

# Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork

School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology

Queen's University Belfast



CAF Data Structure Report No. 84 (preliminary report)

Excavations in 2010-11 at Market Place, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, adjacent to St  
Nicholas' Church

Excavation Licence numbers AE/ 10/ 142 and AE/ 11/ 72

On behalf of





**Excavations in 2010-11 at Market Place, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, adjacent to St  
Nicholas' Church  
Preliminary report submitted to NIEA**

Ruairí Ó Baoill and Dr Emily Murray

**CAF DSR No. 84**

**Licence numbers: AE/ 10/ 142 and AE/ 11/ 72**

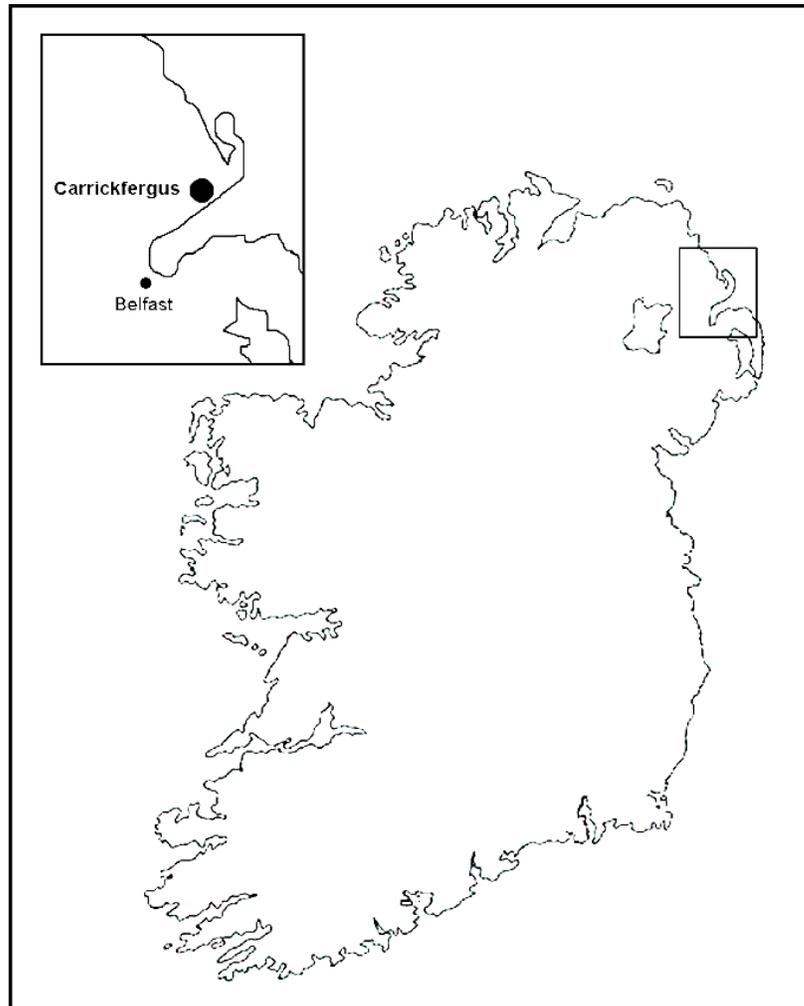
**Grid reference: J 416 878**

**December 2011**

## Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction and background	2
2.1	General	2
2.2	Historical and cartographic background	2
2.3	Previous archaeological excavations in Carrickfergus where human remains have been uncovered	13
3	The 2010 and 2011 excavations at Market Place, Carrickfergus	14
3.1	Circumstances of the 2010 excavation	16
3.2	Methodology	16
3.3	Archiving	17
3.4	Credits and acknowledgements	17
3.5	Account of the 2010 and 2011 excavations	17
4	The finds	37
4.1	Human bone	38
4.2	Animal bone	38
4.3	Pottery	38
4.4	Flint	38
4.5	Stone	38
4.6	Clay tobacco pipe	39
4.7	Glass	39
4.8	Metalwork	39
4.9	Roofing tiles	39
4.10	Brick, building stone and mortar/render	39
4.11	Shell	39
4.12	Environmental samples	40
5	Discussion	40
6	Conclusion	42
7	Recommendations for further work	42
7.1	Publication	42
7.2	Specialist work	42
7.3	Radiocarbon dates	43
8	References	44
9	Appendices	45
	Appendix 1: Context Register	45
	Appendix 2: Harris Matrix	48
	Appendix 3: Register of finds	49
	Appendix 4: Drawing Register	65

**Excavations in 2010-11 at Market Place, Carrickfergus, County Antrim, adjacent to St Nicholas' Church (NISMR ANT 052: 060)**



**Figure 1. Location map of Carrickfergus.**

**1. Summary**

Archaeological excavations took place in both August 2010 and June-July 2011 at a site adjacent to St Nicholas' Church in the centre of Carrickfergus, County Antrim (grid reference J 416 878). The investigations were carried out by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF), School of Geography Archaeology and Palaeoecology on behalf of Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) and in advance of the construction of an electricity substation on the site. The remains of twelve skeletons were excavated suggesting that the Medieval graveyard associated with St Nicholas' Church originally extended further into Market Place. Archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the cable trench linking the new substation to the existing electricity grid in Market Place

showed that the eastern side of the site had been much disturbed during development of the adjacent properties in the 1970s. The discovery of a small section of a foundation trench, probably of a Medieval building, and other linear cut features were also uncovered in the base of the cable trench. In addition to the human remains, large quantities of Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery and animal bone were also retrieved from the excavation. The most surprising discovery, made during the 2011 excavation, was of large amounts of both Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flint along with some pottery sherds, suggesting the presence of a pre-historic settlement on the site.

## **2. Introduction and background**

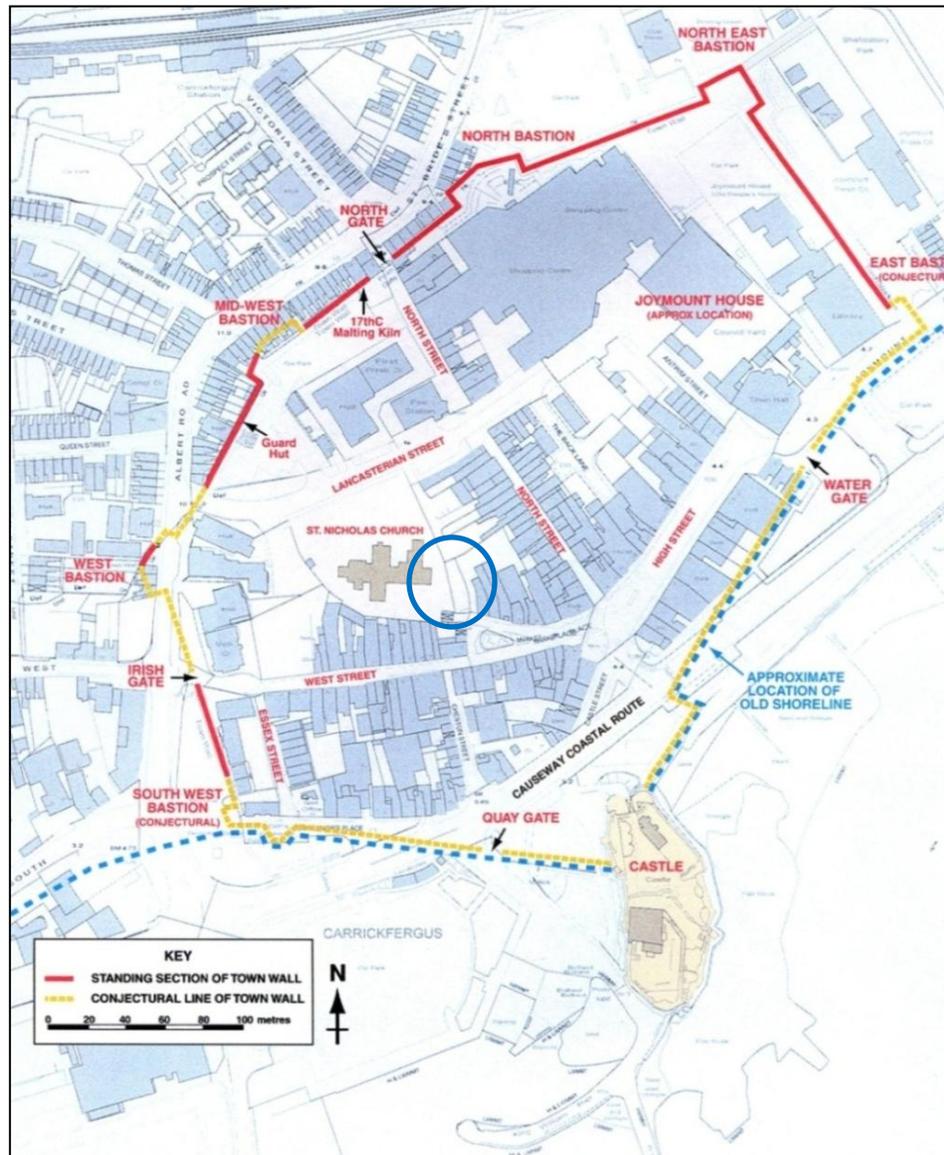
### **2.1 General**

In August 2010 sub-contractors digging foundations for a new NIE substation in Carrickfergus uncovered human remains. When the discovery was reported, staff from the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork were asked by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Built Heritage to investigate. A site visit by CAF personnel confirmed the presence of human bone. Further clearance of the site using mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision uncovered more bones, disarticulated and articulated at which point the excavation continued by hand. A total of nine articulated skeletons and a quantity of disarticulated human bone were subsequently recovered from the site during this initial archaeological excavation, which was directed by Dr Emily Murray. Further excavations, directed by Ruairí Ó Baoill, to facilitate the construction of the substation took place in June-July 2011 and two more skeletons were uncovered and excavated. Additional ground works required by NIE in the same area (the laying of electrical cables from the new substation to the old substation in Market Square) in 2011 necessitated further excavation to be carried out and a number of subsoil-cut features were also uncovered both inside and outside the limits of the site.

### **2.2 Historical and cartographic background**

In AD 1177, eight years after the Anglo-Norman invasion of south-eastern Ireland, John de Courcy led an army of 22 knights and 300 foot soldiers from Dublin into Ulster. When de Courcy arrived at Carrickfergus in the late 1170s he found a location, on the south-east coast of modern County Antrim and overlooking the waters of Belfast Lough, which suited

him for a primary base of operations. He started the construction of a castle on a promontory that projects out from the north shore of Belfast Lough. The town of Carrickfergus grew up in the shadows of this fortification. The location of the castle was determined by the need to guard the mouth of Belfast Lough and also the route through the coastal plain and hills to north Antrim, so that de Courcy could ensure secure communications with his allies in England and the Isle of Man (the daughter of whose king, de Courcy was to marry). To this end, he made use of the natural harbour west of the castle.



**Figure 2: Annotated modern map of Carrickfergus showing the location of St Nicholas' Church and the adjacent plot and site of the proposed new NIE substation circled in blue (Base map from Ó Baoill 2008).**

De Courcy started construction of Carrickfergus Castle, principally the Keep and Inner Ward, soon after his arrival in Ulster. Excavations within the Castle suggest that both the lower courses of the Inner Ward defensive wall and the Keep were built between 1177 and 1181 (Donnelly *et al.* 2005). Between the late 1170s and his downfall in 1205, de Courcy and his wife Affreca founded several monastic houses in Ulster. St Nicholas' Church was probably founded soon after John de Courcy's arrival at Carrickfergus, as well as a Premonstratensian abbey in the town at Woodburn (now lost), with Canons from Dryburgh Abbey in Berwickshire. A Franciscan friary was established in Carrickfergus, probably by Hugh de Lacy, in the 1230s. This friary was located just outside the northern limits of the Medieval town, in the area now known as Joymount.

St Nicholas' Church dominates the centre of Carrickfergus and the area around Market Place, North Street and (the later) Lancasterian Street. It is situated on a slight rise, some 200m to the north-west of the Castle. It was established as the parish church of Carrickfergus soon after the founding of the new settlement. The church is as old as the castle and, like that building, has undergone many alterations to its fabric over the last 800 years.

The town of Carrickfergus grew up in the shadow of the Castle's defences. Burgesses are recorded in 1220s and fighting in the streets (probably High Street, Castle Street, Cheston Street and Market Place) is recorded when Edward Bruce's Scottish army captured Carrickfergus town in 1315. Although the modern entrance to the St Nicholas' churchyard is located on Lancasterian Street, the Medieval entrance was through the arch below the modern War Memorial Bell Tower (completed in 1962) that leads directly into the Market Place and the town centre.

Carrickfergus was the caput of the Anglo-Norman lordship (later Earldom) of Ulster established by John de Courcy in the late twelfth century, carved out of land seized from the various Irish lordships in the area. At its height, the Earldom occupied much of the eastern portions of what are now modern counties Antrim and Down. After the decline of the Earldom in the fourteenth century, it was the principal garrison town and port held for the Crown in Ulster. During this period it was attacked on a regular basis by the Clandeboye O'Neills, the dominant Gaelic force in eastern Ulster and later also by the

McDonnells, the Highland Scots who had their principal base at Dunluce Castle in north County Antrim. St Nicholas' Church is illustrated on all of the early maps of Carrickfergus.



Figure 3. Carrickfergus circa 1560 (BL Cotton Augustus I ii 42).

The circa 1560 map is the earliest map of any town in Ulster and shows Carrickfergus as it was in the late- Medieval period (Figure 3). It is a three-dimension view of the town. The 1560 map,

drafted three and a half centuries after St Nicholas' Church was constructed, portrays the church as cruciform in shape, with a side aisle to the north and an entrance through the western gable. The church is shown on the left of the picture sitting within an earthen bank and ditched enclosure, with the stump of a stone cross and mature trees also evident. The western boundary of the church enclosure may correspond with the Medieval town ditch in this part of the town, as does the northern boundary, which later became Lancasterian Street. The eastern boundary of the enclosure seems to correspond with modern North Street. Also illustrated on the map is the Franciscan Friary, described as 'The Freres', located at the top of the picture and depicted as lying just outside the eastern town limits within an enclosure that contains, apparently, a mill.

