raise awareness of and contribute to the understanding of the archaeological heritage of Fingal through community participation.
- To engage new communities and expand participation in community archaeology by providing improved access and information of the archaeological resource in Fingal.



WHY ARCHAEOLOGY MATTERS

Archaeology is the study of people who lived, loved, fought, worshipped and died before us. It encompasses not only people and their behaviour but their relationship to the landscape and the nature that changing relationship over time.

Archaeology has a powerful contribution to make to the quality of life of today's citizens in terms of social inclusion, environmental protection and sustainable development. It is not just about finding out about 'what happened then' but how what happened then informs now. For example the effects of modern lifestyles and farming practices on the climate and landscape can be informed through looking at long-term human interaction with the environment.

In Britain the 'Gross National Happiness' agenda has resulted in an exploration of the relationship between well-being and the historic environment. Historic England found that cultural engagement -visiting archaeological and historical sites; sharing memories, handling archaeological objects and empowering people to reclaim a sense of place- can contribute to social cohesion, positive interactions, self-esteem and counter environmental degradation (2019). Similarly a study on archaeology excavations using quantitative methodological well-being measures found that 'voluntary archaeological excavations i.e. those done in a community centred framework, can increase wellbeing' (Sayer 2015, 21).

It has also been shown that cultural heritage has an economic value locally for communities as well as nationally. Two of the top-ten tourist attractions in Ireland (Rock of Cashel and Blarney Castle) are archaeological sites as are two of the three UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Skellig Michael and Brú na Bóinne) on the island of Ireland (RIA 2016). Archaeological monuments, buildings, sites and landscapes attract both tourism and investment, contribute to the Failte Ireland branding of Ireland's Ancient East and the roll out of an Ancient-Visitor Experience Development Plan.



Digging Drumanagh

A survey of public perceptions by the Heritage Council and RedC (December 2018) records that 92% of Irish adults believe having archaeological remains is an advantage for a town; 90% believe that archaeology is important for tourism and 83% of Irish adults believe supporting and developing archaeology is important economically for Ireland.

Archaeology is a subject of that can contribute to an environmentally-friendly, socially inclusive, sustainable future. Managing change is really about coping with time, which comes through the understanding of the past (Henson 2017).

Economic Impact- Top 3

(Base: All Adults 18+; n=507)

Q5. There are various ways that other people have said archaeology can contribute to economic development. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following?



Having archaeological remains is an advantage for a town

92%



Archaeology is important for tourism

90%



Supporting and developing archaeology is important economically for Ireland

83%



The vast majority of Irish Adults agree that having archaeological remains is an advantage for a town with significantly high levels of agreement that archaeology is also important for tourism. More than four fifths also agree that supporting and developing archaeology is important economically for the country.



REDC/NEARCH Poll, December 2018 courtesy of the Heritage Council





Bremore Castle Big Dig

WHAT IS COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY?

The term community archaeology is generally understood as the communities of today engaging with the people of the past through a variety of means -excavation, surveys, studies, and dissemination. Projects undertaken under the banner of community archaeology include restoration, field-walking, building surveys, oral history projects, finds training, archive research (Simpson 2008, 74) as well as geophysical, landscape and topographic surveys, marine archaeology, and conservation (Thomas & Hull 2010, 36).

Community archaeology is well-established in North America, Australia and Oceania where it emerged from often contentious political contexts as a means of creating awareness for indigenous populations and specific communities. In Europe archaeology has developed from pioneering scholars in the latter half of the nineteenth century to the current NEARCH project which 'explores the different dimensions of public participation as well as the significance of archaeological heritage by emphasising the societal component of archaeology; cultivating archaeology as a means to socially involve citizens and to shape a new economic model for a sustainable practice of archaeology and heritage management' (<http://www.nearch.eu>). A similar study by the Heritage Council found that 91% of the public agree that supporting and developing archaeology is important for Ireland, compared to 83% of European respondents (December 2018).

Our nearest neighbours have decades of experience of community archaeology embedded in a widespread amateur archaeology tradition. The focus in Britain has developed into one of inclusion with community archaeology projects for the homeless, socially disadvantaged, mentally challenged and with soldiers recovering from post-traumatic stress or physical injuries. In 2013 an All-Part Parliamentary Archaeology Group produced a paper of *The Current State of Archaeology in the UK* emphasising inclusion and community archaeology as a tool to achieving that (Daglish 2013, 167). In Historic England's 2016 report *Assessing the value of community-generated historic environmental research*, an examination of 12,000 voluntary or community projects concluded that the research generated was of significant value and had the potential to enhance research resources.





Swords Castle: Digging History

Prior to the emergence of community archaeology projects in Ireland during the past decade, opportunities for public participation were largely confined to those who worked on FAS schemes or peering over fences into commercial excavations wondering if the archaeologists had 'found any gold?' A significant factor however is the different legislative context in Ireland (refer Appendix 1). Essentially any activity in regard to an archaeological site, monument, artefact geophysical survey, diving survey; metal detecting, artefact retrieval and alteration requires a licence from the State. These licences are only issued to suitably qualified and licence-eligible professionals. This licensing framework has evolved out of a desire to protect and preserve the country's archaeology. However this combined with the boom time commercial archaeology of the 1990s and 2000s resulted in a shortage of professional licensable archaeologists with few opportunities for voluntary involvement in archaeology.

Notwithstanding the legislative protections community archaeology in Ireland is on an increasing arc of awareness, participation and demand. The focus on community since the recession, an engagement with their 'own place', and the desire to attract tourism has coalesced into a myriad of community-led, university-partnered, youth-focussed, citizen-science community archaeology projects such as *Gallows Hill Community Archaeology Project*. Based in Waterford the community-led project has since 2015 incorporated geophysical survey, community





excavation, a medieval fair and children's heritage week events; *The Medieval Bray Project* is a partnership between private and public sector heritage professionals, students and the local community to combine historical research with archaeological investigation to provide a holistic appreciation of the development of the medieval manor of Bray, Co. Wicklow; Volunteers at Slane, Co. Meath provide tours of the site, sharing the result of their research; In the Slieve Aughty uplands Co. Galway local knowledge was key to finding an unrecorded landscape associated with the Ultach migrants. Nationally there is the Adopt a Monument Scheme, an initiative of the Heritage Council whereby local communities are supported as they become involved in the conservation and protection of their local monuments www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/adopt-a-monument. The work carried out in Fingal to date has also been a key part of this change in community archaeology practice

The formation of this community archaeology strategy is based on consultation and partnership with the community, community archaeology practitioners and interested groups in order to provide an overall picture of community archaeology in Fingal; how it is perceived and what communities are interested in pursuing into the future.





Excavations at Drumanagh Promontory Fort

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Access to cultural heritage (and by extension archaeological heritage) is a central tenet of international and *European legislation and policy*. *The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* known as the Valletta Convention (1992), remains the core text for the management of archaeological heritage across the 45 European countries which have to date signed and ratified it. Further widening of the protection and management of the heritage resource was sustained in the Florence Convention of 2000 which promotes the planning and protection of European landscapes. The Burra Charter (ICOMOS 1979 as amended) and Faro Convention (the Framework Convention of Cultural Heritage for Society 2005) emphasise the value and potential of cultural heritage as a resource for sustainable development and quality of life in a constantly evolving society.

In Ireland Enhanced Heritage and Amenity is National Strategic Outcome 7 in the *National Planning Framework 2040*:

'The value of cultural heritage as a key component of, and contributor to, the attractiveness and sustainability of our cities, towns, villages and rural areas in terms of developing cultural creative spaces, private inward investment, and attracting and retaining talent and enterprise' is recognised. (2018, 22).

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies also feature heritage objectives and every County/City Development Plan includes specific policies and objectives for the protection and promotion of archaeological heritage. The County Heritage Plans also encompass objectives for accessibility to heritage sites, and integration of the community in their promotion and protection. A national heritage plan, *Heritage Ireland 2030* is out to public consultation at the time of writing, a central theme of which is 'Communities and Heritage' while *Archaeology 2025: Strategic Pathways for Archaeology in Ireland* demonstrates the potential for the archaeological sector 'through research to contribute to tourism, climate change, social inclusions, demographic change, health and well-being' (2016, 10).





