

Cork City Walls

Management Plan

Plean Bainistíochta Bhallaí Chathair Chorcaí



An Action of the Cork City Heritage Plan 2007-2012



Cork City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

Supported by the Heritage Council

Prepared by



**'THE SHADOW OF THE WALLED TOWN OF CORK REMAINS STRONG,
AND THUS ITS INFLUENCE' (THOMAS, A. 1992,66)**



**THE STREETS FORM A VIRTUAL RING AROUND THE CIRCUIT OF THE AREA
THAT WAS THE **MEDIEVAL WALLED CITY.****

CORK CITY WALLS MANAGEMENT PLAN

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FOREWARD

Cork City is one of the oldest cities in Ireland and has been a walled town since the thirteenth century when it was fortified by the Anglo-Normans. The wall was largely demolished in the eighteenth century to make way for the rapidly expanding city and as a result there are few above ground standing remains of the wall present today. Despite this, as evidenced by numerous archaeological excavations, the below ground level preservation of the wall is impressive.

Cork City Council, as members of the Irish Walled Towns Network, identified a need for improved awareness of the importance of the city wall. This Management Plan provides an outline of the cultural significance of the city wall and includes a gazetteer of the upstanding and excavated lengths of wall in the city. A variety of mechanisms for the enhancement of the significance of the city wall are also recommended in this publication.

I hope that this publication will give the reader an understanding of the importance of the city wall in forming the city that we have today but also in shaping its future development.

I would like to acknowledge the work of University College Cork, Maurice F.Hurley and Vincent Price who carried out the research for this publication.

I would also like to thank Ciara Brett who prepared this publication and The Heritage Council for their financial support.



Mr Kevin Terry
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1. INTRODUCTION

Where a continuity exists of the layout and occupation, some of the atmosphere must also remain. Cork is then a mediaeval city in late Victorian guise (Lawlor, B, 1977, 99).

Background

Cork City Council, working in partnership with the Heritage Council through the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN), commissioned consultants, the Department of Archaeology, University College Cork and Maurice F. Hurley, to prepare a Management Plan for the medieval City Wall. The preparation and implementation of the plan is an action of the *Cork City Heritage Plan 2007-2012*.

The Heritage Council of Ireland established the IWTN to unite and co-ordinate the strategic efforts of local authorities involved in the management, conservation and enhancement of historic walled towns in Ireland, both North and South. The Irish Walled Towns Network is formally linked to the International Walled Towns Friendship Circle (IWTF) whose members include Chester in England and Dubrovnik in Croatia.

It is envisaged that the Management Plan will inform and be of use to practitioners in both the public and private sectors; Local Authority (Cork City Council) Officials, State Departments (DoEHLG and OPW) and other heritage bodies (Heritage Council and organisations such

as IWTN), planning consultants, engineers, architects, archaeologists, property owners, developers as well as the general public.

Project Brief

A need was identified for increased awareness of the importance of the city walls amongst the public and particularly in relation to informing future development in the historic core.

The project brief stated that *the plan should be an informed study, which will highlight the importance and significance of the walls in the formation and development of Cork City. The Plan should outline the management measures required to protect, preserve and promote the City Wall.*

Summary of the findings

- There are little or no standing remains of the city wall above ground and the surviving fragments are isolated and obscure.
- The wall was largely demolished in the early eighteenth century to make way for the rapidly expanding city. Below ground level however, Cork possesses what is arguably the most intact circuit of walls of any Irish city.
- The reasons for the walls preservation pertain to Cork's location within a marsh. The nature of the marshy ground was such that every effort was

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made by inhabitants to constantly raise their habitation level above the tidal floodwaters. Between 3-4m of introduced clay and dumped organic material were built up within the town between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries, as a result of this the lower levels of the walls have been sealed and these survive in remarkable condition.

- Records of the wall have been made in over twenty archaeological excavations, ranging from a 60m length excavated at Kyril's Quay in 1992 to narrow deep incisions beneath the streets, excavated as part of the Cork Main Drainage (CMD) 1996-2003.
- The city wall was built on river gravels at the extremities of the island. The wall was generally of substantial construction, built of roughly dressed limestone blocks with lesser amounts of sandstone. The wall is generally c. 2m wide at the point of truncation. The outer face is generally battered, this feature served not only as a defensive mechanism but it broadened the base spreading the load over a wider area. This base can be almost 3.5m wide. The walls generally stand to a maximum height (depth below ground) of 4m and survive to c. 1m below the modern surface. Frequently the foundations of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings stand directly on top of the city wall.
- Of the many towers and castles that punctuated the wall, not a single upstanding element survives, but excavation has revealed towers, gateways and other defensive structures beneath the ground.
- Although virtually surrounded by a ring of streets the medieval walled city does not have a recognisable physical identity. Washington Street, the early nineteenth century west/east thoroughfare, cuts the area of the medieval walled city in two and presents both a physical and mental barrier to perception of the medieval walled city as a single unit.
- While the *Historic Centre Action Plan* (Cork City Council 1994) sought to highlight the walled city as a unit, specific policies were largely focuses in the North Main Street area with limited reference to South Main Street and environs.
- The medieval walled city is not treated as a single unit within planning policies in the *Cork City Development Plan 2004*.
- There is currently no specific policy or coherent plan for the integrity of the city wall and associated features.

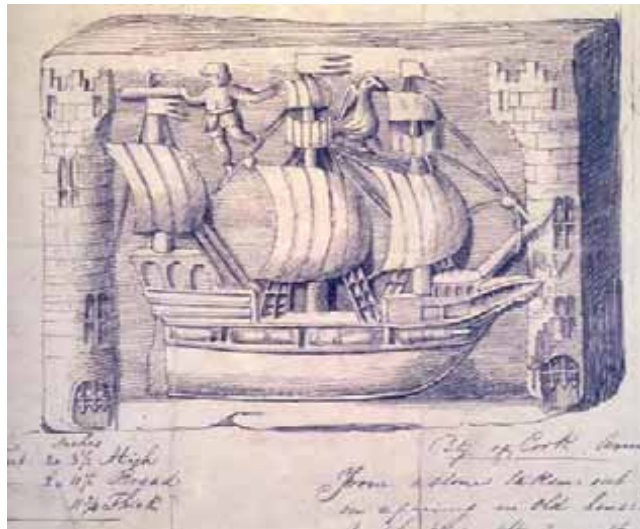
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- Plans to enhance the identity of the city wall and increase public awareness of the monument are essential.
- The development of an overriding policy to protect and enhance the city wall as an important civic monument is critical.
- The role of development as a means of identifying and presenting the city wall as a monument needs to be explored.

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2. CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Judging from the walls that survive below ground, the city with its towers, battlements and crenulations must have been a spectacular sight. The mixture of vivid white limestone contrasting with dark sandstone gave a charming mottled effect unique to Cork and is still to be seen on many of the walls of warehouse buildings (Hurley, M. F. 'Below Sea-Level in the City of Cork' in Irish Cities, edited by Howard Clarke, 1995, 50).



Cork's coat of arms reminds us of Cork's raison d'etre as a well-defended port

The remarkable survival of Cork's city wall with 2-3 metres of adjoining strata has resulted in a level of knowledge unparalleled in any other Irish city and even rarely encountered outside of Ireland. The situation in Cork is in sharp contrast with other Irish towns and cities. While many Irish towns and cities have extensive semi-complete circuits of wall, the walls have been exposed to weathering and decay since the day they were built and furthermore alterations, reconstruction and restoration have taken place since the mid-nineteenth century. Frequently scant archaeological strata adjoin city walls, however in Cork the walls stand (or lie) in the context of their construction and in occupation layers up to the level to which the ground had been raised to by c 1700AD. Everything below the level of truncation tells a clearly interpretable story. The amount of knowledge on Cork's city walls contained in the published books and journals as well as in unpublished reports is unequalled in Ireland.

We can only understand Cork in the present day by reference to its past. Without this understanding any plans for the future are incomprehensible. The city wall is a legacy of the colonial phase of Irish history and as such can still have negative connotations in the minds of many Irish people. As the raw memory of recent history fades, the many phases and multiple facets in the evaluation of the city merge in a *time-out-of-mind* sense of generalised antiquity. Historical events and processes are relegated to textbooks and for many people the ancient fears and greed leading to considerations of security and commerce bear no relevance to the current city

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environment. The city has physically moved away from its ancient nucleus although this is still largely legible in the city layout, preserved in the names of South and North Main Street and here and there in scraps of urban fabric.

It is seldom acknowledged that Cork City possesses one of the most intact circuits of medieval wall of any Irish town or city. The lack of recognition of the unique resource represented by the city walls centres on its visibility, for fragments of the city wall only stand above ground in two locations and only three segments totalling less than 20m of wall are presented in isolated locations below contemporary ground level; only one of these (in Bishop Lucy Park) is well known. The remainder of the circuit lies buried beneath the modern buildings and streets of the city, yet from time to time where archaeological excavations have taken place the medieval wall is seen to stand to a height (more accurately depth) of 3 to 4 metres preserved in extraordinary detail and integrity. The wall, together with gateways and mural towers reveals a story of layout, growth, change, decay, collapse, repair and rebuilding, warfare and the day to-day history of the people who built and maintained a now invisible and largely forgotten monument. Cities such as Roman Pompeii, Angkor (Burma) and Teotihuacan (Mexico) are celebrated relics of ancient civilizations but their existence has ceased to be interwoven with the contemporary populations of the region. Over time, cities tend to develop by expanding outwards from their historic nuclei. Contemporary cities of

ancient origin present a more complex picture resulting in a range of consequential impacts on the old city cores. At one end of the spectrum the ancient city centres often become forgotten and derelict. The decayed city core may eventually be reconfigured as part of a new city design bearing little resemblance to its historic precursor. In these instances there is an inevitable loss of historic continuity and integrity. At the other end of the spectrum many European cities have achieved a balance where the historic cores retain their integrity as a tangible unit, frequently defined by medieval walls. Within the walled area the character and layout of the streets may be recognisably different from that on the outside.

The story of the disappearance from view of Cork's city wall is the story of the growth and expansion of the city. The walls had stood for over 500 years when they were largely demolished to contemporary ground level in the early eighteenth century to make way for the rapidly expanding city. Such was the nature of the marshy ground that every effort was made by the inhabitants to constantly raise their habitation level above the tidal flood waters – between 3 and 4 metres of introduced clay and dumped organic material were built up within the city between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries; consequently the lower levels of the city walls were sealed and these survive in a remarkably intact condition. Of the many towers and castles that punctuated the city wall, not a single upstanding element survives. The foundations of three towers have been unearthed by archaeological excavation; a D-shaped tower at Kyril's

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Quay, fragments of a tower known as Hopewell Castle at Grand Parade, and in the course of Cork Main Drainage works at Castle Street, part of the circular foundations of a castle were exposed. These are likely to represent the Queen's Castle, one of two castles (the King's Castle on the south and the Queen's castle on the north) that flanked the Marine Gate. The castles are romantically depicted on the Cork Coat of Arms with the motto *Statio Bene Fida Carinis* presumably referring to the security provided by the enclosed wharf within the walls. As such the walled city is represented on the coat of arms and the motto of Cork City.

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3. UNDERSTANDING THE CITY WALL

The apparent simplicity of the plan of medieval Cork as depicted in the maps of 16th and 17th century date, marks development of great complexity (Hurley 1996, 26).

The political, social, economic, religious, demographic and infrastructural patterns of Ireland owe a significant legacy to the Vikings. The historic power centres of Tara, Uisneach, Cashel, Ferns, etc., faded from their pristine greatness in the face of the growing economic power of the Viking port towns. Within two hundred years of the arrival of the Vikings, control of their towns had become critical for regional and even national supremacy. The Irish kingdoms, while often allowing the Vikings a surprising level of autonomy, were well aware of the importance of the towns as economic powerhouses and windows to the international economy. As a consequence of their increasingly important roles, the Viking towns became pawns as warring kingdoms, both Gaelic and Scandinavian, alternately coaxed or coerced the urban residents into supporting one side or the other. It was these settled Vikings, more appropriately called Hiberno-Norse, who through their trading activities were to establish Cork as one of their principal towns (Hurley 2006). Dublin was the largest and most successful Hiberno-Norse settlement in Ireland and along with other centres at Wexford, Waterford, Limerick and Cork defined a pattern of urban development that remains intrinsic to contemporary Irish life.

The location and topography of Cork fundamentally influenced the city's development. The city was built in a river valley on estuarine islands with steep hills rising to the north and south. The choice of location was based on converging traffic routes both on land and by river and sea. The River Lee flows from the west to the harbour and several low-lying marshy islands occurred where the river merged with the tidal water. The marshy islands on which the city developed offered the lowest fording point of the river, thereby connecting the land to the north and south.

Recent excavations at Washington Street (Kelleher, *Excavations 2002*, 69-70), Tuckey Street (O' Donnell 2003) and South Main Street (Kelleher, *Excavations 2002*, 69-70, Ni Loinsigh & Sutton, in prep) indicate that the topography of the initial Hiberno-Norse (settled Vikings, interbred with the Irish) settlement may be more complex than initially thought. There are indications that what was originally considered to be two islands is in fact, a series of artificially raised clay platforms surrounded by the tidal river and interspersed by many braided streams (Beese, unpublished). Over the years, the areas of solid ground were expanded, the channels infilled and enclosing walls constructed, until Cork took on the well known form first depicted on sixteenth century maps and described by Camden in 1568 as being, '*enclosed within a circuit of walls in the form of an egg with the river flowing round about it and running between, not passable through but by bridges lying out in length, as it were, in one direct broad street*' (Camden in Maxwell 1940, 252). It can be seen, therefore that the apparent

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simplicity of the plan of medieval Cork as depicted in the maps of the sixteenth and seventeenth century date, mask development of great complexity.

The Vikings first made their appearance in Cork in 821 AD and there are historical references to many subsequent plundering and burnings of St. Finbarr's Monastery. Evidently the Vikings were not welcome visitors, for their plundering raids on Ireland were largely focused on the riches of the monasteries. St. Finbarr's, lying close to the riverbank, within a sheltered tidal estuary, was an easy target. One of the most beguiling paradoxes of the time concerns the mechanisms by which these foreign raiders began to settle and eventually exert such a profound influence on Irish life. Cork is perhaps the most acute example, for the already powerful monastery of St. Finbarr's was to see the Viking settlement develop at its doorstep. It is evident from documentary sources and archaeological evidence that the monastery and the Scandinavian town co-existed and that some form of mutually beneficial relationship developed.

Within twenty-five years of the first Viking raid in Cork the annals record the existence of a Viking *dún*. The 'foreigners of Cork' are mentioned in references from the mid ninth century, but nothing more is known until a renewed phase of Viking activity began in the early tenth century. Even then the references to Cork are scant when compared with those for Dublin or even Waterford. By the late eleventh century the settlement at Cork was evidently under Gaelic Irish influence. A reference in the

Annals of the Four Masters for the year 1088 describes an attempted raid on Cork by the Norse (Vikings) of Dublin, Wexford and Waterford, which resulted in great slaughter of the attackers by the local tribe, the Uí Echach Muman. From this it can be concluded that the Viking town was under the control of Irish overlords.

By the early twelfth century Cork was central to the emerging kingdom of Desmond. The McCarthy kings of Desmond chose Cork as their administrative 'capital' and established a royal residence there, probably at Shandon (Jefferies, 1985, 14-25). It is difficult to judge what level of autonomy, if any, was retained by the Vikings and how genetically or culturally distinctive they still were.

Despite Gaelic dominance, the annals continued to refer to the population of the city as Ostmen (eastern). The last Ostman ruler of Cork was Gilbert son of Turgerius, who commanded the Cork fleet when they sailed out to intercept the Normans. Gilbert was killed, 'by a sturdy youth', in a naval battle of Youghal in 1173 and with him ended the era of Ostmen power in Cork. When the Normans conquered Cork four years later the Ostmen were expelled from the city and thereafter they faded from the historical record.

We must look to the archaeological evidence to assess the significance of Viking influence on the location, development and defence of Cork city. Evidence for the earliest Viking settlement in the Cork harbour area is very sketchy. We know from other positively identified Viking cities in Ireland that defence was of paramount importance. Initially, defence was not provided by

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fortifications but by the natural defensive qualities of the terrain, or more particularly by a combination of inaccessible land in close proximity to water. A place to anchor or draw up and secure the boats was also an essential protection against the natural elements and integral to the livelihood of the settlement. Defence, therefore, was not merely a matter of digging in or building up, but of providing sufficient security from surprise attack to allow the occupants the opportunity to take strategic advantage. In the case of the initial Viking settlements, the best form of defence was provided by sea-borne mobility. As expert seafarers, their highly manoeuvrable boats allowed them to flee from situations where they could be overwhelmed by sheer volume of numbers. It is hardly coincidental, therefore, that the most enduring Viking settlements at Dublin, Waterford, Wexford, Limerick and Cork were located at the confluence of tidal river estuaries in places where the natural elements of promontories or islands provided security from surprise attack and where, in due course, the settlers could maximise the convergence of land and water routes to develop and capitalise on trade.

