PUTTING LiDAR TO THE TEST IN THE BRÚ NA BÓINNE WHS, IRELAND: Site discovery, definition and investigation using LiDAR, geophysics and coring.

INTRODUCTION

Historically aerial photography and directly LiDAR have been used to identify and map new sites in the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site (WHS), an internationally significant archaeological landscape known for its Neolithic passage tombs, other monuments and megalithic art (Figure 1, below).

Recent analysis of LiDAR data from the Brú na Bóinne WHS undertaken as part of the INSTM (Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research) Boyne Valley Landscapes Project (Davis et al., 2010), which directly addresses a number of the knowledge gaps identified in the Brú na Bóinne WHS Research Framework (Smyth et al., 2009), has revealed a host of new monuments in this important archaeological landscapes. This poster presents some of the outcomes of a programme of ground-truthing of a small sample of sites (LP1 in Newgrange and LP2 in Dowth interpreted previously recorded monuments and two low profile topographic sites identified in the Brú na Bóinne LiDAR data).

The ERTP pseudo-section revealed the original morphology and structure of these monuments. This new evidence points to a number of potential new sites identified in the Brú na Bóinne LiDAR data.

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