Digging Drumanagh

EXISTING OBJECTIVES

Both the *Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023* and the *Fingal Heritage Plan 2018-2023* contain objectives in regard to the protection and the raising of awareness of the archaeological sites within Fingal including signage, provision of guidance, training and supporting communities in developing heritage trails and caring for our historic graveyards. They also contain specific objectives and actions with regard to community archaeology.

Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023

Objective CH16

Develop and implement the findings of the Community Archaeology Strategy for Fingal

Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023

Action 18

Support the role of the Community Archaeologist, in partnership with the Heritage Council in managing Fingal's archaeological heritage for the benefit of all.



COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY IN FINGAL

Fingal County Council currently owns or is responsible for almost 20% of the known archaeological monuments within Fingal (Baker 2010). A significant number of these are our historic graveyards, but also include sub-surface archaeological remains in the open space of housing estates -burials at Holywell, Swords; Iron Age enclosures at Rosepark, Balrothery; ecclesiastical enclosures at Chapel Farm Lusk; Within public parks -the church and graveyard within the Millennium Park, Blanchardstown, a ringfort in Porterstown sports pitches; As well as landmark monuments such as Skerries Mills, Malahide Castle, Stella's Castle Portrane and Newbridge House, Donabate.

From 2007-2014 Fingal was a partner in the Heritage Council Initiative, the *Field Monument Advisor Scheme*, developed to support landowners in the care of archaeological monuments in their ownership. In Fingal the scheme has developed to include activities within the wider community such as seminars - *Fingal's Heritage: Supporting Tourism-Supporting Communities seminar (2014)*; *Historic Graveyards-Care & Conservation seminar (2008)*; *Axes, Warriors & Windmills seminar (2007)* and public exhibitions - *From Raiders to Settlers: The Vikings and Fingal Exhibition (2014)*; *The Archaeology of Open Spaces (2013)*; *Castles, Forts & Holy Wells: the archaeology of Dublin 15 (2012)*, the latter held in Blanchardstown Shopping Centre. The Fingal Adopt-a-Monument scheme was piloted in 2012 and a *Heritage and Conservation* page on the Council website developed. The latter provides access to the publications, guidance notes, and studies undertaken by the Heritage office of Fingal www.fingal.ie/heritage-and-conservation.

In 2015 it was decided in conjunction with the Heritage Council to emphasise the community element of the Field Monument Advisor scheme and to jointly fund the Fingal Community archaeologist position, the first of its kind in the country www.fingal.ie/community-and-archaeology. The brief was to roll out a Local Authority led community excavation at Swords Castle, support communities in their development of heritage-based projects and to develop a Community Archaeology Strategy.



COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY INITIATIVES IN FINGAL

To date a number of Fingal community archaeology projects have been developed and implemented by Christine Baker, Fingal's Community Archaeologist. These include excavations - *Swords Castle: Digging History (2015-2017)*; *Bremore Castle Big Dig (2017)*; *Digging Drumanagh (2018/19)*; *Naul Community Dig (2019)*; a geophysical survey project and exhibition *What Lies Beneath*; fieldwalking; schools outreach, publications and Conservation Plans; seminars, Culture night and Heritage Week events, photo competitions and the *Fingal Fieldnames* project. The aim is make archaeology accessible to new audiences, as well as engaging all sectors of society with their archaeological heritage.

Swords Castle: Digging History 2015-2017

The project encompassed several elements: *Swords Archaeofest* which was child -focussed, that took place in June 2015 as part of the Swords Festival; *Swords Castle: My Castle* was developed as a means of involving those who may not be interested in digging and to reinvigorate memory in the Castle. Local artist Andrew Carson interviewed local people about their memories of Swords Castle to create a film piece that was shown as part of the exhibition during the dig. The following year Andrew filmed a companion piece, interviewing the participants and supporters of the project. During the final season of excavation, artists Sabina MacMahon and Fiona Hallinan, curated by Anne Mullee, based interactive art projects on the results of plant analysis by Dr Meriel McClathcie. This included the serving of food based on medieval recipes to the volunteers, who had dug and sieved the plants remains.

Three seasons of excavation took place, centred on Heritage Week, with just over 300 people volunteering to dig, trowel, sieve, wash finds, register and label artefacts. To deepen knowledge Environmental Days with Dr Meriel McClathcie were held every year; a Geology day with Dr Steve Mandel in 2016; and a Post-medieval Pottery Day in 2017 with Rosanne Meenan. In conjunction with the National Museum of Ireland a 'Behind the Scenes' day was held at the Collections Resource Centre, Swords, giving participants an opportunity to see the work of conservators. Three 'Findings' seminars were also held, to allow artefact, environmental and bone specialists to share their preliminary findings with participants and the public.





Excavations at Swords Castle

The Fingal model of community participation was successfully transferred to the *Bremore Castle Big Dig* and the *Digging Drumanagh* project, allowing another 150 people engage with their local archaeological monuments. All three excavation projects have stemmed from the need to answer knowledge gaps identified in their Conservation Plans and to re-engage people with the sites that have been previously inaccessible or contested. *The Naul Community Dig 2019* was requested by Naul Community Council to take the form of a community excavation during national Heritage Week, in order to engender awareness of the site and engage new members of their growing community with the village's historic past.

What Lies Beneath: Fingal Geophysical Survey Project

This project was developed as a means of illustrating how we choose where to excavate and to raise the profile of sub-surface remains that have been preserved in the open space of housing estates and Fingal's parks. Two phases of geophysical survey were undertaken demonstrating different techniques. A new archaeological site was identified at Newbridge Demesne and the project achieved its aims by raising public awareness and interaction with heritage literally outside their door.





Fingal Fieldnames Project

Since 2018 volunteers across the county have been empowered to record the fieldnames of their localities. By consulting old maps, talking to farmers and collecting folklore these volunteers have been actively engaged in preserving an important part of Fingal's cultural heritage, before it disappears.

Fingal County Council's Heritage Office has also supported *The Resurrecting Monuments* community archaeology group. Established in 2015 the group was initially coordinated by professional archaeologist Paul Duffy in association with the Baldoyle Forum, and with academic input from Professor Gabriel Cooney of UCD. The core group that comprises a mix of interested local people, historians and student archaeologists meet on a fortnightly basis to develop their projects and hear talks from locally-based experts. The group undertook a desk-based assessment of the Burrow Field mound; a topographical survey of the Dungriffen Promontory; a geophysical survey and week-long test-excavation of the possible motte on Tower Hill Howth and a week-long test excavation of a sub-surface enclosure at St Doulagh's church. Members of the group regularly contribute to conferences; have produced a range of articles, booklets including a guide to the archaeology and history of Howth; and hold annual Heritage Week events. Financial and professional support from Fingal County Council is significant in assisting this group achieve their aim of promoting local archaeological interest.

Both community archaeology models have been well received and highly successful in achieving their aims. They have also demonstrated that community archaeology can be engaged in at whatever level the participant feels suits them, be it research, surveying, digging, finds processing etc. With the involvement of experienced archaeologists there was practical training in archaeological techniques and information sharing. The willingness of the participants to share their time, take holidays from work, give up their weekends, work in the rain etc. in order to take part exhibits the enthusiasm these community archaeology projects can generate.



