# Black Friary Archaeological and Community Report 2016

Irish Archaeology Field School

Blackfriary Community Heritage and Archaeology Project

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## Summary

This interim report details the fifth and sixth seasons of excavation at Black Friary, Blackfriary townland in Trim Co, Meath which took place in 2014-2016. The excavations at Black Friary, a Dominican Friary founded in 1263, which is in the ownership of the County Council and is a monument protected by Preservation Order (No. 4 of 1972) under the National Monuments Acts, were carried out under ministerial consent C420 issued to Trim Town Council. An excavation recording number E4127 was issued by the National Museum for recording to Finola O'Carroll.

Works prior to 2014 have been extensively reported previously in an interim report (O' Carroll 2014). Since 2014 a further two cuttings, 11 and 12 were opened, while Cutting 6 was extensively extended. A programme of archaeological testing was also undertaken over the eastern half of the Black Friary site. In 2015 a programme of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and geophysical survey, complemented the post-graduate research of Ms. Ashely Green, were also completed over much of the friary remains, as well as along the southern boundary of the Black Friary site.

The objectives over the last two years were to locate and explore the east range and then explore the extent of the Chapter House contained within it; locate the southern limits of the cemetery and the line of the town wall or boundary; examine the western extent of the nave; examine the construction of the south aisle; and assess the structure of the cloister wall. Thus Cutting 6, previously reported on and which focused on the NE corner of the cloister, was extensively enlarged to the south and east. Locating the line of the town wall, which is believed to form the southern boundary to the site, was addressed by opening Cuttings 11 and 12, and these also aided understanding the spatial relationship between the cemetery, which lies to the south of the church and the church itself. The west end of the nave and the south aisle were the focus of work in Cuttings 9 and 10 and burials at the northern extent of the cemetery were excavated here. Cuttings 5 and 8 exposed the SW corner and part of the western line of the cloister wall. Limited work continued in Cutting 3, located within the nave of the church just west of the chancel arch, specifically to complete work on previously identified burials.

## Acknowledgements

Our research at the Black Friary site would not be possible without the support of a number of statutory bodies and universities - as well as of course our fantastic students and staff!

The excavations are actively supported by Meath County Council (MCC), the landowners of the Black Friary field. MCC have facilitated access to the site and provided continued financial and logistical support. Thank you to everyone at MCC, but in particular the County Manager Jackie Maguire and the Heritage Officer, Dr. Loreto Guinan, whose ongoing support has been critical to the success of our project. We would like to acknowledge the support of Meath County Council in providing funding for radiocarbon dating. We would also like to acknowledge the support of statutory bodies, the National Monuments Section (NMS), National Museum of Ireland (NMI) and Office of Public Works (OPW).

Many specialists have contributed to the analyses of the Black Friary collection. Faunal bones are being examined by Dr. Fiona Beglane; initial conservation work on stained glass and painted plaster was undertaken by Sylwia Bronchard; Mr. Rolly Read, Head of Collections (formerly Head of Conservation) NMI provided advice and practical support in regard to block-lifting the stained glass in lead cames, while the wider collection of stained glass is currently being conserved by Dr. Jane Henderson and Phil Parkes in Cardiff University; finally Susannah Kelly provides continued support in the conservation of individual artefacts – frequently at short notice!

The excavations would of course not be possible without the participation of all our partner institutions/organisations and the fabulous students who attend every year: thank you for all your hard work! These students have been supervised by our wonderful staff (volunteers, part-time and full-time alike who are listed below) – many thanks for your continued professionalism and enthusiasm.

Finally greatest thanks are reserved for our wonderful host community in Trim (there are far too many individuals to list). Your continued support is what makes the project so special!

**Supervisors who participated in the 2014/2015 seasons**

Laura Corrway

Dr. Dara Fleming Farrell

Joanne Gaffrey

Ian Kinch

Mark McConnon

Destiny Micklin

Julie Rossi

Aoife Torpey

## Naming the place and the project

Dominican friars frequently were known as Black Friars after the black cloak or *cappa* worn by them, and their convents became popularly styled as Black Friary or Black Abbey. In Trim the townland where the friary is located was called Blackfriary. However the site is marked on the Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, and in official documentation, as Black Friary. The wider community project surrounding the excavations at the site is known ? as BCHAP - Blackfriary Community Heritage and Archaeology Project. Hence Black Friary is used throughout this report when referring to the site, while Blackfriary is preferred when referring to either the townland or wider community project.

# Section 1

# Archaeological Report

Finola O'Carroll and Dr. Denis Shine

## Introduction

The IAFS are conducting a research and teaching excavation in the Black Friary, Trim, Co. Meath. The site (ME038-048023; Figure 1.1), is in the ownership of Meath County Council to whom Ministerial Consent (C420/E4127) has been issued (with Finola O' Carroll as nominated archaeologist) under the National Monuments Act 1930-2004. This report constitutes a Preliminary report under the terms of that act.

Following excavations in Trim carried out over several years (from 2003 – 2008) by CRDS Ltd in Trim, which led to the publication of a monograph, Uncovering Medieval Trim (Potterton and Seaver 2009), the IAFS, set up as part of CRDS in 2005, decided to undertake a teaching excavation at the site of the Dominican Friary, or Black Friary, in Trim. It is intended to run this excavation as both a research and teaching excavation and a public archaeology project with the involvement of those in the community who are interested in the work and in the future use of the site. There are no upstanding remains of the friary buildings above ground. A few large pieces of collapsed masonry are visible, otherwise the site consists of a large (2.4ha/5.9 acre) grassy field with noticeable hummocks and hollows. Its present state is principally as a result of the systematic quarrying of the site for building stone in the mid-eighteenth century.

To date, parts of the church, cloister and west, north and east ranges have been uncovered. The remains of at least 106 individuals comprising infants, juveniles, sub-adults and adults have been found, predominantly within the nave of the church but also in the cloister garth and ambulatory. In addition a significant quantity of disarticulated human bone (DHB) has been recovered, mostly in the area of the nave in Cutting 3. Excavations have also taken place to the south of the church (Cuttings 10, 11 and 12) to examine the friary cemetery and the southern boundary of the Black Friary site, which may have significance to the medieval enclosure of Trim (see below). Previous work in the vicinity of the site carried out by Matthew Seaver for CRDS (Consent No. C150, Registration No. E2398) uncovered the remains of a backfilled well into which a later burial had been cut, as well as the remains of up to ten other inhumations dating to the High Medieval period. One of these burials was subjected to radiocarbon dating and returned a result of AD 1390 – 1530 (dates listed here and throughout are at 95.4% probability). It is thought that these burials constitute part of the cemetery associated with the Black Friary and they lie to the southwest of the site under discussion, now in a lane adjacent to the site and parallel to the Kells Road. This suggests that the cemetery extended beyond the present bounds of the site and suggest that the Kells Road itself may have marked the western limit of the friary precinct.

## Site Location

The site is located in Blackfriary townland on the northern side of the River Boyne in Trim, County Meath (NGR 280225, 257359). It is bounded to the west by houses which front onto the Kells Road, and to the north, east and south by housing and by SuperValu also on the south side. It lies approximately 200m to the north east of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Trim, which is located on the highest point in the town close to the river. The line of the town wall is believed to coincide approximately with the present southern boundary and would have formed the southern line of the precinct as the Kells Road would have formed the western line.

## Date and Circumstances of Fieldwork

In each of the years 2014 and 2015 excavations continued at the site for between 12 and 16 weeks at a time. Fieldwork took place during the months of May to September, and students from a number of countries, as well as some local people, were involved.

In January 2016 IAFS launched their first ever winter season, when students from America and Australia excavated at the site for a period of four weeks. This will be reported on with the remainder of the 2016 season. IAFS now maintain a year round presence on the site conducting post-excavation and reporting work.

## Geology and Topography

### Solid Geology and Soils

The site is located in an area of Carboniferous Age rocks. The bedrock under the site consists of Lower Carboniferous Age sandstones and limestone. These rocks represent the northward return of the sea at the end of the Devonian, *c.* 360 million years ago, owing to the opening of a new ocean to the south called the Palaeo-Tethys in what is now central Europe.

### Topography and Landscape

Blackfriary is located on a slight elevation at about 62.6m O.D. The terrain falls to the south of the Black Friary into Trim town towards the flat floodplain of the River Boyne. The exception is the knoll on which St Patricks Cathedral sits at 63m O.D. At the time the friary was built the highest point in the site would have been approximately 62.3m OD; today, the rubble build-up on the site brings the modern maximum height to 63m OD. The Black Friary site is currently located within a large field bounded to the north and east by houses built in the 1980s. To the west it is bounded by County Council houses built during the 1930s and to the south by Supervalu supermarket and further houses from the 1980s. The field is the property of the state and in the ownership of the County Council. The laneway to the east of the County Council houses is managed by Trim Town Council. The site occupies an area of about 2.4 hectares, which is now in uncultivated grass. A distinctive bank and ditch runs north to south through the centre of the site, turning west at its northern end. This demarcates the friary buildings from the remainder of the associated land and may mark the east and north line of the original precinct with the remaining area east of the friary buildings being occupied by associated small fields or kitchen gardens. A stream runs from the northwest end of the site east and south to the Boyne; it has been culverted and re-aligned into nearby field boundaries. The topography suggests that this may originally have run through the site and was possibly managed as a water-supply for the friary.

# Archaeological and Historical Background

## Prehistoric Period(s)

There are no prehistoric monuments situated within a 1km radius of Trim. However recorded finds from the vicinity provide some record of human activity in the Neolithic and the Bronze Age.

Two stone axeheads (NMI: 1881 431 and NMI 1929:1593) were recovered in the vicinity of Trim. A number of Bronze Age artefacts have been discovered in the vicinity of the town. The closest recorded monument of prehistoric date is the tumulus (ME036:037) located in Dogstown (third division).

Excavations by Mandy Stephens and Finola O'Carroll in the green space to the south of the castle uncovered a number of deposits in peaty soils. One of these deposits contained a number of pig bones, identified as the forelimbs, and these were dated to 370-110 BC, (O'Carroll and Stephens 2007; Beglane 2009).

## Early Medieval Period (AD 500-1170)

The name Trim is derived from the Irish "*Ath Truim"* meaning "*the ford of the elder tree*" (Herity, 2001, 67). This suggests the location had strategic importance as a crossing point of the Boyne from an early period. The *Book of Armagh* refers to an established settlement and the fortified royal residence (probable ringfort) of *Cenél Lóeguire Breg* located in Trim prior to the establishment of the monastery. The exact location is not known but was probably sited close to a fording point (Hennessy, 2004, 1). Hennessy suggests two possible locations for the ford; where Watergate St. meets the Boyne and the later medieval bridge linking High St. to Market St. and Castle St. The Boyne would have been wider and shallower in the early medieval and possibly extended as far south as Market St. (Hennessy, 2004, 1).

The founding of the monastic settlement is ascribed to St. Loman and the foundation legend of Trim is documented in the *Book of Armagh.* The *Book of Armagh* suggests the royal residence was granted to the church and used as the site of a monastic settlement. The royal residence was relocated across the river to a site at *Cluain Lagen* (Hennessy, 2004, 1). Annalistic references to the church record the death of the Abbot of Trim, *Cormac mac Colmáin*, in 746. The *mac Colmáins* formed a local ecclesiastical dynasty in the eighth century, controlling the abbacy.

The surviving references in the book of Armagh suggest that the church of Trim may have been founded as early as the fifth century - before the founding of the church of Armagh (Byrne, 1984, 316-319). The successors of St. Loman were variously described as Abbots or Bishops until the diocese of Trim was united with the diocese of Meath in 1152 (Lewis, 1837, II, 643).

It has been suggested that the curving street pattern formed by High Street and Navan Gate Street may represent the vestigial remnants of the early monastic boundary. However, Hennessy disputes this theory and suggests two more likely locations: at St. Patricks Cathedral, or east of the cathedral centred around Haggard St. (Hennessy, 2004, 1). The street pattern of the town, north of the Boyne, is unusual in a medieval town, being irregular and may represent settlement outside a monastic enclosure in the early medieval period (Hennessy, 2004, 3).

There are a number of later Annalistic references to the monastery. These record the burning and partial destruction of the monastery in 784 and 1128, and further attacks in 1143 and 1155 (Bradley, 1989, 41).

Excavations carried out in the vicinity of St. Patrick's Cathedral uncovered a number of burials, (Kieran 2009) one of which has been dated to AD 780-1030 (ibid, 80). Burials were uncovered on Loman Street close to St. Patrick's Cathedral during works related to the Trim Street Restoration Project (Seaver et al 2009) and one burial was dated to AD 540-640 (Potterton and Seaver 2009, 54).

The later adaptation of Trim as the centre of a Norman lordship reflects common themes in the pattern of Norman colonization – the utilization of pre-existing church and monastic sites as foci for nucleated settlement, and the establishment of fortified centres situated at strategically significant major river crossings (Graham, 1976, 38-46). At the time of the arrival of the Normans in Ireland monastic centres such as Trim had to some extent taken on the function of nucleated settlements.

## Late Medieval and Post-Medieval Periods (AD 1170-1900)

### *The establishment of de Lacy Power*

After the Norman invasion of Ireland the entire "Liberty of Meath" was granted to a marcher Lord – Hugh de Lacy - by Henry II. The original "Liberty of Meath" originated in the early medieval territory of *Midhe* and included not only the present county of Meath but also Westmeath and parts of Longford and Offaly (Graham, 1974, 40).

De Lacy divided Meath into a number of smaller units, which were divided amongst nine major sub-tenants. For himself he retained large areas of Eastmeath (the modern county of Meath) focused around a number of Seignorial manors including: Trim, Ratoath, Dunshaughlin, Kells, Clonard, Duleek and Drogheda. These mottes were focused primarily on the location of major river crossings, defensible sites and on pre-existing church and monastic sites. The Boyne River itself – an important line of communication - also served as a focus for colonization. Trim fulfilled all of these criteria (Graham, 1974, 38-46).

### *The early growth of Trim*

Trim became the centre of the new lordship of Meath and a ringwork castle was constructed on the site of the present stone castle sometime before 1174. The construction of this first fortification is described in "*The song of Dermot and the Earl*" (Bradley, 1989, 42). Excavations on the site of the present castle carried out by Alan Hayden in 1995 revealed evidence of this earlier fortification - consisting of the remains of a ringwork with an earthen bank, timber palisade and an external ditch (Hayden, 2011). The ringwork was attacked and destroyed by Ruaidri Ua Conchobair – king of Connacht in 1174, and refortified the following year (Bradley, 1989, 42). Upon de Lacy's return to Ireland in 1175 work began on the stone castle at Trim (Dúchas, 2002, 13-14). When de Lacy was killed in 1186 the Lordship of Meath passed temporarily into the control of the Crown, as Hugh's son - Walter de Lacy - was too young to assume control of the lordship until 1189. Henry II even considered putting the young Prince John directly in control of Meath (Hillaby, 1992-3, 5).

The town of Trim was established as a borough by Walter de Lacy in the early phases of the conquest - in the period between 1194 and 1199. The documentary evidence points to the existence of burgages and burgesses in Trim before 1188, suggesting the grant extended privileges to the members of an established Anglo-Norman settlement, rather than being just a speculative grant designed to attract settlement to a non-existent borough (MacNiocaill, 1985, 374-5).

The town had a clearly laid out municipal structure allowing for a degree of self-government. Town officials included a portreeve (mayor), a recorder, a town clerk and two sergeants at arms. The portreeve also functioned as a justice of the peace. (Lewis 1837, II, 644).

The town grew rapidly - due to its dual function as a commercial and administrative centre for the new lordship. It functioned as a market centre - agricultural produce gathered there from the surrounding areas, both for processing and transport to the ports; at a time when the Norman colonization brought about a rapid increase in the production of grain for an overseas market. The river Boyne was navigable as far as Trim, and the town constituted one of a network of towns on the Boyne providing the infrastructure for the increasing volumes of agricultural produce.

The town was likely to have been divided into commercial/manufacturing areas, i.e. Fishamble St. (now Abbey Lane) is the probable location of the fish market (Hennessy, 2004, 3; Potterton, 2005, 157).

***The history of the town in the late medieval period***

The town is rich in surviving medieval structures – many of which date from the 13th century, indicating the wealth and expansion of the borough during this period. St Patrick's church (ME036:019) – now the cathedral for the Church of Ireland diocese of Meath - may be of pre-Norman origin and is likely to have been the site of the early monastic settlement. The church may have functioned as the parish church although that function was claimed by the Augustinian house of St. Mary's 'from time immemorial'. Potterton (2005, 267) notes that the records show that St. Patrick's was recognised as the parish church, although a rector was often absent. Excavations undertaken as part of the Trim Street Restoration project (see section 3.6 below) uncovered skeletal remains in Loman Street immediately outside St. Patrick's; one skeleton was radiocarbon dated to AD 430 – 640, 2 sigma (Potterton and Seaver 2009, 54), from which it can be inferred that a burial ground of that date is most likely associated with the monastic foundation credited to St. Loman. The Dominican Friary (ME036:021), the subject of this report, was founded by Geoffrey de Geneville in 1263. It was located immediately north of the town near the Athboy gate. A complex of earthworks occupies the site, which illustrate the extent of the original buildings (Bradley, 1989, 43).

A Franciscan friary (ME036:024) was located on the site of the existing courthouse. This foundation may have been established in the first half of the 13th century. Recent excavations on Castle Street have turned up human remains, which appear to relate to this foundation. The friary passed out of use in the 16th century and a courthouse was built on the site – replaced by the existing courthouse in 1805 (Bradley, 1989, 43).

St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey – an important religious foundation - was located on the north bank of the Boyne (ME036:021), and was probably founded in the 13th century. The remains, consisting of the south and east walls of the tower, are known today as "the yellow steeple" (Bradley, 1989, 43).

The 13th century also saw the town grow beyond the defences. Emmet St., outside the Dublin Gate and the area outside the Navan Gate have been identified as possible suburbs (Hennessy, 2004, 3).

Walter de Lacy died in 1241 and his extensive holdings were ultimately divided between his two granddaughters – Matilda and Margaret. Matilda – who was granted Trim and half of the de Lacy estates - married Geoffrey de Geneville, a French noble. The castle was renovated during his tenure and in 1290 de Geneville received the right to carry out a murage toll to build defences around the Castle and town (a murage grant was paid or extracted from the citizenry of a town for the maintenance of a town wall). This appears to be the earliest documentary reference to the enclosure of the town. Trim was the only Meath town apart from Drogheda to receive murage before the end of the 14th century (Thomas, 1992, 196) After de Geneville retired from public life (he entered the Dominican Priory of St. Mary's in Trim) his estates passed to his son-in-law - Roger Mortimer, Earl of March. The estates remained within the Mortimer family for 120 years, though for much of this time the family did not occupy it.

Fourteenth century Trim saw the Bruce invasion, poor harvests, famine, the Black Death, the destruction of the Franciscan Friary by the great Boyne flood, St. Mary's (Augustinian) Abbey by fire and the encroachment of the Gaelic enemies. The town defences were in disrepair (Hennessy, 2004).

Roger Mortimer, great great grandson of Roger Mortiner, son-in-law of Geoffrey de Geneville, accompanied King Richard II on his Irish expedition of 1394 and remained behind – taking up residence in Trim. He was granted a licence to impose tolls on all goods entering the town for the purpose of "*surrounding the town of Trim with a stone wall, paving it anew, improving the town, and in repressing the adjacent enemies and rebels"*. The town defences (ME036:028, ME036:047) enclose an area of 49

acres and have a circumference of 2km. (Bradley 1989, 43). The existing town walls appear to date from the late 14th and early 15th centuries (Dúchas, 2002, 70).

***The late medieval to post-medieval period***

The castle was unoccupied and neglected during the first half of the 15th century – due to the minority of Edmund Mortimer - fifth Earl of March. Edmund came to Ireland as the King's Lieutenant in 1424 but died in 1425. His death signalled the end of the Mortimer family's tenure of Trim - his estates were broken up and the castle passed into the hands of Richard of York. The castle was partially refortified by Richard in his role as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1449. After the defeat of the Yorkist Cause during the Wars of the Roses, Trim castle passed into the royal estates (Dúchas, 2002, 18-29).

