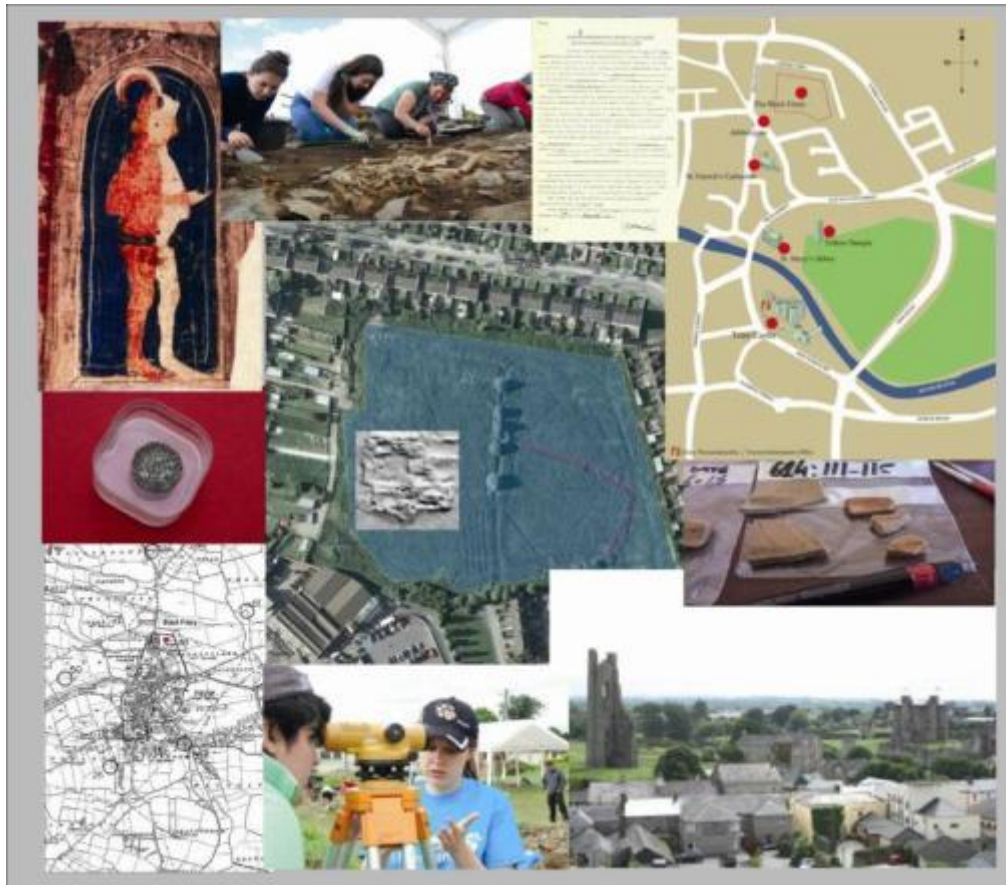


# Black Friary Archaeological and Community Report for Season 8, Spring/Summer 2017



**BLACKFRIARY ARCHAEOLOGY  
FIELD SCHOOL**

*Digging the Past Growing the Future*

**Blackfriary Community Heritage and  
Archaeology Project**





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## Summary

This interim report details the eighth season of excavation at Black Friary, Blackfriary townland in Trim Co, Meath which took place in 2017. 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 with Finola O'Carroll as the nominated archaeologist. An excavation recording number E4127 was issued by the National Museum for recording to Finola O'Carroll.

Works prior to 2017 have been extensively reported previously in interim reports (most recently see O'Carroll, Shine et al. 2017 but also O'Carroll 2011 and 2014). During the 2017 season, work focused on examining in detail the east range (Cutting 6) and exploring the area north of the north range to determine if another range of buildings had existed there (Cutting 7 extension). Excavations also continued on a sample of burials within the cemetery (Cutting 10). The southern boundary of the site, which may bear relation to the northern medieval boundary of Trim, was also examined through the excavation of Cutting 13.

## Acknowledgements

Our research at the Black Friary site would not be possible without the permission and support of the site owners, Meath County Council, the National Monuments Section, (NMS), and the National Museum of Ireland (NMI). Our students and staff do all the hard work and make this research project possible.

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. Many thanks in particular to 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, post-excavation works and support of our community calendar. We would also like to acknowledge the support of statutory bodies, the National Monuments Section (NMS), and Office of Public Works (OPW).

Many specialists have contributed to the analyses of the Black Friary collection over time. The faunal bones were examined by Dr. Fiona Beglane and reported on in 2016, and her collaboration with the project continues. David Stone, School of Archaeology UCD, is undertaking work on palaeoenvironmental samples from the site. Special mention is reserved for the wonderful staff and students of Cardiff University Conservation Laboratory who conserved the wider collection of stained glass (in excess of 1400 pieces) – in particular thank you to. Jane Henderson, Phil Parkes, Meredith Sweeney and Jack Newcombe. We are delighted to continue this collaboration with Cardiff University Conservation Laboratory.

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 (and interns) – many thanks for your continued professionalism and enthusiasm.

We owe sincere thanks to our wonderful host community in Trim, especially to our homestay families, members of Trim Tidy Towns and others (there are far too many individuals to list). Your continued support is what makes the project so special! Finally, much of the transformation that has taken place at the site would not have been possible without the very active collaboration with the SMART Project, and its director Cathreen Sherrock, and the enthusiastic gardeners who maintain the community garden, co-ordinated by Carmel Duffy.

### **Supervisors and Interns who participated in the 2017 season**

Laura Corrway	Ian Kinch
Melissa Clark	Nikki Long
Rebecca Cuntala	Leah Vanderbusch
Kelsey Gamble	

## **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, Blackfriars 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, Dr Rachel Scott, Laura Corrway and Ian Kinch

### Introduction

A research and teaching excavation in the Black Friary, Trim, Co. Meath is ongoing since 2010. Formerly it was conducted by the IAFS, from the end of August 2017 management transferred to the BAfS (Blackfriary Archaeology Field School), and the principal directors and supervisors continue to be the above named. The site (ME038-048023; Figure 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 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 were 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.

Works undertaken prior to 2016 have been extensively reported in previous interim reports. During the seventh season work focused on examining the east range in Cutting 6 and an area to the northwest of the north range in Cutting 7 (which was extensively extended northward). Excavations continued on a sample of burials within the cemetery (Cuttings 3 and 10) – with 127 individuals comprising infants, juveniles, sub-adults and adults now excavate from the site. The southern boundary of the site, which may bear relation to the northern medieval boundary of Trim, was further examined through the continued excavation of Cutting 13. This has now been backfilled.

## 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 summer 2017 excavations continued at the site from May to September when students from a number of countries and a number of local people (Section 3) were involved.

In January 2017 IAFS hosted a winter season, when students from Australia and America excavated at the site for a period of four weeks. BAFS 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. Patrick's 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> century. The remains, consisting of the south and east walls of the tower, are known today as "the yellow steeple" (Bradley, 1989, 43).

The 13<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Mortimer, 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 14<sup>th</sup> and early 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (Dúchas, 2002, 70).

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

The castle was unoccupied and neglected during the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Down 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 metallised 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), and the location of these houses seems to have been predicated on the need to be accessible to people both inside and outside the towns (O'Keeffe 2015, 106). 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.

Work by Matthew Seaver, for 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 2017

The focus of work over the past 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 and assessing the post-medieval to modern uses of the site.

Excavation was undertaken from 2016-2017 in Cuttings 3, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 13. Work focused on detailed examination of a section of the east range (Cutting 6); exploring potential buildings formed around a possible second cloister or courtyard in the area north of the north range (Cutting 7 extension); excavation of burials within the graveyard and south aisle of the church, (Cutting 10); examination of burials within the church nave (Cuttings 3 and 9) and excavation of the site's southern boundary, which may bear relation to the northern medieval boundary of Trim (Cutting 13).

Cuttings 9 and a portion of Cutting 3 have been finalised; Cutting 13 should be finalised this year and work in Cuttings, 6, 7 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 2014 interim report (see O' Carroll 2014).

#### ***Cutting 2***

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

#### ***Cutting 3***

No excavation work has been undertaken in Cutting 3 since the production of the 2016 interim report (see O'Carroll et al, 2017). The cutting has since been partially backfilled to protect the archaeological deposits until excavation within the nave will recommence.

#### ***Cutting 4***

No excavation work has been undertaken in Cutting 4 since the production of the 2014 report (see O' Carroll 2014). The cutting has since been fully reinstated.

#### ***Cutting 5***

No excavation work has been undertaken in Cutting 5 since the production of the 2016 report (see O' Carroll, Shine et al. 2016). The cutting has since been fully reinstated.

## ***Cutting 6***

In 2014 Cutting 6 was greatly extended to facilitate exploration of the cloister, ambulatory, the buildings of the east range, and the gardens at the back of the east range. The cutting is now 17m N/S by 20m E/W and is the largest cutting currently open on the site. As this cutting is currently under investigation, and will be for the next season, this is a summary interim report.

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.

Excavation in Cutting 6 resumed at the beginning of Summer 2017 and focused on the back of the East Range (see Fig.1.1).

In the 2016 season, some work, mostly cleaning and planning, was carried out during the short winter season. While in the summer a transect running east to west across the cutting at the north baulk was excavated, resulting in a detailed look at the junction of the east and north ranges, the interior of the east range and the exterior area to the east, extending into what appears to have been an enclosed yard and garden spaces.

At the beginning of 2017, it was decided to focus on the area which was still relatively high at the back of the East range, continuing on from the 3m wide strip excavated at the North end of Cutting 6 in 2016 towards the area of the chapter house. This area had been de-sodded and some topsoil removed in 2014 season. Some features were identified and assigned numbers although not fully excavated.

Three main areas were excavated and will be discussed separately. These were (i) the building at the back of the East range, south of the yard and kiln features; (ii) the potential garden/outside space between the former and the chapter house; (iii) the southern area of the chapter house and east of it to the limits of the cutting.

### ***1. The building at the back of the East range, south of the yard and kiln features***

The initial focus encompassed the area south of wall **F618** and yard surface (**F677**) and also east of **F639** east wall of the east range.

Rubble layers (**F6114 = F624**) and (**F6115 = F623**) were excavated in this area as far south as wall **F667**. (**F6114**) is a dark brown clayey silt with large amounts of rubble below topsoil (**F612**) with a depth of 0.40m. This sits on larger rubble layers (**F679**) and (**F6117**) and also mixed garden rubble layer (**F676**). (**F6115**) is a dark brown clayey silt with a lesser concentration of stone and is a more organic rich type soil. It has a depth of c. 0.40m, it is below topsoil (**F612**) and sits on wall **F6116** and demolition layers (**F6118**) and (**F6138**).

Below (**F6114**), a larger concentration of rubble was exposed immediately east of **F639**, which is a continuation of (**F679**) excavated in 2016 and interpreted as rubble collapse of the east wall. The maximum depth of this feature is 0.35m and it is fully excavated. It is delimited by wall **F667** to the south and presumably runs further north under the baulk of cutting 6. Also (**F676**), another feature excavated in 2016 which is a loose garden soil with slate and rubble mixed into it was further excavated to the south. The maximum depth of this feature is 0.35m.

Further excavation of wall (**F667**), interpreted as a garden wall when initially exposed in 2014, revealed the full extent of the wall and a possible mortar bench or plinth on the south side. Three courses have been exposed above foundation level with dimensions of 6.95m in length and 0.70m in width. It is unclear if at its west end this wall was bonded to the east wall of the east range or butted

against it, and further examination of this area is needed to clarify this. At the east end a gap possibly for a doorway separates wall **F667** and wall **F6116**.

At the east end of this area, wall **F6116** (see Fig.1.2) was exposed protruding from the E baulk. Three courses of lime mortar bonded limestone have been exposed so far. The wall originally was bonded to **F618** but has been robbed out leaving a gap of about 0.72m and demolition mortar rich layer (**F6138**) marks this. There is a space where wall **F667** and **F6116** meet which may indicate a doorway opening. This would suggest walls **F6116**, **F667**, **F639** and **F618** potentially make up a building at the back of the E range.

