

past | present | future

ACS



Archaeological Impact Assessment

Portobello Harbour Park,

Dublin

Client:

Dublin City Council

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
CONSULTANCY
SERVICES UNIT

ITM: 715545, 732525

RMP/SMR Nos: N/A

Donald Murphy & Magda Lyne

2 April 2024

ACSU Ref.: 2254

HEAD OFFICE

Unit 21

Boyne Business Park

Greenhills, Drogheda

Co. Louth

Tel: 041 9883396

Tel: 041 9835422

Fax: 041 2130310

info@acsu.ie

www.acsu.ie

PROJECT DETAILS

Project	Portobello Harbour Park, Dublin 8
Report Type	Archaeological Impact Assessment
Archaeologists	Magda Lyne and Donald Murphy
Client	Dublin City Council
Site	Portobello Harbour, Richmond Row, Dublin 8
Townland	Dublin South City
I.T.M.	715545, 732525
RMP No./SMR No	N/A
Report Date	2 April 2023
Report Status	Final
ACSU Ref	2254

Revision	Date	Description	Status	Author	Reviewed	Approved
1	19.07.2022	Archaeological Assessment Report	Draft	M.L.	D.M.	D.M
2	07.03.2023	Archaeological Assessment Report	Draft	M.L.	D.M.	D.M
3	15.03.2023	Archaeological Assessment Report	Draft	M.L.	D.M.	D.M
4	14.06.2023	Archaeological Assessment Report	Draft	M.L.	D.M.	D.M
5	02.04.2024	Archaeological Assessment Report	Final	M.L.	D.M.	D.M

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of an archaeological impact assessment carried out in relation to Portobello Harbour Park for a site at Portobello Harbour, Richmond Row, Dublin 8 (ITM 715545, 732525). This assessment was undertaken on behalf of the client to inform the planning process and offer mitigations of any potential impact on archaeological remains. The objective of the project is to improve the quality and experience of the public realm for the local community. The site is located within the urban environment of Dublin City and encompasses a portion of the Grand Canal and Portobello Harbour as well as Richmond Row. The western boundary abuts a new hotel site.

There are no monuments listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) nor in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) within the footprint of the proposed development. The nearest monument to the site is an inn (DU018-051----) located at Camden Street Upper. The *Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028* was consulted. The site is located within the Architectural Conservation Area associated with the Grand Canal but lists no Protected Structures within the site. Portobello House (RPS 6845), also listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH Reg. No. 50110147), a Lock (NIAH 50110274) and Latouche Bridge (NIAH Reg. No. 50110273) are adjacent to the site. Furthermore, the site lies within the former Portobello Harbour depicted since the 1797 map and a site listed in the Dublin City Industrial Heritage Record (DCIHR). The harbour was opened in 1801. The DCIHR file records that the remains of the original harbour were identified during the survey in 2007. Furthermore, the site is adjacent to and east of Portobello College site, a former Dry Battery Manufactory and also DCIHR site.

The cartographical sources and aerial imagery were examined. The site is depicted as within one of two harbours planned in Portobello associated with the Grand Canal, with their location shown on the Dublin City with Wards 1797 map. The harbour is still shown on the Cassini map of 1935-38; but is fully backfilled on the 1995 aerial, with a building and trees visible. Since 2005 the site appears largely unchanged and in use as a square/plaza. In 2020, buildings on the plot adjacent and to the west were demolished to facilitate the construction of a hotel. Since 2022, the western portion of the site is in use as a compound.

The site survey was carried out on 19th of May 2022 by Donald Murphy. The east portion of the site adjacent to and west of Richmond Row is paved. The area is currently used as a compound location for the construction of a hotel on the plot to the west. Four mooring posts and the 20th-century bollards with chainlinks were noted within the site. The mooring posts make a special contribution to built heritage and are an integral part of the urban landscape associated with Portobello Harbour and the Grand Canal.

The site contains no archaeological monuments nor Protected Structures; it is however within a former harbour, a listed DCIHR site. Examination of cartographic sources shows that since the late 18th century and up until after the mid-20th century, the site was a harbour, now backfilled. Any archaeological remains, if such were present, were likely destroyed during the construction of the harbour. Consequently, the site has a very low potential to contain any pre-18th-century archaeological remains. However, buried historic fabric associated with the former harbour might be impacted by groundworks; this will depend on the extent and depth of work required. The project might benefit by incorporating the

former historical fabric into the design, such as for example, demarcating with the use of different materials the former line of the harbour.

It is recommended that provisions be made to retain and appropriately protect mooring posts during construction works, in addition, archaeological monitoring of all groundworks, including any site investigations required is carried out by an experienced archaeologist working under licence from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland and Dublin City Archaeologist. Furthermore, all care should be taken when working in areas adjacent to Portobello House (RPS 6845; NIAH Reg. No. 50110147) to ensure no damage to the upstanding structure.

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. THE DEVELOPMENT	1
2.1 Proposal	1
2.2 Archaeological Requirements	1
2.3 Methodology	1
3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT	2
3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background	2
3.2 Record of Monuments and Places	3
3.3 Previous Archaeological Excavations	4
3.4 Stray Archaeological Finds	5
3.5 Protected Structures, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and Dublin City Industrial Heritage Record (DCIHR)	5
3.6 Cartographic Review	6
3.7 Aerial Photography Review	6
3.8 Field Survey	7
4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	7
5. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS	8
6. REFERENCES	9

List of Tables

Table 1	Recorded Monuments
Table 2	Previous archaeological investigations
Table 3	Protected Structures, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) sites and Dublin City Industrial Heritage Record.

List of Figures

Figure 1	Location of Site
Figure 2	Location of site, previous archaeological investigations and nearby Sites and Monuments Record sites
Figure 3	Extract from A survey of the City Harbour Bay and Environs of Dublin by John Rocque - southwest sheet (1757) , showing approximate location of site
Figure 4	Extract from A plan of the city of Dublin by Faden and Neele (1797), showing approximate location of site
Figure 5	Extract from City of Dublin by Thomas Campbell (1811), showing approximate location of site
Figure 6:	Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) Town plan of Dublin - five feet to one statute mile - sheet 32 (created 1838 - modified 1847), showing location of site
Figure 7	Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) Town plan of Dublin - five feet to one statute mile - sheet 32 (created 1838 - modified 1864), showing location of site
Figure 8	Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1907 - published 1911), showing location of site
Figure 9	Extract from Cassini edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (1935-38), showing location of site
Figure 10	Aerial view of site
Figure 11	Preliminary sketch plan of Portobello Harbour

List of Plates

Plate 1	Site overview, from La Touche Bridge, facing northwest.
Plate 2	Setting of the site, showing Portobello House (RPS 6845), facing northeast.
Plate 3	Site overview, facing northwest.

Plate 4	View along Grand Canal forming site's south boundary, facing west.
Plate 5	South boundary of the site, facing east.
Plate 6	East portion of the site, facing north.
Plate 7	Site overview, facing west.
Plate 8	View along Richmond Row, site to the right, facing south.
Plate 8	North boundary of the site, facing south.
Plate 9	North boundary of the site, facing south.
Plate 10	View along Portobello Harbour, facing east.
Plate 11	Gable of Portobello House (RPS 6845), facing east.
Plate 12	La Touche Bridge (DCIHR Structure), facing northeast
Plate 13	Canal Lock (DCIHR Structure) facing northeast.
Plate 14:	Canal Lock (DCIHR Structure) facing west
Plate 15	Print from 1811 showing Grand Canal Hotel and Portobello Harbour (Dublin City Library).
Plate 16	Portobello Harbour 1882; release from prison of Charles Stewart Parnell.
Plate 17	Portobello House and Harbour 1952/53 (RTE Archive).
Plate 18	The Lower Deck; Ryan's Bar on Portobello Harbour, c. 1960s.
Plate 19	Portobello Harbour 1952/53 (RTE Archive).
Plate 20	Group of Boys in uniform, Portobello House 1897-1904, showing railing along the canal (by J.J. Clarke).
Plate 21	Detail of railing shown on the 1897-1904 imagery (by J.J. Clarke).
Plate 22	Detail of railing shown on the 1897-1904 imagery (by J.J. Clarke).
Plate 23	Northern wall of Portobello Harbour, as exposed on the site of the future hotel, adjacent and to the west.
Plate 24	Portobello Ordnance Survey Town Plan 1882, showing the Grand Canal, Portobello Harbour, Portobello Hotel, the line of the railing and the mooring posts.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of an archaeological impact assessment carried out in relation to the Portobello Harbour Park for a site at Portobello Harbour, Richmond Row, Dublin 8 (ITM 715545, 732525; Figures 1, 2).