The castle was held by Silken Thomas of the Fitzgerald family during the Geraldine rebellion against the Crown of 1534, and only delivered into the hands of the English through the treachery of its commander – Christopher Parese (Evans, Irish Builder, 1886, 34).

A brief description of the town survives from 1584, when the parson of Trim – Robert Draper - was advocating the establishment of a University in Trim, indicating its size and wealth: "…*The towne itselfe is full of very faire castles and stone houses, builded after the Englishe fashion, and devyded into five faire streetes*" (Byrne, 2004, 277).

In 1624 the "*scite and manor of Trym, surrounded with a stone wall, and containing therein three acres, divers houses and gardens, haggards &c., in Trym*" was granted to Adam Loftus. The deed mentions 12 cottages, 2 shops and a range of lands and agricultural yields from the hinterland of the town (Evans 1886, 30-35).

The Confederate and Cromwellian wars of the seventeenth century (1641-52) caused widespread devastation throughout Ireland, with a drastic drop in population and the destruction of the country's economic base. Trim was of considerable strategic significance – providing a strongpoint for the defence of the Pale (Dublin and its immediate hinterland, which was the centre of English power in Ireland). Trim was first captured by the rebels during the Gaelic insurrection of 1641. It was recaptured from the rebels by an English force under the command of Sir Charles Coote in May 1642. Coote was killed shortly afterwards and Sir Richard Grenville assumed command of the town. Grenville became Governor of Trim, established a substantial military base, and carried out a brutal series of raids on the surrounding areas (Miller, 1973, 63-66). However he was careful to prevent harm to Trim itself and its immediate hinterland - this may explain why Trim itself survived the wars relatively intact. The castle was refortified by Colonel Fenwicke in 1647. It was briefly captured by the Royalists in 1649, and shortly afterwards captured by the Cromwellian forces – the Royalists fleeing without destroying the fortifications as they had been ordered – leaving the walls and castles intact (Kelly 2005, 67-71).

The Civil Survey (1654-56) gives a brief description of the town – itemising the various buildings still intact: 74 tenements and 9 houses are listed. Six of the tenements were in the possession of the "The towne of Trim". The major landholders are the Earl of Roscommon and the "*Lord Ranallah"* (Ranelagh) (Simington 1940, V, 249-250). The Downe Survey of 1656 – a cartographic source depicting forfeited estates along with written descriptions - mentions two intact gates – the Navan gate and the Dublin Gate. It also describes the buildings in the town as "*lowe, Strong and Decent*" and mentions a "*markett on Satterday every weeke which affords Provisions, good store of yarne and cloth*."

Though Trim declined in significance in the post-medieval period, the town was "*still a place of considerable importance*" in 1837, containing 570 houses - "many of which are neatly built…a small flour-mill, a brewery, and a tannery", and with a population of 3282 (Lewis 1837, II, 644).

## Previous Excavations (Trim Street Reconstruction Project)

Excavations in recent years on the Trim Street Reconstruction Project by CRDS Ltd. have recovered a wealth of archaeological remains. Excavations under ministerial consent C121/139, E2016 uncovered two major sites (Stephens 2009). On the Castle Lawn the remains of the former course of the Leper river were uncovered. They contained deposits of animal bone which may have been the result of ritual feasting and were radiocarbon dated to the earlier Iron Age. A series of inhumations were uncovered cut into these peaty deposits and dated to between the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries. Part of the castle moat was also revealed. On Emmet St. a series of houses fronting on to the street with pits, wells and surfaces to the rear dated to between the thirteenth and sixteenth century was excavated. This indicates a significant suburb outside the Dublin Gate.

Excavations and monitoring under ministerial consent C150/E2398 revealed a further series of sites (Seaver 2008, 2009, Shine 2007). To the north of the river excavations at Athboy Gate uncovered a large ditch and a stone structure. This is likely to be the gate structure. Deposits within were dated to the thirteenth-fourteenth century. Monitoring on Haggard St/High St. uncovered metalled street surfaces with overlying organic deposits. At Navan Gate a medieval ditch was found bordering the street in the area outside the line of walls known as Greek Park.

## Archaeological Background of the Friary

The Black or Dominican Friary at Trim was founded by Geoffrey de Geneville, Lord of Trim, in 1263 (Potterton 2005, 319). He had inherited the title by marrying Matilda, the granddaughter of Walter de Lacy, and controlled a wide area known as the Liberty of Trim. De Geneville spent his final years at the Friary and was buried there in 1314. The Dominican order had arrived in Ireland in 1224 (Ó Clabaigh 2012, 9), less than ten years after it was founded in France where the first Dominican house was established for women, former Alibigensians, in 1206 by a Spaniard, Dominic Guzman; then a religious community (male) was established following the rule of St. Augustine in 1214 and was approved by Pope Honorius III in 1216. However, this was relatively late in terms of religious foundations in Ireland as the Augustinians and Cistercians had been in the country since the mid- twelfth century. In accordance with their stated mission to preach they sought to found religious houses in Irish medieval towns in the thirteenth century (Barry 1987, 159), but due to their relatively late arrival and the nature of their ministry they were primarily granted sites outside towns. The house at Trim was probably dedicated to St Mary of the Assumption. The friary was of considerable importance and was the location for a meeting of Irish bishops which took place at the Friary in 1291 and indicates the status of the institution. The Archbishop of Armagh held a visitation in the guesthouse in 1367. The Black Friary was the location for Parliamentary meetings in 1446 and 1491 (Hennessey 2004, 10). The friary had fallen into disrepair by 1540 and the hall, dormitory and kitchen were considered beyond repair. The friary was suppressed in 1540 with the church cloister, chancel and other properties being sold to the Bishop of Meath. It also noted a 4 acre orchard, garden and cemetery and a 3 acre close of pasture land beside the wall of the house. 3 houses and gardens were also located within. A belfry, chapter house, dormitory, hall, three chambers, a kitchen, a pantry and a stable are mentioned in 1541. They also held 72 acres of total estate land. A friary was re-established in 1630, although it is unclear how long the friars stayed in Trim, before being transferred to Donore in 1713 (Hennessey 2004, 11).

Much of the building stone was sold during the eighteenth century. The site consists of 2.4ha with heavily overgrown areas of masonry. It is enclosed by a double bank and ditch as south and east. The Friary was situated outside the walls and the Athboy Gate was previously known as the Black gate. It was first referred to in a property transaction as the *Bl'aac'zhat*, in 1532. In 1616 a property was mentioned as being near Blackgate a name derived from the fact that it allowed access to the medieval Dominican friary known as the Black Friary (Potterton 2005, 183-4). Properties 'without the north gate' are mentioned in 1571 (Ibid, 200).

In 1988 geophysical survey was carried out by Professor William Kennedy of Florida Atlantic University which suggested a layout for the friary buildings. The team from Florida originally planned further work in the field but due to logistical reasons this never took place.

Recent work by Matthew Seaver of CRDS Ltd. carried out as part of the Trim Street Restoration Project (TSRP, under Ministerial Consent no. 150) uncovered burials in the adjacent Railway Lane (Seaver and Kelly, 2009). This has helped to establish the position of the burial ground associated with the Blackfriary. Monitoring of drain-laying on the laneway demonstrated that this cemetery did not extend to the west and northwest of the friary buildings. The burial ground was located to the southwest of the friary buildings, and must have extended as far as the town wall at the back of what is now Supervalu. Its eastern extent is unknown. The presence in this area of settlement-related features, such as a well, suggests that burial must have expanded into this area due to pressure for space.

The articulated skeletons, as well as the disarticulated bone, indicate that at least eleven burials took place in this restricted area. The violent nature of pathologies observed by the osteologist on site associated with two of the articulated burials indicates considerable conflict taking place during this period. It is likely that at least one of these young men was involved in fighting on more than one occasion. Political conflict and violent incidents within and outside the town were rife during this period (Potterton 2005, 113, 137). Indeed, in one of these incidents a man begged indulgence from the pope for striking in the head with a sword an individual who was allegedly plundering the town. Burials 2, 3 and 4 all appear to be within a single grave fill, possibly suggesting that they were buried at the same time (Seaver et al, 2009).

## Archaeological Excavations

### Introduction: Progress of the Excavations 2014-2015

The focus of work over the past two seasons has been on extending our understanding of the friary buildings, their layout, size, phasing and the extent to which they survive; examining a sample of burials within the cemetery, as well as continuing to work on those found within the church; exploring the southern boundary of the site; assessing the extent of archaeological remains within the fields to the east of the friary remains and assessing the post-medieval to modern uses of the site.

Work in Cuttings 5, 6 and 8 further clarified questions relating to the cloister wall, arcade and ambulatory. Work in Cuttings 9 and 10 focused on examining the structure of the nave and south aisle and their phasing. The burials within the church we examined in Cuttings 3 and 9 and burials in the cemetery in Cuttings 10 – 12. Investigations in the east range were the focus of work in Cutting 6, which also straddles part of the cloister and ambulatory on its west side and the gardens to the side of the friary on its east.

Cuttings 5, 8, 11 and 12 have been finalised; Cutting 9 will be finalised this year and work in Cuttings 3, 6 and 10 will continue for this coming season at least.

### Archaeological Stratigraphic Description

***Cutting 1***

No excavation work has been undertaken in Cutting 1 since the production of the last interim report (see O' Carroll 2014). The cutting has since been fully backfilled as part of the site amenity works (Section 3).

### *Cutting 2*

No excavation work has been undertaken in Cutting 2 since the production of the last interim report (see O' Carroll 2014). The cutting has since been partially backfilled until excavation recommences.

### *Cutting 3*

During the past two seasons very limited excavation has taken place in Cutting 3. This has focused on excavating burials which for the most part had been identified in the 2013 season. This resulted in the excavation of eight burials over these two seasons, all but one of which came from the east side of the possible rood screen, **F328**, described in the previous report.

- Burial 25 cut **[F382],** fill **383**, Adult; skull and torso only excavated, remainder beneath east baulk of Cutting 3
- Burial 77 cut [**F386**], fill **F387**; Adult; left arm overlaps right arm of B79; feet and right tibia and fibula are missing
- Burial 79 cut [**F390**], fill **F391**; Adult; right arm, ribs, pelvis and femur missing; left leg missing
- Burial 84 cut [**F390**], fill **F391**; Juvenile; directly overlay B79, skull where femur would have been
- Burial 85 cut [**F394**], fill **F395**; Infant; to west of rood screen, skull and right side of torso missing
- Burial 89 cut [**F396**], fill **F397**; Adult; skull only excavated as the remainder extends beneath the east baulk of Cutting 3
- Burial 90 cut [**F398**], fill **F399**; Adult; skull lay beneath the legs of B77 and B79; clavicle and scapula missing on right side, skull tilted out of place, some cervical vertebrae missing/disturbed
- Burial 99 cut [**F3100**], fill **F3101**; Adult; five nails were recovered along the left side between elbow and knee

There is clear evidence for inter-cutting of burials. Several burials are missing significant elements (see Fig. 2.1, B79). While there are notable quantities of disarticulated bone, particularly in the area to the east of the rood screen, there are also indications that bones have been deliberately lifted rather than just being displaced (Fig. 2.2). A number of long-bones were displaced and deliberately arranged together. They lay to the north of B77 and south of B32 and may have been moved and re-arranged during the digging of either grave.

In the case of the infant burial to the west of the rood screen, B85, a number of ribs on the right side were found pushed downwards, suggesting a later cut which displaced the bones (Fig. 2.3). The burial was located on the north edge of a stone scatter, **F388**, which contained mortar fragments also, and appeared to lie beneath it. Patches of re-deposited natural (**F349, F385**) were noted in this area and in the area of the rood screen.

B90 was probably disturbed when B79 and / or B84 were inserted. The lower legs of B90 extend beneath the east baulk of the cutting and were left in situ.

While the density of burial noted in the area east of the rood screen appears greater than that to the west, stacking and inter-cutting of burial occur in both areas. The full depth of burial deposits has not yet been clarified in either area and this will be the focus of the coming season's work.

In the previous seasons a number of burials had been excavated from within a wall tomb **F327**, inserted into the north wall of the church. This had also functioned as an ossuary as there was a considerable deposit of human bone (principally long bones and skulls) overlying the primary burial, termed OSB3, and beneath what appeared to be a final inhumation, B6. The latter was only represented by a pair of articulated lower legs and feet as the remainder had been disturbed during quarrying of the church. Both inhumations, OSB3 and B6 were dated.

*Table 1.1: Radiocarbon dates from Cutting 3 at the Black Friary. Calibration after OxCal 4.1 (Bronk Ramsay 2009) using the IntCal09 dataset (Reimer, Baillie et al. 2009) **

| Laboratory Code | Material | Burial No. | δ C13 (‰) | Radiocarbon Age (BP) | Calibrated Age (95.4% Probability) (cal BC/AD) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wk-42072 | Human bone | 6 | * | 362 ± 20 | AD 1450-1640 |
| Wk-42077 | Human bone | OSB 3 | * | 625 ± 20 | AD 1290-1400 |

* Please note: The Carbon-13 stable isotope value (δ13C) was measured on prepared graphite using the AMS spectrometer. The radiocarbon date has therefore been corrected for isotopic fractionation. However the AMS-measured δ13C value can differ from the δ13C of the original material and it is therefore not shown.

As can be seen from the dates returned, the burials bracket the use of this wall tomb, showing active use of it over a span of possibly 350 years. The calibrated date for B6 suggests that it is post 1500, and even as late as 1620, whereas OSB3 may date to the mid to late 14th century.

### *Cutting 4*

No excavation work has been undertaken in Cutting 4 since the production of the last interim report (see O' Carroll 2014). The cutting has since been fully backfilled as part of the site amenity works (Section 3).

### *Cutting 5*

Work continued and was completed during the 2014 season in Cutting 5 in order to clarify the construction techniques and sequence of the cloister wall and associated buttress and to expose the ambulatory in this area. The full extent of Cutting 5 was 8m N/S by 4m E/W. It had been extended from the original 4m x 5m cutting in 2013. The cloister wall, **F503** and associated buttress, **F504** was already exposed and described in the previous (2013) report. Also described was the post-medieval pathway F508, which incorporated several large pieces of worked Purbeck marble believed to have derived from the original arcade of the cloister. At that time it was not clear if the original surface of the ambulatory survived. A burial, B65, had been excavated from within the cloister garth and further investigations in the garth within this cutting was undertaken to ascertain if there were any other burials and to assess whether a pit feature previously noted in the adjoining cutting, Cutting 8, **F823**, continued into Cutting 5.

This final stage of excavation revealed a massive stepped foundation to the buttress **F504**, a sequence of pits possibly dug for clay extraction, the surface of the ambulatory and a possibly re-built section of the cloister wall. **F524** which runs N/S through the cutting.

*Medieval*

The first feature in a sequence of cuts excavated within the cloister garth was **[F530]**. This was a pit dug to contain the foundation levels of the buttress F504 (Fig. 2.4). It was contained within the SW corner of the cloister wall F503/F524 and was 2.16m N/S and 1.9m E/W. It was dug into the natural subsoil to a depth of at least .5m below the level of the base of the wall F503, which is at approximately 61.95m OD; the lowest reading possible to take on the exposed cut was 61.46m OD. At its northern side the cut was stepped, at the southern it not fully exposed beneath the edge of the cutting. The cut did not continue beneath the cloister wall, but instead was cut vertically in line with the inner eastern and northern faces of the wall. Filling the base of the cut was a pad of mortar with stones in it which served as a foundation layer for the succeeding two foundation steps of the buttress which were built on it, and which stepped in slightly from each edge. The lowest step was 1.12m E/W by 1.08 N/S; the second step was 1m square and the third step, which would have been the lowest visible course of the buttress, survives as a

collection of large stones in the SW corner, with the facing stones robbed out. These steps were built into the corner of the cloister wall. Each course is approximately .2m deep. The cut was filled by **F511**, a dark brown clayey silt which contained crushed slate and mortar and which covered the mortar pad and the abutted the foundation steps. This lay beneath the dense layer of slate **F507** which probably represented a roof collapse. The fill **F511**, was found to contain some animal bone, a piece of lead but also a fragment of a slightly ovoid rather than circular Purbeck marble column. The fill **F511** extended over the surface of Cutting 5 to the east of the cloister wall **F524** and north of **F503**. It may represent a layer which sealed the surface of the cloister garth.

The north edge of this foundation cut **[F530]** was cut by **[F526]** which lies to the east of the N/S wall **F503**. . This was a sub-square pit 2.4m E/W by 2.28m N/S. It was cut into the natural subsoil and it was a wide u-shaped cut with a gradual break of slope at both top and base. The slope of the sides was concave and the base was also concave. The south edge truncated **[F530].** The east extent of the pit extends under the edge of the cutting. This pit was then filled with **F529,** light to mid brown silt of moderate compaction. Some large stones and occasional slate fragments were included within the fill. The stones were concentrated in the west side of the fill with more slate to the east. The average size of stone was 15cm x 10cm.

Subsequently this pit and its fill were cut by **[F527],** a sub-oval pit with a sharp break of slope and concave sides. The base of the cut was concave with a gradual break of slope. This pit extended north into Cutting 8 where it had previously been recorded as **[F823]**. The fill of the pit was almost entirely composed of broken slate, recorded as **F525** (Fig. 2.5). This feature was cut through the natural subsoil. Both of these pits and their fills were covered by **F511**, which also both filled and covered the foundation cut **[F530]** for the buttress **F504**. This layer, which was a dark brown clay rich silt with crushed mortar throughout (equal to **F513**), was found within the cloister garth and was up to .25m thick. It seemed to form a level surface within the garth.

To the west and south of the wall **F503 / F524** was the ambulatory, **F517**. This was composed of numerous small stones packed in to the clay beneath forming a level walking surface. In the previous seasons the overburden above this had been partly excavated and this had included a post-medieval trackway, **F508**, which was associated with the demolition of the friary. The surface was level, at an average height of 61.98m OD (Fig. 2.6).

*Post-medieval*

The layers and activity which occur above **F511 = F513** are believed to be post-medieval in date. In places a noticeable deposit of shattered slate **F507**, possibly deriving from the collapse of the roof of the cloister covered the levelling surface **F511**. Two burials, an adult, **B42** and a juvenile, **B65,** were uncovered at the north end of the cutting. The former was previously reported on, and it was noted that roof slates, possibly derived from collapse were incorporated within the grave fill (**F514).** The cut for the grave, **[F515],** was partly overlying partly cutting the edge of pit **[F526]**, and it overlay pit [**F527]**. The juvenile burial lay over part of the southern edge of **[F526]** and was cut through **F511**. It was in very poor condition and was very close to the modern surface.

The cloister wall, F503, appeared to have been re-built for a section along the N/S axis close to the SW corner and extending for 5.42m. The wall was poorly built and was sitting on and bonded by a layer of silty clay, **F528**. This did not appear to have much mortar within its makeup. A crude buttress like feature **F512**, was abutting the wall on its east face and may have been intended to support an unstable part of the wall. It included some worked Purbeck in it and this suggests that the cloister arcade had collapsed, at least in part, at this point.

***Cutting 6***

In 2014 Cutting 6 was greatly extended to facilitate exploration of the east range, with particular emphasis on the chapter house. The cutting is now 17m N/S by 20m E/W and is the largest cutting currently open on the site (Fig. 2.7). The NE corner of the cloister wall, recorded previously as **F604** and as **F617** in the extended area with associated buttress **F605=626** has been reported on previously. A small section of the metalled surface of the ambulatory **F606=619** was also exposed in previous seasons.

As this cutting is currently under investigation, and will be for some seasons to come, this is a summary interim report.

As now opened the cutting encompasses three main elements: at its west side is the cloister wall and ambulatory, in the centre the remains of the east range buildings and to the east are garden areas associated with the friary.

Work in this cutting initially involved removing topsoil **F601=612**, followed by removal of rubble layers **F602, 603, 608, 611, 613, 623** and **624.**

*Medieval*

Cloister

The cloister wall and buttress were described in the previous report. While part of the metalled surface of the ambulatory had been uncovered it has not yet been exposed over the remainder of the area within the cutting; a general deposit of light brown silty friable clay **F616**, covers the western part of the site and overlies, it is presumed, the ambulatory surface. This will be investigated further this coming season. An intact arch stone of Purbeck marble from the cloister arcade was uncovered within the rubble fill overlying the ambulatory. Pieces of column were also recovered.

