LUAS CROSS CITY HERITAGE WORKS
Archaeological Monitoring

Client: KN Network Services,
1-4 Crag Avenue Business Park,
Clondalkin Industrial Estate,
Clondalkin, Dublin 22.
On behalf of Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Excavation Licence 13E0353
Ministerial Consent C592
Archaeologist: Aidan O’Connell
Authors: O’Connell
Report Date: 9 March 2018
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LUAS CROSS CITY HERITAGE WORKS
Archaeological Monitoring

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Luas Cross City

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C592

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715906, 733985; Molly Malone Statue, original location
715798, 734018; Molly Malone Statue, new location
715931, 734184; Thomas Moore Statue
715956, 733539; Lady Grattan Fountain

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT
Archer Heritage Planning Ltd.

ARCHAEOLOGIST
Aidan O’Connell

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SUMMARY

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring of the Heritage Works for the Luas Cross City Scheme. The works were undertaken by Archer Heritage Planning at various locations in Dublin city centre on behalf of KN Network Services for Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII; formerly Railway Procurement Agency 'RPA'). Archaeological monitoring was undertaken between May 2014 and February 2017 by Aidan O’Connell of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd, under licence (13E0353) and ministerial consent (C592) from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

Monitoring was undertaken at 6 locations; the site of 4 cast-iron bollards in the central median of O’Connell Street adjacent to and within the curtilage of the Parnell National Monument, the original site of the Molly Malone statue on Grafton Street, the new site for the Molly Malone statue opposite the entrance to St Andrews Church, the site of the Thomas Moore statue at the junction of college St/College Green, the Fr Mathew statue on O’Connell St Upper and the Lady Grattan Fountain at St. Stephens Green North. No archaeological material was recorded at the Parnell National Monument, the original location of the Molly Malone Statue, the Thomas Moore statue, the Fr Mathew statue or the Lady Grattan Fountain. A post-medieval wall foundation and paving slabs were recorded opposite St Andrews Church. These may have been associated with previous church building at this location. Both were fully recorded in the course of this programme of works.
1. INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring along the Luas Cross City Project. In order to construct the proposed scheme, the required enabling and construction phase works were divided into the following contracts or work packages:

- Geotechnical Ground Investigations
- Heritage Works
- Investigation and Treatment of Cellars
- Utility Diversions
- Broadstone Advance Works
- Structures
- Main Infrastructure Civil and Track Works

The current report describes results of archaeological monitoring associated with the Heritage Works. The Heritage Works were designed to ensure that items of historic and architectural heritage importance and current but modern materials were carefully removed to secure storage for the duration of construction works and reinstated as appropriate following completion. Archaeological monitoring of these works was undertaken by Archer Heritage Planning at various locations in Dublin city centre on behalf of KN Network Services, for TII. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken between May 2014 and February 2017 by Aidan O’Connell of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd, under licence (13E0353) and ministerial consent (C592) from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

1.1 Proposed Development

Luas Cross City serves a 5.6 km long corridor extending from the Luas Green Line at St. Stephen’s Green to the Iarnród Éireann Broombridge Station on the Maynooth railway line. The scheme links Dublin City Centre to Phibsborough and Cabra via Broadstone and Grangegorman.
2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The monitoring works are located at various locations in Dublin city centre (Figures 1-2; Table 1).

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Table 1: Monitoring Locations

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 O’Connell Street

While O’Connell Street is now Dublin’s main thoroughfare and located a short distance east of the Anglo-Norman settlement of Oxmanstown, it remained undeveloped until the late 17th century. Depicted on Bernard de Gomme’s Map of 1673 as reclaimed land, it was first illustrated on Brooking’s Map of 1728 as a narrow well developed street called Drogheda Street to the north of the River Liffey connecting Abbey Street to present day Parnell Street. In 1749, the western side of Drogheda Street between Abbey Street and Henry Street was widened by the property speculator Luke Gardiner, following the demolition of existing buildings and renamed Sackville Street after the then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Lionel Cranfield Sackville, Duke of Dorset. In 1785, the remaining portion of Drogheda Street was extended to the River Liffey and incorporated into Sackville Street by Gardiner’s
grandson in conjunction with the Wide Streets Commission (WSC). This creation of Sackville Street Lower which was complete by 1797 necessitated the demolition of approximately 30 property plots/buildings on the west side of Drogheda Street, the North Lotts and Bachelors Walk. Much of Sackville Street was destroyed during the 1916 Rising and after the Civil War in 1922. In 1924, Dublin Corporation renamed the street in honor of Daniel O’Connell, a nationalist leader of the early nineteenth century whose statue stands at the lower end of the street, facing O'Connell Bridge. Additional statues located on the central median are dedicated to other notable historical figures including William Smith O’Brien, Charles Stewart Parnell, Sir John Gray, James Larkin, and Fr. Theobald Mathew.

