

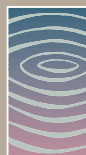


# KILKENNY CITY WALLS

## CONSERVATION PLAN

Oxford Archaeology

AN  
CHOMHAIRLE  
OIDHREACHTA



THE  
HERITAGE  
COUNCIL

### NOTE:

Copyright and reproduction rights belong to the Heritage Council.  
No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted  
in any form without the prior permission of the copyright owner.

© An Chomhairle Oidhreachta / The Heritage Council 2003

*All rights reserved.*

*No part of this book may be printed or reproduced  
or utilised in any electronic, mechanical,  
or other means, now known or heretofore  
invented, including photocopying or licence  
permitting restricted copying in Ireland issued by the  
Irish Copyright Licencing Agency Ltd.,  
The Writers Centre,  
19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.*

*Published by the Heritage Council*

*Designed and Produced by  
B. Magee Design  
Editorial Consultant: Roberta Reeners*

ISSN 1393 – 68 08

*The Heritage Council of Ireland Series*

ISBN 1 901137 51 1 500

PRICE €??



*Printed on 100% Recycled Paper.*

# **C O N T E N T S**

<b>FOREWORD</b>	<b>6</b>
-----------------	----------

<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<b>7</b>
-------------------------	----------

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>8</b>
--------------------------	----------

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>11</b>
------------------------	-----------

1.1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE	
----------------------------	--

1.2 BASIS AND STRUCTURE	
-------------------------	--

## **PART ONE: SIGNIFICANCE**

<b>2. UNDERSTANDING THE MONUMENT</b>	
--------------------------------------	--

2.1 SCOPE OF THE SURVEY	
-------------------------	--

2.2 REVIEW OF SOURCES	
-----------------------	--

2.3 PREVIOUS RESEARCH	
-----------------------	--

<b>3. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW</b>	
-------------------------------	--

3.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND SETTING	
----------------------------	--

3.2 THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MONUMENT	
-------------------------------------	--

3.3 SUMMARY OF KEY PHASES	
---------------------------	--

<b>4. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>	
--------------------------------------	--

4.1 BASIS OF THE ASSESSMENT	
-----------------------------	--

4.2 VALUES TO BE USED AND DEGREES OF SIGNIFICANCE	
---	--

4.3 OVERALL SIGNIFICANCE	
--------------------------	--

4.4 CHRONOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND KEY ELEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE	
---	--

## **PART TWO: ISSUES AND POLICIES**

<b>5. INTRODUCTION</b>	
------------------------	--

5.1 CONSERVATION PLAN POLICY AIMS	
-----------------------------------	--

5.2 POLICY FRAMEWORK	
----------------------	--

<b>6. MANAGEMENT ISSUES</b>	
-----------------------------	--

6.1 INTRODUCTION	
------------------	--

6.2 RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION	
--------------------------------	--

- 6.3 SURVIVAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITION
- 6.4 BURIED ARCHAEOLOGY
- 6.5 GAPS IN UNDERSTANDING
- 6.6 INTERPRETATION — PRESENTATION OF THE CITY WALLS
- 6.7 OWNERSHIP AND ACCESS
- 6.8 MONUMENT MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS
- 6.9 PUBLIC AND VISITOR EXPECTATIONS
- 7. **POLICIES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF  
KILKENNY CITY WALLS**
- 7.1 INTRODUCTION
- 7.2 DEFINITIONS
- 7.3 POLICY AIMS
- 7.4 PRINCIPAL POLICIES
- 7.5 POLICIES FOR PROTECTION
- 7.6 POLICIES FOR CONSERVATION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE
- 7.7 POLICIES FOR INFORMATION, RECORDING AND RESEARCH
- 7.8 POLICIES FOR ENHANCEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT
- 7.9 POLICIES FOR ACCESS AND COMMUNICATION

## **PART THREE: IMPLEMENTATION**

- 8. **IMPLEMENTATION**
- 8.1 INTRODUCTION
- 8.2 ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY
- 8.3 FORMAL PROTECTION
- 8.4 ADOPTION OF POLICIES
- 8.5 PLANNING REPAIR AND ENHANCEMENT
- 8.6 IMPLEMENTATION OF REPAIR AND ENHANCEMENT
- 8.7 ADOPTION AND REVIEW

## **PART FOUR: GAZETTEER**

- 9 **SETTING AND CONTEXT**
- 10 **THE WALLS OF HIGHTOWN**

## **11 THE WALLS OF IRISHTOWN**

## **12 THE WALLS OF ST JOHN'S**

## **13 DOCUMENTATION**

### **LIST OF PLATES**

(ALL PLATES AND THEIR CAPTIONS MUST BE LISTED HERE AND NUMBERED, IN SEQUENCE OF APPEARANCE IN THE TEXT... IE. PLATE 1 \_\_\_\_\_ .)

### **LIST OF FIGURES**

(AS FOR PLATES)

FIGURES 1-12 ILLUSTRATING GAZETTEER

### **APPENDICES**

THIS CONSERVATION PLAN IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE REPORTS WHICH MAY BE EXAMINED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE HERITAGE COUNCIL.

APPENDIX A: BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES

APPENDIX B: HISTORICAL SOURCES FOR KILKENNY WALLS TO 1650

APPENDIX C: KILKENNY MURAGE GRANTS: GOODS SUBJECT TO CUSTOMS

## FOREWORD

The Kilkenny City Walls Conservation Plan is the result of a number of years' work and co-operation between the inhabitants of Kilkenny, Kilkenny City Council, The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, An Taisce, The Kilkenny Archaeological Society and the Heritage Council, all of which are delighted to see this plan brought into the public domain.

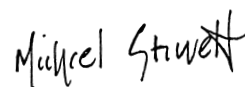
The stimulus for this Plan arose from the concern of the people of Kilkenny to ensure the long-term survival of their City's unique walls. The significance of the City Walls, as the Plan reveals, is due to their survival and the fact that they define the extent, layout and status of the medieval city.

The Plan should be viewed in the context of national heritage legislation and policy, both in its recommendations and the process used in its drafting, with consensus as the cornerstone. Government policy, as expressed in the National Heritage Plan, emphasises the role of heritage conservation in maintaining the quality of life and the need to encourage local communities to become involved in heritage protection. This Conservation Plan provides a framework within which government policy can be realised.

The development and agreement of this Plan demonstrates the ability of local communities to work with State agencies, Government departments and local authorities in planning for the future. We hope that it will be used to inform and guide development in Kilkenny and that its implementation will see the continued co-operation of all involved.



Dr Tom O'Dwyer  
Chairperson



Michael Starrett  
Chief Executive

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared by Julian Munby and Ric Tyler of Oxford Archaeology, and includes work undertaken by other members of the Buildings and Consultancy departments. It has benefitted from the comments of members of the Steering Group, especially Charles Mount, Conleth Manning and John Bradley, and the interest shown by members of the public, the Kilkenny Corporation, and the Kilkenny Archaeological Society. We are grateful to those who have allowed us onto their property to inspect remains of the defences, and to other archaeologists working in Kilkenny (especially Margaret Gowan) who have shared their knowledge with us.

Oxford Archaeology is the largest archaeological practice in Britain, with bases in Oxford (formerly Oxford Archaeological Unit) and Lancaster (Oxford Archaeology North). Formed in 1973 from an amalgamation of local archaeological committees, the Oxford Archaeological Unit was a pioneer in contracting archaeology throughout England, and has recently undertaken major field projects in France and Turkey, and consultancy work in a number of countries, including Ireland. The work of Oxford Archaeology comprises the full range of field survey, prospection, and excavation, heritage management, buildings and industrial archaeology.

Oxford Archaeology	t: (44) 1865 263800
Janus House	f: (44) 1865 793496
Osney Mead	e: <a href="mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk">info@oxfordarch.co.uk</a>
OXFORD OX2 oES	w: <a href="http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk">www.oxfordarch.co.uk</a>
Oxford Archaeology North	t: (44) 1524 848666
Storey Institute	f: (44) 1524 848606
Meeting House Lane	e: <a href="mailto:lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk">lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk</a>
LANCASTER LA1 1TF	w: <a href="http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk">www.oxfordarch.co.uk</a>

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

### Background

On behalf of Kilkenny Borough Council, Dúchas and An Taisce, Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by The Heritage Council to produce a conservation plan for the City Walls of Kilkenny. The walls are of great importance both locally and nationally, but their deteriorating condition and the recent partial loss of surviving lengths have been causes of concern.

### Objectives

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

- Improving local understanding of the walls and their significance
- Promotion of the recognition and protection of the walls
- Encouragement of management schemes for effective maintenance
- Guidance for repairs and conservation
- Protection of the setting from adjacent developments
- Improving access to the walls.

In addition, the Conservation Plan will consolidate the extensive documentation relating to the City Walls found in local records, historical mapping and national documents. The data can then be disseminated in a manageable form, from which the policies for protection and preservation can be developed.

## 1.2 BASIS AND STRUCTURE

### Background to Conservation 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 among these are: the *Charter of Venice* (1964); the *UNESCO Recommendations* (1976); the *Congress on European Architectural Heritage* (Council of Europe, 1975); and the *Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance* (Australia: ICOMOS, 1988; referred to as the Burra Charter). Guidance has been sought from sources such as *Commissioning a Conservation Plan* (English Heritage, 1998) and in *Conservation Plans for Historic Places* (Heritage Lottery Fund, 1998).

### Antiquities Legislation

Though these charters are not legislation, the principle of understanding historic sites as a necessary basis for decision-making, and the requirement to protect their significance through processes of change or conservation, are enshrined in national legislation. The National Monuments Act, 1930 (with amendments and



additions in 1954, 1987 and 1994) is the principal statute. At the time of writing, a Consolidation Bill is under consideration which has important aspects for monument protection (including the Registration and Guardianship of National Monuments). As used in the Acts, the term monument is deliberately broad so as to include all artificial structures of any date and of any heritage interest, although buildings in use for ecclesiastical purposes are excluded. In brief, the Minister for Environment and Local Government has the power to issue preservation orders on national monuments that are in danger of being destroyed and to acquire, either compulsorily or by agreement, any national monument. As stipulated by the Acts, the Minister is required to establish and maintain the Register of Historic Monuments and a Record of Monuments and Places.

The Recorded Monuments for County Kilkenny include (as No. 26 on map sheet 19) the City of Kilkenny, represented on the map as an outline surrounding the historic centre (similar to the area of archaeological importance identified in the *Urban Archaeological Survey Kilkenny* (Office of Public Works, 1993). The City Walls of Kilkenny, while being included in the Recorded Monuments of the City of Kilkenny, are not recognised as a component of the monument in their own right,<sup>1</sup> although three parts of the walls have been subject to individual Preservation Orders by Dúchas.<sup>2</sup>

The Heritage Act, 1995, provides for the establishment of a statutory Heritage Council to be appointed by the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. The Heritage Council is an independent body with a remit to provide advice on heritage matters, including aspects of law and the proposal of policies to protect, preserve and enhance the national heritage.

Other legislation which affects heritage includes the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1963, and the 1994 Planning Regulations (as amended), which ensure that the protection and consideration of heritage is a statutory responsibility. The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1999 (§2) requires development plans to include a 'record of protected structures', 'for the purpose of protecting structures, or parts of structures, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest'. At the same time, the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999, established a National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. A preparatory study, the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory* had already been prepared (Dúchas The Heritage Service, 1997).

At the time of writing, a National Monuments Bill is in preparation: 'This review of the National Monument Acts, 1930 to 1994, and related legislation will lead to consolidate and, where appropriate, revised and extended legislation for the protection of the archaeological, architectural and historic heritage.'

1 The Registered Monuments in Kilkenny are (as at December 2001): Kilkenny Castle; Shee Almshouse; 16th-century Town House in St Mary's; Rothe House; St Mary's Graveyard and Church; 88/89 John St (Bridge House).

2 The Preservation Orders are P.O. 1/97 Black Freren Gate, Abbey Street; Temp. P.O. 2/96 Town Wall rear of 68/69 John St; Temp. P.O. 4/97 City Wall [i.e. Ormond Hotel site].

## HERITAGE

### Local Plans and Policy

Kilkenny Borough Council is the relevant authority for planning control within the City. The *Kilkenny Development Plan* (1994) includes policies for listed buildings. The List 1 'Items of National International Importance' in Appendix 1 includes 'Talbot's Castle and City Wall (Ormonde Road and other locations)', in addition to the Castle, Cathedral etc. Conservation Areas were also designated, and Appendix 3 includes 'City Centre Conservation Area', along with separate areas for the Castle, Cathedral and John Street.

The current draft *Development Plan for Kilkenny City and Environs* includes Chapter 11: 'Architectural Heritage, Conservation & Archaeology'. This recognises the area of archaeological significance as identified in the *Urban Archaeological Survey Kilkenny* (Office of Public Works, 1993) as an 'area of archaeological potential'. It includes a policy to 'protect and enhance all the historic sites and monuments and their setting noted in the survey' [§11.6]. Under the terms of the 1999 Act, a 'record of protected structures' is given, including several which comprise parts of the defences [§11.7]. More detail is given on the various Conservation Areas and on policies for them [§11.8]. The detailed policies for the conservation of Kilkenny arise from a series of 'Special Conservation Objectives' [§11.12]:

- The protection, conservation and, where necessary, restoration or enhancement of the quality and distinctiveness of Kilkenny's architectural heritage, monuments, and archaeological sites and objects.
- The protection, management and improvement of access to and understanding of the architectural heritage, monuments and archaeological sites and objects.
- The protection and enhancement of the distinctive character of the designated Conservation Areas, as described above.
- The policies cover aspects of Townscape [§11.13.1], Buildings [§11.13.2], Alterations to Historic Buildings [§11.13.3], New Buildings within the Historic Context [§11.13.4], Civic Spaces [§11.13.5], Views and Prospects [§11.13.6], Archaeology [§11.13.1], and Community Involvement, Education and Awareness [§11.13.8]. There are also specific policies for individual Conservation Areas and the environs [§11.14.1 - 15].

### Organisation of the Plan

This Conservation Plan follows a four-part structure:

Part 1 - *Significance Summarises* the evidence for the monument and its historical development. It identifies key phases of development and sets out the elements of significance for each of these and for the monument's overall significance.

Part 2 - *Issues and Policies* Develops principles for protecting and enhancing the elements of significance and making them accessible to public

understanding and enjoyment, and sets out the policies.

Part 3 - *Implementation* Sets out a possible means of implementation of the Conservation Plan.

Part 4 - *Gazetteer* A schedule of individual sections of the walls, both standing and extant, setting out their historical development and significance and making recommendations on their conservation and other appropriate treatment.

*Appendices A - C* - Provide: (A) Bibliography and list of sources; (B) a listing of historical sources for the walls down to 1650; and (C) a tabulation of the goods subject to customs as described in the murage grants.

## PART ONE: SIGNIFICANCE

### 2. UNDERSTANDING THE MONUMENT

#### 2.1 SCOPE OF THE SURVEY

The subject of the study comprises both the extant walls and lengths which have been demolished. An initial study was made of the available documentary evidence prior to an investigation of the standing fabric.

The investigation of the standing walls included the drawing of outline plans and elevations. These were required to identify the main types and phases of work in each section and to establish the varied condition of the masonry.

An ecological survey was also made. This encompassed plants growing within the wall and the presence of trees or plants that might be deleterious to the conservation of the fabric.

#### 2.2 REVIEW OF SOURCES

There is a quantity of primary evidence and secondary source material relating to the history and development of Kilkenny City Walls. National records in London and Dublin were consulted to provide information regarding murage grants for the construction of the walls. Material in the Kilkenny Borough Council Archives including *Liber Primus Kilkenniensis*, was used to trace the later history of the walls. The records of the Ordnance Survey, Dublin (now in the National Archives), are a primary record of exceptional importance for the preservation of draft large-scale town plans from the 19th century.

Printed histories of Kilkenny and Ireland were consulted, along with numerous journal articles. Of particular importance are papers published in the journal of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society (later the *Journal of the Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* [RSAI]) and more recently the *Old Kilkenny Review* (OKR). Some of these refer to archival material that has been lost, especially those by Watters on the Borough Council archives; other fragments from the Kilkenny archives have been preserved in the library of the Royal Society of Antiquaries in Dublin.

#### 2.3 PREVIOUS RESEARCH

The Walls of Kilkenny have been the subject of detailed research, notably by Bradley in some key papers (Bradley, 1975 and 1976), and more recently in the *Kilkenny* fascicle of the *Historic Towns Atlas* (Bradley 2000c). While much investigation has been carried out on the archaeology and topography of Irish medieval towns (e.g. Clark and Simms 1985), including the County Kilkenny mapping and volume of the Urban Archaeological Survey (OPW, 1993), the most important general work is the study by Thomas on the *Walled Towns of Ireland* (1992).

## 3. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

### 3.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND SETTING

Situated at an important geographical position, Kilkenny is on a fording point on the River Nore, occupying both sides of the bank and is also at the junction of several major roadways. The ground rises gradually on both sides of the river to a height of around 61m (Bradley 1990, 64). There are four slight mounds upon which four influential buildings are located: St Canice's Cathedral, St Mary's Cathedral, St Mary's church and Kilkenny Castle.

Joining the River Nore from the west of the city is the River Bregagh, a stream which originally marked the boundary between Hightown and Irishtown. The River Nore, although crossed by bridges and partly occupied by mills, was in some sense navigable upstream as far as Kilkenny, since the murage grants refer to the unloading of wine there.

### 3.2 THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MONUMENT

#### 3.2.1 Early town of Kilkenny

Although the process by which the city of Kilkenny was settled is unclear, it is apparent that the castle was established by 1173. A surrounding borough, known later as Hightown or Englishtown, was established by 1176. At this time, Kilkenny was part of the land of the lordship of Leinster, established by Richard FitzGilbert de Clare, earl of Pembroke. Upon his death in 1176, the land reverted to the crown, after which very little is known until Isabella, the daughter and heiress of de Clare, married William Marshal in 1189. The Marshal owned vast estates across Ireland, England, Wales and France, and was noted for his effective management of his property - a factor which contributed to the wealth of surviving documentation. The formal arrangements for burgages with a fixed rent of 12d was made by the Marshal's seneschal, Geoffrey Fitz Robert in c. 1200, suggesting that the setting out of the regular arrangement of plots was in hand. (S. Painter, *William Marshal*, 1933)

Although the plan of the first Anglo-Norman settlement cannot be determined, it may have extended only as far north as the present-day James Street. If it was defended, no evidence has yet been found of a northern limit. The building of the castle had probably diverted a primary route from the south, leading through to St Kieran's Street, while another primary route that also led towards St Canice's is represented by Patrick Street and High Street; both joined to form Parliament Street. To the north and south of these routes, there were long burgage plots that have every appearance of having been formally laid out, though they were also subject to later subdivision.

Following the Marshal's arrival in Ireland in 1207, it seems likely that further steps were taken to formalise the establishment of the borough. A borough charter, most likely issued in 1207, established or confirmed urban privileges of the sort common to seigniorial towns throughout these islands. The town was also extended northwards by an exchange with the Bishop of Ossory, evidenced

by another deed of c. 1207, in which the bishop received a rent of an ounce of gold in exchange for giving Marshal an unspecified area of land reaching 'from the well called Kenerokeswell to the water called Bregaghe which runs under the bridge called Cottrell' [Watergate], specifically to enlarge the town. The long tenements on either side of Parliament Street continue without interruption from those further south, and it is not unlikely that the a major reordering of the town took place at this time, effected by the Earl's charter and the Bishop's grant.

Kilkenny Hightown, as it came to be known, was not the only borough in Kilkenny. At the north end, the older settlement around the cathedral remained and became the episcopal borough of Irishtown. On the south of the town, the settlement of Donaghmore developed around St Patrick's church as another ecclesiastical borough under the Dean's jurisdiction. A more usual 'suburb' formed on the east bank of the River Nore, where a settlement known as St John's grew up around the Augustinian monastery. To the south of the castle, there was a 'Flemingstown' until the early 17th century.

By the mid 14th century, the town was based along a main route, High Street, from which stemmed two streets (Walkin Street and James Street) to the west. There was a network of narrow passageways providing access to individual houses and buildings. To the south of the city, High Street formed a crossroads with Patrick Street, Castle Street (now The Parade) and Rose Inn Street. High Street was also the location of the market place.

### 3.2.2 Building of the Defences

During the periods of development, it is likely that the town was defended by a fosse and rampart of earth; this, however, was not suitable for an expanding town in a frontier situation. Eleven known murage grants for the construction of the walls around Hightown were made between 1250 and 1460. These grants legitimised the collection of tolls for named goods at set rates, but do not by their nature specify the amounts raised or the means by which it was spent. The lists of goods named in the murage grants are an instructive insight into the material culture of the medieval city, demonstrating a growing number of luxury items alongside the staples of internal and overseas trade (see Appendix C).

The basic justification for the enclosing of the city was for defense against attacks from the Gaelic Irish and from inter-baronial strife. However, there were other reasons for wanting a surrounding wall. For example, tolls could be easily collected when there were limited points of entry to the city; a close watch could be kept on those visiting and leaving the city. The possession of a town wall was additionally regarded as a status symbol (Bradley, 1975, 89).

Early documentary evidence for the defences is scant; one possible reference in the Marshal's 1207 charter (about gathering firewood extra defensum meum) most probably refers to the demesne park or woodlands (see Appendix B). A supposed reference in the *Liber Primus Kilkenniensis* of 1231 does not actually exist (Thomas 1992 ii, 127), so the earliest certain occurrence is the murage grant of c. 1250. Even this had been incorrectly dated to 1216 but, as Bradley has shown, it must date to after the Earl of Gloucester's inheritance in 1248 (see Appendix B). Nonetheless, the course of the defences must have been

established simultaneously with the laying out of the burgage tenements, perhaps after 1207. So the murage (which may not even have been the first one) may only have related to the addition or extension of stone walling rather than the defensive line itself.

Documentary evidence for the walls is found mainly in references to the keeping of the gates in the 14th and 15th centuries and recorded in the *Liber Primus Kilkenniensis* (namely, Irishtown or Hightown Gate, Black Friars Gate, St James's Gate, Walkyn's Gate, St Patrick's Gate, Castle Gate, St John's Gate — at the west end of St John's Bridge). Rents were paid for these (between 2s and 12s per annum), implying that they were desirable residences, though the wording of the 1384 list 'keeper of the murage of ~ gate' perhaps means that the collection of murage was farmed out in return for a fixed income. There are 16th-century references to the repair of gates, and, in the 17th century, to allowing access 'for the watch in time of danger' (Watters 1874, 208-17). A small number of original leases for gates or the 'castles' over them survive from the 16th and 17th centuries (e.g. Corporation Archives CR/I/28, 52, and 83). These include a 1692 lease of an entire length of wall from St Patrick's Gate to Walkins Gate, with intermediate towers (CR/I/90). Corporation rentals continued to include parts of the walls into the early 19th century, but they gradually came to relinquish any claim over the walls. Amongst a collection of Kilkenny records (inherited by the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland from the original Kilkenny Archaeological Society) are a small number of Corporation rentals of 1772 and 1794 (Item II, 5-6) and 1812 (Vol. A8). A single rental of 1873 survives as a separate item in the Corporation Archives (CR/H/6). Overall, the amount of documentation for the defences of Kilkenny is quite impressive, especially that for the medieval period. (see Appendix B).

The main evidence suggesting the route of the wall is John Rocque's map of Kilkenny, published in 1758. This shows the walls of Hightown making three sides of a rectangle, with the River Nore to the east of the city acting as the fourth side. The walls possess four mural towers, all facing to the west, and seven gateways: Castle Gate, St Patrick's Gate, Walkin's Gate, St James' Gate, Black Freren Gate, Irishtown Gate and Bridge Gate. Although there is no wall to the east of the city, there is a suggestion that the north wall may have turned east, close to St Francis' Abbey, terminating in Evans Tower.

Rocque's map does not show either Irishtown or the parish of St John's as being walled, although it is known that Irishtown had defensive walls by c. 1400. No mention is made of walls surrounding St John's until the 17th century. Similarly to Hightown, it does not appear that Irishtown had a walled defence on the riverside. There is one surviving mural tower on the north-west corner of the Irishtown wall, and it is known to have had four gates: Water Gate, Dean's Gate, Troy's Gate and Green's Gate.

The Ordnance Survey draft city plan of 1841 specifically indicates the surviving lengths of wall, and the course of the lost wall; it does not show any walls in Irishtown or St Johns (National Archives, part reproduced in Bradley, 2000). The large-scale plan that was eventually published in 1871 (at a scale of 1:1056) gives much the same information.

From comparison of these sources, the gradual disappearance of the city gates can be chronicled, the last being St Patrick's Gate which was demolished in the early years of the last century.

### 3.3 SUMMARY OF KEY PHASES

The phases relevant to the construction, use and destruction of the walls are as follows:

- I Early Medieval Settlement in Kilkenny, possibly undefended
- II The Anglo-Norman Castle and its Settlement
- III The Walling of Hightown and Irishtown
- IV 16th and 17th Century Maintenance and Decay
- V 18th to 20th Century decay



## 4. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### 4.1 BASIS OF THE ASSESSMENT

The assessment of significance reflects the cultural and ecological aspects of the monument as a whole, particularly in relation to urban defences of Ireland and Britain, and at the same time assesses the sections of the wall individually. Other areas of significance are also taken into consideration, such as the academic context of the study of medieval defences, and also the values that visitors or users of the land may assign to the monument and its history.

The components of the walls 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 of consideration.

Initially, an assessment is made on the significance of the monument at three levels:

- *National importance*
- *Regional importance*
- *Local importance*

The monument is then further considered on four major aspects:

- *Architectural Interest:* Design, decoration, craftsmanship, building types and techniques and significant plan forms.
- *Historical Interest:* Important aspects of the area's social, economic, cultural and military history.
- *Historical Association:* Nationally important people or events.
- *Group Value:* How the monument as a whole is perceived.

Other factors that are taken into consideration include:

- Ability to characterise a period
- Rarity of survival
- Extent of documentation
- Association with other monuments
- Survival of archaeological potential above and below ground
- Fragility/vulnerability
- Diversity - the combination of high quality features

Less tangible, but still vital to the significance of the monument, are the social and spiritual qualities represented by the monument. These can be formulated into seven fields:

- *Representative value:* the ability to demonstrate social or cultural developments

- Historical continuity
- Literary and artistic values
- Formal, visual and aesthetic qualities
- Evidence of social historical themes
- Contemporary communal values
- Power to communicate values and significance

#### 4.2 VALUES TO BE USED AND DEGREES OF SIGNIFICANCE

In assessing degrees of significance, these criteria have helped to inform assessments of overall significance, the relative importance of key elements or phases, and the judgements on individual elements of the City Walls at Gazetteer level. The degrees adopted are:

*Exceptional 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 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 which have a particular significance through association, although surviving examples may be relatively common on a national scale; or which 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 individually low value in general terms; or which have little or no significance in promoting understanding or appreciation of the monument, without being actually intrusive.

*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.

#### Assessments of Significance

These are set out from three perspectives:

*Overall Significance:* A statement of what is special about the City Walls of Kilkenny as a whole.

*Chronological assessments and key elements of significance:* An assessment of the monument through time, identifying what is important about each principle stage and why, including an evaluation of the social and community values of the monument.

*The Gazetteer:* Identification of the components which make up the monument and their individual significance (built structures, landscape features, buried or

lost elements) setting out for each entry:

- Development/Documentation
- Description
- Status
- Significance
- Condition: Issues/Vulnerability
- Policies/Recommendations
- References

#### 4.3 OVERALL SIGNIFICANCE

As one of the major medieval towns in Ireland situated in a great feudal liberty, Kilkenny symbolises the Anglo-Norman lordship and the establishment of urban centres to promote and sustain the phase of settlement. Above all, this was symbolised by the conjoined boroughs of castle and cathedral, with the ecclesiastical Irishtown separated from the Anglo-Norman Hightown by a river, walls and gate. The town walls were a potent symbol of urban authority and separation from the countryside, as well as a practical barrier against warfare and crime.

*As a medieval town, Kilkenny is of exceptional significance, both nationally and as a representative Irish medieval town internationally.*

The walls of Kilkenny, although not the best preserved in Ireland, are of significance when considered as an essential part of the town plan. Their course was determined by the plot layout of the Anglo-Norman town; in turn they have had their effect on subsequent development and land-use. While all towns necessarily have associated fields, commons, and woodland, the walled limits of the built-up area essentially define the historic town.

*The defences of Kilkenny are of considerable significance as a component of the medieval town, and by comparison with other Irish medieval towns.*

Kilkenny's significance as an historic town derives from the survival of its cathedral, castle and defences, the river, bridges and street-plan, as well as the house plots and historic buildings. While this may be implicit for some inhabitants, it is a significance which needs underlining for visitors and must remain a key consideration for the conservation of the city.

*The topography of the medieval town, and the relationship of components within the planned arrangement of streets and plots, are of considerable significance.*

The surviving elements of the defences are themselves significant. They have added value due to the amount of documentation for the lost parts of the walls and gates, and the potential for further discovery and interpretation.

*The surviving elements of the walls are of considerable significance, with some elements (e.g. Evans Tower, Black Rath Castle and Talbot Castle) of exceptional significance, and others (e.g. buried remains) of uncertain significance.*

#### 4.4 CHRONOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND KEY ELEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

##### Phase I - Early Medieval Settlement in Kilkenny, possibly undefended

There is potential for discovering more about the earliest phases of settlement associated with the cathedral, and the nature of any defences prior to the building of the medieval walls. This significance is primarily with regard to buried archaeological remains.

*The potential of the early settlement archaeology of Kilkenny is of considerable significance.*

##### Phase II - The Anglo-Norman Castle and its Settlement

There is potential for discovering more about the earliest phases of settlement associated with the castle, and the nature of any defences around the earliest Anglo-Norman town prior to the building of the medieval walls. This significance is primarily with regard to buried archaeological remains.

*The potential of the Anglo-Norman settlement archaeology of Kilkenny and its defences is of considerable significance.*

##### Phase III - The Walling of Hightown and Irishtown

The circuit of walls around Hightown is significant in that it defines the extent of the plot layout of the planned Anglo-Norman borough, and expresses the limit of the built-up area surviving walls of the medieval towns.

The existence of more than one set of walls is unusual in these islands, especially where there were independent boroughs and not just ecclesiastical precincts. The walled suburb of St John's is also an unusual though not unique feature.

The surviving features of the defences are of varied significance, but the form of the south-east corner tower (Talbot Castle) is a sophisticated example of military architecture.

There is potential for discovering more about the lost elements of the defences (e.g. gates and demolished sections of curtain wall). This significance is primarily with regard to buried archaeological remains.

*The surviving elements of the walls are of considerable significance, with some (e.g. Evans Tower, Black Rath's Castle and Talbot Castle) of exceptional significance. The buried remains are of uncertain significance, but the potential of the archaeology of the defences is of considerable significance.*

##### Phase IV - 16th and 17th Century Maintenance and Decay

The documented provision for repair and maintenance in the 16th and 17th centuries attests to the continuing need for urban defences in a time of intermittent unrest and warfare, which included the town being besieged. The phase may be represented in some of the surviving features (e.g. gun loops, and rebuilding of the walls). In themselves, such remains would be significant as

examples of post-medieval defences.

*The later history of the defences, and any surviving elements, are of moderate significance.*

#### **Phase V - 18th to 20th Century Decay**

The gradual abandonment of the walls when they ceased to be of practical value was typical of the fate of most urban defences, but there is particular evidence in Kilkenny of the uses that the defences were put to in e.g. garden design. The phase is significant, however, both for the making of unconscious records of the defences (e.g. Rocque's and Ordnance Survey mapping), and for the growing awareness of the walls and the investigation of their history.

*The later history of the defences, and any surviving elements, are of moderate significance. The records and investigations are of considerable significance.*

## PART TWO: ISSUES AND POLICIES

### 5. INTRODUCTION

#### 5.1 CONSERVATION PLAN POLICY AIMS

Part Two of the Conservation Plan proposes policies to protect and, where possible, to enhance the significance of the monument as identified in Part One. The proposed policies act on two levels: some are for long-term development while others aim to meet more immediate needs. The underlying objective is to ensure that what is significant and valuable in the monument survives for the future, as well as for the use and enjoyment of the present. In implementing the policies, it is important that a balance is maintained between conservation, interpretation and public expectation from the monument.

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

- Preserve and protect the significance of Kilkenny City Walls for the benefit of present and future generations.
- Establish an effective conservation philosophy for the monument.
- Guide the process of monument development by establishing criteria against which the appropriateness of proposals can be assessed.
- 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.

#### 5.2 Policy Framework

The statutory basis for the policy framework is outlined in Section 1.2.

## 6. MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### 6.1 INTRODUCTION

In drafting policies, there is a need to be aware of what has affected the significance of the monument in the past, and what is likely to do so in the future. This section of the Plan reviews some of these factors as they affect the different aspects of the monument or its treatment.

### 6.2 RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION

Although the City Walls are part of the overall Recorded Monument 'City of Kilkenny', and sections of the walls are subject to preservation Orders, there is a clear need for the defences to be recognised as a distinct component of the City of Kilkenny monument, and therefore afforded effective legal protection against works which affect their character.

### 6.3 SURVIVAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITION

Through centuries of neglect and the processes of rebuilding, gradual alteration and demolition, the walls have been diminished. Despite the current recognition of the walls as a monument, destruction of certain elements has taken place recently with a minimum of curatorial control. The need for effective protection backed by the application of legal sanctions, where necessary, is clearly apparent. The surviving parts of the wall are in various stages of repair, ranging from reasonable maintenance to benign neglect. A few parts are in need of structural repair or at least monitoring of their condition. While modest plant growth is a not an unattractive feature, the lack of control of vegetation is leading to further deterioration in places. The physical remains of the walls comprise both the walls and their setting, and there is a need to protect the setting of the monument more vigorously from inappropriate development nearby (while recognising that they are an urban monument in a changing built environment).

### 6.4 BURIED ARCHAEOLOGY

There is much potential for buried archaeological remains of the monument itself, its ancillary features (*e.g.* ditches and outworks), and remains of earlier defensive systems, though the full character and location of these is not fully understood. Ground-disturbing activities (including works to infrastructure and services as much as new building activity) can have deleterious effects on significant deposits; on occasion, they may reveal but not damage features of importance. Both visible and hidden elements of the standing walls and towers can be regarded as archaeological deposits in the same way as buried remains, and are equally subject to damage or destruction from repair and maintenance activities. Archaeological investigation itself is often destructive, though this is mitigated by the benefit arising from ordered collection and dissemination of information, along with the resulting gain to knowledge.

## 6.5 GAPS IN UNDERSTANDING

There is some uncertainty over the line of the defences (especially in Irishtown and St Johns), and the position and extent of the gates. The age of the remaining parts is not entirely clear, nor is the extent of post-medieval rebuilding. There are some areas of documentary history (e.g. the uncatalogued Ormond records) that have yet to be explored fully.

## 6.6 INTERPRETATION - PRESENTATION OF THE CITY WALLS

Although the existence of individual parts of the walls is well known, there is a lack of perception of Kilkenny as a walled city. While the 'medieval town' is rightly promoted as a tourist attraction, the walls themselves do not figure on current literature or mapping. This lack of awareness is also reflected in the recent loss of parts of the walls, and the lost opportunities to make the defensive line a feature of new development (as has successfully been done at Ormonde Road).