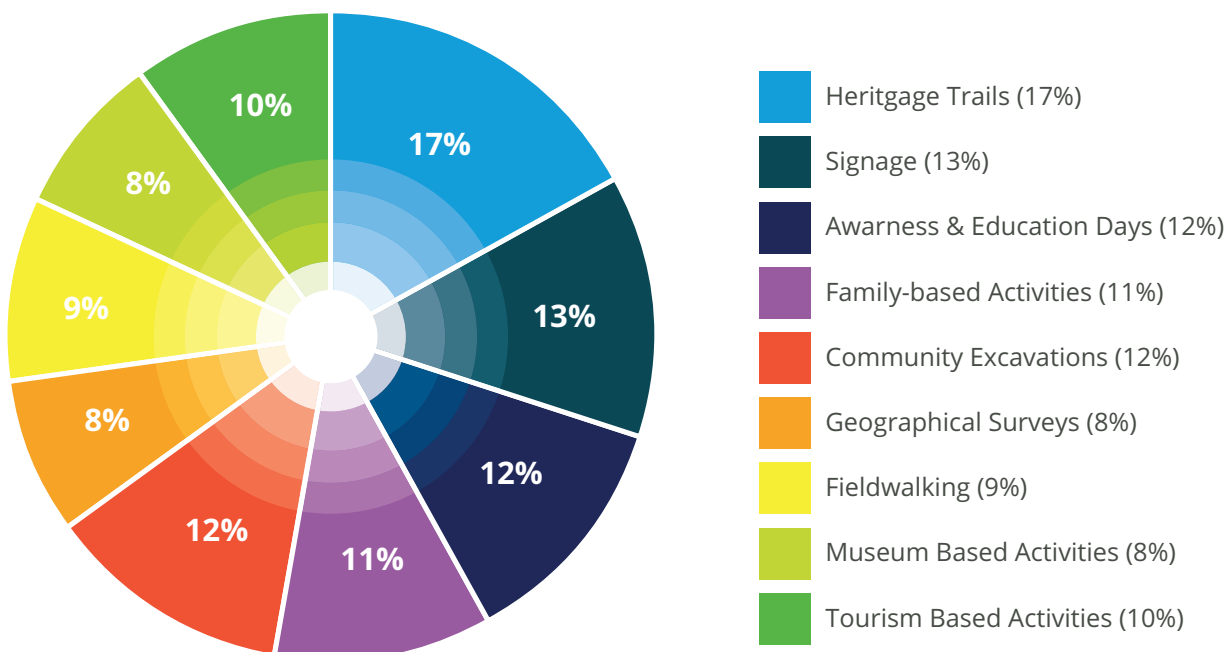
CONSULTATION

In the past it has proved easy to base assumptions in relation to community archaeology based on what professional archaeologists think the community wants or should want. Public consultation is obviously a very important to inform any strategy. It was also important to consult as widely as possible and not just to proven heritage interested audiences. To that end a short questionnaire (refer Appendix 2) was developed and distributed via survey monkey which allows for anonymous responses. Copies were also distributed via the Fingal Public Participation Network; via the FCC’s library service; through social media on the FCC’s Facebook page and that of www.facebook.com/fingalculuralheritage/ through the staff pages of FCC; and by canvassing people to fill out the forms directly at the Flavours of Fingal event.

An initial phase of consultation was undertaken in 2015 when a total of 257 responses were submitted within the six week consultation period, culminating on the 31st July 2015. The same survey was updated over a six week period beginning on the 5 September 2018 with a total of 375 responses.

In total almost 90% of respondents had lived in Fingal for more than five years; 72% of those who answered were aware of archaeological sites in their vicinity and all but 1% want to see more community archaeology projects.

What would you like to see more of?



Response from the public regarding what type of community archaeology projects wanted.





In answering 'what would people like to see more of?' the spread across the options was fairly even. However when the option of Heritage trails and heritage signage which are both interpretation and awareness of the sites and monuments are taken together they form almost a third (30%) of what people want. Likewise when archaeological-based options -excavation/geophysical survey/fieldwalking are combined they total over a quarter (29%) of desired options. This leaves tourism-based initiatives, family-based activities and education & awareness days averaging 11% each with museum-based activities at 8%. Thus there is a demand for a diversity of projects from digging to interpretation across the community.

The final question was concerned with how people would like their community archaeology delivered. This was the only question where there was any shift in the responses between the two periods of consultation. In 2015 there was a fairly even divide between a model led by the community but guided by archaeologists (36%) and community-wide initiatives led by Fingal County Council (35%). By 2018 there had been a shift towards community-led projects (43%) interpreted as an increased interest at grass roots level.

Both approaches however are dependent on professional archaeological input and are subject to the challenges of securing funding. As have been demonstrated by *Swords Castle: Digging History*, *Bremore Castle Big Dig* and *Digging Drumanagh* projects, this type of initiative led by Fingal County Council is particularly accessible by wide sections of the community.

In all 121 respondents left additional comments (refer Appendix 2). They are divided into Place-specific comments which these relate mainly to Lusk, Malahide, Swords, Howth, Drumanagh and Dublin 15; Family-based; Awareness-based - which focus on the need for information, signage and mapping; General positive comments and Cautionary. The latter make the point that local enthusiasm may need professional archaeological guidance.

A public consultation on the Draft Community Archaeology Strategy was held from 16 August to 27th September 2019. Submissions were invited via consult.fingal.ie, by email with publicity in the local press and via social media and presentations made to members of the Public Participation Network. The Draft Plan received highly supportive comments and was revised to address additional comments.





Excavations at Drumanagh Promontory Fort

CHALLENGES

The undertaking of Community Archaeology projects is not without its challenges. Getting a good fit between the community participants and the archaeologists is important as not every archaeologist is suited to the intensity of simultaneously training diggers while maintaining professional standards and doing public outreach. Likewise many communities may not be willing to acknowledge the constraints either legal, logistic or evidence-based, to their vision for 'their' monument. Other challenges are more prosaic;

Access

Just over 80% of all the archaeological sites and monuments within Fingal are in private ownership, with access therefore requiring the landowner's permission. Many sites are also physically difficult to access-up hills, down steps or across fields. The context of the monuments both rural and urban may not allow for parking nearby or may require access via a keyholder. In developing heritage trails there are often difficulties in connecting sites - are there footpaths on the routes? Are people being directed via private land? Via potentially dangerous cliff paths? Where is signage being placed?



Logistics

Archaeological excavations and other community archaeology events-even guided walks- are also public events and require public liability insurance. There are health and safety requirements and the need to provide washing, first aid and rest facilities. Fencing and security is also a necessity. Working with under-18s can present insurance difficulties and requires Garda vetting and specific training. More recently data protection issues may be identified. Discussions with archaeological practitioners have noted these practical elements as constituting obstacles to their community archaeology projects.

Resources

For community archaeology groups who wish to undertake projects, resourcing is an ever present challenge. Knowledge about funding sources may be limited. Grants and schemes may require specific knowledge; match funding or up front proof of payment. Excavation is expensive. Incorporating equipment cost, professional fees, insurance etc. there are also the costs associated with the fulfilment of licence requirements such as specialist analysis and archiving. *The Adopt a Monument: Guidance for Community Archaeology Projects (2017)* www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Guidance_for_community_archaeology_projects.pdf is extremely useful in this regard.



Howth Portal Tomb

OPPORTUNITIES

There are opportunities and benefits associated with community archaeology projects that go beyond the physical participation of a dig. Often unquantifiable they include not just awareness of the archaeological sites but relationships and camaraderie, a sense of pride of place.

Community Building

A key benefit of community archaeology is the interest it generates to new audiences. The local and national publicity surrounding the excavation at Swords Castle, the family-based days at Tower Hill and Swords Castle, the photos and comments on social media, the co-ordination with the National Heritage Week have resulted in an increased awareness of the potential and inclusiveness of community archaeology that can be built on.

Education

Archaeology is part of the primary school curriculum and features in the recently introduced Junior Cycle history course. For transition year students with an interest in pursuing heritage-based courses and third level students in need of practical experience, community archaeology is an unparalleled opportunity to gain experience in their own locality. A total of 120 second level students visited the excavation at Swords Castle; many more children visited with their families and related to the artefacts found, especially holding animal bone. A series of outreach sessions at primary and secondary schools in Fingal have provided an opportunity to see the equipment and artefacts; to question a 'real-life' archaeologist and to become aware of sites and monuments in the locality. Community archaeology projects make textbook history real and immediate.

