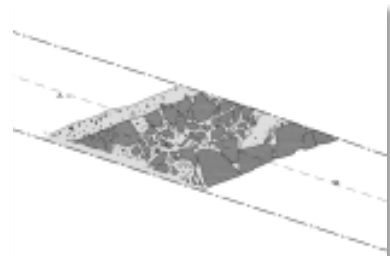


# BANDON TOWN WALL

CONSERVATION,  
MANAGEMENT  
& INTERPRETATION  
PLAN



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# Chapter One

---

## 1. INTRODUCTION

*Tobar Archaeological Services*

### BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

#### *Terms of Reference*

This Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan for Bandon Town Wall has been prepared by Tobar Archaeological Services and Carrig Conservation for Cork County Council and the Irish Walled Towns Network through the Heritage Council. Tobar Archaeological Services and Carrig were appointed in October 2012. The steering group consisted of Conor Nelligan, Conservation officer Cork County Council, Liam Mannix, The Heritage Council, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan and Maria McLaughlin (IWTN), Carrig Conservation and Tobar Archaeological Services.

#### *Consultancy Group*

The consultants consisted of the following:

- Annette Quinn, Tobar Archaeological Services
- Miriam Carroll, Tobar Archaeological Services
- Mary-Liz McCarthy, Carrig Conservation
- Hugh Kavanagh, Landmark Survey (Measured survey drawings including Figs. 1-3 and 7-15)

#### *Context of the Town Walls*

Bandon town walls are of national significance, but their potential as a major heritage asset for the town has not yet

been fully exploited. Bandon is now part of the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN). The IWTN is an initiative of the Heritage Council in partnership with the Dept. of Environment, Fáilte Ireland and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. Its purpose is to unite and co-ordinate the strategic efforts of Local Authorities involved in the management and conservation of historic walled towns. Bandon joined the IWTN in 2008.

The development of a plan for the town is in accordance with Key Action 3 of the Irish Walled Towns Network 3 Year Action Plan 2011 – 2013.

The purpose of this Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan is to provide a reference document which should be central in planning all future work to the walls. **Cultural Tourism** is one of the fastest growing international industries and both the Irish Government and Fáilte Ireland have identified this sector as potential driver for the recovery of our weak economy. “Target Destinations” have been identified by Fáilte Ireland as the way forward and Bandon could be such a product due to its history associated to place, people and the 17<sup>th</sup> century structure of the town. The town walls if utilised properly could be a key factor in achieving this. The key aims of this conservation, management and interpretation plan are as follows:

- improving public awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the Walls
- identifying issues for development control and for future development along the circuit such as ACAs
- short and long term management of the Walls
- defining clear guiding principles against which any new development proposals or new ways of using the Walls can be evaluated
- identification, following a condition survey, of areas of the Walls in need of attention (with recommendations for the repair, conservation and protection of the Walls within a phased programme)
- the preparation of initiatives for access, interpretation and education related to the Walls and their setting.

The Conservation Plan should not be an end in itself but seen rather as a management tool for the future.

### **Site Location**

Bandon (*Droichead na Bandan*) is located in West County Cork approximately 27km south-west of Cork City on the N71 (Figure 1). As the Irish name suggests it translates as Bridge of the River (Bandon), the bridge being a reference to the town as a crossing point on the river. The town is often referred to as 'The Gateway to West Cork', and recorded a population of 6640 in the 2011 census. The town was walled in the 17<sup>th</sup> century during the Plantation of Munster when English settlers occupied the area. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the town grew as a major industrial centre which included brewing, tanning, distilling, corn and cotton milling. The industrial revolution in the 1800s and the advent of the railway system had a profound effect on the physical appearance and 17<sup>th</sup> century character of the town and it is perhaps for this reason that so little of the walled defences now remains.



Figure 1: Site Location Map.

## Statutory Context and Designations

*Legislation and policy governing the protection of Town Walls*

### Legislation

National Monuments Acts 1930 (amendments to the principal act 1954, 1987, 1994 and 2004).

Town defences or town walls are now regarded as National Monuments under the terms of the Act and amendment acts. It is not a National Monument in State Care or Guardianship but rather subject to ministerial direction under the National Monuments Acts by virtue of its ownership by the Local Authority. The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht require Ministerial Consent for all work carried out

at or within close proximity to the town defences. This requirement for Ministerial Consent also applies to sections of the walls within private ownership and those which are sub-surface.

In accordance with Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930, as amended, where a National Monument (such as town walls), of which the Minister or a Local Authority are the owners or guardians, or that have been subject of a Preservation Order, Ministerial Consent is required in order to:

- *Demolish or remove it wholly or in part or to disfigure, deface, alter or in any manner injure or interfere with it, or*
- *To excavate, dig, plough or otherwise disturb the ground within around or in proximity to, or*

- *To sell it or any part of it for exportation or to export it or any part of it*

The Planning and Development Act 2000-2002

This act provides for the establishment of the County Development Plans and Local Area Plans. Part IV of the Planning Act requires:

- *that the Planning Authority have a clear obligation regarding the creation of the Record of Protected Structures which in their opinion are of special architectural, historical, artistic, archaeological, scientific or social merit. The record forms part of the Planning Authorities County Development Plan.*
- *That the Planning Authority are obliged to preserve the character of places and townscapes which*

*are of special architectural, historical, artistic, archaeological, scientific or social merit by designating the towns Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) in their development plans.*

The Bandon town walls are not currently listed in the Record of Protected Structures for County Cork. It is also noteworthy that while the town walls mainly lie either within or along the Bandon ACA boundaries, that a portion of the western line of the town wall including the surviving tower in the River Bandon is excluded from the ACA. The omitted section of the town wall on the western side of the town, just north of the Bandon River, should be included in the ACA in next County Development Plan as it relates directly to the historic town. Similarly, the town walls should be considered for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures.

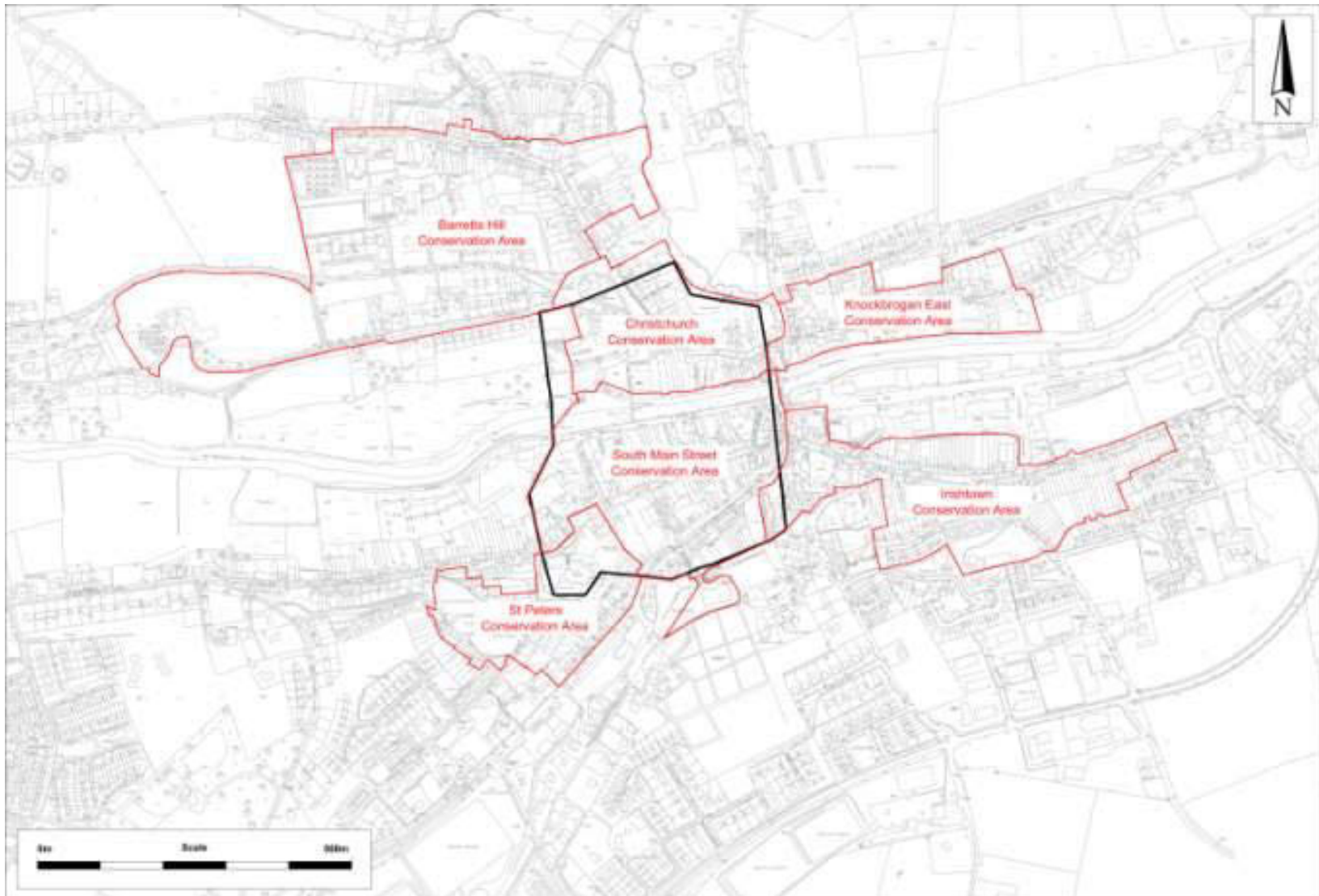


Figure 2: ACA map of Bandon showing line of town wall. Note western line of town wall outside Christchurch ACA.



Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)

Bandon town wall is also a Recorded Monument which affords it further statutory protection. The Record of Monuments and Places is a statutory list of monuments which was established

under Section 12 of the National Monuments Amendment Act (1994). The town defences in Bandon have been designated a separate RMP number CO110-019-014 (Town Defences, Gully townland).

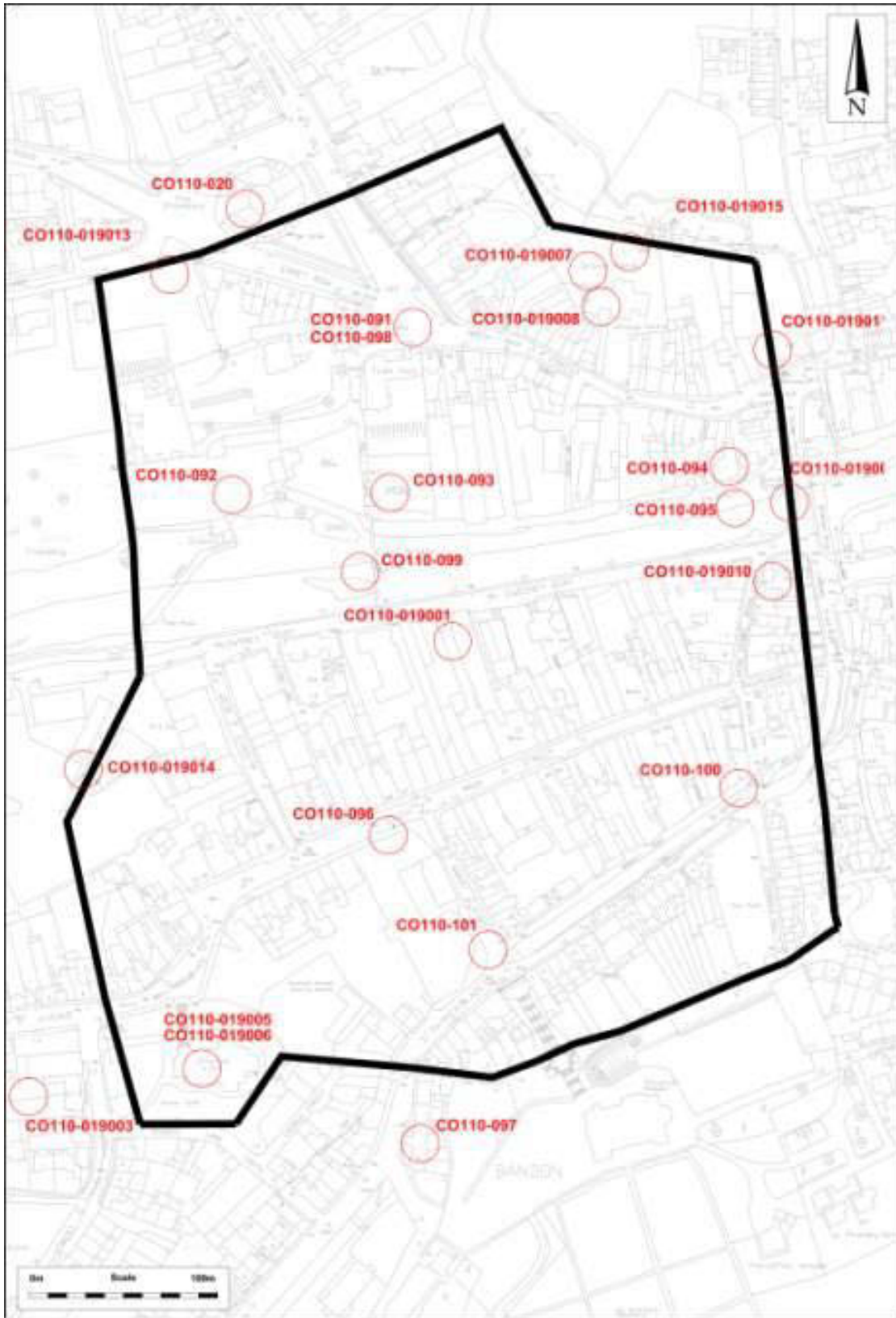


Figure 3: Recorded Monuments adjacent to and within town walls.



### **Archaeological Policy**

In 1999 two significant documents were published by the state which outlined the government's policy in relation to the protection of archaeological heritage and the conducting of archaeological excavations.

- *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*
- *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavations*

These documents clearly outline the basic principles of National Policy on the protection of the archaeological heritage and reflect the obligations on the State under the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage.

The National Policy on Town Defences (2008) was published by the then Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (now Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, DoAHG). It addresses issues relating to the protection and conservation of town defences which are National Monuments. Of relevance to Bandon is that both the known and expected circuits of the defences and all their associated structures are to be considered a single National Monument and treated as a single unit for policy and management purposes.

### **Planning Policy**

A number of planning policies which provide further guidance on the preservation and promotion of historic monuments and their settings are outlined below. Further guiding conservation policies such as the Burra Charter are discussed in Chapter 7 Conservation Policies and Actions.

The National Heritage Plan - Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (2002). This plan prioritises the increasing of community ownership of heritage by:

- *Empowering local communities to become more involved in heritage issues*
- *Enhancing the role and resources of local authorities in the protection of heritage*
- *Setting up local heritage fora through the Local Authorities*
- *Identify the way forward through the preparation of Local Heritage Plans.*

The Irish Walled Towns Network 3-Year Action Plan 2011-2013

The Heritage Council (2005) - directly concerned with walled towns, their promotion and resources required for their care. This Conservation, Management and Interpretation plan is being prepared as part of the 3 year action plan for Bandon town walls.

The National Development Plan (2007-2013)

Sets out a blueprint for economic and social development with detail on spatial planning, support infrastructure, environmental sustainability and economic growth.

The County Development Plan (2009-2014), Cork County Council

Chapter 7.3 on archaeological heritage states the following:

- *that within the Record of Monuments and Places a number of areas have been designated as Zones of Archaeological Potential. The towns of **Bandon**, Buttevant, Castlemartyr, Clonakilty, Cloyne, Cobh, Fermoy, Glanworth, Innishannon, Kinsale, Lisscarroll,*

*Macroom, Mallow, Midleton, Rosscarbery, Skibbereen and Youghal have been designated as Zones of Archaeological Potential.*

- *Various types of development can have visual or physical impacts on archaeological heritage. It is important that this heritage be protected, in particular during a time of increasing development arising from our economic success. Previously unidentified archaeological sites may be uncovered during construction works including drainage schemes or road making. Archaeological deposits, which may be damaged by the development, must be investigated and recorded in great detail.*
- *Occasionally archaeological excavation may be inappropriate, the archaeology may be preserved in-situ and the development proposals are consequently altered. Cork County Council has its own archaeological expertise to advise on any matters relating to archaeological heritage. The Council will also have regard to recommendations of the Cork Historic Monuments Advisory Committee and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.*
- *Cork County Council has an important role to play in promoting initiatives aimed at raising awareness of archaeological heritage and to facilitate access to*

*National Monuments in State and Local Authority ownership.*

The County Development Plan also allows for the expansion of ACAs and variation to ACAs. It is a recommendation of this plan that the entire circuit of the town wall be included within the ACA for Bandon in order to ensure more planning control in the areas adjacent to the town defences.

Bandon Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011  
In the section on Built Heritage the Plan states the following in relation to same:

#### *Built Heritage*

*1.2.34. Because of its recognised importance from an historic and architectural perspective, the County Council has designated much of the older part of the town centre as an Architectural Conservation Area. Details of this can be found in Volumes 2 & 3 of the Cork County Development Plan 2009.*

*1.2.35. Throughout the town as a whole, there are 54 buildings or other structures entered in the initial Record of Protected Structures. The Record of Monuments and Places designates part of the town as a Zone of Archaeological Importance.*

*1.2.36. Careful conservation of the built heritage linked to sensitive and appropriate new development has the potential to deliver a high quality and unique town centre for the future.*

*1.2.37. The Bandon Action Programme (2008) identified a proposal to promote the historic town wall as a central part of the physical heritage of the town. It puts forward an improvement programme,*

which includes a number of ways of raising the awareness of the town wall. These include a town wall walk; feature markets, public art and plaques in conjunction with walks; and paving / lighting / plate markers where it crosses roads and footways.

No policies or objectives specific to the Town Defences are outlined in the LAP.

## Methodology

The methodology of this conservation, management and interpretation plan was essential in the study of Bandon town walls as a complex and composite monument, particularly given the significantly altered environment in which it now exists. To achieve a structured approach in the methodology, a model developed by James Kerr (2010, 8) on how to develop a Conservation Management Plan was utilised (Figure 4).

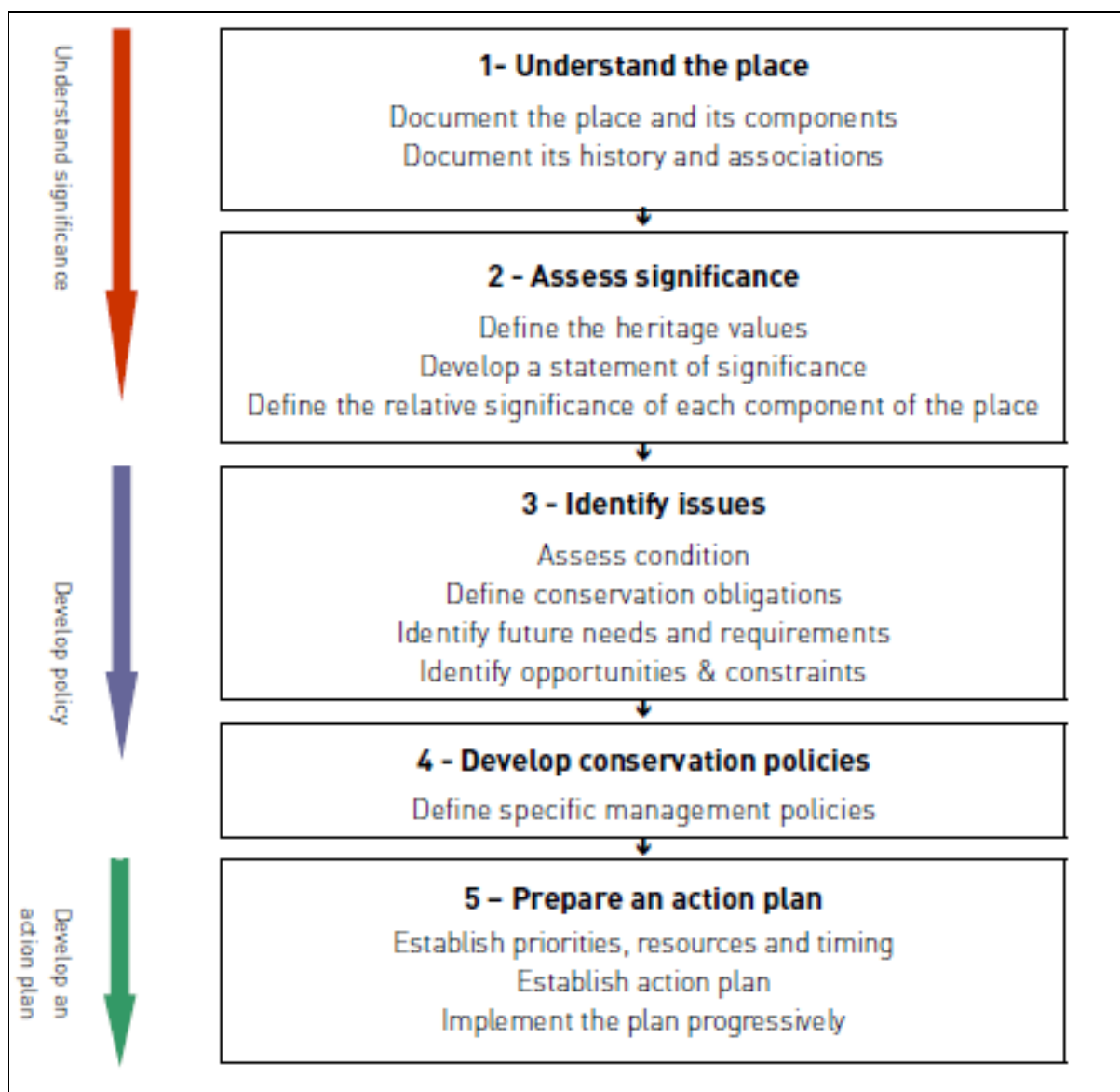


Figure 4: Model by Kerr (2010, 8).

The methodology employed for the plan ensured that the cultural and historical significance of the walled town was realised through a thorough historical and archaeological analysis. The vulnerability of that significance could then be identified so that policies for the appropriate protection and management of the town walls could be devised in addition to suitable policies for the management and conservation of those physical attributes of the site that contribute to its significance. Consultation with current stakeholders was also essential to the process of understanding how the town walls are currently used and appreciated locally. A plan for the implementation of the identified, required conservation and interpretation actions could then be devised to ensure the protection and appropriate enhancement of Bandon town walls both in the short, medium, and long term.

## **Limitations**

A number of limitations were evident from an initial survey of Bandon town walls. Realising the limitations themselves assisted and enabled the authors to understand the key conservation, management and interpretation issues in need of urgent redress. The main limitations to the project are as follows:

### *Site survey access and health and safety issues with wall in its present condition*

A large portion of the wall or the suspected line of the wall is located within private property. This presents difficulties both in terms of site survey and the eventual presentation of the wall. Portions of some sections of the wall were not accessible for visual inspection or survey given their location in private property

(e.g. Section 10, Section 6 and portions of Section 13). Dense vegetation cover was also a limitation for survey of the wall, particularly Section 5, west end of Section 6, Section 13, Section 14 and Section 19. Health and safety is also an issue in a number of places mainly due to its proximity to the Bandon River (Sections 1 and 22) and also the sheer drop that exists behind and to the north of Christ Church (Section 14). This is also the case along the southern side of the town (Section 9) where masonry from the original wall and/or rebuilt wall has collapsed into rear garden plots.

### *Lack of visibility of the town wall to the public*

Although the town wall is extant in a number of places which are visible to the public, its presence has not been fully exploited in a way that the local audience can appreciate. Large sections of the wall are not currently accessible or visible to the public. Where visible its meaning and significance has not been enhanced or promoted through appropriate interpretation. This overall lack of visibility locally does not allow for a full understanding of the town wall by the local audience or visitors alike.

### *Lack of understanding of audience regarding significance of town wall*

This mainly relates to the lack of information available to the local audience and to potential future visitors to the town. A number of key interpretative actions will be presented in this Plan in order to ensure that any surviving remains will be preserved into the future and that the significance of the wall within the context of the 17<sup>th</sup> century town will be realised.

*No developed tourism infrastructure within Bandon (information leaflets, formal way-marked walks, no visible historical / archaeological remains)*

This is also related to the latter point (see above). Again this plan will provide guidance on actions which can be taken in order to maximise the surviving remains and to use the wall as a tourist attraction whilst adhering to the best practice conservation measures.

*The geography of the Town Wall*

The layout of the town in its current setting is such that it is divided

approximately centrally by the large River Bandon and also by the smaller River Bridewell. The extent of the original town wall and town defences in comparison to other walled towns in Ireland is large, encompassing 16.5 hectares (40.77 acres). It is difficult therefore to appreciate a sense of 'enclosure' from within the town itself. This presents challenges in terms of the ultimate presentation of the walls themselves and the idea of a 'walled town'.

# Chapter Two

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## 2. SITE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

### HISTORY

#### *Carrig Conservation*

##### *The Munster Plantation*

The Munster Plantation of the 1580s was the first mass plantation in Ireland. It was instituted as punishment for the Desmond Rebellions against English interference in Munster. The Desmond dynasty was annihilated in the aftermath of the Second Desmond Rebellion (1579–83) and following the death in rebellion of the Earl of Desmond, the escheated land in the province were designated for English settlers. In 1584, the Surveyor General of Ireland, Sir Valentine Browne and a commission surveyed Munster and thirty-five main estates, or seignories as they were called, were formed from the confiscated portions and awarded to prominent gentlemen who undertook to settle a stipulated number of families within seven years. These men were known as *Undertakers*. It was hoped that the settlement would attract 15,000 colonists. Some of the very early plans for the Plantation included the establishment of large villages on each seignory and a market town for nine seignories. The Undertakers were also supposed to provide for the defence of planted districts from attack. However, on establishment of the plans, all urban planning was dropped as too difficult and expensive for settlers.

A report from 1589 showed that the undertakers had imported only in the region of 700 English tenants between them<sup>1</sup>. It has been suggested that each tenant was the head of a household, and that he therefore represents 4-5 other people. This would put the English population in Munster at nearer to three or four thousand which is still substantially below the anticipated figure of 15,000.

The Plantation was supposed to produce compact defensible settlements, but the reality was that the seignories were spread in pockets across the province, wherever land had been confiscated. This was far from the neat rectangles of land portrayed in the early plan. Initially the Undertakers were given detachments of English soldiers to protect the settlements, but these were abolished in the 1590s. As a result, when the Nine Years War came to Munster in 1598, most of the settlers were chased off their lands without a fight. They took refuge in the province's walled towns or fled back to England. However when the rebellion was put down in 1601–03, the Plantation was re-constituted by the Governor of Munster, George Carew.

Following the reversal of the 1598 Rebellion, there was surprise at the lack of planning regulations for buildings or towns in the first plantation. The haphazard spread of the seignories themselves precluded an orderly row of towns, even if the newcomers had possessed the means and ability to establish them. As for security, the settlers could and did fall back to the old English walled towns

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<sup>1</sup> Canny (2001) *Making Ireland British*, p. 146

which remained loyal throughout the nine years war, as mentioned above. Several senior officials, unable to grasp the deep divisions between urban and old country English, had doubted the Munster towns' loyalty in this war and constantly predicted disaffection. After 1603, there continued a vague yet persistent desire to create an alternative refuge for the planters, a town which would be exclusively English. Hence it would have to be a new creation, not the expansion of an existing settlement.

In Munster only one town fulfilled these planners' hopes - Bandon or Bandonbridge. The town's closest historical affinities were the towns in the most successful of the plantations – the Ulster Plantation.

#### *Foundation of Bandon*

The Bandon River bisected the Barony Kilnalmeaky and after confiscation marked the division between Phane Becher's seignory to the south and Sir Richard Grenville's to the north. Some of Becher's seignory did stretch north of the river including a portion at the townland of Coolfadda. Initially, neither undertaker succeeded in attracting many settlers. However following the defeat of the Gaelic forces at Kinsale in 1601, the way was open for sustained and intensive English settlement.

A bridge very probably already existed on the site of the town of Bandon given that the Irish name for Bandonbridge was *Droichead Uí Mhallaghamhna*. More than a year after its incorporation as Bandonbridge in 1613, the town was referred to by a new Englishman as Mahon-bridge.<sup>2</sup> Drohid-Mahon was still the

customary name used by Irish locals in the 1860s. There might have been a small Irish settlement associated with the bridge before the settlers arrived, though corroborating evidence is lacking. If it did exist, the inhabitants were soon to be dispersed.

In March 1604 Henry Becher, son of the original grantee, leased most of his seignory to William Newce and John Archdeacon for 31 years.<sup>3</sup> Soon after this, Archdeacon assigned his lands to John Shipward. Newce controlled most of the site north of the river with Shipward controlling that to the south. Henry Becher retained the inheritance of most of both portions and also held other small pieces of land, some on leases from Irish freeholders who had escaped confiscation in the 1580s. Between them these three claim to be the founders of Bandon. However, it is likely that they viewed the town as a speculative venture and not as an element in any grand plan.

The town of Bandon began to develop during the first decade of the seventeenth century with a town first mentioned on the south side of the bridge. The earliest evidence of the emerging town is an impressionistic small-scale map from that decade showing a bridge spanning the river with 18 houses nearby, 12 of them on the north side of the river. In 1610 Henry Becher was granted a market for 'the town lately built on the south side of the River Bandon'.<sup>4</sup>

Newce directly owned the land at Coolfadda which put him in a stronger position than Shipward for developing a settlement. In 1595 Coolfadda had been granted by Becher to an Englishman

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<sup>2</sup> O'Flanagan (1988) *Irish Historic Towns Atlas: Bandon*, p.1

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p.2

whose descendent sold it to Shipman. Shipman, in turn, sold it to Newce in 1608. Newce's possession allowed him to grant extremely long leases at low rates in order to entice suitable tenants. These tenants were obliged to build houses in the English style and by 1611 31 leases had been awarded. Shipman, on the other hand, offered leases for 35 years.<sup>5</sup>

Coolfadda became an independent manor in due course and in 1613 both Coolfadda (north) and Bandon Bridge (south) were incorporated as a single municipal and parliamentary borough.

The morphologies<sup>6</sup> of the early settlements on either side of the river are unclear. A plan of the northern town by Christopher Jefford, probably drawn in 1613, shows a compact rectangular grid-iron settlement of some 360 houses with a market place and market cross, a session's house and a church. There is a substantial wall on the three non-river sides of the town with bastions, fortified gateways and an outer ditch. There are also two forts, one for the lord president of Munster to the west of the town and the other – 'Carew's old fort', probably dating from Sir George Carew's tenure of this office in the early 1600s – just within the eastern perimeter wall. However, it appears that this plan was simply a blueprint for the future and not a reflection of the town's appearance in 1613. The only man-made features that were certainly erected by 1613 are the bridge, Carew's fort and a minority of Jefford's streets, notably the ancestor of Kilbrogan Hill and North Main Street whose present course is convincingly anticipated in the plan.

