

## 5.4 Material Assets - Archaeology

### 5.4.1 Introduction

The following chapter details an archaeological assessment undertaken at No. 20-21 and Nos 23-28 Parnell Square North, an area to the rear of Nos 23-28 including Fredrick Lane North and Bethesda Place as well as Parnell Square North, Dublin 1. The proposed development area is currently occupied by the former Colaiste Mhuire, which consists of Nos 23-28 (protected structures) and a number of associated modern structures to the rear (3-storey Amharclann(theatre) building etc). Please see Chapter 3: Description of Proposed Development, for a description of the site and proposals.

The assessment aims to ascertain any potential impact that the proposed development may have had on the existing archaeological resource. The assessment was undertaken by Faith Bailey of Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, on behalf of Stephen Little & Associates.

This study determines, as far as reasonably possible from existing records, the nature of the archaeological resource in and within the vicinity of the development area using appropriate methods of study. Desk-based assessment is defined as a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives.

It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets (CifA 2014d). This leads to the following:

- Determining the presence of known archaeological heritage sites that may be affected by the proposed development;
- Assessment of the likelihood of finding previously unrecorded archaeological remains during the construction programme;
- Suggested mitigation measures based upon the results of the above research.

The study involved detailed interrogation of the archaeological and historical background of the development area. This included information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Dublin; the City Development Plan; the topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland and cartographic and documentary records. A field inspection was carried out on 16th June 2015 in an attempt to identify any known archaeological features, along with

previously unrecorded features, structures and/or archaeological artefacts within the proposed development area. This was followed by a programme of archaeological testing, which was carried out on 18th-19th June 2018. This was done under licence (15E0361) from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Consultation has been carried out with Dublin City Archaeologist throughout the EIAR process (see Section 5.4.3 for detail)

## 5.4.2 Definitions

In order to assess, distil and present the findings of this study, the following definitions apply:

- 'Cultural Heritage' where used generically, is an over-arching term applied to describe any combination of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage features, where –
  - the term 'archaeological heritage' is applied to objects, monuments, buildings or landscapes of an (assumed) age typically older than AD 1700 (and recorded as archaeological sites within the Record of Monuments and Places)
  - the term 'architectural heritage' is applied to structures, buildings, their contents and settings of an (assumed) age typically younger than AD 1700
  - the term 'cultural heritage', where used specifically, is applied to other (often less tangible) aspects of the landscape such as historical events, folklore memories and cultural associations. This designation can also accompany archaeological or architectural designation.

### 5.4.2.1 Impact Definitions

Imperceptible: An effect capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.

Not significant: An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without noticeable consequences

Slight Effects: An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

Moderate Effects: An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging trends.

**Significant Effects:** An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.

**Very Significant:** An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters the majority of a sensitive aspect of the environment.

**Profound Effects:** An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics.

Impact Definitions (as defined by the EPA (draft) 2017 Guidelines, page 42).

### **5.4.3 Consultation**

During scoping and research for the assessment and EIA a number of statutory and voluntary bodies were consulted to gain further insight into the cultural background of the receiving environment, as follows:

- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht – the Heritage Service and Policy Unit, National Monuments Section: Record of Monuments and Places; Sites and Monuments Record; Monuments in State Care Database; Preservation Orders and Register of Historic Monuments;
- National Museum of Ireland, Irish Antiquities Division: topographical files of Ireland; and
- Dublin City Council: Planning Section
- Dublin City Archaeologist: Consultation during the licence application (February 2015) and reactivation (May 2018) process. Consultation via phone and email regarding the strategy for and results of the test trench excavations and proposed mitigation strategies.

### **5.4.4 Methodology**

Research for this assessment was undertaken in three phases. The first phase consisted of a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection of the site. The third phase involved the excavation of archaeological test trenches across the site.

#### 5.4.4.1 Paper Survey

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Dublin;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Dublin;
- Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- Dublin City Development Plan 2016 - 2022; and
- Excavations Bulletin (1970–2017)

**Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)** is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Section, which are afforded legal protection under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments Act and are published as a record.

**Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)** holds documentary evidence and field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Section as 'un-located sites' and cannot be afforded legal protection due to lack of locational information. As a result, these are omitted from the Record of Monuments and Places. SMR sites are also listed on the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DoCHG) website – [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).

**National Monuments in State Care Database** is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument.

The Minister for the DoCHG may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

**Preservation Orders List** contains information on Preservation Orders and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, which have been assigned to a site or sites. Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930

Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

**Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland** is the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance.

**Cartographic sources** are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the development area. These include:

- John Rocque's 'An Exact Survey of the City and Suburbs of Dublin', 1756
- 'A New Plan of Dublin' from Wilson's Dublin Directory, 1760, 1801
- Bernard Scalé's 'An Accurate Survey of the City and Suburbs of Dublin by Mr Rocque with Additions and Improvements', 1773
- Thomas Campbell's 'City of Dublin', 1811
- John Taylor's 'Map of the Environs of Dublin', 1816
- Ordnance Survey Mapping 1837, 1847, 1864, 1881, 1909

Documentary sources were consulted to gain background information on the archaeological and industrial archaeological landscape of the proposed development area.

Development Plans contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The Dublin City Development Plan (2016-2022) was consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development.

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel

Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) from 1970–2017.

#### **5.4.4.2 Field Inspection**

Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological and historical remains and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

The archaeological field walking inspection entailed:

- Inspecting the proposed development area and its immediate environs.
- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage.
- Noting and recording the presence of features of archaeological and/or industrial archaeological significance.
- Verifying the extent and condition of any recorded sites.
- Visually investigating any suspect landscape anomalies to determine the possibility of their being anthropogenic in origin.