Art & Archaeology

There is a natural affinity between art and archaeology whether it is the appropriation of ancient symbols or the painting of landmarks, photography of monuments or children making rubbings of replica medieval floor tiles. Several participants in the *Swords Castle: Digging History* have been inspired to write about or develop art projects based on their experiences. *The Swords Castle: My Castle* art project was developed as a means of the community to share their memories of the castle and what it has meant to them over the years. Artist-led events on site, are a way of tapping into visitors responses and broadening the experience of visiting a dig. More ambitious are land artist projects that engage or are inspired by monuments in their natural settings. Another possibility is basing drawing tours around archaeological structures providing access and perspectives not normally available.



Joy of Discovery

For an archaeologist one of the most enjoyable thing seeing the enthusiasm and enjoyment of people uncovering and discovering artefacts for the first time. There is a tangible happiness for people holding a sherd of pottery that no one has seen or held in 800 years. Likewise there is the same sense of discovery in less invasive aspects of community archaeology such as geophysical survey and fieldwalking. At least 40% of Fingal's archaeological sites have no above ground expression. Mainly the result of hundreds of years of tillage farming these ditches and enclosures, pits and burial grounds are often only visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs- the dry summer of 2018 was particularly effective in this regard. The *What Lies Beneath Project* demonstrated geophysical survey can be used to examine those sites where there may be a local tradition or folklore of activity in times past. Fieldwalking is another method of discovery that doesn't require excavation. Systematic searching of ploughed field for artefacts and mapping the patterns of deposition can indication habitation or activity from prehistory through to the post-medieval periods. For instance field walking at Skerries Mills in 2014 discovered flint tools dating back to the late Neolithic.

Tourism

While the *Fingal Tourism Strategy 2015-2018* and the *Fingal Tourism Statement 2017-2022* concentrate on the traditional 'heritage attractors' there are excellent opportunities for community archaeology based initiatives to enhance the tourism experience. The identification by Failte Ireland of the culturally curious tourist as one of its fastest growth sectors has resulted in the classification Living Historical Stories-interesting & informative experiences and attractions in urban and rural areas as a highly motivating experience type for potential tourists fits with the development of community archaeology. The Department of Transport, Tourism & Sports 2015 tourism policy document *People, Place and Policy Growing Tourism to 2025* makes the link by recommending that public bodies should 'give consideration to the contribution that sustainable tourism can make to the protection of heritage assets (2015, 15, 1.2.1).

People Place and Policy Growing Tourism to 2025 also makes specific provision that Local Authorities 'continue to act as primary developer of a range of public tourism infrastructure, including outdoor tourism and urban and rural heritage' (2015, 57); Something which has been demonstrated in the Fingal County Council's support of the *Swords Castle: Digging History*, *Bremore Castle Big Dig* and *Digging Drumanagh* projects.



VISION FOR FINGAL COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

Developing community participation in archaeology links the past to the present and creates a sense of place, shared heritage and identity. By encouraging people to take part in the excitement of archaeological discovery and providing them the opportunity to do so, Fingal County Council will build capacity for all sections of society to engage with their archaeological heritage. This will involve:

Collaboration between communities, agencies, networks and individuals, though the medium of heritage, to build strong and cohesive communities in Fingal.

Protection through raising awareness of the significance of Fingal's archaeological resource that will result in an informed and active involvement, in caring for the historic environment.

Participation in community archaeological projects and projects relating to heritage at risk (such as sites threatened by the impact of climate change) will give sense of continuity and knowledge of the finite nature of the resource.

Shared ownership of the processes around community archaeology will help create new communities, contribute to knowledge and research, and a source of identity.

A central aim of the Community Archaeology Strategy for Fingal is to engage communities in the rich archaeological resource that surrounds them, create awareness of its potential and ensure its protection into the future.



COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

What is clear from consultation with the community and stakeholders is that there is currently a demand for community archaeology projects in Fingal. There is now an opportunity to build on the success of the projects undertaken since 2015 and Fingal County Council has demonstrated that with professional archaeological input, it is ideally placed to support and deliver community-building projects that inform and protect our archaeological heritage.

- Objective 1:** Plan, programme and support high-quality, accessible community archaeology projects.
- Objective 2:** Identify in discussion with interested groups and the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and the Heritage Council, a county-wide series of appropriate community archaeology projects.
- Objective 3:** Create a forum for community archaeology either as independent entity or part of the existing Heritage forum.
- Objective 4:** Promote collaboration between community-based groups through the Fingal Public Participation Network and initiatives with national institutions such as the National Museum of Ireland, Discovery Programme and higher education institutions.
- Objective 5:** Work with Fingal Arts Office to develop art projects in conjunction with archaeological sites, monuments and excavations as a means of engaging new audiences.
- Objective 6:** Support communities in their development of heritage trails and interpretative signage in accordance with best practice.
- Objective 7:** Explore options with landowners for the opening up of opportunities for community archaeology projects in relation to monuments in private ownership or for creating access for heritage trails.
- Objective 8:** Raise awareness of the existing resources for community archaeology, both web-based and research orientated, including the Local Studies Archive, Swords.





Excavations at Drumanagh Promontory Fort

- Objective 9:** Develop interpretative resources for community and educational purposes and for heritage-based tourism products.
- Objective 10:** Continue dissemination of knowledge gained from community archaeology initiatives through publication, social media, talks and events for local and international audiences.
- Objective 11:** Raise awareness of lesser known non-invasive archaeological techniques by undertaking community geophysical survey and fieldwalking projects.
- Objective 12:** Develop projects that maximise opportunities to engage young people and new communities.
- Objective 13:** Provide opportunities for community participation in threat related projects such as recording the impact of climate change and erosion and application of appropriate building techniques.
- Objective 14:** Identify sources of funding to support community archaeology projects including opportunities within existing initiatives.
- Objective 15:** Continue to employ a Community Archaeologist in Fingal County Council to ensure the implementation of the objectives of this strategy.



IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the proposed objectives should be undertaken within a time frame commensurate to the remaining timeframes of other plans such as the Fingal Heritage Plan i.e. between now and 2023.

Implementation of the strategy is also dependent on the continued employment of a Community Archaeologist to co-ordinate the implementation of the objectives, provide relevant expertise, and act as a contact point between groups, the Council and the statutory authorities.

Funding

Fingal County Council has funded *Swords Castle: Digging History Project*, *Bremore Castle Big Dig* and *Digging Drumanagh* directly and provided financial and practical support to the other local projects. Community archaeology projects are opportunities for public participation, community-building and inclusiveness. By supporting communities in the exploration of their heritage the results of which can expand the knowledge of our heritage, locally and regionally and also feed into heritage-based tourism products. The delivery of a community archaeology strategy forms part of the Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2020.

There are few sources of other direct funding for archaeological excavation, although the Heritage Council supports community proposals that include geophysical survey and supports the Community Archaeologist position in Fingal and the Adopt a Monument scheme nationally. The Resurrecting Monuments project was funded under the Irish Research Council's New Foundations Grant Scheme which requires partnering between community groups and an Academic partner. LEADER Funding and Town & Village Renewal funding may be accessed for both analysis and development and capital projects.

Evaluation

It has been argued that quantitative methods, based on the number of participants/vistors/social groups is inadequate as it cannot assess the effects of community archaeology on the more intangible social values and attitudes (Simpson 2008, 87). While it is true that the measures of levels of enjoyment are more difficult to ascertain, a quantitative approach combined with participant feedback will be used to measure the effectiveness of the Fingal's community archaeology strategy.





CONCLUSIONS

There is a demand for community participation in archaeology-based projects within Fingal. Consultation with the public has indicated a desire for diverse projects based around awareness-raising; information sharing, education, family-based activities, exploration of tourism capability, as well as archaeological research, survey, excavation and interpretation.

The potential of community archaeology projects for social and cultural inclusion; engagement of new communities, increased accessibility to, recognition and protection of archaeological sites and monuments; and as basis for tourism experiences has been recognised at a local, national and European levels.

Fingal County Council is leading the way nationally in terms of its support for Community Archaeology initiatives, developing the Community Archaeologist position within Fingal and in its support for community-led projects such as Resurrecting Monuments. The Fingal Community Archaeology Strategy is an opportunity for communities to participate in their own past- into the future.



