



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Walled Towns of Tipperary

Clare Lee, Planning Section
Tipperary County Council

Presentation to the Clonmel Historical Society 24th October 2016

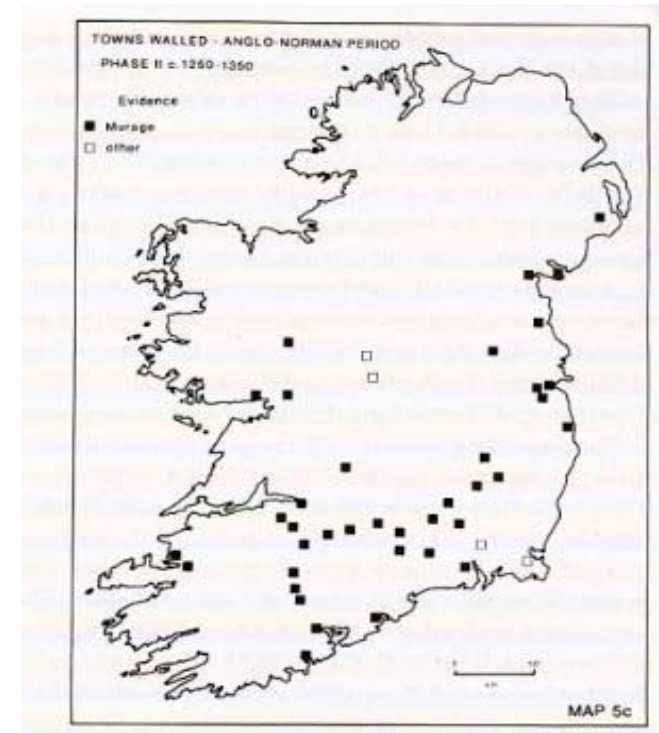
National Picture

Table 1.1: Identification

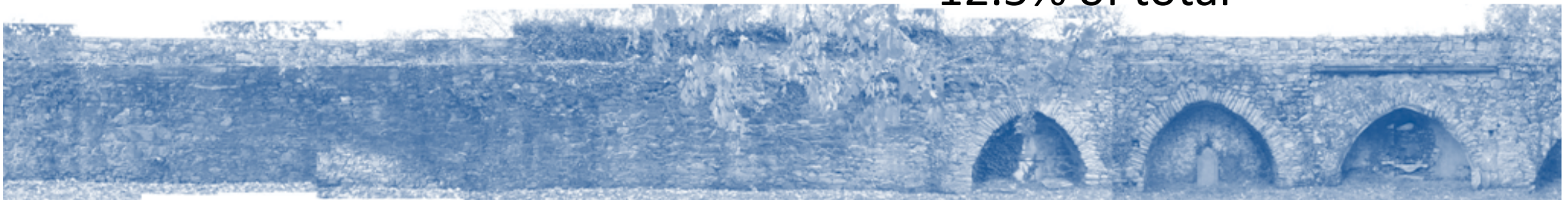
LIST A: WALLED TOWNS

1 Adare	20 Cork	39 Londonderry
2 Ardee	21 Dingle	40 Loughrea
3 Athboy	22 Downpatrick	41 Maryborough (Port Laoise)
4 Athenry	23 Drogheda	42 Naas
5 Athlone	24 Dublin	43 Navan (An Uaimh)
6 Athy	25 Dundalk	44 Nenagh
7 Bandon	26 Dungarvan	45 New Ross
8 Belfast	27 Fethard	46 Newry
9 Buttevant	28 Fore	47 Philipstown (Daingean)
10 Callan	29 Galway	48 Rindown
11 Carlingford	30 Gowran	49 Roscommon
12 Carlow	31 Inistioge	50 Thomastown
13 Carrickfergus	32 Jamestown	51 Thurles
14 Carrick-on-Suir	33 Kells(Meath)	52 Tipperary
15 Cashel	34 Kildare	53 Trim
16 Castledermot	35 Kilkenny	54 Waterford
17 Clonmel	36 Kilmallock	55 Wexford
18 Clonmines	37 Kinsale	56 Youghal
19 Coleraine	38 Limerick	

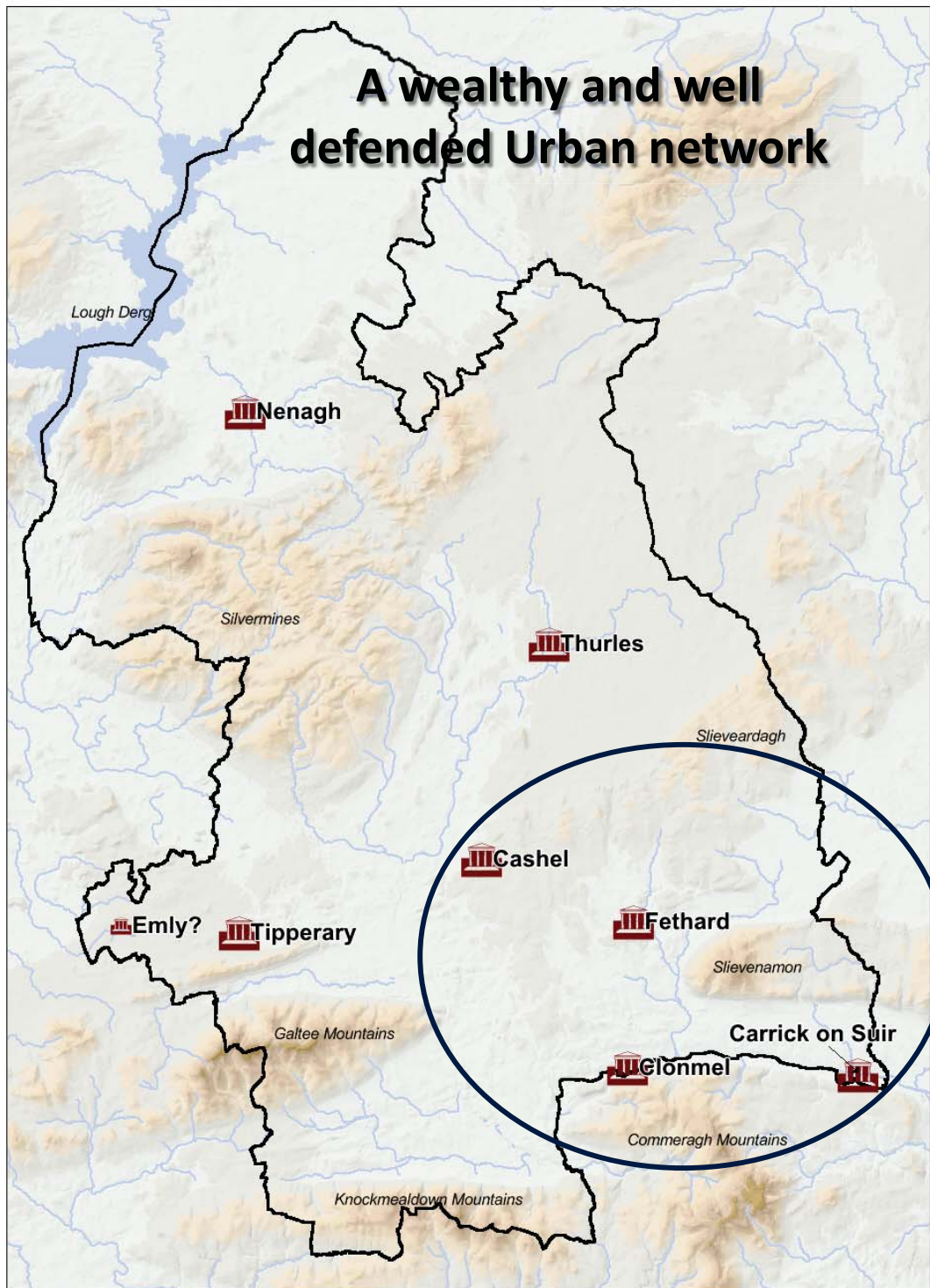
CRITERIA: Physical remains of town wall or towers, and/or a range of documentary evidence comprising maps, verbal descriptions, land deeds, murage and other town records.



