

Submission Date

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Title of report

Visualising the medieval O'Kelly caput at Lough Croan, Co. Roscommon

Concise overview of the project

The project seeks to use an aerial remote sensing technique known as LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) to aid in understanding a landscape which, through studying the historical sources, has been identified as an area of central importance to the O'Kelly lords of Uí Maine throughout the medieval period.

This aerial survey enables the archaeological researcher to identify features which are difficult to see on the ground surface. As well as this, it enables the identification of new features as well as links between monuments, and specifically in the case of the turlough of Lough Croan, allows for the pseudo-raising of the water table, in order to properly understand the correspondence between the islands, peninsular features and the shoreline that makes up the central hub of the lordship in that area.

Main findings

The LiDAR survey has assisted in identifying a possibly substantial new monument located on southern shore of the now turlough, which gives the appearance of being either a dryland site providing access to the crannóg island sites at Lough Croan, or may in fact present archaeological evidence of a monument constructed on a natural island adjacent to the shore of Lough Croan, which due to its size and complexity, may have been the main location of activity in the area. This will need to be confirmed through further archaeological investigation.

The survey has identified a number of monuments, within a 26km sq. area, which must be confirmed through fieldwalking, and in time be added to the RMP database of the National Monuments Service.

Combining the LiDAR survey with the townlands database has provided a clearer understanding of the historic nature of this landscape, and its evolution, through time.

Impacts of the research

One of the traditionally least researched and understood areas of Irish archaeology has been into the study of medieval Gaelic Ireland. However, for the past twenty years, concerted research has been embarked upon in order to fill in the gaps in our knowledge of this time and space.

The character of Gaelic lordship in medieval Ireland, and how it is expressed, is known to distinct from their Anglo-Norman neighbours, and the exploration of the settlement forms of the Gaelic elite has been key to understanding its character. The impact of this research will be strongest in terms of furthering the understanding of the O'Kelly lordship of south Roscommon and east Galway, which has traditionally been underserved by any major historical or archaeological research, in any period.

The benefit of this survey, and its ultimate findings, will have a major impact on our understanding of this space and time.

Date the report was published

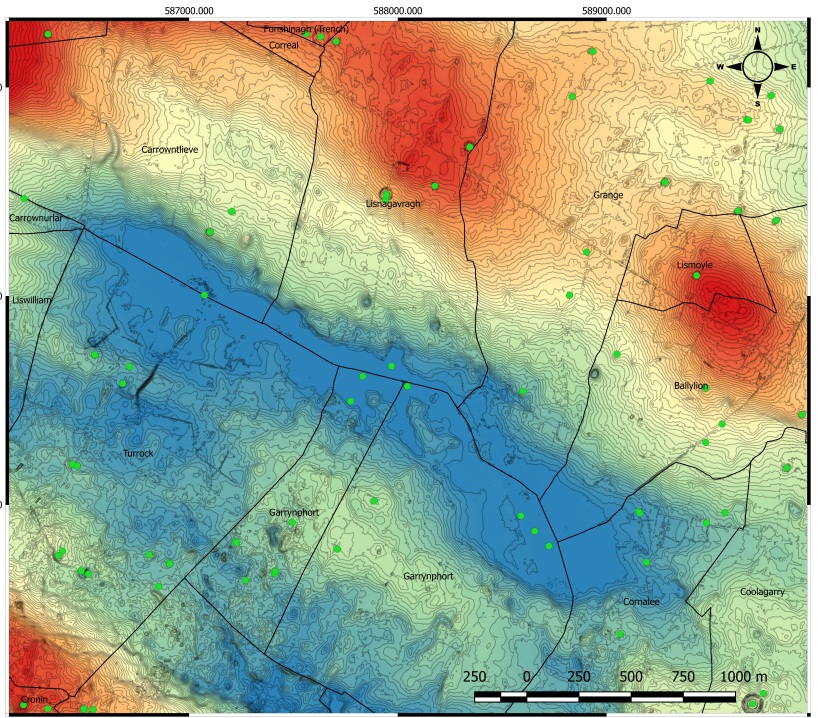
31-08-2018

At least one image must accompany the report, though one can upload multiple images if they wish. Only images of the highest quality and at least 880x440mp will accompany the report on the Academy's website and in the annual review.

**Lough Croan turlough:
O'Kelly lordship caput,
LiDAR survey**
Daniel Curley

Legend

- National Monuments
- Contours (c. 1m apart, 67m>100m)
- townlands



[Lough Croan contour LiDAR map.jpg](#)