The initial Viking settlements in Ireland are variously referred to in the annals as *Longphort* or *Dún*, that is, ship harbours or forts. The site chosen for the first Viking settlement at Cork is unknown, but by analogy with Dublin and Waterford it is likely to have been close to or within the area that subsequently developed as the medieval town. In the case of Cork, this is the south island, an area of marshy ground lying between the south and central channels of the River Lee. The administrative

centre of the developed medieval town was 'the Castle' or King's Castle, located at the northeast corner of the south island, i.e. to the south of modern Castle Street. There are indications from Dublin and Waterford that medieval administrative hubs such as Dublin Castle and Reginald's Tower evolved within the nucleus of the Viking settlement areas and the same may be true of Cork.

History records that the *dún Corcaighe* was attacked in 846 AD by Ólchobhar mac Cináeda, the King of Munster. Other contemporary references record the Viking '*caisteal*' (castle), which appears to have been destroyed in 865 AD. Thereafter, the historical references are scant until the twelfth century. Both historical and archaeological evidence clearly show that the core of the twelfth century town stood on the south island, while associated suburban settlement occurred on the south bank of the River Lee, especially to the southeast of South Gate Bridge. While archaeological evidence for ninth to mid eleventh century Cork has not been uncovered, there is a growing body of archaeological evidence for a highly developed late eleventh and early twelfth century settlement on the south island, both sides of South Main Street, and some associated settlement adjacent to Barrack Street.

A trackway of roundwood dated by dendrochronology to c. 1085 AD was excavated on the east side of Barrack Street. This trackway may have led through swampy ground close to the old riverbank, towards a ford or bridge at the South Gate. The earliest historical reference to a bridge at Cork occurs in 1163, when the *Annals of*

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the Four Masters record that Muirheartach Ua Maelseachlainn, son of the King of Mide, fell off the bridge at Cork and was drowned in the river. It is likely that as soon as one ford or bridge existed, then two others were equally essential, as all three bridges were necessary to cross the river. All traffic entering the main street had to pass over the North or South Gate Bridges, while through traffic had to pass over all three bridges and probably also over other channels and through marshy places as well.

The linear main street, bisecting the islands, clearly developed as a connecting route between the bridges just as the network of roads to the north and to the south converge on the bridges via accessible terrain. The pattern recorded in early historical references and in sixteenth and seventeenth century maps still remains today, as do North and South Gate Bridges. Our knowledge of the development of the south island is still sketchy despite recent significant archaeological discoveries. The earliest recorded levels uncovered in the archaeological excavations in the South Main Street area date to the later eleventh and early twelfth centuries. Wooden revetments were built to contain clay platforms, while the houses were arranged to face towards the main street. The settlement was of truly urban character, with contiguous houses, in an architectural style of Scandinavian origin. The houses excavated in Dublin, Wexford, Waterford and Cork are remarkably similar, indicating that, despite the historically recorded wars and

power struggles, a remarkably homogenous cultural sphere was shared by the emerging cities.

Up until the second quarter of the twelfth century almost all construction was of wood. The bridges were certainly of wood and the surface of the main street appears to have been carried on wooden rafts.

It appears that the South Island was defended in the twelfth century by a wooden palisade or by clay banks and even by a stone wall (Ni Loinsigh & Sutton, in prep). Late twelfth century charters by the Anglo-Norman lords describe the location of various properties in the city and from these a considerable amount of information has been deduced (Candon 1985; Jeffries 1985; Bradley and Halpin 1993). The term *civitas* was used to describe the South Island while *vill* was used to describe the settlement on the south bank (Bradley and Halpin 1993, 20). References to the south bank describe the properties as bounded by the “curtilage of the burgesses” (*ibid.*, 19) implying an unenclosed settlement. That the South Island was probably enclosed by defences in 1177 is suggested by the fact that Robert FitzStephen and Milo de Cogan ‘besieged’ Cork. Furthermore, early Anglo-Norman charters refer to the ‘gate of Cork’ and the presence of burgages both within and without the walls (*ibid.*, 20).

The Anglo-Normans rapidly consolidated their gains and like other Irish cities, the walls of Cork were enhanced and the circuit was probably expanded and encompassed the existing Hiberno-Norse settlement. There are numerous historical references to work on the

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Cork City Walls in the second decade of the thirteenth century (Bradley and Halpin 1993, 30; Thomas 1992 Vol. 2, 62). The surviving structures unearthed in the archaeological excavations are testimony to these achievements. The South Island was certainly enclosed by new walls in the early thirteenth century (Hurley and Power 1981; Hurley 1985, Ni Loinsigh & Sutton in prep) while the North Island, then, the suburb of Dungarvan (Candon 1985) was not fully enclosed until the late thirteenth century or early fourteenth century (Hurley 1995; 1996). Clear evidence for Anglo Norman work on the walls is evident in 1211-1212 when £55 5s. 6d was spent on the walls (Davies & Quinn 1941, 49). In 1218 three years fee farm (tax payable to the King) was granted to the city for work on the fortifications (Sweetman 1875-86. i. No. 842). Requests for grants of funding for repair and work on new walls occur throughout the fourteenth to the seventeenth century (Caulfied 1879, Bradley & Halpin 1993, 30, Thomas 1992, vol. 2, 62).

The island city of Cork remained a defensive bastion of colonial administration throughout the medieval period. Despite numerous attacks from Gaelic rebels and the frequent burning of the suburbs, the city did not fall. The strategic advantage of an island site was offset to some extent by the constant threat of flooding and the erosion of the walls by the tide. One particular collapse was attributed directly to the fact that *'the city is founded on watery soil [and the walls] are daily penetrated and*

weakened by the ebb and flow of the sea' (Isaacson & Dowes 1913, 185).

Today, archaeological excavations in Cork city centre are frequently conducted at depths below sea-level where tidal flooding is a fact of life and tide charts dictate the daily schedule. The most disastrous historically recorded flood occurred in 1630 (Caulfied 1876, 148), however, layers of silt recorded from the archaeological excavations indicate that the flooding was a periodic, if largely unrecorded event. Archaeological excavations have also produced ample evidence for the repair and rebuilding of the city wall. The walls at Kyril's Quay, Grattan Street and the northwest end of Grand Parade were extensively rebuilt in the seventeenth century. The evidence is corroborated by records in the Council Book of Cork. For example, in 1613 the Corporation of Cork raised a tax of £500 partly intended to finance *'the erection of the walls of the city, now ruinous and ready to fall except speedily repaired'* (ibid, 44). The post-medieval rebuilding of the city wall is generally of inferior workmanship to its medieval predecessor. A notable exception is a length of wall at Grand Parade, from St Augustine Street to south of Washington Street, where the wall was rebuilt in ashlar blocks not dissimilar to the eighteenth and nineteenth century quay walls we see today.

More recently, the well-preserved foundations of the early eighteenth-century gatehouse were found on the northeast side of South Gate Bridge. Following the

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destruction of the medieval castles at the North and South Gates by the floods of 1630 the old castles were not repaired, but were rebuilt in the emerging classical tradition in the early eighteenth century, probably to the design of that prodigious Cork architect Coltsman. Several illustrations of the eighteenth-century bridges and gatehouses were produced by Nathaniel Grogan (the Elder) and copied by Fitzgerald in the early nineteenth century. Both gatehouses were used as prisons and the harsh reality of contemporary justice is attested by Grogan's illustration at South Gate in 1730 with five spiked skulls prominently displayed on the parapet above the main entrance to the city. Within the main street the effect of the gatehouses was equally grim and a French chronicler, Chevalier de Latocnaye, writing in 1797 described how *it would seem as if it were wished to hinder the wind from drying the filth, for the two ends of the street are terminated by prisons, which close the way entirely and prevent the air from circulating* (De Latocnaye, 1778). For the above reasons and due to the impediment to traffic the gatehouses were demolished in the early nineteenth century.

The outward appearance of the defences belied numerous defensive weaknesses, mostly occasioned for reasons of personal advantage. Excavations have revealed no less than three private gateways or posterns. One gateway at Kyril's Quay gave access to a slip where boats could be drawn up within the safety of the walls. The opening was masked on the outside by a 'skin-deep' blocking of stone. Other gateways at Kyril's Quay and

Grattan Street date to the seventeenth century, a period when the city came increasingly to rely on the strength of its outlying fortifications and the defensive function of the city wall was greatly diminished. With the development of artillery Cork was no longer impregnable. Quite the opposite in fact, for the city was vulnerable to naval bombardment from the river and was overlooked by high hills to the north and south.

In 1601, Sir George Carew described Cork as '*one of the weakest places to defend from an enemy that ever I saw*' (Atkinson 1905, 424). For this reason, Carew commissioned the construction of an artillery fortification on a ridge above the South Gate. This fortification became known as Elizabeth Fort. The fort, along with an outlying earthwork to the southwest, known as Cat Fort, and Shandon Castle to the north of the city, became integral to the defensive plans of the Jacobites in 1690. Despite the impregnability of Elizabeth Fort, the city succumbed to bombardment after a siege lasting only four days. The city wall was damaged in the course of the siege, especially in the southeast quadrant along Grand Parade. In the following years the wall became obsolete and was not maintained. A decision was taken to demolish the wall in the early eighteenth century when the urban area expanded rapidly beyond the confines of the old medieval core. Thereafter, the defence of the city was achieved through a series of artillery fortifications in the lower harbour designed to guard against sea-borne attack.

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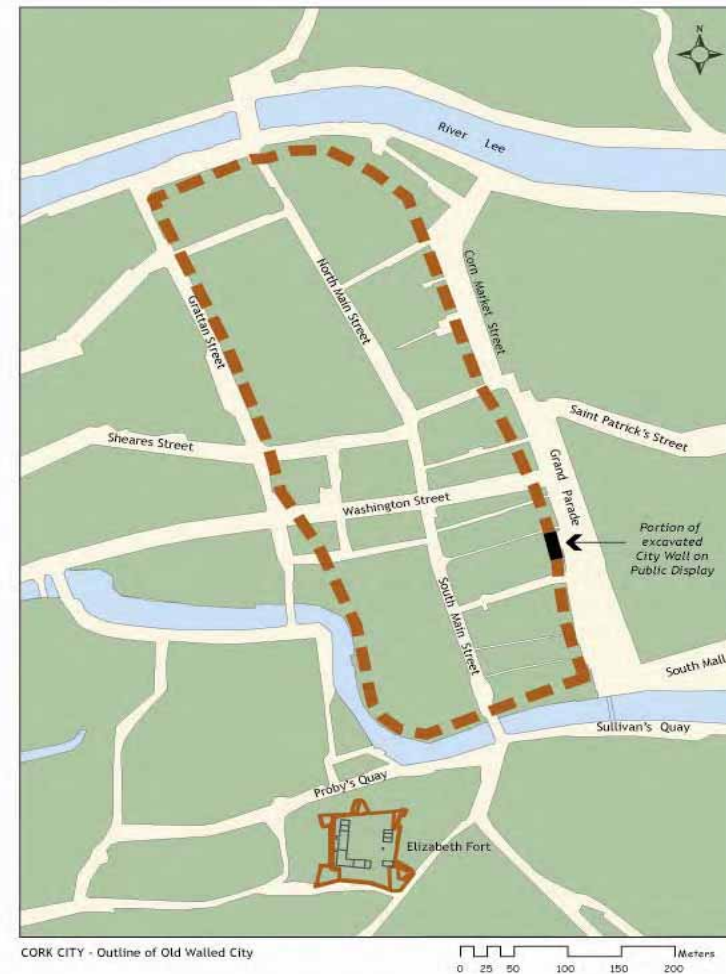
Although the medieval city wall was demolished, its influence has survived in many of the contemporary property boundaries. The former river channels surrounding the walls were canalised and eventually culverted to form new streets, e.g. Grand Parade, Cornmarket Street, Grattan Street. These streets create a virtual ring on the east, north and northwest sides of the old town. Only on the south and southwest sides does the river still flow against the line of the old city wall. Viewed from Clarke's Bridge and Crosses Green Quay the high buildings lining the river at the back of Beamish and Crawford Brewery reproduce something of the enclave effect characteristic of the medieval walled city.

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4. KEY ISSUES AFFECTING THE CITY WALL

The key issues affecting the city wall are seen as follows;

- Lack of public awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the city wall and its significance at local, regional, national and international levels.
- Identification of the ownership of the city wall
- Lack of specific protection of the city wall beyond the general framework of the *National Monument Acts*.
- Lack of a dedicated management plan and works programme for the city walls. This applies to both public and private property. There is no all-embracing plan for the historic core of Cork outside the general framework of the *City Development Plan*.



Outline of the route of the medieval city wall

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Public Awareness

Any lack of public awareness is largely as a result of the invisibility of the city wall.

The wider public perception of Walled Towns in Ireland and their presentation in the current education system is outside the scope of this document. Suffice it to say that Irish walled towns, representing as they do a period of colonial history, are not widely acknowledged significant cultural icons in Irish society. In general, ancient remains are usually viewed with curiosity and interest in Ireland, however the respect accorded to monuments varies. While a vast majority of Irish people profess to value heritage (*Valuing Heritage in Ireland*, The Heritage Council, 2007) many monuments are simply taken for granted and only achieve public prominence when they are endangered (or already destroyed) or when they present a business opportunity.

The greatest public notoriety achieved by ancient remains in Ireland is generally associated with situations where antiquities (monuments, archaeological excavations, old buildings etc) become a *cause-célébrité* for lobby groups opposed to redevelopment. For example in the late 1970's when controversy erupted regarding the Wood Quay site in Dublin, widespread media attention resulted in unprecedented public outcry, protracted legal battles and political wrangles. Perhaps most significantly the archaeological excavation at Wood Quay and remains of the early twelfth century city wall became *'a rallying point for conservationists opposed to*

the concept of unbridled modern development in historic cities' (Hurley 2000, 41). In such instances the remnants can become powerful symbols where widespread public sentiment runs counter to proposals that are seen to threaten a familiar environment.

In areas where the monument is a landmark, sentiment is easily articulated. However, when a buried feature (i.e. unexcavated and unexposed below ground level) is involved people find it difficult to have strong feelings for the monument. The current state of public awareness of the city wall is reviewed in Chapter 5, and the development of some actions to address this is set out in Chapter 6.

Ownership of the city wall

Throughout the medieval period the city walls were in public ownership, they were referred to as the 'Kings Walls' and the upkeep was the responsibility of the town council. After the Siege of 1690 maintenance of the walls was less of an issue and the walls were effectively obsolete as defensive structures.

The Council Book for 1706 ordered that *'several stairs leading to the walls to be taken down and the walls made across, where occasion is to stop any going up the walls'* (Caulfield 1876, 316). By the early eighteenth century the wall was in such disrepair that a survey was commissioned to make an inventory of its ruins (Holland 1917). Huleatt's 1733 survey indicated that while stretches of the wall survived, much of it had been built over or demolished and many of the laneways had already breached the line of the wall and extended

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across it onto the surrounding quays. As such the city wall where it survived became a property boundary wall and became *de facto* the responsibility of the property owner at either side. As the long established medieval burgage plots extended as far as the city wall and the newly established plots on the infilled ground outside the wall (e.g. western side of Grand Parade) were divided by longstanding boundary of the city wall, the wall remained as a property boundary. In many cases the line of the city wall remains so to this day e.g. on Grand Parade and Kyril's Quay.

Today the city wall in Cork is in both public and private ownership. As illustrated in Figure 1, the majority of the city wall is in private ownership. The greater part of the streets and lanes are in the public realm. A detailed list of the properties which overlie the line of the city wall is tabularised in Appendix 1.

The ownership of the city wall where it underlies a property, or element of the wall incorporated within a house or property, appear to be in the ownership of the proprietor. As such developers are required to pay for the necessary archaeological mitigation when they receive planning permission for redevelopment.

The legal question surrounding any attempt by the Local Authority to claim ownership of all or any part of the city wall currently within private property should be reviewed. It appears that some Irish Local Authorities claim ownership of the city walls based on historic charters,

rights and privileges. Such a claim has obvious implications for access etc., and also for the duties of the Local Authority to provide upkeep, maintenance, restoration or even archaeological excavation within private property.