East Range

The robbed out north south aligned walls of the east range were identified. The wall on the west side, **F620** was robbed out almost entirely but part remains visible at ground level in the northern end of the cutting. This was cut by robber trench **[F657]** and that was backfilled by **F615.** The wall on the east side, **F639** is also robbed out, but a robber trench and fill have not yet been isolated. Each wall is approximately .92m wide, or 3 feet, and the internal width of the east range was 7.27m, or 24 feet (Fig. 2.8). This means that the external width of the building would have been approximately 10m or 30 feet.

Internal divisions were recognised. The most significant is an E/W running wall **F614**, which appears to be the north wall of the chapter house. This is .92m wide and appears to extend from the junction with the west wall of the range, **F620**, eastwards for approximately 12m, though owing to the very poor condition of the wall at its eastern end, this has to be confirmed. This means that the chapter house would have projected east of the range itself.

On the north face of the wall at least two layers of painted plaster were uncovered covering the wall face. No decorative motifs were noted and it was a monochrome paint. This has been conserved in situ, but is very fragile.

On the south side of the wall F614 a potential step or bench **F644** was noted. This survives as a narrow low strip of wall whose south face is 1.6m from the south face of **F614.** A mortar footing **F647** abuts the south face of the chapter house wall and between is a mortar rich rubble fill **F645,** all of which seems to be a the remains of a pad to form a stepped bench, presumably to provide seating for the community in the chapter house itself. The width of the bench may indicate that it was a double step (Fig. 2.9).

At the north end of the range a number of internal walls were recognised. **F622** runs E/W and is clay bonded with remnants of lime mortar facing. Another wall, **F634** forms a right angle with E/W running wall **F636.** Abutting the west face of the junction of these two walls, which join at the south end of **F634**,

are the remains of a flight of stone steps, **F635**. Three steps survive and they are 1.01m in width (Fig. 2.10). As these are not bonded into **F634** it is possible that the stairs suggest the addition of an upper storey at a later stage in the development of the friary. To the north of the stairs **F635** and wall **F634**, and west of wall **F622** is an area of bonded stone **F642** which is thicker than other walls, and which may have formed a support for either a wooden or stone staircase. Between the stairs and this plinth four postholes have been uncovered: cut [**F649],** fill **F650**, cut **[F651]**, fill **F652**, cut **[F653]**, fill **F654** and cut **[F655]**, fill **F656**. Posthole **[F651]**, lay to the east of **[F653]**, which was mid-way in a N/S line formed by it and the remaining two postholes. Their function is unknown. A mortar rich deposit, **F658** may have been cut by the postholes.

A possible remnant of the original stone flagged floor in the north end of the east range was uncovered, **F659**. These lay at the east end of wall F636, and only a small amount was revealed. An area of mortar rich soil, possibly a sub-floor, lies beside and to the NW of the flagstones.

Garden walls and soils

The area to the east of the east range would most likely have been given over to gardens, and a series of E/W running linear banks, visible in the Lidar image (see Fig 1.1) may be remnant walls which divided different garden plots. At the north end of the cutting on the east side a wall, running E/W, **F618**, with a N/S return at its west end, may be one such garden wall. The remainder of this part of the site is covered by a garden soil **F621**, which has produced a number of significant finds, including ceramic floor tile fragments and a possible clasp for a manuscript or large book.

An area of burning, **F633**, was noted beneath **F621** in one area. This may indicate an episode of burning at the friary, but as it was not widespread it is unlikely that it represents a serious episode of damage.

*Post-medieval and impact of quarrying*

One wall, **F627**, extends east from the line of the east wall, **F639**. As this has architectural fragments in its makeup, including some Purbeck marble pieces, it is likely to be post-medieval in date and relate to the use of the site as a farm.

The site was extensively quarried, and during that time the stained glass windows were broken up to retrieve the lead cames for re-cycling. Within an area of trample **F641**, which sat on a possible surface **F637,** and close to the north end of the range, nine sections of stained glass still within the lead cames were uncovered. The largest is almost .32m in length. These were block lifted (Fig. 2.11) and are being conserved by Dr. Jane Henderson and Phil Parkes in Cardiff University.

Burials

A total of four burials came to light within Cutting 6. All are of infants (Fig. 2.12) and were buried within the rubble layers.

- Burial 71 cut **[F630],** fill **F631**
- Burial 83 cut **[F645],** fill **F613**
- Burial 91 cut **[F663]** fill **664**
- Burial 92 cut **[F665,** fill **F666**

All are believed to be post-medieval to modern in date.

### *Cutting 7*

No excavation work has been undertaken in Cutting 7 since the production of the last interim report (see O' Carroll 2014). The cutting has been covered until excavation recommences.

### *Cutting 8*

Cutting 8 was opened in 2013 and it was 3.5m N/S by 5m E/W. It lay 1m north of the extended Cutting 5. Excavation in 2013 had revealed the cloister wall **F805**, part of the ambulatory **F810**, and a pit in the garth **F813**, as well as an infant burial cut through the rubble layers, **B34**, all of which were detailed in the previous report.

In 2014 excavation continued and this cutting was completed. The ambulatory, **F810**, was fully exposed and recorded and the cloister wall **F805** was examined in detail. Three burials, **B74**, **B75** and **B82** were excavated. The pit **[F813]** was fully excavated and a second pit which had been recorded in Cutting 5 as **[F527]** was recognised in the south baulk of Cutting 8 where it was recorded as **[F823]**.

*Medieval*

The rubble overburden which still remained overlying the ambulatory (**F810**), was removed to expose it. It was in reasonably good condition, patchy in places but in general the metalled surface was intact, (Fig. 2.13). It was of similar composition to that seen in Cuttings 5, 6 and 7 and excavation stopped at the surface and did not cut through it. Its average level OD in Cutting 6 was between 62.03 – 07m and whereas in Cutting 5 the northern end of the ambulatory was at a similar level, it slopes slightly to 61.98m OD at the southern end.

The cloister wall **F805**, was examined. At the southern end of the cutting the facing stones on the east (garth) side of the wall had tumbled off for 1.25m, otherwise the wall was intact. The level at the top of the wall was on average 62.27m OD which is the expected height for the cloister wall.

Within the garth on the south side of the cutting a pit **[F813]** had previously been noted. It was half-sectioned, and approximately 40 – 50 % of the northern side of it was left in situ. The excavated portion was 1.27m N/S and 1.17m E/W at its maximum extent. It was generally oval in shape, and .39m in maximum depth. There were two fills within it, **F820**, a mid-dark brown silty clay which produced medieval pottery and which had a maximum depth of .22m. This was overlain by **F821**, a thin (.05m) layer of slate which sealed the deposit beneath. Overlying this was the general levelling deposit **F808**. This had previously been termed **F812**, when it was presumed to be confined to the pit, but on inspection it was shown that this layer, composed of silty clay with frequent crushed slates and mortar and analogous to a similar layer **F511** in Cutting 5 was in fact the one deposit covering the area east of the cloister wall, and presumably acting as a means of levelling out the surface of the cloister garth. By implication, the pit was still somewhat open when this levelling up took place.

A second pit, **[F823]** with a single fill **F822** which was composed almost exclusively of pieces of roof slate was excavated in section in the south baulk (Fig. 2.15). Here it was an extension of the pit recorded and excavated as **[F527]** in Cutting 5. The two pits were separate and did not intercut. Only a small portion of the pit was able to be excavated as the remainder is within the baulk between the two cuttings.

*Post-medieval*

Three burials were excavated during this season in Cutting 8. One burial **B74** was a juvenile, **B75** was an infant and **B82** was a disarticulated adult skull. The juvenile occurred against the east baulk of the cutting and the cutting had to be extended in this area to facilitate its excavation.

- Burial 74 ([**816**] and **F815**) was truncated by burial cut [**F819**].
- Burial 75 ([**F819**] and **F818**) was overlain by rubble tumble [**F817**].
- Burial 82 was a disarticulated skull found when the cutting was being extended to excavate Burial 74. It was in the north face of the extended area and no grave cut or fill numbers were assigned as it was not in its original position.

All three burials appeared to have been cut through levelling layer F808 and through the later rubble fills which covered the area and which relate either to dilapidation post-dissolution or to the 18$^{th}$ Century quarrying.

***Cutting 9***

This cutting had been opened in 2013 and was discussed in that season's report. In the two intervening years further work has occurred and the area to the west of the possible foundation trench for the west wall of the church, **F932** has been fully excavated and is now backfilled. This revealed a series of modern agricultural linear features. The area to the east, presumed to be within the nave and part of the south aisle has produced five burials to date, two of which were previously reported on. The column base **F913**, is still being investigated to see if it is sitting within a backfilled foundation trench for the original south wall. This is on the presumption that the south aisle is a later extension, and that the original south wall was transformed into an arcaded wall between the aisle and the nave.

*Medieval*

Three burials were excavated in the 2014 season within the nave of the church, that is to the east of the foundation trench **F932**. Two of these are believed on the basis of depth and orientation to be medieval in date.

Burial 56 ([**942**] and **F943**) was visible in the east face of the foundation trench **F932** and was at the southern end of the trench. It was located beneath the mortar floor of the nave, **F904** and the grave cut and fill were visible. The grave cut may have been dug through subsoil, but this is as yet unverified as there appears to be a degree of disturbance, probably caused by grave digging, in this area. The burial was that of an infant oriented E/W with the head to the west (Fig. 16:). The top of the grave cut was at 62.28m OD and the base was at 62.01m OD. The mortar was at 62.33m OD.

Burial 73 was in the NE of the cutting. A cut number **F938** was assigned to the grave cut, although it was not actually discernible, and the fill, which was a dark brown clay rich soil was recorded as **F939**. This was not really distinguishable from the surrounding soil which again has the appearance of having been dug through with patches of subsoil visible in the overall matrix. The burial was that of a juvenile and it was extended E/W, head to west and the bulk of the torso and legs continue beneath the east baulk of the cutting.

Neither of the two burials appeared to have been cut through any of the rubble or collapsed slate deposits, and this, combined with their depth and alignment strongly suggest a medieval date.

*Metalling*

To the west of the foundation trench **F932**, patches of metalling composed of small angular and sub-rounded pebbles and small stones, packed onto subsoil and mixed with a silty clay were uncovered (Fig. 2.18). These formed a surface outside the west wall of the church. This metalled surface, **F954** was at 62.30 – 36m OD and is broadly consistent with the floor level in the interior of the nave of the church.

*Post-medieval*

A third burial was excavated in the nave of the church. Burial 72, cut (**[F936** and fill **F937**) was an infant burial. It was on a similar orientation to Burials 41 and 43 , that is, slightly off-line to the line of the church walls, and like them, the grave fill was very mortar and slate rich, suggesting that the grave was cut through rubble layers. Three shroud pins were recovered with the burial.

A radiocarbon date was obtained for one of the burials excavated in 2013. Burial 41 was at the north side of the cutting and it had been noted that the grave fill contained noticeable amounts of slate and mortar.

*Table 1.2: Radiocarbon dates from Cutting 9 at the Black Friary. Calibration after OxCal 4.1 (Bronk Ramsay 2009) using the IntCal09 dataset (Reimer, Baillie et al. 2009)*

| Laboratory Code | Material | Burial No. | δ C13 (‰) | Radiocarbon Age (BP) | Calibrated Age (95.4% Probability) (cal BC/AD) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wk-42074 | Human bone | 41 | * | 255 ± 20 | AD 1520-1800 |

* Please note: The Carbon-13 stable isotope value (δ13C) was measured on prepared graphite using the AMS spectrometer. The radiocarbon date has therefore been corrected for isotopic fractionation. However the AMS-measured δ13C value can differ from the δ13C of the original material and it is therefore not shown.

This date places the burial in most probably in the post-medieval period.

*Modern*

A series of gullies were excavated at the west end of the cutting. These run N/S along the west side of the cutting and appear to relate to the re-cutting of a field boundary, possibly in the nineteenth century.

- **[F953]** was dug into the natural subsoil and filled by **F952**, a stony fill. It had a minimum width of .70m and was cut along its eastern side by
- **[F948]** which was filled by **F947**, also a stony fill. This possible re-cut of the original ditch is at least 1m wide.
- **[F922]** lay to the west of the previous two gullies. It was approximately .8m wide and its base was at least .4m higher than that of [F953]. It was filled by **F921**, a very stony fill, overlain by **F958**, a mid-yellow to brown clay silt which contained some mortar , small stone and pebble inclusions. This appears to have been cut through upcast, **F933/951** which may have derived from digging **[F948]** and which also covered **F952**.
- **[F956]** cut through the upper fill of **[F922]**, **F958**. This was filled with **F957**.

A posthole, **[F949]**, which had a diameter of .47m and was .23m deep was filled by **F950**, and occurred to the east of these features. It was cut through subsoil and may be contemporary with **[F948]**. It is possible that this gully was stepped on its east side, and that the posthole sat on that step or scarp. The posthole cut the metalling **F954** (Fig. 2.19).

These features appear to link with some of the ditch cuts uncovered in Cutting 11, see below.

### *Cutting 10*

There was some limited excavation activity in Cutting 10 the 2014 season and again in the 2015 season. In both seasons a number of structural features were examined; a total of eleven burials were excavated, and a twelfth has been partially excavated. As work in this cutting is not yet complete this is a summary interim report.

As previously reported Cutting 10 was opened to examine the probably south aisle of the church and was extended a number of times. It covered an area of 4.5m N/S by 12n E/W with a 2m extension southwards on its western side. It is expected that in the forthcoming season it will extend 12m E/W by 6.5m N/S; this will allow for further examination of the graveyard area.

The excavations so far have revealed activity dating from the medieval through to the modern period.

*Medieval*

Activity dating to the medieval period relates to both structural elements and burials. A key question remains the dating of the south aisle, the south wall of which was partly uncovered in this cutting and described in the previous report. The buttresses, **F1008** and **F1012** form the main surviving elements of

the wall. A third buttress at the SW corner of the church, **F1003**, is of different construction and may be later. A doorway marked by a worked sandstone doorjamb and limestone sill were described and appear to be older elements inserted in a new location, again suggesting that the aisle is a later addition to the church as a whole.

Burials

A significant focus of this ongoing phase of the excavation is this sample of the burials from the graveyard. A second key question is the spatial relationship of the graveyard to the church, prior to and post construction of the south aisle.

In the past two seasons ten burials of medieval date have been excavated.

- Burial 86 cut [**F1041**], fill **F1042**; juvenile
- Burial 87 cut [**F1043**], fill **F1044**; adult, cut by F[1047], fill F1048, which truncated the area of the skull
- Burial 88 cut [**F1089**], fill **F1090**; adult
- Burial 93 cut [**F1064**], fill **F1065**; adult
- Burial 95 cut [**F1069**], fill **F1068**; adult, in coffin
- Burial 96 cut [**F1070**], fill **F1071**; infant
- Burial 97 cut [**F1091**], fill **F1092**; adult
- Burial 98 cut [**F1078**], fill **F1079**; infant
- Burial 100 cut [**F1080**], fill, **F1081**; infant
- Burial 101 cut [**F1085**], fill **F1086**, adult (female) with foetal bones present also

While none of the burials have been independently dated, their position relative to other features supports the assumption that they date to the medieval period. Burials 87, (Fig. 2.20), 96 and 98 were located beneath the metalled surface **F1005** which formed a path leading to the south door; Burials 86, 88, 97 and 100 were under related deposits **F1040, F1045** and **F1070**. The remainder seem to have been sealed by construction deposits relating to the building of the south aisle (Burials 93, 95 and 101 (Fig. 2.21). From the shape and depth of the grave cut and the presence of nails Burial 95 appears to have been within a wooden coffin (Fig. 2.22). A substance comprising in part of shell and bone appeared to adhere to parts of the burial and was sampled. It may have been a mortar type lining to the coffin.

Structures

The foundation trench **[F1034]** which was dug to accommodate the south wall, noted as **F1032**, though little survived the quarrying of the church, was re-assessed (Fig. 2.23) and a separate cut **[F1083]**, filled by **F1084** to accommodate the plinth **F1094** for the buttress **F1012** was uncovered. Also noted against the face of the cut was a fragment of what appears to be human cranium (Fig. 2.24). This may indicate disturbance to the graveyard during the construction of the wall.

Within the foundation trench **[F1034]** two post-holes were uncovered 2.05m apart, one against the north edge of the cut, post hole **F1051**, fill **F1050,** and the other close to the south edge , **[F1056]**, fill **F1055**. The northern post-hole was .13m in diameter and .25 deep; the second or southern one was .18m in maximum diameter and .4m deep. Neither fill suggested that the post had rotted in situ and they are interpreted as holes for scaffolding used in building the wall.

A possible retaining wall type feature was uncovered abutting the south face of buttress **F1008**. This feature, **F1061**, is formed of two courses of large limestone blocks with their long axis aligned N/S. The feature is 1.2m N/S by .8m E/W. The stepped face is to the east and the function may have been to compensate for the natural E/W slope which would have meant the entrance path to the south door sloped eastwards. This allowed a rubble fill **F1062** and fills **F1045** and **F1066** to be retained in position at the level terrace immediately south of the doorway, without slipping downslope to the east (Fig. 2.25). A layer comprising a silty clay with mortar and crushed slate inclusions covered the area south of the two buttresses **F1008** and **F1012**. This layer, **F1054**, was .25m thick and seemed to form a levelling layer,

possibly even a path, south of the church wall. It covered Burials 93, 95 and 101 as noted above. It also sealed the foundation cut for the south wall **F1034**. In turn this was covered by **F1053**, a deposit of fine gravel, a thin layer mostly only visible in section and found sporadically across the same area as the underlying **F1054**. This was overlain by rubble layers **F1017** and **F1018**.

*Post-Medieval to Modern*

Burials 63 and 102, the latter not yet excavated, are believed to be post-medieval / early modern in date. B63, cut **F1029**, fill **F1020**, is an infant which was buried within the rubble backfill, **F1032**, of the robbed out south wall of the church.

Burial 102 was located within a possibly modern gully **F1052** to the west of **F1003**. It is an articulated but disturbed burial of a juvenile. It will be fully excavated in the coming season.

Structures

Post-medieval to modern structural alterations to this area have been discussed to some extent in the previous report. It was clear that the south wall was thoroughly robbed out leaving a rubble fill **F1036=1039** filling the cut **[F1035]**, though the buttresses were only partly taken down (Fig. 2.25). A wall, **F1020**, was previously referenced, and a juvenile burial, B54 excavated from on top of it. This wall was removed during the 2015 season, and the rubble core, **F1037, F1038** exposed. It was sitting on **F1060**, a deposit of soil, which itself overlay the earlier features **F1061/62** referenced above.

The west wall to the church should align with the south wall of the aisle and the junction should be where the third buttress **F1003** is. This buttress is unlike the other two and the extent of the later disturbance in this area, currently recorded as [**F1075]**, robber trench, with fills **F1025** and **F1024** has yet to be clarified.

Destruction features in this area related to the quarrying out of the site include **F1040, 1072, 1073,** and **F1087**. These are all either slate and/or mortar rich rubble layers relating to the dismantling of the walls.

As can be seen from Table 2.12 below the artefacts recovered so far from this cutting range in date from the medieval to the modern period and include metal, ceramics, bone and glass.

***Cutting 11***

Cutting 11 was opened and fully resolved in the summer of 2014. The cutting, measuring `10m (east to west) by 5m (north to south) was opened to investigate the southern extent of the graveyard. As the cutting is positioned close to the site's southern boundary, which may correspond to the northern medieval limit of Trim town (see below), it was also hoped the cutting might reveal evidence of the friary's medieval boundary with the town. Previous evidence of the medieval Athboy Gate has recently been found during archaeological excavation directly west of the cutting in 2008 (Potterton and Seaver 2009).

