

**APPENDIX 11.2**

**EXCAVATIONS**

**PREPARED BY CRDS**

The excavation bulletin website ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie); [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)) was consulted to identify previous excavations that have been carried out within the study area. This database contains summary accounts of excavations carried out in Ireland from 1970 to 2023. The Heritage Maps database includes full reports of archaeological excavations undertaken in Dublin.

**Licence No.:** 02E1181, 02D074, 02R115  
**Excavation No.:** No summary submitted to Excavations.ie  
**Site name:** Macken Street – Guild Street Bridge, Dublin  
**SMR No.:** DU018:020/564  
**Author:** Niall Brady, ADCO.  
**Site type:** No archaeological significance  
**Period/Dating:** —  
**ITM:** E 717103m, N 734432m  
**Description:** [the below is summarised from the excavation report submitted to the National Monuments Service]  
 The survey combined underwater sampling, visual and metal detector survey using a surface controlled pendulum survey. Visibility was very poor (0-45cm).  
 No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered. The report concluded that the lack of obvious archaeological indicators at depths of up to -1.5m below existing riverbed level suggests that this is not a location of high archaeological potential.

**Licence No.:** 03E0654  
**Excavation No.:** 2004:0565  
**Site name:** BUILDING C, SPENCER DOCK, NORTH WALL QUAY, DUBLIN  
**SMR No.:** N/A  
**Author:** Melanie McQuade, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd, 27 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.  
**Site type:** Late Mesolithic fish traps and post-medieval structures  
**Period/Dating:** —  
**ITM:** E 717283m, N 734535m  
**Description:** Monitoring and excavation were carried out on the site of Building C, Spencer Dock, North Wall Quay, Dublin 1, between January and September of 2004. Three principal phases of activity were uncovered. Monitoring on the site of a northern block (RSTUV) is ongoing. To date, 19th-century foundation remains have been uncovered. The results of monitoring on this block will be reported in Excavations 2005.

#### ***Late Mesolithic***

The earliest phase relates to fishing and other activity carried out when the Liffey estuary occupied the south of the site. The transition of silt and gravels uncovered between 13-16m north of the southern limit of excavation marked the old shoreline of the Liffey channel. The remains of wooden fish traps, stake rows and miscellaneous pieces of worked wood were preserved in the waterlogged silts. A semicircular wicker structure or fish trap comprised stakes and a series of smaller upright rods, around which rushes had been woven. A radiocarbon date of 6090-5840 cal. BC was returned for this feature. Along the shoreline to the south-west of the fish trap was a deposit of horizontally set roundwoods. These were truncated to the east by machine excavation, but the remains covered an area 3.4m by 1.28m and have been radiocarbon dated to 6070-5890 cal. BC. In the south of the site was a row of 36 stakes aligned northeast/south-west; a date of 5920-5720 cal BC was obtained for one of these stakes. Along the western shoreline, to the north of the western stakes, were the remains of a wicker-basket-type structure and a group of stakes. The structure, which survived up to 0.6m long and 0.3m wide, has been dated to 5990-5750 cal. BC. On

the west of the site were two rows of rods and stakes, a horizontal panel of wicker (dated to 6100-5970 cal. BC) and a fragmentary wicker fence, which were probably part of a truncated fish trap.

The fish traps were constructed mainly but not exclusively of hazel and were in a good state of preservation. In addition, there were several other stakes and pieces of worked wood, which did not form any coherent structures.

Phase 2 was the reclamation of land from the estuary and its floodwaters. This was achieved by depositing a series of fills in order to build up the ground. Artefacts recovered from these reclamation deposits have been dated to the 18th and 19th centuries and corroborate with the documentary sources in indicating the date when this work was carried out.

The third phase was the development of the reclaimed land. From the later 18th up to the 20th century a series of structural remains were founded on the reclamation deposits and the site was drained by a series of brick culverts cut into these deposits. In the south of the site, c. 112m to the east of the canal and 45m north of where the canal opens into the Liffey, were the remains of a circular masonry structure. This had an internal diameter of 11.2m and its encircling wall was constructed of limestone blocks (0.35m by 0.22m by 0.16m), bonded with mortar. The wall was 1m wide and survived to a maximum of 1m in height. In the west was an entrance. Leading from the western entrance was a walkway, which comprised two rows of granite slabs on either side of which was a red-brick floor (6.1m by 5.1m) and to the west were four sandstone slabs. To the east of the floor and abutting the external wall was a north-south masonry wall with an eastern return at its north. This was probably an internal division within the circular structure. This was the earliest masonry structure uncovered on site. Its location roughly corresponds with the windmill at North Wall Quay, which was recorded as being 100m east of the mouth of the Royal Canal. The windmill had burned down in a spectacular fire late in 1810 but is shown on Taylor's map of 1816. The inclusion of the windmill on Taylor's map suggests that it was reconstructed after the fire of 1810. However, it is not shown on the first-edition OS map (1837), which shows a warehouse on the same location. The western wall of this warehouse was uncovered during site works, partly overlying, and therefore post-dating, the windmill wall. The archaeological evidence corroborates the cartographic evidence in indicating an early 19th-century date for the windmill. It was larger in diameter (11.2m) than typical tower mills (4-6m). Its location on low-lying ground, which was prone to flooding, suggests that it may have served for pumping and draining water rather than milling corn.

