WORKING DRAFT

The Walled Town of Ardee
Conservation and Management Plan
County Louth

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For
Louth County Council

On behalf of Ardee Town Council
in partnership with the Louth Heritage Forum
and the
Irish Walled Towns' Network

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background and summary

In October 2009 Louth County Council, on behalf of Ardee Town Council and in partnership with the Louth Heritage Forum, the Heritage Council and the Irish Walled Towns' Network commissioned Margaret Gowen & Company Ltd. to undertake a Conservation and Management Plan for the Walled Town of Ardee. The team was led by Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd, archaeological consultants; with contributions from Lisa Edden, consulting structural engineer; Consarc Conservation, conservation architects; and Openfield, ecological consultants.

1.2 Management and conservation plan methodology

The methodology of a Conservation Plan is particularly well suited to the study of complex and composite monuments in vulnerable, dynamic and changing environments. The Conservation Plan involves a process that "seeks to guide the future development of a (monument or) place through an understanding of its significance" (Kerr 1999: 9) and the objective of a Conservation Plan is to evolve and articulate 'policies' that are both feasible and compatible with both the conservation and development aspirations for a place.

It is a pro-active process that defines:

i. the location, physical composition and current presentation of a monument;
ii. why that monument is culturally or materially significant;
iii. how that significance may be vulnerable.

From that understanding, a Conservation Plan devises policies and guidance that advocate the appropriate framework and terms of reference for protection, management and legibility of the monument now and in the future.

Fundamental to the process of assembling a Conservation Plan is understanding how to:

i. assess the source of the issues faced by a monument or place;
ii. evaluate the potential impact of change and development on or close to a monument or place; and
iii. advise on the management of that change in order to conserve by adding value.

The Conservation Plan methodology applied to the Walled Town of Ardee and defences will assist in:

i. analysing the issues raised by the incomplete, survival, and poor presentation of surviving elements of the walled circuit;
ii. identifying issues for development control and for future development along the circuit;
iii. identifying and analysing the areas of most vulnerability;
iv. identifying a range of potential opportunities for improved public access, presentation, legibility, civic amenity and urban regeneration together with identifying the potential dividends for the town's historic core; and
v. presenting a range of simply articulated policies to assist agencies and stakeholder groups in developing a beneficial planning and development control environment and a management framework for the composite monument.

A completed Conservation Plan is not an Action Plan. In the case of the Walled Town of Ardee it provides a basis for the formulation of strategies for raising awareness and the improved identity and public presentation of the monument and its setting in the long term.

It should also assist in the preparation of a strategic planning framework, linked to the forthcoming Development Plan, to help in developing greater definition for the precinct of the 'old town' centre within the modern town.

The active involvement and advice of the Steering Group is critical, and central, to the process of the Plan development following its completion. Also important are meetings and discussions with stakeholders, property owners and policy makers.

The Steering Group includes:

Brendan McSherry, Heritage Officer, Louth Local Authorities
Paul Gallagher, Ardee Area Engineer
Joan Martin, Director of Services and Ardee Town Manager to end Dec. 2009; and current Ardee Town Manager Joe McGuinness 2010
Brian Brookes, Ardee Area planner
Máiréad Duffy, Ardee Town Clerk
Marian Clarke, Ardee Tidy Towns
Anna Keenan, Ardee Tidy Towns

1.3 Objectives

The Plan is prepared with a view to: forming an essential component in the long-term, strategic planning for the historic core of the town; protecting the residual plan form of the circuit of the town walls where these survive, to raising awareness of the later 17thC defences on the western side of the town and the post-medieval suburb to the north of the town; and, where possible, making the circuit of the medieval town and the medieval structures within it an essential part of the identity of Ardee.

The objectives of the Plan are to:

i. improve local understanding of the monument, its origins and its significance;
ii. promote the recognition, pride in and protection of the monument (locally, and nationally);
iii. put in place management proposals for the effective maintenance of the monument;
iv. give guidance for priority repairs and conservation and management of the monument;
v. inform planning requirements and planning needs through the Local Area Plan process;
vi. suggest steps to improve the presentation of the monument.

The Plan therefore:

i. outlines the historical and cultural significance of the Walled Town of Ardee and the medieval monuments that survive within it;
ii. suggests ways to promote recognition of the position and circuit of the town walls and defences where they survive in the multi-period mix of the town's fabric and identity;
iii. accepts that, with much of the remains below ground, the layout and configuration of modern development has a role to play in supporting the identity of the circuit and the identity of the historic core of the town;
iv. sets out policies for the protection, conservation, repair, and management of the fabric of the walls and defences;
v. sets out guiding principles for the protection and presentation of the setting of the standing portions of the wall;
vi. suggests ways of improving access to existing upstanding portions of the walls and medieval structures;

vii. sets out guiding principles for future planning and development strategies, for particularly vulnerable elements of the circuit and where support for the retention of the alignment is advocated.

2 Understanding the site

2.1 The history and archaeology of the walled town of Ardee

2.1.1 *Introduction to Ardee*

Ardee town is located in the parish and barony of the same name in County Louth. It is situated in the southern part of the ancient territory known as the *Plain of Muirtheimhne.* The town lies along the fifteenth century Pale frontier between Dundalk and Kells approximately fifteen miles northwest of Drogheda, eleven miles southwest of Dundalk and just over 3km east of the Louth-Meath County border. The town comprises the townlands of Townparks, the greater portion of which comprises Ardee Bog, and a small portion of Dawsons Demesne, which takes in the southeastern quadrant of the town on the northern side of the river Dee (Figure 1). It lies in flat undulating lowland adjacent to a fording point on the River Dee. To the west of the town is the Great Bog of Ardee, one of the most easterly raised bogs in Ireland (Mitchell 1997).

2.1.2 *The origin of the town*

The place-name Ardee is an indication of activity in the area prior to its development as a town. It is a modern form of the anglicisation the name Atherdee, a corruption of the Irish *Ath Fhirdia* meaning 'the Ford of Ferdia'. This name is derived from its traditional association with a legendary combat described in the '*Táin Bó Cuailgne'* where Cuchulain killed Ferdia. The encounter is said to have occurred at the ford of the River *Nith,* now the River Dee (Joyce, 1995). The site of the ford is located upstream of the existing bridge over the Dee. The name was Latinized in 1207 by Rodger de Pipard as *Atrium Dei oppidum* - the town of the hall of God (O'Donovan, 1856). This form is used in the documents associated with the foundation of the hospital of St. John (see below). The English form 'Atherdee' seems to have been used until the beginning of the nineteenth century when the present 'popular abbreviation' (Brewer, 1826) came into use.

'Almost all the towns built in Ireland between 1180 and 1300 were Norman creations' (Bradley 1997:7). Ardee was sited on low-lying land (less than 5m OD) adjacent to the river Dee which drains to the Irish Sea and may perhaps have been useful in earlier times for small-scale river transport (Thomas 1992:95). Annalistic references make it clear that the site attained increasing importance as the meeting place of rival armies in the tenth, eleventh and twelfth centuries. Although none of these references expressly indicate that there was any form of settlement at Ardee, they do indicate that the ford was geographically very important by the middle of the twelfth century (Bradley 1984). Gilbert de Pippard was granted the barony of Ardee in 1185 by Prince John (Gwynn 1946). The site for the town was most likely chosen because of the established fording point across the Dee. While de Pippard made the town a stronghold of great importance in the Pale, it cannot be claimed that he was the founder of the town. Gilbert is thought to have initially established a motte on a narrow ridge outside the town to the southeast. The site is now known as 'Dawsons Moat' or Castle Guard. It is described in Louthiana (Wright, 1748) as the foundations of an octagonal keep surrounded by an octagonal parapet or wall on its summit and it is encircled by low ditches and ramparts. In 1189, he went on a crusade, leaving his Irish lands to his brother Peter, who succeeded fully in 1192 when Gilbert was killed at Brindisi, southeastern Italy (Gwynn 1946).

Ardee was enfranchised as a borough constituency in 1378. It continued to be entitled to send two Members of Parliament to the Irish House of Commons until the Parliament of Ireland was merged into the Parliament of the United Kingdom on 1 January 1801. The constituency had been disenfranchised on 31 December 1800.

2.1.3 *Early religious foundations (Figure 2)*

Religious houses and parish churches were a prominent feature in medieval life (Thomas 1992:100); the Norman families founded and were patrons of many additions to the monastic infrastructure of the country. The monasteries provided a range of services to the local communities, such as education and healthcare, they owned land and property

from which they made a living and with which they paid their taxes. Prior to the first recorded Murage grant for the town in 1387, three religious foundations were already established in Ardee. As early as the tenth century the annals record that *Ath-Fhirdiadh* had a shrine of Saint Patrick, which was abducted by Maelseachlainn in 985 (O' Donovan, 1856). The presence of such a shrine may presuppose the existence of an early medieval church.

The medieval parish church (founded before 1197)
The site of the medieval parish church is said to have been located to the east of Market/Castle Street in the vicinity of St Mary's Parish Church. The church was established by 1197, which suggests that a settlement at Ardee had already come into being by that time (Lawlor 1915). According to Bradley (1984) it is likely that the bridge formed the origin point of the town and as the parish church was in existence by 1197, so it can be assumed that the long street stretching from the bridge to the church (Castle Street) was established prior to the dawn of the thirteenth century. Robert, 'Parson of Ardee,' is mentioned in a charter made before 1197 (Lawlor 1915), and the earliest direct reference to the church is in 1207 (Archdall 1786). Its importance is evident from the two chantries that were founded at this time (see below, Bradley 1984). The church, filled with men, women and children was burnt down by followers of Edward the Bruce in 1315, (Gwynn & Hadcock, 1988, 286; Gilbert 1884) — an example of Bruce's ' policy of frightfulness ' (Orphen, 2005, Lydon, 2005, 286). The present nave and chancel are of nineteenth-century date; the west tower bears a date stone of 1812, but it probably incorporates medieval fragments. The ruined chancel to the east of the present church is possibly sixteenth century in date and part of the south aisle of the church and the arcade are fifteenth century. There is a mid-sixteenth century medieval cross set on a concrete shaft in front of the church, it is one of only two medieval market crosses that survive in Ireland (the other being in Athenry, County Galway) (King, 1984). There is also a fifteenth century font on a modern base within the nave of the church. Throughout the mid-seventeenth century, the church appears to have been ruinous, but in 1693 it was rebuilt. In 1793, the entrance was changed to the west front (Figure 3). The interior was plastered in 1867, and the chancel was restored in 1899 (Kiernan, not published, cited in Bradley 1984).

Floor tile fragments, ridge tiles and roofing slates recovered during excavations at the nearby Ardee Credit Union site are thought have come from St. Mary's Church (Clutterbuck, 2003, discussed further below).

St John the Baptist Priory (est. c. 1207)
St John the Baptist Priory, a hospital monastery under the order of Fratres Cruciferi was founded by Roger Pippard in c. 1207. Its site is thought to be located south of the River Dee in the vicinity of Moore Hall (Gwynn & Hadcock 1970, 210). Burials were uncovered in the grounds of Moore Hall in 1956 and 1963 (*CLAJ* 1956; 1963). It is not uncommon for hospitals to be located outside a populated area; its presence here may imply that there was a sizeable population to the north of the river at this point (Bradley 1984, 27). The management of the hospital was in the charge of both brothers and sisters. No upstanding remains associated with this site survive, although St. John's Street is named after the foundation.

Carmelite Friary (c.1272)
A Carmelite Friary dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary was founded in c.1272 by Ralph de Pipard. According to Bradley, and based on Richardson's 1677 map, the site of the friary may have been located in the southeastern corner of the walled town. Nothing is known of its extent or size.

Historic sources suggest that the friary had land in its possessions. It was not uncommon that the church would permanently keep some open arable land within their manor to cultivate and to supply their food needs, there is a suggestion of this in the possessions of the Ardee priory in 1470 which a included a reference to 'eleven oxen and thirteen horses for the plough' amongst the goods of the priory (Down, 2005, 461). Several provisional

chapters of the Carmelites met there during the fourteenth century, which would suggest that their buildings were substantial (MacIomhair 1983).

In 1329 twenty two of John de Bermingham's kerns (Gaelic solders) crowded into the church for sanctuary after murdering a citizen of the town. Nineteen of them were dragged out and killed by the irate townspeople and the others were eventually tracked down to meet a similar fate. (Lydon 2005, 300).

The suppression of religious houses was begun by King Henry VIII in 1539 and the Ardee Carmelite monastery was duly surrendered by Prior Patrick on the 30th April, whereupon the commissioners demolished the building and sold the materials. In 1540 the jurors reported that the possessions included 4 acres, several messuages and gardens, other messuages and gardens being then waste; total value of 27s. 2d., excluding waste property and the disused precincts (implying that this area was not entirely developed) (Gwynn & Hadcock, 1988, 286). The friars returned to Ardee later but the convent had not been restored in 1737.

Pre-construction test excavation in advance of the construction of a private house near the site of the Carmelite friary in Dawson's Demesne revealed nothing of archaeological interest (O'Carroll 2000).

The Chantry College (before 1487)
The parish church of *St Mary de Athirde* was clearly of considerable importance in the mid-fourteenth century when two chantries were established in the town (Gwynn & Hadcock, 1988, 358). One of the chantries was identified by Murray (1939) as the building described in 1487 as 'recently built' and lying east of the cemetery of St Mary's Church. The area around it has been developed into a park (Plate 1). It was built before 1487 by Walter de Verdon, the chaplain of Ardee 'to the intent that certain chaplains employed in the Church of St Mary's may be compelled to reside there in common–in a hall and rooms fittingly laid out and constructed–and support themselves on the fruits and emoluments of their services' (Bradley 1989, 18). Later alterations took place on the northern side of the chantry in the sixteenth century and in modern times when it was used for storage, probably for grain. (CLAJ 1939, 181-208). It was the residence of the church sexton until c.1875 (Bradley 1984). The location of the second chantry is unknown.

2.1.4 *Ardee town defences (est. before 1376) (Figure 4)*

Documentary sources relating to the development of Ardee are scant, comprising only incidental references in the Dowdall Deeds and the Armagh Episcopal registers. Any attempt to reconstruct the development of the town is subsequently complicated and, as such, comments on the pattern and grown of the town can really only be viewed as conjecture.

Town walls are the product of former wars or the threat of war. The town was an outpost of the Pale during the Later Middle Ages and the threat of attack was inherent during this period. The walled town of Ardee, according to Thomas (1992:36), does not stand out in it regional context because of its neighbours Kells, Dundalk, and Drogheda.

The earliest record mentioning the town is a writ of the 22nd April 1358 which recites the seizure of 'the toll of the town of Athirdee in the county of Louth' into the King's hands because Matilda, wife of Eustace Le Poer, who held the toll off the King *in capite,* had aliened the toll for life, without the King's licence (Parliamentary papers Vol. 28).

In the fourteenth century the process of building defensive walls around the town began. A series of murage grants in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries suggests that this was a major period of building (Bradley 1984). The first murage grant for Ardee was in a charter of 28th January 1376 where a customs on goods for sale for a term of 10 years was put in place, in aid of enclosing the town with a stone wall, and paving (pavage) of

the streets (Parliamentary papers, Volume 28). It also recorded that tolls, being taken there for the lord's other 'town' of Roche, should cease indicating an association between the town and the castle including the potential that Castleroche might have been walled or possibly that all funds may have been diverted to the castle (Thomas 1992: 113). Further grants were given 1379, 1389, 1399 and 1413 until a charter was granted to Ardee 'in perpetuity' in 1437, indicating many stages of growth and perhaps repair. Thomas (1992, 4) mentions a three year pontage (toll levied for the building or repair of bridges) that was made as early as 1306; suggesting possibly that there may have been earlier murage grants.

Ardee's defensive walls enclosed a large area, of approximately 61.7 acres (25 Ha.) with a perimeter length of the circuit measuring approx. 2,150 metres. This includes 625 metres of un-walled riverside frontage (Thomas 1992: 30). The area enclosed is larger than Waterford, Trim and Kells, but is similar in size to Wexford and Rindown. The regularity of Ardee's square shape can be superficially compared to that of Winchester (Thomas 1992:45). Once established, the walls appear to have acted as the bounds of the town until the end of the medieval period, when the extramural suburb of Irish Street was formed to the north of the town. Like Killmallock in County Limerick the town was not wholly built-up within its walls but included large undeveloped open spaces within the defended area– perhaps indicating an optimism for future expansion or perhaps a sense of foreboding that extra space would be required for refugees from the surrounding area (Thomas 1992: 47). Perhaps the undeveloped area to the east of the town was associated with the Carmelite Friary lands which, as referred to above, had disused precincts. There is an uncertainty as to whether the Carmelite friary at the south-eastern corner of the town was originally extra-mural (Thomas 1992:100); if so this would have been quite an exposed position because an external property adjacent to the town wall could, if captured, prove to be grave danger to the town. It may be that the town walls were extended eastwards to incorporate the friary and its associated lands (Thomas 1992).

It is thought unlikely though that all the ground east of Market Street and Castle Street was built up in the medieval period, and references in the Armagh diocesan registers to orchards within the town indicate that there were open areas (Quigley & Roberts 1972). As discussed above religious houses were a prominent feature of medieval life. Most towns possessed an abbey or friary and it is possible that the town wall of Ardee was extended eastwards for this reason. This might imply a simple plan layout of a linear town astride a through-route with a rectangular, walled enclosure and properties that ran from the street back to a right angle to the street towards the wall (Thomas 1992:137).

Historic references have indicated that the structural features of the town wall comprised a masonry wall, a fosse/ditch (the extent of which ahs not been established) and a later addition of an earthen defence. The circuit had four gates, one postern (Blind Gate) and one external gate (Thomas 1992:50). The earliest detailed depiction of the town is Richardson's map of 1677 and the sense of enclosure is particularly strong in this image. It indicates that the town had four gates: Bridge Gate to the south; an unnamed gate to the west (which is called Ash Walk Gate) to the extra mural tower (see below); Head Gate to the north and Cappock's Gate to the east.

A sixth gate, possibly a postern, (often located in a concealed location, allowing the occupants to come and go inconspicuously) on the west side of the town is known from Ordnance Survey maps and is called 'Blind Gate'. 'Kenton's Gate,' referred to in 1591, cannot be identified, but it is presumably one of these gates.

Before 1677 Irish Street had been taken into the town and a gate built at its northern end, but it does not appear that the town walls were extended to enclose this street/suburb (Dolan, 1929, 9). Richardson's 1677 map shows an un-walled suburb to the north of the town with its own gate named the North Gate. The extent of this suburb is likely to have been dictated by the configuration of land ownership within it. The long rear property boundary on the west side of Irish Street, according to Bradley (1984, 24), is suggestive

of the former presence of defences. The North Gate was later referred to as Irish Gate and the name Irish Street and Irish Gate is suggestive of the possibly dispossessed, native population which settled outside the wall. As discussed Ardee never developed the entire area enclosed within its walls. There were many open spaces to the east of the town's main street. It would appear that extra-mural suburb, therefore developed in response to the fact that the 'mere Irish' were not allowed to own property within the walled circuit.

A possible seventh gate may have been located to the south of Cappock's Gate where The Avenue cuts through the alignment of the wall. This might be the location of a Fryer's Gate mentioned in 1540 and possibly linked to the Carmelite Friary which was located in this general area (Bradley 1984, 280).

The foundation date for the bridge over the river Dee (and Bridge Gate) is not known, but it is first referred to in 1306, when the townsmen were commanded to repair it with stone and lime, receiving a grant of pontage for three years to cover the expense (Mills 1915). Richardson's map of 1677 (Figure 5) shows a three-arched bridge of stone. The present structure is built on the line of the earlier bridge and would appear to be of eighteenth-century date. It is possible that, like Drogheda, the foundations of an early timber bridge may survive here (Bradley 1984).

The only undisputed upstanding remnant of the town wall gates is Cappock's Gate at the eastern end of O'Carroll's Street (Plate 2). The fragment that survives is a piece of its north wall. It comprises coursed limestone masonry with an external batter; it measures approximately 2.9m high, 0.86-1.25m in width and 2.6m in length. The only notable feature is evidence of a socket bar hole.

Two excavations have identified features associated with the town wall at the site of Cappock's Gate and at the site of the Bastion and town wall at Ash Walk Gate (these excavations are described below. Its features have for the most part been preserved *in situ*, at Cappock's gate behind a gated paddock and at the bastion/town wall site beneath an earthen embankment and railings).

2.1.5 *Refortification of the town defences*

The necessity for the defences is shown by the fact that the town was besieged, and brutally captured, by Edward Bruce in 1315. The threat of attack prompted new murage grants (from 1376 onwards) for building the wall, for rebuilding and for repairs (Bradley 1984). After the capture of the town by Bruce and later, in 1539 by Conn O'Neill, it would appear that the town remained largely unchallenged until the seventeenth century. This might have been partly due to the existence of the town's fortifications, but may also have been due to its limited political activity.

During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, Ardee was most often used as a mustering place during government campaigns against the Ulster Irish. Two lord deputies, Sir John Stanley and James Butler (the 'White Earl of Ormond'), died in the town as a result of these campaigns.

The 1641 Rebellion in Ireland was a largely a reaction to the 'Plantation' policy of Tudor and Stuart monarchs, under which Ireland was aggressively colonised by English and Scottish settlers. The dispossessed and disaffected Irish Catholics eventually mounted the rebellion in defence of their interests and to try and recover control of the lands they had lost. In 1641 Ardee was occupied and was made headquarters of the Ulster forces by Sir Phelim (Roe) O'Neill, by the end of that year the Ulster rebels had overrun most of Louth (Duffy 2000, 113). However, in April 1642, after the relief of Drogheda, elements of the retreating Ulster army of O'Neill were resoundly beaten by Sir Henry Tichborne and Ardee was recaptured. Ardee was subsequently garrisoned by Ormonde's men, who disobeying his orders to destroy the town, withdrew leaving the town unharmed to Cromwell in 1649.

The Irish army of King James II, after leaving Dundalk, retired with his army to Ardee for a time in 1689, the artillery bastion may have been constructed in anticipation of an encounter with the Williamites. However, on the approach of William's forces in the autumn before to the battle of the Boyne, James II and his army retreated to Drogheda.

The construction of an artillery bastion outside the western wall of the town indicates that the defences were considerably remodelled in the seventeenth century, but the exact date and the extent of this work are unknown. The bastion is one of a very small number that are known on Irish town defences of this period (Bradley 1984 31).

During the archaeological assessment of the SuperValu site a section of the artillery bastion was tested. The southern, tapering end of the bastion (as indicated in the early O.S maps) ran in a north-south direction through the site. Three trenches were excavated across the site and revealed the town wall beneath the earthen embankment in this area (excavation described in detail below). The embankment was found overlie at least three phases of the medieval town wall. In addition to this, a post-medieval ditch associated with the embankment and a number of medieval ditches, deposits and pits were revealed (T. O'Neill and A. O'Connell. 2003).

2.1.6 *Streets and street pattern (Figure 4)*

The street pattern of Ardee is a linear one with a broad thoroughfare running north–south through the town (formed by Market Street and Castle Street) and a number of narrow streets running at right angles to it. The Ash Walk–Lamb's Lane cross-street was referred to in 1540 as the 'great cross of the town'. Market Street is referred to as early as 1344 and was the site of the medieval market place where the market cross would have originally stood. In the seventeenth century, a market charter was granted to the town, since which time it has been a thriving market centre, dominated during the eighteenth century by Market House in Castle Street. The present Market Square was laid out in 1810. The layout of many of the burgage plots in the town appear to have survived e.g. the narrow plot to the rear of Hatch's castle. And while it is not possible to tell if the linear plots radiating from the main street are medieval, it would appear very likely that they are certainly medieval in origin.

2.1.7 *Medieval domestic houses*

Two fifteenth-century fortified houses, 'The Courthouse', also known as Ardee Castle, St. Leger's Castle and 'Pippard's Castle (Plate 3) and 'Hatch's Castle' (Plate 4), survive intact in Market Street. Both castles are strategically placed within the urban landscape of the town at the junction of the main north–south orientated street with the side street leading west towards Kells. The Courthouse projects into the main street it functioned as both an imposing edifice but also as an important feature in the collective or communal defence of the town.

'The Courthouse' is the largest fortified medieval town house in Ireland. The building, which has been thoroughly described by Murtagh (1982, Figure 6), is rectangular in plan with two turrets projecting along the street front. There are four floors with wall walks and turret levels above. Wright's drawing (Figure 7), a very much aesthetic perspective of 'the Town-Castle of Atherdee', places the castle in a completely rural landscape rather than in its urban setting and show nothing of the castle's strategic placing (Louthiana, Bk. II). The structure is now unused, a new courthouse having been constructed at the Mid-Louth Civic Services Centre.

In urban settings, tower houses usually 'shed' their surrounding bawn; possibly because of the pressures of space but probably also because of the presence of the town wall as a communal town defence. There is a dividing property wall to the south of 'The Courthouse' between the house immediately adjacent the castle and the next property south that has a distinctive bow or curve in it. This is may represent the remains of a bawn (Plate 5) - however the wall is very unstable and its curved nature may be due to its instability (See Gazetteer in Appendix 1). Part of this wall collapsed in January 2010.

'Hatch's Castle' has also been described in detail by Murtagh (1982, Figure 8), at a time when it was occupied as a residence, and, although many of the original windows have been replaced, it survives in good condition. It is subrectangular in plan with two semicircular turrets projecting at the rear (east). There are four floors with wall-walk and turret levels above. The masonry consists of roughly coursed stone covered with plaster. The hood mouldings of the door and window on the street front are modern. It derives its present name from the fact that it came into the possession of the Hatch family during the eighteenth century. The house is entered through the modern door in the west wall, which may occupy the site of the original entrance. It has a round barrel vault, and access to the first floor is via an external stairs on the east side. There are the remains of a garderobe on the second floor.

It is very likely that some of the existing structures in the town incorporate earlier structures the like of which have been identified in other medieval towns – such as in Carlingford (Brendan McSherry, pers. comm. 2009). Pre development excavations which have occurred within Ardee town have given an insight into the nature of medieval housing in Ardee. Continued sequences of occupation have been identified, amongst the castle and church structures, the local building stock included structures of timber and of stone with well defined dividing property boundaries (described in detail below Clutterbuck 2003, Shanahan 2002)

The economic vibrancy of Ardee, which would be a good indication of population size, is unfortunately unknown – the sources however indicate that the fisheries of Ardee were important, and the three mills mentioned in 1304 were clearly sizable and commercial buildings (Lydon 1980). Also the presence of the wide Market Street suggests trade and commerce, the sale of geese and eggs are mentioned in 1450 (Bradley 1984, 17).

2.1.8 *Extra-mural structures (Figure 4)*

A fifteenth-century extra-mural tower house (Plate 6) is situated west of the town on the north side of Jervis Street. It now forms the southwest corner of an enclosed farmyard within Ardee Demesne. It is constructed of coursed limestone masonry with limestone quoins (Bradley 1984). It is rectangular with three floors and a stair turret projecting above the second-floor level in the southeast angle. The proximity of the tower house to the town is confusing as the land on which it is built should have formed part of the burgage of the town. On Richardson's map it is shown with a small building attached to the east side (Bradley 1984, Figure 9).

The tower house is attached to a range of disused outbuildings associated with an early twentieth century house (Plate 7). The early twentieth century house has full-height canted bays flanking the entrance, built c. 1900 and now disused. It has a hipped slate roof with red brick chimney stacks. Red brick walls with limestone string course between floors. It has a pedimented tripartite door case. The substantial modem farm offices were built by the late Mr. Ruxton, where the dairy stock of the hospital was wintered, and two comfortable dwelling-houses were once available for attendants and convalescents.

Ardee House is a detached seven-bay, three-storey over basement former house, built c. 1780, now in use as a hospital. It was the residence of the Ruxton family until 1896. The rectangular-plan main block has a single-storey projecting porch to the centre of the front (west) elevation, single-storey over basement flat-roofed extension to north gable, one-bay wide by four-bay deep two-storey flat-roofed extension to south gable c. 1950, full-height rectangular staircase towers to north and south sides of east (rear) elevation c. 1960, single-storey flat-roofed ward block extension to east c. 1965, basement areas to west and north elevations. Attached to the north is a brick and rendered Chapel, named Saint Joseph's which was built in 1929. The formerly extensive demesne lands were broken up by the Land Commission and approximately 70 acres of pasture was retained for the house. Since 1922 the house has been used as a hospital (buildingsofireland.ie, Bence-Jones, 1978, 8). There was a route from the house to the east, which lead through

the bastion, and town wall, linking to the former walled garden inside the town and to the Church of Ireland church.

2.1.9 *The sources for the medieval town*

In the past, Ardee's identity has been shaped by its medieval history as an outpost of the Pale and by the community the walled town embraced in this period. It is not possible to establish when the erosion of the physical cohesion of the medieval town occurred, or at which point the need for defensive fortification waned. It is also not clear when the wall fell into disrepair and the use of the gates for the collection of taxes became obsolete. After that time, the circuit was probably 'quarried' in places to provide raw materials for building, while in other locations it survived as part of property boundaries.

The documentary sources available for the town are not sufficient to reconstruct the topography of the town and mainly provide anecdotal evidence for various elements of the town's economy. Although post-dating the construction of the town's defences by several hundred years, there are two seventeenth century maps that illustrate the town wall.

The earliest of these is the Down Survey map of 'The Barony of Atherdee in the County of Louth' drawn by William Petty in 1655 (Figure 10). This map was drawn up as an inventory of Irish landholdings for distribution to English gentry colonising Ireland after Cromwell's invasion. This sketch map, though somewhat stylistic, shows the vaguely rectangular enclosed town with at least five gates indicated, there are three church structures in the town and what appear to be tall buildings that might represent tower houses. Internal roads are drawn but are not in a grid-like pattern which would be expected. One road, stretching in a straight line, may represent Market Street/Castle Street and connects what appears to be 'Bridge Gate' to a gate at the northern end of the town (Head Gate perhaps). The extra-mural suburb to the north of the town is not shown suggesting that it may not have existed at this time - the reliability of this map is however questionable.

Robert Richardson's 'Map of Ardee' in 1677 (Figure 11), is a more accurate depiction of the town and its northern suburb. The walls are clearly indicated as a castellated linear feature that runs on the western and northern side of the town. On the eastern side it appears as a simple straight line which kinks to the east at the southeastern corner of the town. This suggests that the wall did not continue and that there may have been a material change in the nature of the defences. However, the possible use of a defensive ditch in this location has not been attested. All but one of the gates (Blind Gate) is named on the map. The gate in the northern suburb is referred to as North Gate (later sources name this Irish Gate). The linear nature of the streets are shown, and though unnamed, the line of Irish Street/Market Street/Castle Street and the slight kink to Bridge Street can be made out, as can the cross streets including. Ash Walk and Lamb's Lane (also named Chapel Lane and O' Carroll Street on later maps), Thisdale Street and Boat Trench Street. These roads are aligned with structures that have their gable ends facing out to the street; one structure is castellated which may represent 'Hatch's Castle'. The Ash Walk Gate connects to a tree-lined avenue connecting the extra-mural castle on the western side of the town.

