



CourtneyDeery  
ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Archaeology Report

Werburgh Street Strategic Development and Regeneration Area  
(SDRA)

Stage 1, Step 1

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For

Dublin City Council

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy (CDHC) and Linzi Simpson are the archaeological consultants and advisors for the Werburgh Street SDRA Masterplan. As part of this role, an archaeological strategy has been devised that includes an archaeological and historical account of the area, a framework for archaeological investigations and palaeoenvironmental analysis (Stage 1).

Works to date have provided an archaeological assessment of the Masterplan Area and each of the sites within it (Site 1-Site 4), this approach has incorporated research, cartographic analysis, a review of previous excavations, consultations and workshops. On site works have included surface vegetation and graffiti removal from the City Wall, a National Monument, and the assessment and subsequent demolition of two 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century walls in the vicinity of the City Wall.

Targeted archaeological testing, as well as monitoring of planned geotechnical Site Investigations (SI) works in specific locations will inform the project and provide information to the wider design team. Linzi Simpson is responsible for carrying out the monitoring of the site investigation works and the excavation of test trenches, on behalf of the client, Dublin City Council.

The Masterplan Area is located in the south-east corner of the medieval walled town of Dublin and it is considered to be the most important archaeological resource in the city of Dublin, as the semi-undeveloped lands form an archaeological 'land bank or sink' of internationally important preserved Viking and Hiberno-Norse deposits. For this reason, it has long been identified as a possible site for a significant research investigation (Dublin City Walls and defences conservation plan (Gowen (ed) 2004), The Ship Street/Werburgh Street Framework Plan (McCullough Mulvin Architects 2005), The archaeological remains of Viking and Medieval: a research framework for Dublin City Council (Simpson (ed) 2010)).

The area is within the Viking core and is likely to contain the remains of the Viking post-and-wattle structures found elsewhere, buried beneath 18<sup>th</sup> century foundations of houses. These are likely to be well-preserved along Castle Street (Site 1) on the north and Werburgh Street (Sites 2 and 3) on the west. The earliest extant monument is a substantial section of the City Wall (a National Monument) running along the southern side (Site 4), probably dating to c. 1170 with the site of St Werburgh's gate somewhere on the street to the west. The line of the Viking embankments and the first City Wall, c.1100 may also extend through the site (Site 2). The early 18<sup>th</sup> century galleried church and graveyard is on the site of an earlier important medieval church with the documentary sources recording a second church and graveyard in the same area dedicated to St Martin. There may also have been a prison somewhere in the vicinity of Site 2 and Site 3 (Figure 1).

Fifteen test-trenches/ test-pits/ and twelve borehole/ window sample locations are being undertaken throughout the Masterplan area. The archaeological test-pits have been placed across the site to ascertain the nature and extent of the archaeology but also the depth of rubble deposits usually found on all urban sites. This allows for a more detailed look at the deposit identified in the bores. The information will help inform both the archaeological framework for the Masterplan Area and the future development of the block. There is a significant benefit in testing in such a large area as it will reduce the need for testing in the future therefore limiting the impact on the delicate Viking deposits, help identify the most fruitful location for further archaeological investigations including a research excavation, and also reduced costs. IGSL have been appointed as the SI contractor and works are due to begin at the end of October 2024.

As agreed with the National Monuments Service and the City Archaeologist from Dublin City Council, works within Site 1 and the northern extent of Site 2 are being carried out under

archaeological licence (Section 26). These works comprise BH1, BH2, BH8, BH12 and TP7, TP8, TP9, TP13 and TP14.

Works in proximity to the City Wall (a National Monument) in Sites 4 and 2 are being carried out as an extension to the Ministerial Consent (CO01243) which previously applied to the removal of surface vegetation and graffiti from the City Wall. These works comprise BH3-BH7 and BH9-BH10, and TP1-TP6 and TP10-TP12.

Within each of the masterplan areas (Site 1- Site 4), the archaeological investigation presents an opportunity to establish:

- A subsurface archaeological profile across the Masterplan Area from north to south in order to better understand the stratigraphy of the area. This will involve establishing the top of the archaeological levels to Ordnance Datum;
- Through the boreholes, the nature, date and depth of the archaeology across the sites;
- Through the boreholes, the line of the earliest clay and stone defences, as excavations carried out by Hayden (1994) at Jury's car-park (immediately west and on the opposite side of the road to Site 2) suggest that they run in an east-west direction, essentially across Site 2 at Werburgh Street. This will be carried out under Ministerial Consent;
- The date of the earliest levels at Werburgh Street to support the findings from the Hayden excavation on the west side of the street and to place the Masterplan Area in context;
- If the cores from the boreholes are suitable for environmental analysis and possibly scientifically dated;
- The depth of the foundation levels of the City Wall and how they present in the ground, with a view to informing a proposed conservation strategy, which is necessary to stabilise the upstanding sections of the City Wall. The results will allow a structural and condition survey for the City Wall to be developed. The City Wall will be assessed from the north (Site 2) and from the south (Site 4) under Ministerial Consent;
- If the cellars and foundation levels of the brick houses, yards and laneways of Hoey's Court survive intact even perhaps pin-pointing some location shown cartographically;
- The date of the southern boundary wall of St Werburgh's graveyard and whether or not it represents an expansion or contraction of the graveyard. This is important as burials, associated either with St Werburgh's church or St Martin's church (site unknown) may lie within Site 1 to the north or site 2 to the south. This assessment will be carried out under archaeological licence.

In addition, the site assessment of this complex, deeply stratified, urban site, will potentially provide a greater understanding of the:

- General state of preservation, deposits and finds;
- Level and extent of past disturbance and the impact this may have had on the archaeological deposits of the site;
- Provide information for a future research excavation;
- Establish areas for potential preservation *in situ*;

On a wider level, this Masterplan Area and heritage-led approach to the development of the site provides opportunities for:

- The use of innovative archaeological methods and techniques;
- Public dissemination;
- Research and international collaboration;
- Securing funding opportunities.

In summary, test-trenches and pits and/or boreholes *via* window sampling by machine and hand, will be carried out under archaeological licence and in the case of the City Wall, a National Monument, under Ministerial Consent. This programme of works will facilitate environmental sampling and may facilitate samples for dating analysis (if retrieved) and mortar analysis from the City Wall if the opportunity arises. Archaeological testing and the results of this process will inform the archaeological impact assessment report and proposed design of the masterplan area and the results will be presented and form the foundation of the Stage 2 report.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. General

Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy (CDHC) and Linzi Simpson are the archaeological consultants and advisors for the Werburgh Street SDRA Masterplan. As part of this role, CDHC have devised this archaeological report which includes research, an assessment of each area (Site 1- Site 4) and precedent studies that have informed the location of the proposed archaeological investigations and palaeoenvironmental analysis that will take place in Stage 2.

Works to date have included surface vegetation and graffiti removal from the City Wall, a National Monument, and the assessment and subsequent demolition of two 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> walls in the vicinity of the City Wall. Targeted archaeological testing, as well as monitoring of planned geotechnical Site Investigations (SI) works in specific locations will inform the project and provide information to the wider design team. Linzi Simpson is responsible for carrying out the monitoring of the site investigation works and the excavation of test trenches, on behalf of the client, Dublin City Council.

The Masterplan Area is located in the south-east corner of the medieval walled town of Dublin and it is considered to be the most important archaeological resource in the city of Dublin, as the semi-undeveloped lands form an archaeological 'land bank or sink' of internationally important preserved Viking and Hiberno-Norse deposits. For this reason, it has long been identified as a possible site for a significant research investigation (Dublin City Walls and defences conservation plan (Gowen (ed) 2004), The Ship Street/Werburgh Street Framework Plan (McCullough Mulvin Architects 2005), The archaeological remains of Viking and Medieval: a research framework for Dublin City Council (Simpson (ed) 2010)).

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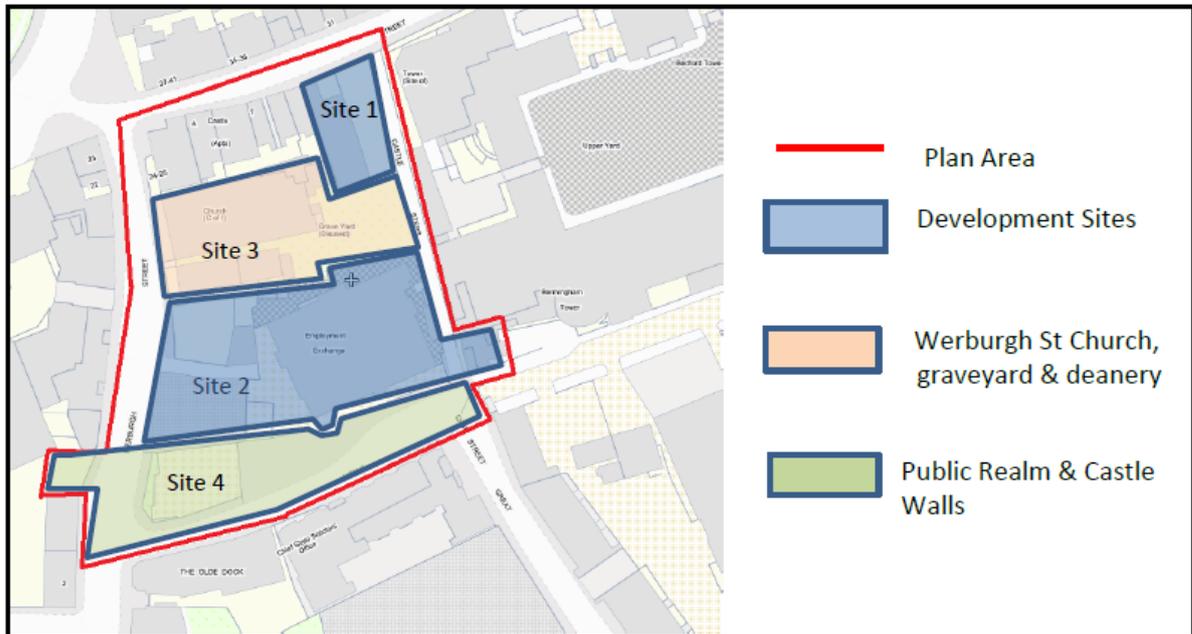


Figure 1 Masterplan Area Sites 1-4

## 1.2. Site Location

The Masterplan Area is located between Castle Street on the north, Ship Street Lower on the south, Werburgh Street on the west and the Castle Steps on the east. It is divided into four separate sites (Figure 1) reflecting the developed urban plots along with the change in levels the result of sloping ground from north to south. Site 1 is approximately 1.50m higher than the graveyard level of Site 3, while there is a significant change in levels between Site 2 and Site 4 on either side of the City Wall of over 1.8m.

## 1.3. Project Background / Research Strategy

### 1.3.1. Background

The collection of archaeological sites contained within the Werburgh Street SDRA in the south-east corner of the medieval walled city offers a rare opportunity to carry out a coordinated research investigation in advance of redevelopment of this historic quarter. The Werburgh Street SDRA, with St Werburgh's church and graveyard as a central nodal point, is a very important archaeological site, closely associated with Dublin Castle to the east. Castle Street, while now relegated to a back lane status, was originally the main street of Dublin throughout the medieval and into the Early Modern period, its decline directly attributable to the construction of Lord Edward Street in 1866, which effectively by-passed what was known as the 'King's Highway'.

The Study Area is known to contain unique Viking archaeological deposits, the remains of post-and-wattle houses, paths, pits, and latrines spanning from the 9<sup>th</sup> century to the early 12<sup>th</sup> century and up to 4m in depth. These deposits are almost perfectly preserved and are of international importance, demonstrating Dublin was once intimately connected and formed an integral part of the vast Viking empire. Specifically, it operated as a major trading port, whose main product was slaves, not just from Ireland but from England, Wales and Scotland.

The importance of the Masterplan Area is heightened by the fact the embankment defences of the Viking settlement are also known to extend through this area, which were replaced by a City Wall that is still extant today on the site (and is a National Monument).

The Werburgh Street SDRA is also likely to contain rare Anglo-Norman deposits in the central area of the site, which tend not to survive elsewhere in Dublin, as they were often removed during the construction of cellared brick houses from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards. This redevelopment of the city in brick heralded a new era of wealth in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and many of the most prominent citizens of Dublin lived in the Study Area, worshipping in St Werburgh's church and on the doorstep of the central administration of Dublin, in Dublin Castle.

### 1.3.2. Opportunity

A detailed archaeological strategy has been developed as part of the Masterplan which contains the aims, objectives and opportunities of the project, as set out in Section 4.

The sites (nos 1-4) are generally open and accessible at present, which presents a rare opportunity to devise an Archaeological Framework for the entire block that will inform both the pertinent archaeological research questions pertaining to the entire medieval city but also the potential commercial redevelopment in the future.

Stage 2 involves an over-arching testing programme of works, which will inform both future archaeological excavation potential but also 'preservation in situ', the latter seeking to preserve a 'sink' of archaeological deposits for the future.

The Masterplan Area is considered to be of international importance both in terms of its historical and archaeological context and also due to its location at an entrance into Dublin Castle and its associated visitor and government facilities. The key sites within the Masterplan Area currently present an air of dereliction and underutilisation of these important historic city centre sites. The objective for the Masterplan is to support and encourage the regeneration of this city block, putting the cultural and archaeological heritage to the forefront of any redevelopment proposals, whilst creating opportunities for new uses and attracting visitors to the sites.

The Plan shall have regard to the following plans and projects:

- Dublin City Council Development Plan 2022-2028 (DCC 2022)
- Dublin Castle, Strategic Framework Plan (Bright 2022)
- Dublin City Walls and Defences Conservation Plan 2004 (Gowen (ed) 2004)
- Ship Street/Werburgh Street Framework Plan (McCullough Mulvin Architects 2005)
- Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research (INSTAR) The Archaeological Remains of Viking and Medieval Dublin: A research framework for Dublin City Council and Margaret Gowen and Co. Ltd (Simpson 2010)
- DCC Contract for Essential Repair and Refurbishment Work's & the buildings repurposing to accommodate cultural events as a tourism venue, at Werburgh's Church.
- The York-Dublin Viking Axis.

## 1.4. Test Trenching

The excavation of a number of archaeological test-pits is scheduled across the site to ascertain the nature and extent of the archaeology but also the depth of rubble deposits usually found on all urban sites. This allows for a more detailed look at the deposit identified in the bores. The information will help inform both the Archaeological Framework for the Masterplan Area but also future development of the block. There is a significant benefit in testing in such a large area as it will reduce the need for testing in the future therefore limiting the impact on the delicate Viking deposits, help identify the most fruitful location for further archaeological investigations including a research excavation, and also reduced costs. IGSL have been appointed as the SI contractor and Stage 2 works are due to begin at the end of October 2024.

### 1.4.1. Testing Aims and Objectives

The Masterplan Area (Sites 1-4) archaeological investigations will inform the conservation process, the design process and to establish a better understanding of the subsurface stratigraphy across the area (Figure 2). A strategic testing/borehole monitoring strategy is being followed on each site and this has been agreed with the statutory authorities through method statements associated with the licencing procedure and Ministerial Consent process.

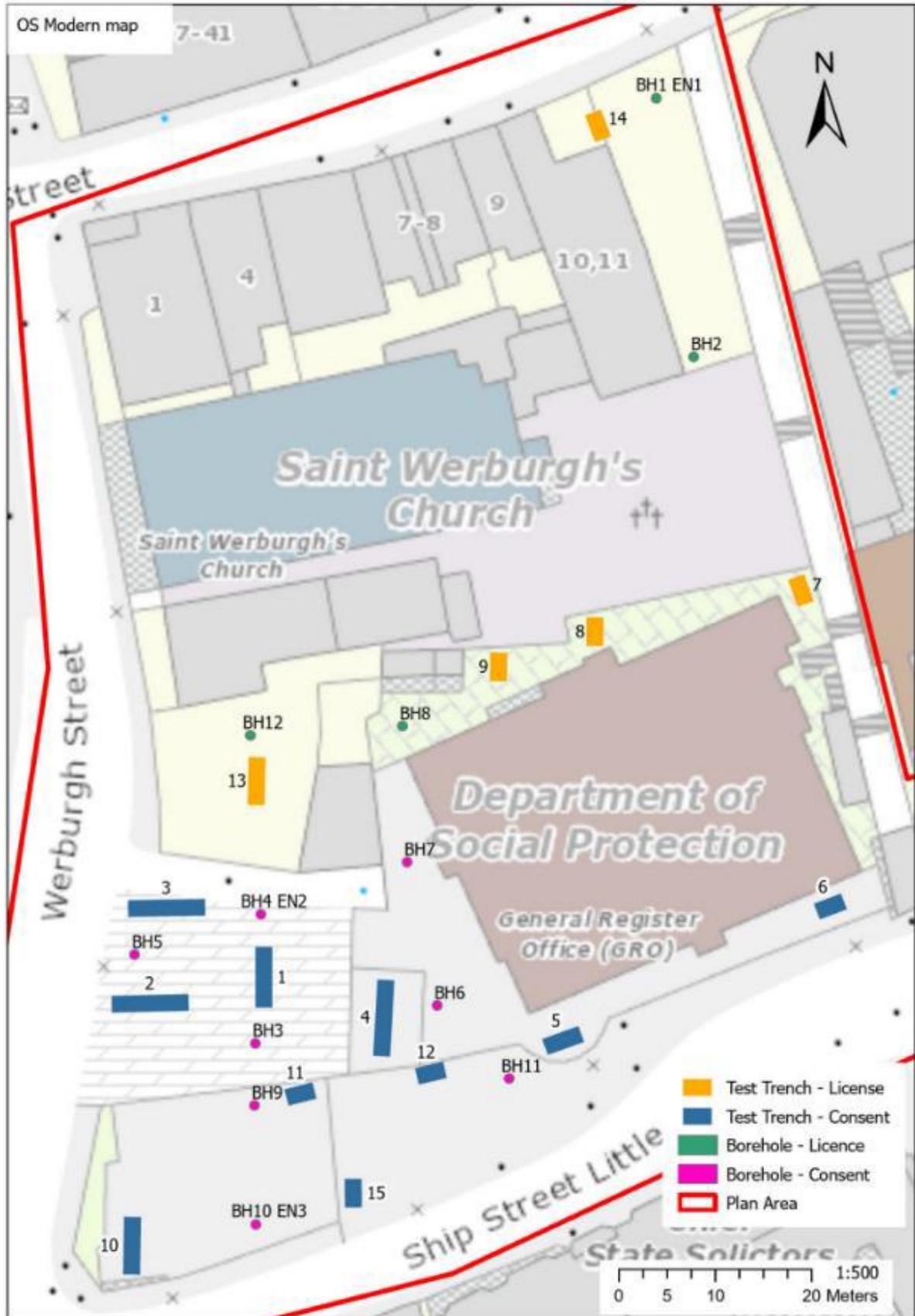


Figure 2 Locations of site investigations

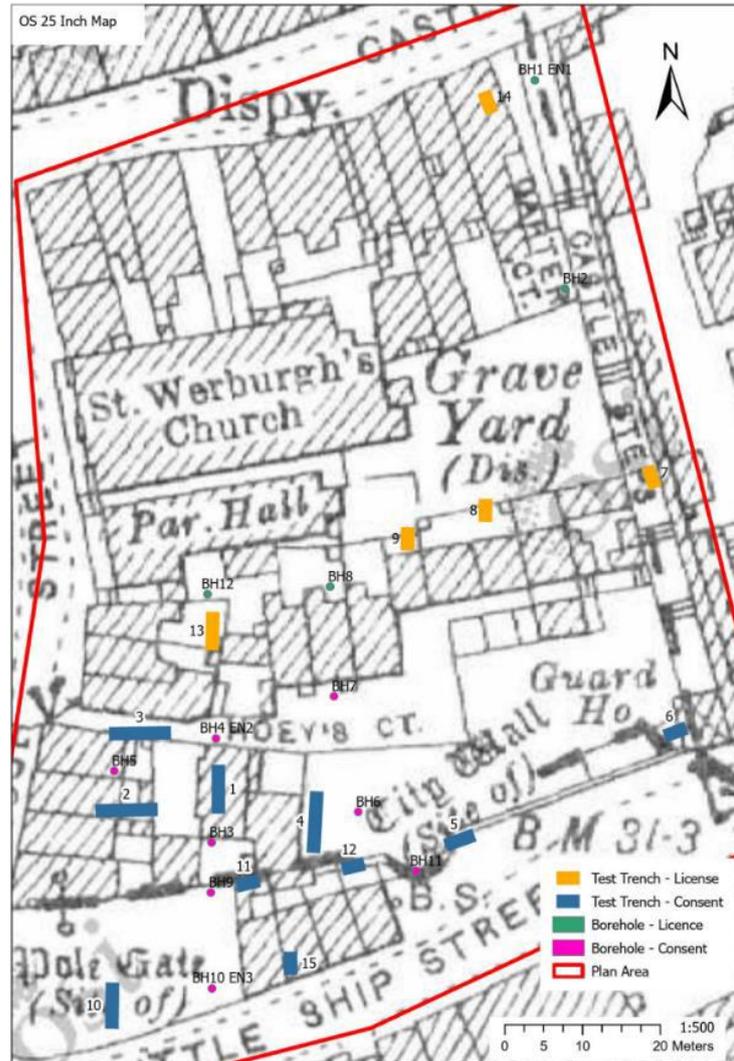


Figure 3 Overlay of archaeological testing on the historic 25-inch map

This strategy includes an appropriate level of slit-trenching, archaeological boreholes and window sampling, which will assist in the production of a contour and deposit model map showing the position of the archaeology, the high-spots and the areas of deep rubble, to O.D levels.