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<sup>5</sup> MacCarthy-Morrogh (1986), p.56

<sup>6</sup> Morphologies - the plan and character of the two settlements

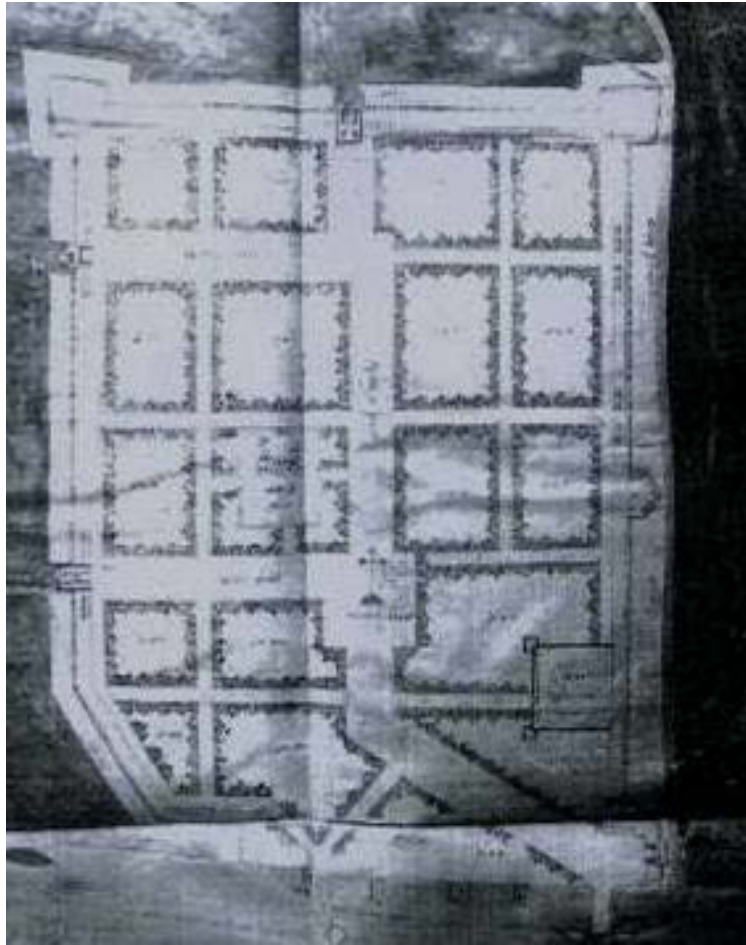
In 1611 Newce recommended walling the town.<sup>7</sup> His plan called for every ploughland in Munster to pay five shillings over two years, the proceeds of which Newce would use to construct not only suitable walls but a house for the Lord President as well as market and session houses. The wall shown on Jefford's plan is presumably that proposed by Newce; however whether any of it had been built before 1613 is uncertain. There is reference to an individual being rated for a house outside the West Gate in 1616, but other evidence for the building of the walls having commenced by this time is not available.<sup>8</sup> It was not until a new more substantial owner appeared, willing to shoulder part of the financial burden himself that the proposal of walling the town began to be implemented.

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> O'Flanagan (1988) *Irish Historic Towns Atlas: Bandon*, p.2





*The Plot of the Towne of Bandon Bridge...as it is entended to be bulyte, 1613.* By Christopher Jefford

### *Richard Boyle and the Building of the Walls*

Richard Boyle, later the Earl of Cork, was seventeenth-century Ireland's leading entrepreneur. By the early 1600s he had established himself in the Youghal-Lismore area where he acquired the lands originally granted to Sir Walter Raleigh. He then decided to turn his attentions to the west of the county with his first purchases west of Cork city being in the seignory of Kerrycurrihy.

In 1612 Boyle bought Newce's share of Becher's lease at Bandon and the following year he was granted a market and fairs at Coolfadda. He also acquired the principal freehold interests on both

sides of the river – Becher's on the north side before 1614 and Shipward's on the south in 1618.<sup>9</sup> He acquired several leaseholds south of Bandon in 1615, Richard Grenville's seignory south-east of the town in 1623, and territory to the north-east owned by the bishop of Cork.<sup>10</sup>

By 1630 Boyle controlled a vast wedge of territory from Enniskeen in the west to Carrigaline on the Cork Harbour in the east. Bandon lay almost in the geographical centre of these properties and from now on its fortunes were meshed with the evolution, maturation

<sup>9</sup> MacCarthy-Morrogh (1986), p.57

<sup>10</sup> O'Flanagan (1988) *Irish Historic Towns Atlas: Bandon*, p.2

and decline of one of Ireland's largest estates.<sup>11</sup>

Boyle developed his new territories by promoting agricultural production, rural housing, trade, mining, quarrying, milling and New English urban settlement. He never lived in Bandon and it is hard to explain why he invested so much capital in it. The town did not have natural advantages and leases within it were a complex and untidy mess. However this did not deter Boyle and within a decade he had fused the two embryonic settlements into one of Munster's most interesting and unusual towns.

Although he only acquired the north town initially, Boyle soon set about making improvements which suggest an early decision to make Bandon the headquarters of his western estates.

Following his acquirement of title of virtually the whole town in 1618, Boyle set about implementing the long-planned walling of the town.<sup>12</sup> Newce's suggestion of a voluntary ploughland contribution was put in motion with varied success. It is not certain how much was collected but it would not have been sufficient to cover the cost of erecting the walls.

According to Boyle's diaries, the first stone for the walls was laid in June 1620 by Richard Crofts.<sup>13</sup> In 1622 Croft was replaced by John Lodden as the mason.<sup>14</sup> Boyle paid his masons £7 (€8.27) per perch<sup>15</sup>, which for 362 perches (Bandon's walled circumference) produced an outlay

of £2,534 (€2993). Most of the sum was paid directly by Boyle, though how much was recouped from the ploughland tax is not recorded. In addition to the walls, three gatehouse castles, each with 26 rooms, were built at an estimated cost of £2,500 (€2953) along with three postern gates and six flankers. Boyle estimated that the total cost of the whole works was £6000 (€7088).<sup>16</sup>

Two anonymous maps probably dating to 1620 show Boyle's original plan for the defence of Bandon on both sides of the river. These maps show a larger and more regular walled enclosure than was actually built and a more extensive and elaborate street plan, especially on the north side, than ever existed on the ground. The fortifications on these plans were outdated even by early seventeenth-century standards. The circular bastions were less easily defended than the angle bastions which were appearing in other towns and they were too small in relation to the length of the wall to allow adequate manoeuvrability to their guns. In this respect Jefford's earlier plan was actually more 'modern', as it suggested large angle bastions. The style, dimensions and construction of the gatehouses at Bandon were also more in keeping with medieval than with early modern practice, as their height would have made them vulnerable to attack from seventeenth-century canon.

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> MacCarthy-Morrogh (1986), p.58

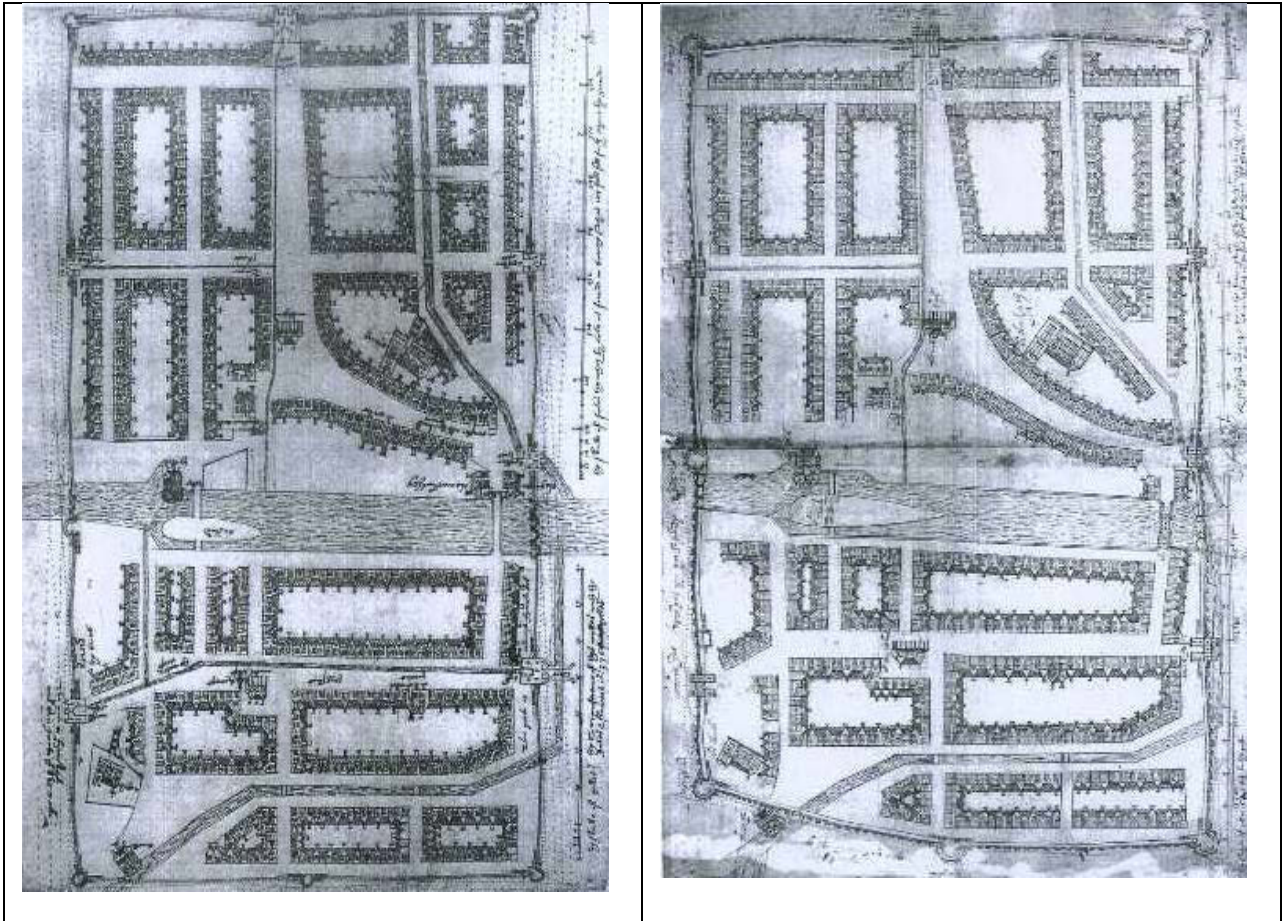
<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Connolly (1985), p.56

<sup>15</sup> A perch is an obsolete [unit of measurement](#) used for length, area, and volume in a number of systems of measurement. In Ireland a perch was 21 feet (6.4 m).

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<sup>16</sup> MacCarthy-Morrogh (1986), p.58



Two anonymous plans dating to 1620 illustrating the walled town of Bandon

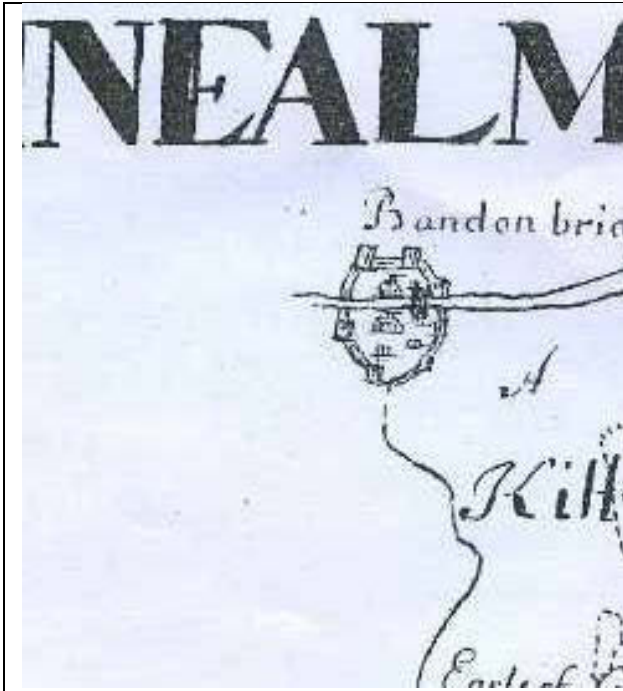
The alignment of the walls as finally built can be traced from the stylised picture plan drawn as part of the Down Survey in 1656, from a terrier of c.1750, from a survey of Bandon by Bernard Scalé in 1775, and from information later collected by the Ordnance Survey, as well as from the fragments that have survived until the present day. These sources show a very different perimeter from that proposed c.1620, but it is subject to the same criticisms, and suffered the further disadvantage of following a course which by its irregularity would have restricted the spread of fire from the bastions. The differences between plan and reality are due to physiographical constraints and the failure of the town to reach its expected size. There were also two churches, both

on sites apparently chosen before the walls begun, which had to be included in the enclosure. The wall varied in effectiveness as a defensive barrier. In some places it took tactical advantage of the tributary valley slopes, elsewhere it was overlooked by higher ground. Its height seems to have varied from about 25ft (7.62m) to less than 8ft (2.4m). The area enclosed was approximately 27 statute acres.<sup>17</sup>

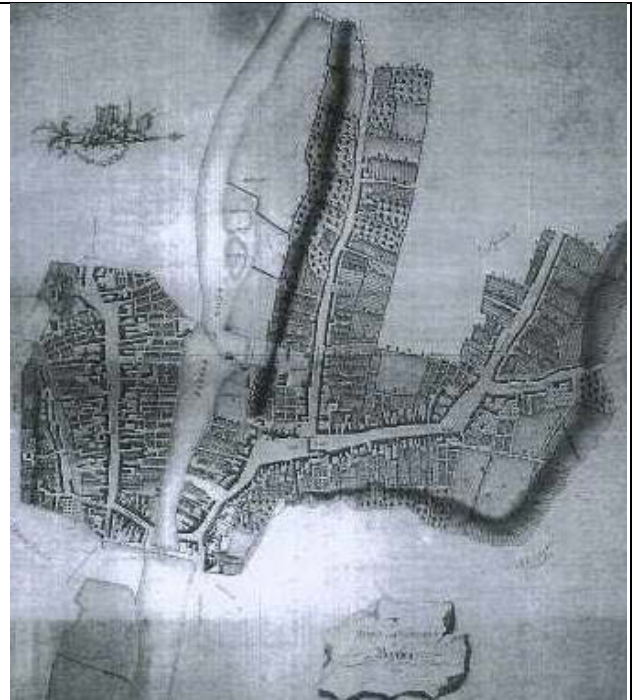
The Down Survey illustration of Bandon should be viewed as a stylised reproduction of the walled town rather than the reality of the complete walled town.

<sup>17</sup> O'Flanagan (1988) *Irish Historic Towns Atlas: Bandon*, p.2





Extract from the Down Survey by William Petty c.1656 'The Barony of Carbury in the County of Corke'



Bandon, 1775, by Bernard Scalé.

By 1622 it was reported by commissioners surveying the Munster plantation that 'a tenth or eleventh part of the wall was brought to its full height and the other half about the height of twelve feet'.<sup>18</sup> The walls were completed by 1627, though work on the gatehouses and other refinements continued well into the 1630s. In 1629 Robert Belcher was contracted for the carpentry of the gates.<sup>19</sup> The walls were built of thick black slate, quarried at Ballylangley and Coolfadda. The completed wall had flankers at each external angle.<sup>20</sup>

Besides the fortifications, Boyle also commissioned identical improvements in the southern half of the town to those already performed in the north, i.e. new

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Connolly (1985), p.60

market and session houses, and in the 1630s paid for a school and almshouses.<sup>21</sup>

The completion of the walling of Bandon and the development of the town within it resulted in the settlement being in many ways the outstanding new town in Ireland in the generation before 1641 and a testament to the achievements of Richard Boyle. Though the town was initially conceived by others, it was his determination and ability to finance the enterprise that resulted in the assimilation of two embryonic settlements into a successful urban entity within the space of a decade.

#### *Seventeenth-Century Bandon*

Seventeenth-century contemporary opinions of early Bandon were generally favourable. As early as 1611 it was

<sup>21</sup> MacCarthy-Morrogh (1986), p.58

described as 'a thing of importance'. In 1622 it was 'large and beautiful' and in 1645 it was 'worthy of some regard' for both 'bigness and handsomeness'.<sup>22</sup> Credit for this must lie with the town's founders. Already in 1614 Boyle's leases included strict clauses requiring prompt compliance with various architectural specifications such as slated roofs with a particular number of stone or brick chimneys and in some cases timber-frame construction.<sup>23</sup>

The grid street layout seen on Jefford's plan never materialised within the town; there was certainly no sign of it by 1630. The town's different sectors, based on the divisions between the leases to Newce and Shipward, shaped the original development of the town. The longer leases of Newce's northern area of Coolfadda allowed this area to be well-established by the time Boyle acquired the area. However by 1630, the larger southern part of the walled area was clearly the more important. All the major personalities associated with the beginning of the town held property here and along with all the most notable traders and merchants. There were also two impressive gatehouses, the provost's house, a school and the larger of the two market houses as well as Bandon's longest continuous street.<sup>24</sup>

As a chartered borough Bandon had a provost, a portreeve and burgesses. Members were returned to the Irish parliament and there was also a clerk of the market and a merchant guild. The corporation established its own common council in 1622.<sup>25</sup> As elsewhere in Ireland

at this time civic government was vested in a small self-perpetuating elite. Burgesses included Newce, Shipward, Becher, Croft and Nicholas Blacknell who acted for some time as Boyle's Bandon agent. Apart from its corporation, Bandon quickly acquired important juridical functions with courthouses on either side of the river, a market court, a court of record, a manor court, a court of d'oyer hundred<sup>26</sup>, a prison and a marshalsea<sup>27</sup>.

Bandon's unique structure, i.e. consisting of two self-contained towns within one area, explains its comparatively large population. The number of English inhabitants by 1641 has been estimated at 2,300.<sup>28</sup> The main town was entirely Protestant (enforced by an early by-law) but suburbs containing Irish households were to appear near the south town even before the walls were finished. Boyle's rent roll of 1640s lists two Irish names amongst the 170 recorded households.<sup>29</sup> There was a fair turnover of the population but the character of Bandon was soon established and remained unchanged as a large inland market town with a predominance to those involved in the cloth business plus the usual traders and artisans. Few gentry chose to live there.

At first all suburban housing development adjoining the walled town south of the river was embraced by the denomination

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<sup>22</sup> O'Flanagan (1988) *Irish Historic Towns Atlas: Bandon*, p.4

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid*, p.3

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid*.

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<sup>26</sup> A **Court of D'Oyer Hundred** is an assemblage of all the members of the corporation, and exercises the right of admitting freemen, disposing of the corporation property, and performing all other corporate acts except the election of officers.

<sup>27</sup> A **Marshalsea** was a debtors' prison allowing debtors along with their families to take refuge from their creditors.

<sup>28</sup> MacCarthy-Morrogh (1986), p.60

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid*.

Ballymoden. However, by 1623 the suburb in Cloghmacsimon townland had acquired the self-explanatory name of Irishtown.<sup>30</sup> The majority of the residents had Gaelic surnames and were tenants at will. Many tenants also held small plots of land ranging from two to ten statute acres. These extra-mural suburbs were clearly different in character from the rest of Bandon, with little attention been given to organising them formally and most of the leases imposed no building stipulations. There is no evidence at this time of any residential expansion eastwards outside Watergate.

The presence of an area known as 'Irishtown' was a black mark against Boyle's reputation as an English coloniser. Until the 1630s however, immigration to the area was not sufficient to provide an alternative between expelling the Irish or leaving the plots waste. However, by the late 1630s Boyle's agent was contentedly reporting that he had a waiting list of Englishmen ready to move into the Irishtown suburb.<sup>31</sup> These new settlers were prepared to construct 'English' houses – usually defined as a dwelling with stone chimney and slated roof. Though some Irish were replaced by English families in the Ballymoden suburb, it is doubtful if all were removed. However, within Bandon itself, Boyle could look with pleasure upon townsfolk all English or Protestant.

Military defence was an important facet within the town's development. Most of the early settlers were obliged to supply one or more footmen or horsemen 'for the defence of the fort at Coolfadda'. After its defences had been completed Bandon

became a convenient centre for the billeting and quartering of troops. This was greatly resented by the townspeople and their corporation as they were largely accountable for the cost of this. The practice intensified up to the rebellion of 1641 and its Cromwellian aftermath. The plentiful supply of water from the River Bandon and its tributaries provided a basis for the growth of many industrial pursuits. Among the workers recorded in the early seventeenth-century were bakers, blacksmiths, butchers, carpenters, chandlers, clothworkers, comb-makers, coopers, curriers, cutlers, dyers, feltmakers, glaziers, glovers, masons, metalmen, pewtermen, shoemakers, strainers, tailors, tanners, turners and weavers. These were the most numerous elements in Bandon's early social structure.<sup>32</sup>

Trade was evidently the mainstay of the town and it was no accident that the most prominently-sited secular buildings were the market houses. Bandon's industry and trade were dependent on the prosperity of agriculture in the surrounding countryside. The three prominent merchants were also major landholders and in addition many tenants combined their other occupations with part-time farming. Many residents of Coolfadda and Ballymodan held plots of land outside the walls, and within the town there were many 'backsides' or gardens that may have been significant sources of food. Other primary activities were the fishery, the working of iron ore and the quarrying of stone for the defences and other buildings of the town. Consequently the town's principal exports were semi-processed or unprocessed agricultural materials such as corn, meat

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<sup>30</sup> O'Flanagan (1988) *Irish Historic Towns Atlas: Bandon*, p.3

<sup>31</sup> MacCarthy-Morrogh (1986), p.61

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<sup>32</sup> O'Flanagan (1988) *Irish Historic Towns Atlas: Bandon*, p.3

and butter, together with iron and pipestaves. Most of Bandon's early seventeenth-century trade passed through the port of Kinsale, though later it fell increasingly under the influence of Cork.

Bandon's resident population must have made a significant contribution to the general development of the town. However, all its major institutions and most of the public buildings were funded from one man's vast financial resources, even if some of them were under construction before he bought the town. It was Boyle who paid for the completion of the two market houses, the prison, the house of correction, the two churches, the marshalsea, the mills, the almshouses and the endowed school. The construction of the walls and gatehouses also owed much to his drive and capital. Thus, although he did not found the settlement at Bandon, Boyle must take the honours for providing much of the necessary impetus for its early prosperity and dynamism.

#### *Bandon After 1641*

The 1641 Rebellion broke out in the aftermath of a bad harvest that autumn and within a threatening political climate. The initial aim was to rectify various grievances of Irish Catholic landowners; however the Rebellion soon led to indiscriminate attacks on the settler population of the Plantations. While the Rebellion effectively halted the Munster Plantation, the Rebellion was not as vicious here as it was in Ulster. The Rebellion was eventually crushed following the Cromwellian conquest in 1649 to 1653.

Bandon was one of the best defended settlements in Munster before the 1641 Rebellion and with its new walls and gatehouses, its own militia and a

substantial garrison it was to prove more than a match for its assailants. However, the effects of the rebellion were disastrous for Bandon. Sealed off from the sea, its hinterland devastated and the town flooded with refugees, it could no longer effectively function as a trading centre. Although it never fell to the Irish and their allies, it became an enclave in what remained essentially a no man's land until the arrival of Cromwell.

In 1643 Boyle claimed that Bandon had a population of 7000, all of whom were English Protestants, however most of these were refugees.<sup>33</sup> Outside the walls the Irish tenants were reported to have fled Irishtown and their cabins to have been torn down and by 1643 Bandon was said to be so impoverished that most of its inhabitants were on the point of deserting it. However, there appears to have been little physical damage and Cromwell was said to have found the town in good health. The Down Survey maps of 1655 show the town walls, the bridge and several walls intact, but their scale is too small and their style too schematic to reveal whether the Bandon of this period could be regarded as a finished, populous and thriving settlement.

The 'census' of 1659 recorded a population of 846 at Bandon Bridge, 542 English and 304 Irish.<sup>34</sup> The Irish were presumably Catholics, a proof that Boyle's ban on 'popish recusants' was less effective than had been claimed. These people probably occupied back houses and cabins in various messuages or tenements of the walled town, for head tenants were rarely mentioned in early rent roles relating to this area. There were also 113 residents (40 English and 73

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<sup>33</sup> Ibid. P.4

<sup>34</sup> Ibid

Irish) outside the walls in Irishtown and 118 (47 English and 71 Irish) in East Gully. The recorded total was therefore 1077 with 629 English and 448 Irish. Apply a multiplier of three and the population of Bandon and Irishtown was 3231.

By the 1680s Bandon had recovered sufficiently for its prosperity and attractiveness to be described in glowing terms. Richard Cox's account describes the town as 'one of the neatest and healthiest towns in Ireland built within the memory of man, and walled about with a handsome and strong wall of lime and stone, and fortified by eleven flankers and three of the stateliest gatehouses or castles in any one town in Europe...'<sup>35</sup>

Bandon received a new charter in 1688 but the rebellion and military campaigns of the next two years had adverse consequences on the town. Though removed from the main areas of fighting it was occupied by Jacobite troops and a total of 79 people are recorded as departing as refugees to Cork and later England. The town walls and their associated fortifications were said to have been destroyed by the Jacobite forces in 1689, though it is impossible to ascertain the exact scale of demolition. Given the level of survival today, demolition was clearly not complete. The fact that a country-wide levy was being considered shortly afterwards as a means to pay for the repair of the walls is testament to the way the event was seen locally, though it appears likely that this levy was never imposed and that no serious attempt was made to repair the damage. It is probable that the main gates of the town were at least partially destroyed at this time. They

were omitted from Scalé's plan of 1775, and when they figure in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century estate records it is apparently as locations rather than as actual buildings.

No new streets of major public buildings were added to Bandon's existing stock in the first half of the eighteenth century but to judge from the variety of occupations the functional structure of the town was becoming more complex. Numerous tanyards appeared in North Main Street, Kilbrogan Hill and Kilbrogan Street, probably attracted to the water of the Kilbrogan stream and by the steep slopes that would quickly remove the threat of pollution. Associated with the tanning trade was a group of industries that included button makers, coopers, heelmakers, shoemakers, skimmers and tailors. Next to tanning in importance were trades connected with cloth making such as cordwainers, glovers and weavers.

Bandon was unique within Munster. No other plantation town was walled or constructed on such pattern. By the 1630s it had reached its maximum size in the pre-industrial age. Credit for the rapid growth should go to the founders' sponsorship of clothworkers from the English West Country and to Boyle for providing it with unparalleled defences. The result can be seen after the rebellion in 1641 when Bandon marked the westward sphere of new English control in the wars that followed.

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<sup>35</sup> Ibid



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

### *Tobar Archaeological Services*

Establishing the archaeological potential of Bandon town wall is based on both an examination of the wall itself and an analysis of all archaeological work undertaken adjacent to or across the line of the town defenses. It draws together all archaeological information relevant to the town wall including any previous archaeological surveys.

### *Previous archaeological research, surveys and investigations*

Bandon town walls have not been subject to any detailed research in recent times. The main archaeological studies of Bandon and its walls that have been undertaken to date include The Historic Towns Atlas (Flanagan 1988), Avril Thomas' Walled Towns of Ireland (1992), The Cork volume of the Urban Archaeological Survey undertaken in 1995 (OPW) and the Archaeological Survey of Ireland Volume 1 – West Cork (Power *et al.*, 1997). With a lack of recent research on Bandon town wall, any further information may only be gleaned from archaeological investigations undertaken across the line of the wall or within close proximity to same. This section presents all available evidence from previous surveys of the wall and is a synopsis of information contained therein regarding both the suspected and known circuit of the town walls.

### ***Historic Towns Atlas (O'Flanagan 1988)***

The town defenses are discussed in detail by O'Flanagan (1988) however his discussion is based on available cartographic evidence only and not on a physical survey of the wall.

When discussing the town defenses O'Flanagan notes that Hardiman's 1613 map of the planned walled town of Bandon depicts a fort within the north-eastern quadrant of the town. The fort is named as 'Carew's old fort' and according to O'Flanagan (*ibid.*, 2) probably dates to Sir George Carew's tenure of the office of lord president of Munster in the early 1600s. The church and graveyard of Christ Church now occupy the site of the fort of which no upstanding remains survive. Large angle bastions were said to have been located in the SW and NW corners and this accords with Hardiman's map of 1613.

In relation to the town defenses O'Flanagan notes that Hardiman's map of 1613 of the northern side of the town, north of the Bandon River, shows angle bastions at the NE and NW, flanker, postern gates, gatehouses, battlements and a rampart. O'Flanagan also notes Hardiman's 1620 (41 and 42) maps which show walls on both sides of the river Bandon with main gates, postern gates, bastions, flankers and battlements. According to O'Flanagan (1988, 11 after Bennett, 67) 27 acres were enclosed by the walls. He (*ibid*) also notes that the river defenses consisted of iron flood gates. The Down Survey map of 1655 shows that the walls, gates and bastions had been completed by this date. Flanagan (*ibid* after Connolly 57) notes that the walls were destroyed by Jacobite forces in 1689. Part of the eastern section of the town wall between the River Bandon and Pearse Street (then Castle Street) was, however, still extant in 1750 (*ibid.*). It is likely that this was subsequently destroyed when St Finbarr's Place was constructed.

### ***Avril Thomas's Walled Towns of Ireland***

Thomas' description of the walls also utilises the same documentary and cartographic sources as O'Flanagan (1988) and in this regard their physical description is similar and will not be repeated here. One of the main problems, as Thomas (1992, 22-23) notes, with tracing the circuit of the town walls today is that the actual life of the walled town barely reached 70 years. The destruction of the town defenses in 1689/90 is almost certain to have been only partial deconstruction. Thomas (*ibid*) also notes the lack of consistency between the 1613 and 1620 maps of the town and the reality of what was eventually built. The earlier map of 1613 shows the angle towers as having a much more 17<sup>th</sup> century appearance with large angles at the corners, similar to those in Waterford and Derry. The 1620 maps show the bastions as much smaller circular towers and as Thomas notes (*ibid*, 23) may have been cheaper to build. The regular grid system appearing on the 1613 and 1620 maps are similar in their own right and perhaps similar to the south side of the town walls today or as depicted on the later OS maps. The north side, however, in reality does not reflect the 'blueprint' as shown on the earlier maps. It seems reasonable to suggest, therefore, that the north side of the town was not built as planned and depicted on the earlier maps. The angle

the wall takes around Christ Church in the north-eastern corner is certainly not depicted on any early maps. According to Thomas tracing the walls along the southern side of the town is less problematic as it is closer to the original blueprints of 1613 and 1620. This is also perhaps because the street pattern is largely simpler and orientated East/West. South Main Street would have directly linked the East Gate with the West Gate and the south wall would also have been orientated in an East/West direction. According to Thomas, the 19<sup>th</sup> century railway ran just to the south of the surviving sections of town wall in this location (Figure 6).

The only irregularity in the southern side of the walled town today when compared to the earlier blueprints is the angle the wall takes around Ballymodan Church in the south western corner.

