

Portlester in Meath and the house in the Abbey was not used as a residence by his successors. The property however continued in their possession (Irish Georgian Society Records Vol. III).

The period following the destructive wars of the 1640s and the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 saw a rapid redevelopment of the city. In 1663, when Alderman William Hawkins built a sea wall from modern day Townsend Street to Burgh Quay, the land within the study area began to be developed for the first time (Bennett 1991). During the late 17th century, at the time of Bernard de Gomme's map, much of the area to the south of the proposed development site, being largely on reclaimed land, was still marshy mud flats still vulnerable to inundation from the sea.

3.2. *Post-medieval period*

At the end of the 17th century, the third Earl Henry Moore, who laid out the estate for building purposes, perpetuating his name and titles in the combination of Henry Street, Moore Street, Earl Street, Off Lane and Drogheda Street (formerly O'Connell Street), was forced to mortgage his life-interest to raise money for making out his claim to the Hamilton estates, which had been devised to him by his sister, the Countess of Clanbrassil. At his death in 1714 the trustees sold the estate to Luke Gardiner (Georgian Society Records, Vol. III).

The arrival of French Huguenots and Flemish settlers, particularly at the end of the 17th century, saw new architecture and industries flourish in the emerging post-medieval city. Private individuals, such as Luke Gardiner and Nathaniel Clements, became agents of urban development from the 1660s onwards and were played a particularly important role in the development of the city during the 18th century. Other landlords such as Viscounts Fitzwilliam and the Earls of Meath, held large areas as part of great estates, some of these holdings also providentially close to the growing city. Many of these estates had been granted to those loyal to the English crown as a means of colonisation and to maintain stability. Others saw the opportunities offered by property speculation and over time built up holdings of land with an eye to profit (Brady and Simms, 2001).

From the late 17th century onwards, these wealthy and ambitious citizens of Dublin set about acquiring the leases of large tracts of land bounding on the old walled city. The new streets on the estates of Lord Aungier (Aungier Street and Longford), Humphrey Jervis (Jervis Street, Mary Street and Capel Street) and in the early 18th century, the Moore family, Earls of Drogheda, (Henry Street, Moore Street, Earl Street, Off Lane and Drogheda Street) were in marked contrast to the narrow winding streets of the old town. The development of the current city streetscape from Capel Street to O'Connell Street and beyond to Parnell and Mountjoy Square occurred principally between the middle of the 17th and 18th century.

Nathaniel Clements and the first Luke Gardiner were jointly involved in the development of Georgian Dublin on the north side of the city. Gardiner purchased the Drogheda estate, which was part of the lands of Mary's Abbey, in Dublin in the early 18th century. This seems to have been Gardiner's first large

purchase (Craig, 1992). They were also closely associated with the architect Richard Castle. Castle and Clements became respectively Gardiner's architect and contractor after the great architect Edward Lovett Pearce's death. Nathaniel Clements (1705 –1777) in association with Luke Gardiner organized the building of Henrietta Street. Clements leased land and built houses in Sackville Street and built two houses on the west side of Sackville Street (within the proposed development area), on the site now occupied by the Royal Dublin Hotel. Clements also owned a house on the opposite side of the street that was situated on the site of the present Gresham Hotel.

3.3. **Parnell Street**

It is clear that Parnell Street is sited on a highway that was present from at least the 17th century (its origin may be very much older). The street, formerly known as Great Britain Street, was first laid out for housing in 1728. Its original name was in honour of James I who in 1604 styled himself 'King of Great Britain' (McCready, 1892). The street was renamed on the 1st October 1911 following the unveiling by John Redmond MP of a statue of Charles Stewart Parnell political leader, in Sackville Street (Bennett, 1991).

Parnell Street consisted mainly of small shops with two- and three-storey houses above. The buildings were swept away in the 1970s and 1980s to make way for the present wide thoroughfare, which was intended to be part of the Inner Tangent Relief Road. A photograph of the block taken in 1975 prior to demolition indicates the elevation that these buildings presented to the street. Many of the buildings rose to four storeys in height. Many of the buildings were also re-fronted during Victorian times with the addition of segmental headed windows and stucco window surrounds (O'Donovan 2004).

3.4. **O'Connell Street**

By the early 18th century, as the city was expanding in all directions, the previously undeveloped lands of the northeast quarter were mainly used for commerce and fashionable residence. The development of the northeast quarter of the city, as outlined above, was largely undertaken by two great families - Gardiner and Jervis - while the study area itself was mainly developed by Luke Gardiner (Bennett 1991).

The street now known as O'Connell Street is a relatively late feature of the Dublin streetscape. The first cartographic reference to the street is an unnamed road, shown on Bernard de Gomme's map of 1673, marking the eastern boundary of the lands of St Mary's Abbey. Charles Brooking's 1728 map of Dublin (Fig. 7) shows the street, then named Drogheda Street, extending between Great Britain Street (now Parnell Street) and Abbey Street, but not as far as Bachelor's Walk along the river. Having purchased the lands that had originally belonged to St Mary's Abbey from Viscount Moore, Earl of Drogheda in 1714, Luke Gardiner set about the improvements to what would later become Sackville (and later O'Connell) Street in the 1750s by demolishing the houses between Great Britain Street and Henry Street. This had the effect of widening the northern end of Drogheda Street and set the scene for the creation of Sackville Street, with a mall (Gardiner's Mall) forming a spine down the middle at the northern end of modern

O'Connell Street. Only no. 42, to the south of Site A (formerly part of the Royal Dublin Hotel) still survives from the original streetscape (Bennett 1991). Rocque's map 1756 illustrates Gardiner's Sackville Street prior to its extension (Fig. 9).

The Wide Streets Commission established in 1757, later expanded on Gardiner's development as part of broader project which started with the provision of a suitably wide passage from Essex Bridge (now Grattan Bridge) to Dublin Castle. Drogheda Street continued to exist between Henry Street and Abbey Street until 1777, when the commissioners were given a grant to extend Sackville Street to the newly-formed quays and to build a bridge (to be called Carlisle Bridge) over the Liffey. The bridge, designed by James Gandon, was opened in 1795, though the extension of Sackville Street was under construction until 1800.

Sackville Street was first shown as the long wide street of today, extending down to the quays, on William Duncan's map of 1821. Two paintings in the National Gallery show the street in 1818 and 1853 as a wide mall, with no monuments along its length other than Nelson's Pillar. A photograph in the National Library, probably from the turn of the century, shows the street as a broad mall lined with buildings and lit from the centre with gas lights. Many of these buildings would be destroyed in the coming decades, most during the 1916 Rising.

4. THE DEVELOPMENT SITES, A AND B

4.1. *Site A (Nos 40-41, O'Connell Street Upper)*

By the time of the Ordnance Survey, dated between 1836-42, there has been considerable development in both sites under discussion, Site A and Site B. Site A was composed of two plots in the 18th century, both with a house fronting onto Sackville Street. On the first Ordnance survey, 1838-47, the northern plot (no. 40) is almost completely developed apart from a small open yard at the western end (Fig. 10). Thus, the house was still intact at the eastern end. The southern plot (no. 41) was not as developed and there was a large open area in the central area, possibly a garden. The house is still intact at the eastern end fronting onto Sackville Street (O'Connell Street) and at the western end there is an open yard with some sort of rectangular and L-shaped building. It should be noted that there are no coach-houses or stables shown on Rocque (1756) at the western end of either plot (Fig. 9).

By 1891, both plots have been amalgamated and are now The Richmond Institution for the Blind, established in 1810 (Figs 11 and 12) and by 1911, the buildings have changed little (Fig. 13).

4.2. *Site B (Nos 50-51, O'Connell Street Upper)*

Site B is also composed of two 18th -century plots and, on Rocque's map of Dublin (1756: Fig. 9), they are fully developed with a house on the eastern end and a coach-house/stable building at the western end, with the area in between formal gardens. By the first Ordnance Survey, dated 1836-47, both plots are

very developed, but the garden boundary wall is still intact, indicating they were still separate plots (Fig. 14). The northern plot (no. 50) has narrow buildings running along the northern boundary wall with a large rectangular building at the western end, extending the full width of the plot. There was also a narrow open area, probably a yard, in the central area. The southern plot was also built up with a large rectangular building in the central area, flanking an open yard on the east. There was a second, much smaller open area, orientated north-south at the western end of the plot along with a rectangular building. Very little had changed by 1864 but this more detailed map illustrates that the southern building fronting onto Moore Lane was actually two buildings (Fig. 15). By 1891 the northern plot was completely built over (Fig. 16) while the southern plot still has small remnants of the eastern open area or yard with the western yard intact. The Ordnance Survey of 1911 reveals that 20 years later little had changed but the central open yards have been built on, with only the small western yard in the southern plot still open (Fig. 17). Most of the original houses are still intact (Figs 18 -20).

4.3. **Nos 14-17 Moore Street (National Monument)**

Nos 14-17 Moore Street is a National Monument in state ownership and is not part of the development site under discussion (Fig. 11). During the 1916 Rising no. 16 Moore Street was the place where the decision was taken by the Irish patriots to surrender to the British crown forces to prevent further bloodshed. After fleeing from the GPO the rebels got as far as Henry Place and, to avoid, heavy shelling, they tunnelled their way through the houses from Henry Place, up Moore Street as far as no. 16, where they set up what was to be their last head-quarters. A detailed architectural investigation of this block by Franc Myles of four houses revealed the actual holes broken through and subsequently repaired after the rebellion (Myles and Shaffrey 2012).

5. PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

5.1. **Archaeological appraisal – nos. 40-42 O'Connell Street**

An archaeological appraisal of Site A (nos. 40-42 O'Connell Street) was carried out by in May 2008 (Hession 2008). This was a desk-based assessment, which surveyed the existing records and assessed the archaeological potential of the site. The study was carried out as part of a submission for planning, the main element of which was the demolition of The Royal Dublin Hotel (and associated office buildings), which originally occupied Site A.

An archaeological monitoring programme followed in December 2008 during the excavation of six engineering trial pits but these were confined to within the Protected Structure plot to the east (no. 42) and to the north-west, outside the site under discussion (Erikson, 2008). This exposed gravel deposits.

The most relevant investigation to the site under discussion was the excavation of trenches carried out in the same site (within Site A) in 2009 by the writer, after the demolition of the Royal Dublin Hotel

(Simpson L., Excavations Bulletin 2009, 321) (Figs 20 and 21). This modern hotel was constructed of concrete and had a substantial basement, extending to approximately 3m in depth. The purpose of the works, after demolition, was to excavate a continuous trench, the purpose of which was to provide a support for rakers for the adjacent buildings, which include no. 42, the Protected Structure on the eastern side and the A.I.B. bank on the west (no. 39). After the trench was completed, a total of nine trenches were excavated for the rakers at the eastern end of the site, in the area that had a modern basement (Figs 22-23).

The monitoring programme established that the original concrete floor of the basement of the hotel was very substantial and still in position, made of reinforced concrete and measuring over 1m in depth (Figs 24-26). This basement was cut into deep gravel and silt deposits, presumably originally riverine deposits associated with the River Liffey, before it was reclaimed between 1678 and 1728. The gravels were carefully examined but no archaeological features or artefacts found. In April 2009, three (nos 1-3) additional engineering test-trenches were excavated in the basement area of no. 40 and this was followed in May, after the complete demolition of the hotel (nos 40-41), by the casting of a temporary crane base (no. 4) (Fig. 27). In early June, the remaining trenches (nos 5-9) were excavated, with most of the excavation works taking place in the eastern half of the site close to the O'Connell street frontage. The basement floor slab was located at approximately 3m below (2.40m O.D) below present road level of O'Connell Street (5.40m O.D.).

