



Project code: PLCA19

Client: Carr Cotter Naessens Architects Ltd.

Date: December 2020

Presentation Building Library and Cultural Hub, Tullow Street, Carlow.

Report on Archaeological Test Trenching and Impact Statement.

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Licence No: 20E0630

Planning Reference: N/A Pre-Planning

Report Status: Final

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the results of a programme of archaeological test trenching carried out to the rear of the former Presentation Convent buildings, Tullow Street, Carlow, Co. Carlow in accordance with Licence No. 20E0630. The works were undertaken for Carr Cotter Naessens Architects on behalf of Carlow County Council in advance of an application for planning permission.

The former convent buildings house the Central Library, County Library Headquarters and County Archive as well as the County Museum and Tourist Office and they will be redeveloped to serve as a Library and Cultural Hub. This will involve the retention of the former convent buildings along the Tullow Street and College Street frontages, the demolition of the modern extension (constructed in 1997/8) and the construction of a new replacement extension extending down the eastern side of the site and fronting onto a pedestrian lane providing access to the Cathedral and St Patrick's College to the north and northeast.

The development site as a whole is located in an area of archaeological potential. The site lies within the main zone of archaeological potential (ZAP) for Historic Carlow and is also an architectural conservation area (ACA). Analysis of historic mapping indicates that buildings were present along both street frontages by the second quarter of the 18th century. Carlow was a walled town in the medieval period, but all traces of the defences had been removed by the 18th century. Evaluation of the historical evidence to date suggests that the circuit of the medieval defences followed the line of College Street with a gate—Tullow Gate—located at the junction with Tullow Street. This would place the proposed development site just outside the medieval walls and bordering on a main access gate and routeway, with a potential for sub-surface remains of any extra-mural activities to be present. Further, as the exact alignment of the city defences has not been established with confidence, the possibility that the defences themselves could have transected the site—and that sub-surface remains of such might still be present—cannot not be fully discounted.

The results from the test trenching programme identified the remnants of a 19th century concrete surface/ pathway in Test Trenches 4 and 6 and a network of linear (drainage) features in Test Trench 3. These findings are most likely associated with the footpaths and landscaped gardens of the Presentation Convent grounds as depicted on the second edition 1873 Ordnance Survey Mapping. There was no evidence for any archaeological features or deposits dating earlier than 1800. In particular, there was no evidence to indicate any medieval occupation at or near the site nor was there any evidence for the presence of features relating to the medieval town defences.

The proposed development will require the demolition of the modern (1997/98) extension building and the erection of a new larger building in the eastern half of the site. The new build will also incorporate a partial footprint basement. Ground reduction for the basement is likely to require bulk excavation of up to c. 3–4 m below present ground level in the northeast corner of the site only. Ground reduction across the remainder of the site is expected to be in the region of c. 1 m below present ground level. This will accommodate the new ground slab with localised deeper excavation for ground-beams and services. Services within the site will need to be rerouted and diverted. The insertion of the new ground slab and foundations will require the removal of the network of 19th century linear (drainage) features identified in Trench 3 and the concrete surface/ pathway identified in test Trenches 4 and 6. In addition, the groundworks could expose further similar material.

The following mitigation measures will be undertaken:

1. A second phase of archaeological test trenching should be carried out at the site after the demolition of the modern extension to the convent building.
2. All sub surface groundworks associated with the proposed development works (such as the breaking and removal of any floor slabs during demolitions, levelling of ground, bulk excavation and excavation of foundation trenches etc) shall be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring. This should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under license and in accordance with the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.
3. If significant archaeological material is encountered during the course of archaeological monitoring, then resolution of any such significant material will be determined in consultation with the National Monuments Service (DoH/LGH).
4. Where possible, every reasonable effort should be made to preserve *in situ* or reduce the impact on any identified archaeological material. Where preservation *in situ* cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of full archaeological excavation should be implemented to ensure the preservation by record of the portion of the site that will be directly impacted upon. This work should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under license and in accordance with the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.
5. A written report will be prepared detailing the results of all archaeological work undertaken.

Please note all recommendations are subject to the approval of the Carlow County Council and the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological test trenching that was undertaken to the rear of the former Presentation Convent buildings on Tullow St Carlow, which currently house the Central Library, County Library Headquarters and County Archive as well as the County Museum and Tourist Office. These works were undertaken for Carr, Cotter & Naessens Architects on behalf of Carlow County Council (ITM: 672228, 676689) (Figure 1).

The existing building complex will be redeveloped to serve as a Library and Cultural Hub. The proposed development will involve the retention of the former convent buildings along the Tullow Street and College Street frontages, the demolition of the modern extension (1997/8) and the construction of a new replacement extension extending down the eastern side of the site and fronting onto a pedestrian lane providing access to the Cathedral and St Patrick's College to the north and northeast. The new build will also accommodate a partial footprint basement (Figures 3 and 4).

The development site as a whole is regarded as an area of archaeological potential. It is located within the main ZAP for Historic Carlow and is also an ACA. Analysis of historic mapping indicates that buildings were present along both street frontages by the second quarter of the 18th century. Carlow was a walled town in the medieval period, but all traces of the defences had been removed by the 18th century. Evaluation of the historical evidence to date suggests that the circuit of the medieval defences followed the line of College Street with a gate—Tullow Gate—located at the junction with Tullow Street. This would place the proposed development site just outside the medieval walls and bordering on a main access gate and routeway with a potential for sub-surface remains of any extra-mural activities to be present. Further, as the exact alignment of the city defences has not been established with confidence, the possibility that the defences themselves could have transected the site—and that sub-surface remains of such might still be present—cannot not be fully discounted.

A total of 6 no. test trenches totalling 27 linear metres were excavated across the site within the proposed basement and ground floor footprint of the development to assess the potential for subsurface archaeological remains (Figures 2 and 8). The results from the test trenching programme identified the remnants of 19th century concrete pathways and landscaped garden features most likely associated with the Presentation Convent Buildings and grounds as depicted on Ordnance Survey Mapping and photographic archive of the convent grounds (Figures 9 and 10).

The archaeological test trenching programme at the site was undertaken by James Hession in accordance with Licence No 20E0630 on 10 December 2020.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 *Historical Background (after Bolger 2020)*

The proposed development site is located within Carlow town. An initial fortification or timber castle was probably established at Carlow by Hugh de Lacey c. 1180/1181 for John de Clahull. Archaeological excavations Carlow Castle in 1996 suggest that this initial fortification comprised a ringwork with a bailey attached to its north site (O’Conor 1997, 14–15). This was then replaced about thirty years later by the stone castle, built by William Marshall. The castle is located immediately southwest of the medieval town, on a low knoll at the confluence of the Barrow and Burren rivers. During the medieval and early post-medieval periods, it was separated from the town by a marsh.

The town of Carlow itself was established with borough status at the start of the 13th century, though the exact date of the first town charter is still a matter of dispute (O’Shea 2015). Certainly, the excavations at Carlow Castle indicate that it was the centre of a vibrant and prosperous manorial settlement from the late 12th century (while still held by John de Clahull) (O’Conor 1997, 16). The initial town charter is ascribed to William Marshall; forming part of a trading network along the river Barrow focused on the port town of New Ross (Doran 2008). There is a reference to a murage grant for the town in 1361 and there are various later references to the town being enclosed by walls in the later 14th and 16th centuries.

At the start of the 17th century the manor of Carlow, which included the town, was granted to the Earl of Thomond and in 1613 James I issued the town with its first royal charter (O’Shea 2012). The town and castle came under siege on a number of occasions in the 1640s.

2.2 *Record of Monuments and Places*

The whole of the development site constitutes an area of archaeological potential. The site lies within the main ZAP for Historic Carlow (CW007-018----). Analysis of historic mapping (see Section 3.5 below) indicates that buildings were present along both street frontages by the second quarter of the 18th century. Carlow was a walled town in the medieval period, but all traces of the defences had been removed by the 18th century. Evaluation of the historical evidence to date suggests that the circuit of the medieval defences (CW007-018006) followed the line of College Street with a gate—Tullow Gate—located at the junction with Tullow Street. This would place the proposed development site just outside the medieval walls and bordering on a main access gate and routeway with a potential for sub-surface remains of any extra-mural activities to be present. Further as the exact alignment of the city defences has not been established with confidence, the possibility the defences themselves could have transected the site—and that sub-surface remains of such might still be present—cannot be fully discounted.

A granite stone head (CW007-167), currently located in Carlow County Museum, was discovered lying in Ballinacarrig graveyard (CW007-025002-), which is c. 3 km southwest of Carlow town.

The following archaeological sites are within 175 m of the proposed site and are protected by the National Monument legislation as they are listed as Recorded Monuments in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).

RMP number	Location	Classification
CW007-018----	CARLOW/GRAIGUE	Zone of Archaeological Potential
CW007-018006	Carlow	Town Defences
CW007-167	Carlow (Tullow Street/College Street)	Stone Head

2.3 *Cartographic Evidence*

2.3.1 *Down Survey Barony & Parish Map (1656-1658)*

The Down Survey map of the Barony of Carlow shows the town of Carlow as a castle set within a fortification. The Parish Map shows just the castle at the site of the town along with a stone bridge over the river Barrow and a timber bridge over the river Burrin. The accompanying terrier notes that there is a castle at Carlow and that the lands are held by the Earl of Thomond.

2.3.2 *Thomas Moreland's Survey of Carlow (1703)*

This shows a broadly identifiable street pattern for the town with Tullow Street (unnamed) running east to west and Chappel Lane (now College Street) intersecting it on the north. The south side of Tullow Street is shown as set-in tenements, but the northern street frontage and College Street frontage are shown as undeveloped.

2.3.3 *Charles Columbine's Map of Carlow (1735)*

This shows Tullow Street (named) and Chappel Lane (now College Street). Hachuring on the north frontage of Tullow Street and extending onto the northeast frontage of College Street suggests that the area of the site has been developed in some way.

