

Beautiful beads and unusual practices at Iron Age ring-ditches in the wider Rathcroghan Landscape

Insights from the N5 Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Road
Project

Dr Ros Ó Maoldúin MIAI

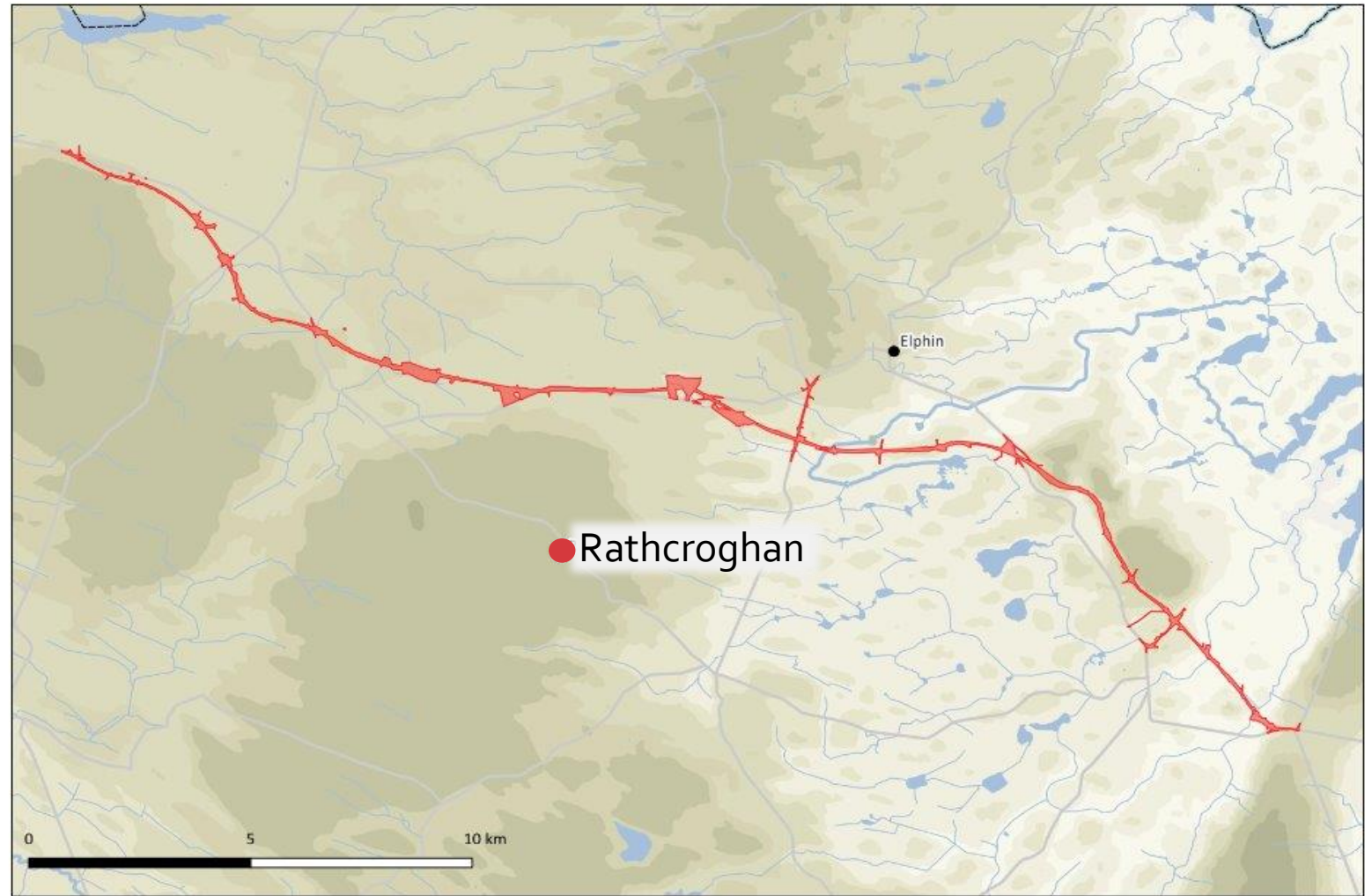
August 2024



Archaeological
Management Solutions



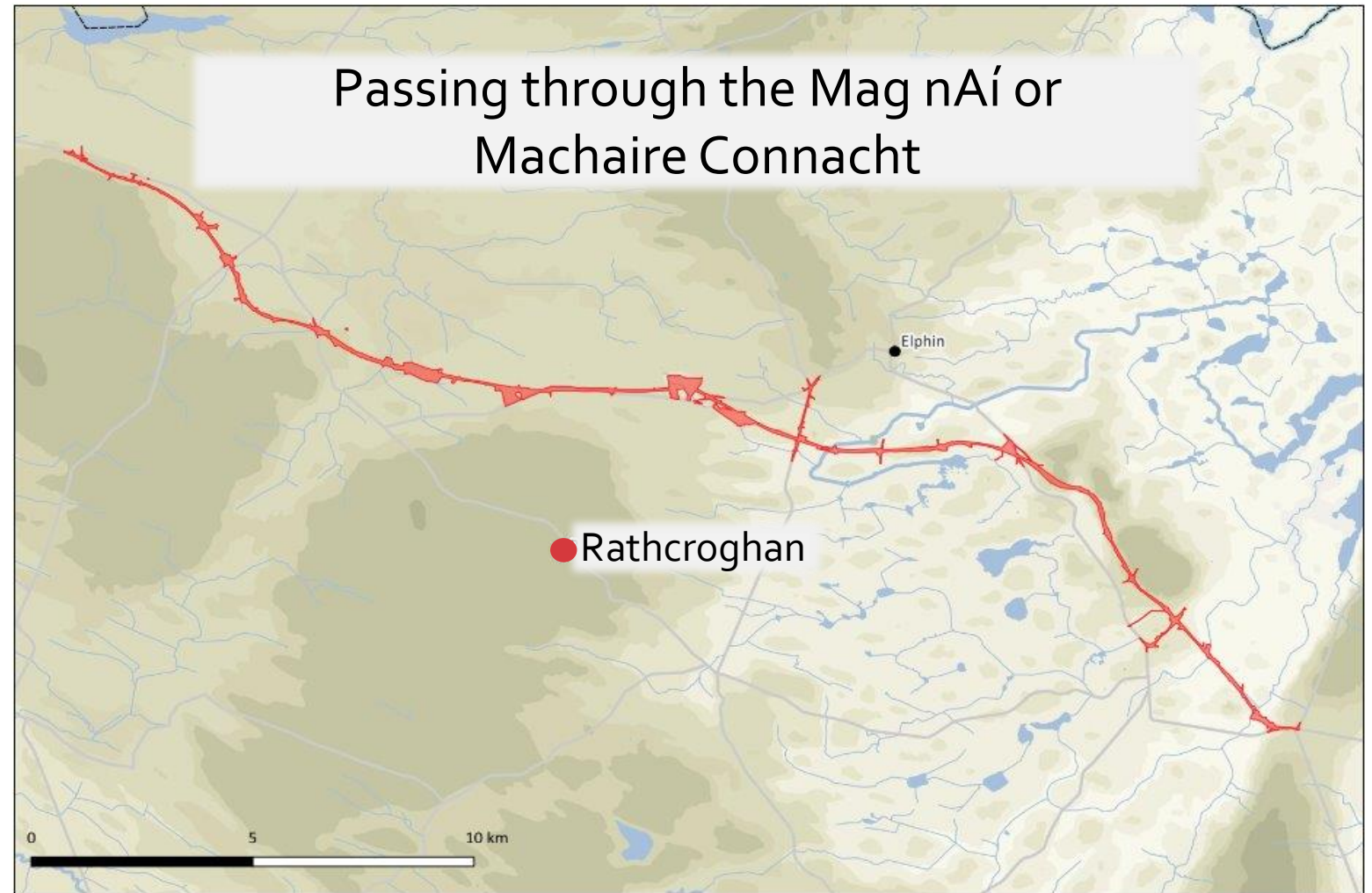
The Route



Rathcroghan



