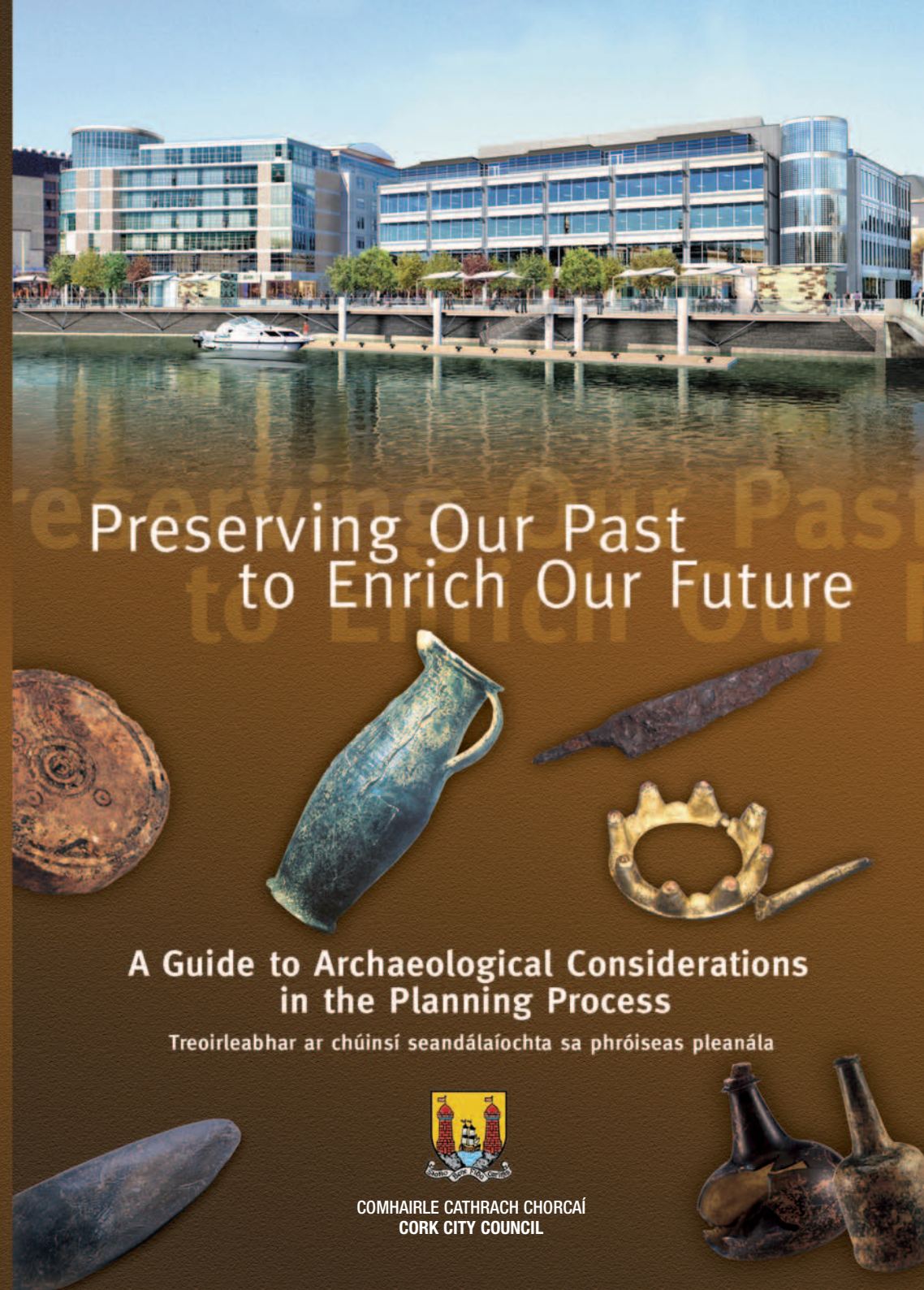


For further information contact:
City Archaeologist,
Planning and Development Directorate,
City Hall,
Cork.
Tel: 021-4924705
archaeology@corkcity.ie

