

6. Henry Place

At present, Henry Place contains remnants of its late nineteenth century and twentieth century industrial buildings. It is planned that the buildings in the first section from Moore Street to the intersection with Moore Lane are to be rehabilitated and incorporated into the proposals for each side of the lane as part of a Site 3 development. Beyond, at the elbow of Henry Place, the scale is projected to increase. It is here that the proposals would rise well above its neighbours and would look down onto the rears of the current buildings along the west side of O'Connell Street.

However, in the current proposals for Site 2, the northeast section of Henry Place emerges as a small square which along with the refurbished late eighteenth-century building with nineteenth century modifications, referred to as the reading room, would confirm the original scale of this section of the site. To the north of the square the buildings rise to the new development where access is given to the atrium at the core of this section. At the eastern end of the square the inert escape stairs from Metrolink emerges inside its bronze cage. This area is overlooked by the traditional rears of the plots of 59 and 60 O'Connell Street (not part of the site) and a proposed new pedestrian connection leading to O'Connell Street (subject to a separate planning application) at No. 61.

7. O'Rahilly Parade

Currently, O'Rahilly Parade is bounded on the north side with the urban block that contains a single building that has as its central use an hotel. This building treats the street merely as the back end of their building as a delivery yard. Opposite is an open yard, a depot where once stood three and four storey buildings, workshops originally for the printers and bookbinders. Dominating the view at the end, the bulk of the T-shape building and its almost blind façade at the rear of Nos 46-49 O'Connell Street. Directly on the line of the street is the entrance to the car park. The pavement to the north that serves the hotel building is but a very crudely executed concrete narrow space, adding to the hostility of the street.

The proposed office building in Site 5 of the masterplan will enjoy the new square and the southern aspect, naturally assigning the service zones to the O'Rahilly and northern side to the building. It is proposed that this will be the central location for the delivery for the whole Dublin Central development. In doing so, it will confirm the service character of the street and ensure activity and animation in that capacity. The current proposals for Site 2 terminate the view down the street from Moore Street with the major office block confirming the emerging increase in scale at the northern end of the city block. This view will also reveal an entrance to Metrolink.

8. Giving form to the Public Realm

Are the elements of the public realm to be the accidental spaces between buildings or composed places, outside rooms and spaces to inhabit? Are these spaces/rooms found or announced? Given the cultural and social importance that has come to be assigned to the street market of Moore Street, how do the activities and uses proposed contribute to drawing the clientele for the surviving market tradition on Moore Street? The composition of the enclosing buildings of the new square should combine to give a unique identity to this public space and one that could accommodate, contribute to and mould a myriad of activities. The challenge has been to resolve the juxtaposition of buildings of different scales and materiality. At the moment, the proposals, the north west corner of the new square the south facing façade of the large building with its particular expression meets the back of the modest buildings on Moore Street. The design of the new square has risen to a number of challenges. Firstly, there is the present pressure to increase the scale of buildings on central city sites and the recent realisation of projects with taller buildings in surrounding locations. This is of course also driven by the economics of development. Secondly, there is added complexity arising from working in the context of valued and significant historic urban design and architecture, their consequent modification over time, their historical associations and present demands to respect the scale of the west side of O'Connell Street, and even the more modest scale on Moore Street. Thirdly,

the current preference for mixed-use development adds further to the restraints on the creation of a set piece urban space. The proposals deal sympathetically with these constraints with the manipulation and variation of scale. The designs of the buildings combine to achieve an urban space, backed to the north and east by higher development and opening itself to the sun from the south and west.

9. Landscape

A characteristic of the area through the second half of the eighteenth century was the presence of gardens. There were those of no mean proportions associated with each grand residence in addition to the surviving large, possibly productive gardens off the west side of Moore Street. Through the nineteenth century, as the nature of O'Connell Street was transformed from residential to commercial and institutional, the gardens were reduced and eventually extinguished as the need for extra buildings to support the functions of the properties on O'Connell Street. Other than with the very late attempts to introduce trees into the streets of Dublin at the end of the nineteenth century, nature was banished. Within the overall masterplan, the landscape proposals that begin to suggest miniature gardens on balconies and areas of roof, would be a welcome return of nature. Aspirations to extend, in a co-ordinated way, across the roofscape of the Dublin Central Quarter could be a twenty first century contribution to the urban landscape of Dublin. However, it is acknowledged that there are many issues such as fire safety and security that remain challenging.

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APPENDIX 16.1 SUMMARY OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS LEGISLATION

National Monuments Legislation

All archaeological sites have the full protection of the national monuments legislation (Principal Act 1930; Amendments 1954, 1987, 1994 and 2004). In the 1987 Amendment of Section 2 of the Principal Act (1930), the definition of a national monument is specified as: -

"any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections:

- *any artificial cave, stone or natural product, whether forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position, any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient (i.) tomb, grave or burial deposit, or (ii.) ritual, industrial or habitation site, and*
- *any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site..."*

Under Section 14 of the Principal Act (1930): -

"It shall be unlawful...

to demolish or remove wholly or in part or to disfigure, deface, alter, or in any manner injure or interfere with any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance with the consent hereinafter mentioned (a licence issued by the Office of Public Works National Monuments Branch),

or

to excavate, dig, plough or otherwise disturb the ground within, around, or in the proximity to any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance..."

Under Amendment to Section 23 of the Principal Act (1930), a person who finds an archaeological object shall, within four days after the finding, make a report of it to a member of the Garda Síochána or the Director of the National Museum.

The latter is of relevance to any finds made during a watching brief. In the 1994 Amendment of Section 12 of the Principal Act (1930), all the sites and 'places' recorded by the Sites and Monuments Record of the Office of Public Works are provided with a new status in law. This new status provides a level of protection to the listed sites that is equivalent to that accorded to 'registered' sites [Section 8(1), National Monuments Amendment Act 1954] as follows: -

- The Commissioners shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where they believe there are monuments and the record shall be comprised of a list of monuments and such places and a map or maps showing each monument and such place in respect of each county in the State.
- The Commissioners shall cause to be exhibited in a prescribed manner in each county the list and map or maps of the county drawn up and publish in a prescribed manner information about when and where the lists and maps may be consulted.

In addition, when the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded, or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.

The National Monuments Amendment Act 2004

The National Monuments Amendment Act enacted in 2004 provides clarification in relation to the division of responsibilities between the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Finance and Arts, Sports and Tourism together with the Commissioners of Public Works. The Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government will issue directions relating to archaeological works and will be advised by the National Monuments Section and the National Museum of Ireland.

The Act gives discretion to the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to grant consent or issue directions in relation to road developments (Section 49 and 51) approved by An Bord Pleanála and / or in relation to the discovery of National Monuments: -

14A. (1) The consent of the Minister under section 14 of this Act and any further consent or licence under any other provision of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004 shall not be required where the works involved are connected with an approved road development.

(2) Any works of an archaeological nature that are carried out in respect of an approved road development shall be carried out in accordance with the directions of the Minister, which directions shall be issued following consultation by the minister with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland.

Subsection 14A (4) Where a national monument has been discovered to which subsection (3) of this section relates, then the road authority carrying out the road development shall report the discovery to the Minister subject to subsection (7) of this section, and pending any directions by the minister under paragraph (d) of this subsection, no works which would interfere with the monument shall be carried out, except works urgently required to secure its preservation carried out in accordance with such measures as may be specified by the Minister.

The Minister will consult with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland for a period not longer than 14 days before issuing further directions in relation to the national monument.

The Minister will not be restricted to archaeological considerations alone but will also consider the wider public interest.

APPENDIX 16.2 DUBLIN CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2016 – 2022 – ARCHAEOLOGYDDC PLAN NO 5432/22
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It is the policy of Dublin City Council to: -

CHC9: To protect and preserve National Monuments.

1. To protect archaeological material in situ by ensuring that only minimal impact on archaeological layers is allowed, by way of the re-use of buildings, light buildings, foundation design or the omission of basements in the Zones of Archaeological Interest.
2. That where preservation in situ is not feasible, sites of archaeological interest shall be subject to 'preservation by record' according to best practice in advance of redevelopment.
3. That sites within Zones of Archaeological Interest will be subject to consultation with the City Archaeologist and archaeological assessment prior to a planning application being lodged.
4. That the National Monuments Service will be consulted in assessing proposals for development which relate to Monuments and Zones of Archaeological Interest.
5. To preserve known burial grounds and disused historic graveyards, where appropriate, to ensure that human remain are re-interred, except where otherwise agreed with the National Museum of Ireland.
6. That in evaluating proposals for development in the vicinity of the surviving sections of the city wall that due recognition be given to their national significance and their special character.
7. To have regard to the Shipwreck inventory maintained by the DAHG. Proposed developments that may have potential to impact on riverine, inter-tidal and subtidal environments shall be subject to an underwater archaeological assessment in advance of works.
8. To have regard to DAHG policy documents and guidelines relating to archaeology.

