
Appendix 10E
Archaeological Excavation Database Entries

APPENDIX 10E: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION DATABASE ENTRIES

Licence	Location	Excavator	Results
07E0189	Carrigrohane Road	Margaret McCarthy	Pre-development testing was carried out at the site of the new County Library headquarters on the Carrigrohane Road in Cork city. The new library will be constructed to the west of the existing County Hall. Four test-trenches were placed across the footprint of the proposed building and no features or finds of archaeological significance were uncovered. The excavation revealed multiple layers of modern infill material reaching a depth of almost 1.5m and all of the recovered material was 20th-century in date.
08E0931	Farranmacteige	Máire Ní Loingsigh	Eight test-trenches were excavated at this proposed development site on a former playing field. The stratigraphy at the site consisted generally of mid-brown stony topsoil, 0.2–0.3m deep, over clay subsoil. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded at the proposed development site.
04D050, 04R151	Curragheen River, Victoria Cross	Eoghan Kieran	Underwater archaeological survey was undertaken at the site of a proposed crossing of the Curragheen River by a 300mm sewage interceptor pipe at Victoria Cross. The assessment was of an area 50m either side of the centre-line of the proposed crossing point. Pre-inspection desktop surveys recorded a number of monuments in the vicinity of the development, none of which were immediately adjacent to the development zones. A survey undertaken in an adjoining area did not record any archaeological features or material. The diver/visual survey noted that the river in the survey area was concrete lined. The likelihood of recovering archaeological material from under this lining would appear to be very low, as much of the original riverbed was excavated to facilitate construction of this lining.
95E0221	19-22 North Mall	Sheila Lane	This site is outside the north side of the medieval city and the recorded site of a Franciscan friary (SMR 74:2802) is c. 100m to the west. Its exact location has not been determined and it was considered possible that some remains of the friary might be present on the development site. Four test-pits were opened in advance of demolition. These were found to contain some medieval levels and it was decided to investigate the area further when clear of buildings. Two trial-trenches were later opened and these were found to contain redeposited 13th-century material at depths varying from 1m to 3.2m. These were probably introduced during reclamation of the river's edge at some time in the past. There was no evidence for structures of any kind, or anything else of archaeological significance.

Licence	Location	Excavator	Results
04E0607	6-7 North Mall	Margaret McCarthy	(Extract) The construction of an apartment complex to the rear of two properties on the North Mall was monitored. Prior to development, the area was covered by a layer of concrete which sealed a layer of modern infill containing a mixture of brick, slate and modern glass. The remains of a low stone wall were also uncovered and probably represented the foundations of a stone-built shed. Excavations indicated that the top 0.75m of the soil profile consisted of a humic black sediment containing roots, post-medieval and modern pottery and red-brick fragments. The next 0.5m was still quite humic but more red-brown in colour. About 0.5m from the original ground level a collection of disarticulated human bones was exposed. These were dumped in a random fashion and mixed with clay-pipe fragments, modern pottery, red brick and animal bones. Many of the human remains showed clear signs of having been autopsied and probably originated from a surgical school that is reputed to have been in existence on North Mall in the 19th century. Work on the terraced gardens indicated that the soil profile consisted of a loosely compacted red-brown sediment with patches of charcoal and mortar interspersed. A considerable quantity of butchered animal bones was recovered as well as clay-pipe fragments, modern delft, slate and some slag and iron nails. Half a wig curler was also retrieved from this area and some 17th-century North Devon pottery.
14E0139	Bachelor & Father Mathew Quays	Tony Cummins	Monitoring of the excavation of a number of trial pits and boreholes was undertaken in various locations along the Cork city quays as part of site investigations in advance of a proposed flood relief scheme. None of the trial pits were within the walled medieval city or in close proximity to any recorded archaeological monuments. However, seven of the pits were within the surrounding secondary Zone of Archaeological Potential and all works within this zone were monitored. Works at the majority of the locations were halted when modern services were encountered. The test pits at Bachelor and Father Mathew Quays were excavated to the surface of the riverine gravels, encountered at depths of 3.6m and 4.2m respectively. No remains of earlier quay features were noted behind the existing 19th-century quay walls and post-medieval inclusions were noted in the reclamation clays behind the walls.
98E0283	Bachelors Quay Grattan Street	Sheila Lane	A site assessment consisting of three archaeological test-trenches was carried out. All three trenches were opened to a depth of 2.5m and were found to contain loose rubble fill, 18th-20th century in date. No finds or features of archaeological significance were noted

