

## THE INISHARK ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT, IRELAND

**Course ID: ARCH XL 159**

**June 1- June 29, 2017**

**DIRECTOR:**

**Prof. Ian Kuijt**, University of Notre Dame ([ian.kuijt.1@nd.edu](mailto:ian.kuijt.1@nd.edu))

**SENIOR FIELD SUPERVISOR**

**Prof. Meredith Chesson**, University of Notre Dame ([chesson.3@nd.edu](mailto:chesson.3@nd.edu))



**18th through 20th century stone houses on the uninhabited island of Inishark, Co. Galway, Ireland**

### INTRODUCTION

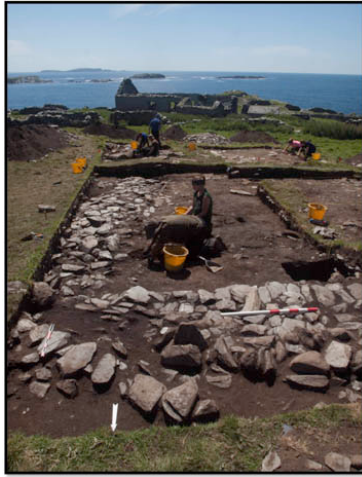
This field school offers students the opportunity to learn about the rich history, heritage and archaeology of Ireland. Excavating on the uninhabited island of Inishark, Co. Galway, Ireland, fifty miles west of Galway along the coast of Connemara, the Cultural Landscapes of the Irish Coast project (CLIC) has been working for 10 years to understand post 18<sup>th</sup> century island life. The fishing village of Inishark, placed in the protected corner of this small 2 by 1 mile island, was home to 300 people in 1830. Although the last remaining 25 islanders left in 1960, their history provides insight into island life before and after the Irish Famine. This field school involves four weeks of practical instruction in the methods and theory of archaeological excavation in Historical Archaeology, field survey, and laboratory analysis of ceramic, glass and metal objects.

The primary objective of the Inishark Archaeological Field School is to provide students with a better understanding of how archaeology is practiced in the field, how this is done as community archaeology, and how this research helps people understand post 18<sup>th</sup>-century island life. Students will be provided with both a classroom-setting introduction to archaeological field methods and a practical working knowledge of excavation, field recording, and laboratory techniques.

The field school is part of the broader University of Notre Dame Cultural Landscapes of the Irish Coasts (CLIC) historical and archaeological research project, which focuses on understanding island life in general, and daily life within households in particular. The CLIC project is broadly focused on understanding island life from the Medieval period onwards on Inishark and

Inishbofin, Co. Galway (see the following for a four min video by Notre Dame Magazine on the project <http://magazine.nd.edu/news/33373>).

Archaeology provides a valuable means of investigating daily life among the tenant islanders who fished and farmed on Inishark from the 1750's to the 1930's. In the absence of detailed historical or archival records, this research provides the only real means of reconstructing what island life was like after the famine, the rise and collapse of kelp and fishing industries, and the process of immigration to mainland Ireland, England, and America.



**Excavation of Building 8, a stone house constructed in the 1830's and abandoned in the 1890's, Inishark, Co. Galway, Ireland**

This four-week field school is divided into three interconnected parts. Located on the island of Inishbofin 5 miles off of the mainland, in the first week student learning will be organized around a series of well-illustrated powerpoint lectures, field tours of heritage sites to illustrate island history, and laboratory training in the identification of post 18<sup>th</sup> century glass and ceramic materials. The powerpoint lectures include historical background of the islands, 19<sup>th</sup> century Improvement and Islander Life, the Medieval and Prehistoric Archaeology of western Ireland. Students will be provided with both a classroom-setting introduction to the Archaeology of Historical

Ireland before starting excavation, archaeological field methods and a practical working knowledge of excavation, field recording, and laboratory techniques. In weeks two and three students will participate in archaeological excavations of an abandoned 1750-1870's house on the neighboring island of Inishark, some 1.5 miles to the west. Students will learn field techniques used in Historical Archaeology, the economics and culture of islanders in the 18-20<sup>th</sup> century, and apply them to investigations of historic archaeological materials by working with artifacts collected during the field season. In addition to the basic archaeological techniques the class will introduce students to modern remote sensing methods, historical eighteenth through twentieth architecture, and analysis of ceramic and glass materials.

