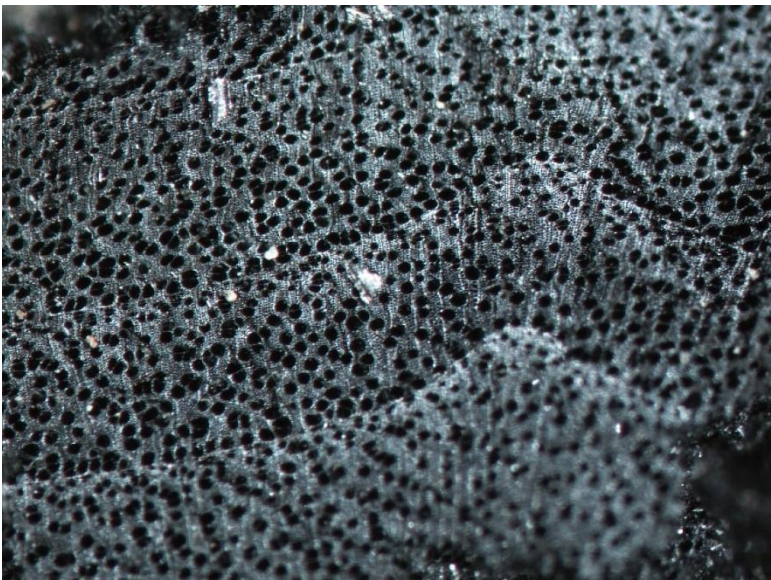




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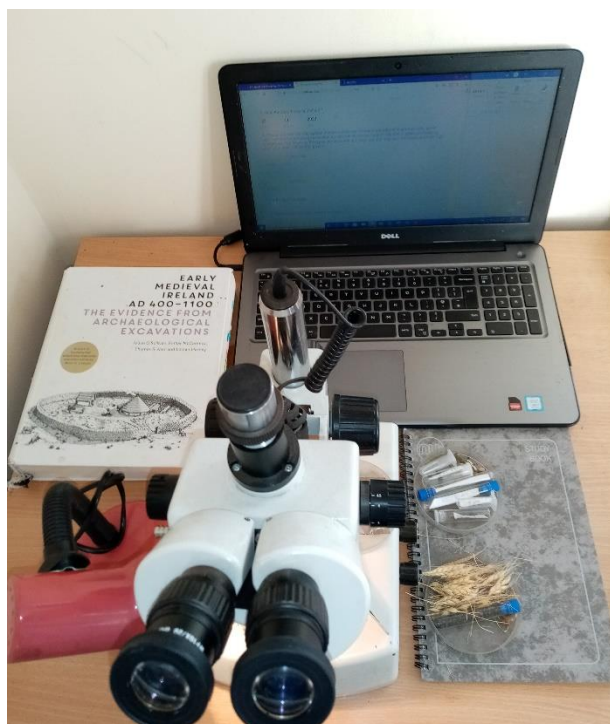
Name of Grantee:	Nikolah Gilligan
Title of Project:	Environmental assessment of samples from excavations at Linn Duachaill, Annagassan, Co. Louth.
Amount and year awarded:	€1000 in 2020

<p>Summary of report:</p>	<p>Fifteen samples from an excavation at Linns townland, Annagassan, Co. Louth, were assessed for non-wood charred macro-remains by Nikolah Gilligan under an Archaeology Research Grant funded by the Royal Irish Academy.</p> <p>The samples were also assessed by Dr. Lorna O'Donnell for the presence of charcoal fragments. The features which had been sampled were predominantly the fills of ditches and spreads/surface, which were probably associated with the Viking longphort of Linn Duachaill, Linns, Annagassan, Co. Louth.</p> <p>Seven of the samples produced small numbers of charred archaeobotanical remains and they are recommended for further analysis. Nine of the samples contain charcoal suitable for further analysis.</p> 
<p>Please outline the objectives of the Project:</p>	<p>The aim of the project was to assess the potential of the archaeobotanical and charcoal remains in the samples retrieved during the excavations in 2010. Longphuirt are rarely excavated and this site therefore may answer questions about food and timber choices made by the earliest Viking settlers.</p>
<p>Please describe the methodology used in conducting the research:</p>	<p>The samples were accessed and borrowed from the National Museum of Ireland, following a Loan Request made to Keeper of Antiquities, Maeve Sikora. Fifteen samples were assessed by Nikolah Gilligan at magnification x7 to x40 for the presence of archaeobotanical remains</p>



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	<p>The samples were hand-delivered in a sealed box to Dr. Lorna O'Donnell in Donegal; this was upon request by the Keeper of Antiquities. Fifteen of the flots were assessed by Dr. Lorna O'Donnell for the presence of charcoal</p> <p>Both specialists followed TII guidelines in the compilation of their reports (McClatchie, O'Carroll and Reilly, 2015), as well as the Environmental Sampling Guidelines for Archaeologists (Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland, (2007) publication; (http://www.iai.ie). As noted within the reports, the key used to determine presence within the samples comprised a scale of abundance;</p> <p>+ = rare (1–10), ++ = occasional (11–49), +++ = common (50–99), ++++ = abundant (>100).</p> <p>The reports were combined into a larger document which provides a recommendation for further research.</p>
<p>Please outline the findings of your research and/or milestones achieved:</p>	<p>Seven of the samples produced small numbers of charred archaeobotanical remains and they are recommended for further analysis.</p> <p>Nine of the samples produced charcoal remains and they are recommended for further analysis.</p> <p>It is hoped that the results, when placed within the context of current knowledge, can be compared and contrasted with similar site-types, both nationally and internationally, as well as with native settlements in the vicinity.</p>
<p>Please provide details of the dissemination of the outcomes from this project:</p>	<p>Community engagement is ongoing with the proposal of an online discussion hosted by Conor O'Neill of The Glyde Inn, Annagassan. Brian Walsh of Dundalk Museum has also been contacted. Advertisement of the project was made on social media (Twitter). Further engagement is proposed.</p>





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How will you continue to communicate the results of your project and what are your publication plans?	It is proposed to deliver a talk at the Taste of Togher, Annagassan in 2021, as well as create some online content on social media. The assemblage requires further identification and therefore discussion is limited at this time.
How did the award enhance your professional development?	I have learned how to apply for my first research grant. I have also learnt to create content for a lay audience which has made the process very interesting.
What plans (if any) do you have to further this project?	I plan to apply for future funding to have the samples analysed and to ascertain if similar sites need such works carried out.