Fifteen test-trenches/ test-pits/ and twelve borehole/ window sample locations are being undertaken throughout the Masterplan area.

Works within Site 1 and the northern extent of Site 2 are being carried out under archaeological licence (Section 26). These works comprise BH1, BH2, BH8, BH12 and TP7, TP8, TP9, TP13 and TP14. These works are taking place under licence 24E0764.

Works in proximity to the City Wall (a National Monument) in Sites 4 and 2 are being carried out as an extension to the Ministerial Consent (CO01243) which previously applied to the removal of surface vegetation and graffiti from the City Wall. These works comprise BH3-BH7 and BH9-BH10, and TP1-TP6 and TP10-TP12. These works are taking place under Activity Number W000582.

Within each of the masterplan areas, the archaeological investigation presents an opportunity to establish:

- A subsurface archaeological profile across the Masterplan Area from north to south in order to better understand the stratigraphy of the area. This will involve establishing the top of the archaeological levels to Ordnance Datum;
- Through the boreholes, the nature, date and depth of the archaeology across the sites;
- Through the boreholes, the line of the earliest clay and stone defences, as excavations carried out by Hayden (1994) at Jury's car-park (immediately west and on the opposite side of the road to Site 2) suggest that they run in an east-west direction, essentially across Site 2 at Werburgh Street. This will be carried out under Ministerial Consent;
- The date of the earliest levels at Werburgh Street to support the findings from the Hayden excavation on the west side of the street and to place the Masterplan Area in context;
- If the cores from the boreholes are suitable for environmental analysis and possibly scientifically dated;
- The depth of the foundation levels of the City Wall and how they present in the ground, with a view to informing a proposed conservation strategy, which is necessary to stabilise the upstanding sections of the City Wall. The results will allow a structural and condition survey for the City Wall to be developed. The City Wall will be assessed from the north (Site 2) and from the south (Site 4) under Ministerial Consent;
- If the cellars and foundation levels of the brick houses, yards and laneways of Hoey's Court survive intact even perhaps pin-pointing some location shown cartographically;
- The date of the southern boundary wall of St Werburgh's graveyard and whether or not it represents an expansion or contraction of the graveyard. This is important as burials, associated either with St Werburgh's church or St Martin's church (site unknown) may lie within Site 1 to the north or site 2 to the south. This assessment will be carried out under archaeological licence.

In addition, the site assessment of this complex, deeply stratified, urban site, will potentially provide a greater understanding of the:

- General state of preservation, deposits and finds;
- Level and extent of past disturbance and the impact this may have had on the archaeological deposits of the site;
- Provide information for a future research excavation;
- Establish areas for potential preservation *in situ*;

On a wider level, this Masterplan Area and heritage-led approach to the development of the site provides opportunities for:

- The use of innovative archaeological methods and techniques;
- Public dissemination;
- Research and international collaboration;
- Securing funding opportunities.

The bores have been positioned strategically to cover the entire site and, most importantly, to provide data to create a contour model of the Masterplan Area. This contouring modelling allows for the creation of a map that demonstrates the depth of deposits and the potential high spots

across the site. The creation of such a model allows for informed decision in relation to both future excavation and preservation in situ but also for future development. Contour modelling formed the main component of the Research Framework for the research excavations at Temple Bar West 1996-1998 and this identified a significant high spot of archaeology in the south-east corner of the site where the Viking deposits were at their deepest. This data allowed the design team to make informed decisions about where the new structures were to be located to reduce impact and cost. As a result, the high-spot of archaeology was left in situ and Handel's Court, Fishamble Street was created. This now forms an important sink of rare Viking archaeological deposits.



Figure 4 Aerial image of Masterplan area

## 1.5. Sources

A review of the following information took place in order to inform the archaeology report:

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS) and Tentative World Heritage Sites and those monuments on the tentative list;
- National Monuments in State care, as listed by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH);
- Sites with Preservation Orders;
- Sites listed in the Register of Historic Monuments;
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland; The statutory RMP records known upstanding archaeological monuments, their original location (in cases of destroyed monuments) and the position of possible sites identified as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs. Archaeological sites identified since 1994 have been added to the non-statutory SMR database of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (National Monuments Service, DHLGH), which is available online at [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) and includes both RMP and SMR sites. Archaeological sites identified since 1994 are placed on the SMR and are scheduled for inclusion on the next revision of the RMP;
- Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in the Dublin City Development Plan (2022-2028);
- County Councils Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) and their statements of character;
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building Survey (NIAH ratings are international, national, regional, local and record, and those of regional and above are recommended for inclusion in the RPS);
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Garden Survey (paper survey only);
- A review of artefactual material held in the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographical Sources, OSi Historic Mapping Archive, including early editions of the Ordnance Survey including historical mapping (such as Down Survey 1656 Map);
- The Irish archaeological excavations catalogue i.e. Excavations bulletin and Excavations Database;
- Place names; Townland names and toponymy ([loganim.ie](http://loganim.ie));
- National Folklore Collection ([Duchas.ie](http://Duchas.ie));
- Dublin City Development Plan (2022-2028).
- A review and interpretation of aerial imagery (OSi Aerial Imagery 1995, 2000, 2005, Aerial Premium 2013-2018, Digital Globe 2011-2013, Google Earth 2001–2024, Bing 2024) to be used in combination with historic mapping to map potential cultural heritage assets.
- A review of existing guidelines and best practice approaches.

A bibliography of sources used is provided in the References section.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Masterplan Area forms the south-east corner of the Viking settlement of Dublin, the centre of which was in the Castle Street/Christchurch area. The first Viking pirates' camp or longphort (ship-camp) was located along the eastern stretch of the Poddle river (from Exchange Street Lower to South Great George's Street) and this was established as a permanent settlement in AD 841. By the late 9<sup>th</sup> century there was settlement along the Poddle and on the site of what was later to become Dublin Castle to the east of the Masterplan Area (Simpson 2000).

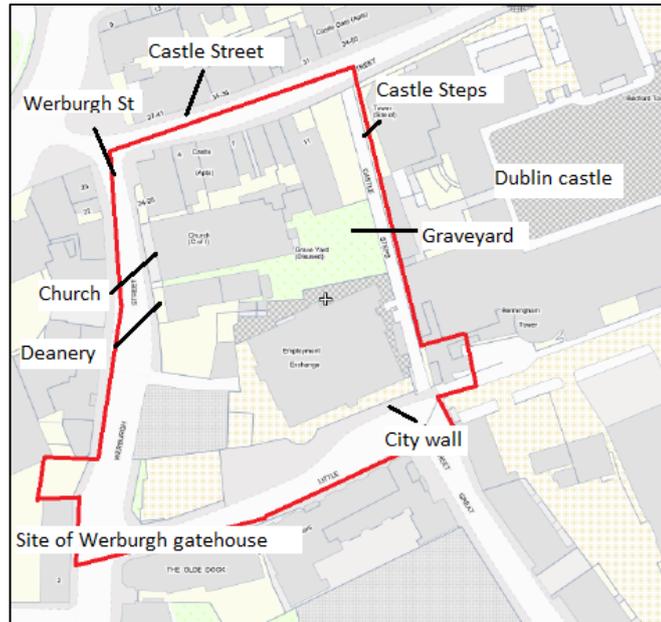


Figure 5 Features in the Masterplan Area

## 2.1. The *Dún* of Dublin

By the early 10<sup>th</sup> century a large oval settlement recorded in the contemporary sources as a *dún* meaning fortress, had been established, defined by large clay embankments, topped with strong wooden fences. Known as *Dyflinn*, this quickly became a thriving trading port, which had a large resident population occupying long house property plots, each containing post-and-wattle houses, outhouses, latrines and timber walk-ways. The organic remains of this settlement have been perfectly preserved due to the very rare anaerobic (no oxygen) conditions of the soils in Dublin, which present as deep ‘peat-like’ deposits, which can be up to 4.50m in depth in places. These deposits contain layer upon layer of house levels dating from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and, as such, represent a very significant archaeological quarter. Archaeology is a non-renewable heritage resource and any intervention into these delicate deposits has to be carefully considered and controlled. These type of rare Viking-age organic deposits are likely to be very extensive in both Site 1 (Castle Street) and Site 2 (Hoey’s Court).

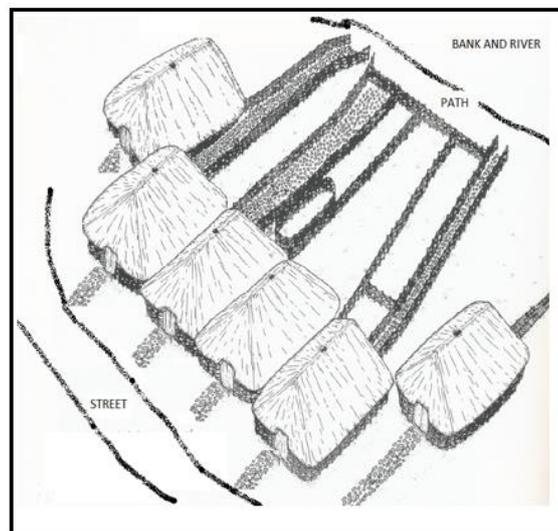


Figure 6 Streetscape of Viking houses (Temple Bar West)

As the Masterplan Area represents the south-east corner of the 10<sup>th</sup> century settlement, the southern line of the defensive banks is likely to survive at the southern end of Site 2, running east-west towards the castle. The massive earthen banks were eventually replaced by the first City Wall, sometime in c. 1100, which expanded the settlement and was a very important development that ensured Dublin took its place as one of the walled cities of Europe.



Plate 1 Typical foundations of a Viking house (Temple Bar West)

## 2.2. The Hiberno-Norse Wall, c. 1100

The foundations of the first City Wall dated to c. 1100 is likely to survive in the Masterplan Area running east-west through the southern end of Site 2. The walled city is likely to have been accessed on this side through a gate of a similar date, presumably at the southern end of Werburgh Street although the exact location is not known. By this date, the local Viking population had assimilated with the Irish and the rich port of Dublin was much sought after resulting in clashes between the Irish and Norse kings. Muirchertach Ua Briain, the King of Munster, became High King in Ireland and was in control of Dublin in and around the time the first wall was erected. As a result, he may have been responsible for its construction.

## 2.3. The Anglo-Norman Wall, c. 1170

The first City Wall was partially replaced by a second City Wall (Figure 7, Figure 8) after an unexpected invasion by the Anglo-Normans in 1170, which resulted in the taking of the city and the expulsion of the last Hiberno-Norse king of Dublin, Asculf Mac Thorkill. This City Wall, a National Monument, is still extant in the Masterplan Area, forming the northern boundary of Site 4, which lies outside the City Wall. This is a long stretch of the standing City Wall which extends from Werburgh Street as far east as Dublin castle and includes the much-modified Stanihurst Tower in the central area, refashioned as a folly bastion in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

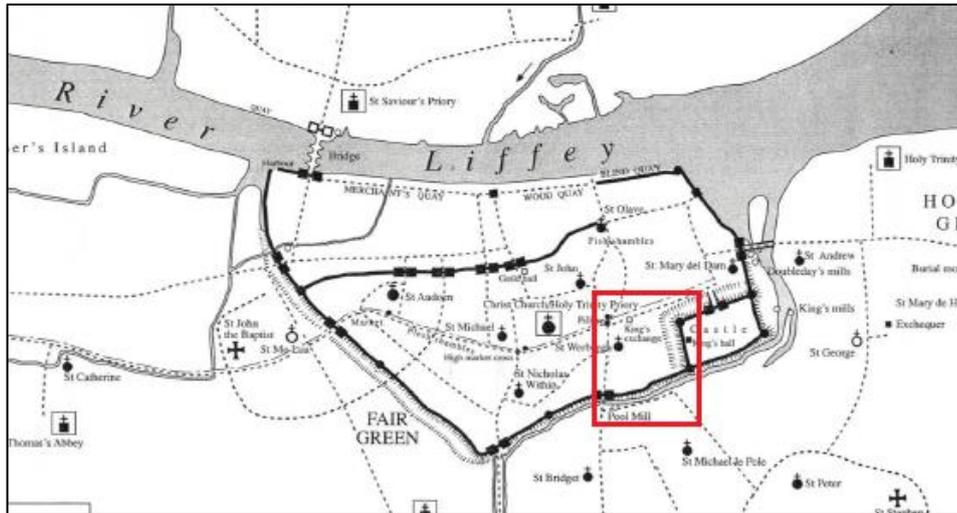


Figure 7 Masterplan Area in the medieval city

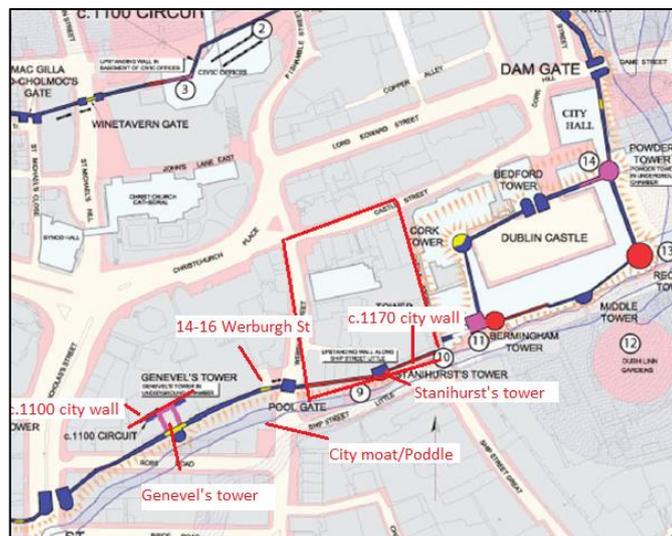


Figure 8 City Wall features

## 2.4. The City Moat

In addition to replacing part of the City Wall in the 1170s to strengthen the defences, major works also took place outside the walls when the Poddle River was diverted through timber revetments at Patrick Street to form a defensive moat running along the base of the City Wall as far as Dublin Castle. This diverted course or moat runs through the Masterplan Area extending across Site 4 where the riverine gravel deposits are thought to be up to 8m in depth. This river now runs in two 17<sup>th</sup> century brick culverts under Site 4 and is tidal as far south as the Cross Poddle at the junction of Bride Street and Kevin Street. This moat also supported two medieval mills called the Pole mills located at Ship Street, in the central area of Site 4. The medieval foundations of the mills may well survive as the mills are shown as late as 1756 suggesting they may have been incorporated into later mill buildings, as happened at Shyreclappe mill in Patrick Street.

## 2.5. St Martin's Church

There was a second important early church and graveyard dedicated to St Martin in the Masterplan Area although the exact site is not known. This was earlier in date than St Werburgh's,

presumably serving the pre-Norman population in Dublin but which was subsequently replaced in the late 1170s by St Werburgh's church, which had a graveyard (Site 3). Curiously, St Martin's is mentioned in the documentary sources as late as 1529 century as a place-name with references to a graveyard also.

## 2.6. St Werburgh's Church and Graveyard

St Werburgh's church and graveyard, Site 3, is a major monument, which dominates the Masterplan Area, linking Sites 1 and 2 directly. This church dates to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century but originally was one of the most prestigious medieval churches in Dublin. Remarkably, the medieval parish deeds and churchwardens' accounts (along with death and burial records) survive for this church, a rare and fortuitous survival. From these it can be established that the original church was large, with a northern and southern aisle, set back from the medieval street with houses in front of it, on the street side. The church owned additional property in the Masterplan Area including two houses on Castle Street and a house on Werburgh Street, along with properties on the southern side of the church, where Christchurch Deanery, formerly a school-house, now stands.

The medieval church was burnt down in 1301 and repaired several times over the centuries but was in generally poor condition by the 1660s and was subsequently replaced with the present galleried church, which opened its doors in 1719. This is probably a larger church than the medieval one (although it had a north and south aisle) and, as the new church includes underground crypts, any surviving foundations are likely to have been removed. In 1754 the church was badly burnt but was quickly repaired and the present interior and front façade can be dated to after this period.

The medieval church had a graveyard, walled by the 15<sup>th</sup> century which is referred to in the documentary sources and was presumably located where the present graveyard is today although possibly not as long at the eastern end (Figure 9, Figure 10). The exact dimensions are not known but it is likely it expanded and contracted over the centuries. Unusually, the medieval sources also record the presence of a 'waterfall' in the graveyard, presumably a spring.



Figure 9 Speed's Map of Dublin – St Werburgh's Church is shown as No. 41 (1610)

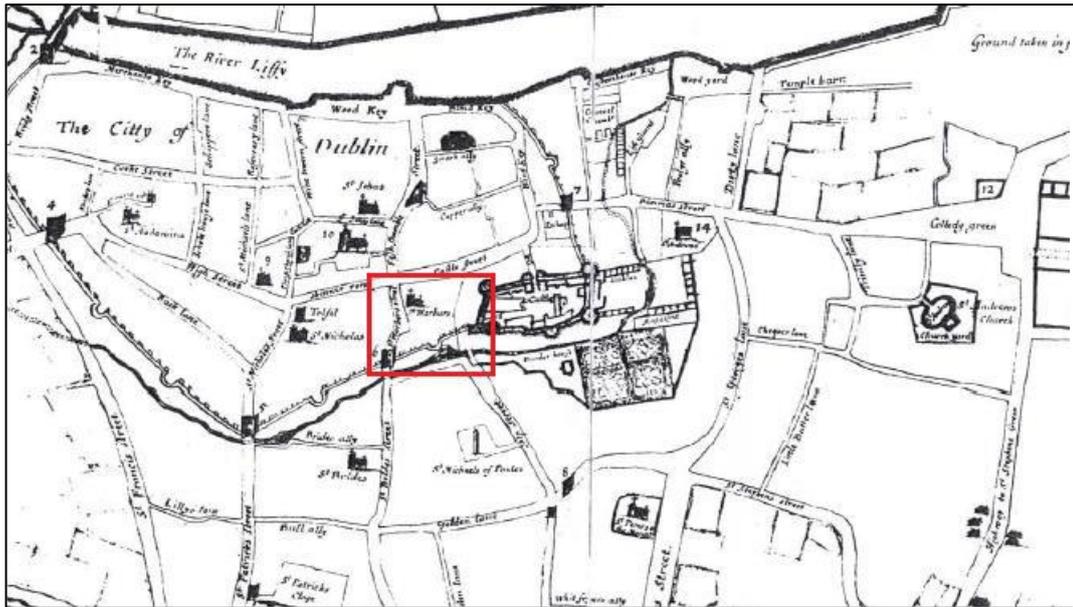


Figure 10 De Gomme's map of Dublin (1673)

## 2.7. The Invasion of Dublin, 1170

After the invasion of Dublin in 1170 by the Anglo-Normans, the port of Dublin was to utterly change, from an international trading centre with direct links and access to the almost world-wide Viking trading network to what was essentially an English colonial town. The hinterland surrounding the city was also transformed, as the new settlers engaged in arable rather than pastoral farming. The Masterplan Area was a core part of the Anglo-Norman settlement, in a prestigious location due to its close proximity to Dublin castle, which was constructed in c.1204, the size and type bearing testimony to the importance of Dublin at this date.