- 56 Walled Towns identified
- 7 of these are in Tipperary
- 12.5% of total



A wealthy and well defended Urban network



4 Towns with significant upstanding sections remaining

- Nearly a complete circuit at Fethard
- Long sections at Cashel,
- Upstanding sections at Clonmel and Carrick on Suir.

Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN).

All are National Monuments.

Chronology of Walled Towns/Urbanisation

- Influence of Colonisation and on-Migration over nearly eight centuries..
- Norse settlements along Coasts – Dublin, Wexford, Waterford, Limerick.
- Anglo Norman Settlements – The Walled Towns of Tipperary.
- Re-Colonisations of Tudor and Stuart Governments – New Towns in Ulster



Tipperary

In Tipperary...Anglo Norman Invasion in 1169.

European Fuedal System based on landownership rights.

Stone Castles and centres for the marketing of the Lords produce and destination for more Norman Migrants.

Towns were planned and developed to cater for in-migration.

In Tipperary, the Butlers featured extensively after 1463 (Earl of Ormond)



Why?

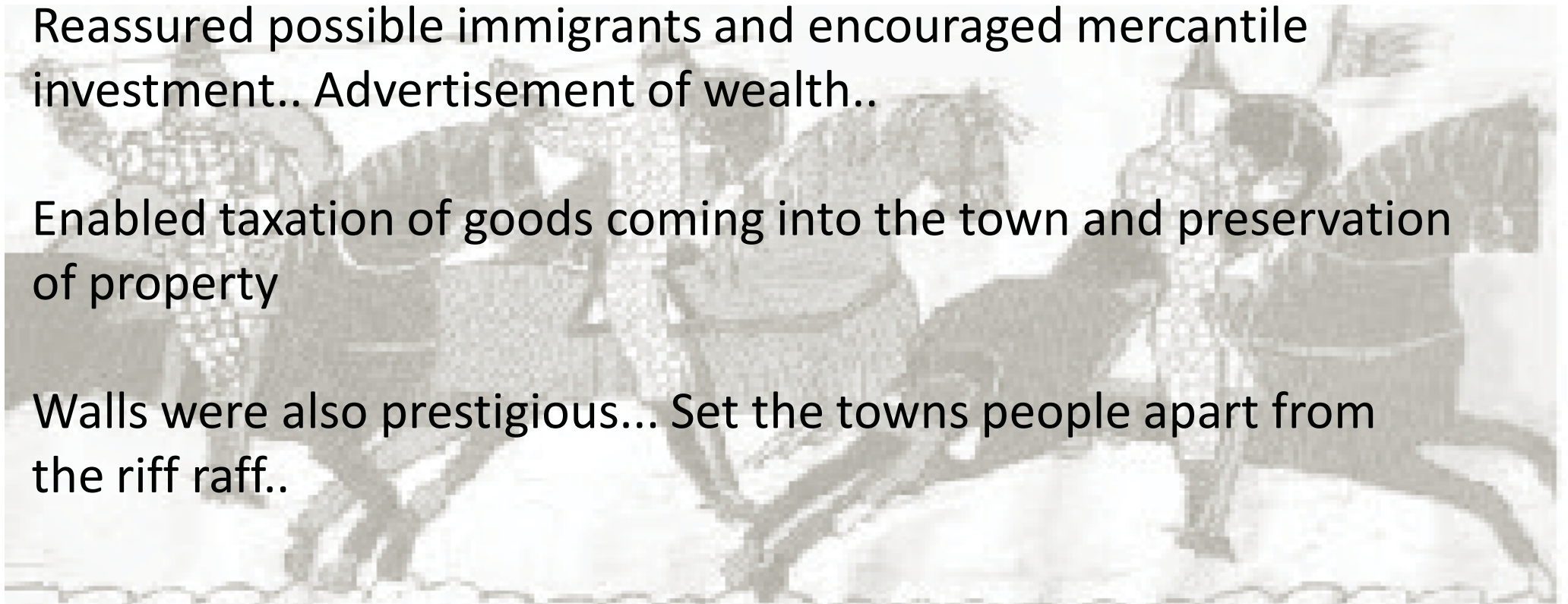
New Anglo-Norman settlers feared hostility.... Irish Chieftains, displaced Hiberno-Norse residents, rival Anglo-Norman Chieftains..

Bold and expensive statement of belief in the future of a town

Reassured possible immigrants and encouraged mercantile investment.. Advertisement of wealth..

Enabled taxation of goods coming into the town and preservation of property

Walls were also prestigious... Set the towns people apart from the riff raff..



Athenry Town Seal



Wealth, Protection, Pride, Advertisement!

How?

Co-Operative Plan devised by the Council.

