

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
AT
SEAN MAC DERMOTT ST. & RAILWAY ST.,
DUBLIN 1**

LICENCE NUMBER: 17E0237

FOR: DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

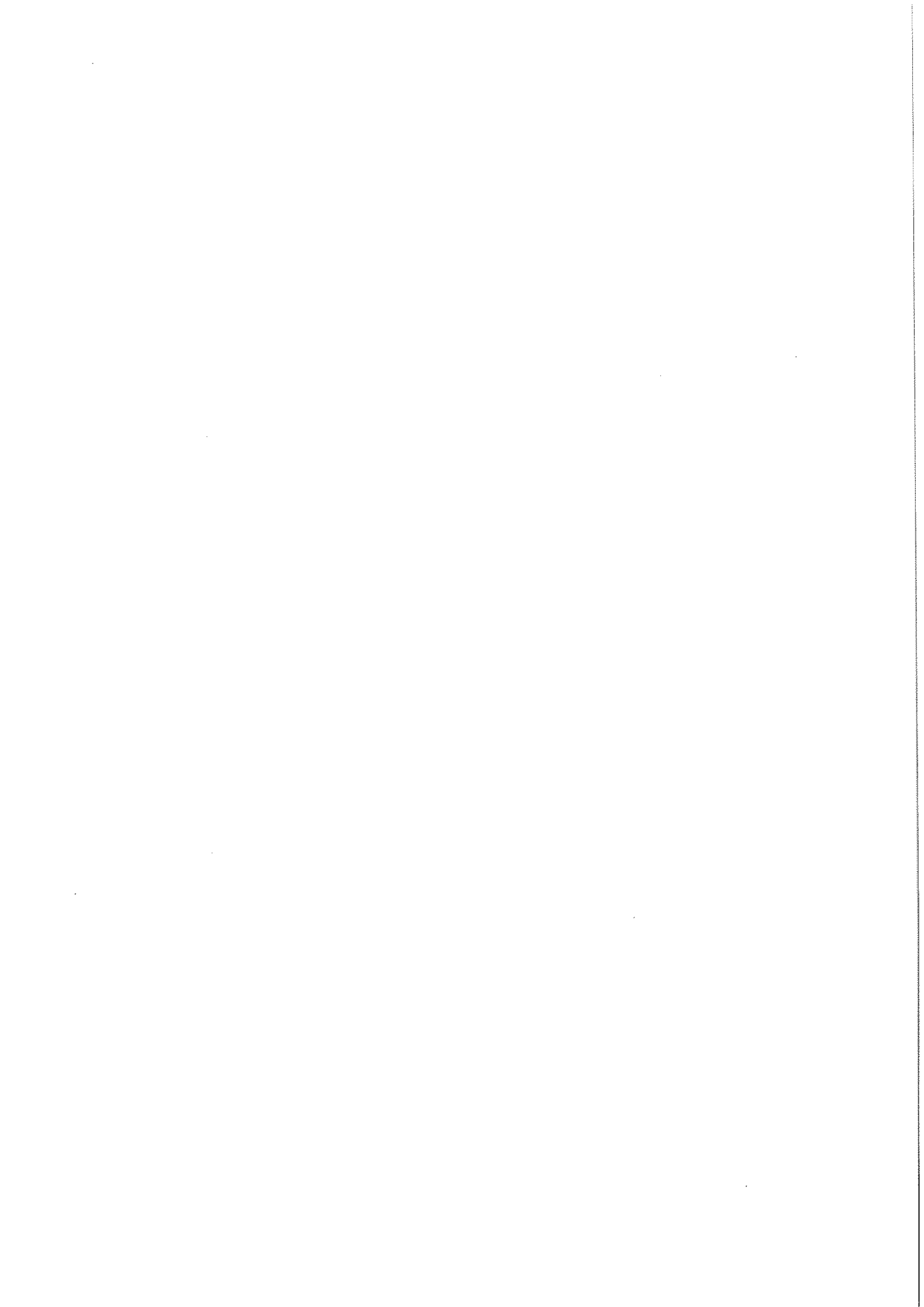
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ABSTRACT

Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd has prepared this report on behalf of Dublin City Council, to describe the results of archaeological testing that has been carried out at the former Magdalene Laundry site at Sean Mac Dermott Street and Railway Street, Dublin 1 (OS Sheet 18). The assessment was carried out by David Bayley and Faith Bailey of IAC Ltd under licence 17E0237 on behalf of Dublin City Council.

The site is partially located within the zone of archaeological potential of Dublin's historic town (DU018-020). One RMP site is located within a 250m radius of the site, a mill (DU018-020501) c. 200m to the south. A review of the available cartographic material shows the site in a greenfield setting a large part of the 18th century after which time the site and its immediate surrounds became more urban in character, containing residential housing and associated yards.

The results from the archaeological testing clearly show that the site under assessment has been subject to a large amount of disturbance. This has been due to the construction of post medieval houses and outbuildings and their subsequent demolition and the construction (and demolition) of later large scale industrial laundry buildings. Whilst only accessible sections of the site were subject to test excavations, no evidence for burials was identified, either as features or within a collection of stray bones retrieved from some of the trenches. The gathered bone assemblage has been examined by an Osteo-archaeologist (Maeve Tobin), who has confirmed all the bones to be animal in origin.

While nothing of archaeological significance was identified during the course of testing, it is possible that previously unrecorded features or deposits of archaeological potential exist within the site outside of the footprint of the test trenches, or at a deeper level, beneath the made ground identified within the site. Any future ground disturbances associated with the redevelopment of the site have the potential to negatively impact on any such remains.

It is therefore recommended that any future ground works within the site be monitored by a licence eligible archaeologist. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works, further archaeological mitigation may be required such as preservation in-situ or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the DoAHRRGA and the Dublin City Archaeologist.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report details the results of a programme of archaeological testing undertaken at Sean Mac Dermott St. / Railway St., Dublin 1, as a due diligence exercise to ascertain the potential impact of any future development on the archaeological resource that may exist within the site (Figure 1). This assessment (Licence Ref.: 17E0237) was undertaken by David Bayley and Brenda Fuller of Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, on behalf of Dublin City Council.

Test trenching commenced at the site on 23rd May and lasted for five days. This was carried out using a flat, toothless bucket, under strict archaeological supervision. A total of 10 trenches were mechanically investigated across the test area. These were placed within accessible areas as the majority of the site is used for the storage of materials.

1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

No plans as to what type of redevelopment may be carried out within the site currently exist. The archaeological assessment is being carried out as a due diligence exercise prior to any future development.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 BACKGROUND

2.1.1 General

The site is located at Sean Mac Dermott Street and Railway Street, to the north side of the River Liffey. The site is currently occupied by a former Magdalene Laundry operated by the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity and later donated to Dublin City Council. The site is partially located within the zone of archaeological potential of Dublin's historic town (DU018-020). There is one RMP site located within a 250m radius of the site, a mill (DU018-020501) located c. 200m to the south (Figure 2).

Sean Mac Dermott Street runs east from Cathal Brugha Street to Killarney Street. Formerly known as Gloucester Street, it was renamed in honour of one of the seven signatories of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. The street was originally named after William Henry, Duke of Gloucester in 1764 and was laid out in 1772. Prior to this it was known as Great Martin's Lane. The street is now dominated by a large Roman Catholic Church – Our Lady of Lourdes, which was built in 1954.

2.1.2 Prehistoric Period (c. 7000 BC – AD 400)

Very little is known about prehistoric occupation within the area surrounding the site, which is no doubt partly due to the urban sprawl that now covers the area. Archaeological evidence shows that the earliest Mesolithic inhabitants on these shores utilised riverine and coastal areas for food, materials and transport. The Mesolithic Period (c. 7000–4000 BC) is the earliest time from which there is clear evidence for prehistoric activity in Ireland. During this period people hunted, foraged and gathered food and appear to have had a mobile lifestyle. Evidence for settlement during this period is rare. However, given the presence of the River Tolka c. 1.3km northeast of the site and the proximity of the River Liffey it is likely that these food resources would have attracted occupation within the area from an early time.

While there is no evidence for later Neolithic, Bronze Age or Iron Age activity within the immediate proximity of the site, the Liffey estuary and the River Tolka would have remained as a significant resources to be exploited during the prehistoric period. Habitation would have likely been confined to higher ground further to the south and southwest of the proposed development area, away from potential flood plains.

2.1.3 Early Medieval Period (AD 400 – 1100)

During the early medieval period, the area now known as County Dublin straddled the ancient kingdoms of Brega (north of the River Tolka) and Laigin (south of the Tolka). The early cartographic representations of Dublin city indicate the position of the estuary shoreline prior to the commencement of reclamation works. On the northern side of the river it is possible that Amiens Street (formerly the North Strand), represents this former shoreline (De Courcy 1996, 270); whilst the southern shoreline would have been dominated by a marshy delta at the mouth of the River Dodder. De

Courcy also argues that this is likely to have been the position of the shore line as far back as AD 850 (*ibid.* xxvii).

The name Dublin (Dubhlinn), meaning black pool, is generally taken to refer to the pool or pond that was located directly southeast of the site of the present Dublin Castle, which is located c. 1.5km to the southwest of the area under assessment. However, this name has been suggested as referring to an early Christian monastic settlement south of the black pool and Clarke (1990, 58) believes that this interpretation of Dubhlinn would explain why the town has two names – *Dubhlinn* (for the enclosed ecclesiastical area) and *Baile Áth Cliath* – a secular settlement that was developed to guard over the ‘ford of the hurdles’.

It has been argued that the ecclesiastical enclosure at *Dubhlinn*, c. 1.5km to the southeast of the site, formed the focus of pre-Viking Dublin (Stout & Stout 1992, 15). Geraldine and Matthew Stout go on to argue that early Christian Dublin had no particular significance as a population centre, border post or transport hub until the Vikings arrived and took advantage of its position. Ecclesiastical foundations were common across the county at this time and it is unlikely that any of the major route ways would have passed through a settlement where travel was limited to the north by a large tidal river. However, De Courcy (1996, xxviii) suggests that the *Slighe Midluachra* (one of the great roads of early medieval Ireland running south from Ulster), crossed the Liffey at the location of the ‘ford of the hurdles’, which would have made Dublin a more important settlement due to the traffic passing through.

Dublin was transformed by the arrival of the Vikings who had established themselves in Dublin by the middle of the 9th century and by the 10th century Dublin had become a recognised urban centre. One of the first of the Viking landing points was marked by a standing stone or pillar stone (‘The Long Stone’), which was erected according to Norse custom (De Courcy, 1996). The Long Stone stood just above the high-tide shoreline at the confluence of the Liffey and the River Steine on the southern side of the River Liffey (DU018-020129), c. 1.6km south-southeast of the site under assessment.

During the 10th century the concept of a central authority began to take root in Ireland due to the emergence of rulers sufficiently powerful to declare themselves high kings of Ireland claiming authority over all lesser kings and chieftains. One of the most prominent of these was Brian Boru who established himself in AD 976 as leader of the Dalcassians from his stronghold in Kincor and went on to declare himself King of Ireland in 1002. The Vikings had largely retained the kingship of Dublin throughout this century, despite many defeats by such Kings as *Mael Sechnaill* of Tara in 981, 989 and 995 and *Brian Boruma* (Boru) in 999 and 1000. On Good Friday 1014 a battle was fought between *Mealmordha*, King of Leinster, and Brian Boru later known as the Battle of Clontarf.