#### **ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS**

**Credit Units:** Attending students will be awarded 12 quarter credit units (equivalent to 8 semester units) through our academic partner, UCLA Extension. UCLA is a top ranked research university and its archaeology program is ranked amongst the best in the country. All IFR field schools instructors and curricula are approved both by the corresponding academic department and the Academic Senate at UCLA. This field school provides a minimum of 192 direct instructional hours.

**Transcripts:** Transcripts are available through UCLA UnEX and instructions for ordering transcripts may be found at <http://bit.ly/2bD0Z3E>. Grades will be posted and transcript available usually within six weeks after the end of this field school. All IFR field schools are designated XL classes – courses that are equivalent to undergraduate courses offered by the UCLA regular session. All XL courses are transferable for unit and subject credit toward the Bachelor's Degree at all campuses of the UC and CSU systems. Classes numbered 100 to 199 are considered upper division (junior/senior). For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/2bjAqmy>.

**UCLA students:** Students can take classes through UCLA Extension to complete requirements.

However certain considerations must be taken into account. For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/2bJWeHK>.

**Credit Units Transfer:** Most universities accept UCLA credit units – there are very few exceptions. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss the transferability of the credit units with school officials BEFORE attending the field school.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

As part of this archaeological field school, students will receive hands-on training in controlled excavation techniques, field survey, instrument mapping, artifact identification, and artifact analysis and recording. There are additional skills that will be covered during the archaeology course. This includes core elements of daily archaeology fieldwork and excavation, such as trowelling, sieving, planning, taking levels, archaeological photography, recording finds, landscape analysis and identification of features, architectural recording and building analysis, soil recognition and description, and public education.

After two weeks of excavation, broken up by a weekend back on Inishbofin, students will leave Inishark and return to Inishbofin. While on Inishbofin for the last week students will participate in our annual three-hour long heritage event held at the Inishbofin Community Center. As part of this, students will host thematically organized tables and explaining to the 200 people attending the event what was uncovered in the 2017 excavation and how this helps us understand island life in the past.

### **DISCLAIMER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

Archaeological work involves physical work in the outdoors. You should be aware that conditions in the field are different than those you experience in your home or college town. This program operates in an area where the weather changes frequently. Average June daytime temperatures are 58°F (14°C), and with high temperatures up to 80°F (26°C). In the middle of June Inishark and Inishbofin experience 18 ½ hrs of sunlight each day, and this can create conditions for remarkably bright sunshine and sunburns even on days when it rains. Rainfall in Ireland can be frequent and work continues in light rain. You are required to provide suitable water-proof clothing and footwear as well as sun screen and insect repellent. These should be purchased prior to joining the project as Inishark, is uninhabited.

We live in a friendly, traditional small island community of 160 people and weekend tourists. We respect local customs and sensitivities, especially as these people are our friends and we have worked with them as research co-partners for the last eight years. While the drinking age in Ireland is 18 years, and the island pubs are great places with live music and are open late, all project participants need to recognize that this is a professional project focused on education and training. Crew members must be responsible and professional in their conduct during all phase of the project. This includes consuming alcohol in a reasonable manner, ensuring that you get sufficient sleep to professionally function the next day, and behave in a courteous and professional manner with other project crew members and islanders. Unprofessional conduct and / or excessive consumption of alcohol, be during the excavations or over weekends will not be tolerated and is grounds for dismissal from the project.

