

## Post Congress field trip: Clare Island

**Leaders: Peter Coxon.** Price includes transfer to and from Dublin. Ferry crossings, hostel accommodation, breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal.

- Start: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 1030h Dublin City Centre (exact location to be confirmed)
- End: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 1800h at Dublin Dublin City Centre

We will travel by bus and will catch a ferry out to Clare Island, a small island (7.5 x 2.5km) off the coast of County Mayo in western Ireland.

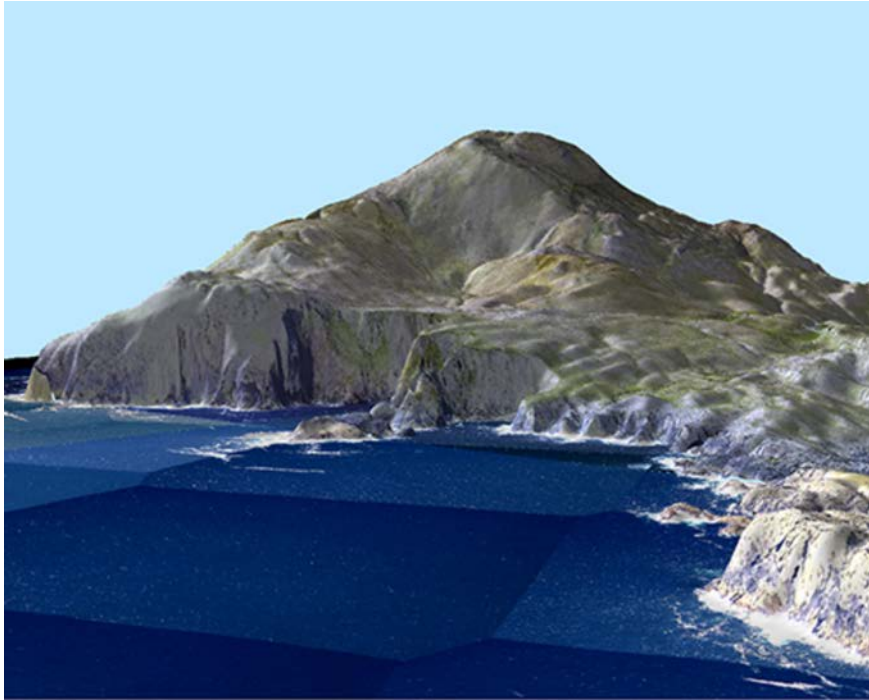


The island has a rich and diverse landscape that has been the subject of scientific study since the famous Clare Island Survey of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.



view from hostel

The varied landscape includes dramatic upland scenery sculpted by fast moving ice crossing the island and terminating on the western Irish shelf during the LGM. A subsequent ice readvance has left clear evidence of a moraine limit on the island. Coastal and inland exposures allow features of glacial erosion and deposition to be observed in detail. The western end of the island contains a large corrie and a moraine complex that is probably Younger Dryas in age.



LiDAR image of western end of Clare Island



Happy students demonstrating Younger Dryas sequence just outside of corrie

Abundant accommodation space in hummocky terrain has left substantial deposits of Holocene organic sediments and these provide a detailed record of the island's vegetation history. We will take cores from these.