This assessment was undertaken on behalf of the client to inform the planning process and offer mitigations of any potential impact on archaeological remains.

The site is located within the urban environment of Dublin City, and encompasses a portion of the Grand Canal and Portobello Harbour as well as Richmond Row. The western boundary abuts the grounds of Portobello College site, now the new hotel site. The Grand Canal and the site are located in a Conservation Area as marked on Map E of the *Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028*. Furthermore, the site is labelled as Car Park and Zoned Z9 Amenity/Open Space Lands/Green Network.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Proposal

This archaeological impact assessment has been carried out on behalf of the client to inform the planning process to re-develop Portobello Plaza/Square. The objective of the project is to improve the quality and experience of the public realm for the local community (See Figure 11).

2.2 Archaeological Requirements

The client requested an archaeological impact assessment to be carried out in relation to the proposed redevelopment of the Portobello Square/Plaza.

2.3 Methodology

This impact assessment was carried out involving a literature review and consultation of the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) compiled and updated by the National Monuments Service and the National Historic Properties Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The RMP is comprised of manuals that list all known archaeological sites and monuments in a county with accompanying maps (based on Ordnance Survey (OS) six-inch maps) locating these sites. All sites included in the RMP are protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930–2004). The SMR consists of all records stored in the Archaeological Survey of Ireland national database and is presented in the Historic Environment Viewer, which also includes sites listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. The last published RMP for County Dublin is dated 1998 and as such many of the sites listed in the SMR are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP.

The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland were also consulted to assess the area's archaeological potential. These files list, on a townland basis, all archaeological artefacts in the care of or known to the museum. Such a record can provide evidence for human settlement or activity in the absence of physical remains or documentary references. The results of previous and ongoing archaeological investigations were also taken into account in order to evaluate the level of archaeological remains coming to light in the area. Historical maps held by the Map Library of Trinity College Dublin and aerial photography from the Geological Survey of Ireland were both consulted. These sources can indicate areas of archaeological potential through features like curving field boundaries, cropmarks and soil marks and can provide information regarding the nature and extent of recorded archaeological sites that have become denuded since the early 19th century. Historical maps are also useful in identifying other features of cultural heritage significance.

The Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028 was consulted, as it contains a Record of all Protected Structures for Dublin City and a list of Architectural Conservation Areas. Further buildings and features of architectural interest in the area that are not included on the Record of Protected Structures are detailed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) for County Dublin, while other sites are listed in the Dublin City Industrial Heritage Record (DCIHR). In addition, a site inspection was conducted which sought to identify current and previous land use and to locate any features of archaeological potential or items of cultural heritage interest on the site.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background.

The site is located in Portobello, in the south part of Dublin, in Barony of Uppercross and the civil parish of Saint Peter's. The name Portobello derives from a battle in Panama fought by British forces in 1739. The site is located to the south of Medieval Dublin, and it consisted of fields prior to the 19th century. The name Portobello (Beautiful Harbour) derives from a naval battle fought between Great Britain and Spain in 1739 in which the settlement of Portobello on Panama's Caribbean coast was captured by the British. Portobello began as a small suburb in the 18th century. The name Portobello is used to describe a portion of the Grand Canal leading from Robert Emmet Bridge to the Portobello Bridge/La Touche Bridge.

The River Liffey played a significant role in the settlement in the Dublin area. The historical development of Dublin is tightly connected economically and geographically with the River Liffey. The urban space development along the River Liffey reflects the civic values of local authorities at the time. The environs of the proposed development; the area between Rathmines and Ranelagh is recorded as the site of the battle of Rathmines (Ball 1902). The battle is known as the *Bloody Fields*, fought in the 17th century. Brunskill (1939) notes it showed the weakness and inefficiency of the Royalist Army. The Rocque map of 1760 labels the area as Porto Bello to the south and just outside of the urban area of Dublin. A road running within the current Camden Street Lower separates into three and runs southwards, with Rathmines Path running roughly within the current Richmond Street South. At the junction between Charlotte Street and Camden Street the location of an inn (DU 018-051) is marked. The inn is recorded as one of the oldest establishments in Ireland of this type and was still in existence in 1710. It is now replaced by a present public house known as the Bleeding Horse.

In 1757, by the Act of Parliament, the Commissioners for Making Wide and Convenient Ways, Streets and Passages in the City of Dublin (known as Wide Street Commissioners (WSC) was established. The commission redesigned medieval Dublin that was built along a west to east axis, replacing it with a north-to-south axis with an organised street pattern (Digital Repository of Ireland). This aided in the redevelopment and extension of the city. In the 1750s, the Irish Parliament allocated funds to make the existing river navigable and to create a canal network in Ireland. By the mid-18th century, a number of canal routes were underway, including the Grand Canal. In order to aid in economic progress and link Dublin with Shannon two canal routes were proposed; one to the north and the other to the south of the River Liffey. The southern route was chosen, aiming to provide fresh water to the city and Guinness Brewery. The construction of the Grand Canal commenced in c. 1756. Due to unforeseen problems that caused delays in the construction of the Grand Canal, in the 1790s, the work on the northern rivalry route, the Royal Canal, started. The Dublin section of the Grand Canal was open on the 23 April 1796, and in 1804 the main line of the Grand Canal was completed, while the Royal Canal was built by 1817 (Rynne, 2015). This created a new border/boundary for the expanding city. Both canals were depicted on the Dublin City with wards map of 1797. The map showed the Grand Canal Route and included details, such as Latouche Bridge over the road to Rathmines, with a sluice to the east of the site, and two harbours at Portobello (Figure 4). Latouche Bridge was constructed in 1791 and named after the famous banker family. In 1871 a tramline was added to the bridge. The current site is located within the footprint of one the two of the harbours at Portobello, recorded as built in 1801. The City Basin, known as New City Basin or Richmond Basin was built in 1806, its aim was to provide the city with fresh drinking water; however, the water was not suitable for drinking, and the basin was infilled in 1883. In 1807, Portobello House, PRS 6845, NIAH Reg. No. 50110147 was built as one of the canal hotels. It was designed by James Colbourne, the Grand Canal Company's Engineer and Architect. Both the Portobello House and Portobello Harbour are shown on a print from 1811 (Plate 15). As the canal was predominantly used for freight traffic, the hotel did not return a profit and was closed by the mid-19th century. Subsequently, it was used as a private hospital/infirmary and is now a college (NIAH file). The DCIHR file records that the western portion of Portobello Harbour was infilled by 1912, and Dry Battery Manufactory was built adjacent and to the west of the current site, later replaced by Portobello College in c. 2000. The portion of the Portobello Harbour that the site is located within, just to the west of the Portobello House, stayed open until the mid-20th century (Plates 17-19), but by the 1995 aerial it is shown as backfilled, and in 2000 a square/plaza was established here, and the site remained unchanged until recently. In 2017, permission was given for the development of a hotel (Planning Ref. No. 4284/17) on the site adjacent to and west by Dublin City Council. By 2020, the site was cleared of buildings. Groundworks within the site of the proposed hotel exposed the northern wall of the former Portobello Harbour (see Plate 23).

3.2 Record of Monuments and Places

There are no monuments listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) nor in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The nearest monument to the site is an inn (DU018-051----) located at Camden Street Upper, c. 330m to the north of the site.

