Monitoring the Archaeology of Sligo’s Coastline

Annual Report for 2015

A new citizen science scheme for County Sligo

Dr. James Bonsall & Sam Moore

Applied Archaeology Division,
Department of Environmental Sciences,
School of Science, IT Sligo
Our year in numbers

>850 hours of volunteer work

5 new monuments added to the SMR

941 unique page views on our website

200 regular social media users

300 attendees to MASC Project Presentations
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Introduction

Coastal hazards and climate predictions suggest an increase in severe cyclones and wave surges in the future which will continue to threaten middens, promontories, inter-tidal sites, wrecks and many other monuments that lie in coastal locations (Erlandson 2008; Kelly & Stack 2009; Pollard-Belsheim et al. 2014; Westley et al. 2011). The MASC Project - 'Monitoring the Archaeology of Sligo's Coastline' is a citizen science scheme that has been developed to assist archaeological research by recruiting amateur or non-professional scientists - people that live, work and use the coastline on a regular basis. The principle aim of the MASC Project is to educate and prepare voluntary citizens to recognize, report, record and monitor exposed and threatened cultural heritage sites along the 195 km of coast in Co. Sligo. Based on policy guidelines and recommended outcomes (Kelly & Stack 2009), the project intends to raise public awareness of natural coastal processes and create a GIS based vulnerability mapping of Sligo's coastline. By educating and working with coastal community groups and NGOs in Co. Sligo it is intended to set up system for the identification and recording of sites in vulnerable areas.

Background

In 2014, in response to the severity of the winter storms, the idea of the MASC Project was conceived to monitor the erosion and destruction of archaeological sites along the Co. Sligo coast. It was also noted during this time that new monuments were being revealed by the same erosional processes, leading to the identification of a beach-constructed fulacht fiadh trough at Coney Island, found by an IT Sligo student and excavated by the National Museum of Ireland and IT Sligo (funded by the NMI with funding provided for a radiocarbon date by DAHG) and a midden at Raghly. The contribution for a citizen science monitoring / recording scheme appeared to also assist the work of the National Monuments Service.

The MASC Project is run by Dr. James Bonsall, Sam Moore and Sally Siggins, all based at IT Sligo.
Activities of the MASC Project

Baseline Data: Sites at Risk

Sally Siggins was responsible for developing the Sites at Risk Map (Figure 1), which is available on our website (see below). Sally is an IT Sligo BSc (Hons) Applied Archaeology undergraduate and carried out baseline research as part of the 3rd Year Digital Archaeology module. The Sites at Risk Map allows us in the future to determine which sites are most at risk - and therefore in need of regular monitoring. The work has created baseline data for vulnerable coastal archaeology in Co. Sligo.

Monuments at risk of erosion were determined by compiling a database (Siggins 2015) of all known archaeological sites <5m from the coast and <10m from the coast. The data were derived from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland SMR and were subsequently assessed in a GIS to determine proximity to the coastline. There were, at the time of compilation, 90 monuments <5m from the coast and 148 monument <10m from the coast, along 195km of coastline, of which 132km are categorised as ‘soft coastline’ which is particularly susceptible to erosion. 26% of the Sites at Risk are Middens and 8% are Promontory Forts.

Since the database was compiled, an additional 3 middens have been discovered in Co. Sligo by the MASC Project, increasing the baseline database by 2%. It will be necessary to incorporate soft/hard coastline types and geology into a wider GIS database in the future. It will also be necessary to categorize the risk of erosion and nominate monitoring periods.

Figure 1. Sites at Risk Map. Circles are 5-10m from the coast, Squares are <5m from the coast. After Siggins (2015).
Website

The MASC Project Website - https://themascproject.wordpress.com/ was launched in March 2015. The website is run by volunteers comprised of staff and students at IT Sligo, principally by Sally Siggins and James Bonsall. It was developed by Sally Siggins as part of her Digital Archaeology module. The website is hosted by wordpress using a .wordpress.com free domain and does not cost any money to run.

