



BAILE STAIRIÚIL

Historic Town



FIODH ÁRD *Fethard*

EOLAS TURASÓIREACHTA *Visitor Information*

The West Gate and Madam's Bridge

Part of the gatehouse still stands at the south-east corner of the bridge. It was a three-storey tower with a half-storey ('caphouse') above. It was largely demolished in the 1880s for road widening. The bridge, on the site of a medieval predecessor, is of two phases. A straight joint and quoins are visible underneath, showing that a probable mid- or late 18th century bridge was widened on its north side by half its original width, probably early in the 19th century.

Main Street

The principal axis of the medieval town, today's Main Street, begins here at Madam's Gate. It is surprisingly narrow at this point, its west end, widening gradually until about Rocklow Road after which it widens substantially to form the original trapezoidal market-place.

The Ormond Butler Family

Until it was established as a county in the early 13th century, County Tipperary comprised the eastern half of the Kingdom of Limerick. Tipperary's history is bound up with the history of the Butler family who dominated affairs in the region known as 'Ormond' (from the Irish Oir-Mhumhan (= East Munster). The Butlers are descended from a Norman knight, Theobald Fitzwalter (Walter), who was appointed his Chief Butler ('botiller') in Ireland c.1185 by King John of England. The principal seat of the Butler family was Kilkenny Castle which they purchased in 1391 from the heirs of William Marshall (one of the principal Anglo-Norman magnates) with collateral branches throughout the region.

The Palatinate County

In 1328, King Edward III of England granted to James Butler, 1st Earl of Ormond, the right to administer Tipperary outside royal jurisdiction as a 'county palatine.' In 1433, James Butler, the fourth earl ('White' Earl') published statutes at Fethard establishing Tipperary and Kilkenny as 'one country under one government or lordship.' The Ormond liberty continued for almost four hundred years and was the last of its kind in Ireland when it was abolished in 1715. The Butler family livery colours (blue and gold) and their coat-of-arms survive on the county flag of Tipperary.

Kerry Street

The road leading in from Clonmel is named in memory of the migrant workers, mainly from County Kerry, who came seeking work in the rich farmlands of Tipperary in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

2

MADAM'S BRIDGE *Madam's Bridge*



This drawing of Madam's Bridge is by George Du Noyer, c.1840. It is used by kind permission of the Royal Society of Antiquities of Ireland.

The West Gate and Madam's Bridge

Part of the gatehouse still stands at the south-east corner of the bridge. It was a three-storey tower with a half-storey ('caphouse') above. It was largely demolished in the 1880s for road widening. The bridge, on the site of a medieval predecessor, is of two phases. A straight joint and quoins are visible underneath, showing that a probable mid- or late 18th century bridge was widened on its north side by half its original width, probably early in the 19th century.

Main Street

The principal axis of the medieval town, today's Main Street, begins here at Madam's Gate. It is surprisingly narrow at this point, its west end, widening gradually until about Rocklow Road after which it widens substantially to form the original trapezoidal market-place.