2.3.4 *1st Edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch series (1838)*

This shows Tullow Street and College Street with the Cathedral and St Patrick's College shown to the north of the proposed development site. The proposed development site is shown as developed along both frontages with open ground to the rear. It is notated as 'Nunnery' (Figure 5).

2.3.5 *Ordnance Survey Town Plan (1873)*

This shows the same arrangement of plots and buildings within the proposed development site as the earlier 6-inch series map, but with greater detail. The Tullow Street frontage is occupied by a building labelled 'Presentation Convent' this extends onto the College Street frontage where it adjoins a second building labelled 'Convent National School'. The remainder of the development site to the rear of these buildings is shown as open ground or garden with a perimeter path (Figure 6).

2.3.6 *Ordnance Survey 5-Foot Plan (1907)*

This shows no great changes from the previous 19th century mapping, though building notated as 'chapel' now links the convent building on Tullow Street to the school building on College Street (Figure 7).

2.4 *Previous excavations*

A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken at adjacent sites (see Appendix 4). One unifying characteristic of these investigations has been the absence of any evidence for medieval occupation or activity. Archaeological investigations at a site at the corner of Brown Street and College Street (Licence No 03E0724) did indicate the presence of a ditch, believed to be part of the medieval town defences underlying the pavement and carriageway of Brown Street. Though the circuit of the medieval defences is believed to have extended along the line of College Street with a major gateway—Tullow Gate—located at the junction of College Street and Tullow Street, investigations to date at these locations (Licence Nos: 04E0895; 04E0523; 06E1075; 18E0436) have not uncovered any sub-surface remains. Archaeological monitoring of water main rehabilitation works at the junction of College Street and Tullow Street (Licence No: 18E0436) just identified post-medieval civic infrastructure.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The objective of the archaeological testing programme was to establish the nature, character, extent and significance of any archaeological features or deposits which will be potentially impacted by the development. The results of the archaeological investigation provided the basis for the impact statement for the project.

3.2 Methodology

The investigation was carried out in compliance with *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation* (DAHGI 1999b).

The proposed development has not yet been finalised, but it will require the demolition of the modern (1997/98) extension building and the erection of a new larger building in the eastern half of the site. It is possible that the new build may incorporate a basement level, with any associated services within the footprint of the site rerouted and diverted. The former convent buildings along the Tullow Street and College Street frontages. A total of 6 no. test trenches, totalling 27 linear metres were excavated to assess the archaeological potential of this site.

Hard standing, cobblelock, historic topsoil and infill deposits (the overburden) were removed by a mechanical excavator under the supervision of an archaeologist until either undisturbed natural geological strata (subsoil) was reached, or archaeological material encountered. Where archaeologically significant features were identified, mechanical excavation ceased, and the features were cleaned back and tested by hand (using mattocks, shovels or trowels as appropriate).

Spoil was stockpiled to one side of the trench for the duration of works. Once all archaeological recording was completed each trench was backfilled using this stockpile by the mechanical excavator.

Recording

All recording was by Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd standard method and was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. Photographic recording was in digital format.

4 THE RESULTS

4.1 *Archaeological Test Trenching*

The archaeological test trenching programme was undertaken on 10 December 2020 under licence 20E0630. A total of 6 no. test trenches were excavated across the proposed site (Figures 2 and 8). A network of linear (drainage) features were identified in Test Trench 3 and a concrete surface/ path was uncovered in Test Trenches 4 and 6. The concrete path appears to correspond to the former pathway bordering the Presentation Convent Buildings/ grounds fronting onto College Street that are depicted on the 1873 historic map with the network of linear features believed to have an association with the formal gardens depicted to the rear of the convent buildings on historic mapping and photography (Figures 9 and 10). No evidence for features pre-dating the 19th century was identified.

Test Trench 1

This trench was situated in the northeast corner of the proposed site. It was L-shaped in plan and measured 5 m in length and 1.20 m in width. It was excavated to a depth of 1.40 m (Figure 2; Plate 1). The stratigraphy encountered within the trench consisted of:

- 0.00 – 0.05 m = Cobblelock (001), rectilinear dark grey paving stones
- 0.05 – 0.25 m = Shingle (Rubble (002), consisting of fine stone and sand
- 0.25 – 0.85 m = Compact dark brown garden soil/ historic topsoil (004) with inclusions of red brick fragments, coal fragments, animal bone, oyster shell and post medieval pottery (ink well bottles, creamware)
- 0.85 – 1.00 m = Light brown garden soil (005) with occasional inclusions of mortar pieces and animal bone
- 0.85 – 1.25 m = Natural ground (008), consisting of fine brown sand
- 1.25 – 1.40 m = Grey sand, representing natural strata

No features of archaeological significance were identified within the trench.

Test Trench 2

This trench was situated to the southwest of Trench 1. It was orientated northeast–southwest and measured 2.35 m in length, 1.2 m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1 m (Figure 2; Plate 2). The stratigraphy encountered in the trench consisted of:

- 0.00 – 0.05 m = Tarmacadam (006)
- 0.05 – 0.20 m = Lean mix (007), consisting of set stone and sand
- 0.20 – 0.35 m = Dark grey graded stone (025), 804 or similar
- 0.35 – 0.85 m = Compact dark brown garden soil/ historic topsoil (004) with inclusions of red brick fragments, mortar pieces, coal fragments, animal bone, oyster shell and post medieval pottery (ink well bottles, creamware)
- 0.85 – 1.00 m = Light brown garden soil (005) with occasional inclusions of mortar pieces and animal bone
- 1.00 m + = Natural ground (008), consisting of fine brown sand

A large boulder with no obvious worked face or masonry marks was noted with in the north eastern end of the trench. Fragments of mortar were noted beneath the boulder suggesting it originated elsewhere.

No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Test Trench 3

This trench was situated parallel to Presentation Place along the north eastern extent of the site. It was orientated northwest–southeast and measured 10 m in length (Figure 2; Plate 4). The stratigraphy encountered within the trench consisted of:

- 0.00 – 0.05 m = Cobblelock (001), rectilinear dark grey paving stones
- 0.05 – 0.15 m = Shingle (Rubble (002), consisting of fine stone and sand
- 0.15 – 0.25 m = Lean mix (007), consisting of set stone and sand
- 0.25 – 0.30 m = Mortared Surface (003) comprised of cream coloured mortar
- 0.30 – 0.85 m = Compact dark brown garden soil/ historic topsoil (004) with inclusions of red brick fragments, coal fragments, animal bone, oyster shell and post medieval pottery (ink well bottles, creamware)
- 0.85 – 1.00 m = Light brown garden soil (005) with occasional inclusions of mortar pieces and animal bone
- 1.00 m + = Natural ground (008), consisting of fine brown sand

Seven linear features forming a grid pattern were identified within Test Trench 3. They ranged from 0.15 to 0.70 m in width and from 0.20 to 0.25 m in depth. Fragments of red brick, oyster shell and animal bone were recovered from their respective fills suggesting a mid-19th century date and they were interpreted as most likely relating to landscaping features (garden/ flower beds or vegetable patches associated with the gardens of the Presentation Convent (Figure 8; Plates 5, 6 and 7).

Linear feature: the first linear feature (009) was identified in the north western extent of the trench. It was orientated east–west, measured 0.70 m in width by 0.25 m deep and was filled by a brown sandy clay (010) with inclusions of small angular stone, fragments of coal and animal bone. This feature is believed to be related to landscaping features associated with the grounds of the presentation convent.

Linear feature: the second linear feature (011) was identified to the southeast of the first linear feature (009). It was orientated NNW–SSE and measured 9m in length, 0.50 m in width by 0.20 m deep and was filled by a brown sandy clay (012) with inclusions of small angular stone, fragments of coal and red brick, oyster shell and animal bone. It is possibly related to the landscaping features associated with the grounds of the presentation convent.

Linear feature: another east–west orientated linear feature (013) was identified 1.5 m to the southeast of the first linear (009). It measured 0.15 m in width and was filled by a brown sandy clay (014) with inclusions of small angular stone and fragments of coal noted on the surface. It is possibly related to the landscaping features associated with the grounds of the presentation convent.

Linear feature: the fourth linear feature (015) was identified 1 m to the southeast of (013). It was orientated east–west, measured 0.30 m in width and was filled by a brown sandy clay (016) with inclusions of small angular stone and fragments of coal noted on the surface. It is possibly related to the landscaping features associated with the grounds of the presentation convent.

Linear feature: a shorter east–west orientated linear feature (017) was located to the southeast of the (015). It measured 0.15 m in width and was filled by a brown sandy clay (018) with inclusions of small angular stone and fragments of coal noted on the surface. It is possibly related to the landscaping features associated with the grounds of the presentation convent.

Linear feature: the sixth linear feature (019) was identified 1 m to the southeast of (013). It was orientated east–west and measured 0.30 m in width and was filled by a brown sandy clay (020) with

inclusions of small angular stone and fragments of coal noted on the surface. It is possibly related to the landscaping features associated with the grounds of the presentation convent.

Linear feature: the last linear feature (021) was identified 1 m to the northeast of (013). It was orientated NNW–SSE, measured 0.45 m in width and was filled by a brown sandy clay (022) with inclusions of small angular stone and fragments of mortar. It is possibly related to the landscaping features associated with the grounds of the presentation convent.

No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Test Trench 4

This trench was oriented northwest–southeast and situated in the southwest corner of the site. It was 2.30 m in length and 1.20 m in width (Figure 8; Plate 8). The stratigraphy encountered within the trench consisted of:

0.00 – 0.30 m = Sod and Topsoil (026)

0.30 – 0.50 m = Compact made ground (027), consisting of grey brown silty clay with red brick rubble and large angular stone

0.50 m + = Concrete surface (023)

Concrete surface: a concrete surface (027) was identified at 0.50 m below ground level. This surface is most likely 19th century in date and related to a pathway bordering the Presentation Convent/ School as depicted on the second edition Ordnance Survey mapping.