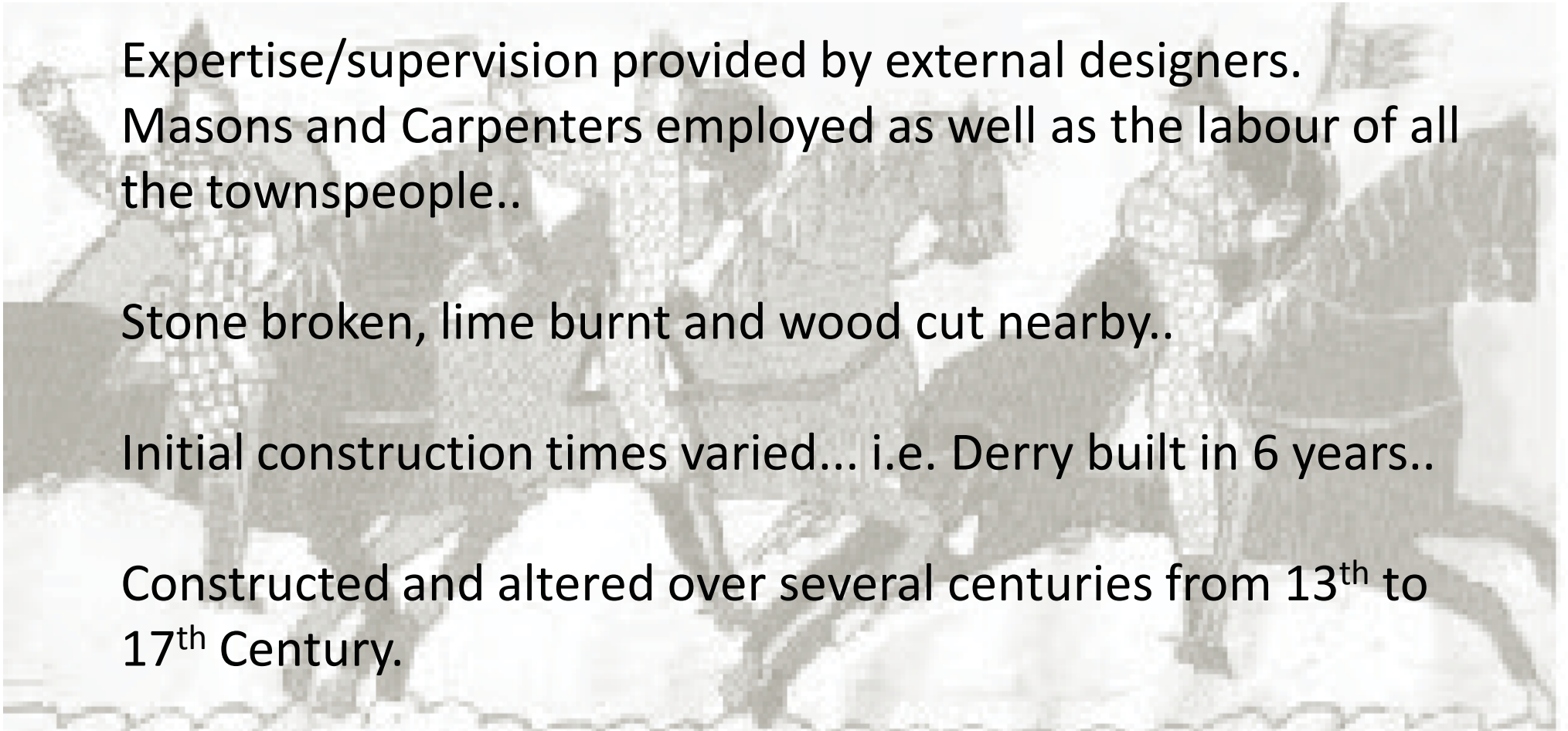
King's permission sought for right to levy toll or tax at the gates.. 'Murage' Tax on goods such as wool, wine & honey..

Expertise/supervision provided by external designers.
Masons and Carpenters employed as well as the labour of all the townspeople..

Stone broken, lime burnt and wood cut nearby..

Initial construction times varied... i.e. Derry built in 6 years..

Constructed and altered over several centuries from 13th to 17th Century.



Practicalities of Managing Walled Town?

How to sustain interest in Town Defence in Times of Peace

Suburbs might obscure views of the Fortifications.. Look less impressive

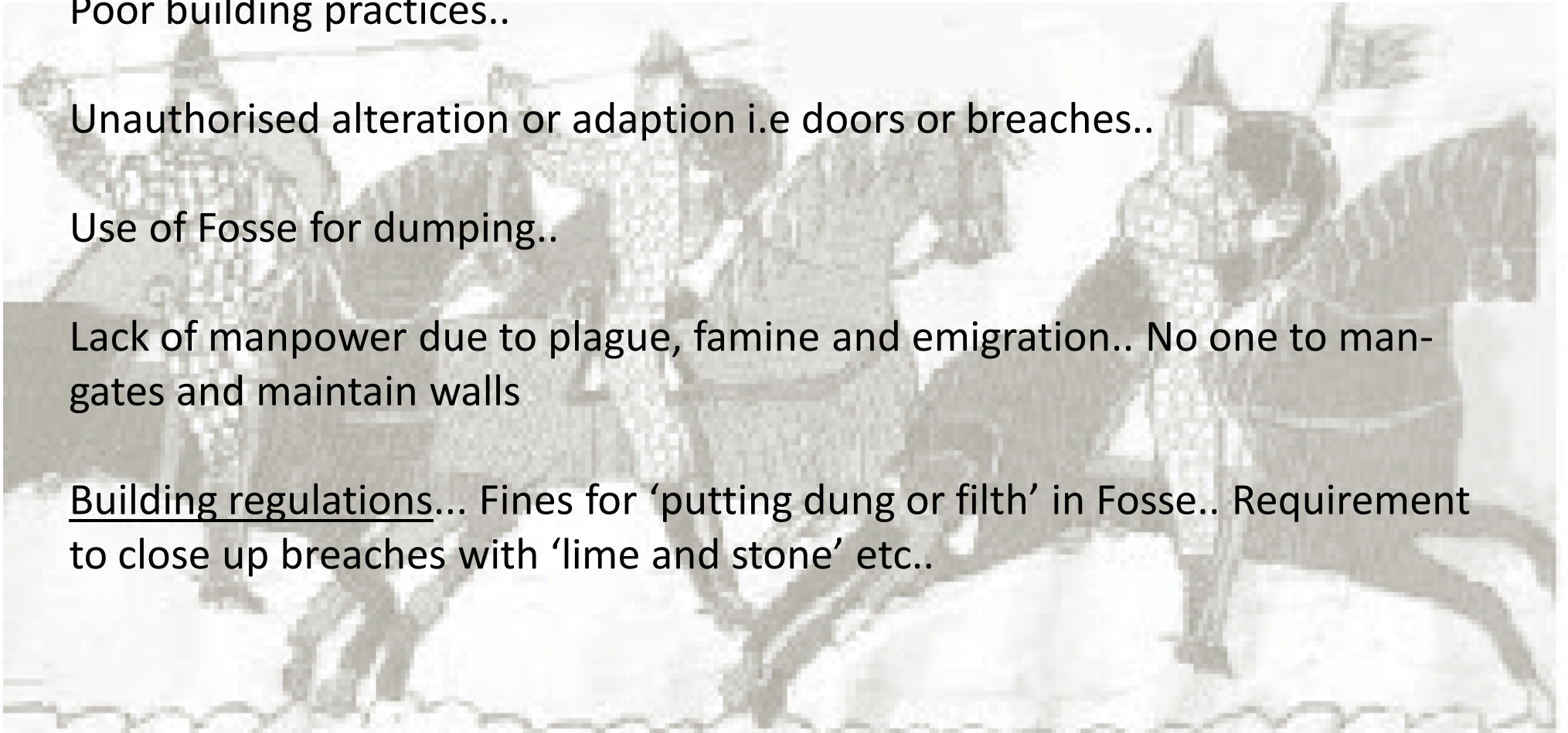
Poor building practices..