The following is a list of the recorded monuments located in the environs of the site. Where available, these descriptions are derived from the National Monuments Service Archaeological Survey Database (<http://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>).

Table 1: Recorded Monuments in the environs of the study area

RMP No./ SMR No.	Class/Site Type	Townland	Description
DU018-051----	Inn	Dublin South City	Located at the junction of Old Camden Street and Charlotte Street. The present public house known as the Bleeding Horse occupies the site of an earlier inn still in existence in 1710 AD. It was described as a small dilapidated and overgrown building with one gable jutting into the road and a projecting window. Over the door hung a painted panel representing a white horse out of whose neck there spouted blood (Joyce 1988, 493-4, 2nd. ed.).
DU018-120----	Building	Dublin South City	No information available.
DU018-020647-	House - indeterminate date	Dublin South City	No. 91 Lower Camden Street is probably a Dutch Billy with a cruciform roof structure (Colm Murray pers. comm. Feb.1998).
DU018-020336-	Ritual site - holy well	Dublin South City	Shown on the Friends of Medieval Dublin Map (1978, D4) at the junction of Montague Street and Camden Street Lower. It was dedicated to St. Kevin (Ó Danachair 1958, 233). No visible surface trace.

3.3 Previous Archaeological Excavations

There have been a number of archaeological investigations within the surrounding area in the environs of the site, mostly to the east and north. Most relevant excavation to the east of a large area was carried out under licences 13E0313 and 16E0522; the former exposed post-medieval deposits only, and the latter had nothing of archaeological significance.

Listed below (Table 2, Figure 2) are the investigations located in the environs of the site. The details are derived from the Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland (www.excavations.ie) and include licensed excavation sites (www.heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/DublinCountyHeritage/index.html).

Table 2: Previous archaeological investigations

Site	Licence No.	RMP/SMR No.	Site Type	Investigation Type
2013:213 - Charlemont Street, Dublin, Dublin	13E0313	N/A	Urban post-medieval	Monitoring
2016:014 - Charlemont Street, Ranelagh North, Dublin, Dublin				

Site	Licence No.	RMP/SMR No.	Site Type	Investigation Type
2018:623 - Charlemont Street, Ranelagh North, Dublin				
CHARLEMONT CLINIC, DUBLIN 2	16E0522	N/A	No archaeological significance	Monitoring

3.4 Stray Archaeological Finds

No stray archaeological finds are recorded in the topographical files of the National Museum for Portobello Harbour or Richmond Row; however, there are eleven finds registered for Dublin 8. These are listed in the table below:

Table 3: Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

NMIRRegisterNo	SimpleName	Component	FindPlace
1882:50	Tool	Antler	Michael's Lane, Dublin 8
1953:17	Pottery	Ceramic	James's Street, Dublin 8
1967:158	Whetstone	Stone	Cathedral Lane, Dublin 8
1967:159	Whetstone	Stone	Cathedral Lane, Dublin 8
1967:160	Whetstone	Stone	Cathedral Lane, Dublin 8
1967:161	Spindle whorl	Stone	Cathedral Lane, Dublin 8

3.5 Protected Structures, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and Dublin City Industrial Heritage Record (DCIHR)

The site is located within Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) associated with the Grand Canal as shown on Map E of the *Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028*, with no Protected Structures within the site registered. Portobello House (RPS 6845), also listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH Reg. No. 50110147), a Lock (NIAH 50110274) and Latouche Bridge (NIAH Reg. No. 50110273) are adjacent to the site. The site lies within a former Portobello Harbour depicted since the 1797 map and a site listed in the Dublin City Industrial Heritage Record (DCIHR). The harbour was opened in 1801 and backfilled sometime after the mid-20th century. The DCIHR file records that remains of the original harbour were identified during the survey in 2007. Furthermore, the site is to the east of Portobello College, a former Dry Battery Manufactory that is also a DCIHR site. To the south of the site is the Canal lock (NIAH Reg. No. 50110274, DCIHR site) and Latouche Bridge (NIAH Reg. No. 50110273, DCIHR site).

3.6 Cartographic Review

A review of available historic mapping for the area was carried out to include the 1838, 1864, 1882, 1907, and 1935 editions of the Ordnance Survey maps and the Rocque 1757, Fade and Neele 1797 and Campbell 1811 maps. Potential archaeological or cultural heritage features are marked on such maps and provide a useful resource in identifying sites, particularly if they no longer have any above-ground remains.

On the 1757 map, the site is shown as within two pasture fields, just to the west of Porto Bello Road. By 1797, the site is a harbour with a second harbour shown to the west of the site. The canal is depicted with *Latouche Bridge* over it, and the road to the east is labelled as *Road to Rathmines*. To the north, an area labelled as *Porto Bello* is shown, with a number of buildings and gardens at the rear. At that time, the canal formed the southernmost extent of Dublin. Furthermore, the area to the south, a wide band to the north and along the canal were not developed. The 1811 map labels *Porto Bello Harb* with two docking areas added. The Portobello House to the east of the site is also depicted for the first time.

The cartographic review of the Ordnance Survey maps of 1838, 1864 and 1907 shows the rapid urbanisation of the area. More detail is given on the 6-inch 1838 map of Dublin. An L shaped building surrounding the two small docking areas is shown. The second harbour and City Basin are depicted to the west of the site. A building to the east of the site representing Portobello House is illustrated and labelled as *St Marys Asylum for the Blind*. The road to the north of the site is labelled as *Portobello Harbour*, with houses and plots with town gardens further north. *La Touche Bridge* and *Lock* are labelled and depicted, and along the south side of the canal, a row of trees is shown. The modifications to the map made in 1864 show the site unchanged. On the 1882 map mooring posts are depicted and fencing along the harbour and canal lock. The 1907 map gives some more detail in relation to the environs of the site but not the site itself. The *City Basin* was backfilled, and houses are depicted at its former location. By the time of the Cassini map of 1935-38, the second dock, to the west of the site, is shown backfilled with a building at its location. The site remains unchanged and is shown as a harbour with two small docking areas.

3.7 Aerial Photography Review

In addition to examining the various editions of the OS maps, aerial photographs from the Geological Survey of Ireland, dating from between 1995 and 2013, and the google aerial imagery dating between 1995 and 2022 were consulted. In addition, historic imagery, including print from 1811 from Dublin City Library, imagery from RTE Archive and from Clarke Photographic Collection were reviewed.

The 1811 print shows the canal, harbour and hotel (Plate 15), the imagery dated 1882 (Plate 16) records Portobello Harbour during the release of Charles Stewart Parnell from prison. The imagery of Portobello House, Harbour as well as Ryan's Bar (Plates 17-19) records the harbour prior to its backfilling. It shows details such as bollards with chainlinks lining the harbour and mooring posts along it. The 1897-1904 imagery by J. J. Clarke of a group of Boys in uniform at Portobello House (Plate 20) shows the former railing (see detail on Plates 21-22), later replaced by bollards and chainlink visible on the 1960s imagery.

The site, formerly a portion of a harbour, is shown as backfilled by the 1995 aerial. A building and trees are visible within the western portion. In 2005 a square/plaza was established, and the site appears to be unchanged thereafter. By 2020, a building on the plot adjacent and to the west was demolished, and since 2022 the west portion of the site is in use as a compound location for the development of a plot to the west of it.

No features of archaeological interest are apparent from the examination of these.

3.8 Field Survey

The purpose of this survey was to assess whether or not the site contained any evidence for the presence of any previously unrecorded areas or features of historical, built heritage or archaeological significance.

The site survey was carried out on the 19th of May by Donald Murphy (Plates 1-14). The east portion of the site adjacent to and west of Richmond Row is paved and a portion of the site is currently used as a compound location for the construction of a hotel on the plot to the west. The presence of four mooring posts and bollards with chainlink was noted. The imagery dated 1897-1904 (Plate 20) shows a former railing (Plates 21-22) along the canal and harbour at this location, with its line also depicted on the Portobello Town Plan of 1882 (Plate 24). It appears that the bollards with chainlink shown in the 1960s (Plates 17 – 19), with the portion along the canal currently intact, are 20th century in date. Some of the mooring posts were removed from the portion adjacent to the former harbour (Plates 6 – 7), while the portion along the canal remains intact (Plates 2, 14). The mooring posts make a special contribution to built heritage and are an integral part of the urban landscape associated with Portobello Harbour and the Grand Canal.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The site contains no archaeological monuments nor Protected Structures but it is located within Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) associated with the Grand Canal, and is adjacent to Portobello House (RPS 6845; NIAH Reg. No. 50110147).