(**F6117**) a large rubble and plaster layer was exposed immediately north of wall **F667** below (**F6114**). This feature has a depth of 0.43m and covered an area 3.80m X 3.10m (see Fig.1.3). The formation of this feature has been interpreted as being the result of the collapse of **F667**. It is sitting on (**F6119**).

A burnt layer (**F6118**) immediately in front of wall **F6116** was sampled and produced a quantity of wood and nails. This feature measured 2.20m X 1.10m with a depth of 0.12m. A cut number [**F6133**] was initially given to this but this clear line defines the limit between concentrated burning (**F6118**) and peat like material surrounding it (**F6136**). This feature (**F6136**) is a 0.20m wide band around (**F6118**) and has a depth of 0.06m. This appears to relate to the same event and may represent the edge of a hearth/burning.

The burning layer (**F6118**) is sitting on a loose mortar rich layer (**F6132**) which is likely to be remnants of floor (**F6131**) which has been altered by the burning (**F6118**) (Fig. 1.4). This feature was partially excavated to a depth of 0.06m and left for further investigation.

The metal finds found close to this area include nails, a key and possible door hinge. These are in the area in front of a gap between junction of wall **F6116** and wall **F667** suggesting a doorway which may have been taken down and burnt during the demolition phase or when the area was occupied as part of farm buildings.

The space between wall **F6116** and wall **F667** (1m) was made up of (**F6115**) topsoil rubble, below which (**F6128**) a light brown-grey sandy silt was excavated. This has a depth of 0.15m and sits on natural/redeposited clay. This may be backfill from the removal of a door way.

Below (**F6117**), surface layer (**F6119**) was exposed composed of a plaster and mortar rich spread pressed into a floor level (**F6129**) and (**F6131**). It covers an area roughly 6.80m X 3.60m. This feature was partially exposed and left for further excavation. It may represent a secondary floor level punctured by collapse during the destruction phase of the friary.

The floor level of this room was established in two areas represented by features (**F6119**) and (**F6131**). In the north area of the room below the loose garden soil (**F676**), two flagstones (**F6129**) were found within a mortar surface (**F6131**). The flagstones are at a level of 61.67m OD. The mortar rich surface (**F6119**) (Fig.1.5) may represent a secondary floor level overlying (**F6131**). Both features are still in situ with (**F6131**) exposed at the west end of the possible room and (**F6119**) at the east end. In addition, in front of the wall **F667** on the south side, there is an area of loose pieces of plaster and mortar backfilling a void area of about 1m X 0.71m with a minimum depth of 0.32m. This may indicate where a mortar bench was removed from the wall but has been left partially excavated and needs further work.

Further excavation of [**F682**], the foundation trench cut for the east wall of the east range revealed a continuation of (**F6122=F674**) loose rubble backfill of the robbed out wall which was sitting on (**F6130**) large foundation stones of the wall exposed at 61.84m OD. These are lower than the interior floor level within the rooms west of this wall but higher than the presumed floor level for the room to the east. (**F679**) in-situ lime plaster render was exposed on both sides of [**F682**] continuing south of where it was exposed at the east side of the wall trench in 2016. This is surviving to a length of at



least 5.70m with a maximum width of 0.03m and height of 0.32m, but further excavation may reveal more. This is a fragile feature which was recorded and stabilized for protection (see Fig.1.6).

## *2. The potential garden/outside space between the room extending from the east range and the chapter house*

The excavation in cutting 6 then progressed to the area south of wall **F667**.

At the south side of the wall **F667** further excavation of the demolition layers (**F623**) and (**F624**) exposed garden soil (**F6120**) and a layer of burnt material (**F6121**). A possible chimney along the east wall line was also exposed.

Rubble layer (**F6127**) below (**F624**) was identified sloping south of **F667** towards the west end indicating collapse from this wall. This feature measures 2.50m length X 1.30m width with a maximum depth of 0.25m. This sits on top of garden soil (**F6120**).

(**F6120**) is an organic rich silty clay with some stone situated south of wall **F667** and it possibly extends across to the chapter house. A strip 8m in length from the robbed out east wall to the eastern limits of cutting 6 and 1.70m in width was exposed during this season and left for further investigation. Its maximum height is 61.88m OD which would represent 0.18m of a drop from floor level within the east range.

This organic rich layer (**F6120**) sits on (**F6137**) which is a redeposited clay that exposed but left unexcavated immediately east of the easternmost wall.

At the east end of the cutting (**F6120**) sits on burnt material (**F6121**) exposed immediately south of wall **F667**. The layer of burnt material, (**F6121**) measures 4.90m in length X 0.66m in width and has a maximum depth of 0.13m. (**F6121**) sits on natural or possibly a redeposited clay. This feature was excavated by sondage, was not yet fully exposed, and so may continue further south.

A possible plinth or mortar footing (**F6124**) bonded to wall **F667** was exposed within (**F6121**). a length of 2.68m along the wall with a maximum width of 0.14m has been revealed. Further investigations into the foundations of wall **F667** are needed to clarify this.

Along the line of the east wall of the east range further excavation was carried out. A burnt feature with L-shaped stones was first identified in the 2014 season west of the wall, so within the east range buildings. This had been partially exposed and then left covered. This season it was cleaned up and the limits of the feature were exposed. The feature number (**F6125**) was given to the spread of burning while the stones were labelled **F6126**. These originally may have been part of a structure (see Fig. 1.7). This feature was not excavated and has been left in-situ at a level of 62.08m OD. This level is consistent with floor levels within the east range buildings with a significant drop down to the exterior or to adjoining rooms at the back or east side of the range.

East of the burnt layer (**F6125**), two large rectangular stones protruding from the line of the east wall, **F6139** were identified. These may indicate a chimney breast. No further excavation was carried out on this feature and it will be examined further next season.

Subsoil exposed across the back of the east range shows that there is a natural slope downwards to the north and east of 0.25m from 952N to 960N.

To the southeast of the potential doorway between walls **F6116** and **F667** close to the cutting baulk a circular feature cut into the natural was partially exposed. [**F6135**] was filled by (**F6134**) which was a dark brown silty clay. Its dimensions are 0.20m X 0.30m with a minimum depth of 0.10m to date. This was left unexcavated at the end of the season, but its position at a potential doorway outside in the friary gardens could indicate its possible function as a drain.

## *3. The southern area of the chapter house and east of it to the limits of the cutting*

The final area of cutting 6 excavated in the 2017 summer season was the south east corner of the cutting. **F670**, loose rubble thought to be collapse from the chapter house bench was further excavated. This feature had been first exposed during the winter 2016 season (see O'Carroll *et al*, 2016). It was composed of loose soil with limestone and mortar, edged by larger roughly shaped stones which formed the edge of the bench and may have been more than one course high in places, to a maximum height of about 0.45m.

The chapter house wall had been completely dismantled along its eastern side, and a line of rubble, **F6140** marked its original position. The number **F6141** was assigned to a lump of wall which was first thought to be a surviving in situ piece of the original wall, but this in fact proved to be a large chunk of loose walling, probably a mass of the core of the wall, that may represent the north east corner of the chapter house. The burnt layer **F633** which was identified in previous seasons, continued to the east and appears to define the line of the robbed out north wall of the chapter house. A line of stones defined its southern side, **F6144** and this may mark the inner face of the chapter house E/W wall (**F614**), or the base of the bench **F644/F645** where it abutted the wall **F614**.

A sondage in the south east corner of cutting 6 (1 m from south baulk) was opened to explore potential foundations for the chapter house wall and bench. Redeposited subsoil F6143 exposed at 61.805m OD appears to have been brought in to provide a pad to build the chapter house wall. Initially it seemed that there was a cut through subsoil in this area, which necessitated that material to level up and firm up the ground be brought in. Further examination suggested that this might in fact be the natural slope, which is abrupt at this point, and the directly overlying subsoil was a layer that has been interpreted as construction debris, **F621/F6129**. The latter feature seems to be a mixture of garden soil and construction debris and is slightly different in composition to F621 elsewhere in the cutting. The re-deposited subsoil, **F6143** lay above this. This had a sharp vertical face on its west side, suggesting that it abutted something, possibly a wall. It gives rise to the possibility that the actual wall of the chapter house was set on a higher foundation than the inner bench which abutted it. The bench may effectively have buttressed the interior lower face of the wall.

A third sondage was dug against the east baulk north of Sondage 2. A large sub-circular cut, [**F6146**] which had been filled with a number of deposits some of which appeared also to relate to construction debris, was re-cut by a number of gullies. As this pit had only been half-sectioned it will be completed in the coming season.

### **Cutting 7**

In 2017 digging in Cutting 7 recommenced. The original Cutting 7 was opened in 2012, extended in 2013 and further extended in 2016 by 12m north to 1004E, 970N and 1012E, 970N. This 8m by 12m extension was sub divided into four quads, A-D, running clockwise, with A and B to the north and C and D to the south, abutting the original Cutting 7 (see O'Carroll 2016, 2017). Ground level in quads C and D at its highest point was 63.40m OD. Excavations continued to a maximum depth of 61.90m OD.

The 2016 season focussed primarily on quads A and B, mostly situated in the presumed second courtyard. Quads C and D are located mainly within the north range and had been partially excavated in the 2016 season.

The 2016 excavations had removed the sod, (**F701**) and topsoil, (**F702**) across the four quads. An overburden of (**F703**), comprised of soil, mortar and chunks of limestone, was partially excavated. This is found throughout a large portion of Cutting 7 and is a recurring feature across the Blackfriary site relating to the systematic quarrying of the sites building stone.

During the 2017 season work continued in these areas. On the western baulk of quad C, underlying **(F702)**, **(F734)**, a clay rich deposit, containing some animal bone, was fully excavated, a process which had started in 2016 season (see O'Carroll 2017). **(F734)**, sub-rectangular in shape and orientated north-south, was approx 6m in length and 2.40m in width(E-W), centred on 1005.20E, 961N, with a maximum depth of 0.30m. **(F734)** may indicate an upcast of subsoil from modern ditch digging of later field boundaries. **(F734)**, fully excavated, reached to a maximum depth of 62.75m OD.

**(F767)**, underlying **(F702)**, a deposit of limestone mixed with garden soil, similar to **(F703)**, abutted **(F734)**. However, a lack of mortar and slate indicates this as a spread and this may have been an attempt to level out depressions and undulations within the north range post quarrying. It also was sub-rectangular in shape and orientated north-south with a maximum length of 7.80m, width (E-W) 5.20m and maximum depth of 0.80m, central location 1008E,960 N. Fully excavated to a maximum depth of 62.165m OD. Finds included modern glass and pottery (see Fig.1.8).

**(F768)** was sealed under **(F734)** (see Fig. 1.8). Consisting of a loose deposit of medium to large limestone fragments, mortar rich with silty sand, it included frequent animal bone, painted plaster, architectural fragments' including sandstone and window lead ventilators (see Fig. 1.9), indicating a well-appointed building. It was sub rectangular, orientated north-south, 6m in length, 2.40m (E-W) in width with a maximum depth of 0.42m, centrally located at 1005.20E, 961N. It was fully excavated and reached a maximum depth of 62.35m OD. It was confined to the south of **F764** (excavated 2016, see O'Carroll 2017), the north wall of the northern range and was overlying **(F771)**, the north south western gable wall of the north range. This deposit **(F768)** may be debris relating to the stripping down of these walls.