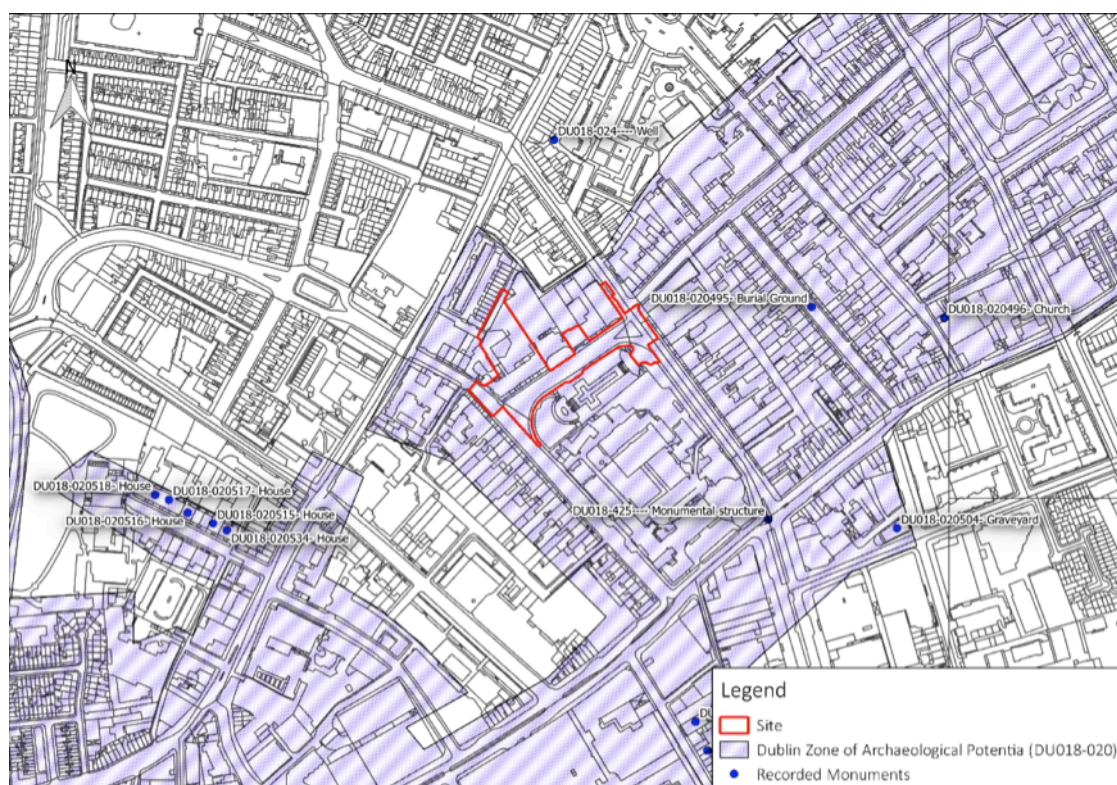
#### **5.4.4.3 Archaeological Testing**

Archaeological Test Trenching can be defined as 'a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present test trenching defines their character and extent and relative quality' (CIfA 2014a, 4). A programme of archaeological testing was carried out within the proposed development area on 18th-19th June 2018. This was undertaken by David McIlreavy of IAC under licence 15E0361. Site investigations were also monitored during this period.

## 5.4.5 Receiving Environment

### 5.4.5.1 Archaeological Background

The proposed development area is located on the northern side of Parnell Square to the immediate north of an area that once formed part of the pleasure gardens associated with the Rotunda Hospital. The pleasure gardens were originally laid out in a formal manner and were surrounded by a low wall, inside of which there were two rows of elm trees (Pearson 2000, 414). The hospital itself opened in 1759 and possessed the appearance of a large, 18th century country house. In 1764, the great circular room called 'The Rotunda', which could hold 2000 people, was constructed. The hospital was then named after this structure. Today little of the original gardens survive due to the construction of low grade ancillary structures associated with the hospital and car parking. The proposed development area is located within the zone of archaeological potential for Dublin City (DU018-020) although there are no sub-constraints recorded within its immediate proximity.



**Figure 5.4.1:** Location of the Proposed Development and Recorded monuments

The main element of the proposed development area is formed by a terrace of Georgian Buildings fronting onto Parnell Square North (Nos 23-28) and a rear yard area associated with same. This area is occupied by a 1960s Amharclann (theatre) building and associated single storey access passage, both of which will be demolished as

part of the proposed development. Neither possess basement levels and the Amharclann (theatre) building has been constructed upon concrete pillars. It is also proposed to demolished a two storey return to the rear of No. 23, which does possess a basement level. The development area has been subject to a large amount of development throughout the post medieval period. It is clear that the more recent use of the site as a school has led to a large amount of disturbance across the site.

### **Prehistoric Period (7000 BC–AD 400)**

Despite recent discoveries potentially providing evidence of human activity during the Upper Palaeolithic in Ireland, the Mesolithic Period (7000–4000 BC) is the earliest time from which there is clear evidence for prehistoric activity in Ireland (Dowd and Carden, 2016). During this period people hunted, foraged and gathered food and appear to have had a mobile lifestyle. Evidence for settlement during this period is rare. Although in 2004, Mesolithic fish traps were identified during excavations at Spencer Dock area, c. 1.8km to the east-southeast of the proposed development area (McQuade 2008).

No other recorded prehistoric sites or artefacts have been identified within the receiving environment. These include the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age periods.

### **Early Medieval Period (AD 400–1100)**

The name Dublin (Dubhlinn), meaning black pool, is generally taken to refer to the pool or pond that was located directly southeast of the site of the present Dublin Castle, located on the southern side of the River Liffey. However, this name has been suggested as referring to an early Christian monastic settlement south of the black pool and Clarke (1990, 58) believes that this interpretation of Dubhlinn would explain why the town has two names – Dubhlinn (for the enclosed ecclesiastical area) and Baile Ath Cliath – a secular settlement that was developed to guard over the 'ford of the hurdles'.

It has been argued that this enclosure, located c. 1.36km south of the proposed development, formed the focus of pre-Viking Dublin (Stout & Stout 1992, 15). Geraldine and Matthew Stout go on to argue that early Christian Dublin had no particular significance as a population centre, border post or transport hub until the Vikings arrived and took advantage of its position. Ecclesiastical foundations were common across the county at this time and it is unlikely that any of the major route ways would have passed through a settlement where travel was limited to the north by a large tidal



river. However, de Courcy (1996: xxviii) suggests that the Slighe Midluachra (one of the great roads of early medieval Ireland), crossed the Liffey at the location of the 'ford of the hurdles', which would have made Dublin a more important settlement due to the traffic passing through.

It is probable that the proposed development area was located within farmland during this period, which surrounded the settlement at Dublin. Whilst there are no recorded sites of this date within the immediate vicinity of the development area, a site which may date to the later part of this period is a burial ground recorded c. 275m east (DU018-020496), although this may in theory cover a much larger area. In 1897, it was reported in the press that in previous years there had been a discovery of human bones, swords and spears during the construction of houses in North Great George's Street, Summerhill, Gardiners Row and Mountjoy Square (DU018-020496). Previous to this, a 1763 report stated that "Vast quantities of bone" were discovered whilst digging behind the New Gardens (Rotunda Gardens) at Great Britain St (now Parnell St). They were found 2-3ft beneath surface and were also present on Cavendish Row (c. 240m to the southeast) and Granby Row (c. 40m to the northwest of the proposed development area) (RMP file). The remains, which included a large sword and a spear, are thought to relate to the Battle of Clontarf, which took place in 1014 and involved Brian Boru and the Vikings of Dublin. It remains possible that part of the battle took place in close proximity to the proposed development area.

The discovery of redeposited human bone during test trenching at the site (see Appendix 5.4.1 - 5.4.2) has been dated to between 692-961 A.D. which would place the remains in the early medieval period. The deposit included at least five late adolescents or adults, two young children and an infant. Both male and females are indicated in the mature remains. This indicates that these remains were not associated with burials resulting from a battle and may instead point to a settlement burial ground in close proximity to the site.

Unfortunately, the fact that the remains are disturbed and within a small redeposit, means that interpretation of same is somewhat limited. It is possible that the remains relate to an Irish population or may be associated with a Viking population. It is unclear as to whether the remains represent pagan or Christian burial practices due to the fact that there are redeposited. There are no definite early medieval or Viking sites within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area, as much of the focus of occupation at this time was to the south of the River Liffey or at Oxmanstown to the southwest. We cannot state where the remains

have come from, only that they may have been found and disturbed during the construction of the houses on Parnell Square North (similar to the reports in antiquity). A number of teeth are present within the excavated sample, which would enable analysis to take place to ascertain whether the assemblage represents a native or foreign population.

It is unlikely that the Battle of Clontarf of 1014 A.D. took place in the modern district of Clontarf. The Annals of the Four Masters say it was fought 'from Tulcainn to Ath Cliath' and while one may expect that isolated encounters of small groups occurred during the day over a wide area this description is the simplest and the most accurate definition of the battlefield. Tulcainn was the River Tolka and Ath Cliath was probably located at the Droichet Dubhgaill the bridge that crossed the Liffey at this time. We are told in the Annals of Loch Ce that Brian Boruma faced the allies on the slope of Crinan Hill; however, the precise location of Crinan Hill is unknown today. One record of 1339 places it south of Ballybough Road, but by deduction from other records of 1192 and 1324, it is possible that it extended from Ballybough Road to Drumcondra Road, c. 1.2km northeast of the proposed development area. It has been suggested (De Courcy 1996) that the main action of the battle took place in the area bounded by O'Connell Street, Dorset Street, Drumcondra Road, the River Tolka, Ballybough Road and the North Strand, to the immediate east of the proposed development area.

