

The background of the top half of the cover is a photograph of a stone wall, likely part of a castle or fortification. The wall is made of irregular stones and has a small, narrow window. A red, semi-transparent overlay covers the middle section of the image, where the title is placed. The bottom half of the cover features a different photograph of a stone wall, showing a larger window with a metal grille and a small arched entrance. The bottom half has a solid red background.

Irish Walled Towns Network

STRATEGY 2024-2028



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Our Strategy at a glance...

Our Network

An all-island network of local authorities and community groups working together for the protection of Ireland's walled town heritage.

Our Members

Thirty-two member towns, across the island of Ireland.

Our Aim

To ensure the protection of walled town heritage and to place it at the core of making towns great places in which to live, work and visit.

Our Vision

Connection. Conservation. Regeneration.





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Foreword



The Heritage Council established the Irish Walled Towns Network in 2005. Since that time, we have seen significant conservation works carried out to town walls across the island of Ireland and numerous projects and events delivered to promote knowledge and enjoyment of our walled towns.

Our walled towns are part of our European heritage, they served as centres of trade and defence, they feature unique and impressive architecture, rich archaeological deposits, as well as fortifications, historic buildings, and narrow streets. These towns represent the beginning of local governance and self-rule with many town defences commissioned and maintained by the local medieval inhabitants and used as a symbol of their town. It is fitting that so much of the work of the IWTN is carried out in partnership with local government.

Since 2005 we have seen that walled town heritage fosters a sense of belonging and continuity for residents. During the life of this strategy, we expect that these special places will help to maintain community cohesion and that the projects fostered by this plan will strengthen social ties among residents.

The Heritage Council has since its foundation been an advocate for urban heritage by lobbying for policies and funding to support conservation. Awareness of the value of high-quality interpretation and good public spaces within historic towns has been a key focus for the IWTN and this strategy builds on that legacy. If we get this right, it will support the local economy, tourism and the livelihoods of residents.

Since 2005 we have worked in collaboration with local authority colleagues to deliver this programme. It is our hope to build on this relationship and grow our joint endeavours.

From its beginnings, the IWTN has promoted sustainable urban regeneration, encouraged the sensitive re-use of historic buildings in our towns, and supported traditional craft skills, including conservation skills. These are now recognised as key elements in reducing carbon use and helping to develop communities that are more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Our historic urban centres have always faced challenges, whether they be traffic related or connected to dereliction, vacancy and, now, the pressing global issues of climate change and biodiversity loss. We hope that the goals and objectives set out in this document, based on the Heritage Council Strategy *Our Place in Time* and other national policies, such as Town Centre First, make a strong contribution to meeting these issues head on.

Virginia Teehan

Heritage Council CEO



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Message from the Chair

The Irish Walled Towns Network will celebrate its twentieth anniversary during the lifetime of this Strategy. That is an extraordinary achievement. Twelve towns were represented at the initial meeting in Athlone on 28th April 2005. Since then the membership has grown to thirty-two. I hope to see it expand still further.

The strength of the IWTN lies in its members, who have remained committed to and engaged with the activities of the network throughout all of those almost twenty years. It embodies a spirit of sharing and collaboration in which towns learn from and with each other, exchanging knowledge and experience to the benefit of all.

The years ahead will come with significant challenges – not least among them the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss. It is the goal of this Strategy to support our member towns in safeguarding and celebrating their walled town heritage while they work towards meeting those challenges.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "P. Carey".

Peter Carey

Irish Walled Towns Network Chair



About The Irish Walled Towns Network

Founded in 2005, the Irish Walled Towns Network is funded by the Heritage Council and delivered in partnership with local authorities and community groups across the island of Ireland.

Town walls are reminders of the courage, skills, resourcefulness and resilience of our ancestors and today they form a vital source of knowledge of our urban past. Ireland's walled town heritage is of great cultural importance to society as a key basis for modern urban identities. This shared inheritance is, however, a scarce and non-renewable resource that needs to be safeguarded and carefully curated for the benefit of current and future communities. To this end the IWTN promotes public understanding and appreciation of town walls and provides training and funding to member towns to support town wall conservation works, community festivals and heritage interpretation.

Membership is open to towns that have surviving town walls and/or strong documentary evidence for having been walled in the past. Eligibility is based on established research, as carried out by Avril Thomas and published in *The Walled Towns of Ireland* (1992).

Since 2005 over €9 million in funding has been disbursed to member towns through the IWTN's two annual grants schemes.

The IWTN is governed by a Management Committee, which includes representatives from the Heritage Council; the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; the Historic Environment Division of the Department for Communities, Northern Ireland; and representatives of four member towns, at least one of which must be in Northern Ireland. The Chair of the Management Committee is appointed by the Heritage Council. The Deputy Chairperson is a member town representative.