The excavation of Cutting 11 revealed seven burials presumed, but not confirmed, to date to the medieval period. These burials had been heavily truncated by modern excavations to bury scrap (including parts of an end of life car). A post-medieval gully/linear was also recorded at the cutting's western limit. The features recorded in Cutting 11 date to three basic phases:

*Medieval*

In total seven grave cuts ([**F1105**], [**F1114**], [**F1129**], [**F1120**], [**F1122**], [**F1124**] and [**F1125**]) associated burials (**B64**, **B66**, **B67**, **B68**, **B69**, **B70 and B76**) and fills (**F1104**, **F1115**, **F1119**, **F1121**, **F1123**, **F1126** and **F1128**) were contained in the cutting. Each of these cuts was cut through (and backfilled with) a brown moderately compact silty clay deposit (**F1138**=**F1139**), making the limits of the grave cuts for the most

part indiscernible from the surrounding deposit (Figure 1.28). **F1138**=**F1139** presumably represents the relict ground surface that was cut by the graves in the medieval period.

Each burial was orientated east to west, extended and supine, in Christian fashion. Unfortunately each burial was truncated, in some instances extensively, by later disturbance (either by the post-medieval gully and/or modern machine cuts) as follows:

- Burial 64 ([**F1105**] and **F1104**) was truncated by a modern refuse pit [**F1110**].
- Burial 66 ([**F1114**] and **F1115**) was cut by post-medieval gully [**F1113**].
- Burial 67 ([**F1120**] and **F1119**) was truncated on its west, south and east limits extensive modern disturbance cuts [**F1110**] and [**F1133**].
- Burial 68 ([**F1122**] and **F1121**) were also truncated by [**F1110**] and [**F1133**].
- Burial 69 ([**F1124**] and **F1123**) was cut by modern features [**F1112**] and [**F1135**].
- Burial 70 ([**F1125**] and **F1126**) was truncated at its western extent by post-medieval gully [**F1113**] and at the east, south and north ends by extensive modern cut [**1135**].
- Burial 76 ([**F1129**] and **F1128**) was truncated by a modern cut, possibly **[F1132]** which may have extended that far.

*Post-medieval*

A single post-medieval feature, a 40cm deep linear gully [**F1113**=**F1136]**, filled by **F1118**=**F1137**, was excavated in Cutting 11, running north-south along the western edge of the excavation. The gully cuts **B66** and **B70** (as well as the natural subsoil) and is truncated by modern machine cut [**F1133**]**.** The gully extends north of Cutting 11 toward Railway Lane, and probably corresponds to a post-medieval linear previously encountered during excavations on the laneway in 2008 (Seaver 2009).

*Modern*

As stated each of the burials were truncated by modern machine excavated cuts (Figure 1.29). These cuts were contained beneath the modern topsoil **F1101**, as well as a slightly older, but still modern, buried sod **F1103**, both of which contained a large amount of refuse and evidence of modern disturbance; this disturbance presumably derived from the construction of the surrounding buildings, including Supervalu, the layout of Railway Lane and the installation of an ESB pole and associated stays at the northeast limit of Cutting 11.

Underlying **F1103** were modern deposits **F1106** and **F1108** (modern rubbles/clays full of modern debris) and a number of mechanically excavated pits backfilled with modern refuse/scrap, namely [**F1110**], [**F1112**=**F1111**], [**F1116**], [**F1133**] and [**F1135**] (filled by **F1109**, **F1127**, **F1117, F1132**=**F1131** and **F1134** respectively). These cuts were cut through the burials (as established above) as well as truncating medieval deposit **F1138**=**F1139**, the post-medieval gully [**F1113**=**F1136**] and natural subsoil (the latter of which was originally recorded as deposit **F1107**=**F1130**). All the machine cuts appear to have been undertaken in the recent past to bury modern refuse.

### *Cutting 12*

Like Cutting 11, Cutting 12 was opened and fully resolved in the summer of 2014. The cutting, measuring 11m (north to south) by 2m (east to west), was opened to investigate the southern boundary of the site and its relationship to the northern medieval limit of Trim town.

While parts of the medieval enclosure of Trim are well understood, its northern limits remain conjectural. The western extent of the town boundary, from the back of the mill on the River Boyne to Crowspark, is still clear as the wall is extant. However, from that point it appears the wall was not available to be mapped by the OS in 1836. It was argued that the line of the wall ran north to the Athboy Gate. Assuming the town wall did continue northward to Athboy Gate, it is probable it then turned east to run along a line marked as the municipal and townland boundary on the 1st Edition OS map, a line

that corresponds to the southern boundary of the Black Friary site. Thus while Cutting 12 was one of our smaller cuttings it had the potential to contribute key knowledge on the medieval enclosure of Trim.

The excavation revealed three burials, two of which were confirmed as medieval, as well as a medieval ditch (that was cut by, and so predates, one of the burials). A post-medieval drain was also present at the cutting's northern extent. However, with the exception of the drain and 'modern' topsoil, only one basic phase (medieval) was recorded in the cutting.

*Medieval*

In total three grave cuts ([**F1211**], [**F1213**], and [**F1215**]) associated burials (**B78**, **B79** and **B80**) and fills (**F1212**, **F1214** and **F1216**) were contained in the cutting – extending the known limits of the graveyard to within 5m of the site's southern limits. Each of the graves were cut through (and backfilled with) subsoil, a plastic orange clay), making the limits of the grave cuts for the most part indiscernible from the surrounding deposit. An exception to this was [F1105], the cut for B78, which was cut through ditch fill **F1203**=**F1205** and so more readily identified (Figure 1.30), primarily based on differing compactions between the grave fill the surrounding deposit.

Each burial was orientated east to west, extended and supine in Christian fashion. One of the burials (B78) was located on the north side of the ditch (Figure 1.31) while the other two (B79 and B80) were positioned directly south of the ditch, on the 'town side'. B78 has been dated to AD 1270-1390 (note all dates are given at 95.4% probability: Table 1.1) indicating that if the ditch served as a boundary between the town and friary, it had passed out of use prior to the later 13$^{th}$ century, at which point the friary's cemetery extended south or 'townward'.

*Table 1.3: Radiocarbon dates from Cutting 12 at the Black Friary. Calibration after OxCal 4.1 (Bronk Ramsay 2009) using the IntCal09 dataset (Reimer, Baillie et al. 2009)**

| Laboratory Code | Material | Burial No. | δ C13 (‰) | Radiocarbon Age (BP) | Calibrated Age (95.4% Probability) (cal BC/AD) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wk-42075 | Human bone | 78 | * | 669 ± 20 | AD 1270-1390 |
| Wk-42076 | Human bone | 80 | * | 761 ± 20 | AD 1220 – 1280 |

* Please note: The Carbon-13 stable isotope value (δ13C) was measured on prepared graphite using the AMS spectrometer. The radiocarbon date has therefore been corrected for isotopic fractionation. However the AMS-measured δ13C value can differ from the δ13C of the original material and it is therefore not shown.

Ditch [**F1202**] was initially identified as medieval based on the recovery of a single sherd of medieval pottery - the only find from the ditch. This pot sherd was contained within the ditch's basal fill, a re-deposited natural **F1210**, which appeared to represent a slippage of material, possibly from a degraded bank, at the ditch's southern face (Figure 1.32). The ditch was also filled with a brown silty clays F1203=F1205 (upper fill), as well as a numbers of other fills, which appear to be re-deposited or 'slipped' naturals -namely F1204 on the north side of ditch and F1208 at the ditch's southern face. The interface between F1208 and the natural subsoil (originally recorded as F1209=F1217) was hard to discern, partially as the natural subsoils have been extensively disturbed by bioturbation (primarily from root disturbance).

The ditch is smaller than one might expect of a town boundary (measuring 5.5 by 0.9m (Figure 1.33). A town ditch has never previously been recorded on the northern side of Trim, so its form and size at this cardinal point remain to be established. As stated a single burial (B78) was cut through the upper ditch fill F1203=F1205; the burial, dating to 1270-1390 AD, provides a clear terminus post quem for the boundary (and confirms the medieval date indicated by the pottery sherd.

A single post-medieval/early modern drain ([F1206] and F1207) was recorded cut through the upper ditch fill F1203=F1205; this feature appears to represent a simple land drain, filled with sub-rounded stone. All the features in Cutting 12 were sealed by topsoil F1201.

***Test Trenches***

A total of 19 archaeological test trenches, totalling 499.6 liner meters, were excavated, recorded and reinstated in the summer of 2014 across the eastern limits of the Black Friary field (Figure 1.1). The trenches were excavated to classify surviving archaeological remains outside the precinct, which is an important step to inform how, in consultation with the National Monuments Service (NMS), the eastern portion of the field may be used in future community ventures. The testing revealed a large medieval ditch running east to west across the northern portion of the site. Testing also clarified that an enclosure in the southeast corner of the field, which remains visible in the surface topography, is likely to be medieval in date; a trench was also excavated through the external/western ditch of the precinct boundary.

Testing demonstrated that a large quantity of topsoil containing building materials, principally cement blocks, broken pipes etc., had been imported to the site, presumably when 'Tower View'and Griffin Park were being built; this soil was spread over the existing field surface raising the ground level significantly in certain areas.

*Table 1.4: Results of archaeological test trenching*

| **Test Trench Number** | **Length (m)** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Archaeological (not including modern) features** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.0 | 50.0 | 2.0 | 0.5-0.9 | Medieval ditch and medieval ditch and bank |
| 1.1 | 28.8 | 2.0 | 0.7-0.9 | None |
| 1.2 | 29.5 | 2.0 | 0.7-1.0 | None |
| 1.3 | 14.0 | 2.0 | 0.8-1.1 | None |
| 1.4 | 14.4 | 2.0 | 0.6-0.7 | None |
| 1.5 | 14.4 | 2.0 | 0.7 | None |
| 1.6 | 11.9 | 2.0 | 0.8-1.0 | None |
| 2.0 | Not excavated due to overhead power lines – originally laid out as a 50m long 'centre-line' trench | | | |
| 2.1 | 8.2 | 2.0 | 0.4 | None |
| 2.2 | 23.2 | 2.0 | 0.4-0.6 | Medieval ditch |
| 2.3 | 29.5 | 2.0 | 0.5-0.7 | None |
| 2.4 | 37.8 | 2.0 | 0.4-0.6 | None |
| 2.5 | 27.5 | 2.0 | 0.4-0.6 | None |
| 2.6 | 17.3 | 2.0 | 0.5-0.6 | None |
| 2.7 | 14.2 | 2.0 | 0.6 | None |
| 2.8 | 21.8 | 2.0 | 0.6-0.8 | None |
| 2.9 | 15.3 | 2.0 | 0.6-0.8 | None |
| 2.10 | 10.3 | 2.0 | 0.5-0.6 | None |
| 3.0 | 42.5 | 2.0 | 0.3-0.8 | None |
| 4.0 | 89.0 | 2.0 | 0.4-0.8 | Medieval ditch |

*Medieval*

A large medieval ditch [**FT1.03=FT4.01**] was recorded in Trenches 1 and 4 (Figure 1.34; 1.35), across the northern portion of the field. The ditch sections were thought to be the same feature based on: the ditch size (2.9m wide in both trenches); the orientation and form of the cut and the similarity of the contained fills. Both ditch sections were confirmed as belonging to one feature when the basal fill in both instances (**FT1.09** and **FT4.02**) was found to contain the same ceramic water pipe; this pipe was contained within a post-medieval re-cut [**FT1.04=FT4.08**] of the original ditch. The re-cut was cut

through medieval ditch fills **FT1.02=FT4.06**, a grey/blue silty sand that was frequently mottled with iron panning (indicating the ditch has originally served as a culvert/drainage feature for water). The line of the medieval ditch [**FT1.03=FT4.01**] indicates it may have joined the northern corner of the precinct boundary – although this remains to be confirmed in future excavation.

Directly south of ditch [**FT1.03=FT4.01**] was a re-deposited subsoil (yellow/grey sandy clay), measuring c. 0.2m in depth by 3.4m in width. This feature appears to represent the remains of a bank **FT1.11**, which presumably derived from up cast from the adjacent ditch (Figure 1.36). A similar bank was not identified in Trench 4; however, the overlying deposits are significantly shallower around Trench 4 and it appears this area of the site may have been levelled or bulldozed in the recent past (see below).

Test Trench 1 also crossed the northern limit of a 'rectangular' enclosure, which remains visible in the field's topography as a low bank and shallow external ditch at its eastern and northern extent; the entire enclosure outline is more clearly marked on the first edition of the OS map. When the earthwork was sectioned by Test Trench 1 it was revealed as a shallow ditch [**FT1.11**], measuring 3.0m in width by 0.5m in maximum depth (Figure 1.37). [**FT1.11**] contained a single fill **FT1.12** that was similar in composition to the surrounding natural (yellow clayey silt) but was mottled with iron panning, indicating water flow through [**FT1.11**]. Two sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered from **FT1.12**, inferring a medieval date for the ditch. Fill **FT1.12** may have derived from **FT1.05**, a low bank (measuring c. 0.4m in height), which appears to have degraded and slumped northward into ditch [**FT1.05**]. The bank presumably derives from the up-cast of [**FT1.11**] and lies atop **FT1.06**, a 0.2m deep deposit of yellow brown clayey silt, which is thought to be the relict medieval topsoil across the site (Figure 1.38). The ditch and bank ([**FT1.11**] and **FT1.05**) appear to have delineated a specific medieval horticultural/agricultural space; the absence of furrows from with the enclosure indicates such usage was not arable, with use such as an orchard or stock enclosure more likely.

The ditch and bank ([**FT1.11**] and **FT1.05**) were sealed beneath **FT1.13**, a deposit of grey/brown clayey silt, a relict sod line of uncertain date (which could equal **FT1.08=FT4.07**). Directly above this sod line, as observed in the northern ditch, was the 20$^{th}$ century levelling deposit **FT107** (see also below).

A third ditch [**FT2.101**] was uncovered at the eastern limit of Test Trench 2.2, as it approached the precinct boundary. The ditch (Figure 1.39), measuring 3.1m in width by 0.8m in depth, contained two fills **FT2.202** and **FT2.203**. Upper fill **FT2.202** (yellow sandy clay) appears to represent a deliberate/final backfilling of the ditch when it passed out of use in the medieval or post-medieval period. The basal fill **FT2.203**, brown clayey silt mottled with orange iron panning, appears to have accumulated when the ditch was in use and actively culverting/draining water. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from this fill. The ditch appears to have served as an outer (eastern) ditch of the precinct boundary; the inward (western) ditch and central bank remain visible in the field's surface topography (Figure 1.40)

*Modern*

The re-cut of the ditch [**FT1.04=FT4.08**] was undertaken to install a ceramic drain pipe (Figure 1.41), presumably to continue the original drainage function of the medieval cut. The re-cut was partially backfilled with **FT1.09**=**FT4.02** and **FT1.01**=**FT4.03**, above which sod line **FT1.08=FT4.07** formed. However, the upper 1m of the ditch appears to have remained open until the very recent past when topsoil (**FT1.07=FT4.09**) was spread over this part of the Black Friary field during the construction of the adjacent 'modern' estates (see discussion below). This sod line was observed in section through much of Trench 1 and extended as far south as ditch [**FT1.11**]. The sod line was sealed by an imported topsoil (**FT1.07=FT4.09**), which was full of modern rubble (breeze block) and scrap metal. **FT1.07=FT4.09** varied in depth across the northwest portion of the tested area, but was deepest near [**FT1.03=FT4.01**], where over 1m of soil was used to finally backfill and level the ditch. **FT1.07=FT4.09** is likely to have derived from soil stripping associated to the construction of adjacent Tower View and Griffin Park; the deposit was not readily identifiable in Trench 2.1-2.10 (to the south) or Trench 3 or 4 (to the east). A faint circular trend is observable on aerial photographs in the northwest portion of the testing area,

indicating that **FT1.07=FT4.09** may have been stockpiled and bulldozed outward in a circular pattern, gradually decreasing in depth from the centre of the stockpile. Such mechanical activity may also explain the absence of a bank beside ditch [**FT1.03=FT4.01**] in Trench 4.

In Trench 4 a field drain [**FT4.04**], filled with c. 10cm³ field stone (**FT4.05**), was also recorded abutting ditch cut [**FT4.01**] and re-cut [**FT4.08**]. A clear stratigraphic relationship could not be established between these features (Figure 1.42), but it appears more likely that the drain may be contemporary with the post-medieval re-cut of the ditch.

As part of the testing strategy a 0.5m wide trench was also excavated to install electrical ducting (and water pipes) from near the site entrance to the main site offices, a distance of c. 158.0 m. The trench was archaeologically monitored outside the precinct and hand excavated within it (in the area crossing the cemetery). The trench was c. 0.4m in depth and so rarely penetrated through the site's topsoil. From c. 75-90m east of the trenches western limit (see Figure XX) the trench was excavated through modern refuse, plastic, scrap metal, wood etc., indicating a deliberately excavation or natural hollow that was backfilled with illegally dumped rubbish in the recent past. No features of archaeological significance were observed during the excavation of trench.

The only other features recorded from the testing programme were field drains in Test Trenches 1.2, 1.6 and 2.1, none of which were considered to be of archaeological significance.

## Other Site Research

To help inform future IAFS excavation strategies a geophysical (ground-penetrating radar [GPR] and electromagnetic [EM]) survey covering approximately 0.5 hectares was conducted at the Black Friary. This survey was undertaken intermittently from April - July 2015 as part of an MSc dissertation by Ms. Ashely Green (Bournemouth University), a study focused on the forensic and archaeological applications of GPR in clay soils. The survey was conducted under licence15R0023.

The survey identified a number of possible archaeological anomalies and anthropogenic features including a possible well (in the centre of the cloister), possible human burials/grave cuts (also in the cloister area) and a linear feature which could bear relevance to the northern town boundary (Shine et al. in Press). The survey was hindered to a large extent by other anomalies relating to geological variation and modern rubbish; thus all of the possible archaeological features require ground truthing to be confirmed or discounted. The results of the survey are listed in full in Appendix 1.

## Discussion

***Church***

Six seasons of excavation have been completed to date at the Black Friary. The last report detailed the excavations 2011 – 2013 (O'Carroll 2014). This report is summarising the findings for the 2014 – 15 seasons.

It has been argued by Roger Stalley amongst others (Stalley 1990) that friaries were laid out according to a specific set of proportional measurements, based on the size of the cloister multiplied by the square root of two. He has demonstrated that this rule holds reasonably well and it is logical to think that such an ordered set of buildings would have had a guiding principal in their construction. The size of the cloister is almost a 20m x 20m square, which is on the large side fro surviving cloisters in Ireland. The north wall of the church has been located in the area of the crossing and in the nave just west of the chancel arch. A south wall has been found and the width of the nave as deduced from the positions of these two walls, at just over 12m internally, indicates that a south aisle must have been present. The column base as found in Cutting 9 supports this, and where it is located would give a width of

approximately 4m to the side aisle. Given the width of the nave at 8m one would suppose that the overall length of the nave would be in proportion. The friary in Sligo is 6.55m wide and the nave is 22.75m long. At 8m in width it would seem logical that the nave in Black Friary would be proportionately longer than in Sligo.

The extent of the church is still to be fully investigated. Work in Cuttings 9 and 10 has been ongoing, and that in Cutting 9 should be brought to a close this season. To date these works have:

- Confirmed the presence of a south aisle which is believed to have been a later addition
- Confirmed that a foundation trench for the south wall of the church does not occur west of what appears to be the robbed out foundation trench of the west wall
- Shown that burials occurred throughout the nave of the church
- Demonstrated that at minimum the early doorway, believed to be a later insertion into the south wall of the south aisle must, with its associated metalled path, post-date burials which lie beneath the metalled surface

However, if the robbed out trench in Cutting 9 is in fact the foundation trench for the west wall, then the nave, from west wall to chancel arch is no more than 22m. The current indications from the topographical survey are that the chancel is over 25m in length, and while the indications from the past two seasons' work are that the nave did not extend beyond the line of the foundation trench in Cutting 9, it suggests that the nave was shorter than the chancel. It should be pointed out that as yet there is no evidence at all for a foundation trench for the south wall of the church. It is as yet unclear whether there was a solid wall, or whether the wall was always arcaded and an aisle had been built from the beginning. Aspects of the south wall of the south aisle point to constructional differences between it and the north wall, most notably the buttresses, but it is not known if this definitely points to a later construction date, or merely reflects different structural requirements.

