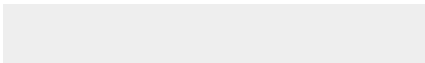


Archaeology Excavation Grant Web report



Name: Richard Jennings

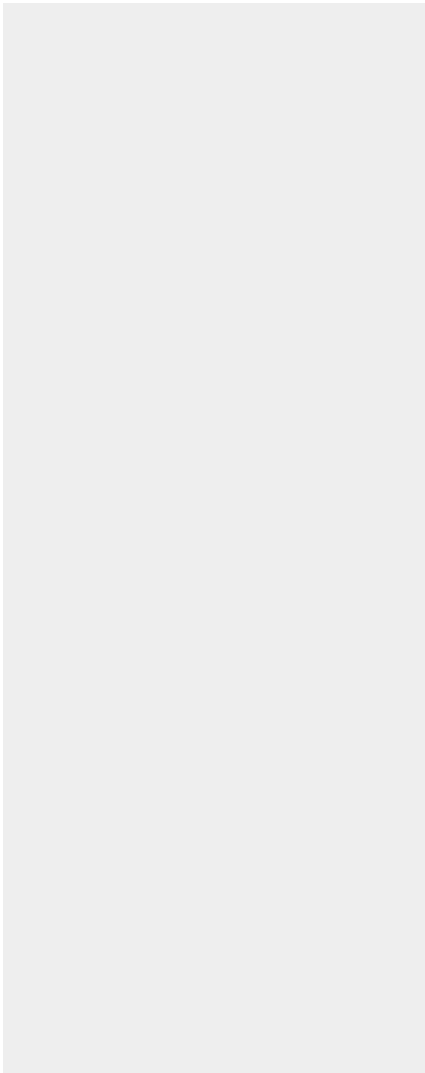
Amount Awarded: €14400

Title of report Report on 2018 Fieldwork at Ballynamintra Cave, Co. Waterford

Summary of report (Maximum allowed 200 words)

The 2018 fieldwork season at Ballynamintra Cave saw new excavations take place both in the inside and outside of the cave. In the cave interior, ice age animal bones were recovered including those of giant deer, hare, fox, dog/wolf and arctic lemming. Their discovery in stratigraphic context is invaluable, as these are likely to preserve ancient DNA and proteins, the study of which helps us to deduce the age, diet and evolutionary history of these mammals. These factors in turn help us to determine the windows of opportunity of when people may have been in Ireland the ice age, the key objective of our current research. Outside the cave, our excavations revealed that ice age sediments extend well beyond the cave entrance to a depth of more than 3m below the current floor surface. When we began our excavation work at Ballynamintra Cave in 2014, there was no indication that ice age sediments survived either inside or outside of the cave, having been excavated in the nineteenth century during the recovery of a number of ice age animal bones and Holocene human material culture. Our work has thus unearthed a much richer legacy to Ballynamintra Cave than hitherto known.

Date the report was published 17-09-2018





[Ballynamindra.jpg](#)