There are two eighteenth century maps of the town: Wren's map of 1766 and the Taylor and Skinner map of 1778. On Wren's map (Figure 12) the town wall is not expressly depicted. However, by following the line to the rear of the properties to the west of the town, it can be roughly traced. The property boundaries reflected on the eastern side of the town however appear to represent the boundary line to the rear of St Mary's Church and this continues south along the present College Lane and easterly along Lamb Lane and then incorporates what is marked as Ardee House (at the former site of the Carmelite Friary and is not to be confused with the later Ardee House developed to the west of the town around 1780). This implies that the north-eastern quarter of the town was not walled. A mill is indicated on the river Dee to the west of the town. Taylor and Skinner's

map (Figure 13) is quite similar to Wren's with the property boundaries reflecting the line of the town walls; it however includes the north-eastern corner of the town. St Mary's Church and the extra mural castle are shown. A house named 'Ardee House' is indicated to the southeast of the town. This particular house disappears from the record after this map depiction.

The town walls are not labelled on the first edition six-inch O.S. Map (1835, Figure 14). The only historic features named on the first edition are the 'Site of the College', the two castles and the fortification. The town walls were not expressly indicated but its circuit could be identified in the property boundaries. By the time the 1911 map was surveyed the wall was referred to as 'site of' indicating that the town wall had been demolished or developed in its entirety.

The 1908 (scale 1:2,500) and 1911 O.S. map (scale 1:10,560, based on 1908 map, Figure 14) shows the surviving medieval features in much more detail. It includes the alignment of the city wall which is marked 'The Town Wall (Site of)', the fortification, the gate sites, the castles, the chancel and the college. This map is significant as it has been used to trace the wall alignment for all previous studies of the town walls in Ardee i.e. by the Archaeological Survey (Bradley 1984, Figure 2), by Thomas (1992) and for this Plan which was augmented by field work. The early OS map shows that Ardee was a spacious walled town which even in the nineteenth century didn't develop fully into the area that it enclosed. Ardee was still very much a space within the walls until quite recently where new developments have encroached on the eastern side of the town.

2.2 Survival, legibility and presentation of the walled town of Ardee

2.2.1 *Overview*

The town wall circuit has entirely lost its cohesion as a former enclosure and is no longer easy to 'read', particularly along its northern and eastern sides where development is disjointed and fractured. This attests to lack of understanding of the significance of the wall's alignment and the impact of the loss of its legibility as an enclosing element in the town plan.

It appears from cartographic sources that the town developed through the centuries within the precinct of the town walls from the main north-south thoroughfare outwards, infilling the long burgage plots that extend east and west back from the street. However, over time, the empty plots of land comprising the eastern backlands of the town remained largely undeveloped. Historically there has been development outside the walled town area since before the fifteenth century. This includes: the Hospital of St. John (est. 1207) to the south of the river; the extra-mural fifteenth century tower house to the west of the town; and the seventeenth century suburb to the north. It is only in recent times that development has occurred in a haphazard manner in the backlands area of the town and that development in relatively large holdings of land has occurred outside the confines of the town walls to the east.

2.2.2 *Surviving medieval features*

The town walls

The circuit of the town walls no longer survives intact above the ground (Figure 16). On the western side of the town, a significant portion survives at the Bastion (Plate 8) and a part of the northern alignment of the wall is easily traced on foot along the laneways. On the eastern side of the town, however, the line of the wall is not possible to trace easily, with the exception of a property boundary that is aligned along the medieval wall line between two houses to the south of Cappock's Gate and a small laneway to the north of Tierney Street.

A stretch of low wall (70m in length and 0.50m high with concrete render) along the historic alignment of the town wall between Blind Gate and Ash Walk Gate (Plate 9) may

potentially incorporate the town wall in its lower courses. In addition the entrance of a curved structure at the corner of Blind Gate and Barrett's Lane at *c*. 1m thick may also incorporate part of the original town wall (Plate 10); however it might be the case that it was just associated with the boundary wall of Ardee Demesne. The laneway itself is unattractive, as a result of the tall metal security fencing along the line of the wall.

To the north of Ash Walk Gate a significant surviving section of the town wall incorporating possibly three phases of structure is preserved *in situ* beneath a grassed earthen bank (c. 80m north-south x 10m east-west) behind a railing (O'Neill and Connell, 2003, see below, Plate 11. There is no signage indicating either the presence of the town wall at this location of the significance of the alignment.

To the north of this section, bounding the parkland boundary of Ardee House (St. Joseph's Hospital) which is currently in the ownership of the Health Services Executive (HSE) is a c. 80m stretch of the town wall (Plate 8). It survives behind the well known and easily identified 17thC bastion extending from the town wall. While overgrown, field survey for this study identified that the wall ranges in height from approx. 2m–5m. As such, it is the most truly monumental section of the wall representing longest and best surviving stretch of the circuit. The wall bounds the rere of the burgage plots of properties leading to the main street and also the site of the former walled garden associated with Ardee House.

It is remarkable that this section of the town wall seems to have been all but forgotten in local memory, while the bastion does appear to be quite well known. In spite of their survival, the wall and bastion have been isolated, and while the grounds of the HSE property were used for walking by townspeople in the past, it clearly no longer serves as a civic amenity. This is probably due to its location at the 'back' of the town and its function as a boundary wall for adjoining, formerly privately owned (now mixed) properties and there is no access to it from the town centre.

There was once a link from Ardee House (St. Joseph's Hospital) to Market Street, which cuts through the town wall and bastion via an arched opening (which is currently gated) that led into the former walled garden associated with the house (Plate 12).

Seventeenth Century Bastion
The earthen artillery bastion that survives to the west of the town now forms part of a most densely wooded area to the rere (east) of Ardee House and formerly formed part of the demesne. The bastion itself is extremely overgrown and appears to be largely forgotten about (Plate 13). Some earthen spoil has been pushed against it and large unattractive railings presently bound its southern end, preventing access to it from Ash Walk Gate. These railing are the HSE property boundary.

Town Gates
The only confirmed surviving remnant of any of the town gates is the north wall of Cappock's Gate which is both fragmentary and in very poor condition (Plate 2). With the exception of this survival, nothing else survives of the enclosing wall to the north or east of the town. The gate is marked by inadequate signage, affixed with inappropriate hard cement mortar (Plate 14). Recent excavations in advance of residential development identified wall footings that may be associated with the gate. These features were preserved *in situ* and an area to the north and west of the gate was surrounded by unattractive high metal palisade fencing (Conway 1999, O'Hara 2004) (Plate 15). The area inside the fencing is overgrown and while there is additional signage on the railing, it a quite general acknowledgement of what survives there and does not describe what is actually preserved, or how it is associated with the upstanding remains of Cappock's Gate (Plate 16). The presentation seriously detracts from the surviving upstanding monument and represents a lack of understanding of how the treatment of such areas can provide an opportunity to enhance the civic amenity of the area, rather than detracting from the surviving remains. None of the remaining town wall gates survive. With the exception of the site of Bridge Gate, their presence lies unrecorded and

unacknowledged. These areas present an opportunity to be incorporated into the public realm.

Medieval Structures within the Town
The two castles on the main street within the town centre provide the main visual reference to the town's medieval identity. Ardee castle – the Courthouse - is a dominant and very attractive feature in the streetscape, as is Hatch's Castle (Plates 2 and 3). However the lighting for the Courthouse is unsightly and obtrusive; there is also an unnecessary amount of street furniture/clutter in its vicinity. The street parking immediately in front of Hatch's Castle dominates its particular setting.

St Mary's Church is set back from the main street and is a very attractive structure in the town centre (Plate 17). The medieval market cross located to the left of the west door of St Mary's Church survives as a fragment of a disc-headed cross set on a concrete shaft (Plate 18). Parking again dominates the street in front of the church.

To the rear of St Mary's Church are the very significant ruins of the Chantry College which lies within an attractive public park setting, though the new housing backing onto the public park creates a less than ideal private-public interface (Plate 19). There are three points of access to the park but no direct access route from the Chantry College onto Market Street.

2.2.3 *Excavations in Ardee (Figure 16)*

Archaeological excavations which have identified medieval features are summarised below, a summary of all excavations within the town up to 2005 is provided in more detail in Appendix 5.

Excavations in the vicinity of the town wall
On a site located between O'Carroll Street/Black Ridge, Old Chapel Street and Lamb's Lane (Conway 1999, O'Hara 2004) an area 12m north–south by 16m was excavated. A masonry wall, survived 0.5–0.65m below the field surface, measuring 3.12m in length by 0.8m in width and at most 0.35m high. The foundation lay below a deposit of dark brown loam containing finds of post-medieval character. The wall was constructed of tightly set limestone slabs and irregular stones set within a base of fine lime mortar, on stony clay subsoil. A single body sherd of similar type to everted-rim or Leinster cooking ware was recovered from the top of the wall. Traces of the base mortar spread were found intermittently to the east and west of the foundation wall and attest to the removal of the masonry remains in these areas. This feature, to the north of Cappock's Gate, is thought to represent a trace wall of part of the gatehouse or of a related structure. This feature was be preserved *in situ* as part of this development and remained undisturbed; it is housed behind a high metal fence.

Another section of the town wall was revealed during an archaeological assessment in advance of the construction of the SuperValu supermarket, north of Ash Walk Gate. The seventeenth-century earthen bastion ran in a north-south direction through the site, three test trenches were hand dug through the embankment. The bank comprised a natural glacial deposit with compact and stony orange boulder clay. Numerous sherds of medieval pottery were collected from the bank material. An external U-shaped ditch representing part of the bastion defences was identified. Medieval walls and ditches were overlain by the 17th-century earthen bank. Two sections of a roughly north-south aligned medieval wall were partially covered by the bank. The wall, where it survived, was constructed from roughly hewn limestone blocks and was roughly faced (Plate 20). The surviving fragments of the wall stood to a maximum 3–4 courses high (0.45m) and had a rubble core. No mortar or other bonding was evident. A sherd of medieval green glazed pottery was retrieved from the rubble core of the wall. This structure represents one phase of medieval town wall construction within the town of Ardee. The western face of a second medieval wall was also identified it consisted of a drystone wall and two foundation levels. The initial foundation level consisted of a layer of re-deposited boulder

clay overlain by a layer of rounded cobbles. Four sherds of medieval pottery were collected from this context. The wall was constructed from randomly coursed, roughly hewn limestone blocks with dimensions ranging from 0.2m by 0.35m to 0.1m by 50mm. It was aligned north–south and stood to a maximum height of 1.2m. Inside the walls a number of archaeological features were recorded in the northern area, including two pits and two ditches. The finds from these features were typically domestic and reveal evidence for medieval settlement within the immediate area.

Excavation of Medieval features within the town

On the eastern side of Ardee, at the site of the Credit Union, archaeological investigation revealed evidence for a continuous sequence of occupation from at least the thirteenth century to the twentieth century. The evidence suggested that timber buildings, possibly gable-on houses, fronted onto Market Street. This corresponds with Richardson's 1677 depictions of the houses (Figure 11). The house was replaced by a timber-frame structure; a stone-lined hearth was built at the eastern end of this structure. Grey silty clay containing medieval pottery covered this and appeared to extend over the rear wall of the house, suggesting that it had been demolished in the Middle Ages. The medieval archaeology in the back yard area consisted of a thirteenth-century boundary, contemporary sand and gravel extraction pits and refuse disposal pits. These parts of the properties were presumably used as orchards, gardens or holding areas for livestock. Animal bones recovered during the excavation mainly consisted of cattle, but also sheep/goat and pig. The range of medieval artefacts included imported pottery vessels from England, France and Spain, Leinster Cooking Ware, quern stones, iron knives, and a spur (Clutterbuck, 2003).

At the corner of Castle Street/Tierney Street, at the Ardee Bakery, excavation identified a medieval building (0.9m below the modern bakery floor). The walls (0.6–1m thick) were constructed of clay-bonded, water-rolled stones. Occupation deposits consisted of a hearth area set on natural subsoil and two stake-holes, perhaps for a cooking spit (Shanahan 2002).

During archaeological test excavation, to the rear of the Courthouse in advance of the construction of an extension, medieval deposits were encountered at a depth of 0.35m, immediately below material of very recent date. Natural till lay within 0.45m of the surface in places, but a number of medieval features were cut into the till and extended to a maximum depth of 1.68m. The deposits contained within the cuts produced habitation refuse typical of urban sites, i.e. medieval pottery sherds, animal, bird and fish bone, and organic waste at the deeper levels. The pottery evidence dates the bulk of the medieval activity recorded to the 13th–14th century, i.e. before the building of the present castle in the late 15th century (Campbell 1997). These features were preserved *in situ* and the new structure was constructed on a raft foundation above them.

At 28 Castle Street, adjoining the northern side of the Courthouse, test excavation (O'Carroll 2002) revealed archaeological deposits. These consisted of clay silts containing medieval pottery of 13th–14th-century date. The material was consistent with that found to the rear of Ardee Castle

The northern suburb

At the northern end of Irish Street, building works in the 1920's revealed masonry of apparently medieval origin. It is described as lying 'about two feet under the present level, four yards into the roadway from the corner of the last house on the west side of the street' (Dolan, 1929, 9). It is considered possible that the remains represent the foundation of the pier of the 'North Gate', which is marked at exactly this spot, on the west side of the street, on Richardson's map of 1677.

Archaeological monitoring and testing of four development sites off Irish Street in the northern suburb of the town did not identify any features that might be associated with its seventeenth century origins (Russell 2000, O'Connell 2005, Campbell 2004, and O'Drisceoil 2002)

2.3 Structural composition

2.3.1 *Construction fabric*

The underlying geology in the Ardee area consists of Palaeozoic Lower Carboniferous limestone. It is likely that this local bedrock was used in the construction of the town wall. Ardee is also close to the region of Silurian Quartzite, this stone type appears in some of the medieval buildings

2.3.2 *Composite structures (Figure 16)*

Very few upstanding sections of the town defences survive, the composite structures that make up the Town Walls of Ardee include remains of the northern wall of Cappock's Gate, a long section at the west of the town running from Ash Lane, into and through the HSE lands forming the grounds of the former Ardee House (now St. Joseph's Hospital) with the seventeenth century earthen artillery bastion within that property. Field work for the Plan identified potential additional surviving sections of the wall (see 2.3.3 below). The surviving medieval structures in the walled town include, the 'Courthouse', Hatch's Castle, the Chantry College, and medieval features within St Mary's Church. The well-preserved, if derelict remains of a tower house (RMP LH017- 009) survive in a complex of later (also derelict) farm buildings to the southwest of the walled alignment to the south of the HSE property.

2.3.3 *Surviving sections of the wall or defences*

The upstanding sections of the town defences are located at:

- Cappock's Gate; and
- The Bastion.

Potential upstanding remains are located at:

- a substantial stretch of wall to the east of the Bastion;
- remains of a wall from Blind Gate to Ash Walk Gate;
- relict property wall located between the River Dee and Malone Terrace.

Cappock's Gate is publicly accessible as it is located on the northern side of O'Carroll Street.

The Bastion and the town wall to the east of it are in HSE lands and not readily accessible - the wall also forms the western boundary to the properties fronting Market Street.

The stretch of low wall between Blind Gate and Ash Walk Gate, which potentially has remnants of the town wall, is located along a public laneway and is surmounted with a high palisade fence.

The potential town wall located between the river and Malone Terrace is in privately owned land.

2.3.4 *Below ground archaeological remains of the wall or defences and settlement remains (Figure 16)*

Archaeological excavations have led to the discovery of the Town Wall in two locations:

- Preserved *in situ* to the north of the site of Ash Walk Gate (Supervalu site) is a section of the bastion and at least three phases of the town wall uncovered and preserved beneath an earthen embankment; and
- A wall thought to be associated with Cappock's Gate to the north of O'Carroll's Street which is also preserved *in situ*.

The town walls enclose the area of continuous settlement in the town dating from the Anglo-Norman period onwards. This has given rise to the accumulation and survival over

time of significant archaeological deposits and features that now lie below ground. The deposit sequence of settlement is not chronologically complete, however. Waves of post-medieval and modern development in the town, linked to the ebb and flow of economic growth and decline, most notably the construction of Georgian, Victorian and modern buildings, have eroded and removed much of these deposits where these buildings have been constructed. Within the town recent excavations in the following locations have provided new information on the below ground archaeological settlement remains, demonstrating the continuous occupation of the town since medieval times:

- Market Street (Credit Union Site);
- corner of Castle/Tierney Street (Ardee Bakery Site);
- Courthouse;
- 28 Castle Street.
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The findings of each of these archaeological excavations are summarised in Section 2.2.3 above and briefly in the Gazetteer (Section 7).A summary of all excavations carried out within the town are provided in Appendix 5.

The importance of the remaining, surviving archaeological resource within the circuit requires an equivalent level of rigorous protection, conservation and management as the circuit itself. In line with published government policy (1999) all planning mediation should be guided by a policy presumption in favour of the preservation *in situ* of archaeological remains. This means that basemented development within the enclosed medieval town should be actively discouraged and low-impact foundation structures advised. Where impact is so severe that mitigation in the form of archaeological excavation is required the removal of important archaeological deposit sequences on development sites should only be conducted in the context of an accepted research framework.

2.4 Material condition

2.4.1 *Overview*

The wall circuit was inspected and surveyed for the purposes of this Plan during November 2009. The condition of the standing and surviving sections of the walls were examined individually. The findings are summarised in the Gazetteer (Section 7) and discussed in further detail in Appendix 1 with representative photographs of the conditions found and recommendations.

The little that remains of the defensive walls of Ardee are poorly presented and in a vulnerable state. Much has been lost with the passing of time, waves of development and lack of appreciation of the wall as a monument and a continuous circuit. The remaining standing walls and gate site are not intervisible and are not well-presented. As a consequence, the remains have been forgotten and the wall does not form part of the town's civic identity. There is a lack of clear definition in relation to ownership and duty of care, for instance at Cappock's Gate. It is also clear that there is inadequate funding for the provision for the upkeep, management and presentation of it.

Ardee is full of stone boundary walls. The extent of historic burgage / property boundaries is remarkable and significant. These walls define a pattern of development that is still influential in Ardee today and forms a defining element of its particular urban 'grain'. The condition of these walls, in general, is not good. The walls have to a large extent survived as they are property boundaries. This is also the case with the long surviving section that forms the boundary between the HSE lands and the properties extending westwards from the Main Street. However, because the historic identity of the walls does not have a profile in public perception, this status has afforded them no protection. Repair and maintenance have been minimal or haphazard.

Persistent lack of maintenance will result in the further dilapidation of the few surviving sections of the town wall with further sections becoming unstable. The surviving sections have all been categorised as being structurally unstable and require immediate stabilising works as well as a condition and structural survey.

A full and detailed condition survey of the medieval structures within the town has not taken place nor was access gained into the interiors of the medieval structures during fieldwork. However, as part of understanding the context of these structures with regard to the Town Wall and early settlement, the external envelope of the medieval structures were briefly examined from the public areas available. A number of concerns were noted albeit in a non exhaustive list in Appendix 1 and recommended actions have been proposed.

2.4.2 *Conservation philosophy*

The significance of the Ardee's town walls as a composite monument is such that adherence to the Conservation Guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government is required. In addition the conservation philosophy and guidance outlined in the International ICOMOS Charters are also helpful, notably the Venice, Washington and Burra charters.

These charters stipulate that works should not be carried out unless they are necessary to conserve the structure, and should aim to repair rather than replace existing fabric to ensure the maximum retention of historic material. A complete record of alterations should be kept, noting the exact extent of restoration work undertaken.

If plans involve the removal of later interventions, they should only take away those parts that interfere with the integrity of the monument - conservation work does not necessarily require the removal of all later additions, but recognises the validity of later elements in terms of the ongoing history of the structure.

3 Cultural significance and vulnerability

3.1 The cultural attributes of the town wall

From medieval times Ardee has been incorporated and was a centre of trade and commerce. It was also one of the Frontier Towns of the Pale. Ardee is a quite good example of a medieval walled town with its distinctive, central Main Street and long, narrow properties extending away from the main street on each side. The identity is enhanced by surviving medieval buildings and some of the features that survive within the town together, notably the intact medieval street pattern.

Ardee's town wall, defences and medieval buildings are a composite group of structures that defined the medieval town and became an expression of the town's economic vigour and its independence.

The origins of Walled Towns are linked to the earliest phases of medieval European urbanisation and Ardee belongs to a group of no fewer than 54 towns and cities in Ireland that were enclosed by walls during the medieval period. Collectively, these towns have a cultural significance of national and international importance and most now form part of the Irish Walled Towns Network (www.heritage council.ie/walled towns network) .

The cultural and commercial identity of the town is logically linked to its historical identity, its past commercial and political history, and to its development from the time of its origins. This can be enriched by the identity of later historic events and changes that shaped the fabric of the town.

The unique historical and architectural heritage is however not immediately legible or apparent on first impressions. The town is characterised by its straight and wide principle street marked by Irish Street, Market Street, Castle Street and Bridge Street. This streetscape is dominated by the presence of the two urban tower houses i.e. Hatch's Castle and particularly Ardee Castle/ the 'Courthouse'.

Cartographic sources show that the original form of the walled town of Ardee has changed little since the early 17th century and the town retains its distinctive street pattern. The enclosing walls however are not legible in the town. The vulnerability of the walls and their demise is linked to a loss of function in the first instance. More recent attrition, especially in relation to development, can be attributed to a lack of perception of the cultural significance of the circuit and the plan form and layout of the area enclosed.

3.2 The vulnerability of the town wall and the medieval town area

The loss of the identity of the town wall and its enclosed historic core area is an accident of history. It has been linked to periods of economic decline in the historic core area and to development and expansion in other sectors of the town over centuries. In recent decades, principles of traffic management and urban renewal applied to urban regeneration, on the basis of acknowledged and economically-driven thinking, did not espouse a weighting in favour of the preservation of the town's character. As a result the layout of the historic circuit and the texture of its street plan have become eroded, illegible and vulnerable.

The vulnerability, now, is linked to an increasing lack of visibility and, more precisely to the lack of an integrated weighting for considerations of conservation and public presentation. Lack of funding is also an issue. Knowledge and a perception at present that is largely focused on material issues and problems at particular locations have led to a lack of profile for the circuit and its remains in recent planning decisions. Many of the issues are of different derivation but some are development led.

Individual responses to development opportunity are being made without the benefit of accurate (plan form) knowledge of the circuit of the wall and an understanding of its significance. There is also a lack of an overall strategic planning framework, linked to a

policy that seeks to protect, conserve, present and manage what survives of the circuit. Individual development responses that appear to have ignored the walled circuit, understandably, do not inspire confidence that sufficient weight is being given to the significance of the circuit as a defining, historic civic entity.

To date, planning decisions have been largely reliant on the personal knowledge of planning staff and interventions by local historians and archaeologists.

The vulnerability therefore lies in the lack of an overall understanding and planning policy objective, linked to an agreed strategy for development and/or development control in the long term. Such a strategy needs to be linked to a 'vision' for the identity and preservation/presentation of the monument and for the identity of the 'old town' to be enhanced as a precinct in its own right.

The vulnerability also lies in a difficulty for all concerned to envisage the potential dividends of preservation and presentation, when issues are being dealt with reactively in the realm of development control, and where the presence of the wall in many instances is simply viewed as an unhappy constraint.

The losses have been extensive. The circuit is difficult to trace in its fractured state, though the work conducted for this Plan suggests that it still has the capacity to create a significant sense of precinct in the 'old town'.

3.3 The significance of the town wall and the walled town area

The value of layered identities and the need for reference to the historic origins and protection of the historic fabric of cities is clearly articulated in international charters and European conventions. These are: the Granada Convention on Architectural Heritage, ratified by Ireland in 1996; the Valletta Convention 1992 on the protection of the Archaeological Heritage; the UNESCO-sponsored ICOMOS Washington Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas (1989); and the Burra Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (1988 – 1999). These provide a basis for the weighting of significance and articulate the importance of the retention of historic fabric in the preservation of a sense of place and the character of historic environment in urban situations. They support the views expressed below:

- Town walls can and should be regarded as a town's foremost defining 'civic' historic monument, defining the civic heart of the town and its particular mix of commercial activity.

- The site of the circuit of a walled town physically defines the primary source of the order, direction and form of the town's spatial and economic organisation and development over centuries.

- The remains of an enclosing medieval wall and defences can and do continue to identify the historic core of the town as a repository of material archaeological remains and also have a significant function as an historical and archaeological research resource.

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.

Irish walled towns are also discovering the importance of their medieval identity linked to their walled circuits. Dublin, Kilkenny, Waterford, Cork and Athlone have successfully used studies of this nature to develop and support significant urban regeneration and promotion, linked to historical identity.

Current urban planning philosophy can now support the view, that the particular character and texture of this element of Ardee's urban form still has the capacity to provide the town with an important and identifiable core area, and that this can contribute a sense of foundation for the town's now richly layered identity.

Hatch's Castle and Ardee Castle are fortified town houses, a once-common urban house form found within many walled towns, which were generally unconnected to the circuit of the town walls. However, few survive intact. They were likely to have been, and still are, the most prominent buildings of a town and attest to the wealthy urban middle class that resided here in the medieval period. There are thirty-seven of these urban sites within the country (Murtagh, 1989). Ardee Castle has the distinction of being the largest fortified medieval tower house in Ireland and Britain. Hatch's Castle, while not comparable in size to Ardee Castle was constructed to fit the narrow confines of its burgage plot. These properties also define the character of the 'old town',

The Market Cross fragment is highly significant as it is one of only two surviving medieval market crosses in Ireland, the other being located in Athenry, County Galway (King, 1983). The west face has the upper part of a crucifixion under a triple arched canopy with shafting. The east face has a Virgin and Child under a shafted ogee headed canopy. Its iconography indicates that it is sculpted in the mid-sixteenth century and was likely to have been commissioned by the town to replace an earlier market cross of wood (King, 1983)

While chantry colleges were relatively common in medieval Ireland and similar foundations existed in the county at Drogheda, Dundalk, Stabannon and Termonfeckin, it is only at Ardee that any structural remains survive. Elsewhere in Ireland remains are rare. Other examples where remains survive are in Slane, Howth, Cashel and Clonmel.

Outside the walls, the extra-mural tower house also contributes to the historic interest of the town.

The circuit of the town walls and defences and medieval structures and layout must be regarded as a significant cultural resource for the following reasons:

- The circuit can define a sense of place for the oldest part of the modern town (but it will require a vision and a long-term Strategic Plan to achieve this).

- The most monumental section of the wall (to the east of the bastion) and bastion survives in a location where access can be improved and significantly enhanced to the benefit of the local population

- The complex, multi-period monument is a document in its own right, with its own particular history that informs the understanding of the pattern of the town's development.

- The town's oldest core area possesses the town's most visible and foremost monuments and buildings.

4 Issues affecting Ardee's town walls

4.1 Legibility

Irish walled towns are re-discovering their walled circuits and medieval identity, as part of a growing movement to enhance civic identity. As such methods are now sought to protect and enhance medieval remains within modern urban design. Other centres like Drogheda, Carlingford, Athlone, Dublin and Kilkenny have undertaken Conservation Plans and studies of their enclosing medieval walls to re-establish the importance of their walled circuits and to promote the towns' historic identities. Drogheda is a founding member of the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN), which is linked to the International Walled Towns Friendship Circle (WTFC).

The single greatest issue facing the medieval town of Ardee is legibility. At present there is no physical sense that Ardee town was once an enclosed, walled and gated medieval town. There is a fundamental lack of identity and the lack of importance assigned to the town walls in what should be a clearly articulated 'vision' for the composite monument and the 'enclosed' elements of the town.

Until recently, the majority of development within the town took place inside the area of the town walls. Inappropriate infill development of the 'backlands' to the east of the town over time has particularly created a rather haphazard urban environment and there is a distinct lack of urban integration. Recent developments have exacerbated rather than remediated the issue.

A 'vision' for the medieval town centre is lacking, as is an integrated plan for the town that has full regard for the importance of the town wall circuit and the linkages between the surviving elements of the medieval town and its layout.

Such a framework can 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 and enhance the identity and significance of the town (see policies below).

4.2 Issues affecting the walled town of Ardee / development control

Ardee, like most provincial towns of its size, has been the subject of privately funded, opportunistic urban development over the past ten years, linked to concerns to support and enhance the economic life of the town. Within Ardee this has manifested itself primarily in the form of the haphazard commercial and residential development and infilling of the western backlands, which have since medieval times remained largely undeveloped. A lot of the shops fronting the main street lie vacant.

Recent developments are notable due to their proximity to the town wall and the manner in which they have failed to address the town wall. Foremost among these examples the large retail development to the west of the town behind Market Street, the Supervalu site is one of disproportionate scale for its location (while the commercial imperatives that led to its development in that particular site are understandable). Here, a significant opportunity to re-establish and identify this important location was not pursued at the time of development and the attendance to the quality of the external public 'realm' has not been addressed by the development in any way. The section of surviving town wall alignment that bounds the car park of this complex has no support or identity.

To the north, within the HSE lands, the 17thC bastion which survives, enclosed by high railings, is linked to the embankment in this car park but is not presented as such and has no on-site interpretation to explain what the embankment represents, which is a significant omission in its own right.

The large residential development to the east of the town between The Black Ridge and O'Carroll Street, which runs adjacent to the line of the town wall, does not in anyway

address the line of the wall, representing an additional missed opportunity in a key area of its circuit. Associated with the same development, features thought to be related to Cappock's gate and the town wall lie 'preserved *in situ*' behind an inappropriate and unsightly metal compound without any on-site interpretation offered. The lack of understanding of the character, setting and amenity of the wall is notable in these areas.

4.3 Summary

To date there has been a lack of coherent vision for the integration, preservation and management of the town wall and medieval structures into the civic and commercial life of the town. This manifests itself in subtle ways, for example visual detractors such as parking which dominates the frontage of the important medieval structures in the town at Ardee Castle ('The Courthouse'),, Hatch's Castle and St Mary's Church.

There has been a failure to understand the town wall and other medieval structures within the town as a significant heritage resource, the need for their protection and their vulnerability.

In general, development control in the vicinity of the surviving portions of the wall has been reactive, location-specific and has not been sensitive. In this context it has been difficult to argue the case for suitable protection and retention of the wall alignment and even more difficult to argue the case for appropriate presentation.

Appropriately weighted adjudication of proposed development and ensuring effective development control cannot be easily achieved, unless it is undertaken in the context of a larger picture.

Individual attempts at preservation and interpretation can be of limited value without the existence of an overall vision for the treatment of these sites. Without that larger picture, a mechanism for linkage between remains, the alignment of the town wall, and the surviving remains does not exist. In effect, appropriate protection and presentation with appropriate support for the significance of the enclosed medieval core of the town will be very difficult to achieve successfully on a development-led application-by-application basis, without a strong and secure 'vision' for the long term context within which these applications should be considered.

4.4 Legal status, ownership and duty of care

4.4.1 *Legal framework*

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 medieval town of Ardee and its defensive structures do not have separate designation in the Records of Monuments and Places, as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994, but all sections of the town's walls and defences are included in the Zone of Archaeological Potential for the medieval town which is referenced as LH017-101 (Figure 17) It comprises twenty nine individual sites 101–129 (included two recently added sites, 028 and 029, identified through archaeological investigation) which are listed as follows .

