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Archaeological Impact Assessment Report

**Vicar Street Urban Enhancement Scheme
Kilkenny City**

March 2020

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SUMMARY

This report details the results of an archaeological impact assessment of the proposed Vicar Street Urban Enhancement Scheme, Kilkenny City. The author of this report was commissioned by Kilgallen & Partners CE, on behalf of Kilkenny County Council to carry out an archaeological impact assessment in association with the proposed refurbishment of Vicar Street, Kilkenny City, by Kilkenny County Council in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

The proposed Vicar Street Urban Enhancement Scheme, Kilkenny City includes the upgrading of the existing streetscape including carriageway kerbing, carriageway pavement, possible carriageway reconstruction, upgrading and repaving of footways, provision of cyclelane, landscaping and planting, upgrading of bollards and lighting, and upgrading of existing underground utilities. The proposed works will result in alterations and improvements to traffic management and the pedestrian streetscape.

This report establishes the existing archaeological heritage of the proposed development location, and its' environs. Particular reference is given to historic city of Kilkenny, and it's medieval walls, which are contained in the Record of Monuments and Places, and consequently are afforded protection under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004). This report assesses all likely impacts the proposed development is deemed to have on the existing archaeology, and categorises the significance of these impacts.

This report concludes that the proposed Vicar Street Urban Enhancement Scheme, Kilkenny City will have no direct impact on any known archaeology.

Archaeological monitoring of any groundworks that have the potential to impact on archaeological layers is recommended to ameliorate the risk of any impact the proposed Vicar Street Urban Enhancement Scheme, may have on the archaeological heritage.



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1.0 Introduction

This report details the results of an archaeological impact assessment associated with the Vicar Street Urban Enhancement Project, Kilkenny City (650352E, 656419N, see Figure 7-8 & Plate 1). The report assesses the possible and likely impacts that the proposed development may have on the existing archaeology. The research that forms the basis of this report is influenced by the Urban Archaeological Survey of Kilkenny (Bradley, 1984), Kilkenny City Walls Conservation Plan (Heritage Council, 2005), and the Kilkenny Archaeological Project (KKAP, 2008). Recommendations are contained within this report to ameliorate any impact the proposed Vicar Street Enhancement Project may have on the archaeological heritage. This report was commissioned by Kilgallen & Partners CE on behalf of Kilkenny County Council to fulfil planning requirement Section 8 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

2.0 The Proposed Development

The Vicar Street Enhancement Project, Kilkenny City, will involve the upgrading of the existing streetscape and carriageway along Vicar St, with high quality paving material and finishes, upgrading of street furniture and street landscaping, and signage works. Vicar Street is situated between St. Canice's Place (at the south), and Green Street. (at the north). The proposed works will result in alterations and improvements to traffic management and pedestrian streetscape, as well as defined parking and set-down areas (see Figure 8). The project will include new carriageway and pedestrian paving and kerbing, landscaping and street furniture upgrades, and associated underground services upgrades. All of the proposed construction works for this project will take place within the archaeological constraints area for the Historic City of Kilkenny, which is contained in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP No. KK019-026).

3.0 Methodology

This report is an archaeological impact assessment of the Vicar Street Enhancement Project, Kilkenny City, (see Figure 8). The possible impacts that the development may have on the existing archaeology were assessed according to the following documents and guidelines:

- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) (formerly National Roads Authority) Environmental Assessment Guidelines
- Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements (EPA 2002, 2003, 2016)

- Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (DAHG, 1999).

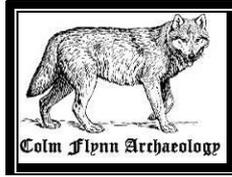
Any impacts that the proposed development may have on the existing archaeology were assessed as direct or indirect, and positive or negative in nature. The significance of each impact was judged depending on whether the impact was to the entirety or a portion of an archaeological site, or archaeological feature. Each impact was classified according to Environmental Protection Agency guidelines (2016) as set out below:

- Profound: this applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove the adverse effects. These profound impacts arise where an archaeological site is completely and irreversibly destroyed by a proposed development.
- Significant: this applies when an impact which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the archaeological feature/site. An impact like this would be where part of a site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about the archaeological feature/site.
- Moderate: this applies when a change to the site is proposed which though noticeable, is not such that the archaeological integrity of the site is compromised and which is reversible. This arises where an archaeological feature can be incorporated into a modern day development without damage and that all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible.
- Slight: this applies when the proposed works will result in an impact which causes changes in the character of the archaeology which are not significant or profound and do not directly impact or affect an archaeological feature or monument.
- Imperceptible: this applies when the proposed development will have an impact on the archaeology capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.
- Uncertain: this applies when the extent or nature of possible impacts on archaeological is unknown. This is particularly relevant where the extent of the known archaeology within the proposed development area has not been established.

