2020

Archaeological Impact Assessment for Meath Street Public Realm Improvement Plan



on behalf of Dublin City Council by Aisling Collins November 2020



1	Introduction	4
2	The Historical and cartographic background	4
3	Previous Archaeological excavations	8
4	Protection	8
5	Proposed development	9
6	Conclusions and recommendations Proposed recommendations	10
	References and Consultations <i>Appendix</i> Figures Plates	

List of Figures

- Figure 1 Site location
- Figure 2 Site lactation on John Speeds map of Dublin dated 1610
- Figure 3 Site location on De Gommes map dated 1673
- Figure 4 Site location on Brookings map dated 1728
- Figure 5 Site location on Rocques map dated 1756
- Figure 6 Site location on Ordnance Survey map dated 1837-41
- Figure 7 Proposal overview plan by Haslam Architects 2019
- Figure 8 National monuments service sites and monuments map (RMP)

List of Plates

Plate 1	Photo taken from the south end of Meath St looking south towards the Coombe
Plate 2	Photo taken from the south end of Meath St looking north
Plate 3	Photo taken from the centre of Meath St looking south
Plate 4	Photo taken from the centre of Meath St looking north
Plate 5	Photo taken from the north end of Meath St looking south with St Catherine's RC
Plate 6	church in view Photo taken from the north end of Meath St looking north towards Thomas Street

Appendix

Appendix 1: Archaeological Sites and Monuments located on and adjacent to Meath Street

Appendix 2: Previous excavations in the surrounding vicinity

Appendix 3: Protected structures on Meath Street

- Appendix 4: Dublin City development plan 2016-2022
- Appendix 5: National Inventory of Architectural Heritage on Meath Street

Archaeological impact statement for Meath Street, Dublin 8 KW1 11AM

1 Introduction

This report describes the results of an archaeological assessment of the proposed works to improve the appearance of the area of Meath Street, Dublin 8, and its environs, including the adjacent parts of Hambury Lane, South Earl Street, Meath Place, Gray Street, Engine Alley and Carman's Hall (Fig.1).

Meath Street lies to the west and outside the medieval walled city of Dublin. The Street was laid out in the late 17th century creating a thoroughfare linking the once medieval roadways of present-day Thomas Street and the Coombe (Figs. 3-5).

The Meath Street area lies within the zone of archaeological potential for the historic core of Dublin (DU18-20). There are several recorded archaeological sites nearby including at least 7 historic buildings along the street frontage (Fig.8).

The improvement works form part of the Dublin City Council development plan (2016-22). In general, these works will include removal and resurfacing of the existing street surfaces including widening of existing footpaths. New Street lighting poles will also be erected with associated underground service ducts, manholes and drainage. It is also proposed to plant at least 16 mature trees along the length of the street. Other installations include seating, parking bays and signage.

This assessment was carried out on behalf of Grainne Mac Dermott of Dublin City Council by Aisling Collins, of Aisling Collins Archaeological Services, in October 2020. It is subject to approval from the department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG) and Dublin City Archaeologist, Dr Ruth Johnson.

2 The Historical and cartographic background

Historical background

Dublin was established as a Viking *Longport* in 841. The location of initial settlement appears to have been ear Kilmainham – Islandbridge, where a cemetery of ninth century date was discovered during the last century (Wilds, 1866-9). In 902 the settlement was captured by an Irish alliance and Dublin was abandoned. However, the dispossessed Vikings returned in 917 and established themselves in a different location, on a spur overlooking the rivers Liffey and Poddle in the vicinity of the present Christ Church cathedral. The Viking town was enclosed by an earthen embankment I the early tenth century and this was modified in four stages, culminating in a stone wall construction c. 1100 (Wallace, 1981, 110-13). It is estimated that the Viking town covered an area of 12 hectares. The earliest settlement within the town was along the riverfront, with expansion towards the present site of the Castle and Christchurch Cathedral.

The coming of the Norman's is not affected as an archaeological watershed until the thirteenth century, their innovative impact on the town is clear architecturally from about 1186 when a major building programme commenced at Christchurch Cathedral.

The area now known as The Liberties developed to the west of the Norman city of Dublin, along the main western approach known as the Sligh Mhor (present day Thomas Street). In the 12th century, a royal abbey was established in the townland of Donore and given extensive estates in counties Meath, Dublin and Wicklow, including an area of its own jurisdiction and certain privileges and entitlements to regulate trade and commerce within the 'liberty'. And hence the name, The Liberties. At its height in the 15th century, the abbey would have formed one of the largest complexes in the city.

ACAS

In the 12th century, King Henry II of England ordered an Abbey of St Thomas the Martyr to be established at a site close to the modern church of St Catherine. The Augustinian monks of the Abbey were given extensive lands to the west of the city, as well as in counties Dublin, Meath and Wicklow, and certain privileges and powers to control trade within their 'liberty' and as a result the Liberty of St Thomas Court & Donore became extremely wealthy. The abbey in turn gave its name to St Thomas Street, the main street of the area, which itself ran along the alignment of the ancient western route into the city of Dublin. It quickly became a bustling marketplace and trading street, lined with mills, hostelries and various providers all serving the growing city.

St Thomas Abbey

The Augustinian abbey of St Thomas the Martyr lay outside the medieval walls of Dublin in the western suburbs, just off of modern-day Thomas Street. It was founded by William FitzAldelm, custos of Ireland, on behalf of Henry II, king of England, in 1177. The abbey of St Thomas the Martyr followed the Victorine rule, which was also followed in St Augustine's Abbey in Bristol, England. It is therefore likely that the first canons came over from Bristol. No trace of the abbey remains on the modern landscape.

The abbey was dedicated to Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, who had been murdered in his cathedral by Henry II's knights in 1170. Becket was canonised in 1173, and the abbey in Dublin was founded shortly afterwards as an act of restitution by the king.

The founder, Henry II, was king of England. He visited Ireland in 1171, partly to escape the scandal of Thomas Becket's murder. While he was here, he compelled both recent Anglo-Norman conquerors and Irish kings to submit to him, making him overlord of Ireland. He made William FitzAldhelm his steward in Ireland when he left to return to England and it was he who was instrumental in founding the abbey. The abbey of St Thomas the martyr was the only royal foundation in medieval Ireland and its most generous royal benefactor was Henry's son, the infamous King John. Henry made John lord of Ireland and he visited Ireland twice, therefore he appears to have taken a special interest in his lordship. Even before he became king, John issued a charter granting the abbey all its possessions as free alms. When he became king, he granted the abbey a tithe of the rent of 200 marks that he received from the city of Dublin. John also granted St Thomas' his tithe of ale that he had by custom of the taverns of Dublin.

Due to the abbey's association with the Crown, many of the new Anglo-Norman settlers also became its patrons. Some of the abbey's earliest donors included Hugh de Lacy, lord of Meath, Richard de Clare, lord of Leinster and John de Courcy, who had conquered Ulster. The abbey also became a very popular burial place for some of Ireland's most important new settlers, including Hugh de Lacy and Basilia de Clare, Richard's sister.

No trace of the abbey remains above ground, but the probable south wall of the abbey's church was found by Claire Walsh during an archaeological excavation in 1997 at 2-5 Meath Market, Earl Street South, just off Meath Street. The cemetery of St Catherine's church, which was adjacent to the abbey,

still survives as a public park, maintained by Dublin City Council. Thomas Court, the entrance to the abbey precinct is situated to the west of the cemetery. Hanbury Lane probably marks the northern extent of the abbey precinct, which would have extended down to modern-day Pimlico.

James St located northwest of Meath St runs along the ancient route knows as the Sligh Mhor (DU018-02023), part of a pre-Viking road network across Ireland. By the time Dublin was walled in the 11th century James St was outside the city. After the Anglo Normans arrived and throughout the Medieval period James St was considered suburban until the 17th C.

"James gate is mentioned by documentary sources in 1485 ad 1555 as a tower over a gate in 1599 (Clarke, 2002, 22). It is depicted on maps in 1610, 1673 and 1728. The gate formed part of the city defences erected during the confederate wars in the mid-17th c s depicted on the Downe Survey map." A Giacometti, 2017. It is generally thought the gate was removed in the18th century.

With the dissolution of monasteries by King Henry VIII in the 16th century, the abbey's lands passed into the ownership of Sir William Brabazon, an ambitious courtier of the king. The Brabazon family, who later became **Earls of Meath**, dominated the area as landowners for the next 300 years and different generations of the family were responsible for many of the urban development we recognise today. The great market space at Newmarket was laid out in the 1620s by the second Earl of Meath and his townhouse was located close by. A later earl supported some of the pioneering Victorian-era housing developments for the working class. Today, street names such as Meath Street, Brabazon Street and Ardee Street evoke the family connection.

The mercantile character of the area attracted generations of tradesmen and crafts. The area grew into an industrial suburb of Dublin, with an extensive tradition of brewing, distilling, tanning, weaving and trade in agricultural produce.

In the 16th and 17th centuries the area had a notable Huguenot population and became a centre of excellence in silverwork, wool and silk weaving, as well as 'dirty industries' such as tanning (leather making). European tradesmen brought their own distinctive architectural styles to the city, such as gable-fronted houses or 'Dutch Billys' as they were known, and these houses became a feature of areas such as Pimlico, Spitalfields and The Tenters. The area's placenames reflected its diverse and international population: so Marrowlane Lane (*or Marie le Bon Lane*), and Fumbally Lane (*Fombily Lane*) evoke the area's French Huguenot community.

Meath Street emerged in the later 17th C as a planned residential and commercial street speculatively laid out by the Earls of Meath to run from The Coombe to Thomas Street. The street measured 44 feet and was straight and regular but the Earl's limited ownership meant the street narrowed at either end, due to existing buildings.

During the late 18th and 19th century, The Liberties was dominated by great brewing and distilling families, most notably the Guinness family, who from 1759 built and developed the world's largest brewery at St James's Gate. Renowned distillers Powers, Jameson, Millar and Roe were all located here, creating a Victorian cityscape of chimneystacks, mills, malthouses and bustling streets. The area even had its own harbour linking it to the Grand Canal, and a mini-railway through the St James's Gate brewery to the River Liffey quays.

The area's growing craft industries drew resistance from English merchants and a series of laws and trade restrictions imposed on Irish produce after the Act of Union in 1801 gradually destroyed a number of key industries. The area began to decline.

ACAS

However, this industrial wealth and prowess went hand in hand with dire poverty and often horrendous living conditions. The 19th century Liberties had notorious slums which in turn spurred a number of enlightening housing developments by the Earls of Meath and the Guinness and Power families in the latter years of the century. The now-charming enclaves about Gray Street and John Dillon Street were originally examples of modern new homes built for the working class by the Dublin Artisan Dwelling Company, while the Iveagh Trust Buildings on Patrick Street remain beautiful examples of the first 'flats' built for Dubliners. It was only when the Wide Streets Commissioners looked at the street in the 19th C that the junction with Thomas Street, known as Meath Row, was widened and improved.

The ancient 'liberties' were finally abolished and subsumed into the city in the 1840s, however the name 'The Liberties' remained and became primarily to mean the old Earl of Meath's Liberty.

Cartographic background

John Speeds map 1610

The precinct of St Thomas's Abbey is clearly depicted on Speeds map with walls, gates and small buildings evident. St Catherine's church (#57) is also visible along with pitch roof houses fronting onto Thomas street. Meath Street was not yet developed and the area is depicted as open space on lands which belonged to the Abbey (Fig. 2).