Unauthorised alteration or adaption i.e doors or breaches..

Use of Fosse for dumping..

Lack of manpower due to plague, famine and emigration.. No one to man-gates and maintain walls

Building regulations... Fines for 'putting dung or filth' in Fosse.. Requirement to close up breaches with 'lime and stone' etc..



Typical Walled Town





Model of Medieval Fethard made by local artists and historians

Curtin Walls



Curtain Wall with 'Batter' at Cashel

Curtain Walls and Battlements



Battlements and Parapets at Fethard

View from Battlements



Battlements and Parapets at Fethard

Wall Mounted Turret or 'Bartizan'



Carrick on Suir

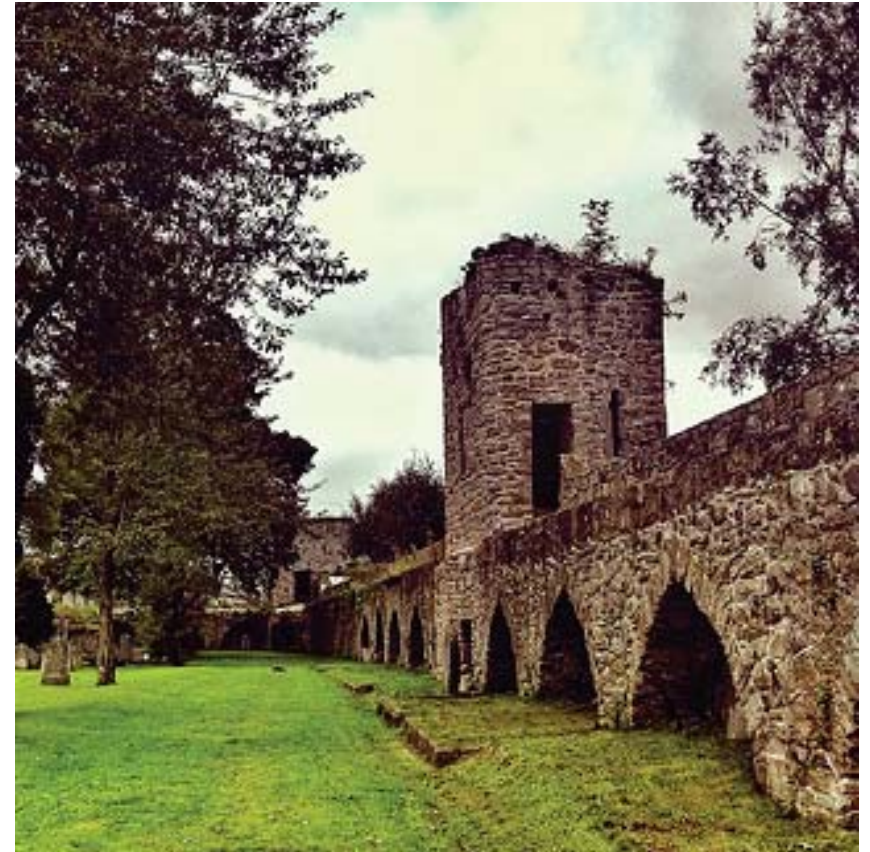
Wall Walks and Supporting Towers



Top of Wall Walk at Carrick on Suir



**Corner tower
Fethard**



Wall Walk at Clonmel

Climbing steps to the Wall Walk



CARRICK ON SUIR

Rampart at Cashel



Medieval Effigies



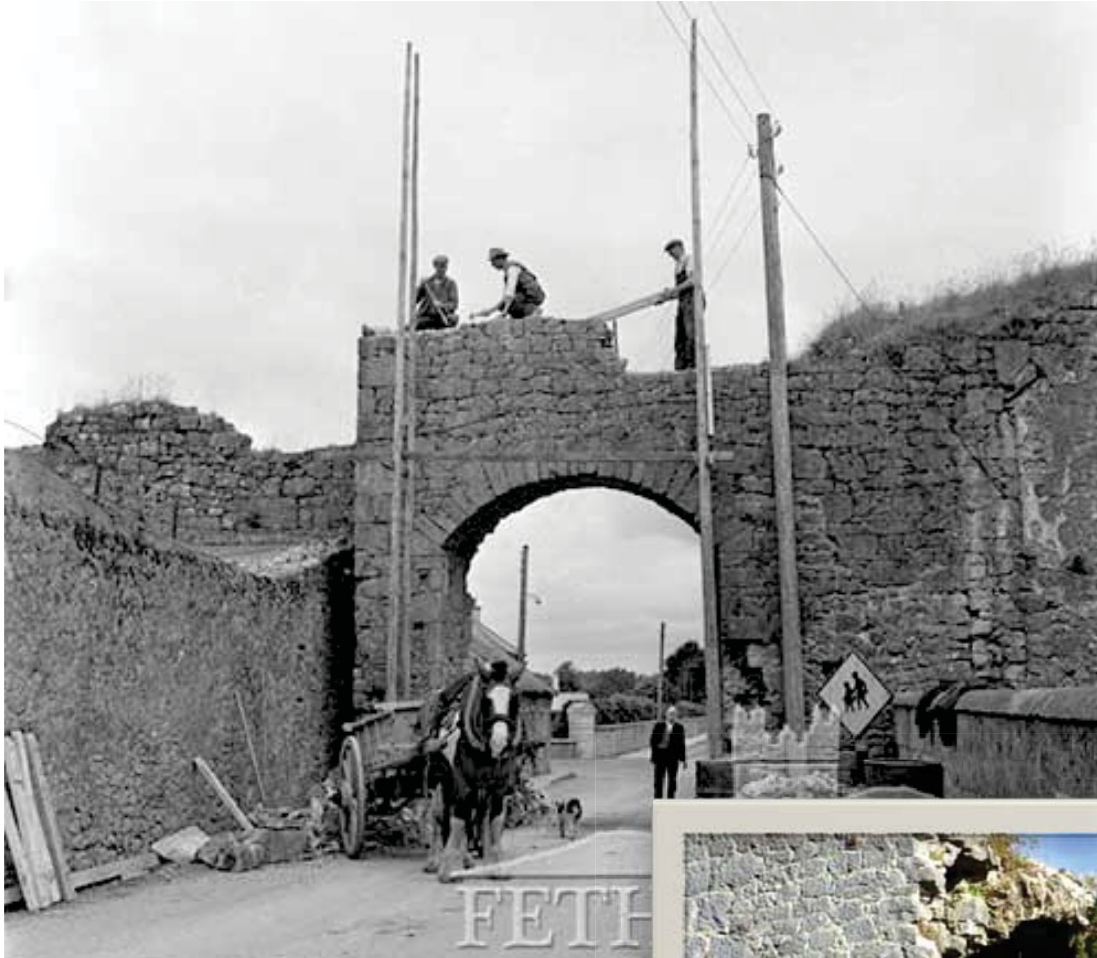
ish-culture.com

**Sheela na Gigs
in walls of
Fethard**



**Hackett Family Effigies in
Cashel City Walls**

Town Gates



Alamy ARD070

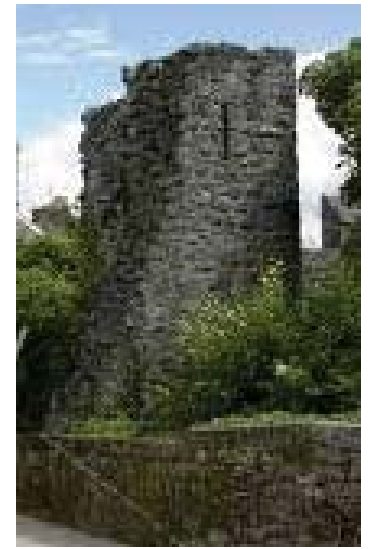


‘Postern Gate/Sallyport’



Cashel

Arrow Loops



Life in a Walled Town

- Gates closed every morning and evening
- All towns people had duty to maintain and protect walls.
- Constant drain on the civic purse
- Defence of ones town was important civic duty.
- Risk of spread of fire or disease
- Starvation and violence in times of siege..
- Sense of security... Eventually claustrophobia.

West Gate Image



Remodelled version of the original
Gives a sense of the enclosure that a Town Wall would have provided residents of the Town.

