



Figure 162 Location of TT7-3, facing southeast towards George's Quay



Figure 163 TT7-3 at the completion of excavation, facing north

TT7-4

Trench TT7-4 was located on the moderately inclined, south-facing slope of Creagh Lane, halfway along the lane, approximately 40m south of Mary Street and 30m north of George's Quay (Figure 164). TT7-4 was aligned north-northeast/south-southwest along the eastern side of Creagh Lane and measured 7m length by 1m width. The trench was just 20m to the west of Fanning's Castle, a National Monument, which stands behind the row of houses that line the east side of the lane (Figure 165).

Background

Creagh Lane has retained its medieval alignment, and the upper part of this thoroughfare is an archaeologically significant area, directly beside medieval buildings which were excavated in the 1990s and close to the standing ruins of Fanning's Castle. Within the roadway, where TT7-4 was located, there is less archaeological potential due to the disturbance caused by successive installation of services.

Results

Excavations in TT7-4 were initially slow due to the very thick layers of concrete beneath the present road surface. Having cut the concrete paved surface, a series of concrete layers of differing compaction were revealed, reaching depths of 800mm below the surface (Figure 166). Underlying these concrete layers was a piece of geotextile fabric, indicating the quite recent date that they were laid. The first soil fill was clayey silt (C7-4-04), dark reddish brown in colour and containing brick, mortar and fragments of clay pipe, from depths of 800-1300mm. This soil overlays a stone lined culvert (C7-4-05) which runs along the centre of the lane (Figure 167). It is constructed of mortared limestone boulders, incorporating some slate. Below and within the culvert is a modern plastic pipe with a junction at the north of the trench which diverts at a right angle to the east (Figure 168). Other services revealed in the trench include an electric cable running north/south towards the west end of the trench at 550mm depth and a sewage pipe running east/west at 800mm depth.

The stone culvert or drain, which protects the modern pipe, was avoided, and excavations continued to the east of this. Adjacent to the east of the culvert was the dark reddish-brown clayey silt (C7-4-04) which was suspected to be deposited at the time of the culvert's construction. Directly below this was reddish brown clay (C7-4-06), compacted and homogenous, which is identified as natural (Figure 166). The culvert has been set into this clay on the western side of the trench (Figure 169).

Conclusion

Excavations in TT7-4 found that the ground along the entire length of the trench has been modified due to the installation of the stone-lined culvert. The ground has also been dug in quite recent times and a plastic pipe set within the culvert. Other services are at a shallower depth. The culvert is set within the natural clay, and ground immediately adjacent to the culvert and above the natural appears to be redeposited soil from either the original construction of the drain or subsequent alterations.

Table 29: TT7-4 summary of results

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Trench number | TT7-4 |
| Dates excavated | 28-29 July 2020 |
| Location | Creagh Lane |
| Co-ordinates (NW corner) | E 557905.8625, N 657533.2923 |
| Dimensions, orientation | L: 7m NNE/SSW, W: 1m |
| Ground level (ASL) | 6.09m |

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Maximum depth | 1.5m |
| Services exposed | Electric cable runs north/south at 550mm depth; sewer pipe running east/west at 800mm depth; stone lined culvert runs north/south through centre of trench at >1300mm depth |
| Archaeological significance | No archaeological features or deposits identified |
| Recorded contexts | C7-4-01: Concrete paving C7-4-02: Sand bedding C7-4-03: Concrete layers C7-4-04: Clayey silt, dark reddish brown with brick, mortar, clay pipe, from 800-1300mm depth C7-4-05: Stone culvert running north/south containing modern plastic drain or sewage pipe C7-4-06: Clay, reddish brown - natural |



Figure 164 Location of TT7-4, facing southeast towards George's Quay



Figure 165 Location of TT7-4, facing northeast, with Fanning's Castle behind



Figure 166 West-facing section of TT7-4, showing thick concrete, clayey silt and natural clay



Figure 167 TT7-4, south-facing view at the completion of excavations



Figure 168 TT7-4, north-facing view at the completion of excavations



Figure 169 Southeast corner of TT7-4 showing services and collapsed culvert

Area 8

TT8-1 and 2

Background

In response to National Monument Service recommendations, three test trenches were excavated in Area 8 between the 7th and 8th of September using an 8.5 tonne mini digger with a 1.2m wide toothless bucket. Test Trenches 8-1 and 8-2 were arranged in a cross shaped formation measuring 30m NNW/SSE and 20m ENE/WSW respectively, Test Trench 8-3 in Athlunkard boat club was 10m E/W and sloped towards the Abbey River. All the trenches were 1.4m wide and were dug to an average depth of 1.4m with a maximum depth of 2.2m.

TT8-1 and 2 were both located in an open green space to the east of the Abbeyview Estate, Kings Island where it is proposed to construct a flood water storage tank. Based on historic OS mapping this general area was originally undeveloped marginal land cut with a series of open drains and a protective embankment running along the Abbey River. The only development noted on the Cassini 6" OS map circa 1930's was a 'Boys Club', formerly located near a NNE/SSW embankment that marked the old ward boundary and is now the line of a present-day pedestrian footpath.