De Gommes Map 1673

By 1673 the buildings of St Thomas's Abbey have all gone and the area is part of an open field system referred to as St Thomas Court. Meath Street and its side streets are not yet developed. St Catherine's church is depicted along with the city watercourse on Thomas Street (dotted black line). (Fig.3).

Brookings map of 1728

Charles Brrrookings map is probably the first map which depicts Meath Street (named after the Earl of Meath). It is clearly named along with sides Streets including Earl Street, Coless Alley and Elbow Lane. The area is now becoming urbanised and presuambly the buildings assocaited with St Thomas's abbey were by now demolished and cleared away as none are depicted (Fig. 4).

Roque's map of 1756

Rocque's map gives us a detail picture of how urbanised and built up this part the city suburbs had become by the mid-18th century. Domestic buildings on Roque maps are usually dotted while the darker shaded buildings are usually industrial or out buildings. This would suggest that the buildings on both sides of Meath Street are domestic houses with at least 46 on the western side and up to 50 on the east. The house plots were probably between 4-6 meters in width with small walled gardens to their rear. The houses were probably red brick gable fronted (2-3 storey) structures known as Dutch billies (Fig. 5).

1847 OS Map

The north and south ends of Meath Street were widened by this time. This work was carried out by the wide street commission (formed in 1758) and would have involved the demolition some of the buildings depicted on the Rocque map. The remainder of the street may also have been widened slightly and with the possibility that some of the buildings were incorporated into the new buildings with minimal or

partial demolition only required – usually the front facades of the buildings were removed with new ones build set back from the street.

Most of the Street was now commercialised with shops including bakeries and dairies listed in trade directories of the time. However, the street was also given over to tenements, and overcrowding was rife. The area was the focus in the late 19thC to build quality housing, including by the Earl of Meath and the Iveagh Trust, and Nos 19-20 would date from this period (Fig. 6).

3 Previous Archaeological excavations

Several properties/development sites along Meath Street and its sides streets were subject to archaeological testing/monitoring over the last 25 years (Appendix 2). Results from such testing revealed archaeological stratigraphy and material survives below the existing ground levels of the area, particularly towards the northern end of street. Most of the stratigraphy and features encountered dated from the 18th to 19th centuries with artifacts including clay pipes, glass bottles and various types of ceramics.

However, the most important place of the area is the site of the medieval Abbey of St Thomas. This is located to the immediate west of Meath Street in the vicinity of Hambury bury Lane (fig 1). In 2016-2018 a large-scale archaeological excavation was carried out at the site of Frawley's department store, addressed as 30 & 32-26 Thomas Street. The excavation revealed a 40-meter-long section of the Abbeys stone-built precinct wall along with numerous burials dating from the 12th to 14 centuries. Also found were wall structures, timber water pipes, Dutch Billy house remains, brick/cobble surfaces and tanning pits dating from the 17-1900s.

The results from all the investigations tells us that the Meath Street area is located within a rich archaeological environment associated with the lands of one of Irelands most important medieval abbeys. It should also be stated that the full extent of the Abbey precinct is not known and all development/excavations in the area must be closely monitored.

4 Protection

Meath Street lies within the Archaeological zone of protection for Dublin city DU018-020 with several recorded sites (Appendix 1) and protected buildings (Appendix 3) located along or close to the Street. These sites include 7 buildings which are listed on the National inventory of architectural heritage, 3 located on the west side of Meath Street and 4 on the east side and all towards the north end of the Street.

The west side buildings include:

- The Ladbrokes building at the junction with Thomas Street (**Reg. No. 50080586**) described as a 3-storey former house built c1880;
- The new Dandelion shop (Reg. No. 50080652) 9 Meath Street, built in 1915
- Larkins butcher shop (50080650)18 Meath Street, corner sited attached house built in 1890.

The east side buildings include:

• Bakers Lounge at the junction with Thomas Street (**Reg. No. 50080591**), 4 storey former pair of houses and shops built c1820;

- 91 & 92 Meath Street, Saoirse Waldorf School (Reg. No. 50080590) built c1825-1830; 90 Meath Street, Citizens Information Centre – (Reg. No. 50080589) attached two-bay four-storey over basement former presbytery, built c.1865, now in use as offices.
- Saint Catherine's Roman Catholic Church (Reg. No. 50080587) freestanding double-height gable-fronted Roman Catholic church, built 1852-58, comprising twelve-bay nave, two-bay chancel to east, flanked by single-storey side aisles, three-stage square-profile bell tower to north of entrance, gable-fronted porch and single-storey transept to north elevation. Lean-to side chapels to outer elevations of side-aisle.

One site is recorded on the sites and monuments record located at the south end of Meath street; A ritual site/holy well (**DU018-020057**).

At least 29 other recorded sites are listed in the block between Meath street and Thomas Court.

5 Proposed development

Site description

The development site extends along the full length of Meath Street for a distance of approximately 340 meters by up to 14 meters wide. Currently the street comprises of mostly 2 storey commercial premises fronting on to the street. Some of these properties are modern builds with several also listed on the national inventory of architectural heritage. The existing road surface consist of tarmac surface and the footpaths are paved with cut granite kerbstones.

The development

The proposed development or improvement works are described in the Haslam & Co Architects public realm plan prepared for Dublin City Council in 2019. In general, the new street layout will include upgrading to; footpaths, kerbs, roadways, street furniture, street lighting, planting and landscaping. Other improvements will include provision of loading bays, pedestrian crossings, market stalls and cycle parking.

To facilitate these works the existing footpaths and road surface will be removed by mechanical excavation. Subsequent works include installation of ducting for new public lighting poles and installation of 16 tree pits along the length of the street. Site investigation works including engineering slit trenches may be required prior to and during the site works.

Permanent works

- The permanent works involve excavation of existing footpaths areas by approximately 300mm in depth and excavation in the carriageway up to 100mm in depth.
- Public lighting ducts in footpaths excavation of trenches measuring at least 600mm wide by various lengths and to depths of at least 750mm will be required

Impact

• The permanent works excavation may reveal archaeological deposits or features.

Proposed mitigation

 All ground disturbances/trench excavations should be archaeologically monitored and recorded.

Temporary works

 Slit trenches for site investigations up to a depth of 1.5m may be carried out at a later date – this is not confirmed yet

Impact

• If slit trenches are excavated, archaeological deposits or features may be revealed.

Proposed mitigation

• Any excavation of slit trenches must be agreed in advance with the site archaeologist and should be archaeologically monitored and recorded.

Landscaping works

• Approximately 16 mature trees are to be planted along the Street. To facilitate the tree planting pits at least 1m by up to 1.5m deep require excavation (Locations yet to be decided).

Impact

• Excavation of the tree pits may reveal archaeological deposits or features.

Proposed mitigation

• The excavation of the tree pits must be agreed in advance with the site archaeologist and should be archaeologically monitored and recorded.

Services

• Excavation of service ducts/manholes for public lighting, ESB, water etc will be required at various locations along the street.

Impact

• Excavation for services may reveal archaeological deposits or features.

Proposed mitigation

• The location and excavation of all service trenches for ducting, manholes or shuttering must be agreed in advance with the site archaeologist and should be archaeologically monitored and recorded.

6 Conclusions and recommendations Proposed recommendations

Conclusions

Archaeological material is present within the area of Meath Street particularly towards its northern end. The archaeological investigations to date suggest that material both structural and stratigraphical dating from the medieval period (12/13th century) to the post medieval period (17/19th C) survives beneath the buildings, footpaths and road level of Meath Street (and its environs).

ACAS

Recommendations

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording should be undertaken in conjunction with the Meath Street construction programme.

As the footpaths, road surface and ground levels are cleared and reduced any post medieval/medieval structures such as walls, pits, wells, cellars etc should be fully recorded and surveyed by the archaeologists. In the case of cellars, such structures may require additional excavation and a building survey – all to be carried out under the supervision of the site archaeologist. Original street materials such as granite kerbs, slabs or cobbles should be retained for reuse on the Street or elsewhere in the area.

Please note all recommendations are subject to approval of the Dublin city archaeologist and the National Monuments service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG).

Also, please allow sufficient time for an archaeological monitoring licence to be approved by National Monuments Services – this can currently take between 3-6 weeks to process.

References and Consultations

- Bennett, I. 2000 *Excavations* 1998: *Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland*. Wordwell: Bray.
- Clarke, H.C. 2001. Dublin to 1610. Irish Historic Towns Atlas.
- De Courcy, 1996, The Liffey in Dublin, Dublin.
- HCoA (Haslam & Co Architects), CORA (consulting engineers) *Meath Street and Environs Public Realm Improvement Plan.* 2019. Unpublished.
- Gilbert, John (1854). A History of the City of Dublin. Oxford: Oxford University.
- Lennon, C. 2009. Dublin 1610 to 1756. Historic Towns Atlas.
- Ryan C 2001 Lewis, S., A topographical dictionary of parishes and villages of Dublin city and county Ireland,
- Warburton, John, James Whitelaw, Robert Walsh, T. Cadell and W. Davies, *History of the City of Dublin, 1818, Dublin*
- *Sites and Monuments Record.* National Monuments Division: The National Monuments Section of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
- Topographical Files. National Museum of Ireland, Kildare St, D2

Internet Sources:

www.archaeology.ie www.excavations.ie www.askaboutireland.ie https://libertiesdublin.ie/visit-the-liberties/history-of-the-liberties/ http://monastic.ie/history/st-thomas-augustinian-abbey/ 3/11/20

Appendix 1: Archaeological Sites and Monuments located on and adjacent to Meath Street (Fig. 8)

DU018-020----

Class: Historic town

Townland: Dublin North City, Dublin South City

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes

Description: The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) is in the process of providing information on all monuments on The Historic Environment Viewer (HEV). Currently the information for this record has not been uploaded. To access available information for research purposes please make an appointment in advance with the Archive Unit (open Fridays 10.00 am – 5.00 pm), Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, The Custom House, Dublin 1 D01W6XO or email nmarchive@chg.gov.ie.

DU018-02023 -

Class: Road

Description: James St runs along the ancient route knows as the Sligh Mhor, part of a pre-Viking road network across Ireland. By the time Dublin was walled in the 11th century James St was outside the city. After the Anglo Normans arrived and throughout the Medieval period James St was considered suburban until the 17th C.

DU018-020374-

Class: Dublin City Watercourse on Thomas Street

Townland: Dublin South City

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes

Description: The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) is in the process of providing information on all monuments on The Historic Environment Viewer (HEV). Currently the information for this record has not been uploaded.

DU018-020571-

Class: Mill – unclassified 9

Townland: Dublin South City

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes

Description: The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) is in the process of providing information on all monuments on The Historic Environment Viewer (HEV). Currently the information for this record has not been uploaded.

DU018-020365-

Class: Meeting-house

Townland: Dublin South City

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes

Description: The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) is in the process of providing information on all monuments on The Historic Environment Viewer (HEV). Currently the information for this record has not been uploaded. To access available information for research purposes please make an appointment in advance with the Archive Unit (open Fridays 10.00 am – 5.00 pm), Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, The Custom House, Dublin 1 D01W6XO or email nmarchive@chg.gov.ie.