RMP Reference	Townland	Classification
LH017-101---	Cappocksgreen Dawsons Demesne Townparks (Ardee By.)	Town
LH017-10101	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Town defences site possible
LH017-10102	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Gateway site (Irish Gate)
LH017-10103	Townparks (Ardee By.) Cappocksgreen Dawsons Demesne	Town wall (s)
LH017-10104	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Gateway site (Head gate)
LH017-10105	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Fortifications
LH017-10106	Townparks (Ardee By.)	College (Chantry)
LH017-10107	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Church and graveyard (St Mary's Church) (see ref 10125–10127)
LH017-10108	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Building possible (East of St Mary's Chancel)
LH017-10109	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Cross
LH017-10110	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Font
LH017-10111	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Grave-Slab (s)
LH017-10112	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Gravemarker (s)
LH017-10113	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Architectural Fragment (s)
LH017-10114	Townparks (Ardee By.) Dawsons Demesne	Gateway (Cappock's Gate)
LH017-10115	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Fortified town house (Hatch's Castle)
LH017-10116	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Gateway site (Ash Walk Gate)
LH017-10117	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Gateway site (Blind Gate)
LH017-10118	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Fortified town house (The Courthouse)
LH017-10119	Dawsons Demesne	Gateway site possible (located North of the Carmelite Friary site and south of Cappock's Gate at a Tierney Street)
LH017-10120	Dawsons Demesne	Friary site possible (Carmelite)
LH017-10121	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Gateway site (Bridge Gate)
LH017-10122	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Priory (Prior of St Johns)
LH017-10123	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Midden (s) (identified along the western footpath along Church Hill and Market Street)
LH017-10125	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Graveyard , St Mary's
LH017-10126	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Graveslab (17th century) in St Mary's
LH017-10127	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Grave slab(17th century) in St Mary's
LH017-10128	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Buildings medieval Market Street (02E0193)
LH017-10129	Townparks (Ardee By.)	Buildings medieval Ardee Bakery

Table 1: Record of Monuments and Places List

All town defences are considered national monuments by reason of the historical, architectural, and archaeological interest. This status relates as much to their protection as to the nature of consent and management of works on, or close, to them. In particular, there is a requirement for Ministerial Consent from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to apply for any works on town and city walls in Local Authority ownership.

In accordance with Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930, as amended, where a national monument (such as town defences), of which the Minister or a local authority is

the owner or guardian, or that has been the 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 renovate or restore it, or
- to sell it or any part of it for exportation or to export it or any part of it.

Other provisions within the National Monuments Acts, which may relate to town defences, are the control and regulation of archaeological excavations and treatment of archaeological objects.

Planning and Development Act 2000
At the time of research and preparation of this Conservation and Management Plan the Development Plan for the county was Louth County Development Plan 2003- 2009. A new County Development plan for 2009-2015 was published late in 2009. Ardee does not have a town development plan but it does have a Local Area Plan 2003–2009 which was adopted in 2003. The purpose of the local area plan was to provide a strategic framework for Ardee in the context of the county development plan. The plans also contain more specific proposals in terms of the use of land and its zoning objectives. The Local Area Plan 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. It is hoped that the recommendations of this study and arising from consultation with the Local Authority and other stakeholders can be incorporated into any new draft Local Area plan.

The Louth County Development Plan lists Ardee (Ref: AR1) as an Area of Special Archaeological Potential and as an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA's), the protected structures within the town are listed in Schedule 3 of the plan.

4.4.2 *Interface between development plan and development control – financial contributions*

There is no direct levy or specific fund applicable to 'historic structures' such as the town wall. Nevertheless, a direct levy or fund might be validly applied in certain development circumstances adjacent to standing or below ground portions of the circuit or in the vicinity of an upstanding monument.

Section 48 of the Planning and Development 2000 Act states that planning conditions seeking development contributions in respect of, "*public infrastructure and facilities*" may be attached to a grant of permission. In these circumstances the basis for determination for any such contribution shall be set out in a *Contribution Scheme*.

4.4.3 *National policy 2008*

The National Policy on Town Defences was published by the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government in November 2008. The policy declaration states that:

The **known** and **expected circuits** of **the defences** (both upstanding and buried, whether of stone or embankment construction) **and associated features** of **all town defences** are to be considered **a single national monument and treated as a unit for policy and management purposes**. There should be a presumption in favour of **preservation *in situ*** of archaeological remains and **preservation of their character, setting and amenity**.

Table 2: National policy on town defences declaration, 2008

As mentioned above all works that will impact on the fabric of town or city defences, or any ground disturbance in proximity to the defences in local authority or the Minister's ownership or guardianship, or that have been the subject of a preservation order, are subject to a requirement for Ministerial Consent from the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. In considering applications for Ministerial Consent for works affecting town defences the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government have the following Ministerial Consent Policy:

–To seek the protection and preservation *in situ* of these national monuments including the town walls, embankments and ditches, gates, bastions or ancillary fortifications or portions thereof;
–To seek the preservation of important views and prospects inside and outside the walls so as to preserve the setting of the monuments and to increase the appreciation of the circuit and character of the walled town. The Department may require a satisfactory buffer area to be established between any new development and the town defences in order to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the amenity associated with the presence of town defences within the historic urban pattern;
–To require any proposals for works to town defences to be preceded by a detailed measured survey of the monuments so as to have an appropriately detailed record;
–To provide pre-planning advice to developers where town defences are close to or included in their proposal site;
–To require the involvement of qualified and experienced conservation professionals in the detailed design and overseeing of works to town defences;
–Not to favour new roads crossing the wall or the line of the wall or the formation of any new openings in the wall;
–To favour the minimal intervention necessary to the authentic fabric of the monument and avoidance of unnecessary reconstruction;
–To require good quality, context-sensitive design for development proposals affecting the upstanding town defences that would not detract from the character of the town defences or their setting by reason of the location, scale, bulk or detailing;
–To encourage the enhancement of the setting of town defences including the pedestrianisation of town gates where this can be achieved without requiring new roads to be opened through the circuit of the walls. To encourage also the improvement of signage and public utilities structures, etc. where these affect the visual amenity of the defences;
–To require as a condition of Ministerial Consent that appropriate programmes of regular maintenance and repair works to the town defences be put in place;
–To promote the retention of the existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional burgage plot widths within historic walled towns where these derive from medieval or earlier origins and to discourage the infilling or amalgamation of such plots and removal of historic boundary walls save in exceptional circumstances.

Table 3: Ministerial Consent Policy 2008

4.4.4 *Ownership*

The town wall and defences, viewed as a composite monument National Monument, is not owned by Ardee Town Council. This is in line with the ownership for all town walls in Ireland. There are several locations where the standing wall survives and is in private ownership. A significant portion of the wall on the western side of the town forms the party wall/boundary between private properties to the west of the main street and the Health Services Executive (HSE) lands surrounding Ardee House (St. Joseph's Hospital) to the west of these. The earthen outwork (bastion) survives in the HSE grounds.

Elsewhere, standing remains have become incorporated into the street frontages and, over time, the wall has become a 'party' wall between privately owned properties.

In many areas below ground remains underlie standing structures on privately owned property.

All those that own portions of the wall listed as *protected structures* in the Local Area Plan have an equal duty of care for the structure, as outlined under Section 15(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000. These locations are identified in Appendix 4.
Note: The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government requires Ministerial Consent for all development along the circuit and in proximity to any town wall.

4.5 Streetscape presentation / architectural presentation of standing remains

At present there is no physical sense that Ardee town was once an enclosed, walled and gated medieval town. The outline of the medieval wall is no longer legible even at Cappock's Gate. At present, there is no sense of entry into the formerly enclosed sector of the town and no identification of the gateway sites through which entry was gained. The extant standing remains are isolated with no link between each other. The most monumental sections of the defences are the bastion and adjacent section of the town wall which have been forgotten about and have remained excluded entirely from the town's civic identity.

Issues relating to the spaces or buildings adjacent to the town walls, with the aim of improving public access, awareness, appreciation, and appearance of the walls, other medieval monuments and adjacent spaces are detailed in Appendix 2.

The Issues identified varied considerably from place to place along the line of the walls, depending on their context. Analysis and recommendations proposed relate to a series of specific locations and are, for the most part, brief. Opportunities for presentation of the standing remains are presented fully in Appendix 2. Brief recommendations are aimed at identifying actions for further design or development. Where the issues identified have a more significant effect on the walls, other medieval features, or to the future physical development of Ardee, more detailed recommendations are made relating to the public realm, orientation, built form, etc.

5 Opportunities

5.1 Introduction

The circuit provides a number of opportunities to improve the presentation of Ardee's town walls; to reinforce the identity of the medieval town and the medieval structures and street patterns in the town; and to enhance the civic spaces previously enclosed by the wall.

The identity of the 'old town' precinct is already underpinned by the medieval street layout; i.e. the wide thoroughfare of Irish Street, Market Street, Castle Street and Bridge Street and the cross streets of Market Lane, Ash Walk/O'Carroll Street, Barrett's Lane, Boat trench and Tierney Street and the two dominant tower houses and the dominant Market Square and St Mary's Church. Together these important features can support the particular 'vision' for an identifiable, formerly enclosed historic town centre and the strategically placed tower houses and the town's historic defences. The actions that support such a 'vision' do not have to be undertaken as a single project, but can be formulated and used as a backdrop for strategic planning purposes over a 5–10 year or even a 20–year time span.

Several opportunities for the enhancement of the historic town and its identity have been identified on the basis of three investigations of the circuit. Specific opportunities are detailed in Appendix 1 and 2.

5.2 Use of materials

5.2.1 *Marking the wall alignment in the pavement*

Specific marking of the former line of the walls along public laneways through use of contrasting pavement materials (for example Plate 21–23). The material used should be local limestone and the distinctive random rubble pattern seen in extant sections of the wall should be replicated. Additional information panels would also be needed at intervals to assist in the public interpretation.

The line of the town wall north of Ash Walk Gate should be protected and could be marked with signage, perhaps in-ground.

5.2.2 *Marking the gateways into medieval Ardee*

There is a significant opportunity to create a sense of entry into the 'old town' (the former walled town) at Irish Gate, Head Gate and Bridge Gate, Ash Walk Gate, Blind Gate. The presentation at Cappock's Gate can also be radically improved. This can be supported by consistent hard landscaping, traffic calming and signage. Marking these gateway locations would help to identify the historic town centre. The design of the gateway locations would need to be site-specific, but it could be undertaken with an identifiable, unifying theme. The approach should be contemporary, and the subject of a design competition.

5.2.3 Creating an identity / brand

Currently there are no markers that identify the line of the wall. The creation of a logo, as used in Dublin to mark the position of its wall, would capture in essence the footprint of the medieval town. Dublin uses the outline of the circuit as a brand; however without additional detail the outline has proved too subtle for both residents and tourists.

The identity could be further enhanced to include other information in printed form, such as a design link to signage and the literature relating to the guided walks of the walled circuit. It could also be used to help the reader link the extant remains, which are visually isolated from each other.

Consideration could be given to creating markers in the pavements to assist walkers and visitors to follow a circuit. Bronze inserts in the ground could work extremely well in this regard.

Ardee has to use this current opportunity to create a strong, recognisable, brand identity for the town and its heritage status. This has to be consistent and linked to all heritage signage, literature, advertising, information panels, and printed guides.

5.3 Site specific information

Landscaping to enhance the immediate surroundings and discourage anti-social behaviour after dark. Information panels – in the ground, on nearby walls, or free standing would aid the visitor/reader in understanding the position, context and significance of the location.

5.4 Public realm plan

There is an opportunity now to provide a plan for the most effective presentation, management and development of the town's public realm, with particular reference to the Historic Walled Town.

The site of Head gate is, both historically and in terms of the town's current pattern of uses and urban form, an important arrival point. This should be reflected in the treatment of the public realm, which is presently cluttered, car-dominated, the vehicular carriageway is unnecessarily wide, pavements are narrow. Public realm would greatly benefit from a more pedestrian-friendly and attractive treatment, e.g. removal of cars (except for a very limited number of disabled spaces), removal of clutter, specifically:

- flower basket stands and flower boxes. New planting (trees) can green the space much more effectively and attractively. These trees should perhaps be sited in rows around the square edge, at approximately 5m intervals(?). A tree should be chosen that does not dominate the buildings and space, but that adds to it; therefore trees should be chosen that will grow up to around the eaves height of the library (c 5m).

- vehicular and pedestrian signposts (these should be replaced with more sympathetically designed signage, using materials appropriate to the character of the town and sited in an unobtrusive way)

- street parking. A small number of spaces on Market Street, on both sides, at either side of the square, should be removed and the pavement should extend over this space, right to the actual carriageway edge, thereby increasing pedestrian space and reducing the impact of cars at this important space.

The square, as a whole, should centre on a usable, uncluttered, paved area for events, street markets, etc (for example the public square in Drogheda, Plate 24). The statue is a prominent and important landmark and should remain in its present location (Plate 25). An impression of potential treatment of the square is provided in Figure 18.

Existing trees split the square and road into two distinct spaces. Until Ardee has a bypass road, these should remain *in situ*, but should be removed when the town is bypassed, in order that the square and Market Street can be read as a single, pedestrian space. The square should be re-paved, with no changes in paving surface level. Until a bypass is completed, the square/pavement level should be differentiated from the carriageway of Market Street by a change in level, as at present.

New seating should be introduced around the edge of the square, under the new trees (Plate 26 and 27). Any tourist information signage should also be located below the trees at the edges of the square in locations where it does not detract from either the buildings or the space. Bins should be carefully chosen and located near to seating, and not in locations where they are obstructive to pedestrians.

Telegraph poles and wires should be relocated beneath the street surface and new unobtrusive street lighting selected (building-mounted, where possible).

New paving could be used to demarcate the line of the town walls and site of the gate through use of contrasting paving. This could take an agreed form that suits the hard landscaping of the town and the links to the planning, management and enhancement of the public realm within the town. (Plates 28–30).

5.5 Gaps in our knowledge

There are many gaps in our knowledge of the development of the Walled Town of Ardee which cannot be immediately solved. Future excavations and survey may provide opportunities in contributing to the further research. To follow are some questions that have arisen during the research and field work carried out for this plan:

It is not clear if the town wall expanded or contracted to include the Carmelite Friary lands, i.e. whether the town was a narrow, linear town sitting astride a main through-route with a rectangular wall or a larger enclosed area, from inception, including the lands to the east.
The eastern side of the enclosed town remained undeveloped – this may be due to the influence of specific land ownership and management - church lands perhaps?
There is no evidence to-date for a town ditch and fosse?
It is not clear if there was seventh gate, located to the south of Cappock's Gate, where The Avenue cuts the line of the wall. This could perhaps reflect the location of a 'Fryers Gate' mentioned in 1540?
There are many phases of building/repair to the town wall? It is not clear just how many.
On the south side of Markethouse Lane there is a very substantial front wall to the two-storey barn at the western end of the lane. There are also the remains of a wall that runs entire length of this street from the location of these structures on its southern side, which is now obscured by hedging.
A construction date for the bastion has not been established. A detailed search in primary 17thC records might disclose this.
While the existence of the northern suburb is recorded, it is not clear if or how it was enclosed.
The northern suburb may be reflected in a very distinctive property boundary just inside location of Irish Gate (Plate 64). On the east side of Irish Street there are two property boundaries that may reflect the alignment of the enclosured suburb. Also noticed on the east the northern gable of one house (Plate 63) has a substantial northern gable which could reflect a medieval stone structure. Also a slightly different angle of the façade of this property and its adjacent properties may be indicative of a previous street alignment – perhaps coincidental with gate / town wall alignment.
The ditch and drain that exists on the northern side of the town which potentially ran alongside the eastern boundary of the walled town and drains into the river Dee, is very clearly marked on Robert Richardson's 1677 map. This may represent an enclosing element, but it is not clear if it had a defensive function prior to Irish town being walled (if it was walled) or perhaps did it form part of the eastern defences of the town. On the 1677 map the feature kinks to the east at the southeastern corner of the town which corresponds to the eastern end of the Avenue at the end of which was a former mill. Structures are represented in this location also on the early map – which may indicate that the defences were extended / originally built to include this area?
There are a lot of rubble stone used in the construction of boundary walls, the medieval buildings and town walls in the town, indicating a good source of local stone- where were these quarries?
The extra-mural towerhouse to the west of the town is unusual. It is not connected in any way to the town wall and its relationship to the town has not been established.

6 Policies

6.1 Policy aims

The ICOMOS Bruges Resolutions (1975), which have specific relevance 'to historic towns where distinctive qualities and value are deemed as being worthy of retention and enhancement' recommends that planning in historic towns should endeavour to:

–Observe the existing scale of the town in all new developments to respect its character its dominant buildings and its relation to the landscape;
–Retain the specific visual qualities of urban spaces streets and squares not only in isolated 'tradition islands' but throughout the town's fabric so as to provide at the very least, a continuous network linking the main points of interest;
–Avoid the destruction of historic elements which at first sight might seem to be of minor importance but whose cumulative loss would be irretrievable; and
–Search for appropriate new uses for empty buildings which would otherwise be threatened with decay.

Table 4: ICOMOS's recommendations for planning in walled towns

The policies outlined in the Plan aim to support the historical significance of Ardee's medieval town walls and defences while advocating principles for the improved understanding, protection, conservation, and maintenance of the structures that survive and the surviving medieval structures in the town.

The policies also focus on improving public awareness of the composite monument and the identity of the enclosed elements of the medieval town.

The policies recommend actions for supporting and enhancing the integrity and plan form of the medieval town and the setting of the surviving walls around its circuit.

The policies are in addition to The National Policy on Town Defences was published by the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government in November 2008 (Section 4.4.4 above).

6.2 Policies

Policy 1: Protection and Retention of the Historic Integrity of the Medieval Town Wall

- Acknowledge the status and integrity of the walled circuit as a single, composite entity that is worthy of protection and enhancement.
- Place the identity, significance and protection of the medieval town wall and the areas enclosed by it at the heart of future planning and development for the town.
- Create a 'vision' for the future of the formerly enclosed elements of the town.
- Protect the setting of surviving structural and archaeological remains of the town walls that once enclosed Ardee, providing them both the town and its walls with a strong and consistent identity.
- Ensure that Ardee Town Council assumes the overall guardianship and care of the surviving and presented portions of the monument, as a defining civic entity of centrally important cultural and historic significance to the town.
- Ensure that Ardee Town Council actively seeks to continue to protect and record the associated archaeological resource.

- Acknowledge the town walls as contributing to defining the historic status of the town, as a civic resource for its citizens, for visitors and for the historical and archaeological record of the town's development.

- Formulate an over-arching development-focused Strategic Plan for enhancing the physical and visual identity of the enclosed historic town as a separate and recognisable precinct within the modern town, with a realistic, phased, long-term view to implementation.

- In any review of the Local Area Plan introduce a second tier of zoning for the area within and including the circuit of the town walls which could be called 'Historic Town Centre'.

- Modify the text of all zoning objectives, as necessary, located within the town wall circuit to contain specific policy statements relating to the maintenance and enhancement of the physical characteristics and urban grain of the historic town within the walled circuit including its street layout and property boundaries.

- Designate Areas of Special Planning Control (or similar) as the appropriate planning mechanism for determining the urban context and future change to the environs of the wall at particular locations.

- Consider the preparation of Public Realm Plans or similar strategic planning studies for locations where urgent or particular action is required in relation to the protection and 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 identity of the circuit by seeking opportunities to link the extant sites.

Policy 2: Conservation, Maintenance and Repair of the Standing and Exhibited Below Ground 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 location-specific programmes for structural maintenance and repair with particular attention to urgently required actions, linked to other urban management programmes.

- Ensure that all works undertaken are informed by a clear understanding of the monument and are preceded by appropriate investigations.

- Ensure that any works undertaken are carried out by suitably experienced personnel under the supervision of an archaeologist, where necessary, or a suitably qualified conservation specialist.

- Develop a programme for the effective cyclical monitoring of all locations, but especially vulnerable locations, such as Cappock's Gate.

- Policy for protection of the town wall in privately owned property. A specific planning guidance document should be prepared and agreed.

- Ensure that all works are carried out in compliance with statutory requirements for the protection of the monument and associated archaeological remains.

- Retain historical interventions and additions to fabric, where appropriate, where these do not diminish the integrity of the structure.

- Ensure that any proposed works to integrate the bastion fortification and the wall into a publicly managed park space is not undertaken without appropriate scaled survey, condition survey, and appropriate archaeological investigation.

Policy 3: Information, Recording and Research

- Create a specific archive, linked to the Council's map records, for all existing and future survey records related to the circuit of the walls and the alignment of earlier defences, 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 the existing efforts of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society in the promotion of public presentations of the results through publication, lectures and display.

- Create a research framework for future archaeological, architectural and historical research and investigation of a targeted nature and for consideration when opportunities arise in the context of development.

Policy 4: Legibility, Access and Presentation

- Create a supportable brand identity for the few walled portions of the town using a consistent graphic design to create linkages between signage, information panels, publications, leaflets and maps.

- Create a medieval town 'wall walk' from Market Street around the western circuit of the town wall, with the potential for a pedestrian route from the bastion on the west to St. Mary's and the Chantry College on the east.

- Establish an urban design/public realm framework, together with guidelines for civic works (especially hard landscaping and street furniture), traffic calming and the treatment of new development in the enclosed medieval town areas.

- Seek opportunities to mark the gateway sites at the entrance to the enclosed areas especially at key locations e.g. Irish Gate, Head Gate, Ash Walk Gate, Blind Gate, Bridge Gate and Cappock's Gate.

- Seek every opportunity to mark the line of the town wall in public roads or pavements adjacent to the location of standing remains, where the location of below ground remains has been established by archaeological investigation.

- Develop site-specific information panels at locations with publicly presented remains such as at the embankment preserving beneath it the line of the town wall and bastion to the west of the Supervalu site. The design of interpretative signage requires careful consideration to determine the appropriate extent and presentation of content, a sensitive form, and materials sensitive to each location and to the town as a whole.

- Seek ways to improve public access to the surviving stretches.

Policy 5: Implementation, Management and Review

- Promote and publicise Ardee Town Council's commitment to the medieval identity of the town and to the preservation and conservation of the surviving town wall and the archaeological resource contained by, and associated with, the circuit.

- Actively seek to protect and conserve the two medieval urban tower houses on Market Street and Castle Street and establish a civic function for the former courthouse (Ardee Castle).

- Seek the integration of the policies outlined in this Plan with those of the forthcoming Local Area Plan).

- Develop a framework and costing analysis for short term (1-2 years), medium term (1-5 years) and long term actions (over 10 years) linked to other civic and civil works undertaken by the Ardee Town Council.

- Seek partnership funding for policy development and the preparation of a Public Realm Plan arising from this Conservation and Management Plan and with a link to the existing Heritage Plan for the town and its heritage policy provisions.

- Seek sponsorship and development contributions to the enhancement of the Public Realm within the town.

- Promote active liaison with local interest groups, the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the National Museum of Ireland, and the international *Walled Towns Friendship Circle.*

- Create a framework for cyclical review and for the continuation of any necessary surveys and condition assessments in line with surveys already completed.

- Create an ongoing 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.

7 Gazetteer of specific observations and opportunities identified for the enhancement, development and management of individual sections of the town walls of Ardee

The circuit of the town wall is described below starting from the south western side of the town, commencing at the River Dee and travelling in a clockwise direction.

SECTION A: From the River Dee to Blind Gate (Plates 31–34)
Viewed from the southern banks of the river Dee there is no indication of the town wall at the northern bank of the river. This is to be expected as it is likely that the course of the river has been altered and dredged on many occasions. Along the northern bank of the river there is no evidence that the town wall extended along the river front. There are however, in places, possible remnants of stone piers/jetties set into the bank, possibly associated with later activity at the rivers edge.

The beginning of the circuit was accessed to the rear of a private property at the junction of Boat Trench and Malone's Terrace. To the rear of the dwelling, in line with its western gable, there is a garden wall of substantial thickness (of approximately 800mm) and varying in height between 900mm and 1800mm above current ground level and running approx. 21m in length with one break in it (Plate 31). The wall is formed of wide squared rubble stone, mostly limestone. There is much ivy and other plant growth covering this wall and obscuring its detail. The landowner believed that the wall is associated with former outbuildings, there are no outbuildings shown on the first edition OS map or on the later editions up to at least 1910 (Figure 14-15), however in modern orthophotography dated to 2004 there are two structures indicated at this location. By overlaying the first edition OS map onto this section of wall it appears to be orientated more north of the northwest-southeast axis that the site of the wall is thought to be running. Therefore given the orientation, scale and makeup of this wall it is unlikely to represent the original town wall; however boulders used in its construction may be reused from the original. The distance from the wall to the river is c. 31m. In this area there is no ground surface indication of any features that might extend from the wall to the river there is a break in slope where the land slopes gently south towards the river.

This section of wall, by its width and quality of stonework, demonstrates a possible defensive form. Whilst believed not to be medieval and possibly on a different alignment from the early town wall it could well form a reconstruction of the town wall, perhaps attributable to the later seventeenth century reconstruction period. It is likely that some or most of the stone used in its construction is town wall material. As such it should still be considered in this conservation plan until such further investigations / testing proves conclusively that it is not part of the town defences.

The line of the wall is said to have followed the eastern side of the laneway west of Malone's Terrace (Plate 32). While there is no evidence for the wall, there are a few *in situ* boulders emerging out of the tarmacadam/cement along the boundary lines of the houses.

On the opposite side of the road there is a stretch of rendered boundary wall that has large boulders along its lower course. Some loose boulders have aligned the road- the material used in this boundary may comprise reused stone taken from the original wall, this is however impossible to determine. There are derelict but intact linear burgage plots stretching from Castle Street in this location but there is nothing to indicate the line of the wall, the Centra car park being particularly unattractive.

At Blind Gate (Plate 33) the junction with Barrett's Lane and Jervis Street curves inwards in two locations perhaps a subtle indication in the street layout indicating the . There are no above ground remains associated with the gate and there is no indication where was located. This area is a very poor pedestrian environment (narrow pavements or no pavements, unnecessarily wide vehicular carriageway, blank facades / walls). The views

along the right hand side of Barrett's Lane towards Ardee Castle are dominated by car parking (Plate 34).

SECTION B: From Blind Gate to Ash Walk Gate (Plates 35–37)
There is a curved structure immediately north of the Blind Gate site (KMcG Dental Surgery). The entranceway into the building is over 1m thick. This structure may reflect the line of or perhaps incorporate the curving town wall where it would arc to meet the gate site (Plate 35). There is a low wall to the west side of the lane. The wall is covered in cementicious render to the road side and retains approximately 600-900mm of ground in the yard to the west. There is palisade fencing to its top along its entire length (Plate 36). At some locations the render has spalled and squared rubble stone masonry can be seen (Plate 37). However, because of the form this wall currently takes, its thickness and form and quality of construction cannot be assessed. It is possible that some of the construction may be medieval, but it is, at minimum part, of the seventeenth century defences. This laneway is unattractive, most particularly as a result of the tall metal fencing along the line of the walls.

From Ash Walk Gate to Head Gate including the Bastion (Plates 38–48)
Ash Walk gate is located at the junction of Ash Walk and the laneway between it and the site of Blind Gate. The Ash Walk originally led from the laneway to the extra-mural castle to the west of the town (discussed below). The gate site is located at the entrance to an overflow car park; it is a desolate setting, surrounded by car parks and industrial/commercial sites (Plate 38).

There is a grassy earthen bank measuring c. 80m long and c. 10m wide which is faced to the east by a modern wall with railings on top. Preserved *in situ* beneath this isolated feature are the remains of the town wall (and two further phases of the town wall) and bastion. There is no signage indicating the presence of the monument at this location. North of the grassy bank is a cemented area with a substation associated with the Supervalu development, the line of the wall and the southern tapering section of the earthen bastion has been destroyed within this newly developed area (Plate 39).

The earthwork bastion fortification is accessed via Ardee House (St. Joseph's Hospital); and access cannot be gained to the area from the south where the Supervalu car park and lands are surrounded by high fencing. The only two existing points of access to the bastion are from private land: from the St. Joseph's; and through a now gated ope to the rear of the Health Centre (Plate 40). The area around the fortification is heavily overgrown with scrub and woodland. The seventeenth century earthen defence is now much overgrown with bushes and large mature trees – refer to Ecology Survey. The form and alignment is hard to discern because of the plant growth and also soil deposits from HSE storage of soil from construction works in the area. The pentagonal earthen bastion comprised a rampart measuring c. 1m high and 5.4m wide, delimiting a large space between the rampart and town wall to the east. Due to the overgrown nature the feature could not be easily paced out (Plate 41), however Bradley (1984) measured it as delimiting a space of approximately 125m by 60m. The northern tapering end of the feature appears to have been lost and there are some breeches in the rampart, including an historical breech at the northern side of the bastion, where a path from Ardee House (HSE care home) cuts through it and the adjacent town wall to access a walled garden to the rear of Market Street (as shown on the 1908 OS Map, Fig. 15, Plate 40).

East of the bastion there is a substantial, the most truly monumental, section of the wall, representing the longest and best surviving stretch of the medieval wall in the town. It ranges in height from approximately 2m high at its south end up to 5m high at the centre of the Bastion. The wall is virtually obliterated with plant growth. The surviving section of the town wall curves to the east and forms part of a property boundary at the northern side of the former walled garden associated with Ardee House. However, on the First Edition OS (1835) map this wall continues north and meets the site of the northern circuit to the west of Market Yard (Plates 42–45).

The alignment of the Town Wall is less obvious to the north end of the Bastion and it is possible that there may have been revisions to the alignment associated with the seventeenth century fortification works and also the later inclusion of Irish town. According to Bradley the northern end of the bastion curves inwards to meet the north wall of the town to the rear of the Library buildings (former Market Yard). Site clearance of the wooded area at this location and adjacent residential development has eradicated any evidence of a tie-in point for the town walls and the bastion; mounds of rubble stone are located along the line of the wall. It is therefore not possible to resolve how the town wall connected with the northern circuit or how the bastion might have connected to it. It is likely that a second wall, replacing the latter wall, was constructed to connect the bastion to the line of the northern town walls. What can be seen at present is a substantial wall approximately 4m high returning eastwards at the end of the main west-facing Bastion wall (Plate 46). This section of wall should be included with the west-facing Bastion Wall in terms of its treatment.

The northwestern corner of the town wall has been lost within more recent building developments in the former Market Yard and present library. Ardee Library has been built on top of the line of the town walls, on the site of the former market. There is nothing to indicate the existence of the town wall to the yard behind the library, except one possible fragment, i.e. to the rear of the library there is a modern structure built into the boundary wall, at the back of this structure there is a gap – which appears deliberate which shows a small section of rubble stone wall. A map overlay with the first edition indicates that this is along the line of the town wall, but its relationship with it is unknown, it may be associated with a former structure (Plate 47). To the rear of this boundary is a red brick seating area built into the boundary wall and a rubble stone wall with redbrick inclusions. An opportunity was perhaps lost to more effectively demarcate the line of the town walls at this location, at the time the library building was built. The line of the walls should be marked through contrasting paving to the front of the library. Market square is set back from the street in front of the library (Plate 48).