The Route



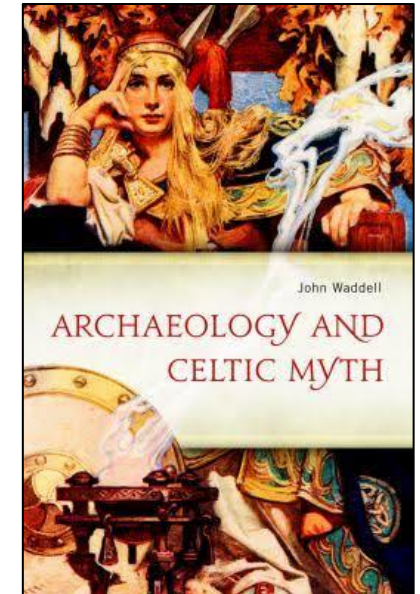
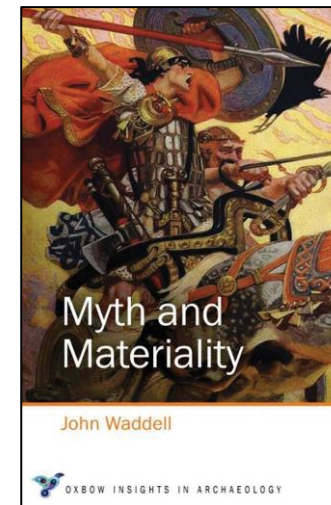
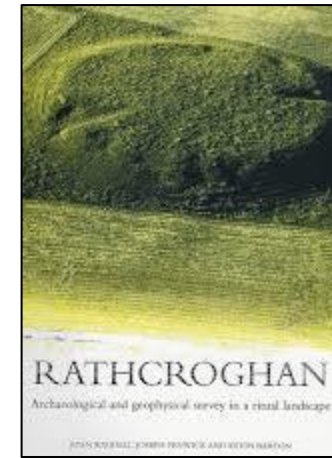
Rathcroghan

Can an elite stratum be identified within the Iron Age remains?

Is the character of the later prehistoric archaeology any different from that on schemes not passing through the landscapes of a later prehistoric royal site?