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-	Kyrils Quay North Main St	Maurice F Hurley	<p>(Extract) Archaeological excavations were undertaken by Cork Corporation in advance of redevelopment. The area extends from Kyle St to Kyrils Quay. Medieval urban stratigraphy and a 60m length of city wall were excavated. The earliest occupation levels were of 13th-century date. There were no remains of medieval houses in the central part of the site, but the post and wattle property boundaries of the burgess plots as well as wells, storage and cess-pits were well represented. The continuity of the property boundaries remained virtually unchanged for almost 800 years and each successive re-building respected the earlier divisions. An alleyway leading at right angles to North Main St was laid out in the late 13th or early 14th century. This was re-surfaced several times until it was disused in the 16th or 17th century. Close to North Main St the fragmentary foundations of 13th/14th-century timber framed houses were uncovered. Subsequently, these houses were re-built in stone. Part of the foundations of a substantial stone building stood on the eastern side of North Main St on the opposite side to Skiddy's Castle. The structure appears to be of 14th- or 15th-century date, and may be part of an urban tower house of a type similar to Skiddy's Castle. The city wall stood to a maximum height of 3.2m. It was predominantly of 13th-century date but contained some sections which were re-built at later times. The lower courses of the outer face were battered (sloped) and above this the wall rose vertically. The inner face was vertical and a number of discontinuities in the masonry show that the wall was built in individual lengths. The main features of the wall were 2 gateways (watergates), one with a paved slipway through which small boats could have been drawn up. The bolt holes and iron hinge pivots for a wooden door survived. At the extreme north-west end of the excavation the foundations of a tower or mural turret survived. This was one of the many towers which were located intermittently on the circuit of the wall, but is, in fact, the 1st to have been excavated in Cork. The tower consisted of a shaped projection from the city wall with a solid base faced with dressed limestone blocks on the battered foundation. The city wall, which would have served as a quay as well as a defensive wall, may originally have stood to a height of 6m or more. Over the course of the 500 years that it was in use, up to 3m of silt and debris from human occupation accumulated on either side of it. When it was demolished to ground level in the 18th century, the lower wall levels remained preserved beneath the ground. Many artefacts were found. The most numerous objects are pottery sherds, nearly 10,000 in all. Most of the wine jugs were imported from the Saintonge area of south-west France and from Bristol, England. Many artefacts made from wood, leather and bone were also found.</p>

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07E0425	Kyrl's Street/Quay	Máire Ní Loingsigh	(Extract) Three test-trenches were excavated at Kyrl's Street and Kyrl's Quay, Cork. The site is both inside and outside the line of the medieval city wall at the north-east of the walled medieval city. An exposed segment of the city wall is visible in the north wall of the proposed development site. The medieval city wall was recorded in two locations. In Trench 1 the splayed north side of a c. 2m ope, possibly a gateway in the wall, was recorded; the south side of the ope had been cut by modern drains. In Trench 3 a 45-degree turn was recorded in the city wall. The top of the city wall is at levels between 0.3m and 1.05m below the modern ground surface; and it is c. 2m wide and a minimum of 2.2m high. The base of the wall was not revealed. The inner and outer face of the wall was seen in Trench 1, while only the upper part of the inner face was seen in Trench 3. The wall is of coursed mortared limestone and sandstone construction and the rubble core is both mortar- and clay-bonded. Inside the city wall the stratigraphy beneath the modern paving consists of layers of gravel, stony clay and rubble (made ground), 1.2–2m thick, over layers of introduced clay. Thick layers of introduced clay inside the city wall are similar to those recorded at other sites in Cork city and were used to raise the ground level above the tidal range. Sherds of 13th- and 14th-century pottery were recovered from the clays. Outside the city wall made ground, i.e. dumped layers of clay, gravel and rubble, were present to 1.8–2m below ground level. From cartographic evidence it is known that this area was reclaimed in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Possible estuarine clay, grey/black in colour, was seen at 2m below ground level. A stone drain was built against the outer face of the city wall in Trench 1.
-	Shandon St Popes Quay	James D. Stack	This excavation took place from the end of November to early December 1992. One trench was opened which revealed finds of post-medieval pottery, clay pipes and animal bones. The features on this site were a post-medieval drain and dump. Just above the natural substratum some sherds of medieval pottery were found.
93E0181	1-2 Pope's Quay	Rose M. Cleary	Nothing of archaeological significance was found when test pits were dug. The work was funded by the developer.
93E0146	Pope's Quay Greys Lane	Sheila Lane	Thirteen test pits were excavated by mechanical digger to fulfil planning application clauses prior to redevelopment of the site. All pits contained material dating to the 18th century and later. All costs were met by the developer.

