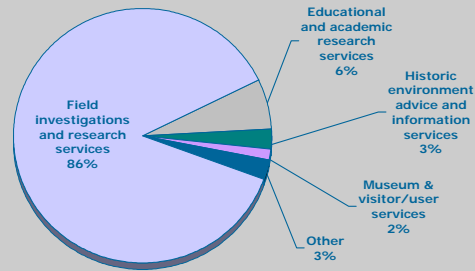




Summary

The estimated number of archaeologists working in the archaeological sector in the Republic of Ireland is approximately 1709. This figure compares with a figure of 650 for the whole of Ireland recorded in 2002 representing an increase of over 250%. The survey recorded all those working in the archaeological sector in Ireland including both archaeological (91%) and non-archaeological support staff (9%).



Number of archaeologists = 1,709

Of the total number, 67% are fixed-term contract staff and the remaining 33% hold permanent positions. The majority of the total workforce (89%) is employed in the commercial sector and the remainder are mainly divided among the public sector and third level institutions. According to the survey 80% hold a primary degree and 41% have a postgraduate qualification.

The *Discovering the Archaeologists of Europe: Ireland* survey sought to gather information on all archaeologists and dependent professionals working in the Republic of Ireland through a survey of all employers and self-employed archaeologists. Some 168 questionnaires were distributed and the responses received represent all sectors of the profession including, commercial, state, educational and self-employed archaeologists.

The project has a number of objectives at both European and individual state levels:

- identify barriers to the profession and to trans-national mobility
- identify labour market information and trends, including training investment, recruitment and career progression difficulties
- establish the number of archaeologists working in each state
- identify training needs and shortages
- provide archaeological employers with information to aid planning



Excavation of Ballybannon early medieval ringfort in advance of road construction, Carlow, Ireland. (Headland Archaeology Ltd)

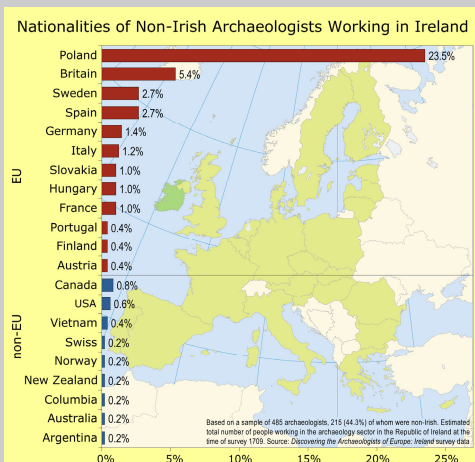


Part of a team of 121 archaeologists from 14 countries excavating a wetland complex, Ederclon, Co. Longford. (C.Moore/CRDS)

The Profession in Ireland

The survey was conducted in 2007 and the results captured the profession in Ireland at the crest of a wave driven by significant state and private sector spending in infrastructure and development.

One of the most dramatic results of survey was the large proportion of non-Irish archaeologists working in the country. The survey indicated that 44.5% came from outside the country with over half of these from Poland and less numbers from other EU States.



CPD, Training and Skills

In general archaeological employers indicated they are prepared to support and encourage individual employees in Continuing Professional Development (CPD). However, while 50% of employers have a training budget only 36% indicated that they have a formal training plan.

Information technology was the training need most commonly identified and 86% of employers meet their needs through the use of external consultants. The main archaeological specialist skills shortages identified were in non-intrusive field investigations (including geophysical surveys) and conservation of artefacts and ecofacts.

Employers highlighted a range of archaeological training priorities for current and potential employees with project management (53%), landscape characterisation (50%), information technology (50%) and a general need to improve field-work skills being the major areas identified.



Excavation of Rathcannon Middle Bronze Age cemetery during gas pipeline construction. (Margaret Gowen & Co Ltd)

The *Discovering the Archaeologist of Europe: Ireland* report is available on the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland website at <http://www.iai.ie> and on the Discovering the Archaeologist of Europe website at <http://www.discovering-archaeologists.eu>