Key Facts and Figures



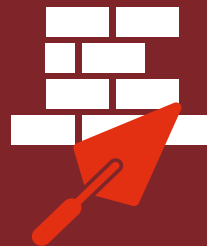
19 years



150+ funded festivals and events



All-island remit



Approx. 4km of town walls conserved



32 member towns



19 issues of the Walled Town Crier (to Dec. 2023)



2 annual grants schemes



€9.27m in funding to member towns



1 Europa Nostra Award

Meet Our Members

"The great advantage of being in the IWTN is we get to learn what other walled towns around the Country are doing in terms of initiatives, projects, issues and engagement with Government agencies to develop and promote their respective heritage."

Ken Murray, Kells Local Heroes

"For us in Carlingford, the IWTN has been an invaluable, and critical, resource for cultural heritage education, knowledge and project feasibility. Without it, many cultural heritage projects, here, simply couldn't happen."

Paraic McKeivitt, Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust

"The IWTN enabled Kilmallock to be recognised as one of the best preserved walled towns in Ireland. It provided funding for conservation work, for strategies and plans that gained more funding from other sources. A pebble, that became a stone, a rock and ultimately an impregnable wall once more!"

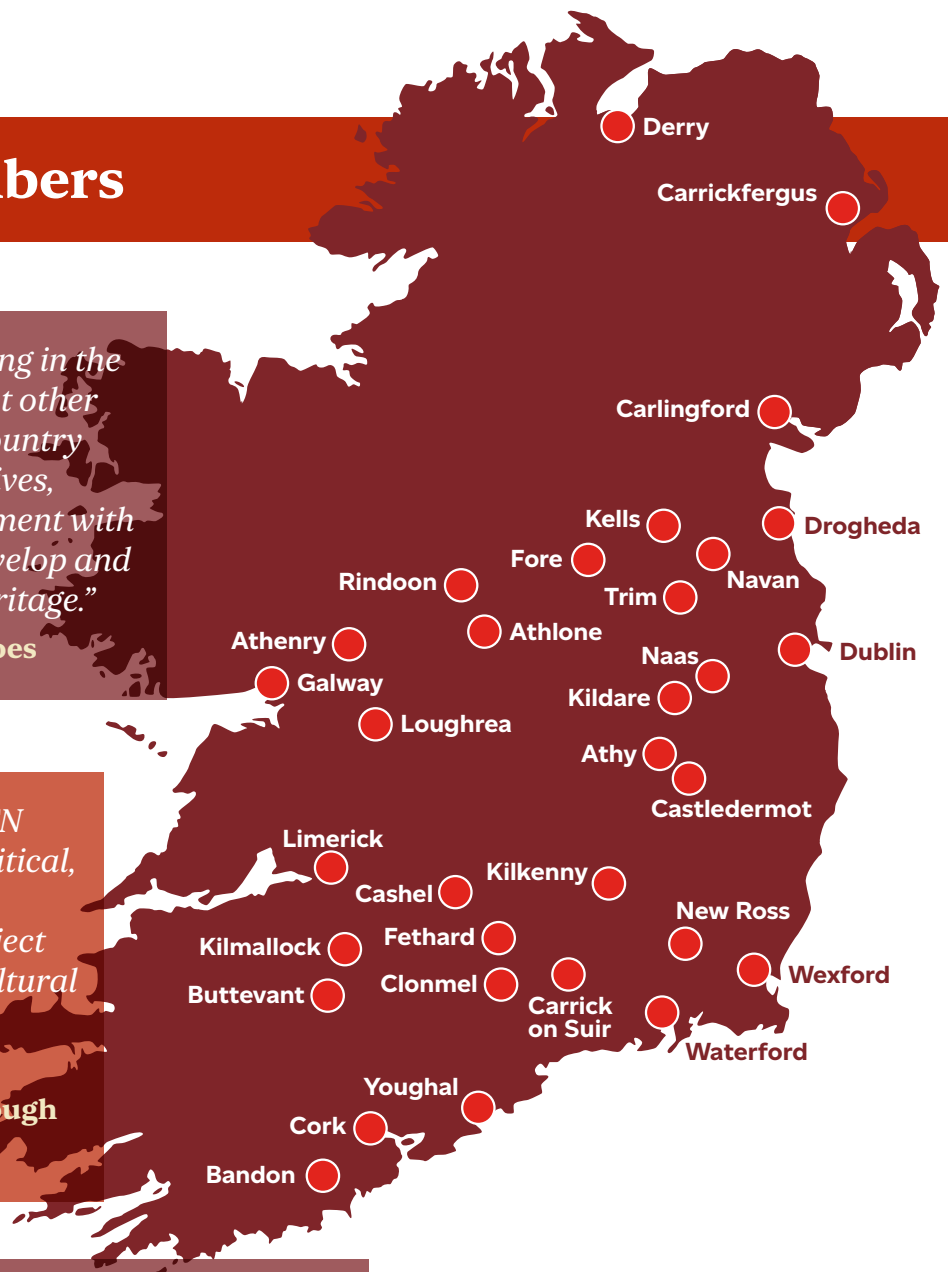
Sarah McCutcheon, Local Authority Archaeologist, Limerick City & County Council

"Going forward I would like to see the network and collaboration between the towns across the network strengthened and maybe collaborative projects or initiatives that multiple member towns could participate in to promote awareness."

