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## Proposed Road Widening Works to Facilitate a Proposed Social Housing Development for Kilkenny County Council at Ladyswell, Thomastown



## CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT

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Job No. 19018



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## INTRODUCTION

To facilitate the construction of a development of social housing at Ladyswell, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny it is necessary to widen the existing public road approaching the development to provide a 6 metre wide road with a 2 metre wide public footpath.

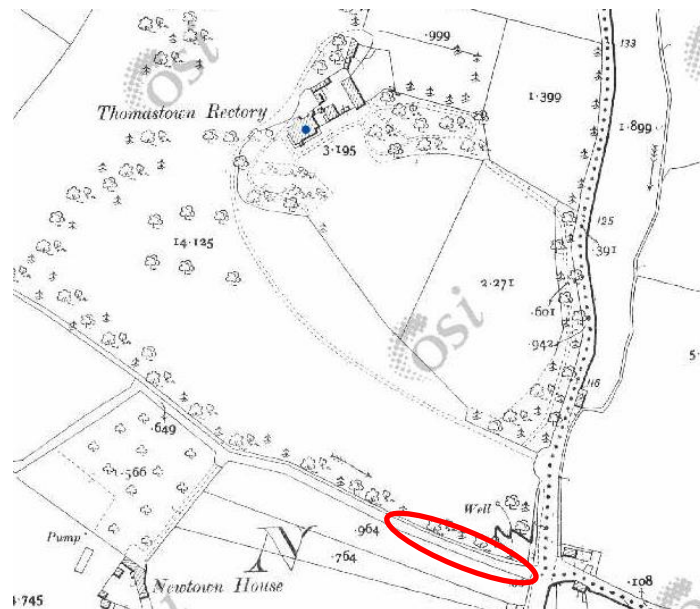
The land required to widen the road can only be provided by removing the existing roadside boundary wall at the northern side of the existing public road. The works to be carried out include the demolition and rebuilding of approximately 72 linear metres of the existing stone boundary wall approximately 3 metres behind the present location of the wall. The works also include the relocation of the existing open field drain at the rear of the boundary wall and the construction of a new road structure on completion of the wall reconstruction. Details of the proposed road widening works are shown on drawing no. 19018-111-P1.

This report describes the reasons for moving the wall and the varying ages of the wall together with clearly defining the area requiring dismantling and rebuilding.

For reference purposes, an outline method statement of the proposed works is also included.

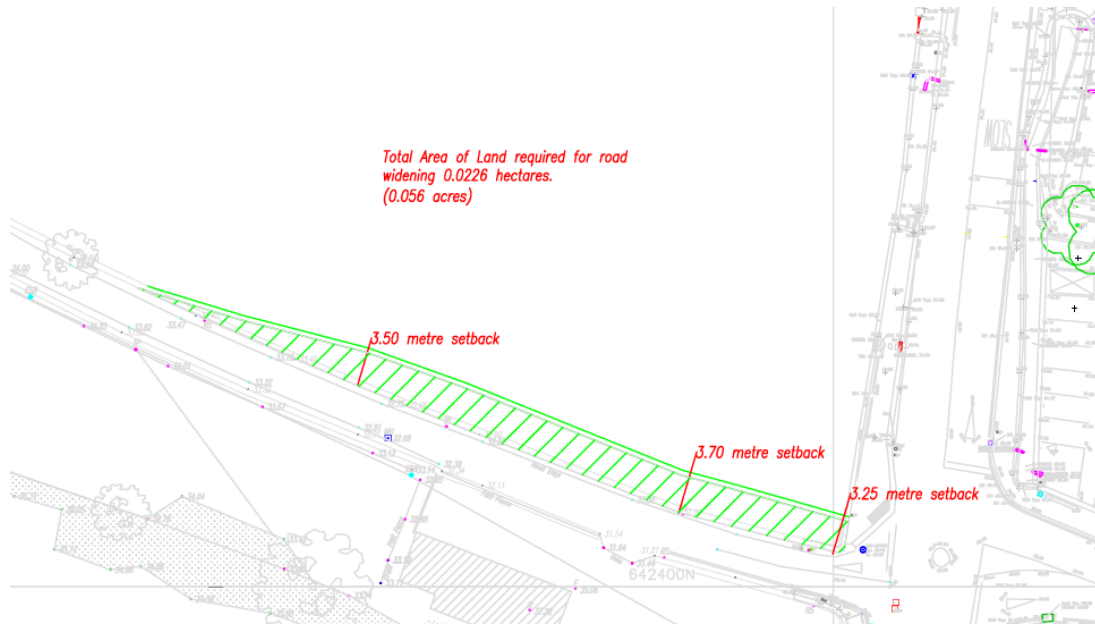
## PROTECTED STATUS

The nearest Protected Structure is the 19<sup>th</sup> century Glebe House to the north, Reg. No. 12317086 in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. Curiously it has two listings in the Record of Protected Structures Kilkenny, C384 and C632. The walls are within the curtilage of this building and works to the wall will require permission from the Conservation Officer in Kilkenny County Council. The well to the rear of the wall is noted in the historic 25 inch map, as shown below.

