

Archaeology Legacy Grant Scheme 2021

Final report

1. Title: Prof.
- First name: Joanna
- Surname: Bruck
2. Email:
3. Grant programme: Archaeology Legacy Projects
4. Year awarded: 2021
5. Title of project: Rathgall hillfort monograph publication
6. Summary of report (Min. allowed 100 words): This project completes the preparation and submission for publication to Wordwell Books of a monograph that presents in detail the results Prof. Barry Raftery's landmark excavations at Rathgall, Co. Wicklow, a multivallate hillfort and centre of activity of regional and superregional importance from the Neolithic to the post-Medieval period. The book will be 240,000 words long, with 340 drawings, photographs and tables, and will be of international relevance and appeal. The submission of the paper, digital and finds archive will constitute the second part of the project, co-funded by UCD School of Archaeology, to coincide with the publication of the monograph in June 2022.
7. Date the report was submitted: Nov 12, 2021

8. Please provide two appropriate images



9. Please outline the objectives of the project

The primary objective of the project is to complete the preparation of a monograph presenting the evidence of the Rathgall excavations, comprehensively detailing the stratigraphy of the site, the artefactual and landscape evidence. This includes the recent re-examination of the original cutting through rampart 2 conducted by Matt Seaver for UCD School of Archaeology in 2011 that helped to resolve the question of the dating of the ramparts; the dating programme and its Bayesian analysis; as well as

a new geophysical survey of large, unexcavated parts of the site. The book draws on and presents the expertise of a wide range of specialists. It aims to strike a balance between presenting Barry Raftery's original account with insights derived from the new work. It presents new models and significant data on life in Ireland in the Bronze Age, as well as during the early and later medieval periods. Although the excavations took place in the 1960s and 1970s, the book represents a methodologically and conceptually current study of one of Ireland's most important archaeological sites. Funding was sought from the RIA Legacy Excavation Grants scheme to support the publication of the volume by Wordwell Books (cost = €26,954, of which €21,954 was covered by the RIA grant and an additional €5000 by Wicklow County Council). The RIA grant also provided additional funding to undertake the final stages of preparation for the volume, including finalising illustrations; cross-referencing text, figures and tables; checking the bibliography for completeness; etc. (for further information, see below).

The second key aim of the project is to prepare the paper, photographic and digital archives for submission in accordance with the NMS guidelines for the submission of excavation archives (NMS 'Guidelines and Forms for the Transfer of Excavation Archives to National Monuments Service Archive'). While the paper and photographic archives were substantially scanned in the previous post-excavation phase, some additional scans have had to be made. A detailed index will be created, negatives and positives individually labelled (ca. 4000 scanned slides, negatives and prints), problematic materials such as metal clips removed, and the archive vetted for materials that should not be submitted such as private correspondence and GDPR-sensitive material. All materials will be packed according to NMS guidelines in archivally suitable format and materials. The digital archive will also be prepared. In addition, the small group of environmental samples will be packed, labelled and listed as per NMI guidelines.

10. Please describe the methodology used in conducting the research

The publication and archiving of the Rathgall excavations is being completed over two phases in 2021 and 2022:

Phase 1 (June-November 2021) was funded by RIA with an additional €5000 contribution from Wicklow County Council. The work schedule for Phase 1 included the completion of the monograph for submission to Wordwell Books as well as the preparation of the paper archive for submission to NMS. Details of the tasks involved in this phase are set out under 'Findings or milestones' below.

Phase 2 (November 2021-June 2022) will see the preparation of the photographic archive, digital archive and the small sample archive. This work will be undertaken with the support of an additional €5000 contribution from UCD School of Archaeology. Submission of the archives and finds to the National Monuments Service and the National Museum of Ireland respectively will coincide with the publication of the volume in June 2022. Wordwell will copy-edit the book after submission in November 2021. Editing queries will be addressed in 2022 as they are communicated to the team. The page-proofing stage will require similarly a period of work by Becker in particular in Spring 2022. Wordwell anticipate the book to be published in June 2022.

11. Please outline the findings of your research and/or milestones achieved

The submission of the monograph was the main milestone of Phase 1 of the project. The final text was submitted to Wordwell on 12th of November 2021 at the end of Phase 1 to ensure publication in June 2022. The final submitted monograph can be viewed on the publisher's safe upload space at <https://share.wordwellbooks.com/index.php/s/ZyrRXrcFSptxfyj> (please do not share this link).