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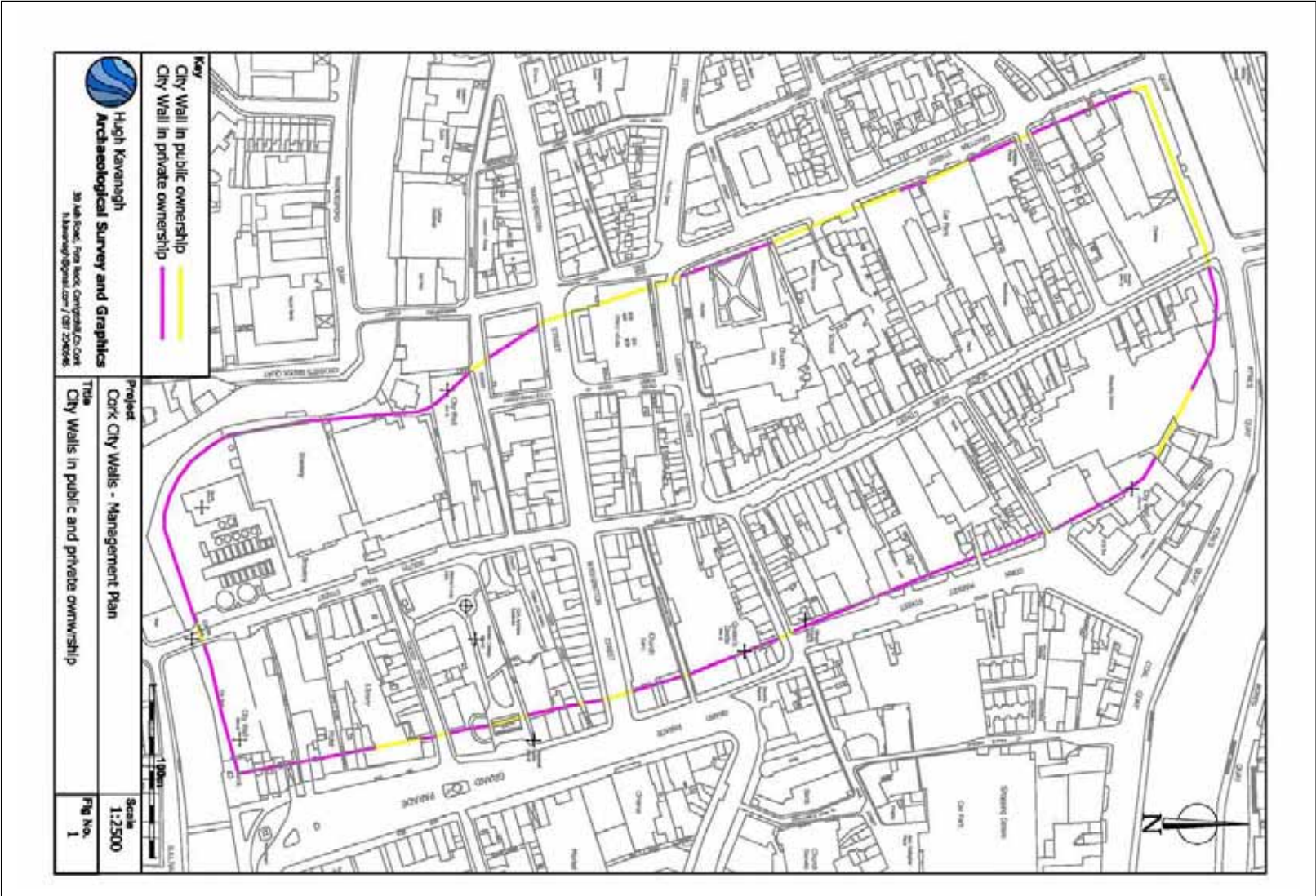


Figure 1: City Wall in Public and Private Ownership

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City Wall (C0074-034/02) in Public Ownership

Location	Ownership	Status
Tuckey Street (eastern end)	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02
Tobin Street (eastern end)	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02
Christchurch Lane (eastern end)	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02
Washington Street	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02
St. Augustine Street (eastern end)	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02
Castle Street (eastern end)	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02
Cork Pit Lane	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02
Kyle Street	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02
North Main Street (North Gate)	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02
North Main Street Carpark	Cork City Council	RMP C0074-34/02 City Wall visible but not easily accessible
Bachelor's Quay	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02
Grattan Street (eastern side)	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02
Adelaide Street	Cork City Council	Public Realm

	Council	RMP C0074-34/02
St. Peter's Avenue	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02
Liberty Street	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02
Hanover Street	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02
South Main Street	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02
Cork City Library	Cork City Council	Public Building RMP C0074-34/02
Bishop Lucy Park	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02 City Wall visible and accessible
Grattan Street Carpark	Cork City Council	RMP C0074-34/02
St. Peter's Graveyard, Grattan Street	Cork City Council	Public Realm RMP C0074-34/02 CO074-34/04
Courthouse	Court's Service of Ireland	Public Building RMP C0074-34/02
Welfare Centre	Health Service Executive	Public Building RMP C0074-34/02

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The Legal Framework

The city wall is protected under the National Monument Acts and Amendment Acts 1930, 1954, 1987, 1994, 2004.

The Record of Monument and Places (RMP) is a statutory list of all known archaeological monuments as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. The RMP consists of a published county-by-county set of Ordnance Survey maps on which monuments are marked by a circle (Zone of Archaeological Potential) and an accompanying inventory which specifies the type of monuments. The Record includes all known monuments and sites of archaeological importance dating to before 1700AD, and some sites which date from after 1700AD.

In the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the *Historic City of Cork*, comprising the Zone of Archaeological Potential for the medieval city is designated Recorded Monument CO074-03402. The city wall has a separate designation, Recorded Monument CO074-03402.

The medieval city wall of Cork constitutes a single 'National Monument' surviving above and below ground. Section 2 of the 1930 Act (as amended) provides that a 'National Monument' *means a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic, or archaeological interest attaching thereto....*

The National Monuments status is a statement of the significance of the monument in a national context. All else in relation to protection and consent etc follows from this. National Monuments status applies to town/city walls in Local Authority ownership as historically town walls were in Local Authority ownership. This allows Local Authorities to make provision within their budgets to manage their, now accepted, duty of care where the city wall is held in Local Authority ownership and guardianship.

In particular, there is a requirement for Ministerial Consent from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to apply to works that will impact on the fabric of town and city walls, or any ground disturbance in proximity to the wall in Local Authority ownership or guardianship.

Section 14 (1) of the 1930 Act (as amended) provides that it shall not be lawful for any person to do the following to a national monument

- (a) to demolish or remove wholly or in part or to disfigure, alter, or in any manner injure or interfere with any such monument without or otherwise than in accordance with*
- (b) to excavate, dig, plough or otherwise disturb the ground within, around, or in proximity to any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance with the consent hereinafter mentioned, or*
- (c) to renovate or restore a national monument without or otherwise than in accordance with the consent hereinafter mentioned, or*

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(d) to sell for exportation or to export any such monument or any part thereof.

The consent referred to is, under Section 14 (2) of the 1930 Act, the consent in writing of the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government (as amended in Section 5 of the 2004 Act). Furthermore, any works to a privately owned section of the town/city wall in proximity to a Local Authority owned section of the wall also requires Ministerial Consent. Developments which are exempted from planning are not exempted from Ministerial Consent requirements where such are required by National Monuments legislation.

Any development proposal, located within the Zone of Archaeological Potential for the medieval city that comes before Cork City Council requires referral to the Development Applications Unit at the Dept. Environment Heritage & Local Government.

The Record of Protected Structures is a list of buildings held by the Local Authority, which contains buildings, considered to be of special interest in its operational area. In Cork City it was formed from a schedule of 'listed buildings', that dated from previous legislation, and to which new buildings have been added over the years. A protected structure is a structure that is considered to be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, technical point of view. No development works that would affect the character of a protected structure can take

place with out planning consent. Three sections of the city wall are listed in the Record of Protected Structures in the *Cork City Development Plan 2004*.

- **PS276** Grande Parade
Description: Fragment of City Wall in City Car Park.
- **PS135** 20 Hanover Street
Description: Fragment of Old City Wall in Dwyer and Co.
- **PS223** North Main Street,
Description: Fragment of Old City Wall in Cork Iron & Hardware Co.
Description: Fragment of Old City Wall in Cork Iron & Hardware Co.

Lack of a dedicated management plan and works programme for the city walls

Cork City Council's *Historic Centre Action Plan* (1994) recognised the integrity of the medieval walled city as the 'historic core' and provided a pioneering multi-faceted approach not just to maintaining but also actively supporting the integrity of this area as a recognisable entity. While the *Historic Centre Action Plan* has not been superseded its policies have in part been overtaken by the evolving dynamic of urban redevelopment. The *Cornmarket Street Area Action Plan 2007*, while recognising the historic background and significance of the study area is focussed specifically on the area between Kryl's Quay and Kyle Street, diagonally intersected by Kryl's Street. As such part of the walled city falls within the specific remit of the plan and partly

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refers to the 'strand' lying outside the city wall to the northeast. This latter area was developed in the post-medieval and modern period only. The aim of the Area Action Plan is largely to focus and direct the potential development opportunity in the area and as such the integrity of the walled city and protection of the wall is secondary to the main thrust of the plan.

There is no specific plan for the South Main Street area and the scope of the *Historic Centre Action Plan* never adequately embraced this area. As a consequence several planning applications for the southeastern area of the historic core have been guided only by general remit to the *Development Plan* with the *Historic Centre Action Plan* offering background concepts.

The need for an informed coherent policy to maximise the heritage and public benefits likely to arise from all of these sites is critical (see Chapter 7, Policies).

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5. Public Attitudes to the City Walls

The attitude survey

A survey of public attitudes to the City Wall was undertaken.

The scope of the survey was limited to an interview questionnaire with the 'person in charge' in each privately owned property located on the line of the city wall. While the survey methodology might be regarded as relatively unsophisticated it did reveal some significant information and inadvertently revealed some interesting trends. Many of the larger properties are not locally based businesses and some are international companies or franchise outlets that do not necessarily have any affinity to Cork City. In many instances, the actual owner of the building was not identified as the businesses frequently lease or rent the premises. The survey did not seek to establish the ownership of properties.

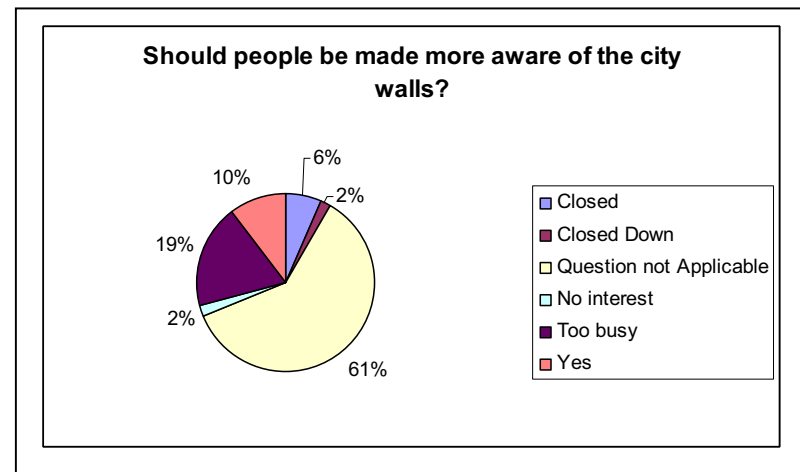
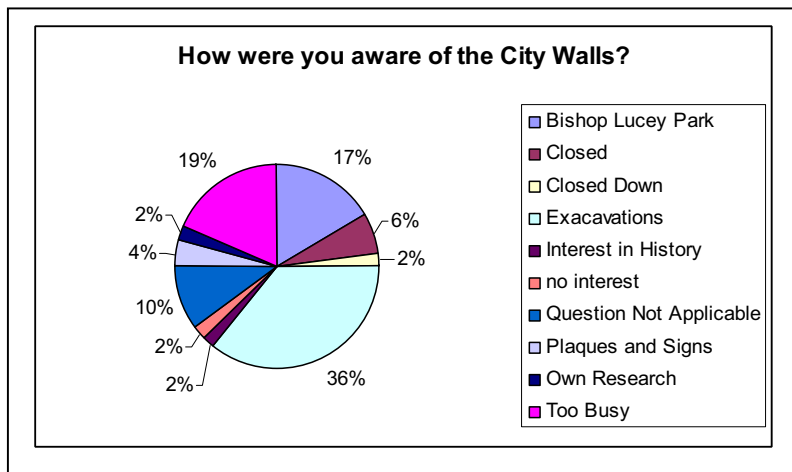
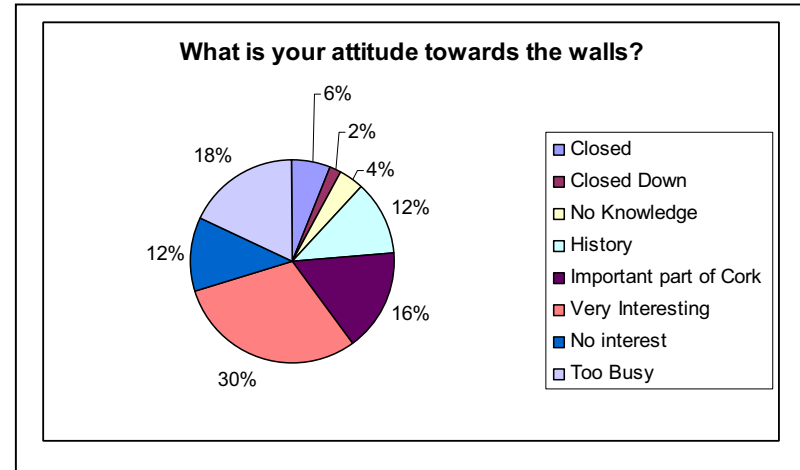
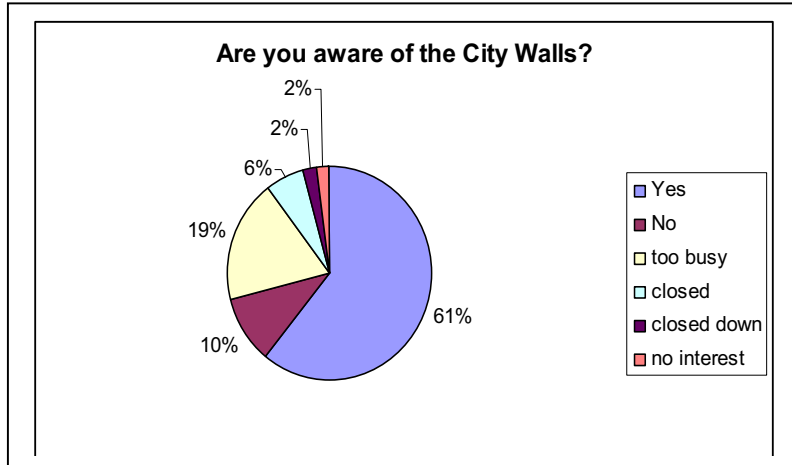
Only in the case of smaller premises where owner/occupiers were interviewed can the results be interpreted as particularly meaningful. It is noteworthy that all of the interviewed owner occupiers were aware of the city wall and professed to be interested due to their exposure to archaeological excavations over the past 20 years. This exposure included the available literature on the excavations, school tours/information and plaques erected in North Main Street. The segment of the city wall exposed in Bishop Lucy Park was the largest single source of awareness of the existence of the city wall.



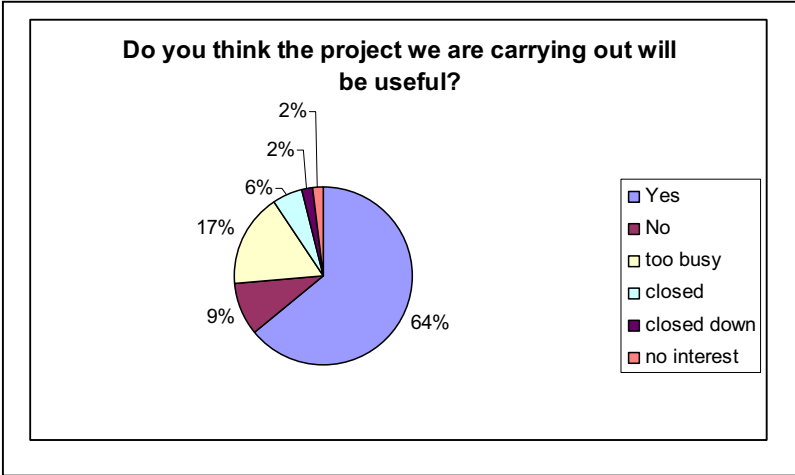
*Section of
City Wall
in Bishop
Lucy Park,
Grand
Parade*

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Questions asked during the Public Survey



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6. OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The primary objectives of the Management Plan were to:

- make recommendations for the enhanced presentation and promotion of the city wall
- improve and enhance the physical interpretation of the city wall
- make recommendations for the protection of the city walls
- identify the ownership of the city wall
- map the location of the city wall

A number of opportunities exist for implementing these objectives and thus improving the protection and preservation of the city wall.