Site Visit / Inspection

During the site visit / inspection the author assesses the extant ground conditions of the proposed enhancement scheme and its environs, and establishes if any known archaeological sites will be impacted by the proposed street enhancement works. The site visit resulted in photographic records, notes and measurements being taken.

Record of Monuments & Places (RMP)



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The RMP is a list of archaeological monuments, generally predating AD1700, known to the National Monuments Service (NMS). This list was in many cases based initially on cartographic, documentary and aerial photographic sources. By inclusion in the RMP an archaeological site is protected by law under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004). Any works that may impact on an RMP site has to be approved by the NMS prior to the work commencing. Each entry in the RMP receives an individual identification number with a two letter prefix which denotes the county that the archaeological site is in (e.g. the RMP number for Kilkenny City is KK019-026).

The proposed development lies within the Historic Town of Kilkenny (RMP No. KK019-026), which is afforded legal protection under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. Vicar St. is situated in Irishtown area of Kilkenny City, and is approximately 40m east of St. Canice's Cathedral (KK019-026029). Several known archaeological sites that are contained within the RMP are situated on Vicar St. A 16/17th century house (RMP No. KK019-026122) is situated at the southern end of the project, near the junction of St. Canice's Place and Vicar St. Another 16/17th century house (RMP No. KK019-026121) is situated at No. 17 Vicar St. A third 16/17th century house (RMP No. KK019-026120) is situated at the location of the Kilkenny Inn Hotel. A later medieval ecclesiastical residence known as the Bishops Palace (RMP No. KK019-026123) is situated 20m to the west of Vicar St. A fourth 16/17th century house (RMP No. KK019-026119) is situated at the junction of Vicar St. and Green St. Appendix 2 lists the known archaeological sites within proximity of the proposed development, and provides appropriate mitigation measures to ameliorate any impact the proposed development may have on the known archaeology.

Topographical Files

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland were consulted for this report. The topographical files identify recorded stray archaeological artefacts that have been donated to or purchased by the State in accordance with National Monuments legislation. The files are given individual numbers, and are identified by townland, and county, and in urban locations, by street number, street, and townland.

A list of all the Topographical Files for the townland of Gardens, St. Canice's Parish, Kilkenny City, in which the development is situated, is included as Appendix 1 at the end of this report.

Archaeological Excavations Database (www.excavations.ie)

The Archaeological Excavations Database was consulted for this report. This database lists all archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland that were licensed under the National Monuments Acts. The Database is organised on a county by county basis, and allows for searches of individual addresses and street names in an urban context. A series of excavations were carried out in advance of the construction of the Kilkenny Central Access Scheme (KCAS) at the southern end of Vicar Street. Several excavations have taken place along Vicar Street. These excavations are listed in Appendix 3 at the end of this report.

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is an ongoing survey commissioned by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The NIAH aims to promote the appreciation of, and contribute to, the protection of the architectural heritage by systematically recording the built heritage on a nation-wide basis. A full list of the NIAH entries within the development area is contained in Appendix 4 at the end of this report.

Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020

Kilkenny County Council have previously published the Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020. This plan was consulted for this project. It contains a list of buildings called the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) which are protected by law under Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000. Developments which affect buildings on the Record of Protected Structures must be approved by the appropriate planning authority.

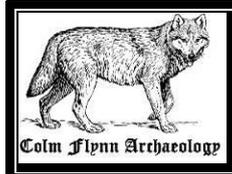
The stated objective of the Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 is:

'By preserving characteristic features of the City & Environs, we seek to maintain and nurture our environment and cultural heritage as part of our identity.' (Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020, p104). The proposed development area of Vicar St. is located within the Zone of Notification of Recorded Monuments identified in the Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 (ibid, p106).

It is the stated objective of the Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 to 'facilitate and support the implementation of the existing (and any further) conservation plans', (ibid, p109).

The Urban Archaeological Survey:

The Urban Archaeology Survey was established in 1982 to record known information relating to Irish towns and to present it to the public. One of the main objectives was to produce a zone of



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archaeological potential, based on the available evidence, which could be used for planning purposes. Historical sources of information were compiled and known archaeology of the towns was evaluated. The Urban Archaeological Survey of County Kilkenny prepared by John Bradley was published in 1993 for the Royal Irish Academy, and was consulted for this report. The proposed development area is situated within the zone of archaeological potential of Kilkenny City, identified in the Urban Archaeological Survey of Kilkenny.

