

# DUBLIN CITY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE: Dublin City Walls  
OTHER NAME(S):  
IGH THEME: IGH 15 Economic Geology  
TOWNLAND(S):  
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE: In Dublin City  
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER: 18  
ITM CO-ORDINATES: 714917E 734026N (Cook Street)  
715002E 733800N (Powers Square)  
715248E 733854N (Ship Street)  
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER: 50 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO: 16

## Outline Site Description

Three remaining sections of the Medieval city walls of Dublin City.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The walls are composed of local Calp limestone of Carboniferous age, but built between 1100 and 1125, also incorporating some later historic re-facings and additions including the 20th Century addition of a crenelated parapet at Cook Street.

## Main Geological and Geomorphological Interest

The sections of the wall are representative of the early use of local stone in defensive construction. Whilst most of the City walls are no longer extant, there are several short sections surviving. The three sections comprising this site are perhaps the longest and most intact. The best section, and most dramatic because of its height, is seen along Cook Street, below St. Audoen's Church. A long section of wall including Stanhurst's Tower is seen in Ship Street adjacent to the entrance into Dublin Castle. The Bermingham Tower and Record Tower and below ground the remains of the Powder tower are the principal remains of the city defences within Dublin Castle. A further surviving long section of wall can be seen in Power's Square, close to the Iveagh Markets. Sections of note, but which are not included in this site definition, also occur in the basement of Civic Offices at Wood Quay; a short section of wall in Lamb Alley and Isolde's Tower, preserved but barely visible in an underground chamber at the base of a new building on Exchange Street Lower.

## Site Importance: County Geological Site

This site constitutes an important reference point for the early use of local building stone within the urban environment of Dublin City, and historical development of a capital city.

## Management/promotion issues

Dublin City Council have made important efforts to protect and promote the remaining segments of the city walls and through a diversity of devices and signs in the streets and at Newmarket through the clever public realm design, the position of the walls can be followed where no upstanding remains are seen. An excellent booklet outlining the story of the walls with the detailed map (used here) is freely available. A very detailed Dublin City Walls and Defences Conservation Plan (2004) for the City Walls can be downloaded from the Council website:

<http://www.dublincity.ie/main-menu-services-planning-heritage-and-conservation/heritage>

An iPhone App tour (<https://itunes.apple.com/ie/app/dublin-city-walls/id388288868?mt=8>) of the city walls is also available. The Dublin City Council City Walls iPhone app offers a unique guide to the medieval history of Dublin City. Using the historic city wall as its framework, it blends graphics, videos, photos and breathtaking 3D animations of the medieval world.



The section of wall in Ship Street, looking east with Stanhurst's Tower in the middle.



The section of wall visible in Power's Square.



The section of wall in Cook Street below St. Audoen's Church.