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00E0934	17, 18, 19a Pope's Quay	John Tierney	(Extract) Testing was carried out in two phases on this site. Five test-trenches were dug, three in an open area at the northern end of the site, and two beneath the site of a recently demolished building. There was a significant difference in levels between the higher northern and lower southern ends of the development site owing to the quarrying of bedrock along the banks of the River Lee. The trench sections in the open areas at the northern end of the site revealed topsoil with a mix of building rubble. Layers of sediment of 18th- and 19th-century date were found throughout the site but the most noteworthy aspect of the site was the topographical profile caused by quarrying. There was a possible wall in Trench 5, located at 3.032m OD. There were no other features apparent within the trenches. The most notable surface find was half of a rotary quern found in vegetation on top of the terrace, which may have been deposited onto the site from elsewhere. Alternatively, it may have been dug up from within the site. A number of reused lintels and also some dressed stone were uncovered from the rubble of the demolished buildings. These were recorded on site.
94E006	33 Pope's Quay	Sheila Lane	Test pits were opened under archaeological supervision and sections and finds were found to be no earlier than 18th-century in date
02E0895	13–15 Popes Quay	Avril Purcell	(Extract) Testing was carried out at the rear of the properties uncovered occasional fragments of human bone in the mixed upper deposit in the eastern side of the site. This deposit comprised garden soil with rubble inclusions. These bones did not represent in situ burials. It is likely that they derived from soil from the disused cemetery of St Mary's, Shandon, which is now a children's playground situated on the cliff directly above the development site. A substantial amount of material from the cemetery collapsed onto the site during the mid-20th century, resulting in the collapse of a building to the rear of the site. Monitoring was carried out on the site following the assessment carried out during 2002. During monitoring of ground reduction, a cache of 60 homemade hand grenades were found, which probably date to the War of Independence. This appears to be the largest single cache of such grenades found in the Munster area dating to this period. No other features or finds were revealed.
01E1136	19–20 Popes Quay	Simon Ó Faoláin	(Extract) Monitoring took place before construction works...The development site is in a riverside position on the north side of the northernmost channel of the River Lee. This is an extramural location north of the medieval walled city but within the zone of archaeological potential. Almost all of the building stock on the north side of the river is contemporaneous and has its origins in the phase of urban development that occurred in Cork in the 18th century. Monitoring revealed no deposits or artefactual material likely to be archaeological in nature. The only exception to this may be the lower courses of a wall recorded on the south-western boundary of the site, which has in any case been left in its original position.