Examination of cartographic sources shows that since the late 18th century and up until after the mid-20th century, the site was a harbour, now backfilled. Any archaeological remains, if such were present, were likely destroyed during the construction of the harbour. Consequently, the site has a very low potential to contain any pre-18th-century archaeological remains. However, buried historic fabric associated with the former harbour might be impacted by groundworks; this will depend on their extent and depth. Four mooring posts along the canal and the 20th-century bollards with chainlink were noted within the site. The mooring posts make a special contribution to built heritage and are an integral part of the urban landscape associated with Portobello Harbour and the Grand Canal. The project might benefit by incorporating the former historical fabric into the design, such as for example, demarcating with the use of different materials the former line of the harbour.

5. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

This assessment was carried out in relation to the Portobello Harbour Park for a site at Portobello Harbour, Richmond Row, Dublin 8 in relation to the planned redevelopment of Portobello Plaza/Square.

The site contains no archaeological monuments nor Protected Structures but it is located within Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) associated with the Grand Canal. The site is also within a former harbour, listed DCIHR site.

It is recommended that provision be made to retain and appropriately protect mooring posts during construction works, in addition, archaeological monitoring of all groundworks, including any site investigations be carried out by an experienced archaeologist working under licence from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland and Dublin City Archaeologist. Furthermore, all care should be taken when working in areas adjacent to Portobello House (RPS 6845; NIAH Reg. No. 50110147) to ensure no damage to the upstanding structure.

6. REFERENCES

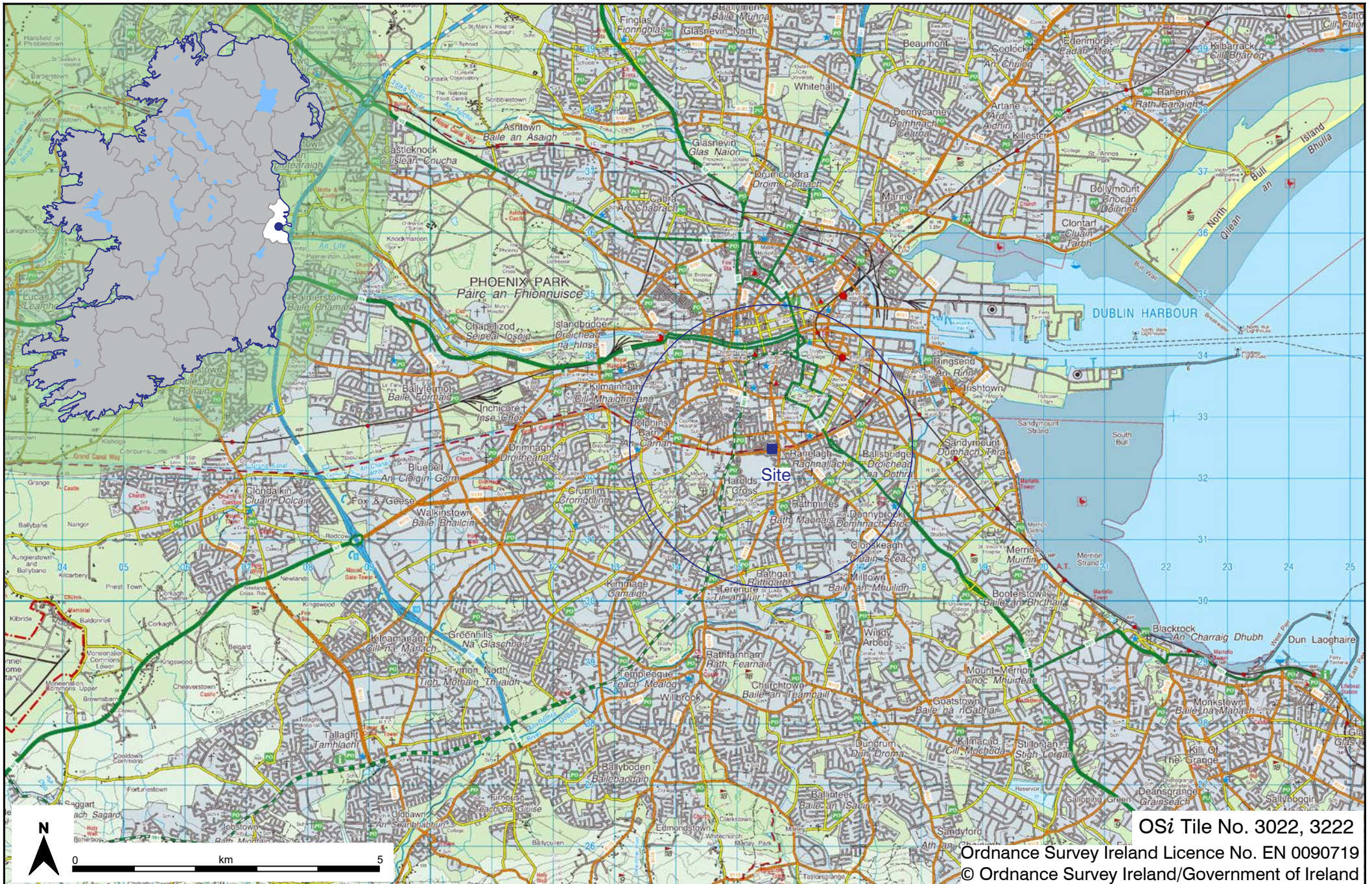
- Ball, F. E. (1902). The Battle of Rathmines. The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, 32(3), 246–256.
- Branagan, M., 2020. Dublin moving east 1708-1844. How the city took over the sea. Wordwell, Dublin
- Brunskill, H. O. The Battle of Rathmines: 2nd August, 1649. Dublin Historical Record 2, no. 1 (1939): 18–29.
- Rynne, C., (2015) Industrial Ireland 1750-1930. The Collins Press

Cartographic Sources

- City of Dublin by Campbell (1811)
- Dublin Civil Survey map 1654
- Dublin City with wards 1797 map (by Faden and Neele)
- Ordnance Survey maps (6inch and 25inch) 1838, 1864, 1882, 1907, 1953-38
- Rocque Map of Dublin 1757

Other sources

- Digital Repository of Ireland (<https://repository.dri.ie/catalog/1j92vr95r>)
- Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028
- GeoHive by Ordnance Survey Ireland (<https://geohive.ie/>)
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>).
- National Library of Ireland, 7–8 Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
- Placenames Database of Ireland, developed by Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge (DCU) and The Placenames Branch (Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht). (www.logainm.ie)
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Heritage Service, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.
- Photographic Archive - RTE Archives <https://www.rte.ie/archives/>
- <https://www.archiseek.com/2010/1807-grand-canal-hotel-portobello-dublin/>
- Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland (www.excavations.ie).
- The Schools Collection, national Folklore Collection, UCD (<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes>).
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2