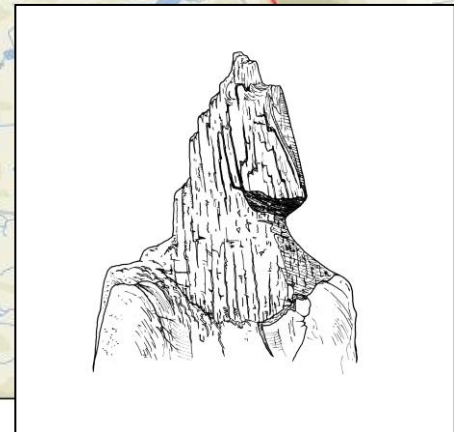
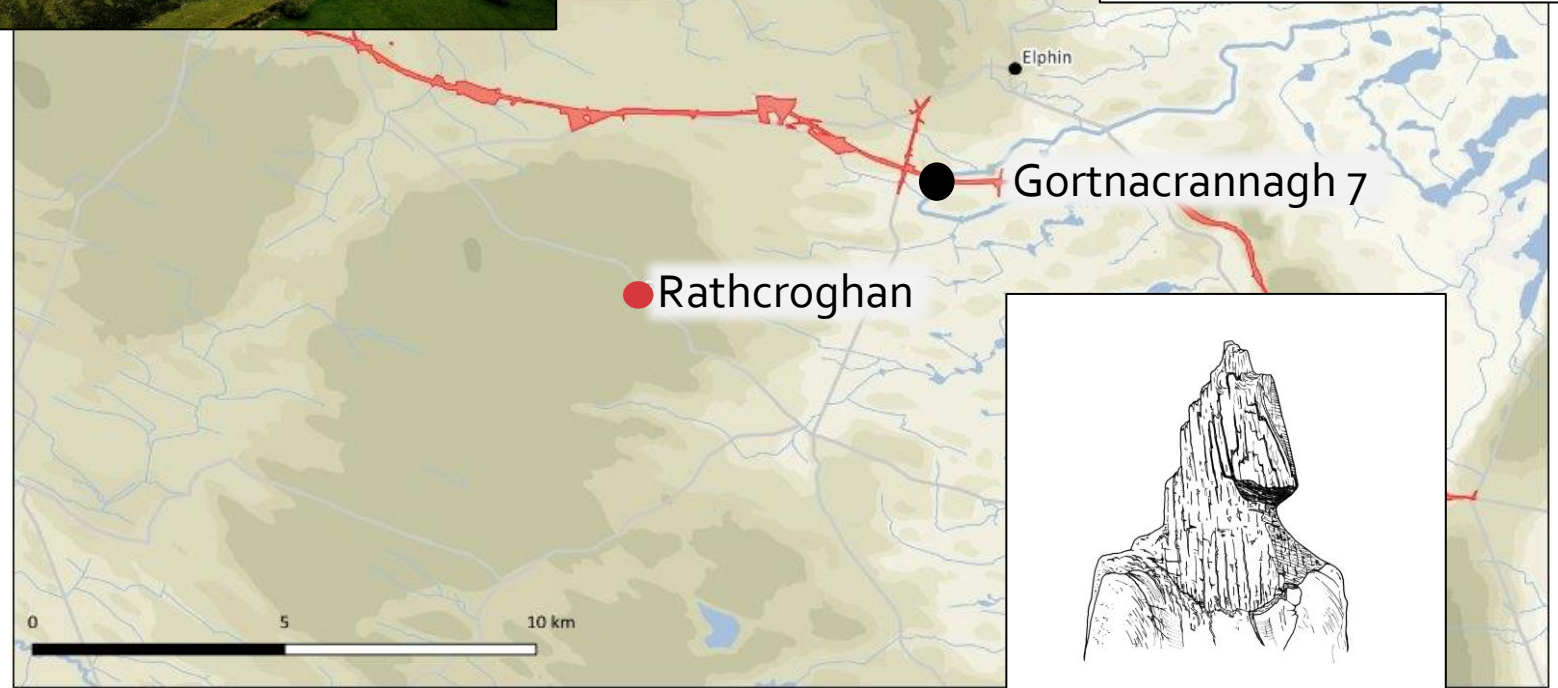
Can any of the remains shed light on the wider landscape of Rathcroghan during later prehistory?

Can aspects of myth illuminate the remains we found or aspects of those remains illuminate myth?

