

Shandon Heritage Orienteering Course



A fun heritage orienteering course through one of Cork City's most historic neighbourhoods can now be explored. Using this map and the clues provided, you can navigate your way through streets, alleys and parks to find the five orienteering checkpoints that make up the Shandon Heritage Orienteering Course. Each checkpoint is marked by a unique tile.

The course takes about an hour to complete and is approximately 5 km in length. It is a great way to get out and discover more about this historic area!

1. North Mall



Illustration of one of the decorative piers on St. Vincent's Pedestrian Bridge, North Mall.

By: Joseph Cuthbert

A public art competition was held to find unique drawings for the checkpoint tiles. 74 high-quality black and white drawings of local architectural features were entered into the competition. 5 winners were selected and their wonderful illustrations were printed on handmade tiles at Shandon Arts Studio. These tiles were then installed along the route.

Our first checkpoint is located on North Mall. Have a look along the street for a ceramic tile and the very best of luck!

2. The Arch, Blarney Street



Illustration of a scallop shell that can be seen in the centre of the pediment above the doorway at The Arch.

By: Siomha Callanan

3. Shop Fronts, Shandon Street

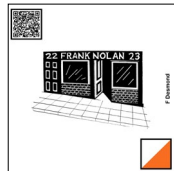


Illustration of Frank Nolan Butchers, Shandon Street.

By: Fiona Desmond

4. Skiddy's Almshouse, Bob and Joan's Walk



Illustration of wrought iron gates at Skiddy's Almshouse.

By: Regina Walsh

5. Civic Trust House, Pope's Quay



Illustration of an angel that can be seen at the top of the metal downpipe on the front of the Civic Trust House.

By: Ailbhe Callanan



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Stop 1. North Mall



North Mall was once home to a Franciscan Friary thought to have been founded by the King of Desmond in 1229.

In the 19th century, Cork's wealthy elite built their homes here in the Georgian style which is quite distinctive. Look out for the decorated fanlight windows over the front doors, Greek columns, sash windows and parapet (flat looking) roofs! Number 8 features many of these architectural details.

Clue 1: From North Mall, turn your back to the river and make your way up to Cork City's longest street, then look for a door with a large stone triangle above it!

Stop 2. Blarney Street



Measuring 1.5km this is the longest street in Cork City. House 374 is known as 'the Arch' and was built in 1740 from sandstone and limestone. This house is nearly 300 years old!

The house features a beautifully crafted doorway with its carved pediment and the 'lugged' or 'ear style' door-case, so-called because the architrave extends like ears from the door.

Clue 2: With the river to your back, turn right and follow Blarney Street. At the junction, climb the hill in search of numbers 22 and 23 on Shandon Street.

Stop 3. Shandon Street



The name Shandon comes from the Irish words Sean Dún meaning 'old fort'. This 13th century fort was destroyed during the siege of Cork in 1690

The area later became known for its markets. Many shops with decorative fronts were built on the street with their owners living in the rooms above. Try to find some of the ornate cornices, brackets and pilasters around the shop windows and doors.

Clue 3: Our next checkpoint is located on a lane named after a boy and a girl.

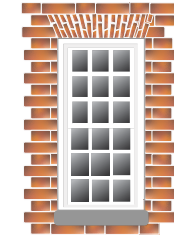
Stop 4. Skiddy's Almshouse



Built in 1719, this almshouse was named after Stephen Skiddy, a wealthy wine merchant who died in 1584. He left money in his will for the elderly poor of Cork City. That money helped to build this almshouse which is thought to be one of the oldest civic buildings in the country.

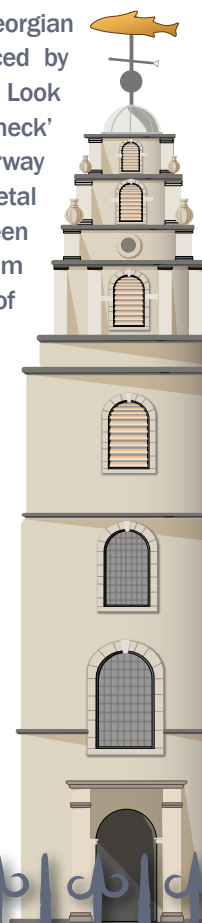
Clue 4: Our next checkpoint is located on a street that has connections with Francis, Benedict and John Paul.

Stop 5. Civic Trust House



Many people think that Pope's Quay takes its name from the Head of the Catholic Church, but it's actually named after 'Widow Pope' a local merchant who contributed to the construction of this quay in 1718.

Though the beautiful Civic Trust House was built in the Georgian period, it was influenced by the Queen Anne style. Look closely to find the 'swan neck' pediment over the doorway and the decorated metal downpipe, which has been collecting rainwater from the steeply pitched roof for nearly 300 years!



Congratulations!

You have now completed the Shandon Heritage Orienteering Route. We hope you enjoyed your ramble through the historic streets of this wonderful area!