It is the policy of Dublin City Council: -

- CHC10: To continue to preserve, and enhance the surviving sections of the City Wall and city defences – a National Monument, according to the recommendations of the City Walls Conservation Plan 2015 – with reference to the National Policy on Town Defences, adopted by the Department of the Environment in 2008.
- CHC11: To preserve historic place and street names and ensure that new street names should reflect appropriate local historical or cultural associations.
- CHC13: To support and pursue a World Heritage nomination for the Historic City of Dublin, in partnership with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and other stakeholders.
- CHC14: To promote the awareness of Dublin's industrial, military and maritime, canal-side (including lock-keepers' dwellings) and rural (vernacular) heritage.
- CHC15: To preserve, repair and retain in situ, historic elements of significance in the public realm including railings, milestones, city ward stones, street furniture, ironmongery, and any historic kerbing and setts identified in Appendices 7 and 8 of the development plan, and promote high standards for design, materials and workmanship in public realm improvements. Works involving such elements shall be carried out in accordance with the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht Advice Series: Paving, the Conservation of Historic Ground Surfaces.
- CHC18: To support and promote a strategy for the protection and restoration of the industrial heritage of the city's waterways, such as the River Dodder, including retaining walls, weirs and millraces.

It is an objective of Dublin City Council: -

CHCO10: 14. To implement and promote The Dublin Principles (ICOMOS, 2011) as guiding principles to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of Dublin and Ireland.

APPENDIX 16.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

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Introduction

This assessment methodology has regard to the EPA assessment criteria (EPA 2022) and to the National Roads Authority (NRA) Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impact of National Road Schemes (hereafter referred to as the NRA Guidelines) (NRA 2005).

Archaeological and cultural heritage sites are a non-renewable resource, and such assets are generally considered to be location sensitive. In this context, any change to their environment, such as construction activity and ground disturbance works, could adversely affect these sites.

Significance / Sensitivity Criteria

In accordance with EPA Guidelines (EPA 2022), the context, character, significance and sensitivity of each archaeological / cultural heritage asset requires evaluation, and the significance of the impact is then determined by considering the significance / sensitivity of the asset and the predicted magnitude of the impact.

In accordance with the NRA Guidelines (NRA 2005), the significance criteria used to evaluate an archaeological site, monument or complex take into account the character and integrity of the asset and any available data regarding it. This can be ascertained by looking at the following criteria cited in the NRA Guidelines (NRA 2005): the existing status (level of protection), condition or preservation, documentation or historical significance, group value, rarity, visibility in the landscape, fragility or vulnerability, and amenity value (Table 1). While these criteria contribute to the significance of a feature they should not be treated as definitive. These criteria are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of these archaeological / cultural heritage assets.

Criteria	Explanation
Existing Status	The level of protection associated with an archaeological / cultural heritage asset is an important consideration.
Condition / Preservation / Integrity	The survival of an archaeological / cultural heritage asset's archaeological potential both above and below ground is an important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features. Well-preserved sites should be highlighted, this assessment can only be based on a field inspection.
Documentation / Data	The significance of a an archaeological / cultural heritage asset may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigations or contemporary documentation supported by written evidence or historic maps. Sites with a definite historical association or an example of a notable event or person should be highlighted.
Group Value / Character	The value of a single an archaeological / cultural heritage asset may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments or with monuments from different periods indicating an extended time presence in any specific area. In some cases it may be preferable to protect the complete group, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within that group.
Rarity / Character	The rarity of some an archaeological / cultural heritage asset types can be a central factor affecting response strategies for development, whatever the condition of the individual feature. It is important to recognise sites that have a limited distribution.
Visibility in the landscape/ Character / Integrity	Archaeological / cultural heritage assets that are highly visible in the landscape have a heightened physical presence. The inter-visibility between monuments may also be explored in this category.
Fragility / Vulnerability / Integrity	It is important to assess the level of threat to an archaeological / cultural heritage asset from erosion, natural degradation, agricultural activity, land clearance, neglect, careless treatment or development.

Amenity Value / Character	Regard should be taken of the existing and potential amenity value of a an archaeological / cultural heritage asset.
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Table 1: Explanation of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Asset Assessment Criteria.

An evaluation of the significance / sensitivity of archaeological / cultural heritage assets is based on their designation and on the extent to which these assets contribute to the archaeological or cultural heritage environment, though their individual or group qualities, either directly or potentially. Table 2 presents the scale of significance / sensitivity together with criteria. It has been compiled by Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd, based on standard authorities and guidelines. Undesignated archaeological or cultural heritage sites can be assigned a low, medium or high sensitivity value, taking into consideration the criteria cited in Table 1 (e.g., condition, character, integrity or preservation, data, group value, rarity, visibility in the landscape, fragility or vulnerability, and amenity value).

Sensitivity / Significance	Criteria
High	Sites of international significance: World Heritage Sites. National Monuments. Protected Structures (assessed by the NIAH to be of international and national importance), where these are also National Monuments. Undesignated archaeological and cultural heritage sites.
Medium	Recorded Monuments (RMP sites & SMR sites scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP) Protected Structures / NIAH sites (assessed by the NIAH to be of regional importance), where these are also Recorded Monuments. Newly identified archaeological sites, confirmed through archaeological investigation, to be added to the SMR. Undesignated archaeological and cultural heritage sites.
Low	Sites listed in the Dublin City Industrial Heritage Record (DCIHR) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building for which there are no upstanding remains. Undisturbed greenfield areas and riverine environs, which have an inherent archaeological potential. Undesignated archaeological and cultural heritage sites.
Negligible	Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological and / or cultural heritage interest.

Table 2: Significance / Sensitivity Criteria.

Definition of Site Destinations

National Monument

The National Monuments Act (1930, Section 2) defines a 'National Monument' as: -

"a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto".

The National Monuments legislation legally protects access to and the visual amenity associated with National Monuments and requires consent from the Minister for invasive works in their vicinity.

The defences / town walls of medieval Dublin are a National Monument in accordance with national policy on town defences (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2008).

Recorded Monuments

The primary source of information for archaeology is the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). The RMP documents known upstanding archaeological monuments, their original location (in cases of destroyed monuments) and the position of possible sites in rural areas identified as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs dating to before 1700 AD (with some later ones also being included). It is based on a comprehensive range of published and publicly available documentary and cartographic sources.

For the purpose of the assessment, the Sites and Monument Record (SMR) data and mapping as updated by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (www.archaeology.ie) was examined so it could be used within an interactive identification and mapping system developed for Proposed Project.

Zones of Archaeological Potential

Zones of archaeological potential (ZAP) can be defined as areas within the urban and rural landscape that possess the potential to contain archaeological remains due to the settlement history of a place and or to the presence of topographical features such as rivers, lakes and high, defensible ground. An example of this is the RMP designated Historic City of Dublin, which is designated as a zone of archaeological potential covering an extensive area (RMP DU018-020).

Non-Designated Sites

Newly identified archaeological sites that have been confirmed through archaeological investigation (monitoring, testing, excavation, geophysical survey) are considered to be of medium importance. Such sites are undesignated as they have yet to be added to the SMR.

Potential or undesignated archaeological sites identified through aerial photography, historic mapping, stray finds are considered to be of low sensitivity, as they have yet to be ground-truthed through archaeological investigation. Similarly, undisturbed greenfield areas and riverine environs, which have an inherent but as yet unproven archaeological potential are considered to be of low sensitivity.

Magnitude of Impact

When assessing the impact magnitude, the following criteria need to be considered: -

- Extent – size, scale and spatial distributions of the impact.
- Duration – period of time over which the impact will occur.
- Frequency – how often the impact will occur.
- Context – how will the extent, duration and frequency contrast with the accepted baseline conditions (see Table 3).

Criteria	Impact Magnitude
These impacts arise where an archaeological / cultural heritage asset is completely and irreversibly destroyed by a proposed development. A change such that the value of the asset is totally altered or destroyed, leading to a complete loss of character, integrity and data about the site.	High
An impact which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity alters an important / significant aspect of the environment. An impact like this would be where an archaeological / cultural heritage asset would be impacted upon leading to a significant loss of character, integrity and data about the site. Or an impact which by its magnitude results in the partial loss of a historic structure (including fabric loss or alteration) or grounds including the part removal of buildings or features or part removal of demesne land (e.g. severance, visual intrusion or degradation of setting and amenity).	Medium

Criteria	Impact Magnitude
A permanent positive impact that enhances or restores the character and / or setting of a cultural heritage site or upstanding archaeological heritage site in a clearly noticeable manner.	
A low impact arises where a change to the site is proposed which though noticeable is not such that the archaeological / cultural heritage character / integrity of the site is significantly compromised, and where there is no significant loss of data about the site. A positive impact that results in partial enhancement of the character and / or setting of a cultural heritage site or upstanding archaeological heritage site in the medium to long-term.	Low
An impact which causes very minor changes in the character of the environment and does not directly impact an archaeological / cultural heritage asset or affect the appreciation or significance of the asset. There would be very minor changes to the character and integrity of the asset and no loss of data about the site.	Negligible

Table 3: Magnitude of Impact Criteria.

