

PRESS RELEASE – SAVE THE TARASKRYNE VALLEY GROUP

STOP WASTING PUBLIC MONEY ON DESTROYING TARA

The Save the TaraSkryne Valley Group is horrified at the recent commencement of so-called “archaeological” digging at Philpotstown/Blundelstown at the foot of Tara’s hill. Recently published photographs show Tara’s hilltop as just 4 fields away from the location of the proposed interchange. The coffee shop and church are clearly visible. New photographs bear witness to the fact that no care is being taken of topsoil scraped by diggers to a depth of two and a half feet in places, driven over by heavy machinery and moved by dumpers into heaps while archaeologists look the other way.

Minister Roche disregarded the collective advice of Dr Pat Wallace, Director of the National Museum, the expert consultants employed by the NRA, the Heritage Council, the 320 academics worldwide and countless other who asked him to re-consider this route.. Minister Roche stated: ”I am satisfied that the directions I have issued will ensure best practice in the carrying out of the archaeological work ... They will protect heritage.” The present methods are in direct contradiction to his own statement and also the one made by Dr Pat Wallace in his letter to the Minister regarding excavators: “The chances of retrieving archaeological objects in the face of heavy machinery of this sort are ... very limited indeed.”

Photographs of mechanical diggers being used at Tara fly in the face of statements made at a public seminar in Dalgan Park on the 11th June by Donald Murphy managing director of Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd. “There won’t be big 22 tonne mechanical excavators just rooting the topsoil off the top.” He also stated: “The excavations as they take place ... will be open to the public for viewing.” When the company were responsible for the excavations at Woodstown, this was not the experience of the public. Murphy also admitted: “We are not experts on Tara.”

Public money is being wasted on this desecration. This is not proper research archaeology. This is wanton destruction and vandalism of our most important archaeological, literary, historical and sacred landscape.

The insistence on this particular route and the methods used is just sinister.

Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin
PRO Save the TaraSkryne Valley Group
087-9249510