## 6.7 OWNERSHIP AND ACCESS

The ownership of the walls is not always clear, especially where they form boundaries between different properties. Although corporate ownership by the city has gradually been relinquished over the last centuries, there is a clear need for an assumption of some responsibility for the maintenance of surviving sections. Conversely, there are lengths of wall on private land where some degree of permanent or occasional public access may be desirable, and at least one place where the lack of a path obstructs a continuous circuit of the defences.

## 6.8 MONUMENT MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Above all, the City Walls need to be seen as an entity which requires protection, a degree of 'ownership', and an agreed management plan that can be followed over an appropriate timescale. The Kilkenny Borough Council will obviously have a part in this, but partnership with national bodies (*i.e.* Dúchas), private owners and local interest groups will be important. The dissemination of information about the protected status of the walls, as well as any sanctions that will be taken against infringement must be well publicised. It is recognised that there are financial implications in this, but once the major problems have been addressed, much of the work is low-cost, ongoing maintenance.

## 6.9 PUBLIC AND VISITOR EXPECTATIONS

A key part of the management must be the promotion of the walls as a key feature of the historic city. This will partly be achieved by information available in printed material and city mapping, but could also be expressed by signage and marking out of lost features. Access to the walls would need to be improved, requiring the provision of steps or walkways (e.g. at Market Cross and Talbot Castle), and regular or occasional access to private premises (e.g. Ormonde Hotel and the Brewery).



## 7. POLICIES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF KILKENNY CITY WALLS

### 7.1 INTRODUCTION

This section of the Plan establishes policies for the protection of the significance of Kilkenny City Walls which will realise their full potential for public enjoyment, access and understanding.

Following a statement of overall purpose, five principal policies are set out which cover broad areas of application:

- Protection
- Conservation, repair and maintenance
- Information, recording and research
- Enhancement and improvement
- Access and interpretation

These policies are developed into more detailed proposals for action in the succeeding sets of policies, each with subsidiary recommendations.

Individual policies and recommendations are also developed for elements of the monument at Gazetteer level in Part Three of the Conservation Plan. Where relevant, these are cross-referenced to the main policies as set out here.

### 7.2 DEFINITIONS

The Plan has adopted definitions as set out in Irish legislation to define important archaeological concepts:

*Monument* represents all artificial structures of whatever date, regardless of whether or not they are of archaeological, architectural (or any other heritage) interest, though excluding buildings in use for ecclesiastical purposes.

*National Monument* is a monument or the remains of a monument, the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic, or archaeological interest attaching thereto.

*Historic Monument* is a prehistoric monument and any monument associated with the commercial, cultural, economic, industrial, military, religious or social history of the place where it is situated and/or of the country. Also includes all monuments in existence before 1700 AD or such later date as the Minister may appoint by regulations.

*Archaeological Area* is an area considered to be of archaeological importance but does not include the area of an historic monument entered in the Register of Historic Monuments.

*Archaeological Object* is any chattel, whether in a manufactured or partly

manufactured or unmanufactured state, which by reason of the archaeological interest attaching thereto or of its association with any Irish historical event or person has a value substantially greater than its intrinsic (including artistic) value. Includes ancient human, animal or plant remains.

***Words used in the Plan to describe processes have meanings as defined by the Burra Charter (1988)***

*Conservation* means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its significance. It includes maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation, and will often be a combination of processes.

*Maintenance* means the continuous protective care of the fabric, contents and setting of a place.

*Preservation* means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state, and retarding deterioration.

*Restoration* means returning existing fabric to a known earlier state by removing accretions or re-assembling existing components, without introducing new material.

*Reconstruction* means returning a feature as nearly as possible to a known earlier state, with the introduction of additional materials, new or old, into the fabric.

*Adaptation* means modifying a place to proposed appropriate uses.

### 7.3 POLICY AIMS

To protect and enhance the visual amenity, historic character, setting and landscape of Kilkenny City Walls, and to promote public understanding and enjoyment of the monument.

### 7.4 PRINCIPAL POLICIES

#### **Policy 1: Protection**

To place the conservation of Kilkenny City Walls and the protection of their significance at the heart of future planning and management of the monument.

#### **Policy 2: Conservation, Repair and Maintenance**

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

#### **Policy 3: Information, Recording and Research**

To develop understanding of Kilkenny City Walls through recording and research, and to ensure their preservation in an accessible form within a comprehensive monument archive.

#### **Policy 4: Enhancement and Improvement**

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

#### **Policy 5: Access and Interpretation**

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

### **7.5 POLICIES FOR PROTECTION**

#### **Policy 6**

To protect the historic fabric and character of the City Walls and their setting within Kilkenny, and the surviving evidence for former use and functions.

- Ensure the recognition of the City Walls, whether standing or buried, as a separate component of the overall monument that is Kilkenny City.
- Assume guardianship through a Local Authority Heritage Officer.
- Establish a 'Friends of the Walls' in liaison with Kilkenny Archaeological Society.

#### **Policy 7**

To minimise risk to the historic fabric of the monument from normal public use and administrative operations.

- Provide physical protection where appropriate, e.g. Black Friars gate.
- Ensure that public services and infrastructure works outside of planning control do not cause damage to the monument.

#### **Policy 8**

To observe effective regimes for physical security of the monument. [Policy 11]

- Establish a code of conduct for the repair and management of the wall.
- Prioritise urgent investigations and works.
- Monitor the condition of the walls and the performance of the maintenance regime.

#### **Policy 9**

To protect the ecological value of the monument and its immediate environs, and to resolve any conflict on a basis of knowledge, advice and agreement.

- Encourage to an appropriate extent the growth of wall plants and non-damaging species.
- Agree the removal of damaging woody species and the appropriate treatment of ivy growth.

#### **Policy 10**

To meet all statutory and legal requirements for the protection of the monument, the health and safety of individuals, and the requirements of disabilities legislation.

- Enforce the laws for the protection of monuments.
- Investigate the need for repairs on unsafe parts of the walls.
- Ensure equal opportunities for access in the creation of new visitor facilities.

## 7.6 POLICIES FOR CONSERVATION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

### Policy 11

To ensure regular and effective programmes of structural maintenance, with planned monitoring, inspection, conservation and repair and, where necessary, reviewing and revising existing arrangements.

- 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 12

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 the 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 13

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 are carried out under supervision.
- Where possible allow a reasonable level of non-destructive plant growth.

## 7.7 POLICIES FOR INFORMATION, RECORDING AND RESEARCH

### Policy 14

To create a formal archive or information base relating to the City Walls of Kilkenny, distinct from working files and records of current transactions, to include a record of all interventions in the monument.

- Survey the most significant remains.
- Publish the results of previous excavations; address the curation needs for

archaeological finds and archives.

- Carry out further investigation in the Corporation and other archives, including architectural records.

#### Policy 15

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

- Seek opportunities for archaeological investigation of the line of the wall and earlier defences.
- Record future repair and maintenance works.

### 7.8 POLICIES FOR ENHANCEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

#### Policy 16

- 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, e.g. steps or ramp at former Presentation Convent garden and Ormonde Hotel.
- To improve access to Talbot Castle.
- To seek provision of a walkway between New Buildings Lane and Evans Lane.

#### Policy 17

To enhance public appreciation of the City Walls and their setting, wherever possible, by removing or ameliorating visually intrusive elements, or those which conceal or confuse understanding.

- To improve the setting of features: e.g. River Bregagh, Evans Tower, Ormonde Hotel, Talbot Castle.

#### Policy 18

To enhance understanding of the historic monument, where appropriate, by repairing past damage, and seeking to re-create key elements which have been lost.

- To replace lost or damaged features, e.g. holes in wall along the River Bregagh; Ormonde Hotel steps to walltop; Talbot Castle stair.
- Future development and new building to respect the line of the defences.

### 7.9 POLICIES FOR ACCESS AND COMMUNICATION

#### Policy 19

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

- Ensure that public access to the walls is not diminished.
- Enhance access as previously described. [Policy 16]

- Ensure opportunities for equal access for mobility impaired, and the provision of other means of understanding where this is not possible.

#### **Policy 20**

To extend public access and enjoyment to the whole monument and its significant features.

- Link the surviving wall features of the walls in a walk/linear park.
- Highlight lost stretches of wall and gates in e.g. paving.
- Adopt the gate sign as the logo for a walls walk.

#### **Policy 21**

To develop interpretation which encourages understanding of the principal features of the monument and facilitates access to information.

- Mark the line of the defences on town maps and tourist literature.
- Provide modest signage to identify sites.

#### **Policy 22**

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

- Develop the walls walk as part of an educational/tourist trail of the historic town.

## PART THREE: IMPLEMENTATION

### 8. IMPLEMENTATION

#### 8.1 INTRODUCTION

The implementation of the Plan will require the assumption of responsibility for the City Walls, their formal protection, the adoption of policies for them, and the planning and implementation of programmes of repair and enhancement. Implementation may need to follow differing time-scales and decision-making processes, with some proposals capable of introduction in the short term, and others, if adopted, coming into play over a longer period.

The following section is a suggested approach rather than a specific and prescriptive plan of action. It is to be noted that under the requirements of national legislation and local planning guidance, many of the proposed works will require consents and permissions from Dúchas and/or the Borough Council.

#### 8.2 ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY

*The first stage is the assumption of 'ownership' of the monument, which can best be achieved by formal Guardianship under the Local Authority.*

##### **Action**

##### **Responsible Body/Party**

##### **Means**

Assume Guardianship of Walls through appointment of Heritage Officer [Policy 6]

Kilkenny Borough Council/County Council employs Heritage Officer

1. Heritage Council support for post of Heritage Officer
2. Guardianship under terms of New Consolidation Act

Establish Friends of Walls liaison group [Policy 6]

Kilkenny Archaeological Society

In public consultation meeting?

Create a formal archive or information base relating to the City Walls which is distinct from working files and records of current transactions. To include a record of all interventions in the monument [Policy 14]

Heritage Officer

Based on Conservation Plan and previous records.

#### 8.3 FORMAL PROTECTION

*Guaranteeing the formal protection of the monument is an essential preliminary step which follows on from Guardianship.*

##### **Action**

**Responsible Body/Party**

**Means**

Ensure the recognition of the City Walls as a separate component of the Kilkenny City monument, whether standing or buried [Policy 6]

Heritage Officer and Dúchas

Clear mapping of the defences as a linear component on existing or proposed designation mapping

Enforce the laws for the protection of monuments [Policy 10]

Kilkenny Borough Council and Heritage Officer

Explicit publicity and statement in Development Plan. Liaison between Heritage Officer and Garda

Ensure that public services and infrastructure works outside of planning control do not cause damage to the monument [Policy 7]

Kilkenny Borough Council and Heritage Officer

Ensure that liaison with services explicitly includes heritage considerations

8.4 **ADOPTION OF POLICIES**

*The early adoption of policies as a code of practice for the protection of the walls will enable public and private owners to be equally aware of the limits of permissible activities.*

**Action**

**Responsible Body/Party**

**Means**

Establish a code of conduct for the repair and management of the wall [Policy 8]

Heritage Officer, in consultation with Dúchas

Promulgate a written code for circulation to owners and responsible parties.

*Code to include:*

- Protect the ecological value of the monument and its immediate environs, and to resolve any conflict on a basis of knowledge, advice and agreement [Policy 9]
- Encourage the growth of wall plants and non-damaging species [Policy 9]
- Ensure that all works are informed by a clear and detailed understanding of the monument to an appropriate extent [Policy 12]
- Investigate and record parts of monument prior to works [Policy 12]
- Ensure repairs are recorded, and records are kept in a single maintenance archive for the monument, in order to inform future management decisions [Policy 12]
- Ensure that all works are carried out in accordance with the highest standards of conservation, retaining significance, avoiding loss of fabric, and



adhering to historical accuracy in design, materials and workmanship [Policy 13]

- Employ experienced firms to design and carry out works [Policy 13]
- Ensure that clearance and maintenance are carried out under supervision [Policy 13]
- Ensure that public access to the walls is not diminished [Policy 19]
- Ensure equal opportunities for access in the creation of new visitor facilities [Policy 19]

## 8.5 PLANNING REPAIR AND ENHANCEMENT

*Works on the walls must be preceded by a phase of investigation and planning, thus establishing the scope of work required and prioritising what is to be done.*

### **Action**

#### **Responsible Body/Party**

#### **Means**

Establish a cycle of monitoring and maintenance [Policy 12]

Heritage Officer with Borough Council Planning/Engineers in liaison with Dúchas

Produce Management Plan

Survey the most significant remains [Policy 14]

Ditto

Commission study

Investigate the need for repairs on unsafe parts of the walls [Policy 10]

Ditto

Commission study/specification

Monitor and investigate cracks and failures [Policy 11]

Ditto

Commission study/specification

Investigate the need for localised stone repair/fixing. [Policy 11]

Ditto

Commission study/specification

Prioritise urgent investigations and works [Policy 8]

Ditto

(Management Plan)

Promote future research, with a planned agenda for investigations and an ability to respond to opportunities [Policy 15]

Ditto

(Management Plan)

## 8.6 IMPLEMENTATION OF REPAIR AND ENHANCEMENT

*Short-term recommendations, capable of immediate introduction*

### **Action**

### **Responsible Body/Party**

### **Means**

Ensure regular and effective programmes of structural maintenance, with planned monitoring, inspection, conservation and repair; where necessary, review and revise existing arrangements. [Policy 11]

Heritage Officer with Borough Council Planning/Engineers in liaison with Dúchas Management Plan

- Initiate stone repair to River Bregagh Wall
- Monitor condition of Black Friars Wall and Gate

Agree the removal of damaging woody species, and the appropriate treatment of ivy growth [Policy 19]

Ditto

- Check plant growth at River Bregagh
- Clear growth from the Black Friars Wall (carpark)
- Check plant growth at Ormonde Hotel
- Clear growth around Talbot Castle

Provide physical protection where appropriate, e.g. Black Friars Gate. [Policy 7]

Ditto

- Place bollard to restrict large vehicles

Link the surviving features of the walls in a walk/linear park. [Policy 20]

Develop the walls walk as part of an educational/tourist trail of the historic town [Policy 22]

Heritage Officer with Tourist/Education bodies and Kilkenny Archaeological Society

- Publish leaflet/maps
- Mark the line of the defences on town maps and tourist literature. [Policy 21]
- Adopt the gate sign as the logo for a walls walk. [Policy 20]
- Provide modest signage to identify sites. [Policy 21]

Ensure opportunities for equal access for mobility impaired. Where this is not possible, provision of other means of understanding [Policy 19]

Heritage Officer with Borough Council Planning/Engineers  
Management Plan

- Information to include material on places difficult of access.

### Medium-term Policies

#### **Action**

#### **Responsible Body/Party**

#### **Means**

Publish the results of previous excavations. [Policy 14]

Heritage Officer/Dúchas in liaison with contracting archaeologists

Consider possible joint publication of minor sites in city

Carry out further investigation in the Borough Council and other archives [Policy 14]

Heritage Officer

Promotion of research in connection with archaeological investigations, or as separate project

Seek opportunities for archaeological investigation of the line of the wall and earlier defences. [Policy 15]

Heritage Officer and Borough Council Planning

Refine mapping of archaeological features to show areas of potential interest

Highlight lost stretches of wall and gates in e.g. paving. [Policy 20]

Heritage Officer with Borough Council Planning/Engineers

Provide for enhanced paving in Management Plan budgets

To improve the setting of features: e.g. River Bregagh, Evans Tower, Ormonde Hotel, Talbot Castle [Policy 17]

Heritage Officer with Borough Council Planning in liaison with Dúchas

(Management Plan)

- Monitor post-works reinstatement on River Bregagh and around Evans Tower
- Seek to improve the Ormonde Hotel pipeworks and tank by relocation
- Seek removal of college buildings near Talbot Castle

To provide new means of access, e.g. steps or ramp at Market Cross and Ormonde Hotel [Policy 16]

Ditto

(Management Plan)

- Provide for building access to base of walls from (lower) pathways in MP budgets
- Seek to provide public access to Ormonde Hotel wall area

To improve access to Talbot Castle [Policy 16]

Ditto

(Management Plan)

- Maintain management regime on cleared earthwork
- Devise access independent from College site
- Plan access arrangements for wall interior/exterior, and to the tower interior

*Policies for longer-term improvements*

**Action**

**Responsible Body/Party**

**Means**

To replace lost or damaged features: e.g. Bregagh holes, Ormonde Hotel steps to walltop, Talbot Castle stair [Policy 18]

Heritage Officer with Borough Council Planning in liaison with Dúchas

(Management Plan)

- Undertake repairs as necessary to holes in River Bregagh wall
- Rebuild steps to Talbot Castle if practicable
- Seek access by means of rebuilt stair to walltop at Ormonde Hotel

To seek provision of a walkway between New Buildings Lane and Evans Lane [Policy 16]

Heritage Officer with Borough Council Planning

(Management Plan)

- Acquisition of land strip to make pathway

## 8.7 ADOPTION AND REVIEW

The Conservation Plan will be formally adopted by Kilkenny Borough Council and Dúchas, in a process involving consultation with neighbours and stakeholders.

Following formal adoption, the Plan will be reviewed every five to ten years, reflecting changing knowledge and circumstances, especially changes in legislation and guidance.

## PART FOUR

### GAZETTEER

(old drawing, no caption)

# CONTENTS

## 9. SETTING AND CONTEXT

- 9.1 SETTING AND VISUAL CONTEXT
- 9.2 BOUNDARIES AND DESIGNATIONS
- 9.3 MEDIEVAL KILKENNY

## 10. THE WALLS OF HIGHTOWN

- 10.1 EVANS TOWER AND WALL
- 10.2 RIVER BREGAGH WALL
- 10.3 IRISHTOWN/HIGHTOWN GATE
- 10.4 IRISHTOWN GATE — MILL RACE
- 10.5 RIVER BREGAGH FRONTAGE
- 10.6 BREGAGH — BLACK FRIARS GATE
- 10.7 BLACK FRIARS GATE
- 10.8 ABBEY STREET
- 10.9 SOUTH FROM ABBEY STREET
- 10.10 LOST WALL AND TILBURY TOWER
- 10.11 LOST WALL (EVANS LANE)
- 10.12 ST JAMES'S GATE (LOST)
- 10.13 SOUTH OF JAMES'S GATE
- 10.14 LOST WALL AT CHAPEL LANE
- 10.15 COLLIERS LANE TOWER (LOST)
- 10.16 LOST WALL ON GARDEN ROW
- 10.17 WALKIN'S GATE (LOST)
- 10.18 LOST WALL ON PENNYFEATHER LANE
- 10.19 WALL NEXT TO ORMONDE HOTEL
- 10.20 MYLES TOWER
- 10.21 LOST WALL AND ?TOWER
- 10.22 WALL NORTH OF TALBOT CASTLE
- 10.23 TALBOT'S CASTLE
- 10.24 WALL EAST OF TALBOT'S CASTLE

55

10.25 LOST WALL AT ORMONDE ROAD

10.26 ST PATRICK'S GATE

10.27 BUTLER HOUSE GARDENS

10.28 KILKENNY DESIGN CENTRE

10.29 LOST WALL (CASTLE STABLES)

10.30 CASTLE GATE

10.31 KILKENNY CASTLE

10.32 ST JOHN'S INNER GATE (LOST)

10.33 RIVERFRONT DEFENCES

## **11. THE WALLS OF IRISHTOWN**

11.1 RIVER NORE - TROY'S GATE

11.2 TROY'S GATE

11.3 TROY'S GATE - ST CANICE'S

11.4 BISHOP'S ROBIN ROOM

11.5 ST CANICE'S CHURCHYARD (N)

11.6 ST CANICE'S LIBRARY/BLACK RATH'S CASTLE

11.7 ST CANICE'S CHURCHYARD (W)

11.8 DEANERY GARDENS

11.9 DEAN'S GATE

11.10 DEAN'S GATE - RIVER BREGAGH

11.11 RIVERSIDE DEFENCES

## **12. THE WALLS OF ST JOHN'S**

12.1 ST JOHN'S NORTH WALL

12.2 ST JOHN'S EAST WALL

12.3 ST JOHN'S OUTER GATE

12.4 CORNER TOWER ON MAUDLIN STREET

12.5 ST JOHN'S SOUTH WALL

12.6 ST JOHN'S SOUTH WALL (LOST)

12.7 MAUDLIN GATE AND CASTLE

## 13. DOCUMENTATION

### 13.1 HISTORICAL RECORDS

### 13.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDS

### 13.3 ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS

## LIST OF PLATES

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| PLATE 1  | 'EVANS TURRET' FROM <i>Robinson's Antiquities and Scenery of County Kilkenny</i> , 1851                       |
| PLATE 2  | NORTH-WESTERN POLYGONAL TOWER (EVANS TURRET) AND ADJACENT SECTION OF REVETMENT WALL FROM THE NORTH (MAY 2001) |
| PLATE 3  | SECTION OF CITY WALL FRONTING ONTO THE RIVER BREGAGH FROM THE WEST (MAY 2001)                                 |
| PLATE 4  | BLACK FRIARS GATE FROM THE WEST (MAY 2001)  |
| PLATE 5  | SECTION OF CITY WALL FLANKING ABBEY STREET FROM THE WEST (MAY 2001)   |
| PLATE 6  | THE NORTHERN END OF WALL IS HEAVILY OVERGROWN WITH ELDER AND SYCAMORE   |
| PLATE 7  | WALL ON EAST SIDE OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GARDEN NEAR SITE OF THE LOST TILBURY TOWER                           |
| PLATE 8  | ST JAMES'S GATE IN 1845: SHEARMAN MSS, MAYNOOTH (AFTER BIRCH, <i>St Kieran's College</i> , 1951)              |
| PLATE 9  | CITY WALL FLANKING FORMER PRESENTATION CONVENT GARDEN FROM THE NORTH (MAY 2001)                               |
| PLATE 10 | A LENGTH OF WALL, PART STANDING AND PART LOST, BEHIND THE ORMONDE HOTEL (NOS 29-32 PATRICK STREET)            |
| PLATE 11 | THE GARDEN TERRACE AND PASSAGE IN THE POSTERN GATE AT THE SITE OF MYLES TOWER (MAY 2001)                      |
| PLATE 12 | TALBOT'S CASTLE FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (MAY 2001)  |
| PLATE 13 | GROSSE'S DRAWING OF 'BASTION IN KILKENNY' FROM AN ENGRAVING IN HIS ANTIQUITIES OF IRELAND, 1791               |
| PLATE 14 | LINE OF CITY WALL DELINEATED IN GREY STONE PAVIOURS, ORMONDE ROAD (MAY 2001)                                  |
| PLATE 15 | ST PATRICK'S GATE, c. 1895  |
| PLATE 16 | REAR ELEVATION OF BUTLER HOUSE AND GARDENS FROM THE WEST (MAY 2001)   |
| PLATE 17 | CITY WALL VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (INTERIOR) (MAY 2001)  |
| PLATE 18 | CITY WALL VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (EXTERIOR) (MAY 2001)  |
| PLATE 19 | KILKENNY CASTLE - SOUTH RANGE FROM THE COURTYARD (MAY 2001)   |
| PLATE 20 | OS 1871 TOWN PLAN SHOWING GARDEN OF THE BISHOP'S PALACE   |



FOLLOWING THE REMOVAL OF THE TOWN WALL

- PLATE 21 BISHOP'S PALACE AND GARDENS: VIEW FROM THE TOP OF ST CANICE'S ROUND TOWER (MAY 2001)
- PLATE 22 CITY WALL AND RELATED EARTHEN RAMPART ENCLOSING NORTH SIDE OF ST CANICE'S CHURCHYARD (MAY 2001)
- PLATE 23 ST CANICE'S LIBRARY, BUILT AGAINST THE DEFENCES ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE CHURCHYARD
- PLATE 24 XXX
- PLATE 25 XXX
- PLATE 26 EARTHEN RAMPART BEHIND WESTERN SECTION OF CITY WALL BOUNDING ST CANICE'S CATHEDRAL YARD (MAY 2001)
- PLATE 27 THE DEANERY AND GARDEN FROM THE TOP OF ST CANICE'S ROUND TOWER (MAY 2001)
- PLATE 28 THE RIVER NORE LOOKING SOUTH FROM GREEN'S BRIDGE (MAY 2001)
- PLATE 29 ST JOHN'S GATE: DETAIL FROM FRANCIS PLACE'S DRAWING OF c. 1698
- PLATE 30 CORNER TOWER FROM THE NORTH-EAST (MAY 2001)
- PLATE 31 SECTION OF WALL DISPLAYING TWO LOOPS, LOCATED TO SOUTH OF LANGTON'S BAR (JUNE 2001)
- PLATE 32 MAUDLIN CASTLE FROM THE SOUTH (MAY 2001)
- PLATE 33 SCAR IN THE SOUTH WALL OF MAUDLIN CASTLE, INDICATING THE POSITION OF THE ATTACHED GATE (JUNE 2001)
- PLATE 34 MAUDLIN GATE AND CASTLE: DETAIL FROM FRANCIS PLACE'S DRAWING OF c. 1698

## LIST OF FIGURES

- FIGURE 1 KEY MAP OF KILKENNY HIGHTOWN, IRISHTOWN AND ST JOHN'S CITY WALLS
- FIGURE 2 RIVER BREGAGH FRONTAGE
- FIGURE 3 BLACK FRIARS GATE AND ADJOINING WALL. EAST (INTERNAL) ELEVATION
- FIGURE 4 BLACK FRIARS GATE. PLAN AND EAST (INTERNAL) ELEVATION
- FIGURE 5 ABBEY STREET (WEST OF BLACK FRIARS GATE). ELEVATION AND REPRESENTATIVE CROSS-SECTION
- FIGURE 6 SOUTH OF JAMES'S GATE. EXTERNAL ELEVATION
- FIGURE 7 WALL NEXT TO ORMONDE HOTEL AND MYLES TOWER. PLAN, WESTERN (EXTERNAL) AND EASTERN (INTERNAL) ELEVATIONS
- FIGURE 8 SITE OF MYLES TOWER. WESTERN (EXTERNAL) ELEVATION
- FIGURE 9 WALL AND TALBOT'S CASTLE. PLAN, CROSS-SECTION AND LONG ELEVATION
- FIGURE 10 KILKENNY DESIGN CENTRE. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ELEVATIONS
- FIGURE 11 ST CANICE'S LIBRARY/BLACK RATH'S CASTLE. PLAN AND SOUTH ELEVATION
- FIGURE 12 ST JOHN'S SOUTH WALL

## 9. SETTING AND CONTEXT

View from the Wind Gap c. 1770, unknown artist

## 9.1 SETTING AND VISUAL CONTEXT

### Summary

The limited opportunities to view the City Walls are of importance and should be protected from being compromised or diminished.

### Description

The City Walls of Kilkenny exist in an urban setting of streets, buildings and property boundaries. They demarcate the edge of the planned medieval town (Section 9.3) and the suburbs. When built, they would have formed the boundary between the built-up area and the town fields, but this has been changed by extra-mural building outside the walls, and more recently by town-centre development within the walls. The urban setting of river, cathedral, castle and town cannot be fully appreciated in any one view, though it is apparent from aerial photographs and from selected high buildings (e.g. the Castle and the Cathedral round tower).

### Status

The walls all fall within Conservation Areas (1 City Centre; 2 Kilkenny Castle; 3 St Canice's; 4 John's Street; 5 Patrick Street; 6 Michael Street; and 7 St Mary's). They are subject to policies outlined in the new City and Environs Development Plan [§11.14]. Policy §11.13.6 seeks to protect views and prospects, and encourages the creation of new vistas to existing landmarks.

### Significance

Where surviving, exterior views of the walls are of importance. Individual features often have a setting which is evocative or instructive.

### Issues/Vulnerability

Views of the walls are in all places at risk from being compromised by new development or other works (e.g. electrical cabling, landscape planting).

### Policies/Recommendations

- The public views of the walls by the River Bregagh (Sections 10.1 and 10.4), from Abbey Street (Section 10.8), the former Presentation Convent (Section 10.13), Ormonde Hotel (Section 10.20), Talbot's Castle (Section 10.26), Ormonde House (Section 10.31), St Canice's Churchyard (Sections 11.4-6) and Maudlin Street (Section 12.2) should be protected from being compromised or diminished by adjacent development or other works. [Policy 17]

### References

Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan



Kilkenny City Walls Conservation Plan: Key Plan

# KEY

- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| — Irishtown Wall (extant)     | ■ ● Tower / Bastion (extant)  |
| .... Irishtown Wall (line of) | □ ○ Tower / Bastion (site of) |
| — Hightown Wall (extant)      |                               |
| .... Hightown Wall (line of)  |                               |
| — St John's Wall (extant)     |                               |
| .... St John's Wall (line of) |                               |

Figure 1: Key Map of Kilkenny Hightown, Irishtown and St John's City Walls

## 9.2 BOUNDARIES AND DESIGNATIONS

### Summary

The Walls of Kilkenny are clearly defined in some areas (the Hightown circuit), but not in others (Irishtown and St John's). While it is generally protected, the defence zone of standing and buried remains should be recognised as an individual component of the City of Kilkenny national monument.

### Description

The City Walls form a linear monument, part standing, part buried, and part of uncertain location. They may have had associated earthworks within and outside the walls, with gate towers or 'castles' across the principal roads. Considered as a standing monument or buried potential, the walls should be seen as a 'defensive zone' around the medieval town and its suburbs rather than a single line or series of unconnected parts. It is in this sense that they can, for the most part, be defined. It is also important for the walls to be seen as an integral part of the topography of the medieval town, delimiting the very characteristic tenement plan of Kilkenny.

### Status

The whole of the defensive circuit lies within the City of Kilkenny, and within the Kilkenny 'Zone of Archaeological Potential' defined in the *Urban Archaeological Survey County Kilkenny* (1993). Although the city of Kilkenny was included as a single item in the 1996 'Record of Monuments and Places' - under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 - the defences are not separately recorded as a monument. The castle is an Historic Property in State care. Individual features of the defences are mapped in the Urban Survey. They are included in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory* (1997) and now appear as 'Protected Structures' in the new Kilkenny Development Plan. (In the 1994 Development Plan, 'Talbot's Castle and City Wall' was listed as an item of International/National Importance.) Three sections of the defences have been the subject of Preservation Orders.

The walls all fall within Conservation Areas (1 City Centre; 2 Kilkenny Castle; 3 St Canice's; 4 John's Street; 5 Patrick Street; 6 Michael Street; and 7 St Mary's). They are subject to policies outlined in the new Development Plan [§11.14]. Policy §11.13.6 seeks to protect views and prospects, and encourages the creation of new vistas to existing landmarks.

### Significance

The City Walls are of national importance.

### Issues/Vulnerability

The walls are vulnerable to direct and indirect change. While the recording of Kilkenny as a single monument does allow the widest application of the legislation to the whole urban area, it fails to give a clear status to individual components of the historic city. To some extent, this is remedied at local level

by the 'Protected Structure' status afforded by the Kilkenny Development Plan.

At the time of writing, a 'National Monuments Bill' is in preparation: 'This review of the National Monument Acts, 1930 to 1994, and related legislation will lead to consolidate and, where appropriate, revised and extended legislation for the protection of the archaeological, architectural and historic heritage.'

#### **Policies/Recommendations**

- The buried and standing remains of the walls should be recognised as a single component of the City of Kilkenny National Monument, and afforded all protection by legislation and guidance. [Policy 6]
- The line of the wall should be maintained even where remains may no longer exist. [Policy 19]
- Proper enforcement of planning and monuments legislation should be ensured. [Policy 10]



## 9.3 MEDIEVAL KILKENNY

### Summary

Kilkenny is one of the major towns of medieval Ireland. To a considerable degree, it preserves the topography and fabric of the historic city.

### Description

Kilkenny occupies a ridge above the River Nore, on a bridging point and possible head of navigation. The city has two bridges and two foci: the cathedral, on an ancient ecclesiastical site at the north end; and the castle, as the feudal stronghold of the liberty of Kilkenny, at the south end. Whatever the previous topography had been, the Norman town was regularised by the establishment of a main street with regular tenement plots on either side. These reached up to the walls and down to the river, with side streets and lanes following the same pattern (rather similar to medieval Kendal in Cumbria). The size and prominence of the city and its lords made it one of the largest and most important towns in Ireland. It is the survival of the medieval town plan - with ancient houses, churches and monastic remains, the castle and the defences, and historic records and associations - that makes Kilkenny of particular importance. The defences, whatever their practical purpose, were always intended to be a public statement of power and authority. Access to and understanding of the defences is thus a key element in appreciation of the medieval city, and is relevant both to inhabitants and visitors.

### Status

Many features of the medieval city are recognised and protected (see 9.2).

### Significance

Because of its historical importance to the Norman dominion, its significant monuments (cathedral, castle, walls, houses, and bridges), and the survival of its extensive and regular street plan, Kilkenny is one of the foremost towns of medieval Ireland. It is significant for its continuing importance in the post-medieval period, exemplified by town buildings of quality, and also today as a busy town, place of resort and tourist centre. The walls have a special significance in defining the medieval town for both the inhabitants and for visitors.

### Issues/Vulnerability

The fabric of the town, its street and tenement plan are vulnerable to new developments that remove topographical features, destroys buried archaeology, and replaces traditional buildings with modern structures on a different scale. The relationship of the town to the river will be altered by the impact of the river flood relief works.

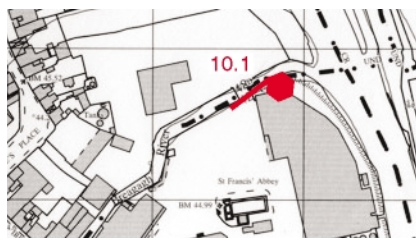
### Policies/Recommendations

- Increased understanding of walls and circuit; castle and walls as defining image of 'medieval town' [Policy 20]
- Inclusion of walls on town trails [Policy 22]
- Promotion of parts for public access [Policies 16-18]



## 10. THE WALLS OF HIGHTOWN





## 10.1 EVANS TOWER AND WALL

### Summary

Surviving polygonal tower at the extreme north-east corner of the Hightown defended circuit. While the form of the tower is suggestive of a late date, it is reasonable to surmise that its location may reflect that of an earlier tower.

### Historical Background

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and the tower was perhaps built c. 1400 on the north corner of the precinct of the Franciscan Priory. The friary passed to the Corporation in 1543; in 1598, the payment for carriage of 79 cartloads of stone 'for making up the tower at Francis Well' is likely to refer to this tower (Corporation Archives, CR/J/28). In 1650, the Civil Survey describes it as 'a little castle in the garden' of the friary (CS 6, 519). The tower became known as *Evans Turret* (Plate 1) when the land on which it stands was leased by the Corporation to an Alderman Evans in 1724. The tower and the stretch of adjoining city wall (with steps) are marked on the OS 1841 manuscript map, and the tower was illustrated in 1851 when still roofed. (For possible continuation along riverside, see Section 10.34.)



'Evans Turret' from *Robinson's Antiquities and Scenery of County Kilkenny*, 1851

### Description

A polygonal tower (Plate 1) and short stretch of related river revetment wall exist at the extreme north-east corner of the St Francis's Abbey Brewery complex, where the Bregagh meets the Nore. The form of the tower suggests a later (c. 15th century?) date, although its location may reflect an earlier structure. The tower is built as an irregular quadrilateral, with an angled face on the north side,

and a triangular corner pointing south-east (in its present form clearly not continued to the south with a curtain wall). The tower is approached from the west by a rising stair between the external parapet and an internal wall, apparently built over a vault which has now collapsed. It has a basement level (with an internal arched entrance, a first floor, and an upper level with remains of windows or crenellations). Judging from its appearance when still roofed (see 1851 engraving, Plate 1), it is likely that the Tower has been modified and heightened to form a garden feature overlooking the river (perhaps in the 18th century). The external string course and associated holes might therefore reflect the base of an earlier parapet.