A number of bore-holes were carried out in and around Site B in 1990 and again in 2000 (Nos 47 to 50 O'Connell Street and to the rear of No. 53 O'Connell Street) but without the presence of an archaeologist. However, the contractors recorded the inclusion of brick to 3m in depth suggests post-medieval deposits to that depth.

6. THE TESTING PROGRAMME

6.1. *Introduction*

The testing programme was confined to two open areas within the larger Dublin Central site, as these were open yards and available for testing (Figs. 28 and 29).

6.2. *SITE A (Nos. 40-41, O'Connell Street Upper)*

Site A was tested on the 28th of November and a total of five trenches (1-5) were attempted across the site (Figs. 28, 30-32), which was in use as a building compound at the time. The site is rectangular in shape, measuring roughly 62m east-west by 28m wide and has been reduced to basement level, as previously mentioned but with access down a concrete ramp at the southern end, from Moore Lane (note: this ramp was not available for testing). The programme of works established that there are at

least two slabs of concrete at roughly 2.40m O.D., which extends across the site, sitting over reinforced concrete, as identified in the monitoring programme in 2009. The first layer of concrete was removed with a large rock-breaker but a second one was identified beneath and this could not be removed, as it was reinforced with steel. The use of a rock-breaker in this reinforced layer was not carried out due to the possibility of it causing vibrations, which would be potentially detrimental to the adjoining Protected Structure (no. 42). Rocque's map of Dublin, dated 1756, depicts the houses at the eastern end with the plot stretching back to Moore Lane to the west. There were no stables/coach-houses at the western end.

6.2.1. The Protected Structures

There are two Protected Structures on the southern side of Site A, in the adjoining property (no. 42) (Fig. 33). The main house is a four-story-over-basement three-bay brick house (RPS Ref: 6022, NIAH Reg. no. 50010554), which was built between 1750 and 1755 by Robert Robinson MD, state physician and Professor of Anatomy at Trinity College. These houses fronted onto a new thoroughfare laid out by property developer Luke Gardiner in c. 1749 when he purchased the land from the Moore Estate, demolishing the northern end of Drogheda Street and widening it to create a rectangular square, named Sackville Mall. The first lease was issued in 1751 and private mansions were built on the east and western sides of the street over the next decade. Sackville Mall (originally Drogheda Street) was renamed O'Connell Street in 1924 in memory of Daniel O'Connell (National Inventory of Architectural Heritage).

No. 42 is depicted on Rocque's map of 1756 and is the only intact 18th-century house to survive on O'Connell Street today (Fig. 9). It was designed by the well-known architect Richard Castle (construction was supervised by John Ensor) and plasterwork is believed to have been executed by stuccodore, Robert West. The house was subsequently owned by Sir Archibald Acheson, Baron Gosford c.1780, and remained in the possession of the family until at least 1882. In 1854 it became the office of The Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland, while in 1865 it was The Irish Farmers' Club. Between 1882 to 1972 the house was the Catholic Commercial Club, as depicted on the cartographic sources.

Nos 40 and 41 was demolished in 1968 to build the Royal Dublin Hotel and no. 42 was added to the hotel in 1972.

There is a second Protected Structure (RPS Ref: 6022, Reg. no. 50010560) at the rear of the adjoining property, on the Moore Lane frontage (Fig. 34). This is limestone, double-height structure, which was constructed in 1897, and has brick lined windows in the upper levels and semi-circular windows to the front and rear elevations. There are two square-headed doors at the eastern end of the building, opening onto Moore Lane.

6.2.2. Trench 1

This trench was excavated in the central area of the site on the southern side, orientated north-south (Fig. 28). It exposed concrete slab almost immediately and the excavation was halted. It measured 1.80m north-south by 0.80m in width by 0.20m in depth (Fig. 35).

0.00m - 0.10m:	Stone and tarmacadam.
0.10m - 0.20m:	Black gravel.
0.20m - 0.40m:	Concrete.
0.40m - 0.60m:	Reinforced concrete.
Excavation halted.	

An edge to the slab was identified on the western side of the trench, which was lined in sacking and was very modern in date, dating to 2009. There was light gravel on the western side, over slab.

Conclusion of Trench 1

Trench 1 was located on the southern side of the site, close to the southern boundary wall and this also exposed the same slab found to extend across the site. This concrete slab is part of the floor of the original hotel, along with an additional concrete level laid in 2009.

6.2.3. Trench 2

This trench was located centrally in the site, at the eastern end. It was orientated east-west and measures 6m north-south by 0.80m in width by 0.30m in depth (Figs 36-7).

0.00m - 0.15m:	Hard dark grey concrete with black and white aggregate.
0.15m - 0.35m:	Second layer of concrete.
0.35m:	Reinforced concrete.
Excavation halted..	

The trench was halted immediately as the use of the rock-breaker on the reinforced concrete was causing significant vibrations, in close proximity to the Protected Structure, no. 42.

Conclusion of Trench 2

This trench revealed two layers of concrete, over a layer of reinforced concrete suggesting there was significant excavation and preparation of this site in 2009. This slab could not be removed.

6.2.4. Trench 3

This trench was located in the central area orientated north-south but was not excavated, as preliminary investigations revealed a deep slab, as found elsewhere (Fig. 38).

6.2.5. Trench 4

This trench was located in the north-west corner of the main part of the site and it was orientated north-east/south west, measuring 6m in length by 0.80m in width (Figs 39-42).

Northern end

0.00m - 0.05m:	Tarmacadam.
0.05m - 0.90m:	Mixed organic cellar fill, brown in colour, with numerous modern brick and debris including electrical wires and concrete blocks. This deposit was deepest at the western end.
0.90m - 1.40m	Concrete slab/pad.
Excavation halted.	

At the northern-western end of the site, at 0.90m below present ground level, a modern smooth slab was found beneath the brown organic infill deposit and an edge was found on the eastern side, which extended to at least 1.40m in depth: the base was not exposed. This can be identified as the temporary crane base, constructed in 2009, the exposed section measuring 3.58m east-west by 1.80m north-south. The base appears to have been inserted through the existing slab, which is likely to be part of the basement of the hotel, as a cut-line was identified on the eastern side of the pad, extending for 1.10m in width (east-west). The cut was filled with two deposits of mortar/gravel, the lower level of which was a dark grey gravel mortar. This was sealed by a loose deposit of light grey gravelly mortar mix, extending at least 1.40m in depth.

Southern end

0.00m - 0.05m:	Tarmacadam.
0.05m - 0.20m:	Identical mixed brown organic cellar fill, with the remains of a small pit identified, measuring 0.15m square by 0.10m in depth. This was filled with similar brown organic clay mix.
0.20m:	Concrete slab.
Excavation halted.	

Conclusion of Trench 4

Trench 4 revealed deposits of organic clays containing modern artefacts, and this is typical cellar fill but is clearly out of context, mixed in with modern debris. It probably originated in the site somewhere, perhaps in the ramp area.

6.2.6. Trench 5

A fifth trench was attempted at the western end of the site, close to the southern wall and this measured 1.80m north-south by 2.20m east-west by 0.30m in depth (Figs 43 and 44). This exposed the concrete slab that was found elsewhere.

0.00m - 0.06m:	Tarmacadam.
0.06m - 0.30m:	Concrete blocks and light grey mortar and gravel.
0.30m +	Concrete slab with aggregate.
Excavation halted.	

Conclusion of Trench 5

Trench 5 exposed the slab, as exposed elsewhere.

6.3. **SITE B (Nos 40-41, 50-51, O'Connell Street Upper)**

Site B was tested on the 30th of December 2020 and a total of three trenches were excavated (1-3) (Fig. 29). This originally comprised two house plots (Nos. 50-51 O'Connell Street) and is also rectangular in shape, measuring approximately 60m east-west by 20m in width. The site is currently in use as a car-park and an inspection revealed the north and southern boundary walls are historic walls, preserving the imprint of at least three buildings along with parts of the original boundary walls. Rocque's map of Dublin, dated 1756, depicts the houses at the eastern end with stables/coach-houses at the western end, fronting out onto Moore Lane. The remains of a building (Building 1) were found at the western end of the site, preserved in the northern boundary wall, which was constructed of limestone and may contain original elements of the coach-house/stable, later converted into a house (see below). In 1893, this building is recorded as having a basement.

The Protected Structure (no. 52)

No. 52, on the southern side of the site, is a Protected Structure (No. 50010543) but is a modern build, an Art Deco cinema now known as Dr Quirkey's Good Time Emporium. It was built in 1938 as the Carlton cinema on the site of the previous cinema of that name, which was demolished in 1936.

6.3.1. Trench 1

This trench was centrally located at the eastern end of the site, measuring 6m east-west by 1.40m in width by 4m in depth (Figs 43-47). This exposed modern infill down to 3.40m below present ground level. At this level there was slight evidence of burning and timbers, set into the clays, sitting over natural gravels (Figs 48-50).

0.00m - 0.20m:	Tarmacadam.
0.20m - 1m:	Dry fill, modern in date with Victorian brick, wires, mortar and timber.
1m - 1.30m:	Brown organic clay fill with brick and stone.
1.30m - 2m:	Dry grey fill containing large concrete block and modern brick.
2m - 2.50m:	Lumps of demolished concrete.
2.50m - 3.40m:	Brown mixed dry clay with modern ceramics, slate, 18 th century half brick and rounded cobbles, between 0.10m and 0.15m in diameter. This fill included wire and metal.
3.40m - 3.80m:	A deposit of black gravel with small chips of gravel, measuring 10mm in diameter. Three soft dark brown timber fragments were found set in the gravel, measuring 0.25m in length by 80m in width (Fig. 48). The gravel sat on mixed sticky yellow clays with faint traces of fire-reddening in the clays. The yellow clay contained charcoal and lime mortar fleck but also half brick, orange in colour with no additions. These deposits are likely to be related to the extensive brickfield in this area in the early 18 th century.
3.80m - 4.10m:	Grey rounded gravels, of assorted sizes (Fig. 50).

Conclusion of Trench 1

The trench exposed yellow clays at the base of the trench and close inspection identified areas of fire-reddening in the clay, the result of intense heat, most likely to have emanated from the brickworks, captured on Rocque's map of Dublin, dated 1756 (Figs 8 and 9). A section of the clay quarry has been found further east at nos 14-16 Moore Street (National Monument), and directly west at nos 58-66 Moore Street, where deep deposits of fire-reddened clay were found. In the site under discussion however, there are only faint traces of these clays surviving, with fragments of brick. These are sealed by deep infill of rubble, grey and brown clay.

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6.3.2. Trench 2

This trench was excavated after Trench 3 at the eastern end of the site. It was orientated north-south and measured 6m long by 0.80m north-south by 4m in depth (Figs 51-54). It was positioned across the projected line of the wall/structure found in Trench 3 (see below), which was orientated east-west. However, the continuation of this wall foundation was not found further east in Trench 3 (see below).