SECTION C: Head Gate to northeastern corner of the walled area (Plates 49–52)

Head Gate is located at the junction between Irish Street, Markethouse Lane and Market Street (Plate 49). This is the most northerly gate of the primary circuit (with the Irish town located outside it with its own gate Irish Gate, further north. Head Gate was strategically sited at a high point in the town where the land falls from here towards the river to the south. This drop in level creates the sense of inside and outside the medieval town. The site of Head Gate is, both historically and in terms of the town's current pattern of uses and urban form, an important point of entry to the 'old town'. This should be reflected in the treatment of the public realm, which is presently cluttered and traffic-dominated. The vehicular carriageway is unnecessarily wide and pavements are narrow.

Continuing in a north-easterly direction the wall is thought to run along the northside of Markethouse Lane (Plate 50). There are no surviving remnants of the town wall above ground, however there is a possibility that the town wall lay to the south side of Markethouse lane, as witnessed in the very thick front wall to the two storey barn to the west end of the lane (Plate 51). There are also the remains of a wall for the entire length of this street on the south side, now obscured by hedging. At end of Market House Lane prior to the road curving along the Black Ridge, the site of the wall runs through an industrial area and eventually through a greenfield. No features that might be indicative of the wall could be seen in the field (Plate 52).

Northeastern Corner to Cappock's Gate (Plates 53–56)

The site of the town wall turns in a southerly direction at the junction of the northern circuit of town wall and a deep drainage ditch. At this junction there are a few scattered boulders embedded in the field boundary.

This easterly circuit of the medieval wall circuit has been lost within more recent building developments along the eastern edge of the town, the line of the wall does not present at

all in the new landscape (Plate 53). The design of the layout of new development here has ignored the line of the wall. The line of the wall is of considerable cultural, archaeological and historical significance, as perhaps the single most important historical urban morphological feature in the town. Unfortunately, existing recent developments such as this will hinder or prevent proper demarcation of the line of the walls and are insensitive to the town's historical urban morphology. The line of the wall is not demarcated in any way to the field side, on the road, or along the edge of new housing development.

Cappock's Gate is the one identifiably upstanding remnant of the original Medieval Town Wall. The remains of the north wall of Cappock's Gate, located on the northern side of Lamb's Lane (O'Carroll Street), are the only representation of the town wall on the eastern side of the town (Plate 54). There have been recent developments to the northeast of the gate and recent archaeological evidence to the north and west of the gate of a possible medieval stone wall footing and associated features running parallel to Cappock's Gate (Conway 1999, O'Hara 2004) This feature was be preserved *in situ* as part of this development and remained undisturbed. It is housed inappropriately behind a high metal fence and the area is completely overgrown. There is some new signage on the metal gate (Plate 55) and some earlier signage cemented onto the gate itself (Plate 56)

Cappock's Gate to the River Dee (Plates 57–59)
A wall between two bungalows on the southern side of Lamb's Lane (O' Carroll Street) is locally considered to be the town wall; it is insubstantial at 60cm wide x 90cm high. The low narrow wall follows the alignment of the historical town wall but is a later re-build using probably original stone, interspersed with brick and modern cement coping (Plate 57). Though unlikely representing the town wall it does however run along the line of the town wall. The line of the route continues in a southerly direction through the former railway lands. The line of the wall has been completely removed in this area. To the south of this is the eastern boundary wall of a property and a public walkway. Along this is a rubble stone wall which varies from substantial rubble stone wall to low narrow wall following the alignment of historical town wall (Plate 58). Much of this is assumed to be a later re-build but in all likelihood incorporating much original stone. South of this is a rubble stone property boundary hidden from view which runs to the river Dee with new development abutting it (Plate 59).

Site of Bridge Gate (Plate 60)
The southern, main entrance to the town was through Bridge Gate, which stood on the north side of the bridge (Plate 60). There is a sign indicating the site of the bridge. Large metal signage adjacent to the site of Bridge Gate is poorly positioned and detracts from the appearance of the town centre approach and the Bridge Gate site.

'Irish Town' suburb from the primary town wall defences to Irish Gate and then to the line of the primary wall (Plates 61–65)
The western boundary of 'Irish Town' is also the wall bounding the HSE ground. The boundary walls along this section, supposed line of 'Irish Town', vary from approx 1.8 m down to nothing in height where fallen and is of varying thickness from approximately 450mm to 600mm (Plate 61). It is not clear if this wall formed anything more than a notional line of the extra-mural enclosure of the Town suburb and as such is of perhaps lesser significance than some other sections of wall. Indeed it is not known for certain what form the enclosure of these lands has taken. Nonetheless this wall consists of historic fabric and in the main is of traditional construction and forms both an historic boundary and current boundary. It should be awarded protected structure status at least and maintained accordingly. The site of Irish town gate is at a busy and wide road (Plate 62).

There is a very distinctive property boundary which is in line with Irish Gate. There is a particularly strong line existent just inside the location of Irish gate (Plate 63). On the east side of Irish Street the fenestration of the right hand (south) house to the two houses is

indicative of a very thick northern gable, indicating a town wall perhaps (Plate 64). Built into the property, the slightly different angle of the two facades is also indicative of a previous street alignment – perhaps coincidental with gate / town wall alignment. At this point this is conjecture. The eastern side of Irish town is industrial area and unused waste land. There is nothing here to suggest an enclosing element (Plate 65).

Appendix 1: Specific recommendations in relation to care, maintenance and conservation of the fabric of the standing walls above ground and below ground (Fig. 1)

Overview
The wall circuit was inspected and surveyed for the purposes of this Plan during November 2009.

The condition of each portion of standing remains of the town wall and each medieval structure within the town is described in this section, as compiled by Lisa Edden, Consulting Structural Engineer. Overall the condition of the town wall is considered to be structurally unstable. It will therefore require some immediate stabilising works, as well as a condition and structural survey. Cappock's Gate on the east side of the town is in a very desolate state and is also considered to be structurally unstable.

The Town Wall or walls on the alignment of the town wall

Remains of wall at low level from approx 30m north of river to 50m north of river within gardens of Malone's Terrace

This section of wall by its width and quality of stonework demonstrates a defensive form.
Whilst believed not to be medieval and possibly on a different alignment from the early town wall it could well form a reconstruction of the town wall attributable to the later ?seventeenth? century construction period. It is likely that some or most of the stone used in its construction is town wall material. As such it should still be considered in this conservation plan until such further investigations / testing proves conclusively that it is not part of the town defences.
The wall has a substantial thickness of approximately 800mm and varies in height between 900mm and 1800mm above current ground level. The wall is formed of wide squared rubble stone mostly limestone. There is much ivy and other plant growth covering this wall and obscuring its detail.

Recommended actions:-
- The alignment / location of the wall should be checked further on the ground. Test trenches may be required to conclusively clarify
- Plants / ivy should be clipped, and where necessary sawn, close to the wall face, but not pulled off the walls. Plant removal should only take place between 1st September and 28th February in accordance with the Wildlife Act. See separate specification.
- The wall should be dimensionally surveyed and stone accurate drawings made.
- Detailed structural survey and recommendations for repair / stabilisation commissioned

Remains of wall from Blind gate to Ash Walk Gate

There is a low wall to the west side of the lane. The wall is covered in cementicious render to the road side and retains approximately 600-900mm of ground to the yard to the west. There is palisade fencing to its top along its entire length. At some locations the render has spalled and squared rubble stone masonry can be seen. However because of the form this wall currently takes its thickness and form and quality of construction cannot be assessed. It is possible that some of the construction may be medieval, but at minimum part of the seventeenth century defences.

Recommended actions:-

- Remove cementicious render.
- Trial pits to yard side to understand width of wall and detail of west face stonework.
- Full dimensional survey and stone accurate drawings.
- Re-point in lime mortar to match existing mortar samples.
- Consider revising ground levels so wall becomes non-retaining.
- Consider improvement of the aesthetic of the fencing.
- If ground to west not to be reduced consider long term protection of wall to prevent salts from ground leaching through wall. Re-rendering east face with a lime based mortar may assist in providing a sacrificial coat to the wall.

Wall at Bastion

This is the most truly monumental section of the wall. It ranges in height from approximately 2m high at its south end up to 5m high at the centre of the Bastion. The wall is virtually obliterated with plant growth and the surrounding area to the west of the wall is overgrown.

The alignment of the Town Wall is less obvious to the north end of the Bastion and it is possible that there may have been revisions to the alignment associated with the seventeenth Century fortification works and also the later inclusion of Irish town.
What can be seen at present is a substantial wall approximately 4m high returning eastwards at the end of the main west facing Bastion wall. This section of wall should be included with the west facing Bastion Wall in terms of its treatment.

Recommended actions:-

- Bat survey by a qualified bat ecologist as recommended in the Ecology Survey.
  The Bat ecologist should be asked to recommend appropriate mitigation measures necessary prior to and during vegetation control. Note all bat species are protected under the Wildlife Act and it is prohibited to interfere with their roosts.
- Plants / ivy should be clipped, and where necessary sawn, close to the wall face, but not pulled off the walls. Growth at base of wall should also be contained. Plant removal should only take place between 1st September and 28th February in accordance with the Wildlife Act. See specification for containment of plant growth.
- The wall should be dimensionally surveyed and stone accurate drawings made.
- Detailed structural survey and recommendations for repair / stabilisation commissioned

Bastion

Substantial seventeenth century earthen defence now much overgrown with bushes and large mature trees – refer to Ecology Survey. The form and alignment is hard to discern because of the plant growth and also soil deposits from HSE storage of soil from construction works in the area.

Recommended actions:-

- Judicial removal of sufficient undergrowth and saplings up to 100mm diameter as part of a larger planting control exercise to the Bastion.
- Re-location of spoil heaps away from Bastion area.
- Full dimensional survey of the earthen defence and its relationship to the nearby Town Wall.

Irish Town Wall Bounding HSE grounds
This section of wall varies from approx 1.8 m down to nothing in height, where fallen, and is of varying thickness from approximately 450mm to 600mm.
It is not clear if this wall formed anything more than a notional line of the Town enclosure and as such is of perhaps lesser significance than some other sections of wall. Nonetheless this wall consists of historic fabric and in the majority is of traditional construction and forms both an historic boundary and current boundary. It should be awarded protected structure status at least and maintained accordingly.

Recommended actions:-

- Plants / ivy should be clipped, and where necessary sawn, close to the wall face, but not pulled off the walls. Plant removal should only take place between 1st September and 28th February in accordance with the Wildlife Act. See specification for containment of plant growth.
- The wall should be dimensionally surveyed and stone accurate drawings made.
- Detailed structural survey and recommendations for repair / stabilisation commissioned

Market House Lane
There is a possibility that the town wall lay to the south side of Markethouse lane as witnessed in the very thick front wall to the two storey barn to the west end of the lane. There are also the remains of a wall for the entire length of this street on the south side, now obscured by hedging.

Recommendations

- A dimensional survey of the barn
- A more though investigation of the hedge-covered wall is advised by making strip tests through the hedging in two or three locations along the wall length to establish thickness, stone detail and construction detail. Plant / ivy removal should be clipped, and where necessary sawn, close to the wall face, but not pulled off the walls. Plant removal should only take place between 1st September and 28th February in accordance with the Wildlife Act. See specification for containment of plant growth.

Cappock's gate
Cappock's Gate is the one identifiably upstanding remnant of the original Medieval Town Wall. The remaining pier of the gate is suffering from loose and falling stonework, over abundance of plant growth and inappropriate previous interventions. It maybe that this open stonework provides roosting places for not only birdlife but also bats. This gate pier is a National Monument and as such Ministerial consent is required from the Department of Environment Heritage, and Local Government for all repair works. The duty of care for the National Monument lies with the Local Authority.

Recommended actions:-

- Bat survey by a qualified bat ecologist as recommended in Ecology Survey.
  The Bat ecologist should be asked to recommend appropriate mitigation measures necessary prior to and during vegetation control and also to prevent enclosure of bat roosting crevices during repairs to mortar and stonework. Note all bat species are protected under the Wildlife Act and it is prohibited to interfere with their roosts.
- Plants / ivy should be clipped, and where necessary sawn, close to the wall face, but not pulled off the walls. Plant removal should only take place between 1st September and 28th February in accordance

with the wildlife act. See specification for containment of plant growth.
- The wall should be dimensionally surveyed and stone accurate drawings made.
- Detailed structural survey and recommendations for repair / stabilisation commissioned
- Consideration to adjoining footpath levels and surface finishes and boundary walls need to be considered in the longer term to enhance the understanding of these remains.

Wall from Cappock's Gate to railway
Low narrow wall following alignment of historical town wall but later re-build using probably original stone interspersed with brick. Modern cement coping.

Recommended actions:-
- Plants / ivy should be clipped, and where necessary sawn, close to the wall face, but not pulled off the walls. Plant removal should only take place between 1st September and 28th February in accordance with the wildlife act. See separate specification.
- Detailed structural survey and recommendations for repair / stabilisation and appropriate top of wall weathering detail commissioned.

Wall from former Railway, south to River
Wall varies from substantial rubble stone wall to low narrow wall following alignment of historical town wall. Much is assumed to be a later re-build but in all likelihood incorporating much original stone.

Recommended actions:-
- Plants / ivy should be clipped, and where necessary sawn, close to the wall face, but not pulled off the walls. Plant removal should only take place between 1st September and 28th February in accordance with the wildlife act. See separate specification.
- The wall should be dimensionally surveyed and stone accurate drawings made.
- Detailed structural survey and recommendations for repair / stabilisation and appropriate top of wall weathering detail commissioned

Other walls – Burgage and wall to west side of "Old College Lane"

Burgage walls

Ardee is full of stone walls. The extent of historic burgage / property boundaries is daunting. These walls define a pattern of development that is still influential in Ardee today. The condition of these walls in generally is not the best. These walls have to a large extent survived as they still represent legal boundaries. However this legal status has given them impunity from regular repair and maintenance or resulted in differing treatments either side resulting in undue stresses on the wall.

Recommended actions:-

- Policies for the repair and maintenance of these historic, inter-property walls needs to be set in place to preserve the historic fabric of Ardee.

Wall to west side of "Old College Lane"

One wall in particular is readily accessible to the general public and, as such, is worth mentioning, that is the wall to the west side of "Old College Lane"

This wall has significant lean out into the lane in at least two locations

Recommended actions:-

- **The wall should be urgently assessed for overall structural stability and appropriate remedial actions instigated.**
- Plants / ivy should be clipped, and where necessary sawn, close to the wall face, but not pulled off the walls. Plant removal should only take place between 1st September and 28th February in accordance with the Wildlife Act. See separate specification.
- The wall should be dimensionally surveyed and stone accurate drawings made.
- Detailed structural survey and recommendations for repair / stabilisation and appropriate top of wall weathering detail commissioned

Medieval Buildings

No detailed condition survey of these medieval buildings has been undertaken as part of this Conservation plan of the Town Wall nor was access to the interiors of the buildings gained. However, as part of understanding the context of these structures with regard to the Town Wall and early settlement, the external envelope of most of the medieval structures was briefly perused from the public areas. A number of concerns were noted, albeit a non exhaustive list:-

Courthouse Castle

This is a large four storey fortified house.

At high level to the east wall of the Keep there is much plant growth on the parapet wall, some quite large and if left to grow will start to cause more than just damp ingress or erosion of mortars.

There is erosion of pointing to the front (west) elevation base where the paving abuts the castle. This erosion may be the result of road cleaning / sweeping and it is likely that this process intermittently introduces much water into the wall base.

The south face of the castle is pointed in cementicious "Strap" style pointing. This is inappropriate to this building type and is likely to cause erosion of the stone fabric and to harbour moisture.

It is supposed that the wall to the south is part of the original bawn wall. It has undergone much buttressing in the past and yet there is still further work to be done. **Part of the south bawn wall to is in immediate danger of collapse**

Old buildings with cracks in the brickwork can be home to roosting bats and the outbuildings and bawn wall of the Courthouse castle present plenty of opportunities for this.

Recommended actions:-

- **Immediate action should be taken to commission Structural Engineer / Stone Mason to assess the south bawn wall and instigate remedial works.**
- Bat survey by a qualified bat ecologist as recommended in Ecology Survey should be undertaken before any but emergency works. The Bat ecologist should be asked to recommend appropriate mitigation measures to prevent enclosure of bat roosting crevices during repairs to mortar and stonework. Note all bat species are protected under the Wildlife Act and it is prohibited to interfere with their roosts.
- Removal of all large plants to parapets / bawn walls and drilling and pasting of root stumps as outlined in Specification for containment of plant growth. Note in this case there should be full and thorough removal of all plant growth larger than 200mm long and only the less vigorous species such as the small ferns should be retained. Plant removal should only take place between 1st September and 28th February in accordance with the Wildlife Act.
- The missing pointing to the base of the front (west) wall needs replacing with a hydraulic lime based mortar.
- In the longer term the cement-based, strap-pointing to the south elevation should be removed and the wall re pointed with the appropriate flush-finished lime mortar. The lime mortar mix should be designed to match historic mortars found on the building as closely as possible.

Hatch's Castle

Very modest four storey fortified house, with much decorative fenestration of later windows. This castle was once rendered or "dashed" with a sandy coloured gritty lime mortar as can be seen in the remnants left around the windows and upper battlements. This render would have afforded an "overcoat" to the building that would have soaked up heavy rain and then evaporated it off when drying winds returned. Without it, it is prone to damp penetration. Not only has the loss of render made this building vulnerable but has also led to the further loss of pointing between the stones. This is particularly apparent at parapet level. Water is also entering into the stonework from the backed up gutters and blocked downpipe to the north side of the front elevation. The ivy growth will also be causing some, if not extensive, damage to the pointing and stonework.

Recommended actions:-

- In the very short term clearance of leaking gutter and blocked downpipe to the north side of the front elevation should be undertaken to limit water ingress to the building.
- All missing pointing needs to be replaced with hydraulic lime based mortar matched as closely as possible to samples of historic mortar found on the building to the base of the front (west) wall.
- The ivy should be contained tight to the wall by vigorous clipping, and where necessary sawn, close to the wall face, but not pulled off the walls. Plant removal should only take place between 1st September and 28th February in accordance with the Wildlife Act. See separate specification.
- In the longer term the re-dashing of the building in a lime render should be considered.

Chantry College

Two storey with attic, keep-type building, currently roofless and windowless.
The wall tops without a roof are becoming eroded. The timber lintels – mostly replacement lintels, are rotting. There are areas of cement pointing.

Recommended actions:-

- Consolidation of the wall tops is required to prevent loss of fabric and the danger of loose and falling masonry.
- The rotten timber lintels require replacement before more serious structural erosion of masonry occurs.
- Re-pointing of cement pointed areas and areas of missing pointing should be carried out.

St Mary's Parish Church
The majority of this building is of much later date than the medieval period however there are still remains of the earlier church to be seen in the ruined chancel and also stone wall remains to the north side. The chancel now forms a much rebuilt low walled rubble stone enclosure with cement coping and gate piers. The stone remnants to the north side of the church are crumbling and have tree roots threaded through. Thus there is both over treatment and under treatment of the walls of the older church - a more consistent approach is required.

Recommended actions:-

- A rigorous historical research of the remains of the earlier church needs to be undertaken and / or, if already in existence carried through to the enhancement and maintenance of the site.
- A conservation based approach to the historic fabric needs to be established.

Specification for short term containment of plant growth abutting and on/in Wall

All vegetation cutting / removal should occur within the period 1st September to 28th February (dates inclusive) to comply with the Wildlife Act 1976 and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.
Only very specific use of herbicides or biocides as mentioned below is to be deployed at any stage as the general policy is to reduce the plant growth but not kill it. All vegetation waste should be chipped on site and a place for disposal, preferably in the nearby vicinity, agreed with the Council. Note waste must be disposed of correctly and in accordance with the Waste Management Acts 1996 to 2008, under which parties disposing of the waste must be licenced.

Access for works
It is assumed that all work above 1.8 metres will be carried out from a safe access platform such as a small articulating boom lift type or similar hoist operated by personnel qualified to do such. Thus it is recommended that the Tree Surgeon / Landscape Gardener either provide or hire the chosen hoist and liaise directly with the plant hire company. This is to ensure that the people carrying out the work are responsible for the safe operation of the access platform.

Removal of Vegetation near the Wall
All saplings, brambles and other vegetation over 0.3m in height within 1 metre of the wall should be removed to ground level. Any branches overhanging the wall and within 0.5m of the top of the wall are to be cut back to 1m from the wall. All saplings and bush stumps within 1 metre of the wall should be drilled and injected / pasted with a suitable biocide. *No spraying of vegetation with biocide is to be carried out under any circumstances because of the potential drift onto desirable plants / wildlife.*
Any tree of trunk diameter greater than 100mm within this 1m zone is to be left untouched excepting if a branch interferes with the wall top and will be assessed at a later date.

Removal of vegetation growing on and in the Walls

All the plant growth growing from the sides or top of the wall should be clipped back hard. The vegetation may be mechanically trimmed initially but then carefully cut close to the building by hand.

Hedge trimmers and croppers are likely to be the appropriate tools for this job.

It is possible that bats are roosting in the dense ivy growing on the wall at the Bastion area. This should only be cut after inspection by a qualified bat ecologist, who will recommend appropriate mitigation measures. All bat species are protected under the Wildlife Act and it is prohibited to interfere with their roosts.

It is extremely important not to pull any plants away from the masonry walls as this will dislodge stones and mortar.

Any deep seated roots are to be left in place (removal will form part of later masonry repair works).

No tree or bush roots growing from the building are to be treated. The treatment of these roots should only happen alongside masonry repair works to the building at a later date.

Under no circumstances should ivy that is growing up the walls be cut at the base as this only encourages development of the aerial roots and potential for much greater damage to the building in future years

Appendix 2: Actions, opportunities for improved presentation and urban integration

Overview

The line of the former town walls and the main public spaces in the town were visited on 5th November 2009 by representatives from all the teams involved in the preparation of this Plan. A second review inspection, to discuss some of the findings and observations of the first multi-disciplinary team visit, was made by Siobhan Deery and Margaret Gowen later in November. Consarc looked particularly at the identification of issues relating to the spaces or buildings adjacent to the town walls, with the aim of improving public access, awareness, appreciation, and appearance of the walls, other medieval monuments and adjacent spaces. Issues identified varied considerably from place to place along the line of the walls, depending on context. Analysis and recommendations relate to a series of specific locations and are, for the most part, brief. Brief recommendations are aimed at identifying actions for further design or development. Where the issues identified have a more significant effect on the walls, other medieval features, or to the future physical development of Ardee, more detailed recommendations are made relating to the public realm, orientation, built form, etc.

The following table lists issues identified along and around the line of the town walls and outlines recommendations relating to the improvement of the public realm and how the form of future development might best address the line of the walls and other significant historical features.

Location	Issues	Actions, Opportunities and Recommendations
Ford over River Dee	This important location, the origin of the town, is only marked by paving and seats. The adjacent warehouse detracts from this historically significant site.	Better landscape treatment of site, particularly around warehouse. More substantial interpretative information and signage. The design of interpretative signage requires careful consideration to determine the appropriate extent and presentation of content, a sensitive form, and materials sensitive to each location and to the town as a whole. This location could mark the start of a walking route along the line of the town wall.
Site of wall on northern bank of River Dee	Site of wall not marked in any way	The location of the wall should be acknowledged, for example through erection of interpretative signage adjacent to public path on opposite side of river bank.
Site of Bridge Gate	Signage already present.	Renew and upgrade signage as part of any wider upgrade programme.
	Hard landscape upgraded to an extent, though not specifically to gate location.	Upgrade hard landscape to specifically mark site of Bridge Gate.
	Large metal signage adjacent to site of Bridge Gate is poorly positioned and detracts from appearance of the town centre approach and the Bridge Gate site.	Remove large metal signage and replace with something more sensitive and more sensitively located.
Laneway south of Blind Gate	Nothing to indicate line of wall.	New signage could be fitted to indicate the location of the wall. Laneway boundaries could be upgraded, particularly those to the east edge of the laneway.

Location	Issues	Actions, Opportunities and Recommendations
	Centra car park particularly unattractive.	The entrance and boundary to the Centra Car Park should be re-designed to screen the car park from the laneway.
	Poor appearance of derelict, but intact burgage plots to east of laneway.	New uses should be investigated for the derelict site (surviving burgage plot), including short to medium-term interim uses. The site should at least be tidied in the short term.
Blind Gate - junction of Jervis Street and Ash Walk	Very poor pedestrian environment (narrow pavements, or no pavements, unnecessarily wide vehicular carriageway, blank facades / walls). RHS of Barrett's Lane, towards Ardee Castle dominated by car parking.	General improvement of public realm is required, including construction of pavements where missing, narrowing of carriageway, possible planting of trees and re-paving / landscaping generally and around reduced on-street car parking in particular.
	No indication of line of walls or site of Blind Gate. Bins left on pavement outside commercial building.	Specific marking of the site of Blind Gate and of the line of the walls through use of contrasting pavement materials, also serving as traffic calming measures. A more appropriate storage location for bins requires consideration, away from the site of Blind Gate. Materials should be carefully chosen to reflect and respect the historic significance of the site.
Line of wall along Ash Walk	This laneway is unattractive, most particularly as a result of the tall metal fencing along the line of the walls.	Boundary fencing should be upgraded and interpretative signage fitted to demarcate the line of walls. This part of Ash Walk would also benefit from at least replacement of the street surface finish with alternative paving materials immediately adjacent to line of walls. Ideally, in the longer term, a more sympathetic use for site the present industrial site adjacent to Ash Walk has the potential to greatly enhance the Ash Walk and the area between and around Blind Gate and Ash Walk Gate.
Ash Walk Gate	Desolate setting, surrounded by car parks and industrial site.	Street paving should be upgraded to specifically mark the site of Ash Walk Gate. The boundary to the supermarket car park should be more attractively landscaped. This should aim to screen the car park from the site of Ash Gate. The line of the town wall north of Ash Walk Gate should be protected and could be marked with signage, perhaps in-ground. See also comments below, under the heading, "Line of wall at McCreanor's Terrace, The Black Ridge", relating to future development. Where the line of the wall coincides with hard paving, this should be marked with contrasting paving materials. The line of the wall north of Ash Walk Gate is an important link in any potential walking route

Location	Issues	Actions, Opportunities and Recommendations
		along the line of the walls.
Bastion	The bastion is extremely overgrown and appears to be largely forgotten about, except for a few local drinkers.	Clearance of vegetation from the Bastion (except for trees on the earthwork, itself) and improved public access and interpretation should be facilitated by the creation of a walking route along the line of the town wall. It is acknowledged that 24-hour access might encourage antisocial behaviour; therefore, careful consideration should be given to using gates to limit access to the bastion and to sections of the walkway, to daylight hours only. Care needs to be taken to ensure that no dead-ends are created along the walkway due to the installation of gates.
	The only two existing accesses to the bastion are from private land – from the nursing home, and a gateway to the rear of the health centre.	Investigate forming a public walking route from Market Street to the line of the town walls, via the rear of the health centre, to link with the walking route along the line of the town wall. This link should be gated and only accessible during daylight hours.
	Large unattractive railings presently bound the southern end of the bastion and prevent access.	The existing metal railings around the bastion, to the rear of the supermarket car park, should be replaced with a more sensitive railing with public gates.
The line of the wall to the west of Ardee, bounding burgage plots and wooded area north of the nursing home		The wooded area immediately to the west of the line of the walls, and the surviving burgage plots to the other side, should be protected from building development. This area would form an important and attractive portion of a proposed walking route along the line of the walls.
Housing to rear of library (at No.4)	This isolated and relatively new housing development is not sensitive to the historic layout and urban grain of the town.	Development within the line of the walls is not unreasonable, but the siting and orientation of new housing developments in Ardee requires very careful consideration with regard to its impact on the historic plan form of the town. Because much of the historic physical fabric of the town has been lost, the importance of preserving the town's plan, in the form of streets, burgage plots and the line of the walls, is especially important in order that as much of the historical and cultural significance, and our understanding of the town, is retained into the future. A framework plan or masterplan would address these issues in detail and provide valuable design guidance to future development.

Location	Issues	Actions, Opportunities and Recommendations
Site of Ardee Library and parking area to the rear	Ardee Library has been built on top of the line of the town walls, on the site of the former market. Nothing to indicate wall to the yard behind the library, except one possible fragment.	An opportunity was perhaps lost to more effectively demarcate the line of the town walls at this location, at the time the library building was built. The line of the walls should be marked through contrasting paving to the front of the library. See under "Head Gate", below, for more detail.
Site of Head gate	Existing historic buildings (including the Fabric Shop and Martin's) are an important part of the character of the site, though both buildings are run down.	Refurbishment of The Fabric Shop and Martin's would benefit the location.
	The site of Head gate is, both historically and in terms of the town's current pattern of uses and urban form, an important arrival point. This should be reflected in the treatment of the public realm, which is presently cluttered, car-dominated, the vehicular carriageway is unnecessarily wide, pavements are narrow.	Public realm would greatly benefit from a more pedestrian-friendly and attractive treatment. Removal of cars (except for a very limited number of disabled spaces) Removal of clutter, specifically: - flower basket stands and flower boxes. New planting (trees) can green the space much more effectively and attractively. These trees should perhaps be sited in rows around the square edge, at approximately 5m intervals (?). A tree should be chosen that does not dominate the buildings and space, but that adds to it; therefore trees should be chosen that will grow up to around the eaves height of the library (c 5m). - vehicular and pedestrian signposts (these should be replaced with more sympathetically designed signage, using materials appropriate to the character of the town and sited in an unobtrusive way) - street parking. A small number of spaces on Market Street, on both sides, at either side of the square, should be removed and the pavement should extend over this space, right to the actual carriageway edge, thereby increasing pedestrian space and reducing the impact of cars at this important space. The square, as a whole, should centre on a usable, uncluttered, paved area for events, street markets, etc. The statue is a prominent and important landmark and should remain in its present location. Existing trees split the square and road into two distinct spaces. Until Ardee has a bypass road, these should remain *in situ*, but should be removed when the town is bypassed, in

Location	Issues	Actions, Opportunities and Recommendations
		order that the square and Market Street can be read as a single, pedestrian space. The square should be re-paved, with no changes in paving surface level. Until a bypass is completed, the square/pavement level should be differentiated from the carriageway of Market Street by a change in level, as at present. New seating should be introduced around the edge of the square, under the new trees. Any tourist information signage should also be located below the trees at the edges of the square in locations where it does not detract from either the buildings or the space. Bins should be carefully chosen and located near to seating, and not in locations where they are obstructive to pedestrians. Telegraph poles and wires should be relocated beneath the street surface and new unobtrusive street lighting selected (building-mounted, where possible). New paving should clearly demarcate the line of the town walls and site of the gate through use of contrasting paving. This could take the form of flat, machine-cut granite stone setts on the line of the walls and natural limestone flagstone paving (as already outside the Castle) on other areas.
Line of wall at McCreanor's Terrace, The Black Ridge (No.15).	The design of the layout of new development here has ignored the line of the wall. The line of the wall is of considerable cultural, archaeological and historical significance, as perhaps the single most important historical urban morphological feature in the town. Unfortunately, existing recent developments such as this will hinder or prevent proper demarcation of the line of the walls and are insensitive to the town's historical urban morphology.	The wall offers huge potential, not only in terms of wall walks or interpretation, but also in terms of defining a layout for new development; a layout with historical and cultural significance, meaning and character. Where possible, new housing development should be designed in such a way that it addresses the line of the wall in a positive way. The wall might be best demarcated through ensuring that adjacent space is fully accessible public space, preferably with building frontage facing onto it, to promote passive surveillance and to ensure that the space is properly defined and legible. The most appropriate locations for new housing, and how specific urban design problems are addressed, would be best solved in a comprehensive and detailed framework plan for the town as a whole.
	Line of wall is not demarcated in any way to the field side, on the road, and along the edge of new housing	Contrasting paving materials could demarcate the line of the walls.