Fethard Town Walls

First Murage Grant 1292

7.5ha enclosed

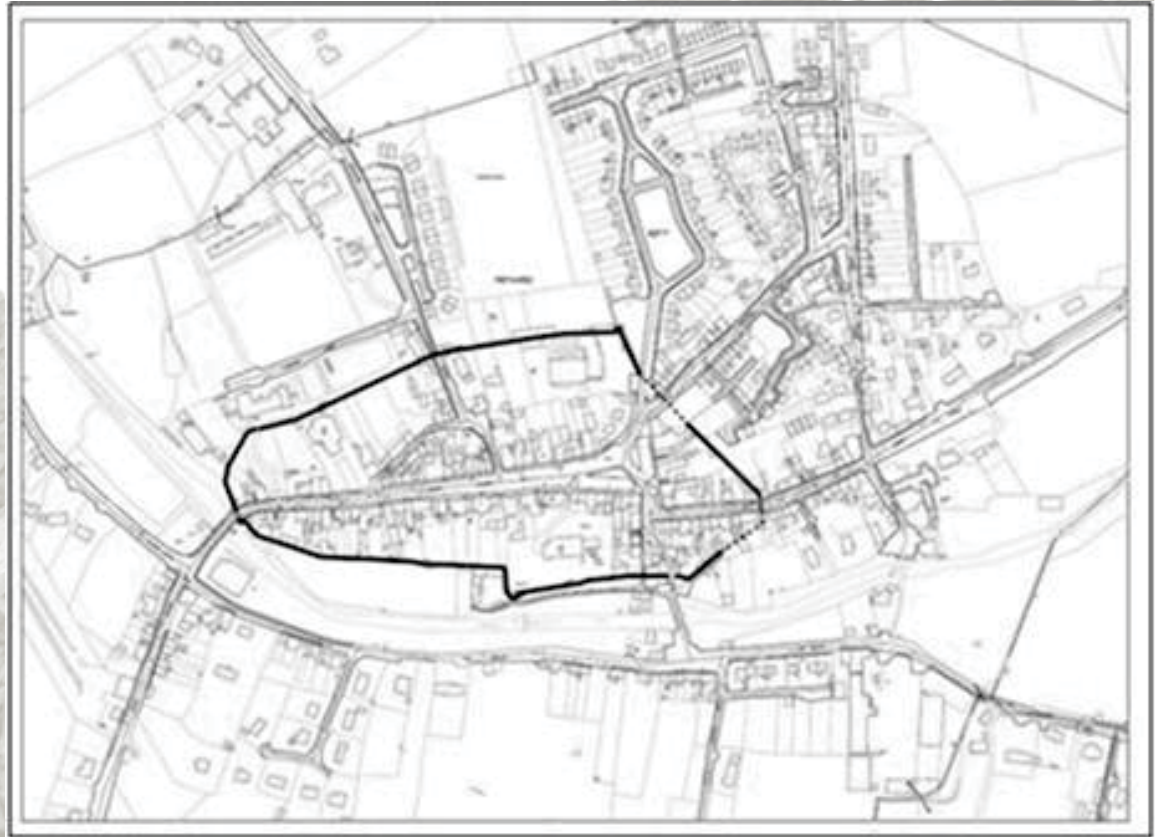
Total Circuit is 1,125m

Ford in River Clashawley

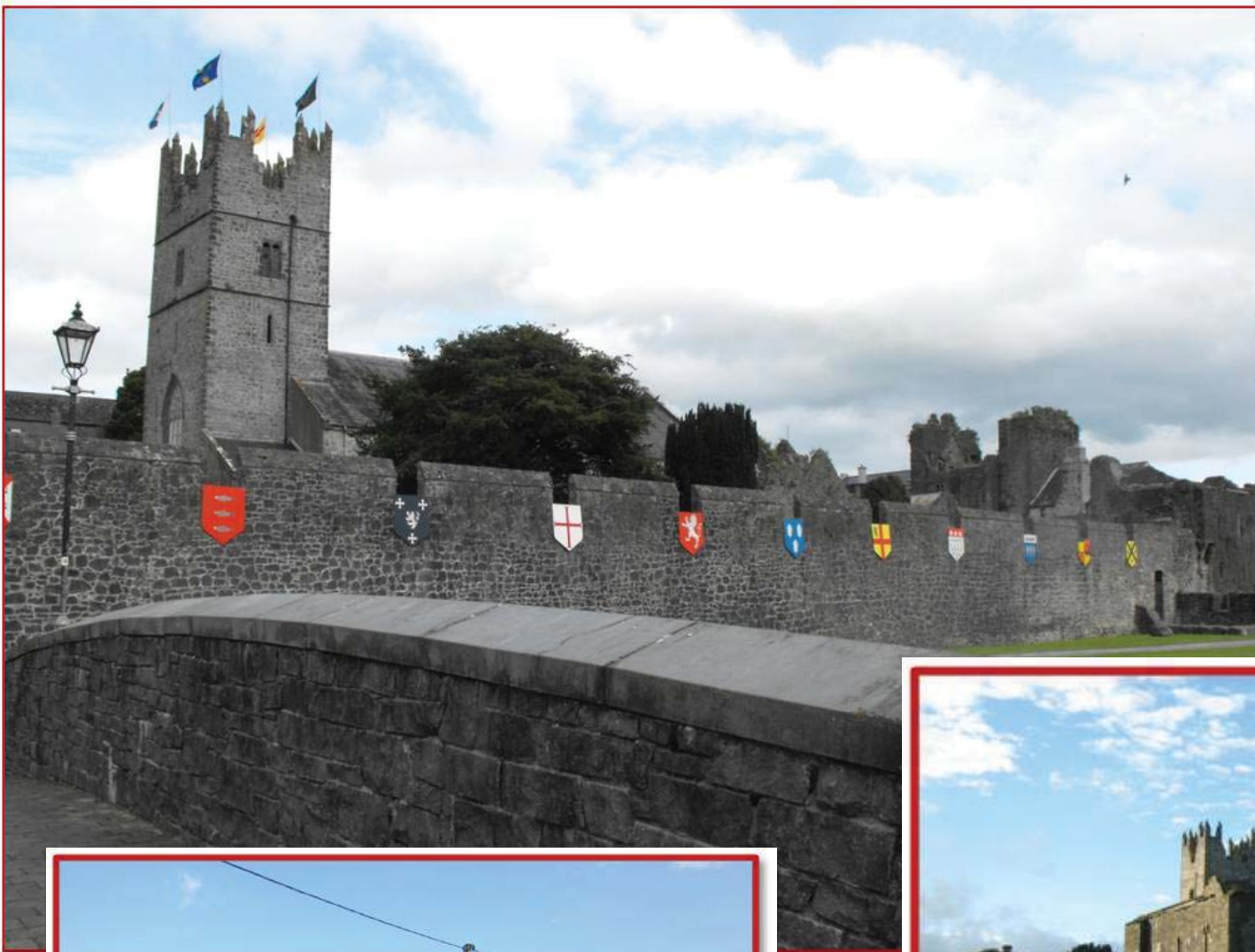
**Almost a complete circuit of
the Walls remain today.**

**Fethard is of outstanding
significance as a medieval