It seems unlikely that the Battle of Clontarf took place in the modern district of Clontarf. The Annals of the Four Masters state that it was fought ‘from Tulcainn to Ath Cliath’ and while one may expect that isolated encounters of small groups occurred

during the day over a wide area, this description is the simplest and the most accurate definition of the battlefield. *Tulcainn* is the River Tolka and *Ath Cliath* may be represented by *Droichet Dubhgaill*, the bridge that crossed the Liffey at this time. The Annals of *Loch Cé* state that Brian Boru gave battle on the slope of Crinan Hill. However the precise location of Crinan Hill is unknown today. One record of 1339 places it south of Ballybough Road, but by deduction from other records of 1192 and 1324 it is possible that it is extended from Ballybough Road to Drumcondra Road. It has been suggested (De Courcy, 1996) that the main action of the battle took place in the area bounded by O'Connell Street, Dorset Street, Drumcondra Road, the River Tolka, Ballybough Road and the North Strand.

The Battle of Clontarf was seen as being of great significance throughout Western Europe as it largely broke the power of the Norse in Ireland. The Norse continued to hold the position of King of Dublin until 1042 but with the killing of *Askulv Mac Thorkil* in 1171 Norse names disappeared from the leadership of the city.

2.1.4 Medieval Period (Ad 1100–1600)

After the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland in 1169, the medieval town of Dublin enjoyed a period of prosperity and development, which continued until the beginning of the 14th century. The Anglo-Norman administration was responsible for reinforcing the town walls with defensive towers. Further improvements to the defences involved erecting a number of gates on the built-up streets outside the walls and supplementing the defensive gates already in place along the town wall itself. It was also during this period that the first substantial reclamations of land occurred along the Liffey at Wood Quay c. 1.4km to the southwest of the site at Sean Mac Dermott St.

A programme of land reclamation from the River Liffey at Wood Quay and Exchange St Lower was initiated towards the end of the 12th century, as a part of the extramural development of medieval Dublin. The 1192 Dublin Charter admitted that citizens were free to "improve themselves in making buildings....upon the water," implying that land was being reclaimed from the river at that date. The earliest advance on the Liffey at Wood Quay seems to have been made c. 1200 when a line of post-and-wattle about 1m high and 35m long was erected on the river gravel roughly parallel to and 25m north of the city wall (*ibid.*). The River Poddle was re-routed at this time to provide a water supply within the town, and water mills were built on its banks to grind corn for the increasing population.

Medieval development that took place on the lands to the north of the River Liffey was restricted to the medieval suburb at Oxmantown and St. Mary's Abbey. Oxmantown, derived from *villa Ostmanorum* meaning town or settlement of the Ostmen is traditionally described as the refuge of the Vikings who were ejected from Dublin by the Anglo-Normans in 1171–2 (Clarke, 1990). However recent research has suggested that with the building of the bridge in the early 11th century, the founding of St Michan's Church at around the same time and the slightly later establishment of St. Mary's Abbey, a settlement had already been created before the Anglo-Norman invasion. The edge of Oxmantown was situated c. 2.2km west of the area under assessment.

This period also saw the establishment and expansion of a number of ecclesiastical foundations often belonging to the religious orders. This relates to the townland in which the site of under assessment is located, which is named as Clonliffe South and once formed part of the estate belonging to St. Mary's Abbey. The Abbey was founded in 1139 as a daughter house of the Benedictine Order of Savigny but became Cistercian in 1147 (Stout, 1997). It was, until its suppression in the 16th century, one of the largest and most important monasteries in Ireland. The Clonliffe area, which is thought to mean 'the meadow of herbs' was held by the Abbey until the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII. It was then granted to Walter Peppard, and was estimated to contain just 150 acres, as well as a messuage and water mill. However, 70 years later in 1611, when it was granted to Henry King, the grange was estimated to contain over 200 acres, as well as the messuage, three cottages, and a mill. When the Commonwealth Survey was made "Mary's Abbey land and the grange of Clonliffe," which included 250 acres, were in the possession of the Earl of Drogheda's ancestor, Viscount Moore, and also contained a "fair stone-house slated with two stone-houses of offices," which were valued at £140, as well as the mill that was valued at £20 (Ball, 1920).

2.1.5 Post Medieval Period (AD 1600-1900)

Rocque's Map of County Dublin (1760) shows settlement lining the main routes within the area containing the area under assessment, which was largely characterised by open agricultural land at the time. By the time of the first detailed map of the area, which dates to between 1837 and 1843, the area still contained a large amount of open fields. Records survive of the construction of a 17th century manor house at No. 80 Lower Dorset Street by Richard Synnot, Register of Diocese of Armagh (DU018-023) c. 780m northwest of the proposed development area.

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

The Mater Misericordiae Hospital was built c. 800m northwest of the proposed development area on a greenfield site in 1861 by the Sisters of Mercy and was the first hospital to remain open 24 hours a day. At this time it was the only refuge open to those affected by the smallpox and cholera epidemics that raged through the overcrowded tenements of 19th century Dublin. The architect John Bourke was employed to design a hospital, an impressive building with a long granite façade, complete with classical portico. Following Bourke's death in 1871 a number of other architects were involved in its completion, including John L. Robinson, who designed the west range, and W. H. Byrne, who added the chapel in 1937.

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

Jervis, were completed in early 18th century. After the Act of Union in 1801, Dublin declined in political and economic importance and the gentrification of this part of Dublin slowed. The great townhouses of the ascendancy were sold, some to become government offices, others to degenerate into cramped tenements. While certain areas of Victorian Dublin experienced regeneration, in general there was great decline in the city. Sean Mac Dermott Street lies within the former red light district, the area occupying little more than a square mile in the heart of the run-down northern inner city, which was home to more than 1,200 prostitutes in its heyday (early 20th century).

2.2 THE LAUNDRIES

Since the 1990s, continuous media attention has brought to light the endemic neglect and abuse within various church and state-run institutions in 20th century Ireland. One of the most infamous concerns the reports and testimonies of the abuse and imprisonment of female 'penitents' in institutions referred to as Magdalene Laundries. The term "Magdalene Laundry" has in recent times come to represent in the public psyche a plethora of religious and state institutions which include mother-and-baby homes. The Inter-Departmental Committee organised to investigate the State's involvement with Magdalene Laundries examined ten institutions, one of which was the Magdalene Laundry run by The Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of Refuge at the site under assessment at Sean Mac Dermott Street, one of four such institutions in Dublin. The others were located in Drumcondra, Dún Laoghaire and Donnybrook.

The written history of Ireland's Magdalene Laundries is almost exclusively focused on 19th century Ireland with the historical record coming to an abrupt end with the advent of the 20th century. The first such institution in Ireland was the Dublin Magdalene Asylum on Lower Leeson Street established in 1765 by Lady Arabella Denny with the object "to rescue first fall Protestant cases only" (Smith, 2007). These early institutions both Protestant and Catholic, known variously as Asylums, Refuges and Penitentiaries, were operated exclusively by laywomen in the late 18th century and early 19th century tradition of lay female philanthropy with the support of managing committees of male and female trustees. The focus of the early institutions was towards the voluntary rehabilitation of women in prostitution or women regarded as in danger of falling into prostitution, including unmarried mothers. At this time both entry into and exit from (although not encouraged) were also voluntary (IDC report, 2013). By 1835 there were at least eleven Magdalene asylums attempting to reform prostitutes in Dublin with other Magdalene asylums operating around the country. These existed along with other refuges of a similar nature (Luddy, 1997).

Female religious orders began assuming control of Catholic Magdalene asylums in the 1830s and no lay Catholic asylums were opened after 1845. Catholic religious congregations were primly placed for custodial care of this kind as they were already engaged in a variety of related charitable works such as the running of schools, hospital, orphanages and asylums for the blind, the elderly, the aged, and the mentally ill. Government funding through the Reformatory Act (1858) and the Industrial Schools Act (1868), allowed Catholic religious congregations to dominate

the management of these institutions (Smith, 2007). The post-famine era was a time of major social and demographic change for Ireland's Catholic population. The growing strength of the Catholic Church, initiated with the establishment of Maynooth College in 1796 and bolstered by Catholic Emancipation in 1829, reached higher levels of cultural authority in the post-famine decades. The purity movement which was active from the 1880s, and the socialising of Irish Catholics by the church resulted in gaining a monopoly of control over its adherents (Inglis, 1987; Luddy, 1997; and Smith, 2007).

From their genesis the Magdalene asylums functioned as places of welfare, but rehabilitative emphasis did not continue into the 20th century, when they increasingly became homes for unmarried mothers, as places of concealment where families and institutions sent 'wayward' daughters to hide their perceived shame, rather than refuges for prostitutes (Luddy, 1997). Illegitimacy, tolerated under Ireland's indigenous Brehon Laws, now transformed the mother and child into social pariahs, rejected by family, community and State. Records show that in the early history of the Magdalene movement woman entered and left as they pleased. Along with the emphasis on refuge and rehabilitation the 20th century saw these institutions become places of enforced confinement labour, penance and torture. Penitents were required to work, primarily in laundries. This work was compulsory and carried out under appalling conditions. Abuse was widespread. Women were typically admitted to these institutions at the request of family members or priests or transferred there from another institution. Those who escaped were frequently returned by the Gardaí. Without a family member on the outside who would vouch for them, some penitents would stay in the asylums for the rest of their lives. Given Ireland's traditional conservative sexual values, Magdalene Laundries were a generally accepted social institution until the 1960s and 1970s when their decline was credited with a change in sexual mores. Some claim it can be attributed to the advent of the washing machine and a subsequent fall in profits (Finnegan, 2001).

In 2011 the government established an investigatory committee to examine the involvement of the State with the Magdalene Laundries. The subsequent report 'Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee to establish the facts of State involvement with the Magdalene Laundries', known as the McAleese Report and hereafter referred to as the IDC report, was published on the 5th of February 2013 and has been the subject of much controversy since. Ten Magdalene Laundries operated in the State by four Religious Orders were identified and included in the mandate conferred on the Committee. The results of this investigation remain controversial and have been contested.

2.2.1 History of the Magdalene Laundry at Sean Mac Dermott St

The Order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of Refuge was founded in Caen, France in 1641 by St John Eudes in order to care for girls and women. The first Congregation in Ireland dates to 1853 following a request for assistance by Fr John Smith and Cardinal Cullen to operate a refuge for girls and women "who did not have the protection of family and friends" (www.magdalenelaundries.com). Prior to the Second Vatican Council in 1963 the order was enclosed. The Sisters of Our Lady of Charity

operated two Magdalene Laundries, St Mary's Refuge, High Park, Drumcondra and the site under assessment at the Monastery of Our Lady of Charity, Sean Mac Dermott Street.

A refuge referred to as a "Mary Magdalene Asylum" was operational in Drumcondra from 1831. The Congregation were invited to Dublin and became responsible for the operation of the institution at Sacred Heart Home, Drumcondra Road in 1853. In 1856, the Order purchased High Park at Grace Park Road, Drumcondra and built St Mary's Refuge. The capacity of the Magdalene Laundry at High Park varied over time but at no time exceeded 250. In 1922 the occupancy was 218, 210 in 1932, 215 in 1942 and 200 in 1952. The Laundry closed in 1991.

A refuge 'troubled and homeless' women was established at Mecklenburg Street (now Railway Street which forms the southern boundary of the site) in 1821 by a layperson, Mrs Brigid Burke. It was common in the late 18th century and early 19th century for philanthropic laywomen (with the support of managing committees) to engage in the voluntary rehabilitation of women in prostitution or women regarded as in danger of falling into prostitution, including unmarried mothers. Over time a committee of four became responsible for the institution and a Matron was employed to operate it. Around 1860, the Committee purchased additional land to include a site on Gloucester Street (now Sean Mac Dermott Street) (*ibid.*).