A variety of mechanisms for the enhancement of the significance of the city wall are recommended in this chapter. These range from strategic policy and development management guidelines through to public awareness campaigns.

Enhance presentation and promotion of the city wall

1. Improve public awareness and increase knowledge and appreciation

‘Capturing the imagination’ using elements of popular culture to disseminate key messages

A spectacular or eye catching one-off event could be undertaken to celebrate the *city’s spirit*, particularly the spirit of the community within the circuit of the city walls. Heritage Week is a particularly appropriate vehicle for pageantry. Giant replica castles or city walls could be fabricated for such an event. These celebrations are most effectively achieved with the participation of community groups.

Visits to archaeological excavation

When considering how to promote city walls that are buried beneath the houses and streets of today’s city, the issue is not how to expose the city walls to the public but how to expose the public to the information, the images and the knowledge we have on the city walls. In the public awareness survey the results showed that when members of the public had witnessed excavations, knowledge of the city wall and the history of Cork was increased and more importantly retained. This seems to be true across all generations.

The activity on the ground reinforced by interaction with archaeologists and other leading authorities brings the history of the city to life and helps to capture the

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imagination of the public. When an archaeological excavation is taking place it is important that site visits and schools tours are facilitated.



Very successful site tours were given as part of the North Gate excavation.

The naming of the cinema at the North Gate Bridge 'The Gate' is an example of how a single word reflecting a historical or long forgotten place or event can be reconstituted in common parlance.

A public information programme

It is necessary to invest in some long standing initiatives that will provide a permanent reminder of the City's past. A primary aim would be to strive for a sustainable awareness campaign targeting a range of age groups. This could be multi-faceted and involve a regular newspaper feature, public signage and plaques (similar to the urban signs and plaques already in place), and

specific informative events such as lectures and conferences which the historic walled city is the core theme.

An education programme could involve workshops for teachers as well as the provision of relevant information for the *Archaeology in the Classroom Programme* and the *Discover Cork Schools' Heritage Project – City Edition*.

Improve and enhance the physical interpretation of the city wall

2. City Wall on public display

The physical presentation of the city wall is perhaps the greatest challenge facing a 'walled town' where the walls remain buried and are the subject of tidal flooding almost to the top of the surviving structure.

Existing examples of attempts made to present the walls as visible structures are at best lacking legibility (Bishop Lucy Park, Grand Parade) and are at worst an unsightly receptacle for rubbish (Kyril's Quay).

What might be termed a credibility gap exists between the wonder and excitement of the public on seeing the newly uncovered city wall in an archaeological excavation and the low profile state of the walls subject to long term presentation as monuments. Only an 'underground experience' whereby the visitor is led down to view the walls at eye level (and not looking down at

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them) can achieve the type of experience where the physical presentation of the walls is worthwhile. An example of where the display of *underground* archaeological remains has been very successful is at 'Roman Barcelona' (Museu d'Historia de la Ciutat, Barcelona, Spain).

The concept of creating an underground experience of the city walls within a new large scale basement redevelopment is entirely possible, but details of the method of sealing the structure of the wall from tidal impregnation need to be examined. A feasibility study on appropriate methodology should be undertaken. The opportunity to achieve preservation *in situ* and display of the city wall within basement developments is achievable within modern developments.

3. Creative Visualisation

In order to imagine that which lies underground a number of visual activities are required. The following suggestions are flexible and adaptable and can be tailored to fit resources and budget.

An Exhibition & Competition

An exhibition of existing images of Cork through the ages could be mounted at a suitable city centre venue e.g. the Vision Centre. The exhibition would include images of the city wall from the many archaeological excavations that have taken place in the city. A competition could then be launched at the exhibition, which would be open to all but specifically targeting schools, colleges and art groups.

Entrants would be invited to view the exhibition and taking inspiration, give their own interpretation and impression of the historic city walls.

A second exhibition displaying the winning entries and other submissions could follow on from the competition. As part of the launch/competition publicity, interested groups could be visited, on request, with a mobile display unit illustrated with images such as the *Pacata Hibernia* map, illustrations of the post medieval gate houses, photographs of the excavations etc. A promotional backdrop, developed as part of the Cork Main Drainage Scheme, already exists and would fit well with this initiative.

A marked route of the Cork City Walls

Taking the idea from Boston's Paul Revere Line – the route of the city wall could be imprinted onto the pavement. Created in association with a route guide, key numbers could be imprinted onto the paving to correspond with numbered information panels on the route guide. This would allow walkers regardless of their starting point or direction, to pick up the tour anywhere on the line of the city wall. The medium used to illustrate and signal the walk would depend on the budget and may range from stencilled painted demarcation and numbers to more expensive media such as ceramic or brass.

Alternatively an iTour of the city could be created. A walking tour of the medieval walled city of Cork could then be downloaded directly to an MP3 player.

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Medieval 'Mad Maps'

The so-called 'Mad Maps' of modern Cork have proven very popular, as they are easily understood. Working on this technique, a 'Medieval *Mad Map*' could be commissioned showing shops, pubs and restaurants on and within the walled city of Cork. The guide should combine enough modern day information for the user to keep their bearings and sufficient historic information to make the map and historic locations come to life.

Extension of the Historic Centre 'brand image'

As the city continues to grow and expand the historic core will become increasingly insignificant and obscure. Presently there are some promotional initiatives already operating in and around Washington Street particularly in association with restaurants and pubs. There is scope to expand on this work by developing a new brand that incorporates a wider geographical area and a broader business base. This initiative should be developed in association with the traders and property owners and needs to be commercial and adhere to a certain standard.

The commercial reward for properties buying into this brand would be the benefits of a marketing campaign financially supported by among others Cork City Council and possibly grant aided by heritage and tourism bodies.

Initiatives could include:

- The development of a City Wall brand logo
- An identifying City Wall logo plaque
- The display of historic information panels both inside and outside premises
- Information seminars for property owners and premises staff about their premises in relation to the historic city centre
- Inclusion in a historic city centre guide such as the '*Mad Map*' and in other tourist information

'Off the Wall' Tales from Cork's Older generation'

With the changing population dynamic Cork's identity is rapidly altering. A documentary either audio or audio-visual, could be commissioned recording memories from the older generation of Corkonians that grew up and lived within the area of the walled city. There has been a dramatic change in the profile of the shops and premises on Grattan Street, Adelaide Street and North Main Street. How many of the shops in the historic core sell skirt and kidneys, tripe and drisheen or crubeen? How many sell sauerkraut, Polish meats and breads? How many sell salt fish, yam and sweet potato? Which is the most popular drink in Cork's historic core - Vodka or Whisky!? There is a one-off window of opportunity to capture memories of a very different Cork.

This information could be supplemented with archived footage or recordings. As part of the publicity drive an appeal could also go out asking for any old footage or recordings of characters from Cork's past. Local radio stations could be approached for assistance with archived footage. '*Off the Wall*' would be a gift to the

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citizens of Cork of all nationalities and to the historians, documentations and archaeologists of the future.

The new recordings and the collated archive footage could result in a premiere at The Gate Cinema, to be held during Heritage Week.

Pageant Day

A day of celebration could incorporate a number of initiatives, such as historical re-enactments and the creation of a living wall. Props recreating the South Gate and North Gate would allow pedestrians to enter the city via these gates and again clearly imprint the city walls on peoples mind. Parading through the gates would be figures from Cork's history including Vikings and Anglo-Normans.

A 'Living Wall' could be created. This would involve people/volunteers becoming the building blocks of the city wall. People would link arms to create a human wall along the route of the city wall. It may even set a Guinness World Record! This initiative may well appeal as a sponsorship opportunity for a building contractor or property developer. The success of the project is clearly dependent on community/local participation, funding and resources.

Elizabeth Fort as a resource to highlight the city walls

Currently under renovation, Elizabeth Fort is a marvellous platform for viewing the Historic City Centre. There are two initiatives that should be considered for the Fort.

A Panoramic Camera A permanent panoramic display could be installed at an appropriate vantage point on the Fort Walls. This would allow spectators to look through special viewing equipment that would transpose the line of the city walls onto the modern day streetscape. The options available would have to be explored with specialist suppliers, it could be a very simple line overlaid on the city outline or a 3 D image of how the city walls would have looked. By transposing the illustration onto the present streetscape the walls would 'come alive' to spectators. As well as benefiting visitors to the city it would be an educational tool available to schools and colleges in Cork.

Son Et Lumiere Display Imagine for a moment the complete opposite to the Walls of Jericho. In Cork, instead of walls 'tumbling down' to the sound of trumpets, our city wall would grow on the streets to the sound of a musical extravaganza. This could be the culmination of a Pageant Day or of a series of initiatives undertaken during National Heritage Week. The area either side of South Gate Bridge is particularly appropriate for the display as here the river still flows more or less against the former circuit of the city wall and the area retains the enclave effect of the medieval wall city. A number of spectators could be allowed into this area to view a spectacular lighting show projected onto the cityscape and river bank from the vantage point of Elizabeth Fort. The light show could be accompanied by the world premiere of a musical score specially commissioned for Cork. This element of the project could be organised in

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conjunction with the Cork School of Music or the Department of Music, UCC. Again the extent or success of the project would be contingent on the level of sponsorship and organisation. The positive impacts would of course go beyond the enhancement of concepts of the city wall.

It would bring art, music, literature and history into one show stopping performance. The celebration would most definitely 'bring the walls to life' and into the everyday thoughts of Cork citizens.

The River Lee and the City Wall

An opportunity exists to explore the city's maritime history, tracing it back to earliest times and to see how the River Lee, once flowing round about the city wall and through the centre of the city, brought trade and employment to Cork's citizens. The city coat of arms and the motto commemorates the security of the quays lying within the walls. As part of a wider celebration a Pageant Day or Regatta on the river event could be considered.

Protection of the city walls

4. Review of current archaeological policies and planning requirements

Current archaeological principles and policies were devised to achieve preservation of archaeological material against a background of potentially destructive modern development. National policy is focused on the *in situ* preservation of archaeological monuments, features and deposits, which is implemented by an emphasis on restriction and limitations on foundations design. Cork City Council, in the Cork City Development Plan 2004, emphasises the importance of supporting measures to promote reuse of existing building stock as an optimum means of achieving *in-situ* preservation, while concurring with national policy. At present there are no guidelines from the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government on how to encourage the conservation and *in situ* display of exposed elements of ancient structures. Presently there are no examples in Cork City of the satisfactory *in situ* display of the city wall.

A strong aspiration to present the city wall as a visual monument is required. An above ground reflection of the underlying city wall, in an appropriate medium, should also be encouraged in new developments. At a most optimistic and imaginative level however a fully-excavated and conserved city wall could be publicly presented at a number of significant opportunity sites within the historic core, most notably at the South Gate

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Bridge and lower end of South Main Street and also at Kyril's Quay. To achieve this however an unambiguous Local Authority policy supported at national level is necessary. In developing this policy it is essential to acknowledge a strong role for the property owners/developers. Whilst developers might be favourable to such a plan in the context of permission to create basements within a proposed development the suggestion runs counter to current national policy, which favours not only preservation *in situ* of 'recognisable' monuments such as the city wall but all associated archaeological strata. In this context the heritage and planning gain of the policy would have to be clearly articulated so that the requisite archaeological excavation was not seen as '*an unacceptable impact on archaeology*' (Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999). At a minimum it would be necessary that a specific plan for the preservation of strata abutting unexcavated lengths of city wall and the protection of previously unexcavated lengths of wall would be submitted within development proposals.

A study to examine various structural options with a view to conserving excavated features and also unexcavated sites was commissioned by Cork City Council in the early 1990's. It was stated in that study that *the decision to display in situ is not always an easy one. Where sufficient funding is available and where an infrastructure exists to manage and display, such as the undercroft at Dublin Castle, the outcome can be tremendous. In Cork the city*

wall lies close to the present ground surface in many locations and the depth of the archaeological features and deposits is often to a maximum depth of 2.5m. Display in situ may not be an option as the roof heights needed for display as basement level may not be achieved. This study (Feasibility Study of Archaeological/Engineering Interfaces in a City Environment for Cork Corporation, 1996, Fearon O' Neil Consulting Engineers) needs to be reviewed given the new construction methods that are being undertaken in the city (basement excavation etc).

Much of the preservation *in situ* undertaken in Cork City in the 1990's and early 2000's requires a review to ascertain its reversibility. In many cases piles were inserted in several areas adjoining the city wall, raft foundations were laid over the wall and house foundations were underpinned by grouting. At best, attempted reversibility may result in unforeseen impacts on the city wall, or surrounding strata. From now on methods claiming to protect features or strata *in situ* need to have proven and demonstrable reversibility before they can be accepted as solutions to preservation *in situ* – most especially where decisions are made not to excavate in order to achieve long term preservation in order that excavation can take place at some time in the future.

It is important that a well researched and well founded rational on which to base planning decisions regarding preservation *in situ* is established. Any engineering solution aimed at long term protection of the city wall

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needs to be based on a proven reversible process and the accepted methodologies should be measurable, verifiable and enforceable. Conserving existing building stock adjoining to/or overlying the city wall is the surest way of achieving protection but of course, this is not always an option where conflicting socio-economic factors come into play.

5. Development Plan Policies for the City Wall

There are no policies or objectives within the current Development Plan (2004) specifically related to the city wall. It is essential therefore that the significance of the city wall is acknowledged in the forthcoming Development Plan (2009-2015). As a member of the Irish Walled Towns Network the City Council can ensure that appropriate management, conservation and enhancement of the historic city wall is achieved.

As the city wall falls within the public realm and private properties a designated finished product should be visualized and implemented on a phased basis with public works and as a condition of grants of planning permission in the long term. This phased implementation needs to be flexible however and sometimes may require a location-specific approach.

6. Review Historic Centre Action Plan

An evaluation the current status of the *Historic Action Plan* (Cork City Council 1994) is recommended. The Plan was conceived as a long term aid to sustainable development in the historic core. It may now be

appropriate to review the impact the plan has had on the historic centre of Cork over the past fourteen years. From the review it may follow that elements of the plan require clarification/ modification in the light of the evolving dynamic of urban planning.

7. Public works to give physical expression to the location of the city walls

A consistent programme of requirements to mark, label or identify the city wall might develop on the experience, ideas and methods of the Laneways Project's which was undertaken as a constituent part of the 1997-2000 Urban Pilot Project for the regeneration of North Main Street.

Public works are by their nature generally restricted to property in public ownership. While the Local Authority might undertake restoration of the city wall within private property on foot of a claim to ownership based on ancient municipal rights (as at Waterford City) this course of action may be legally problematic. A programme of public works within the public realm, (streets, municipal carparks etc.) might be easily achieved. The most permanent markings of the city wall are likely to be the most expensive e.g. the use of street paving and brass inlays and imaginative lighting schemes. A less costly option are information plaques which can take many forms including painted ceramic and durable plastic. In this regard the experience of the information plaques at North Main Street, Skiddy's Castle and Castle Street should be noted. The plaques are attached to walls and therefore subject to the agreement of the property owner.

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An additional plaque for the Queens Old Castle was refused by the adjacent property owners and consequently was never erected. The value of temporary versus permanent display is debatable and one that is largely decided by available resources and the feasibility of the project in the light of other variables pertaining in public spaces.

One suggested way of highlighting the city wall might be to indicate an above ground reflection of the underlying wall, in an appropriate medium in public spaces, streets and green areas. This element of the plan is linked to improving public awareness of the city wall. A strategic vision for the presentation is required however. This is necessary as much of the historic core has been subject to up-grading and re-surfacing of the street and footpaths.

8. Review Record of Protected Structures

The Record of Protected Structures in the City Development Plan requires clarification and revision. All extant and visible portions of the city wall should be included in the Record. The including of all known parts of the city wall will issue a strong message and ensure adequate consolidation within the planning process.

The address of the city wall at the North Main Street (PS223) requires modification as the visible section of city wall is situated at Kryl's Quay/Kyrl's Street. The city wall at Hanover Street is incorrectly attributed to 20 Hanover Street (PS135). The section of the city wall in

the City Car Park (PS276) is referring to the post-medieval stone vaults on the site and should be amended.

The sections of city wall at Bishop Lucy Park and at the entrance to the North Main Street Carpark are recommended for inclusion on the Record of Protected Structures.

