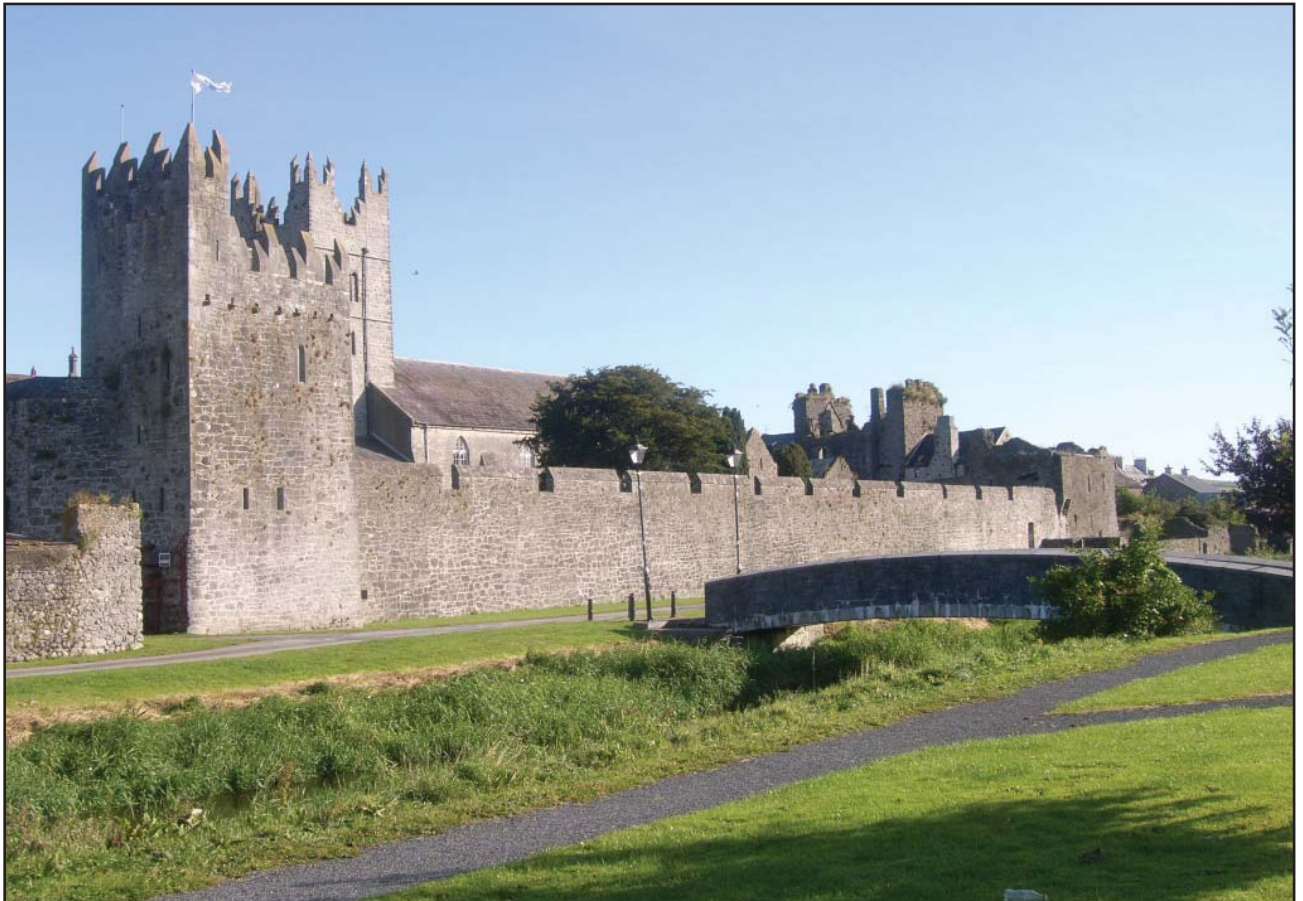


Fethard Historic Town Walls County Tipperary

Conservation & Management Plan



Oxford Archaeology
June 2009



Fethard

Historic Town Walls

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Fethard Historic Town Walls South Tipperary

CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT PLAN

1.0 Introduction

1.1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

1.1.1 *Background*

South Tipperary County Council in partnership with the Heritage Council through the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN)¹ has commissioned a Conservation and Management Plan for the monument and site of Fethard Historic Town Walls. This monument includes the walls and all other defences surviving above and below the ground surface, including other adjacent medieval structures in and around the town walls. Consideration is given to the town as a whole, and both its landscape and regional setting. South Tipperary County Council in its Fethard Local Area Plan 2005 states 'The Council recognises the national significance of the historic fabric of the town and will have regard to such factors when considering all planning related matters.' (LAP 2005, 2)

South Tipperary County Council and the Heritage Council (administrator of the Irish Walled Towns' Network) are currently in a position to co-ordinate the planning for the future conservation and management of Fethard Town Walls. This is to be undertaken in a planned and systematic way and in accordance with recognised international best practice, hence the necessity for the overall framework of a Conservation and Management Plan.

The conservation and management project is being undertaken in close collaboration with South Tipperary County Council and the Heritage Council, with Oxford Archaeology (OA) developing the plan to the requirements of the two councils.

1.1.2 *Objectives*

The primary objectives of the Conservation and Management Plan as specified in the brief are to significantly improve the local understanding and awareness of the monument and its significance, promote the recognition and protection of the monument (at both a local and international level), put in place an effective conservation and management scheme for the monument, give guidance and prioritisation for repairs/works and conservation of the monument, inform any planning requirements and put forward any relevant recommendations in relation

¹ The Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) was established by the Heritage Council in April 2005,

http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/walled_towns/index.html

to an improvement in the presentation of the monument in the short, medium and long term. This will assist South Tipperary County Council in 'preserving the quality of Fethard's medieval heritage from damage caused by insensitive development proposals.' (LAP 2005, 1)

1.1.3 *Fethard*

Fethard is of interest as part of the urban network established by the Norman settlement of Tipperary, its survival in the late medieval period, and its re-establishment in the 16th/17th century as a parliamentary corporation. The survival of an almost complete circuit of walls is remarkable, and it has several other medieval monuments of interest and importance. The re-assessment of walled towns is an important part of their historical understanding and interpretation, and must play a major part in economic development, tourism and local educational projects. South Tipperary County Council states that 'The heritage of Fethard is paramount to development of the town and shall be a major consideration in the decision making process.' (LAP 2005, 18). A plan for the historic walls of Fethard represents an important opportunity to address a number of issues in relation to the understanding, conservation and presentation of a key aspect of the medieval town.

1.1.4 *Designations*

The town of Fethard is on the Record of Monuments and Places, and is protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004). Individual buildings are protected as Recorded Monuments and/or Protected Structures under the Planning and Development Act (2000), and inasmuch as parts of the wall belong to South Tipperary County Council (as successor to the Corporation) they are also National monuments under the 2004 Act.

South Tipperary County Development Plan 2003

Specific references include:

ENV43 Conservation Areas (STCDP 2003, 37); HSG.9 Rural Housing in Pressure Areas (46); Policy ECON2 Strategic Employment; 4.9 Policy on the Built Environment;(33-34); 4.10 Policy on Open Space (35-36); Policy on Conservation, Heritage and Culture (37-39)

(These are not exclusive and further pertinent references are made throughout the Plan.)

The Fethard Local Area Plan (2005)

Specific references include:

Policy TOWN1 Town Centre (LAP 2005, 25); Policy ENV1 Architectural Conservation Area (27); Policy ENV3 Protected Structures (28); Policy ENV4 Archaeology (29); Area of Archaeological Potential (App 2, 43); Architectural Conservation Area (App 2, 44).

(These are not exclusive and further pertinent references are made throughout the Local Area Plan).

1.1.5 *Issues and Threats*

The history, development and archaeological potential of Fethard are not fully

understood at present, though it has been better studied than many historic towns. The surviving elements of the walls are substantial but nonetheless fragile, and at risk from diminution or loss of character from development near to the line of the walls, which may impinge on the historic setting or scale of the walls. A site of this nature naturally raises questions of public access and presentation, and the impact of increased visitor access.

Fethard will be subject to change and development, and it is the purpose of both this Plan (and the Public Realm Plan) to place change in the context of an understanding of the historic interest and significance of the place, so that it has the potential to enhance rather than diminish the town.

1.2 THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

1.2.1 *Purpose and Function*

This Conservation Management Plan has been written in order to:

- *Describe the site* and explain its setting, its current protected status and its historical context with a *Gazetteer* of the elements that make up the site;
- *Assess the significance* of the remains, their landscape and ecological context;
- *Assess the vulnerability* of the site;
- *Provide policies* to protect that significance;
- *Propose management actions* to effect the policies.

Policies for the site will aid the following:

- The protection and conservation of the standing remains and buried features and views within and without;
- The conservation of the entire site and its wider landscape, through sympathetic management of land usage and visitor access;
- The archaeological and research potential of the site;
- Improved access and understanding.

1.2.2 *Objectives*

It is anticipated that the Conservation Management Plan will be of use for:

- Developing a wider local, regional, and national understanding of the site and its significance;
- Promoting the recognition and protection of the site;
- Encouraging management schemes for effective maintenance;
- Informing conservation repairs/works, and enhancement;
- Protecting the setting through effective land management;
- Improving access and facilitating improved visitor management to the site.

In addition, the Conservation Management Plan brings together the documentation relating to the site found in local records, historical mapping and national documents. The data can then be disseminated in a manageable form.

1.2.3 *Background to Conservation Management Plans*

The underlying principles of the plan are derived from *The Conservation Plan* (James Semple Kerr, 1996). It also takes into account the series of international charters summarised in the *Guide to International Conservation Charters* (Historic Scotland, 1997), the principal ones being:

- International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (The Venice Charter 1964)
- UNESCO Recommendations, (1976)
- Congress on European Architectural Heritage (Council of Europe, 1975)
- Valetta Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage January 1992 (European Treaty Series 143)
- Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (referred to as the Burra Charter November 1999).

Guidance has also been sought from sources such as *Commissioning a Conservation Plan* (English Heritage, 1998) and in *Conservation Plans for Historic Places* (Heritage Lottery Fund, 1998), *Conservation Management Plans* (HLF 2005) and *Informed Conservation* (Kate Clark, English Heritage, 2001), as well as through other Conservation Management Plans produced by the Heritage Council of Ireland.

1.2.4 *Structure of the Conservation & Management plan*

This Conservation Management Plan follows a four-part structure:

Part I — Significance [Sections 2 - 5] summarises the evidence for the monument and its historical development. It identifies key phases of development/evolution and sets out the elements of significance for each of these and for the monument's overall significance.

Part II — Issues and Policies [Sections 6 - 8] develops principles for protecting and enhancing the elements of significance and making it accessible to public understanding and enjoyment, and sets out the policies.

Part III — Implementation [Section 9] sets out a possible means of implementation of the Conservation & Management Plan.

Part IV — Gazetteer [Appendix B] is a descriptive schedule of individual elements of the site

The Appendices provide: (A) Bibliography and list of sources; and (B) Gazetteer.

PART I: SIGNIFICANCE

2.0 Understanding the monument

2.1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

The primary subject is the town walls of Fethard, including the remains of the walls and all other defences surviving above and below the ground surface. This includes the standing lengths of wall around Fethard, the remains of the medieval gates and bridges, and the group of castles around the churchyard. The 16th-century Town Hall ('Tholsel') is the subject of a separate Conservation Plan. The topography and fabric of the town is indivisible from the walls, and there are a number of historic buildings within the town, of medieval or post-medieval date, including the town's parish church, and the remains of the medieval Augustinian priory. The town has to be considered in its landscape and regional setting, which are both striking and historically significant, in addition to being an important aspect of their interest to visitors and tourists.

2.2 SOURCES AND PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Given its history in a relatively remote location, and its demotion from corporate status in the 19th century, Fethard is not so well provided with primary sources for its history, and relies more on chance references and documentary survivals. The existence of O'Keeffe's *Heritage Study* (1995) has been an invaluable resource, and the results of that study and subsequent work have now appeared in the Irish Historic Towns Atlas fascicule 13 *Fethard* (O'Keeffe 2003) which is fundamental resource for the history and topography of the town. A popular account of the town's history and archaeology has also been prepared. Relevant sources exist in national archives in London and Dublin, and there is a wide range of bibliographical material. Information on the excavations in Fethard has been garnered from the Heritage service in Dublin. There is as yet no Archaeological inventory or survey volume for South Tipperary, but the Office of Public Works' *Urban Archaeological Survey* (1993) was a fundamental basis for protection and understanding of the town.

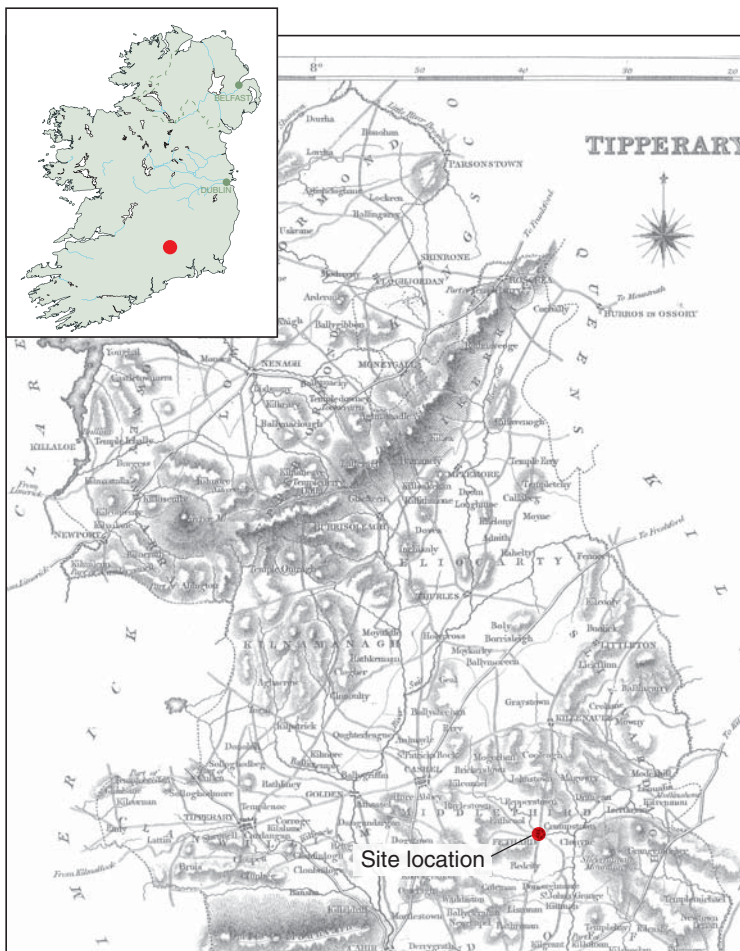
The Tipperary volume in the County 'History and Society' series is important for background studies of towns and settlement in medieval and later times (Nolan et al., 1985).

3.0 Historical Overview

3.1 SETTING AND CONTEXT

3.1.1 Geographical location

Fethard sits in a fertile plain in South Tipperary, at a crossing place on the River Clashawley, and is a nodal point for radiating roads to e.g. Cashel and Clonmel. The first key to Fethard's existence is most likely as a central place in an area of agricultural production in the Norman settlement, with soils capable of growing wheat even if now more used for pasture.



3.1.2 The urban context

Fethard lies within what may be termed the south-east urban province of medieval Ireland, the combined area of the watershed of the rivers Suir, Nore and Barrow containing a high percentage of towns of varied sizes that were founded by the Norman colonists and their descendants. Whereas the traditional Irish economy does not appear to have always required towns as market centres there were vibrant 'central places' at monasteries and cathedrals before the Norman invasion (Butlin 1977). Interestingly, the majority of Cathedrals retained their status after the conquest without becoming Norman towns (and without being moved

Figure 1: Site location to towns, as happened in England). The main originator of urban growth was rather to be seen as the Viking coastal settlement on rivers with adequate seaports, which established the main trading towns that were to continue into later times as the backbone of the urban network.

The Anglo-Norman rule was established with castles around which the major towns (such as Thurles) grew, and a network of smaller towns established by the new landowners. It is important to remember that in Ireland, as elsewhere throughout these islands, there was always a hierarchy of urban settlements. At

the top was a network of prominent walled and chartered cities and boroughs, provincial or county centres with recognisable urban characteristics in their size and topography. A neat measure of the successful towns of the early 13th century (throughout these islands, and elsewhere in Europe) is the extent of the mission of the mendicant friars.² Bradley (1985) has suggested a list of some 56 Irish towns in the major category, of which Carrick, Cashel, Clonmel, Fethard, Nenagh, Thurles, and Tipperary are the examples from County Tipperary.

A second tier would include the intermediate market towns and centres, often at nodal points on road systems, and typically surviving in some form until the present day (e.g. Athassel, Kiltinan). Many of these were Norman foundations on sub-infeudated land, brought into existence by a lordly grant of a market or borough status. Typically (and as in England) a town with a weekly market and annual fair might include a range of specialised trades alongside peasant villagers who still owed labour duties to the lord, whereas a borough would at least include some 'burgesses' with the distinct freedom of owing nothing to the lord save a fixed ground rent for their burgage plots (Hilton, 1992). It is clear from the improbably large number of grants or claims of 'burgage' status in Ireland (Martin 1981, Graham 1977, 1985) that the promise of this status was used as a means of attracting settlers to what may have been little more than a village (or even less). It was still the case in 18th-century Colonial America that borough charters were granted to woodland clearings in New England in order to attract prospective settlers.³ As Empey has suggested, the foundation of towns was likely to belong to the primary phase of feudal division, and was economically necessary to concentrate the profits within the landholding (Empey 1990). Thus in County Tipperary, the 'Middlethird' granted by King John to Philip of Worcester included a primary manorial site at Kiltinan as well as the site of the (possibly later) borough at Fethard.

The third tier of settlements could be said to be those which never actually 'took off', or never survived at more than village level. Some may have failed ever to attract settlers and have been no more than a hope, others may have existed and shrunk under the onslaught of plague and population decline, or Irish resurgence in the 14th-15th centuries (Barry 1993). The appearance of these places on distribution maps of urban Ireland, while eloquent of one-time colonial aspirations, gives a wholly misleading impression of the actual distribution of towns (Graham 1985, 1977), and it is not clear that distinctions between 'rural boroughs' and 'villae mercatoriae' is meaningful or can reliably be drawn from the sources (Graham 1988). It must be admitted, however, that the nature of the evidence rarely allows any degree of certainty about the status of 'lost' places.

2 Listed in Gwynn & Hadcock (1970), and shown on the *Map of Monastic Ireland*, (1979). In the case of Ireland the late medieval foundations of friars (often rural) are a separate and distinct phenomenon.

3 E.g. on the Connecticut River in New Hampshire and Vermont.

3.2 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

3.2.1 *Medieval History, 12th – 14th centuries*

Little is known of pre-Norman settlement in the Fethard area, and the site of the town may have been occupied for the first time by the Normans. King John's grant to Philip of Worcester has been mentioned above, but it was perhaps only after the Norman baron William de Braose (established in England at Bramber) was granted the Tipperary barony of Middlethird by King John in 1201 that the borough was established at Fethard. By the time that William was giving property in Fethard to the Dublin Hospital of St John he could refer to 'my borough', and when he also gave the parish church to the Hospital in 1208 the place must have been reasonably established, if not fully settled. However, when the Braose lands were confiscated by the crown in 1208 he had not yet built a castle. It has been suggested that in 1215 the Archbishops of Cashel, who had some ancient land interest in the area, acquired Fethard from the crown, and held it until the 16th century. However, the principal involvement of the Archbishop was in the vicarages of the rectories owned by the Hospital, including Fethard. It is possible that the Archbishops encouraged the process of borough development (and the similarity of the Fethard street plan to that of Cashel may be relevant here). It was the hospital that remained the major landowner near Fethard (Hennessy 1988).

3.2.2 *Late medieval 14th – 16th centuries*

The street plan of Fethard implies some metrical regularity in its laying out, and possible accommodation for some 80 burgesses. The town flourished in its early phases, and an Augustinian priory was founded in 1305. A royal murage grant in 1292 may imply the creation or strengthening of existing walls. The intermittent violence of life on the 'marches' between Kilkenny and Fethard is likely to have made these walls a necessity. Later references to monies for repair, and further murage grants in 1409 and 1468 suggest that the walls were kept in good repair, and the evidence of the walls themselves seems to suggest a major late-medieval rebuilding, perhaps in the 15th century.

Continuing urban activity is demonstrated by the presence of late medieval castles near the churchyard, rebuilding of churches, and the use of Fethard as an administrative centre for courts.

The dissolution of the monasteries in 1540 saw the seizure of monastic land, while the institutions themselves often carried on regardless (the friars remained until the 18th century). The town was chartered in 1552 with government under a sovereign and provost.

3.2.3 *16th – 17th Centuries*

The prominence of the Everard family in Fethard is a key to its success in the 16th and 17th centuries, with a new charter in 1607 and the rebuilding of the town hall (Tholsel) or almshouse (they also had a large town house). Thus the town had emerged from the period of greatest troubles when so many medieval towns

vanished, as an active and apparently successful corporate market town. This was later evidenced by the growth of suburbs, and the gradual enclosure of the town's open fields.

3.2.4 *A Corporation in Decline 18th – 19th centuries*

Fethard Corporation became more prominent as the influence of the Everard family waned, but ran into decline in the eighteenth century, as so often in Ireland, and as so remarkably described by the Commissioners reporting on the Municipal Corporations in the 1830s. They found that the lands and property of the corporation had been squandered, and the corporation was abolished in 1840. But administrative decline may have occurred in a time of prosperity in the market area of Fethard, and the mills point to a flourishing grain trade before the Famine, and population peaked at nearly 4,000 in 1841 (falling continually ever since). Most of the town's architecture is of this period, and the scale of the church, convent and quality of the housing points to prosperity.

3.2.5 *19th and 20th centuries*

Fethard overcame the setback of the Famine years and continued to serve as a local agricultural centre with trades and minor industries. The railway from Clonmel to Thurles served the town from 1879 to 1967, and it has remained as a quiet, rather remote place, whose history has served to preserve the remarkable series of medieval monuments in the town.

3.3 KEY DEVELOPMENT PHASES

Phase I	Prehistoric- Early Medieval Fethard
Phase II	The Medieval Town
Phase III	Early Modern
Phase IV	19th-century Fethard
Phase V	Modern Fethard

4.0 Site Description and Archaeological Overview

4.1 SETTING AND CONTEXT

Fethard is located at a crossing place on the River Clashawley, on a low promontory above the flood plain, surrounded by a wider plateau of good farm land. The town had its own open fields, which are recorded on estate maps before their enclosure, and are an important reminder that 'burgesses' were as like as not farmers for some part of their existence.

The nodal position of the town on roads that were or became connecting routes is shown by the two bridges and five town gates. The notable absence is a castle, but this may be because the primary Norman settlement at Kiltinan was the location of the lord's castle, which may mean that Fethard emerged as a town in a subsequent phase (it has been suggested as a foundation of the de Braose lordship, or yet later of the Archbishop of Cashel).