DU018-020057-

Class: Ritual site - holy well Townland: Dublin South City Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes Description: Known as St. Francis's Well. Shown on the Friends of Medieval map (1978, D3) at the junction of Meath Street and The Coombe. There is no visible surface trace. Compiled by: Geraldine Stout Date of upload: 03 August 2012

DU018-020204-

Class: Bridge

Townland: Dublin South City

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes

Description: The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) is in the process of providing information on all monuments on The Historic Environment Viewer (HEV). Currently the information for this record has not been uploaded. To access available information for research purposes please make an appointment in advance with the Archive Unit (open Fridays 10.00 am – 5.00 pm), Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, The Custom House, Dublin 1 D01W6XO or email nmarchive@chg.gov.ie.

Appendix 2: Previous excavations in the surrounding vicinity

There was a total of 13 previous excavations on Meath Street recorded in <u>www.excavations.ie</u> these excavations uncovered one medieval site, 6 post-medieval sites including a 17th/18th industrial site, an 18th c drain, a cistern and a redbrick cellar. Six of the excavations revealed no archaeology.

County: Dublin Site name: 58-59 Meath Street, Dublin Sites and Monuments Record No.: DU018-020 Licence number: 18E0032 Author: Paul Duffy & David McIlreavy, IAC Ltd Site type: 18th-century garden soils ITM: E 714675m, N 733635m Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.340506, -6.277972

A programme of archaeological testing was undertaken at 58–59 Meath Street, Dublin 8 in February 2018 in response to a request for further information as issued by Dublin City Council (Planning Ref.: 3985/17). The site is situated within the zone of archaeological potential for the historic core of Dublin (DU018-020); however, the nearest recorded archaeological site is a chapel (DU018-020263), c. 45m to the south-east. During the medieval period this area was situated outside of the walled town, in lands held by St Thomas' Abbey. It likely functioned as agricultural land at this time. Previous investigations in the vicinity of the site have not exposed any material predating the post-medieval period.

One test trench was excavated to the rear of the extant buildings at 58-59 Meath Street. No archaeological features were recorded within the test trench; however, three ex-situ artefacts of early 18th-century date (two bottle fragments and a piece of ceramic) were recovered from garden soils within the trench.

Whilst no archaeological features were recorded within the test trench, it is considered that proximity of the historic core of 58–59 Meath Street and the ex-situ artefacts warrant monitoring of all ground works associated with the proposed development.

IAC Ltd, Unit G1, Network Enterprise Park, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow

County: Dublin Site name: 35 MEATH STREET, DUBLIN Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 00E0195 Author: Hilary Opie, 103 Cherrywood Drive, Clondalkin, Dublin 22. Site type: Urban ITM: E 714644m, N 733643m Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.340588, -6.278431

Pre-development test-trenching was carried out at 35 Meath Street, Dublin 8, on 21 and 23 June 2000. The site lay on the corner of Meath Street and Grey Street and occupied an area measuring 19.5m east–west by 6.5–7m. This was surrounded by hoarding, making access and manoeuvrability difficult, and hence only a small, 3-ton ne 'bobcat' machine could be used. Initially it was intended to dig a trench running east–west at the western end of the site. However, the machine hit an active sewer, and this end of the site had to be abandoned.

A second trench was attempted at the eastern end of the site. A cellar wall, running east–west, was hit, and a trench measuring 2.3m long (north–south) x 1.5m wide and 2m deep was all that could be excavated. This was filled entirely with modern rubble. A flagged limestone floor was observed at the base of the trench, but the machine was not powerful enough, and did not have enough reach, to remove this.

A third trench was excavated in the centre of the site. This was 4.5m long (north-south), 2m wide and 3m deep. Stratigraphy consisted of subsoil at a depth of 2.75m. This was mottled grey-green boulder clay and was tested to 0.25m. Overlying this was a thin band of fine, grey/black silt, c. 0.1–0.15m thick. Overlying this was modern rubble, filling the whole trench. This was up to 2.6m deep. A vertically cut, square-sided extrusion of subsoil was noted in the east-facing section of the trench. This survived to a height of c. 0.3–0.4m under the current ground surface.

No archaeological finds or features were noted in any of the trenches.

County: Dublin Site name: 26-27 Meath St., Dublin Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 93E0030 Author: Kenneth Hanley, 44 Eaton Heights, Cobh, Co. Cork. Site type: Post-medieval urban

ITM: E 714598m, N 733682m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.340948, -6.279107

This trial excavation took place between 27th and 28th February 1993. It was funded by the developers and consisted of a single trench (18m x 2m x 1.2m) investigating a vacant lot prior to development. The excavation exposed post-medieval levels only.

County: Dublin Site name: St Luke's Church, The Coombe, Dublin Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 18:20 Licence number: 01E0845 Author: Franc Myles, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd, 2 Killiney View, Albert Road Lower, Glenageary, Co. Dublin. Site type: 18th-century graveyard ITM: E 714715m, N 733586m Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.340061, -6.277386 St Luke's was built between 1713 and 1716, supposedly to accommodate the large number of

Huguenots who worshipped in the north transept of St Patrick's (the parish church of St Nicholas Without). The southern part of the parish (outside the walls) formed the new parish of St Luke in 1707. The Huguenot connection does not, however, bear scrutiny when the parish registers are examined. The church was deconsecrated in 1975 and gutted by fire in 1986. Its grounds have been truncated by the Coombe Relief Road to the north and survive untouched (and inaccessible) to the south.

The site is now in the possession of Dublin Corporation and it is proposed to eventually restore the building for community use. The history and architecture of the building are to be the subject of a separate report by this writer. The initial proposed use is as a library and/or exhibition space, with an emphasis on restoring the building to public/community use. As the proposal intends to utilise the building as a single space, support facilities in terms of reception, administration, toilets and storage will have to be accommodated in new structures to be located to the north of the church.

The purpose of the test excavation was therefore to establish the depth of the burials to the north of the church, if any were found to be present. Three test-trenches were hand-dug in this area. A fourth trench was planned for the area to the south of the church. This was abandoned owing to difficulty of access. In any case, this area has been depicted as a graveyard in all of the published maps of the area.

Two of the three trenches measured 1m2 and were excavated to 0.5m. They were located in the area in front of the church: Trench 1 was situated 4.3m from the façade at the western end of the church and Trench 2 was located 9.3m from the façade at the eastern end. The third trench was located against the eastern precinct wall and measured 2m2.

The results of the test excavation show that the level of burials in Trenches 1 and 3 was at 0.5m below the present surface, although an infant burial was recorded at 0.06m in Trench 3. Trench 2, which was excavated through the path leading up to the church, did not produce any human skeletal material.

It would appear likely that the triangular area directly in front of the church (as indicated on the various editions of the Ordnance Survey maps) is free of burials. The situation elsewhere is more uncertain. While the evidence from Trenches 1 and 3 suggests burials at 0.5m, this may not be the case in other

areas of the churchyard. Alan Hayden excavated significant amounts of human skeletal material in the very north of the churchyard, in the area impacted upon by the Coombe Relief Road (above, No. 372), and it would seem reasonable to suggest that the density of burials is greater closer to the church. It was recommended that further testing take place in the triangular area in front of the church to establish whether or not there are more burials in the area.

County: Dublin Site name: 64–65 MEATH STREET AND 1 CROSTICK ALLEY, DUBLIN Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 05E0752 Author: Antoine Giacometti, Arch-Tech Ltd, 32 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. Site type: Urban post-medieval ITM: E 714672m, N 733669m Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.340815, -6.278001

Following an assessment and testing carried out by Christine Baker in 2001 (Excavations 2001, No. 394, 01E0258), a proposed development at the site was subject to monitoring from August to September 2005. Three phases of activity were noted.

The earliest evidence was dated to the medieval period. At this time the site was on land belonging to the Abbey of St Thomas. The evidence suggested that it was in agricultural use during the 13th century. The second phase of activity was dated to the 17th and early 18th centuries and was represented by industrial activity. At this time the Liberties and Meath Street area was developing into an industrial hub and the present course of Meath Street was laid out at the turn of the 18th century. The third phase of activity was of a domestic nature and was dated to the late 18th and 19th centuries. Meath Street was well established at this time. This activity is contemporary with the buildings at 64 and 65 Meath Street and at 1 Crostick Alley.

The façade of the buildings has been retained by the developer as part of the redevelopment of the site. A cistern associated with the third phase of activity was found during the course of the monitoring. This was tested and preserved in situ below the level of the new development.

County: Dublin Site name: 64–65 Meath Street and 1 Crostick Alley, Dublin Sites and Monuments Record No.: RMP 18:20 Licence number: 01E0258 Author: Christine Baker, Arch-Tech Ltd, 32 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. Site type: No archaeological significance ITM: E 714675m, N 733670m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.340824, -6.277956

Two trenches were mechanically excavated in the course of testing. Trench A measured 9.9m by 1.2m and ran east–west. Trench B extended for a distance of c. 4m north–south. The trenches revealed a definite stratigraphy. A layer of rubble and dump overlay a thick layer of clay which overlay a compact layer probably representing the original ground level. Natural subsoil occurs 1.12m beneath ground level in Trench A and at 2.1m in Trench B. Approximately 4m east of the western end of Trench A, Feature1 was uncovered 0.64m beneath the ground surface. The terminal of a wood and red brick drain, it extended southwards possibly into the adjoining property. Pottery and glass were recovered from the base of the feature and can be dated to the 18th century. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recovered in the course of the testing programme.

County: Dublin Site name: 61-63 MEATH STREET, DUBLIN Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 98E0110 Author: Mary McMahon (for Arch-Tech Ltd), 77 Brian Road, Marino, Dublin 3. Site type: No archaeological significance ITM: E 714682m, N 733659m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.340723, -6.277855

An archaeological assessment, involving the mechanical excavation of three test-trenches, was undertaken in advance of planning permission. The planned development involved the construction of a ground-floor shop and overhead apartments. The site lies outside the core of medieval Dublin but is in the vicinity of the 12th-century Augustinian Abbey of St Thomas the Martyr. Meath Street was developed between 1690 and 1710, and John Rocque's map of 1756 shows a fully developed street pattern in the area.

No archaeologically significant features or deposits were uncovered. The earliest evidence from the site was a body sherd of blackware, indicating possible late 17th- or 18th-century activity in the area.

County: Dublin Site name: 27 Carman's Hall, Dublin Sites and Monuments Record No.: n/a Licence number: 16E0654 Author: David McIlreavy, IAC Ltd Site type: Urban post-medieval ITM: E 714703m, N 733649m Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.340625, -6.277546

Testing was carried out at 27 Carman's Hall, Dublin 8 in response to planning conditions attached to the proposed development (Planning Ref.: 4214/16). It was undertaken over the course of two days from 17 January 2017 with a six-tonne machine equipped with a flat-edged bucket, following removal of the overlying concrete and tarmacadam with a rock breaker. A total of four test trenches were excavated across the site which measured 36 linear metres.

Testing revealed the truncated remains of a 19th-century building as shown on the 1838 Ordnance Survey map. These remains overlaid a deposit of demolished 18th-century building debris, which extended across Test Trenches 1–3. An occupation layer containing post-medieval ceramic including green glazed Dublin ware and Sgraffito ware was recorded in Test Trench 4. A small number of earlier 18th-century artefacts (pipe and glass bottle) were recovered on the surface of a relict plough soil. Two 13th-century ceramic sherds, considered to be ex situ, were also recovered from the surface of the subsoil.

While no in situ features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the programme of test trenching, it was recommended that all ground disturbances associated with the proposed development be monitored. This will be carried out later in 2017.