In 1873, Cardinal Cullen who originally approved the request for assistance of the Order in Drumcondra, requested the Sisters of Mercy take over the institution. The site comprised the laundry, the convent and living quarters for the penitents. The Sisters of Mercy operated the "Magdalene Retreat" until 1886 when they together with Archbishop Walsh requested The Sisters of Our Lady of Charity take over the institution, which they did in February 1887 (*ibid.*). Capacity at the Magdalene Laundry at Sean Mac Dermott Street was 150. Like other institutions this varied over time and was 120 in 1922, 130 in 1932, 135 in 1942 and 140 in 1952 (*ibid.*). Known to generations of Dubliners as the Gloucester Street Laundry, it was the last of the ten Magdalene Laundries investigated by the IDC to close its doors in Ireland, which it did in 1996. The Irish Times of Wednesday, September 25, 1996, reported:

"A controversial chapter of Dublin life will end next month with the closure of what's believed to be the last of the capital's convent laundries, that belonging to the Convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity in Sean Mac Dermott Street. At the height of its productivity 150 women worked in this laundry. Today 40 women are in residence at the convent, the eldest of them 79, the youngest in her 40s, all of whom will remain living there after the laundry closes on October 25th".

2.2.2 Concerns over Burials

An exhumation was carried out at High Park, Drumcondra in 1993 due to the sale of land that contained a burial ground in use from 1889 to 1976 for burial of consecrates from the Magdalene Laundry. These were women who remained within a Magdalene Laundry for life (IDC report, 2013). An exhumation licence for disinterment of 133 women was sought. The majority of the women were referred to by their full names,

but 24 were referred to only by their religious name. Death certificates were provided for 75 named women; 34 had "no trace" forms furnished by the Office of the Register General (GRO) and 24 had insufficient details to enable identification by the GRO. During exhumation works, the undertakers carrying out the exhumation became aware that there were remains interred in the burial ground that had not been accounted for in the exhumation licence. Following the approval of a second exhumation licence, 22 additional remains were located. The paperwork and historic records of the Congregation were, at the time, uncatalogued and the Congregation was not in a position to identify either the additional 22 remains found during the exhumation, or the 24 women in respect of whom only religious names were available at that time. The Magdalene Laundry at High Park, Drumcondra was run by the same order as that of the Sean Mac Dermott Street.

This incident highlighted the difficulties in identification of burial where records are incomplete and in matching existing incomplete or unsatisfactory records. The High Park case in 1993 also illustrates the challenges in attempting to determine whether or not all deaths occurring at the Magdalene Laundries were registered.

The IDC compiled a list of 879 women who died in the Magdalene Laundries between the establishment of the State in 1922 and the closure of the last Magdalene Laundry in 1996, or who were buried in graveyards maintained by those Laundries between the same dates. Some of these women were buried in graveyards attached to a Magdalene Laundry. Others were buried in plots maintained by the relevant Congregation in a public graveyard. The IDC was unable to state definitively whether these deaths were never registered, or whether instead some of them may have been registered under variant names or combinations of names. Some of them may have been registered in alternative locations other than the district in which the relevant Magdalene Laundry was located (IDC report, 2013).

This situation is compounded by the fact that in the cases of those Laundries with access to burial plots on private land there was no obligation to notify local authorities of burial. Before 1994 the development of burial grounds by persons other than the local authorities was not subject to the planning process. In relation to the use of burial grounds, it was a requirement to provide advance notification of burials to local authorities only when the relevant graveyard was maintained by the local authority. There was no requirement for notification to the local authorities of burial in private graveyards. Outside of those Congregations who used graveyards operated by local authorities, there was no requirement for the Congregations which operated the Magdalene Laundries, or for the undertakers hired by them, to notify the Local Authorities or any other agent of the State of individual burials made in their private graveyards (IDC report, 2013).

In addition to these existing difficulties, the IDC report has been widely criticised and there are huge discrepancies between its findings and those of the Justice for Magdalenes Research (JFMR). To-date, JFMR has recorded the details of 1,663 women who died in Ireland's Magdalene Laundries, almost twice the figure cited in the IDC Report (Mcgettrick, 2015). In some cases major discrepancies exist between

the headstones and the data collected. Also there are a number of unmarked Magdalene graves. The IDC Report “completely ignores the issue of unmarked graves.... the discussion of discrepancies on headstones is inadequate and the testimony and research of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity are accepted at face value” (Mcgettrick, 2015).

Graveyards exist, or at one point existed, on the grounds of eight of the ten Magdalene Laundries examined within the scope of the IDC report, not including Sean Mac Dermott Street. The Order had a plot in Glasnevin Cemetery for those who died within its walls. It is difficult to estimate with any degree of accuracy how many remains may be present in such situations, whether the burial plots are part of a larger cemetery such as Glasnevin in Dublin or Mount Saint Laurence in Limerick or private on-site burial grounds such as the one within the grounds of the convent of The Religious Sisters of Charity in Donnybrook, due to incomplete or incorrect records. In some cases deaths were not registered. These difficulties were highlighted by the case of the High Park exhumation.

There has been a failure, in many instances of the Congregations, which operated the Magdalene Laundries, to register deaths. This, combined with the fact that the Congregations were not required to notify the Local Authorities of burials within their private graveyards (such as the cases at the Donnybrook and High Park Laundries) and the lack of transparency and cooperation of the religious orders as previously mentioned, it is impossible to state with certainty that there are no burials located within the site under assessment.

2.3 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2016) has revealed no previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the area of proposed development. However one monitoring exercise has been carried out within the immediate vicinity. In 2003 archaeological monitoring was carried out on a site to the immediate east-northeast of the area currently under assessment (Licence Ref.: 03E0991). Excavation works were relatively limited as the development foundations were piled. However, excavations for two lift shafts revealed demolition material to a depth of 1.5m. Natural subsoils were not encountered.

2.4 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

There is no cartographic evidence to indicate the existence of structures at the site under assessment or its immediate surroundings prior to the 1790s. The site appears to have been open greenfield for most of the 18th century. An examination of available cartographic sources such as John Speed’s map of *Dubline* in 1610, Bernard de Gomme’s, *The city and suburbs of Dublin* in 1673, Thomas Phillipps’ *Map of Dublin* in 1685 and Charles Brooking’s *A Map of the city and suburbs of Dublin* (1728) shows the site of proposed development located in a largely undeveloped area northeast of the city.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1843, scale 1:10560

This map depicts the site as being mostly urban in character, containing residential housing and associated yards with ornamental landscaped gardens to the rear. Three structures are shown as fronting onto Gloucester Street. The street front of Mecklinburgh Street Lower (now Railway Street) is entirely occupied with structures with their rear gardens extending north from these but not extending to Gloucester Street Lower.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1847, scale 1:1056

The site is shown in more detail within this mapping (Figure 3). Terraced structures front onto Railway Street within the southern part of the site. The building housing the Magdalene Asylum is annotated as such at the centre. The site is almost fully developed at this time. A small area of landscaped garden is evident in the south of the site. Mulgrave Lane is annotated on this map to the west, as are two small open squares, Nickleby and Byrne's Square. An Asylum for Aged Carpenters is marked on the northern side of Gloucester Street.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1864, scale 1:1056

By the time of the 1864 OS map the site has been developed further but without further annotation than what was marked on the 1847 map, with the exception of a brewery yard now marked to the immediate east of the asylum.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1889, scale 1:10560

By the time of the 1889 map the area has undergone considerable alteration (Figure 4). The Magdalene Laundry had been extended to the west and north. A large area the site is marked as a yard containing 'Drying Posts'. The brewery yard to the east has been removed, but the houses within the southeast corner of the site remain unchanged. To the west of the laundry structures this part of the site is shown as fully developed.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1911, scale 1:2500

This map shows that the site has undergone massive change (Figure 5). The site of the asylum has expanded and now consists of two large blocks of buildings. These include the main convent buildings fronting onto Sean Mac Dermott Street and the chapel to the rear. A garden is marked within the site, which possesses a circular fountain. A possible garden is also located to the immediate east of the site, which is marked as contained a circular corn mill (Figure 5).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING

3.1 GENERAL

Test trenching took place on 23rd May 2017, using a JCB equipped with a flat, toothless bucket under strict archaeological supervision. Ten trenches were excavated within the rear courtyard of the site. Any investigated deposits were preserved by record. This was by means of written, drawn and photographic records.

The test trenches were excavated to determine, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains threatened by the proposed development. Test trenching was also carried out to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and to assess the degree of archaeological survival in order to formulate further mitigation strategies. These are designed to reduce or offset the impact of the proposed development scheme.

3.2 TESTING RESULTS

Ten trenches were excavated within the area under assessment (Figure 6). Trench 5 was excavated shorter than was originally intended in order to maintain site access through the gate leading onto Railway St. Trench 10 was also shorter than planned as it could not extend as far to the west as planned due to the presence of live services.

Trench 1 (Plates 1–5)

LENGTH	16m
MAX DEPTH	1.4m
WIDTH	2m
ORIENTATION	East-northeast-west-southwest
TRENCH DESCRIPTION	
<p>This trench was excavated within the approximate footprint of structures formerly fronting onto Railway Street, which were later partially demolished to make way for industrial laundry buildings (since demolished post 2005).</p> <p>At the west end of the trench, at a depth of 0.4m below present ground level (PGL), a concrete and stone wall extended 0.6m into the trench, where it turned northwards and exited the trench at the northern side. The maximum width of the east–west oriented part of the wall was 0.3m. The maximum width of the north–south oriented part of the wall was 0.5m. Immediately east of this wall was a cobbled surface (Plates 1 and 2). This surface was located 0.4m below PGL and was 1.2m wide (east–west) and covered the full width of the trench. The average dimension of the stones used in the surface was c. 0.15m x 0.08m. The cobbles were set into a yellowish brown and dark brown clay.</p> <p>Immediately to the east of the cobbled surface, at a depth of 0.35m below PGL, was a north–south oriented stone that covered the full width of the trench and formed part of a wall. This stone was 0.15m wide. Immediately east of this stone was a stone, gravel and sand fill, 0.3m wide. To the east of this was a north–south oriented stone wall with two courses. Three stones were visible in this wall and the largest of which measured 0.45m x 0.3m x 0.17m high.</p>	

Immediately to the east of this wall (3.3m from the western end of the trench), was a dump of modern rubble, including paving slabs, both complete and broken, concrete, brick, plastic bags and wrapping, plastic cable ties etc. This rubble extended to 6.5m from the western end of the trench (Plate 3). Anecdotal evidence on site suggested that this was the location of industrial washing machines and that this area was backfilled with rubble when the washing machines were removed and the building housing them demolished. This building occupied the site of terraced houses that once fronted onto Railway Street. Amongst the rubble, at 3.6m from the western end of the trench, 0.5m below PGL, a north-south oriented metal pipe was identified. This pipe was 0.04m in diameter and beside it was a line of 10 bricks (each 0.2m long x 0.07m wide) placed side by side. To the south of these bricks, cut stone extended from the southern section of the trench. Immediately to the east of these bricks were two more north/south oriented metal pipes, each 0.04m in diameter.

On the eastern side of the rubble debris, 6.5m from the western end of the trench, was another north-south oriented wall, 0.3m below PGL. It was 0.6m wide and comprised cut stone, (average size of stone 0.3m x 0.2m x 0.15m thick). Two courses were visible.

Between 7.1m and 9.75m from the western end of the trench, the trench was excavated through made ground, consisting of clay, red brick, mortar, stone, sand and gravel, to a depth of 1.4m (Plate 4). At 9.75m from the western end of the trench, a north-south oriented strip of concrete, 0.25m wide was identified 0.16m below PGL.

To the east of this concrete, it was only possible to excavate the trench to a depth of 0.23m below PGL, as a rough concrete and stone mix extended 0.4m into the trench from the southern side. A hand dug slot trench, excavated through the made ground material adjacent to the concrete to a depth of 0.45m did not find the base of this concrete. This concrete continued in the trench for 4.45m. From this point to the eastern end of the trench, it was possible to dig through the made ground to a depth of 1.4m. It was noted that the northern and eastern sides of the trench in this area were marked by brick walls, although the southern half of the eastern end of the trench contained a concrete, stone and red brick fragment mix similar to that encountered in the south side of the trench between 10m and 14.45m from the western end (Plate 5).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

Nothing of archaeological significance was present.