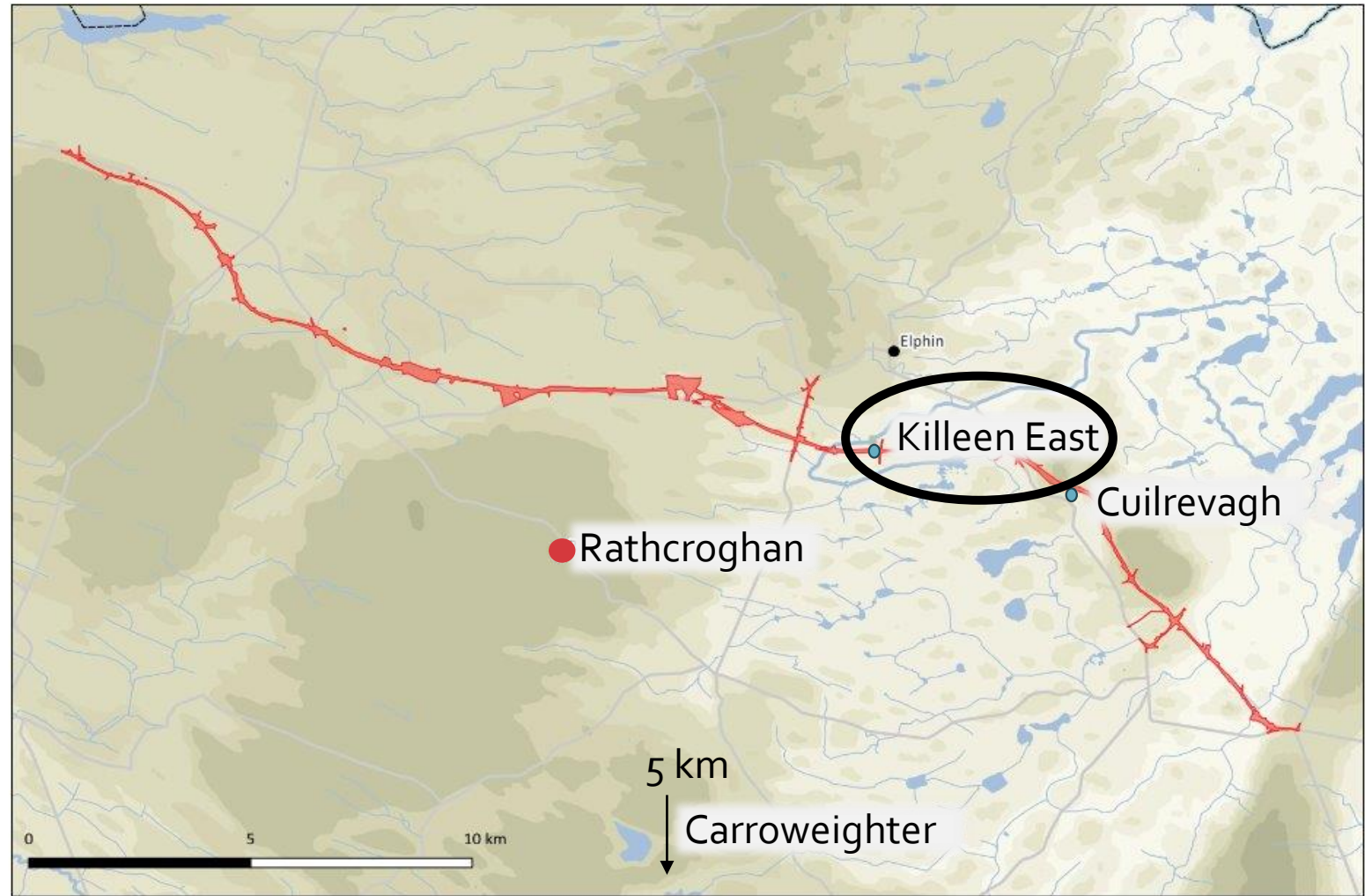


Gortnacrannagh 7

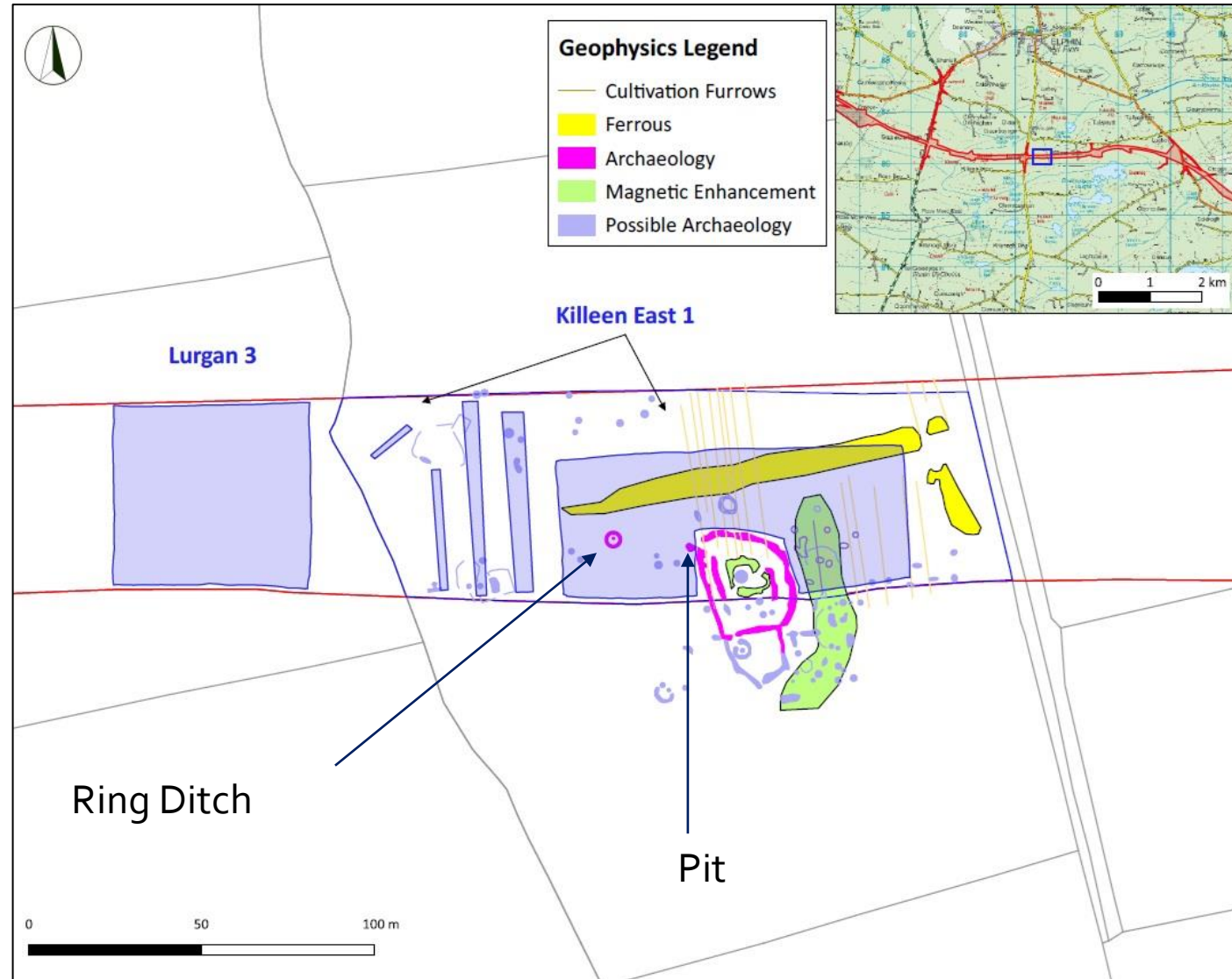
- On the margins of the Owenur River
- Multiperiod wetland deposition
- Iron Age remains
- Idol
- Ard

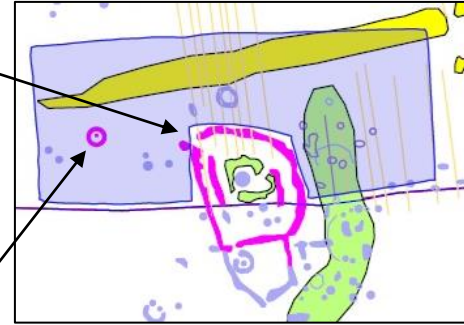
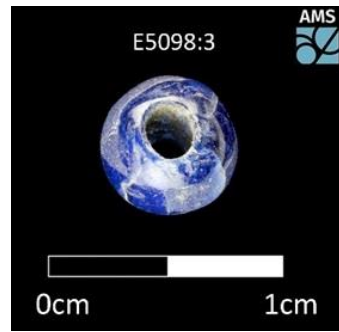


