

T V A S
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TVAS (Ireland) Ltd

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Established in 2001, TVAS (Ireland) Ltd is a sister company of Thames Valley Archaeological Services in England. Based in County Clare, our corporate experience in dealing with the archaeological implications of modern development projects is extensive.

TVAS provide a full range of archaeological services, from pre-planning advice to excavation, fulfilling all the requirements of Irish planning and development legislation. Each project is tailored to meet the needs of our clients.

Operating from our four offices, TVAS provide a professional and reliable range of archaeological services throughout Ireland and Britain.

Right: Historic map dating to 1840 and aerial photograph of Killaloe showing the location of the new Shannon crossing to supercede the 18th century bridge.

Desk-based assessment

Killaloe Bypass, Co. Clare

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) ensures that projects likely to have a significant impact on the environment are assessed in advance of the proposed development. Archaeology is one of the factors assessed and forms part of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS is drawn up by the developer and analyses the likely effects (good and bad), on the environment, including on people, flora, fauna, soil, water, air, landscape and cultural heritage. The EIS sets out how the developer proposes to deal with the negative effects.

TVAS (Ireland) Ltd undertook the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage component of the EIA for a proposed Killaloe Bypass and Shannon bridge on behalf of Clare County Council. The constraints study, route selection and the EIA have allowed the council to choose a 6.5km road alignment that minimises the impact on archaeological heritage.



Historic building recording

The built environment is of increasing concern in the planning process. Development proposals, be it sympathetic conversion of an old building to another use or outright demolition, can necessitate an historic building appraisal and/or building recording. We conduct such surveys and several of our recent projects are illustrated below.



O'Brien's Tower, Cliffs of Moher, Co. Clare



Lime-kiln, 19th century, Keeltly, Ennis, Co. Clare



Southill House, Limerick. Built c. 1830

Fieldwork services

Testing

Archaeological testing is commonly requested prior to development, in order to better inform the planning process. Trial trenches are useful in determining the likelihood of archaeological deposits being destroyed or damaged during groundworks. The results of the testing influence the level of any subsequent work which may be required. Evaluations range in size from the digging of a single trench to those involving several hundred trenches over many hectares.

Excavation

Where archaeological remains are threatened by a proposed development (whether following a field evaluation or from prior knowledge of the site) full excavation may be required in advance of groundworks. An excavation can range in size from a single house plot to large open areas in advance of significant developments, quarrying and road schemes. The pages here provide some details of the range of projects we have carried out.

Monitoring

Archaeological monitoring may also be requested by a planning authority, when the possibility of encountering or damaging archaeological deposits is suspected. Monitoring will normally be undertaken during groundworks.

M11 Enniscorthy – Gorey road scheme

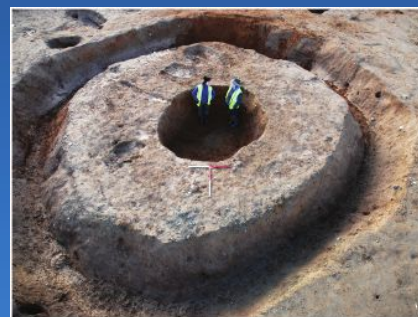
Testing along the route of the 40km M11 Enniscorthy to Gorey road scheme in Co. Wexford involved digging trenches with a combined length of approximately 170km. Eighteen tracked diggers with six teams of five archaeologists each discovered 130 archaeological sites. These sites ranged in date from c. 4000 BC to the 19th century and included houses, ritual sites, burials and industrial and vernacular structures. As many as 130 archaeologists worked on the scheme. The project was funded by the National Roads Authority through Wexford County Council.



Early neolithic house at Dunsinane



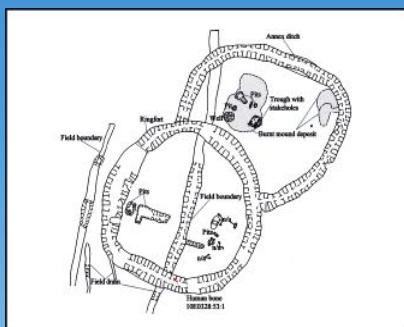
Test trenching at Ballydawmore



Bronze Age ring barrow at Drumgold

Strokestown GAA, Co. Roscommon

Strokestown GAA club in Co. Roscommon were extending their facilities, but the development impacted on a known archaeological monument. The local planning authority requested archaeological excavation. A ringfort (an early medieval enclosed farmstead) with an outer annex ditch, a burnt mound complex, a trough, pits and a well were excavated. Human bone was discovered in the ringfort ditch and a rare wooden bowl was recovered from the well.