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Fingal County Council:

Community Archaeology in Fingal www.fingal.ie/community-and-archaeology

Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 www.fingal.ie/fingal-development-plan-2017-2023

Fingal Heritage Plan 2018-2023 www.fingal.ie/planning-and-buildings/heritage-in-fingal/heritage-and-planning/fingal-heritage-plan/

Fingal Tourism Strategy 2015-2018 www.fingal.ie/council/service/tourism-fingal

Heritage in Fingal www.fingal.ie/heritage-and-conservation

Exploring Fingal www.fingal.ie/media/FingalHeritageBrochureForPDF2.pdf

National Monuments Service: www.archaeology.ie

Monument Protection www.archaeology.ie/monument-protection

Advice to the Public from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the National Museum of Ireland on Use of Metal Detection Devices in Ireland www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/advice-to-public-on-metal-detecting.pdf

NEARCH www.nearch.eu

Resurrecting Monuments www.facebook.com/ResurrectingMonuments

Swords Castle: Digging History

www.facebook.com/Swords-Castle-Digging-History-110731409262325/timeline/

Fingal Cultural Heritage & Community Archaeology

www.facebook.com/fingalculturalheritage/



APPENDIX 1

Legislative Framework:

Our archaeological sites, monuments, objects are protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 and through the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2014 and the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997. Known archaeological sites are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). At least two months' notice of any work being taken on or in the vicinity of an RMP must be given to the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht. www.archaeology.ie/monument-protection

Site & Monuments:

National Monuments, those seen as being of particular significance-such as Swords Castle, Dunsoghley Castle-or those in the ownership of the Minister or a Local Authority, or subject to a preservation order, or temporary preservation order require the written Consent of the Minister of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

Shipwrecks & Underwater archaeology:

Wrecks over 100 years old and archaeological objects found underwater are protected under the National Monuments (Amendment) Acts 1987 and 1994. Significant wrecks less than 100 years old can be designated by Underwater Heritage Order (UHO) on account of their historical, archaeological or artistic importance. UHOs can also be used to designate areas of seabed or land covered by water to more clearly define and protect wreck sites and archaeological objects. Under the legislation all diving on known protected wreck sites or with the intention of searching for underwater cultural heritage is subject to licensing requirements.

www.archaeology.ie/underwater-archaeology

Metal Detecting:

It is illegal to use a metal detector anywhere including the beach and foreshore to search for archaeological objects without the formal consent of the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. It is also an offence to even be in possession of a metal detecting device without the Minister's consent on the site of any monument or archaeological area protected under the National Monuments Acts. This also applies to areas which are subject to underwater heritage



orders made under the National Monuments Acts. As a general rule, the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht will not grant consents for the use and/or possession of metal detectors except to suitably qualified archaeologists or persons who will be working under professional on-site archaeological supervision. www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/advice-to-public-on-metal-detecting.pdf

Artefacts:

Under the terms of the National Monuments Acts 1930- 2004, ownership of any archaeological object with no known owner is vested in the State. Anyone who finds an archaeological object must report it within 96 hours to the National Museum of Ireland. www.museum.ie

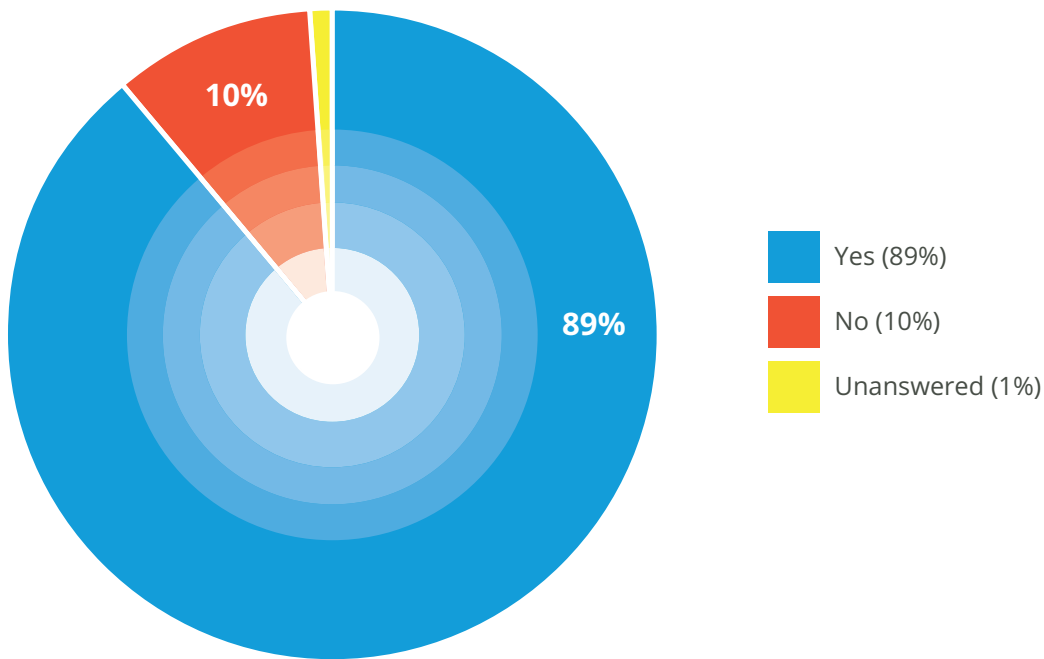


Finds Processing

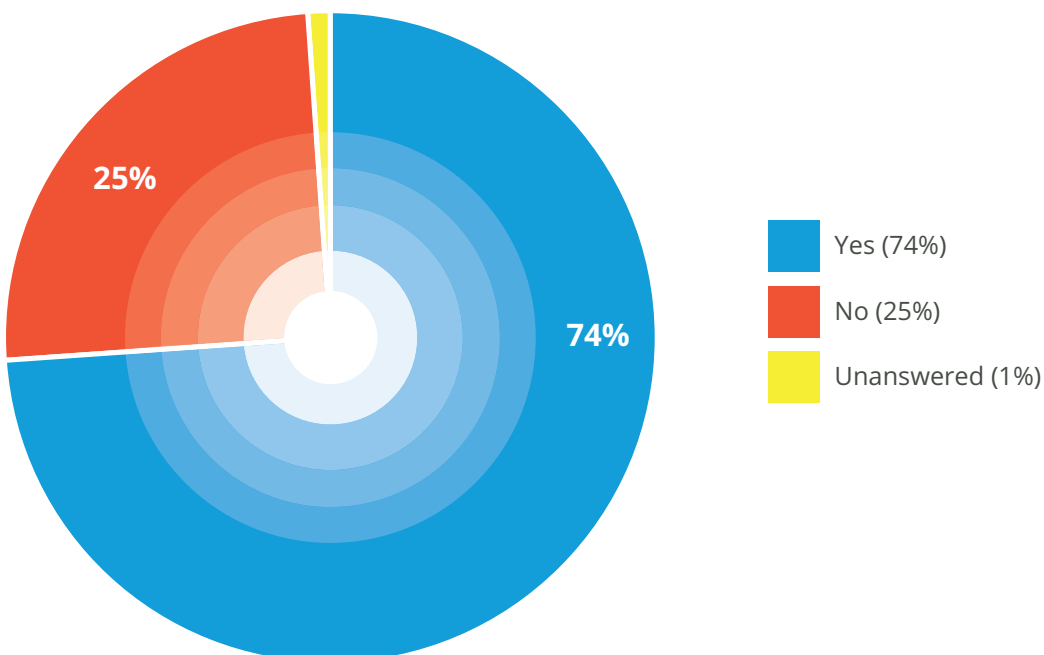
APPENDIX 2

Consultation Results: A total of 623 responses were submitted in two phases of consultation.