Location	Issues	Actions, Opportunities and Recommendations
	development.	
Cappock's Gate	This gate is marked only by inaccurate signage, affixed with inappropriate hard cement mortar.	Replace signage as part of wider programme of new interpretative signage for the whole length of the walls, using appropriate traditional materials. See also recommendations relating to signage, under "Ford over River Dee". Remove ivy and re-point wall remnant to conservation architect's specification.
The College	The setting of this building is generally attractive, though the new housing backing onto the public park creates a less than ideal private-public interface.	More careful consideration should be given to Front-Back Public-Private spatial relationships in the design of new housing layouts.
	There is no direct access route from the college onto Market Street.	The creation of a new pedestrian access route between Market Street and the Millennium Park would improve access to Market Street from housing to the east, and would generate greater footfall through the Millennium Park and better access to the College.
	Gravel in front of the College is being overgrown by weeds.	Weeds should be removed from the front of the College and the space re-gravelled.
	The College Building requires maintenance work to its fabric and replacement of steel plates with more sensitive gates.	A conservation architect should advise on conservation works (including vegetation removal, re-pointing and replacement of steel plates) to the College building.
Tierney Street	The line of the town walls is not marked	See comments relating to the line of the wall at McCreanor's Terrace, The Black Ridge (No.15).
Railway walk between Tierney Street and O'Carroll Street	There is presently no indication as to the location of the line of the walls.	Some interpretative signage could provide some basic information to walkers at the line of the walls.
General	Throughout town, street furniture is generally of a very generic type that is not entirely appropriate to Ardee. Though the bright blue colour on street furniture is the predominant colour on the coat of arms of Ardee Town Council, it is perhaps a little too prominently featured on the town's generic street furniture.	New street furniture should be carefully designed and/or selected…
	Existing coarsely riven	New paving should use natural stone to the

Location	Issues	Actions, Opportunities and Recommendations
	limestone flag paving and granite setts outside Ardee Castle are reasonably attractive, effective and tend to weather well over a considerable period of time. Modern concrete setts have been used in a number of places and tend to weather badly and do not look attractive after a number of years.	palette of finishes already established outside Ardee Castle.
Ardee Castle	Lighting to Ardee Castle is unsightly and obtrusive.	Replace lighting with more sensitive, modern and subtle fittings.
	There is an unnecessary amount of street clutter in places, such as outside Ardee Castle.	Traffic lights should be carefully selected, non-standard fittings and only located immediately in front of Ardee Castle if absolutely necessary. The traffic lights and other associated clutter should be minimised and preferably relocated to a more appropriate location.
Hatch's Castle	Parking immediately in front of Castle dominates the setting.	Parking should be removed from the front of the Castle and the area more attractively landscaped, perhaps with a small area of seating.
	Hatch's Castle requires a considerable amount of stone repair work	Obtain advice of conservation architect
St Mary's Church	Parking dominates street in front. Existing concrete paving setts are likely to date and weather fairly quickly.	Removal of parking and more attractive public realm treatment would benefit the setting of the church considerably. Replace as part of longer-term programme of public realm improvements, which should be identified as part of a separate and more detailed public realm plan.
	Large wheelie bin is presently stored immediately in front of the Market Cross in the church grounds.	An alternative and more subtle location for bin storage should be found, to one side of the front courtyard of the church.
	Ruin of mediaeval chancel is badly overgrown at present.	Plants should be cleared and a maintenance regime adopted.

Appendix 3: Ecology Survey of Ardee Town Walls

Introduction and scope

As part of a management plan commissioned by Louth County Council for the town walls of Ardee, OPENFIELD Ecological Services carried out a survey of the ecological resource along the wall's route for lead partners Margaret Gown & Co. Ltd. This report presents the findings of the ecology study and consists of the results of the ground survey as well as recommendations for protecting and enhancing this resource in the management plan.

Areas of ecological interest

Survey methodology

The site was surveyed on November 5th 2009. This is outside the optimal season for general habitat surveys and is also a period when many faunal species are absent or inactive. A species list is of vascular plants (also known as higher plants, this includes flowering plants and ferns) is presented as an appendix to this report but must be seen as incomplete since many species of flora will not be apparent at this time of year. Despite this, broad habitat types can be recognised and where relevant these are referenced to *A Guide to Habitats in Ireland* (Fossitt, 2000). Nomenclature for flora is referenced to the *Census Catalogue of the Flora of Ireland* (Scannell & Synnott, 1987) for common names and *An Irish Flora* (Webb et al., 1997) for scientific names. Where mosses or liverworts are recorded (collectively known as bryophytes) these are referenced to *A Checklist and Census Catalogue of British and Irish Bryophytes* (Hill et al., 2008).

Target notes were made of interesting or important ecological features and these are discussed in the relevant sections.

The route of the wall is taken to start on the bank of the river Dee to the west of the present bridge that leads onto Castle Street. The banks of the river here are likely to be much altered since the establishment of the first human settlements – leading to a narrower channel (and so faster flow) than had existed.

General Area

Ardee is situated in the low-lying east of Ireland in a landscape that is today primarily converted to intensive agricultural production. It is underlain by bedrock of sedimentary rocks including limestone, mudstone and shale – rocks that are easily eroded and so lend the soil above its fertile properties (McConnell & Gatley, 2006). The river Dee passes to the south, having risen in the uplands of Cavan and flowing to its mouth on the Irish Sea at Annagassan. While the river is known to contain stocks of Brown trout *Salmo trutta* as well as migratory Atlantic salmon *S. salar* and Sea trout *S. trutta,* the Environmental Protection Agency has determined this stretch of the Dee to be moderately polluted (Clabby et al., 2008). Under the European Union's Water Framework Directive this is unsatisfactory and a programme of measures will be undertaken to ensure that 'good ecological status' exists by 2015.

Important nearby areas include Ardee bog, which, until the 19th century, was an extensive area of raised bog and fen (Mitchell, 1997). While today a much smaller area is designated as a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA), and therefore a site of national importance, it remains under threat from drainage, dumping and building. Up until the 18th century, when large scale drainage works commenced, it would have been a formidable barrier stretching to the north-west, across which transport would have been all but impossible.

To the north-east lie Ardee woods, also a pNHA, which is an area of semi-natural woodland consisting of Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Oak *Quercus robur*, and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* with some Yew *Taxus baccata*, Elm *Ulmus glabra*, Holm Oak *Quercus ilex* and Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hipposcastanum* (NPWS, unknown year).

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) maintain a 'mapviewer' tool that highlights the recorded presence of protected species within 10km squares. This is not intended to be a

comprehensive list and is not intended to suggest the absence of other protected species. The town of Ardee straddles two of these squares, N98 and N99, however only one species is recorded in the plant Annual knawel *Scleranthus annus.* This record dates from 1900 and has not been noted since 1970 (Preston et al., 2002).

Results of site survey

From an ecology point of view the route of the wall can be divided into three parts.

1. The river Dee
2. The Bastion and surrounds
3. Extant remains of the Ardee town wall and other features (the Courthouse; Hatch's castle; grounds of St. Mary's church; and Chantry College).

The river Dee

Aside from its fishery importance (detailed above), the river Dee and its riparian margin is an important feature for local wildlife. It is also likely to be home to important species such as Otter *Lutra lutra* whose presence in this area was recorded in the most recent national survey (Bailey & Rochford, 2006). Ireland's Otter population is of European importance and it is listed under Annex II of the Habitats Directive. Another important species, the Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis,* has been recorded in this area (Gibbons et al., 1993).

The river banks in the survey area are well vegetated and there is a mix of species including tall trees and species that are closely associated with the aquatic environment. Tree species include Birch *Betula sp.,* Alder *Alnus glutinosa,* Willow *Salix sp.,* and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* while also frequent are Bramble *Rubus fruticosus,* Traveller's joy *Clematis vitalba,* Butterfly bush *Buddleja davidii* and Elder *Sambucus nigra.* Nearer the river bank there are narrow stands of Reed canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, Wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris* and Giant rhubarb *Gunnera tinctoria.* The latter species is distinctive with its spiny stems and enormous leaves and is classified as one of our 'most unwanted' alien invasive species (see www.invasivespeciesireland.com). It is a problem because it reduces local biodiversity, resulting in areas exclusively composed of Giant rhubarb.

This area can be classified as **lowland/depositing river – FW2** and is a vital corridor for the conservation of species at the local level. The bridge over the river Dee has been colonised by a small number of plants including Ivy-leaved toadflax *Cymbalaria muralis,* ferns such as the Maidenhair spleenwort *Asplenium trichomanes,* the moss *Grimmia pulvinata* and the yellow lichens *Xanthoria sp.* While the underneath of the bridge was not examined it is possible that bats could be roosting in cracks or crevices.

The Bastion and surrounds

This is an area of broad-leaved woodland on the grounds of the HSE care home (St. Joseph's). The trees are predominantly Beech and Sycamore although a number of other species are also present including Yew, Oak, Ash and Wych elm *Ulmus glabra.* Both Beech and Sycamore are non-native species and therefore this woodland can be classified as **(mixed) broadleaved woodland – WD1**. While this is of lower conservation value than semi-natural woodland (now very rare in Ireland), all broadleaved woodlands are of at least local importance for their biodiversity and amenity value. While November is not an optimal time for surveying woodland ground flora it is apparent that Ivy *Hedera helix* is a dominant component. There is a scanty shrub layer with a small number of Holly *Ilex aquifolium,* Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and some sapling trees. A Grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis,* also a 'most unwanted' alien invasive species, was noted and they are known to strip the bark off sapling trees, perhaps explaining why the shrub layer is not more developed. Ground level species that were noted include Common nettle *Urtica dioica,* Hart's tongue *Phyllitis scolopendrium,* and Hedge woundwort *Stachys sylvatica.* The alien invasive Cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* ('most unwanted') is also present but not in considerable numbers. Nevertheless it does present a grave threat to the future of the woodland.

Another 'most unwanted' alien invasive species is the Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* as this is present at the edge of the woodland, in an open glade.

There is a good deal of dead wood present throughout the woodland and this is a very healthy feature, recycling nutrients and providing habitat for invertebrates and fungi (among them the Jew's ear *Auricularia auricularia-judae* and Coral spot fungus *Nectria cinnabarina*). There is also likely to be a diverse range of breeding birds and mammals present including protected species such as Hedgehog *Erinaceous europaeus,* Irish stoat *Mustela erminea,* and Pygmy shrew *Sorex minutus.* While this woodland presents good habitat for Badger *Meles meles* no evidence of their presence was found. The Ivy covered trees and section of wall running alongside the woodland is good locations for roosting bats. All of these species are protected under the Wildlife Act 1976 as Amended, 2000.

Apart from alien invasive species a significant conservation issue with this woodland is its use for dumping, storage of construction spoil and access of heavy construction vehicles (there was construction work under way at the time of the survey). This can facilitate the spread of invasive species, directly remove woodland plants and tree saplings while also compacting soil and so limiting the potential for seed germination.

Figure 1 – Broadleaved woodland on the HSE grounds

Extant sections of walls and other relevant buildings

Elsewhere along the wall's route there are extant sections of wall as well as important medieval buildings. Walls such as these tend to attract a range of plant species and while these can add to the wall's aesthetic, they can also undermine its structure. Of principle concern is Ivy which is present in significant quantity. Ivy is a native perennial climbing plant and it is not a parasite as it generates its own food and sources water and nutrients through its own root system. Its biology is unusual in that it flowers in winter and its berries ripen in spring – the opposite to most other plants and trees. In doing so it provides a valuable food source for birds and insects when other food is scarce. Its dense cover, for instance along the walls at the Bastion area, provides nesting space for birds and roosting sites for bats. On the other hand it is aggressive and where Ivy is established there are normally few other plant species. The diversity of flowers, ferns and lichens is consequently diminished. Its roots systems can be extensive and these can cause significant damage to the structural integrity of old walls and especially their mortar bonding, where it has

already gained a foothold. Where it is extensive and mature, its removal can result in serious structural damage however. Recommendations for its control and treatment are made at the end of this report.

Apart from Ivy, typical species include Red valerian *Centranthus ruber,* Annual meadow-grass *Poa annua,* Bramble, and the ferns Polypody *Polypdoium vulgare,* and Maidenhair spleenwort. In some areas sapling trees have taken root and these are typically of Sycamore or Ash. These saplings are a potential threat to the wall's structure.

In one case, near the north-east corner of the route, the wall is overtopped with a hedgerow, although this is very tightly managed and dominated with Ivy. Treelines are also a feature in some stretches although it is not clear if these are coincident with the route of the wall. A Badger path was noted along the northern line, leading from an open field into an area of scrub to the rear of private gardens.

In the graveyard of St. Mary's church there is little of ecological interest although the older headstones have been colonised by lichens. These organisms lend colour and texture to the stone and do not damage it, although they do obscure engravings.

Overall these walls have a moderate biodiversity value and ferns, lichens etc. can lend the stone interesting and beautiful features without damaging it. Ivy can be of high value for certain species and this must be considered as part of the overall management plan.

Medieval structures such as Cappock's gate, the Courthouse, Hatch's castle and the Chantry College, do not contain much by way of plant life. The rear of the Courthouse however is colonised with Butterfly bush and Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster microphyllus* in places and these are large enough to cause structural damage. Old buildings with cracks in the brickwork can be home to roosting bats and this may well be the case at these sites. At Chantry College, the lack of any vegetation connecting the building to hedgerows or treelines means the likelihood of bats occupying this space is low.

Recommendations

There are a number of reasons to integrate ecology into the final management plan for the Ardee town walls. Firstly, where important ecological features, in this case the river Dee and the Bastion woodland, coincide with the route of the old wall, these will complement the amenity value where increased access is planned. Secondly, it is important to ensure that wildlife law, and in particular the Wildlife Act, is observed for any works that will be undertaken. These recommendations are presented in no particular order:

1. Control of alien invasive species.

A number of Ireland's 'most unwanted' alien invasive species were recorded during this survey including: Grey squirrel, Giant rhubarb, Cherry laurel and Japanese knotweed. Their status must be considered under actions in the management plan so that their spread is not facilitated through disturbance; and that their control is included within any plan for developing access or amenity in these areas. Specifically, if it is planned to develop the Bastion area for public access, it is recommended that that the removal of Cherry laurel and Japanese knotweed is included as an action. The control of Grey squirrel is not recommended as this can only be achieved as part of a wider management programme.

2. Control of Ivy and other vegetation growing on the wall

Ivy should only be cut back where this is deemed essential for the conservation of the wall. Where Ivy is to be cut then this should only be done outside the bird breeding season, as prescribed in the Wildlife Act, from September 1st to February 28th. It is possible that bats are roosting in the dense Ivy growing on the wall at the Bastion area. This should only be cut after inspection by a

qualified bat ecologist, who will recommend appropriate mitigation measures. This survey must take place during an appropriate time of year (generally April – September) as bats hibernate, and so are inactive, during the winter months. All bat species are protected under the Wildlife Act and it is prohibited to interfere with their roosts.

While large plants such as tree saplings and Butterfly bush may also need to be controlled to avoid damage to the walls, other vegetation such as small flowers, ferns, lichens and mosses are in no way injurious to the wall's structure and enhance the wall's character. These should not be removed or sprayed with herbicide.

3. Woodland management at the Bastion

If the management plan for the wall includes developing public assess to the Bastion area then this action should include management of the woodland ecology. This will include control of invasive species (see item 1 above) as well as other measures:

- To avoid excessive trampling of the woodland vegetation a marked trail should be developed.
- Consultation should take place with the HSE to emphasise the importance of the wall and woodland to the county's heritage. Specifically the woodland should not be used as a storage area for construction spoil or machinery access.

4. Protection of bats in medieval buildings

Bats are known to roost in the smallest crevices in stone work and old buildings provide plenty of opportunities for this. Should structural enhancement works be required at Cappock's Gate, the Courthouse, Hatch's Castle or Chantry College it is essential that roosting bats be protected. Such works may include re-applying mortar to brick work and this should only be done following consultation with a qualified bat ecologist.

5. Enhancement measures

Walls and other stone structures are generally not associated with wildlife but as discussed they can provide resources for important species. Chief among these are bats and enhancement measures for these mammals are available by erecting suitable bat boxes. The wall at the Bastion is a prime location for this but the sides of buildings like the Courthouse or Hatch's castle are also suitable.

Small flowers and other plants are best left to colonise by themselves and avoiding the use of herbicides is the best way to encourage this.

Conclusion

The route of the Ardee town wall passes through locally important areas of biodiversity value. These are centred along the river Dee and the woodland at the site of the Bastion. Species of conservation significance include the Otter, Kingfisher, Atlantic salmon, and possibly several species of bat. There are also a wide variety of common plants and animals that are important in their own right as they unpin the ecosystems in which they live. Threats to these ecosystems include alien invasive species and the misuse of woodlands for storage, dumping and movement of machinery.

This report has highlighted the valuable ecological features along the wall's route and made recommendations for its protection and enhancement as part of the overall management plan.

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Appendix 3.1 – Species list for habitat identified during site survey

(Mixed) Broadleaved woodland - WD1	
*Acer pseudoplatanus**	Sycamore
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow parsley
Auricularia auricularia-judae	Jew's ear
Brachythecium rutabulum	Moss
Calystegia sepium	Hedge bindweed
Cirsium sp.	Thistle
*Cotoneaster microphyllus**	Small-leaved cotoneaster
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
Epilobium hirsutum	Great willowherb
*Fagus sylvatica**	Beech
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash
*Fuchsia magellanica**	Fuchsia
Galium aparine	Cleavers
Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert
Hedera helix	Ivy
Ilex aquifolium	Holly
Isothecium myosuroides	Mouse-tail moss
*Leycesteria formosa**	Himalayan honeysuckle
Ligustrum vulgare	Wild privet
Nectria cinnabarina	Coral spot fungus
Phyllitis scolopendrium	Hart's tongue
Polypodium vulgare	Polypody
Populus tremula	Aspen
*Prunus laurocerasus**	Cherry laurel
Quercus sp.	Oak
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup
Rubus fruticosus	Bramble
*Rubus spectabilis**	Salmonberry
Sambucus nigra	Elder
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge woundwort
*Symphoricarpos albus**	Snowberry
Taxus baccata	Yew
Ulmus glabra	Wych elm
Urtica dioica	Common nettle

Stone walls and other stone work - BL1	
*Acer pseudoplatanus**	Sycamore
Asplenium trichomanes	Maidenhair spleenwort
*Buddleja davidii**	Butterfly-bush
*Centranthus ruber**	Red valerian
*Cotoneaster microphyllus**	Small-leaved cotoneaster
*Cymbalaria muralis**	Ivy-leaved toadflax
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot
Fallopia convolvulus	Black-bindweed
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash
Grimmia pulvinata	Moss
Hedera helix	Ivy

*Papaver rhoeas**	Common poppy
Poa annua	Annual meadow-grass
Polypodium vulgare	Polypody
Rubus fruticosus	Bramble
Senecio jacobaea	Common ragwort
Taraxacum sp.	Dandelion
Xanthoria sp.	Yellow lichens

Depositing lowland river - FW2	
*Acer pseudoplatanus**	Sycamore
Alnus glutinosa	Alder
Angelica sylvestris	Wild angelica
Betula sp.	Birch
*Buddleja davidii**	Butterfly-bush
*Clematis vitalba**	Traveller's-joy
*Cupressocyparis leylandii**	Leylandii
*Gunnera tinctoria**	Giant-rhubarb
Phalaris arundinacea	Reed canary-grass
Rubus fruticosus	Bramble
Rumex sp.	Doc
Salix sp.	Willow
Sambucus nigra	Elder

Appendix 4: Protected Structures listed in the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2009-2015 related to the medieval town of Ardee

ID No	Street	Structure	Type
LHs 017-006	Market Street	St. Mary's Church of Ireland Church (C of I)	Church of Ireland church built on the site of an earlier church. Graveyard includes medieval cross fragment
Lhs 017-009	Market Street	Hatch Castle	Rectangular, four-storey tower house with rounded corners. C15 or C 16. Renovated in 1837 as dwelling.
Lhs 017-017	Castle Street	Ardee Castle	Attached multiple-bay, four-storey stone tower house, built c. 1600
Lhs 017-028	College Park	Chantry College Ruins from 1487	Only the southern port survives, a rectangular three-storey structure with high pointed gables
Lhs 017-039	Cappock's Gate	Ardee town wall	Remnants of medieval town wall
Lhs 0170034	Dawson's Demesne	Castle Guard Fort	Motte and ringfort from 1185. During the 18thC it appears to have been surrounded by an octagonal wall. Two ramparts and ditches surround the motte
Lhs 017-035	Fair Green Road	St Joseph's Hospital/Ardee House	Detached 7-bay, two-storey over basement former house c. 1780. Tower house and earth work fortification in the grounds

Appendix 5: Excavations carried out within Ardee Town

The following information has been extracted from the Excavation.ie Website (www.excavations.ie), and is presented as it is entered on the database.

Excavations/assessments within the town

Ardee Bakery, corner of Castle Street/Tierney Street,
NGR 296250 29042, 02E0311,
Shanahan, Excavations 2002:1285

Pre-planning archaeological testing was carried out on a c. 50m^2 site, twelve test-pits were opened across the site, which yielded a limited view of individual features. Excavation within the pits was only carried out where deemed necessary to define the depth and nature of particular deposits. There was extensive evidence of medieval and post-medieval occupation, including buildings, property boundaries and pits. Test-pits within the standing 20th-century bakery building on the Castle Street front indicated that a sequence of floors and walls below the present building related to three post-medieval buildings that covered a medieval building and associated occupation. Below the modern concrete floor a red-brick floor sat on a rubble demolition. The sequence of post medieval building began in the 18th century. The corner of a medieval building was exposed below these levels (0.9m below the modern bakery floor). The walls (0.6–1m thick) were constructed of clay-bonded, water-rolled stones. Occupation deposits consisted of a hearth area set on natural subsoil and two stake-holes, perhaps for a cooking spit. They were sealed by orange/brown clay. A grey silty clay containing medieval pottery covered this and appeared to extend over the rear wall of the house, suggesting that it had been demolished in the Middle Ages. Testing on the Tierney Street front below the level of the modern building revealed a clay-bonded, north–south-running gable wall of an 18th- or 19th-century building. The upper occupation deposit (occurring 1.1m below the modern bakery surface) contained metal slag and black- to green-glazed, coal-measure-tempered ware, suggesting abandonment in the 17th century. Excavations stopped at this level. The yard area revealed the foundations of a rectangular building indicated on the first-edition OS map (1835). The foundations cut into black clay containing medieval ceramics, but red brick in the wall core suggests that it was constructed no earlier than the 18th century. A post-medieval box drain and an earth closet were also exposed to the rear of the property. Medieval features uncovered in the yard consisted of three ditches that correspond to property boundaries marked on the first-edition OS map. The most complete boundary, running east–west, contained a single fill and was cut to a depth of 0.9m through the subsoil. Only the northern side of the cut was exposed, which indicated that it had a gently sloping profile and a flat base. The ditch can be estimated to be c. 2m wide. A second boundary was filled with clay containing medieval ceramics and metal slag. The upper part of the ditch was backfilled in the late 18th century, as it contains wine bottles and creamware. Medieval ceramics included 22 sherds of coarse cooking ware of Leinster type and 63 sherds of glazed wares of local type. Post-medieval ceramics consisted of 17th-century glazed wares of gravel-tempered, temper-free and blackware types, 18th- to 19th-century creamwares, pearlwares and blackwares, and 19th-century sponged-pressed decorated wares.

Ardee Castle
NGR 29622 29041,
97E0171, K.Campbell,
Excavations 1997:365

Pre-development test excavations were carried out in the yard of Ardee Castle. The assessment was requested by Louth County Council in advance of a decision to grant planning permission for a single-storey extension to the building. Ardee Castle, also known as The Courthouse, is a four-storey tower-house and is considered to be the largest surviving fortified medieval townhouse in Ireland. The original construction is generally assigned a 15th-century date. In the early 19th century the castle was adapted by the Grand Jury for use as a courthouse. A bridewell was erected on the east side of the yard at the rear of the castle in 1863. The proposed new extension measures 10m by 11.6m and will occupy most of the open yard between the castle and the bridewell, leaving a yard area reduced to 3.25m by 11.6m. Four test-pits, each measuring 1m by 1.5m, were excavated by hand on 17–18 July 1997. In two test-pits towards the eastern side of the development site medieval deposits were encountered at a depth of 0.35m, immediately

below material of very recent date. Natural till lay within 0.45m of the surface in places, but a number of medieval cuts into the till extended to a maximum depth of 1.68m. The deposits contained within the cuts produced habitation refuse typical of urban sites, i.e. pottery sherds, animal, bird and fish bone, and organic waste at the deeper levels. The pottery evidence dates the bulk of the medieval activity recorded to the 13th–14th century, i.e. before the building of the present castle in the late 15th century. No meaningful interpretation of the features was possible owing to the small-scale nature of the investigation. In the test-pits placed at the western side of the development site, 2–3m from the east wall of the castle, the deposits were of 18th- and 19th-century date, overlying natural till at an average depth of 1m. The concrete raft foundation of the extension was redesigned to avoid disturbance of the archaeological material.

Ash Walk,
NGR 29050/ 29550, 03E0005,
D. J. O'Connor, Excavations 2003:1214
Monitoring was undertaken of the development of an underground tank with ancillary pipework for slurry washing at Ash Walk, Ardee, Co. Louth. The development was in close proximity to a stone wall on the line of the medieval town wall of Ardee and Ash Walk Gate, as well as lying within the zone of archaeological potential of Ardee town. The site is located within a cattle mart just north of the site of the Ash Walk Gate. The western boundary wall of the mart is quite possibly the extant medieval town wall of Ardee. This wall has been rendered on the mart side, while an earthen embankment has been created on the other side, possibly a result of refortification during the late 17th century. Monitoring was carried out on 6 January 2003. The area to be stripped was c. 10m by 6m, to allow for the deep excavation to be stepped in. The ground beneath proved mostly to be fill, comprising soil with brick and bottles. An assemblage of post-medieval ceramic artefacts was recorded within a post-medieval foundation trench and in a jumble of stones to the south of the existing tank. Two of the sherds consisted of manganese mottled ware dating from the late 17th to early 18th century. The majority of the ceramics consisted of coarse black-glazed earthenware, four of which formed the part of the body, handle, rim and base of a handled storage jar with an everted rim.

Ash Walk,
NGR 296092/290734, 03E0052,
R.O'Hara, Excavations 2003:1215
The proposed development is located within the historic town of Ardee. The site is situated on the southern side of Ash Walk, a laneway on the western side of Market Street and one of the original streets of the Anglo-Norman town that led to Ash Walk Gate. Previously, the site had been used as a carpark. An assessment was undertaken as part of a planning application. A number of trenches were excavated to subsoil, but no archaeological remains were uncovered. The site appeared to have had much of the topsoil removed prior to its use as a carpark. No significant archaeological remains survive at this site.

Ash Walk,
NGR 9600 9070, 04E1193,
F. Delaney, Excavations 2004:1067
Excavations at a proposed development site at Ash Walk, Ardee, took place on 12 August 2004. The development site is located to the rear of two buildings that front on to Castle Street, at the centre of the medieval town. Ash Walk led down to Ash Walk Gate, which was the main western gate through the town wall. It is possible that the original market cross was located at the road crossing between Castle Street, Ash Walk and Lamb's Lane. Three trenches were excavated across the proposed development site and nothing of any archaeological significance was noted.

Ash Walk
NGR 292962/280906, 05E0055,
S. D. Elder and N. Gilligan, Excavations 2005:1035
Pre-development testing was carried out at a proposed development site in Ash Walk, Ardee, Co. Louth, in May 2005. The site, which is located within the zone of archaeological potential for Ardee, is situated within the immediate vicinity of the site of Ash Walk Gate (SMR 17:106), one of the six medieval gates constructed as part of the town defences in the 14th and 15th centuries. Seven trenches were excavated in the area of investigation, five within the footprint of the

proposed unit and two within the footprint of the proposed car-parking spaces. Seven features were discovered. Four were linear cuts and are related to post-medieval practices in Ardee. F5 and F7 were circular deposits; the former was found to contain animal bones and the latter contained no diagnostic material within the fill. These are not of archaeological significance. F6 was a shallow deposit with sherds of medieval pottery and animal bones.

Bridge Street,
NGR 296215/290620,
01E0902,
L Clarke, Excavations 2001:829
An assessment was carried out on a proposed commercial development site at Bridge Street, Ardee. It is proposed to construct a two-storey extension to the rear of a house and to convert the same to an off-licence. Two test-trenches were excavated within the proposed development site. Finds recovered include modern glass fragments, glass bottles, modern and post-medieval pottery. No features of archaeological significance were exposed within the trenches.

Bridge Street,
NGR 296240 290510, 02E0417,
C. Ó Drisceoil, Excavations 2002:1283
Pre-development assessment of a commercial extension took place at Bridge Street, Ardee, Co. Louth. The development site lay c. 10m outside the line of the town walls, which ran alongside the opposite side of the River Dee from the development. These walls enclosed an area of c. 25ha and had six gates. One of these, Bridge Gate, was at the north side of the adjacent bridge. Two trenches were dug in the development area. In each, red-brick demolition rubble overlay a light brown, gravel-and-clay substratum. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted.

16-18 Castle Street,
N96199080, 99E0304,
M Conway, Excavations 1999:542
Monitoring of ground reduction works within gardens to the rear of 16-18 Castle Street, Ardee, Co. Louth, was undertaken before the construction of a carpark. The site is to the north-east of the urban tower-house known as the Courthouse. The development did not reveal any deposits, features or finds of archaeological significance. The enclosing walls along the north and east perimeters of the site were retained, the only alteration to site boundaries being the replacement of a sparse hedge with a block wall along the south side of the western area of the development site. The pronounced and elevated level of these former gardens, by c. 2m above the surrounding ground level, appears to be linked with possible redeposition of the clay subsoil. A stage of deliberate dumping of clay, possibly in the late 19th or early 20th century during construction of dwellings fronting Castle Street and/or in the surrounding area, appears to be likely. If the clay subsoil on the site is redeposited, there is a possibility that deposits, features or finds of archaeological potential survive below a level of 1.5m from the existing garden level (102.9m OD).