defended town.**

Joined the IWTN in 2007.



FETHARD TOWN WALLS



Clonmel Town walls

First Murage Grant 1298

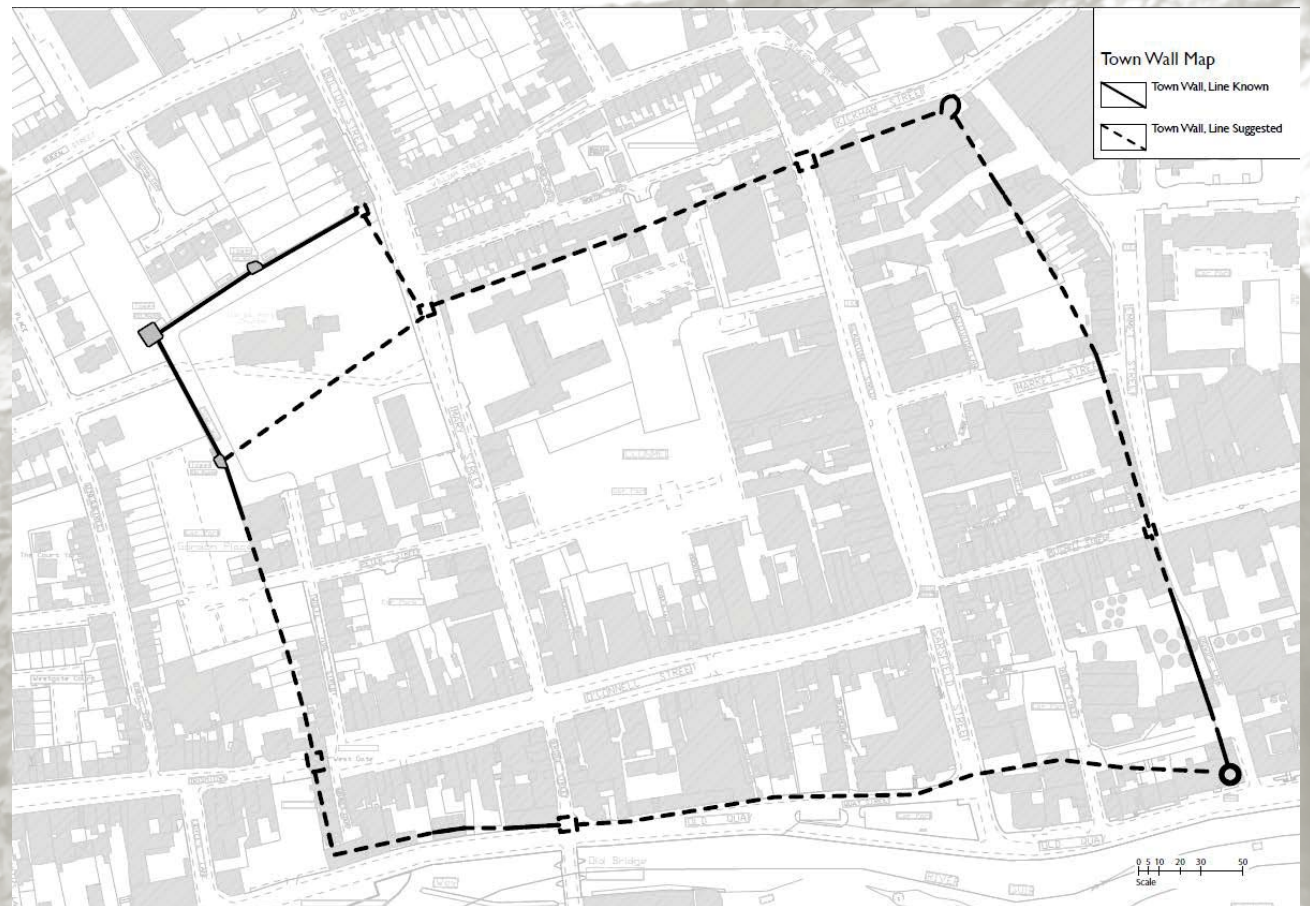
14ha enclosed

Total Circuit is 1,500m

Ford in River Suir

Upstanding Remains:

approx 300m in Length.