In 2015, the websites received 1,770 Views and had 941 Unique Visitors. The website gives details on the MASC Project aims, events and outreach. The site also publishes an occasional blog (Table 1) which we use for further outreach. Our first major discovery made by a citizen scientist ‘Martina’s Midden’ received excellent publicity and has been the subject of talks and presentations that demonstrate the value of citizen science. The largest number of website views came from Ireland (1,397), followed by the UK, US and Australia, and another 28 countries (Figure 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blog entry</th>
<th>Views</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martina’s Midden: Beach Clean results in Archaeological Discovery by a Citizen Scientist! (Bonsall 2015a)</td>
<td>715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lights, Camera, Action, Middens! RTÉ film the MASC Project on the Wild Atlantic Way TV Programme (Siggins 2015b)</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fun with Flags! Mapping the Landscape with a Smartphone (Bonsall 2015b)</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Blog entries posted in 2015 and views received.

Figure 2. Views of the MASC Project website.
Events

The MASC Project was launched on the 7th March 2015, at the Weather Beaten Archaeology Conference at IT Sligo. The Conference, convened by MASC Project director James Bonsall heard from 25 experts from Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, the Orkney Islands, France, Iceland and Canada (as well as representatives of the Irish National Monuments Service, the Underwater Archaeology Unit and the Heritage Council) who shared their experiences of coastal erosion and vulnerable archaeology. A key session at the Conference heard from groups of researchers similar to the MASC Project, who demonstrated that citizen science schemes led by key (importantly, local) stakeholders, can be a great success.

Shortly after the launch of the MASC Project, directors Sam Moore and James Bonsall were invited to speak at the Clean Coasts Roadshow, Sligo Yacht Club, Rosses Point, Co. Sligo, on 19th March 2015. The Roadshow aims to bring together all those with an interest in protecting their local beaches, seas and marine life. The Roadshow also heard from local archaeologists Tamlyn McHugh and Auriel Robinson about their own anti-litter groups. The Clean Coasts Groups are comprised of people with a passion for their local areas and a very keen awareness (and ownership) of coastal archaeology. We received very positive feedback from the Roadshow and a number of new volunteers have been recruited to the MASC Project as a result of this event. Clean Coasts are a key network of volunteers that we seek to have closer ties with.

Dr James Bonsall was invited by the Geography Society to talk about our experience of engaging with Citizen Scientists at a unique 3-day ‘Citizen Science + GIS Training School’ designed to encourage Citizen Science volunteering in Ireland. The event was organised by Seán Lynch, an MSc student at NUI Galway and was attended by a range of citizen scientists, stakeholders, NGO’s, academics and students, highlighting the enormous potential for future collaboration. One of the participants, University College London PhD researcher Valentine Seymour has offered her services developing the MASC Project further using GIS and open-access software, which is a key issue for us to tackle in 2016.
Presentations & Publications

As well as the events described above, the directors have presented at:

- European Association of Archaeologists Annual (EAA) Conference at the University of Glasgow
- Virtual Heritage Network Ireland Conference at NUI Maynooth

We are endeavouring to make MASC Project presentations freely available via Academia and/or as video presentations. The EAA presentation will lead to a paper due for publication in a monograph in 2016.

Bonsall, J. and Moore, S. 2015. ‘Surf 'n' Turf: Archaeological Discoveries by Citizen Scientists Strolling along the Beach’. Citizen Science and GIS Training School. National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland, 21-23 August 2015. [https://www.academia.edu/16201795/Surf_n_Turf_Archaeological_Discoveries_by_Citizen_Scientists_Strolling_along_the_Beach](https://www.academia.edu/16201795/Surf_n_Turf_Archaeological_Discoveries_by_Citizen_Scientists_Strolling_along_the_Beach)

Bonsall, J. and Moore, S. 2015. ‘The Men and Women behind the MASC Project (Monitoring the Archaeology of Sligo’s Coastline): Engaging local stakeholder groups to monitor vulnerable coastal archaeology in Ireland’. Session on ‘Engaging the Public with Archaeology Threatened by Climate Change’. In L. Campbell (ed.) Abstracts of the Oral and Poster Presentations, 21st Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, 2-5 September 2015, University of Glasgow, Scotland, p405. [https://www.academia.edu/16199637/The_Men_and_Women_behind_the_MASC_Project_Monitoring_the_Archaeology_of_Sligo_s_Coastline_Engaging_local_stakeholder_groups_to_monitor_vulnerable_coastal_archaeology_in_Ireland](https://www.academia.edu/16199637/The_Men_and_Women_behind_the_MASC_Project_Monitoring_the_Archaeology_of_Sligo_s_Coastline_Engaging_local_stakeholder_groups_to_monitor_vulnerable_coastal_archaeology_in_Ireland) this is also available as a video presentation at [https://themascproject.wordpress.com/events/](https://themascproject.wordpress.com/events/)