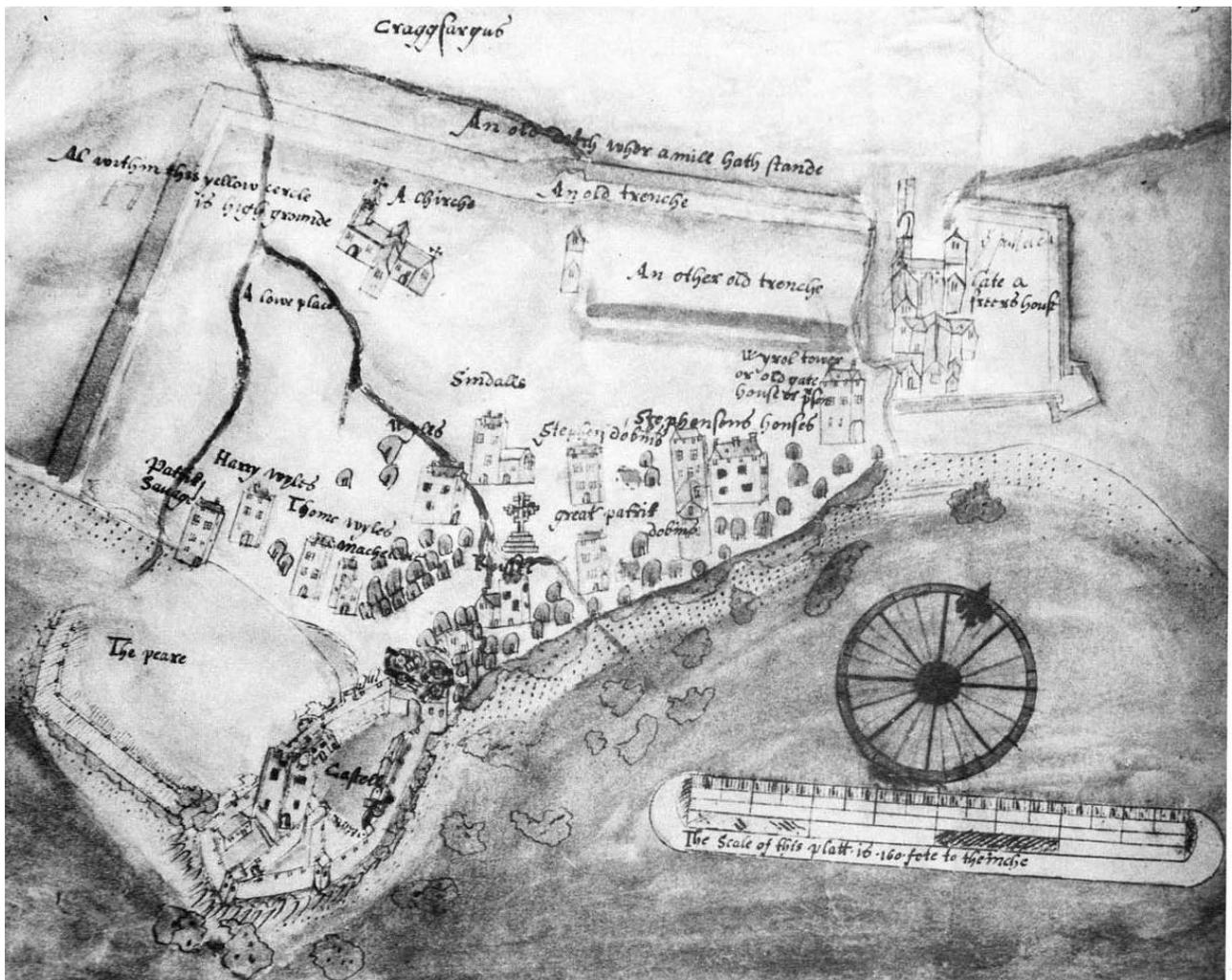
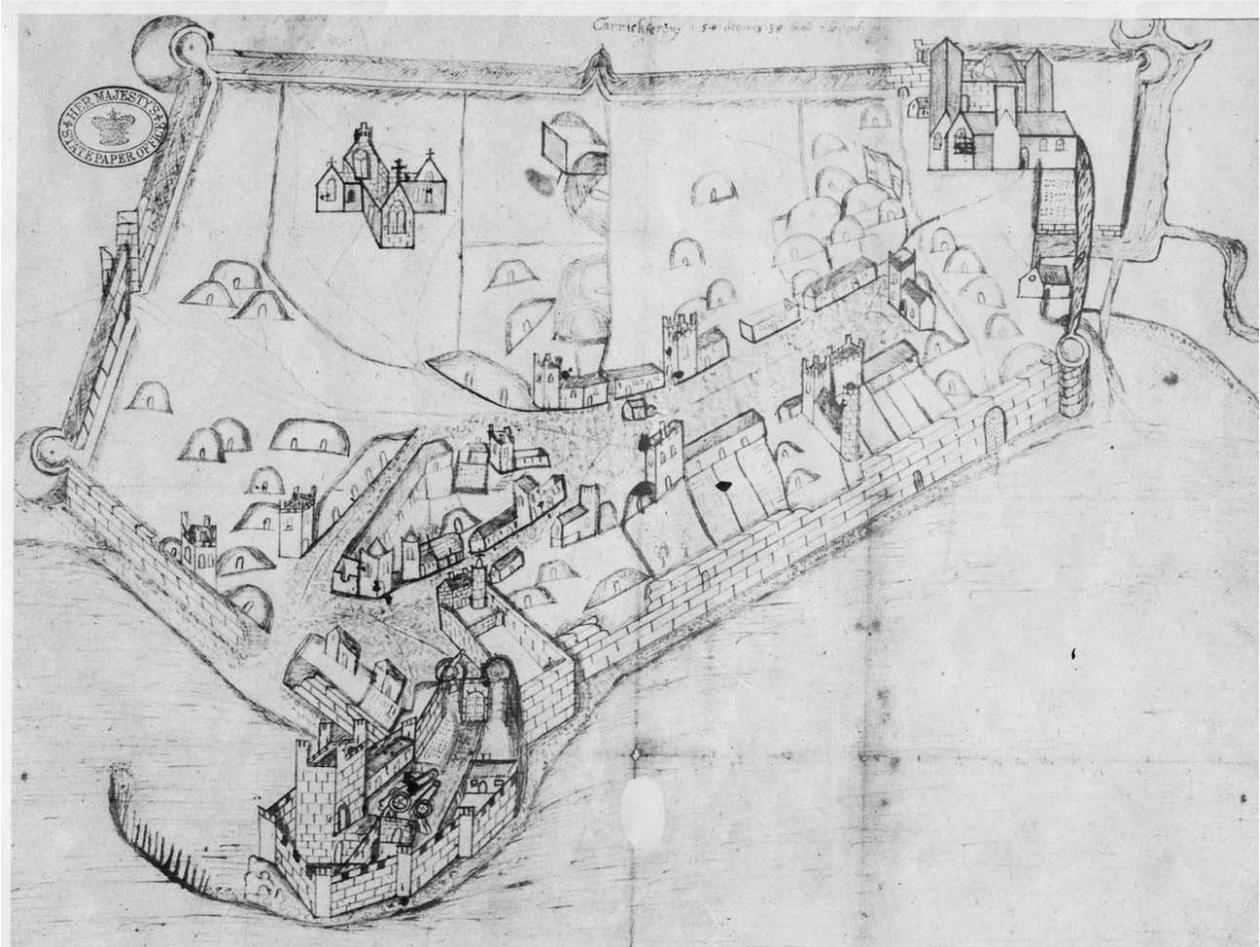


Figure 4. Map of Carrickfergus drawn up by Robert Lythe circa 1560 (Trinity College Dublin MS 1209 [26]).

The Lythe map (Figure 4) shows Carrickfergus just after the Reformation. It is another three-dimensional view of the town. St Nicholas' Church is located on the top left of the map and is described as 'A Churche'. The map shows it with two entrances on the south wall and a small tower on the western gable. No detail of the church enclosure is depicted on the map. A structure, possibly another ecclesiastical building, is depicted as standing to the east of St Nicholas', aligned north-south and approximately on the line of modern North Street. This building has never been identified in the archaeological or documentary records. The Franciscan Friary, post-Reformation, was re-styled as a fortified ordnance store and garrison. It is shown as still outside the line of the old Medieval defences but with a new earthen bank and ditch defence, including a spear-shaped bastion at the south-east corner. The building is described on the map as 'A Palace' and 'late a freers house'.



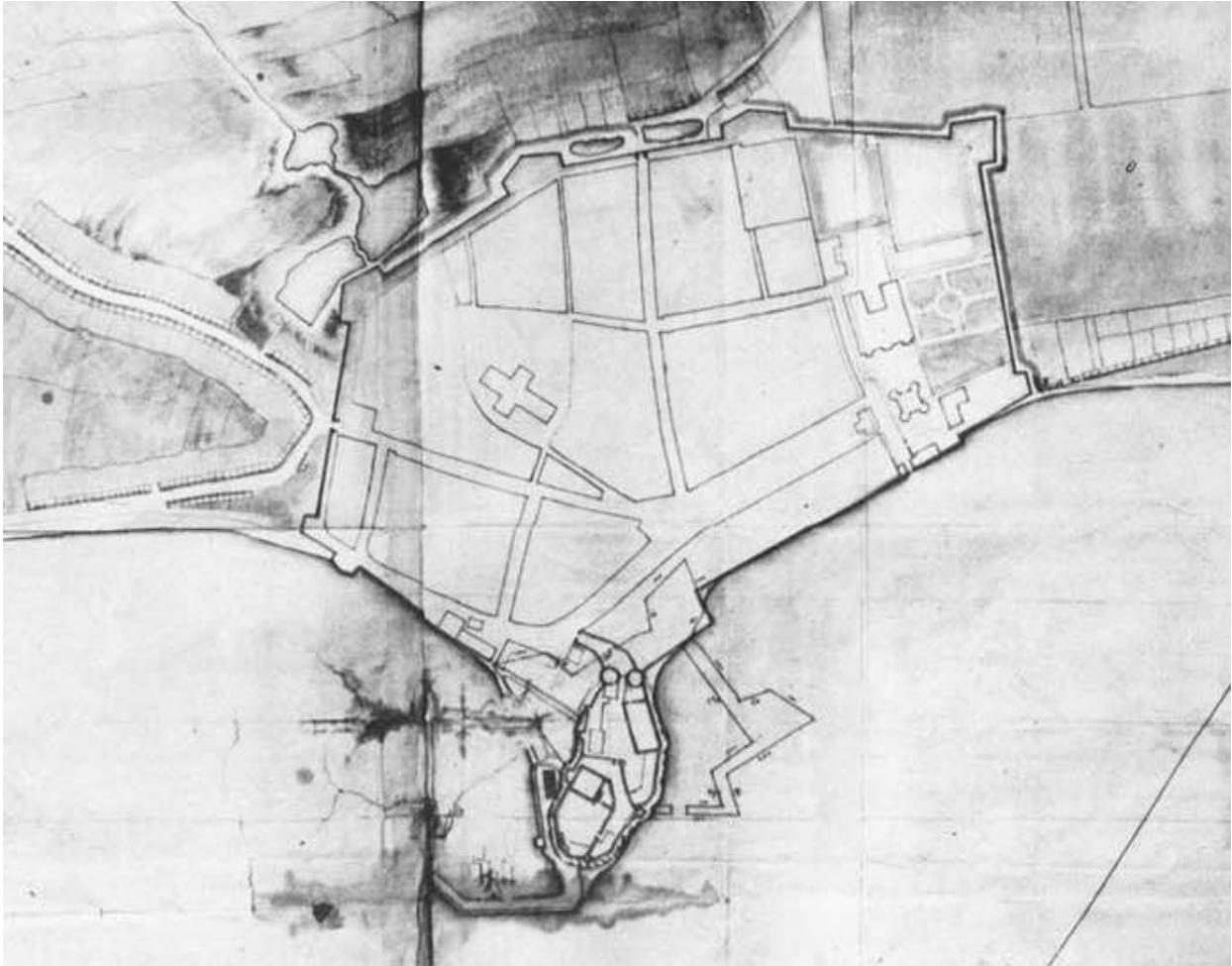
**Figure 5. Carrickfergus circa 1596 (Public record Office, London, MPF 98 [ex SP 64/1/31]).**

In 1568 St Nicholas' Church was repaired by Sir Henry Sidney, but on the 1596 map of the town (Figure 5) it is portrayed as roofless and in disrepair. The map depicts Carrickfergus during the Nine Year's War, around the time its Governor John Chichester was killed and the garrison of the town was defeated at the Battle of Altfracken in 1597 by Sir James MacDonnell, and his Scots. Again, the depiction of the town is a three dimensional view. The town had been attacked by both the Clandeboye O'Neill's and the MacDonnells in the 1570s and much of this damage appears not to have yet been repaired. The area of the enclosure around the church now seems to be diminished. A property boundary to the east of the church, closer to the modern eastern churchyard boundary, is illustrated on the map which suggests that it then occupied a smaller area than in the Medieval period. The area between this property boundary and another immediately east of it may mark the area later occupied by properties fronting onto the western side of North Street and backing onto the eastern side of St Nicholas' churchyard. Within the churchyard, several paths leading up to and around the church are portrayed but how accurate these representations are is impossible to determine. In the east of the town *the Pallace*, which occupied the site of the Medieval Franciscan Friary, is again portrayed. It appears to sit within the boundary of the enlarged and now partially stone-built defences of the town. Some of the defences around *the Pallace* are also portrayed as stone walls.

During the Nine Years' War (1594-1603), when the Gaelic Lords of Ulster rose up in revolt against Queen Elizabeth, Carrickfergus was surrounded by hostile Gaelic territory. Indeed, after the death of John Chichester, the town's Governor, and the dispersal of the town garrison in 1597 at the Battle of Altfracken, the town could have been razed. This, however, did not take place and in 1599 Sir Arthur Chichester, brother of the deceased John, became the new Governor.

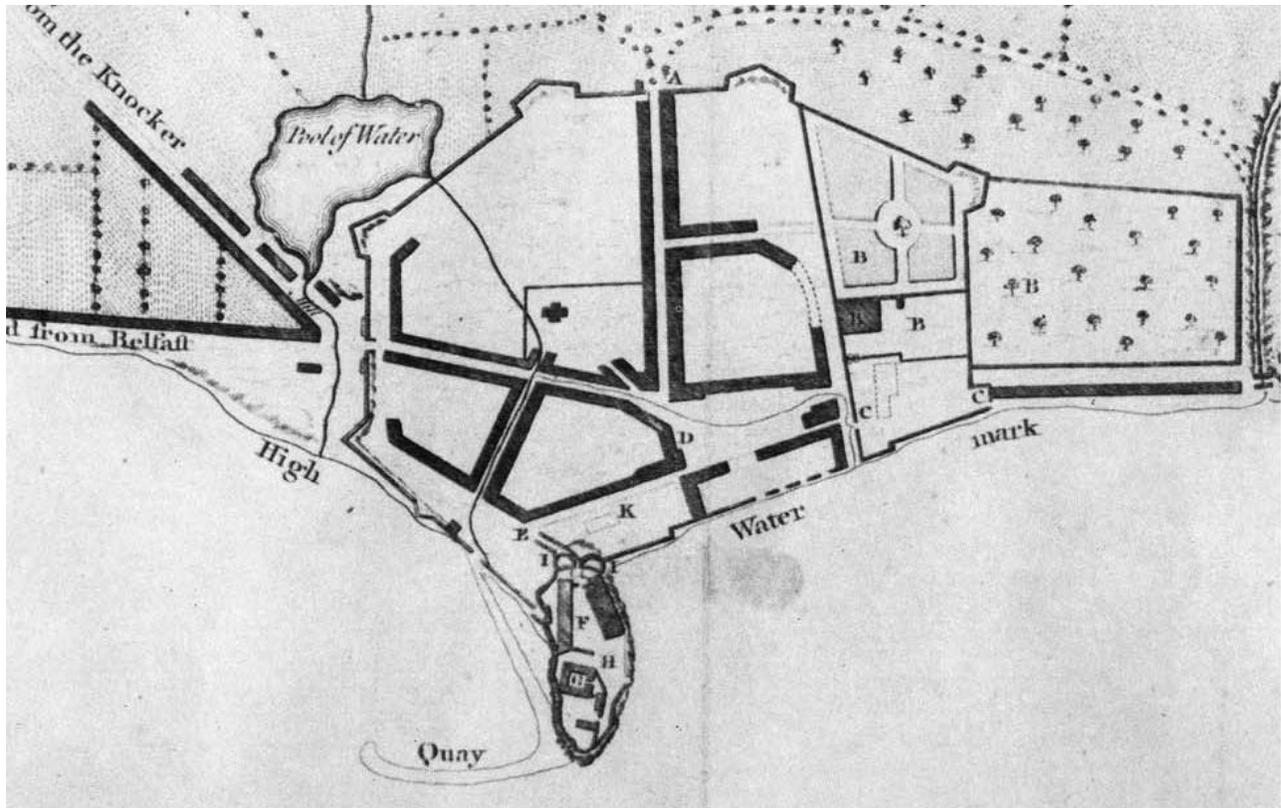
After the defeat of O'Neill and the Gaelic lords, Arthur Chichester shared in the spoils of war as one of the victorious Elizabethan generals. He became Lord Deputy of Ireland in February 1605. He made Carrickfergus his principal base and restored the town. He completed the town's stone wall defences between 1608 and 1615 and built a fine Jacobean house and gardens, *Joymount* (constructed 1610-1618) in the east of the town, on the location of both the Medieval Friary and later *Pallace*. Chichester also had St Nicholas' Church restored by his Master Mason, Thomas Paps. The church as it exists now, apart from the eighteenth-century tower and steeple, is substantially the same as it was after its restoration by Chichester. The substantial restoration of the first quarter of the seventeenth century either removed or obscured

much of the Anglo-Norman masonry and the Medieval piers that are currently visible in the church were not uncovered again until works at the Church in 1907.