The battlefield may have included the area of proposed development and the Parnell Square area, as the ground slopes significantly from north to south. Alternatively, casualties of the battle may have been buried in the area, on the edge of the battlefield. If a burial ground had been established within the vicinity of the proposed development area prior to the battle, then it may have acted as a marker in the landscape to encourage burials in close proximity. This has to be considered as pure speculation based on the fact that none of the skeletons survive from antiquity and the excavated remains do not have an original context.

### **Medieval Period (AD 1100–1600)**

The beginning of the medieval period was characterised by political unrest that originated from the death of Brian Borumha in 1014 at the Battle of Clontarf. Diarmait MacMurchadha, deposed King of Leinster, sought the support of mercenaries from England, Wales and Flanders to assist him in his challenge for kingship. Norman involvement in Ireland began in 1169, when Richard de Clare and his followers landed in Wexford to support MacMurchadha. Two years later de Clare (Strongbow) inherited the Kingdom of Leinster

and by the end of the 12th century the Normans had succeeded in conquering much of the country (Stout and Stout 1997, 53).

Medieval development that took place on the lands to the north of the River Liffey was restricted to the medieval suburb at Oxmantown and St. Mary's Abbey. Oxmantown has been described as a transpontine suburb, similar to Southwark in London, being reached by a bridge from the original city. The suburb extended from the Liffey to the open space of Oxmantown Green (the area west of Blackhall Place) in the west and the walled enclosure of St. Mary's Abbey in the east. It possessed all the attributes of a medieval town; an urban street plan, markets, a quay, street gates, religious houses and a parish church (Clarke 1990, 48).

Oxmantown, derived from villa Ostmanorum meaning town or settlement of the Ostmen is traditionally described as the refuge of the Vikings who were ejected from Dublin by the Anglo-Normans in 1171-2 (Clarke 1990, 48). However recent research has suggested that with the building of the bridge in the early 11th century, the founding of St Michan's Church at around the same time and the slightly later establishment of St. Mary's Abbey, a settlement had already been created before the Anglo-Norman invasion. The edge of Oxmanstown is located c. 200m to the southwest of the proposed development area.

### **Post Medieval Period (AD 1600–1900)**

The appointment of James Butler, Marquis of Ormond, as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1662 provided the stimulus that was necessary to develop the city. Under Ormond's command the Royal Hospital at Kilmainham was built and the Phoenix Park was walled as a deer park, effectively enclosing the city on its west side. The developer Henry Jervis began construction of the north side quays and constructed Essex (now Grattan) Bridge to this new suburb of Capel Street.

The Georgian period (18th century) saw the beginning of large-scale reconstruction and development of Dublin city by the Wide Street Commissioners (WSC) and private developers. The construction of the quays along the north and south banks of the Liffey, begun by Jervis, were completed in early 18th century.

The role of the Gardiner family in the development of the north eastern section of the city has been well documented. Luke Gardiner was responsible for the original layout of Drogheda Street and had played a lead role in the development of Henrietta Street, Dorset Street and other areas stretching across to Henry Street and Drogheda Street. His second son, also named Luke, continued to

develop the estate up until the time of his death in 1798. Gardiner's Row was erected by 1769; Eccles Street in 1772; Temple Street in 1773; North Great George's Street in 1776 and Gardiner Place and Mountjoy Square in 1790. Rutland (now Parnell) Square had been completed by 1792 while Fitzgibbon Street, North Fredrick Street, Blessington Street, Great Charles Street and Belvedere Place had all been completed by the early 19th century.

Within Parnell Square, it was the houses along its eastern side that were completed to begin with. The original six houses that formed Cavendish Row, at the lower part of the street, were extended to a terrace of 16. The houses along Parnell Sq. North, including 23-28, were constructed between 1758 and 1766. In 1786 an act decreed that railings were to be erected in place of the walls that surrounded the Rotunda Gardens – in accordance with the wishes of local residents. It was also around this time that the name Rutland Square was adopted.

The historic mapping of the proposed development area shows that prior to the construction of all three sides of Parnell Square, the northern section (to the northwest of the Rotunda Gardens) was open fields – as depicted on John Rocque's Map of 1760. Subsequent mapping shows terraced buildings fronting onto Parnell Square North with much of the rear plots occupied by outbuildings and mews. Today none of these outbuildings associated with the surviving Georgian structures are extant.

### **Post AD 1900**

No 25 Parnell Square was of great significance during the period leading up to the War of Independence. It was here on 9 September 1914 that a meeting held by the Supreme Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), with selected others, agreed to rise up against the British before the First World War finished. Those in attendance included Eamonn Ceannt, Thomas Clarke, James Connolly, Arthur Griffith, John MacBride, Sean MacDermott, Sean McGarry, William O'Brien, Seán T. O'Kelly, Padraig Pearse, and Joseph Plunkett.

The buildings surrounding the proposed development site also played important roles in the organisation for the 1916 Rising. No. 41, formerly the Irish National Forester's Hall, was used for drilling by the IRB and Irish Volunteers. Éamon de Valera assembled the 3rd Battalion of the Volunteers here immediately prior to the 1916 Rising. Similarly, the building at No. 46 was used to assemble the 2nd Battalion of the Volunteers under Thomas MacDonagh on the eve of the 1916 Easter Rising.

### 5.4.5.2 Summary of Previous Archaeological Fieldwork

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970-2017) has shown that no previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within the proposed development area. Investigations carried out within the surrounding area are summarised below:

In 1996, test excavations were carried out at 29 Parnell Square (Bennett 1006:108, Licence Ref.: 96E225), c. 50m southwest of the proposed development area. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified. Further investigations were carried out at the rear of 20/21 Parnell Square in 2004, c. 40m east of the proposed development, which resulted in the identification of an 18th century well (Bennett 2004:0570, Licence Ref.: 04E0035). Excavations at a site on Dorset Street/ Granby Row located c. 45m west-northwest of the proposed development site, revealed the substructure of the 18th century Bethesda Chapel which formerly stood on the site (Bennett 2005:435, Licence Ref.: 05E1098). More post medieval remains were identified in the form of red brick cellars during the monitoring of slit trenches along Parnell Square East, c. 170 southeast of the proposed development area (Bennett 2009:315, Licence Ref.: 08E0956).

### 5.4.5.3 Cartographic Analysis

#### **Bernard De Gomme's Map of Dublin, 1673**

Despite the early date of this map, it shows a large amount of detail within the landscape surrounding Dublin City. Abbey Parks and Abbey Green is shown to the southwest of the proposed development area, which represents the remains of the landscape associated directly with St. Mary's Abbey. The approximate location of the proposed development area is shown as open land with hills marked within the immediate vicinity.