To the north, west and south of the windmill structure were a series of 19th- and 20th-century walls and basement floors, which largely corresponded with the structures shown on the OS maps. A series of five arched vaults was uncovered along the street front and extending under the road, south of Nos 46 and 47 North Wall Quay. The vaults extended for c. 16m east-west and were accessed from the north through an arched corridor. The individual vaults measured c. 3m long and 3.2m wide and the corridor was c. 1.5m wide. The vaults were constructed of limestone blocks bonded with mortar.

Red and yellow brick used in the upper structure of the walls may represent modifications to the original structure. These vaults were filled in and remain in situ.

<b>Licence No.:</b>	<b>03E1060</b>
<b>Excavation No.:</b>	<b>2003:509</b>
Site name:	River Liffey, City Quay/Custom House Quay, Dublin
SMR No.:	N/A

Author: Finola O'Carroll, for CRDS Ltd, Unit 4, Dundrum Business Park, Dundrum, Dublin 14.

Site type: No archaeological significance

Period/Dating: —

ITM: E 716474m, N 734533m

Description: Monitoring was undertaken of the River Liffey investigation works in relation to a proposed pedestrian bridge by Dublin Dockland Authority. The proposed site is located crossing the River Liffey from City Quay to Custom House Quay, in front of the New Jury's Hotel. A pontoon with a drill rig present was set up from the bridge site to agreed locations. The work was carried out over three days and four boreholes were drilled, each 0.2m in diameter. It was possible to attain solid cores of the drilled material.

No material of archaeological interest was identified during this monitoring of operations.

**Licence No.:** 05E0617

**Excavation No.:** 2006:643

Site name: 17–19 Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin

SMR No.: -

Author: Georgina Scally, 81 Waterloo Place, Dublin 4, for Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.

Site type: Urban, post-medieval

Period/Dating: —

ITM: E 716933m, N 734324m

Description: This is a corner site fronting on to Sir John Rogerson's Quay to the north and Lime Street to the east. Due to restrictions imposed by standing buildings, testing at the site was carried out in two phases: by William O. Frazer (see No. 641 above) and by Teresa Bolger (see No. 642 above). Both assessments produced indicators of an archaeological presence at the site most likely associated with post-medieval riverside activity. Due to the location of the site close to the tidal shore of the River Liffey and the requirement to excavate to c. 4m below ground level, the site was piled and bulk removal of soil commenced; both the piling and the bulk removal of soil was monitored.

Monitoring revealed extensive remains of post-medieval foundations supported on rafts of reused timbers, consequently full excavation ensued on 5–21 December 2006. Masonry foundations of one or possibly two structures of the late 17th/early 18th century were uncovered. The foundations stood c. 1m high and were supported on rafts of timbers set into redeposited estuarine sands. The timbers had been cut to specific lengths relative to the respective widths of the walls for which they were used. The timbers were a combination of reused ships' timbers, timbers from a boatyard and possibly timbers from part of the 17th-century river revetments, precursors to the early 18th-century quay wall. Approximately 160 timbers were excavated from the site. The timbers have been examined by ships' timbers' specialists John Kearon and Damien Goodburn; samples have been taken for dendrochronological dating. Piling destroyed a considerable amount of the interior walls of the building/buildings; apart from redeposited estuarine sand stabilised by the use of extensive wood piles, little other stratigraphy was identified at the site.

**Licence No.:** 10E0108

**Excavation No.:** 2010:263

Site name: George's Quay to Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin

SMR No.: DU018–020(201), 018–020(458), 018–020(479)

Author: Melanie McQuade, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd, 27 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Site type: Post-medieval reclamation deposits  
 Period/Dating: —  
 ITM: E 716256m, N 734447m  
 Description: Monitoring of a series of site investigations was carried out along a 1.1km stretch of the south quays of the River Liffey from George's Quay to Sir John Rogerson's Quay. The foundations of standing buildings, a series of services and reclamation deposits were identified during monitoring. No features or finds of pre 18th-century date were uncovered in the test-pits and slit-trenches, where the maximum depth of excavation was between 1.5m and 2m and did not reach below the depth of reclamation deposits.

