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EIAR Chapter 14 Material Assets: Archaeology & Cultural Heritage Suir Island Infrastructure Links



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14 Cultural Heritage

14.1 Introduction

This Chapter of the EIAR has considered the potential cultural heritage impacts associated with the Construction and Operational Phases of the proposed Suir Island Infrastructural Links.

A detailed description of the proposed development is provided in Chapter 2 Project Description and Planning Policy Context.

This Chapter has been prepared by Siobhán Deery of Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd. Refer to EIAR Chapter 1 Introduction for details on relevant qualifications and experience. The assessment has been carried out according to best practice and guidelines relating to cultural heritage assessment, and in the context of similar infrastructural projects.

14.2 Assessment Methodology

14.2.1 Introduction

The evaluation of the cultural heritage resource of the proposed development was based on a desk study of published and unpublished documentary and cartographic sources, supported by a site inspection. It also incorporated the results of archaeological monitoring of ground investigation works at the site. This has facilitated the production of an archaeological and historical background to the proposed development lands, identifying the nature of the recorded cultural heritage sites and finds arising from previous development and excavation in its environs. This has established, as far as the records allow, the archaeological potential of the site and its immediate environs.

14.2.2 Sources

The assessment has been conducted based on the available information and has followed the existing best practice format of desk and field study.

The desk study availed of the following sources:

- National Monuments, Preservation Orders and Register of Historic Monuments lists, which were sourced directly from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht ('DCHG');
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR): The SMR, as revised in the light of fieldwork, formed the basis for the establishment of the statutory RMP (pursuant to Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994). The RMP records known upstanding archaeological monuments, their original location (in cases of destroyed monuments) and the position of possible sites identified as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs. The information held in the RMP files is read in conjunction with published constraint maps. Archaeological sites identified since 1994 have been added to the non-statutory SMR database of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (National Monuments Service, DHLGH), which is available online at www.archaeology.ie and includes both RMP and SMR sites. Those sites designated as SMR sites have not yet been added to the statutory record, but are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP;
- Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) in The Tipperary County Council Development Plan (2014-2020) and (2022-2028), Clonmel and Environs Development Plan (CEDP) (2013);
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building Survey (NIAH ratings are international, national, regional, local and record, and those of regional and above are recommended for inclusion in the RPS).
- The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland ('NMI');

-
- Cartographic sources, early historic maps and various editions of the OS Maps;
 - Excavations Bulletins and Excavations Database (1970-2020);
 - Other documentary sources (as listed in the references, Section 14.9);
 - Aerial imagery (Google Earth 2001–2018, Bing 2013; OSi 1995, 2000, 2006).
 - Place names; Townland names and toponymy (loganim.ie);
 - National Folklore Collection (Duchas.ie);
 - A review of existing guidelines and best practice approaches.

The site inspection was carried out within the context of an assessment of the cultural heritage potential of the surrounding area, taking cognisance of the potential implications of the development on the surviving cultural heritage landscape (e.g., where upstanding monuments might be visible).

14.2.3 Standards and Guidelines

The following legislation, standards and guidelines were consulted to inform the assessment:

- National Monuments (Amendments) Acts, 1930-2014, as amended;
- The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended;
- Heritage Act, 1995;
- The UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972;
- ICOMOS Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas, 2005;
- Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada) 1985, ratified by Ireland in 1991;
- Council of Europe European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta) 1992, ratified by Ireland in 1997;
- The Burra Charter, the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013;
- The European Landscape Convention (ELC), ratified by Ireland 2002 European Landscapes Convention 2010. (The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 'Landscape and Landscape Assessment Guidelines' have been in draft form since 2000, however the Draft National Landscape Strategy (NLS) was launched in July 2014);
- Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties – A publication of the International Council on Monuments and Sites, January 2011;
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2022). Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements;
- Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1999, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and Islands;
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2000 and the Planning and Development Act 2000;
- Code of Practice between the National Roads Authority (NRA) and the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, June 2000;
- Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impact of National Road Schemes, 2006, NRA;
- Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impact of National Road Schemes, 2006, NRA;
- Guidelines for the Testing and Mitigation of the Wetland Archaeological Heritage for National Road Schemes, 2006, NRA;
- National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht;
- Historic England (July 2015), Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning, Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets;

-
- Historic Scotland (October 2010), Managing Change in the Historic Environment; and
 - The Heritage Council (2010), Proposals for Irelands Landscapes; and International Council on Monuments and Sites (2011), Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties.

Excerpts from the relevant legislation are contained in **Appendix 14.1**.

Impact Assessment Methodology

The assessment of the likely significant effects on the cultural heritage environment resulting from the construction and/or operation of the proposed development relies on a combination of qualitative and quantitative assessment.

Cultural heritage sites/landscapes are considered to be a non-renewable resource and cultural heritage material assets are generally considered to be location sensitive. In this context, any change to their environment, such as construction activity and ground disturbance works, could affect these sites. The likely significance of all effects is determined in consideration of the magnitude of the effects and the baseline rating of the cultural heritage asset (i.e., its sensitivity or value). Having assessed the magnitude of effect with respect to the sensitivity/value of the asset, the overall significance of the effect is then classified as Imperceptible, Not Significant, Slight, Moderate, Significant, Very Significant, or Profound.

A glossary of impact assessment terms, including the criteria for the assessment of impact significance, is contained in **Appendix 14.2**.

14.3 Receiving Environment

14.3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

14.3.1.1 Introduction

Clonmel is a large town on the River Suir at the foot of the Comeragh Mountains. Suir Island is a naturally occurring island within the River Suir (Figure 14-1), in the Parish of St. Mary's Clonmel, the barony of Iffa and Offa East and the townland of Burgagery-Lands West. The island is low lying, consisting of four islands: Little Island, Suir Island, Willow Island and Stretches Island. It has been an important crossing point since medieval times, linking the Anglo-Norman walled town of Clonmel to County Waterford on the southern side of the river. The island is accessible from the town centre via the Old Bridge to the islands' northwest.

In the 18th and 19th century the town was a tremendously prosperous transportation and industrial hub in the midlands, there were extensive milling operations on the river and on the island. There are numerous medieval and post-medieval references to milling on Little Island at Hughes Mill.

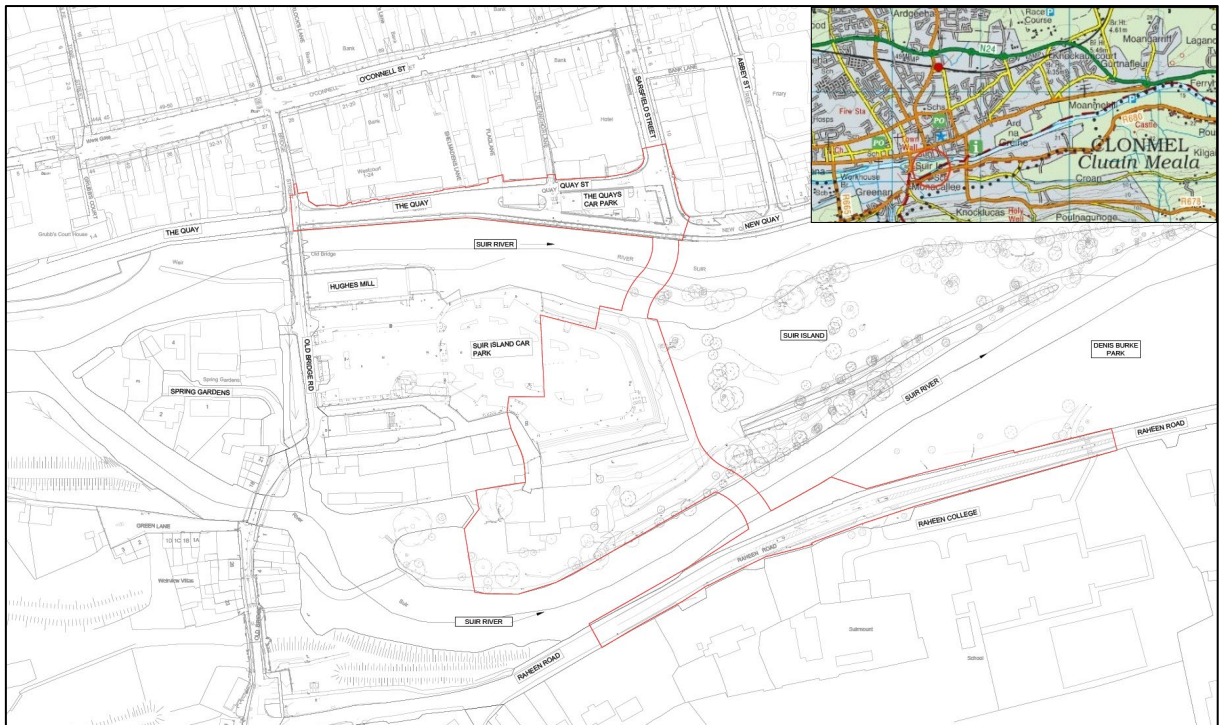


Figure 14-1: Site location

14.3.1.2 Prehistoric Period

Whilst there is little evidence of prehistoric activity in the study area there are records of bronze artefacts identified from the town in the National Museum Topographical files (NMI 1934:480-484). These comprise of two leaf shaped swords, two flanged axe-heads and a leaf shaped spearhead representing a collection dating to the later Bronze Age (c.2500-300BC).

The River Suir would have been an arterial routeway into the midlands since prehistoric times. The area north of the River Suir was traditionally known as Deisc Tuaisceant or North Deisi. The earliest settlers in the area were from Ossory, but these people were driven back by the Deisi, who crossed the Suir in the late fifth century AD. The Deisi were descended from Fiacha Suidhe, brother of 'Con of a Hundred Battles,' king of Ireland. Originating from Meath, they were defeated in AD 278 in battle and resettled in Waterford by Oloill Olum, the king of Munster (Burke 1983, 1).

14.3.1.3 Early Medieval Period

The town of Clonmel is located on the north bank of the River Suir, at a fording point where the river widens to incorporate several small islands. The town derives its name from the Irish cluain meala, meaning 'vale or meadow of honey.' Local legend tells of a band of Danish Vikings from Waterford who followed a swarm of bees up-river and built their fort where the bees swarmed (Ó Cleirigh 1993, 95; Farrelly & Fitzpatrick 1993, 56). The name may, however, merely signify the richness of the fertile soil in the area or the picturesque valley that the town nestles in.

Nevertheless, the Vikings are recorded as establishing a fort on the islands in the river at Clonmel in AD 864 (Burke 1983, 4). Furthermore, a battle between the Uí Néill and the Vikings, in which a thousand people allegedly died, is recorded in 916 near the area (Shee & Watson 1975, 5). The eleventh-century Tripartite Life refers to the mills of the foreigners in Clonmel, but the chronicler Geraldus Cambrensis makes no mention of a town there in 1185 (Burke 1983, 5).

One of the earlier local historians, Rev. William Burke, suggests the Vikings made ‘...their way up the Suir to its navigable limit, the islands in the river afforded a position to hold their stocks and carry on their barter with absolute security’, the island would certainly be an obvious choice for a Viking longfort. No archaeological evidence has yet emerged to confirm the Vikings settled in this area (Bradley 1985). While medieval Clonmel town developed on the north side of the river, there are historical references to the south side of the river in the Calendar Justic. Rolls Irel. II to Clonmel on the side of Waterford. This historical reference is further supported by a possible settlement having existed around St. Nicholas’ Church (RMP Ref. No. TI083-020), which is to the south of the river Suir in Glebe townland.

14.3.1.4 Medieval Period – The Medieval Town

Following the Anglo-Norman invasion, Clonmel was granted to William de Burgo in 1205 or 1206. He died shortly afterwards, but the earliest reference to a town at the site is not until 1211 or 1215 (Burke 1983, 6, 12). Therefore, it was probably William de Burgo’s son, Richard, who founded the town; in 1225, Henry III granted Richard the right to hold an annual fair (Farrelly & FitzPatrick 1993, 56). In 1265, Otho de Grandison was granted the manor of Clonmel and subsequently appointed sheriff of the town as a reward for his service with Prince Edward, Lord of Ireland (Farrelly & Fitzpatrick 1993,56; Shee & Watson 1975, 7).

The Franciscans came to Clonmel in 1269 at the invitation of De Grandison. The religious house (TS083-019003) is within the southeast angle of the town wall, east of Abbey Street. Located c. 50m northwest of the Franciscan church, presumably in the former grounds of the abbey, a burial ground (TS083-019072-) was uncovered during monitoring of building works (Henry 1996, 81). The historical records indicate that the burial-ground remained in use following the dissolution of the friary in 1540 (ibid.). At the time of the Dissolution the friary consisted of ‘a church, a belfry, a dormitory, a hall, three chambers, a kitch, a stable, ...a weir’ and land (Morrissey 1909, 248-50). During Cromwell’s attack on Clonmel in 1650 the friary was badly damaged.

The church and graveyard were granted to the citizens of Clonmel after the Dissolution and remained in use for some time, probably until the ground was acquired for the construction of the Main Guard courthouse (TS083-019004-) in the early 1670s (ibid.). Excavations in 1994/5 to the rear of the Main Guard courthouse revealed a wall which underlay and pre-dated the southern wall of the return of the courthouse (Henry 1996, 81). Its location and the fact that it pre-dates the Main Guard suggests that the wall was associated with a Franciscan building (ibid., Farrelly and FitzPatrick 1993, 67-70).

The friary was reopened in 1828 (Craig and Garner 1975, 27) and rebuilt in 1883, incorporating the north wall of the original 13th-century choir and later 15th-century tower (Morrissey 1909, 248-50). By 1840 a southeast wing (O’Flanagan 1930,) and a porch in front of the tower had been added (Shee and Watson 1975, 11-12). Of the former medieval friary church and its domestic buildings only the belfry and traces of the gabled roof of the old nave on its western side remain upstanding. Within the church itself there is a double effigial Butler tomb (TS083-019086-) and fragments of panels from three other altar tombs (after RMP files).

In 1328, James Butler, earl of Ormonde, was granted the regalities, liberties, knights, fees and other privileges of County Tipperary, known as the right of palatine (Shee & Watson 1975, 7), and Clonmel became the headquarters of the county palatine. In 1349 and again in 1376, the Black Death ravaged the town (Farrelly & Fitzpatrick 1993).

The manor of Clonmel was sold in 1338 to Maurice Fitzgerald, first earl of Desmond, and over the next two hundred years, there was intense rivalry between the Butlers and the Geraldines. In 1516, the town was besieged and taken by the earl of Kildare. However, the rivalry was finally ended when the manor of Clonmel was given as dowry to the Butlers of Ormonde in c.1531 by the Fitzgeralds.

Bridges

The Oldbridge bridge connecting the town to Suir Island crosses the site of an earlier bridge which is recorded in the record of monuments and places (RMP Ref: TS083-019002). In 1355 Clonmel received a pontage grant from Edward III (RMP Files). There is no record of the exact location of the 14th-century bridge, but it is likely that it forded the Suir in the place where Oldbridge now stands. In the 18th century it was represented on Moll's map of 1714 as an integral part of the principal road leading to Dungarvan and Cappoquin and in 1748 it was described as a 'very spacious bridge over the Suir... of twenty arches' (O'Keefe and Simington 1991, 158 after RMP file).

Lyons (1936, 292) suggests that a mill weir south of the Suir Islands (TS083-019016) southeast of Suir Island House 'anciently may have been a fishing weir'. The weir is not indicated on the 1st (1840-41) ed. OS 6-inch map which suggests that its construction post-dates 1840-41. This weir has been removed.

Town Wall

The town received a murage grant in 1298 from Edward I. This murage grant (a tax levied to build or repair a town wall) was acquired by de Grandison, Lord of Clonmel to fortify the town. Further grants smaller murage grants for additional stone walls and the repair of the walls were again given to Clonmel in the 14th and 15th centuries (IWTN, 2020, Farrelly & Fitzpatrick 1993, 56).

The earliest cartographic sources of Clonmel are the Down Survey maps of 1656 of County Tipperary (Figure 14-2 (a)) and Waterford (Figure 14-2 (b)); they show 'Clonmell City and Burgery' with a distinctive D-shaped walled town fronting the river, with a bridge crossing. Interestingly, two tall structures, possibly gates, are represented on the Waterford side of the bridge, which has not been represented in any other source. Suir Island is not shown on this early source.

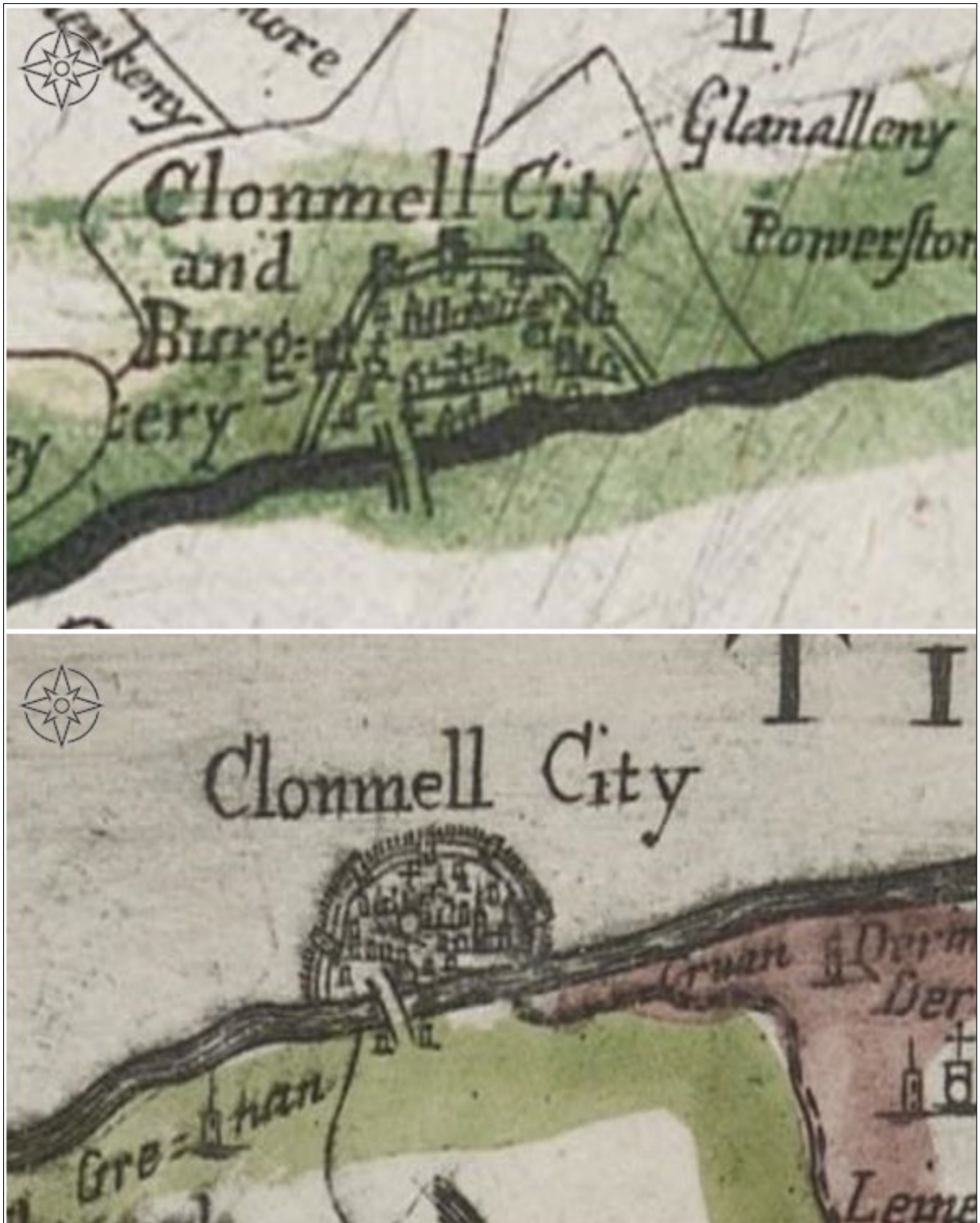


Figure 14-2: (a). William Petty's Down Survey County; (b). County Map of Waterford 1656

The most detailed Down Survey map is the Glanihery Barony map of Waterford which labels the walled 'Clonmel City' on the banks of the Suir. Though still generalised and highly stylised it shows a general outline of the enclosing walls, the mural towers and the inverted T-shaped plan form of the town within the walls (Figure 14-3). A single bridge 'the Bridge' crosses the river with what appears to be a bridge gate and some riverine defences; there is no indication of a harbour area or the presence of Suir Island.

However, the Down survey maps are not the most reliable and such an omission would not be unusual in a map.



Figure 14-3: Down Survey County Map

Goubet's 1690 map *La Ville de Clonmell* (Figure 14-4) shows the town wall, turrets, gates and medieval street pattern. In the seventeenth-century Hearth Money Rolls (1654–55), the town is recorded as having three interconnecting suburbs to the east, west and north and a further smaller area across the river (Thomas 1992, 53). On the south side of the wall, the River Suir may have acted as a fosse, and a fosse does appear to be indicated in Goubet's 1690 (Ibid). However, excavations in the vicinity of the wall have yet to reveal one. There was likely a harbour. A narrow entry to a laneway is shown between the two south gates on the Goubet map; a similar entry was exposed during excavations on the line of the south wall (Licence ref: 95E211). The map shows a substantial bridge crossing the river connected to the town via bridge street with several cutwaters suggesting many arches. Like the other 17th century maps, this map does not indicate the presence of Suir Island.

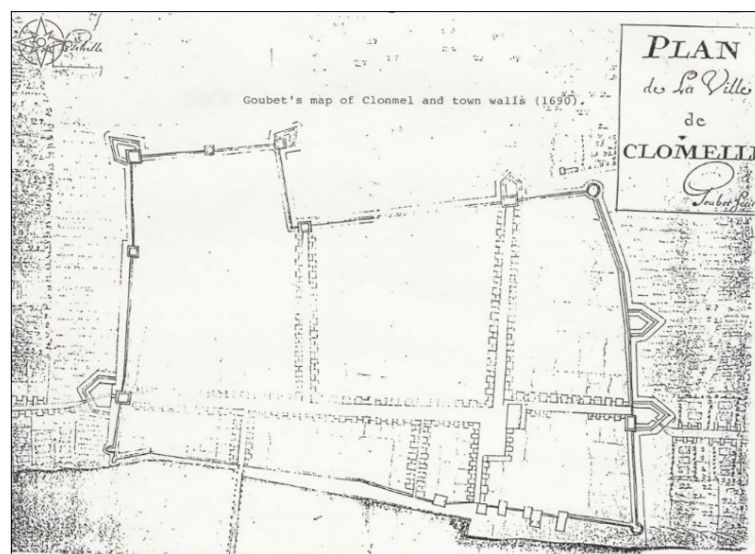


Figure 14-4: Goubets Map of Clonmell and town walls (1690)

A later map of 1841 shows the extant and the probable extent of the town walls (Figure 14-5).

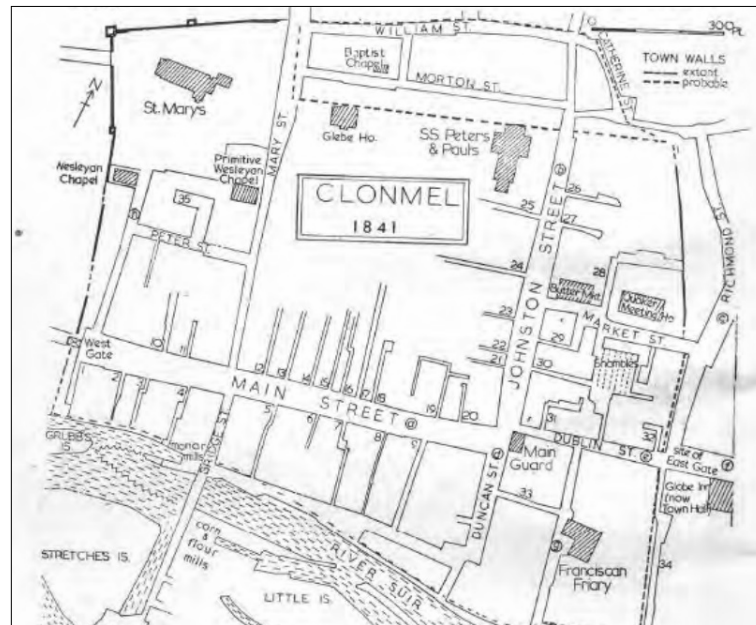


Figure 14-5: Map of the extant and probable town walls in 1841

The town wall enclosed a roughly rectangular area with a slight protrusion on the north side where it incorporated St Mary's Church Yard. It enclosed an area of approximately 14ha and the wall is 1.5km in length (Thomas 1992, 52). It was constructed sometime in the 13th century (ibid) and a new bastion line reinforced the medieval wall in the seventeenth century. The town had an inverted T-shaped street pattern and six gates: four main gates (North Gate, East Gate, Bridge Gate and West Gate), a postern gate and a water gate providing access for people and goods to and from the River Suir (Thomas 1992, 55). The presence of a fosse outside the medieval wall is assumed but it has not been recorded.

The known and suggested circuit of the town walls and associated towers is shown in the Clonmel & Environs Development Plan Map, 2013 which is reproduced below in Figure 14-6.

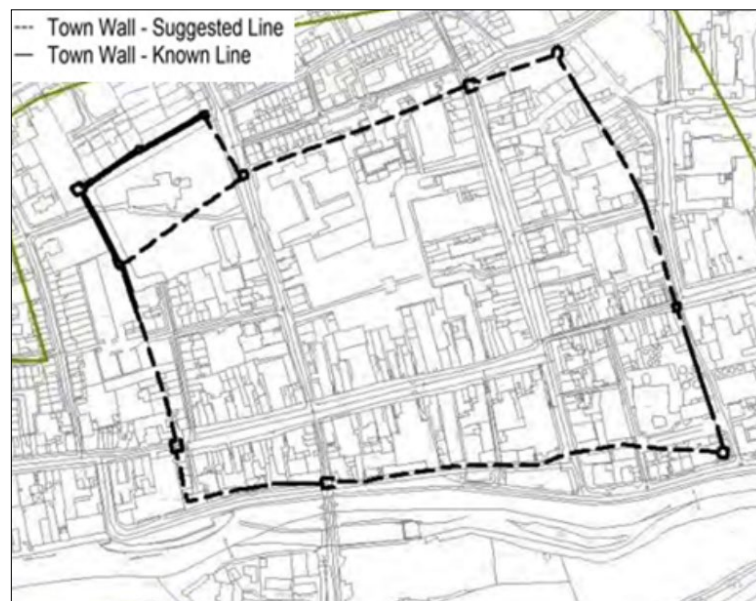


Figure 14-6: Map of the town wall circuit, known line and suggested line

This conjecture differs from Thomas's conjectured circuit who suggests that there was a Gate (Water Gate) at the southern end of Sarsfield Street, she also suggests a circular tower between Bridge Gate and Water Gate and also a Harbour south of the Water Gate. On the first edition town map (1874, Figure 14-9) the street at the southern end of Duncan Street (now Sarsfield Street) and north of Old Quay is named Water Gate, reinforcing the suggestion that there was a gate.

The Stritches family gave their name to 'Stretches Island' which lies west of Suir Island. John Stritch was sovereign of the borough (1539-1543). In a list of the freeholders of the Cantred of Clonmel, he is set down as holding an estate of £20 a year (Burke 1983). This suggest that the islands were present at this time.

In 1608, the town became a free borough by royal decree (Shee & Watson 1975). In 1647, the Supreme Council of the Confederation of Kilkenny assembled at Clonmel (Farrelly & Fitzpatrick 1993), but the town was subsequently besieged in 1650 by Cromwell, withstanding the siege for three weeks before eventually surrendering on honourable terms (Ó Cleirigh 1993, 95; Shee & Watson 1975, 11).

Although Clonmel was an important manor, there is no clear evidence of a castle at the town (Bradley 1985). The remains of the 13th-century church of St Mary's may be found in the northwest corner of the medieval town wall, and those of the Franciscan friary (founded in 1269 by Otho de Grandison) in the southeast corner of the town. The extramural 13th-century church of St Nicholas's is located in the Old Bridge quarter of the town.

The town walls were dismantled over time and more of the walls were removed with expansion of modern Clonmel. Increased prosperity led to the opening of new streets and an expansion of the population in areas outside the walled town, particularly to the north and east. The area to the west of the town, Irishtown, had been inhabited since the late medieval period and was redeveloped mostly in the late 18th and early 19th centuries on a pattern which largely exists today.

The medieval streets and burgage plot plan are still visible in the narrow streets and lanes of the modern town, and sections of the town wall, including three mural towers and a gatehouse, survive on the north and west sides of the town. Today approximately 300m of upstanding wall survives, most of which can be seen around St Mary's Abbey. This includes the remains of a wall-walk and a tower.

14.3.1.5 Post-Medieval Period

Clonmel's strategic position on the river Suir led to its establishment as the market centre for a wide agricultural hinterland during the agrarian revolution of the late 18th century. The drivers for the industrial revolution of the town were the harnessing of the river for milling and transport. The county palatine was abolished in 1716, by which time Clonmel had become an important centre for trading in milling flour, oatmeal, rape seed, butter, bacon and tobacco. More than two-dozen mills were set up in and around the town, the majority owned by members of the influential Quaker community.

River Suir Navigation and the Quays

The quays were developed and extended to cater for the increased trade and this in turn drew new businesses into the town. A towpath was laid along the north bank of the River Suir between Carrick and Clonmel in the 1750s, river transport was cheap, and grain was shipped in horse drawn barges along the towpath between the towns. On the upper Suir, from Carrick to Clonmel, the standard vessel was the yawl, a smaller vessel used in shallow waters. Its construction also necessitated the modification of several bridges over the Suir to accommodate navigation and tow path arches.

Substantial quays were built along the river frontage in Clonmel in the later 1700s and first half of the 1800s. The original medieval quay was between Old Bridge and Sarsfield Street, it was replaced by the New Quay after 1756 (Figure 14-7 and 14-8). The town was one of Ireland's busiest inland towns and ports.



Figure 14-7: Photographs of Canal Quay Clonmel, view towards Old Bridge (Robert French published between 1880-1900 in the Lawrence Photograph Collection National Library of Ireland)



Figure 14-8: Early 20th century colourised photo showing Oldbridge and Hughes Mill – note the narrowness of the Old Quay at this time (Robert French published between 1880-1900 in the Lawrence Photograph Collection National Library of Ireland)

The development of the railways however meant that barge traffic ceased by the 1920's. The Old Quay/New Quay road was widened again in the 1990s (Hamond 2010) along with the insertion of a reinforced-concrete wall along its riverside, the widened replacement carries a single-lane road and footpath along the river's edge. No visible traces of the original quay are now visible. The river wall was recently replaced by a taller wall and demountable flood gates for flood alleviation, the former open aspect to the river was removed (Plate 14.1). It is very likely however that there is in-situ evidence of these and earlier quays along northern side of the road beneath the road.



Figure 14-9: New quay walls view form the river from Old Bridge (looking northeast)

Industrialisation of Suir Island

According to Rev. Burke (1983) the earliest water-powered enterprise in the town was the Manor Mill, at the north-west end of Old Bridge. In 1614 Benedict White Fitz John set up in Suir Island a mill for the tucking and finishing of coarse woollen stuffs. In the Civil Survey of 1654-56 it was noted that the town had two mills. There are further references to six mills in the Settlement of 1666, including tuck and corn mills. There is also a reference in the Clonmel Corporation Minute Book for May 1637 of a 'Little Mill' on Suir Island.

Driven by a bounty granted by the Irish Parliament between 1758 and 1797 for the transportation of grain and flour to Dublin, where bread consumption was on the increase, the industrialisation of the milling got underway. In Clonmel the milling trade was largely monopolized by the Quakers. Simmons Sparrow, the son of a local baker, opened the huge Suir Island Mills (Burke 1907). He was followed by the firm of Robert Grubb & Co. who built a large flour mill in around 1780, it utilized a channel between Suir Island and Willow Island and may have been on the site of an earlier, derelict oilseed rape mill which had been leased by his father Joseph in 1774. About the same time, another mill was erected at

the south-east end of Old Bridge in the vicinity of the former Little Mill; with a subsequent change of ownership, this became known as Hughes' Mill, after Thomas Hughes (Blackwood et al, 2014). In November 1781, Edward Collins obtained a lease from the corporation of the old corporation mill on Little Island, and erected new mills at a cost of £12,000. Within the next thirty years a network of corn mills was spread over the country until every river was dammed and every mountain stream pent up (Burke 1907).

Listed in a 1787 Directory of 'Clonmell' was Edmund Dwyer a distiller; Howell Edward & John, Millers & Corn Merchants Corporations Mills; Jones Richard, Clothier & tanner; Thomas and Samuel Grubb, Millers & Corn Merchants and Sparrow Simmons, corn merchant. When in 1797 it was proposed to abolish the system of bounties, the milling industry was so firmly established, that it stood in no need of public subsidies. '*The principal millers,*' said Lord Clare, '*in the neighbourhood of Clonmell, a part of the kingdom from which there is a considerable influx of corn to the city, do not complain of the bill; on the contrary many have declared that they will not suffer any loss from it*' (Burke 1907).