Significance of Impact

The EPA Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment report (EPA 2022) added the two additional levels of significance of impact: Very Significant and Not Significant (Table 4 and Image 1).

Significance of Impact	Description
Very Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity, significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment, for example in this case a monument.
Not Significant	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without noticeable consequences.

Table 4: Significance of Impacts (EPA 2022).

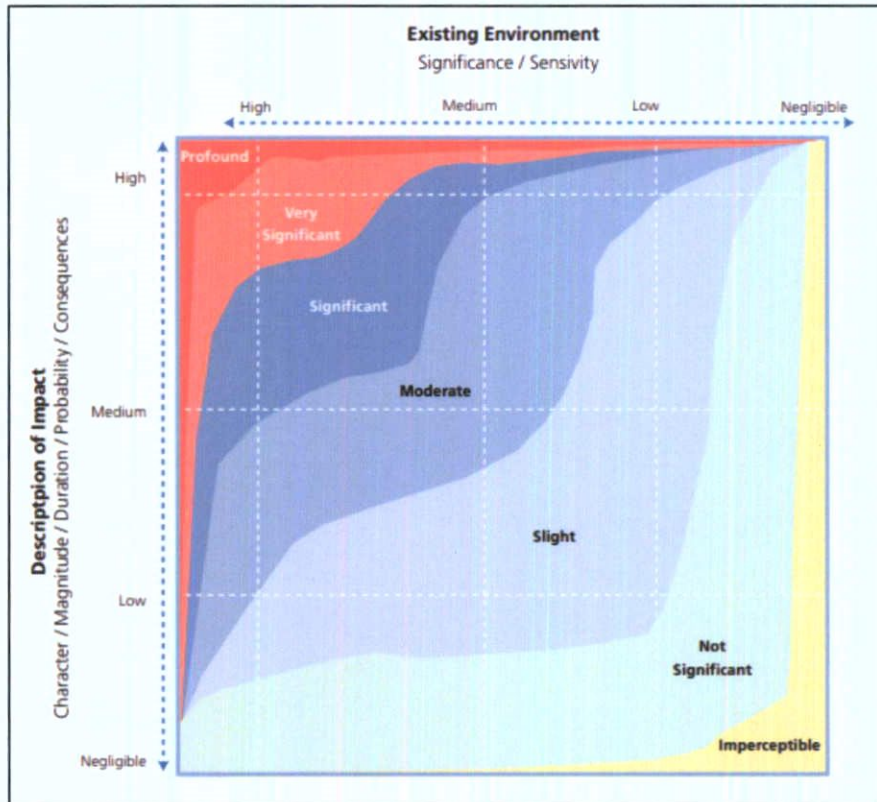


Figure 1: Figure 3.5 Description of Impacts from the EPA Guidelines on Information to be Contained in EIAR (EPA 2022).

The likely significance of impacts is determined by considering the baseline rating or sensitivity value of the asset upon which the impact has an impact and the magnitude of the impact (Image 1). The impact significance is defined as Imperceptible, Not Significant, Slight, Moderate, Significant, Very Significant, or Profound (Table 5).

Impact	Definition
Imperceptible	An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.
Not Significant	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
Slight	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting an archaeological / cultural heritage asset in a moderate or significant manner.
Moderate	An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends, does not lead to a significant loss of character, integrity and data about the archaeological / cultural heritage asset.
Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity, alters a sensitive aspect of the environment. An impact like this would be where part or all of a site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a significant loss of character, integrity and data about the archaeological / cultural heritage asset.
Very Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity, significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Profound	Applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse impacts. Reserved for adverse, negative impacts only. These impacts arise where an archaeological / cultural heritage asset is completely and irreversibly destroyed by a proposed development.

Table 5: Defining Significance of Impacts.

APPENDIX 16.4

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING REPORT

COURTNEY • DEERY

ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

DDC PLAN NO 5432/22
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Appendix 16.4

Archaeological Testing

of

Nos 40-41 and 50-51

O'Connell Street Upper, Dublin 1

Easting 715719, Northing 734868

Excavation Licence No. 20E0649

Site Director: Linzi Simpson

For Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd

On behalf of

Dublin Central GP Limited



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Executive Summary

This report refers to a programme of archaeological testing at two vacant sites within the Dublin Central development site located on the north side of the river Liffey (Easting 715719, Northing 734868). The entire site partially bounded by Parnell Street on the north (east side), Moore Street, O'Rahilly Parade, and Moore Lane on the west, O'Connell Street Upper on the east and Henry Street on the south. The Dublin Central site lies partly within the Zone of Archaeological Potential of Dublin City (DU018-020), it contains no specific Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites within the development block but there are two within the general environs, which may have extended into the site in the past. The first RMP site (RMP DU018-020504) is a large Viking-age cemetery or grave-field to the north of the site, thought to have spread over a large area and defined by a number of antiquarian findings of individual Viking warrior burials dotted throughout that area. The second RMP (DU018-020506) is a large early brick-works, which was located immediately east of the site and which was probably dated from the 17th century onwards, as it was defunct by 1756, when it is described as an 'Old Brick-field'.

Two vacant sites within the eastern side of the larger development site, Site A (nos. 40-41 O'Connell Street) and B (nos. 50-51 O'Connell Street), were available for testing in advance of planning, as they are open car-parks, stretching between O'Connell Street on the east and Moore Lane on the west. There have been few previous works in these locations. Site A was partially monitored in 2009 but revealed severe disturbance down to basement level, which is likely to have occurred when the Royal Dublin Hotel was constructed on the site in 1972 while Site B had no previous investigations.

The testing in Site A was carried out on the 28th of November 2020 and consisted of five trenches, none of which could extend any depth, as there was a deep layer of concrete, sitting over a layer of reinforced concrete. The previous monitoring programme in 2009, mentioned above, found this concrete to be up to 1m in depth, sitting over natural coarse gravels. In addition to this, an inspection of the site boundaries reveal that they are of modern date or shuttered out in concrete.

The second site, Site B, was tested on the 30th of November 2020 and consisted of three trenches, revealing very modern infill deposits up to 3m in depth. However, a substantial limestone footing and part of a floor was found perhaps suggesting that there was a cellar in this location originally. In addition to this, both the north and south standing boundary walls were found to be historic walls, constructed of brick and limestone and revealing the imprint of at least four buildings, dating from the middle of the 18th century onwards.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report refers to a proposed development located on the north side of the river Liffey (Easting 715719, Northing 734868) (Figs. 1-3). This site, known as 'Dublin Central', comprises a large urban block, measuring approximately c2.2 Ha in size and partially bounded by Parnell Street on the north (east end), Moore Street, O'Rahilly Parade, and Moore Lane on the west, O'Connell Street Upper on the east and Henry Street on the south. Henry Place is within the block at the southern end (Fig. 4). A Masterplan has been prepared by Dublin Central GP Limited set out the overall development vision for the Dublin Central project.
- 1.2. The testing is on foot of a Conservation Plan compiled by Molloy and Associates for the Dublin Central Project, and the archaeological baseline report accompanying it by Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd (the Conservation Plan accompanies Chapter 15: Cultural Heritage (Architectural) of the EIAR for the the Dublin Central Masterplan area. The objective of the archaeological report (Appendix 1 in that report) was to provide a tool to inform the design stages of the proposed development through an understanding of its archaeological potential and significance. It sought to ensure that the proposed development is compatible with the recording, reinforcement, and enhancement of that significance during the planning and the construction stages. It also provided archaeological policies and guiding principles for the project. This testing is an outcome of Archaeological Policy 1 - *To carry out archaeological testing under licence to the DCHG in the open space/vacant plots areas of the Masterplan area1 in advance of planning in order to understand the nature, extent, and significance of the below ground deposits and the impact of the Masterplan on such archaeological material.*
- 1.3. This report refers specifically to testing in the two open yards within the larger development block at nos. 40-41 O'Connell Street (Site A) and at nos. 50-51 O'Connell Street (Site B) (Figs 3 and 4). Both sites are now car-parks but were originally house-plots with the houses fronting onto O'Connell Street, extending back south to Moore Lane. Site B also had stables/coach-houses on the Moore Lane side in 1756.
- 1.4. Site A (nos. 40-41) was partially tested during site investigations carried out previously on the O'Connell Street frontage, which was monitored by the writer, but this testing was confined to the basement area of a modern hotel, the Royal Dublin Hotel. Both original houses (nos. 40-41) were demolished in 1968 for this development and the new hotel completed by 1972. The hotel was subsequently demolished in 2009 and a number of enabling works were carried out to support the adjoining buildings, which were monitored by the writer. These works revealed the hotel had a deep basement, cut into exposed natural sticky clay and gravels, indicating the basement is likely to have removed any features of significance. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were found during this investigation.

