


PROJECT PROFILE

Title	Preparing for the future: A reappraisal of archaeo-geophysical surveying on National Road Schemes 2001-2010
Contractor	University of Bradford, UK
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Start date	Oct-10
End date	Sep-13
Status	Complete
Type of project	Fellowship project - 3-year PhD project (James Bonsall)
Project reference	NR/250/04 RFP016

Description	<p>In the course of funding archaeological work on national road projects, TII was concerned about the early identification of major archaeological constraints. Over the previous decade TII had used a variety of techniques including archaeo-geophysical prospection to identify such constraints. It is considered timely to review the results of this work and to assess whether such surveys fulfilled their individual objectives and to what extent has this work been of benefit to TII. TII recognises that such surveys have a wider application as a key of primary archaeological data, and to make such information accessible, e.g. through a database, is in keeping with the Authority's objectives of disseminating information. This study also offered the opportunity to return to sites previously investigated (ie, within the land-take and to examine the extent to which they extend beyond the land-take), thus providing ideal test sites to pilot new techniques and methodologies. TII has spent a considerable amount of money on archeo-geophysical surveying, on national road schemes throughout Ireland, testing different methodologies and techniques within different regions and different landscape types. The collation of all this data and critical review will allowed TII to determine which techniques represent the best value for money.</p>	 <p>Electrical resistance twin-probe array</p>
Objectives	<p>The objectives of the projects are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To assess the efficacy of archaeo-geophysical techniques on national road schemes 2001 to 2010; 2. To develop an accessible database of such archaeo-geophysical surveys which will seek to integrate multiple data sets; 3. To undertake pilot studies using new techniques or adapting existing methodologies; 4. To investigate and test the different variables which impact on a surveys success or failure eg, seasonality, regionality and geology; 5. To provide recommendations to TII on the most cost-effective techniques. 	
Benefits	<p>This study will help to inform and shape future testing strategies to ensure that they are viable and cost-effective.</p>	
Outputs	<p>Project outputs include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A comprehensive review of all archaeo-geophysical surveys carried out to date on national road scheme projects. 2. The development of an accessible database of such surveys. 3. A set of recommendations as to which techniques are most cost-effective, and also the variables that can influence the success or failure of a particular survey e.g. technique, regionality, seasonality, geology, etc. 	