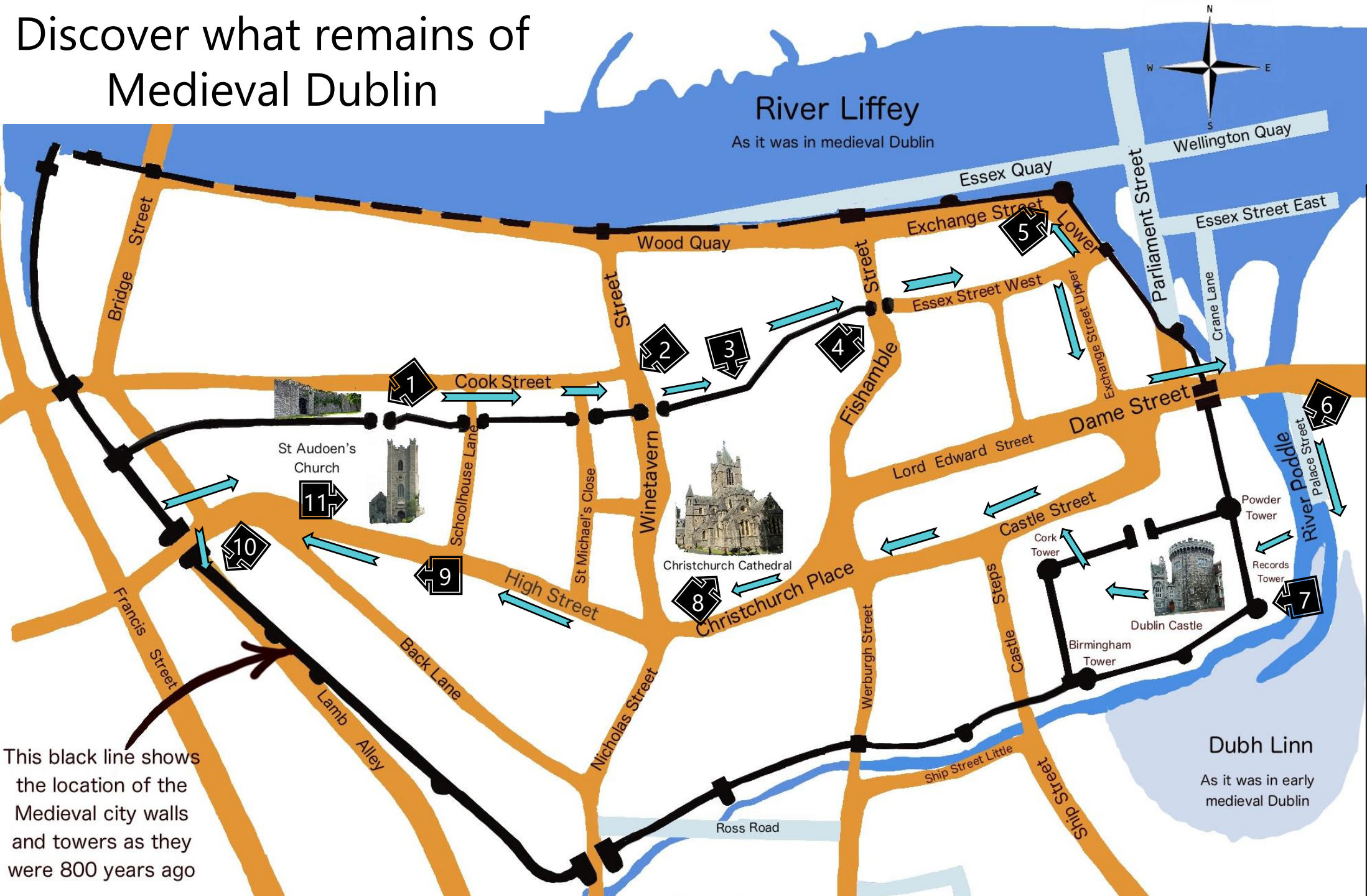


Discover what remains of Medieval Dublin



Map Notes:

- a. The River Liffey was wider and shallower in medieval Dublin. Its banks were gradually reclaimed to make the city more spacious and the river deeper.
- b. The River Poddle still flows around Dublin Castle, but today it flows underground.
- c. The Dubh Linn pool lies hidden beneath the Castle gardens today.
- d. Many of the narrow medieval streets were cleared by the Wide Streets Commissioners between 1750 and 1790.
- e. Parliament Street, Crane Lane and Palace Street were built on land reclaimed from the Poddle River.