Pigot's 1824 Directory noted that the Clonmel corn market was '*as extensive as any in the kingdom, and the merchants and traders evince a more enterprising spirit and transact more business than those of any town of equal size in Ireland*'. The buoyant corn trade also benefited the local milling industry. Pigot also noted that '*one fifth of the whole quantity of flour exported from this Kingdom was last year [1823] shipped by one establishment alone in this industrious and prosperous town*' (Blackwood et al, 2004)

The River Suir's course through Clonmel, the scale of the milling enterprises and the ingenuity of harnessing the power of the river is clearly seen on the 1874 ten feet to one mile OS map (Figure 14-9).

On this map the northern side of the river on Quay street, the quay is stepped in for access, possibly for loading and unloading goods onto the quay. In the location of the proposed northern plaza there is a trapezoidal area formed by Old Quay Street, Quay Street and Water Gate (now Sarsfield Street) which is occupied by nine large structures (today this area is a carpark).

This map shows Suir Island, Stretches Island, Little Island and Grubbs Island to the west (Willow Island is not named). West of Grubbs Island the river is split into many channels with four weirs feeding several mills and other works. A causeway which connects the Islands is shown, connecting Bridge Street on the northern banks of the river to Green Street to the south, the largest bridge is named Old Bridge and its cutwaters both upstream and downstream are drawn. It appears that a retaining wall forms a boundary around each island.

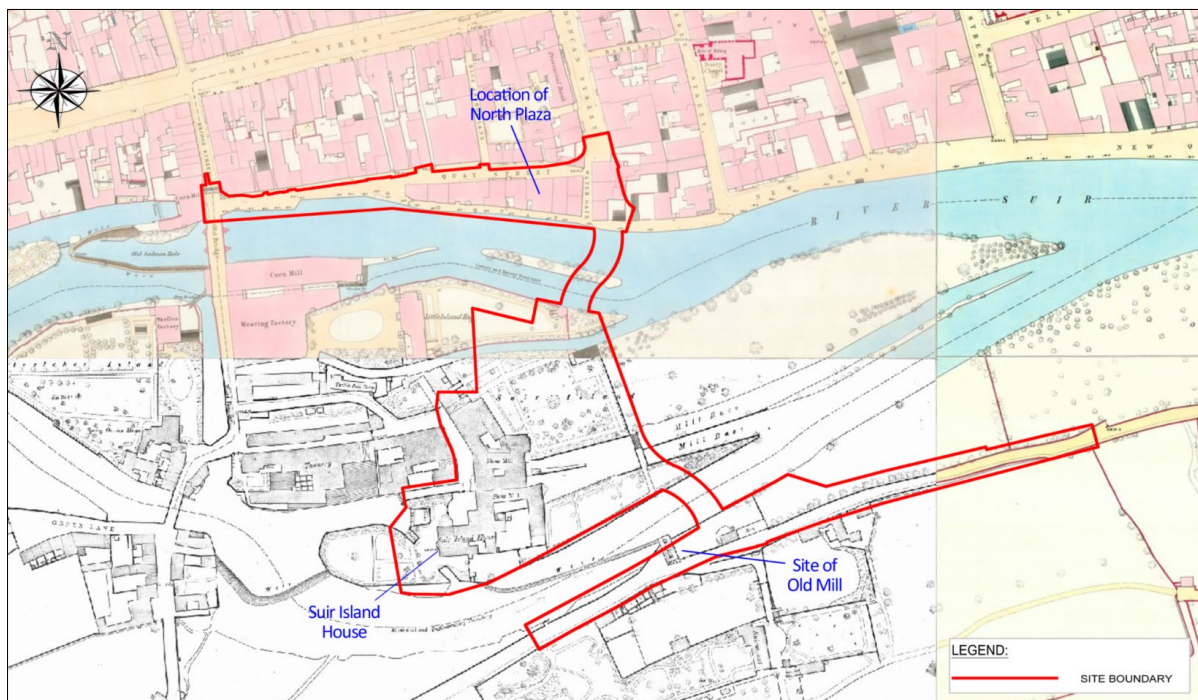


Figure 14-10: Town of Clonmel (1874) OS Map 1:500. Ten feet to one statute mile (TY083-06_08)

The extensive industry shown on the islands are varied, comprising food and cloth manufacturing/processing. A woollen factory is shown on Stretches Island, on Little Island there is a weaving factory and a corn mill with mill races connected to both. On Suir Island there is an extensive range of industrial buildings comprising a woollen factory, a Turkish bath house, tannery and two flour mills.

On each island there is a large house and associated decorative gardens belonging to the prosperous millers, Spring Garden House on Stretches Island, Little Island House (Owned by the Mortons) on Little Island and Suir Island House and The Cedars (Robert Grubb) on Suir Island (Thomas Grubb), each connected to or in proximity to the mills. At the eastern end of Suir island is a hexagonal structure with a flight of steps, there is a corresponding one on Stretches Island – these are labelled as a ‘summer house’ on revised six-inch map. Sarah Grubb constructed a Quaker girls’ boarding school between the Cedars and her husband’s mill. Very little of these grand houses survive today, though the mature trees that have taken over the eastern part of Suir island hint at its past.

Suir Island House was built by Thomas Grubb, in the 1780s. By 1847, however, it had been vacated. The Valuation book of that date gives its measurements as 49½ ft x 25ft x 27ft, with a 6ft basement; it also had two returns and various out-buildings to the rear. Fred Hamond (2009) carried out an extensive review of reports and sources and has provided an overview of the historical development of the mills on Suir Island.

The OS maps from 1841 onwards show the house with a garden to its frontage and grounds to its rear, both bounded by the mill races at the north, and by the river at the south.

There is a structure on the southern banks of the river labelled as an ‘Old Mill’ and in the later 1904 OS map it is shown as a Smithy (Figure 14-10).

The 1904 OS map shows little change to buildings’ footprints on the islands, reflecting the lack of development during the later 19th century and the decline of the industries (Figure 14-11). Hughes Mill on Little island changed to a Condensed Milk Factory. There is little change to Suir Island House and Willow Island.

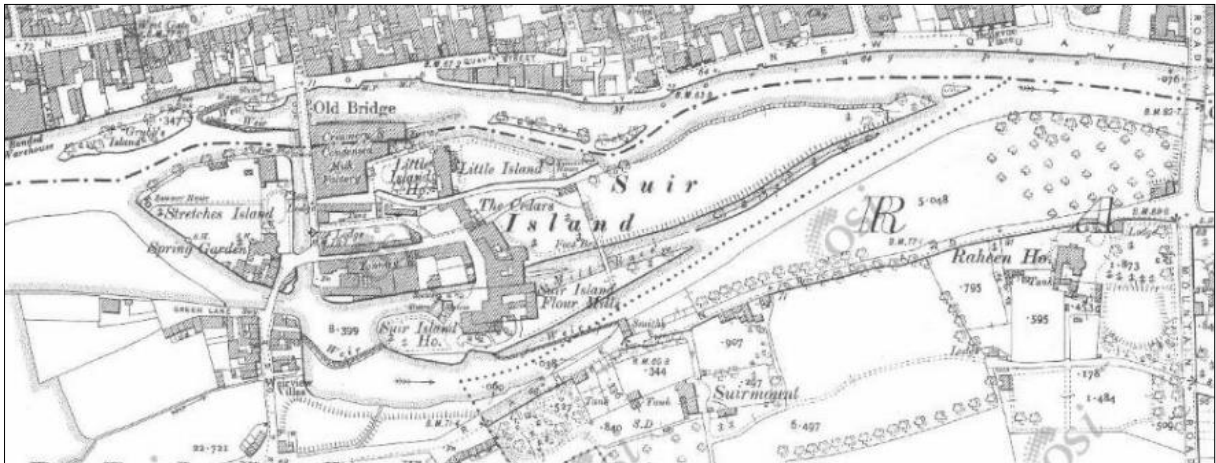


Figure 14-11: Approximate Site location 1904 OS Map

With the exception of the Condensed Milk Factory, all industrial activity had ceased by 1930, the nail in its coffin being the economic depression following Partition in 1922. By the late 1900s, Suir Island was almost completely deserted and the piecemeal demolition of the structures on the Island can be seen. Both Grubb mills were in ruins by the early 1940s and the remainder of the buildings lay disused and falling into dereliction and the houses unoccupied (Blackwood 2004). Suir Island House had become dilapidated by 1940 but was then purchased by John P. Cooney and renovated. It was still occupied by the Cooney family in the late 1960s but has since been vacated and gutted by fire (Blackwood et al 2014).

Sometime during the twentieth century, Water gate Street was widened to provide wider access from Sarsfield Street to the quays.

14.3.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

Several excavations have been carried out on the Quays and on Suir Island (Figure 14-12 and Table 14-1), indicating the medieval archaeological potential on the quays and the industrial heritage potential on the Islands.



Figure 14-12: Excavations within the proposed development area

Table 14-1: Excavations

Licence, Licensee & Excavation.ie. Ref	Location	Brief Description	Summary findings
E4251; C456, Dave Bayley, 2011:567	Sarsfield Street, Clonmel	Testing was carried out in advance of the Suir River (Clonmel North and East) Drainage Scheme—Civil Works Contract. The footprint of the proposed pipeline route was located close to the predicted line of the town defences (TS083-019049). Three test trenches were opened, two to identify the line of the town wall and a third to establish if deposits were in the interior of the line. The testing revealed a north–south-running stone-built drainage culvert recorded and evidence of ground disturbance to facilitate modern services.	Stone culvert
06E0340, Anne-Marie Lennon, 2007:1639	No. 7, Sarsfield Street, Clonmel	The development site was close to the assumed entrance to the medieval friary and on the line of the medieval precinct wall. The excavation of the basement floor was undertaken by hand. Under the clay floor, a substantial wall was uncovered measuring 4.5m north–south by 1.5m wide. Further investigation of the wall revealed two separate wall foundations, with a loose sandstone infill between and covered by a lime-rich mortar which bound the two together. The walls pre-date the existing 1800s building and are located 2.1m below ground-floor level, at 16.028m OD, along the assumed line of the Franciscan friary precinct wall. A second wall the	Remains of foundation of the original precinct wall of the Franciscan friary and a friary building

		north-west may represent corner of a building extending back into the friary grounds.	
92E0132, Scully,1992	5-7 New Quay,	Investigations at New Quay, Clonmel exposed a section of the town wall. This survived to a maximum height of 2.5m near the northern limit of the site. The wall was roughly coursed with a slight batter at the base. The stones were undressed, but the wall was well faced on the eastern side and some patches of render were evident. The core was of rubble. The extra-mural ditch was not very distinctive. Horizontal layers of silt and stony material abutted the wall, and this area may have been subject to frequent flooding. Intra-mural layers were examined and found to be undisturbed garden-type soil.	Town wall
93E0131, Henry 1994, Ref 1993:210	Quay Street (RMPTS083-019073-),	Excavations along the quays revealed a number of walls that predated the late 16th/early 17th centuries. The walls may have been associated with the industrial buildings that once stood on the site, the Old Quay was dominated by mills in the 1700s and 1800s. An organic spread, which occurred at an average depth of 1.4m below modern ground level, dated to the late-medieval/early post-medieval period. The organic spread was rich in material typical of human occupation in a town.	Post medieval walls RMP TS083-019073-
93E0094 Henry 1994	The Quays	A watermill was identified at the southern end of Sarsfield St fronting onto - revealed the remains of a millrace-like feature (L 4m; W 3.5m) built of sandstone with arched openings in the E and W faces. Along its eastern face there was a cutwater. The millrace had been substantially altered by the building of several additional walls. The dating evidence suggests that the millrace dated to before the end of the 17th century. The millrace was retained by the developer.	Watermill Site RMP TS083-019066
93E0094 Ref: Henry 1994b, 1993:212	1-9 Old Quay	Excavations revealed organic layers at depths of between 1.6m and 2.1m. The layers, which were very dark in colour and had a strong organic smell, contained human and occupational waste. The finds included animal bones, charcoal, oyster shells, hazelnut shells, blackberries, broken clay pipes, sherds of pottery, strands of leather and other occupational waste. The archaeological evidence dated the organic deposits to the late 1600s and the early 1700s.	Post medieval midden site RMP TS083-019065
95E0211 Ref: 1995:252 Henry 1996	East of Old Bridge St./ Grubb's Quay.	The excavation established the line and the extent of part of the southern section of the medieval town wall. It also confirmed that at least part of the town wall extended along the riverfront. The wall was in a reasonable state of preservation. It was randomly coursed and constructed of undressed pieces of sandstone and rubble masonry and bonded with a quite soluble, fine estuarine sand mortar. The wall was 1.3m wide and standing to a max. height of 1.8m. Organic layers were also identified east of Old Bridge Street on Old Quay Excavations at the rear of the properties fronting onto O'Connell St and running	Medieval town wall

		down to the riverfront revealed an extensive medieval organic deposit occurring at depths of between 2.5m and 4.7m below modern ground level. The deposit represents the archaeological remains of a dumping ground for waste and occupational refuse inside the line of the town wall and to the rear of the properties fronting the main medieval street.	
98E0470 1999:823, O' Donovan	Hughes Mill,	Archaeological monitoring associated with the development of the former identified post 1800 or later features a culture associated with the earliest phases of the Hughes Milling complex	Milling structure
00E0560	Suir Island	Significant amount of milling activity was undertaken on the island during the late 18th and 19th centuries, evidence of which survives. Six test-trenches were excavated on the site. Material relating to domestic activity on the island contemporary with this industrial activity was revealed in the trenches. No earlier material was revealed	Mill activity
93E0167	Located under the southern embankment on Suir Island	One of the trenches was cut inside the remains of a large mill. A large number of features were discovered during testing comprising flagstone floors, watercourses with associated features and part of the subterranean aspects of the front mill wall. Interestingly, although the location of the head and tail-races has been plotted on to various maps, nothing regarding the interior water management has been recorded. These interior watercourses were sealed below ground level under the flagstone floor, as proved by the recent testing programme.	Mill activity
99E0606	Old Bridge, Clonmel	An archaeological investigation was commissioned prior to the redevelopment of the former Manor Mills building on Stretches Island on the River Suir in Clonmel. Trial-trenching within the building at ground-floor level revealed the presence of a stone culvert, comprised of slab sides and capping, running diagonally across the site, and a possible wall foundation parallel to the exterior walls. A small test-pit in the courtyard also revealed stone wall foundations parallel to the main walls. Subsequent geotechnical test-trenches exposed five stone arches, possibly relieving arches relating to former walls, beneath the present ground floor.	Mill activity
02E1275; 2002:1718	Old Bridge, Clonmel	Monitoring was undertaken of all ground disturbance associated with excavation for an effluent holding tank. Nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered	N/a
10E0485	Suir Island Oldbridge	Monitoring was Suir Island (Old Bridge), for the construction of flood defence walls, food defence embankments, storm water pipelines and associated pump stations, river widening works and demolition works on five bridges.	General
10E0514 Ref 2011:566	Old Quay Street	At the site of the Old Quay pump station, remains of foundation or cellar walls at the upper levels associated with a former cotton factory. The lower levels, beneath the wall foundations, consisted of	Factory cellar

		riverine silts and natural gravels. The upper levels of silt contained some animal bone, likely to be associated with dumped material from the town, but no artefacts were recovered.	
11E0141 2011:564, And 06E0651 Ref: 2006:1837; 2009:751	Suir Island, Oldbridge, Clonmel	The remains of a mill structure, located below a car park on Suir Island, were excavated in advance of works associated with the Suir River (Clonmel North and East) Drainage Scheme—Civil Works Contract. Five phases of construction were recorded at the mill site. The primary phase was a three-roomed structure. One of the rooms, which was roughly circular in plan, is believed to have housed a set of millstones. A cobbled area with a drain was located to the north-east of this building. The following phases saw the mill expand and some interior walls being removed, and other features added	Mill remains
E4252; C456, 2011:565	Oldbridge	Ministerial consent was sought to undertake monitoring of the demolition and reconstruction of the parapets on Old Bridge (TS083-019002). A line of stones was identified in engineering test pits it is thought that the stones marked the eastern limit of the bridge bank/footing	Bridge footing

Excavations on the Quays identified sections of the town wall (Scully 1992 and Henry 1996) and the organic deposits to the late 1600s and the early 1700s. Of interest is the deep organic layers which were also identified east of Old Bridge Street on Old Quay. Excavations at the rear of the properties fronting onto O'Connell St and running down to the riverfront revealed an extensive medieval organic deposit occurring at depths of between 2.5m and 4.7m below modern ground level. The deposit represents the archaeological remains of a dumping ground for waste and occupational refuse inside the line of the town wall and to the rear of the properties fronting the main medieval street.

Predevelopment excavation of a car park berm associated with the drainage scheme (Kyle 2011, Ref: 011E0014, Henry 2006, Ref:06E0651) revealed the subsurface remains of the flour mill on Suir Island (the mill to the north of Suir Island House Mill) (Figure 14-12). Five construction phases were recorded; the primary phase was a three-roomed structure. One of the rooms, which was roughly circular in plan, is believed to have housed a set of millstones. A cobbled area with a drain was located to the northeast of this building. The following phases saw the mill expand, some interior walls removed, and other features added.

Several archaeological investigations have been carried out on Suir Island (Figure 14-12) in advance of the development of Hughes Mill on Suir Island (O' Donovan 1998; Stephens 1998, Licence Ref: 98E0470), Manor Mill on Stretches Island (Tierney 2001, Ref: 01E0464, 01E0464) and also the Suir River (Clonmel North and East) Drainage Scheme. The drainage scheme was a large-scale infrastructural project involving the construction of flood defence walls, food defence embankments, stormwater pipelines and associated pump stations, river widening works, and demolition works on five bridges (including three on Suir Island). Numerous investigations and monitoring were carried out as part of this work (Henry 1996, Purcell 1999, Bailey 2010, Kyle 2011, Coughlin 2012, Refs: 06E0651, 99E0606 10E0485, 11E0114, Old Bridge Ref: E4252). Evidence that milling activity undertaken on the island during the late 18th and 19th centuries was captured in the investigations and correlated with the cartographic and historical sources. None of the investigations/excavations identified any features that predated the industrial activity on the island.

14.3.3 Site Investigation Works for the project

Archaeological monitoring of site investigation works (SIW) for the proposed development was carried out; the works were undertaken to determine ground conditions in advance of the footbridge design. The monitoring was carried out under licence number 21E0480 by Mary Henry (Henry 2021).

A summary of the results are as follows:

Four investigative openings were sited on the north bank of the river Suir, within the zone of archaeological potential for Clonmel town (RMP TS083-019). These were outside (to the south) of the town wall, and circa 15m from the river to the south. Three were sited within the footprint of two major civil engineering projects: the Clonmel Main Drainage Project of the early 1990s and the River Suir Flood Relief Scheme (2009-2011). All openings were dominated by modern services and infill associated with the above engineering projects.

Test pit 01 was sited close to the west end of the Quays carpark. This car-park was formerly occupied by a block of large buildings standing on ground between the structures presently fronting the Quays and the river. Trapezoidal in shape, this area measured circa 90m long and varied in width from circa 8m to 20m. These buildings occupied this area since the 18th century and demolished in the mid/latter part of the 20th century. Within TP01 evidence of this was revealed in the presence of demolition rubble/building material and partial remains of wall at its west end.

One trial pit was located on Suir Island. Positioned on a large embankment constructed as part of the River Suir Flood Relief Scheme (2009-2011), this opening comprised entirely made-up ground. Two slit trenches were positioned to the south of the River Suir; one on Raheen Rd. footpath and the other in the southeast part of Burke Park. Both were within the footprint of the River Suir Flood Relief Scheme (2009-2011) and dominated by modern infill/made-up ground and services.

The monitoring concluded that the construction of a footbridge to link the town centre of Clonmel to Suir Island is not likely to have a significant archaeological impact.

14.3.4 Architectural/Industrial Heritage

14.3.4.1 Architectural Conservation Area (CEDP 2013)

Clonmel has a rich heritage of townscape and buildings this is demonstrated in the number of protected structures listed in the town development plans Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Within the town there is also an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) focusing on the Wolfe Tone Street, O'Connell Street and Gladstone Street townscape. The proposed development lies outside the ACA (Figure 14-13).

14.3.4.2 Protected Structures (CEDP 2013)

There is one protected structure within the proposed development area, the ruin of Suir Island House on Willow Island is a protected structure (RPS 289). It is a former miller's house, built c.1760 and stands as a ruin that has been conserved and made safe. The ruins and its associated mills were comprehensively recorded prior to the conservation works (Blackwood Associates et al, Hamond, F. 2009).

A complex of former industrial structures on Suir Island is recorded in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH, Ref: 22121004, Figure 14-13). Built in c.1820-30, the structures present as the ruins of multi-storey stores and warehouses arranged on the sides of narrow streets on the island. However, these properties do not have a statutory footing; they have been assigned a NIAH regional rating. They are considered to be of merit and can be added to the RPS by the Local Authorities should they choose to.

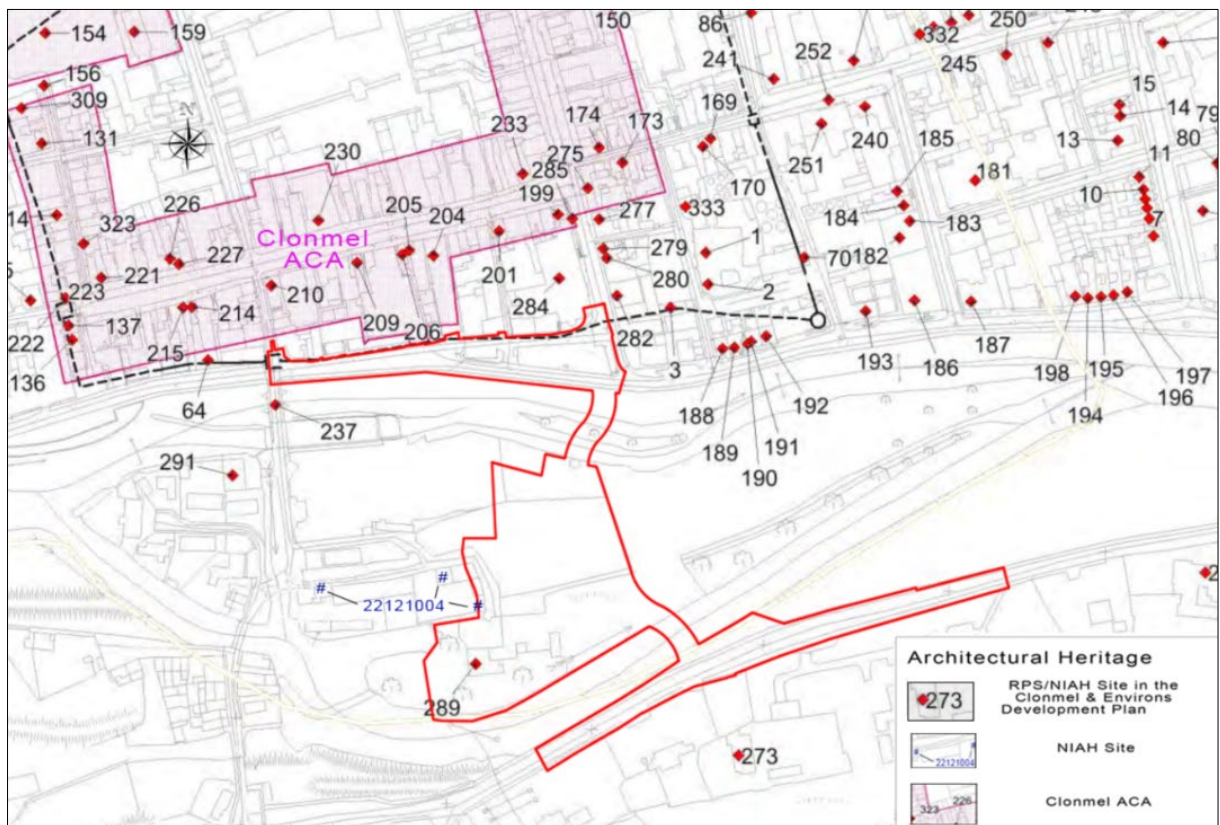


Figure 14-13: Protected Structures, Clonmel ACA and relevant NIAH sites

There are terrace structures fronting the quay or at the junction of Sarsfield Place (RPS 188-192, RPS 64 and 282) and a single protected structure on the southern side of the river (RPS 273), these are described below in Table 14-2, none of these sites will be impacted by the proposed development.

Table 14-2: Protected structures in the immediate proximity of the proposed development

RPS Ref.	NIAH Ref	Type	Location	Description
284	22117072	House	Sarsfield Street,	Terraced three-bay single storey early Victorian former bank, c 1845, with pedimented central bay breakfront and bracketed pedimented surrounds to openings. Renovated, c. 1985 to accommodate use as a hotel
237	22117113	Bridge	Bridge Street, South Oldbridge	Triple arched bridge c 1750 with break waters and arches of cut wedge shaped voussoirs, renovated and widened c 1900 and again recently as part of the flood relief works
291	N/a	Mill building	Suir Island	Mill building to West of Old Bridge. Four bays with gable on to river
236	22121006	Bridge	Bridge Street, South Oldbridge	Double-arched stone bridge c1775; renovated c 1900

289	22121005	House	Suir Island	Suir Island House. Three storey 18th century house - burnt out. Slate on gable wall. Wall garden which is partially intact.
188	22117087	House	1 New Quay,	Semi-detached three bay, three storey over basement Georgian house c 1780, with slate ground upper floors.
189	22117088	House	2 New Quay,	Semi-detached three-bay, three storeys over basement Georgian house c 1780 with slate hung upper floors and attached carriageway to right.
190	22117089	Arch	Between 2 and 3 New Quay,	Carriage arch. Elliptical-headed, early 19th century arch. Cut stone surround.
191	22117089	House	3 New Quay,	Semi-detached three bay, three storey over raised basement late Georgian house c 1805
192	22117090	House	4 New Quay,	Semi-detached three bay, three storey over raised basement late Georgian house c 1805
273	N/a	House	Suirmount, Raheen Road	Detached early 19th century house of five bays and two storeys, with composite doorcase

14.3.4.3 Industrial Heritage Survey

The Tipperary Industrial Heritage Survey (TIHS) was carried out in 2010 by Fred Hamond for South Tipperary County Council. Several features were identified including bridge crossings and former mill structures on Willow Island within the proposed development area. It includes Suir Island House and the walls of the former mills (Ref: 043010, 043008, 043009, Table 14-3, Figure 14-14).

The northern quays are recorded (041064), however since this survey an extensive flood relief works have been carried out along the quay walls, on the southern side of the river and the Suir Island bridges which has impacted on the industrial heritage significance and character of the quays. A memorial (041063) is also recorded in the plaza area.

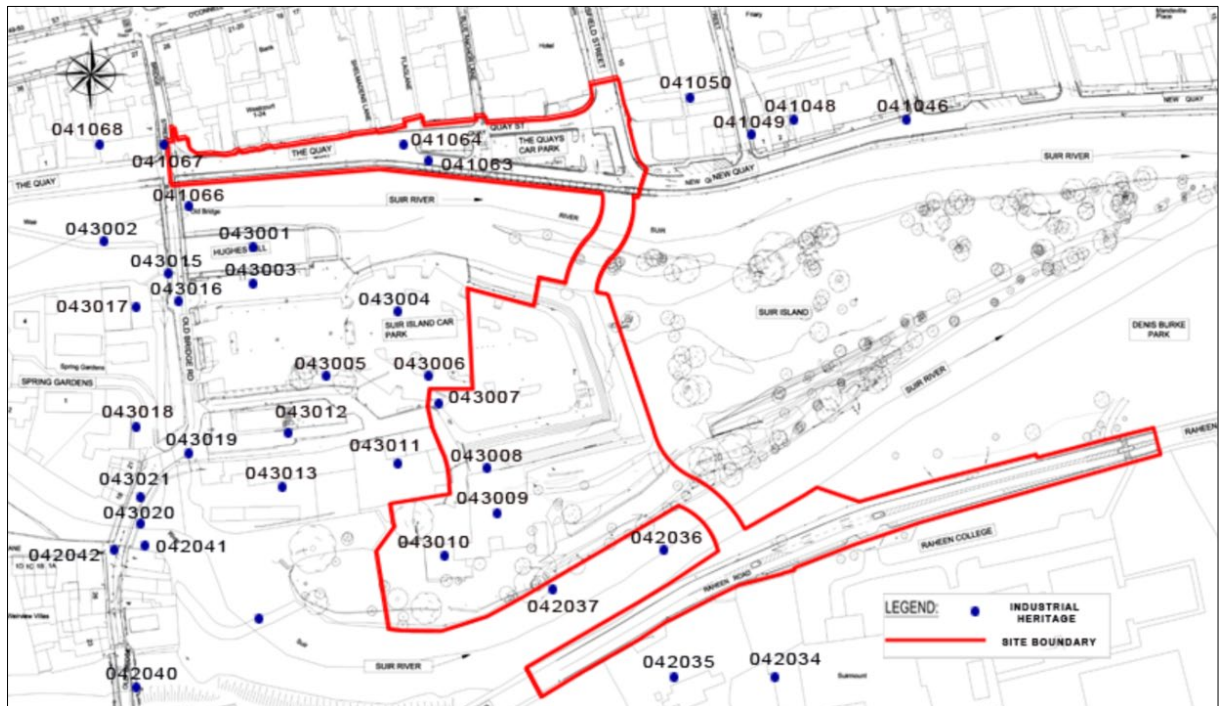


Figure 14-15: Industrial Heritage Sites

Table 14-3: Industrial Heritage sites within the proposed development area (Hamond, 2010)

TIHS ref.	Designation ref:	Location	Type	Description
042036	N/A	Raheen Road	Mill	The site of Raheen Mill and was deleted as part of the Clonmel flood relief scheme. Up to that point it was a truncated shell.
041063	041063	n/a, site of	Quay Street	Memorial
041064	n/a, site of	Quay Street	Quay	Dates from the later 1700s but was obliterated with the widening of the road and the insertion of a reinforced-concrete wall along its river side in the early 1990s. No visible traces of the original quay are now visible. The widened replacement carries a single-lane road and footpath along the river's edge.
043007	n/a, Site of	Suir Island	Site of Quaker girls' boarding school	No traces of this building survive – beneath car park.
043010	RPS 289 NIAH 22121005	Willow Island (Suir Island)	House in ruins	Derelict shell of a four-bay, three-storey + attic dwelling erected in 1780s by Thomas Grubb, owner of the adjoining flour mill. A four-bay, three-storey + attic house aligned N-S at the SW corner of a now-ruinous flour mill (site 043008),

				to which it was formerly attached. It has been gutted by fire
043008	N/A	Suir Island	Grain Mill	Ruinous fragments of wall and associated waterworks of large flour mill established on the site of a former rape mill by Robert Grubb c.1780.
043009	N/A	Willow Island (Suir Island)	Walls	Ruinous random rubble walls and associated waterworks of large flour mill established by Thomas Grubb in mid 1780s

14.3.5 Archaeological Heritage

14.3.5.1 National Monuments and National Monuments with Preservation Orders

The closest national monument in the ownership of the State is the Clonmel Mainguard Courthouse (RMP Ref: TS083-019004- 667). It is located on the eastern end of O'Connell Street (Figure 14-15). It will not be impacted by the proposed development. The Medieval Building Collet's Lane (rear of 31, 32 and 33 O'Connell Street, The Quay) (RMP ref. TS083-019006), is a national monument that is subject to a preservation order (PO Ref. 6/2001). This site was also added to the Register of Historic Monuments in 1993 (RHM Ref: 2614). It fronts the quay just west of Oldbridge outside of the constraints study area and will not be impacted by the proposed development.

The Medieval town wall circuit including upstanding, below ground, and conjectured sections are considered to be a combined national monument. Excavations on the northern side of the quays have establish a suggested line of the town wall running north along Old Quay (Figure 14-15). Works within the vicinity of such a monument, must be undertaken subject to the granting of a Ministerial Consent.

14.3.5.2 Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and designated Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP)

The medieval town of Clonmel is a designated Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) (TS083-019). This ZAP extents includes Suir Island (shown on Figure 14-15). There are no individual RMP sites on Suir Island. The bridge at Oldbridge (TS083-019002) is thought to be on the site of an earlier bridge. The bridges parapet has been rebuilt as part of recent flood alleviation works. The site of a weir (TS083-01916) is recorded on the southern side of the Island, the SMR file records that Lyons (1936, 292) suggested that the weir 'anciently may have been a fishing weir', however the weir is not indicated on the 1st (1840-41) ed. OS 6-inch map which suggests that its construction post-dates 1840-41, it only appears on the later map. The evidence does not warrant its inclusion as an archaeological monument and may not be added to the statutory RMP.