0.00m - 0.10m:	Tarmacadam.
0.10m - 0.15m:	804 stone.
0.15m - 2.80m:	Rubble infill similar to Trench 3, with bricks, grey clay, wires and blue tiles found in Trench 3. This infill included concrete blocks.
2.80m - 3.80m:	Mixed light green/grey clay with charcoal and brick fleck, and small rounded pebbles, 2mm in diameter.
3.80m - 4m:	Yellow clay with small cobbles and no inclusions.
4m:	Pure fine gravels with no inclusions.

Conclusion of Trench 2

This trench was designed to establish whether or not the wall structure found in Trench 3 to the west extended eastwards. However, no trace of the wall was found. In addition to this, the trench did not expose any walls foundations, floor or structures that could be associated with the standing walls. The infill deposits were similar to those found in the other two trenches with natural deposits at approximately 4m below present ground level.

6.3.3. Trench 3

This trench measured 6m east-west by 0.80m in width by 4m in depth, located in the western side of the site, in area thought to contain a cellar (Figs 55-60). The trench located deep infill deposits, sealing a substantial limestone build, orientated north-south, which was at least 1m in width. This appears to be a wall foundation, perhaps of the basement recorded in 1893.

0.00m - 0.08m:	Tarmacadam.
0.08m - 0.10m:	804 Stone fill.
0.10m - 0.12m:	Black gravel/tarmacadam.
0.12m - 2.70m:	Infill of brick, stone, timbers (modern), brown clays, concrete, wires, modern tiles, and fragments of concrete walls.
2.70m - 2.90m:	Stone (concrete?) floor abutting the limestone build.
2.70m - 3.30m+:	Limestone build (see below), approximately 1m in width by at least 0.80m in depth, with an offset on the northern side, 80mm in width.

The limestone build was very substantial, lying 2.70m below present ground level and orientated east-west. It was constructed of small cut limestone blocks and measured approximately 1m in width by at least 0.80m in depth. It was well-faced on the exposed northern side and it had been demolished to a single continuous level. There was an offset on the northern face, set 0.14m below the top of the wall, measuring 80mm in width. A small section of what appeared to be a blackened floor was exposed on the northern side of the floor, extending for 0.35m north-south by 0.55m east-west.

Conclusion of Trench 3

The cartographic sources in 1893 indicates that the building at the western end of the site (Building no. 1) was two stories in height but with a basement, which was relatively unusual for a rear building. Rocque's map, dated 1756, does show a stable/coach-house, which is unlikely to have a basement but which might have been integrated into Building 1. Trench 3 was positioned at this end of the plot to try and locate the basement and the wall foundation and floor found is likely to be related to this structure. Thus, the evidence suggests that the basement was demolished but the foundations of the wall and possibly the floor are still *in situ*.

6.4. **Conclusions of the archaeological testing**

The archaeological testing in Site A revealed it is unlikely any archaeological levels survive in this site, the substantial slab extending to at least 1m in depth cut into the natural gravels. The previous hotel had had a deep basement that extended across the plot and this is likely to have removed any deposits. Much of this slab is still in position. However, it should be noted there was a dump of organic infill material, which may have originated somewhere in the site, perhaps under the ramp. This material was dumped across the crane-base, installed in 2009.

The archaeological testing in Site B exposed deep deposits of modern debris, to approximately 3m in depth and this is likely to represent an infilled cellar associated with the building (no. 1) that is recorded on the Goad's Insurance map of 1893. The solid limestone wall, orientated east-west, was located 2.70m below present ground level in roughly the same location as the original property boundary would have been but this appears to be very wide and substantial, approximately 1m in width with a possible floor on the northern side. No other archaeological deposits or features were noted.

7. HISTORIC BOUNDARIES

7.1. **SITE A (Nos 40-41)**

Site A did not have any visible historic boundaries. The most detailed cartographic source is the Goad's Insurance map of 1893, which provides details of the layout of the Richmond National Institute for the Blind, which occupied the northern side of site, flanked by two open yards on the southern side (Fig. 61). This reveals the details of each building including the two main houses at the eastern end of the plot. To

the rear the main building runs east-west along the northern boundary and is two stories in height, with windows opening to the south, into an open yard. This yard contains a wooden store and is flanked on either side by open yards with the entrance from Moore Lane on the southern side. The southern wall of this building may have re-used the existing property boundary wall, as it runs along the same alignment.

Nothing of these former buildings survive. An inspection of the site revealed that the northern wall was of concrete, as was the eastern wall, along the street frontage (Figs 62-66). The southern boundary is formed by the Protected Structure No. 42 (RPS Ref: 6022, NIAH Reg. no. 50010554) at the eastern end and the second Protected Structure at the western end (RPS Ref: 6022, Reg. no. 50010560). Most of this boundary appeared to be shuttered concrete.

7.2. **SITE B (Nos 50-51)**

Site B, by way of contrast, has two historic walls, the northern wall and the southern wall. As mentioned above, Rocque's map of Dublin (1756) records the presence of the houses at the eastern end of the plots with stables/coach-houses at the western end, accessed by Moore Lane. The northern wall the site, (plot no. 50) preserves the imprint of at least three buildings (nos 1-3), extending from the rear of the houses as far as Moore Lane. At the western end, there are two similar sized building, Building 1 and 2 (from west to east), while Building 3 was a long rectangular building built up against the northern boundary wall, extending as far east as the rear of the house (Fig. 69). The western building (no. 1) is the earliest and it contained a fireplace, which included a section of early brick (type 1) in the upper levels perhaps suggesting it may incorporate part of the stable/coach-house, recorded by Rocque in 1756, as mentioned above.

Building 2, on the eastern side of Building 1, was evidently a high-status building, as it has a large chimney breast, flanked on either side by long ornamental plastered niches. This building appears to be domestic in function and there was a first floor level, but this had been added at a later date. To the east of Building 2, a long brick building (Building 3) can be identified in the northern wall, marked by a number of infilled rectangular opes, with timber lintels, which ran the length of the wall. This building also had a first floor, with the scar of a staircase at the eastern end. A section of limestone masonry is visible beneath the staircase, topped with brick, and this is likely to represent all of that survives of the original boundary wall, dated to the middle of the 18th century.

The southern wall of Site B, the southern boundary of plot no. 51, also preserves the remains of one building (no. 4), 9m in height and this is substantial two-storied limestone building with a door at the east and west end. Immediately east is a much-altered wall of a similar height but part of this includes a limestone base, topped by brick, most likely to be the original 18th -century boundary wall.

An examination of the Goad's Insurance map, dated 1893, reveals the northern plot (no. 50) was fully occupied by M.H. Gill and sons, Book Stores and the three buildings (nos. 1-3) can be identified in this plot but were clearly in commercial use at this date (Figs. 67 and 68). The southern plot (no. 52), according

to the same map, was occupied by Waters Brothers and Co. a Wine and Grocery Stores and the large limestone building is clearly visible with a second building at the western end, fronting onto Moore Lane. There is no trace of the westernmost building, as this now forms the entrance into Dr Quirkey's Good Time Emporium.

7.2.1. **The Northern Wall (No. 50)**

The northern property wall stands over 5m in height and is an amalgamation of at least three buildings (nos. 1-3). However, the original boundary wall was likely to have been composed of limestone block up to approximately 3m in height, topped by brick, as a section of original boundary wall was identified in the southern boundary wall, east end, of plot no. 51.

Building 1

Ground floor level

The remains of a building (Building 1) measuring 10.50m in width east-west by an estimated 8.30m north-south (from the cartographic sources), is captured in the northern boundary wall, at the western end of the site which was in position by 1836-47, as it is marked on the first Ordnance Survey map of that date. The building is still extant in 1893, as it is depicted on the Goad's Insurance map, which records the building was three stories in height and had a basement, with the northern and southern walls marked as party walls. The building had a slate roof (denoted by 0) and also had skylights (Figs 70-75). The northern wall evidently replaced the original brick boundary wall, as it is constructed of limestone, composed of well-coursed and cut blocks, heavily pointed in white lime mortar. The room has a central chimney breast, which measured 2.15m in width but the actual fireplace had been infilled and had been plastered over. The chimney at the upper level was composed of coarse engineered brick, orange and purple in colour (with grit inclusions) (type 1) but the main breast of limestone was edged with a different type of brick, a sharp brick, which is pale beige colour with wide pointing (type 2). The breast had been repaired various areas with a yellow 19th-century brick (type 3: Dolphin Barn Brick?). The rougher brick (type 1) is of interest as it appears to be handmade and may even relate to the stables/coach-house, which might have had living quarters (for an ostler) (Fig. 72). The upper level of the breast has been completely rebuilt in the same yellow 19th-century brick (type 3) and there was also evidence of rebuilding east of the breast, at the eastern end of Room 1. At 4.15m east of the breast, the east wall of the building survives as a stub in the wall, which measures 0.35m in width.

The western end of the wall may preserve the outline of a smaller entrance, defined by pink plaster, painted white and a wall. This plaster is similar to the plaster in the eastern niche in Building 2 to the east raising the possibility that both were the same building at one stage. The scar of an internal wall, measuring 0.40m in width, is suggested by a break in the plaster on the western side of the chimney and this suggests the presence of a partition wall of some description (Fig. 71). The remains of some

sort of long rectangular structure (cupboard?) with two beams is also indicated by the remains of vertical scars and open beam slots.

The northern wall also preserves the remains of an inserted first floor in the form of a line of beam-slots, positioned approximately 2.80m from present ground level and running the full length of the building (Figs 70 and 71). The rectangular slots are closely spaced, sitting on a narrow timber strip and the beam-slots cut through a section of the chimney breast repaired in 19th-century yellow brick (type 3) and are therefore later in date than those repairs.

Conclusion of Building 1

The first Ordnance Survey map of 1838-47 depicts Building 1 however, this may have incorporated an earlier build, perhaps part the stables/coach-house, as depicted on Rocque's map of Dublin, dated 1756. This is suggested by the fact Building 1 is a similar size to the stable/coach-house and contains 18th-century hand-made brick in the build (although this may also represent re-use of brick). The building was probably modified however, as the Goad's Insurance map of 1893 records that it was originally three stories in height and also had a basement, which would be unusual for a stable/coach house.

Building 2

Ground floor level

Building 2 was positioned to the east of Building 1, it is a grander build but of a similar size, measuring approximately 11m east-west by 8.30m in width by at least 5m in height. This building is in position by 1836-47, as it is marked on the first Ordnance Survey and is still extant in 1893, as it is marked on the Goad's Insurance map of that date. This informative map also records that this building was only two stories in height with a slate roof and had no basement. It also appears to have had a large skylight extending through the two floors. The dominant feature in the northern wall is the large projecting chimney breast measuring approximately 5m in width, also composed of limestone block with brick edging, the brick a heavy sharp brick, yellowish in colour, mortared with a pale beige mortar (type 4). There was also evidence of repair at the upper levels in yellow 19th-century brick (Dolphin's Barn brick: brick type 3) that was also found in Building 1 suggesting both buildings were possibly amalgamated at some date. This is also suggested by two sections of plaster, in Building 1 and 2, which is painted pink. The fireplace is large, with an elliptical arch and is constructed of type 4 brick, which is painted in a yellow wash (Figs 76-78). A semi-circular relieving arch, of similar brick, is positioned directly overhead the fireplace opening and the brick flue of the fire can also be traced through the limestone breast, composed of smaller inferior brick, red and orange in colour but mortared with the same light beige mortar.

