

# Excavation on the Ringaskiddy Peninsula

## Background

During 2022 and early 2023 Rubicon undertook an excavation at Barnahely, on the M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Project, south-east of Cork City. This site had been identified by preliminary geophysical survey and test-trenching, and was prioritised for excavation in the Stage (i)-(iv) archaeological services contract.

Pre-excavation services confirmed the presence of a large archaeological site, which was subsequently fully documented and excavated (Registration Number E5389).



## Excavation

The excavation was divided into four areas:

- **Area A** contained pre-historic archaeology including a small ring-ditch with outer concentric ditch, a small ring of post-holes representing the remains of a possible house and a dense concentration of pits containing saddle querns, grinding stones and charred grain.
- **Area B** contained the southern third of a settlement enclosure, with evidence of metal-working and at least one other smaller oval enclosure.
- **Area C** contained the northern half of a second settlement enclosure, with an earth-cut souterrain.
- **Area D** contained another large settlement enclosure approximately 40 m in diameter internally, with waste pits and a stone-lined souterrain.



BONE PIN

GLASS BEADS

SPEARHEAD



SPINDLE-WHORL

BROOCH



QUERN STONE



## Preliminary Analysis

Initial C14 dates indicate occupation of the three closely-spaced settlement enclosures some time between AD 650 and AD 950. A large quantity of animal bone and slag has been recovered, along with over 500 finds including; a brooch, beads, knives, spindle-whorls, a bill-hook and spearhead.

Post-excavation services have yet to commence.



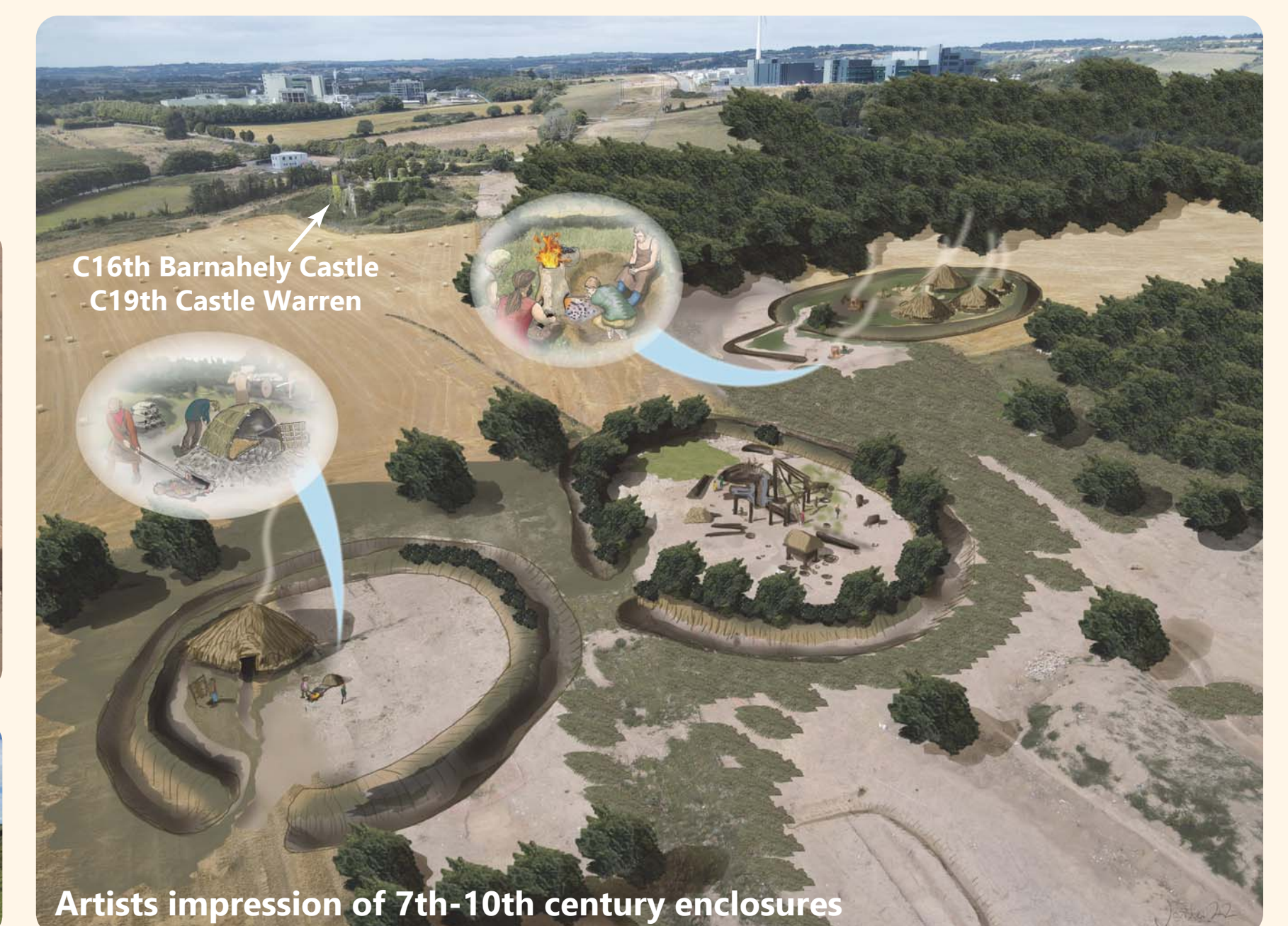
Souterrain (Area D)



Souterrain (Area D)



Barnahely Castle/Castle Warren



Artists impression of 7th-10th century enclosures



**M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Project**  
Archaeological Consultancy Services Stage [i] to Stage [iv]