National Monuments Section,
Department of the Environment,
Heritage and Local Government,
Dún Scéine,
Harcourt Lane,
Dublin 2.
LoCall: 1890 321 321
Tel: 01-88831009
nationalmonuments@environ.ie



COMHAIRLE CATHRACH CHORCAÍ
CORK CITY COUNCIL



Preserving Our Past to Enrich Our Future

A Guide to Archaeological Considerations in the Planning Process

Treoirleabhar ar chúinsí seandálaíochta sa phróiseas pleanála



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CORK CITY COUNCIL

Foreword

Cork City is one of the oldest cities in Ireland and has a rich archaeological heritage. Only through an understanding of the past, obtained from the study of archaeology, can the factors which have influenced the shape of the city be appreciated.

There are a range of archaeological monuments present in the city centre and the suburbs. Medieval Cork developed on islands in the River Lee and its original layout survives in the historic core of the city. The medieval street layout is largely retained in the modern street plan. A number of prehistoric features, such as a shell midden and a standing stone are present in the south-side of the city. The ridge to the north of the city provides evidence of ringforts which are typical monuments of the Early Christian Period. There are also the remains of medieval castles in Dundanion and Blackrock. The post-medieval period was a time of great prosperity in the city and the many houses of the merchant princes are present on the north-side of the city in Montenotte and Tivoli.

Archaeology in its various forms, ranging from fragmentary buried remains to the fabric and contents of domestic and industrial buildings, is a vital component of the character and culture of the city. As these remains are fragile and vulnerable in the face of current development methods and proposals it is essential that they are properly safe-guarded and managed. Developers are encouraged to read this booklet which provides practical information and guidance.

Kevin Terry

Kevin Terry
Director of Services, Planning and
Development and City Engineer

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This guide has been prepared to provide assistance and practical information on protecting and managing Cork City's archaeological remains.

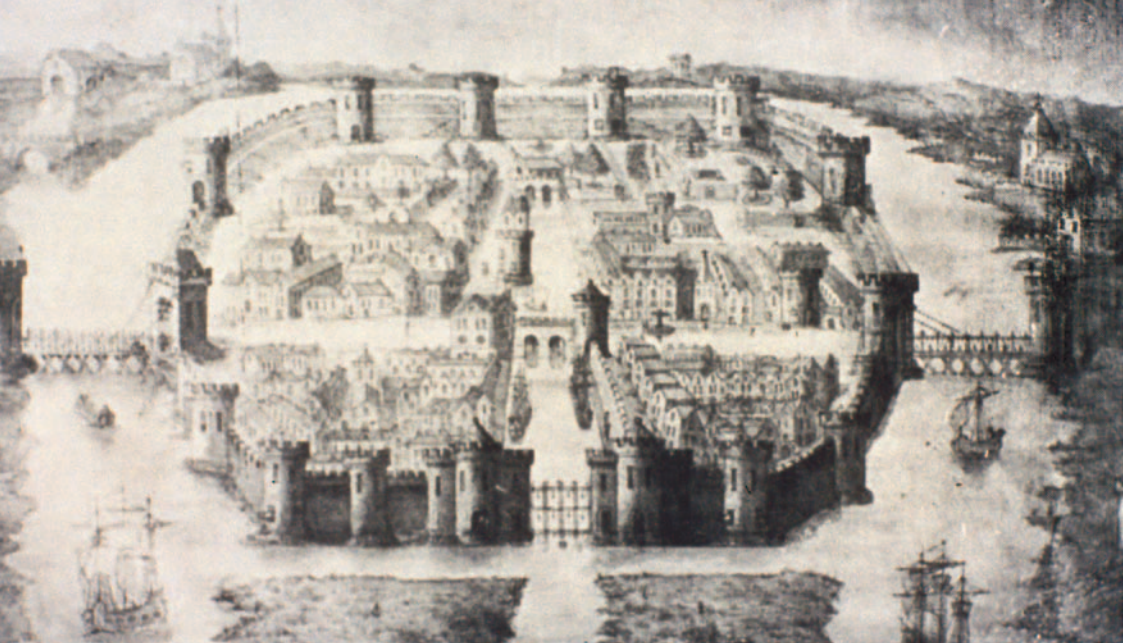


Archaeology is a material consideration in the planning process. The key then, to informed and reasonable planning decisions, is for attention to be given early on, before planning applications are made, to the question of whether archaeological remains exist on a site where development is proposed.