Excavation continued on **(F753)** from the 2016 season where it underlay **(F703)**. **(F753)** was believed to be located mainly to the north of quad B, being interpreted as the upper fill of **[F763]**, robber trench for removal of the north wall of the north range **F764** (see O'Carroll 2017). The 2017 season confirmed that **(F753)** was actually a deposit extending into quad D and to a lesser extent quad C. Limited to the south by **F770**, a rudimentary narrow wall, confined to the east by limit of excavation, with its western limit butting against **(F768)**, it consisted of a stony loose deposit of silty sand, with a less frequent amount of larger stone than **(F768)**. Inclusions of animal bone as well as a mix of pottery ranging from medieval, post medieval to modern and iron nails were retrieved. Sub-rectangular in shape, orientated north-south, 6.30m in length and 3.30m (E-W) in width. Centrally located at 1009E, 961.15N. Not fully excavated, but as of 2017 it had a maximum depth of 0.65m and was excavated to a depth of 62.16m OD. This deposit of building debris relates to the quarrying of the north range from within the building, with the larger stones being removed and was contemporary with **(F768)**.

The layer **(F769)**, (underlying **(F753)**), was a mid greyish-brown, loose, silty sand and stony deposit of small to medium angular limestone fragments with inclusions of roof slate, mortar and animal bone. Finds included iron nails, some fragments of floor tile and lead window came. Sub-rectangular in shape and mostly confined to quad C, orientated north-south, 5.60m in length, 3.60m (E-W) in width, with a maximum depth of 0.14m, centrally located at 1010E,961.80N. Excavated to a maximum depth of 62.125m OD, and not yet fully excavated. This deposit may have accumulated due to neglect of the north range prior demolition, and as yet it is difficult to ascertain whether this neglect is related to an Early Modern accumulation of debris or a Post Medieval one.

**F770**, (underlying **(F753)**), situated in the southern limit of quad D, is a narrow E-W limestone lime bonded wall (see Fig. 1.10). It is not yet fully excavated. At present there is only one course visible. Its length is 2.60m with a maximum width of 0.40m and a maximum height of 0.12m. Centrally located at 1010.10E, 957.70N, its lowest level being 62.375m OD. Set within the north range and being only 0.56m north **F738**, the south wall of the north range (see O'Carroll 2016). The close

proximity of **F770** to **F738** makes its function unclear. It may have been a footing for a bench or a later use of the internal space of the north range which may indicate a Post Medieval alteration.

**(F772)**, (underlying **(F768)**), within quad C, is a deposit of building debris with frequent slate inclusions, mortar, small to medium limestone and animal bone (see Fig.1.11). Mainly confined to west of the west face of **F771** and limited to the west by limit of excavation, the north by **(F737)**, south by **F764**. **(F737)**, excavated partially in 2013, below **(F702)**, and defined as a work area from quarrying phase with high amounts of stained glass retrieved (see O'Carroll 2016). **F764**, partially excavated 2016 is a limestone, mortar bonded surviving fragment of the NE corner of the north range (see O'Carroll 2017). **(F772)** is a narrow rectangular shape, orientated north-south, maximum length 6.0m and width of 3.35m, central location of 1005.67E, 961N and excavated to a depth of 62.275m. Excavation as of 2017 is not complete. **(F772)** contained shallow burnt deposits **(F773)** and **(F774)**. **(F773)** butted against the west face of **F771**, an orange brown deposit of burnt silty-sand with frequent charcoal and animal bone. Semi circular in shape running north south, length 1.15m, width (E-W) 0.55m, centrally located at 1005.70E. 958.88N with a maximum depth of 62.355m OD. **(F774)** was a sub-oval, blackish brown, thin burnt deposit, orientated NW-SE, located 20cm south of **(F775)** and protruding from the west baulk of quad C. Centrally located at 1005E, 959.90N, and fully excavated to a depth of 62.315m, **(F774)** also contained frequent charcoal and animal bone. Both of these burnt deposits indicate contemporary cooking fires, in sheltered locations, being used by work crews disassembling the buildings within the demolition deposit **(F772)**.

**(F772)**, to the south, overlay **(F775)**, a clay bonded E-W, presumed internal wall within the west range, limited to the west by the limit of excavation and butting against **F771** (see Fig. 1.12). Partially excavated it is 1.53m in length and 0.68 (E-W) in width with a maximum depth of 0.20m. It consists of limestone and is not bonded into **F771**. Centrally located at 1005.20E, 960N. Level at bottom of feature; 62.275m OD. **(F775)** could possibly be Medieval or perhaps a later insertion. This feature will require further excavation.

Wall **F771**, (underlying **(F768)**, **(F753)**), is a limestone, lime mortar bonded load bearing wall (see Fig. 1.12). Orientated north south, it is 4.10m in length and 1.10m in width, with at present one course visible. The central point for **F771** is 1006.33E, 960.98N and it is at 62.16m OD at its lowest point. It is presumed to be the western gable of the north range. Still at an early phase of excavation, the relationship of **F771** with **F728**, the east wall of the presumed western range (see O'Carroll 2016) is uncertain. The stones on the eastern face of **F771** are cracked and may have been a result of fire damage. **F771** may have had an intentional blocking of an opening, **F781**, at its southern extent. **F781** (underlying **(F772)**), unlike **F771**, is clay bonded and veers slightly NW compared to the orientation of **F771**. Still being overlain by the demolition rubble **(F772)**, this may have been another alteration to the use of space within the claustral ranges prior quarrying.

**(F776)** underlay **(F768)** and **(F753)**. It is a deposit of medium to large limestone building stone east of wall **F771**. A loose, mortar rich deposit containing occasional animal bone, sub-oval in shape and orientated north-south. Maximum length of 4.76m and width (E-W) of 1.62m, centrally located at 1007.68E, 958.74N. **(F776)** has not been fully excavated but has reached a depth of 62.025m. This may be an Early Modern tumble of a neglected north range.

**(F777)**, (underlying **(F753)**), has been only been partially excavated and has thus far been interpreted as a lower fill of robber trench **[F763]**. Located to the north east of quad C, it is a loose, mid brown silty, stony fill including animal bone inclusions. Orientated E-W, with a length of 2.60m and width (N-S) of 0.70m with a depth of 20cm and excavated to 62.22m. This may be the basal fill of **[F763]**, further excavation will resolve this.

**(F778)**, (underlying **(F769)**), has been partially excavated, located within quad D (see Fig. 1.12). A medium compacted, mid greyish-brown silty clay, with frequent small rounded and sub-rounded

stone and occasional animal bone and sharper stone inclusions. A sub-rectangular feature, due to time constraints a test area was limited to 961N, to the east by limit of excavation and to west by unfinished **(F776)**. The southern extent of **(F778)** butted against wall **F770**, gives **(F778)** a sub-rectangular shape and a north south orientation. The current length being 3.60m and a width of 3.30m (E-W) and a depth of only 3cm. It is centrally located at 1008.525E, 959.32N, with its lowest level being 62.105m. **(F778)** is being interpreted as being the first occupation layer and being a surface under the demolition phases and could relate to later use of the north range as farm buildings. It survives in better condition closer to the east baulk being further away from the demolition of **F771** and **F764**.

Quads C and D were the primary focus for 2017, with a brief excavation with the field school winter programme in quad A. This verified a metalised limestone surface **(F766)** at a bottom level of 61.90m OD, underlying **(F761)**, a blackish brown peat like deposit which may have been a dung heap. This stone surface was set within a matrix of mid-brown to yellow sandy clay, **(F762)**, all occurred south of wall **F764** and west of wall **F752** (see O'Carroll, 2017) and may indicate a stables or yard surface to the west of the second courtyard (Fig. 1.13).

**(F779)**, below **(F778)**, is being interpreted as either a Late or Post Medieval surface (see fig.6). At pre-excavation stage, this feature only became apparent on cleanback of **(F778)** and consists of a couple of irregular shaped mid-grey mortar patches with stone inclusions which have a maximum bottom level of 62.105m with only a 3cm between them. Centrally located at 1008.5E, 954.32N.

**(F780)**, also at pre-excavation stage, underlies **(F769)** and is a sub-oval, blackish-orange burnt feature butting against wall **F770**. It is running north south and 0.86 in length and 0.43 in width (E-W) with a central location of 1010.40E, 958N and a top level of 62.185m. This site of in situ burning so close to **F770**, is being provisionally interpreted as being a possible burnt wooden step (see Fig.1.12)

Excavation will continue in this cutting in 2018 and it is hoped to fully excavate the features described above.

### ***Cutting 8***

No excavation work has been undertaken in Cutting 8 since the production of the 2016 report (see O'Carroll, Shine et al. 2016). The cutting has since been fully reinstated.

### ***Cutting 9***

No excavation work has been undertaken in Cutting 8 since the production of the 2016 report (see O'Carroll, Shine et al. 2017). The cutting has since been fully reinstated.

### ***Cutting 10***

Work continued during the summer 2017 season in Cutting 10. This area encompasses the greater part of the south wall of the south aisle of the church and part of the graveyard immediately south of church. A total of twenty-three burials have previously been excavated in this area, five of which, B35 to B39 were skulls associated with a collection of long bones and other elements placed between two of the exterior buttresses of the church, (see O'Carroll 2014, 47; O'Carroll, et al. 2016, 23-24 and 2017, 28 – 29) when the building was being dismantled in the eighteenth century.

Excavations in the 2016 season had uncovered a metalled surface lying to the west of the south aisle. In order to define the western limit of the base of the buttress **F1003** a small extension to the cutting was added on the west side. Initially this extension measured 2.5m north to south by 1m east to west (at 1007.44E, 915.50N and 1007.44E, 918.00N); it was subsequently extended west by 1.5m. This metalling was at roughly the same level as that of **F1005**, (Fig. 1.14), a similar metalled surface uncovered to the south of the doorway into the south aisle (**F1004**) in 2013. Both areas are at 62.30 – 33m OD. Metalling had previously been uncovered north and northwest of this in Cutting 9 at a slightly higher level, due to the natural rise in the underlying subsoil. There it was inferred that it was the remains of a pathway leading to the west door of the church. It was apparent in 2016 that the metalled surface to the west of the church was beneath a deposit **F1054** which has been interpreted as construction debris relating to the building of the south aisle (Fig. 1.15). The metalled surface **F1005** which extends south from the doorway **F1004** to the southern limit of the cutting and probably beyond, was not covered by this deposit (Fig. 1.16) where it was in line with the doorway. The western limits of the cutting south of the extension referenced above were extended by two metres to facilitate exploration of this surface, to see if the deposit **F1054** overlay it on the west side, and to examine the burials lying beneath it in this area of the cutting (Fig. 1.17). The western limits were set at 1008E 910 N to 1008E and 914N. This deposit, **F1054**, was noted along the western side of the cutting but it did not extend east across it. It was beneath the remnants of **F1002** rubble and **F1001** topsoil. A small area, approximately 1.5m x 2m was opened immediately adjacent and south of the extension opened in 2016 extending to 1006.20E, 916N. The metalling was also exposed here at 62.46 – 40 m OD at the west side, dropping to 62.34m OD 2m east (Fig. 1.18).

Overall while the metalled surface exposed was damaged it appeared to have covered the entire area. It was placed on the natural subsoil along the western side. It appeared to have extended east across the cutting and was at a similar level to the metalling which had extended over the entirety of the southernmost part of Cutting 10, down to 1008E 910N – 1013E 910N. It had been cut through in the SW corner by later disturbance but could be traced in section around the cutting. The metalling consisted of small rounded pebbles and small angular slate or stone pieces, pressed into the subsoil (Figs. 1.14 – 1.18). However, while the metalling in the NW part of the cutting overlay undisturbed natural, it was apparent that it had been placed over pre-existing burials in the southern sector (Fig. 1.16). Where the natural subsoil was disturbed by burials and contained burials and disarticulated human bone and other material it was termed **F10125**. Along the west side the layer beneath the metalling was given the number **F10122**, though it is not yet clear to what extent it is disturbed by burials. At the northern end, the area of metalling originally found in 2013 partly overlies (**F1054**), suggesting that this relates to the construction phase of the south aisle.