Social Media, Television & Newspaper

The MASC Project has a presence on Facebook (facebook.com/TheMascProject - 176 Likes) and Twitter (@MASC_CoastArch - 58 Followers). The accounts are maintained by James Bonsall and Sally Siggins.

The first citizen science discovery of the MASC Project ‘Martina’s Midden’ (Bonsall 2015a) led to good local coverage in the Sligo Weekender newspaper (Figure 3). On the 17th June 2015, Sam Moore and a number of MASC Project volunteers were filmed at one of our sites at risk, Staad church (RMP No. SL005-022001-) for John Creedon’s Wild Atlantic Way series on RTÉ television. Unfortunately, the filming did not make the final cut, but a subsequent blog (Siggins 2015b) on the website ensured a lot of publicity (Figure 4).

![Figure 3. The Sligo Weekender, 21 May 2015.](image)

![Figure 4. John Creedon, Martina Butler and Sam Moore discuss the loss of vulnerable coastal archaeological sites on the Wild Atlantic Way. Photo: Michael Gleeson](image)
Reporting Archaeological Discoveries

The Discovery Event Report Form

The MASC Project has developed a Google Form, that allows members of the public to submit their discoveries online. Once a discovery has been logged, it triggers an email which is sent to the directors and is simultaneously entered into a spreadsheet. The form was designed by James Bonsall and is reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The purpose of the form is to ask a number of simplified questions (rather than specialist archaeological questions) to citizen scientists, from which MASC Project Responders can then determine if the discovery represents an archaeological site. The report form is modelled on the NMS’s Monument Report Form and we have endeavoured to simplify it for non-archaeologists, as well as provide an interactive element to assist with geolocation data for citizen scientists. Responders can either then officially report the monument to the National Monuments Service, or investigate the site further to determine the presence/absence of archaeology. In all cases for discoveries reported in Co. Sligo, the discovery site was visited by MASC Project Responders to confirm the presence of archaeology or a palaeoenvironmental feature, and then reported the discovery to the NMS. Discoveries located beyond Co. Sligo were not visited by Responders - the discoveries were passed on to the NMS with a MASC Project review of the original report, including maps and an appraisal of the site’s archaeological potential.

![Figure 5. The front page of the online discovery form.](image)

The form is only available on request, or is given out to specific members of the public if a discovery is noticed on social media. The form is not currently available via the MASC Project website. The reasoning behind this is

1. we have been developing and amending the form in response to users comments
2. we need the NMS to officially support the mechanism of the report form
The form was released on 20th May 2015 (v1.0) and has since been revised, thanks to comments from beta-testers. Revisions and updates:

- 20th July 2015 (v1.1)
- 19th August 2015 (v1.2)
- 10th October 2015 (v1.3)
- 14th January 2016 (v1.4)

The form was tested 7 times by 4 unique users. The current version, (v1.5), was released on 17th January 2016 and is available at http://goo.gl/forms/TWhtM21v0f. The form takes 5-10 minutes to fill in and is comprised of 12 sections.

The number of questions varies depending on the type of discovery - e.g. the form steers the user towards identifying one of three different types of 'Discovery Events': 1) A 'Find', 'Item', or 'Archaeological Object'; 2) A Possible Archaeological Site (e.g. a midden, a skeleton, a ringfort, a standing stone, a cairn); 3) A 'Shipwreck' or 'Piece(s) of a Wreck / Timber'.

Future revisions for 2016 will specifically incorporate paleoenvironmental discoveries (exposed peats, submerged forests), responding to user needs and reports (see below).