Plate 2: North-western polygonal tower (Evans Turret) and adjacent section of revetment wall from the north (May 2001)

### Status

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The tower is recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 9/420] as being of National Importance. The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### Significance

Important surviving tower on prominent site, with good public visibility despite being difficult of access.

### Condition

### Issues/Vulnerability

The external masonry is in reasonable condition, though there are some external cracks in the tower walls; the internal collapsed stair vault suggests that some movement has occurred. The walls are pointed, though at the base the pointing (on larger stones) has been washed out by floodwater. There is moderate ivy and plant growth, and the views from across the river are obscured by nearby tree growth.

The tower is in private ownership within a busy working brewery, and can only be approached across roads in heavy use by site traffic. (In this respect, it is even less accessible than the ruins of the Franciscan Church, which also stand within the brewery and to which access can be made by special arrangement.) The lack of public access is, for most purposes, compensated by the clear views of the monument at close quarters from the adjacent bank of the River Bregagh. There would no doubt be occasions when public access to the tower could be arranged for special interest groups.

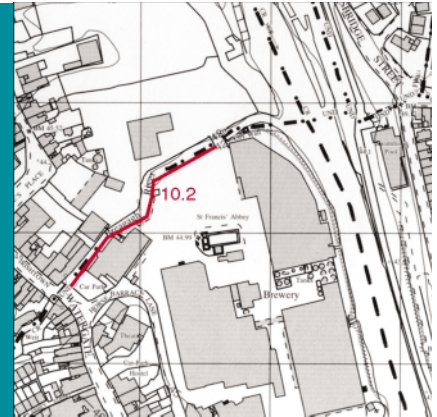
To some extent, the lack of public access may have contributed to the preservation of the tower, but the evidence would suggest that a previous maintenance regime has been discontinued.

The tower and the adjacent length of wall are vulnerable to the proposed flood-relief works to the River Nore, which will include works in the lower reaches of the River Bregagh. Some measures have already been carried out to secure the fabric of the tower, and have been conducted in an exemplary manner.

### Policies/Recommendations

- A high priority should be given to protecting the tower from the impact of river dredging, and from the associated works to river banks. The tower should continue to be protected against activities and casual access from within the brewery. [Policy 7]
- The condition of the walls should be assessed with regard to these possible actions: (1) clearing the internal rubble; and (2) reconstructing the stair/vault (stonework should therefore not be removed from the site). [Policy 18]
- The need for minimal localised repairs should be identified and undertaken to the agreed general specification for masonry repairs. [Policy 11]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policies 12, 15]
- Consideration should be given to the removal of trees immediately adjacent to the tower. Ivy growth should be discouraged and an agreed maintenance regime introduced for walls and vegetation. [Policy 9]
- The public viewpoints from the nearby bank of the River Bregagh should be protected (to ensure continued access), and from the opposite bank of the Nore. [Policy 17]

## 10.2 RIVER BREGAGH WALL



### SUMMARY

The course of the wall along River Bregagh, including site of lost Grey Friars Gate.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century. The riverside wall may have been built as a precinct wall for the newly-founded Franciscan (Grey Friars) Friary of St Francis. It seems to have included a postern known as Grey Friars Gate, leading from the Friary to a bridge over the Bregagh (Bradley 1976, 215). As the gate would have provided access to Irishtown for the friars, it is unlikely that this was used by the public and probably had no associated defended gate. The gate is mentioned in a lease of 1628 (Hogan 1861, 351). Rocque's 1758 map shows a straight length of wall from the north-east corner bounding a garden/orchard and Horse Barracks, and then nothing along the remainder of the river bank, although the full extent of the wall is depicted on the OS 1841 manuscript plan as City Wall (Bradley 2000c, Map 2).

### DESCRIPTION

A short length of wall immediately adjacent to Evans Tower survives to a height of some 3 metres above the river level, and may contain an arrow loop. It extends westwards from the tower as far as the brewery access bridge across the River Bregagh. Beyond this, the wall has been extensively rebuilt above ground level, reputedly some 25 years ago when the brewery site was extended westwards across the River Bregagh; the lower masonry, however, is likely to contain traces of older wall. A further length alongside the river consists only of a low revetment wall. Some 75m east of the existing Watergate Road Bridge, a former springing possibly related to the Grey Friars Bridge can still be seen in the south revetment wall. Test-pits prior to riverbed decontamination works were dug against the foundations of the wall, and other test pits were monitored along the river (*Excavations Ireland 1999* [1999:455, 456], *Excavations Ireland 2000* [2000:535]).

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). A length of the wall is recognised

in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 9/590] as being of National Importance. The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Important surviving length of curtain wall alongside the standing remains of Evans Tower, and line of former wall.

### CONDITION

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

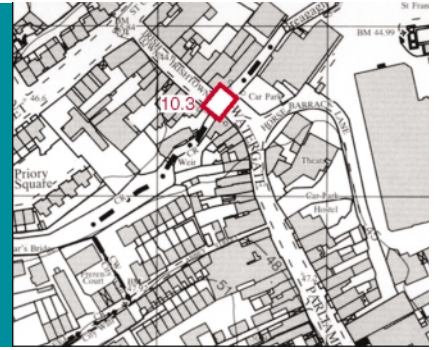
Masonry is in reasonable condition, with moderate ivy and plant growth. Its base washed by floodwater. This length of wall is vulnerable to the proposed flood-relief works to the River Nore, which will include works in the lower reaches of the River Bregagh. The remainder of the wall is not easy of access, but has been generally maintained to provide a revetment, though with localised growth of sycamore and ash trees.

### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Protection and maintenance as for Evans Tower (above). [Policy 7]
- Removal and control of vegetation. [Policy 9]
- Protection of viewpoint from adjacent river bank, as for Evans Tower (above). [Policy 17]
- Protect walls from impact of river works, and from any repair or development works within the brewery site. [Policy 8]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 12, 15]



## 10.3 IRISHTOWN/HIGHTOWN GATE



### SUMMARY

Irishtown or Hightown Gate (also known as Water Gate) was the gateway formerly separating Hightown from the borough of Irishtown, probably taken down at the turn of the 18th century (Bradley 1975, 102)

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and the gate would have been an integral part of the defences as the main north gate of the city from Watergate to Irishtown. The keepers of the gate are recorded in the Liber Primus as Irishtown and Hightown Gate. The first, in 1384, was John Corvisor, a shoemaker who was 'keeper of the gate of Irestoun and of the murage, taking yearly 8s' (LPK, 44), implying that he was paid to collect tolls for the murage. Later keepers - John Sowlebane in 1498/9, Thomas Galvane in 1499 and Oliver Roth in 1507-8 - 'held the gate' for 10s, 12s, 14s respectively paid to the town (LPK, 76, 78, 95), which may imply that they were collecting the murage and keeping some or all of it. The room over the gate occurs in the town rental of 1596 (Thomas 1992, 127). A lease of the gate in 1609 required the Corporation to have access when required for defence, while the tenant was to build 'a Corbell Towre' upon the castle, 'for the better guard and defence of the said castle' (Watters 1874, 216). When the Mayor of Kilkenny passed through this gate, he dropped the point of the City Sword to show that he had no pre-eminence within the Borough of Irishtown (Kenealy 1949, 36).

There are also a number of references to a Water Gate in the 16th to 18th centuries, and as a 'slip' (1569) and 'Foote Gate or Slipp Gate' (1606), suggesting that this was a separate gate beside the main one (Bradley, 2000c, 14). The gate is shown on Rocque's 1758 map. Demolition was ordered in 1759.

### DESCRIPTION

No physical remains survive of the gate, and no representation of it is known. However, the double-arched Water Gate Bridge of c. 1650 survives immediately next to the former gatehouse.

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The adjacent Water Gate Bridge wall is recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 9/417] as being of National Importance and has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

## SIGNIFICANCE

The buried remains of the gate, if surviving, would be significant in determining the date and form of the defences.

## CONDITION

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

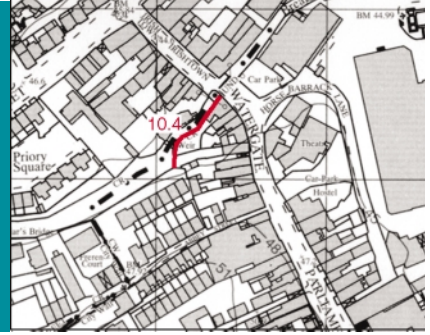
The condition of any buried remains is uncertain. They would be vulnerable to the excavation of service trenches in the road, and even to works in adjacent properties.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey or investigation to determine extent of any remains. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences (The site of the gate should be noted in mapping of services, with appropriate archaeological watching briefs undertaken in works on the road or services.) [Policies 6, 7, 15]
- Marking out or signalling of lost features in roadway. [Policy 20]



## 10.4 IRISHTOWN GATE — MILL RACE



### SUMMARY

The course of the wall along River Bregagh from Irishtown Gate to the former mill race.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and the riverside wall would have been part of the main circuit. It is shown on Rocque's 1758 map of Kilkenny as a continuous length of wall with the next following section - *i.e.* it is not interrupted for the mill stream. The wall is also shown on the OS 1841 manuscript plan as City Wall, but it breaks across the entrance to the mill race (Bradley 2000c, Map 2).

### DESCRIPTION

There is a low revetment wall on the south bank of the River Bregagh, which is likely to include some remains of the defensive wall (not inspected at close quarters).

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Although almost entirely obscured from public view, this is a significant continuation of the river front defences.

### CONDITION

The condition of the masonry is uncertain.

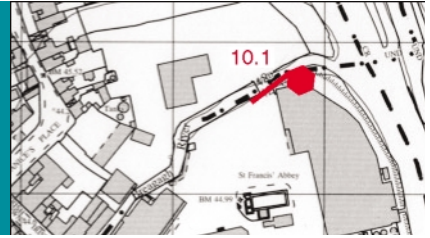
### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

This length is vulnerable to the proposed flood-relief works to the River Nore, which will include works in the lower reaches of the River Bregagh. Any development of the site could damage the buried remains. It would be of interest to discover the means by which the wall crossed the adjacent mill race (now dry), as well as investigating the possibility that the defences had ever followed the former mill stream.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Protection of revetment from impact of river works, and from any repair or development works on the site. [Policies 7, 8]
- Removal and control of vegetation. [Policies 1, 11]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policies 12, 15]

## 10.5 RIVER BREGAGH FRONTAGE



### SUMMARY

Section of wall running alongside the Bregagh between Black Friars Bridge towards the Watergate, with surviving fabric including arrow loops.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and the riverside wall would have been part of the main circuit. It is shown on Rocque's 1758 map of Kilkenny as a continuous length of wall with the previous section - *i.e.* it is not interrupted for the mill stream. The wall is also shown on the OS 1841 manuscript plan as City Wall, but it breaks across the entrance to the mill race (Bradley 2000c, Map 2). Although there is no detailed documentation for the wall, its appearance and condition suggest that the loops may belong to a post-medieval rebuild, possibly of 17th-century date.

**DESCRIPTION** (see Figure 2)

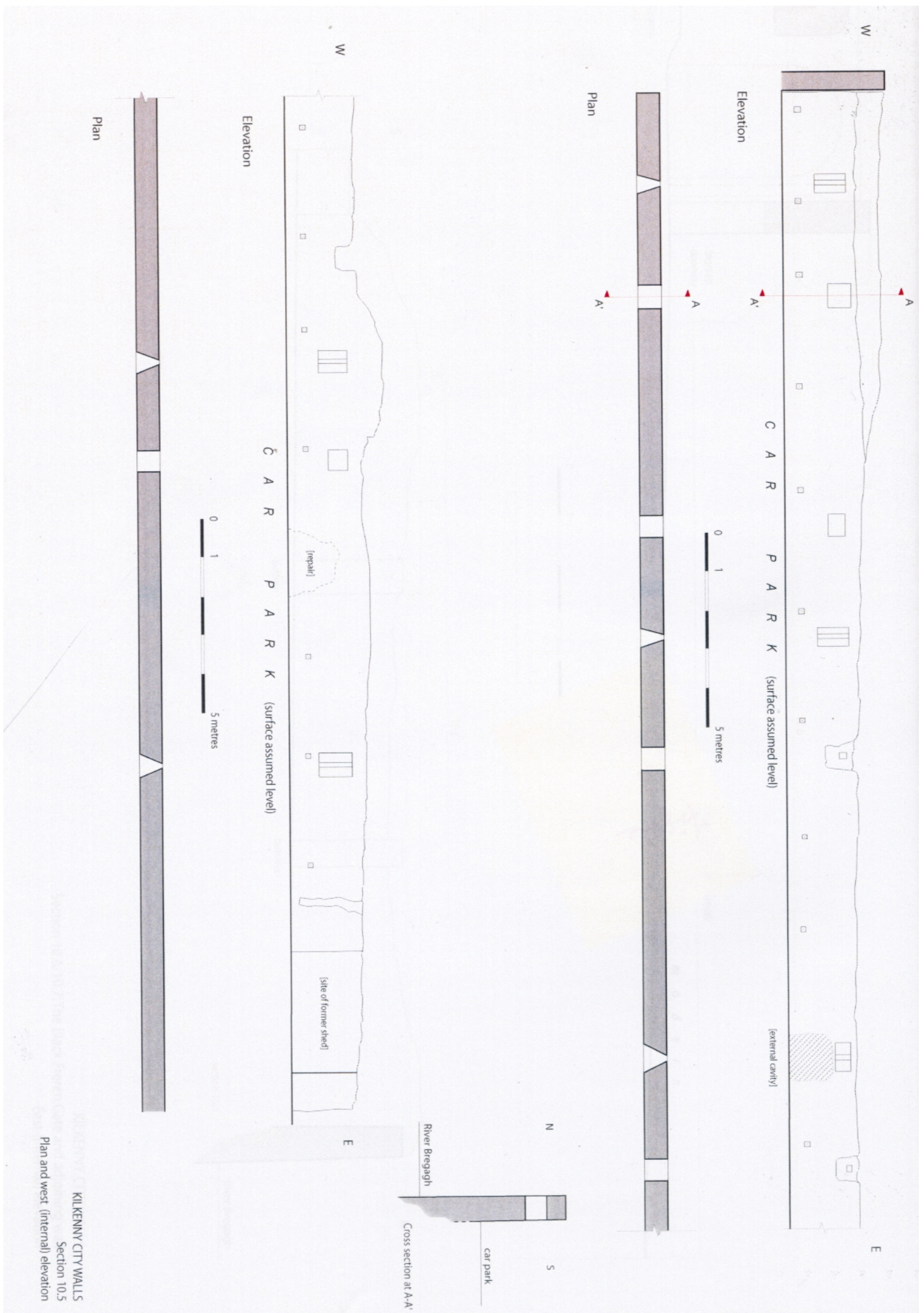


Figure 2: River Bregagh Frontage - Plan and west (internal) elevation



This section is visible from the northern bank of the River Bregagh; the interior is accessible from the car park of residential development on south bank immediately north of the Black Freren Gate (Section 10.6). The wall survives to a maximum length of 57.5m and stands to a maximum height of 2.80m at the western end, although the upper courses here represent rebuild. For much of its length, the wall stands to between 1.80m and 2.40m. Externally, the level of the river is c. 2.00m below the internal ground level. A total of ten openings of varying forms survive along the length of the wall. Of these, five are of splayed form with narrow (0.1m wide) external openings and internal dimensions of ave. 0.8m tall x 0.60m wide. The splayed openings, which are late- or possibly post-medieval in date, are arranged at fairly regular intervals of between 11.0m and 12.0m. Other openings are rectangular in form and display perpendicular jambs. Two of the latter openings have been partially blocked, leaving a reduced, square central opening. A level line of 17 putlog holes at 2.50 - 3.00m centres are located at a height of c. 0.45m above the internal ground surface.



Plate 3: Section of City Wall fronting onto the River Bregagh from the west (May 2001)

At its western end, the wall would appear to abut the southern return wall, the joint between the two being ragged in appearance.

Prior to development inside the wall, excavations were conducted in 1995 to determine the character of archaeological deposits. An architectural survey was also undertaken. There was a quantity of dumped soil behind the wall which was found to have been reduced in height, with a full width of 1.4m. The wall was built of undressed limestone blocks with mortar, rubble-faced internally, and with a single sherd of Saintonge ware perhaps indicating a 13th-century construction date (*Excavations Ireland 1995* [1995:167]. See also Section 10.6). In relation to water engineering works, testing and assessment were carried out in 2000 (*Excavations Ireland 2000* [2000:535]).

## STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). This length of the wall is recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 8/283] as being of National Importance. The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

## SIGNIFICANCE

This is a major surviving part of the defences, visible from both sides (and from the Black Friars Bridge), and forming an impressive edge to the river, including obvious defensive elements (the loops) that can be seen and understood.

## CONDITION

The condition of the masonry is reasonable, though some repair is needed, with amelioration of unfortunate modern infilling of gaps and discouragement of further plant growth.

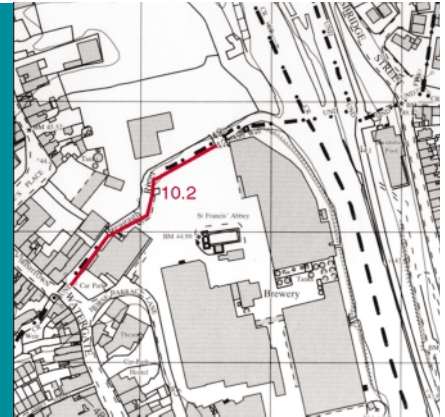
## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

This length is vulnerable to the proposed flood-relief works to the River Nore, which will include works in the lower reaches of the River Bregagh. Any development of the site could damage the buried remains. The base of the wall is vulnerable to damage from the river. The setting of the monument has already been compromised by the adjacent bank made up with gabions.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Protection of revetment from impact of river works, and from any repair or development works on the site. [Policies 7-8]
- Detailed survey and analysis of surviving fabric. [Policies 12, 14]
- Control of vegetation, and removal of unsuitable woody species (ivy, sycamore, elder). [Policy 9]
- Condition survey to determine amount of repair, by filling of holes and repair of wall top (preferably by soft capping). [Policies 11, 18]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 15]

## 10.6 BREGAGH - BLACK FRIARS GATE



### SUMMARY

Section of return wall running south from 10.5 (as shown in Figure 3) back towards the Black Friars Gate (10.6 in Figure 3). Partly ancient and partly a modern rebuilding.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this link wall would have been part of the main circuit. It is shown on Rocque's 1758 map of Kilkenny, and on the OS 1841 manuscript plan as City Wall (Bradley 2000c, Map 2). In 1597, an orchard between the road (S) and river (N), the wall (E) and Friars Orchard (W) was leased by the town for 101 years at 6s/8d to Adam Seix merchant... 'and the said Adam did covenant to repayre buyld & uphold stiff strong & defensible when neede so requireth as much and such part of the Towne Walls on every syde as meareth and is adjoining to any parte of the saide Orcharde as well next the Water of the Bregagh aforesaid as otherwise' (Watters, 1874, 215).

### DESCRIPTION

(see Figure 3)

This section is accessible from the carpark in the modern development on the south bank of the River Bregagh, immediately north of the Black Friars Gate (10.7 in Figure 3). It partly follows a change in ground level returning southwards from the river.

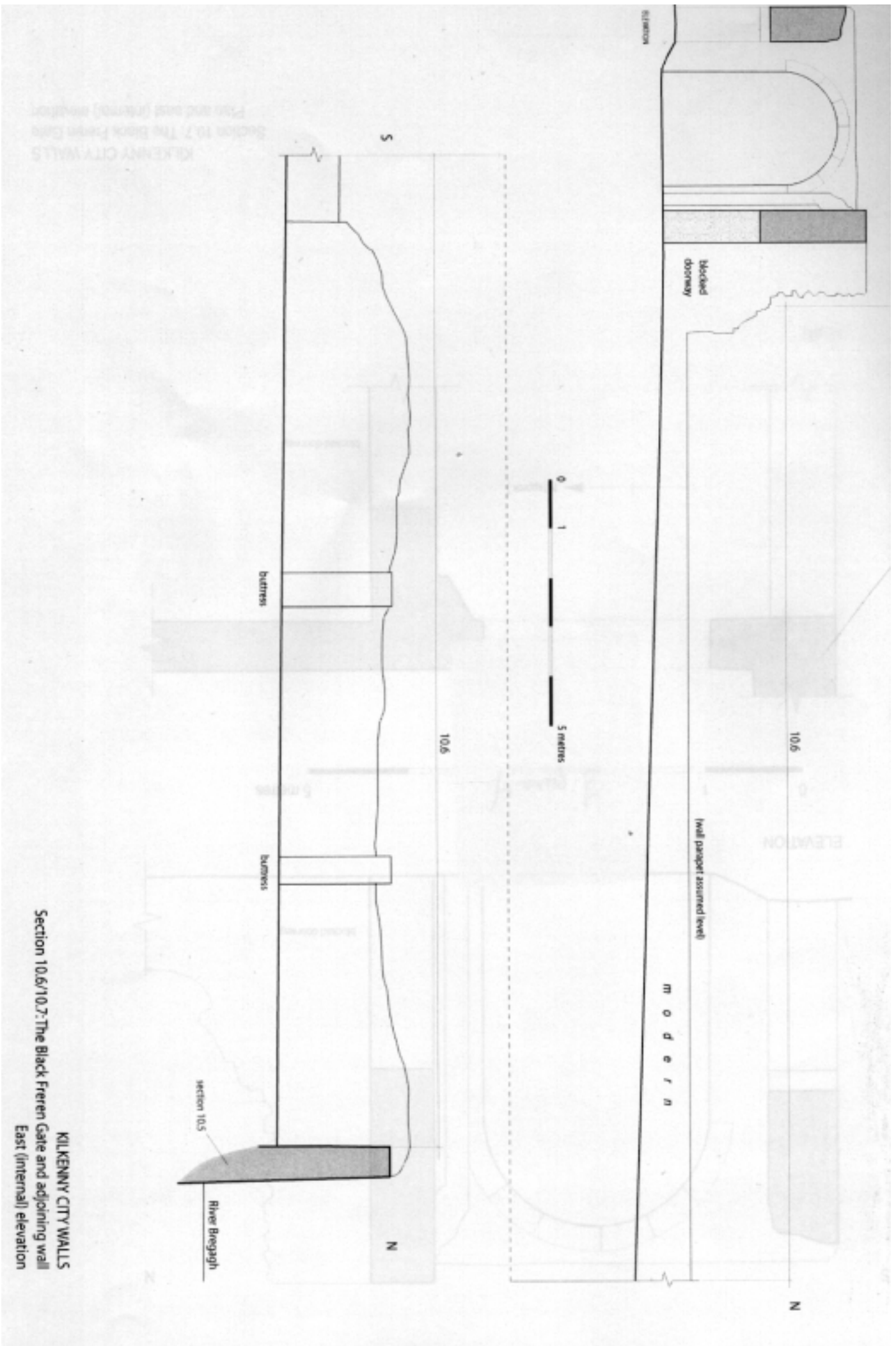


Figure 3: Black Friars Gate and adjoining wall. East (internal) elevation



The southern section of the wall is c. 21m in length and is a minimum of 0.5m and a maximum of 1.25m high. Although the wall reflects the historic mapped line of the city wall, the structure itself is clearly modern, rebuilt probably at the time of the construction of the carpark for the present residential development in the last decade. At its southern limit, it adjoins the northern side of the Black Friars Gate. While the northern part of the wall is of greater antiquity, its phasing is uncertain (the buttresses are bonded into the wall), and it may be post-medieval in date. It extends for 19.2m and is a maximum of 2.8m high, supported on its eastern (internal) side by two stone buttresses. At its far northern limit the wall would appear to be abutted by the east-west riverside wall (10.4 in Figure 3), the joint between the two being ragged in appearance.

Prior to development, excavations conducted in 1995 found that the present and later wall was built on top of a wider medieval wall of 1.2m width, flush with its east face. In the south-west corner, an earlier wall was found truncated by the building of the medieval defences. An architectural survey was also undertaken (*Excavations Ireland 1995* [1995:167]). See also Section 10.5). A separate excavation outside the wall on the west revealed the foundations of the medieval wall (*Excavations Ireland 1995* [1995:168]). Another excavation here in 1997 produced no further information (*Excavations Ireland 1997* [1997:292]).

## STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). Most of this length of the wall is recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 8/283] as being of National Importance. The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

## SIGNIFICANCE

This is an element of a major surviving part of the defences, visible from both sides (and from the Black Friars Bridge), and forming an impressive edge to the river. The remains of the walls and their (non-destructive) plant growth is an important contribution to the townscape.

## CONDITION

The condition of the masonry of the older (north) part is reasonable. Some repair is needed, with discouragement of further plant growth.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

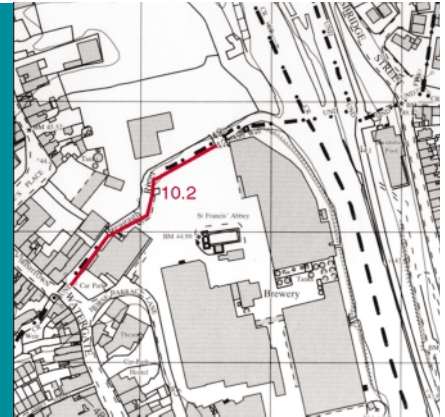
This length is in part vulnerable to the proposed flood-relief works to the River Nore, which will include works in the lower reaches of the River Bregagh. Any development of the adjacent sites could damage the buried remains or further detract from their setting.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Protection of north end from impact of river works, and from any repair or development works on the site. [Policies 7, 8]
- Detailed survey and analysis of surviving fabric. [Policies 12, 14]

- Control of vegetation, and removal of unsuitable woody species (ivy, sycamore, elder). [Policy 9]
- Condition survey to determine amount of repair (preferably by soft capping). [Policy 11]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 15]

## 10.7 BLACK FRIARS GATE



### SUMMARY

Black Friars, also known as Abbey Gate, is located towards the western end of Abbey Street. The gate now survives solely as archway, with small sections of flanking wall. The form of the former gate tower is unknown.

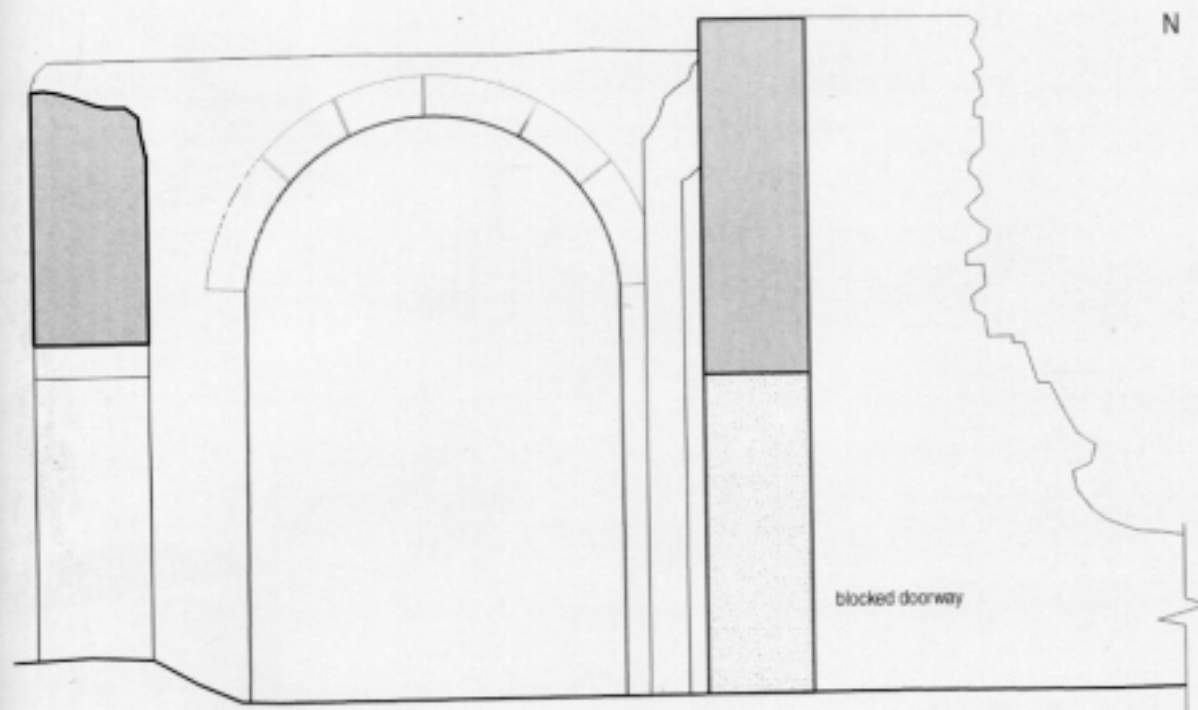
### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

As is so often the case, the Dominican or Black Friars were established on the edge of the town, and outside the defences. They will have required access to the town, however, and in 1335, they were given custody of the 'Middle Gate' (LPK 27) - though this may have been St James's Gate (10.12 in Figure 4). There is a later reference in 1397 to repair of the 'brittas' of the Friars Preachers (LPK 52); the word *brattice* often refers to some timber defensive work added to a tower or rampart. The gate must have had a tower and room over it, and was held in 1498/9 and 1507/8 by Thomas Ley as Keeper, paying 2s (LPK 76, 95). In 1581, the town leased 'Blackfreryn gate', reserving the gate and the use of gatehouse in times of danger for the Constables and Watchmen of the Corporation (Watters 1874, 211). In 1633, Stephen Daniel rented 'the upper rooms over the Castle of Inner Friars Gate for 99 years... and undertook to build the said castle and cover the same with oaken timbers and slate within three years' (Watters 1874, 217). It is shown on Rocque's 1758 map, but by the OS 1841 manuscript plan, it had largely been demolished.

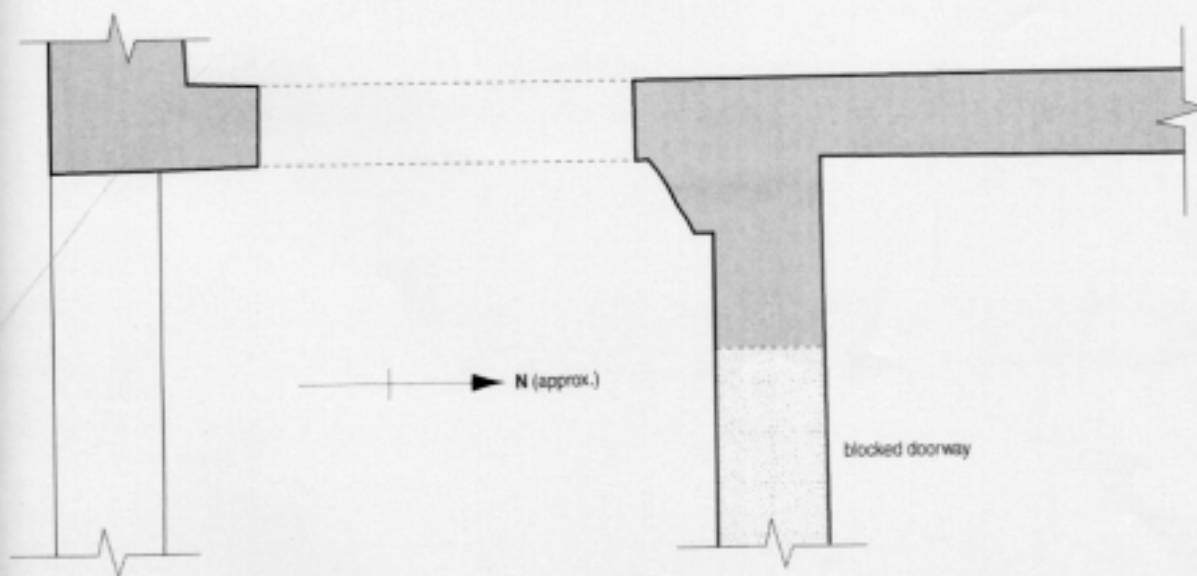
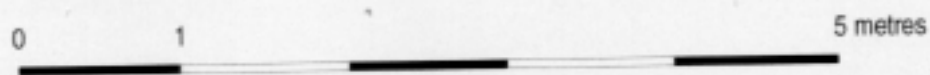
### DESCRIPTION

(see Figure 4)

The gate is situated at the re-entrant where the city wall, running south from the River Bregagh (10.6 in Figure 4), returns westwards along the southern side of Abbey Street (10.8 in Figure 4).



ELEVATION



PLAN

KILKENNY CITY WALLS  
Section 10.7: The Black Friars Gate  
Plan and east (internal) elevation

The archway of the former gate survives and takes the form of a semi-circular headed arch, 3.6m high, 2.4m wide and 0.52m thick. The arch springs from a height of 2.58m and is formed of six dressed-stone blocks. To the north, a small section of possible original flanking wall survives, though rebuilding events are evident. A blocked door opening is located 1.3m to the east of the gate, though the major part of this section has been substantially rebuilt.

Prior to construction of new main drainage, test trenches dug in 1996 recovered medieval deposits to a depth of 1.2m; these remain *in situ* over the thrust-bored tunnel (*Excavations Ireland 1996* [1996:204]). In the following year, the ground disturbance for service trenches was monitored, again uncovering a cobbled surface of the street, between extensive destruction from previous services (*Excavations Ireland 1997* [1997:294]).

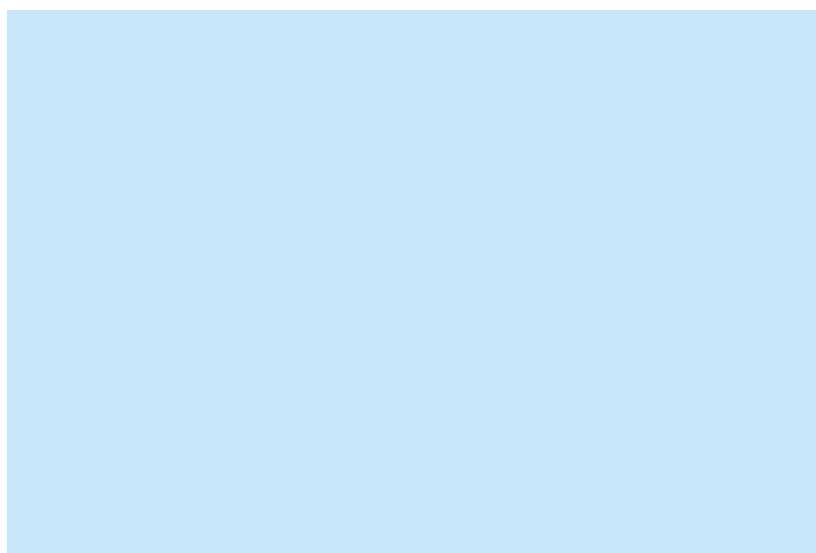


Plate 4: Black Friars Gate from the west (May 2001)

## STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City), and the subject of a Preservation Order [No. 1/97], the gate is recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 8/284] as being of National Importance. The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

## SIGNIFICANCE

An important survival of a medieval gate, partly rebuilt, but the only remaining gate in the Kilkenny circuit.