The Kilkenny Archaeological Project

The Kilkenny Archaeological Project (KKAP) is a Heritage Council and Kilkenny County Council funded project, compiled by Kilkenny Archaeology, and John Bradley, to publish information on the over 250 archaeological excavations carried out in Kilkenny City since 1968. This resource was consulted in detail, to help identify the known archaeological heritage in the environs of Vicar St., and was invaluable in identifying the precise location of previous excavations in and around the environs of Vicar St. (see Fig 6).

Literary Sources

Various literary and online sources were consulted, a full list of which is provided in the bibliography. The journal of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, published as the Old Kilkenny Review was consulted for this report, and provided valuable information on the historical development of the study area.

Cartographic Sources

A wide range of maps were consulted, including the Down Survey (1650s, see Fig 1), private surveyors maps from the 18th century including Rocque's Map of Kilkenny (1758) which is the earliest surviving detailed map of Kilkenny City (see Fig 3), and Ordnance Survey maps dating from the mid-19th century onwards (see Fig 2). A full list of consulted cartographic sources is provided in the bibliography.

4 RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

4.1 Location, Geology & Topography

The underlying bedrock geology of Kilkenny City and its environs consists of limestone and calcareous shale that formed during the Carboniferous age (circa 530-390 million years ago). The proposed development site of Vicar St. is an existing vehicular and pedestrian streetscape, in Kilkenny City in the townland of St. Canice's Parish (NGR 650352E, 656419N, see Figure 7-8 & Plates 1-4). The layout of Vicar St. follows the ridge of high ground on which stands St. Canice's Cathedral. During the medieval period this area was part of the Cathedral Close of St. Canice's and was home to several buildings belonging to the officers of the cathedral.

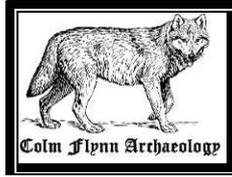
4.2 Archaeological & Historical Background

Little is known about the pre-Christian history of the area of modern-day Kilkenny City. Archaeological evidence of Mesolithic (7000-4000 BC) activity near the River Nore in Kilkenny City is supported by the discovery of a Mesolithic flint tool called a microlith, that was found in 2001 by archaeologists near Bateman Quay (Lohan 2005). Archaeological monitoring of works for the Kilkenny River Nore Flood Alleviation Scheme resulted in the recovery of several Mesolithic flint tools, and a Neolithic polished stone axe (Excavation Licence No. 01E0909 Ian W. Doyle). Although there are no known archaeological settlement sites dating from the Neolithic (4000-2000 BC) known in Kilkenny City, a Bronze Age (2000-800 BC) house site consisting of a post and wattle structure and a fish trap were excavated at John's Bridge, Kilkenny (Doyle 2003). Excavations of Fulacht fia in Dukesmeadows indicate hot stone activity was taking place in Kilkenny City in the Bronze Age (Excavation Licence No. 02E1237 Paul Stevens). Kilkenny City originated in the fifth or sixth century as an Early Christian settlement. This settlement was established on and around several rises or hillocks situated on the west bank of the River Nore. These rises or hillocks provided commanding views over the surrounding area, and would eventually house St. Mary's Church, St. Canice's Cathedral, and Kilkenny Castle.

Early medieval (500-1169 AD)

The first church in Kilkenny City was St. Patrick's – represented today by a D-shaped graveyard in Patrick Street. By the seventh century, however, the influence of this church was eclipsed by the new church of St. Canice at the northern side of the present day city.

Kilkenny City, the principal town of County Kilkenny, is situated on the confluence of the Breaghagh and Nore rivers. This location has been of paramount importance to the development of the town, which received its first charter in the thirteenth century. Two separate derivations have been suggested for the name of the City, the Church of St. Canice, "or the wooded head or hill near the river."



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Recent archaeological excavations have provided some evidence of early medieval activity in and around Kilkenny City. Excavations carried out by Patrick Neary (Archaeological Licence No. 06E0075), Andrew Gittins (Archaeological Licence No. 02E0845), and by Coilín Ó Drisceoil (Archaeological Licence No. 06E0306), at Coach Road, Kilkenny, identified an earthen bank, human skeletal remains, and evidence of antler working, all believed to date to the early medieval period. Excavations by Judith Carroll and John Tierney for the Ormonde Hotel and Leisure Centre, and Ormonde St. development identified possible early medieval human burials (Archaeological Licence 97E0468).