## 2.8. The Late Medieval Period

By the late 13<sup>th</sup> century however, the new regime was under pressure from the rebellious Irish in the Leinster mountains, who continually attacked the colonists and by the early 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Dublin colony was in decline. This can be seen in the archaeological record. In the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, the documentary sources record that the Masterplan Area was surprisingly rural in nature, the sources recording orchards, gardens and open spaces in and around the church, along with a large industrial metalworking site at the rear of Werburgh Street, which had a large 'furnace' and was in use for a considerable period of time. This was in marked contrast to the cramped conditions of the previous Hiberno-Norse dwellers, which created the deep Viking-age organic deposits.

After the invasion of 1170, the Viking style of post-and wattle-house gave way to sill beam-timber buildings and stone houses in the wealthier areas and by the Elizabethan period, between 1558 to 1603, the dominant type that emerges was the timber cage-work house, which still survive in great numbers in England and France but have disappeared in Ireland. The last cage-work house in Dublin was actually in the Masterplan Area on the corner of Werburgh Street and Castle Street and this was only demolished by the Wide Street Commissioners in 1812 (Figure 11). The site was vacant in the 1990s but some timber beams were still visible at this time although the site has since been developed.

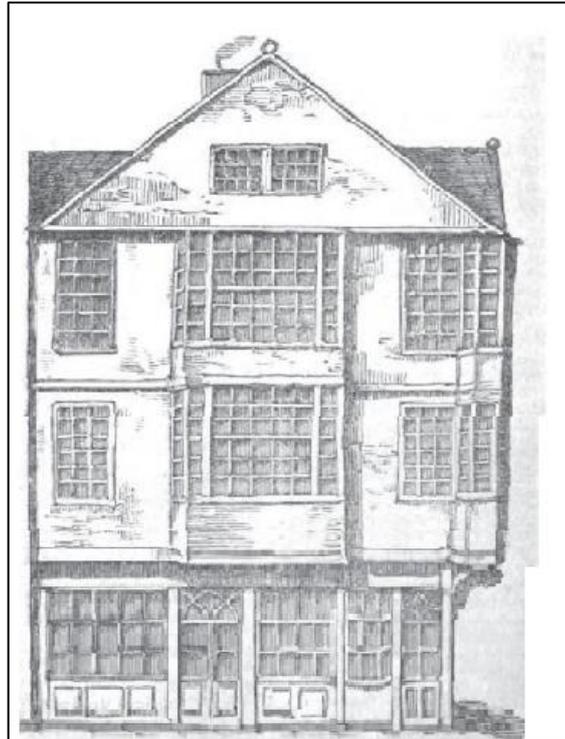


Figure 11 Last cage-work house at the corner of Castle Street and Werburgh's Street

## 2.9. Additional Sites Recorded in the Sources

There are also other monuments, other than St Martin's church, referenced in the documentary sources in the general Masterplan Area, the sites of which are not known. These includes the site of the King's Exchange and Royal Mint, reputedly on the south side of Castle Street, and a prison to the south of St Werburgh's church, the location of which is not known. It is likely, however, that this prison was further south down St Werburgh Street in the area of the Main Guard marked on Rocque's map, 1756 (Figure 13).

## 2.10. The 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Streetscape

The Study Area flourished in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century with the regeneration of the city and the introduction of the brick terraced houses with curvilinear gable known as the 'Dutch Billy', which all but dominated the urban landscape in Dublin at this date. Jonathan Swift was born in no. 9 (or 7) Hoey's Court and, as a result, a detailed drawing survives of the type of house occupying the Masterplan Area at this date (Figure 12). In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Castle Street was still a very fashionable quarter to live, close to the castle, and had many noted parishioners including the Antiquarian James Ware. The church bears testimony to this wealth in the sumptuous funerary monuments within the church and the elaborate gravestones in the graveyard (Sir Edward Fitzgerald, the Anglo-Irish nationalist, reposes in a burial vault under the chancel). Rocque's map of Dublin of 1756 captures a thriving bustling quarter with many cellared brick house set around various access lanes and courts, dominated by Hoey's Court in Site 3 (Figure 13).

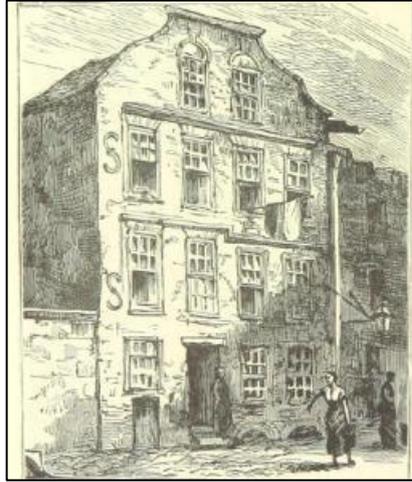


Figure 12 Engraving of Jonathan Swift's birthplace reproduced from 'The scenery and antiquities of Ireland', 1884

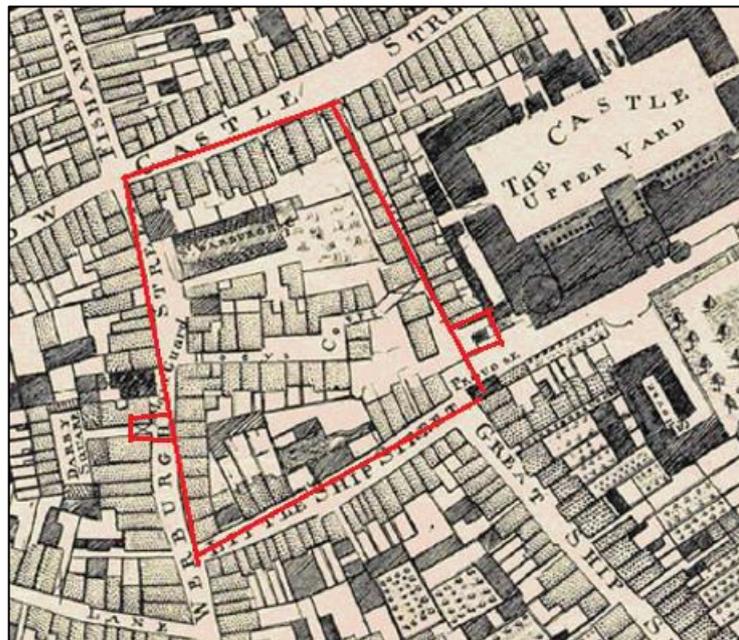


Figure 13 John Rocque's map of Dublin (1756)

Original laneways, possibly with origins in the medieval period, provided access both north-south and east-west through the Masterplan Area providing a connectivity and legibility that is not present today. By the early 1800s however, the Anglo-Irish aristocracy was in general decline and leaving Dublin in large numbers, their once grand houses eventually converted into tenements, which saw much dereliction and over-crowding. The Masterplan Area suffered this dramatic decline especially in Hoey's Court (Site 2) but also along Castle Street and Werburgh Street. All the buildings of Hoey's Court (Site 2) and Ship Street Little (Site 4) have now been demolished with only remnants of the odd brick wall surviving as boundary walls bearing testimony to this once thriving urban space.

### 3. DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION AREA

#### 3.1. Statutory Protections in Place

Recorded and National Monuments within the Masterplan Area are listed in Table 1 below and are depicted on Figure 14. Some of these features (the City Wall, the tower site, the 'Pole Gate') are depicted on the historic 25-inch OS map (Figure 3).

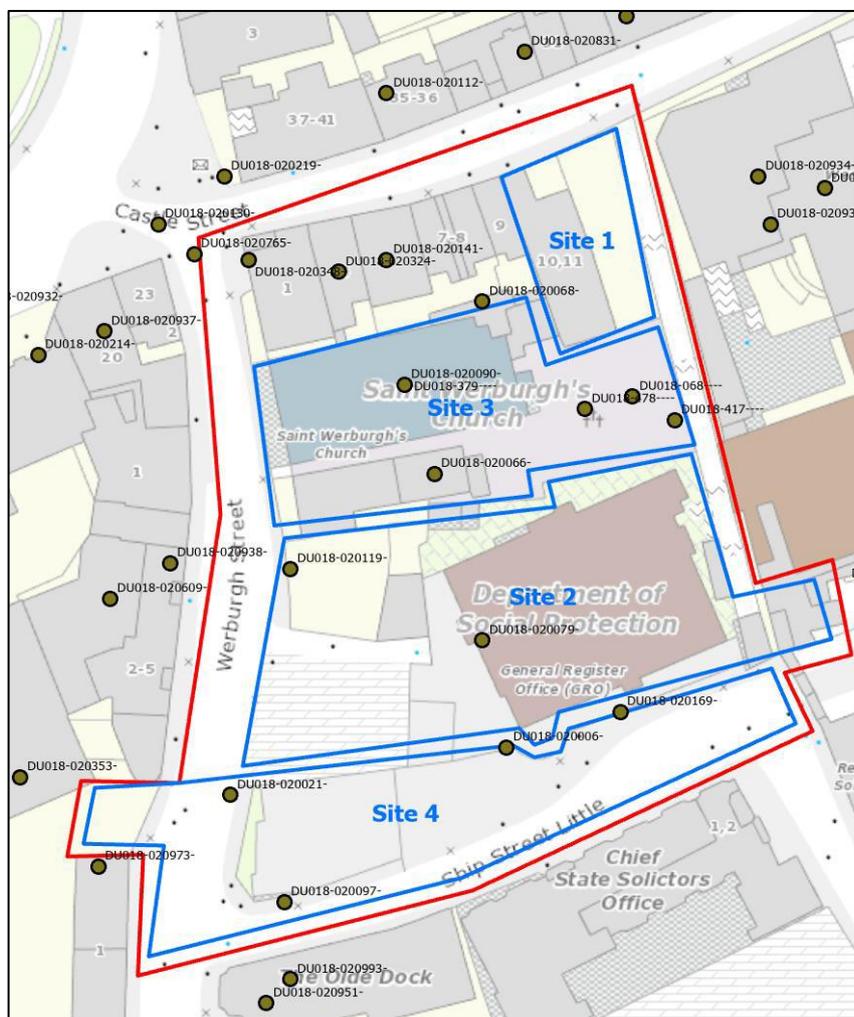


Figure 14 RMP / SMR locations

Table 1 RMP / SMR sites in Masterplan Area

RMP / SMR no.	Class	Name	SDRA Area
DU018-020097	Water mill	The 'Pole Mills'	Site 4
DU018-020006	Tower Site	'Stanihurst Tower' Site	Site 2, Site 4
DU018-02021	Gateway site	'Pole Gate' on Werburgh Street	Site 4
DU018-020079	Church Site	St Martin's Medieval Church	Site 2
DU018-020119	Gaol site	Gaol site	Site 2
DU018-020169 (now recorded as DU018-020001)	Redundant Record formerly Town Wall	Town Wall, National Monument	Site 2 and Site 4

RMP / SMR no.	Class	Name	SDRA Area
DU018-068	Chapel,	Chapel	Site 3
DU018-417	Grave-slab	Grave-slab	Site 3
DU018-020090	Church	Church	Site 3
DU018-020068	Chapel	Chapel	Site 3
DU018-020765	Building	Building	Masterplan Area
DU018-020348	House – 18th 19th century	Former cage-work house	Masterplan Area
DU018-020324	House 18th/ 19th century	House 18th/ 19th century	Masterplan Area
DU018-020141	Building	Building	Masterplan Area

### 3.2. Site 1 – Castle Street

This site is occupied by a building (western side) and a carpark (eastern side) and is bordered on the east by the castle steps and to the south by the wall of St Werburgh’s graveyard. Site 1 fronts onto Castle Street, the main street in Dublin during medieval times and a modern building adjoins the site to the west.



Plate 2 Castle Street from the east



Plate 3 Site 1, east end, from the north



Plate 4 Junction of Werburgh Street and Castle Street, from the east: note Christchurch Cathedral

### 3.2.1. Archaeological Background

The site lies within the historic city of Dublin, immediately to the west of Dublin Castle, separated by the castle steps which border the site and were constructed in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Excavations on the northern side of Castle Street by Martin Byrne found Hiberno-Norse habitation deposits in the form of post and wattle houses within property plots and in some cases defined by low stone walls between c.2.3-6.5m below ground level (Licence Ref., 91E0079). The excavations unearthed up to 4m of rich archaeological deposits.

St Werburgh's church lies to the south, divided from Site 1 by the graveyard wall. Rocque's map, dated 1756, depicts houses fronting onto Castle Street but with a large open area to the rear backing onto the precinct wall around the graveyard (Figure 13). The area is reputed to be the residence of Sir James Ware, the 17<sup>th</sup> century antiquarian and is annotated as 'Garter Court' on later Ordnance Survey maps.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century brick houses that fronted onto Werburgh Street had cellars, which have effectively removed up to 2m of the organic archaeology along the street frontage but just within the footprint of the buildings. These cellars are likely to survive intact and are usually excavated under licence and recorded before removal, if they cannot be retained in situ. Up to 2.50m of organic material potentially survive beneath the cellar floors area likely to survive with the deposits directly under the slab dating to the early 12<sup>th</sup> century.

The backyards or gardens of the houses stretching back to the graveyard where there are no cellars are likely to contain deeper and more intact deposits with continuous undisturbed archaeological sequences, up to 4.50m in depth, and dating from the late 9<sup>th</sup> century up to the modern day. These back-areas often contains smaller brick buildings, cisterns, wells and yards, as well as areas of localized industrial activity such as smelting, or iron-working. While there were gardens and orchards in this general area in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards and thus likely to produce less intensive soils dating to the later medieval period, it should be noted that there are likely to be dense Viking deposits beneath these soils as the Viking settlement was far more intensely occupied within the embankments in the early period.

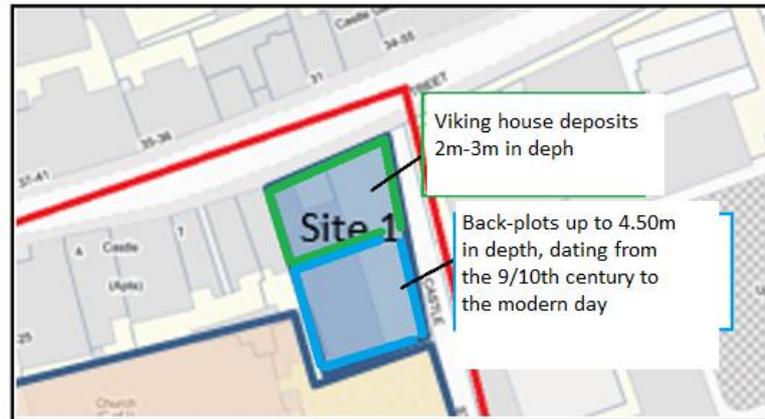


Figure 15 Summary of deposits

### 3.2.2. Previous Archaeological Investigations

The eastern side of the site (the carpark area) was archaeologically tested (Licence Reference 07E0387; Simpson 2007) and infilled cellars to a depth of at least 3.5m in depth were exposed (Figure 16). The underlying archaeological deposits were not exposed as the machine could not reach them.

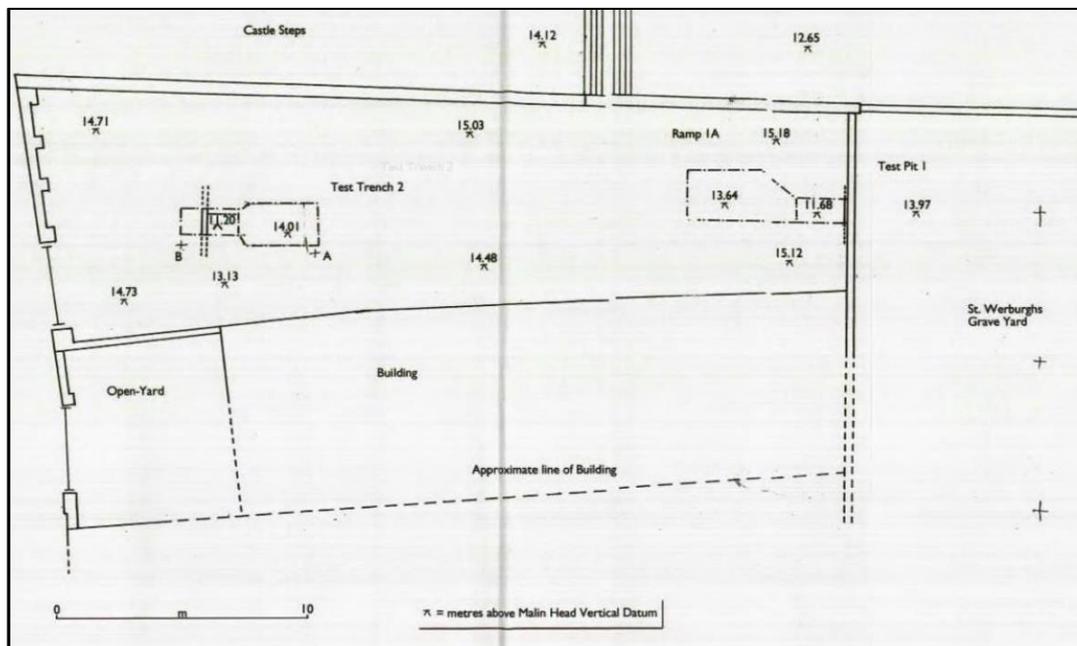


Figure 16 The test trench layout at 10-13 Castle Street (after Simpson 2007)

### 3.2.3. SDR Archaeological Investigations

This site would be a good contender for a ‘high definition’ research excavation of Viking deposits, especially the western end fronting onto the street (Figure 17). The preservation of high-status Vikings buildings is a high possibility. The location is accessible from Castle Street and an access point to allow for public viewing would greatly enhance public engagement. In addition to this, an excavation would effectively ‘resolve’ an area that could then be developed, possibly with a basement. A research excavation in this location would also facilitate a north-south access route (along the lines of the medieval St Martin’s Lane) from Castle Street into the graveyard of Site 3, which could physically connect these two sites and perhaps allow for the creation of a more

accessible route into the rear of St Werburgh’s church. In the event this is chosen as the research excavation, secant piling as a method of stabilisation would ensure the obtain maximum space to excavate.