No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Test Trench 5

This trench was 4.40 m in length from northeast–southwest and 1.20 m in width. It was situated in the greenspace area to the northwest of the museum buildings fronting onto College Street and the library buildings fronting onto Tullow Street (Figure 8; Plates 9 and 10). The stratigraphy encountered in this trench consisted of:

0.00 – 0.24 m = Sod and Topsoil (026)

0.24 – 0.27 m = Mortared Surface (028), consisting of a cream-coloured lime and sand mortar

0.27 – 0.44 m = Grey gravel and sand (029)

0.44 – 0.70 m = Compact made ground (027), consisting of grey brown silty clay with red brick rubble and large angular stone. A former foul line was identified at 0.70 below ground level

0.70 – 0.90 m = Compact dark brown garden soil (004) with inclusions of red brick fragments, coal fragments, animal bone, oyster shell and post medieval pottery (ink well bottles, creamware

0.90 m = Natural ground (008), consisting of fine brown sand

No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 6

This trench was 5.00 m in length from northwest–southeast and 1.20 m in width (Figure 8; Plate 11). It was situated to the northwest of Test Trenches 4 and 5.

The stratigraphy encountered in the trench consisted of:

0.00 – 0.20 m = Sod and Topsoil (026)

0.20 – 0.24 m = Mortared Surface (028), consisting of a cream-coloured lime and sand mortar

0.24 – 0.40 m = Compact made ground (027), consisting of grey brown silty clay with red brick rubble and large angular stone

0.40 – 0.45 m = Concrete surface (023)

0.45 – 0.75 m = Compact dark brown garden soil (004) with inclusions of red brick fragments, coal fragments, animal bone, oyster shell and post medieval pottery (ink well bottles, creamware

Service ducts were encountered at 0.70 m in the north western extent of Trench 6. No further excavation was undertaken in this area.

No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

4.2 Site Investigations

Four test pits and one percolation pit were excavated in association with the geotechnical site investigations. The pits were excavated to a depth of approximately 3 m (Figure 2; Plates 12 – 14). No features of archaeological significance were identified during this process.

5 DISCUSSION

The results from the test trenching investigation established that a 19th century concrete surface/pathway and a network of linear (drainage) features most likely associated with the footpaths and gardens in the grounds of the Presentation School and Convent are present on the southwest and northeast parts of the site. These features can be seen in photographs taken of the convent grounds c. late 1800s and also correlate to features depicted on the 1873 Ordnance Survey mapping. No evidence for features pre-dating the 19th century was identified in the excavated test trenches. In particular, there was no evidence to indicate any medieval occupation at or near the site nor was there any evidence for the presence of features relating to the medieval town defences.

The Presentation School and Convent

The original Presentation Convent buildings and former school was constructed in 1831. It is situated in a pivotal position within the central area of the town and its tall buildings provide a protective boundary to the site. According to the Registered List of Protected Structures, the composition of the building is of an asymmetrical mid-Victorian corner block to Tullow Street extending along College Street to incorporate a Georgian complex. The building has an advanced entrance bay with separate roof in French style. (RPS No: CT97) In Garner's description from "Carlow Architectural Heritage", the main block of the building which houses the County Archive, Local Studies Department and Library Headquarters is of seven bays and three storeys. The walls are rendered, and the eaves-cornice has heavy brackets. The ground floor has round headed windows; the windows on the upper floors are segmental headed and all have astragals. Facing College street is a two-bay bow, a statue of Christ the King in a niche and a two-storey window with granite tracery. At the north end of the wing in College Street is a tall Gothic window also with tracery.

The concrete surface

A 19th century concrete surface/ pathway was noted in Test Trenches 4 and 6, which appears to correspond to a pathway along the north eastern side of the convent buildings that front onto College St on the 1873 Ordnance Survey mapping. This pathway is also visible on late 19th century photographs of the site (Figures 9 and 10).

19th century formal garden

The trenching programme also identified the remnants of a network of linear features believed to have an association with a 19th century formal garden in the convent grounds. Victorian formal gardens were hugely popular throughout the 19th century and the layout of the convent garden can be seen in a series of late 19th century photographs that were taken of the site (Figures 9 and 10).

6 IMPACT STATEMENT

6.1 *Description of the site*

The proposed development site comprises the former Presentation Convent Buildings which currently house the Central Library, County Library Headquarters and County Archive as well as the County Museum and Tourist Office. The site is located on the corner of Tullow Street and College Street and occupies approximately c. 0.146 ha area.

6.2 *Description of the proposed development*

The existing building complex will be redeveloped to serve as a Library and Cultural Hub. This will involve the retention of the former convent buildings along the Tullow Street and College Street frontages, the demolition of the modern (1997/98) extension and the construction of a new replacement extension extending down the eastern side of the site and fronting onto a pedestrian lane providing access to the Cathedral and St Patrick's College to the north and northeast. The new build will also incorporate a partial footprint basement level, with any associated services within the footprint of the site rerouted and diverted.

6.3 *Impact Statement*

Present ground level across the proposed site varies from c. 51.15 m OD to c. 51.40 m OD. The current draft development plan includes a partial footprint basement that will be limited to the new build along the north eastern side of the site (incorporating the location of Trench 3). The remainder of the building will have a conventional foundation.

Ground reduction for the basement is likely to require bulk excavation of up to c. 3–4 m below present ground level in the northeast corner of the site only. Ground reduction across the remainder of the site is expected to be in the region of c. 1 m below present ground level. This will accommodate the new ground slab with localised deeper excavation for ground-beams and services. Services within the site will need to be rerouted and diverted. The insertion of the new ground slab and foundations will require the removal of the network of 19th century linear (drainage) features identified in Trench 3 and the concrete surface/ pathway identified in test Trenches 4 and 6. In addition, the groundworks could expose further similar material.

6.4 *Mitigation Measures*

The following mitigation measures will be undertaken:

1. A second phase of archaeological test trenching should be carried out after the demolition of the modern extension to the convent building.
2. All sub surface groundworks associated with the proposed development (such as the breaking and removal of any floor slabs during demolitions, levelling of ground, bulk excavation and excavation of foundation trenches etc) shall be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring. This should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist

under license and in accordance with the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.

3. If significant archaeological material is encountered during the course of archaeological monitoring, then resolution of any such significant material will be determined in consultation with the National Monuments Service (DoCHG).
4. Where possible, every reasonable effort should be made to preserve *in situ* or reduce the impact on any identified archaeological material. Where preservation *in situ* cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of full archaeological excavation should be implemented to ensure the preservation by record of the portion of the site that will be directly impacted upon. This work should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under license and in accordance with the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.
5. A written report will be prepared detailing the results of all archaeological work undertaken.

Please note all recommendations are subject to the approval of the Carlow County Council and the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

7 CONCLUSIONS

This report has been prepared for Carr Cotter Naessens Architects on behalf of Carlow County Council in advance of an application for planning permission.

7.1 *Summary of findings*

The results from the test trenching investigation established that 19th century sub-surface masonry features (concrete surfaces/ pathways associated with the Convent grounds) depicted on the 1873 Ordnance Survey mapping were present in the south eastern part of the site. Elsewhere a network of 19th century linear (drainage) features were identified along the north western extent of the site. These features are believed to have an association with the formal gardens to the rear of the Convent buildings fronting onto College St.

There was no evidence for any archaeological features or deposits dating earlier than 1800. In particular, there was no evidence to indicate any medieval occupation at or near the site nor was there any evidence for the presence of features relating to the medieval town defences.

7.2 *Recommendations*

The proposed development will require the demolition of the modern extension (1996/7) to the convent buildings. Groundworks for the partial footprint basement, foundation and groundslab for the new building will require the removal of 19th century masonry and drainage features identified during test trenching.

The following mitigation measures will be undertaken:

1. A second phase of archaeological test trenching should be carried out after the demolition of the modern extension to the convent building.
2. All sub surface groundworks associated with the proposed development (such as the breaking and removal of any floor slabs during demolitions, levelling of ground, bulk excavation and excavation of foundation trenches etc) shall be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring. This should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under license and in accordance with the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.
3. If significant archaeological material is encountered during the course of archaeological monitoring, then resolution of any such significant material will be determined in consultation with the National Monuments Service (DoCHG).
4. Where possible, every reasonable effort should be made to preserve *in situ* or reduce the impact on any identified archaeological material. Where preservation *in situ* cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of full archaeological excavation should be implemented to ensure the preservation by record of the portion of the site that will be directly impacted upon. This work should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under license and in accordance with the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.

5. A written report will be prepared detailing the results of all archaeological work undertaken.

Please note all recommendations are subject to the approval of the Carlow County Council and the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

8 ARCHIVE QUANTITIES

The site archive is comprised of the following materials:

Item	Quantity
Trench Sheets	6
Plans	PGS plan
Sections	0
Photographs	71
Registers	3
Notebooks	-

Storage of the archive in a suitable format and location is required in order to provide for any future archaeological research. It is proposed that in addition to the paper archive a digital copy is prepared. The archive is currently stored in the offices of Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd., Unit 2, Europa Enterprise Park, Midleton, Co. Cork. It is proposed that following completion of post-excavation the archive will be deposited with the Dublin City Archaeological Archive. All artefacts and ecofacts will be deposited with the National Museum of Ireland.