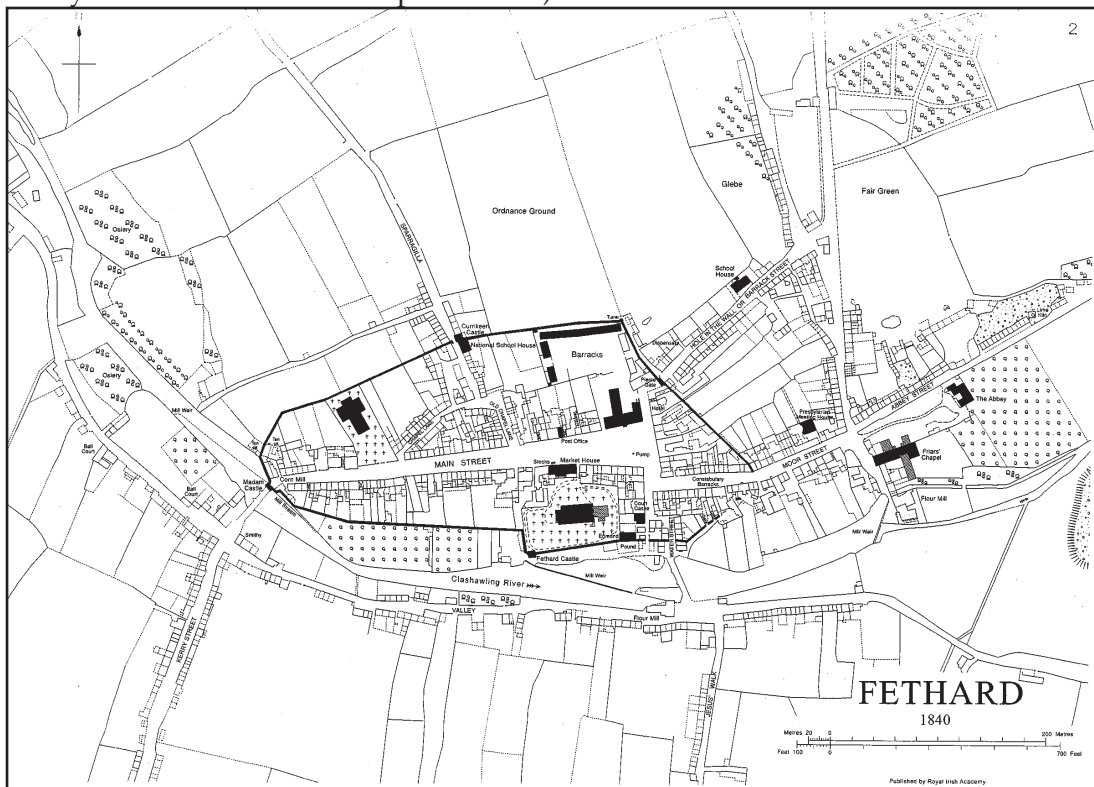


Figure 2: Map of Fethard 1840 (After O'Keeffe 2003)

4.2 THE MEDIEVAL TOWN: TOPOGRAPHY AND BUILDINGS

The plan of Fethard has been described at some length by O'Keeffe, and this can be summarised here by noting the large-wedge-shaped market street (similar to that in Cashel) and the 'baffle-entry' to the town through three of the gates. The manner in which the walls relate to the burgage/tenement blocks is striking when compared with a place like Athenry. Whereas the latter is exceedingly generous in the amount of open land that was enclosed, Fethard's urban properties were closely hemmed in

by the walls in a manner that suggests the walls were following existing plots rather than accommodating future expansion.

The remains of the walls (described in detail in the Gazetteer) are very extensive and almost complete except in the south-east sector. The full-height wall on the south has been partly restored in a previous programme of enhancement, and elsewhere the wall survives to near full height, but without its parapet.

There are few diagnostic features in the masonry fabric to determine dating, apart from the late-medieval style of parapets (and the single arrow-loop by the water gate), and it is not certain that the arch of the North Gate is medieval. One characteristic features is the masonry walling, which is remarkably consistent in most standing lengths of wall. This typically consists of large squared (or rather polygonal) blocks, laid in regular, though not usually horizontal courses. This is quite distinct from coursed rubble or level coursing of squared blocks, and the fact that the characteristic regularly/irregular masonry can be seen in most of the standing remains suggests that they may be contemporary.



Figure 3: Grace's map of Fethard 1709

The North Gate is an arch flanked by a tower, and the lost Madam Castle at the west gate was a large double tower over the gate, and it may well be that the lost gates also had adjacent towers or 'castles'. The group of urban castles around the churchyard are ostensibly individual palaces of great urban families, though the one in the church yard wall may have been a 'vicar's pele' like those of northern England. Whether Court Castle and Edmond's castle could have functioned as adjuncts to a collegiate church is an intriguing possibility.



Figure 4: Example of Fethard masonry on SW mural tower

4.3 THE MEDIEVAL TOWN: ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

4.3.1 Introduction

Since 1991 nineteen licences have been issued for archaeological work within Fethard. The majority of these were either for pre-development test-trenching or monitoring of ground works for new dwellings or extensions to existing dwellings or businesses.

Most of the licensed works are summarised in the online Database of Irish Excavation Reports: <http://www.excavations.ie/Pages/HomePage.php>, having been published in the annual volumes, e.g. Isabel Bennett (ed.), *Excavations 2003: Summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland* (Wordwell Press, 2006). The references quoted are to the summaries therein followed by the excavation license number where known. The relevant entries are shown on the summary table below.

4.3.2 Potential of Archaeological Deposits

There is considerable variation in the existence and survival of archaeological deposits within the town of Fethard, but there remains much potential for further investigation, and for reporting of discoveries by publication.

SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS - FETHARD 1991- 2008		
Nos	Location	Details
1995:258 95E118	Beside Barrack St	Beyond Town Wall. Cultivated ground, medieval ditch - land drain and barrier around open fields, parallel pair of ditches - probably defining medieval road.
1995:258 95E118	Between Barrack St and Burke St	Beyond Town Wall. Cultivation furrows and field boundary ditches parallel to town wall. Med. pottery, mortared stone walling, mud floors, and suggested wicker buildings pre-dating town wall
2001:1221 95EO118	Between Burke St and Barrack St	Outside town wall. Boundary and drainage ditches, no medieval or earlier building remains. Alignment of ditches - at least some follow town alignment rather than suburban one - suggests early Burke St more directly passing the Friary and possible suburban medieval settlement back off the current roadline.
2000:0940 00E0547	Watergate Street	Four trenches. 1) Thick modern deposit overlying an orange, organic, silty deposit. No definitive features or early deposits. 2) Late stone/cobble surface overlying modern deposit to 1.2m, overlying deposit thought medieval to 1.5m+ 3) As (2) except no medieval deposit 4) Modern deposit and bedrock
1999:827 99EO632	Property at Rocklow Road	Cobbled surface C18/C19th; remains of a wall, possibly a building recorded on 1840 survey. Clay floor below cobbles at street front, poss. building floor glass suggests post-medieval, post-hole suggests earlier buildings.

1994:212 94E54	1 The Square, Barrack St. (S. of East Gatehouse site)	Excavations along line of demolished Medieval town wall. Wall remains at 0.05m badly disturbed, ran south to SE corner of Gatehouse. Believed construction layer including C13th/14th pottery W of wall. Pre-wall features include stakeholes row.
1991:118 -----	Various locations within Fethard	Town Walls. (South) 7 trenches to locate wall (no archaeology) 1) Wall of unknown date exposed 2) No stair on interior of wall 3) Stone wall abutting mural tower at 90 degrees and later stone drain 4) and (5) Within mural tower - abandoned 6) Pound Wall with splayed window found to be bonded into 'lower' part of town wall, garderobe chute also exposed.



Figure 5: Fethard town walls from the south east by night



Figure 6: Fethard town walls from the south west by day

5.0 Assessment of Significance

5.1 LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE

5.1.1 *Basis of the Assessment*

The assessment of significance reflects the cultural and ecological aspects of the monument as a whole, particularly in relation to medieval walled towns in Ireland, while also assessing the sections of the site individually. Significance in other terms are taken into consideration, including an academic context and other values that visitors or users of the land may assign to the monument and its historical perspective.

The components of the settlement are assessed individually, thus providing a detailed framework before being considered in a wider setting. This will be used to identify key elements and to highlight specific areas for consideration.

5.1.2 *Levels of Significance*

Initially, an assessment is made on the significance of the monument at three levels: national, regional and local. The monument can also be considered from four major aspects: intrinsic architectural and historical interest, historical association, and group (overall) value.

Other factors considered include: the monument's ability to characterise a period; the rarity of survival; the extent of documentation; association with other monuments; survival of archaeological potential above and below ground; its fragility/vulnerability; and diversity.

Less tangible, but still vital to the significance of the monument, are the social and spiritual qualities which it represents. These can be formulated in the following fields: representative value (the ability to demonstrate social or cultural developments); historical continuity; literary and artistic values; formal, visual and aesthetic qualities; the evidence of social history themes; contemporary communal values; and the power to communicate values and significance.

5.1.3 *Degrees of Significance*

Measures for assessing the significance of Fethard in its various aspects have been based on all the above criteria where they have seemed relevant. The degrees of significance adopted here are:

Outstanding Significance: elements of the monument which are of key national or international significance, as among the best (or the only surviving example) of an important class of monument, or outstanding representatives of important social or cultural phenomena, or are of very major regional or local significance.

Considerable Significance: elements which constitute good and representative examples of an important class of monument (or the only example locally), or have

a particular significance through association, although surviving examples may be relatively common on a national scale, or are major contributors to the overall significance of the monument.

Moderate Significance: elements which contribute to the character and understanding of the monument, or which provide an historical or cultural context for features of individually greater significance.

Low Significance: elements which are of individually low value in general terms, or have little or no significance in promoting understanding or appreciation of the monument, without being actually intrusive.

Uncertain Significance: elements which have potential to be significant (e.g. buried archaeological remains) but where it is not possible to be certain on the evidence currently available.

Intrusive: items which are visually intrusive or which obscure understanding of significant elements or values of the monument. Recommendations may be made on removal or other methods of mitigation.

5.2 STATEMENT OF OVERALL SIGNIFICANCE

The overall significance of Fethard can be defined as follows:

Fethard is of outstanding significance as a medieval defended town with its very complete circuit of walls and other medieval buildings demonstrating the life and trade of the town.

The significance of Fethard is also expressed here as key phases of significance (§5.3) and the key elements of significance (§5.4), along with the individual assessments made in the Gazetteer.

5.3 KEY PERIODS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Phase I: Prehistoric- Early Medieval Fethard

Very little is known of Fethard before the Anglo Normans.

Uncertain Significance

Phase II: The Medieval Town: 12th to 16th century

The medieval town wall survives almost in its entirety with many key elements intact. The Medieval and Post-Medieval layout of the town has been preserved and illustrates the importance of Fethard to the local economy as a defended market town. Additionally its topography and setting is almost unchanged and there is potential for discovery of more of the key elements. The level of survival of the town wall and layout makes Fethard an outstanding representative of major local and regional significance, and so of *outstanding significance*.

Phase III: Early Modern: 16th to 17th century

Post-Medieval expansion of the town and its significant survival and prosperity during and after the wars and religious struggles of the early modern period are evidenced in the surviving town wall and features from this period. The rate of survival makes the town an outstanding representative of local, regional and national importance and of *considerable significance*.

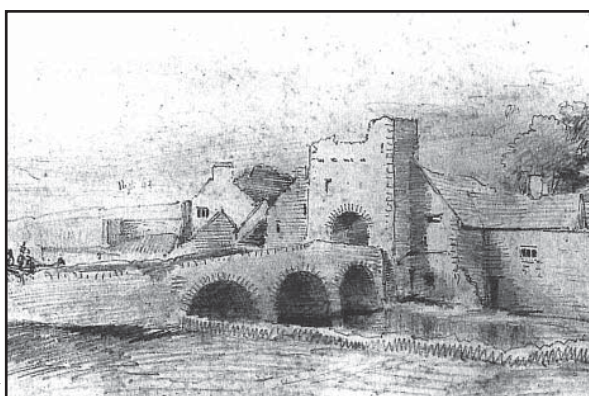


Figure 7: Madam Bridge from south east 1857, Du Noyer

Phase IV: 18th and 19th-century Fethard

The decline of civil administration simultaneously with the continued prosperity of the town from agriculture and its local importance even through the mid-19th century famine could be considered a reflection of the national situation. The amount of surviving architecture of this period, and the scale of building demonstrates prosperity, while this period adds to the character and understanding of the town wall as it is seen today and provides an historical context to the changes which have occurred. It is therefore of contributory and therefore *Moderate Significance*.

Phase V: Modern Fethard

The lack of an overall plan for conservation has led to damage and loss of various parts of the wall. Development has led to intrusion onto the wall and key features causing damage and restriction of access and view. This has resulted from insufficient understanding of the significance of the town. These omissions have resulted in actions which are *Intrusive*.

5.4 KEY ELEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

5.4.1 *Setting and Context*

The natural and landscape setting of Fethard is of *considerable significance*. There are a number of key views of the town that are significant for the appreciation of its setting, including views across the river town from the south, and from the approach roads descending from higher land. The town can also be seen in the wider context of the medieval landscape that supported the town, including the nearby fields, and Market Hill commons to the south.

5.4.2 *Ecology*

The ecology of the riverside and green spaces is of *moderate significance* for understanding the landscape history of the site, and for the biodiversity value they

represent.

5.4.3 *The Castles*

The surviving remains of the castles grouped around the churchyard are of *outstanding significance* as a demonstration of life in the medieval town.

5.4.4 *The Medieval Town Plan*

The street plan of Fethard is of *considerable significance* for preserving the medieval topography of the town.

5.4.5 *Medieval Town Walls*

The medieval town walls are of *outstanding significance* for defining the area of medieval settlement, for the extent of the surviving elements), especially the association with the riverside and other medieval buildings on the south side, and also for the potential for further discovery below ground.

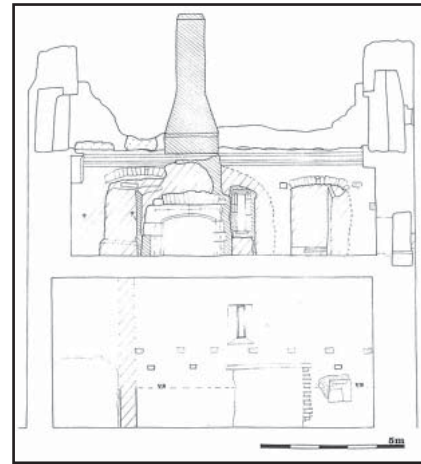


Figure 8: Cross Section through Court Castle, Tadhg O'Keeffe, 1995

5.4.6 *Medieval Buildings in the Town*

The Churches and castles, and remains of older houses together form an exceptional group of medieval structures demonstrating the variety of urban building in a relatively small town, and are therefore of *outstanding significance*

5.4.7 *Archaeology*

The evidence of past discoveries suggests there is some potential for discovery of buried remains of the medieval town, with a quality of survival partly arising from the lack of later destructive activity. This is of *considerable significance*.



Figure 9: Façade of Tholsel, Tadhg O'Keeffe, 1995

5.4.8 *Documentation*

Although discontinuous, the documentary record of the site from the 13th to the 17th century is of *moderate quality and significance*, compared with other places.

PART II: ISSUES AND POLICIES

6. Conservation Policy Aims

- 6.1 This section of the Conservation Management Plan proposes policies to protect and, where possible, to enhance the significance of the monument as it has been identified and described above. The proposed policies are intended both to meet immediate needs and to provide for the long term. The underlying objective is to ensure that what is significant and valuable in the monument survives for the use and enjoyment of the future, whatever the present priorities may seem to be. In implementing the policies, it is important that a balance is maintained between conservation, continued appropriate use, and public expectation from the monument. These aims are intended to enhance those conservation policies and objectives included or referred to in the Local Area Plan and County Development Plan mentioned above such as Section 8.2 of the Local Plan 'Preserve the places of archaeological, architectural and historic interest and places which add to the character and appearance of the town...' (LAP 2005, 31)

The proposed policies are intended to provide a framework for decision making and a benchmark against which to assess proposals for change. Specifically they aim to:

- Preserve and protect the significance of Fethard for the benefit of present and future generations.
- Establish an effective conservation philosophy for the monument.
- Provide guidance for a sympathetic management regime.
- Consider how public access can be assured and appreciation of the monument enhanced through schemes of interpretation.
- Define policies to help guide the care and maintenance of the monument.
- Provide guidance on the treatment of features which are intrusive or detrimental to an understanding of the monument.
- Identify elements of significance which have suffered erosion, and which may be restored to understanding.

7 Issues, Opportunities, and Policies

7.1 AIMS AND APPROACHES

- 1.1.1 The aim in identifying issues and proposing action to meet them is to promote the protection, conservation, appropriate uses and future management of the site and buildings in a manner which retains their significance. The overall purpose is to ensure that what is valuable about Fethard survives for the benefit of future generations as well as serving the needs of the present. 'Without a conservation policy and the exercise of restraint in the design of new buildings and alterations to the old, the character of Fethard may be eroded and lost to future generations.' (LAP 2005, 43)
- 1.1.2 The plan seeks to place information and understanding as the key to effective protection, conservation and enhancement, so that decision-taking is an informed process.

7.2 UNDERSTANDING

- 1.1.1 *Current Understanding:* The wall is almost completely visible and although much research has been carried out there remain areas of uncertainty about the character and location of some features. A lack of understanding has resulted in loss and damage where the significance of the wall and key features has not been well understood by residents, planners and developers.
- 1.1.2 The history of Fethard is partly known, but further and deeper research is needed to more fully understand the key features of the town wall, the layout and buildings of the town itself, and the regional, national and international context of Fethard as a walled medieval town.
- 1.1.3 *Archaeological Potential:* Although the standing remains of the town wall and key elements have been studied and surveyed, buried remains of lost parts of the wall, gates and castles have potential for further research and investigation. There is also much potential for study of the origins and development of the town as a whole.
- 1.1.5 *Historical Potential:* Further study of local and national records would yield valuable information about the history of Fethard.

Policies for information, recording and research

Policy 1: Information, recording & research

To promote understanding of Fethard Town Walls through developing existing knowledge, further recording and research, and making knowledge available in an accessible form, in order to ensure their preservation.

Policy 1.1:

To create a formal heritage record for Fethard, distinct from working files and records of current transactions, to include a record of all interventions in the monument.

- Provide clear mapping of the defence zone for planners and residents
- Create a definitive collection of archaeological reports for Fethard
- Survey the most significant remains
- Publish the results of previous excavations.

Policy 1.2

To promote future research, with a planned agenda for investigations and an ability to respond to opportunities.

- Adopt a research agenda for Fethard
- Ensure that work on or near the walls is informed by prior investigation
- Seek opportunities for archaeological investigation of the line of the wall, especially where the wall is lost and at key features of the wall and town
- Record future repair and maintenance works
- Carry out further investigation in historical and archive sources.
- Seek opportunities to further investigate the structure of the wall
- Seek opportunities to further investigate key features of the wall such as castles, gates, etc.
- Carry out further research into Fethard's significance in relation to other walled medieval towns in Ireland and Overseas.

7.3 PROTECTION

Survival and Physical Condition

- 7.3.1 Over the centuries, the walls of Fethard have been diminished through neglect and processes of repair, gradual alteration and demolition. Despite the protected status of Fethard town wall localised damage has taken place recently to the fabric, environs, and setting of the walls, although the overall setting of the town is well preserved. Policy is clear: 'The Council will implement all statutory powers to ensure no interference or damage is caused to any part of the wall or any other Protected Structure located within Fethard.' (LAP 2005, 28).
- 7.3.2 The surviving parts of the walls are in various stages of repair, ranging from reasonable maintenance to benign neglect.
- 7.3.3 The walls are at risk from adjacent building, and road-works, gardening and landscaping activities. The standing remains are in need of maintenance and monitoring of their condition.
- 7.3.4 The value of the walls depends partly on the walls and partly on the layout of the town they defend, and there is a need more vigorously to protect both the fabric of the walls and the urban setting of the monument from inappropriate development nearby. The stated policy of South Tipperary Council is to designate Conservation Areas with 'unique layout, design, unit of character and the mellowing of time' and consider, among other points, 'the impact of proposed development on the existing amenities, character and heritage of these areas' (South Tipperary CDP 2003, 37)

Development Pressures & Protection of Fethard

- 7.3.5 Despite the existence of planning guidance for Fethard, recent development (near North Gate) has taken place without apparent consideration of its effect on the historic town walls. 'The distinctive historical and vernacular character of the conservation area of Fethard and its rural hinterland should be acknowledged in the design of any new development.' (LAP 2005, 48)

Protection of Heritage Collections

- 7.3.6 There are some collections of materials and records recovered in recent archaeological works in Fethard that need to be collected and curated.
- 7.3.7 Archaeological records are the essential prime material that needs to be available for future interrogation and study. They are often retained by the commercial contractors, and need to be collected lest they become damaged or lost, and placed in a secure store. They have similar, though not identical, needs to archaeological finds, which are also at risk.

Policies for Protection

Policy 2: Protection

To place the conservation of the Fethard and its walls, and the protection of setting at the heart of future planning and management.

Policy 2.1:

To protect the historic fabric and character of the historic walls within Fethard, and the surviving evidence for their former use and functions (see *Public Realm Plan*, 2008, §7.2).

- No new development or works upon, against or close to the town wall or its key features
- Stringent controls on development near the walls
- Development within the town to preserve and respect the town plan in particular Main Street, Burke Street and the streets and passageways connecting it to the town gates or town gate sites
- Town expansion and building construction not to be detrimental to the visual character and setting town walls, its key features, town layout, main elements (buildings) of the town and general historical character of the town.

Policy 2.2:

To initiate repair programmes for standing elements, and encourage careful maintenance and monitoring.

- Encourage partnership repair programme with owners of walls
- Provide guidance on good practice for maintenance
- Seek to engage with state and private owners regarding repairs and curation of major monuments (South West Mural Tower, Edmond's Castle, The Town Hall (Tholsel), etc.).

Policy 2.3:

To encourage good practice for management of buried remains (e.g. in gardens, below roads and within buildings, etc.), and to protect them from damage. 'It is Government advice that appropriate management is essential to ensure that [archaeological remains] survive, and the planning system plays a vital role in this respect.' (LAP 2005, 43)

- Provide guidance on good practice for maintenance

Policy 2.4:

To minimise risk to the historic fabric of the monument from normal public use, traffic and public or utility works.

- Provide physical protection where appropriate, e.g. North Gate
- Ensure that public services and infrastructure works outwith planning control do not cause damage to the monument. For example, Council policy for roads, traffic and parking 'will respect and enhance the urban form and conservation of the town' (Policy TRANS2, LAP 2005, 21).

Policy 2.5:

To protect the skyline and rural setting of the walled medieval town, and its historic relationships to Fethard.

- Identify the visual envelope as part of the Local Area Plan Review, and consider protected zones for views and green setting. For example, Council policy for views and prospects 'to protect views and prospects of special amenity value or special interest...' (Policy ENV 2, LAP 2005, 28)

Policy 2.6:

To identify collections of materials from Fethard excavations and archaeological surveys and bring them into an appropriate curatorial regime

- Identify contractors with written records and finds
- Liaison between Tipperary Museums and Archives about appropriate locations for long-term storage of materials.

7.4 CONSERVATION

Repair Needs & A Philosophy of Conservation

- 7.4.1 Works on the walls of Fethard should endeavour to protect historic character and significance. Works should avoid unconsidered change and loss of significance through over-restoration, and should seek minimal and reversible approaches. Appropriate traditional materials and mortars should be used.
- 7.4.2 Works should be informed by full understanding of the fabric, and a full record of condition before and after should be made, if necessary by an archaeologist, to record any discoveries.
- 7.4.3 Works should be undertaken by specialist contractors with experience of historic

fabric repairs.

Policies for Conservation, Repair and Maintenance

Policy 3: Conservation, repair & maintenance

To implement effective regimes for maintenance and repair, protecting significance and historic integrity and observing exemplary standards of conservation practice

Policy 3.1:

To ensure regular and effective programmes of structural maintenance, with planned monitoring, inspection, conservation and repair.

- Monitor and investigate cracks and failures
- Investigate the need for localised stone repair/fixing
- Remove tree and shrub growth, and discourage regrowth, and ivy.

Policy 3.2:

To ensure that all works, whether new works, conservation or repair, are informed by a clear and detailed understanding of the monument, are preceded by appropriate investigations of the historic fabric, and are fully recorded.

- Establish a cycle of monitoring and maintenance
- Investigate, survey, and record parts of monument prior to and during works
- Ensure repairs are recorded and logged for the walls as a single maintenance archive for the monument to inform future management decisions.

Policy 3.3:

To carry out all works in accordance with the highest standards of conservation, retaining significance, avoiding loss of fabric, and adhering to historical accuracy in design, materials and workmanship.

- Employ experienced firms to design and carry out works
- Ensure that clearance and maintenance is carried out under supervision
- Where possible allow a reasonable level of non-destructive plant growth.

7.5 ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Improving legibility and access

7.5.1 There are many opportunities for enhancing the appearance of the walls, and their context and setting.

7.5.2 Access to the walls would require the establishment of footpaths and viewing points, sometimes in partnership with private landowners. The principle of the buffer zone to keep new development away from the walls could also serve to enhance public space around the walls.

‘The Council will preserve and maintain existing rights-of-way...create new

ones where appropriate and promote their greater use in amenity areas.’ (South Tipperary County Development Plan 2003, 36)

- 7.5.3 Public access to specific features could be improved, e.g. internal access to North Gate, access to the churchyard, its South West Mural Tower, and other castles by arrangement.
- 7.5.4 Lost walls and features could be identified, e.g. marking out the site of lost walls and gates in the road or pavements.

