

Waterford City Council
City Hall
The Mall Waterford

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in connection with the recent discovery of the magnificent site at Woodstown. I live outside Waterford but I have been very interested in the limited amount which I have been able to learn about the site to date.

I understand that a large part of the area is currently in the possession of Waterford City Council and I would like to add my voice to those calling for an archaeological excavation of the settlement. Minister Roche has been reported in both national and local media as holding out the possibility that government funds might be provided for such a task and I feel it is important that this possibility is exploited.

Woodstown is a site of national Irish and indeed European importance, providing as it does, the potential to investigate the earliest Viking town from the Atlantic colonies of Scandinavia. Since the original fort was established in the days of St Patrick, it will also give us information on the last days of Irish paganism and the introduction of Christianity to a country which was never conquered by the Romans and this too, has important implications for our understanding of European civilisations north of the Alps.

A proper investigation of the Woodstown site with emphasis on publication and dissemination of the results and the provision of a heritage centre would greatly enhance Waterford's many attractions as a tourist resort. I, for one, would be eager to visit such a facility.

Thanking you,