Unit G1, Network Enterprise Park, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow

county: Dublin Site name: 73 and 74 Meath Street, Dublin Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 02E0807 and ext. Author: David Bayley, 123 Roselawn Road, Castleknock, Dublin 15, for IAC Ltd. Site type: No archaeological significance ITM: E 714645m, N 733717m Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.341252, -6.278389

Testing and monitoring of groundworks before redevelopment of the site failed to reveal anything of archaeological significance. Basement levels of the previous structure on the site sealed the natural subsoil.

County: Dublin Site name: MEATH TERRACE Sites and Monuments Record No.: DU018-20 Licence number: 11E0118 Author: Michael Tierney Site type: Urban medieval ITM: E 714623m, N 733741m Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.341473, -6.278715 The client was required to have the extension to her house monitored during construction. The backyard was cleared of rubbish and rubble, followed by the removal of an extension to the main structure, a terraced house dating from the 1880s or 1890s. This old extension was sitting on an infill layer associated with the construction of Meath Terrace and this property. At the base of the foundation, and at an average depth of 0.45m, there was a clay layer that contained pottery dating from the 13th century. The nature and extent of the medieval layer could not be determined because it was not being disturbed apart from this initial exposure. The date of the pottery does, however, fit into the known dates for the expansion of Dublin to the west with the establishment of St Thomas's Abbey.

Kilnaborris House, Kilnaborris, Banagher, Co. Offaly

County: Dublin Site name: 33-35 EARL STREET SOUTH, DUBLIN Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 18:02051 Licence number: 99E0021 Author: Rob Lynch, IAC Ltd, 8 Dungar Terrace, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Site type: Urban post-medieval industrial ITM: E 714601m, N 733758m Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.341629, -6.279041

An archaeological assessment of a proposed development by the Eastern Health Board to the rear of the City Dispensary at 33-35 South Earl Street was requested by the City Archaeologist. The development is to the south of the site of The Abbey of St Thomas the Martyr and within the zone of archaeological potential as identified in the survey of medieval Dublin. The proposed development involved the construction of a single-storey extension to the existing clinic. Two trenches were excavated on the site in February 1999.

Trench 1 was orientated east-west along the north side of the site and contained a number of archaeological features and deposits that suggested two main phases of activity in this part of the site. Phase 1 was a small, circular, red brick furnace, which was filled with ash and iron slag. Another component of this complex was a north-south-orientated red brick drain 0.6m west of the furnace. Further west lay the remains of a curving, east-west-orientated internal wall. The occupation layers C9, C21 and C24 contained a high level of ash and cinder inclusions. Phase 2 consisted of the accumulation of several deposits of dumped clay and rubble over the abandoned features associated with Phase 1.

Trench 2 was 0.5m east of Trench 1 and orientated north-south. The features within Trench 2 mirrored those recorded in Trench 1. Phase 1 was an occupation deposit rich in cinders and ash. This was sealed by the remains of a degraded stone surface associated with a small rectangular furnace that had been inserted into a massive red brick wall. The furnace was in turn sealed by several further occupation layers. This suggested that the industrial activity was occurred over a prolonged period of time. As in Trench 1, Phase 2 consisted of the deposition of several layers of mixed clay and rubble over the remains of Phase 1.

In summary, Phase 1 represented the remains of a 17th-18th-century smelting or metalworking workshop to the rear of the property fronting onto South Earl Street, while Phase 2 consisted of modern episodes of dumping over the site following the abandonment of the workshop.

Subsequent monitoring of the foundation trenches revealed several walls associated with the industrial complex.

Author: Finola O'Carroll, Cultural Resource Development Services Ltd, Campus Innovation Centre, Roebuck, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4 Site type: Urban medieval ITM: E 714602m, N 733772m Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.341756, -6.279014

Test-trenching was undertaken in advance of a four-storey apartment/shop development. Meath Street is situated in the Liberties of Dublin, close to the eastern boundary of St Thomas's Abbey. It was laid out in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The pit of the cellar of the existing building was cut into natural subsoil so that evidence for earlier occupation was confined to the back yard of the site.

Testing at the site revealed the remains of a redbrick-cellared house, a thick layer of garden soil of post-medieval date, and several lower layers of uncertain date. This earlier undated occupation consisted of two 0.2m-thick layers of rich, organic clay containing some shell, which overlay natural subsoils, at a depth of 2.4m below the present yard level. They were overlain by a 0.4m-thick layer of redeposited natural subsoil, which is probably related to the construction of a post-medieval house, as it is overlaid by a 0.4m-thick layer of garden soil, containing smashed pottery of 17th- or early 18th-century date. The cellar was cut through the top of this layer, which was covered by redeposited natural upcast and several garden layers and yard surfaces relating to the cellared house.

County: Dublin Site name: MEATH STREET/HANBURY LANE, DUBLIN

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 96E0355ext.

Author: Eoin Halpin, Archaeological Development Services Ltd, Unit 48, Westlink Enterprise Centre, 30-50 Distillery Street, Belfast BT12 5BJ.

Site type: Urban medieval

ITM: E 714569m, N 733841m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.342382, -6.279485

The archaeological assessment took place in two stages, the first on 28 November 1996 (Excavations 1996, 29) and the second, after site clearance, on 20 March 1997. At the time of the follow-up assessment in March, the site had been cleared of upstanding buildings and a hard-core surface laid. The OD levels of the site, supplied by the architect, varied from 17.3m at the east to 17.1m at the west.

A further three trenches were examined in the second phase of assessment. The first was excavated down to the surface of archaeologically significant deposits. These occurred, particularly at the western end of the trench, at a depth of 15.1m OD and were some 0.5m deep. The surface of this black organic deposit was traced eastwards for some 7m, after which it petered out and was replaced at a similar depth by undisturbed natural. The section at the eastern end of the trench consisted of post-medieval rubble and hard-core overlying a compacted yellow-brown clay loam, also post-medieval in date, which rested directly on natural. There was no evidence that the organic soil extended across the length of the trench.

The second trench was opened in the north-east corner of the development area. It was 8m long, spanning the full width of the proposed building. At the eastern end of the trench undisturbed natural was uncovered at a depth of 14.6m OD. This was overlain by a 0.5m depth of black organic odorous silt clay. The surface of this layer was traced for the full width of the trench. Owing to collapsing trench edges it was not possible to examine this layer closely, but from surface observation numerous lengths of timber, some apparently set vertically and in situ, were noted. Animal bone, sea shell and charcoal were abundant, but no pottery was found which could be securely associated with the organic deposit. The upper layers of the trench were composed of material which was post-medieval in date.

The final trench was opened in the small alcove which extended northward from the northern perimeter

ACAS

ACAS

of the site. It was some 12m long and covered the full footprint of the proposed building. As elsewhere, this trench revealed evidence for undisturbed natural at a depth of 14.6m OD, and the natural was overlain by a black organic layer which, at the northern end of the trench, was some 0.5m deep. A close examination of this layer revealed abundant organic matter in the form of wood, twigs, leaves, etc., as well as wooden features in the form of small wooden drains. These were constructed from four separate planks of timber combined to create a wooden 'pipe', rectangular in cross-section, measuring approximately 0.2m by 0.1m.

A number of sherds of pottery were recovered both from the base of and from within the organic layer. These have been dated to the late 13th/early 14th century (A. Gahan, pers. comm.).

The upper layers of the trench consisted of post-medieval layers topped with rubble and hard-core. The southern end of the trench had been badly disturbed in modern times by the insertion of a manhole and associated sewer.

2017:818 - 30 & 32-36 THOMAS Street, DUBLIN 8

From November 2016 through to March 2018, archaeological test trenching, open excavation and monitoring works were carried out at the site of what was Frawley's department store on Thomas Street in the Liberties area of Dublin. The excavations were carried out in advance of redevelopment of the site. The works were completed by a crew of between 14-20 archaeologists, generating an archive of 1,790 contexts, 5,802 photographs, 5,975 artefacts and 746 samples.

The site comprised an area

of approximately 1,820 square metres. Within the site boundary, a number of protected structures dating from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries fronted onto the street. To the rear of these properties several buildings of twentieth-century date had been constructed on pile and ground beam foundations. The area beneath this twentieth-century structure had been reduced by over 1m below the level of the ground along Saint Catherine's Lane. The excavation was divided into two distinct areas – a block parallel to Saint Catherine's Lane which was reduced to c. 1.4m below the level of the modern laneway and a larger area to the east, comprising the majority of the site footprint which was reduced to c. 3m below the previous ground level to accommodate a basement. It should be noted therefore that the archaeology along Catherine's Lane was not fully excavated with significant deposits and features being preserved in situ beneath the development. The activity encountered onsite can be grouped into five general phases:

Phase I Eleventh - twelfth century: Pre-priory/abbey burials.

Phase II Twelfth – thirteenth century: abbey cemetery, abbey boundary ditch and adjacent secular plots/toft areas to the north.

Phase III Fourteenth – fifteenth century: abbey precinct wall and later phase of tanning/cess pits. Beginning of garden soil deposits.

Phase IV Sixteenth century: timber-lined cess/tanning pit to north of precinct wall, stone-lined cess/tanning pits built into line of precinct wall on southern side, boundary walls along St. Catherine's Lane. Bulk garden soil deposits across the northern portion of the site.

Phase V Seventeenth century: tanning pits, timber water pipes, row of Dutch Billy-type structures fronting Saint Catherine's Lane. Several timber and stone-lined tanning pits. Bulk garden soil deposits. Phase VI Eighteenth century: multiple red brick boundary walls, structures, brick surfaces, cobbled surfaces, wells, waterpipes, timber water cisterns, timber tanning pits, a brick-built tanning pit, a brick-built lime slaking pit.

Phase VII Nineteenth century: boundary walls, buildings, surfaces and an industrial complex along Saint Catherine's Lane comprising two coal-fired furnaces set into a sloping brick-floored sub-basement.

Phase VIII Twentieth century: yard surfaces, stone foundations, concrete pile clusters and concrete ground beams. Sewer pipes, waterpipes and other services.

Given the limitations in space, the following text focuses on the medieval phases.

The Precinct Wall

Early on in the excavations, a large east-west running wall was discovered towards the southern end of the site. This wall survived for a length of 37.2m, was up to 2.3m wide and stood to a maximum height of four courses, with an average height of 0.43m. The wall had been heavily impacted upon, in several places, by a modern concrete ground beam, a modern test pit or refuse pit, an eighteenth-century well, a seventeenth-century wooden water pipe and a seventeenth-century stone-lined tanning pit. Two further stone-lined tanning/cess pits had been built into the line of the wall and all three pits had utilised robbed stone from the wall in their construction. The wall was entirely robbed out towards the western end of the site, the stone having been re-used in the foundation of a row of seventeenth-century houses fronting Saint Catherine's Lane, as well as in paved surfaces, a well and boundary walls.

This wall had acted as a barrier between the sanctified space of the graveyard of the Abbey of St Thomas the Martyr to the south and an extended area of densely clustered and intercutting tanning and cess pits to the north. This wall, in other words, was the outer precinct wall of the Abbey of St Thomas as depicted on John Speed's map of 1610.

The wall was constructed of large to medium sized slabs of limestone laid on the flat. The lower two courses of the wall comprised a clay bonded plinth foundation up to 0.2m wider than the upper courses which were bonded with a friable cream coloured lime mortar. A total of 29 ceramic sherds were retrieved from within the fabric of the wall and immediately below it. These fragments suggest a construction date for the wall sometime in the late thirteenth to fourteenth centuries.