9. Research & publication

Support for ongoing or new academic research is necessary as the research of archaeologists, historians and geographers is what provides legitimate and credible knowledge that can later be made more accessible through various media.

An attempt to bridge the gap between detailed information and more widely accessible material may be achieved through highly visual elements such as multi-layered maps (similar Dr. Howard Clarke's map of Dublin *The medieval town in the modern city*). The map could be accompanied by a booklet with emphasis on visual elements.

Identify ownership of the city wall

The ownership of the city wall has been collated and is included in the Plan (See Chapter 4 and Appendix 2). The identification of the ownership of the wall is particularly important from a planning perspective.

Cork City Wall Management Plan

Mapping the location of the city wall

The line of the city wall has been mapped using GIS and will be made available on the Planning Enquiry System.

Cork City Walls Management Plan

7. GAZETTEER OF UPSTANDING AND EXCAVATED LENGTHS OF CITY WALL

Indeed, it is arguable that recent excavation work at Cork has been worthwhile in the first place as an antidote to the nice tidy picture of a consistent town wall displayed, perhaps inevitably, by the maps (Thomas, A. *The walled Towns of Ireland*, 1992, 65)

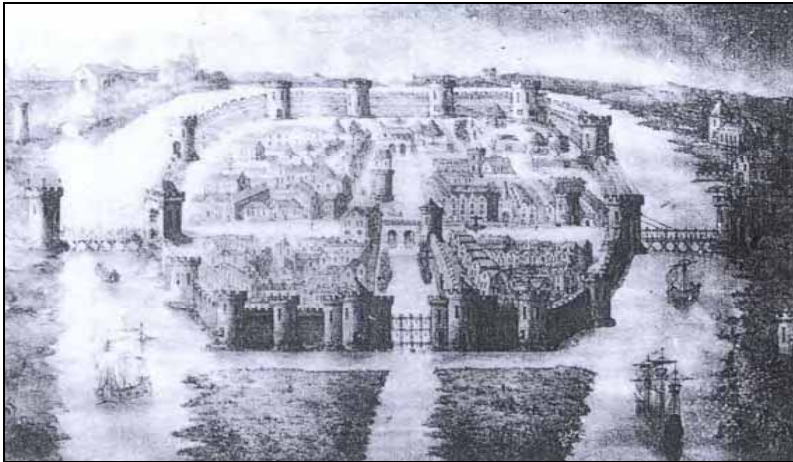


Illustration showing the walls of Cork, c. late sixteenth century

Evidence for upstanding portions of the City Wall

Only two portions of Cork's city wall survive above ground. These are situated at the following:

- Hanover Street
Private Ownership, RMP CO074-3402, Protected Structure PS135
- Kyril's Street
Private Ownership, RMP CO074-3402, Protected Structure PS135

Both these sections are currently inaccessible. The section of wall in Hanover Street is c.2m in length and stands to a height of c.3m high and is incorporated into the western wall of the existing building (nightclub). The second upstanding section of wall forms part of the western boundary wall of the former Cork Timber and Slate Company (recently R.H. Parker and Son Ltd.). This section emerges from the boundary wall for a length of 0.65m. It survives for a maximum height of 1.26m and is situated directly to the south east of a section of the city wall which was excavated in 1985 (now preserved and visible beneath the ramp leading to the North Main Street Carpark).



Section of city wall in Kyril's Street (photo Máire Ní Loinsigh)

Cork City Walls Management Plan

Evidence for the residual impact of the City Wall within the city today

An account of the city wall in the second half of the twentieth century mirrors the changing attitudes towards urban heritage in Ireland. From unbridled destruction to full *bona fide* consideration in the planning process, the story of Cork's city wall speaks of a time when urban archaeology came of age.

The City Library, Grand Parade

Following damage to below ground elements of the city wall in the course of construction of the new City Library in the 1970's a stone replica in a *faux* style was recreated roughly on the line where the city wall had stood. It is unknown if any elements of the original wall still survive deep beneath the modern surface in this site.

Faux style wall in the City Library



The Grand Parade entrance to St. Augustine's Church

The line of the city wall can be identified in certain elements of the modern built fabric of the city, for example at the Grand Parade. The sloping ramp from

Grand Parade into St. Augustine's Church is evidently humped to straddle the city wall.

Grand Parade entrance to St. Augustine's Church



Former City Market, Cornmarket Street

In other instances the city wall failed to be identified in the course of archaeological investigations for example, as part of the refurbishment of a market house on Cornmarket Street in the late 1990's. Testing by Sheila Lane did not reveal any surviving elements of the city wall where it was expected to lie beneath the front façade of the building. Pumped grout to underpin the wall is likely to have greatly damaged any below ground ancient structures that might have existed.

Market House on Cornmarket Street



Cork City Walls Management Plan

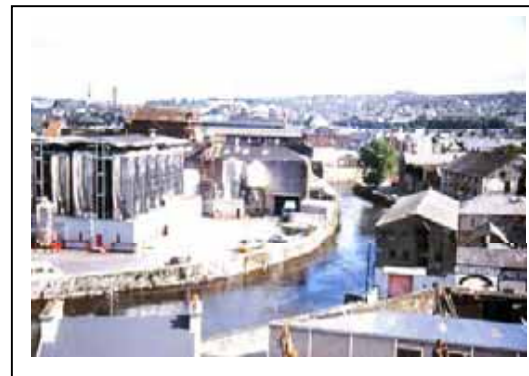
The South-Western Quadrant

The shadow of the walled town of Cork remains strong, and thus its influence, but of course the shape of the walled area was largely dictated by that of the pre-existing islands and the River Lee. The influence has survived because for most of its length it and/or the river fosse was replaced in the 18th century by new streets which form a ring, except in the south and southwest where the bend of the main southern branch of the Lee occurs. The high buildings lining the river there produce something of the enclave nature that the medieval walled town must have displayed. (Thomas, A The walled Towns of Ireland, 1992, p. 66)



The concept of the island city can be readily appreciated and understood from the northeast bastion and viewing gallery at Elizabeth Fort. Access to this facility is currently closed for restoration work on the fort.

Views of the Southwest Quadrant of the walled city

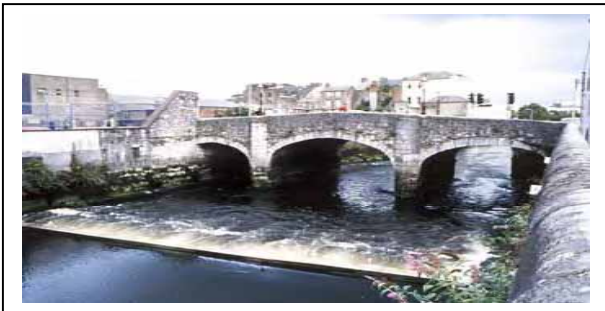


Cork City Walls Management Plan

South Gate Bridge

Some towns, such as Cork were, surrounded by channels and in such cases there was probably more traffic on the water than on routes by land (Scholfield, J & Vince, A Medieval Towns, 2003. p. 35)

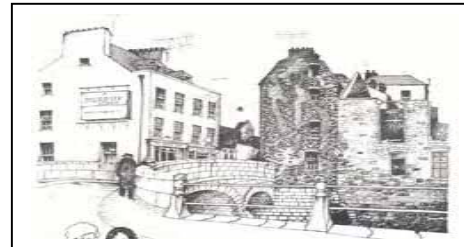
The South Gate Bridge, constructed in 1713, is on the site of its medieval predecessor. It was built by **Coltman** and has one of the *oldest surviving three centres arches in Ireland* (Rynne, C. *The Archaeology of Cork City and its Environs*, 1999, p.187).



18th century gatehouse and prison at the South Gate Bridge

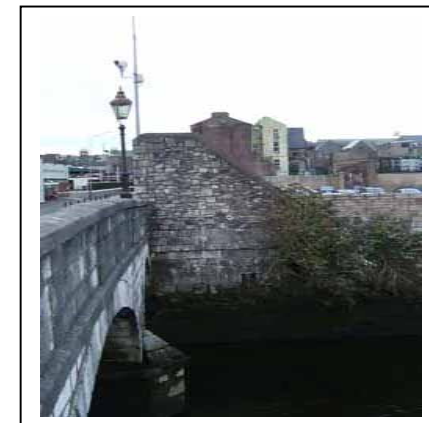


A substantial element of the early eighteenth century gatehouse was uncovered in archaeological excavations in 2003



Drawing by Brian Lawlor of the South Gate Bridge as it was prior to demolition of the buildings at either side of the bridge.

Following the demolition of the buildings Cork City Council built stone walls to recreate the effect of entering a walled city.



Cork City Walls Management Plan

Evidence from archaeological excavations (See Appendix 1 Figure 2, Sites 1-11)

The Context of the Excavations

The outer wall face was not uncovered in all of the excavations under review here as the development sites, whereon the excavations took place, were generally bounded by modern streets, such as Grattan Street, which follow the course of river channels that once abutted the city wall. In other instances such as 51 Washington Street (Lynch 1991), 2 Washington Street (Cleary 1997) and at 14-21, Hanover Street (Lane 2002, 43), the excavations were restricted to the depths to which the proposed developments would have an impact i.e. less than 1m below the modern surface.

The Main Drainage trenches were generally only c.1-1.2m in width and were usually at right angles to the line of the city wall. At Washington Street the insertion of steel shuttering allowed deep excavation to proceed in safety to depths rarely attained at the foundations of the city wall, i.e. depths of over c.4m below present ground level. On the eastern end of Washington Street an early eighteenth century ashlar building clearly overlay the battered face of the medieval wall, while at the west end of Washington Street the tilting and bulging of the wall even at its lowest levels was apparent.

'Height' when used to describe the city walls of Cork may be somewhat misleading as it conjures up an image of height above the present ground level, whereas in the context of modern Cork the city walls actually survive as

'depth'. 'Depth' would of course be an equally misleading and incorrect term to use to denote the surviving structure of the walls. In the text '*height*' refers to the surviving height within the ground i.e. from the lowest excavated levels to the surviving top of the wall which is generally between 0.50–1m below present ground level.

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Tuckey Street/Grand Parade (Figure 2, Site 1)

A site at the junction of Tuckey Street and Grand Parade was excavated by Denis Power and Maurice F. Hurley and students from University College Cork in January 1981.

It was proposed to develop the burnt-out site of Messer's Jennings' furniture and bedding shop with a new development. The consulting engineers Ove Arup & Partners requested Professor M. J. O' Kelly of University College Cork to investigate the site. The approximate location of the city wall was known from maps and in the light of the then raging Wood Quay controversy in Dublin and the outcry that had surrounded the damage to the city wall in the nearby City Library site on Grand Parade some years earlier, the developers were anxious to do the right thing.

The wall was remarkably well preserved and stood to a height of c.3m. The white limestone wall created widespread local interest and many people in town for the post-Christmas sales viewed the spectacle with interest.

Following excavation the proposed redevelopment was never built although foundation piles were inserted throughout the site. A full report on the excavation was published in the *Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society* (Hurley & Power 1981)

The city wall partially underlay the Masonic Hall and the Jennings' building (background)



Cork City Walls Management Plan

The area was subsequently acquired by Cork City Council (c 1986) and added to the adjoining newly developed Bishop Lucy Park



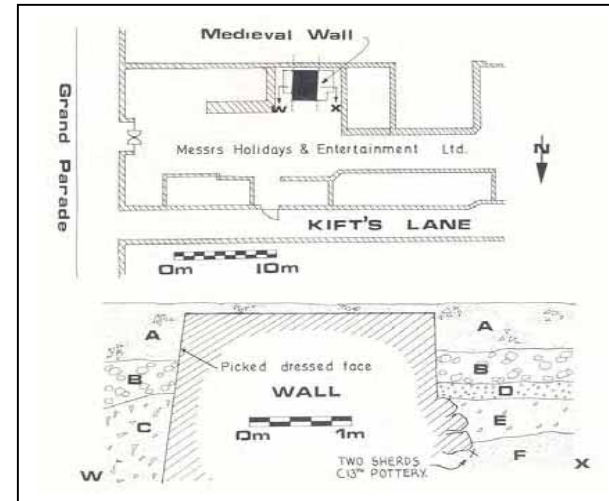
Excavations of the city wall at Kift's Lane (Figure 2, Site 2)

In January 1981 the then owner of the Grand Parade Hotel and adjacent dance venue ('Sir Henrys'), Mr Gerry Lucy approached the archaeologists excavating at Tuckey Street and prevailed on them to excavate a portion of the city wall within his premises in advance of a proposed redevelopment.

When the modern floor was removed the city wall lay immediately below. The scope of the excavation was limited and only the line of the wall and a small amount of adjacent stratigraphy was uncovered.

The squared ashlar blocks used to build the wall suggest a post medieval rebuilding, *'the external surfaces of the stones of the outer east face were pick-dressed all over a*

feature which suggested that the building is later' (Hurley & Power 1981, 6).



Plan, sectional profile and elevation of wall at Kift's Lane



Cork City Walls Management Plan

Grand Parade, Bishop Lucy Park (Figure 2, Site 3)

Cork City Council had acquired a largely derelict site between South Main Street and Grand Parade which they intended to develop as a city centre municipal park. This was the site which had been the focus of extensive archaeological excavations between 1974 and 1976. Although the area close to Grand Parade had not been excavated, the designers planned to present the city wall as a feature within the park. When works on the project were already at an advanced stage and extensive deposits had been removed by mechanical excavator, the works were halted in response to public outcry. Students from University College Cork undertook to voluntarily survey the city wall and to excavate whatever undisturbed areas remained adjoining the western side of the wall. The survey and excavation was undertaken in August 1984 under the direction of Maurice F. Hurley. The most significant feature of the wall was a change in alignment that occurred at a point where the north/south wall was joined by a east/west wall. The east/west wall was bonded with the early (13th century) portion of the city wall. To the north of the junction the city wall was of 17th century date and there was no evidence for any underlying 13th century construction.

The city wall at this location remains the most enigmatic ever excavated in Cork. The excavation and interpretation was hampered by the limited space available for excavation on the western face and compromised by the unsupervised mechanical removal of stratigraphy abutting the eastern wall face.

The experience was also a salutary lesson on the misguided approach of designing a modern construction based on unverified assumptions concerning the location and nature of a buried archaeological feature. The designers of the park had assumed that the city wall would have run in a straight line from the portion excavated at nearby Tuckey Street. The reality of the situation was different and when the city wall was revealed the proposed design had to be revised. Far more significant and unfortunately unforeseen features such as the possible remnants of Hopewell Castle on the east face of the city wall were destroyed in the course of construction of the tank which was intended to safeguard the monument.

A plaque identifying the wall as 13th century is attached on the portion of wall of 17th century date, while the portion of wall of 13th century date elements are largely buried and others destroyed.

A full report on the excavation was published in the *Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society* (Hurley 1985)



Site under excavation in August 1984 (western side of wall)

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Survey of the city wall in the course of the conservation project



It was necessary to enclose the wall in a tank a sit lay below ground level



This is the only publicly owned and maintained visible length of wall, however, the wall lacks legibility as a monument

81-83 Grand Parade/ St Augustine Street (Figure 2, Site 4.1)

A c.13m length of city wall was excavated in 1991 by Joanna Wren. The site was excavated in advance of redevelopment. Only the outer (eastern) wall face was uncovered in the excavation. It was apparent that two walls, one above the other, were represented. The lower wall was interpreted as the medieval city wall and the second wall resting on top of this as a post medieval rebuilding (late 17th or even early 18th century). A third wall was of similar construction to the post medieval city wall, but ran at right angles to it. The combined height of the wall was 3.65m. The wall lay immediately below the modern surface and the eastern gable of the early 20th century building of St. Augustine's Church stands directly on the wall. The medieval wall remnants were of poor quality construction and it is likely that the wall collapsed and required rebuilding in this area. The post medieval wall was of exceptionally good construction of well-coursed limestone ashlar. The construction was similar in style to the 18th and 19th century quay walls of Cork, leading to the suggestion by the excavator that in the early 18th century, that the city wall may also have functioned as a quay wall in this area. The enigmatic contemporary structure running at right angles to the post medieval wall may be associated with quayside docks rather than a castle or defensive structure. A full report was published in the *Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society* (Wren 1995, 88-89).

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The city wall at 81-83 Grand Parade/St. Augustine Street. This length of wall was rebuilt in the eighteenth century as a quay wall.

51 Washington Street (Figure 2, Site 4.2)

The city wall was exposed in 1991 when Louise Lynch revealed the upper levels of the wall. The wall was 9.52m long (N/S) but only part of the width of the wall occurred within the excavation, as the eastern gable wall of the adjoining building (St. Augustine's Church) stood on the city wall. A summary report was published (Hurley 2003, 181).