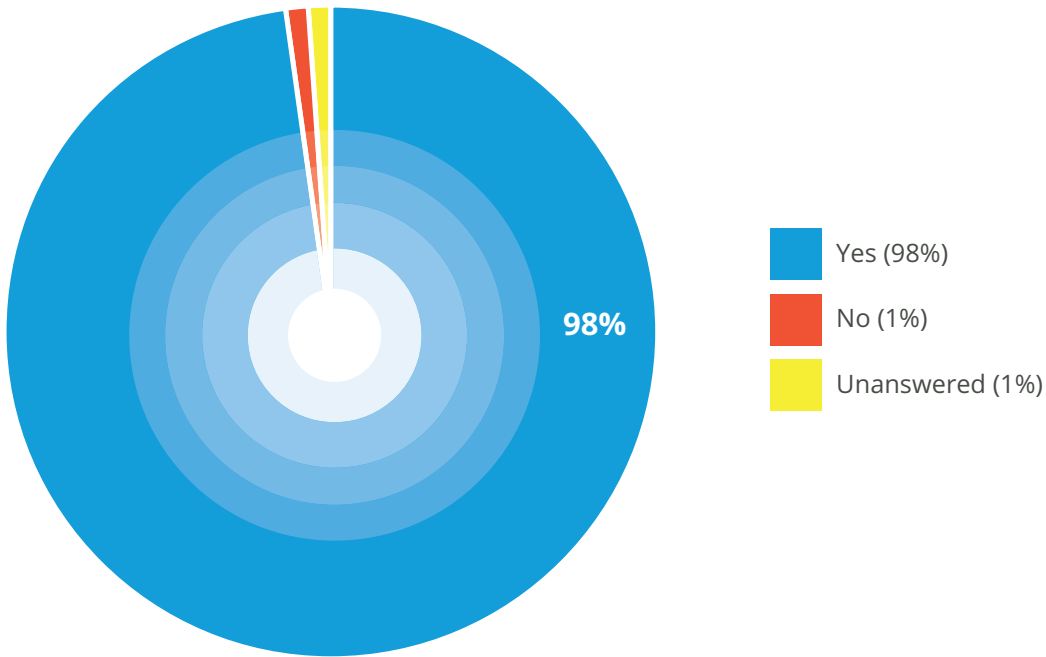
Have you lived in Fingal for 5 years or more?



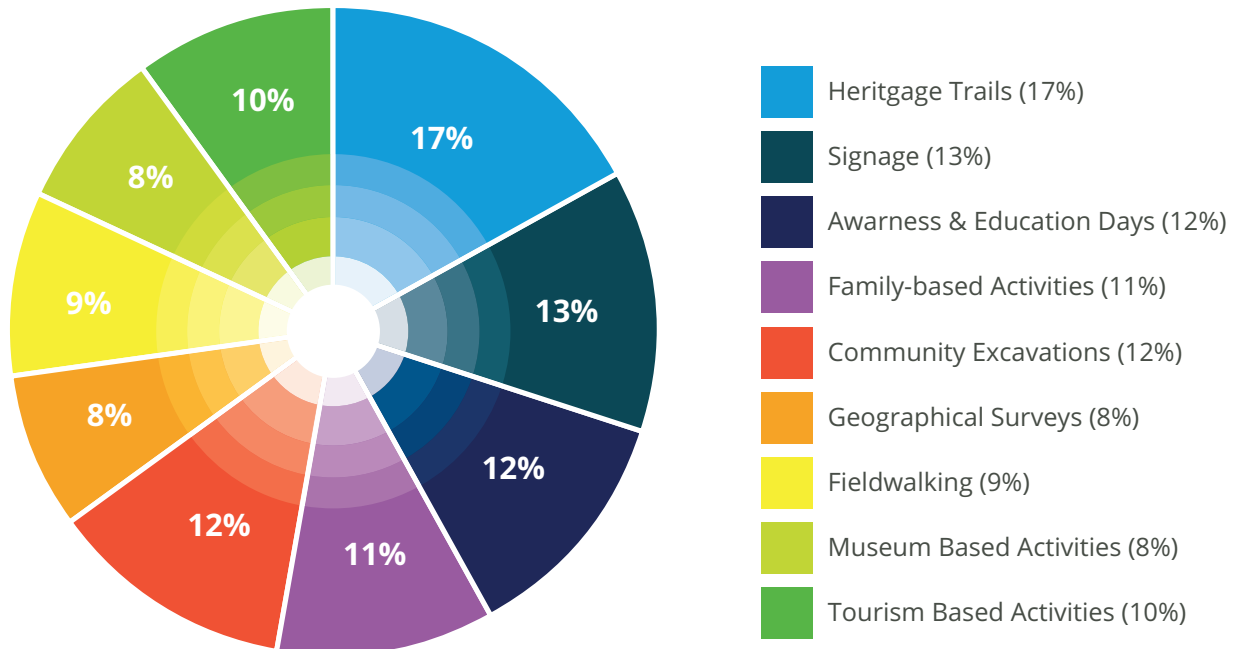
Are you aware of archaeological sites in your area?



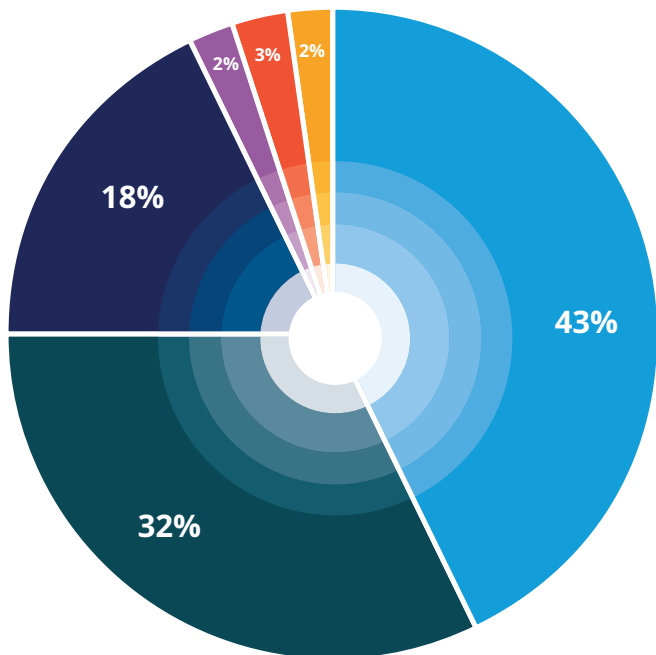
Would you like to see more community archaeology projects?



What would you like to see more of?



How can community archaeology work in Fingal?



- Led by community groups guided by archaeologists (43%)
- Community Wide Initiatives led by the County Council (32%)
- Led by archaeological companies with community involvement (18%)
- Both community led and council led (2%)
- All options (3%)
- Unanswered (2%)



First Findings Seminar



COMMENTS

In all 142 respondents left comments. They are divided into place specific; awareness-based; general positive and cautionary. Comments on the Draft strategy are also included.

BALBRIGGAN

Where I live in Balbriggan is littered with dog faces, what is badly needed is a dog park. It would definitely help alleviate this problem. What the hell do we need archaeology sites for? dog poo, we firstly need a dog park to encourage responsible dog ownership, and second we need a dedicated litter warden particularly at school lunch times when the secondary school kids are going to the likes of Supervalu and other shops, burying their take away lunches and throwing the wrappers all over the town. The town is littered with rubbish and The town is filthy and FCC need to step up and do something about it instead of wasting money on this nonsense.

I would like to see Bremore castle opened up to the community during the summer at least and its development publicised by FCC.

BALDOYLE

To work with Community Archaeology group - Resurrecting Monuments and Registered Charity - Baldoyle Forum, to build on existing research to develop an Interpretive Hub at the Baldoyle Community Centre showcasing the rich history of the town of Baldoyle and surrounding areas to residents and tourists, maximising the proximity of the Baldoyle Community Centre to the new coastal Cycle route between Sutton and Portmarnock; Support Baldoyle Community develop a heritage trail around the Racecourse park and interpretive signage at Baldoyle Community Hall; The Race Course Park will soon be in Council hands and it would be great to get a Community Archaeology dig carried out there, involving the local people as much as possible.

I would suggest that when Fingal take over Baldoyle Racecourse Park that they look at having field walking, or a field school or community archaeology excavations in the park.