### MASC Project Discoveries

The ‘Reporting a Possible Archaeological Discovery’ Form was used to record 8 discovery events in 2015 (Table 2). Of these, only 2 had already been reported to the NMS, 75% were previously unreported discovery events.

- 1 report (12.5%) concerned a stone cannon ball, found on the beach at Streedagh, which had been reported to the NMS.
- 87.5% of the reports concerned previously unreported archaeological sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discovery Event</th>
<th>No. of Events</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Already Reported to NMS?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A 'Find', or an 'Item', or 'Archaeological Object'</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Co. Sligo</td>
<td>1 (Stone Cannon Ball, Streedagh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Possible Archaeological Site (e.g. a midden, a skeleton, a ringfort, a standing stone, a cairn)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5 x Co. Sligo 2 x Co. Mayo 1 x Co. Waterford</td>
<td>1 (WA027-094----)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A 'Shipwreck' or 'Piece(s) of a Wreck / Timber'</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Discovery Event Types reported to the MASC Project.
Of the 9 discovery events of ‘A Possible Archaeological Site’ (Table 3)

- 5 were confirmed as archaeological sites, added to the SMR
  - Three middens located in Co. Sligo (Figure 6) resulted in three new additions to the Archaeological Survey of Ireland and are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
    - SL008-203---
    - SL008-204----
    - SL014-294----
    - These added 3.3% to the number of middens in the Archaeological Survey of Ireland for Co. Sligo.
    - One of these, ‘Martina’s Midden’, was the first discovery for the MASC Project by a citizen scientist (previous discoveries were made by ‘archaeologically aware’ students/professionals).

- A Cist, (MA086-021----) located in Co. Mayo was reported to us by a MASC Project social media user, another citizen scientist. The MASC Project notified the NMS directly and it was subsequently recorded by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland and is scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP

- A fulacht fia (WA027-094----), was located in Co. Waterford. The discoverer was introduced to the MASC Project by social media and we encouraged them to contact the NMS directly, which they did. It was subsequently recorded by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland and is scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP. The MASC Project had no direct involvement in this discovery.

- 2 discoveries concerned palaeoenvironmental sites
  - a submerged forest (where tree trunks were clearly visible)
  - an exposed peat shelf

As well as maintaining the statutory SMR and RMP, the NMS also keeps records of exposed palaeoenvironment features and these are also being reported via the MASC Project. Palaeoenvironmental features account for 25% of all MASC Project reported discoveries - the ‘Reporting a Possible Archaeological Discovery’ Form will be adapted in the future to include these as a new sub-category.
Table 3. MASC Project discoveries in 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discovery Event Type</th>
<th>Visited by MASC Project Responder</th>
<th>Palaeo-environment Feature</th>
<th>Archaeology</th>
<th>Reported to NMS</th>
<th>Added to SMR</th>
<th>Classification SMR No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'Find' / 'Item' / 'Object'</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>By discoverer</td>
<td>No (NMI)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible Archaeological Site</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Exposed Peat Shelf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible Archaeological Site</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Midden SL008-203-023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible Archaeological Site</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Midden SL008-204-024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible Archaeological Site</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Submerged Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible Archaeological Site</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Midden SL014-294-025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible Archaeological Site</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Cist MA086-021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible Archaeological Site</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>By discoverer</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Fulacht Fia WA027-094-021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 6. Location of MASC Project discoveries in Co. Sligo.
Information derived from the Report / Discovery Form

The ‘Reporting a Possible Archaeological Discovery’ Form records various pieces of data on our citizen scientists that we hope will assist in the development and targeting of the MASC Project.

Geographical Location
- 57% of Reports were from people living in Co. Sligo. Others were from Co. Leitrim, Co. Waterford and Co. Roscommon.
- 3 of the 8 discoveries concerned reports located beyond Co. Sligo, 1 in Co. Waterford and 2 in Co. Mayo.

Archaeological Experience of Citizen Scientists
- 11.1% are or were Professional Archaeologists
- 44.4% are or were Archaeology Students
- 0% had previously reported a site to the MASC Project before e.g. each new report is from a unique individual.
- 11.1% had never identified an archaeological site or object before

This demonstrates that 55% of reports were from ‘archaeologically aware’ individuals. This is not a surprise as many of these were from IT Sligo students that are by choice regularly walking the local coastline. This is a strong local bias for IT Sligo, based in a small county with an active archaeological community and an easily accessible coastline - we would not expect to see the same type of occurrence in other counties. Currently, the ‘pure’ citizen scientists - those without an archaeological background, account for 11% of reports.

