

The Kiltasheen Archaeological Project, run jointly by Christopher Read of IT Sligo and Dr. Thomas Finan of the University of St. Louis, has just entered its 6<sup>th</sup> year, its 5<sup>th</sup> funded by the Royal Irish Academy. After five seasons of excavation, the post-excavation phase of the project has commenced. The excavation has revealed a complex, multi-period site with Neolithic, Bronze Age, Early and Later Medieval components. This ecclesiastical site is mentioned frequently in the annals during the 13<sup>th</sup> century and is directly associated with the O'Conor kings of Connacht, clearly making it a high status site. The ruins of a small fortified building, a possible early Hall House, have been extensively explored and have been interpreted as the likely remains of the Bishop's Palace built at the site in 1253 AD. This later use of the site appears to have been based on the site's already established role as an Early Medieval enclosed settlement/cemetery. Over 120 skeletons have been excavated from a large, well managed cemetery, ranging in date from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Hundreds of prehistoric lithics have been recovered from all medieval contexts and extensive field walking indicating the intensive use of the site during prehistory.