



THE INISHBOFIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT, IRELAND

Course ID: ARCH 365AB

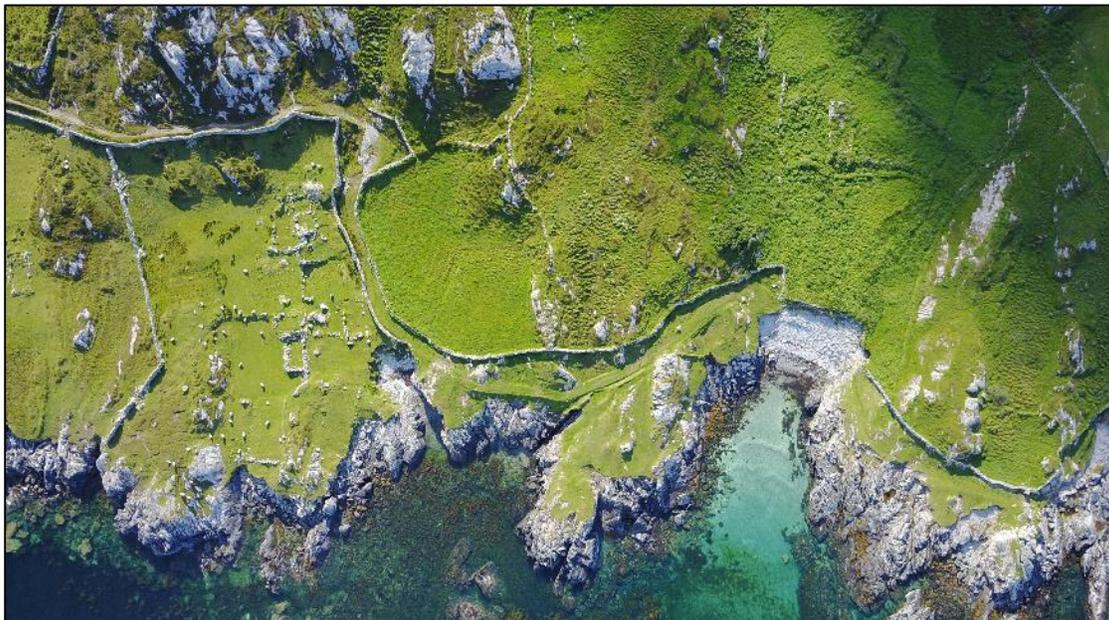
June 3- June 29, 2018

DIRECTOR:

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INTRODUCTION

This field school offers students the opportunity to learn about the rich history, heritage and archaeology of coastal Ireland. Excavating on the islands of Inishbofin and Inishark, County 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 18th century island life. The 2018 excavations will focus on Building 5, a partially preserved stone three room house overlooking the Poirtíns, a small harbor in the located on the south-east corner of the 8 by 5 mile island of Inishbofin. In the 1830's the fishing village of the Poirtíns was home to around 60 people. It is now abandoned with many of the stone buildings partially destroyed in the 1890's when the upper sections of the houses were removed for building field walls. Although the island of Inishbofin has been lived on since the Bronze Age, very little is known about 18th and 19th century life before and after the Irish Famine on Inishbofin in general, and life in the Poirtíns in specific. 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.

Inishbofin Island: Background

The primary objective of the Inishbofin 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 18th-century island life along the northern coast of Connemara. 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.