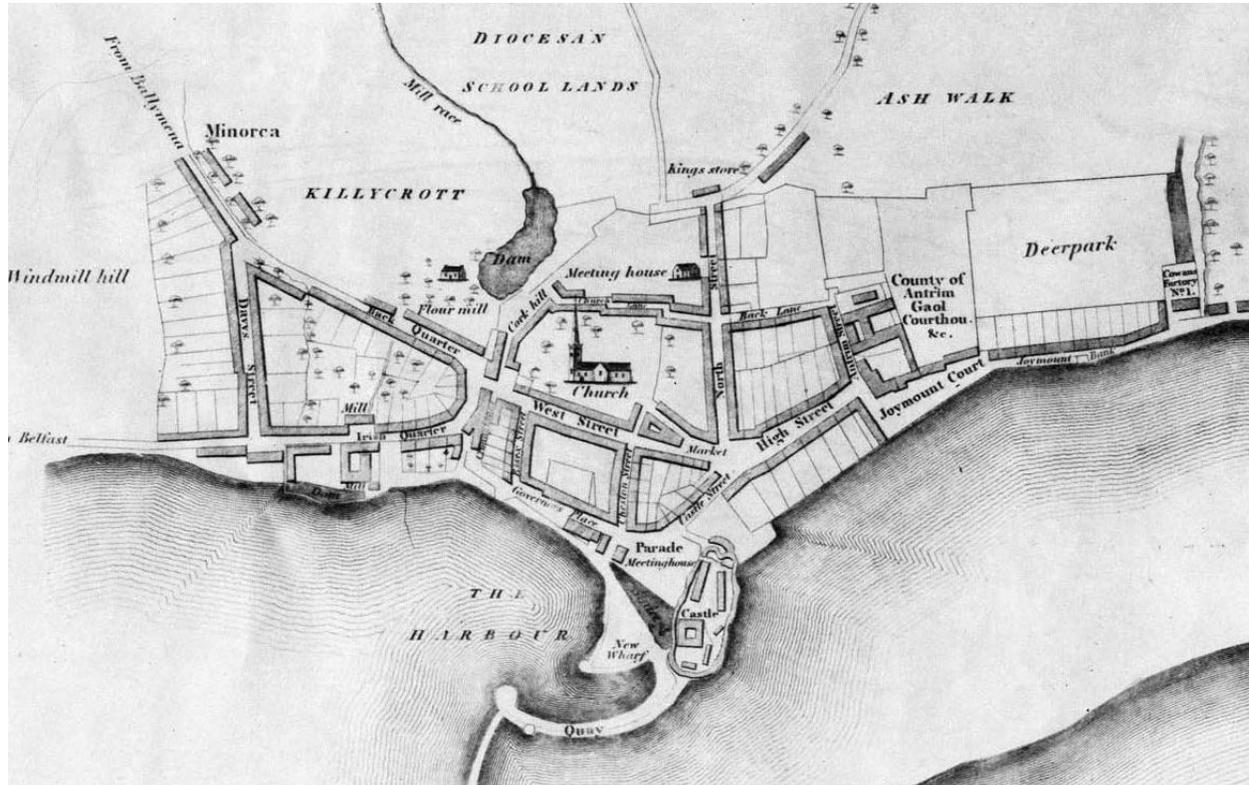
**Figure 6. Thomas Phillip's 1685 map of Carrickfergus (National Library of Ireland MS 3137 [42]).**

A fourth map of Carrickfergus was drawn-up by Thomas Phillips in 1685 (the same year he also drew up the first detailed map of Belfast). The map (Figure 6) is a two-dimensional plan and portrays the town 70 years after Arthur Chichester's restoration. Although there is some detail of the eastern part of the town now occupied by *Joymount* there is very little detail of the rest of the town centre other than the main roads, including North Street. St Nicholas' Church is shown as cruciform within an enclosure and the area occupied by the Market Place now seems to be set.



**Figure 7. Map of Carrickfergus in 1760 (British Magazine, May 1760).**

The map of Carrickfergus in 1760 was drawn up in the aftermath of the occupation of the town for a week in February 1760 by Commodore François Thurot and his French troops during the Seven Years' War (Figure 7). Again, there is very little detail of the town centre. St Nicholas' Church is still shown as cruciform in plan within a very regular rectangular enclosure.



**Figure 8. Map of Carrickfergus in 1821 (James O' Kane copy in Public Record Office of Northern Ireland [D 1954/6/14]).**

The 1821 map of Carrickfergus is a mixture of a two- and three-dimensional representation of the town (Figure 8). St Nicholas' Church is depicted with its clock tower and spire and described as 'Church', while the Market Place is shown and simply described as 'Market'. The space between the eastern boundary of churchyard and the backs of buildings fronting onto the western side of North Street is shown as undeveloped.



Figure 9. Carrickfergus circa 1840 (Ordnance Survey). Excavation site circled in blue.

The 1840 Ordnance Survey map of Carrickfergus is the first map to accurately record the property within which the 2010 and 2011 excavations took place (Figure 9). The map also

records the location of two structures at the southern end of the property that front onto the northern side of Market Place.

### **2.3 Previous archaeological excavations in Carrickfergus where human remains have been uncovered.**

#### *Market Place*

There have been no archaeological excavations within the current boundaries of St Nicholas' graveyard. However, during the re-development of the Market Place in the 1970s human remains were uncovered. In Simpson and Dickson 's description of Tom Delaney's excavations at 11-17 Market Place (CF1) in 1972, they wrote that *'at the western end of the site, excavation revealed a pit grave into which had been thrown disarticulated human limbs and torsos. Directly overlying this pit was a normally interred skeleton. This suggests that the medieval graveyard may have been of greater extent than it is today. These skeletal remains, together with a few fragmentary floor-tiles and painted window-glass, were the only finds directly relating to the adjacent [St Nicholas'] church'* (Simpson and Dickson 1981, 80).

#### *Other finds of human remains in Carrickfergus*

Two excavations in the environs of the location of the Franciscan Friary have also uncovered human remains. Although summary accounts of the human remains have been published, neither excavation has been fully published.

#### *Joymount (CFIII) 1973-74 and 1976*

Fragments of masonry were found, originating from both Chichester's house and the friary, and during the final destruction of the western part of the site three stone walls, 0.65, 1.30 and 1.50m thick were uncovered. A total of 68 skeletons, all aligned east-west, were recovered from the medieval cemetery. The remains included men, women and children (Simpson and Dickson 1981, 82).

#### *Town Hall, Carrickfergus (ANT 052:062; AE/06/56)*

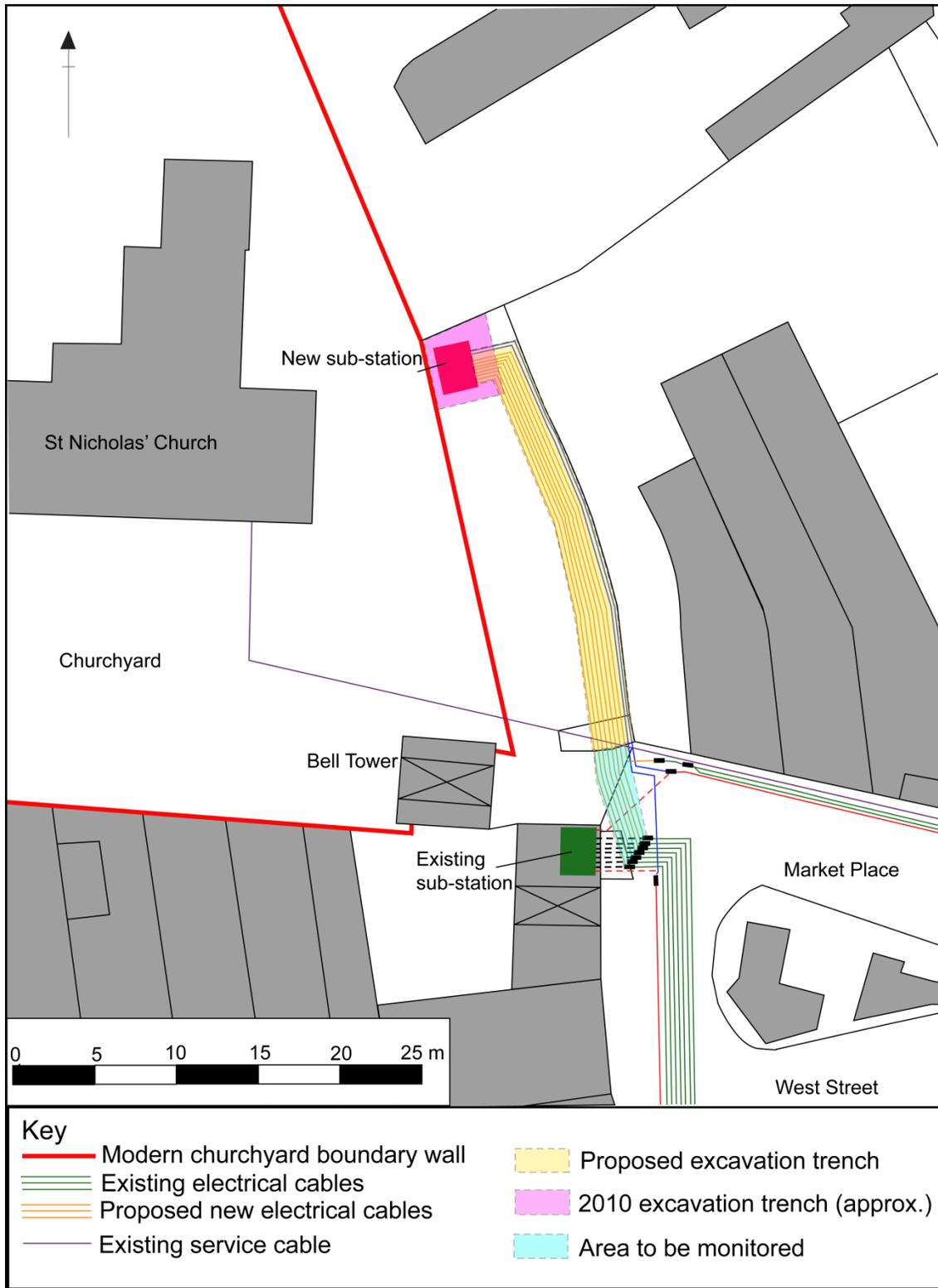
In 2006, Carrickfergus Borough Council commissioned archaeological investigations at Carrickfergus Town Hall in advance of redevelopment. The excavations uncovered *'substantial wall foundations dating from the early post-medieval period which cut through*

*an earlier burial-ground, from which nineteen skeletons were excavated. Whilst most of these were adults, three younger individuals were represented, suggesting that it was a burial-ground used by the local population and not exclusively by the nearby Franciscan friary. The skeletons have been tentatively dated to the early post-medieval period (i.e. after AD1600), but the recovery of one piece of medieval pottery from the fill of one of the graves might suggest that the burials date to as early as the 13th–14th centuries. This will be clarified with further analysis and 14C dating. Cutting through the burials were a number of substantial wall foundations, representing at least one building in what is now the courtyard. In general the walls were constructed of limestone blocks bonded with a lime mortar, with some red-brick fragments within their rubble cores. The presence of red brick suggests a date of no earlier than the 17th century for these and they may even represent the foundations of Joymount House, built 1608–1610 by Sir Arthur Chichester, then Lord Deputy of Ireland. This building was in use until 1779, when the county jail and courthouse was constructed here' (O' Rourke in Bennett 2009, 13).*

### **3. The 2010 and 2011 excavations at Market Place, Carrickfergus**

The 2010 and 2011 excavations took place within a long and narrow property that lies immediately adjacent to the south-eastern section of the property wall of the modern St Nicholas' Churchyard (Figure 10). The southern end of the property is very close to the Bell Tower entrance into the churchyard. The site is one of the last remaining green spaces in the centre of the historic town and was in a partially overgrown state, with bushes and long grass covering parts of it, before excavation commenced. It is officially described as a garden/ recreation area, but from the proliferation of glass bottles and other rubbish observed, it seems to have been used as a place for illicit drinking.

Immediately to the north of the site, beyond the boundary wall, were the backs of properties that fronted on to North Street. Beyond the eastern boundary, represented by a modern breeze block wall, the modern ground level drops several metres to a tarmac carpark that served businesses along the northern side of Market Place. The entrance to the site, in the southern boundary, opens onto Market Place.



**Figure 10. Location of the existing NIE substation trench, the new substation trench and associated cable trenches (base map provided by Keith Anderson, NIE).**

The 2010 archaeological excavation (CAF site code: SN'10) was directed by Dr Emily Murray under the NIEA licence number AE/10/142. The 2011 excavation (CAF site code: CF MP'11) was directed by Ruairí Ó Baoill under the NIEA licence number AE/11/72.

### **3.1 Circumstances of the 2010 excavation**

The 2010 archaeological excavation arose when contractors working for NIE, who were digging the foundations for a new substation, uncovered human remains at a property on the northern side of Market Square, immediately adjacent and to the south of the war memorial bell tower and entrance to St Nicholas' Church and cemetery. Although the property is located outside the modern graveyard wall, it is evident from seventeenth- and eighteenth-century maps of the town, and previous excavations (Ó Baoill 2008, 44), that the Medieval cemetery was formerly much larger than that which survives today. As a result of the human remains being uncovered, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA): Built Heritage requested that archaeologists from the CAF investigate the site. The NIE substation trench was excavated in August 2010. The trench was opened mechanically (3.3m x 3.9m) and at a depth of between 0.6m and 1.1m articulated human remains were encountered. All further excavations were conducted by hand.

### **3.2 Methodology**

All the human remains uncovered during the 2010 and 2011 CAF excavations were excavated and recorded in conjunction with the guidelines laid out in the Northern Ireland Environment Agency's *Excavation Standards Manual* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2004). Skeletons were planned at 1:20 and, following photographing, bones were lifted and bagged according to body area. Bulk samples were taken to recover small bones that may have been missed during excavation, e.g. around hands and feet. Specific burial recording sheets were used to supplement the normal context record. Given the location of the excavation in a town centre and the potential public sensitivity to the excavation of human remains, care was taken to treat all skeletal remains with the utmost respect. The excavated area was also protected at night by secure fencing and any partially excavated remains were covered over.

All other archaeological features were excavated and recorded using the standard context recording method. Individual features were planned (scale 1:10 or 1:20 where appropriate), both prior to, and following excavation. In addition to the photography and

illustration, the principal site records consist of context sheets augmented by a site diary. Separate registers of small finds and samples were also maintained.

### **3.3 Archiving**

The finds from the two seasons of excavation and the excavation archive are all temporarily housed in the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

### **3.4 Credits and acknowledgements**

The CAF excavation crew, Ruth Logue (2010) and Brian Sloan (2011). Sapphire Mussen, CAF, compiled the illustrations used in this report. Volunteers Dr John Martin and Master Jack Martin and QUB UG archaeology students. Paul and Andrew Temple of KPL Ltd. James Duffin, NIE. Dr Philip Macdonald, CAF, for reading a draft copy of this report.

### **3.5 Account of the 2010 and 2011 excavations**

The following account of the stratigraphic sequence uncovered within the footprint of the proposed NIE substation integrates the results of both the 2010 (Dr Emily Murray) and 2011 (Ruairí Ó Baoill) seasons of excavation by the CAF. Both excavations had unique sets of context numbers allocated to them. As the 2011 excavation re-excavated some of the same strata and lifted some of the skeletons previously recorded, but not lifted in the 2010 investigation, there is a certain amount of duplication in the record. Where this occurs both numbers are identified in the text.

