

Cork City Council Heritage Orienteering Course

Cork City Council has developed a fun, outdoor activity for all the family!

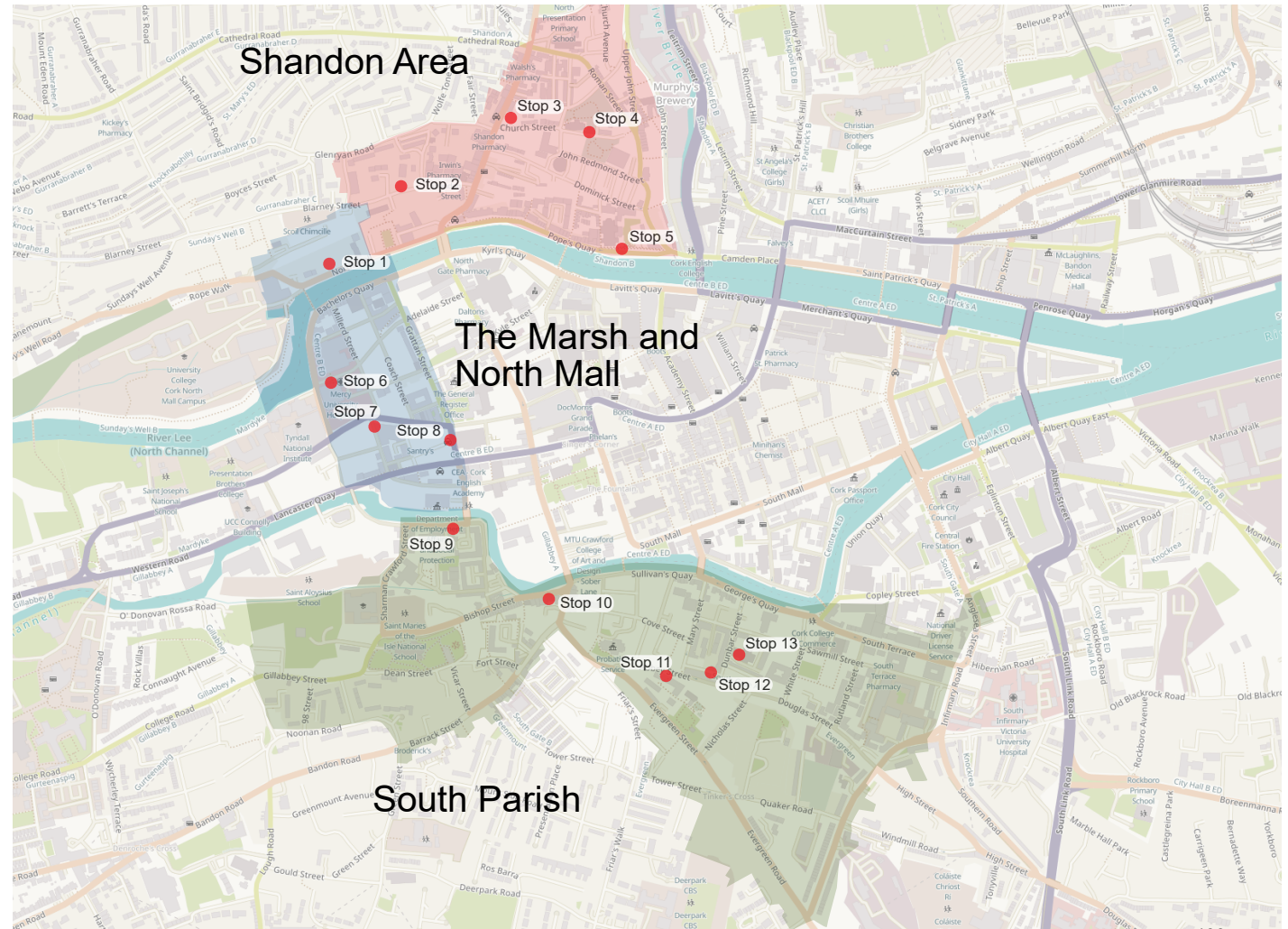
Get out and about and explore the Heritage Orienteering Routes in Shandon, The Marsh and South Parish, in the heart of Cork City.