Anyone intending to develop a site is encouraged to consult this guide as advanced planning could save time and money and avoid delays later on.

Top: The Queen's Castle is represented on the Cork City Coat of Arms.

Below: The foundations of the Queen's Castle were recorded on Castle Street.



What is archaeology?

Archaeology is the study of past societies through the examination of the material remains left by those societies

All remains and objects and any other traces of humankind from past times are considered elements of the archaeological heritage.

Cork City has a rich archaeological record. Its unique character derives from the combination of its plan, topography, built fabric and its location on the River Lee at a point where it formed a number of waterways.

Cork was built on estuarine islands in the marshy valley of the River Lee and gradually developed up the steep hills rising to the north and south. Evidence for prehistoric activity in the city is confined to stray finds and a standing stone but the potential for new discoveries is always there. Above ground there are surviving ancient structures such as Red Abbey Tower (14th century) and Elizabeth Fort (early 17th century), however, the buried archaeology of Cork embraces every era of Cork's development.

Cartographic sources and pictorial representations from the late sixteenth century show the medieval walled city of Cork as an impressive elliptical area characterized by towers, battlements and crenellations. There were fortified gates at the present North and South Gate Bridges and a marine gate and central channel which would have allowed access to ships and boats.

Above: Illustration showing the walls of Cork, c. late sixteenth century.

The layout of the medieval city (North and South Main Street) is still evident in the street plan of the historic core of Cork. Many laneways and alleys lead off the main street at right angles. Some of these laneways exist to this day. The size of property units is, in general, as it was in medieval times.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the city developed from the medieval walled city in a number of directions. The marshes to the west and east were reclaimed and covered over and new streets were developed such as St. Patrick's Street, Grand Parade, South Mall, Cornmarket Street and Emmet Place.

Cork's pre-eminence as a trading city and merchant port in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries is evident in the many industrial buildings in the city such as mills, warehouses, distilleries and breweries.

Right: Laneway Marker on North Main Street. These bronze markers are illustrated with artefacts from various excavations in the city. Below: Aerial view of the city.





Are archaeological sites and monuments protected under law?

All archaeological monuments and sites are protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. The National Monuments Service of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government keeps a record of all known monuments. These form the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) recognizes the protection of the archaeological heritage. Development Plans are required to include archaeological policies. Conditions relating to archaeology may be attached to individual planning permissions also.

What is the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)?

The Record of Monument and Places (RMP) is a statutory list of all known archaeological monuments provided for in the National Monuments Acts. The RMP consists of a published county-by-county set of Ordnance Survey maps on which monuments are marked by a circle (Zone of Archaeological Potential) and an accompanying inventory which specifies the type of monuments.

The Record includes all known monuments and sites of archaeological importance dating to before 1700AD, and some sites which date from after 1700AD.



Top left: Excavation of a Viking House during the Cork Main Drainage Scheme in 2003.

Above: Extract from RMP Sheet highlighting a graveyard in Ballintemple.

Left: Unusual Mid-18th Century Headstone in Ballintemple.

Top right: Cromwellian One Penny Token (1653-1659) found in Liberty Street.



How do I know whether my proposed development site lies within or close to a Recorded Monument?