A feature which was interpreted as a N/S running drain, cut [**F10112**] and fill (**F10113**), extended from the buttress **F1003** which lies west of the doorway **F1004**, and runs south down the western third of the cutting (see Fig. 1.17). This was approximately 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep though it has not yet been fully explored and was not easy to follow as it had disturbed earlier burials. There may have been a corresponding drain along the east side, possibly interpreted previously (see O’Carroll 2015) as a post-medieval wall footing, **F1037** and **F1038**. In the south west area of the cutting modern disturbance which consisted of a cut [**F10121**] and fill (**F10120**) disturbed a burial. A skull, B122, was recovered at the edge of the cut. This disturbance extends beyond the cutting limits and may continue SW to join up with the disturbed area uncovered in 2014 in Cutting 11, which resulted from the erection of an ESB pole.

### *Burials*

To date fifteen burials have been uncovered in that part of the cutting which lies south of the doorway **F1004**. Prior to the beginning of the season a total of nine had been excavated; a further six were excavated this season.

- Burial 121 (cut [**F10118**], fill (**F10119**); Articulated adult. Missing the skull, left arm, lower right arm. The curvature of the spine is to the south, suggesting that the thoracic vertebrae were pushed by the cut that removed the skull, left arm, shoulder girdle and lower left ribs. The left hand was present. Possibly cut by Burial 124 (see Fig. 1.19)
- Burial 122, skull only. Found within modern disturbance (**F10120**) within cut [**F10121**].
- Burial 123 (cut [**F10126**], fill **F10127**); young adult female, intact from skull to pelvis (Fig. 1.20). Possibly cut by drain [**F10112**] or by another burial, skull and shoulder girdle of another burial partly exposed to north.
- Burial 124 (cut [**F10128**], fill **F10129**); adult, complete except for left arm but left hand present, lying across pelvis (Fig. 1.21).
- Burial 125 (cut [**F10130**], fill **F10131**); articulated adult, left humerus and right arm missing.
- Burial 126 disarticulated skull. Lay to the north of Burial 125, may have been disturbed by drain [**F10112**].
- Burial 127 cut [**F10132**], fill (**F10123**); this burial is intact, lies in the line of the drain [**F10112**] but was not cut by it (Fig. 1.22). However, the preservation of the bone, especially the lower vertebrae and sacrum, is very poor (Fig 1.23).

Work will continue in this cutting in the coming seasons.

### ***Cutting 11***

No excavation work has been undertaken in Cutting 11 since the production of the 2016 report (see O' Carroll, Shine et al. 2016). The cutting has since been fully reinstated and repurposed as a mock archaeological excavation that is used as part of our community project.

### ***Cutting 12***

No excavation work has been undertaken in Cutting 12 since the production of the 2016 report (see O' Carroll, Shine et al. 2016). The cutting has since been fully reinstated.

### ***Cutting 13***

Cutting 13 was opened in the summer of 2016, east of the reinstated Cutting 12. The cutting was excavated to investigate a linear trend, recorded during geophysical survey (see O'Carroll et al 2017, Appendix 4), which was speculated to have represented a continuation of a ditch recorded during excavations of Cutting 12 in 2014. This ditch is thought to bear relation to the northern medieval limit of Trim (Shine, Green et al. 2016). Cutting 13 was T-shaped measuring 8 x 2m at the north to

south orientated 'top of the T' and 8 x 4m at the east to west orientated long part of the T (total length of the cutting was thus 10m). It was set out at maximum co-ordinates 1064E to 1074E and between 880N to 888N.

In the previous season four features had been identified and consisted of topsoil (**F1301**) overlying a modern stone dump (**F1302**) and post-medieval deposit (**F1303**). Each of these lay above **F1304**, a yellow clayey sand containing medieval pottery that was excavated to the level of natural subsoil at the westernmost portion of the cutting (i.e. within the top of the T). The topsoil, (**F1301**) was heavily contaminated by rubbish and tree roots at the southern end particularly, and this appeared to have arisen due to the deposition of soils at the time of building houses and shops etc south of the site (Fig. 1.24).

This overlay(**F1302**), a deposit of sub-rounded limestone, containing one sherd of modern pottery and some animal bone. was orientated east to west across the cutting and may explain the linear trend recorded on the geophysical survey. The underlying (**F1303**), a grey/brown clayey silt, contained modern, medieval and post-medieval pottery. An interface between (**F1304**) and (**F1303**) not clearly identified during excavation in 2016 was labelled as (**F1304**) in the eastern part of the cutting. Here it contained some post-medieval pottery as well as medieval; at the west side it was devoid of modern and post-medieval finds, and just contained medieval pottery.

In the 2017 season work focussed on the western part of the cutting, which at that stage was extended by two metres, from its previous limit at 1066E to 1064E. It became apparent that the layer (**F1304**), the surface of which was at 60.55m OD, extended beneath the west baulk (Fig. 1.25). Close to the west baulk a small area of burnt clay and charcoal staining, (**F1308**) occurred within (**F1304**) and close to its base. This patch of charred earth contained some charcoal and animal bone, was sub-circular in shape and 0.85 in diameter. Its height OD was recorded at 60.435m. The deposit (**F1304**), interpreted as an old ground level, was cut by a N/S feature, [**F1307**]. This was a U-shaped ditch, with a gradual break of slope top and bottom, and a concave base, 59.21m OD. It was exposed for a length of almost 5m, proved to have a maximum width of 2.75m and was 1.3m deep (Fig 1.25). It contained three fills (Fig. 1.26). The basal fill, (**F1309**) was a fine grey silt with some clay and may have resulted from waterborne siltation. It contained moderate amounts of animal bone and occupied the base of the ditch to a maximum depth of 0.22m. Above this was a layer (**F1312**) which was a grey brown silty clay. No finds were recorded from it, but there was occasional animal bone. It was 0.25m in maximum thickness. This was overlain by (**F1305**) a moderately loose silty clay, brown in colour. Occasional animal bone was present. It was 0.76m in maximum thickness, and it may have been deliberately deposited to backfill the ditch. It produced six sherds of medieval pottery. Along the eastern side of [**F1307**] was a short (2.5m N/S x 2m E/W) deposit of medium to large stones (**F1306**). This sat on (**F1304**) and was covered by (**F1303**). It produced two sherds of pottery, possibly medieval. Its function is unknown, but it may have been related to upcast from the ditch [**F1307**] and may represent the base of a now ploughed out bank. It had a maximum depth of 0.4m and was approximately 0.2m below the base of the stony E/W linear feature (**F1302**).

The cutting had been opened to find the continuation of the town boundary, previously uncovered in Cutting 12 (see O'Carroll et al 2016). A cut running E/W was noted at the north end of the trench adjacent to the east side of [**F1307**]. It cut (**F1304**) and was explored only for a short distance, approximately 0.5m. This was because an electric cable had been laid immediately north of and above the line of this cut. A fill, very similar to or the same as (**F1305**) was noted abutting the cut. No finds or bone were recovered from it. As the cut was not recognised until excavation in the ditch [**F1307**] had progressed north of it the relationship between the two could not be definitively established. However, the upper fills of both seem very similar, if not the same, suggesting that they were both backfilled or went out of use at the same time.



## Discussion

Excavations during summer 2017 have continued to provide insights into the building and burial sequences on the site, and on its probable original extent. Work in Cutting 6 has established that there were several phases of construction and change to the east range. It is clear that the Chapter House was extended east, and that this extension involved building up the slope of ground with infill to provide a foundation base for the wall. The second room, where originally the walls were interpreted as garden walls, may well be interpreted as a Scriptorium. It lies north of the Chapter House and would have had windows opening to the north and east, ideal for providing a steady light. The presence of a possible fireplace along the east wall is consistent with such an activity and the necessity to keep books dry. The finds, such as the parchment prickers found in the last season, and a possibly page turner or pointer, (Fig. 1.27), consisting of a bone object shaped to form a dog seated on a lectern (which has become the logo of BAFS), may corroborate this interpretation. The significance of the dog is that it is a strong iconographic association with St. Dominic and is often depicted with a burning torch in its mouth. The lectern may represent the office of lector or teacher.

The presence of gullies and drains to the east of the building is unsurprising. There would have been significant amounts of rainwater to disperse from the roofs of the buildings.

In Cutting 7 the internal layout of that part of the north range currently under excavation is becoming clearer. Again, some phasing or sequencing of building construction is becoming apparent. The use of the site as a later farm has been evidenced by the apparent use of the northern extension to the west range as stables, but this is a tentative suggestion for now.

To date the sequence of activity in Cutting 10 is understood to be:

- Construction of the nave of the church
- Laying down of a metalled path and area to which probably extended from the west door of the church to a possible postern gate in the town boundary
- Insertion of burials in the graveyard
- Construction of the south aisle with a new doorway in the south wall
- Laying down of a new metalled surface from the south door out into the graveyard, overlying pre-existing burials
- Construction of at least one drain running N/S from the south door of the church and bordering the new path. This cut through some burials and may have, through the effects of water percolation, damaged others

All of the burials uncovered south of the doorway appeared to have been covered by the metalling which extended southwards. As noted previously (O'Carroll et al 2017) the stone filled drain [F10112] had cut through at least one burial, (B107), and possibly another, (B98). Of the burials uncovered this season, evidence for some intercutting occurred in a number, notably Burials 121 and 124 (Figs. F and G). It is also apparent that the metalling to the south of the church was deliberately laid over pre-existing graves which were cut into subsoil. Further, that the metalling closest to the church door is somewhat different in composition, as it incorporates a lot more pieces of slate, and overlies a depth of what has been described as construction debris (see O'Carroll et al 2017p. ---) (F1054). This suggests that despite similar levels and appearance, the metalling uncovered to the west of the south aisle belongs to a different phase. It appears to be a continuation of that found in Cutting 9 (O'Carroll et al 2016 p...) and suggests that this formed a path to the original west door of the church. The extent and direction of the path are not clear, but it certainly extended SSW from some distance. It's possible that a path led to a postern or pedestrian gate in the town wall, but also led west to the Kells Road, where the main entrance to the friary may have been.

Evidence from previous excavations along the lane that bounds the site to the west (Seaver et al 2009) showed that the burials extended north only as far as the southern extent of the church in this area. As the limited area of metalling to the west of the church that has been exposed so far lies on undisturbed ground we can assume that the graveyard extended further west and south of this path, but not beneath it. On building the south aisle, and inserting a doorway into its south wall, it appears that a new path was laid over old graves and the old path covered – at least where it lay close to the church – in construction debris levelled up to provide a level terrace around the south aisle.

In Cutting 13 evidence for a N/S running boundary was uncovered. Its position relative to the friary holdings is unclear as only a small portion of the presumed E/W running town boundary was exposed and the N/S ditch lay to the south, ie outside the friary precinct. Excavation in Cutting 12 in 2014 demonstrated that this town boundary ditch did not appear to remain open for very long. It may have been replaced by a fence, and thus the N/S running boundary may have been a property boundary within the town itself.

It is expected that work will continue in Cuttings 6, 7 and 10 in this coming season.

## Section 2

### Post-Excavation (PEX) Report

Ian Kinch, Laura Corrway, Finola O’Carroll, Bairbre Mullee and Mairead Stobie

#### 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 2.18). This report outlines the volume of materials together with a brief 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.

It should be noted that post-excavation works are continually undertaken as part of the Black Friary excavations, while items are constantly returning from conservation and specialist analyses; as such the below tables list the volume of archaeological materials as of ‘now’ and are constantly in flux.

Excavations have been ongoing at the Blackfriary, Trim since 2010 under Ministerial Consent (Consent No. C420; NMI registration No. E4127) issued to Trim Town Council in the name of Ms. Finola O’Carroll, archaeologist. During the course of the excavations a considerable volume of artefacts, ecofacts, building materials and associated archives have been generated. The material produced through excavation is processed typically while the excavations are ongoing, and sometimes in the off season. Such work includes washing and drying finds, animal and human bone, sieving samples, sorting and labelling architectural fragments, and bagging or boxing as appropriate. Updating the extensive handwritten and digital registers is also part of this work, but this is usually completed each season after the excavation season is finished.