Licence	Location	Excavator	Results
02E1378	Shandon Street Farren's Quay,	Gina Johnson	(Extract) Shandon is in the northern suburbs of the medieval walled city of Cork, separated from the old city by the northern branch of the River Lee but connected to it by the North Gate Bridge (Griffith Bridge). The Shandon Area Streetscape Renewal Scheme, which began in April 2003, comprises the insertion of various services ducts and the renewal of the street and pavements on Church Street, Farren's Quay and Shandon Street. The southern portion of the scheme is within the area of the historic city of Cork (SMR 74:34(01)) and the northern section is within the area of the medieval suburbs (SMR 74:122). Farren's Quay is a short stretch of road along the north bank of the River Lee. It connects Pope's Quay to Griffith Bridge and Shandon Street. An east-west trench, 1.1–1.6m in width, was dug on the northern side of the road to a maximum depth of 1.8m. At the eastern limit of the trench, c. 1.1m below the road surface, traces of an east-west limestone wall were identified in section only. Further west, a dump of post-medieval pottery, mixed with large sandstone and limestone slabs, was recorded between 1.5 and 2m below road surface. A second east-west trench (average width 1.5m; average depth 1.7m) was excavated on the southern side of the road adjacent to the quay wall. At 1.3m below road surface a 5m stretch of a slightly curved limestone and sandstone wall, rendered on its north face, was recorded. The wall had previously been disturbed during insertion of electricity cables but was not interfered with during the present works. Given its limited exposure, the exact nature of the structure is not known, but it may have been associated with an 18th-century bridge in this position.
03E1071	Camden Quay	Máire Ní Loingsigh	Five test-trenches were excavated following demolition of a warehouse complex located on the north bank of the River Lee. The trenches were excavated to the level of natural riverine gravels and clay which occurred at 1.2–1.8m below ground level. Above the natural levels, stratigraphy consisted almost entirely of made ground; i.e. stone, gravel, silty clay and rubble used to stabilise and raise the ground for building purposes. A well, probably of 18th-century date, was recorded in the centre of the site. It was of rubble drystone construction and was filled with rubble and debris. It had been constructed in a pit c. 2.5m in diameter and was c. 1.3m in internal diameter; the walls were c. 0.4m thick. It was recorded to a depth of 3m and extended beyond the limit of excavation at the site. No other archaeological features were recorded.

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05E0257	Camden Quay	Avril Purcell	Testing followed by a small-scale excavation was carried out on the site, located on the western bank of the River Kiln close to its confluence with the River Lee. A number of timber planks were revealed in two locations at the south-western end of the site. The timbers were within a layer of dark-brown organic material in which 17th-century pottery sherds were found. The remains of five similarly sized planks were identified, overlaid by three short perpendicular cross-timbers or slats, suggesting the remains of a small structural feature such as a walkway to the nearby riverbank. Two lines of dowel holes were apparent running across the planks, as well as some evidence of ferrous encrustation, suggesting that the cross-timbers secured the planks together. At a distance of 1.2m to the west, four other planks were revealed. No tool or carpentry marks were apparent on these five larger timbers. The four timbers were piled two on top of two and appeared to have been dumped at this location and remained unretrieved. Tuckey's map of 1690 shows limited development on the Kiln River waterfront close to its confluence with the Lee; the timbers revealed on this site may be associated with such development
03E1491	20–23 Lavitt's Quay	Tony Cummins	Four test-trenches were excavated within a development site on Lavitt's Quay close to the north channel of the River Lee. This site is located to the east of the medieval walled city of Cork and cartographic evidence indicates it was marshland prior to 17th-century reclamation works. The upper deposits contained a high content of limestone and brick rubble and formed a made-up layer associated with a recently demolished building and yard surface. This loose fill material measured up to 1m deep. The lower fills appeared to have been backfilled into the area in an effort to raise the ground level and contained moderate inclusions of brick and mortar in a clayey soil matrix. The upper portion of this reclamation material was truncated by narrow trenches containing ceramic drainage pipes. The basal greyish-brown estuarine clay was encountered at a depth of 2m below modern ground level at the north end of the site and rose to the south of the site, where it was located at a depth of 1.5m below modern ground level. The removal of a number of concrete-encased oil tanks in the former Burmah petrol station, at the west end of the site, was also monitored. There were no archaeological features or finds uncovered at this development site.
06E0911	Lavitt's Quay	Máire Ní Loingsigh	Five test-trenches were excavated and stratigraphy consisted of reclamation layers of gravel, stony clay and rubble (1.2–2m thick), over a c. 1.5m-thick layer of estuarine clay. Natural gravel was recorded at 2.8–3.4m below ground level. A number of mortared rubble walls of probable 18th/19th-century date were recorded, the majority in the eastern part of the tested area. Three red-brick walls may be of 19th-century date. The walls appear to correspond to the footprint of the buildings depicted on maps of the site. The west face of a substantial mortared rubble wall was recorded 8m west of Half Moon Street and further investigation will be carried out to clarify whether it has any connection with the 17th-century Walkabout shown on historic maps of Cork.