Excavations within the foundation trench for the south wall showed that this followed the line of this trench as previously seen in Cutting 2. In addition the presence of two post-holes at the north and south sides of the trench gave an insight into the building techniques used as these are most likely scaffolding supports.

***East Range***

Excavations have focused solely on the east range since 2014. The extension of Cutting 6 has revealed approximately half of the chapter house, the full width of the range and some of the garden walls. The main points of interest and focus of further work are:

- The nature of the walls of the east range. At least one wall was clay-bonded, which suggests the introduction of different building techniques, possibly at different stages
- The presence of a stairs indicated by the three limestone steps demonstrates that an upper storey was built; the fact that the stairs are not bonded into the adjoining wall suggests they may have been a later insertion
- The north wall of the chapter house has been exposed; variation in its surviving fabric between that which is within the limit of the range and that which lies east of it suggest that it may have been extended. The occurrence of clay floor tile fragments may point to a refurbishment and enlargement at some point.
- The presence of a possible bench lining the interior of the chapter house, and its apparent width of 1.6m which suggests a double bench, may be an indicator at the size of the community at the time it was built or suggest it was built for meetings of a wider purpose, either religious (as in provincial meetings) or political gatherings.

The garden soils to the rear of the east range have yielded a large quantity of finds, as is to be expected. The date range confirms the use of the friary up to the 17$^{th}$ century. The finding of a large quantity of stained glass, and the truly significant find of several large surviving pieces of stained glass still within its lead cames highlighted the fact that the friary was most likely in a state of reasonable preservation up until the time of its demolition.

***Cloister***

The extent of the cloister garth had been determined in earlier seasons. Some additional work was done; the width of the ambulatory, 2.4m has been confirmed in Cutting 6. This is consistent with the width found in Cuttings 3 and 7. More importantly, excavation of the SW corner buttress in Cutting 5 has shown how strong a construction this was. As Purbeck marble, the material from which the entire cloister arcade appears to have been made, is very heavy, the presence of very strong corner supports is not surprising. The effectiveness of these, and the apparent lack of any central buttresses, coupled with evidence for at least one re-built section points to either some inherent structural instability or some manner of deliberate damage. The presence of a number of pits filled with broken slate suggests that these related to the possible extraction of clay, used to try to level up the area of the cloister path and wall prior to the construction of the wall and its arcade. The debris in the pits may have derived from building, not destruction, but ironically, the presence of these pits, close to the wall itself, may have contributed to the instability hinted at by an apparent phase of re-building along the west wall of the cloister.

The Purbeck marble arcade is the subject of ongoing research. In form it may be early, if this is so, it means that it is one of the very few 13th Century cloisters, about which we have any information, surviving in Ireland.

Ground Penetrating Radar was carried out in the cloister garth by Ashely Green as part of a wider survey (see Appendix 1). This work has shown that there appears to be a distinct and rather deep feature approximately in the centre of the garth. Further work will be required to ascertain what this may be.

***Burials***

The excavations to date have uncovered the remains (or partial remains) of a minimum of 106 individuals. The principal areas of burial were the nave of the church, the cemetery and the cloister garth. The site was used as a Cillín, and these infant or juvenile burials have been found throughout the area of the friary buildings, predominantly within rubble deposits suggesting that they mostly date from after the mid eighteenth century.

Last year samples from six burials were submitted to Waikato Laboratory, New Zealand, for AMS radiometric dating. The results are given in table 2.2 below. The six burials had been selected to attempt to capture the range of dates of burials believed to occur on the site. One infant burial (Burial 18) was included, but it had been interred in the crossing (between the chancel and the nave) and it lay beneath the rubble layers, pre-dating them. However, it did appear to date from a time post-dissolution, as such a location would not have been allowed for infant burial if the friary had still been active. The date returned, AD 1520-1800, confirms a post-medieval date but does not clarify whether the burial was interred prior to or post the destruction by quarrying of the friary. As it is likely that the bell-tower was not quarried, but subsequently collapsed, an interment under the tower could have taken place after the bulk of the site had been quarried. The same date, AD 1520-1800 was returned for a burial from Cutting 9. This, Burial 41, appeared on stratigraphic grounds to have been interred when at minimum roof slates had fallen to the floor of the church. Whether this indicates the period of post-dissolution abandonment or the later destruction is not clear.

The two burials from Cutting 3, Burial 6 and OSB 3, both from the wall tomb are of interest as they bracket the period of use of that tomb. OSB3 was the primary burial, and dates to AD 1290-1400; Burial 6 had been interred after the tomb had gone through a period of use as an ossuary. This burial, dating to AD 1450-1640 is either from the very last years of the pre-dissolution friary use, or shortly after it had gone out of use.

However, the most interesting, and earliest dates are those from Burials 78 and 80. These were from Cutting 11 and were from either side of the E/W running ditch, believed to be the town boundary. The earlier of the two, B80 (AD 1220-1280), lay on the south side of the ditch, theoretically outside the friary boundary. The second dated burial, B78 (AD 1270-1390), lay within the cemetery, effectively at its

southern limit. The calibration curve for B80 puts its date at or just before the foundation date for the friary, and this, together with the fact that B78 was dug through layers which formed part of the fill of the ditch, suggests potentially that at the time of the building of the friary, the ditch was put out of use. The sherd of pottery recovered from the base of the ditch seems to be hand-built and of Dublin-type coarseware, datable to the late twelfth – early thirteenth centuries (McCutcheon and Meenan, 2009, 337).

The fact that there was no trace of the ditch in Cutting 11 may be either due to modern building activity encroaching on the site, or perhaps to the fact that it was originally further north than anticipated, but that burials had quickly extended beyond the earlier boundary. It is hoped to explore the line of the boundary further in the coming season.

***Town ditch***

Cuttings 11 and 12 were opened to find and examine the town boundary. A ditch was found in Cutting 11. Its width was 5.5m and its depth approximately .9m. While these dimensions seem relatively unimpressive for town defences they are consistent with those recorded to the rear of Emmet Street (Fallon 2010; Hayden 2002). A section of ditch was explored adjacent to the Athboy Gate (Seaver 2009). However, the full extent of the ditch could not be exposed and the excavator could not say unequivocally that it was the town ditch. On the balance of probability it is likely to be, and its dimensions, going on what could be seen, and allowing for a possibly more defensive aspect in the vicinity of a town gate, are not inconsistent with the dimensions recorded in Cutting 12.

No ditch was found in Cutting 11.

***The Infields***

The area to the east of the friary precinct was the subject of archaeological testing in 2014. This revealed the presence of field boundaries and of their continued use into the post-medieval period. The contours of this area had been altered to quite some degree by the extent of modern activities, principally the use of the area as a dump zone for subsoil and waste building material arising out of the development of the nearby housing estates in the early eighties; this despite the placing of a preservation order on the site in 1972 (Preservation Order No. 4, 1972). The introduced soils and debris had a combined depth of up to .7m in places. The degradation of the site then continued as it became an area used for casual dumping, a trend which now appears to be reversing.

The ongoing work at the Black Friary coupled with a growing community outreach programme is expanding the scope and reach of the project. Side by side with the excavations is the process of developing an ongoing conservation management plan for the entire site, which will encompass the wishes of local stakeholders with the agreement of the statutory bodies and the local authority, owners of the site, in the preservation and use of the site as an amenity and resource.

# Section 2

# Post-Excavation (PEX) Report

Dr. Denis Shine and Bairbre Mullee

## Introduction

The purpose of Section 2 is to quantify the collection of arefacts, ecofacts and human remains that have been generated during the Black Friary excavations. As the excavation is planned to progress for another 15 years only a brief tabular Preliminary Excavation Report (PEX) is provided (see Tables 2.3 to 2.17). This report outlines the volume of materials together with a synopsis of ongoing post-excavation, conservation and specialist works. All finds listed in the below tables have been cleaned and labelled in accordance to NMI standards, while all artefacts and ecofacts are currently in secure storage in the offices of IAFS.

## Conservation works

Sample conservation was undertaken on pieces of painted plaster (n=25) by Ms. Sylwia Bronchard and on the medieval stained glass (n=52) by both Sylwia Bronchard (Figure 2.1; alter licence 5912) and Susannah Kelly (alter licence 5513) (see Table 2.1, below). The medieval stained glass is, in particular, a large collection that is at risk of decay in post-excavation storage; thus following the completion of the initial conserved sample an arrangement was formed between IAFS and the Conservation Laboratory of Cardiff University's School of Archaeology, History and Religion to conserve the entire collection (n=1261). The collection was transported to Cardiff in October 2015 (under export/alter licence 5929) where its conservation is ongoing under the supervision of Dr. Jane Henderson and Phil Parkes. A further 22 pieces of stained glass have been recovered since that date and are stored in cold-store conditions in IAFS' offices.

Susannah Kelly of University College Dublin (UCD) has also been retained to conserve particularly sensitive archaeological finds (i.e. those that cannot be subjected to longer term storage without adverse effects) shortly after exposure during excavation. To date these include:

*Table 2.1: National Museum of Ireland: Licences to Alter/Export*

| Material | Description | Conservator/Specialist | Licence Number |
|---|---|---|---|
| Glass | Stained Glass | Susannah Kelly | 5513 |
| Glass | Stained Glass | Sylwia Bronchard | 5912 |
| Metal | Copper alloy strap end<br>Gilded Mount | Susannah Kelly | 5859 |
| Metal | Copper alloy key [Conserved] | Susannah Kelly | 6044 |
| Metal/Glass | Lead came with stained glass pane | Susannah Kelly | 5859 |
| Glass/Metal | Stained Glass/Stained Glass in lead | Cardiff University/Phil Parkes and Jane Henderson | 5929 (export and alter) |
| Plaster | Painted Plaster | Sylwia Bronchard | 5821 |
| Human Bone | Human Bone | Waikato University/Fiona Petchy | 5866 |

## Specialist Work

As outlined, in 2015 the first archaeological cuttings were concluded (Cuttings 1, 4, 5, 8, 11 and 12), providing the first 'complete' collections to forward for specialist analyses. Faunal remains from the above cuttings have been forwarded to Dr. Fiona Beglane of Sligo Institute of Technology for analysis. The finds from these (and all other) cuttings are now tabulated and labelled in accordance to NMI standards in preparation for specialist analysis, the results of which will inform pottery and small finds reports for Seasons 1-6. As stated (Table 2.1), several of the delicate metal artefacts have been conserved due to their fragility.

All excavation of human remains on site is undertaken under the guidance of Dr. Rachel Scott (of DePaul University) – a leading international osteoarchaeologist, who specialises in the late medieval period. Dr. Scott advises on excavation, cleaning and temporary storage and curation of all human remains. She ultimately will examine the entire collection before preparing a full report/publications.

## Dating

A total of six AMS radiometric dates, the first from the excavation, were obtained in 2015 (as shown in Table 2.1). A further number of samples will be selected for dating in 2016. All radiometric dating was undertaken in the Waikato Dating Laboratory in the University of Waikato (Licence 5866).

*Table 2.2: Radiocarbon dates obtained for the Black Friary in 2016. Calibration after OxCal 4.1 (Bronk Ramsay 2009) using the IntCal09 dataset (Reimer, Baillie et al. 2009) **

| Laboratory Code | Material | Burial No. | δ C13 (‰) | Radiocarbon Age (BP) | Calibrated Age (95.4% Probability) (cal BC/AD) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wk-42072 | Human bone | 6 | * | 362 ± 20 | AD 1450-1640 |
| Wk-42073 | Human bone | 18 | * | 265 ± 20 | AD 1520-1800 |
| Wk-42074 | Human bone | 41 | * | 255 ± 20 | AD 1520-1800 |
| Wk-42075 | Human bone | 78 | * | 669 ± 20 | AD 1270-1390 |
| Wk-42076 | Human bone | 80 | * | 761 ± 20 | AD 1220-1280 |
| Wk-42077 | Human bone | OSB 3 | * | 625 ± 20 | AD 1290-1400 |

*** Please note: The Carbon-13 stable isotope value (δ13C) was measured on prepared graphite using the AMS spectrometer. The radiocarbon date has therefore been corrected for isotopic fractionation. However the AMS-measured δ13C value can differ from the δ13C of the original material and it is therefore not shown.*

*Table 2.3: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 1*

| **Archaeological Artefacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count*** |
| Ceramic | Pottery | 36 |
| | Clay Pipe | 3 |
| | Tiles | - |
| | Other | - |
| Iron/Metal | Iron/Metal General | 7 |
| | Iron Nails | 19 |
| Copper | | - |
| Lead | | 1 |
| Glass (not including stained or window glass) | | 1 |
| Bone Artefacts | | - |
| Wood | | - |
| Flint | | - |
| Shell | | - |
| **Total** | | 67 |

| **Archaeological Ecofacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count (bags/containers)*** |
| Soil | | 1 |
| Animal bone | | 19 (1413g) |
| Wood | | - |
| Other | Brick | - |
| | Glass | - |
| | Kiln Brick | 1 |
| | Mortar | - |
| | Shell | 3 |
| | Stone | - |
| **Total** | | 24 |

| **Building Materials** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ***Count*** | ***Conserved*** |
| Stained Glass | 3 | 3 |
| Window Lead | - | - |
| Painted Plaster | 4 (30g) | 1 |
| Architectural Fragments | 4 | - |

| **Human Remains** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count (bags or individual burials)*** |
| Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB) | 27 |
| Burials | 2 |

| **Paper Records** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count*** |
| Feature Sheets | 34 |
| Drawings | 21 (23 Sheets) |
| Photographs | Archive is currently under revision |

*Table 2.4: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 2*

| **Archaeological Artefacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count*** |
| Ceramic | Pottery | 81 |
| | Clay Pipe | 8 |
| | Tiles | - |
| | Other | - |
| Iron/Metal | Iron/Metal General | 15 |
| | Iron Nails | 58 |
| Copper | | 3 |
| Lead | | 2 |
| Glass (not including stained or window glass) | | 11 |
| Bone Artefacts | | - |
| Wood | | - |
| Flint | | - |
| Shell | | - |
| **Total** | | 178 |

| **Archaeological Ecofacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count (bags/containers)*** |
| Soil | | 2 |
| Animal bone | | 96 (7144g) |
| Wood | | - |
| Other | Brick | - |
| | Glass | - |
| | Kiln Brick | 5 |
| | Mortar | 1 |
| | Shell | - |
| | Stone | - |
| **Total** | | 94 |

| **Building Materials** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ***Count*** | ***Conserved*** |
| Stained Glass | 56 | - |
| Window Lead | 3 | - |
| Painted Plaster | 244 (573g) | - |
| Architectural Fragments | 49 | - |

| **Human Remains** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count (bags or individual burials)*** |
| Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB) | 81 |
| Burials | 4 |

| **Paper Records** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count*** |
| Feature Sheets | 36 |
| Drawings | 20 (17 Sheets) |
| Photographs | Archive is currently under revision |

*Table 2.5: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 3*

| **Archaeological Artefacts** | | | **Archaeological Ecofacts** | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count*** | | | ***Count (bags/containers)*** |
| Ceramic | Pottery | 58 | Soil | | 86 |
| | Clay Pipe | 6 | Animal bone | | 113 (4236g) |
| | Tiles | - | Wood | | 2 |
| | Other | 1 | | | |
| Iron/Metal | Iron/Metal General | 19 | Other | Brick | - |
| | | | | Glass | 2 |
| | | | | Kiln Brick | 1 |
| | | | | Mortar | - |
| | | | | Shell | 8 |
| | | | | Stone | 1 |
| | Iron Nails | 382 | **Total** | | 213 |
| Copper | | - | **Building Materials** | | |
| Lead | | 16 | | ***Count*** | ***Conserved*** |
| Glass (not including stained or window glass) | | 6 | Stained Glass | 50 | 1 |
| Bone Artefacts | | - | Window Lead | 17 | - |
| Wood | | 1 | Painted Plaster | 6 (36g) | - |
| Flint | | - | Architectural Fragments | 117 | - |
| Shell | | - | | | |
| **Total** | | 489 | | | |

| **Human Remains** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count (bags or individual burials)*** |
| Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB) | 767 |
| Burials | 56 |

| **Paper Records** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count*** |
| Feature Sheets | 101 |
| Drawings | 59 (54 Sheets) |
| Photographs | Archive is currently under revision |

*Table 2.6: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 4*

| **Archaeological Artefacts** | | | **Archaeological Ecofacts** | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count*** | | | ***Count (bags/containers)*** |
| Ceramic | Pottery | 6 | Soil | | - |
| | Clay Pipe | 1 | Animal bone | | 2 (408g) |
| | Tiles | - | Wood | | - |
| | Other | - | | | |
| Iron/Metal | Iron/Metal General | - | Other | Brick | - |
| | | | | Glass | - |
| | | | | Kiln Brick | 1 |
| | | | | Mortar | - |
| | | | | Shell | - |
| | | | | Stone | - |
| | Iron Nails | 2 | **Total** | | 3 |
| Copper | | - | **Building Materials** | | |
| Lead | | - | | ***Count*** | ***Conserved*** |
| Glass (not including stained or window glass) | | - | Stained Glass | - | - |
| Bone Artefacts | | - | Window Lead | - | - |
| Wood | | - | Painted Plaster | - | - |
| Flint | | - | Architectural Fragments | 4 | - |
| Shell | | - | | | |
| **Total** | | 9 | | | |

| **Human Remains** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count (bags or individual burials)*** |
| Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB) | 5 |
| Burials | - |

| **Paper Records** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count*** |
| Feature Sheets | 3 |
| Drawings | 7 (5 Sheets) |
| Photographs | Archive is currently under revision |

*Table 2.7: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 5*

| **Archaeological Artefacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count*** |
| Ceramic | Pottery | 34 |
| | Clay Pipe | 4 |
| | Tiles | - |
| | Other | - |
| Iron/Metal | Iron/Metal General | - |
| | Iron Nails | 92 |
| Copper | | - |
| Lead | | 5 |
| Glass (not including stained or window glass) | | - |
| Bone Artefacts | | - |
| Wood | | - |
| Flint | | - |
| Shell | | - |
| **Total** | | 135 |

| **Archaeological Ecofacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count (bags/containers)*** |
| Soil | | 5 |
| Animal bone | | 70 (6053g) |
| Wood | | - |
| Other | Brick | - |
| | Glass | 1 |
| | Kiln Brick | - |
| | Mortar | 3 |
| | Shell | - |
| | Stone | - |
| **Total** | | 79 |

| **Building Materials** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ***Count*** | ***Conserved*** |
| Stained Glass | - | - |
| Window Lead | 1 | - |
| Painted Plaster | 10 (106g) | - |
| Architectural Fragments | 99 | - |

| **Human Remains** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count (bags or individual burials)*** |
| Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB) | 11 |
| Burials | 2 |

| **Paper Records** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count*** |
| Feature Sheets | 30 |
| Drawings | 25 (14 Sheets) |
| Photographs | Archive is currently under revision |

*Table 2.8: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 6*

| **Archaeological Artefacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count*** |
| Ceramic | Pottery | 895 |
| | Clay Pipe | 29 |
| | Tiles | 172 |
| | Other | 3 |
| Iron/Metal | Iron/Metal General | 40 |
| | Iron Nails | 732 |
| Copper | | 13 |
| Lead | | 73 |
| Glass (not including stained or window glass) | | 8 |
| Bone Artefacts | | 13 |
| Wood | | 2 |
| Flint | | - |
| Shell | | 2 |
| **Total** | | 1982 |

| **Archaeological Ecofacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count (bags/containers)*** |
| Soil | | 3 |
| Animal bone | | 231 (72,254g) |
| Wood | | - |
| Other | Brick | 2 |
| | Glass | 3 |
| | Kiln Brick | 8 |
| | Mortar | 2 |
| | Shell | 2 |
| | Stone | - |
| | Slag | 1 |
| | Plaster | 1 |
| | Floor Tile | 1 |
| **Total** | | 254 |

| **Building Materials** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ***Count*** | ***Conserved*** |
| Stained Glass | 677 | 43 |
| Window Lead | 242 | - |
| Painted Plaster | 42 (1429g) | - |
| Architectural Fragments | 184 | - |

| **Human Remains** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count (bags or individual burials)*** |
| Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB) | 40 |
| Burials | 4 |

| **Paper Records** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count*** |
| Feature Sheets | 66 |
| Drawings | 31 (25 Sheets) |
| Photographs | Archive is currently under revision |