The new NIE substation is located at the northern end of the property where the excavation took place. The footprint of the substation excavated in 2010 and 2011 measured a maximum of 3.45m, north-south, by 2.85m, east-west. There was a maximum depth of 1.25m of strata within the trench above the natural Keuper marl clay.

Following the completion of the 2010 excavation the substation trench had been back filled with loose gravel. This material was removed by machine under strict archaeological supervision before further excavation and recording took place in 2011.



**Plate 1. Pre-excitation photograph of the site in 2011, looking north. The substation trench is located at the top of the shot and the cross to the left is in St Nicholas' graveyard. The cable trench was excavated along the eastern side (right of shot) of the site.**



Plate 2. Pre-excitation photograph of the southern half of the site in 2011 looking down into Market Place. Shot taken from the north.

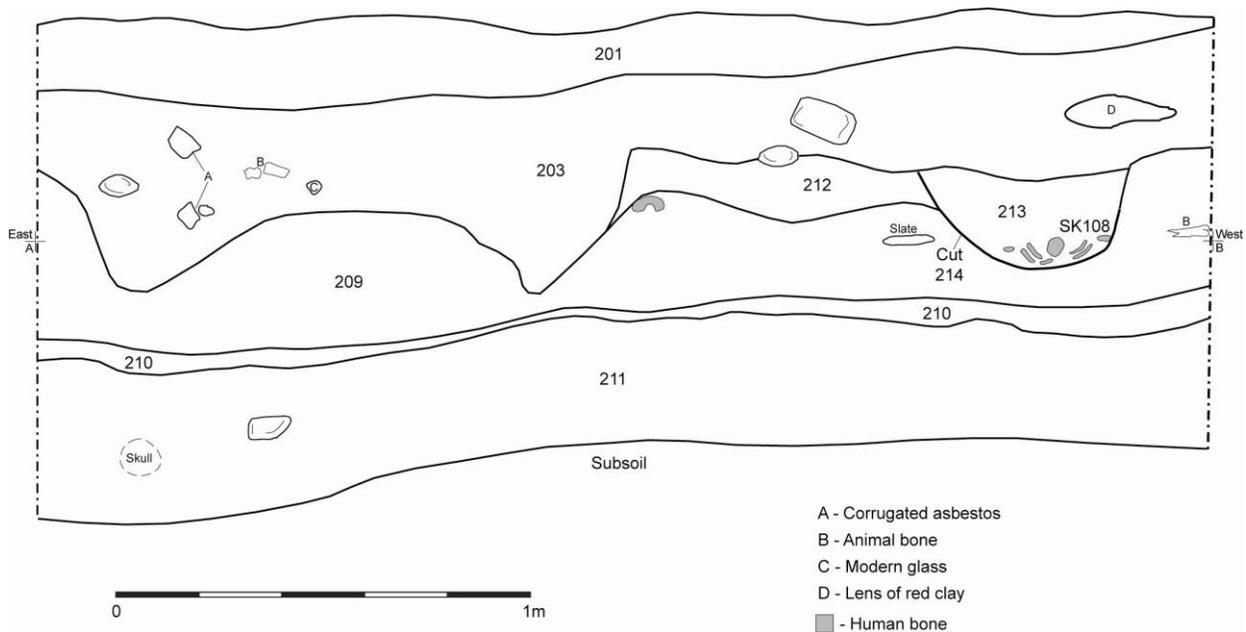


Fig 11. Substation trench. 2011 excavation. North-facing section.

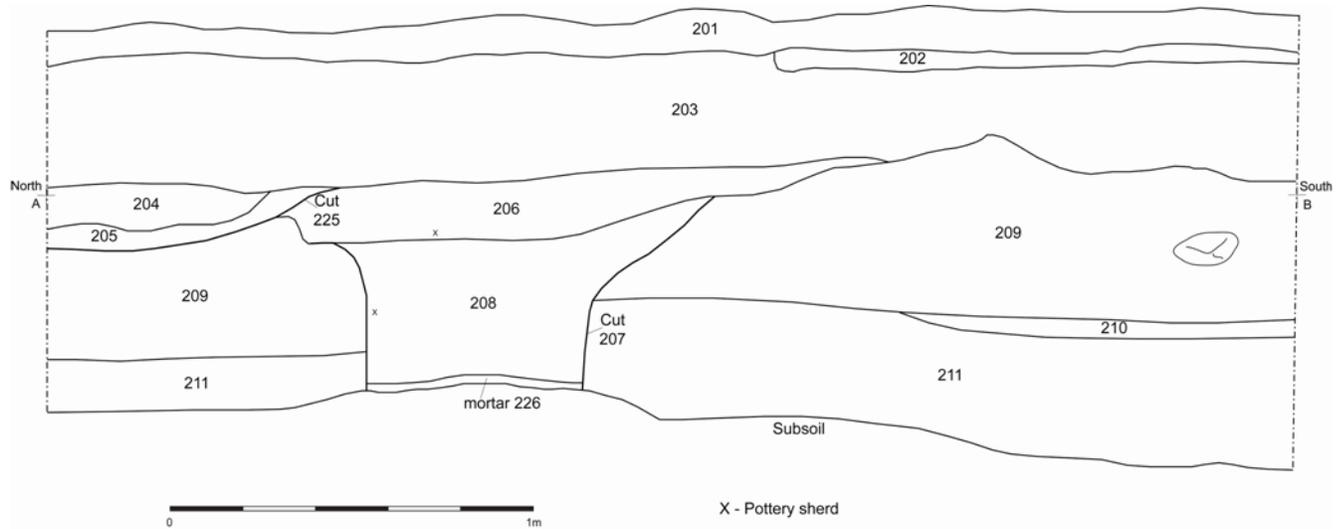


Fig 12. Substation trench. 2011 excavation. West-facing section.

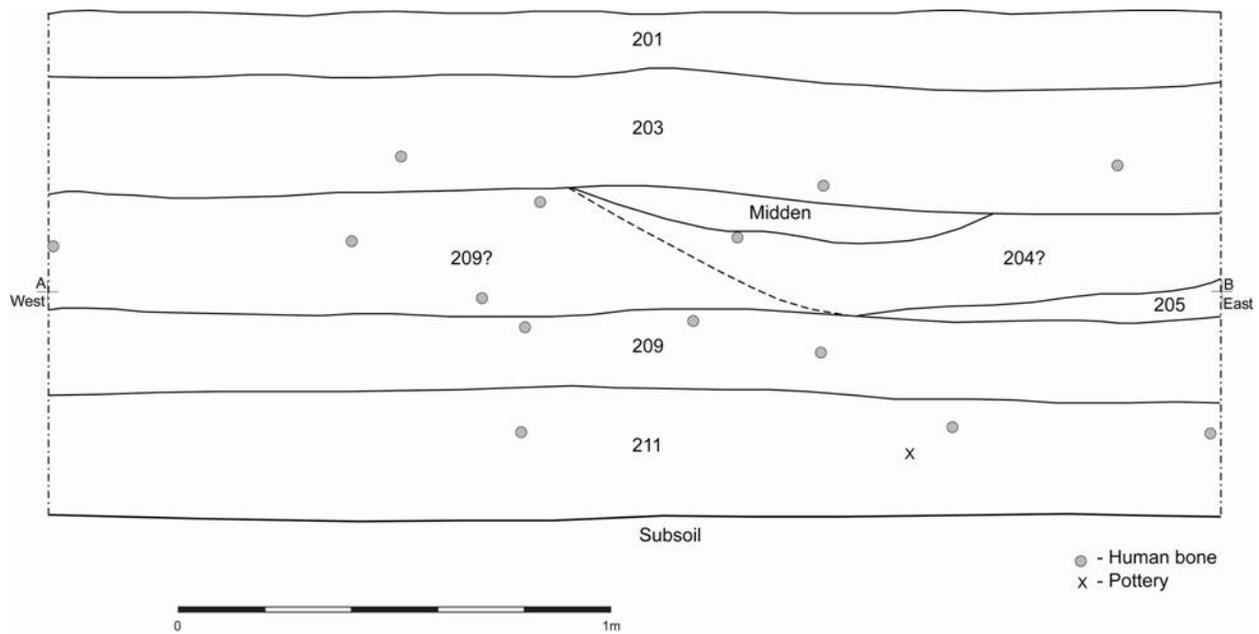
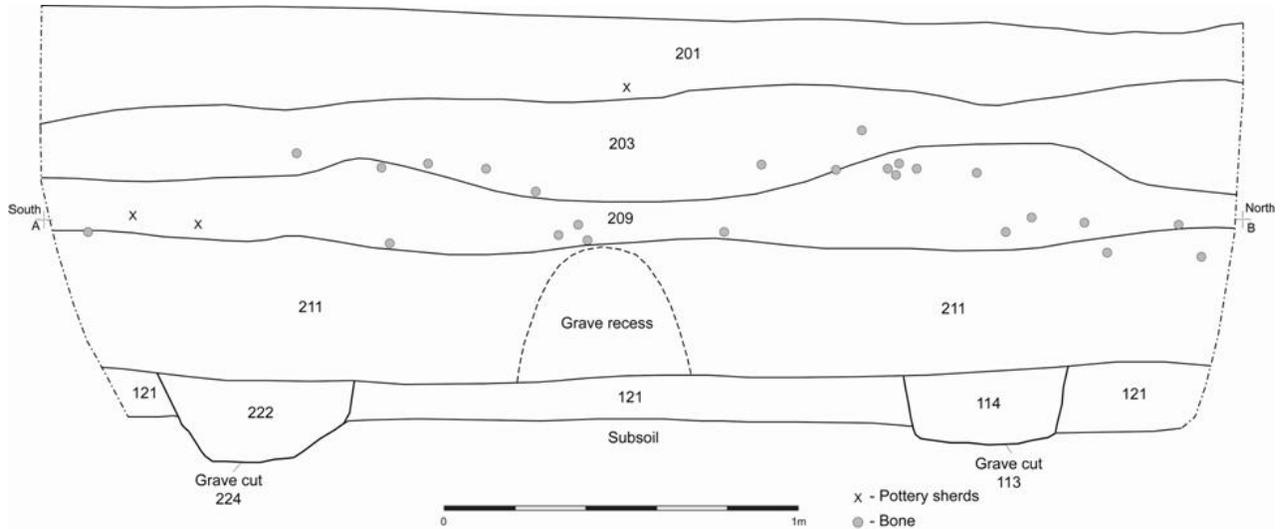


Fig 13. Substation trench. 2011 excavation. South-facing section.



**Fig 14. Substation trench. 2011 excavation. East-facing section.**

At least five distinct phases of activity were recorded within the footprint of the proposed new substation.

#### *Phase 1*

The earliest phase of activity on site, dating to the Medieval period, was represented by five simple, supine or prone burials (skeletons C.111, C.118, C.124, C.127 and C.218) all cut into the subsoil through layer C.121 and which was the earliest burial horizon recorded in the trench. It presumably dates to the years shortly after the construction of the original St Nicholas' Church in the late twelfth century.

Skeleton C.127, within grave cut C.215 was that of an adult. It was located in the south-east corner of the trench. The skeleton had been partially uncovered in 2010 but was fully excavated and recorded in the 2011 season of excavation. The grave fill (C.216) was a compact grey- brown sticky clay loam. The burial was oriented east-west. The grave cut was approximately 2.00m long by 0.44m wide and 0.11m deep. The skeleton was supine with the left arm and both legs and feet straight and the right hand positioned over the upper thorax. The bones of the skeleton were fragmented and were lifted as a bulk sample.



Plate 3. Substation trench. Skeleton C.127, 2011 excavation. From the east.

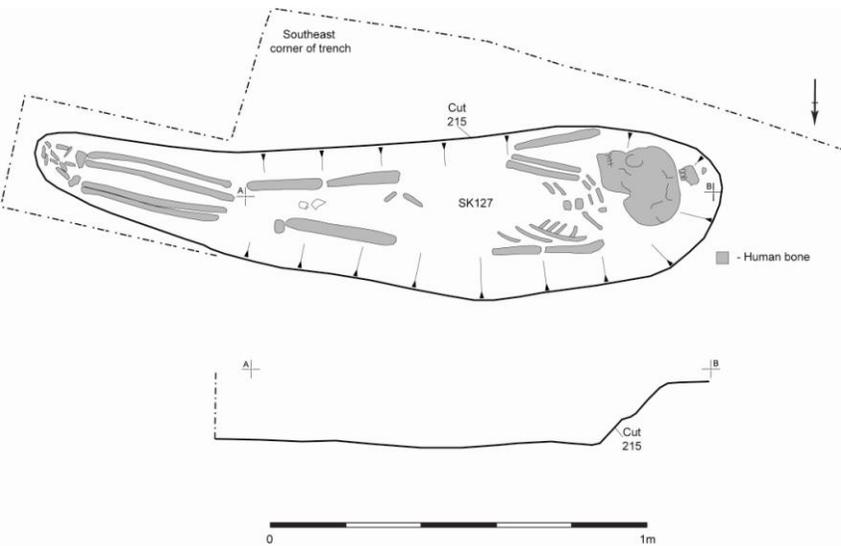
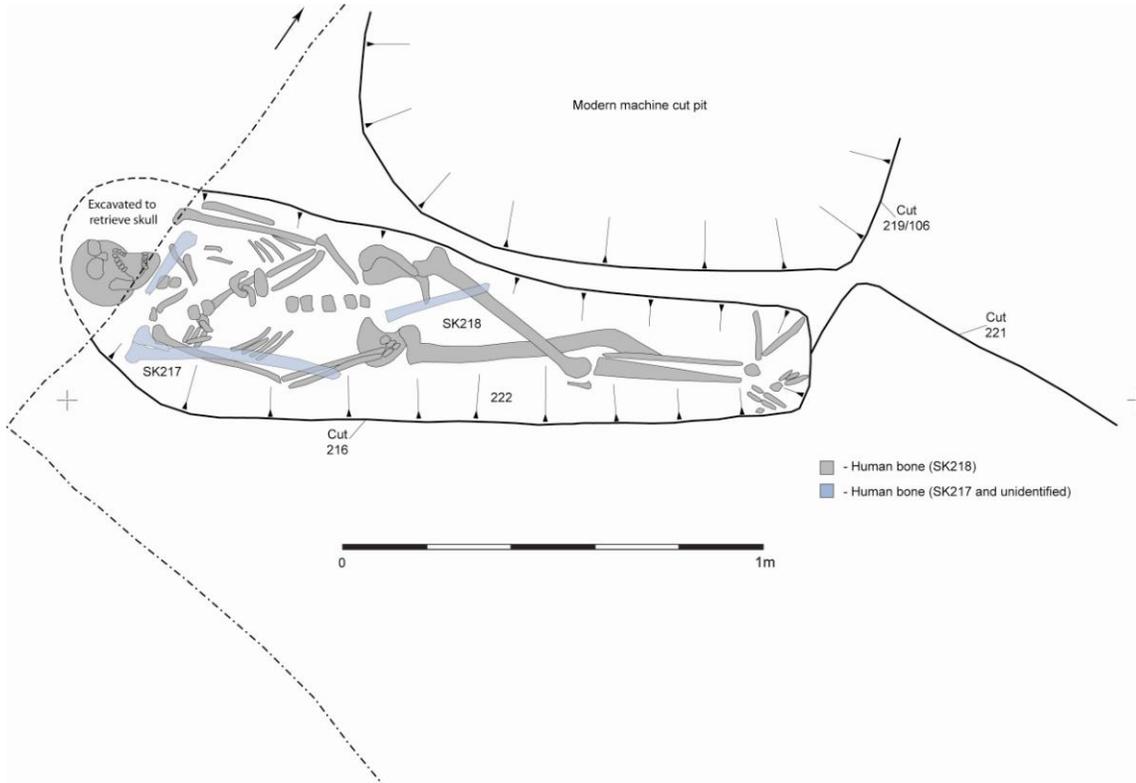


Fig 15. Substation trench. 2011 excavation. Plan of skeleton C.127.