1 **Cook Street**, home to medieval bakers and cooks, was outside the walls of the medieval city because of the fear of oven fires close to timber buildings. Standing on Cook Street, you are looking up at the largest existing restored stretch of the medieval walls. It is 7m high and 90m long. St Audoen's gate allowed access from the city to the river, quayside and warehouses. International trade along waterways was an important source of income for medieval merchants. A watch tower stood at the east end of this wall, with views across to the river. But nothing remains of it today. Visitors from outside the city wanting to enter through these gates to trade in Dublin had to pay a toll.

What date was St Audoen's Arch built?

2 When archaeologists excavated along this street in 1985 they found many tavern tokens. These looked like small coins and could be used to buy wine or ale during the 11th and 12th centuries. In 1279, King Edward I introduced the farthing coin. Tavern tokens were outlawed, probably because the king wanted to control the flow of money.

What is this street called?

3 In the 1970s, archaeologists discovered a unique four acre site, which was part of the original Viking Dubh Linn (Dublin) at **Wood Quay**, before the current office blocks were built. A small part of the old city wall was preserved and can be seen by looking down through fencing to the west of the Wood Quay venue. The line of the wall is preserved in the paving stones that run through the site.

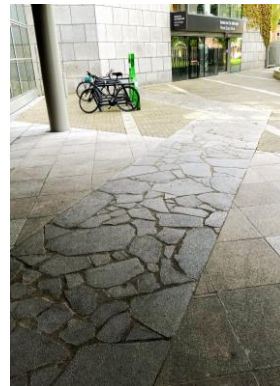
What animal reclines in a nearby flowerbed?



The city wall at St Audoen's and Cook Street



Tavern Tokens



Look down at the paving stones outside the Wood Quay venue, the line of the medieval walls is preserved in the direction of the paving slabs.

4 Fish was an important food for medieval Dubliners. This street runs from the quays, where the fish was landed, up to the city. Fish Markets took place on the street in medieval times. A shamle is a place where meat or fish is butchered ready for sale.

Can you work out the name of this street?

5 Isolde's Tower can be found on the north east side of the city walls. It was the first line of defence against an attack from the water. The walls were over three metres thick. During excavations of the site, the heads of three men were found, and it is believed that these heads had been displayed on spikes at the tower as a warning of what happens to those who attack the city. Isolde's tower is hidden in plain view. Can you find it?

Here is a clue:



What shape is Isolde's Tower?

6 Standing on Palace Street, the River Poddle runs under your feet. In medieval times, the Poddle was diverted around Dublin Castle as part of its moat. The river was also an important part of the city's food supply, as mills were built along its banks. The King's Mills were located here and supplied food to Dublin Castle. Dame Street was once called Dam St after the dam over the River Poddle in medieval times.

What were the mills used to grind ?

7 Dublin Castle was built between 1204 and 1230 on the instructions of King John. It remained the stronghold of English rule in Ireland for over 800 years, until it was handed over to the new Irish Government represented by Michael Collins. The castle was roughly rectangle with a tower at each corner, a small tower on the south wall and barbican, portcullis and drawbridge on the north wall. The Records Tower (as it is known today) is located on the south east side of the castle and is the only remaining tower above ground. Its walls are 4.8m thick in parts and have alcoves built into them on the inside.

What do you think the Records Tower was used for throughout its 800 year history?