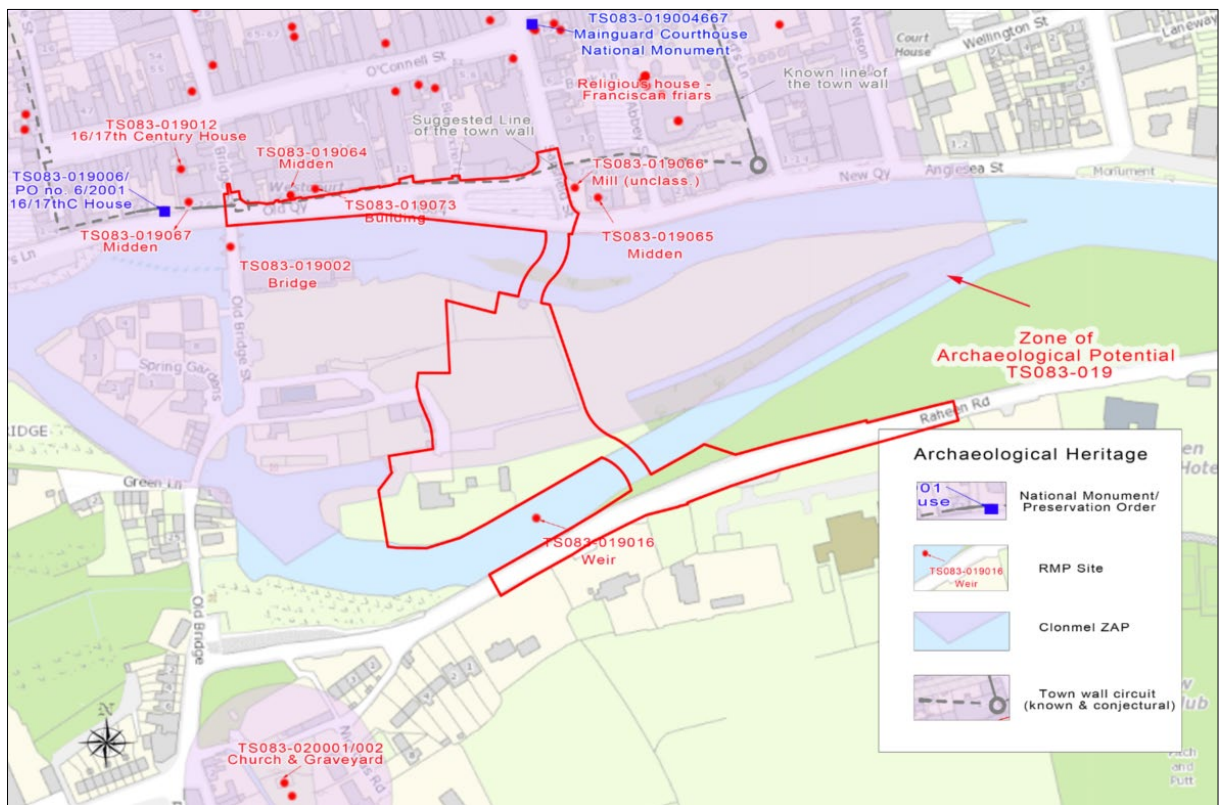


Figure 14-16: Archaeological Heritage (RMP, ZAP & town walls) in the vicinity of Suir Island and proposed site location

The sites immediately adjacent to the Quays or within the study area are listed in Table 14-4 and their historical and archaeological context are described in the archaeological background above.

Table 14-4: RMP sites in the immediate vicinity of the study area boundary

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM E	ITM N	Distance from Study area boundary
TS083-019	Historic town	Burgagery-Lands, West, Oldbridge	620315	622426	The study area lies within the ZAP for Clonmel
TS083-019002-	Bridge	Burgagery-Lands West	620159	622289	10m south
TS083-019064-	Midden	Burgagery-Lands West	620195	622320	Immediately north on Quay Street
TS083-019065-	Midden	Burgagery-Lands West	620380	622319	Quay
TS083-019066-	Water mill - unclassified	Burgagery-Lands West	620366	622325	Immediately adjacent on corner of Sarsfield St fronting onto the Quays
TS083-019067-	Midden	Burgagery-Lands West	620134	622316	20m west

TS083-019073-	Building	Burgagery-Lands West	620210	622324	Immediately north on Quay Street
TS083-019016-	Weir - regulating	Oldbridge	620343	622125	c.10 South of Suir Island

14.3.6 Site Inspection

14.3.6.1 Introduction

A site inspection was carried out on a clear bright day on 17th October 2020. Each area of the proposed development is described below and are illustrated in Figure 14-16.



Figure 14-17: Google earth image with features discussed

North of the River - Old Quay

Road improvements and River Suir Flood Alleviation Scheme have altered the character of the River Suir at Clonmel. The quay walls have been increased in height, and demountable barriers have been erected (Plate 14-1). Due to the height of the flood wall, there is very little visual interaction with the river from the quays.



Plate 14-1: View east along the Quays from Old Bridge, restored Hughes mill on Suir Island to the right

The proposed north plaza area is located in a trapezoidal car park area formed by Quay Street, Old Quay and Sarsfield Street (Plate 14-2). This area does not have a legible historical character or any special aesthetic quality, although there are signposts associated with the Butler Trail which provide historical context to the quays.



Plate 14-2: View west of the car park area defined by Quay Street, Old Quay and Sarsfield Street

Further east along New Quay are several protected structures, former merchants' houses, terraces and warehouses which dominate and characterise the streetscape along the old quays, they are large in scale and vertical height (Figure 14-5, Plate 14-3) and their relationship to the river is an important characteristic. This is in contrast with the built heritage in the proposed plaza area which is modern and not of any particular built heritage merit.



Plate 14-3: View east along New Quay of RPS 188, 189, 190, flood wall to the right

Access to the Island

Suir Island is connected to the town of Clonmel by a single narrow road that traverses the west end of the island. It is part of a c. 280m causeway comprising four bridges that connect the northern and southern banks of the river. Considerable works to the bridges on the causeway have been carried out as part of the flood alleviation works. Old Bridge (RPS 237, RMP TS083-019002) the most northerly bridge has been widened and its parapet rebuilt (Plate 14-4); Suir Island Bridge which crosses the channel at an angle has been widened. Green Lane Bridge, connecting Stretches Island with the southern shore has also been rebuilt. A new footbridge to the former Woollen Factory (RPS 291) on Stretches Island has been constructed.



Plate 14-4: Oldbridge (RPS 237, RMP TS083-019002) with new parapets, former Hughes Mill and former Woollen Mill view looking east from the northern banks of the river

A new flood defence wall has been constructed at the westernmost end of Willow Island it comprises a 3m high stone-faced concrete wall. Views from the causeway on the southern approach to Suir Island House and Willow Island is obscured by vegetation (Plate 14-5).



Plate 14-5: New flood defence walls on the south westernmost end of Suir Island-Willow Island

Two narrow roads historically provided access to Willow Island. Only the northern one still operates today. Early 19th-century industrial buildings comprising the ruins of warehouses and stores and associated align the road (Plate 14-6 and 14-7) (NIAH Ref: 22121004).



Plate 14-6: View looking east along the access road on Suir Island



Plate 14-7: View looking west along the access road

The road turns south towards the formal entrance to Suir Island House and Willow Island; it comprises high concrete pillars and walls, crossed now by security fencing. On the west side of the road there is a storehouse in ruins and a structure overgrown in ivy that has been described as a gothic style 'tower' in previous surveys of the island (Plate 14-8) (Hamond 2009).



Plate 14-8: View looking west (from on top of the berm in the car park) showing the 'tower' over grown in ivy and the roofless stores building,

A car park has been constructed in the central area of Suir Island, it is defined to the north, south and east by a high earthen berm covered in grass (Plate 14-9).



Plate 14-9: Panoramic view from the eastern berm in the Car Park

On the southern side of the car park is the roofless ruins of former Turkish Baths also located on the aforementioned narrow roadway (Plate 14-10). The structure has been conserved and is stabilised, forming an interesting feature in the car park.



Plate 14-10: Former Turkish baths and section of boundary wall

Willow Island: and Suir Island House and Mill

Willow island is accessed, through the above-mentioned formal entrance. It is separated from the main body of Suir Island by millraces. Suir Island House is located at western end of the island, there are extensive ruins associated with Suir Island House and the associated mills that were adjoining it. The house and the mill buildings have been conserved and made safe. There are several mature decorative or specimen trees in the former formal garden area to the east and west of the house and mill and along the boundary of the island, providing an indication of the richness of the former garden. The house is an L-shaped roofless three storey ruin with a two-storey return. Its front façade has a westerly aspect over the river, and the return has a southerly view over the river (Plate 14-11, and 14-12). The external walls survive to full height, there are no windows or doors, and the internal floors are gone. The facades and elevations are concrete rendered with the exception the southern elevation slate hung, reminiscent of structures on the quays in Clonmel.



Plate 14-11: Suir Island House front façade (left)



Plate 14-12: Suir Island House northern elevation (right)

The ruins of the extensive mill complex, comprising structures and walls are located to the rear (east) of the house (Plate 14-13).



Plate 14-13: View south from the berm of the ruins of the mill on Willow Island, to the rear right is Suir Island House and tower at the entrance gate

The walls to the northwest of the house associated with the headrace have been consolidated and restored (Figure 14-16). The western side of the island has silted up where there was an open headrace, naturally seeded willow trees have taken hold in the area. Running east of the conserved mill structure is a split mill race channel divided by a wall (Figure 14-16, Plate 14-14)), both are filled with stagnant water; they continue parallel to the river Suir before entering the river at the eastern end of the Island. To the south of the open mill races there is evidence of a possible third mill-race channel which may have been backfilled and could not be traced any further (Plate 14-15).



Plate 14-14: Parallel Tail races view towards west, towards the mill buildings (left)

Plate 14-15: Evidence of a third tail race channel (right)

A possible bridge or deliberately backfilled section of the tail race provides access from Suir Island (Plate 14-16). The tail races continue in an easterly direction (Plate 14-17).



Plate 14-16: East of the tail race crossing towards the east (left)

Plate 14-17: West of the tail race crossing view west towards the mill (right)

The tail race is defined by a wall (Plate 14-18), but not along its entire length where there is just a bank and mature trees (Plate 14-19).



Plate 14-18: Tail race mid-way along its course, it is walled on the northern side (left)

Plate 14-19: Tail race towards the eastern end of Suir Island (right)

Boundary Wall

Willow Island is defined by a boundary wall on to the north, west, and southwest. The former headrace which was open has been closed off by a flood wall (Plate 14-5). At the westernmost end, in the immediate vicinity of the house the boundary comprises a castellated (in the Irish castle style) rubble stone wall of random coursing that provides screening for Suir Island house (Plate 14-20). The wall continues easterly along the river banks and is in various states of height and repair, this section is much less formal and is not castellated (Plate 14-21 and 14-22). Mature broad-leafed trees are located all along the boundary. The wall finishes just before the location of new concrete steps which have been constructed to provide access to the river.

The southern side of the river comprises concrete and stone and a river wall associated with the recent flood relief works.



Plate 14-20: Castellated boundary wall and Suir Island House, view north from the southern banks of the river (left)



Plate 14-21: Boundary wall view northwest from the southern banks of the river (right)



Plate 14-22: Boundary wall view northwest from the southern banks of the river

14.4 Impact Assessment

In accordance with EPA guidelines (2022), the context, character, significance and sensitivity of each heritage asset, was evaluated. The significance of the impact is then determined by consideration of the significance of the asset and the predicted magnitude of impact. A glossary of impacts as defined by the EPA is provided in **Appendix 14.2**.

14.4.1 Construction Impacts

Archaeological Heritage:

The proposed development is located within the Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) of Clonmel, this is an area that has an increased potential to reveal subsurface archaeological sites or soils dating back to the foundation of the town in the Medieval period. There is, however, the potential that previously unknown archaeological deposits, features, or sites may be present below ground within the proposed development area. Ground-breaking works for the proposed development will impact on any archaeological features that may be present.

The ZAP has a high sensitivity value, and the magnitude of impact on potentially truncated subsurface archaeological soils or features in the urban landscape is medium-low, particularly given the works associated with the flood relief scheme and the main drainage project in the town. This results in the development having a potential overall slight-moderate effect on the cultural heritage environment.

Earthmoving works in association with the following phases of the construction may encounter truncated belowground archaeological remains:

North Plaza

The north plaza is in the area of an existing trapezoidal car park, just south of the line of the medieval town wall and north of the river. Large 19th-century structures are depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey Map in this area. During the archaeological monitoring of site investigation works, the foundation remains associated with these structures were identified. The monitoring concluded that the potential in this area was low (Henry 2021), and the archaeological remains are likely to have removed or truncated any earlier features. The Clonmel Main Drainage Project also disturbed this area.

Despite this post-medieval and modern disturbance, there remains a potential that archaeological soils features, or structures associated with the medieval town and the medieval town wall, including the Water Gate postulated by Thomas (1992), might be uncovered during the development of the north plaza.

Suir Island

The proposed compound area is located in the existing car park on Suir Island. Monitoring and subsequent excavation of former mills has been carried out in this location previously. The extent of the monitoring and excavation works is unknown so there remains a low potential that milling activity might be identified in this area should undisturbed pockets survive.

A pedestrian path or promenade will run along the existing flood defence embankment across Suir Island linking the two pedestrian bridges which facilitates access from Denis Burke Park to the proposed North Plaza. The northern corner of the embankment will be utilised for the North Bridge abutment and works which includes the construction of piled foundations through the berm and the construction of the reinforced concrete abutment to support the bridge deck. Similarly, the southern corner of the embankment will be utilised for the South Bridge abutment. The path/ berm crest linking the two bridges will be raised with a filler clay and sub-base to support the proposed exposed aggregate concrete surface. The right flank of the embankment (south of the Suir Island car park) will be utilised as the access ramp to the promenade and the two bridges with works including excavation and the importing of sub-base materials for the access ramp construction. All works occurring on the existing flood defence

berm will happen during construction. With the exception of localised excavation for the piles through the berm, the works will take place on the existing embankments which will reduce the archaeological impact.

The North Bridge support pier (1 No.) is located to the north of the existing flood defence berm, adjacent to the River Suir main reach. The South Bridge support piers (2 No.) are positioned on both banks of the Slalom Course, allowing the southern bridge to span the former mill race on Willow Island and will therefore have no impact on it.

Ancillary Site Development

Ancillary site development works will include the upgrading of surface water drainage in the North Plaza, Suir Island car park and Raheen Road. A foul pumping station, emergency storage tank and rising main installed in the North Bridge superstructure which will connect to the existing foul network located in Quay Street will be constructed in the Suir Island car park to accommodate any future upgrading works on Suir Island by Irish Water. Excavation works associated with this can have the potential to reveal in-situ archaeological remains.

The provision of a temporary haul road within Suir Island Gardens will be required to provide crane access to lift the prefabricated bridge structures onto the supports. As no earthmoving works are required for the haul road it will have no impact on any subsurface archaeological remains. The haul road will avoid any upstanding cultural heritage remains.

Bridges

No works will occur within the main river channels of the River Suir.

Extensive works have previously been carried out along the River Suir as part of the Clonmel Flood Relief Scheme (2009-2011), these were preceded by archaeological underwater investigations and recording, including testing of the existing bridge structures and monitoring.

The pedestrian bridges on the north side and the south side of the river will be constructed on piled foundations in six locations inserted on the banks of the river in the floodplain area. The construction of bridge supports will occur during low-flow periods in the summer. Localised sheet piling (circa 32 m² area per pier) will be utilised around the pier locations to prevent the inundation of the works area and minimise groundwater ingress to the works area. There is a potential that deeply buried archaeological remains may be identified in the riverine silts excavated in the pier locations.

The bridge abutment for the North Bridge is located behind existing flood defence wall and demountable barrier system on the North Plaza and the South Bridge abutment will be integrated into the existing flood defence wall located along Raheen Road. As noted above, the bridge abutments are located on the existing Suir Island flood defence berm. The South Bridge is located in the area of the site of an Old Mill (as shown on the 1874 OS Map); however, the ruins of the mill and any associated features were removed during the River Suir Flood Relief Scheme.

Architectural Heritage

There will be no impact on any features of Architectural Heritage merit during construction works associated with the proposed development.

Significance of the Effects on Archaeological Heritage:

There will be a negative impact on any previously unknown archaeological features that might be revealed during earthmoving works associated with the proposed development. As the area lies within Clonmel's Zone of Archaeological Potential, such features would be of medium sensitivity value (as outlined in Appendix 14.1, Table 2). There will be a permanent impact on the newly discovered archaeological features leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about the feature and as such the magnitude of impact is considered to be medium (ibid., Table 2). The overall significance of the

effect on potential archaeological features will, therefore, be of potential moderate significance (ibid., Table 4).

Should undesignated industrial archaeological features of low sensitivity value be identified during construction works, there will be a medium impact magnitude on these features. The overall significance of the effect on the feature would be of slight significance.

14.4.2 Operational Impacts

Cultural Heritage

The Clonmel Main Drainage Project of the early 1990s and the River Suir Flood Relief Scheme (2009-2011) substantially changed Suir Island bridges, the Suir riverbanks, and the quays. The two major civil engineering projects altered the river's character by introducing visually dominant flood relief walls and earthworks on the riverbanks north and south of the island and by large earthworks on the Island itself.

The interaction of amenity, heritage, and public well-being is vital for sustainable development. Suir Island presents a huge opportunity for the town as a central amenity. The proposal is an innovative opportunity to positively impact the town's heritage to access. The plaza and pedestrian link will provide people with a sense of place and connection to their historic environment. It will complement the existing water sports amenity in the river and the park to the south of the river in Denis Burke Park.

The proposed plaza is located in an area currently devoid of character or aesthetic quality. The plaza's landscaping development will improve the character of Quay Street urban environment.

The baseline historical background demonstrated the importance of the river Suir to the development of Clonmel since the earliest of times. The proposed river crossing will provide an opportunity for local interaction and connection to the river, a link lost since the closure of the mills and, more recently, by the construction of the flood relief walls. The Local Authority's proposal to develop a public garden on Willow Island with Suir Island House and associated mill ruins being the focal point will enhance the island's amenity. Along with Denis Burke Park, it will be accessible from the pedestrian bridge link.

There will be a positive impact on the cultural heritage environment and interaction between public spaces in the town, improving amenity.

Archaeological Heritage

There will be no operational impacts on archaeological heritage. All archaeological issues will be resolved during the pre-construction and construction phases of the development.

14.4.3 Cumulative Impacts

The cumulative impacts of the proposed development with any/all relevant other planned or permitted developments are discussed below. Refer to EIAR Chapter 1 Introduction, **Section 1.15** for a list of other developments taken into consideration.

It is proposed to develop Suir Island (Willow Island) Gardens as a public amenity. Within the red line site boundary, there is a development proposal adjacent to the Suir Island Infrastructure Links proposed development. The Suir Island Gardens proposed development is being submitted through the Part 8 planning application process. The nature and extent of the proposed development works at Suir Island Gardens will comprise of the provision of open lawns; landscape planting to include the provision of 40 new native trees along with herb and shrub planting; seating and picnic areas; provision of both hard and soft pathways; new entrance gate and associated cladding on adjoining walls; formal and informal children's play areas throughout the site; securing of Suir Island House (a Protected Structure) with decorative grills at ground floor level; external feature lighting fitted to walls of Suir Island House (a Protected Structure); ancillary site development works that shall include site drainage for the hard landscaped areas, provision of water supply for the play area and wash down purposes, provision of

electrical supply for the external feature lighting, and removal and reconstruction of a short section of boundary wall and all associated site works.

Willow Island remains the last untouched vestige of Suir Island's industrial past. Its character is defined by Suir Island house (a protected structure), the river boundary walls - some with castellation, the gothic tower at the entrance, the ruins of the mills and mill races and fine mature specimen trees, all features that illustrate the integration of industry and gracious living on the island (Blackwood et al. 2014). This unique character is recognised by the careful conservation of the ruins that lie within it and the forthcoming Suir Island Gardens proposal. The other islands also have several other reused industrial buildings of interest to the visitor (Hughes Mill, Manor Mills, ruined warehouses and Turkish baths etc).

There will be a positive cumulative impact of the proposed pedestrian links development and the Suir Island Garden which will enhance the amenities to the locals and visitors alike. Please refer to **Appendix 14.4** for more information on the Suir Island Gardens Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report which was used in this cumulative impact assessment.

14.5 Mitigation and Monitoring Measures

14.5.1 Construction

Archaeological mitigation measures can avoid, prevent, reduce or offset negative effect and these are achieved by preservation of in-situ by design and /or by record.

Archaeological monitoring will take place of any works requiring ground disturbance / excavation, including site preparation works and any ground disturbance works well in advance of development. The archaeologist will have provision to inspect all excavation to natural soil level and to temporarily halt the excavation work, if and as necessary. They will be given provision to ensure the temporary protection of any features of archaeological importance identified. The archaeologist will be afforded sufficient time and resources to record and remove any such features identified.

Archaeological monitoring will be carried out under licence to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the National Museum of Ireland (NMI), and will ensure the full recognition of, and the proper excavation and recording of, all archaeological soils, features, finds and deposits which may be disturbed below the ground surface. All archaeological issues will have to be resolved to the satisfaction of the DHLGH and the NMI.

As part of the River Suir Flood Relief Scheme extensive works were carried out within and along the banks of the river Suir which was subject to underwater archaeological assessment and subsequent monitoring. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified. An underwater archaeological assessment is therefore not considered necessary as there will be no in-stream works proposed. It is recommended however that the enabling works for the piers in the floodplain be archaeologically monitored, as the riverine silts may have deeply buried deposits of archaeological potential.

Should archaeological material be identified during the monitoring works, the remains will be preserved by record through archaeological excavation and/ or preservation of in-situ. If features associated with the town wall or medieval structural remains survive there may be a requirement for redesign and public display and works to be carried out under Ministerial Consent.

Archaeological excavation ensures that the removal of any archaeological soils, features, finds and deposits is systematically and accurately recorded, drawn and photographed, providing a paper and digital archive and adding to the archaeological knowledge of a specified area (i.e. preservation by record). As archaeological excavation involves the removal of the archaeological soils, features, finds and deposits, following this mitigation measure there is no further impact on the archaeological heritage.

The Local Authority will make provision to allow for, and to fund, the necessary archaeological monitoring, inspection and excavation works that will be needed on the site during and prior to construction, either directly or indirectly via the contractor.

14.6 Residual Impacts

No residual effects were identified during the course of the assessment on archaeology. Should any archaeological remains be uncovered, they will be fully evaluated and resolved prior to the main construction stage, either through preservation of in-situ or preservation by record (full hand excavation).

Licensed archaeological monitoring in advance of these works will ensure the recognition and recording of all archaeological remains. Attention is drawn to the relevant portions of National Monuments legislation (1930-2004; **Appendix 14.1**), which describes the responsibility of the site owners to report the finding of archaeological items if any should be discovered during construction works.

14.7 Difficulties in Compiling Information

There were no difficulties in compiling the Cultural Heritage Chapter.

14.8 References

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| www.downsurvey.tcd.ie | Digital Down Survey Maps. The Down Survey is a national survey compiled by Sir William Petty for the Crown in 1655-57, partly published in 1685, and now available in full to view and search on a website hosted by Trinity College. |
| www.excavations.ie | Summary of all licenced excavations that have been carried out in Ireland. |
| www.google.ie/map | Google maps and Street View. |
| www.landedestates.ie | Online database of all Landed Estates in Connacht and Munster, maintained by the Moore Institute for Research in the Humanities and Social Studies, National University of Ireland, Galway |
| www.logainm.ie | A directory of the official names of places in Irish and English and their meanings, created by the former Placenames Commission. |
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Appendix 14.1 Relevant Legislation

National Monuments Legislation (1930-2004)

The National Monument Act, 1930 (as amended) provides the formal legal mechanism to protect monuments in Ireland. Protection of a monument is provided via:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP);
- National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs or a Local Authority;
- National Monument subject to a Preservation Order (or temporary Preservation Order);
- Register of Historic Monuments (RHM).

The definition of a monument is specified as:

- any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections;
- any artificial cave, stone or natural product, whether forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position;
- any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, or (ii) ritual, industrial or habitation site; and
- any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site.

Under Section 14 of the Principal Act (1930):

It shall be unlawful...

to demolish or remove wholly or in part or to disfigure, deface, alter, or in any manner injure or interfere with any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance with the consent hereinafter mentioned (a licence issued by the Office of Public Works National Monuments Branch),

or

to excavate, dig, plough or otherwise disturb the ground within, around, or in the proximity to any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance...

Under Amendment to Section 23 of the Principal Act (1930):

A person who finds an archaeological object shall, within four days after the finding, make a report of it to a member of the Garda Síochána...or the Director of the National Museum...

The latter is of relevance to any finds made during a watching brief.

In the 1994 Amendment of Section 12 of the Principal Act (1930), all the sites and 'places' recorded by the Sites and Monuments Record of the Office of Public Works are provided with a new status in law. This new status provides a level of protection to the listed sites that is equivalent to that accorded to 'registered' sites [Section 8(1), National Monuments Amendment Act 1954] as follows:

The Commissioners shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where they believe there are monuments and the record shall be comprised of a list of monuments and such places and a map or maps showing each monument and such place in respect of each county in the State.

The Commissioners shall cause to be exhibited in a prescribed manner in each county the list and map or maps of the county drawn up and publish in a prescribed manner information about when and where the lists and maps may be consulted.

In addition, when the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded, or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.

The National Monuments Amendment Act enacted in 2004 provides clarification in relation to the division of responsibilities between the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Finance and Arts, Sports and Tourism together with the Commissioners of Public Works. The Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government will issue directions relating to archaeological works and will be advised by the National Monuments Section and the National Museum of Ireland. The Act gives discretion to the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to grant consent or issue directions in relation to road developments (Section 149 and 51) approved by An Bord Pleanála and/or in relation to the discovery of National Monuments.

14A. (1) The consent of the Minister under section 14 of this Act and any further consent or licence under any other provision of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004 shall not be required where the works involved are connected with an approved road development.

14A. (2) Any works of an archaeological nature that are carried out in respect of an approved road development shall be carried out in accordance with the directions of the Minister, which directions shall be issued following consultation by the minister with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland.

Subsection 14A (4) Where a national monument has been discovered to which subsection (3) of this section relates, then the road authority carrying out the road development shall report the discovery to the Minister subject to subsection (7) of this section, and pending any directions by the Minister under paragraph (d) of this subsection, no works which would interfere with the monument shall be carried out, except works urgently required to secure its preservation carried out in accordance with such measures as may be specified by the Minister.

The Minister will consult with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland for a period not longer than 14 days before issuing further directions in relation to the national monument.

The Minister will not be restricted to archaeological considerations alone but will also consider the wider public interest.

Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999

This Act provides for the establishment of a national inventory of architectural heritage and historic monuments.

Section 1 of the act defines “architectural heritage” as:

- (a) all structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings,
- (b) groups of such structures and buildings, and,
- (c) sites

which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

Section 2 of the Act states that the Minister (for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) shall establish the NIAH, determining its form and content, defining the categories of architectural heritage, and specifying to which category each entry belongs. The information contained within the inventory will be

made available to planning authorities, having regard to the security and privacy of both property and persons involved.

Section 3 of the Act states that the Minister may appoint officers, who may in turn request access to premises listed in the inventory from the occupiers of these buildings. The officer is required to inform the occupier of the building why entry is necessary, and in the event of a refusal, can apply for a warrant to enter the premises.

Section 14 of the Act states that obstruction of an officer or a refusal to comply with requirements of entry will result in the owner or occupier being guilty of an offence.

Section 5 of the Act states that sanitary authorities who carry out works on a monument covered by this Act will as far as possible, preserve the monument with the proviso that its condition is not a danger to any person or property, and that the sanitation authority will inform the Minister that the works have been carried out.

The provisions in the Act are in addition to and not a substitution for provisions of the National Monument Act (1930–94), and the protection of monuments in the National Monuments Act is extended to the monuments covered by the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1999).

Appendix 14.2 Glossary of Impacts And Assessment Criteria

Glossary of Impacts

Types of Impacts

Potential impacts on the receiving archaeological and cultural heritage environment can be described as direct physical impacts, indirect physical impacts, and impacts on setting (i.e. the surroundings in which an archaeological / cultural heritage asset can be experienced; Historic England 2017).

Direct physical impacts are those development activities that directly cause damage to the fabric of an archaeological / cultural heritage asset. Typically, these activities are related to construction works; e.g. they could include excavation of foundations, earthmoving / site preparation creation of access roads, cycle paths, and the excavation of service trenches.

Indirect physical impacts are those processes, triggered by development activity, that lead to the degradation of archaeological / cultural heritage assets.

Impacts on the setting of archaeological / cultural heritage assets describe how the presence of a development changes the surroundings of an asset in such a way that it affects (positively or negatively) the heritage significance of that asset. Visual impacts are most commonly encountered. Such impacts may be encountered at all stages in the life cycle of a development, but they are only likely to be considered significant during the prolonged operational life of the development.

Types of impact (now referred to as effects), as defined by the Draft EPA Guidelines on Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (hereafter referred to as the EPA Guidelines) (EPA 2022):

Cumulative Impact – The addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact.

Do Nothing Impact – The environment as it would be in the future should no development of any kind be carried out.

Indeterminable Impact – When the full consequences of a change in the environment cannot be described.

Irreversible Impact – When the character, distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.

Residual Impact – The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken impact.

‘Worst case’ Impact – The impacts arising from a development in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.

Indirect or Secondary Impacts – Impacts that arise off-site or are caused by other parties that are not under the control of the developer. Impacts which are caused by the interaction of impacts, or by associated or off-site projects.

Quality of Impacts

Impacts on the archaeological and cultural heritage environment are assessed in terms of their quality, i.e. positive, negative, neutral:

- Negative Impact: A change that will detract from or permanently remove an archaeological monument / cultural heritage asset from the landscape;
- Neutral Impact: A change that does not affect archaeological and cultural heritage; and
- Positive Impact: A change that improves or enhances the setting of an archaeological / cultural heritage asset .

Duration of Impacts

The duration of an impact can be as follows:

- Temporary Impact Impact lasting for one year or less;
- Short-term Impacts Impact lasting one to seven years;
- Medium-term Impact Impact lasting seven to fifteen years;
- Long-term Impact Impact lasting fifteen to sixty years; and
- Permanent Impact Impact lasting over sixty years.

Assessment Criteria

Introduction

This assessment methodology has regard to the EPA assessment criteria (EPA 2022) and to the National Roads Authority (NRA) Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impact of National Road Schemes (hereafter referred to as the NRA Guidelines) (NRA 2005).

Archaeological and cultural heritage sites are a non-renewable resource, and such assets are generally considered to be location sensitive. In this context, any change to their environment, such as construction activity and ground disturbance works, could adversely affect these sites.

Significance / Sensitivity Criteria

In accordance with EPA Guidelines (EPA 2017), the context, character, significance and sensitivity of each archaeological / cultural heritage asset requires evaluation, and the significance of the impact is then determined by considering the significance / sensitivity of the asset and the predicted magnitude of the impact.

In accordance with the NRA Guidelines (NRA 2005), the significance criteria used to evaluate an archaeological site, monument or complex take into account the character and integrity of the asset and any available data regarding it. This can be ascertained by looking at the following criteria cited in the NRA Guidelines (NRA 2005): the existing status (level of protection), condition or preservation, documentation or historical significance, group value, rarity, visibility in the landscape, fragility or vulnerability, and amenity value (Table 1). While these criteria contribute to the significance of a feature they should not be treated as definitive. These criteria are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of these archaeological/cultural heritage assets.

Table 1: Explanation of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Asset Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Explanation
Existing Status	The level of protection associated with an archaeological / cultural heritage asset is an important consideration.
Condition / Preservation / Integrity	The survival of an archaeological / cultural heritage asset's archaeological potential both above and below ground is an important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features. Well-preserved sites should be highlighted, this assessment can only be based on a field inspection.
Documentation / Data	The significance of a an archaeological / cultural heritage asset may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigations or contemporary documentation supported by written evidence or historic maps. Sites with a definite historical association or an example of a notable event or person should be highlighted.
Group Value / Character	The value of a single an archaeological / cultural heritage asset may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments or with monuments from different periods indicating an extended time presence in any

	specific area. In some cases it may be preferable to protect the complete group, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within that group.
Rarity / Character	The rarity of some an archaeological / cultural heritage asset types can be a central factor affecting response strategies for development, whatever the condition of the individual feature. It is important to recognise sites that have a limited distribution.
Visibility in the landscape / Character / Integrity	Archaeological / cultural heritage assets that are highly visible in the landscape have a heightened physical presence. The inter-visibility between monuments may also be explored in this category.
Fragility / Vulnerability / Integrity	It is important to assess the level of threat to an archaeological / cultural heritage asset from erosion, natural degradation, agricultural activity, land clearance, neglect, careless treatment or development.
Amenity Value / Character	Regard should be taken of the existing and potential amenity value of a an archaeological / cultural heritage asset.