The breast is flanked on either side by a long round-headed niches, measuring approximately 2.40m in height by 1.10m in width, set within large arched recesses. The western niche has lost most of the fine plaster at the base but it is intact in the head of the niche, where it was painted cream (Fig. 79). The eastern niche is very similar in dimensions and the plaster in the upper arch is also intact with the pink plaster visible beneath (Fig. 80). Both niches had evidently been plastered over in more modern times, as the timber batons are still in position, nailed directly into the wall.

The niches, as mentioned previously, are set into large sunken rectangular recesses with round-headed brick arches (type 4). These measured approximately 5m in height (almost to the full height of the wall and length of the wall) and 2.40m in width, the head originally had timber lintels, which did not survive. The jambs of the niches are also of brick (type 4), which were then painted over.

The eastern wall of this grand room is marked as a brick wall scar on the eastern side of the breast, which measured 0.25m in width (Fig. 81). This wall was constructed after the boundary wall in this location, as it blocks an ope related to an earlier building in that location (Building 4, see below). This wall was later removed as suggested by the fact they entire wall was painted white, including the scar.

First floor level

An additional floor had also been added in the grand room but this was more crudely done than Building 1, with large beam-slots inserted roughly into the chimney breast. This floor was positioned 0.55m lower than the inserted floor found in Building 1, an indication that both rooms were not linked at first floor level (Fig. 78).

Conclusion of Building 2

Building 2 clearly represents a formal status domestic room, possibly originally single storey with a first floor added. Perhaps it was some sort of dining room, built to the rear of the main house. Building 2 abutted Building 1 but was a clearly a different build, as both were different heights by 1893 with Building 1 containing two storeys and Building 3 containing three storeys. The round-headed niches set within the chimney breast suggests a high status room, which is not in keeping with the use of the building in 1893 as a book store. It may have been an infill domestic house or an additional hall for the main house.

The central area of the site was formerly a garden attached to the house but by the middle of the 19th century was simply a long narrow yard. This yard is further reduced in size by 1864 by the construction of the additional buildings and by 1891 the yard is completely gone (Figs 15 and 16).

Building 3

Ground floor level

A third building (Building 3) was identified to the east of Building 2, running the length of the boundary wall, which had been rebuilt in brick in this location (Figs 82 and 83). The wall stands approximately 5m in height and contains a number of infilled opes, which are somewhat perplexing, although some may have been cupboards. The earliest cartographic source (1836-47) indicates a long narrow building, measuring approximately 16m in length (east-west) by approximately 4m in width (north-south) with a wider rectangular build measuring 7m long (east-west), by approximately 6m wide, north-south at the eastern end of the wall (Fig. 82). This building evidently suffered a catastrophic fire, as all the surviving timber elements have been burnt or scorched. This includes the timber lintels of the infilled opes, timber wall-ties and a lattice of timber at first floor level. By 1893 the Goad's Insurance map records that the building has expanded across the plot and is two stories in height with a slate roof. The dominant feature is a large skylight running east-west in the centre of the building.

The function of the building is difficult to decipher on the basis of the northern wall. The earliest cartographic sources depict a narrow building and the wall preserves a total of four, possible, five rectangular opes, spread out at ground floor level in the northern wall, measuring between 2m and 4.86m apart. Ope 1 appears to be original to that section of the brick wall and this had an elliptical arch with a timber lintel (Fig. 84). It measured 1.88m in height by 1.20m in width but had been neatly infilled with similar brick, set in a header only bonding pattern. Interestingly, the scar of the east wall of Building 1 to the west partially obscured this ope, an indication Building 2 is clearly later in date than Building 3. This wall, however, was removed as when the ground floor was lime-washed, the paint extended across the scar of the wall.

To the east of Ope 1, only the head of Ope 2 was visible at ground floor level but on closer inspection this may not have been an ope, perhaps representing collapse, measuring 1.10m in width east-west by 0.20m in height. Ope 3, extending to approximately the same height as Ope 1, might have been a cupboard, as it only extended half-way into the wall and was roughly infilled with brick, set in a header bond only (Fig. 85). The ope measured 1.70m high by 1.80m in width but also had no arch, the head supported on a flat double timber lintel. Ope 4 measured 1.50m in height by 1.52m in width and this may also have been a cupboard originally but is now completely infilled with bricks, set in a header-only bond (Fig. 86). A fifth larger ope (no. 5), lies to the east and this is a substantial ope, rectangular in shape, measuring 2.40m in width by 1.80m in height with a large timber lintel, which is scorched. The ope is infilled with brick and there is a vertical timber in the middle, blocking the ope, which is also burnt. In addition to the opes, several burnt timber tie-beams can be identified running through the wall in various locations.

Possible section of the original boundary wall

Further east, a small section of the wall is of limestone and this is possibly a surviving section of the original boundary wall of the plot. The section is composed of limestone rubble measuring 2m in width by 1.40m in height, composed of twelve courses of well-coursed rectangular blocks, mortared with an off-white lime mortar. There is a wall-scar from a brick wall, originally orientated north-south, and this correlates to the height of the limestone section of 2m. The scar measures 0.35m in width and is composed of loose pinkish mortar adhering to the wall. There also appears to be a modern flashing running along the top of the wall-scar and the limestone build (Fig. 87).

The staircase

The brick and plaster preserve what is likely to be a stairway, preserved as a diagonal scar in the plaster (Figs 87 - 89). This stair runs from east to west and provides access to a first floor on the eastern side, which runs the length of the building (see below). The diagonal line of the stairs is marked by timber laths, which do not appear to have been burnt with a diagonal plaster line above this. The stair was constructed against an existing boundary wall, as mentioned above, which was composed of limestone and brick. This is confirmed by the fact Ope 5 had already been infilled in brick before the stairwell was constructed, as the vertical timber, which obscured the ope, was part of the stairwell structure.

First floor level

The stairs led up to the first floor level and this appears to have extended across the full length of the building, as far as Building 2, located 3m present ground level. This floor appears to have been original to the building marked by rectangular regular beam-slots, measuring 0.20m high by 0.80m in width and spaced 0.30m apart, with a thin timber running along the bottom. There are no features at this level except for a modern infilled door ope (?). Most notable is a timber lattice composed of timber batons, all of which were burnt including sections of burnt plaster.

Conclusion of Building 3

Building 3 is a long narrow two-storey brick building, which appears to be earlier in date than Building 1 and 2. The northern wall may represent a rebuild in brick although a small section of the original boundary wall survives at the eastern end, under the staircase, as mentioned above. The function of so many opes is difficult to establish but this may have been some sort of industrial building, the opes opening out into the garden or yard of the adjoining plot, no. 52. Some of the opes are only partially bricked up, which may suggest they were in use as cupboards.

The stairwell at the eastern end was built up against an existing brick wall, the stair obscuring one of the opes (no. 5), which had already been infilled. The first floor level extended as far as Building 2 clearly marked by a series of rectangular beam-slots, at 3m above present ground level. Building 3 evidently caught fire as all the timber elements, including the lintels, the tie-beams at ground floor level and the

timber batons for the plaster at first floor level, have all been burnt or scorched. The area under the stair, however, was not burnt as the lath and plaster wall is still in position, as were the batons, which are not burnt (Fig. 87).

7.2.2. The Southern Wall (No. 51)

The southern wall of Site B is also an historic wall and the imprint of a large limestone building (Building 4) was evident, along with what appears to be a section of the original 18th-century boundary wall at the eastern end, comprising a limestone base, topped with brick build. The scar of Building 4 dominates the southern boundary wall and this extends to at least 5m in height.

The boundary wall

The boundary wall survives for approximately 12m in length (east-west), extending from the line of the original house now demolished (Figs 90-92). The base of the wall, extending to between 1m and 1.50m in height, was composed of limestone, varying in size from between 0.20m by 0.40m and 0.35m by 0.12m and mortared with a soft lime mortar. Some of the blocks were even larger in size in well-bonded and coursed sections, while other blocks were far smaller. The upper levels of the wall was composed of brick and extending to an additional 1.60m in height. The brick, which is original to the wall was a reddish/orange colour with no inclusions but badly weathered creating a 'melted' appearance. The bond appears to be a variant of the English Garden Bond, which comprises a row of headers over three line of stretchers.

Building 4

Building 4 measured approximately 19.20m east-west by approximately 9m in height and extended the full width of the plot, at approximately 8.30m in width (north-south). The building is first depicted on the first Ordnance Survey, dated between 1836-47, where the building is shown as a large structure with a small return on the north-east corner (Figs 93-97). On the Goad's Insurance map of 1893 the large building is again identifiable butting up against the boundary wall between nos 50 and 51 and marked as a 'Wine and Grocery store'. It is flanked by an open yard on the western side (Fig. 67). The building has a pitched slate roof but the number of stories is not clear, as it is obscured by the name. An examination of the standing wall reveals the full imprint of this building, which is two storey over ground with the eastern and western walls marked by projecting wall-scars. There was evidently a doorway at either end, marked by a surviving pillar on the eastern end with a second door suggested at the western end by a plastered break in the western wall-scar. The first floor was supported by large rectangular beams, the beam-slots of which survive, while the second floor (or roof) was supported on rough projecting limestone corbels (Fig. 93). The base of the building may incorporate part of the original boundary wall, as the limestone build was similar to the surviving section of the original boundary wall to the east (Fig. 92). The ground floor is heavily plastered and appears to be recessed from the face of the first floor level of the wall (Fig. 96). At first floor level the limestone wall looks

distinctively different as it has a layer of white cementitious mortar, which obscures the build while the second floor level is washed clean and has evidently been open to the elements for some time.

Conclusion of Building 4

The imprint of Building 4 is well-preserved in the boundary wall and is likely to represent the building depicted cartographically in the Goad's Insurance map of 1893. The construction of this building is likely to have caused the boundary wall to be demolished although parts of the lower level of Building 4 may include this earlier wall. Building 4 was probably built in the late 19th /early 20th century and is this likely to have been some sort of ware-house for the wine and grocery store drugs-store that occupied the plot. There was no evidence of the building on the eastern side of Building 4 depicted on Goad's Insurance map but this evidently abutted the original section of the original boundary wall, which had been heightened to approximately 8m.

8. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1. This report documents the results of an archaeological assessment at nos. 40-41 O'Connell Street and nos. 50-51 O'Connell Street on the southern side of O'Connell Street, extending back to Moore Lane. These sites are part of a much larger site known as 'Dublin Central' but were chosen for testing as they are currently open yards and accessible, where testing was possible. The general context is that both sites were formerly two house plots each, orientated east-west, with the houses fronting onto Sackville Street Upper (formerly Drogheda Street), extending back west as far as Moore Lane. The houses had large formal gardens and some also had coach-houses and/or stables at the western end of the plot, accessed by Moore Lane.
- 8.2. The new houses were built in the general environs of a large industrial brickwork, which was positioned to the west of the sites under discussion but was defunct by the middle of the 18th century, as marked on the Rocque's map of Dublin, dated 1756. Interestingly, further south (at nos. 14-16 Moore Street), when the clays were quarried out for brick-making, the quarry pits were then back-filled with domestic refuse, which contain artefacts of that period including ceramics and glass. The sites are also within the general area of a Viking burial grave-field where Viking warriors were buried with their military weapons including swords, daggers and shield. However, the testing exposed modern infill deposits and did not locate any medieval soils or features in the areas tested.
- 8.3. Site A comprises two plots (Nos 40 and 41) that have been amalgamated by the removal of the original boundary wall, the eastern end formerly occupied by a modern hotel, the 18th -century house having been demolished in 1968. The eastern end of the site had been badly damaged when the hotel was constructed in 1972 and, as it included a deep basement, all potential archaeological deposits were removed. A second phase of works in 2009 after the demolition of the hotel involved the partial removal of the existing basement slab to facilitate a propping system for the adjoining buildings and the casting of a temporary crane base. This monitoring established the concrete basement was cut into natural gravels with no indication of any archaeological remains or features.
- 8.4. The testing was concentrated in the central area of Site A, as the eastern end had been previously inspected and the western end contained a ramp down into the site and could not be disturbed. The testing programme was very challenging, as there are a series of deep slabs at basement level across the site up to 1m in depth in places, which could not be removed during the testing. A total of five trenches were attempted, which exposed the temporary crane base inserted previously. This crane base was sealed by layers of brown organic domestic refuse, which had been thrown down over the modern crane base, but which is likely to have originated from somewhere on the site. Thus, the archaeological testing confirmed that Site (nos. 40-41) is unlikely to contain any archaeological features over most of the site although the southern end, the ramp area may represent an area not excavated out in the modern period. From the previous testing the underlying deposits appear to comprise heavy gravels and silts that are natural deposits.

- 8.5. The existing boundaries of Site A were also inspected but all found to be modern in date.
- 8.6. The second site, Site B, was located to the south of Site A and it also originally comprised two plots (nos. 50-51), which were also amalgamated by the removal of the boundary wall. It is currently in use as a car-park and there is access in the south-west corner to the adjoining gaming arcade, Dr Quirkey's Good Time Emporium, a Protected Structure. Unlike Site A, the northern and southern boundary walls are historic walls preserving the imprint of various buildings (nos. 1-4). Thus, the expectation was that the foundations of these buildings would survive in situ along, with the drains latrines and surfaces usually found on similar sites. A total of three test-pits were excavated in this site but these unexpectedly revealed deep deposits of very modern infill and refuse, extending up to 4m in depth. The unstable nature of the fill resulted in the sides of the trenches constantly collapsing and, as a result, the trenches were restricted to just three. The nature of the infill, which was loose grey clay, containing wires and modern tiles, may suggest that there may have been cellars in this location that have been infilled.
- 8.7. A cellar is recorded at the western end of the plot on the Goad's Insurance map of 1893 and a possible foundation was identified, which may have been associated with this structure. This wall was found in the central area of the site and orientated north-south, was comprehensively demolished, the top of the wall lying at 2.70m below present ground. The remains of a blackened (concrete?) floor abutting the wall was possibly that of the cellar although this was not certain. The trenches were carefully positioned to try and trace any walls that could be associated with the historic standing walls. However, no other features were found.
- 8.8. The northern boundary wall revealed the imprint of three buildings in total, nos. 1-3, which were in place between 1836-1847. Building 1 was located at the western end of the plot, at the Moore Lane and this consisted of limestone building with a fireplace in the northern wall, measuring approximately 10.50m east-west by 8.50m north-south. While there was only evidence of a first floor, the cartographic sources suggest it was originally 3-storeys in height, with a basement. Interestingly, a small section of early brick may suggest that this building incorporated part of the original stable/coach-house depicted on Rocque's map of Dublin, 1756. Building 2 abutted Building 1 on the east and this was a much grander building, also with evidence of a first floor. Of similar dimensions to Building 1, the ground floor room was far more sophisticated centred on a large chimney breast, which was flanked on either side by long round-headed decorative niches suggesting a grand room.

- 8.9. A third building (Building 3) ran along the northern boundary on the eastern side of Building 1, incorporating part of the original limestone and brick boundary wall at the eastern end. The cartographic sources indicate a long narrow building, approximately 16m in length (east-west) by approximately 4m in width (north-south) with a wider rectangular build measuring 7m long (east-west), by approximately 6m wide, north-south at the eastern end of the wall. This building had a number of infilled opes at ground floor level, some possibly cupboards, running along the length of the building. Only one, Ope 5, at the western end, appeared to be original to the brick build, the rest crudely inserted. The scar of a later stairways can be discerned at the eastern end of the building providing access to a first floor level. This level is marked by a series of beam slots that ran the full length of the building. Building 2 was earlier in date than Building 1 but had evidently burnt down as all the timbers were scorched and burnt. This fire did not extend as far west as Building 1.
- 8.10. The eastern end of the wall contains a section of limestone, which was incorporated into Building 3 but is likely to have been a section of the original boundary wall, dated to the middle of the 18th century. Only a small section survived beneath the inserted stairwell.
- 8.11. The southern boundary of Site A also preserves significant historic walls. The original boundary wall is in positioned at the eastern end, directly behind where the main house was located. This section has a solid limestone base, topped with original brick to a height of approximately 5m. Further west, the wall preserves the remains of a large 19th century limestone building (Building 4) centrally placed in the site, measuring approximately 19.10m north-south by 8.30m in width, with a door at either end. This large building had at least two floors with beam-slots at first floor level and corbels at the upper level, the wall standing up to 9m in height.

9. CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1. The Dublin City Central site is a large development site, in an historically important location, which stretches from the Viking period to the modern day. The archaeological investigation was carried out in the pre-planning stages to help frame the archaeological approach and provide relevant information to the heritage authorities. The two areas tested, Site A and Site B, are located in the eastern side of the site. This report represents the initial archaeological investigations of this large urban block, in the pre-planning and pre-demolition phase but will form part of a more comprehensive archaeological programme of works, which are likely to include bore-holes, engineering investigations, historical research, archaeological investigations and excavation along with surveying of historic walls. These investigative works will be carried out as appropriate within the proposed development under licence to National Monuments and the National Museum of Ireland and in discussion with the City Archaeologist of Dublin City Council who will also advise of the archaeological strategy.

- 9.2. Site A has had significant intervention in the recent past and this particular section is therefore unlikely to produce significant archaeological deposits or features. Similarly, Site B has also had significant intervention in the recent past but at least one stone foundation/ build does survive and there may be additional features such as wall foundations and floors etc. Most importantly for Site B, both the northern and southern walls are historic walls, which provides significant information about the former buildings that occupied those two plots.
- 9.3. The testing in Site A and B did not locate any Viking burials but this cannot be considered to be representative of the site as a whole. In general, these findings tend to be individual graves, which are very hard to locate during testing and there is a possibility of similar graves within the Dublin Central site, especially at the northern end. In the event such burials were found, archaeological excavation is likely to be the final resolution since such findings are very delicate and hard to preserve in situ.
- 9.4. The testing in Site A and B did not locate any medieval soils or features which could be associated with St Mary's abbey, the pre-Norman Cistercian monastery, located some distance to the western side of the site under discussion in and around Mary Street Little. The entire northern bank of the Liffey, extending as far north as Clonliffe, formed the grange lands attached to the monastery and, as a result, there is a possibility of surviving medieval soils and/or agricultural features, such as soils, ditches, and boundaries. The site is some distance from the monastery and the probability of locating significant archaeological remains in the form of structures associated with the monastery is very low. It should be noted that, in the event significant stone remains were found, there may be a requirement to preserve such findings in situ and to possibly display them.
- 9.5. Site B is perhaps most representative of the likely archaeological findings for this side of the Dublin Central site, comprising buried structural elements (where there are no basements) and standing historic walls. There is also potential for archaeological deposits extending back to the medieval period to survive in the central area of the plots that were formerly gardens.
- 9.6. An examination of the cartographic sources, from 1756 to 1911, depicts the gradual infilling of Site A and B and the other house plots but, despite the results of Site A and B, there is still significant archaeological potential for the remainder of the Dublin Central site (Fig. 98). The infill buildings depicted cartographically are unlikely to have had deep cellars therefore, even if demolished, their foundations are likely to survive in the ground. Nos 58 to 66 Parnell Street is a case in point: even though the plots are infilled in much the same way as the Dublin Central site, significant archaeological deposits, in the form of house and building foundations and remnants of the brickworks, were found during the archaeological excavation (Figs 99 and 100). Thus, the remainder of the site may also produce similar Early Modern features and deposits and archaeological excavation is likely to form part of the final resolution.

- 9.7. Site B, as mentioned above, preserves the remains of the historic northern and southern boundary walls and full recording of both the north and south walls is likely to be a requirement. This requirement is likely to include scaled survey and description, as per best practice. It is highly likely other significant buildings and boundary walls survive on other parts of the site and the recording process of the above-ground historic remains and the buried foundations of these buildings be an integrated approach. Conservation architects Molloy Associates are carrying out a detailed record and architectural assessment as part of an assessment and conservation plan of all the structures within the proposed development.
- 9.8. The Dublin Central site is a large urban site, and it is likely more archaeological testing and assessment will be required, in the areas not currently available, especially at the northern end of the site, close to the Viking grave-field (Recorded Monument), and along the western section in the area formerly the Brick-field (Recorded Monument). The southern end of the site, in and around the National Monuments (nos 14-16 Moore Street) is also an area of archaeological potential, as organic infill deposits were found in this location, identified as domestic refuse, dumped in the 18th century after the clay was extracted. The streetscape is also of interest in this area, as it was laid out in the late 17th/early 18th century and traces of the early cobbled streets may be found, along with drainage features in an area partially reclaimed in the 17th century. Other street features such as original kerbing and paving is also of interest.
- 9.9. The client is aware of the historical and archaeological importance of this large urban site and a masterplan is currently under production for the development. This will detail the requirements going forward for each section of the site, which is likely to include monitoring, testing, archaeological excavation and surveying. The client has been fully briefed about the possible outcomes, including the likelihood of finding significant Early Modern deposits and structures. There is also a possibility that medieval remains / deposits may also be located during the various investigations and that there may be requirements for preservation *in situ* and public display, if significant stone remains are found.
- 9.10. The mitigation strategy is subject to discussion with, and approval from the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage and Dublin City Council City Archaeologist and do not prejudice recommendations made by these authorities.