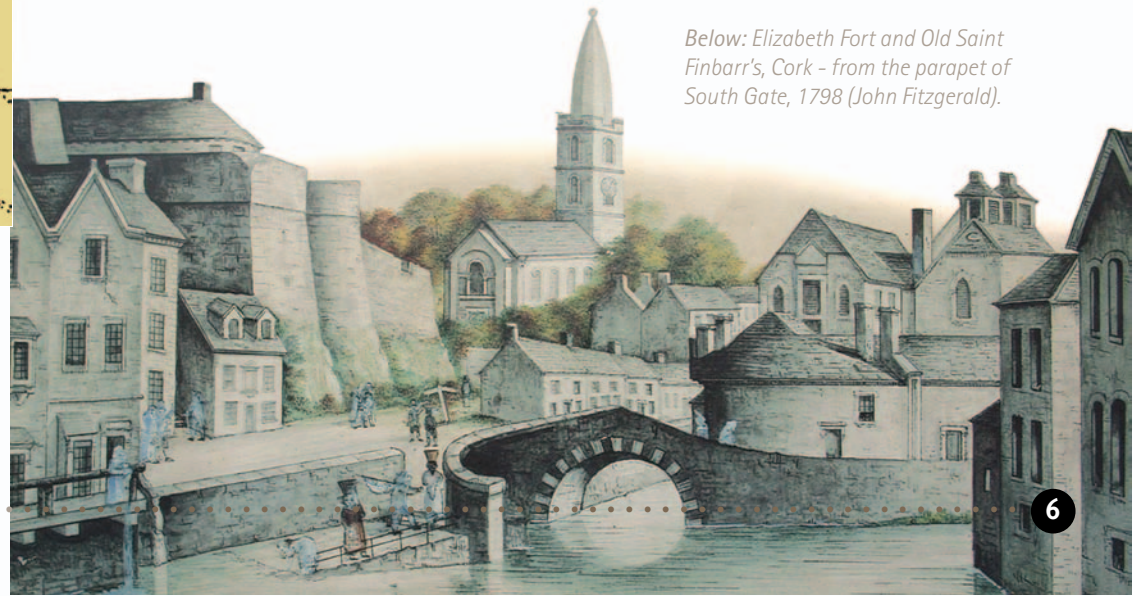
You should refer to the RMP. This is available to consult in the Planning and Development Directorate, Cork City Council and in Cork City Library. The RMP maps are organised on a county basis and you should be able to identify your development site within the relevant townland confirming whether or not your development site lies within or in proximity to a recorded monument. The applicable sheet for Cork City is 74.

Recorded Monuments and Places (RMP's) in Cork City

The City Centre Zone of Archaeological Potential (CO074-122) is identified in the archaeological inventory and includes the medieval historic core. There are 53 RMP sites located within this Zone and these include the site of the original monastery of St Fin Barre and the medieval walled city. Sites within the suburbs at the northern (Shandon) and southern (Barrack Street environs) approaches to the historic core are also included. In the historic core archaeological remains lie within a metre of the modern surface, particularly in the North and South Main Street areas, and these strata can be present to a depth of 3 to 4m in places. The city wall also survives beneath the modern street surface and in some places is present less than 50cm below the present ground surface to a depth of 2.5m. Outside the historic core, the zone covers the un-walled medieval suburbs, known sites of medieval religious houses (Red Abbey), and parts of the city which were developed in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries when the marshes were reclaimed and new streets laid out.

In addition, there are a range of archaeological monuments (61 RMP sites) present in the suburbs of the city. For example, a standing stone in Ballinlough, Blackrock and Dundanion Castles, Churchyard Lane Graveyard Ballintemple and a holy well at Lady's Well.

Below: Elizabeth Fort and Old Saint Finbarr's, Cork - from the parapet of South Gate, 1798 (John Fitzgerald).





Industrial Archaeology

Cork's pre-eminence as an industrial centre in the 18th and 19th centuries has created the most tangible record of historic archaeological remains still surviving in the contemporary city. Today many of the buildings that housed the industries and the associated warehouses, grain-stores, malt-houses, etc. still survive.

Underwater Archaeology

As Cork was built on estuarine islands and in reclaimed marshland it is possible that archaeological riverine-related features may survive. These may take the form of walk-ways, fish-traps, timber jetties or simple mooring posts.

Archaeology and Planning

The needs of archaeology and development can be reconciled, and potential conflict very much reduced, if developers discuss their preliminary plans with the planning authority at an early stage. This is especially necessary for sites which are located within the historic core of the city. The proper management of archaeological remains through the planning process does not necessarily preclude development but it may determine how development can take place.