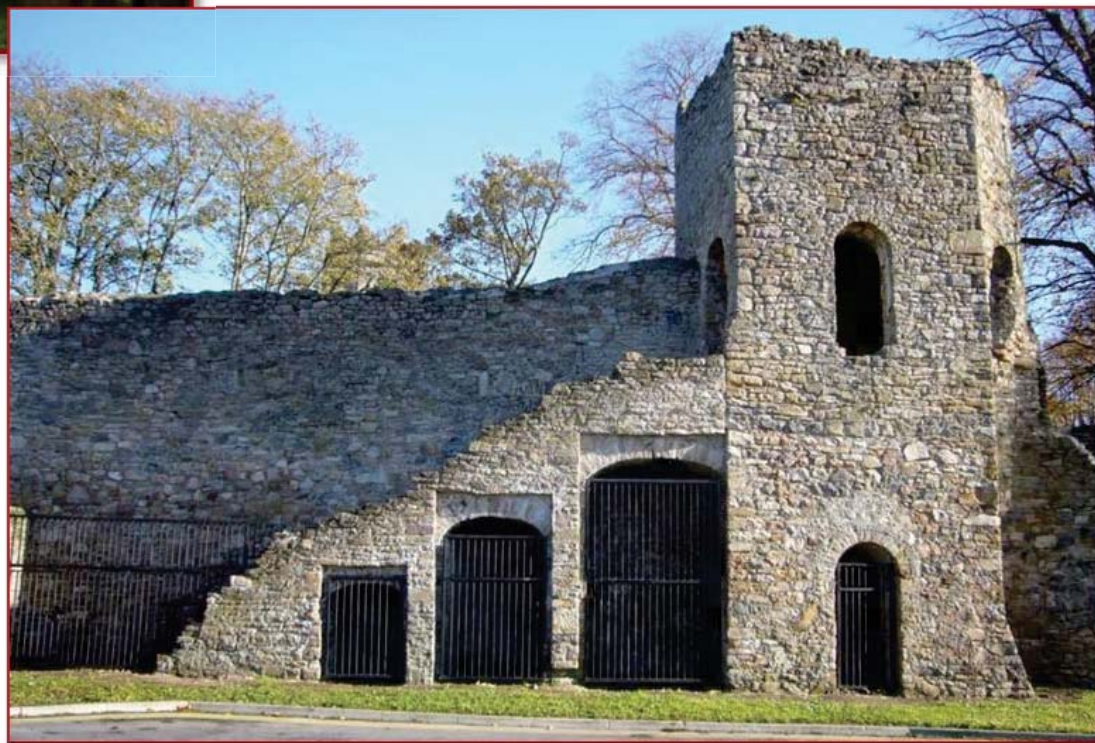


The upstanding remains at Old St Mary's give a medieval sense to the modern town of Clonmel.

Joined the IWTN in 2008.



CLONMEL TOWN WALLS



Siege of Clonmel



Siege of Clonmel April – May 1650

Cromwell laid siege to the strong and wealthy walled town of Clonmel for three weeks, the town being defended by General Hugh O'Neill with an Ulster Garrison.

Cromwell's forces –

'found in Clonmel the stoutest enemy that was ever found by his army in Ireland and never a town so gallantly defended, neither in England nor in Ireland'.

'Cromwell lost at the siege about 1500 men, being more than he lost by all the towns he stormed and took before and since he came to Ireland'.

Cashel City Walls

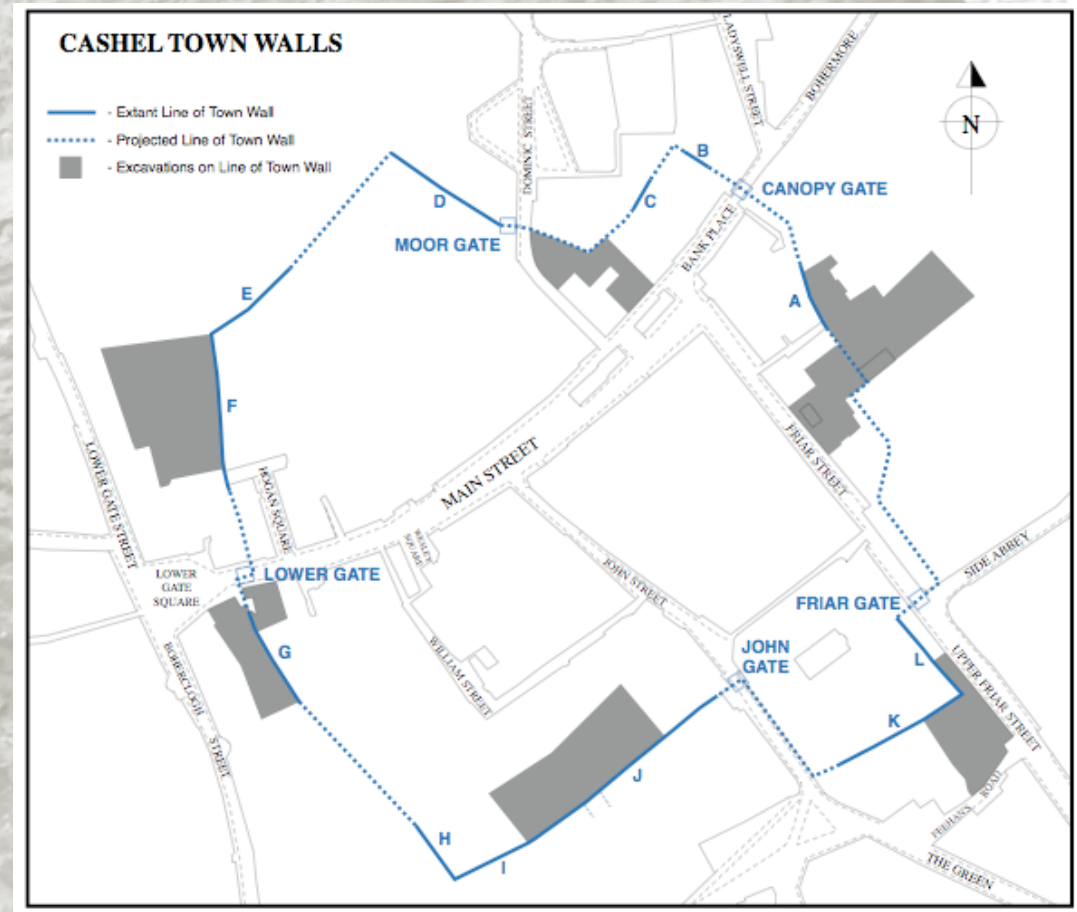
First Murage Grant 1303

14.5ha enclosed

Total Circuit is 1,550m

South of the Rock of Cashel &
Approx 2.5km from River Suir
Circa 50% of walls remain

Significant upstanding remains.
Joined the IWTN in 2007.