- 1.5. The adjoining property on the southern side of Site A, no. 42, is the only surviving 18th-century house on this side of the street and is a Protected Structure (RPS Ref: 6022, NIAH Reg. no. 50010554). As most of the other shops (nos. 43-45, nos. 52-59) were built in the 1920s and 1930s, no. 42 house represents a significant survival, designed by the well-known architect Richard Castle and completed in c. 1752. The house was incorporated into the new hotel in 1972 but, thankfully, this building remained intact within the new build. There is a second Protected Structure (RPS Ref: 6022, Reg. no. 50010560) at the rear end of the same property (no. 42), fronting onto Moore Lane, which was built by George B. Beater in c. 1897, forming part of the Catholic Commercial Club, which occupied the house at this date.
- 1.6. The adjoining property of Site B on the southern side, no. 52, is also a Protected Structure (RPS 6025, NIAH Reg. no. 50010543) but is a modern build, an Art Deco cinema now known as Dr Quirkey's Good Time Emporium. This is still intact and in use as a casino.
- 1.7. The larger Dublin Central site does not include the National Monument, nos. 14-17 Moore Street, which lies to the south-east of the sites under discussion, outside the site boundaries (Fig. 4). The monument comprises a group of four original 18th-century houses, no. 16 representing the last head-quarters of the Irish patriots during the 1916 Easter Rising.
- 1.8. The urban block is located within the Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) for Dublin City (DU020-018). There are no Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites within the entire development block, but archaeological evidence suggests that there is likely to be a large 9th-century Viking cemetery or grave-field to the north of the site, spread over a large area (DU018-020504). This feature is not defined topographically in the landscape and is based on a series of reports detailing the discovery of formally buried, furnished Viking warrior burials, the skeletons accompanied by personal weaponry.
- 1.9. A second RMP lies to the east of the site and this is a 17th/early 18th-century brickworks (DU018-020 506), which was very extensive in size, the main section positioned between Moore Street on the west and Moore Lane on the east. A large clay quarry is depicted within the site (between Site A and B) on maps by John Rocque, dated to between 1756 -57. Investigations by the writer to the rear of the National Monument, nos. 14-17 Moore Street, located one such quarry, where the boulder clay had been completely removed to a depth of 3m in depth down to the gravel layers. The clay quarry was then infilled with organic refuse originating from the city, the systematic dumping carried out in advance of preparing the area for the subsequent residential development that occurred. The investigations revealed the basements of nos. 14-17 are cut through the refuse deposits down to the natural gravels beneath. The intact refuse layers, up to 3m in depth, are still intact, however, in what was formerly the gardens to the rear of the houses, as there were no cellars in this location.

- 1.10. In the site under discussion, five trenches were attempted in Site A but each established the presence of a very deep slab, which was impossible to remove, as there were two layers of concrete, sitting over reinforced concrete. While two layers of concrete were removed as this part of the works using a breaker, the third layer could not be removed because of vibrations caused in close proximity to the Protected Structure, no. 42 O'Connell Street. These concrete surfaces are associated with the recently demolished hotel and the enabling works carried out at this time, in 2009. Thus, the depth of the surfaces is known to be up to 1m in depth, sitting over natural coarse gravels. The investigations also located the temporary crane base put in in 2009, in the central area of the site on the northern side.
- 1.11. The site is currently accessed *via* Moore Lane by a ramp which was not tested and the composition of the material beneath this ramp, therefore, is not known. There are organic post-medieval deposits dumped over the temporary crane-base, mixed in with modern debris. This material may have originated somewhere in the immediate vicinity, perhaps in the ramp area.
- 1.12. In Site B, a total of three trenches were excavated and these revealed very modern loose demolition material including tiles, wires, mortar and concrete blocks, spread throughout the site. These deposits are suggestive of either modern dumping or infilling of a cellar. A substantial limestone wall was found at 2.70m below present ground level and this measured 1m in width by at least 0.50m in depth, orientated north-south. It is difficult to establish what exactly this stone build represents but it may have been related to a demolished cellar. It could not be located in an adjacent trench.
- 1.13. There are no historic boundaries in evidence in Site A but the north and south walls of the Site B can be dated from the 18th century onwards. The eastern end of the northern wall is likely to represent the original boundary wall, but this has been much modified with a building (no. 3) constructed up against it, which was evidently burnt down. At the western end the remains of what appears to be two buildings (nos 1 and 2), between 10m and 11m in width and each with a fireplace, the eastern one evidently a high status building. The western building (no. 1) fronting onto Moore Lane, is highly likely to incorporate part of the original stable/coach as depicted by Rocque in 1756. At the western end, the wall preserves the imprint of a long building (no. 3) likely to be earlier in date than no. 2 and perhaps comprising some sort of store room. The southern wall of the site can also be dated from the 18th century onwards and the eastern end also includes a section of the original boundary wall although much altered. This wall however, is dominated by a large 19th century limestone building (no. 4), up to 5m in height with an entrance (in brick) at the eastern and western end.
- 1.14. The testing was carried out on Saturday the 28th of November 2020 and 30th of November 2020 under licence no. 20E0649.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. *Introduction*

The site is located on the northern side of the Liffey where the earliest evidence of human occupation was found at Spencer's Dock where fish-traps were found in the old river bed, the remnants of the Mesolithic hunters/gatherers that originally lived and fished at the mouth of the river Liffey. Findings of flints and a fulachta fia (cooking place) at Temple Bar and Hammond Lane respectively attested to Pre-historic activity, the latter, the cooking place bronze age in date. By the 7th and 8th centuries it is likely that there was a monastery at Dubh-linn or the Black Pool, to the south of Dublin Castle. This was served, according to the historical sources, by two bishops and at least one abbot in this early period. The site is partially within the Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) for the historic town of Dublin (DU018-020) and is in the vicinity of a number of RMP sites and a national monument located at 14-16 Moore Street.

2.2. *The Viking cemetery (DU018 020/495)*

The 9th century, however, saw a rapid explosion of population in Dublin when wave after wave of young Viking warriors arrived off the east coast of Dublin, setting up a pirate's camp at Dublin from where they raided up and down the coast, progressing into the interior of Ireland via the natural waterway systems. The monastic annals record these devastating raids and the large number of young men flooding into this new 'ship-camp' or longphort established probably in the late 8th century but a permanent feature in the landscape by 841. In one historical event at least 120 ships were recorded off the coast at Dublin, each probably capable of holding between 30 and 60 people. Conservative estimates put the figure of at least 5,000 such warriors (and their retinue) in Dublin, based on the number of deaths in battle recorded in the various monastic annals. While there have been fragmentary archaeological finds related to this first settlement, by far the most compelling evidence of this influx of population is found in a series of 'grave-fields' found strung out along the Liffey and Poddle rivers where the fallen warriors were buried.

Two potential cemeteries or grave-fields were found initially at Kilmainham and Islandbridge, both on important and historic crossings on the river Liffey (Figs 6 and 7). Here young warriors with their weaponry have been found during various works associated with the construction of the railways in the 19th and early 20th century. The weaponry included shield bosses, swords, spears, and daggers along with buckles, and sharpening stones (hone). Downstream, at the mouth of the Liffey, at the confluence of the Poddle, similar warrior burials (including a female) have been found along the south bank of the Poddle river, at South Great George's Street, Chancery Place and Ship Street Great, clearly representing another grave-field and possibly connecting up with the known burial ground in College Green known as 'Hoggen Green' (the 'hoggen' element of the place-name is derived from 'haugr', a Norse word meaning burial mound). This cemetery was marked by large mounds containing burials, two of which survived well into the 17th century before they were eventually destroyed.

This proliferation of burials, both historic and modern, is relevant to the site under discussion, as similarly to the Kilmainham/Islandbridge cemeteries, antiquarian finds of warrior burials have been found to the north of the site under discussion stretching from Dominick Street in the west as far east as Mountjoy Square, and from Dorset Street in the north, to Parnell Street in the south (Figs 6 and 7). When examined collectively and based on the information from the south side of the river, the various findings are clearly suggestive of a large grave-field on the northern side of the Liffey also (a warrior grave was also found recently in the Phoenix Park). The first discovery of this northern grave-field was made as early as 1763 when a possible cemetery site (Recorded site DU-018 020/495) was suggested in a report by the Dublin Magazine of 'vast quantities of human bone' found during the construction of 'new gardens' at Parnell Square. These gardens were located in the current grounds of the Rotunda Hospital. More burials were uncovered in the immediate vicinity at Granby Row and Cavendish Row, the former producing 'a large sword with a spear of about two feet in length with crumbling pieces of iron resembling broad rivets' (RMP file DU018-020/495). A further account of Viking burials occurred in 1788 when human bones, a sword and shield boss, were uncovered during the excavation of foundations on Parnell Square North (Ó Floinn, R. 1998). The other find-spots were recorded in a variety of different sources.