Policies for enhancement & improvement

Policy 4: Enhancement & improvement

To enhance the historic character and visual qualities of the monument, where appropriate by restoring eroded elements or indicating lost features, and removing intrusive elements.

Policy 4.1

To improve public access so as to minimise impact on the monument.

- To maintain good and equal means of access for visitors
- To provide new means of access to the walls, by creation of paths and landscaping
- To improve access to South West Mural Tower, The Town Hall (Tholsel), Court Castle, Edmond’s Castle and others
- To seek provision of a walkway around the circuit of the Town Wall.

Policy 4.2

To enhance public appreciation of the walls and their setting wherever possible by removing or ameliorating visually intrusive elements, or those which conceal or confuse understanding. ‘As opportunities arise the Council will seek the opening up of the wall to public areas/views in order to increase the profile of this key asset.’ (LAP 2005, 28).

- To improve the setting of features, e.g North Gate and Watergate area.

Policy 4.3:

To enhance understanding of the historic monument, where appropriate by repairing past damage, or and seeking to recreate aspects of key elements which have been lost (see *Public Realm Plan*, 2008, §7.2).

- To replace or mark out lost or damaged features, e.g. town gates
- Consider revealing lost and buried elements of the wall circuit.

7.6 VISITOR ISSUES

Visitor access in Fethard

- 7.6.1 Visitors to Fethard may enjoy views of the south wall but there is no public access for most of the Town Wall, which is largely complete and has potential for a circuit walk and other enhancements included in the Public Realm Plan.
- 7.6.2 Although parts of the walls are visible and obvious to a visitor, access to perimeter walks is not. Full advantage is not being taken for explanation and presentation of the wall and the Town to visitors.

Visitors to Tipperary and South-East

- 7.6.3 Fethard is but one of a large number of prehistoric and medieval antiquities in the region, and has the potential to feature in a broad promotion of medieval walled towns and other antiquities in the south-east.
- 7.6.4 Fethard was historically linked with Kiltinan Castle, and historic centres at Cashel and Cahir are nearby. These important medieval monuments should be jointly promoted, along with other sites in counties Waterford and Kilkenny: 'The South Tipperary CDP considers that improvement of links between Cahir, Cashel, Tipperary and Fethard would enhance the role of heritage as a boost to economic and social development ' (South Tipperary CDP 2003, 37). Monastic links to the Dublin Hospital, and Oseney Abbey Oxford are also relevant.

Presentation, Interpretation and Information

- 7.6.8 The establishment of a Visitors' Centre within the Town would allow visitors to discover much about Fethard, and it is important that the Town Guide is kept in print, and updated. While there may not be financial support for an ambitious visitor centre, an open access information point could be linked to a library or public building.
- 7.6.9 Information at key sites, extension of current signage of historic features, and clear mapping for the visitor would promote the medieval town and its walls. Provision of paper leaflets, maps and information guides which are inexpensive and portable could inform visitors as they walk around the Town and encourage a longer stay in the Town. There may be scope for online information.
- 7.6.10 The provision of a formal walk around the circuit of the walls, a walk along part of the walls themselves and guided walks would further encourage interest in the Town and enhance visitor information and enjoyment (see *Public Realm Plan*, 2008, §7.2).
- 7.6.11 The educational potential of the medieval and later town of Fethard is immense, especially as seen in the broader context outlined above.

Policies for access and interpretation

Policy 5: Access and interpretation

To encourage public understanding and enjoyment of the site and its setting, promoting a high degree of physical and intellectual access and meeting the needs of a broad variety of users.

Policy 5.1:

To ensure that enjoyment and understanding of the monument are open and accessible to all.

- Ensure that public access to the walls is enhanced not diminished
- Improve mapping and signage to historic features in the town
- Ensure opportunities for equal access for mobility impaired, and provision of other means of understanding where this is not possible.

Policy 5.2:

To promote Fethard in its wider region of county and landscape and antiquities, with tourist trails and promotion.

- Link between historic sites (e.g. castles and medieval towns) in the region
- Promotion of natural and geological environs of Fethard
- Highlight Medieval and Post-Medieval Irish landscape.

Policy 5.3:

To develop interpretation to encourage understanding of the principal features of the monument and Town, and facilitate access to information (see *Public Realm Plan*, 2008, §7.2).

- Mark the line of the walls and key features on town maps and in tourist literature
- Provide signage to identify sites
- Consider developing new materials and media.

Policy 5.4:

To develop a specific initiative to link historical and ecological understanding of conservation to maximise sustainable usage of Fethard's environs for both residents and visitors to the area. 'The town wall and associated structures are a major amenity and tourist attraction, and it is important to maintain the relationship between the wall, the river and the open countryside to the south.' (LAP 2005, 32).

Policy 5.5

To develop the range of educational provision for schools and other groups, as an important element in interpretation and the promotion of access.

- Develop walks around the Town Wall and the Town as part of an educational/ tourist trail of the historic town.

Fethard Medieval Town

established by the Anglo-Normans circo. 1200 AD



Fíodh Ard
'The High Wood'
Fethard

TOWN TROIL

(1) TOWN HALL

One of the most important historical buildings in Fethard. The town hall was built in the early 1600's by the Everard family as a "Tholsel" or Town Hall. It is one of the largest urban buildings of that period still standing in Ireland.

(2) HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

The original Norman Church was built in the early 13th Century. The west tower and the two ruined buildings on the south side of the church are late medieval additions. The window in the tower is a fine example of Irish craftsmanship of the period.

(3) NORTH GATE

The North Gate (also known as Sparagoleith), is the only surviving gate of the five original gates in the town wall. On the underside of the archway are markings left by the wickerwork which was used in its construction.



This conjectural reconstruction shows the medieval town of Fethard as it was in the 1850s.

Much still remains from that time, especially the encircling Town Wall and one of the original five gates, the North Gate.



- 1 Town Hall
- 2 Holy Trinity Church
- 3 North Gate
- 4 Chapel Lane
- 5 Madam's Bridge
- 6 Medieval Town Wall
- 7 Edmonds Castle
- 8 Sheela na g'ig
- 9 Augustinian Abbey
- 10 Court Castle

Figure 10: Fethard Medieval Town trail map, Fethard Historical Society 2006

PART III: MANAGEMENT PLAN

8 Management Plan

8.1 INTRODUCTION

8.1.1 The management of the Fethard Town Walls will necessarily rely on a combination of official encouragement and sponsorship, partnership with landowners, and the enthusiasm of local interest groups.

8.1.2 The conservation policies outlined in the Plan will be adopted and promoted by the County Council as the basis for future management, though they will need to be approved by the appropriate committees, with the agreement and support of related statutory and other bodies and authorities. This process of agreement may require further consultation to resolve any remaining concerns and secure full support.

8.2 RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SITE

8.2.1 Fethard Town Walls fall under several landownerships, and although the walls at one time will have belonged to the Corporation (and the County Council as its successor body) only limited trace of public ownership now remains. The means of effecting works of conservation and enhancement can thus only be by consent and partnership agreements.

8.2.2 Responsibilities can be summarised as follows:

<i>WHO CAN DO WHAT FOR FETHARD?</i>	
Landowners and inhabitants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care and concern for remains • Vigilance against unsympathetic change • Use of grants for repair
Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible planning guidance and enforcement • Encouragement of best practice • Facilitate enhancement (and obtain grants)
The State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and promote State monuments • Application and enforcement of National Monuments and Protected Structures legislation • Encourage public access • Promote heritage tourism

8.2.2 The state could play a key role in managing the group of important monuments in the town. While the national and local authorities may promote works of repair and conservation, it is important that local property owners are engaged in the process, and that there is a shared understanding of best practice in maintenance

and management. This might well be made the subject of a public meeting, and promotional literature.

8.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

8.3.1 The aims of the management plan is to promote the protection, conservation, appropriate uses and future management of the site and buildings in a manner which retains their significance. The overall purpose is to ensure that what is valuable about Fethard survives for the benefit of future generations as well as serving the needs of the present (7.1.1 above).

8.3.2 The objectives can be summarised as follows:

<i>WHAT CAN BE DONE FOR FETHARD?</i>	
Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise town plan and visitor map • Further historical and archaeological research • Collect and publish results of excavations in Fethard
Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of fabric • Protection from development damage • Effective repair and maintenance • Protection of buried remains • Minimise risk from traffic • Protect key views from ill-considered /inappropriate development • Protect green setting of walls and riverside • Protect records and archaeological finds
Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure maintenance and repair of remains • All works informed by understanding • All works carried out to proper standards
Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved public access to walls, castles and historic buildings • Improving the setting of historic structures • Revealing or mark the location of lost features (gates) • Replace or repair lost or damaged features
Visitor issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop town trail and access to walls • Improve signage • Establish viewpoints for significant views • Improve access to Castles • Establishment of a visitor/heritage Centre • Promote Fethard in the context of medieval Tipperary • Promote IWTN heritage tourism

8.4 WORKS PROGRAMME

8.4.1 The proposed works that are proposed in the Policies section above, and further detailed in the Gazetteer for specific locations are here set out in Tables A to C as a scheme of actions for the short, medium, and long term (pp.30 and following, below).

8.4.2 The potential works of conservation and enhancement of the Town Walls are considered in three areas:

- Information and Access (Table A)
- Presentation and Interpretation (Table B)
- Fabric and Structural Works (Table C).

8.4.2 The Condition Survey of the walls is reported in detail in the Gazetteer (Appendix B), and summarised here in Table D - Condition Summary Table.

8.5 MASONRY REPAIR AND CONSERVATION WORKS

The issues

8.5.1 The principal conservation issues revealed by the condition survey are:

- Growth of vegetation on wall tops
- Loss of pointing
- Loss of masonry facing.

8.5.2 Vegetation may be obviously damaging (ivy and shrub roots) or relatively benign (wall plants and light creeper), and it is not obvious that all ought to be removed in all places. Where the vegetation is removed from the top of the walls then a lime mortar capping should be provided to discourage further damaging growth.

8.5.3 Loss of pointing is widespread, but wholesale replacement would affect a loss of character (albeit one that would ameliorate with time). It is not obvious that the whole of the walls on both sides should be repointed, and a decision would have to be taken on which areas were most in need.

8.5.4 Loss of masonry facing gives an alarming appearance of instability, though this may not be the case. It would seem desirable at least to prevent further collapse or decay in existing cavities and, where fallen stone survives nearby, to replace it in the gaps, or an equivalent new stone used. The condition survey has identified some 50 square metres of lost face on the exterior of the walls, and 150 square metres of lost face internally (at greater and lesser depths, and a variety of conditions).

Methodology

- 8.5.5 The methods of addressing stone repair are now generally agreed, and the current phase of capital works has necessitated approval of the methodology with the Department of the Environment - *Description of Works. Town Walls, Fethard Tipperary - Specification of Works* (Margaret Quinlan Architects, 2007).
- 8.5.6 Works may require prior archaeological investigation of buried parts of the wall at the base of a cavity, or recording of the masonry prior to re-setting. Mortar sampling may be required prior to selecting suitable inclusions, and the pointing detail will need to be approved. An as-built record at the end of works should be produced for comparison with the prior record.

Current Works

- 8.5.7 The current phase of Capital Works referred to above has addressed parts most easily accessible in public ownership or access. They include the North Gate and walls in the adjacent GAA grounds, and the turret at the north-east corner. A priority is also the part of the south wall next the graveyard, where masonry facing has been lost.

8.6 RESEARCH AGENDA

- 8.6.1 A research agenda should not be too prescriptive, or obstruct the development of new ideas and possible avenues of investigation. However, it may be useful to record what seems at this stage to be the range of issues that could be addressed by historical and archaeological investigations. These are shown in the following table, arranged under subject headings:

<i>FETHARD RESEARCH TOPICS</i>	
<i>Historical investigations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporation records • Early maps of the area • History of medieval estates and manors • Visits by artists and antiquaries • Estates, settlements and boundaries in barony • Urban network in County Tipperary
<i>Architectural investigations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of remaining walls • Domestic architecture of Fethard
<i>Archaeological investigations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character of defences (walls, gates, ditches) • Extent of urban settlement and suburbs • Development of riverside • Evidence for decline and abandonment • Evidence of economic activity of town • Environmental evidence from wet and dry deposits

8.7 REVIEW

- 8.7.1 After adoption, the Plan itself will need to be reviewed at regular intervals to reflect increased knowledge, altered circumstances, changes in legislation or guidance, and the changing aspirations of the principal bodies and partners involved. The review process itself will need to be co-ordinated between the bodies.

Oxford Archaeology
December 2008

FETHARD HISTORIC TOWN WALLS. TABLE A: INFORMATION AND ACCESS			
	Current	Short Term	Long Term
2.01	<p>No access</p> <p>Danger for pedestrians from traffic</p> <p>Damage from traffic visible on Gate</p> <p>Locked green space next to Gate</p> <p>Information plaque</p>	<p>Reduce danger for pedestrians</p> <p>Restriction of HGV traffic to prevent further damage</p>	<p>After restoration possible access to castle and Wall</p>
2.02	<p>No access, Private land</p>		<p>Consider potential of use of breach in Wall with negotiation with owner.</p>
2.03	<p>No access, Private land</p>	<p><i>Depending on exterior private owner agreement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible public access to exterior (Convent) • Space for signs/boards/talks etc • Potential Wall walk <p><i>Interior – Private land, no access</i></p>	<p>Protect this area of unobscured Wall from encroachment</p>
2.04	<p>No access, Private land</p>	<p><i>Depending on exterior private owner agreement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible public access to exterior (Convent) • Space for signs/boards/talks etc • Potential Wall walk <p><i>Interior – Private land, no access</i></p>	<p>Protect this area of unobscured Wall from encroachment</p>

FETHARD HISTORIC TOWN WALLS. TABLE A: INFORMATION AND ACCESS

	<i>Current</i>	<i>Short Term</i>	<i>Long Term</i>
2.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No access, derelict building, Fethard Community Council exterior owners Danger to pedestrians from traffic 	<p><i>Consider steps to reduce traffic Permission for development conditional upon archaeological investigation of site</i></p> <p>Protection of buried remains</p>	<p><i>Potential for exterior</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public access to exterior Space for signs, information boards, meeting area Potential Wall walk <p><i>Interior in private ownership</i></p>
2.06	No access, Private land Danger to visitors from traffic Information plaque	<p><i>Consider steps to reduce traffic</i></p> <p>Depending on private owner agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible access to Wall Potential Wall walk but needs prior investigation, repair and safety assessment 	Ensure Castle protected by inclusion in County Development Plan
2.07	No access, Private land	<p>Depending on exterior private owner agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential Wall walk but needs prior investigation, repair and safety assessment (Steps to former parapet exist) 	
2.08	Restored Wall Wall gap from riverside public space to Main Street	<p>Depending on interior private owner agreement potential public access Town to Riverside</p> <p>Exterior improvement of public space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove fencing around public space Provide footpath alongside existing south road 	

FETHARD HISTORIC TOWN WALLS. TABLE A: INFORMATION AND ACCESS			
	Current	Short Term	Long Term
2.09	<p>Restored Wall</p> <p>Wall gap from riverside public space to interior but no access, Private land</p> <p><i>?Possible route of medieval passageway from riverside public space to Main Street</i></p>	<p>Exterior improvement of public space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential location for Information Board • Remove fencing around public space • Provide footpath alongside existing S. road 	<p>Depending on private interior owner agreement</p> <p>Potential access along medieval passageway?</p>
2.10	<p>Restored Wall</p> <p>No interior access, Private land</p>	<p>Exterior improvement of public space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove fencing around public space • Provide footpath alongside existing south road 	
2.11	<p>No public access</p> <p>Exterior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unrestored Wall partly within buildings • Factory dating to pre-1840 built against Wall, Private land 	<p><i>Exterior forms part of current garage business</i></p>	<p>Retain factory buildings, at least in part for historic interest</p>
2.12	<p>Exterior – as 2.11 above</p> <p>Interior</p> <p>Public access within Churchyard</p>	<p><i>Exterior – as 2.11 above</i></p> <p>Interior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider with proposals for Churchyard • Also consider with proposals for Town Walls in general 	<p>Exterior – as 2.11 above</p>

FETHARD HISTORIC TOWN WALLS. TABLE A: INFORMATION AND ACCESS

	<i>Current</i>	<i>Short Term</i>	<i>Long Term</i>
2.13	<p><i>South West Mural Tower</i></p> <p>No public access Insecure ground floor entrance Ground floor unstable</p>	<p><i>Address safety issues of ground floor Possible access</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>From within Churchyard</i> • to upper floors • to parapet walk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to ground floor • Archaeological investigation and recording of any ground- or building works • Ensure Castle protected by inclusion in County Development Plan
2.14	<p><i>Wall at south of Churchyard</i></p> <p>Restored Wall Public access interior and exterior</p>	<p>Interior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider with proposals for Churchyard • Also consider with proposals for Town Walls in general 	
2.15	<p><i>Wall south of Churchyard and Pound</i></p> <p>Restored Wall Public access interior and exterior</p>	<p>Interior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider with proposals for Churchyard • Also consider with proposals for Town Walls in general 	
2.16	<p><i>Edmond's Castle and Wall to east</i></p> <p>No access, Private land</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Liaise with owner for potential public access to Castle</i> • Arrange for clearance of vegetation in ruined building east of Castle and public access to ruin 	<p>Ensure Castle protected by inclusion in County Development Plan</p>
2.17	<p><i>Gap for roadway</i></p> <p>Public access Potential of buried remains only</p>		<p>Archaeological investigation of roadway to identify buried remains</p>

FETHARD HISTORIC TOWN WALLS. TABLE A: INFORMATION AND ACCESS

	Current	Short Term	Long Term
2.18	Wall west of Watergate Street No access, Private land Breach in Wall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with owner or other legitimate steps to keep land clear of rubbish and overgrowth • Consider physical restriction in this area of vehicular access to open area south of Walls (excluding traffic to local business and properties) 	
2.19	Water Gate and Watergate Bridge Public access but danger from traffic	Encourage visitors to view walls from open public space south-west of Watergate Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological investigation of roadway to locate West Gate • Archaeological investigation of Bridge and recording if works carried out
2.20	Wall east of Watergate St with Sheela-na-gig Exterior <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public access • Small open space in front of Wall with rose garden • Plaque Interior – no access	Liaise with interior owner for potential access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain rose garden, acting as a buffer zone protecting Wall and Sheela-na-gig • Consider diversion of HGV traffic away from this area
2.21	South-east Wall on the Lane (A) Exterior – public access via private lane Interior – no access, Private land	Investigate formal arrangement for public access via lane with private owners	
2.22	South-east Wall on the Lane (B) Exterior – public access via private lane Interior – no access, Private land	Investigate formal arrangement for public access via lane with private owners	

FETHARD HISTORIC TOWN WALLS. TABLE A: INFORMATION AND ACCESS

	<i>Current</i>	<i>Short Term</i>	<i>Long Term</i>
2.23	<i>South-east Wall within the Yards (A)</i> No access, private land		
2.24	<i>South-east Wall within the Yards (B)</i> No access, private land Potential of buried remains only		<i>With owners' permission</i> , archaeological investigation of potential buried Wall remains
2.25	<i>South-east Wall within the Yards (C)</i> No access, Private land Possible remains of Wall within houses Potential of buried remains		<i>With owners' permission</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological investigation of potential buried Wall remains • Archaeological building recording of remains within houses
2.26	<i>Possible site of East Gate</i> Public access but danger from traffic	<i>Potential nearby open space for Information board, talks, meeting point at North side of Gen. Burke Street (2.27 below)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological investigation of roadway to identify buried remains
2.27	<i>Wall north of Gen. Burke Street</i> Derelict buildings formerly built against Wall No access, but County Council exterior owner Car parking available to north of site	<i>Clear land of rubbish and overgrowth</i> Take steps to counter vandalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Potential for public access to exterior</i> • <i>Potential for public open space</i>
2.28	<i>North-east Wall, south of Barrack St</i> Remains of buildings formerly built against Wall No access, but County Council exterior owner Car parking available to north of site	<i>Clear land of rubbish and overgrowth</i> Take steps to counter vandalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Potential for public access to exterior</i> • <i>Potential for public open space</i>
2.29	<i>North-east Wall, south of Barrack St (between gardens)</i> No access, Private land		

FETHARD HISTORIC TOWN WALLS. TABLE A: INFORMATION AND ACCESS			
	<i>Current</i>	<i>Short Term</i>	<i>Long Term</i>
2.30	North-east Wall, south of Barrack St (lost Wall) No access, Private land Potential buried remains in garden		With owners' permission, archaeological investigation of potential buried Wall remains Potential public access from Barrack St with owner's permission
2.31	Site of Pierce's Gate Public access but danger from traffic Potential buried remains in road		Archaeological investigation of roadway to identify buried remains
2.32	North-east Wall, north of Barrack St (lost wall in road) Public access but danger from traffic Potential buried remains in road		Archaeological investigation of roadway to identify buried remains
2.33	Wall within the Mart Exterior –public access Interior - restricted public access during market days only	Negotiate access to the Wall outside market opening hours (interior) Consider specific problems from livestock with public access	Dependent upon continuing use of site by GAA and Mart
2.34	Corner Tower Exterior – public access Interior – restricted public access during market days only	Negotiate access to the Wall outside market opening hours (interior) Consider specific problems from livestock with public access Potential public access inside Tower but works required	Dependent upon continuing use of site by GAA and Mart
2.35	North-east Wall, eastern section Exterior – public access when gate unlocked Interior – restricted public access during market days only	Negotiate access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With GAA (exterior) Outside market opening hours (interior) with The Mart Consider specific problems from livestock with public access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent upon continuing use of site by GAA and Mart Potential removal of buildings at present built against the Wall

FETHARD HISTORIC TOWN WALLS. TABLE A: INFORMATION AND ACCESS

	<i>Current</i>	<i>Short Term</i>	<i>Long Term</i>
2.36	<p>Exterior – public access when gate unlocked Interior – no access, Private land</p>	<p><i>Negotiate access with GAA (exterior)</i></p>	<p>Dependent upon continuing use of site by GAA</p>
2.37	<p>Exterior – public access when gate unlocked Interior – no access, Private land</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Negotiate access with Fethard Community Council (exterior)</i> • Potential for gatherings/talks/stop for guided walks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent upon continuing use of site by Fethard Community Council • Potential use of present small building as Information centre, gift shop, etc • Potential removal of building at present built against the North Gate

FETHARD HISTORIC TOWN WALLS. TABLE B: PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION			
	<i>Short Term</i>	<i>Medium Term</i>	<i>Long Term</i>
<i>2.01 North Gate</i>	Include in guided walk	Own Information board in potential adjacent open space.	Open Currikeen castle, with potential for elevated viewpoint
<i>2.02 W of North Gate</i>	Include in general description of Walls		
<i>2.03 Convent Wall</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With owner's permission include in guided Town walk Own Info board with 2.04 Potential open space 		
<i>2.04 Convent Wall and Mural Tower</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With owner's permission include in guided Town walk Own Info board with 2.04 Potential open space 		
<i>2.05 Lost Wall and Riverside Wall</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With owner's permission include in guided Town walk Own board Potential open space 	Potential for public display and/or marking of line of wall following archaeological investigation and recording	
<i>2.06 Madam Castle Gate Tower</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With owner's permission include in guided Town walk and Riverside walk. Own Info board. Currently good presentation from S of River 	Negotiate with owner for investigation of adjacent concrete garage/fuel store	
<i>2.07 Wall SE of Madam Castle</i>	With owner's permission include in guided Town Walk and Riverside Walk. Currently good presentation from S of River.		Retain gardens exterior to Wall

FETHARD HISTORIC TOWN WALLS. TABLE B: PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

	<i>Short Term</i>	<i>Medium Term</i>	<i>Long Term</i>
<i>2.08 South Wall (A)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include exterior in guided Town walk • Retain and prune riverside trees which obscure view from South of River. 		
<i>2.09 South Wall (B)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include in guided Town walk • Info board for South Wall detailing restoration work and medieval passageways • Retain and prune riverside trees which obscure view from South of River 		
<i>2.10 South Wall (C)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include in guided Town walk • Retain and prune riverside trees which obscure view from South of River 		
<i>2.11 South Wall (D)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include in guided Town walk • Own Info board including factory 	Possible liaison with garage owner for replacement gate more appropriate to Town Wall	Negotiation of possible relocation of garage business but with due regard for decisions and rights of owner
<i>2.12 Wall at west of Churchyard</i>	<p>Exterior – as 2.11 above</p> <p>Interior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include in Churchyard Info Board within Churchyard • Include in guided Town Walk 	Exterior – as 2.11 above	Exterior – as 2.11 above
<i>2.13 South West Mural Tower</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include in guided Town Walk • Include in parapet walk • Own Info board 		