The Ormond Butler Family

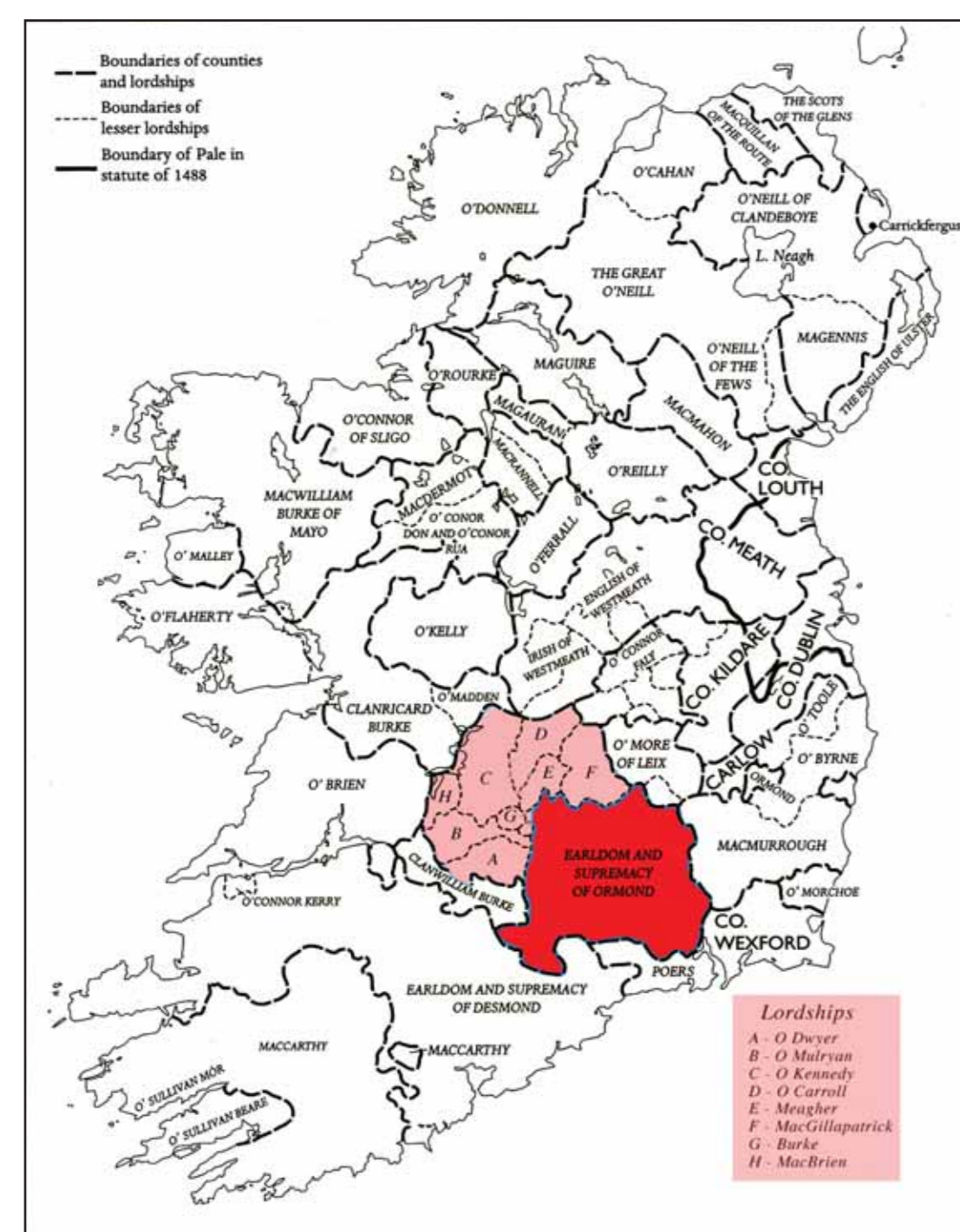
Until it was established as a county in the early 13th century, County Tipperary comprised the eastern half of the Kingdom of Limerick. Tipperary's history is bound up with the history of the Butler family who dominated affairs in the region known as 'Ormond' (from the Irish Oir-Mhumhan (= East Munster). The Butlers are descended from a Norman knight, Theobald Fitzwalter (Walter), who was appointed his Chief Butler ('botiller') in Ireland c.1185 by King John of England. The principal seat of the Butler family was Kilkenny Castle which they purchased in 1391 from the heirs of William Marshall (one of the principal Anglo-Norman magnates) with collateral branches throughout the region.

The Palatinate County

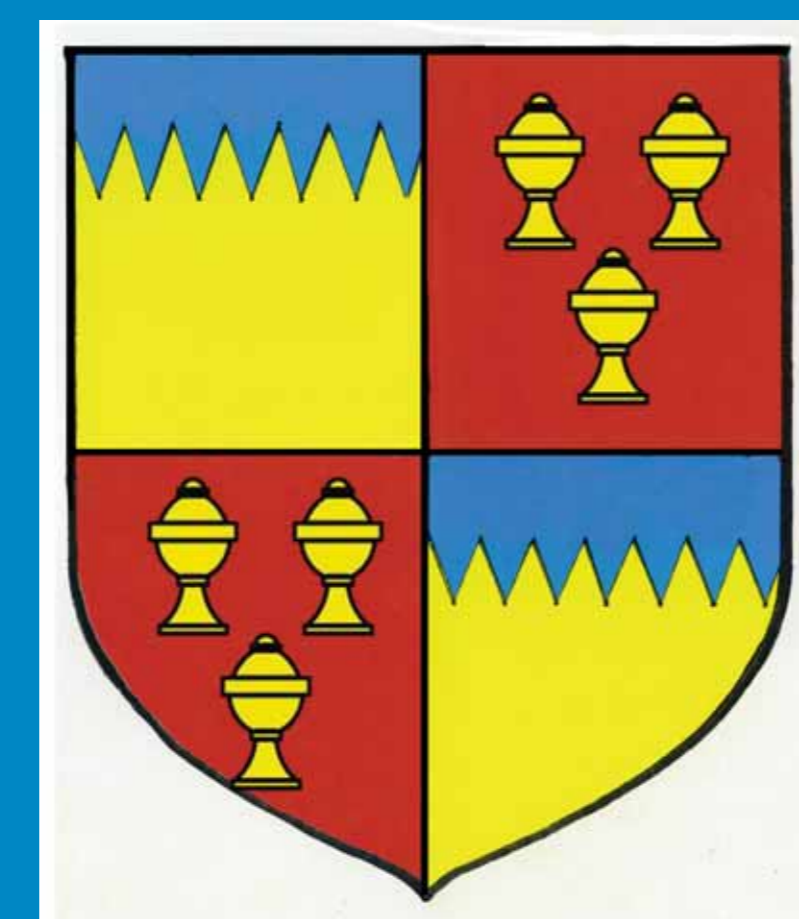
In 1328, King Edward III of England granted to James Butler, 1st Earl of Ormond, the right to administer Tipperary outside royal jurisdiction as a 'county palatine.' In 1433, James Butler, the fourth earl ('White' Earl') published statutes at Fethard establishing Tipperary and Kilkenny as 'one country under one government or lordship.' The Ormond liberty continued for almost four hundred years and was the last of its kind in Ireland when it was abolished in 1715. The Butler family livery colours (blue and gold) and their coat-of-arms survive on the county flag of Tipperary.