An evaluation of the significance / sensitivity of archaeological / cultural heritage assets is based on their designation and on the extent to which these assets contribute to the archaeological or cultural heritage environment, though their individual or group qualities, either directly or potentially. Table 2 presents the scale of significance / sensitivity together with criteria. It has been compiled by Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd, based on standard authorities and guidelines as listed in **Section 14.2.2**. Undesignated archaeological or cultural heritage sites can be assigned a low, medium or high sensitivity value, taking into consideration the criteria cited in Table 1 (e.g. condition, character, integrity or preservation, data, group value, rarity, visibility in the landscape, fragility or vulnerability, and amenity value).

Table 2: Significance / Sensitivity Criteria

Sensitivity / Significance	Criteria
High	Sites of international significance: World Heritage Sites. National Monuments. Protected Structures (assessed by the NIAH to be of international and national importance), where these are also National Monuments. Undesignated archaeological and cultural heritage sites.
Medium	Recorded Monuments (RMP sites & SMR sites scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP) Protected Structures / NIAH sites (assessed by the NIAH to be of regional importance), where these are also Recorded Monuments. Newly identified archaeological sites, confirmed through archaeological investigation, to be added to the SMR. Undesignated archaeological and cultural heritage sites.
Low	Sites listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building Survey for which there are no upstanding remains. Undisturbed greenfield areas and riverine environs, which have an inherent archaeological potential. Undesignated archaeological and cultural heritage sites.
Negligible	Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological and / or cultural heritage interest.

Magnitude of Impact

When assessing the impact magnitude, the following criteria need to be considered:

- Extent – size, scale and spatial distributions of the impact;
- Duration – period of time over which the impact will occur;
- Frequency – how often the impact will occur; and
- Context – how will the extent, duration and frequency contrast with the accepted baseline conditions (see Table 1).

Table 3: Magnitude of Impact Criteria

Impact Magnitude	Criteria
High	These impacts arise where an archaeological / cultural heritage asset is completely and irreversibly destroyed by a proposed development. A change such that the value of the asset is totally altered or destroyed, leading to a complete loss of character, integrity and data about the site.
Medium	An impact which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity alters an important / significant aspect of the environment. An impact like this would be where an archaeological / cultural heritage asset would be impacted upon leading to a significant loss of character, integrity and data about the site. Or an impact which by its magnitude results in the partial loss of a historic structure (including fabric loss or alteration) or grounds including the part removal of buildings or features or part removal of demesne land (e.g. severance, visual intrusion or degradation of setting and amenity). A permanent positive impact that enhances or restores the character and / or setting of a cultural heritage site or upstanding archaeological heritage site in a clearly noticeable manner.
Low	A low impact arises where a change to the site is proposed which though noticeable is not such that the archaeological / cultural heritage character / integrity of the site is significantly compromised, and where there is no significant loss of data about the site. A positive impact that results in partial enhancement of the character and / or setting of a cultural heritage site or upstanding archaeological heritage site in the medium to long-term.
Negligible	An impact which causes very minor changes in the character of the environment and does not directly impact an archaeological / cultural heritage asset or affect the appreciation or significance of the asset. There would be very minor changes to the character and integrity of the asset and no loss of data about the site.

National Monument

The National Monuments Act (1930, Section 2) defines a 'National Monument' as

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

The National Monuments legislation legally protects access to and the visual amenity associated with National Monuments and requires consent from the Minister for invasive works in their vicinity.

The defences / town walls of medieval Dublin are a National Monument in accordance with national policy on town defences (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2008).

Recorded Monuments

The primary source of information for archaeology is the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). The RMP documents known upstanding archaeological monuments, their original location (in cases of destroyed monuments) and the position of possible sites in rural areas identified as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs dating to before 1700 AD (with some later ones also being included). It is based on a comprehensive range of published and publicly available documentary and cartographic sources.

For the purpose of the assessment, the Sites and Monument Record (SMR) data and mapping as updated by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (www.archaeology.ie) was examined so it could be used within an interactive identification and mapping system developed for Proposed Project.

Zones of Archaeological Potential

Zones of archaeological potential (ZAP) can be defined as areas within the urban and rural landscape that possess the potential to contain archaeological remains due to the settlement history of a place and or to the presence of topographical features such as rivers, lakes and high, defensible ground. An example of this is the RMP designated Historic City of Dublin, which is designated as a zone of archaeological potential covering an extensive area (RMP DU018-020). Other examples include historic settlements recorded at Donnybrook, Bray, Finglas, Kilmainham, Chapelizod and Tallaght. For the purpose of the assessment, ZAPs with statutory protection (i.e. contained in the RMP) were considered.

Non-Designated Sites

Newly identified archaeological sites that have been confirmed through archaeological investigation (monitoring, testing, excavation, geophysical survey) are considered to be of medium importance. Such sites are undesignated as they have yet to be added to the SMR.

Potential or undesignated archaeological sites identified through aerial photography, historic mapping, stray finds are considered to be of low sensitivity, as they have yet to be ground-truthed through archaeological investigation. Similarly, undisturbed greenfield areas and riverine environs, which have an inherent but as yet unproven archaeological potential are considered to be of low sensitivity.

Significance of Impact

The Draft EPA Revised Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) (EPA 2015) added the two additional levels of significance of impact: Very Significant and Not Significant (Table 4 and Image 1).

Table 4: Significance of Impacts (EPA 2022)

Significance of Impact	Description
Very Significant	An impact which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters the majority of a sensitive aspect of the environment, for example in this case a monument
Not Significant	An impact which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without noticeable consequences.

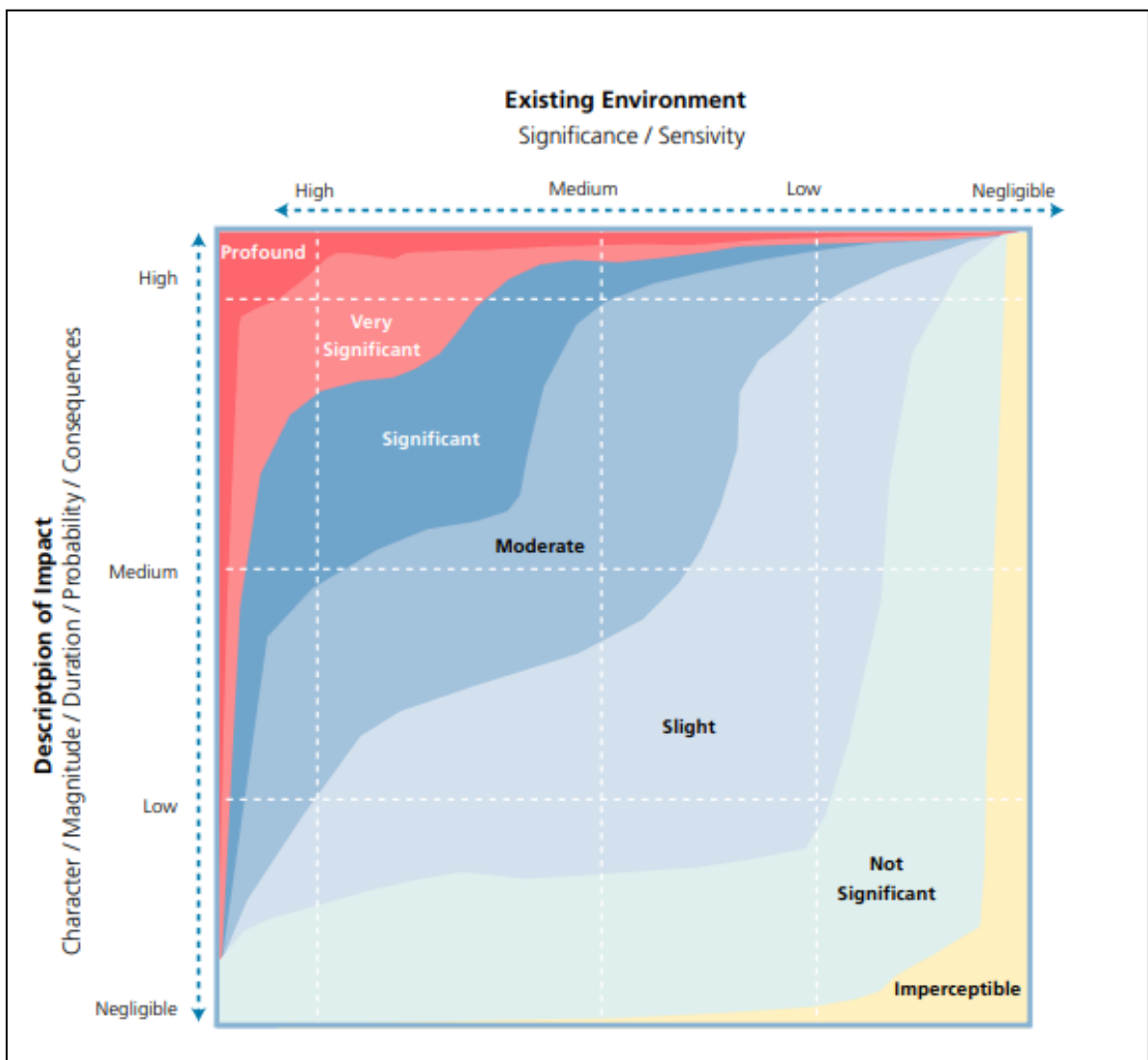


Image 1: Chart Showing Typical Classifications of the Significance of Effects, from the EPA Guidelines on Information to be Contained in EIAR (Figure 3.4, EPA 2022)

The likely significance of impacts is determined by considering the baseline rating or sensitivity value of the asset upon which the impact has an impact and the magnitude of the impact (Image 1). The impact significance is defined as Imperceptible, Not Significant, Slight, Moderate, Significant, Very Significant, or Profound (Table 5).

Table 5: Defining Significance of Impacts

Impact	Definition
Imperceptible	An impact capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.
Not Significant	An impact which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
Slight	An impact which causes changes in the character of the environment which are not significant or profound and do not directly impact or affect an archaeological / cultural heritage asset.

Moderate	A moderate impact arises where a change to the site is proposed which though noticeable, does not lead to a significant loss of character, integrity and data about the archaeological / cultural heritage asset.
Significant	An impact which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the environment. An impact like this would be where part or all of a site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a significant loss of character, integrity and data about the archaeological / cultural heritage asset.
Very Significant	An impact which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Profound	Applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse impacts. Reserved for adverse, negative impacts only. These impacts arise where an archaeological / cultural heritage asset is completely and irreversibly destroyed by a proposed development.

Project Number: 20_071

Project: Suir Island Infrastructure Links

Title: EIAR Chapter 14 Material Assets: Archaeology & Cultural Heritage

Appendix 14.3 Suir Island Infrastructure Links - Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Constraints Study

Suir Island Infrastructure Links

Clonmel

Co Tipperary

Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Constraints Study

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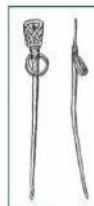
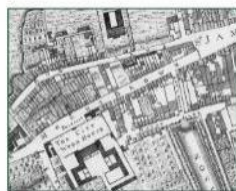
For Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd.

Version dated: 29.07.2022

For Clifton Scannell Emmerson Associates

on behalf of

Tipperary County Council



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. General

Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd was appointed by Clifton Scannell Emmerson Associates on behalf of Tipperary County Council to prepare a Cultural Heritage Constraints Study Report for the Suir Island Infrastructure Links in Clonmel, County Tipperary. This desk study outlines the archaeology, cultural, and architectural heritage on and in the vicinity of Suir Island (Figure 1). Suir Island is located in the centre of Clonmel within the River Suir. It is located in the Parish of St. Mary's Clonmel and in the barony of Iffa and Offa East and townland of Burgagery-Lands West.



Figure 1 Study area

Clonmel is a large town on the River Suir at the foot of the Comeragh Mountains. Suir Island comprising four different islands is in the centre of Clonmel immediately outside of the Anglo Norman walled settlement. The island is surrounded by the River Suir on all sides and is accessible from the town centre via the Old Bridge to the north west of the island. In the 18th and 19th century the town was a tremendously prosperous transportation and industrial hub in the midlands, there was extensive milling operations on and the river and its tow path provided transport of goods to Dublin. There are numerous medieval and post-medieval references to milling on Little Island at Hughes Mill.

The island presents a huge opportunity for the town as a central amenity. The study area for the infrastructural links includes Suir Island house and gardens which are located in the southwestern most

area of Suir Island, on Willow Island. A Part 8 application for the proposed development of Suir Island Gardens is being prepared by Tipperary County Council.

1.2. Study Aims

The objective for the cultural heritage constraints study is to provide a high level understanding of the key likely significant constraints within the study area. It is a tool to ensure that cultural heritage assets are considered alongside all other environmental constraints at the earliest possible stage of the planning process and that consideration is given to all alternatives.

This report will provide an archaeological and historical background to the area and will highlight the designated archaeological sites and sites of architectural heritage significance within the defined constraints area. It aims to establish as far as the records allow the archaeological and cultural / built heritage potential of the study area and to highlight if there are any implications for the development of the infrastructural links.

1.3. Methodology

The constraints study includes a desk study and a preliminary field inspection. It also involves the compilation and mapping of available cultural heritage data sets. A review of the following information took place in order to inform the cultural heritage report:

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS) and Tentative World Heritage Sites and those monuments on the tentative list.
- National Monuments in State care, as listed by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG).
- National Monuments Sites with Preservation Orders Sites.
- Sites listed in the Register of Historic Monuments.
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland.
- A review of artefactual material held in the National Museum of Ireland.
- The Tipperary County Council Development Plan (2014-2020), Clonmel and Environs Development Plan (2013)
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building Survey (NIAH ratings are international, national, regional, local and record, and those of regional and above are recommended for inclusion in the RPS).
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Garden Survey (paper survey only).
- Cartographical Sources, OSI Historic Mapping Archive, including early editions of the Ordnance Survey including historical mapping (such as Down Survey 1656 Map); Historical maps including the Down Survey, and the first and revised editions of 6 Inch and 25 Inch Ordnance Survey maps.

- The Irish archaeological excavations catalogue i.e. Excavations bulletin and Excavations Database.
- Place names; Townland names and toponymy (loganim.ie).
- National Folklore Collection (Duchas.ie).
- A review and interpretation of aerial imagery (Google earth 2001–2019, Digital Globe 2011-2013, Bing 2019) to be used in combination with historic mapping to map potential cultural heritage assets.
- Collation of information from similar or other infrastructure projects, for example EISs, SEAs, conservation plans, archaeological test assessments and excavations.
- A review of existing guidelines and best practice approaches.

A field inspection was carried out 17th October 2020 to assess the present topography and land use within the proposed development area. It also sought to identify potential low-visibility archaeological features that will be subject to direct or indirect impacts as a result of the proposed development.

The evaluation process ensures that all designations relating to heritage assets as well as cultural heritage features that are revealed through research, field assessment and consultation are clearly articulated.

2. RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

2.1. Prehistoric Period

Whilst there is little evidence for prehistoric activity in the study area there are records of bronze artefacts identified from the town in the National Museum Topographical files (NMI 1934:480-484). These comprise two leaf shaped swords, two flanged axeheads and a leaf shaped spearhead representing a collection dating to the later Bronze Age (c.2500-300BC).

The River Suir would have been an arterial routeway into the midlands since prehistoric times. The area north of the River Suir was traditionally known as *Deisc Tuasisceant* or *North Deisi*. The earliest settlers in the area were from Ossory, but these people were driven back by the *Deisi*, who crossed the Suir in the late fifth century AD. The *Deisi* were descended from *Fiacha Suidhe*, brother of 'Con of a Hundred Battles,' king of Ireland. Originating from Meath, they were defeated in AD 278 in battle and resettled in Waterford by Oloill Olum, the king of Munster (Burke 1983, 1).

2.2. Early Medieval Period

The town of Clonmel is located on the north bank of the River Suir, at a fording point where the river widens to incorporate several small islands. The town derives its name from the Irish *cluain meala*, meaning 'vale or meadow of honey.' Local legend tells of a band of Danish Vikings from Waterford who followed a swarm of bees up-river and built their fort where the bees swarmed (Ó Cleirigh 1993, 95; Farrelly & FitzPatrick 1993, 56). The name may, however, merely signify the richness of the fertile soil in the area or the picturesque valley that the town nestles in.

Nevertheless, the Vikings are recorded as establishing a fort on the islands in the river at Clonmel in AD 864 (Burke 1983, 4). Furthermore, a battle between the Uí Néill and the Vikings, in which a thousand people allegedly died, is recorded in 916 near the area (Shee & Watson 1975, 5). The eleventh-century Tripartite Life refers to the mills of the foreigners in Clonmel, but the chronicler Geraldus Cambrensis makes no mention of a town there in 1185 (Burke 1983, 5).

One of the earlier local historians, Rev. William Burke, suggests the Vikings made '*...their way up the Suir to its navigable limit, the islands in the river afforded a position to hold their stocks and carry on their barter with absolute security*', the island would certainly be an obvious choice for a Viking longfort. No archaeological evidence has yet emerged to confirm the Vikings settled in this area (Bradley 1985). While medieval Clonmel town developed on the north side of the river, there are historical references to the south side of the river in the Calendar Justic. Rolls Irel. II to *Clonmel on the side of Waterford*. This historical reference is further supported by a possible settlement having existed around St. Nicholas' Church (RMP No. TI083-020), which is to the south of the river Suir in Glebe townland.

2.3. Medieval Town

Following the Anglo-Norman invasion, Clonmel was granted to William de Burgo in 1205 or 1206. He died shortly afterwards, but the earliest reference to a town at the site is not until 1211 or 1215 (Burke 1983, 6, 12). Therefore, it was probably William de Burgo's son, Richard, who founded the town; in 1225, Henry III granted Richard the right to hold an annual fair (Farrelly & FitzPatrick 1993, 56). In 1265, Otho de Grandison was granted the manor of Clonmel and subsequently appointed sheriff of the town as a reward for his service with Prince Edward, lord of Ireland (Farrelly & FitzPatrick 1993, 56; Shee & Watson 1975, 7).

The Franciscans came to Clonmel in 1269 at the invitation of De Grandison. The religious house (TS083-019003) is within the southeast angle of the town wall, east of Abbey Street. Located c. 50m northwest of the Franciscan church, presumably in the former grounds of the abbey, a burial ground (TS083-019072-) was uncovered during monitoring of building works (Henry 1996, 81). The historical records indicate that the burial-ground remained in use following the dissolution of the friary in 1540 (ibid.). At the time of the Dissolution the friary consisted of '*a church, a belfry, a dormitory, a hall, three chambers, a kitch, a stable, ...a weir*' and land (Morrissey 1909, 248-50). During Cromwell's attack on Clonmel in 1650 the friary was badly damaged.

The church and graveyard were granted to the citizens of Clonmel after the Dissolution and remained in use for some time, probably until the ground was acquired for the construction of the Main Guard courthouse (TS083-019004-) in the early 1670s (ibid.). Excavations in 1994/5 to the rear of the Main Guard courthouse revealed a wall which underlay and pre-dated the southern wall of the return of the courthouse (Henry 1996, 81). Its location and the fact that it pre-dates the Main Guard suggests that the wall was associated with a Franciscan building (ibid., Farrelly and FitzPatrick 1993, 67-70).

The friary was reopened in 1828 (Craig and Garner 1975, 27) and rebuilt in 1883, incorporating the north wall of the original 13th-century choir and later 15th-century tower (Morrissey 1909, 248-50). By 1840 a southeast wing (O'Flanagan 1930,) and a porch in front of the tower had been added (Shee and Watson 1975, 11-12). Of the former medieval friary church and its domestic buildings only the belfry and traces of the gabled roof of the old nave on its western side remain upstanding. Within the church itself there is a double effigial Butler tomb (TS083-019086-) and fragments of panels from three other altar tombs (after RMP files).

In 1328, James Bulter, earl of Ormonde, was granted the regalities, liberties, knights, fees and other privileges of County Tipperary, known as the right of palatine (Shee & Watson 1975, 7), and Clonmel became the headquarters of the county palatine. In 1349 and again in 1376, the Black Death ravaged the town (Farrelly & Fitzpatrick 1993).

The manor of Clonmel was sold in 1338 to Maurice Fitzgerald, first earl of Desmond, and over the next two hundred years, there was intense rivalry between the Bulters and the Geraldines. In 1516, the town was besieged and taken by the earl of Kildare. However, the rivalry was finally ended when the manor of Clonmel was given as dowry to the Butlers of Ormonde in c.1531 by the Fitzgeralds.

Oldbridge

The Oldbridge bridge to Suir Island crosses the site of an earlier bridge (TS083-019002). In 1355 Clonmel received a pontage grant from Edward III (RMP Files). There is no record of the exact location of the 14th-century bridge, but it is likely that it forded the Suir in the place where Oldbridge now stands. In the 18th century it was represented on Moll's map of 1714 as an integral part of the principal road leading to Dungarvan and Cappoquin and in 1748 it was described as a '*very spacious bridge over the Suir... of twenty arches*' (O'Keefe and Simington 1991, 158 after RMP file).

Lyons (1936, 292) suggests that a mill weir south of the Suir Islands (TS083-019016) southeast of Suir Island House 'anciently may have been a fishing weir'. The weir is not indicated on the 1st (1840-41) ed. OS 6-inch map which suggests that its construction post-dates 1840-41. This weir has been removed.

Town Wall

The town received a murage grant in 1298 from Edward I. This murage grant (a tax levied to build or repair a town wall) was acquired by de Grandison, Lord of Clonmel to fortify the town. Further grants smaller murage grants for additional stone walls and the repair of the walls were again given to Clonmel in the 14th and 15th centuries (IWTN, 2020, Farrelly & Fitzpatrick 1993, 56).

The medieval town wall enclosed a roughly rectangular area with a slight protrusion on the north side where it incorporated St Mary's Church Yard. It enclosed an area of approximately 14ha and the wall is 1.5km in length (Thomas 1992, 52). It was constructed sometime in the 13th century (*ibid*) and a new

bastion line reinforced the medieval wall in the seventeenth century. The town had an inverted T-shaped street pattern and six gates: four main gates (North Gate, East Gate, Bridge Gate and West Gate), a postern gate and a water gate providing access for people and goods to and from the River Suir (Thomas 1992, 55). The presence of a fosse outside the medieval wall is assumed but it has not been recorded.

The Stritches family gave their name to 'Stretches Island' which lies west of Suir Island. John Stritch was sovereign of the borough (1539-1543). In a list of the freeholders of the Cantred of Clonmel, he is set down as holding an estate of £20 a year (Burke 1983). This suggests that the islands were present at this time.

In 1608, the town became a free borough by royal decree (Shee & Watson 1975). In 1647, the Supreme Council of the Confederation of Kilkenny assembled at Clonmel (Farrelly & Fitzpatrick 1993), but the town was subsequently besieged in 1650 by Cromwell, withstanding the siege for three weeks before eventually surrendering on honourable terms (Ó Cleirigh 1993, 95; Shee & Watson 1975, 11).

The earliest cartographic sources of Clonmel are the Down Survey maps of 1656. The most detailed is the Glanihery Barony map of Waterford which shows the walled 'Clonmel Citty' on the banks of the Suir (Figure 2). The inverted T-shaped plan form of the town is clearly shown. A single bridge crosses the river, there is no indication of a harbour area or the presence of the island. However, the Downs survey maps are not the most reliable and such an omission would not be unusual in a map.

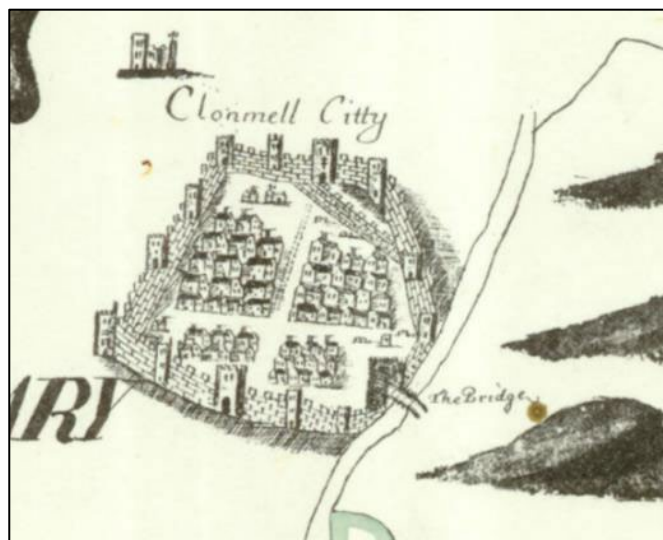


Figure 2 Down Survey County Map

On the Down Survey Barony Map the town is referred to as Clonmel City and Burgery (Figure 3). The walled town is depicted as is Clonmel Bridge. The maps are not as detailed but do indicate the bridge across the river. The County map of Waterford shows two structures on the southern side of the river. Suir Island is not indicated.



Figure 3 a & b William Petty's Down Survey County and of the County Map of Waterford 1656

J. Goubet's 1690 map *La Ville de Clonmel* (Figure 4), which shows the town wall, turrets, gates and medieval street pattern in some detail. In the seventeenth-century Hearth Money Rolls (1654–55), the town is recorded as having three interconnecting suburbs to the east, west and north and a further smaller area across the river (Thomas 1992, 53). The presence of a fosse outside the medieval wall is assumed but it has not been recorded. On the south side of the wall the River Suir may have acted as a fosse and a fosse is indicated on Goubet's 1690 map of the town (*ibid*). A narrow entry to a laneway is shown between the two south gates on the Goubet map; a similar entry was exposed during excavations on the line of the south wall (Licence ref: 95E211). It shows a substantial bridge crossing the river connected to the town via bridge street, and like the other 17th century maps does not indicate the presence of Suir Island.

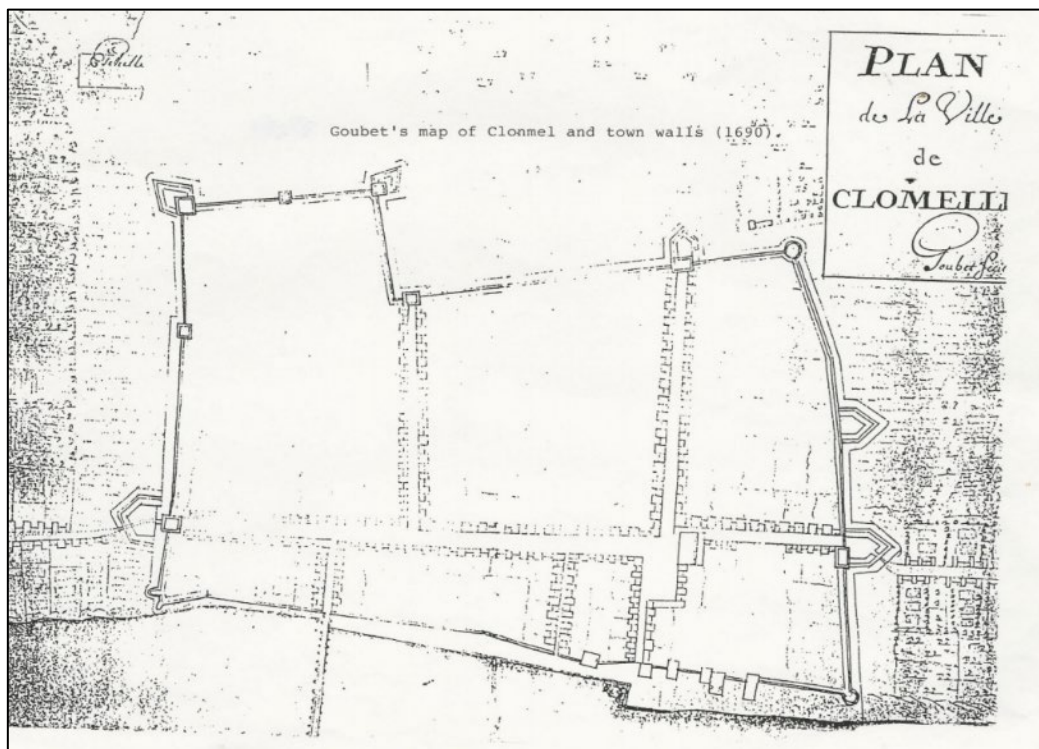


Figure 4 Goubets Map of Clonmel and town walls (1690)

Although Clonmel was an important manor, there is no clear evidence of a castle at the town (Bradley 1985). The remains of the 13th-century church of St Mary's may be found in the northwest corner of the medieval town wall, and those of the Franciscan friary (founded in 1269 by Otho de Grandison) in the southeast corner of the town. The extramural 13th-century church of St Nicholas's is located in the Old Bridge quarter of the town.

Expansion outside the Town Wall

The town walls were dismantled over time and more of the walls were removed with expansion of modern Clonmel. Increased prosperity led to the opening of new streets and an expansion of the population in areas outside the walled town, particularly to the north and east. The area to the west of the town, Irishtown, had been inhabited since the late medieval period and was redeveloped mostly in the late 18th and early 19th centuries on a pattern which largely exists today.

The medieval streets and burgage plot plan are still visible in the narrow streets and lanes of the modern town, and sections of the town wall, including three mural towers and a gatehouse, survive on the north and west sides of the town. Today approximately 300m of upstanding wall survives, most of which can be seen around St Mary's Abbey. This includes the remains of a wall-walk and a tower.

2.4. Post-medieval town

Clonmel's strategic position on the river Suir led to its establishment as the market centre for a wide agricultural hinterland during the agrarian revolution of the late 18th century. The drivers for the industrial revolution of the town was the harnessing of the river for milling and transport. The county palatine was abolished in 1716, by which time Clonmel had become an important centre for trading in milling flour, oatmeal, rape seed, butter, bacon and tobacco. More than two-dozen mills were set up in and around the town, the majority owned by members of the influential Quaker community.

River Suir Navigation and the Quays

The quays were developed and extended to cater for the increased trade and this in turn drew new businesses into the town. A towpath was laid along the north bank of the River Suir between Carrick and Clonmel in the 1750s, river transport was cheap, and grain was shipped in horse drawn barges along the towpath between the towns. On the upper Suir, from Carrick to Clonmel, the standard vessel was the yawl, a smaller vessel used in shallow waters. Its construction also necessitated the modification of several bridges over the Suir to accommodate navigation and tow path arches.

Substantial quays were built along the river frontage in Clonmel in the later 1700s and first half of the 1800s. The original medieval quay was between Old Bridge and Sarsfield Street, it was replaced by the New Quay after 1756 (Figure 5). The town was one of Ireland's busiest inland towns and ports.



Figure 5 Photographs of Canal Quay Clonmel, view towards Old Bridge (Robert French published between 1880-1900 in the Lawrence Photograph Collection National Library of Ireland) and an early 20th century colourised photo showing Oldbridge and Hughes Mill – note the narrowness of the Old Quay at this time

The development of the railways however meant that barge traffic ceased by the 1920's. The Old Quay/New Quay road was widened again in the 1990s (Hamond 2010) along with the insertion of a reinforced-concrete wall along its riverside, the widened replacement carries a single-lane road and footpath along the river's edge. No visible traces of the original quay are now visible. The river wall was recently replaced by taller wall and demountable flood gates for flood alleviation, the former open aspect to the river was removed (Plate 1). it is very likely however that there is in-situ evidence of these and earlier quays along northern side of the road beneath the road.



Plate 1 View looking west along New Quay (showing some of the structures on the early photograph Figure 5)

Industrialisation of Suir Island

According to Rev. Burke (1983) the earliest water-powered enterprise in the town was the Manor Mill, at the north-west end of Old Bridge. In 1614 Benedict White fitz John set up in Suir Island a mill for the tucking and finishing of coarse woollen stuffs. There is also a reference in the Clonmel Corporation Minute Book for May 1637 of a 'Little Mill' on Suir Island.

Driven by a bounty granted by the Irish Parliament between 1758 and 1797 for the transportation of grain and flour to Dublin, where bread consumption was on the increase, the industrialisation of the milling got underway. In Clonmel the milling trade was largely monopolized by the Quakers. Simmons Sparrow, the son of a local baker, opened the huge Suir Island Mills (Burke 1907). He was followed by the firm of Robert Grubb & Co. who built a large flour mill in around 1780, it utilized a channel between Suir Island and Willow Island and may have been on the site of an earlier, derelict oilseed rape mill which had been leased by his father Joseph in 1774. About the same time, another mill was erected at the south-east end of Old Bridge in the vicinity of the former Little Mill; with a subsequent change of ownership, this became known as Hughes' Mill, after Thomas Hughes (Blackwood et al, 2014). In November 1781, Edward Collins obtained a lease from the corporation of the old corporation mill on Little Island, and erected new mills at a cost of £12,000. Within the next thirty years a network of corn mills was spread over the country until every river was dammed and every mountain stream pent up (Burke 1907).