Róisín O'Grady, Heritage Officer, Tipperary County Council

"Urban centres across Ireland need to reinvent themselves as we try to deal with emergencies of climate change, international conflict, and aging populations. The IWTN can continue to devise and share best practices in putting our urban defences to work again: enclosing distinctive town centres, which are both safe and welcoming, where families will want to live and prosper."

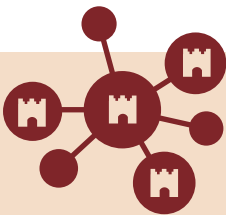
Mark Lusby, Friends of the Derry Walls



Our Key Action Areas for 2024-2028

Our strategy for 2024-2028 is focused on three key action areas: **Connection, Conservation, Regeneration**. A number of strategic goals have been identified in each area.

These goals will be translated into specific actions by means of an annual action plan, agreed by the membership at the AGM.



Connection

Continue to facilitate our member towns in connecting on conservation, heritage, urban regeneration and tourism issues with each other and with outside bodies.

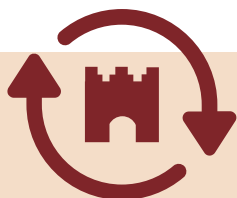
1. Encourage and support the networking and collaboration of IWTN members and explore themes that will further connect the network.
2. Pursue connections with national, European and international organisations that have complementary objectives to our own.
3. Support the development of communities of care and local authority town wall conservation committees in member towns and enhance their ability to help manage and protect the town's heritage assets.
4. Continue to develop educational, community and visitor resources, including online resources.
5. Continue to expand and reinforce the membership of the IWTN.



Conservation

Ensure the conservation of town walls, their setting, visual amenity, and associated early buildings in our member towns and encourage their sensitive reuse.

1. Continue to directly support the conservation of town walls and associated structures.
2. Promote the conservation, management and sensitive reuse of built, natural and intangible heritage in member towns.
3. Provide and encourage training on heritage conservation and traditional skills as it relates to town walls and associated structures.
4. Support data collection and research relating to the investigation, documentation and conservation of town walls and associated structures.
5. Support member towns to create an archive of archaeological and conservation works undertaken.



Regeneration

Work to promote heritage-led regeneration that fully acknowledges both climate change and biodiversity loss and safeguards built, natural and intangible heritage.

1. Identify and work to fill key gaps that exist in the development of an evidence-based approach to heritage-led regeneration.
2. Support the creation of a high-quality public realm that is sensitive to the upstanding and below-ground remains of town defences and associated structures.
3. Support communities as they lower carbon emissions, promote biodiversity and make their historic towns more socially and economically robust to the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss.
4. Develop and encourage inclusive events and interpretation actions that celebrate and explore walled town heritage, including oral heritage, customs, and traditions.
5. Support collaboration between heritage, culture and the arts to increase the diversity of interaction with and towards heritage, to widen the potential audience and to promote inclusivity.

Network Management

These items will better enable the network to meet the goals set out above. In 2024-2028, we will:

1. Work to enhance the level of IWTN funding for use by member towns.
2. Disseminate information to member towns on outside funding opportunities that complement our objectives and provide assistance to member towns on developing grant applications and sourcing support.
3. Celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the founding of the network in 2025.
4. Enhance our administrative capacity and internal communications.
5. Enhance our profile through networking, publishing advisory documents and pursuing suitable awards.
6. Monitor the implementation of this Plan by ensuring that all actions undertaken correspond to one or more of the key action areas and strategic goals identified above.







Implementation

An annual action plan to deliver progress on the strategic goals outlined above will be agreed by the membership at the IWTN AGM each year.

This will contain specific actions and deliverable outcomes that address each of the three action areas: Connection, Conservation and Regeneration, as well as the identified Network Management goals.

The annual action plan will include a baseline commitment to deliver:

- ▶ 2 no. annual grants schemes: for Conservation/Capital projects and Events/Interpretation projects respectively.
- ▶ 2 no. training events for IWTN members
- ▶ 1 no. annual conference
- ▶ 1 no. Annual General Meeting
- ▶ Bimonthly IWTN e-zine (6 issues annually)

What will successful implementation look like?

It is the goal of the IWTN: that our surviving town defences are protected, understood, conserved, maintained and promoted; that our member towns become great places in which to live, work and visit; and that our members are empowered to act as guardians for their walled town heritage.

