Summary Report on Two Sites in the Medieval Town of Limerick.

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Excavation of two sites, one in the Englishtown and the other in the Irishtown of medieval Limerick, shows that both were peripheral to the main core of each area and no evidence of buildings was recovered. It is clear that no stone buildings existed on either site in the medieval period and this tends to confirm evidence from early modern period maps which suggest both areas were largely undeveloped. Evidence of low-level industrial activity was found on each site.

1. INTRODUCTION.

The two sites presented here lie at either end of the medieval town. E471 now lies under the Inner Relief Road directly opposite the Bishop’s Palace in the Englishtown, while E365 was at 8-10 John St. in the Irishtown (Fig. 1). Although the sites are almost as far apart as is possible within the medieval city, they display some similarities that make them worth presenting together in the one report. Both lie immediately east of the main thoroughfare from Island Gate to St. John’s Gate in what the Civil Survey of 1654 (Simington, 1938) describes as the suburbs of the town. Both appear peripheral to the medieval town and there is a marked contrast between these sites and that which has recently been described in the core of the city in St. Mary’s parish (Collins, 2004).

Both sites were excavated as part of the city’s overall development programme, E471 in the winter of 1989-90, E365 in the winter of 1987-88. In both cases the labour was provided under social employment schemes supervised by professional archaeologists employed directly by Limerick Corporation. The present writer directed both sites. The finds are currently stored in Limerick Museum together with the more detailed stratigraphic reports.

2. E471. THE PARADE / BROAD LANE

2.1 Introduction.

Excavation of the whole site was not possible, given time and staffing constraints. A sampling strategy was devised based on a combination of historical research and the results from prior test trenching. Four areas were hand-excavated to subsoil while further trenches were machine dug to answer specific questions raised during the work (Fig. 2).

Area I lay at the west end of the site. Three recent properties fronted onto The Parade and trial trenching had shown the northern and southern ones contained deep modern cellars that had removed all archaeological deposits. The central property was, therefore, chosen for investigation, since it was it was possible to excavate quite close to the street frontage. As excavation proceeded, the area was extended eastwards.

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Fig. 1 Map of Limerick showing location of sites.
King John’s Castle.

Fig. 2 E471, trench location plan.
Area 2 lay to the north of Broad Lane and east of Noonan’s Lane. Trial trenching had produced several wooden stakes in the lower deposits which, it was felt, should be investigated further. This area was the only one available north of Broad Lane because cellars along Dominick Street had removed all deposits to the east.

Area 3 lay at the east end of the site. The original intention was to take a wide trench across a suspected boundary ditch and then take a narrower trench further to the south to confirm the results. Due to an extremely wet January the size of the first trench was halved after it had been opened.

Area 4 lay halfway between The Parade on the west and Dominick Street to the east and its purpose was to determine if there was a central property division.

2.2. The Medieval Features.

2.2.1. Area 1. (Fig. 3)

There were four distinct medieval phases within this area.

1) The earliest feature was a section of curvilinear ditch, context 93, with a redeposited subsoil fill, in the north west corner. It was c. 1.5 m wide and 0.6 m deep and cut from the surface of subsoil. No dating evidence was retrieved from the fill. This was the only feature on the whole site, which did not respect the generally east-west orientation of the property boundaries. It is therefore believed to predate the probable establishment of the boundaries in the Norman period.

2) The curvilinear ditch was sealed by context 83=88, light grey silty clay with iron panning, containing several sherds of cooking pot. A shallow bowl shaped depression, context 84, cut from the surface of layer 83=88, was interpreted as a hearth. It measured 0.5 m in diameter by 0.12 m deep and its ash fill contained several sherds of cooking pot.

Context 16, a layer of natural yellow clay, sealed the hearth and southern part of the area, while further north there were interleaving ash lenses, context 51.

3) Cut through the yellow clay and ash layers was a series of 16 pits, contexts 19, 25, 29, 38, 39, 50, 55, 60, 61, 62, 63, 68, 70b, 71, 76 & 90. These ranged from 0.8 to 2.3 m in diameter and between 0.5 and 2.3 m deep. Many of these pits had peaty humic primary fills while several contained fills with high iron slag content (Figs. 4, 5 & 6) They are interpreted as a series of rubbish pits.

4) Sealing part of the area was a burnt deposit 30=37 which contained a high quantity of iron slag. This slag and burnt material appears to have been brought onto the area rather than having been produced in-situ. It appears to have been used for levelling and was thickest over some of the pits, where the pit fills had subsided. At the eastern end dark grey clay with a greenish tinge, context 53=54, sealed some of the pits while further to the west was grey silty clay, context 22. Two post holes, contexts 18 & 23 were cut through the latter layer. Context 6=52, a 0.15-0.2 m thick deposit of small to medium sized angular stones sealed the whole of the area. This layer marks the transition from the medieval to the post medieval period in this area.
Fig. 4 E471, section through pit 60-63

Fig. 5 E471, section through pit 50

Fig. 6 E471, section through pit 25
Here too it was possible to distinguish 4 medieval phases.

1) Feature 149, interpreted as an east-west ditch, lay within a machine cut extension and was not excavated because the sole purpose of the trench was to prove the existence of a ditch on this line. Further north under Broad Lane there was a series of small pits and post holes, 130 & 140 to 147, which formed no discernible pattern. The features produced no evidence as to date or function and were sealed by context 126 a silty grey clay layer.

2) Immediately to the north of Broad Lane were two east-west ditches 127 and 130 which converged towards the eastern side of the area. A section was taken across the ditches at either end of the area. The western one showed 127, the southern ditch, to be 1.4 wide by 0.7 deep and the northern 130 to be 1.5m wide and of similar depth. The eastern section, where the two ditches converged, was not so clear because iron panning gave a marked greenish tinge to all the layers so it was not possible to distinguish between fills other than a common upper and lower fill. At the west end of site a third ditch like feature, context 134, ran northwards at right angles to ditch 130. The full width of the feature is not known because it extended under Noonan’s lane which had to remain open for access to adjacent properties.

There were two other features to the north of 130. Context 136 was an irregular shaped hollow with a maximum length of 1.7m and 0.3m deep. It was cut on the south side by 130. The other feature, 137, was a vertical sided pit lying on the edge of 130 and measuring ca 1.6m in diameter by 0.6m deep. Because of the iron pan problems it was not possible to say if it cut or was cut by the ditch 130.

Ditches 149, 127, 130 and 134 are all interpreted as boundary ditches which, on pottery evidence, were laid out in the early Norman period. These boundaries were reflected in the street pattern that existed until the construction of the new road.

Context 126 = 123, very compact homogeneous grey-brown silty clay, c 0.5m thick, sealed all the features described above. This layer seems to represent something of a hiatus in the use of the area. There was no evidence, in the form of features, for continuity of the boundaries through layer 123/126 but the fact that they were re-established on the same lines in the later medieval period demonstrates a continuity of the knowledge of a boundary. It may be that there was some other form of demarcation which has left no trace within the excavated area.

3) Set into the top of 126 was a group of 5 pointed oak stakes, 124, and a single slightly larger one 125 standing in isolation further to the west on the edge of the trial trench. It is assumed that the posts noted during trial trenching were associated with 125. All these stakes varied from between 0.05 and 0.1m in diameter and all had their tips just in the surface of the subsoil. They appear to be the surviving portions of stakes driven in from a much higher level which have for the most part rotted away rather than belonging to this level. There is a correspondence with stake voids at a higher level.
Immediately above 126, the area was again divided on similar lines. An east-west stone wall, 118, and a north-south wall, 120, occupied the lines of ditches 127 and 134 respectively. The two walls are presumed to have met and formed a corner under the baulk. Wall 118 was ca 0.9m wide with a clear face on the north side made up of stones mostly in the range 0.1-0.2m. The facing stones were close set and survived to between two and three courses. The south face was less clear but appeared to have consisted of much larger stones, up to 0.6m in length, which have been largely robbed out to leave the true face only for a short distance. The wall was not bonded and the core material consisted of small stones. All the stones of the wall were angular and none showed signs of working. Wall 120 was ca 0.8m in width and survived to between two and three courses. It was of slightly different build to wall 118 with a mixture of large and small stones used to form both faces but like 118 it was not bonded. About 0.8m south of wall 118 were the remains of a parallel wall 117 which had been badly disturbed by a later culvert. It consisted of unbonded rounded stones laid in a single row with two courses of stones at the west end.

4) The area between walls 117 & 118 was interpreted as a laneway with context 122, a layer of medium sized rounded stones set in grey clay, the first of a series of surfaces. Context 122 was in turn sealed by contexts 116 and 105. The main constituent of both layers was a mixture of small
stone and gravel and both had the feel of being laid down over time giving the impression of resurfacing and patching rather than being deposited in one go. Layer 116 is believed to be the lower post-medieval deposit in this area.

To the north of the wall layer 118, loosely packed grey silty clay with a very high percentage of small stones and gravel and some charcoal and ash mixed through, abutted both 118 and 120. This layer extended over the whole area enclosed by the walls.

2.2.3. Area 3. (Fig 9)

This area, subdivided into two, contained 3 medieval phases.

Several features appeared to be cut directly from the surface of the subsoil and in the absence of dating evidence from most of them, they are assumed to be of Anglo-Norman date.

1) The features in the southern part were, 236 a small pit or posthole, 235 a ditch ca. 0.75m in width by 0.45m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat bottom and 237 a shallow sub-rectangular pit ca. 1.6 by 1.05m and 0.25m deep. The continuation of the ditch was not noted in the northern part. Sealing the features was context 226 a layer of light grey-brown silty clay up to 0.2m thick which covered the western two thirds of the area but was absent from the remaining third where it had been removed by later features.

In the northern part of the area the features were 217 a small pit or post-hole, 218 a shallow-post-hole, 219 an oval pit and 221 which appeared to be a small hearth. Context 222 was a pit like feature continuing into the south section.

2) In the southern trench context 226, a layer of grey silty clay, sealed the early features and was cut on the eastern side by a north south ditch 233. The width of this ditch was masked by a later recut 234 which was c. 1m wide. This later recut was remarkable for the amount of oyster shells it contained, contemporary with 233, in that it was cut from the surface of 226 was pit, 224. In the northern part was another north south feature 223, which is probably the continuation of the ditch 233 or its recut. A late culvert had removed virtually all deposits above this level of the northern area.

3) Context 227, a band of redeposited natural orange clay partly sealed layer 226 and was in turn sealed by homogenous layer of grey brown clay 0-6 to 1m thick. This deposit, interpreted as a garden soil, was removed in spits and received context numbers, 208, 209, 210, 213 and 214. At the western end the layer had been partly removed by a later half-cellar 202. This layer marks the transition from medieval to post medieval period.

2.2.4. Area 4. (Fig 10)

There were just two recognisably medieval phases in this area.

1) A series of undated, largely intrusive, features cut directly from the natural subsoil. 316 was a small hearth, 317 was a scatter of seven post holes with no obvious pattern and 318 & 319 were pits. There was no dating evidence from the features and but are assumed to be of Anglo-Norman date.

2) Sealing all the features described above was a 0.5-0.6m thick layer of homogeneous grey-brown clay soil which was removed in two spits, 315 the lower and 313 the upper. The upper spit contained three conjoining sherds of Brownware which suggests that the process by which the layer was deposited or formed continued into the seventeenth century. The layer is interpreted as a garden soil similar to the thick deposit in Area 3.
Fig. 9 E471, area 3, medieval features
2.3. THE POST-MEDIEVAL FEATURES.

2.3.1. Area 1. (Fig 11)

There were two main phases to the post-medieval period

1) Immediately above the stone layer 6=52 marking the transition to the post-medieval period, was a north-south stone wall bonded with yellow clay, context 31. This wall was ca 0.4m in width and was faced on both sides with small to medium sized angular stones none of which ran the full width of the wall. It seems to be an internal wall. At the northern end it turned westwards for 0.7m to a point where it was cut by later intrusive features. It was not clear if there was also an eastern return at this end because of other later intrusions. At the southern end there are two possible eastern returns. The first of these, 49, was another clay-bonded wall running parallel to and partly under the south section. It terminated on the line of 31 but the clay which bonded it was of a somewhat different colour to that in wall 31, being slightly pinkish-yellow in colour. The other possible return was 35, a row of three largish stones bonded with the same coloured clay as 31. If 35 is the south wall, which seems the better interpretation on the basis of the bonding colour, then 49 must be interpreted as the northern wall of a structure to the south. In that case the area between 35 and 49 forms the eavesdrip between the two buildings.
Adjacent to wall 31 and on its east side was a setting of seven stones standing on edge with their long axes parallel to one another, context 32. This feature is roughly central to 31 and is therefore interpreted as a cobble or paved surface indicating a doorway through the wall 31. Also to the east of 31 was an irregularly shaped spread of ash and charcoal, 45, which was sealed by 33, a spread of yellow redeposited natural clay, which is interpreted as the probable floor of the building. The cobbles 32 were inserted from the level of 33.