Results

TT8-1 measured 30m NNW/SSE by 1.4m wide and was dug to a depth of 2.2m. Excavation exposed a grey brown gravelly clay (C8-1-02) underlying the sod and topsoil layer 300mm deep. Below this was a compact orange grey sandy clay infill with small stones and assorted modern debris - asphalt, plastic, iron 1.1-1.2m (C8-1-03). At the base of the trench was a blue-grey, natural marl clay. The only features of note were the poorly preserved concrete and brick foundations found 18m from the southern terminal of TT8-1 at a depth of 750mm below the

surface. These may represent the structural remains of the long-demolished mid-20th century 'Boys Club'.

TT8-2 had a similar stratigraphy of sod and topsoil over a mixed layer of compact infill with assorted modern debris typically 1 to 1.2m in depth. This layer sealed the old ground surface evident as a dark layer of organic silty clay, 80mm deep. Below this was natural clay. No archaeology was found in these trenches.

Conclusion

Made up ground related to the modern development of the nearby housing estate and amenity areas. No archaeology was found in these trenches.

Table 30: TT8-1 summary of results

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trench number | TT8-1 |
| Dates excavated | 8/ 9/ 2020 |
| Location | Green space, Lee Estate, Kings island |
| Co-ordinates (NW corner) | E 558089 N 657940 |
| Dimensions, orientation | L: 30m NE/SW, W: 1.4m |
| Ground level (ASL) | |
| Maximum depth | 2.2m |
| Services exposed | None |
| Archaeological significance | None, Modern infill over natural ground, |
| Recorded contexts | <p>C8-1-01: Sod and topsoil 200mm</p> <p>C8-1-02: Grey brown gravelly clay with modern debris 300mm</p> <p>C8-1-03: Compact orange grey sandy clay infill with small stones and assorted modern debris -asphalt, plastic, iron 1.1-1.2m</p> <p>C8-1-04: In-situ concrete and red brick foundations found to the north of the trench at a depth of 750mm (may relate to demolished Boy's Club feature on cassini 6" map)</p> <p>C8-1-05: Layer of organic peaty clay, original sod 80-120mm</p> <p>C8-1-06: Blue-grey, marl alluvial clay-. Sterile layer with no inclusions to base. Found 1.4-5m below ground.</p> <p>Note: Trench partially flooded to south from trapped water at a depth of 1.2m</p> |



Figure 170 Brick and fragmented concrete in east facing section of TT8-1



Figure 171 TT8-1, south-facing view

Table 31: TT8-2 summary of results

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trench number | TT8-2 |
| Dates excavated | 8/ 9/ 2020 |
| Location | Green space, Lee Estate, Kings island |
| Co-ordinates (NW corner) | E 558078 N 657924 |
| Dimensions, orientation | L: 20m ENE/WSW, W: 1.4m |
| Ground level (ASL) | |
| Maximum depth | 1.8m |
| Services exposed | None |
| Archaeological significance | None, Modern infill over natural ground, |
| Recorded contexts | <p>C8-2-01: Sod and topsoil 200mm</p> <p>C8-2-02: Grey brown gravelly clay with modern debris 250mm</p> <p>C8-2-03: Compact orange grey sandy clay infill with small stones and assorted modern debris -asphalt, plastic, iron 1.1m</p> <p>C8-2-04: In-situ concrete and red brick foundations found to the north of the trench at a depth of 750mm (may relate to demolished Boy's Club feature on Cassini 6" map)</p> <p>C8-1-05: Layer of organic peaty clay, original sod 80-120mm</p> <p>C8-1-06: Blue-grey, marl alluvial clay-. Sterile layer with no inclusions to base. Found 1.4-5m below ground.</p> |



Figure 172 *TT8-2, west-facing view towards Abbeyview*



Figure 173 *TT8-2, east-facing view*

TT8-3

Background

Test trench 8-3, was located in the existing grounds of Athlunkard Boat Club and ran E/W parallel to the northern enclosing wall sloping towards the riverside. The trench measured 10m long and was dug to a depth of 2.5m.

Results

TT8-3 was excavated along a sloping bank beside the Abbey River. Below the sod and topsoil was a modern layer of fine grey silt over a thick deposit of mixed builders fill with red brick, ash, plaster, mortar and modern table ware (C8-3-03). At the east of the trench, where the maximum depth was reached (2.5m), the builders fill overlay a layer of redeposited grey clay with early 20th to mid-19th century material (C8-3-05). The base of the pit was a wet, compact, sterile, marl clay 1.5m below the surface.

Conclusion

Made up ground designed to prevent flooding along the riverbank.