To facilitate submission of the monograph by the November deadline, the project team, including Research Assistant Dr David Stone, has completed the following tasks:

- Bibliographic review and cross-checking of references with text.
- Editing of bibliography.
- Renumbering and cross-referencing figures and tables with text.
- Final checking and editing of tables.
- Revision and finalising of illustrations.
- Integration of new illustrations.
- Final editorial checks with authors based on the process above.

Phase 1 has included in-kind contributions of 40 days' work by Dr. Katharina Becker, Conor McDermott (Field and Laboratory Technician, UCD) and the PI. A detailed schedule of tasks by publication element can be requested from the applicants if required.

Preparation of the paper archive has also been undertaken as follows:

- Vetting of paper archive for GDPR relevant information and other materials not to be submitted as per guidelines.
- Packaging materials have been ordered for paper archive packing. However, Brexit-related issues with the supplier mean that some of these will only be available in late November, at which point the paper archive will be packed.

The further preparation of the paper archive (including numbering, indexing and database creation for drawings, notebooks, correspondence, etc.) has been delayed because of the scale of work involved in finalising the publication for submission to Wordwell by the November deadline. While the preparation of the paper archive for submission had been anticipated to be completed during Phase 1 of the project, the RA time covered by the RIA grant, as well as three additional weeks of time paid by UCD, were spent entirely on the final edit of the book, as this took longer than anticipated, and we wanted to be sure we would meet the publisher submission deadline. However, we are committed to delivering on the further archival work required by June 2022; this additional work will be funded by UCD.

As described in the Methodology section above, the second phase of the process, specifically the preparation of the photographic, digital and sample archives, will be funded by UCD School of Archaeology and will be conducted jointly with Dr Katharina Becker, UCC, to be completed in 2022 so that the full archive can be submitted to NMS and NMI in parallel with the publication of the monograph in June 2022.

12. a) Please provide details of the dissemination of the outcomes from this project (inc. publications, presentations, outreach, media etc.) including details of any social media/web platforms used to publicise this project

The monograph is the main dissemination vehicle in and of itself. It will be published with Wordwell Books in June 2022 with an estimated sales price is €50. This is a low price for such a sizeable volume and will facilitate wide distribution as well as high impact. The book will be promoted by the publisher and the authors' academic networks as well as locally by Wicklow County Council's Heritage Officer. Wordwell have agreed to making the volume Open Access after a period of 6 months at an additional cost of €2500 for which we have secured financial support from Wicklow Co. Council. The Open Access edition will be made available via the UCD Research Repository which is searchable using standard internet search engines.

e) How will you continue to communicate the results of your project and what are your publication plans?

It is planned to advertise the publication of the monograph by papers in Archaeology Ireland and other popular journals to highlight the importance of the site and summarise key results of the recent phase of post-excavation analysis.

16. How did the grant enhance your professional development (e.g. in terms of specific opportunities, opportunities for enhancing skills, collaborations with others etc.)?

The PI was working in a UK HEI until 2020 and this was her first funded project since her return to Ireland. The project not only enhanced her project management and communication skills, but also allowed her to become familiar with UCD's internal processes and procedures for the setting up, management and reporting of externally-funded research projects. In addition, the project facilitated collaboration between UCD and UCC, building links that will be beneficial in the development of future projects on Irish later prehistory. The PI is a specialist on the Bronze Age and has recently completed a project on Bronze Age metalworking, so the opportunity to be engaged with the Rathgall archive enhanced her subject-specific knowledge in these areas.

17. What plans (if any) do you have to further your proposal/project?

As outlined above, Phase 2 of the project is now ongoing, including preparation of the remainder of the archive for submission. In addition, Dr Becker is currently working with Wicklow County Council and University of Bradford as part of the Hidden Heritage project funded by AHRC and IRC, and with additional funding from Creative Ireland, on the trial of site-based digital tools to communicate interpretative information including text, sound and image to site visitors. Not only will it be possible to promote the book via these tools, but it may actually form part of the media made accessible to the on-site visitor. This will enhance public awareness of the publication and will also serve to disseminate its findings to a wider audience.

18. For Archaeology Legacy Projects only: Please outline current plans to lead to completion of a final excavation report as per licence/consent and original grant condition:

The key deliverable to this project was the completion and submission of the final project publication in the form of a substantial 240,000-word monograph detailing the results of all three excavations at Rathgall (licence numbers E84, E100 and E4394). As described above, the monograph has now been delivered to Wordwell Books.