Interim reports on the excavations are completed annually, an interim report on animal bone has been completed, dates from eleven burials have been obtained and conservation by Susannah Kelly of the School of Archaeology, UCD of a select number of artefacts completed. By arrangement with the staff of the conservation department in the School of History, Archaeology and Religion in Cardiff University the stained glass which has been recovered from the site – amounting to approximately 3, 500 pieces – has been conserved there as part of the students’ training. Six boxes of conserved and packed stained glass have been collected and are ready for deposition in the National Museum’s repository in Swords (Fig. 2.1). An offer to conserve the entire excavated artefact assemblage has been made, and it is intended to follow up by transporting material to Cardiff later this year.

The purpose of this report is to detail the post-excavation work carried out on the Blackfriary excavation material from December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018. Funding was provided by Meath County Council to update the excavation archive. This report also quantifies the collection of artefacts, ecofacts and human remains that have been generated through the Blackfriary excavations to date, that is from 2010 to 2017. This report outlines the volume of materials that have been cleaned, described and labelled in accordance to NMI standards, together with a synopsis of conservation and specialist works, while all artefacts and ecofacts are currently in secure storage in BAFS containers. Consultation with personnel in the National Museum to clarify the processes required in relation to the retention and archiving of objects such as nails, stained glass, pottery etc. confirmed and clarified certain issues. It was agreed that **incomplete** objects (eg nails, pottery sherds) do **not** need to be measured, rather they should be weighed according to feature by individual bag. The finds and ecofacts are currently stored in boxes. This will change current practice but is more time efficient and more in keeping with the nature and condition of the material. The following paper archives have been scanned up to the end of the 2017 season:

- Feature register for cuttings 1-13 and Test Trenches 1-12
- Feature sheets for cuttings 1-13 and Test Trenches 1-12
- Bagged Finds register for cuttings 1-13 and Test Trenches 1-12
- Sample register for cuttings 1-13 and Test Trenches 1-12
- Architectural Fragments register for cuttings 1-13 and Test Trenches 1-12
- Stained Glass register for cuttings 1-13 and Test Trenches 1-12
- Window Lead register for cuttings 1-13 and Test Trenches 1-12
- Painted Plaster register for cuttings 1-13 and Test Trenches 1-12
- Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB) register for cuttings 1-13 and Test Trenches 1-12
- Burials register for cuttings 1-13 and Test Trenches 1-12
- Photo register for cuttings 1-13 and Test Trenches 1-12
- Drawings register for cuttings 1-13 and Test Trenches 1-12
- Post Excavation washing, drying and bagging registers all cuttings 2010-2017
- All permatrace drawings have been scanned up to close of 2013 season

### **Conservation works**

All medieval stained glass excavated on site up to October 2015 (under export/alter licence 5912) was transported to Cardiff where conservation was carried out under the supervision of Jane Henderson and Phil Parkes. A second trip (under export/alter licence 5912) was undertaken to Cardiff with Meath County Council heritage officer Dr. Loreto Guinan, Site Director Finola O'Carroll and Senior Site Supervisor Ian Kinch on 9th/10th January 2018 to collect the conserved stained glass and to bring over the stained glass excavated on site since October 2015 (see Appendix1).

### **Specialist Works**

A report on faunal material was conducted by Dr. Fiona Beglane of Sligo Institute of Technology, from cuttings completed between 2010 and 2015, including test trenching undertaken in the eastern portion of the site in 2014. (see 2017 report) When excavation is complete it will be necessary to consolidate results from all phases of the project into a single report and create a site-wide interpretation of the faunal remains. Sample conservation was also undertaken on painted plaster by Ms. Sylwia Bronchard and on stained glass by Sylwia Bronchard and Susannah Kelly (UCD) who has also conserved metal finds (see table 2.1 pg 34 Report 2016).

### **Artefacts and building materials**

All finds to date for seasons 2010-2017 have been updated on to a complete digital archive. This includes cleaning, descriptive and measured analysis and repackaging and where appropriate labelling of all material. In addition, an NMI number was given to each individual object in accordance with National Museum of Ireland standards.

### **Samples**

All samples to date for seasons 2010-2017 have been updated on to a complete digital archive. All post-excavation work relating to the processing, registering and repackaging of sample material has also been brought up to date.

### **Disarticulated Human Bone (DHB)**

All DHB to date for seasons 2010-2017 have been updated on to a complete digital archive. All post-excavation work relating to the processing, registering and repackaging of this material has also been brought up to date.

### **Burials**

All paperwork relating to all burials to date for seasons 2010-2017 have been updated on to a complete digital archive. All post-excavation work relating to the processing, registering and repackaging of this material has also been brought up to date.

### **Cuttings**

The following tables give a breakdown of material relating to each individual cutting to the end of the 2017 season.

### **Storage**

The entire artefact and sample collection from the Blackfriary excavations is housed either onsite or in a house leased by the project at No. 4 Haggard Street, Trim. In addition, architectural fragments retained from the site, principally worked stone and Purbeck marble pieces are stored in a lock-up garage near St. Patrick's park, at the end of a lane which runs west from Emmet Street. The volume of finds and samples currently in storage is given in Appendix 2.

Table 2.1: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 1

<b>Cutting 1</b>				
<b>Artefacts</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Building Materials Quantifications</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Ceramics	39		Stained Glass	3
Metal	7		Window Lead	0
Lead	1		Painted Plaster	2
Copper	0		Brick	0
Iron	19		Glass	0
Glass	1		Kiln Brick	1
Other	0		Mortar	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>		Stone	0
			Architectural Fragments	4
			<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sample Quantification</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Human Remains</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Soil	1		DHB	27
Animal Bone	19		Burials	3
Wood	0			
Shell	3		<b>Paper Archive</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>		Feature Sheets	34
			Drawings	21

Table 2.2: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 2

<b>Cutting 2</b>				
<b>Artefacts</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Building Materials Quantifications</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Ceramics	89		Stained Glass	56
Metal	15		Window Lead	3
Lead	2		Painted Plaster	18
Copper	3		Architectural Fragments	49
Iron	58		Brick	0
Glass	0		Glass	0
Other	16		Kiln Brick	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>		Mortar	1
			Stone	0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>Sample Quantification</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Human Remains</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Soil	2		DHB	81
Animal Bone	96		Burials	4
Wood	0			
Shell	0		<b>Paper Archive</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>		Feature Sheets	36
			Drawings	21

Table 2.3: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 3

<b>Cutting 3</b>				
<b>Artefacts</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Building Materials Quantifications</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Ceramics	67		Stained Glass	50
Metal	26		Window Lead	17
Lead	15		Painted Plaster	6
Copper	0		Brick	0
Iron	407		Glass	2
Glass	6		Kiln Brick	1
Other	1		Mortar	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>522</b>		Stone	1
			Architectural Fragments	118
			<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>Sample Quantification</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Human Remains</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Soil	86		DHB	767
Animal Bone	113		Burials	59
Wood	2			
Shell	8		<b>Paper Archive</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>		Feature Sheets	128
			Drawings	63



Table 2.4: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 4

<b>Cutting 4</b>				
<b>Artefacts</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Building Materials Quantifications</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Ceramics	7		Stained Glass	0
Metal	2		Window Lead	0
Lead	0		Painted Plaster	0
Copper	0		Brick	0
Iron	0		Glass	0
Glass	0		Kiln Brick	1
Other	0		Mortar	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>		Stone	0
			Architectural Fragments	5
			<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Sample Quantification</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Human Remains</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Soil	0		DHB	5
Animal Bone	2		Burials	0
Wood	0			
Shell	0		<b>Paper Archive</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>		Feature Sheets	3
			Drawings	7

Table 2.5: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 5

<b>Cutting 5</b>				
<b>Artefacts</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Building Materials Quantifications</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Ceramics	38		Stained Glass	0
Metal	92		Window Lead	1
Lead	4		Painted Plaster	2
Copper	0		Brick	0
Iron	1		Glass	1
Glass	0		Kiln Brick	0
Other	0		Mortar	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>		Stone	0
			Architectural Fragments	99
			<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Sample Quantification</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Human Remains</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Soil	5		DHB	11
Animal Bone	70		Burials	2
Wood	0			
Shell	0		<b>Paper Archive</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>		Feature Sheets	30
			Drawings	25

Table 2.6: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 6

<b>Cutting 6</b>				
<b>Artefacts</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Building Materials Quantifications</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Ceramics	1943		Stained Glass	677
Metal	986		Window Lead	260
Lead	59		Painted Plaster	38
Copper	23		Architectural Fragments	243
Iron	1463		Brick	6
Glass	12		Glass	3
Other	28		Kiln Brick	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>4514</b>		Mortar	4
			Stone	3
			Slag	1
			Plaster	4
			Kiln Waster	2
			<b>Total</b>	<b>1251</b>
<b>Sample Quantification</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Human Remains</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Soil	3		DHB	57
Animal Bone	544		Burials	4
Wood	0			
Shell	5		<b>Paper Archive</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Organic	1		Feature Sheets	155
<b>Total</b>	<b>553</b>		Drawings	74

Table 2.7: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 7

<b>Cutting 7</b>				
<b>Artefacts</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Building Materials Quantifications</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Ceramics	482		Stained Glass	463
Metal	114		Window Lead	53
Lead	20		Painted Plaster	101
Copper	15		Architectural Fragments	103
Iron	797		Brick	13
Glass	25		Glass	0
Other	2		Kiln Brick	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1454</b>		Mortar	0
			Stone	0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>720</b>
<b>Sample Quantification</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Human Remains</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Soil	0		DHB	16
Animal Bone	267		Burials	1
Wood	0			
Shell	0		<b>Paper Archive</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>		Feature Sheets	81
			Drawings	40

Table 2.8: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 8

<b>Cutting 8</b>				
<b>Artefacts</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Building Materials Quantifications</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Ceramics	29		Stained Glass	1
Metal	3		Window Lead	1
Lead	1		Painted Plaster	0
Copper	0		Architectural Fragments	43
Iron	24		Brick	0
Glass	66		Glass	0
Other	1		Kiln Brick	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>		Mortar	0
			Stone	0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Sample Quantification</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Human Remains</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Soil	6		DHB	10
Animal Bone	24		Burials	4
Wood	0			
Shell	0		<b>Paper Archive</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>		Feature Sheets	24
			Drawings	12

Table 2.9: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 9

<b>Cutting 9</b>				
<b>Artefacts</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Building Materials Quantifications</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Ceramics	64		Stained Glass	34
Metal	10		Window Lead	4
Lead	1		Painted Plaster	43
Copper	0		Architectural Fragments	22
Iron	85		Brick	0
Glass	12		Glass	51
Other	1		Kiln Brick	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>		Mortar	1
			Stone	0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Sample Quantification</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Human Remains</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Sample Quantification	Total No.		DHB	60
Soil	7		Burials	5
Animal Bone	98			
Wood	0		<b>Paper Archive</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Shell	0		Feature Sheets	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>		Drawings	36

Table 2.10: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 10

<b>Cutting 10</b>				
<b>Artefacts</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Building Materials Quantifications</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Ceramics	163		Stained Glass	51
Metal	87		Window Lead	9
Lead	11		Painted Plaster	30
Copper	0		Architectural Fragments	32
Iron	254		Brick	0
Glass	12		Glass	3
Other	5		Kiln Brick	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>532</b>		Mortar	1
			Stone	1
			<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>Sample Quantification</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Human Remains</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Soil	9		DHB	430
Animal Bone	344		Burials	24
Wood	0			
Shell	3		<b>Paper Archive</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>356</b>		Feature Sheets	132
			Drawings	62