DRUMANAGH

Excellent work at Drumanagh site. Very exciting items unearthed.

Will be interested to see how Drumanagh is developed with ? local residents to any great extent.

The Drumanagh dig in the summer of 2018 was an excellent experience for both myself and my 22 year old son which we are sharing with friends and relatives abroad

The dig at Drumanagh was an excellent opportunity to for interested members of the public to engage in community archaeology and hopefully the same opportunity will be available again next year.

The purpose of this submission is to point out the valuable work in community archaeology being carried out at Drumanagh.

DUBLIN 15

There is already a tourism strategy could you ensure no overlap. There is a huge need in the Dublin 15 area for investment in this area. There are many undiscovered treasures.

I would love to see a map with all the sites identified in the Dublin 15 area.

Interested in the National Monument site in Millennium Park, Blanchardstown.

HOWTH

I think it would be great for the area as there is a lot of history in Howth.

As a long time Howth resident with a passion for local history, I would love to be involved in more local discoveries & involve younger people.

Aideen's Dolmen or portal tomb lies in Howth Castle Grounds. I understand that the capstone toppled in an earthquake in the 17th century. Restoring the capstone using the prehistoric methods used to erect it would be an excellent project for Fingal and archaeological and community groups. Needless to say, this would require significant consultation both political and practical before permissions from the State and the responsible organisations, including Howth Estate, could be obtained.

Maritime museum in Howth.



LUSK

In Lusk need for action in this area as per Lusk Community Council submissions in 2007-2013 Dev Plan.

All linked in with overall strategic picture eg Lusk area/Balleally-Rogerstown/Fingal Coastal way.

Lusk Community Council would favour strong liaison with the community in combination with FCC leadership. Clearly archaeological expertise is required to drive an initiative like this and it is a question of where this is available, FCC, private or OPW are the obvious options. The selection of this expertise will probably be location dependent as well as cost dependent. beginning by way of a pilot project or a number of pilot projects in combination with an awareness workshop might be a good starting point. Lusk has an important medieval historic core and it is likely that a suitable pilot site could easily be identified. Lusk Community Council would be pleased to work with FCC to develop a project plan in this regard.

MALAHIDE

Malahide history society has some history in the respect of having involvement in digs at Paddys Hill and adjacent to Auburnm

I'm from Malahide and there are a few things people don't know about. For instance, there's an old harbour/pier across from Robswall which is washing away year by year. You can just about make out the L-shape. Some signage there would be nice. It'd be nice to have some information on Paddy's Hill now that it's in a public park. Just a sign at the entrance where the biodiversity thing is to explain what it is. I'd really like to see the local history museum reopen. I'd love to see a dig in Gannon park, I'd say there's lots more to find around there. I used to have a part time job in archaeology so it's an interest of mine.

SKERRIES

Other potential areas for investigation include Ardgillan Demesne - there is considerable historical evidence for structures which are no longer extant and an excavation here could introduce archaeology to a new cohort. Less accessible but equally interesting would be an examination - perhaps field walking/geophys - of Shennick Island (at a time when wildlife would not be disturbed). We would like to see some of the monuments in our area being given greater prominence. The Martello Towers of Red Island, Drumanagh and Shennick are part of a much larger system which is not widely understood by the public at large. There is also great concern at the deterioration of



the ruins on St Patrick's Island. It is not clear if there is a role for non-professionals in conservation of these monuments but we feel that their conservation is very important both for the local community and for the area as a whole.

SWORDS

Please give more attention to Glasmore Abbey and Swords Well which are locked up.

Castle work taking too long.

Great to have access to the castle at last.

Heritage trail around Swords with maps.

Festivals in each area of Swords, with a celebration and guided walks of local heritage sites in the immediate locality. Advertised in schools & shops.

OTHER AREAS

*I would like to see an archaeological survey of Kilsallaghan castle and the history recorded
Preservation of Baldungan Castle.*

Delighted to take part in this survey. Am involved with The Bleeding Pig Cultural Festival and a children's "introduction to archaeology" with a "dig" was an idea we had but didn't know how to go about organising it. St. Machoudha's Well on Marsh Lane, The Burrow, Portrane is covered in and difficult to find. There was a "pattern" held to celebrate the well every year until well fell into disrepair. It would be exciting to open the well and hold an old style "pattern". More info on this Can be found on the Duchas website in The Schools Collection from Donabate.

We live in Donabate, and regularly walk the 8km cliff loop with our three daughters. Every time I am asked about the history of the trail and the towers. I treasure this time and walking route and would love to see the council preserve and enhance our knowledge of its history. An initiative I support.

The old graveyard beside St. Pappin's Church should have the walls restored and the graves should be mapped for future reference.

I would love to see heritage walks around Rush. For example, a proper walk to the Martello tower. The Millbank is lovely as you come into the town but the gates need painting and the area around it needs to be made safe there have been two serious falls from the archway in the past few months. It would also look amazing with lighting surrounding it.



There are other very important sites in the area which could benefit with attention from the community archaeologist, such Kilcrea Church, the site of Turvey House, the Balrothery workhouse and graveyard, Lusk, and Swords Glasmore Abbey and Holy well.

FAMILY BASED

This would be great for families.

I've heard of some archaeological events in Swords and would like to see some of this in D15 direction if possible and given there is a significant young population could we have events suitable for kids/ teens as well as adults.

My sister is 15 and lives in Loughshinny near the Martello tower. I think they should be allowed to contribute and help as well even under supervision.

I would like to see more family based heritage.

Keep schools informed. School projects. Children bring news to the home. Produce Swords branded souvenirs.

Please give the children a chance to have an experience on site during their summer holidays

Help bring kids into historical awareness like the programme Horrible Histories did make it fun

I would be interested in family friendly historical walking tours with some practical interactive aspect for children. Also an art based project mapping old Blanchardstown for children and modelling of old style housing. A metal detector day for children with lots of digging would be fantastic. Maybe Draiocht and Fingal could do a play based around old Blanchardstown stories with adults and or children. an interactive day on how old houses were built . Have children try to make something from basic raw materials.



AWARENESS-BASED COMMENTS

I think there is a lot of archaeology in Fingal that needs to be looked into further/excavated and I would like to see more of this.

Access and information in an easy to see way.

Would like to see more information about sites and whether one can visit them and see the work going on.

Would like to see County Council support archaeological community projects in a variety of ways.

Maps are always a vital source for education especially old maps of Fingal and could be used within the context of Awareness and Education.

Information on archaeological sites in Fingal & for them to be protected from future planning etc.

Signposted and Open to the public.

Public art connecting present to past.

We need more arts related activities! We have nothing on this side, no galleries, no museums nothing!!

I would love to see regular or even on-going projects where schools, clubs, organisations can get involved. There is so much to learn! Great idea!!!

Keep up the good work - There is so much to learn about in relation to our own local areas that we are totally ignorant of.

Not enough awareness of what is on our doorstep!

There is so much history in the Fingal area and should be made more amenable to the wider community.

Interesting subject - more info would be appreciated.

Most residents in Fingal have come from outside the area so are not aware of its history or what sites exist.

*Community excavation is a unique way of engaging people with their heritage
Historic buildings preserved for locals and tourists.*

We have a rich culture in Fingal that isn't being celebrated. Our potential for tourism and the population's roots.



Love to see more awareness being made available as to what's available in the area. information on the site plus a bit of the history relating to the overall history of it.

Fingal has some very interesting sites and lots of locals would like to visit them or help others to visit.

I think there is room for a mixture of all types of engagement. I think there is a massive untapped appetite for expansion of the available knowledge of the Archaeological heritage.

I think the present system is working and could be further developed with funding and other support.

Use local knowledge and include folklore and songs. Introduction of a leaflet or monthly magazine free from various outlets and online giving information of upcoming events. This would ensure everyone knows what is on and can plan accordingly.

More publicity to raise awareness.

I would like to see more signage and information for our historic and archaeological sites. I feel that the majority of people living in Fingal do not know much about the sites in, or the history of our area. I think everyone could benefit from a bit more advertising or attention being brought to sites, and publically available information.