**Licence No.:** 14E0433  
**Excavation No.:** 2014:518  
 Site name: 1-4 Windmill Lane, Dublin 2  
 SMR No.: N/A  
 Author: Franc Myles  
 Site type: Urban post-medieval  
 Period/Dating: —  
 ITM: E 716800m, N 734240m  
 Description: On foot of an An Bord Pleanála condition, two test trenches were excavated to the rear of No. 5 Windmill Lane in a successful attempt to locate the foundation of a windmill which stood on the site from its initial development c. 1820 until 1971. A secondary objective was to record the upper level of the silts introduced over the area prior to the construction of Sir John Rogerson's Quay, and the consequent reclamation of the area over the first half of the 18th century. The silts were located at 1.6-1.85m below the present ground slab and were sealed by a deposit of dark organic material c. 0.2-0.35m in depth which had been dumped across the site as an initial reclamation deposit. The windmill was constructed directly on the silts with an 1.8m wide foundation supported on radial timber beams. The structure stood proud of the silts to 1.8m and had an internal diameter of 8.5m. It was constructed from large blocks of Dublin calp limestone. On the interior an ovoid stone platform was truncated by a modern concrete shop floor which would appear to date to the windmill's reuse as a space within shoe factory from the 1940s. The date of the windmill's removal has been established to February 1971, however, apart from a photograph published in The Irish Times, there appears to have been little public commentary on its removal from the cityscape. The windmill foundation was fully excavated in September 2015.

**Licence No.:** 14E0438  
**Excavation No.:** 2014:520  
 Site name: 1-6 Sir John Rogerson's Quay / 16-25 Creighton Street, Dublin 2  
 SMR No.: DU018-020201  
 Author: Franc Myles  
 Site type: Urban post-medieval  
 Period/Dating: —  
 ITM: E 716795m, N 734300m  
 Description: Six archaeological test pits were excavated to the rear of Nos 2 and 6, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, and within the northern corner plot at Creighton Street and Windmill Lane, Dublin 2. Four slit trenches were initially proposed in the method statement. These were found impossible to break-out owing to the thickness of the concrete slab, where the relatively low internal access to the areas investigated prohibited the use of heavier machinery. The pits were laid out to investigate the nature of any surviving primary structural remains and their associated foundation design. A secondary objective was to record the upper level of the silts introduced over the area prior to the

construction of Sir John Rogerson's Quay and the consequent reclamation of the area over the first half of the 18th century. Natural silts were not located in any of the areas investigated to a depth of 2m below the present surface levels. Below the modern slab in most cases was demolition rubble within a soil matrix, with occasional walls surviving. Within the demolished No. 6 Sir John Rogerson's Quay, both pits were excavated through very loose cellar backfill and a basement slab level was not penetrated.

The results of the assessment were thus inconclusive and it was recommended that further testing be undertaken immediately post-demolition to adequately programme the resolution of any archaeological remains surviving on the site during the construction phase. This resulted in the 2016 excavation of a 17th-century horizontal mill and an adjacent late 18th-century foundation platform comprising re-used ship timbers. This will be reported on elsewhere on the Excavations website.

**Licence No.:** 15E0432  
**Excavation No.:** 2015:449  
 Site name: Exchange Facility, Mayor Street, IFSC, Dublin  
 SMR No.: N/A  
 Author: Martin E. Byrne, Byrne Mullins & Associates  
 Site type: Urban  
 Period/Dating: —  
 ITM: E 716756m, N 734648m  
 Description: A programme of monitoring of ground reduction works associated with the construction of an office development at the Dublin Exchange Facility, Mayor Street, I.F.S.C, Dublin 1 was undertaken in compliance with the Grant of Planning issued by Dublin City Council. The general bulk excavations across the site resulted in the removal of rubble fills, largely associated with land reclamation and modern building activities. The deepest excavations, associated with underpinning works, indicated that all such fills sealed a basal layer of silty-sand, presumably formed by river action when the area formed part of the Liffey Flood Plain, and this overlay grey-blue stony marl. No subsurface features of archaeological interest were recovered. However, 47 pottery sherds were retrieved, including 20 of medieval date, from the basal fill-layer of stony clay and the underlying 'river' sands, with the remainder dating from the 17th – 20th centuries dispersed randomly throughout the upper fill-layers.

**Licence No.:** 16E0620  
**Excavation No.:** 2018:837  
 Site name: Lime Street, Dublin 2  
 SMR No.: N/A  
 Author: James Kyle  
 Site type: Land reclamation, early 18th-century houses  
 Period/Dating: —  
 ITM: E 716972m, N 734257m  
 Description: The basement levels of four early eighteenth-century gabled houses, fronting onto Sir John Rogerson's Quay, were excavated by Niall Colfer in February and March 2018 under Licence 16E0620, after the upstanding buildings were demolished. As a part of the ongoing archaeological monitoring of remaining excavation works in 2018, a substantial north-south wall was uncovered close to the site's eastern boundary. This was the wall constructed by Rogerson which, for a period at least, acted as a slip or berth running off perpendicular to the river.  
 This feature has not been mapped however the wall appears to have been depicted by Brooking in 1728, demarcating the eastern limit of

development on the polder, where it is also depicted on Scalé's 1773 revision of Rocque's map and on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey.

The wall is referred to in a 1720 memorial drawn up between John Rogerson and Thomas Vicars of Queen's County as delineating that part of the strand 'taken in' by Rogerson from the unreclaimed area further east. By July 1722 Vicars had constructed four of the houses excavated under 16E0620 by Niall Colfer and was about to commence the remaining three.

Works on site were suspended in July 2018 due to a re-application for planning permission for the development due to redesign.