Trench 2 (Plates 6-8)

LENGTH	17.4m
MAX DEPTH	1.7m
WIDTH	2m
ORIENTATION	North-northwest to south-southeast
TRENCH DESCRIPTION	
<p>This trench was excavated within the approximate footprint of a building that is marked as being to the immediate west of 'drying posts' shown on the 1889 map, which were associated with the Asylum. This structure was later demolished, when the industrial laundry buildings were constructed at this location (since demolished post 2005).</p> <p>From the northern end of the trench to 6.7m from the northern end of the trench, Trench 2 was excavated through made ground to a depth of 1.7m, where greyish green stony, silty clay was encountered. At 6.7m from the northern end of the trench, 0.35m below PGL, an east-west oriented, stepped, concrete wall was encountered (Plate 6). The upper step was 0.69m</p>	

wide, then after a drop of 0.23m, the 'lower' step on the eastern side of the wall was 0.48m wide. The upper step of the wall was covered by a black tar-like substance. To the north of this wall, the trench was excavated through made ground to a depth of 1.5m below PGL, where a yellowish brown stony silty clay was encountered. This clay appeared to be quite sterile (Plate 7).

At 9.9m from the northern end of the trench and to the south of the concrete wall crossing the trench, roughly poured concrete was encountered. These foundations were 0.2m wide and ran across the trench in an east-west before turning south and continuing until the end of the trench (Plate 8).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

Nothing of archaeological significance was present.

Trench 3 (Plates 9-10)

LENGTH	13m
DEPTH	1.6m
WIDTH	2m
ORIENTATION	East-northeast to west-southwest
TRENCH DESCRIPTION	
<p>This trench was excavated within the approximate footprint of a building that is marked on the 1889 map. This structure was later demolished and when the industrial laundry buildings were constructed at this location (since demolished post 2005), the trench location was in use as a small access to the court yard located to the immediate east.</p> <p>A pipe for an east-west oriented rain water gully was encountered at the eastern end of the trench, at a depth of 0.85m below PGL (Plate 9). It continued in the trench for 6m, before it turned to the southwest and exited the trench on the southern side 7.4m from the eastern end (at a depth of 0.6m below PGL).</p> <p>Between 7.7m and 7.9m from the eastern end of the trench, a north-south oriented plastic wavin waste water pipe crossed the trench at a depth of 0.5m below PGL. To the west of this pipe, the trench was excavated to a depth of 1.3m through made ground. The bottom 0.3m of the trench was comprised of yellowish brown silty clay that contained moderate amounts of red brick fragments (Plate 10).</p>	
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES	
Nothing of archaeological significance was present.	

Trench 4 (Plates 11-13)

LENGTH	21m
MAX DEPTH	0.65m
WIDTH	2m
ORIENTATION	North-northwest to south-southeast
TRENCH DESCRIPTION	
<p>This trench was excavated within the approximate footprint of a building that is marked as fronting onto Sean Mac Dermott Street on the 1889 map. The building was demolished prior to 1911 and in use as an open area at the time. The southern part of the trench runs across the footprint of industrial laundry structures (demolished post 2005).</p>	

At the northern end of the trench, a north–south oriented post medieval wall was encountered at a depth of 0.65m below PGL (Plate 11). It was 0.5m wide. At 2.2m from the northern end of the trench, the wall was only 0.48m below PGL. The wall was poorly preserved as the stone was soft and decaying. It comprised mostly of black limestone and plaster remnants were evident in places on the eastern side of the wall. The fill material on the eastern side of the wall was mostly building rubble; concrete, stone, red brick, gravel and mortar, while the fill on the western side of the wall appeared to be closer to garden soil in consistency, with fragments of mortar, red brick and stone inclusions.

Between 5.8m and 6.6m from the northern end of the trench, the wall was disturbed by a modern cut that was filled with grey sandy gravel and stone. Up until this point, the eastern side of the trench was marked by a solid concrete wall (Plate 12).

At 7.9m from the northern end of the trench, the wall was cut by an east–west oriented trench that contained a ceramic pipe. This cut was 0.46m wide and the pipe was 0.14m in diameter.

The north–south oriented concrete wall ended 9.35m from the northern end of the trench. From the end of the wall the trench was excavated through made ground (brown silty clay with red brick, stone and mortar inclusions) to a depth of 1.1m, where yellowish brown silty clay with occasional red brick fragment inclusions was encountered.

At 14.6m from the north end of the trench, an east–west oriented foundation of concrete with red brick fragments and stone inclusions, 0.65m wide and 0.3m below PGL was encountered (Plate 13). On the western side of the trench, this deposit turned southwards and continued in the trench until 18.7m from the northern end. For the remaining 2.3m length of the trench, it was excavated through soil and rubble mix to a depth of 1.05m where yellowish brown silty clay was encountered. At this point the trench sides became unstable and as such excavation ceased. Natural sub-soils were not exposed.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

Nothing of archaeological significance was present.

Trench 5 (Plates 14-16)

LENGTH	18.3m
DEPTH	0.7m
WIDTH	2m
ORIENTATION	East-northeast to west-southwest
TRENCH DESCRIPTION	
<p>This trench was excavated within the approximate footprint of outbuildings associated with houses that formerly fronted onto Railway Street. These were later partially demolished to make way for industrial laundry buildings (since demolished post 2005).</p> <p>At 1m from the western end of the trench, a post medieval stone wall protruded 0.3m into the trench from the southern side, at a depth of 0.5m below PGL. A section was excavated through the rubble made ground beside this wall to a depth of 0.75m. This wall continued for 5m, at which point it extended 0.9m into the trench from the southern side. The average size of stones in the wall measured 0.2m x 0.15m.</p> <p>At 2.8m from the western end of the trench, a north–south concrete wall, 0.48m wide</p>	

crossed the trench. This wall aligned with the remains of a wall from a recently demolished building. Immediately east of this wall were the remains of a cobbled surface at a depth of 0.4m below PGL (Plate 14). This cobbled surface continued until 7m from the western end of the trench. The average size of stone in the surface was c. 0.08m x 0.06m. At 7m from the western end of the trench, the cobbled surface was truncated by a north-south oriented concrete wall, 0.45m wide and 0.2m below PGL. The concrete contained inclusions of red brick and stone. There was a modern cut on the northern side of the wall, just at the northern edge of the trench. Immediately to the east of this wall, at 7.45m from the western end of the trench, another east-west oriented wall extended 0.6m into the trench from the northern edge, at a depth of 0.6m below PGL. At 9.75m from the western end of the trench, this wall turned to the south and exited the trench on the southern side. The north-south oriented section of the wall was 0.45m wide and comprised mostly of rough cut limestone, some decaying, but with red brick also.

Immediately to the east of this wall, between 9.75m and 10.7m from the western end of the trench, a flagstone/tiled floor surface was exposed (Plate 15). These tiles measured 0.23m x 0.23m and sloped downwards from west to east; the surface was 0.5m below PGL on the western side and 0.6m below PGL on the eastern side. The fill material that covered this surface contained frequent roof slates. The eastern side of the floor surface, was truncated by a north-south oriented concrete wall, 0.7m wide and 0.28m below PGL.

At 12.05m from the western end of the trench, another north-south oriented post medieval wall, 0.45m wide and 0.6m below PGL was encountered (Plate 16). It was made of rough cut limestone, c. 0.25m x 0.2m average size. The fill between this wall and the previous wall was filled with quite loosely compacted rubble fill and contained moderate amounts of animal bone, some with obvious butchering marks.

Between 12.5m and 14m from the western end of the trench, the trench was excavated through urban rubble fill/made ground to a depth of 1.1m. At 14m from the western end of the trench, a north-south oriented, defunct, broken ceramic pipe was recorded at a depth of 0.7m below PGL.

At 14.9m from the western end of the trench, a north-south oriented concrete foundation was identified. The foundation had an overall width of 0.7m and on top of the concrete foundation was the remnants/base of a brick wall. As per the wall recorded at 2.80m from the western end of the trench, this wall aligned with the upstanding remains of a wall from the recently demolished building, the facade of which still fronts onto Railway Street at the south of the site.

From 15.6m to the end of the trench, the trench was excavated through the rubble material/made ground to a depth of 1.4m. At this point the trench sides became unstable and as such excavation ceased. Natural sub-soils were not exposed.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

Nothing of archaeological significance was present.

Trench 6 (Plate 17)

LENGTH	8m
DEPTH	1.5m
WIDTH	2m
ORIENTATION	East-northeast to west-southwest

TRENCH DESCRIPTION	
<p>This trench was excavated within the approximate footprint of houses that formerly fronted onto Railway Street. These were later partially demolished to make way for industrial laundry buildings (since demolished post 2005).</p> <p>The western end of the trench was excavated to a depth of 0.9m through a mixture of garden soils and building rubble. At a depth of 0.7m, an orange brown silty clay deposits was exposed.</p> <p>At 2.1m from the western end of the trench, the remains of a north-northwest-south-southeast oriented post medieval wall was encountered crossing the trench (Plate 17). It was at a depth of 0.35m below PGL, and was generally 0.48m wide, but had a maximum width of 0.6m. Only one course of stone survived and the remains appear to have suffered from partial collapse. The base of this wall was sitting on the orangey brown silty clay sub-soil.</p> <p>At 4.15m from the western end of the trench, another north-northwest-south-southeast oriented wall was encountered. It was 0.4m wide and was at a depth of 0.4m below PGL. It comprised of a mix of rough cut stones and rubble bonded with mortar. There appeared to be the remains of plaster on the eastern face of the wall.</p> <p>Immediately east of this wall to the end of the trench, the trench was excavated to a depth of 1.5m through demolition debris where orangey brown silty clay was exposed. The trench sides became unstable and as such excavation ceased. Natural sub-soils were not exposed.</p>	
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES	
<p>Nothing of archaeological significance was present.</p>	

Trench 7

LENGTH	10.1m
DEPTH	1.3m
WIDTH	2m
ORIENTATION	East-northeast to west-southwest
TRENCH DESCRIPTION	
<p>This trench was excavated within the footprint of an access lane marked within the historic mapping. This lane was covered by the later industrial laundry buildings (since demolished post 2005).</p> <p>This trench was excavated to a depth of 1.3m along the entire length. The fill comprised of demolition material overlying orangey brown silty clay deposit. No features were recorded in the trench. Natural sub-soils were not exposed.</p>	
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES	
<p>Nothing of archaeological significance was present.</p>	

Trench 8 (Plates 18-19)

LENGTH	13.1m
DEPTH	1.35m
WIDTH	2m
ORIENTATION	North-northwest to south-southeast
TRENCH DESCRIPTION	

This trench was excavated within the original garden plot associated with No. 77 Sean Mac Dermott Street. This area is shown as containing two structures within the 1889 mapping. These were later demolished to make way for industrial laundry buildings (since demolished post 2005).

This trench was excavated to a depth of 1.35m, through demolition debris. The fill in this trench also contained moderate amounts of oyster shell and occasional other molluscs. At the base of the trench, orangey brown silty clay sub-soil was exposed. At the southeast corner of the trench, a north-south oriented cut extended 0.55m into the trench from the eastern side and extended northwards for 2.5m. At this point, an east-west oriented cut crossed the trench. This east-west cut was 1.1m wide. Both of these cuts were filled with building rubble debris, including roof slates, red brick and stone mixed in black clay.

At 7.5m from the southern end of the trench, an east-west oriented post medieval wall was recorded at a depth of 0.7m below PGL. It comprised two courses of roughly cut stone sitting on top of made ground (Plate 18). It was 0.52m wide. The average size of stone used in the wall was 0.30m x 0.15m.