Killeen East

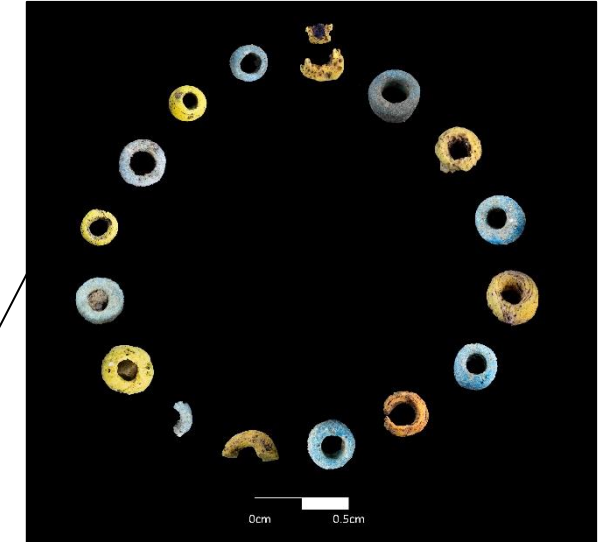


Killeen East





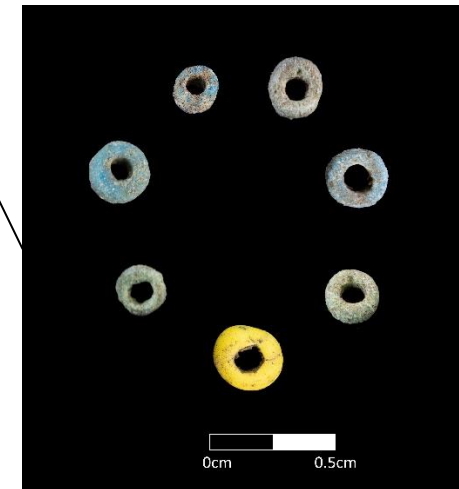
Lower fill



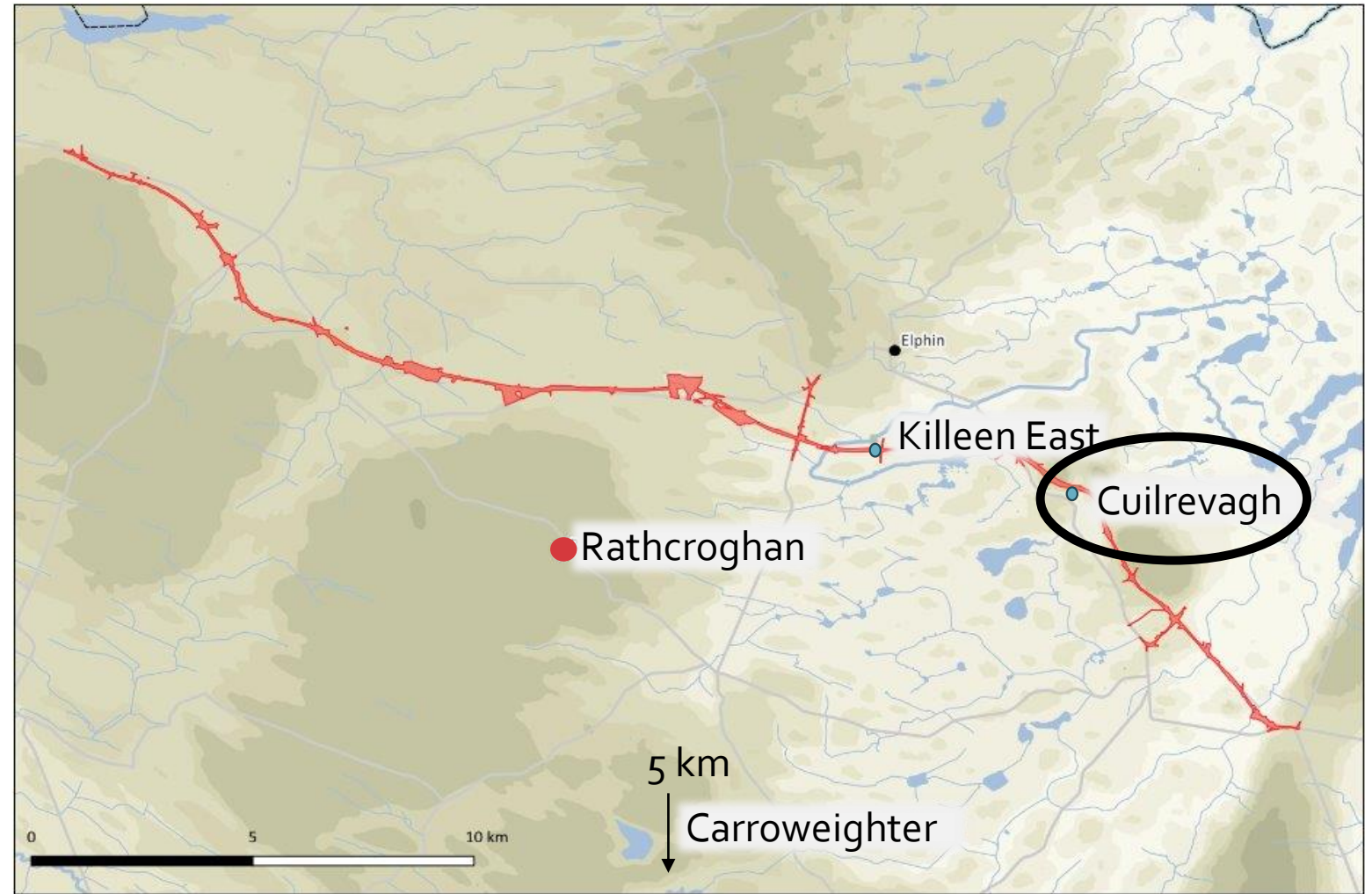
Killeen East 1

Killeen East 1

Upper fill



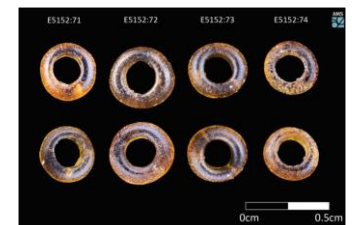
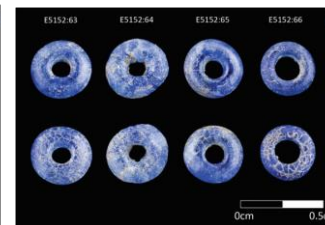
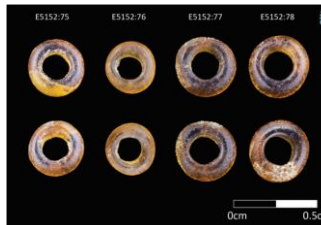
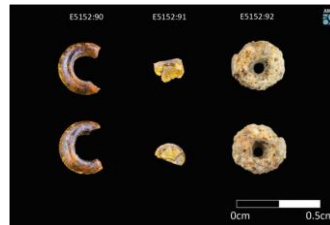
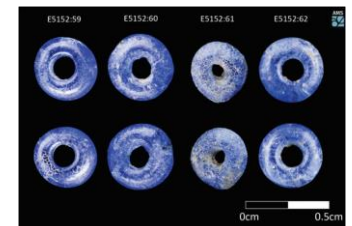