It is likely that St. Canice's followers or disciples introduced his cult to the area. Canice's principal church was at Aghaboe in Co. Laois. Both Aghaboe and Kilkenny were within the territory of an ancient people known as the Osraige ('Deer People'). During the 6th and 7th centuries the tribal grouping that controlled Aghaboe, who became known as Mac Gilla Pátraic or FitzPatrick, expanded their power to Kilkenny and founded a monastery there. In subsequent years a town developed around the monastery of St. Canice's. Remains of this monastic period may be identified in the presence of the round tower and the evidence of a previous Romanesque Cathedral.

Medieval (1169-1550 AD)

After the Norman invasion of 1169, Strongbow established a camp outside the precincts of the church of St. Canice's, on the southern bank of the Breagh River. This fortification was later to form the nucleus for the development of the City of Kilkenny. In 1173, Donald O'Brien forced Strongbow to retreat to Waterford. This was only a temporary setback for the Normans. In 1189, William Marshall came into possession of Strongbow's Leinster lands by marrying Strongbow's daughter. William Marshall was subsequently appointed to the Chief Governorship of Ireland. Through this appointment, Kilkenny was to become one of the most important political towns in Ireland in the medieval period. Marshall began building a castle in Kilkenny in 1195. This became the focal point for Kilkenny Hightown. The original town around the existing monastery became known as Irishtown. Irishtown and Hightown had different municipal authorities. Irishtown was governed by the Bishops of Ossory, while Kilkenny Hightown was controlled by Marshall. In 1207, Kilkenny received its first charter, which protected its trading rights and saw the establishment of a town market, which was originally situated in Irishtown, possibly at the junction of Irishtown and St. Canice's Place

In the early thirteenth century Marshall purchased land from the Bishop of Ossory to facilitate the expansion of Kilkenny City. This land was situated to the south of the Breagh River and to the north of Kilkenny Hightown. The land was to incorporate a continuation of Hightown, with shops and dwellings facing onto the street, and burgage plots which were to be 20ft wide, situated to the rear of these

buildings (Bradley 2000, p2). At some time in the thirteenth century the earlier defensive features of Hightown were replaced with masonry walls and stone gates. Prior to this time the town defences consisted of an outer fosse and earthen banks, possibly topped with timber palisades. Although there is historical evidence that Irishtown also featured town defences (either ditches, or earthen banks or stone wall or timber fences), by 1400, archaeological evidence has not as yet provided much evidence of this (Bradley 1975, 97). Any medieval defensive feature in Irishtown would have defined the area around St. Canice's Cathedral including Vicar St. and St. Canice's Place, Green St and Troy's Gate (see Fig 5).

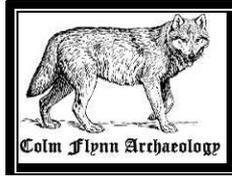
During the early part of the thirteenth century, the town grew dramatically; three monasteries including the Black Abbey were built, as were St. Canice's Cathedral, and a parish church. Following the arrival of the Franciscans to Kilkenny in 1230 AD, St. Francis Abbey was one of the three monasteries founded in the city (circa 1234 AD), when Richard Marshall 3rd Earl of Pembroke was given a royal grant. St. Francis Abbey grew throughout the fourteenth century, due to income derived from leases and burial rights. Buildings were added to the abbey, and such was its prestige, it held the Provincial Chapters of the friars in 1267 and 1308 (Williams 2007, p10-13).

During the middle of the thirteenth century William Le Gros founded Grace's Castle (the current site of Kilkenny courthouse), and although no records of the form and size of this castle remain, excavations carried out in recent years have provided evidence of the development of the site at Grace's Castle (see Appendix 3).

Throughout the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries Kilkenny was one of the major centres of political power, with at least three great councils of nobility assembling there and seven parliaments. The parliament of 1367 decided to enact laws prohibiting intermarriage between the Anglo-Norman population and the Gaelic population. These laws were to become known as the Statutes of Kilkenny.

Kilkenny prospered during the late medieval as a result of its political involvement. In 1391, James Butler, the third Earl of Ormond bought the Castle and it became the principal seat of the Butlers of Kilkenny. The Butlers were an old Anglo-Norman family who had many links to the King and his family. In 1399, Richard II stayed at the castle for two weeks. This link between the Butlers and the King was to prove beneficial to Kilkenny. Although it is not known when the first masonry town defences were constructed around Hightown and Irishtown, Kilkenny City, it is likely that both had walled defences from the thirteenth century (see Fig 5). Surviving records from the Calendar of Deeds relating to Ireland indicate that nine separate grants for murage (which was a toll for the upkeep and repair to the town walls) were issued to the inhabitants of Kilkenny City between 1250-1460.