The western wall of the building was probably an intermittent line of stones, context 9 which terminated at the southern end at a large quernstone. The room so formed measured ca 5m north-south by ca 3.5m east-west.

Further west was a shallow pit or post hole, 11, which was contemporary with the building. The building was sealed by context 5 a mixture of orange ash and burnt clay. Much of the clay had wattle impressions and is assumed to derive from the walls of the building which burnt down. It is assumed that the building was timber framed, of the type described as cagework in the Civil Survey of 1654. The building appears to be 17th century in date but it is not possible to refine that broad range with any certainty. The burnt deposit formed the upper layer on the site after machine clearance.

2) The remaining features were of 18th century date and later. These were the walls of the buildings which stood on site until relatively recently. There were cellars to both the north and south, while a small cellar feature 2, in the area was filled with modern rubble.

The walls of this cellar were removed by machine and part of a medieval capital was found in its western wall. 34 was a shallow trench at the east end of the area, filled with grey silty clay mixed with stone.

2.3.2. Area 2. (Fig 12)

There were two main post-medieval phases (fig 27).
1) The dismantling of the medieval boundary walls.
2) The insertion of a clay deposit, possibly a floor.

1) Walls 118 & 120 continued in use into the post medieval period but were soon dismantled and sealed by 119 a layer of angular stones of various sizes, presumably demolition debris. The eastern end of wall 118 was sealed by layer 114, an orange burnt deposit, which spread northwards to cover most of the central portion of the area.

2) The stones, 119, were sealed by 108, a layer of yellow redeposited natural clay which covered much of the west end of the area and was up to 0.3m thick in places. This layer spilled out to the south of the line of wall 118 to seal the upper deposit in the laneway and the western edge of stone layer 119. The eastern edge to layer 108, at its southern end, was markedly scarped as though the layer had either been deposited up against something which was later removed, or had been deliberately cut back. The line of the edge of 108 was carried northwards towards the section by a thin band of mortary clay. Set into the top of 108 was a single north-south row of rounded stones set on end, 113, which ran from just north of the culvert trench to the northern section. This line of stones lay some 0.6m to the east of the line of the earlier wall 120.
Layer 108 and feature 113 are interpreted as part of a structure with 108 as the floor and 113 the wall line. It is not clear what form or type of structure this was because it was not associated with anything else on site. If 113 was not the property boundary line in its own right then, on the evidence of the disposition of the property boundaries in the area, it is unlikely to have been part of a structure running to the west of 113. If it was part of a building to the east then it has already been noted that there is the possibility that deposits have been removed to the east of 113.

The burnt deposit, 114, was sealed by 110, humic grey clay with a high stone content and flecks of charcoal, which covered most of the area to the east of layer 108 and ran up against the scarped eastern edge of that deposit.

Sealing 108 was an extremely thin layer of pea grit, 107. 110 was sealed by 103, an orange ashy deposit containing lumps of burnt clay with wattle impressions which covered the eastern part of the area. At its southern edge the layer faded away on the line of a set of cobbles, 102, which formed an upper surface in the laneway. In one small part of the area it appeared that 102 overlay layer 103.

A spread of stone mixed with mortar and grey silty clay, 104, sealed much of the eastern part of the area and formed the upper layer of the area under the general clearance level 101.
There were two later intrusive features to be noted. Pit 106 measuring c. 1.4m square by 0.5m deep was filled with mortar and brick mixed with grey clay. Linear feature 111 ran north-west/south-east for a distance of ca. 3.4m from the western section and petering out at its eastern end. It was ca. 0.75m wide by 0.5m deep. Its fill 112 was a mixture of loose stone, sand and clay with some bone and shell. It contained a single sherd of medieval ware. The function of this feature is not clear. It does not appear to be a drain because it terminates at a point from which there would have been no easy onwards flow of water.

2.3.3. Area 3. (Fig 13)

In this area there was a single post-medieval phase prior to the insertion of the walls of the recently demolished buildings along Broad Lane. This consisted of a short length of mortared wall 206, 0.7m in length and 0.4m wide, a post hole 207, and an associated burnt deposit 205. The wall and the post together with the ash are interpreted as part of a timber framed structure, though further details of the building were not forthcoming. There were two later intrusions a cellar 202 filled with modern rubble and one of the trial pits 204.
There were 3 phases to the post-medieval period.
1) A scattered burnt deposit with an associated hearth.
2) A building destroyed by fire probably in 1691.
3) A general build up to the present day, which includes one intrusive feature.

1) The garden soil continued in use until the post medieval period. Set into the top of it was a small feature of closely set stones 314 with associated burning which was interpreted as a hearth. There were a few associated stake holes.

2) Sealing layer 312 were the remains of what is interpreted as a 2 room building which had been destroyed by fire. The east wall of this building, 305, continued into the northern section while the southern end had been removed by a later intrusion, so the length of the wall is unknown. It consisted of yellow clay bonding with some stone surviving at the northern end. The line of clay was interrupted by a post hole 307. To the west of the wall there was an east-west division running to post-hole 307. To the north of the division was a rough cobbled stone floor. The trench was extended in this area to locate the western wall, but nothing comparable to the east wall was found. The cobbles did however stop on a rough line and if this marks the wall line then the room was 2.6m wide. South of the division the garden soil seems to have acted as the floor of the structure. The building was sealed by a burnt deposit 303 which contained lumps of burnt clay with wattle impressions. The post hole 307 actually cut the burnt deposit and as such has to be a later feature. It is clear however that it functions
well as part of the building, but stands in isolation at this higher level. It is therefore interpreted as a post removal pit to take out the charred stump of an upright from the burnt building. The fill of the post hole contained a coin of James II datable to 1691. If the post-hole is correctly interpreted as a part of the building then the coin gives a date and context for the fire which destroyed the building, i.e. the 1691 siege.

Fig. 15 E471, Medieval pottery, top row 485, mid, 471, 433, 223, bottom 491. Scale 1:2
3) The burnt layer 303 was sealed by mixed layer of grey clay and stone 302 whose surface formed the starting layer of Area 4.

Fig. 16 E471, Post medieval pottery, 228, 280, 212. Scale 1:2

2.4. DISCUSSION.
The main result of the excavation was to prove that several of the property boundaries in existence up to the time of excavation had their origins in the Norman period, a theme that will be taken up again in the overall discussion of the two sites. The boundaries in question were the eastern one along Dominick Street Old, both sides of Broad Lane and the eastern boundary of Noonan’s Lane.

The Dominick Street boundary is represented by the ditches in Area 3 and, on the basis of the results from the earlier trial trenching, it is possible to suggest that the ditches ran from Convent Street in the south to the convergence of roads at Island Gate in the north. The significance of this feature is that it continues what is the natural line of the east city wall from St Mary’s parish, whereas the known city wall dog-legs eastwards then northwards to Island Gate. As such the ditch may represent the line of an early enclosure of the northern suburb, before the foundation of St Peter’s Cell and St Saviour’s Dominican friary, both of which respect the line. It therefore appears that when the decision was made to enclose the suburb with a stone wall, the suburb was extended eastwards to include the monastic precincts and used the outer precinct walls as the city wall. There are known murage grants from 1237 and 1311 either of which might account for this work, but there is a possibly significant difference between the two in that the former applied to the ‘city’ and the latter to the ‘suburb’. Both Leask (1941, p. 102) and Thomas (1992, p. 151) have chosen to interpret ‘suburb’ as referring to the Irishtown, but the term is used to describe the northern part of the Englishtown as late as the Civil Survey of 1654. There is no reason therefore why the 1237 grant cannot be interpreted as referring
to the main town, while the 1311 grant applied to the northern suburb. This interpretation would fit better with the know data on the walling of Irishtown, which seems to be a product mainly of the 15th century (Ferrar, 1767, pp. 19-21).

The Broad Lane boundaries are represented by the ditches and walls in area 2. It is interesting to note, that Ms Lane interprets the Civil Survey to show that instead of these two boundaries lying either side of a laneway there is one long property stretching from the front to the back of the site. There were certainly no features found in excavation crossing this area in a north-south direction to suggest any subdivision and although it is believed that there was an east-west thoroughfare during the medieval period it took the form of a narrow alleyway along the south side of wall 118. It was probably not until after the wall was demolished some time in the 17th century that Broad Lane, as it was prior to excavation, was laid out, which ties in quite well with Ms Lane’s findings. The boundary along Noonan’s Lane is represented both by the early ditch and the later wall 120 in Area 3. There was one other possible boundary suggested by Ms Lane which was investigated by machine trench and located just to the east of Area 1. The date of the ditch is not clear but it is believed to have a quite early origin. How far it extended to the north and south is not known but is assumed that there must have been a continuation to divide the front half of the site from the back.

The original lay out of the front half of the site to south of Broad Lane unfortunately remains unclear. The modern map and Lane’s map both show this front part of the site to be divided into three properties but it is not possible to say with certainty that the boundaries date any earlier than the 17th century. Intrusive features to the north and south of Area 1 meant that there was simply no area where the hypothesis could be tested. There were, however, a few indicators that the area might have been subdivided at a late stage. The earliest feature on Area 1, the undated ditch 93, certainly paid no regard to the boundaries but it is possible that this feature pre-dates the Norman division of the land. The fact that several of the medieval pit features continued under both north and south sections may also indicate an absence of boundaries but it could equally well be suggested that the features were excavated tight up against the boundaries. The post-medieval building on the area demonstrates that the boundaries were definitely in place in the 17th century.

Though the property boundaries were laid out in the Norman period, there does not appear to have been any extensive use of the site within the medieval period, as the small number of features and finds attest. The overall impression is that the site was peripheral to the main town and it has to be suggested that the back half of the site, at least, was open ground throughout the medieval period, probably used for gardens. In fact the cartographic evidence, starting in the 17th century, shows that it was not until the 19th century that the back part of this whole block was built up and indeed one small part of the area, just off site, survived up to the time of excavation as an overgrown orchard.

While there is no evidence for any buildings of medieval date it is possible that at the front of the site they lay in the area which could not be investigated. An early north-south boundary has already been noted, in the machine cut trench just east of Area 1, forming the back of the property in question. The complex of pits is concentrated just to the west of this boundary and this appears to be a deliberate siting at the back of the property which, in turn, suggests that it was necessary to keep the front of the site free for other activities. It has already been noted that the position of the western boundary of the property is unknown and so it is possible that any buildings connected with the pits lay to the west of the excavated area.

The seventeenth century buildings in areas 1 and 4 are of a type seen elsewhere in town e.g. Site II. In both cases the constructional evidence consisted of a low stone sill and a spread of burnt
clay containing wattle imprints. In the Area 4 building there was a single post-hole associated with the structure. The absence of stake holes on the wall lines of both buildings coupled with the evidence for the use of wattle suggests that the wattle was used as infill rather than forming the main structural element. The conclusion to be drawn is that the buildings had a timber main frame and that both are potentially of the type described as "cadgework" in the Civil Survey. In neither case does the building seem to have been substantial and the find of a sickle in the Area 4 building suggests that it may have been little more than a shed.

One feature which is particularly surprising, given that the site is literally a stone's throw from the castle, is the complete absence of material attributable to the Norse/Hiberno-Norse period. Excavations within the castle have uncovered a whole series of buildings from that era and one might have expected to find some similar evidence given the proximity.

2.5. THE FINDS.
The full listing of finds can be found in the Limerick Museum online catalogue, entered via the City Council website www.limerickcity.ie. Keyword search using acquisition no. 1990.0772. The listing below is by context number followed by accession number. Each area was given a block of context numbers, Area 1, 1-100, Area 2, 101-200, Area 3, 201-300 and Area 4, 301-400.

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Fig. 17 E471, Miscellaneous. Sickle 282, pin 517, knife-handle 373, buckle 398, spindle whorl 407 and bead 521. Scale 1:2
For pottery see report by Clare McCutcheon, Appendix 1.

**Brick and tile.**

*Medieval Floor tile.*

There were four fragments, one from a triangular tile the remainder probably square, only one was possibly two colour.

53:56 from a layer sealing the pits, 116:226 from the laneway and 128:332 and 129:364 from the fill of the ditches.

**Wall tile.**

1:499, fragment with creamy-buff sandy fabric with white tin glaze and painted blue decoration, from general clearance.

116:575, two conjoining fragments; buff gritty fabric with dark green glaze. From the laneway.

**Brick and roof tile**

A large amount of plain brick and tile from the clearance layers was discarded, only fragments from definite contexts were retained. These consisted of one fragment of yellow brick 116:213 from the upper laneway in Area 2 and 23 fragments of red roof tile all of which came from post-medieval deposits.

**Glass.**

The only piece of significance was 34:521, a Dutch trading bead of 17th century type, decorated with white red and blue stripes which was found in an intrusion post-dating the post-medieval building in Area 1. Fig. 17.

**Coins.**

The only two legible coins were 201:515, an 1826 George IV English halfpenny and 310:516, a 1691 James II Gunmoney halfpenny.

**Copper alloy.**

Identifiable objects

6:517, stick pin of watchwinder type, from the stone layer under the post-medieval building. Fig 17.