Time of Year that the Discovery was made
- 25% January
- 25% July
- 12.5% each for March, May, August and October

This indicates that there is a need for vigilance and coastal monitoring throughout the year, and not just during a period of winter storm activity. Note that some reports pre-date the establishment of the MASC Project - this reflects the time of discovery for sites that were not subsequently reported.
Time between Discovery and Reporting it to the MASC Project

- 2 months (beta test - an archaeological object was reported to NMI in the meantime)
- 4 months (beta test - palaeoenvironment feature reported to NMS in the meantime)
- 5 days (the first official MASC Project Report - first details recorded by email 4 days earlier)
- 3 days
- 1 month (couple on holiday, reported it after returning home)
- 15 months (site noted by student in 2014 but not reported until prompted by lecturer)
- 1 day
- The same day

If the beta tests are removed, the average time between initial discovery and reporting it is 81.5 days (2 months), which is heavily biased towards one student that noted a site but didn’t report it until they were prompted to. By removing this outlier as well, the average time between discovery and reporting is 7.8 days.

Method of Georeferencing the Discovery

- 12.5% of citizen scientists did not know how to give a coordinate in Lat/Long, ING or ITM format. They were guided to do so via the MASC Project which gives a simple demonstration of using online mapping to generate a coordinate.
- 62.5% of citizen scientists knew how to provide a Lat/Long coordinate. All of them used a website to derive this information.
- 12.5% of citizen scientists knew how to provide an ITM coordinate, and used a GPS to do so.
- 12.5% of citizen scientists knew how to provide an ING coordinate, and used a GPS to do so.

The Setting of the Discovery

This repeats a question from the NMS ‘Monument Report Form’ (‘Setting of Monument’) and prompts the user to choose between 5 selections. Some of these are used to assist further investigations, as well as give a geographical description. If a site is above the high tide mark or in a field, then it is located on private land and MASC Project Responders cannot enter that area (however an NMS Archaeologist can legally do so). If it is below the high tide mark, then it is assumed to be legally safe for a MASC Project Responder to assess. Similarly, a feature / object poking out of a cliff face may be observed and recorded at the base of the cliff, but may not be assessed from the cliff top (which may be in private ownership).

- 0% It is poking out of an exposed cliff face
- 62.5% It is on the beach, below the high tide mark
- 25% It is on the beach, above the high tide mark
- 0% It is in a field
- Other - a free text field for users to describe the setting
  - 12.5% On a raised field close to the beach in woodland
Condition of the Discovery
This repeats a question from the NMS ‘Monument Report Form’ (‘Condition of Monument’) and prompts the user to choose one or more of 6 selections. These are used to determine what if any health and safety concerns can be identified, an approximate geographic indicator as well as any imminent threat to the site.

- 37.5% It is covered by the tide each day
- 12.5% It is covered by sand
- 0% It is obscured by trees
- 12.5% It is covered by scrub or bushes
- 62.5% It is in danger of erosion
- 25% Other - a free text field for users to describe the condition

Awareness of local information about the area
This repeats a question from the NMS ‘Monument Report Form’ (‘Local Information’) to obtain a local name, a field name, or past history, etc. and is a free text field. 25% of reports included useful information.

Method of Discovery
This prompts the user to select how or why they came across their discovery from one of 4 options.

- 50% Walking the Beach
- 12.5% Part of An Taisce Clean Coasts Beach Clean
- 12.5% Leisure Pursuits (e.g. kayaking, surfing, etc.)
- Other - a free text field for users to describe the method of discovery
  - 12.5% Recording another nearby archaeological site
  - 12.5% Reporter was notified by someone else and went to investigate

Would you have notified anybody / organisation of your discovery, if you had not been aware of the MASC Project?

- 37.5% did not answer the question
- 50% answered ‘Yes’ or that they would have talked to ‘archaeologically aware’ friends
- 12.5% had already reported it to the NMS
Funding

The MASC Project received no funding during 2015.