2 Washington Street (Figure 2, Site 4.3)

In 1996 at 2 Washington Street a small portion of the upper levels of the city wall was exposed in

predevelopment testing by R. M. Cleary. Within two small trenches a length of 1.4m of the upper levels of the city wall was revealed to a depth of 1.6m. The wall stood to within 0.2m of the modern surface. Only the vertical outer face was exposed. A summary account was published (Hurley 2003, 181).

St. Peter's Market, Cornmarket Street (Figure 2, Site 5)

This site was excavated in 1983-1984 with the permission of Mr Martin Bennett prior to redevelopment as a shop. The project was initiated by Mr Aodh O' Tuama, Curator of the Cork Public Museum and Ms R. M. Cleary, Department of Archaeology University College Cork. At a time of severe unemployment, the staff were recruited as part of a youth employment scheme funded by the Department of Labour. The excavation was directed by Maurice F. Hurley.

Only a small portion of the wall, likely to be part of the city wall was revealed at a depth of 2.2m below the modern surface within a very confined space. The foundations of a square building were identified as those of a mural tower or 'turret' standing on the inside of the town wall. The inner face of what appeared to be the city wall was exposed for a length of c. 2m and a height of 0.6m. A full report on the excavation was published in the *Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society* (Hurley 1986).

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The City Wall at Kyrl's Quay (Figure 2, site 6)

A 60m length of wall was excavated in July to September 1992 by Maurice F. Hurley, City Archaeologist for Cork City Council in advance of the redevelopment of a multi-storey carpark at Kyrl's Quay.

The city wall survived to just below the modern surface and stood to over 3m in height. The excavation yielded a vast amount of information regarding the method construction, repair and rebuilding of the city wall, the drainage of the low lying city and the private interest of proprietors, whereby the wall was breached for two gateways.

It became apparent from the excavation that the *North Island* of Cork (the so-called suburb of Dungarvan) was not extensively inhabited until the latter half of the thirteenth century and was not walled until the late thirteenth century or early fourteenth century.

The murage grants of the 1280s may relate to the walling of the north island but it is possible that the full circuit had not been fortified until 1317.

Within the wall, the ground level was raised with introduced silt by as much as 1.50m. The silt was obtained either by dredging or by deliberate diversion of floodwater resulting in the rapid deposition of fluvial mud. When the wall was constructed, the builders knew the required height for habitation levels, as drains were constructed in the wall at a height of 1.5m above the foundations. Other sub-surface drains were created as outlets for streams and one of these was provided with a

sluice. Outside the city wall was the 'strand', a triangular area of mud and sand banks. This is shown on almost all the 16th and 17th century maps of Cork and it is recorded as filled in during the later part of the 18th century. The contemporary street plan, with an 'island' of buildings between Kyrl's Street and Kyrl's Quay takes its form from the triangular shape of the 'strand'.

A 60m length of city wall was recorded extending in a roughly straight line corresponding to the boundary between the parishes of St. Mary, Shandon and Holy Trinity. The surviving wall represents at least three phases of building and rebuilding. There were two gateways or posterns. The western gateway was contemporary with the primary structure of the wall and gave access to a cobbled slipway on the inside. This would have allowed small boats to be drawn up within the safety of the walls. The slipway was flanked by revetments and the occupation levels on either side were at least half a metre higher than the cobbled surface. It is likely, therefore, that high tide covered the slipway, even within the city walls. A second gateway may have given access to the more solid ground of the 'strand'. The eastern gateway was a feature of the rebuilding of the wall of c. 14th-16th century date. The most extensive rebuilding took place in the 17th century when an 8m length of the external wall face was rebuilt at a height of 1.50m above foundation level. In this instance, the rebuilding was clearly apparent because it was misaligned in relation to the original wall.

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A D-shaped mural tower was contemporary with the primary building of the city wall. The tower is probably that shown on many of the historical maps of Cork and that described by Smith as 'a round tower on the strand' (1750, 365). The tower resembles most closely the round tower depicted on the Pacata Hibernia map of c. 1585-1600 and the remains were clearly those of a curved wall above a plinth with a pronounced batter. A full report on the excavation was published in the Journal of Cork Historical and Archaeological Society (Hurley 1995 & 1996).

City Wall at Kyril's Quay under excavation (August 1992)



A postern gateway was sealed by a flimsy blocking of stone to disguise the opening and presents a picture of a constant impregnable structure to viewers looking from outside the city walls.

The foundation of a D-shaped mural tower excavated at Kyril's Quay.



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A portion of the city wall is preserved beneath the entrance ramp to a multi-storey car park and shopping centre.



Today the presence of the wall is largely unknown and is becoming engulfed by vegetation. The spaces provided to present the wall are receptacles for rubbish



North Gate (Figure 2, Site 7)

The North Gate was one of only two entrances to the walled island city. A bridge spanning the north channel of the River Lee led from the North Gate to the roadway fanning out on Shandon Hill leading to Blarney, Mallow and Youghal.

Cork City Council proposed the widening and rerouting of the quayside road through this area leading diagonally towards Henry Street and thereby breaking the integrity of the plan of the medieval walled city as a unit where a ring of roads mirrored the former river channel surrounding the walled city.

Following the adoption of the *Historic Centre Action Plan 1994* Cork City Council abandoned the proposed new road and proposed to reconstitute the concept of a gateway by the creation of an iconic building. The project was designated an Urban Pilot Project. An excavation of the site preceded the construction.

Two parallel walls were identified in Area 1 of which the inner wall (Wall 1) was the earliest. It probably dates to the mid thirteenth century and, judging by the proportions of the wall and the occurrence of a vertical outer face, its primary function was that of a quay wall. Prior to the construction of a more substantial wall to the north (called the city wall, Wall II) this wall appears to have been the northern perimeter of the city. At a slightly later time, a second wall was built c. 5.3m north of the original wall. This wall was at least 1.9m wide at the uppermost

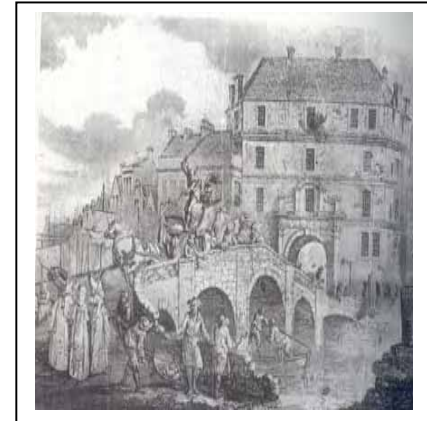
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surviving level and its morphology is similar to a length of city wall excavated at nearby Kyrl's Quay/North Main Street (Site 6, see above). This outer, north, face of the second wall was unavailable for excavation as it lay beneath the footpath of Kyrl's Quay and the inner face of the city wall was the northern limit of excavation. The space between the two walls was infilled with organic debris, mostly urban refuse, in a very short period in the second half of the thirteenth century.

In Area 2, to the west of North Main Street, the earliest wall did not occur and the northern limit of excavation was also the inner face of the city wall. The greater part of the wall lay beneath the footpath. It can be assumed that a fortified gatehouse of some sort was constructed when the North Island was enclosed in the later thirteenth century. Within the area of excavation, however, remains of a fortified gatehouse were not revealed in association with the earliest city wall/quay wall (Wall I). The gatehouse may have stood in the unexcavated area of North Main Street.

A bastion associated with the later city wall lay on the west side of North Main Street. This was a rectangular structure of late thirteenth/early fourteenth century date, with a battered inner face, and was clearly related to the defensive structure protecting the gateway. No trace of this or a corresponding structure was apparent on the eastern side of North Main Street.

The medieval gateway castle was swept away in the floods of 1640 and later replaced in 1730 (North Gate c 1796 by Nathaniel Grogan)



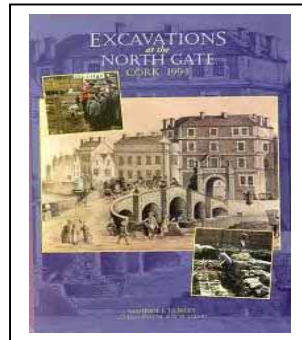
The city wall was revealed but remnants of the gateway lay beneath the street and were not available for excavation

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The design of the foundations endeavoured to safeguard unexcavated parts of the site and elements of the city wall. There is no visibility of the city wall today.

A monograph was published by Cork City Council in 1997



A series of plaques were commissioned through the Urban Initiative Programme, one describing the North Gate is located on the site



The name The Gate is perhaps the most widely known element of the medieval walled city in contemporary culture.

Philip's Lane (northern end of Grattan Street) (Figure 2, Site 8)

In 1996 a c 30m length of the city wall fronting Grattan Street was excavated by Mary O' Donnell, Department of Archaeology, UCC.

A postern gateway giving access to the former channel beneath Grattan Street was located in the city wall. The wall beneath Batchelor's Quay was not excavated as the new building was set back from the existing street frontage. The newly widened street overlies the line of the city wall today.

A 17m length of the city wall was revealed at the western end of the excavation. The wall in this area was represented by two phases of construction, the original wall dating to the late thirteenth century –early fourteenth century and a rebuilding dating to the mid seventeenth century. The inner face and part of the top of the wall was

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exposed but the outer face was not accessible as it underlay Grattan Street.

The wall survived generally to between 1.7m and 2m below the modern surface but beneath the surface of Phillip's Lane, the wall stood at 1.10m below the lane surface. The wall survived to a height of 1.6m. The off-set foundations varied from 0.2m to 1m deep and the overlying wall face was battered; an unusual feature on the internal wall face. The wall had bowed inwards and this probably contributed to its collapse and subsequent rebuilding. The level of rebuilding corresponds to the level to which the ground had risen to by the seventeenth century. The weakness of the underlying structure was not rectified.



The wall fronting Grattan Street (Philip's Lane) under excavation and survey

The city wall at Bachelor's Quay lies unexcavated beneath the widened street



Excavations at Grattan Street (Figure 2, Site 9.1-9.4)

Four separate archaeological excavations have focussed on the city wall running parallel to Grattan Street. Each excavation preceded a proposed redevelopment. Reports on three of these excavations are published in *Excavations in Cork City 1984-2000* (Cleary & Hurley 2003).

The City Wall probably exists below the ground surface at St. Peter's Graveyard Grattan Street



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Grattan Street/Adelaide Street (Figure 2, Site 9.1)

In advance of redevelopment a c. 17m length of city wall was excavated. The city wall ran parallel to Grattan Street and partially underlay the footpath. Only the inner wall face occurred within the excavation trench. The wall was truncated c 0.6m below the modern surface. The wall stood to a height of c 1.3m above a foundation of 0.5-0.6m. The foundation appeared to be rubble from the collapse of an earlier wall. The extant wall was of post medieval construction. The inner wall face was rendered. Settlement had resulted in the rebuilt wall tilting eastwards (inwards) over part of its length and a number of significant cracks were observed in the wall. A full report of the excavation was published (Hurley & O' Donnell 2003, 112-125).



17 Grattan Street (Figure 2, Site 9.2)

A 6m length of city wall was excavated in advance of redevelopment. Only the inner wall face and approximately two-thirds of the width (1.9m) of the wall were exposed in the excavation. The truncated wall lay directly below the modern surface. The wall was built on unstable marshy ground and had apparently collapsed outwards (to the west) in the mid 13th century. The excavators noted that *a bulge on the inner wall face indicates a kick back which appears to have occurred when the upper levels topped westwards* (Hurley & Ni Loinsigh 2003, 127). Similar to the length at Grattan Street/Adelaide Street the wall was rebuilt using the truncated remains of the medieval wall as a foundation. The combined height of the medieval wall and rebuilt post medieval wall was c. 2.2m. A full report on the excavation is published (*ibid*, 126-130).

Grattan Street (Figure 2, Site 9.3)

This site was excavated by Anne Marie Lennon, University College Cork in 1990-1991 on behalf of Cork City Council. The Council at the at that time had plans to develop a multi storey car-park on the vacant site. The development was part of a project to widen Grattan Street as a major urban traffic route. The project is perhaps best remembered today as an example of resistance to a major urban redesign scheme by a local residents association. Amongst the elements cited by those opposed to the development were the city wall and associated urban archaeology. At one point the archaeologist testing on behalf of University College Cork (J. O' Sullivan) was run off the site!

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The plan to widen Grattan Street was shelved following the adoption of the *Historic Action Plan* (1994). The adjoining site still lies vacant and is currently used as a surface car-park.

A c. 9.5m length of wall was exposed parallel to Grattan Street. Only the inner wall face was revealed, here the wall was also of two period construction; a medieval wall standing to a height of c 1.8m and a 17th century rebuild standing to 1m high. The medieval wall was off-set by c 0.5m from the 17th century rebuilding. *'The medieval wall rested upon large limestone slabs which extended out from the base of the foundation'*. A full report on the excavation was published by Anne Marie Lennon 2003, 61-77).

Grattan Street (Figure 2, Site 9.4)

In 1982 Denis Power directed the excavation of a length of city wall on behalf of University College Cork for Cork City Council.

The excavation took place in advance of the construction of some local authority houses. *'The excavation was hastily organised as no archaeological provision had been included in the housing scheme. A trench (8m x 2m) was opened along the inside face of the town wall; the outside face was under the street pavement and not accessible. The town wall itself had been used in the 18th century as the foundation for the front wall of houses fronting on to Grattan Street. It was probably at this stage that a trench was dug along its inside face, disturbing the stratigraphy in this area.* (Power, D. 1990. *The Journal of Irish Archaeology*, 70).

The new houses appear to be set back from the street frontage as a result of the discovery of the wall. The actual site of the city wall is commemorated by a stone plaque.



Today a plaque marks the presence of the line of the city wall

City Wall off Lambley's Lane (Figure 2, Site 10.1)

A length of city wall was examined in the course of works on the property of Beamish and Crawford in the late 1980's. *The wall at Lambley's Lane had always been visible and remained undisturbed over the years* (Cleary 1988, 104).

The impact arose from the construction of a new effluent pumping station and from the reinforcement of the existing quay wall (riverbank wall) which *involved encasing the existing town wall in concrete* (*ibid*). The report by R. M. Cleary (1988) entitled *Medieval Town Wall*

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off Lambley's Lane Cork City tells a tale of the unfortunate destruction of the wall by a company whose property embraces c. one-sixth of the medieval city and c 260m of the line of the medieval city wall.

At Lamley's Lane two lengths of wall were recorded. The first was a 6.4m length and the second a 5.2m length. *The outer face...consisted of fairly regular set courses of dressed sandstone and limestone blocks (ibid, 106).* It is unclear if this length of wall was of medieval or post medieval construction. *Undoubtedly erosion from the river channel necessitated ongoing repair of the wall (ibid).* The wall was 2.2m thick (wide).

The damage and loss at this site occurred at a time when lack of regulation led to many unrecorded losses of archaeological and historical sites. Cleary concluded *'it is a sad fact that much information on the archaeology and history of the city is probably now lost because of this development work. However planning permission for works at this location and at the site at South Gate Tower, did not make any provision for archaeological investigation, so there was no onus on the developer to provide for it. ... (ibid, 109).*

More recently additional excavation at the same site has occurred and was fully supported and funded by the developer. The excavation undertaken by F.M Hurley partially exposed a length of the city wall which Rose Cleary had previously recorded in addition to a previously

unrecorded section. The wall was preserved *in situ* and built over.



Location of the city wall recorded by R.M Cleary (1988) and F. M. Hurley (2007)

Hanover Street (Figure 2, Site 10.20)

The city wall was recorded during site testing in 2000, by S. Lane, in advance of redevelopment. A full report is not published but archival copies are lodged in Cork City Council and the Dept. Environment Heritage & Local Government (Licence No. 00E0175). A summary is published in *Excavation 2000*, 43).

A 1.5m length of city wall was exposed. It wall was 2.25m wide and stood to within 0.3m of the modern surface. Only the vertical outer face of the wall was revealed for a depth of 0.3m.



A small portion of the city wall was revealed at this location

Cork City Walls Management Plan

City Wall within at Hanover Street (Figure 2, Site 10.30)

In the course of construction of a sunken dance floor area in 1981 a length of city wall aligned with a known standing portion of wall was observed. A record was made by Professor M. J. O' Kelly and Maurice Hurley, but no copy of this can now be located.

South Main Street, 'Citi Car Park' (see Figure 2, Site 11)

Archaeological excavations in advance of a proposed redevelopment were undertaken in 2003 and 2004. The excavations were directed by M. Ni Loinsigh and D. Sutton of Sheila lane & Associates on behalf of Messrs Kenny Homes Ltd. A report on the excavation has not been published. The following was kindly provided by the excavators.