312:398, a possible buckle, from the patchy ash under the building. Fig 17.

53:519, fitting. Triangular piece of flat sheeting with a possible rivet hole at the apex, from the layer sealing the pits.

Other

94:522 fragments of bar and 123:520 fragments of sheeting.

**Iron.**

5:542, stirrup, in several fragments. Inverted U shaped with circular footrest, from the destruction level of the post-medieval building.

52:488, knife blade?.

103:146, knife blade? Heavily corroded object from the ash layer.

104:346, chain. 11 links.

116:370, heavily corroded lanceolate object, possibly a blade or possibly a strike-a-light, from the laneway.

303:282, sickle blade, missing tip, from the floor of the building. Fig 17.

In addition there was a small modern cast iron cauldron, and 19 nails.
Slag.
All the slag seems to be iron based and many pieces appear to be furnace bottoms.
The main concentration was from area 1 and the early pit complex, which produced c. 40 kg.

Stone. Fig. 18.
Architectural fragments
There was one moulded capital of 13th century style 2/569; a reused octagonal pillar base with three tiers of moulding, of 15th c date? 301:574; a fragment of window cusp 301:576 and a window base 110:571. Half of a rectangular block with central deep pecked hollow, 119:570, may have been used as a spud stone. A number of roof tile fragments were also recovered 37:560, 110:386, 119:545-548 & 353:552.
Quernstones.
There were three almost complete upper quernstones, 5:568, 6:573 & 119:572, two conjoining fragments 119:550 and two single fragments 104:549 & 110:395.
Other.
There were two whetstones, 110:396 & 313:556, two round polished pebbles possibly used as linen smoothers, 1:495 & 308:544 and a roughly triangular flattish stone with oval perforation at the apex, probably used as a weight, 54:601.

Worked bone.
1:139. Small fragment of rib with two parallel incised grooves, possibly traces of butchering.
5:138. Shed antler burr with beam and tines removed by sawing.
110:373. Knife handle, with small part of the blade. Made of one piece of antler(?), the tang of the blade projects slightly from the end. Fig 17.
123:407. Spindle whorl made from the head of a femur. 39 mm in diameter. Fig 17.

3. E365, JOHN STREET

3.1 Introduction.

Test trenching by City Archaeologist Ms Celie O Rahilly prior to the excavations had confirmed the presence of archaeological deposits. To facilitate development, the site was excavated in two stages, the first subdivided into 1a and 1b by an east-west wall and the second into four parts, 2a-d, lettered from east to west. The major element of the stratigraphy was a continuous layer across the whole site dividing the mainly intrusive features of the medieval period from the post-medieval layers. Over most of the site this layer directly over lay the subsoil and is interpreted as a garden soil. It varied from slightly sticky grey-brown humic clay in the west to thicker more compact grey clay in the east. Of the 46 sherds found within the layer 40 were medieval and 6, known to be from near the surface of the layer, were of early post-medieval date.
Fig. 18 E471, Stone. Capital 509, whetstones l. 556, r. 396. Scale 1:2
PLAN OF MEDIEVAL FEATURES

Fig. 19 E365, plan of medieval features.
A group of stakes holes in trench 2b were the only features on site which could be interpreted as a structure. It consisted of an east-west row of thirteen stake holes, context 210, with a parallel row of three, context 211, about 20cm to the north. A further group of holes to the west in 2a, separated from 2b by a later intrusion, could belong to either row, while there is a scatter of ten holes making no pattern around the main group. A small area of stratigraphy was associated with the stake-holes. Directly below the garden soil a very small patch of red ash and charcoal, 203, overlay a thin layer of redeposited natural orange-yellow clay, 209, which ran from just south of 211 into the north section and contained a single base sherd. If stake holes 210 and 211 are to be interpreted as a structure, then the main part of it must have lain in the unexcavated area between trenches 1 and 2. There was no trace of the structure within trench 1 and so it had a maximum width of 2m.

Trench 1a contained 3 pits, contexts 90, 85 and 96 (Fig. 20). Of these two contained medieval sherds, but none produced evidence of function. There were also two depressions 107a and 108a and a small post hole 109a.

![West facing section through 85](image)

**Fig. 20 E365, West facing section through pit 85**

In Trench1b it was possible, in places, to subdivide the garden soil into an upper and lower phase and identify three features definitely cut from the surface of the lower layer. These features were a small post hole, 83, a burnt patch 84 and a sub-rectangular feature cutting the top of an underlying pit 98. The lower deposit sealed all the remaining features. At the eastern end these were pit 98, depression 103a, pit 104a, post hole 105a and depression 106a. Further west there was a little area of stratigraphy with a thin layer of redeposited natural clay sealing a thin charcoal spread, context 65. The charcoal appears to be derived from a small concentration of red ash, 79, which is interpreted as a hearth. The original extent of the hearth is unknown because it was cut by the foundation trench of wall 14 but it did not extend into trench 2. The other features were a small pit or post hole, 80, sealed by the charcoal 65, a shallow depression, 76 and another depression 75.

In Trench 2a the small patch of stratigraphy seen in Trench 1b continued into the northern part of this area as contexts 139 and 160. 162, 163, 164 and 165 constituted a group of small rectangular post holes forming no obvious pattern. 161 was a small pit or post-hole, 147 a band of red burnt clay, 232 a pit and 235 a small post hole.
Trench 2b contained pits 199=201 and 223, posthole 212 and a shallow depression 222. pit. Trench 2c contained two parallel N-S linear depressions, 257 & 258, both less than 0.1m deep and filled with the garden soil. A third depression, context 259 continued into the north and west sections. Trench 2d contained a number of intersecting pits, 238, 243, 244 and 225, the fills of which had compacted down to create a depression, 226, filled with the garden soil (Fig 21). 243 was the earliest feature in the group, ca. 2.5 diameter and by 1.6 m. deep and appears to have been a cess pit. 244 was a partial recut of pit 243. 238 was ca. 1.3 m. in diameter by 0.5m deep with a second pit like feature, 254, in its base. It was unclear if the two represent a single feature or if 238 had cut an earlier 254. 225 was the latest pit in the group and was cut through layer 230. The dimensions and shape of the pit were uncertain because it continued into both the east and south sections. The primary fill, 229, was a compact brown organic clay containing fragments of leather at its interface with the overlying layer. This was a laminated brown to black humic clay containing a large number of leather offcuts as well as twigs and straw, 228. It was sealed by compact brown organic clay, 227, similar to the primary fill. 242 and 256 were two other pits within the area.

Fig. 21 E365, North-west facing section through pits 226, 238, 243 and 244.

3.3. Post Medieval Features (Figs 22, 23 & 25)

Trench 1a.

There two distinct phases of 17th century activity here. In the earlier phase, at the east end, there are the remains of what is interpreted as a building with a cobbled courtyard on the south side. Superimposed on the earlier building were the remains of a second one, believed to be of timber frame construction with wattle infill. A kiln, of unknown function, is probably related to this upper phase.
Context 47 was an extensive ash deposit that sealed the garden soil. It also sealed three shallow depressions of unclear function, contexts 66, 67 and 71. Associated with ash 47, towards the south-west corner of the area, was an east-west row of 3 large stones, 61, terminating at a single post hole 48 at the west end of the row. Abutting the row on the south side was a patch of cobbles, 62, which extended into Trench 1b as context 74. The stones 61 formed the southern limit of the ash, 47 and mark a boundary between areas with different activities. A second patch of cobbles, 70, near the west section and partly sealed by a deposit of red ash, 69, is conceivably a westwards continuation of the cobbles 62. Unfortunately interruptions in the stratigraphy made it impossible to prove or disprove this connection.

Fig. 22 E365, Trench 1, early 17th century features.

A light grey to yellow-grey clay, 38/46, sealed stone row 61, cobbles 62 and ash 47 respectively, and extended over most of the east end of the trench. Context 60, a north-south row of 3 large flat stones together with 3 smaller stones running east-west on roughly the same line as the earlier row, was set into the surface of the clay. Confined within the area bounded by the rows was a thick layer of red ash, 24, containing lumps of burnt clay with wattle impressions. Context 60 is interpreted as the sill supports for a structure with wattle infill that burnt in situ.
PLAN OF 17th C. FEATURES

Fig. 23 E365, Plan of 17th century features.
Fig. 24 E365, North facing section through pit 133

Two intrusive features, a shallow pit 73 and the remains of a kiln 33 belong to this phase. Only part of the east-west flue of the kiln survived, the main bowl having been removed when the cellar at the front of the site was excavated. It was cut into the subsoil and its walls were made of a single thickness of coursed roughly square un-mortarred stone. The flue itself sloped down towards the west and contained a thin patchy charcoal layer, 89. At the mouth of the flue was the pit, 73, which had been excavated to a slightly greater depth on its eastern side than by the flue. It is assumed that the purpose of the pit was to give access to the flue to fire the kiln. Above thin basal layers, the pit and kiln shared a common backfill. The lowest level of the fill, 6, was loose packed mortary clay containing charcoal and much oyster shell and over this was grey brown humic gritty clay, 16. The top level 15 was a soft shell mortar. From the fill of the kiln came a group of later 17th century clay pipes and a Gunmoney shilling of James II which suggests that the kiln fell out of use around the time of the two sieges of 1690 & 1691. The dating of the kiln gives a terminus ante- quem for the features under the clay 38/46 whilst the structure 60 and associated ash, 24, are probably contemporary with the kiln, though this cannot be proved conclusively.

The remaining features on the area are connected with the buildings demolished prior to excavation

Trench 1b
There were two phases which can be dated to the 17th century and which can be linked through to the two building phases in Trench 1a.

At the east end the cobbled surface 74 sealed the garden soil. This surface consisted of small stones set upright and bedded in re-deposited natural clay, 92. They lay at similar stratigraphic level to 62 in trench 1a and are interpreted as a continuation of that surface, sharing as they do an apparently disturbed western edge. In the absence of any structural evidence the surface is interpreted as a courtyard area.
To the west was a contemporary structure consisting of a north-south row of 6 stake-holes, 41. Associated with 41 were two superimposed hearths, 42 & 52, the lower, 52, being a small patch of red-ash lying directly upon garden soil, 53. The material was clearly burnt in situ as the baking of the surface of 53 testifies, and two small patches of slag 49 and 50 were associated with it. Hearth 52 was separated from the upper hearth 42 by a thin layer of charcoal flecked grey clay, 44. This upper hearth was somewhat larger than the lower one measuring ca 2.1 x 0.9 m and consisted of thin lenses of compacted red and white ash and charcoal. A number of stake-holes, 51, were associated with the two hearths but, apart from a possible short row of four, appeared to form no recognisable pattern. In the absence of a row of stakes parallel to row 41 on the east side of the hearths, 41 must be interpreted as either a fence line or the east wall of a structure the north and south walls of which were removed by the later walls 3 and 14. It is however interesting to note that both hearths lie central within the subsequent structure.

To the west of wall 3 the lower phase was separated from the upper by two layers, 36 & 37. The former was a thin layer of dirty yellow redeposited natural clay lying to the west of stake-holes, 41, whilst the latter was a silty grey brown clay lay to the east of the same line. Above these layers on the same line as 41 was a single row of stones, 29. A thin band of charcoal, 27, running up to 29 on either side and both this layer and 29 were sealed by a thick red ash deposit, context 13. In common with the ash, 24, in trench 1a, ash 13 contained clumps of burnt clay which retained the impressions of wattles. Ca 2.4m to the east of stone row 29, the ash stopped on the line of and partly sealed two stones, 32, which are interpreted as the remains of a line of stones parallel to 29 and which had been partly removed by later activities. Between 29 and 32 were two groups of stake-holes 30 and 31 which formed no obvious pattern. One feature apparently cut through 13 was a post hole, 28, which lay directly on the line of 29. At the level at which it stands it is isolated with no other contemporary features and it is suggested that the feature probably belongs to the same phase as stones 29. If the post hole had contained an upright the lower part of which had survived the fire which 13 represents, then its extraction after the fire would make it appear that it had been cut from above the fire level.

The stone features, 29 & 32, are interpreted as a small structure whose north and south walls have been destroyed by the later walls 5 and 14. The traces of wattles in layer 13 suggest that the walls were wattle but the absence of stake-holes suggests that the base of the wattles was not earthfast. The row of stones is therefore interpreted as supports for sill beams of a timber-framed structure with a wattle infill.

Although the ash layer, 13, stopped on the line of the stones 32 there was a small patch of similar ash immediately west of wall 3 which is believed to be part of the same layer. This covered a small patch of gravel which is thought to be the westward continuation of a thick gravel layer, 25, which covered most of the area to the east of wall 3 and sealed the cobbles, 74. The surface of the gravel, in part the surface encountered immediately below the clearance rubble 4, contained a number of slight hollows in which were traces of red ash probably the continuation of 13. Within the gravel was a north-south row of stones set in yellow clay, 34, which appeared to turn westwards just short of wall 5 to meet it at a slight angle. The line of 34 marked the east edge to the thick gravel deposit, 25, but the gravel continued eastwards as a thinner patchy layer with the appearance of overspill from the main area. The gravel was not noted north of wall 5 and thus it does not seem to have had the same extent as the underlying cobbles, 74.