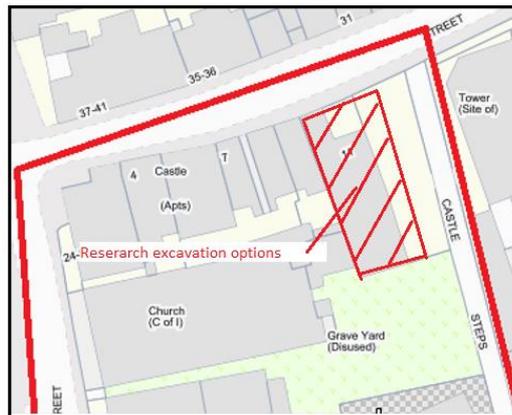


Figure 17 Possible research excavation, Site 1

### 3.2.3.1. Stage 2 Investigations

Two bore holes (BH1 and BH2) will be drilled to a depth of 10m as part of the Masterplan investigations to establish if the underlying archaeological deposits can be identified, examined and if the relevant material emerges (Plate 5). These bores are to be placed to the south of the existing carpark plot and to the north. This will assist with building up a deposit model and identify if there are any high spots of archaeological interest. A test-pit will also be excavated in the courtyard to the front of the adjoining building (TP13; Plate 6).



Plate 5 Site 1 showing the carpark – BH1 and BH2 are in this area



Plate 6 Site 1, courtyard facing onto Castle Street

### 3.2.4. Proposed Development in Site 1

In the event the research excavation is not in this location, development may be restricted in this site due to the below ground sensitive archaeology. In terms of development, any proposed new buildings would have a requirement to be lightweight low-impact foundations which translates into no basement, lightweight foundations with excavation of the upper levels required to accommodate raft foundations. In the past similar sites have been piled (Kinlay House, Jury's Hotel) using a combination of large piles (900mm in diameter) with spans of up to 8m, as a strategy to employ preservation in situ, sometimes in combination with compensatory research excavation, as happened at Ross Road/Jury's Inns site. The ground-beams, pile-caps, lift shafts etc. were all excavated by hand as part of the archaeological strategy of the site. There is also a slight possibility of burials at the rear of the site, as the site of St Martin's church and graveyard is not known, which would also have to be avoided or excavated.

### 3.3. Site 2 – Hoey's Court

This site is essentially divided into two current uses. The former Labour Exchange (OPW building) occupies the eastern end of Site 2, while the western end is now fenced off but was used as a surface level car park. The site is bounded on the north by the high late 17<sup>th</sup> / early 18<sup>th</sup> century limestone graveyard wall of St Werburgh's church and on the south by an extant section of the City Wall (which is temporarily propped up), both walls marking a significant drop in ground level from Hoey's Court to Ship Street Little, out of the medieval city. External to this, along Ship Street Little, the River Poddle, within a brick culvert, runs parallel to the City Wall. The eastern portion of the site has not been archaeologically tested and is currently occupied by what was known as the Labour Exchange building (as mentioned above), a one and two-storey (on the southern side), flat-roofed concrete building, measuring approximately 38m east-west by 30m wide. This has a small basement at the northern side, accessed by a long corridor, which measures approximately 12m east-west by 6m wide and is approximately 2.95m in height. This building is a protected structure and uses concrete in a technically innovative manner. An air raid shelter is also noted to the east of the building.

The western part of the site, fronting onto the street, was previously occupied by a carpark. This open and gravelled area is now fenced off. The northern extent of the site comprises the Deanery garden and carpark. The site was formerly Hoey's Court, which was once a very prestigious residential area with a myriad of small access routes, which has been almost completely removed from the streetscape and is now in a semi-derelict state.



Plate 7 Site 2, from the north-west



Plate 8 Site 2, from the north



Plate 9 Hoey's Lane from the west



Plate 10 View from the south with the city on the righthand side

### 3.3.1. Archaeological Background

The site is located within the historic city of Dublin. While this site has had little or no testing, investigations around the site and the extant remains reveal significant archaeological potential in this large site so close to Dublin Castle. Excavation on the western side of St Werburgh's Street, at the entrance into the Jury's car-park, revealed just how important these deposits are likely to be, revealing deep Viking deposits containing houses, pathways, boundaries etc. with numerous artefacts including a very rare coin-hoard (Hayden 1994). This is likely to be reflected in Site 2 although Werburgh Street has been widened with a possible loss of street frontage but nevertheless there are likely to be similarly dense habitation deposits, dating from the late 9th/early 10th century onwards.

Critically, the excavation on the western side of Werburgh Street located the remains of the early 10<sup>th</sup> century embankment running through the site, orientated east-west, and projected to run therefore through the Hoey's Court site (Licence Ref. 94E0025; Hayden 1994, 2003; Figure 18). This massive structure measured at least 4m in height by 5m in width, topped with a fence. In addition to this, excavations further west at Ross Road also located an early stone wall, which was cut into the northern flank of this embankment thus there is a possibility that this early City Wall also extends through the southern end of the Hoey's Court site (Walsh 1992). As mentioned previously, the documentary sources record the presence of St Martin's church and graveyard, which may have been in Hoey's Court, as it is not clear which side of St Werburgh's church it was located.

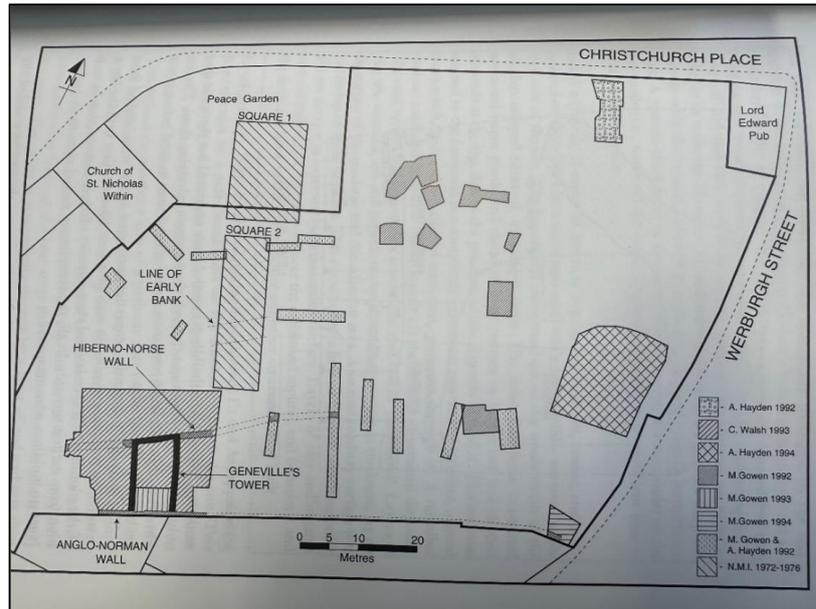


Figure 18 Excavations to the west of Werburgh Street (Hayden 2003)

The existing City Wall forms the standing boundary of the site and this measures 4m in height on the southern side (Ship Street Little) and 1.20m in height from the north (Hoey's Court). This wall has had to be propped in the recent past, from the Ship Street Little side. The wall probably extends for another 1m in depth on the southern side (based on other sections of the wall) but it is not known if there is a stone footing or projecting foundation. The section of extant wall at the southern end of Site 4 is likely to date to c. 1170 and originally there would have been a wall-walk or alure along the top of the wall for the defence of the city (which was everyone's personal responsibility). This public access route was robustly defended as demonstrated by an incident recorded in the documentary sources on Bridge Street where an individual built a tower on the City Wall, which impeded public access and the Mayor and Commonalty ordered it to be demolished. Thus, there is a historical context for a wall walk at this level.

The site of St Werburgh's Gate lay to the west of Site 2 and this is likely to be in the centre of the road. There was presumably a causeway or bridge over the moat leading to the gate.

'Stanihurst's Tower' on the north side of Little Ship Street was a mural tower located to the east of Pole Gate (DU018-020021-) which defended the City Wall. Known as 'Stanihurst's Tower' after James Stanihurst, recorder of Dublin, who owned an adjoining property. The remains still survive on the north side of Ship Street where a section of City Wall survives on either side of it (Healy 1973). It was refaced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and has a thick base batter and is built of coursed masonry, battered towards the extra-mural street level on its southern face. The form of the tower was modified in 2002 (Clarke 2002).

The cartographic sources suggest that this area was intensively occupied in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by 3-4-story-over-basement Dutch Billy houses, which were depicted by Rocque in 1756 (Figure 13). These houses fronted onto a large courtyard known as Hoey's court and No. 9 is reputed to be the birthplace of Jonathan Swift in 1667 (Figure 12) (although No. 7 is noted on the plaque that adorns the Castle Steps). This collection of houses led out into Cole's Lane, now the Castle Steps, on the eastern side of the site and onto Werburgh Street to the west. The decline began with the Anglo-Irish ascendancy began to leave the city in the early 1800s and today all of this busy quarter has been completely demolished.

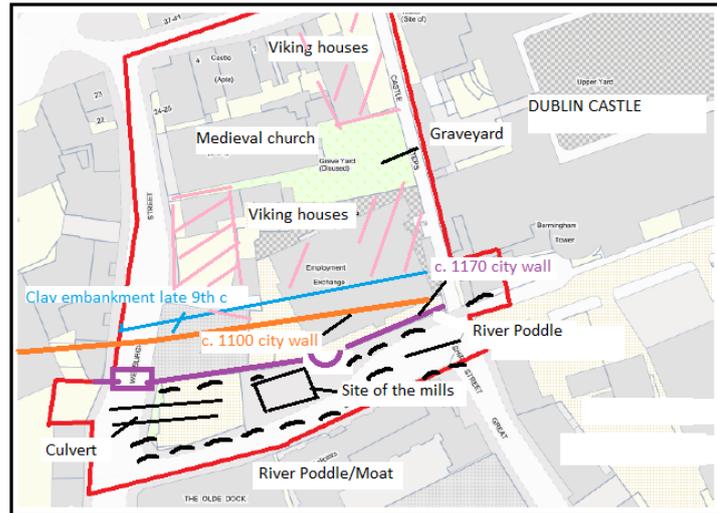


Figure 19 Major features at the southern end of Site 2

### 3.3.2. Previous Archaeological Investigations

Limited archaeological testing carried has been carried out on the western side of the site (Licence Ref 99E0228, Simpson 1999). This established that there are remains of infilled 18<sup>th</sup> century cellars cut into Viking Age deposits along the street frontage which are approximately 1.70m in depth at the northern end of the site, and extend to 3m in depth at the southern end, following the fall in the existing ground level from north to south. The cellars were cut directly into medieval soils consisting of dark-brown organic deposits, which can probably be identified as the remains of Hiberno-Norse habitation. The test-trenches extended to the top of these levels only, but they can be estimated to be between 2.5 and 3m in depth.

Moving east within the carpark area, this area was slightly higher and the infilled cellars are between 2.40m – 2.80m in depth.

A survey of the southern and northern elevations of the City Wall and an impact assessment of the proposed redevelopment of the Labour Exchange Building took place in 2003 (Licence Ref 03E0712).

In the environs and to the west of the former Labour Exchange building, monitoring of the removal of a Victorian red brick building (10m north-south x 7.50m wide and one story high) took place. The southern gable of this building sat directly on the City Wall (which was protected during the removal process). The wall in this area was then built up and consolidated (Phelan 2004).

### 3.3.3. SDRA Archaeological Investigations

A large portion of the site is open on the western side and therefore accessible for archaeological testing. Testing along the northern side of the City Wall, from Hoey's court would be problematic, as the Rocque map dated 1756 does not show any houses up against the wall thus the deposits are likely to be intact on this side (Figure 13). Any testing in this location would involve cutting through the deposits that had built up against the wall from the late 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Site 2 is a very good contender for a research excavation as the site is significantly larger than Castle Street, Site 1. There is also likely to be brick cellars over much of the site, as suggested by Rocque's map 1756 (Figure 13), but in other areas there may be none including Hoey's Lane (still

an access route), the former Hoey's court, the south-east corner of the site and along the City Wall on the western side.

The site is so large there are several possible locations (Figure 21) but the decision would have to be made to either excavate the street frontage (Option 1) where Viking houses are likely to survive (although Werburgh's Street was widened in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century) or to excavate the defences extending through the southern side of the site at the western side of the site with a possibility of houses at the northern end (Option 2). It should be noted that there was a large research excavation, which captures the defences a short distance to the west of the Masterplan Area at Ross Road and a second excavation might duplicate the information. A third option, Option 3, could be to excavate in the middle of the site where there are fewer 18<sup>th</sup> century cellars and where a combination of both habitation and defences might survive. Option 1 covers an area that could potentially reveal up to five house plots with the fore-runner of Hoey's Lane along with a stretch of the base of the c.1170 City Wall while Option 2 is on the eastern side of the site, within the former Employment Exchange building, could potentially reveal the embankments and the first City Wall at the southern side, with houses on the north side. Option 3 is an area that was probably divided into property plots with houses from the Viking period onwards, as was found in Ross Road further east.

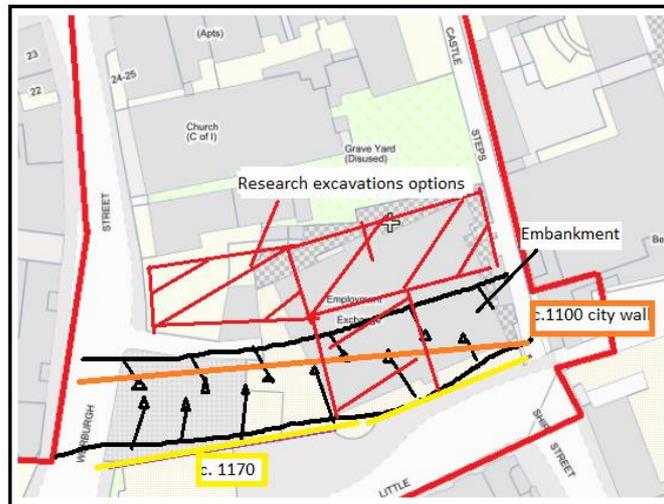


Figure 20 Locations of possible research excavations in Site 2 in red



Figure 21 Research options 1, 2 and 3

The research excavation could be a combination of all three of the options, the site chosen after the testing programme and outline building designs which would identify where the impact was likely to be the greatest. This site has probably the best potential for public engagement, as it is

large and could accommodate visitor facilities that might include cabins displaying finds and a public viewing ramp. In terms of managing the excavation this site would offer the best advantage in terms of opening up a large area and in spoil removal and management. Within Site 2, with the retention of the Exchange building, Option 1 becomes the only and preferred option for the Site.

### 3.3.3.1. Stage 2 Investigations

The current stage of the Masterplan involves a programme of testing under licence (Section 26) and, where in the vicinity of the City Wall, under Ministerial Consent (Section 14). The Ministerial Consent is an extension of a previous Ministerial Consent (C001243) which was granted for the removal of vegetation and graffiti from the City Wall and the demolition of a 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century wall in the vicinity of the City Wall. The Stage 2 Investigations are as follows:

#### Section 26 Testing

Test-trench 7 is located at the northeast corner of the site immediately to the south of St Werburgh's church and graveyard wall (Plate 13). It is located there to establish if there are burials outside the present graveyard wall and to establish if the graveyard has contracted over the years. This investigation will also provide information about the depth and date of foundations of the graveyard wall and establish if there are any remains of the brick buildings of Hoey's Court. Test-trenches 8 and 9 may produce similar information about the graveyard wall foundations and also possibly remains of houses and cellars of Hoey's Court (Plate 11).

Borehole 8 forms part of the northwest-southeast line of boreholes designed to create a profile through the deposits for the contour modelling. BH6 and 7 are being carried out under Ministerial Consent. It should be noted the archaeological works may be constrained due to the presence of services in and around the Exchange building.

If access can be gained and agreements put in place, a single test-trench (TP13) and borehole (BH12) is proposed for the carpark and garden of the Deanery (Plate 12), an area of land to the south of Saint Werburgh's Church.



Plate 11 Facing the shared wall between Site 2 and Site 3 and the location of TP8 and TP9



Plate 12 The Deanery location for TP13 and BH12



Plate 13 Site 2 looking at the northeast corner where TP7 is located, to the south of the graveyard wall

#### Section 14 Testing (Ministerial Consent)

Test trenches 1-3 are within the carpark area to establish the depth of rubble overlying the earlier archaeologist deposits. Boreholes 3-5 are placed to aid the creation of an archaeological profile detailing the level (relative to Ordnance Datum) and depth of rubble currently sealing the important medieval deposits beneath (Plate 14, Plate 16, Plate 17).

Testing along the northern side of the City Wall may be challenging as this side of the wall may retain intact deposits. With this in mind, TP4 has been chosen to test an area of known disturbance and possible cellars. At TP5 and TP6 which are located to the north of the wall and south of the Labour Exchange it will be interesting to establish if there are intact deposits that have been built up against the wall since the 12<sup>th</sup> century and also if there is a subterranean space known as the Gun Gallery beneath the existing surface and as evidenced in the refaced wall from the southern

side with the blocked up gun loops (Plate 19). There is an opportunity to explore the original alignment of the City Wall as shown on the Ordnance Survey map 1838 (Figure 22, Plate 17) and to find out what works and the extent of them were carried out when the wall was refaced during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Plate 15).

It should be noted the archaeological works may be constrained due to the presence of services in and around the Exchange building.



Plate 14 Former carpark and the location for TP1-3 and BH3-5, this area is now fenced



Plate 15 Reinstated Victorian Wall, located on top of the City Wall. TP4 is located to the north of the wall



Plate 16 TP5 is located on the inside of the bastion formerly recorded as Stanihurst's Tower



Plate 17 Site 2, view of TP5 on the line of the original City Wall, located to the north of the now upstanding City Wall

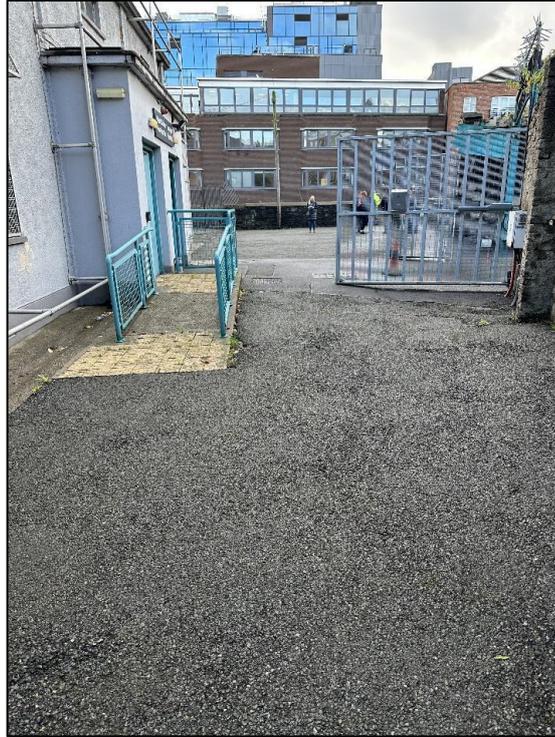


Plate 18 Facing south along the line of boreholes BH5-BH7



Plate 19 Photograph of the southern elevation of the City Wall c. 1847-64 with gunloops shown

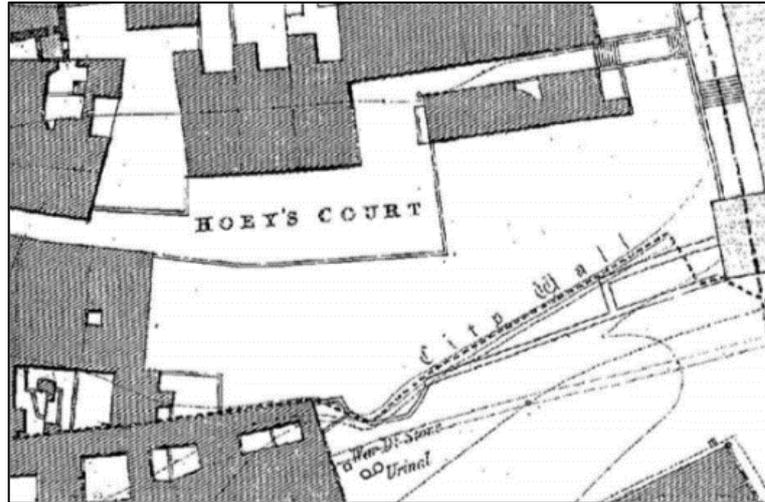


Figure 22 Ordnance Survey, 1838 (1847), Sheet 21 five foot scale, showing the original line of the City Wall and possible gunloop chamber

### 3.3.4. Proposed Development in Site 2

Development of Site 2 will explore the retention of the Exchange building with the possibility of building out onto the street frontage of Werburgh Street. Historic plot retention forms part of the development strategy. The birthplace of Jonathan Swift should be commemorated. Access along the City Wall on the south for the proposed City Wall walk is also required although engineering structural works will be necessary to support the wall on this side. The graveyard wall on the northern side of the site should also be given breathing space, from the Site 2 side, to protect and enhance this substantial original 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century feature but also to protect the elevated views from the graveyard to the north, out of the walled city.