## CONDITION

Currently supported by steel and timber supports, with tell-tales in place on a number of cracks within the masonry to the north of and above the arch. The gate has sustained damage from vehicle impact, possibly exacerbated by deep excavation in the roadway. The north side of the arch appears to have suffered vertical displacement.

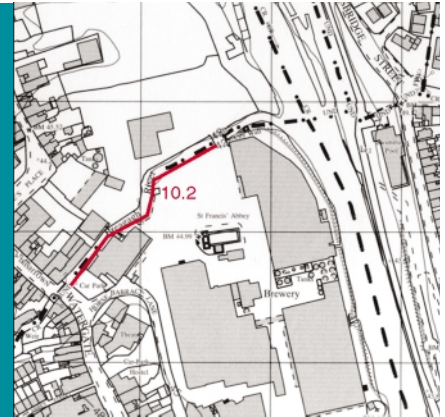
## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

The gate is vulnerable to passing traffic and has undergone recent movement.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Protection of the gate from vehicular damage. [Policy 7]
- Detailed survey and analysis of surviving fabric. [Policies 12, 14]
- Condition survey to determine amount of repair. [Policy 11]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 15]

## 10.8 ABBEY STREET



### SUMMARY

A length of medieval wall standing to almost full height, running west from Black Friars Gate (10.7 in Figure 5) along the southern side of Abbey Street and forming a revetment to a raised garden.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this section would have been part of the main circuit. It is shown on Rocque's 1758 map of Kilkenny, and on the OS 1841 manuscript plan as City Wall (Bradley 2000c Map 2).

### DESCRIPTION

(see Figure 5)

The wall runs west from Black Friars Gate (Section 10.6) towards the Holy Trinity Priory (Black Abbey), flanking the southern side of Abbey Street (Plate 5).

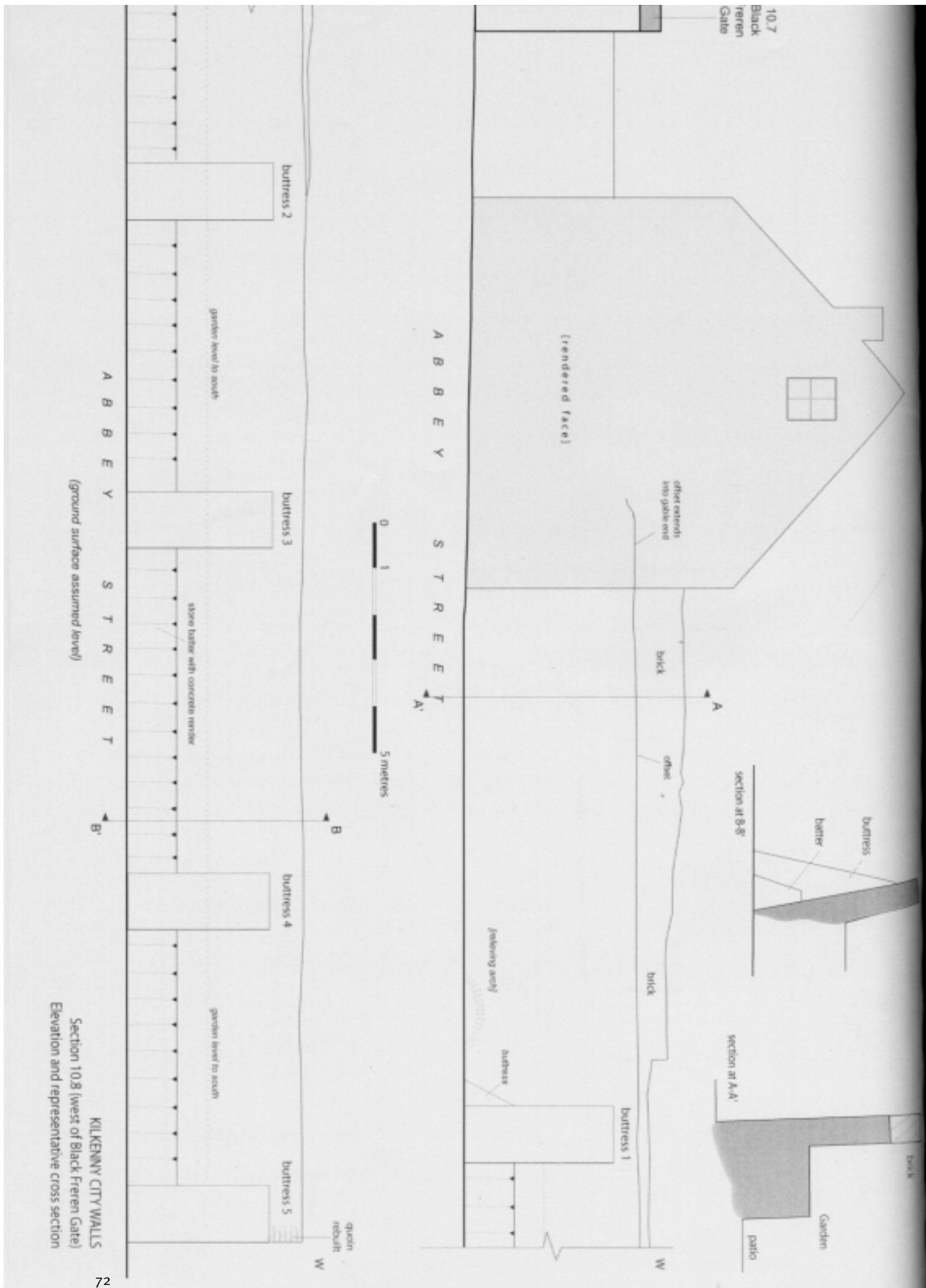


Figure 5: Abbey Street (west of Black Friars Gate). Elevation and representative cross-section



The section is a maximum of 53m long, including a section incorporated into the gable end of a house, and stands to a height of 4.75m. The wall displays a significant lean in its upper levels and is supported by a total of five buttresses along its length. At its western end, the wall returns (as 10.8, Figure 5); the quoin has been rebuilt in regular, angular grey limestone blocks. The wall partly retains a covering of whitewash which serves to conceal any architectural detail, though a relieving arch can be seen at road level just east of the first buttress. Internally, much of the garden is built up to more than 2m above the road level. The lower patio section near the house reveals a large offset (like a parapet walk), so the upper part of the wall is actually based on a broad foundation.

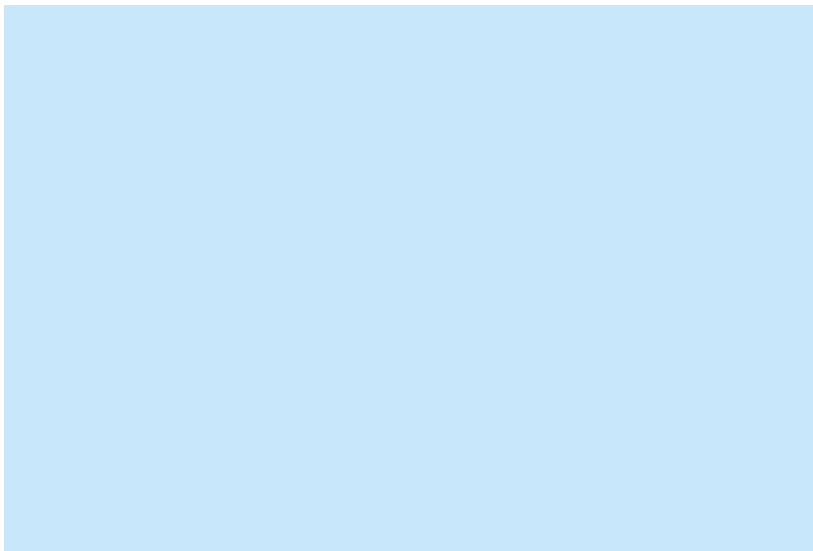


Plate 5: Section of City Wall flanking Abbey Street from the west (May 2001)

Trial excavations at No. 21 Abbey Street (on the north side of the road) in 1995 encountered traces of a silt-filled ditch which must be related to the defences (*Excavations Ireland 1995* [1995:166]). Excavation of the large (4m diam.) shaft for the main drainage in the middle of the road next to the wall found disturbance from previous drains on the south side by the wall; on the north side was a cobbled roadway and modern house foundations, with a layer of stones placed over wooden piles from previous consolidation of boggy ground. The piles have been dated by dendrochronology to the 12th century (*Excavations Ireland 1998* [1998:346]). While, as the excavators believed, these may well date from the earliest years of the Norman town, they could also form part of the 13th-century infrastructure which was necessary to make the walls and roadway to the Black Friars Priory in this area of low-lying ground.

## STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). This length of the wall is recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 8/283] as being of National Importance. The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

## SIGNIFICANCE

An important survival of medieval wall in association with the only surviving historic gate in the Kilkenny circuit.

## CONDITION

The wall has an alarming appearance, but has clearly been that way for a long time. A degree of extra movement may have followed deep excavation in the roadway. The additional steel supports are not all in contact with the wall. The masonry is in reasonable condition.

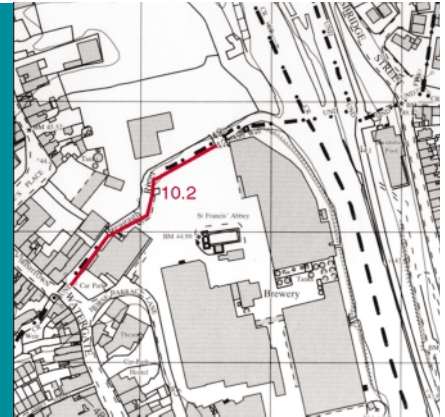
## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

The wall may be unsafe if it continues to move, but may fundamentally be more stable than it appears. It may be vulnerable to further road excavation and possibly to build-up of ground water if not drained internally. The power cables detract from the setting of the monument.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Protection of the wall from any further external disturbance from service excavations. [Policy 7]
- Detailed survey and analysis of surviving fabric. [Policy 12, 14]
- Condition survey and monitoring to determine necessity of any structural repair. [Policy 11]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 15]

## 10.9 SOUTH FROM ABBEY STREET



### SUMMARY

Section of standing wall, running south from the Abbey Street corner. The wall has been extensively rebuilt, particularly towards its northern end where it forms the retaining wall of a raised garden.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this section would have been part of the main circuit. It is shown on Rocque's 1758 map of Kilkenny, and on the OS 1841 manuscript plan as City Wall (Bradley 2000c, Map 2). As the first section of wall on the west side of the town, this is the first instance where the wall occurred at the end of a garden; The raised end of the garden was used as a gazebo or look-out over the top of the wall. On Rocque's map, and in 1841, there were houses (in Beggar's Lane) built close to the wall. The breach in the wall at New Row was already apparent in 1758, but was not an ancient opening.

### DESCRIPTION

The northern end of wall, which forms the retaining wall for a garden (10.9 in Figure XX) has been entirely rebuilt in regular, angular grey limestone blocks up to and including the western quoin. Beyond this point, the wall is heavily overgrown with elder and sycamore, but is apparently built of rough battered (i.e. sloping) masonry, with some shuttered concrete repairs (Plate 6). The wall stands on top of a natural slope and internally stands as a low parapet, with a row of cypress trees inside it.



Plate 6: The northern end of wall is heavily overgrown with elder and sycamore

In 1996, an archaeological evaluation inside the wall at Abbey View, to the north of New Building Lane, found garden soil above clay and gravel, and showed that in part of the site, the ground inside the wall had been raised by 1m (Excavations Ireland 1996 [1996:211]). Subsequent monitoring of the foundations of new houses found little, but confirmed that the underlying gravel sloped towards the west, towards the sharp drop outside the walls (Excavations Ireland 1997 [1997:303]).

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). This length of the wall is recognised in the Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study (1997) [Map 8/283] as being of National Importance. The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

An important length of wall continuing from the medieval wall in Abbey Street, and in a potentially impressive setting, forming part of the setting of the nearby Black Friars church.

### CONDITION

The masonry is in reasonable to poor condition.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

The wall is obscured both by planting and the uncontrolled growth of trees and shrubs outside, with other inappropriate planting inside. The wall is set on the top of an impressive slope and has the potential to be seen as a defensive wall, although this is lost. The wall may be in need of repair, or at least some maintenance.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Protection of the wall from damage from growth of trees and shrubs. [Policy 9]
- Clearance (as part of landscaped scheme) to allow wall to be seen. [Policy 17]
- Detailed survey and analysis of surviving fabric. [Policy 12, 14]
- Condition survey to determine necessity of any structural repair. [Policy 11]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 15]



## 10.10 LOST WALL AND TILBURY TOWER

### SUMMARY

A lost section of wall and tower, running south from New Row to Tilbury Place, partly indicated by garden walls.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this section would have been part of the main circuit. On the west side of Kilkenny, it appears that there were towers in each length of wall mid-way between the gates, of which this is the first. The wall and tower are shown on Rocque's 1758 map of Kilkenny and on the OS 1841 manuscript plan as City Wall (Bradley 2000c, Map 2). The town rental of 1596 included a cellar under 'Kilbryes tower' (Thomas 1992, 127 quoting Ormond Deeds VI app V), and it was still mentioned in early 19th-century rentals. The Corporation rentals for 1772 and 1794 have Tilbury Tower rented to Mr Evans. In 1812, Edward Evans had Jonas's Tower or Tilberry Tower 'with the rampart from the south side of the said tower' (RSAI Mss). The common form of the name in the 18th century was 'Tilbury'. According to Hogan, Kilberry Tower (also called Jonas's tower) stood in Mr Preston's garden on the town-wall and was taken down about the year 1830 (Hogan 1861, 353). The wall is shown as continuous from the break on New Row to James Street on both Rocque's 1758 plan and the OS manuscript plan of 1841. A prominent rounded tower on the exterior of the wall is shown at this point on Rocque's map, just north of the west end of Evans Lane, and near where the Ordnance Survey 1841 manuscript plan shows a slight kink in the wall. The 1650 Civil Survey describes a property (presumably Rothe House) with an orchard 'at the end of which stands a summer house next to the Toune wall the walls stone and the rooffe slated' (Simington VI, 515, Bradley 2000b, 104). This was probably not Tilbury Tower, but it indicates that the long tenements on Parliament and High Street were already using the wall as an amenity.

### DESCRIPTION

Although most of the wall here was demolished in 1860, it is possible that some sections of the standing, concrete rendered wall forming the eastern boundary of the Christian Brothers Monastery Garden (Plate 7), in particular the lower courses, include remnants of the city wall (see *Status* below). Tilbury Tower would have stood about where the garden shed is, at the top of the rising ground.

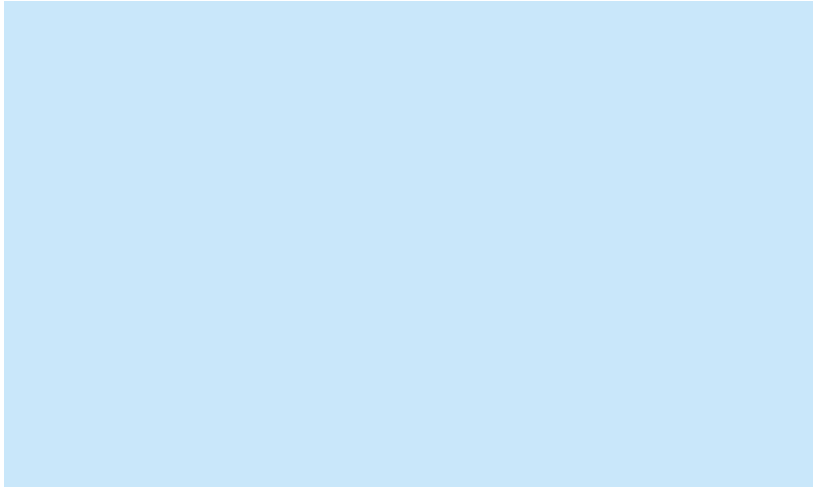


Plate 7: Wall on east side of Christian Brothers' garden near site of the lost Tilbury Tower

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). Some parts of this length of the wall are recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 8/283] as being of National Importance. The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Hightown have archaeological potential. Remains of the tower would be significant in relation to the other surviving parts of the defences. The relationship of the defences to gardens is significant, as are surviving tenement plots.

### CONDITION

The standing walls are in reasonable condition.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Buried remains of the wall are vulnerable to ground disturbance, and the course of the wall could be lost in development. This is one of the few places where the course of the wall cannot be followed, except with a long detour. While the provision of a through-path might be desirable, consideration has to be given to the integrity of the Rothe House tenement plot, itself recognised as being of national significance.

### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Surveys or investigations to determine the extent of any standing or buried remains of the defences in this area. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 7]
- Future development to respect the line of the wall. [Policy 18]
- Marking out or signalling site of lost structures. [Policy 20]
- Provision of access along the course of the wall. [Policies 16, 19]



## 10.11 LOST WALL (EVANS LANE)

### SUMMARY

A lost section of wall and tower, running south from Evans Lane along Tilbury Place.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this section would have been part of the main circuit. On Rocque's 1758 map of Kilkenny, it is shown as a wall forming the back of properties on Evans Lane (now Tilbury Place), and on the OS 1841 manuscript plan as City Wall behind properties in 'James Street Sconce' (Bradley 2000c, Map 2). The word sconce was perhaps being used to describe the earthen rampart inside the walls. This land was rented out by the Corporation from at least 1735 (Bradley 1975 101), and sometimes with Tilbury Tower, as in 1812 when Edward Evans held the tower 'with the rampart from the south side of the said tower' (Dublin RSAI Mss). The entire length of wall between James's Street and Tilbury Tower was removed in 1860 to build the Christian Brothers' school (Bradley 1975, 102).

### DESCRIPTION

No standing remains. The alignment is not easily discovered, and has Nos 3 and 4 Tilbury Place built across it at the north end, while the remainder is within the school premises.

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Hightown have archaeological potential and would be significant in relation to the other surviving parts of the defences.

### CONDITION

The condition of any buried remains is unknown.

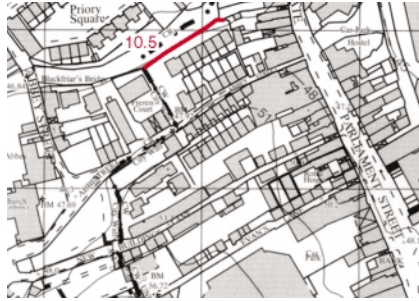
### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Buried remains of the wall are vulnerable to ground disturbance. The course of the wall could be lost in development.



## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Surveys or investigations to determine the extent of any standing or buried remains of the defences in this area. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]
- Future development to respect the line of the wall. [Policy 18]
- Marking out or signalling site of lost structures. [Policy 20]



## 10.12 ST JAMES'S GATE (LOST)

### SUMMARY

The lost gate on St James's Street, with a vaulted tower over it, stood until 1860.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Tentatively identified as the 'middle gate' referred to in the *Liber Primus Kilkenniensis* in 1334 when the prior of the Black Abbey received its key (Bradley 1975, 93). In 1324, a property in St James's Street was described as being 'without the bar' (Thomas 1992, quoting COD I 569). In 1384, Thomas Abraham was keeper of the murage of St James's Gate. In 1498 and 1499, the gate was held by Thady Hologhane for 4s. In 1500, along with other gates, it was 'new made and repaired' by the Sovereign John Archer; the rent and tenant in 1507 remained unchanged (LPK 44, 76, 78, 82, 95). The room over the gate occurs in the town rental of 1596 (Thomas 1992, 127). In 1599, the Corporation's lease of St James's Castle reserved the right of access 'in time of war or danger for the town'; the tenant was to re-roof, but 'in case the walls or vault do fall at any time during the said term' the lease would be void (Watters 1874, 215). There is a 1627 lease of the castle and room over gate (Corporation Archives, CR/I/52). In 1740, the ramparts were rented out by the Corporation at 12s/6d. In 1812, it was reported that the rooms over the gate had been rented by William Watters in 1765 (Bradley 1975, 102 quoting RSAI rentals). The gate was taken down to the top of the arch in c. 1804 and was completely removed in 1860 (Hogan 1861, 351).

### DESCRIPTION

Built across the head of James's Street. No physical remains survive, but the lease of 1599 implies that the gate had a stone vault. A 19th-century drawing (Plate 8) shows the gate in the background as a two-storey structure with five windows and a pitched roof.



Plate 8: St James's Gate in 1845: Shearman Mss, Maynooth (after Birch, *St Kieran's College*, 1951)

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

The buried remains of the gate, if surviving, would be significant in determining the date and form of the defences.

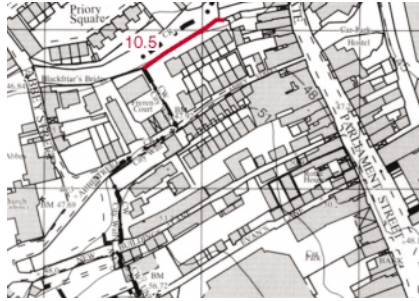
### CONDITION

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

The condition of any buried remains is uncertain. They would be vulnerable to the excavation of service trenches in the road, and even to works in adjacent properties.

### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey or investigation to determine extent of any remains. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. (The site of the gate should be noted in mapping of services, with appropriate archaeological watching briefs undertaken in works on the road or services.) [Policies 6, 7, 15]
- Marking out or signalling of lost features in roadway. [Policy 20]



## 10.13 SOUTH OF JAMES'S GATE

### SUMMARY

The length of wall formerly in the garden of the Presentation Convent (the new Market Cross development) is one of the best surviving sections in the public domain (Plate 9).

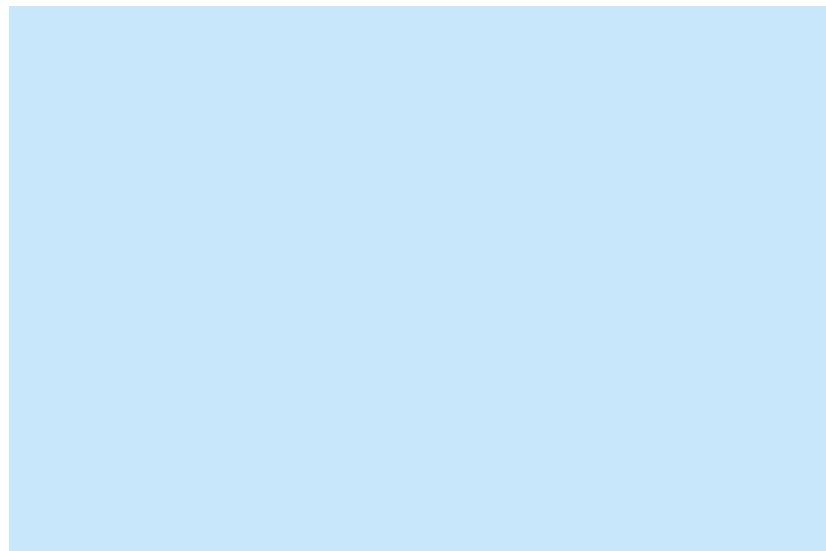


Plate 9: City Wall flanking former Presentation Convent Garden from the north (May 2001)

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this section would have been part of the main circuit. The wall survived here as the garden wall of the Presentation Convent (1800-1990); the convent was demolished in 1992. Excavations were carried out on the site prior to development, and the convent garden has been built on. The convent mausoleum survives at the southern end of the section.

### DESCRIPTION

(see Figure 6)

This section of wall represents one of the best preserved and most readily accessible part of the city circuit. Situated half-way along the western wall line to the south of James Street, it is 49.5m in length, 4.60m tall and 0.55m wide. The upper courses are modern. There are two arrow embrasures and a battered plinth. The embrasure loops measure 1.4m in height and 0.09m in width. The southern example is the better preserved and is of cruciform type.

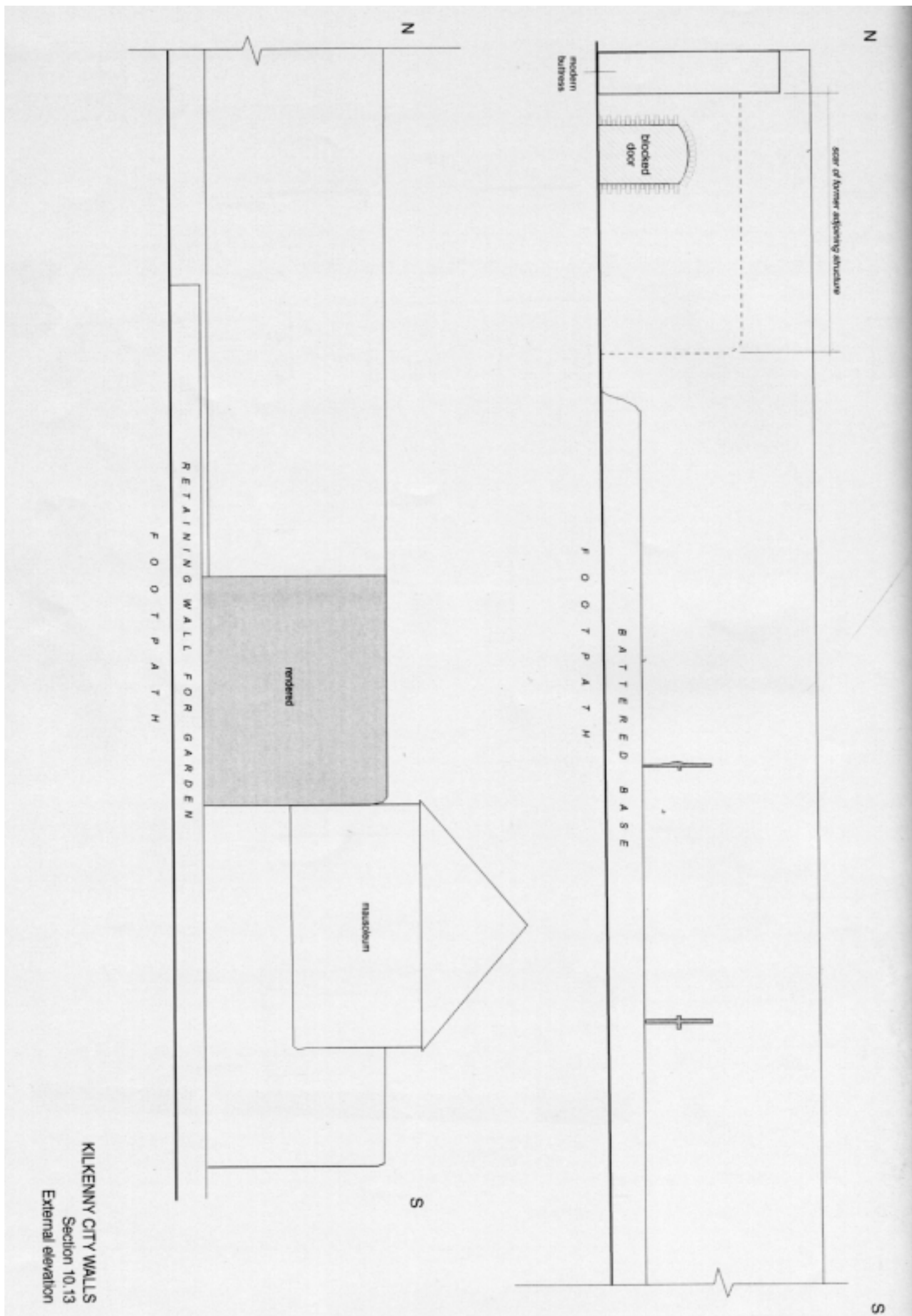


Figure 6: South of James's Gate. External elevation

Bradley (1976, 213) has suggested the possible survival of internal rampart during the lifetime of the walled garden. All trace of this was removed during the construction of the existing retail centre, although it is still possible that a portion of the rampart survives inside the wall, where a stepped garden abuts the rear of the wall. The eastern (internal) face of the wall is heavily overgrown with ivy and climbing vegetation, negating the identification of any architectural features, the loops themselves being obscured by the garden. The convent mausoleum was incorporated into a gazebo, in another instance of the use of the defences as garden features.

In 1989, excavations carried out in advance of development revealed the foundation courses of the wall. These were formed of three courses of rubble on redeposited boulder clay, and dated the garden terrace to the 18th/19th century (*Excavations Ireland 1989* [1989:062]). Further excavations in 1991 did not locate the wall (*Excavations Ireland 1991* [1991:080]).

## STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The wall is recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 9/435] as being of National Importance. The City Wall has been included in the new Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

## SIGNIFICANCE

This is a major surviving part of the defences, visible from both sides in public areas and surviving to an impressive height. The association with the convent, its garden, gazebo and mausoleum is also significant.

## CONDITION

The condition of the masonry is reasonable.

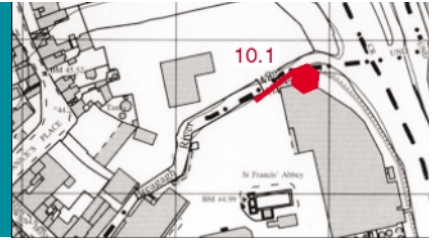
## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

This length is now reasonably secure from damage from any further development, though access to the garden terrace could be improved by the provision of steps or other means of access. While the retention of some garden planting is entirely appropriate, the growth of woody shrubs on the masonry should be discouraged. There is scope for further investigation of the masonry and the blocked loops.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Detailed survey and analysis of surviving fabric. Investigation of blocked loops. [Policy 14]
- Careful maintenance of vegetation, and removal of unsuitable woody species (ivy, sycamore, elder). [Policy 9]
- Monitoring of condition of fabric survey to determine any need for repairs. [Policy 11]
- Provision of steps or ramp to internal terrace. [Policy 16]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 15]

## 10.14 LOST WALL AT CHAPEL LANE



### SUMMARY

Lost section of wall, from Wellington Square to Colliers Lane.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this section would have been part of the main circuit. It is shown on Rocque's 1758 map of Kilkenny as a wall forming a garden wall continuous with the previous section. It was demolished in c. 1815 for the construction of Wellington Square and the houses on the east side of Chapel Lane.

### DESCRIPTION

No standing remains. The alignment is not easily discovered, because of the loss of the next section in Garden Row (10.16 in Figure \_\_\_\_).

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Hightown have archaeological potential and would be significant in relation to the other surviving parts of the defences.

### CONDITION

The condition of any buried remains is unknown.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Buried remains of the wall are vulnerable to ground disturbance. The course of the wall could be lost in development.

### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Surveys or investigations to determine the extent of any buried remains of the defences in this area. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]
- Future development to respect the line of the wall. [Policy 18]
- Marking out or signalling site of lost structures. [Policy 20]



## 1015 COLLIERS LANE TOWER (LOST)

### SUMMARY

Lost tower on west wall, mid-way between St James's and Walkin's Gates.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this section would have been part of the main circuit. On the west side of Kilkenny, it appears that there were been towers in each length of wall mid-way between the gates, of which this is the second. The tower is shown on Rocque's 1758 map at the north-west corner of Colliers Lane, but not shown on 1841 OS map. It had probably been demolished when Garden Row was built c. 1809 (Hogan 1859, 470).

### DESCRIPTION

No standing remains, probably within site of modern school workshop building.

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Hightown have archaeological potential. Remains of the tower would be significant in relation to the other surviving parts of the defences.

### CONDITION

The condition of any buried remains is unknown.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

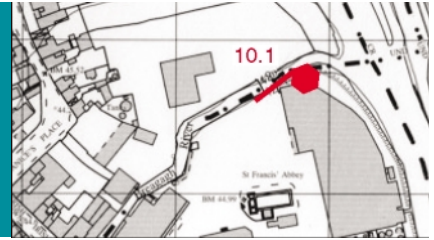
Buried remains of the wall are vulnerable to ground disturbance. The site of the tower could be lost in development.

### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Surveys or investigations to determine the extent of any standing or buried remains of the defences in this area. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]
- Marking out or signalling site of lost structures. [Policy 20]



## 10.16 LOST WALL ON GARDEN ROW



### SUMMARY

Lost section of wall, from Colliers Lane to Friary Street.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this section would have been part of the main circuit. It is shown on Rocque's 1758 map of Kilkenny with a lane alongside it. In 1809, houses were erected along Garden Row on the site of the wall (Hogan 1859, 470; Bradley 1975, 102). On the OS 1841 manuscript plan, the line of the wall was only shown as a pecked line running along the backs of the houses on Garden Row. The Corporation rental of 1812 refers to 'the Cabbins and wastes situate near Walkins Gate commonly called the Sconce' (RSAI Mss), and this may have extended both north and south of the gate (Hogan's map, 1861).

### DESCRIPTION

No standing remains. The precise line of the wall is unknown, but is likely to approximate to the west side of Garden Row, but a few metres further west. The OS plan implies that the back walls of the houses were built along the line of the wall, with the houses inside the walls and the back yards outside. Excavations in 1989, carried out in advance of development, revealed the foundation courses of the wall, which were formed of three courses of rubble on redeposited boulder clay, and dated the garden terrace to the 18th/19th century (*Excavations Ireland 1989* [1989:062]). Further excavations in 1991 did not locate the wall (*Excavations Ireland 1991* [1991:080]).

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Hightown have archaeological potential and would be significant in relation to the other surviving parts of the defences.

### CONDITION

The condition of any buried remains is unknown.

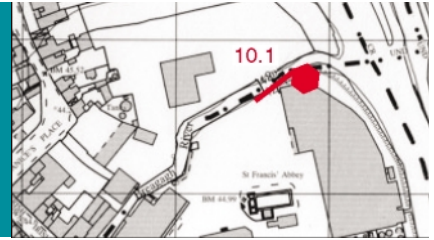
### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Buried remains of the wall are vulnerable to ground disturbance. The course of the wall could be lost in development.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Surveys or investigations to determine the extent of any buried remains of the defences in this area. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]
- Future development to respect the line of the wall. [Policy 18]
- Marking out or signalling site of lost structures. [Policy 20]

## 10.17 WALKIN'S GATE (LOST)



### SUMMARY

Lost gate on west wall, across Friary Street (formerly Walkin Street).

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The earliest mention of a gate is in a 1305 deed for a house near *Walkelin's Barre* (Watters 1873, 532). In 1384, Martin Towker was named as the keeper of the murage of the gate of *Walkynnesbarr* (LPK 44). The keeper of the *Walkyng gate*, Henry Dullard, paid 3s/4d in 1498, while Robert Felan paid 3s/8d in 1499. In 1500, it was, with other gates, 'new made and repaired' by the Sovereign John Archer. The rent paid by Walter Tobyne in 1507 went up to 4s (LPK 76, 78, 82 & 95). In 1594, the tower and castle at Walking Gate were leased to Robert Rothe at 8d *per annum* (Corporation Archives CR/I/28). The 1596 rental included the upper room over Walking Gate (Thomas 1992). The road at Walkin Gate was paved in 1602 (Corporation Archives CR/I/33). In 1628, the room over the gate was rented by David Rothe for 8d (Hogan 1859). In 1683, there was a lease of waste ground north of the gatehouse called Walkin gate (Corporation Archives CR/I/83). In 1692, there was a lease of a whole length of city wall 'from St Patricks gate to St Patricks Tower, with the said tower and the wall from thence to Myles Tower and the wall from thence to Walkins Gate with the castle over the gate, lying and being in the west sided of the city'. This was the remainder of a 1681 lease that had been entered for non-payment (Corporation Archives CR I/90; petition at CR/K/83).

The gate was still standing on Rocque's 1758 map, but by 1788 the lease of an adjoining property implies that it had been demolished. The foundations of the gate were still visible on one side in the mid 19th century (Hogan 1859, 470). The Corporation rental of 1812 refers to 'the Cabbins and wastes situate near Walkins Gate commonly called the Sconce' (RSAI Mss). This may have extended both north and south of the gate (Hogan's map, 1861).