2013 Excavation of Building 2 and 14, Poiríns, on the south-east corner of Inishbofin, Co. Galway, Ireland.

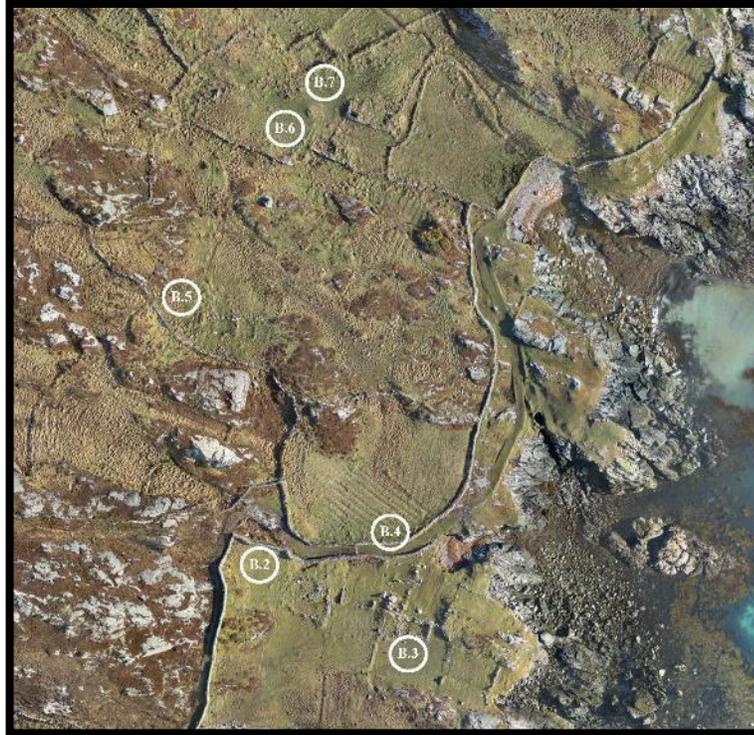
The field school is part of the broader University of Notre Dame Cultural Landscapes of the Irish Coast (CLIC) historical and archaeological research project, which focuses on understanding island life in general, and daily life within islander households in particular. The CLIC project is broadly focused 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 Inishbofin from the 1750's to the 1900's. In the absence of detailed historical or archival records, this research provides the only real means of reconstructing what island life was like before, during, and after the famine, the rise and collapse of kelp and fishing industries, and the process of immigration to mainland Ireland, England, and America.

This four-week field school will involve students in all aspects of archaeological research. Students and staff will be living in four rented houses on the south-east end of Inishbofin, the largest house having a large dining room that will be used for eating and lectures. In the first week student learning will be organized around a series of well-illustrated powerpoint lectures, several field tours of heritage sites to illustrate island history, and laboratory training in the identification of post 18th century glass and ceramic materials. The powerpoint lectures include historical background of the islands, 19th 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 Building 5, an abandoned 1750-1860's house located on the southeastern corner of Inishbofin. Students will learn field techniques used in Historical Archaeology, the economics and culture of islanders in the 18-20th 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.



Aerial photograph showing the location of several partially preserved stone buildings, including Buildings 5, and Buildings 2 that was excavated in 2013. While not marked on the map, Building 14 is located just to the right of Building 2.

ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS

Credit Units: Attending students will be awarded 8 semester credit units (equivalent to 12 quarter credit units) through our academic partner, Connecticut College. Connecticut College is a private, highly ranked liberal arts institution with a deep commitment to undergraduate education. Students will receive a letter grade for attending this field school (see grading assessment and matrix). This field school provides a minimum of 160 direct instructional hours. Students are encouraged to discuss the transferability of credit units with faculty and registrars at their home institutions prior to attending this field school.

Transcripts: An official copy of transcripts will be mailed to the permanent address listed by students on their online application. One additional transcript may be sent to the student's home institution at no additional cost. Additional transcripts may be ordered at any time through the National Student Clearinghouse: <http://bit.ly/2hvrkl>.

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 troweling, 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 days off, the Inishbofin project will shift to post-excavation processing of collections, analysis of materials, and hosting a community heritage event. 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 2018 excavation and how this helps us understand island life in the past.

PREREQUISITES

The program is open to anyone who is at least 18 years old. There are no academic or field prerequisites for the Inishbofin research project. This is a hands-on field program, one that will immerse students in archaeological research through experiential learning. You will need to be physically able and willing to work outdoors in demanding conditions for two weeks, participate in one week of field training before the excavation, and one week of laboratory research after the excavation.

DISCLAIMER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

This archaeological field research takes place outdoors, in varied conditions, and staff and students will get sweaty, hot, cold, and at times wet. Participants need to understand that at times archaeology requires hard, physical work in the outdoors. Archaeology involves intellectual engagement as well as physical work, at times in exposed physical conditions. The weather around Inishbofin, located in scenic western Connemara, Ireland, is variable. Rainfall in Ireland can be frequent and work continues in all but the heaviest rain. Average June daytime temperatures are 58°F (14°C), and with high temperatures up to the high 70°F (26°C). In the middle of June 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. Participants should discuss any medical concerns they have with their doctor, and the project director must be informed in advance of any on-going medical issues.

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

Participation in all fieldwork, lab sessions, and lecture is required.