Listed in a 1787 *Directory of Clonmel* was Edmund Dwyer a distiller; Howell Edward & John, Millers & Corn Merchants Corporations Mills; Jones Richard, Clothier & tanner; Thomas and Samuel Grubb, Millers & Corn Merchants and Sparrow Simmons, corn merchant. When in 1797 it was proposed to abolish the system of bounties, the milling industry was so firmly established, that it stood in no need of public subsidies. 'The

principal millers,' said Lord Clare, 'in the neighbourhood of Clonmell, a part of the kingdom from which there is a considerable influx of corn to the city, do not complain of the bill ; on the contrary many have declared that they will not suffer any loss from it ' (Burke 1907).

Pigot's 1824 Directory noted that the Clonmel corn market was '*as extensive as any in the kingdom, and the merchants and traders evince a more enterprising spirit and transact more business than those of any town of equal size in Ireland*'. The buoyant corn trade also benefited the local milling industry. Pigot also noted that '*one fifth of the whole quantity of flour exported from this Kingdom was last year [1823] shipped by one establishment alone in this industrious and prosperous town*' (Blackwood et al, 2004)

The River Suir's course through Clonmel, the scale of the milling enterprises and the ingenuity of harnessing the power of the river is clearly seen on the 1874 ten feet to one mile OS map (Figure 6). This map shows Suir Island, Stretches Island, Little Island and Grubbs Island to the west (Willow Island is not named). West of Grubbs Island the river is split into many channels with four weirs feeding several mills and other works. A causeway which connects the Islands is shown, connecting Bridge Street on the northern banks of the river to Green Street to the south, the largest bridge is named Old Bridge and its cutwaters both upstream and downstream are drawn. It appears that a retaining wall forms a boundary around each island.

The extensive industry shown on the islands are varied, comprising food and cloth manufacturing/processing. A woollen factory is shown on Stretches Island, on Little Island there is a weaving factory and a corn mill with mill races connected to both. On Suir Island there is an extensive range of industrial buildings comprising a woollen factory, a Turkish bath house, tannery and two flour mills.

On each island there is a large house and associated decorative gardens belonging to the prosperous millers, Spring Garden House on Stretches Island, Little Island House (Owned by the Mortons) on Little Island and Suir Island House and The Cedars (Robert Grubb) on Suir Island (Thomas Grubb), each connected to or in proximity to the mills. At the eastern end of Suir island is an hexagonal structure with a flight of steps, there is a corresponding one on Stretches Island – these are labelled as a 'summer house' on revised six inch map (Figure 7). Sarah Grubb constructed a Quaker girls' boarding school between the Cedars and her husband's mill. Very little of these grand houses survive today, though the mature trees that have taken over the eastern part of Suir island hint at its past.

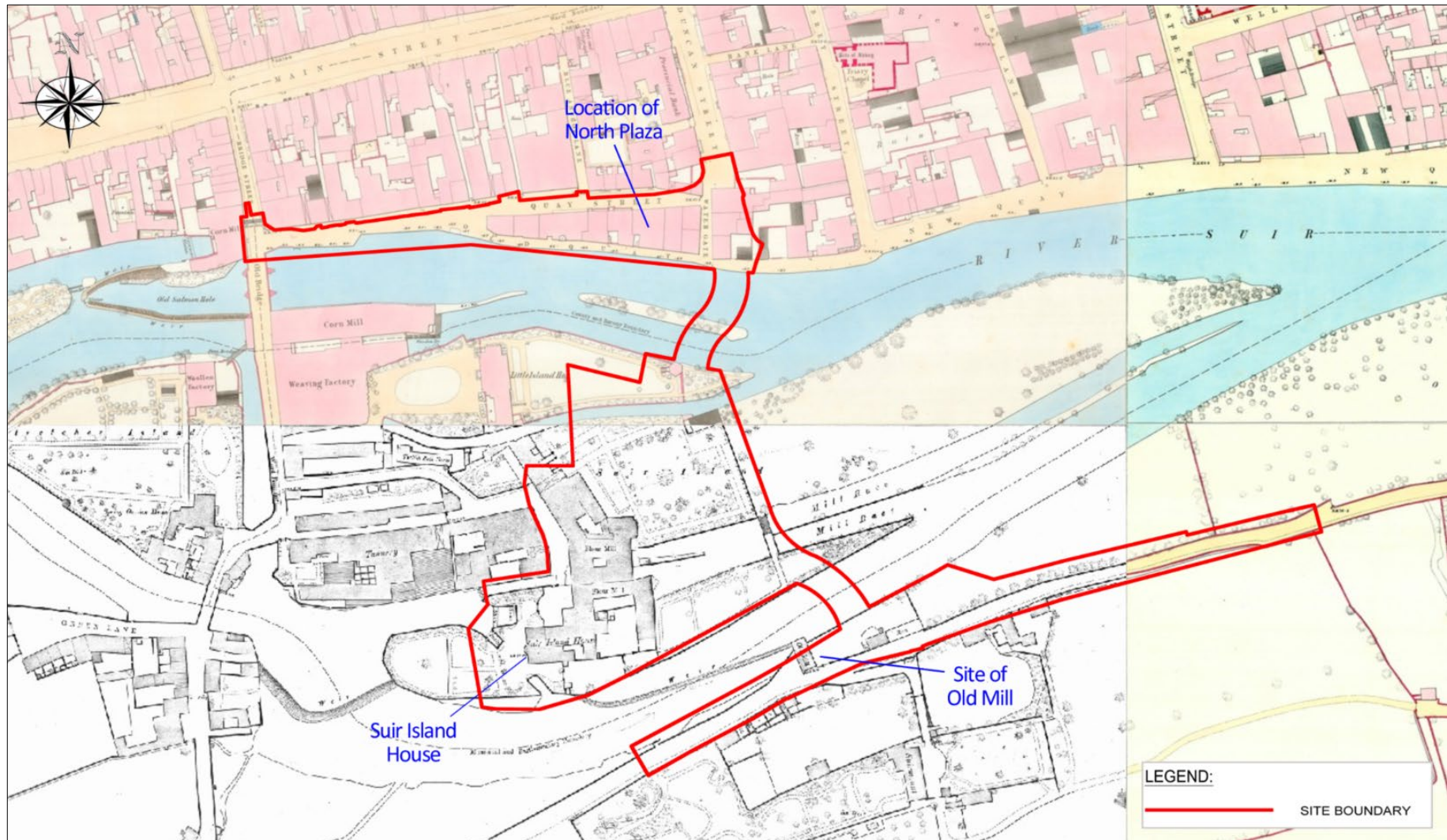


Figure 6 Town of Clonmel (1874) OS Map 1:500. Ten feet to one statute mile (TY083-06_08)

On the southern side of the Island there are two weirs and sluice gates controlling the flow of water to the mills. Mooring posts also align the quays for the yawls to transport to Dublin. There is a structure on the southern banks of the river labelled as an 'Old Mill' and in the later as a OS map it is shown as a Smithy.

Hughes Mills on Little island was later converted into a cotton factory, then a boot factory and as shown on this map, then a creamery and condensed milk factory.

The subsequent 1904 OS map shows little change buildings' footprints, reflecting the lack of development during the later 19th century and the decline of the industries (Figure 7). The Hughes Mill on Little island changed to a Condensed Milk Factory. Structures on Suir Island is referred to as 'The Cedars' perhaps workers houses. On this map Willow Island is the name given to the southern part of Suir Island.

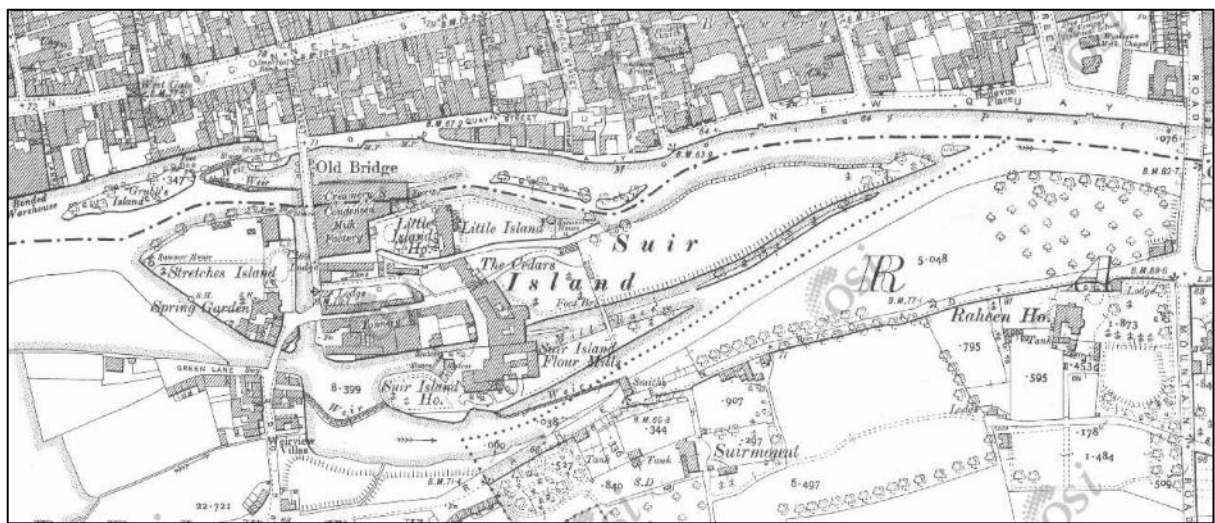


Figure 7 1904 Map Ordnance Survey 1:2500

With the exception of the Condensed Milk Factory, all industrial activity had ceased by 1930, the nail in its coffin being the economic depression following Partition in 1922. By the late 1900s, this part of the Island was almost completely deserted and the piecemeal demolition. Both Grubb mills were in ruins by the early 1940s and the remainder of the buildings lay disused and falling into dereliction and the houses unoccupied (Blackwood 2004). Today Hughes mills now stands as an apartment block overlooking the river Suir and a car park has been developed on the Island. Suir Island house and its associated surviving mill buildings (in ruins) have been partially conserved.

Major changes to the character of the quays, the river and the islands were carried out as part of major flood protection scheme for Clonmel in around 2009 they included large earthen embankments, replacement bridges and floodwalls.

3. RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND FINDS

3.1. World Heritage Sites and Tentative World Heritage Sites

There are no world heritage sites in the vicinity of the study area.

3.2. National Monuments and National Monuments with Preservation Orders

The closest national monument in the ownership of the State is the Clonmel Mainguard Courthouse (RMP Ref: TS083-019004- 667). It is located on the eastern end of O'Connell Street (Figure 8). It will not be impacted by the proposed works. The Medieval Building Collet's Lane (rear of 31, 32 and 33 O'Connell Street, The Quay) (RMP ref. TS083-019006), is a national monument that is subject to a preservation order (PO Ref. 6/2001). This site was also added to the Register of Historic Monuments in 1993 (RHM Ref: 2614). It fronts the quay just west of Oldbridge outside of the constraints study area.

The Medieval town wall circuit including upstanding, below ground, and conjectured sections are considered to be a combined national monument. Excavations on the northern side of the quays have establish a suggested line of the town wall in the vicinity of the study area (Figure 8). Works within the vicinity of such a monument, must be undertaken subject to the granting of a Ministerial Consent.

3.3. Record of Monuments and Places and Sites and Monuments Record Sites (RMP / SMR sites) and designated Zones of Archaeological Potential (ZAP)

The medieval town of Clonmel is a designated Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) (TS083-019). This ZAP extents includes Suir Island (shown on Figure 8). There are no individual RMP sites on Suir Island. The bridge at Oldbridge (TS083-019002) is thought to be on the site of an earlier bridge. The bridges parapet has been rebuilt as part of recent flood alleviation works.

The site of a weir (TS083-01916) is recorded on the southern side of the Island, the SMR file records that Lyons (1936, 292) suggested that the weir '*anciently may have been a fishing weir*', however the weir is not indicated on the 1st (1840-41) ed. OS 6-inch map which suggests that it's construction post-dates 1840-41, it only appears on the later map. The evidence does not warrant its inclusion as an archaeological monument and may not be added to the statutory RMP.

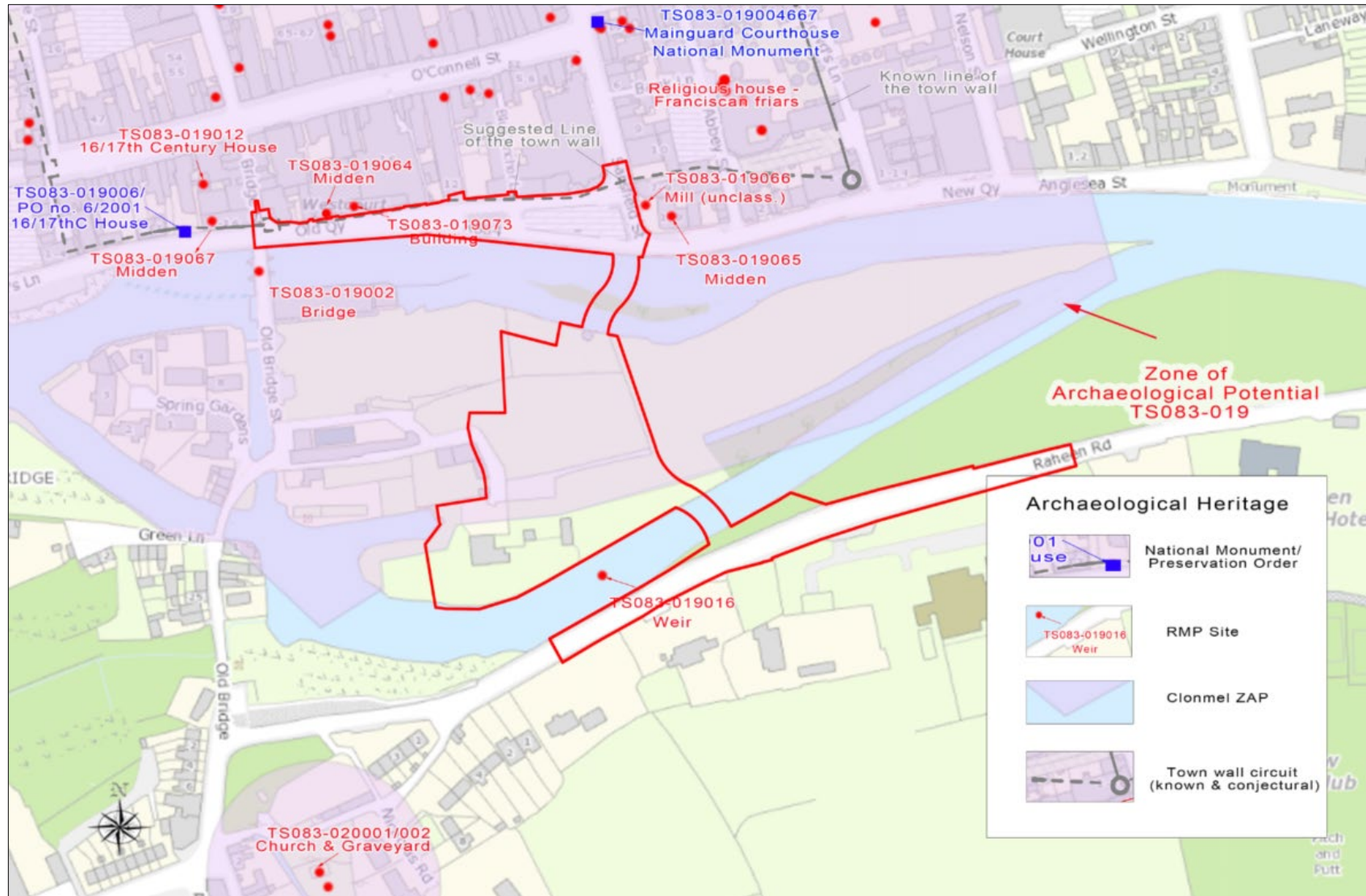


Figure 8 Archaeological Heritage (RMP, ZAP & town walls) in the vicinity of the Suir Island and the study area

The sites immediately adjacent to the Quays or within the study area are listed in Table 1 and their historical and archaeological context are described in the archaeological background above.

Table 1 RMP sites in the immediate vicinity of the study area boundary

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM E	ITM N	Distance from Study area boundary
TS083-019	Historic town	Burgagery-Lands, West, Oldbridge	620315	622426	The study area lies within the ZAP for Clonmel
TS083-019002-	Bridge	Burgagery-Lands West	620159	622289	10m south
TS083-019064-	Midden	Burgagery-Lands West	620195	622320	Immediately north on Quay Street
TS083-019065-	Midden	Burgagery-Lands West	620380	622319	Quay
TS083-019066-	Water mill - unclassified	Burgagery-Lands West	620366	622325	Immediately adjacent on corner of Sarsfield St fronting onto the Quays
TS083-019067-	Midden	Burgagery-Lands West	620134	622316	20m west
TS083-019073-	Building	Burgagery-Lands West	620210	622324	Immediately north on Quay Street
TS083-019016-	Weir - regulating	Oldbridge	620343	622125	c.10 South of Suir Island

3.4. Excavations

Several excavations have been carried out on the Quays and on Suir Island (Table 2), indicating the medieval archaeological potential on the quays and the industrial heritage potential on the Islands.

Table 2 Excavations

Licence, Licensee & Excavation.ie. Ref	Location	Brief Description	Summary findings
E4251; C456, Dave Bayley, 2011:567	Sarsfield Street, Clonmel	Testing was carried out in advance of the Suir River (Clonmel North and East) Drainage Scheme—Civil Works Contract. The footprint of the proposed pipeline route was located close to the predicted line of the town defences (TS083-019049). Three test trenches were opened, two to identify the line of the town wall and a third to establish if deposits were in the interior of the line. The testing revealed a north–south–running stone-built drainage culvert recorded and evidence of ground disturbance to facilitate modern services.	Stone culvert
06E0340, Anne-Marie Lennon, 2007:1639	No. 7, Sarsfield Street, Clonmel	The development site was close to the assumed entrance to the medieval friary and on the line of the medieval precinct wall. The excavation of the basement floor was undertaken by hand. Under the clay floor, a substantial wall was uncovered measuring 4.5m north–south by 1.5m wide. Further investigation of the wall revealed two separate wall	Remains of foundation of the original precinct wall of the

Licence, Licensee & Excavation.ie. Ref	Location	Brief Description	Summary findings
		foundations, with a loose sandstone infill between and covered by a lime-rich mortar which bound the two together. The walls pre-date the existing 1800s building and are located 2.1m below ground-floor level, at 16.028m OD, along the assumed line of the Franciscan friary precinct wall. A second wall the north-west may represent corner of a building extending back into the friary grounds.	Franciscan friary and a friary building
92E0132, Scully,1992	5-7 New Quay,	Investigations at New Quay, Clonmel exposed a section of the town wall. This survived to a maximum height of 2.5m near the northern limit of the site. The wall was roughly coursed with a slight batter at the base. The stones were undressed, but the wall was well faced on the eastern side and some patches of render were evident. The core was of rubble. The extra-mural ditch was not very distinctive. Horizontal layers of silt and stony material abutted the wall, and this area may have been subject to frequent flooding. Intra-mural layers were examined and found to be undisturbed garden-type soil.	Town wall
93E0131, Henry 1994, Ref 1993:210	Quay Street (RMPTS083-019073-),	Excavations along the quays revealed a number of walls that predated the late 16th/early 17th centuries. The walls may have been associated with the industrial buildings that once stood on the site, the Old Quay was dominated by mills in the 1700s and 1800s. An organic spread, which occurred at an average depth of 1.4m below modern ground level, dated to the late-medieval/early post-medieval period. The organic spread was rich in material typical of human occupation in a town.	Post medieval walls RMP TS083-019073-
93E0094 Henry 1994	The Quays	A watermill was identified at the southern end of Sarsfield St fronting onto - revealed the remains of a millrace-like feature (L 4m; Wth 3.5m) built of sandstone with arched openings in the E and W faces. Along its eastern face there was a cutwater. The millrace had been substantially altered by the building of several additional walls. The dating evidence suggests that the millrace dated to before the end of the 17th century. The millrace was retained by the developer.	Watermill Site RMP TS083-019066
93E0094 Ref: Henry 1994b, 1993:212	1-9 Old Quay	Excavations revealed organic layers at depths of between 1.6m and 2.1m. The layers, which were very dark in colour and had a strong organic smell, contained human and occupational waste. The finds included animal bones, charcoal, oyster shells, hazelnut shells, blackberries, broken clay pipes, sherds of pottery, strands of leather and other occupational waste. The archaeological evidence dated the organic deposits to the late 1600s and the early 1700s.	Post medieval midden site RMP TS083-019065
95E0211 Ref: 1995:252 Henry 1996	East of Old Bridge St./ Grubb's Quay.	The excavation established the line and the extent of part of the southern section of the medieval town wall. It also confirmed that at least part of the town wall extended along the riverfront. The wall was in a reasonable state of preservation. It was randomly coursed and constructed of undressed pieces of sandstone and rubble masonry and bonded with a quite soluble, fine estuarine sand mortar. The wall was 1.3m wide and standing to a max. height of 1.8m. Organic layers were also identified east of Old Bridge Street	Medieval town wall

Licence, Licensee & Excavation.ie. Ref	Location	Brief Description	Summary findings
		on Old Quay Excavations at the rear of the properties fronting onto O'Connell St and running down to the riverfront revealed an extensive medieval organic deposit occurring at depths of between 2.5m and 4.7m below modern ground level. The deposit represents the archaeological remains of a dumping ground for waste and occupational refuse inside the line of the town wall and to the rear of the properties fronting the main medieval street.	
98E0470 1999:823, O' Donovan	Hughes Mill,	Archaeological monitoring associated with the development of the former identified post 1800 or later features a culture associated with the earliest phases of the Hughes Milling complex	Milling structure
00E0560	Suir Island	Significant amount of milling activity was undertaken on the island during the late 18th and 19th centuries, evidence of which survives. Six test-trenches were excavated on the site. Material relating to domestic activity on the island contemporary with this industrial activity was revealed in the trenches. No earlier material was revealed	Mill activity
93E0167	Located under the southern embankment on Suir Island	One of the trenches was cut inside the remains of a large mill. A large number of features were discovered during testing comprising flagstone floors, watercourses with associated features and part of the subterranean aspects of the front mill wall. Interestingly, although the location of the head and tail-races has been plotted on to various maps, nothing regarding the interior water management has been recorded. These interior watercourses were sealed below ground level under the flagstone floor, as proved by the recent testing programme.	Mill activity
99E0606	Old Bridge, Clonmel	An archaeological investigation was commissioned prior to the redevelopment of the former Manor Mills building on Stretches Island on the River Suir in Clonmel Trial-trenching within the building at ground-floor level revealed the presence of a stone culvert, comprised of slab sides and capping, running diagonally across the site, and a possible wall foundation parallel to the exterior walls. A small test-pit in the courtyard also revealed stone wall foundations parallel to the main walls. Subsequent geotechnical test-trenches exposed five stone arches, possibly relieving arches relating to former walls, beneath the present ground floor.	Mill activity
02E1275; 2002:1718	Old Bridge, Clonmel	Monitoring was undertaken of all ground disturbance associated with excavation for an effluent holding tank. Nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered	N/a
10E0485	Suir Island Oldbridge	Monitoring was Suir Island (Old Bridge), for the construction of flood defence walls, food defence embankments, storm water pipelines and associated pump stations, river widening works and demolition works on five bridges.	General
10E0514 Ref 2011:566	Old Quay Street	At the site of the Old Quay pump station, remains of foundation or cellar walls at the upper levels associated with a former cotton factory. The lower levels, beneath the wall foundations, consisted of riverine silts and natural gravels. The upper levels of silt contained some animal bone, likely to	Factory cellar

Licence, Licensee & Excavation.ie. Ref	Location	Brief Description	Summary findings
		be associated with dumped material from the town, but no artefacts were recovered.	
11E0141 2011:564, And 06E0651 Ref: 2006:1837; 2009:751	Suir Island, Oldbridge, Clonmel	The remains of a mill structure, located below a car park on Suir Island, were excavated in advance of works associated with the Suir River (Clonmel North and East) Drainage Scheme—Civil Works Contract. Five phases of construction were recorded at the mill site. The primary phase was a three-roomed structure. One of the rooms, which was roughly circular in plan, is believed to have housed a set of millstones. A cobbled area with a drain was located to the north-east of this building. The following phases saw the mill expand and some interior walls being removed, and other features added	Mill remains
E4252; C456, 2011:565	Oldbridge	Ministerial consent was sought to undertake monitoring of the demolition and reconstruction of the parapets on Old Bridge (TS083-019002). A line of stones was identified in engineering test pits it is thought that the stones marked the eastern limit of the bridge bank/footing	Bridge footing

Excavations on the Quays identified sections of the town wall (Scully 1992 and Henry 1996) and the organic deposits to the late 1600s and the early 1700s. Of interest is the deep organic layers were also identified east of Old Bridge Street on Old Quay. Excavations at the rear of the properties fronting onto O'Connell St and running down to the riverfront revealed an extensive medieval organic deposit occurring at depths of between 2.5m and 4.7m below modern ground level. The deposit represents the archaeological remains of a dumping ground for waste and occupational refuse inside the line of the town wall and to the rear of the properties fronting the main medieval street.

Predevelopment excavation of a car park berm associated with the drainage scheme (Kyle 2011, Ref: 011E0014, Henry 2006, Ref:06E0651) revealed the subsurface remains of the flour mill on Suir Island (the mill to the north of Suir Island House Mill). Five construction phases were recorded; the primary phase was a three-roomed structure. One of the rooms, which was roughly circular in plan, is believed to have housed a set of millstones. A cobbled area with a drain was located to the northeast of this building. The following phases saw the mill expand, some interior walls removed, and other features added.

Several archaeological investigations have been carried out on Suir Island in advance of the development of Hughes Mill on Suir Island (O' Donovan 1998; Stephens 1998, Licence Ref: 98E0470), Manor Mill on Stretches Island (Tierney 2001, Ref: 01E0464, 01E0464) and also the Suir River (Clonmel North and East) Drainage Scheme. The drainage scheme was a large scale infrastructural project involving the construction of flood defence walls, food defence embankments, stormwater pipelines and associated pump stations, river widening works, and demolition works on five bridges (including three on Suir Island). Numerous investigations and monitoring were carried out as part of this work (Henry 1996, Purcell 1999, Bailey 2010,

Kyle 2011, Coughlin 2012, Refs: 06E0651, 99E0606 10E0485, 11E0114, Old Bridge Ref: E4252). Evidence that milling activity undertaken on the island during the late 18th and 19th centuries was captured in the investigations and correlated with the cartographic and historical sources. None of the investigations/excavations identified any features that predated the industrial activity on the island.

4. CULTURAL HERITAGE

4.1. Architectural Heritage

4.1.1. Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)

Clonmel has a rich heritage of townscape and buildings this is demonstrated in the number of protected structures listed in the town development plans Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Within the town there is also an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) focusing on the Wolfe Tone Street, O'Connell Street and Gladstone Street townscape (Figure 9). An ACA is a place, area, group of structures which is either of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or which contributes to the appreciation of protected structures. Both O'Connell Street and Gladstone Street contain fine terraces of three or four storey buildings that relate to the focus of the Main Guard building. At the western end of O'Connell Street, the West Gate forms a significant element of the streetscape. The study area lies outside the ACA.

4.1.2. Protected Structures (RPS sites)

There are a number of protected structures listed in the Clonmel & Environs Development Plan 2013 fronting Old Quay, New Quay and Anglesea Street. They comprise former 18th residences and warehouses and mills along the quays, all evidence of the earlier prosperity of the town as a thriving industrial, commercial, and business centre (Figure 9, Table 3). Early historic photographs show that these structures fronted the quay when there were no walls along the quay, originally and the Yawls or low seated boats were docked alongside them (see Figure 5 above) with mooring posts and steps. A feature of the properties is the first floor access which is probably associated with the threat of flooding.

There is one protected structure within the proposed development area, the ruin of Suir Island House on Willow Island is a protected structure (RPS 289). It is a former miller's house, built c.1760 and stands as a ruin that has been conserved and made safe. The ruins and its associated mills were comprehensively recorded prior to the conservation works (Blackwood Associates et al, Hamond, F. 2009).

A complex of former industrial structures on Suir Island is recorded in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH, Ref: 22121004,). Built in c.1820-30, the structures present as the ruins of multi-storey stores and warehouses arranged on the sides of narrow streets on the island. However, these properties do not have a statutory footing; they have been assigned a NIAH regional rating. They are considered to be of merit and can be added to the RPS by the Local Authorities should they choose to.

There are terrace structures fronting the quay or at the junction of Sarsfield Place (RPS 188-192, RPS 64 and 282) and a single protected structure on the southern side of the river (RPS 273), these are described below in Table 13.2, none of these sites will be impacted by the proposed development.

Table 3 Protected Structures in the immediate vicinity of the Suir Island constraints area

RPS Ref.	NIAH Ref	Type	Location	Description
284	22117072	House	Sarsfield Street,	Terraced three-bay single storey early Victorian former bank, c 1845, with pedimented central bay breakfront and bracketed pedimented surrounds to openings. Renovated, c. 1985 to accommodate use as a hotel
237	22117113	Bridge	Bridge Street, South Oldbridge	Triple arched bridge c 1750 with break waters and arches of cut wedge shaped voussoirs, renovated and widened c 1900 and again recently as part of the flood relief works
291	N/a	Mill building	Suir Island	Mill building to West of Old Bridge. Four bay with gable on to river
236	22121006	Bridge	Bridge Street, South Oldbridge	Double-arched stone bridge c1775; renovated c 1900
289	22121005	House	Suir Island	Suir Island House. Three storey 18th century house - burnt out. Slate on gable wall. Wall garden which is partially intact.
188	22117087	House	1 New Quay,	Semi-detached three bay, three storey over basement Georgian house c 1780, with slate ground upper floors.
189	22117088	House	2 New Quay,	Semi-detached three-bay, three storey over basement Georgian house c 1780 with slate hung upper floors and attached carriageway to right.
190	22117089	Arch	Between 2 and 3 New Quay,	Carriage arch. Elliptical-headed, early 19th century arch. Cut stone surround.
191	22117089	House	3 New Quay,	Semi-detached three bay, three storey over raised basement late Georgian house c 1805
192	22117090	House	4 New Quay,	Semi-detached three bay, three storey over raised basement late Georgian house c 1805
273	N/a	House	Suirmount, Raheen Road	Detached early 19th century house of five bays and two storeys, with composite doorcase

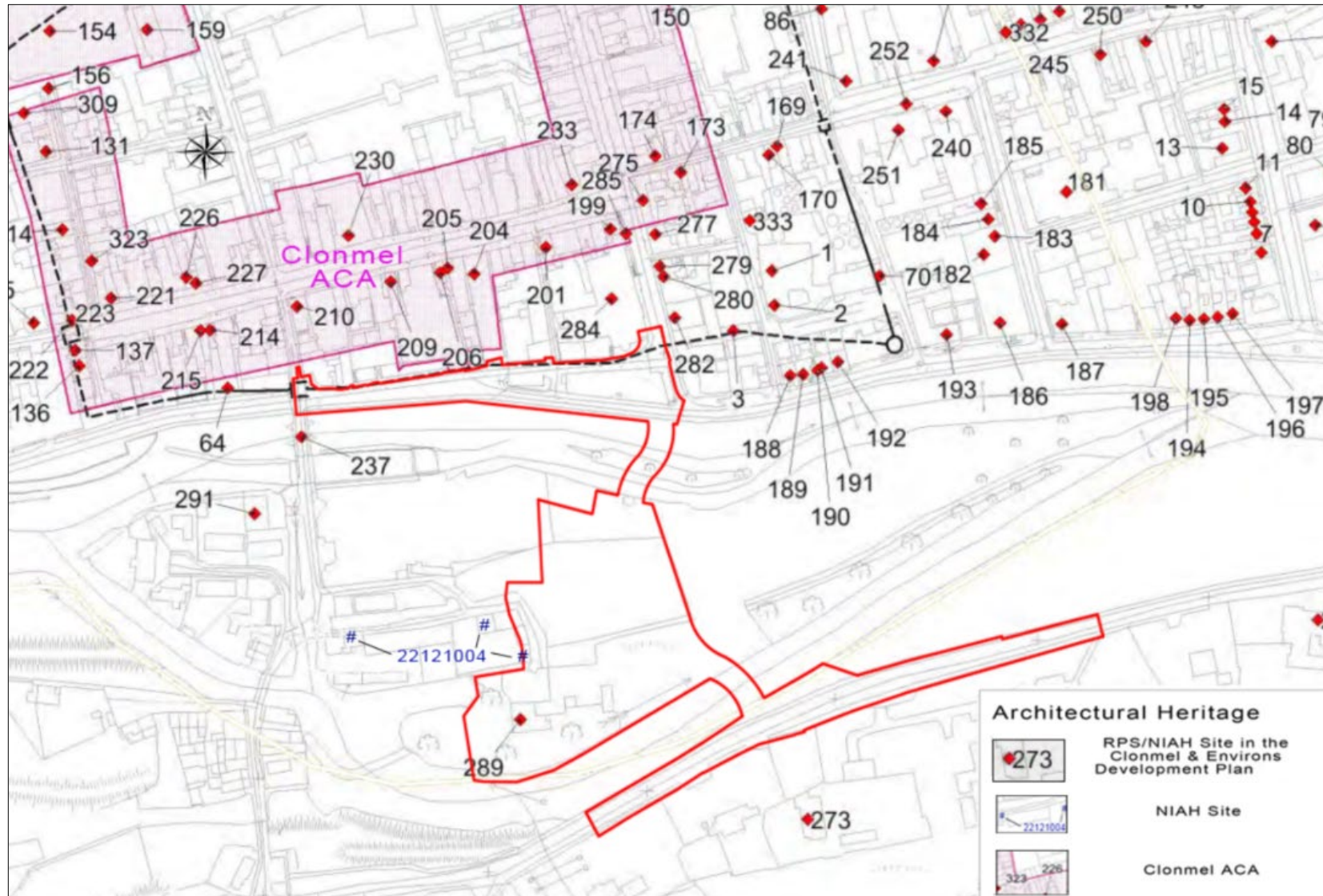


Figure 9 Protected Structures (also listed as NIAH sites) and NIAH sites (not yet Protected Structures) in the vicinity of the Suir Island and the study area

4.2. Tipperary Industrial Heritage Survey

An industrial heritage survey of Clonmel was carried out in 2010 by Fred Hamond for South Tipperary County Council. Several features were identified within the study area (Table 4, Figure 10). It includes sites and features that are no longer upstanding. Some of the sites recorded are designated RPS, RMP or NIAH sites and have statutory protection (as listed above).