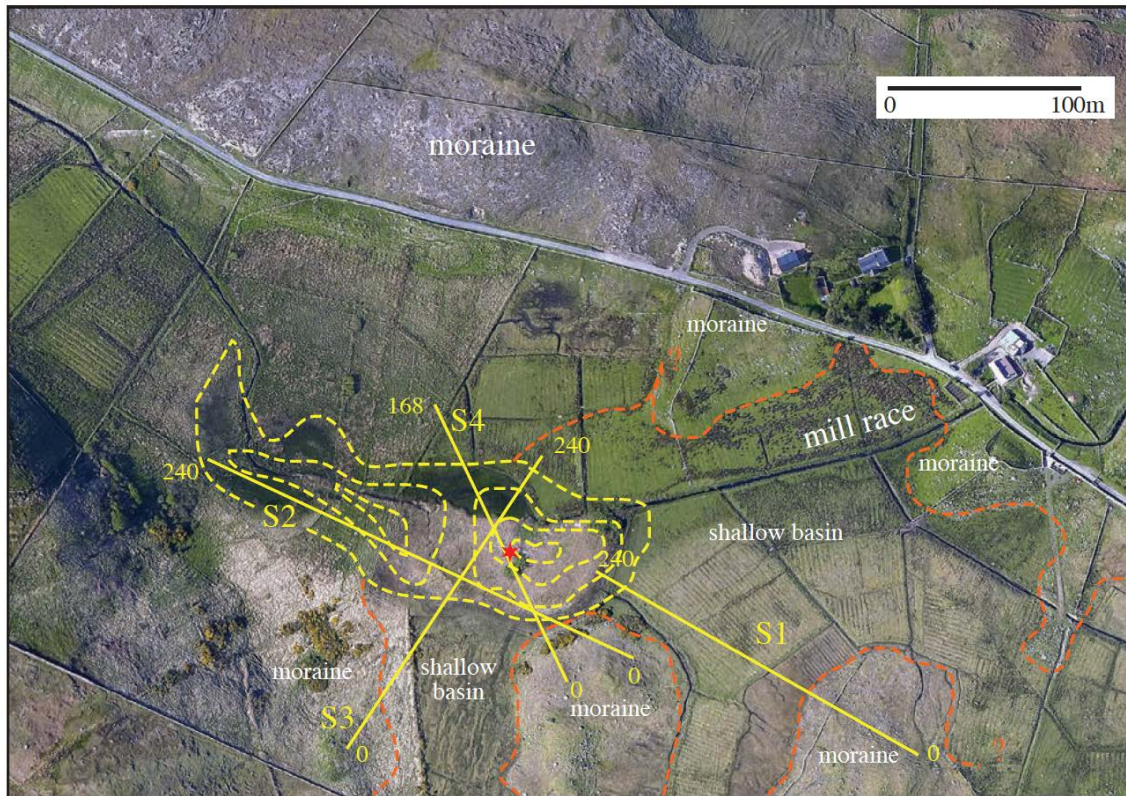


Fig. 4 An orthophotograph image of the area immediately around Lough Avullin. The lake basin is delimited by yellow dashed lines, the larger area of the shallow basins is delimited in orange and the hummocky moraines in the vicinity are labeled. The image is also overlain with the lines (and lengths in metres) of the resistivity surveys (S1–S4). The core location is marked by a red star.

Human occupation of the island began at least 6500 years ago and the evidence of this occupation can be seen in a variety of archaeological monuments and features.

- All of the field excursion on the island will be on diverse and sometimes rough, bouldery and boggy terrain and will all be on foot covering as much as 12 or 15km a day. The itineraries cannot be guaranteed and will be weather dependant. The accommodation will be in a very comfortable modern hostel where we assemble our own breakfast (from ingredients provided), get a packed lunch and an evening meal. There is a bar on site. The rooms are shared with 6-8 people (separate male/ female) and modern comfortable bunk beds including sheets etc.

- The weather in August in Ireland can be very variable from warm and sunny to very wet, windy and cold (e.g. anything from 12-25C). Suitable all-weather clothing is essential.

### **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August:**

Depart 1030h Dublin City Centre 4.5h drive (including comfort stops) to Roonagh Pier *via* Westport. Ferry to island. Arrive at accommodation.

*Dinner. Relax. Evening talk to set the scene.*

### **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August:**

Walk along southern side of island to view glacial tills of LGM and drumlin sections and possible post LGM readvance. Visit the Medieval abbey and walk up and over the island's saddle to see sections in the terminus of readvance moraines. Walk along green lane through hummocky moraine to Neolithic court tomb.

Take a core through a Holocene interhummock basin and discuss the Holocene vegetation history and the human occupation of the island.

This day's activities involve approximately 11km of hiking on road, coastal platforms (including boulders), rough ground and a moderate climb to 120m.

*Return to accommodation. Dinner*

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August:**

Transfer to western end of the island (~7km by minibus) to view possible Younger Dryas moraines and mass movement features in a large cirque basin. Ascend Croaghmore from the west (462m) –this is a moderate to strenuous climb depending on one's ability. (We will not be rushing but an alternative walk will be arranged for those not wishing to walk up the mountain)

Descend the mountain via the lighthouse, views and sticky buns and tea in a small café before hiking back to the hostel.

This day's activities involve approximately 15km of hiking on road, rough ground, peat bog and a moderate climb to 462m.

*Return to accommodation. Dinner.*

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August:**

Ferry to mainland. Return journey to Dublin

Arrive in Dublin city centre in early evening