Table 2.11: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 11

<b>Cutting 11</b>				
<b>Artefacts</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Building Materials Quantifications</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Ceramics	100		Stained Glass	0
Metal	3		Window Lead	0
Lead	1		Painted Plaster	2
Copper	0		Architectural Fragments	1
Iron	15		Brick	0
Glass	6		Glass	0
Other	3		Kiln Brick	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>		Mortar	0
			Stone	0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sample Quantification</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Human Remains</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Soil	9		DHB	32
Animal Bone	10		Burials	7
Wood	0			
Shell	0		<b>Paper Archive</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>		Feature Sheets	39
			Drawings	13



Table 2.12: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 12

<b>Cutting 12</b>				
<b>Artefacts</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Building Materials Quantifications</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Ceramics	2		Stained Glass	0
Metal	3		Window Lead	0
Lead	0		Painted Plaster	0
Copper	0		Architectural Fragments	0
Iron	0		Brick	0
Glass	0		Glass	0
Other	1		Kiln Brick	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>		Mortar	0
			Stone	0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Sample Quantification</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Human Remains</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Soil	12		DHB	0
Animal Bone	6		Burials	3
Wood	0			
Shell	0		<b>Paper Archive</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>		Feature Sheets	17
			Drawings	7

Table 2.13: Artefacts, ecofacts, human remains and paper archive generated through the excavation of Cutting 13

<b>Cutting 13</b>				
<b>Artefacts</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Building Materials Quantifications</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Ceramics	129		Stained Glass	0
Metal	0		Window Lead	0
Lead	13		Painted Plaster	0
Copper	2		Architectural Fragments	1
Iron	12		Brick	0
Glass	3		Glass	0
Other	0		Kiln Brick	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>		Mortar	0
			Stone	0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Sample Quantification</b>	<b>Total No.</b>		<b>Human Remains</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Soil	0		DHB	3
Animal Bone	6		Burials	0
Wood	0			
Shell	0		<b>Paper Archive</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
Slag	1		Feature Sheets	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>		Drawings	8

## Appendix 1 Stained Glass Report



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Owners Identification Numbers		Object description:  Archaeological stained and painted glass from the Black Friary excavation.
Completion Date	May 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	
Lab Numbers	9325-9341, 9410	
Conservator's Name	Meredith Sweeney	
Owners Contact details:  Irish Archaeology Field School  Denis Shine  Denis.shine@iafs.ie		Owners requirements  Clean, stabilise, and package for later investigation/study. Non-destructive analysis if possible.

### **Summary of treatment (see fuller report for more details)**

- Excavation from dirt included in packaging
- Photographed
- Placed in baths of tap water and industrially methylated spirit in increasing concentrations (25%, 50%, 75%, 100% IMS)
- Immersed and consolidated in Paraloid B-72 (ethyl methacrylate--methyl acrylate copolymer)
- Final photography
- Some pieces were analysed using a SEM
- Packaged in crystal boxes

### **Information Uncovered (see analysis report for more information)**

- Analysed pieces were of the standard medieval composition of 60%-70% silica base with a potassium flux
- The red-brown enamelling/painting is coloured with iron oxide
- The dark blue glass is dyed with cobalt and copper oxides
- Some of the glass has a high lead content possibly from being buried with lead window comes

### **Recommendations for future care**

Avoid temperature and RH extremes and fluxuations.

Suggested:

20 °C (± 5°C)

45-55% RH

The glass was brought to the university in small plastic boxes with lids and jewelers boxes. It was packed in soil from the site in an attempt to retain moisture and slow down degradation. Some boxes remained damp while others dried out. The boxes were moved to two refrigerators to keep a low temperature and high RH and attempt to emulate the burial environment until treatment could be undertaken. The boxes of glass were allotted in groups of ten to a student. Much of the glass had already decayed and lost transparency and any surface designs during burial. The treatment for the glass followed a series of steps:

1. Excavation from dirt and packaging using soft brushes
2. Photography
3. Placed in petri dishes of 75% tap water and 25% IMS for 24 hours
4. Placed in bath of 50% tap water and 50% IMS for 24 hours
5. Placed in a bath of 25% tap water and 50% IMS for 24 hours
6. Placed in 100% IMS for 24 hours
7. Moved to solution of 5% Paraloid B-72 (ethyl methacrylate-methyl acrylate copolymer) in 50% Acetone and 50% IMS for 3 hours
8. Left to dry for the weekend
9. Photography
10. Packaged in crystal boxes and plastazote

Several pieces were analyzed to assess glass composition and colorants. See attached documents for further information.

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY

# Analysis of Archaeological Medieval Glass

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Completed for the Irish Archaeology Field  
School

**Meredith Sweeney**

**4/27/2017**

## Background

Several colours of archaeological stained and painted glass from the Black Friary site in Ireland were requested to be analyzed to characterize the glass and enamel composition.

## Method

The analysis was carried out using a CamScan MaXim 2040S scanning electron microscope with an Oxford Link-ISIS EDX detector and software.

## Results

Elements are listed in compound percentage and normalized to 100%.

The results below are expressed as an average from multiple similar areas tested.

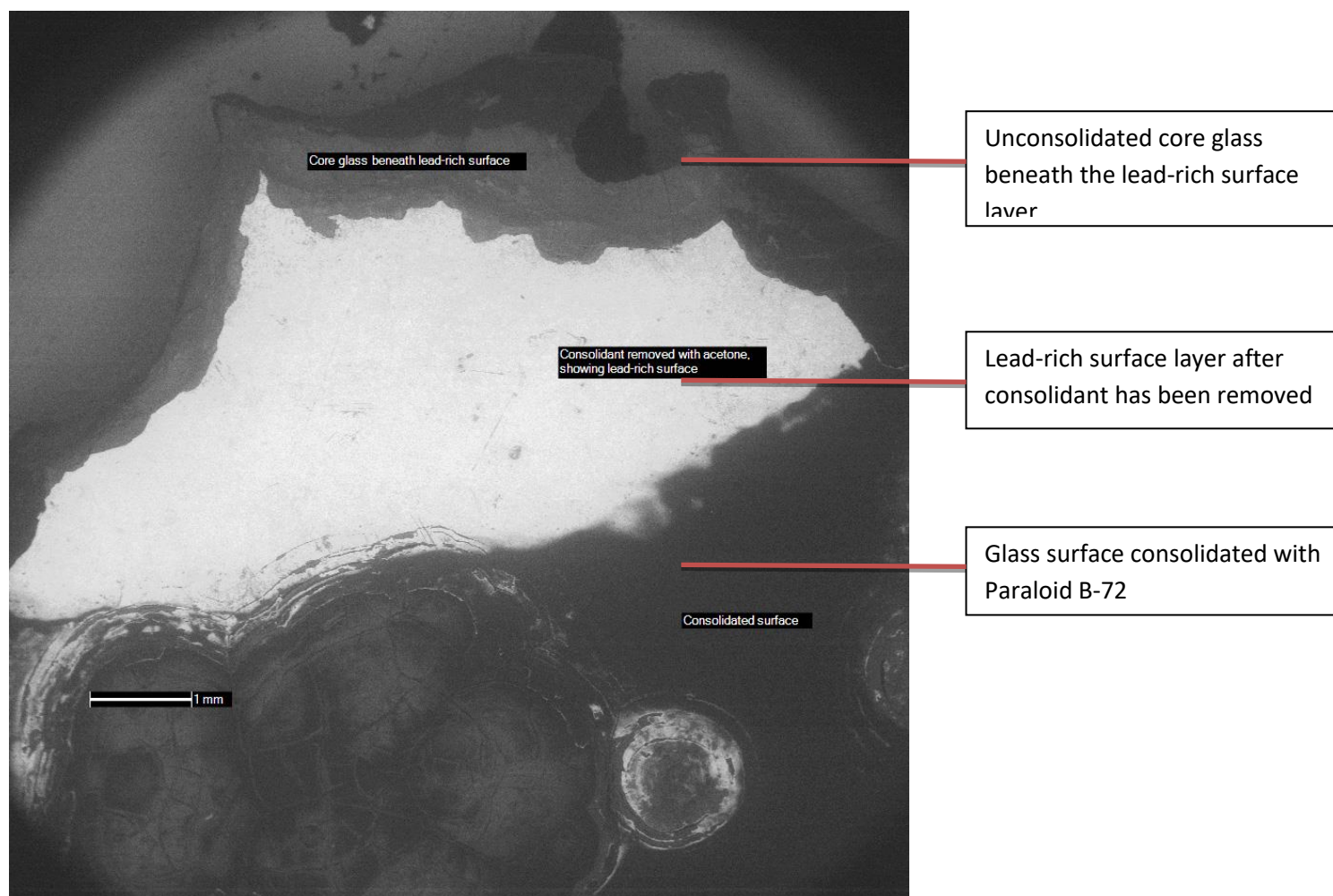
Sample	Na	Mg	Al	Si	P	K	Ca	Ti	Mn	Fe	Co	Cu	Zn	Sn	Ba	Pb
Red Enamel (SG 63)	BD	0.36	3.53	65.69	5.15	0.45	8.13	BD	8.90	3.25	0.73	0.82	0.71	BD	0.35	1.95
Blue Glass Core (SG 77)	0.77	1.28	5.01	64.96	5.38	1.82	11.61	0.48	0.26	2.15	0.15	0.44	0.27	0.26	BD	5.00

Blue Glass Surface (SG 77)	0.65	1.02	3.26	27.40	10.48	2.74	7.44	BD	0.43	1.75	0.14	0.37	0.27	BD	0.42	40.18
Blue Glass (SG 66)	0.86	2.32	2.79	62.67	5.88	5.84	10.05	BD	1.88	1.64	0.31	0.21	BD	BD	BD	5.32
Green Glass (SG 66)	BD	1.55	2.02	68.28	7.08	2.85	9.50	BD	1.39	1.57	BD	BD	BD	BD	BD	5.42
Blue-Green Glass (SG 66)	1.34	3.50	2.86	64.99	4.65	7.8	10.89	BD	1.12	0.97	BD	BD	BD	BD	BD	1.61
*BD=below detection																



The results for the pieces tested are normal for medieval European glass with a structure made of 60% to 70% silica with a potassium flux. The main colourant for the red-brown enamel is iron based, while blue glass is tinted with cobalt and copper, and the green and blue-green glass is coloured with oxidized and reduced manganese and iron.

There was evidence of lead from the window comes leaching into the glass structure where it was in contact with it on the edges of some glass pieces. However, the entire surface of the blue piece from SG 77 had a large amount of lead incorporated into it. This did not reach into the core of the glass.



## Appendix 2

Size	Type	Animal Bone	Human Bone	Sample	Finds	Total	Notes
23x20x10	Cardboard		14			14	Museum boxes
40x30x20	Cardboard	1	1			2	
42x32x27	Cardboard				5	5	
45x30x20	Cardboard		2			2	
50x32x28	Cardboard	2				2	
58x32x18	Cardboard		2			2	Museum boxes
58x32x18	Cardboard				1	1	
60x40x10	Cardboard	8	3			11	
60x40x20	Cardboard	4	5	1		10	
28x22x12	Plastic				4	4	
33x33x17	Plastic				1	1	
38x30x30	Plastic	1				1	
40x35x24	Plastic	8	3	1		12	
46x35x26	Plastic				8	8	
46x35x28	Plastic		6			6	
46x36x26	Plastic				3	3	
47x36x26	Plastic	17	11	2		30	
50x40x32	Plastic		15			15	
52x38x30	Plastic		14	2	5	21	
56x38x24	Plastic	3				3	
56x38x30	Plastic		3			3	
56x40x32	Plastic		4			4	
60x40x24	Plastic	6				6	
74x38x16	Plastic		1			1	
20x22	Bucket				6	6	Soil samples
30x22	Bucket				1	1	Soil samples
<b>Total</b>						<b>174</b>	

Table 1: Number, type and sizes of boxes containing artefacts and ecofacts from the Blackfriary excavations.