In terms of development, if a research excavation is carried out this will provide at least one area that is archaeologically resolved but elsewhere archaeological resolution will be required only where there will be impact. Lightweight foundations and no basements would reduce the archaeological requirement, as it is unlikely wholesale dense piling through these deposits would be permitted in this location.

### 3.4. Site 3 – St Werburgh’s Church

St Werburgh’s Church and graveyard are subject to a separate conservation and management plan, but as it dominates the Masterplan Area, it will be discussed here also. It was founded in 1178 and located on the eastern side of Werburgh Street, but despite the fact it has an imposing street presence, this remains one of the most hidden monuments in Dublin, due mainly to its elevated position and lack of higher viewing spots. The majestic sandstone façade however (Plate 20), garners significant attention from people passing by and there is great interest in the monument in the locality.



Plate 20 St Werburgh's Church front façade from the north

The graveyard is in an elevated position, with a steep drop to the south, which is bounded by a high limestone wall on the south, as previously mentioned, and the Castle Steps on the eastern side, dropping in level from Castle Street, down to Ship Street Little, outside the City Wall. Thus, Site 3 forms a nodal point in the Masterplan Area, which links Site 1 and 2/4 together. Access however, is very limited and, at present only via the narrow passageway on the southern side of the church and from the rear yards of the houses on Castle Street. The possibility of the development of Site 1, however, may present an opportunity to provide additional access via a ramp along that route directly into the graveyard.

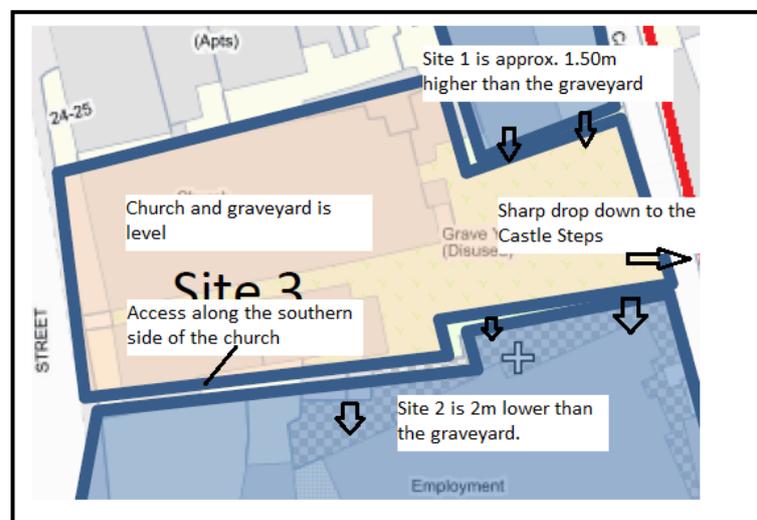


Figure 23 Site 3 – St Werburgh's Church and graveyard



Plate 21 From the south-west showing the elevation of the medieval city

### 3.4.1. Archaeological Background

St Werburgh's Church was a very important ecclesiastical establishment, founded after the Anglo-Norman invasion but on the site of an earlier church, St Martin's, which it replaced or possibly incorporated. This earlier church also had a graveyard and the documentary sources suggests that it is located somewhere within the Masterplan Area (it should be noted antiquarian burials were found on the opposite side of the street, in Derby Square, which were thought at the time to relate to St Martin's although the sources make it clear the church was sited in and around St Werburgh's church). St Martin's was a very important church, as little is known about the Irish churches prior to the Anglo-Norman invasion and it does not appear to have been demolished after the invasion, as it is recorded in the later medieval sources.

St Werburgh's church was a very important foundation, with chapels on the northern and southern side, which served a very large population. The chapel on the northern side was dedicated to St Martin, preserving this dedication, and this may have even incorporated the previous church within the new building. St Werburgh's also has two unique surviving medieval documentary sources in the form of the parish deeds, which record the parish accounts of the property the church owned in the general locality, and the churchwarden (proctors) accounts, which are essentially accounts for the church over a significant time period. Both are invaluable sources, not only for the Masterplan Area but also for the rest of the city in the incidental information they record. From these sources it can be established that the church was very large by the 1660s, raised on pillars and arches and it contained a square tower at the chancel end (eastern) with a spire, which is very unusual. The southern side aisle was subsequently widened and lengthened.

However, the church was generally dilapidated and drew the attention of Archbishop King who was on a crusade to improve the parish churches in Dublin thus it was rebuilt by 1729 in the new 'galleried style', which included underground stone crypts (27no.). A number of small buildings in front of the church were demolished to extend the church on the western side to the street frontage, and the present sandstone façade was then added. This was originally far more elaborate and included a square tower with a cupola on top, which was a magnificent structure. The church suffered a large fire in 1754 which destroyed the interior and this was completely rebuilt by 1759, the surviving interior features today dating to this period. The cupola was removed and replaced by a tower and steeple, which was subsequently demolished in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Other important buildings within the St Werburgh's complex is the Deanery, to the south of the church, originally a 19<sup>th</sup> century parish school with a second ruined building to the east, which has now been converted into a garden. Both may contain earlier elements of the buildings depicted on Rocque's map (Figure 13). There is also an extant Victorian brick house at the eastern end of the church, on the north-east corner known as the 'Sexton's house' (Plate 22). Very unusually, the basement of this building can be dated to the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century at least, thus this was evidently knocked down to ground level but rebuilt in c. 1920 on the same basement footprint.

The graveyard to the east of the church must be considered the gem of this site and is a unique survival in Dublin, with no other intact graveyard surviving within the walled city. This hidden graveyard, to the east of the church, is a sizable calm green lung measuring roughly 27-31.30m east-west on the northern side by 25.60m north-south (Figure 24). It contains a large collection of funerary monuments, table tombs and ledgers but also at least one identifiable medieval stone. Most of the headstones date from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards but there are 17<sup>th</sup> century examples also. Despite the fact an area was cleared of headstones in the interior, the original layout of the graveyard still survives, especially in the north-east and south-east corners (pers. comm. John Tierney).

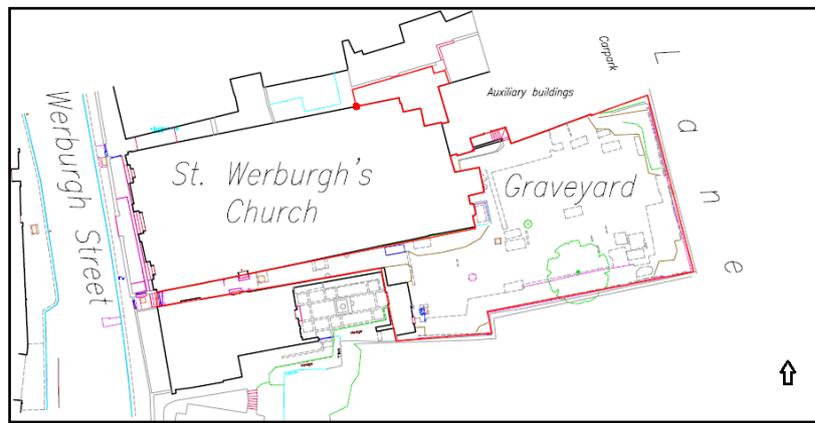


Figure 24 St Werburgh's Church and graveyard

The graveyard is medieval in date originally but has contracted and expanded throughout the centuries and it is not certain whether or not it originally extended beyond the late 17<sup>th</sup> /early 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure that survives today. The Castle Steps, formerly Cole Alley, is likely to be a very early route with a reference in the medieval sources to the gate of 'St Austin's' in the City Wall, possibly the forerunner of this lane. Historical references also consistently record St Martin's Lane, which lead from Castle Street into the interior of the Masterplan Area. While this may be the same route is likely to represent a second lane.



Plate 22 The view of the east end of the church, from east



Plate 23 The graveyard from the south-east, Site 1 on the right, Site 2 on the left



Plate 24 The graveyard looking to the south-east



Plate 25 The graveyard from the north in winter



Plate 26 The southern side of the graveyard, from the east



Plate 27 The graveyard from the south-east

### 3.4.2. SDRA Archaeological Investigations

St Werburgh's Church currently undergoing archaeological testing, as there are proposals to convert the church, which is in a poor state of repair, into a small cultural venue. Additional investigations of Site 3 are not required as part of the Masterplan.

### 3.4.3. Proposed Development in Site 3

The development proposals are likely to be lightweight buildings associated with the conversion of the church into a cultural centre.

## 3.5. Site 4 – Ship Street Little

The Ship Street Little site (Site 4) lies outside the medieval walled city where a significant extant section of the City Wall survives, forming the boundary of the site on the northern side. This long open site measures roughly 84m, east-west, on the northern side by 91m, east-west, on the southern side by, 18m north-south, on the western side narrowing to 7m north-south on the eastern side. It includes a dog-leg on the west side of Werburgh Street (nos 14-16), which is a small open site where archaeological testing located the below-ground remains of the c.1170 City Wall.

The significant extant feature of Site 4 is the City Wall, a National Monument, that runs all the way from Werburgh Street in the west to the Ship Street entrance to Dublin Castle on the east (Plate 46). At the western end, the wall is in generally poor condition but this represents the original medieval masonry, with evidence of rebuilding at the upper levels, especially at the western end (Plate 48). The wall survived as it was retained as a rear property boundary for houses that originally fronted onto the street thus it was hidden for many years. The City Wall was completely refaced in ashlar block along the eastern side of site in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in a long stretch when the Ship Street Gate to Dublin Castle was reconstructed. The re-facing included a semi-octagonal bastion that is thought to have been on the site of or incorporates parts of the original medieval tower known as Stanihurst's tower (see site 2). This re-facing programme has obscured all of the medieval facings at this end of the site.

Part of the works associated with the SDRA to date include the demolition of two walls in this area, in what was formerly a car-park at the western end of the street. Wall 1 ran along the southern boundary of the site on Ship Street Little, and was a solid wall construction of concrete and blockwork dating to the c. 1950s. Wall 2 bisected the site and ran north-south, abutting the City Wall. It was the gable of a demolished house. It was in generally poor condition but was not tied into the City Wall or structurally attached but rather built up against it. The northern end of Wall 2 was in very bad condition where it butted up against the City Wall.



Plate 28 Site 4, west end, from the south



Plate 29 Site 4 from the south-west



Plate 30 Site 4, eastern end



Plate 31 The Castle Steps from the south



Plate 32 Site 4, from the top of the city wall,  
looking west



Plate 33 Site 4, from the west  
looking east



Plate 34 Site 4, west end, looking west



Plate 35 Site 4, from the south



Plate 36 Site of the Pole Mills from Site 2, eastern end (from the top of the city wall)



Plate 37 Site of the Pole mills

### 3.5.1. Archaeological Background

This City Wall is thought to be the Anglo- Norman wall dated to the c.1170s although this is not certain as there were two City Walls (as mentioned above) positioned 11m apart, found during excavations further west at Ross Road. If both walls are still separate at Werburgh's Street, this may suggest that there were two gate-towers, the c. 1100 tower on the c. 1100 alignment, replaced by a second gate-tower in the 1170s when the City Wall was replaced. However, both walls may have converged at this gate-tower, known the Pole Gate, which would have been positioned in the middle of the street.

Ship Street Little is medieval in origin and follows the line of the city moat, which was formed by the River Poddle, channelled within timber revetments in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The lane ran along the base of the City Wall toward Dublin Castle before turning sharply east (Ship Street Great), curving around the edge of a natural pool on the Poddle, now the Dubh-linn, gardens. This pool was an important feature in medieval Dublin, the place-name 'Le Pole representing the entire area.

The Poddle River runs along Ship Street Little in culverted form extending through Dublin castle (in front of the Clock Tower building), out along Palace Street and exiting out into the Liffey in Wellington Quay. This route is somewhat artificial as the river was diverted to flow along Patrick Street in timber revetments in the 1170s and then channelled along the City Wall to form a water-filled moat, which was controlled by sluice gates. Thus, there may be timber revetments surviving at the base of the wall in Site 4.



Figure 25 Features of the southern defences

There was also an important mill complex on the river in Ship Street Little, referred to in the documentary sources as 'the Pole Mills and this operated throughout the medieval period. It was still extant in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The mills were located on a separate mill-race that ran parallel to the main city moat, as suggested on the first cartographic representation of the Poddle in 1585 (William Petty, Downs Survey). There appears to have been a small pool in this area captured by De Gomme in 1673 (Figure 10).

Rocque's map, dated 1756, preserves the streetscape of Ship Street Little in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and this reveals the Pole Mills were still in position at this date, dominating the lane but with the Poddle culverted on either side (Figure 13, Figure 26). Rocque records a widened mill-race, possibly the pool, where the water appears to be contained. There were two buildings, presumably the mills, one either side. While Rocque is not to scale, the southern mill was the largest, probably up to 8m wide by 18m long (north-south), while the northern mill was smaller. At this date, on the western side of the mill there was a terrace of three very small houses with returns and yards while to the east there was a terrace of five much larger houses, all fronting onto Ship Street Little. The culverting of the Poddle was underway in other areas in Dublin as early as 1670s but it was clearly later at the Pole Mills, as the old mills were still extant in 1762 (Pearson 2000, 134).

The site of the mills has long been identified as a vacant car-park just west of the surviving bastion on the City Wall. However, a geophysical survey carried out on the site previously in 2012 captured the exact location of the culverts beneath, which can be matched to Rocque and a map by the Wide Street Commissioners dated to the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 27). This revealed that the above-ground widened section, identified on Rocque, is now contained in two culverts, which are, in fact, positioned further west than previously thought. The accuracy of the survey is confirmed by the identification of the fork in the culvert at the eastern end, reflecting the tail-race coming back into the main culvert. The position of this fork, just south of the bastion on the City Wall, can be compared to the Wide Street Commissioners of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, which reveals a similar arrangement (*ibid.* 132) (Figure 28).

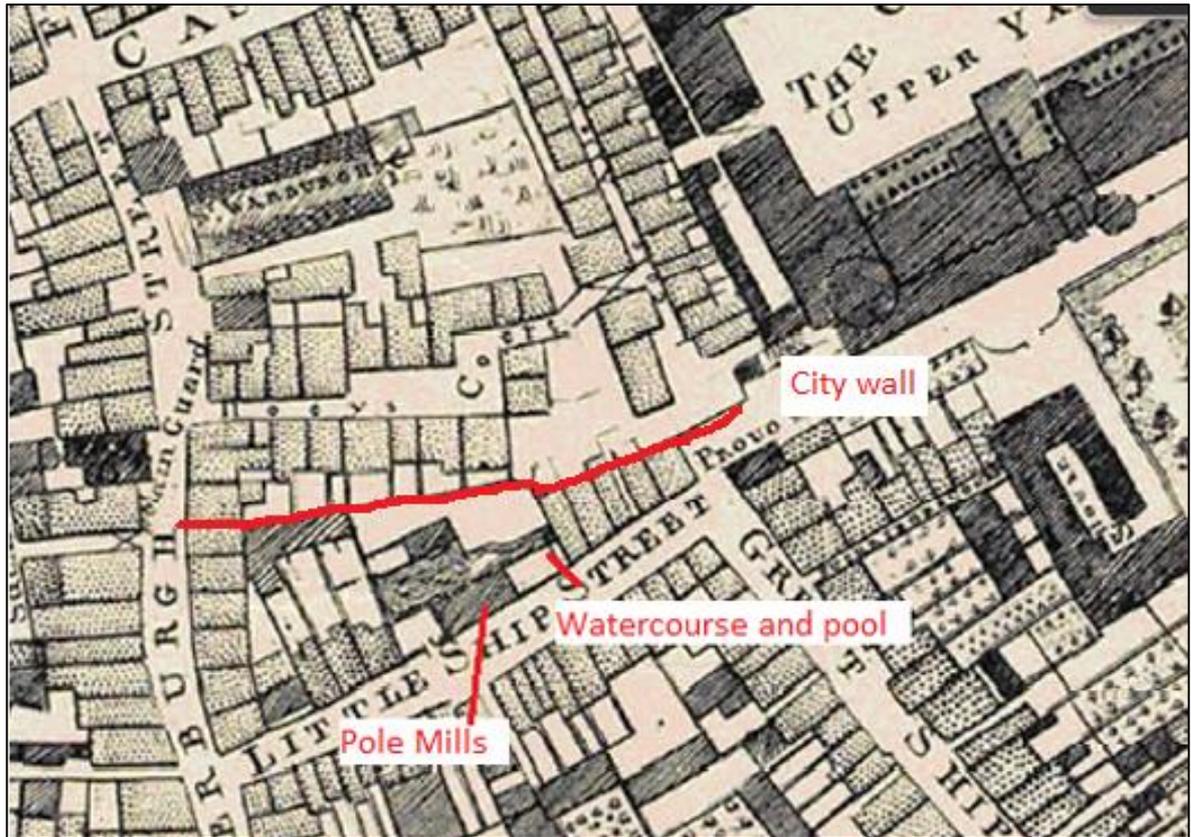


Figure 26 Pole mills and watercourse

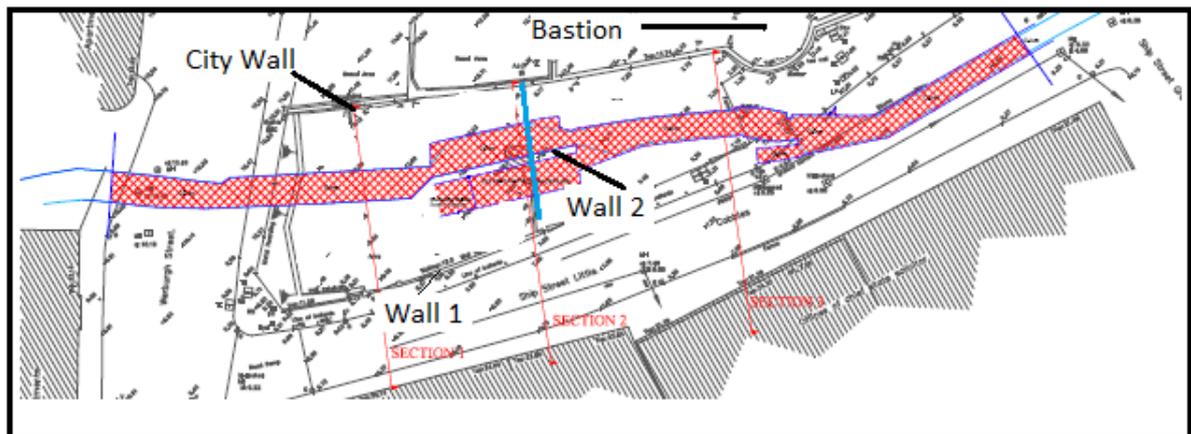


Figure 27 Geophysical survey of the culverts

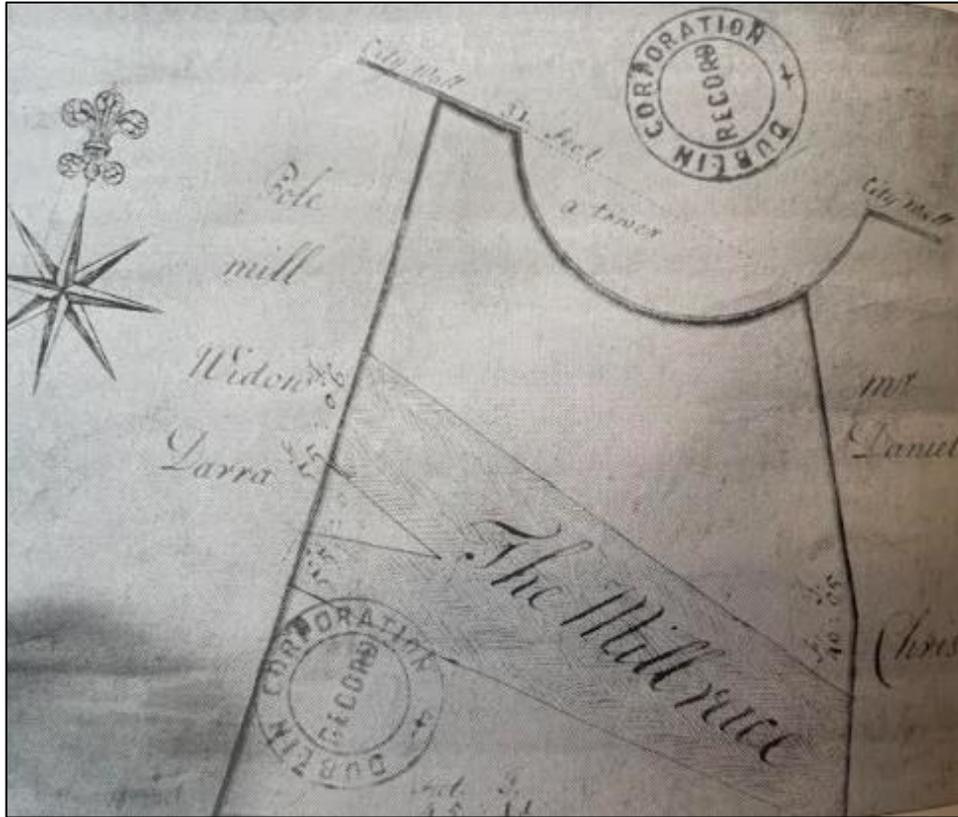


Figure 28 The location of the Pole mills and bastion (Pearson 2000, 132)

