

HISTORIC GRAVEYARDS AND COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRELAND

July 28, 2011 John Tierney Community Archaeology, Day of Archaeology 2011, Education Academia, Anthropology, Archaeology, Cemetery, community, Community Archaeology, Death customs, eachtra, Excavation, Graveyard, historic graves, http://Ireland, Killeevan Co., methods, west coast



Low impact headstone rubbing from Killeevan, Co. Monaghan, Ireland

A colleague of ours spent years recording the archaeology of an island off the west coast of Ireland. In the last few weeks of the project the team commenced the survey of the islands' historic graveyard.

'Finally,' his neighbours said jokingly 'you are doing something **useful** around here'.

We know, as archaeologists, the value of our surveys, excavations and publications (<http://eachtra.ie/index.php/journal/>) but that value is not always apparent to the general public. We have found that community-based historic graveyard surveys (<http://www.historicgraves.ie/blog>) are a great way to introduce members of the public to our methods and to our ways of thinking and looking at the world.

In the course of this Day of Archaeology we hope to touch on the application of archaeological methods to historic graveyard surveys and to also present the sights and sounds of the Irish landscape.