Approximately 0.50m north of and parallel to skeleton C.127 in the east of the trench was the skeleton of a juvenile, C.124. It lay within a grave cut C.221, cut through a brown coarse compact clay layer (C.125) containing stones and pebbles. The burial was a simple one. Both arms were flexed by the opposite pelvis and both legs were straight.

In the middle-west of the trench were the poorly preserved remains of a third skeleton, C.118, within a grave cut (C.119) and an associated grave fill (C.120). The burial appears to have been disturbed by a large modern pit (C.106), described in the section on Phase 5.

In the western side of the trench was another simple burial of an adult (skeleton C.218) within a grave cut (C.224) containing grave fill C.222. The burial was cut through layer C.121 into subsoil. This skeleton was only identified and recorded in 2011. It was supine, aligned east-west and the bone preservation was very good. The left arm of the skeleton was flexed with the hand placed over the thorax. The right arm was straight with the right hand laid over the pelvis. The left leg was flexed and over the right leg which was straight. Both feet were straight. The fill (C.222) of the grave cut for this skeleton was a grey-brown loamy clay containing small rounded and sub-angular stones and frequent charcoal flecking.



**Fig 16. Substation trench. 2011 excavation. Plan of skeletons C.217 and C.218.**

The eastern end of the grave cut (C.224) for Skeleton C.218 appeared to cut the western end of the grave cut for Skeleton C.124. These recorded relationships, thus, gives evidence of the sequence of burials during Phase 1 and suggests an extended first phase of cemetery usage.



**Plate 4. Substation trench. Skeleton C.111, 2010 excavation. From the east.**

A fifth burial (C.111) was located 1.60m north of Skeleton C.218. It sat within a grave cut (C.113) and associated re-deposited natural clay grave fill (C.114). The burial ran into the east-facing section and only the lower legs, laid out straight, were recovered. The upper legs were only partly-exposed and so were not lifted.

Layer C.121 was only recorded in the base of the east-facing section of the 2011 excavation. Because at this level the excavation was below the level of disturbance that was going to be caused by the construction of the substation, it was not pursued across the trench in either the 2010 or 2011 excavations.

### *Phase 2*

The second of activity identified within the substation trench (C. 211 = C.105) represents a significant build-up of soils. The stratum was a red-brown clay containing large rounded stones and slate, into the subsoil and was a maximum of 0.40m deep. This was the second main phase of Medieval activity within the substation trench.



**Plate 5. Skeleton C.218, 2011 excavation. Shot taken from the north-east.**

Directly above skeleton C.218 were the fragmentary remains of another supine skeleton, C.217. This consisted of the remains of femur, pelvis and tibia. There was no obvious grave cut for this simple burial and the interment had not disturbed skeleton C.218.

Cut into layer C.211/ C.105 were two burials, both poorly preserved. The first (skeleton C.110) was located running into the middle of the east-facing section (and under the boundary wall with St Nicholas' Church). It had also been disturbed by the large modern pit (C.106). Only the pelvis, vertebrae and parts of the right hand were recovered. The second burial (skeleton C.126) was protruding from the east-facing section of the trench and only some of the lower limbs, the tibia, fibula and feet bones were lifted. The rest of the skeleton was left *in situ*.

### *Phase 3*

At some point a layer of flint, pebbles, small water-rolled stones was laid down over a portion of the site. This was recorded in both the 2010 and 2011 excavations as being restricted to the southern third of the substation trench. The 2010 site archive notes that in the south-eastern quadrant that there were three distinct layers (C.116) but as recorded

in the north-facing and west-facing section faces in 2011, these differences were not discernable and the horizon was recorded as a single episode (C.210). Layer C. 210 was recorded to a maximum depth of 0.09m.

Given the nature of the horizon and its discrete location, it is possible that C.210/ C.105 represents the deliberate laying down of a path or deliberate surface within the Medieval graveyard of St. Nicholas' Church. The period that this feature remained in use is uncertain and at some later stage burials were cut through it. Two of these were recorded within the substation trench.



**Plate 6. Substation trench. Skeleton C. 112, 2010 excavation. From the north-east.**

The first burial (consisting of skeleton C.112 with associated grave fill C.115) was a simple, single burial and was located in the middle-west of the trench. Both arms were

flexed and the legs were straight. The skull of the skeleton had been damaged when the modern pit C.219 (= C.106) was dug and the bones of the skeleton were poorly preserved.

The second skeleton (C.117 within grave cut C.122 and associated grave fill C.123) was located in the south-west corner of the substation trench, parallel to the north-facing section. The skeleton was supine with its legs bent and flexed to the left. The head was lying on the right side, facing south.



**Plate 7. Skeleton C. 117, 2010 excavation. From the south.**

#### *Phase 4*

Another deep horizon layer compact reddish-brown clay (C.209 =C.104), recorded to a maximum thickness of 0.50m represents the next phase of activity investigated in the substation trench. Cut into this horizon were the last two burials recorded in the substation trench. Both of these were, curiously, aligned north-south.

The first skeleton (C.109) was located in the middle of the substation trench and had been badly disturbed during the mechanical excavation of the site that led to the 2010 archaeological excavation. Only fragments of the tibia, fibula and a few of the bones of

the feet were recorded *in situ*. However, enough of the skeleton was visible to suggest that the head was positioned to the north.



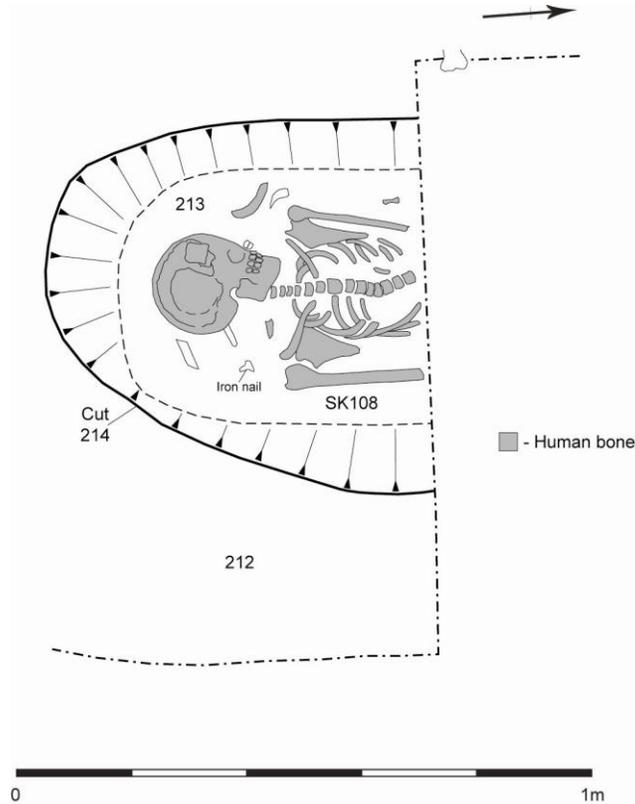
**Plate 8. Substation trench. Skeleton C.109, 2010 excavation.**

The second skeleton (C.108 within grave cut C.214 and with associated grave fill C.213) was located in the western half of the north-facing section. The lower portion of the skeleton was excavated in 2010 but as the burial ran into the north-facing section of the proposed substation trench, it was not until the 2011 season that a small cutting to expose the remains of this burial was excavated and the skeleton fully uncovered. The burial was a simple supine one. The head of the skeleton was positioned to the south. The bone preservation of this adult was found to be in a good condition, though the feet had been removed by mechanical digger before the 2010 excavation commenced. The right arm of the skeleton was straight with its hand on the pelvis, the left arm was straight and slightly flexed. Both legs were straight. The burial was cut into major site layer C.209, a reddish-brown clay that was heavy and hard to trowel and that had a high stone content. It was immediately below layer C.212, a compact light brown loam with moderate charcoal

content that may be the latest undisturbed graveyard stratum surviving in the substation trench.



**Plate 9. Substation trench. Skeleton C.108, 2010 excavation. From the east.**



**Fig 17. Substation trench. 2011 excavation. Plan of upper portion of skeleton C.127.**

The most interesting aspect of skeletons C.108 and C.109 were that they were aligned north-south and south-north. This is at variance with all the other burials recorded on site and not the Christian norm. The significance of the grave alignment is uncertain. Ceramic finds from the grave fill for Skeleton C.108 suggest that it might date to the seventeenth-century. If this is the case, it may perhaps relate to the August 1689 siege of the town during the Williamite Wars. The Jacobite garrison within the walled town of Carrickfergus was under a constant bombardment of cannon and mortar from the forces of Williamite general Duke Frederick Schomberg. One possibility is that the two burials are of civilians or Jacobite soldiers who died during the siege and were buried hastily at night. The unusual alignment of the grave might simply be an error due to these circumstances. The other possibility is that the grave orientation may be a deliberate act to punish persons for a deed that they carried out in life by giving them an un-Christian burial in death.

Skeletons C.108 and C.109 were the latest burial to be uncovered during the 2010 and 2011 archaeological excavations. Why this part of the graveyard ceased to be used for burials beyond this date is uncertain.

### *Phase 5*

There was much evidence of modern disturbance on site. The strata above burial C.108 (contexts 201-208) all relate to a build-up of modern soils and gravel surfaces on site. In places this disturbance extends down as deep as 0.65m from modern ground surface. Corrugated asbestos and modern glass were recovered from one layer (C.203). A large cut (C.207), to the level of subsoil, recorded in the west-facing section below modern layer C.203, and with a layer of mortar (C.226) as its basal fill, may represent evidence of a robbed-out wall.

In the middle-west of the trench, a large sub-rectangular cut (C.219 = C.106) that extended down from modern ground level into the subsoil showed evidence of an investigative hole having been dug in recent times, possibly to examine the nature of the underlying geology with a view to redeveloping the site. This previously unrecorded disturbance was 1.2m long, east-west, and between 0.67-0.81m wide, north-south. It had been back-filled with a concentration of large stones, modern plastic and glass and soil (C.220 = C.107).

### *The Cable Trench*

The cable trench to link the new substation in the north of the site with the existing electricity grid in Market Place was machine excavated, under strict archaeological supervision, along the eastern boundary of the site and immediately west and adjacent to the breeze-block wall. Within the site the trench was approximately 16.5m long, north-south, x 1.00m wide. To facilitate the new electrical cables to be inserted the base of the trench was sloped from the north, where it was excavated to a depth of 1.15m to a depth of 1.60m, close to the southern limit of the site. No *in situ* human burials were observed within the trench, although several thousand pieces of disarticulated animal and human bone, sherds of Medieval, Post-Medieval and modern pottery, fragments of slate, clay pipe and brick, as well as pieces of worked prehistoric flint were recovered from the single deep layer (C.301, a dark brown compact soil with moderate charcoal content and lots of both small and medium-sized stone) that extended throughout most of the trench.

It is clear that when the building works in Market Place took place in the early 1970s, and noted by Tom Delaney, one of these developments was the construction of the breeze block wall along the eastern side of the site, probably to act as a retaining wall for the

carpark. It appears that the foundation trench for this wall was dug by a mechanical digger and virtually all *in situ* archaeological deposits were removed to subsoil level or just above it. When the wall was constructed, the archaeological deposits were pushed back into the foundation trench leading to the redeposition of strata and artefacts of different periods as one single, disturbed archaeological horizon in this part of the site.

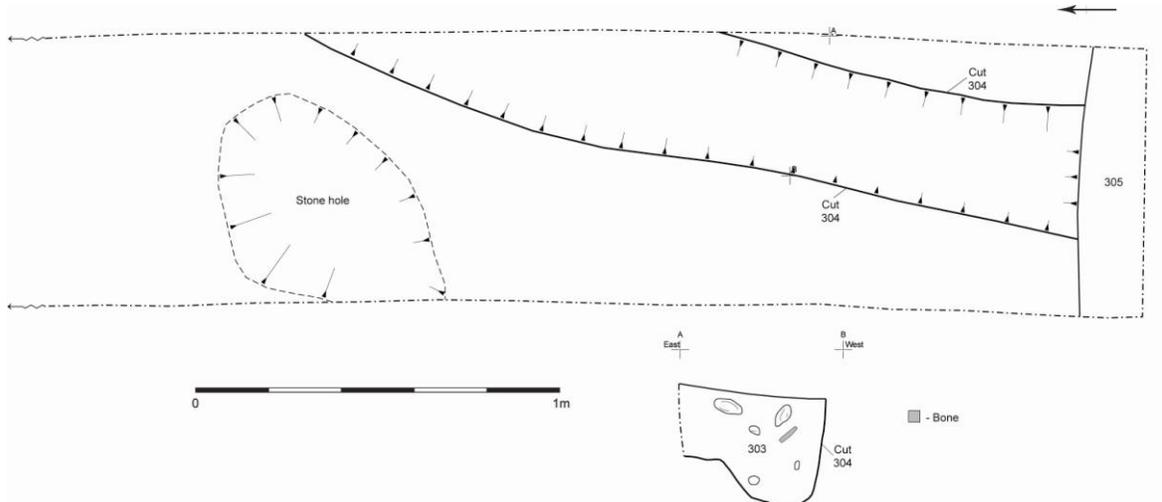
The only surviving *in situ* archaeological features recorded in the cabled trench were located close to the southern boundary of the site. The earliest deposit (C.306), uncovered above subsoil, but which was not fully investigated due to health and safety considerations related to the trench depth, was a layer of grey-brown sandy loam containing frequent charcoal. Finds included frequent animal bones, Medieval pottery and prehistoric flint. Directly above this primary Medieval stratum was a layer of red clay marl (C.305), probably redeposited subsoil clay. Cut through these deposits was a substantial linear slot trench (cut C.304), aligned north-east/ south-west. Given the health and safety concerns of working within the confines of the cable trench, this feature was only partially excavated and recorded. The feature was uncovered to a maximum length of 2.20m by 0.35m wide and it was 0.30m deep. Prehistoric flint, Medieval pottery sherds and bone were



**Plate 10. 2011 cable trench. Linear slot C.304, post-excavation, from the south.**

recovered from the single fill (C.303) of the slot, a compact brown organic loam. The feature may represent either the foundations of a Medieval building or else a Medieval property boundary. Given the limited area available for investigation, only future excavation will resolve this question. Above this feature was a thin layer of mid-brown silty loam (C.302), out of which was recovered Medieval pottery and prehistoric worked flint. Above this the trench stratigraphy consisted of the single deep disturbed layer (C.301, and its associated modern cut).

The archaeological strata and linear feature at the southern end of the cable trench showed that Medieval deposits survive in this area of the site, despite the extensive modern disturbance along the eastern side of the property. The mixture of Medieval finds



**Fig 18. 2011 cable trench. Plan and section across linear slot C.304.**



**Plate 11. The cable trench during excavated in 2011. Shot taken from north.**

recovered along with struck flint and pottery from the late Mesolithic and Neolithic period suggest that Medieval activity in this part of Carrickfergus may have disturbed an earlier prehistoric settlement or settlements.