3.2 Grafton Street

Grafton Street is today, one of the busiest retail streets in Dublin. It derives its name from Charles Fitzroy, 2nd Duke of Grafton (Viceroy), whose father was the illegitimate son of King Charles II by the Duchess of Cleveland. Although the earliest printed official reference to Grafton Street occurs in a statute of 1708, a laneway was present in the vicinity of the present-day street and depicted on Speed’s Map of 1610. No buildings were depicted on the laneway at this point. De Gomme’s Map of 1673 clearly depicts a street marked as “Highway to St. Stephen’s Green”, albeit slightly west of the current location. The street was partially realigned in 1712 and by 1728 when Brookings ’Map of the City and Suburbs of Dublin’ was published, the frontages were fully developed and the street named as Grafton Street. Having been described as a fashionable residential street during the 18th century, the street’s nature changed to being a commercial one during the early 19th century and extensive street widening and rebuilding was undertaken in 1841 by the WSC (Casey 2005, 519).

3.3 St. Andrew’s Church

The earliest known archaeological site at St. Andrew’s comprised a Religious House/Abbey for an order of Arroasian nuns (RMP DU018:020047; Gwynn and Haddock, 1970, 316). Known as St. Mary de Hogges’ Abbey, it was founded c.1146 by Diarmaid MacMurchada, and is believed to have owned a major land holding, extending from College Green to Merrion Square and from Stephen’s Green North to Nassau Street (Bradley & King 1987, 1, 137-138). In 1536 it was recorded as possessing a church with bell tower, dormitory, chapter house, other buildings and a two acre walled pasture. The church and all associated buildings were demolished in the mid-16th century on foot of Henry VIII’s Dissolution of the Monasteries (1536-1541). In 1665, the medieval parish church of St. Andrew’s was re-created by an Act of Parliament for the Church of Ireland. A church was constructed, on the site of the present day church and is illustrated on Bernard de Gomme’s map of 1673 as being elliptical in plan with a probable
apse to southeast, and enclosed by a walled church yard. In 1793 the church was re-built on the old walls, from sill-level upwards, but was destroyed by fire in 1860. The present church was built in 1862. The church was purchased by Dublin Tourism in 1995 and opened as the office of the Dublin Tourist Centre in 1996.


3.4 Westmoreland Street

Westmoreland Street extends from O'Connell Bridge to College Green. Previously an area of tidal marsh land, it was reclaimed in the late 16th/early 17th century. A Bridge site (RMP DU018:020385) is located at the southern terminal of the present day street. This bridge provided a crossing on the River Steine and may mark the site of the Anglo-Norman Steine Bridge referenced in documents dating to c. 1172. In 1602 Sir George Carey was given a lease of land to build a hospital (RMP DU018020430) near the site of the present day Bank of Ireland on College Green. ‘The Hospitall’ is depicted on Speed’s map of 1610 as a rectangular plot with three internal buildings, retained from the River Liffey by a walled bank. Further reclamation was undertaken from 1662-3. This area of land is marked on De Gomme’s Map of 1673 as “Ground taken in from the Sea”. The site of Westmoreland Street is subsequently illustrated on both Brooking’s Map of 1728 and Rocque’s Map of 1756. In 1799, the WSC commenced demolition of existing buildings to facilitate the construction of Westmoreland Street in its present configuration. The street is named after John Fane, tenth Earl of Westmoreland and Lord Lieutenant from 1790 to 1794.