We will monitor progress towards this goal by recording:

- ▶ Membership
- ▶ Funding amounts available under each grants scheme
- ▶ Number of applicants (overall and successful) to each grants scheme
- ▶ Number of applicants successfully drawing down funding
- ▶ Amount of town defences conserved
- ▶ Attendance at training events, annual conference and AGM
- ▶ Attendance at funded events
- ▶ Other specific metrics as determined in the annual action plan



Policy Context

This plan has been guided and informed by existing local, national and international policy, including:

National Policies

At the time of writing the primary legislation governing town defences in Ireland is the **National Monuments Acts 1930-2014**. This will be superseded by the **Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023**, which recognises that that 'historic heritage is a non-renewable resource of great cultural and scientific importance which, in addition to its intrinsic value, provides evidence for the development of society and promotes public understanding and appreciation of all periods of the past'. This act is currently in the process of commencement and will see significant additional protections for walled towns – including for the settings of town walls.

National Policy on Town Defences:

Published in 2008, the National Policy on Town Defences is based on the understanding that all known and expected circuits of the town defences (both upstanding and buried, whether of stone or embankment construction) and all associated features of the same are to be considered a single national monument and treated as a unit for policy and management purposes.

The policy states that there should be a presumption in favour of preservation in-situ of archaeological remains and preservation of their character, setting and amenity. It acknowledges that urban settlements will and must continue to change and develop. However, this

necessary continuum must recognise and preserve the character, setting and amenity of all upstanding urban defences and the archaeological evidence that survives, or may survive, below ground. Urban defences are to be considered of primary importance where they are found.

Heritage Ireland 2030 is the national heritage plan. It provides a framework for the protection, conservation, promotion, and management of Ireland's heritage for the current decade. Heritage Ireland 2030 embraces the concept of cultural heritage as a group of resources inherited from the past, and the diversity of heritage in Ireland's multicultural society. It recognises heritage as a bedrock of Ireland's identity, asserting how important heritage is to all objectives of government and to society generally as well as its role in individual and societal wellbeing, economic development, tourism and innovation.

'Our Place in Time': Heritage Council Strategy 2023 - 2028 sets out the Heritage Council's vision that:

- ▶ Ireland takes its place in Europe and the world as an exemplar country, committed to the principles of climate justice, conservation, heritage management, education and societal engagement;
- ▶ Ireland acknowledges the importance of heritage in all its manifestations;
- ▶ Ireland espouses the highest international standards in its quest for excellence in heritage care and practice.

The Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP23) is the second annual update to Ireland's

Climate Action Plan 2019. It sets out how Ireland can accelerate the actions that are required to respond to the climate crisis.

Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Plan

was published in 2023. It sets a clear intention to embed biodiversity at the heart of climate action.

Project Ireland 2040 (combining the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan 2021-2030) is the Irish Government's overarching policy initiative with a vision '... to provide a comprehensive social, economic and cultural infrastructure for all our people to flourish...'. A core component of Project Ireland 2040 is for Ireland to be 'a place where we have more opportunity to enjoy our heritage, our language and our landscape'. One of the initiative's 10 strategic outcomes includes ***Enhanced Amenity and Heritage*** in which cultural heritage is seen as a key contributor to the sustainable development of our cities, towns, villages, and rural areas.

The ***Town Centre First*** policy was launched in early 2022 as a co-ordinated, whole-of-government policy framework to proactively address the decline in the health of towns across Ireland and support measures to regenerate and revitalise them. One of the key actions of Town Centre First has been the establishment of Town Regeneration Officers in each local authority to act as a forum for sharing best practice and inform the ongoing roll-out of the policy.

Places for People: Ireland's National Policy on Architecture is the National Policy Document on Architecture from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Four key objectives (Sustainability, Quality, Leadership and Culture) frame a vision that architecture and the built environment are valued for their roles in creating sustainable communities and fostering a culture of

creativity, rooted in appreciation for the achievements of the past.

Northern Ireland Policies

The primary legislation for protection of archaeological monuments in Northern Ireland is the ***Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995***. This allows for the creation of scheduled monuments – including town walls. All works to these monuments require Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) to be granted by the Department prior to their commencement. Any works in contravention of the SMC or without SMC leave the person guilty of the offence liable to a criminal conviction and fine.

Under the ***Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011*** the Historic Environment Division - Department for Communities (NI) is a consultee to the planning process. Schedule 3 of the ***Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015*** largely removes permitted development rights from areas that contain archaeological remains. Development in these areas therefore requires planning permission. The planning process therefore allows for the protection of scheduled and non-scheduled historic town walls from adverse development.