On the basis of a shared level of destruction represented by ash 13, the gravel is interpreted as being contemporary with the upper phase to the west of wall 3 and because, in common with cobbles 74, there is a lack of structural features it is believed to have been a courtyard area. The line of stones in clay, 34, cannot readily be interpreted as a wall line and appears to have acted as a boundary to the gravel 25 over which some of it had spread.
Immediately above the 17th C. phases, the only feature of note was a narrow strip of cobbles, 12, running along the north edge of 14, the wall separating Trench 1 from Trench 2. There was no clear definition to its northern edge to the feature which appears originally to have extended further north. At the west end these cobbles sealed the construction trench of and abutted wall 14. The remaining features were the walls of the buildings demolished immediately prior to excavation and of 18th & 19th century date.

Trench 2a
The earliest feature above the garden soil, 146, was a shallow irregularly shaped depression, 155, filled with loose packed stones in grey silty clay, 138. A spread of stones, 141, containing a single medieval sherd, sealed depression 155 and, from the surface level of the stones, kiln 136 was inserted cutting through layer 146 and into the subsoil. One side of the flue and chamber of the kiln had been removed by later intrusions but enough remained to establish that it was of the keyhole type. The flue was ca. 1.8 m long and aligned north-south but the remains of the chamber were insufficient to determine the diameter. The walls were composed of small roughly coursed stones surviving to three courses at the highest point and what remained of the chamber was of similar build to the flue. Although there were traces of burning on the stones of the flue, later intrusions had removed all deposits at its base and so it was not possible to retrieve a sample which would determine the use of the kiln.

A compact burnt clay and ash, 137, abutted the kiln and probably represents its working surface. This layer extended westwards from the kiln and abutted part of the wall of a cellar, 142, which had initially been assumed to be of quite late date. There were at least two phases to the cellar and at its maximum extent it measured ca. 2.6 m. wide by at least 6.5 m. with an alcove or bay ca. 1.7 m. wide by 1 m. deep, in the middle of the south wall. Its east wall, the south wall to the east of the alcove and the south and east walls of the alcove were made of a single thickness of mortared stone with a plastered face and it was this section which was abutted by layer 137. The western return wall of the alcove was made of a single thickness of brick which butted against the stone section but from the alcove to the west section no trace of walling survived. That there were at least two phases to the cellar i.e. stone and brick, was also reflected in the surrounding layers because the western brick extension cut features sealed by a fire level which abutted the stone wall. The early phase stopped on the line of the west wall of the alcove and there was a pier jutting out of the north wall on the same line which suggests that this line was the original west end of the cellar. This early phase of cellar was contemporary with the kiln. Unfortunately there was no dating evidence from layer 137 which abutted both features and in the absence of post-medieval pottery from the underlying garden soil, 146, it is impossible to give a definite date for the construction of either feature other than by comparison with the trench 1 features in a similar stratigraphic situation. An early 17th century date is therefore considered most likely.

Shortly after the kiln fell out of use it was partly removed by a large sub-oval pit, 120/135, measuring from 3 - 2.5 m. in diameter and 0.9 m. deep. The pit continued into trench 2b and was filled with a single deposit of grey-brown silt mixed with some ash and stones.

Wall 156 which acted as the dividing line between trenches 2a and 2b, was subsequently built across the top of the pit. This wall, built directly upon the contemporary ground level without foundations, was made of large flat stones and survived to a maximum height of three courses. At its southern end it was bonded into a short section of wall of similar build on the line of and under the later wall, 109.
A deposit of red ash, 119, abutted wall 156, sealed the pit 120=135 and covered the rest of the trench including the laneway. This layer is interpreted as a destruction level contemporary with the ash, 13, to the north in trench 1b and thus datable to 1690-91.

At the west end of the trench under ash layer 19, were three pits 122, 125 and 128 which are difficult to place stratigraphically. It is difficult to say with certainty whether the features were stratigraphically contemporary with the early kiln/cellar complex or with the later wall 156. None of the features produced any dating material and although two of them were filled with a red ash similar to ash, 119, which sealed them, the fill could equally well have derived from layer 137 in the earlier phase. Pits 122 and 125 both contained the charred remains of barrels indicating that the ash which filled them was the result of in-situ burning.

The whole of the stratigraphic sequence outlined above, both medieval and post-medieval, continued southwards into the laneway and it was only from above the level of the ash, 119, that any difference between the two areas was noted. This coincides with the building of the main east-west wall 109 which acted as the northern boundary of Walsh's Lane. Above the ash in the laneway was a series of interleaving layers and lenses of clay, and gravel, 108, which are interpreted as the various surfaces for the laneway. Above layer 108 and layer 119 to the north of the wall 109, the layers of rubble were removed by machine.

Trench 2b.

The earliest feature above the garden soil was another keyhole type kiln, 197, which lay partly under the north section. In common with kiln 136, the flue was aligned north-south and cut into the natural subsoil. A later pit, 182, had removed part of the west wall of the flue but the full extent of the east wall survived to a length of 1.5 m. It was built of large stones selected for having one flat surface to face inwards but the chamber was made of smaller horizontally laid flat stones so that the three surviving courses in the chamber had the same height as the single course of the flue. At the mouth of the flue was a shallow depression, 207, which sloped down towards the opening to provide access to fire the kiln. The base of this depression was covered by a thin skin of charcoal, 198, which thickened towards the kiln to become a 0.08 - 0.10 m. thick deposit in the southern part of the flue. Within the flue it was possible to identify charred grain in this layer. In common with the kiln and the associated features in trench 2a the dating evidence for the construction of this kiln is not very good. It was however filled and sealed by a clay layer, 184, which abutted the wall 156 separating 2a from 2b, so demonstrating that the kiln was in use in the early part of the 17th century.

To the east of the kiln a small patch of burnt clay, 192, interpreted as a small hearth, together with a very patchy charcoal spread, 193, are probably contemporary with the working of the kiln. As already noted the kiln was filled and sealed by a layer of yellow clay, 184. This layer covered most of the west end of the trench and contained patches of gravel similar to the gravel, 25, to the north in trench 1b. Further east at the same level but separated from 184 was a second deposit of yellow clay, 185, which is believed to be the continuation of 184. In the absence of structures in this area both clay layers are interpreted as the possible continuation of the courtyard area in the eastern half of trench 1b.

The clay layer, 184, was cut by a shallow sub-rectangular pit 182 filled with a red ash 183. This ash extended outside the pit where it was given the context number 172 and found to abut wall 156. This ash is assumed to be the same as ash 119 which abutted the west side of the same wall and, if this identification is correct, then the ash dates to 1690-91.

Further to the east was a large pit, 169, which cut 185. This probably belongs to the same period as the ash or shortly after it was deposited. This pit was sub-rectangular, though another intrusive
feature masked its eastern edge, and measured at least 2 m. by 1.8 m. and was excavated to a depth of ca. 1m. when problems with standing water prevented further investigation. The lower fill was loose mortary clay 170 containing stones of various dimensions; the upper fill was sandy rubble, 106, in which was found a James II halfpenny dated 1691.

At the western end of the trench a flag floor, 158, sealed ash 172 and gave onto a contemporary cobbled surface, 168, which only survived in patches along the north section. This flooring appeared to be contemporary with the building of the main east-west wall 109. At a later date a mortared stone wall, 111, was laid across the flags, ca. 2 m. to the east of wall 156 and the intervening space filled with a redepsoned natural clay, 157, which presumably served to raise the level of the floor. At the same time wall 156 was replaced by a new wall 110. The clay was the uppermost layer beneath the rubble cleared by machine and it was cut by a rectangular pit, 105, which contained a large quantity of Cream and Brown wares suggesting a late 18th century date for the feature.

There was one other feature in the trench which was not fully investigated because of its late date. This was a sub-rectangular pit, 173, measuring ca. 2.5 by 1.4 m. and set into the eastern edge of pit 169. It contained a number of large flat stones set on their sides in herring bone fashion to form a surface which appeared to have been used as a hearth. Several of the stones were heat cracked and the feature was sealed by a layer of red ash, 175. This ash was sealed by a grey brown sandy and stony layer 174. The exact relationship between the hearth and the cobbles 168 was unclear because of disturbance by the machine clearance but the two are presumed to be contemporary.

Trench 2c.

In this area all the layers prior to the insertion of the main east-west wall 109 were found to continue out into the laneway. There were no features associated with these layers, but at a later stage, probably in the 18th century, a pit had been cut through them.

Immediately above the garden soil, 247 in this trench, was a spread of loosely packed stones in a grey clay numbered 248 in the northern part of the trench and 219 in the laneway. Above this was a layer of light brown ashy clay, 246, restricted in extent to the eastern half of the trench. A patch of burnt material, 240, containing lenses of white ash and charcoal, sealed 246. Another layer of stones sealed 240 and this was numbered 237 in the north and 219, again, in the laneway. The latter appears twice because in the laneway no layers intervened between the two stone layers 237 and 248 and so the fact that 219 represented two different layers was only noted after it was excavated. Stone layer 237 is believed to be the continuation of layer 116 in trench 2d (see below) and layer 248 the continuation of 206 also in trench 2d.

A deposit of red ash, 171, sealed the stone deposit 237 and is believed to be contemporary with ash 172, in trench 2b. The wall 109 rested upon 171 and because the wall had no proper foundations ash 171 is interpreted as the level at which the wall was inserted. To the north of the wall 171 was the uppermost layer below the machine clearance of the site but to the south of the wall two other layers were noted. A layer of yellow redepsoned natural clay, 177, mixed with a sandy mortar is interpreted as the building layer for the wall and above this were lenses of clay and gravel 108 which have been interpreted as surfaces of the laneway.

North of wall 109, a large sub-rectangular pit, 176, cut the ash 171 and continued into the north section. This pit, c. 2 m. wide, had a uniform sticky grey-brown humic clay fill and contained sherds of Creamware which put a late 18th century date on the feature.

In the north-west corner of the trench was a small triangular mortared brick and stone construction 190. This is believed to be connected with a similar triangular projection from the main east-west wall 14 which divided trench 1 from trench 2. They are both interpreted as part of a corner fireplace which
stood against a north-south wall which had been removed or destroyed. The evidence for this wall was an otherwise unexplained drop in the level of layers along the putative wall line and a break in the main east-west wall, 109, on the same line.

Trench 2d.
There were no structural features dating to the 17th century in this trench, however two phases of pits date to this period and are possibly connected with horn working.

The first feature post dating the garden soil, 221 in this trench, was a large pit 215 measuring ca. 2.7 m. in diameter and 0.85 m. deep. Its primary fill was a grey-brown humic clay, 220, which was quite loosely packed on the western edge but became more compact across the base. A thick compact laminated black humic clay, 218, containing twigs, wood chips and other organic remains sealed 220. Over 218 was a loose black sandy earth, 216, with spots of ash which formed the upper fill. There was no clear evidence for the function of the pit but a small number of horn cores from the lower fill formed a high percentage of the osteological material from the pit and gave rise to the suggestion that it might have been a horn-soaking pit.

Sealing both the pit 215 and layer 221 was a layer of yellow-brown humic clay 206 with a high stone content. This layer which thickened considerably from south to north is probably the extension of layer 245 in trench 2c.

Over layer 206 was a build up of clay, mortar and stone, 195, associated with two barrel pits 133 and 143. This was not an extensive layer but tapered away from the edges of the pits and was therefore interpreted as a deliberate build up to raise the surface around the pits and to provide some protection to the barrels. Both of the pits were cut into the natural subsoil, contained barrels and had their lips strengthened by a ring of stones. 133 was the best preserved example because the base and the lower parts of the staves of the barrel survived in such good condition that they could be lifted (Fig. 24). The base, 205, was ca. 0.8 m. in diameter and made of four pieces but the staves were concreted together and so their total number is not known. The point at which the staves ceased to be well preserved coincided with the top of the primary fill of the barrel, a concreted mortar, 149, however it was possible to trace the wood in a much poorer condition to at least the base of the stone setting. Deposited natural yellow clay, 204, was packed in between the barrel and the side of the pit. The stone setting around the top of the pit survived to a height of between 1 and 3 courses with each course projecting slightly further inwards than the one above to give a diameter at the mouth of the feature of 0.95 m. The stones themselves were naturally rounded and roughly mortared together and had been given a thin plaster facing. The lowest course rested upon layer 206 and the clay and stone build up, 195, slopped away from the level of the uppermost stone. The upper fill of the barrel was sticky grey-brown clay, 134, containing a large number of loosely packed medium sized stones. This layer contained a number of horn cores which, in common with pit 215, raises the possibility that it was connected with horn working but there were no datable finds from either fill.

