THE HILL OF SLANE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

Making heritage work for the local community

The Hill of Slane was established in 2010 to explore the rich archaeology of the Hill of Slane. A comprehensive systematic examination of the site using modern archaeological survey techniques could add considerably to our understanding of this iconic site which has a heritage spanning from prehistory to modern times. The outputs from the project will be used by the Slane community and in the development of the presentation the site and the enhancement of the visitor experience.

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The Medieval Church

On the east side of the hill, this served as the parish church for Slane until the 18th century. The long rectangular nave was probably rebuilt in the thirteenth century. Manning recently argued for pre-Romanesque (c. 1230) date for an earlier phase.

The extensively robbed church at the east end has no window but includes a mosaic sandstone window head. A 1 C.5th bell tower was added at the west with a fine Gothic window above the door and an antihypostyle cornice at the top of its south face. Around this time the spire was added (carving a chantry chapel). This involved raising the S wall with a new floor, two east windows and a mosaic sandstone window. This chapel, separated from the nave by an arched arcade contains a piscina (drainage point) and stanzan (loopboard).

The Monastery

Traditionally reported as the place where St Patrick in the first Stacked Fire in defiance of the King of Tara, the Annals document the presence of an important monastic foundation at Slane from the 5th Century. Manning, in his book on the Hill of Slane and the Holy Wells, suggests that the monastery was later incorporated into the medieval church.

Some of the surviving buildings are said to date from the 12th century. The church has an octagonal plan with a forecourt or cloister to the north. The monastery church, with its nave, chancel, transept and chapter house, is one of the most complete church buildings to survive from this period.

The Mortar

Not far from the church is a large stone circular stone. The stone is a large circular stone. The stone is decorated with a series of rings and a central hole. The stone is situated in a field on the north side of the church.

The Mortar is a large stone circular stone. It is said to have been used as a millstone. The stone is decorated with a series of rings and a central hole. The stone is situated in a field on the north side of the church.

The Hill of Slane Heritage Guide

As part of the HaSAP, a heritage guide to the Hill of Slane has been published. This guide provides information on the history and archaeology of the site, and highlights the different features and structures that can be seen.

The HaSAP (Historical and Archaeological Society of Ireland) was established in 2010 to explore the rich archaeology of the Hill of Slane. The project aimed to undertake a comprehensive systematic examination of the site using modern archaeological survey techniques. The results of this project have been used to enhance the presentation of the site and to improve the visitor experience.

Archeological Survey Techniques

The HaSAP team used a range of modern survey techniques to gather information about the site. These included aerial photography, geophysical survey, and topographic survey. The team also conducted fieldwork to test their hypotheses and to gather additional data.

Aerial photography was used to create detailed images of the site from above. These images provided valuable information about the layout and structures of the site.

Geophysical survey was used to map subsurface features and to identify areas of interest for further investigation. This technique involved the use of instruments that could detect changes in the magnetic or electrical properties of the ground.

Topographic survey was used to create detailed maps of the site, which could be used to plan further investigations and to guide the development of the site.

The HaSAP team also used 3D laser scanning to create detailed models of the site. These models provided valuable information about the height and shape of the site, which could be used to create detailed drawings and visualizations.

The HaSAP team also conducted fieldwork to test their hypotheses and to gather additional data. This involved the use of techniques such as augering and excavation to collect samples from the site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT US ON FACEBOOK OR VISIT OUR PROJECT WEBSITE http://hillofslane.wordpress.com

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