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14E0323	1 Albert Quay	David Murphy	(Extract) Monitoring at a development site on the western part of Albert Quay. The site was previously occupied by two 19th-century warehouses and is adjacent to the former site of a 19th-century railway station (CO074-119001-). The site was undeveloped marshland until extensive 18th century land reclamation works. Bulk excavation to a depth of over 5m below existing ground level took place. A dark grey reclamation clay with occasional 19th-century inclusions overlay a sterile mid grey clay layer with frequent inclusions of reed stalks, which sloped gradually down to the north and appeared to be the buried remains of the marsh. The reclamation clay was relatively homogenous in composition with no obvious silt lens and this indicated that it was introduced in a single operation undertaken over a relatively short period of time. There were no traces of cultural inclusions noted in the underlying reed marsh layer. The ground works were monitored into the natural glacial gravels and nothing of archaeological significance was encountered.
01E0368	12–13 Union Quay	Sheila Lane	The proposed development site lies outside and c. 500m to the east of the medieval walled city of Cork. Four test-trenches were excavated and no archaeological features were. Stratigraphy in the trenches comprised loose rubble fill to a depth of 0.5m and indicated that reclamation of the riverbank took place here in the 19th century, confirming cartographic evidence.
03E1705	13 George's Quay	Sheila Lane	(Extract) An assessment, including testing, was required for a development located to the rear of 13 George's Quay. The proposed development will consist of basement car-parking and a three-storey building above. Two trenches were opened on-site and encountered reclamation layers to 2m below modern ground level.
07E0112	George's Quay	Máire Ní Loingsigh	Three test-trenches were excavated at the site of a proposed mixed-use development at 1–2 Buckingham Place, George's Quay, Cork. The site is in an area reclaimed in the 18th century. Two stone-walled drains and the foundations of six masonry post-medieval walls were recorded. The walls were built on timber beams placed on the natural clay and were probably associated with 18th/19th-century houses shown on maps of the site. Stratigraphy consisted of reclamation layers of gravel, stony clay and rubble, 1.2–2m thick, over the estuarine clay. No other finds or features of archaeological interest were noted
-	Barrack Street French's Quay	Madeline O'Brien	Work is ongoing at this site until June 1990. However, in the trenches completed to date, the earliest levels are 12th-century in date, with the deposits comprising mostly oyster middens and domestic refuse. There were no waterlogged deposits. Excavation is being carried out in advance of development.

Licence	Location	Excavator	Results
99E0650	5 Barracks Street	Sheila Lane	<p>A single commercial development at Nos 3–5 Barrack Street began in 1999. An excavation at No. 3 was carried out in 1999 (Excavations 1999, 25–6), and an extension to this licence allowed for excavation at No. 5 Barrack Street in June 2000. For safety reasons and to minimise damage to the extant buildings, only a limited area of the site was excavated. The original area opened was 2.4m (north–south) by 3.35m, and as the excavation progressed the four sides were shored in the interests of safety. This procedure severely hampered the progress of the excavation, reducing the area excavated to 2.4m (north–south) x 1.5m and making interpretation of the lowest levels difficult.</p> <p>Four upright timber posts with diameters of 0.05–0.08m were exposed. These probably represent a very small portion of the walls of at least two successive houses on the site, although it was difficult to determine the ground-plan and method of construction of any of these houses. Successive layers of flooring were laid down in the areas surrounding the possible house timbers, and the pottery from these levels was dated to the late 11th/early 12th century. Above these levels the site contained layers of hearth material and shell deposits with pottery dates ranging from the late 11th to the 14th century. The construction of basements destroyed all post-14th-century levels. One of the house timbers was considered suitable for dendrochronological dating. At the time of going to print, no results were available.</p>
93E0103	St. Mary's of the Isle, Gillabbey	Maurice F. Hurley	<p>(Extract) The site of a Dominican Priory was excavated in the area known as Crosses Green. The redevelopment involved the demolition of two 18th- and 19th-century mills to make way for the construction of a new housing and office complex. The Dominican priory was founded in 1229 by Philip de Barry. It is depicted on several maps of 16th- and 17th-century date located on a small island to the west of the medieval walled city – hence the name St. Mary's of the Isle. The site of the Priory church is marked on the OS maps and from its location it was apparent that the domestic buildings were to the north of Convent Lane, which bisected the site. Excavation of the domestic range was undertaken first. The priory walls stood to a maximum height of c. 2m and survived to within 0.5m of the modern surface. The main excavated features were the north range and the eastern half of the cloister. Two structural phases were identified. The first phase may have been a single storey structure. These buildings were modified during Phase Two to accommodate a second storey. In Phase Two the domestic range was expanded northward.... One hundred and fifty burials were excavated. These were predominantly in slab-lined graves (lintel graves). There were two charred wooden coffins and one stone sarcophagus. Parts of two tomb effigies are of possible 13th-century date. The priory complex was surrounded by a stone wall. Only a small length of this lay within the area of excavation, but it was evidently of two-phase construction. Post-excavation work is being funded by the developer.</p>