Project Portobello Harbour (Plaza) Refurbishment, Dublin 8

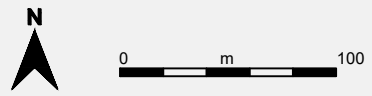
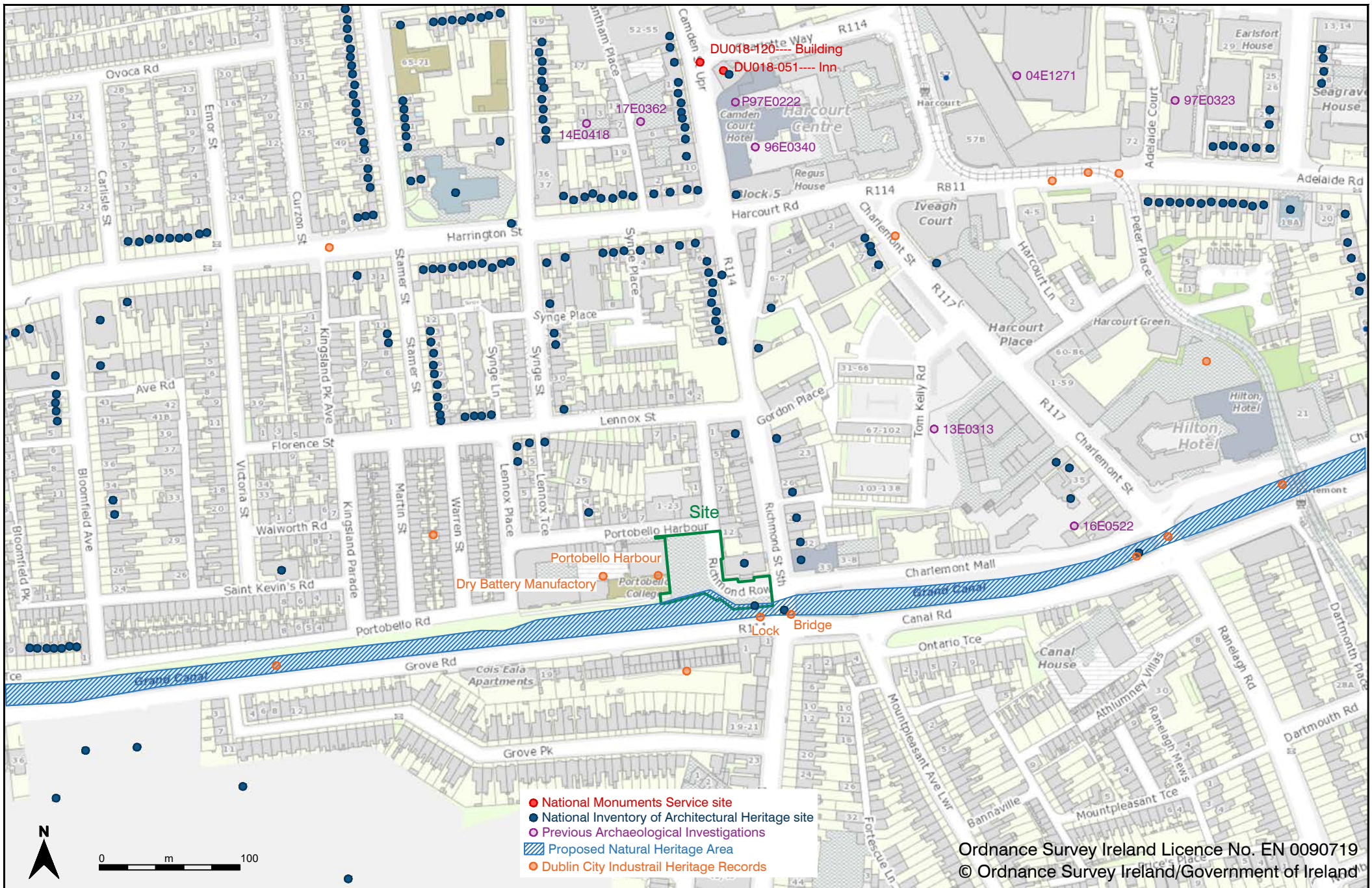
Date June 2022

Drawing No. 2254_C0001

Figure 1 Location of site

Scale 1:80,000 @ A4



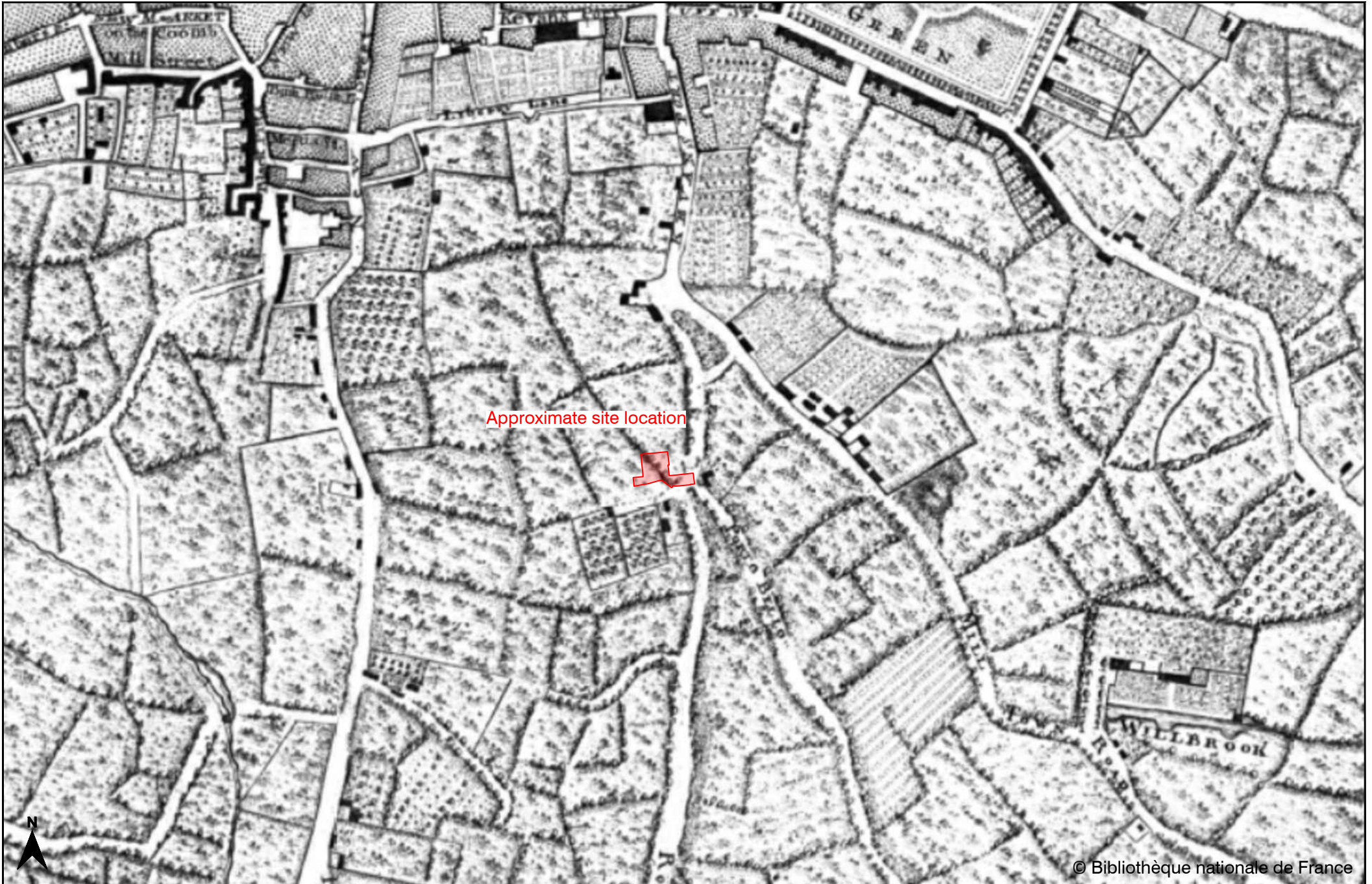


- National Monuments Service site
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage site
- Previous Archaeological Investigations
- ▨ Proposed Natural Heritage Area
- Dublin City Industrial Heritage Records

Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. EN 0090719
 © Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland

Project Portobello Harbour (Plaza) Refurbishment, Dublin 8	Date June 2022	Drawing No. 2254_C0002
Figure 2 Location of site, previous archaeological investigations and nearby Sites and Monuments Record sites	Scale 1:3,500 @ A4	