FETHARD HISTORIC TOWN WALLS. TABLE B: PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION		
<i>Short Term</i>	<i>Medium Term</i>	<i>Long Term</i>
2.14 Wall at south of Churchyard	Include in guided Town Walk Include in parapet walk Include in Churchyard Info Board within Churchyard Own board in public riverside space to South	
2.15 Wall at south of Churchyard and Pound	As 2.14 above	Retain remaining low walls of former buildings as part of Fethard history
2.16 Edmond's Castle	With owner's permission include in guided Town walk and own board	
2.17 Gap for roadway		Display/Information of results of archaeological investigation
2.18 Wall west of Watergate Street	Include in guided Town Walk Include Info in board relating to The Water Gate (2.19 below)	Include and maintain view of Town and Wall from the South and Watergate Bridge
2.19 Water Gate and Watergate Bridge	Include in guided Town walk Own Info board on open space to south-west	Display/Information of results of archaeological investigation and recordings of Bridge
2.20 Wall east of Watergate St with Sheela-na-gig	Include in guided Town walk Own Info board in open space at Wall with low-key inclusion of Sheela-na-gig Separately available detailed S-n-g information	
2.21 South-east Wall on the Lane (A)	Include in guided Town walk Include in Info board for 2.20 above	
2.22 South-east Wall on the Lane (B)	Include in guided Town walk Include in Info board for 2.20 above	
2.23 South-east Wall within the Yards (A)	Include in Info board for 2.20 above	

FETHARD HISTORIC TOWN WALLS. TABLE B: PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

	<i>Short Term</i>	<i>Medium Term</i>	<i>Long Term</i>
<i>2.24 South-east Wall within the Yards (B)</i>	Include in Info board for 2.20 above		Display/Information of results of archaeological investigation
<i>2.25 South-east Wall within the Yards (C)</i>	Include in Info board for 2.20 above		Display/Information of results of archaeological investigation and building recordings
<i>2.26 Possible Site of East Gate</i>	Include in guided Town walk Own Info board in open space N. side of Gen. Burke Street (see 2.27 below)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display/Information of results of archaeological investigation • Potential to mark out location and dimensions of Gate in roadway
<i>2.27 Wall to north of Gen. Burke Street</i>	Include in guided Town walk Potential open space for Info board, talks, meeting point Own Info board	Consider retaining alterations caused by house as example of changing use of Wall over time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential presentation of substantial section of Town Wall free from obstruction • Potential Wall walk
<i>2.28 North-east Wall, south of Barrack St</i>	Potential open space for Info board, talks, meeting point Include in Info board for 2.27 above		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential presentation of substantial section of Town Wall free from obstruction • Potential Wall walk
<i>2.29 North-east Wall, south of Barrack St (between gardens)</i>	No access Include in Info board for 2.27 above		
<i>2.30 North-east Wall, south of Barrack St (lost Wall)</i>	No access No standing remains Include in Info board for 2.27 above		Display/Information of results of archaeological investigation

FETHARD HISTORIC TOWN WALLS. TABLE B: PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION		
<i>Short Term</i>	<i>Medium Term</i>	<i>Long Term</i>
<p>2.31 <i>Site of Pierce's Gate</i></p> <p>Include in guided Town walk Own Info board nearby potentially</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavement, junction of Barrack St and St Patrick's Place • Land at the GAA ground (see 2.33) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display/Information of results of archaeological investigation • Potential to mark out location and dimensions of Gate in roadway
<p>2.32 <i>North-east Wall, north of Barrack St (lost wall in road)</i></p> <p>Include in guided Town walk Include in Info board with 2.33 to 2.34 below</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display/Information of results of archaeological investigation • Potential to mark out location and dimensions of Gate in roadway
<p>2.33 <i>Wall within the Mart</i></p> <p>Depending on negotiated access, include in guided Town walk Include in Info board with 2.32 and 2.34 (potential site for Info board adjacent to Wall)</p>		
<p>2.34 <i>Corner Tower</i></p> <p>Depending on negotiated access, include in guided Town walk Include in Info board with 2.32 and 2.33 above</p>		
<p>2.35 <i>North-east Wall, eastern section</i></p> <p>Depending on negotiated access, include in guided Town walk Include in Info board with 2.36 and 2.37 below</p>		
<p>2.36 <i>North-east Wall, central section</i></p> <p>Depending on negotiated access, include in guided Town walk Include in Info board with 2.35 and 2.37</p>		

FETHARD HISTORIC TOWN WALLS. TABLE B: PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

	<i>Short Term</i>	<i>Medium Term</i>	<i>Long Term</i>
<p>2.37 <i>North-east Wall, western section</i></p>	<p>Depending on negotiated access, include in guided Town walk Include in Info board with 2.35 and 2.36 Potential location for Info board</p>	<p>Depending on negotiated access, potential use of green space (exterior) for public use</p>	<p>Depending on owner, potential public use of building for visitors or removal to enhance presentation of the North Gate</p>

FETHARD HISTORIC TOWN WALLS: TABLE C FABRIC AND STRUCTURAL WORKS PRIORITY PROGRAMME

Priority	Work Required	Location	Owner
Urgent	<i>Stabilise wall and repair</i>	F2.3 Convent wall (high) (Interior)	Kitty Aherne
Urgent	<i>Check wall condition and repair</i>	F2.4 Convent wall (low) and possible mural tower (Interior)	Martin Burke
Urgent	<i>Repair base of wall, support very weak. Clear rubbish.</i>	F2.18 Wall West of Watergate Street (Exterior)	Personal Reps of Jimmy Ryan
Urgent	<i>Repair base of wall, support very weak. Clear rubbish.</i>	F2.18 Wall West of Watergate Street (Interior)	Personal Reps of Jimmy Ryan
Short-term	<i>Repair</i>	F2.22 Wall on lane (Exterior)	Tom Purcell
Short-term	<i>Repair</i>	F2.22 Wall on lane (Exterior)	John Looby
Short-term	<i>Repair</i>	F2.22 Wall on lane (Interior)	Tom Purcell
Short-term	<i>Repair</i>	F2.22 Wall on lane (Interior)	John Looby
Short-term	<i>Sound but remains of chimneys etc. built onto wall. Worthwhile archaeological excavation at wall base</i>	F2.27 Wall North of road (Exterior)	STCC

FETHARD HISTORIC TOWN WALLS: TABLE C FABRIC AND STRUCTURAL WORKS PRIORITY PROGRAMME

Priority	Work Required	Location	Owner
Short-term	<i>Repair. Worthwhile archaeological excavation at wall base.</i>	F2.28 Wall between gardens and development site (Exterior)	STCC
Short-term	<i>Worthwhile archaeological excavation at wall base</i>	F2.29 Wall between gardens (Exterior)	John Carroll
Short-term	<i>Further investigation of wall steps to parapet.</i>	F2.36 North wall mid sector in Tennis Courts (Interior)	Joe Kenny
Medium-term	<i>Investigate wall at lower ground level</i>	F2.4 Convent wall (low) and possible mural tower (Interior)	Presentation Convent
Medium-term	<i>Investigation to locate wall.</i>	F2.5 Lost wall and riverside wall	Riparian owner of River Clashawley

FETHARD Historic Town Walls. Table D - Condition Summary Table (from Gazetteer)					
No	Location	Owner	Condition (measurements approx.)	Work Required	Priority
F2.1	North Gate and Castle (Exterior)	STCC	Good		
	North Gate and Castle (Interior)	STCC	Good		
F2.2	W of Northgate (Exterior)	Jim McGrath	Good		
	W of Northgate (Interior)	Chris Nevin	Good		
	W of Northgate (Interior)	Olwyn Wall	Good		
F2.3	Convent wall (high) (Exterior)	Presentation Convent	Good		
	Convent wall (high) (Interior)	Olwyn Wall	Good	Check concrete stability	
	Convent wall (high) (Interior)	Kitty Aherne	Very poor - wall crumbling, deep cavity, plant roots 12.75m ²	Stabilise wall and repair.	Urgent
	Convent wall (high) (Interior)	Bill Sullivan	Fair - loose cement patches 1.5m ²		
	Convent wall (high) (Interior)	Holy Trinity Church/ Fr. Breen	Uncertain - concrete render	Check	
F2.4	Convent wall (low) and poss mural tower (Exterior)	Presentation Convent	Good		
	Convent wall (low) and poss mural tower (Interior)	Presentation Convent	Fair - cement patches 5m ²	Investigate wall at lower ground level	Mid-term

FETHARD Historic Town Walls. Table D - Condition Summary Table (from Gazetteer)					
<i>No</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Condition (measurements approx.)</i>	<i>Work Required</i>	<i>Priority</i>
	Convent wall (low) and poss mural tower (Interior)	Martin Burke	Poor - held together with ivy 3.5m ² + lost facing and cavity hidden by plant growth	Check wall condition and repair.	Urgent
F2.5	Lost wall and riverside wall	Riparian owner of R. Clashawley	---	Investigation to locate wall	Mid-term
F2.6	Madam Castle (Exterior)	STCC	Good		
	Madam Castle (Interior)	STCC			
F2.7	Wall to SE of Madam Castle and Tower (Exterior)	Mrs O'Flyn	Good		
	Wall to SE of Madam Castle and Tower (Interior)	Mrs O'Flyn	Good	Owner willing to remove shed for wall repairs	
F2.8	South wall A (Exterior)	Public space	Good		
	South wall A (Interior)	Annette McCarthy	Good		
	South wall A (Interior)	Reps of Dick Cummins	Good		
	South wall A (Interior)	Mrs O'Connell	Unseen - within building	Inspect	
F2.9	South wall B (Exterior)	Public space			
	South wall B (Interior)	Mrs O'Connell	Fair	Some facing lost	
	South wall B (Interior)	Annette McCarthy	Poor – loose masonry falling out of blocked windows and decaying wooden lintels 3.25m ²	Loose stones, timber lintels rotting	

FETHARD Historic Town Walls. Table D - Condition Summary Table (from Gazetteer)						
No	Location	Owner	Condition (measurements approx.)	Work Required	Priority	
F2.10	South wall C (Exterior)	Public space	Good			
	South wall C (Interior)	Austin Lawrence	To be assessed			
	South wall C (Interior)	Mrs Gorey	To be assessed			
	South wall C (Interior)	Philip Butler	Good			
F2.11	South wall D (Exterior)	Thomas Heneghan	Fair - one large deep cavity inside shed 3.5m ²			
	South wall D (Interior)	Jimmy Connolly	Good			
	South wall D (Interior)	John Whyte	Good			
F2.12	Churchyard west side (Exterior)	Thomas Heneghan	Good –			
	Churchyard west side (Interior)	Rep of the Church Body	Good			
F2.13	South West Mural Tower (Exterior)	Thomas Heneghan	Good			
	South West Mural Tower (Exterior)	Public space	Good			
	South West Mural Tower (Interior)	Rep of the Church Body	Good			
F2.14	Churchyard south side (Exterior)	Public space	Good			
	Churchyard south side (Interior)	Rep of the Church Body	Good			
F2.15	Churchyard SE tower and Pound (Exterior)	Public space	Good			

FETHARD Historic Town Walls. Table D - Condition Summary Table (from Gazetteer)					
<i>No</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Condition (measurements approx.)</i>	<i>Work Required</i>	<i>Priority</i>
	Churchyard SE tower and Pound (Interior)	Rep of the Church Body	Good		
	Churchyard SE tower and Pound (Interior)	Tim Robinson	Good		
F2.16	Edmond's Castle and wall to E (Exterior)	Public space	Good 4.25m ²		
	Edmond's Castle and wall to E (Interior)	Tim Robinson	Good – 17.75m ² (including 15 m ² lost facing)		
F2.17	Gap for roadway	STCC	---		
F2.18	Wall W of Watergate Street (Exterior)	Personal Reps of Jimmy Ryan	Very poor - Large cavities undermining wall. Dumped rubbish. 17.25m ² (including 8.5 m ² cavity to 0.7m depth)	Repair base of wall, support very weak. Clear rubbish.	Urgent
	Wall W of Watergate Street (Interior)	Personal Reps of Jimmy Ryan	Very poor - Large cavities undermining wall. Dumped rubbish. 27.25m ² (lost facing)	Repair base of wall, support very weak. Clear rubbish.	Urgent
F2.19	Watergate and Bridge	STCC	---		
F2.20	Wall E of Watergate (Exterior)	Public space	Good	Lorries endanger wall.	
	Wall E of Watergate (Interior)	Tony Sayers	Good 10m ² (to unknown depth as partly hidden)		

FETHARD Historic Town Walls. Table D - Condition Summary Table (from Gazetteer)						
No	Location	Owner	Condition (measurements approx.)	Work Required	Priority	
F2.21	Wall E of Watergate (Exterior)	Michael Casey	Poor 7.75m ² (deep cavities with large amounts of loose masonry)	Cavities undermining wall.		
	Wall E of Watergate (Interior)	Tony Sayers	22.25m ² (lost facing)			
F2.22	Wall on lane (Exterior)	Tom Purcell	Poor - cavities undermine wall. 2m ²	Repair	Short-term	
	Wall on lane (Exterior)	John Looby	Poor - cavities undermine wall. 4.5m ²	Repair	Short-term	
	Wall on lane (Interior)	Tom Purcell	Poor - cavities undermine wall. Cement and concrete added.	Repair	Short-term	
	Wall on lane (Interior)	John Looby	Poor - cavities undermine wall. Cement and concrete added	Repair	Short-term	
F2.23	Wall in yards (Exterior)	Tony Sayers	Fair	Partial remains only.		
	Wall in yards (Interior)	Bernard Walsh	Fair	Partial remains only.		
F2.24	Wall in yards to SE corner (Exterior)	Peter Grant	Loose masonry where wall terminates 2m ²			
	Wall in yards to SE corner (Interior)	Peter Grant	To be assessed			
F2.25	Wall from SE corner to road (Exterior)	Vincent Cummins	To be assessed			
	Wall from SE corner to road (Interior)	Peter Grant	To be assessed			
F2.26	Site of possible East Gate	STCC	---	Sound but remains of chimneys etc. built into wall.	Short-term	
F2.27	Wall North of road (Exterior)	STCC	Good.	Worth excavation at wall base		
	Wall North of road (Interior)	Anne & Michael Kenrick	To be assessed	Within house		
F2.28	Wall between gardens and development site (Exterior)	STCC	Good but large, very deep cavities, large amounts of loose masonry and plant growth. 20.25m ²	Repair. Worth excavation at wall base	Short-term	
	Wall between gardens and development site (Interior)	Emily Sayers				

FETHARD Historic Town Walls. Table D - Condition Summary Table (from Gazetteer)

<i>No</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Condition (measurements approx.)</i>	<i>Work Required</i>	<i>Priority</i>
	Wall between gardens and development site (Interior)	Emily Sayers/Ann Healy			
	Wall between gardens and development site (Interior)	Pierce O'Flynn	4m ²		
	Wall between gardens and development site (Interior)	Paddy Lonergan			
	Wall between gardens and development site (Interior)	John Carroll	0.25m ²		
F2.29	Wall between gardens (Exterior)	John Carroll	1.75m ²	Worth excavation at wall base	Short-term
	Wall between gardens (Interior)	Tom Anglim	Deep cavity with large amounts of loose masonry and deep cracks 6.75m ²		
F2.30	Lost wall in garden	Michael O'Hagan	---		
F2.31	Site of lost Pierce Gate	STCC	---		
F2.32	Lost wall in road	STCC	---		
F2.33	Wall in Mart/Barracks (Exterior)	GAA	Very good		
	Wall in Mart/Barracks (Interior)	P.F. Quirke	TBA		
F2.34	Corner Tower (Exterior)	GAA	Very good		

FETHARD Historic Town Walls. Table D - Condition Summary Table (from Gazetteer)						
No	Location	Owner	Condition (measurements approx.)	Work Required	Priority	
	Corner Tower (Interior)	P.F. Quirke	To be assessed			
F2.35	North Wall, E sector in Mart/GAA grounds (Exterior)	GAA	Very good			
	North Wall, E sector in Mart/GAA grounds (Interior)	P.F. Quirke	Very good – two small, deep cavities. 2.25m ²			
F2.36	North wall mid sector in Tennis Courts (Exterior)	GAA	Good			
	North wall mid sector in Tennis Courts (Interior)	Gerard Manton	Good			
	North wall mid sector in Tennis Courts (Interior)	Joe Kenny	Good – lost facing and damage to stairway feature. 4.75m ²	Further investigation of wall steps to parapet.	Short-term	
F2.37	Wall E of North Gate (Exterior)	GAA	Good			
	Wall E of North Gate (Interior)	Pierce Dillon	Unknown - obscured by vegetation.			



Figure 12: Sheela na Gig, east of Watergate

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Appendix B: Fethard Gazetteer

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Gazetteer

1.01

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

1 Setting and Context

Overall Setting and Visual Context

Summary

Fethard's location on a plateau gives few significant views of historic importance, and the key views of the historic town and walls are closer to the centre, and are important.

Description

Fethard sits on a plateau surrounded by low hills, 12 km north of Clonmel, with the nearest mountain at Slievenamon a few miles to the south-east. It is situated on a bend in the River Clashawley, near to its junction with another stream, that is tributary to the River Suir by Clonmel. Its centrality as a market town is demonstrated by its being the meeting point of at least ten local roads, of which five are significant local routes.

The town is aligned on the east/west road, parallel to the river, with riverside meadow to the south side. Maps of the town fields in the 18th century show that they occupied most of the land area of the 'Fethard' townland to the north and south sides of the town. On the hill to the south were the Market Hill Commons, presumably the urban common pasture, near to the Grove Wood (perhaps another common resource) that gave its name to Fethard (*Fíodh Aird*, the 'high wood').

There are a number of longer-distant views of the town from hills and approach roads, but the more important views for understanding the historic town are nearby views from open spaces around the walls. These include views along the river from the west and south, and more distance views of the south walls from the direction of Templemartin. The whole of the southern aspect of the walls between Madam's Bridge and Watergate Bridge is a series of views of considerable significance. On the east side the more enclosed view of the walls rising up the slope is significant, and on the north the open view of the walls from the playing fields is another significant view. More enclosed views like those in the Convent garden in the north-west sector, or in the lane in the south-east sector have aspects that should be protected from intrusion.

Status

The views are an important part of the town, and visual aspects feature in planning documents, and have been considered in the Fethard *Public Realm Plan* for Fethard.

Significance

The views of historic Fethard in its setting are of Considerable importance for the character of the historic town, and for the amenity of the inhabitants and visitors.

Issues/vulnerability

- Key views can be compromised by modern development, impacting on the appreciation of walls and the historic approaches.
- As stated in the *Public Realm Plan* (2008): 'It is vital to the conservation and enhancement of Fethard's unique character that its views and landmarks are maintained and where possible enhanced.' (sect. 4.8)

Policies/Recommendations

- The character of the historic defences should be protected by control of development near the defences (Policy 2.1).
- The rural setting of the town and view should be protected (Policy 2.5).



Gazetteer

1.02

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

1 Setting and Context

Boundaries and Designations

Summary

The historic town of Fethard, with its monuments and defences, is recognised under national and local legislation and planning controls. The town walls are both a Recorded Monument and a Protected Structure. The Public Realm Plan for Fethard, a companion to this study, introduces a new vision and strategy for the historic town.

Description

National Legislation

The town of Fethard is on the *Record of Monuments and Places* for Tipperary, and is protected under the National Monuments Act (1930-2004). Individual buildings are National Monuments, or Protected Structures under the *Planning and Development Act 2000*.

County Planning

The *South Tipperary County Development Plan 2003* (as amended), as at November 2007, includes policies on the Built Environment (4.9); Conservation, Heritage and Culture (4.11); and Open Space (4.10). It also contains a specific policy to designate Architectural Conservation Areas (ENV43) and such an Area has been designated for Fethard (Appendix 9) Other relevant policies include: Rural Housing in Pressure Areas (HSG.9) and Strategic Employment (ECON2) as well as other specific references referred to within the text of this document.

In error, the Town Walls of Fethard and a small number of other historic structures that had been listed were not included as a 'Protected Structures' in Appendix 3 of the 2003 County Development Plan. They have now been added as an amendment: 'List of Additions to Record of Protected Structures in the 2003 Development Plan', which includes *inter alia*: 'S645 Entire town wall and parts thereof.'

Local Planning

The *Fethard Local Area Plan* (2005) includes policies on the Town Centre (TOWN1); The Architectural Conservation Area (ENV1); Archaeology (ENV4); Area of Archaeological Potential (App 2); Archaeological Conservation Area (App 2) and Protected Structures (ENV3). The Zone of Archaeological Potential Map 2 includes the walled town and an immediate area outside the walls, virtually identical with the zone identified in the *Urban Archaeological Survey* (Office of Public Works, 1993).

Public Realm Plan

A recently completed *Public Realm Plan for the historic walled town of Fethard* has been produced by the Paul Hogarth Company and ERM Ireland for the County Council and Heritage Council (Walled Towns Network). This includes a vision statement (5.1):

Fethard will be elevated to a tourist attraction of national significance, capitalising fully on its considerable existing assets as well as its central position within a regional network of historic towns. This will be achieved in a manner that protects the historic value of the town, whilst also sensitively accommodating new development necessary for the sustainability of the town.

The stated Aims to achieve this vision include:

- *Enhance the Environmental Quality of Fethard to the benefit of local residents, businesses and visitors*
- *Significantly Improve Fethard as a Tourism Destination (A Tourism Icon)*
- *Create a Positive Framework for Future Development*
- *Managing future development in a way which protects and enhances heritage assets in line with the Conservation and Management Plan.*

The stated Objectives of the Public Realm Plan are:

- *Conservation and restoration of historic built fabric, including the walls*
- *Increased pedestrian linkage into and around the historic walled town*
- *Positive guidance to future development in relation to the character of the town*
- *High quality Public Realm to support economic viability of the town and its businesses*
- *Interpretation and presentation of Fethard's history*
- *Improved visitor orientation around the town*
- *Identification, protection, and enhancement of important views*
- *Improved amenities and hospitality for visitors*
- *Reduction of impact of traffic and parking on important urban spaces*
- *Enhanced settings for historic buildings and spaces*
- *Enhancement of the arrival experience into Fethard*
- *Improvement of the night time environment of the town*
- *Expansion and diversification of visitor attractions and activities*
- *Improved provision of well designed green open space and linkages.*

Significance

The Outstanding Significance of Fethard as one of the most complete surviving examples of a medieval walled town in Tipperary and Ireland is recognised by the designations and plans. It is of major local, national and international importance.

Issues/vulnerability

- The protection to Fethard and its setting afforded by legislation and guidance must be rigorously applied and enforced.
- The objectives and initiatives of the *Public Realm Plan* for access, interpretation and protection of the setting of the walls should be adopted and carried out, along with the specific works proposed in this Conservation Plan.



Gazetteer

1.03

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

1 Setting and Context

Holy Trinity Church

Summary

Holy Trinity Church is the Parish Church of Fethard, standing in its churchyard within the town walls.

Historical Background

Originally dedicated to St John the Baptist, it became Holy Trinity Church in the 16th century. The parish church was a property of the Priory and Hospital of St John the Baptist in Dublin (i.e. the Fratres Cruciferi, an Augustinian order of Hospitallers)¹ at the dissolution in 1540, which has led to the suggestion that the town's almshouse may have originated as a hospital associated with the church, and that the three 'castles' around the churchyard may have a similar association. The hospitallers were major landowners in the vicinity of Fethard, and may well have been based in the town (Hennessy 1988, inf. Tim Robinson).

The Nave and Chancel are thought to be 13th century and the Tower and two southern buildings added in about 1500 (O'Keefe 1995, 41). The last prior of the Dublin Hospital, Sir Thomas Everarde held land in Fethard after the dissolution. In the early 19th century the Nave and Tower were refurbished and, as was usual, the church always remained the Church of Ireland Parish Church, though generally used for all burials.

Description

The church consists of a Nave with north and south aisles, a Chancel and a West Tower. To the south a Chapel adjoins the wall of the Nave and a building, believed to be the Sacristy, adjoins the south of the Chancel. All but the Nave and Tower are roofless.