The site under discussion is located along the southern line of the proposed cemetery raising the possibility of burials in this location. Findings of small amounts of medieval clays at nos 58-66 Parnell Street/Moore Street (outside the site under discussion) suggested the possibility of medieval horizons surviving, especially in the central area of the plots that stretched from O'Connell Street on the east as far west as Moore Lane.

2.3. *St Marys Abbey*

The northern suburb was dominated for most of the medieval period by the Cistercian abbey of St Mary and the site under discussion is most likely to have been farm-land associated with their grange or farm attached to the abbey. By the late 17th century, however, (after the Dissolution of the monasteries in the middle of the 16th century), the cartographic sources suggest that this area had become marginal land with little development, as depicted on Philip's map dated 1685 (Fig. 7). By 1728, while there was urban development along the western side, the eastern side (O'Connell Street side) was still open ground (Fig. 7).

2.4. *The brickworks (DU018-020/506)*

John Rocque's map of Dublin, dated 1756, captures the general development in this area, along Sackville Street (O'Connell Street) and Old Brick Field Lane (Moore Lane) (Figs 8 and 9). The block was almost fully developed with houses fronting onto Sackville Street in long plots that stretched as far west as Old Brick Field Lane. The plots had central gardens with most of the plots having a coach-house /stables at the Old

Brick Field Lane end, although they were absent from the northern end of the block. The map also captures the site of what was already an 'old' brickworks to the south and both Site A and Site B were positioned just west of the brickworks, a Recorded Monument. The brickworks were mostly confined to the west side of Moore Lane, as mentioned previously, and investigations by the writer at the Nos 14-17 Moore Street, a National Monument, in the plot to the rear of the houses located the remains of these clay quarries up to 3m in depth. After the clay was completely removed, the quarry holes were infilled with layers of organic refuse, evidently successively dumped in a deliberate fashion in the early 18th century. This generally reclaimed the land which was then developed as land for building.

Although the map by Rocque in 1756 depicted most of the brickworks on the west, a large oval shaped clay quarry hole is depicted on the east within the Dublin Central site under discussion, roughly in the middle of the site, to the south of Site A and north of Site B (Fig. 10). Thus, there is archaeological potential for general deposits relating to the brickworks to survive in this general location along with the domestic infill, which is likely to be 17th and early 18th century in date. This was highlighted during excavation at nos 58-66 Parnell St/Moore St in the north-west corner of the block (but outside the current development site), which was excavated in its entirety in 2003 revealing a complex of house foundations, walls, vaults, drains, cobbled surfaces and other features, which extended across the entire site. Most significant, however, was the predominance of fire-burned clays evidently emanating from the brick clamps (kilns) where the bricks were fired on site. These could be very large features capable of firing up to 500,000 bricks at a time, in one firing.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE STREETScape (after Hession 2008)

3.1. Early Post-Medieval period

The character of the north-eastern section of the city around St Mary's Abbey changed dramatically after the Dissolution of the Monasteries. In 1537, the Abbey and its lands were parcelled out and granted in 1543 to Walter Peppard for a term of 21 years with a reversion in favour of James Fitzgerald, Earl of Desmond. In 1561 Matthew King, Clerk of the Cheque of the Army and Garrisons in Ireland acquired the interest in the lease from Gerald, the then Earl of Desmond, but owing to the latter's rebellion and attainder, the property reverted to the Crown. Subsequently in February 1610, James I granted to Henry King, son of the aforementioned Matthew, part of the lands of St Mary's Abbey, 50 acres of demesne and 30 acres of pasture, including 'a large messuage or slated house called the Fermorie, otherwise Fermor', besides an estate in Grange of Clonliffe. These lands were purchased from him by Sir Garrett Moore, first Lord Moore (after whom Moore Street is named), who in 1619, obtained a royal grant of them in perpetuity. Lord Moore, who was advanced to the dignity of Viscount in 1612, took up his residence in the abbey and his son the second Viscount, also used it as his town-house until the rebellion of 1641 drove him to take the field against the insurgents. On 7th August 1643, Lord Moore fell in action at

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.

