

Newbuildings & District Archaeological And Historical Society

KITTYBANE SOUTERRAIN & RATH

Dig scheduled for Monday 15 June, Tuesday 16 June and Wednesday 17 June 2009. Anyone interested in the attending will be welcome

Background

In 2005 the Newbuildings & District Archaeological Society decided to explore the local stories surrounding the possibility that a Souterrain and Rath existed in the townland of Kittybane. The Society received planning permission and a grant to dig for a souterrain and in the course of the dig found evidence of a rath. Under the terms the dig then had to stop until permission to explore the rath had been received from the DOE. This permission was received and a grant for further survey and work was then sought and received.



Present position

In early 2009 a Geophysical Ground Penetrating Radar Survey was carried out and the Society has now planned a dig over the whole area of the surveyed field. This is planned for 15 June, 16 June and 17 June 2009.

Significance of the site

The work-to-date has confirmed a feature of great historical importance. It is already known that Viking raids occurred up the River Foyle on the West Bank of the river in the area of Derry City and further up in Dunalong, this recent work indicates an earlier sizeable settlement existed on the East Bank about halfway between these places. Records also show that the Bishop of Down visited the monastery and nunnery in this area in the 7th century.

Present position

The Souterrain, an underground gallery lined and roofed with stone slabs, is about 4/5 feet in height and the same in width. Measurements for the rath, from the recent survey and dig so far, indicate a size in lengthy north/south of 75 yards and east/west 65 yards, with an entrance to the rath of c35 yards.

The dig will take place on **Monday 15 June, Tuesday 16 June and Wednesday 17 June 2009**. We welcome anyone interested in the Kittybane Souterrain and Rath on the above dates.

For further information please contact Bridgeen Rutherford, Chairperson at 02871 861696 or Roger McCorkell, Treasurer at 02871 345146.

Website: www.newbuildingshistorical.org.uk/ for updated information