Abbey Graveyard

On the southern side of the precinct wall, a burial area was encountered extending across the width of the site. Previous excavation had identified graves immediately south-east of the site and it was presumed that the abbey graveyard was located to the south and east of the excavation area. However, excavation revealed a relatively even density of burials extending across the east-west axis of the southern portion of site, totalling 142 interments. Many of these burials were truncated by later burials or post-medieval and modern features, and as a result a large quantity of disarticulated human remains was retrieved. The disturbed bone was usually reinterred with some care within later graves, sometimes laid out around the edges of the graves or placed upon the interred individual.

While some localised areas exhibited higher density burials with more frequent intercutting of graves, in the south-west and south, the distribution of burials was generally of moderate to low density. Perhaps this layout reflects the fact that the excavation area was located at the outer limit of the cemetery. Generally, the graves were aligned west-east, with deviations towards the north aligned west-north-west/east-south-east and north-west/south-east. Grave goods were almost entirely absent and the cemetery soil was conspicuously devoid of ceramic or other artefactual material. No evidence for the use of coffins or shrouds was present; no coffin nails, shroud pins or other items from clothing or personal adornment such as buckles or buttons were found. Osteological analysis of the population is ongoing but preliminary results indicate that the cemetery was open to all age categories including infants, young and older children, adolescents, and adults of all ages and both sexes. Several burials

had received specific attention in their burial and these are described below. At the time of writing, carbon 14 dating has been completed on five burials. Further dates will follow.

Slab-lined burial

In the south-west of the site, an increased density of burials was observed. This higher density of graves appeared to be clustered around an individual who had been interred in a grave lined with rectangular blocks of limestone set on their edge. Osteological analysis has shown that this possible male was a young/middle aged adult at the time of death. Surprisingly, the carbon 14 dating for this individual returned a date of AD 894-1146 (sigma 2 – UBA 40201). This date range clearly predates the establishment of the priory by, at the very least, 31 years.

'Plague-pit' burials

A large, shallow, sub-square cut immediately to the north of the slab-lined burial was found to contain the remains of at least five individuals. This pit was covered by a layer of white lime mortar of varied thickness which lay directly on top of the skeletal remains. Given the jumbled nature of the burials within the cut and the fact that the mortar lay directly on the bones, this pit may represent a mass burial, or plague pit where bodies were interred quickly and sealed be a layer of lime which ultimately solidified once combined with the moisture in the bodies and in the surrounding soil. One of the individuals from the pit – a young middle adult female, returned a date of AD 1040-1214 (sigma 2 – UBA 40202).

Pilgrim burials

The only intentionally buried grave goods discovered in any of the interments consisted of two examples of perforated scallop shells retrieved from two older middle adult male individuals. The positioning of the scallop shells, on the lower chest and over the right humerus, is suggestive of these items being sewn into garments or worn on a leather thong around the neck. The scallop shell is a symbol of St James the Apostle and such perforated scallop shells were used as pilgrim badges indicative of a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain.

Deviant burials

To the south of the slab-lined grave, two individuals were interred with rounded stones wedged in their mouths. These individuals appear to have been in middle adulthood at their time of death, with one identified as male and one as a possible female. These two burials represent the only obvious deviance from the normative burial practice in the cemetery population.

Secular plots

A series of six plots extended north from the precinct wall to the edge of excavation. These plots represent the rear toft areas associated with the houses that would have fronted onto Thomas Street in the medieval period. The plots, while not evident during excavation, can be traced in the finalised site plan with discontinuous, shallow linear features delineating the parcels of ground and many features respecting these divisions. The entire area to the north of the precinct wall was dominated by dense intercutting and interlocking pits of varying shape, size and depth. In addition to these pits, one plot contained a timber-lined well and a possible cereal-drying kiln.

A total of 68 pits were excavated in this area. Several of the pits were lined with a thick layer of bluegrey clay. No pits from this period were timber lined and the majority seemed to rely on their depth relative to the water table to ensure they were water tight. In two instances, timber retaining walls built of posts and re-used planking/staves were constructed along a single side of a pit. This was particular to instances where a later pit cut through an earlier one and the retaining wall was installed to prevent the slop from the earlier pit collapsing into the new cut.

The pit morphologies included very large deep rectangular pits (c. 3m x 2m x up to 3m deep) generally concentrated towards the southern end of the plots; large circular pits (c. 2-3m diameter and 2-3m

ACAS

deep); large oval pits (c. 2m x 1.5m by 1.5m deep) and smaller shallower square pits (c. 1-2m square and up to 1m deep). Clustering of these pit types was also noted with instances of deep pits adjacent to or interlocking with small oval pits and large shallow rectangular pits, suggestive of a specific industrial purpose.

Not all of the pits respected the boundaries of the plots and this may suggest that the individual plots were amalgamated or that larger industrial areas emerged over time. The later mapping of the area presents a picture of such courtyards/open spaces between buildings. The most notable density of pits occurred within the c. 2.5m-wide strip of land located between the abbey precinct wall to the south and the ditch to the north. Almost the entire surface area of this strip of land had been subjected to cutting and re-cutting from generally large pits. The pits in this area did not respect the plot boundaries discussed above.

The pits were filled for the most part with black noxious smelling material. In several instances, green and brown foul-smelling organic deposits interspersed with layers of straw were encountered. The fills of the pits were rich in ceramic, leather and wooden artefacts as well as animal bone/horn core and environmental remains. The head of a wooden paddle which was perforated with a series of holes to allow it to be drawn through liquid, was retrieved from one of the larger pits along the eastern edge of the site. Such paddles were employed in the tanning process to agitate the tanning liquor in which hides were placed, indicating an industrial function. However, a double toilet seat was also recovered from a moderate sized pit in the south-east area of the secular plots, illustrating that at least some of the pits were in use as latrines/cess pits. Whether this was the primary function intended for the pit or whether there was crossover in use at different stages of the life-cycle of the pits is explored further below. The toilet seat finds a parallel in an excavated example at Emmet Street, Trim, where a similar layout of rear plots and dense intercutting pits was encountered in a medieval suburban context, just outside of the town walls.

Soluble salts were prevalent across the site, and particularly in the areas of highest pit densities. These salts exuded out of artefacts, architectural stone and also the natural subsoil once exposed to the air. The salts presumably derived from some function of the pits and were carried into the surrounding subsoil and deposits by the movement of rainwater and groundwater. It should be noted that the tawing process requires the use of alum, a double sulphate salt, and this may be significant in interpreting what activities were being undertaken onsite.

Conclusions

Based on the ensemble of information currently in hand from these excavations, the following precisions in the timeline can be proposed for the site and the abbey as a whole:

Pre-1100: graveyard (and potentially church) in existence.

c. 1172: pre-existing chapel (with chaplain) dedicated to Thomas Becket by citizens of Dublin. 1177: priory established and lands encircled with a ditch, larger and more substantial to the south (the side exposed to Gaelic attack) and smaller to the north. The northern ditch carries water and may represent the 'Luttebrune' mentioned in a late twelfth/thirteenth-century charter.

1192: elevation to abbey and significant building projects begun – some of the Dundry stone recovered may date to this period.

1225: the 'Luttebrune' is tapped into for the purpose of carrying water from the city cistern to the west, towards Saint John's Mill and the city.

1227: foundation stone laid in construction (extension?) of Abbey church – the majority of the carved Dundry dates to this period.

c. 1360: the 'Luttebrune' stream east of Saint Catherine's Church is diverted into the thoroughfare of Thomas Street, becoming the Glib Stream. This potentially done to facilitate access for citizens for pubic washing (as per a reference in 1538). Intensification of tanning/cess pits along its former course. c. 1360-1400: Construction of outer precinct wall. Potentially in response to an attack by the mayor, bailiff and citizens of Dublin in 1392. Possible renovation of the Abbey Church at this time in the 'Decorated Style' Gothic, accounting for the extensive retrieval of high-quality sandstone pieces of cusped-arch window tracery.

1478: money given in reparation of the monastic church of St Thomas' may account for the few 'Perpendicular Style' limestone masonry pieces recovered, most notably the fifteenth-century cloister column base.

c. 1538: quarrying of stone from the Abbey church and buildings to line cess pits and tanning pits which begin to eat into precinct wall.

c. 1650: precinct wall levelled; large-scale secular (tanning) activity established within abbey precinct. Given the scale of the excavation there is some post-excavation work remaining to complete. This entry will be updated upon submission of final report.

REFERENCES

Duffy, P. 2020 'Saints and Skinners, excavations along the northern precinct of the Abbey of St Thomas the Martyr, Dublin' in Duffy, S. *Medieval Dublin XIX* Dublin: Four Courts Press. **Unit G1, Network Enterprise Park, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow**

Appendix 3: Protected structures on Meath Street

Meath Street is part of an architectural conservation area with two protected structures:

5060 5071 Meath Street, Dublin 8 Dublin 8 St. Catherine's Roman Catholic church (built after Catholic Emancipation in 1829)

5061 5072 92 Meath Street, Dublin 8 Dublin 8 Liberty Crèche

Appendix 4: Dublin City development plan 2016-2022

Policy SC3: To develop a sustainable network of safe, clean, attractive pedestrian routes, lanes and cycle ways in order to make the city more coherent and navigable. Visual perception of street

Policy CHC45: To continue to animate the public domain by encouraging the provision of public art, temporary and permanent The Liberties forms part of **SDRA16** in the DCC development plan 2016-22; this plan notes the opportunities for redevelopment that are presented by, for example, the consolidation of Diageo/ Guinness and the development of Newmarket as a craft food and drink destination.

Appendix 6: National Inventory of Architectural Heritage on Meath Street

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a state initiative under the administration of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999.

The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

Ladbrokes, 46 Thomas Street, Meath Street, Dublin 8, Dublin City



Survey Data

Reg No 50080586

Description

Corner-sited terraced three-storey former house, built c.1880, possibly incorporating earlier fabric, having four-bay west elevation to Meath Street, single-bay front (north) elevation to Thomas Street and angled corner entrance bay to north-west, shopfront to both elevations. Formerly in use as public house, and as building society, now in use as shop and offices. Hipped roof with rendered chimneystack and clay chimney pots, rendered parapet having painted masonry coping, moulded brick cornice over frieze with diaper pattern and nailhead motif. Painted brick laid in Flemish bond to walls, lined-and-ruled render to south elevation. Segmental-headed window openings to upper floors, with painted masonry sills, bull-nosed surrounds and one-over-one pane timber sash windows. Shopfront comprising scrolled consoles with foliate roundels flanking moulded cornice having modillions over fascia. Recent square-headed display window openings to ground floor, and square-headed door opening to angled corner bay flanked by recent panelled pilasters. Square-headed door opening to south of shopfront to west, leading to overhead accommodation.

Appraisal

This building occupies a prominent position at the junction of Meath Street and Thomas Street. It is subtly enhanced by brick detailing, and although a recent shopfront has been added, an older fascia and cornice are retained, indicating the early commercial function of the building as well as providing decorative interest. Timber sash windows are retained, lending a patina of age to the façade. This building was in use as a public house for many years, and also subsequently used by the Irish Permanent Building Society.