#### **John Rocque's 'An Exact Survey of the City and Suburbs of Dublin, 1756**

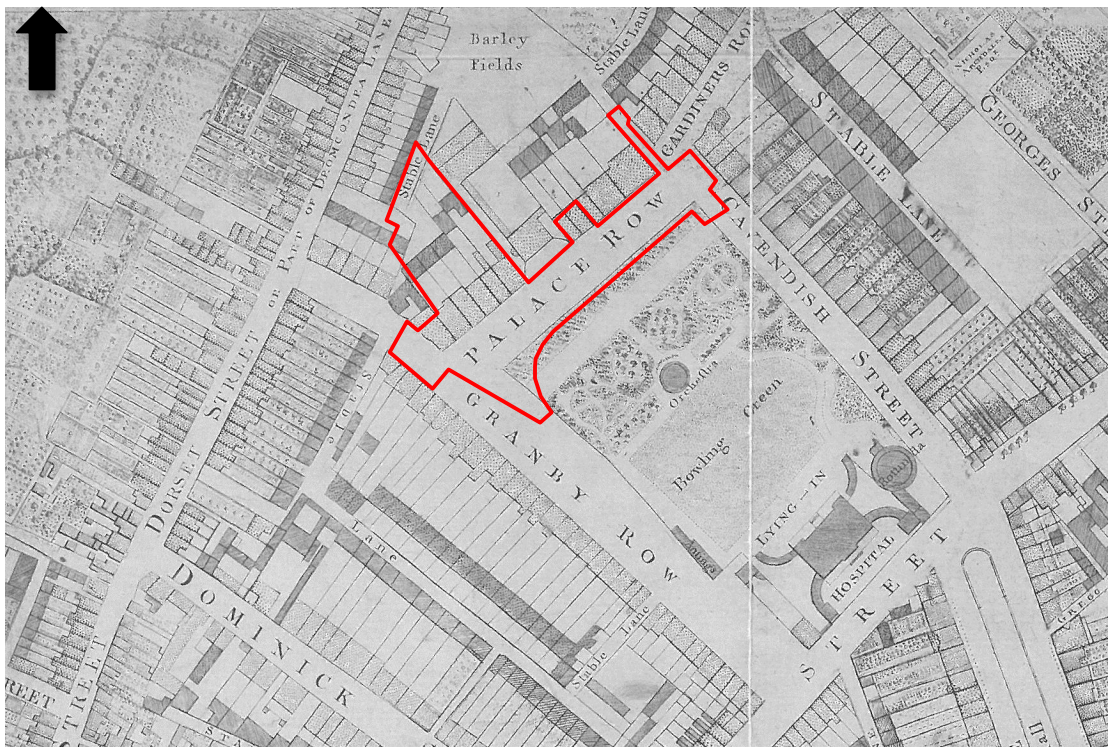
This is the first detailed depiction of the proposed development area, which is shown as open fields to the north of the 'New Garden' and the Rotunda Hospital. To the west Dorset Street is marked and a large amount of construction has taken place either side of the road. To the southwest of the development area, small plots that appear to be under cultivation are depicted. To the east of the New Gardens, the buildings fronting onto Cavendish Road (now Parnell Square East) are shown as present.

### 'A New Plan of Dublin' from Wilson's Dublin Directory, 1760

This map shows what is now Parnell Square North, but it is labelled on this map as 'Paradise Row', rather than 'Palace Row' as shown on the map below. No buildings are shown as fronting onto the street, although the New Gardens are shown to the southeast.

### Bernard Scalé's 'An Accurate Survey of the City and Suburbs of Dublin by Mr Rocque with Additions and Improvements', 1773

By the time of this map the buildings that occupy the proposed development area are shown on the northern side of Parnell Square, although the street is named as Palace Row (Figure 5.4.2). Six terraced buildings are marked within the proposed development area. These all have narrow garden plots shown to the rear of the structures and all possess outbuildings that are likely to represent mews buildings. To the immediate northwest of the proposed development area, a small lane is marked as 'Stable Lane'. These small lanes were designed to provide access to the stables at the rear of the properties. To the immediate north of the lane, a piece of open ground is shown, which is marked as 'Barley Fields'



**Figure 5.4.2:** Bernard Scalé's 'An Accurate Survey of the City and Suburbs of Dublin by Mr Rocque with Additions and Improvements', 1773, showing the approximate proposed development area

### 'A New Plan of Dublin' from Wilson's Dublin Directory, 1801

This map shows the proposed development area as fully developed and Charlemont House to the immediate east-northeast of the site is labelled. The lane that services the rear of the site is also marked. The square is now named as 'Rutland Square'. There are no major changes to note within the cartography of later maps by Campbell (1811) and Taylor (1816), which relates to the proposed development area.

### Ordnance Survey Map, 1847, scale 1:1560

This map clearly depicts the six houses within the proposed development area and is shown in Figure 5.4.3 below with detail included as Figure 5.4.4. All of the houses are shown to have rear returns of varying sizes, with the exception of the corner building, which was presumably abutted by its mews building and accessed from Granby Row. The remaining five buildings all possess mews buildings to the rear of their garden plots, with the eastern two the largest. The lane to the north of the proposed development area is still shown as providing access to the mews buildings. To the immediate east-northeast of the site, Charlemont House is shown with large outbuildings to the rear.



**Figure 5.4.3:** Ordnance Survey Map, 1847, scale 1:1560, showing the proposed development area



**Figure 5.4.4:** Detail from the Ordnance Survey Map, 1847, relating to the proposed development area

Nos 23 and 27 possess rear returns that travel the full length of the garden plot, which then attach to the mews buildings. Steps are shown as accessing the mews structures associated with Nos 24 and 26, indicating a topography perhaps similar as to what is present within the site today, with the mews structures located slightly upslope from the main houses. This may also indicate that some or all of the structures possessed two storeys.

During the course of archaeological testing as part of this assessment, a number of basement or cellar structures were identified to the rear of the main houses fronting onto Parnell Square North (which retain their main basement level). These may have been associated with No. 23 and No. 26. Whilst not marked within this map, it is clear that basement structures extended beneath the returns and garden plots of the main houses and were in addition to the main basement level extant beneath the existing houses.

Testing also revealed significant post medieval deposits at the rear of the site. This section of the site is higher than the yard to the immediate south and may suggest that the mews structures possessed two levels with the ground floor potentially partially



backfilled to create the existing step within the site once the buildings had been demolished.

### **Ordnance Survey Maps, 1864/ 1891, scale 1:1560**

By the time of the 1864 map the main houses fronting onto the square remain unchanged in terms of their footprint. The mews structures are also unchanged, although the steps leading to the mews associated with No. 24 are no longer marked. By the time of the 1891 map, no changes have occurred, although the steps into the mews structure associated with No. 24 are once again present.

### **Ordnance Survey Map, 1909, scale 1:2500**

By the time of this map, there are a number of changes to note, which relate to Nos 23-27 (Figure 5.4.5). The footprint of the main houses remains unchanged. However, some development has been carried out to the rear of the structures. The mews structure associated with No. 23 has been reduced in size by c. 50 percent, although the return to the rear of the house is still present. Two additional small buildings are marked in the rear garden plot. No. 24 remains unchanged with the return present, along with the mews structure as shown within the 1847 mapping. The plot containing No. 25 is now shown as fully developed with the house merging into the mews structure to the rear. No. 26 remains unchanged. No. 27 retains its return but this now runs back to two buildings within the rear plot, rather than the mews structure marked on the 1847 map.



**Figure 5.4.5:** Detail from the Ordnance Survey Map, 1909, relating to the proposed development area

#### 5.4.5.4 Dublin City Development Plan

The Dublin City Development Plan (2016–2022) recognises the statutory protection afforded to all RMP sites under the National Monuments Legislation (1930–2014). The development plan lists a number of aims and objectives in relation to archaeological heritage. It is a policy of the Dublin City Development Plan (2016–2022) to promote the in-situ preservation of archaeology as the preferred option where development would have an impact on buried artefacts. Where other alternatives are acceptable or exceptional circumstances are determined by the relevant statutory agencies. Where preservation in situ is not feasible, sites of archaeological interest shall be subject to archaeological investigations and recording according to best practice, in advance of redevelopment.