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

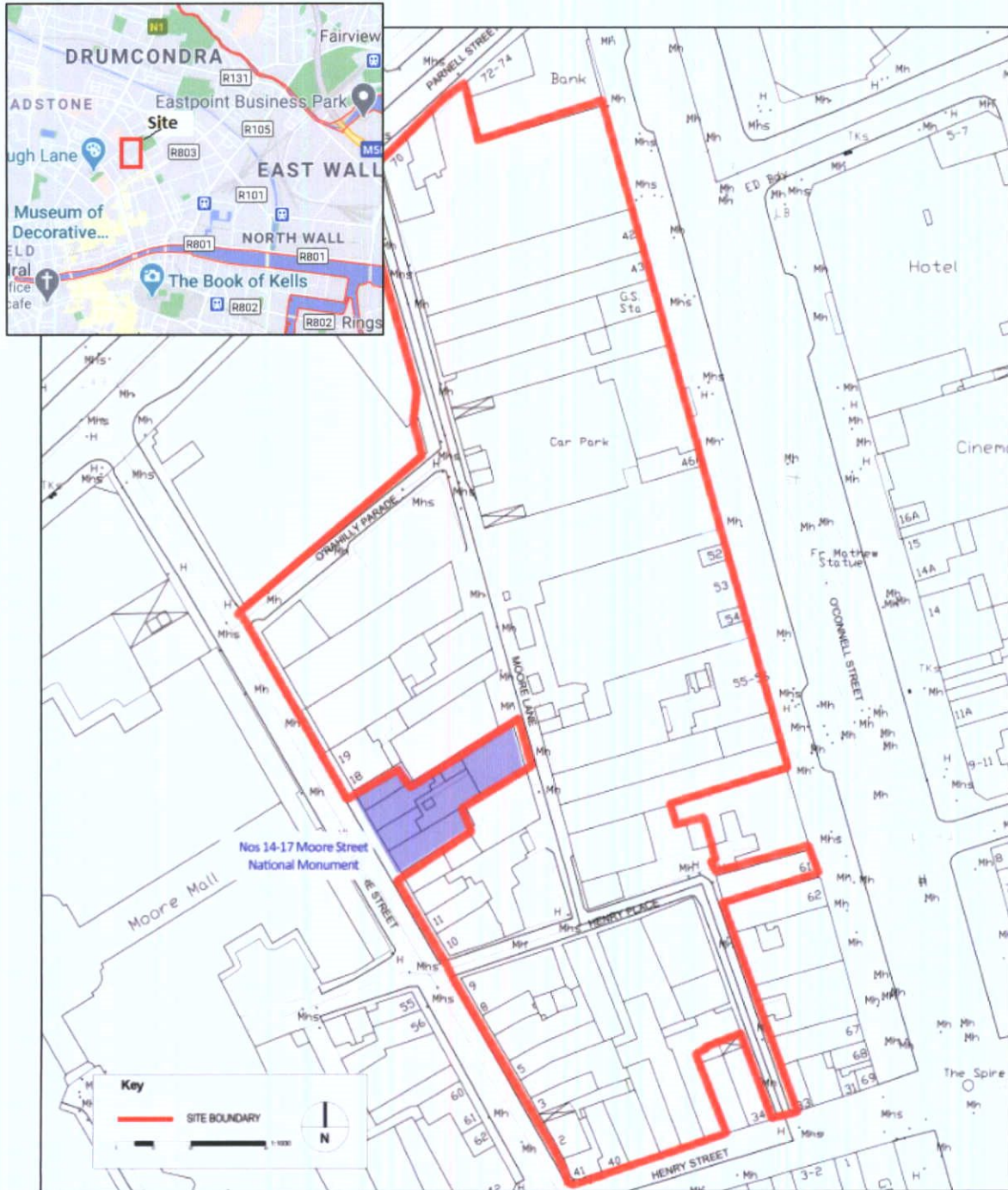


Figure 1 Site Location and Dublin Central Development Boundary



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

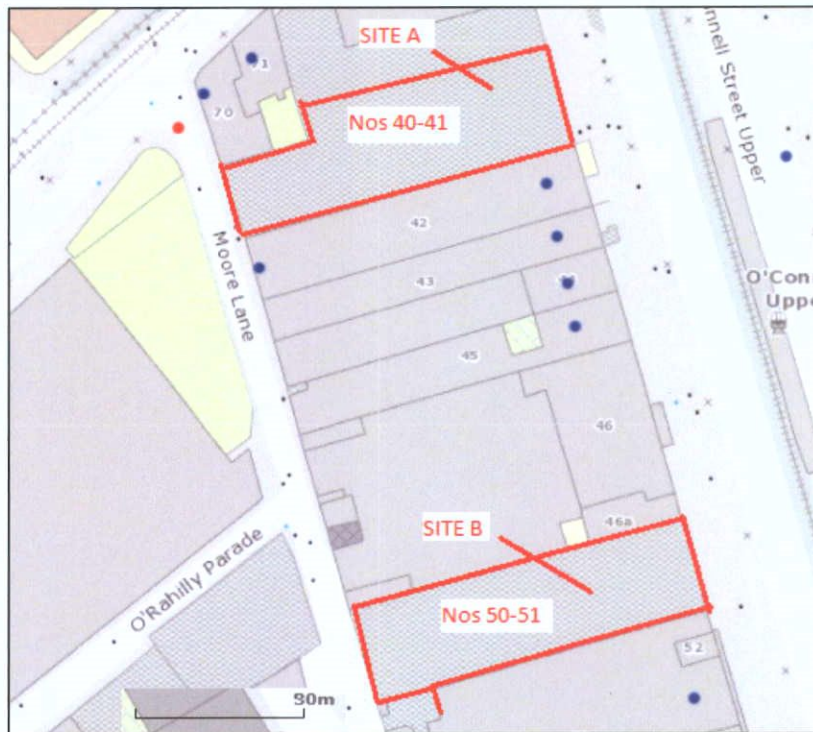


Figure 3 Sites A and B

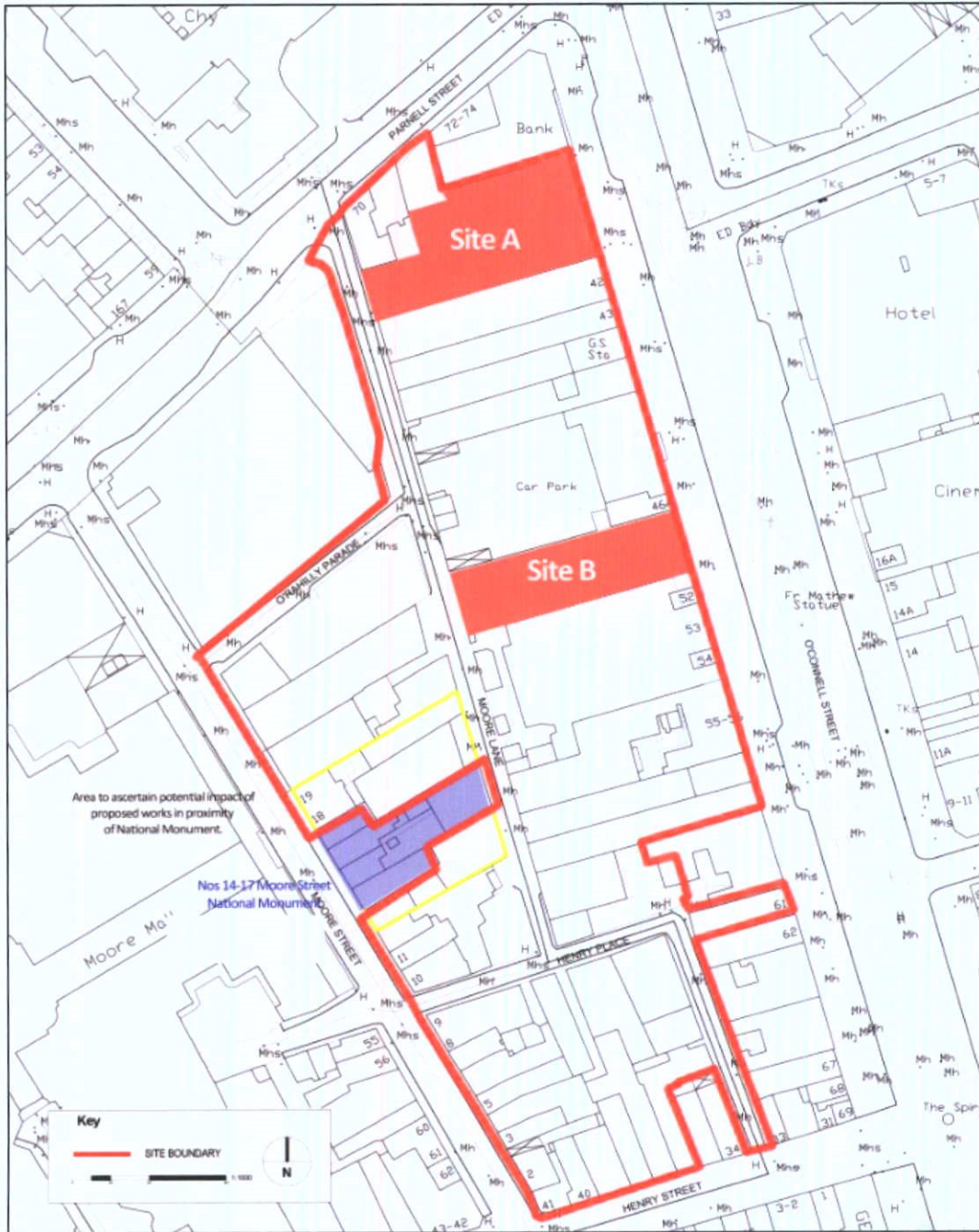


Figure 4 Main site shown in red and national monument in blue

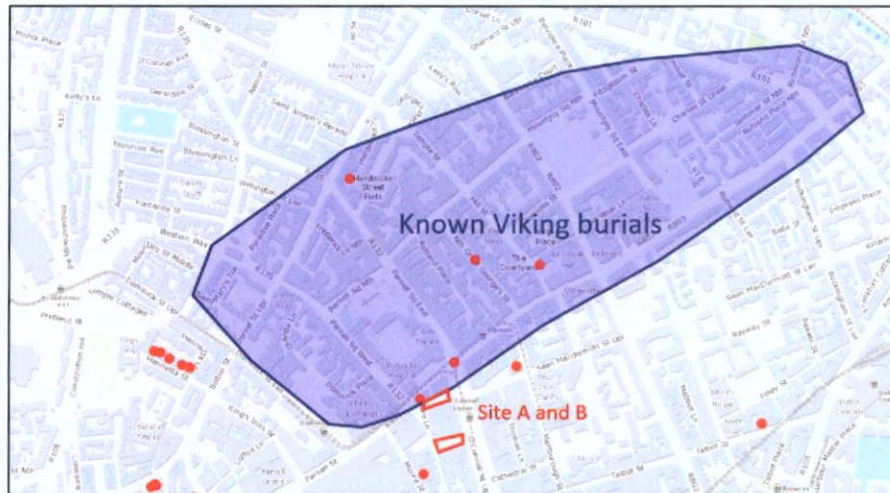


Figure 5 The estimated size of the grave-field

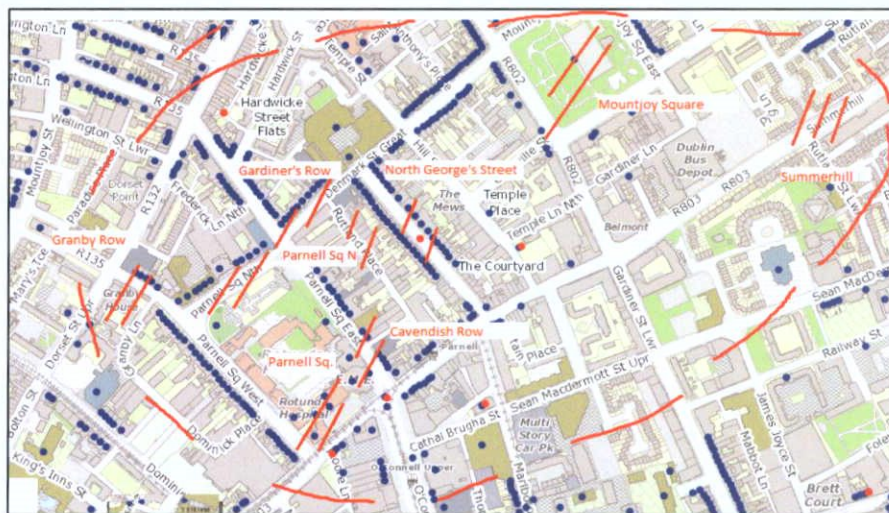


Figure 6 The location spots of graves



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

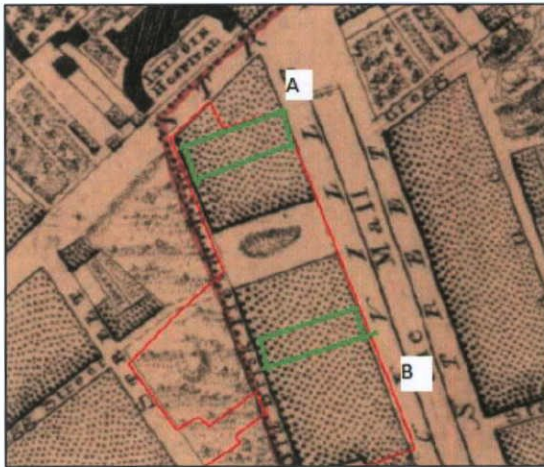


Figure 8 Rocque's map, dated 1757