The commonage, *i.e.* the land held in common by the burgesses of the town, stretched for two miles outside the town walls. Its use was strictly controlled. Digging was prohibited and tenants were required to keep the land 'playne and grene' so that it could be used for shooting and archery by the



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townspeople (Bradley 2000, 18). This commonage outside the town walls was in place until the expansion of the town in post medieval period.

Post medieval (1550-1700)

During the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, Kilkenny continued to prosper, although the religious wars of the seventeenth century caused severe damage and loss of life to the city. Between 1536-41, Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries and St. Francis Abbey was granted to Walter Archer the Sovereign of the City and to the Corporation of Kilkenny, while Blackfriars was granted to the Corporation of Kilkenny, on condition that they provide accommodation to the Chief Governor. Towards the end of the sixteenth-century, both municipalities in Kilkenny, Kilkenny Hightown and Irishtown, became a single municipal entity. Subsequently in 1690, James I made Kilkenny a free City.

The Confederation of Kilkenny (Confederate Parliament) was the title given to the alliance between the native Irish nobility and the Catholic Anglo-Irish lords of the Pale in support of Charles I against the Parliamentarians. The years of the Confederacy were to give Kilkenny enormous prosperity and wealth and it ended unable to come to an agreement, with one faction supporting the Papal Nuncios position of war and the other faction suing for peace. In the aftermath of the collapse of the Confederacy, Kilkenny began to decline in both economic and political powers. This process was further exacerbated by Cromwell's siege of 1650, when the City was ravaged by plague and was only able to put up a limited resistance. Due to the City's involvement with the Confederacy, much of the property was confiscated. On the restoration of Charles II in 1660, some of the property was returned to the citizens.

The Civil Survey of Kilkenny of 1654-5 records the presence of many stone built shops fronting onto the 'North quarter' (now Parliament St.), and many outhouses, sheds, yards, gardens, orchards and malhousers to the rear of these shops. The Down Survey map of 1650's depicts Irishtown as being walled, although little archaeological evidence has been found to support this (see Fig 1). The walls around Irishtown are depicted on the Down Survey as having one tower (see Fig 1). There are several references to the walls around Irishtown and Troy's Gate or North Gate in 16th and 17th century documents.

The late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries had proven to be a time of relative prosperity with an accompanying phase of building. Several of the surviving merchant houses of Kilkenny, such as Rothe House, were built during this period. Economic development during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was based on Kilkenny's rich agricultural hinterland, and principally upon cattle and grain production. Industrial use of the rivers Nore and Breagagh intensified with the construction of several

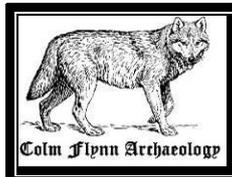
new mills and the development of a brewing industry. Concerted efforts to introduce the linen industry were ultimately unsuccessful given the lack of incentive to grow flax on land where corn flourished.

Early modern (1700-1900)

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Kilkenny remained a large provincial town but did not expand to a large extent. Kilkenny was never to regain the prestige or power that it had experienced during the medieval and later medieval periods. However, the industrial use of the Nore and Breagh continued with the construction of several new mills, the introduction of new treatments for textiles and the development of a brewing industry in the 17th and 18th centuries. The 18th century also saw the production of Kilkenny's finest early maps. Rocque's Map of Kilkenny City (1758) depicts Vicar St. as a narrow roadway with buildings on both sides of the road (see Fig 3). Gardens and orchards are situated to the east (rear) of the buildings on the east side of Vicar St.

The census of 1777 records the number of houses in Kilkenny was as 2274 (Tighe, p 463). Tighe calculates the population of Kilkenny City as 14975 in 1801, and he gives the population of St. Mary's Parish as totalling 2861, consisting of 1149 females and 1712 males (ibid, p 461). At this there were 2870 houses consisting of 2035 cabins, 431 two storey houses, and 404 three storey (and higher) houses, in Kilkenny City in that year (ibid, p462).

The Primary Valuation of Ireland (known as Griffiths Valuation) was published between 1847 and 1864 and was the first full-scale valuation of property in Ireland. It utilised the first edition 6" to a mile Ordnance Survey Maps of Ireland (1830s onwards) and calculated property rates accordingly (see Fig 1 below). Griffiths Valuation also used the most up to date census information to establish the function and associated value of buildings.