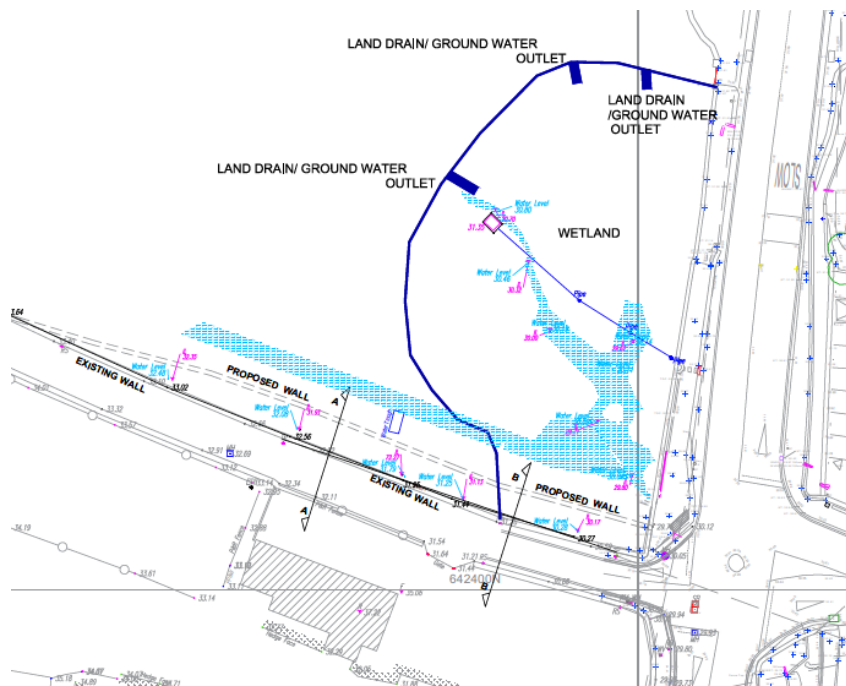


## PROPOSED WORKS

The proposed works comprise the removal of a 72 metre section of the Glebe House boundary wall along the Newtown Road including a 3.25m return at the corner of Ladys Well Street and rebuilding it stepped back up to 3.7 metres from its current location, as shown below. The proposed works allow for safe access for car and pedestrian traffic to a new residential development including a wider road and a public footpath.



The well, wetland, culvert and water channels are not in the proposed works area.



The well, wall openings, memorial and plaque are also not impacted by the proposed works. The proposed works do not extend beyond the signpost shown in the photographs below.



### CONDITION OF THE EXISTING WALL

The proposed section of wall to be dismantled and relocated has various build styles visible along its length. The corner has been repointed many times as can be seen with the varying mortars and styles of masonry.

The section nearest the junction contains a Cock and Hen capped wall with rough coursed masonry with lime mortars. This is approximately 18 metres long.



Further along the road, the wall has been topped, lowered and capped at some stage with what appears to be sand and cement. It follows a similar coursing suggesting it may be of a similar age to the Cock and Hen style section.



There appears to be a bulge and rotation visible in this section of the wall out towards the road, which should be addressed regardless of future works.



Along the remainder of the wall it appears that the face of the wall has been rebuilt in various modern masonry styles using sand and cement, as shown in the photographs below.

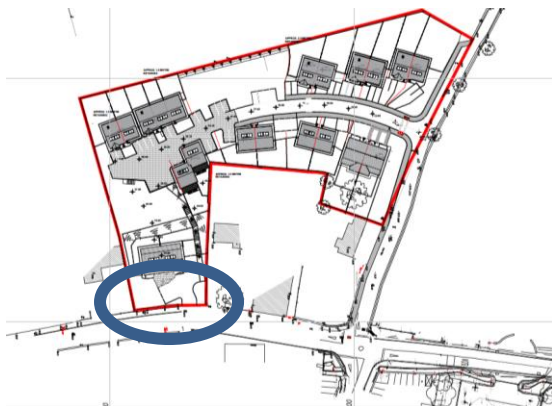


## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Alternative options were discussed prior to the proposal. The first alternative option was to widen the road on the south side, pictured below. This would encroach on the garden, driveway and parking areas of the residential property on the corner. The extent of the alterations are such that agreement could not be reached to facilitate the road widening at that side of the road.



The second alternative was to provide access to the proposed development from Ladys Well Street. This is not possible due to a large level rise between the upper and lower sections of the site, as shown in the photograph below.



## **APPROACH**

It is proposed to record the Cock and Hen wall before carefully dismantling it. It will be rebuilt in the same style, stepped back, using traditional lime mortars on a reinforced concrete strip foundation. Works to be specified and overseen by a conservation engineer. Dismantling and rebuilding to be carried out by experienced stonemasons.

## **METHODOLOGY FOR PROPOSED WORKS**

It is never possible to replicate the work and the rhythm of the masonry created by a long-dead mason, whose tradition and training would have been quite different to that of the present day, nonetheless, it is essential not to create disharmony in the rebuilding.

- Step 1**            The most reliable method of recording rebuilding is the full scale drawing of the stonework in place on to a transparent plastic sheet so that the plastic sheet is mounted in a timber frame, or as many timber frames and plastic sheets as are needed to cover the section of wall, and with a fixed reference system and support system for the frames which will survive the dismantling of the wall. This system allows for the as near as possible replication of the original masonry.
- Step 2**            Where this is not possible (due to collapse), an experienced mason will use their knowledge and expertise to replicate, as closely as possible, the rhythm of the surrounding masonry.
- Step 3**            Rebuilding alone may not be sufficient to secure the section of wall and it may be necessary to incorporate modern materials such as stainless steel or bronze to tie sections of the wall together and so avoid a replication of the original cause of deterioration.
- Step 4**            The rebuilt section of wall is classified as new work and needs to be marked as such.

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