The original chancel arch has been blocked and the eastern bay of the nave now serves as the chancel. The remains of an internal newell stair within the wall at the north-east corner of the south aisle leads to a blocked doorway. Visible also in the chancel, the stair probably marks the position of the rood loft formerly within the chancel arch. One window remains which may be of medieval date, that in the west end of the north aisle (O'Keefe 1995, 43).

The eastern end of the Chapel remains along with the east window tracery. That the Chapel post-dates the Nave is indicated by an external nave buttress which is visible

1 For the 'crutched friars', see Gwynn and Hadcock, 208-12.

within the Chapel. The roofless Chancel shows the remains of an east window, together with other windows to north and south and doorways leading to north, south and into the Sacristy. The Sacristy is believed to have been of three storeys and alterations to convert it to a boiler house were made in the 20th century (O’Keeffe 1995, 47). The ground level now is lower than that of the Chancel.

The square West Tower contains a west window and it is embattled with a base batter. It has a spiral stair within the church leading to upper rooms.

An earlier, now blocked, south doorway into the Nave was described in 1995 by O’Keeffe as being round-arched and having human head terminals. The entrance to the church is now through the West Tower door.

The church contains memorials of notable Fethard families (e.g. Everard and Hacket) whose members were buried here.

Status

Protected Structure under Planning and Development Act 2000, listed as S209 in the Record of Protected Structures, Appendix 3, *South Tipperary County Development Plan 2003*

Significance

The Parish Church is the primary building of the Parish. As the central pivot of society before the 16th century religious Reformation it would have been of major importance to medieval Fethard society. The churchyard contains the remains of generations of Fethard townspeople. The relationship of the church to the town wall and ‘castles’ is unusual and significant, though the precise reason for this is uncertain.

Condition

The church is in reasonable condition.

Issues/vulnerability

- Access to the church and churchyard is important for visitors to Fethard.
- Unrestricted access has led to vandalism in the past, and this may remain an issue unless the churchyard is overlooked, or given a more open access (e.g. through the Town Hall building).
- The relationship of the church to the three ‘castles’ near to it is uncertain. One of them may have been a residence for the parish clergy, though the suggestion that the church was collegiate, or perhaps functioning in association with a hospital under the church’s rectors in Dublin remains an interesting possibility.



Gazetteer

1.04

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

1 Setting and Context

Court Castle

Summary

Court Castle is a medieval three-storeyed defended town house, partly ruinous, which stands in Watergate Street, behind the churchyard.

Historical Background

The building, which has been called at various times 'Fethard Castle' and the 'Hospitallers Castle', has little known history, and has been popularly associated with the 'Templars', and the parish church clergy (the parish church was a property of the Priory and Hospital of St John the Baptist in Dublin (i.e. the Fratres Cruciferi, an Augustinian order of Hospitallers). Certain features of the Castle (e.g. the lavabo) do indeed suggest monastic use. Whatever its origins, the castle was later the defended town house of the powerful local family of Everard in the 17th century, and the last prior of the Dublin Hospital, Sir Thomas Everarde acquired land in Fethard after the dissolution.

Description

Access to the interior of the building was not available and information has been obtained from the *Archaeological and Historical Survey of Fethard* carried out in 1995 by T. O'Keefe.

Court Castle is a medieval defended town house standing on the eastern side of the churchyard of the Holy Trinity Church of Ireland parish church. The building is orientated north-south with a turret in the approximate centre of the west wall containing stairs to the upper levels. There are two ground floor entrances leading from the street, the present northernmost doorway appears to have been made by widening a former opening. O'Keefe considers this to have been an original doorway, and it coincides with a chamfered jamb in the western wall, and both probably mark the position of an earlier through passage (O'Keefe 1995, 52).

The middle storey of the building contains a mezzanine floor and both it and the ground floor level were vaulted, a timber floor above, evidenced by corbels and joist sockets. There were two windows at the south end at ground floor level, and two western and an eastern window at the mezzanine level.

There is a flight of steps at the rear (west) of the building which are contained within a projecting turret at their upper level and ascend into a lobby through a pointed doorway.

The lobby is within the south end of the upper floor which has a small western window. A cross-window over the stair and murder-hole above the lobby possibly aided the defence of the tower house (O’Keeffe 1995, 53) although beside the cross-window there is a piscina/lavabo.

The castle underwent drastic change of use in the late 16th century. The room in the upper floor contains fireplaces in the northern, southern and midway along the eastern walls, the south fireplace is considered to be original and the others later, of 17th century date, and crudely inserted (O’Keeffe 1995, 53). Of three windows in the eastern wall, two triple-lights are blocked and a single-light window remains and a triple-light window in the western wall is now partly blocked. Small turrets to north and south ends of the building and above the parapet line are now inaccessible but would have contained further rooms, including a garderobe room in the south gable. Also in the south gable is the original fireplace and chimney and on its western side are the stairs accessing the parapet and small windows, now blocked, originally lit both garderobe and stairs.

Court Castle still displays the remains of its parapet which was entered from the south-west. Alterations to the parapet are visible in the north gable where narrowing was caused by the insertion of a chimney and where a doorway to the roof space was inserted into the south wall.

Status

A Recorded Monument, and also a protected Structure under *Planning and Development Act 2000* (omitted in error from the Record of Protected Structures, Appendix 3, *South Tipperary County Development Plan* (2003), and added as an emendment in July 2007). Listed as ‘S639 Urban Tower House Known as Court Castle Templars Castle Dated to c.1400’

Significance

Outstanding significance. Court Castle is of very major local significance, and of major national significance being the largest fortified house in Fethard and one of the largest found in Irish towns (O’Keeffe 1997, 27).

Condition

The building, being partly unroofed, is at risk from decay and dislodgement of masonry, and damage from growth of vegetation.

Issues/vulnerability

- The building is in a ruinous condition with some vegetation growth on the structure, and is in need of care and protection to prevent further deterioration.
- Access to the group of important historic buildings around the churchyard is an issue.



Gazetteer

1.05

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

1 Setting and Context

The Town Hall (Tholsel)

Summary

The Town Hall stands in a prominent position on the south side of Main Street near Holy Trinity Church, and is likely to be the ‘Tholsel’ built as a common hall for the newly chartered corporation in 1608.

Historical Background

The 1608 charter directed the Corporation to build a ‘tholsel or common hall’, and the building seems to have served this function, and later as a market hall for the town, but parts of the building may be older than this.

Description

The building was not examined as an architectural heritage assessment had been made in 2003 and reference to that assessment has been made.

Exterior

The two storey, rectangular building is considered to have been originally built in about 1600 with subsequent remodelling in the 18th and 20th centuries, particularly evidenced in the façade fenestration. Restoration work in the 1990s included the replacement of a 19th century shopfront at the east of the northern ground floor façade of the building. It also included the insertion of quoins to either side of the building.

The double-pitched roof is thought to be 18th century or later. The east and north gables have octagonal limestone chimney stacks with ball finials, thought to be original.

Both doors and windows have been altered, and it is not certain which openings are original (some are blocked), though some are square-headed with hood moulds. The addition of two extensions to the rear of the building has led to alterations in the windows, and there may have been changes in access and the relationship of the building to the churchyard.

There are a number of plaques attached to the outside of the front elevation of the building – three of which are believed to date from the 17th century and commemorate the Everard family, patrons of the town (O’Keeffe 1995, 49). A cast-iron weighing deck is on the pavement in front of the Town Hall, presumably relating to the use of the as the Market

House.

Interior

There is evidence that the original ground floor layout has changed considerably and the floor levels at the rear of the building have been raised. In particular the rooms to the east of the building appear to have been made in the 19th century (Dublin Civic Trust 2003, 14). The original rear external wall of the building has been breached by steps leading to the raised level to the rear of the entrance hall but other entrance hall features date to the 19th and 20th century. Stone corbels on the interior of the original external walls appear to have originally supported a first floor, but reinforced steel joists have now been inserted to carry out this function (Dublin Civic Trust 2003, 16). An east-west corridor with two other rooms seem to have been formed from an earlier single space from which limestone steps lead to the 18th century rear extension to the Tholsel. The single space may have pre-dated the extension.

The Hall or Courtroom occupies approximately two thirds of the length of the first floor and part of the roof space, suggesting that it may have formed part of 18th-century building alterations and absorbed an earlier second floor (Dublin Civic Trust 2003, 17). The flooring dates from the 19th or 20th century and the skirting and wall panelling coincide with the eastern stair hall which joinery can be dated to the mid to late 19th century (Dublin Civic Trust 2003, 18).

The second floor room is partly within the roof space and runs the width of the building. It has two windows facing east, one reaching to floor level and splayed, which coincides with the remains of an external hood moulding, suggesting it replaced an original window, the other is smaller but with no evidence of former openings. Between the two there are the remains of a slate hearthstone and blocked chimney breast which coincides with a small fireplace on the ground floor.

Status

The Town Hall is a Protected Structure under *Planning and Development Act 2000*. It is listed as 'Old Town Hall (Market House)', No. S210 in the Record of Protected Structures, Appendix 3, *South Tipperary County Development Plan (2003)*.

The Weighing Station outside the Town Hall is also a Protected Structure under *Planning and Development Act 2000*, and is listed No. S227 in the Record of Protected Structures, Appendix 3, *South Tipperary County Development Plan (2003)*.

Significance

Outstanding. The Town Hall may be one of the largest surviving early 17th century secular buildings in Ireland, and is representative of a new phase of civic activity at that time (O'Keeffe 1997, 21).

Condition

A condition report was produced by James A O'Connor Architects for Tipperary South Riding County Council in conjunction with the Architectural Heritage Assessment carried

out by Dublin Civic Trust in 2003. At that time it was considered that substantial opening up works would be required to carry out further investigations of the fabric of the building.

Issues/vulnerability

- A considerable amount of the original early 17th century building survives but further investigation is needed to fully identify and classify it.
- The building has been altered over time and 18th, 19th and early 20th century features all contribute to the history of the building.
- The building is in need of an appropriate use, and some repair.
- Any permission for work to be carried out to the building should be conditional upon a programme of building recording prior to, during and after conclusion of the work.



Gazetteer

1.06

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

1 Setting and Context

Historic Houses

Summary

The town centre of Fethard preserves a number of medieval and later houses of historic interest, which add to the historic significance of the town and have potential for further discovery.

Historical Background

The medieval town has been continuously occupied as a borough, corporate town and market centre. The medieval great houses, in the form of stone-built ‘castles’ would have stood in marked contrast with smaller houses of timber and thatch, but there are likely to have been stone town houses of modest size between the two extremes. Evidence for these has been found in a number of properties in the town.

Description

The *Urban Archaeological Survey* (1993) accounts for remains of several medieval and early modern houses in Main Street, Watergate Street, and Burke Street [Gazetteer 14.6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 23, 24]. The *Archaeological and Historical Survey of Fethard* carried out in 1995 (O’Keeffe 1995) describes medieval and later houses and fragmentary remains [Nos. 2-16, 20-23, 25-32]. These include Edmond’s Castle (below, Gazetteer 2.16), Court Castle (above, Gazetteer 1.04), Whyte’s Castle on the NW corner of the churchyard, and a nearby vaulted structure. The Monuments Database of the National Monument Service, which contains details of all known or possible monuments pre-dating 1700 AD lists some fifteen houses and other defensive structures.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage has described around 40 historic houses of all periods in Fethard [<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>], and the *South Tipperary Development Plan* (2003) lists under ten domestic properties as ‘Protected Structures’ (Appendix 3), with a similar number in the *Draft Plan 2009-15* (Appendix 5).

The lack of street numbering makes correlation between the various listings difficult, but the locations of the principal buildings is clear. It is certain, however, that historic fabric will exist unrecognised in other houses not yet investigated, and that the potential for surviving fireplaces, doors and windows is high.

Status

The major known instances of historic houses are either 'Recorded Monuments', or 'Protected Structures', and thus afforded some protection by legislation.

Significance

The medieval and later houses of Fethard are of Considerable Significance, and the surviving medieval houses contribute to the overall significance of the historic town.

Condition

Most of the occupied houses are in reasonable condition.

Issues/vulnerability

- Historic buildings are at risk from loss of significant fabric through minor internal changes as much as major building works.
- Work on historic buildings should be informed by an understanding of the history and significance of the structure.
- The investigation and recording of historic buildings during building works can be an important aspect of retaining significance and understanding through record.



Gazetteer

1.07

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

1 Setting and Context

Augustinian Friary and Mill

Summary

The present abbey church was the church of the 14th-century Augustinian Friary situated in the east suburb in Abbey Street. To the south of the Abbey building stands the Mill, which occupies the site of the original Friary Refectory.

Historical Background

Holy Trinity Priory, the Augustinian house of Friars, was founded in c.1306 by Walter Mulcote on land held from the Archbishop of Cashel, and the circumstances of the foundation are recorded in the royal pardon issued for proceeding without a 'mortmain' licence. The house was very wealthy, and when it surrendered in 1540 it consisted of 'church and steeple, dormitory, hall, two chambers, kitchen, etc. ('all in ruins'); its possessions in Fethard included land and houses, a mill and bakehouse.' The following year it was reported that the friary church had always been a parish church. Subsequently it was granted to Edmund Butler, Baron of Dunboyne, in 1544. The Augustinians continued in Fethard until at least the 17th century, and eventually returned to the house in 1820 (Gwynn and Hadcock, 299-300; Urban Archaeol. Survey).

Description

AUGUSTINIAN ABBEY CHURCH

The Abbey and the attached ruined buildings are all that remains of the medieval Augustinian Friary. The present Abbey was the Friary church and the Friary cloister with associated buildings, such as the Refectory, would have been built to the south and attached to the church. The ruined east range of the cloister survives and this two storey building housed the Friary Chapter House and Dormitory.

The façade of the Abbey was built in 1835 and followed the removal of a medieval west tower. The church itself is the original 14th century aisleless building, modified by the addition of two chapels, one north one south, in the 15th century and finely sculptured 15th century arches divide the choir and side chapel. A sacristy at the east end of the north wall is modern. Two of the north windows are "among the finest 14th century windows in the country" (O'Keeffe 1997, 28) and two other north windows may also be medieval.

(O’Keeffe 1995, 85). There are three buttresses, at the north wall and south-east and north-east corners of the building, the remains of a fourth and part of a string course all believed to date to the 14th century (O’Keeffe 1955, 85). Further 14th century architectural items have been incorporated into the modern fabric of the sacristy and the east-west wall flanking the south wall of the church.

The South Chapel has three elaborate arches dividing the chapel and the church with a further arch at the west end and Masons’ marks within the chapel and suggests a date of 15th century for this part of the Friary complex (O’Keeffe 1995, 86). The lobby at the ground floor has a half-vault similar to others in the east range and suggesting a date of early 15th century. From the lobby a mural stair rises to an upper storey.

The East Range was originally of two storeys and a mezzanine level, the ground floor consisting of two rooms and a passage between. The north room is of three vaulted bays, divided by arches on piers with further arches on the end walls, entered by an ogee-headed door but no original windows remain. The mezzanine floor above, but under the vault, has three windows, two of 14th century, which may be original Dormitory windows. The two storey passageway is also vaulted, the upper storey wider and containing a garderobe at the east end. The Abbey Mill was built against the west end in the 18th century. The south room is also two storeyed with a western stair and a chimney blocked by the later garderobe and O’Keeffe suggests that this room would have been the Augustinian Friar’s kitchen; the upper storey is unroofed but was arcaded and a doorway and windows in the gable wall are late 15th or 16th century (O’Keeffe 1995, 87).

At the front (north-east corner) of the Abbey church a length of wall contains a stone carved figure the fabric and dimensions of which is not consistent with that of the wall. The figure is damaged and worn but appears anthropomorphic although disproportionate. It has been identified as a Sheela-na-gig figure (O’Keeffe 1997, 17) and features such as, what appear to be, ribs and the hand position of the figure show similarity with the Sheela-na-gig figure located on Fethard Town Wall (see Gazetteer 2.20 below).

ABBNEY MILL

The Abbey Mill is a recently restored building, standing to the south of the Abbey Church, between the Church and the River Clashawley. It is considered to have been built on the site of the Augustinian Friary south claustral range of buildings which included the Refectory (O’Keeffe 1997, 29). Two plaques on the wall of the Mill refer to the years 1791 and 1847 and these may record the date when the Mill was built, extended or refurbished.

Status

Protected Structure under Planning and Development Act 2000.

The Augustinian Abbey is listed as “Abbey ‘Augustinian’/Sheela-na-gig/monuments “as S211 in the Record of Protected Structures, Appendix 3, South Tipperary County Development Plan 2003.

The Abbey Mill is listed as “Abbeymill” as S212 in the Record of Protected Structures, Appendix 3, *South Tipperary County Development Plan 2003*.

Significance

Considerable significance. This is a rare survival of a 14th century Augustinian Friary Church and claustral buildings with potential for the investigation of further, buried, remains of the cloister and ranges. Its importance is not only local and national but also international as the Friars were a phenomenon of medieval urban Christianity during a period of fundamental religious change throughout Europe.

In addition the Sheela-na-gig figure is one of a number of such figures discovered in Ireland and they are also found across Europe. Usually found within or near churches and often forming part of the fabric, they are thought to pre-date the Late Medieval period but the explanation of them is still being researched. The figures at Fethard are therefore of international significance.

Condition

The Abbey church building is in current use. The Eastern Claustral Range is a ruin but undergoing repair works in 2007. The remainder of the Friary complex probably still exists below ground.

Issues/vulnerability

- Buried remains of the former West Tower, demolished in 1820, may lie under the Abbeyville roadway .
- The buried remains of the 14th century Friary claustral buildings of a West Range may still lie under the Abbeyville roadway.
- Buried remains of the medieval Cloister lie under the car park between Abbey Mill and the present church building.
- The mill and stream may contain remains of the medieval mill.

Fethard Town Walls

Gazetteer nos 2.01-2.37

Gazetteer

2.01

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

*The North Gate and
Currikeen Castle***Summary**

The North Gate is the one surviving gate in the Town Walls, at the mid-point on the north side of the town. Part of its adjoining castle also survives.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. The North Gate would have provided access to the town fields for the townspeople, and was on the route to Thurles. The existing structure of the gate and castle may date from the 15th century. The oldest reference to the north gate dates from 1703 and it has been recorded under various names including: Castle Currikee, Castle Currikeen, Old town gate, Currikeen Castle as well as North Gate (O'Keeffe 2003).

Description

Gateway: The remains of the north gate consist of an open arch which spans the present road and a smaller side arch to the west, spanning the footpath. It was constructed using the same technique and materials as the town walls and imprints of the wickerwork used during construction are still visible in the underside of the archway.

Castle: To the east of the main arch are the remains of a rectangular stone castle which stand adjacent and to a similar height as the arch and incorporate the remains of a west-facing splayed window at ground floor level facing the road; an opening in the south wall has been blocked in recent years to prevent access. Internally there are the remains of a stair from ground to first floor, and a garderobe in a mural passage at first floor. It is likely that there was an upper room above the main arch connected with an upper room in the castle, and a further window overlooked the road south into the town (O'Keeffe 1995, 79). The castle stands on the exterior of the town wall and there is a small modern building which has been built adjoining it to the east.

Status

Standing remains are in the ownership of South Tipperary County Council.

Significance

The remains of the north gate and castle remains are of considerable inherent significance as the only surviving gate of the town, and of some rarity for walled towns.

Condition

Masonry in reasonable condition, but with plant growth on wall tops. Internally features are decayed, with some fallen masonry and accumulation of rubbish.

Issues/vulnerability

- Recent building close to site highlights potential risk from future development.
- Main arch spans current road, could be at risk from road maintenance and improvements.
- Already showing signs of damage and at risk of further damage or destruction from large vehicles travelling under the arch; consideration should be given to a physical barrier to protect the gate.
- Current traffic situation is already a safety risk to other road users and pedestrians as the large lorries currently using the road are almost as large as the arch of the Gate.
- Vegetation growing on the North Gate and especially the Castle needs to be checked and removed if damaging the stonework.
- Inclusion of site into a central town interpretation.
- Potential for improved access to tower, possibly with provision of stair and railings to first floor.
- Potential siting nearby of an information board with history of site (danger from traffic to pedestrians needs to be considered).



FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

Gazetteer

2.02

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

Wall west of North Gate

Summary

The north wall between the north gate and the boundary of the convent grounds is partly lost and partly standing.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3).

Description [Interior Fig 1]

The north wall is almost continuous to the west from the north gate to the edge of the high ground north of Madam’s Bridge. This section of the wall to the immediate west of the north gate has been breached but later infilled with concrete block walling. Immediately adjacent to the north gate the remains of buildings formerly built against the wall can be seen on the interior. The width of the wall here varies suggesting an earlier rebuilding at this point. The variable height of the wall coincides with the different land ownership within it. At the west end of this sector an area of concrete blocks have filled the gap to the full height of the wall.

Status

Standing remains. Land in the ownership of Jim McGrath (outside the wall) and Chris Nevin (within the wall).

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard.

Condition

Interior – fair.

There is a large gap in the wall between the properties of Olwyn Wall and Chris Nevin. On Olwyn Wall's property, there is a large cement building built against the wall which is likely to be keeping it steady. Immediately to the right of this, the wall has fallen away exposing the rubble interior and a concrete wall has been built against it and in line with the missing section.

Issues/vulnerability

- The vegetation and trees growing on the wall need to be identified and the growth of any species destructive to the wall should be stopped. All removal of vegetation and roots should be carried out without causing further damage to the wall.
- The breach in the wall which has been filled using breeze blocks provides the potential for a further access through the wall into the town by their removal. As the land is in private ownership permission for such access would need to be obtained.



Gazetteer

2.03

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

Wall west of North Gate (convent wall)

Summary

The north wall survives in a continuous length in the convent garden.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3).

Description [Exterior Fig 11; Interior Fig 1 and 2]

This section of the wall appears to be constructed in the same way and of the same material as the majority of the town walls, the usual Fethard construction. The convent stands to the north, exterior, of the wall and its land continues beyond this section to the far west of the town. The height of the wall in this section varies and decreases from east to west. A large, high stone-built grotto has been built against the wall at the east end of the section and two smaller grottoes are built into the wall further west. To the exterior the wall is overgrown with vegetation, including ivy, and obscured from view. On the interior the height of the wall varies from that of the exterior, some of the stonework having been removed from the interior side in the middle of this section.

Status

Standing remains of a length of high walling. Land is in the ownership of the Presentation Convent (outside the wall) and Olwyn Wall, Kitty Aherne and Bill Sullivan (within the wall)

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard.

Condition

Interior

(a) Within property east of the churchyard (Fig 2) – fair.

The section of wall on the left side behind the house is in good condition with the exception of some loose stones at the top which are leaning inward and appear to be very unstable. There is also an area of patching with stone and cement in the centre of the wall. There are some cavities in the wall on the right side of Bill Sullivan's property behind the yard. There has been some patching with stone and cement but this is very loose. On the upper right hand side of this section, the facing and rubble interior appear to have fallen away exposing the exterior facing of the wall in the convent garden on the other side. This appears to be in good condition and structurally sound. According to Bill Sullivan, there may have been a walk there at some point. There is a greenhouse situated approximately 1m away from the wall.

(b) Within two properties west of section 2.02 (Fig 1) – poor.

Large areas of the facing have fallen away exposing the rubble interior on Mrs Kitty Aherne's section of the wall. A large area of the external facing of the wall on the convent side is exposed at the top but this appears to be structurally sound. Parts of the rubble interior are very loose and large cavities are visible. Attempts to repair the wall with stone and cement have failed. There is a tree growing through the rubble interior and it is likely that this part of the wall is very unstable. Removal of vegetation and loose rubble is necessary. Further repair work with stone and lime mortar may also be necessary. There is a greenhouse built against the wall on the left side. The section of the wall running into Olwyn Wall's property appears to be in good condition however the top of the wall is partly obscured by vegetation.

Issues/vulnerability

- Identification of types of vegetation is required and any destructive species removed using methods which will not cause damage to the wall fabric.
- There is no public access to the wall. The Convent has a large section of wall within its ownership and if permission could be obtained from them for access, visitors would see an area representative of the complete town wall.



Gazetteer

2.04

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

Wall west of North Gate (convent wall and mural tower)

Summary

The north wall survives in a continuous length in the west part of the convent grounds (north of the R.C. church and churchyard) but has been reduced in height and partly rebuilt.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3).