The proposed development area is located within the zone of archaeological potential for Dublin City (DU018-020). The closest recorded sub-constraint to the development area is a burial ground recorded c. 270m east-northeast (DU018-020496). However, based on historic records, it is possible that the proposed development area is located in or within the immediate vicinity of the burial ground, due to the discovery of human remains in the vicinity of Parnell Square in the 18th and 19th centuries. It is thought that the remains may be related to victims of the Battle of Clontarf, although none of the discovery survive today.

#### 5.4.5.5 Field Inspection

The proposed development area is occupied by eight Georgian buildings, all of which date to the 1760s. It also extends to the rear of 23-28 Parnell Square North to include North Frederick Lane and Bethesda Place and to the south, encompassing Parnell Square North. More recently the buildings have been in use as a school and as a result have undergone alteration. Having been vacant for a number of years, some of the structures are falling into disrepair, with No. 28 at the corner of the terrace, in poor condition internally. The houses have all been constructed over a basement level, which varies in size per property.

To the north of the terrace, all trace of the garden plots has been removed. A modern covered (single storey) walk way runs from the rear of No. 27 to give access to a 1960s hexagonal amharclann (theatre) building. The southern part of this building is supported on concrete piles, whereas the northern section has been constructed into what was a moderate south facing slope. The remainder of the yard to the rear of the terrace is level and was in use as a playground. A ramp then leads up to the northern part of the proposed development area, which is located adjacent to what was Stable Lane and at a higher level than the former playground to the south. It is clear that the site has been subject to disturbance and scarping.

The eastern boundary is formed by a modern wall that separates the rear of the proposed development area from the Hugh Lane Gallery. The northern boundary is Bethesda Place and Fredrick Lane North. There is no trace of any of the former mews structures remaining above ground in this part of the development area.

#### 5.4.5.6 Archaeological Testing

Test excavations were carried out by David McIlreavy of IAC Ltd. under licence 15E0361. A full report has been produced and is included in Appendix 5.4.1. Trenches are shown on Figures 5.4.6 and 5.4.7.

Test trenching commenced at the site on 18th June 2018 and lasted for two days. A total of six test trenches were mechanically excavated across the test area and any investigated deposits were preserved by record. During this period site investigations were also monitored. A total of seven pits were excavated.

It should be noted that the site was heavily constrained in terms of where trenches could be opened. A large former amharclann (theatre) building occupies a large portion of the area to the rear of the Georgian structures and the existing basements beneath the

terrace of houses extend to the north of the ground floor footprint. In addition, two small buildings are located in the eastern corner of the former playground and a ramp is also present that provides access from the rear entrance to the site, down slope to the former playground level.

Test Trench 1, located in the southern portion of the site, to the rear of No. 26, was heavily affected by the construction of a probable late 18th/early 19th century barrel-vaulted cellar, which may extend from the existing basement beneath the structure. The cellar vault was recorded for a total length of 8.5m within the trench. The insertion of modern services has adversely affected the structural integrity of the cellar structure and a clear breach in the vault was visible on the western side of the trench. Trench 1 was not reduced to subsoil level because of the hard-packed nature of the rubble fill, but it is considered that any archaeological features in this area would have been previously adversely affected, or removed, as a result of the cellar construction.

Test Pit 107 was excavated to the immediate east of Trench 1 and measured c. 4m by 0.8m. Post medieval overburden was noted to a depth of 1.4m. At this depth natural subsoil was identified, which consisted of a compact mid brown sandy clay. Excavation of the pit continued through geological deposits to a depth of 4m, where a very firm black clay was identified (natural geology).

Test Trench 2 was located to the rear of Nos 24 and 25 and revealed two archaeological features. The first of these comprised a concentration of disarticulated human and animal bone located at 0.8m below ground level (C8). No associated containing cut was identified, indicating these remains may have been redeposited. This feature was identified in the layer immediately underlying that associated with mid-18th century development on site (C3). Late 17th century ceramics were also recovered from a grey layer (C6) underlying the deposit of human remains. The deposit of human remains extends to the southeast outside of the trench extents, although because of the substantial basement developments associated the street fronting houses, cannot extend for any more than c. 8m in this direction. The second feature (C10) appeared to have been cut into a further layer beneath the grey layer, located approximately 1.1m below ground level. Although not fully exposed, the feature would seem to represent a pit containing substantial deposits of shell. One piece of cow horn was also recorded. No artefacts were recovered from this feature; however, the overlying stratigraphy would suggest that the feature is at least late 17th century in date.

Test Pit 106 was excavated to the southeast of the eastern end of Trench 2 and measured c. 7.9m by 1.4m. Post medieval and modern demolition debris were identified to a depth of 1.4m. Here natural subsoil was identified, which consisted of moderately to firmly compacted greyish brown sandy clay. Excavation of the pit continued through geological deposits to a depth of 4m, where a very firm black clay was identified (natural geology).

Test Trench 3 was excavated with the plot originally associated with No. 25. A post medieval levelling deposit was identified in the trench, but no features of archaeological potential were present.

Test Pit 104 was excavated to the south of Trench 3 and measured 4m by 1.4m. A probable demolition layer containing brick, concrete, glass and modern ceramics, was identified to a depth of 1.55m. Between 1.55m and 2.4m dark grey deposit was noted containing some sherds of post medieval pottery, shells, wood fragments and animal bones. This is likely to represent a midden associated with the post medieval houses. Between 2.4m and 4m the deposits became water-logged due to the ingress of ground water. No items of archaeological significance were identified and natural sub-soil was not identified.

Test Trench 4 was excavated to the rear of No. 23 and identified the remains of a collapsed post medieval cellar, which may have been located beneath the original return associated with the structure.

Test Pit 103 was excavated between Trench 3 and Trench 4. A levelling deposit similar in nature to C12 was identified to a depth of 1.8m. Here natural subsoil was identified, which consisted of compacted mid brown sandy clay. Excavation continued through the natural geology to a depth of 3m. Compact black clay was identified at a depth of 2.6m.

Test Pit 105 was excavated to the southeast of Trench 4 and measured 4.1m by 1m. The wall of a red brick cellar was identified 0.4m below the current ground level and as such excavation was stepped out slightly to avoid impacting on same. Post medieval construction deposits likely associated with the construction of the cellar were identified to a depth of 3.1m. Here the subsoil was encountered, which consisted of a compact black clay.

Test Trenches 5 and 6 were excavated in the northern section of the proposed development area, where the former mews structures associated with Nos 23 and 24 were located. This is the highest part of the proposed development area. With the exception of a possible levelling/ demolition deposit, no buried structural remains relating to

the mews buildings were identified and both trenches were excavated to what was initially identified as natural subsoil.

Test Pit 101 was excavated to the north of Test Trench 5 and measured 2.2m by 0.7m. A compact mid brown sandy clay was identified in this pit at a depth of 0.9m. This was interpreted as natural geology during the excavation of the Test Trench 5. However, whilst excavation continued through this layer, at a depth of 1.7m a dark brown/black sandy clay was identified, which contained animal bone, shells, glass, fragments of wood and some sherds of post medieval pottery. This deposit continued to a depth of 2.4m, when excavation ceased. A red brick and stone wall was identified close to the base of the pit, which was left in-situ. Considering the raised elevation of this part of the site, it would suggest that the mews structures that once occupied this part of the site were scarped into the slope and possessed two storeys. Following their demolition, it is possible that the ground floor level was backfilled to create the current step at the rear of the proposed development area.

Test Pit 102 was excavated to the east of Test Trench 6 and measured 2.7m by 1.2m. Beneath the tarmacadam surface a demolition layer was identified containing some red brick and stone inclusions. This was present to a depth of 2.35m. Here a dark brown deposit containing red brick and some wood fragments was identified, which continued to a depth of 3.4m. Within this deposit the remains of a red brick and stone wall were identified, similar in form that identified in Test Pit 101. As a result, excavation ceased. The results support the theory that the mews structures possessed two storeys, which would fit in with the topography of the site.