Licence	Location	Excavator	Results
04E1616	Crosse's Green	Niamh O' Rourke	<p>(Extract) The site at Crosse's Green is located immediately east of the site of the Dominican priory of Saint Mary's of the Isle (CO074-037) on the south bank of the south river channel of the River Lee. Beneath surface rubble a thick layer (0.3-0.4m) of material containing disarticulated human remains was identified. Beneath this there was evidence for in situ human remains. There was no documentary or cartographic evidence for a burial-ground in this area. A large part of the site was subject to full excavation, although health and safety concerns precluded excavation in the area to the east of the site, along the edge of the river.</p> <p>Two post-medieval mill walls were recorded over post-medieval deposits. The east wall stood close to the river edge and the lower part formed the quay wall. A large E-W post-medieval stone-built drain, three E-W earth-cut drains and three tanning pits were also excavated. There were no medieval structural remains identified. The thick layer of disarticulated human remains was excavated over most of the site. Beneath this there were a number of layers with in situ human remains. A total of 166 skeletons or partial skeletons were excavated at this site. All the burials were roughly east-west and all but one had the head to the west. The burials were laid in simple earth-cut graves, with the exception of one grave which was stone-lined. There were five burials in which the head was supported by stone ear muffs, which may indicate that these burials were medieval in date. Among the burials excavated there were 21 juveniles. All the remains will be analysed by an osteoarchaeologist.</p> <p>This part of the city would have been marshland in the medieval period. Examination of the muds by a geologist has confirmed that the area was reclaimed by redepositing dredged estuarine muds on the reed marsh, as was the practice in the medieval city to the east. The uppermost layers of these reclamation clays also contained burials and, given the lack of evidence for grave-cuts, it is likely that these burials were interred shortly after the clays were laid down. The absence of humic soils around the burials suggests that they were cut in the redeposited muds. While the burials are likely to be associated with the Dominican priory, it is unclear if they were located within the priory precinct.</p> <p>The burials excavated in 1993 were located within the church and cloister and were formal burials, most within stone-lined graves. The skeletons on this site were, in general, interred in simple earth-cut graves and may, therefore, represent the poorer members of the community.</p> <p>There were relatively few finds from this site. A lead weight was recovered from one of the post-medieval ditches. There were very few finds directly associated with the burials. A metal object, possibly a knife, was found clasped in the hand of one of the skeletons. Small quartz pebbles were found associated with a number of the burials. A timber plank, possibly part of a boat, was recovered from the reclamation clay, although this timber was ex situ.</p>

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98E0205	Sharman Crawford St and Wandsford Quay	Sheila Lane	A site assessment consisting of two test-trenches was carried. The trenches ran north-south across the site. They were opened to a depth of 3m and were found to contain loose rubble fill dating to the 19th and 20th centuries. No finds or features of archaeological significance were noted
94E140	The Orchard, Wandsford Quay	Sheila Lane	Test pits were opened under archaeological supervision and sections and finds were found to be no earlier than 18th-century in date. Funding was provided by the developer.