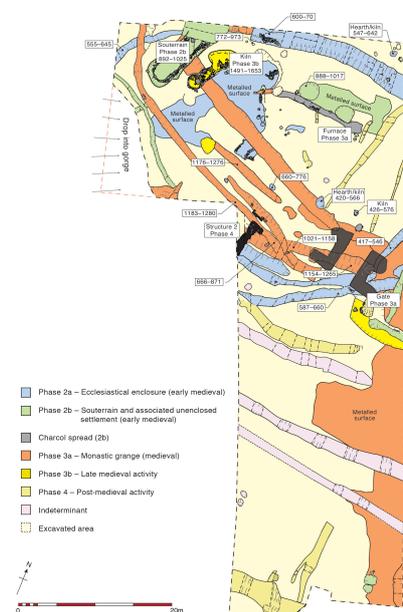
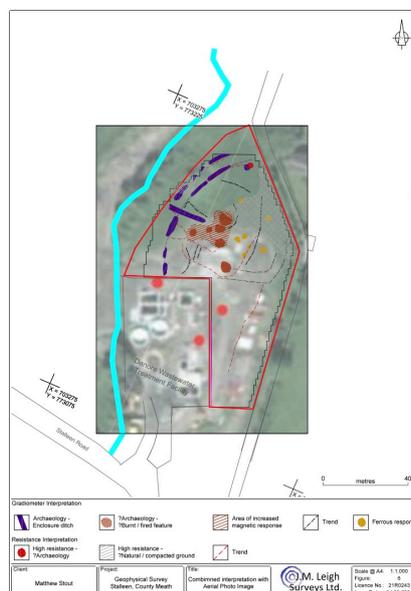


# Directed Research for World Heritage Sites 2021

## Final report

1. Title: Dr
- First name: Matthew
- Surname: Stout
- 2.
3. Grant programme Directed Research for World Heritage
4. Year awarded 2021
5. Title of project Research towards the publication of the Stalleen Excavation Report
6. Summary of report (Min. allowed 100 words)
- Excavations at Stalleen, within the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site (08E0456) were carried out in May–September 2008 under the direction of Mandy Stephens. Due to the untimely death of Ms Stephens, this significant excavation was never completed. The archaeological excavation revealed a significant multi period site. Prehistoric activity at the site was suggested by stone tools. A ditched enclosure, perhaps the first dated ecclesiastical site in Ireland, comprised the earliest features. Finds from this horizon included iron stylus and a sherd of amphorae originating from the eastern Mediterranean. An unenclosed souterrain from the post-Viking period was associated with millstones. A medieval settlement (dated to the thirteenth–fourteenth century on the basis of recovered pottery sherds and radio-carbon dates) was indicated by the presence of a substantial stone gate, associated ditches, gullies and pits and a number of industrial features including a cereal drying kiln and a lime slaking pit. These are the remains of a Cistercian grange on Mellifont Abbey’s monastic estate. Very few granges have been archaeologically investigated in Ireland and therefore this represents an important site both in a regional and national sense. The stone foundations of a farm building and an associated field system represented post-medieval activity at the site.

7. Please provide two appropriate images



9. Please outline the objectives of the project
- All works were carried out towards the objective of bringing the excavation report to publication. A fresh analysis of the unpublished excavation report by Mandy Stevens necessitated some revision in the site's phasing which, in turn, necessitated a new animal bone report. The new bone report recommended the dating of a four-horned sheep skull. The bird bones were found and analysed. Fresh geophysical survey was carried out in the field where the excavation took place.
10. Please describe the methodology used in conducting the research
- The various unfinished aspects of the excavation required the expertise of Ms Joanne Leigh (geophysical survey), Dr Fiona Beglane (animal bone analysis), Dr Sheila Hamilton-Dwyer (bird and fish bone analysis), and the radio-carbon laboratory at Queen's University Belfast.
11. Please outline the findings of your research and/or milestones achieved
- The geophysical survey has identified the extent of a large, bivallate enclosure, a small portion of which was identified in the excavation. The animal bone analysis has charted the changing agricultural practises in at this site spanning a period of over 1,000 years, from c.AD500 to c.AD1500. Bird bones identified from the Grange phase at Stalleen have produced evidence for barn owls, oblique indications that there were stone buildings within the medieval farm. Copies of the bone reports and the geophysical survey report are available upon request.
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 preliminary animal bone analysis has been incorporated into papers already published by Dr Fiona Beglane of Sligo IT, for example 'The faunal remains from Bective Abbey in Geraldine Stout and Matthew Stout, The Bective Abbey Project, Co. Meath: excavations 2009–12 (Dublin: Wordwell 2016), pp 126–69. The project will be disseminated, ultimately, with the publication of the Stalleen Excavation report in 2022.
- b) No. of Academic Papers/articles published: 1
- c) No. of Lectures given/outreach events involved in: 0
- d) Media Coverage (article in local newspaper, feature on University website etc.):
- All media coverage will take place after the publication of the final report.
- e) How will you continue to communicate the results of your project and what are your publication plans?
- The full report will be submitted to the publishers in December 2021 for publication in 2022. The Royal Irish Academy will figure prominently in acknowledgements and the RIA logo will appear on the opening page.

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 World Heritage research scheme has made it possible to bring this important excavation report to publication. This will enhance my own professional reputation and, at the same time, further accentuate the international significance of the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site.

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

I will seek funding for the typesetting and publication of the excavation report. Further, I will seek funding to cover the cost of submitting the finds from this excavation to the National Museum of Ireland.