© Bibliothèque nationale de France

Project Portobello Harbour (Plaza) Refurbishment, Dublin 8

Date June 2022

Drawing No. 2254_C0003

Figure 3 Extract from A survey of the City Harbour Bay and Environs of Dublin by John Rocque - southwest sheet (1757), showing approximate location of site


Scale Not to scale

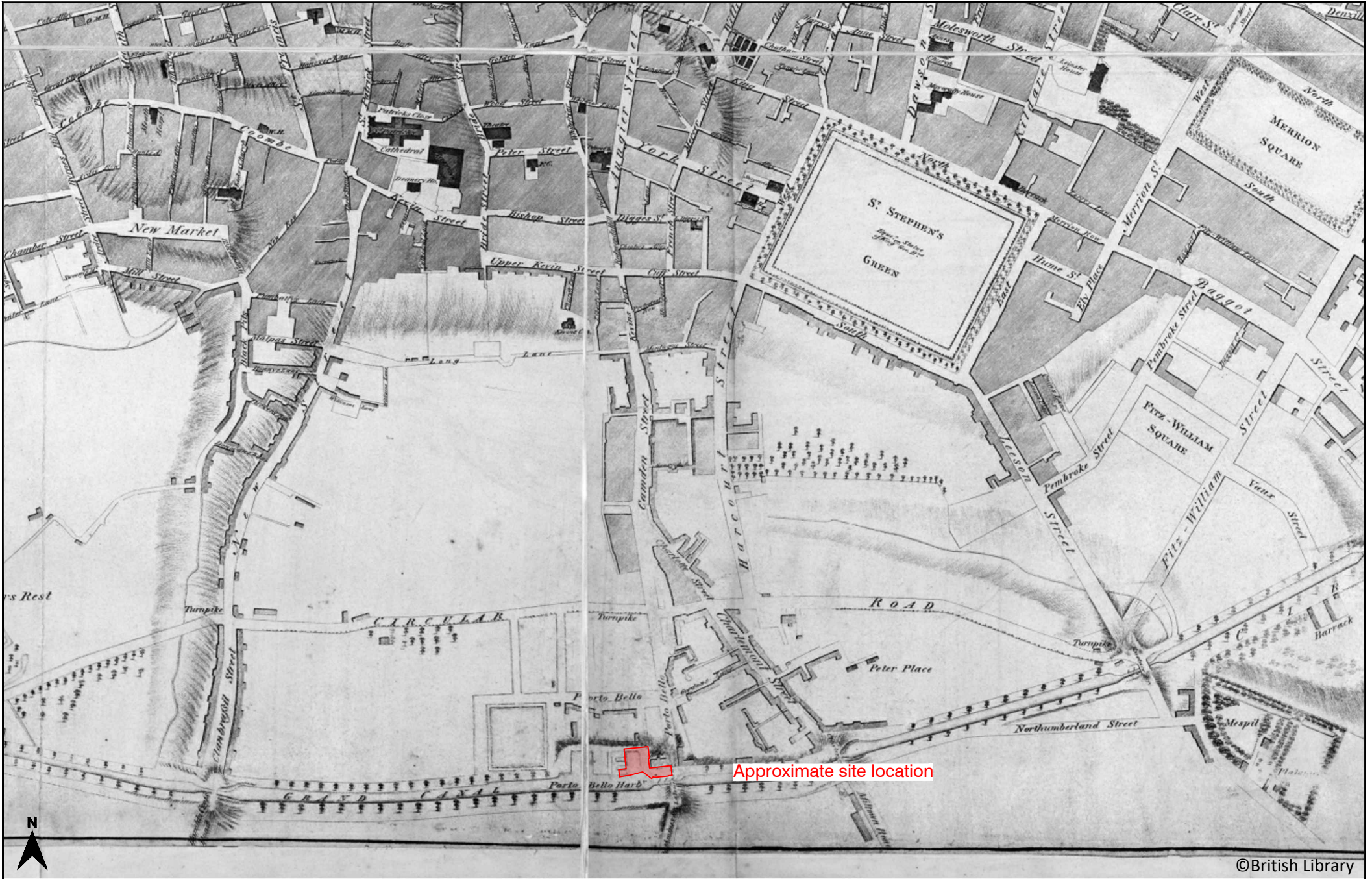





Approximate site location

©Trinity College Map Library

Project Portobello Harbour (Plaza) Refurbishment, Dublin 8	Date June 2022	Drawing No. 2254_C0004	
Figure 4 Extract from A plan of the city of Dublin by Faden and Neele (1797), showing approximate location of site	Scale Not to scale		




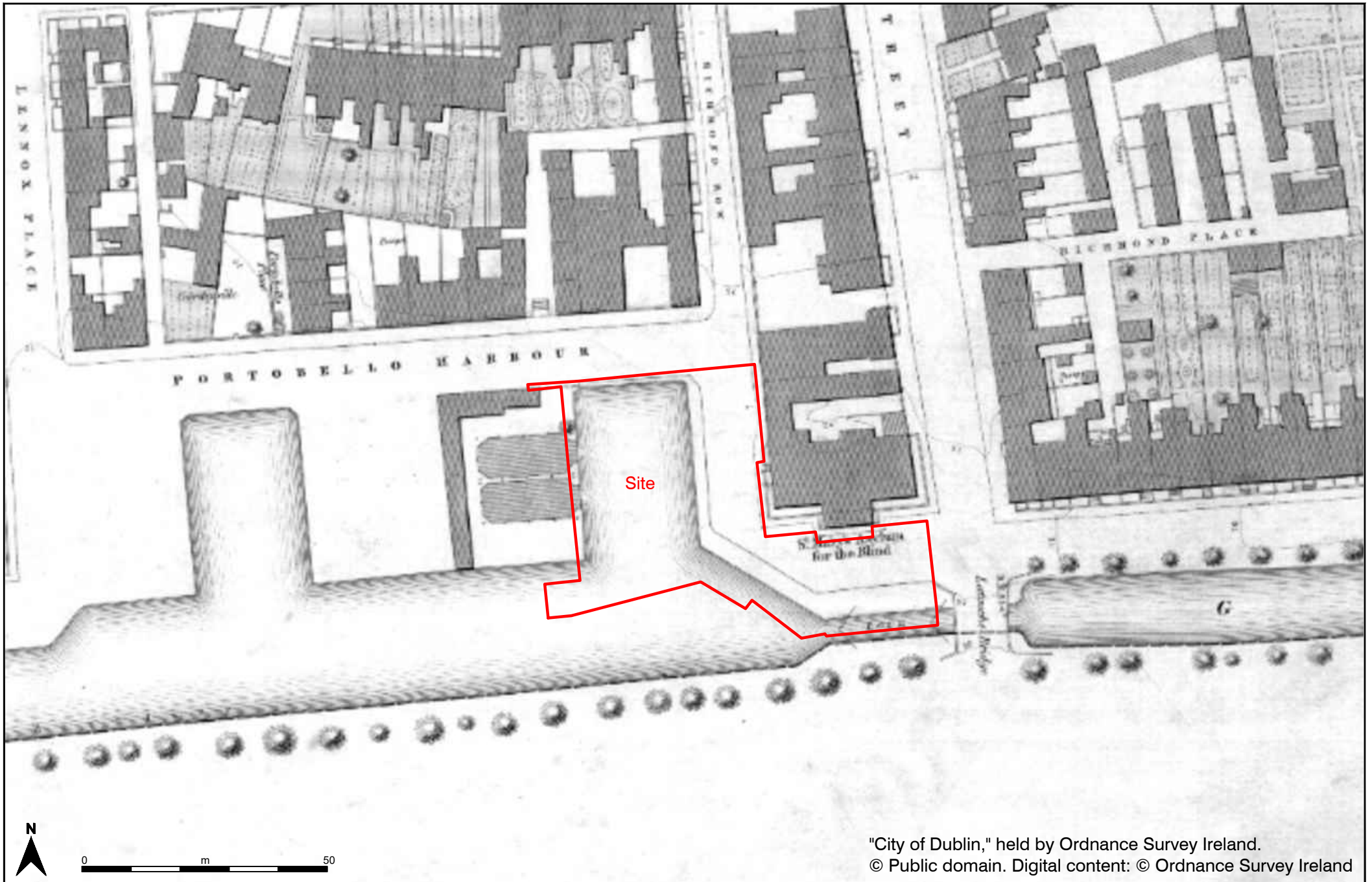
©British Library

Project Portobello Harbour (Plaza) Refurbishment, Dublin 8	Date June 2022	Drawing No. 2254_C0005	 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES UNIT
Figure 5 Extract from City of Dublin by Thomas Campbell (1811), showing approximate location of site	Scale Not to scale		