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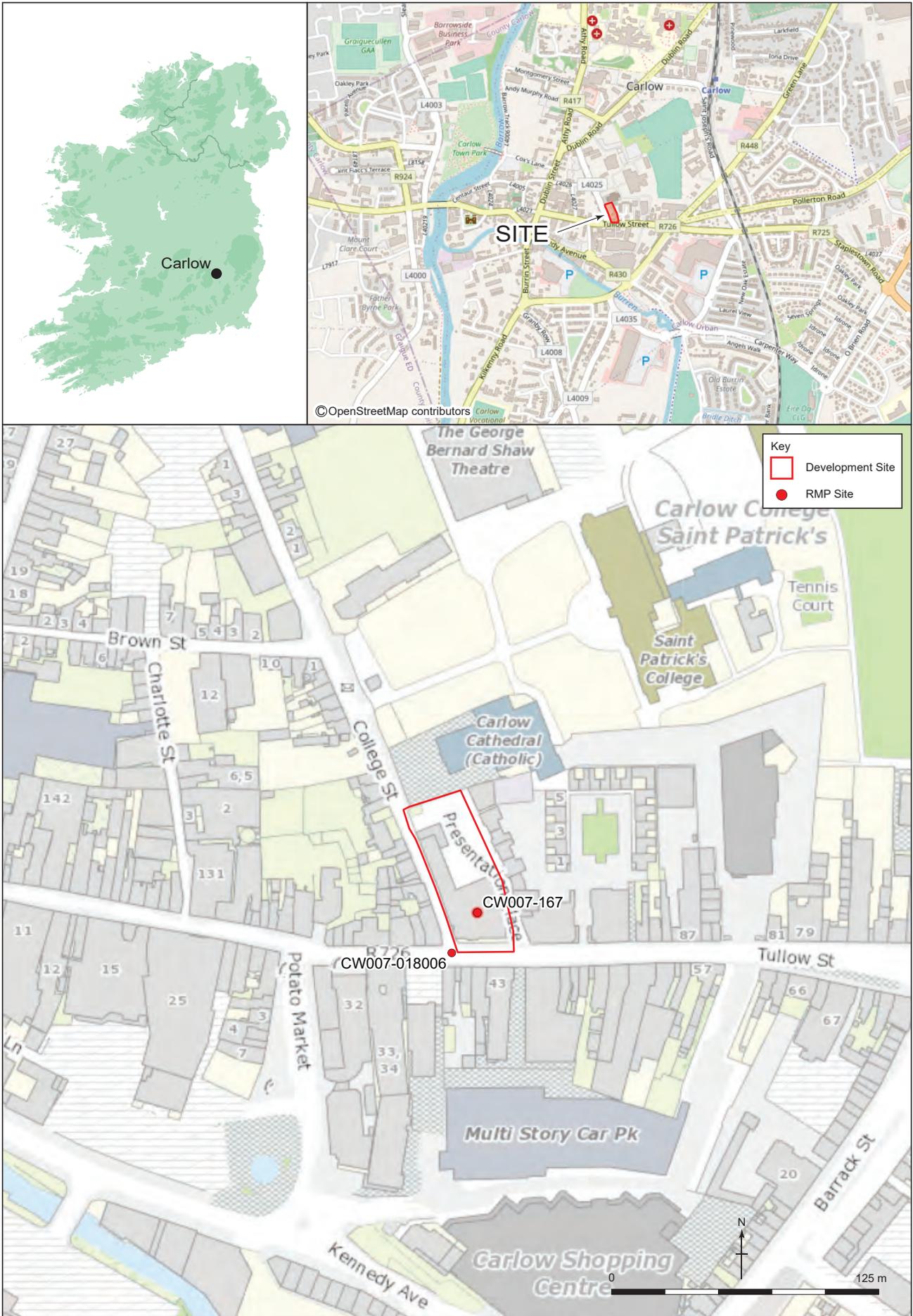
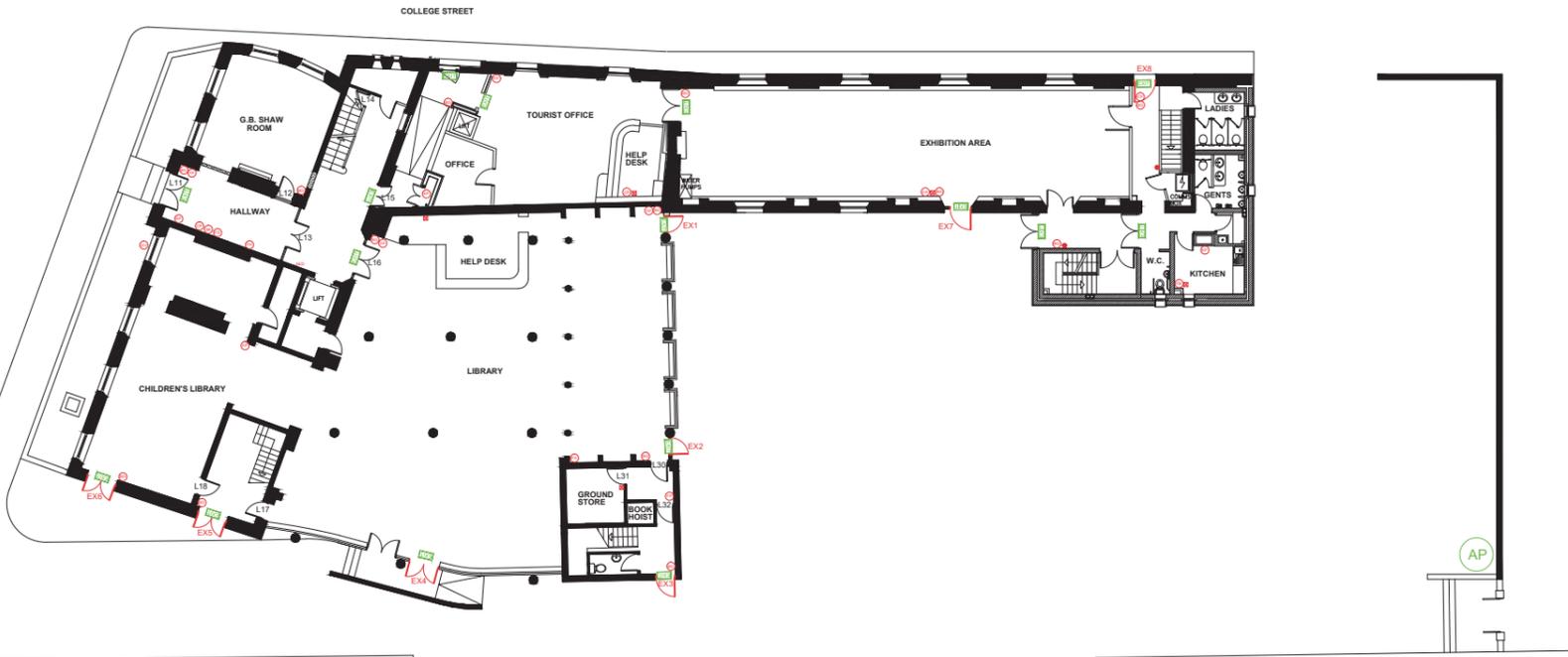


Figure 1 - Site location and RMP mapping.

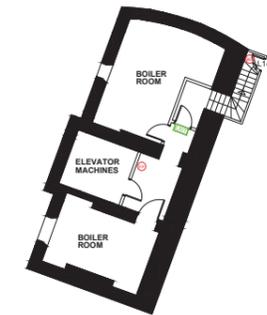


Figure 2 - Excavated test trench layout.