*Table 2.9: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 7*

| **Archaeological Artefacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count*** |
| Ceramic | Pottery | 86 |
| | Clay Pipe | 10 |
| | Tiles | - |
| | Other | - |
| Iron/Metal | Iron/Metal General | 8 |
| | Iron Nails | 71 |
| Copper | | - |
| Lead | | 12 |
| Glass (not including stained or window glass) | | 16 |
| Bone Artefacts | | - |
| Wood | | - |
| Flint | | - |
| Shell | | - |
| **Total** | | 203 |

| **Archaeological Ecofacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count (bags/containers)*** |
| Soil | | - |
| Animal bone | | 68 (3976g) |
| Wood | | - |
| Other | Brick | 1 |
| | Glass | - |
| | Kiln Brick | 1 |
| | Mortar | - |
| | Shell | - |
| | Stone | - |
| **Total** | | 70 |

| **Building Materials** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ***Count*** | ***Conserved*** |
| Stained Glass | 463 | 4 |
| Window Lead | 11 | - |
| Painted Plaster | 103 (1629g) | 24 |
| Architectural Fragments | 59 | - |

| **Human Remains** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count (bags or individual burials)*** |
| Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB) | 11 |
| Burials | 1 |

| **Paper Records** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count*** |
| Feature Sheets | 49 |
| Drawings | 20 (15 Sheets) |
| Photographs | Archive is currently under revision |

*Table 2.10: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 8*

| **Archaeological Artefacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count*** |
| Ceramic | Pottery | 24 |
| | Clay Pipe | 5 |
| | Tiles | - |
| | Other | - |
| Iron/Metal | Iron/Metal General | 3 |
| | Iron Nails | 24 |
| Copper | | - |
| Lead | | 1 |
| Glass (not including stained or window glass) | | 66 |
| Bone Artefacts | | - |
| Wood | | 1 |
| Flint | | - |
| Shell | | - |
| **Total** | | 124 |

| **Archaeological Ecofacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count (bags/containers)*** |
| Soil | | 6 |
| Animal bone | | 24 (1797g) |
| Wood | | - |
| Other | Brick | - |
| | Glass | - |
| | Kiln Brick | - |
| | Mortar | - |
| | Shell | - |
| | Stone | - |
| **Total** | | 30 |

| **Building Materials** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ***Count*** | ***Conserved*** |
| Stained Glass | 1 | 1 |
| Window Lead | 1 | - |
| Painted Plaster | - | - |
| Architectural Fragments | 43 | - |

| **Human Remains** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count (bags or individual burials)*** |
| Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB) | 10 |
| Burials | 4 |

| **Paper Records** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count*** |
| Feature Sheets | 24 |
| Drawings | 12 (9 Sheets) |
| Photographs | Archive is currently under revision |

*Table 2.11: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 9*

| **Archaeological Artefacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count*** |
| Ceramic | Pottery | 38 |
| | Clay Pipe | 26 |
| | Tiles | - |
| | Other | 1 |
| Iron/Metal | Iron/Metal General | 24 |
| | Iron Nails | 71 |
| Copper | | - |
| Lead | | 1 |
| Glass (not including stained or window glass) | | 12 |
| Bone Artefacts | | - |
| Wood | | - |
| Flint | | - |
| Shell | | - |
| **Total** | | 173 |

| **Archaeological Ecofacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count (bags/containers)*** |
| Soil | | 7 |
| Animal bone | | 98 (8080g) |
| Wood | | - |
| Other | Brick | - |
| | Glass | 51 |
| | Kiln Brick | - |
| | Mortar | 1 |
| | Shell | - |
| | Stone | - |
| **Total** | | 157 |

| **Building Materials** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ***Count*** | ***Conserved*** |
| Stained Glass | 34 | - |
| Window Lead | 4 | - |
| Painted Plaster | 170 (611g) | - |
| Architectural Fragments | 21 | - |

| **Human Remains** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count (bags or individual burials)*** |
| Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB) | 60 |
| Burials | 5 |

| **Paper Records** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count*** |
| Feature Sheets | 60 |
| Drawings | 32 (21 Sheets) |
| Photographs | Archive is currently under revision |

*Table 2.12: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 10*

| **Archaeological Artefacts** | | | **Archaeological Ecofacts** | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count*** | | | ***Count (bags/containers)*** |
| Ceramic | Pottery | 81 | Soil | | 9 |
| | Clay Pipe | 29 | Animal bone | | 231 (16,437g) |
| | Tiles | 3 | Wood | | - |
| | Other | 4 | | | |
| Iron/Metal | Iron/Metal General | 22 | Other | Brick | - |
| | | | | Glass | 3 |
| | | | | Kiln Brick | 1 |
| | | | | Mortar | 1 |
| | | | | Shell | 3 |
| | | | | Stone | 1 |
| | Iron Nails | 243 | **Total** | | 249 |
| Copper | | - | **Building Materials** | | |
| Lead | | 11 | | ***Count*** | ***Conserved*** |
| Glass (not including stained or window glass) | | 8 | Stained Glass | 51 | - |
| Bone Artefacts | | 2 | Window Lead | 9 | - |
| Wood | | - | Painted Plaster | 51 (218g) | - |
| Flint | | 1 | Architectural Fragments | 29 | - |
| Shell | | - | | | |
| **Total** | | 404 | | | |

| **Human Remains** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count (bags or individual burials)*** |
| Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB) | 297 |
| Burials | 19 |

| **Paper Records** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count*** |
| Feature Sheets | 94 |
| Drawings | 49 (39 Sheets) |
| Photographs | Archive is currently under revision |

*Table 2.13: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 11*

| **Archaeological Artefacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count*** |
| Ceramic | Pottery | 79 |
| | Clay Pipe | 21 |
| | Tiles | - |
| | Other | - |
| Iron/Metal | Iron/Metal General | 3 |
| | Iron Nails | 15 |
| Copper | | - |
| Lead | | 1 |
| Glass (not including stained or window glass) | | 6 |
| Bone Artefacts | | 1 |
| Wood | | 2 |
| Flint | | - |
| Shell | | - |
| **Total** | | 128 |

| **Archaeological Ecofacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count (bags/containers)*** |
| Soil | | 9 |
| Animal bone | | 10 (890g) |
| Wood | | - |
| Other | Brick | - |
| | Glass | - |
| | Kiln Brick | - |
| | Mortar | - |
| | Shell | - |
| | Stone | - |
| **Total** | | 19 |

| **Building Materials** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ***Count*** | ***Conserved*** |
| Stained Glass | - | - |
| Window Lead | - | - |
| Painted Plaster | 2 (65g) | - |
| Architectural Fragments | 1 | - |

| **Human Remains** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count (bags or individual burials)*** |
| Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB) | 32 |
| Burials | 7 |

| **Paper Records** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count*** |
| Feature Sheets | 39 |
| Drawings | 13 (11 Sheets) |
| Photographs | Archive is currently under revision |

*Table 2.14: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 12*

| **Archaeological Artefacts** | | | **Archaeological Ecofacts** | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count*** | | | ***Count (bags/containers)*** |
| Ceramic | Pottery | 2 | Soil | | 12 |
| | Clay Pipe | - | Animal bone | | 6 (424g) |
| | Tiles | - | Wood | | - |
| | Other | - | | | |
| Iron/Metal | Iron/Metal General | - | Other | Brick | - |
| | | | | Glass | - |
| | | | | Kiln Brick | - |
| | | | | Mortar | - |
| | | | | Shell | - |
| | | | | Stone | - |
| | Iron Nails | 3 | **Total** | | 18 |
| Copper | | - | **Building Materials** | | |
| Lead | | - | | ***Count*** | ***Conserved*** |
| Glass (not including stained or window glass) | | - | Stained Glass | - | - |
| Bone Artefacts | | - | Window Lead | - | - |
| Wood | | - | Painted Plaster | - | - |
| Flint | | - | Architectural Fragments | - | - |
| Shell | | - | | | |
| **Total** | | 5 | | | |

| **Human Remains** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count (bags or individual burials)*** |
| Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB) | - |
| Burials | 3 |

| **Paper Records** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count*** |
| Feature Sheets | 17 |
| Drawings | 7 (5 Sheets) |
| Photographs | Archive is currently under revision |

*Table 2.15: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of the test trenches*

| **Archaeological Artefacts** | | | **Archaeological Ecofacts** | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count*** | | | ***Count (bags/containers)*** |
| Ceramic | Pottery | 65 | Soil | | 4 |
| | Clay Pipe | 3 | Animal bone | | 11 (1020g) |
| | Tiles | - | Wood | | 1 |
| | Other | - | | | |
| Iron/Metal | Iron/Metal General | - | Other | Brick | - |
| | | | | Glass | - |
| | | | | Kiln Brick | - |
| | | | | Mortar | - |
| | | | | Shell | - |
| | | | | Stone | - |
| | Iron Nails | 3 | **Total** | | 16 |
| Copper | | - | **Building Materials** | | |
| Lead | | - | | ***Count*** | ***Conserved*** |
| Glass (not including stained or window glass) | | 26 | Stained Glass | - | - |
| Bone Artefacts | | - | Window Lead | - | - |
| Wood | | - | Painted Plaster | - | - |
| Flint | | - | Architectural Fragments | 1 | - |
| Shell | | - | | | |
| **Total** | | 97 | | | |

| **Human Remains** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count (bags or individual burials)*** |
| Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB) | 5 |
| Burials | 0 |

| **Paper Records** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count*** |
| Feature Sheets | 29 |
| Drawings | 10 (8 Sheets) |
| Photographs | Archive is currently under revision |

*Table 2.16: Artefacts and ecofacts recovered from the Black Friary, not from an archaeological cutting – i.e. observed on the field surface or handed in from the site's neighbours*

| **Archaeological Artefacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count*** |
| Ceramic | Pottery | 14 |
| | Clay Pipe | 2 |
| | Tiles | 3 |
| | Other | - |
| Iron/Metal | Iron/Metal General | 1 |
| | Iron Nails | 1 |
| Copper | | - |
| Lead | | 1 |
| Glass (not including stained or window glass) | | 1 |
| Bone Artefacts | | - |
| Wood | | - |
| Flint | | - |
| Shell | | - |
| **Total** | | 23 |

| **Archaeological Ecofacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count (bags/containers)*** |
| Soil | | - |
| Animal bone | | - |
| Wood | | - |
| Other | Brick | - |
| | Glass | - |
| | Kiln Brick | - |
| | Mortar | - |
| | Shell | - |
| | Stone | - |
| **Total** | | - |

| **Building Materials** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ***Count*** | ***Conserved*** |
| Stained Glass | - | - |
| Window Lead | 3 | - |
| Painted Plaster | - | - |
| Architectural Fragments | 135 | - |

| **Human Remains** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count (bags or individual burials)*** |
| Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB) | 8 |
| Burials | - |

| **Paper Records** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count*** |
| Feature Sheets | - |
| Drawings | - (- Sheets) |
| Photographs | Archive is currently under revision |

*Table 2.17: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through all archaeological excavations*

| **Archaeological Artefacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count*** |
| Ceramic | Pottery | 1499 |
| | Clay Pipe | 147 |
| | Tiles | 178 |
| | Other | 9 |
| Iron/Metal | Iron/Metal General | 142 |
| | Iron Nails | 1716 |
| Copper | | 16 |
| Lead | | 124 |
| Glass (not including stained or window glass) | | 161 |
| Bone Artefacts | | 16 |
| Wood | | 6 |
| Flint | | 1 |
| Shell | | 2 |
| **Total** | | 4017 |

| **Archaeological Ecofacts** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | ***Count (bags/containers)*** |
| Soil | | 144 |
| Animal bone | | 979 (124,132g) |
| Wood | | 3 |
| Other | Brick | 3 |
| | Glass | 60 |
| | Kiln Brick | 18 |
| | Mortar | 8 |
| | Shell | 16 |
| | Stone | 2 |
| | Slag | 1 |
| | Plaster | 1 |
| | Floor Tile | 1 |
| **Total** | | 1236 |

| **Building Materials** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ***Count*** | ***Conserved*** |
| Stained Glass | 1335 | 52 |
| Window Lead | 291 | - |
| Painted Plaster | 634 (4700g) | 25 |
| Architectural Fragments | 746 | - |

| **Human Remains** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count (bags or individual burials)*** |
| Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB) | 1354 |
| Burials | 107 |

| **Paper Records** | |
|---|---|
| | ***Count*** |
| Feature Sheets | 582 |
| Drawings | 306 (246 Sheets) |
| Photographs | Archive is currently under revision |

# Section 3

# Community Report

Dr. Denis Shine, Dr. Stephen Mandal and Finola O' Carroll

## Introduction

Section 3 provides a brief report of the community programme that is jointly delivered by IAFS and the Blackfriary Community Heritage and Archaeology Project (BCHAP). BCHAP is a joint initiative of several partners, including the Irish Archaeology Field School (IAFS), Cultural Tourism Ireland, Trim Municipal District, Meath Country Council, statutory organisations, a range of academic partners and, crucially, the local community (Figure 3.1). BCHAP can be summarised as having two main objectives – (A) to provide heritage community outreach and education events, helping to further enthuse the Trim community on their fantastic medieval heritage and (B) to help rehabilitate the Black Friary site into a valuable amenity/green space for the local community of Trim. Both these objectives are in keeping with the founding principle of BCHAP in 2010 - to help protect the heritage of the Black Friary site.

The work of BCHAP has not previously been reported in this format (but see Mandal et al., 2015); as such, reporting here briefly describes the project's progress from 2010-2014 before presenting a more detailed description of the community programme in the last two years, a logical separation as the scope and scale of BCHAP projects have increased significantly in the last two seasons.

## Community Amenity Work

In parallel to the excavations, a range of site amenity works commenced in 2010. The primary purpose of BCHAP's amenity plan was to help rehabilitate the Black Friary site, which over the past few decades had become an overgrown wasteland and the focus of anti-social behaviour. Key to addressing this neglect is the improvement of the Black Friary site itself, so that the site is increasingly seen locally as worthy of safeguarding as a resource that is compatible with community use – put simply that the Black Friary might become a pleasant green space suitable for community use.

Examples of the early amenity works (2010-2014) include the installation of an information panel (funded through a grant award from the Archaeological Institute of America) and construction of terraces for marquees in 2013, as well as and intermittent litter picks on the site.

In the summer of 2014 Meath County Council coordinated the placement of thirteen Gateway scheme workers on the Black Friary heritage site to help improve the amenity value of the field (see below). This

placement has facilitated the development of significantly more ambitious amenity projects, and it became possible to implement a more formal programme of landscape and amenity work on the site, delivered under the BCHAP umbrella (driven by IAFS and MCC). The work of the Gateway crew at the Black Friary is integral to delivering this programme, with several projects successfully delivered in the last two years.

### Waste Management and Site Appearance

The initial objective of the amenity programme was to return the site to 'clean' and safe pastureland, devoid of weeds, rubbish and areas of scrub/brambles (that had become hot spots for littering and dumping). Prior to 2014 some cleanup work as outlined above, had already been initiated in co-operation with Trim Tidy Towns who helped 'litter pick' the rubbish into more manageable heaps. After the placement of Gateway personnel on the site these efforts increased - dangerous holes on the site were backfilled; the heaps of soil covered rubbish were disposed of; large copses of unsightly brambles were removed; extra signage was erected to discourage dumping and littering and the site (not including the active archaeological area) was sprayed to remove invasive weed species (primarily nettles and thistles). As a result the site is now clean and safe, although continued vigilance is required to prevent further casual dumping.

### Defining Areas of Use/Access

The Black Friary site had in the past been used extensively for grazing stock. Horses were introduced to the site in 2012, 2013 but this was not really ideal as there was a concern that they might have too great an impact on potentially sensitive areas. However, by 2014 both the boundary and internal fencing had degraded to the point that they were no longer stock proof, and had become an eyesore on the site. In 2014 new fencing was installed within the site itself (following the line of the degraded fence erected when the horses were introduced, close to the precinct boundary). The fencing effectively divided the site into two broad areas, each capable of retaining stock, making it possible to keep sheep away from the excavation area should archaeology be exposed (as well limiting access to areas such as the 'SMART Garden' [see below]). As part of the fencing project vernacular gates, information signage and stone piers was also installed. The gates and signage clearly indicate the presence of the archaeological remains, and the need to respect and protect the site.

The post and rail fencing surrounding the site at its southern and western limits was also either repaired or upgraded in 2015. In 2016 a new entrance of stone piers and vernacular gates, facing the community garden (see below), replaced the old gated entrance, which was dilapidated and had become a hazard. BCHAP safety signage and statutory OPW signage were also erected beside the new entrance, to further encourage positive use of the Black Friary field.

### Community Garden (and Orchard)

In conjunction with the 'SMART' (South Meath Area Response to Teenagers) local charity group the Gateway crew successfully installed a community garden on the site in 2014-2015 (that was formally launched in June 2015). This garden was constructed in the previously unsightly entrance to the site, in an area that had seen extensive recent dumping activity. The symmetry in the community garden, developed according to a landscaping plan commissioned by MCC, is intended to mirror the medieval symmetry of the friary and its associated gardens; the initial garden provided picnic seating for 24 people and bench seating for an additional eight people.

At the time the garden was completed the landscaping plan also proposed the planting of a community orchard – pending funding being secured. The SMART group successfully applied for heritage funding through MCC to undertake this planting in 2015 and that work is now nearing completion. Picnic seating for another 24 individuals has been installed and the planting of native orchard species is imminent.

### Signage and Display

The first signage for the site was funded through a grant from the Archaeological Institute of America under the institution's Site Preservation Awards Scheme. This information panel was placed at the entrance to the site and gives information on the history of the site and its context within the town of Trim.

As discussed in Section 1, the first six archaeological cuttings were completed and backfilled in 2015. These cuttings (together with the cuttings still in progress) revealed significant archaeological remains and helped classify portions of the original footprint of the friary buildings. Thus it was considered preferable to mark the cutting limits, as well as potentially some feature outlines, in a semi-permanent fashion, until such time that the excavations are concluded and a 'final' presentation of the excavations can be made as part of a fully drafted Management and Conservation Plan.

To achieve this presentation the upper c. 10cm of the cuttings were edged with timber and backfilled with gravel, thus preserving their limits for future visitors and students. As larger cuttings are concluded this strategy may be altered slightly to preserve the outline of cuttings (thus avoiding large gravel areas requiring maintenance). In 2016, in partnership with Dig it Kids Ltd, is it planed to facilitate a community event whereby local school children will help from IAFS third level students outline the more significant structural features found in these cuttings, assisting visitor interpretation of the site. The design and implementation of this will be undertaken in consultation with the local authority, the local community and the relevant authorities. . A faculty led group of third level students from Indiana State University, engaged in a Community Engagement programme, intend to visit the site and help with these works.

It order to improve student and visitor experience on the site information signage, funded by MCC, was installed in 2015 (at both the site and within the town). The signage in 2015 took three main forms:

- Heritage 'finger post' signage around the town directing footfall to the site
- BCHAP signage directing people how to use the site (Figure 3.5)
- Information signage that describes the preliminary archaeological results of the finished cuttings (Figure 3.11)

### Upgrading Teaching Facilities

Since the commencement of the Gateway scheme significant improvements have been made to the teaching facilities. In 2014 power was installed on the site for the first time - allowing the establishment of a computer lab (helping to make post-excavation processes more streamlined). The installation of the power necessitated the excavation of a c. 0.5m wide trench from the easternmost limits of the site (see above). This trench was hand excavated through the precinct area and was archaeologically monitored outside the percent as part of the testing methodology. The same trench also used to install water to the post-excavation facilities, to help with onsite sieving and washing.

In 2015 broadband was also installed on the site for the first time –making year round use of the site offices viable for the first time. Since 2015 IAFS have maintained a year round presence on the site and so are now capable of supporting community events at any time of the year.