Kerry Street

The road leading in from Clonmel is named in memory of the migrant workers, mainly from County Kerry, who came seeking work in the rich farmlands of Tipperary in the 19th and early 20th centuries.



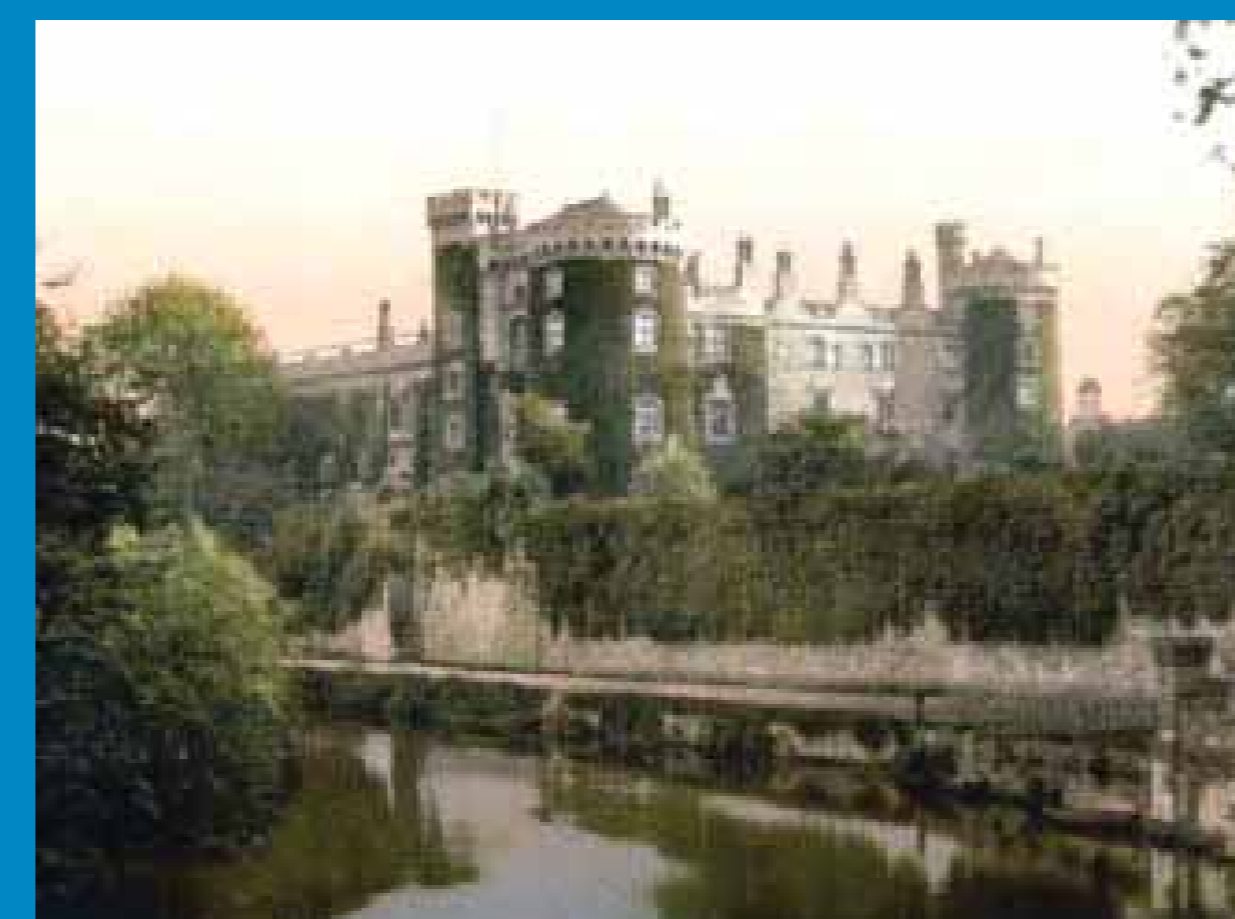
Ireland c.1500 showing the boundaries of the main lordships