CASHEL CITY WALLS



Carrick on Suir

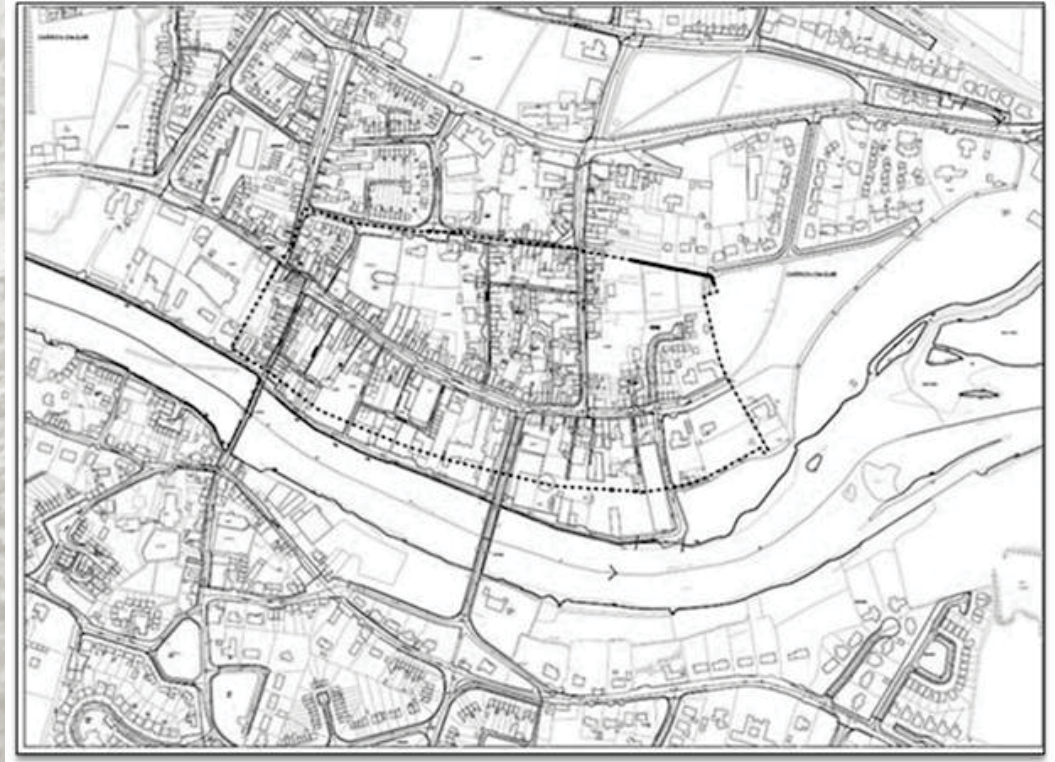
First Murage Grant 1344

Approx 12ha enclosed

Total Circuit is 1,550m

**Built on fording point on River
Suir**

**Approximately 150m of walls
Remain upstanding.**



Walls have been forgotten until recently, the upstanding remains are located close to Ormonde Castle. Joined the IWTN in 2014.



CARRICK ON SUIR TOWN WALLS



Decline of Tipperary's Walled Towns

Loss

Memory of war and lawlessness receded.

Removal of Walls in eighteenth century see as 'Liberation'.

Obstacles to modernisation and site/town expansion.

Stone was quarried for use in construction projects.

Survival

Walls survived where growth of towns were limited for example in Fethard, or

where upstanding remains were tucked away and where they were not under threat, for example, Old St Mary's, Clonmel, St John's Cathedral in Cashel and Tennis Club grounds in Carrick on Suir.

Conservation Programme – Philosophy

- 1. To promote public understanding and enjoyment of the monument and to enhance accessibility.**
- 2. Ensure that conservation and protection remains at the heart of planning and development of the towns.**
- 3. Implement appropriate maintenance and repair with protection of historic integrity.**
- 4. Enhance the historic character and visual qualities for the monument as opportunities arise.**

Irish Walled Towns Network provide vital support and funding.



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Role the County Council

Along with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht provide Statutory Protection,
Funding – IWTN Grants,
Guidance and advice – Steering Group, Festivals, Consultation and Community Participation, Tourism, Training, Peer Learning, Maintenance and Conservation,
Planning and Development.

Role of the General Public and landowners

Duty of care towards the National Monument on their property.



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Irish Walled Towns Network

To co-ordinate efforts of County Councils involved in the management, conservation and enhancement of historic walled towns in Ireland, both North and South.

Grants for the conservation and for festivals.

Heritage interpretation to best show off a town's medieval heritage.

Training : festival marketing, heritage tourism, conservation, managing archaeological remains, fundraising, planning, community group management and economic development.

Discussing common problems with other towns of similar size.

Conservation at Cashel

Before



After



Conservation at Cashel

Before



After



Programme 2016





Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

References:

The Walled Towns of Ireland, Avril Thomas, 1992. Irish Academic Press.

Medieval Walled Towns, Mike Slater, 2013. Folly Publications.

Irish Walled Towns, John Givens, 2008. The Liffey Press.

Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan 2013, Town Wall, Carrick on Suir, Co. Tipperary. South Tipperary County Council.

Conservation and Management Plan, Fethard Historic Town Walls 2008. South Tipperary County Council.

Conservation and Management Plan Clonmel Town Walls 2009.
South Tipperary County Council.

Conservation and Management Plan Cashel City Walls 2008.
South Tipperary County Council.

Irish Walled Towns Network – www.irishwalledtownsnetwork.ie

Backs to the Walls Tours (Fethard): www.backstothewalltours.com



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Further information on the Walled Towns Conservation programme

Contact:

The Planning Section Tipperary County Council at 0761 06 5000.

Contacts:

- **Clare Lee, Executive Planner (Carrick on Suir and Cashel Walls)**
- **Jonathon Flood, Executive Planner (Clonmel and Fethard Walls)**

Or Contact the Irish Walled Towns Network:

<http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/irish-walled-towns/welcome/>

If you have any enquiries about the Irish Walled Towns Network please contact the its Project Manager (Liam Mannix):

lmannix@heritagecouncil.ie

353 (0)56 777 0777

The Heritage Council, Áras na hOidhreachta, Church Lane, Kilkenny, Ireland.