In conclusion, the Bandon walls differ from the majority of walled towns in that their drawn plans differ from the actual surviving remains which may be reflective of the difficulties in acquiring lands or finance. Also, the preference for limestone as a raw material is evident from the majority of walled towns in Ireland. Bandon, however, is an exception as it was constructed of 'thick black slate'. This is also reflective of the need to use the more economic, available raw materials.

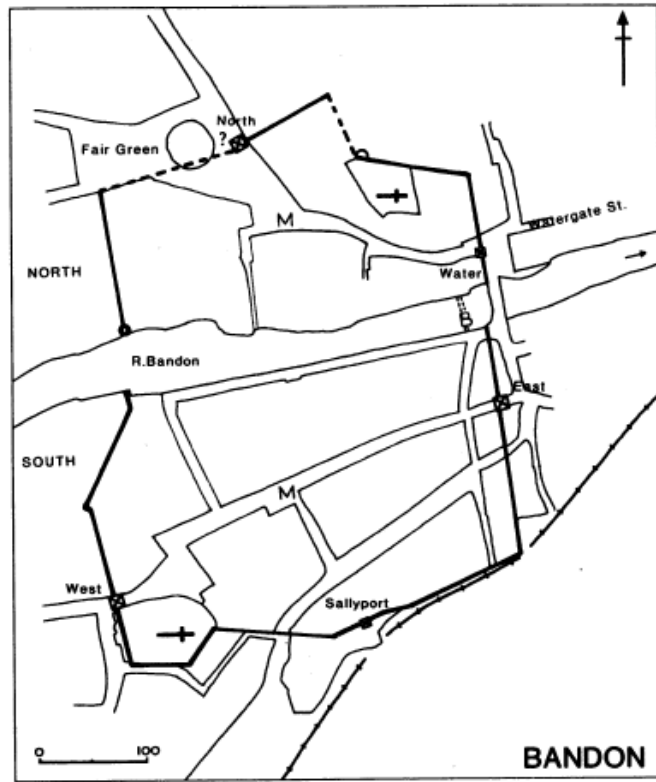


Figure 5: Avril Thomas's interpretation of Bandon Town Walls.



Figure 6: Extract from 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS map showing railway line to south of town wall.

### ***The Urban Archaeological Survey of County Cork***

The circuit of Bandon town wall was visited in 1994 by the Urban Archaeological survey team. They concluded that sufficient evidence was present to suggest its original circuit (Figure 8). The summary account describes the southern edge of the town as being particularly prominent '*where a high flat topped wall (H. 4m) forms the boundary between property plots and a narrow laneway (Figure 6) and partially encloses St Peter's Church and graveyard*'. This was recently confirmed by survey work carried out by the authors, although the wall has deteriorated substantially since then and has been rebuilt with concrete blocks in places along the southern laneway. Zajac *et al* also describe the wall as surviving along the northern edge of the town around Christ Church (present day Heritage Centre) and in places along the western perimeter of the town. No description is given for the eastern side of the town perhaps due to the lack of cartographic evidence and the building of St Finbarr's Place which would have resulted in the destruction of the eastern perimeter wall.

### ***The Archaeological Inventory of West Cork, Volume 1, 1992***

The wall is described below according to the description in the published Inventory Series (Power *et al* 1992) **and** the archaeological survey field notes which were consulted in the National Monuments Service Archive, Abbey St., Dublin. The

wall is described according to its location at the North, South, East and West for clarity.

#### **NORTH WALL**

According to Power *et al* (1992), no trace of the town wall survives in the northern portion of the town apart from a small section of a wall to the rear of a house on the east side of North Main Street. This description is somewhat sketchy and the location of the short upstanding portion of wall at the east side of North Main Street is not pin-pointed. Power (*ibid*) also refers to a possible core (of the town wall) surviving within the north boundary wall of the graveyard at Christ Church. According to the survey field notes, the north retaining wall of Christ Church had a maximum internal height 1.7m with the external height dropping down to 5m where the ground slopes off to the stream. The external elevation was not surveyed. Of note here is the vast difference of the internal wall height in 1990 during the survey inspection and the height of the existing wall today, albeit a rebuilt wall along the original line of the town defences. A significant level of collapse or degradation has taken place over the 20 year period as the wall height no longer reaches 1.7m internally (see physical description below). There are two sections set back / rebated as partly indicated on O'Flanagan's Map No 2, 1988. According to the archaeological field notes no trace of the original town wall survives here but may be extant at the base.



Figure 7: Extract from O'Flanagan's map No. 2 (1988) showing line of town wall circuit.



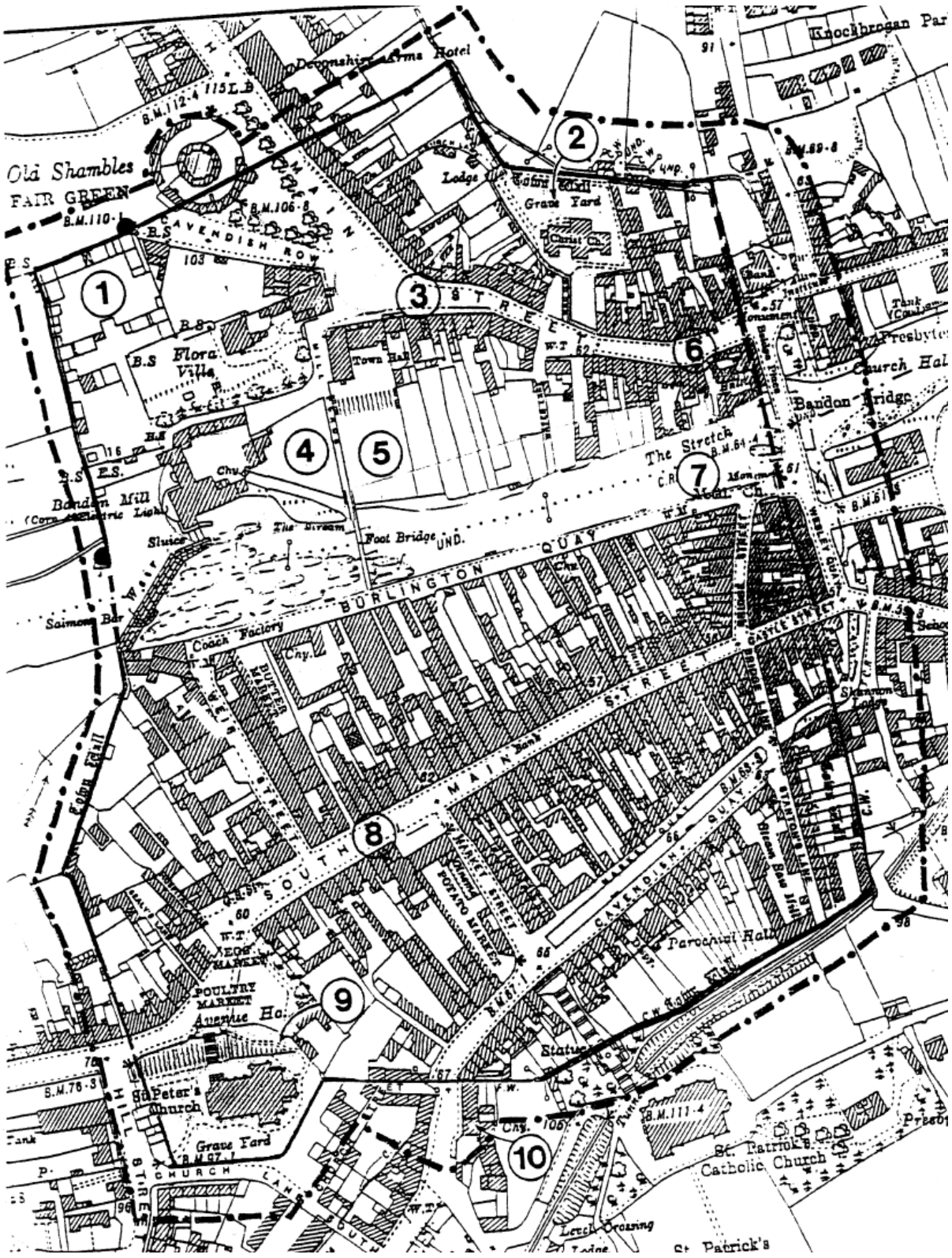


Figure 8: Extract from the Urban Survey of County Cork showing line of town wall as identified by Zajac et al.

*Section of wall extending from eastern corner of Christ Church in an easterly direction.*

According to the archaeological survey field notes, the defensive wall survives in this location. It can be examined in the rear of a private yard. A later wall is built on the outer edge of the defensive wall.

#### SOUTH WALL

According to Power (*ibid*) the southern side of the town has more extensive surviving remains. Two sections of wall survive between Casement Road and Patrick's Hill (south-eastern corner of town wall). It is likely that most of the south wall is replaced by a later wall along the same line. He suggests that an original section (c. 20m long) may be located on the steps up to the Catholic Church from Market Street. Another section of the town wall is located along the E side of Church Street (approximately 24m in length). The east, south and west walls of St Peter's Church and graveyard are also along the line of the wall and a base batter on the south wall here may be an original feature.

*Wall in south-eastern corner (rear of Private Property).*

This is described as a boundary wall at rear of garden running north-south for 11.5m; internal height 3.4m; height c. 0.2m and wall thickness c.0.5m. Remains of plinth (0.25m wide) at north end are possibly the remains of thicker walls. Built of blocky sandstone random rubble with soft lime mortar.

*Wall extending from south-eastern corner in a westerly direction.*

According to the field survey notes this is a multi-period wall but is likely to be built on top of the original line of the town defences. This wall continues in various states of preservation as it extends as far

as the Mill building (Cavendish Quay) (modern day St Patrick's Quay).

*Northern eastern section of Church Street (opposite Mill building).*

The town wall survives as the southern boundary to a garage in this location measuring 1.4m wide. No trace of the wall beyond this until it reaches the graveyard wall.

*South boundary wall to Ballymodan Church and Graveyard (St Peter's Church).*

This wall has a base batter which is likely to be original. It has been rebuilt on top however. At the eastern end of this southern wall, there is a possible projecting flanker.

#### WEST WALL

It is suggested that the best preserved sections of the town wall are along the west side where 2 lengths of wall extend south from the river bank. A length of 18m (wall thickness (2.75m), a 5.5m gap and then a 70m stretch of wall (thickness 3.5m) running in a SW direction. A wall walk is also evident in this location. This is adjacent to the Garda Station and beneath the present-day Riverview Shopping Centre complex which had not been constructed when the survey by Power *et al*/took place.

*Hamilton's Lane - north of Ballymodan Church (St Peter's Church).*

The line of the wall in this location extends north on the east side of Hamilton's Lane (Flanagan 1988, Historic Towns Atlas Map No. 2). The wall was ivy-clad, 2m high and 0.60m thick. The boundary wall is built on the line of the defensive walls in this location. Part of the wall may be included in west gable wall (ground floor level) of roadside house at south end of east side of Hamilton's Lane.

This is now plastered over and not possible to examine.

*Wall along western side of site of old Barracks (north-western corner).*

A high boundary stone wall c. 40-50cm thick is located here and is not thought to be part of the defensive walls. The wall extends north from river back up the hill towards the barracks. Part of this wall is the west wall of the Riding Grounds as indicated on Pat Flanagan's map/1<sup>st</sup> Ed OS. The west wall of the barracks, now a garage (now Trunwit's transport yard), has an interesting vaulted room/passage on the inside of the boundary wall – this was not surveyed internally. It is not likely to have anything to do with the defensive walls and was most likely related to the barracks.

**EAST WALL**

The eastern section of the town wall is not addressed in the published Archaeological Inventory. The survey field notes, however, describe a portion of the wall which survives behind the post office yard to 4m high in the northeastern corner of the town defenses.

*Section of wall south of the Bridewell River*

This is described in the field notes as being 'blocky rubble construction' with small gardens to west and larger garden to east, perpendicular to wall. The wall width in this location was 1.4m wide.

*Archaeological Excavations along the Town Wall and within the Historic Core*

A dataset of information pertaining to archaeological excavations undertaken in the county is held in Cork County Council. The dataset was provided to Tobar for purposes of this plan. It contains GIS<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Geographical Information System - A **geographic information system (GIS)** is a system designed to capture, store,

data as well as summary information for each site at which archaeological excavations took place, be it monitoring, testing or full scale excavation. In conjunction with this the database of excavation bulletins which contains summary information on all licensed excavations undertaken in Ireland between 1997 and 2008 was also consulted.

All excavations undertaken within close proximity to the town are included here and are summarised in Table 1. Summarised accounts of the findings of these excavations are presented in Appendix 2. The excavations outlined below are those which were carried out between 1997 and the present although no licensed excavations (testing or monitoring) appear to have been undertaken between 2008 and 2012 (Bennett pers. comm.). This may be reflective of the economic downturn and consequent lack of development taking place within the town and its environs. It is also possible that supervisory work such as archaeological monitoring was undertaken without an excavation license in place.

One of the main pieces of archaeological work carried out at or near to the town wall was between 2000 and 2003 when a site south of the river and west of McSwiney Quay was redeveloped for the Riverside Shopping Centre. As part of this work five archaeological test trenches were excavated adjacent to or across the line of the town wall – both upstanding and sub-surface (Hurley, 2000 and Lane, 2002). The testing served to confirm the presence of the sub-surface wall where it was no longer visible above ground and

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manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of geographical data.



also established that it changed substantially in width from the north-east to the south-west; from c. 2.5m wide to 1.5m wide. The redevelopment of this site also resulted in consolidation of the town wall as well as a significant amount of rebuilding over original masonry. This rebuilding is evident in Sections 1 and 2 of the town wall circuit as described below.

The most recent archaeological investigations relating to the town wall was the programme of archaeological testing carried out as part of the Bandon Sewerage Scheme Stage 2 (Tobar Archaeological Services May-September 2012). Nine test trenches were excavated

along the line of the proposed service trench where it intersected with the suspected line of the town defences. This work was undertaken under Ministerial Consent (C535) and was completed in September 2012. Evidence for the possible foundation of the town wall was uncovered in two locations at Emmet Row and Bank Place, with the lower courses of the wall of a possible seventeenth century structure also uncovered at the east end of Pearse Street. In addition, seventeenth century cobbled street surfaces were uncovered inside the town walls at Pearse Street and O'Mahony Ave./Ballymodan Place.

**Table 1: Archaeological excavations within Bandon from 1997 to present**

Excavation No.	Location	Type of excavation	Archaeology found?	Details of archaeology
97E2064	South Main Street / Market Quay	Testing	No	None
98E0503	Cloghmacsimon	Testing adjacent to outer face of Town Wall in advance of housing Development	No	No
99E0158	McSwiney Quay on site of Scott Factory	Testing in advance of housing and retail	No	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery
00D0023	Kilmacsimon Quay – Bandon River	Intertidal Survey in advance of watermain crossing river Bandon in area of 2 fish weirs	No	None
00D0080	Kilmacsimon Quay – Bandon River	Underwater and Metal Detection Survey in advance of water main crossing river	No	No
00E0614	Chapel Lane	17 test trenches excavated near to CO110-40 Quaker Burial Ground	No	No
00E0857	Gully	Testing abutting town wall CO110-19/01 as part of Shopping Centre Town Wall Conservation Strategy	Yes	Town wall found to be 2.47m in width and 1.7-1.9m below present ground level.
00E0857		Testing remainder of town wall as part of shopping centre	Yes	Base of town wall found at 1.9m below present ground level. Wall measured 1.5m in this location.
00E0857 Ext	Gully	Monitoring of works near to town wall as part of shopping centre.	No.	Wall was rebuilt where necessary with rubble masonry and lime mortar as recommended in Conservation Strategy Report (John Cronin)

<b>02E0030</b>	Knockbrogan	Testing outside NE angle of Town Wall CO110-19/01 – construction of 3 houses	No	No
<b>02E0791</b>	McSweeney Quay	Planning 01/1815 Raft Foundation for 2 storey Dwelling	No	No
<b>02E1077</b>	16 South Main Street	Testing in advance of Pharmacy and extension.	No	Natural clay encountered at 0.7m in depth
<b>02E1571</b>	Gully Patricks Hill / Patricks Quay	Testing in advance of office buildings adjacent to the projected line of the eastern line of the town wall.	No	Site disturbed by ESB transformer and ducting.
<b>02E1756</b>	McSweeney Quay	Testing in advance of fourteen apartments	No	Modern fill to 0.9, 1.2m of 'garden soil' overlying natural. No artefacts or features.
<b>02E1757</b>	McSweeney Quay	Testing in advance of ten apartments and 2 commercial units.	No?	0.9m of builders rubble. 0.65m of 'garden soil' containing slate, pottery, glass, animal bone and oyster shell.
<b>00E0857 ext (2003)</b>	Gully adjacent to Caulfield's Shopping Centre	Monitoring during 2003 season of ground works on site of Supervalu shopping centre	No	For public safety and for protection of the town wall, metal guardrails were erected, to the south of a sally port in the quay wall and at other locations. The ground along the west face of the town wall, within the development site and to the south of the quay wall, was landscaped and planted with suitable shrubs.
<b>03E0026</b>	Cloghmasimon	Testing in advance of a dwelling	No	Site of bottle store. Glass bottles found to depth of 1.25m.
<b>03E1753</b>	Market Quay Cloghmacsimon	Testing in advance of retail units and apartments	No	Stone-lined coal bunker found.
<b>03E1889</b>	79/81 South Main Street	Monitoring of ground disturbance in advance of building	No	0.7m of rubble overlay a natural orange clay
<b>04E0388</b>	The Shambles Coolfadda	Testing in advance of residential unit within Shambles Buildings across line of town wall.	No	No trace of town wall uncovered. Modern fill to depth of 0.9m.
<b>04E1221</b>	19/20 South Main Street	Monitoring	No	No
<b>04E1668</b>	26/27 South Main Street	Testing (1 test trench)	No	No
<b>04E1668</b>	26/27 South Main Street	Testing in 2005, same site as above	No	No
<b>05E0170</b>	96 South Main Street	Testing to rear of 96 Main Street	No	No
<b>05E0578</b>	Kilbrogan	Monitoring in vicinity of CO110-031 graveyard for ESB communications site	No	No

<b>05E0882</b>	6 Pearse Street	Testing	No	19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery
<b>05E1012</b>	North Main Street	Monitoring	No	No
<b>06D0073</b> <b>06R0169</b>	Bandon River – upstream from Bandon Bridge	Underwater Survey	No	No
<b>06E0731</b>	Emmet Row / North Main Street	Testing	No	No
<b>06E1033</b>	Kilbrogan Hill	Testing	No	Deposits of rubble were noted mixed with animal bone and sherds of post medieval ceramics suggesting that the site was used as a dumping area for the nearby tanneries
<b>06E0904</b>	Gully Coolfadda	Monitoring of Pipe Installation in River Bandon	No	No
<b>07E0609</b>	Church Street	Testing	No	No
<b>08E0973</b>	Bandon Community Hospital	Testing within site of former Union Workhouse CO110-026		
<b>12E0111</b>	Bridge Lane Car Park	Testing in advance of Pumping Station 2 – Bandon Sewerage Scheme	Yes	Stone wall possibly part of 19 <sup>th</sup> century house (rear). Natural subsoil encountered at 1.4m in depth – modern rubble fill abutting wall to east.
<b>12E0111</b> <b>C535</b>	Allen Square	Testing (Trench 1) to north of line of town wall	No	No
<b>12E0111</b> <b>C535</b>	Emmet Row	Testing (Trench 2) across line of town wall	Yes	Base / footing of black slate wall at a depth of 0.27m. 1.8m in width.
<b>12E0111</b> <b>C535</b>	Kilbrogan Hill	Testing (Trench 3) across line of town wall / north Gate	No	Modern services resulted in disturbance or trench was excavated through gate.
<b>12E0111</b> <b>C535</b>	Bank Place / North Main Street	Testing (Trench 4) across line of town wall	Yes	Black slate / shale wall footing in line with town wall at 0.7m in depth, 2.4m wide. Stone wall (possible house front) with 17 <sup>th</sup> C. pottery within fill. Stone drain.
<b>12E0111</b> <b>C535</b>	McSweeney Quay / St Finbarr's Place	Testing (Trench 5) across line of town wall	No	Modern disturbance due to existing services
<b>12E0111</b> <b>C535</b>	Pearse Street	Testing (Trench 6) across line of wall, vicinity of west gate	Yes	17 <sup>th</sup> century cobbled street surface at 0.6m below present ground level. Section of wall foundation. Late 15 <sup>th</sup> / Early 16 <sup>th</sup> century pottery. Possible gate foundations.
<b>12E0111</b> <b>C535</b>	Bridge Lane	Testing (Trench 7) within historic town	Yes	Possible 18 <sup>th</sup> / 19 <sup>th</sup> century walls, stone drain and earlier stone surfaces.
<b>12E0111</b> <b>C535</b>	St Patricks Place	Testing (Trench 8) across line of town wall	Not excavated in full due to presence of modern services.	No
<b>12E0111</b> <b>C535</b>	O' Mahoney Avenue / Ballymodan Place	Testing (Trench 9) across line of town wall	Yes	Rubble fill over 17 <sup>th</sup> century cobbles. 17 <sup>th</sup> century pottery.

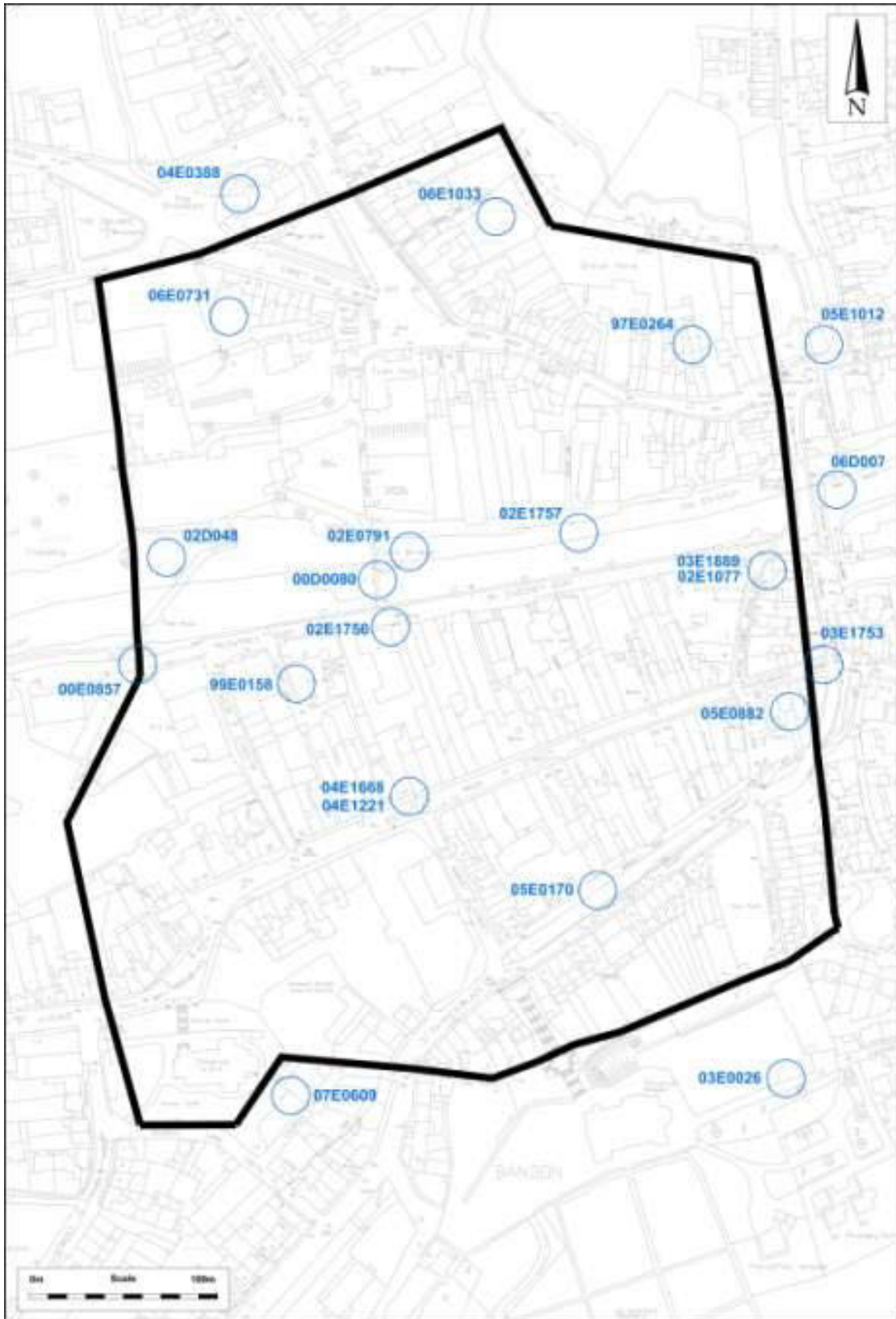


Figure 9: Locations of excavations undertaken within historic town prior to 2012.

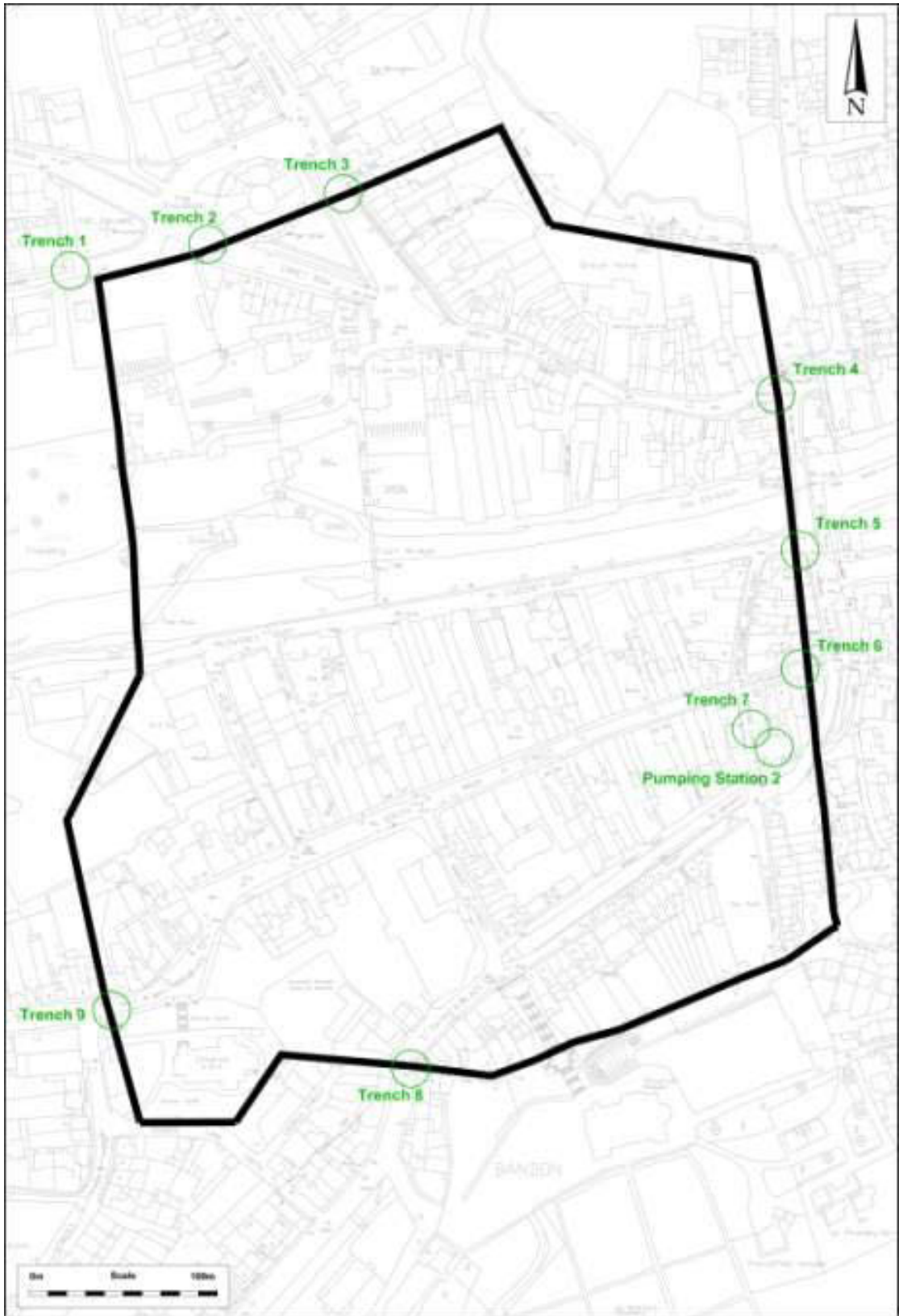


Figure 10: Excavations undertaken along the suspected line of the town wall in 2012 by Tobar Archaeological Services.

### *Significance of Archaeological Potential*

Forty three excavations / investigations were undertaken in Bandon town between 1997 and 2012, mainly within the historic core or adjacent to the town defences. Only eight of these produced archaeologically positive results representing 18.6% of the total. The majority of the archaeologically positive results were obtained from the archaeological testing undertaken in advance of the development of the Riverside Shopping Centre and more recent testing undertaken as part of the Bandon Sewerage Scheme Stage 2. The aforementioned test trenches were located on public roads, primarily within the historic core of the town where the potential for uncovering *in situ* archaeological features and deposits was relatively high. In this regard it should be noted that many of the remaining test excavations and monitoring activity listed in Table 1 were located in sites which had been significantly disturbed by later buildings and services. The lack of positive archaeological results from such investigations does not therefore preclude the presence of archaeological strata in these areas but perhaps provides a reason why such material was not found.

The results of the archaeological testing carried out as part of the Bandon Sewerage Scheme (Stage 2) clearly demonstrates that the historic core of the town retains at least some of its original 17<sup>th</sup> century street surfaces, wall foundations and tentative evidence for the sub-surface town wall. The testing has also reiterated the artefact bearing potential of buried strata within the historic core of the town relating to its foundation and occupation in the seventeenth century. Significantly, direct evidence for activity south of the river in

the century preceding the formal establishment of the town was uncovered in the form of the so-called 'Transition Ware' pottery which dates to the late 15<sup>th</sup> / early 16<sup>th</sup> century (McCutcheon, pers. comm. and Carroll and Quinn, Testing report Bandon Sewerage Scheme Stage 2, 2012).

In summary, therefore it is noteworthy that while a cursory look at the results of archaeological investigations in Bandon since the 1990s could be interpreted as meaning a low archaeological potential for the town, recent investigations would refute that interpretation. It is clear that archaeological potential within the historic core remains high, but only where later and modern intervention has not had a direct, negative impact on *in situ* deposits.

The archaeological potential of the town walls themselves, however, has not been informed significantly by such archaeological investigations. Tentative evidence for the surviving remains of two sub-surface elements of the wall foundation within the public road on Emmet Row and Bank Place was uncovered during the recent archaeological testing for the Bandon Sewerage Scheme (Carroll and Quinn, 2012) as was a foundation for a possible gate at the east end of Pearse Street. Overall, however, the investigations at the presumed locations of the town wall were somewhat disappointing in that little new evidence for the wall or associated structures such as gates or towers was uncovered. With this in mind it should also be noted that by its very nature archaeological testing is limited in terms of the size of area opened up for investigation and in terms of the *raison d'être* for the testing. For example, to date all of the investigations carried out in



Bandon at or near to the line of the town wall have been development driven and in that regard were undertaken to fulfil a planning requirement or recommendation of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. While the results of such investigation may be informative and add to the knowledge base regarding 17<sup>th</sup> century Bandon and its walls, it is limited in terms of research agendas and in obtaining specific information in response to specific research questions.