## Section 3

### Community Report

Finola O' Carroll, Ian Kinch and Laura Corrway

#### Introduction

Section 3 provides a brief report of the 2016 community programme that was jointly delivered by IAFS and the Blackfriary Community Heritage and Archaeology Project (BCHAP), which 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 (see Mandal and O' Carroll 2011 and Mandal, O' Carroll, et al. 2015 for a full description of BCHAP).

A detailed report on the work of the BCHAP since the inception of the Black Friary excavations was provided in the 2016 interim report (O' Carroll, Shine et al. 2016). That report described the project's progress from 2010-2014, before presenting a detailed description of the community programme from 2014-2016 - a logical separation as the scope and scale of BCHAP projects increased significantly in those years, partly due to the placement of Gateway Jobs Initiative Scheme workers on the site. Considering previous reporting, this comparatively brief report only describes the community projects activities in the last year.

#### 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.

A detailed description of the amenity works undertaken on the site was prepared in the last interim report (O' Carroll, Shine et al. 2016). The scale of this amenity programme grew significantly from the summer of 2014 when 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. As this project

has now ceased we are making new maintenance arrangements among ourselves and with various partners.

### **Waste Management and Site Appearance**

As stated the Black Friary field had become an overgrown wasteland and the focus of casual dumping prior to the intervention of the BCHAP. The initial objective of their amenity programme was to return the site to 'clean' and safe pastureland. Details on how this was achieved have been outlined previously but the site is now clean and safe, with continued labour/vigilance in place through the Gateway Scheme – such as the installation and servicing of a litter bin - to discourage further casual dumping. The scale of improvements to the field were acknowledged when the field and community garden was awarded a Gold Litter Award in June of 2016; the award was given to the South Meath Area Response to Teens group, a key partner of BCHAP who previously have collaborated on the site to install the 'SMART' community garden (see below).

### **Community Garden (and Orchard)**

In conjunction with the 'SMART' (South Meath Area Response to Teens) local charity group a community garden on the site was installed from 2014-2015 (that was formally launched in June 2015). Additional funding was sought toward the end of 2015 for the planting of a community orchard (of native fruit trees) and installation of additional picnic seating for 24 people. This project was successfully delivered by mid-2016. A second phase of planting was undertaken in November 2016 when additional copses of fruit trees and shrubs and a hedgerow were planted.

Since the summer 2016 a new tool store was rehabilitated beside the SMART garden and will be turned over to community use/storage requirements. Such amenity works are ongoing on a weekly basis, with plans for the installation of a wild-flower meadow in the coming weeks.

Collectively these works have been recognised with the SMART garden and orchard winning the Best Youth Project in the Pride of Place Awards for the third year running in November 2017 and being nominated as a contestant in the All Ireland Awards (Fig. 3.1).

Most significantly, a group of local families is now maintaining and growing food in the garden with the children being particularly involved. The SMART project continues to be involved and it is hoped to expand the scope and scale of the garden.

### **Signage and Display**

The signage programme undertaken on the site has been described in detail previously (O' Carroll, Shine et al. 2016). Since summer 2016 a number of further signs, directing people how to use the site responsibly, have been erected on the site. Permission was granted recently for further signage within the town of Trim itself directing footfall to the BCHAP project; this signage will be installed in the coming weeks.

### **Community Education and Outreach Events**

BCHAP, supported by BAFS, have delivered a wide-ranging programme of events since 2010 that is reported in previous interim report, and is posted on our website, [www.iafs.ie](http://www.iafs.ie), and the BCHAP Facebook page. 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.

### 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 can include community tour days, school visits; tailor made tours, evening events, site open days, Heritage Week events and launch/marquee events. A visit to the site, co-ordinated by Finola O'Carroll and Dr. Michael Potterton of Maynooth University students took place in March 2017. Lectures were held in the local library to inform people about the project on June 1<sup>st</sup> and July 27<sup>th</sup> and visits by local families, and families of past students were encouraged and facilitated.

In addition to the above tailor-made tours, a series of open days were scheduled throughout both excavation seasons (summer 2017). These days were extensively advertised around the town and county and people were encouraged to visit the site, when staff were made free of other duties, to spend an extended time learning about the world of archaeology (Fig. 3.2).

The highlight of our site events in the last year, undoubtedly occurred from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of August (coinciding with Heritage Week) when the IAFS/BAFS and BCHAP held a community dig on the Black Friary site (Figures 3.3 and 3.4). The dig was undertaken as part of a county wide programme of events and was deliberately organised to take place when all students had left the site – allowing staff to spend more time mixing solely with their host community. The event proved a tremendous success, partly owing to the great weather, with lots of soil being shifted and plenty of tea being consumed.

### Town Events and Research

Events on site are only one facet of our community outreach efforts. We also regularly host events throughout the town including one off 'commissioned' events, evening lectures and, previously, a pop-up museum (O' Carroll, Shine et al. 2016). The following events were undertaken in Trim Town since the submission of our last interim report:

- June 2017 – Presentation by students of research on the site in the local library
- July 2017 – Evening lecture in the library on ongoing research with project partners
- August 2017 – Open walking tour of Trim as part of Heritage Week
- August 2017 – Afternoon lecture in the OPW building on the new Monastic Gardens Project, as part of Heritage Week

BCHAP and the BAFS are constantly encouraging new research opportunities within the town of Trim. In 2016 we initiated a programme of excavation focusing on the northern medieval limits of Trim with Maynooth University. However, undoubtedly one of the highlights of the season was partnering with Ithaca University to conduct a high resolution 3D scan of Trim Castle and its environs. This scan has the potential to be an invaluable management and conservation tool in the summer. Ithaca University returned to Trim in summer 2017 to continue scanning the inside of the castle keep.

### 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 worldwide, for example:

Each member of IAFS/BAFS (and visiting academics) have extensively promoted the Black Friary project and disseminated the results of the project to date. Finola O'Carroll presented a paper at a conference in Maynooth on Medieval Towns in Ireland, convened by Dr. Michael Potterton.

## 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 awards from the National Geographic, representation on CNN, several tourism and marketing awards and a number of local awards such as pride of place. A full description of these awards was prepared in the last interim report (O' Carroll, Shine et al. 2016).

## Publications

The project, now over six years old, has progressed to the point whereby cuttings have been completed and specialist results/radiometric dates are beginning to return. This progress has facilitated the start of a publication programme aimed at both the local and academic communities. A list of publications forthcoming from the project was prepared in the last interim report (O' Carroll, Shine et al. 2016). Since that on more publication have made it to press, namely:

O'Carroll, F. Kinch, I and Corrway L. Digging the Past, Growing the Future: The Blackfriary Project, *Ríocht na Midhe Vol. XXIX* (2018)

## 2018 Season

The proposed programme of events for the coming year is as follows:

### 1. Calendar of events for 2018

- Site tours open to the public every second Thursday through June – September.
- Site tours for primary schools available every Friday in June. 6 Primary Schools in the Trim have been contacted and invited to book tours.
- An information evening to launch our community dig will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Community excavation will run for 2 weeks in August (provisional dates are Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> – Monday August 27<sup>th</sup>-), closed Monday August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Family fun Medieval Day will be held on the Saturday of Heritage Week.
- A seminar day to present the results of the community dig will be held in October/November.

### 2. Community dig

#### The 'Medieval Garden Restoration Project'

This is a new phase of the Blackfriary excavations which will move away from the buildings and cemetery of the site and focus on the medieval gardens. This will be a community focused project which in the long term aims to recreate the medieval gardens of the friary.

The first phase of this project will be to excavate the gardens, to confirm their footprint and, through environmental analysis, find out what was grown. The community excavation will begin this programme by excavating two trenches, with the aim of opening and closing these within the timeframe of this dig.