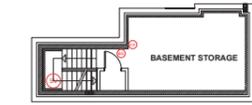
GROUND FLOOR



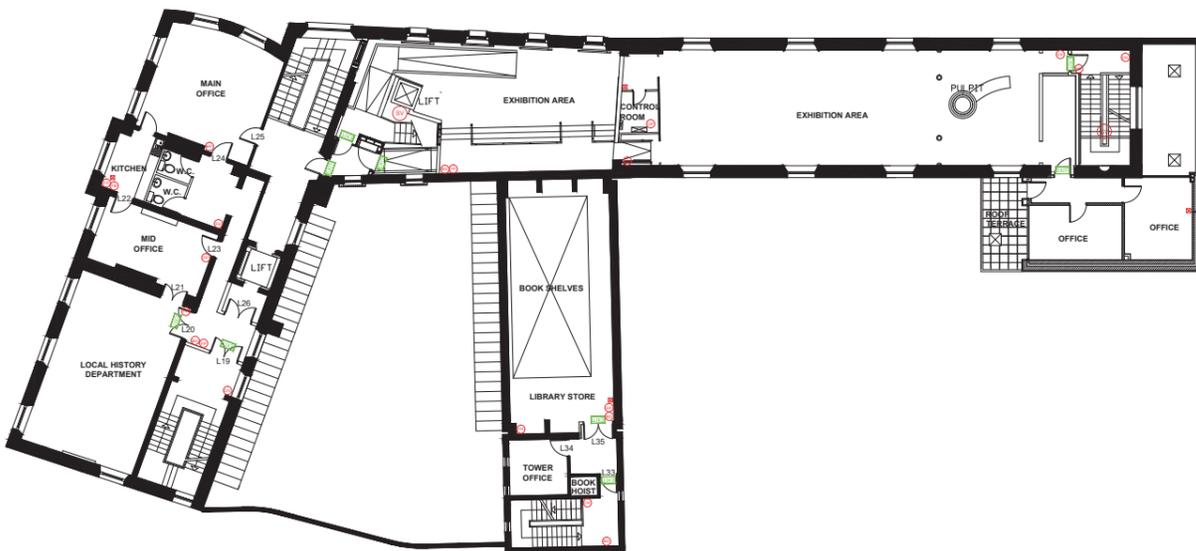
LIBRARY BASEMENT



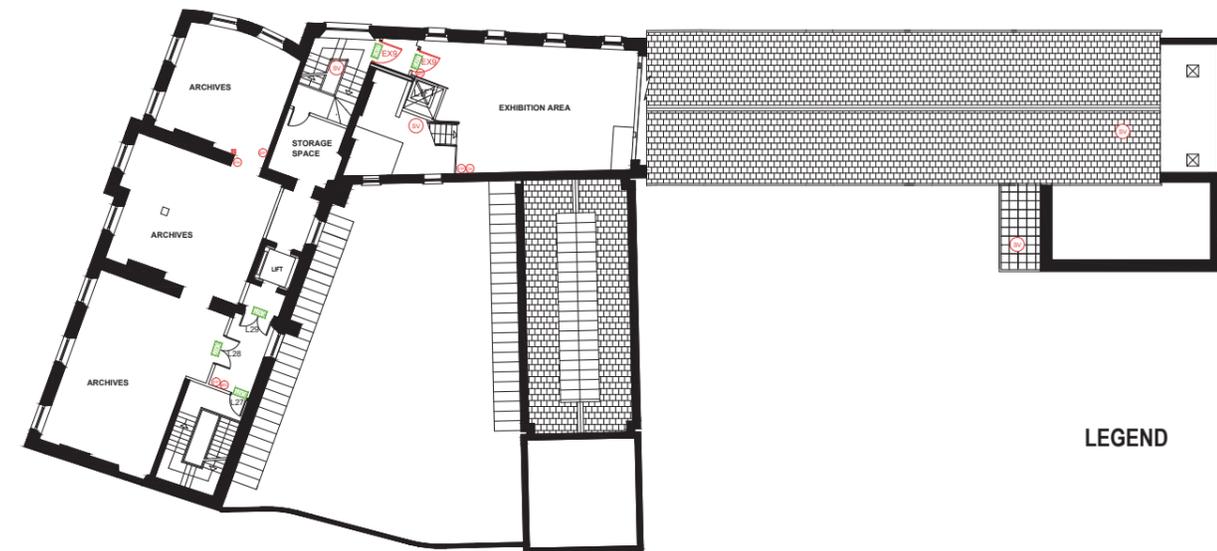
MUSEUM BASEMENT



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



LEGEND

- NOTES**
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- EXIT FIRE EXIT SIGN (FACING IN DIRECTION OF TRAVEL)
 - BG BREAK GLASS UNIT
 - FP FIRE POINT (EXTINGUISHER)
 - FH FIRE HOSE
 - FB FIRE BLANKET
 - CH EVACUATION CHAIR
 - EP ELECTRICAL PANEL
 - SK SAFETY KEYS
 - CP FIRE CONTROL PANEL
 - FD FIRE DOCUMENTS
 - GV GAS SHUT OFF VALVE
 - SV SMOKE VENT
 - ☒ FIRST AID BOX
 - FIREMANS OVERRIDE
 - AED AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR
 - AP ASSEMBLY POINT

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
DRAWING OFFICE
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Email: secretar@carlowcoco.ie
Carlow Local Authorities, A CPD Accredited Company

Project: **PRESENTATION BUILDING
CARLOW LIBRARY
AND MUSEUM
FIRE SAFETY PLANS**

Title: **FIRE POINTS AND
ESCAPE ROUTES**

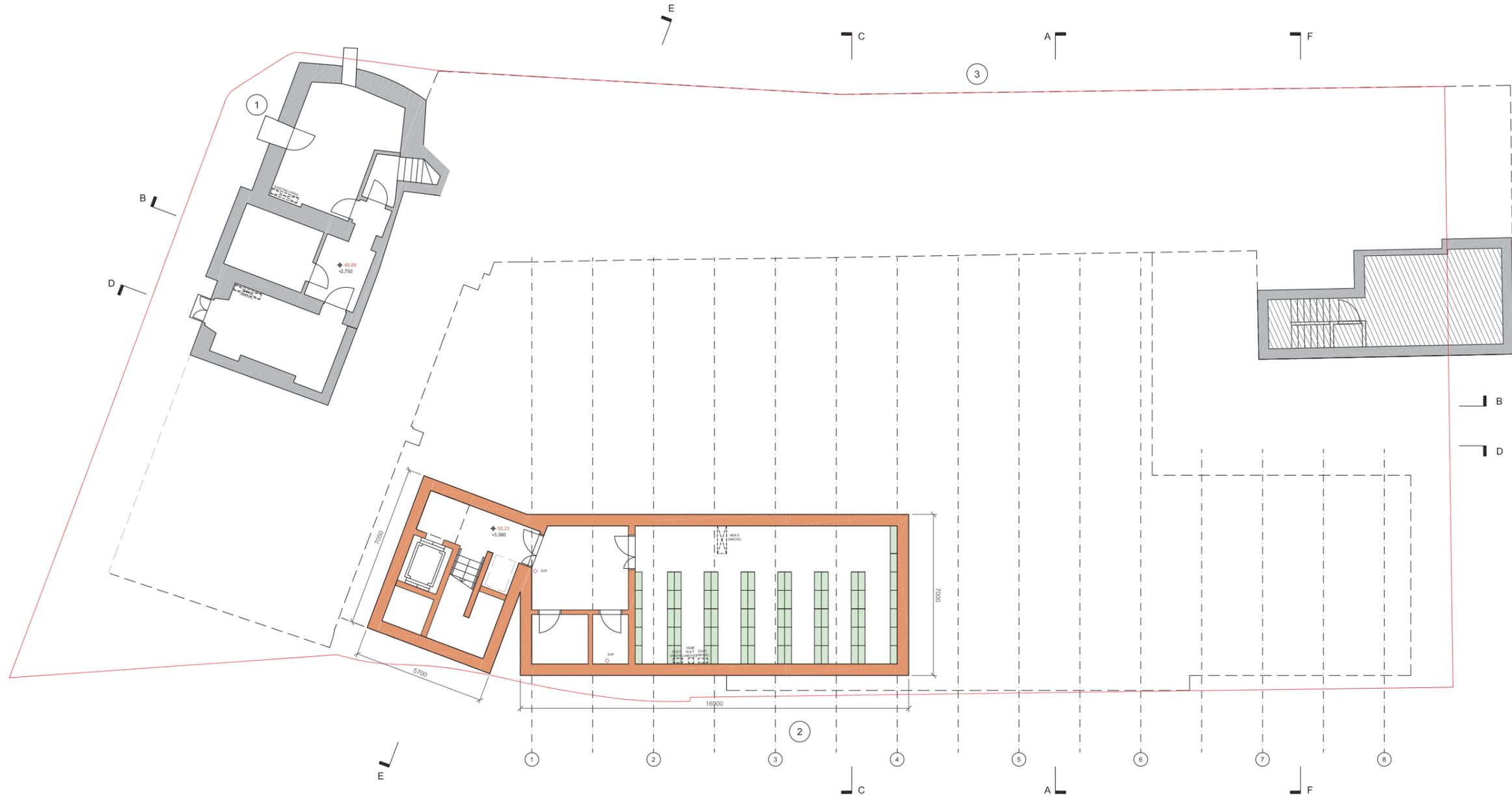
Drawn by:	P.B, R.W	Job No:	1
Checked by:	L.M.	Drw Loc:	
Approved by:	D.Mcl.	Rev:	
Scale:	N.T.S		A
Date:	15/04/2013		

Figure 3 - Plan of current buildings at site.



KEY

- SITE BOUNDARY
- 1. PRESENTATION BUILDING (EXISTING LIBRARY)
- 2. PROPOSED LIBRARY, CULTURAL, CIVIC, AND LEARNING SPACE
- 3. EXISTING MUSEUM (NOT SUBJECT TO THIS PLANNING APPLICATION)



Rev	Description	Date
P1	Minor Updates	07.12.20

Project PRESENTATION BUILDING
REGENERATION
LIBRARY, CULTURAL, CIVIC, AND LEARNING SPACE
TULLOW STREET CARLOW

Title
PROPOSED BASEMENT PLAN

Project No.	Drawing No.	Date	Scale @ A1
20CLB	PP_120	23.10.20	1:100

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Figure 4.1 - Plan of proposed basement.



KEY

- SITE BOUNDARY
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- 3. EXISTING MUSEUM (NOT SUBJECT TO THIS PLANNING APPLICATION)
- 4. TOURIST OFFICE



Rev	Description	Date
P1	Minor Updates	07.12.20

Project PRESENTATION BUILDING
REGENERATION
LIBRARY, CULTURAL, CIVIC, AND LEARNING SPACE
TULLOW STREET CARLOW

Title PROPOSED GROUND
FLOOR PLAN

Project No. Drawing No. Date Scale @ A1
20CLB PP_121 23.10.20 1:100

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Figure 4.2 - Plan of proposed ground floor.