As a result of research conducted for this plan a vacant site at the west side of the town (adjacent to Riverside Shopping Centre), through which the line of the town wall is believed to extend (Section 4), was highlighted as an area of potential in terms of its suitability to conduct future archaeological investigations across the line of the wall with a view to the possibility of its ultimate public presentation. Inspection of the site, however, determined that ground works carried out on the site have resulted in a significant reduction in ground level and the likely obliteration of the sub-surface remains of the town wall. The archaeological potential along the course of the town wall is difficult to fully determine given that much of the wall or line of the wall is in private property and is therefore either not available for inspection/survey or has been incorporated into modern property boundaries/developments. As outlined above, testing within the walls has established the survival of archaeological deposits where modern development or services have not already directly impacted. The potential for surviving

archaeological deposits or features at or directly within/without the town wall may already be compromised by the expansion of the town beyond the limits of the wall in the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, particularly at the east side of the town where it is not possible to trace the line of the wall in any form north of the Bridewell River as far as Bank Place.

Nonetheless, areas of archaeological potential may still be identified where future investigation could shed light on the wall, either upstanding or sub-surface, and associated defensive features such as the fosse which is thought by some to have extended outside the wall in certain areas around the town. Of note are the relatively few green areas which abut the line of the town wall, in particular those at the north-west and north-east side of the town. At the west side of the town, north of the Bandon River, a c. 100m stretch of property boundary which extends on the line of the wall is bounded by undeveloped green field sites. By their very nature green field sites are frequently relatively undisturbed and therefore have the potential to yield *in situ* archaeological deposits and features. This may be the case at the west side of the town where undeveloped pasture land bounds the line of the town wall. Similarly, undeveloped land bounds the line of the wall north of Christ Church and further to the east. Archaeological investigation at such locations may have the potential to produce further information regarding the town defences, and may serve to answer specific questions regarding the nature of the surviving wall and associated defensive features.

# Chapter Three

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## 3. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND SURVEY OF THE TOWN WALLS

*Tobar Archaeological Services*

This section details the results of the physical survey of Bandon town wall undertaken by Tobar Archaeological Services and Landmark Survey (mapping). The circuit of the town wall, regardless of its survival above-ground or whether replaced by a later wall, is described according to Section number for ease of

interpretation (Figure 11). It should be borne in mind that the results of this survey are based on evidence from previous surveys, cartographic analysis, property boundaries and their orientation, archaeological excavations, and an analysis of the upstanding remains as they survive today. They are **suggestions only** and it is important to consider that future research may shed further light on the nature, extent and line of the town wall. It is also important to note that, where it is suggested that some walls may be original, the full extent and width of the original walls may no longer be visible above ground. One such example would be Section 16 of the wall between gardens at Kilbrogan Hill where only 0.8m in width of the wall survives.



Figure 11: Key map of town wall circuit showing numbered sections.

## Section 1: West Wall between River Bandon and McSweeney Quay

This short section of wall is located to the north of the access road into The Riverside Shopping Centre and is adjacent to the River Bandon. It measures 11.5m in length, 2.6m in width and stands to varying heights (max. 2.15m external west face). It is comprised of a c. 2.6m wide wall atop which is a narrow east and west face. The western wall face is concrete capped and decreases in height towards the north. It is possible to walk within the central core of the wall at this location which measures 1.8m in width (Plate 1). The wall is constructed of mortar bonded shale slabs and blocks which are laid in rough courses and has been refaced at its southern end immediately north of the public road. This section of wall is located at the east end of a narrow riverbank walk which is bound to the south by an earthen bank. The latter was constructed as part of the

adjacent Riverview Shopping Centre development in the early 2000's and now abuts the west face of the wall (See Appendix 3 for Record Elevation Drawings of Sections 1 and 2 – Courtesy of Sheila Lane and Associates). Associated with the walk and bank are metal railings and concrete steps which form an access/egress point for the walk (Plate 4). The railings are located a short distance west of the town wall. Also abutting the west face of the wall is a litter bin (Plate 2). The east face of the wall was not accessible due to its overgrown nature and a sharp drop at this side of the wall. A significant quantity of litter has accumulated adjacent to the east wall face. Despite the inappropriate modern intervention to its immediate surroundings (railings and litter bin) pleasant views over the river Bandon can be enjoyed from this location. This section of the town wall was subject to consolidation and conservation works which were carried out c. 2002-3 as a result of the adjacent Riverview Shopping Centre development.



Plate 1: Town wall Section 1, looking north.



Plate 2: West (external) face of Section 1, note location of litter bin and earthen bank to right.



**Plate 3: Detail of west elevation, Section 1.**



**Plate 4: Concrete steps and metal railings to west of Section 1, looking north-east.**

## **Section 2: Wall to rear of Garda Station and Caulfield Shopping Centre**

Section 2 comprises a 70m length of wall which extends in a north-east/south-west direction from the south side of the public road into Caulfield Shopping Centre as far as the modern shopping centre building. It forms the rear property boundary to the Garda Station and separates the latter from the shopping centre complex. This section of the town wall was largely rebuilt on foot of a Conservation Strategy Plan for the wall undertaken by John Cronin as part of the redevelopment of this area into the Caulfield Shopping Centre in the early 2000s (See Appendix 3 for Record Elevation Drawings of Sections 1 and 2 – Courtesy of Sheila Lane and Associates).

Section 2 is best viewed from the Garda Station car park where the east (internal) face of the original wall can be seen beneath the rebuilt wall (Plate 6). The wall is ivy-covered in places, however, limiting visual inspection of the structure in this area. The north-east end of Section 2, where visible, would appear to be original and is constructed of roughly coursed shale slabs. Modern intervention and

repair is apparent in places where the wall has been repointed and concrete has been utilised. The change in masonry and building technique associated with the modern rebuilding of the wall is profoundly obvious when viewed from the Garda Station car park (Plate 5).



**Plate 5: Modern rebuild of east (internal) elevation of Section 2 from Garda Station car park, looking west.**

Further to the south-west the original town wall can be seen directly underlying the rebuilt section of wall (Plate 6 and Plate 7). It is constructed using thin mortar-bonded shale slabs and survives to varying heights (0.55m-1.22m-1.57m), although it rises gradually to the south-west where it reaches almost full height (2.36m) where it abuts the shopping centre building. At this point the original



wall is in a poor state of preservation and masonry collapse is apparent (Plate 8).



**Plate 6: East (internal) elevation of original town wall beneath modern rebuild.**



**Plate 7: Original wall surviving to varying heights beneath modern rebuild (East elevation).**



**Plate 8: Original town wall (east elevation) where it is abutted by shopping centre building – note collapsed masonry.**

Very little original fabric is apparent on the west (external) elevation of the town wall in Section 2 as much of this stretch of wall has been rebuilt. Furthermore, landscaping associated with the Caulfield Shopping Centre now obscures much of the western wall face (Plate 11). A short length (c. 9.7m) of possible original wall is visible extending up to the entrance door of the shopping centre (Plate 9). This portion of the wall is constructed of medium to large shale slabs and blocks and modern repair/rebuild is visible where it adjoins the shopping centre building (Plate 10). It measures 1.65m in height.





**Plate 9: Possible original portion of original wall face (west elevation) at south-west end of Section 2.**



**Plate 10: West elevation of wall where it adjoins shopping centre building.**



**Plate 11: Landscaping screening west face of wall (Section 2), looking north-east**

The north-east end of Section 2 is similar in form and construction to Section 1 and comprises a c. 2.6m wide wall atop which

is an east and west face with a central core (Plate 12). It is possible to walk along the centre of the wall here for a length of approximately 29m. A gravel surface has been laid down on top of the central core of the wall and a tree is growing within the core also (Plate 13).

The entrance road to the aforementioned shopping centre utilised a breach in the wall. No surface trace of the wall is therefore apparent where it is traversed by the road, however, sub-surface remains of the wall exist beneath the modern road.



**Plate 12: North-east end of Section 2, looking south.**



**Plate 13: Central core of wall (Section 2), looking north-east.**

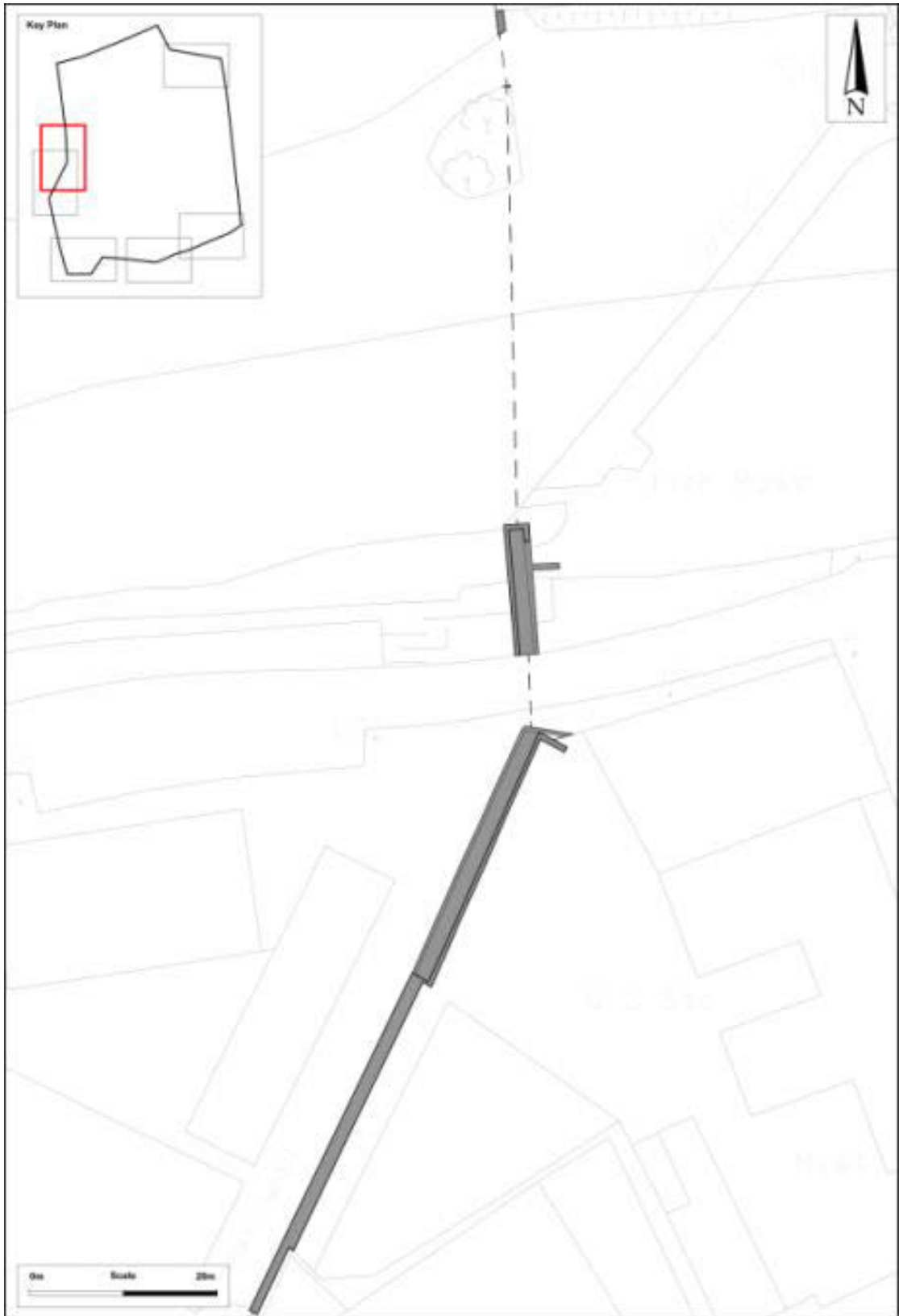


Figure 12: Survey of Section 2 section of town wall.

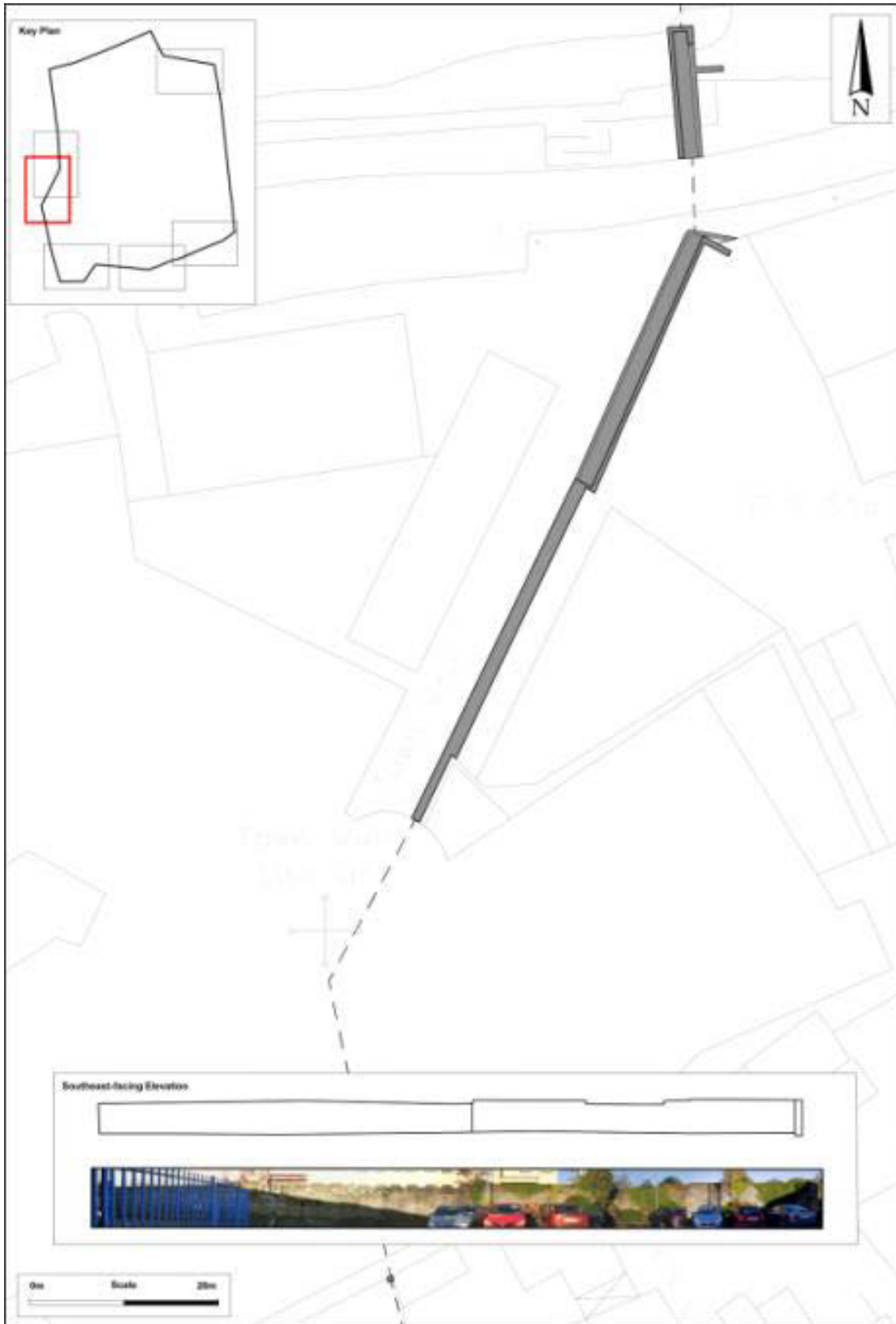


Figure 13: Section 2 survey.

### **Section 3 – Site of town wall within Caulfield Shopping Centre**

No upstanding remains of the town wall survive within the building of the Riverside Shopping Centre. A portion of the sub-surface town wall would appear to have been preserved *in situ* beneath the modern development (Lane 2003), although the precise length of this is unclear.

### **Section 4 – Vacant site south of Caulfield Shopping Centre to Ballymodan Place**

Very little visible upstanding remains of the town wall are apparent in Section 4. A stump of wall is visible projecting from the north boundary wall of a vacant site which is located immediately south of the Riverview Shopping Centre (Plate 14). It is located on the suspected line of the town wall in this area and may represent the only above-ground surviving remains here. The wall measures 3.1m in height (to foundation level) and 0.6m in width.



**Plate 14: Remains of possible town wall projecting from boundary wall immediately south of Riverview Shopping Centre.**

The ground level within the vacant site would appear to have been reduced by up to 1m therefore it is unlikely that any further sub-surface remains of the town wall survive at this location. Further to the south a property boundary extends along the line of the town wall and consists of both a stone wall (at rear of public house) and a timber fence further to the south. The stone wall is largely obscured by vegetation and a fuel tank which abuts the west face of the wall (Plate 15). To the south the line of the wall is believed to extend along the east side of a narrow lane (named Hamilton's Lane on Flanagan's map No. 2, 1988) and may be incorporated into the gable end of the house which fronts on to Ballymodan Place (Plate 16).



**Plate 15: Line of town wall forming eastern property boundary at rear of public house on O'Mahony Ave./Ballymodan Place.**





**Plate 16:** Lane (formerly Hamilton's Lane) along east side of which line of town wall is thought to extend, looking north.

The wall would originally have crossed the public road between the aforementioned lane and the grounds of St Peter's church. This location on the circuit of the walls is believed to be the site of a gate. No upstanding remains relating to the town wall or an associated gate were uncovered on the public road when this area was archaeologically tested as part of the

### **Section 5 - South-west corner of town wall, within and around St Peter's graveyard**

A short section of upstanding north-south oriented wall has been identified within St Peter's graveyard, and represents the only upstanding portion of wall within the west side of the latter. It is located near the south-west corner of the site and is constructed of shale and sandstone slabs/blocks laid in rough courses. A large headstone leans against the east elevation of the wall and a concrete-rendered gate pillar has been constructed at its north-east end (Plate 18). The top of the wall is grass-covered but would appear to be flat-topped. The west elevation is obscured by vegetation. It measures c. 5m in length, 2.05m in height and 0.65m in width. No further sections of north-south orientated wall can be traced within the graveyard, however, it should be noted that a line of headstones appear to respect a boundary which is no longer visible above-ground (Plate 17).



**Plate 17:** Line of headstones at west side of the graveyard respecting invisible boundary.



**Plate 18: North-south orientated section of town wall within St Peter's graveyard, looking south.**

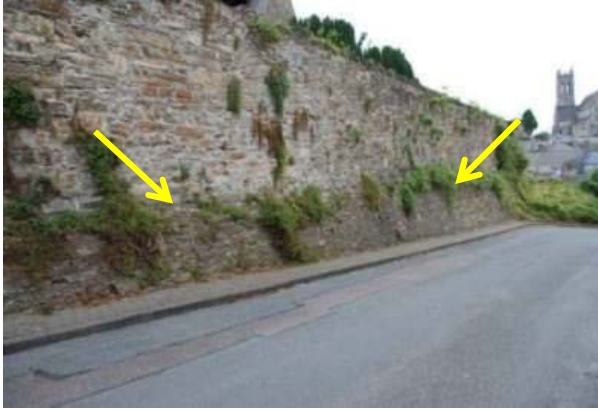
A triangular feature occupying the south-west corner of the graveyard may be related to the town defences (Plate 19). It is keyed into the north-west end of the north-south orientated portion of town wall identified within the graveyard, and extends from there in a south-west direction as far as the present-day graveyard boundary wall. The wall defining this feature measures 0.95m in height and its interior is largely overgrown. Its location at the extreme south-west corner of the walled town accords with its interpretation as a defensive feature, however, further archaeological investigation would be required in order to ascertain its precise nature and date.



**Plate 19: Possible defensive feature at south-west corner of town wall within St Peter's graveyard, looking south.**

The line of the town wall forms the southern and eastern boundary to St Peter's graveyard. The extent of surviving original masonry was not fully determined, particularly at the east side where the wall is densely overgrown. Original masonry is visible along the southern boundary wall and is best viewed from the south, outside the graveyard, where the original base batter of the town wall is visible close to the present-day street level (Plate 20). The base batter varies in height, being lowest at the west and gradually increasing to 2.47m (above footpath) at the east. The base batter has been repointed and some portions are obscured by vegetative cover. The wall has been rebuilt above the base batter to just above the level of the graveyard interior (Figure 14). At the east end of this east-west orientated portion of the wall, original masonry is apparent to full height and the remains of a possible flanker project from the east corner (Plate 21).





**Plate 20: Original base batter visible on south-facing elevation of Section 5. Rebuilt wall on top of batter forms southern boundary of St Peter's graveyard.**

The eastern boundary wall of the graveyard which also represents the line of the town wall is densely overgrown and was not accessible from the east. The full extent of surviving original masonry or the presence of any additional features could not therefore be assessed. From within the graveyard it is apparent only as a low wall with later cap stones (Plate 22). Connolly (1985, 57) notes that the best preserved sections of wall are those 'surrounding Ballymodan Graveyard on the west and south..'. He also refers to a description of the walls by Robert Day who notes that Bennett made 'no mention of the existence of this part of the walls.' (*ibid.*). A further description of the course of the wall by Spiller (published in 1844) is also quoted by Connolly in which it is stated that the wall surrounded 'Ballymodan Church Yard' (St Peter's) on three sides (*ibid.*, 60). Furthermore,



**Plate 21: Possible remains of flanker at south-east corner of St Peter's graveyard, looking north.**

Scalé's 1775 map of Bandon also shows the wall extending around the graveyard at the west, south and east.



**Plate 22: Eastern portion of Section 5 from within St Peter's graveyard, looking south-west.**

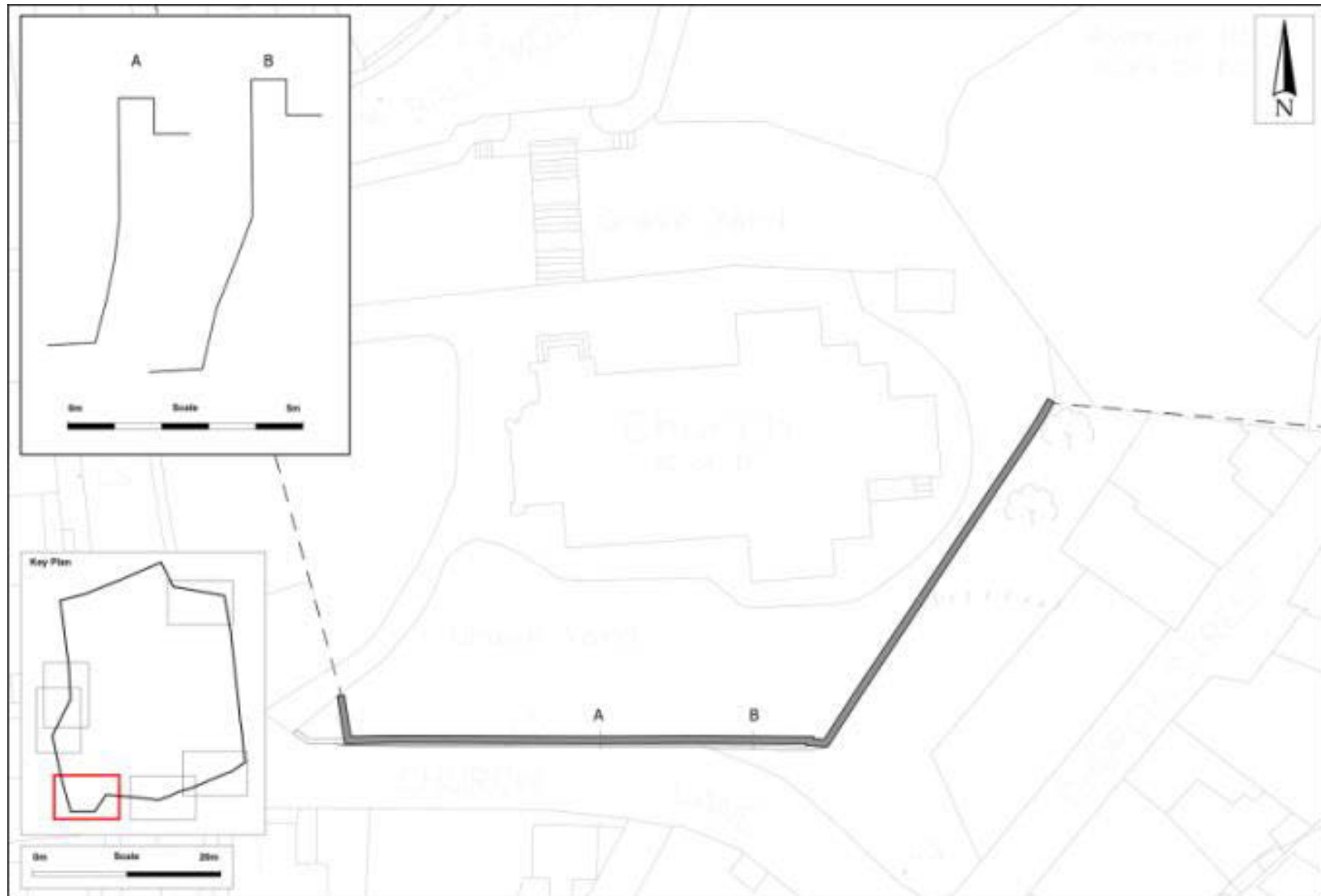


Figure 14: Section 5 showing instrument survey of walls and sectional profile across wall with base batter.

## Section 6 – From eastern side of St Peter’s Graveyard to the east end of Church Street

This portion of the town wall was only partially accessible for visual inspection and survey. The western end of Section 6 is densely overgrown and is located at the rear of private properties. Details regarding the extent of surviving original masonry, dimensions and the presence or otherwise of additional features were not obtainable for much of this section. The north elevation of the west end of section 6 may be viewed from the grounds of Avenue House. It is largely covered in vegetation, however masonry is visible in places and later interventions to the wall are apparent (Plate 23). Given the small portion of wall available for inspection here it was not possible to determine what, if any, original masonry is present. The extant wall here measures c. 2.2m in height.



Plate 23: Line of town wall (Section 6) viewed from grounds of Avenue House, looking east-south-east.

The wall re-emerges on Church Street where it would appear to be incorporated into the southern wall of a garage/warehouse type building (Plate 24). A door ope associated with the use of this building has been inserted into the wall and modern pointing and repairs are visible in places. Concrete render has been

applied to the wall face beneath the modern roof. The wall measures approximately 3m in height. It is possible that some of the wall contains some original fabric. Contrary to this, George Bennett’s account of the walls in this location are as follows; ‘Beginning at the south side of the Salmon weirs, they ran south.....from hence to the south-west portion of Ballymodan churchyard, and thence (still south with easterly incline) until it reached south east extremity of FitzGerald’s Distillery, thence in a straight line east, until it arrived about ten yards east of Mr Pope’s corn store, where it turned sharp to the left, forming the boundary wall of Mr Swanton’s tanyard’.



Plate 24: Town wall possibly incorporated into building on north side of Church Street, looking east.

## Section 7 – From East end of Church Street to west side of public car park (Section 8)

No detail is known regarding the wall at Section 7. No trace of the sub-surface wall was uncovered within the test trench excavated on St Patrick’s Place as part of the Bandon Sewerage Scheme Stage 2 (Carroll and Quinn 2012), although this was largely due to the presence of modern services within the test trench. Immediately east of the public road the

line of the town wall extends into private property and was not accessible for visual inspection or survey.

### **Section 8 – Wall to north of public car park (NW of Catholic Church)**

Section 8 comprises a 27m length of upstanding wall which forms the northern boundary to a public car park. It stands to a height of approximately 4.2m and is constructed of mortar-bonded shale slabs and blocks. It may represent an original upstanding portion of the wall, although modern intervention is apparent in numerous places in the form of concrete render and repointing and is likely to be related to the use of later buildings which once abutted the wall at this location (Plate 25).



**Plate 25: Western end of Section 8, looking north-northwest.**

A modern post-and-wire fence and a television aerial are located on top of the wall at its west end, while vegetation obscures much of the top of the wall at the east end (Plate 26).



**Plate 26: Eastern end of Section 8, looking north-northeast.**

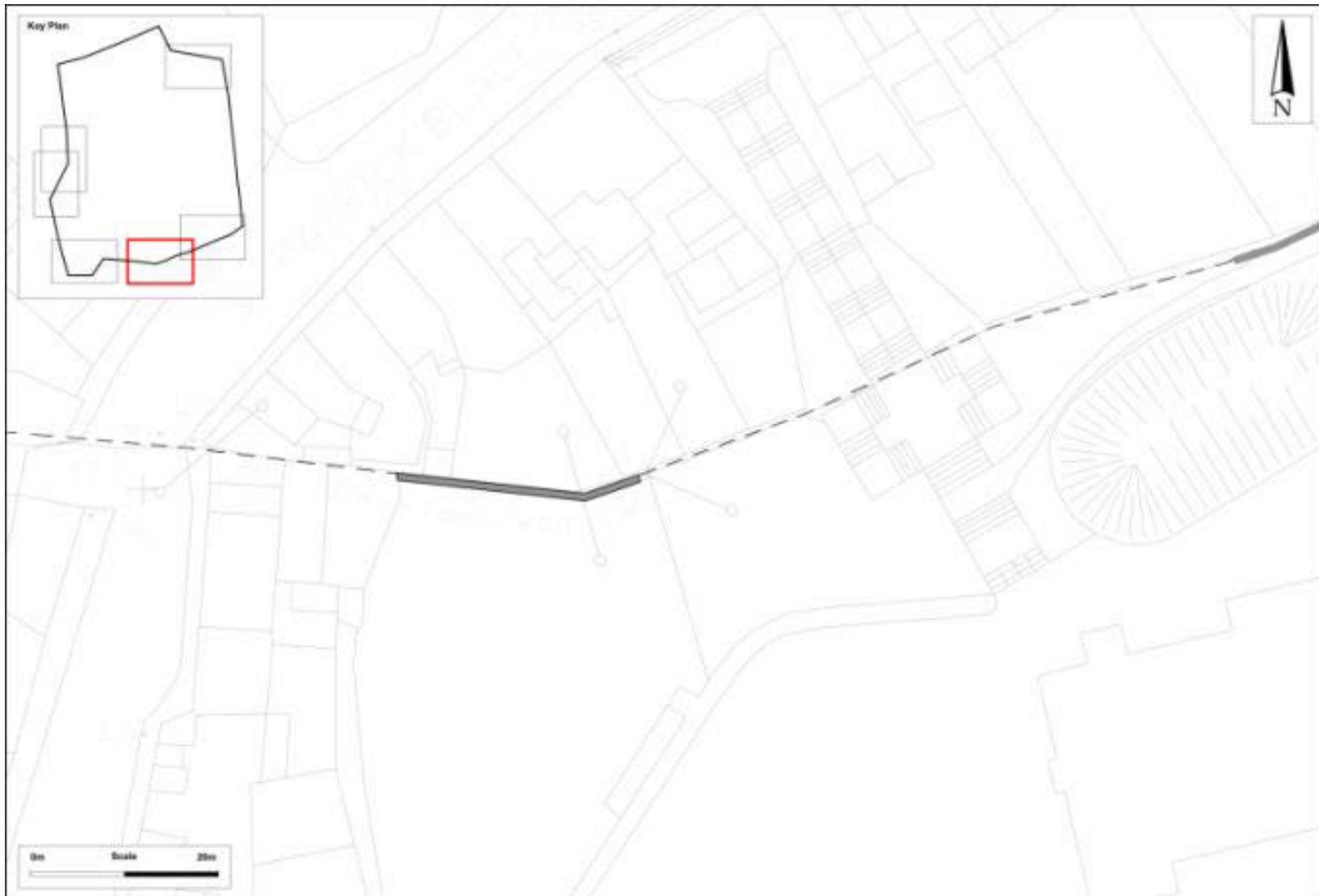


Figure 15: Instrument survey of Section 8.