28 Castle Street,
NGR 29622/29041, 02E0011,
F O'Carroll, Excavations 2002:1284
An assessment of a proposed extension to the rear of a dwelling that adjoins the northern side of Ardee Castle took place. The proposed development consisted of a single-storey structure built beside the wall that divides the property from the yard to the rear of the castle. The site was considered significant as it lies within the medieval town of Ardee, which is defined as a zone of archaeological potential, and adjoins one of the tower-houses in the town. Two test-pits were dug, with a small-toothed bucket attached to a mini-digger, along the front-wall line of the proposed extension. Test-pit 1 measured 2.16m north–south by 1.1m and was dug to 1.15m below the paving in the yard. Rubble fill layers with a ceramic pipe laid through them formed the upper 0.4m. A rough layer of stones extended to 0.6m below the present surface; these were in a matrix of a pale, gritty, wet clay that produced two sherds of post-medieval blackware. This layer overlay a mixed deposit of wet grey clay with black and yellow lenses and lenses of sticky yellow/green marl, deepening on the south side. A layer of soft, dark grey/black clay silt was sandwiched between the grey and yellow lenses. This was 70–100mm thick and produced a

sherd of early medieval pottery. These latter layers sloped fairly steeply. The soft clay silt was 0.8m deep at the northern end of the pit and 1.1m at the southern end. Below them were the natural subsoils of clay and sand. Test-pit 2 was 6m east of Test-pit 1. It measured 2.1m north–south by 1.4m and was dug to a maximum depth of 1.1m. The ground at this point had sloped upward slightly by c. 0.01m. The upper layers were similar to those in Test-pit 1. A piece of post-medieval pottery, mottled ware, was recovered, at a similar level to those in Test-pit 1. Immediately below this was a layer of sticky, grey, silty clay that contained charcoal, bone and shell. As in Test-pit 1, the lower levels sloped from north to south; subsoil was reached at 0.9m below the surface at the north side and 1.1m at the south side. Archaeological deposits consisting of clay silts containing medieval pottery of 13th–14th-century date occurred on the site. The deposits sloped from north to south, consistent with the local topography. There was a considerable overburden of post-medieval to modern material, with a minimum depth of 0.78m below present ground level. The depth at which material was found and the potential date of this material, 14th century or earlier, are consistent with evidence found by Kieran Campbell at the adjoining Ardee Castle (Excavations 1997, No. 365, 97E0171).

Dawsons Demesne
N965907, 99E0061,
F. O'Carroll 1999, Excavations 1999:558
A private house was to be built close to the banks of the Dee River, on the east side of Ardee. This area is believed to be a possible location of the Carmelite friary, founded in 1302. Fourteen test-trenches were excavated by mechanical digger in the footprint of the proposed house. The trenches demonstrated that river silts were present along a line parallel to the present line of the river but 10m to the north of the existing bank at a depth of between 0.45m and 0.55m below the modern surface. There were no indications of any structures in this area, and the only objects found, fragments of roof-tile, may have been incorporated into the soil from further to the south-west, possibly at the initial stages of the remodelling of the riverbank.

Dawson's Demesne,
NGR 296750 290500, 03E1523,
L. Clarke, Excavations 2003:1216
An assessment was carried out at a site at Dawson's Demesne, Ardee, Co. Louth. The site is within the zone of archaeological potential associated with the town of Ardee (SMR 17:101). There are no monuments listed within the Record of Monuments and Places on this site; however, a building is depicted at this general location on a map of the Commons of Ardee made by Robert Richardson for the Corporation in 1677. Three test-trenches were excavated within the site. No features of archaeological significance or finds were identified. Redeposited natural subsoil was recovered within all three trenches, which would suggest that this site had been previously interfered with.

Market Street (East Side), Ardee Credit Union,
NGR 296154/290843, 02E0193,
R. Clutterbuck, Excavations 2002:1287
Test excavations were carried out as part of an assessment of the site of a proposed new credit-union building at Market Street, Ardee. The site consisted of two adjacent properties fronting onto Market Street and a common back garden area; a lane gives access to an Eircom property to the rear of the site. The site was divided into two areas: Area 1 consisted of the footprint of the proposed credit-union building (448m2); Area 2 was the back garden (960m2). The site was considered archaeologically significant because it is within the zone of archaeological potential identified by the Urban Archaeological Survey and the Ardee Development Plan 1997. More specifically, it was also anticipated that the site would contain significant medieval and post-medieval archaeology because of its location fronting onto Market Street and adjacent to the medieval church and graveyard of St Mary's. The buildings on the site dated to the late 19th and 20th centuries and were not listed for preservation; they were not deemed to be of archaeological significance. These were demolished to their ground-floor level, leaving their floor slab and foundations in place.
Test excavations were carried out in August and September 2002, when seven trenches were opened: four in Area 1 and three in Area 2. They revealed that there were archaeological deposits over the entire site, with variations in the complexity of the material. A total of 53

features were identified, modern (18th–19th century) and medieval (13th–16th century); seventeen features were found for which a date could not be determined but which are potentially medieval. Deposits or pits containing butchered bone and 19th-/20th-century pottery and glass were identified in Area 2; the remains of butchered bone on the site were anticipated, as the site had been a butcher's shop in the 20th century.

Four features were definitely dated to the medieval period from artefact association. F103, in Area 2, the back garden, was a dark brown spread of ash and stone that contained a sherd of late medieval pottery. F303 was also exposed in the back garden and consisted of a linear ditch feature running roughly east–west. It was 1.5m wide and 0.55m deep and contained a single sherd of medieval pottery; this may have been a property boundary between two medieval burgage plots. The features found in Test-trench 6 contained relatively large amounts of medieval pottery (84% of the total amount recovered during the excavations), which date the features to the medieval period (13th–15th centuries). The medieval ceramic finds from the site consist mainly of body sherds of jugs and pots, without diagnostic elements such as rims, bases or decorations. A fragment of a 14th–15th-century green-glazed, line-impressed tile was recovered from F604; the tile fragment appears to have been deliberately snipped and may be the remnants of a refurbishment of the adjacent parish church. The features suggest occupation debris or refuse, and indicate intensive occupation in the medieval period at least. F606 also contained a fragment of iron slag, which suggests industrial activity. In November 2002 the mechanical removal of 0.28–0.74m of overburden, consisting of modern concrete floor slab and demolition rubble, took place. Where archaeologically significant deposits were exposed, they were left *in situ*. Fifteen definite medieval features were recorded, most in the central part of Area 1.

They consisted of a short length of clay-bonded wall (F1017), a hearth (F1013) and surrounding features. A number of other features, of undetermined date but potentially medieval, were identified. All of these features were bounded, and to a certain extent overlain, by a series of post-medieval walls and features, most of which can be correlated with structures depicted on the 19th- and early 20th-century OS maps.

Area 2, the garden area, presented a less complex collection of features than Area 1. Approximately 0.8–1m of topsoil was removed. A feature identified as medieval from associated pottery consisted of a linear ditch, probably representing the boundary between two medieval properties (F303). In addition, a number of discrete features and spreads were uncovered for which no definite date can be determined but which are potentially medieval. As in Area 1, several features in the garden correlated with those depicted on the OS maps, principally the linear features that corresponded with mapped garden boundaries, as well as part of a range of buildings depicted on the first-edition OS map (1836). Another 23 sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the surface of archaeological features and from disturbed contexts; as in Phase 2, most of this pottery came from the middle of Area 1.

Market Street, excavations summary:

The largest excavation that has taken place within the town was in the Ardee Credit Union on Market Street site which revealed a continuous sequence of occupation from at least the 13th century to the 20th century and is the largest excavation carried out in the centre of Ardee town. The first phase of occupation consisted of an early 13th century boundary ditch between two properties. The evidence suggests that timber buildings, possibly gable-on houses, fronted onto Market Street. The scant remains of the first house in the southern property indicate that it was constructed using wooden posts for support. This house seems to have been replaced with a timber-frame structure whose slot-trench neatly overlay the footprint of the first-phase building; a stone-lined hearth was built at the eastern end of this structure. These structural features are most likely the remains of gable-on houses which fronted onto Market Street. Later eighteenth and nineteenth century stone walled buildings and outbuildings have destroyed much of these medieval remains. The medieval archaeology in the back yard area consisted of a thirteenth century boundary, contemporary sand and gravel extraction pits and refuse disposal pits; these parts of the properties were presumably used as orchards, gardens or holding areas for livestock. Animal bones recovered during the excavation mainly consisted of cattle, but also sheep/goat and pig. The range of medieval artefacts included imported pottery vessels from England, France and Spain, Leinster Cooking Ware, quern stones, iron knives, and a spur. Floor tile fragments, ridge tiles and roofing slates recovered from the back garden area appear to have come from the adjacent St. Mary's Church. A complete excavation of the site is to proceed in 2003

http://www.crds.ie/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=30&Itemid=26 (Accessed 1-11-09)

Market Street,
NGR 296250 290750,
03E0058, R. Clutterbuck,
Excavations 2003:1218

Excavations at the Ardee Credit Union site revealed a continuous sequence of occupation from at least the 13th to the 20th century. Excavation followed on from testing in 2002 (Excavations 2002, No. 1287). The excavation was undertaken from January to April 2003. The site was divided into two areas: Area 1 corresponding with the portion of the site fronting onto Market Street (448m2) and Area 2 corresponding with the back garden (1000m2); the two areas were separated by a tarmac lane leading to the Eircom telephone exchange. The first phase of occupation consisted of the division of two properties, northern and southern, by an east-west boundary ditch in the early 13th century. The evidence suggests that timber buildings were constructed fronting onto Market Street. The scant remains of the first house in the southern property indicate that it was constructed using wooden posts for support. This house seems to have been replaced with a timber-frame structure whose slot-trench neatly overlay the footprint of the first-phase building; a stone-lined hearth was built at the eastern end of this structure. These structural features are most likely the remains of gable-on houses which fronted onto Market Street. Unfortunately, 18th- and 19th-century buildings have destroyed much of these medieval remains; no evidence for buildings survived in the northern property at all. However, the back yard area of these medieval properties did survive. These areas contained a number of metalled surfaces and a flagstone path leading to a stone privy house built into a cesspit. The medieval archaeology in the back yard area (Area 2) consisted of a 13th-century boundary, contemporary sand and gravel extraction pits and refuse-disposal pits. A boundary ditch separated the two medieval properties; these parts of the properties were presumably used as orchards, gardens or holding areas for livestock. Animal bones recovered during the excavation mainly consisted of cattle, but also sheep/goat and pig. The range of medieval artefacts included imported pottery vessels from England, France and Spain, Leinster cooking ware, quern stones, iron knives and a spur. Floor tile fragments, ridge tiles and roofing slates recovered from the back garden area appear to have come from the adjacent St Mary's Church, the parish church for Ardee. The post-medieval houses built in the site consisted in the main of stone-walled buildings on the street front and towards the middle of the site. A hearth and cobbling, presumably from the interior of a 17th-century house, were found at the southern side of Area 1, but no associated structural remains could be found; a cellar of a 17th-18th-century house was found at the northern end of the site. However, this was superseded during the mid- to late 18th century by a substantial stone house constructed facing onto Market Street. This structure had at least three internal subdivisions; it is unclear if this constituted a single property or a terrace. When this building was demolished in the first third of the 19th century, an empty site was left facing onto Market Street. This gap, along with a range of buildings set back from the Market Street, was depicted on the first-edition 6-inch OS map in 1836. This range of buildings was identified during the excavation. They were constructed from stone, but not to a high standard, indicating that they were perhaps single-storeyed. The quality of the build for these structures suggests that their function was non-residential, perhaps outhouses, sheds or stables. The final-phase structure (demolished in 2002) was built facing onto Market Street; it consisted of one stone-walled building separated into two properties by an internal wall. They functioned throughout the later 19th and 20th century as retail units: a baker's, butcher's, grocer's, public house or post office; in each case the first floor served as accommodation for the retailers. Concrete-block extensions were constructed to the rear of the houses, partially incorporating the stone walls of the earlier 19th-century buildings in the middle of Area 1. Between the medieval and modern period, the boundary in the back garden appears to have shifted south. However, in the 20th century this boundary was removed. The archaeological and cartographic evidence for this period indicates that the back garden areas were used as orchards. Anecdotal evidence provided by older local people recalled that the northern back garden had been used as a pen for a butcher's; this appears to correspond with the evidence for modern butchered bone from pits in the back garden. The excavation has revealed a substantial sequence of occupation from at least the 13th to the 20th century. One feature, the medieval cesspit in Area 1, proved too deep to fully excavate. This feature has been preserved *in situ* beneath a suspended ground-beam. Post-excavation analysis for the excavation is ongoing.

O'Carroll Street,
NGR 964907, 03E0753,
C. Duffy, 2003, Excavations 2003:1219
Prior to construction of an extension to the Girl Guides premises in O'Carroll Street, Ardee, testing was carried out. In Trench 1 (9m by 2m), 0.1m of tarmacadam covered 0.15m of hardcore, which was over 0.2m of dark-brown silty clay with a high organic content, containing charcoal flecks and modern and medieval pottery. Under this was 0.26m of brown clayey silt, with inclusions of early modern and medieval pottery, a flint, a piece of medieval tile and animal bone fragments. Natural red-brown boulder clay subsoil with stones came up at 0.75m below ground level in most of the trench. The trench contained three features. F1 was not archaeological. F2 was a modern pit. F3 was a pit, the top of which was 26.873m OD. The trench was enlarged on its northern side by 1m by 2m to expose its full extent. It was roughly circular in plan, 1.5m in diameter and 0.45m deep, with a gentle U-shaped profile. It contained two fills, a dark-brown organic clay with frequent charcoal flecks and pieces of animal bone, as well as eleven sherds of medieval pottery and four fragments of animal bone, and a lens of black silt 0.2m thick. It appeared to be a medieval refuse pit.
In Trench 2 (7m by 2m), 0.35m of tarmac and hardcore lay over 0.27m of mid-brown clay, which covered 0.27m of red-brown clay subsoil to the floor of the trench. A linear feature crossed the trench at the southern end. F6 was a ditch 0.6m below ground level. It had a gentle U-shaped profile. The fill was a loose grey-brown silty clay containing animal bone and medieval pottery. 3.35m from the southern end of the trench there was a pit-type feature, 1.8m in diameter and 1.3m deep. It contained a mid-brown clay with very occasional charcoal flecks, very occasional animal bone fragments and one sherd of medieval pottery. It ran out of the western wall of the trench.

O' Carroll Street/Black Ridge/Old Chapel Lane,
N2964729081, 99E0642,
M. Conway, Excavations 1999:543
A pre-development assessment was undertaken before a planning submission at a 6-acre green-field site bounded by O'Carroll Street/Black Ridge and Old Chapel Lane, Ardee, Co. Louth, on 12 November 1999. The proposed development site is at the north-east corner of the town, within the area of archaeological potential as outlined in the Urban Archaeological Survey of Ardee. The site lies directly along the supposed line of the medieval town wall and is adjacent to the site of Cappock's Gate at its south-east corner. Topographically, the field is split-level, higher on the western side than the east, and this is most apparent across the centre of the proposed development site, where a subtle bank and ditch feature crosses the field south-east to north-west, representing a former land division. Excavation of five test-trenches was undertaken with the aid of a tracked mechanical excavator with a 2m-wide ditching bucket.

Trench 1 was positioned north-west/south-east along the western side of the proposed development site and measured 134m by 2.2m. A simple stratigraphic profile was revealed comprising dark brown topsoil on average 0.3m deep, overlying a dark brown clay/loam between 0.1m and 0.2m deep, in turn overlying a mottled, orange/brown, stony clay subsoil. A number of west-east-aligned field drains were revealed, cut into clay subsoil, and a naturally formed area of very stony subsoil comprising numerous boulders was found between 50m and 70m from the south end of the trench. The latter feature corresponds with a noticeable natural rise in the field surface in this area. No features, deposits or soils of archaeological potential were revealed. A number of brownware sherds were recovered from the deposits over the clay subsoil.
Trench 2 was positioned north-west/south-east along the south-eastern corner of the proposed development site and measured 66m by 2.2m. Dark brown topsoil, on average 0.3m deep, overlay dark brown clay loam between 0.1m and 0.2m deep, which lay in turn over mottled, orange/brown, stony clay subsoil. A number of features of archaeological potential were revealed towards the southern end of the trench, cut into clay subsoil.
F1 comprised a rectangular pit, 9m by 65m, 8m from the south end of the trench. The feature was cut directly into the clay subsoil and was filled with a homogeneous, dark brown loam with no obvious inclusions of archaeological significance. The eastern edge of a second cut feature, F2, with similar fill to that in F1, was revealed extending into and beyond the western edge of the trench. F3 consists of a west-east linear spread of dark brown loam between 8m and 9.9m from the southern end of the trench. This deposit contains fragments of animal bone and sherds of

post-medieval or early modern pottery. The deposit, up to 0.2m deep, lies 0.5m below existing ground level and at its northern end overlies a limestone wall foundation, F4, consisting of an interrupted setting of flat limestone slabs and stones. F4 extends 1.44m into the trench from the western section, and, although it apparently ends at this point, a stone in the eastern section at a depth of 0.55m suggests that the feature may continue east. The wall foundation was found to be only one stone deep and would appear to be no more than 0.3m in surviving depth. The southern edge of F3 is characterised by F5, a linear spread of fine mortar 0.65m wide, extending through the trench. This deposit is up to 0.2m deep and runs parallel to the remains of the limestone wall 1.1m to the north. Remains of a possible stone-filled field drain, F6, were found 1.5m north of and parallel to F3, consisting of a narrow, linear setting of water-worn stones. At a location between 46m and 50m from the southern end of the trench lies F6, a roughly east-west linear deposit of dark brown soil with numerous stones. This represents the remains of a former field boundary extending west. Finds from this trench were largely derived from F3 and comprised a small quantity of butchered animal bone and several sherds of post-medieval or early modern character. Trench 3 was positioned approximately south-west/north-east along the south-east edge of the proposed development site, measuring 88m by 2.2m. Dark brown topsoil, on average 0.3m deep, overlay dark brown clay loam between 0.2m and 0.3m deep. Mottled, orange/brown, stony clay subsoil lay below this level (0.6-0.7m+). The remains of a former, north-south-aligned field boundary were revealed c. 50m from the eastern end of the trench, coinciding with a marked linear surface feature defining a split level between the higher, western and lower, eastern sides of the field. The surface expression of this feature was a subtle, south-east/north-west-running bank, comprising two parallel ridges with the intervening area sunken and with a shallow ditch to the east. The subsurface remains, F7, consisted of a deposit of very stony subsoil, 5m wide, composed of numerous boulders and stones. A shallow ditch up to 4m wide lay immediately east of this feature. No features, deposits or soils of archaeological potential were revealed. Trench 4 was orientated approximately south-west/north-east and measured 100m by 2.2m. Dark brown topsoil, on average 0.35m deep, overlay dark brown clay loam up to 0.55m deep. Grey, gravelly clay subsoil lay below this level east and west of the former land division (0.9-1.1m+), interrupted on the west by an outcrop of light orange/brown, sandy loam, 5m wide and 4m from the former field division. Remains of this former north-south field boundary (see Trench 3 above) lay c. 52m from the eastern end of the trench and also coincided with the linear surface feature mentioned above. The subsurface remains, F8, consisted of a deposit of very stony subsoil 5m wide comprising numerous boulders the same as F7. A shallow ditch up to 4m wide lay immediately east of this feature. No features, deposits or soils of archaeological potential were revealed. Trench 5 was positioned south-west/north-east along the northern edge of the proposed development, roughly parallel to the line of O'Carroll Street/Black Ridge. The trench measured 50m by 2.2m. Dark brown topsoil on average 0.4m deep overlay a dark brown clay loam 0.1m deep. Mottled, grey/brown, stony clay subsoil lay below this level (0.5m+). No features, deposits or soils of archaeological potential were revealed.

Several features of archaeological potential were revealed towards the southern end of Trench 2 including an apparent wall foundation (F4). Although the material overlying this feature (F3) appears to be post-17th-century in date, the proximity of features F1 to F5 to the site of Cappocks Gate suggests that they may be related. The width of F4 alone would not be consistent with that of a medieval fortification wall or a gatehouse; however, it may represent an ancillary building of contemporary date, with the deposition of post-medieval material possibly representing the period of its demolition.

The most obvious topographic expression on the field surface is the line of a former field boundary in Trenches 3 and 4, through F8 and F9. The eastern margin of the site is characterised by a linear strip of land on average 8m wide, which lies immediately beyond the area of proposed development, extending from O'Carroll Street/Black Ridge to a series of gardens at the south-east corner of the site. The margin has been reduced in level, and much waste and domestic debris has accumulated along its length. Although it appears to have been set aside for horticultural purposes, its width and linear appearance suggest that it may represent an older landscape feature, possibly a trace line of the former town wall or a feature parallel to it. The assessment results recommended further archaeological investigation in the south-east area of the site, before groundworks, as a condition of full planning permission.

O' Carroll Street/Black Ridge/Old Chapel Lane
N2964729081, 99E0642 ext.,
M. Conway, Excavations 2000:0637

A secondary pre-development assessment was undertaken at a 6-acre greenfield site bounded by O'Carroll Street/Black Ridge and Chapel Lane, Ardee, Co. Louth. The proposed development site is located at the north-east corner of the town, within the area of archaeological potential as outlined in the Urban Archaeology Survey of Ardee. The site lies directly along the supposed line of the medieval town wall and is adjacent to the site of Cappock's Gate at its south-east corner. Excavation of five test-trenches had been undertaken in Stage I (Excavations 1999, 182–3), when a small stretch of masonry wall had been uncovered in Trench 2. The second stage of assessment sought to establish the limits of the masonry remains and associated deposits and features.

An area 12m north–south by 16m was excavated in the south-east corner of the site. A masonry wall, F4, survived 0.5–0.65m below the field surface, measuring 3.12m in length by 0.8m in width and at most 0.35m high. The foundation lay below a deposit of dark brown loam containing finds of post-medieval character. The wall was constructed of tightly set limestone slabs and irregular stones set within a base of fine lime mortar, which overlay stony clay subsoil. A single body sherd of similar type to everted-rim or Leinster cooking ware was recovered from the top of the wall. Traces of the base mortar spread were found intermittently to the east and west of the foundation wall and attest to the removal of the masonry remains in these areas.

Along the southern side of the excavation area several spreads of dark brown soil were revealed, including features F1 and F2 from the Stage I assessment. In particular one large spread, F10, was revealed measuring 2.05m north–south by 1.8m and surviving up to 0.22m in depth. Excavation of F1, F2 and F10 revealed them to be no more than accumulations of post-medieval dumping in natural hollows. This post-medieval material is very similar to F3, which covered and surrounded wall F4. The dimensions of F4 denote a wall foundation, 0.8m wide (max.), which, though much denuded, appears to have extended as far as the line of the site boundary on the east and, with the associated pottery sherd, suggests a wall associated with the gatehouse structure, Cappock's Gate. As such, it may represent a trace wall of part of the gatehouse or of a related structure. Agreement was reached to leave undeveloped the area containing the stretch of medieval wall.

O'Carroll Street /Lane's Lane,
NGR 296429/290822, 04E0059,
R. O'Hara and P. Stevens, Excavations 2004:1071

Monitoring of topsoil-stripping for development of Phase 1 of a local authority housing scheme was carried out in January and February 2004 on a site in Ardee town located between O'Carroll Street/Black Ridge, Old Chapel Street and Lane's Lane. This followed two phases of assessment carried out in 1999 by Malachy Conway (Excavations 1999, No. 543, 99E0642), which revealed a possible medieval stone wall footing and associated features running parallel to Cappock's Gate (SMR 17:217), located immediately south-east of the site boundary. This feature was to be preserved *in situ* as part of this development and remained undisturbed. Phase 1 consisted of stripping the western portion of the site. Topsoil was mechanically stripped by a combination of a bulldozer and twelve-tonne tracked excavator. All topsoil deposits have been stockpiled on the site. Nothing of medieval or earlier date was noted and no features associated with Cappock's Gate, or the stone feature uncovered in testing, were revealed in monitoring. However, monitoring did reveal a number of small features, including cobbled surfaces, burning and stone pits dated to, and characteristic of, 19th- and early 20th-century domestic garden activity across the development area. A stone-lined drain of late 17th- or 18th-century date was also revealed. The drain was lined with limestone flags and measured 0.4-0.43m in internal width and 0.9m in depth. It was exposed across the site east-west for over 8m in length but was noted to continue east below the level exposed in topsoil-stripping. This feature will be located within the rear garden plots and will therefore be left preserved *in situ*. No archaeological implications were encountered within Phase 1 of this development. However, further monitoring will be conducted in Phase 2.

Townparks
NGR 296075/290613, 03E1045,
T. O'Neill and A. O'Connell, Excavations 03E1045
An assessment was carried out on the site of a proposed mixed residential and commercial development at Ash Walk, Ardee, Co. Louth. The site is occupied by a supermarket, a surface carpark and a former cattle mart, at the west of the historic town of Ardee. A 17th-century earthen embankment, SMR 17:101(05), runs in a north–south direction through the site. This separates the cattle mart from the surface carpark. Eight trenches were excavated in the course of the assessment. Three were excavated across the earthen embankment, two within the carpark and three in the cattle mart. Trenches 1–3 were excavated across the earthen embankment. The western face of the medieval town wall was exposed at the eastern end of both trenches. It consisted of a drystone wall and two foundation levels. The initial foundation level consisted of a layer of redeposited boulder clay extending 1.3m east–west by 0.14m deep. This was overlain by a layer of rounded cobbles (on average 60mm in diameter) extending 1.2m westwards from the base of the wall, by 0.2m deep. Medieval green-glazed pottery was recovered from this level. The wall was constructed from randomly coursed, roughly hewn limestone blocks, with dimensions ranging from 0.2m by 0.35m to 0.1m by 50mm. It was aligned north–south and stood to a maximum height of 1.2m. Only the western face of this wall was recorded in the course of the assessment. A second medieval wall was recorded c. 4m west of the town wall, also in Trenches 1 and 3. This was roughly aligned north–south. It was constructed from roughly hewn limestone blocks, roughly faced on the eastern and western sides. The wall stood to three to four courses high and had a rubble core, but no mortar or other bonding was evident. A sherd of medieval green-glazed pottery was collected from the rubble core of the wall. This structure represents one phase of medieval town wall construction within the town of Ardee. A third north–south-orientated wall was located less than 0.3m west of the town wall in Trench 3. This wall was also composed of dry stone, with three to four courses. It measured 0.8m in width and reached a height of 0.6m. There was no masonry structures recorded in Trench 2.The medieval walls were overlain by the earthen bank, which survived to c. 2m high. Trenches 4–5 were excavated through the surface carpark at the west of the town wall and earthen embankment. No archaeological remains were recorded. Trenches 6–8 were located in the cattle mart at the east of the town wall. No archaeological remains were recorded in Trenches 6 and 7. A number of archaeological features were recorded in the northern area of Trench 8, including two pits and two ditches. The finds from these features were typically domestic and reveal evidence for medieval settlement within the immediate area. The disturbed nature of the former cattle mart, which previously functioned as a slaughterhouse, has probably resulted in the destruction of archaeological deposits since the early 20th century.

Tierney Street,
NGR 9624 9058, 97E0244,
D. Murphy, Excavations 1997:366
Archaeological testing of a proposed residential dwelling was carried out at Tierney Street, Ardee, Co. Louth. The site of the proposed development lies to the south-east of the urban tower-house known as the Court House on the north side of Tierney Street. The excavation of three test-trenches did not reveal any evidence of archaeological deposits on this site. All finds were of post-medieval or modern date. A layer of black garden soil, 1m thick, extended over the entire site.

William St./College Lane,
N962901, *93E0065,*
***D.L Swan*, Excavations 1993:153**
Trial trenches were dug into the natural deposits revealing a full profile of the area to be developed. The deposits revealed in all cases were for the most part composed of clearly defined layers, continuous and consistent over all the areas examined. Almost all these layers could be associated with recent activity on the site. However, in one area, along the north-east boundary of the site, an undisturbed lens of cobbling was identified from underneath which a number of sherds of 13th- or 14th-century glazed pottery of the Leinster Ware type were recovered. The deposit containing these sherds was stratified beneath the cobbling and overlay the undisturbed boulder clay. Some fragments of oyster, cockle and mussel shell were mixed through this fill. Sherds of identical type but much more clearly abraded were recovered from the southern portion

of the site and from a very disturbed context. Apart from these, no other features or artefacts of archaeological significance were recovered, and the areas tested can be considered to have been archaeologically resolved.

Excavations/assessments in the northern suburbs

54 Irish Street,
NGR 29609/29081, 00E0044,
I. Russell, Excavations 2000:0635
An archaeological assessment was carried out at No. 54 Irish Street. It was proposed to demolish the existing rear extension and reconstruct a two-storey extension to the existing dwelling-house. Owing to the small size of the development and the confined nature of the site, only one trench was excavated within the proposed extension. The excavation revealed that substantial post-medieval deposits exist on the site to an average depth of 1m. The rear yard of the house was originally cobbled and was laid above a layer of 19th-century loose brown loam. The cobbled yard had been heavily disturbed in the recent past by the insertion of various service ducts into the house and was eventually buried under a layer of modern clay and rubble. The deposit of stone and brick fragments found under the loose brown loam probably represents a collapsed 18th–19th-century wall, possibly from a post-medieval structure that once stood on the site. This wall had collapsed on top of a small domestic refuse pit containing charcoal flecks and animal bone, which may be post-medieval in date, although no finds were recovered. The natural orange sand was exposed at a depth of 1.1m, and no trace of the medieval town wall or ditch was uncovered.

Irish Street,
NGR 29605/29005, 00E0839,
A. O'Connell, Excavations 2000:0636
An assessment was carried out on the site of a proposed development at Irish Street, Ardee, Co. Louth. Three test-trenches were excavated. Trench 1 was in the overgrown garden, Trench 2 in the rear yard behind the existing building and Trench 3 was within the area of the recently demolished building. Trench 1 revealed that the topsoil lay above the natural orange clay, stone and gravels. Trench 2 showed the rear yard, which had clearly been disturbed and backfilled with clay, stone and modern rubbish. Trench 3 revealed an area of cobbling directly below c. 0.3–0.4m of rich organic material. Dating evidence was identified; however, it generally appears that the cobbled surface may be of medieval date preserved under later deposits.

Irish Street,
NGR 296090 290810,
02E0069 O'Drisceoil 2002, Excavations 2002:1286
Monitoring took place of the excavation of foundations for a builder's store to the rear of Irish Street, Ardee, Co. Louth. The development site lay c. 70m outside the line of the town walls. Twelve foundation pits were mechanically excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted.

Irish Street
NGR 29614 29102, 04E0633
K. Campbell, Excavations 2004:1068
The site for a warehouse was situated on an unnamed lane or right-of-way that runs eastwards from the north end of Irish Street, at the northern limit of the zone of archaeological potential of Ardee. The development site lies within an extramural suburb that extended from Head Gate to Irish Gate, or 'North Gate'. On Richardson's 1677 map of Ardee the site location, c. 110m from Irish Street, is shown as open space with some trees. The 1836 OS 6-inch map shows that the area was still largely open space divided into small fields. The grant of planning permission required monitoring of the demolition of the existing building and pre-development testing. The existing building on the site was a roofless modern single-storey workshop, built mostly of concrete breezeblocks, which incorporated part of an older, though post-1836, stone building. Test-trenches on the north and west sides of the new structure uncovered the stone foundations of the earlier building and subsoil at a depth of 0.25m under demolition rubble. On the south side of the new unit, a trench uncovered a dump of cinders extending to a maximum depth of 0.45m with subsoil below. A 20mm-long stem fragment of a clay tobacco pipe was noted in the fill.