At 8.6m from the southern end of the trench, 0.7m below PGL, a probable wall extended 0.5m into the trench from the western side. It was 0.45m wide and comprised of roughly cut limestone. Immediately to the north of this wall, at 9.2m from the southern end of the trench, the remains of a well were identified 0.7m below PGL (Plate 19). It was roughly circular in plan and measured 0.85m (north-south) x 1m (east-west). There appeared to be the remains of a stone lining on the northwest and southeast sides and it was filled with building debris, mostly loose sandy, gravelly clay with mortar and stone inclusions. A possible culvert associated with the well was identified on its northern side. This culvert was 0.6m wide and made of stone and red brick and extended to the northern end of the trench.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

Nothing of archaeological significance was present.

Trench 9 (Plates 24-26)

LENGTH	16.5m
DEPTH	1.3m
WIDTH	2m
ORIENTATION	East-northeast to west-southwest
TRENCH DESCRIPTION	

This trench was excavated within the footprint of structures shown as fronting onto Palace Yard within the historic mapping. These were later demolished after the incorporation of this area into the laundry site.

From the eastern end of the trench to 2.9m, the trench was excavated to a depth of 1.3m through a demolition layer. The first metre of the trench comprised sherds of ceramic sewerage pipe and sub-rounded stones in a greenish brown silty, gravelly clay. The made ground was extremely compact. Brown silty clay sub-soil was encountered at the base of the trench, which may represent natural sub-soil but the trench was too deep to enter safely.

At 2.9m from the eastern end of the trench, a north-northwest-south-southeast oriented wall was identified 0.18m below PGL. The base/foundation of the wall consisted of two courses of stone, topped by yellow and red brick. The overall width of the wall was 1.45m, with the brick

course measuring 0.9m in width (Plate 20). There appeared to be an alcove on the eastern side of the wall that measured 0.6m (north-south) x 0.35m (east-west). The average size of stone used in the wall was 0.3m x 0.28m x 0.15m high.

From 4.35m to 8.2m from the eastern end, the trench was excavated through building rubble made ground to a depth of 1.3m where natural sub-soil was exposed. At 8.2m from the eastern end, 0.21m below PGL, a north/south oriented line of bricks on a concrete base 0.4m wide and 0.05m deep was recorded (Plate 21). A similar feature was recorded 15m from the eastern end of the trench.

At 11.3m from the eastern end, at a depth of 0.2m below PGL, a further north-northwest-south-southeast oriented wall was recorded. It was 0.75m wide and comprised two courses of rough cut stone, with the average size of the stones 0.3m x 0.25m. On top of the two courses of stone were red brick, smaller stones and mortar.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

Nothing of archaeological significance was present.

Trench 10 (Plates 22–28)

LENGTH	16m
DEPTH	1.3m
WIDTH	2m
ORIENTATION	East-northeast to west-southwest
TRENCH DESCRIPTION	
<p>This trench was excavated within the footprint of Palace Yard itself, which is shown within the historic mapping. Since the demolition of the structures to the north the area has been used for car parking.</p> <p>At the western end of the trench, an east-west oriented sewerage pipe and a drainage gully were identified 0.2m below PGL. Both pipes were encased in concrete, but the drainage gully was defunct. A north-south oriented layer of concrete, 0.4m wide crossed the trench 1.75m from the western end, at a depth of 0.15m below PGL. Immediately to the east of this was a concrete floor surface, 0.35m below PGL (Plate 22). This concrete surface continued to 3.4m from the western end, where a defunct, cracked and broken plastic wavin pipe, 0.13m in diameter crossed the trench.</p> <p>At 4.15m from the western end of the trench, a north-south oriented roughly cut stone wall crossed the trench (Plate 23). It was 0.48m below PGL and measured 0.36m wide. Less than 1m further east, a rough concrete foundation for a north-south oriented brick wall was encountered. The top of the brickwork was 0.33m below PGL and sat on a concrete foundation that varied between 0.15m and 0.2m wide on the western side of the brick wall. The wall itself was 0.5m wide.</p> <p>Immediately east of this wall, the trench was excavated to a depth of 1.3m through made ground. This material was extremely compact. At 7.35m from the western end of the trench, another rough cut limestone and yellow brick wall was identified. The top of the wall was 0.35m below PGL and continued to the base of the trench. It was 0.5m wide and the average dimension of stone in the wall was 0.30m x 0.20m x 0.15m thick. Immediately east of this wall, the trench was excavated to a depth of 1.3m through made ground. At the base of the trench was greenish brown silty clay that may represent natural sub-soil although the trench</p>	

was too deep to enter safety.
Within the eastern end of the trench, an east-west oriented stone wall protruded between 0.30m and 0.60m into the trench from the southern side. The top of this wall was 0.15m below PGL.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES
Nothing of archaeological significance was present.

The results from the archaeological testing clearly show that the site under assessment has been subject to a large amount of disturbance. This has been due to the construction of post medieval houses and outbuildings and their subsequent demolition and the construction (and demolition) of later large scale industrial laundry buildings. Clearly elements of the post medieval structures survive within the site as stone wall foundations, cobbled and paved surfaces. However, the site has been significantly disturbed by concrete foundations and levelling activities. It also seems possible that prior to post medieval development a significant amount of levelling was carried out across the site, as evidenced by the presence of made ground that made it difficult to expose the natural subsoils within the trenches due to the depth and compaction of same.

Whilst only accessible sections of the site were subject to test excavations, no evidence for burials was identified, either as features or within a collection of stray bones retrieved from some of the trenches. The gathered bone assemblage has been examined by an Osteo-archaeologist (Maeve Tobin), who has confirmed all the bones to be animal in origin.

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of works.

3.3 CONCLUSIONS

The site that has been subject to assessment is located between Sean Mac Dermott Street and Railway Street and is currently occupied by a former Magdalene Laundry operated by the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, which was later donated to Dublin City Council. The site is partially located within the zone of archaeological potential of Dublin's historic town (DU018-020). There is one recorded monument located within a 250m radius of the site, a mill (DU018-020501) located c. 200m to the south.

A review of the available cartographic material shows the site in a greenfield setting for a large part of the 18th century after which time the site and its immediate surrounds became more urban in character, containing residential housing and associated yards. A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2016) has revealed no previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the area under assessment, although monitoring was carried out to the immediate east.

Ten test trenches were excavated within the accessible areas of the site under strict archaeological supervision. The site has been subject to a large amount of disturbance. This has been due to the construction of post medieval houses and

outbuildings and their subsequent demolition and the construction (and demolition) of later large scale industrial laundry buildings. No evidence for burials was identified, either as features or within a collection of stray bones retrieved from some of the trenches. The gathered bone assemblage has been examined by an Osteo-archaeologist (Maeve Tobin), who has confirmed all the bones to be animal in origin.

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of works.

4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological resources potentially affected. Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; and burial of sites, limiting access for future archaeological investigation.

4.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- While nothing of archaeological significance was identified during the course of testing, it is possible that previously unrecorded features or deposits of archaeological potential exist within the site outside of the footprint of the test trenches, or at a deeper level, beneath the made ground identified within the site. Any future ground disturbances associated with the redevelopment of the site have the potential to negatively impact on any such remains.

4.2 MITIGATION

We recommend the following actions in mitigation of the impacts above.

- It is recommended that any future ground works within the site be monitored by a licence eligible archaeologist. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works, further archaeological mitigation may be required such as preservation in-situ or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the DoAHRRGA and the Dublin City Archaeologist.

Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monument Section of the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Dublin City Archaeologist.

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ELECTRONIC SOURCES

www.archaeology.ie – DoAHRGA website listing all SMR sites with aerial photographs

www.excavations.ie – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970–2015

www.googleearth.com – Aerial photographs of the proposed development area

www.heritagemaps.ie – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the archaeological heritage of Dublin.

www.osiemaps.ie – Ordnance Survey aerial photographs dating to 1995, 2000 & 2005 and 6-inch/25-inch OS maps.

www.magdalenelaundries.com – Justice for Magdalenes Group, home of JFMR

APPENDIX 1 RMP SITES WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

SMR NO.	DU018-020501
STREET	Talbot Street
CLASSIFICATION	Mill
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	200m south
DESCRIPTION	No description in the SMR file was available for the site.
REFERENCE	SMR file

APPENDIX 2 STRAY FINDS WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

Information on artefact finds from the study area in Dublin City has been recorded by the National Museum of Ireland since the late 18th century. Location information relating to these finds is important in establishing prehistoric and historic activity in the study area. No stray finds have been recorded from the area immediately surrounding the site.

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

RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES

Section 12(1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (now the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs) to establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes that such monuments exist. The record comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and a map/s showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state. All sites recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994. All recorded monuments on the proposed development site are represented on the accompanying maps.

Section 12(3) of the 1994 Act provides that 'where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such a monument or place, he or she shall give notice in writing to the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to carry out work and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the work until two months after the giving of notice'.

Under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004, anyone who demolishes or in any way interferes with a recorded site is liable to a fine not exceeding €3,000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months. On summary conviction and on conviction of indictment, a fine not exceeding €10,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years is the penalty. In addition they are liable for costs for the repair of the damage caused.

In addition to this, under the *European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989*, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are required for various classes and sizes of development project to assess the impact the proposed development will have on the existing environment, which includes the cultural, archaeological and built heritage resources. These document's recommendations are typically incorporated into the conditions under which the proposed development must proceed, and thus offer an additional layer of protection for monuments which have not been listed on the RMP.

THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000

Under planning legislation, each local authority is obliged to draw up a Development Plan setting out their aims and policies with regard to the growth of the area over a five-year period. They cover a range of issues including archaeology and built heritage, setting out their policies and objectives with regard to the protection and enhancement of both. These policies can vary from county to county. The Planning

and Development Act 2000 recognises that proper planning and sustainable development includes the protection of the archaeological heritage. Conditions relating to archaeology may be attached to individual planning permissions.

Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022

It is the Policy of Dublin City Council:

CHC9: To protect and preserve National Monuments.

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

It is an Objective of Dublin City Council:

CHCO10:

- 1. To implement the archaeological actions of the Dublin City Heritage Plan 2002-6 in light of the Dublin City Heritage Plan Review 2012.*

2. *To prepare and implement conservation plans for National Monuments and Monuments in DCC care (City Walls, St Luke's Church, St James's Graveyard, St. Thomas's Abbey, St Canice's Graveyard etc).*
3. *To maintain, develop and promote the Dublin City Archaeological Archive (DCAA) at Pearse Street Library and Archives.*
4. *To ensure the public dissemination of the findings of licensed archaeological activity in Dublin through the Dublin County Archaeology GIS.*
5. *To develop a long-term management plan to promote the conservation, management and interpretation of archaeological sites and monuments and to identify areas for strategic research.*
6. *To have regard to the city's industrial heritage and Dublin City Industrial Heritage Record (DCIHR) in the preparation of Local Area Plans (LAPs) and the assessment of planning applications and to publish the DCIHR online. To review the DCIHR in accordance with Ministerial recommendations arising from the national Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) survey of Dublin City and in accordance with the Strategic Approach.*
7. *To promote awareness of, and access to, the city's archaeological inheritance and foster high-quality public archaeology.*
8. *To promote archaeological best practice in Dublin city.*
9. *To promote the awareness of the international significance of Viking Dublin and to support post-excavation research into the Wood Quay excavations 1962-81.*
10. *To develop a strategy for the former Civic Museum collection and for other collections of civic interest and importance.*
11. *To investigate the potential for the erection of Columbarium Walls.*
12. *To support the implementation of the Kilmainham Mill Conservation Plan.*
13. *Dublin City Council will seek to work with Diageo to undertake a more comprehensive industrial heritage survey of the constituent historic buildings within the Guinness Brewery complex at Saint James's Gate.*
14. *To implement and promote The Dublin Principles (ICOMOS, 2011) as guiding principles to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of Dublin and Ireland.*

- 15. To continue to implement actions of the Saint Luke's Conservation Plan on the basis of funds available to conserve the monument, recover the graveyard, provide visitor access, improve visual amenity and secure an appropriate new use.*

APPENDIX 4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT & THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS

Impacts are defined as 'the degree of change in an environment resulting from a development' (Environmental Protection Agency 2003: 31). They are described as profound, significant or slight impacts on archaeological remains. They may be negative, positive or neutral, direct, indirect or cumulative, temporary or permanent.