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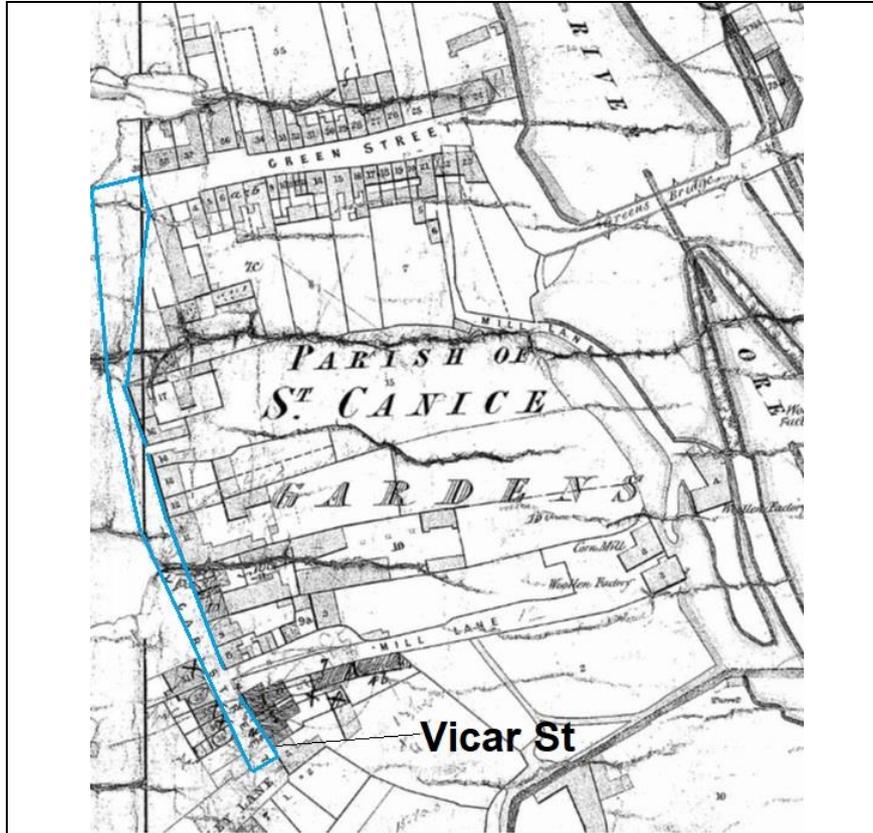


Figure 1 Extract from Griffiths Valuation Maps (c1848) showing location of Vicar St.

5 SITE INSPECTION

A site inspection took place on Monday 27th January 2020 in bright dry conditions. Vicar St. is situated in the townland of Gardens, in the Irishtown area of Kilkenny City. Vicar St. is a narrow vehicular and pedestrian streetscape with two storey domestic and commercial buildings on both sides of the street. The narrowness of the street is indicative of its medieval origins, when horse and carts didn't require wider streets. The name Vicar St refers to the medieval history of the street when officers of St. Canice's

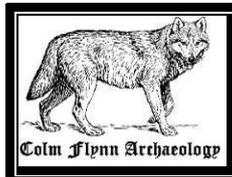


Plate 1: Vicar St / St. Canice's Place junction facing north.

Cathedral had dwellings here. Until the middle of the 19th century a narrow lane called Bull Lane was situated at the southern end of the Vicar St. The first edition 6 inch to mile scale Ordnance Survey maps of the area date to the 1830's and depicts the narrow Bull Lane, and buildings along Vicar St where extant buildings are situated. It is not clear if these buildings are the extant buildings. This 19th century map also shows that in the 19th century Vicar St was of similar dimensions to today.

At the northern end of Vicar St. is Troy's Gate. This is the location of a medieval stone mural tower or gate allowing access into Irishtown by travel from the north. The exact location of this gate is unknown, although it is reflected in name of the street. Bradley originally suggested that this gate was situated at the southern end of Troy's Gate (Bradley, 1975). Revisions by the same author identified the northern end of Troy's Gate as the more likely location of the medieval town defences (Bradley, 2000, and see Fig 5). The authors of the KKAP identified the southern end of Troy's Gate as the location of the medieval gatehouse, but suggest that the circuit of the town defences continued north along Troy's Gate street before continuing eastwards towards the Nore (KKAP, 2008, p51). Any stone mural towers or gates that are part of the medieval town walls are considered part of the town defences and are protected under the National Monuments Acts by their inclusion in the RMP (KK019-026001). Under national policy of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the town walls of Kilkenny are also considered to be a single National Monument under the National Monuments Acts.