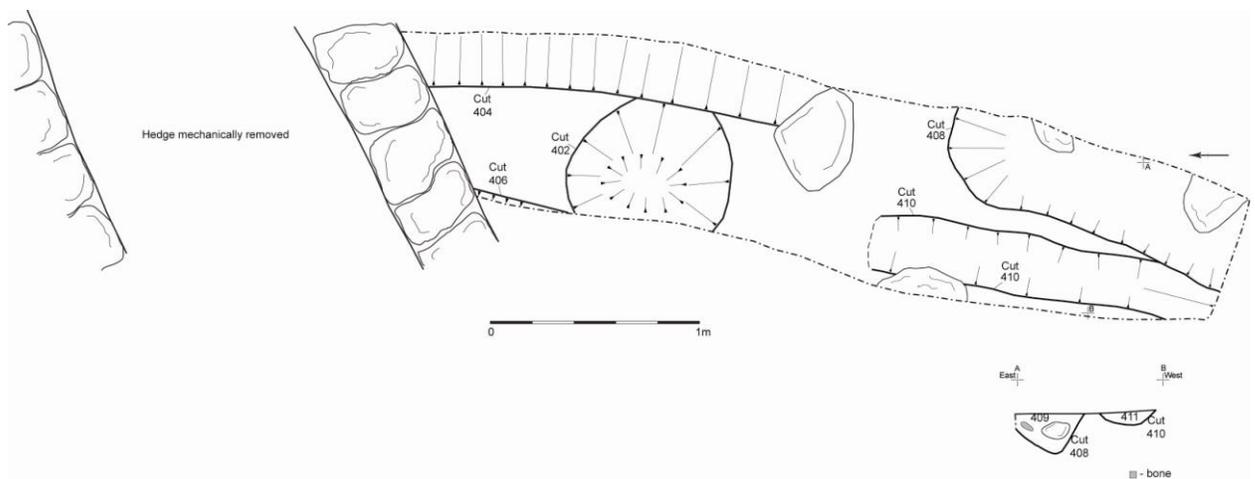
The only other notable finds of Mesolithic flint known from Carrickfergus was uncovered during an excavation at Joymount in 1949-1950 (Collins and Jope 1951). Forty-one worked pieces were recovered from that excavation, including flakes, blades and a single core.

*The Cable Trench beyond the site (in Market Place)*

During the period of the 2011 archaeological investigation, the cable trench that was mechanically excavated, under archaeological supervision within the site, to link the proposed new substation to the main grid in Market Place, was extended a further 10.5m beyond the limits of the site, southwards to the top of the steps that led down into the centre of Market Place and immediately to the south of the Bell Tower. Again, due to health and safety considerations, the capacity for archaeological recording and excavation within the southern extension of the cable trench was limited.

*In situ* archaeological deposits were recorded within the first three metres of the excavated cable trench beyond the limit of the site before modern disturbance, and the high occurrence of very large erratic stones in the natural, meant that strata became considerably more mixed.

Close to the southern limit of the site, below an approximately 0.4m depth of modern cobbled and tarmac surfaces, and strata containing plastic bags and modern redbrick, was located a compact dark grey-brown highly organic clay (C.401). This was recorded in the trench to a maximum depth of 0.50m above Keuper marl subsoil clay and many medieval artefacts were recovered from it along with later material, suggests that it was a mixed, possibly Post-Medieval deposit.



**Figure 19. 2011 cable trench. Features uncovered in the base of the trench, immediately south of the site limits, in Market Place.**

Layer C.401 overlay several other earlier cut features within the cable trench. These were all cut into the subsoil which was, as noted elsewhere on site, Keuper marl clay. The latest was a linear feature (cut C.404 and dark brown-black organic clay loam fill C.405), located along the eastern edge of the trench. It was a maximum width of 0.28m, east-west, and depth of 0.18m. C.404 had a maximum recorded length of 1.90m within the trench before disappearing beyond the limit of excavation. The linear feature cut an earlier pit (C.402 and dark-brown clay loam fill C.403), located immediately adjacent and to the south of it. Pit C.402 was sub-oval in shape and measured 0.80m long, north-south, by 0.57m wide, east-west. It was 0.22m deep. Medieval pottery and animal bone were recovered from the pit fill.

Approximately 0.50m south of linear cut C.404 was another linear feature (cut C.408 and dark-brown silty, clay fill C.409). It was recorded for a maximum length, north-south, of 1.32m. It was 0.33m wide and 0.23m deep. This feature, in turn cut another earlier linear feature uncovered on the western side of the trench (C.406/ C.410 and fills C. 407 and C.411 ).

The surviving Medieval deposits uncovered were clearly surviving evidence of urban build-up in the Market Place, which was once the core of the settlement at Carrickfergus. Due to the limited nature of the excavation available within the cable trench, the true nature of the linear features, which may represent the foundation trenches of Medieval buildings or property boundaries, could not be ascertained. Most of the modern walls, services and other extensive disturbance observed in the cable trench seem to date to the modern re-development of Market Place in the 1970s.

#### **4 The Finds**

As expected, from the environs of a Medieval graveyard, there were large quantities of disarticulated bone retrieved as well as the twelve skeletons. Given the proximity of the town Market Place, used since the late twelfth century, the large quantity of ceramics and animal bone was also to be expected. The interesting component to the finds assemblage was the number of prehistoric artefacts that were retrieved- including Bann Flakes, scrapers, hammer stones and pottery- evidence of at least two phases of previously unknown prehistoric settlement in the centre of Carrickfergus.

#### **4.1 Human Bone**

The remains of twelve complete or partially complete skeletons were recovered during the 2010 and 2011 excavations. These represent the remains of both adults and juveniles. Further analysis of the disarticulated human bone recovered from other contexts may allow an estimate of how many skeletons had originally been interred in the areas of the site investigated during the 2010 and 2011 excavations.

#### **4.2 Animal bone**

There were 48.55 kilos of mixed human and animal bone recovered from the 2010 and 2011 excavations. This material needs to be sorted into human and animal bone before further analysis can take place.

#### **4.3 Pottery**

There were 418 fragments of pottery retrieved from the 2010-2011 excavations. Most of these were glazed Medieval or post-Medieval types. However, there were also sherds of Medieval Ulster Coarse pottery from the assemblage showing, once again, that the native Irish and both locally-made glazed and imported Anglo-Norman types were in use in Carrickfergus during the Medieval period. The most interesting ceramic discovery, however, were the two sherds of coarse prehistoric pottery. These finds reinforce the suggestion that there was a prehistoric settlement on the glacial ridge in the centre of Carrickfergus.

#### **4.4 Flint**

A total of 24.45 kilos of flint were recovered from the 2010-2011 excavations. Flint types recorded include butt-trimmed flakes, scrapers, flakes and blades, single platform and multi-directional cores suggesting a Late Mesolithic- Early Neolithic date for much of the material (Brian Sloan *pers. comm.*).

#### **4.5 Stone**

A total of nine stone objects were recovered from the 2010-2011 excavations. These included four prehistoric hammer stones.

#### **4.6 Clay tobacco pipe**

A total of twenty-five stems and three bowls from clay tobacco pipes were uncovered from the site, all from the 2011 excavation.

#### **4.7 Glass**

Fifty-three fragments of window and bottle glass were recovered during the 2010-2011 excavations. While most of these are modern, two fragments of painted window glass were present in the assemblage. These two fragments are undoubtedly from the nearby St Nicholas' Church. Further specialist analysis should reveal whether they date to the Medieval church or from Chichester's restoration in the seventeenth century or later.

#### **4.8 Metalwork**

Fifty-seven fragments or complete metal objects were recovered. Many of the objects were modern. Most of the metal objects were of iron and included many nails as well as a key. Other metal finds included a button, the head of a copper-alloy shroud pin (unstratified) and another copper-alloy shroud pin associated with Skeleton C.118. Perhaps most interesting of the metal finds were two fragments of lead lcame associated with stained glass windows. Like the painted window glass noted above, the window leading almost certainly relates to the nearby St Nicholas' Church. Also uncovered was a possible (seventeenth-century) coin or token.

#### **4.9 Roofing tiles**

Twenty-nine fragments of roofing tile were recovered from the 2010-2011 excavations. Most of these were slate tiles and several of them were perforated. However, two were seventeenth-century glazed North Devon Gravel-Tempered ceramic roof tiles, one of which exhibited a thumb print on it. It may have come from St Nicholas' Church.

#### **4.10 Brick, building stone and mortar/render**

Four fragments of brick and building stone and two samples of mortar/ render were retrieved during the 2010-2011 excavations.

#### **4.11 Shell**

342.8 grams of shell were recovered from seven different contexts on the 2011 excavation.

#### **4.12 Environmental samples**

Four identifiable samples of charcoal, including three of short-lived species were retrieved from soil samples taken on the 2011 excavation. Three samples of charred grain fragments, four of charred hazelnut shell and one of charred seed were recovered from the 2011 excavation.

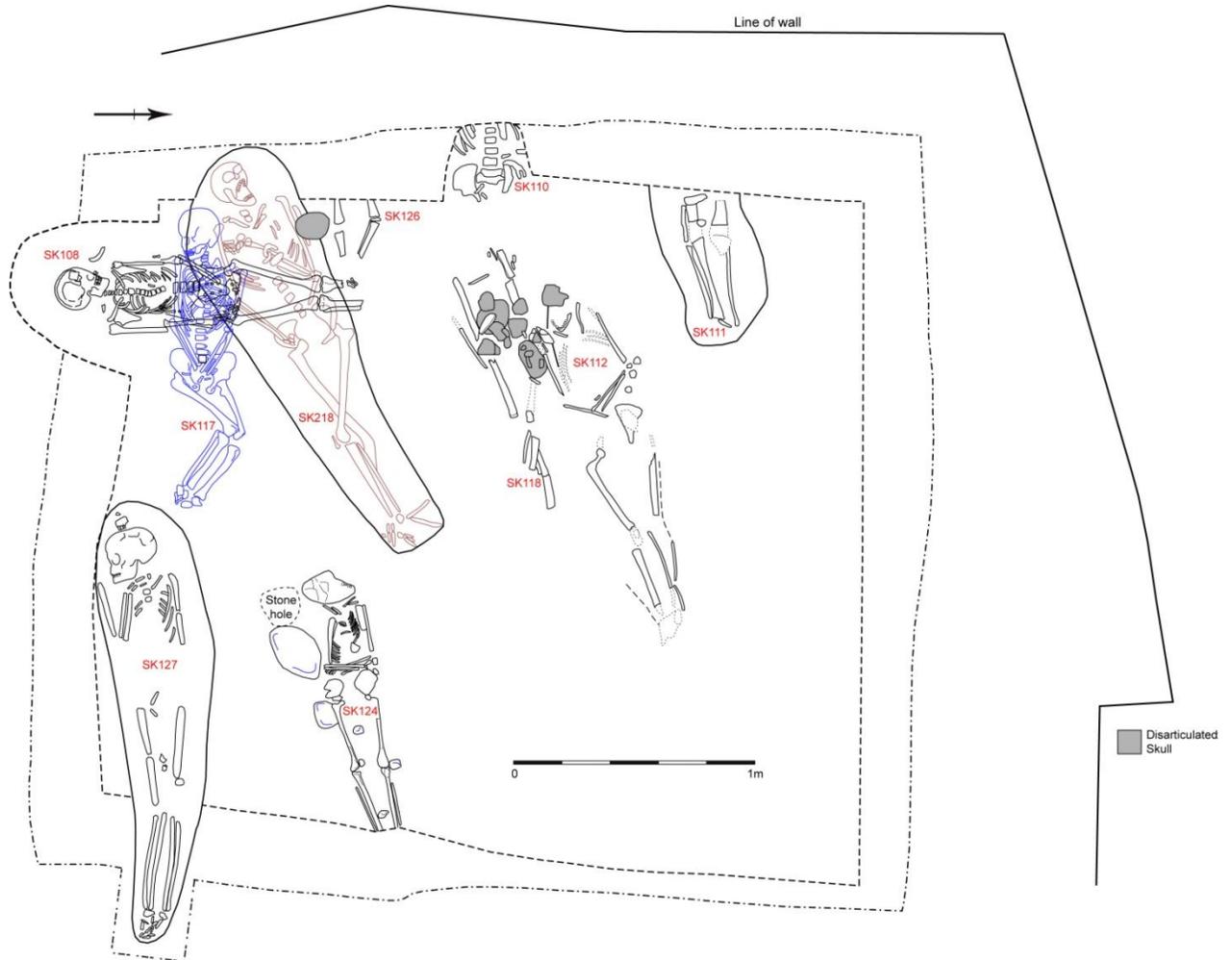
### **5 Discussion**

The 2010 and 2011 excavations at the NIE site at Market Place, Carrickfergus, uncovered the remains of twelve burials of adults and juveniles, along with hundreds of disarticulated human bones. The excavations showed that the Medieval graveyard associated with St Nicholas' Church once extended beyond the church's' present boundaries, perhaps as far south as Market Place and even as far east as North Street. Within the property, although there was evidence of disturbance along the eastern side of the site from wall-construction in the 1970s, the limited excavation that was carried out immediately to the south of the substation footprint suggests that undisturbed burials may still be located in the middle and western part of the site.

The excavation uncovered four phases of burial within the area of the substation, showing that burials continued here to perhaps as late as the seventeenth century or even later. The curious orientation of the latest burials to be uncovered during the excavations indicates that the burial practices or traditions changed, for whatever reason, and were not all carried out in the same way.

Skeletons C.108 and C.109 were the latest burials to be uncovered during the 2010 and 2011 archaeological excavations. It means that in terms of the current St Nicholas' Church graveyard there is a historical discontinuity in the burials. It is uncertain when the current graveyard took on its current layout. Although the actual wall itself is probably later, the line of the eastern churchyard boundary wall seems to be fairly constant from at least the end of the sixteenth century, when it is portrayed on the *circa* 1596 map (Figure 5). Much evidence has also been, doubtless, lost as a result of the extensive modern activity and disturbance on site. The many disarticulated bones found in the modern

layers on site might suggest that there were later burials that have been subsequently disturbed in recent times.



**Figure 20. Overlay plan showing the location of the skeletons uncovered in the 2010 and 2011 excavations within the substation trench. Skeletons 109 (feet only) and 217 (partial remains overlying Skeleton 218) are not shown.**

The burials found in 2010 and 2011 are the fourth major archaeological excavation of burials in the centre of historic Carrickfergus, most of which date to the Medieval period and all of which are in the environs of the two main Medieval religious houses in the town, St Nicholas' Church and the Franciscan Friary. More than one hundred burials have now been recorded. Taken together they represent one of the best samples of human remains recorded from any historic town in Ireland to date.

The large number of struck prehistoric flints and blades, along with hammer stones and pottery found at the base of the cable trench suggest that there may have been a settlement in the immediate environs in the prehistoric period. This appears to be the first ever archaeological evidence of a prehistoric settlement in the centre of historic Carrickfergus. Given that St Nicholas' Church was constructed on a well-drained glacial ridge that would have protected wooden structures from rotting, it should not be a surprise that prehistoric peoples also recognized the potential of locating a settlement in this area.

## **6 Conclusion**

The discovery of new burials at Market Place, Carrickfergus and also the evidence of prehistoric settlement close to the excavation site, are further indicators of the town's important archaeological and historical heritage. The archaeological discoveries from the 2010 and 2011 CAF excavations suggest that if the rest of the property where the archaeological investigations took place was re-developed further burials and possibly also prehistoric material are likely to be uncovered.

## **7 Recommendations for further work**

### **7.1 Publication**

The excavations carried out in 2010 and 2011 at Market Place, Carrickfergus, uncovered two important new strands of evidence in the story of the town. The first is that of a previously unknown prehistoric settlement in the town centre. The second is that well-stratified sections of the graveyard attached to St Nicholas' Church clearly survive beyond the limits of the current churchyard boundary walls. Given the importance of St Nicholas' and the lack of published material on both prehistoric Carrickfergus and the later, Medieval, cemeteries in the town, it is recommended that full publication of the 200-2011 excavations takes place. It is suggested that the excavation be published in a peer-review journal such as *The Ulster Journal of Archaeology* or *Medieval Archaeology*.

### **7.2 Specialist work**

A large number and variety of artefacts were uncovered from the 2010 and 2011 excavations at Market Place, Carrickfergus. These include human and animal bone, ceramics, worked flints, glass, clay tobacco pipes, metal work, roof tiles, shell and environmental samples, all of which will require specialist analysis and reports.