The relevant planning policies with regard to the Historic Environment were outlined in ***Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage in 1999***. A ***Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland*** was issued in September 2015 in response to the reform of local government that created eleven new councils on 1st April 2015. This was to provide a transitional policy framework while the eleven new councils developed their own planning policies. New council-specific Local Development Plan Strategies began being adopted in 2023.

Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland was published in December 2020. It is a cross-sectoral strategy document, which sets out a vision that: ‘by 2030 we want archaeology to be accessed and valued by as many people as possible, led by a sector which is healthy, resilient and connected’. The strategy identifies 6 key aims for achieving that vision, backed by specific recommendations.

International Policies

The seventeen ***UN Sustainable Development Goals (2015)*** are ‘a call for action by all countries to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs [...] while tackling climate change and environmental protection’. ***SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*** in particular recognises the need for sustainable urban development, while protecting and safeguarding cultural and natural heritage.

The New European Bauhaus is a cultural and creative approach to delivering the European Green Deal. The European Commission published ***Council Conclusions on culture, high-quality architecture and built environment as key elements of the New European Bauhaus initiative*** in November 2021. This is a formal communication that invites member states ‘to embed a quality-based and holistic approach in all policies and activities that have an impact on the built and living environment’.

In addition, the international conventions and policies below form the basis for our approach to delivering heritage projects:

- ▶ Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro, 2005)
- ▶ UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus, 1998)
- ▶ Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 1985)
- ▶ Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe (Valletta, 1992)
- ▶ ICOMOS Washington Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas (Washington, 1987)
- ▶ Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (Burra, 1979)
- ▶ ICOMOS Venice Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (1964)



Climate Statement

This plan will be delivered in the context of ongoing global Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergencies.

In conjunction with providing support to our member towns on the management and protection of their heritage as they develop low carbon economies, enhance biodiversity, and adapt to the challenges of climate change, the following principles will apply to the day-to-day operations of the IWTN:

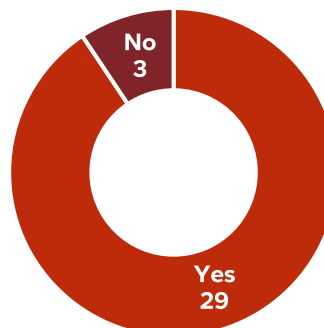
1. The vast majority of IWTN training events and steering committee meetings are to take place in towns with good public transport connections. The venues are to be located within walking distance of public transport, preferably within the urban centre. Attendees are to be strongly encouraged to use public transport. Carpooling is to also be encouraged.
2. The IWTN project manager is to use public transport where reasonable. Video conferencing should be used for repeat meetings with town representatives.
3. Flying on behalf of the IWTN is to be kept to a minimum and will only be considered when no equivalent event or opportunity is available within the island of Ireland. Carbon emissions associated with any flights that do occur will be calculated in line with the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform's [Circular 01/2020: Procedures for Offsetting the Emissions Associated with Official Air Travel](#) and will be offset accordingly.
4. There is to be a strong preference for locally sourced food for catering at IWTN-run events.
5. The sustainable management of waste, energy and water use is to be strongly encouraged at IWTN-run events.
6. Printing of IWTN publications will be kept to a minimum. Where printing of publications does occur, only recycled paper or paper sourced from responsibly managed forests will be used.
7. We will encourage projects that are designed so that they either reduce a town's carbon footprint, help to enhance biodiversity and/or make a town more economically robust to climate change.
8. We will encourage projects that promote the use of traditional crafts and skills.
9. When funding conservation works, we will encourage an approach that balances the conservation needs of the historic structure and those of its associated biodiversity.
10. All IWTN funded festivals and training events will enact a robust set of green principles in line with the Heritage Council's [Sustainable Events: A Guide for Event Organisers](#) and accompanying checklist. Appropriate training and support will be provided.

IWTN Conservation Audit

In 2022-2023 the Irish Walled Towns Network carried out an audit of conservation works undertaken to date in member towns. Some of the key results are presented here.

Of our 32 member towns, 29 retain upstanding remains of their historic town walls. Representatives from these 29 towns were asked to complete a survey of conservation works carried out between 2007 (when the first formal IWTN grants scheme was opened) and 2023.

Member towns with upstanding remains of town wall surviving



Total circuit when complete (m)

ATHENRY	2000
ATHLONE	1875
BANDON	1500
BUTTEVANT	1000
CARLINGFORD	1600
CARRICKFERGUS	1175
CARRICK ON SUIR	1550
CASHEL	1550
CASTLEDERMOT	1450
CLONMEL	1600
DERRY	1500
DROGHEDA	3500
DUBLIN CITY	1750
FETHARD	1125
FORE	1450
GALWAY	1325
KELLS	1650
KILDARE	1000
KILKENNY	3000
KILMALLOCK	1700
LIMERICK CITY	3025
LOUGHREA	1075
NAVAN	1125
NEW ROSS	2325
RINDOON	2000
TRIM	2000
WATERFORD	2450
WEXFORD	1250
YOUGHAL	1750