If you have any medical concerns, please consult with your doctor. For all other concerns, please consult with the project director – as appropriate.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the field school, students will be able to:

- Understand the different components of an archaeological projects and the relationship between these components
- Understand the place and importance of community oriented heritage projects
- Apply standard excavation methods to archaeological contexts
- Use standard recording techniques to document excavation results
- Undertake preliminary processing of archaeological artifacts and ecofacts
- Undertake preliminary analysis of archaeological artifacts

## GRADING MATRIX

Students must participate in all fieldwork, lab sessions, and lectures.

Grading will be based on three components:

Fieldwork participation (70%): Students are required to participate daily in archaeological excavation, laboratory analysis, and other field school activities.

Field and laboratory recording (20%): Students are expected to participate in a range of field recording practices depending on circumstances, including field notes, mapping, artifact illustrating and photography.

Community heritage event (10%): Students are expected to actively participate in the annual heritage event held on Inishbofin. This is a one day event organized for the general public, tourists, and islanders, and serves to help others understand the results of our 2017 field research and contributions to island culture, history and archaeology.

## PREREQUISITES

None. This is hands-on, experiential learning and students will study onsite how to conduct archaeological research. Archaeology involves physical work and exposure to the elements and thus, requires a measure of acceptance that this will not be the typical university learning environment. You will get sweaty, tired, cold and wet and have to work in the outdoors. Students are required to come equipped with sufficient excitement and the understanding that the archaeological endeavor requires hard, physical work.

## TRAVEL & MEETING POINT

Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements and need to arrive in Galway on or before June 1, 2017. All students will meet at the Galway Citylink coach station (<http://www.citylink.ie/home>) at 2:00 pm, Thurs, June 1, 2017. Ireland has excellent public transportation with regular coach and train service from Dublin city center and Dublin airport to Galway. The coach station is located one block away (less than five minute walk) from the train station and Eyre Square in the heart of Galway. A project representative will meet the students at 2:00 pm, and will then transport them by mini-van to the port of Cleggan, and then by ferry to Inishbofin (<http://inishbofinislanddiscovery.com/>).

If you miss your connection or your flight is delayed, please call, text, or email the project director immediately. A local emergency cell phone number will be provided to all enrolled students.

## VISA REQUIREMENTS

Citizens of the US and Canada do not require visas to enter Ireland. You will need your passport to be valid for at least 90 days and will enter on a tourist visa.

No vaccinations are required for entry to Ireland but anyone working in archaeology in Ireland needs to have an up-to-date tetanus shot.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

**While on Inishbofin, County Galway, Ireland, students will stay at the Doonmore Hotel. This is a small family run hotel (see [www.doonmorehotel.com](http://www.doonmorehotel.com)). Located on the shoreline of western Inishbofin, has been owned and run by the Murray family for three generations, has a fantastic view of the shore and islands, serves excellent food, and is an internationally known location for traditional Irish music. While staying on Inishark, students and staff stay in personal tents. The camp facilities include large tented area for eating and lab work, and students and staff eat excellent food prepared by a chef employed for two weeks.**

### DAILY SCHEDULE

We work on site from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, with short morning break and lunch break at 12:30 pm. Please note that our daily work hours are, at least partially, defined by the weather. This requires flexibility as on some days we start working later, or stop working earlier, and at some points cancel fieldwork entirely for the day. To make up for this when the weather is good we occasionally excavate up to 6:00 pm. While on Inishbofin we will start work at 9:00 am and finish by 5:00 pm.

### SCHEDULE AND READINGS

The Kuijt et al 2015a publication is required for the course. *In addition, weekly readings as listed below will be required for all students.* These will be provided as PDF's that can be read on laptops or tablets.