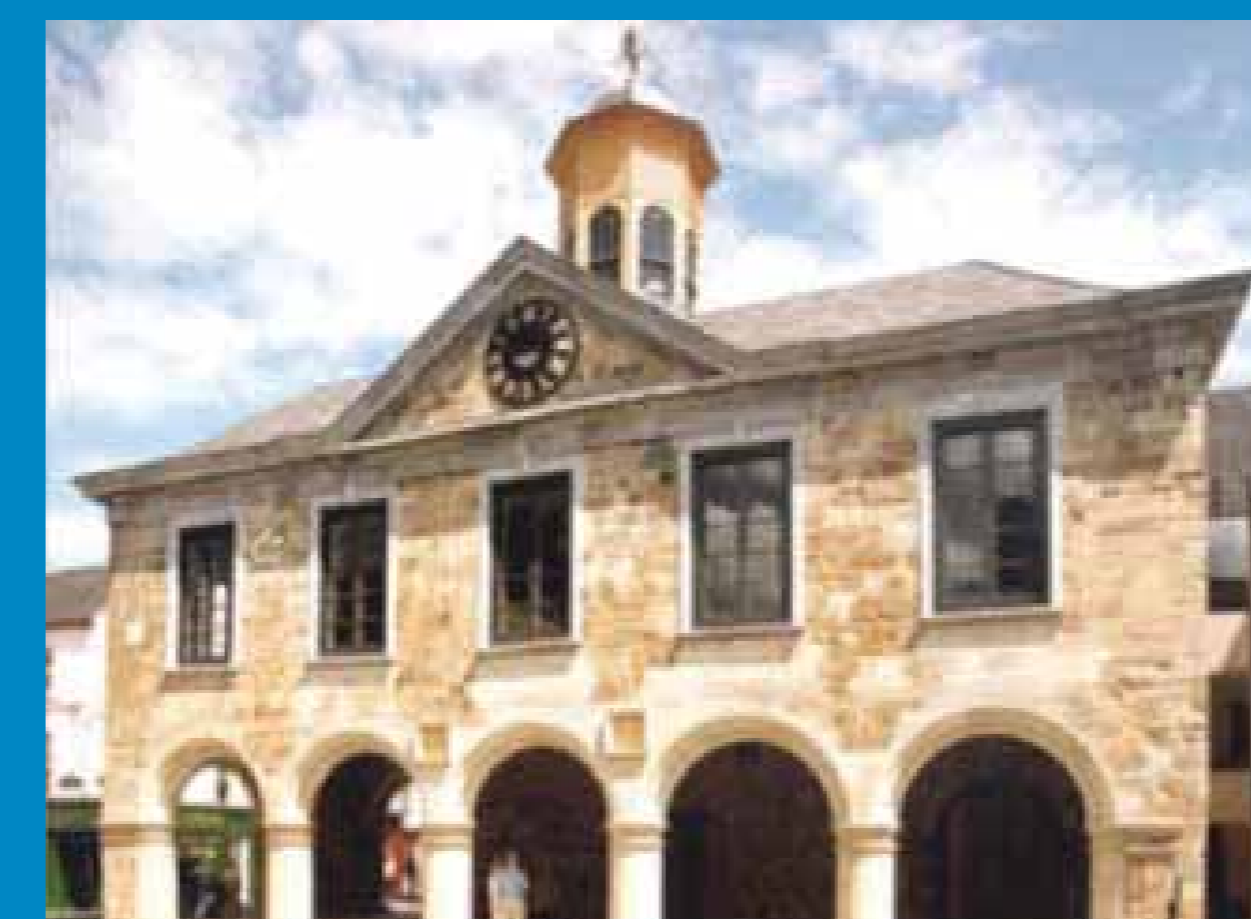
Butler Coat of Arms



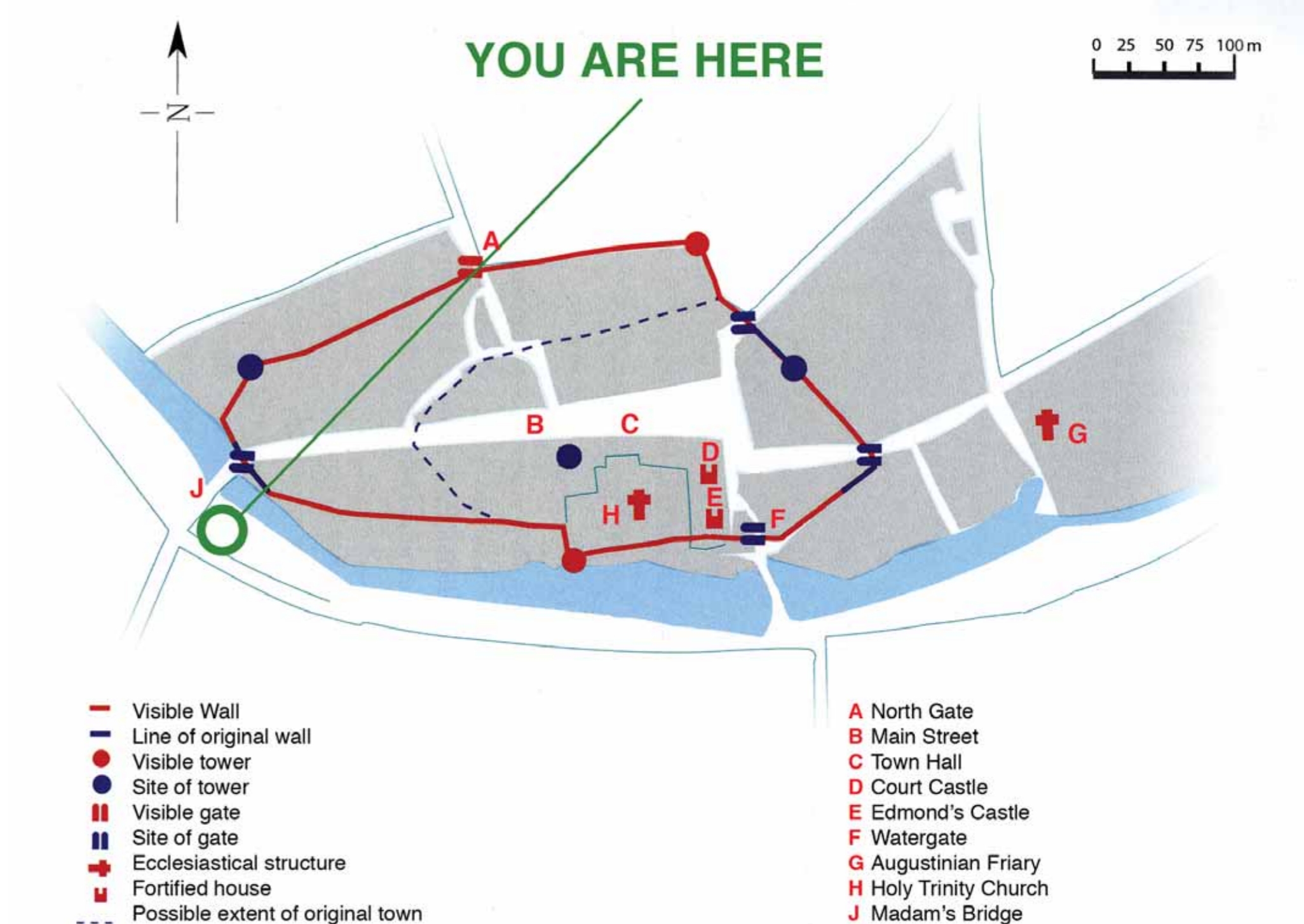
Tipperary Coat of Arms



Kilkenny Castle



Main Guard, Clonmel



- Visible Wall
 - Line of original wall
 - Visible tower
 - Site of tower
 - Visible gate
 - Site of gate
 - Ecclesiastical structure
 - Fortified house
 - - - Possible extent of original town
- A North Gate
 - B Main Street
 - C Town Hall
 - D Court Castle
 - E Edmond's Castle
 - F Watergate
 - G Augustinian Friary
 - H Holy Trinity Church
 - J Madam's Bridge