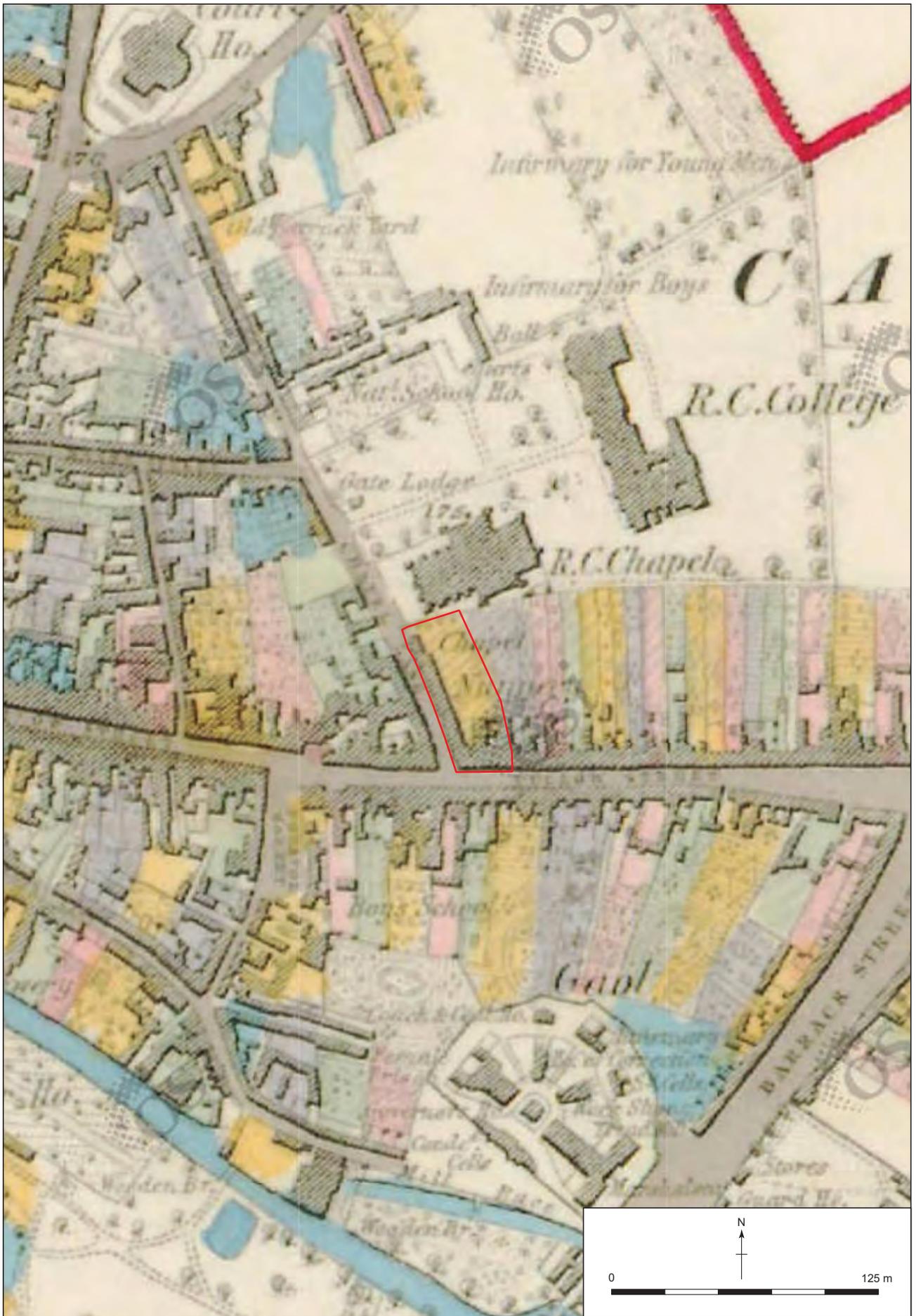


Figure 5 - Extract from Ordnance Survey first edition 6-inch series map.

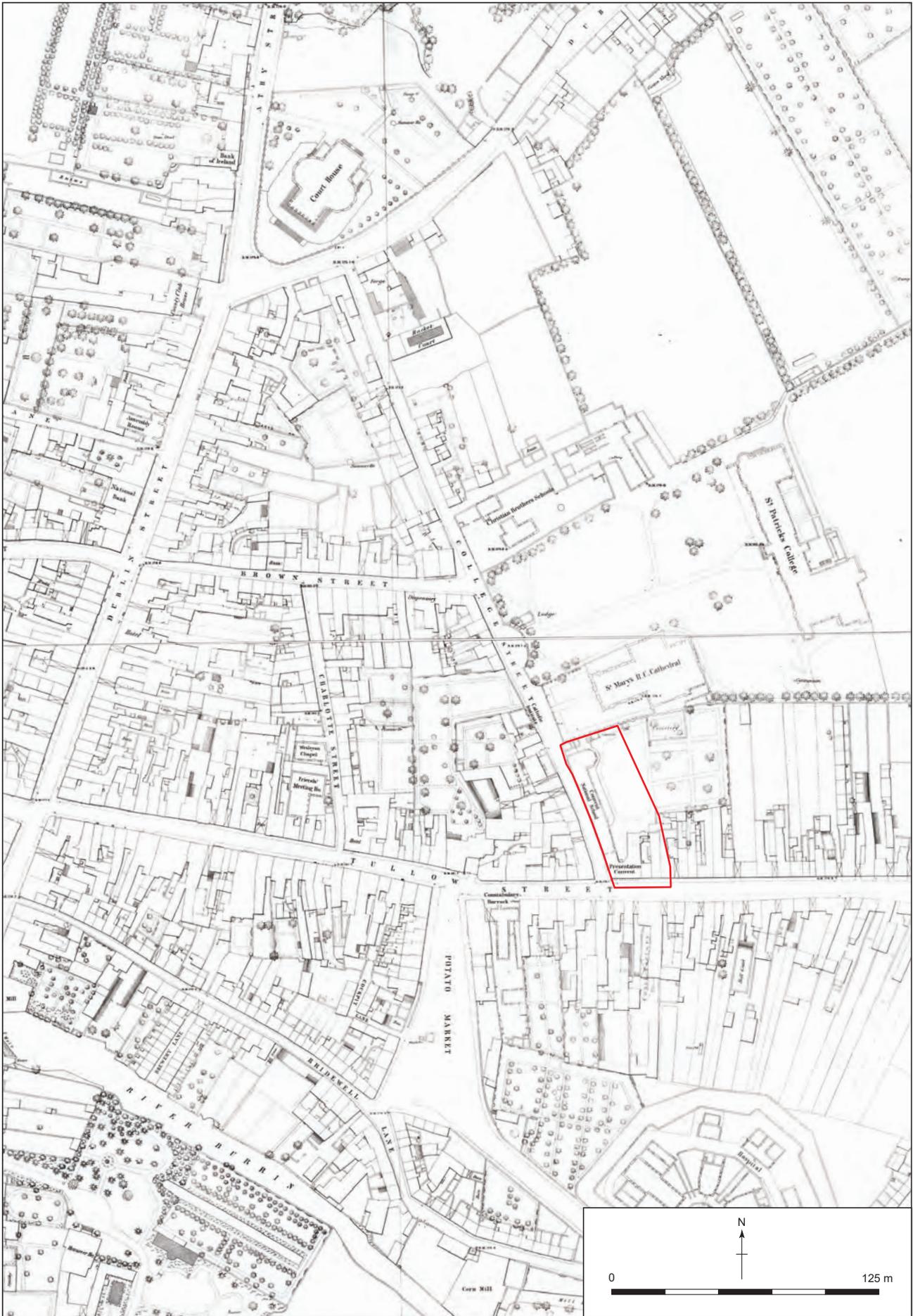
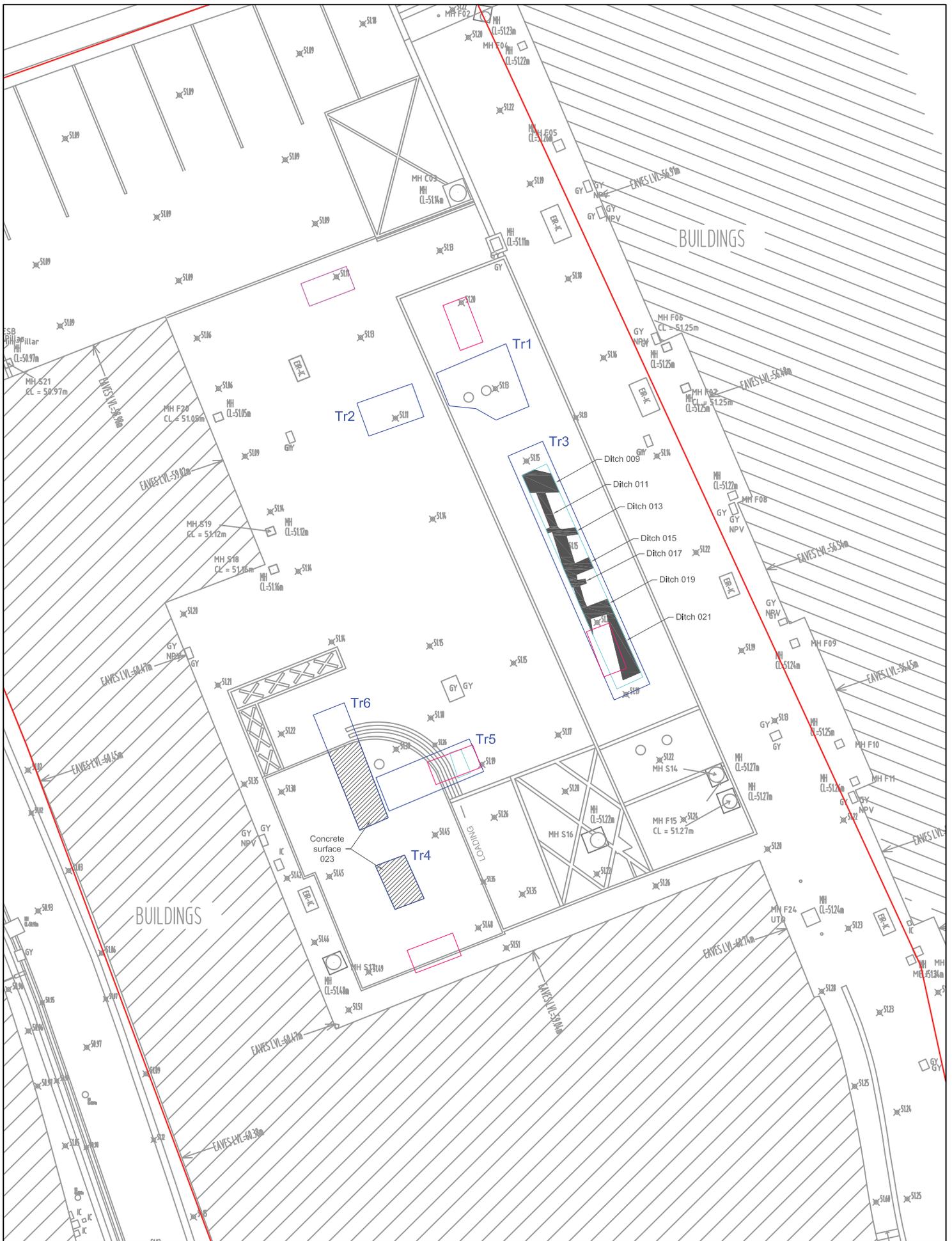


Figure 6 - Extract from Ordnance Survey Town Plan (1873).



KEY: Site boundary Trench top Trench base Trial pit Infiltration pit Archaeology	Project code: Presentation Library Carlow	Scale: 1:200 @ A4
	Drawn By: HS	
Date: 14-12-2020		

Figure 8 - Details of findings from test trenching investigation.