### DESCRIPTION

Built across the Friary Street. No physical remains survive, but the historical sources imply that there was at least a tower with one upper storey.

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

The buried remains of the gate, if surviving, would be significant in determining

the date and form of the defences. This was an important gate, as it was situated on the Cork Road leading into the city (Birthistle 1966, 6).

## CONDITION

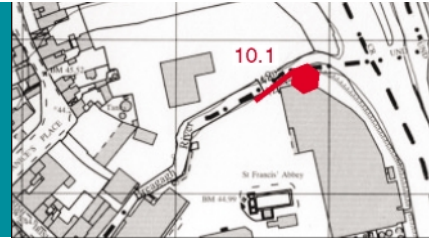
## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

The condition of any buried remains is uncertain. They would be vulnerable to the excavation of service trenches in the road and even to works in adjacent properties.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey or investigation to determine extent of any remains. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. (The site of the gate should be noted in mapping of services, with appropriate archaeological watching briefs undertaken in works on the road or services.) [Policy 6, 7, 15]
- Marking out or signalling of lost features in roadway. [Policy 20]

## 10.18 LOST WALL ON PENNYFEATHER LANE



### SUMMARY

Lost wall between Walkin Street and the Ormonde Hotel, partly on line of Pennyfeather Lane.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this section would have been part of the main circuit. The whole of this length of wall was shown as standing on Rocque's 1758 map, but the northern end of this length had gone by the OS 1841 map. The Corporation rental of 1812 refers to 'the Cabbins and wastes situate near Walkins Gate commonly called the Sconce' (RSAI Mss); this may have extended both north and south of the gate (Hogan's map, 1861). It certainly included this part, since the lane shown here in 1841 were named 'Wallkins Gate Sconce', while the buildings along the lane had presumably removed the wall.

### DESCRIPTION

No standing remains. The southern area of this length of wall was partly investigated during excavations prior to the construction of the shopping centre. Some 18 cuttings were made, with three providing information regarding the city wall. Cutting XI was excavated to investigate the line of the city wall. To summarise the results, natural boulder clay was revealed at 70cm below the modern surface. Surviving foundations of the wall were inserted some 20cm into the boulder clay. These consisted of a mortar bed approximately 1m in width into which small, fist-sized stones were imbedded. Larger stones were also present, with their long axis set perpendicular to the line of the wall. The mortar foundation was quite sparse in some places, suggesting that the wall had been deliberately and comprehensively dismantled (Bradley and King 1992, 979; *Excavations Ireland 1990* [1990:078]).

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Hightown have archaeological potential and would be significant in relation to the other surviving parts of the defences.

### CONDITION

The condition of any buried remains is unknown, except where excavated, and

have partly been built over.

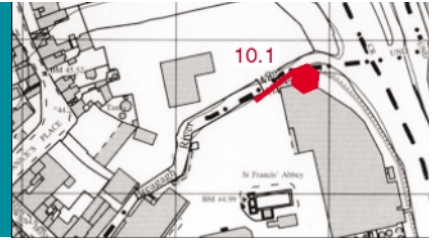
### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Buried remains of the wall are vulnerable to ground disturbance. The course of the wall could be lost in development, as it already has been for the house in Pennyfeather Lane across the line of the wall.

### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Surveys or investigations to determine the extent of any buried remains of the defences in this area. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]
- Future development to respect the line of the wall. [Policy 18]
- Marking out or signalling site of lost structures. [Policy 20]

## 10.19 WALL NEXT TO ORMONDE HOTEL



### SUMMARY

A length of wall, part standing and part lost, behind the Ormonde Hotel (Nos 29-32 Patrick Street).

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Part of the main western wall, built by c. 1300. The whole of this length of wall was shown as standing on Rocque's 1758 map. This section remained on the 1841 and subsequent OS maps, the northern end being marked as 'City Wall' since 1871. That section of wall behind Nos 30-32 Patrick Street, still marked as such on the modern large-scale OS plans, has recently been lost in the construction of the new housing/Ormonde Hotel perimeter fence, while the remaining part (and the Myles Tower, Section 10.20) survives on the western boundary of the hotel. The existing structure may be shown on the OS 1841 manuscript plan, as a walled-off area at the end of the garden of 29 Patrick Street. This is more clearly depicted on the OS 1871 manuscript and printed version, and may have been a garden house with an accessible roof terrace (see Myles Tower, Section 10.20).

A trial excavation took place prior to the construction of the shopping centre. Some 18 cuttings were made, two of which examined the foundations of part of the standing wall. One cutting was located immediately inside the city wall and indicated that the wall was built directly onto subsoil which was only 30cm below the present ground surface.

The second cutting was located directly outside the wall and revealed that the wall had been built on a sloping stone plinth resting on a mortared base which was in turn resting on an unmortared wall about 70cm in height. Due to site constraints, this could not be further examined, although an additional mortared rubble wall was revealed on a westerly alignment at right angles to the city wall. The masonry in this wall was similar to that of the city wall and was also built onto sub soil, suggesting that the two walls may be contemporary (Bradley and King 1992, 977).

Further trial excavations with nine trenches were undertaken in 1997, and found a ditch with 17th/18th-century pottery, possibly related to the City Wall. (*Excavations Ireland 1997* [1997:305]).

### DESCRIPTION

(see Figure 7. Also Figure 8, page xx)

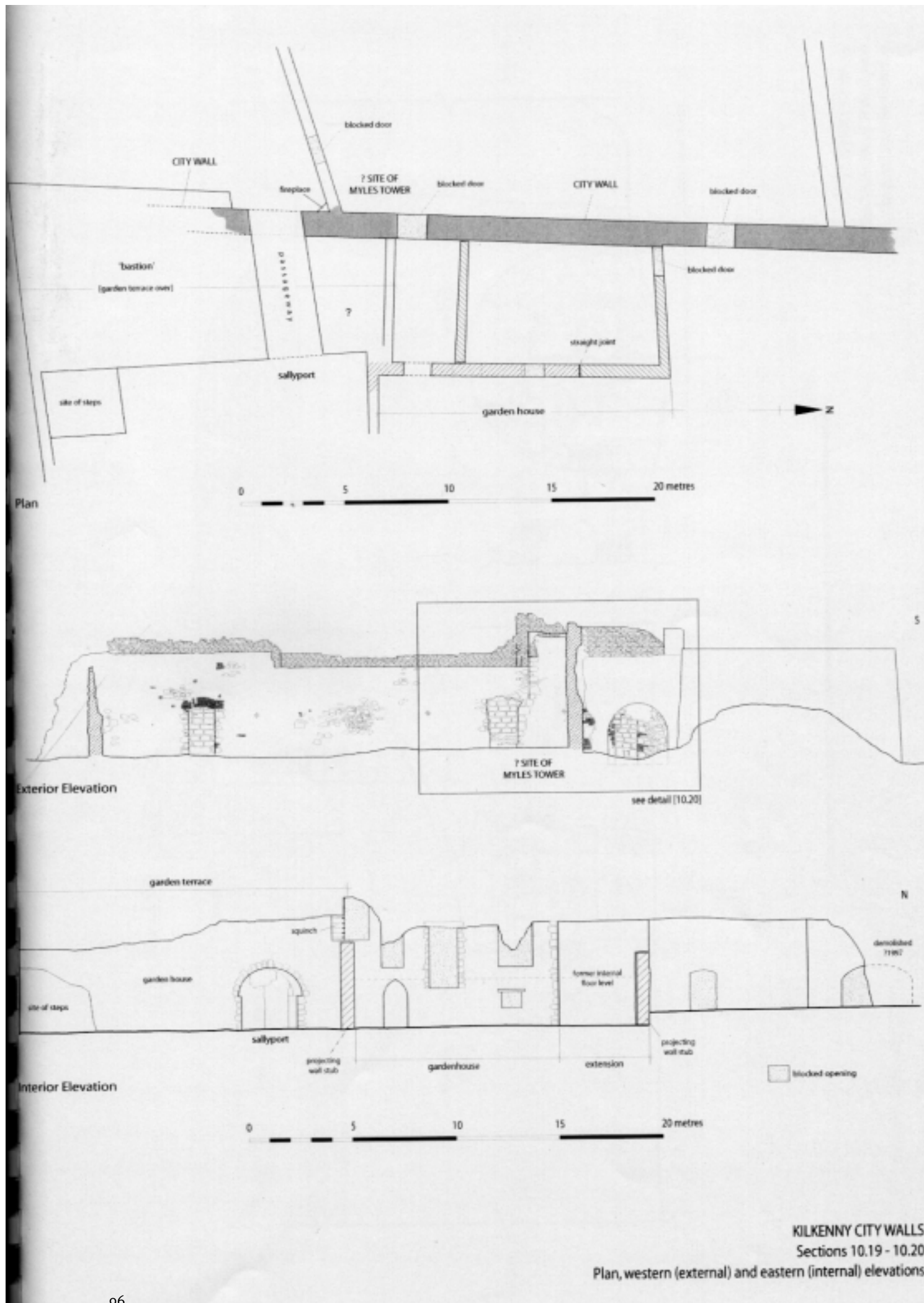


Figure 7: Wall next to Ormonde Hotel and Myles Tower. Plan, western (external) and eastern (internal) elevations



Lost length of c. 8m at north end (approximately on line of metal fencing). Wall to south of this is 49m in length and includes the remains of Myles Tower (Section 10.20). The wall is 4m high and 1.7m wide. The upper courses may not be original. It is pierced by two doors of modern origin, both of which are now disused. A structure (probably a former garden house) is built up against it, with several doors and windows of 18th or 19th-century date. A portion of the wall (then behind the Kilkenny Journal Office) was damaged during a storm in 1947 and a concrete wall was erected in its place (Bradley 1976, 213). The west side of the wall, at No. 6 Lower New Street, has been the subject of a detailed archaeological survey which concluded that the wall had 'undergone several phases of modification and considerable rebuilding and/or refacing in the course of its history, most likely during the 17th century and later' (Figure 8, OA report to Judith Carroll & Co. Ltd, 2001).

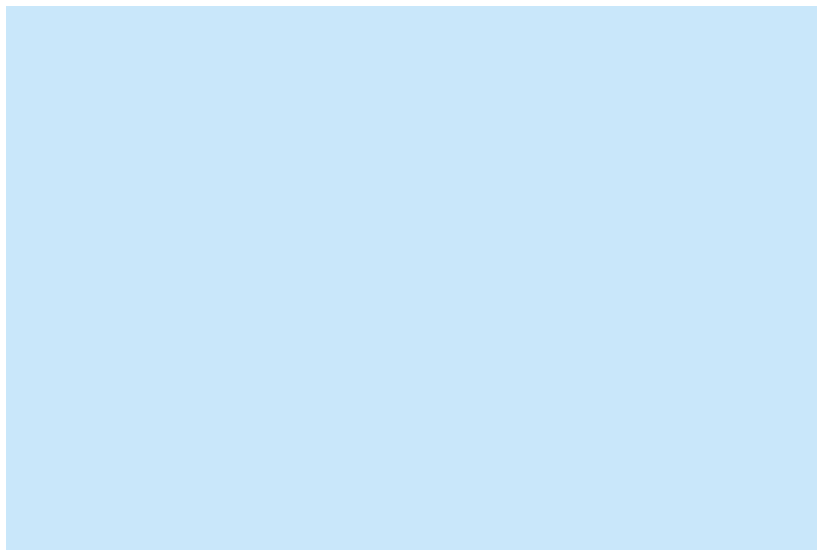


Plate 10: A length of wall, part standing and part lost, behind the Ormonde Hotel (Nos 29-32 Patrick Street)

## STATUS

Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The wall is recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 14/304] as being of National Importance. The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure. The wall is subject to a Temporary Preservation Order (No. TPO 4/97).

## SIGNIFICANCE

This is an important surviving part of the defences, visible from public areas, and surviving in association with Myles Tower (Section 10.20).

## CONDITION

The condition of the masonry is poor to fair, but the buildings against the wall are part ruinous, with sycamore trees growing inside them. A concrete walkway and platform have been constructed inside the wall as the base for the hotel's water tank.

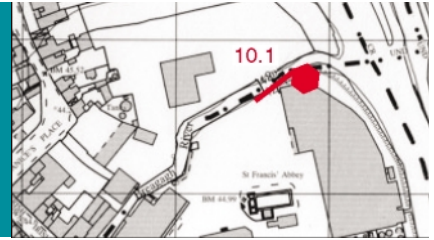
## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Although this length is now reasonably secure from damage from any further development, it has been left rather isolated by the hotel's service entrance ramp, and is compromised by the disturbance to the monument and its setting from the concrete raft. The lost opportunity to present an historic feature within the hotel development could in part be recovered by improved access, which would in part be provided by use of the concrete ramp. There is scope for further investigation of the structures on the east side of the wall, and consideration of both this and Myles Tower.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Detailed survey and analysis of surviving fabric. Investigation of adjacent structures. [Policy 14]
- Careful maintenance of vegetation and removal of unsuitable woody species (ivy, sycamore, elder). [Policy 9]
- Monitoring of condition of fabric survey to determine any need for repairs. [Policy 11]
- Improved access with path and steps. [Policy 16]
- Improve setting by removal of water tank. [Policy 17]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 15]

## 10.20 MYLES TOWER



### SUMMARY

The existing 'tower' (Plate 11) is probably a post-medieval garden house or gazebo, built inside and over a standing portion of the town walls and adjacent to the former Myles Tower at No. 28 Patrick Street.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this section would have been part of the main circuit. On the west side of Kilkenny, it appears that there were towers in each length of wall mid-way between the gates, of which this is the third. The tower is shown on Rocque's 1758 map at the south-west corner of a garden, next to a garden building. It is not shown on the OS 1841 manuscript plan, at which time there was a long external building against the wall at this point. Internally, in the garden of No. 28 Patrick Street, there was a square internal structure in the north-west corner in 1841, marked 'Tower' and 'R' (?roofed), and another structure adjacent to it in the south-west corner, with a narrow extension along the south wall. None of these is coloured pink for a building (Bradley 2000c, Map 2, where they are coloured, but distinguished from each other). On the OS 1871 manuscript and printed versions, the building is shown as one, and all coloured pink, with the steps in the south-west corner clearly depicted.

That this was known at Myles Tower is evident from a 1692 lease of a whole length of city wall 'from St Patricks gate to St Patricks Tower [*i.e.* Talbot's Castle], with the said tower and the wall from thence to Myles Tower and the wall from thence to Walkins Gate...'. This was the remainder of a 1681 lease that had been entered for non-payment (Corporation Archives CR 1/90; petition at CR/K/83).

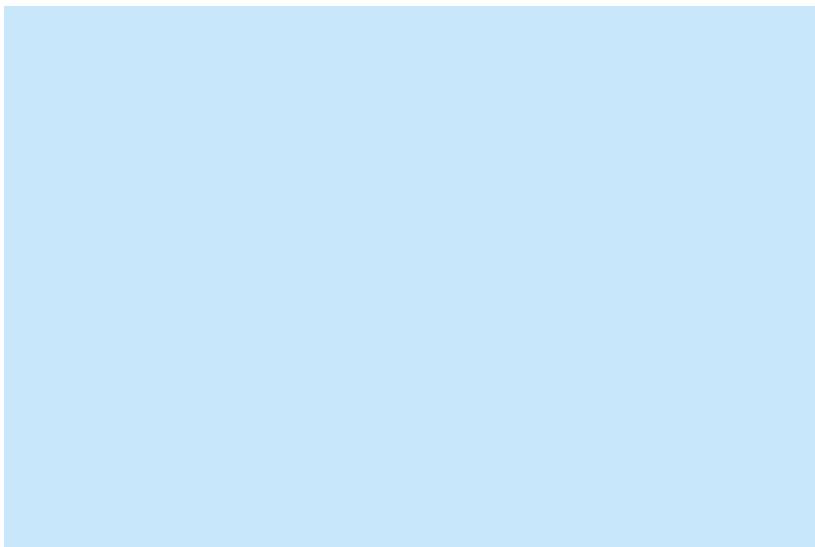
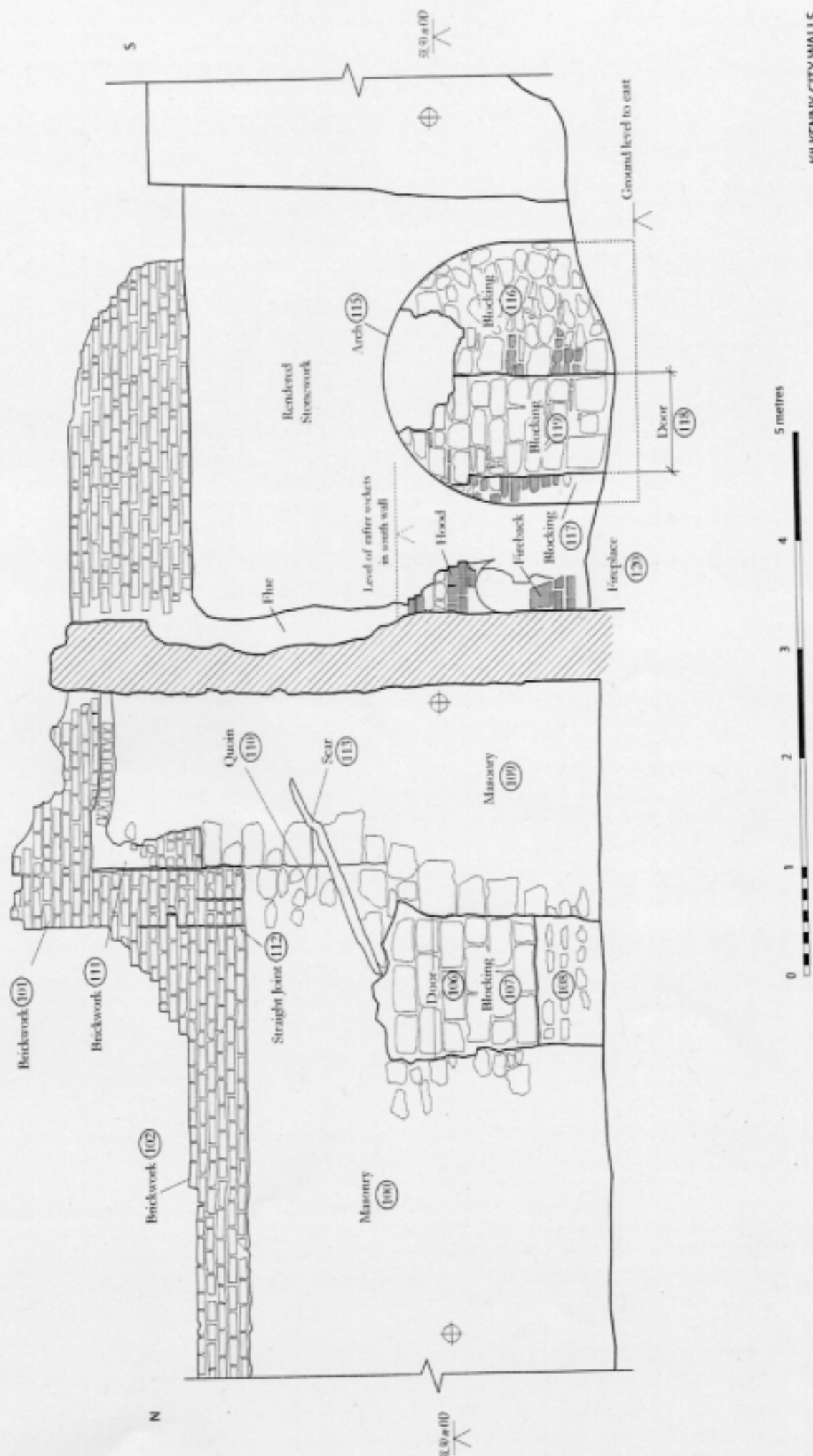


Plate 11: The garden terrace and passage in the postern gate at the site of Myles Tower (May 2001)

## DESCRIPTION

(see Figure 8)

The present remains lie entirely inside the line of the wall. They consist of a rectangular structure measuring 5m in height, 13m in length and 6m in depth, and are continuous with the internal structures previously described (10.19 on Figure 8). At the north side of this is a passage leading to a postern or sallyport. The structure is solid, *i.e.* earth-filled for its whole length (*i.e.* it continues over the passage on the north side). At the south-west corner are some steps, recently part demolished, which gave access to the top of the structure. At the much overgrown upper level, there is a parapet on three sides. The west wall (and south-west corner) have been rebuilt and there is no scar for the continuation of the wall southwards. At the west end of the passage, the opening had been blocked and a cottage or shed built against it, with a fireplace in the corner just north of the door. The evidence of the surviving fabric and the historic maps seem to indicate that the Myles Tower has been lost (and any remains of it must lie to the west of the wall), and that the existing part is the substantial remains of a garden terrace of gazebo, probably of 18th-century date, and the same as that shown on Rocque's map.



KILKENNY CITY WALLS  
Section 10.20: Site of Myles Tower  
Western (external) elevation

Survey: OAU September 2001

Figure 8: Site of Myles Tower. Western (external) elevation

## STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The wall is recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 14/304] as being of National Importance. The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure. The garden terrace/gazebo is not so shown.

## SIGNIFICANCE

This is an important surviving part of the defences, visible from public areas, and surviving in association with the adjacent length of wall (10.19 on Figure 8). The interpretation of the standing remains as a garden feature is of special significance for demonstrating a typical use to which urban defences were put.

## CONDITION

The condition of the masonry is poor to fair, but the staircase against the wall has been part demolished. A concrete walkway and platform have been constructed inside the wall as the base for the hotel's water tank.

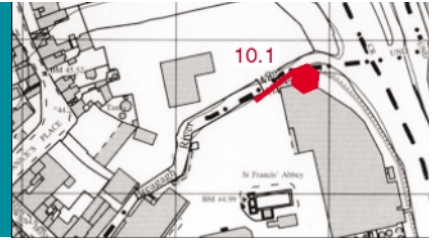
## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

The status of the entire structure of the wall and associated garden buildings should be clearly recognised. This length is now reasonably secure from damage from any further development, although it has been left rather isolated by the hotel's service entrance ramp, and compromised by the disturbance to the monument and its setting from the concrete raft. The lost opportunity to present an historic feature within the hotel development could in part be recovered by improved access, which would in part be provided by use of the concrete ramp, and the rebuilding of the part-demolished steps. There is scope for further investigation of the structures on both sides of the wall.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Detailed survey and analysis of surviving fabric. Investigation of adjacent structures. [Policy 14]
- Careful maintenance of vegetation and removal of unsuitable woody species (ivy, sycamore, elder). [Policy 9]
- Monitoring of condition of fabric survey to determine any need for repairs. [Policy 11]
- Improved access with path and steps. [Policy 16]
- Rebuilding of steps to upper terrace/gazebo. [Policy 18]
- Improve setting by removal of water tank. [Policy 17]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 15]

## 10.21 LOST WALL AND TOWER



### SUMMARY

Lost wall between Myles Tower and Ormonde College.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this section would have been part of the main circuit. The whole of this length of wall was shown as standing on Rocque's 1758 map, but without any external towers. Part of this length had gone by the OS 1841 map, but the then existing stretch at the end of the garden of Nos 20-21 Patrick Street had a structure marked 'Tower' on the manuscript plan (as reproduced in Bradley 2000c, Map 2), with a long adjacent part along the wall just like the raised garden terrace described above, and with steps (but not marked in pink for a building).

### DESCRIPTION

(see Figure 9, page XX)

The structures shown on 19th-century mapping probably survive almost complete in the grounds of Ormonde College (in which the garden of Nos 20-21 Patrick Street has been incorporated). The 'tower' is an opening with blocked gateway (behind the garage of Orchard Cottage). The terrace to the south is represented by a double wall (over 5 m thick) added on the inside of the city wall and fronted by a row of niches tall enough to hold statues.

Excavations in 1991 behind the New Street frontage encountered a ditch of modest proportions running parallel to the road, with a single fill of probable post-medieval date, and so possibly constructed in the 1650s (*Excavations Ireland 1991* [1991:082]).

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). This feature is not recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 14], but the City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

This is an instructive surviving part of the defences in the grounds of a public building. The interpretation of the standing remains as a garden feature is of special significance for demonstrating a typical use to which urban defences were put.

## CONDITION

The condition of the masonry is reasonable, though the structure is difficult to access from either side.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

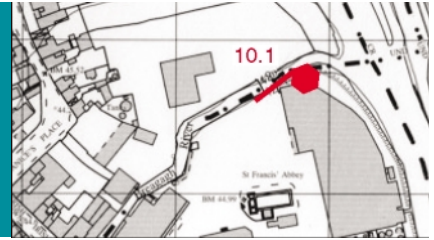
The status of the entire structure of the wall and associated garden buildings should be clearly recognised. The location within the grounds of Ormonde College is secure, but the treatment of this wall will have to be considered should the nearby classroom buildings be removed. There is scope for further investigation of the structures on both sides of the wall.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Detailed survey and analysis of surviving fabric. Investigation of adjacent structures. [Policy 14]
- Careful maintenance of vegetation, and removal of unsuitable woody species (ivy, sycamore, elder). [Policy 9]
- Monitoring of condition of fabric survey to determine any need for repairs. [Policy 11]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 15]
- Presentation of this part of the wall in association with Talbot's Castle. [Policies 17, 20]



## 1022 WALL NORTH OF TALBOT'S CASTLE



### SUMMARY

Surviving length of wall to the north of Talbot's Castle.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this section would have been part of the main circuit. The whole of this length of wall was shown as standing on Rocque's 1758 map, as well as on the OS 1841 map which shows gardens or open space on both sides. In 1853, the National Model School in Ormonde Road was built facing Ormonde Road, with the whole of this length of wall within its grounds (as shown on the OS 1871 plan). A long structure or shed was built against part of it.

### DESCRIPTION

(see Figure 9, page xx)

The wall, which is either overgrown (on both sides) or has a building against it (east side) with painted or rendered walls, is not easily examined, but stands to a height of over 5m.

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). This feature is not recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 14], but the City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

This is an instructive surviving part of the defences. In the grounds of a public building, it is important in linking the previous element to Talbot's Castle.

### CONDITION

The condition of the masonry is reasonable, though the structure is difficult to assess.

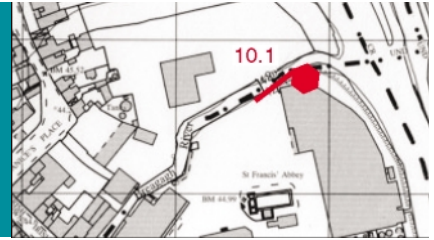
### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

The status of the entire structure of the wall and associated garden buildings should be clearly recognised. The location within the grounds of Ormonde College is secure, but the treatment of this wall will have to be considered should the lean-to shed be removed. There is scope for further investigation of the wall on both sides.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Detailed survey and analysis of surviving fabric. Investigation of adjacent structures. [Policy 14]
- Careful maintenance of vegetation, and removal of unsuitable woody species (ivy, sycamore, elder). [Policy 9]
- Monitoring of condition of fabric survey to determine any need for repairs. [Policy 11]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 15]
- Presentation of this part of the wall in association with Talbot's Castle. [Policy 17, 20]

## 10.23 TALBOT'S CASTLE



### SUMMARY

Talbot's Castle forms the south-western corner of the Hightown defended circuit and represents the only surviving complete defensive tower of the city wall circuit. The architectural style of the tower and form of the three surviving embrasures suggest a construction date of the late 13th or early 14th century.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this corner would have been part of the main circuit. This part of the walls was shown standing entire on Rocque's 1758 map (and just inside the 'New Street' on the west of the tower). By the time of the OS 1841 map, the new Ormonde Road had been cut through the walls just to the east of the tower. The name Talbot's Castle (or Tower, or Bastion) is of modern origin and reflects the false ascription of the building of the town walls to Robert Talbot (c. 1400). In the 19th century, the tower was known as Wattle's Bastion, and was named on the OS 1841 plan as 'Watch Tower'. From a lease in 1692 of a whole length of city wall, it is evident that this must have been called Patrick's Tower, since the description runs: 'from St Patricks gate to St Patricks Tower, with the said tower and the wall from thence to Myles Tower and the wall from thence to Walkins Gate...'. This was the remainder of a 1681 lease which had been entered for non-payment (Corporation Archives CR 1/90; petition at CR/K/83).

### DESCRIPTION

(see Figure 9)

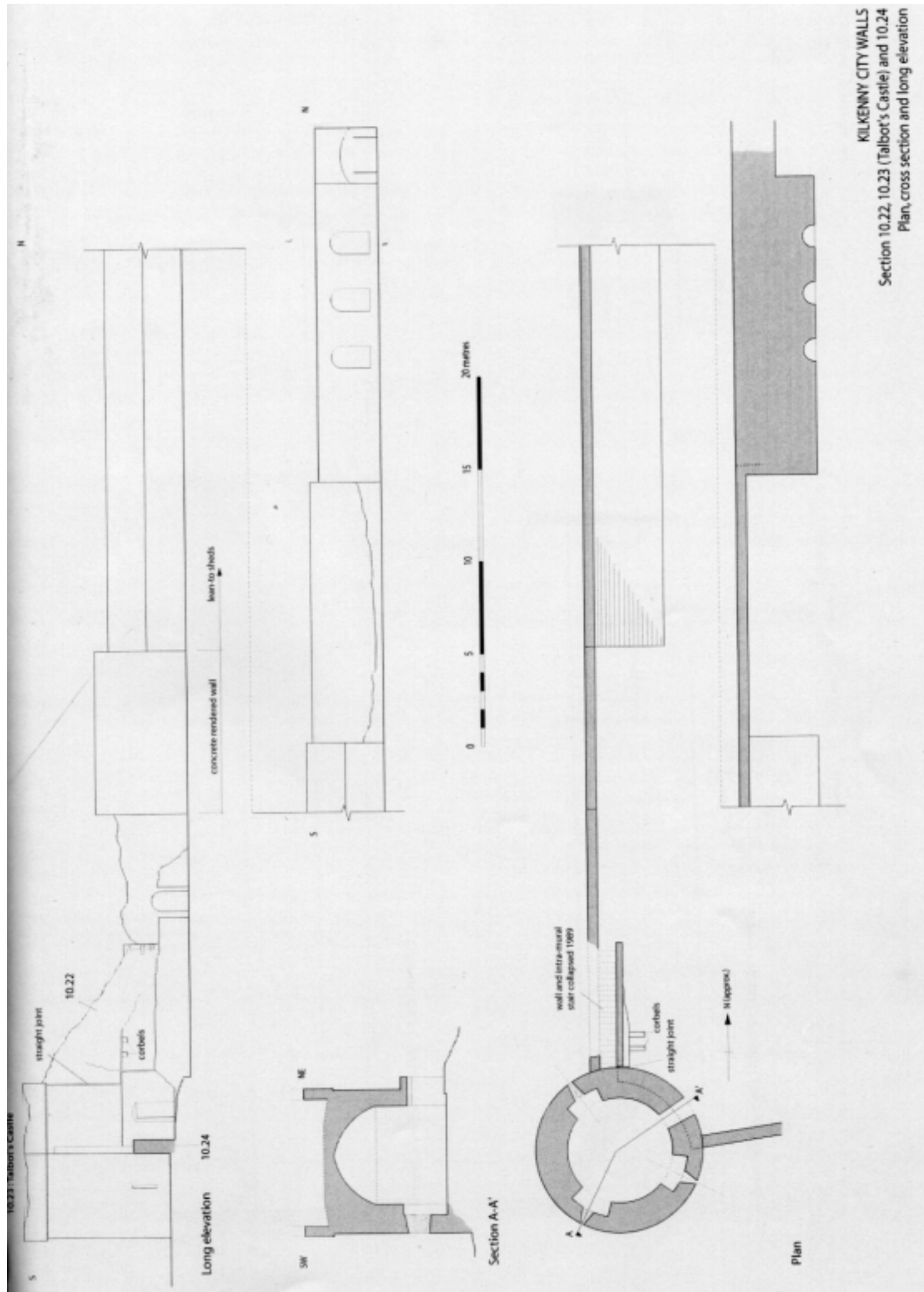


Figure 9: Wall and Talbot's Castle. Plan, cross-section and long elevation

The tower is located in the angle of Ormonde Road and Lower New Street. It formed the south-west angle of the city's defensive wall, which returns east at an acute angle. Talbot's Castle represents the most complete defensive feature of the city circuit, comprising a circular tower standing to a maximum height of 9.7m, 5.58m in diameter internally, with walls 1.65m thick. There is open space east and west of the tower, while to the south, the tower is abutted by the back yards of three houses (Nos 12-14 Ormonde Road), which date from c. 1860, unless they are the buildings that were present in 1841.

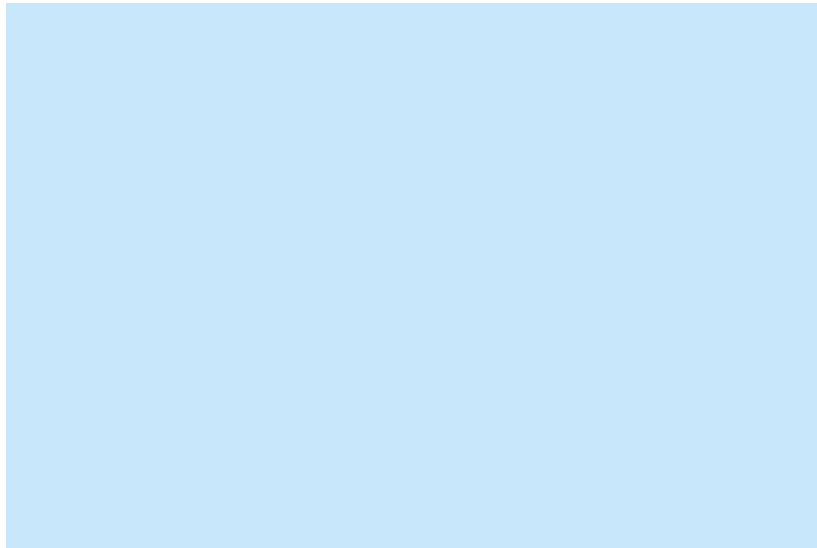


Plate 12: Talbot's Castle from the south-west (May 2001)

Access to the ground floor is through a single doorway with segmental head on the north-east side. Above the level of the doorway, that section of the tower wall within the city circuit (the NE quadrant) is reduced in width forming a 0.75m offset. The level of this offset relates to two surviving corbels within section 10.26 (Figure 9), presumably reflecting the level of an original internal wall walk, which was thus carried round the exterior of the tower between the west and the south curtains.

Internally, the ground floor of the structure is a tall, vaulted space (some 6.8m to the apex of its pointed dome). A series of 24 evenly-spaced slots, 3.4m above the cobbled floor surface, probably represent housings for timber centering related to the construction of the vault. The soffit of the vault bears the impressions of wickerwork in its mortar. The room is furnished with three embrasures with arrow loops, two of which have been partially blocked in brick. The embrasures are 1.75m wide, 2.65m tall and 0.70m deep, with dressed limestone quoins and two-centred arched heads. The surviving open loop is 1.15m tall x 0.18m wide at the external wall face. The loop is of cruciform shape, widening slightly to 0.22m in the centre.