**Section 9 – Southern line of town wall from west end of Section 8 along public path as far as St Patrick’s Hill.**

Section 9 comprises a lengthy section of the southern town defences and is also the most easily accessed given its location immediately north of a public path which leads from the steps up to St Patrick’s Catholic Church as far as the southern end of St Patrick’s Hill. The western end of Section 9 is located in landscaped ground immediately west of the aforementioned steps. A low stone wall is located on the line of the town wall at this location but is entirely overgrown with the result that no masonry was visible for inspection (Plate 27).



**Plate 27: Overgrown wall on line of town wall, Section 9 west of church steps.**

To the east of the steps the wall re-emerges to the rear of properties which front onto St Patrick’s Quay. Large sections of the wall have collapsed into these properties and the wall is clearly in a poor state of preservation and much overgrown (Plate 28). To the east of the collapsed section the upstanding wall is visible immediately north of a public path. At least some portions of the upstanding

wall may be original but have been altered in places. It is constructed of roughly coursed shale and varies in height from just above present ground level to 1.6m high (Plate 29). Where the wall has either collapsed or been reduced to ground level a modern link fence has been erected along its line (Plate 30).



**Plate 28: Collapsed wall east of church steps (Section 9), looking north north-west.**



**Plate 29: Section 9, possible portion of original upstanding town wall (east of collapsed sections), looking north-east.**





**Plate 30:** Link fence along line of town wall, Section 9, looking south-west.



**Plate 32:** North elevation at east end of Section 9 viewed from public car park.

At the east end of Section 9 a modern concrete wall is built on the line of the town wall (Plate 31). This portion of Section 9 may also be viewed from the public car park to the north where the concrete wall can be seen to directly overlie a stone wall which may represent an original section of the town wall (Plate 32).

The north-facing elevation at the east end of Section 9 may contain some original fabric with some later interventions, some of which may have been associated with the use of the site as a saw mill in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Two limestone corbels project from the elevation and may be associated with the mill. The wall is constructed of shale slabs and blocks and measures c. 3.5m in height. It is partially covered with vegetation and two modern rectangular structures abut the wall. Modern signage relating to the car park is also attached to this wall elevation (Plate 32 and Plate 33).



**Plate 31:** South elevation of east end Section 9. Concrete wall built on line of town wall, looking south-west.



**Plate 33:** Detail of north-facing elevation at east end of Section 9 within public car park.

## **Section 10 – Wall at East side of St Patrick’s Hill and to rear of properties on same**

Section 10 comprises a short stretch of wall at the south-east corner of the walled town, orientated north-east south-west, and the north-south orientated wall which extends from the south-east corner as far as the east end of St Patrick’s Quay. The majority of this section is located to the rear of private properties and currently acts as a property boundary for same. Access to all properties along St Patrick’s Hill was not possible, however, visual inspection of some portions of the wall at this side of the town would suggest that at least some sections of original upstanding wall are present.

At the east side of St Patrick’s Hill the line of the town wall forms the southern boundary to a private property. A low wall with soldier coping is located on its line and is painted on the north elevation which hinders visual inspection (Plate 34). It is probable that this wall is rebuilt on the line of the town wall. The wall then turns to the north at the rear of properties 13 and 14, and here comprises a much altered, c. 2.5m high wall. The west elevation of the wall is ivy-covered in places and is capped with soldier coping, clearly a later intervention. It is possible that the lower courses of this portion of the wall represent original masonry with overlying later re-building and alterations (Plate 35). A short section of the east elevation of this wall is visible from Casement Road where modern re-build is apparent (Plate 36).



**Plate 34: Section 10 at east side of St Patrick’s Hill, looking south-east.**



**Plate 35: Southern end of Section 10 to rear of No. 13-14 St Patrick’s Hill. West elevation, looking north-east.**



**Plate 36: East elevation of southern portion of Section 10, taken from Casement Road. Note later re-build using red brick.**

Further to the north a short stretch of town wall to the rear of No.s 6 and 7 St Patrick's Hill was visually inspected. At the rear of No. 6 it consists of a c. 2.5m high wall constructed of shale with a lime render to the west elevation. It is ivy-covered on top and would appear to represent an original upstanding portion of the town wall (Plate 37). Immediately to the south a lean-to shed has been constructed against the west wall face at the rear of No. 7.



**Plate 37: Upstanding section of town wall at rear of No. 6 St Patrick's Hill, looking north-east.**

The east elevation of the town wall along Section 10 was only available intermittently for visual inspection. A short stretch was accessible from Casement Road and forms the western boundary to Riverview Mews. The wall here is possibly original but is much overgrown with vegetation (Plate 38).



**Plate 38: East elevation of Section 10 where town wall forms boundary to Riverview Mews.**

No further portions of the wall along Section 10 were accessible for inspection. At the north end of Section 10 the line of the wall appears to emerge between two properties which front onto the east end of St Patrick's Quay, immediately south of the Bridewell River (Plate 39).



**Plate 39: Possible line of town wall between properties south of Bridewell River.**



Figure 16: Section 9 survey (on left) and Section 10 survey (on right).



### **Section 11 – East side of town from Bridewell River to Bank Place**

No upstanding remains of the town wall, either original or rebuilt, survive along the east side of the town from north of the Bridewell River to the south side of Bank Place.

### **Section 12 – Bank Place**

No upstanding remains of the town wall are apparent at Bank Place. A possible portion of the foundation of the wall was uncovered within a test trench excavated as part of the Bandon Sewerage Scheme, Stage 2 (Carroll and Quinn 2012).

### **Section 13 – North-east corner of town wall from north side of Bank Place to eastern boundary wall of Christ Church graveyard**

Much of the north-east corner of the town wall is upstanding and comprises original masonry towards the base with rebuilt wall on top. This section measures c. 112m in total length. The east elevation of the north-south portion of Section 13 may be viewed from the yard to the rear of the Post Office sorting depot on Bank Place (Figure 17). Portions of the west elevation can be seen at the rear of a solicitor's office which fronts onto North Main Street.

The east elevation is largely overgrown with ivy, however, original masonry is visible towards its south end where it forms the property boundary between the P.O. yard and the yard to the rear of the solicitor's office (Plate 40). Later rebuilding of the wall, including the

pitched gable of a now demolished structure, is clearly visible directly over original masonry (Plate 41). The original wall survives to a height of 2.32m at this location.



**Plate 40: East elevation of town wall forming boundary to P.O. yard, looking north-northwest.**



**Plate 41: East elevation of Section 13 from P.O. yard. Note original masonry (arrow) with later rebuild on top.**

At the north-east corner of the town wall circuit the wall is rounded and relatively well preserved (2.2m in height ext.) (Plate 42).



**Plate 42: Rounded north-east corner of wall, looking south.**

The west elevation of this portion of wall is less well preserved and is much abraded with later alterations also apparent (Plate 43).

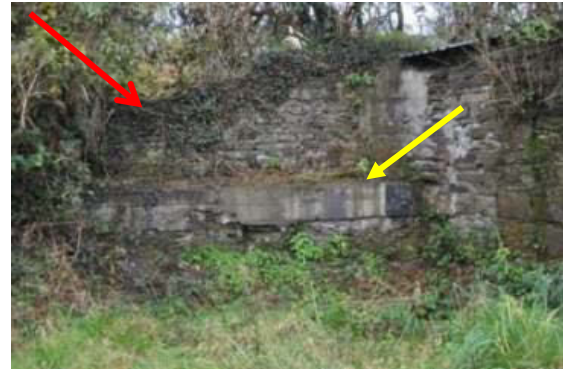


**Plate 43: West elevation (Section 13), looking south-east.**

The east-west orientated portion of Section 13 (south elevation) may be viewed from the rear of the solicitor's yard and an adjoining car park. A large breach is located in the wall which has been much rebuilt in places. A steel superstructure for a shed and an associated galvanised roof are located immediately south of the wall at the rear of the Solicitor's yard.

Further to the west the original wall may be seen standing to a height of only 0.93m (max) where it is concrete faced and capped. A later wall has been built on the northern edge of the original wall but is only visible for a short distance after

which dense vegetative cover obscures the wall as far as the east boundary wall of Christ Church graveyard.



**Plate 44: Original wall visible at base with concrete render to south elevation (yellow arrow). Later wall built on north edge (red arrow).**

### **Section 14 – North boundary wall of Christ Church graveyard**

The north boundary wall of Christ Church graveyard is built on the line of the town wall and measures c. 57m in length (Figure 17). Access to the north elevation of this section of wall was limited given the dense vegetation growing in this area. A length of the north elevation was inspected at the west end of this section where the ground level outside the wall has been raised. Some possible original masonry survives at the west end of Section 14 (Plate 46), however, further to the east the boundary wall comprises a later re-build. The construction technique differs distinctly from the simple rough courses noted elsewhere in the town wall and comprises alternating courses of large blocks and thin slabs (Plate 45).





**Plate 45: Later construction method in north elevation of Section 14.**



**Plate 46: Possible earlier feature at west end of Section 14, looking west north-west.**



Figure 17: Section 13 instrument survey (post office on right) and Section 14 (north boundary wall to Christ Church).

### **Section 15 – Eastern side of town wall from west end of Christ Church graveyard**

Section 15 of the town wall is difficult to trace both cartographically and on the ground. Access was not gained to this area given its location in private property and the presence of dense vegetation cover. In this regard no information regarding the course of the wall or its nature in this location was gained.

### **Section 16 – Wall forming boundary between gardens on Kilbrogan Hill**

Access to all of Section 16 was not gained as it is located in private property. The line of the wall could be traced to the rear of a property which fronts onto Kilbrogan Hill (Tim O'Brien) and forms a north-east south-west orientated property boundary at this location. Original masonry is visible at the rear of the house where the wall measures 2.7m in height x 0.8m in width and is constructed of thin shale slabs (Plate 47 and Plate 48). Further to the north-east it decreases in height to 0.5m and is poorly preserved (Plate 49).



**Plate 47: Section of original upstanding town wall at rear of O'Brien's property on Kilbrogan Hill, looking south-west.**



**Plate 48: Detail of original masonry where it is adjoined by the dwelling house.**



**Plate 49: Line of town wall forming plot boundary at rear of O'Brien's property, looking south-east.**

### **Section 17 – From east side of Kilbrogan Hill to Emmet Row**

No upstanding remains of the town wall are visible in Section 17. Furthermore, no evidence for the wall was uncovered during recent archaeological testing on Kilbrogan Hill as part of the Bandon Sewerage Scheme (Stage 2) (Carroll and Quinn, 2012).

### **Section 18 – Emmet Row**

A portion of the possible foundation of the town wall was uncovered within a test trench excavated on Emmet Row as part of the Bandon Sewerage Scheme (Stage 2) (Carroll and Quinn, 2012). The possible wall foundation was comprised of a thin layer of flat shale slabs which measured 1.8m in width and 0.1m in thickness. The possible foundation is located on the suspected line of the town wall as projected from available cartographic sources.



**Plate 50: Sub-surface town wall foundation base (Emmet Row – Tobar Archaeological Services).**

### **Section 19 – North and west boundary wall of old barracks (Allen Square)**

Section 19 is only partially accessible/visible and comprises the north and west boundary wall of the 19<sup>th</sup> century barracks which was located inside the north-west corner of the town defences. The northern elevation of the north boundary wall is visible from Allen Square and is a later rebuild on the line of the town wall (Plate 51). The western boundary wall was inaccessible therefore no visual inspection of the latter was undertaken.



**Plate 51: North elevation of northern portion of Section 19, looking south-east.**



### Section 20 – Western line of town wall, south of barracks

Section 20 was inaccessible and largely ivy-covered and its west elevation was only viewed from a distance (Plate 52). It comprises a stone wall built on the line of the town wall, however its precise nature and form could not be assessed.



Plate 52: West elevation of Section 20, looking south-east.

### Section 21 – Western line of town wall south of Section 20

Section 21 comprises a rebuilt wall on the line of the town wall. It currently forms the western boundary to a property north of a block of apartments.



Plate 53: Section 21, looking north-east.

### Section 22 – Western line of town wall as far as River Bandon

Very little above-ground remains of Section 22 are now visible apart from a short portion of wall on the north bank of the river measuring c. 3m in length (Plate 54). Masonry from this portion of wall has been displaced by a fallen tree and it is in a poor state of preservation. It is constructed using flat shale slabs and measures approximately 1m in height by 0.9m in width. *In situ* masonry is also visible on the north bank of the adjacent island in the river (Plate 55) where a tower is depicted on Scalé's 1775 map and the later 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map. The island was not accessible therefore a survey of the masonry remains could not be undertaken at this time.



Plate 54: Portion of town wall on north bank of River Bandon, looking south-west.



Plate 55: Masonry at and below water level on island in River Bandon, looking south.



# Chapter Four

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## 4. Condition Assessment of Town Walls

### *Carrig Conservation*

#### **Overview**

The historic defensive walls of Bandon today are in an unfortunate state in some locations. Due to the passing of time, waves of development and under appreciation of the Wall as a continuous circuit, much has been lost and what we are left with is interspersed sections. Lack of clear definition in relation to ownership and duty of care has resulted in inadequate funding provision for the upkeep of the Wall and for its management and presentation as a whole. In the whole, its demise has not been a subject of particular civic concern. If this lack of maintenance persists secure sections of the Wall will become further dilapidated and other sections will become dangerously unstable.

This section outlines the conditions identified along the walls. The first section outlines the issues affecting the town wall.

#### **Issues Affecting Bandon Town Walls**

##### *Detritus Build Up*

A build up of detritus was noted to a number of sections of wall where leaves and rubbish have been allowed to build up due to lack of maintenance. In some cases litter has become lodged in open-joints and cavities and looks unsightly.

On a similar note, the location of a bin alongside the town wall in Section 1 is unsightly and detracts from the monument. This should be removed.

##### *Open-Joints*

Open-joints between stonework occur when the mortar binder dissolves and the aggregate becomes detached, eventually falling away. The continued action of rainwater on exposed skyward surfaces causes dissolution of mortar. Open-joints are a breeding ground for plant life and allow water ingress into the substrate, causing erosion. Open-joints are evident to all sections of the Town Wall.

##### *Missing Stones*

A number of areas of missing stones were noted along various sections of wall. Missing stones create cavities in which moisture can penetrate and enter into the substrate. These cavities also provide ideal locations for plant life to take hold. The plant life may then cause further damage and result in other adjacent stones becoming dislodged.

##### *Biological Growth*

##### ***Mosses and Algae***

Mosses are commonly found on stone surfaces in Ireland. They occur on sheltered locations with little direct sunlight. Mosses and algae can damage stone through penetration of their root and by increasing the amount and duration of moisture held on the stone surface. The mosses can provide the nutrients for higher-order plants and facilitate possible mineral alternation of the stone surface. In the case of the Town Walls concentrations of green moss and

algae growth are found along weathering surfaces, on ledges and in areas sheltered from the sun.

### **Lichen**

Lichen is a form of biological growth that is typically red, mustard, yellow or brilliant white in colour. It is extremely resistant to harsh conditions and can be found in any environment. Lichen feed on acidic rainwater and minerals contained within the stone and as such slowly breaks down the internal structure of the material, which weakens it for other forms of weathering. Material damage can also result from the repeated expansion and contraction of the lichens, which contain a high proportion of gelatinous material and can hold up to 300% of their dry weight in water. This retention of water may also increase absorption of atmospheric pollutants and water-induced decay processes, while making the substrate more suitable for the growth of higher species.

Lichen can be found throughout the wall.

### *Vegetation*

Advanced plant life, is made possible by the continued availability of moisture and nutrients available in the surrounding building materials. Plant life also requires a certain amount of shelter to develop. Plants can damage stone walls by growing tendrils through the mortar joints of masonry, which dislodges the material and allows water penetration to the substrate. Advanced plant life is a significant problem along the Town Walls.

### *Cementitious Materials*

Lime mortars were in universal use up to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries when experiments resulted in the development of cements for mortars

and rendering. The popularity of cement mortars grew, due to their reduced working time compared with lime. With this new widespread use, cement products unfortunately began to be employed incorrectly on traditional and historic structures.

Traditionally the lime mortar, which is softer than the stone, acted as a sacrificial framework, allowing moisture to escape easily and efficiently through the pointing. Cement based mortars with a high cement content can often be harder and more impenetrable to moisture than the stone. In these cases, water movement through the masonry increases.

*'As a consequence, salt dissolved in water can also travel through the masonry, increasing risk of salt attack. Also when masonry remains wet for long periods, pollutants easily adhere to and accumulate on the stone surface. Another damaging effect of combining permeable masonry with impermeable mortars is the wetting drying episodes in the masonry, which lead to an increase in mineral alteration and frost damage<sup>37</sup>.'*

Therefore these high volumes of moisture forced into the stone gradually break down the internal bond, eroding it away over time, while the pointing remains intact and standing proud.

### *Missing Coping*

Many areas of the surviving wall are without proper coping and therefore without protection from the elements. This condition is very serious as it allows moisture to penetrate the inner substrate increasing the rate of many decay mechanisms.

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<sup>37</sup> P127, Stone Brick & Mortar. S Pavia & J Bolton. Wordwell, Wicklow, 2000

Where coping exists, some of this has been found to be of inappropriate material and in some instances has become cracked, broken and detached from the masonry, therefore allowing moisture penetrate the masonry.

#### *Metal Signage /Fixings*

Signage was noted at one location along the walls. This signage is unattractive and detracts from the wall. In addition, the metal fixings associated with the signage can create problems. If allowed to corrode, these metal fixings can crack as well as discolour the stone with rust staining. In addition the resulting holes in the limestone may facilitate the penetration of moisture into the interior of the substrate and encourage freeze-thaw mechanical erosion.

Television aerials have been identified to the skyward surface of Section 8. The placement of these is inappropriate and furthermore the fixing of these objects into the masonry is causing damage. They should be removed.

### **Physical Condition of Sections of Wall**

#### *Section 1*

This section of wall runs southwards from the Bandon River to McSwiney Quay. Some work was carried out to this wall in 2002 as part of the construction of the supermarket to its southwest. The west elevation of the west wall was repointed, with this in particular addressing a bulge in this wall. Consequently, though the bulge is still noticeable, it is unlikely to be of major concern to the structural stability of the wall. The south ends of the wall were rebuilt in 2002 following removal of a modern pier. The wall was in poor condition and needed consolidation.

The main concern at present with this section of the Town Wall is the amount of vegetation obscuring it from survey. The southern end of the east elevation of the west wall and the west elevation of the west wall were the only areas that could be examined. There are also trees growing quite close to the wall which have the potential to cause some damage from root action.



**Plate 56: View of Section 1 from south showing vegetation**

There are two areas of missing stone to the west elevation and also some loose stone towards the southern end. There are also localised areas of open joints visible. It is likely that once the vegetation is cleared away, further areas of open joints will become apparent.

There is a significant build up of rubbish to the east side of the east wall which is unsightly and detracts from the wall. It was also impossible to survey this section of wall.

Cementitious flaunching was identified to both the west and north walls. The flaunching to the west wall is cracked with some missing sections. This has therefore failed and is aiding water ingress to the wall.



**Plate 57: Damaged flaunching to west wall**

A white box was noted against the east elevation of the west wall. This belongs to the Fisheries Board and in 2002, the decision was taken not to remove it as it was agreed that to do so would cause more damage to the wall.



**Plate 58: Fisheries Board box to east elevation of west wall.**

A litter bin has been located against the west elevation of the west wall. The presence of this bin is unsightly and detracts from the monument.



**Plate 59: West elevation of west wall with litter bin**

### *Section 2*

A significant amount of work was carried out to this section of wall in association with the construction of the supermarket to its west and south-west. In addition the east wall was repointed while work was being carried out to the Garda station as it forms the eastern boundary of the Garda Station site. This repointing was carried out using a mortar with a cementitious content.

As the wall extends south-westwards it is apparent that portions of the wall have been rebuilt. This was carried out using stone found on site and relating to the historic collapse of sections of the wall. This wall is uniform on top and has been flaunching using cementitious mortar.

Vegetation is an issue along this wall as shrubs and flowers planted to both sides obscure sections from view. The west side is showing some vegetation beginning to grow on the wall. This is still in an early stage and unlikely to have become deeply rooted in the masonry. It should be removed before becoming a major issue. On the east side of the wall, vegetation has become a greater issue with significant growth of ivy in areas. The presence of deep roots in the masonry is likely to be an issue on this elevation.





**Plate 60: View from southwest showing planting in front of wall**



**Plate 61: View of east elevation of east wall showing ivy growth**

Open joints were noted along the wall. Sections of the eastern wall (west elevation) appear to have been robbed out and open joints are an issue here. Bulges in the western wall appear to be historic and do not require any remedial works.



**Plate 62: Open joints to east face of west wall**

The section of wall abutting the Riverside Shopping Centre is in poor condition with vegetation and loose stone to top of the wall. Open joints are visible along the base of the wall. The hard landscaping abutting the wall is likely to be causing some issues. The flaunching in this section of wall is in poor state of repair with areas missing and other areas lifting off the walltop. This is certainly allowing water to ingress into the interior of the wall.



**Plate 63: View of section beside Riverside Shopping Centre showing damaged coping and biological growth**

#### *Section 4*

A concrete breezeblock wall now abuts the town wall on its west side with a rubble stone wall to the east. Only a section of the town wall survives. It is in poor state of repair with loose stone and is in need of some consolidation. There is also some vegetation growth to the wall. The foundations have been exposed due to the lowering of the adjacent ground surface and are also undermined by animal burrowing.

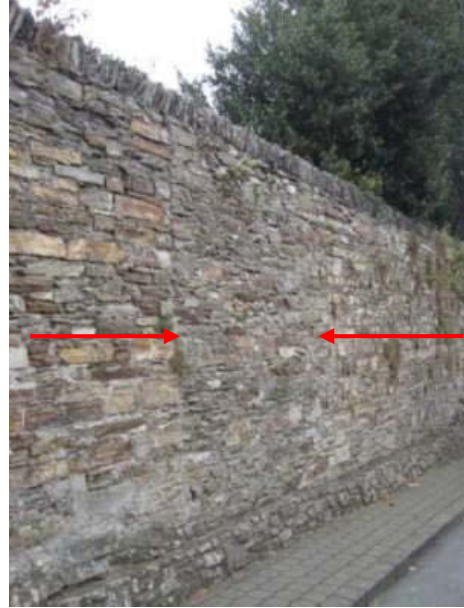




**Plate 64: Animal burrowing beneath Section 4**

### *Section 5*

The south elevation of the wall to the churchyard has been largely rebuilt. The current wall rises from the base batter of the original wall. There is potentially one section midway along the wall which may be original. This section of wall corresponds with a railed-off grave within the graveyard. The entire wall has been coped with soldier coping, possibly in the nineteenth-century. The graveyard was extended westwards in the latter half of the nineteenth century, with the west section of the town wall removed and it is highly possible that works were carried out to the other sides of the graveyard at this time.



**Plate 65: Possible original section of wall denoted by arrows.**

Biological growth is an issue throughout this section of the town with higher plant life recorded throughout. This is particularly an issue within the graveyard, though it is also recorded on the south elevation particularly towards the eastern end. This western portion of the wall is original and has the potential remains of a flanker at the corner. Plant life has taken root on top of the base batter in this area also.



**Plate 66: Plantlife to southeast corner. Note potential flanker to corner**

The wall visible within the graveyard is in poor condition around the southeast corner with loose stone and missing fabric. Cement render has been applied to a section of the wall in this area. The render is cracked and allowing water ingress into the wall fabric.



**Plate 67: North elevation of wall showing open joints, loss of fabric and biological growth**



**Plate 68: Cementitious render to north elevation**

The triangular feature at the southwest corner is heavily overgrown and could not be surveyed. The wall forming the feature and the town wall it abuts display open joints and some missing stone. The broken end of the town wall requires consolidation as there is loose stone and much missing mortar. There is a concrete pier erected against the north corner of the east wall of the feature.



**Plate 69: Triangular feature to southeast corner. Note vegetation and build up of detritus to structure**

The east-facing elevation of the north-south running portion of this wall could not be surveyed as access could not be gained. The portion that was visible is heavily overgrown.



**Plate 70: East-facing elevation of wall which could not be surveyed.**

### *Section 6*

The majority of this section of wall was inaccessible for survey. The limited visual access afforded shows it to be heavily overgrown with advanced vegetation. This vegetation is dense and is likely to be compromising the wall in places.

The only accessible area of this section of the wall has been incorporated into a building with cementitious render to the upper reaches of the wall. It is also highly likely that the wall has been added to for the purpose of providing support for the roof of the building. Openings have also been made in the masonry. The wall has been repointed using cementitious material. There are some localised areas of vegetation, which for the most part are unsightly and unlikely to be causing much damage to the masonry. This will need to be addressed however to ensure it does not become an issue. There is some bitumen residue to the wall. This is not causing any damage to the fabric but is aesthetically unpleasing.



**Plate 71: Biological growth and bitumen residue to wall**

The inner face of this wall was not inspected.

### *Section 8*

Advanced plant life was recorded to the upper reaches of this wall where substantial growth covers the entire skyward surface and is continuing down the south elevation of the wall. Localised areas of lower order plant life were noted in pockets along the wall, particularly within open joints. An area of cementitious render has become detached from the wall and the ingress of moisture has encouraged the growth of plant life along the top.



**Plate 72: Open joints to wall which have encouraged the growth of plant life**





**Plate 73: Cementitious render to wall with plant growth along the top**

Open joints were identified in pockets along the wall.

A post and wire fence has been erected on top of the wall to its western end. This is unsightly and the placing of the concrete posts is likely to have caused damage to the wall. Further unsightly additions are television aerials which have been erected to the top of the wall in this area.



**Plate 74: Post and wire fence to top of wall. Note presence of TV aerials also**

The northern elevation of this wall was not surveyed as it could not be accessed.

### *Section 9*

The western end of this section was heavily overgrown with advanced plant life and could not be surveyed. Beyond the steps down to St Patrick's Place the wall is

in varied states of repair. Some sections have completely collapsed and been replaced by a modern link fence. The upstanding sections are in a poor state of preservation with open joints, loose stone and heavy vegetation. A significant crack was identified about midway along this section. This crack will require some consolidation and it is recommended that a structural engineer investigate the cause and identify the correct repair. Litter is an issue along this section also.



**Plate 75: View of wall from southeast showing biological growth, open joints and general poor state of preservation of wall**



**Plate 76: Section towards eastern end showing open joints and biological growth.**



**Plate 77: Crack to south elevation of wall**

The north elevation of Section 9 was only accessed at its eastern end where the wall is currently located in a public car park. There is a concrete block wall built on top of the stone wall. Advanced plant life was noted to the wall including a tree which is causing some damage. Loose and missing stone was identified immediately beneath the tree. Two structures have been constructed abutting the wall and the rainwater management of the roofs of these structures appears to be allowing some water to run down the face of the wall. Biological growth in this area indicates the presence of moisture in the wall.



**Plate 78: Advanced plant life to wall.**



**Plate 79: Biological growth to wall. Note concrete block extension to top of wall.**

A sign has been affixed to the wall in this area. This sign is unsightly and detracts from the wall.



**Plate 80: Sign affixed to wall.**

### *Section 10*

Open joints were noted to the south elevation of the east-west orientated element of Section 10. The wall no longer stands to its full height and has had soldier coping and a concrete block wall constructed on top.





**Plate 81: Open joint to Section 10.**

The north elevation has been painted. Open joints can also be seen to this wall.

As this section of the wall forms boundaries of rear gardens to the houses along St Patrick's Hill, it was only possible to survey some portions of the west elevation of the wall. The portion to the rear of Nos. 12-14 appears to have had various rebuilds, though some of the wall is likely to be original. Heavy vegetation was noted along the wall while a portion of the wall towards the northern end has lost much of its pointing.



**Plate 82: View of wall to rear of Nos. 12-14 from southwest**

A second portion of the wall was surveyed to the rear of Nos. 6 and 7. This section has a modern building against it to the rear of No.7 which masks the wall. The section to the rear of No. 6 has heavy vegetation growth and traces of render to

the wall. It was difficult to view this section of wall for the purposes of survey.



**Plate 83: View of wall to rear of No. 6 from southwest**

### *Section 13*

The north-south orientated portion of the wall within Section 13 forms the west boundary of the Post Office site. The wall is largely overgrown with advanced plant life, with only some sections visible. The visible sections of the wall show that it has been undergone some rebuilding in different phases. However the fact that most of the wall is masked by vegetation makes it difficult to identify the extent of the rebuilding. Red brick was used as a repair in one area towards the southern end of this section. At the northern end of the portion within the Post Office yard, the wall has been levelled off and a concrete coping applied to the top. Again vegetation is an issue in this area, with the identification of Japanese Knotweed at the base of the wall being of particular concern.



**Plate 84: View of wall from southeast showing vegetation growth**



**Plate 86: View of wall southwest showing vegetation growth and evidence of rebuilding of wall**



**Plate 85: Japanese Knotweed to base of wall**

The western elevation of this portion of the wall has also some advanced plant life, though not to the same degree as the east elevation. The rebuilding of the wall was more apparent on this elevation as is the concrete coping which appears to sit on a red brick course. Open joints were noted in pockets along this elevation, though these appear to be primarily concerned with the rebuild sections. The stone to the original sections appears to be in a friable state of repair, particularly towards the northern end and pockets towards the southern end. An area of concrete render was noted towards the southern end of the west elevation.

The east-west orientated portion of Section 13 is located to the rear of two properties. The western section is located within a shed. The wall in this area has been much rebuilt, though the lower reaches appear to be largely original. A breach in the wall has been blocked using timber planks. Advanced plant life was recorded to the skyward surface of the wall, with tendrils coming down the face of the wall. Moss and algae were noted to the face of the wall, particularly to the lower levels. A crack was identified at the top of the wall alongside the break in the wall. The roof of the shed rests on the wall and the pressure of this combined with the loss of some of the wall has left this area of the wall unstable.