FIGURES

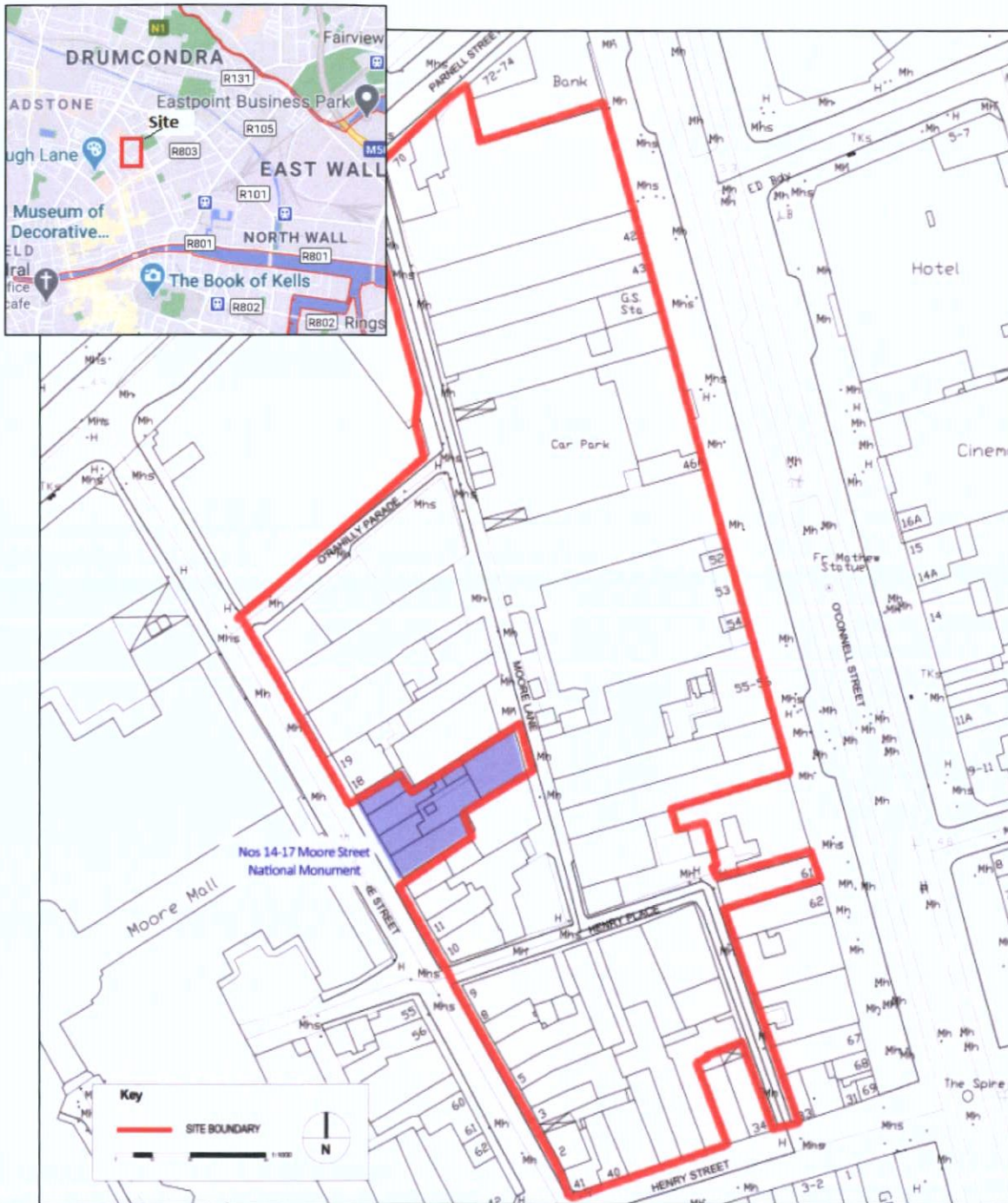


Figure 1 Site Location and Dublin Central Development Boundary

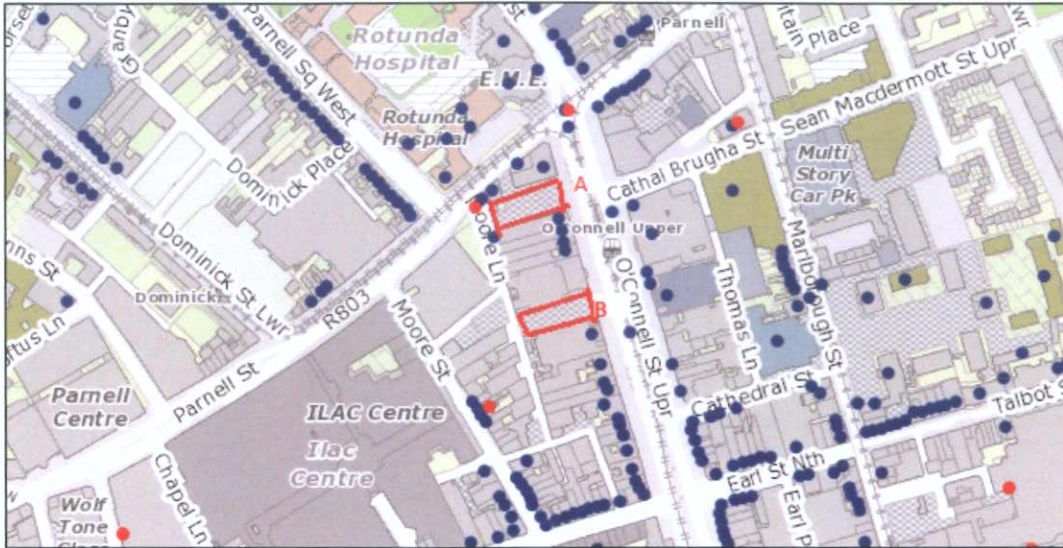


Figure 2 Site location (A and B), Blue dots are NIAH sites and red dots are RMP sites