Survival rate (%)

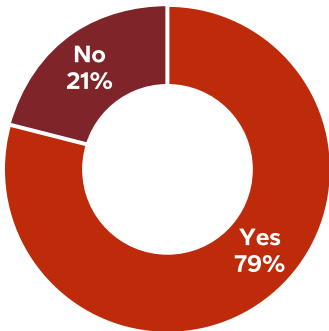
ATHENRY	60
ATHLONE	10
BANDON	30
BUTTEVANT	10
CARLINGFORD	10
CARRICKFERGUS	50
CARRICK ON SUIR	15
CASHEL	40
CASTLEDERMOT	10
CLONMEL	30
DERRY	95
DROGHEDA	10
DUBLIN CITY	40
FETHARD	95
FORE	10
GALWAY	10
KELLS	26
KILDARE	5
KILKENNY	25
KILMALLOCK	65
LIMERICK CITY	25
LOUGHREA	60
NAVAN	10
NEW ROSS	10
RINDOON	25
TRIM	10
WATERFORD	50
WEXFORD	30
YOUGHAL	50

The perimeter of the walled circuit (or circuits) in these 29 towns, when complete, varied from 1km to 3.5km in length.

The survival rate above ground varies significantly from town to town, with some member towns retaining as much as 95% of their historic walled circuit, while others

retain only 5%. These figures may vary as our state of knowledge changes – for example, additional sections of surviving town wall may come to light incorporated into later buildings or boundaries during the course of works.

Conservation works carried out after CMP in place?



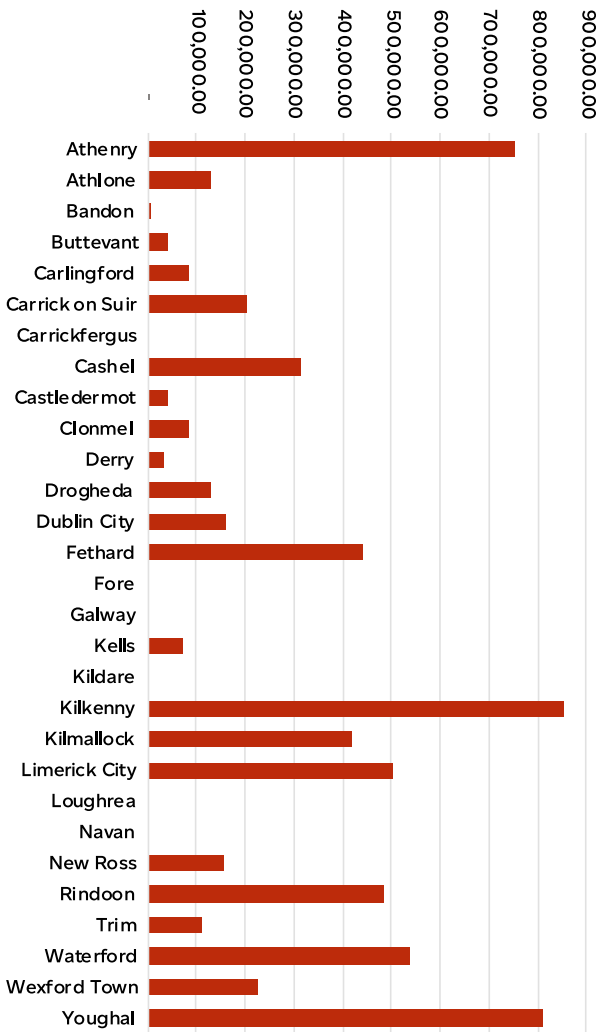
All 29 towns surveyed (indeed, all 32 of our member towns) have Conservation Management Plans for their town walls in place.

Of the 29 towns surveyed, 70% (23 towns) have carried out conservation works to town walls subsequent to the Conservation Management Plan being put in place.

A grants scheme for conservation works to town walls and associated structures in IWTN member towns was put in place in 2007. Since that time over €7.5 million in conservation funding has been awarded.

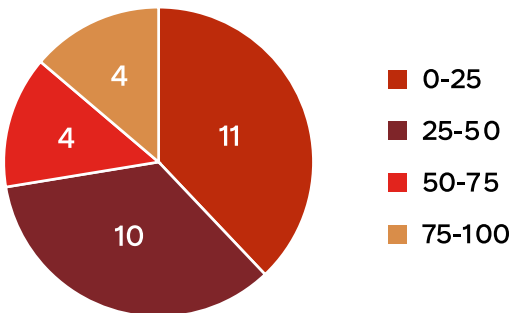
Excluding funding for conservation-related plans and studies (ie. Including works funding only) the distribution of funding across our member towns is shown in the graph below. Towns which joined the network earlier, and which have significant amounts of surviving town wall, have naturally attracted the majority of the funding. Some newer member towns have yet to carry out conservation works.

