1. Title:	Dr
First name:	Marion
Surname:	Dowd

2.

3. Grant programme

Archaeology Research Excavation Grant

4. Year awarded

2021

5. Title of project

Publishing Glencurran Cave excavations

6. Summary of report (Min. allowed 100 words)

This application was to complete outstanding aspects of post-excavation work associated with archaeological excavations that took place at Glencurran Cave, Tullycommon td., Co. Clare between 2004 and 2009 – funded by the NMS and the RIA.

For final publication of the excavation, it was necessary to complete Excel databases and the chapter on the assemblage of 35,075 mammal, amphibian and avian bones. Cave plans needed to be digitised and prepared for publication, and new GIS plans were created to illustrate the distribution of archaeological material at the site. A laser scan of the cave was completed. Artefacts and bones were photographed.
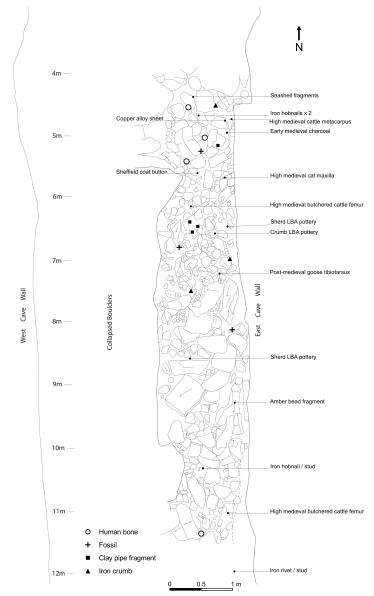
With this final phase of work, I am now completing the monograph which will be submitted to the publisher, Archaeopress in Oxford, in late Spring/early Summer with publication before the end of 2022. At present the book is approaching 400 pages.

7.

8. Please provide two appropriate images

Figure 4.6.jpg

Figure 8.10.jpg

9. Please outline the objectives of the project

The objective of this application was to complete outstanding aspects of the post-excavation work associated with the 2004-9 excavations at Glencurran Cave to allow for full and final publication of the excavation. These aspects – namely creation of GIS spatial distribution maps of artefacts and human bones in the cave; completion of the faunal remains databases and report; digitisation of site plans; and artefact photography – were completed to publication standard.

10. Please describe the methodology used in conducting the research

The various aspects of work were carried out by specialists as follows:

Margaret McCarthy   Completion of the incomplete faunal databases from the 2004-9 excavations; creation of 21 tables with breakdown of faunal remains by species pertinent to context and area of the cave; writing the faunal remains chapter for the book (62 pages)

James Bonsall   Modifiying and standardising site plans that had previously been digitised and bringing them to publication level; digitising a series of previously undigitised plans; using GIS to plot the distribution of aretfacts and dated bones across different areas of the cave; preparing images for publication (increasing dpi etc.)

Thorsten Kahlert   Completing a Lidar scan survey of the cave utilising the Leica BLK2GO handheld SLAM Lidar scanner; extraction of cave plans, profiles and sections from Lidar scan; additional photography of the cave; completion of a chapter on the survey (14 pages).

Ken Williams   Photography of artefacts by area and by period of activity – all to be published.

Michael Cahill   Completion of two short chapters on munitions (n=2) and military coat buttons (n=2) from the cave (6 pages and 8 pages).

Cian Hogan Completion of a chapter on the lithic assemblage (21 pages).

Ellen OCarroll   Identification of charcoal samples for AMS dating.

11. Please outline the findings of your research and/or milestones achieved

The majority of this work involved preparing material for publication rather than resulting in new 'findings'. That said, the GIS work was extremely informative in illustrating patterns of activity in the cave during different periods, illustrating what parts of the cave were used when, and also revealing that there was less stratigraphic disturbance deeper in the cave than I had previously believed.
The faunal remains had been examined prior to 2010, but this new phase of work focussed on making sense of this enormous assemblage of 35,075 bones. Allied with a suite of radiocarbon dates, we now have a clear understanding of how the cave was used by fauna; what species were significant in Bronze Age rituals (hare, pig, sheep/goat); and how disturbed (or not) certain contexts were. This appears to be one of the largest faunal assemblages from any Irish archaeological site that has been analysed to modern standards.

12. a) Please provide details of the dissemination of the outcomes from this project (inc. publications, presentations, outreach, media etc.) including

● All of the post-excavation work funded by the RIA in 2020 and also in previous years will be published within the excavation monograph. The book is titled: 'The Archaeology of Glencurran Cave: 10,500 years in the Burren'. It will be published by Archaeopress, Oxford in late 2022. The table of contents for

details of any social media/web platforms used to publicise this project	the book is appended here. ● Several social media stories will be issued about the excavation data before and after the book publication. These will be circulated via Facebook and Twitter and it is likely that several will be picked up by local and national press and appear in print media also. ● I have regularly spoken about this site at conferences and to local historical and archaeological societies. I anticipate that following the book publication there will be further requests for public lectures.
b) No. of Academic Papers/articles published:	0
c) No. of Lectures given/outreach events involved in:	0
d) Media Coverage (article in local newspaper, feature on University website etc.):	0
e) How will you continue to communicate the results of your project and what are your publication plans?	The book is due end of 2022. At that point I anticipate multiple lectures and outreach events, as well as media coverage.