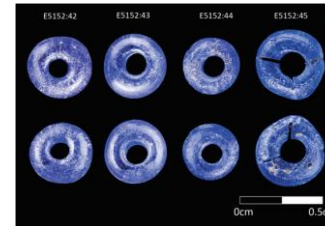
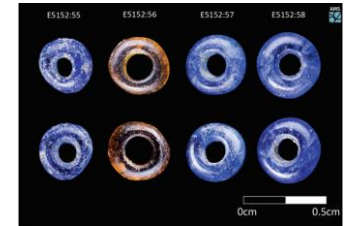
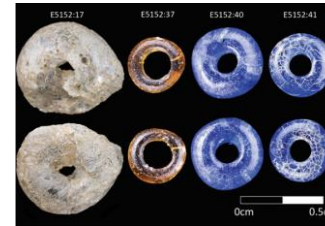
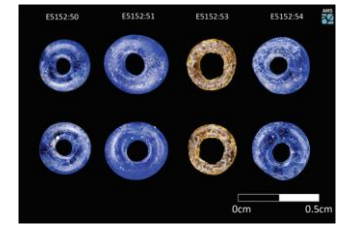
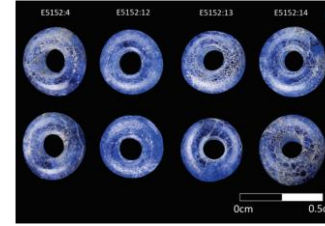
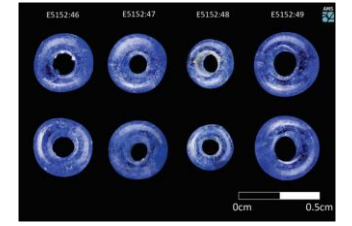
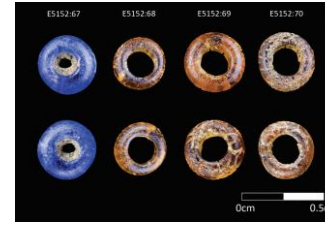
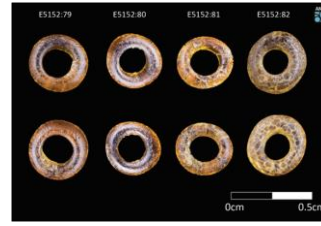
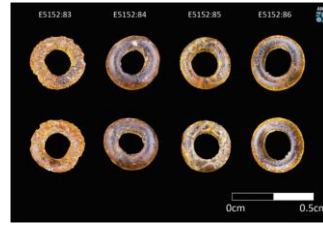
Cuilrevagh