Week	Thematic Focus	Activities, Readings
Arrival	Arrival Thursday June 1, 2017 by 5 PM Arrival and Orientation	
Week 1 1-7 June, 2016 Inishbofin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lec: Introduction to Historical Archaeology</li> <li>• Lec: Archaeological excavation methods</li> <li>• Field trips: Pre-famine landscape of Westquarter</li> <li>• Field trip: Cromwell's Barracks and 17<sup>th</sup> century militarization</li> <li>• Field trip: Abandoned villages of Old Knock and Cloonamore</li> <li>• Field project logistics</li> <li>• Inishfest: Island culture and music (June 2 and 3, 2017)</li> </ul>	Aalen 1966; Forsythe 2006, 2013; Greene and Moore 2010; Kuijt et al. 2011, 2015; Moran 1997; Orser 2010.
	• Sun. 4 June 2017 (Free day: Inishbofin)	
Week 2 8-12 June, 2016 Inishark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lec &amp; Field trip: Archaeology of Inishark village</li> <li>• Archaeological research design</li> <li>• Excavation skills and field recording</li> </ul>	Archaeological excavations, Setting up field camp, Heritage tour of Inishark village

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photography in the field and lab.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tues 13 June 2017 (Free day: Inishbofin)</li> </ul>	
Week 3 14-21, June, 2016, Inishark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lec &amp; Field trip: The Dynamic Village</li> <li>• Archaeological survey and sampling</li> <li>• Archival research and primary documents</li> </ul>	Archaeological excavations, Heritage tour of western Inishark
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22, 23 June 2017 (Free days: Clifden)</li> </ul>	
Week. 4 24-29 June, 2016, Inishbofin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archaeological lab set-up: Washing and cataloging artifacts.</li> <li>• Analysis of ceramics and glass</li> <li>• Lec: Community Archaeology in a learning environment</li> <li>• Community Event. Tues. June 27, 2017</li> </ul>	
Departure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:00 am, 29 June, 2016</li> </ul>	

## READINGS

Aalen, F. H. A. (1966). The evolution of the traditional house in western Ireland. *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 96(1): 47–58.

Forsythe, W. (2006). The archaeology of the kelp industry in northern Irish islands. *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 35: 218–229.

Forsythe, W. (2013). The measure and materiality of improvement in Ireland. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 17: 72–93.

Green, K. and T. Moore (2010). *Archaeology: An Introduction*. Abingdon and New New York: Routledge, chpts 2, 3, and 5.

Kuijt, Ian, Ryan Lash, William Donaruma, Katie Shakour, Tommy Burke. (2015a). *Island Places, Island Lives: Exploring Inishbofin and Inishark Heritage, Co. Galway, Ireland*. Wordwell, Ltd, Dublin. 70 page video-book with 22 associated two minute videos.

Kuijt, I., M. Conway, K. Shakour, C. McNeill, and C. Brown (2015b) Vectors of Improvement: The Material Footprint of Nineteenth- through Twentieth- Century Irish National Policy, Inishark, Co. Galway, Ireland. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*, 19(1): 122-158.

Kuijt, I, R. Lash, M. Gibbons, J. Higgins, N. Goodale, and J. O’Neill. (2011) Reconsidering Early Medieval Seascapes: New Insights from Western Ireland. *Journal of Irish Archaeology*. (19): 51-71.

Moran, G. (1997). Near famine: the crisis in the west of Ireland, 1879–82. *Irish Studies Review* 18: 14–21.

Orser, C. E. (2010). Three 19th-century house sites in rural Ireland. *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 44: 81–104.

## **EQUIPMENT FOR WORKING AND LIVING ON INISHARK AND INISHBOFIN**

Plan on bringing with you all personal clothing, gear, toiletries and medicines. For most individuals, there will not be an opportunity to purchase items once you arrive in Ireland, and there is no shopping area on Inishbofin. In addition to your normal gear, you will need a sleeping bag, a sleeping pad, a tent, a towel, and any personal items for the 14 days of fieldwork on the uninhabited island of Inishark.