Applications for funding were made to:

- The Heritage Council
- The Ireland Funds

We believe that the MASC Project requires 1 part-time member of staff (16 hours per week). Currently, the MASC Project relies entirely on volunteer work, which includes:

- Responding to Discovery Reports
  - Assessment
  - Physical response and investigation (fieldwork)
  - Reporting to NMS
  - Contacting reporter of discovery and appraising them of its status
- Providing training to citizen scientists
- Website and Social Media Presence
- Publicity and Awareness Raising
- Presentations, Papers and Conference attendance (including fees, travel and accommodation)
Support-in-Kind

As a non-funded initiative, the MASC Project has benefitted from the following support-in-kind comprising voluntary work or student projects based at IT Sligo. A detailed list of hours can be found in Appendix 1. In 2015, 26 individuals contributed to the MASC Project. Travel (both time and cost), Subsistence and Conferences Fees are not included here, which were paid for by the Volunteers themselves.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Admin, Creation and Development</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>191.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Creation, content and maintenance</td>
<td>Project for the Digital Archaeology Module, IT Sligo BSc Applied Archaeology</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation of the Sites at Risk Map</td>
<td>Project for the Digital Archaeology Module, IT Sligo BSc Applied Archaeology / Admin</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monument Report Form</td>
<td>Monument Report Form creation/maintenance/revisions</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta Testing</td>
<td>Testing functionality of the Monument Report Form</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Various duties</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting - Heritage Officer, INTERREG Funding</td>
<td>Discuss funding and advocacy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Applications - Heritage Council, IRC New Foundations, The Ireland Funds</td>
<td>Funding Applications</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The MASC Project Annual Report</td>
<td>Annual Report</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Site Assessments</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>115.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Assessment - Phase 1 - Coastline Monitoring</td>
<td>Assessing known sites and looking for recent changes whilst carrying out other pursuits e.g. beach walking / beach cleaning</td>
<td>68.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Assessment - Phase 2 - Reporting a Discovery to the MASC Project</td>
<td>Report filed via the MASC Project Monument Report Form</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Assessment - Phase 3 - Site Survey</td>
<td>Measured and/or photographic surveys of newly discovered / monitored sites</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Assessment - Phase 4 - Informing NMS of a new Monument</td>
<td>Report filed by MASC via the NMS Monument Report Form</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publicity and Outreach</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean Coasts Road Show, EAA Glasgow Conference, NUIG GIS + Training School, Virtual Heritage Ireland Conference</td>
<td>Conference Attendance</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Conference Papers etc</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georarchaeological Survey - Shelly Valley</td>
<td>Field Trip and data collection for the Geoarchaeology Module, IT Sligo BSc (Hons) Applied Archaeology</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geophysical Survey and Excavation - Shelly Valley</td>
<td>J. Bonsall Project Co-director with Kat Napor</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Training Workshop, Blogs, Publicity Photos from Site Visits, TV Filming with RTE, Live Tweets from Conferences</td>
<td>Publicity and Awareness</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geophysical Survey and Excavation - Shelly Valley</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 864.75
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Average Hours per Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>610.25</td>
<td>3 x MASC Project Staff (unwaged; inc. 2 x IT Sligo Staff and 1 x IT Sligo Student)</td>
<td>203.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Staff (unconnected to MASC)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>229</td>
<td>13 x IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Student</td>
<td>17.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>8 x Member of the Public</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>864.75</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The amount of volunteer time spent working on the MASC Project is 864.75 hours. The hours recorded by MASC Project staff and IT Sligo students represents the majority of time spent carrying out administration, publicity and site assessments. By discounting the work of members of the public (which represents initial site discoveries and reports of them), we have an appreciation of how much time is being spent by unpaid staff carrying out the work of the MASC Project, which amounts to 861.85 hours, or 115 working days (allowing 7.5 hours per day). This represents 46% of a working year and encourages us to consider recruiting a member of staff to run a variety of MASC Project tasks for 2-2.5 days per week, that have, until now, been carried out on an entirely voluntary basis.