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological and historical resources potentially affected. Development can affect the archaeological and historical resource of a given landscape in a number of ways.

- Permanent and temporary land-take, associated structures, landscape mounding, and their construction may result in damage to or loss of archaeological remains and deposits, or physical loss to the setting of historic monuments and to the physical coherence of the landscape.
- Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping and the passage of heavy machinery; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; or burial of sites, limiting accessibility for future archaeological investigation.
- Hydrological changes in groundwater or surface water levels can result from construction activities such as de-watering and spoil disposal, or longer-term changes in drainage patterns. These may desiccate archaeological remains and associated deposits.
- Visual impacts on the historic landscape sometimes arise from construction traffic and facilities, built earthworks and structures, landscape mounding and planting, noise, fences and associated works. These features can impinge directly on historic monuments and historic landscape elements as well as their visual amenity value.
- Landscape measures such as tree planting can damage sub-surface archaeological features, due to topsoil stripping and through the root action of trees and shrubs as they grow.
- Ground consolidation by construction activities or the weight of permanent embankments can cause damage to buried archaeological remains, especially in colluviums or peat deposits.
- Disruption due to construction also offers in general the potential for adversely affecting archaeological remains. This can include machinery, site offices, and service trenches.

Although not widely appreciated, positive impacts can accrue from developments. These can include positive resource management policies, improved maintenance and access to archaeological monuments, and the increased level of knowledge of a site or historic landscape as a result of archaeological assessment and fieldwork.

PREDICTED IMPACTS

The severity of a given level of land-take or visual intrusion varies with the type of monument, site or landscape features and its existing environment. Severity of impact can be judged taking the following into account:

- The proportion of the feature affected and how far physical characteristics fundamental to the understanding of the feature would be lost;
- Consideration of the type, date, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, rarity, potential and amenity value of the feature affected;
- Assessment of the levels of noise, visual and hydrological impacts, either in general or site specific terms, as may be provided by other specialists.

APPENDIX 5 MITIGATION MEASURES & THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE REMAINS

Mitigation is defined as features of the design or other measures of the proposed development that can be adopted to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset negative effects.

The best opportunities for avoiding damage to archaeological remains or intrusion on their setting and amenity arise when the site options for the development are being considered. Damage to the archaeological resource immediately adjacent to developments may be prevented by the selection of appropriate construction methods. Reducing adverse effects can be achieved by good design, for example by screening historic buildings or upstanding archaeological monuments or by burying archaeological sites undisturbed rather than destroying them. Offsetting adverse effects is probably best illustrated by the full investigation and recording of archaeological sites that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

DEFINITION OF MITIGATION STRATEGIES

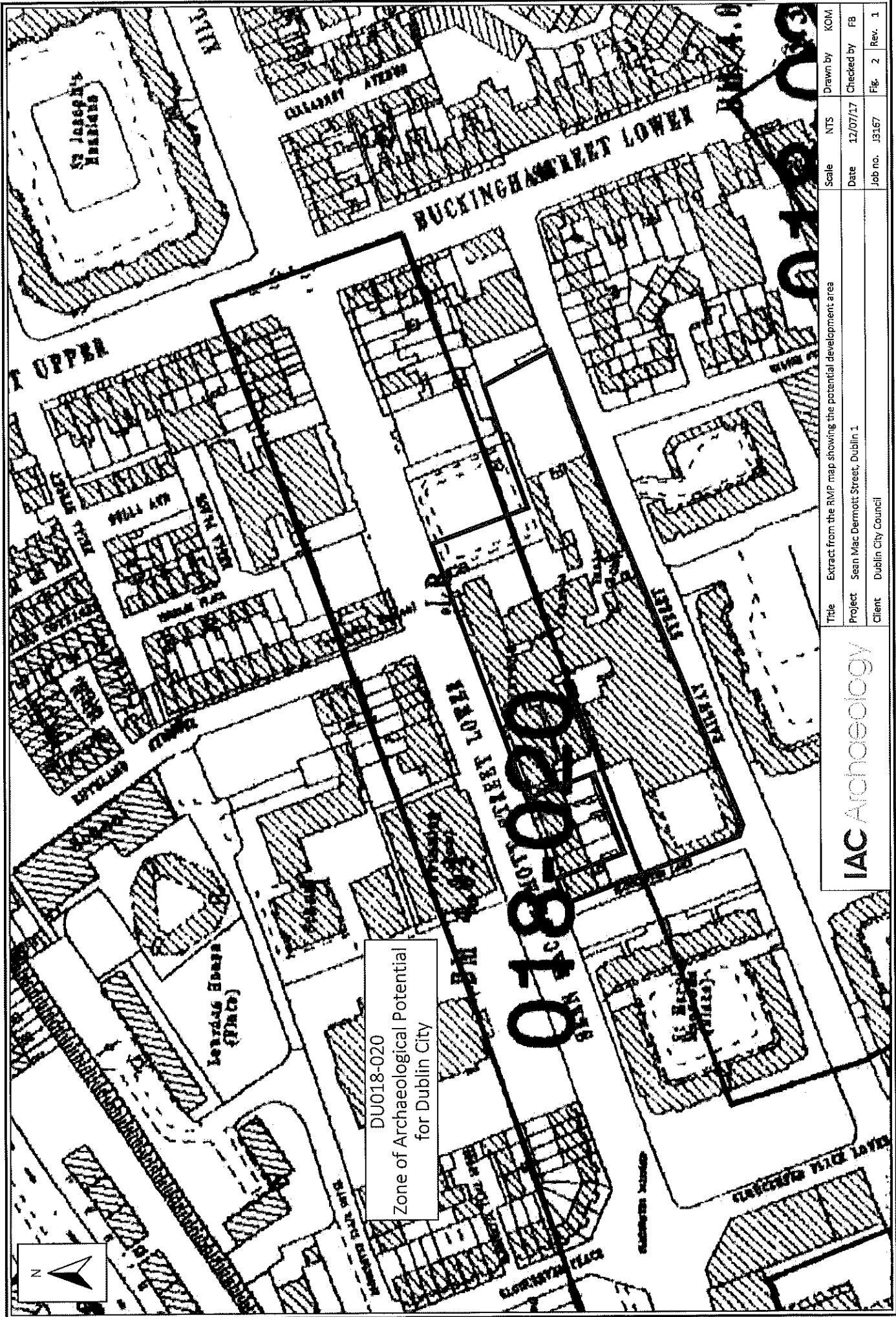
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The ideal mitigation for all archaeological sites is preservation *in situ*. This is not always a practical solution, however. Therefore a series of recommendations are offered to provide ameliorative measures where avoidance and preservation *in situ* are not possible.

Archaeological Test Trenching can be defined as 'a limited programme... of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present test trenching defines their character and extent and relative quality.' (IFA 2014a)

Full Archaeological Excavation involves the scientific removal and recording of all archaeological features, deposits and objects to the level of geological strata or the base level of any given development. Full archaeological excavation is recommended where initial investigation has uncovered evidence of archaeologically significant material or structures and where avoidance of the site is not possible. (IFA 2014b)

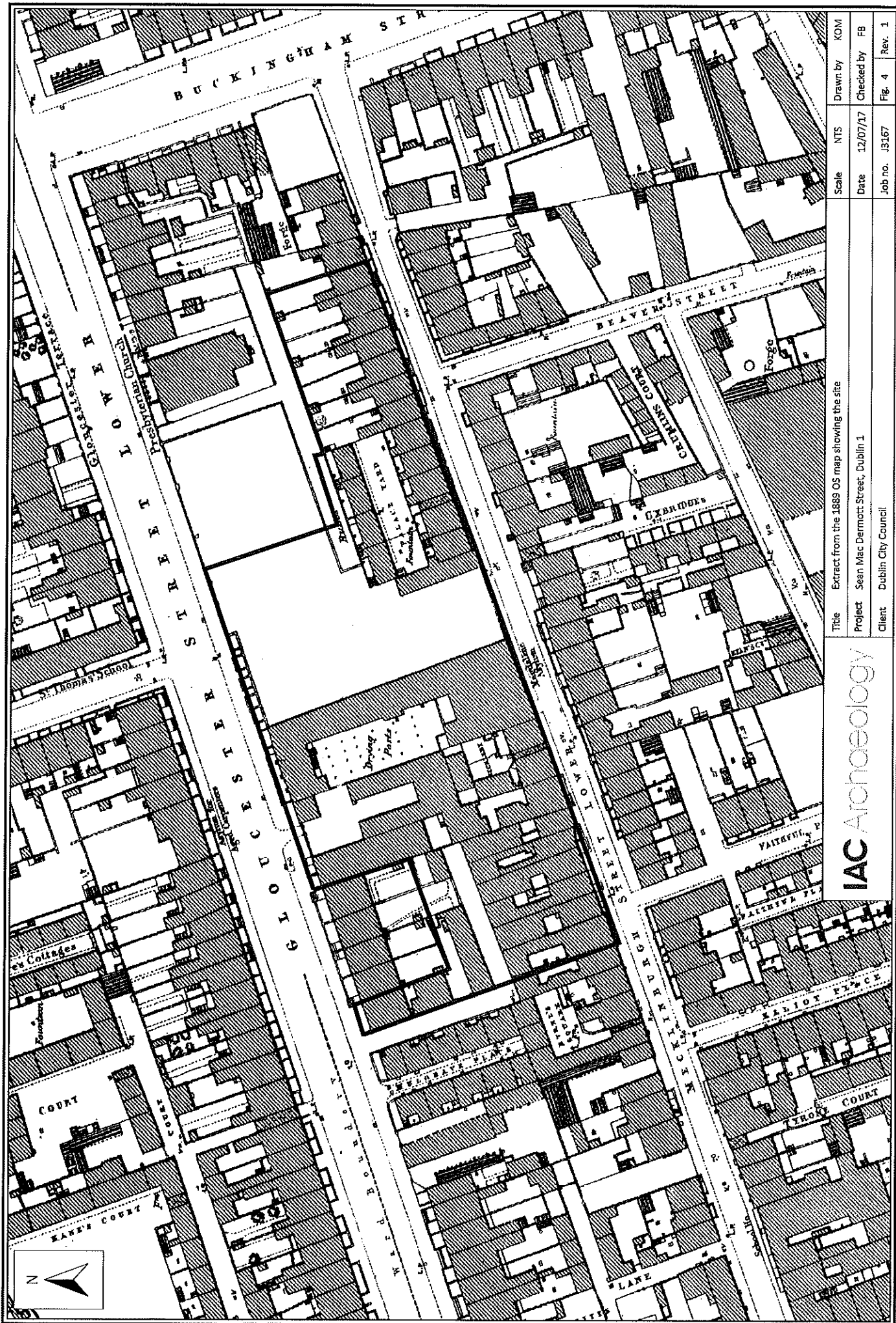
Archaeological Monitoring can be defined as a 'formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site on land or underwater, where there is possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.' (IFA 2014c)