#### **5.4.5.7 Osteo-archaeological analysis**

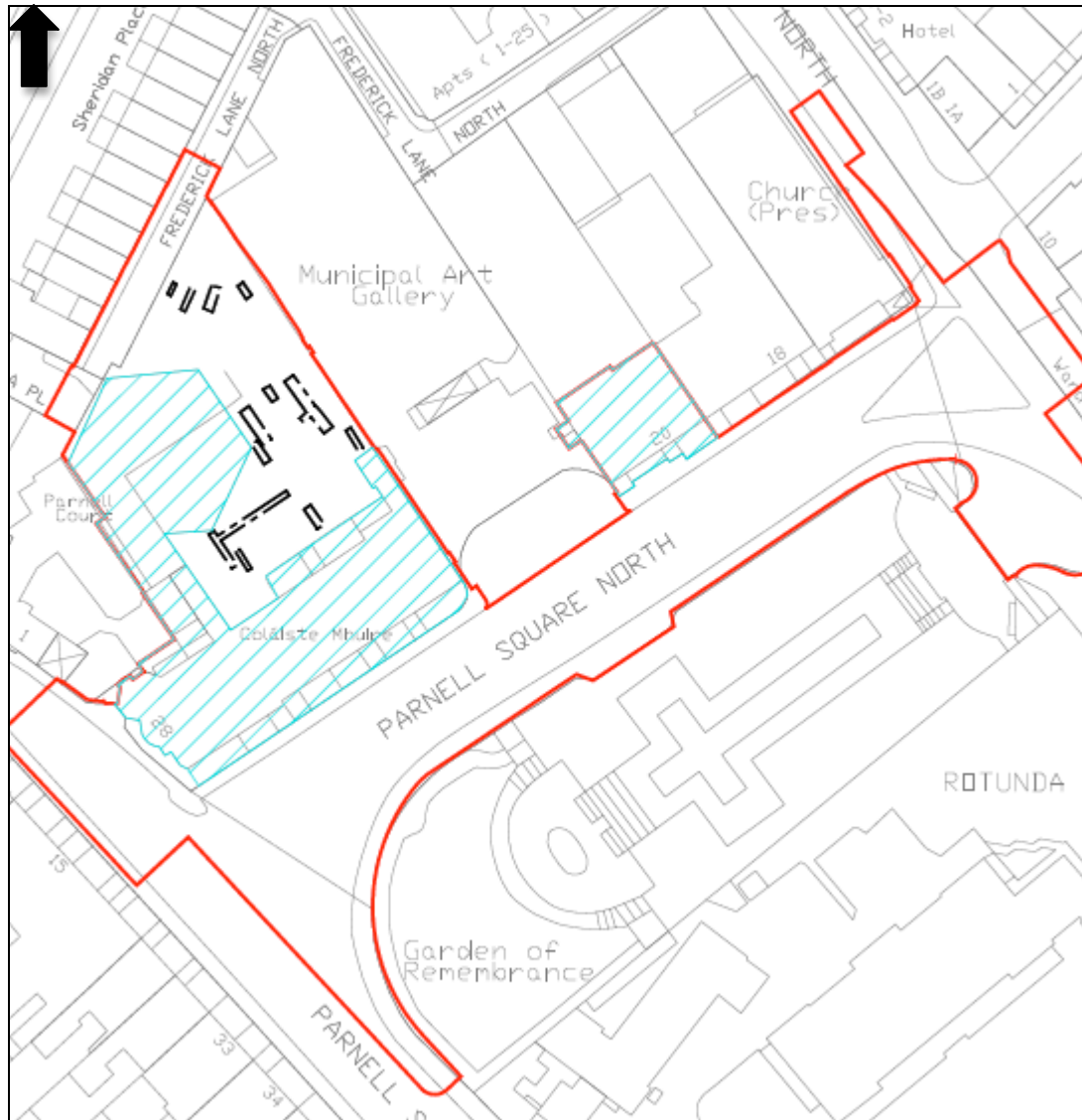
A total of 864 fragments of human skeletal remains were retrieved from the re-deposit C8, which was exposed in Test Trench 2. The remains were washed and subject to full osteological analysis by a specialist, Maeve Tobin. This involved visually inspecting the bone and sorting into skeletal regions, following which detailed analysis of each fragment was carried out in order to ascertain information regarding the individuals they represent (e.g. sex, age at death, pathology, etc.). A full catalogue of the remain has been created with the analysis results. A full osteological report has been prepared describing the results of the analysis which is included in Appendix 5.4.2.

Given that the remains were disarticulated and commingled in the deposit it was not possible to make conclusive statements about individual health; however, the analysis indicates that a minimum number of eight people are represented. These include at least five

late adolescents or adults, two young children and an infant. Both male and females are indicated in the mature remains. All regions of the body were represented equally with no evidence for preferential selection or exclusion of bones in the deposit. Some evidence for non-specific infection and degenerative joint disease was noted but nothing considered to be unusual in a historic population.

It is likely that these remains represent clearance of a nearby burial area, given the profile of individuals represented. The remains were heavily fragmented with none of the larger limb bones surviving intact, however several vertebrae and smaller bones of the hands and feet were complete, indicating that the remains were not intentionally damaged to avoid recognition of body parts during clearance. Further skeletal remains, both disarticulated and intact burials, may survive outside of the investigated areas.

A fragment of mid-shaft adult humerus (5g) has returned a two-sigma calibrated date of AD 692–961 (UBA 38764) indicating a burial date ranging from the late 7th to mid-10th century AD.



**Figure 5.4.6:** Overall location of test trenches/ SI pits, showing existing buildings in blue





**Figure 5.4.7:** Location of test trenches/SI pits and results (showing proposed basement)

### 5.4.6 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

The proposed development of a new Dublin City Library and public realm works at Parnell Square North, Dublin 1, comprising in summary:

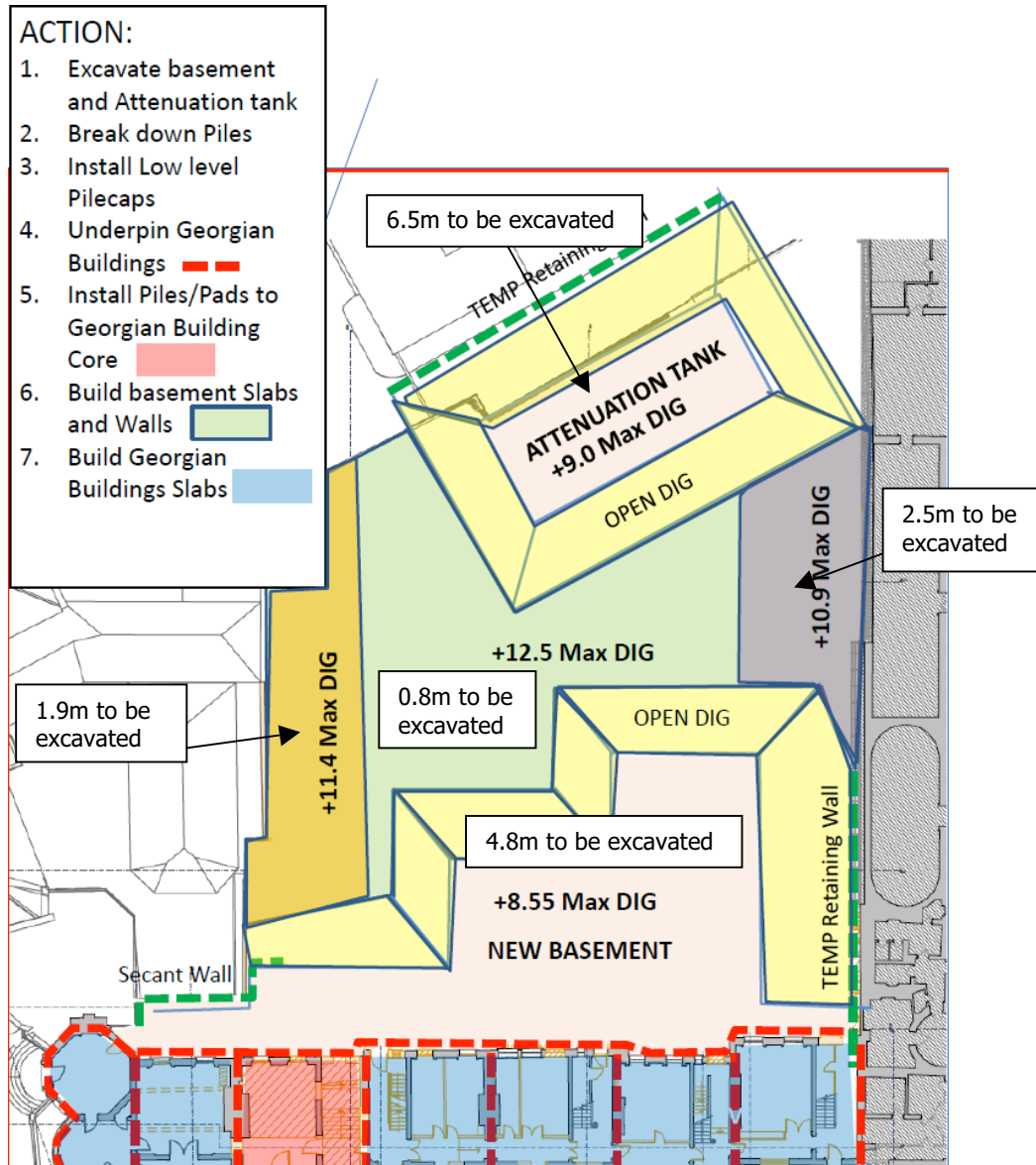
- The adaptive re-use of Nos. 20-21 & Nos. 23-28 Parnell Square North (all Protected Structures).
- The construction of a new 5-storey over basement extension, with roof gardens, for library and cultural use (c.5,575 sq m gross floor area, and associated demolition of existing 3-storey Amharclann (theatre) building, single storey atrium and 2-storey return, to the rear of Nos. 23-28 Parnell Square North.
- The total Gross Floor Area (existing and new) of the proposed cultural use amounts to c.11,198 sq.m.
- Improvements to the public realm to facilitate a new public plaza, including reconfiguration of vehicular roadway (2-lane), parking and set down areas, street furniture, street art and public lighting, widening of footpaths, and relocation of Dublin Bikes Station, at Parnell Square North, in the area between Parnell Square West and East and the Garden of Remembrance.
- Modifications to Bethesda Place and Frederick Lane North to facilitate access by service and emergency vehicles to Frederick Lane North.

The overall site area measures c.0.99 ha, and includes Nos. 23 – 28 Parnell Square (Scoil Mhuire) and Nos. 20 – 21 Parnell Square (All Protected Structures). The Georgian houses are located either side of Hugh Lane Gallery (Protected Structure). The site is otherwise generally bounded by Parnell Square North, East & West, the Garden of Remembrance to the south, Bethesda Place, Frederick Lane North and the Sheridan Court Residential Apartments to the North.

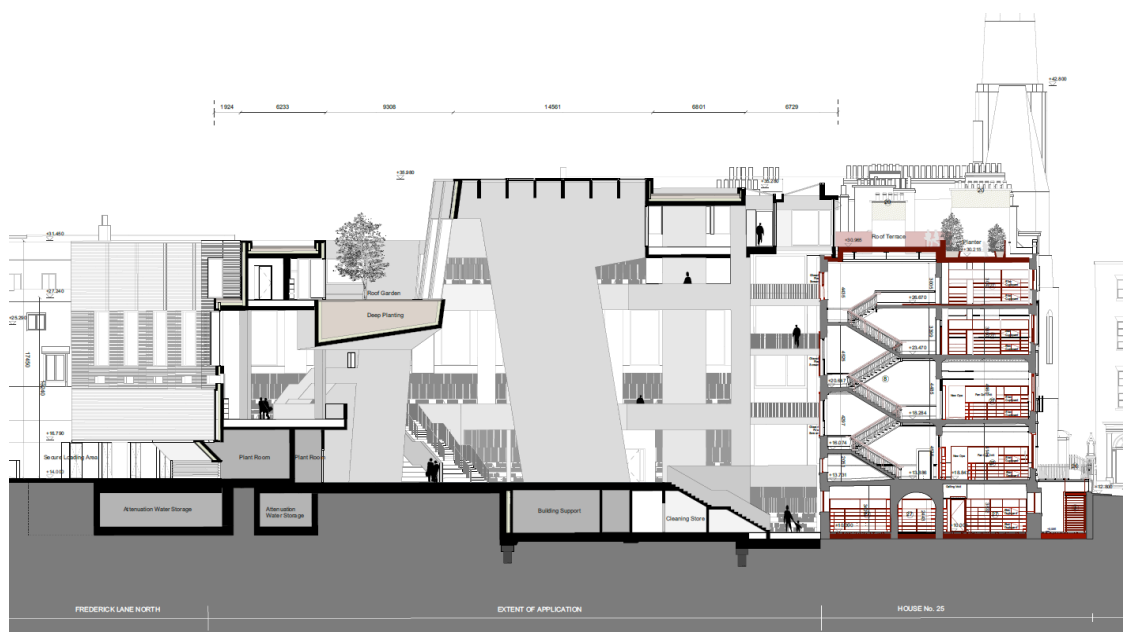
### 5.4.7 Potential Impacts of the Proposed Development

The proposed development area is located within the zone of archaeological potential for Dublin City (DU020-018), which is a recorded monument. It is clear that the site has been impacted upon by development dating from the 1760s, with the construction of houses fronting onto Parnell Square North and associated features such as basements and mews structures. During the later part of the 20th century the rear of Nos 23-28 was further impacted by the removal of garden plots, returns and outbuildings, when a school was established at the site.

Substantial excavations will be required as part of the proposed development with an estimated 9000m<sup>3</sup> of material to be taken from the site. The proposed basement level is shown in Figure 5.4.7. Figure 5.4.8 below shows the proposed ground reduction levels across the site, with all foundations being piled prior to the commencement of bulk excavation. Figure 5.4.9 shows a northeast facing section directly through the centre of the proposed development.



**Figure 5.4.8:** Proposed ground reductions on site



**Figure 5.4.9:** Northeast facing section through the proposed development

The excavation of test trenches and site investigation test pits within the plot to the north of Nos 23-28 has revealed archaeological deposits within the southern side of the site. These include post medieval basements and a redeposit of early medieval human remains and a possible pit.

