

The peatlands of Lemanaghan represent one of the richest assemblages of peatland archaeology in Ireland. Successive archaeological survey and excavation programmes (some of which I participated in) have revealed nationally and international significant complexes of archaeological sites of prehistoric and historic date (<https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>). These include many sites that are related to the development of the monastery at Lemanaghan and uniquely the medieval road in Derrynagun bog began as a simple plank walkway during the lifetime of the founding saint. Elsewhere finds of silver coins, a bog body, leather shoes and wooden artefacts etc. record aspects of everyday and more complex traditions. Significant numbers of sites have been recorded in all of the individual bog areas that make up Lemanaghan combining to exceed the number of sites known from many other countries. This demonstrates the importance of the known archaeological sites in the Bord na Móna owned bogs in Lemanaghan and the consider potential for the identification of further archaeological sites and finds during any further peat extraction or construction works. It is imperative that any plans for the Lemanaghan bogs include comprehensive strategies for the long-term protection of known archaeological sites from mechanical extraction, drainage or intrusive after use such as windfarms or forestry. If any extraction, disturbance or drainage of peat is it must be preceded by comprehensive programmes of archaeological surveys and mitigation with integrated environmental studies.