A section of the Town Wall to the south of Convent Lane is recorded as having been demolished when the convent was built in approximately 1870 [HTA, 9]. The R.C. church was built in 1818-19 during a period of rebuilding of churches at both the Augustinian Friary Church and the parish church of Holy Trinity (O’Keeffe 2003, 6). A map of 1763 indicates that there may have been a tower at the north-western corner of the Town Wall (O’Keeffe 2003, 9). The current north-west extent of the wall may not equate with that of 1763 and a tower existing at that date may have been lost if the line of the wall was altered when the convent was constructed.

Description [Exterior Fig 11 and 12; Interior Fig 2 - 4]

The exterior of this section of the wall lies within the convent grounds. It appears to be constructed in the same way and of the same material as the majority of the town walls. The height of the wall varies from being of equal height with section 2.03 to a lower level midway along the Holy Trinity RC church boundary and doorway, and lower still west of the churchyard boundary. The width of the wall also varies. There is a doorway in the wall leading into an enclosed garden and a gateway to the west through the wall which is the southern vehicular entrance into the convent. Further west there is another, overgrown, doorway and finally the convent cemetery. At the cemetery the wall has been rendered and a large crucifix is attached to the wall here. The perimeter wall of the convent ends at the cemetery and beyond this the land falls away as a steep drop. The line of the town wall is

not clear from this point.

The interior section of the wall continues and the differences in land ownership are reflected in the variety of its treatment. The straight section of wall at the churchyard has been rendered and a doorway has been cut through it. A toilet block and a number of stone memorials have been built onto it. Adjoining the churchyard and to the west, the enclosed garden lies below the level of the convent grounds and the wall is exposed to a lower level (approximately 0.90m) than in other wall sections. The convent entrance, cut through the wall, appears to have been fairly recently made and has a driveway and landscaping beyond leading to Main Street. The west end of the interior of the wall forms a triangle with a garden wall and forms part of the back yard of the inn called "Burke's" which stands on Main Street. The wall here is continuous.

Status

Standing remains of a length of wall. Land is in the ownership of Presentation Convent (exterior and interior) and Martin Burke and Fr. Thomas F. Breen (interior).

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard. The section is of significance as a continuous section of remaining town walls. Of particular significance is the exposed piece of lower level walling in the convent's enclosed garden as this provides an opportunity to examine the methods of construction of the footings of the wall.

Condition

Interior

(a) Triangle of land at the west end (Fig 4) – uncertain

This section of the wall is largely obscured by dense ivy and tree cover. There is also a small wooden shed built against the wall. However, large areas of the upper half of the wall face appear to have fallen away on the left side leaving a visible uneven and concave surface under the ivy cover (indicated with a broken line in figure# 1 of the additional volume). It is possible that the dense ivy cover may be holding the rubble interior together. There are also two trees growing directly out of this part of the wall. There is a visible cavity in the lower left corner. The right side of the wall is completely obscured and access is restricted by dense vegetation and trees. Clearance of much of the outer vegetation is necessary to further investigate if ivy cover can be removed safely.

(b) Area west of the convent entrance (Fig 3) - good.

The section of wall west of the Convent entrance is mostly covered in vegetation and there is a small cavity at the bottom of the wall on the right side. It is otherwise in good stable condition.

(c) Area east of the convent entrance and within the enclosed garden (Fig 3) – good.

The section of wall east of the Convent entrance and running into the Convent garden is also mostly covered in plant growth but appears to be in good condition. However there are a few small cavities in the rebuilt areas on the lower half of the wall in the garden and a lot of the stones are very loose. An archaeological investigation may reveal the extent of the

wall below ground and retrieve lost masonry.

(d) Area within the churchyard (Fig 2) – uncertain

This section of the wall has been rendered entirely in cement and there are stone plaques and commemorations built into this render. There is a public toilet built against the wall on the west side dividing the churchyard from the convent garden. There are some large cracks in the render and cement mouldings and parts of it have fallen away at the top exposing small areas of the wall. Otherwise the wall appears to be stable.

Issues/vulnerability

- This section is presently in the ownership of the convent but any future sale of the land may pose risks to the wall from development generally and groundworks in particular.
- The view of the wall, apart from overgrowth directly on it, is now visible and not obscured by buildings and steps should be considered to protect it from future encroachment.
- Vegetation covering the southern part of wall probably causing loosening and deterioration of the masonry and is obscuring the actual condition and nature of the surviving structure.



Gazetteer

2.05

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

Lost Wall and Riverside Wall

Summary

The lost section of wall returning south towards the river, bridge and gate (Madam Castle). The exact line of the wall from the western end of the convent land is not clear. The current low wall which runs along the riverbank of the River Clashawley may follow the original wall line.

Historical Background

A map of 1763 indicates that there may have been a tower at the north-western corner of the Town Wall (O'Keeffe 2003, 9). The current north-west extent of the wall may not equate to that of 1763 and a tower existing at that date may have been lost if the line of the wall was altered when the convent was constructed. The wall is not shown on 19th-century maps, when a tanyard occupied the site.

Description [Exterior Fig 13]

West of the convent wall the level of the land changes and drops and at the lower level a building and yard, with a perimeter wall, occupy the space between convent land and the banks of the river. The continuous section of town wall ends at the convent cemetery. The perimeter wall of the lower level yard follows the riverbank to Madam's Bridge. The land is now occupied by a disused building and car park. There do not appear to be any traces of the Town Wall visible.

Status

Lost wall in former tanyard and low riverside wall. Land is in the ownership of Fethard Community Council (yard within riverside wall) and the riparian owner of River Clashawley (river banks outside riverside wall).

Significance

There is the potential to uncover the hidden remains of the original town wall. It is very significant as this area of the town would have been one of the main entrances to the medieval Town, the west gate, and would have been the approach to the town from both south and west.

Condition

There are no standing remains of the medieval town wall. The southern part of the modern riverside wall probably marks the line of the wall.

Issues/vulnerability

- Any permission for development should be conditional upon an archaeological investigation and recording of the site.
- The site is currently derelict and future development is likely which would pose a threat to buried remains of the wall.
- Traffic is also a potential danger to visitors entering the site as there is no footpath.
- Any unidentified buried remains would be vulnerable to indiscriminate groundworks.
- This site is owned by the Community Council and is adjacent to the public open space south of the town. It has potential for public display of any excavated archaeological remains of the town walls which are exposed in this area.
- The possibility of marking out the line of the wall on the road and footpath surfaces and inclusion of an information board could be considered.
- Any work carried out on this site in respect of public heritage information should also consider the adjoining lost wall to the north of Madam Castle.



Gazetteer

2.06

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

Madam Castle Gate Tower

Summary

The remaining part of the town's west gate, Madam Castle, stands on the southern side of Main Street at its junction with Madam Bridge. The bridge, known as Madam Bridge, which now stands at the west end of Main Street replaced a medieval bridge.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O'Keefe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O'Keefe 2003, 3).

There is evidence that the medieval incastellated bridge together with a tower to the north (Madam Castle) was standing here until the mid-19th century, when the bridge was replaced, (O'Keefe 1999, 81). The tower on Madam Bridge is depicted in a drawing by Du Noyer from 1840 (above p.17) and it can be identified as a rare Irish example of a three storey tower house of the mid to late 15th century with three storeys with an upper turret. Whether the bridge is contemporary is unknown (O'Keefe 2003, 3). A fortification is depicted on Madam Bridge in maps from 1703, and associated with the name Madam Castle from 1706 until 1840. Minute Books of the Town's Corporation for 1707-1843 detail the poor condition of many features of the town, especially bridges and roads. It is noted as demolished by 1889 (O'Keefe 2003, 5, 9).

Description [Exterior Fig 13]

Madam Castle is a ruin. The remains are of stone construction, formerly square or rectangular now only two walls stand, the west and south elevations. It adjoins the battlemented south town wall, is continuous with it and appears have been constructed using the same fabric and techniques. It stands at a greater height and there is an arrow slit near the top of the west elevation which is splayed towards what originally was the interior of the Castle or Tower. At the eastern end of the south elevation there are visible remains of an adjoining north-south wall. There is a further wall to the east which may

have formed part of the Castle but this was not accessed and now forms part of a modern garage.

Status

Partial standing remains. Madam Castle is in the ownership of the Community Council.

Significance

Part of a gate in the near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard. This building is of considerable significance as it provides an example of one of the entrances to the medieval town, the only other example is that at the north gate. Madam's Castle is unique being the only surviving Fethard river gate. There is the potential to uncover buried remains of the demolished part of the castle and the medieval bridge.

Condition

The standing remains are in reasonable condition.

Issues/vulnerability

- Access is restricted by a garage or fuel store built against the Castle remains.
- In its present form the garage detracts from the Castle and the building should be archaeologically assessed to identify its origin with a view to removal or alteration.
- Any unidentified buried remains would be vulnerable to indiscriminate groundworks.
- The building is vulnerable to the heavy traffic which continually uses the Bridge.
- The building requires continuing maintenance to preserve its structure.
- Access to this feature is restricted by the heavy traffic which poses a danger to visitors and to the Castle.
- This site is owned by the Community Council and is adjacent to the public open space south of the town. It has potential for public display of any excavated archaeological remains of the town walls which are exposed in this area.
- Any work carried out on this site in respect of public heritage information should also consider the adjoining lost wall to the north of Madam Bridge.

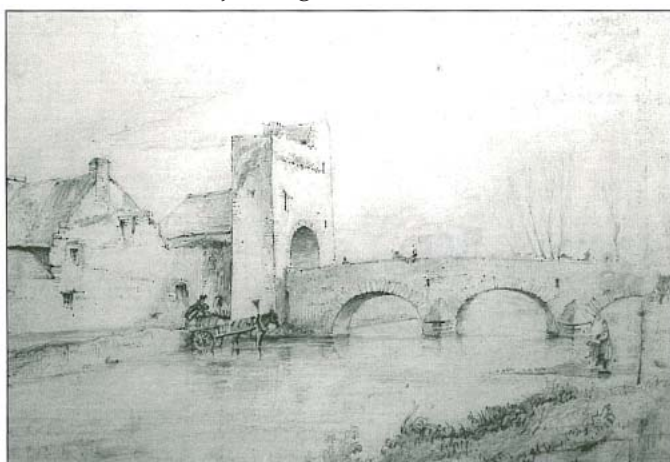


Figure 5: Madam Castle from west 1840, Du Noyer

Gazetteer

2.07

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences



Wall south east of Madam Castle

Summary

Standing length of town wall beyond Madam Castle towards the south-east, continuous with the next section.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3).

Description [Exterior Fig 14]

The wall is of the usual Fethard town wall construction. This section received some restoration and has a complete battlement along its length. To the exterior of the wall lie two adjacent gardens, enclosed with tall hedges, planted across the width of the riverbank. The gardens are reached by a door cut through the wall. The interior of the wall is in private ownership and inaccessible. The line of the wall follows the [line of the escarpment and the Clashawley River, defining the edge of the narrow flood plain.

Status

Standing remains. The land (both interior and exterior of the wall) is in the ownership of Mrs O’Flynn.

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard. This is part of the southern town wall, which has been restored to the original height and construction and provides an example of how a complete medieval wall town circuit would have appeared. It is therefore highly significant not only to Fethard but in the broader context of medieval walled towns.

Condition

Interior – fair.

Parts of this wall were not restored in 1993 as there was a shed in the way. There are steps leading to a walk high up on the wall but this is overgrown and in need of repair. Otherwise the wall is in good condition and structurally sound. There is an access doorway to the exterior of the wall at the bottom of these steps which is in very good condition.

Issues/vulnerability

- Further investigation into the current condition of the parapet (in particular for Health and Safety aspects) and the possibility of developing a visitors' tour along the wall walk.
- A commitment to continued maintenance of the wall.
- Enquiries into the possibility of the current owner permitting visitors to view the wall at close quarters (although a clear distance view of the wall is easily obtained from Madam Bridge).
- There is no pedestrian access through the wall or from the south of the river between Madam Bridge and the new bridge.
- There is no access to the interior of the wall and Madam Castle.
- The area of the town from south of the river is very pretty and the gardens at the foot of the wall at Madam Bridge enhance the view.



Gazetteer

2.08

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

South Wall (A)

Summary

Standing length of town wall continuous with the previous section, which it joins at an angle. The line of this section also follows the line of the river.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3).

Description [Exterior Fig 14; Interior Fig 4]

The wall is of the usual Fethard construction and is embattled. This section forms part of the southern part of the town wall along with the following three sections (2.09, 2.10 and 2.11) all of which have been recently restored. Towards the west end the wall has been breached and an opening now exists. The broken stonework of the wall is exposed for the full height of the wall east and west of the gap and a lane runs from Main Street, under the first floor of a property on the street front, through the wall to the public space on its exterior. The exposed stonework is not weathered suggesting that the gap has not existed in its present form for a long period of time. To the south there is a road with an area of fenced public space beyond.

Status

Standing remains. The land is partly public space and partly in the ownership of Annette McCarthy outside the walls. Within the walls it is in the ownership of Annette McCarthy, the Personal Representatives of Dick Cummins and Mrs O’Connell.

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard. The southern town wall has been restored to the original height and construction and provides an example of

how a complete medieval wall town circuit would have appeared. It is therefore highly significant not only to Fethard but in the broader context of medieval walled towns.

Condition

Interior

(a) Within Mrs O'Connell's property – not seen.

This section of the wall is completely hidden by outbuildings built against it.

(b) Within Repts of Dick Cummins' property – restored.

This section of the wall is in very good condition.

(c) Within Annette McCarthy's property – uncertain.

A small part of this wall is inside an inaccessible, overgrown yard. The rest has been opened to create an accessway.

Issues/vulnerability

- Any accessway may require physical means of preventing vehicular access.
- There is no pedestrian access through the wall or from the south of the river between Madam Bridge and the new bridge
- There is no access to the interior of the wall and Madam Castle.
- Consideration could be given for the gap in the wall to be used for pedestrian public access between the west of the town and the public space south of the walls.
- Land within the walls is in private ownership so permission would be required.
- The view from the south is partly obscured by overgrowth of trees and seedlings which need thinning.
- The area of the town from south of the river is very pretty and the gardens at the foot of the wall at Madam Bridge enhance the view and should remain.
- The view from the south is partly obscured by overgrowth of trees and seedlings which need thinning.
- Consideration could be given for access for the public south of the river to obtain a view of the complete southern section of the wall.



Gazetteer

2.09

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

South Wall (B)

Summary

Standing length of town wall, continuous with the previous section to the west, joining at an angle. This section of the town wall forms the west part of a straight section, together with sections 2.10 and 2.11, which continues east to the churchyard boundary.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3).

Description [Exterior Fig 15; Interior Fig 5]

The wall is of the usual Fethard construction and is embattled. This section forms part of the southern part of the town wall along with the following two sections (2.10 and 2.11) all of which have been recently restored. To the south there is a road with an area of fenced public space beyond.

Status

Standing remains. The land is public space outside the walls and in the ownership of Mrs O’Connell and Annette McCarthy within the walls.

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard. Part of the southern town wall, which has been restored to the original height and construction and provides an example of how a complete Medieval town wall circuit would have appeared. In this section the remains of passageways provide evidence of the layout of the Medieval town and information about the way of life of its inhabitants. It is therefore highly significant not only to Fethard but in the broader context of Medieval walled towns.

Condition

Interior

(a) Within Annette McCarthy's property – fair.

The first section of wall on Annette McCarthy's property, behind the pub is in poor condition. There was once a stable built against the interior of the wall and the stones that were used to block the windows have become very loose and are falling away. The wooden lintels above the windows are in a state of decay and some of the large stones fitted between sockets have fallen away. This upper section of the wall therefore may become very unstable. The second section of wall immediately west of this is part of an entrance into an old stable block. This appears to be in good stable condition.

(b) Within Mrs O'Connell's property – fair.

The lower part of this section of wall does not appear to have been restored. Most of the facing has fallen away leaving large stones jutting out approximately three metres high on the wall. It is hard to tell how stable these stones are as there is a large amount of ivy and moss cover.

Issues/vulnerability

- Continued commitment to the maintenance of the walls.
- The current gaps in the wall provide opportunity for public access between the town centre and the riverside public space south of the walls but this should be restricted to pedestrians. Physical restrictions to prevent vehicular access to the riverside should be considered.
- The walls have been subject to restoration. Identification and comparison of the restored and unrestored elements for visitors could be included in a visitor's guide.
- If the route of the medieval passageways is accessible this could be included in a visitors' Town Tour or Walk but as the land is in private ownership permission would be required.



Gazetteer

2.10

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

South Wall (C)

Summary

Standing wall, forming the central part of a continuous straight section of wall with sections 2.09 and 2.11 which continues east to the churchyard boundary.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3).

Description [Exterior Fig 15 and 16; Interior Fig 6]

The wall is of the usual Fethard construction and is embattled. This section forms part of the southern part of the town wall along with sections 2.09 and 2.11, all of which have been recently restored. This section includes two breaches in the wall either side of a building which incorporates the town wall as a wall of the building. To the south there is a road with an area of fenced public space beyond.

Status

Standing remains. The land is public space (outside the walls) and in the ownership of Austin Laurence, Mrs Gorey and Philip Butler (within the walls).

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard, part of the southern town wall, which has been restored to the original height and construction and provides an example of how a complete Medieval town wall circuit would have appeared. It is therefore highly significant not only to Fethard but in the broader context of Medieval walled towns.

Condition

Interior

(a) Within Philip Butler's property – restored.

This section of wall is in good condition and structurally sound.

(b) Within Mrs Gorey's property – unseen.

(c) Within Austin Laurence's property – unseen.

Issues/vulnerability

- Continued commitment to the maintenance of the walls.
- Consideration could be given to opening the public space and providing a path.
- The public space to the south is fenced off and there is no dedicated pedestrian access only a road with no footpath.
- The breaches in the wall offer an opportunity for access from the public space to the south of the wall to Main Street. However, such access would cut through private land and require the permission of the owners.
- Such an area could provide a large area useful for gathering groups of visitors, dissemination of information, group talks, guided walks etc.
- The walls have been subject to restoration. Identification and comparison of the restored and unrestored elements for visitors could be included in a visitor's guide.



Gazetteer

2.11

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

South Wall (D)

Summary

Standing wall forming the eastern part of a straight section of wall with sections 2.09 and 2.10 to the west and continues east to the churchyard boundary.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3). The 1911 town plan of Fethard (O’Keeffe 1995, Fig 1) describes the buildings which have been built onto the exterior of the wall in this section as a ‘Condensed Milk Factory’.

Description [Exterior Fig 16 and 17; Interior Fig 6]

The wall is mainly of the usual Fethard construction and is embattled. Within the buildings attached to the wall there are areas of stonework using stones larger than the usual Fethard construction and there is some patching. This section forms part of the southern part of the town wall along with sections 2.09 and 2.11 all of which have been recently restored. A complex of stone buildings and some modern structures have been built onto the exterior of the wall and these are currently used as stables, a garage and ancillary workshops.

Status

Standing remains and works yard. The land and buildings outside the wall is owned by Thomas Heneghan and land within the wall by Jimmy Connolly and John White.

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard, and part of the southern town wall, which has been restored to the original height and construction and provides an example of how a complete Medieval wall town circuit would have appeared. It is

therefore highly significant not only to Fethard but in the broader context of Medieval walled towns. The complex built onto the walls, although not part of the Medieval structure, are also a part of the history of the town wall and indicates the changing and flexible role that the walls have had through time. Such flexibility is partly the reason for the survival of the wall.

Condition

Interior

(a) Within John White's property - restored.

This section of the wall is in good condition with two areas of red brick patching and appears to be structurally sound.

(b) Within Jimmy Connolly's property – restored.

There are a few large areas of plant growth but this does not appear to be growing into the wall. Otherwise, this section of wall is in very good condition and appears to have had extensive work done to it during the restorations in 1993.

Issues/vulnerability

- Although not an integral part of the walls, the complex adjoining this section is worthy of consideration of retention, at least in part, as an example of the changing role of the wall in the history of the town and is of course in private ownership.
- Continued commitment to the maintenance of the walls.
- The walls have been subject to restoration. Identification and comparison of the restored and unrestored elements for visitors could be included in a visitor's guide.



Gazetteer

2.12

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

Wall at the west side of Churchyard

Summary

Standing wall at the west side of the churchyard joins the western side of the south wall at a right angle and turns south towards the river where it terminates at the south-west mural tower.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3).

Description [Exterior Fig 17]

The wall is mainly of the usual Fethard construction and is embattled. Within the buildings attached to the wall there are areas of stonework using stones larger than the usual Fethard construction and there is some patching, in particular at the east end. This section forms part of the perimeter wall of the churchyard and is also the western continuation of the southern part of the town wall. This is approximately the midpoint of the southern stretch of the town’s walled defences and it is also the most southerly point of the town walls.

The complex of buildings described in section 2.11 also stands to the exterior of this section of wall and some of the buildings adjoin the town wall here.

Status

Standing remains. The land is in the ownership of Thomas Heneghan (outside the walls) and the Representative Church Body (within the walls).

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard.

A) This is part of the southern town wall, which has been restored to the original height

and construction and provides an example of how a complete Medieval wall town circuit would have appeared. It is therefore highly significant not only to Fethard but in the broader context of Medieval walled towns. The complex built onto the walls, although not part of the Medieval structure, are also a part of the history of the town wall and indicates the changing and flexible role that the walls have had through time. Such flexibility is partly the reason for the survival of the wall.

B) This section also forms part of the churchyard perimeter wall.

Condition

Reasonable condition where visible.

Issues/vulnerability

- Although not an integral part of the walls, the complex adjoining this section is worthy of consideration of retention, at least in part, as an example of the changing role of the wall in the history of the town.
- Continued commitment to the maintenance of the walls.
- The walls have been subject to restoration. Identification and comparison of the restored and unrestored elements for visitors could be included in a visitor's guide.
- This section of town wall should also be considered with any proposals for the churchyard.



Gazetteer

2.13

*FETHARD TOWN WALLS***2 The Defences***South-west Mural Tower***Summary**

This is a mural tower standing at the southern midpoint of the town walls and at the south-west corner of the churchyard of the Parish Church of Holy Trinity

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century. The Town Wall at this point pre-dates the tower as well as Edmond’s Castle (O’Keeffe 2003, 3).

A small stone wall at right angles to the tower was revealed by an excavation in 1991. Investigations suggested that the west doorway may be an alteration to the original tower and that there was an earlier east-west town wall which abutted the tower (O’Keeffe 1995, 77).

Description [Exterior Fig 18]

The tower is a three-storey mural tower. It has two ground floor doorways one in the west, elevation, opening to the exterior of the wall, and one in the north elevation, opening into the churchyard and now below the ground level.

The ground floor (which has an external access door on the west side) is currently not accessible and building work is being carried on there. On the first floor level there are two doorways, one in the east elevation leading to the eastern wall walk, the other in the north elevation accessing a first floor room with six windows, including two each in the south and west walls. A room on the second floor is reached by a stair within a projection on the exterior west wall of the tower and is lit by three windows, each to south, north and east. A stair in the north west corner leads to the roof and accesses a turret on the west side of the tower. The upper level of the tower was restored pre-1995 and the second floor room is currently being restored.

Status

The land is in the ownership of Thomas Heneghan and public space (outside the walls) and The Representative Church Body (within the walls).

Significance

Standing remains of corner tower, and part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard.

Condition

Reasonable condition, currently under repair and restoration.

Issues/vulnerability

- The west ground floor doorway is insecure posing potential problems of vandalism and health and safety issues. Measures need to be put in place to prevent trespassers entering the tower, wall walk and churchyard. However, this tower entrance is within the privately owned garage compound of buildings west of the tower which is secured with a locked gate when not in use.
- 1991 excavations revealed further evidence of walls. Any future groundworks should include a programme of archaeological investigation.
- Any further building works should include a programme of building recording.
- Any public access would require permission to enter the garage premises.
- Public access would be subject to the entrance and ground floor being made safe.



Gazetteer

2.14

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

Wall at the south side of the Churchyard

Summary

Standing wall on the south of the churchyard, running between the mural tower (west) and Edmond's Castle to the east. Externally, it ends at the ruined late 16th/early 17th-century Almshouse, and the west gable of The Pound.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O'Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O'Keeffe 2003, 3). The churchyard encloses the medieval parish church, with fabric dating back to the period when the town was thought to have been founded.