The brick wall (Wall 2) which extends across the line of these culverts and must therefore be related to the terrace of houses that were built by the Wide Street Commissioners in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, after the mill was finally demolished (Figure 29). These were small two-bay brick shops, three stories in height, with a central doorway at ground floor level, flanked by a large window at either side. The prominent fasciae suggest they are shops (Figure 30, Figure 31). The houses shared a chimney stack and survived into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The 1847 map depicts six such houses with yards to the rear (north), numbered from 22-27, from east to west and Wall 2 represents the shared party wall between 25 and 26 (Figure 29). The plan reveals a house with an open yard and a building at the rear onto the City Wall. By 1910, nos 26 and 27 were demolished with Wall 2 left standing forming the yard wall. The eastern end of the street was developed similarly by the Wide Street Commissioners.

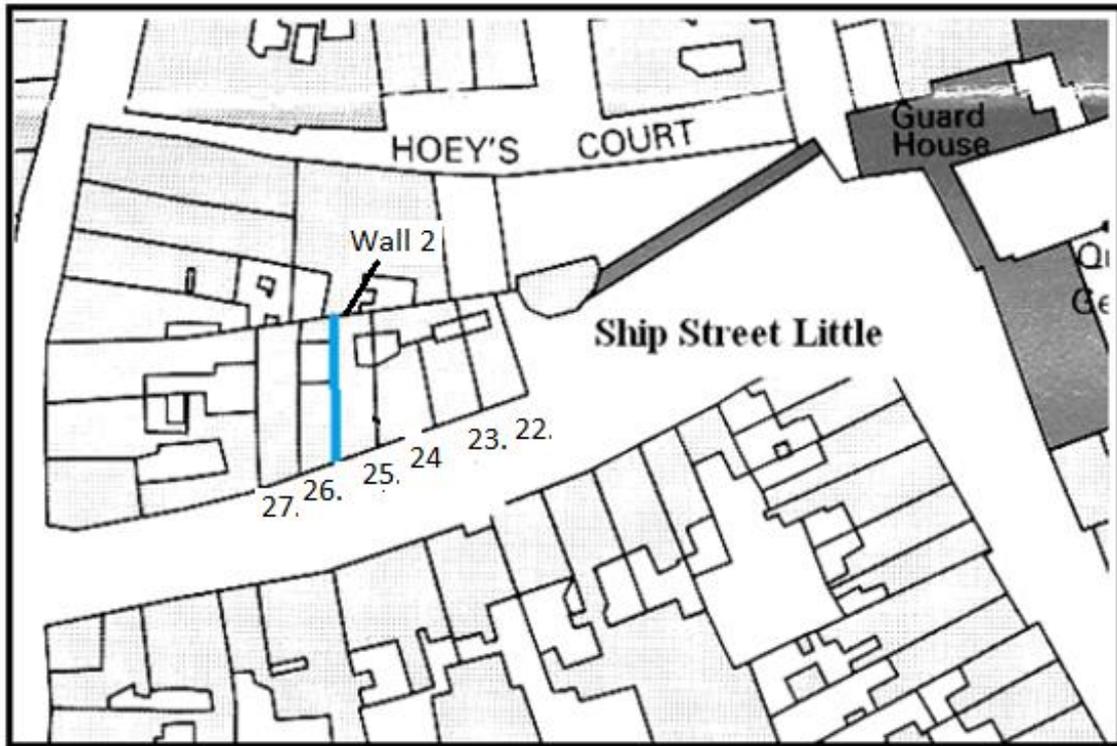


Figure 29 The plot boundaries (1847)

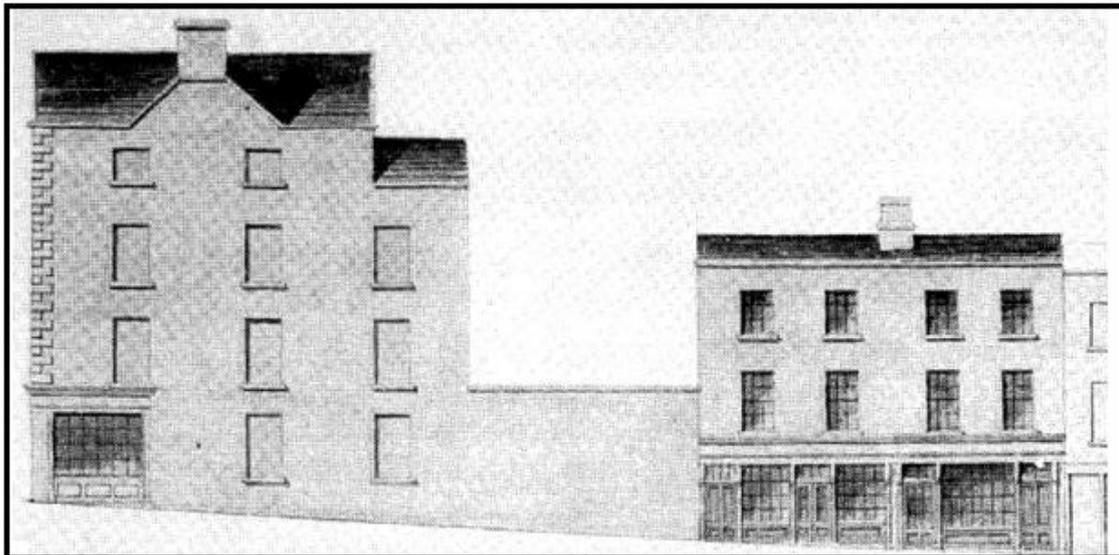


Figure 30 Little houses built by the WSC in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Pearson 2000, 134)



Figure 31 Shops on the left (Pearson 2000, 133)

This site forms the access point for the proposed wall-walk, set out as part of the archaeological strategy that followed the development of the Jury's Inn in one of the richest sites in Dublin excavation. The research excavation carried out at the southern end of this large site (Ross Road) located both sets of walls but also a large mural tower known as Genevel's tower (measuring 11.60m long by 6.4m in width) which abutted the c. 1170 wall and survived to 2 stories in height. The tower was encased in a concrete chamber after the excavations and preserved in situ, beneath the modern ground level, accessed via a man-hole. The strategy included a proposal to construct a more accessible entrance into the tower, as part of the general wall-walk.

### 3.5.2. Previous Archaeological Investigations

In 2012 emergency works were carried out by Dublin City Council along Ship Street Little that excavated 'soft material' from two large depressions that had formed in the cobbled street surface. On inspection, the brick build that was exposed by the works, was identified as the Poddle culvert, dated to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the brick-arched roof of which was exposed, lying just 0.7m beneath present ground level, considerably higher than previously thought. The arched structure was not damaged and there was no visible impact on the integrity of the structure (Licence Ref. 13E0173, Simpson 2013). Two trenches were located, the first trench was located on the northern side of the road, just 1.71m south of the pavement and just west of the octagonal turret on the City Wall (the north-west corner of the pit was located 8.29m south of the City Wall, 1.35m west of the turret). This trench exposed part of the brick arched roof of the Poddle culvert, a north south wall that appeared to represent a cellar possibly associated with the houses that ran along the street.

Trench 2 was located 7.4m south of the City Wall, and this measured 3m square by 1.6m in depth and revealed the Poddle culvert, with its arched roof lying 0.73m below the present ground level. The culvert appeared to be located within a cellar with the presence of a limestone wall.

This investigation was significant as it identified the Poddle culvert some 7m-8m south of the upstanding City Wall at a depth of less than 1m (.70m) below the present street surface.

In 2016, a sub-surface laser scan survey of the culvert was carried out by Coastway Surveys (Figure 32, Figure 33). This revealed on average that the culvert is approximately 0.5m-1.4m below the present ground surface and that the culvert itself ranges in height between 2.1m-2.7m and is 2.5m-3.3m wide. In the area of the mill, the culvert splits into two separate passages, one of which is partially filled with rubble and the extent is unknown.

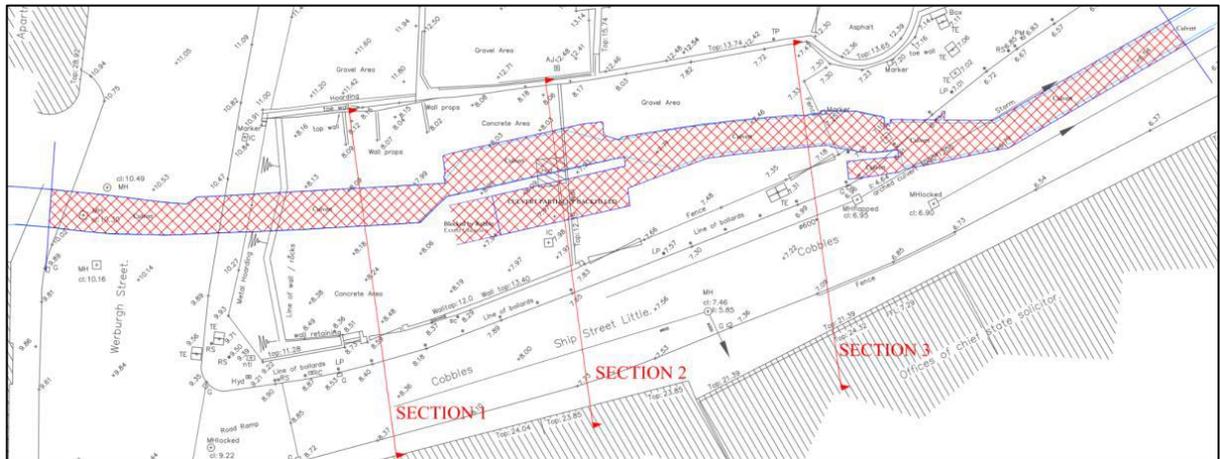


Figure 32 Poddle River culvert sub-surface laser scan (Coastway Surveys 2016)

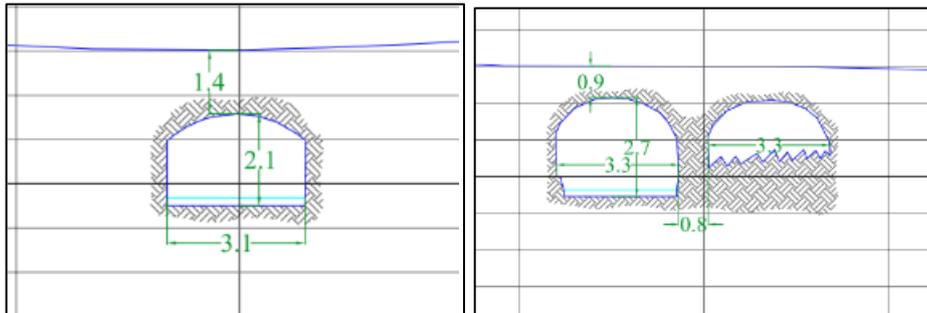


Figure 33 Section 1 and Section 2 showing culvert

In 1992, Nos 1-2 and 6-7 Ship Street Little were test excavated by Georgina Scally (1992, Licence Ref 92E0207; Figure 34). Three test trenches were excavated and it was found that rubble fill packed into deep cellars stood directly upon archaeological layers. Testing extended to a depth of approximately 8.30m bgl, and natural boulder clay was not exposed, approximately 3m of rubble overburden was encountered. In test trench 2, the identification of worked timbers alongside a gravel deposit (thought to be the natural course of the River Poddle or part of the town moat) may indicate the presence of revetments or the Pole Mills. This trench was abandoned at a depth of 6.5m due to water ingress. In test trench 1, wooden barrel staves were identified which may indicate tanning pits. Organic deposits were encountered, and animal bone, shell and hazelnuts may indicate occupational activity. Further investigation of this area in 1993 (Licence Ref 93E132) suggested that the wooden fragments may have been associated with newly identified structures with a clay floor and a post and wattle fence. As no domestic activity was revealed, these structures may have been associated with the Pole Mills which were located on the other side of the lane (within the masterplan area). They may have acted as outhouses or stores. A tanning complex was also uncovered. This excavation was directed by Linzi Simpson and published in *Medieval Dublin V* in 2004 (Simpson 2004).

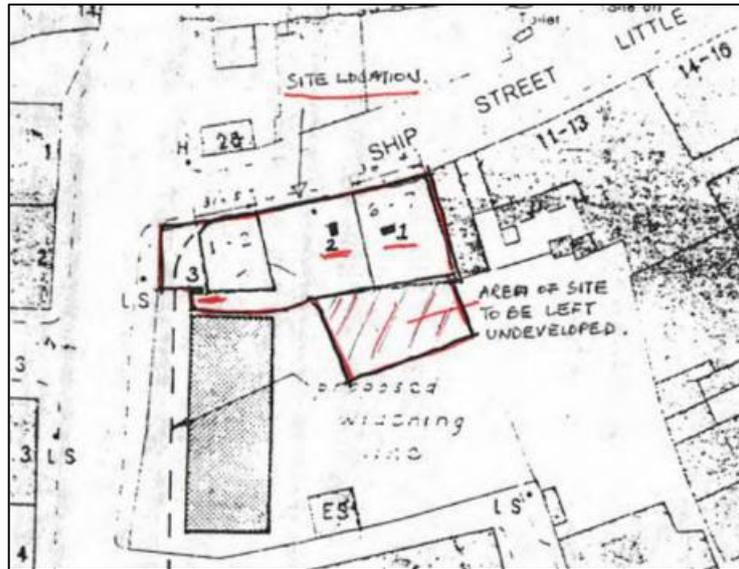


Figure 34 Archaeological investigations 92E0207 (Scally 1992)

### 3.5.3. SDRA Archaeological Investigations

The western end of Site 4 is an open site, especially following the demolition of the later walls, and there is access for testing at the base of the wall. It should be noted the city moat was also located running through this site and this is up to 8m in depth in this location. Clarification would have to be sought about the location of the culvert in this location. It should be noted the western end of the City Wall was deemed to be unstable at the upper levels and later Victorian walls were removed and the wall propped from the southern side, as it is today.

### 3.5.4. Wall 2 in Site 4

Prior to the carrying out of Site Investigations, two walls were demolished in Site 4 in the vicinity of the City Wall under Ministerial Consent no. C002143 in order to ensure the site is safe for members of the public and for personnel involved in the Site Investigation works. Wall 1 formed part of the southern boundary of the site and was constructed from concrete and blockwork, dating to the 1950s. Wall 2 was a brick wall in poor condition abutting the City Wall, dating to c. 1820, and an assessment was there carried out which placed it in an historical and archaeological context (Simpson 2023b). The results revealed that the wall was related to a small terrace of houses that were built across the demolished site of the Pole Mills in c. 1820. The research also revealed that the site of the Pole Mills is within the site and not further east, as was previously thought.

On inspection Wall 2 was found to form the eastern boundary wall of a large yard abutting onto the City Wall. No effort had been made to bond it into the City Wall and the wall was damaged on this end. The walls were surveyed as part of the assessment.

The wall formed the east gable end of a house, dominated by a chimney breast in the middle, and it was constructed from poor quality hand-made brick. The building had a second phase of use after the rear (north) wall was demolished, followed by a large industrial structure in the modern period. The instability of the wall at the time of the assessment is demonstrated by the fact there were six concrete buttresses spread throughout the wall and in the east elevation, the upper level of the wall was pinned and concreted.

The wall was found to be on archaeologically sensitive ground, as the foundations of the mill and mill-race, now culverted, is likely to survive, as the houses have no basements.

The demolition was archaeologically monitored and the bricks were removed by hand from where it abutted the City Wall. A report will be produced in due course.