Conservation Funding 2007-2023 (€)



Town representatives were asked to estimate the % of surviving town wall in their town that remains to be conserved.

% of surviving wall remaining to conserve



Town representatives were also asked to identify whether opportunities for public realm improvements existed within the setting of town wall(s) in their town, and to identify whether opportunities existed for improved interpretation of the town wall(s) in their town.

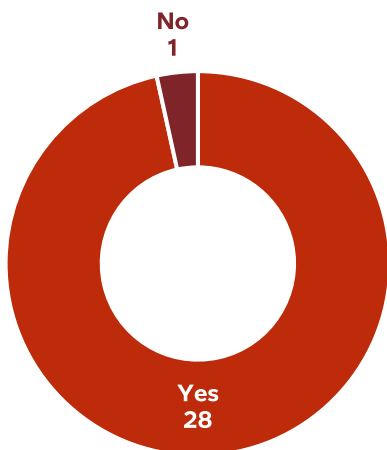
All 29 representatives identified a need for public realm opportunities to better present the setting of surviving town wall(s) in their town.

All but one of the 29 representatives identified a need for improved interpretation of the surviving town walls in their town.

5 of 29 respondents confirmed that they had availed of non-IWTN funding to carry out conservation works to town walls in the 2007-2023 period (although incomplete data was available in response to this query). Of those that responded, the alternative sources of funding identified were:

- ▶ Local Authority's own funds
- ▶ Local Authority Community Grants
- ▶ Community Monuments Fund (CMF)
- ▶ Historic Towns Initiative (HTI)
- ▶ Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ)
- ▶ Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

Interpretation opportunities



IWTN Constitution

Constitution of the Irish Walled Towns Network and Standing Orders for Management Committee meetings.

Adopted 30th September 2010.

Introduction

1. The Heritage Council established the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) in April 2005 to unite and coordinate the strategic efforts of Local Authorities involved in the management and conservation of historic walled towns in Ireland, both North and South. The Irish Walled Town Network is formally linked to the international Walled Town Friendship Circle (WTFC) which is the International Association for the sustainable development of walled towns, walled cities and fortified historic towns.

The Management Committee

2. A Management Committee shall be established to co-ordinate the affairs of the IWTN in relation to Policy Management and direction with representation from the Walled Town's Members, the Heritage Council, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government [now Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage], Fáilte Ireland and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency [now Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities, Northern Ireland]. The purpose of this Management Committee shall be to formulate Network Action Plans and accordingly to advise and assist the ongoing work programmes associated with implementing those Plans.

3. The Management Committee shall consist of 10 Members and shall be comprised of
 - i. Chairperson,
 - ii. Deputy Chairperson,
 - iii. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,
 - iv. Heritage Council,
 - v. Historic Environment Division, Northern Ireland,
 - vi. Fáilte Ireland,
 - vii. Walled Town Representatives - Northern Ireland (1 member) and Walled Town Representatives - Republic of Ireland (3 members).

The Network Project Manager shall be in attendance and will not be a member of the Committee.

Annual General Meeting

4. The IWTN shall hold an annual general meeting in January each year or on such date as the Management Committee decides.
5. The office of Deputy Chairperson, who must be a representative of a member town, shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman of the IWTN Management Committee will be appointed by the Heritage Council.
6. Nominations for Deputy Chairperson shall be made to the IWTN Project Manager at least seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting with the consent of the nominee. All nominations shall be seconded

before or at the A.G.M. Where two or more nominations are received for a single position and not subsequently withdrawn, an election shall take place at the A.G.M. Where only one nomination is placed before the A.G.M. that person shall be elected.

7. Nominations from the Heritage Council, Fáilte Ireland, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Northern Ireland Environment Agency will be accepted before, at or after the Annual General Meeting.
8. The Secretary of the Network shall be the Project Manager as engaged by the Heritage Council. The Secretary does not have any voting rights. The Project Manager is to act as the P.R.O. for the Network.
9. Nominations to the remaining positions on the Management Committee shall be made seven working days prior to the Annual General Meeting. All nominations shall be seconded before or at the A.G.M. (4)
10. The Office of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson may be held for not more than two consecutive terms (i.e. no more than four years).
11. Each Walled Town in the Irish Walled Town's Network shall have one vote, subject to payment of membership fees, on matters arising at the Annual General Meeting.
12. A quorum for the Annual General Meeting is one quarter of the paid up town members.

Management Committee business

13. Ordinary meetings of the Management Committee shall take place in January,

March, June, September and November or on such dates as maybe determined from time to time.