### **7.3 Radiocarbon dates**

It is recommended that a suite of radiocarbon samples are submitted and dated to provide a chronology for the site. None of the skeletons can be independently dated as, apart from one or two pieces of ceramics found in the fill of the one of the earlier grave cuts, no datable finds were found in secure contexts in association with any of the skeletons. The stratigraphy provides an internal sequence but no direct dating evidence. The broad cartographic and documentary references to the construction of the church and graveyard are the only real dating evidence that we have. It is therefore recommended that a minimum of four dates, one sample from each of the four phases, is submitted with the sampling of the skeletons to be carried out, and recorded by a human osteologist. It is recommended that a further two dates from a second skeleton from Phases 1 and 4 respectively are also submitted to provide a more secure chronology and start and end for the use of this part of the cemetery. It is also recommended that should suitable dating material be recovered from the samples retained from the linear features, and possible medieval structural remains, at the Market Place end of the site, that these are also submitted for radiocarbon dating.

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## 9 Appendices

### Appendix One: Context Register

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
101	Substation trench. Layer.	Modern garden soil. Phase 5.
102	Substation trench. Layer.	Modern build-up. Phase 5.
103	Substation trench. Layer.	Modern build-up. Phase 5.
104	Substation trench. Layer.	Phase 4. Same as C. 209.
105	Substation trench. Layer.	Phase 2.
106	Substation trench. Cut.	Modern cut. Phase 5
107	Substation trench. Fill.	Fill of cut C.107. Phase 5.
108	Substation trench. Human bone.	Skeleton. Phase 4.
109	Substation trench. Human bone.	Skeleton. Phase 4.
110	Substation trench. Human bone.	Skeleton. Phase 2.
111	Substation trench. Human bone.	Skeleton. Phase 1.
112	Substation trench. Human bone.	Skeleton. Phase 3.
113	Substation trench. Cut.	Grave cut for Skeleton C.111. Phase 1.
114	Substation trench. Fill.	Grave fill within burial cut C.113. Phase 1.
115	Substation trench.	Grave fill for Skeleton C.112. Phase 3.
116	Substation trench. Layer.	Phase 3. Same as C.210.
117	Substation trench. Human bone.	Skeleton. Phase 3.
118	Substation trench. Human bone.	Skeleton. Phase 1.
119	Substation trench. Cut.	Grave cut for Skeleton C.119. Phase 1
120	Substation trench.	Grave fill within burial cut C.119. Phase 1
121	Substation trench.	Layer. Phase 1.
122	Substation trench. Cut.	Grave cut for Skeleton C.117. Phase 3.
123	Substation trench. Fill.	Grave fill for Skeleton C.117. Phase 3.
124	Substation trench. Human bone.	Skeleton. Phase 1.
125	Substation trench. Fill.	Grave fill for Skeleton C.124. Phase 1.
126	Substation trench. Human bone.	Skeleton. Phase 2.
127	Substation trench. Human bone.	Skeleton. Phase 1.
201	Substation trench. Layer. Light brown soil.	Modern topsoil.
202	Substation trench. Layer. Grey-green gravel.	Modern surface.
203	Substation trench. Layer. Grey-brown clay soil.	Modern dump layer.
204	Substation trench. Fill. Grey-brown clay soil.	Fill of cut C.225. ?Modern.
205	Substation trench. Fill. Grey-brown clay	Fill of cut C.225. ?Modern.

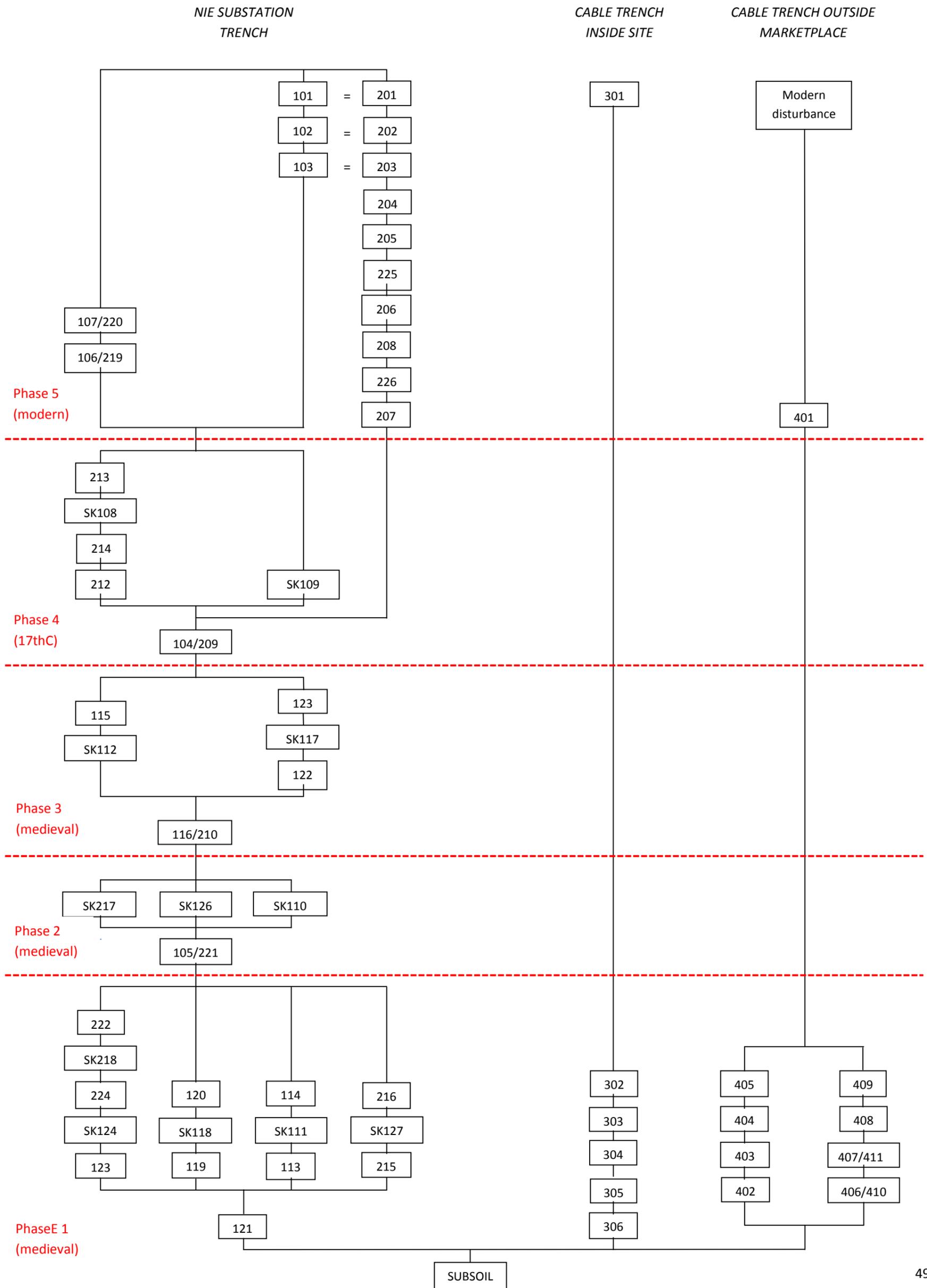
*Excavations in 2010-11 at Market Place, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, adjacent to St Nicholas' Church  
Preliminary Report*

	soil, with charcoal.	
<b>206</b>	Substation trench. Deposit. Dark-grey brown.	?Modern.
<b>207</b>	Substation trench. Cut.	Modern. Robbed out wall? Contains C.208 and C.226. Cut by C225.
<b>208</b>	Substation trench. Fill. Grey-brown clay.	Fill of cut C.207. Modern.
<b>209</b>	Substation trench. Layer. Reddish brown clay.	Phase 4 horizon. Medieval.
<b>210</b>	Substation trench. Layer. Flint, round pebbles.	Phase 3 horizon. Medieval path in graveyard?.
<b>211</b>	Substation trench. Layer. Reddish-brown clay.	Phase 2 horizon. Medieval. Above C.121 (in west-facing section face)
<b>212</b>	Substation trench. Layer. Light brown clay-loam	Cut by grave cut C. 214, containing Skeleton C.108. 17thC?
<b>213</b>	Substation trench. Fill. Dark gritty loam.	Fill of grave cut C.214. 17thC?
<b>214</b>	Substation trench. Cut.	Grave cut containing Skeleton C.108 and grave fill C.213.
<b>215</b>	Substation trench. Cut.	Grave cut containing Skeleton 127 and grave fill C.216.
<b>216</b>	Substation trench. Fill. Grey-brown clay loam.	Fill of grave cut C.216.
<b>217</b>	Substation trench. Human bone.	Skeleton.
<b>218</b>	Substation trench. Human bone.	Skeleton within grave cut C.224.
<b>219</b>	Substation trench.	Void.
<b>220</b>	Substation trench.	Void.
<b>221</b>	Substation trench.	Void.
<b>222</b>	Substation trench. Fill.	Fill of grave cut C.224.
<b>223</b>	Substation trench. Cut.	Same as C.225.
<b>224</b>	Substation trench. Cut.	Grave cut for Skeleton C.218. Also contained grave fill C.222.
<b>225</b>	Substation trench. Cut.	Pit. ?Modern. Filled by C. 204 and C.205. Cuts C. 207. Same as C.223.
<b>226</b>	Substation trench. Fill. Mortar.	Basal fill of cut C.207. Modern.
<b>301</b>	Cable trench. Layer.	Main trench layer. Backfill of foundation trench for modern breeze block wall. Mixture of modern disturbance and re-deposition of Medieval and later strata.
<b>302</b>	Cable trench. Layer.	Brown silty loam. Above C.303.
<b>303</b>	Cable trench. Fill.	Fill of linear cut C.304.
<b>304</b>	Cable trench. Cut.	Linear cut. ?Medieval foundation trench. Filled by C.303. Cuts C.305.
<b>305</b>	Cable trench. Deposit. Red clay marl.	Above C. 306. Cut by C.304.
<b>306</b>	Cable trench. Layer? Brown sandy loam.	Below C.305. Largely unexcavated.
<b>401</b>	Cable trench. Layer	Main surviving in situ stratum in cable trench south of site limits. ?Medieval
<b>402</b>	Cable trench. Cut.	Sub-oval pit cut. ? Medieval. Cut by C.404.

*Excavations in 2010-11 at Market Place, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, adjacent to St Nicholas' Church  
Preliminary Report*

<b>403</b>	Cable trench. Fill. Dark brown clay loam.	Fill of pit C.402.
<b>404</b>	Cable trench. Cut.	Linear cut. Wall slot or property boundary? Medieval? Filled by C.405. Cuts pit C.402.
<b>405</b>	Cable trench. Fill. Dark-brown- black clay loam.	Fill of linear cut C.404.
<b>406</b>	Cable trench. Cut.	Linear cut. Same as C.410. Wall slot or property boundary? Medieval? filled by C.407/ C.411.
<b>407</b>	Cable trench. Fill. Dark-brown- black clay gritty loam.	Fill of cut C.406. Same as C.411.
<b>408</b>	Cable trench. Cut.	Linear cut. Wall slot or property boundary? Medieval? Filled by C.408. Cuts C.410.
<b>409</b>	Cable trench. Fill. Grey-black/ dark brown silty clay.	Fill of linear cut C.408.
<b>410</b>	Cable trench. Cut.	Linear cut. Same as C.406. Wall slot or property boundary? Medieval? filled by C.407/ C.411.
<b>411</b>	Cable trench. Fill. Brown gritty loam.	Fill of linear cut C.410. Same as C.407.

Appendix Two: Harris matrices



### Appendix Three: Register of finds

The following is the list of finds recovered from the 2010 (SN'10) and 2011 (CFMP'11) seasons of excavation

#### Animal and Human Bone (SN'10)

Context No.	Description	Weight (g)
104	Unidentified & mixed (2 bags)	2868.5
105	Unidentified & mixed	556.0
116	Unidentified & mixed	2.5
116	Disarticulated human bone	39.6
123	Animal bone (2 bags)	41.6
125	Burnt bone found during excavation of SK 124	0.7
Unstratified	Unidentified & mixed (3 bags)	3787.2
?	Disarticulated Left clavicle	8.6

#### Animal and Human Bone (CFMP'11)

Context No.	Description	Weight (g)
200	Unidentified & mixed (2 bags)	5183.5
201	Unidentified & mixed	55.3
203	Unidentified & mixed	2001.1
208	Unidentified & mixed	21.5
209	Unidentified & mixed	914.6
210	Unidentified & mixed	9.7
211	Unidentified & mixed	1439.4
212	Unidentified & mixed	1293.3
213	Unidentified & mixed, from grave fill of SK 108 (3bags)	91.8
301	Unidentified & mixed (8 bags)	24560.7
301	Polished bone artefact	13.0

*Excavations in 2010-11 at Market Place, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, adjacent to St Nicholas' Church  
Preliminary Report*

<b>302</b>	<b>Unidentified &amp; mixed</b>	<b>757.3</b>
<b>303</b>	<b>Unidentified &amp; mixed, some evidence of butchering (2 bags)</b>	<b>634.4</b>
<b>306</b>	<b>Unidentified &amp; mixed</b>	<b>37.2</b>
<b>401</b>	<b>Unidentified &amp; mixed</b>	<b>2107.2</b>
<b>402</b>	<b>Unidentified &amp; mixed</b>	<b>921.7</b>
<b>403</b>	<b>Unidentified &amp; mixed</b>	<b>80.3</b>
<b>405</b>	<b>Unidentified &amp; mixed</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>409</b>	<b>Unidentified &amp; mixed (2 bags)</b>	<b>701.5</b>
<b>411</b>	<b>Unidentified &amp; mixed (2 bags)</b>	<b>303.6</b>

**Skeletal Remains (SN'10)**

<b>Skeleton No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
<b>108</b>	<b>Left arm &amp; metacarpals</b>	<b>62.5</b>
<b>108</b>	<b>Right arm &amp; metacarpals</b>	<b>51.5</b>
<b>108</b>	<b>Vertebrae, pelvis &amp; sacrum</b>	<b>289.1</b>
<b>108</b>	<b>Left leg</b>	<b>163.1</b>
<b>108</b>	<b>Right leg</b>	<b>207.0</b>
<b>108</b>	<b>Unidentified &amp; fragments (2 bags)</b>	<b>87.6</b>
<b>109</b>	<b>Left metatarsals</b>	<b>180.3</b>
<b>109</b>	<b>Right metatarsals</b>	<b>166.5</b>
<b>109</b>	<b>Unidentified &amp; fragments (2 bags)</b>	<b>12.5</b>
<b>110</b>	<b>Vertebrae</b>	<b>137.3</b>
<b>110</b>	<b>Right metacarpals</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>110</b>	<b>Pelvic bones</b>	<b>146.5</b>
<b>110</b>	<b>Unidentified &amp; fragments (3 bags)</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>117</b>	<b>Cranium &amp; mandible</b>	<b>250.0</b>
<b>117</b>	<b>Left thorax, ribs &amp; clavicle</b>	<b>85.2</b>
<b>117</b>	<b>Right thorax</b>	<b>100.2</b>

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Preliminary Report*

117	Scapula & sternum	76.4
117	Vertebrae	267.0
117	Left arm	61.7
117	Right arm	78.3
117	Innominate & Sacrum	257.9
117	Metacarpals and phalanges from pelvic area	64.2
117	Metacarpals and phalanges from left pelvis	11.7
117	Metacarpals and phalanges from right pelvis	4.3
117	Left leg	146.9
117	Tibia & fibula	148.9
117	Right femur	43.6
117	Metatarsals	69.0
117	Unidentified & fragments (2 bags)	20.5
111	Patella (right?)	13.5
111	Lower left leg	63.5
111	Lower right leg	242.8
111	Metatarsals	19.3
111	Unidentified & fragments (2 bags)	90.9
112 or 118?	Cranium	240.8
112	Cranium fragments & teeth	61.3
112	Right clavicle	8.2
112	Left arm	87.5
112	Right arm	68.3
112	Left pelvis & right metacarpals	63.8
112	Left leg	244.1
112	Right leg	272.9
112	Metatarsals?	75.2
112	Unidentified & fragments (2 bags)	45.0