Pit 143 was of similar construction to 133 but the barrel was in a very poor state of preservation, surviving only as a thin line in the trench section. The fill did not contain mortar but the homogeneous fill, 144, was similar to layer 134 in 133. It too contained horn cores.

Throughout the excavation of this trench there were problems with flooding because the area acted as a natural sump for the surrounding areas. The worst flooding occurred at the level of 206, 195 and 153 and left a deposit of mud across the trench. This deposit was removed as layer 140 to the west of 133 and 148 to the east. Because of the flooding a sump was excavated at the east end of the trench which, unknown at the time, cut another barrel pit 241. This pit is believed to be contemporary with pits 133 and 143 but lacked the stone ring and the associated clay and stone build up. The barrel
was set in re-deposited natural clay and only the lower 10 mm of the staves survived. It was, however, possible to see that these staves were held together by a wooden hoop. Unlike 133 much of the barrel base had been knocked out prior to insertion to leave only the central member.

Between pits 133 and 241 was a stone setting 153 resting on a layer of yellow clay 152. Some of the stones were heat shattered and a thin deposit of charcoal sealing layer 152 and stones 153 suggested that the stones had been a small hearth.

Above the mud deposit, 140, was a spread of loosely packed stones of varying sizes, 116, mixed with a grey-brown sandy. This layer is believed to be the continuation of layer 237 in trench 2c and the main east-west wall 109 was built on it.

There was one feature which fitted stratigraphically between 109 and 133 which had been partly removed by machine. This was a north-south orientated setting of stone slabs which survived only close to and under the wall but did not extend south of the wall line. The feature does not seem to have been a wall for there was no trace of a return and it is tentatively identified as a drain.

At the west end of the trench the stone spread, 116, was covered by a patch of burning 112/113 which is believed to be the continuation of 171 in trench 2c. This was sealed by 115 a light yellowish brown gravel and clay mix which was the layer directly under the machine clearance. In the laneway a deposit of mixed yellow clay, sand and gravel with traces of red ash, 118, was interpreted as the continuation of 177 in 2c.

The latest feature in the trench was 131 a rectangular stone lined pit filled with very loosely packed broken stone. The feature was not fully excavated because of flooding and was used as a sump for the water draining into the east end of the trench.

3.4. Summary and Discussion.
The site can be divided into four main phases. The earliest consists mainly of 13th-14th C. intrusive features with only small patches of related stratigraphy. The second is a late medieval phase formed of a garden soil. A 17th century phase saw increased use of the site in the form structures and industrial activities, while the final phase brought the establishment of the pattern of buildings which existed up to the present redevelopment.

In the first phase there was a single group of features, in trench 2, which was interpreted as a possible small wattle construction. The absence of other structures is possibly explained by the deep cellars along the John’s Street frontage having cut through and removed them; it is a common medieval urban pattern for buildings to be grouped along the frontages of the properties with yards or gardens to the rear. There is however some evidence to suggest that this was not the case. Under Walsh’s Lane there was a narrow strip of stratigraphy running out towards John’s Street which, with the exception of a single post hole, lacked any features which might be interpreted as structural. The alternative interpretation, which fits better with the overall impression of the site for this phase, is that the site was peripheral to the main developments within the city at that time. In this context it is as well to remember that the walling of the Irishtown did not commence until the 15th century (see chapter 2.4 above) and that the extent and nature of settlement prior to and in the early stages of enclosure is unknown. There is, however, another factor which might account for an absence of structural features of a non-intrusive kind. If the overlying phase 2 layer is correctly interpreted as a garden soil then its formation, by continuous turning of the ground, may have led to the destruction of underlying stratigraphy. The few patches of stratigraphy under the layer may in this case be the chance survivals of what was once a more extensive sequence of layers.
The purpose to which most of the pits and depressions were put is largely unknown. Only the cess pit in trench 2d had a discernible use and may be connected with the wattle construction further to the west. The large amount of leather waste from the nearby pit unfortunately does not indicate a use other than as a rubbish pit which was not necessarily its original purpose. However leatherworking does imply tanning and this, the downwind side of the town, was noted for its tanneries in the post-medieval period. Whether or not tanning and leatherworking were a combined trade in the early medieval period is not known so there is some possibility that the pit or some of the other nearby pits might be associated with tanning.

Phase 2 is represented by the single layer interpreted as a garden soil. The formation of this soil seems to have started some time in the 14th century and continued through to ca. 1600. There were no structural features and only two pits which might be dated to this period. These features, 90 and 93, in trench 1 were sealed by the garden soil but contained late pottery. It is suggested that the mechanism by which they appear to be sealed is simply truncation of the pits by the ongoing formation of the garden soil.

Phase 3 saw the first intensive use of the site and in each trench there is evidence for at least two sub-phases. There is very good dating for the end of the phase in the form of the coins dating to the time of the Sieges but the dating of its commencement is less precise. The pottery contained within phase 2 ranged from the 13th to the early 17th century but the later sherds were few in number and restricted to certain areas of the site. It is therefore possible that while retaining the date of ca. 1600 for the commencement of the phase, some features may belong to the latter part of the 16th century.

The kilns were probably the most important features of the phase. The two in trench 2 were the earlier and the one in trench 2b was the only one to contain evidence for its use. Carbonised grain was found in the flue indicating its use as a corn-drying kiln and by analogy the similarly shaped trench 2a kiln is assumed to have had a similar function. The third kiln, although the chamber was not extant, was sufficiently different to suggest a different use. It was set deeper into the ground and the slope of the ground into the flue was much steeper than in the trench 2 kilns. Also the walls of the flue converged towards the chamber to a much greater degree than the others and appear to have been much shorter.

The trench 2 kilns were broadly contemporary with the early phase of the cellar to the west of them and, possibly, the barrel pits at the front of the site. When the kilns had fallen out of use one of them was partly removed by a pit which was later sealed by a north south wall. The purpose of the wall is unclear because there was only a short section of a return on the line of, and below, the later wall 109 however the line of the wall represents a subdivision of the area which survived to the time of excavation.

The other building remains were concentrated in trench 1. In trench 1b there were two phases of buildings, an early wattle structure which was then replaced by what is believed to be a timber framed building with wattle infill, a type of building possibly identifiable with the houses described as “cadgework” in the Civil Survey. In the case of both structures the north and south walls were lacking and so there is no certainty as to the size of the buildings. A series of hearths were associated with the lower building and there were two small concentrations of slag associated with these which suggest that the area was used for small scale metal working. Both buildings stood to the west of what was interpreted as an open courtyard area which was first cobbled but later had a gravel surface. The other groups of features interpreted as buildings lay to the north of this courtyard. Again there were two phases of buildings but in this area the early phase does not seem to have been a simple wattle construction. In both cases there was a row of stones interpreted as a sill support implying some sort of timber framing and in the upper phase wattle impressions in the burnt ash/clay suggested a wicker
In both cases the line of the south wall was clear but the north and east walls lay outside the site. A post hole terminating the row of stones of the lower building possibly gives the line of the west wall of the earlier building and a short north-south row of stones that of the upper one. The upper building is believed to be contemporary with the kiln to the west.

At the eastern end of the site there were no structures but two phases of pits suggest that this was probably an industrial area. Only one pit can be assigned to the early phase and it contained a number of horn cores in the lower fill which suggest that it may be connected with horn working. The upper pits, three in number, all contained barrels and two of them had stone settings around their tops. One of the barrels contained a thick layer of concreted mortar as the primary fill but otherwise there was no clear evidence for their function. The upper fills of the two stone ringed pits, however, contained a number of horn cores which, in the light of the earlier pit, might again suggest horn working. A small hearth associated with the pits would be in keeping with this interpretation.

A burnt ash layer identified over most of the site was interpreted as a destruction level terminating phase 3. The coin evidence indicated that this layer can be associated with the two sieges of the town in 1690 and 1691.

The final phase of the site saw the laying out of the building pattern which survived until the present redevelopment of the area. With the exception of wall 156 and the early phase of the cellar in trench 2a, all the walls belong to this phase. It was possible to identify a number of stages in their development but these were not fully investigated because priority was given to the earlier phases. A number of pits belong to this phase and one of these, dating to the end of the 18th century contained approximately half of the pottery recovered from the site.

The lay out of the properties encountered in phase 4 had a typical medieval burgage plot look to them, so it was surprising that it was not possible to trace these boundaries further back in time than the end of the 17th century. What was equally surprising was that there were no features of medieval date which could be interpreted as property boundaries and that it was possible to identify features and layers which straddled all the later boundaries. It seems therefore that until the end of phase 2 the whole site was one single unit and that subdivision first occurred in phase 3 where there are distinct areas of activity and that this subdivision took its final form in phase 4.

3.5 The Finds.
A full listing of the finds can be found in the Limerick Museum online catalogue on www.limerickcity.ie search by museum acquisition no. 1988.0157 in a keyword search. The following listing is by context number followed by accession number.

For pottery (Figs. 26 & 27 and Plate 1) and clay pipe (Figs. 28 & 29) see appendices 1 & 2
Fig. 26 E365, Pottery. Clockwise from top left, 99, 456, 453, 491, 307, 479. Scale 1:2
Fig. 28 E365, Clay pipes. Row 1, left to right, 562a, 557, 563a, 542, 546, 560; Row 2, 550, 551, 529b, 529a, 534f, 534e; Row 3, 534b, 534c, 534j, 530, 532d, 563, 533; Row 4, 532a, 532f, 531h, 531c, 531f, 531j, 531m; Row 5, 531b, 531a, 531g, 531n, 531l, 531c, 531d; Row 6, 531p, 531o, 531e, 544, 558, 528. Scale 1:2
Brick and tile.
The following is a list from 17th century contexts. Brick, 115;449, 116;698, 140;526 and 144;525. Flat roof-tile 119;442 and 141;436. Pan-tile 120;527 and 185;447.

Fig. 29 E365, Clay pipes Row 1 left to right, 528, 536g, Row 2, 536c, 536a, Row 3, 536e, 536f. Scale 1:2

Glass.
104;601, stem and base of a wine glass from the initial clearance in trench 2.
105;271, 272 (Fig 31) and 273. 3 matching wine glasses with round bases stem and funnel shaped body. The height of the only one with surviving rim is 108mm.
105;282, base of a small glass bottle with pontil mark.
105;755, almost complete free blown cylindrical bottle. Fig. 30.
105;756, almost complete free blown round-bottomed bottle with rilling around the top of the neck. Fig 30.
177;600, stopper, found in the building level for wall 109 in trench 2c.

Coins.
Seven coins were found during the general clearance of the site; 1;615 James II Gunmoney Crown 1690, 1; 616 George II Irish Young head halfpenny, 1;621 James II Gunmoney Farthing 1690 or 1691, 1;622 James II Gunmoney Halfpenny 1690 or 1691, 1;623 George II? Irish Halfpenny, date unclear, 1;629 Victoria halfpenny very worn, date illegible, 1;761 George III. Halfpenny. 1806.

Stratified legible coins
15;620, James II. Gunmoney Shilling, July 1689 or January 1690, from a layer filling the kiln in trench 1a.
26:628, James II, Gunmoney halfpenny 1691 from layer above gravel in trench 1b.
105:627, Georgian halfpenny, very worn, from the pit with the large pottery.
106:617, James II, Gunmoney, Halfpenny, 1691, from the pit in trench 2b.
107:624, James II Gunmoney, small size shilling, June 1690, from make-up layers in laneway.

Fig. 30 E365. Glass bottles. L. 756, R. 755. Scale 1:2

Illegible coins.
The following list may include discs that were not coins.
1,629, 5,667, 16;626, 25,637,104,631, 104; 632, 104;633 104; 636, 108;609, 108;610, 108;611, 108;612, 108;613, 108;618, 118;625 and 177;630.
Copper alloy.
The most numerous objects were buttons. One, 104; 638 was dome fronted with “Military School”
around a crown, the remainder 108;614, .618, .641 & .668 and 104:635 were plain. There was a single
pin, 42:644, (Fig. 32) a loop of wire 22:643, a possible dish rim, 118; 640 (Fig. 32) and two unidentified
objects, 166;670 and 180;669.

Iron.
4:647, key with kidney shaped ring. From the clearance of trench 1a.
46;658, L-shaped bracket from the clay layer in trench 1a.
81;705, key? Heavily corroded, details not clear. From the garden soil in trench 1b.
92;649, knife blade? Tapering blade with tang, from the bedding layer for the lower cobble surface
in trench 1b.
116;763, hollow lentoid object from the stony layer in trench 2d.
121;651, drill bit, (Fig.32) square sectioned except for the last 50mm. which is spiral. Found during
removal of wall 109 in trench 2d.
183;646, pair of scissors, (Fig. 32) ca. 150mm. long and lacking one handle. From pit 225 in trench
2d.
227;642, fragment of a strike-a-light? From the fill of pit 225 in trench 2d.
Nails 15;664 (7), 20;767 (1), 20;659 (1), 106;764 (2), 157;653 (1); 170;659 (5); and 230;648.
Unidentified pieces.
15;665 and 666, 19;652, 20;662, 25;650 and 656, 43;671, 66;660, 144;663, 171;704, 185;654 and 221;657.