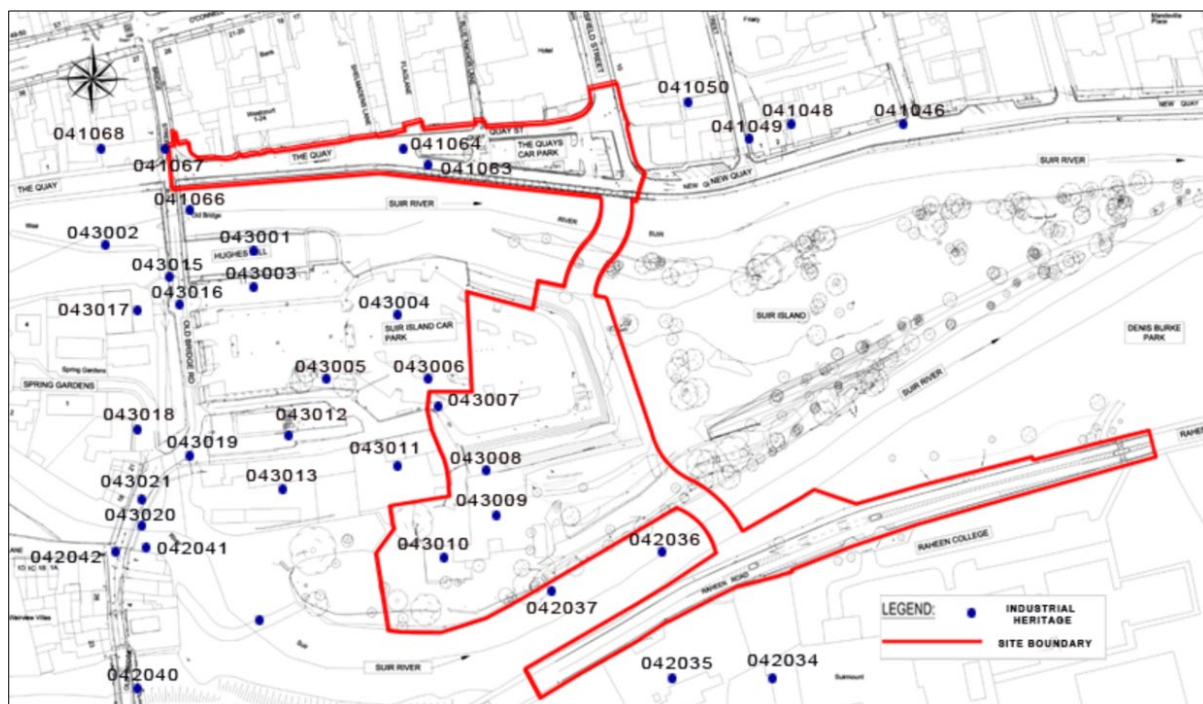


Figure 10 Industrial Heritage features (After Hamond 2010)

Since this survey an extensive flood relief scheme have been carried out along the quay walls, on the southern side of the river and the Suir Island bridges which as somewhat reduced their industrial heritage significance.

Table 4 Industrial Heritage sites within the constraints area (Hamond, 2010)

TIHS ref.	Designation Ref:	Location	Type	Description
042042	n/a, Site of	Green Lane, Old Bridge	Site of a smithy	No Visible trace
042041	n/a	Bridge Street South	Borough boundary marker	A cast-iron plaque of 1843 marking the administrative extent of Clonmel Corporation "No.4/ B.B./ J. Hackett/ Mayor/ 1843"
043020	n/a	Bridge Street South	Borough boundary marker	A cast-iron plaque of 1843 marking the administrative extent of Clonmel Corporation
043021	RPS 235 NIAH 22121006	Bridge Street,	Bridge	A triple-arch masonry road bridge over the south branch of the River Suir, possibly of mid-18th century date.

TIHS ref.	Designation Ref:	Location	Type	Description
		South Oldbridge		
043019	RPS 236 NIAH 22121006	Bridge Street, South Oldbridge	Bridge	A skew two-arch masonry road bridge of later 18th century date over River Suir.
043012	N/a	Suir Island	Spring Garden House	Shell of an imposing three-bay, two-storey + attic dwelling of late 18th/early 19 th century date.
043007	n/a, Site of	Suir Island	Site of Quaker girls' boarding school	No traces of this building survive – beneath car park.
043008	n/a	Suir Island	Grain Mill	Ruinous fragments of wall and associated waterworks of large flour mill established on the site of a former rape mill by Robert Grubb c.1780.
043009	n/a	Willow Island (Suir Island)	Walls	Ruinous random rubble walls and associated waterworks of large flour mill established by Thomas Grubb in mid 1780s
043010	RPS 289 NIAH 22121005	Willow Island (Suir Island),	House in ruins	Derelict shell of a four-bay, three-storey + attic dwelling erected in 1780s by Thomas Grubb, owner of the adjoining flour mill. A four-bay, three-storey + attic house aligned N-S at the SW corner of a now-ruinous flour mill (site 043008), to which it was formerly attached. It has been gutted by fire
042037	SMR TS083- 019016 Site of	Oldbridge	Weir	Substantial remains of 18th century diagonal weir across River Suir which formerly supplied corn mill at east end.
041063	n/a, site of	Quay Street	Memorial	A plaque set into the riverside wall commemorates Irish UN peacekeepers killed in the line of duty.
041064	n/a, site of	Quay Street	Quay	Dates from the later 1700s but was obliterated with the widening of the road and the insertion of a reinforced-concrete wall along its river side in the early 1990s. No visible traces of the original quay are now visible. The widened replacement carries a single-lane road and footpath along the river's edge.
041046	RMP TS083- 019049- SMR TS083- 019058-	New Quay,	Site of a tower	Site of medieval tower at SE corner of defensive town wall. Archaeological excavations in the vicinity of 5-7 New Quay revealed substantial remains of a semi-circular tower over 7m in diameter at the SE corner of the former town wall.
041027	Redeveloped corn mill	Dowd's Lane,	Sit of a corn mill	Site of later 19th century corn mill established in an earlier building. This site has been redeveloped as a four-storey apartment block known as Tower House.
041020	NIAH 22117112	New Quay,	Allen, Larkin and O'Brien Monument	Memorial of 1905 to commemorate the Manchester Martyrs.

5. SITE INSPECTION

5.1. General

5.1.1. Introduction

A site inspection was carried out on a clear bright day on 17th October 2020. Each area of the proposed development is described below and are illustrated in Figure 11.

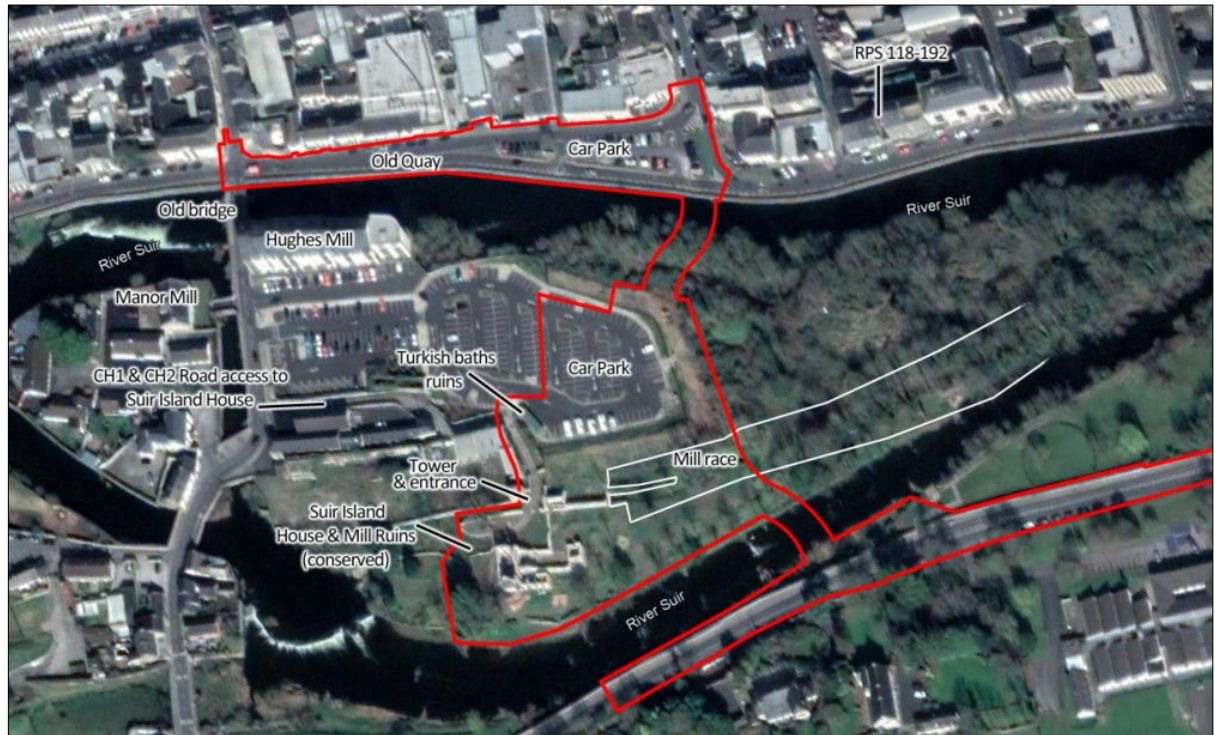


Figure 11 Sites within the study area identified during field

5.1.2. North of the River -Old Quay

Road improvements and River Suir Flood Alleviation Scheme have altered the character of the River Suir at Clonmel. The quay walls have been increased in height, and demountable barriers have been erected (Plate 2). Due to the height of the flood wall, there is very little visual interaction with the river from the quays.

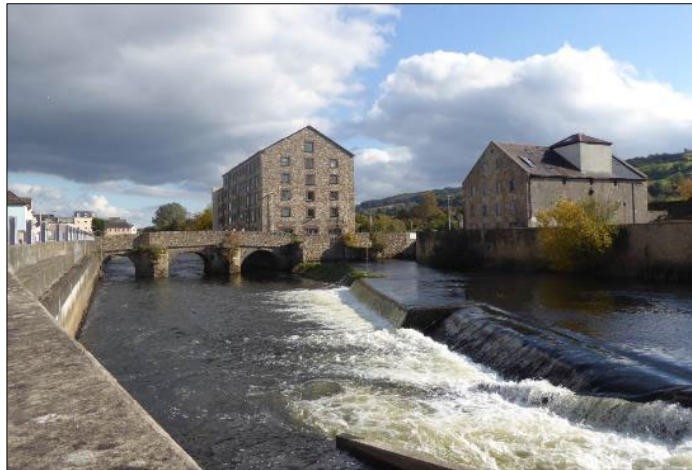


Plate 2 View east along the Quays from Old Bridge, restored Hughes mill on Suir Island to the right

There is a trapezoidal car park area formed by Quay Street, Old Quay and Sarsfield Street (Plate 3). This area does not have a legible historical character or any special aesthetic quality, although there are signposts associated with the Butler Trail which provide historical context to the quays.



Plate 3 View west of the car park area defined by Quay Street, Old Quay and Sarsfield Street

Further east along New Quay are several protected structures, former merchants' houses, terraces and warehouses which dominate and characterise the streetscape along the old quays, they are large in scale and vertical height () and their relationship to the river is an important characteristic. This is in contrast with the built heritage in the proposed plaza area which is modern and not of any particular built heritage merit.



Plate 4 View east along New Quay of RPS 188, 189, 190, flood wall to the right

5.1.3. Access to the Island

Suir Island is connected to the town of Clonmel by a single narrow road that traverses the west end of the island. It is part of a c. 280m causeway comprising four bridges that connect the northern and southern banks of the river. Considerable works to the bridges on the causeway have been carried out as part of the flood alleviation works. Old Bridge (RPS 237, RMP TS083-019002) the most northerly bridge has been widened and its parapet rebuilt (Plate 5); Suir Island Bridge which crosses the channel at an angle has been widened. Green Lane Bridge, connecting Stretches Island with the southern shore has also been rebuilt. A new footbridge to the former Woollen Factory (RPS 291) on Stretchers Island has been constructed.



Plate 5 Oldbridge (RPS 237, RMP TS083-019002) with new parapets, former Hughes Mill and former Woollen Mill view looking east from the northern banks of the river

A new flood defence wall has been constructed at the westernmost end of Willow Island it comprises a 3m high stone faced concrete wall. Views from the causeway on the southern approach to the to Suir Island House and Willow Island is obscured by vegetation (Plate 6).



Plate 6 New flood defence walls on the south westernmost end of Suir Island-Willow Island

Two narrow roads historically provided access to Willow Island. Only the northern one still operates today. Early 19th-century industrial buildings comprising the ruins of warehouses and stores and associated align the road (Plate 7 and Plate 8) (NIAH Ref: 22121004).



Plate 7 View looking east along the access road on Suir Island

Plate 8 View looking west along the access road

The road turns south towards the formal entrance to Suir Island House and Willow Island; it comprises high concrete pillars and walls, crossed now by security fencing. On the west side of the road there is a storehouse in ruins and a structure overgrown in ivy that has been described as a gothic style 'tower' in previous surveys of the island (Plate 9) (Hamond 2009).



Plate 9 View looking west (from on top of the berm in the car park) showing the 'tower' over grown in ivy and the roofless stores building

A car park has been constructed in the central area of Suir Island, it is defined to the north, south and east by a high earthen berm covered in grass (Plate 10).



Plate 10 Panoramic view from the eastern berm in the Car Park

On the southern side of the car park is the roofless ruins of former Turkish Baths also located on the above mentioned narrow roadway (Plate 11). The structure has been conserved and is stabilised, forming an interesting feature in the car park.



Plate 11 Former Turkish baths and section of boundary wall

5.1.4. Willow Island: and Suir Island House and Mill

Willow island is accessed, though the above mentioned formal entrance. It is separated from the main body of Suir Island by millraces. Suir Island House is located at western end of the island, there are extensive ruins associated with Suir Island House and the associated mills that were adjoining it. The house and the mill buildings have been conserved and made safe. There are several mature decorative or specimen trees in the former formal garden area to the east and west of the house and mill and along the boundary of the island, providing an indication of the richness of the former garden. The house is an L-shaped roofless three storey ruin with a two storey return. Its front façade has a westerly aspect over the river, and the return has a southerly view over the river (Plate 12 &13). The external walls survive to full height, there are no windows or doors, and the internal floors are gone. The facades and elevations are concrete rendered with the exception the southern elevation slate hung, reminiscent of structures on the quays in Clonmel.



Plate 12 Suir Island House front façade

Plate 13 Suir Island House northern elevation

The ruins of the extensive mill complex, comprising structures and walls are located to the rear (east) of the house (Plate 14).



Plate 14 View south from the berm of the ruins of the mill on Willow Island, to the rear right is Suir Island House and tower at the entrance gate

The walls to the north of the west of the house associated with the headrace have been consolidated and restored (Figure 11). The western side of the island has silted up where there was an open headrace, naturally seeded willow trees have taken hold in the area. Running east of the conserved mill structure is a split mill race channel divided by a wall (Plate 15) both are filled with stagnant water; they continue parallel to the river Suir before entering the river at the eastern end of the Island. To the south of the open mill races there is evidence of a possible third mill-race channel which may have been backfilled and could not be traced any further (Plate 16).



Plate 15 Parallel Tail races view towards west, towards the mill buildings

Plate 16 Evidence of a third tail race channel

A possible bridge or deliberately backfilled section of the tail race provides access from Suir Island (Plate 17). The tail races continue in an easterly direction (Plate 18).



Plate 17 East of the tail race crossing towards the east

Plate 18 West of the tail race crossing view west towards the mill

The tail race is defined by a wall (Plate 19), but not along its entire length where there is just a bank and mature trees (Plate 20).



Plate 19 Tail race mid way along its course, it is walled on the northern side

Plate 20 Tail race towards the eastern end of Suir Island

5.1.5. Boundary Wall

Willow Island is defined by a boundary wall on to the north, west, and southwest. The former headrace which was open has been closed off by a flood wall (Plate 6 above). At the westernmost end, in the immediate vicinity of the house the boundary comprises a castellated (in the Irish castle style) rubble stone wall of random coursing that provides screening for Suir Island house (Plate 21). The wall continues easterly along the river banks and is in various states of height and repair, this section is much less formal and is not castellated (Plate 22 and Plate 23). Mature broad leafed trees are located all along the boundary. The wall finishes just before the location of new concrete steps have been constructed to provide access to the river.

The southern side of the river comprises concrete and stone and a river wall associated with the recent flood relief works.



Plate 21 Castellated boundary wall and Suir Island House, view north from the southern banks of the river

Plate 22 Boundary wall view northwest from the southern banks of the river



Plate 23 Boundary wall view northwest from the southern banks of the river

6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1. Introduction

The effects of infrastructural work on the historic environment can relate to the potential for ground excavation and construction activities to lead to the interference, damage or destruction of recorded and / or previously unknown archaeological monuments and of upstanding built heritage remains.

While change within the setting of an historic site or landscape may be acceptable, in certain instances development will be considered intrusive and inappropriate. This effect on the setting of archaeological and architectural heritage sites requires an assessment to be made on a case by case basis according to the type of development, its location and landscape setting by means of objective analysis based on a set of predefined criteria and professional judgement, supported by appropriate descriptive material.

6.2. Summary of Key Cultural Heritage Considerations

6.2.1. Designated Sites

All archaeological and historic sites/features and properties with statutory designation in the study area are the key considerations in the constraints study in relation to cultural heritage, these sites have been identified and mapped for the constraints study. In summary the following constraints have been identified:

Archaeological Heritage

- The town defences including upstanding, below ground, and conjectured sections are considered to be a composite national monument. A gate and the line of the wall is thought to run along the northern side of Old Quay in line with the existing building frontage, it then skirts to the rear of structures on New Quay (Figure 8). Any earthmoving work proposed on the northern side of Old Quay may reveal the town wall or features associated with it such as a fosse or gateway etc. Ministerial consent would be required for any works that cross the line or are in the immediate vicinity of the town wall. There is a potential that a fosse might be located south of the line, however no evidence for this has been found to date, it is likely that the river itself served that function.
- The designated Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) in the Record of Monuments and Places for the medieval town of Clonmel (Figure 8) extends across Suir Island. Any development within this zone is considered to be of archaeological potential and is likely to reveal medieval or later archaeological remains, features finds or soils. Medieval archaeological settlement activity in the form of middens and structures have been identified on sites fronting Old Quay, it is very likely that any excavation along the northern side of quays would reveal medieval archaeological features or structures

(including as mentioned above the town wall). Only post medieval activity has been found to date on Suir Island.

- The Quays have been widened and as such the southern side of Old Quay and New Quay roads are considered not to be of archaeological potential. However, the northern side is considered to be of significant potential.
- There is the strong possibility that previously unknown archaeological deposits or features associated with the development of the medieval town and later milling in the area or with earlier river crossings may survive subsurface within the study area.
- Should work need to take place within the river there is a significant riverine archaeological potential to reveal milling or settlement activity that could date from the 12th century to the post medieval period or indeed for the recovery of stray finds.

Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage

- The Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) for the town does not extend to Suir Island or to the Quays. The protected structures further east along the quay frontage will not be subject to a physical impact (Figure 9).
- There is one protected structure within the study area, the ruins of Suir Island House (RPS 289) and associated mill ruins to the rear and running to the east two mill races (open and covered). The former garden associated with the house has some surviving original specimen trees and is bound by a riverside wall to the southwest and south.
- The complex of upstanding warehouses to the south of the Suir Island car park are listed as structures of regional rating on the in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH 22121004) and their associated laneways and walls are also of technical, social and industrial heritage interest. Should there be any impact on these structures a conservation architect/industrial heritage conservation specialist would be required to advise on the most appropriate treatment of the features.

6.2.2. Route Options

There are three scheme design options being examined for the Suir Island infrastructural links. From an archaeological perspective there is little difference between the options that would have specific greater/lesser impact on archaeological and cultural heritage features or potential subsurface remains during the construction works. With the exception of the Do Nothing and Do Something Options, all three options share the following:

- Are located within the ZAP for Clonmel
- Are adjacent to the line of the Town Walls, a national monument
- Cross the River Suir (proposed Bridge 1 and Bridge 2)
- Run along the eastern edge of the curtilage of Suir Island House (protected structure) (however this is not considered to be a significant impact on the property).
- Cross the tail races associated with former flour mills on Willow Island. If these cannot be avoided, they will have to be cleaned out and recorded and a full measured survey of the feature will be required along with the recording of the sections that are impacted.

Whilst there are potential cultural heritage impacts with each options, increased pedestrian activity on the island is encouraging and will enhance its offering. The passive surveillance offered by increased footfall on the Island will also reduce antisocial behaviour in the green area on the eastern end of the Island. The proposed development will have an overall positive effect on the amenity of the island and will showcase its rich industrial and social history. Signage providing an interpretation of the industrial heritage features is however recommended to allow the visitor to get a full understanding of their significance.

The preference rating for each option is as follows (see Section 5.3 of the main report for the Ranking Scale):

Table 5 Route options under consideration

Option	RMP sites	RPS sites	Cultural Heritage	Underwater potential	Preference
1	Within the ZAP and Immediately in the vicinity of the town wall, a national monument	N/a	Crosses former mill races	Pier in the water on Bridge 2 and general potential construction activity	Some disadvantages to other options.
2	Within the ZAP and Immediately in the vicinity of the town wall, a national monument	N/a	Crosses former mill races	Pier in the water on Bridge 2 and general potential construction activity	Some disadvantages to other options.
3	Within the ZAP and Immediately in the vicinity of the town wall, a national monument	N/a	Crosses former mill races	Pier in the water on Bridge 2 and general potential construction activity	Some disadvantages to other options.
Do Nothing Option	Within the ZAP	N/a	N/a	N/a	Neutral compared to other options

Option	RMP sites	RPS sites	Cultural Heritage	Underwater potential	Preference
Do Something Option	Within the ZAP	N/a	N/a	N/a	Neutral compared to other options.

6.3. Recommendations

Specific mitigation requirements can only be identified as issues for development once the design options are defined. Further assessments such as archaeological testing, underwater archaeological assessments, structural architectural heritage appraisals or structural surveys etc. may be required in the next phases of the assessment or as mitigation measures for the scheme.

The judicious use of archaeological assessment techniques may be required in order to understand the implications for the proposed scheme such as archaeological test excavation or an underwater archaeological survey.

In accordance with the Architectural Heritage Guidelines any work to or in the vicinity of a Protected Structure require an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment by a conservation architect.

All recommendations made in this report are subject to approval of the relevant Local Authorities and the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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APPENDIX 1 National Monuments Legislation 1930-2004.

All archaeological sites have the full protection of the national monuments legislation (Principal Act 1930; Amendments 1954, 1987, 1994 and 2004).

In the 1987 Amendment of Section 2 of the Principal Act (1930), the definition of a national monument is specified as:

any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections,

any artificial cave, stone or natural product, whether forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position,

any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient

(i) tomb, grave or burial deposit, or

(ii) ritual, industrial or habitation site,

and

any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site...

Under Section 14 of the Principal Act (1930):

It shall be unlawful...

to demolish or remove wholly or in part or to disfigure, deface, alter, or in any manner injure or interfere with any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance with the consent hereinafter mentioned (a licence issued by the Office of Public Works National Monuments Branch),

or

to excavate, dig, plough or otherwise disturb the ground within, around, or in the proximity to any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance...

Under Amendment to Section 23 of the Principal Act (1930),

A person who finds an archaeological object shall, within four days after the finding, make a report of it to a member of the Garda Síochána...or the Director of the National Museum...

The latter is of relevance to any finds made during a watching brief.

In the 1994 Amendment of Section 12 of the Principal Act (1930), all of the sites and 'places' recorded by the Sites and Monuments Record of the Office of Public Works are provided with a new status in law. This new status provides a level of protection to the listed sites that is equivalent to that accorded to 'registered' sites [Section 8(1), National Monuments Amendment Act 1954] as follows:

The Commissioners shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where they believe there are monuments and the record shall be comprised of a list of monuments and such places and a map or maps showing each monument and such place in respect of each county in the State.

The Commissioners shall cause to be exhibited in a prescribed manner in each county the list and map or maps of the county drawn up and publish in a prescribed manner information about when and where the lists and maps may be consulted.

In addition, when the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded, or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.

The National Monuments Amendment Act 2004

The National Monuments Amendment Act enacted in 2004 provides clarification in relation to the division of responsibilities between the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Finance and Arts, Sports and Tourism together with the Commissioners of Public Works. The Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government will issue directions relating to archaeological works and will be advised by the National Monuments Section and the National Museum of Ireland. The Act gives discretion to the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to grant consent or issue directions in relation to road developments (Section 49 and 51) approved by An Bord Pleanála and/or in relation to the discovery of National Monuments

14A. (1) The consent of the Minister under section 14 of this Act and any further consent or licence under any other provision of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004 shall not be required where the works involved are connected with an approved road development.

(2) Any works of an archaeological nature that are carried out in respect of an approved road development shall be carried out in accordance with the directions of the Minister, which directions shall be issued following consultation by the minister with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland.

Subsection 14A (4) Where a national monument has been discovered to which subsection (3) of this section relates, then

- (a) the road authority carrying out the road development shall report the discovery to the Minister
- (b) subject to subsection (7) of this section, and pending any directions by the minister under paragraph (d) of this subsection, no works which would interfere with the monument shall be carried out, except works urgently required to secure its preservation carried out in accordance with such measures as may be specified by the Minister

The Minister will consult with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland for a period not longer than 14 days before issuing further directions in relation to the national monument.

The Minister will not be restricted to archaeological considerations alone, but will also consider the wider public interest.

Appendix 2 RMP sites within 1km of the study area

RMP	RMP site	Townland	ITM N	ITM E
TS083-019003-	Religious house - Franciscan friars	Burgagery-Lands West	620418	622381
TS083-019004-	Courthouse	Burgagery-Lands West	620342	622420
TS083-019005-	Castle - unclassified	Burgagery-Lands West	620252	622412
TS083-019006-	House - 16th/17th century	Burgagery-Lands West	620119	622311
TS083-019007-	House - 16th/17th century	Burgagery-Lands West	620136	622383
TS083-019008-	House - 16th/17th century	Burgagery-Lands West	620258	622383
TS083-019009-	House - 16th/17th century	Burgagery-Lands West	620035	622360
TS083-019010-	House - 16th/17th century	Burgagery-Lands West	620036	622369
TS083-019011-	Religious house - Dominican friars	Burgagery-Lands West	620282	622385
TS083-019012-	House - 16th/17th century	Burgagery-Lands West	620129	622336
TS083-019014-	House - 17th century	Burgagery-Lands West	620487	622456
TS083-019017-	Burial ground	Burgagery-Lands West	620489	622423
TS083-019019-	Armorial plaque	Burgagery-Lands West	620272	622387
TS083-019062-	Habitation site	Burgagery-Lands West	620138	622433
TS083-019069-	Burial ground	Burgagery-Lands West	620357	622420
TS083-019070-	House - medieval	Burgagery-Lands West	620353	622424
TS083-019076-	Building	Burgagery-Lands West	620197	622416
TS083-019077-	Building	Burgagery-Lands West	620196	622422
TS083-019086-	Tomb - effigial	Burgagery-Lands West	620406	622388
TS083-019087-	Tomb - chest tomb	Burgagery-Lands West	620406	622388
TS083-019088-	Tomb - chest tomb	Burgagery-Lands West	620406	622388
TS083-019089-	Tomb - chest tomb	Burgagery-Lands West	620409	622386
TS083-019090-	Stone sculpture	Burgagery-Lands West	620408	622392
TS083-019091-	Graveslab	Burgagery-Lands West	620408	622392
TS083-019092-	Font (present location)	Burgagery-Lands West	620408	622392
TS083-019093-	Architectural feature	Burgagery-Lands West	620408	622392
TS083-019096-	Architectural fragment	Burgagery-Lands West	620428	622365
TS083-019097-	Architectural fragment	Burgagery-Lands West	620428	622365
TS083-019099-	Armorial plaque	Burgagery-Lands West	620341	622421
TS083-019100-	Armorial plaque	Burgagery-Lands West	620341	622421
TS083-019107-	Architectural fragment	Burgagery-Lands West	620408	622392
TS083-019108-	Cross - Market cross	Burgagery-Lands West	620329	622403
TS083-020----	Church	Glebe	620191	621965
TS083-020001-	Graveyard	Glebe	620196	621957
TS083-019063-	Midden	Burgagery-Lands West	620148	622399

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Title: EIAR Chapter 14 Material Assets: Archaeology & Cultural Heritage

Appendix 14.4 Suir Island Gardens (Part 8) - Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report



CourtneyDeery
ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report

Suir Island Gardens (Part 8)

Clonmel, County Tipperary

.....
For

Tipperary County Council
.....

Siobhán Deery BA, MA, H-Dip (Ed.), Dip Planning
& Env. Law, MIAI

21/07/2022

#

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. GENERAL

This cultural heritage impact assessment report assesses the cultural heritage potential and significance of proposed public gardens, the 'Suir Island Gardens' on Willow Island in Suir Island, Clonmel, County Tipperary.

The aim of the report is to establish the cultural heritage (archaeological, industrial and architectural heritage) potential of the study area as far as the records allow and to highlight if there are any cultural heritage implications for the proposed garden works. Based on the assessment results, a mitigation strategy to minimise the impact on potential cultural heritage is suggested.

Clonmel is a large town on the River Suir at the foot of the Comeragh Mountains. Suir Island is a naturally occurring island within the River Suir (Figure 1), in the Parish of St. Mary's Clonmel, the barony of Iffa and Offa East and the townland of Burgagery-Lands West. The island is low lying, consisting of four islands: Little Island, Suir Island, Willow Island and Stretches Island. It has been an important crossing point since medieval times, linking the Anglo-Norman walled town of Clonmel to County Waterford on the southern side of the river. The island is accessible from the town centre via the Old Bridge to the islands' northwest.

In the 18th and 19th century the town was a tremendously prosperous transportation and industrial hub in the midlands, there was extensive milling operations on the river and on the island. There are numerous medieval and post-medieval references to milling on Little Island at Hughes Mill.

The proposed Suir Island Garden is focused on the southwestern part of the island on Willow Island in the environs of Suir Island House (A protected Structure) and associated former Flour Mill, which are in ruins (Figure 1, Figure 2).