Description [Exterior Fig 18 and 19]

The wall in this section is simultaneously a part of the town wall and the churchyard perimeter wall. It is of the usual Fethard town wall construction, is embattled and was included in a recent restoration of the southern town wall. The battlements are believed to be of 13th century date (O'Keeffe 2003, 3). The line of the wall is set back from the south wall of the south-west mural tower although the wall is continuous and the interior of the town wall incorporates a wall walk at the level of the battlements, linking the south-west mural tower to Edmond's Castle. The height of this, south, wall of the churchyard is considerably lower than the churchyard wall to the west with the wall walk along the south wall leading to the first floor of the mural tower although such a walk along the west wall would lead to its second floor.

Status

Standing remains. Land public space outside the walls and in the ownership of the Representative Church Body within the walls.

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard, and of unusual form as the boundary of the churchyard linking two castles (South-west Mural Tower with Edmond's Castle). The juxtaposition of walls, Almshouse and Pound is also instructive.

Condition

Good condition, with restored wall walk and battlements.

Issues/vulnerability

- Continued commitment to the maintenance of the walls.
- The wall walk has a handrail, suggesting current use as a pedestrian way, and it could be considered for inclusion in a Visitors' Guided Tour of the town, providing views of the town, churchyard and extra-mural landscape.
- Church ownership, and the problems of vandalism and protecting the church, raise issues for any proposals for access to the wall walk.
- The walls have been subject to restoration. Identification and comparison of the restored and unrestored elements for visitors could be included in a visitor's guide.
- This section of town wall should also be considered with any proposals for the churchyard.
- The Du Noyer drawing should form part of an information panel outside the walls.



Gazetteer

2.15

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

*Wall at the south side of
the Churchyard, and The
Pound*

Summary

The section of wall included in 2.15 runs from the ruined late 16th/early 17th-century Almshouse, and the west gable of The Pound to the south-east corner of the Churchyard (Edmond's Castle is included in section 2.16)

Historical Background

In the early 17th century Sir John Everard, a wealthy patron of the town, was instrumental in the building of the Tholsel (part of which served as an Almshouse for women) and an Almshouse for men, built immediately outside the churchyard wall. The men's Almshouse was in use in the 1750s and may relate to the building remains in this section of the wall (O'Keefe 2003, 4). The drawing by Du Noyer shows the appearance of these buildings while still standing.

Description [Exterior Fig 19]

The Men's Almshouse: At the western end of this section there is a doorway cut through the wall and leading down and out from the churchyard by a number of steps. The fabric of the wall around the doorway up to the level of the battlement differs from the wall to the west and the top of the wall is not embattled at this point. The outline of a blocked embrasure can be seen within the fabric above and to the right of the doorway. Outside are the foundations of the lost almshouse building, forming a square built onto the town wall at this point. The eastern wall of the building is preserved to the greatest height and contains the base of a splayed arrow slit.

To the south of the town wall lies a low wall which is continuous and runs parallel with the town wall until it joins the wall of a ruinous building to the south-east of the churchyard. The low wall is all that remains of The Pound, a building of the 18th or 19th century (O'Keefe, 1995, 83). At the west end the low wall abuts the walls of the former building built onto the town wall in 2.14 and at the east end there is an arched low doorway which would have led into The Pound.

Status

Standing remains. Land is public space outside the wall and in the ownership of the

Representative Church Body and Tim Robinson within the wall.

Significance

This section of wall forms part of the southern town wall. It also forms part of the southern perimeter of the churchyard.

It has additional significance as this stretch of wall includes evidence of several former buildings, as well as the standing Edmond's Castle. The fabric of the wall in this section also provides evidence of the changes which have affected the town walls over time.

Condition

Good condition, with restored wall walk and battlements.

Issues/vulnerability

- If the land to the south of the Town Wall could be obtained from the current owner it could be incorporated with this section of the wall and made accessible to the public.
- Continued commitment to the maintenance of the walls.
- The walls have been subject to restoration. Identification and comparison of the restored and unrestored elements for visitors could be included in a visitor's guide.
- Identification and explanation of the fabric changes and building remains could also be included in a visitor's guide.
- This section of town wall should also be considered with any proposals for the churchyard.



Gazetteer

2.16

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

*Edmond's Castle and
Wall to the east***Summary**

Edmond's Castle is a fortified house built on the town wall, whose west gable forms the south end of the east wall of the churchyard. The former Pound lies to its south.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O'Keefe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century. The Town Wall at this point pre-dates the South-West Mural Tower as well as Edmond's Castle (O'Keefe 2003, 3).

Edmond's Castle is believed to have been built in about 1500 but was first recorded in 1754 as Edmond's Castle but became Edmond Castle on the 1840 Ordnance Survey map. By 1904 it was described as a ruin and in 1914 was described as the Bishop's Palace (O'Keefe 2003, 9). The existence of two fortified houses ('castles') next the churchyard raises the possibility that these (together with the SW mural tower) may have provided accommodation for the parish clergy. The church is not known to have been collegiate, but was owned by the Priory and Hospital of St John the Baptist in Dublin (i.e. the Fratres Cruciferi, an Augustinian order of Hospitallers) [(Gwynn and Hadcock, 208-12)].

Description [Exterior Fig 19 and 20; Interior Fig 7]

Edmond's Castle is a three storey building. The ground floor is a long, vaulted, room with two south windows, and a passage. The first floor has two south windows and a new wooden floor supported on corbels; remains of fireplaces existed in the north wall. The upper storey was lit by elaborate windows to the west (two), south (two) and north (one). The original layout and distribution of doorways is now unclear but O'Keefe has supplied a detailed interpretation of the building. The west end of the building has a garderobe with a thickened wall above, which allowed for a walkway between a gable and the parapet of the external wall. (O'Keefe 1995, 55-58). There is evidence for a further storey at the east end. The building is currently being restored.

Edmond's Castle abuts the south-east corner of the churchyard wall. The ground level within the building is higher than that outside the town wall but lower than that in the churchyard, suggesting a build up of ground level within the churchyard although there is a natural rise in height from river level towards the town. The west wall of the Castle is visible from the churchyard and a recently restored one light west window and lower level arrow slit overlook the churchyard. A further arrow slit is visible but partly blocked by later stonework. The top of the tower is ruinous and changes in fabric suggest major alterations or repairs have been carried out in the past.

The town wall appears to have been continuous with Edmond's Castle and there is a low section now adjoining the Castle and continuing east.

Outside the town wall at this section and to the south-east of Edmond's Castle stands the ruin of a building consisting of the base of four walls with remains of windows visible. A short length of the north-south wall runs alongside the gap for the lane from the market place, suggesting that the building may have originally been squarish. The north-south wall is now linked by a breeze block wall to the north wall (which is also probably the remains of the town wall). The southern side of the north wall of the building (the town wall) has two deep insets running top to bottom and it is unclear what purpose these served. On the west side the building is abutted by The Pound (2.15).

Status

Standing remains. The land is public space outside the walls and in the ownership of Tim Robinson within the walls (Edmond's Castle and small external extension).

Significance

Edmond's Castle is one of an impressive group of castles around the churchyard and adding to the defences of the town wall. It is a good example of a medieval urban castle, a particular feature of Irish medieval towns, and as such is unusual and of special significance.

Condition

The castle is currently in repair from its former state of dilapidation).

The section of town wall immediately east of Edmond's Castle is in poor condition with much of the facing gone and a large part of the top of the wall having fallen away.

Issues/vulnerability

- Edmond's Castle is in private ownership and not currently available for public access.
- The land inside the ruined building south-east of Edmond's Castle is overgrown and needs clearing. If the external building was removed the full extent of the town wall could be better seen from the outside.
- The town wall and walls of the ruined building are overgrown and removal of the vegetation is needed, and masonry repairs.
- The recreation of the wall linking Edmond's Castle to the gap for the roadway could be part of a major enhancement of this area, completing the previous phase of the restoration from Madam's Bridge to Watergate Bridge.



Gazetteer

2.17

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

Gap for roadway

Summary

Section of lost wall, where a gap has been made in the town wall through which runs the north-south lane to the market place.

Historical Background

O’Keeffe describes this area of the town as belonging to the later 17th century town plan and this roadway as ‘Watergate Street’ (O’Keeffe 1997, 17).

The origins of this lane and the break in the town wall are uncertain. The 1840 map shows that the alignment of this roadway has not changed since the 19th century and that buildings existed at that date which restricted its width at the town wall.

Description [Exterior Fig 20]

This roadway runs directly from the market place but is not aligned with the bridge crossing, whereas Watergate Street aligns with the bridge but does not have a direct route to Main Street. There are sections of standing wall at either side of the roadway which are not clearly visible and accessible but the section to the east of the roadway appears to be of the usual Fethard construction. The remains of former stone-built buildings also stand at either side of the roadway.

Status

Probable buried remains under roadway.

Significance

The true nature of this roadway is not yet known but the construction of the wall to the east and the fact that the known town wall can be identified further east at Watergate Street and at Edmond’s Castle to the west (2.18 and 2.20) confirms that the town wall continued at this section. Evidence below ground may confirm whether an entrance to the town or a continuous wall existed at this point. There has been an entrance here since at least the early 19th century.

Condition

Uncertain

Issues/vulnerability

- Investigation of the below ground archaeology at the roadway could identify the purpose and age of the road. With Watergate Street as an alternative route disruption could be kept to a minimum.
- Further historical archive research is required to identify the nature of the ruined buildings and their relationship with the wall.
- The wall either side of the gap requires further archaeological investigation once the area has been cleared of rubbish.
- Below ground remains are vulnerable to any roadworks, groundworks and development in this area.
- The recreation of the wall linking the remains on either side (with or without an archway) could be part of a major enhancement of this area, and completing the previous phase of restoration along the south walls.



Gazetteer 2.18

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

Wall west of Watergate Street

Summary

Length of standing wall between the lane and Watergate Street.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3).

At an unknown time the wall has been breached an area of encroachment has developed outside the wall.

Description [Exterior Fig 20; Interior Fig 7]

This section of wall forms part of the southern town wall and runs across an island of buildings to the south-east of the churchyard. A further section of the southern town wall continues east of Watergate Street

This section of wall is not complete and consists of two separate pieces of walling which align and appear to have originally been one continuous section. There is a gap between the two pieces and at each side of the gap uneven breaks in the wall expose the core. The section of wall is of the usual Fethard construction and does not appear to have been restored.

The western piece appears to mark the boundary of a property to the north (within the town walls). It is adjoined by a north-south wall running perpendicular to it at its western end. The eastern piece also seems to mark a property boundary to the north, and an insubstantial lean-to building has been built against and upon it to the south. Land to the south of both pieces of wall (outside the town wall) is currently used for dumping waste.

Status

Standing remains. The land to the north and south is currently in the ownership of the Personal Representatives of Jimmy Ryan.

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard. A minor element, but stands between other standing parts. This section, which has not been restored, provides an example of how the Medieval wall appeared prior to the recent restoration project.

Condition

Exterior - very poor

Condition (exterior) - Visibility of this section of wall is obscured by dilapidated sheds, enclosing walls and large amounts of rubbish. The walls themselves are in a poor state and are in danger from tree roots growing at the base. There are large cavities at the base of the wall almost all the way across and an access way has been knocked through in the centre. To the right of this the lower part of the wall has fallen away to such an extent that the facing on the other side is exposed. The top of this wall has been partially rebuilt to form a gable for the sheds and it appears to be very structurally unsound and in need of urgent repair. The section of wall to the left of the access way has also been partially rebuilt at the top but this also is in poor condition and much of it has crumbled away.

Interior – poor

Condition (interior) - The left side of this wall has been built up a further 2m to form part of a gable for dilapidated out-buildings which obscure its visibility from outside. Access to this part of the wall is very much restricted by large piles of house-hold rubbish which have been dumped against it. The wall in the interior of the building has been lime-washed but it is in questionable condition and may need to be re-pointed. The part of the wall outside this building is in poor condition as all of the facing has fallen away. There is a tree growing directly out of the wall and there are concrete breeze blocks and other debris piled against the bottom. The wall has been knocked through in the centre to provide access to the back yard of the property. On the right side of this access-way, there is a tree growing against the base of the wall and it is likely that its roots are affecting the buried part of the wall. The top of the wall appears to have been topped with concrete at some point but most of this has fallen away along with some of the stones. There is a small window feature at the top of the wall which is at risk from ivy growth. There is an old oil tank and a large pile of vegetation against the wall at the right side and there is a cavity in the wall where the dividing wall abuts it. It is very likely that there is a large amount of stones from the wall lost in the debris on the property and a careful investigation may be necessary during any future clean-up of the area.

Issues/vulnerability

- The condition of the exposed ends of the walls either side of the gap and the north and south faces should be assessed and minimal repair works carried out as necessary. These should maintain the integrity of the Medieval structure.
- If the land to the south of this section of wall was tidied and cleared the southern town wall could be viewed in its entirety from the south. The land is in private ownership therefore the owner's co-operation would be required.
- Vehicles are being driven and parked on the grassy area to the south of the town wall and consideration could be given to physically restricting vehicular access of the road

in the 2.18 area.

- Continued commitment to the maintenance of the walls.
- A walled yard and building to the south of 2.18 at the river's edge is currently disused and in private ownership. Apart from this yard the area south of the wall is open space and a clear view of the town walls from the south and medieval bridge is potentially available, if this land was dedicated to public open space.
- The repair of this wall, and closing of the breach, together with the recreation of the wall to the west could be part of a major enhancement of this area, and completing the previous phase of restoration along the south walls. The metal shed leaning against the wall should be removed.

Note: June 2009

This wall has now in part been repaired.



Gazetteer

2.19

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

The Water Gate and Watergate Bridge

Summary

The site of the lost Water Gate, forming the south gate of the town, and the Watergate Bridge, which still stands.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3). The wall would have had gates from the beginning, and the south gate would have given access to the town fields.

Watergate Street connected the market place with Watergate Bridge where visitors and traders would have approached the town from the road from Kilsheelin and Carrick-on-Suir. The earliest mention of the Water Gate was in a Chancery document of 1685 and, when described, it was consistently called the Water Gate until 1773 [HTA, 9]. The Minute Books of the Corporation for 1707-1843 detail the poor condition of many features of the town, especially bridges and roads (O’Keeffe 2003, 5).

Description [Exterior Fig 20]

There are now no standing remains of Water Gate but Watergate Bridge led to it and brought traffic across the River Clashawley from the South. There was possibly also a bastion in this area of the town (see 2.20).

Watergate Bridge is a stone bridge with four arches. The two northern arches are possibly late medieval and those to the south of 18th to 19th century date (O’Keeffe 1995, 72)

Status

Buried remains of the Water Gate. Standing medieval and post-medieval remains contained in the present bridge.

Significance

The Water Gate was one of the main entrances of the Medieval walled town. Together with the Bridge it ensured that people coming across the river were directed towards a certain point in the town walls which was a focus for economic and social activities as well as defence.

Condition

Uncertain

Issues/vulnerability

- Watergate Bridge is potentially at risk from unsympathetic repairs and any works carried out to it should include a programme of archaeological building recording.
- The buried remains of the Water Gate are vulnerable to destruction from any development or groundworks for services and road works in this area.
- Any works in and around the site of the Water Gate and Watergate Bridge should include a programme of archaeological excavation and recording.
- The area of the Water Gate may be investigated by non-intrusive archaeological investigation. The site could then be identified to enable visitors to appreciate the size and location and its relationship with the Bridge.
- There are grassed areas near the Water Gate site which could provide a location for an explanatory information board, or similar information media.

Gazetteer

2.20

*FETHARD TOWN WALLS***2 The Defences***Wall east of Watergate Street with Sheela-na-gig***Summary**

Standing wall running from the east side of Watergate Street until the west side of the small access lane which runs to the north-east from Watergate Bridge.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O'Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O'Keeffe 2003, 3). This section of the town wall together with the continuation to the north-east is considered to date to the 15th or 16th century (O'Keeffe 1997, 25)

Description [Exterior Fig 21; Interior Fig 7]

This section of the wall forms part of the southern town wall and there is an angle in the wall where the town wall turns and continues towards the north-east. This section of wall contains a low arrow slit, built into the corner of the wall and facing south towards the river, and high in the wall at the opposite end to the arrow slit is another, smaller slit, facing towards Watergate Bridge. A sculpted stone (a 'Sheela-na-gig'- a figure of a woman with exposed genitals, these sculptures are quite rare but found across Europe and are thought to date to the early medieval period) has been incorporated into the exterior of the wall.

It was described by O'Keeffe as the remains of a two storey Bastion with two lights in the lower storey, one an angle loop, and probably remains of a chimney flue to the west. The upper storey had two lights, north-facing towards Watergate Bridge (O'Keeffe 1995, 80). Such a Bastion may have formed part of the defences for the bridge along with the Water Gate. An angular bastion at this point would have provided an entrance to the town at Watergate Bridge which was different to the other entrances in the town which would have consisted of gateways underneath or beside towers (O'Keeffe 2003, 3). It cannot be certain, without further investigation whether this was a full 'bastion' structure, or just an angled corner of the wall.

Status

Standing remains. The land is in the ownership of public space (outside the wall) and Tony Sayers (within the wall).

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard. This section of wall is part of the remainder of the 15th to 16th century extension of the south-east of the town towards the river. If this was a bastion rather than just an angle in the wall, it would be unusual. The Sheela-na-gig is an important and unusual feature. There is another at the Augustinian Abbey to the east of the town, not far from the remaining eastern town wall and the existence of two in one town is unusual.

Condition

Exterior - Good.

At risk from passing lorry traffic but otherwise structurally sound.

Issues/vulnerability

- The town wall here is at risk from damage caused by heavy traffic which travels close to the wall. Watergate Street is in continual use as the main south entrance to the modern town.
- The land outside the wall is currently planted as a Rose Garden. Fethard residents may wish to continue this land use. Attractive plantings enhance a visitor's view of the wall.
- Because of the nature of the Sheela-na-gig it may be unwise to have information and an explanation of it on public display. This may cause offence to some visitors to the site and encourage vandalism in others. It would also alert potential thieves. Information could be provided in a separate leaflet available from a central tourist office.



Figure 13: Watergate arrow slit



Gazetteer

2.21

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

South-east wall on the lane (A)

Summary

Standing wall, running north-east from the southern section of wall 2.20.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3). This section of the town wall together with the continuation to the south-west is considered to date to the 15th or 16th century (O’Keeffe 1997, 25).

Description [Exterior Fig 21; Interior Fig 7]

This section of town wall runs alongside the access lane from Watergate Street until the breach in the wall forming a private gateway. The construction appears slightly different to that of the usual Fethard construction and the stone coursing is less clear, although alterations have been made to the wall in this section and parts are in disrepair. At its south-west end it joins the remains of the southern wall at the corner containing the arrow slit (see 2.20). At this end of the wall there is a second arrow slit slightly higher and smaller than the first and slightly to the east of the corner. Both slits are blocked with stones. This second slit faces towards the south-east.

Status

Standing remains. The land is in the ownership of Michael Casey (outside the wall) and Tony Sayers (within the wall).

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard. This section of wall is part of the remainder of the 15th to 16th century extension of the south-east of the town towards the river.

Condition

Interior – Fair.

Condition (exterior) – Large areas of exterior facing have fallen away exposing the rubble interior. Previous attempts to repair the wall with stone and cement have failed leaving large loose stones. It is necessary to remove the concrete and cement from the walls before repairs are carried out.

Issues/vulnerability

- Commitment to preserve the remaining wall structure.
- The safety of visitors to the wall in this area should be considered as access is via a road.



Gazetteer

2.22

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

South-east Wall on the Lane (B)

Summary

Standing but discontinuous lengths of wall, with arrow loop, running in continuation of the wall in 2.21.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3).

Description [Exterior Fig 21]

The standing remains of the town wall in this section consist of two separate pieces of wall. The construction appears slightly different to that of the usual Fethard construction and the stone coursing is less clear, although alterations have been made to the wall in this section and parts are in disrepair. There is a breach in the wall at the south-west end, now a private gateway, followed by a piece of wall, followed by a further breach, also a private gateway and at the north-east end finishing where a garage has been built against the wall.

The second piece of wall contains an arrow slit, high in the wall at the south-west end.

Status

Partial standing remains. Land is in the ownership of *access lane* (outside the wall) and Tom Purcell and John Looby (within the wall).

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard.

Condition

Exterior – Fair.

The first section of this part of the wall has been partially rendered with concrete and

cement which may cause problems in the future. There are stones missing from the top of the wall and some plant growth but it is otherwise structurally sound. The second section has a large area of patching with stone and cement on the lower half of the wall. Where the wall ends, a shed made of concrete has been built on to it.

Interior

(a) Within John Looby's property – very poor.

The interior of this section of wall is in very bad condition. The facing is almost completely gone and large chunks of the rubble interior have fallen away creating a concave surface. The wall is at risk from damages caused by the building materials leaning against it.

(b) Within Tom Purcell's property – poor.

Much of the outer facing has fallen away from this section of wall but the interior seems secure. There is a small vegetable patch built against the wall.

Issues/vulnerability

- Commitment to preserve the remaining wall structure.
- The safety of visitors to the wall in this area should be considered as access is via a road.



Gazetteer

2.23

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

South-east Wall within the Yards (A)

Summary

This section of wall stands at the end of the access lane running north-east from Watergate Street.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O'Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O'Keeffe 2003, 3).

This section of the town wall together with the continuation to the south-west is considered to date to the 15th or 16th century (O'Keeffe 1997, 25)

Description

This section of wall is not continuous with section 2.22 but is aligned with it across a yard. It stands to a greater height, probably to the level of the parapet, and is within the yard of at least one property south of Gen Thomas F. Burke Street. A building now adjoins the wall to the south (exterior) of the wall and the ground level is lower here than on the northern side.

Status

Standing remains. Land is in the ownership of Tony Sayers (outside the walls) and Bernard Walsh (within the walls).

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard, and of special interest for surviving to near full height. This section of wall is part of the remainder of the 15th to 16th century extension of the south-east of the town towards the river.

Condition

Exterior – good.

Only a small section of this wall is visible as there are outbuildings and dividing walls built against it. It is partly rendered in cement but otherwise structurally sound.

Issues/vulnerability

- Commitment to preserve the remaining wall structure.
- Public access to the wall in this section is not possible as it stands entirely within private property.



Gazetteer 2.24

FETHARD TOWN WALLS 2 The Defences

South-east Wall within the Yards (B)

Summary

Lost section of wall, assumed to continue from section 2.23 towards Gen. Thomas F. Burke Street as is recorded on the 1840 map.

Historical Background

This section of the town wall together with the continuation to the south-west is considered to date to the 15th or 16th century (O’Keeffe 1997, 25).

Description

No visible remains of this section which would have continued from the previous section (shown above), but assumed to survive buried within a private garden.

Status

Buried remains. Land is in the ownership of Peter Grant (outside and within the wall).

Significance

This section of wall is part of the remainder of the 15th to 16th century extension of the south-east of the town towards the river.

Condition

Uncertain

Issues/vulnerability

- There is the potential to investigate the remainder of the line of the town wall to identify further buried remains and expose it for viewing by visitors. As this section lies within private properties permission of the owners would be required.
- The buried remains are vulnerable to destruction from any groundworks.
- There is no public access to this part of the town wall as it is on private land.



Gazetteer 2.25

FETHARD TOWN WALLS 2 The Defences

South-east Wall within the Yards (C)

Summary

Lost section of wall adjacent to the lost East Gate, returning northwards from the end of section 2.24 to the south side of Gen. Thomas F. Burke Street, and forming the southern end of the east side of the town wall.

Historical Background

This section of the town wall together with the continuation to the south-west is considered to date to the 15th or 16th century (O’Keeffe 1997, 25).

Description

The wall in this section is not visible but the remains of part of it may be visible within a private house. Within a pair of adjoining town houses on the south side of Gen. Thomas F. Burke Street, standing generally opposite the section of wall in 2.27, there are a number of stone steps. The steps are contained within the understairs cupboard.

In 1995 O’Keeffe described the house as containing stone stairs ascending from ground level to the first floor, possibly pre-dating the building. He also noted that a stone-built wall at the rear measured approximately 1m in thickness, and that a doorway leading into the backyard was splayed.

Status

Standing remains. Land is in the ownership of Ann and Michael Kenrick (outside the wall) and Vincent Commins (within the wall).

Significance

This section of wall is part of the remainder of the 15th to 16th century extension of the south-east of the town towards the river.