The upper level of the tower was formerly accessed via an intra-mural stairway on the western curtain wall which almost entirely collapsed in 1989. The stair was protected by a parapet wall, but the upper part of the flight was built on an arch to reach the top of the tower. From the collapsed remains, it is not entirely clear whether this was the original arrangement or, as seems most likely,

a post-medieval repair (there is no trace of bonding in the masonry below the 'bridge abutment'). The upper level of the tower is marked by a slight projection for the parapet, with water outlet holes visible externally at a height of c. 7.0m above the ground floor level. There is a low parapet but no surviving crenellations. A small excavation carried out on top of the tower in 1990 revealed a cobbled surface below a mound of earth (*Excavations Ireland 1990* [1990:079]).

## STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The wall is recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 14/285] as being of National Importance. The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure. The west wall beyond the steps is not so shown. The Ormonde Road houses are listed as being of 'Record Only' interest and are dated to c. 1860 [Map 14/90-92].

## SIGNIFICANCE

This is the most important surviving part of the defences. It is visible on both sides from public space and survives in association with adjacent lengths of wall. The tower has a degree of sophistication in its construction, geometry and functional planning that makes it more impressive than might at first appear.

## CONDITION

The condition of the tower masonry is reasonable, but the collapsed stair is evidence that the south end of the western curtain wall is not altogether sound. There is abundant plant growth, both of ivy on the walls, and shrubs nearby and on top of the tower (e.g. elder and sycamore). While the inside of the walls is accessible in Ormonde College and the west side can be seen across an open space, the south side is encroached upon by the yards of Nos 12-14 Ormonde Road.

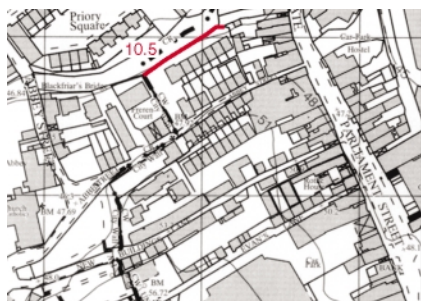
## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

The status of the entire structure of the tower and associated curtains should be clearly recognised. The tower, while not obviously unsafe, is clearly at risk of further damage and needs a certain degree of repair to make good recent collapsed elements. Other works, like remaking the internal link between the wall-walks, could enhance access and understanding of the monument. There needs to be some control of plant growth without reducing altogether the botanical interest of wall plants, ensuring that the monument is not further diminished by the action of tree and ivy roots. The houses in Ormonde Road are not an inappropriate adjunct to an urban fortification, but opportunities might be sought to modify their impact on the fabric.

Talbot's Castle is the most impressive single component of the defences of Kilkenny. Its presentation to the public and visitors is the key to the physical and intellectual accessibility of the whole monument. There is scope for further investigation of the structure and its associated remains.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Detailed survey and analysis of surviving fabric. Investigation of relationship to adjacent structures. [Policy 14]
- Careful maintenance of vegetation, and removal of unsuitable woody species (ivy, sycamore, elder). [Policy 9]
- Establishment of maintenance regime. [Policy 11]
- Monitoring of condition of fabric survey to determine any need for repairs. [Policy 11]
- Careful recovery and investigation of collapsed fabric. [Policy 12]
- Rebuilding of steps to top of tower, and consideration to re-creation of wall-walk. [Policy 15]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 15]
- Consideration of best means of presenting the site (external and internal access, opening vistas and spaces, information and display) as a key element of the Kilkenny defences, and in relation to adjacent wall sections. [Policies 19, 20]



## 1024 WALL EAST OF TALBOT'S CASTLE

### SUMMARY

The curtain wall east of Talbot's Castle is an important part of its context.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this corner would have been part of the main circuit. This part of the walls was shown standing entire on Rocque's 1758 map. By the time of the OS 1841 map the new Ormonde Road had been cut through the walls just to the east of the tower. The engraving of Talbot's Castle in 1791 by Francis Grose indicates a doorway within this section of wall.

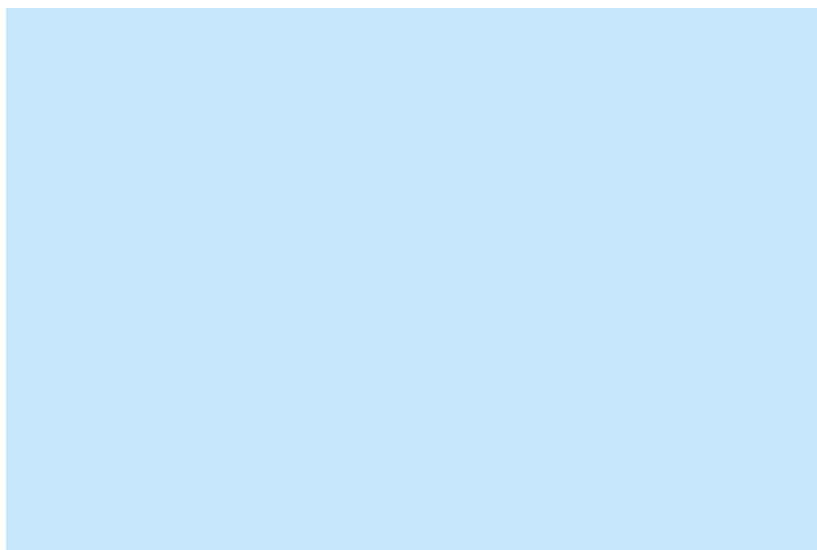


Plate 13: Grose's drawing of 'Bastion in Kilkenny' from an engraving in his *Antiquities of Ireland*, 1791

### DESCRIPTION

The surviving section of wall measures a maximum of 27m and is aligned SW-NE. It survives to a height of c. 2m for much of its length and reaches a maximum of 2.70m at its SW limit where it adjoins Talbot's Castle. The lower sections of the wall are obscured by earthwork landscaping, though this may possibly be some part of the original rampart.

The character of the masonry - fairly regular, sub-rectangular grey limestone blocks - is distinct from sections of original walling, leading Bradley (1976, 212) to suggest that this wall has been extensively rebuilt. Such a conclusion is



supported by the absence now of the doorway indicated in the late 18th-century engraving.

## STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The wall is recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 14/285] as being of National Importance. The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

## SIGNIFICANCE

This is an important part of the defences: in providing a context for Talbot's Castle; for the indications of an earthen rampart; and for being seen on both sides from public areas.

## CONDITION

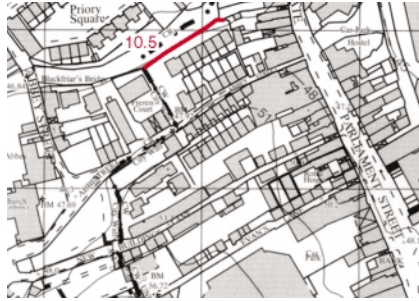
The condition of the masonry is reasonable, with a certain amount of plant growth. Nearby vegetation has been cut back.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

The wall presents an opportunity to express the presence of the defences on Ormonde Road and lead into the Talbot Castle monument (Section 10.23).

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Detailed survey and analysis of surviving fabric. Investigation of relationship to Talbot's Castle. [Policy 14]
- Careful maintenance of vegetation, and removal of unsuitable woody species (ivy sycamore, elder). [Policy 9]
- Monitoring of condition of fabric survey to determine any need for repairs. [Policy 11]
- Establishment of maintenance regime. [Policy 11]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 15]
- Consideration of best means of presenting the site (external and internal access, opening vistas and spaces, information and display) as a key element of the Kilkenny defences. [Policy 19, 20]



## 10.25 LOST WALL AT ORMONDE ROAD

### SUMMARY

The eastward continuation of the southern city wall was lost in 1836 at the time of the construction of Ormonde Road but has recently been marked out in the new development.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this corner would have been part of the main circuit. This part of the walls was shown standing entire on Rocque's 1758 map, taking a direct line from Talbot's Castle to St Patrick's Gate. By the time of the OS 1841 plan, the new Ormonde Road had been cut through the walls (in 1836) at an oblique angle, thus removing a length of wall. The OS 1841 plan marked some of the line of the wall as forming the south wall of buildings on the west side of Patrick Street, but part had already been lost.

### DESCRIPTION

A terrace of recently-built houses runs at an angle to the southern side of Ormonde Road (Plate 14). An area of distinct paving grey limestone pavements in front of these buildings reflects the projected line of the wall. However, there is at present no attempt to explain the association.

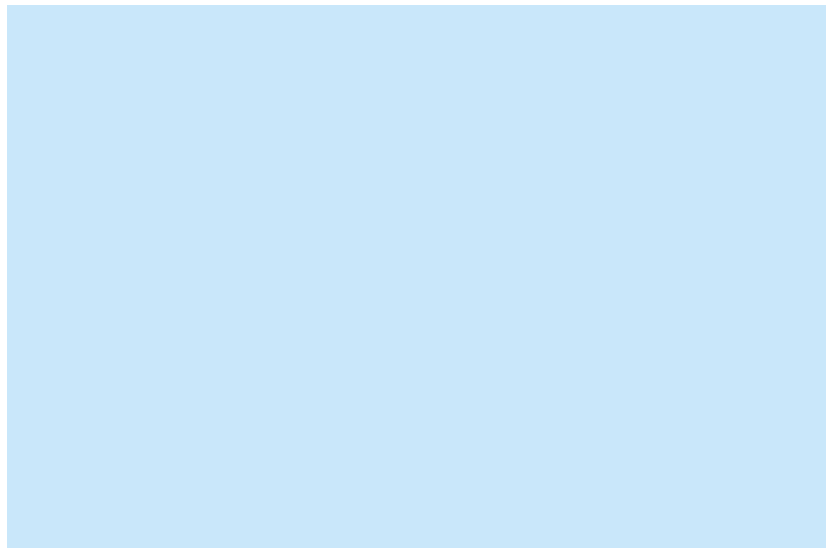


Plate 14: Line of City Wall delineated in grey stone pavements, Ormonde Road (May 2001)

In 1992, an excavation of test trenches in Cleere's Factory prior to development revealed the lower portion of the wall (with barter) and an external ditch up to

4m wide and 1.6m deep (*Excavations Ireland 1992* [1992:116]). Further test excavations nearby in 1996 did not reveal any more information on the defences (*Excavations Ireland 1996* [1996:214]).

## STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Hightown have archaeological potential and would be significant in relation to the other surviving parts of the defences.

## CONDITION

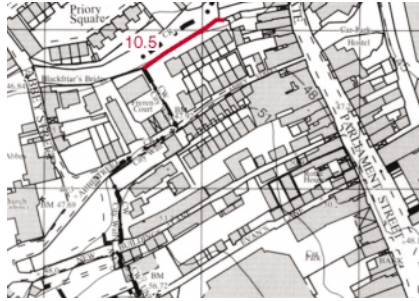
The condition of any surviving buried remains is unknown. They have been partly built over.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

This is a good instance of how the course of the walls can be respected and modestly celebrated in a new development. Buried remains of the wall are vulnerable to ground disturbance.

## POLICY/RECOMMENDATION

- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]



## 1026 ST PATRICK'S GATE

### SUMMARY

St Patrick's Gate, situated between Upper and Lower St Patrick's Street, was one of the last gates to be removed.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this gate was one of two on the southern sector of the main circuit. In 1384, John Vale was listed as the keeper of the murage of St Patrick's Gate (LPK 44), and in 1498-99, Patrick Costallowe held the gate, paying 3s/4d (LPK, 76, 78). In 1500 the Sovereign John Archer had this and other gates 'new made and repaired' (LPK, 82), and by 1507-08, the rent had increased to 4s for the keeper, Patrick Nolan (LPK, 95). The 1596 town rental includes the upper room over St Patrick's Gate (Thomas 1992). In 1626, the town leased it to Richard Rothe for ever 'in consideration of the building of the castle over St Patrick's gate ... and erecting of two Corbell towers upon the walls of the said castle for defence of that part of the city walls'. The rent was 10s, with access for the Watch in time of danger, and to be kept in repair (Watters 1874, 217). It survived until c. 1895, being 'removed by the late Mr Cleere', who had it photographed before demolition (Birthingistle 1966, 5; Bradley 1975, 102). Since demolition, the site has been used occasionally for the erection of temporary gates to celebrate special occasions.

### DESCRIPTION

Judging from the photograph (Plate 15), the gate had a wide gate placed off-centre, and two storeys above with a gabled roof containing an chimney stack. While this may have contained medieval fabric, it certainly has more the appearance of a 17th-century domestic building, though it no longer retained evidence of the 'corbel towers'.



Plate 15: St Patrick's Gate, C. 1895

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

The buried remains of the gate, if surviving, would be significant in determining the date and form of the defences. This was an important gate on the southern exit from the city.

### CONDITION

The condition of any buried remains is uncertain.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Buried remains would be vulnerable to the excavation of service trenches in the road, and even to works in adjacent properties.

### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey and investigation to determine the extent of any remains. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. (The site of the gate should be noted in mapping of services, with appropriate archaeological watching briefs undertaken in works on the road or services.) [Policies 11, 12, 15]
- Marking out or signalling of lost features in the roadway. [Policy 20]



## 1027 BUTLER HOUSE GARDENS

### SUMMARY

The course of the wall through the gardens of Butler House has been lost but may well survive below ground.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this section was part of the southern sector of the main circuit, passing in a straight line between Talbot's Castle and Kilkenny Castle. Although marked thus on Rocque's 1758 map, the course of the wall had been lost in the building of Butler House in 1786. The OS 1841 manuscript plan shows the supposed line of the wall crossing the garden at an angle towards the south-west corner of the castle stables. The discovery of the following section of surviving fabric (Section 10.28, Kilkenny Design Centre) proves the alignment to have been otherwise.

### DESCRIPTION

The wall went in a straight line from St Patrick's Gate to the next surviving section (Section 10.28, Kilkenny Design Centre), demonstrating that the southern walls of the city were planned as a direct line irrespective of other features (except perhaps for the castle). Although no visible remains of the wall exists within the gardens, the level of the lawn in relation to the exposed section of wall adjacent to the Kilkenny Design Centre, where standing walling survives at a depth of c. 1m below the surface of the garden, suggests that there is a high probability of buried remains.



Plate 16: Rear elevation of Butler House and Gardens from the west (May 2001)

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Any buried remains of the wall would be significant in determining the date and form of the defences. The sector is especially significant for the potential survival of remains relatively undisturbed by other building activities in recent centuries.

### CONDITION

The condition of any buried remains is uncertain.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Buried remains are likely to be safe from normal gardening activities but could be vulnerable to tree planting or major landscaping works. The garden has a significance of its own and has a formality that does not lend itself to the distraction of archaeological display breaking across its lines. A discreet means of marking the ends of the alignment might be considered.

### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey and investigation to determine the extent of any remains. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. (The line of the wall should be noted on garden maintenance plans.) [Policy 6]
- Marking out or signalling of alignment in a discreet manner. [Policy 20]



## 1028 KILKENNY DESIGN CENTRE

### SUMMARY

A short section of wall was rediscovered to the rear of the Castle Stables (Kilkenny Design Centre).

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this section was part of the southern sector of the main circuit, passing in a straight line between Talbot's Castle and Kilkenny Castle (Plates 17 and 18). Although marked thus on Rocque's 1758 map, the course of the wall had been lost in the building of Butler House in 1786. The OS 1841 manuscript plan shows the supposed line of the wall crossing the garden at an angle towards the south-west corner of the Castle Stables. The discovery of this section of surviving fabric proves the alignment to have been otherwise.

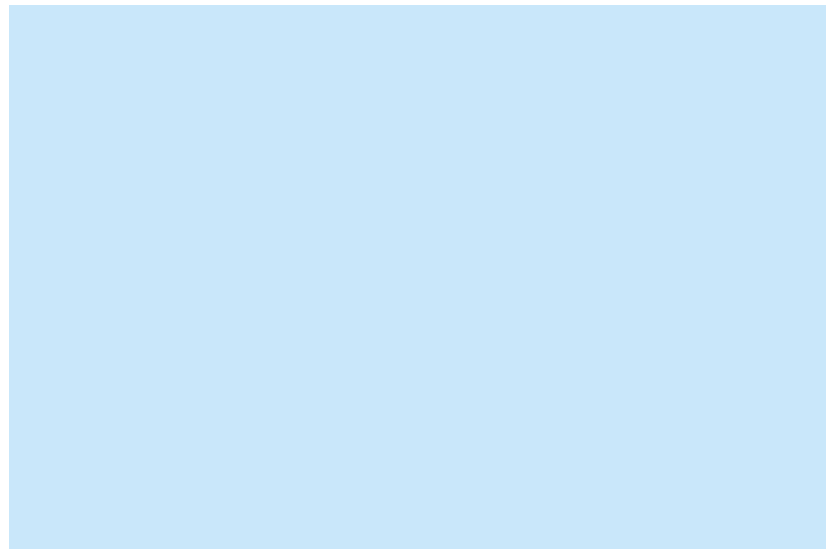


Plate 17: City Wall viewed from the north-west (interior) (May 2001)





Plate 18: City Wall viewed from the south-east (exterior) (May 2001)

### DESCRIPTION

(see Figure 10)

A section of wall survives within the garden of Butler House to the rear of the Castle Stable Block (Kilkenny Design Centre). It measures 12.02m long, 1.00m wide and stands 1.25m tall to the exterior (south). The ground level on the inside is 1.09m higher than on the outside of the wall, the wall here standing to a height of 1.51m. It is possible that this height differential represents the remains of the rampart erected in Cromwellian times (Bradley 1976, 211).

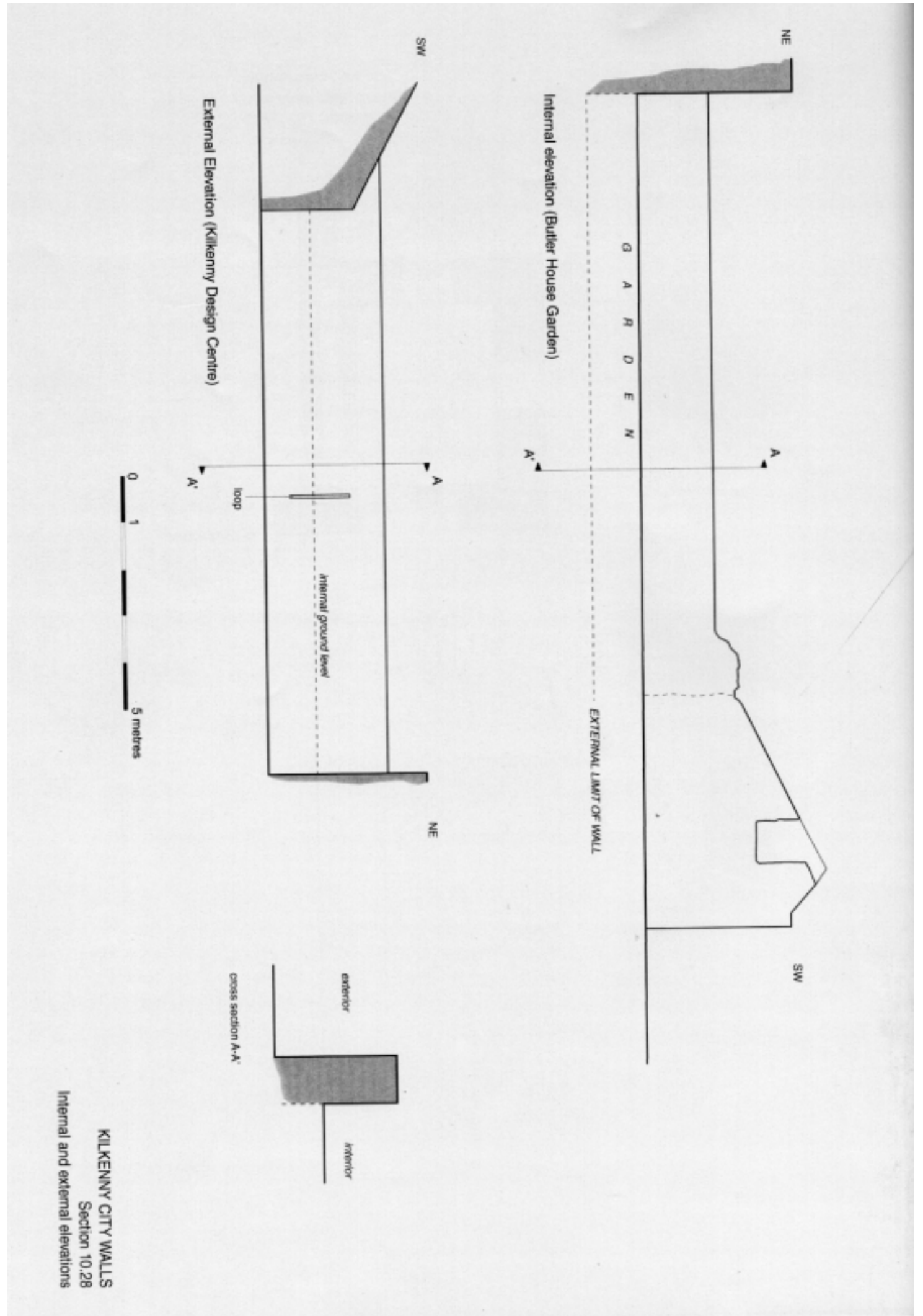


Figure 10: Kilkenny Design Centre. Internal and external elevations

The masonry is of roughly dressed and coursed, angular grey limestone blocks. A single vertical loop is visible on the external elevation of the wall, measuring 1.25m tall by 0.08m wide. The loop is not visible to the internal face of the wall where it is obscured by the raised ground level.

## STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The wall is not included in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 14], but the adjacent outbuildings of the Castle Stables are recognised as being of Regional Importance [Map 14/340]. The Castle Stables (like the City Wall) have been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

## SIGNIFICANCE

This is a significant minor element in the defences, both for confirming the line of the wall and preserving a complete arrow loop.

## CONDITION

The wall is in reasonable condition.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

The interpretation and presentation of this section of wall as a part of the city circuit, given its isolated location, is difficult.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Detailed survey and analysis of surviving fabric. [Policy 14]
- Careful maintenance of vegetation growth on wall (removal of unsuitable woody species). [Policy 9]
- Monitoring of condition of fabric survey to determine any need for repairs. [Policy 11]
- Establishment of maintenance regime. [Policy 11]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 15]
- Consideration of display and access. [Policies 19, 20]



## 1029 LOST WALL (CASTLE STABLES)

### SUMMARY

The course of the wall through the Castle Stables is lost, although there may be buried remains.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this section was part of the southern sector of the main circuit, passing in a straight line between Talbot's Castle and Kilkenny Castle. Although marked thus on Rocque's 1758 map, the course of the wall had been lost in the building of the Castle Stables in c. 1780. The OS 1841 manuscript plan shows the supposed line of the wall following the south wall of the stables, but the discovery of the previous section of surviving fabric (Section 10.28, Kilkenny Design Centre) proves that the alignment must have passed diagonally through the stables' site.

### DESCRIPTION

The wall went in a straight line from St Patrick's Gate to the Castle Gate, demonstrating that the southern walls of the city were planned as a direct line irrespective of other features (except perhaps for the castle). The alignment means that there can be no surviving parts above ground, but it may be that some part of the foundations remain (especially since the wall was still standing in 1758, and there may have been little subsequent disturbance).

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure. The Castle Stables are recognised as being of National Importance [Map 14/10 & 11] in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) and are also included as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Any buried remains of the wall would be significant in determining the date and form of the defences. The sector is especially significant for the potential survival of remains relatively undisturbed by other building activities in recent centuries.

### CONDITION

The condition of any buried remains is uncertain.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Buried remains would be vulnerable to service excavations or major landscaping works. The stables have a significance of their own, with an architectural form that does not lend itself to the distraction of archaeological display breaking across its lines. A discreet means of marking the ends of the alignment might be considered.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey and investigation to determine the extent of any remains. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. (The line of the wall should be noted on building maintenance plans.) [Policy 6]
- Marking out of alignment in a discreet manner. [Policy 20]



## 1030 CASTLE GATE

### SUMMARY

The Castle Gate may have served as an outer gate to the castle, guarding the Thomastown Road where it enters the city. It was removed in 1769.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this gate was one of two on the southern sector of the main circuit. It was not included in the 1384 list of gates where murage was collected and was probably built later, possibly in existence by 1393 (mention of 'a place by the castle gate', LPK, 112), and certainly by 1427 when Rothe refers to the 'Castlebar' (Bradley 1975, 95, Thomas 1992). In 1498-99, Edmund Eff held the Castle Gate. In 1499, William Courcy was keeper for 4s, (LPK, 76, 78), and he was still at the 'Castlebar' (as Sovereign) in 1507-08 for 3s/8d (LPK 95). The 1596 rental included the upper room over Castle Gate (Thomas 1992, 127, quoting Ormond Deeds VI app V). In 1620, the town leased the castle next the Castle Gate, and the lessee was to find 'in time of War or commotion a sufficient yeoman with a gun, shot and powder, sufficient for to watch in the said castle for the defence of the said Cittie'. He was also to provide access for the Corporation Watch in time of war (Watters 1874, 216). The gate survived until the widening of Castle Road in 1769 led to its demolition (Bradley 1975, 102, JRSAI 1972-3, 57).

### DESCRIPTION

The gate originally stood in the roadway at the head of the Parade, just beyond the castle, where the City Wall met the castle ditch. In 1758, it was not attached to the City Walls, but was depicted as a substantial structure. The records show that it had at least one upper room.

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

The buried remains of the gate, if surviving, would be significant in determining the date and form of the defences. This was an important gate next to the castle.

### CONDITION

The condition of any buried remains is uncertain.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Buried remains would be vulnerable to the excavation of service trenches in the road, and even to works in adjacent properties.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey and investigation to determine the extent of any remains. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. (The site of the gate should be noted in mapping of services, with appropriate archaeological watching briefs undertaken in works on the road or services.) [Policy 6, 7, 15]
- Marking out or signalling of lost features in the roadway. [Policy 20]



## 1031 KILKENNY CASTLE

### SUMMARY

The last part of the town's defences was provided by the castle. Although the south side of the castle no longer survives, the towers and curtain walls were no doubt surrounded by an outer ditch. It is possible that a length of wall from the Castle Gate continued into the ditch.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The castle originated from shortly after the arrival of the Normans, when Richard de Clare (called Strongbow) built a defence above the river (the archaeological indications are that it was an earthen ringwork). The stone castle was built by William Marshal, and the present buildings originate from the early 13th century, with a square plan and four corner towers. This plan (lacking a separate donjon or keep) was similar to royal castles in Dublin and Limerick, and indeed Kilkenny was one of Ireland's major castles, in keeping with the huge feudal liberty that it controlled (Sweetman 2000). The castle and town passed from the heirs of the Marshal to James Butler, 3rd Earl of Ormond, in 1391, and remained their home until the 20th century. The castle was attacked and damaged by Cromwell in his assault on the town, but after the Restoration of Charles II and the return of the Duke of Ormond as Lord Lieutenant, it was rebuilt as a substantial country house in ornamental grounds.

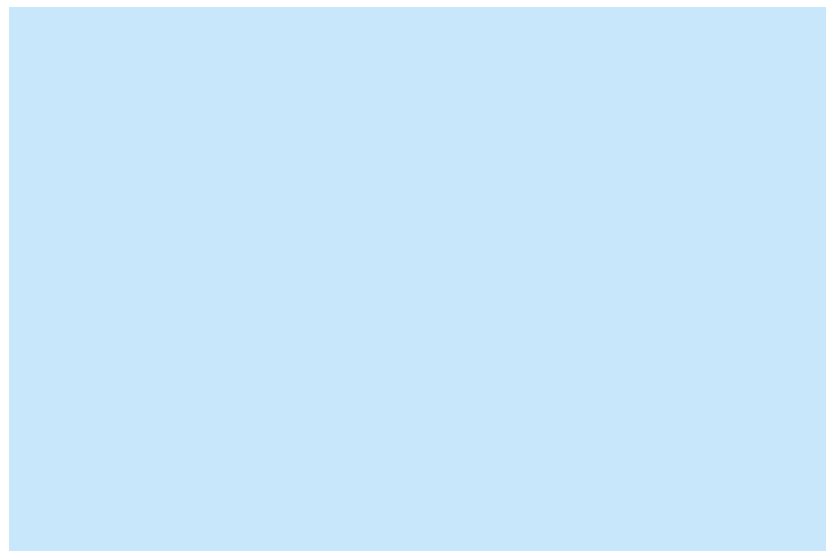


Plate 19: Kilkenny Castle - south range from the courtyard (May 2001)



After declining for much of the 18th century, both the castle and the Butler family were re-established and the property was restored, as the Stables and Butler House bear witness. It was the 19th-century earls who restored and extended the castle buildings in keeping with their wealth and status; there were royal visits in the early 20th century. After witnessing its last siege in 1922, the castle was abandoned by the Butlers in 1935 its contents sold. The castle was given by the sixth Marquis of Ormonde to the people of Kilkenny in 1967, and was subsequently taken over by Dúchas in 1969 and opened to the public, with a continuing programme of restoration of lost interiors (Friel, nd).

## DESCRIPTION

The castle is very impressive, and was one of the finest castles in Ireland, being built on a square plan with large drum towers at the four corners. The south side of the castle was reduced in the Cromwellian siege and not rebuilt in the 19th century. There must have been a ditch all round the castle (though not, given its position, a wet one). The relationship of the City Wall to the castle, with or without the Castle Gate, is an important matter for the defences, though the arrangements are not well understood.

A series of major excavations and building surveys took place in and around the castle in 1991-93, and 1995-99; these have been the subject of interim reports (*Excavations Ireland 1991*, 29-30 [1991:081], *Excavations Ireland 1992*, 39-40 [1992:110], *Old Kilkenny Review* (1993), 1101-17). Excavation of the moat demonstrated the two-stage process of infilling for the creation of the Parade, firstly in the late 17th century and then in the early 18th century (*Excavations Ireland 1997* [1997:304]). The lost south-east side of the castle was partly uncovered in 1998-99 (*Excavations Ireland 1997* [1999:449]).

## STATUS

The castle has been an Historic Property in state care since 1969. The castle and grounds are now a National Historic Park in the care of Dúchas The Heritage Service.

## SIGNIFICANCE

The castle is of significance for its architecture and contents, its historic role in the lordship of Leinster, and for its association with the Butler family from 1391 to 1967. The grounds of the castle have a significance as a designed landscape.

## CONDITION

The castle is fully maintained as a national monument.

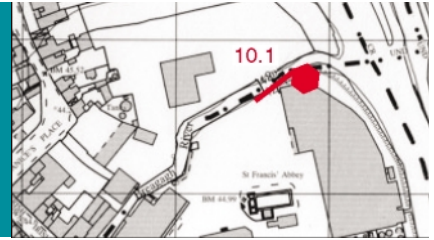
## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

The castle is not fully understood as a medieval castle, and this is even more so in its relationship to the City Walls. Despite the impressive series of excavations and investigations, much potential remains for further discovery.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey and investigation to determine the extent of any remains of outer ditches and defences. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]
- Marking out or signalling of lost features. [Policy 20]

## 10.32 ST JOHN'S INNER GATE (LOST)



### SUMMARY

The town side of St John's Bridge was defended with a gate tower on the Hightown side.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and this gate was directly related to a bridge, and not necessarily part of the main circuit of walls. Repairs to the 'bridge beside St John's Gate' are mentioned in 1351, and the murage of St John's Gate was held by Thomas Malgraff in 1384 (LPK 33, 44). This may have been the 'Portbridge' mentioned by Rothe in 1427 (Thomas 1992). The gate was held by William Morghowe in 1498 and 1507, with the rent rising from 10s to 12s (LPK 76, 78, 95). In 1580, the Corporation lease of the gatehouse over the west end of St John's bridge included the upper room over the void land to its south, and the provision that the walls be repaired to their former height (Watters 1874, 208-9). These may have been repairs from damage in 1564, when it was reported that in a great flood 'St John's castle and Bridge fell down' (Corporation Archives CR/F/1 f.23). The gate was a sufficient obstacle for it to have come under fire from Cromwell in 1650 (Farrelly *et al.* 1993, 11).

A prominent tower is shown on the early 18th-century panorama of Kilkenny beside the bridge. The old bridge is still shown on Rocque's 1758 map, with a square feature at its west end. St John's Gate is believed to have been demolished in the flood of 1763 (Bradley 1975, 102). The bridge was subsequently rebuilt in the later 18th century on an alignment slightly to the north of the old bridge, but the early 20th-century concrete bridge which replaced it is nearer to the medieval line.

### DESCRIPTION

The tower shown on the somewhat exaggerated 18th-century panorama is of three storeys above the gate arch, while the parapets of the bridge have crenellations. The foundations of the medieval and 18th-century bridges were uncovered in exploratory excavations beneath the present bridge in May and June 2001, prior to the proposed river dredging (*Excavations Ireland 2000* [2000:538, 549]).

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The City Wall has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure. The present John's Bridge of c. 1910 is recognised as being of Regional Importance [Map 9/454] in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) and is

included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Any remains of the gate, if surviving, would be significant in determining the date and form of the defences.

### CONDITION

The condition of any buried remains is uncertain.

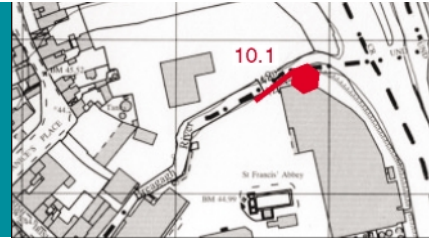
### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Buried remains would be vulnerable to the excavation of service trenches in the road, and even to works in adjacent properties.

### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey and investigation to determine the extent of any remains. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences (The site of the gate should be noted in mapping of services, with appropriate archaeological watching briefs undertaken in works on the road or services.) [Policy 6, 7, 15]
- Marking out or signalling of lost features in the roadway. [Policy 20]

## 1033 THE RIVERFRONT DEFENCES



### SUMMARY

There is no certainty that there was a riverside wall, but the existence of some kind of riverside defence remains a possibility.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The walls of Hightown were begun in the mid 13th century, and most evidence suggests that the circuit did not include a riverside wall, either in Hightown or Irishtown (Section 11.11, Riverside Defences), though there were gate towers to both bridges. There was a town quay on the river, but little indication on Rocque's 1758 map of any structures at the ends of the tenements where they reached the river bank.

### DESCRIPTION

At the north-east, the wall now terminates at Evans Tower (Section 10.1, Evans Tower and Wall), close to the Franciscan Friary and near the river, which may have completed the riverside defences. At the south-east, there was St John's Gate (Section 10.32, St John's Inner Gate) on the bridge, while the main circuit ended at the castle ditch.

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City).

### SIGNIFICANCE

The riverside is potentially of considerable archaeological significance for evidence of riparian activity, quite apart from any defences. Any remains of quays or defences would be of special significance.

### CONDITION

No known remains.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Buried remains of the defences are vulnerable to works resulting in ground disturbance. Archaeological remains adjacent to the river have potential for waterlogged deposits that makes them especially vulnerable to disturbance.