Figure 9 Rocque's map dated, 1756

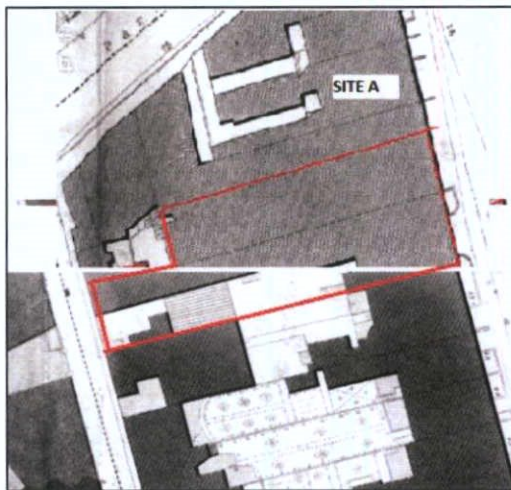


Figure 10 Site A OS Map dated 1838-47

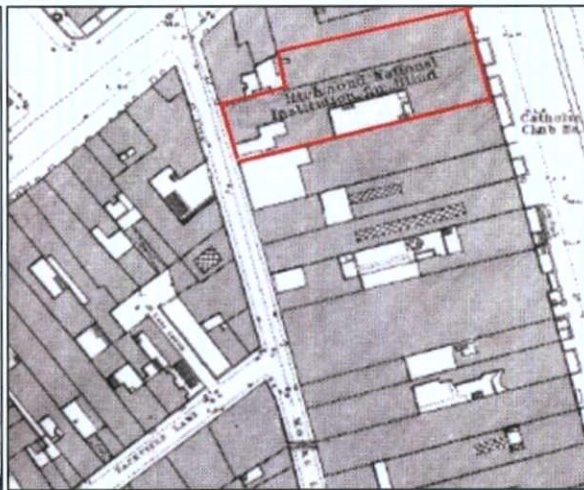


Figure 11 Site A, OS Map dated 1891

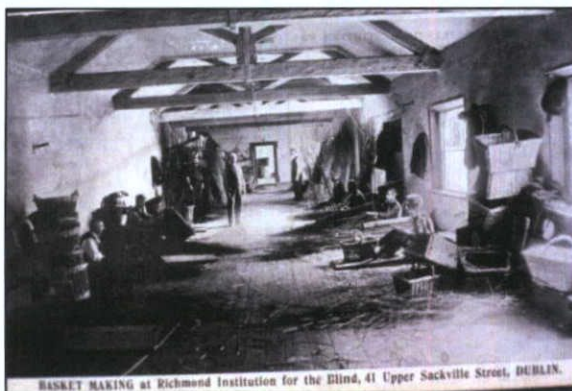


Figure 12 Image of the School for the Blind, established in 1810

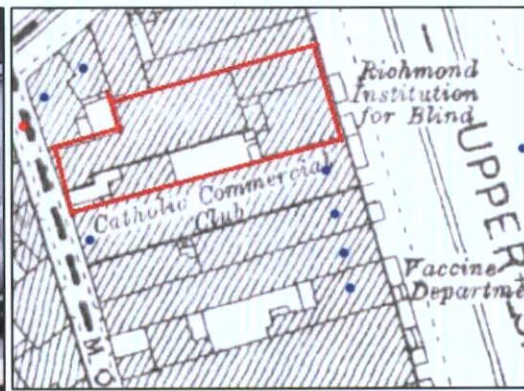


Figure 13 Site A, OS Map dated 1911,



Figure 14 Site B, OS Map dated 1838-473

Figure 15 Site B, OS Map dated 1864

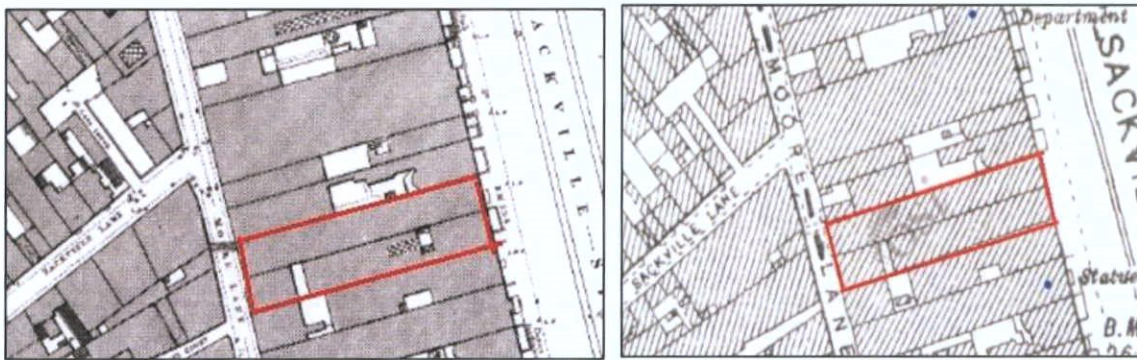


Figure 16 Site B, OS Map dated 1891

Figure 17 Site B, OS Map dated 1911



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

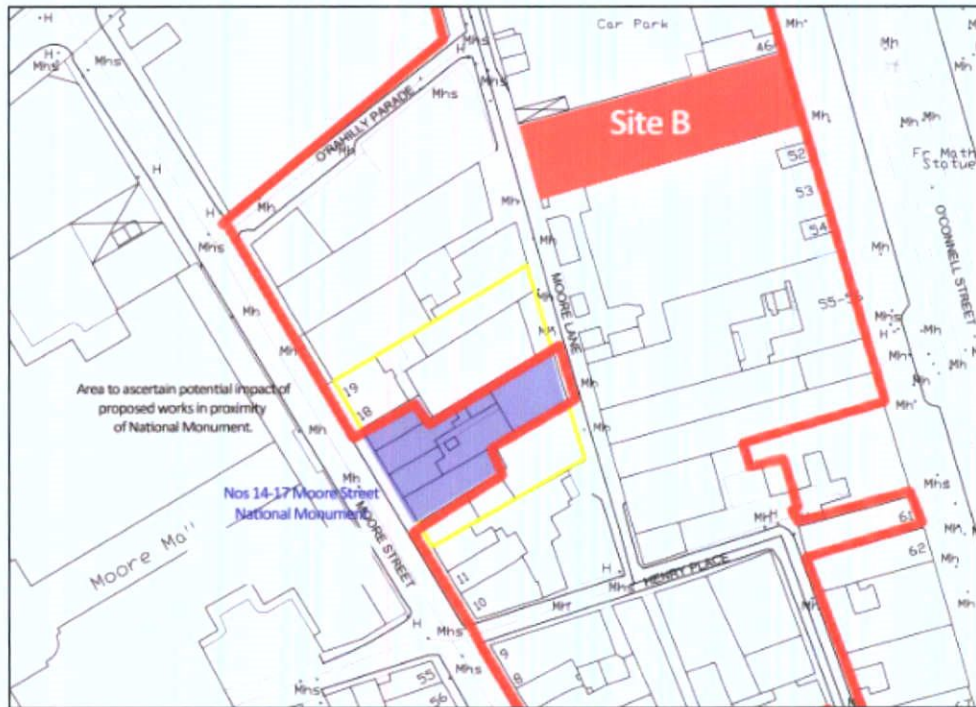