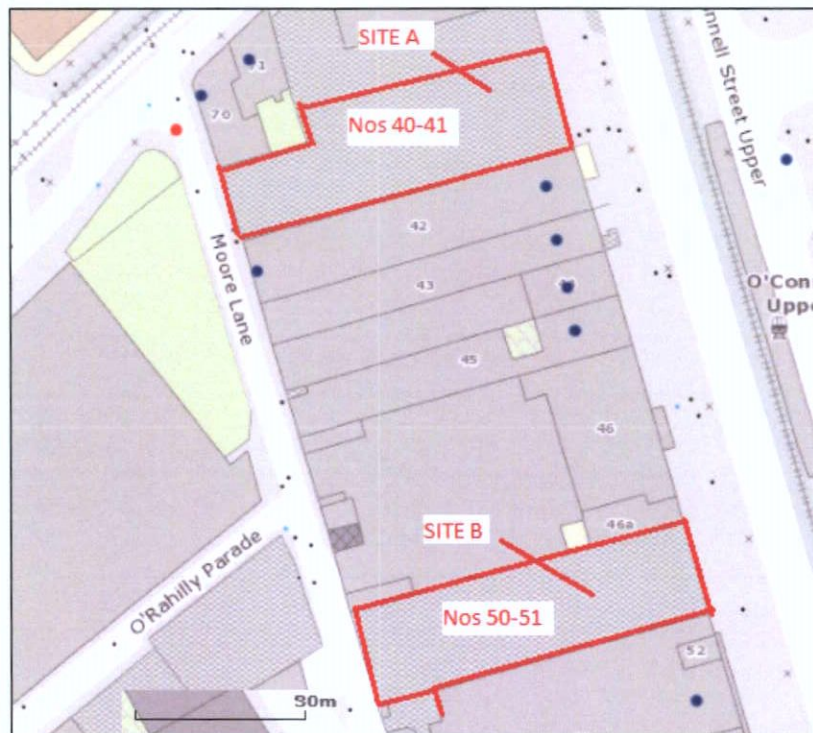


Figure 3 Sites A and B

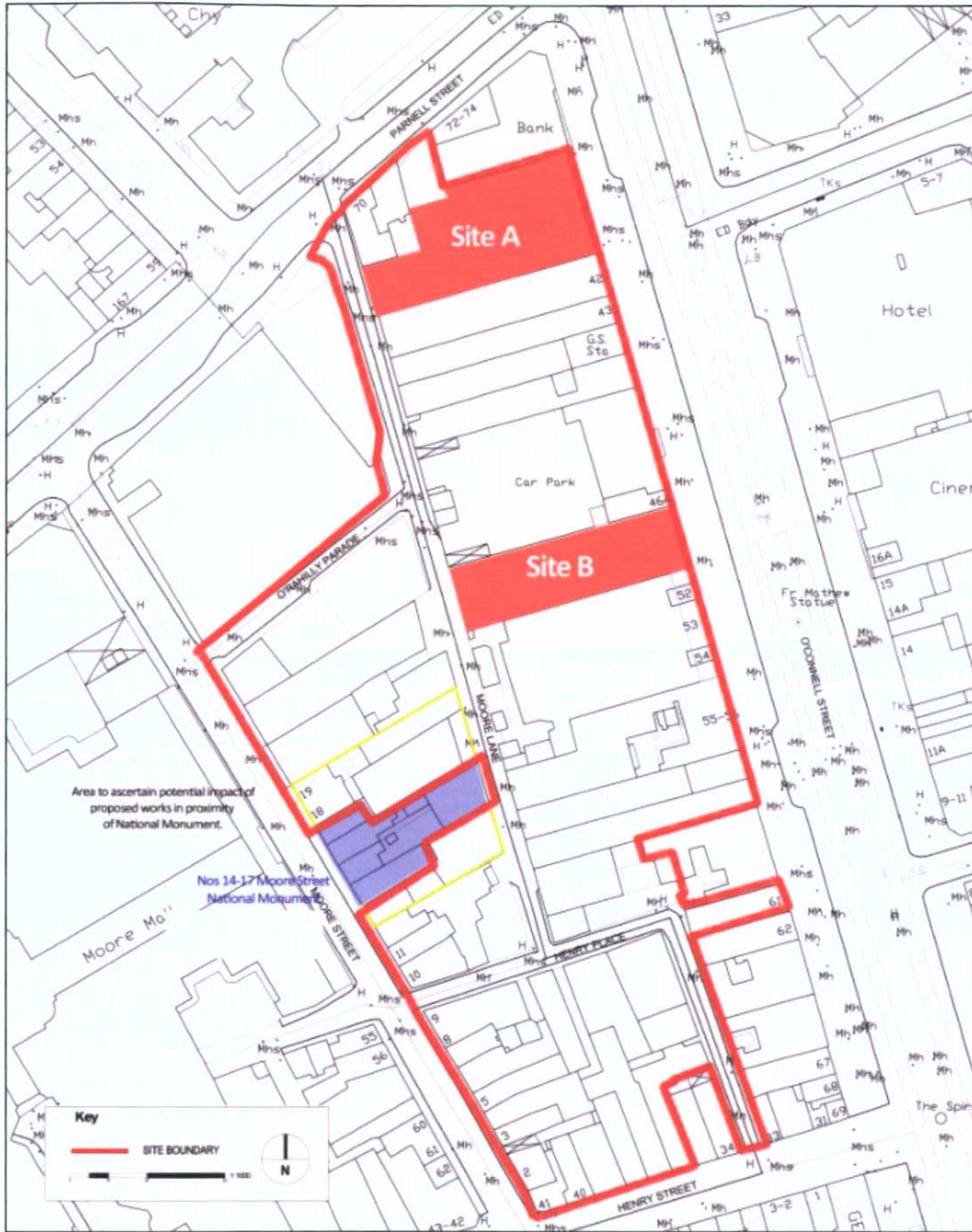


Figure 4 Main site shown in red and national monument in blue

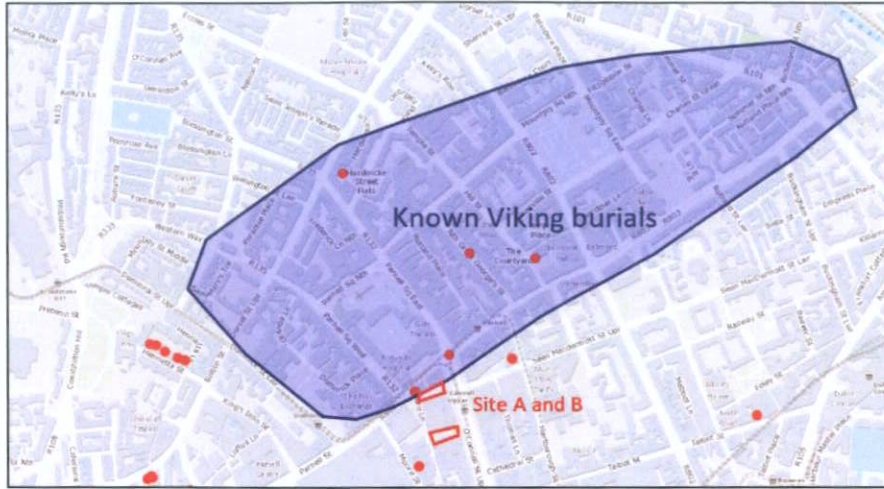


Figure 5 The estimated size of the grave-field

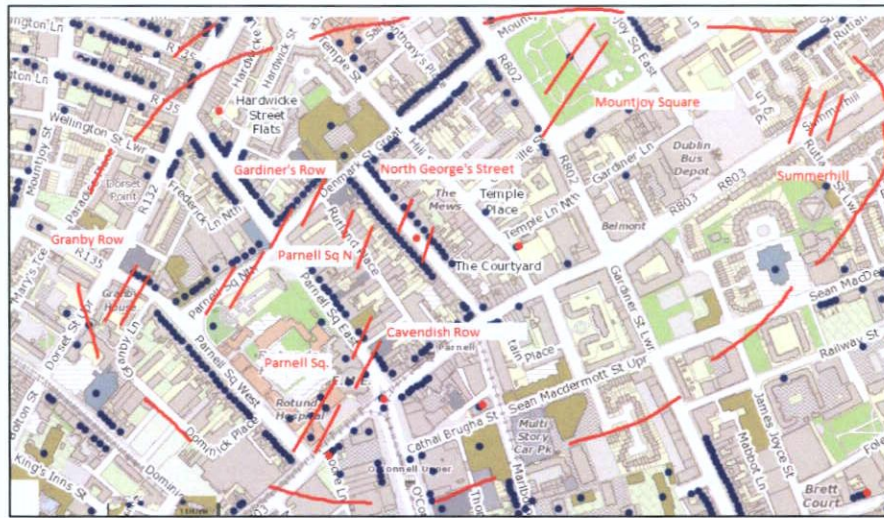


Figure 6 The location spots of graves



Figure 7 Philip's map 1685 and Brooking's 1728



Figure 8 Rocque's map, dated 1757



Figure 9 Rocque's map, dated, 1756

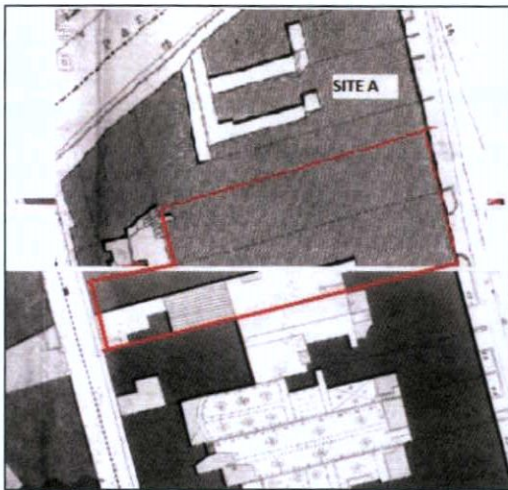


Figure 10 Site A OS Map dated 1838-47

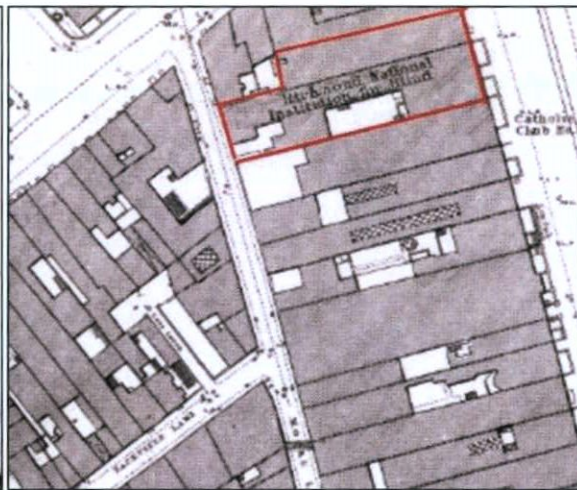


Figure 11 Site A, OS Map dated 1891



Figure 12 Image of the School for the Blind, established in 1810

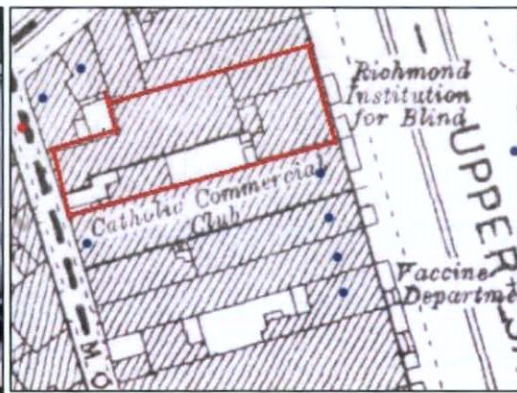


Figure 13 Site A, OS Map dated 1911,



Figure 14 Site B, OS Map dated 1838-473
Figure 15 Site B, OS Map dated 1864

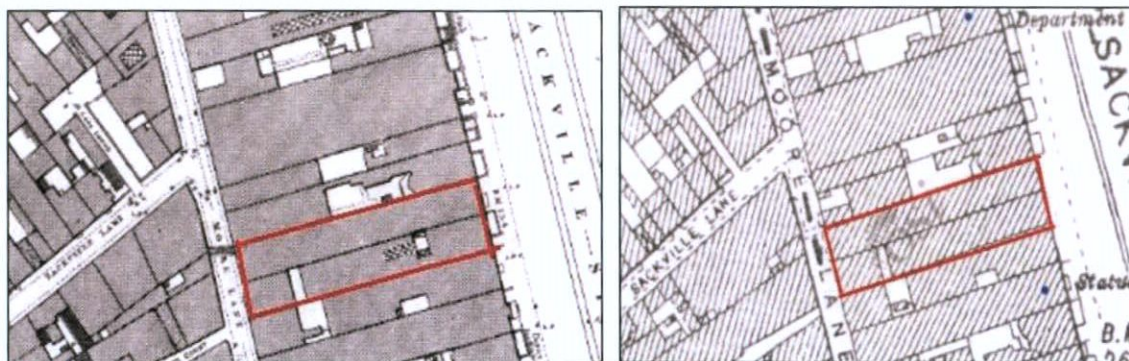


Figure 16 Site B, OS Map dated 1891
Figure 17 Site B, OS Map dated 1911



Figure 18 O'Connell Street from the north (c.1865)