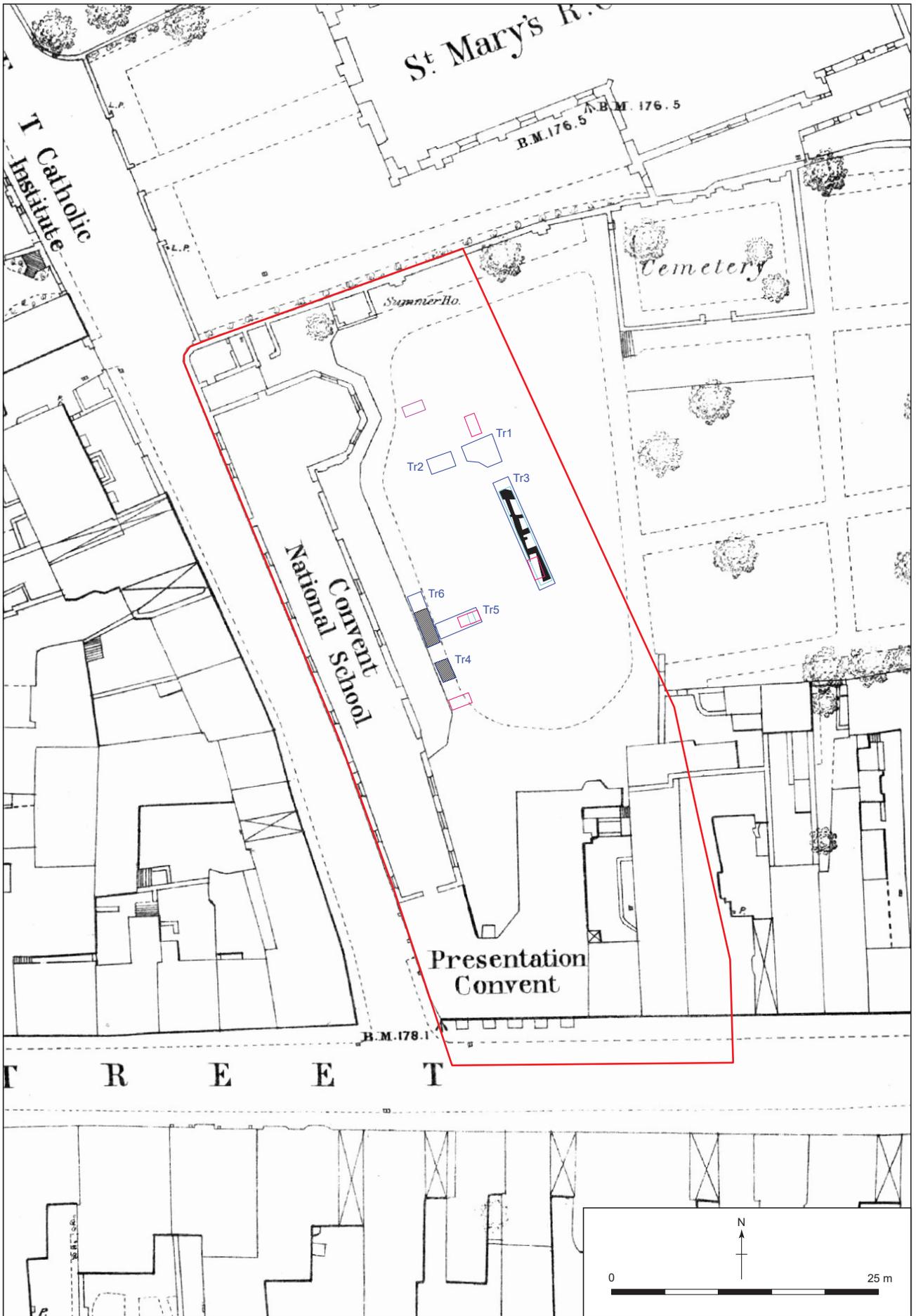


Figure 9 - Test Trenching findings overlaid on second edition Ordnance Survey mapping 1873.



Figure 10 - View of gardens associated with the Presentation Convent
c. mid to late 19th Century.



Plate 1 - Southwest facing baulk of Test Trench 1, looking northeast



Plate 2 - Test Trench 2, looking southwest



Plate 3 - Northwest facing baulk of Test Trench 2, looking southeast



Plate 4 - Southwest facing baulk of Test Trench 3, looking northeast



Plate 5 - Drainage features (009), (011), (013) and (015) within Test Trench 3, looking southeast



Plate 6 - Investigation of drainage features (009) and (011) within Test Trench 3, looking northwest



Plate 7 - Drainage feature (022) within Test Trench 3, looking southeast



Plate 8 - Concrete surface within Test Trench 4, looking southeast



Plate 9 - Former foul line within Test Trench 5, looking northwest



Plate 10 - Southeast facing baulk within Test Trench 5, looking northwest



Plate 11 - Concrete surface within Test Trench 6, looking northwest



Plate 12 - Geotechnical Test Pit 1, looking west



Plate 13 - Geotechnical Test Pit 2, looking southwest



Plate 14 - Geotechnical Test Pit 4, looking WSW

APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Trench	Description
001	1 and 3	Cobble lock
002	1 and 3	Shingle
003	1 – 6	Lean mix
004	1 – 6	Garden soil/ historic topsoil
005	1 – 6	Light brown silty clay (garden soil)
006	2, 4, 5 and 6	Tarmacadam
007	2, 4, 5 and 6	Graded stone 804 or similar
008	1 – 6	Natural ground (Fine orange brown sand)
009	3	Linear feature
010	3	Mid brown silty clay. Fill of (009)
011	3	Linear feature
012	3	Mid brown silty clay. Fill of (012)
013	3	Linear feature
014	3	Mid brown silty clay. Fill of (013)
015	3	Linear feature
016	3	Mid brown silty clay. Fill of (015)
017	3	Linear feature
018	3	Mid brown silty clay. Fill of (017)
019	3	Linear feature
020	3	Mid brown silty clay. Fill of (019)
021	3	Linear feature
022	3	Mid brown silty clay. Fill of (021)
023	4 and 6	Concrete Surface
024	3	Mortared Surface
025	5	Graded stone
026	4, 5 and 6	Topsoil
027	4, 5 and 6	Made ground
028	5	Mortared Surface
029	5	Grey gravel and sand

APPENDIX 2 TRENCH REGISTER

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description
1	5.00	1.20	1.40	NW-SE and NE-SW	L-shaped trench excavated in the northern corner of the site
2	2.35	1.20	1.00	NE-SW	Linear trench excavated to the SW of Trench 1
3	10.00	1.20	1.00	NW-SE	Linear trench excavated to the SE of Trench 1
4	2.30	1.20	0.50	NW-SE	Linear trench excavated in the southern corner of the site
5	2.30	1.20	0.90	NE-SW	Linear trench excavated to the NE of Trench 4
6	5.00	1.20	0.75	NW-SE	Linear trench excavated to the NW of Trench 4

APPENDIX 3 PHOTO REGISTER

Photo Number	Trench	Direction	Description
090650	1	SE	Location of Trench 1
090652	1	SE	Location of Trench 1
090653	1	SE	Location of Trench 1 and 2
909702	1	SE	Location of Trench 1 and 2
090744	1	SE	Mid-excavation of Trench 1
091727	1	SE	Mid-excavation of Trench 1
091734	1	SE	Mid-excavation of Trench 1
094525	1	E	SW facing baulk of Trench 1
095607	1	E	SW facing baulk of Trench 1
095610	1	E	SW facing baulk of Trench 1
095619	1	SE	Trench 1
101131	1	SW	Trench 1
101135	1	SW	Trench 1
102048	1	SE	NW facing baulk of Trench 1
102059	1	SW	Trench 1
102106	1	NW	SE facing baulk of Trench 1
102115	1	SE	NW facing baulk of Trench 1
103426	2	SW	Mid-excavation of Trench 2
104540	2	SE	NW facing baulk of Trench 2
104728	2	SE	NW facing baulk of Trench 2
104735	2	E	NW facing baulk of Trench 2
110114	2	SE	NW facing baulk of Trench 2
110121	2	SE	NW facing baulk of Trench 2
110127	2	SE	NW facing baulk of Trench 2
110142	2	E	NW facing baulk of Trench 2
110141	2	NE	Mid-excavation of Trench 2
110148	2	NE	Mid-excavation of Trench 2
110202	2	NE	Mid-excavation of Trench 2
110230	2	SW	Mid-excavation of Trench 2
120129	3	NE	SW facing baulk of Trench 3
120132	3	NE	SW facing baulk of Trench 3
120143	3	SE	Mid-excavation of Trench 3
121412	3	NE	SW facing baulk of Trench 3
121439	3	SE	Linear features (009) and (011)
121441	3	SE	Linear features (009) and (011)
121445	3	SE	Linear features (009) and (011)
121633	3	N/A	Animal bone from (004)
121841	TP1	NW	Mid-excavation of Test Pit 1
121851	TP1	SW	Mid-excavation of Test Pit 1
122653	3	SE	Linear features (009), (011) and (013)
122656	3	SE	Linear features (009), (011) and (013)
122702	3	NE	SW facing Baulk of Trench 3
122715	3	SW	Linear features (011) and (013)
124724	3	SE	Linear features (009), (011) and (013)
124733	3	SE	Linear features (009), (011) and (013)

Photo Number	Trench	Direction	Description
125114	3	SE	Linear features (009), (011) and (013)
132353	3	NW	Investigation of linear features (009), (011) and (013)
132358	3	NW	Investigation of linear features (009), (011) and (013)
132422	3	NE	SW facing section through (011)
132521	3	NW	Investigation of linear features (009), (011) and (013)
132551	3	NE	SW facing section through (011)
132553	3	NE	SW facing section through (011)
133053	TP1	NW	Test Pit 1 in progress
133810	TP1	W	Test Pit 1 in progress
133817	TP1	NE	Test Pit 1 in progress
140917	3	SE	Linear features (011), (019) and (021)
140927	3	SE	Linear features (011), (019) and (021)
143823	4	SE	Concrete surface (023) within Trench 4
144033	4	SE	Concrete surface (023) within Trench 4
144037	4	SE	Concrete surface (023) within Trench 4
150554	TP2	SW	Test Pit 2 in progress
150602	TP2	SW	Test Pit 2 in progress
151812	TP4	E	Test Pit 4 in progress
151815	TP4	E	Test Pit 4 in progress
152749	TP4	Overhead	Test Pit 4 in progress
152757	TP4	ENE	Test Pit 4 in progress
154729	5	NW	Former foul line within Trench 5
152735	5	NW	Former foul line within Trench 5
155201	5	NW	Former foul line within Trench 5
155208	5	NW	SE facing baulk of Trench 5
162846	6	NW	Concrete surface (023) within Trench 6
162848	6	NW	Concrete surface (023) within Trench 6

APPENDIX 4 Previous archaeological investigations

An examination of previous excavations carried out within and around the area proposed for development provides a useful framework for assessment of the study area in terms of its archaeological significance as well as its archaeological potential. The Archaeological Excavations Bulletin is an annual fieldwork gazetteer for Irish Archaeology; it was checked for a record of any licensed archaeological investigations carried out in the vicinity of the development area between 1970 and 2019.