The aim of the orienteering routes is to raise awareness and celebrate the Architectural Conservation Areas of our city. The chosen routes highlight wonderful architectural features that can be seen on shop fronts, historic houses, and civic buildings such as wrought iron railings, sash windows, intricate stone carvings, fanlights and many other features, some of which are hundreds of years old! By taking part, you can enjoy the historic urban landscape in a healthy and fun way.

How to take part:

There are three orienteering routes to choose from or you can decide to do it all in one go! Each route consists of a series of fixed checkpoints. The checkpoints are located close to interesting architectural features and feature drawings submitted as part of two art competitions open to the public.

Each checkpoint has a QR code, which links back to corkcity.ie/orienteering, where more information about the stories of the area can be found.



Shandon Route Location Tiles

Stop 1.



Stop 2.



Stop 3.



Stop 4.



Stop 5.



South Parish and the Marsh Heritage Orienteering Course

This route winds its way through the historic core of Cork City - South Parish and The Marsh. Here you can find historic churches, a Mansion House, a stink pipe and the oldest upstanding building in the city.

There are 8 stops to discover, each one has a handmade

ceramic tile featuring a drawing, QR code and orienteering symbol. A public art competition was held to find unique illustrations for the checkpoint tiles. Beautiful drawings of local architectural features were entered and the winning entries were printed on handmade ceramic tiles crafted at Backwater Artists Studio.

The first tile on this route can be found at Cork's former Manion House, now The Mercy Hospital.

Follow the clues to discover more architectural gems hidden in plain sight in the historic heart of this wonderful city!