"City of Dublin," held by Ordnance Survey Ireland.
 © Public domain. Digital content: © Ordnance Survey Ireland

Project Portobello Harbour (Plaza) Refurbishment, Dublin 8	Date June 2022	Drawing No. 2254_C0006	
Figure 6 Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) Town plan of Dublin - five feet to one statute mile - sheet 32 (created 1838 - modified 1847), showing location of site	Scale 1:1,000 @ A4		

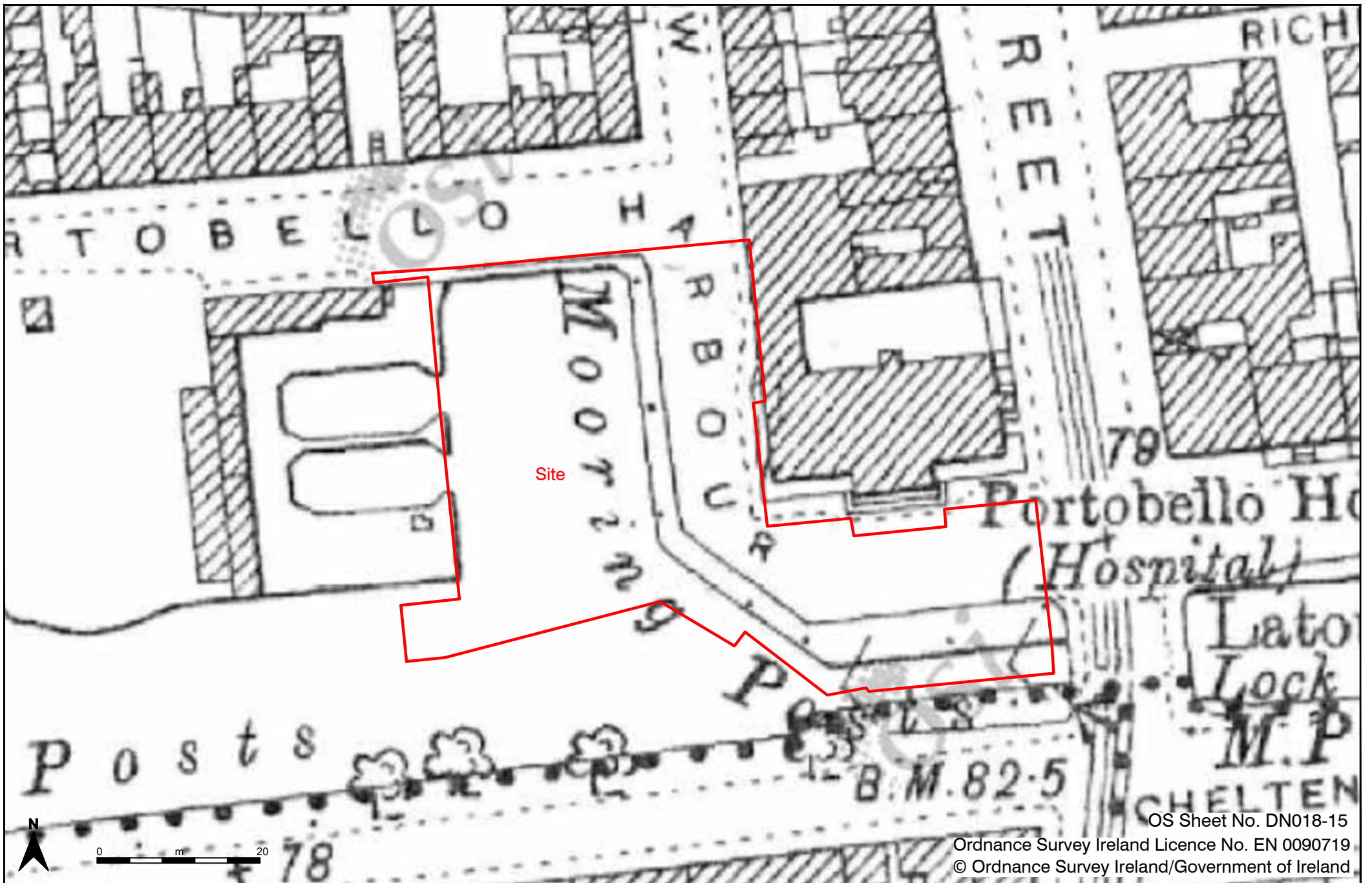


Project Portobello Harbour (Plaza) Refurbishment, Dublin 8
Figure 7 Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) Town plan of Dublin - five feet to one statute mile - sheet 32 (created 1838 - modified 1864), showing location of site

Date June 2022

Drawing No. 2254_C0007
Scale 1:1,000 @ A4





Project Portobello Harbour (Plaza) Refurbishment, Dublin 8

Date June 2022

Drawing No. 2254_C0008

Figure 8 Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1907 - published 1911), showing location of site