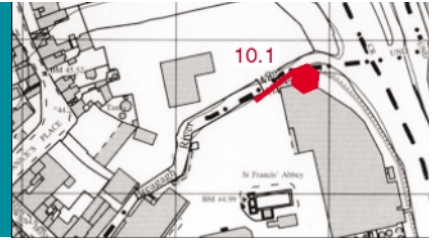
### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey or investigation to determine the possibility of remains of riverside defences. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]

## 11. THE WALLS OF IRISHTOWN



## 11.1 RIVER NORE - TROY'S GATE



### SUMMARY

Although the course and history of the walls of Irishtown are not well established, they probably existed from the late 14th century. They are likely to have followed property boundaries from Troy's Gate to the river.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The defences of Irishtown are known from a murage grant (to Hightown) in 1377, and a further grant in 1384 (*Liber Primus*, 41, 44). Irishtown is shown as walled on the Down Survey of c. 1655 (Bradley 2000c Map 4), but only the gates (including Troy's Gate) are shown on Rocque's 1758 map (*ibid.*, 14). Lines of garden and tenement boundaries indicated on Rocque's map may represent remains of a wall, though none was recognised on the OS 1841 manuscript town plan. It has been suggested by Bradley that the completion of the urban defences of Irishtown by 1400 may have been the reason why Richard Talbot (Sovereign of Kilkenny 1399-1400) was credited with building the walls of the city (Bradley 1975, 97).

### DESCRIPTION

The tenements north of Green Street form a single though uneven block on Rocque's and the OS maps. A wall defending them and the Green Street approach to the medieval Green's Bridge is likely to have followed the northern end of the tenements, returning along the east side of Troy's Gate (this is otherwise shown on the map of the defences in Bradley 2000c Fig 1). The part adjacent the river was perhaps reinforced with a wet ditch, shown on the OS 1841 plan (Bradley, 2000c, Map 2. Also Section 11.11, Riverside Defences). Excavation of test trenches on the mill site in Green Street prior to development in 1999 included one on a supposed lines of the defences but found nothing (*Excavations Ireland 1999* [1999:442]).

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City).

### SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Irishtown have some archaeological potential, and would be significant in relation to the complex history of the fortifications of Kilkenny.

### CONDITION

No known remains.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

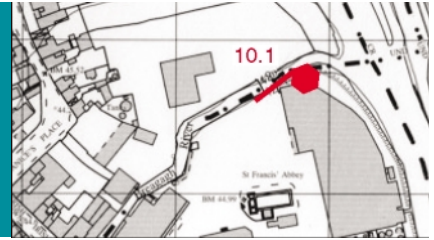
Defences added to existing property boundaries may be hard to recognise, making them especially vulnerable to ground disturbance.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Surveys or investigations should consider the possibility of defences around Irishtown (and not necessarily on the currently assumed alignment). [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]



## 11.2 TROY'S GATE



### SUMMARY

Although the course and history of the walls of Irishtown is not well established, they probably existed from the late 14th century. Troy's Gate survived until the 18th century.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The defences of Irishtown are known from a murage grant (to Hightown) in 1377, and a further grant in 1384 (*Liber Primus*, 41, 44). Irishtown is shown as walled (with one tower) on the Down Survey of c. 1655 (Bradley 2000c Map 4). The gate with the words 'Troys Gate' is shown on Rocque's 1758 map (*ibid.*, 14), while it had gone by the OS 1841 manuscript town plan. There are references to Troy's Gate in 1537, New Court Gate or Troy's Gate in 1614, North Gate in 1626, and Troy's Gate thereafter until the 18th century (Bradley 2000c, 14). The 'town ditch' near Troy's Gate is referred to in the Corporation rental of 1812 (RSAI Mss).

### DESCRIPTION

Troy's Gate is shown by Rocque as a narrow exit at the north-west corner of Green Street and Vicar Street, at the point that would have served as the northern entrance to the city for anyone approaching on the west bank of the River Nore. The map of the defences (in Bradley, 2000c, Fig 1) shows the gate further north at the end of Troy's Gate, though no evidence for this is provided.

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City).

### SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Irishtown have some archaeological potential and would be significant in relation to the complex history of the fortifications of Kilkenny. The site of the gate is a significant component of this.

### CONDITION

Condition of any buried remains unknown.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

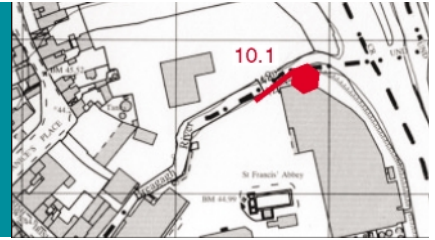
Elements of the gate surviving below ground are vulnerable to works resulting in ground disturbance.

### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey and investigation to determine the extent of any remains. [Policy 15]

- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. (The site of the gate should be noted in mapping of services, with appropriate archaeological watching briefs undertaken in works on the road or services.) [Policy 6, 7, 15]
- Marking out or signalling of lost features in the roadway. [Policy 20]

## 11.3 TROY'S GATE - ST CANICE'S



### SUMMARY

Although the course and history of the walls of Irishtown are not well established, they probably existed from the late 14th century. This sector seems to have followed property boundaries behind the Bishop's Palace.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The defences of Irishtown are known from a murage grant (to Hightown) in 1377, and a further grant in 1384 (*Liber Primus*, 41, 44). Irishtown is shown as walled on the Down Survey of c. 1655 (Bradley 2000c Map 4), but only the gates (including Troy's Gate) are shown on Rocque's 1758 map (*ibid.*, 14). The garden wall of the Bishop's Palace along Drysdal's Lane is shown on Rocque as well as the OS 1841 manuscript plan; it may represent remains of a wall, though none was recognised on the OS 1841 manuscript town plan. It had been removed by the time of the printed OS 1871 plan (Plate 21) to form an extension to the gardens, but the line remained.

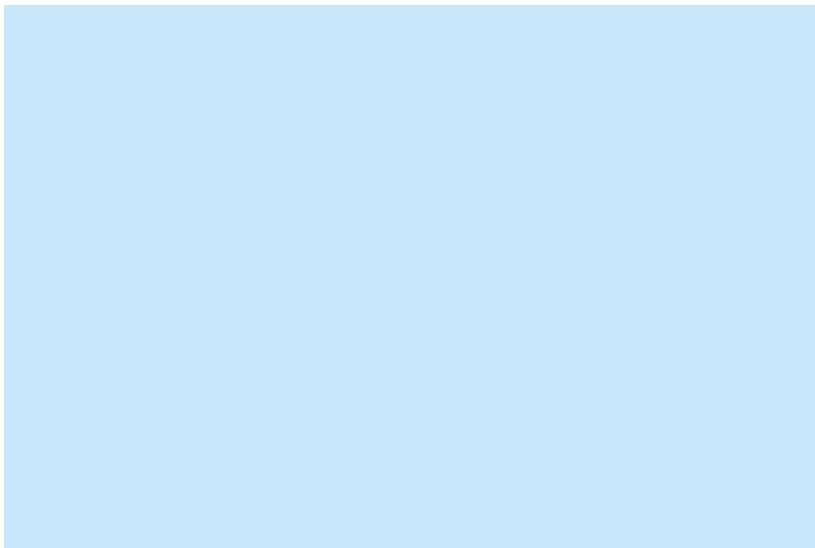


Plate 20: OS 1871 Town Plan showing garden of the Bishop's Palace following the removal of the town wall

### DESCRIPTION

The earlier garden boundary would be the most natural course for a line of defence from Troy's Gate to the Cathedral Precinct, and may in part coincide with an early medieval ecclesiastical enclosure. It is today marked by a slight change of slope in the garden, while the final length of wall may still survive in the lower part of the west garden wall.



Plate 21: Bishop's Palace and Gardens: view from the top of St Canice's Round Tower (May 2001)

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City).

### SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Irishtown have some archaeological potential, and would be significant in relation to the complex history of the fortifications of Kilkenny. The possibility that the wall coincides with an early ecclesiastical enclosure around the cathedral would add another layer of significance.

### CONDITION

Condition of any buried remains unknown.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Remains of the defences and former road would be vulnerable to ground disturbance.

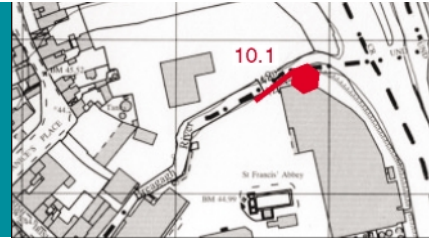
### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Surveys or investigations to determine the extent of any remains of the defences round Irishtown (and not necessarily on the currently assumed alignment). [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]

### REFERENCES

Integrated Conservation Group for the Heritage Council, *The Bishop's Palace, Kilkenny: Conservation Plan*, 2003.

## 11.4 BISHOP'S ROBIN ROOM



### SUMMARY

Although the course and history of the walls of Irishtown are not well established, they probably existed from the late 14th century. The Bishop's Robing Room may contain medieval elements associated with a tower or gate across the lane.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The defences of Irishtown are known from a murage grant (to Hightown) in 1377, and a further grant in 1384 (*Liber Primus*, 41, 44). Irishtown is shown as walled (with one tower) on the Down Survey of c. 1655 (Bradley 2000c Map 4). The Bishop's Robing Room was built by Bishop Este in c. 1755 to provide direct access to the cathedral, and is shown on Rocque's 1758 map in the corner of the Palace Garden. The OS 1871 town plan (but not the 1841 manuscript version) shows an arched access across Church Lane linking the Robing Room to the cathedral churchyard.

### DESCRIPTION

The Bishop's Robing Room is in the south-west corner of the palace garden, where Church Lane turns a corner and formerly branched off to Drysdal's Lane. The classical building has a irregular oval plan, with a door to Church Lane. Parts of the fabric (substantial ashlar quoins visible on Church Lane) appear to be older than the 18th century and may be the base of a medieval tower associated with the medieval (mid 14th century) Bishop's Palace (remaining inside the existing 18th-century building) and with the Irishtown defences.

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The Robing Room is recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 3/156] as being of National Importance, and has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Irishtown are significant in relation to the complex history of the fortifications of Kilkenny. The medieval remains in the Palace Garden are a significant component of this.

### CONDITION

The built fabric is in reasonable condition, but the condition of any buried remains is unknown.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Below-ground elements of the structure are vulnerable to works resulting in ground disturbance.

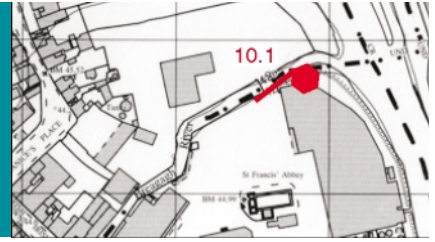
## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey or investigation to determine extent of any remains. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]
- Marking out of lost features in roadway. [Policy 20]

## REFERENCES

Integrated Conservation Group for the Heritage Council, *The Bishop's Palace, Kilkenny: Conservation Plan*, 2003.

## 11.5 ST CANICE'S CHURCHYARD (N)



### SUMMARY

Although the course and history of the walls of Irishtown are not well established, they probably existed from the late 14th century. The north and west sides of the cathedral churchyard appear to have formed part of the defensive line.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The defences of Irishtown are known from a murage grant (to Hightown) in 1377, and a further grant in 1384 (*Liber Primus*, 41, 44). Irishtown is shown as walled (with one tower) on the Down Survey of c. 1655 (Bradley 2000c, Map 4). The rectangular cathedral churchyard may date from the time of the rebuilding of the Gothic cathedral in the 13th century (if not from the first 12th-century Romanesque cathedral), and may have represented a diminution of an earlier and larger ecclesiastical precinct around the ancient church. The raising of ground against the north and west walls of the churchyard to form a rampart might have been part of the medieval defences of Irishtown, or more likely are 17th-century artillery defences. In their present form, they are equally likely to include post-medieval elements of garden design. Urban defences were often used to create raised terraced walkways, and both the steps and terraces shown on Rocque's 1758 map and later plans survive today.

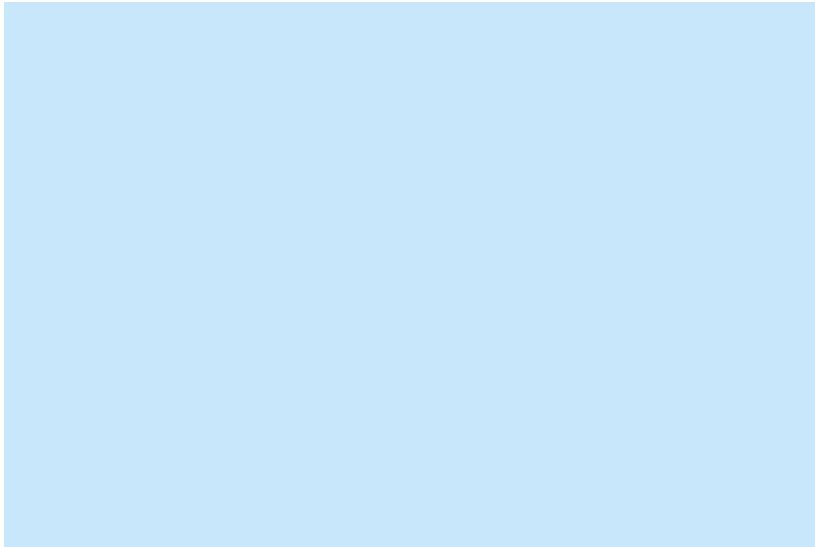


Plate 22: City Wall and related earthen rampart enclosing north side of St Canice's Churchyard (May 2001)

### DESCRIPTION

This section of standing wall, surviving to a maximum length of 44m, forms the

northern retaining wall of the churchyard of St Canice's Cathedral (Plate 22). The visible section of wall is 0.40m wide and stands to a maximum visible height of 1.25m to the interior (graveyard side), though it stands considerably taller (3.42m) to the north where it overlooks Church Lane. Internally, the lower part of the wall is obscured by an earthwork rampart which stands 1.60m high x 8m deep (5m platform + 3m scarp). A number of mid-late 19th-century funerary monuments indicate that the body of the rampart has been used for interment, while a number of memorial stones have been built into the masonry of the wall. The wall is constructed of roughly dressed grey limestone, roughly coursed. Towards the western end of the wall, two phases of construction can be discerned - the lower part being of small rounded stones, while the upper part is in larger roughly dressed angular limestone blocks. At the extreme western end, the wall and rampart have been truncated by the construction of the Cathedral Library.

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The north churchyard wall is recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 3/153] as being of Regional Importance and has been included with the cathedral in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Irishtown are significant in relation to the complex history of the fortifications of Kilkenny. The churchyard walls and rampart are a significant surviving component of this, and are also of importance for being part of a designed landscape.

### CONDITION

The built fabric is in reasonable condition.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

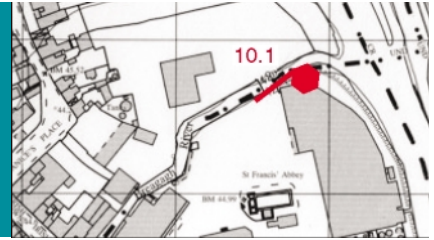
Stone repairs or repointing could affect the significance of the fabric.

### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey or investigation to determine extent of any remains, and the age and form of the rampart. [Policy 15]
- On-site display or explanation of the significance of the structure. [Policy 5]



## 11.6 ST CANICE'S LIBRARY/BLACK RATH'S CASTLE



### SUMMARY

Although the course and history of the walls of Irishtown are not well established, they probably existed from the late 14th century. The north and west sides of the cathedral churchyard appear to have formed part of the defensive line, and the 17th-century Cathedral Library (Plate \_\_) occupies the site of a medieval prebendal house, 'Black Rath's Castle'.

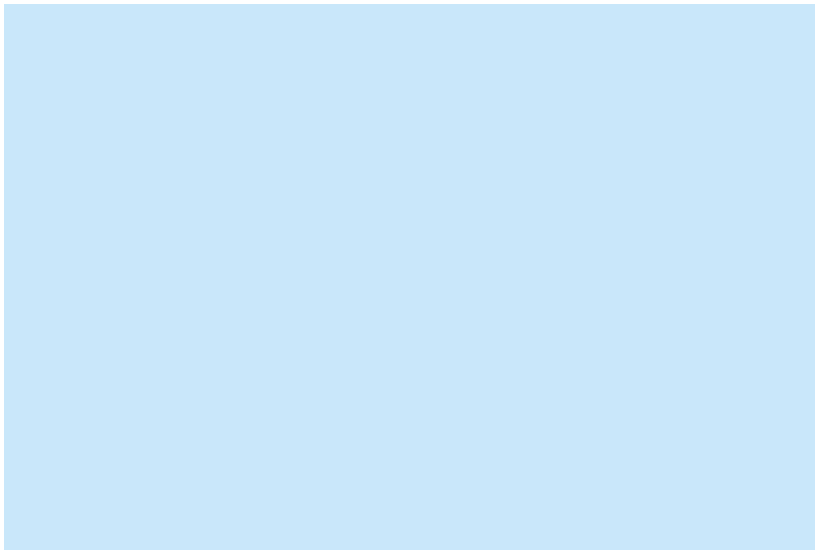


Plate 23: St Canice's Library, built against the defences on the west side of the churchyard

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

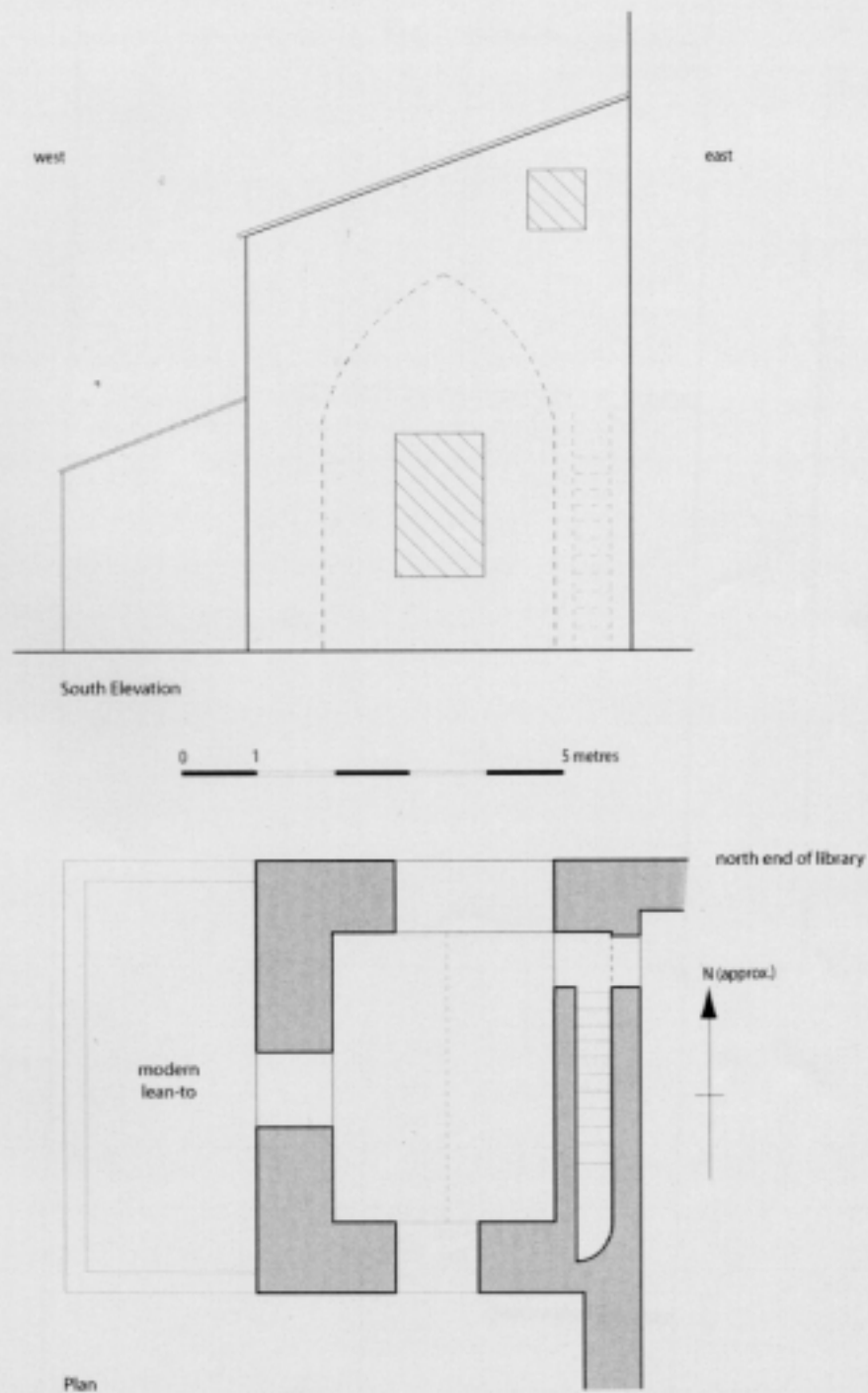
The defences of Irishtown are known from a murage grant (to Hightown) in 1377, and a further grant in 1384 (*Liber Primus*, 41, 44). Irishtown is shown as walled (with one tower) on the Down Survey of c. 1655 (Bradley 2000c Map 4). At the north-west corner of the cathedral churchyard stood the manse or 'castle' of the Prebendary of Black Rath (now Maddockstown) from the 14th century. It was converted to a grammar school in c. 1538 and the became St Canice's Poor House in c. 1670. Part was demolished to make way for the cathedral library in c. 1693, and reduced again in 1842 (Bradley, 2000c, 22, 24, 25 & 26; Woodworth 1970 and 1971).

### DESCRIPTION

(see Figure 11)

Substantial remains of a medieval tower c. 5m square on the outside of the wall stand at the north-west corner of the churchyard behind the library (previously used as a garage). The lower stage is reached through a pointed arch from the

kitchen of the ground-floor apartment below the library. It has thick walls and a stone-vaulted ceiling still bearing the marks of the wattle shuttering, but the openings in each of the outer walls are all modern. A mural stair rises in the thickness of the library wall (i.e. the town wall), turning at the top. The upper stage has been truncated down to a small space beneath a sloping slate roof, and is now inaccessible except from a small window opening in the south wall. No features relating to the tower can now be seen inside the library, but may survive behind the bookcases and wall plaster.



KILKENNY CITY WALLS  
Section 11.6 (Black Rath Castle)  
Plan and South Elevation

Figure 11

Figure 11: St Canice's Library/Black Rath's Castle. Plan and south elevation

South of the library is the Poor House (now the Organist's House), which has an older north end with corbels supporting a timber wall-plate. The south end was rebuilt in the 19th century.

Whether the building of the library involved removal of the medieval rampart, or whether this was the occasion when the ramparts were built up as a landscaped terrace, is uncertain.

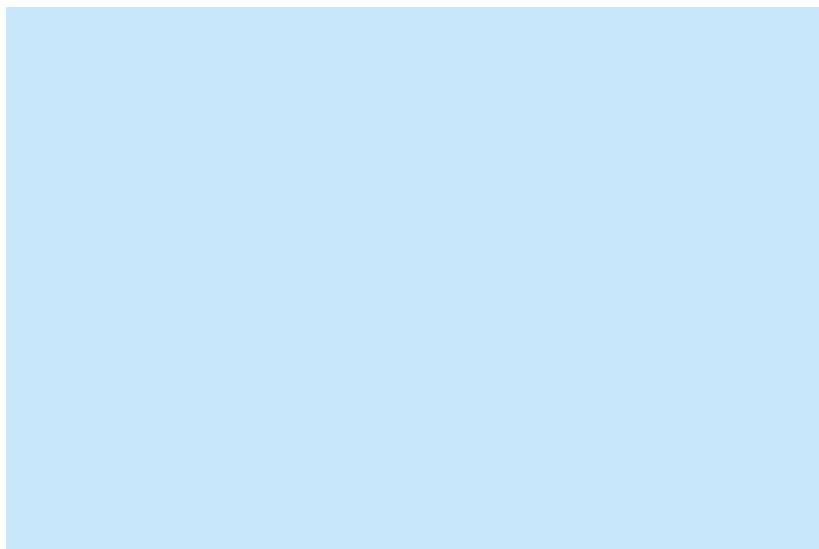


Plate 24: XXX

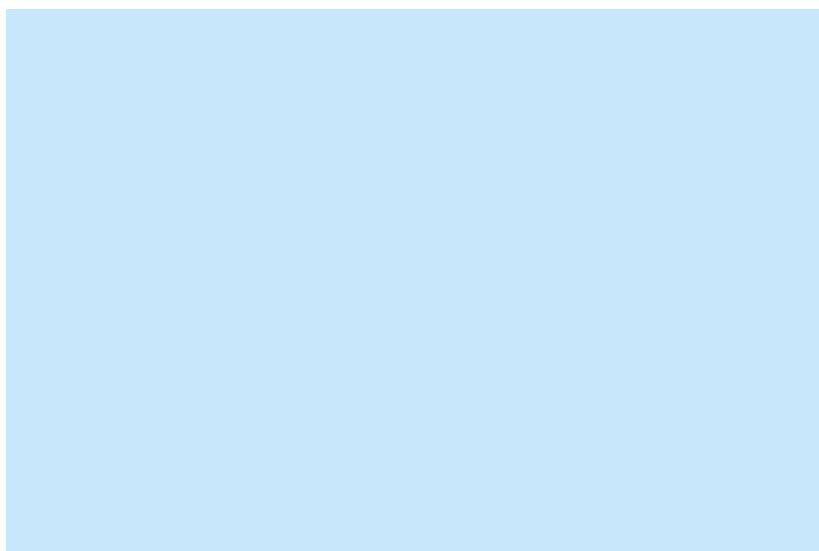


Plate 25: XXX

## STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). St Canice's Library is recognised in the Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study (1997) [Map 3/151 & 8/315] as being of National Importance, and has been included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure. The Library Garage [map 3/183 & 8/325], and Organist's House [Map 8/314] have the same status.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Irishtown are significant in relation to the complex history of the fortifications of Kilkenny. The churchyard walls are a significant surviving component of this, while the earlier features preserved inside the library are also of importance for evidence of the fabric of Black Rath's Castle.

## CONDITION

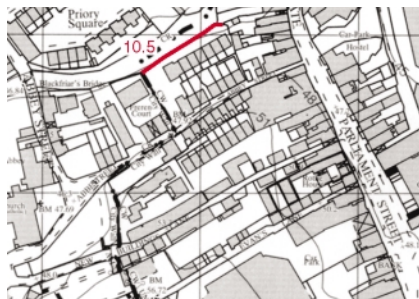
The built fabric is in reasonable condition.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Internal alterations could affect the significance of the fabric.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Detailed survey and analysis of surviving fabric. [Policy 14]
- Monitoring of condition of fabric survey to determine any need for repairs. [Policy 11]
- Establishment of maintenance regime. [Policy 11]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 15]
- Consideration of future display and access. [Policy 5]



## 11.7 ST CANICE'S CHURCHYARD (W)

### SUMMARY

Although the course and history of the walls of Irishtown are not well established, they probably existed from the late 14th century. The north and west sides of the cathedral churchyard appear to have formed part of the defensive line.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The defences of Irishtown are known from a murage grant (to Hightown) in 1377, and a further grant in 1384 (*Liber Primus*, 41, 44). Irishtown is shown as walled (with one tower) on the Down Survey of c. 1655 (Bradley 2000c Map 4). The rectangular cathedral churchyard may date from the time of the rebuilding of the Gothic cathedral in the 13th century (if not, from the first 12th-century Romanesque cathedral), and may have represented a diminution of an earlier and larger ecclesiastical precinct around the ancient church. The raising of ground against the north and west walls of the churchyard to form a rampart might have been part of the medieval defences of Irishtown, or more likely are 17th-century artillery defences. In their present form, they are equally likely to include post-medieval elements of garden design. Urban defences were often used to create raised terraced walkways, and both the steps and terraces shown on Rocque's 1758 map and later plans survive today. The Kilkenny *Inventory* [Map 8/322] notes that the wall was partially rebuilt c. 1870 and the coping and pointing added in 1995.

### DESCRIPTION

This section of standing wall, surviving to a maximum length of 48m, forms the western retaining wall of the churchyard of St Canice's Cathedral (Plate 26). The wall stands to a height of 1.10m to the interior (graveyard side), though it stands considerably taller (4.5m) to the north where it forms the rear wall of the gardens to properties fronting onto St Thomas's Square. Internally, the lower part of the wall is obscured by a well-defined earthwork rampart which stands 2.20m high x 9.2m deep (4.5m platform + 4.7m scarp). The rampart is more clearly defined than that to the north (Section 11.5, St Canice's Churchyard [N]). A number of 19th- and 20th-century burials have been dug into the body of the rampart, marked by a series of funerary monuments set against, though not into, the masonry of the wall. The wall is constructed of roughly dressed and coursed angular grey limestone blocks. At the northern end, the earthwork rampart has probably been truncated for the construction of the library (Section 11.6, St Canice's Library). It is possible that the masonry of the wall continues as the rear wall of the Poor House. Likewise to the south, it is possible that the masonry of the city wall is incorporated into the rear wall of the Deanery stables.



Plate 26: Earthen rampart behind western section of City Wall bounding St Canice's Cathedral Yard (May 2001)

## STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The West Churchyard Wall is recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 8/322] as being of Regional Importance, and has been included with the Cathedral in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Irishtown are significant in relation to the complex history of the fortifications of Kilkenny. The churchyard walls and rampart are a significant surviving component of this, and are also of importance for being part of a designed landscape.

## CONDITION

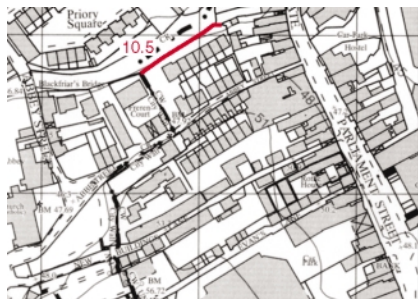
The built fabric is in reasonable condition.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Stone repairs or repointing could affect the significance of the fabric.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey or investigation to determine extent of any remains, and the age and form of the rampart. [Policy 15]
- On-site display or explanation of the significance of the structure. [Policy 5]



## 11.8 DEANERY GARDENS

### SUMMARY

Although the course and history of the walls of Irishtown are not well established, they probably existed from the late 14th century. The line along the west side of the cathedral churchyard probably continued through the Deanery Garden towards Dean's Gate (Plate 27).

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The defences of Irishtown are known from a murage grant (to Hightown) in 1377, and a further grant in 1384 (*Liber Primus*, 41, 44). Irishtown is shown as walled (with one tower) on the Down Survey of c. 1655 (Bradley, 2000c, Map 4). The line of defences around the cathedral churchyard seems to have continued and formed the back of the Deanery coach house, though the building of the Georgian Deanery and the creation of its garden (as shown on Rocque's 1758 map) would have removed any traces of the wall.

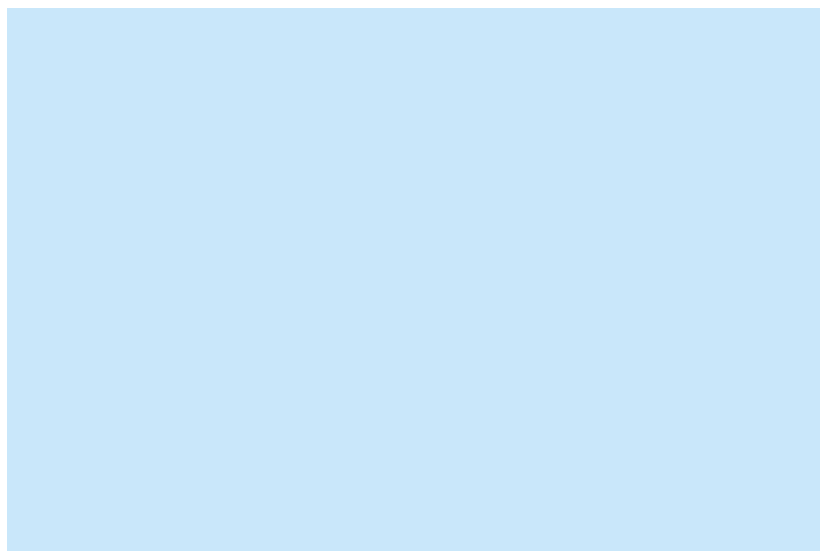


Plate 27: The Deanery and Garden from the top of St Canice's Round Tower (May 2001)

### DESCRIPTION

Apart from the rear wall of the Deanery coach house, there are no standing remains of the wall, which probably crossed the garden in a straight line from north to south.



## STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The Deanery is recognised in the *Kilkenny Architectural Heritage Inventory Study* (1997) [Map 8/310], as is the Coach House [Map 8/323], as being of Regional Importance. They are included in the New Development Plan for Kilkenny as a Protected Structure.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Irishtown have some archaeological potential and would be significant in relation to the complex history of the fortifications of Kilkenny.

## CONDITION

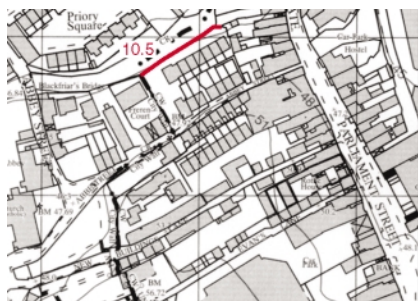
Condition of any buried remains unknown.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Remains of the defences would be vulnerable to ground disturbance.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Surveys or investigations to determine the extent of any remains of the defences around Irishtown (and not necessarily on the currently assumed alignment). [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]
- Future development to respect the line of the wall. [Policy 18]



## 11.9 DEAN'S GATE

### SUMMARY

Although the course and history of the walls of Irishtown are not well established, they probably existed from the late 14th century. Dean's Gate, as the west gate to Irishtown across Dean Street is known, appears in historical records from 1537.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The defences of Irishtown are known from a murage grant (to Hightown) in 1377, and a further grant in 1384 (*Liber Primus*, 41, 44). Irishtown is shown as walled (with one tower) on the Down Survey of c. 1655 (Bradley, 2000c, Map 4). There are references to Dean's Gate from 1537, and it was sometimes called West Gate (e.g. in 1614) (Bradley 2000c, 14). In 1650, Cromwell gained access to Irishtown through this gate (Birthistle 1966, 8). It had been demolished by the time of Rocque's 1758 map.

### DESCRIPTION

The gate was situated on Dean Street and was used as the west entrance from the Butts into Irishtown. The gate was presumably at the south end of the alignment produced from the west wall of the cathedral churchyard, but its precise location is not certain.

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City).

### SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Irishtown have some archaeological potential and would be significant in relation to the complex history of the fortifications of Kilkenny. The site of the gate is a significant component of this.

### CONDITION

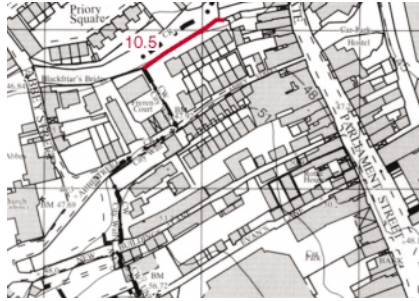
Condition of any buried remains unknown.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Elements of the gate surviving below ground are vulnerable to works resulting in ground disturbance.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey and investigation to determine the extent of any remains. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. (The site of the gate should be noted in mapping of services, with appropriate archaeological watching briefs undertaken in works on the road or services.) [Policy 6, 7, 15]
- Marking out or signalling of lost features in the roadway. [Policy 20]



## 1110 DEAN'S GATE - RIVER BREGAGH

### SUMMARY

Although the course and history of the walls of Irishtown are not well established, they probably existed from the late 14th century. The line from Dean's Gate probably took a direct line to the River Bregagh.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The defences of Irishtown are known from a murage grant (to Hightown) in 1377, and a further grant in 1384 (*Liber Primus*, 41, 44). Irishtown is shown as walled (with one tower) on the Down Survey of c. 1655 (Bradley 2000c Map 4). The line of defences around the cathedral churchyard seems to have continued through the Deanery Garden to Dean's Gate and down to the River Bregagh. A possible alignment is the property boundary shown on the OS 1841 manuscript plan, but this wall is not indicated on Rocque's 1758 map.