DU018-020
 Zone of Archaeological Potential
 for Dublin City

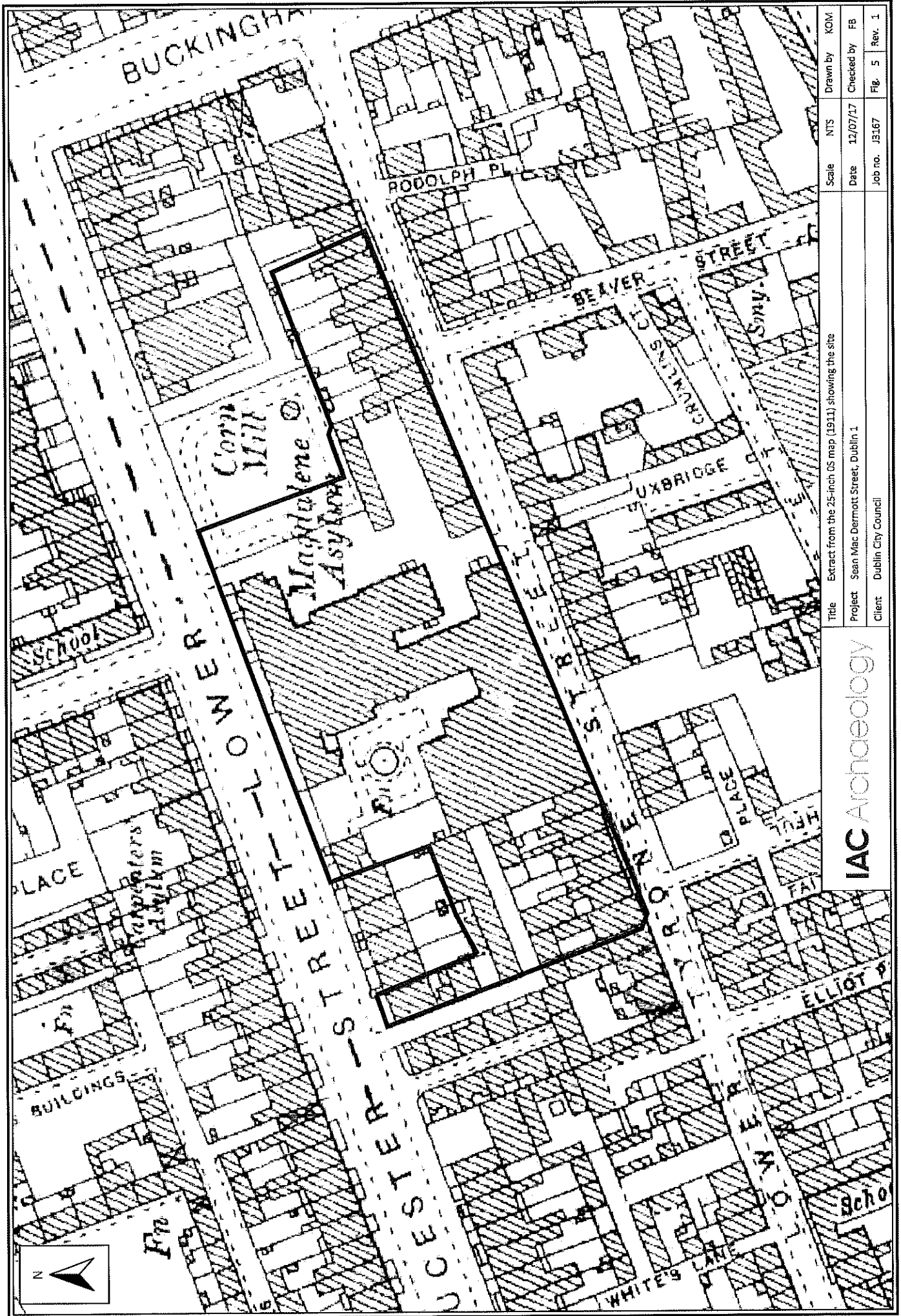
Title	Extract from the RMP map showing the potential development area	Scale	NTS	Drawn by	KOM
Project	Sean Mac Dermott Street, Dublin 1	Date	12/07/17	Checked by	FB
Client	Dublin City Council	Job no.	J3167	Fig.	2 Rev. 1

IAC Archaeology



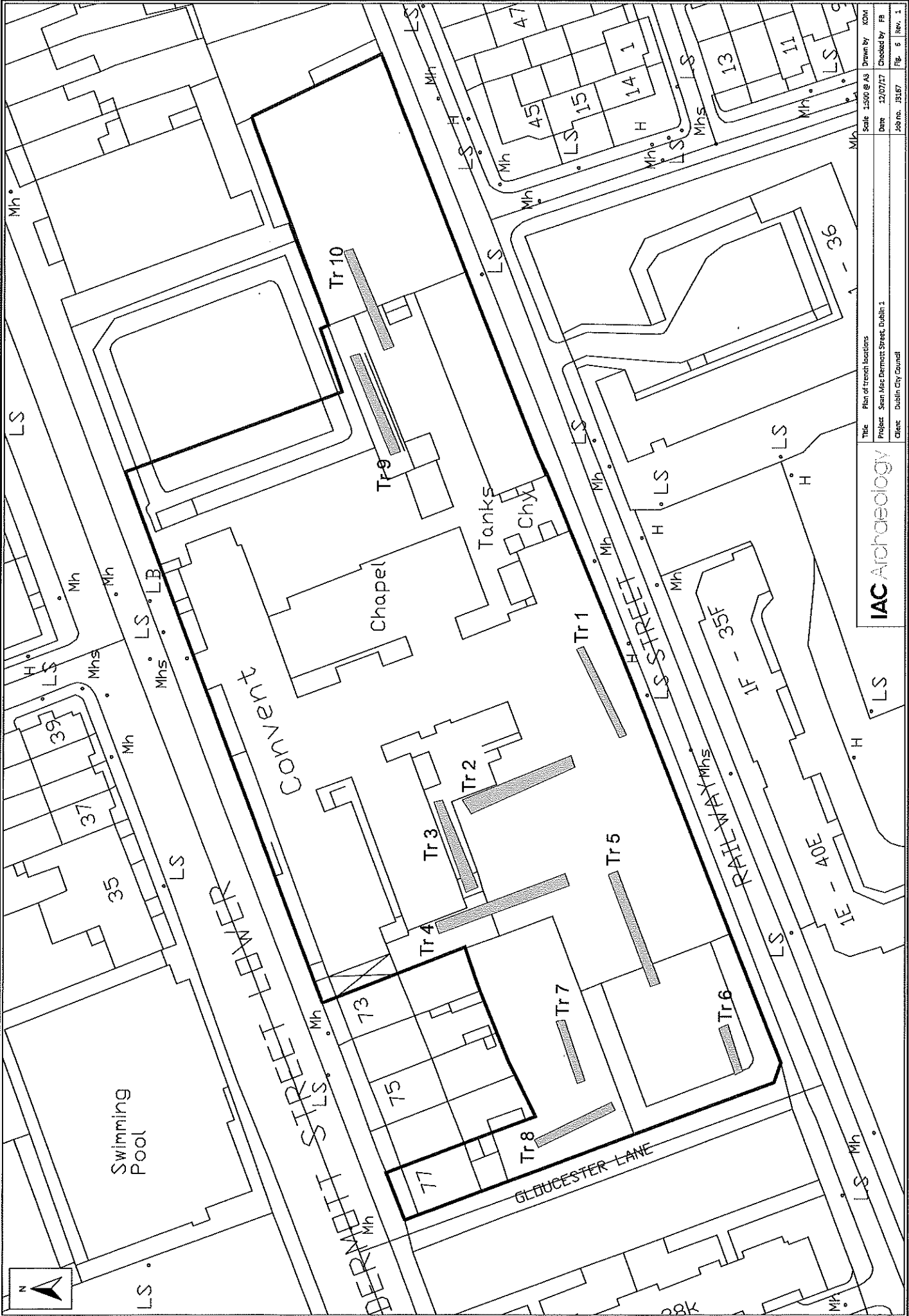
Title	Extract from the 1889 OS map showing the site		
Project	Sean Mac Dermott Street, Dublin 1		
Client	Dublin City Council		
Scale	NTS	Drawn by	KOM
Date	12/07/17	Checked by	FB
Job no.	13167	Fig.	4
		Rev.	1

IAC Archaeology



Title	Extract from the 25-inch OS map (1911) showing the site	Scale	NTS	Drawn by	KOM
Project	Sean Mac Dermott Street, Dublin 1	Date	12/07/17	Checked by	FB
Client	Dublin City Council	Job no.	13167	Fig.	5
				Rev.	1

IAC Archaeology



Title	Plan of french locations	Scale	1:500 @ A3	Drawn by	KDM
Project	Sean Mac Dermott Street, Dublin 1	Date	12/07/17	Checked by	FB
Client	Dublin City Council	Job no.	J3157	Fig.	6 Rev. 1

IAC Archaeology



Plate 1: Trench 1, facing east-northeast



Plate 2: Concrete and stone wall and cobbled surface in Trench 1, facing north-northwest



Plate 3: Metal pipes and bricks within modern rubble in Trench 1, facing north-northwest



Plate 4: Made ground in Trench 1, facing east-northeast

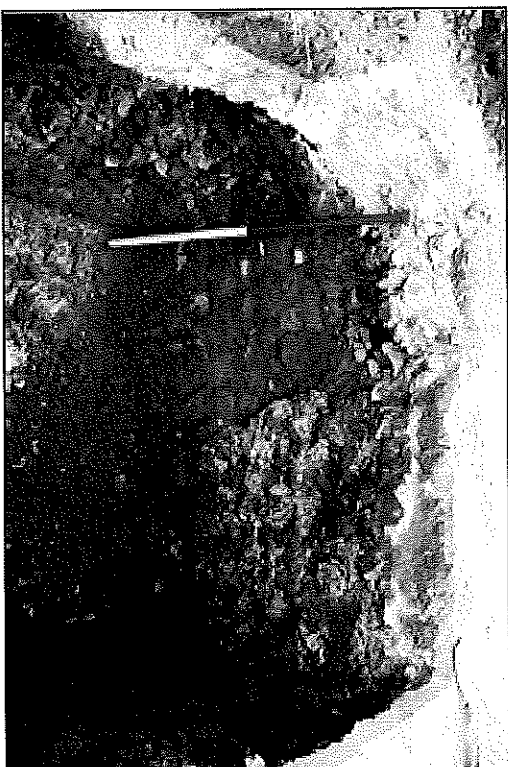


Plate 5: Eastern terminus of Trench 1, wall and concrete fill, facing east-northeast