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 2018 field research and contributions to island culture, history and archaeology.

TRAVEL & MEETING POINT

Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements and need to arrive in Galway on or before June 3, 2018. All students will meet at the Galway Citylink coach station (<http://www.citylink.ie/home>) at 5:00 pm, Sunday, June 3, 2018. 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 5:00 pm, and will then transport them by mini-van to the port of Cleggan, and then by ferry to Inishbofin (<http://inishbofinislanddiscovery.com/>).

Important contact information

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If you missed 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.

Citizens of other countries, please visit the Irish Embassy website at your home country for visa information.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students and staff will be living in four rented houses. Each of the houses has multiple shared bed and bathrooms, and a common space. The largest building also has a large dining area that will be used for lunch and dinner, as well as lectures.

All of your food needs will be taken care of, so there is no need to worry about main meals. With a few exceptions all the meals will be provided by a professional cook, with students and staff assisting with clean up and meal preparation. However, it is important to share in advance any dietary concerns or food allergies directly with the project director. Meatless options will be available at mealtimes. Tea and coffee will be provided. If you are desperate for something other than water, tea or coffee then I suggest power drink mixes. All of your drinking water will be taken care of. Students will have access to laundry facilities at the Youth Hostel.

EQUIPMENT FOR WORKING AND LIVING ON 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. In addition to your normal gear, you will need a sleeping bag, a towel, and any personal items for

the two weeks of excavation outdoors, one week of being outside for educational tours and visiting local heritage sites, and one week of laboratory artifact processing and data analysis.

Crew members must be prepared for the unpredictable Irish summer, which varies from warm (70 F) and very sunny to cold (40 F) and very wet with wind. Participants will be outside in all weather, often on exposed coastlines, for at least eight hours each day. This can include bright warm sunshine or driving rain on a cool day. You will need to bring the appropriate rain gear and footwear.

Clothing

For at least two weeks you will be excavating outside on Inishbofin, and the rest of the time you will be either participating in outdoor heritage tours or working in the laboratory. We will be walking to the excavations, about a 500 meter walk from the rented houses. On average you will be spending 50% of your days 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.
- 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 Arctryx, 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 is 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.
- 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 Inishbofin: sunglasses for clear days, a hat for warmth, a camera for taking pictures, and a travel mug for coffee. This is a great foundation for happiness.

DAILY SCHEDULE

We work on site from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, with short morning break and lunch break at 12:00 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 on rare days 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 undertaking laboratory analysis we will start work at 9:00 am and finish by 5:00 pm.

SCHEDULE AND READINGS:

Required text for the course:

Ian Kuijt, Ryan Lash, William Donaruma, Katie Shakour, Tommy Burke. (2015)
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.

In addition weekly readings, all 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 Sunday June 3, 2018 by 5 PM Arrival and Orientation	
Week 1 3-6 June, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lec: Introduction to Historical Archaeology • Lec: Archaeological excavation methods • Field trips: Pre-famine landscape of Westquarter • Field trip: Cromwell's Barracks and 17th century militarization • Lec & Field trip: Archaeology of Inishark village • Field trip: Abandoned villages of Old Knock and Cloonamore 	Heritage tour of Inishark village Aalen 1966; Forsythe 2006, 2013; Greene and Moore 2010; Kuijt et al. 2011, 2015; Moran 1997; Orser 2010.
	• Thurs, 7 June 2018 (Free day: Clifden)	
Week 2 8-12 June, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological research design • Excavation skills and field recording • Photography in the field and lab. 	Archaeological excavations, setting up excavation
	• Weds and Thurs, 13 and 14 June 2018 (Free day: Galway)	
Week 3 15-20, June, 2018,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological survey and sampling • Archival research and primary documents • Archaeological lab set-up: washing and cataloging artifacts. 	Archaeological excavations and laboratory research
	• 21, 22 June 2018 (Free days: Inishbofin)	
Week 4 23-29 June, 2018, Inishbofin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological lab set-up: washing and cataloging artifacts. • Analysis of ceramics and glass • Lec: Community Archaeology in a learning environment • Community Event. Wends. June 27, 2018 	
Departure	• 9:00 am, 29 June, 2018	

MANDATORY 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, I., M. Conway, K. Shakour, C. McNeill, and C. Brown. (2015). 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.