Slag.
Two pieces 82;674 and 116;699 were identified as possible furnace bottoms.

Stone.
The cutting edge of a Neolithic axe 138;604 (Fig. 31) was found among the stones filling depression
138 in trench 2a. In addition there were three fragments of quernstones, 47; 602, 138;605 & 138; 762,
and two fragments of roof-tile 132;606.

Fig. 31 E365. Wine glass 272, stone axe, 604. Scale 1:2
Leather.
With the exception of 218,599, 3 offcuts from the fill of pit 215, all the leather, c 300 pieces in all, came from pit 225. All were offcuts without stitching.

Wood.
205,706, base and lower part of the staves of a barrel or vat of c.0.7m diameter. Base in 4 pieces; number of staves unclear due to concretions.

Worked bone
104,608, toothbrush handle bearing three inscriptions, SHAW; LONDON and SILVER WIRE. (Fig. 32)

Fig. 32 E365. Metal and worked bone. Drill bit 651, Scissors 646, rim(?) 640, and toothbrush 608. Scale 1:2. Pin 644 Scale 1:1.

4. Overall summary and discussion of the two sites.
Neither of the two sites under discussion can be described as of major significance and they are probably both as important for the negative evidence they present than the positive. The sites lie in the north and south suburbs described by the Civil Survey of 1654-56 (Simington 1938), which
developed around the original core of the city in the medieval St Mary's parish. They are thus peripheral to the heart of the city. The perception one gleams from 17th and 18th century maps is of two fairly open suburbs surrounding a more built up core. In both suburbs medieval development is mostly confined to the main street onto which both sites front.

Plate 1 Small selection of glazed red earthenware and creamware pottery found in the pit in John Street.

There are several possible reasons for the absence of medieval housing on the two sites. One plausible reason is that, given the peripheral nature of the sites, there simply never was anything substantial there. Another explanation is that in both cases the road frontages were not excavated for any great distance and may have missed the areas with buildings. Post-medieval cellars had cut through and removed deposits, leaving just small tongues of stratigraphy which reached towards the front of site. A third possibility is the ephemeral nature of the potential structures. There are two types one might expect to find in the Viking to high medieval period, a wattle walled building or a timber framed one. The latter has two variants, resting on the ground or a stone sill, or semi-sunken such as those found in the excavations at King John's Castle. Wattle walled buildings should have left traces of the stake holes even after the wood had rotted away, while sunken featured structures should have been readily identifiable as excavations into the subsoil. There is no evidence for either type. It is the full timber framed building resting on stones or on the ground which would leave the least traces, in the form of the negative imprint of a beam or a set of stone supports, possibly even just four corner supports. This type appears later in house typology than wattle and semi-sunken buildings and is much more difficult to trace archaeologically, especially if equipped with plank floors raised off the ground instead of earth floors.
The one definite statement one can make is that there were no medieval stone buildings on the sites, and here there is a very interesting contrast with the main core of the town. In Mary Street and Nicholas Street houses with vaulted medieval cellars have been uncovered during excavation, while the standing remains of Burke’s Castle and Fanning’s Castle display similar features (Collins, 2004; Cummins, 2002). The buildings of the core town are constructed mostly in stone in the later medieval period and presumably replaced earlier wooden constructions. Building in stone was expensive and reflected the relative affluence of the core town over the suburbs where use of wooden structures continued. If we read the Civil Survey closely then once one moves into the suburbs the percentage of houses described as stone decreases markedly in favour of cagework and other types of structure. This same change can be seen on the c1590 Hardiman map (reproduced in Begley 1906, opposite p. 319). Cagework is the timber framed style building, with wicker infill, resting on stone pads discussed in the previous paragraph.

While both areas seem to be peripheral there is one significant difference between them. On the John Street site it is not possible to trace the internal property divisions back into the medieval period, while on the Broad Lane/Parade site it was. This may have to do with the dating of the development of the two suburbs. The northern suburb seems to have come into existence even before the arrival of the Normans and was probably enclosed by the mid 13th century (Thomas 1992, p 151; Hodkinson, 2002 and vide supra 2.4). The Irishtown suburb seems to have been a later medieval development. Although excavation has revealed high medieval deposits in Broad Street (Tarbett, 1987; Tarbett & Wiggins 1989), the actual formal enclosure of the suburb with a stone wall seems to have been a mostly 15th century affair (Ferrar, 1766, pp. 19-21; Lenihan, 1866, pp. 695-97 footnotes).

With both sites we are dealing with peripheral areas that were used for low level industrial activity in the medieval period. Both sites have a variety of pits, used for rubbish or cess, and little else of note. These are followed in both cases by a layer of garden soil which separates the high medieval from the late/post medieval. While there is pottery of late medieval date there are no associated structures. A thick layer of organic soil often called garden soil is a phenomenon noted in several Irish towns for the late medieval/early modern period (see e.g. Bennett, McCutcheon and Murphy in the randomly chosen volume, Excavations 1994) Does this result from a drop in the urban population with vacant plots being used for agricultural purposes, a retrenchment of settlement into the core area for a century or so after the population decline in the middle part of the 14th century? Much of 14th century Europe saw an abandonment of more peripheral areas in favour of vacant richer lands. Did such a process take place on a localised scale in Limerick to account for the garden soil and if so did the turning of the soil over an extended period, probably by poaching by livestock, help obliterate part of an earlier stratigraphic record? The answer to these questions is unclear, because it was just at this time of population decline and stagnation that the city began to expand its area with the enclosure of the southern suburb which became effectively a large walled garden. This process of expansion at a time of population decline is not yet fully understood. One possible explanation is that although the population was smaller the town became more prosperous. One expression of this prosperity was that the city partook in the late medieval upsurge in building usually associated with the Gaelic west. This saw the rebuild in stone of most of the houses in St Mary’s parish, major additions to St Mary’s Cathedral and construction of the Irishtown walls.

It was in the 17th century that it is possible to recognise greater activity on the sites with a range of possible buildings. Again however we seem to be dealing with peripheral settlement and there is no immediately recognisable dwelling house, though there may have been one over the cellar in
trench 2a of Site 11. The King's Island structure had no fireplace and may therefore be an outhouse type building. Both sites really only become fully built up after the 17th century.

At about the same time that these excavations took place, Ms Claire Lane was attempting to map the information in the Civil Survey onto the first edition of the Ordnance Survey 5ft series of maps. Unfortunately this work was never completed and published, but a copy of the work to date is held in Limerick Museum. This is a very valuable and useful tool for anyone trying to research 17th century Limerick. While only a draft of work in progress, the areas of uncertainty are indicated and these are not in the two areas in question. It was therefore a very useful exercise to be excavating while this work was in progress because it allowed Ms Lane’s work to be evaluated on the ground. Interestingly for Site 11 she concluded that Walsh’s Lane did not exist at the time of the Survey, a conclusion confirmed by excavation. Similarly on the other site she places a long narrow property in the area which later became Broad Lane, and suggested a rough back line for properties, which was located when actively sought for by machine trench. The conclusion to be drawn is that Ms Lane’s work is reliable where tested.

Acknowledgements.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Fiona Crone who assisted on the John St. excavation and Judith Carroll and Carol Gleeson who assisted on the Relief Road site. Celie O’Rahilly, then City Archaeologist, set up the excavations and provided much appreciated support throughout the work. While my own work was ongoing Ms Clare Lane was working on the mapping of the Civil Survey which led to many fruitful discussions about the property boundaries on various sites within the medieval town. Thanks also to Clare McCutcheon, Joe Norton and Michael Kenny for help with the finds. Finally I wish to record my thanks to The Heritage Council for the vital funding which allowed the pottery report to be compiled and the finds to be drawn and to Bella Walsh for the finds drawings as well as redrawing the plans etc for E471, the King’s Island site.

APPENDIX 1.

The pottery from John Street (E365) and Old Dominick Street (E471), Limerick.

Clare McCutcheon MA MIAI

Introduction:
The pottery from two Limerick city sites were identified, quantified and are discussed below. The first site excavated, John Street, lies on the main street of the Irishtown while the second site, at Old Dominick Street on the Northern Relief Road lies in King's Island or Englishtown. In general, the preponderance of locally-made medieval ware was recovered in the Irishtown with earlier English and French wares in Englishtown. This contrast most likely stems from the relative dating of the two settlements and the availability of well-made local pottery particularly from a production site at Adare Castle.
Methodology:
The pottery from both sites was identified visually. The number of sherds in each fabric type is listed with the objective minimum number of vessels (MNV) and also the more subjective minimum vessels represented (MVR). Accurate minimum numbers of vessels can only be given in the case of jugs for example, where the rim/handle junction is present although several other vessels may be represented in the assemblage. The probable form of the vessels and the date range of the distribution of this material in Ireland is also included.

The report is laid out as follows: Six tables contain the identification of the pottery by fabric type over three periods i.e. medieval, late medieval continental and post-medieval. The medieval and late medieval continental wares are discussed briefly and particular items are highlighted. The similarities and differences between the two sites and other Limerick sites are also compared at each point following the three period divisions. The bibliography follows with two further tables listing the pottery identification by context, detailing the diagnostic information.

John Street (E365)
A total of c.650 sherds of pottery were recovered from the site at John Street. Following some further reassembly within and between contexts this was reduced to a total of 599 sherds of which 127 (21.20%) are medieval in date (Table 1). A considerable portion of the post-medieval pottery consisted of a large quantity of fragmented creamware plates and dishes. These were found in a pit (F105) and the majority were reassembled prior to numbering and presentation for examination. In addition, five sherds of ridge-tiles were recovered, one each in black glazed ware and glazed red earthenware, and three in North Devon gravel tempered ware.

Forty-seven sherds of late medieval continental ware (7.85%) and 425 sherds of post-medieval wares (70.95%) were also recovered at John Street, and the details are presented in Tables 3 & 5.

A single sherd link was noted between contexts 104+105.

Old Dominick Street/Northern Relief Road (E471) See figs 15 & 16
A total of 380 sherds of pottery were recovered from the excavation at Old Dominick Street. Following some reassembly within and between contexts this was reduced to 357 sherds of which 135 (37.81%) are medieval in date (Table 2).

Seventy-four sherds of late medieval continental ware (20.73%) and 148 sherds of post-medieval wares (41.46%) were also recovered on the site, and the details are presented in Tables 4 and 6.

Sherd links were noted between the following contexts: 1+37; 1+52; 1+101; 1+101+103; 2+104; 82+229;83+86.

Medieval pottery:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric-type</th>
<th>Sherds</th>
<th>MNV</th>
<th>MVR</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adare-type</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jugs</td>
<td>M13th-E14th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limerick-type</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>&gt;3</td>
<td>Jugs</td>
<td>M13th-E14th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saintonge green glazed</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jug</td>
<td>13th-14th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unidentified</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cooking pot?</td>
<td>Medieval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total medieval</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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Table 1: Medieval pottery, John Street, Limerick (E365).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Sherds</th>
<th>MNV</th>
<th>MVR</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jug</td>
<td>L11th-12th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ham Green A</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jug</td>
<td>1120-1160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redcliffe</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jug</td>
<td>L13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adare-type</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jugs</td>
<td>M13th-14th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limerick-type</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>Jug, 2 collared pots</td>
<td>M13th-E14th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normandy</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jug</td>
<td>L11th-13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-west French</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jug</td>
<td>L12th-E13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rouen/Paris?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jug</td>
<td>L12th-13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saintonge green glazed</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bowl, 2 jugs</td>
<td>13th-14th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saintonge green painted</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jug</td>
<td>L13th-E14th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total medieval</td>
<td>135</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Medieval pottery, Old Dominick Street, Limerick (E471).

Introduction:
Comparable medieval assemblages already published from King John’s Castle (Sweetman 1980a); Charlotte’s Quay (Lynch 1984) and St Saviour’s Priory (McCutcheon 1996) and the material from excavations at adjoining or nearby sites at Fish Lane/Sir Harry’s Mall and St Francis Abbey (McCutcheon forthcoming (b & c)) provide accessible comparisons. In addition, excavations in Co. Limerick at Adare Castle (Sweetman 1980b), Tankardstown and Main Street, Adare (McCutcheon forthcoming (a & d)) and at Attymill (Sandes forthcoming) assist in the development of the clear recognition of a distinct pottery type from Adare Castle and its distribution. The detailed study of these further two excavations at John Street and Old Dominick Street enable a clearer picture of the medieval pottery of Limerick city and county and the relative percentages of English, continental and locally-made wares to emerge.

South-east Wiltshire:
This glazed ware is hand-built and fired to an off-white to pale grey colour. The clay contains occasional iron-compound concentrations and evenly sized quartz grains giving the vessels a characteristic pimply feel. These wares were produced from the late 11th century but were not thought to have been widely traded until the late 12th century (Vince 1988, 264). Stratigraphic evidence from Waterford has shown that south-east Wiltshire wares were present there from the early 12th century (Gahan & McCutcheon 1997, 292).