6. Henry Street/Prospect Row

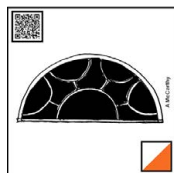


Illustration of Mercy Hospital fan window
By: Anne McCarthy

10. French's Quay

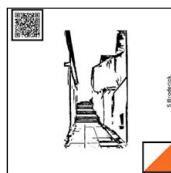


Illustration of French Quay
By: Sheelagh Broderick

7. Anne Street/Sheares Street



Illustration of roof filial at Mardyke Entertainment Centre
By: Mary Morrissy

11. Nano Nagle Place



Illustration of Nano Nagle railing
By: Avril McDonnell

8. James' Street

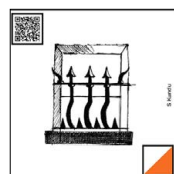


Illustration window railings on James' Street
By: Souvik Kundu

12. Red Abbey Street



Illustration of Red Abbey
By: Cailum O'Sullivan

9. Clarke's Bridge

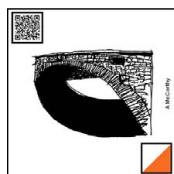


Illustration of Clarke's Bridge
By: Anne McCarthy

13. St Finbarr's South Church

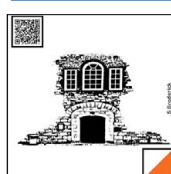
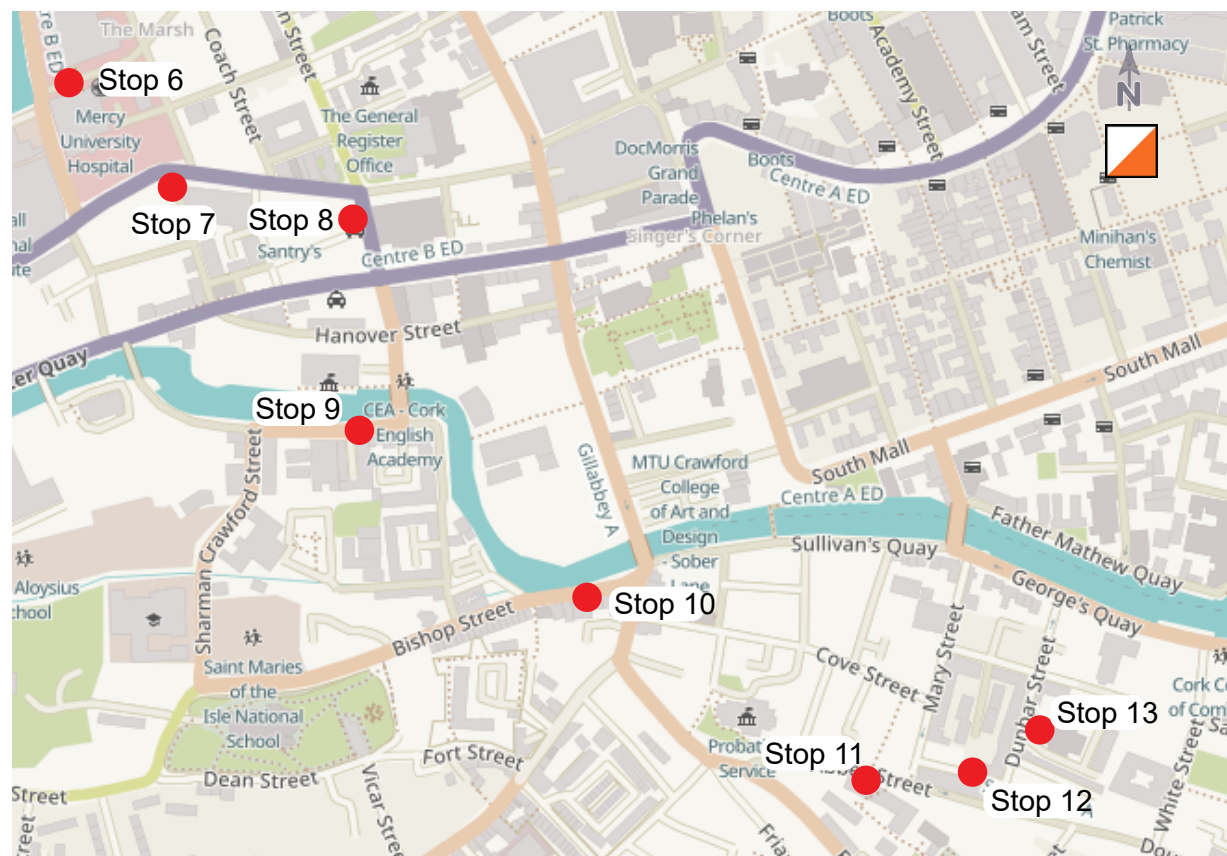


Illustration of South Chapel
By: Sheelagh Broderick



South Parish and the Marsh Heritage Orienteering Course

Stop 6. Henry Street/Prospect Row



Welcome to our sixth checkpoint, one of Cork's most beautiful and historic buildings, **The Mercy Hospital**

This building was once the city Mansion House, home of Cork's mayors. It was designed by Italian architect Davis Ducart in 1765 and finally completed in 1773. Its design was intended to symbolise the grandeur and importance of the city, which was one of the Empire's most important ports. What are now wards were once reception rooms and ballrooms. In 1842 the building became a school and took on its current role as a hospital in 1857.

Clue 6: From The Mercy Hospital, make your way to Sheare's Street, and look for a large former warehouse to find the next tile.

Stop 7. Anne Street/Sheares Street



Most of the buildings on Anne Street/Sheares Street have been here since at least the 19th century.

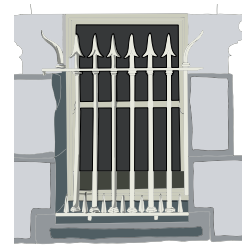
The Woodford Bourne Bonded Warehouse was once a bottling, storage and distribution business in Cork. The floor and roof beams were made of imported Canadian white pine, designed to bear the load of the enormous number of wine casks and spirits stored here.

The Sheares Street stink pipe was installed around 1860 and in true Victorian style was beautifully designed, complete with a cast-iron fluted base.

