

## Introduction

Archaeological Development Services Ltd (ADS) are archaeological consultants to Bord na Móna (BnM), Ireland's largest peat producer, since 1998. During this time we have carried out fieldwalking surveys and have excavated over 200 archaeological sites in their industrial peatlands in the Irish Midlands.



The wealth and diverse nature of archaeological sites, artefacts and environmental information preserved in Irish peat bogs is unparalleled. The wooden trackways, platforms, gravel and stone roadways excavated to date have ranged from the Neolithic to Later Medieval Periods, many of which are unique to the archaeological record. With our academic partners in Reading University and Royal Holloway University of London we have facilitated hands on undergraduate training as well as Masters and Doctorate theses in Palaeoenvironmental research including tephrochronology, peat stratigraphy, insect analysis as well as geophysical survey techniques.

For 2012 we have developed a practical field-based training school providing a unique opportunity to those seeking an introduction to field archaeology. The two week field school has been developed with the aim of providing participants with practical training of the highest professional standard from experienced practising peatland archaeologists.

The aim of the ADS Peatland Archaeological Field School is to provide the participant with the skills to locate, identify, record and excavate archaeological structures in Peatlands and to interpret the sites in order to gain an insight into human interaction within marginal landscapes. This information will be put into context with the surrounding archaeological monuments in the 'dry land' areas and provide a more detailed picture of the particular social group and their way of life.



At the end of the course Participants will:

- have an understanding of Irish archaeology
- have knowledge and understanding of Irish Peatland Archaeology
- be able to identify archaeological sites through field walking survey
- be able to distinguish archaeological wood from naturally occurring wood remains
- be able to record, excavate and interpret different Peatland sites



# Peatland Archaeological Field School

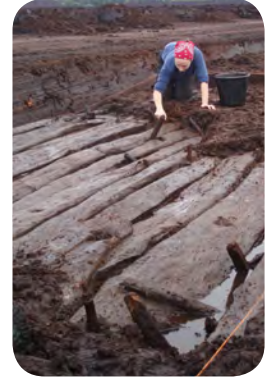
16th–27th July 2012

## Field School summary course outline

Week 1 starts with a day in the classroom where participants will learn about Irish archaeology, Irish peatlands, the history of excavations in peatlands, sites excavated to date and their local and regional contexts.

On-site training will commence on day two with training in archaeological field walking. By the end of the week students will have learnt how to identify, record and sample sites and will have commenced excavation of an archaeological site

In week 2 participants will continue receive training in the excavation of a trackway where they will be shown excavation techniques, recording, completion of feature sheets, drawing, peat stratigraphy, photography and sampling.



University accreditation is pending. Participants will be supplied with a certificate of satisfactory completion of the field school.

## Dates

Dates for 2012 are as follows:

Archaeological Field School: 16th -27th July

## Fees

Fees are inclusive of accommodation which is provided on a full board basis, transport to and from site as well as a learning pack including field manual and log book and the provision of excavation equipment for use while in attendance. The school runs Monday – Friday inclusive 9am – 4.30pm. Participants are free to explore the beautiful sites and scenery of the Irish Midlands at the weekends or may avail of additional guided tours of sites of interest in the local area for a small additional fee.

Archaeological Field School: €1,450

## Location

Accommodation will be provided in Athlone, Co Westmeath and the Field School will be based near Ferbane, Co Offaly.

## Booking

A deposit of 50% of the fee payable before 30th April 2012 will secure your booking with the balance due by 31st May 2012. Booking forms and further details are available by emailing [training@adsireland.ie](mailto:training@adsireland.ie) or by contacting Jane Whitaker directly at +353 (0)866012040.

**ADS** | Archaeological  
Development  
Services

