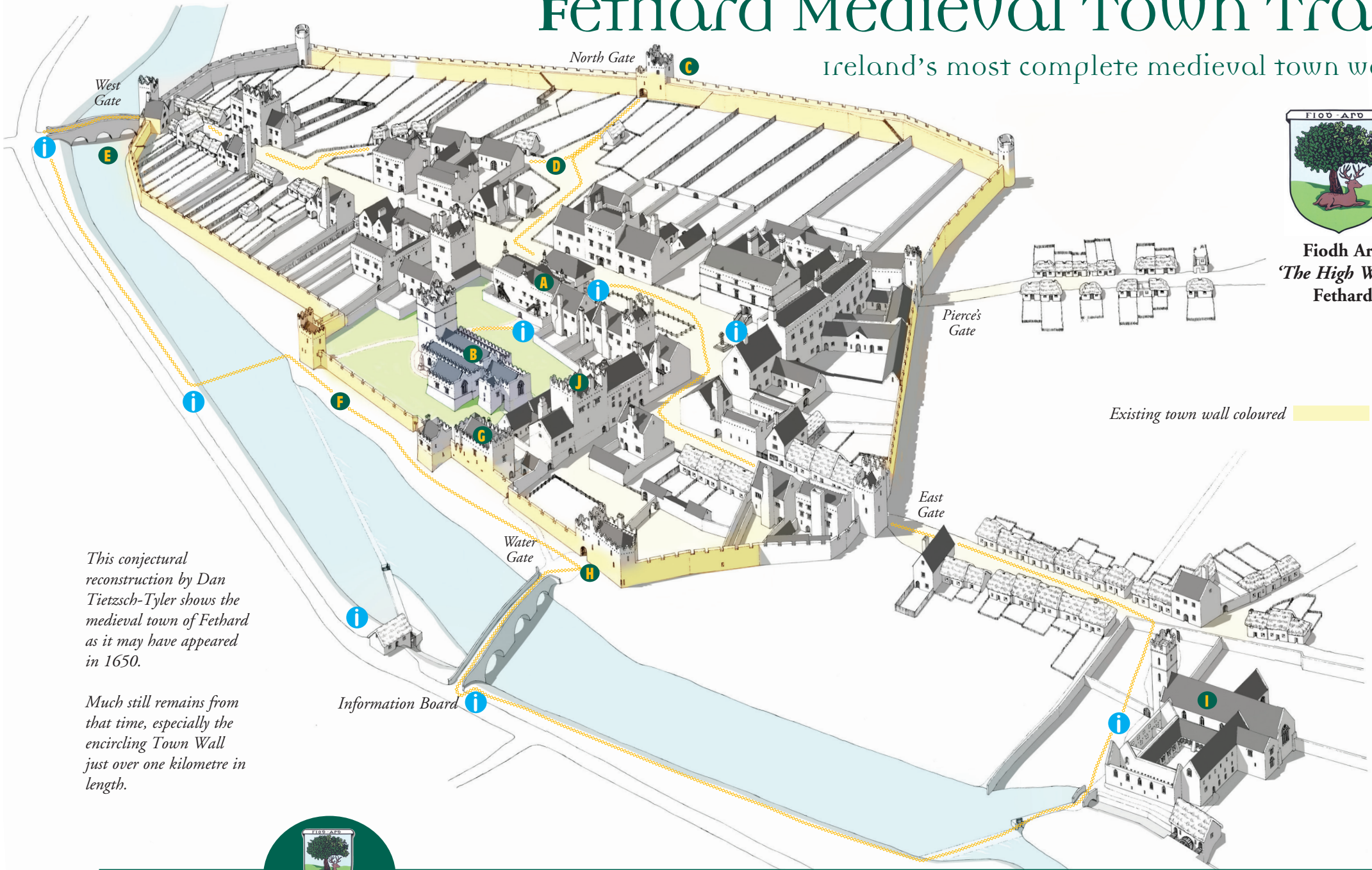


# Fethard Medieval Town Trail

Ireland's most complete medieval town wall



Fiodh Ard  
'The High Wood'  
Fethard



Existing town wall coloured

*This conjectural reconstruction by Dan Tietzsch-Tyler shows the medieval town of Fethard as it may have appeared in 1650.*

*Much still remains from that time, especially the encircling Town Wall just over one kilometre in length.*



- |                              |                      |                             |                         |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>A</b> Town Hall           | <b>C</b> North Gate  | <b>E</b> Madam's Bridge     | <b>G</b> Edmonds Castle | <b>I</b> Augustinian Abbey |
| <b>B</b> Holy Trinity Church | <b>D</b> Chapel Lane | <b>F</b> Medieval Town Wall | <b>H</b> Sheela na gig  | <b>J</b> Court Castle      |

### (A) TOWN HALL

One of the most important historical buildings in Fethard. The town hall was built in the early 1600s by the Everard family as an almshouse.

### (B) HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

The original Norman Church was built in the early 1200s and remodelled in the late 1400s. The ceiling conceals the earliest scientifically-dated timber roof in Ireland (1489).

### (C) NORTH GATE

The North Gate (also known as Sparagoleith), is the only surviving gate of the five original gates in the town wall.

### (D) CHAPEL LANE

This is one of the oldest laneways in Fethard, possibly marking part of the boundary of the original 13th century town.

### (E) MADAM'S BRIDGE

The original Madam's Bridge was a three - arched late medieval bridge protected at the town end by a gate tower of 15th Century type.

### (F) MEDIEVAL TOWN WALLS

The first charter to build the town wall was granted in 1292, but building and renovation continued up to the 16th century. Most of the town wall still exists, and appears to date from the murage grants of 1450-1480.

### (G) EDMOND'S CASTLE

This is a 15th century fortified town house – believed to have belonged to the prominent Fethard family, the Everards.

### (H) SHEELA-NA-GIG

An interesting example of the medieval carvings known as Sheela-na-gigs (Sile nà gCioch). Sheela-na-gigs are erotic sculptures found on medieval buildings, churches and castles.

### (I) THE AUGUSTINIAN ABBEY

Founded in 1305 as a friary, the present church is the original 14th century building which was modified in the 15th century. The front facade of the existing church dates to circa 1835 when the original medieval tower was demolished.

### (J) COURT CASTLE

This is the largest fortified town house in Fethard, (and indeed one of the largest and most impressive in Ireland) from circa 1450, with alterations from the 16th and 17th centuries.



### TOURIST INFORMATION

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Fáilte - Welcome - Croeso - Bienvenue