Condition

Assumed to be reasonable

Issues/vulnerability

- There is the potential to investigate the remainder of the line of the town wall to identify further buried remains and expose it for viewing by visitors. As this section lies within private properties permission of the owners would be required.
- Standing or buried remains are vulnerable to destruction from any building works.
- Commitment to preserve the remaining wall structure.
- There is no public access to this part of the town wall as it is on private land.



Gazetteer

2.26

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

Site of East Gate

Summary

Site of lost East Gate on the road now known as Gen. Thomas F. Burke Street, formerly Moor Street (Irish Historic Towns Atlas, 2003). The line of the town wall from north and south meets at this street suggesting it as the possible site of the East Gate.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3).

The wall would have had gates from the beginning, and the east gate would have given access to the suburbs and town fields, and the road towards Waterford and Kilkenny. Documentary evidence of goods sold in Fethard in 1292 detail commercial connections with Waterford, suggesting that the roads leading out of town to the East to Waterford and the important medieval town of Kilkenny would have been an important thoroughfare. This road was also important, from 1305, because of the community of Augustinian friars living here not far outside the town wall. Suburban development probably began outside the east of the town before the end of the middle ages, but documentary reference is not found until 1649 (O’Keeffe 2003, 2, 3, 4). The gate is shown, without any special architectural feature, on early maps of Fethard, but had been demolished by the 19th century.

Description

The line of the town wall at the south-east corner of the town leads to the south side of Gen. Thomas F. Burke Street. A further line of the wall runs from the north side of the same street. At this point there is also a change in the line of the street which turns slightly northwards. It was also noted by O’Keeffe that there is a change in ground level at this point which rises towards the town (O’Keeffe 1997, 27). This all suggests that this is the site of the East Gate of the town.

Status

Buried remains in the road. The road is in the ownership of South Tipperary County Council.

Significance

1. The East Gate was one of the entrances into the medieval town and would have been the access used by pedestrians and traffic from the east.
2. The road to the east also leads to the Augustinian Friary, its church is known to have been built in the 14th century, suggesting that this town entrance was in existence by then.

Condition

Uncertain.

Issues/vulnerability

- Archaeological excavation of the site would enable the extent of any remains to be discovered and investigated to obtain information about the East Gate.
- The site is vulnerable to damage or destruction by services and roadworks and future development.
- Once the precise location of the remains is known, action could then be directed towards their preservation.
- The site is readily accessible by the public.
- The former location of the East Gate could be marked out on the surface of the road.
- Information about the East Gate could be incorporated in a Town Guide.



Gazetteer

2.27

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

*Wall to the north of Gen.
Thomas F. Burke Street*

Summary

Section of standing wall adjacent to lost East Gate, incorporated in wall of ruined house.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3).

Land outside the wall would have been left open (and there may well have been a fosse outside the wall here), but the site is likely to have been built on from around the 17th century, and is shown as built over on early maps.

Description [Exterior Fig 22]

This is the first length of wall running north from the lost east gate, running north for a short length and then turning towards the north-west and Barrack Street. The wall construction is of the usual Fethard town wall type and the ruins of a house, which fronted onto the Street and were built against the wall using it as the western wall of the house, still stand. The outline of the house and changes made by two fireplaces, a brick chimney, holes for floor joists and breeze block alterations as well as plastering are evident in the Town Wall.

Status

Standing remains. Land is in the ownership of South Tipperary County Council (outside the wall) and Christopher Mullins (within the wall).

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard. This section of wall is the only remaining standing part adjacent to the East Gate, and together with the section of wall adjoining to the north-west it forms a continuous piece of the eastern town wall.

Condition

Exterior – Fair

This section of walls forms the gable wall of a ruin facing onto Burke Street and could possibly have been part of a gatehouse in the past. Much of the facing has been knocked away to form two fireplaces and a chimney which was built in red brick. Large areas of the wall are still obscured by plaster and there is a wood and plaster unit built into at the base next to the fireplace. Large cavities in the wall are visible around these fireplaces. A section of the wall at the base has been rebuilt with concrete breeze blocks. The ground in this area is very uneven and dangerous with piles of debris and an open sewer. Clearance of this area and an archaeological investigation may be necessary.

Issues/vulnerability

- The alterations caused by the house which was built onto the eastern (external) side of the wall need to be rectified.
- The land on the external side of the wall is in County Council ownership and so potentially accessible by the public.
- The ground to the exterior of the wall needs to be cleared of rubbish.
- This section of wall, along with the next section (2.28), could be opened to the public so that the full extent of the remains of the eastern wall can be viewed.
- The wall could be further revealed by removal of plaster and careful repointing.



Gazetteer

2.28

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

East Wall, south of Barrack Street

Summary

The principal standing length of the east wall of the town, in continuation from the small section standing on the north side of Burke Street (2.27).

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3).

Description [Exterior Fig 22; Interior Fig 8]

This section runs to the north-west towards Barrack Street continuing from the short piece of wall at Burke Street (2.27), which it joins at an angle and continuing towards the north-west (2.29).

This section of wall is mainly of the usual Fethard construction incorporating later features and in places the interior rough stone core of the wall has been exposed. The height of the section varies, partly as a result of different land ownership internally, and part of the parapet of the wall survives at the south end. Incorporated within the exterior side of the wall towards the southern end are a concrete doorway or recess and a blocked stone arch opening. A small stone lean-to building abuts the wall at the northern end. The top of the wall at the centre of this section has been concreted and slopes at a slight angle to the north-east (exterior).

The land to the south-west (interior) side of the wall is divided into several private properties with gardens leading up to the wall. The land to the north-east (exterior) of the wall is currently an open area of rough ground and the land slopes upwards to the north-west with the wall following the slope. On the interior side of the section the remains of an end wall of a building, erected against the Town Wall is visible, and midway along this side, within a private garden, a small grotto has been built into the wall.

Status

Standing remains. The land is in the ownership of South Tipperary County Council (outside the wall) and Emily Sayers, Ann Healy, Pierce O'Flynn and Paddy Lonergan (inside the wall).

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard, and an important survival of a substantial and continuous part of the eastern Town Wall. Together with 2.27 it forms that part of the wall which incorporated the eastern entrance into Fethard town. It is also the only part of the 14th century Town Wall not included within the recent restoration project which included the south part of the Town Wall..

Condition

Exterior – Fair. The wall has recently been cleared of ivy and creeper, but some plant growth remains.

- Immediately north of F 2. 27, there are there is a large cavity and an area of concrete patching. Further up, a large area has been plastered with concrete (approx 6m x 3m). There is a doorway recess within this and large piles of debris (including stones) against the wall. To the right of this there is another cavity which has been partially repaired with concrete and an area of patching with stone and cement. Towards the centre of F 2.28, on what appears to be part of a parapet or a dividing wall, there is a small cavity high up in the wall which is quite deep.
- On the northern half of F 2.28, there are two large cavities running along the base of the wall where rubble and mortar interior are very loose. It is approximately 0.7m deep in places. There is extensive ivy growth over parts of these cavities which appear to be holding rubble in. It is questionable as to how stable these parts of the wall are as the cavities appear in the survey that was carried out in 1994.
- The top of the wall is covered in dense ivy roots which obscure its condition and also the construction of the wall, though it is clear that some lengths have been capped with cement. It is necessary that this is investigated further to see where ivy can be removed safely and which areas are in need of repair. It is also necessary that the area around the wall is cleared and an archaeological investigation is carried out to retrieve lost masonry. Removal of concrete and cement patching should be carried out before cavities are repaired.

Interior

(a) John Carroll's property – uncertain

The wall is mostly obscured by vegetation. There is a flower bed built against the lower section of the wall and a wooden partition on the right side. Some cracks and loose stones are visible where the dividing wall abuts the town wall on the right side. Otherwise, it appears to be structurally sound.

(b) Paddy Lonergan's property – good

There are small areas of plant growth along the top of the wall but the wall is otherwise in very good condition and structurally sound.

(c) Pierce Flynn's property – good.

Although areas of the outer facing of this section of walls appear to have fallen away, the masonry seems to be solid and secure. There are a few areas at the bottom of the wall that are loose and there are patches of cement repair work. There is a recess in the left side of the wall and there are two cavities visible within this. Removal of cement is necessary before any future repair work.

Issues/vulnerability

- This part of the wall has been subject to recent vandalism.
- This part of the town wall is extensively covered with vegetation and identification and removal of destructive plants such as ivy is urgently required to prevent continuing damage to the wall
- Damage already caused to the walls should be repaired using methods and materials appropriate to the existing walling.
- Stones on the site but currently spread over it as overgrown rubble may have originated from the wall itself and these should be inspected and used for the repairs if this is the case.
- Access over adjoining land for visitors to view the walls should be considered, in particular over the public land owned by the County Council.
- Consideration could be given to retaining the alterations made by the house as an example of the changing use of the Town Wall over time.
- As the land to the full extent of the exterior of this section of wall is Council owned provision of a Visitors' walkway and information boards could be provided at this site.
- There is already a car park and accessway at the north end of this site.

Note: December 2008

This sector of wall has now been repaired in an exemplary manner.

Gazetteer

2.29

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences



*East Wall, south of
Barrack Street (between
gardens)*

Summary

Standing section of wall comprising the middle section of the eastern Town Wall. This piece of straight wall is a continuation from the long section on the north side of Gen. Thomas F. Burke Street (2.27).

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O'Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O'Keeffe 2003, 3).

Description [Interior Fig 8]

This section runs to the north-west towards Barrack Street it is continuous with the sections of wall from Gen. Thomas F. Burke Street (2.27 and 2.28)

This high section of standing wall is mainly of the usual Fethard construction and in places the interior rough stone core of the wall has been exposed. The north-east end of the wall is visible from Barrack Street but terminates before the road within a private garden. Recent buildings have been erected against the town wall.

Status

Standing remains. Land is in the ownership of John Carroll (within and outside the wall) and Tom Anglim (within the wall).

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard, and a continuation of a well-preserved length of wall.

Condition

Exterior – good.

Large amount of plant growth along the top of the wall. One small deep cavity on left side. There is a large cement lintel over a doorway and above this the masonry is loose and in bad condition. Otherwise the wall is structurally sound and in good condition.

Interior – fair.

Much of the upper part of this section of wall and where it terminates on the left hand side are obscured by vegetation. There is a doorway in the wall which appears to have been knocked through at some point and much of the masonry around it has fallen away exposing the rubble interior. Part of the wall on the right side is plastered where a building was once constructed against it. There is a large crack running from the top of the wall into this plastered section. Part of the wall runs behind the existing buildings on John Carroll's property.

Issues/vulnerability

- The wall is within private land and not accessible to the public, though it is visible from adjacent public spaces at north and south ends.



Gazetteer 2.30

FETHARD TOWN WALLS
2 The Defences

East Wall, south of Barrack Street (lost wall in garden)

Summary

Lost section of wall adjacent to Pierce's Gate on Barrack Street and section 2.29.

Historical Background

The 1840 map of Fethard (Irish Historic Towns Atlas 2003) shows that the north-east wall, including this section, is continuous between Gen. Thomas F. Burke Street (Moor Street in 1840) and the turret at the north-east corner of the Town Wall. There are now no standing remains of this section of wall.

Description

This section of wall is recorded on the 1840 map. The wall itself has been removed at some time after 1840 but the foundations of the wall were probably not removed entirely as no buildings stand on the site. It is therefore likely that buried remains of the wall still exist.

Status

Buried remains. Land is in the ownership of Michael O'Hagan (within and outside the wall).

Significance

Significant alignment adjacent to standing wall.

Condition

Uncertain

Issues/vulnerability

- The land is in private ownership but if permission could be obtained archaeological investigation could be undertaken to expose existing foundations.
- The buried remains of the wall are vulnerable to destruction from groundworks and future unrestricted development.
- Any works at the site should be made conditional upon archaeological investigation

- and recording.
- The land is not accessible by the public as the line of the wall is currently in the middle of a private garden. The land is adjacent to Barrack Street so if permission was obtainable public access direct from the street would be possible.



Gazetteer

2.31

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

Site of Pierce's Gate

Summary

Site of lost Pierce's Gate, recorded on a 19th century map as standing at the west end of Barrack Street.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O'Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O'Keeffe 2003, 3).

The wall would have had gates from the beginning. There is earlier evidence that this Gate existed in the 17th century and was called the "Wick" or "Wickett Gate" (O'Keeffe 1997, 30). Wick or Wickett Gate was mentioned in 1667 and again in 1715, 1724 and 1753 [HTA, 9]. The earliest mention of Pierce's Gate was in Chancery documents of 1685. It was mentioned several times during the 18th century as: Piers Gate, Pierces Gate, Piers's Gate, Pierses Gate, Prince's Gate and finally Pierce's Gate in 1773. It seems to have been demolished in the late 19th century as by 1904 the location was being described as 'tower, site of' (O'Keeffe 2003, 9).

The 1840 map of Fethard shows a gate called Pierce's Gate at a point in the north-east wall where it crossed a road called 'Hole in the Wall or Barrack Street' (now Barrack Street). Through this gate the road led into the town to the north side of Main Street. Traffic would have been brought into the town from the roads leading directly north. The road from Killinaule came into Barrack Street (also known as Hole in the Wall Street in the mid 19th century) and into the town through Pierce's Gate.

Description

There are no existing standing remains of Pierce's Gate however there may be buried evidence of the Gate under Barrack Street.

Status

Buried remains. Site of lost Town Gate. The land is in the ownership of South Tipperary County Council.

Significance

Pierce's Gate was one of two northern entrances into the Medieval Town (the early north-western gate was superseded by the current North Gate).

Condition

Uncertain

Issues/vulnerability

- As the land is a road in public ownership, public access is available and archaeological investigation could take place to determine the location and condition of the remains.
- The buried remains are vulnerable to destruction from services and roadworks and any future development.
- Health and Safety is an issue in respect of Visitors as the road is at present in constant use.
- The location of Pierce's Gate and the line of the Town Wall could be marked out on the road surface for Visitors to view, and further information could be provided in a leaflet or nearby information board and could be included as a location in a Town Walk.
- This feature should be dealt with in conjunction with 2.32.



Gazetteer

2.32

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

East Wall, north of Barrack Street (lost wall in road)

Summary

Lost section of wall between the north side of Barrack Street and what is now the north side of St. Patrick's Place.

Historical Background

The 1840 map of Fethard (Irish Historic Towns Atlas 2003) shows that the north-east wall, including this section, is continuous between Gen. Thomas F. Burke Street (Moor Street in 1840) and the turret at the north-east corner of the Town Wall. There are now no standing remains of this section of wall which extended from Pierce's Gate.

Description

This section of wall is recorded on the 1840 map. The wall itself has been removed at some time after 1840, probably when the road between Main Street and St Patrick's Place was built, but the foundations of the wall were probably not removed entirely. It is therefore likely that buried remains of the wall still exist.

This section of the wall extended to the north-west from Pierce's Gate and was a piece of the 14th century Town Wall. At its north end it joined a section of the 16th to 17th century wall at an angle and that wall is still standing.

Status

Buried remains.

Significance

This section of wall was the junction between the older Town Wall and the 16th to 17th century wall, which encompassed the extension of Fethard to the north (O'Keeffe 1997, 17). It also joined with Pierce's Gate.

Further investigation of this section could provide information of important transitions of the Town.

Condition

Uncertain, but remains likely to survive.

Issues/vulnerability

- As the land is a road in public ownership, public access is available and archaeological investigation could take place to determine the location and condition of the remains.
- The buried remains are vulnerable to destruction from roadworks and any future development.
- Health and Safety is an issue in respect of Visitors as the road is at present in constant use.
- The location of the line of the Town Wall and Pierce's Gate could be marked out on the road surface for Visitors to view, and further information could be provided in a leaflet or nearby information board and could be included as a location in a Town Walk.
- This feature should be dealt with in conjunction with 2.31.



Gazetteer

2.33

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

Wall within the Mart (former Barracks)

Summary

The wall at this section continues north from St Patrick's Place to the Corner Tower at the north-east corner of the Town.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O'Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O'Keeffe 2003, 3). This section of wall dated to the 16th to 17th century was at one time continuous with a stretch of wall, now removed, of 14th century date (2.32) (O'Keeffe 1997, 17).

The barracks were built in 1805 from the conversion of the Everard mansion, a very large and prominent building in the early modern town. The site of the extensive gardens to the rear that became a drill ground have more recently been used as a cattle mart [HTA, 6]. The description of the Cavalry Barracks, built on the site of a Mansion House in 1805, varied. In 1840 it included an ordnance ground, posts and pump, in 1850 it was described as an Ordnance barracks and in 1886 it had a drill ground. It was destroyed by fire in the Civil War in 1922 and demolished around 1970 (O'Keeffe 2003, 9).

Description [Exterior Fig 23]

The wall marks the boundary of the modern livestock market (the Mart), which was previously a military barracks. The wall is a consistent height with the corner tower (2.34) and the north-east wall (2.35) and is of the usual Fethard construction.

Status

Standing remains. The land is in the ownership of the GAA (outside the walls) and P.F. Quirke (within the walls).

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard, adjoining the corner town, and adjacent to the site of an important town house and its garden.

Condition

Reasonable externally, ivy covered internally.

Issues/vulnerability

- A number of trees have been planted along the exterior of the town wall and unfortunately as the roots of these grow towards the wall they will undermine and damage it. The trees need to be removed, perhaps replaced with a flowerbed.
- The Mart is still in use but outside the opening hours of the Mart the area is locked. It is not open to the public and the interior of the town wall is not generally accessible.



Gazetteer

2.34

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

*Corner Tower or Turret***Summary**

Round corner turret at north-east corner of the Town Wall.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O'Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O'Keeffe 2003, 3).

The Tower was perhaps built in the later 16th or early 17th century (O'Keeffe 1997, 30). Oliver Cromwell is recorded as having described the town 'as having a very good wall with round and square bulwarks, after the old manner of fortification'. The tower is shown on maps between 1708 and 2000 (O'Keeffe 2003, 29).

Description [Exterior Fig 23]

The Tower is rounded with an arrow slit high in the tower wall and facing to the north-east. To the north the modern perimeter wall of the Sports Ground has been built against the Tower with a low breeze block wall adjoining it from the east. The tower wall has vegetation growing within it and alterations have been made to its construction. It is cylindrical, with indications of a blocked opening to the exterior of the wall and a plain rectangular loop in an upper storey (O'Keeffe 1995, 82). The south side of the tower stands within the Mart and it and the interior of the tower was not accessible.

Status

Standing remains of tower.

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard, and a corner turret of slightly unusual form.

Condition

Interior – fair but overgrown.

The turret is open but access is restricted by cement slabs and rubbish. The steps inside are gone but otherwise it is structurally sound.

Issues/vulnerability

- Vegetation within the Tower wall needs to be removed.
- The Mart is still in use but outside the opening hours of the Mart the area is locked. It is not open to the public and the interior of the town wall is not generally accessible.



Gazetteer

2.35

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

North Wall, eastern section

Summary

Standing wall that forms the west end of the north wall from the Corner Tower to the boundary of the tennis courts on the exterior of the wall.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3). It has been suggested that this section of the wall is part of the later wall built in the 16th to 17th century to encompass Fethard’s northern extension, but it may well be late medieval. (O’Keeffe 1997, 17).

Description [Exterior Fig 23 and 24; Interior Fig 9]

The wall is a consistent height with the corner tower (2.34) and the wall within the Mart (2.33) and is of the usual Fethard construction. The north-east Town Wall runs from the Corner Tower in the north-east corner of the Town to the North Gate and this section forms part of that wall. To the north (outside) of the wall lies an area of open land, currently a sports field, and to the south (interior) the site of the Mart.

To the exterior of the wall a number of modern buildings have been built as ‘lean-to’ buildings against the wall and a further building exceeds the height of the wall itself. A series of squarish holes are visible towards the top of the wall at a consistent height but as the wall appears to have been capped it may be that these relate to a recent restoration.

Status

Standing remains. Land is in the ownership of the GAA (outside the wall) and P.F. Quirke (within the wall).

Significance

Part of a near-complete circuit of medieval town walls of Fethard, and an extensive visible run along the north wall.

Condition

Interior – good.

Large amounts of plant growth on the top of the wall. Blind arch feature has been blocked with concrete breeze blocks and cement slabs. There are two small deep cavities on the lower part of the wall. Ground at the base of the wall is dangerous with hidden holes.

Issues/vulnerability

- The land on the exterior of the wall (north) is owned by the GAA. As it is open space if the owners give permission it may be accessible for visitors to view the town wall.
- The Mart is still in use but outside the opening hours of the Mart the area is locked. It is not open to the public and the interior of the town wall is not generally accessible.
- With the owner's permission a formal walkway could be made alongside the wall with information boards for visitors' use. It could also be incorporated into a Town Walk.



Gazetteer

2.36

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

North-east Wall, central section

Summary

Standing wall that forms part of the north runs west from the boundary of the tennis courts on the exterior of the wall to the property boundaries to the east of the North Gate.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O'Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O'Keeffe 2003, 3). It has been suggested that this section of the wall is part of the later wall built in the 16th to 17th century to encompass Fethard's northern extension, but it may well be late medieval. (O'Keeffe 1997, 17).

Description [Exterior Fig 24 and 25; Interior Fig 9 and 10]

The north wall runs from the Corner Tower in the north-east corner of the Town to the North Gate and this section forms part of that wall. To the north (exterior) of this section of the wall lie Tennis Courts and to the south the land is divided into two properties in private ownership.

The wall reduces in height towards the west end and at the east end it has been rendered. An area of large stone blocks in the middle area suggests that a repair has been made at this point.

Status

Standing remains. The land is in the ownership of the GAA (outside the wall) and Gerard Manton and Joe Kenny (within the wall).

Significance

This section of the wall forms part of the north Town Wall.

Condition

Interior – good.

Parts of the wall are obscured by vegetation but a large cavity is visible on the lower part of the left side of the wall. This may be where the lower section of what appear to be steps leading to the top of the wall have fallen away. These possible steps are in poor condition and overgrown with vegetation. There is a wooden platform built against the wall but this does not affect the structure. Otherwise the wall is in good condition. The section of wall on Gerard Manton's property is almost completely obscured by vegetation but there are no visible cavities or cracks. It appears to be in good condition.

Issues/vulnerability

- There is no public access to the wall in this section.
- The land to the north (exterior) is owned by the GAA, together with the previous and following sections (2.35 and 2.37). With the owner's permission it could potentially be opened to the public with a formal walkway and visitor information and incorporated into a Town Walk.



Gazetteer

2.37

FETHARD TOWN WALLS

2 The Defences

North-east Wall, western section

Summary

Standing section of the north wall runs west from the property boundary east of the North Gate to the North Gate.

Historical Background

Fethard was founded in c.1200 by the Norman lord of the area. The town may have been defended from the start, but the first reference to the walls is a murage grant of 1292, and further murage grants were made in 1409 and 1468. Comparison of the remaining Town Wall with houses in the town, provides a date for the wall of the 15th century. O’Keeffe suggests that the remaining standing wall on the north and south-west sides of the town appears to have been built in one long, sustained campaign which would tie in with records of murage grants from the late 15th century (O’Keeffe 2003, 3). It has been suggested that this section of the wall is part of the later wall built in the 16th to 17th century to encompass Fethard’s northern extension, but it may well be late medieval. (O’Keeffe 1997, 17).

Description [Exterior Fig 25; Interior Fig 10]

The north-east Town Wall runs from the Corner Tower in the north-east corner of the Town to the North Gate and this section forms part of it. The wall is of varying height but its construction is unknown due to its overgrown condition. The wall is continuous with the North Gate and Tower.

The area to the north (exterior) of the wall is an enclosed grassed area with an ornamental, lockable, gate which opens onto the footpath alongside the road called Sparagoulea. There is a private domestic property to the south.

Status

Standing remains. The land is in the ownership of the GAA (outside the wall) and Pierce Dillon (within the wall).

Significance

This section forms part of the north-eastern part of the Town Walls.

Condition

Interior – uncertain.

This section of wall, which is approximately 23m in length is completely overgrown with dense vegetation and access is considerably restricted by trees.

Issues/vulnerability

- This part of the town wall is extensively covered with vegetation and identification and removal of destructive plants such as ivy is urgently required to prevent continuing damage to the wall.
- A small quantity of attractive, non-destructive, plants could remain to enhance this stretch of wall.
- Damage already caused to the walls should be repaired using methods and materials appropriate to the existing walling.
- There is no public access to the wall in this section.
- The land to the north (exterior) is owned by the GAA, together with the previous sections (2.35 and 2.36). With the owner's permission it could potentially be opened to the public with a formal walkway and visitor information and incorporated into a Town Walk.

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