### DESCRIPTION

There are no known remains of the wall which would have reached the river almost opposite the corner of the Hightown wall along the River Bregagh. Excavations south of Dean Street prior to redevelopment did not find evidence for the defences, but did reveal medieval reclamation of low-lying land (*Excavations Ireland 2000* [1990: 073, 074]).

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City).

### SIGNIFICANCE

Remains of the defences of Irishtown have some archaeological potential and would be significant in relation to the complex history of the fortifications of Kilkenny.

### CONDITION

Condition of any buried remains unknown.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Remains of the defences would be vulnerable to ground disturbance.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Surveys or investigations to determine the extent of any remains of the defences around Irishtown (and not necessarily on the currently assumed alignment). [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]



## 11.11 RIVERSIDE DEFENCES

### SUMMARY

Although the course and history of the walls of Irishtown are not well established, they probably existed from the late 14th century. There is scant evidence for any riverside wall at Kilkenny, except for Green's Gate at the bridgehead.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The defences of Irishtown are known from a murage grant (to Hightown) in 1377, and a further grant in 1384 (*Liber Primus*, 41, 44). Irishtown is shown as walled (with one tower) on the Down Survey of c. 1655 (Bradley, 2000c, Map 4), but not along the river. Historical records of Irishtown do not indicate the existence of riverside defences, and neither do any topographical sources such as Rocque's 1758 map. There are references to Green's Gate between 1537 and 1695, but it had been demolished by 1758. Green's Bridge was the original medieval bridge of Kilkenny, probably on the site of the historic ford just upstream of the present bridge. It was destroyed by flooding in 1763.

### DESCRIPTION

Green's Gate stood at the eastern end of Green Street, which lead onto the former Green's Bridge in a position analogous to the St John's Gate at the head of the other bridge (Plate 28). There are still remains of Green's Bridge in the riverbed. Test trenching for the Kilkenny Flood Relief Scheme examined the location of the bridge landfalls, and the remains of the collapsed bridge were surveyed (*Excavations Ireland 2000* [2000:544, 549]).



Plate 28: The River Nore looking south from Green's Bridge (May 2001)

## STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City).

## SIGNIFICANCE

The riverside is potentially of considerable archaeological significance for evidence of riparian activity, quite apart from any defences. Any remains of the former Green's Bridge or its defensive gate tower would be of special significance.

## CONDITION

No known remains.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Elements of the gate surviving below ground are vulnerable to works resulting in ground disturbance. Archaeological remains adjacent to the river have potential for waterlogged deposits that makes them especially vulnerable to disturbance.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

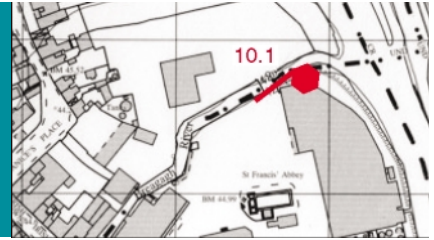
- Survey or investigation to determine extent of any remains of gate, and to consider the possibility of remains of riverside defences. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]
- Marking out of lost features in roadway, and display or explanation of site of old bridge. [Policy 5]

## 12. THE WALLS OF ST JOHN'S





## 12.1 ST JOHN'S NORTH WALL



### SUMMARY

The course of the north wall of the suburb of St John's is unknown.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The defensive wall of the St John's suburb may have utilised the wall which originally surrounded the Augustinian priory of St John and which became town property at the Dissolution. Since the site of the priory was divided and partly built over by the Asylum/Barracks, the extent of the priory precinct is not certain.

In his account of the 1650 siege, Cromwell described the suburb as 'another walled town on the other side of the river' (Bradley, 1975, 100). It is shown as walled on the Down Survey of c. 1655 (Bradley, 2000c Map 4), but is not shown on Rocque's 1758 map (*ibid.*, 14). Lines of garden and tenement boundaries indicated on Rocque's map may represent the remains of a wall, although none was recognised on the OS 1841 manuscript town plan. Later OS town plans mark a 'City Wall' in a position that seems unlikely.

### DESCRIPTION

The line of the garden and tenement walls shown by Rocque in 1758 cannot easily be determined, but the boundary of the tenements will have been more regular before the Asylum/Barracks was built. The OS map marks the wall west of St John's church as 'City Wall', though this wall must have been part of the Priory (perhaps the north wall of the cloister), and is too far to the south for the defences, which will have passed around the north and west side of the priory.

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City).

### SIGNIFICANCE

The wall is significant as a part of the suburban defences of Kilkenny.

### CONDITION

Condition of any buried remains unknown.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Elements of the wall surviving below ground are vulnerable to works resulting in ground disturbance.

### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey or investigation to determine extent of any remains. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]



## 122 ST JOHN'S EAST WALL

### SUMMARY

The east wall of St John's is referred to in historical sources but little else is known of it.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The defensive wall of the St John's suburb may have utilised the wall originally surrounding the Augustinian priory of St John which became town property at the Dissolution. The wall is described in a deed of 1608 (Corp Archives CR/1/38) and seems to have included St Michael's Gate, providing access from St John's Priory into Michael's Lane (Bradley, 1976, 215). No standing remains survive, though the line of the wall is probably reflected in the northern boundary wall of St John's church. The creation of the 'bulwark without the outer gate of St John' in 1506-7 may imply that there was already a wall here. The town lease of the 'fosse' in 1527 describes the existing wall (see Section 12.3).

In his account of the 1650 siege, Cromwell described the suburb as 'another walled town on the other side of the river' (Bradley, 1975, 100). It is shown as walled on the Down Survey of c. 1655 (Bradley, 2000c, Map 4), but is not shown on Rocque's 1758 map (*ibid.*, 14).

### DESCRIPTION

The wall was presumably aligned on the south side of the east-west road, with a 'fosse' (ditch or bank) outside it (see St John's Outer Gate, Section 12.3). An archaeological assessment on the north side of Maudlin Street in 1998 found a medieval ditch 1.1 m deep running nearly east-west alongside the road (*Excavations Ireland 1998* [1998:353]). Further excavation of the site in 2000 revealed more of the ditch, and showed it to be dry, 6m wide and 1.45m deep. After being open for a long period, the ditch was filled in the 17th century. The site remained open ground until built over in the early 18th century (*Excavations Ireland 2000* [2000:543]).

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City).

### SIGNIFICANCE

The wall is significant as a part of the suburban defences of Kilkenny.

## CONDITION

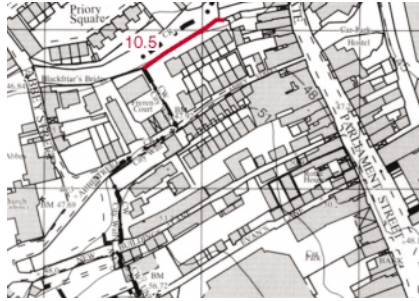
Condition of any buried remains unknown.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Elements of the wall surviving below ground are vulnerable to works resulting in ground disturbance.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey or investigation to determine extent of any remains. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 15]



## 12.3 ST JOHN'S OUTER GATE

### SUMMARY

The St John's Outer Gate is referred to in historical sources but little else is known of it.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The creation of the 'bulwark without the outer gate of St John' at the town's expense in the year 1506-7 is noted in the *Liber Primus Kilkenniensis*, and may have been the occasion when the medieval suburb was first defended (Bradley 1975, 98). The 'fosse outside the gate of St John' was leased by the town in 1527: 'which fosse lies in length from the wall near the way which leads to the Green Hays on the north to the common fosse or wall on the south, and in breadth from the gate and convent of the monastery of St John on the west to the wall near the way leading to the Magdalens of the town on the east' (Watters 1874, 206). This sounds like an area defended with a ditch outside the gate (*i.e.* a barbican). It was leased forever at a rent of one red rose, but was not to be built on with thatched houses near the wall. Access to the wall was to be allowed in time of war. Waste to the north and east of the gate was again leased by the Corporation in 1684 (Corp Archives CR/1/85).

In his account of the 1650 siege, Cromwell described the suburb as 'another walled town on the other side of the river' (Bradley, 1975, 100). It is shown as walled on the Down Survey of c. 1655 (Bradley 2000c Map 4). The gate may be shown on Francis Place's view of c. 1698 (*ibid.*, Plate 29). It was mentioned in the 18th century but is not shown on Rocque's 1758 map (*ibid.*, 14).



Plate 29: St John's Gate: Detail from Francis Place's drawing of c. 1698

### DESCRIPTION

The gate was presumably at the junction of St John's Street and Michael's Lane/Magdalen Street, next to St John's Augustinian Priory. In this case, the wall may have been aligned on the south side of the east-west road with a 'fosse' (ditch or bank) outside it.

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City).

### SIGNIFICANCE

The site of the gate is significant as a part of the suburban defences of Kilkenny.

### CONDITION

Condition of any buried remains unknown.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Elements of the gate surviving below ground are vulnerable to works resulting in ground disturbance.

### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey or investigation to determine extent of any remains. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]
- Marking out of lost features in roadway. [Policy 20]



## 12.4 CORNER TOWER ON MAUDLIN STREET

### SUMMARY

Small, circular tower situated on Maudlin Street. Its small scale has brought into question its inclusion in the St John's defences (Bradley, 1975, 215).

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The tower is shown as a circular structure at the east corner of a garden wall on Rocque's 1758 map. It is marked as a 'turret' in the corner of a garden wall on the OS 1841 manuscript map, and again on the 1871 OS town plan. It is worth noting that the town leased land in St John's in 1570 (but not in this location) on the express condition that there should be built 'a little tower for the defence of the town' (Watters, 1874, 208).

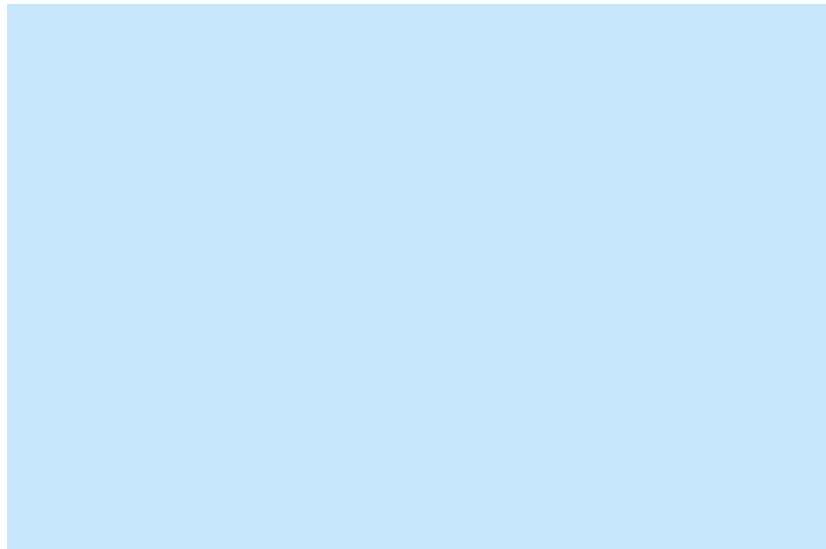


Plate 30: Corner tower from the north-east (May 2001)

### DESCRIPTION

Situated on Maudlin Street, this structure was at the outer corner of a garden wall, and would represent the north-east corner of a wall enclosing the lower part of the St John's suburb (Plate 30). Its overall dimensions are about 4m tall, and 2.2m in diameter, with walls 0.3m thick, and an open back towards the former garden (with short lengths of the connecting walls). There is an offset for a 'parapet', with a single row of slots at its base (probably for water run-off). Internally, there are indications of five blocked windows (or perhaps gunports) at 1.7m above ground level, and 0.5 m square. It may well be of 16th-century date.

## STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City).

## SIGNIFICANCE

The surviving tower is of considerable significance as a corner tower, whether of medieval or post-medieval date. It would also be of some significance if it were only a post-medieval garden feature or dovecote.

## CONDITION

The tower is in reasonable condition, though it has been repointed in an unsympathetic manner.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

The tower stands isolated and gated, thus attracting litter. It lacks any interpretive signage.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Detailed survey and analysis of surviving fabric. [Policy 14]
- Careful maintenance of vegetation growth on wall (removal of unsuitable woody species). [Policy 9]
- Monitoring of condition of fabric survey to determine any need for repairs. [Policy 11]
- Establishment of maintenance regime. [Policy 11]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 15]
- Consideration of display and access. [Policy 19]
- Marking out of lost features in paving. [Policy 20]



## 125 ST JOHN'S SOUTH WALL

### SUMMARY

The north-east sector of the wall along the south side of the St John's suburb survives as standing wall.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Rocque's 1758 map shows the tenements in St John's Street north-east of the Lake mill stream with a property boundary on the same alignment as the one between the College and the River Nore (Section 12.6). The OS 1841 manuscript town plan shows these boundaries where the present wall stands.

### DESCRIPTION

(see Figure 12)

There is a continuous rubble stone wall for most of this section. Part survives in the carpark of Langton's Bar, where the ramp across the line of the wall demonstrates the difference in height between the ground inside and outside the wall (Figure 12). To the south of this, a higher length of wall contains two loops, though this has the appearance of being a post-medieval rebuilding of an individual structure (a building inside the wall), perhaps as a garden feature. Further south, the wall is rebuilt with a brick top and has several post-medieval features, but may be medieval at the base.



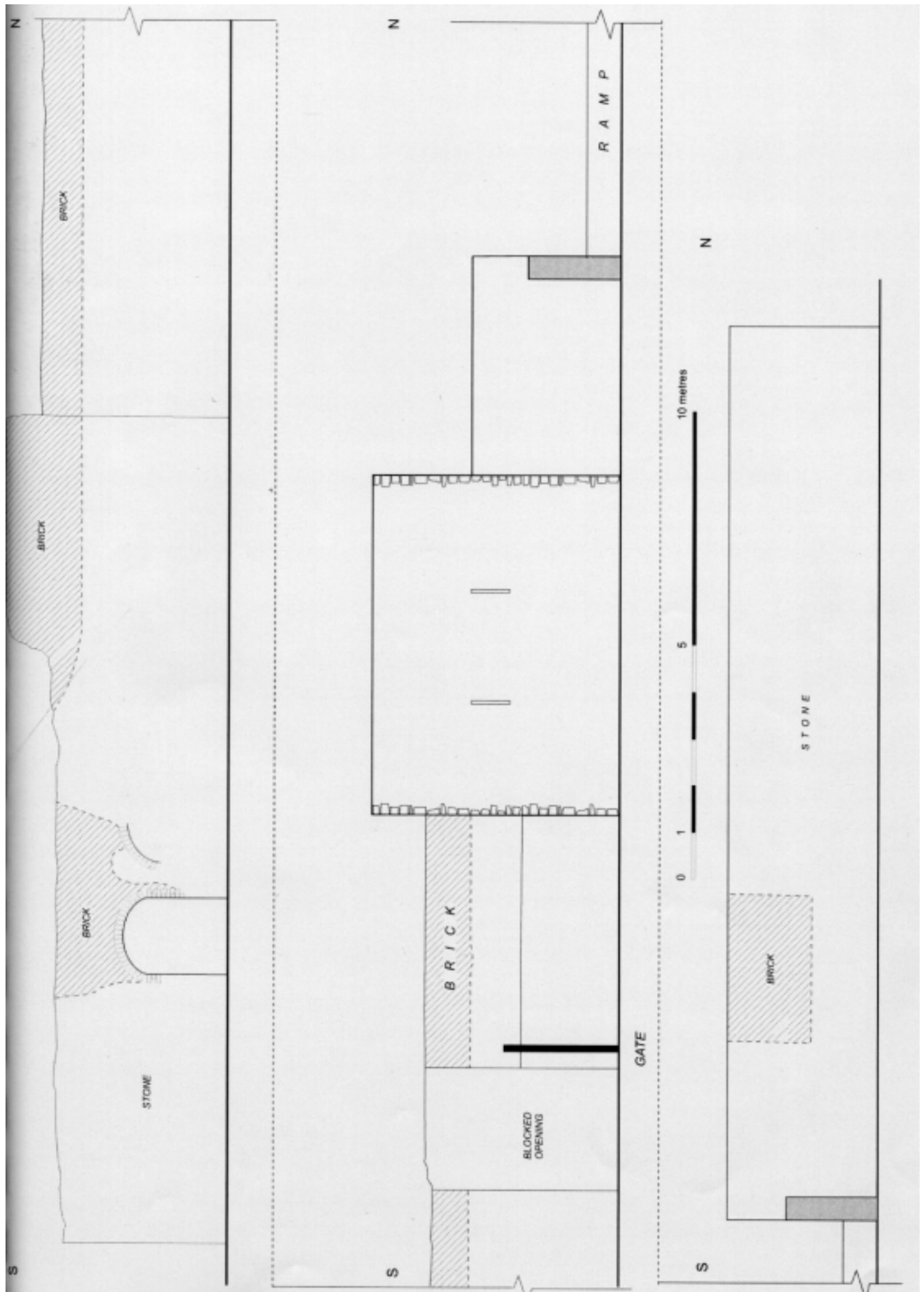


Figure 12: St John's South Wall

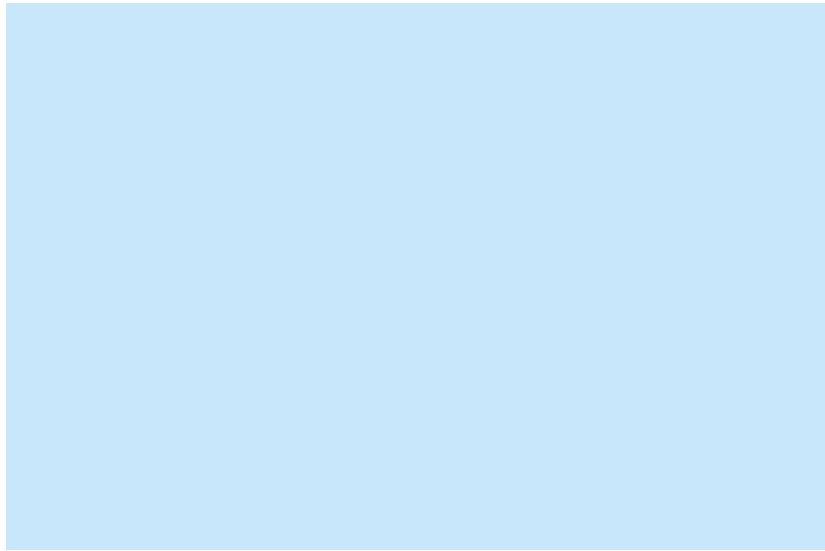


Plate 31: Section of wall displaying two loops, located to south of Langton's Bar (June 2001)

The surviving length of wall ends at the line of the former mill stream that later became a back lane. Excavations behind 70-71 John Street in 1994 approached the wall but found little of note in or below the garden soil (*Excavations Ireland 1994* [1994:139]). In 1996, more extensive test trenching to the east of the wall behind 68/9 John Street, *i.e.* the rear plot of 90 Maudlin Street, uncovered wall foundations to a depth of 3m, with a battered base. Examination of the standing wall suggested that the internal 'tower' was contemporary with the wall. A watercourse, possibly acting as a moat, was found outside the wall, while the ground sloped down towards the former mill stream where the ground was wet, (*Excavations Ireland 1996* [1996:210]).

### STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City). The part in Langton's has been subject to a Preservation Order (TPO 2/96).

### SIGNIFICANCE

The surviving lengths of wall demonstrate the fact that the suburb had a wall around it. The change in levels demonstrates the different land-use within and without the walls.

### CONDITION

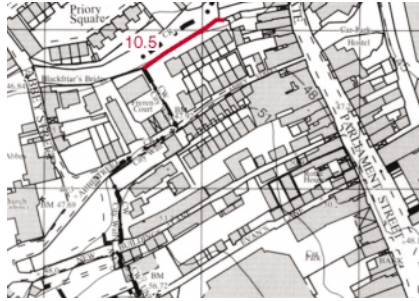
The surviving parts of the wall are in reasonable condition.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Some parts of the wall or its alignment have been lost in recent years, and the line of the wall is vulnerable to further diminution.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Detailed survey and analysis of surviving fabric. [Policy 14]
- Careful maintenance of vegetation growth on wall (removal of unsuitable woody species). [Policy 9]
- Monitoring of condition of fabric survey to determine any need for repairs. [Policy 11]
- Establishment of maintenance regime. [Policy 11]
- Archaeological record of any alterations or maintenance works. [Policy 15]
- Consideration of display and access. [Policy 19]



## 12.6 ST JOHN'S SOUTH WALL (LOST)

### SUMMARY

The south-west sector of the lost wall along the south side of the St John's suburb survives in property boundaries.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Rocque's 1758 map shows the tenements in St John's Street extending as far as a continuous property boundary between the College and the River Nore. The OS 1841 manuscript town plan shows property boundaries and a ditch running along the outside from the College to the river.

### DESCRIPTION

The north-east end of this section commences at the line of the former mill stream which runs through St John's and which later became a back lane. The line of the wall has been obliterated in the County Hall (former College) site, but its line is preserved as the low garden wall of premises in Nos. 77-84 John Street Lower. South of this, the line shown on historic maps is now represented by a line of trees running through the carpark of the River Court Hotel. The carpark has been built up around 1 metre above the level of the trees, and the boundary moved out beyond the former line of the defences.

In 1991 excavations for the new county offices on the College site found a boundary wall on the alignment that did not appear to be part of a defensive wall (*Excavations Ireland 1991* [1991:079]; Bradley and King, 1992, 983-6). In 1995, test trenching behind Bridge House (88-9 John Street), i.e. the present carpark, determined that the southern boundary wall was not medieval 'and no evidence for the wall was located' (*Excavations Ireland 1995* [1995:169]). Subsequent excavations during development in 1998 found a section of wall only 24m back from John Street (at No 85); it was 0.43m wide, revetting the west side of a wet ditch, and descended 1.7m to the bottom of the ditch (and with a battered base). The trenches dug to the east of this line indicated unused extra-mural land with no significant deposits, and the excavated wall has therefore been interpreted as the medieval city wall (*Excavations Ireland 1998* [1998:351]). Further monitoring of construction of the River Court Hotel in 1999 uncovered a trench 3m wide and 3m deep, 1 m behind Bridge House (Nos. 87-89 John Street), in line with that found behind No, 85, *Excavations Ireland 1999* [1999:446].

The archaeological evidence might seem to outweigh the topographical arguments based on map evidence, and suggest a more close-fitting defensive line, though this requires further corroboration.

## STATUS

Part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City).

## SIGNIFICANCE

The boundary walls marking the line of the former defences are of significance taken with the surviving lengths of wall to demonstrate the fact that the suburb had a wall around it.

## CONDITION

The surviving walls are reasonably maintained; the condition of the buried remains is uncertain.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Some parts of the wall or its alignment have been lost in recent years, and the line of the wall is vulnerable to further diminution and to works resulting in ground disturbance.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey or investigation to determine extent of remains. [Policy 15]
- Future development should respect the line of the wall. [Policy 18]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]



## 12.7 MAUDLIN GATE AND CASTLE

### SUMMARY

Maudlin Gate, associated with the tower house in Maudlin Street, gave additional protection to the suburb (Plate 32).

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The tower house appears to have been part of the Hospital of St Mary Magdalen (recorded from 1327), and did not primarily form part of the City defences (it does, for example, have a ground-floor door on the 'outside'). However, the hospital precinct was no doubt walled, and the 16th-century tower house provided an opportunity for a defensive barrier across the street. There is a reference in 1628 to a 'town ditch' near St Mary's, so there may have been an external ditch beyond the gate. The hospital was given to the Corporation by King Charles I (Bradley 2000c, 14 [quoting Ledwich 1781, 401], and 22; Bradley 2000a, 126).

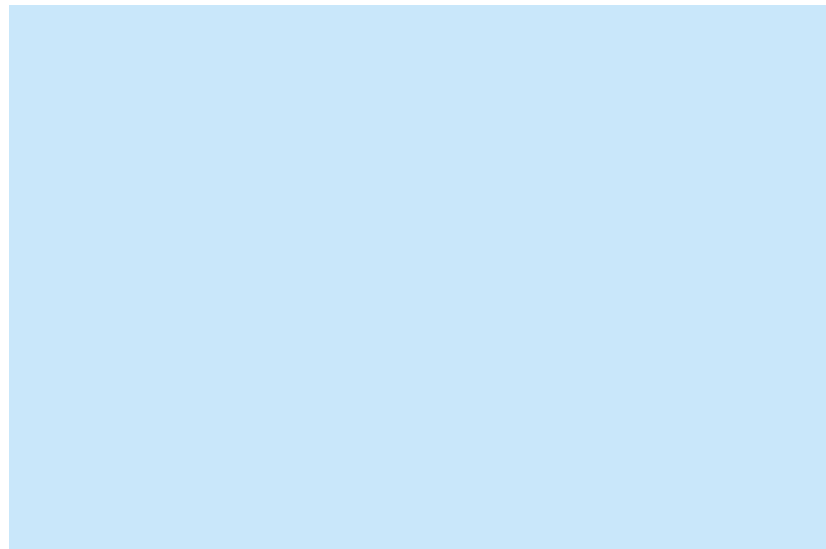


Plate 32: Maudlin Castle from the south (May 2001)



Plate 33: Scar in the south wall of Maudlin Castle, indicating the position of the attached gate (June 2001)

### DESCRIPTION

The south wall of the tower has the scar of a wall that formed the side of the gate (Plate 33). The gate, which may have formed the entrance into the hospital enclosure, is shown on Francis Place's view of Kilkenny in c. 1698 (Plate 29) and on the similar painting of Kilkenny from the same direction (Bradley, 2000c, Pl. 2).

### STATUS

The Castle is a National Monument in State Care (No. 522), having been vested in the Office of Public Works by the Kilkenny Corporation in 1969. It is part of the Recorded Monument 'Kilkenny City'.

### SIGNIFICANCE

The Hospital has significance in its own right, but the site of the gate is significant as a minor surviving part of the suburban defences of Kilkenny.

### CONDITION

The tower is well-maintained by Dúchas.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Elements of the gate surviving below ground are vulnerable to works resulting in ground disturbance.

### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey or investigation to determine extent of remains. [Policy 15]
- Protection of below-ground remains of the defences. [Policy 6]
- Marking out of lost features in roadway. [Policy 20]

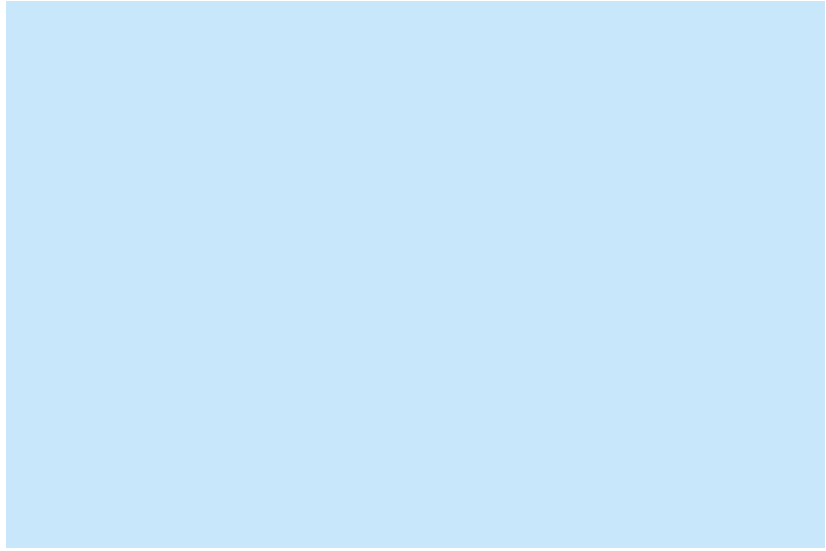


Plate 34: Maudlin Gate and Castle: detail from Francis Place's drawing of *C.* 1698



**KILKENNY CITY WALLS**  
CONSERVATION PLAN

**GAZETTEER**

**13. DOCUMENTATION**

## 13.1 HISTORICAL RECORDS

### SUMMARY

The exceptional amount of historical records for Kilkenny can throw light on many aspects of the city and its defences. Much remains to be discovered.

### DESCRIPTION

Records of the defences of medieval Kilkenny survive in national and local records. For later periods, there is a wide range of historical and topographical evidence, both printed and manuscript. This includes:

- Public records in Dublin that were destroyed in 1922 but published in calendar form before that date, including charters, murage grants and other Chancery and Exchequer records.
- Other collections that have come to the National Archives since that date (e.g. records of the Ordnance Survey or the Office of Works).
- Irish material amongst the public records in Public Record Office, Kew (London).
- Record collections in the National Library of Ireland and other repositories (e.g. Ormond Papers in National Library, but with elements also amongst the Carte MSS in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and in Dorset Record Office).
- The long series of Corporation records of Kilkenny preserved by the Borough Council, starting with the *Liber Primus Kilkenniensis*, and continuing with later records of the administration of Hightown and Irishtown, and other records surviving in e.g. the library of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland (originally the Kilkenny Archaeological Society).
- Records of the Diocese of Ossory held in the Representative Church Body Library, Dublin.
- Papers of local historians and antiquaries (e.g. those of James Graves in RCB Library, National Library, Royal Irish Academy and PRO Northern Ireland).
- Privately-held material, including title-deeds and other local collections.
- Iconographic material, especially topographical drawings and paintings from the 18th and 19th centuries, and early photographs, in National Library, National Archives, Irish Architectural Archive, Royal Society of Antiquaries, and collections in London and elsewhere.
- Maps such as Rocque's 1758 Kilkenny, and the large-scale Ordnance Survey plan of 1841.
- Published accounts of travellers, antiquaries and local historians, and local newspapers (including papers in Old Kilkenny Review, and materials in the Library of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society).
- Modern records of curation and maintenance (e.g. Dúchas, and Borough Council).

See also Sections 13.2 and 13.3, Archaeological Records.

## STATUS

These materials are mostly secure in public collections and some, but not all, can be found through catalogues or finding aids (which are increasingly in the form of searchable on-line catalogues).

## SIGNIFICANCE

The quantity and quality of record sources for Kilkenny are exceptional for Ireland. They are of significance for providing an historical context for the surviving remains of the defences.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Records can be lost or suddenly destroyed, and their duplication (or publication) is the one certain protection.

The Kilkenny Corporation records deserve to be better known and could be explored together with the later Ormond estate records with a view to publication of key sources.

While it would be desirable to obtain copies of key records for use in Kilkenny, the facilities for local studies in the Kilkenny Library are restricted by the available space.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Carry out further investigation in the Corporation and other archives. [Policy 14]
- This might include: cataloguing of record collections; publication of corporation records; and raising awareness of sources and making copies available in local repositories (and providing improved facilities for their study).
- Maintaining modern records of curation. [Policies 12, 14]

## 13.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDS

### SUMMARY

The increasing amount of archaeological activity in Kilkenny has not been matched by full publication or dissemination of the results. The future of the archaeological archives is therefore uncertain.

### DESCRIPTION

There has been a considerable amount of archaeological activity in Kilkenny in recent decades. This has been in response to development activity, either in the form of evaluations in advance of development, or more extensive excavations, and watching briefs. An important series of research excavations has also taken place in Kilkenny Castle. Most of these have been promptly reported on in the usual channels of the *Excavations Bulletin*; the online index lists some 120 reports since 1980. A significant proportion of these activities have occurred since the summary of existing information included in the mapping of the city in the *Urban Archaeological Survey County Kilkenny* (1993). While the sites investigated may lack some of the characteristics of the more spectacular finds prevailing in other Irish cities (e.g. extensive waterlogged organic remains), they have produced important information and demonstrated the potential for further discoveries. The cumulative information from sites and finds (e.g. the local pottery sequence) is of importance for understanding the archaeology of the city, and therefore of successfully curating its heritage.

Apart from the summary bulletins, only a few sites have been more extensively published in the *Old Kilkenny Review* or other outlets. There is a growing quantity of unpublished material that is unavailable to the archaeological community and the interested public. The problem of archaeological publication is not unique to Kilkenny, and has been generally recognised and reported (Unpublished excavations survey 1930-1997, Heritage Council 2002).

Quite apart from publication, the curation of the finds and paper records (the archaeological archive) is also a major problem. These have often been retained by the individuals or organisations conducting the investigations through lack of a suitable place of deposit.

See also Section 13.1 Historical Records, and Section 13.3 Architectural Records.

### STATUS

Unpublished excavation material may still be in the hands of excavators, with finds and records awaiting full assessment or publication, and appropriate deposit.

### SIGNIFICANCE

The records of archaeological investigations are the only means of preserving information on deposits that have been destroyed. Since Kilkenny is a major medieval Irish city, this information is of considerable significance, and of regional and often of national importance.

## ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Lack of publication will usually result in loss of information.

The lack of a place of deposit for archaeological finds and records makes interrogation of past discoveries increasingly difficult, since records are retained by individual archaeologists.

The number and complexity of archaeological activities in Kilkenny has reached the point where an overall mapping of sites and a synthesis of recent work is a serious desideratum.

## POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- The large number of sites in Kilkenny should be published (Policy 14). Consideration should be given to a joint publication of minor sites in Kilkenny, perhaps in a volume containing an archaeological gazetteer and reassessment of the City's archaeology.
- The proper curation of archaeological finds and archives from sites in Kilkenny should be addressed as a matter of concern (Policy 14).

## 13.3 ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS

### SUMMARY

The results of architectural investigations, along with the plans and photographs of repairs and alterations, should be maintained as a formal architectural record of the City Walls. These would be a source of information and would act as a guide to future management.

### DESCRIPTION

Parts of the standing fabric of the City Walls have been subject to investigation, either as part of an archaeological project or for the purposes of general survey and repair. There will also be historical records of curation and maintenance resulting from the actions of Dúchas (and its predecessors) and the Borough Council. Other more or less formal records such as drawings and photographs will survive (see Section 13.1). All these types of record will continue to be made in the future, and indeed should be made for significant remains that have not yet been surveyed in detail.

See also Section 13.1 Historical Records, and Section 13.2 Archaeological Records.

### STATUS

As with archaeological archives, architectural records may remain in the hands of those who made them, rather than being in a secure place of deposit.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural records are of interest for the study of the monument. Where they record repairs or alterations, they are also important for the future management of the walls.

### ISSUES/VULNERABILITY

Records that are not in a secure place of deposit are liable to be lost or destroyed. Even official files of great importance can be weeded out and destroyed if their significance is not noted and their retention assured.

While a national Architectural Record exists for the preservation of drawings and photographs, there will always be a need for such materials to be available locally by those who are in charge of the monument.

Important monuments such as the Kilkenny City Walls deserve to have a formal archive of their own in which surveys and records of management, repairs and alterations can be kept and consulted in the future by those charged with their care and maintenance.

### POLICIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Existing architectural records of the City Walls in national, local and private collections should be identified so that they can be copied or collected

together into a separate Fabric Archive for the City Walls. [Policy 14]

- Records should be made of significant or vulnerable parts of the fabric that have not previously been surveyed in detail, especially in advance of repairs being carried out, and added to the Fabric Archive. [Policies 14, 15]
- The written, drawn and photographic records of repairs and maintenance should be added to the Fabric Archive. [Policy 12]
- Copies of new episodes of fabric recording should also be copied to the Irish Architectural Archive.