**Plate 87: Breach in east-west running section of wall. Note growth of moss to lower reaches of wall**



**Plate 88: Damaged upper level of wall**

The next portion of this wall, forming the rear boundary of a garden, shows significant rebuilding with the wall reduced in height and a thinner wall rebuilt over the original section. A concrete capping was then placed on the original section to form a ledge. There was some loss of fabric noted to the lower level of the wall, underneath the ledge. There is significant plant growth to this wall which is clearly causing damage, particularly a tree that has taken root on the ledge. The western portion of the wall within this garden is completely masked by vegetation and could not be surveyed.



**Plate 89: View from southeast showing vegetation growth**

No access was gained to the north elevation of this portion of Section 13.

#### *Section 14*

The town wall has been largely rebuilt within this section. A low wall is visible within the graveyard of Christchurch with the north elevation of this section of wall acting as a retaining wall for the graveyard due to the significant drop in height here. Only the western end of the north elevation was accessible and this could be unquestionably identified as a later rebuild.

The western end of this section of wall shows some original fabric with a potential structure tied into the wall. There was some vegetation noted to this portion of the wall, particularly to the skyward surface. Open joints were also noted here with significant loss of pointing. The skyward surface of the wall is in poor condition with much loose stone.





**Plate 90: View from southwest showing poor condition of top of wall**

The structure built into the wall here as concrete coping and some concrete render to its south elevation.



**Plate 91: Concrete render to potential structure**

### *Section 16*

The north elevation of this wall was surveyed in part. The wall is in a poor state of repair with vegetation, loose stone and open joints throughout its length. It decreases in height as it moves eastwards with no above ground traces visible towards the eastern end of its run.



**Plate 92: View of section of wall from northeast showing vegetation growth, loose stone and open joints.**

### *Section 22*

This section of wall is largely not visible above ground. A tree has displaced some stone in the low upstanding section and there is a build-up of soil and vegetation on top of the wall. It was difficult to carry out a survey of the wall in this section.

# Chapter Five

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## 5. Assessment of Significance

### *Carrig Conservation*

#### **Assessment**

The Burra Charter<sup>38</sup> defines *Cultural Significance* as a concept that helps in estimating the value of places. The places which are likely to be of significance are those that help an understanding of the past or enrich the present, and which will be of value to future generations. Bandon Town Walls are an intrinsic part of the town's past, being built in tandem with the development of the town in the seventeenth century and defining the size and shape of the historic town. Thus the town walls as they survive today are an important artefact of the town's earliest beginnings and therefore of immense value to the present and future generations.

The *Cultural Significance* of a place comes from its aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.

The aesthetic value of the town walls comes from its physical form and appearance. The stone construction of the surviving sections of the wall, including areas which were subsequently rebuilt, attest to the scale of the finished circuit and the impression they would have made on the people of Bandon at the time. Similarly the surviving sections today hold

a value for the town's population as a physical reminder of the town's origins and history. The stone walls in their completed state would have provided a sense of enclosure and security to the town's citizens. Today they serve to highlight the town's historic sector.

The town walls define the town's historic plan and form, which is most apparent in the fact that the walls are not regular in plan. This is also borne out in the obvious arcing of the circuit to include two existing churches within the enclosure. They also had to take account of the physical constraints set by the location of the town.

The town walls should be regarded as the town's foremost defining 'civic' historic monument. They define the historic and commercial core of the town. Furthermore, though the walls ceased to be a defensive entity within 80 years of their construction, they continued to define the order, direction and form of the town's development and organisation down to the present day. The fabric of the walls is a product of its time and also representative of the materials available in the locality in the seventeenth century.

The scientific value of the town walls lies in the potential they have for contributing information in the future. The walls are a repository of material and archaeological remains and have a function as a historical and archaeological research resource. Archaeological investigations in areas of the circuit no longer upstanding have the potential to yield information on foundations, the location of gates, etc. Further investigations of upstanding

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<sup>38</sup> The Burra Charter - The ICOMOS Australia Charter for Places of Cultural Significance. 1999



remains could yield information on structures associated with the walls such as the corner flankers and the tower on the island within the river. The walls are also of value given that Bandon is unique within Munster in that it is the only plantation town that was walled and is one of only two walled towns within Ireland that dates to the post-medieval period.

Social value is defined as embracing the qualities for which a place has become a focus of spiritual, political, national or other cultural sentiment to a majority or minority group. The town walls have the ability to become a focus of historic feeling for the present and future generations.

The historic value of the walls is due to the historic figures and events which influenced their construction and subsequent destruction. The town's evolution is interesting in that it was developed initially under the initiative of two individuals – William Newce and John Shipward. This led to its original structure being essentially two self-contained towns within one area. Hence, the town had two churches, two market houses and two session-houses. The construction of walls around the town was first mooted by Newce in 1611, though it is not known if construction of the walls commenced before Boyle acquired the town. It was under the auspices of Richard Boyle, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Cork, that the impetus for the construction of the town walls and defences was provided. It was his drive and financial input which led to the completion of the wall. While the construction of towns was part of the official plantation programme of 1586, Bandon is the only town which fulfilled the hopes of the plantation's planners.

Many European walled cities and towns acknowledge that their ancient defensive walls describe a circuit around a singularly historically important sector of the town that should be clearly identified for its citizens, thereby underpinning their sense of the great weight of its historical past. In this context the walled circuit is regarded as a defining resource to be identified, protected, admired and cherished.

Though the survival of the town wall is fragmentary, its circuit is easily identified and legible with guidance. The town walls should be regarded as a significant cultural resource on both a regional and national level. The Town Walls of Bandon are of national significance.

### **Assessment of Vulnerabilities**

The town wall and their heritage significance are vulnerable for a number of reasons. There has been a long-term lack of knowledge and failure to appreciate the asset which has resulted in a history of neglect. This has been further heightened by a lack of resources for repair and a failure to establish where the duty of care for the structure should rest, exacerbated by the fact that stretches of the wall are held in private or shared ownership.

There has been a lack of knowledge and under-appreciation of the potential of the wall as a tourist, civic and economic asset, linked to the town's identity. Consequently, the wall as an entity has not been cared for in a concerted or consistent manner and elements of the town's essential heritage identity have been lost and eroded rather than protected and enhanced.

Neglect, inappropriate management and maintenance and incremental degradation of the fabric as a result of vegetation and natural weathering and erosion of the fabric continue to be threats to the contextual significance of the wall. Vegetation in particular, whilst causing damage, is also masking the wall and hindering full survey and analysis of the upstanding remains. Inappropriate interventions such as street furniture also detract from the monument and render the significance vulnerable.

The principal threats to the cultural significance of the monument now are linked to the lack of an integrated

understanding of the considerations of conservation and public presentation. There has been some inappropriate development which may have adverse visual and other impacts upon the context of the wall, coupled with a failure to grasp opportunities to utilise open space adjacent to the walls and therefore explore opportunities for the presentation of the upstanding remains. The lack of a strategic planning framework for the entire circuit has led to a focus on issues at particular locations without taking into account the importance of the wall as a defining, historic entity. This has resulted in the circuit surviving in a fractured state.

# Chapter Six

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## 6. Opportunities and Constraints

### *Carrig Conservation*

#### **Constraints**

The single greatest constraint facing Bandon's Town Walls is the lack of a clearly articulated 'vision' for the composite monument. An integrated plan for the surviving remains is required to support a long term 'vision' for the surviving remains above and below ground. This should happen within a framework of strategic spatial planning and development control. A framework would provide for the requirements of protection, conservation, management and potential development against a background that seeks to protect the location and surviving fabric of the circuit. Any individual development and presentation actions need to be carried out within a strategic, prioritised and integrated phased plan.

Historically the failure to understand the town wall as a significant heritage resource, its vulnerability and the need for its protection have been major issues facing the preservation and protection of the walls. This has been coupled with inappropriate development and intervention on the heritage significance of the wall. The absence of a lack of vision for the preservation and management of the town wall has contributed further to the situation.

The issue of ownership and duty of care is a significant constraint for works to the

walls. Much of the surviving upstanding remains are located within privately-owned sites such as the section to the rear of properties on St Patrick's Hill and Section 13 which is partly located within the yard at the rear of the Post Office and partly as a boundary wall at the rear of properties on North Main Street. Section 16 is also functioning as a boundary within gardens on Kilbrogan Hill. However, conversely, the fact that the wall is preserved in these sections as plot boundaries has contributed to its survival.

The impact of invasive vegetation growth on the wall's fabric is a significant issue. This is causing damage to the walls while also hindering visual inspection of the walls. There is an urgent need for control of vegetation, structural repair and preservation. However the great length of the surviving wall and its varied structural condition are also constraints on the protection of the town wall.

The condition of the upstanding sections of the wall is a further issue. Some sections are in a poor state of preservation, with areas of collapse, while others have been substantially rebuilt or repaired historically. This will place constraints on the presentation of the wall and policies will need to be examined with regard to addressing this.

Potential anti-social behaviour along Sections 1 and 9 needs to be addressed prior to the implementation of any proposals for the presentation of the wall. These sections are accessible to the public but the nature of their location appears to be encouraging littering.

## **Relevant Guiding Heritage Principles**

ICOMOS works for the conservation and protection of cultural heritage places. It is the only global non-government organisation of this kind, which is dedicated to promoting the application of theory, methodology, and scientific techniques to the conservation of the architectural and archaeological heritage. Its work is based on the principles enshrined in the 1964 International Charter on the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (the Venice Charter).

The following ICOMOS charters should inform and influence all policies with regard to works to the upstanding and below ground remains of the town walls:

- International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (*The Venice Charter*) - 1964
- The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance - (*The Burra Charter*) (Australia ICOMOS) - 1981
- Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas (*The Washington Charter*) - 1987
- Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage – 1990
- ICOMOS Charter on the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites - 2008

The above charters cover principals and policies of conservation in a framework under which the Conservation Plan is drawn up and particularly in respect of the following topics:

- Minimum intervention
- Repair, stabilisation, conservation and restoration

- Preservation of the archaeological heritage, historic areas (ensembles) and cultural heritage
- Safeguard the tangible and intangible values of the site
- Enhance the understanding and heighten public awareness of the site

## **Statutory Compliance and Planning Context**

### *National Monuments Acts and Amendment Acts 1930, 1954, 1987, 1994, 2004*

The town walls should now be regarded as a single, composite 'National Monument' under the terms of reference of the National Monuments Acts (1930) and Amendment Acts (1954, 1987, 1994, 2004). While it is not a National Monument in State care the provisions attaching to it in terms of development control and management now rest in the context of Ministerial Directions.

The town walls in Bandon have been designated a separate RMP number CO110-019-014 (Town Defences, Gully townland).

Under the National Monuments Acts it is stated that where it is proposed to carry out any work in relation to a monument or place, then notice in writing to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht is required stating the works to be carried out with a view to obtaining ministerial consent for the works. No such work should commence for a two month period following the application for ministerial consent to allow the National Monuments Service time to consider the proposed works.

It should be borne in mind that a methodology will have to be drawn up by a conservation consultant stating exactly what works are proposed. The work

should be supervised by a conservation consultant/archaeologist and carried out by a specialist heritage contractor.

#### *Planning and Development Act 2000*

The current Cork County Development Plan 2009-2015 contains a strategy for development over a six-year period, together with development policies and zoning objectives which constitute material considerations in deciding on individual applications for planning permission. In Chapter 7.3 the plan outlines policies with regard to archaeological heritage. This recognises Bandon as a designated Zone of Archaeological Potential.

Within the County Development Plan, a number of ACAs have been designated within Bandon. Save for one stretch, the circuit of the town wall lies within these ACAs. The designation of a specific area as an ACA carries limitations with regard to development and an onus to seek permission from the council for works which would alter the character of the ACA. The aim of the ACA is to prevent any works which would alter the historic

character and significance of the identified area.

Some portions of the town wall, which now form party walls within properties which are included in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) or fall within the curtilage of a building on the RPS will also receive protection from this designation. An integrated plan setting out the future management of the town walls should seek to identify, in consultation with Cork County Council, specific portions which this may apply to.

#### *Natural Heritage*

The natural heritage of the town and in particular the banks of the river are protected under a number of National and European designations. This will have repercussions for any works carried out in the immediate vicinity of the river and also for any removal of vegetation on or in the immediate surroundings of the town wall. An ecologist should be consulted as part of the development of an integrated plan.



# Chapter Seven

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## 7. Conservation policies and actions

### *Carrig Conservation*

#### **Policy Aims**

The policies outlined in this Plan aim to encourage and support a general acknowledgement of the historical significance of Bandon's Town Walls while advocating principles for the improved understanding, protection, conservation and maintenance of the structures that survive. The policies also focus on improved public awareness of the composite monument. They recommend mechanisms for supporting and enhancing of the setting of the elements of the monument and its circuit and for the creation of linkages with associated sites and buildings.

#### **General Policies**

##### *Policy 1: Protection and Retention of the Historic Integrity of the Site*

- Acknowledge the status and integrity of the walled circuit as a single, composite entity.
- Create a 'vision' for the protection and setting of surviving structural and archaeological remains of the town walls, providing them both with a strong and consistent identity.
- Acknowledge the varied functions of the composite monument as a civic resource for the town's population, for visitors and for the historical and archaeological knowledge of the town.
- Consider the preparation of specific plans for locations where urgent or

particular action is required in relation to the physical integrity of the wall and its setting and for any development issues.

- Support and develop existing development control policy in relation to planning decisions that involve elements of the composite monument having regard to the significance of the monument and its setting.
- Strengthen the circuit by linking the extant sites.

##### *Policy 2: Conservation, Maintenance and Repair of the Standing Structural Remains*

- Undertake any proposed conservation and repair with reference to the principles outlined in the ICOMOS Venice and Burra Charters, adopting an approach of minimum intervention, rather than restoration.
- Develop programmes for structural maintenance and repair with particular attention to urgently required actions.
- Ensure that all works are carried out in compliance with statutory requirements for the protection of the monument and associated archaeological remains.

##### *Policy 3: Consultation with Relevant Bodies*

- All works carried out to the town walls or those with implications for the walls should be done so in consultation with the Heritage Unit of Cork County Council, to include (where relevant) the Heritage Officer, Conservation Officer and County Archaeologist.

*Policy 4: Information, Recording and Research*

- Create a single specific archive for all existing and future survey records related to the circuit of the Town Wall, including copies of reports on relevant archaeological excavations and all existing and future records of conservation interventions.
- Encourage historical and archaeological research and analysis of the walled historic core of the town and its circuit and support and promote the public presentation of the results through publication, exhibition and display.

*Policy 5: Legibility, Access and Presentation*

- Create a supportable identity ('brand') for the walled town using a cohesive and consistent graphic design to create linkages between signage, information panels, publications, leaflets and maps.
- Mark the gateway sites at the entrance to the historic town
- Develop site-specific information panels at locations with publicly presented remains.

*Policy 6: Implementation, Management and Review*

- Seek the integration of the policies outlined in this Plan with those of future Bandon Local Area Plans.
- Create a Steering Group to assist in overseeing the implementation of the Plan's policies through a phased programme of planning and actions with a short-term, medium-term and long-term focus.

**Conservation, Maintenance and Repair of the Standing Structural Remains (Policy 2)**

The section outlines the conservation strategy recommended for the town wall and follows the strategies outlined in the International Charters, agreed upon in Venice and Burra.

*Minimum Intervention*

It is not the intention to rebuild or restore sections of wall, only to repair what is standing and secure structurally unstable areas. Works are only to be carried out where necessary. No works are to be recommended for sound areas of the wall. Repointing of stones should only be carried out where evidence is provided that the stone is located in its historically correct location. It should be ensured that all works undertaken are informed by a clear understanding of the monument and are preceded by appropriate investigations.

*Historical Interventions*

Historical interventions may have validity and should be considered initially as having a certain level of historical importance. If plans involve the removal of later interventions, they should only take away those parts that interfere with the integrity of the space or those that are damaging or are known to damage stone structures. Consideration should be given to denoting the presence of accretions recommended for removal and, deemed to have particular historical significance in terms of the on-going history of the structure.

*Identification of New Work*

All significant new work is to be recorded and be visually identifiable as such.

### *Record*

A complete record of alterations should be kept, noting the exact extent of restoration work undertaken.

### *Heritage Contractor*

Any works undertaken are to be carried out by suitably experienced personnel under the supervision of an archaeologist, where necessary, or a suitably qualified conservation specialist. Contractors should be recognised heritage contractors with demonstrable skills and proven experience in the repair/conservation of historic stonework.

### **Recommended Conservation Actions**

The following outlines recommended conservation actions in relation to the conditions identified to the upstanding sections of the walls.

### *Cleaning out Detritus*

All build up of detritus should be cleaned out under the supervision of an archaeologist. A general maintenance plan should be put in place to keep the areas of the wall clean and free from rubbish.

This is of particular relevance to areas of the wall which are accessible to the public such as along Section 1 and Section 9.

### *Raking and Repointing*

Repointing should only take place where necessary. Here, loose mortar shall be raked out of the joints to an appropriate depth using hand tools. Under no circumstances should mechanical tools be employed to widen these joints.

Where necessary, voids within the core of the wall shall be grouted using a lime mortar before repointing.

Re-pointing is to be carried out using a traditional lime mortar to match existing. If possible a sample of the original

pointing should be submitted for analysis to identify the correct mortar specification for use in repointing. Any mix is to be agreed with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht prior to works being undertaken. Joints are to be hand-finished, slightly recessed with the stone surface.

This process is to be carried out by experienced personnel ensuring that there is no mortar residue remaining on the surface of the stone.

### *Replacement of Missing Stones*

Missing stones should be replaced in order to arrest any chance of water ingress to the inner substrate. Replacement stones should be found to match the properties and colour of the existing stone type. Any stone replacement should be carried out by a stonemason with conservation expertise. All replacement stone are to be set using lime mortar in an agreed mix.

### *Removal of Biological Growth*

It should be noted that any removal of biological growth should be carried out in consultation with an ecologist as the removal of vegetation a survey will need to be carried out to determine if any wildlife will be impacted on through its removal.

Once vegetation has been removed, a further survey of these areas should be carried out to identify conditions and to record any details relating to the evolution of the walls.

### *Remove Vegetation*

Any plant life must be first treated with a biocide in order to kill the growth and the roots before mechanical removal. This will ensure the successful removal of the growth. Forced removal of the green plant life could result in increased plant growth

and even the dislodgement of the stonework.

Trees rooted into the walls shall be carefully taken down to stump level. Roots shall be then drilled and injected with an approved biological kill product. All due care is to be taken not to damage the remaining historic fabric.

Consideration should also be given to removal of trees adjacent to the walls as there is potential for these to cause damage to the masonry. Should it be found that any roots undermine the walls, this should be discussed with the appropriate bodies and decisions made as to how best to proceed.

#### *Biocide Mosses, Algae and Lichen*

Moss, Algae and Lichen deposits must be removed mechanically in order to allow the surfaces of the stone to dry out. Any loose moss is to be brushed away. The colonisation of the algae, moss and lichen can then be treated with an appropriate biocide, which must be applied to the affected areas. The biocide will kill the growth penetrating to the roots, releasing any bond the biological growth has on the stone. As part of a sustained maintenance programme any accumulation of organic matter should not be allowed to remain.

#### *Removal of Metal Fixings/Redundant Pipes*

Inappropriate signage should be carefully removed from the wall and the holes made good using a suitable mortar repair mixture.

A policy should be implemented to ensure that no future signage is placed on the wall.

#### *Treatment of Inappropriate Pointing*

As the level of erosion to where cementitious pointing was noted does not

appear accelerated and taking into consideration that the removal of cementitious pointing may unduly damage the stone it is recommended that it is left as is. However any areas of pointing that may fail or flake at a future date should be raked out and repointed using an appropriate lime mortar and to an appropriate finish. It should be noted here that these areas of repointing will appear visually different from surrounding areas of existing pointing and although this may not be aesthetically attractive in the short term, the long-term benefits to the stone take precedence.

#### *Replacement of Coping*

Any sections of wall where coping has been lost or damaged require immediate repair, as prolonged moisture ingress will cause the rate of various decay mechanisms to increase. Any coping detail will have to be agreed with the National Monuments section of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. A potential suggestion would be a slate capping detail along stretches where the wall head is uniform in height. Slate is known to have been used historically to cap town walls and when applied correctly can be used on uneven surfaces. An application of lime render should be applied to the skyward surface of walls which are without an appropriate capping detail and where slate capping cannot be applied.

## **Archaeological Management Policies**

As outlined above, any proposed conservation works to the town walls must be carried out with reference to the ICOMOS Venice and Burra Charters. Bandon's town wall is a recorded

monument (Record of Monuments and Places) and perhaps more significantly is regarded as a National Monument since 2008 when the National Policy on Town Defences was published (see Chapter 1). As a consequence of this policy the permission of the Minister is required prior to any works taking place to the wall or adjacent to the wall. The following archaeological policies may apply to any future works carried out at Bandon town walls as a result of the implementation of any or all of the proposed conservation and interpretation proposals set out herein. The aim of all such policies is to ensure the adequate protection of the archaeological integrity of the town wall.

*Policies for Archaeological Management and Protection of Bandon town wall*

- Create archaeological research framework for the town wall within which any required archaeological investigations could fit.
- Proposed archaeological excavations should be designed to answer research questions in addition to facilitating conservation works. While small-scale excavations may be required they should be sizable enough in order to allow full interpretation of any features or deposits uncovered.
- Any archaeological investigations should be undertaken with reference to existing published

archaeological policy; *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* Government Press 1999 and *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation* Government Press 1999.

- Where possible, protect and preserve *in situ* any potential archaeological features and deposits.
- Any archaeological investigation both invasive and non-invasive must be carried out under Ministerial Consent.
- All conservation works must be planned in consultation with a suitably qualified archaeologist.
- Pre-conservation archaeological surveys may be required.
- All conservation works should be carried out under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist.
- All work to the wall should be carried out in consultation with the National Monuments Service of the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- A full record should be made of all archaeological assessments, surveys, investigations and details of same should be added to the town wall archive (see Policy 3 above).



# Chapter Eight

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## 8. Application of Interpretation

*Tobar Archaeological Services*

### Interpretation as a Conservation Process

The ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites (2008) (Ename Charter) defines the basic principles of interpretation and presentation as 'essential components' of heritage conservation and as a means of enhancing public appreciation and understanding of cultural heritage sites. The Charter defines both interpretation and presentation as follows:

**Interpretation** refers to the full range of potential activities intended to heighten public awareness and enhance understanding of cultural heritage sites. These can include print and electronic publications, public lectures, on-site and directly related off-site installations, educational programmes, community activities, and on-going research, training and evaluation of the interpretation process itself.

**Presentation** more specifically denotes the carefully planned communication of interpretative content through the arrangement of interpretative information, physical access, and interpretative infrastructure at a cultural heritage site. It can be conveyed through a variety of technical means, including, yet not requiring, such elements as information

panels, museum-type displays, formalized walking trails/tours, lectures and guided tours, and multimedia applications and web sites.

It is clear that both interpretation and presentation are regarded as fundamental tenets of the conservation process, therefore both are also central to the future conservation and management of Bandon town walls.

### Principles of Interpretation

The guiding heritage principles which form the framework within which any interpretation and conservation process should be undertaken are the Ename Charter (2008), the Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 1999 and the Granada Convention (1985).

Seven main principles of interpretation and presentation are outlined in the Ename Charter and are of relevance to the interpretation of Bandon's town walls.

#### 1. Access and Understanding

- Interpretation and presentation programmes should facilitate physical and intellectual access to cultural heritage sites.

#### 2. Information Sources

- Interpretation and presentation should be based on evidence gathered through accepted scientific and scholarly methods as well as from living cultural traditions.

### **3. Context and Setting**

- The Interpretation and Presentation of cultural heritage sites should relate to their wider social, cultural, historical, and natural contexts and settings.

### **4. Authenticity**

- The Interpretation and presentation of cultural heritage sites must respect the basic tenets of authenticity

### **5. Sustainability**

- The interpretation plan for a cultural heritage site must be sensitive to its natural and cultural environment, with social, financial, and environmental sustainability among its central goals.

### **6. Inclusiveness**

- The Interpretation and Presentation of cultural heritage sites must be the result of meaningful collaboration between heritage professionals, host and associated communities, and other stakeholders.

### **7. Research, Training and Evaluation**

- Continuing research, training, and evaluation are essential components of the interpretation of a cultural heritage site.

### **Bandon Town Walls – Why Interpret?**

As has been demonstrated in the preceding chapters Bandon town walls are a National Monument, steeped in colourful history and an important focal point for the often misunderstood and reviled Plantation period in Munster and Ireland. Bandon is unique in its establishment as a walled town in the seventeenth century as it was the only plantation town in Munster to be enclosed by walls. Its uniqueness has been lost, however, in a sea of eighteenth and nineteenth century streetscapes, 20<sup>th</sup> century expansion, neglect and a general lack of understanding and awareness by those closest to it and living within it.

It has been noted locally that Bandon's town walls have been 'forgotten' for almost 400 years. Given the political and religious associations with the town and its enclosing walls it is possible that an element of this act of forgetting has been an intentional, deliberate means of moving away from a period of Irish history and its associated religious sectarianism and division. While we may now look at Bandon and its walls as an important cultural heritage site, the manner in which they were viewed historically may not have always been one of pride in history or association. The symbology of the walls has morphed and developed over time and it is important now, and for future generations, that any proposed conservation processes ensure an authentic and all-inclusive interpretation of the walls. At the time of their foundation the walls represented many things to many people. To some they were a symbol of exclusion, a physical boundary preventing access to a place. To others they were a means of defence, a refuge in

times of political strife and a symbol of wealth, power and political gain. In their simplest sense they were a boundary to a living, breathing, trading town, a home to settlers and an outpost.

Given all of its associations it is almost implausible that the town was walled for less than 70 years, yet it is this brief period of its chequered history that will dominate its interpretation. The rarity of Bandon as a seventeenth century walled town in Munster needs to be protected through its appropriate interpretation.

Bandon's town walls were intentionally deconstructed in the seventeenth century and their survival in any form today, be it upstanding original wall or a later re-build on the line of the wall, is somewhat fortuitous. In general the survival rate of original upstanding masonry is low and later additions/interventions are apparent throughout their circuit. Many sections of the wall are overgrown and hidden from view and in private property, while areas of collapse have also been identified. It is this low survival rate, current poor state of preservation and lack of visibility that clearly illustrates the requirement for interpretation and all that this encompasses.

Added to this is a general lack of knowledge about Bandon's town wall both locally and at a wider level. The future preservation and survival of the walls may be largely dependent on the understanding of their significance at a local level as this is frequently the driving force behind interpretation and conservation projects. It is essential therefore that the significance of Bandon's walls as a cultural heritage site and a potential cultural tourist destination is understood by those living in Bandon and

its hinterland so that they can become the motivating force behind its future interpretation and conservation.

The process of interpretation has the potential to bring Bandon's town wall to life again to both the local community and the visitor. It will communicate the story of Bandon and its walls to this audience, linking the present-day town to its past, and giving a sense of understanding and meaning to the emergence of the town in the seventeenth century and how it relates to that past today. Well planned interpretation will make the experience of visiting Bandon and its walls richer and engage the visitor with the heritage of the town. It will provide information that will provoke the imagination and stimulate thought and dialogue on this important cultural heritage site.

### **Audience**

The significance of Bandon's town wall as a cultural heritage site is not currently appreciated by a wide audience of people. Furthermore, its full meaning and significance are not known to a wide local audience. Locally the history of the walls is only known to a small group of people who have an active interest in its promotion and enhancement. Nationally its significance as a seventeenth century walled town is known to a small specialist audience of historians and archaeologists. The potential local audience may have been widened somewhat in 2012 with the holding of the inaugural Bandon Walled Town Festival. The festival served to highlight Bandon as a walled town to people in its locality as was clearly demonstrated by the large number of people who attended the guided tour of the town wall. This large gathering of people and the generally well-attended festival illustrates that the potential local

audience could be much wider than at present. Interpretation of the town walls would significantly assist in bringing an understanding of the town wall to this wider local audience.

Interpretation will also serve to bring awareness of Bandon town walls to a wider national and international audience by encouraging national and international tourism. The quality and form of such interpretation must be appropriate to the cultural tourist who has a passing interest in cultural heritage and should not be exclusively aimed at those with specialist interest in Bandon's town walls.

Three broad audiences for Irish heritage tourism and interpretation have been identified by Fáilte Ireland (Sharing Our Stories).

- **Motivated visitors** – well travelled with experience of culture and heritage internationally. May have sought out this site as part of a planned cultural heritage trip. Knowledgeable and may have high expectations of how a site is presented.
- **Inspired visitors** – Make their holiday choice inspired by the range and breadth of cultural opportunities associated with a destination. Broad interest in culture and sightseeing but historical knowledge may be superficial. Looking for an overview and to develop a sense of the place they are visiting. A good introduction to the site and authenticity of the information presented is important to this group which is the largest visitor

segment for heritage sites. Main target for most interpretation.

- **Incidental visitors** – Low level interest in culture and heritage. May be visiting site for non-heritage related reasons and may assume that they are not interested in the site. May be engaged by an alternative approach, establishing contemporary links to the heritage story can be important.

It has also been established that the majority of committed cultural tourists are professionals with a higher than average income, largely in the 20-29 and 39-59 age brackets. The success of any new cultural heritage product therefore lies in the quality and authenticity of its interpretation and presentation so that it can attract and engage a wide audience and also raise awareness among the local audience.

The extent of Bandon's current audience is not clear and the lack of empirical evidence in this regard does not allow the typology of such an audience to be established. Annual visitor numbers to the local heritage centre in Christ Church, Bandon are estimated to be c. 1,200-1,300 (John Hurley pers comm). It has also been noted that local visitors to the heritage centre increases during Heritage Week and other events such as the Walled Town Festival. In the Bandon Local Area Plan (2010) it is noted that there is the potential for Bandon to attract some of the passing tourist trade heading to West Cork by highlighting its attractions and establishing a more prominent visitor information/ tourist centre. The economic value of attracting a more regular flow of

tourists to Bandon is evident from National figures which estimate that up to €2.3 billion for the Irish economy is generated by the cultural tourist (Sharing our Stories, Fáilte Ireland, 4). Any future interpretation

actions should seek to consolidate the existing local audience in Bandon and its hinterland and also encourage a wider audience membership.



# Chapter Nine

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## 9. Historic Themes for Interpreting the Town Walls

*Tobar Archaeological Services*

Tourists visiting a cultural heritage site such as Bandon town walls are looking for an active involvement in a heritage experience (*ibid.*, 6). They want to engage with the heritage of a site through learning, interacting and doing rather than simply observing. The interpretation of Bandon's town walls in an interesting, informative and engaging manner is therefore essential in supplying a satisfying and authentic experience to the cultural tourist. Key historic themes which have emerged from the story of Bandon's walls, the establishment of the town and its short period of enclosure should form the basis for its interpretation and ultimate presentation. The key historic themes which could form the basis of the interpretation of the town walls are as follows:

**Plantation town** – What is a plantation town, who lived within it, what was life like within the town? How does a plantation town differ from other towns of the same date in Ireland?