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Job	The Walled Town of Ardee, Conservation & Management Plan, Co. Louth
Ref.	09110-R1
Date	03.02.10
Client	Louth County Council
Scale	Not applicable
Fig. 1	Site location map

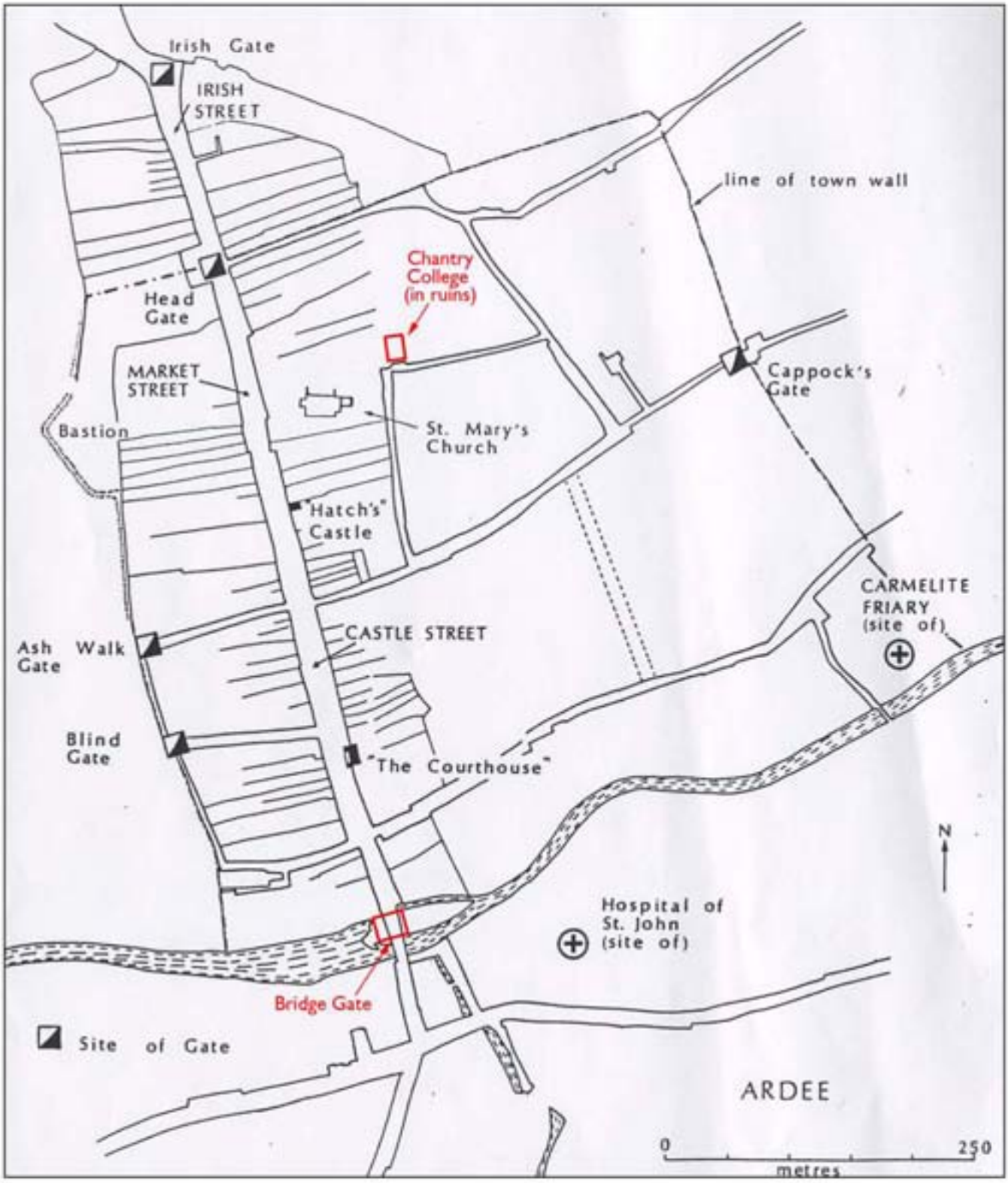

Figure 2 Ardee: Outline plan showing the line of the town wall and the principal archaeological features (after Bradley)

Job	The Walled Town of Ardee, Conservation & Management Plan, Co. Louth
Ref.	09110-R1
Date	03.02.10
Client	Louth County Council
Scale	Not applicable
Fig.	2

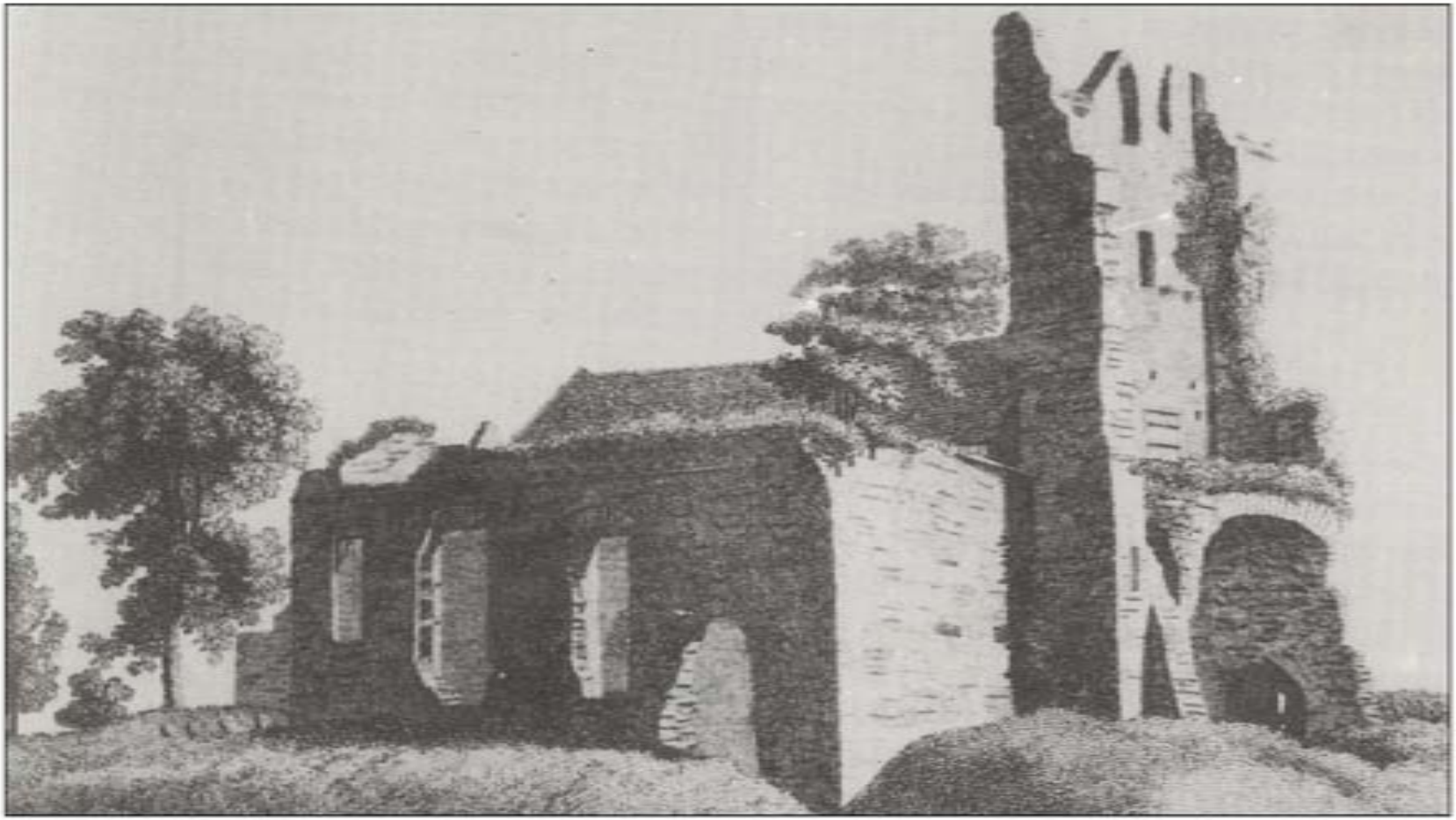

Figure 3 St Mary's Parish Church from Grose's Antiquities of Ireland, 1781 (after Bradley 1984)

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Scale	Not applicable
Fig.	3

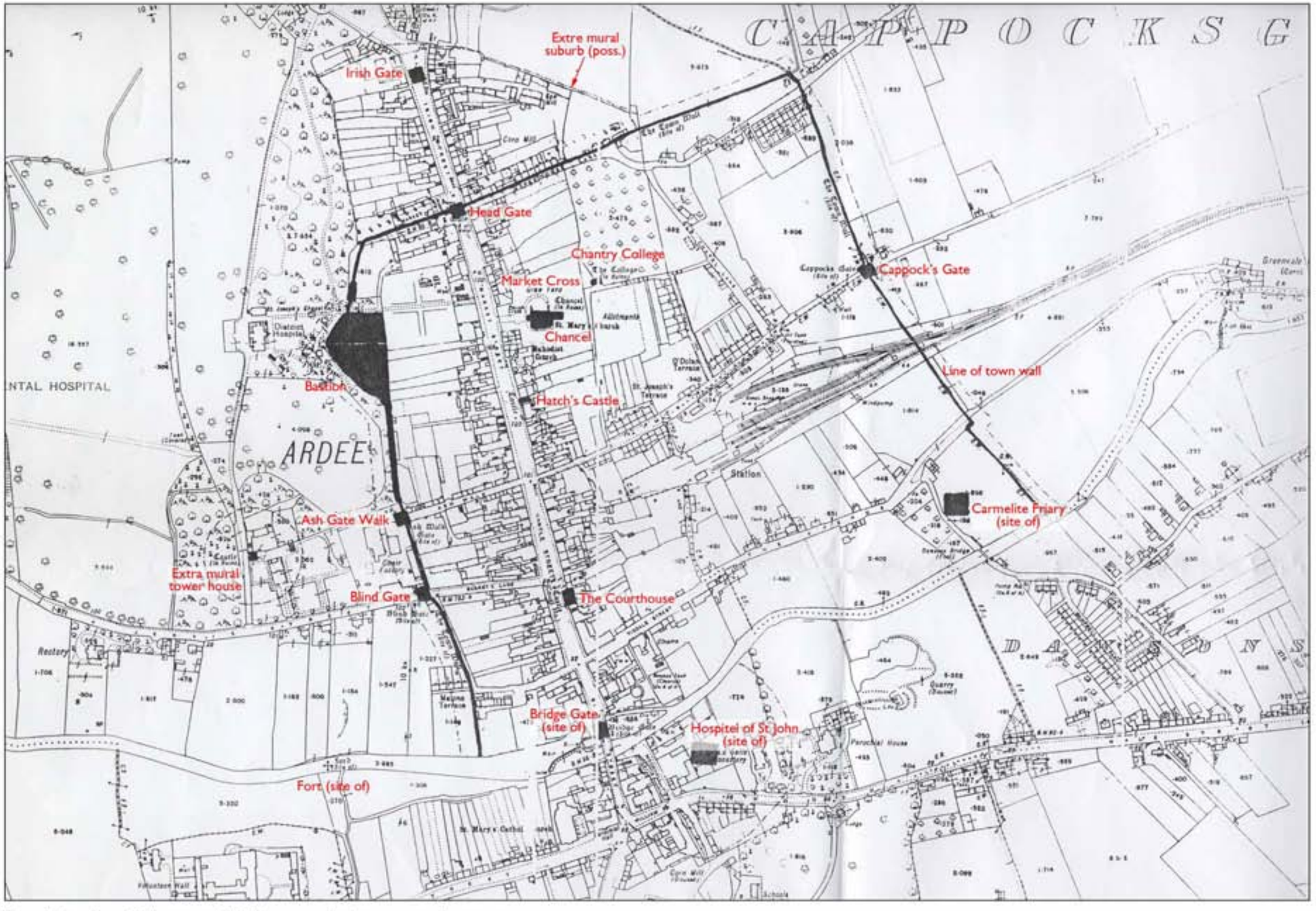

Figure 4 Location of Ardee town walls & defences, medieval structures and street pattern

Job	The Walled Town of Ardee, Conservation & Management Plan, Co. Louth
Ref.	09110-R1
Date	03.02.10
Client	Louth County Council
Scale	Not applicable
Fig. 4	

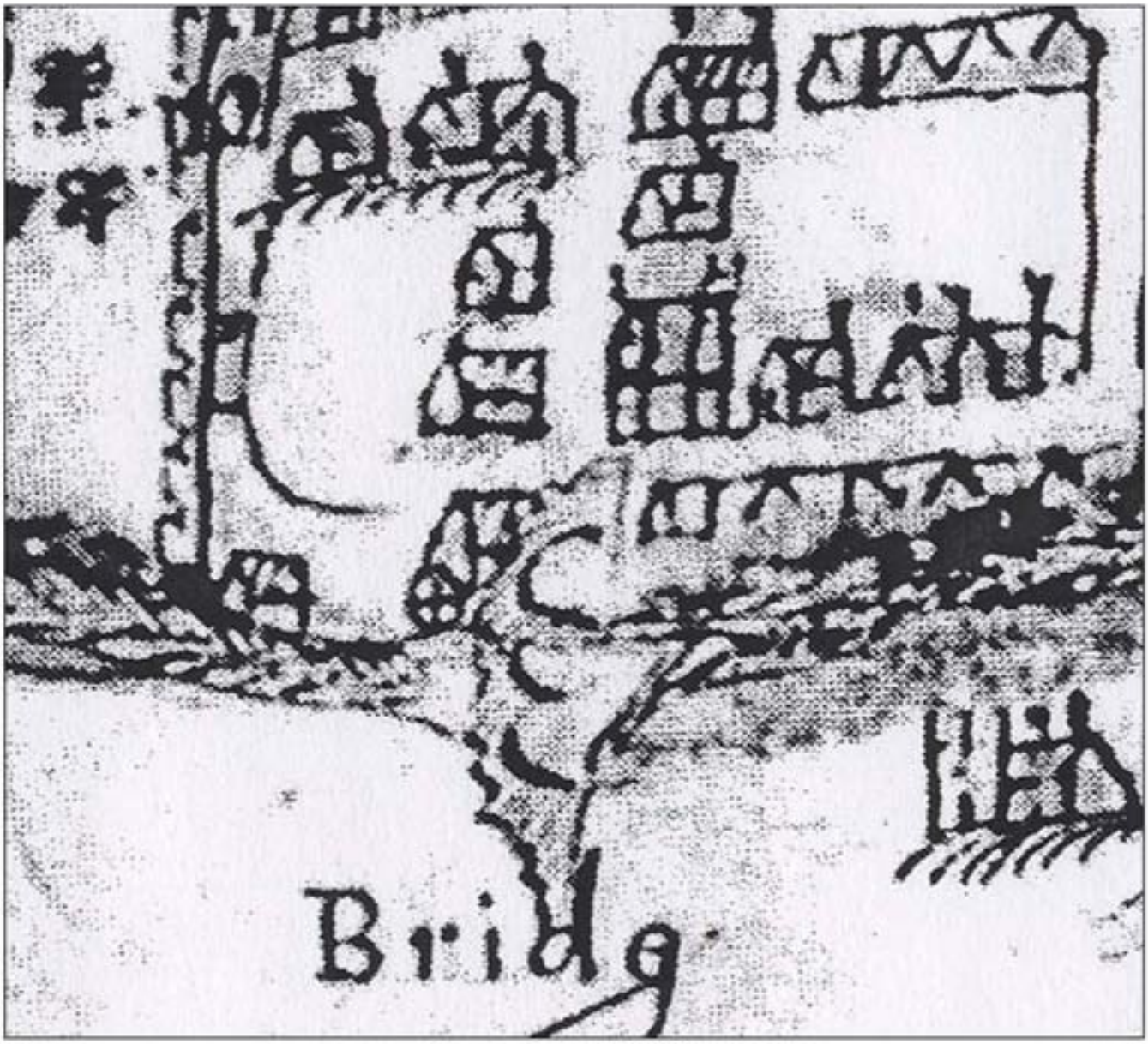

Figure 5 Detail of the town bridge as shown on Robert Richardson's Map of Ardee, 1677 (After Bradley, 1984)

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Scale	Not applicable
Fig.	5

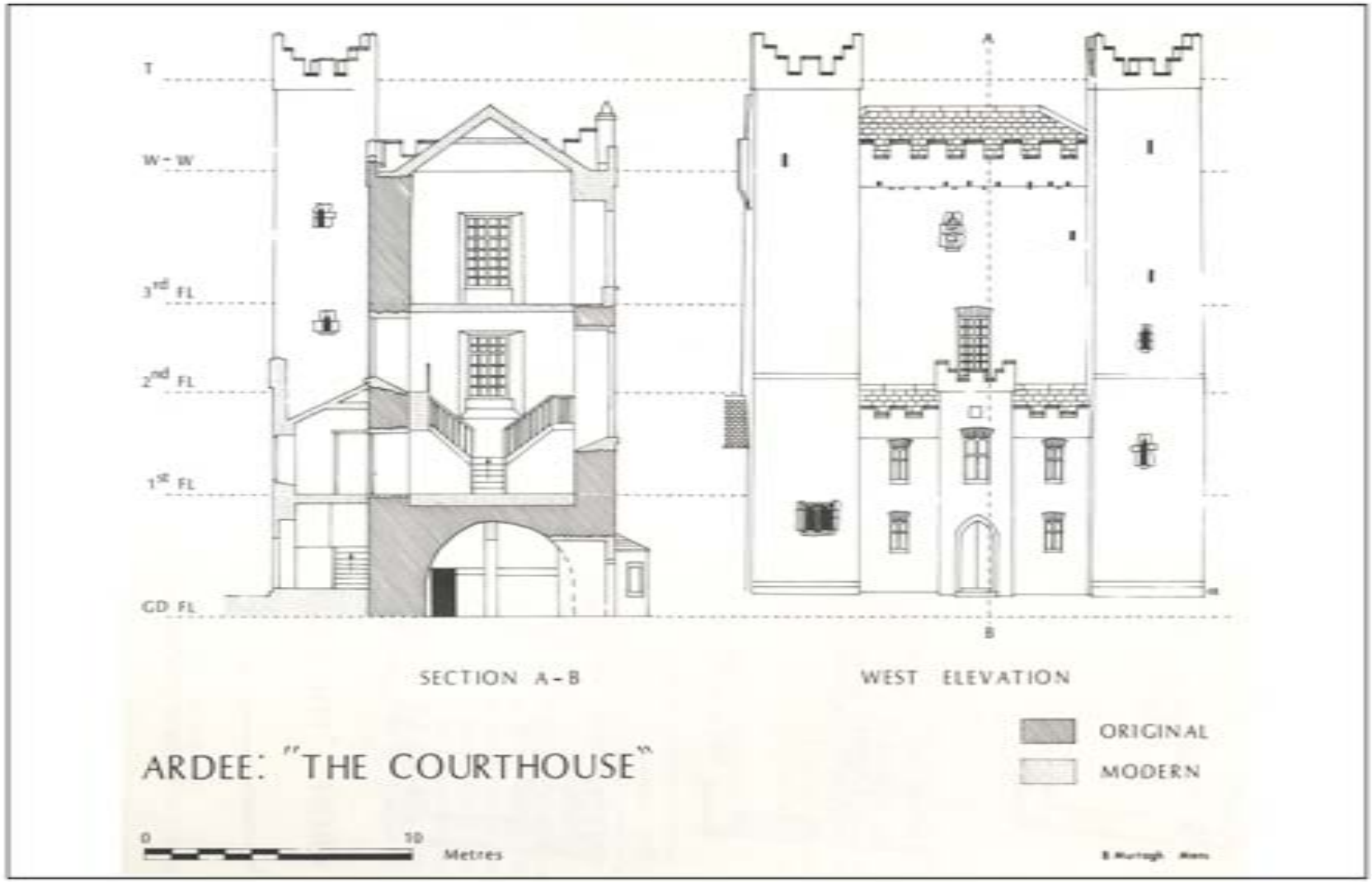

Figure 6 Ardee 'The Courthouse': section and west elevation (after survey by B. Murtagh reproduced in Bradley 1984:274)

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Date	03.02.10
Client	Louth County Council
Scale	Not applicable
Fig.	6

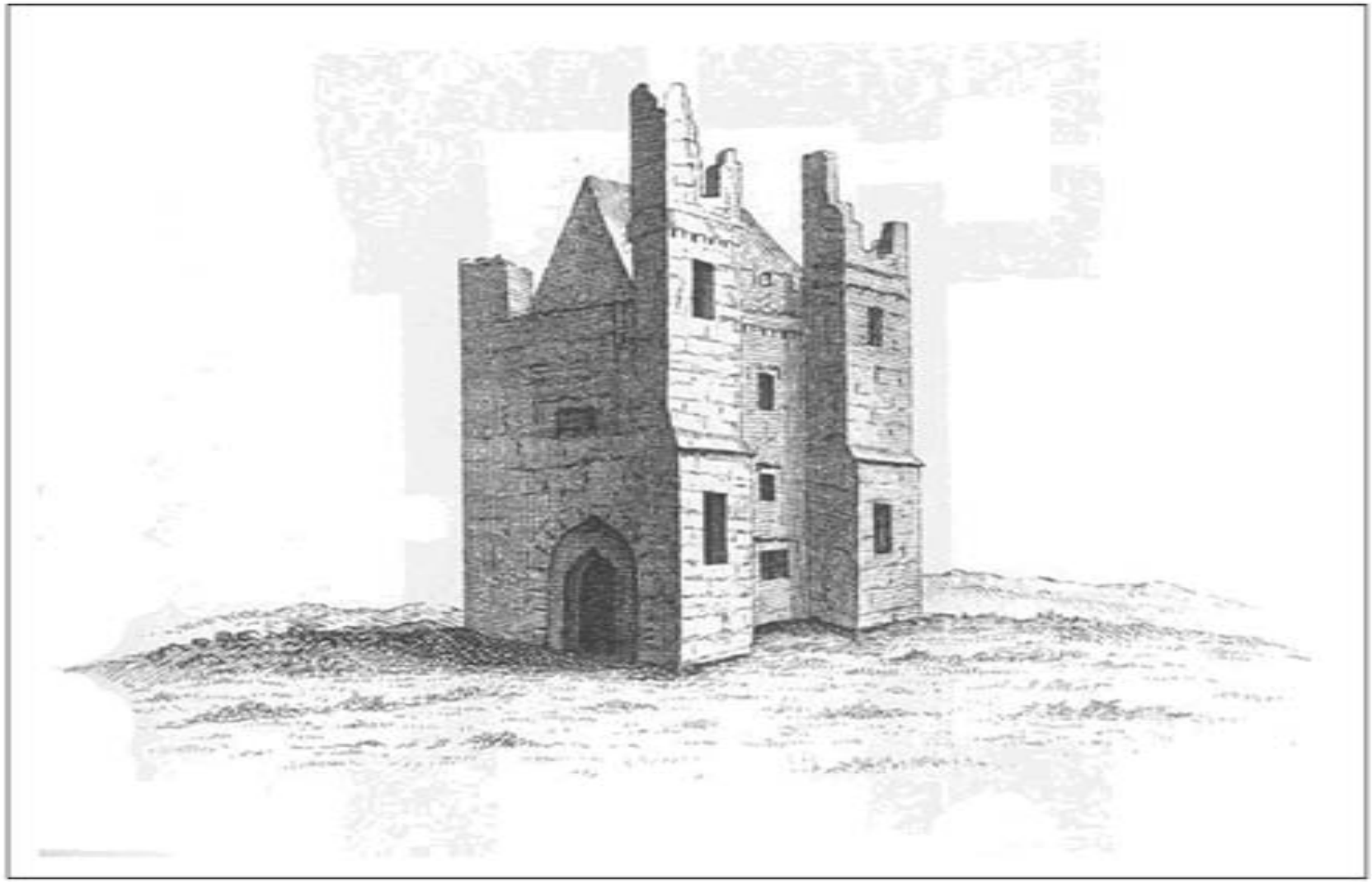

Figure 7 The Town-Castle of Artherdee, in Wright's Louthiana, Book II, Plate XVII-XVIII

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Scale	Not applicable
Fig.	7

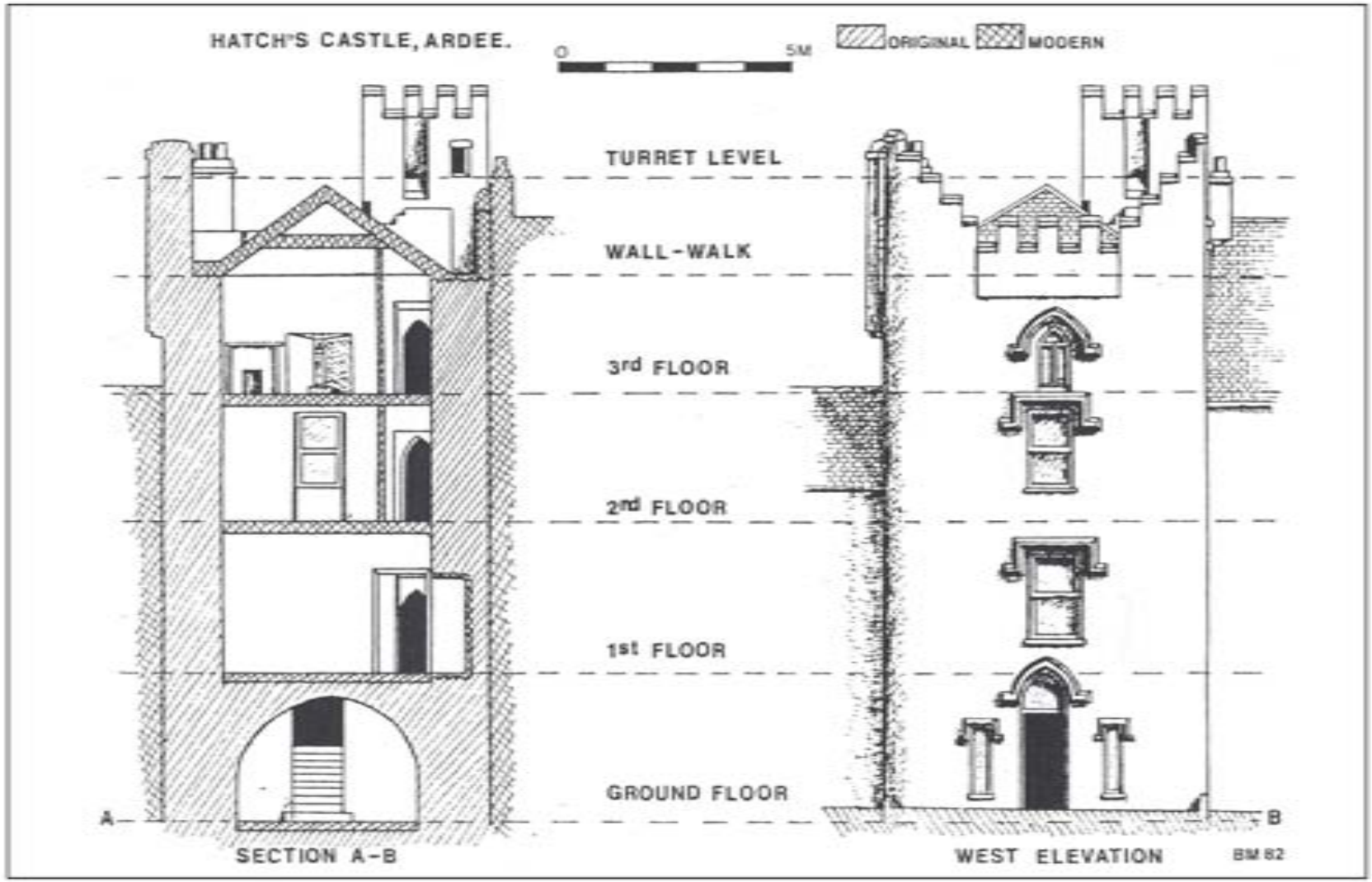

Figure 8 Hatch's Castle, Ardee: section and west elevation (after B. Murtagh, 1989:38)

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Client	Louth County Council
Scale	Not applicable
Fig.	8

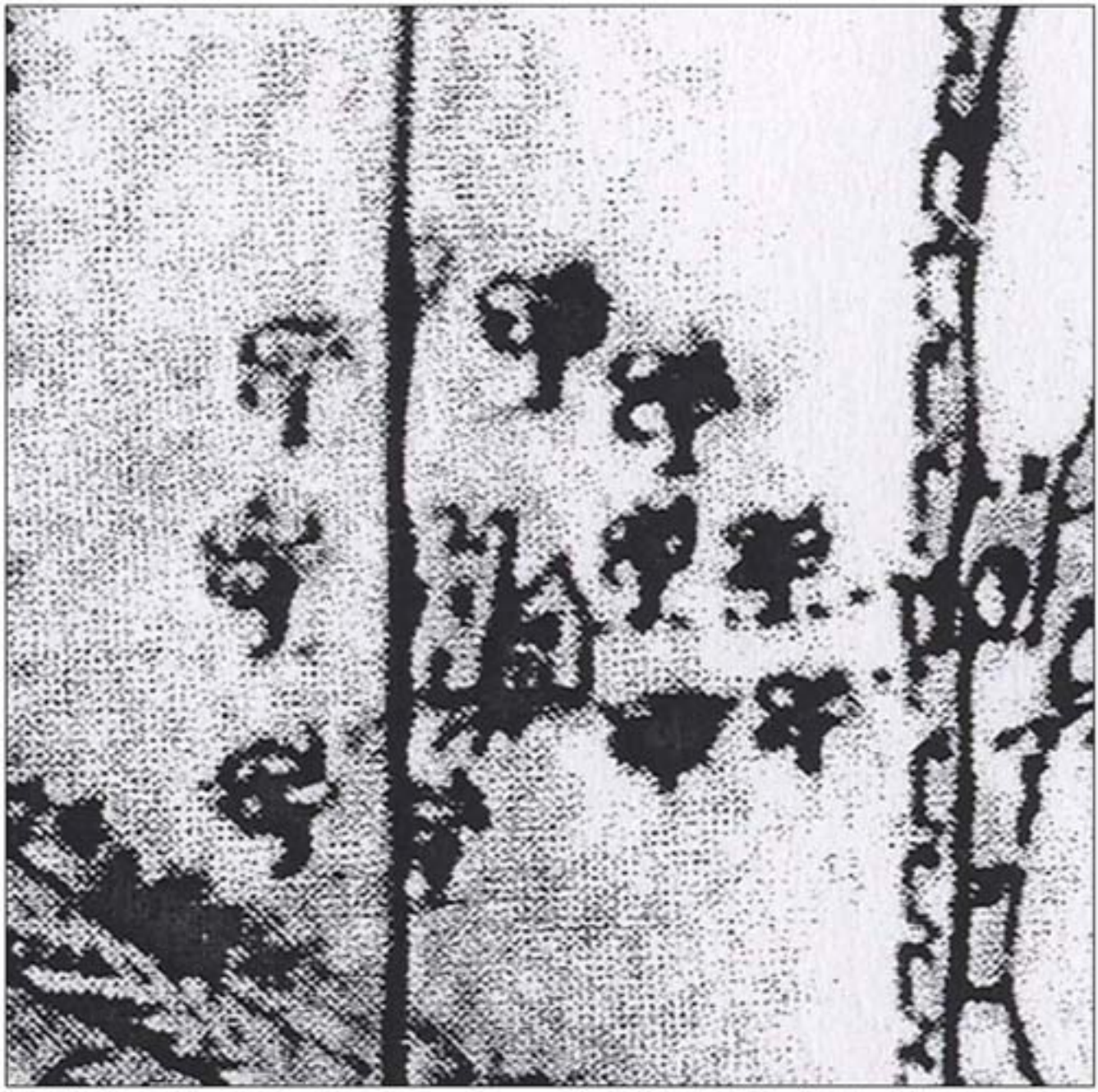

Figure 9 Detail of the extra mural tower house as shown on Robert Richardson's Map of Ardee, 1677 (After Bradley, 1984)