3.5 St. Stephen’s Green

St. Stephen’s Green Park (RMP DU018-020334; RPS 7751-7761) was established in 1635 and named after St. Stephen’s Church. In 1664, in order to raise money, 27 acres of commonage from the original 60 acres were retained for an enclosed public park with the remaining land sub-divided into 96 plots which would be further developed for residential housing. In 1669, the green was enclosed by a perimeter wall and in 1670 instructions were issued to further enclose the park with a lime-tree walk and hedging. By 1796, the park was in decline and in 1814 an Act of Parliament was obtained for improvement of the park, and changed the status of St. Stephen’s Green from a public to a private park. The newly designed park is illustrated on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) Map as a level site containing a series of curvilinear walkways and a central “Equestrian Statue of King George II”. Access to the park was gained via one main entrance gate on the parks west side, and 8 minor
entranceways/"wicket gates" distributed across the park’s north, south and east sides. In 1877, an Act of Parliament returned the park to the care of the Commissioners for Public Park Works. At the instigation of Arthur E. Guinness, the park was redesigned, and the Green’s current picturesque landscaping, including the pond, around a central parterre and gateways at each of the corners were established. The newly redesigned park opened to the public on 27th July 1880. In 1907, The Royal Dublin Fusiliers’ Arch was erected on the northwest corner of the park. The monument commemorates the casualties of the Boer War. It was subsequently damaged by rifle fire during the 1916 Rising. At this time, a group of insurgents also dug defensive trenches within the park, adjacent to the various entrance ways. The landscape of the park today greatly reflects the late 19th century Victorian design.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Monitoring was carried out between May 2014 and February 2017. This involved the presence of an archaeologist on site to record and determine the character of any previously unknown archaeology at each location and to recover artefacts. All works were carried out in accordance with the RPA (2007) Code of Practice with the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government (now DCHG), and in accordance with Section 12 of the Contract Requirements. The works were carried out under licence (13E0353) and ministerial consent C592 (Parnell National Monument) the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

4.1 Parnell National Monument

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on 01-02 May 2014 by A. O’Connell at the Parnell National Monument. Four cast iron bollards were previously located in the central median of O’Connell Street, within the curtilage of the Parnell National Monument. They are included in the Protected Structure designation (RPS 6020; RMP DU018-425) for the Parnell National Monument and are therefore also considered to be elements of this National Monument. The bollards originally functioned as protective elements around a central ornamental lamp standard in the mid-19th Century. They were subsequently reused in a ventilation shaft associated with the city’s original tram system, before their installation as a decorative surround to a plaque commemorating the sculptor of the Parnell National Monument. Following the removal of modern paving slabs, the bollard foundations were exposed by hand-excavating a slot (150mm wide x 550mm deep) around each bollard (Plate 1-2). A metal detector was retained on site to aid artefact retrieval. However, the excavated material was entirely comprised of lean-mix concrete. The bollards were lifted by slings and removed from site. No archaeological objects or material was exposed or disturbed in the course of this work. A separate report detailing all LCC
Heritage and Utility works undertaken as a component of Ministerial Consent C.592 was submitted to the DCHG in October 2017 (Dennehy et al 2017).

4.2 Molly Malone Statue

The Molly Malone statue represents a fictitious fish seller and was erected in 1988 on the western pavement at the junction of Grafton Street with Nassau Street/Suffolk Street. The figure was situated on a low masonry plinth faced with granite. Following the removal of the statue for conservation works, its supporting concrete plinth was broken out and dismantled. This work was monitored by A. O'Connell under licence 13E353 on 2 May 2014. The plinth foundation was roughly 2m wide by 4.2m long. It was formed by a box-type structure of reinforced concrete packed with hardcore material (Plate 3). On the external side of the foundation, 70mm paving slab, 180mm base material and 250mm old road surface (tarmac) were visible in section. The base of the cutting comprised hardcore material (Plate 4). No archaeological layers or objects were observed in the course of monitoring.

The new location for the Molly Malone statue is outside the entrance to St. Andrews Church on St. Andrew Street. In advance of its re-erection an area measuring 3.8m x 2m x 0.72m was excavated in order to accommodate the foundation for the new plinth. This work was carried out on 23 June 2014 and monitored by A. O'Connell under licence 13E353 (Plate 5). The basal course of a post medieval wall and some stone paving were recorded (Figure 2; Plate 6). The wall was 1.85m long within the excavated area and extended beyond the northern and eastern excavation limits. Two stones from the basal course survived. The remaining structure comprised a rubble foundation with red bricks observed in the fill. The partial remains of a stone paved pathway were recorded on the western side of the trench and aligned NNE-SSW. The paving stones had recorded dimensions of roughly 0.6m x 0.28m x 0.05m. They were laid on a bed of lime mortar. The paving and basal course of the wall was removed under archaeological supervision.