### Learning Zone/Mock Archaeological Dig

As outlined in Section 1, Cutting 11 was completed in 2014 and was the first excavation to be finished to the level of natural subsoil. Following the conclusion of this dig it was decided to rehabilitate the cutting as a 'learning' zone with 'reconstructed' archaeology, which could be used for educational initiatives with local school children (as well as for teaching adult visitors basic field archaeology techniques in a simulated environment). Using skills learnt on a traditional stonework course (that were also used for the construction of the piers: see above) the Gateway crew constructed an 'archaeological site', complete with a 1:1 scale replica of the town wall. The training dig has proven an enormous success, especially as part of children's events hosted by Dig it Kids – such as BCHAP's 2015 Medieval Family Day (see below).

## Community Education and Outreach Events

BCHAP, supported by IAFS, have delivered a wide-ranging programme of events since 2010 that is too extensive to fully report here (but is frequently posted on our website, www.iafs.ie and the BCHAP Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/Blackfriary-Community-Heritage-and-Archaeology-Project-904068256301211/?ref=hl). For ease of description the project's community outreach events are divided below into categories, namely those that occur on site and within the wider town of Trim, as well as dissemination to the academic community nationally and internationally. As with the amenity work, the scope of community events has increased since 2014 and is now more formally structured into an annual programme – a programme which saw 29 community events hosted in the 2015 season alone (more than one a fortnight!).

### Site Events

Regular events are held on site to encourage the local community to visit the Black Friary project and learn about the archaeological process. Such events include:

- *Community Tour Days*: Since the 2015 season, regular site tour days are held every second Thursday during the excavation season (or at other times by request: see below). The local community are welcome to visit the site at any time, but are encouraged to visit on designated days (or by appointment) when provision can be made for the archaeologal team to spend time with the visitors.
- *School Visits:* Since the commencement of the project, school groups have been encouraged to visit the site for tours and activities. Through engagement between the site director and local teachers and by a programme organised by Dig it Kids, primary school visits were undertaken in 2011 and since then all of the local schools (and many from father afield) have visited the site. Programmes have also been developed with secondary schools, including a project whereby a local school's transition year pupils assisted in the preparation of materials for use in the temporary backfilling of a cutting.
- *Tailor made tours:* Tailor-made tours for historical and or university groups are frequently facilitated (i.e. the peer community). Examples of visiting tours in 2014 - 2015 included: Ball State University (from the United States); the Rathmichael Historical Society; Clondalkin Historical Society; Kildare Historical and Archaeological Society and Maynooth University.
- *Evening Events:* Cognisant of the restrictions of the site 'opening hours', a number of evening tours/events are hosted each season (that are generally followed by light refreshments).
- *Launch Events:* Working with the other partners of BCHAP, a number of launch events typically occur annually. These might simply be to launch the IAFS excavation season or to open specific projects such as the SMART Garden or the oral history project (see below).
- *Heritage Week Events*: A programme of family friendly events is held during each heritage week. In 2016 we plan to conduct our first focused Community Dig as part of this nationwide initiative.

- *Marquee Events*: Since it's inception in 2010, BCHAP has held at least one marquee event annually. Most recently, in 2015, BCHAP (organised and implemented by IAFS and Dig it Kids), hosted a Medieval Family Day on the Black Friary, featuring onsite catering, expert led tours, exhibits of archaeological artefacts, a kids' medieval archaeology camp and a number of demonstrations (including one on the traditional manufacture of lime). The event was attended by nearly 300 people and partially funded through MCC's Tourism Diaspora Fund.

## Town Events

Site events are only one facet of our community outreach efforts. We also regularly host events throughout the town including, but not limited to, the below:

- *One off events*: We regularly support one off projects, together with other local groups. A notable example from 2015 was IAFS support given to local model maker Joe Donoghue, when he created a beautiful model of the Black Friary, which was formally launched in Trim Library on Saint Patrick's Day 2015.
- *Evening Events*: We regularly host evening events in Trim Library focused on the Black Friary and wider heritage of Trim. These evening functions have included launch events, lectures and discussions/workshops, such as on the role of archaeology in the community.
- *Pop up Museum*: A pop up museum was held in Trim Library in 2014. Information panels, prepared with financial assistance from the Heritage Council, and replica finds were on display for a number of months.. The museum was manned by archaeology students to ensure interested members of the public could ask questions on the site, medieval Trim or archaeology in general. The highlight of the museum was a children's art workshop by artist James Kirwan. This has been brought into play at The Town Wall Festival events also

## Oral History Project

One of the recent highlights of BCHAP's community programme was the launch of our oral history project 'Living Among the Monuments' by Regina FitzGerald (a founder of the Oral History Network of Ireland) in February of this year. This project had been promoted throughout the town of Trim for much of 2015 and aims to document the social history of Trim that is retained in living memory. We hope to work with local national and secondary schools, community groups, and individuals, to collect and collate stories, memories, folklore, photographs and other forms of local knowledge relating to the social history and heritage of both Trim and the Blackfriary. The projects main objective is to record and archive such information, so that it can ultimately be presented in a publicly accessible manner and made available as an educational resource.

A junior division of the project 'The Memory Detectives' had previously been launched in December 2015. The Memory Detectives, jointly administered by BCHAP and Dig it Kids, provides a mechanism for children to get involved, whereby they can write down or record memories and stories from their older relatives. The project is starting to gain traction and we already are working with a number of local groups/individuals, including making weekly visits to a nursing home in the town to record the resident's memories of Trim/Meath. Further details on all aspects of the project are available on our new website 'Trim Stories' (https://trimstories.wordpress.com/).

## Academic conference to celebrate the 750th anniversary of the founding of the Black Friary

In July 2013, in partnership with Meath County Council Heritage Office and the Heritage Council, IAFS organised an international conference 'Power, prayer & public archaeology: A conference in celebration

of 750 years since the foundation of the Black Friary' (http://powerprayerpublicarchaeology.wordpress.com/).

The conference explored the archaeology and material culture of Religious Houses in late medieval Europe, through innovative approaches to new stories. Through interdisciplinary approaches, the conference addressed how the introduction of continental monastic orders impacted locally on social order, material culture, economy, burial practice, and the role of men, women and children.

Themes included European-wide research, Ireland-focused studies, architectural style and technologies and a focus on the Black Friary Dominican site in Trim Co. Meath as a case study. The latter included papers on community and public archaeology, an integral part of the Black Friary Archaeology Project, and a presentation from community representatives.

A highlight of the conference was a session organised specifically for the local community to present their view of their heritage. Roy Murray and Delphine Coudray of Oulala Productions produced a wonderful short film on the site in celebration of World Archaeology Day - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpwpGXjjhRA#t=175.

## National and International Dissemination

The project has earned a significantly high profile nationally and internationally through an on-going programme of national and international outreach has seen the project represented at conferences and as guest speakers, for example:

Dr. Stephen Mandal has presented lectures and seminars on the project to a wide range of audiences. Most recently, Dr Mandal undertook lecture tours as an Archaeological Institute of America guest speaker in January and April 2016:

- 2013 Palm Beach - Palm Beach Archaeological Society, The Florida Beach Historical Society, Florida Atlantic University and Palm Beach Atlantic University
- 2013 The Smithsonian Institute
- 2014 Archaeological Institute of America – Boston
- 2014 The Irish Consul – Washington
- 2015 Archaeological Institute of America – Boston
- 2015 Vero Beach - Old Vero Ice Age Sites Committee (OVIASC http://www.oviasc.org/)
- 2016 Archaeological Institute of America – Missouri State University, Columba
- 2016 Archaeological Institute of America – University of Southern Florida
- 2016 Palm Beach University
- 2016 University of Central Florida
- 2016 Archaeological Institute of America Orange County, California
- 2016 Archaeological Institute of America Fresno, California
- 2016 Archaeological Institute of America Lynchburg, Virginia
- 2016 Archaeological Institute of America Westchester, New York
- 2016 Archaeological Institute of America Hofstra, New York
- 2016 UCLA
- 2016 Harvard
- 2016 Indiana State

Finola O'Carroll and Dr. Loreto Guinan attended the 19th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, 2013, Pilsen, Czech Republic, 4th – 8th September 2013, presenting a poster on the BCHAP. Finola has lectured to many groups and conferences on the findings at the Friary:

- 2011 Lectures in Hofstra, Boston College and Wagner College with Dr. Mandal
- 2012 Trim Chamber of Commerce
- 2012 Conference: Recent Research in the Boyne Valley, Slane

- 2013 Conference: Power, Prayer and Public Archaeology, Trim
- 2013 Conference: Space and Settlement, TCD
- 2013 Meath Archaeological and Historical Society, Trim
- 2014 Rathmichael Historical Society, Dublin
- 2014 Joint lecture with Dr. Denis Shine, Conference: Recent Research in the Boyne Valley, Slane
- 2015 Joint lecture with Dr. Rachel Scott to SAA conference, San Francisco
- 2015 Conference: Monastic Europe, Landscape and Settlement, Ennis
- 2016 Meath Archaeological and Historical Society, Trim
- 2016 Talk given to residents of St. Joseph's Nursing Home, Trim
- 2016 Talk given to the ALPS group, Trim

## Press and Recognition

The project has been featured in local (Trim Focus, Meath Chronicle) and national newspapers (Irish Times and Irish Examiner) on numerous occasions. BCHAP/IAFS has also featured on national television, while a number of videos have been commissioned for the project. The project has received several national and international awards, including:

- Keith Bellows is Vice President of National Geographic and Editor in Chief of the organisation's prestigious Travel Magazine. He spent a day at Black Friary, he was so impressed by the project that he included it in his 2013 book '100 Places that can Change Your Child's Life: From the Backyard to the Ends of the Earth'.
- In March 2013, in an interview with CNN, America's leading news organisation, Bellows was asked to pick his top ten from his list of 100, and listed the Blackfriary alongside places such as the Galapagos Islands and the Grand Canyon.
- In 2014 the Boyne Valley was listed by the Lonely Planet as one of the top ten places in the world to visit, and the BCHAP was specifically listed as one of the key reasons to travel to the region.
- Through Cultural Tourism Ireland, BCHAP won the Small Business Marketing Award at the 2012 Meath Business and Tourism Awards.

## Publications

The project, now over five years old, has progressed to the point whereby the first cuttings have been completed and specialist results/radiometric dates are beginning to return. This progress has facilitated the start of a detailed research publication programme aimed at both the local and academic communities. To date publications include:

- Mandal, S., & O'Carroll, F., (2011). A New Model for Site Preservation and Archaeological Practice. *Archaeological Institute of America Site Preservation Program: Heritage, Conservation & Archaeology Series Paper*, 1-6.
- Mandal, S., O'Carroll, F. & Shine, D. (2015). The Black Friary, Trim. *Archaeology Ireland, 111*, 34-38.
- O'Carroll F, Shine, D., McConnon, M. & Corrway, L. (2016). The Blackfriary Button. *Ríocht na Midhe Vol. XXVIII*, 30-35.
- Shine, D., Green, A., O' Carroll, F., Mandal, S., & Mullee, B. What Lies Beneath – Chasing the Trim Town Wall Circuit. *Archaeology Ireland, 115*.

In an effort to help promote outstanding undergraduate students professional development in archaeology, by honing their writing and analytical skills, we also attempt to identify a student each year to publish an experiental piece on their time with us at the Black Friary. Such pieces will help strengthen

collaborations between our alumni, staff, new students, the local community and student's academic advisors. To date the following IAFS alumni publications have been forthcoming:

- Green, A. (2015). Excavations at the Black Friary: A Unique Digging Experience in Ireland. *The Post Hole, 45,* 27-34.
- Lagan, M. (2013). The Dead Beneath the Floors: The use of space for burial in the Dominican Blackfriary in Trim, Ireland. *Irish Archaeological Research Magazine, 5,* 13-21.
- Marlin, J. (In Press). The Blackfriary: A Community Project. *Armstrong Undergraduate Journal of History.*

## Cultural Heritage Tourism

The tourism potential that BCHAP brings to County Meath is very high and its appeal to the wider public lies in the process of transformation which is of great interest, not just the finished product. On behalf of the project, Cultural Tourism Ireland has greatly increased national and international awareness of the project, promoting it as a reason for people to visit, to revisit, and importantly to stay in County Meath. The economic indicator figures demonstrate that this project, through the participation of the students and through the visitors who come to view the ongoing excavations, will generate millions of euro for the local economy during its lifetime.

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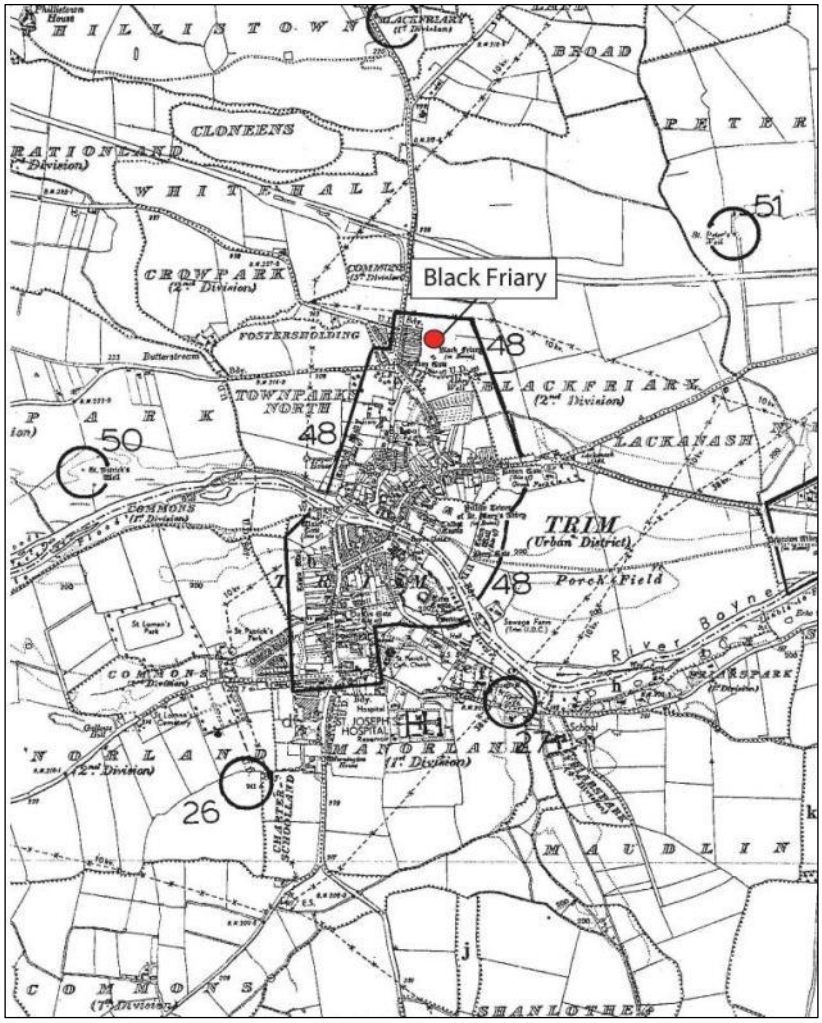
# Figures



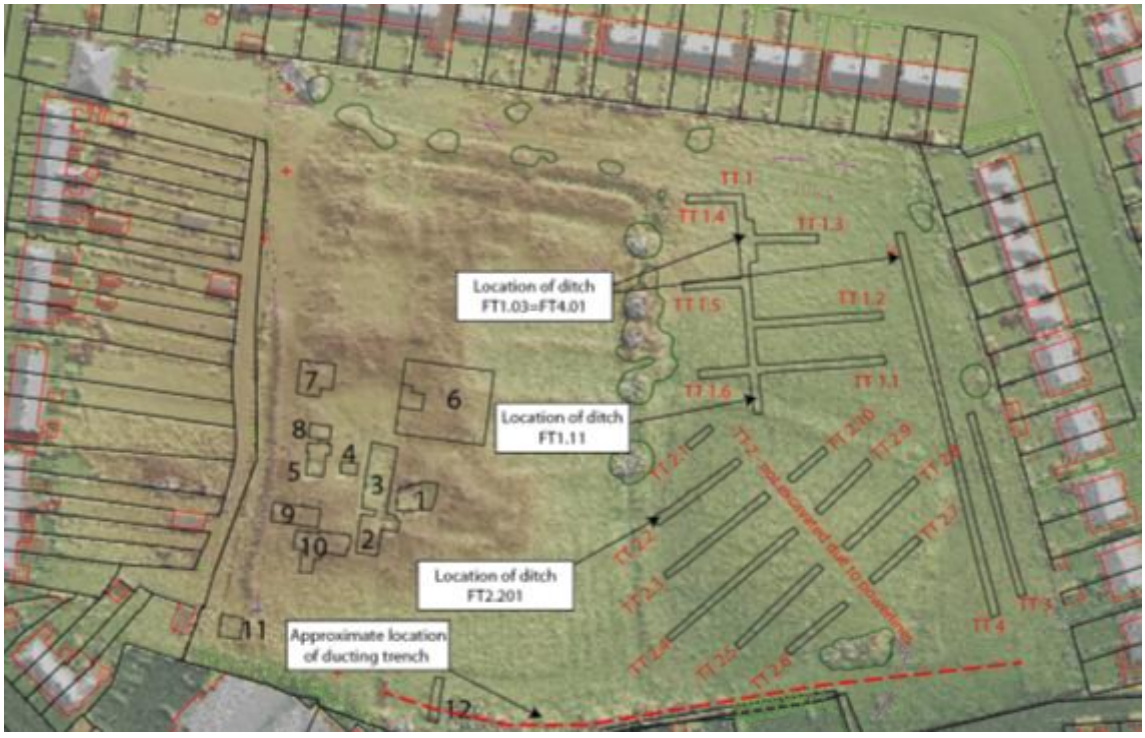




Figure 1.1a top: Position of the Black Friary within the town of Trim and 1.1b bottom: Lidar survey of the Black friary field (overlaid on modern Ordnance Survey data), showing the array of archaeological trenches, ducting trench and location of archaeological features

Figure 1.2: Cutting 3, Burial 79 mid-excavation, from east


Figure 1.3: Cutting 3, Collection of longbones disturbed during insertion of later burials.


Figure 1.4: Cutting 3, Burial 85, infant, mid-excavation, from east

Figure 1.5: Cutting 5, Buttress F504 in pit F530 from north


Figure 1.6: Cutting 5, section through pit [F527], filled with slate, F525, from south

Figure 1.7: Cutting 5 from north showing the cloister wall F503 and rebuilt wall F524, ambulatory F517, buttress, F504 and remnant post-medieval track F508 with rubble fills showing in the north facing baulk

Figure 1.8: Cutting 6, extending the cutting, view from the east

Figure 1.9: Cutting 6, view from south of area of east range; width of range marked by ranging rods at extreme left and right of the photo

Figure 1.10: Cutting 6, F647, possible bench, beside F614, chapter house wall

Figure 1.11: Cutting 6, steps F635 from south; clay bonded wall F622 is visible to the rear right.

Figure 1.12: Cutting 6, one of the fragments of stained glass in lead cames being block lifted by Rolly Read of the NMI

Figure 1.13: Burial 91 during excavation

Figure 1.14: Cutting 8, view of ambulatory F810, cloister wall, F805 and rubble including Purbeck marble fragments, F807

Figure 1.15: Ciutting 8, pit F813 from south


Figure 1.16: Cutting 8, pit F823 in south baulk of cutting


Figure 1.17: Cutting 8, Burial 82

Figure 1.18: Burial 56, mid-excavation from east

Figure 1.19: Cutting 9 from west, view of gullies and metalled surface F954

Figure 1.20: Cutting 9, view of post-medieval gullies from south

Figure 1.21: Cutting 10, Burial 87 located beneath metalled surface F1005

Figure 1.22: Cutting 10, Burial 101 in foreground with stepped buttress F1061 behind against buttress F1008


Figure 1.23: Cutting 10, Burial 95 mid-excavation; note depth of cut and mortar like substance against left arm

Figure 1.24: Cutting 10, excavating the foundation trench F1034

Figure 1.25: Cutting 10, F1083, foundation cut for plinth of buttress F1010; note fragment of cranium at edge of cut


Figure 1.26: Cutting 10, F1061 during excavation with rubble fill F1060 to west


Figure 1.27: Cutting 10, 10, section through robbed out foundation trench for south wall showing rubble fill, F1036=1039, with the church floor, F1026 to north of it

Figure 1.28: Cutting 11, Cutting 11 during excavation as Burials 68 and 76 are being exposed

Figure 1.29: Cutting 11 during excavation showing modern disturbance

Figure 1.30: Cutting 12, Burial 78 mid-excavation

Figure 1.31: Cutting 12, Burial 78 during excavation

Figure 1.32: Cutting 12, ditch during excavation

Figure 1.33: Cutting 12, ditch post-excavation

Figure 1.34: Ditch FT1.03 view from SE, post-excavation,

Figure 1.35: Post-excavation, NW-SE ditch T4.01, re-cut FT4.08, showing waterlogged base

Figure 1.36: Working shot looking at bank FT1.11 south of ditch FT1.03

Figure 1.37: Post-excavation shot of shallow ditch FT1.11

Figure 1.38: Post-excavation shot of bank FT1.06 south area

Figure 1.39: View from south of ditch FT2.101, post-excavation

Figure 1.40: View south across trench TT2.2; precinct boundary bank is behind marked by trees

Figure 1.41: Post-excavation shot of NW-SE ditch FT103, re-cut FT104 showing the inserted ceramic pipe at its base

Figure 1.42: Post-excavation shot of NW-SE ditch FT4.01 and drain FT4.04, showing relationship between FT4.01 and FT4.04. Drain FT4.04 goes below decayed sod line FT4.07.