Baker's Lounge, 47-48 Thomas Street, Meath Street, Dublin 8, Dublin City

Survey Data Reg No 50080591 Description

Corner-sited four-storey former pair of houses and shops, built c.1820, now in single use having fourbay front (north) elevation and four-bay west elevation, two-bay two-storey return to rear (south) elevation, and recent shopfronts to both front and west elevations. M-profile hipped roof with brown brick chimneystacks, hidden behind brown brick parapet having granite coping and cast-iron rainwater goods. Brown brick laid in Flemish bond to walls with granite quoins. Cast-iron plaque to first floor to west elevation, inscribed 'MERCHANTS QUAY WARD'. Square-headed window openings having raised render reveals, granite sills and timber sash windows, three-over-three pane to third floor, sixover-six pane to lower floors, some blocked. Round-headed door opening to west elevation of return, with moulded masonry surround, lonic columns and entablature over double-leaf timber panelled door, blocked fanlight. Recent shopfront comprising corner entrance with recessed porch and square-profile pier, display windows to both elevations, and door to east end front elevation leading to upper floors.

Appraisal

Occupying a prominent position at the junction of Meath Street and Thomas Street, this wellproportioned building has been used in the past as two separate businesses. It was originally built as a pair as a Wide Streets Commission improvement in a typically restrained style with substantial accommodation over the commercial ground floor. The Dublin Street Directory of 1862 lists no.47 as the property of John and William Wardell, grocers and provision merchants, and no.48 as occupied by Bouchier, Bailey & Co. trimming merchants, while in more recent times it was in use as a grocer's shop and provision merchants in the early twentieth century. Timber sash windows are retained, lending a patina of age, and the decreasing scale of fenestration provides a pleasing regularity to the facade. Due to its location, form and scale, it is a striking addition to the streetscape.

Saoirse Waldorf School, 91-92 Meath Street, Dublin 8, Dublin City



Survey Data Reg No 50080590 Description

Terraced seven-bay two-storey former dispensary, built 1826, having integral carriage arch, returns to rear (east) elevation and recent shopfront inserted to front (west) elevation. Now in use as crèche. Pitched roof, hipped to returns, having yellow brick chimneystack with clay chimney pots and cast-iron rainwater goods. Yellow brick parapet having granite coping. Yellow brick laid in Flemish bond to walls, with granite plinth course and panelled granite fascia over ground floor. Square-headed window openings with raised render reveals, granite sills and six-over-six pane timber sash windows, steel bars to ground floor. Elliptical-headed door opening to front, having granite doorcases comprising pilasters supporting frieze and cornice, spoked fanlight to north doorcase, blocked to south, timber panelled door and granite steps to north, steel door to south. Central elliptical-headed carriage arch to front, with cut granite voussoirs and steel roller shutter, flanked by cast-iron wheel stops.

Appraisal

This substantial building was originally built to house the Sick Poor Association and the Dorset Nourishment Dispensary, which were established in 1794 and 1816 respectively, to care for the poor and convalescent of the Liberties, with a central carriage arch dividing the building into two individual premises. The Liberty Crèche was opened here in 1893, to provide childcare for working mothers, most of whom were street traders on Thomas Street. It is of considerable social interest as an early childcare facility which allowed women to remain in employment, as well as due to its earlier function as a philanthropic institution. Timber sash windows are retained, lending a patina of age, and granite detailing is used to good effect to enliven the façade. The fenestration rhythm and positioning of the carriage arch and doorways create a well-balanced facade, which has been interrupted by insertion of a recent shopfront. Its scale and form, with a slight curve to the front, makes a strong and positive contribution to Meath Street.

South Inner-City Community Development Association, 90 Meath Street, Dublin 8, Dublin City



Survey Data Reg No 50080589

Description

Attached two-bay four-storey over basement former presbytery, built c.1865, now in use as offices. Hipped roof, set perpendicular to street, with brown brick chimneystack and clay chimney pots, hidden behind rendered parapet having granite coping. Lined-and-ruled rendered walls, with render plinth course. Segmental-headed window openings, having render sills and timber sash and replacement uPVC windows, some with decorative cast-iron sill railings to front (west) elevation. Round-headed door opening to south elevation, having recessed timber panelled door with glazed panels and plain overlight, and render steps. Cast-iron railings on granite plinth wall enclosing basement area to front. Appraisal

Due to its impressive form and scale, this former presbytery makes a formidable impression on the streetscape. Some timber sash windows are retained, lending a patina of age to the façade, and castiron railings add technical and artistic interest. It forms part of a group with the adjacent Roman Catholic church, which was built on the site of an earlier smaller church that was demolished along with its presbytery in the mid-nineteenth century. This was one of two priest's houses opened near the new church in the 1860s.



Saint Catherine's Roman Catholic Church, Meath Street, Dublin 8, Dublin City

Survey Data Reg No 50080587 Description

Freestanding double-height gable-fronted Roman Catholic church, built 1852-58, comprising twelve-bay nave, two-bay chancel to east, flanked by single-storey side aisles, three-stage square-profile bell tower to north of entrance, gable-fronted porch and single-storey transept to north elevation. Lean-to side chapels to outer elevations of side-aisle. Two-storey gable-fronted sacristy adjoining south of side-aisle. Pitched replacement slate roofs, carved limestone coping and cross finials. Cut limestone chimneystack to sacristy, octagonal-profile limestone chimneystack to transept to north. Snecked calp limestone walls, plinth course having carved limestone capping, stepped buttresses to side elevations, to rear of chancel and to front of nave and tower, diagonal buttresses to front of side aisles. Projecting pointed arch base to buttresses to front. Snecked limestone crennellated walls to top of tower. Carved limestone string courses over second stage of tower and under windows to tower. Clock inset to front of second stage of tower. Pointed arch window openings to front of nave, chancel, front and rear of side aisles and to first stage of tower, carved limestone hood mouldings over, chamfered limestone surrounds and sills, carved limestone tracery and lancet openings. Pointed arch window openings to clerestory, carved limestone hood mouldings, chamfered limestone surrounds, paired trefoil lancet windows and tracery. Alternating oculi and triangular openings to side-aisles, with carved hood mouldings, chamfered surrounds, and quatrefoil tracery. Carved quatrefoil openings to side chapels. Pointed arch window opening to front of sacristy with carved hood moulding, chamfered surround, paired trefoil lancet window and tracery over. Paired ogee-headed lancet window openings to south of sacristy, having carved limestone lintel mouldings, chamfered surrounds and mullions, and leaded windows. Square-headed openings to third stage of towers, carved hood mouldings over, trefoil lancet ventilation openings. Pointed arch door opening to front, having carved limestone moulding, carved limestone surround comprising recessed pointed arches on columns, carved mouchettes and quatrefoils to spandrels, double-leaf timber panelled door and tympanum. Granite steps. Pointed arch door openings to north and south of side aisles, having carved limestone hood mouldings and recessed carved surrounds, double-leaf timber panelled doors, and granite steps. Pointed arch door opening to front of sacristy with carved limestone hood moulding, chamfered surround, and timber battened doors. Plastered walls to interior, with arcades flanking nave and chancel arch of Caen limestone. Cut Caen limestone walls to chancel and flanking side-chapels. Carved figurative stops to hood mouldings over arches, added c.1960. Replacement timber roof with scissors-braced trusses. Carved glazed timber porch to rear, with carved balustrade. Stained glass windows. Carved reredos and marble altar. Carved timber confessionals set within niches, alternating with side chapels. Decorative cast-iron railings on calp limestone plinth walls having dressed limestone capping, matching double-leaf gate to door to front.

Appraisal

Built to designs by J. J. McCarthy, Saint Catherine's Roman Catholic Church was built on the site of the old Meath Street Chapel, an octagonal-plan building which was constructed on this site in the late eighteenth century. It forms part of a group with the adjacent parochial houses and former school to the north, while associated structures such as an attached sacristy and decorative railings add contextual interest. The present tower was added by Ashlin & Coleman in c.1920. Elaborate window tracery adds artistic and technical interest, while providing textural contrast to the calp limestone walls, and attests to the skill and craftsmanship involved in its construction. Stained glass windows and cross finials are emblematic of its ecclesiastical function. At time of record the church was being restored having been badly damaged by a fire in early 2012. A considerable amount of the original materials have been retained and restored, included some stained glass, the high altar, reredos, timber porch and

confessionals. Carved figurative stops, added during restoration in the 1960s, provide contextual and artistic interest to the interior, with Saint Patrick and Kevin Barry, among others, represented.

New Dandelion, 9 Meath Street, Dublin 8, Dublin City



Survey Data Reg No 50080652 Description

Terraced two-bay three-storey house, built c.1915, with shopfront to front (east) elevation. Hipped slate roof hidden behind parapet having moulded brick and granite coping, red brick chimneystack and castiron rainwater goods. Red brick walls laid in Flemish bond to east elevation. Red brick laid in English Garden Wall bond to north elevation. Segmental-headed openings with brick reveals, granite sills and replacement uPVC windows. Recent shopfront. Square-headed opening with roller shutter leading to overhead accommodation.

Appraisal

This purpose-built residential and commercial building was constructed as part of a pair with no.10 to its south and is typical of the widespread rebuilding undertaken on Meath Street in the twentieth century. Similar architectural features have been applied to façades of different widths possibly indicating that the buildings respect the pre-existing plot boundaries. The retention of the elegant brick chimneystack and cast-iron rainwater goods add to its historic character. A proposal was made by George O'Connor to rebuild No.9 in 1913 on behalf of the owner Richard Nelson.



Larkin Bros. Victuallers, 18 Meath Street, Earl Street South, Dublin 8, Dublin City