Plan of ringfort and annex

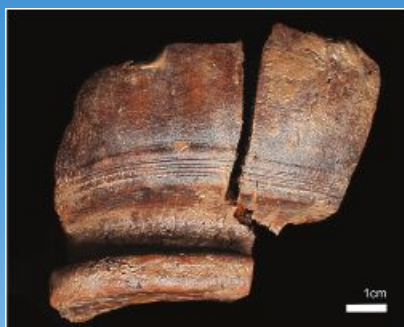
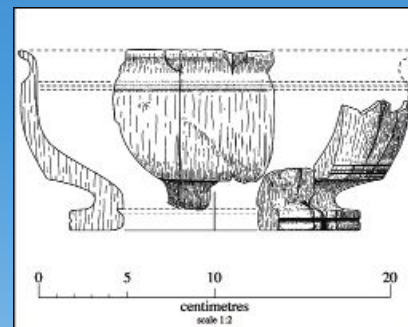


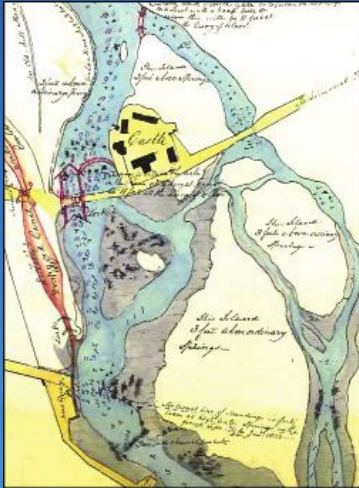
Illustration of turned wooden bowl



Wooden bowl fragment

Madden Furniture Store, Ennis, Co. Clare

Archaeological excavation took place before the construction of an extension to the Madden furniture store in Ennis. The ground plan of parts of Ennis Gaol was found. The prison was built in the 1830s and was in use until the end of the century when it became the Ennis Inebriate Reformatory. The building was later used as a military barracks and as a place of incarceration during the political troubles and upheaval of the 1920s. Unfired (live) rifle bullets were found during the excavation and were removed by Gardai Crime Scene Investigators.



Commander William Mudge R.N. Survey of the River Fergus from Clare to Ennis 1832, (extract)



Excavating part of the early 19th century Ennis Gaol

Browstown Quarry, Corbally, Co. Kildare

Topsoil stripping prior to sand and gravel extraction at Corbally has revealed neolithic houses and a medieval cemetery.



Renewable energy

Unlike wind energy, archaeology is a non-renewable resource. The construction of renewable energy infrastructure, as with any development, can have an archaeological impact, as construction invariably takes place in rural locations, which by their undeveloped nature can preserve archaeological deposits. TVAS (Ireland) Ltd have extensive experience of working in the renewable energy sector.



Research excavation, Caherconnell Archaeological Field School

The company has joined forces with the Archaeology Department of the National University of Ireland, Galway to provide an archaeological field school at Caherconnell Cashel on the Burren. The archaeology of medieval Gaelic settlement is little understood and the research excavations are providing fascinating insights into the lives of the people that built and lived in the cashel from the 11th to 17th centuries. The aristocratic inhabitants were using (and losing) bone combs, bronze pins and even being entertained with harp music. Further information can be found at www.cafs.ie



Aerial view of Caherconnell Stone Fort



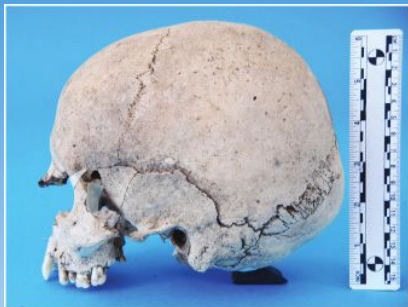
Caherconnell
Archaeological Field
School excavations



Medieval bone comb fragments

Post-excavation services

Once an archaeological site has been excavated, it is imperative to convert data into knowledge. TVAS (Ireland) Ltd has a dedicated specialist post-excavation, research and publishing team. We make it our business to communicate archaeological results to clients, planning authorities, local communities and schools.



Osteological analysis of human and animal bone



Annaholy National School – presentation
of M7 Nenagh-Limerick archaeological
results



GIS is the merging of cartography, statistical
analysis, and database technology

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