Limerick’s History through Artefacts

ARCHAEOLOGY and the Limerick Main Drainage Project

Opening Hours - 10am - 1pm, 2.15pm - 5pm, Tuesday - Saturday

Published by Limerick City Council. Design & Layout by Image Ltd., Limerick.
About this exhibition

This exhibition displays the artefacts recovered during archaeological excavations in the Abbey River during the construction of the Limerick Main Drainage Project. The artefacts are presented according to type, association and chronology. The individual displays concentrate on themes associated with historical events, individually important objects and everyday items of the people of Limerick.

What to look for...

**Case 1** Limerick's History through Artefacts. This case introduces the exhibition with a display of artefacts dating from the prehistoric period to the present day.

**Case 2** Conflict in the 20th Century. The objects in this case relate principally to conflict in the 20th century and include an unusual German issue World War II pistol. It is not clear how the firearm ended up in the Abbey River. Other artefacts relate to the First World War and Civil War engagements in 1922 in the city.

**Case 3** The Vikings. This case displays a unique Viking Age (c. AD 1000) bronze artefact, the terminal of which is decorated with an animal head. The function of the object is unknown. It is one of the earliest objects ever discovered from Limerick city.

**Case 4** Trade and Exchange. This display of coins found in the Abbey River illustrates trade and commerce in Limerick from the medieval period to the present day (AD 1200–1900) and the exchange between the city, Britain and Europe.

**Case 5** Domestic Pottery. The case displays a collection of pottery shards found in the bed of the Abbey River. It is an eclectic display of locally made and imported pots from Britain and mainland Europe dating from AD 1200–1900.

**Case 6** Post-medieval Artefacts. The display in Case 6 exhibits a range of bottle types and clay-pipe bowls from the post-medieval period (AD 1650–1900), when early colonialism and the expansion of trade increased the variety and availability of products to the citizens of Limerick.

**Case 7** The Limerick Port Seal. The recovery of the 'Limerick' port seal (AD 1550–1650) from upstream of Baal's Bridge in the Abbey River is individually significant, as it has rediscovered one of the first early port symbols of Limerick city.