4.3 Thomas Moore Statue

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on 28 May-4 June 2014 by A. O'Connell at the Thomas Moore Statue (RPS 6017), at the junction of College Street, College Green and Westmoreland Street. This work was undertaken under licence 13E353. The Thomas Moore statue comprised a bronze figure set on a granite plinth. Following removal of the upper portions of the plinth and the bronze statue, the lowest level of steps at the base of the plinth and some original granite street paving were exposed under the current street paving (Plate 7). The granite paving slabs were lifted by hand onto waiting
pallets. These slabs were partially bedded in recycled tarmac. The basal level of granite steps was removed with slings. Roughly 400-500 mm of the plinth foundation was removed (Plate 8). This foundation consisted of mortared rubble. No archaeological features or objects were recorded in the course of monitoring.

4.4 Fr Mathew statue

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on 22-23 June 2015 at the Fr. Mathew Statue (RPS 6017) on O'Connell St. Upper. Removal of the statue and the upper portion of the plinth was undertaken in advance of archaeological monitoring, which was concentrated on the removal of the basal steps and the rubble foundation of the base plinth. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by A. O’Connell under licence 13E353ext. The statue comprised a freestanding carved figure of the temperance leader Father Theobald Mathew (1790-1856), erected in 1892, and standing on a limestone plinth and base. Following removal of the statue, plinth and adjacent paving, c. 300-350 mm of the plinth foundation was removed. No archaeological objects or material were exposed or disturbed in the course of this work.

4.5 Lady Grattan Fountain

The Lady Grattan Fountain was presented to the citizens of Dublin in 1880 by Lady Laura Grattan, daughter-in-law of the patriot Sir Henry Grattan (RMP DU018-020334, St. Stephen’s Green Park). It was installed during a period when running water was supplied to only a small number of houses in the capital, which contained some of the most impoverished slums in Europe. It comprised a water fountain and 2 associated horse troughs. Drinking cups would have been attached to the shaft, horses could drink from the main body of the trough, with sheep and dogs drinking from the underlying basins. The fountain was removed from its location at the junction of St. Stephen’s Green North and Dawson Street in 2014. The initial monitoring of the removal of the fountain and horse troughs was undertaken by Melanie McQuade under licence 14E0081 as a component of LCC Utility works (McQuade 2014). Following construction of the new tram line, the fountain was repositioned in a new median between the tramline and the carriageway at the junction of St. Stephen’s Green North and Dawson Street. This necessitated the diversion of an existing watermain to facilitate the excavation of a foundation trench for the new fountain plinth. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken from 9-28 February 2017. The watermain trench had dimensions of 0.76m wide by 1.5m deep and comprised 0.3m road and base material above re-deposited gravels. Following excavation of the watermain trench, the foundation for the new plinth was excavated through re-deposited gravels. No archaeological material was encountered.
5. DISCUSSION

No archaeological material was recorded at the Parnell National Monument, the original location of the Molly Malone Statue, the Thomas Moore statue, the Fr Mathew statue or at St. Stephen’s Green North. The wall foundation and partial paving recorded opposite St Andrews Church were post-medieval in date and probably associated with the 18th century church which previously occupied this location and was destroyed by fire c.1860 (Section 3.3; RMP DU018-020072; RPS 7563). Both were fully recorded in the course of this programme of works.
6. REFERENCES

6.1 Bibliography


4.3 Web References

http://www.archaeology.ie [accessed 29 October 2014]

Figure 2: St. Andrew St; Molly Malone Statue new location; detail of wall foundation and paving
Plate 1: O’Connell St. Upper; Parnell National Monument; removal of fill material from base of bollards

Plate 2: O’Connell St. Upper; Parnell National Monument; view of area following removal of bollards

Plate 3: Grafton St.; Molly Malone statue original location; view of plinth foundation

Plate 4: Grafton St.; Molly Malone statue original location; view of area following removal of foundation.
Plate 5: St. Andrew St.; Molly Malone statue new location; new foundation trench under excavation.

Plate 6: St. Andrew St.; Molly Malone statue new location; post-excavation view of foundation trench, showing stone paving.

Plate 7: Westmoreland St.; Thomas Moore statue; view of old street paving following removal of statue.

Plate 8: Westmoreland St.; Thomas Moore statue; view of area following removal of foundation.
Plate 9: O’Connell St. Upper; Fr. Mathew statue; view of plinth foundation.

Plate 10: O’Connell St. Upper; Fr. Mathew statue; view of area following removal of foundation.

Plate 11: St. Stephen’s Green; Lady Grattan statue new location; view of watermain trench

Plate 12: St. Stephen’s Green; Lady Grattan statue new location; view of foundation trench