*Excavations in 2010-11 at Market Place, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, adjacent to St Nicholas' Church  
Preliminary Report*

118	Bones 'A, B, L'	45.1
118	Bone 'C'	144.1
118	Bone 'D'	52.3
118	Skull 'E'	199.7
118	Bone 'F'	177.9
118	Skull 'G'	121.1
118	Bone 'H'	500.1
118	Bone 'I'	95.5
118	Bone 'J'	145.8
118	Bone 'K'	99.8
118	Bone 'M'	63.8
118	Unidentified & fragments	120.0
118	Unidentified & fragments, mostly lying below 'E & J'	205.9
123	Unidentified & fragments	39.5
124	Cranium & mandible	154.0
124	Left clavicle, scapula & ribs	22.1
124	Right clavicle and scapula	33.3
124	Left arm	18.0
124	Right arm	48.0
124	Left metacarpals	18.8
124	Right metacarpals	6.1
124	Left innominate	30.5
124	Right innominate	16.1
124	Left leg	130.6
124	Right leg	146.6
124	Unidentified & fragments	26.6
124?	Disarticulated skull from context of skeleton 124?	193.1
125	Unidentified & fragments	25.1

*Excavations in 2010-11 at Market Place, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, adjacent to St Nicholas' Church  
Preliminary Report*

126	Left leg	45.1
126	Right leg	14.4
126	Metatarsals	3.7
126	Unidentified & fragments	2.7

**Skeletal Remains (CFMP'11)**

Skeleton No.	Description	Weight (g)
108	Cranium	248.6
108	Mandible	40.3
108	Left clavicle	7.5
108	Right clavicle	10.9
108	Sternum	1.7
108	Left scapula	22.8
108	Right scapula	24.8
108	Vertebrae	129.4
108	Left thorax	48.9
108	Right thorax	40.4
108	Left humerus	49.3
108	Right humerus	51.3
108	Metacarpals	2.2
108	Unidentified & fragments from around cranium	5.5
108	Unidentified & fragments from grave fill C213 (2 bags)	64.3
124	Disarticulated human remains, possibly associated with SK 124	15.1
127	Cranium	335.4
127	Mandible	94.1
127	Left clavicle	7.8
127	Right clavicle	8.9
127	Left scapula	2.8

*Excavations in 2010-11 at Market Place, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, adjacent to St Nicholas' Church  
Preliminary Report*

127	Right scapula	1.1
127	Thorax	122.4
127	Vertebrae	79.6
127	Left humerus	17.8
127	Right humerus	20.0
127	Left radial head	1.1
127	Left radius	1.2
127	Right radius and ulna	43.0
127	Left metacarpals	7.7
127	Right metacarpals	29.4
127	Left femur	92.4
127	Right femur	122.1
127	Metatarsals	50.3
127	Unidentified & fragments from around cranium	2.1
127	Unidentified & fragments, from C216 (2 bags)	48.2
209	Cranium	62.7
217	Cranium	266.3
217	Pelvis	65.8
217	Right femur	249.7
217	Left tibia and fibula	88.1
217	Right tibia	73.0
217	Right tibia and fibula fragments	69.2
217	Metatarsals	50.2
217	Unidentified & fragments (3 bags)	421.0
218	Cranium	448.4
218	Mandible	81.1
218	Clavicle(left and right)	42.7
218	Left scapula	45.4

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Preliminary Report*

218	Right scapula	49.2
218	Sternum	11.5
218	Vertebrae	486.3
218	Left thorax	161.2
218	Right thorax	185.6
218	Left radius and ulna	100.1
218	Right ulna	97.7
218	Left humerus	151.5
218	Right humerus	148.2
218	Left metacarpals	32.1
218	Right metacarpals	56.1
218	Sacrum	132.4
218	Left pelvic bone	234
218	Right pelvic bone	271.2
218	Left femur	448.3
218	Right femur	487.2
218	Left tibia and fibula	255.3
218	Right tibia and fibula	121.8
218	Metatarsals	195.5
218	Unidentified & fragments (5 bags)	261.6
218	Unidentified & fragments from around pelvis	26.2
218	Unidentified & fragments from around cranium	38.8
218	Unidentified & fragments from around thorax	27.9

**Flint (SN'10)**

Context No.	Weight (g)
104	3.4
105	222.3

*Excavations in 2010-11 at Market Place, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, adjacent to St Nicholas' Church  
Preliminary Report*

<b>105</b>	<b>441.2</b>
<b>107</b>	<b>32.3</b>
<b>114</b>	<b>17.6</b>
<b>115?</b>	<b>11.0</b>
<b>125</b>	<b>166.9</b>
<b>Fill of C120?</b>	<b>93.6</b>
<b>123</b>	<b>39.1</b>
<b>Around SK 117</b>	<b>12.4</b>
<b>Around SK 126</b>	<b>63.9</b>

**Flint (CFMP'11)**

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
<b>200</b>	<b>163.8</b>
<b>203</b>	<b>59.9</b>
<b>209</b>	<b>441.4</b>
<b>211</b>	<b>3783.7</b>
<b>212</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>213</b>	<b>14.3</b>
<b>301</b>	<b>8655.1</b>
<b>302</b>	<b>5384.1</b>
<b>303</b>	<b>2908.2</b>
<b>306</b>	<b>126.6</b>
<b>401</b>	<b>981.7</b>
<b>403</b>	<b>130.2</b>
<b>405</b>	<b>31.1</b>
<b>409</b>	<b>227.0</b>

*Excavations in 2010-11 at Market Place, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, adjacent to St Nicholas' Church  
Preliminary Report*

411	378.6
Around SK.124	53.0

**Pottery and Ceramics (SN'10)**

Context No.	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
104	Unsorted (2 bags)	13	129.3
105	Unsorted	22	112.5
107	Unsorted	2	12.9
115	Unsorted	1	14.4
116	Unsorted	3	22.4
123	Unsorted	1	5.1
125	Unsorted	18	184.1
Unstratified	Unsorted (3 bags)	25	355.6
Around SK 118	Unsorted	2	1.4

**Pottery and Ceramics (CFMP'11)**

Context No.	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
200	Unsorted (2 bags)	49	608.4
200	Medieval pottery	1	5.2
201	Unsorted	3	40.4
203	Unsorted (2 bags)	11	110.3
208	Unsorted	1	4.1
209	Medieval jug spout from 2010 trench	1	59.6
210	Unsorted	1	2.3
211	Unsorted	32	270.1
212	Unsorted	5	78.2

*Excavations in 2010-11 at Market Place, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, adjacent to St Nicholas' Church  
Preliminary Report*

213	Unsorted	5	1.7
214	Unsorted	1	6.4
219	Unsorted	5	76.7
301	Unsorted (7 bags)	97	3178.9
301	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century blackware	1	83.7
301	Everted rim ware	4	123.8
301	17 <sup>th</sup> century sgraffito ware	1	8.1
301	Strap handle of North Devon gravel free jug	1	26.8
301	North Devon gravel tempered	4	71.2
301	Saintonge French medieval pottery	1	4.0
301	Strap handles of medieval jugs	2	72.6
301	16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century German stoneware	1	3.9
301	Scottish Spongeware	1	2.6
302	Unsorted	17	188.9
302	Rim of medieval pot	1	22.8
302	Prehistoric pot?	1	7.0
303	Unsorted (2 bags)	35	165.0
303	Rim and base of medieval cooking pot	4	63.2
306	Unsorted	1	6.7
401	Unsorted	13	148.4
401	Everted rim ware	5	121.1
403	Unsorted	1	2.0
409	Unsorted (3 bags)	18	154.3
411	Unsorted (2 bags)	5	20.1
?	C17th-18 <sup>th</sup> Staffordshire	2	10.4

**Clay Tobacco Pipe (CFMP'11)**

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Quantity/Description</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
200	1 stem -	2.4
301	24 stems, 3 bowls	76.1

**Shell (CFMP'11)**

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
200	13.1
213	1.4
301	20.8
302	14.3
303	12.9
401	26.5
409	253.8

**Glass (CFMP'11)**

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
200	Patinated window glass	2	3.9
200	Patinated bottle glass	1	10.9
200	Mixed, bottle glass	17	105.9
201	Mixed, bottle glass	2	22.7
203	Mixed, bottle glass	6	113.4
301	Mixed, bottle and modern window glass	17	165.0
301	Patinated window glass	8	25.5

**Stone Objects (CFMP'11)**

Context No.	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
211	Hammer stone	1	375.6
301	Hammer stone	1	164.7
301	Stone	1	22.5
302	Stone	1	109.9
302	Quartzite hammer stone?	1	405.5
303	Hammer stone	1	210.2
303	Stone	3	211.4
409	Chalk?	1	482.9

**Stone (SN'10)**

Context No.	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
104	Stone	1	307.7

**Slate and Roof Tile (SN'10)**

Context No.	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
104	Slate	1	41.9
105	Slate (1 perforated)	3	91
105	Roof tile fragments	5	96.7
125	Slate (1 perforated)	1	17.6

**Slate and Roof Tile (CFMP'11)**

Context No.	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
200	Perforated roof slate	3	224.8
210	Roof tile	1	69.2

*Excavations in 2010-11 at Market Place, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, adjacent to St Nicholas' Church  
Preliminary Report*

211	Roof tile	2	512.3
213	Roof slate fragments	--	9.4
301	Perforated roof slate	1	45.8
301	17 <sup>th</sup> century North Devon glazed roof tile?	1	64.4
301	17 <sup>th</sup> century North Devon gravel tempered roof tile with thumb print	1	151.2
302	Roof slate	3	259.9
401	Roof slate	1	2132.8
409	Roof slate	6	127.3

**Brick (SN'10)**

Context No.	Description	Weight
Unstratified	Brick	5.0

**Brick, Building Stone and Mortar/Render (CFMP'11)**

Context No.	Description	Weight (g)
203	Brick	1100.6
301	Brick & building stone	1542.6
301	Mortar/render	566.1
301	Brick	15.1
301	Mortar/render	11.4

**Other finds (CFMP'11)**

Context No.	Description	Weight (g)
301	Slag/iron rich hearth material (3 bags)	8504.1
301	Burnt clay/hearth material	55.2
303	Coal	0.6

**Metalwork (SN'10)**

Context No.	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
104	Iron nail	1	12.9
105	Miscellaneous ironwork includes 2 nails	3	379.8
105	Head of copper shroud pin	1	0.3
107	Iron nail	1	35.2
Unstratified	Coin/token	1	4.5
Unstratified	Iron nails	2	17.2
Around SK 108	Iron nail	1	54.6

**Metalwork (CFMP'11)**

Context No.	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
200	Unidentified possible metalwork	1	17.1
200	Bottle opener from Swiss army knife	1	5.8
200	Coin 2009 two pence	1	7.3
200	Iron nails, one through a fragment of wood	2	12.8
201	Aluminum can top	1	0.6
203	Iron nails and wire	3	34.5
203	Iron key (from eastern extension of 2010 trench)	1	55.3
204	Possible iron work	1	21.9
211	Iron nails	3	30.5
212	Iron nail	1	17.1
213	Copper pin (from grave fill of SK108)	1	0.1
213	Iron nail (from grave fill of SK 108)	1	5.4

*Excavations in 2010-11 at Market Place, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, adjacent to St Nicholas' Church  
Preliminary Report*

213	Iron slag (from grave fill of SK 108)	--	0.3
220	4 hole button with imprinted writing	1	1.7
301	Window lead	1	6.5
301	Cut lead flashing	2	105.1
301	Metal and plastic pigeon identifier ring 'GB 2001, C30939'	1	0.6
301	Iron nails & other ferrous objects	18	407.3
303	Iron slag	--	38.5
401	Modern door latch (non-ferrous mix)	1	86.5
401	Iron slag	--	240.3
401	Iron nail	1	13.6
409	Iron slag	--	5.3
Unstratified	Copper pipe	4	280.2
Unstratified	Iron nail (from 2010 trench)	1	6.1

**Charcoal (unidentifiable) from CFMP'11**

Context No.	Weight (g)				
411	2.1				
108 from around humerus context 213	0.1				
303	10.3				
409	13.4				

**Dating material from CFMP'11 samples**

**Short-lived charcoal**

Context No.	Sample No.	Weight (g)	
303	1	<0.1	
409	--	0.9	

*Excavations in 2010-11 at Market Place, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, adjacent to St Nicholas' Church  
Preliminary Report*

<b>411</b>	--	<b>0.1</b>	
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**Charred grains**

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Sample No.</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
<b>303</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>409</b>	--	<b>66</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>411</b>	--	<b>15</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>

**Charred seeds and hazelnut shell fragments**

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Sample No.</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
<b>303</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 (hazelnut shell)</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>
<b>411</b>	--	<b>2 (hazelnut shell)</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>
<b>411</b>	--	<b>2 (seeds)</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>

**Appendix Four: Drawing Register**

**SN'10 Plans**

<b>Drawing No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Drawn by/ Date</b>
1	Substation trench. Plan of Skeletons C.110. C.111, C.112, C.114, C.118 and C.126. Also shown are cuts C.106, C.113 and 119.	1:10	RL 5/8/10
2	Substation trench. Plan of lower half of Skeleton C.108 and Skeleton C.124.	1:10	EVM 5/8/10
3	Substation trench. Plan of Skeleton C.117.	1:10	EVM 9/8/10

**CFMP'11 Sections/ Profiles**

<b>Drawing No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Drawn by/ Date</b>
1	Substation trench. West-facing.	1:10	SA/SB 8/6/11
2	Substation trench. South-facing.	1:10	CC/PC 9/6/11
3	Substation trench. East-facing.	1:10	JA 10/6/11
4	Substation trench. North-facing.	1:10	JM 15/6/11
5	Link between substation and cable trenches. South-facing.	1:10	SA 30/6/11
6	Cable trench. North-facing through cuts C.408 and 410.	1:10	BS 21/6/11
7	Substation trench. Profile of grave cut C.215, associated with Skeleton C.127.	1:10	BS 24/6/11
8	Cable trench. North-facing section through cut C.304/ fill C.303.	1:10	BS 15/6/11
9	Cable trench. North-facing section through cut C.304/ fill C.303.	1:10	BS 15/6/11

**CFMP'11 Plans**

<b>Drawing No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Drawn by/ Date</b>
1	Cable trench. Post-excavation plan of cuts C.408 and C.410.	1:10	BS 21/6/11
2	Cable trench. Post-excavation plan of showing cuts C.402, C.404 and C.406.	1:10	BS 21/6/11
3	Substation trench. Plan of grave cut C.215 for skeleton C.127	1:10	BS 24/6/11
4	Substation trench. Post-excavation plan of grave cut 215, associated with Skeleton C.127.	1:10	BS 24/6/11
5	Substation trench. Skeleton C.127 mid-excavation.	1:10	JM 22/6/11
6	Southern extension to substation trench. Upper half of Skeleton C.108.	1:10	JM 24/6/11
7	Post-excavation plan of grave cut C.214 associated with Skeleton C.108	1:10	JM 24/6/11
8	Cable trench. Plan of cuts C.408 and C.411.	1:10	RÓB 24/6/11
9	Substation trench. Plan of Skeletons C.217 and C.218, and modern cut C.219	1:10	BS 29/6/11
10	Substation trench. Lower legs and feet of Skeleton C.127.	1:10	GR 30/6/11
11	Cable trench. Pre-excavation plan of cut C.303 and fill C.304.	1:10	BS 14/6/11
12	Cable trench. Post-excavation plan of C.304.	1:10	BS 14/6/11
13	Cable trench. Plan of cable trench within the main site.	1:20	RÓB 27/6/11
14	Cable trench. Plan of southern end of cable trench beyond the main site into Market Place.	1:20	RÓB 30/6/11
15	Substation trench. Plan of Skeleton C.218, after removal of Skeleton C.217.	1:10	BS 30/6/11
16	Substation trench. Post-excavation plan of grave cut C.216.	1:10	BS 1/7/11