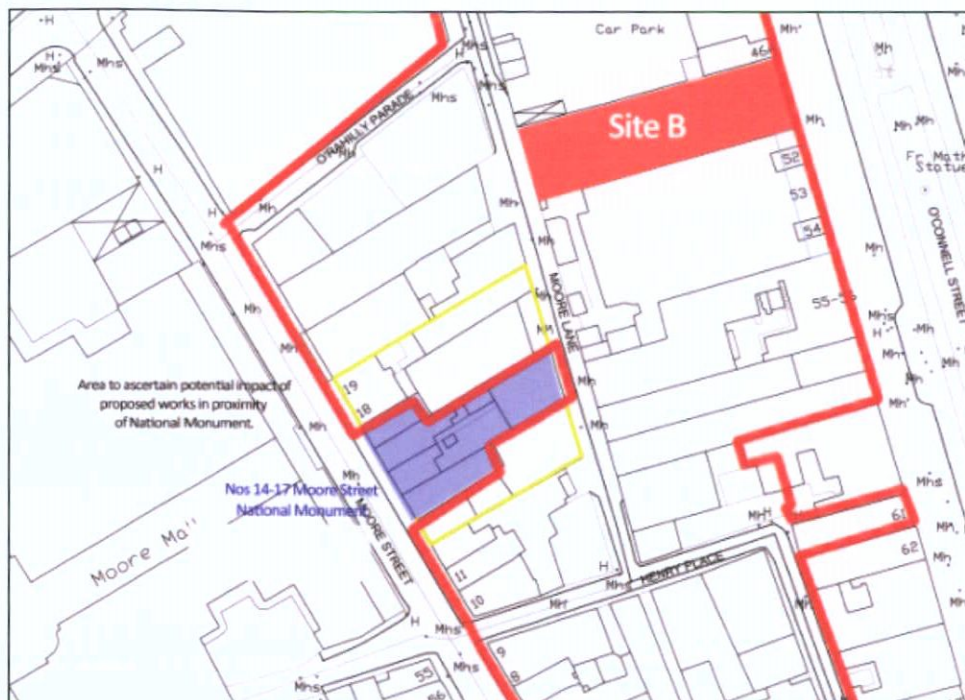


Figure 19 Location of the National Monument

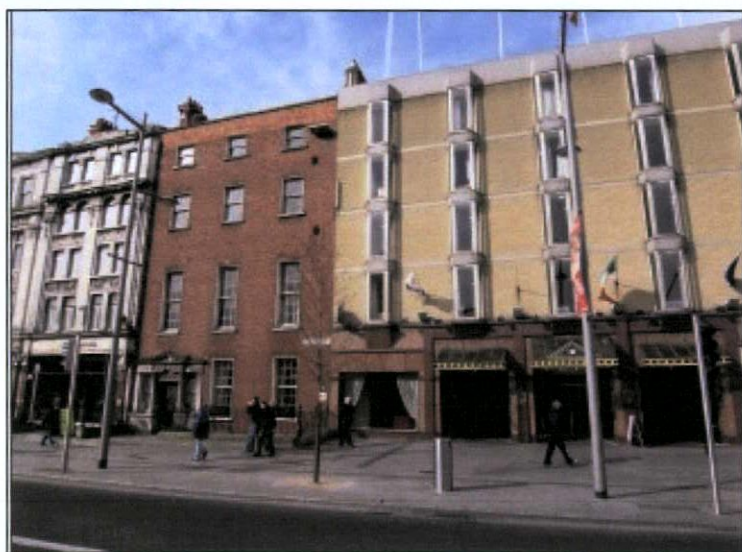


Figure 20 The Royal Dublin Hotel from the north pre demolition



Figure 21 After the demolition of the Royal Dublin hotel

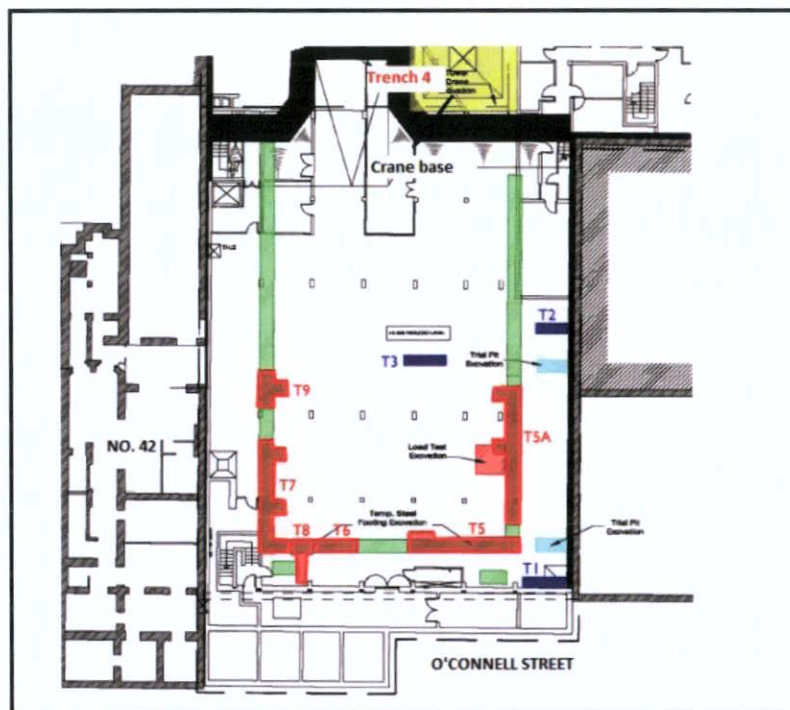


Figure 22 Trenches in 2009



Figure 23 Overview of steel footing trench



Figure 24 The site from the north, 2009



Figure 25 Trench B, concrete and natural gravels

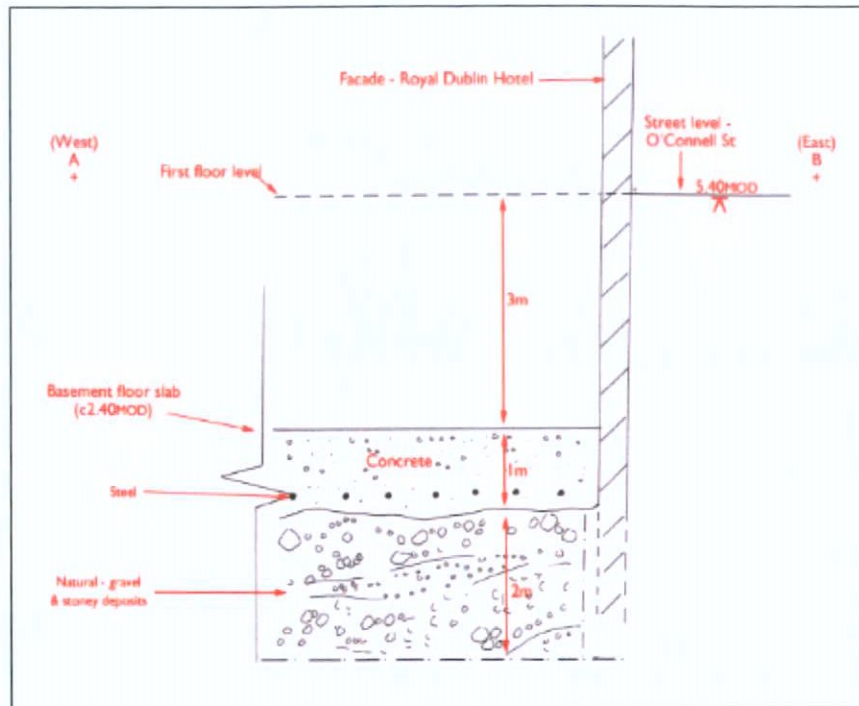


Figure 26 The section through Trench B



Figure 27 Trench 4, temporary crane base

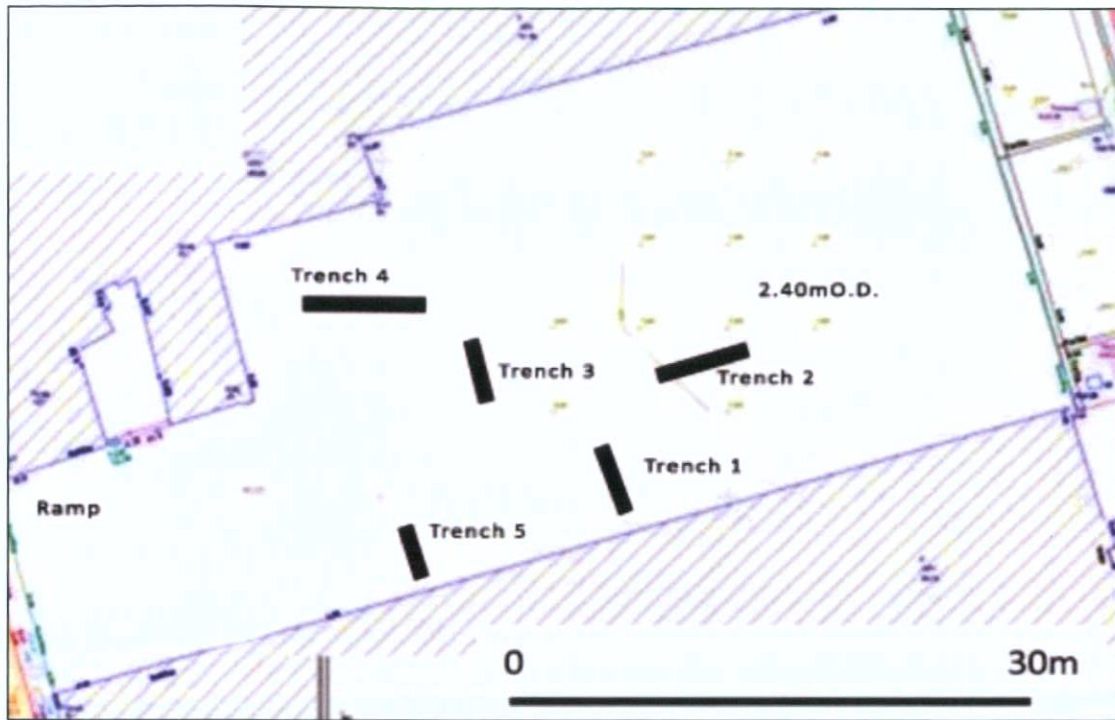


Figure 28 Site A: Trench location

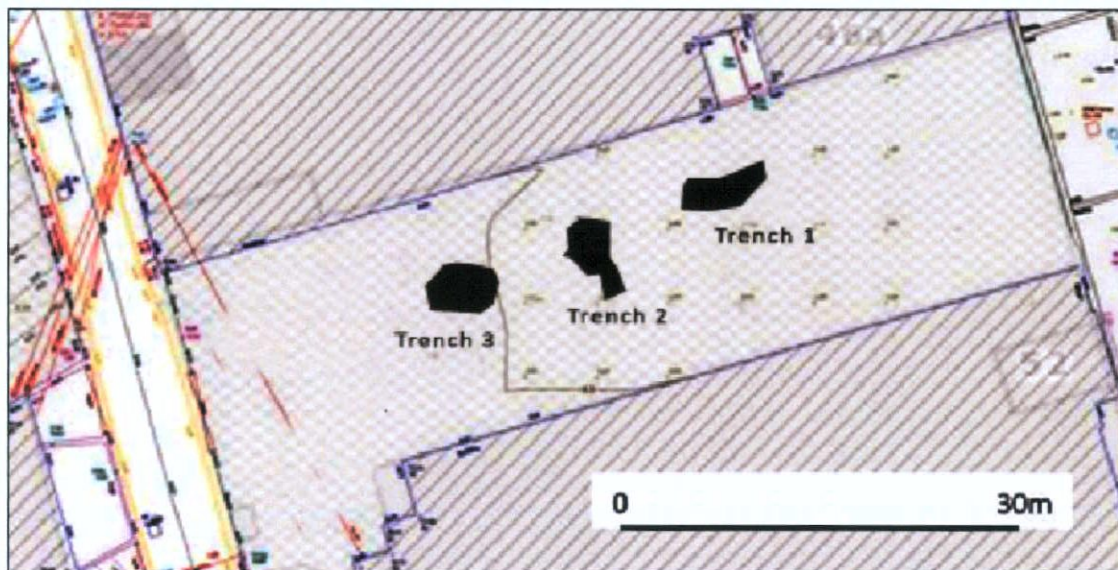


Figure 29 Site B: Trench location



Figure 30 The site entrance (Site A)
Figure 31 Site A, looking to the east



Figure 32 Site A, the ramp end (Moore Lane)
Figure 33 No. 42 O'Connell Street



Figure 34 The building on Moore Street
Figure 35 Trench 1, from the north: concrete slab



Figure 36 Trench 2, from the south
Figure 37 Trench 2 from the east



Figure 38 Trench 3, from the south
Figure 39 Trench 4, from the west

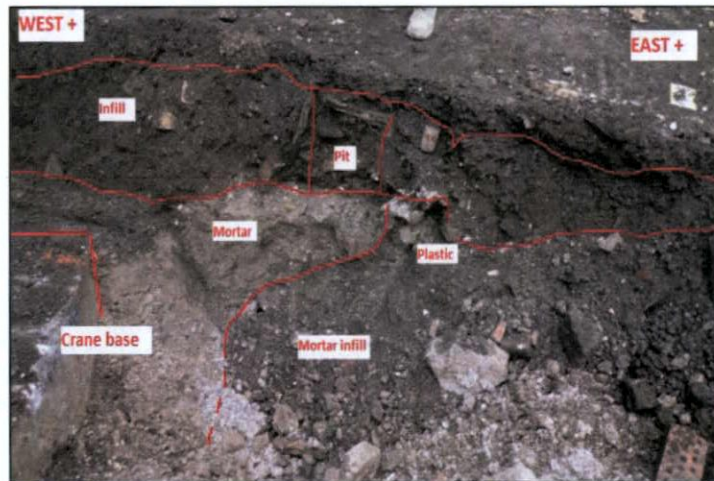
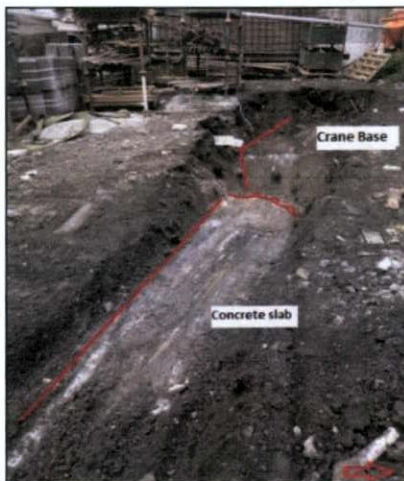


Figure 40 Trench 4, from the north-east
Figure 41 The organic deposits from the south



Figure 42 The infill from Trench 4

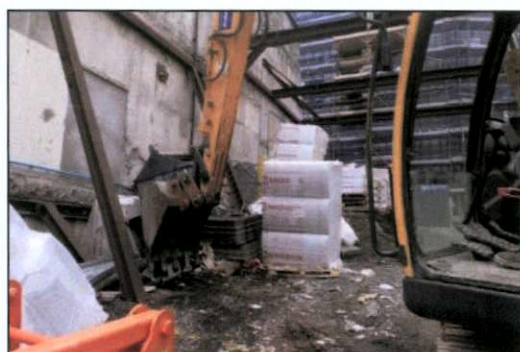


Figure 43 Trench 5, from the east



Figure 44 Trench 5, from the north



Figure 45 Trench 1, from the east



Figure 46 Trench 1 from the north east



Figure 47 Trench 1, north section, from the S

Figure 48 Fire-reddened clay and timbers



Figure 49 Yellow/orange clays and gravels

Figure 50 Gravels at the base of Trench 1



Figure 51 Trench 2 from the south

Figure 52 Trench 2 from the south: infill deposits