14. A quorum for the purposes of a meeting of the Management Committee shall be not less than 5 members, 3 of whom must be paid up town members.
15. The Management Committee shall have the sole right to appoint a Special Committee or Committees to advise the Management Committee on whatever matters it so decides. The recommendations of subcommittees shall not become binding until approved by the Management Committee. A Sub Committee shall be chaired by a Member of the Management Committee and shall comprise of at least 3 members of the Irish Walled Towns Network.
16. Whenever a vacancy occurs on the Management Committee, it shall have the power to fill that vacancy by a co-option from the Irish Walled Town's paid-up members at the next Management Committee meeting. The co-opted person shall remain in office until the next A.G.M.
17. Any member of the Management Committee who shall have been absented for 3 consecutive meetings of the Management Committee without reasonable explanation shall be deemed to have resigned from the Management Committee.
18. The Deputy Chairperson shall act in the absence of the Chairperson and shall carry out such other duties as may be assigned to the office by the Chairperson and/or the Management Committee.
19. The Project Manager, acting in

their capacity as Secretary, shall record the minutes of all meetings of the committee, follow up on all correspondence arising from the activities of the committee and send out the agenda for each meeting, submit a report to the Heritage Council and to the Annual General Meeting of the activities of the network and carry out other such duties which may be assigned from time to time.

- 20.** A minute of each meeting must be taken which records the decisions taken by the committee. The agenda, minutes and information on agenda items will be circulated in advance of meetings. Items may not be tabled on the day of a meeting unless previously agreed with the chairperson. The minutes shall include:
- A. The date, place and time of the meeting.
 - B. The names of the members present at the meeting.
 - C. Reference to any reports etc. submitted to the members at the meeting.
 - D. The number and names of members voting for and against proposed decisions and of those abstaining.
 - E. Details of all decisions made at the meeting.
 - F. Such other matters considered appropriate.

A copy of the minutes of the meeting shall be sent or given by the secretary to each member of the Management Committee. Minutes of a meeting shall be submitted for confirmation as an accurate record at the next following meeting and recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

Financial matters

- 21.** The Management Committee shall have discretion over the revenue budget provided by the Heritage Council and shall ensure that any revenue budget provided by the Heritage Council is dispersed in accordance with the IWTN Action Plan. The Management Committee will have no remit in awarding grants but may make proposals to the Heritage Council regarding criteria and general detail.
- 22.** Membership fees paid on behalf of the member towns and collected by the Heritage Council support the funding costs of the IWTN. A quarterly report shall issue to the Management Committee in respect of same. Government agency members are not required to pay a membership fee.
- 23.** The Heritage Council will provide, on an annual basis, lists of grants and allocations as well as details of IWTN membership subscriptions and associated expenditure.

Other details

- 24.** The provisions of the Constitution may be amended at an Annual General Meeting of the Network by a two-thirds majority providing 7 clear days' notice shall have been given to the Secretary/ Project Manager who shall circulate any proposed change to the membership. Each Proposed change shall be nominated by a paid-up town member or by the management committee, and seconded in advance of the A.G.M.
- 25.** The offices of the Heritage Council can be considered as the principal address for the IWTN.



Becoming a Member



How to join the Irish Walled Towns Network

Eligibility

To be considered eligible to join the network, a town must:

- a. have physical remains of town walls or associated towers or sufficient documentary evidence of historic walled defences
- b. be located in the island of Ireland

If you are unsure whether your town had town walls, there are two sources you can check:

The book *The Walled Towns of Ireland* by Avril Thomas (Irish Academic Press, 1992) lists 56 'proven' walled towns (Volume 1, p.3, List A). Your town must be on this list.

Search the Heritage Council's Heritage Maps website to find out whether there are town defences recorded for your town. 'Walled Towns of Ireland' are listed in the Archaeology datasets.

Applying to join the Network

Membership is facilitated by your town's Local Authority through payment of a membership fee to the Heritage Council. The application must be filled out by a community group (e.g. a local historical society or Tidy Towns committee) and by the relevant Local Authority. For your application you will need:

- ▶ Name and contact details of community group and examples of

previous community projects by the group or key members

- ▶ Details of Local Authority and relevant personnel
- ▶ Information on extent, location and ownership (public or private) of town walls

Our current Local Authority representatives are made up of Heritage Officers, Architectural Conservation Officers, Local Authority Archaeologists, and other relevant Officer roles (including Planning, Museums and Regeneration).

A list of current Local Authority Heritage Officers in the Republic of Ireland can be seen [here](#).

For contact details relating to other relevant Local Authority roles, see individual Council websites.

Details of the eleven local councils in Northern Ireland can be found [here](#).

If you would like to discuss an application to the Irish Walled Towns Network, please contact iwtn@heritagecouncil.ie



The IWTN is funded by the Heritage Council and delivered in partnership with Local Authorities and community groups.

Email: iwtn@heritagecouncil.ie
Web: irishwalledtownsnetwork.ie



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council