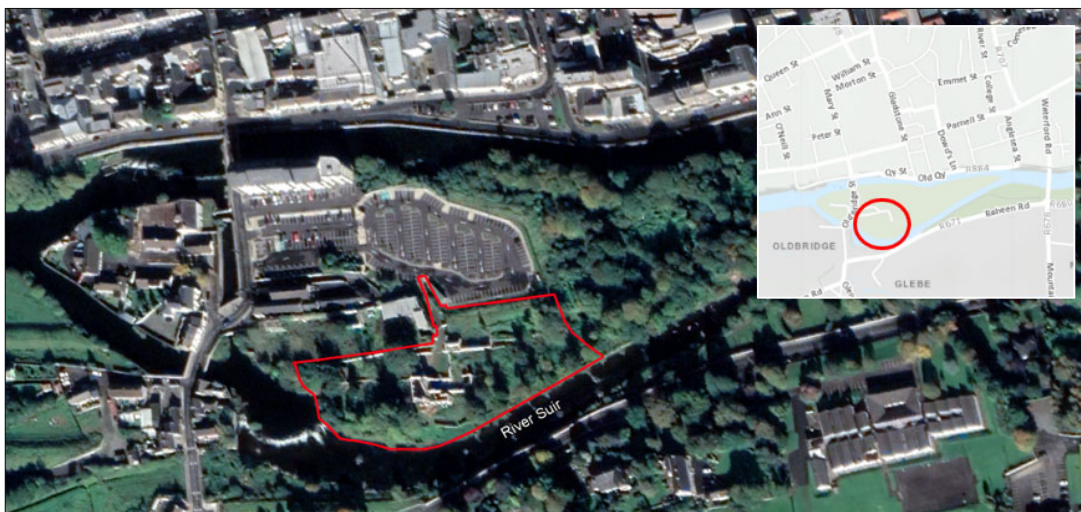


Figure 1 Site Location

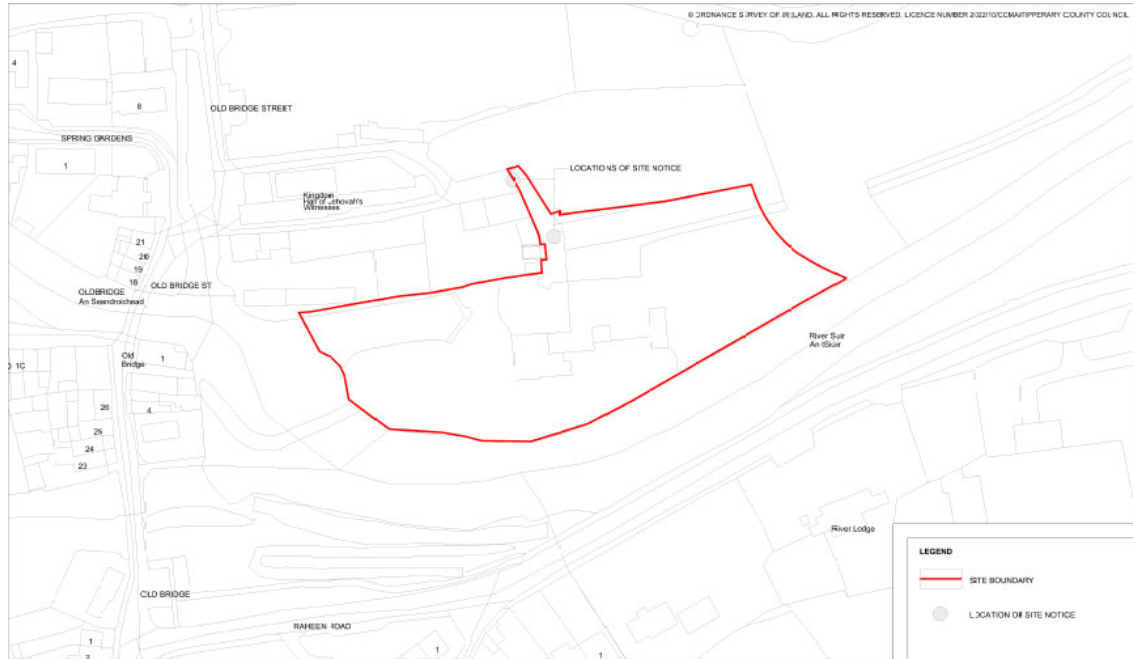


Figure 2 Site location and development boundary

The report will accompany the Part 8 application prepared under the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. It has been prepared by Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd on behalf of Tipperary County Council.

1.2. METHODOLOGY

The archaeological impact assessment is based on a desk study, comprising an examination of published and unpublished documentary and cartographic material and was supported by a field survey. The designated archaeological and heritage sites on the island were also reviewed; this served to establish the existing archaeological environment and present the constraints for the proposed development works.

The evaluation process ensures that all designations relating to heritage assets and cultural heritage features revealed through research, field assessment, and consultation are clearly articulated. The material sources consulted as part of the desk study are as follows:

- National Monuments in State care, as listed by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH):
- Sites with Preservation Orders; Sites listed in the Register of Historic Monuments;
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland;
- Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in The Tipperary County Council Development Plan (2014-2020), Clonmel and Environs Development Plan (CEDP) (2013)
- County Councils Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) and their statements of character;
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building Survey (NIAH ratings are international, national, regional, local and record, and those of regional and above are recommended for inclusion in the RPS);
- A review of artefactual material held in the National Museum of Ireland;

- Cartographical Sources, OSi Historic Mapping Archive, including early editions of the Ordnance Survey including historical mapping;
- The Irish archaeological excavations catalogue i.e., Excavations bulletin and Excavations Database;
- Place names; Townland names and toponymy (loganim.ie);
- National Folklore Collection (Duchas.ie);
- A review of existing guidelines and best practice approaches.

A bibliography of sources is provided in the references section, Section 6 of the report and the assessment standards and guidelines that were followed in Appendix 1.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. PREHISTORIC PERIOD

Whilst there is little evidence for prehistoric activity in the study area there are records of bronze artefacts identified from the town in the National Museum Topographical files (NMI 1934:480-484). These comprise two leaf shaped swords, two flanged axeheads and a leaf shaped spearhead representing a collection dating to the later Bronze Age (c.2500-300BC).

The River Suir would have been an arterial routeway into the midlands since prehistoric times. The area north of the River Suir was traditionally known as Deisc Tuaisceant or North Deisi. The earliest settlers in the area were from Ossory, but these people were driven back by the Deisi, who crossed the Suir in the late fifth century AD. The Deisi were descended from Fiacha Suidhe, brother of 'Con of a Hundred Battles,' king of Ireland. Originating from Meath, they were defeated in AD 278 in battle and resettled in Waterford by Oloill Olum, the king of Munster (Burke 1983, 1).

2.2. EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIOD

The town of Clonmel is located on the north bank of the River Suir, at a fording point where the river widens to incorporate several small islands. The town derives its name from the Irish *cluain meala*, meaning 'vale or meadow of honey.' Local legend tells of a band of Danish Vikings from Waterford who followed a swarm of bees up-river and built their fort where the bees swarmed (Ó Cleirigh 1993, 95; Farrelly & FitzPatrick 1993, 56). The name may, however, merely signify the richness of the fertile soil in the area or the picturesque valley that the town nestles in.

Nevertheless, the Vikings are recorded as establishing a fort on the islands in the river at Clonmel in AD 864 (Burke 1983, 4). Furthermore, a battle between the Uí Néill and the Vikings, in which a thousand people allegedly died, is recorded in 916 near the area (Shee & Watson 1975, 5). The eleventh-century Tripartite Life refers to the mills of the foreigners in Clonmel, but the chronicler Geraldus Cambrensis makes no mention of a town there in 1185 (Burke 1983, 5).

One of the earlier local historians, Rev. William Burke, suggests the Vikings made '*...their way up the Suir to its navigable limit, the islands in the river afforded a position to hold their stocks and carry on their barter with absolute security*', the island would certainly be an obvious choice for a Viking longfort. No archaeological evidence has yet emerged to confirm the Vikings settled in this area (Bradley 1985). While medieval Clonmel town developed on the north side of the river, there are historical references to the south side of the river in the Calendar Justic. Rolls Irel. II to Clonmel on the side of Waterford. This historical reference is further supported by a possible settlement having existed around St. Nicholas' Church (RMP Ref. No. T1083-020), which is to the south of the river Suir in Glebe townland.

2.3. MEDIEVAL PERIOD – THE MEDIEVAL TOWN

Following the Anglo-Norman invasion, Clonmel was granted to William de Burgo in 1205 or 1206. He died shortly afterwards, but the earliest reference to a town at the site is not until 1211 or 1215 (Burke 1983, 6, 12). Therefore, it was probably William de Burgo's son, Richard, who founded the town; in 1225, Henry III granted Richard the right to hold an annual fair (Farrelly & FitzPatrick 1993, 56). In 1265, Otho de Grandison was granted the manor of Clonmel and subsequently appointed sheriff of the town as a reward for his service with Prince Edward, lord of Ireland (Farrelly & FitzPatrick 1993, 56; Shee & Watson 1975, 7).

The Franciscans came to Clonmel in 1269 at the invitation of De Grandison. The religious house (TS083-019003) is within the southeast angle of the town wall, east of Abbey Street. Located c. 50m northwest of the Franciscan church, presumably in the former grounds of the abbey, a burial ground (TS083-019072-) was uncovered during monitoring of building works (Henry 1996, 81). The historical records indicate that the burial-ground remained in use following the dissolution of the friary in 1540 (ibid.). At the time of the Dissolution the friary consisted of '*a church, a belfry, a dormitory, a hall, three chambers, a kitch, a stable, ...a weir*' and land (Morrissey 1909, 248-50). During Cromwell's attack on Clonmel in 1650 the friary was badly damaged.

The church and graveyard were granted to the citizens of Clonmel after the Dissolution and remained in use for some time, probably until the ground was acquired for the construction of the Main Guard courthouse (TS083-019004-) in the early 1670s (ibid.). Excavations in 1994/5 to the rear of the Main Guard courthouse revealed a wall which underlay and pre-dated the southern wall of the return of the courthouse (Henry 1996, 81). Its location and the fact that it pre-dates the Main Guard suggests that the wall was associated with a Franciscan building (ibid., Farrelly and FitzPatrick 1993, 67-70).

The friary was reopened in 1828 (Craig and Garner 1975, 27) and rebuilt in 1883, incorporating the north wall of the original 13th-century choir and later 15th-century tower (Morrissey 1909, 248-50). By 1840 a southeast wing (O'Flanagan 1930,) and a porch in front of the tower had been added (Shee and Watson 1975, 11-12). Of the former medieval friary church and its domestic buildings only the belfry and traces of the gabled roof of the old nave on its western side remain upstanding. Within the church itself there is a double effigial Butler tomb (TS083-019086-) and fragments of panels from three other altar tombs (after RMP files).

In 1328, James Bulter, earl of Ormonde, was granted the regalities, liberties, knights, fees and other privileges of County Tipperary, known as the right of palatine (Shee & Watson 1975, 7), and Clonmel became the headquarters of the county palatine. In 1349 and again in 1376, the Black Death ravaged the town (Farrelly & Fitzpatrick 1993).

The manor of Clonmel was sold in 1338 to Maurice Fitzgerald, first earl of Desmond, and over the next two hundred years, there was intense rivalry between the Bulters and the Geraldines. In 1516, the town was besieged and taken by the earl of Kildare. However, the rivalry was finally ended when the manor of Clonmel was given as dowry to the Butlers of Ormonde in c.1531 by the Fitzgeralds.

2.3.1. OLDBRIDGE

The Oldbridge bridge connecting the town to Suir Island crosses the site of an earlier bridge (TS083-019002). In 1355 Clonmel received a pontage grant from Edward III (RMP Files). There is no record of the exact location of the 14th-century bridge, but it is likely that it forded the Suir in the place where Oldbridge now stands. In the 18th century it was represented on Moll's map of

1714 as an integral part of the principal road leading to Dungarvan and Cappoquin and in 1748 it was described as a 'very spacious bridge over the Suir... of twenty arches' (O'Keefe and Simington 1991, 158 after RMP file).

Lyons (1936, 292) suggests that a mill weir south of the Suir Islands (TS083-019016) southeast of Suir Island House 'anciently may have been a fishing weir'. The weir is not indicated on the 1st (1840-41) ed. OS 6-inch map which suggests that its construction post-dates 1840-41. This weir has been removed.

2.3.2. TOWN WALL

The town received a murage grant in 1298 from Edward I. This murage grant (a tax levied to build or repair a town wall) was acquired by de Grandison, Lord of Clonmel to fortify the town. Further grants smaller murage grants for additional stone walls and the repair of the walls were again given to Clonmel in the 14th and 15th centuries (IWTN, 2020, Farrelly & Fitzpatrick 1993, 56).

The medieval town wall enclosed a roughly rectangular area with a slight protrusion on the north side where it incorporated St Mary's Church Yard. It enclosed an area of approximately 14ha and the wall is 1.5km in length (Thomas 1992, 52). It was constructed sometime in the 13th century (ibid) and a new bastion line reinforced the medieval wall in the seventeenth century. The town had an inverted T-shaped street pattern and six gates: four main gates (North Gate, East Gate, Bridge Gate and West Gate), a postern gate and a water gate providing access for people and goods to and from the River Suir (Thomas 1992, 55). The presence of a fosse outside the medieval wall is assumed but it has not been recorded.

The earliest cartographic sources of Clonmel are the Down Survey maps of 1656 of County Tipperary and Waterford; they show 'Clonmel City and Burgery' with a distinctive D-shaped walled town fronting the river (Figure 3), with a bridge crossing. Interestingly, two tall structures, possibly gates, are represented on the Waterford side of the bridge, which has not been represented in any other source.



Figure 3 a. William Petty's Down Survey County; b. County Map of Waterford 1656

The most detailed Down Survey map is the Glanihery Barony map of Waterford, which labels the walled 'Clonmel City' on the banks of the Suir and shows 'the Bridge' (Figure 4). The inverted T-shaped plan form of the town is shown with the enclosing walls and mural towers. A single bridge crosses the river; there is no indication of a harbour area or the presence of Suir Island. However, the Downs survey maps are not the most reliable and such an omission would not be unusual in a map.



Figure 4 Down Survey County Map

Goubet's 1690 map *La Ville de Clonmel* (Figure 5) shows the town wall, turrets, gates and medieval street pattern. In the seventeenth-century Hearth Money Rolls (1654–55), the town is recorded as having three interconnecting suburbs to the east, west and north and a further smaller area across the river (Thomas 1992, 53). On the south side of the wall, the River Suir may have acted as a fosse, and a fosse does appear to be indicated in Goubet's 1690 (Ibid). However, excavations in the vicinity of the wall have yet to reveal one. There was likely a harbour. A narrow entry to a laneway is shown between the two south gates on the Goubet map; a similar entry was exposed during excavations on the line of the south wall (Licence ref: 95E211). It shows a substantial bridge crossing the river connected to the town via bridge street with several cutwaters suggesting many arches. Like the other 17th century maps, this map does not indicate the presence of Suir Island.

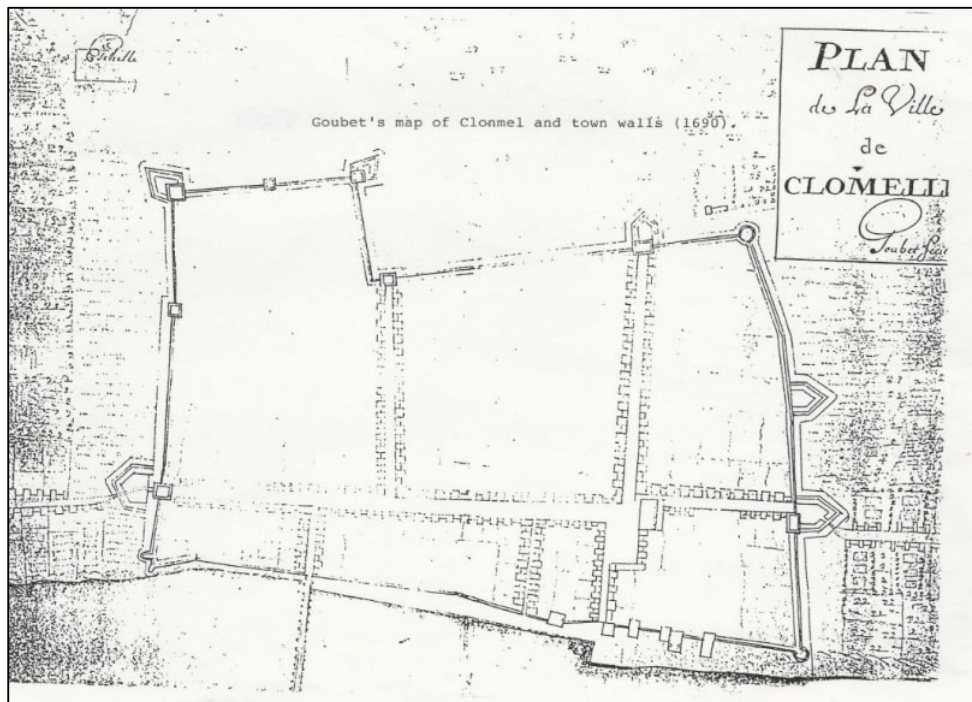


Figure 5 Goubets Map of Clonmel and town walls (1690)

The Stritches family gave their name to 'Stretches Island' which lies west of Suir Island. John Stritch was sovereign of the borough (1539-1543). In a list of the freeholders of the Cantred of Clonmel, he is set down as holding an estate of £20 a year (Burke 1983). This suggests that the islands were present at this time.

In 1608, the town became a free borough by royal decree (Shee & Watson 1975). In 1647, the Supreme Council of the Confederation of Kilkenny assembled at Clonmel (Farrelly & Fitzpatrick 1993), but the town was subsequently besieged in 1650 by Cromwell, withstanding the siege for three weeks before eventually surrendering on honourable terms (Ó Cleirigh 1993, 95; Shee & Watson 1975, 11).

Although Clonmel was an important manor, there is no clear evidence of a castle at the town (Bradley 1985). The remains of the 13th-century church of St Mary's may be found in the northwest corner of the medieval town wall, and those of the Franciscan friary (founded in 1269 by Otho de Grandison) in the southeast corner of the town. The extramural 13th-century church of St Nicholas's is located in the Old Bridge quarter of the town.

2.3.3. EXPANSION OUTSIDE THE TOWN WALL

The town walls were dismantled over time and more of the walls were removed with expansion of modern Clonmel. Increased prosperity led to the opening of new streets and an expansion of the population in areas outside the walled town, particularly to the north and east. The area to the west of the town, Irishtown, had been inhabited since the late medieval period and was redeveloped mostly in the late 18th and early 19th centuries on a pattern which largely exists today.

The medieval streets and burghage plot plan are still visible in the narrow streets and lanes of the modern town, and sections of the town wall, including three mural towers and a gatehouse, survive on the north and west sides of the town. Today approximately 300m of upstanding wall survives, most of which can be seen around St Mary's Abbey. This includes the remains of a wall-walk and a tower.

2.4. POST-MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Clonmel's strategic position on the river Suir led to its establishment as the market centre for a wide agricultural hinterland during the agrarian revolution of the late 18th century. The drivers for the industrial revolution of the town were the harnessing of the river for milling and transport. The county palatine was abolished in 1716, by which time Clonmel had become an important centre for trading in milling flour, oatmeal, rape seed, butter, bacon and tobacco. More than two-dozen mills were set up in and around the town, the majority owned by members of the influential Quaker community.

2.4.1. RIVER SUIR NAVIGATION AND THE QUAYS

The quays were developed and extended to cater for the increased trade and this in turn drew new businesses into the town. A towpath was laid along the north bank of the River Suir between Carrick and Clonmel in the 1750s, river transport was cheap, and grain was shipped in horse drawn barges along the towpath between the towns. On the upper Suir, from Carrick to Clonmel, the standard vessel was the yawl, a smaller vessel used in shallow waters. Its construction also necessitated the modification of several bridges over the Suir to accommodate navigation and tow path arches.

Substantial quays were built along the river frontage in Clonmel in the later 1700s and first half of the 1800s. The original medieval quay was between Old Bridge and Sarsfield Street, it was replaced by the New Quay after 1756 (Figure 6, Figure 7). The town was one of Ireland's busiest inland towns and ports.



Figure 6 Photographs of Canal Quay Clonmel, view towards Old Bridge (Robert French published between 1880-1900 in the Lawrence Photograph Collection National Library of Ireland)



Figure 7 Early 20th century colourised photo showing Oldbridge and Hughes Mill – note the narrowness of the Old Quay at this time (Robert French published between 1880-1900 in the Lawrence Photograph Collection National Library of Ireland)

The development of the railways however meant that barge traffic ceased by the 1920's. The Old Quay/New Quay road was widened again in the 1990s (Hamond 2010) along with the insertion of a reinforced-concrete wall along its riverside, the widened replacement carries a single-lane road and footpath along the river's edge. No visible traces of the original quay are now visible. The river wall was recently replaced by taller wall and demountable flood gates for flood alleviation, the former open aspect to the river was removed (Plate 1). It is very likely however that there is in-situ evidence of these and earlier quays along northern side of the road beneath the road.



Plate 1 New quay walls view from the river from Old Bridge (looking northeast)

2.4.2. INDUSTRIALISATION OF SUIR ISLAND

According to Rev. Burke (1983) the earliest water-powered enterprise in the town was the Manor Mill, at the north-west end of Old Bridge. In 1614 Benedict White fitz John set up in Suir Island a mill for the tucking and finishing of coarse woollen stuffs. There is also a reference in the Clonmel Corporation Minute Book for May 1637 of a 'Little Mill' on Suir Island.

Driven by a bounty granted by the Irish Parliament between 1758 and 1797 for the transportation of grain and flour to Dublin, where bread consumption was on the increase, the industrialisation of the milling got underway. In Clonmel the milling trade was largely monopolized by the Quakers. Simmons Sparrow, the son of a local baker, opened the huge Suir Island Mills (Burke 1907). He was followed by the firm of Robert Grubb & Co. who built a large flour mill in around 1780, it utilized a channel between Suir Island and Willow Island and may have been on the site of an earlier, derelict oilseed rape mill which had been leased by his father Joseph in 1774. About the same time, another mill was erected at the south-east end of Old Bridge in the vicinity of the former Little Mill; with a subsequent change of ownership, this became known as Hughes' Mill, after Thomas Hughes (Blackwood et al, 2014). In November 1781, Edward Collins obtained a lease from the corporation of the old corporation mill on Little Island, and erected new mills at a cost of £12,000. Within the next thirty years a network of corn mills was spread over the country until every river was dammed and every mountain stream pent up (Burke 1907).

Listed in a 1787 Directory of 'Clonmell' was Edmund Dwyer a distiller; Howell Edward & John, Millers & Corn Merchants Corporations Mills; Jones Richard, Clothier & tanner; Thomas and Samuel Grubb, Millers & Corn Merchants and Sparrow Simmons, corn merchant. When in 1797 it was proposed to abolish the system of bounties, the milling industry was so firmly established, that it stood in no need of public subsidies. *'The principal millers,'* said Lord Clare, *'in the neighbourhood of Clonmell, a part of the kingdom from which there is a considerable influx of corn to the city, do not complain of the bill ; on the contrary many have declared that they will not suffer any loss from it '* (Burke 1907).

Pigot's 1824 Directory noted that the Clonmel corn market was *'as extensive as any in the kingdom, and the merchants and traders evince a more enterprising spirit and transact more business than those of any town of equal size in Ireland'*. The buoyant corn trade also benefited the local milling industry. Pigot also noted that *'one fifth of the whole quantity of flour exported from this Kingdom was last year [1823] shipped by one establishment alone in this industrious and prosperous town'* (Blackwood et al, 2004)

The River Suir's course through Clonmel, the scale of the milling enterprises and the ingenuity of harnessing the power of the river is clearly seen on the 1874 ten feet to one mile OS map (Figure 8). This map shows Suir Island, Stretches Island, Little Island and Grubbs Island to the west (Willow Island is not named). West of Grubbs Island the river is split into many channels with four weirs feeding several mills and other works. A causeway which connects the Islands is shown, connecting Bridge Street on the northern banks of the river to Green Street to the south, the largest bridge is named Old Bridge and its cutwaters both upstream and downstream are drawn. It appears that a retaining wall forms a boundary around each island.

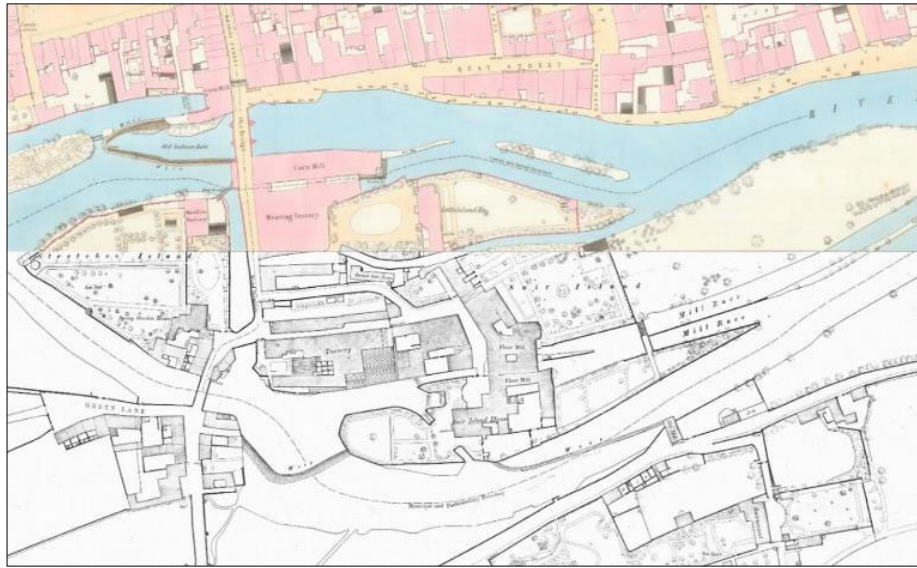


Figure 8 Town of Clonmel (1874) OS Map 1:500. Ten feet to one statute mile (TY083-06_08)

The extensive industry shown on the islands are varied, comprising food and cloth manufacturing/processing. A woollen factory is shown on Stretches Island, on Little Island there is a weaving factory and a corn mill with mill races connected to both. On Suir Island there is an extensive range of industrial buildings comprising a woollen factory, a Turkish bath house, tannery and two flour mills.

On each island there is a large house and associated decorative gardens belonging to the prosperous millers, Spring Garden House on Stretches Island, Little Island House (Owned by the Mortons) on Little Island and Suir Island House and The Cedars (Robert Grubb) on Suir Island (Thomas Grubb), each connected to or in proximity to the mills. At the eastern end of Suir island is a hexagonal structure with a flight of steps, there is a corresponding one on Stretches Island – these are labelled as a ‘summer house’ on revised six inch map. Sarah Grubb constructed a Quaker girls’ boarding school between the Cedars and her husband’s mill. Very little of these grand houses survive today, though the mature trees that have taken over the eastern part of Suir island hint at its past.

Suir Island House was built by Thomas Grubb, in the 1780s. By 1847, however, it had been vacated. The Valuation book of that date gives its measurements as 49½ ft x 25ft x 27ft, with a 6ft basement; it also had two returns and various out-buildings to the rear. Fred Hamond (2009) carried out an extensive review of reports and sources and has provided an overview of the historical development of the mills on Suir Island.

The OS maps from 1841 onwards show the house with a garden to its frontage and grounds to its rear, both bounded by the mill races at north, and by the river at south.

The 1874 OS map shows the area of the proposed gardens on what was Willow Island (Figure 9). A narrow roadway provided the only access to Willow Island. Centrally placed on the island is Suir Island House, to the rear of which is a large flour mill complex and courtyards adjoining a mill to the north; a considerably larger complex that continues north into Suir Island. Several sluice gates control the headrace to the west of the mills, and two millraces emerge from the mill buildings to the east. Suir Island House fronts onto a decorative garden on its western side, and the gardens continue to the east of the flour mill buildings. Walls define the river's edge.

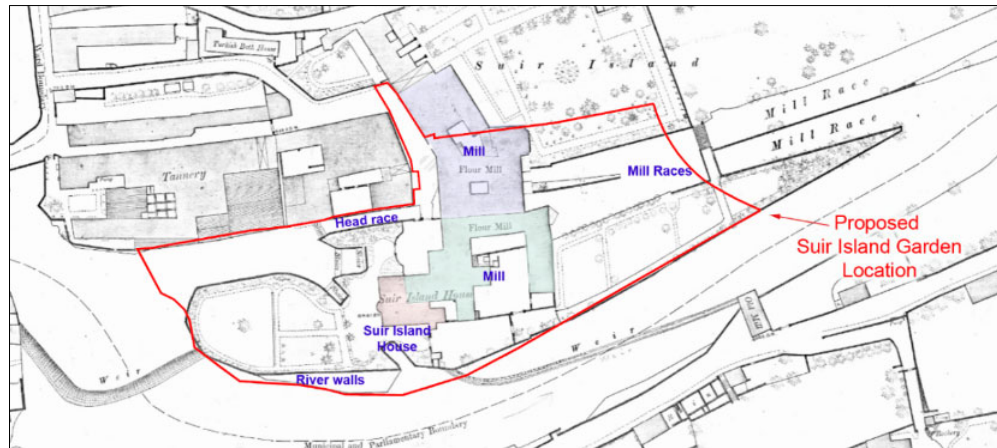


Figure 9 Approximate Site location 1874 OS Map.

There is a structure on the southern banks of the river labelled as an 'Old Mill' and in the later 1904 OS map it is shown as a Smithy.

The 1904 OS map shows little change buildings' footprints on the islands, reflecting the lack of development during the later 19th century and the decline of the industries (Figure 10). Hughes Mill on Little island changed to a Condensed Milk Factory. There is little change to Suir Island House and Willow Island.

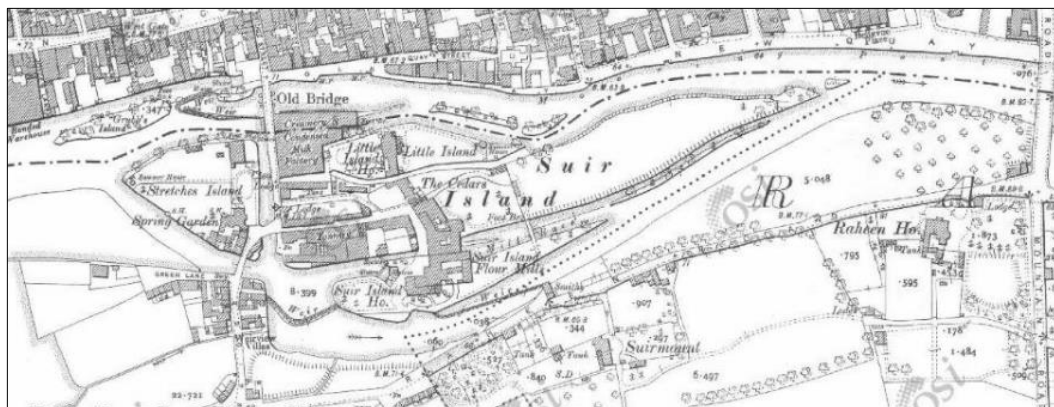


Figure 10 Approximate Site location 1904 OS Map.

With the exception of the Condensed Milk Factory, all industrial activity had ceased by 1930, the nail in its coffin being the economic depression following Partition in 1922. By the late 1900s, Suir Island was almost completely deserted and the piecemeal demolition of the structures on the Island can be seen. Both Grubb mills were in ruins by the early 1940s and the remainder of the buildings lay disused and falling into dereliction and the houses unoccupied (Blackwood 2004). Suir Island House had become dilapidated by 1940 but was then purchased by John P. Cooney and renovated. It was still occupied by the Cooney family in the late 1960s but has since been vacated and gutted by fire (Blackwood et al 2014).

2.5. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Several archaeological investigations have been carried out on Suir Island (Figure 11) in advance of the development of Hughes Mill on Suir Island (O' Donovan 1998; Stephens 1998, Licence Ref: 98E0470), Manor Mill on Stretches Island (Tierney 2001, Ref: 01E0464, 01E0464) and also the Suir River (Clonmel North and East) Drainage Scheme. The drainage scheme was a large-scale infrastructural project involving the construction of flood defence walls, food defence embankments, stormwater pipelines and associated pump stations, river widening works, and demolition works on five bridges (including three on Suir Island). Numerous investigations and monitoring were carried out as part of this work (Henry 1996, Purcell 1999, Bailey 2010, Kyle 2011, Coughlin 2012, Refs: 06E0651, 99E0606 10E0485, 11E0114, Old Bridge Ref: E4252).

Evidence that milling activity undertaken on the island during the late 18th and 19th centuries was captured in the investigations and correlated with the cartographic and historical sources. None of the investigations/excavations identified any features that predated the industrial activity on the island.

Immediately north of the application area, predevelopment excavation of a car park berm associated with the drainage scheme (Kyle 2011, Ref: 011E0014, Henry 2006, Ref:06E0651) revealed the subsurface remains of the flour mill on Suir Island (the mill to the north of Suir Island House Mill) (Figure 11). Five construction phases were recorded; the primary phase was a three-roomed structure. One of the rooms, which was roughly circular in plan, is believed to have housed a set of millstones. A cobbled area with a drain was located to the northeast of this building. The following phases saw the mill expand, some interior walls removed, and other features added.