8 Christchurch Cathedral has stood on this site since 1030. Built for Sitric Silkenbeard, the Hiberno-Norse King, it is the oldest building in continuous use in Dublin. The Normans rebuilt the cathedral in the 13th century, but you can still see the remains of the earlier building in the crypt. When the Normans captured Dublin in 1170, the Bishop of Dublin Laurence O'Toole acted for the Dubliners in an unsuccessful attempt at a peaceful settlement with Strongbow and the Normans. His heart is still displayed in the church as a relic. Strongbow died six years later and was buried in the Cathedral. Despite being on opposite sides in life, they share a final resting place.



Have a look at the carvings around the Romanesque main door of the Cathedral. What can you see?



The Records Tower
Dublin Castle



Christchurch Cathedral



St Audoen's Church

9 All skilled jobs and professions in medieval Dublin were controlled by 25 Guilds. They controlled who was admitted as a member, what standard of work was required, and helped members who fell on hard times. The Taylors Guild operated from the Taylors Hall and controlled the clothing trade in Dublin. If you tried to make or trade in clothing without being a member of their guild, other members would turn up on your doorstep and close down your business.

Can you name the other 24 Guilds?

10 Standing on Lamb Alley, a small part of the city wall is still visible. Stone defensive walls were first built for the Irish King Muirchertach Ua Briain but it was the Normans who really fortified Dublin after they captured the city in 1170. Newgate prison was located in the southern tower of New Gate and opened in 1285. Not paying your debts was a common reason for imprisonment and people had to stay shackled to prison walls until family members could repay the debt.

When did New Gate prison close?

11 Built in 1190, St Audoen's church is the oldest parish church still in use today. It was built by the Normans just 20 years after the Norman conquest and was named after St Ouen, a French saint revered by the Normans. Dundry stone from Bristol was used in the construction, showing Dublin's connection to its founders, who were from Bristol. St Audoen's has the oldest church bells in Ireland.

Archaeological Excavations in the 1990s revealed some medieval cobblestones to the south of the church.

When do these cobblestones date from?

Visit

Explore Medieval Dublin further

Dig deeper

1. **St Audoen's Church** has a free guided tour.
<https://heritageireland.ie/places-to-visit/st-audoens-church/>

2. **Dublin Castle:** take the guided tour and travel underground to visit the medieval remains of the Powder tower, as well as the 18th century State Apartments and the 19th century Chapel. See www.dublincastle.ie for tickets and booking information

3. **Christchurch Cathedral**
Check out the medieval crypt and through a window in the floor, see the remains of the medieval wall of the Cathedral. See www.christchurchcathedral.ie

4. **Dublinia**
Travel back in time to Viking and Medieval Dublin at Dublinia www.dublinia.ie

5. **Archaeology section at the National Museum of Ireland**, Kildare Street, Dublin 2
<https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Archaeology/Exhibitions/Test-Exhibition>

6. **Tailors Hall**, Back Lane, Dublin 8. They run occasional tours of the 18th century Tailors Guild Hall.
<https://www.antisce.org/tailors-hall>

1. **Dublin Walls app** – download from App store or wherever you get your Apps.
This amazing resource reconstructs medieval Dublin from the remains of what is there today.

2. Check out: <https://www.dublinia.ie/online-learning/everyone/> and watch Medieval Dublin re-appear before your eyes

3. The Royal Irish Academy sells a **detailed map of Medieval Dublin** superimposed onto Dublin today.
<https://www.ria.ie/dublin-c840-c1540-medieval-town-modern-city>

4. Wallace, P. (2016) **Viking Dublin**
Available at bookshops and online from the Irish Academic Press
<https://irishacademicpress.ie/product/viking-dublin-the-woodquay-excavations/>

5. Find out more about the **Vikings at Wood Quay**:
<https://www.historyireland.com/volume-22/heritage-outrage-wood-quay/>

6. Clarke, H., Dent, S., Johnson, R. (2002) **Dublin, the Making of a Medieval City**. O'Brien Press. Available from Dublinia and bookshops.