A continuous length of the city wall and a later abutting quay were exposed running parallel to the existing riverside wall, for a distance of c. 50.3m. This section of the city wall formed the southern circuit of the enclosing medieval wall of Cork. The wall was significantly narrower than any other portion excavated in Cork City. In parts the wall was only 1m wide and it rarely exceeded 1.5m in width, i.e. less than half the width of the wall elsewhere in the city.

In the course of the excavation, it became obvious that a large amount of ground disturbance had taken place in the past and the city wall had either been significantly reduced in height or removed entirely, consequently the wall stood close to the modern surface in places and in others mere fragments survived at depths of c.3m.

The stone wall, running parallel to the south channel of the River Lee appears to have replaced an east-west timber waterfront revetment. Excavation identified four phases of revetments erected as part of the reclamation and consolidation of the reed marsh prior to the construction of the city wall and included the construction of a waterfront jetty in c. 1160 A.D. This was followed c. 80 years later by the construction of a timber raft foundation on which the city wall was erected. The city wall was constructed of mortared stone on a single course of offset sandstone foundation slabs. Deliberate dumping of waste to the north of the city wall artificially raised the ground level in order to facilitate the construction of the upper levels of the wall. Several rebuildings of the city wall were recorded in particular a consolidation of the city wall as a quay wall in the 17th century. The well preserved foundations of the 18th century gatehouse (gaol) were also excavated.



City Wall
At Citi Car
Park,
South
Main
Street

Cork City Walls Management Plan

Cork Main Drainage Trenches (Figure 2, CMD 1-11)

Many deep narrow incisions were excavated on the streets of Cork between 1997 and 2004 revealing elements of the city wall. The monitoring and archaeological excavation of the Cork Main Drainage Scheme trenches were undertaken by a team of archaeologists working for City Council.



Section of the city wall revealed on Washington Street (after Kelleher excavation 2002)

City wall and adjacent stratigraphy



1. **Tuckey Street** Continuous trench excavated to c 2m in depth. No trace of city wall was uncovered (Power. C. in *Excavations 1999, 28*).

2. **Christchurch Lane** A 4.35m long x 1m high (deep) wall uncovered in the course of Cork Main Drainage works was identified as likely to represent the foundations of Hopewell Castle (Power. C. in *Excavations 1999, 27*).

3. **Washington Street (east)** 02E0034: Trench 8: 13th C. L. 1m x W. 2.5m x H. 1.72m. Depth below p.g.l 2.32m. Random coursing. Outer (E) face only. Sandstone. Plinth foundation, one course. 17th C. rebuild L. 1m x W. 2.5m x H. 2.4m. Depth below p.g.l 0.6m. Ashlar block coursing. Outer (E) face only. Sandstone. Plinth foundation, one course (Kelleher, H. in *Excavations 2002, 69-70*)

4. **St Augustine Street** 96E0157: L. 1.13m x W. 2.18m x H. 1.8m exposed. Depth below p.g.l. 0.7m: Orientation N/S; 5 rough courses; outer (E) face only. Limestone. Foundation not exposed. Mortar bonded upper surface (Power. C. in *Excavations 1999, 27*).

5. **Castle Street** 96E0157 Foundations of a round tower, lying c 0.5m below the modern street surface (likely to be those of Queens Castle) were uncovered in the course of the Cork Main Drainage Works in 1996 & 1997. Excavation directed by Ms C. Power also revealed c. 1m length of the city wall to the north of the castle (Power C. in *Excavations 1996, 12*)

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6. [Kyle Street](#) 96E0157: L. 1m x W. 0.3m x H. 1.40m. Depth below p.g.l. 0.5m. Orientation N/S. Regular coursing. Outer (E) face only. Limestone. Foundation not exposed. Upper 0.67m vertical, lower 0.7m battered out 0.50m (Power. C. in *Excavations 1998*, 15-17).

7. [North Gate](#) 96E0157: L. 1.20m x W. 4.30m x H. 1.50m. Depth below p.g.l. 0.8m. Orientation E/W. Roughly coursed. Inner (S) face only. Sandstone. Foundation not exposed. Mortar bonded upper surface (Power. C. in *Excavations 1998*, 15-17).

8. [Adelaide Street](#) 96E0157: L. 4m x W. 1.68m x H. 0.35m. Depth below p.g.l. 0.4m. Orientation N/S. 3 to 4 courses. E face only. Limestone/red and green sandstone. Foundation not exposed. Upper courses exposed (Power. C. in *Excavations 1998*, 15).

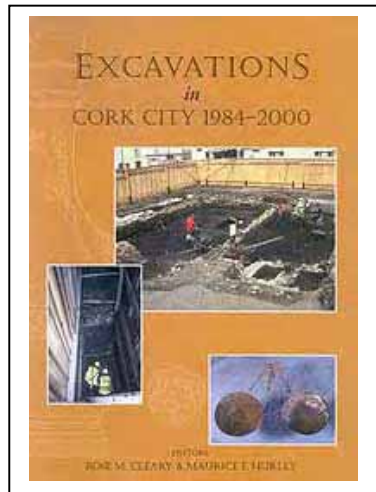
9. [Liberty Street West](#) 00E0124: L. c. 3m x W. 0.4m x H. 0.8m. Depth below p.g.l. 0.8m. Orientation N/S. Random coursing. Inner (E) face only, vertical. Red and green sandstone. Foundation not exposed (Hurley, M. F., Trehy, J & Price, V. in *Excavations 2000*, 46).

10. [Washington Street \(west\)](#) 02E0034: Trench 7 13th C. L. 1.6m x W. 2m x H. 2.45m. Depth below p.g.l. 1.29m. Orientation N/S. Regular block coursing. Outer (W) face only. Limestone. Tilted inwards (to east) (Power. C. in *Excavations 1999*, 27).

11. [Hanover Street](#) 96E0157: L. 1.1m x W. 2.30m x H. 0.8m (E face), 0.28m (W face). Depth below p.g.l. 1m (E face), 0.57m (W face). Orientation N/W-S/E. 8 courses (E face), 2 (W face). Inner (W) and outer (E) faces. Limestone. Foundation not exposed. Mortar bonded W face (Power. C. in *Excavations 1999*, 27).

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*The city wall features as a significant component in three excavation reports and in a detailed discussion in *Cork in Excavations in Cork City 1984-2000* (eds R.M. Cleary and M. F. Hurley, 2003)*



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Appendix 1

Known Locations of the City Wall

Appendix 2

Properties along the line of the City Wall

Cork City Wall Management Plan

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Building Owner</i>	<i>Address</i>
Halifax	Unknown	46 Grand Parade
Vacant	Michael Powell (?)	47 Grand Parade
Powell Property	Michael Powell (?)	48 Grand Parade
Vacant	Unknown	49 Grand Parade
Citi Car Park	Paul Kenny	50 Grand Parade/South Main Street
Various	Frinaila Development Ltd	51-55 Grand Parade
Auctioneer and Solicitor	Richard Irwin and others	56 Grand Parade
Hillbillys	Unknown	62 Grand Parade
Foot Solutions	Fitzgeralds	73 Grand Parade
Fitzgeralds Electrical	Fitzgeralds	73-75 Grand Parade
Say It Travel Shop	Fitzgeralds	76 Grand Parade
Soho Bar and Restaurant	JD Hotels Grand Parade Ltd	77/78 Grand Parade
Singer Sewing Centre	Undisclosed	79 Washington Street
Finns Corner Menswear	Finns (?)	80 Grand Parade
McHugh House	McHughs (?)	81-83 Grand Parade
Argos	City Properties Ltd.	Queens Old Castle, Grand Parade
ZAVVI	City Properties Ltd.	Queens Old Castle Grand Parade
Morleys Suit Hire	Morleys (?)	90 Grand Parade

Cork City Wall Management Plan

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Building Owner</i>	<i>Address</i>
First Active Plc	Unknown	91 Grand Parade
O' Briens Sandwich Bar	Unknown	92 Grand Parade
Cork City FC Official Store	Unknown	93 Grand Parade
The Roundy	Undisclosed	1 Castle Street
Castle Jewellers	Undisclosed	26 Castle Street
McCarthys	McCarthys (?)	39 Corn Market Street
The Coal Quay Bar	Unknown	Cornmarket Street
The Loft Superstore	Undisclosed	Corn Market Street
Paintwell	Unknown	45 Corn Market Street
The Bodega Bar	Munster Developments Ltd.	46-49 Corn Market Street
Dervish	Undisclosed	50 Corn Market Street
Anchor to a needle	Unknown	51 Corn Market Street
Central Furniture Stores	Undisclosed	52 Corn Market Street
Coal Quay Leisure	Coal Quay Leisure (?)	53 Corn Market Street
McCarthys Clothes Store	McCarthys	54 Corn Market Street

Cork City Wall Management Plan

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Building Owner</i>	<i>Address</i>
H. Jacksons	Unknown	55 Corn Market Street
The Beltshop	Unknown	56 Corn Market Street
Peg Twomeys	Twomeys	57 Corn Market Street
Former Parkers Site	Murrayforde Developments	Kyrl's Street
North Main Street Shopping Centre and Car Park	John Walsh (?)	Kyrl's Quay/North Main Street
North Gate House (Supermacss and Apartments)	Unknown	North Gate Bridge/Kyrl's Quay
The Gate Multiplex	Unknown	North Gate Bridge/Bachelor's Quay
North Gate Apartments (and commercial)	Unknown	Bachelor's Quay
Linehan Designs	Leo Linehan (?)	3-5 Grattan Street
Marcus Framing	Unknown	Grattan Street/Adelaide Street
Health Service Executive Offices	Health Service Executive/Paul Kenny?	Adelaide Place, Grattan Street
Duncan House Apartments	Unknown	17 Grattan Street

Cork City Wall Management Plan

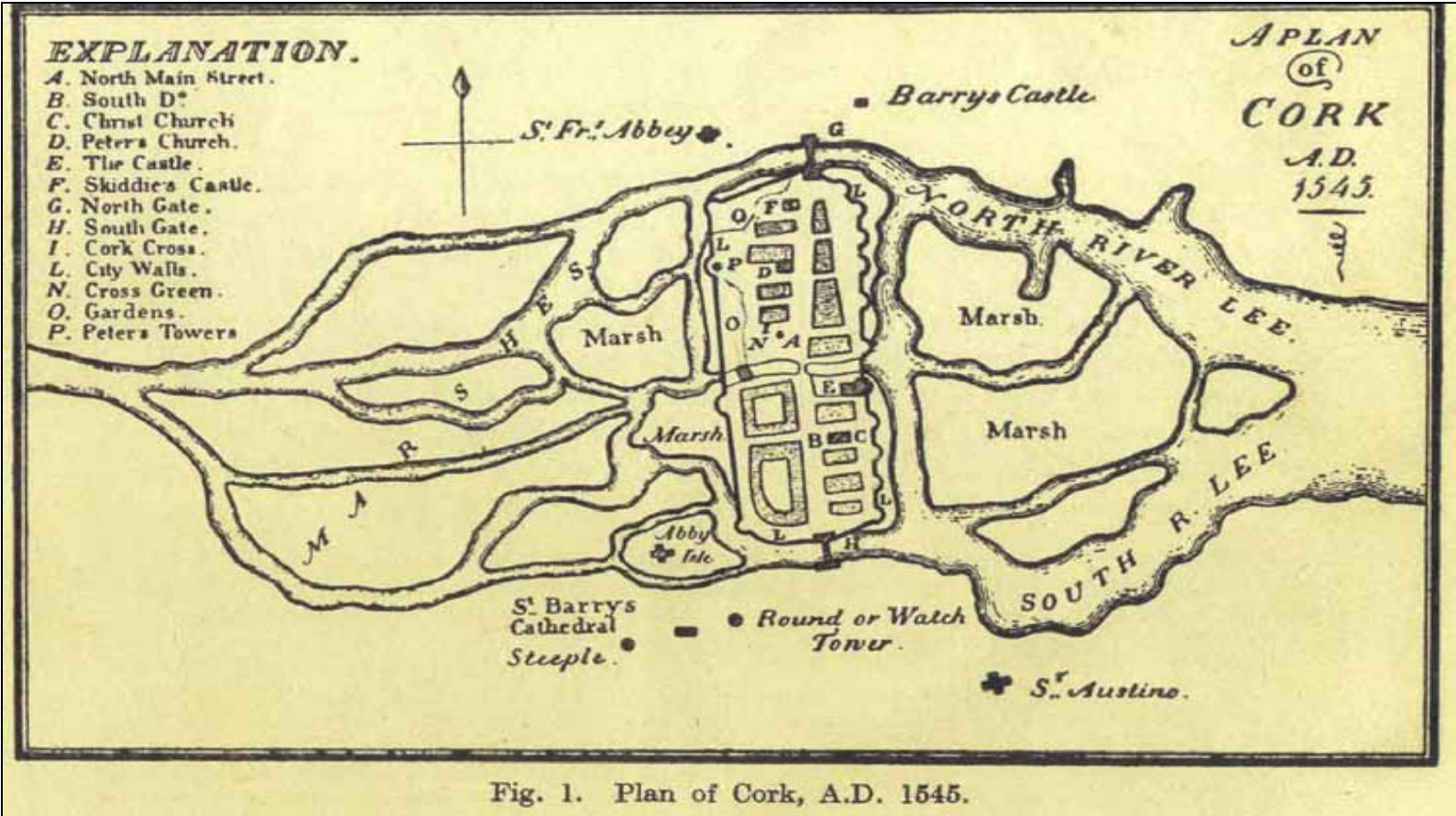
<i>Premises</i>	<i>Building Owner</i>	<i>Address</i>
Edel House Care Centre	The Good Shepard	Grattan Street
St. Francis' Friary	Franciscan Friars	Grattan Street/Liberty Street
The Chambers	Unknown	29 Washington Street
Courthouse Chambers	Unknown	27-28 Washington Street
Plato Murphys & Cubins Night Club	G. Paul	11-19 Hanover Street, Cork
Waterfront Apartments	G. Paul	Rear of 14-21 Hanover Street
Beamish and Crawford Brewery	Scottish & Newcastle Plc,	Beamish & Crawford, South Main Street

Appendix 3

Maps of Cork

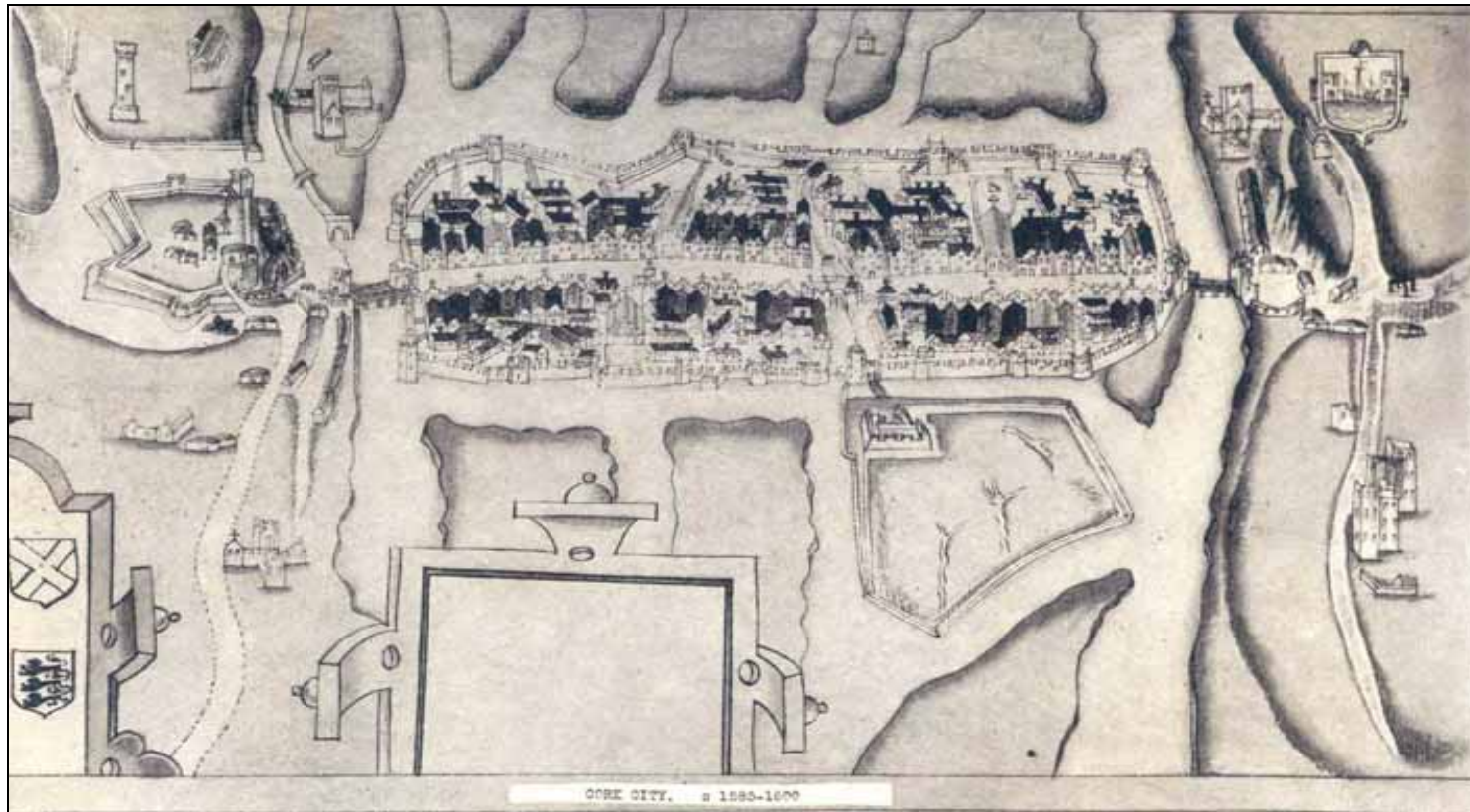
*Enclosed within a circuit of walls in the form of an egg with
the river flowing round about it and running between, not
passable through but by bridges lying out in length as they were,
in one direct broad street (Camden 1586)*