Table 32: TT8-1 summary of results

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trench number | TT8-2 |
| Dates excavated | 8/ 9/ 2020 |
| Location | Green space, Lee Estate, Kings island |
| Co-ordinates (NW corner) | E 558137 N 657910 |
| Dimensions, orientation | L: 20m ENE/WSW, W: 1.4m |
| Ground level (ASL) | |
| Maximum depth | 1.8m |
| Services exposed | None |
| Archaeological significance | None, Modern infill over natural ground, |
| Recorded contexts | C8-3-01: Sod and topsoil 200mm C8-3-02: Grey, fine silty clay 300-700mm C8-3-03: Mixed builders fill with inclusions of red brick, ash, plaster, charcoal and modern table ware 1.1m C8-3-04: Thin layer of organic peaty clay 50mm C8-3-05: Compact blue-grey, redeposited marl clay with 19 th -20 th century material (pit dug to 2.5m at east of trench) 300mm C8-3-06: Basal layer of natural blue-grey clay |



Figure 174 *TT8-3, facing north near boundary wall of Athlunkard Boat Club.*



Figure 175 *TT8-3, profile view facing south.*

Area 9

TT9-1-3

Background

Area 9 is located in a greenspace in the NW corner of Kings Island. The site is bound to the north and west by an existing flood embankment with internal ditch built in the 1840's. To the east is Oliver Plunkett Street part of St. Marys Park built as a social housing project in 1935. It is proposed to construct an open drain/swale in this area, the trenches TT9-1-3 follow this channel. The first edition OS map identifies this area as 'liable to floods'. To the east of the site under the housing estate is the former site of SMR LI005-018-classified as a Cromwellian era bastioned fort. The fort was built by the Confederate Irish and designed to repulse any amphibious attack from the north. The bastion is shown on William Webb's map of the siege as a regular square fortification with corner bastions surrounded by a fosse forming an overall star-shaped plan. During War of the Two Kings, 1688-91 the fort having fallen into decay was improved by the Jacobite defenders. It was described as

'well frized and palisadoed, environed with a handsome counterscarp. Several projects were conceived to attack it, it being first proposed to make a very good battery at the water's edge to cover our passage; but this ground is very low and swampy, which, I apprehend, will put an end to this new design; besides, the fort is so large that all our cannon planted on one battery on this side cannot hinder the enemies from sustaining the said fort with their whole force on the other side, having advantageous ground for it, and a double line of communication to the town' (Gilbert 1892, 288-9).

The fort was surrendered on the Williamites on the 3rd of October 1691 following a two-month siege. The site was entirely removed for pre-development work by Limerick corporation in the 1930s.

Results

TT9-1, the northernmost trench was located approximately 30m NW of the corner of Oliver Plunkett street between the road and the river embankment. The trench orientated E/W was topsoil stripped over 30m long and dug to a maximum depth of 2.2m. Due to extensive flooding from trapped water the excavation to the required depth involved digging a series of pits. The stratigraphy was of an underlying layer of brown-grey, sandy clay infill (C9-1-02) with small stones and assorted modern debris -asphalt, plastic, iron 1.1m deep. Below this was a thin peaty clay representing the original ground surface. At the base was a blue grey, marly clay (C9-1-04).

TT9-2 to the SW, was dug over two days in 15m sections. Beneath the sod and topsoil was a very compact light brown, sandy infill with occasional large boulders inclusions of red brick, concrete blocks and asphalt and assorted modern debris 1.1m thick. As described in TT9-1 this infilled ground overlay a peaty sod layer (C9-1-03) at a depth of 1.35m. A long pit was dug to the north of the trench to a depth of 2.2m into grey natural clay.

TT9-3 located in a green space 55m from the corner of Oliver Plunkett street and Saint Columcille Street measured 30m NNW/SSE by 1.4m wide. The ground was similar to TT9-2 a grey brown sandy infill with frequent large boulders and inclusions of modern debris overlying a peat layer 1.25m below the surface over natural clay.

Conclusion

All three trenches had the same general stratigraphy of Infilled ground between 1.1-1.3m deep containing medium sized stones and boulders and modern rubbish, including asphalt and plastic. This thick layer was directly over a thin peaty layer that overlay compact natural clay. No archaeology was found in these trenches.

Table 33: TT9-1 summary of results

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trench number | TT9-1 |
| Dates excavated | 11/ 9/ 2020 |
| Location | Green space, St. Marys Island field, Kings island, Northernmost trench, NW of corner of Oliver Plunkett Street. |
| Co-ordinates (NW corner) | E 557390 N658733 |
| Dimensions, orientation | L: 30m E/W, W: 1.4m |
| Ground level (ASL) | |
| Maximum depth | 2.2m |
| Services exposed | Concrete over large pipe found at the northern terminal of trench orientated E/W |
| Archaeological significance | None, landscaped ground over modern infill onto the original ground surface, evident as a layer of organic material, over natural clay. |
| Recorded contexts | <p>C9-1-01: Sod and topsoil 200mm</p> <p>C9-1-02: Grey sandy clay infill with small stones and assorted modern debris 1.1m</p> <p>C9-1-03: Layer of organic peaty clay 80-120mm</p> <p>C9-1-04: Blue-grey, marl natural clay. Sterile layer with no inclusions to base</p> <p>Note: Trench partially flooded to west from trapped water at a depth of 1.2m, pit dug in centre of trench to a depth of 2.2m</p> |