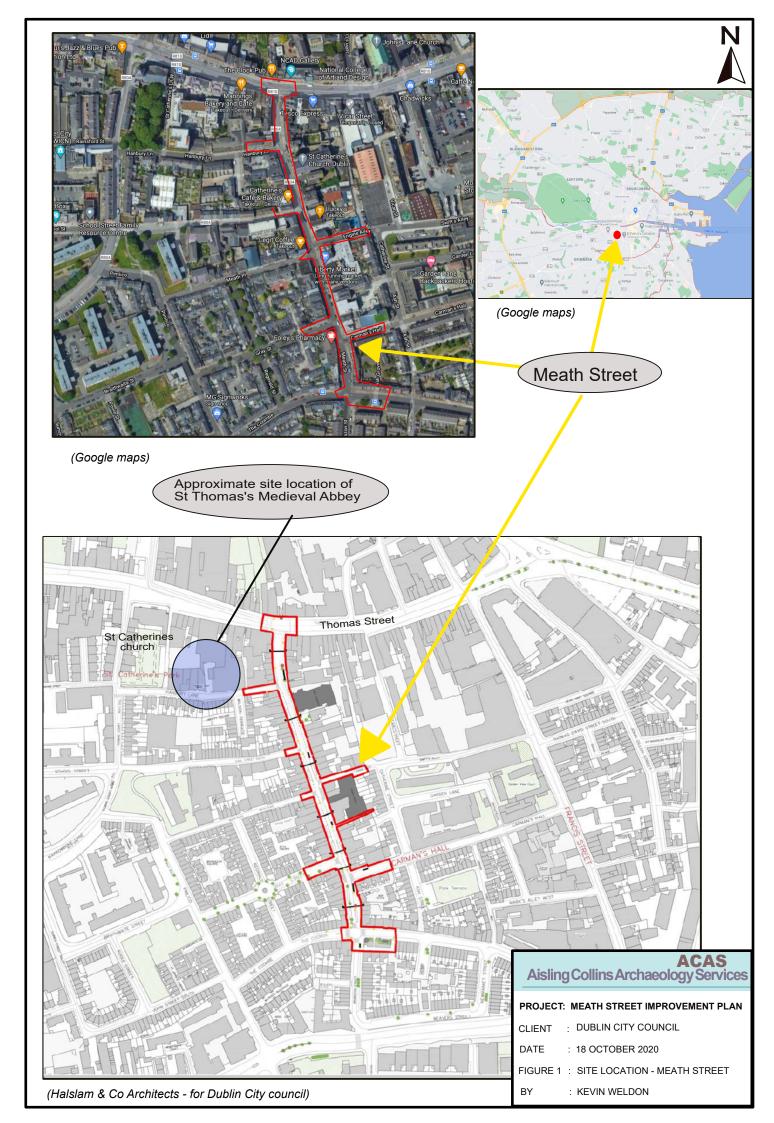
Survey Data Reg No 50080650 Description

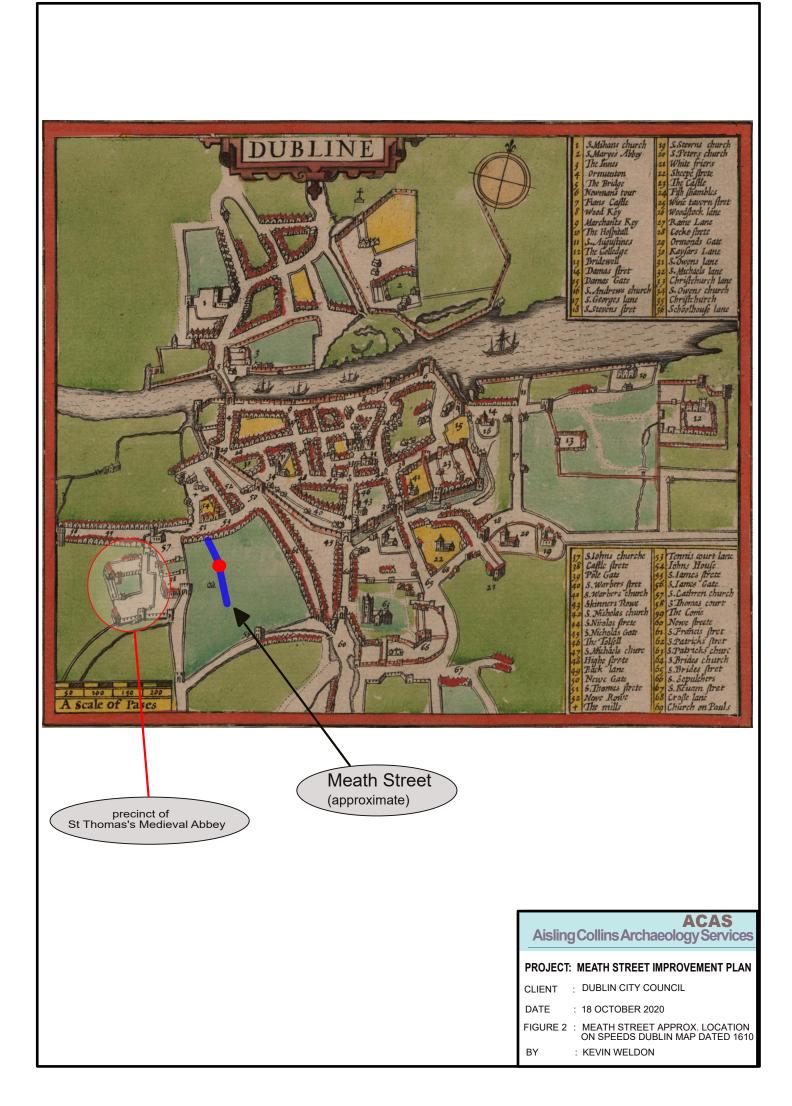
33

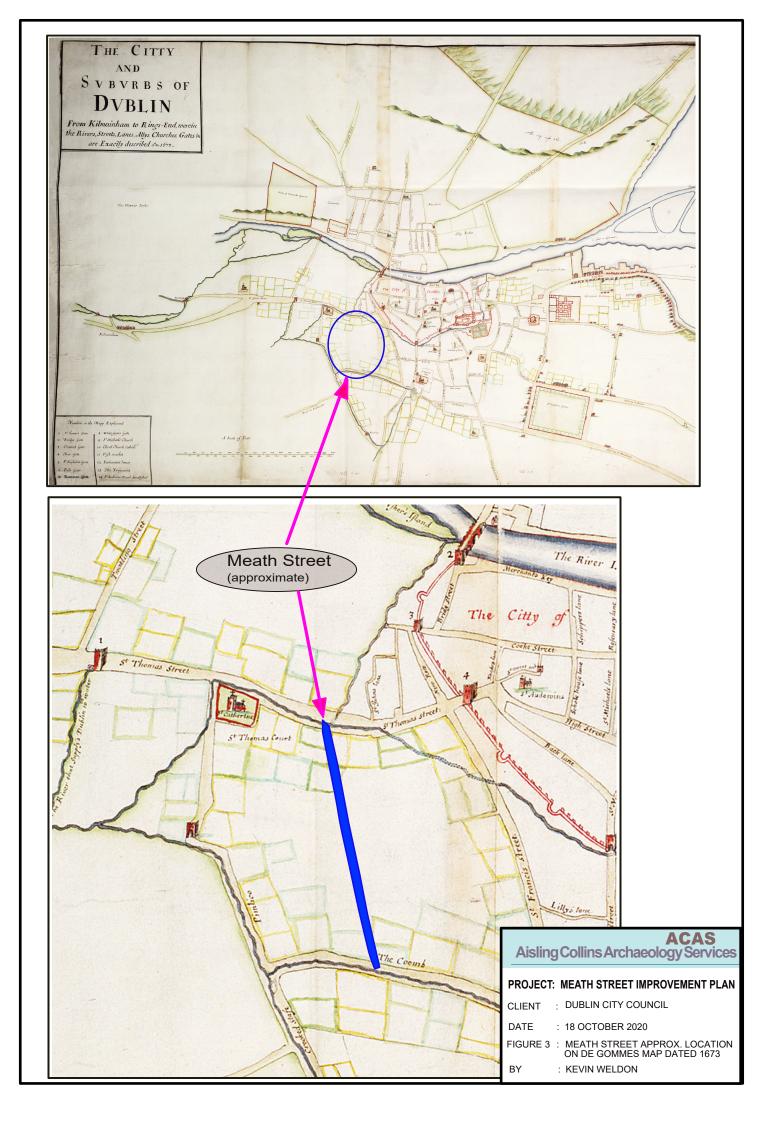
Corner-sited attached house, built c.1890, with two-bay three-storey elevation to front (east) elevation and six-bay three-storey elevation to south having mid twentieth-century shopfront to both elevations. Now also in use as butcher's shop. Hipped roof hidden behind parapet with granite coping, having red brick chimneystacks and cast-iron rainwater goods. Red brick laid in Flemish bond to east and south elevations. Lined-and-ruled rendered walls to west elevation. Red brick laid in English garden wall bond to north elevation. Segmental-headed window openings to front elevation with polychromatic brick voussoirs, stepped brick reveals and granite sills and single pane timber sash windows. Square-headed window openings to south elevation with brick reveals, granite sills with two-over-two pane timber sash windows and blind openings. Square-headed door opening to south elevation having timber panelled door with overlight and granite step. Tiled shopfront, having square-headed display windows and tiled piers supporting fascia with projecting lettering.