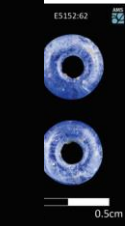
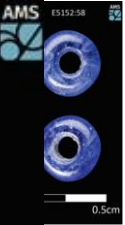
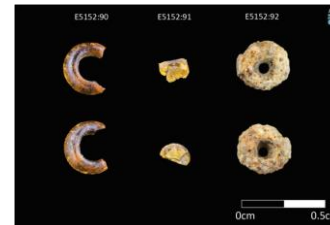
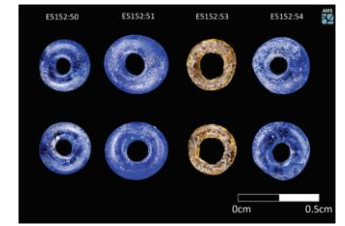
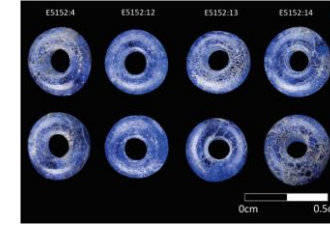
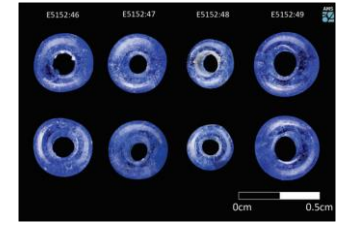
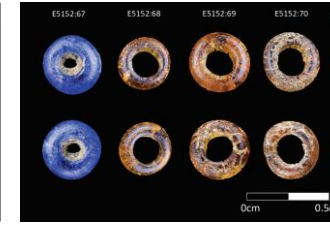
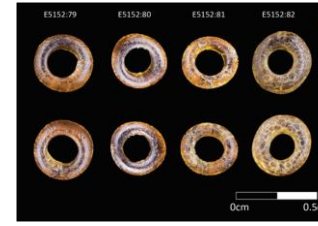
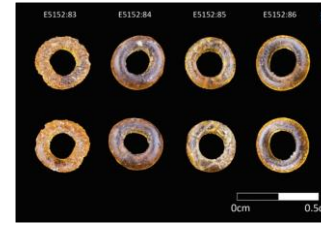
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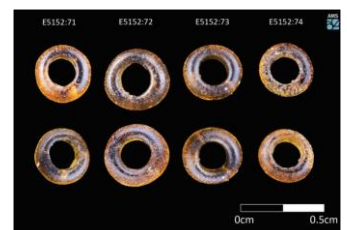
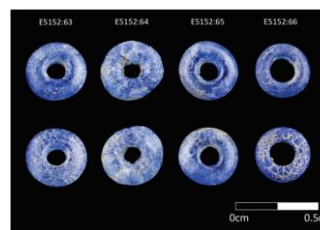
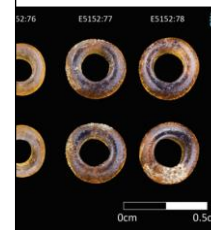
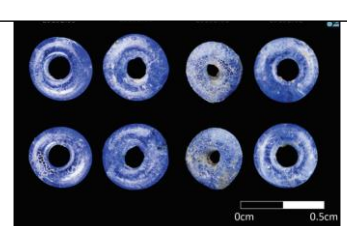
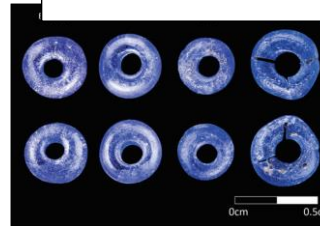
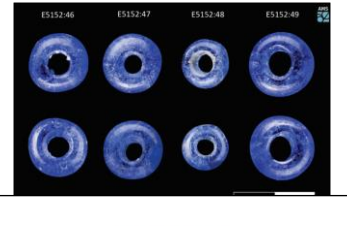
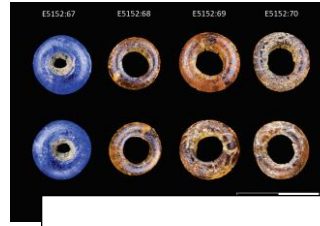
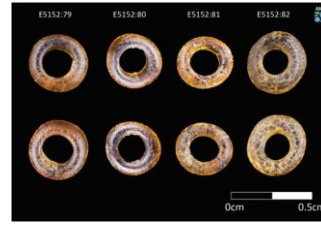
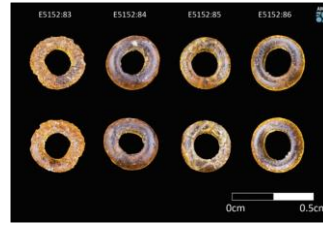
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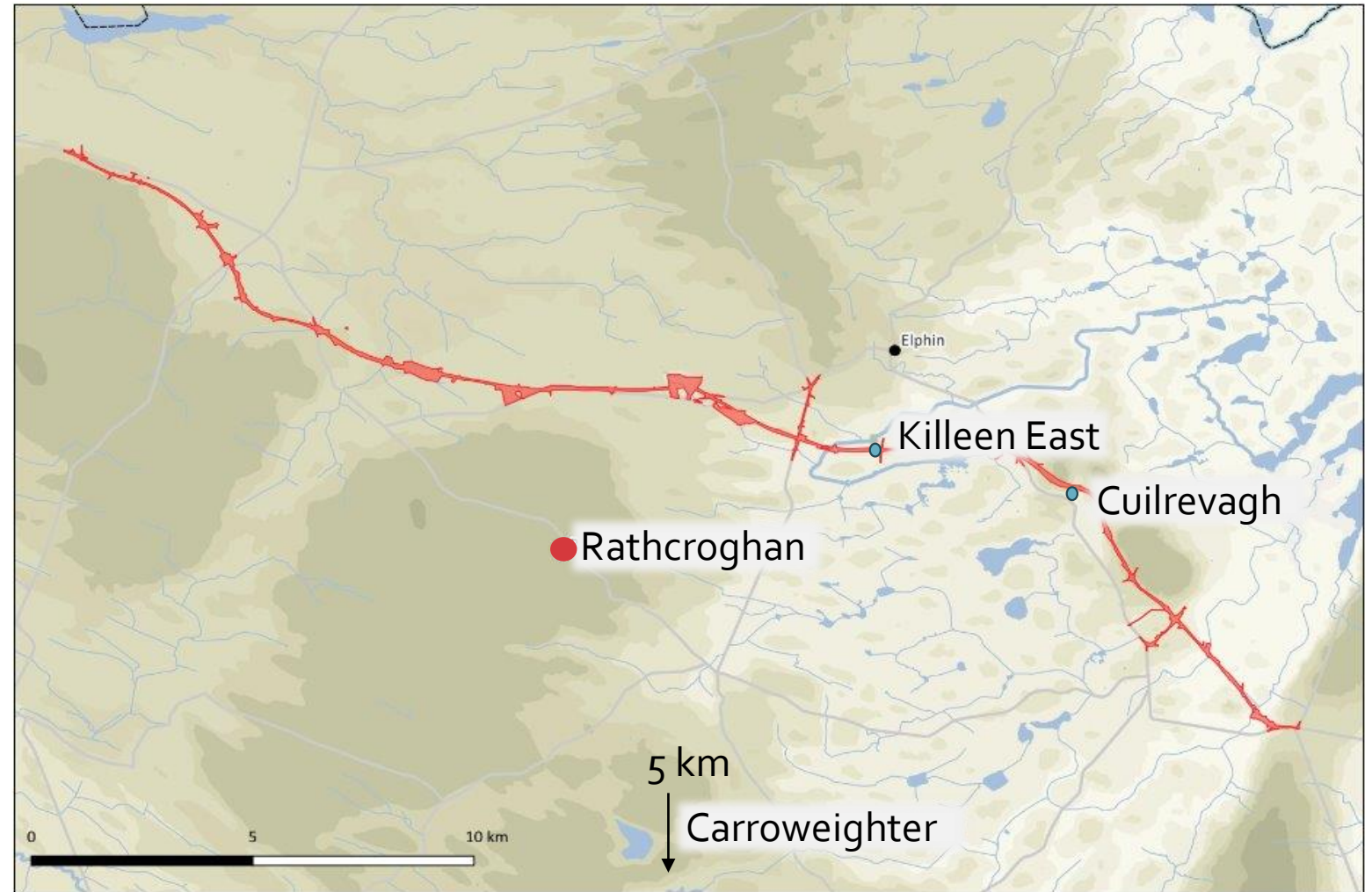
Cuilrevagh