A variety of different types of development may affect archaeological remains – these include new buildings, modifications and extensions to existing buildings, the construction of car parks, road surfaces and the installation of services.



Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Cork City Council must refer all planning applications which might affect an archaeological site or monument to the Development Applications Unit, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

The City Council recognises the archaeological assets of the city and the protection of this heritage is facilitated in its current Development Plan.

Preservation in-situ and preservation by record are the two approaches applied in the protection of the archaeological heritage.

Preservation in-situ refers to the actual physical preservation of archaeological sites and monuments (which include archaeological deposits, features and structures). Developments that do not compromise the in-situ record of the past are encouraged in accordance with national policy.

Preservation by record refers to the archaeological excavation and recording of archaeological remains likely to be damaged as a result of a development. Archaeological excavation is a highly skilled undertaking requiring much expertise in the recovery of archaeological evidence and in its interpretation and publication. Excavations for archaeological purposes must be carried out by archaeologists acting under a licence issued by the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.



Archaeological Assessment

The purpose of an archaeological assessment is to gain an understanding of the archaeological implications of a proposed development on a site or monument and to consider the impact and recommend mitigation. An assessment may include, where appropriate, test excavation and examination of upstanding visible features or structures. Developers are encouraged to supply an archaeological assessment and method statement outlining construction procedures at pre-planning stage or else as part of the planning application. An archaeological assessment should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

Development proposals for industrial buildings should be accompanied by an assessment of the receiving environment and any new development should be designed in sympathy with existing significant features and structures.

Development proposals which will impact on riverine, intertidal and sub-tidal environments should be accompanied by an archaeological assessment.



Top left: 16th Century North Devon Jug. Middle left: Tower of Red Abbey (14th Century Augustinian Tower). Below left: 12th Century wooden revetment excavated on the South Main Street in 2003. Top right: Ruined Chapel (1730) built by Bishop Brown in Bishopstown. Bottom right: Selection of medieval wooden artifacts, crafted from oak, yew and ash. These would have been used for domestic textile production.

What conditions relating to archaeology can be attached to a grant of planning permission?

Individual conditions may vary dependent on size, scale and location of the proposed development. Archaeological testing, monitoring and excavation to be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist may be recommended. Conditions, which modify the development (e.g. foundation design) may be imposed, in order to facilitate the archaeological investigations or preserve the archaeological record.

Outside the Zone of Archaeological Potential of a recorded monument (RMP), where in the opinion of the City Council developments involve major ground disturbance; archaeological conditions may also be applied particularly in the vicinity of known monuments.

What is archaeological testing?

Archaeological test trenching is excavation of areas of a site in order to establish the presence /absence of archaeology and to determine its nature and extent. The results of a test trenching programme should, where possible, be included with an archaeological assessment of a proposed development site. Test trenching can be required as a condition of a grant of planning also.

Below: Section of Medieval City Wall in the Grand Parade.



What is archaeological monitoring?

Archaeological monitoring involves a suitably qualified archaeologist being present during the carrying out of development works (i.e. topsoil stripping, excavation of all foundations, pile caps, walls and floors below present ground level), in order to identify and protect archaeological deposits.

Who pays for the cost of meeting planning conditions relating to archaeology?

The cost of all archaeological work necessitated by a development, including excavation and post-excavation analysis must be met by the developer.

Does the developer own artefacts uncovered during excavations on a site?

No. Any archaeological object found in the State, and which has no known owner is, by law, the property of the State. The National Museum of Ireland receives artefacts recovered from authorised excavations, after the necessary post-excavation analysis and conservation.

Below: Selection of artefacts from various excavations in the city. Back (L to R) Copper Alloy Decorated Stick Pins, 13th Century Bone Gaming Piece, Copper Alloy Buttons (date). Front (L to R) King Philip III of France (1270-1285) Coin and 13th Century Gilded Silver Ring Brooch found in Barrack Street.