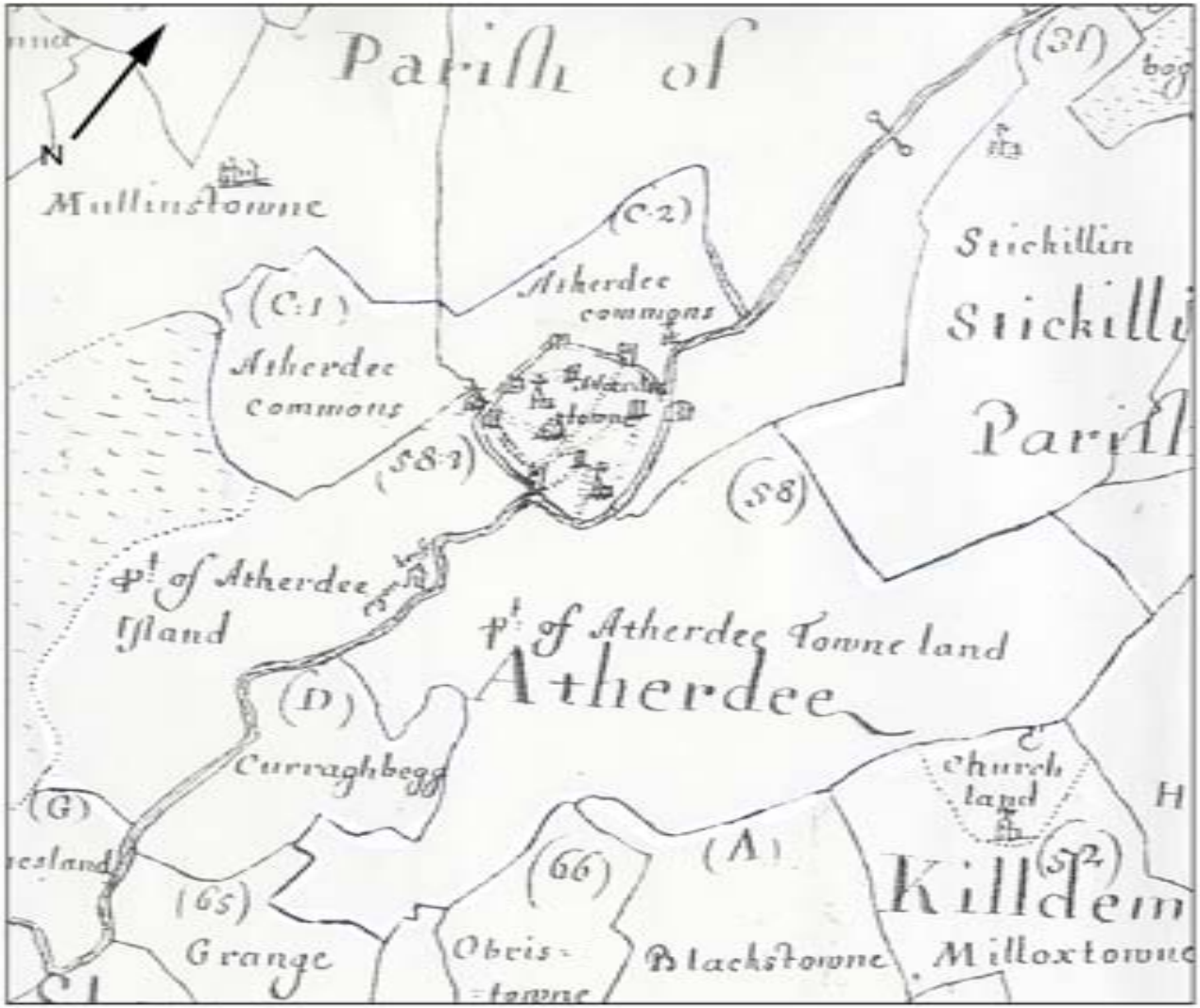

Figure 10 Extract from the Down Survey by William Petty c. 1655 'The Barony of Atherdee in the County of Louth'

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Fig.	10

Figure 11 Robert Richardson's Map of Ardee, 1677 (After Bradley, 1984)

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Scale	Not applicable
Fig. 11	

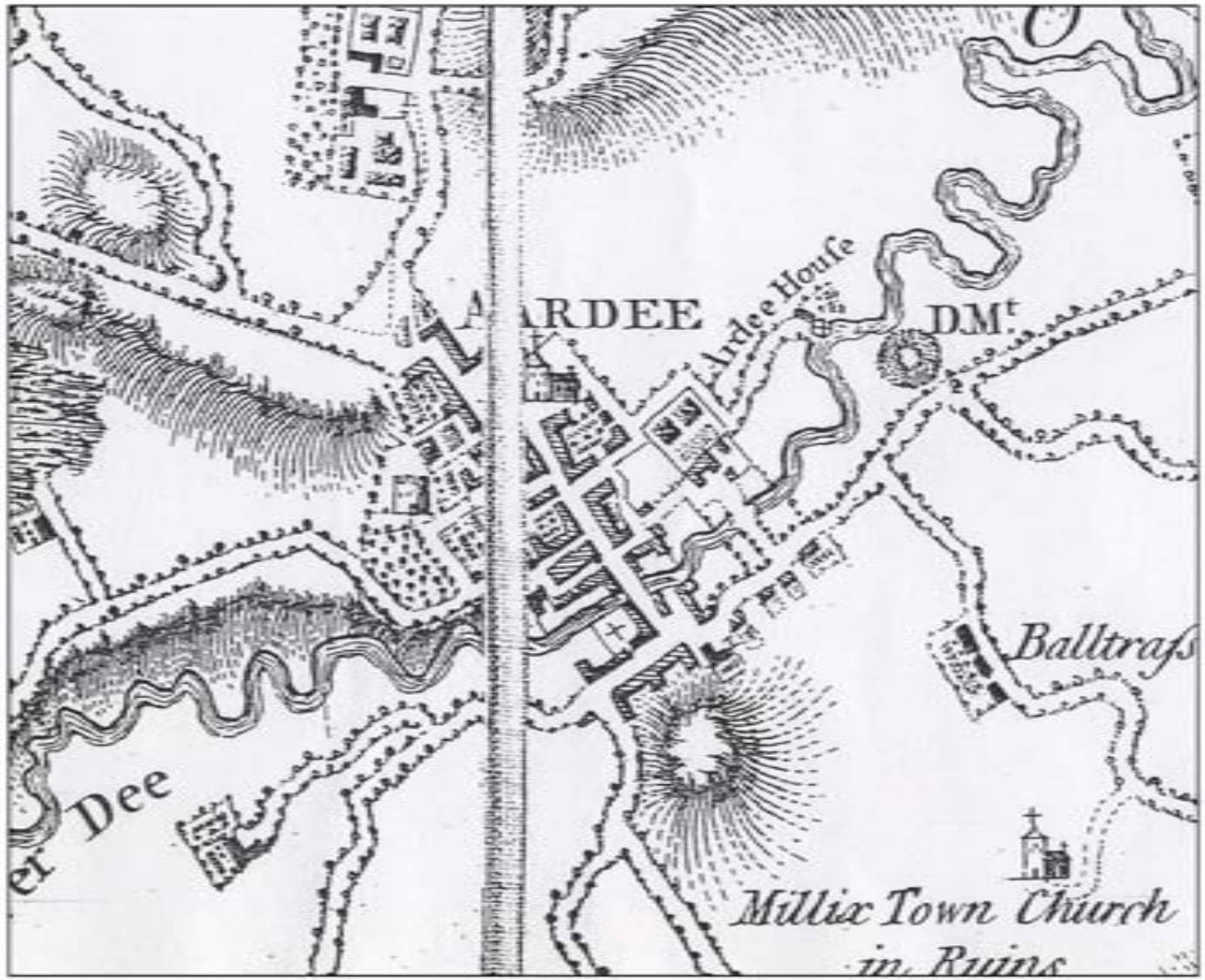

Figure 12 A Topographical Map of the County of Louth, Matthew Wren 1766

Job	The Walled Town of Ardee, Conservation & Management Plan, Co. Louth
Ref.	09110-R1
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Client	Louth County Council
Scale	Not applicable
Fig.	12

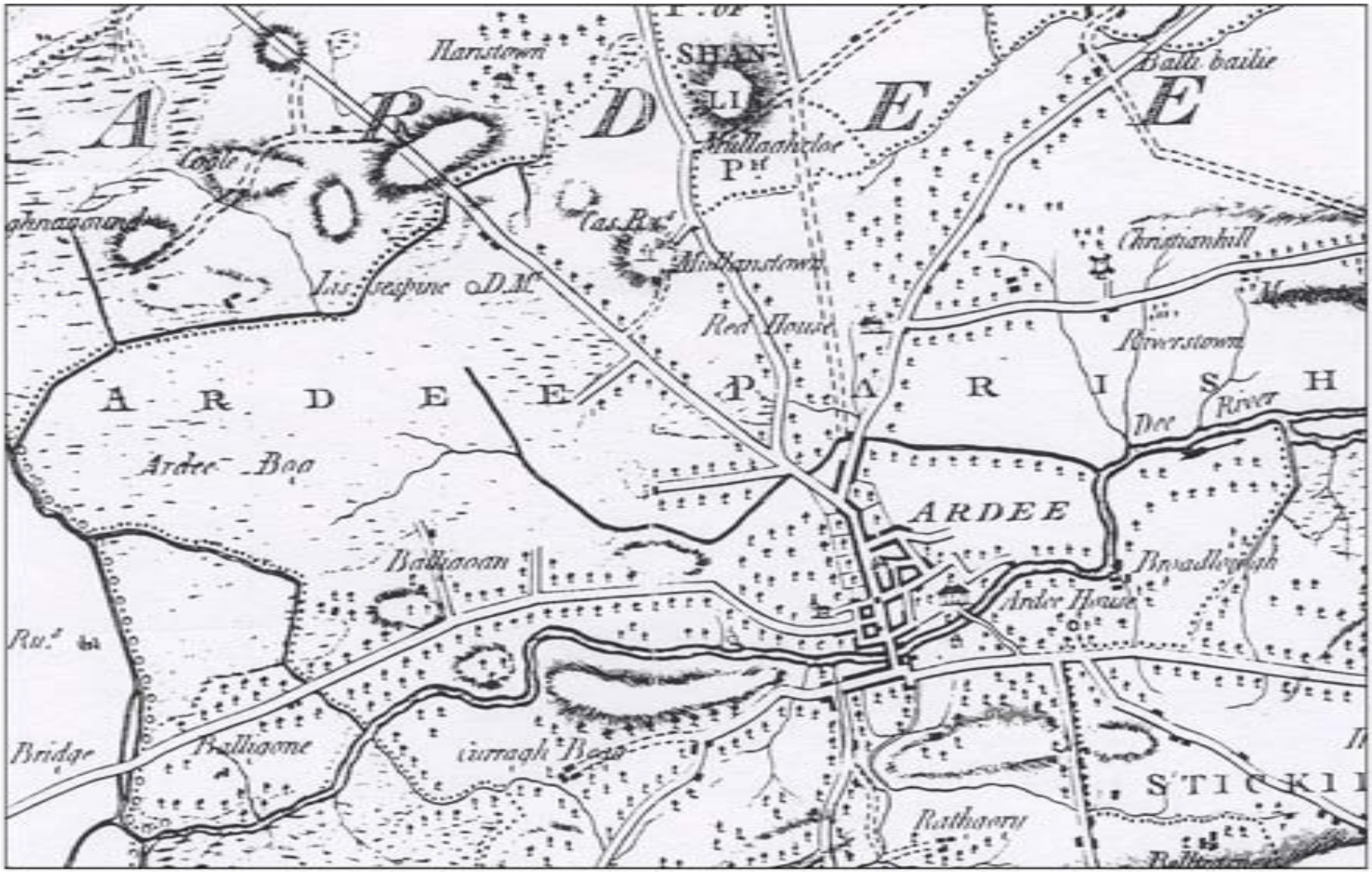

Figure 13 Map of County Louth, Taylor & Skinner's Road Maps of Ireland, 1778

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Ref.	09110-R1
Date	03.02.10
Client	Louth County Council
Scale	Not applicable
Fig.	13

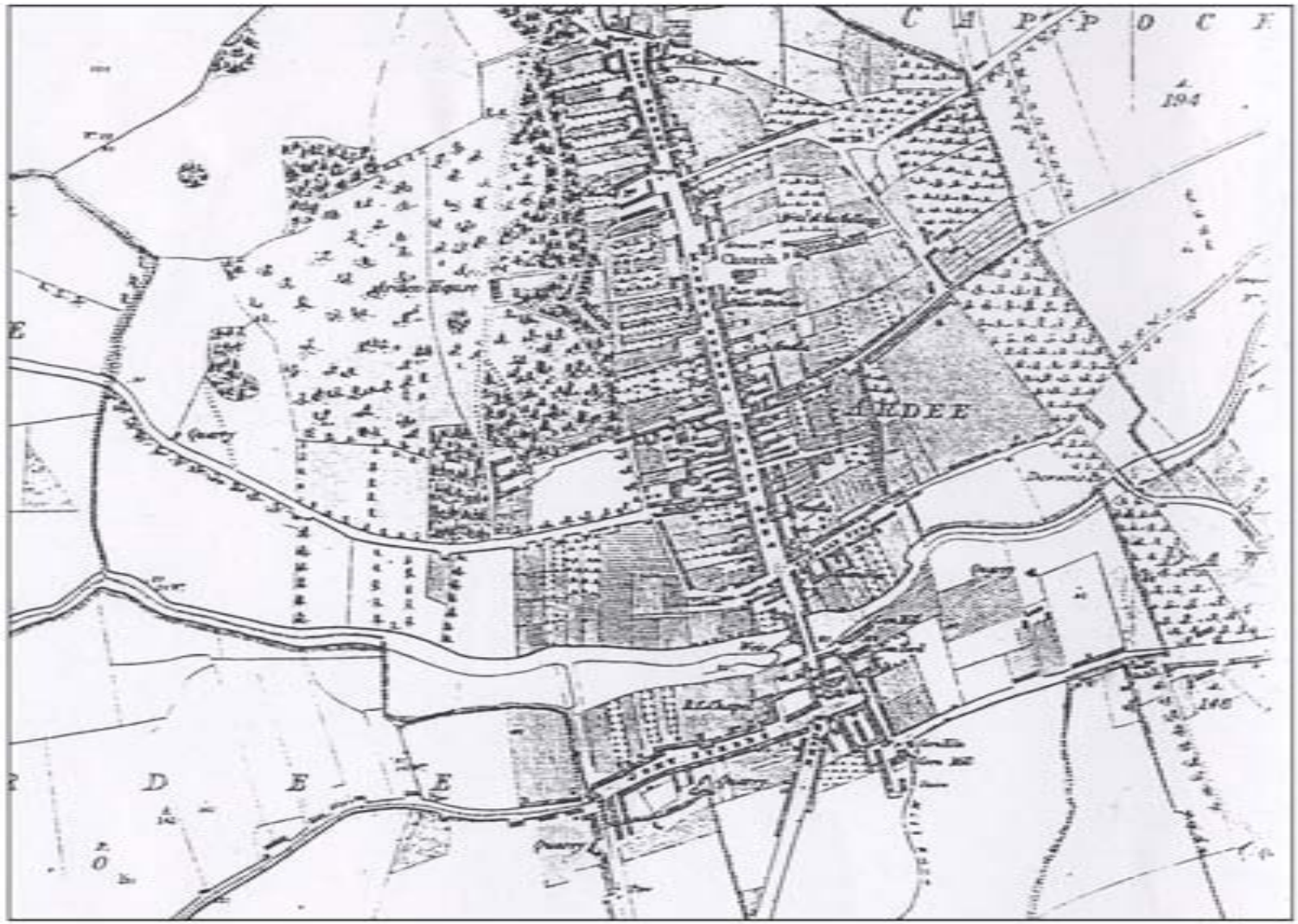

Figure 14 First edition Ordnance Survey map of County Louth, 1:10,560, Surveyed 1835, Published 1836

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Scale	Not applicable
Fig.	14

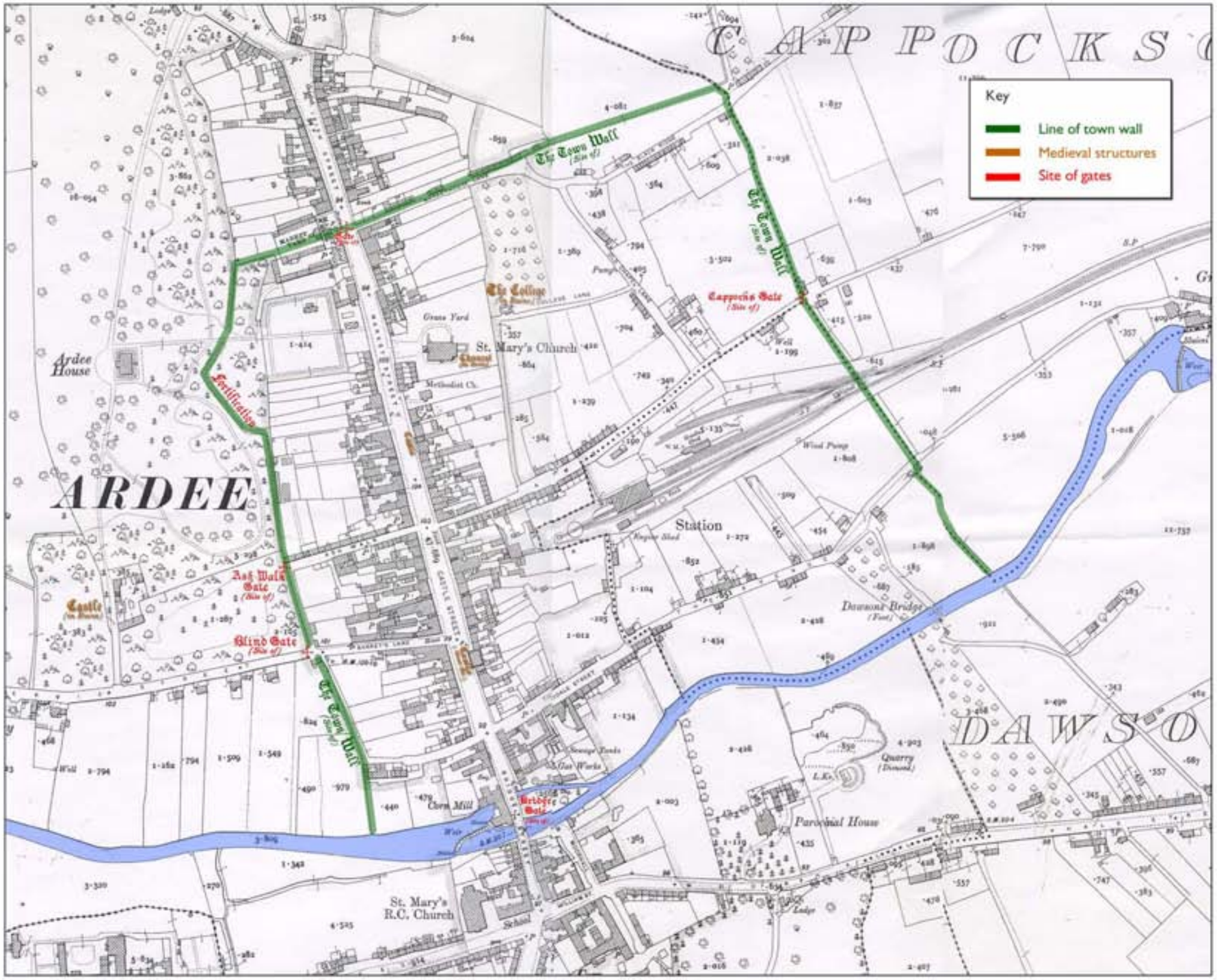

Figure 15 Revised 1908 Ordnance Survey map of County Louth, Pub. 1910

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Ref.	09110-R1
Date	03.02.10
Client	Louth County Council
Scale	Not applicable
Fig.	15

Legend

- Historic line of town wall (possible subsurface remains)
- Possible upstanding remains of town wall
- Town wall preserved in-situ
- Approximate area of the 17th Century northern suburb
- Upstanding medieval buildings / features
- Road network as shown on Richardson 1677 map
- Recommended public realm improvements
- Gate (Site of)
- Gate (ruins of)
- ? Possible gate site
- Bastion (upstanding remains)
- Site of Bastion
- In-situ remains preserved
- Medieval sites (site of)
- Excavations that have revealed medieval remains

ARDEE

Irish Gate

Head Gate

Former Market Yard

Market Street (East Side) Ardee Credit Union 02E193

Mid 16th Century market cross

Gated entrance into the former walled garden associated with Ardee House (built in 1780 residence of Rutten family)

Potential pedestrian route

Site of St. Marys Parish church (before 1197)

Chantry College (before 1487)

(Features preserved in-situ) Possible stone wall footing and associated features parallel to the gate

Cappocks Gate

O'Carroll Street / Jane's Lane 04E005

Ardee House

Former walled garden

Bastion

Future public park?

14th Century remains incorporated into present church

Protect and conserve

Ardee House Demesne Lands

Possible gate site (Bradley 1984)

Townparks 03E1045

To improve public realm

Ash Walk Gate

Out buildings associated with house

Curving wall 1m thick incorporated into structure

Early 20th Century house

Blind Gate

Protect and conserve

Carmelite Friary (site of) c.1272

Ardee Bakery 02E011

Bridge Gate

(Site of) Hospital of St. John c.1207

Site of ford

REVISIONS:	BY:	DATE:	REV:

ISO 9001:2008 EQA QUALITY ASSURED ORGANISATION CERT NO. 2976

ARCHAEOLOGICAL LICENCE: N/A

PRODUCED BY: KG | DATE SURVEYED: N/A

CHECKED BY: SD | DATE ISSUED: 11/02/2010

PROJECT: The Walled Town of Ardee - Conservation and Management Plan

TITLE: The medieval walled town of Ardee, location of town walls, defences, medieval structures and excavations

CLIENT: Louth County Council

JOB NO.: 09110

DRAWING NO.: 09110-02

FIG. NO.: 16

SCALE: 1/3000 @ A3

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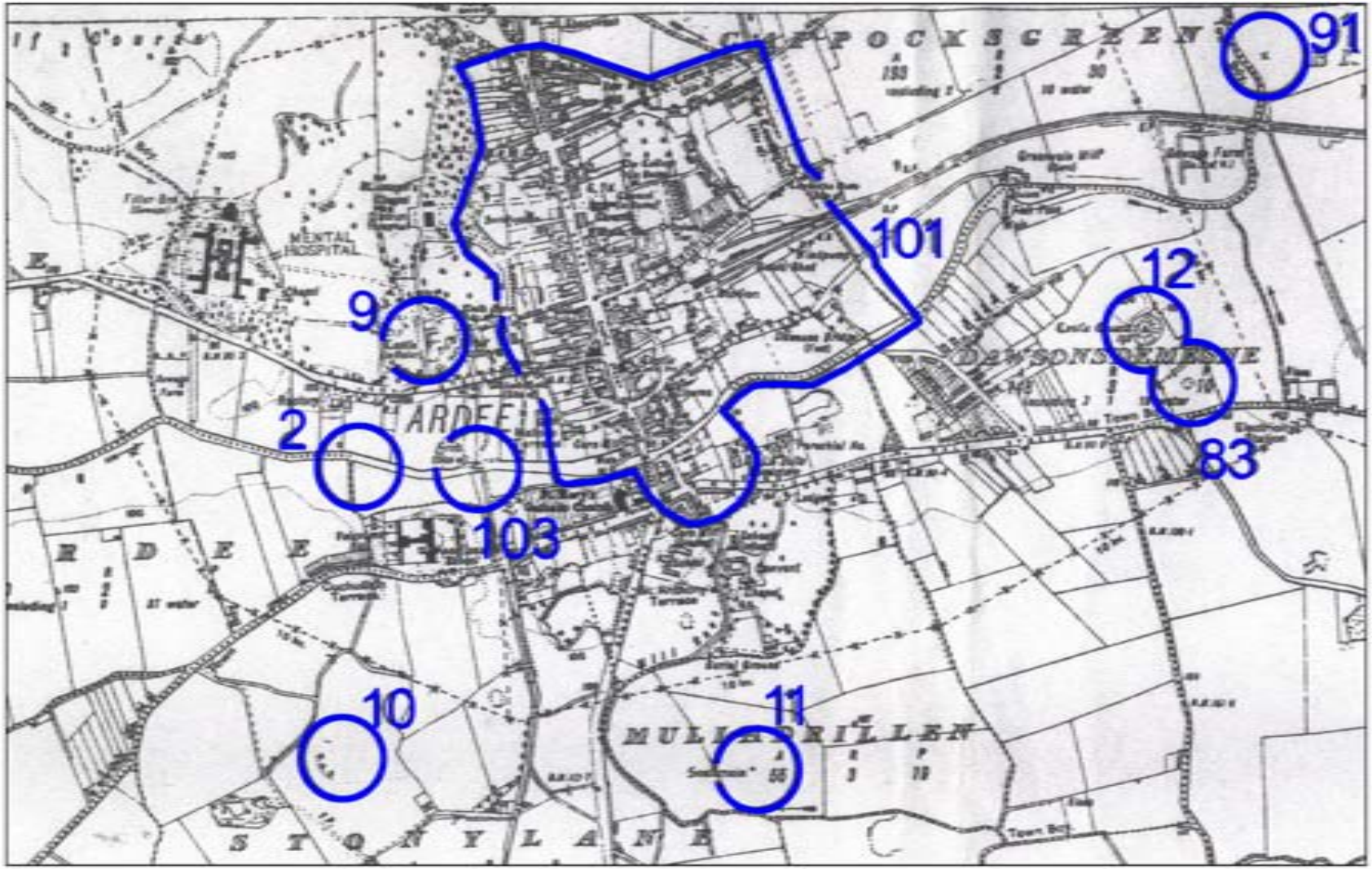

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Job	The Walled Town of Ardee, Conservation & Management Plan, Co. Louth
Ref.	09110-R1
Date	03.02.10
Client	Louth County Council
Scale	Not applicable
Fig. 17	RMP site location map

Figure 18 An impression of potential treatment of the square

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Ref.	09110-R1
Date	03.02.10
Client	Louth County Council
Scale	Not applicable
Fig.	18

Plate 1 View of the southern face of the chantry college

Plate 2 The remains of Cappocks Gate, view towards the north

Plate 3 'The Courthouse, view looking south along Castle Street

Plate 4 Hatch's Castle

Plate 5 Possible bawn wall associated with Ardee Castle

Plate 6 Extra mural tower house view north along the laneway to Ardee House

Plate 7 Early 20thC house built by Mr. Ruxton

Plate 8 Surviving section of town wall to the east of the bastion, overgrown with vegetation

Plate 9 View south along the historic alignment of the town wall between Blind Gate and Ash Walk Gate

Plate 10 Curving structure at the Blind Gate/Barrett's Lane (note the thickness of the entranceway)

Plate 11 View north along embankment beneath which three phases of the town wall are preserved *in situ*

Plate 12 Access through the town wall from Ardee Demesne

Plate 13 View of the outer bank of the bastion

Plate 14 Detail of plaque affixed to Cappocks Gate

Plate 15 View northwest towards Cappocks Gate and metal palisade around archaeological features preserved *in situ*

Plate 16 New signage at Cappocks Gate

Plate 17 St Mary's Church

Plate 18 The surviving fragment of the medieval market cross set on a concrete shaft

Plate 19 View of the chantry from the rere of St Mary's Church

Plate 20 Detail of the Town Wall identified during test excavation at Ash Walk Gate (reproduction courtesy of ACS Ltd.)

Plate 21 An example of contrasting paving and street trees

Plate 22 Detail of contrasting paving

Plate 23 Example of crossing paving metal studs

Plate 24 Public Square in Drogheda

Plate 25 Statue in Market Square

Plate 26 Example of trees and seating

Plate 27 Detail of seating

Plate 28 Existing paving at the church entrance

Plate 29 Existing paving at The Courthouse

Plate 30 Existing paving at The Courthouse

Plate 31 Rubble stone wall to the rere of property adjacent to the River Dee

Plate 32 View north-north- east along the line of the town wall from Malone Terrace to Blind Gate

Plate 33 View east towards the site of Blind Gate

Plate 34 View from Blind Gate on Barrett's Lane eastwards towards Ardee Castle

Plate 35 Curving structure north of Blind Gate

Plate 36 Low wall north of Blind Gate

Plate 37 Spalled render showing rubble stone masonry beneath

Plate 38 Site of Ash Gate looking west

Plate 39 Grassy bank covering *in-situ* remains of the town wall and bastion

Plate 42 The town wall to the east of the bastion

Plate 40 Gated entrance through the town wall from Ardee House to its former associated walled garden

Plate 41 Overgrown section of the 17th century bastion

Plate 43 The town wall to the east of the bastion

Plate 44 The town wall to the east of the bastion

Plate 45 The town wall to the east of the bastion

Plate 46 A substantial wall c. 4m high returning eastwards at the end of the main west facing Bastion wall

Plate 47 A small section of rubble stone wall to the rere of a building behind the library

Plate 48 Market Square

Plate 49 The site of Head Gate

Plate 50 Markethouse Lane looking west

Plate 51 Thick wall in two-story barn at western end of Markethouse Lane

Plate 52 Greenfield through which the town wall once passed

Plate 53 Development along the black ridge in the vicinity of the line of the town wall

Plate 54 Cappock's Gate

Plate 55 New signage at Cappock's Gate

Plate 56 Original signage at Cappock's Gate

Plate 57 Rubble stone wall in private property to the south of Lambs Lane

Plate 58 Path alone line of town wall to the north of Tierney St and South of Lambs Lane

Plate 59 Line of wall to the south of Tierney Street

Plate 60 Site of Bridge Gate

Plate 61 Typical property rere property boundary to the east of 'Irish town'

Plate 62 Site of Irish Gate looking north

Plate 63 Potential line of wall associated with 'Irish town'

Plate 64 Possible line of 'Irish town' wall between buildings

Plate 65 View across industrial lands to the northeast of the town