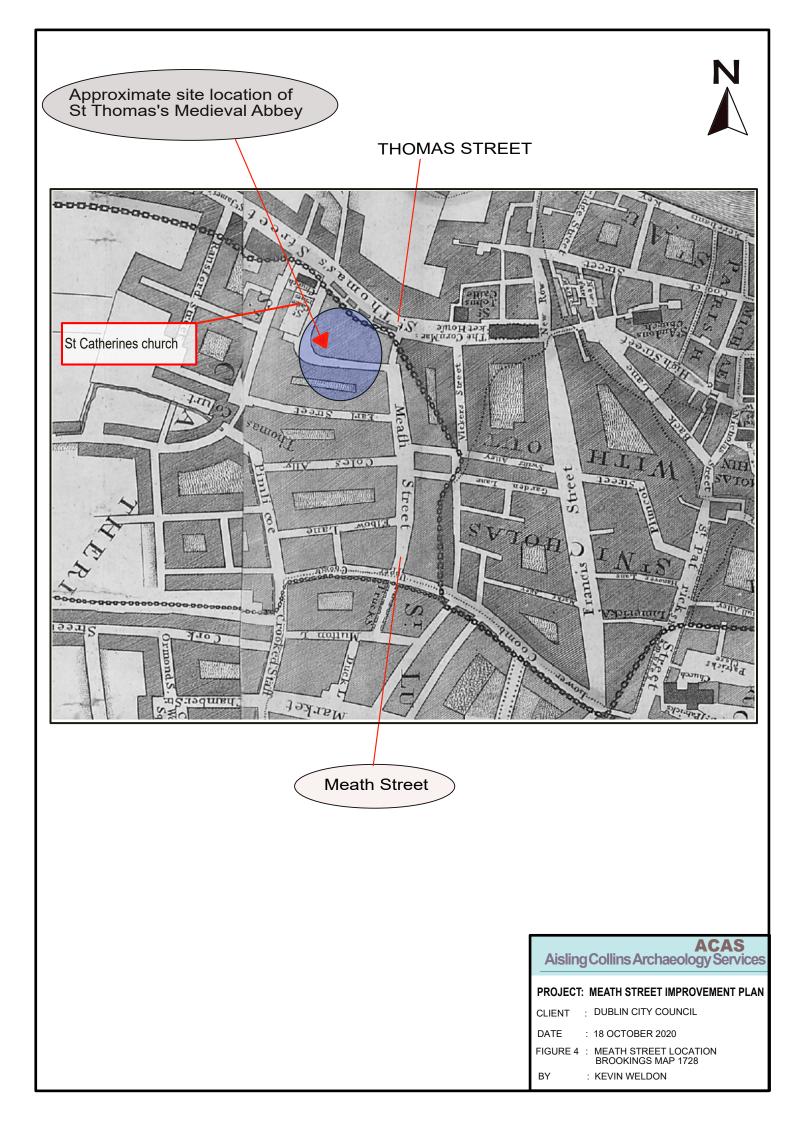
Appraisal

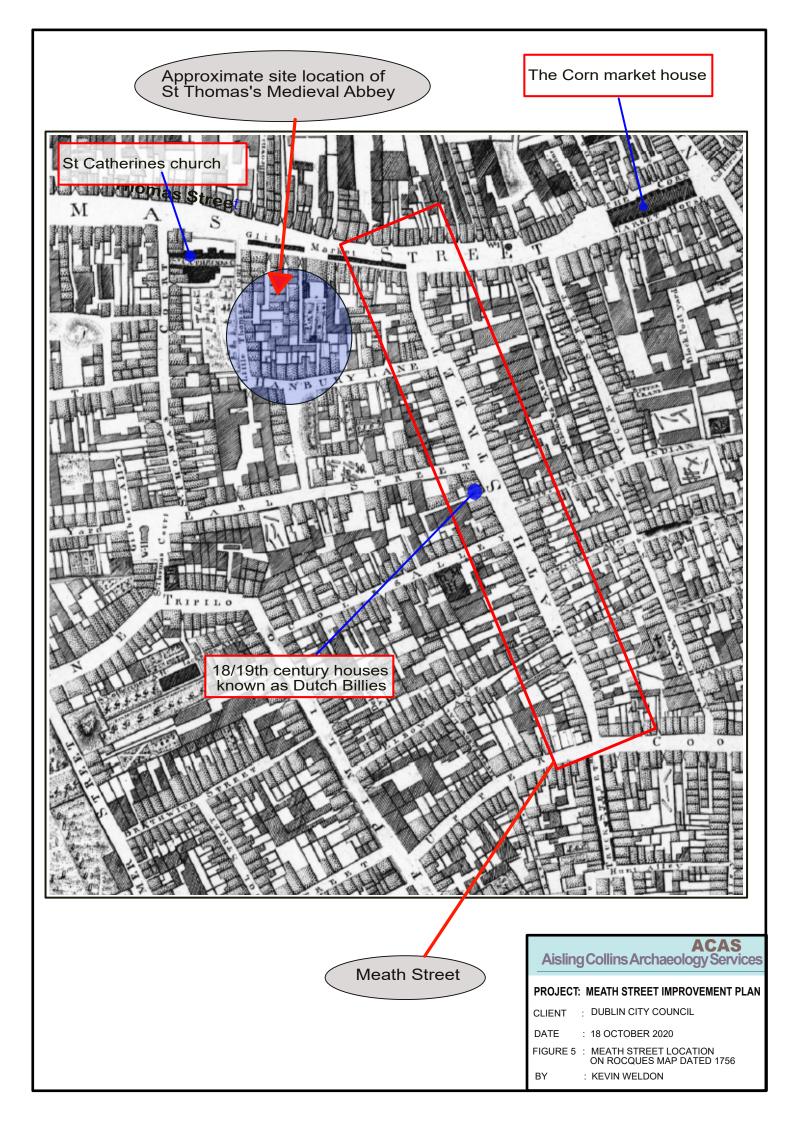
One of the well-built Victorian buildings on Meath Street, this red brick building is enlivened by the polychromatic brickwork window dressings, stepped reveals and tall brick chimneystacks. Together with the purpose-built tenement building on the opposite corner, No.18 frames the entrance to Earl Street South from Meath Street. The use of tile as a cladding material is a characteristic feature of the shopfronts of butchers and victuallers.

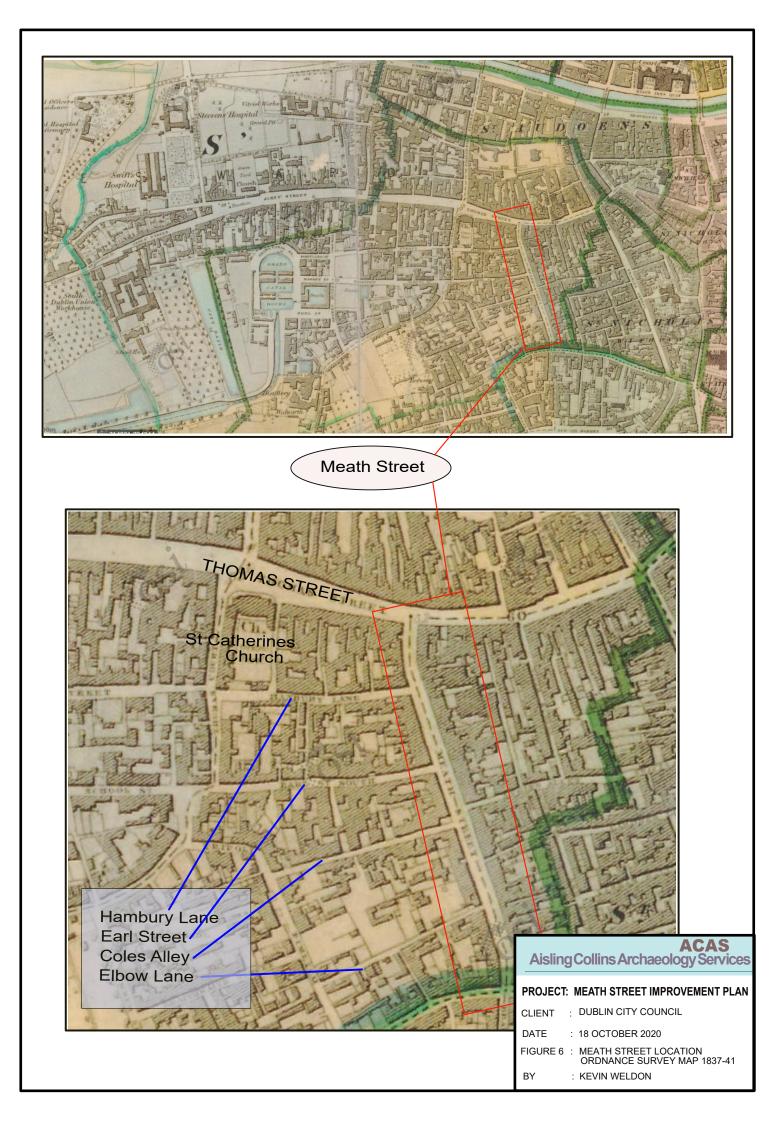


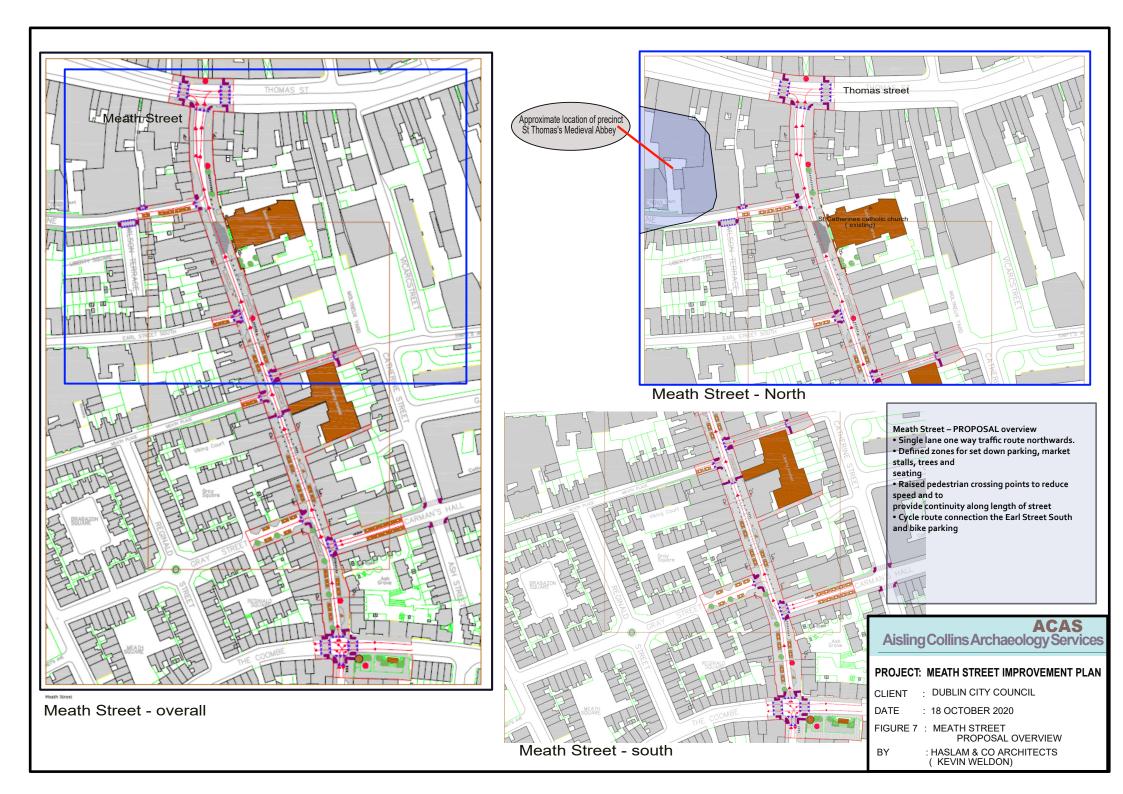












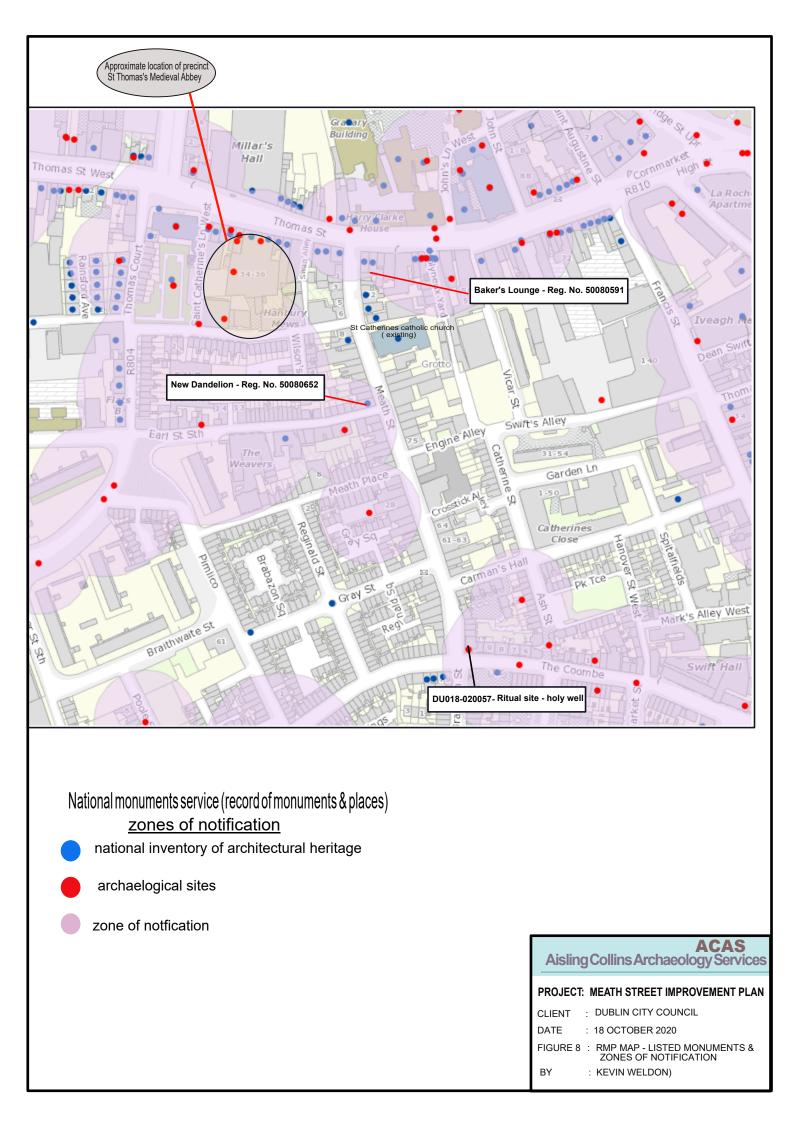




Plate 1: Photo taken from the south end of Meath St looking south towards the Coombe



Plate 2: Photo taken from the south end of Meath St looking north



Plate 3: Photo taken from the centre of Meath St looking south



Plate 4: Photo taken from the centre of Meath St looking north



Plate 5: Photo taken from the north end of Meath St looking south with St Catherine's RC church in view



Plate 6: Photo taken from the north end of Meath St looking north towards Thomas Street