The site inspection commenced at the junction of St. Canice's Place and Vicar St. and continued northwards along Vicar St. finishing at the junction of Vicar St. and Green St. At the southern end of the project the proposed project works will see alterations to the road and pavement layouts, as well as new road and pavement materials being constructed, and upgraded underground services, street furniture and signage. Historical and archaeological evidence indicates that this location has been subject to human occupation since least the medieval period. Surviving written records from the medieval and post



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medieval periods identify the southern end of Vicar St as the location of several medieval buildings related to officers of St. Canice's Cathedral. Excavations carried out by the author of this report (Ministerial Direction A062 Archaeological Registration E4436) in advance of the Kilkenny Central Access Scheme at the junction of Vicar St. and St. Canice's Place identified in situ archaeology at a depth of 0.5m below the existing ground level of 44.46m OD. The southern end of Vicar St. is also the likely location of any medieval enclosing structure around St. Canice's Cathedral, although there is no definitive evidence of this enclosing structure. Consequently, any ground disturbance works at this location with a depth of 0.5m, risk impacting on any subterranean archaeology. Excavations by the author (Ministerial Direction A062 Archaeological Registration E4437) in advance of the construction of the Kilkenny Central Access Scheme at St. Canice's Place just southeast of Vicar St. identified a post medieval building. This site was added to the RMP (KK019-026121) and is consequently protected under the National Monuments Acts.

Excavations that were carried out by Patrick Neary (Archaeological Licence 97E0481) in advance of the construction of Kilkenny Main Drainage Scheme in the 1990's near No 20 and No 19 Vicar St. identified a subterranean stone wall of unknown function that was interpreted by the excavator as dating to the medieval period. This wall appeared to continue towards Vicar St. and could relate to a building of unknown dimensions. Excavations at No 17 Vicar St. (Archaeological Licence 00E0170) resulted in the identification of a post medieval building. This site was added to the RMP (KK019-026122) and is consequently protected under the National Monuments Acts.



Plate 2: Vicar St (centre) facing north.

Excavations by Gill McLoughlin (Archaeological Registration E001071) in advance of the Diageo Ltd redevelopment at St. Canice's Place just south of Vicar St at the location of the Bull Inn, a known and legally protected archaeological site (KK019-026107) that likely dates to the post medieval period, identified architectural stone fragments from the medieval and post medieval period.

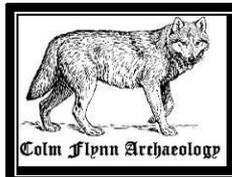
As the proposed Vicar St. Improvement Project continues northwards along Vicar St. the works will see alterations to the road and pavement layout including the construction of new paving and asphalt layers, and a new road gully and new public lighting. Previous excavations at the site of Kilkenny Inn Hotel by John Tierney (Archaeological Licence 03E0707) identified medieval and post medieval archaeology. This site has been added to the RMP (KK019-026120) and consequently is afforded legal protection under the National Monuments Acts.

A concrete rendered high wall forms the western boundary of Vicar St roughly halfway along the street. This wall is the boundary with the grounds of the Bishop's Palace which is a post medieval ecclesiastical building contained in the RMP (KK019-026123) and consequently is afforded legal protection under the National Monuments Acts. Excavations (Archaeological Licences 02E0593, 05E0652, and 06E0189) carried out at the Bishop's Palace in advance of redevelopment and refurbishment of the building and the grounds identified



Plate 3: Bishop's Palace boundary wall along westside of Vicar St, facing north.

evidence of medieval and post medieval archaeology.



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At the northern end of Vicar St., it meets Green St. and Troy's Gate. Here the Vicar St. Improvement Project will see alterations to the traffic flow, and construction of new asphalt and pathway materials. A

medieval stone mural tower known as Troy's Gate was located near this location. This tower was part of the medieval town defences, and as such, is protected under the National Monuments Acts. Separately, a known archaeological site that is contained in the RMP (KK019-026119) and is identified as a post medieval building was situated at the junction of Vicar St and Green St. The proposed works will not directly impact on these known archaeological sites.



Plate 4: Northern end of Vicar St showing Troy's Gate, facing north.

6 VICAR STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The proposed Vicar St. Improvement Project includes alterations to the existing traffic flow, pedestrian route and cycleways, as well as alterations to defined parking and set-down areas along Vicar St. from the junction of Vicar St. and St. Canice's Place in the south, to the junction of Vicar St., Green St. and Troy's Gate in the north. The project will see the removal of existing road and pavement materials, some underlying road materials, and upgrading with high quality asphalt and paving material and finishes, upgrading of street furniture and street landscaping, signage works, and associated under services upgrades.