Site name: Brown Street/College Street, Carlow

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 17:18 **Licence number:** 03E0724

Author: Patrick Neary, 24 Talbot's Inch Village, Kilkenny.

Site type: Urban medieval

ITM: E 672156m, N 676817m

Permission was granted to demolish a delisted Georgian building with a monitoring condition. The site location coincides with the position of the town wall and ditch of the medieval town. The most significant finding from the monitoring was the remains of the town ditch, lying outside the construction site under Brown Street.

At the northern end of the site was a backfilled quarry, which was filled in before the demolished Georgian houses were constructed, and a roughly built limekiln was found in this backfilled area outside the boundary in the adjoining property. It is likely that this was in use and probably built exclusively to provide the lime mortar used at the time of the construction of the demolished structure.

Site name: Potato Market, Carlow

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 7:18 **Licence number:** 03E0476

Author: Mary Henry, Mary Henry Archaeological Services Ltd, 17 Staunton Row, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 672149m, N 676601m

Pre-construction testing was undertaken on the site of a proposed development at the Potato Market in Carlow town centre. Four trenches were opened on the imprint of the proposed building. Testing revealed no features, neither archaeological nor modern. Most noticeable was the absence of any build-up of infill, rubble and associated building materials that would be typically found in a town. This was further endorsed by the total absence of any form of pottery. There was minimal topsoil cover, suggesting that the level of the site had been reduced. This was further supported by the absence of any foundations for the east-west and north-south visible internal walls on the relevant boundaries.

No evidence for medieval Carlow was found on the site, the likely reason being that the level of the site had been reduced. This was evident in the closeness of the natural deposits to the current ground surface.

Site name: CBS, COLLEGE STREET, CARLOW

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** 04E0895

Author: Alan Hayden, Archaeological Projects Ltd, 27 Coulson Avenue, Rathgar, Dublin 6.

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 672185m, N 676789m

Test-trenching was undertaken on the site in July 2004. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered. The line of the town wall supposedly runs down the west side of the site, but no traces of a ditch outside the wall were uncovered.

Site name: TULLOW STREET, CARLOW

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 7:18 **Licence number:** 04E0523

Author: C oil n   Drisceoil,

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 672155m, N 676596m

An assessment of a proposed commercial /residential development was requested. The site was situated near the postulated line of the medieval town walls and core of the medieval town. No materials of archaeological significance were noted during testing. It is likely that the site was scoured during construction of the post-medieval buildings.

Site name: SHAW'S DEPARTMENT STORE, TULLOW STREET, CARLOW

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 7:18 **Licence number:** 04E0979

Author: Sinead Phelan, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd, 27 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 671958m, N 676738m

An assessment was carried out to the rear of Shaw's Department Store in August 2004, in advance of a planning application for a new retail development there. Carlow town has been the scene of continuous occupation since medieval times. It developed from an Anglo-Norman town. The proposed site was located in what was the medieval walled town and is therefore within the zone of archaeological potential for Carlow. The site is located on the south side of 11 Tullow Street and consists of a terrace of three mid-late Georgian houses. The rear of the site is accessed off Bridewell Lane and presently functions as a staff carpark.

Three test-trenches were mechanically excavated across the site. No archaeological deposits were identified during this testing. Further assessment will be carried out after the demolition of the existing structure.

Site name: SHAW'S, TULLOW STREET, CARLOW

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 7:18 **Licence number:** 04E0979 AND EXT.

Author: Sin ad Phelan, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd, 27 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Site type: Urban

ITM: E 671958m, N 676738m

Monitoring of the bulk excavation of ground material was carried out in advance of construction of a new retail development at Shaw's department store, 8-11 Tullow Street, Carlow, in July 2005. Prior to demolition, the site consisted of a terrace of three mid- to late Georgian houses (1800-1840).

Two phases of archaeological assessment were carried out in advance of construction works, in November 2004 (Excavations 2004, No. 94) and April 2005 respectively. Monitoring was carried out as part of the construction programme from 30 June to 29 July 2005. All ground material was removed to c. 4m below present ground level. The construction of the 19th-century Georgian structures and their redevelopment in the 1960s involved ground reduction to below the natural clay. As a result of this any features of archaeological significance were removed, apart from two pit features exposed on the western edge of the site during ground reduction. The larger pit was initially exposed in Phase 2 of the assessment. This feature ran into the western limits of the site and measured 3m wide (north-south) and 0.9m deep and contained a black clay with charcoal, animal bone and rubble inclusions. A fragment of North Devon gravel-tempered ware was recorded in this fill. This pottery type is common and was manufactured from the late 16th to late 18th century. The second, smaller pit

feature measured 1.1m wide (north–south) and 0.21m deep and contained charcoal-rich burnt clay with animal bone. No datable finds were recovered from this pit. It was sealed by redeposited natural clay, which in turn was sealed by the 19th-century structures.

Site name: Shamrock, Tullow Street/Green Lane, Carlow

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** 06E0588 ext.

Author: T. Doyle, Headland Archaeology Ltd, Unit 1, Wallingstown Business Park, Little Island, Cork.

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 672453m, N 676678m

Monitoring was undertaken in June and July 2007 in response to a condition of planning at the Shamrock, Tullow Street/Green Lane, Carlow. No features of archaeological interest were revealed in the course of the work, the area of ground having been previously heavily disturbed.

Site name: St Patrick's College, College Street, Carlow

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** 06E1075

Author: Tom Janes, Headland Archaeology Ltd, Unit 1 Wallingstown Business Park, Little Island, Cork.

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 472353m, N 577061m

Test-trenching was undertaken in March 2007 at St Patrick's College, College Street, Carlow. The work was in support of planning permission to construct an arts centre and theatre complex. The proposed development is situated at the edge of the zone of archaeological potential for CW007–018, the town of Carlow. Five 2m-wide test-trenches totalling 232m in length were machine excavated across the proposed development site. No features of archaeological significance were found.

Site name: Tullow Street, Carlow

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** 18E0436

Author: Seán Shanahan & Marion Sutton, Shanarc Archaeology Ltd.

Site type: Urban, post-medieval

ITM: E 672211m, N 676670m

Monitoring and excavation in association with the water mains rehabilitation work on Tullow Street, Carlow, identified a network of seven post-medieval stone-lined drains or culverts in the street carriageway. The finds retrieved were few, consisting of one glass bottle fragment, two glass drinking vessel fragments, one cream stoneware jar with vertical ribbing and one piece of charred worked wood. The finds recovered would suggest the drains/culverts are 19th century in origin with evidence of subsequent alteration or disturbance as a result of on-going maintenance of drainage infrastructure. The identification of drains/culverts is in line with previous excavations undertaken in Carlow, in particular the work undertaken in relation to the Carlow Main Drainage Scheme. During the latter scheme, a network of 18th- or early 19th-century stone drains or sewers were recorded in many of the streets monitored.

Apart from the post-medieval stone culverts intersecting Tullow Street, no features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were identified during the course of the water main rehabilitation works on Tullow Street, Carlow.

Site name: Dublin Street, Burrin Street, Brown Street, Castle Street, Bridewell Lane, Centaur Street and Kennedy Street, Carlow

Sites and Monuments Record No.: CW007-018 **Licence number:** C000731

Author: Seán Shanahan & Marion Sutton, Shanarc Archaeology Ltd

Site type: Urban

ITM: E 671954m, N 676707m

Monitoring of excavations associated with the Carlow Water Mains Rehabilitation works, were carried out between 25 June and 04 September 2019, on various streets in the historic core in Carlow town, namely Dublin Street/Burrin Street, Brown Street, Castle Street, Bridewell Lane, Centaur Street and Kennedy Street.

The rehabilitation works are located in their entirety within the zone of archaeological potential for the historic town of Carlow (CW007-018), on the east side of the River Barrow and north side of the Burren River.

Excavation trenches were on or next to the footprint of the pre-existing cast iron mains and/or other services, therefore most of the excavations associated with water mains rehabilitation were in mixed deposits of re-deposited soil, demonstrating a high level of prior sub-surface disturbance resulting from the provision of water, sewerage, electric, gas, telecommunications or other services in the town's streets. The mains line, in general, followed the footprint of the existing cast iron mains, which was exposed throughout Dublin Street, and the footprint of an existing ceramic sewer, encased in concrete, which was exposed on Burrin Street. Existing services were embedded in a dark or mid-brown silty clay or a compact orange-brown silty sand or silty clay.

Monitoring identified five post-medieval drains or service chambers, including two bricked arched drains at the north end of Dublin Street and a brick service chamber on Kennedy Street. The network of 18th- and 19th-century stone drains in Carlow town have been recorded during previous archaeological investigations in the town, principally during the Carlow Main Drainage Scheme and along Tullow Street in June and July 2018.

Small areas of cobble stone were also exposed 1-1.15m below the surface at the intersection of Dublin Street/Burrin Street with Kennedy Street/Kennedy Avenue. A single clay pipe stem fragment was found on the surface of cobble stones 1.15m below the surface on the north side of the junction of Dublin Street and Kennedy Street, suggesting a post-medieval date. The mains pipe was installed above the exposed cobbled surfaces, leaving the surfaces in situ.

In line with all previous excavations in the town, no evidence of the medieval town defences on Dublin Street/Burrin Street or on Brown Street was exposed.