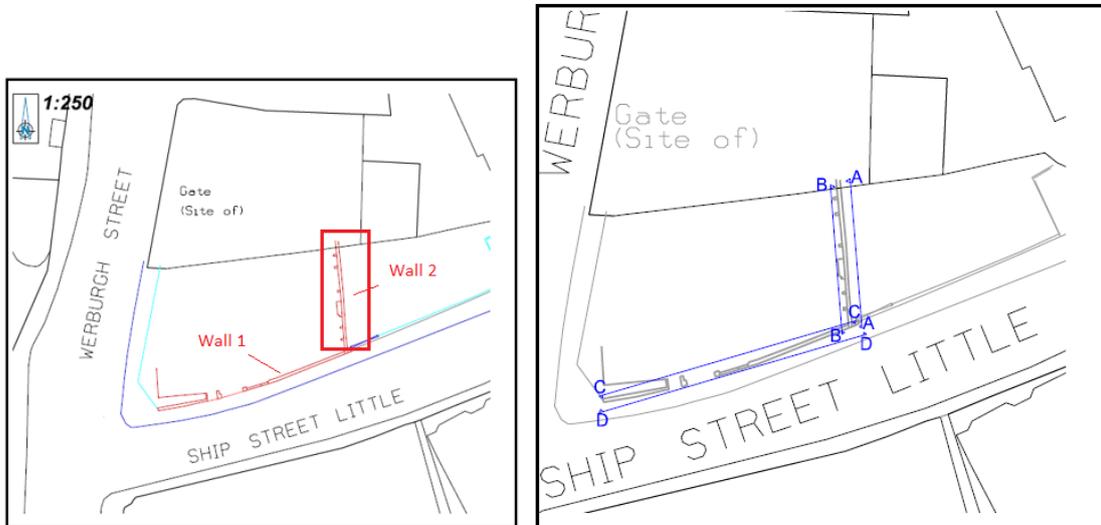


Figure 35 Wall 2 bisecting Site 4 and abutting the City Wall

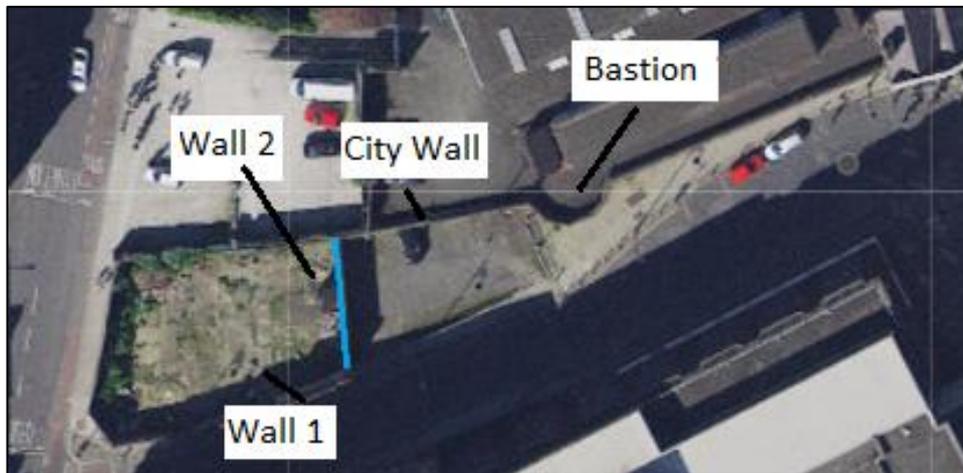


Plate 38 Walls in Site 4

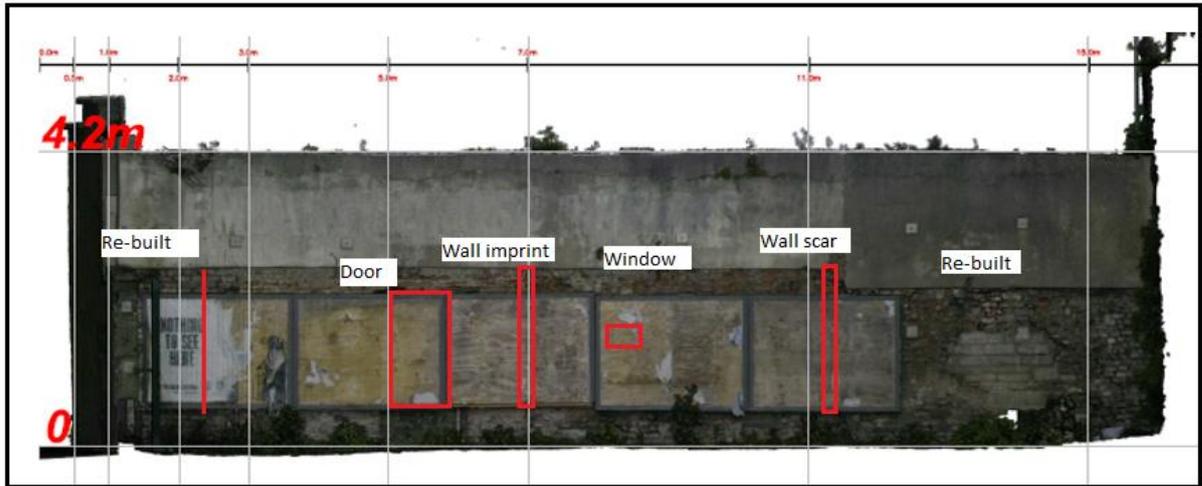


Figure 36 East elevation A-A

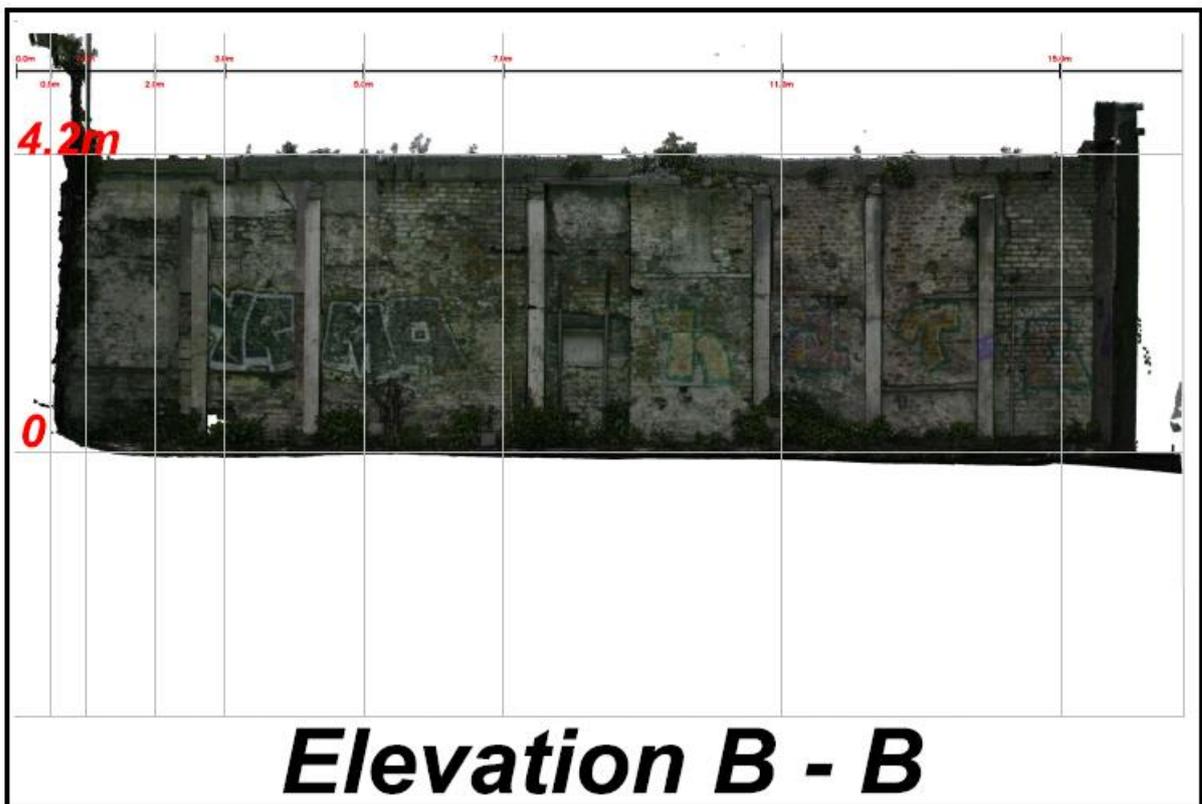


Figure 37 West elevation B-B



Plate 39 Wall 2 from the west



Plate 40 The City Wall and Wall 2 on the right



Plate 41 Wall 2 from the south



Plate 42 Wall 2 and the City Wall



Plate 43 The interface between Wall 2 and the City Wall



Plate 44 Site 4 after the removal of Wall 1



Plate 45 The removal of brick by hand at Wall 2 abutting the City Wall

#### 3.5.4.1. Stage 2 Investigations

Site 4 is to be developed as a public park and will form part of the public realm for Ship Street Little leading to the entrance of Dublin Castle. While no deep excavation is planned for the area, landscaping and the insertion of services will possibly lead to ground disturbance activities and testing at the base of the City Wall is required to investigate the foundations and the stability of the structure for engineering and conservation reasons and will have to be archaeologically monitored.

All works to the City Wall have been and will be carried out under Ministerial Consent. Works have been documented in a series of method statements issued by Dublin City Council under Consent number CO01243, and include the removal of vegetation and graffiti from the City Wall. Site investigations are facilitating a more detailed inspection of the wall and the existing temporary propping mechanism in order for the engineer to make a further assessment of the monument and to evaluate the effectiveness of the bracing structure.

Two test trenches (Test Trench 11 and 12) and two boreholes (BH9 and BH11) will be undertaken at the base of the City Wall for engineering purposes to assess the structural stability of the wall and for any future enabling works for permanent stabilization works. The extent of these trenches will have to take into account of the location of the Poddle culvert. It should be noted the city moat was also located running through this site and this is up to 8m in depth in this location.

The extent of the test pits will be determined as work progresses. Works are reviewed and reassessed on a continual basis throughout testing and in consultation with the City Archaeologist.

Test Trench 10 will be opened to further the below ground information at the street frontage the southwest corner of the Masterplan area.

Further west, the supposed site of the Pole mills is an open area, which is fully accessible for testing and Test Trench 15 has been placed in this location and BH10. Clarification will have to be sought about the location of the culvert in this location.



Plate 46 Site 4, view to City Wall



Plate 47 View to the construction compound previously used by a contractor, currently empty



Plate 48 An image of the western section of the City Wall, Ship Street Little, c. 2004 (Dublin City Walls & Defences Conservation Plan, 2004)

### 3.5.5. Proposed Development in Site 4

This site will form part of public realm scheme based on a wall walk and, as a result, will not be developed. However, minimal testing may be required along the site to inform methodologies for paving, landscaping, signage and possible drainage works. There are constraints in this location, based around a double culvert running through the western end of the site, containing the River Poddle, which is tidal and floods. The river/moat deposits are also very deep in this area, up to 8m in depth (gleaned from site investigations on a site on the southern side of the street).

The City Wall will require some work and probably reinstatement at the western end to bring the wall up to the same level as the eastern end. An above-ground representation of the City Wall on the other side of the street, at nos 12-14 Werburgh Street site would help create visibility and legibility for the monument as a whole and also would help create a sense of within and without.

## 4. MASTERPLAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRATEGY

### 4.1. High Definition Research Archaeology

The presence of deep Viking-age deposits elevates the importance of the Masterplan Area to international importance, Dublin representing a major slave-trading port by the late 9th century and connected to the Viking trading networks that stretched from Russia in the north as far south as the Byzantine Empire. Thus, the Vikings of Dublin travelled far and wide, connecting Dublin to the international Viking community. Coupled with this is the fortuitous survival of the rare anaerobic soils within the walls that have captured every aspect of life in a Viking city, that can be compared and studied in conjunction with the few other major network Viking trading centres that have similar deposits, such as Birka, Hedeby, Kaupang, Aarhus, Novogrod, Staraya Ladoga and Kyle. Yorvick (York), in particular, had very close trading and political connections with Dublin and was ruled by intermittently the same Norse family. In all, only approximately twelve sites survive across the vast Viking trading empire.

In regard to these significant archaeological deposits, the policy of the Dublin City Development Plan (2022-2028) is a presumption of 'preservation in situ' through avoidance of the areas of most significant archaeology, the omission of basements and various restrictions in foundation types, such as raft foundations rather than dense piling. Where preservation in situ is not possible 'preservation by record is employed', which involves full archaeological excavation, effectively the removal of the deposits. On large sites both policies are often employed together combining avoidance of the most significant areas in conjunction with archaeological excavation in specific areas, after a robust testing programme driven by research questions, both localised and international.

There have also been significant archaeological excavations in Dublin carried out by the National Museum from the 1970s onwards in and around the core of the medieval settlement (High Street, Christchurch Place, John's Lane Winetavern Street and Fishamble Street) and a considerable amount of information has been amassed and published. More recently, large-scale research excavations have been carried out at Temple Bar West (1996-8), in the north-east corner of the settlement and at Ross Road (1992, as part of the Jury's Inn development), just west of the Masterplan Area. Both these large sites employed a combination of research excavation and preservation in situ.

The specific research questions pertaining to this area have been articulated previously in the archaeological remains of Viking and Medieval Dublin: a research framework (Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research). However, the archaeological potential of the Masterplan Area to produce significant new information about Viking-age Dublin cannot be underestimated and the treatment of the Masterplan Area as one unit allows for a more encompassing archaeological strategy. This was demonstrated recently in the re-development of an entire block at Aungier Street/Stephen Street Upper/Longford Street Great, which resulted in significant excavation to a very high standard, coupled with areas and features that were preserved in situ. This was followed by a hugely successful presentation of some of the finding, including a sunken house, in underground chambers that had glass panels. These are visible to the public beneath a glass panel in the floor in a Lidl retail unit. An excavation, underpinned by an international research agenda, represent a last-ditch opportunity, not only to produce new information about this strategic quarter but also to copper-fasten and underpin the previous excavations carried out in Dublin, by taking advantage of new scientific processes including far more precise dating and expertise with fauna and faunal analysis.

This exciting potential has to be balanced by identifying significant areas within the site where preservation in situ is employed, to create a knowledge 'sink' for future generations. As the Masterplan Area is an urban block that is going to be developed this preservation in situ has to be achieved, as previously mentioned by omitting basements, by taking advantage of rubble buffer zones, by designing lightweight buildings on raft foundations, including open spaces in zones of high archaeological density within the new design and designing sympathetic piling designs.

In the Masterplan Area two sites can be identified as suitable, Site 1 on Castle Street, the main street in the Viking settlement and Site 2, Hoey's Court just inside the southern defences, and both are likely to produce very significant archaeological remains. A research excavation that could serve as a model was carried out recently in Ribe in Denmark by Søren M. Sindbæk in consultation with a number of Irish experts who visited the site. The project was titled Northern Emporium: The archaeology of network urbanism in Viking-age Ribe and the aim was to explore the 'evolution and dynamics of Viking society, from the earliest urban centres based in the homelands in Scandinavia, to the vast maritime-based trading network society that subsequently emerged, dominating much of the known world at that time including Ireland'. As part of this project, an area which contained two house plots was subject to high definition excavation, employing the latest techniques and including more detailed scientific analysis of the deposits and soils. This included geochemical element analysis (which analyses the chemical compounds, using isotope analysis which can be used to date material previously not datable), Dirt DNA, (which can extract DNA from sediments revealing new details of the people and animals that inhabited a specific space), Proteomics (the study of organic residues that can adhere to artefacts and soils which can reveal details about plant and animal resources and exploitation) and Micromorphology (the microscopic study of soils and sediment which can reveal significant information about whether deposits have been manipulated by man in the past or are undisturbed. Thus, significant information can be gleaned from redeposited soils and clays, a feature of Viking urban sites in general).

The employment of these scientific processes now being carried out for archaeological purposes, and within a research framework, has the potential to add greatly to the knowledge-bank that has now been amassed from Dublin over the years. These processes in conjunction with best practice recording (including digitised drawings, contour modelling, 3D imaging and searchable databases) would create an accessible cultural resources for students and scholars alike into the future.

The active collaboration of the universities and other centres of learning should also be sought from the beginning of the project and form part of the research agenda, allowing for the many new scientific techniques now available with a view to promoting academic research into the future. This could also include training archaeologists in the field, and providing a badly-needed resource for the commercial sector.

Dublin is a partner in an interdisciplinary research group known as the York-Dublin Axis Reconsidered, which is a collaborative group of international Viking scholars engaged in active research centred on the two Viking towns of Dublin and York, which had such close connections in the historic period. This is a very dynamic group that hosts seminars and workshops, and shares knowledge and research gleaned from the substantial amount of archaeological excavations that have been carried out in both modern cities since the 1970s. Their research strategy includes re-examining accepted interpretations, promoting active research, fostering academic relationship and shared knowledge, promoting management of heritage and, most importantly, setting research agendas, which extend beyond the scope of the island of Ireland. Any investigation in the Masterplan Area should be carried out in collaboration with this group, especially in regard to publication and future research.

## 4.2. Public Engagement

Archaeological excavation in Dublin is somewhat divorced from the public, to the detriment of community knowledge about their sense of place and local environment, and any research excavation should include a public awareness component, encouraging the locals to participate in the exciting discoveries made on site. The research excavation at Temple Bar West did have such a programme, which was extremely successful, based around a public viewing ramp, daily updates, public site visits and engagement with local schools (see Appendix 3).

The post-excavation analysis phase is critical in extracting data and presenting it in a meaningful way accessible way, which can then be exploited into the future but also used to inform other previous excavations that have happened in the past. The use of data-bases and digital recording are critical in this regard to ensure the safety and usability of the archive. The final goal is dissemination of the results through publication.

## 4.3. Permanent Cultural Resource

While the archaeological excavation offers the exciting opportunities for direct and hand-on public engagement, unless permanent structures are found (like the c.1100 City Wall, St Martin's church, the gaol or other structural buildings) there may be little opportunity to have a permanent display on site, as has happened on other sites such as the Lidl in Aungier Street. However, the excavation process is likely to produce a significant amount of new data from this specific quarter but which can be applied to the previous investigations of the settlement. The excavation is also likely to produce with a large number of high status artefacts alongside every day implements and the preferred option in terms of presentation of the public is to keep these unique cultural objects on site within the Masterplan Area. This could take the form of an exhibition in a designated cultural space, which presents the results of the excavation, through text and images, and possibly even display some of the artefacts (in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland). The Dublin Castle Strategic framework plan 2022 suggests a cultural building in Hoey's Court: Site no. 2

## 4.4. Stage 1 Study Overview

This study has produced:

- an archaeological report that has detailed the results of archaeological excavations in the environs and identified research gaps in the Masterplan Area. Of particular importance is the largescale excavations carried out at Ross Road which revealed the defences but also the very important site on the western side of Werburgh and on the northern side of Castle Street. This will help formulate strategies for the development of the Masterplan Area. An assessment has taken place of similar major Viking sites in Dublin and the types of foundations that were used, from raft foundations to piling. This has focused on sites where a combination of strategies were used, such as Temple Bar West and Ross Road. A review of cartographic sources has taken place.
- The study has identified a strategy for environmental archaeology and test excavation that will take place within Stage 2:

#### 4.5. Environmental Archaeological Strategy

The use of an environmental core may be explored during the site investigations with selected boreholes using a rotary core technique, which retains the core for inspection by an attending environmental archaeologist who can then assess the environmental and dating potential of the cores, especially in establishing what should be preserved for analysis in the future. This process may also provide additional dating opportunities from the lowest levels with the minimum amount of disturbance.

The assessment of the selected boreholes will assist in devising an environmental research strategy, which will help provide critical data about the environment and living conditions in the medieval city. The plan offers a unique opportunity to carry out this analysis over a large area. The environmental analysis will also help establish which deposits are the richest, which will help inform future investigations.

This initial environmental work can also help inform general approaches and methodologies for the future in terms of geo-archaeology, microbiology, micromorphology, sampling techniques and sieving programme. To advance this, discussion has taken place with the Discovery Programme and the City Archaeologist, as well as various environmental archaeologists, in regard to the most suitable approach at this early stage of the investigations. Discussions have also taken place with the environmental specialist in regard to the appropriate boring technique to be adopted.

The bores will also provide significant engineering information about ground conditions across the site and the advice of the Design Team engineer was sought to relation to the location of the various bores. Thus, the results of the bore will inform future developments of the sites reducing impact on the archaeological deposits.

#### 4.6. Test Excavation and Further Analysis Stage 2

The following works will take place within Stage 2 of the Masterplan process:

- The archaeological testing programme for the Masterplan Area has collated research questions, as articulated in INSTAR, and this information was detailed in the method statements that accompanied the licencing and ministerial consent applications. Work involves a series of test-pits and bore holes excavated throughout Site 1, 2 and 4 and will include the production of a contour and deposit modelling map showing the position of the archaeology, the high-spots and the areas of deep rubble, to Ordnance Datum levels. This contour map will be used as a baseline study in the future development of the Masterplan Area. Recording and assessment of extant walls will take place during on site works.
- It is hoped that the monitoring of engineering test-pits will establish the nature of the foundations of the City Wall, based on engineering advice. These are most likely to be successful from Site 4 (Ship Street Little side) between the wall and the culvert. This programme of works might facilitate mortar analysis and possibly provide crucial dating samples.
- Testing may assist in the identification of a suitable area for an 'high definition' archaeological excavation, probably in either in Site 1 or Site 2. This excavation will be centred on habitation areas, exposing the streetscape the Viking Dublin, with possibly some investigations of the defences on the southern side of Site 2. Any excavation in either Site 1 and 2 is likely to produce significant archaeological deposits and structures, along with a large number of artefacts, faunal remains and environmental and wood samples. This will provide a long

sought after opportunity for a research-led approach, within a research framework and employing the latest archaeological techniques modelled on the excavations at Ribe, Denmark, and in collaboration with the York-Dublin Axis Reconsidered.

