

Notice from the Irish Antiquities Division: NMI procedures and COVID-19

While the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) is closed to researchers and to the public, we wish to update you on the measures we are taking to ensure that the statutory functions of the NMI continue to be carried out.

Applications to Alter and Export Archaeological Objects

We understand that many archaeologists might be using this time to apply for licences to alter and export and have put in place measures to ensure such licences are processed. We are operating a staggered rota for essential business which means that your licences will be processed but this may take a little bit longer than normal as a number of staff are required in the approvals and issuing process. If you need any new blank forms please let us know, we can post a stock out to you at any address that is convenient for you.

Unfortunately, digital versions of the Alter and Export applications forms are not currently available but we will endeavour to process the hard copy licences as quickly as we can. In order to speed up the process, please ensure you submit all the relevant information including relevant identifications, weights and sample numbers.

Access to the Irish Antiquities Division Topographical Files

We recognise that the closure of the NMI to the public and to researchers may present difficulties for those wishing to consult NMI files in order to complete their application for licences to excavate and for Ministerial Consents and Directions to a deadline.

For this reason, we wish to let applicants know that licensing@museum.ie will carry out searches of the NMI Database and will provide a basic list of stray finds for particular townlands. Applicants should note that this is a temporary measure exclusively for deadline-sensitive projects and is only in place only while the current COVID-19 related closures are in effect. Official townland names as per the townland index must be used only. Searches of the database are subject to capacity and do not substitute for full consultation of the physical files which should be done if the lifetime of the project extends beyond the closure period, and should be done in advance of submission of the final report.

For all other queries

You can email the Duty Officer (antiquitiesdo@museum.ie) or phone 087 6282668. We are available to assist you but please note that most queries and services may take a little longer to expedite in the current circumstances.

We thank you for your understanding and would like to take the opportunity to extend our best wishes to you all during this challenging time. We look forward to seeing you back in Kildare St when we re-open.

Yours sincerely,

The Irish Antiquities Division, National Museum of Ireland

26 March 2020