**Walled town** – What is a walled town, why was Bandon walled. Interesting history of Bandon's walling, short period of enclosure and ultimate destruction of the walls. Use of historical characters e.g. mason or inhabitant of town to convey message to audience about the walling of the town.

**Seventeenth Century town** – What was life like in the seventeenth century? What activities/industries were being carried out within the town. What did the town look like in the seventeenth century – street, houses, etc.

**Significant historical figures** associated with Bandon and its walls – Richard Boyle, Earl of Cork is a powerful figure directly linked with Bandon.

# Chapter Ten

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## 10. Bandon Town Walls – Existing Situation

*Tobar Archaeological Services*

The current level of knowledge and understanding of Bandon town walls among a local and National audience may be regarded as low. This low-level awareness may in part be related to the present situation in the town regarding communication of information, interpretation, and accessibility. This chapter will explore the existing situation in Bandon and how this currently imparts information to potential audiences, both local and cultural tourists, its effectiveness or otherwise and limitations which currently impede its improvement.

### **Pre-Arrival Information**

A general website dedicated to Bandon is in existence and appears to be regularly updated with local news and events ([www.bandon.ie](http://www.bandon.ie)). It contains a page about Bandon's history and refers to the walled town, stating that little of the walls survive today. It provides an overview map of the town but does not include a map of the walled town. The town wall is included in the overview map as a 'place of interest'. Reference is also made to the West Cork Heritage Centre housed in Christ Church. Bandon is included in the list of villages and towns in West Cork on the Discover Ireland website ([www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)). When the search term 'Bandon' is entered into this website a list of links to individual activities such as angling, walking and

golfing are returned, as well as a link to the Bandon Walled Town Festival (2012) and the West Cork Heritage Centre in Christ Church. No specific page on the town is contained within the website, however.

### *Summary:*

- No dedicated website to Bandon town walls currently exists.
- cursory mention of town walls in [bandon.ie](http://bandon.ie) website.
- No specific page on Bandon on Discover Ireland website – link to Walled Town Festival and Heritage Centre.

### **Arrival, Access and Existing Interpretation**

#### *Arrival*

On the approach to Bandon there is no signage informing the visitor that they are entering into a historic town or a walled town. Once within the town there is no tourist information centre to which visitors can go to obtain information on places to see, activities, etc. The heritage centre in Christ Church is open to the public from May-September, however, apart from a sign outside the church itself there is no other signage within the town to direct visitors to the centre. The result is that while tourists may know of the centre's existence they may experience difficulty in finding it.



**Plate 93: Signage outside West Cork Heritage Centre, Bandon.**

### *Access and circulation including public realm*

Access to the town may be done by car, on foot or by means of public transport (bus). Several car parks are located within the town and pay parking is also permitted on the street. Other basic facilities such as toilets, restaurants, cafés and accommodation are readily available in the town. Public realm within Bandon is currently in need of upgrade and improvement. There are a lack of designed public spaces within the town centre where people can gather and sit. The existing public realm in terms of footpaths, lighting, planting, seating is poor and does not encourage any potential visitor to linger within the town centre. A well-used playground is located on the north side of the river and an exercise park is situated on the Glasslinn Road on the approach to the town.

Currently the town wall may be accessed at only a few public places. The most prominent is the section of wall at the entrance to the Riverview Shopping Centre. Make-shift steps comprising concrete blocks give access to the wall walk in Sections 1 and 2, however, there is no formal access to the wall at this location. From here there is no means of

locating any further publically accessible portions of the town wall as there is no map available in the heritage centre and no interpretation or signage at the town wall itself (see below). The visitor therefore cannot easily access any sections of the town wall or move around the circuit of the walls in a meaningful manner. In addition, a significant portion of the town wall or line of the wall is located in private property to which the public will not have access. This restriction of access underlines the necessity for well-planned interpretation at those locations where viewing and access is possible in order to enhance the visitor experience and engage the cultural tourist and local audience.

A number of factors also do not lend to the experience of the visitor entering a walled town. It has already been noted that given the geography of the town, its expansion in recent decades and the lack of visible up-standing remains that there is no sense of 'enclosure'. The gates which once defined entrance to and exit from the town no longer survive above-ground. In other walled towns such as Kilmallock, Co. Limerick and Drogheda, Co. Louth the survival of at least some of the town gates provide the visitor with the experience of being 'within' or 'without' the town walls. This experience is clearly lacking in Bandon.



**Plate 94: Site of West Gate at O'Mahony Ave./Ballymodan Place.**



**Plate 95: Site of Water Gate, looking east towards Watergate Street.**

### *Existing on-site interpretation*

Within Bandon itself there is no signage relating to the town wall. Coupled with the lack of a map of the town and/or town wall the visitor is bereft of any means of easily accessing the walls and connecting with them in a real sense. No information / interpretation plaques exist at or near to the town wall. There is no town trail or walk which could lead the visitor around the town alerting them to various point of interest along the way.

The heritage centre contains a small exhibition about the walled town which is mainly derived from the Irish Historic Towns Atlas (O'Flanagan, 1988). A small number of artefacts found at the wall are

also contained within the exhibition. Despite this, there is no information leaflet on the walled town, where the visitor can go to view the wall, or a map of the walled town to take with you when leaving the centre. No real sense of connection with the walled town can therefore be achieved through a visit to the centre as the information on offer is currently not portable.



**Plate 96: Part of exhibition on Bandon town wall housed within West Cork Heritage Centre.**

### *Events*

Currently the only event directly related to the town wall is the Walled Town Festival which was held for the first time in August 2012. While precise numbers for the attendance at the festival are not available, it is generally believed to have been well supported with large numbers participating in the guided walled town walk. The event is family friendly, with many activities for children held over the weekend.

### **Summary**

It is abundantly clear that Bandon is essentially a blank canvas in terms of all levels of interpretation of the town walls and the creation of an engaging

experience for the visitor. The following summarises the current situation.

- No signage at entrance to town informing visitor of their arrival at walled/historic town.
- No tourist information centre.
- No signage for Heritage Centre.
- Lack of 'portable' information about historic town or town wall at Heritage Centre – no leaflet, map or town trail.
- No signage within town for town wall.
- No signage or interpretation at town wall.
- Restricted access to town wall.
- Lack of sense of 'enclosure'.
- Poor public realm.

## **Target Market and Potential Visitation**

As has been noted above there is a distinct lack of existing information within Bandon regarding the historic town and town wall and virtually **no interpretation** of same. Identifying the market at which any interpretation of the town walls will be targeted will also assist in formulating an appropriate and well-planned interpretation programme. This process must, however, be undertaken with regard to the current stakeholders who may have an interest in the development, management and marketing of Bandon town walls. It is important that the development of the conservation and interpretation of the town walls is carried out with the direct involvement and input of such stakeholders in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project.

### *Current Stakeholders*

- Local community, including landowners through which the town wall extends.
- Visitors to the town.
- Businesses/ business people in the town and hinterland.
- Local groups
  - Bandon Town Wall Festival Committee
  - Bandon Historical Society
  - Bandon Town Wall Conservation and Management Plan steering group
- Local Government
  - Bandon Town Council
  - Cork County Council
- State Bodies
  - The Heritage Council and Irish Walled Town Network
  - Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

### *Target Market*

As has been illustrated the current audience for the Bandon town walls is low, comprising a small local and national audience. All future interpretation of the walls should seek to consolidate and broaden the existing audience and encourage a wider national and international audience. The following are some target groups at which interpretation may be aimed.



**Table 2: Target groups for interpretation**

<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Interest and Expectations</b>
Local residents and visitors	Desire to increase knowledge of their local heritage. Require easy to interpret and interesting information.
Cultural heritage tourist – National or International, including 'Motivated' and 'Inspired' visitors as defined above	May have broad or general cultural heritage knowledge. Require accurate and high-quality, multi-lingual interpretation to explain Bandon's town walls in a wider national and international context.
Families on holiday – The idea of the 'staycation' is becoming increasingly popular with Irish families	May have little or passing interest in cultural heritage (see Inspired visitors above). Require interpretation of walls that would involve the whole family on an active level.
School and education groups	May have specific requirements in terms of school curriculum.

# Chapter Eleven

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## 11. Interpretation Objectives and Actions

*Tobar Archaeological Services*

A number of key historic themes have been identified through which the interpretation of Bandon town walls may be communicated. Before providing the interpretation actions which may be taken to communicate the key themes it is important to outline the main objectives of any such interpretation.

### Interpretation objectives

Having visited Bandon all visitors be it local, international, families or schools groups should leave with an enhanced understanding of Bandon's origins, the town walls themselves and life in a seventeenth century Plantation town. The following are the objectives relating to future interpretation actions for communicating Bandon's key themes:

#### Plantation town –

- Visitors should gain an understanding of what a plantation town is, who its inhabitants were and what life was like within the town. They should also gain an enhanced understanding of how a plantation town differs from other towns of the same date in Ireland.

#### Walled town –

- Visitors should know what a walled town is, understand why

was Bandon walled and learn of the history of Bandon's walling, short period of enclosure and ultimate destruction of the walls.

#### Seventeenth Century town –

- Visitors should gain an understanding of what life was like in the seventeenth century town. What activities/industries were being carried out, what the town looked like in the seventeenth century and how this differs from what you see in Bandon today.

#### Significant historical figures –

- Visitors should learn of important historical figures associated with Bandon and its walls – primarily Richard Boyle, Earl of Cork.

### Interpretation Actions

#### *Pre-Arrival*

- Dedicated web site to historic town of Bandon. To include the following:
  - Succinct, easily understandable information on plantation towns, 17<sup>th</sup> century Bandon and its walls.
  - Downloadable map of town wall and any developed town trails/walks.
  - Smartphone app for guided town wall tour.

- Information on the location, opening hours and facilities within the West Cork Heritage Centre should be provided.
- May include information on tourist facilities available locally such as accommodation, restaurants, other walking and cycling trails in the locality.
- Flyer about Bandon historic town and walls. To include the following:
  - High quality, colour flyer promoting Bandon's historic character and walls.
  - Location map
  - Heritage centre information
  - May be distributed in local businesses and surrounding West Cork towns

*Arrival*

- Sign at entrance to Bandon for historic/walled town
  - This should inform the visitor that they are entering into a place of interest historically and culturally.



**Plate 97: Heritage sign at entrance to Lismore, Co. Waterford.**

*Information signs/boards*

- Strategically placed in public places e.g. car parks.
- Contain a map of town showing circuit of walled town and other points of interest.
- 'You Are Here' indicator, location of Heritage Centre, public toilets, parking, etc.
- QR code for smartphone users which would bring you to the Bandon town wall website.
- Show town wall walking trail.
- QR code for interactive GPS guided tour of walled town app for smartphones.

*Fingerpost signs*

- Directional signs for visitors to town wall, heritage centre, town centre, etc.



**Plate 98: Fingerpost signs, Lismore, Co. Waterford.**



Plate 99: Historic town information sign/board, Lismore, Co. Waterford.



Plate 100: Detail of illustrated and annotated historic town map on information sign/board, Lismore.

#### *QR Codes on Parking Meters*

- QR codes for smartphone users should be placed on existing parking meters in the town.
- QR code would bring visitor to dedicated Bandon historic town/walled town website.
- Recent research has shown that  $\frac{3}{4}$  million Irish adults own a smartphone and over  $\frac{1}{4}$  source online information via a mobile phone (source: Return 2 Sender and Behaviours and Attitude Mobile Research, June 2011).
- News, entertainment and travel information are the most commonly searched for.



Plate 101: QR codes on parking meter in Bayonne, France (Irish Walled Town Network facebook page).

### **Circulation and Interpretation**

At present Bandon town is generally easily negotiated on foot. As this is intended to be the main means of accessing the town wall and associated features and any future interpretation of same, the ease with which the visitor can circulate around the town and its walls is of importance to its success.

#### *Develop public realm plan*

- Bandon's public realm requires upgrading and development. The lack of a communal public space which would serve as a meeting place and a stop-off point on future walking/cycling trails is notable in the town. The creation of a plan to develop and upgrade Bandon's public realm and its ultimate implementation would greatly enhance the town centre

and encourage any visitor to spend more time in Bandon.

#### *Walled town walking trail*

- Develop town wall walking trail. Trail should be developed with reference to the Active Travel Town walking and cycling strategy for Bandon.
- In conjunction with this develop guided **audio tour** of town wall for smartphone users (QR code for this should appear on information signs in town).
- Audio tour could be guided by character from 17<sup>th</sup> century Bandon such as the 'murdered mason' or perhaps an inhabitant of the town.
- Audio tour should be multi-lingual.
- Trail could also include additional 17<sup>th</sup> century points of interest within the walled town e.g. St Peters Church which contains 17<sup>th</sup> century memorial plaque and wooden table and panels, Christ church and graveyard, site of market houses, etc.
- Heritage centre could serve as starting point for town trail.
- Interpretative panels in heritage centre to provide introductory pre-walk/audio tour information on Bandon and its walls.



Figure 18: Link to GPS guided tour app for smartphones ([www.heritagedestination.com](http://www.heritagedestination.com)).



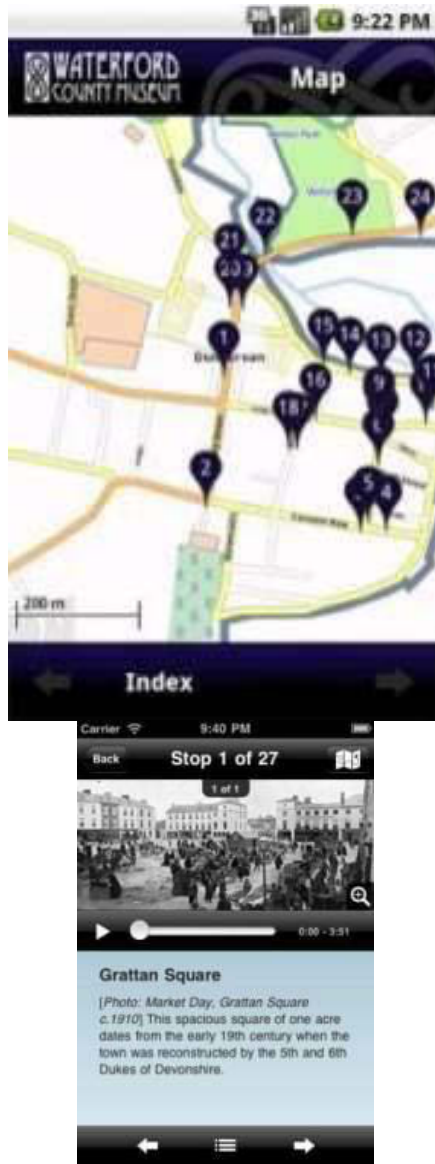


Figure 19: Screenshot from Dungarvan audio heritage trail for smartphones (<http://blog.waterfordmuseum.ie/2012/04/free-audio-walking-trail-for-dungarvan.html>).

*Interpretation panels*

Interpretation panels should be installed at appropriate locations along the town wall trail.

Suggested locations – these are suggestions only and can be applied to any public space deemed appropriate by the Local Authority.

- Green space at corner of Emmet Row and Allen Square or green area adjacent to the Shambles.
- North Main Street/Watergate Street.
- Town wall sections 1/2 as visible to public.
- Town wall sections 8 (public car park) and 9 (public walkway) along the south of the town – Section 9 has ready-made walking path.
  - Panels should contain map of town wall circuit as well as images/pictures. Reconstruction drawings of wall.
  - QR code for guided audio tour for smartphone users should be included on panels.
  - Information on life in seventeenth century town.
  - Information on important historical figures such as Richard Boyle. Note: In depth research on Richard Boyle is currently being undertaken by University College Cork and on completion will provide a comprehensive and fascinating insight into this important figure in seventeenth century Ireland (The Colonial Landscape of Richard Boyle, Colin Rynne and James Littleton).
  - Design logo or character unique to Bandon to appear on interpretation panels, website, etc. For example, the mason murdered and buried in the wall.



Figure 20: Interpretation panels, Tymon Park, Dublin  
[http://www.signiatec.ie/products\\_Interactive\\_Displays\\_Contemporary.html](http://www.signiatec.ie/products_Interactive_Displays_Contemporary.html)

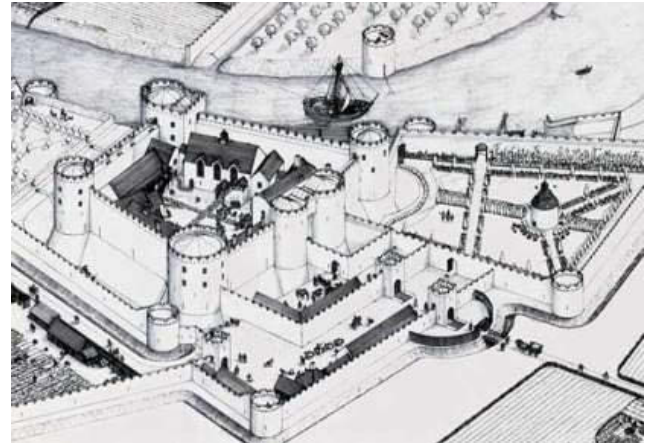


Figure 22: Example of reconstruction drawing of Kilkenny Castle by Daniel Tietzsch-Tyler  
<http://www.dantt.net/sampleartwork.htm>



Figure 21: Lectern style panel, Woodstock, Co. Kilkenny  
[http://www.signiatec.ie/products\\_Lectern\\_Units.html](http://www.signiatec.ie/products_Lectern_Units.html)

*Additional smaller plaques/panels could be placed at sites of town gates and market houses*

- Reconstruction drawings may be appropriate here where there are no above-ground remains of buildings, e.g. site of gate on Watergate Street and site of market house on Kilbrogan Hill.
- Wall plaques may be utilised where appropriate space for information panel is not available.
- Footpath inlays could also be used to mark locations of buildings and/or points along the town trail.



Plate 102: Toughened glass interpretation panel, Waterford city.



Plate 103: Example of metal wall plaque, Lismore, Co. Waterford.



Figure 25: Footpath plaque, Belfast (<http://www.geograph.ie/photo/3177861>).



Figure 23: Wall plaque, Portlaoise, Co. Laois (<http://www.signiatec.ie/products/Plaques.html>).

### Laneway murals

- Could be a useful means of illustrating 17<sup>th</sup> century Bandon where there is lack of upstanding remains.
- Striking feature within town centre which would serve as a talking point, interpretative, and educational feature.



Figure 24: Example of 'Market Place' interpretive panel.



Figure 26: Laneway mural, The Rocks, Sydney (<http://www.therocks.com/sydney-Education and Tours-Heritage and History-Laneway murals.htm>).

### Demarcation of line of town wall on street surface

- As part of town trail sub-surface elements of the town wall could be highlighted on the pavement or road surface through use of



contrasting surface finish e.g. coloured brick.

- This would be a useful means of illustrating the line of the town wall where it is no longer visible.

#### *Demarcation of site of town gates on street surface*

- Gates of town defences are no longer visible above-ground. Demarcation of the footprint of the gates on the street surface could add to the depth of understanding and awareness of the visitor and add a sense of scale to the defences.
- Location of gates could also be denoted by upright markers which could form part of the town trail.



Figure 27: Dublin City Wall marker showing map of walled city (<http://pix.iecurryhills/1177334>).

#### *Provide physical access to town wall*

- Timber stairs/steps could be installed at sections 1/2 of the town wall where public access is currently possible and wall was previously conserved.

- Stairs to section 1 would provide view over river and to tower on island in river.

#### *Events*

Events relating to the walled town held in Bandon are effective interpretation tools as they raise awareness among the local audience and other visitors.

- Walled town festival, first held in 2012, should become annual or bi-annual event. Family friendly, with interactive activities for children.
- Town wall tours. Guided tours of the town wall could be given during the summer months when visitor numbers are higher. Could provide summer employment opportunities for history/archaeology students.
- Town talks. Talks on aspects of Bandon's history and archaeology could be held throughout the year. Could be hosted by Bandon Town Council and/or Bandon Historical Society.



Figure 28: Interactive 'Dig-in Box' at festival (Irish Town Walls Network facebook page).

### *Research and education*

Research is an important means of continually pushing the boundaries of our knowledge-base and encourages thought and discussion on a subject. The development of a research framework for Bandon could help to fill archaeological and historical gaps in knowledge. Currently, important research into Richard Boyle who has direct links with Bandon is underway (Colin Rynne and James Littleton, UCC) and will provide an in depth insight into this important historical figure. On completion of the project the

authors could be invited to give a talk on the study (see town talks above). There is also the potential for archaeological research and the possibility of conducting archaeological excavations where conservation works to the wall may be required. If such excavations are required they should be made accessible to visitors and schools groups to provide an additional layer of understanding about the physical remains of the town wall and to illustrate to people what remains survive beneath their feet.



# Chapter Twelve

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## 12. CONCLUSION

The compilation of this Bandon town wall conservation, management and interpretation plan has served to highlight many important issues relating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century town, its walls and how they function within the modern town which are in need of redress. Primarily it demonstrates the importance of Bandon, both historically and culturally, within a regional and National context. In the absence of any planned or structured interpretation of the town however, this importance is lost and currently does not lend itself in any significant way to the promotion of Bandon to the cultural tourist or local population. Given that Bandon has thus far not benefited from the implementation of any focussed conservation or interpretation of its town walls it is essential that any future work is undertaken holistically and not in a

piecemeal manner. As highlighted above, it is clear that in order to ensure the success of implemented interpretation actions Bandon must become a 'destination' in its own right. The portrayal of the town as a welcoming, fun, educational and historical destination to the cultural tourist is paramount. Equally, Bandon must prove itself to be that destination to those who visit so that they will leave having engaged in a meaningful way with the town as a whole and perhaps more importantly return in the future and recommend this place to others. This is the challenge that faces Bandon and central to its success is the exploitation of the town's somewhat hidden archaeology and history coupled with a focus on much-needed improvements to public realm to create a modern town that celebrates its past.

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## APPENDIX 1 Planning Applications at or near to Bandon Town Wall 1990-2012

The available planning history in relation to developments, proposed or completed, at or near to Bandon town walls is presented here. Where archaeological excavations relating to a planning application were undertaken under license, summaries of same are available on-line in the database of Excavations Bulletins ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) and are presented in Appendix 2. The on-line Cork County Council Planning Enquiry System was used as a source of information for the following table. It should be noted however that documents relating to the majority of planning files are not available on-line. The planning applications referred to below span a 22 year period which nationally saw unprecedented growth in the construction industry, which frequently translated as residential or retail developments. The details regarding the undertaking of archaeological assessment or otherwise for many of the applications were not available on-line, however, the archaeological files relating to the development of the Riverview Shopping Centre complex were accessed for this report (National Monuments Service Archive, Abbey St., Dublin). While the aforementioned development did result in the consolidation and conservation of two sections of the town wall it is also striking in that the line of the wall was spanned by the building thereby eliminating this portion of the town wall circuit from future display, inclusion in a town wall trail, research, etc. It is also noteworthy that it would appear to be the only development within the 22 year period to have done so.

**Table 3: Planning applications from 1990-2012 at or close to the town wall.**

Ref. No.	Planning Application Ref No.	Location	Archaeological Assessment Required Y/N	Details of Assessment
1	106001 – Two storey extension to side of dwelling.	Allen Square - Wall located along western site boundary.	No details on file	No detail on file
2	116193 – retention of steel frame over animal housing		No due to unauthorized development.	
3	058331 – development of 37 apartments to east of town wall and north of River Bandon	Coolfadda located to east of town wall and north of Bandon River	Files not accessible on-line.	Files not accessible on-line.
4	943068 - Riverview Shopping Centre	McSweeney Quay, Weir Street, Gully	Files not accessible on-line.	Files not accessible on-line.
5	984912 Riverview Shopping Centre	McSweeney Quay, Weir Street, Gully	Files not accessible on-line.	Files not accessible on-line.

6	011249 - Riverview Shopping Centre	McSweeney Quay, Weir Street, Gully	Files not accessible on-line.	Files not accessible on- line.
7	02640 - Riverview Shopping Centre	McSweeney Quay, Weir Street, Gully	Files not accessible on-line.	Files not accessible on- line.
8	02964 - Riverview Shopping Centre	McSweeney Quay, Weir Street, Gully	Files not accessible on-line.	Files not accessible on- line.
9	022407 - Riverview Shopping Centre	McSweeney Quay, Weir Street, Gully	Files not accessible on-line.	Files not accessible on- line.
10	025446 - Riverview Shopping Centre	McSweeney Quay, Weir Street, Gully	Files not accessible on-line.	Files not accessible on- line.
11	124614 Demolition of 8 existing units and development of 8 new units and associated site works	Avenue House, Gully Td.	Assessment requested by Heritage Unit.	Archaeological testing recommended.
12	1644/82	Avenue House, Gully Td.	Files not accessible on-line.	Files not accessible on- line.
13	07/12390 Alteration, restoration and change of use of Ballymodan Male National School plus car parking.	St Patrick Quay, Gully. Town Wall extends along southern site boundary.	Files not accessible on-line.	Files not accessible on- line.
14	07/7367 Alteration and change of use of building.	Gully, Bandon, Just South of River Bridewell. Line of Town Wall extends along eastern site boundary.	Files not accessible on-line.	Files not accessible on- line.
15	12/4844 (06/9815) 85 dwellings to north of town wall and north of Christ Church.	Town wall extends along southern site boundary. Extension of duration refused.	2006 file not accessible.	2006 file not accessible.

Number 2 above was refused retention permission on the grounds of it being an unsuitable development. Comments from the Heritage Unit were such that Visual Impact Assessment was not an issue due to the lack of above ground remains of the wall defenses in this area.

It was noted, however, that potential sub-surface damage may have occurred due to the un-authorised development. The line of the town wall extends along the western boundary of this site. The archaeological potential of this site was not established as an archaeological assessment was not carried out. The Heritage Unit also pointed out that works in the vicinity of the wall would require Ministerial Consent due to its status as a National monument.

Numbers 4-10 (development relating to Riverview Shopping Centre) are also discussed above in Archaeological Excavations, as a licensed excavation of the town wall was undertaken as part of this development. The archaeological testing undertaken demonstrates the subsurface potential of the town defenses. Conservation works to two sections of the wall (Sections 1 and 2, this report) were also carried out on foot of this development.

No 11 relates to a recent application where an archaeological assessment was requested by the Heritage Unit as Further Information given its proximity to the town defenses and the location of the site within the historic core of Bandon. Archaeological testing will be undertaken prior to the construction of the new units as recommended in the Archaeological Report.

No. 15 relates to a large development of 85 dwellings and associated site works just to the north of the town wall to the rear of Christ Church. It was not possible to access the 2006 files on-line therefore it was not possible to ascertain if an archaeological assessment was undertaken for the site or indeed site testing. Planning was granted for this large development in 2006, however the 2012 application relating to an extension of duration for the granted permission was subsequently refused. No comments appeared in the Planners report regarding the proximity of the development to the town defenses and the requirement for Ministerial Consent. The potential visual impacts of this large development on one of the few remaining portions of the wall should be considered carefully in the future.



## APPENDIX 2 EXCAVATION SUMMARIES

The following comprises summaries of all archaeological excavations which have taken place at, across the line of, or adjacent to the town wall in Bandon. The information is taken from the database of archaeological excavations undertaken in Ireland from 1997-2008 ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) and testing reports compiled by Tobar Archaeological Services in 2012 for the Bandon Sewerage Scheme (Stage 2).

### Excavations carried out in Bandon 1998-2007

1998:057 CASEMENT ROAD, BANDON

W487545

98E0503

Archaeological testing was undertaken adjacent to the outer face of the town wall in Bandon in advance of a new housing development. Three test-trenches were placed within the area of the proposed site to assess the archaeological implications of the development. The excavation of the trenches revealed no trace of archaeological deposits within the proposed development site. **Margaret McCarthy, Archaeological Services Unit, University College Cork.**

2000:0115 TOWN WALLS (GULLY TOWNLAND), BANDON

14890 05515

SMR 110:19/01

00E0857

It is intended to construct a new shopping centre in an area known locally as the 'Bogs', to the west of Bandon town. The historic town wall lies partly within the area of the proposed development and elsewhere forms the eastern boundary of the development site. In order to facilitate the development of a conservation strategy for the town wall, it was necessary to test excavate the area abutting the wall. The wall is breached in two areas, and advantage will be taken of these breaches to connect the shopping centre to McSweeney Quay (formerly Burlington Quay), to Weir Street and to South Main Street. The location of the original early 17th-century town wall is in no doubt. It can be deduced by comparing two maps from the 1620s with Bernard Scale's map of 1775 and with the Ordnance Survey maps. The town was not laid out, nor the walls built, exactly as planned in the 1620s maps, and both are best regarded as blueprints for the design. In particular, the town wall was not built in a straight line on the western side but at an oblique angle from the weir, leading south-west, as shown in Scale's map and as represented by the extant remains. Bandon was

founded as two separate self-contained towns in the early 1600s; the town on the southern bank of the River Bandon was called Bandon-bridge, and that on the northern bank was Coolfada. There were two separate suburbs on the southern side of Bandon-bridge, known as Ballymodan and Irishtown. By 1618 all four segments of the town were united under the control of Richard Boyle, first earl of Cork. It was at this time that the town walls were constructed. Bandon was an important centre for the Munster Plantations and was promoted as a military outpost—hence the importance of the walls in the early 17th century. A description by a resident, Richard Cox, in the 1680s describes the town as 'built within the memory of man and walled about with a handsome and strong wall of lime and stone, and fortified by eleven flankers and three of the stateliest gatehouses or castles in any town in Europe' (quoted in O'Flanagan 1988, 4). Bennett (1869, 67) described the town walls of Bandon as under construction in 1621 but noted a reference of 1616 describing a house as 'built with out the walls, by the west gate'. He described the walls as being 'mainly composed of a thick, black slate. There [sic] were generally about nine feet thick, and varied in height from thirty feet to fifty. There were six bastions—one at each corner of the walls, one in the river, and one midway on the south wall.' The testing revealed that the town wall of Bandon is 2.47m wide and stands to c. 1.7–1.9m below present ground level. The wall face is rendered with hard lime mortar below ground level, i.e. where it is protected from the weather. It is likely that the entire outer (western) wall face was rendered originally. The upstanding 'outer wall' represents the outer wall face; the space between the 'outer' and 'inner' walls is the core of the original wall. The 'inner' wall, which is now restored by the Office of Public Works as the Garda compound, is the original inner wall face. The wall survives beneath ground level in the areas where modern breaches have been cut through it. **Maurice F. Hurley, 312 Bruach na Laoi, Union Quay, Cork.**

2001:122 Gully, Bandon

00E0857

Testing was carried out around the town walls of Bandon in December 2000 by Maurice Hurley (Excavations 2000, No. 115). Four test-trenches were opened to establish the nature and extent of the town walls; a fifth trench could not be opened at the time owing to the presence of a large concrete slab. This licence was transferred to the writer in August 2001 to open Trench 5 and to monitor groundworks on the site. The trench was opened along the line of the wall on the west side of Bandon close to the River Bandon. The base of the town wall was confirmed at a depth of 1.9m below present ground level. Approximately 0.6m of the wall foundation was identified and the wall was found to measure 1.5m in width. Monitoring of piling, ground beams and all subsurface disturbance on the site was carried out in the town wall area. No finds or features of an archaeological nature were noted. The town wall was left undisturbed in situ. **Sheila Lane, Sheila Lane & Associates, Consulting Archaeologists, AE House, Monahan Road, Cork.**

2002:0227 Gully, Bandon

SMR 110:19

00E0857 ext.