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## Figures

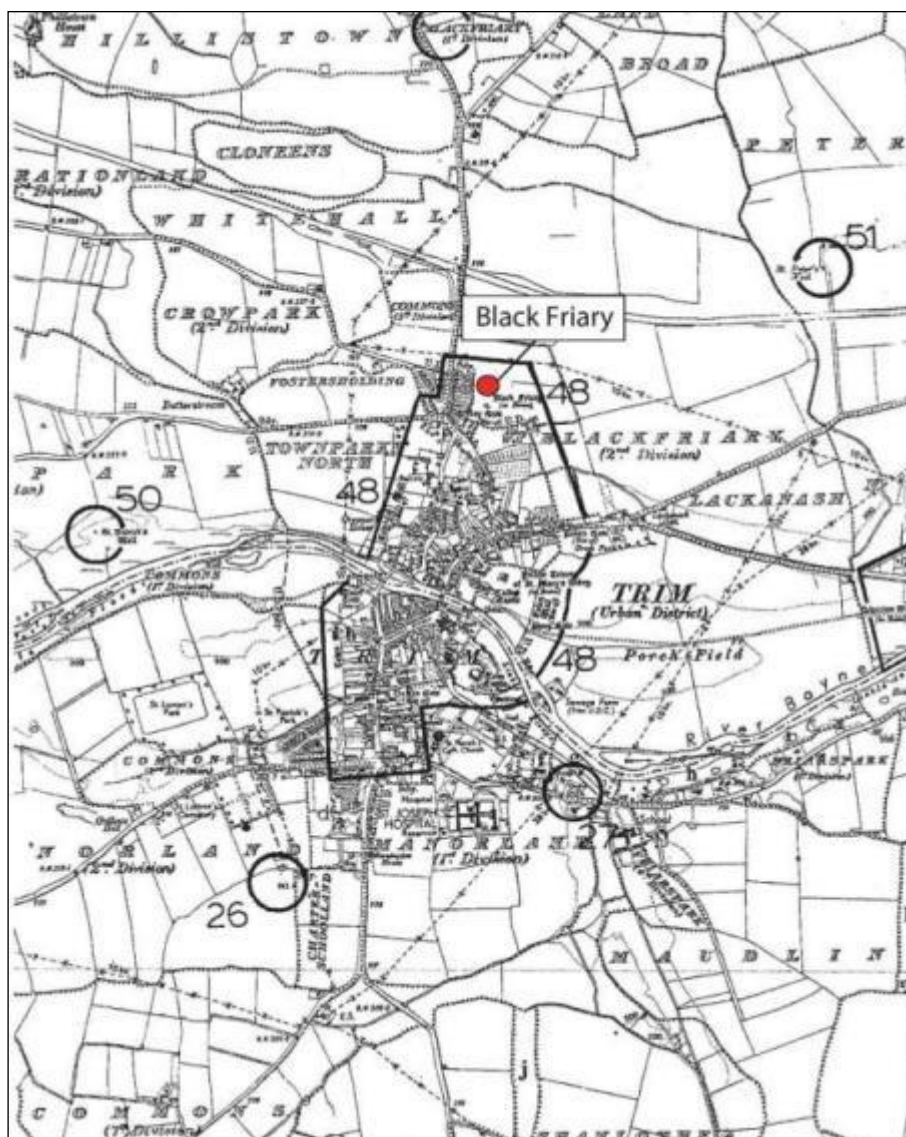


Figure 1.1: Position of the Black Friary within the town of Trim

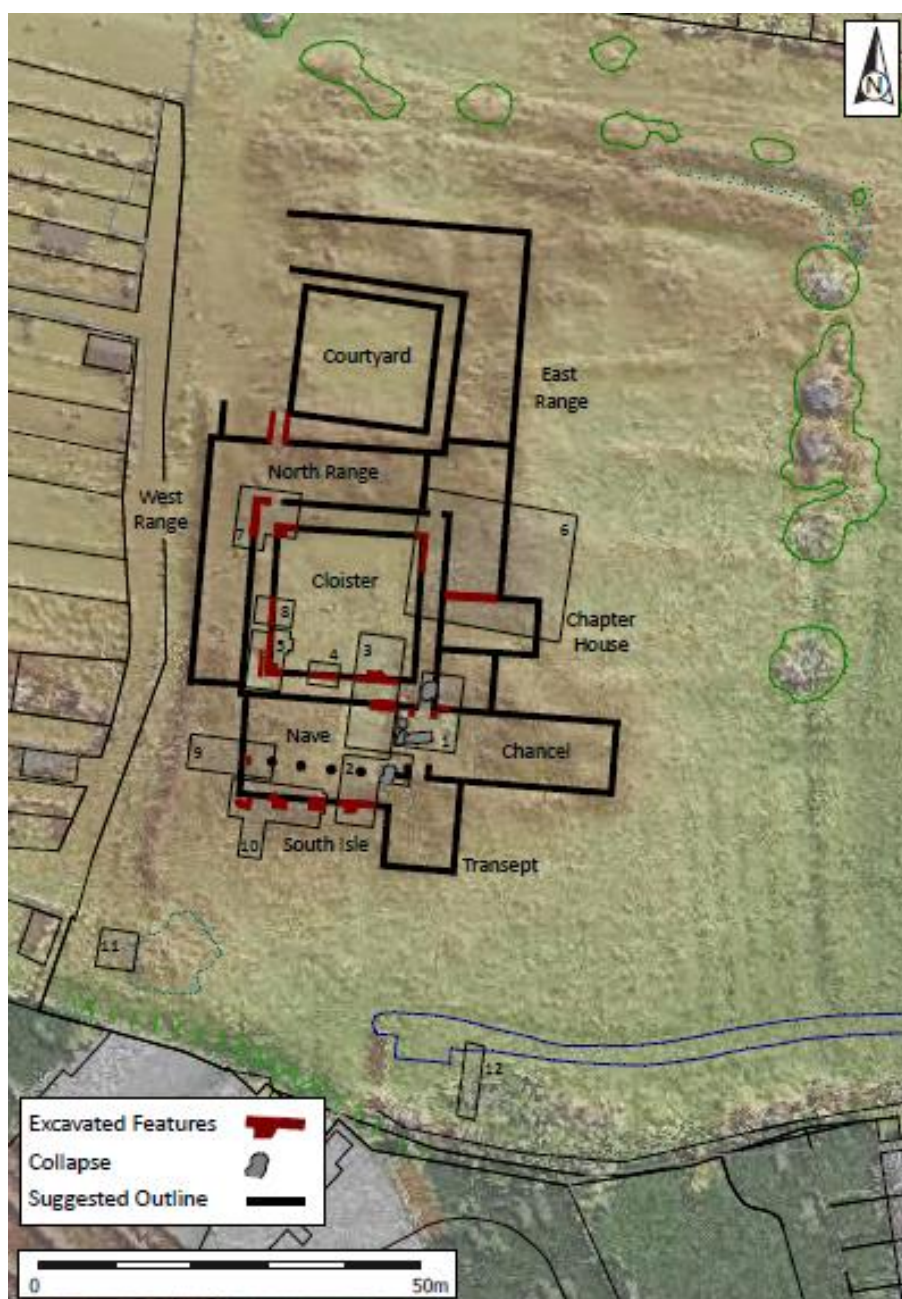


Figure 1.2: Lidar survey of the Black friary field, showing the configuration of friary buildings based on excavations to date





Fig. 1.1: Cutting 6, view of the back of the east range looking west



Fig. 1.2: Cutting 6, view from south of wall F6116 projecting west from the east baulk





Fig. 1.3: Cutting 6, view from north of (F6117), a large rubble and plaster layer which was exposed immediately north of wall F667



Fig. 1.4: Cutting 6, the burning layer (**F6118**) is sitting on a loose mortar rich layer (**F6132**) possibly remnants of floor (**F6131**) after demolition





Fig. 1.5: Cutting 6, the mortar rich surface (F6119) abutting wall F618



Fig. 1.6: Cutting 6, In-situ lime plaster render (F679) in foundation cut F689





Fig. 1.7: Cutting 6, the spread of burning (F6125) surrounds the stones F6126. View from east



Fig.1.8: Cutting 7, Quad C, to west, post ex (**F734**) to west with pre-ex (**F768**), east of photo (**F753**)





Fig.1.9: Cutting 7, (F769) lead window ventilator in situ



Fig.1.10: Cutting 7, F770 E-W wall, to west





Fig.1.11: Cutting 7, Wall F771 with building debris deposit (F772) to south; looking north



Fig.1.12 Cutting 7, quads C and D, to east with (F772) and internal wall F775 close to west baulk, N-S wall F771 with stony deposit (F776) east of F771. (F769) lies to the north, F770 to the south, with (F778), (F779) and (F780) between them.





Fig.1.13: Cutting 7, Quad A, **(F761)** view to south of wall **F764** at back, with peaty layer **(F761)** in front and metallated surface **(F766)** and clay deposit **(F762)** to south, all to west of wall **F752**



Fig. 1.14: Cutting 10, view looking north of the metallated surface F1005 with doorway F1004 at top. Remnants of the rubble overburden, F1002 are still visible embedded into the metallated surface.





Fig. 1.15: Cutting 10, view looking south of the metalling F1005 in the western extension, beneath construction debris F1054 and rubble F1002.



Fig. 1.16: Cutting 10, view looking west at metalling F1005 extending south from doorway F1004 which lies to east of buttress F1003, visible at top right. The grave cut for Burial 87 is in the foreground





Fig. 1.17: Cutting 10, view looking north at the metalling F1005 exposed at the western margin of Cutting 10 after extension. The section of the surface visible in Fig C above has already been excavated. Modern disturbance (F10120) is visible at the south end. The stony fill of the drain F10112 is visible at the top



Fig. 1.18: Cutting 10, view looking east at metalling F1005 exposed in the small extension. It has been impacted on by demolition. The corner of the buttress F1003 is partly visible top left.





Fig. 1.19: Cutting 10, view of Burial 121 from east; the burial has been disturbed probably by the insertion of a later burial



Fig. 1.20: Cutting 10, view of Burial 123 from south





Fig. 1.21: Cutting 10, view of Burial 124 from east



Fig. 1.22: Cutting 10, view of Burial 127 from south; stones of drain [F10112] are visible to north





Fig. 1.23: Cutting 10, close-up of Burial 127 showing damage to sacrum and vertebrae possibly due to position beneath the drain [F10112]



Fig. 1.24: Cutting 13, view looking west of cutting showing topsoil with rubbish still visible in the baulks, and the surface of F1303, with F1304 at the base of the background section face





Fig. 1.25: Cutting 13, view looking south of F1307, linear ditch



Fig. 1.26: Cutting 13, view to south of ditch F1307 with fills F1309 at base, overlain by F1312 with F1305 on top





Fig. 1.27: Cutting 6, the probably page turner or pointer under excavation



Fig. 2.1: Conserved stained glass packed in special boxes and ready for deposition



Fig. 3.1: Dr. Loreto Guinan, Meath Heritage Officers, was among those who presented at the Pride of Place qualifying event for the All Ireland Awards



Fig. 3.2: A site tour during the summer 2017 season





Fig. 3.3: A family participate in the dig during Heritage Week



Fig. 3.4: More happy Heritage Week diggers

## **Appendix 1**

### **Method Statement for the 2018 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 – 2017. The results of these excavations to date are reported on in four interim reports, the first for the 2010 season the second for the seasons 2011 – 2013, the third report for 2014 – 2015 and the this, the fourth for the summer 2016 / winter 2017 season. 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 number of these have been dated, showing that burial was carried on at the site from the 13<sup>th</sup> to possibly the 19<sup>th</sup> century (see Tables 2.2 2016 report, and 2.2 this report). 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 2018*

A number of cuttings continue to be worked on; Cuttings 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13 have been closed. Cuttings 2 and 3 have been partially backfilled pending resumption of work. Cuttings 6, 7 and 10 are still under excavation. Excavations will initially re-commence in Cuttings 6 and 7, and then Cutting 10 will be re-opened when Dr. Scott arrives in mid-June, as human remains are known to be present in this cutting.

It is also proposed to excavate 2 cuttings within the area of the Monastic gardens to the east of the buildings, (see below and Figure 1)

The objectives are:

- to continue explorations within the east range to clarify phasing of the buildings
- to further explore the garden area to the rear by means of a N-S transect on the east side, cutting 14;
- to continue to explore the interface between the cemetery and the church, in Cutting 10
- 
- to continue to investigate the north range of the friary in Cutting 7 and the nature of the possible courtyard space to the north of this

**The 'Medieval Garden Restoration Project'**

This is a new phase of the Blackfriary excavations which will move away from the buildings and cemetery of the site and focus on the medieval gardens. This will be a community focused project which in the long term aims to recreate the medieval gardens of the friary.

The first phase of this project will be to excavate the gardens, to confirm their footprint and, through environmental analysis, find out what was grown. The community excavation will begin this programme

by excavating two trenches, with the aim of opening and closing these within the timeframe of this dig (see map).

#### *Excavation Team*

The team will consist of Director Finola O'Carroll, supervisors, 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 a number of post graduate students.

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 BAFS 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 BAFS office, until after the completion of the report. Finds will ultimately be housed in the NMI.

#### *Conservation*

The BAFS has come to an arrangement with the Conservation Laboratory in Cardiff University to conserve all the archaeological material from the site. This has been discussed and agreed with personnel from the NMI.

#### *Specialists*

The BAFS retain the services of a number of specialists, Dr. Fiona Beglane, (animal bone) and David Stone (palaeoenvironmental remains).

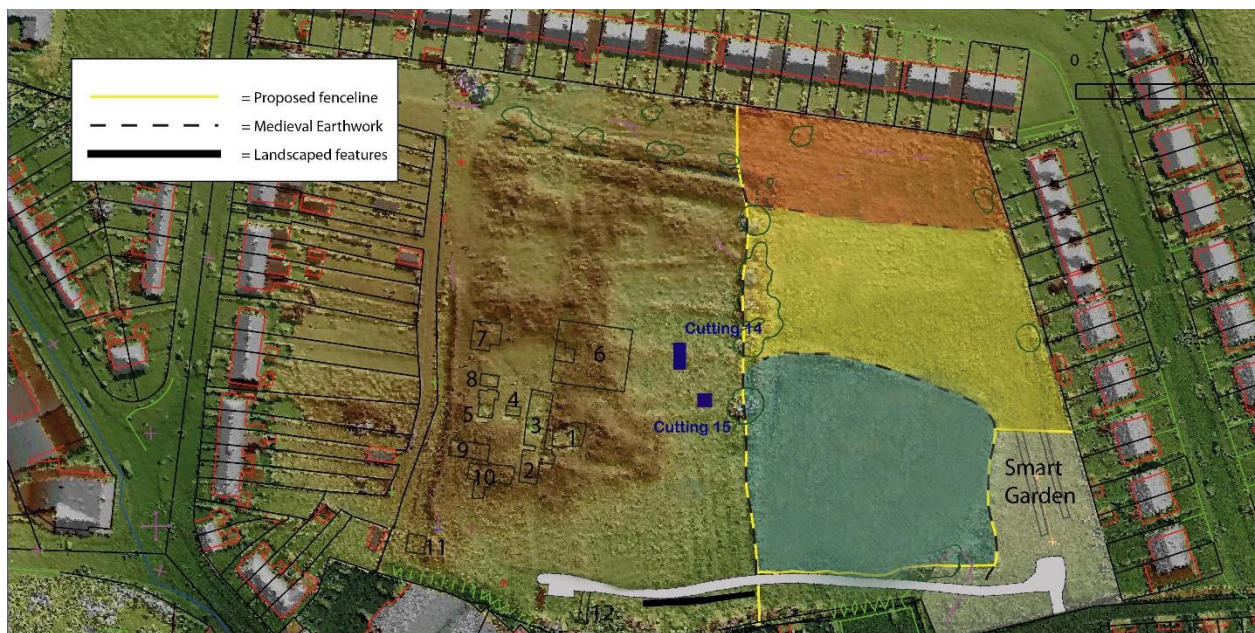


### Constraints

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 the Monastic Gardens where the proposed new cuttings will be located.*