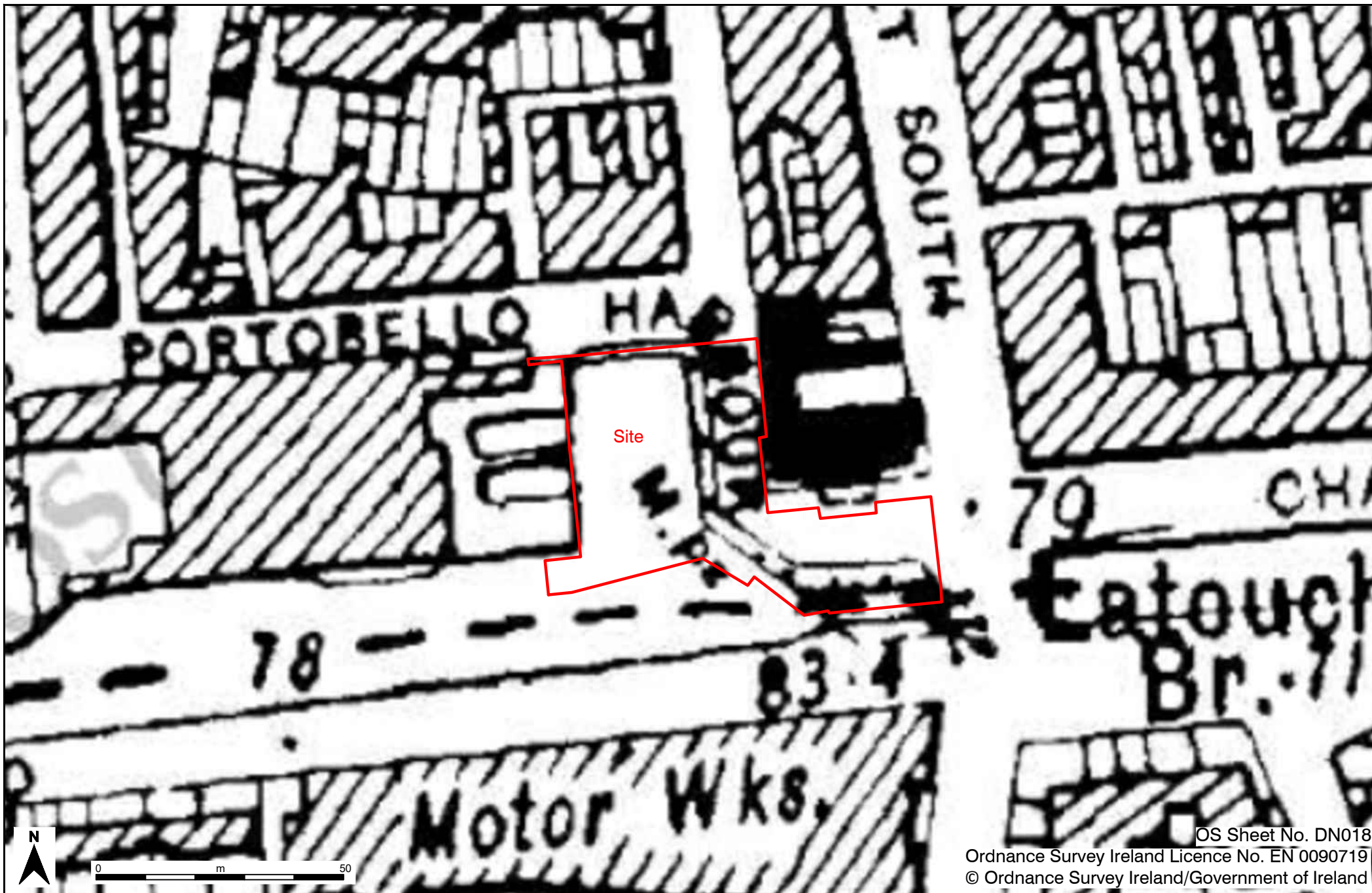
Scale 1:600 @ A4

OS Sheet No. DN018-15

Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. EN 0090719

© Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland





OS Sheet No. DN018

Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. EN 0090719

© Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland

Project Portobello Harbour (Plaza) Refurbishment, Dublin 8

Date June 2022

Drawing No. 2254_C0009

Figure 9 Extract from Cassini edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (1935-38), showing location of site

Scale 1:1,000 @ A4





Project Portobello Harbour (Plaza) Refurbishment, Dublin 8

Date June 2022

Drawing No. 2254_C0010

Figure 10 Aerial view of site

Scale 1:400 @ A4



Project Portobello Harbour (Plaza) Refurbishment, Dublin 8

Date April 2024

Drawing No. 2254_C0011

Figure 11 Detail of site development

Scale 1:500 @ A4



Plate 1: Site overview, from La Touche Bridge, facing northwest.



Plate 2: Setting of the site, showing Portobello House (RPS 6845), facing northeast.



Plate 3: Site overview, facing northwest.



Plate 4: View along Grand Canal forming site's south boundary, facing west.



Plate 5: South boundary of the site, facing east.



Plate 6: East portion of the site, facing north.



Plate 7: Site overview, facing west.



Plate 8: View along Richmond Row, site to the right, facing south.



Plate 8: North boundary of the site, facing south.



Plate 9: North boundary of the site, facing south.



Plate 10: View along Portobello Harbour, facing east.



Plate 11: Gable of Portobello House (RPS 6845), facing east.



Plate 12: La Touche Bridge (DCIHR Structure), facing northeast



Plate 13: Canal Lock (DCIHR Structure) facing northeast.



Plate 14: Canal Lock (DCIHR Structure) facing west



THE GRAND CANAL HOTEL & PORTOBELLO HARBOUR

Plate 15: Print from 1811 showing Grand Canal Hotel and Portobello Harbour (Dublin City Library).



Plate 16: Portobello Harbour 1882; release from prison of Charles Stewart Parnell.



Plate 17: Portobello House and Harbour 1952/53 (RTE Archive).



Plate 18: The Lower Deck; Ryan's Bar on Portobello Harbour, c. 1960s.



Plate 19: Portobello Harbour 1952/53 (RTE Archive).



Plate 20: Group of Boys in uniform, Portobello House 1897-1904, showing railing along the canal (by J.J. Clarke).



Plate 21: Detail of railing shown on the 1897-1904 imagery (by J.J. Clarke).



Plate 22: Detail of railing shown on the 1897-1904 imagery (by J.J. Clarke).



Plate 23: Northern wall of Portobello Harbour, as exposed on the site of the future hotel, adjacent and to the west.

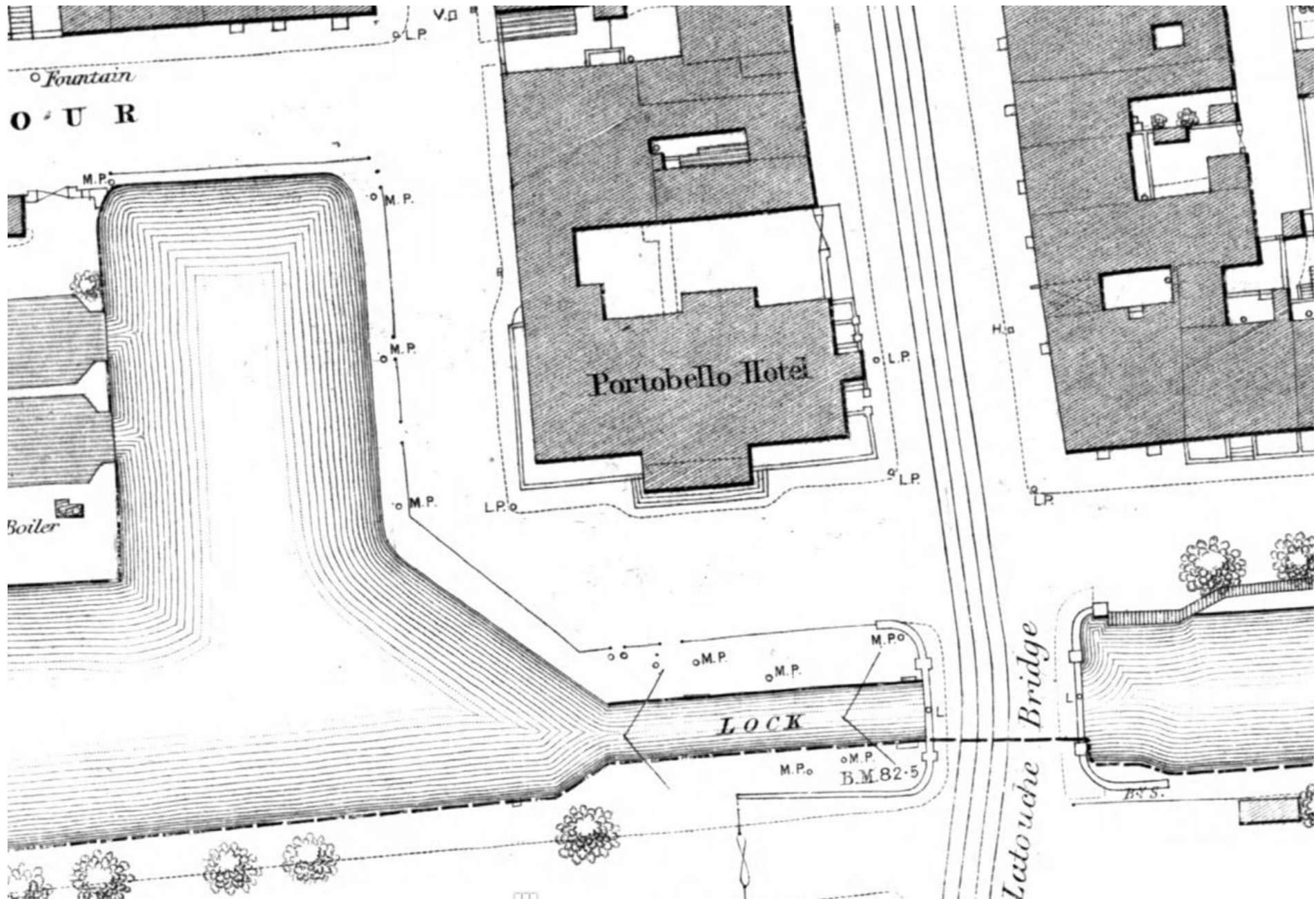


Plate 24: Portobello Ordnance Survey Town Plan 1882, showing the Grand Canal, Portobello Harbour, Portobello Hotel, the line of the railing and the mooring posts.