"Ignoring the past shortens our future". Even some don't want to look in the mirror, we can't live without it. Good initiative, hoping it will thrive and children and adults alike (re)discover their heritage!

Newsletter.

In Fingal the FCC community initiatives have been very successful in promoting awareness and involvement in field archaeology. However there is a need/opportunity for more community based groups to be set up similar to Resurrecting Monuments to give the volunteers another forum to pursue their interest on an ongoing basis and promote community based research and ownership of their local heritage.

Fingal has such a rich heritage, spanning many eras of Irish history. Much of that heritage was erased over time and needs to be reclaimed so it can be preserved forever.

I have long felt that community involvement in Archaeology good well be served with involvement stretching to include restoration as well as excavation. Many members of the community who would gladly volunteer for excavations also possess skills which would aid restoration activities.

Restoration and proper maintenance of sites is still needed. Work could be done by community volunteers with professional supports.



CAUTIONARY COMMENTS

Generally community groups have good intentions but do not have any archaeological knowledge and therefore could cause damage to valuable sites.

Heritage assets completely under-utilised and in many cases neglected by heritage sites being allowed go into disrepair and eventually ruin. Many countries would envy having these historical sites and would view them as valuable assets from both a public amenity Perspective in encouraging local tourism and economic activity and for attracting external tourists.

Community groups often have unrealistic expectations of their role in local archaeology. A reasoned approach led by an established body is a way to sustain initial enthusiasm.

You need to define community archaeology here for this consultation to be meaningful. Why community archaeology as opposed to just a Fingal Archaeology approach?

People need to have training - they can't just have amateurs conducting digs.

Professional archaeologists should be first and foremost in excavations.

POSITIVE GENERAL COMMENTS

Looking forward to this strategy being implemented.

I think community archaeology is a great idea & it would be marvellous to have it up & running. I think communities would feel a greater connection to the past & their communities through it.

I think involving the community in the local archaeology is a wonderful idea. Not only does it open your eyes to what is in the area, it is also a great way to meet local people.

I have been part of community archaeology in north Co. Dublin for 4 years. It is a fabulous initiative and hope to partake for many more.

Looking forward to hearing more about Community Archaeology in Fingal, it's a great initiative and welcome the chance to contribute to the survey.

Fingal CoCo are doing fantastic work which is very much appreciated by the locals. We would appreciate more bins in Royal Oak Estate, Santry. Thank you very much!

All of this would be a great advantage to the Fingal area.

The more community-based activities the better.



I think it would be a great idea. More kids would become interested in the area, hopefully reduce vandalism in time.

Anything to do with heritage. Archaeology, tidy towns important; flora and fauna important.

Anything that encourages interest in archaeology is to be welcomed.

Great to see our Heritage being valued and protected.

Need for all employees to embrace this initiative and get involved in it where possible.

Really impressed with the work done by community, council and archaeologists.

Resource this service.

Passionate that our area is treated with up-most respect if we protect our archaeological sites the community will grow and develop into a thriving sophisticated area to live & be educated. Not a over saturated Bedroom community with little focus on the positive of our area.

We run self-catering holiday apartments located in Rush & our guests always asking & showing an interest in the heritage of this area so we really think this would be a fantastic benefit to the area

Would be great for Balrothery.

I would like to know more on archaeology and geographic history of Ireland.

I would be in favour of community led groups guided by archaeologists.

Keep up the good work. A very positive initiative from Fingal Co Co.

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY STRATEGY

Promoting and maintaining a more peaceful environment through the use of the Community-Archaeology Programme fundamental as both a tool and a strategy for promoting peace in communities by allowing for the integration and connection of interested people/ formation of communal ties with people and place./ideal tool and platform to welcome new nationalities and mould our present heritage with the celebration of diversity; Support for Objective 15 (the need for a community-archaeologist) as vital and necessary not just in Fingal, but for all districts in Ireland.

The preservation of archaeological heritage is very important in a world where ever more land is concreted over and lost. By helping to slowly unearthing the past under expert guidance and by transmitting scientific information that is accessible to the lay person, respect for our archaeological heritage is fostered. From respect comes the desire to protect and preserve. I have been part of the Drumanagh dig and was really impressed by the inclusivity of the undertaking.



Christine Baker not only engaged the team of volunteers, but was also ever open to explain what was going on to passers-by and invited school groups onto the site. This is a valuable service to the community who will hopefully be more appreciative of their environment and protect it in the future.

Community Archaeology digs are truly a great opportunity for local people to get involved in their local area and raise the profile of the locality in a positive way. Archaeology digs can then showcase their findings through exhibitions at special events and festivals. The community working together helps develop tourism to the local and the surrounding areas in North County Dublin. These projects are so important as they educate the local community and tourists in relation to the significance of the site and the history attached to it.

Outlined personal experience which includes experience of archaeological techniques; awareness of vulnerability of our history; new information to share with friends and family; medieval food recipes; ideas for creative projects; Suggests local museum for finds.

The community archaeology dig Drumanagh was a fascinating experience. The community dig opens archaeology to a much broader group than would be normally be interested. As a student studying Biology, who doesn't have any background in this area, I can't see how I would become aware of the Fingal archaeology without projects such as this. It was a great introduction to archaeology, Christine Baker and the other archaeologists were really engaging and enthusiastic about their field. I found the dig fascinating and would absolutely support continuing projects such as this.

Urges the continuance of the post of a fulltime community archaeologist in Fingal County Council to ensure the objectives of this draft strategy can be implemented; Suggests closer links with 3rd level institutions

I have had a great interest in History and culture for as long as I can remember It wasn't until I took part in a community dig that I had an appreciation for the living history that is buried all around us and I feel that more people should be given this opportunity. There was a great sense of connection with what we were doing there was also a great connection between all the members of the dig. this is a programme that has more merit in being expanded than a lot of the other programmes that are attempting to bring people together and are failing 'I had people who were unable to take part in the dig watching the Facebook page every evening to see what news we had. I would class this along with the idea of the Tidy Towns initiative which gets people out of their houses and taking part in an activity for the common good it also gives them a sense of place and belonging. well done to all involved.

Supports Objective 15; Suggests walking tours and cycle- based tours to heritage sites as sustainable tourism; Desires financial support for community archaeology groups -suggest funding of group insurance; Supports Objective 5 on collaboration with artists.



Recognises community archaeology (CA) programmes can open up new heritage destinations; CA protects against loss of stories of the past; Allows a community tangible and direct engagement with their own archaeological heritage; Can foster a sense of ownership in the local community, of their local heritage; Encourages community focus and cohesion; leave a visible focal point for further community engagement and development.

CA important on number of levels 1) creates and promotes interest in history and prehistory of a region 2) fosters community spirit encouraging involvement and civic pride 3) contributes to further education by teaching archaeological methods 4) expands knowledge of Fingal which can be used to promote tourism.

Supports Objective 15-full time Community Archaeologist; Credits participation in community archaeology as a factor in returning to learning and attaining MSc in experimental archaeology; Suggests Fingal have field walking/fields school or community excavation at Baldoyle Racecourse Park.

CA important in 1) contributing to the human story 2) helps cement social contact 3) significance of local in the bigger Irish story 4) strengthens links to other countries 5) Will encourage study of archaeology 6) Access by ordinary people to uncovering their past.

Gains from CA are compelling including increased awareness of its value , better conservation of tangible and intangible elements, building of communities- with Fingal as a good role model or other local authorities; Addresses concerns re: untrained volunteers.

Whole-heartedly commends Strategy and urges Community Archaeologist post be made permanent in the interest of professional community digs, exhibitions and lectures; CA means to achieve sense of identity; Suggests showcase of objects found in Swords Castle.

Promotion of new local archaeology groups; more comprehensive FCC Community Archaeology website; Facilitate access to excavation/assessment reports undertaken in Fingal through the Local Studies Archive.

Community Archaeology highlights fostering sense of ownership and appreciation of locality, raises awareness, provides protection, creates a connection between people and place., social inclusion, highly educational; Should be used as a model.