Figure 11 Location of archaeological investigations, monitoring and excavations and the proposed garden location

2.6. ARCHITECTURAL/INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ON SUIR ISLAND

2.6.1. ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION AREA (CEDP 2013)

Clonmel has a rich heritage of townscape and buildings this is demonstrated in the number of protected structures listed in the town development plans Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Within the town there is also an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) focusing on the Wolfe Tone Street, O'Connell Street and Gladstone Street townscape. Suir Island lies outside the ACA (Figure 12).

2.6.2. PROTECTED STRUCTURES (CEDP 2013)

The three bridges on the Island and the bridge crossing the mall tributary which were previously listed as protected structures. They were rebuilt as part of the comprehensive river flood alleviation works that has taken place. This includes new walls along the quays, new parapets at Oldbridge (the arch structure still remaining). The works changed the character of the Quays and the visibility of the river from the Quay, only Old Bridge retains its protected status (RPS 237).

The ruin of Suir Island House (RPS 289) is a protected structure (Figure 12). It is a former miller's house, built c.1760 and stands as a ruin that has been conserved and made safe. The ruins and its associated mills were comprehensively recorded prior to the conservation works (Blackwood Associates et al, Hamond, F. 2009).

A complex of former industrial structures on Suir Island is recorded in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH, Ref: 22121004, Figure 12). Built in c.1820-30, the structures present as the ruins of multi-storey stores and warehouses arranged on the sides of narrow streets on the island. However, these properties do not have a statutory footing; they have been assigned a NIAH regional rating. They are considered to be of merit and can be added to the RPS by the Local Authorities should they choose to.

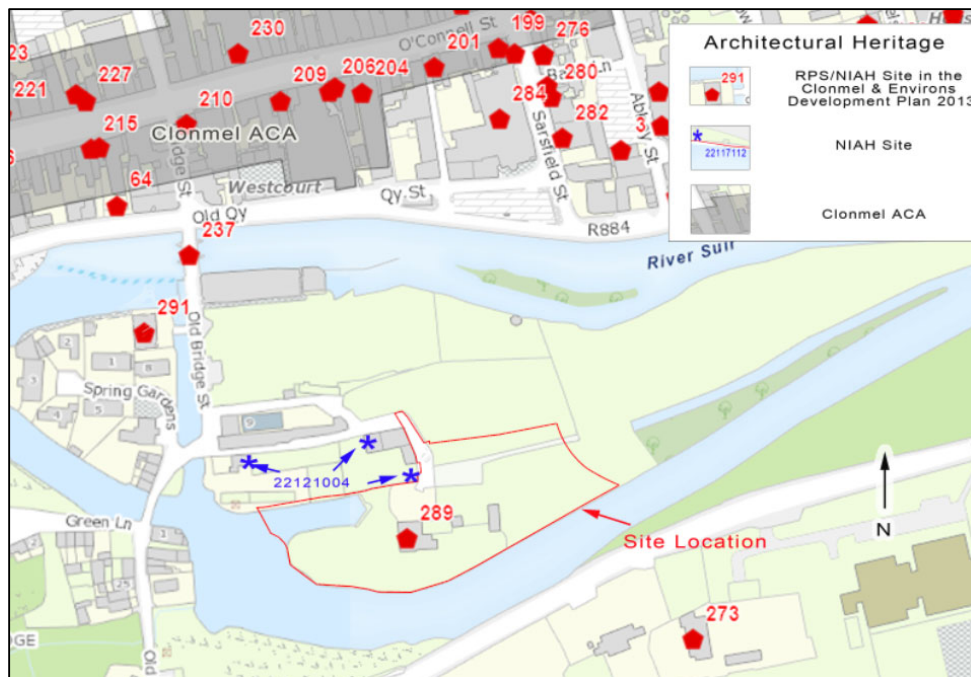


Figure 12 Protected Structures and the Proposed Gardens Study Area

2.6.3. INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE SURVEY

The Tipperary Industrial Heritage Survey (TIHS) was carried out in 2010 by Fred Hamond for South Tipperary County Council. Several features were identified including bridge crossings and former mill structures on Willow Island within the proposed gardens study area. It includes Suir Island House, the walls of the former mills (Ref: 043010, 043008, 043009, Table 1, Figure 13). Since this survey an extensive flood relief works have been carried out along the quay walls, on the southern side of the river and the Suir Island bridges which as somewhat reduced their industrial heritage significance.

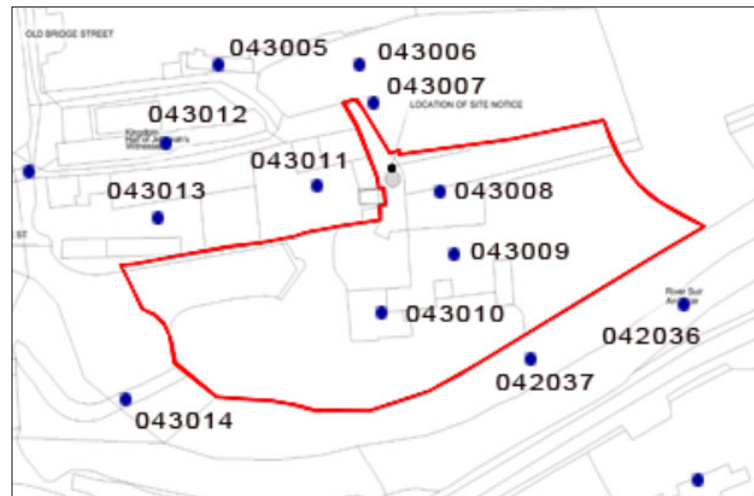


Figure 13 Industrial Heritage Sites and the Proposed Gardens Study Area

Table 1 Industrial Heritage sites within the Gardens Study area (Hamond, 2010)

TIHS ref.	Ref:	Location	Type	Description
043010	RPS 289 NIAH 22121005	Willow Island (Suir Island),	House in ruins	Derelict shell of a four-bay, three-storey + attic dwelling erected in 1780s by Thomas Grubb, owner of the adjoining flour mill. A four-bay, three-storey + attic house aligned N-S at the SW corner of a now-ruinous flour mill (site 043008), to which it was formerly attached. It has been gutted by fire
043008	n/a	Suir Island	Grain Mill	Ruinous fragments of wall and associated waterworks of large flour mill established on the site of a former rape mill by Robert Grubb c.1780.
043009	n/a	Willow Island (Suir Island)	Walls	Ruinous random rubble walls and associated waterworks of large flour mill established by Thomas Grubb in mid 1780s

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) of the Department Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) records known upstanding archaeological monuments, sites of monuments and the position of possible sites identified as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs. Archaeological sites identified since 1994 have been added to the non-statutory Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) database of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (National Monuments Service, DCHG), and includes both RMP and SMR sites. Those sites designated as SMR's have not

yet been added to the statutory record but are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP.

The medieval town of Clonmel is a designated Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) (TS083-019). This ZAP extends includes Suir Island (shown on Figure 14). There are no individual RMP sites on Suir Island. The bridge at Oldbridge (TS083-019002) is thought to be on the site of an earlier bridge. The bridges parapet has been rebuilt as part of recent flood alleviation works.

The site of a weir (TS083-01916) is recorded on the southern side of the Island, the SMR file records that Lyons (1936, 292) suggested that the weir 'anciently may have been a fishing weir', however the weir is not indicated on the 1st (1840-41) ed. OS 6-inch map which suggests that it's construction post-dates 1840-41, it only appears on the later map. The evidence does not warrant its inclusion as an archaeological monument and may not be added to the statutory RMP.

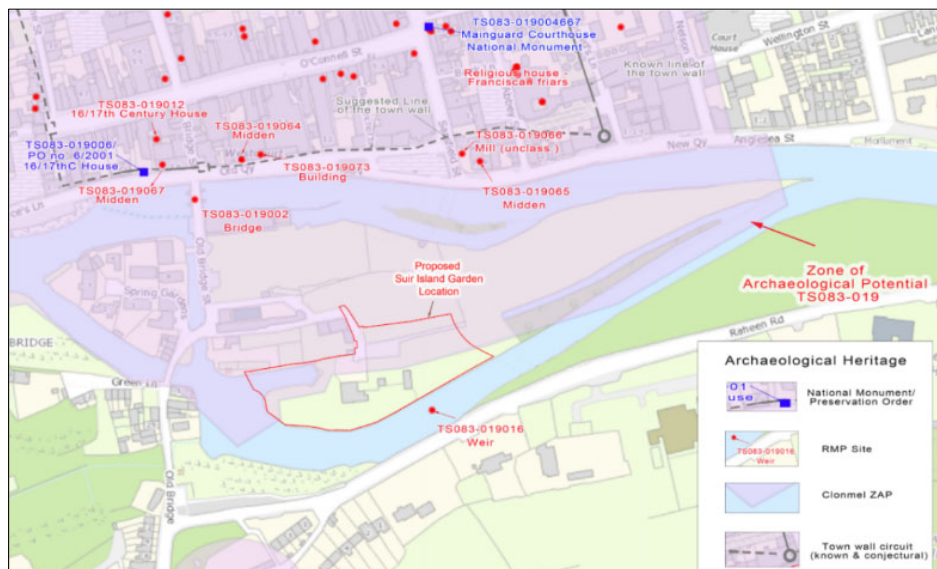


Figure 14 Archaeological Heritage (RMP, ZAP & town walls) in the vicinity of Suir Island and proposed site location

4. FIELD WORK

4.1.1. Introduction

The following describes the sites and features of interest within the proposed public realm that might have the potential to be impacted by the development. The fieldwork was carried out on a clear bright day on 17th October 2020.

The features discussed in the text below are labelled a-q in Figure 15 below.

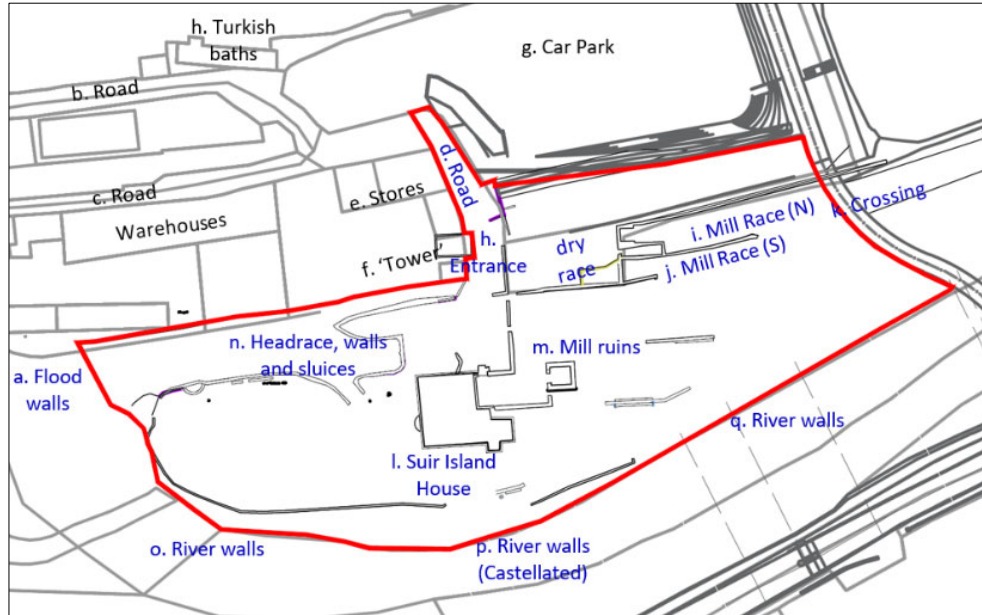


Figure 15 Features identified during fieldwork

4.1.2. Access to Willow Island

Suir Island is connected to the town of Clonmel by a single narrow road that traverses the west end of the island. It is part of a c. 280m causeway comprising four bridges that connect the northern and southern banks of the river. Considerable works to the bridges on the causeway have been carried out as part of the flood alleviation works. Old Bridge (RPS 237, RMP TS083-019002) the most northerly bridge has been widened and its parapet rebuilt (Plate 2); Suir Island Bridge which crosses the channel at an angle has been widened. Green Lane Bridge, connecting Stretches Island with the southern shore has also been rebuilt. A new footbridge to the former Woollen Factory (RPS 291) on Stretches Island has been constructed.

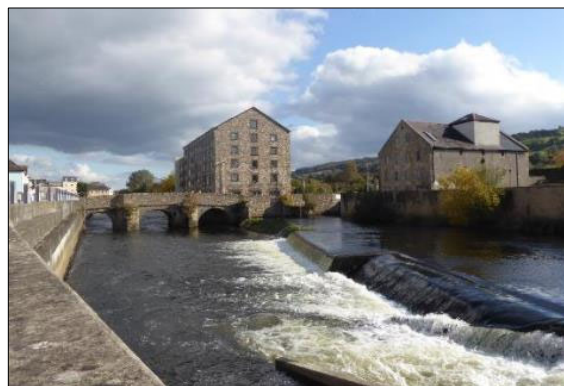


Plate 2 Oldbridge (RPS 237, RMP TS083-019002) with new parapets, former Hughes Mill and former Woollen Mill view looking east from the northern banks of the river

A new flood defence wall has been constructed at the westernmost end of Suir Island it comprises a 3m high stone faced concrete wall. Views from the causeway on the southern approach to the Suir Island House and Willow Island is obscured by vegetation (Plate 3).



Plate 3 New flood defence walls on the south westernmost end of Suir Island-Willow Island

Two narrow roads historically provided access to Willow Island only the northern one still operates today; former early 19th-century industrial buildings comprising the ruins of warehouses and stores and associated walls are aligned to the them (Plate 4 and Plate 5)(NIAH Ref: 22121004).



Plate 4 View looking east along the road on Suir Island

Plate 5 View looking west

The road turns south towards the formal entrance to Suir Island House and Willow Island; it comprises high concrete pillars and walls, crossed now by security fencing (Figure 15). On the west side of the road there is a storehouse in ruins and a structure overgrown in ivy that has been described as a gothic style 'tower' in previous surveys of the island (Plate 6)(Hamond 2009).



Plate 6 View looking west (from ontop of the berm in the car park) showing the ‘tower’ over grown in ivy and the roofless stores building, (inset: the entrance)

A car park has been constructed in the central area of Suir Island, it is defined to the north south and east by a high earthen berm covered in grass. On the southern side of the car park is the roofless ruins of former Turkish Baths also located on the above mentioned narrow roadway (Plate 7, Plate 8, Figure 15). The structure has been conserved and is stabilised, forming an interesting feature in the car park.



Plate 7 Former Turkish baths and section of boundary wall



Plate 8 Panoramic view from the eastern berm in the Car Park

4.1.3. Willow Island: and Suir Island House and Mill

Willow island is accessed, though the above mentioned formal entrance. It is separated from the main body of Suir Island by millraces (Figure 15). Suir Island House (A Protected Structure) is located at western end of the island, there are extensive ruins associated with Suir Island House and the associated mills that were adjoining it. The house and the mill buildings have been conserved and made safe. There are several mature decorative or specimen trees in the former formal garden area to the east and west of the house and mill and along the boundary of the island, providing an indication of the richness of the former garden.

The house is an L-shaped roofless three storey ruin with a two storey return. Its front façade has a westerly aspect over the river, and the return has a southerly view over the river (Plate 9, Plate 10). The external walls survive to full height, there are no windows or doors, and the internal floors are gone. The facades and elevations are concrete rendered with the exception the southern elevation slate hung, reminiscent of structures on the quays in Clonmel.



*Plate 9 Suir Island House façade (note the slate on the side elevation (southern) and return)
Plate 10 Side elevation of the return building*



*Plate 11 Suir Island front façade and northern elevation with the conserved mill race
Plate 12 Side elevation (north)*

The ruins of the extensive mill complex, comprising structures and walls are located to the rear (east) of the house (Plate 13, Plate 14).



Plate 13 View south from the berm of the ruins of the mill on Willow Island, to the rear right is Suir Island House and tower at the entrance gate



Plate 14, View west to the rear of Suir Island House and ruins of the former mill

The walls to the north of the west of the house associated with the headrace have been consolidated and restored (Plate 15, Plate 16, Plate 17). The western side of the island has silted up where there was an open headrace, naturally seeded willow trees have taken hold in the area. An original metal sluice gate survives in this area without its wooden panels.



Plate 15 View south of the headrace walls and sluice gate (centre left) to the northwest of Suir Island



*Plate 16 Possible surviving sluice gate
Plate 17 yard and walls*

4.1.4. Mill Races

Running east of the mill is a split mill race channel divided by a wall both are filled with stagnant water (Plate 18), they continue parallel to the river Suir before entering the river at the eastern end of the Island. To the south of the open mill races there is evidence of a possible third mill-race channel which may have been backfilled and could not be traced any further (Plate 19).



*Plate 18 Parallel Tail races view towards west, towards the mill buildings
Plate 19 Evidence of a third tail race channel*

A possible bridge or deliberately backfilled section of the tail race provides access from Suir Island (Plate 20 and Plate 21). The tail races continue in an easterly direction.



*Plate 20 East of the tail race crossing towards the east (k)
Plate 21 West of the tail race crossing view west towards the mill*

The tail race is not defined by a wall along its entire length but is with a bank and mature trees (Plate 22 and Plate 23).



Plate 22 Tail race mid way along its course, it is walled on the northern side

Plate 23 Tail race towards the eastern end

4.1.5. Boundary Wall

Willow Island is defined by a boundary wall on to the north, west, and southwest. The former headrace which was open has been closed off by a flood wall (Plate 24). At the westernmost end, in the immediate vicinity of the house the boundary comprises a castellated (in the Irish castle style) rubble stone wall of random coursing that provides screening for Suir Island house (Plate 25). The wall continues easterly along the river banks and is in various states of height and repair, this section is much less formal and is not castellated (Plate 26, Plate 27). Mature broad leafed trees are located all along the boundary. The wall finishes just before the location of new concrete steps have been constructed to provide access to the river.



Plate 24 Boundary wall associated with Suir Island House towards westernmost side of the Island



Plate 25 Castellated boundary wall and Suir Island House, view north from the southern banks of the river



Plate 26 Boundary wall view northwest from the southern banks of the river



Plate 27 Boundary wall view northwest from the southern banks of the river

5. CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE

It is thought that the Vikings established a fort on the islands in the River Suir in the 9th century and there are records of mills in the 11th century, and later in the early 17th century. There has been a lot of changes on Suir Island since the 1940's which removed most of the structural remains on site. However, two of the mill structures have been repurposed and there are still some ruinous structures left. A large car park is located in the centre of the island with a large earthen bund around it. It is however the flood relief works that have had the greatest impact to the original bridge structures and new visibly dominant flood relief walls.

The scale and importance of the milling activity in Clonmel should not be underestimated, with 22 mills of various sizes working in the town during the 19th century, and several centred on the island. The structures on Suir Island are of architectural, industrial, social and archaeological importance, as they have played a major part in the development of the town. Willow Island remains the last untouched vestige of the island's industrial past.

Willow Island has a distinct character which is defined by the ruins of Suir Island house (a protected structure), the tall boundary walls -some with castellation, the gothic tower at the entrance, the ruins of the mills and mill races and fine mature specimen trees. These features illustrate the integration of industry and gracious living on the island (Blackwood et al. 2014). The approach to

the island also has several industrial buildings of interest to the visitor which provide a backdrop and sense of anticipation. This unique character is recognised by the careful conservation of the ruins that lie within it and the Suir Island Gardens proposal.

5.2. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The proposed public realm development details and its associated drawings and design rationale accompany the Part 8 application documentation (Figure 16).



Figure 16 Suir Island Gardens proposal

A review of the plans and particulars and the nature and location of the archaeological heritage potential outlined above, have established the potential impact of the proposed public realm works on the archaeological environment.

General

The proposed public realm works on Suir Island comprises the development of approximately 0.9ha of public gardens and public landscaped areas. The works include:

- Renovation of existing gardens,
- Provision of lawns and landscape planting to include the provision of trees, hedges and shrubs,
- Seating and picnic areas,
- Hard and soft pathways,
- New entrance gate with adjoining wall cladding,
- Childrens play areas with associated equipment,
- Securing of Suir Island House (A Protected Structure) with decorative steel plating at ground floor level,
- Feature lighting,
- Signage,

- Ancillary site development works that shall include site drainage, provision of water supply for the play area and for wash down purposes, provision of electrical supply for the feature lighting, and removal and reconstruction of approximately 19 metres of boundary wall.
- All associated site and landscaping works.

Retention of Historic Fabric

As part of the works Suir Island House (Protected Structure) will be made safe with decorative steel plates (with laser cut interpretive text and graphics) to all ground floor openings. It will also make good of, and replacement of, southern boundary stone walling of approximately 19m in length that is in a poor state of repair. The river bank boundaries and property boundaries associated with Suir Island House will for the most part be retained. The boundaries are indicated on the 1874 map.

Boundaries

- The northern boundary will be retained, except for the entrance to the island which will have a notable change in appearance to match the character of the existing stone walls seen throughout the gardens, creating the immediate threshold and distinction of the island.
- The eastern boundary is proposed to be retained as existing, with management of vegetation as required.
- The southern boundary adjoining the River Suir is proposed to retain all existing trees where possible.
- The western boundary will be retained, there is existing river access for boating here which is the formal access and egress point to the River Suir, comprised of a concrete landing area, steps and boulders.

5.3. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

5.3.1. Archaeological Impacts

There is a potential that subsurface structural remains, finds or features associated with the former milling complex on Willow Island may be identified during the development of the proposed gardens. The numerous archaeological investigations carried out on Suir Island to date have not revealed any features dating earlier than 1800; however, there remains a slight potential that earlier archaeological features dating to the Viking or Anglo-Norman period might be uncovered during earthmoving works in the areas of the site that have not been subject to industrial development.

5.3.2. Architectural Heritage Impacts

The ruins of Suir Island House associated mill buildings and boundary walls are an integral part of the historic character of Willow Island. Suir Island House is a protected structure (RPS Ref: 289) and is categorised in the NIAH as being of architectural and historic interest having significant associations with the extensive milling industry on Suir Island. The house and mill buildings have been comprehensively recorded (Blackwood Associates et al, Hamond, F. 2009), stabilised and conserved and will be retained as a significant component within the proposed development. The retention of these structures within in an enhanced riverside garden setting will have a positive impact on the historic environment (see cultural heritage impacts below) of Suir Island.

It is proposed to insert decorative steel plates into all ground floor openings of Suir Island House for health and safety, protection and educational purposes. The plates shall be laser cut with interpretive text and graphics reflective of the industrial heritage of the area. Once sensitively carried out, the insertion of the steel plates will not impact the architectural merit of the ruin as they will be distinguishable as a modern intervention and will not detract from the historic character or legibility of the structure.

A 19m section of the southern riverside boundary wall that is in disrepair will be repaired and replaced. Once sensitively carried out, the repair works to the boundary will have a positive contribution to the overall setting of the former Suir Island House. The dismantling of this section of wall may reveal earlier retaining walls or revetments associated with the wall's construction or perhaps evidence of reclamation measures.

5.3.3. *Cultural Heritage Impacts*

The interaction of amenity, heritage, and public well-being is vital for sustainable development. Suir Island presents a huge opportunity for the town as a central amenity. The Suir Island Garden proposal is an innovative opportunity to positively impact the island's heritage by retaining all the upstanding industrial heritage elements on the site, to provide interpretation signage and access. It will provide people with a sense of place and connection to their historic environment. It will complement the existing water sports amenity in the river and the park to the south of the river in Denis Burke Park.

6. MITIGATION MEASURES -RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. CONSTRUCTION WORKS

6.1.1. *Archaeological Heritage*

Earthmoving and below groundworks will be associated with the Suir Island Gardens public realm proposals. Given the nature and extent of the works proposed archaeological testing is not recommended. It is however recommended that licenced archaeological monitoring of all earthmoving works is carried out, with the provision in the programme for the archaeological recording and excavation of any features that are identified. Monitoring will ensure the full recognition of and the proper excavation and recording of all archaeological soils, features, finds and deposits that may be disturbed below the ground surface. Monitoring should occur as follows; however, the project archaeologist will provide further details of this during construction:

- Any clearance and grubbing out of the overgrown areas across the site should retain any features associated with machinery or fragments of the mills, such as architectural fragments, metal, gates and millstones that might be uncovered. Such items will be reviewed and recorded by the project's archaeologist and, if appropriate, preserved and stored until they can be displayed safely and securely placed in historically relevant locations on the island as part of the presentation of the industrial past.
- All ground excavation and deep intervention works will be monitored. Such works may include excavating foundation pits for lighting, tree pits, and trenches for services and utilities. Features could lie immediately beneath the scraw or topsoil levels. Retention of any in-situ 18th/19th-century industrial heritage that might be uncovered/exposed

on the site is recommended. If retention is not possible full archaeological excavation will be carried out.

- Toolbox talks between the construction team and the project archaeologist before work commences will ensure that the potential sensitivity of the site is understood.
- Should archaeological/industrial heritage features be exposed, no further construction can take place in that area until the archaeologist resolves the archaeological issues.
- The recording of the removal of 19m of the riverside boundary wall will be carried out to establish if there were any earlier revetments at that location.
- Any new information gleaned from the results of the monitoring will be included in the signage if appropriate.

As part of the flood relief works extensive works were carried out within the river Suir which was subject to underwater archaeological assessment and subsequent monitoring. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified. An underwater archaeological assessment is therefore not considered necessary as there will be no in-stream works proposed

6.1.2. *Architectural Heritage*

In accordance with best conservation practice, it is recommended that a detailed specification of works is devised by a suitably qualified conservation specialist for:

- The design and the method of insertion of the steel plates into the ground floor openings of Suir Island House.
- The repair and replacement of the southern riverside wall, using traditional materials and techniques.

This work should be carried out under the direction and supervision of the conservation specialist to ensure it is carried out in a sensitive and appropriate manner.

Any works proposed to the upstanding masonry structures within the proposed garden development area (including the cleaning, removal of vegetation, repair works etc.) should also be carried out under the direction and supervision of a suitably qualified conservation specialist.

6.2. GENERAL

In accordance with the National Monuments Legislation Tipperary County Council will make provision to fund any archaeological work that may take place during the proposed groundworks, as well as the preparation of any reports arising from that work. Adequate financial provision must also be made available for post-excavation work, the conservation of artefacts (if any), and the publication of any archaeological excavation results as required.

All archaeological investigations, monitoring or excavation must be carried out under licence to the National Monuments Section of the DHLGH. Any recommendations made in this report are subject to approval from the National Monuments Section of the DHLGH and the local planning authority who may make additional recommendations.

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7.1. ONLINE SOURCES

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APPENDIX 1 STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

The following legislation, standards and guidelines were consulted for this report:

- National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 (as amended)
- The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
- The Heritage Act, 1995
- CAAS Environmental Ltd on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2002), Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements
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- National Roads Authority (2017) Project Management Guidelines
- Code of Practice between the National Roads Authority (NRA) and the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, June 2000.
- Code of Practice between Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, 2017.
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999 and the Planning and Development Act (as amended)
- Cork County Council Heritage Unit (2007) Guidance Notes for the Appraisal of Historic Gardens, Demesnes, Estate and their Settings

APPENDIX 2 SUMMARY OF RELEVANT LEGISLATION

National Monuments Legislation (1930-2004)

The National Monument Act, 1930 (as amended) provides the formal legal mechanism to protect monuments in Ireland. Protection of a monument is provided via:

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP);

National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs or a Local Authority;

National Monument subject to a Preservation Order (or temporary Preservation Order);

Register of Historic Monuments (RHM).

The definition of a monument is specified as:

any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections;

any artificial cave, stone or natural product, whether forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position;

any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, or (ii) ritual, industrial or habitation site; and

any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site.

Under Section 14 of the Principal Act (1930):

It shall be unlawful...

to demolish or remove wholly or in part or to disfigure, deface, alter, or in any manner injure or interfere with any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance with the consent hereinafter mentioned (a licence issued by the Office of Public Works National Monuments Branch),

or

to excavate, dig, plough or otherwise disturb the ground within, around, or in the proximity to any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance...

Under Amendment to Section 23 of the Principal Act (1930):

A person who finds an archaeological object shall, within four days after the finding, make a report of it to a member of the Garda Síochána...or the Director of the National Museum...

The latter is of relevance to any finds made during a watching brief.

In the 1994 Amendment of Section 12 of the Principal Act (1930), all the sites and 'places' recorded by the Sites and Monuments Record of the Office of Public Works are provided with a new status in law. This new

status provides a level of protection to the listed sites that is equivalent to that accorded to 'registered' sites [Section 8(1), National Monuments Amendment Act 1954] as follows:

The Commissioners shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where they believe there are monuments and the record shall be comprised of a list of monuments and such places and a map or maps showing each monument and such place in respect of each county in the State.

The Commissioners shall cause to be exhibited in a prescribed manner in each county the list and map or maps of the county drawn up and publish in a prescribed manner information about when and where the lists and maps may be consulted.

In addition, when the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded, or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.

The National Monuments Amendment Act enacted in 2004 provides clarification in relation to the division of responsibilities between the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Finance and Arts, Sports and Tourism together with the Commissioners of Public Works. The Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government will issue directions relating to archaeological works and will be advised by the National Monuments Section and the National Museum of Ireland. The Act gives discretion to the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to grant consent or issue directions in relation to road developments (Section 49 and 51) approved by An Bord Pleanála and/or in relation to the discovery of National Monuments.

14A. (1) The consent of the Minister under section 14 of this Act and any further consent or licence under any other provision of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004 shall not be required where the works involved are connected with an approved road development.

14A. (2) Any works of an archaeological nature that are carried out in respect of an approved road development shall be carried out in accordance with the directions of the Minister, which directions shall be issued following consultation by the minister with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland.

Subsection 14A (4) Where a national monument has been discovered to which subsection (3) of this section relates, then the road authority carrying out the road development shall report the discovery to the Minister subject to subsection (7) of this section, and pending any directions by the Minister under paragraph (d) of this subsection, no works which would interfere with the monument shall be carried out, except works urgently required to secure its preservation carried out in accordance with such measures as may be specified by the Minister.

The Minister will consult with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland for a period not longer than 14 days before issuing further directions in relation to the national monument.

The Minister will not be restricted to archaeological considerations alone, but will also consider the wider public interest.

Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999

This Act provides for the establishment of a national inventory of architectural heritage and historic monuments.

Section 1 of the act defines "architectural heritage" as:

(a) all structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings,

(b) groups of such structures and buildings, and,

(c) sites

which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

Section 2 of the Act states that the Minister (for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) shall establish the NIAH, determining its form and content, defining the categories of architectural heritage, and specifying to which category each entry belongs. The information contained within the inventory will be made available to planning authorities, having regard to the security and privacy of both property and persons involved.

Section 3 of the Act states that the Minister may appoint officers, who may in turn request access to premises listed in the inventory from the occupiers of these buildings. The officer is required to inform the occupier of the building why entry is necessary, and in the event of a refusal, can apply for a warrant to enter the premises.

Section 4 of the Act states that obstruction of an officer or a refusal to comply with requirements of entry will result in the owner or occupier being guilty of an offence.

Section 5 of the Act states that sanitary authorities who carry out works on a monument covered by this Act will as far as possible preserve the monument with the proviso that its condition is not a danger to any person or property, and that the sanitation authority will inform the Minister that the works have been carried out.

The provisions in the Act are in addition to and not a substitution for provisions of the National Monument Act (1930–94), and the protection of monuments in the National Monuments Act is extended to the monuments covered by the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1999).

The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1999

The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1999, which came into force on 1st January 2000, provides for the inclusion of protected structures into the planning authorities' development plans and sets out statutory regulations regarding works affecting such structures, thereby giving greater statutory protection to buildings. All structures listed in the development plan are now referred to as Protected Structures and enjoy equal statutory protection. Under the 1999 Act the entire structure is protected, including a structures interior, exterior, the land lying within the curtilage of the protected structure and other structures within that curtilage. This Act was subsequently repealed and replaced by the Planning and Development Act, 2000, where the conditions relating to the protection of architectural heritage are set out in Part IV of the Act.

Protected Structures, Curtilage & Attendant Grounds

A protected structure is defined in the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 as any structure or specified part of a structure, which is included in the planning authorities' Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Section 57 (1) of the 2000 Act states that "...the carrying out of works to a protected structure, or a proposed protected structure, shall be exempted development only if those works would not materially affect the character of

(a) the structure, or

(b) any element of the structure, which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

By definition, a protected structure includes the land lying within the curtilage of the protected structure and other structures within that curtilage and their interiors. The notion of curtilage is not defined by legislation, but according to Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2004)

and for the purposes of this report it can be taken to be the parcel of land immediately associated with that structure and which is (or was) in use for the purpose of the structure.

The attendant grounds of a structure are lands outside the curtilage of the structure but which are associated with the structure and are intrinsic to its function, setting and/or appreciation. The attendant grounds of a country house could include the entire demesne, or pleasure grounds, and any structures or features within it such as follies, plantations, lakes etc.

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