The deposit of human remains will be directly impacted upon by the excavation of material for the insertion of the basement level. **The impact is considered to be negative and very significant.**

The post medieval remains identified outside of the proposed basement area will be impacted upon by ground disturbances (ground reduction and the insertion of piles and excavation of pile caps) that are associated with the construction of the proposed development. **The impacts are considered to be negative and moderate.**

The potential remains of a post medieval midden or cess deposit has been identified within the centre of the site, whilst the possible backfilled remains of mews structures have been identified in the northern part of the site. These areas will be impacted upon by ground disturbances (ground reduction and the insertion of piles and excavation of pile caps) that are associated with the construction of the proposed development. **The impacts are considered to be negative and moderate.**

It is possible that ground disturbances outside of the footprint of the test trenches may have a direct impact on previously unrecorded archaeological deposits that have the potential to survive beneath

the current ground level with no surface expression. This includes the area beneath the modern amharclann(theatre) building structure that is located to the rear of Nos 23-28, along with any excavations associated with establishment of the public realm infrastructure, **The potential impacts are considered to be negative and have the potential to range from moderate to profound significance.**

#### **5.4.8 Mitigation Measures**

While it is acknowledged that preservation in-situ of archaeological remains is the preferable option wherever possible, the archaeological remains identified within the proposed development area will be impacted upon by the construction of a new basement and associated extensive ground disturbances. As such preservation by record of all archaeological remains will be carried out.

The recommended mitigation measures may be further informed by a programme of additional archaeological testing that will be carried out within the proposed development area as part of an advance archaeological works contract. Testing would follow the demolition of the existing amharclann (theatre) building on site, as a separate works package, prior to the mobilisation of the main construction contractor.

All mitigation measures will be carried out in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DoCHG and the Dublin City Archaeologist.

The archaeological remains within Trenches 1 and 2, including the post medieval basements and the redeposit of human remains, will be excavated (preserved by record) within an open area measuring 250m<sup>2</sup> prior to the commencement of construction works (Figure 5.4.10). Post excavation analysis of the remains will include the isotopic analysis of suitable dental remains in order to analyse the geographical origin of the human remains.

The archaeological remains within Trench 3 and Test Pit 105 including the post medieval basement remains, will be excavated (preserved by record) within an open area measuring 195m<sup>2</sup> prior to the commencement of construction works (Figure 5.4.10).

The archaeological remains within Test Pit 104, which includes the post medieval cess deposit, will be excavated (preserved by record) within an open area measuring 95m<sup>2</sup> prior to the commencement of construction works (Figure 5.4.10).

A section at the rear of the proposed development area will be opened and graded down with a mechanical excavator in order to assess the nature and extent of the potential backfilled mews structures. This section may be accompanied by excavation from the floor level in this part of the site (Figure 5.4.10, estimated area 150m<sup>2</sup> including exposed section). However, due regard will need to be given to the entrance to the site in order to allow continued vehicular access.

Overburden within these areas will be removed by a mechanical excavator under strict archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation shall cease following the identification of archaeological levels. Recording of the archaeological features will then be carried out by hand by a team of archaeologists under the direction of a licence eligible archaeologist and in consultation with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Dublin City Archaeologist.

If required, the open excavation areas may be increased in size and all archaeological deposits will be recorded to the depth of the natural subsoils.

Full provision will be made available within the construction programme to allow for the resolution of all archaeological features on site.

A minimum of four additional test trenches will be excavated within the site, following the demolition of the amharclann (theatre) building, in order to assess the nature and extent of any additional archaeological remains that may survive within the proposed development area. This will be carried out as part of the advance archaeological works contract and will be undertaken by a licence eligible archaeologist.

Dependant on the results of the testing exercise, further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation by record and/or archaeological monitoring. As such, full provision within the construction programme will be made available in order to ensure works are completed prior to construction commencing.

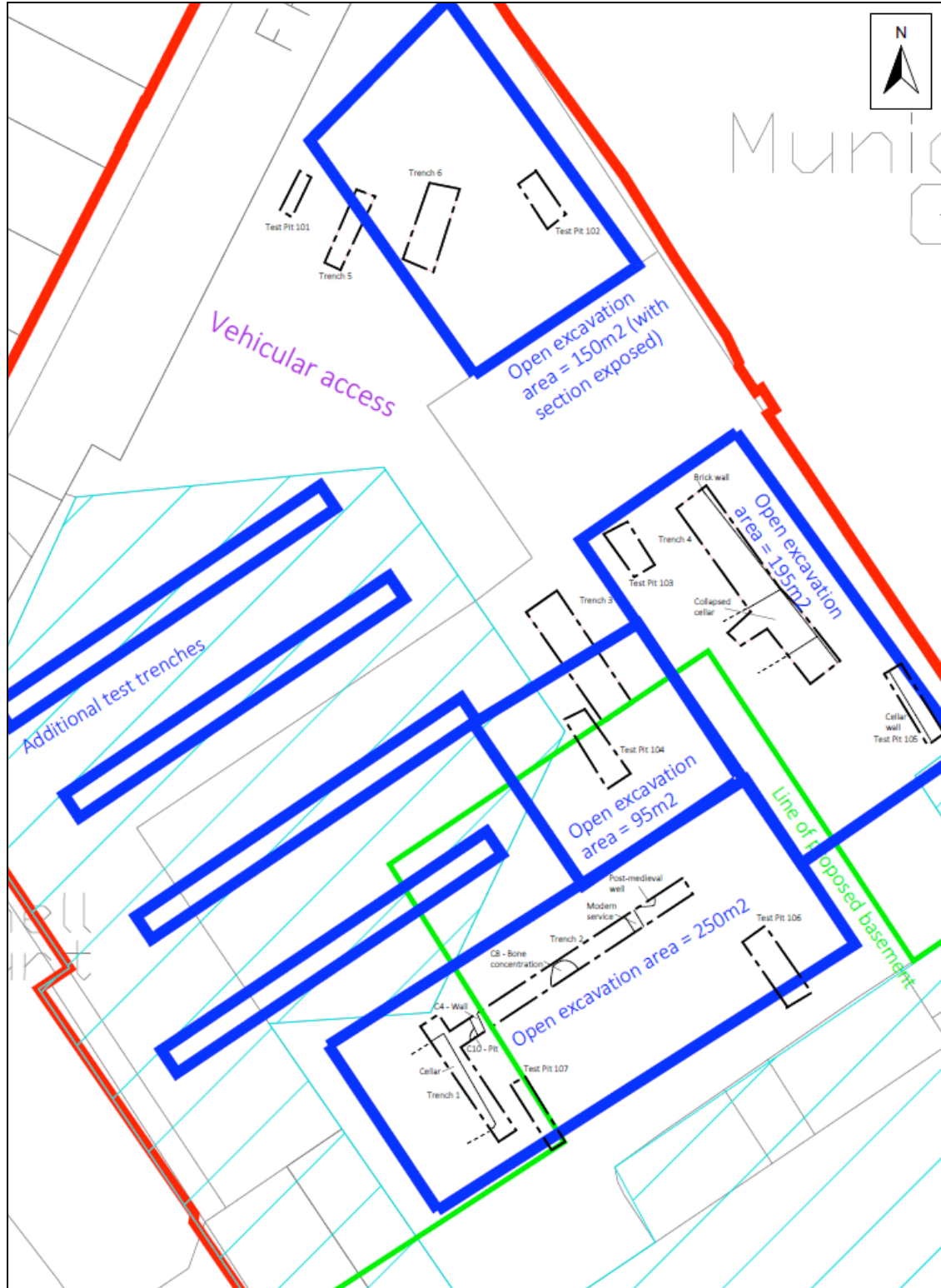


Figure 5.4.10: Proposed archaeological advanced works locations

### **5.4.9 Predicted Impact of the Proposed Development**

Following the completion of the mitigation measures, all archaeological remains at the site will have been preserved by record. Therefore, there would be no further impacts on archaeological remains from the proposed development.

### **5.4.10 Monitoring**

The mitigation measures recommended above would also function as a monitoring system to allow the further assessment of the scale of the predicted impacts and the effectiveness of the recommended mitigation measures.

### **5.4.11 Difficulties Encountered**

No difficulties were encountered during the compilation of this chapter.

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