Ham Green A:
The ware from the Ham Green kiln has been extensively described (Barton 1963) and dates from the early 12th to mid-13th centuries (Ponsford 1991). The vessels were hand-built and fired in a reducing atmosphere. The five sherd from Old Dominick Street have been identified as Ham Green A, the early to late 12th century form, based on the characteristic undecorated base, the almost random stabs on the strap handle and the incised and stamped floral decoration on the body. In contrast, the later Ham Green B bases were invariably thumbed, the handles stabbed and lined and the decoration in the form of applied figures.
Taken together with the south-east Wiltshire wares, these appear to be the earliest identified medieval pottery in Limerick to date.

Redcliffe:
This wheel-thrown ware, also from Bristol, replaced the earlier hand-built Ham Green wares by the mid-13th century (Ponsford 1991, 95). This ware appears to have been the model for much of the later 13th century pottery produced in Anglo-Norman Ireland (McCutcheon in prep).

Adare-type/Limerick-type wares:
The designation of a ware as a type is recommended practice in pottery studies and indicates that a ware has been consistently found in a particular area while evidence for a production centre or kiln has not yet been uncovered (Blake & Davey 1983). In the case of Limerick, this situation is somewhat anomalous and the term Limerick-type can be used to describe the county rather than simply the city. This wide parameter has also been used for Cork, and although a small quantity of possibly locally made ware has been recovered at Youghal, the quantities are still too small to allow for very exact definitions. As the general term London-type (Pearce et al 1985) and Dublin-type ware (McCutcheon in prep) has been adopted to describe wares that share general traditions and clay sources from assemblages far greater than what has been published from Limerick to date, the term Limerick-type ware may be used in the broadest sense here.

Adare-type:
The clay used in this pottery is an iron-rich and silty with 25% quartzite (Cleary 1995, table 22). In this, the clay is very similar to that found in a wide area of Limerick and Cork (ibid. 74) but the distinctive difference in the Adare-type ware is the firing technique which results in a dark grey core or sandwich effect in section. ‘Sherds which have grey cores are the result of rapid firing where the atmosphere in the centre of the vessel wall lacks the necessary oxygen to fully convert the iron compounds to oxides... This results in grey cores which are the product of a semi-reducing atmosphere’ (ibid.). Many of the wasters recovered during field-walking also show evidence of poorly mixed clay with air pockets that blew out in the kiln, shattering the pot. Small bulges or air pockets have been noted occasionally on Adare-type pottery recovered in other excavations already cited. While the rapid firing technique and the air pockets may suggest a potter in a hurry, the jugs are well made and finished off with confident decorative motifs and firmly attached handles. A broad date range of mid-13th to 14th century is suggested for this ware (Tables 1 and 2), but the excavation and analysis of material from the kiln and/or workshop could narrow the date range considerably and it may be that this ware is the product of a single potter over a short period of time.

Limerick-type:
The sherds that fall into this group are much less clear-cut than the Adare-type pottery and loosely consist of locally made pottery found in the Limerick city and county area which does not fall within the distinctive parameters of Adare-type. As with the Adare-type ware, the vessels are competently made and are similar in design to locally made pottery throughout Ireland in the 13th and early 14th centuries i.e. jugs with strap handles, pulled and applied spouts and thumbed bases.

Normandy:
Two collared rims are typical of the unglazed wares generally identified as being from Normandy, although they are typical of the northern half of France in the 10th-15th centuries. Some of the sherds are very pitted and laminated and may come from a jug rather than a cooking or storage pot.
South-west French:
Two sherds are from a glazed jug with both iron and copper present in the lead glaze. The vessel is wheelthrown in a pink clay, with a strap handle with clay smeared both over and under the handle.

Rouen/Paris/Ile de France?:
A jug from Rouen/Paris/Ile de France area is represented by a solid rod handle where these were more characteristic than the strap handles of the Saintonge area.

Saintonge wares:
The ware from the Saintonge region of south-west France was imported into Ireland and Britain as a consequence of the extensive wine trade with Bordeaux (Chapelot 1983; Deroeux & Dufournier 1991). The fabric is fine, creamy-white and micaceous and the vessels were generally lead glazed, although some were unglazed. The forms of the jugs are both distinctive and repetitive and variety was achieved with the use of the glaze.

Saintonge mottled green glazed: Copper filings were added to the lead glaze to give a mottled effect to these jugs. These jugs are generally tall, with flat, splayed bases and applied bridge spouts and strap handles. Decoration, when present, consists of simple, vertically applied, thumbed strips.

Saintonge green painted: The polychrome and the all-over green wares share the technique of painting under a clear lead glaze but the all-over green vessels are painted with powdered copper in the lead glaze only.

Late medieval continental wares:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric-type</th>
<th>Sherds</th>
<th>MNV</th>
<th>MVR</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isabela polychrome</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dish</td>
<td>L15th-M16th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seville coarseware</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jug, olive jar</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merida-type</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Costrel, jar lid/dish</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauvais</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jug, plate</td>
<td>L16th-17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martincamp-type</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Type 2 flask</td>
<td>16th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saintonge</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bowl/jug, pega, chafing dish, basket handle jug?</td>
<td>L16th-17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous French</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bowl, chafing dish</td>
<td>L16th-17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malling</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jug</td>
<td>1550-1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frechen</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jugs</td>
<td>L16th-17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westerwald</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>&gt;2</td>
<td>Jugs</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhenish slipware</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Plate</td>
<td>18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montelupo polychrome</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bowls</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pisa graffito</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dish</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total late medieval continental</strong></td>
<td><strong>47</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
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Table 3: Late medieval continental pottery, John Street, Limerick (E365).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Sherds</th>
<th>MNV</th>
<th>MVR</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Seville coarseware</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Olive jars</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merida-type</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jars/costrel?</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mature Valencian Lustreware</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>&gt;2</td>
<td>Dishes</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese faience</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bowl</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous French</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chafing dish, plates?</td>
<td>L16-17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands maiolica</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dish</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malling?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jug?</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anglo-Netherlands tin glazed</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bowl, plate, ointment jar</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>earthenware</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Holland slipware</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bowl</td>
<td>18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raeren</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Panel jug</td>
<td>L16-17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frechen</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jugs</td>
<td>L16-17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westerwald</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Biconic jug, 2 jugs</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Werra slipware</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bowl</td>
<td>18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liguria herretino</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Plate</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montelupo polychrome</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dishes</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montelupo alla porcellana</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bowl</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faenza</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Plate, bowl</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total late medieval continental</strong></td>
<td><strong>74</strong></td>
<td><strong>-</strong></td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 4: Late medieval continental pottery, Old Dominick Street, Limerick (E471).**

**Introduction:**

The late medieval continental wares date generally to the late 16th and 17th centuries. They are described by country as follows: Spain, Portugal, France, the Netherlands, Germany and Italy. Of some interest in these two assemblages is the variety of tin glazed earthenwares also known as faience, faenza, delft and maiolica depending on the country of origin. Nine different types have been identified from the Old Dominick Street site representing the five largest sources of such ware in the later 16th and 17th centuries while three types were recovered at John Street, including the earliest present (below). The overall late medieval continental assemblage is surprisingly large with the Old Dominick Street assemblage as much as 20.73% of the overall pottery assemblage. This is unusual in Irish terms where a figure of circa 5% is more the norm. For example, the combined figures for six excavations in the North Island, Cork give a total of 4.77% for the late medieval continental wares overall (McCUTCHEON 2003, 201). The widespread presence of such quality material is evidence of the trading contacts of the port of Limerick in the later medieval period.

**Isabela polychrome (azul y morada):**

Two sherds of this tin glazed earthenware were recovered at John Street representing a dish. This is the earliest piece of late medieval ware from the sites and is of particular interest. The original name is from the town of Isabela, Dominica, the first European town founded following Columbus' discovery of the Americas. In addition, the ware has been found to have quite a close
date of c.1475-1550 and it is not found on the ships of the Spanish Armada, already being replaced by a less decorative ware i.e. a later sherd of Yayal blue plate was recovered at King John’s Castle (Sweetman 1980, 223, fig.7.3). Analysis of the ware, it has been confirmed to have been produced in Seville, and the Spanish descriptive name has been proposed for it i.e. azul y morada or blue and purple. It is known that these wares were not traded but rather were the personal dishes of the sailors on board the Spanish ships involved in the exploration of the Americas (Hurst et al. 1986, 54). This signals the changeover from the practice of eating from a communal pot eating from individual dishes.

The ware is a thick buff sandy fabric with a rough uneven glaze inside and out (ibid.). The decoration consists of a wide purple and two thin blue concentric circles, with geometric outer and simple circular central motifs (ibid.).

Seville coarseware:

Olive jars were produced in the Seville area from the Roman period through to the 19th century (Jennings 1981, 77) and were widely distributed to Northern Europe and the Americas in the 17th century (Hurst et al. 1986, 66). The fabric is coarse, pink-buff in colour with a light coloured exterior resulting from ‘the reaction of salt and calcium carbonate during firing’ (Gerrard et al. 1995, 281). One of the sherds in the Old Dominick Street assemblage was glazed internally with a dull green glaze.

Merida-type:

Merida is the easternmost point of an area of pottery production which straddles Spain and Portugal and from where costrels were traded from the 13th century to the present day (Hurst et al. 1986, 69). The fabric is fine sandy and micaceous, normally unglazed but occasionally burnished.

Mature Valencian Lustreware:

Four sherds representing at least two dishes were recovered at Old Dominick Street. As with all lustrewares, it is difficult to identify these from small sherds although it is possible to discern the traces of metallic lustre against the light. Three sherds have faint traces remaining of copper coloured metallic designs of Xs, backslashes and semi-circles.

Portuguese faience:

This is a fine off-white fabric with an overall tin glaze inside and outside (Hurst et al. 1986, 67). The decoration includes blue designs, outlined in darker blue or purple (ibid.), and the sherd from Old Dominick Street has several concentric circles with smaller complete circle on the outer edge of the plate. ‘Portuguese maiolica is rare in England, only found at a few sites along the south coast, but there are a surprising number of examples of site in Ireland’ (ibid.). A sherd was recovered at King John’s Castle (Sweetman 1980, 224, fig.7.7) and four sherds were found at Dunboy Castle, Co. Cork (Gowen 1978, 39, fig.10) and a sherd each was recovered from Christ Church College and Skiddy’s Castle in Cork (Gahan & Twohig 1997, table 4.3). Some 55 sherds were found at Dublin Castle (Meenan 1992, 191), while the first definite identification of this ware in Ireland is from Ballyhack Castle, Co. Wexford (Fanning & Hurst 1974, 107, fig.2.5 & 7). Perhaps the seemingly consistent pattern of castle and tower house sites could be a source of more detailed study. As with many other identifications of ceramics in Ireland, particularly in the late medieval period, the contribution of the late John Hurst cannot be overestimated.
Beauvais:
Two sherds of this fine white earthenware were recovered at John Street. The ware dates to the 16th century and two different vessels are represented, a yellow glazed jug and a green glazed plate.

Martincamp-type:
This ware is attributed to Martincamp, located between Dieppe and Beauvais in Northern France although ‘to date, no great numbers of flasks has ever been found in Martincamp or identified as wasters of Martincamp’ (Ickowicz 1993, 58). The sherd from John Street represents a Type II flask, characterised by a dark brown near stoneware fabric.

Saintonge:
Several sherds of Saintonge ware were found at John Street. The most usual of these was the knob of a Type IIB chafing dish (Hurst 1974, 243, fig.8.31, 32). Chafing dishes were used for cooking and heating, generally shaped as a pedestal bowl with four to eight raised knobs around the rim. This sherd from John Street has an applied full-length figure with circular motif extant at the top of the figure. Such highly decorated sherds are rare in Ireland although the Type I chafing dishes are relatively common, with applied moulded. faces on alternating green and yellow glazed knobs (cf. Meenan 1997, 344, fig. 11:20.2; McCutcheon 2003, 223, fig.4.1:9.1-3).

In addition, an interesting three-coil twisted rod handle was found. This green glazed handle appears to have been a bucket handle i.e. springing from the rim over the top of the vessel. A small lug or strap handle extends out from below the twisted rod handle.

Miscellaneous French:
Both sites produced sherds from a different type of chafing dish than described above. These were glazed green and the surviving sherds are arcaded knobs applied in a continuous strip around the top of the rim. These are labelled as Type VIII chafing dishes (Hurst 1974, 247, fig.9.51, 52), and a very fine large chafing dish, found in Galway (Meenan 2005), is now on display in the National Museum of Ireland.

Netherlands maiolica:
Two sherds found at Old Dominick Street represent a dish. The fabric is fine buff and the ware has a white tin glaze on the inside and a lead glaze on the outside. The use of lead glazing combined with tin glazing was to reduce the cost, as tin was the more expensive material. The polychrome decoration is similar to that of Montelupo in colour but the glaze is not as glossy and many of the decorative motifs are distinctive to each type. This ware supplied many of the pharmaceutical vessels used in the late 16th and 17th centuries.

