

# slan

*submerged landscapes archaeological network*

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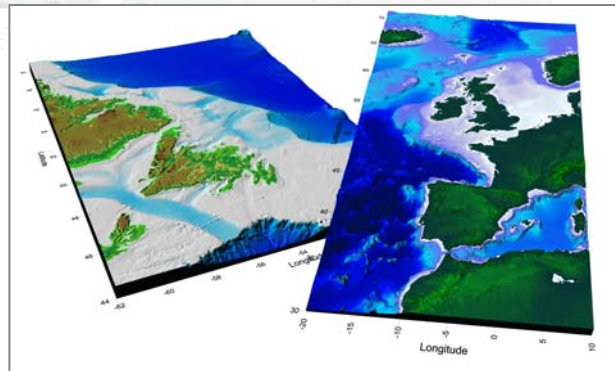
**Welcome** to issue\_001 of the SLAN newsletter.

## [1] SLAN launched

The Submerged Landscapes Archaeological Network (SLAN) is a consortium of researchers from universities and government agencies in Ireland and Newfoundland with the aim of providing an understanding of Ireland's and Newfoundland's submerged archaeological landscapes.

Recent coastal, archaeological and palaeogeographical studies have established that, since the last Ice Age, significant sea-level rise has submerged ancient European and North American coastlines. Important technological developments in marine geophysics and geodynamic modelling have, for the first time, created an opportunity to predict, locate and precisely map the locations of these ancient coastlines.

SLAN was established in 2006 to take advantage of this cutting-edge technology for the benefit of North Atlantic archaeology and palaeoenvironmental research. The network is the first of its kind that brings together researchers in academia and government from both sides of the North Atlantic to facilitate the exchange and integration of technology and expertise across a range of disciplines from archaeology to geophysics.



## [2] Research goals

[i] To demonstrate that ancient landscapes are preserved on the seabed of inshore coastal waters. Once located and mapped, these landscapes will be sampled to determine age, character and environment.

[ii] To locate and record archaeological sites and materials preserved on these submerged landscapes. Although this task may have proven technologically challenging and intellectually frustrating in the past - advancements in seabed mapping and the development of robust predictive models have made survey design more successful.

[iii] To understand how early coastal environments facilitated the expansion and growth of the first populations of Ireland and Newfoundland. Also how the evolving coastal landscape and marine resources may have stimulated social and cultural change across prehistoric times and into the Middle Ages.

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### [3] SLAN web site

The SLAN web-site was launched in January 2007, with the intention of promoting and publicising the research agenda. The site includes project descriptions, links to the participating institutions and downloadable publications and posters associated with SLAN research.

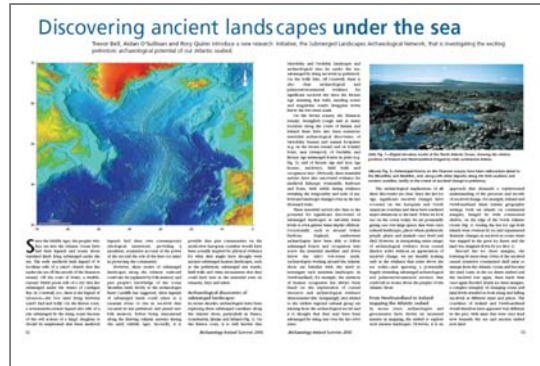
URL: <http://www.science.ulster.ac.uk/cma/slan/>



### [4] Archaeology Ireland article

A popular science article introducing the SLAN network, detailing the prehistoric archaeological potential of our Atlantic seabed: Bell, T., O' Sullivan, A. and Quinn, R., 2006, Discovering ancient lands capes under the sea, Archaeology Ireland, 20 (2): 12-17

URL: <http://www.science.ulster.ac.uk/cma/slan/ai.pdf>



### [5] Featured project

Palaeogeographic reconstruction of Hamilton Sound, between Fogo Island and mainland Newfoundland, about 10,000 years ago, when sea-level was 17m lower than at present. Former dryland is shown in green and illustrates how Fogo Island was once connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus. Landscape settings with one or more broad views of open water, next to a hill for resource monitoring and at strategic intersections for transportation (e.g. a narrow isthmus), for instance, would be likely to be preferred MAI site locations.

URL: <http://www.science.ulster.ac.uk/cma/slan/fogo.pdf>