Planning permission was granted by Cork County Council for a shopping centre within the historical town of Bandon. The development site is partially within the zone of archaeological potential of the town, and a section of the town wall lies within the development area. All groundworks on the site were monitored, but no archaeological finds or features were noted. As part of the development a conservation strategy for the sections of the town wall on the site was outlined in a report prepared by John Cronin in December 2000. Following the guidelines laid down in that report, conservation work was carried out on the walls under archaeological supervision in 2002. The above-ground sections of the wall were cleared of vegetation, where possible, from the areas to be consolidated. Where sections of the wall needed to be rebuilt, existing rubble masonry was harvested from the site and reused in accordance with the character of the wall, using a suitable lime mortar. **Sheila Lane, AE House, Monahan Road, Cork.**

2002:0228 Knockbrogan, Bandon

14961 05520

02E0030

Testing took place at this site outside the north-east angle of Bandon town wall as part of an application to construct three dwelling-houses. Three trenches were excavated to depths of 0.6–1m along the lines of the house foundations. The fill of these trenches consisted entirely of redeposited modern rubble and debris mixed with topsoil. This material probably dates from levelling of the site in the last quarter of the 20th century. **Máire Ní Loingsigh, Sheila Lane & Associates, AE House, Monahan Road, Cork.**

2003:0169 Gully, Bandon

00E0857

An extension to this licence was issued to carry out further monitoring in and around the Bandon town walls (Excavations 2001, No. 122) during the construction of the Caulfield Shopping Centre. No finds or features of an archaeological nature were noted during monitoring. The standing town walls and quay walls were recorded and a conservation strategy by John Cronin, conservation consultant, was followed. In advance of conservation works, vegetation was removed, where possible, from areas of the wall to be consolidated. Where sections of wall needed to be rebuilt, existing rubble masonry was harvested from the site and reused in accordance with the character of the wall. A suitable lime mortar was used in all conservation works. For reasons of public safety and for protection of the town wall, metal guardrails were erected, to the south of a sally port in the quay wall and at other locations. The ground along the west face of the town wall, within the development site and

to the south of the quay wall, was landscaped and planted with suitable shrubs. **Sheila Lane, AE House, Monahan Road, Cork.**

2004:0201 'THE SHAMBLES', BANDON

14897 05523

SMR 110:20

04E0388

Two test-trenches were opened inside a 19th-century meat shambles building located on the north side of Bandon town prior to the proposed construction of a number of residential units within the site. The fifteen-sided meat shambles was built in 1817 and was designed as a major meat retail centre. It consisted of 22 stalls surrounding a central slaughterhouse and the proposed development plan includes the retention of all the surviving shambles walls. The meat shambles was constructed along the possible line of the northern line of Bandon town wall. There are no extant remains of the town wall in the immediate vicinity of the development site and the trenches were excavated in order to ascertain if subsurface remains of the wall were present. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of a very loose, dark-greyish-brown soil which measured up to 0.9m in depth. This soil contained many small stones and loose lime mortar and also contained rubbish material such as occasional butchered animal bone and plastic bags. The ground level in this area of Bandon slopes downwards from north to south and this soil appeared to have been deposited in order to create a level ground surface within the shambles walls. This soil layer overlay a dark-yellowish brown, silty clay natural subsoil, which was found to be disturbed by a 19th-century stone-lined drain in one of the trenches. There were no traces of the town wall, or any other archaeological features or finds, recorded at this site. **Tony Cummins, for Sheila Lane & Associates, AE House, Monahan Road, Cork.**

2007:214 Bandon

14926 05508

CO110-019(021), CO110-025, CO110-091-101

07E0210

Monitoring of engineering works preceding the construction of a new sewerage scheme in Bandon, Co. Cork, was carried out between 18 April and 10 October 2007. The engineering works consisted of the excavation of 43 slit-trenches, 70 boreholes and thirteen dynamic probes. The slit-trenches were excavated with a JCB with a 0.5m-wide toothed bucket to a depth of 1.2m, in order to locate existing services. Where the projected location of the town wall met the position of the slit-trenches, these were excavated to a depth of 2m. The length reached a maximum of 15m extending across the road surface. Boreholes and dynamic probes consisted of the insertion of a tube in the ground to variable depths (maximum 7m). The defences of Bandon town were built in the 17th century. Some sections

of the town wall are still standing to the west side and others have been exposed during monitoring and testing prior to construction works to the south-west. The location and extension of the town walls is depicted on Bernard Scale's 1775 map of the town. Remains of the town wall were identified upon excavation of two of the slit-trenches, one at Bridge Lane, to the east side of the town, and the other one at Glasslin Road, to the far east side of the town. The section at Bridge Lane consisted of a double wall filled with rubble, c. 2.4m wide. The section located in Glasslin Road was very disturbed and consisted of a single limestone wall with oyster shell and clay bonding. Excavations through the quays proved the existence of a thick redeposited soil. In three locations remains of cobbled surfaces were exposed under the modern tarmac, as well as a street frontage and a culvert over the river.

**Marta Muñiz Pérez, for CRDS Ltd, Unit 4A, Dundrum Business Park, Windy Arbour, Dublin 14.**

2007:215 Church Street, Bandon

122190 047068

O110-019(01)

07E0609

Three test-trenches were excavated at the proposed site of an apartment building in the south-west quadrant of Bandon town. The site occupies an area of level ground that appears to have been scarped out from the side of a steep natural slope located immediately to the north-west. The boundary walls delimiting the north and north-west sides of the development site follow the recorded line of the 17th-century town wall. These boundary walls are in private ownership and will not be impacted on by the proposed development. The development site is located outside the walled area of the town and was previously occupied by a now-demolished terrace of houses. The stratigraphy encountered in the test-trenches consisted of a thin sod layer directly overlying the natural glacial till. A shallow ditch was uncovered parallel to the base of the northern boundary wall and its fill contained modern plastic. The dimensions of the ditch (0.85m wide by 0.6m deep) indicated that it was too narrow and shallow to be the remains of an external defensive ditch or the foundation cut for the town wall. There were no archaeological features or finds recorded during test-trenching at this site.

**Tony Cummins, for Sheila Lane & Associates, Deanrock Business Park, Togher, Cork.**

2007:216 Mill Place, Bandon

148798 055074

CO110-019(01) and CO110-092

E3385



Five test-trenches were excavated in advance of a proposed development at the site of a cornmill (CO110–019) on the north bank of the River Bandon in the north-west quadrant of Bandon town. The projected line of the 17th-century town wall runs immediately outside the western boundary of the development site. The town wall and its associated fortifications were partially demolished in 1689 and there are no surviving surface remains in the vicinity of the development site. There are historical references to milling at this site from the 17th century onwards and the site was extensively redeveloped in the 19th/20th centuries. The mill buildings were burned down in 1968 and the site was subsequently cleared and used as a County Council depot until recent years. The western half of the development site was reclaimed from the river after the mill was burned down. The stratigraphy encountered in the reclaimed western half of the site consisted of thick deposits of backfilled rubble and soil containing frequent inclusions of modern materials, such as scrap metal, plastics, bottles and concrete slabs. These backfilled reclamation deposits directly overlay the natural glacial till, which was encountered at a depth of 2m below modern ground levels. There were no traces of the town wall encountered in this area of the site. Test-trenching in the area of the former mill building exposed the fragmented remains of concrete slab floors associated with modern upgrading works in the mill. The concrete floors sealed a 19th/20th-century rubble deposit and this overlay the natural glacial till, which was encountered at a depth of 1.4m below modern ground level. There were no archaeological features or finds recorded during test-trenching at this site. **Tony Cummins, for Sheila Lane & Associates, Deanrock Business Park, Togher, Cork.**

## **Archaeological testing undertaken as part of Bandon Sewerage Scheme Stage 2 – Tobar Archaeological Services, 2012**

A total of nine test trenches were excavated at locations where the proposed scheme intersected with the suspected line of the town wall. The primary purpose of the archaeological testing was to determine if any remains of the town wall and any associated features such as gates were located on the line of the proposed scheme pipeline and to assess potential impact on such remains if they exist.

A stone feature (F1) was uncovered in Trench 2 on Emmet Row and consists of a setting of shale/slate slabs extending in a north-east / south-west direction and measuring 1.8m in width. F1 is located on or close to the suspected line of the 17<sup>th</sup> century town wall as shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map and accepted by the Urban Archaeological Survey (Zajac *et al*) and the Irish Historic Towns Atlas (O’Flanagan, 1988). In this regard it is possible that this feature relates in some way to the town wall. No upstanding wall courses survive at this location therefore it cannot be interpreted as a wall *per se*, but rather a possible wall foundation.



**Plate 104: Stone feature F1, Emmet Row, possible foundation of town wall.**

No archaeological findings were made in test trenches 1 and 3. Trench 3 is located in the vicinity of the North Gate and the suspected line of the town wall. No remains of any stone features or any other archaeological deposits were noted in this trench. It is noteworthy, however, that the test trench may have extended through the North Gate which would have allowed access/egress from the town and hence no remains of the structure would have been uncovered in the test trench. Also, modern disturbance in the form of the existing water main immediately east of Trench 3 may have removed archaeological features or deposits from this area.

Trenches 4, 6, 7 and 9 produced archaeologically positive results which varied from stone walls to cobbled street surfaces. A similar feature (F2) to that uncovered on Emmet Row was exposed in Trench 4 at Bank Place. F2 consisted of a flat surface comprised of compact shale/slate stone and was exposed at the eastern end of Trench 4. As with F1, it measures only *c.* 0.1m in thickness and no upstanding wall courses survive at this location therefore it cannot be interpreted as a wall *per se*. It should be noted however that F2 is also located on or close to the suspected line of the town wall in this area and would appear to be orientated in the same direction. In this regard it is possible that it represents the poorly preserved remains of an element of the town defenses.



**Plate 105: Slate feature F2 at Bank Place.**

Trench 6 was excavated on Pearse Street and also produced wall foundations (F7 and F9) and a cobbled street surface (F6). Some minor investigation of deposits below the cobbled surface F6 resulted in the recovery of Transition Ware pottery which dates from the late 15<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Its presence here is indicative of pre-17<sup>th</sup> century activity in the southern part of Bandon town. Also, given the lack of significant build-up of deposits between this material and the overlying cobbled street it would suggest that F6 represents the original 17<sup>th</sup> century street surface. The precise function and date of the poorly preserved wall F9 could not be determined within the confines of the test trench. The wall is located at the east end of Pearse Street, close to the location of the town wall and associated gate. It is possible therefore that it may relate to part of the town defenses, such as a gate structure. Similarly, it may also be the remains of a house structure which once fronted onto the street.



**Plate 106: Cobbled street surface (F6) on Pearse Street.**



**Plate 107: Fragmentary remains of wall F9 at east end of Pearse Street.**

Trench 9 was also excavated in the location of the suspected line of the town wall and the site of the west gate. While no *in situ* masonry relating to the town wall or associated gate was uncovered in the trench the mortar and rubble layer which overlay a cobbled surface may relate to demolished structures such as the town wall or gate. The street surface uncovered in Trench 9 is similar to that exposed in Trench 6 and is also likely to be 17<sup>th</sup> century in date.



**Plate 108: Cobbled street surface uncovered in Trench 9, O'Mahony Avenue/Ballymodan Place.**

## APPENDIX 3 ELEVATIONS DRAWINGS OF SECTIONS 1 AND 2

The following drawings were undertaken by Sheila Lane and Associates as part of the conservation works associated with the construction of Riverside Shopping Centre.



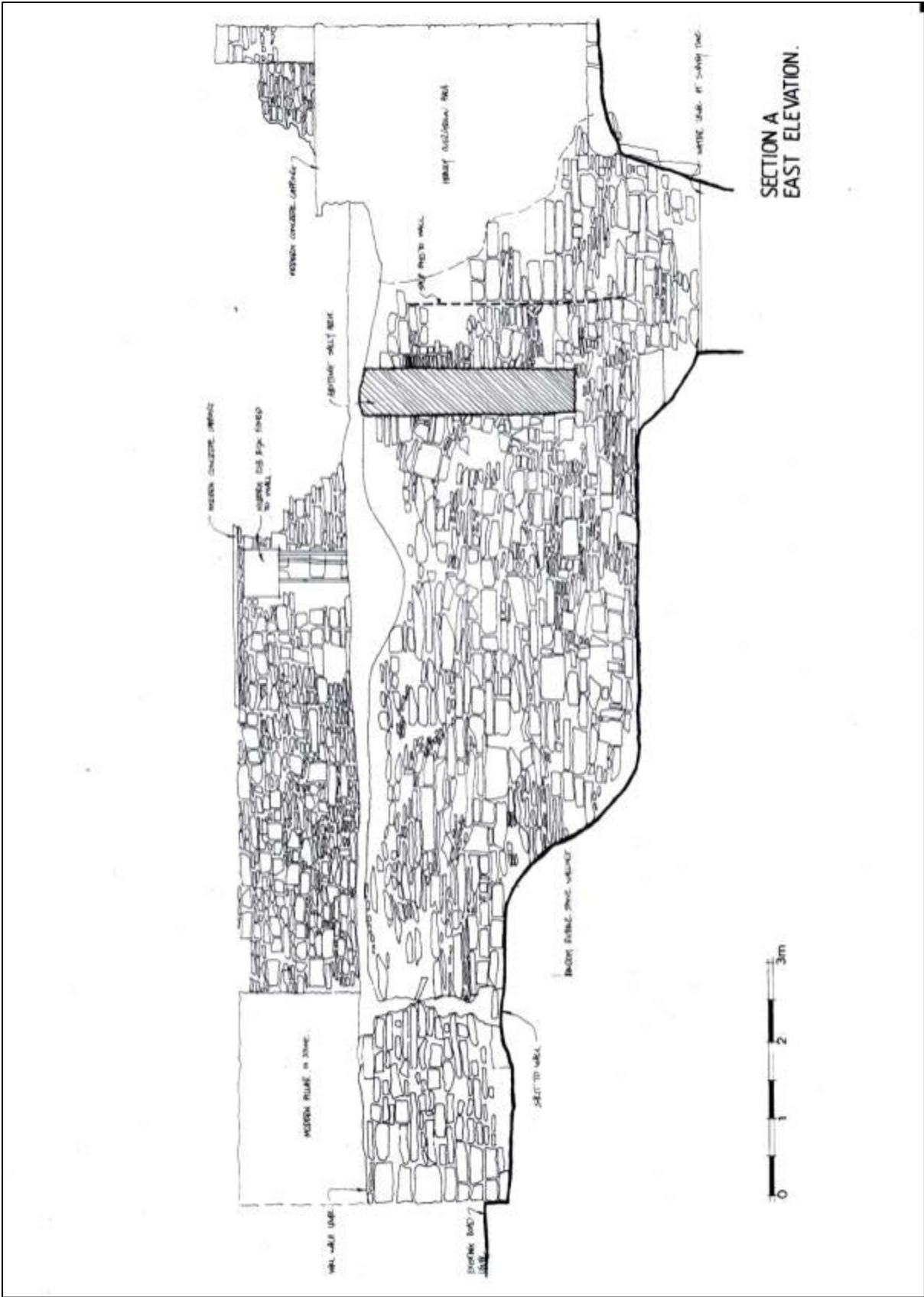


Figure 29: East Facing Elevation of Section 1

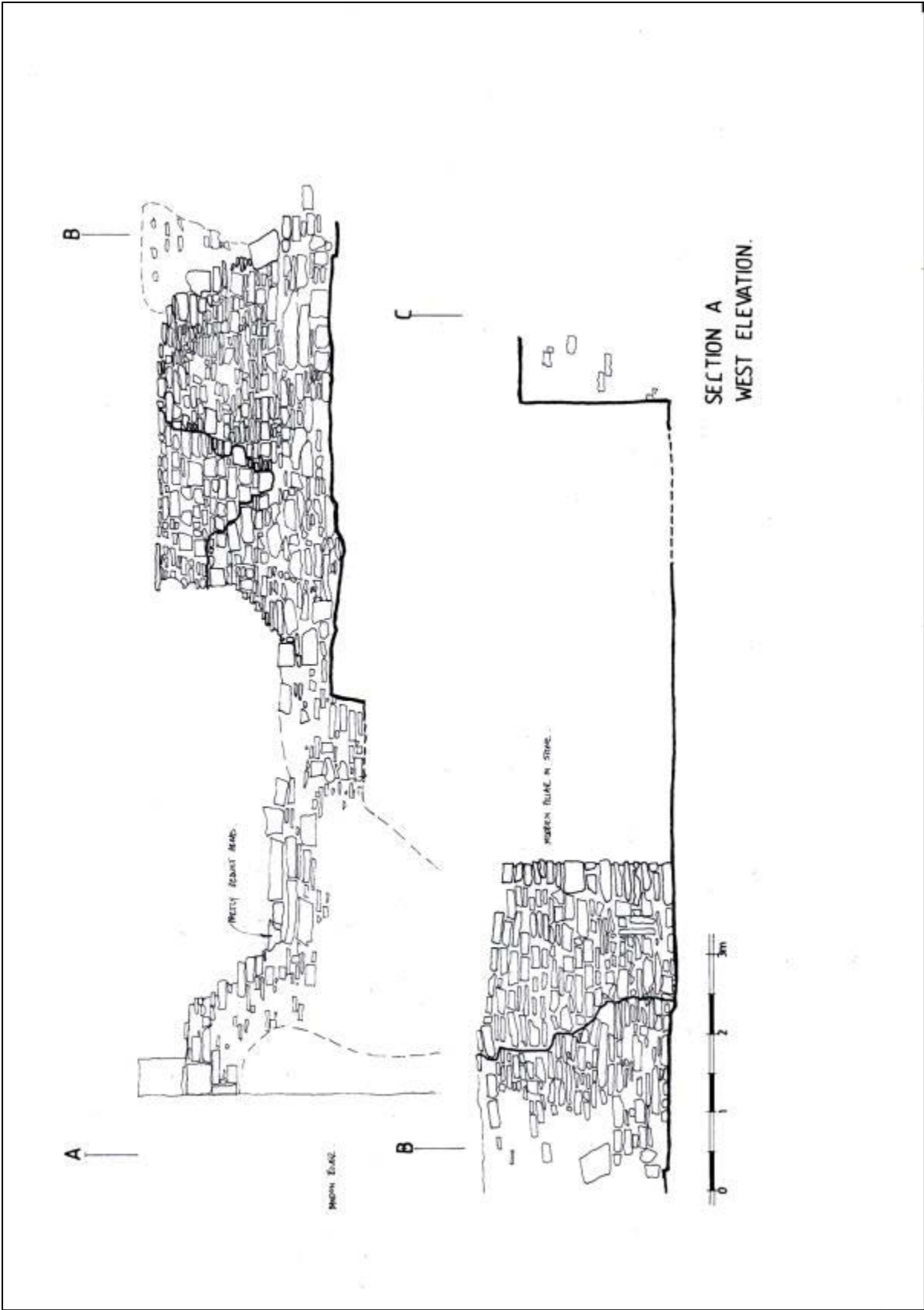


Figure 30: West Facing Elevation of Section 1

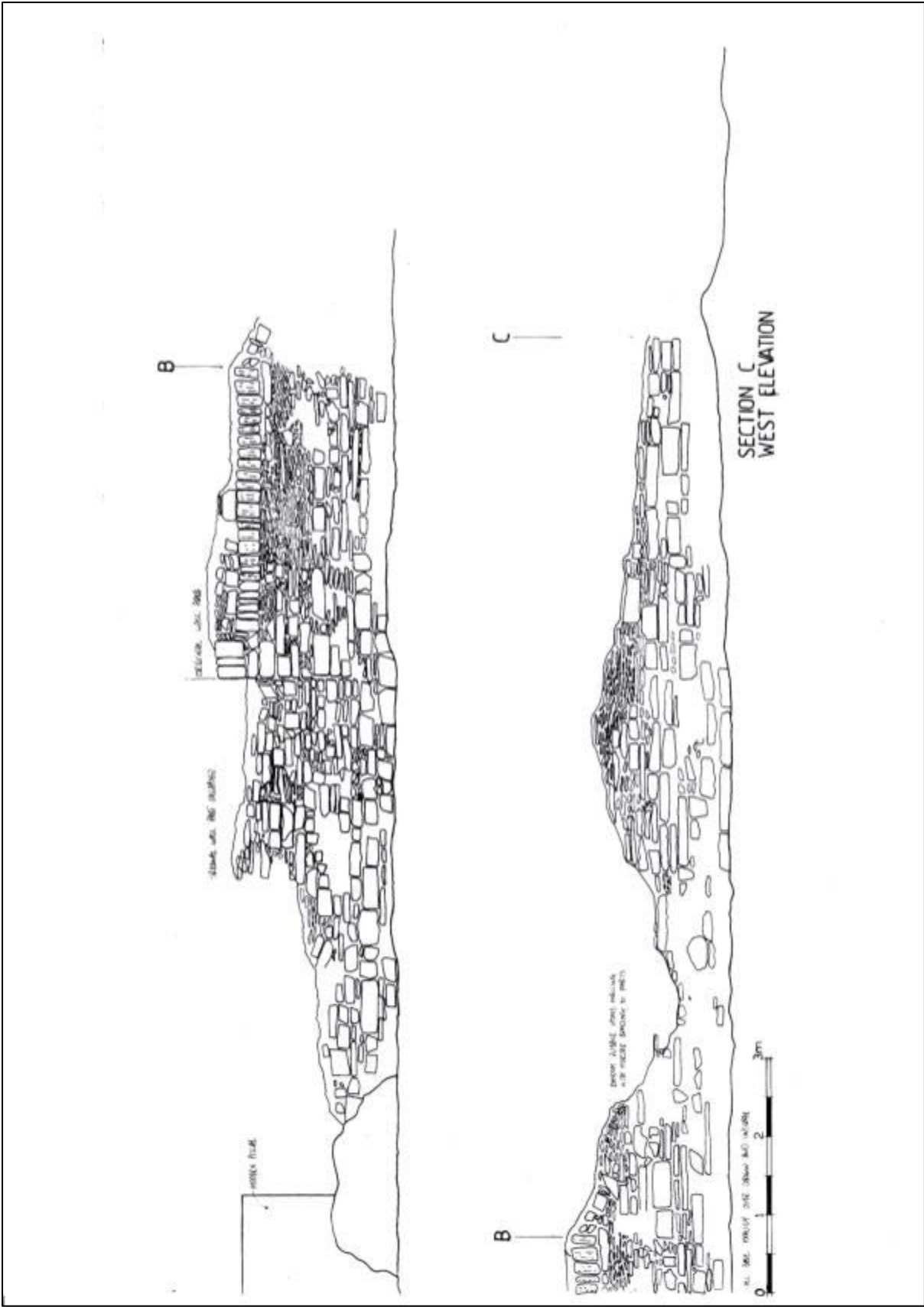


Figure 31: West facing Elevation (South) of Section 2.

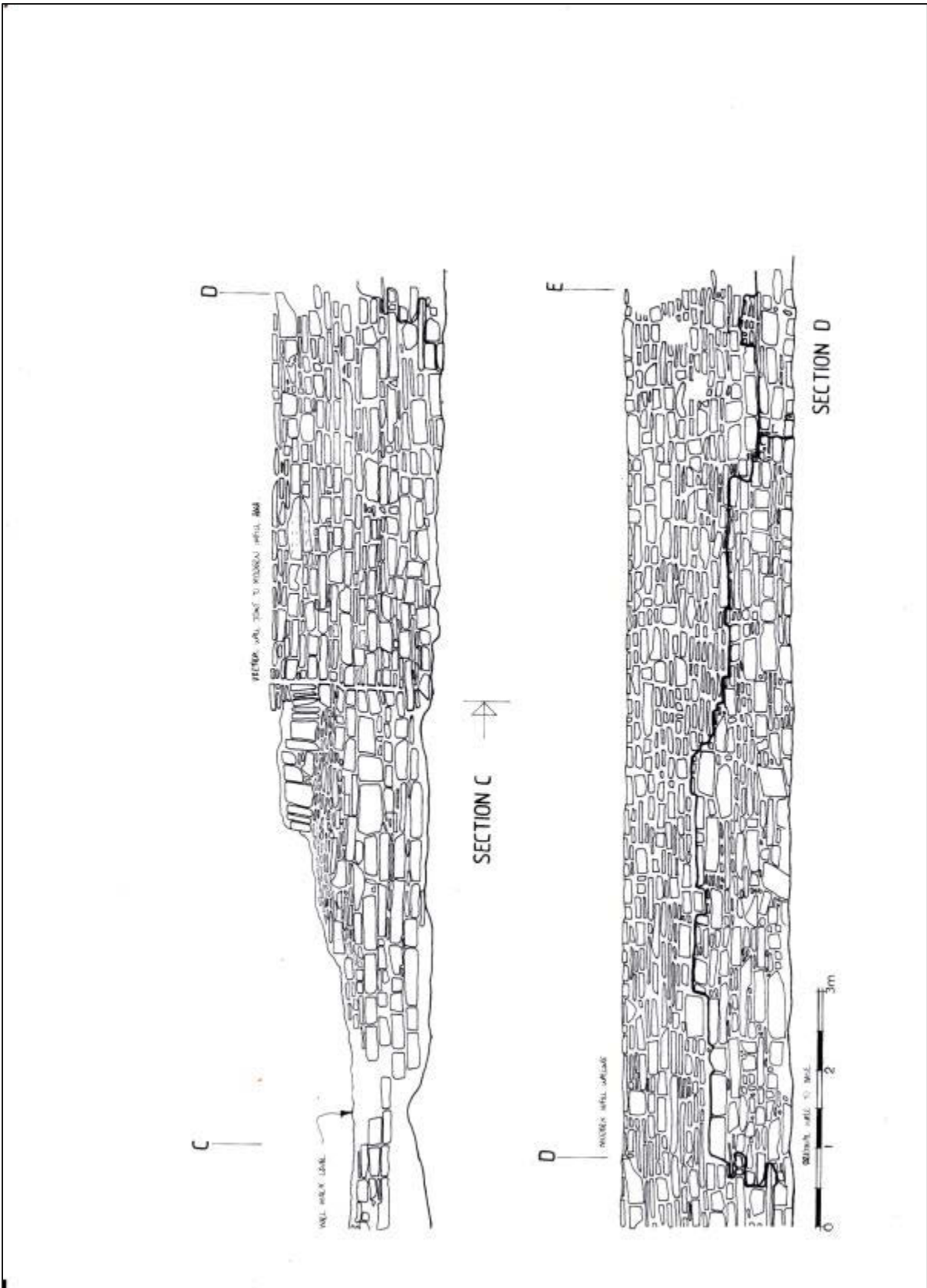


Figure 32: Continuation of west facing elevation (centre) of Section 2.

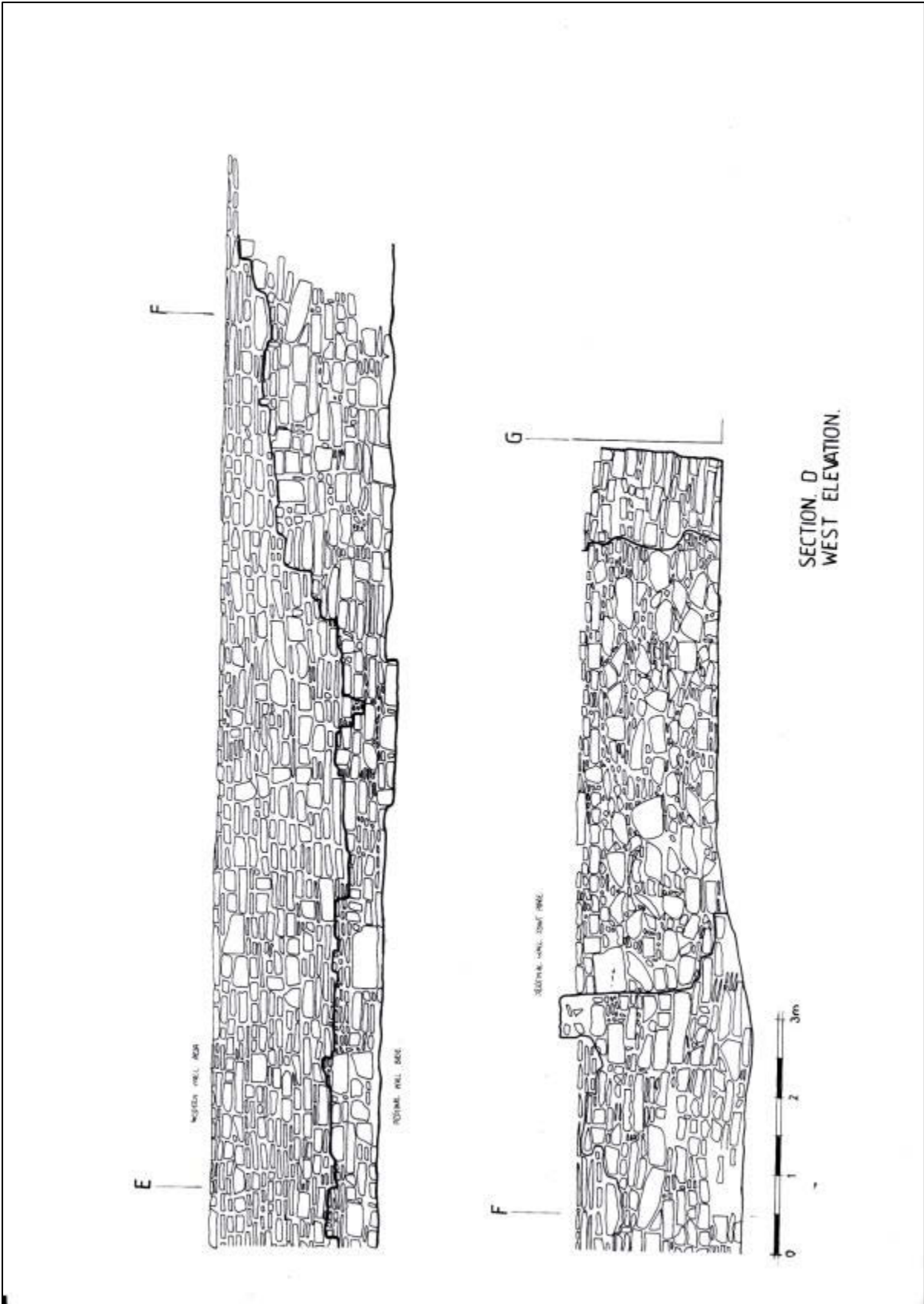


Figure 33: Southern end of western elevation of Section 2