Figure 2.1: Stained glass after conservation by Ms. Sylwia Bronchard

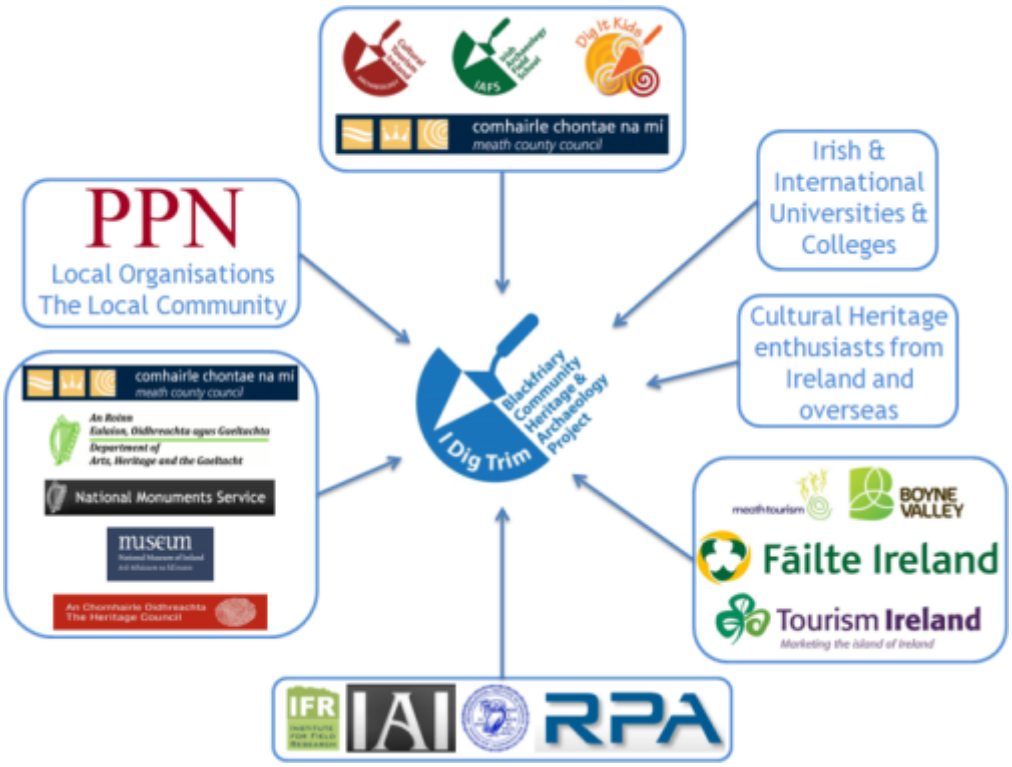



Figure 3.1: The key partners in the Blackfriary Community Heritage and Archaeology Project

Figure 3.2: BCHAP's 'first' Gateway team, from left to right – Michael, Jason, Conn, Maurice, Greg and Willie

Figure 3.3: Cutting 11 being rehabilitated as a children's education zone (pictured from left to right are Keith, Michael, Greg and Richie)

Figure 3.4: Bulldozed rubbish heaps on the site (since removed in 2014)

Figure 3.5: Completed internal fencing along the Precinct Boundary

Figure 3.6: New site entrance after completion, also showing the community orchard (see below) under development

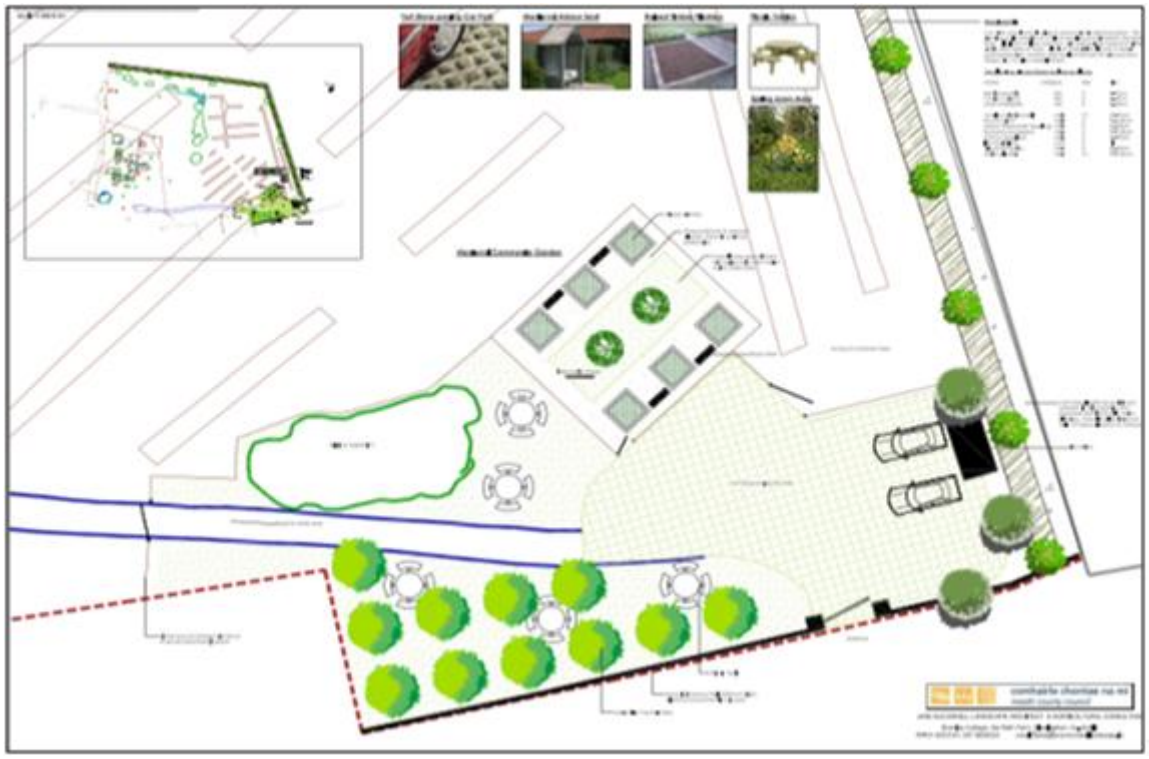


Figure 3.7: Jane McCorkell's plan for the 'SMART' garden and orchard, commissioned by MCC

Figure 3.8: The SMART Garden in summer 2015

Figure 3.9: ‘Outlined’ Cuttings on the Black Friary site


Figure 3.10: Template used for BCHAP signage

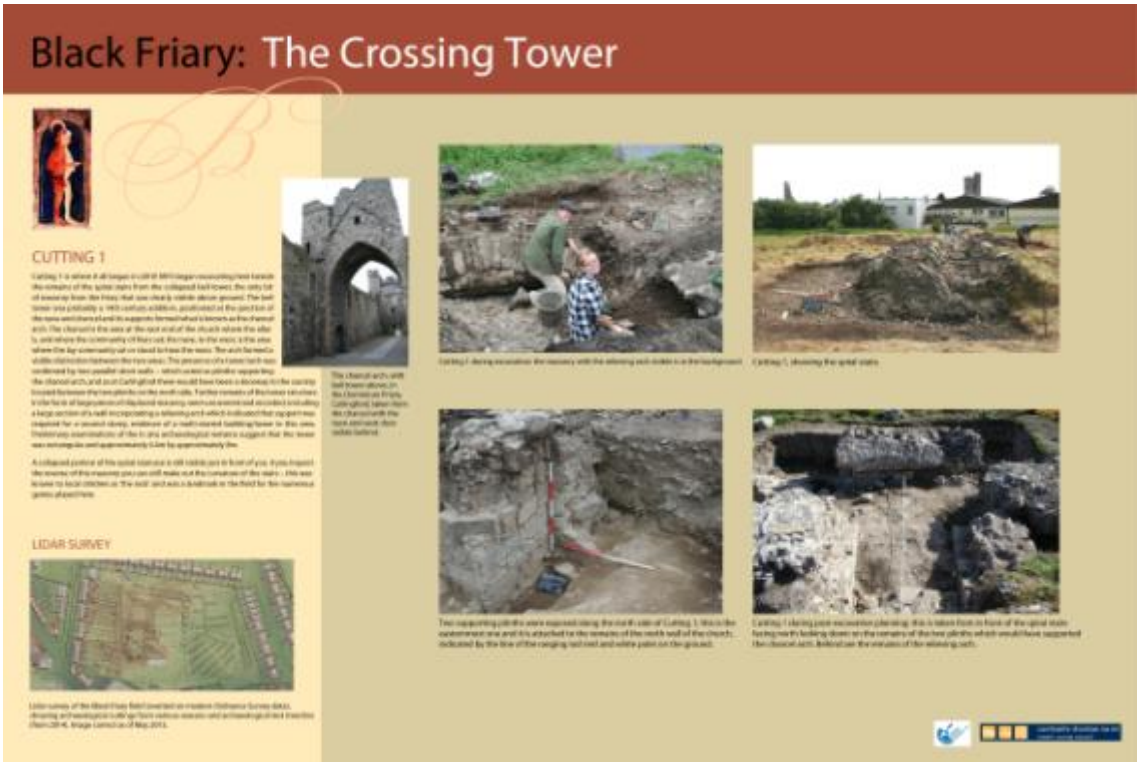



Figure 3.11: Sample of the information signage erected at finished cuttings

Figure 3.12: Children being archaeologists for a day in the 'mock' cutting, under the watchful supervision of Dig it Kids

Figure 3.13: A school visit being led by IAFS students in January 2016

Figure 3.14: A site tour in progress


Figure 3.15: Local press coverage of 2015's Medieval Family Day

Figure 3.16: Model maker Joe Donoghue launching his Black Friary model

Figure 3.17: Archaeologist Kieran Campbell delivers a pottery workshop during the 2014 pop up museum

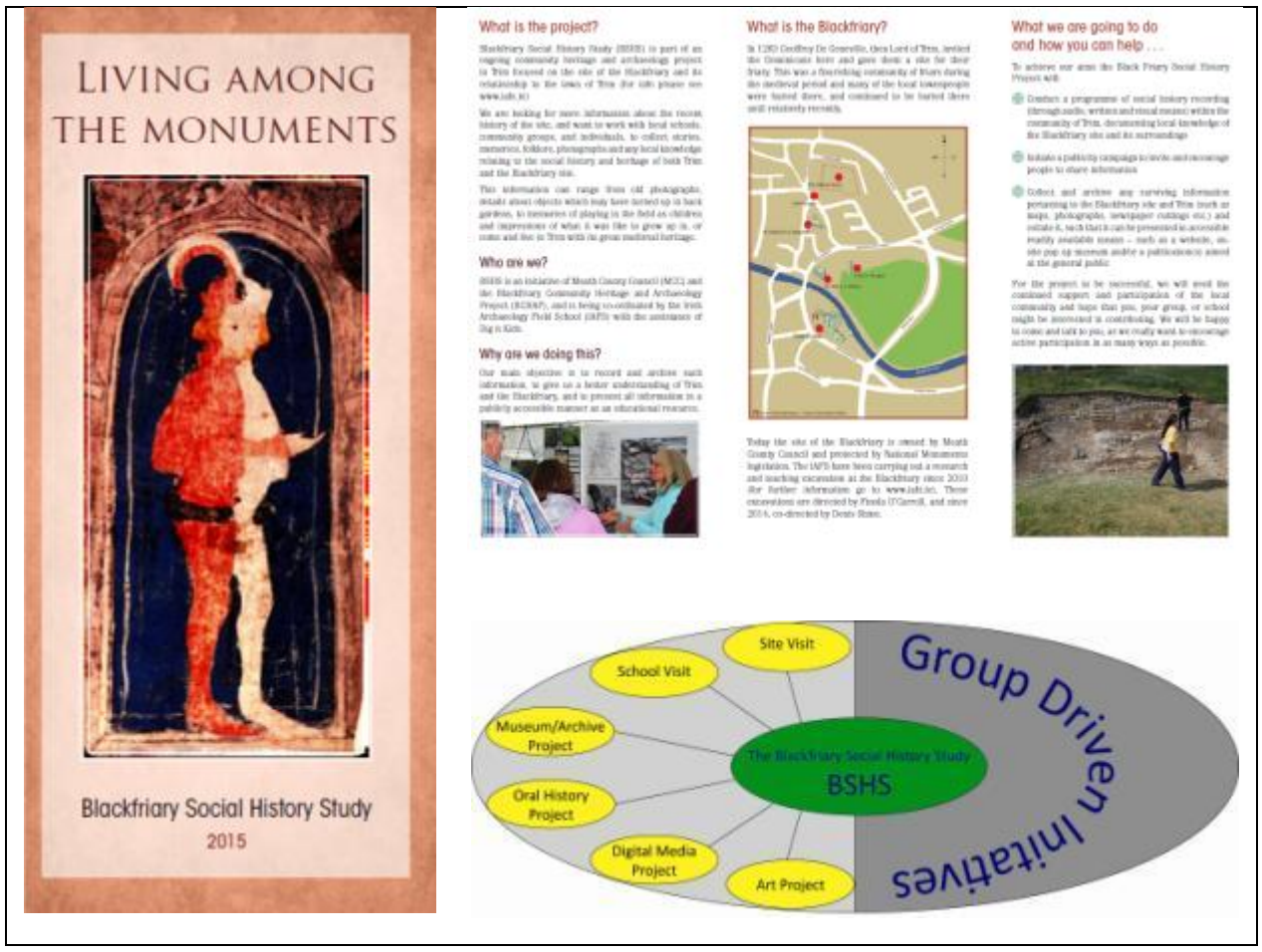



Figure 3.18: Promotional material for our 'Living Among the Monuments' project, indicating initiatives the local community can contribute to.

# Appendix 1

# Method Statement for the 2016 Season

**Method Statement for**

**Excavations at Black Friary for 2016 under**

**Ministerial Consent No. C420; Registration No. E4127**

Excavations have been carried out at the Black Friary, Trim, Co. Meath in 2010 – 2015. The results of these excavations to date are reported on in three interim reports, the first for the 2010 season the second for the seasons 2011 – 2013, and this third report for 2014 – 2015. The background to this site is fully described in these reports and its location in relation to the town shown in detail.

Thus far the cloister has been located and three of its four corners exposed, the fourth, southeast corner remains unexcavated. The north and south walls of the church and its south aisle respectively have been partly exposed, the junction of the west and north ranges has been located. The east range has been exposed from the junction with the north range to approximately half way through the chapter house. The location of the cemetery has been shown to lie to the south of the church and appears to extend beyond the line of the town boundary. Significant human remains have been uncovered in the church and in the cemetery, and these are being excavated while the project osteoarchaeologist, Dr. Rachel Scott of dePaul University, Chicago, is present on site. A boundary ditch between the friary and the town has been uncovered, although it appears it was backfilled soon after the friary was founded. In addition the area to the east of the friary precinct has been tested to establish the extent of surviving archaeological remains, in order to clarify among other things the potential availability of the area for community use.

*Ongoing work for 2016*

As outlined in the latest report, of all the cuttings opened so far, Cuttings 1 – 12, Cuttings 1, 4, 5, 8, 11 and 12 have been closed, Cuttings 2 and 7 are closed pending further investigation and Cutting 9 will be closed in the forthcoming season. Cuttings 3, 6 and 10 are still under excavation. Given the presence of in situ masonry remains and the likely presence of burials the extent of further excavations in some cuttings will be limited. Excavations will initially re-commence in Cuttings 6, 9 and 10, and then Cutting 7 will be re-opened and possibly extended. It is anticipated that excavations will continue in Cuttings 3 and 10, when Dr. Scott arrives in mid-June, as human remains are known to be present in both cuttings.

The objectives are:

- to continue explorations within the east range to clarify phasing of the buildings and
- to further explore the garden area to the rear, all in cutting 6;
- to clarify the questions surrounding the south wall of the nave of the church, prior to the building of the south aisle, presuming it was a later addition in Cuttings 9 and 10;
- to explore the interface between the cemetery and the church, in Cutting 10
- to clarify the depth and density of burials in the nave of the church in Cutting 3
- to investigate the north range of the friary in Cutting 7

*Proposed new Cutting in 2016* (Figure 1)

To help inform future IAFS excavation strategies a geophysical (ground-penetrating radar [GPR] and electromagnetic [EM]) survey covering approximately 0.5 hectares was conducted at the Black Friary. These surveys were undertaken intermittently from April - July 2015 as part of an MSc dissertation, a study focused on the forensic and archaeological applications of GPR in clay soils, by Ms. Ashely Green (Bournemouth University), a past student of the Irish Archaeology Field School. The survey was conducted under licence15R0023.

Following investigations of the town boundary ditch in Cutting 12 this survey indicated that this feature may continue further east. It is proposed to open a cutting, potentially to locate the NE corner of the town ditch at the point where the line turns south towards the Navan Gate. It is also anticipated that this cutting will be the area where a community dig will take place during Heritage Week under the direction of the co-directors.

Finally, it is intended to open two cuttings outside the area of the buildings, to the east. These will be in the area of the friary gardens, within the precinct and will run across one of the visible banks, and the second will cut through the possible precinct boundary, surviving today in the form of a ditch, (see Figure 2)

*Excavation Team*

The team will consist of co-Directors Finola O'Carroll and Dr. Denis Shine, supervisors Bairbre Mullee, Laura Corrway and Ian Kinch and between 20 and 40 students. Dr. Rachel Scott is the project osteoarchaeologist and directs excavations and recording of the human remains, and she will be assisted by Dr. Charisse Carver and a number of post graduate students.

A number of students are returning as site support staff this season.

The project is being developed as a public /educational/tourist project. Accordingly it is hoped that members of the local community who have an interest will participate in the excavations also. If non-archaeologists wish to participate for a longer period they would be trained as are the students, and fully supervised.

*Logistics*

Logistical support will be provided by Trim Town Council, and further back-up can be provided by the IAFS if necessary, for additional personnel or equipment if required.

*Finds and samples*

All archaeological finds and samples will be stabilized, bagged and recorded according to NMI guidelines. Conservation and specialist analysis will be undertaken by the persons named below if required. Finds, samples and excavation archive will be stored in the IAFS offices, UCD, until after the completion of the report. Finds will ultimately be housed in the NMI.

*Conservation*

The IAFS retain the services of a number of finds conservation specialists, including Ms Susannah Kelly of the Archaeology Dept, UCD.

*Specialists*

The IAFS retain the services of a number of specialists, Dr. Fiona Beglane, (animal bone), Susan Lyons, (soils) and Dr Stephen Mandal (stone – in house).

*Constraints*

Safety Hazards – The IAFS safety statement of practices will be complied with regard to trench depth and distances from existing structures.

*Reporting*

A full report outlining background, methodology and results of the investigation, shall be forwarded to the NMS, NMI and to the Local Authority at the end of every season. When the programme is completed it shall be fully published, but it is envisaged that interim publications of both scholarly and popular nature shall appear at regular intervals. It is also intended to maintain and update a section on the IAFS website devoted to the research project.


*Figure 1: LiDAR Image of the site showing current cuttings and area of GPR Survey, where proposed new cutting will be located.*