A total of 115 hours (15 days) were spent on Site Assessments. This includes 4 stages of work: Coastline Monitoring (MASC Project Staff and citizen scientists); Reporting a Monument to the MASC Project (MASC Project Staff and citizen scientists); Site Survey (MASC Project Staff); Informing the NMS of a New Monument (MASC Project Staff). These activities resulted in the identification of 5 new monuments added to the SMR and 2 palaeoenvironmental sites, which represents on average 16 hours of volunteer work for each new site identified.
Networks

We have 26 active volunteers and an email list of 31 participants. We have reached a number of local networks, primarily fuelled by our links with Clean Coasts. Various aspects of our outreach work have lead to publicity and the recruitment of volunteers.

- Weather Beaten Archaeology Conference
  - Groups
    - Grange and Armada Development Association
      - 2 volunteers
    - Publicity
      - Irish Times
        - 1 volunteer
  - 1 Monument Discovered!
  - RTE’s Wild Atlantic Way TV Series

- IT Sligo
  - Staff
    - 3 volunteers (2 x directors)
      - 1 Monument Discovered!
      - 1 Palaeoenvironmental Feature Discovered
  - Students
    - 13 volunteers
      - 1 Monument Discovered
      - 1 Palaeoenvironmental Feature Discovered
      - The MASC Project Website Developed

- Clean Coasts
  - North West Sea Kayaking Association
    - 2 volunteers
      - 1 Monument Discovered
  - iSurfIreland School of Surfing
  - Clean Coasts Strandhill
  - Clean Coasts Lissadell
  - Enniscrone Coast Care
    - Enniscrone Walking Club
    - Enniscrone Tidy Towns
      - 1 volunteer

Social Media (with links to all of the above)
- Twitter
  - 58 Followers
- Facebook
  - 176 Likes
  - 8 volunteers
    - 1 Monument Discovered
    - 1 Palaeoenvironmental Feature Discovered
Key Objectives for 2016

1. Obtain Funding Streams for a viable project
2. Establish training sessions for Citizen Scientists
3. Increase networks and volunteers
4. Develop GIS
5. Determine feasibility of expanding MASC beyond Co. Sligo
6. Determine feasibility or becoming a company or a charity, to enable further revenue streams that are not currently open to a ‘project’
7. Liaise with the Sligo Volunteer Centre to investigate amount of support they can offer or consider funding sources for a 2-2.5 day working week
8. Pitch an MSc research proposal to University College London, for their Extreme Citizen Science (ExCiteS) Research Group.
9. Liaise with IT Cork to develop suitable links for their technological developments that could be useful on local Sligo sites
References


Siggins, S. 2015a. The MASC Project Sites at Risk: 5m and 5-10m zones, Co. Sligo. Available at https://themascproject.wordpress.com/sites-at-risk-map/


Appendix 1 - Breakdown of Hours working on the MASC Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>James Bonsall</td>
<td>MASC Project Director (unwaged) &amp; IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>Sam Moore</td>
<td>MASC Project Director (unwaged) &amp; IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>205.25</td>
<td>Sally Siggins</td>
<td>MASC Project - Staff (unwaged) &amp; IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fiona Beglane</td>
<td>IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Aidan Dowd</td>
<td>IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Ciara Losty</td>
<td>IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.25</td>
<td>Ciaran Davis</td>
<td>IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Eugene Maguire</td>
<td>IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jeff O Neill</td>
<td>IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kevin Callery</td>
<td>IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Michael Gleeson</td>
<td>IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Nadine Morrison</td>
<td>IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Renata Nolan</td>
<td>IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Rory Connolly</td>
<td>IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sarah Halford</td>
<td>IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>William O'Hara</td>
<td>IT Sligo Applied Archaeology Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>Simon Dowling</td>
<td>Member of the Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>Carmel McLoughlin</td>
<td>Member of the Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cian Hogan</td>
<td>Member of the Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>Con &amp; Niamh Connor</td>
<td>Member of the Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Darren Regan</td>
<td>Member of the Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>Donal Gilroy</td>
<td>Member of the Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Eithne Davis</td>
<td>Member of the Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Heather Gimson</td>
<td>Member of the Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>Martina Butler</td>
<td>Member of the Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hours of work contributed to the MASC Project.