- The integration of the results of testing programme in Werburgh's Church and graveyard (Site 3) and any additional works carried out on that site to feed into the archaeological strategy of the Masterplan. The plans are to convert the church into a cultural venue, which seeks to opens up this space but in a controlled way. While the position of the graveyard lends itself to creating access routes through it, the setting of the monument has to be considered. At present, the graveyard is a quiet contemplative green lung, which is essentially a cul-de-sac rather than a busy route. This enclosing element creates a calm spiritual space in keeping with its use as graveyard. Any new access routes would have to be carefully considered as the graveyard has survived intact precisely because of this hidden location and difficult access. Open access would not be recommended from an archaeological point of view due to the dangers posed to the funerary monuments as has happened all over the city (The Cabbage patch, John's Lane, St Mary's church). It should be noted the graveyard, from a biodiversity point of view is very important. It is generally 'wilded' and has a very impressive list of flora that has probably survived from the late medieval period onwards. It also supports a large number of birds and foxes.
- Further analysis of historical accounts will take place, which will capture the history of this once bustling quarter, from the medieval period, when it was occupied by gardens, orchards and industrial areas, to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century when it formed one of the most prestigious residential quarters in Dublin, housing the most important citizens of the day and finally the congested and difficult conditions of the tenement society in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The account will capture the social history of site, from Viking origins to the modern day, reconstructing a sense of historical place while providing a baseline for cultural public engagements including perhaps commemorative monuments.
- The Final Report for the Masterplan Area will summarize all the results in one single report and make appropriate recommendations.

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**APPENDIX 1      SUMMARY OF RELEVANT LEGISLATION****Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act (2023)**

The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 was enacted in October 2023 and this Act is now law. The Minister for DHLGH commenced certain provisions in May 2024 (S.I. No. 252/2024) which relate to World Heritage Property in the State, inventories, the protection of certain records, the promotion of heritage, and the issuing of statutory guidance. Certain related and supporting provisions concerning implementation and enforcement are also commenced. However, until the Act is fully commenced, the National Monuments Acts and the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act have not yet been repealed and therefore remain in force.

The Act also contains transitional provisions which will, if necessary, enable certain aspects of the existing National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 to continue in operation while successor provisions are being brought fully into operation. An example of this would be provisions enabling the Record of Monuments and Places to continue to have effect pending the establishment of a new Register of Monuments.

A person performing a function under this Act shall recognise and take due account of the following principles in performing that function:

- a) that historic heritage is a non-renewable resource of great cultural and scientific importance which, in addition to its intrinsic value, provides evidence for the development of society and promotes public understanding and appreciation of all periods of the past;
- b) that the first option to be considered should be the protection in situ of historic heritage and that there ought to be a presumption in favour of this option;
- c) that any removal or alteration of historic heritage should be accompanied by all necessary and appropriate recording of such heritage;
- d) that the Valletta Convention should be adhered to as well as any other international treaty, to which the State is a party, the provisions of which are aimed at promoting or securing the protection of the archaeological, architectural or other historic heritage;
- e) that responsibility for the protection of historic heritage is, as a resource of benefit to all, shared by all and, accordingly, that those permitted to remove or interfere with such heritage should, in the normal course, bear the costs of any recording or protective work necessitated by, or associated with, such removal or interference.

For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that the destruction, whether in whole or in part and by whatever means, of a monument to which general protection or special protection applies shall not prejudice the continuation of such protection to the remainder (if any) of the monument, including the site, surrounding area and immediate surroundings of the monument.

The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 will establish a Register of Monuments which will replace and supersede the existing Record of Monuments and Places and the Register of Historic Monuments. The Register shall include

- a) prescribed monuments known to the Minister which are deemed appropriate to be entered in the Register;
- b) relevant things of a relevant interest deemed appropriate to be entered in the Register.

A prescribed monument will be a relevant thing of archaeological interest or of other relevant interest. It may be prescribed by reference to any one or more than one of the following criteria:

- (a) age, date or period (including by reference to any terminology relating to periods) that, in the opinion of the Minister, is or has been in use in archaeology or other relevant disciplines;
- (b) morphology;
- (c) condition;
- (d) typology (including by reference to typologies which, in the opinion of the Minister, are or have been in use in archaeology or other relevant disciplines);
- (e) the environment in which the relevant thing is situated (including whether or not the relevant thing is situated under water);
- (f) the circumstances in which the relevant thing is found (including the manner of finding);
- (g) whether the relevant thing is or is not marked or shown on any—
  - i. edition of any ordnance map, or
  - ii. map prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph.

“Relevant thing” means any of the following things:

- a) any artificial structure, construction, deposit, feature or layer (including any building and any burial or interment);
- b) any artificially altered structure, construction, deposit, feature or layer, whether or not natural in origin;
- c) any wreck;
- d) any ritual or ceremonial site;
- e) any site where an historic event took place, including any other site directly associated with that event;
- f) any battlefield;
- g) any site with legendary or mythological associations;

- h) any feature, deposit or layer, whether or not natural in origin and whether or not artificially altered, containing or providing information or evidence relating to the past environment;

The Register shall be in the form of an electronic database which is easily accessible to members of the public through public telecommunication networks. The registered monument may include a surrounding area which is considered reasonably necessary to secure the protection of the monument or thing.

Where a person finds, or believes that he or she has found a prescribed monument other than a registered monument, the person shall make a preliminary report Minister or a member of An Garda Síochána within 72 hours, or in the case of discovery in the course of licensable activity, that it be reported to the Minister in such a manner as specified in the licence.

Special protection may be applied to a registered monument taking into account whether the monument is, in terms of such heritage, of special or particular interest, character, integrity, community or amenity value, whether at a local, regional, national or international level. This includes

- a) a national monument,
- b) a wreck of 100 or more years old, or
- c) a guardianship monument.

A person shall not carry out works at, on, in, under, to, or within the immediate surroundings of a monument to which special protection applies, or direct or authorise the carrying out of such works, other than under and in accordance with a licence. This shall be deemed to apply to a registered monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a local authority where special protection does not otherwise apply to the monument.

General protection applies to

- a) a registered monument to which special protection does not apply, and
- b) a prescribed monument (not being a registered monument).

A person shall not carry out works at, on, in, under, to, or within the immediate surroundings of a monument to which general protection applies, or direct or authorise the carrying out of such works, other than under and in accordance with a licence.

A person shall not, except under and in accordance with a licence, do any of the following at, on, in, over, under or in the vicinity of a wreck 100 or more years old, a registered monument or prescribed monument which is under water, or an archaeological object which is underwater:

- a) dive or direct or authorise diving;
- b) use or possess, or direct or authorise the use or possession of, diving, survey or salvage equipment;
- c) dump or deposit, or direct or authorise the dumping or deposition of, any thing whether or not it interferes with or causes damage to the thing;

- d) interfere, remove or tamper in any way (whether with or without causing damage) with the thing.

The Minister may prescribe a licence, consent, approval, permission or other authorisation where

- a) a licence, consent, approval, permission or other authorisation is required to be granted, issued or given under an enactment (not being the Act of 2000) for works to be carried out which may require an EIA, and
- b) the Minister is satisfied that such works are capable of being at, on, in, under, to, or within the immediate surroundings of a monument, and it is reasonable and proportionate to do so and compatible with the protection of monuments,

The Minister shall consider whether or not the relevant works in respect of which they should be made subject to conditions and may require all or any of the following:

- a) the carrying out of an assessment of heritage interest or potential including an assessment by way of archaeological excavation, use of detection devices or any form of photographic or geophysical survey equipment or any other appropriate form of survey or inspection;
- b) the recording of the monument as a whole or any part or aspect of it (including its immediate surroundings) or any objects on, in, under or within it or its immediate surroundings including recording by way of archaeological excavation, use of detection devices or any form of photographic or geophysical survey equipment or any other appropriate form of survey or inspection;
- c) the carrying out of any form of monitoring (including archaeological monitoring), supervision or inspection;
- d) the salvaging, collection or protection of any part of the monument (including its immediate surroundings) or any object on, in, under or within it or its immediate surroundings and, where appropriate, the preparation of such part or object for deposition in an appropriate museum or other site for such deposition;
- e) the specification of the time period when the relevant works are to be carried out;
- f) that the relevant works be done in a specified manner or be funded or carried out by a specified person or a person falling within a specified category of persons.

The Minister shall make a screening determination for EIA in respect of the proposed relevant works on the basis of the information provided by the applicant. The Minister shall ensure that, before the application is determined, proposed relevant works likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of their nature, size or location (or any combination thereof) are made subject to an EIA. The applicant shall in this case submit to the Minister an EIAR in respect of the proposed relevant works, having regard to guidelines issued by the Minister.

The Minister may appoint himself or herself, or with the consent of a local authority, appoint the local authority as the guardian of a registered monument to which special protection applies. A

national monument under the Act of 1930 will be deemed both a registered monument and a guardianship monument.

Any archaeological object where such object has no known owner shall be vested in the State. An owner or owner exception of land, not being the State, or a finder of an archaeological object is deemed not to acquire any rights of ownership to an archaeological object found on, in or under the land.

Where a person finds, or believes that he or she has found an archaeological object, the person shall make a preliminary report of the finding of the thing to the Board of the National Museum of Ireland or a member of An Garda Síochána within 72 hours, in the case of licensable activity, to the Minister or the Board in such manner as is specified in the licence. A person, other than a relevant person, shall not interfere with or remove a relevant archaeological object, or cause it to be interfered with or removed, except under and in accordance with a licence, or where there is reasonable grounds to believe that it is necessary to remove the thing from the site where he or she found it for the purposes of the safekeeping of the thing.

“Architectural heritage” means—

- a) structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings,
- b) groups of structures and buildings referred to in paragraph (a), and
- c) sites,

that are of archaeological, architectural, cultural, historic, scientific, social or technical interest;

A person shall not, other than under and in accordance with a licence—

- a) undertake or carry out, or direct or authorise the undertaking or carrying out of, archaeological excavation,
- b) ... archaeological monitoring,
- c) search for or collect... archaeological objects lying exposed on the surface of land, whether or not any such object is known to be on, in or under that land,
- d) search for... wrecks one hundred or more years old or archaeological objects or prescribed monuments, or other relevant things of archaeological interest, situated on, in or under the sea bed or land covered by water...
- e) be in possession of a detection device in, at, on, over or above, or within the immediate surroundings of, a registered monument or a wreck one hundred or more years old, or

- f) use... a detection device for the purpose of identifying, locating (including searching for), investigating, surveying or recording any archaeological object or monument or relevant thing of archaeological interest...

Anything done by a person in the course of his or her employment shall, in any proceedings brought under this Act, be treated as done also by that person's employer, whether or not it was done with the employer's knowledge or approval. Anything done by a person as agent for another person, with the authority (whether express or implied and whether precedent or subsequent) of that other person shall, in any proceedings brought under this Act, be treated as done also by that other person.

### **National Monuments Legislation (1930-2014)**

The National Monument Act, 1930 (as amended) provides the formal legal mechanism to protect monuments in Ireland. Protection of a monument is provided via:

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP);

National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs or a Local Authority;

National Monument subject to a Preservation Order (or temporary Preservation Order);

Register of Historic Monuments (RHM).

The definition of a 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 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 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.

14A. (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.

### **Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999**

This Act provides for the establishment of a national inventory of architectural heritage and historic monuments.

Section 1 of the act defines “architectural heritage” as:

- (a) all structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings,
- (b) groups of such structures and buildings, and,
- (c) sites

which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

Section 2 of the Act states that the Minister (for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) shall establish the NIAH, determining its form and content, defining the categories of architectural heritage, and specifying to which category each entry belongs. The information contained within the inventory will be made available to planning authorities, having regard to the security and privacy of both property and persons involved.

Section 3 of the Act states that the Minister may appoint officers, who may in turn request access to premises listed in the inventory from the occupiers of these buildings. The officer is required to inform the occupier of the building why entry is necessary, and in the event of a refusal, can apply for a warrant to enter the premises.

Section 4 of the Act states that obstruction of an officer or a refusal to comply with requirements of entry will result in the owner or occupier being guilty of an offence.

Section 5 of the Act states that sanitary authorities who carry out works on a monument covered by this Act will as far as possible preserve the monument with the proviso that its condition is not a danger to any person or property, and that the sanitation authority will inform the Minister that the works have been carried out.

The provisions in the Act are in addition to and not a substitution for provisions of the National Monument Act (1930–94), and the protection of monuments in the National Monuments Act is extended to the monuments covered by the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1999).

## The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1999

The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1999, which came into force on 1st January 2000, provides for the inclusion of protected structures into the planning authorities' development plans and sets out statutory regulations regarding works affecting such structures, thereby giving greater statutory protection to buildings. All structures listed in the development plan are now referred to as Protected Structures and enjoy equal statutory protection. Under the 1999 Act the entire structure is protected, including a structures interior, exterior, the land lying within the curtilage of the protected structure and other structures within that curtilage. This Act was subsequently repealed and replaced by the Planning and Development Act, 2000, where the conditions relating to the protection of architectural heritage are set out in Part IV of the Act.

### Protected Structures, Curtilage & Attendant Grounds

A protected structure is defined in the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 as any structure or specified part of a structure, which is included in the planning authorities' Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Section 57 (1) of the 2000 Act states that "...the carrying out of works to a protected structure, or a proposed protected structure, shall be exempted development only if those works would not materially affect the character of

- (a) the structure, or
- (b) any element of the structure, which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

By definition, a protected structure includes the land lying within the curtilage of the protected structure and other structures within that curtilage and their interiors. The notion of curtilage is not defined by legislation, but according to Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2004) and for the purposes of this report it can be taken to be the parcel of land immediately associated with that structure and which is (or was) in use for the purpose of the structure.

The attendant grounds of a structure are lands outside the curtilage of the structure but which are associated with the structure and are intrinsic to its function, setting and/or appreciation. The attendant grounds of a country house could include the entire demesne, or pleasure grounds, and any structures or features within it such as follies, plantations, lakes etc.

## **APPENDIX 2            STRATEGY RATIONALE**

- The testing strategy for the Masterplan Area has been developed in consultation with the City Archaeologist and Statutory Authorities to include the appropriate level of test trenching, archaeological bore holes and window sampling and the production of a contour and deposit modelling map showing the position of the archaeology, the high-spots and the areas of deep rubble, to O.D levels. The contour map/ deposit model can be used as a baseline for the design team and will inform decisions about the necessity for, and nature of, archaeological work in advance of new building proposals, allowing decisions to be made about areas of preservation in situ and preservation by record (excavation).
- A deposit model consists of maps, cross-sections (a site profile) and supporting text. The aim of the modelling is to locate areas with the greatest archaeological potential (Historic England 2020). Constructing a deposit model at an early stage of the project means that subsequent archaeological work can be:
  - i. Targeted on areas, depths and locations most likely to preserve archaeological evidence;
  - ii. Understood and interpreted more comprehensively within its wider context;
  - iii. Costed more accurately as the likely depths of deposits are known and the general character of the buried deposits are understood;
  - iv. Focussed to assist with the environmental analysis and type of specialist required (location of organic, waterlogged deposits).
- There will also be an examination of the appropriate boring technique to be adopted and the retrieval of cores with the potential for environmental analysis within the Masterplan Area.
- A multidisciplinary cost estimate has been devised in association with the design team and Dublin City Council to ensure value for money.
- The investigations that will inform the Archaeological Strategy will identify research priorities and opportunities for a high-definition research excavation within the Masterplan Area and will respond to research questions including those from the INSTAR programme.
- In collaboration with the design team and in consultation with the City Archaeologist, a strategy for the structural and condition survey for the City Wall will be developed. The monitoring of engineering test-pits and other ground investigations in relation to the associated bank and ditch defences and the wall foundations will be carried out (under Ministerial Consent).
- At a strategic level, the local, national and international importance of the archaeology can be enhanced by the improved understanding of their environmental setting and spatial context at an early stage of the masterplanning process. By improving the understanding of the significance of the buried archaeological deposits throughout the Masterplan Area, it will inform and feed into the Archaeological Framework and the design and location of future development within the Masterplan Area.

### **Reference**

Historic England 2020. Deposit Modelling and Archaeology; Guidance for Mapping Buried Deposits

**APPENDIX 3 CASE-STUDY: TEMPLE BAR WEST RESEARCH EXCAVATION 1996-1998**

A research excavation, under the directorship of the Linzi Simpson, was carried out in the north-east corner of the Viking walled town, in Temple Bar West, that ran from 1996 to 1998 in Temple Bar West as part of the re-development of Temple Bar. The research excavation was the culmination of a series of smaller excavations and investigations that were carried out by Margaret Gowen and Co. Ltd, who were part of the Temple Bar development team. A steering group of academics working in the field, national and international, was set up and there were regular site visits and presentations throughout the project. A temporary museum space was also set up to present the newly-discovered artefacts to the public. The site also had a public viewing ramp, which contained regular updates and site plans and there was a staff member dedicated to public engagement, which included a school programme of events involving site visits, talks and competition. A fly-on-the-wall documentary called 'down to the bedrock' was also commissioned and shown on national television.

The excavation was carried out by a diverse team of over 70 archaeologists over a period of two years on site and this included students (paid) who were trained up to dig and record these complex organic deposits.

In total the area measured approximately 100m east-west by approximately 26m in length with a dog-leg at the southern end and it was positioned in the north-east corner of Viking settlement, bounded by the Poddle River in the east. There were 4 main cuttings (A, B, C and D) that were strategically placed after archaeological testing and contour modelling had been carried out, to try to answer specific research questions. A high area of archaeology was identified at the south-west corner of the site and this was preserved in situ as a courtyard.

Site A produced seven house plots fronting onto a street on the southern side with the rear plots running down to the defensive banks that ran along the river, dating from the 9<sup>th</sup> century to the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. Site B was positioned along an inlet on the River Liffey with Viking houses clustered around. The first stone road in Dublin was found in this location. Site C to the south produced early habitation and also a large industrial area with a number of kilns while Site D had some industrial materials but also included houses. The post-medieval phase was well-represented by numerous cellar, walls, drains and latrines.

The on-site excavations works were followed by an intense period of post-excavation phase, which involved a smaller team collating and digitizing all the information from the excavation, from the survey plans, to the feature sheets (written descriptions of the buildings and deposits etc.), the photographs and site notes. All the artefacts and samples were also washed and processed on site and later distributed to the appropriate specialists for reporting. A Final Report was then issued which detailed all the findings and a summary was published as part of the Temple Bar West publication series.

The results of the research excavation far exceeded the original research strategy proposed and the merits of dealing with an urban block as a single unit was very evident, with research-led excavation rather than development-led excavation. The investigations on site included an early dating strategy, which confirmed a hitherto unidentified 9<sup>th</sup> century settlement level related to the very first Longphort, which appears to have been founded on the banks of a natural pool on the River Poddle, south of the later Dublin castle (now the Dubh-linn gardens in Dublin Castle). The excavations also identified earlier activity at the confluence of the Poddle and the Liffey, dated to the 8<sup>th</sup> century and this included a possible Anglo-Saxon dwelling, which differed from the Viking houses and may have been part of the monastery of Dublin, thought to have been located close to the Masterplan Area on the eastern side (in and around Chancery Lane).



Plate 49 Temple Bar excavations (Site A) and the public viewing ramp



Figure 38 Digital survey of the Temple Bar site plans



Plate 50 Preservation of Temple Bar timber-floored buildings



Plate 51 The footprint of a Viking house in Temple Bar