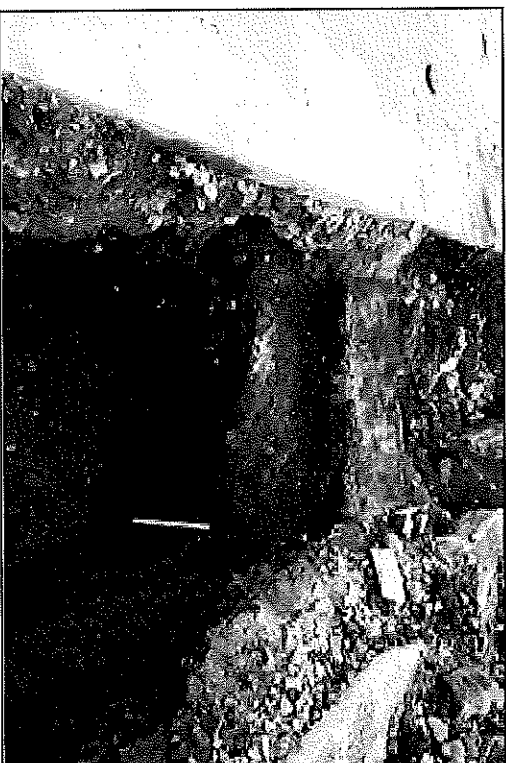


Plate 6: Concrete wall in Trench 2, facing north-northwest

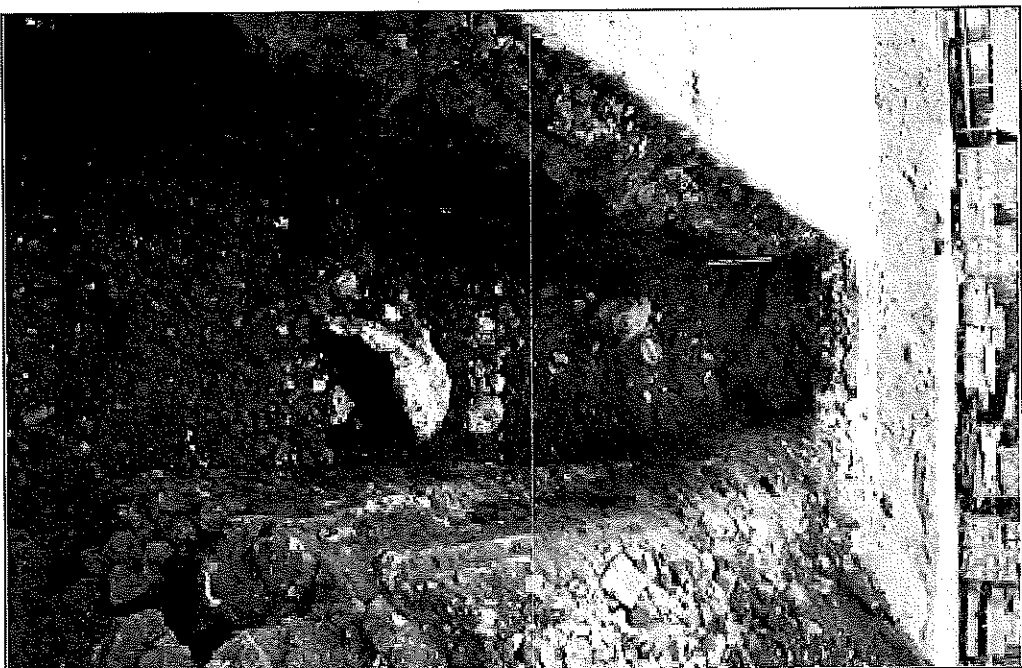


Plate 7: Northern half of Trench 2, facing north-northwest

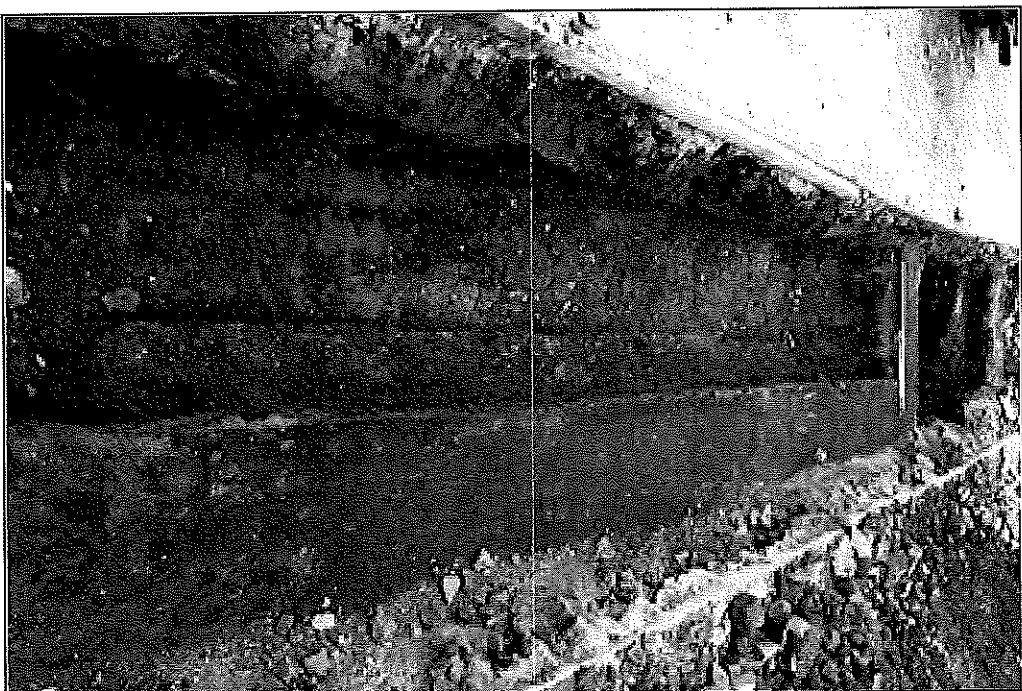


Plate 8: Concrete wall foundations in Trench 2, facing north-northwest



Plate 9: Drain pipe in Trench 3, facing east-northeast



Plate 10: Made ground in west-southwest end of Trench 3, facing east-northeast



Plate 11: Poorly preserved post medieval wall in Trench 4, facing north-northwest



Plate 12: Concrete wall within Trench 4, facing east

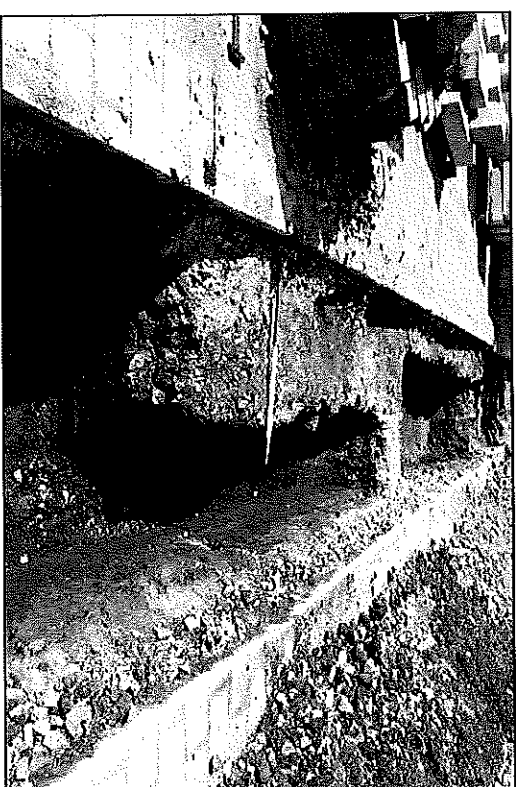


Plate 13: Concrete foundation on west side of Trench 4, facing north-northeast

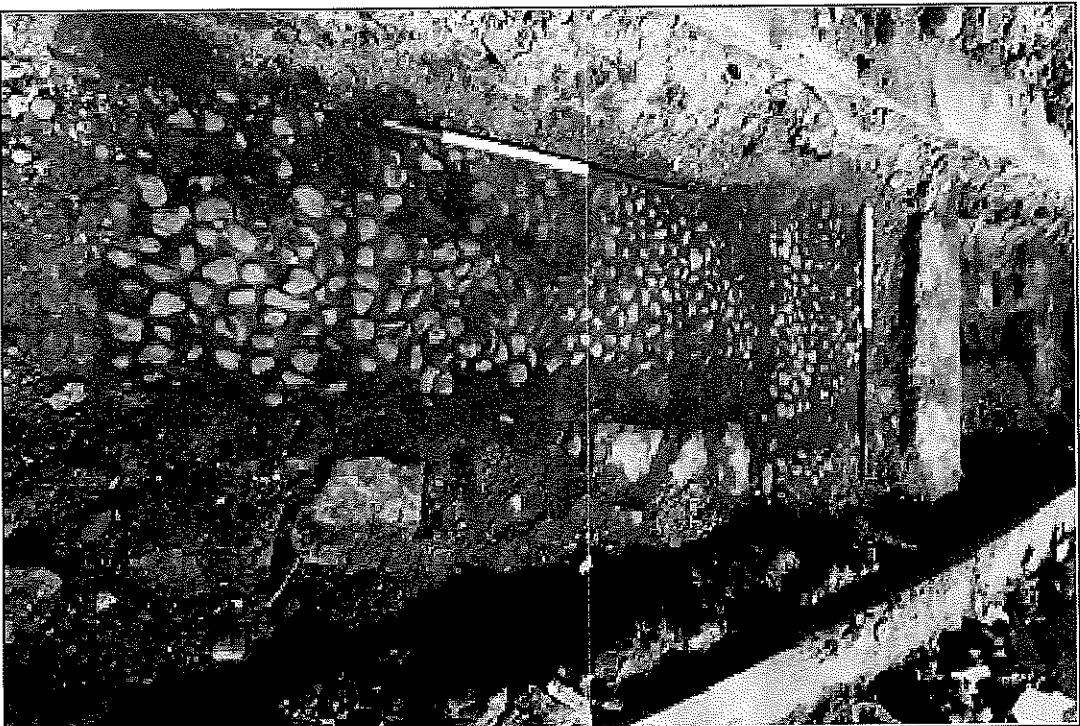


Plate 14: Cobbled surface in Trench 5, facing east-northeast



Plate 15: Flagstone and tiled surface in Trench 5, facing east-northeast

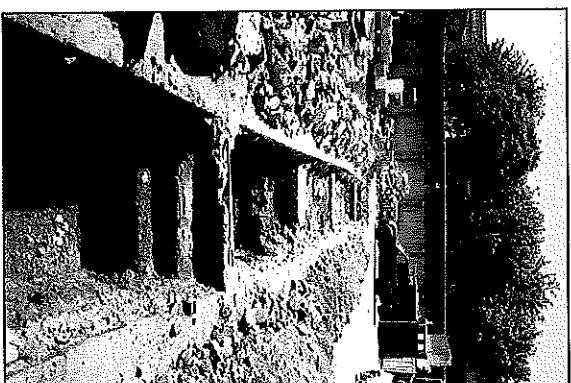


Plate 16: General shot of Trench 5,
facing west-southwest



Plate 17: Remains of wall in Trench 6, facing north-northwest



Plate 18: Wall in Trench 8, facing north-northwest



Plate 19: Well in Trench 8, facing north-northwest



Plate 20: Wall within Trench 9, facing west-southwest



Plate 21: Concrete and bricks in Trench 9, facing south-southeast

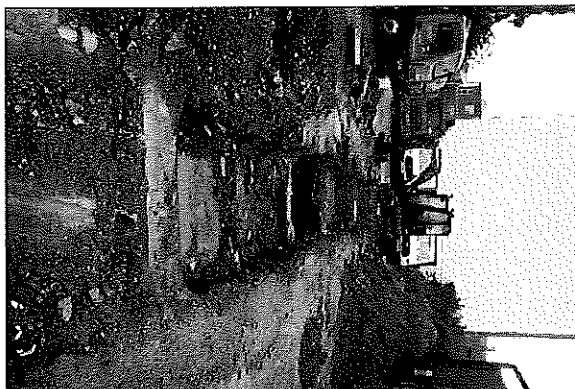


Plate 22: Trench 10, facing east-northeast

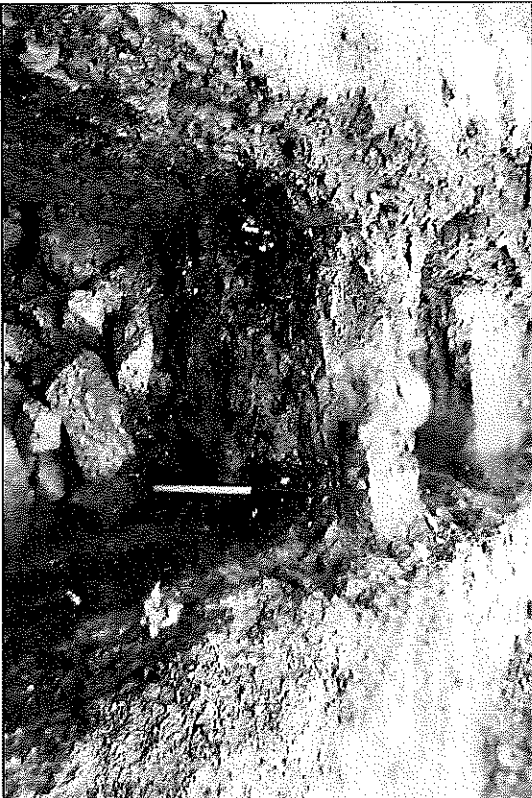


Plate 23: Wall in Trench 10, facing west-southwest