Cork City Wall Management Plan



1545 Plan of Cork City showing the walled city surrounded by marshes

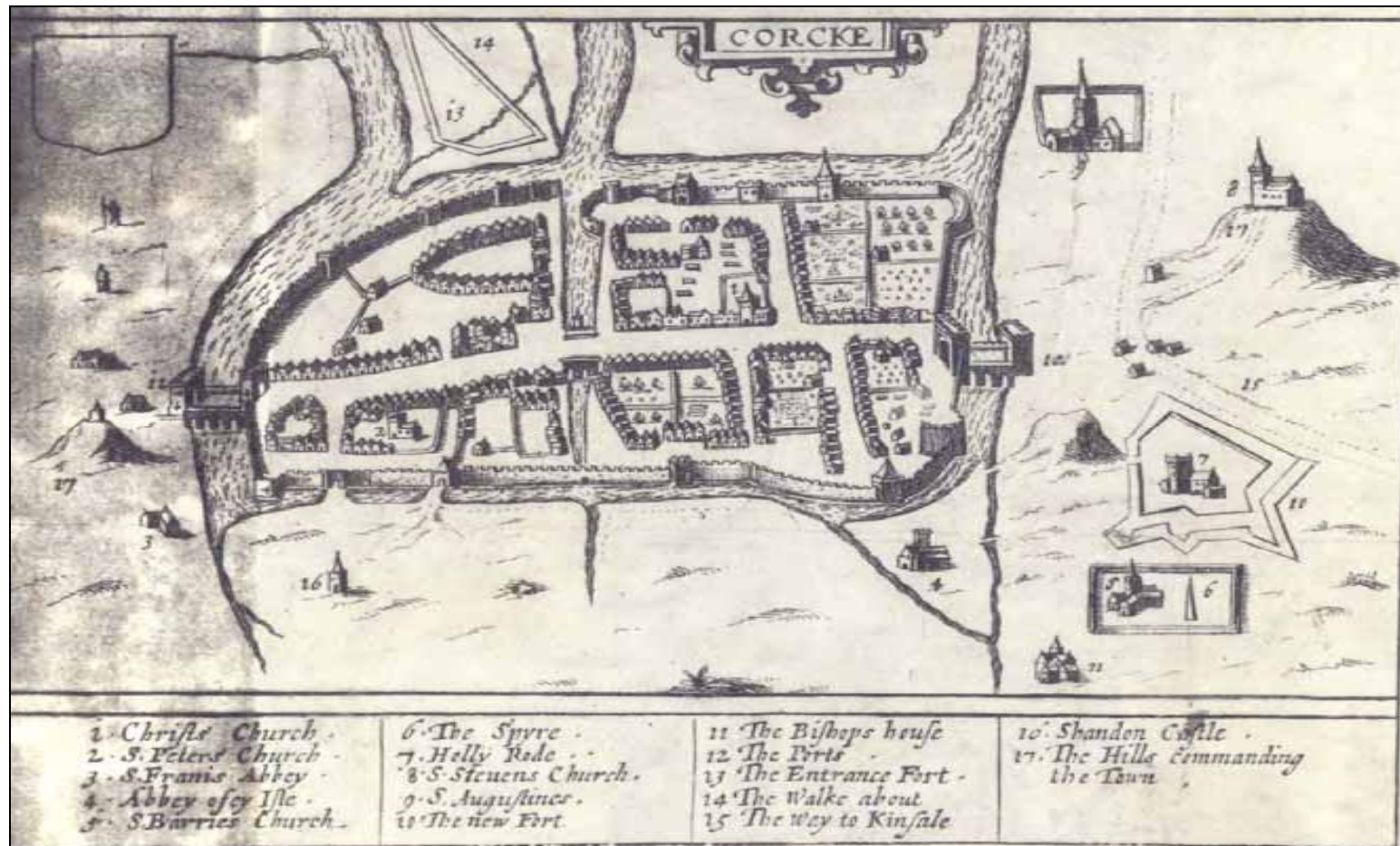
Cork City Wall Management Plan



Cork City (cited c. 1585-1600) from the Hardiman Collection, Trinity College.

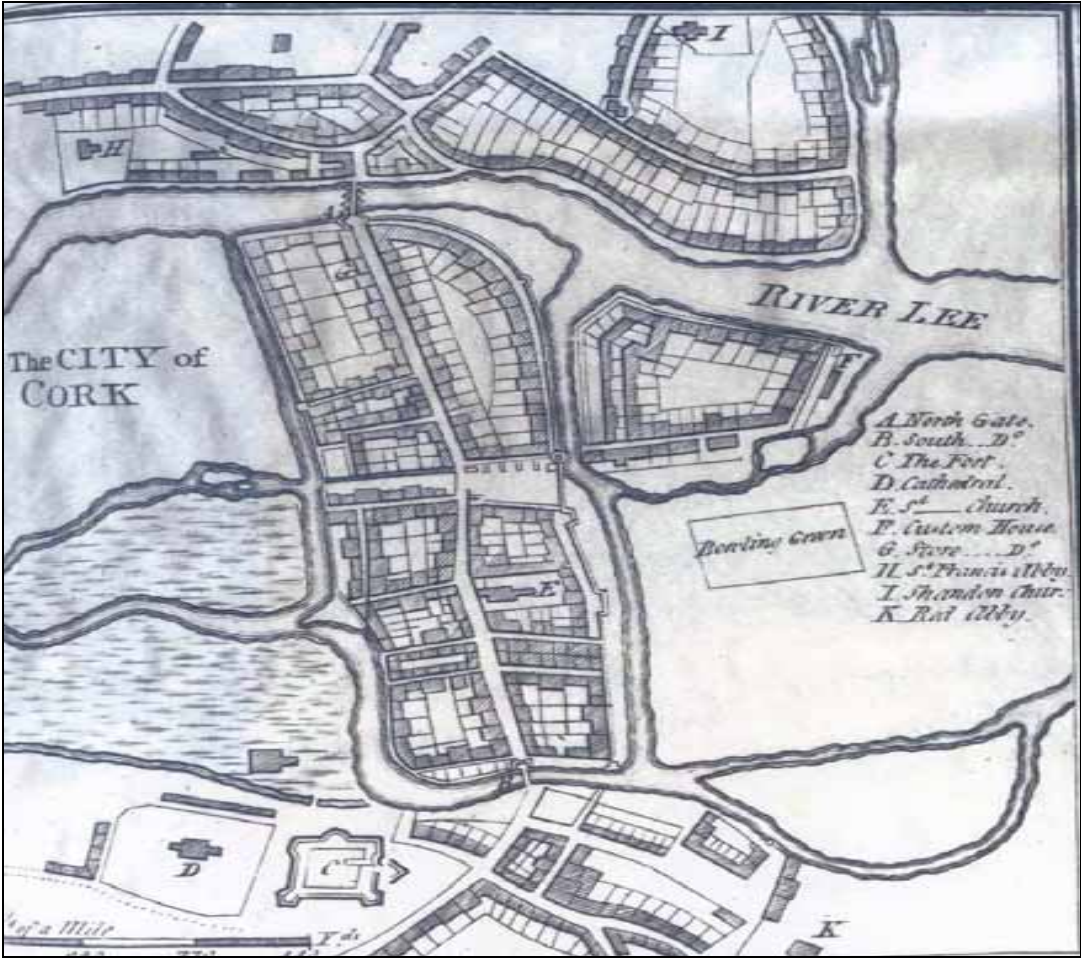
This is regarded as a very accurate representation of Cork at the end of the 16th century; the first evidence for reclamation can be seen on the northeast marsh. The marsh appears to be enclosed by a bank/wall, while at the southwest corner (the angle between present-day Paul St and Cornmarket Street) a battlement structure termed 'the entrance fort' can be seen.

Cork City Wall Management Plan



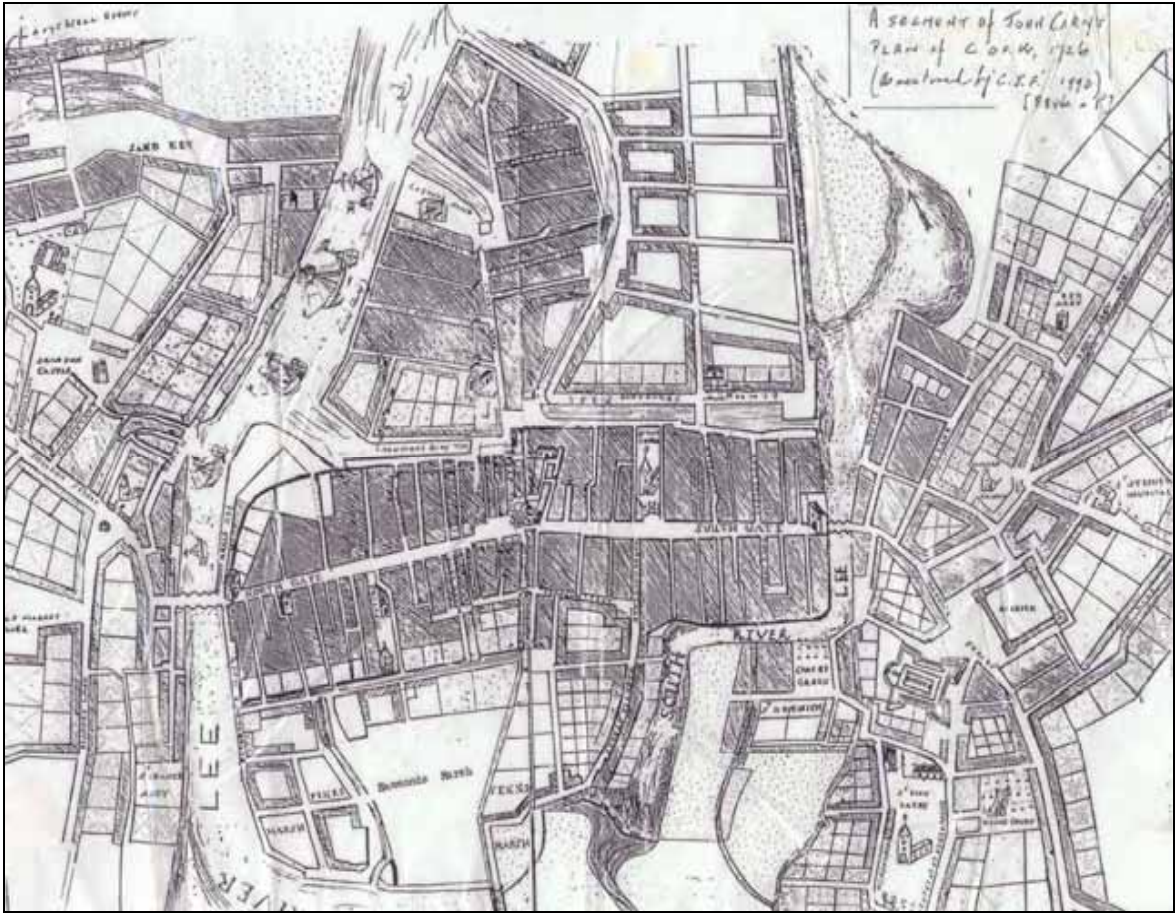
John Speed's Map of 1610

Cork City Wall Management Plan



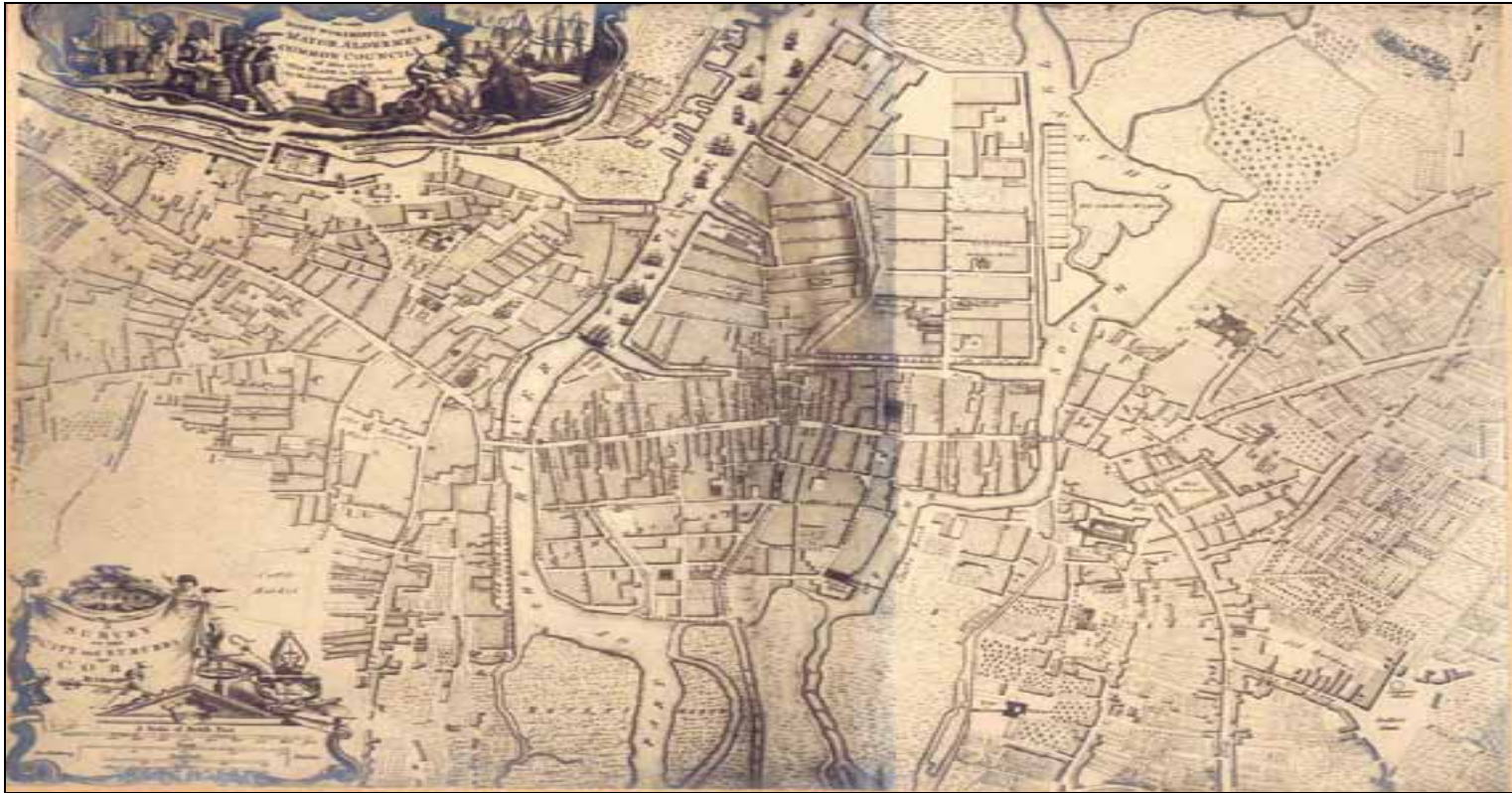
George Story's An impartial History of the war in Ireland with a Continuation thereof 1690-93

Cork City Wall Management Plan



A restored section of *John Carty's 1726 Map* (restored by C. J. F. McCarthy)

Cork City Wall Management Plan



Rocque's Map of 1759 is one of the most detailed of Cork in the 18th century.