Malling:
Malling jugs, also from the Netherlands, were thought to have been made in England but it now appears likely that they were a typical export from the Antwerp area in the second half of the 16th century (Hurst et al. 1986, 126). The surface decoration is distinctive with purple and blue mottling and the shapes and decorations mirror the stoneware jugs of the period made in Cologne and Frechen (ibid. 127).
North Holland slipware:
Two sherds from a bowl were found at Old Dominick Street. The decoration is very similar to the German redwares with the greenish yellow finish on brown but the slanted strips of white slip around the inside and outside of the bowl are distinctive of the North Holland types.

Anglo-Netherlands tin glazed earthenware:
A variety of tin glazed earthenwares are classified simply as Anglo-Netherlands. This is because the production of tin glazed earthenwares in England was initiated from the Netherlands. It is very difficult to distinguish between the two types as the forms and decorative motifs are similar if not the same.

Raeren:
The stoneware production in Germany centred in two areas i.e. Raeren/Westerwald and Cologne/Frechen. A single sherd of a Raeren jug was found at Old Dominick Street, part of a panel jug. These highly decorated jugs are a consistent find on excavations in Ireland in spite of the rarity of the smaller Raeren plain drinking jug, so widespread in England. A sherd was also recovered at St Saviour’s Priory, Limerick (McCutcheon 1996, 70) while a semi-complete jug was found at another Dominican Priory, St Mary’s of the Isle, Cork (McCutcheon 1995, 90, fig.17.1).

Frechen:
Both sites produced some sherds of Frechen stoneware and this is typical of sites all over Ireland. The sherds represent the typical drinking jugs known as bartmann or bearded man with narrow necks, moulded bearded faces and often with medallions on the front belly of the jug. The tiger glaze effect was highly prized and although the vessels were not expensive, they were often provided with silver-gilt lids, particularly in Britain.

Westerwald:
Sherds of this ware were found at both sites representing several jugs. The jug characteristic decorative motifs of hearts, gadroons and circular prunts in cobalt blue with grey stoneware are present along with the manganese purple glaze introduced after 1665 (Noël Hume 1991, 281).

Rhenish slipware:
Three sherds of German redware were found at John Street. As with the earlier Werra slipware (below), the red clay was decorated with greenish yellow slip, in this case in the shape of blobs of slip around the surface of the beaded rim (Hurst et al. 1986, 262ff).

Werra slipware:
Three sherds of this German redware were found at Old Dominick Street representing a plate. The rim has the characteristic hammer-head shape and the red brown sandy fabric is finished with a brown lead glaze over a pale greenish yellow slip and sgraffito central design. The concentric lines in pale green around the rim are very characteristic of this ware.

Liguria berretino:
This ware from Genoa in Italy dates to the late 16th to early 17th century (Hurst et al. 1986, 26).
The fabric is a fine buff earthenware, tin glazed light lavender-blue with a dark blue design. A single sherd was recovered at St Saviours Priory, Limerick (McCutchon 1996, 71) and the large portion of a plate was found in Waterford (Meenan 1997, fig.11:20.11).

**Montelupo polychrome:**
Sherds of this ware were found on both sites. The fabric is ‘fine but often friable buff’ or light grey with a glossy overall tinglaze’ (Hurst et al. 1986, 12). ‘The polychrome colour scheme is characterised by painting with broad brush strokes in garish bark and light blue, dark and light green, red, brown, orange and purple’ (ibid. 14).

**Montelupo alla porcellana:**
A sherd of possible alla porcellana (like porcelain) was found at Old Dominick Street. The fabric and glaze is as that of the polychrome but the decoration is in blue and white (ibid. 21).

**Faenza**
The fabric of this ware is hard fine buff with a thick glossy white tinglaze both inside and outside on the flat wares (Hurst et al. 1986, 25). Two sherds, representing a possible plate and a bowl were found at Old Dominick Street.

**Pisa late sgraffito (graffita tarda):**
A single sherd of this redware was found at John Street. The red-firing clay in Pisa was unsuitable for maiolica but the area excelled in sgraffito and slipwares, complementing the maiolica ware of neighbouring Montelupo (Hurst et al. 1986, 30). The red clay was covered with a white slip and the design scratched through giving a yellow finish with brown decoration on firing. Occasional sherds have been recovered in Ireland, the first from Dunboy Castle (Gowen 1978, 40, fig.10) and sherds from High Street, Waterford (Meenan 1997, fig.11:20.14) and Tobin Street, Cork (McCutchon 2003, 224, fig.4.1.9:8).
### Post-medianval:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric-type</th>
<th>Sherds</th>
<th>MNV</th>
<th>MVR</th>
<th>Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Bowls</td>
<td>16th-17th?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tin glazed earthenware: white</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Bowl</td>
<td>17th-18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin glazed earthenware: decorated</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;6</td>
<td>Jug, 6 bowls, large &amp; small ointment jars, jug, jar, plate</td>
<td>17th-18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwark manganese</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Cup</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Devon gravel free</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jug, bowl</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Devon gravel tempered</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Baking dish, 2 bowls, 2 jars w. handles, ridge-tile</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Devon sgraffito</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Jug, 3 plates, chamberpot</td>
<td>17th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Porcelain</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Saucer</td>
<td>18th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bristol/Staffordshire slipware</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2 bowls, 3 plates</td>
<td>18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mottled ware</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lid, tankard</td>
<td>18th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creamware</td>
<td>72</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>Platter, 2 jugs, 3 mugs, bowl, 5 chamber pots, 12 small/18 large plates</td>
<td>18th</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bowl</td>
<td>18th</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>White salt glazed stoneware</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cup/bowl</td>
<td>18th</td>
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<tr>
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<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pancheon, jug, jar</td>
<td>18th-19th</td>
</tr>
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<td>Glazed red earthenware</td>
<td>52</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Ointment jar, 2 jars, 4 small pancheons, 4 chamber pots, 2 bowls, jug, plate</td>
<td>18th-19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glazed red earthenware: slip decorated</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Plate</td>
<td>18th-19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glazed red earthenware: slip &amp; sgraffito decorated</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;2</td>
<td>Plates</td>
<td>18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unglazed red earthenware</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bowl/flowerpot</td>
<td>19th-20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearlware: decorated</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>&gt;5</td>
<td>3 saucers, 2 tea bowls</td>
<td>19th-20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shell-edged ware</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Plates</td>
<td>19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearlware</td>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bowls</td>
<td>19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer printed ware</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&gt;10</td>
<td>Tea bowl, plates, bowls</td>
<td>19th-20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mochaware</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;4</td>
<td>Cups</td>
<td>19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lustreware</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 jugs, 2 goblets</td>
<td>19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pratt ware</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jug?</td>
<td>19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoneware</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brown jar, blue plate</td>
<td>19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unidentified</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Whiskey jar, jug?</td>
<td>L19th-20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total post-medianval</td>
<td>425</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Post-medianval pottery, John Street, Limerick (E365).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric-type</th>
<th>Sherds</th>
<th>MNV</th>
<th>MVR</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Late medieval Limerick-type?</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bowl, 2 jugs</td>
<td>15th-16th?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Devon gravel free</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jug</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Devon gravel tempered</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Baking/dripping dish, cooking pot, jug?</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Devon sgraffito</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Chamber pot, 2 plates</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Devon slipware</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>Jug, plate</td>
<td>18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol/Staffordshire slipware</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Plate</td>
<td>18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mottled ware</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mug</td>
<td>18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White salt glazed stoneware</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Plate, bowl</td>
<td>18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcelain</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Plate</td>
<td>18th-19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black glazed ware</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tankard, 2 storage vessel, nr. stone ware</td>
<td>18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glazed red earthenware</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dish, 5 bowls, 2 handled bowls, ridge tile, encrusted sherd?</td>
<td>18th-19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glazed red earthenware: slip trailed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Plates</td>
<td>18th-19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unglazed red earthenware</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Flowerpot?</td>
<td>19th-20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shell-edged ware</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Plates</td>
<td>19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer printed ware</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bowl, 4 plates</td>
<td>19th-20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinaware</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Plate</td>
<td>L19th-20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoneware</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bowl, 2 jars, plate, tankard</td>
<td>L19th-20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total late &amp; post-medieval</td>
<td>148</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6: Post-medieval pottery, Old Dominick Street, Limerick (E471).

Introduction:
The post-medieval material has been well documented from similar urban sites in Ireland and England (Gahan & Twohig 1997; McCutcheon 1995; 2003; Meenan 1994; 1997; Jennings 1981; Draper 1984). The wares are typical of the assemblages in Ireland in the 17th and 18th centuries with a large quantity of North Devon wares in the 17th century supplying both tablewares and kitchen dairy wares. In the 18th century, the industrial production of the Staffordshire potteries dominated all the tablewares. The large quantity of creamware plates and platters, mostly with a queen's shape or slightly scalloped rim and chamber pots recovered from a single pit at John Street is evidence of this. The kitchen and dairy wares of the 18th century are also evident from this same assemblage as a semi-complete black glazed jar and two glazed red earthenware pancheons and a chamber pot were found.

Some of the creamware jugs were decorated with black transfer printed design. One jug carries the following tantalising stanza below the rim, unfortunately incomplete:
In another cartoon an elegantly dressed young woman leans pensively on a plinth. The word Werter appears on the plinth and Shelton outside the cartoon—this might refer to a place or less likely the illustrator.

The nature of the assemblage from the pit at John Street appears to be a wholesale dumping of a collection of material, perhaps making way for the fashionable, and much more robust white salt-glazed stonewares of the later 18th century.

APPENDIX 2

Claypipe from John Street

Joe Norton

The total number of Clay Pipe items recovered was 336, this comprised the following – 41 complete bowls, 27 incomplete bowls, total bowls 68. Stem pieces totalled 268. The pipes range in date from the early 17th to the mid 19th century. Illustrated are 13 spurred pipes and 35 flat heeled pipes.

Spurred Pipes: 17th and 18th century (Fig 28, top row)
These six pipes range in date from c 1650-1790. The earliest pipe dates c 1650-1660 (top row, no. 2) in style it is somewhat similar to English West Country types. Slightly later in date is no. 1 which dates 1670-1690. Nos. 3 to 5 range from 1690-1730, there is then a gap of some 50 years to pipe No 6 which dates 1770-1790. This is typical of the late 18th century, having a large oval bowl, thin walls and a slender stem.

Spurred pipes: 18th and 19th century (Fig. 28, row 6, nos. 4-6 and Fig. 29)
Seven spurred pipes dating 1700-1840
Fig. 29 r1, no. 1. This pipe has a worn stamp in a semi circular frame on the back of the bowl and dates c 1700-1750.
Fig. 28, r6 no. 6. This is a plain upright bowl with a good round spur, as opposed to the pointed spur on earlier 17th century pipes; it dates c 1740-1760.
Fig. 29, r1no.2, r2, nos. 1 & 2 and r3 no. 2, these are very similar and are all possibly by the same maker, whose initials IP are on the spur of two of them. R1 no 2 and r 3 no.2 are unmarked bowls while r2 nos. 1 & 2 have the same moulded ‘ribbed’ decoration. Bowl r3 no. 2 has on one side two birds on a bush and on the other crossed branches; this may be an Inn sign. All these pipes on date to c 1790-1840.
Flat heeled pipes (Fig 28)
Illustrated are 35 of the above, 13 of which bear makers’ marks. R2, no 1 is the earliest pipe dating 1610-1630, it has very fine milling at the rim, a small heel with a Fleur de Lis stamp, it is probably London in origin (Atkinson and Oswald, 1969, Fig 1:7).
There are six pipes with the same stamp, a single letter ‘S’ in relief on the heel. There are two bowl types. Type r3 no 3 and r5 no 9 is a medium sized bowl, slightly bulbous around the middle and dates c 1650-1670. Type two (r. 3 nos. 5 & 6 and r 5 no. 5) is a slimmer more upright bowl and dates c 1660-80.
Two pipes, r6 no. 1 and 532c. Have “wheel” stamps on the heel and date to 1660-90.
On pipe, r4 no 1 is stamped with an IB on the heel, in relief, and with a single pellet over the I. It dates c 1660-1690. R6 no. 5 has a Fleur de Lis over the initials ‘WT’ in relief on the heel. This stamp has been recorded on pipes from previous Limerick excavations (Sweetman, 1980, p. 226; Lynch 1984, Fig 14:7). It is possibly the product of a pipemaker named William Turner who in 1678 was residing on the East side of St. John’s St. Limerick (MacLysaght, 1941).
The two remaining stamped pipes are probably of local origin also. R3 no 1 has a Fleur de Lis over the initials NC, it dates 1670-90 R6 no 2 is a larger pipe but with the same initials and mark, it dates to c 1680-1700.
The remaining twenty two pipes are plain unmarked bowls, ranging in date from c. 1630-90.
The spurred pipes range in date from c 1650-1840, the flat heeled pipes range in date from c 1610-1700, a much shorter time span. The material is a mixture of English imports and locally manufactured pipes.

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