Figure 19 Location of the National Monument

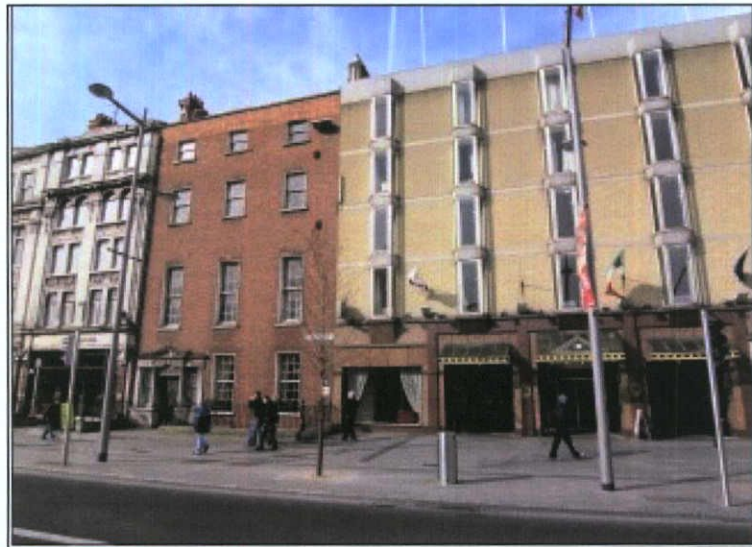


Figure 20 The Royal Dublin Hotel from the north pre demolition



Figure 21 After the demolition of the Royal Dublin hotel

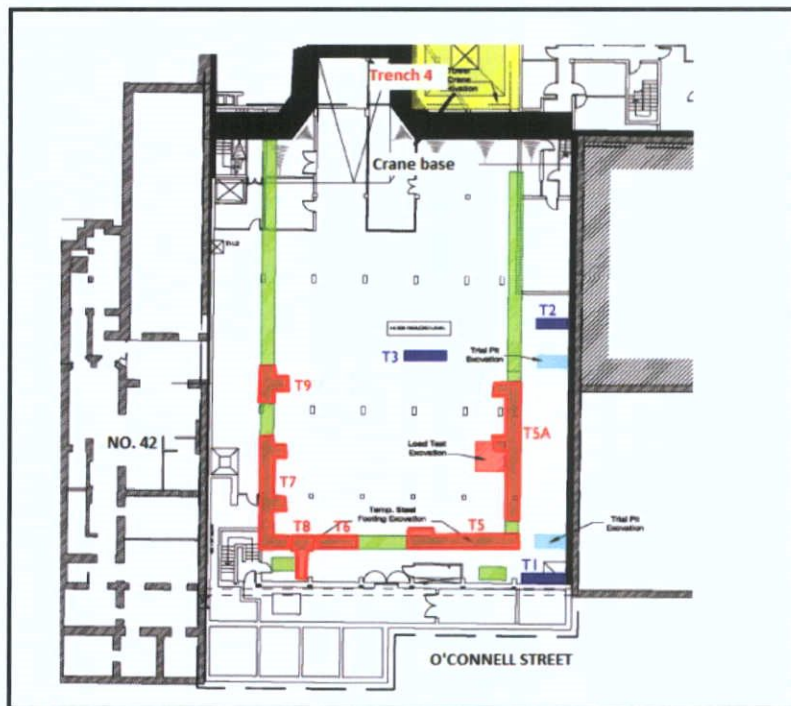


Figure 22 Trenches in 2009



Figure 23 Overview of steel footing trench



Figure 24 The site from the north, 2009



Figure 25 Trench B, concrete and natural gravels

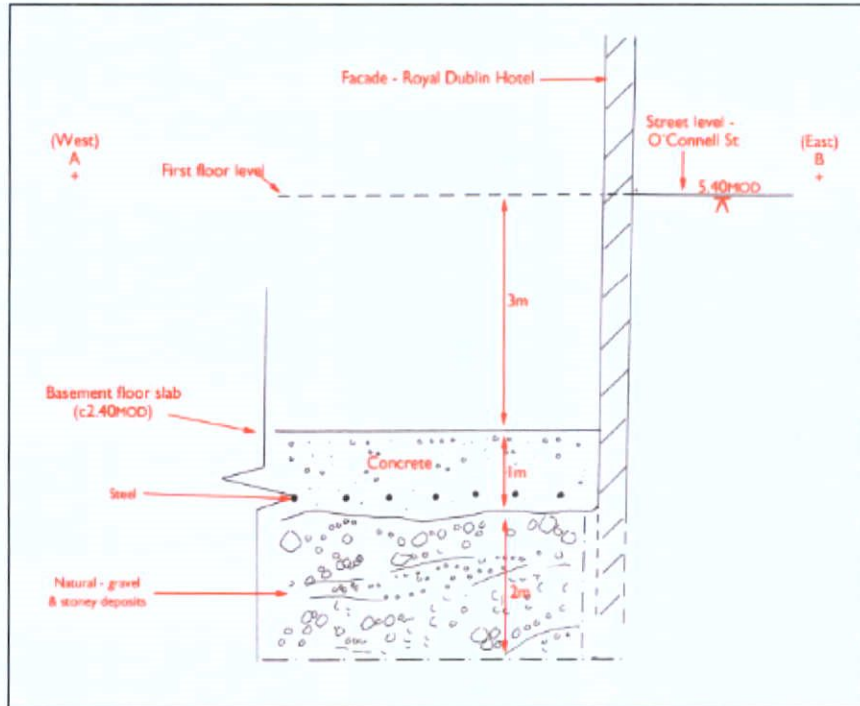


Figure 26 The section through Trench B



Figure 27 Trench 4, temporary crane base

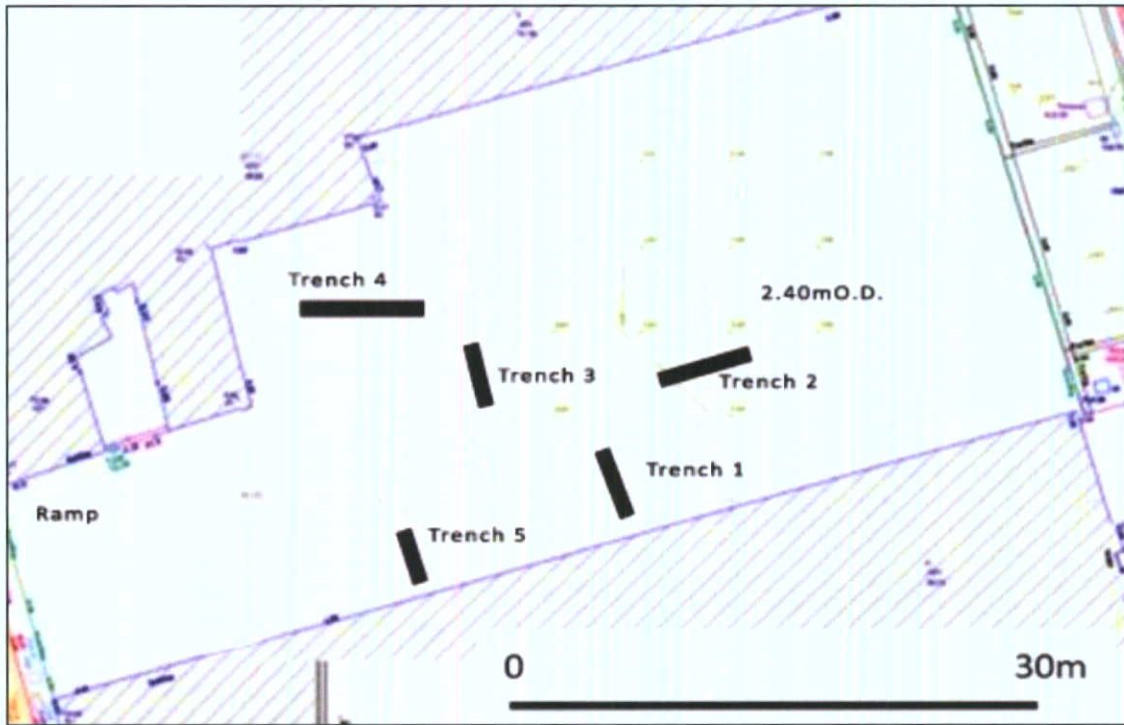


Figure 28 Site A: Trench location

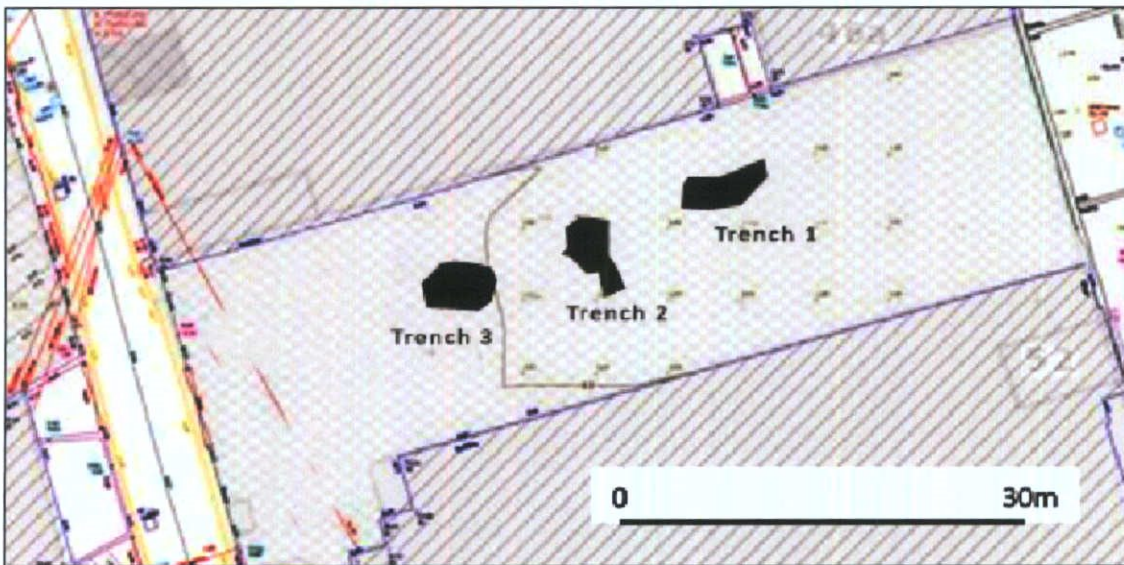


Figure 29 Site B: Trench location