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Medieval Midden in Mary Street, Clonmel

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In November 1993 a small test pit was opened ahead of development beside Mary Street, behind 60 O'Connell Street, Clonmel. The pit was c.1m sq. in plan, and 1.10m deep. It cut through 0.68m of 19th and 20th century material and into the top 0.42m of heavy organic silt with butchered bone and leather, twigs and sphagnum.

The absence of dateable finds in the silt suggests a mid 18th century or earlier deposit. The crisp boundary between the silt and the overlying material is characteristic of truncation of the silt immediately before the 19th century deposit. This represents the cutting of an isolated pit or more widespread landscaping in the 19th century. No hard surface and no wicker flooring were apparent in the 0.42m of organic silt penetrated.

The material is potentially partly decayed midden accumulating in damp backlands behind medieval or early post-medieval Mary Street.