### **Clothing (Inishbofin and Inishark)**

For at least 14 days you are camping on Inishark, and the rest of the time on Inishbofin with a population of 140 people. On Inishbofin you will be spending 50% of your time inside and 50% outside. This means you need to have layers to stay warm and rain gear to stay dry. Some project members go with lots (up to 6) thin layers. If there is rain and it is c. 50 F, then people typically have four layers on the top (base layer, heavy fleece, insulated soft-shell jacket, and rain jacket), some very attractive brown pants to hide dirt, rain pants, wool socks, water proof boots and a winter hat.

You will need the following:

- 2 sets of pants for working, hiking etc. Waterproof rain pants are very helpful, especially the kind that can be worn over another pair of pants.
- Dry pants for night; dinner on Inishark or the pub. Remember that it will be rainy and muddy.
- At least 1 fleece-type insulation layer.
- Rain jacket. Waterproof is ESSENTIAL. Make sure you have a jacket that is specifically designed for keeping you dry such as produced by Arycterix, Patagonia, or North Face.
- 3 Shirts (daytime wear). Layers are the best way to keep out the wind and the rain; you can always take off a layer, stuff it in your pack when the sun comes out.
- Stuff to sleep in.
- Warm socks. Plan on bringing an extra pair (or two) of socks along with you. There's nothing worse than spending an entire day with cold wet socks.
- Warm hat. Yes, you need a winter type hat for camping. There are many crew members who put on a hat in the morning and only take it off when the sun comes out. This is critical to keeping warm.
- Mid-weight hiking boots that are water proof. Regardless how waterproof your shoes are you will still want to change into a new pair at the end of the day.
- Other shoes for use around town, evening, and fun.
- You will not need anything formal in Ireland. Ireland is a very relaxed social environment, and Inishbofin is even more relaxed as it is an island community.

### **TOILETRIES**

- Travel size everything. Personal stash of face wipes and hand sanitizer.
- Remember, electrical plugs and voltage are different in Ireland.
- All medicine you will need. It is also recommended that you bring along some type of allergy medicine. Some people have a nasty reaction to the local grasses.
- Personal towel.
- Sunscreen and lip moisturizer (with sun protection).

## **GEAR**

- Waterproof hiking boots (as per above)
- 1 small / medium sized backpack for all your clothing and equipment. Be warned, many school packs are not going to work. Other than rain jacket, warm socks and boots, this is probably the most important piece of equipment you will use.
- Phone/Camera. You are going to be working in some great places, so get ready to record the moment. Make sure you have a serious memory card of at least 1 Gig.
- Carry-on bag or daypack for airline (as per above)
- Travel alarm clock/watch with alarm that will wake you up.
- Other shoes for night.
- Nalgene/water bottle. You will need to carry your drinking water each day.
- Travel mug for coffee. You will need your own travel mug.
- Sleep mask (twilight starts at 10:30 pm, and the sun comes up by 4:30 am).
- Sunglasses (Mid June there is 18.5 hrs of sunlight).
- Earplugs for wind. Sleeping in a tent on the coast is noisy.
- iPod,...Music that you want.
- Journal/diary.
- Ziplocks bags of various sizes: these prove great for keeping stuff dry, from cameras and film to extra socks and underwear, and they take up very little room.
- Flashlight or head torch. I would go with a head torch for hands free use.
- Phones. The project will have at least two phones. I will pass on these phone numbers once we are in Ireland. These are, however, for emergency purposes only. Purchasing a cell phone in Ireland will set you back about \$100, and it is possible to get a policy where there is no incoming international call fee.
- Bring your passport: give a copy of the photo page to your parents and keep a photocopy in another location with you in case you lose your passport.

### **Overlooked things you will need**

There are four things that are viewed as critical to being comfortable while on Inishark: sunglasses for clear days, a hat for warmth, ear plugs to mask the tent noise, and a travel mug for coffee. This is a great foundation for happiness.