Cuilrevagh



Carroweighter



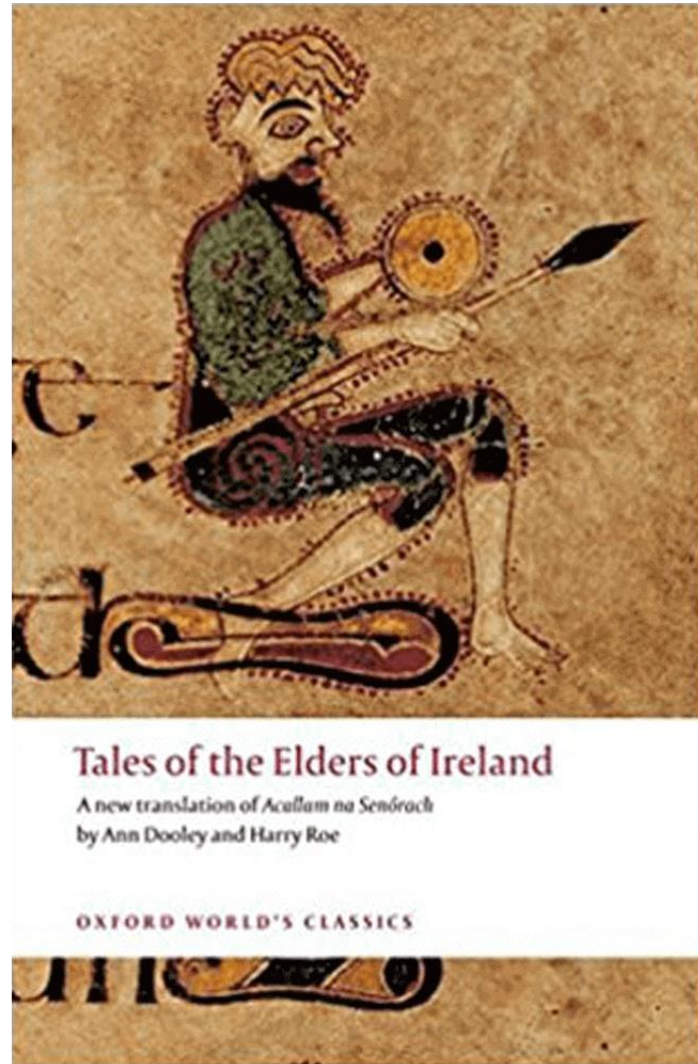
Carroweighter 2



**Images Courtesy of Maeve Tobin
and IAC Archaeology**



Monosandalism and the Irish otherworld



The Topos of the single sandal in Irish Tradition (Mac Cana 1973)

'the three sons of the king of Ireland asked their father for land, and, when he refused, they decided to seek land from the Tuatha De Danann and to press their claim by carrying out a ritual fast against them. At this point they observed a handsome and finely dressed warrior approaching. He wore a shoe of white silver, and this shoe was on whichever foot touched the ground. The stranger greeted the sons of the king of Ireland and they returned his greeting and asked the nature of his journey, using a traditional formula that is commonly employed to address visitors from the otherworld.'

Monosandalism

Royal inauguration in Ireland
c. 1100-600 (Fitzpatrick 2004)

The inauguration of Ó Néill at Tulach Óg, 1602



National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

Monosandalism

Royal inauguration in Ireland
c. 1100-600 (Fitzpatrick 2004)

The O'Connor inauguration stone
(Clonalis House – Reputedly taken from Carnfree)



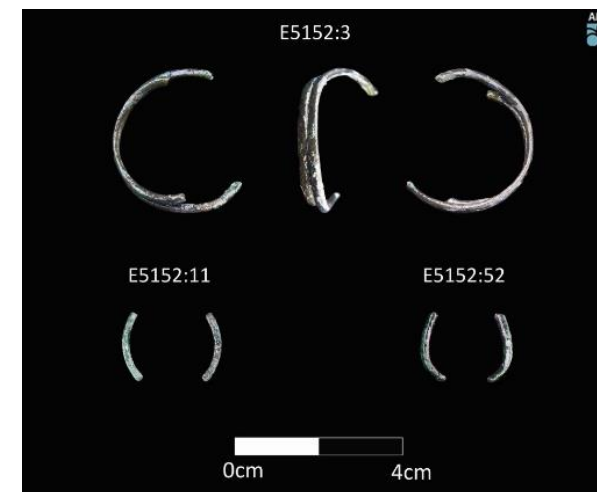
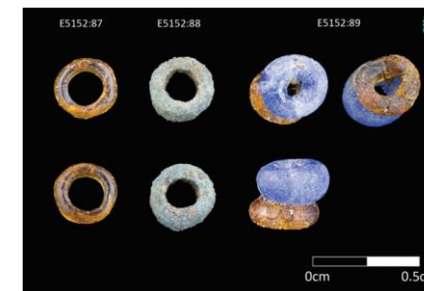
Ritual
decommissioning
of royal or
potentially royal
persons



Old Croghan Man
The National Museum of
Ireland

Returning to our research questions

- Can an elite stratum be identified within the Iron Age remains?
- Is the character of the later prehistoric archaeology any different from that on schemes not passing through the landscapes of a later prehistoric royal site?
- Can any of the remains shed light on the wider landscape of Rathcroghan during later prehistory?
- Can aspects of myth illuminate the remains we found or aspects of those remains illuminate myth?



Thank you!

Acknowledgements

Site directors:

Cuilrevagh 1: Siobhan McNamara

Killeen East 1: Brian O'Hara

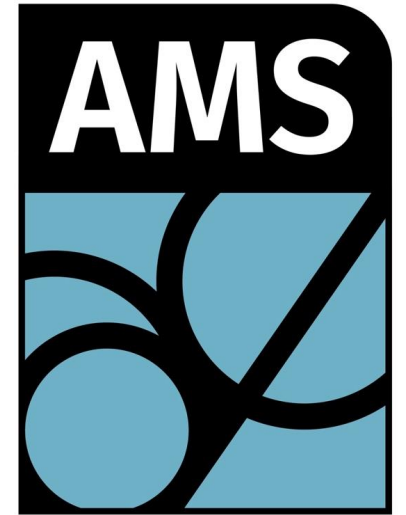
Excavation crews

AMS N5 scheme Senior Archaeologist: Colum Hardy

RCC Archaeologist: Deirdre McCarthy

TII archaeologist: Mary Deevy

IAC archaeology: Maeve Tobin (images of Carroweighter)



Archaeological
Management Solutions



TII
Bonneagar Iompair Éireann
Transport Infrastructure Ireland