Designed to look like a street lamp, this is actually a vent pipe to release dangerous gases from the underground sewerage system well away from those at street level.

Clue 7: Make your way towards the courthouse and lookout for a small laneway with a unique street marker dating back to 1767. The tile will be located close by!

Stop 8. James Street

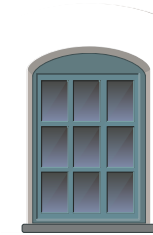


James Street boasts of the finest mid-18th century houses in Cork. Originally built around 1745 and recently restored, this building was once home to a well-to-do Cork family.

The building that dominates all others at this location is Cork's Courthouse. It was first built in 1828 and looked to incorporate elements of the "Corinthian" architectural style, the columns inspired by Ancient Greece. A fire gutted the court in the late 19th century, leaving only the portico and facade surviving. It was rebuilt in the 1890s and continues to be used as a Courthouse to this day.

Clue 8: Find the nearest bridge with a secret box built into it.

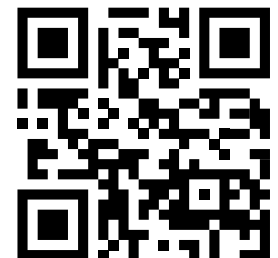
Stop 9. Clarke's Bridge



Clarke's Bridge was first constructed in 1766 to cross the south channel of the River Lee. It was designed by Samuel Hobbs, and when it was first built, it was said to have had the longest span of any bridge in Ireland.

As a strategic crossing point over the Lee, Clarke's Bridge was the focus of special attention during 'The Emergency'. Although Ireland was neutral during World War II, plans were made to protect infrastructure in case of invasion. In order to assist any men assigned to guard it, a special lockbox was inserted into the fabric of the bridge so they could store supplies and equipment. It can still be seen on both the interior and exterior of the bridge—maybe you can find the key!

Clue 9: Follow the river and you will find the next tile at an international quay.



Stop 10. French's Quay

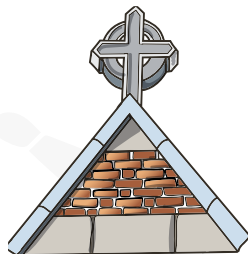


French's Quay is named after the wine merchant and Mayor of Cork James French who lived here in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Cork's industrial heritage is tied to the city's location on the water, and the river here was once alive with traffic. At the other end of the bridge, you are on is one of the few remaining slipways in Cork and the only example of its type on the Lee's south channel. Constructed with limestone kerbstones around 1870, it once provided direct access to the water for the area's industries.

Clue 10: Make your way to the school, founded in 1771, by one of Cork's most famous women..

Stop 11. Nano Nagle Place



Nano Nagle is one of Cork's most famous women. Honora Nagle was born near Mallow in 1718 and

educated in France. Nano became devoted to aiding the poor and decided on a life of charitable and religious work. By 1769 she had established seven schools where girls and boys were educated and given religious instruction. Nano opened the school here in 1771, and she established the Congregation of Presentation Sisters, four years later.

Nano Nagle passed away in 1784 having left a lifetime of charitable work behind her.

Clue 11: Find Cork's oldest upstanding building! .

Stop 12. Red Abbey Tower



The Tower on Red Abbey Street is all that remains of Red Abbey, an Augustinian Friary founded in the 14th century. It took its name from the red sandstone used in its construction. This "crossing tower" once stood where the nave, chancel and transept of the church once intersected.

Though the tower is all that is visible today, archaeological excavations here have uncovered buried medieval walls and even traces of medieval burials.

Clue 12: This church, located in the South, is dedicated to the patron saint of Cork.

Stop 13. St Finbarr's South Church

St Finbarr's South, also known as the South Chapel is one of the most iconic churches in Cork. Originally constructed in 1766 with the south transept added in 1809, it is a rare example of a Catholic mass house dating to this period.



Congratulations!

You have now completed the Cork City's Heritage Orienteering Course. We hope you enjoyed your ramble through the historic streets of this wonderful city!