Some of the proposed works will impact on the existing ground, and the depth of these impacts varies according to the nature of the works (see Figure 7, by Kilgallen CE Ltd). All of the construction works that result in ground disturbance have the potential to impact on unknown archaeology. The Vicar St. Improvement Project has been designed to minimise where possible, the risk to the archaeological heritage. Due care and consideration has been given to the potential archaeological and historical significance of the site, based on the findings of previous archaeological excavations in this location, and other archaeological, cartographic and historical sources.

The proposed works will not directly impact on any known archaeology. However, the works will take place in areas where several known archaeological sites are situated. At the southern end of Vicar St. the proposed works will take place in proximity to several known archaeological sites where previous archaeological works have identified in situ archaeology, behind existing building facades, and approximately 0.5m below the existing ground level.

Towards the middle of Vicar St. the proposed works will take place where several post medieval and medieval buildings are situated. Excavations here have identified archaeology under the existing road and behind existing building fabric.

At the northern end of Vicar St. the proposed works will take place beside the grounds of the Bishop's Palace, and in proximity to the supposed route of the medieval town defences at Troy's Gate. Also, a known archaeological site is situated at the junction of Vicar St. and Green St.



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7 RESULTS & CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological Impact Assessment

- The proposed Vicar St. Urban Enhancement Scheme will take place within the archaeological constraints zone for the medieval city of Kilkenny (RMP KK019-026).
- The scheme has been designed sensitively and will not have any direct impact on any known archaeological site.
- All groundworks associated with the Vicar St. Urban Enhancement Scheme have the potential to impact on unknown subterranean archaeology within the works area.
- The medieval town defences of Kilkenny (RMP KK019-026001), which are protected by law under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004), are known to have been situated at Troy's Gate to the north of Vicar St.
- Previously completed archaeological investigations conducted in and around Vicar St. have identified the presence of medieval and post medieval archaeology, including medieval and post medieval features and building foundations.
- The underground services works required for the Vicar St. Urban Enhancement Scheme, including drainage, lighting, ducts, any landscaping, and street furniture will have no impact on known archaeology. These works will be localised and of shallow depth, and pose a low risk of impact on any unknown subterranean archaeology.
- Any temporary site works and / or enabling works (including site investigation works) involving ground disturbance associated with the Vicar St. Urban Enhancement Scheme pose a low risk of impact on any unknown subterranean archaeology.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS & MITIGATION MEASURES

Pre-construction Stage Mitigation Measures

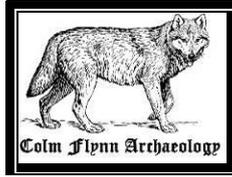
- No pre-construction archaeological mitigation measures are recommended for the Vicar St. Urban Improvement Scheme.

Construction Stage Mitigation Measures

- The proposed development is within the zone of archaeological potential of the historic town of Kilkenny (RMP KK019-026). Appropriate Ministerial Directions / Consents and Archaeological Licences should be applied for at least five weeks prior to the commencement of any on-site works associated with this project.
- Archaeological monitoring of all ground disturbance works associated with the Vicar St. Urban Enhancement Scheme is required to mitigate the potential impact on unknown subterranean archaeology.
- Should alterations be made to the scope of works, further archaeological mitigation measures may be required.

PLEASE NOTE: This report and accompanying recommendations are based on the figures of the proposed development area, as supplied by Kilgallen & Partners CE Ltd / Kilkenny County Council. Should any alterations take place, further assessment would be required to be carried out.

PLEASE NOTE: Recommendations are subject to approval by National Monuments Service of the Department of the Culture, Heritage & Gaeltacht.



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Cartographic Sources

1654-1656 Down Survey County & Barony maps, Kilkenny

1758, Rocque's map of Kilkenny

1837 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, Sheet 19, Co. Kilkenny

Sites & Monuments Record map, Sheet 19, Co. Kilkenny

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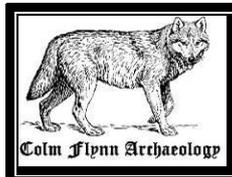
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WWW.COLMFLYNNARCHAEOLOGY.IE

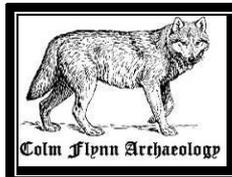
APPENDIX 1 - CATALOGUE OF FINDS FROM GARDENS TOWNLAND FROM NATIONAL MUSEUM TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES

Topographical File Number	Townland	Parish	Description	Other Info
1887:447	Gardens	St. Canice's	Stone Capital	
1887:449	Gardens	St. Canice's	Carved Capital	
1977:2339-2343	Gardens	St. Canice's	Human Remains	Dean St.
1977:2090-2167	Gardens	St. Canice's	Pottery, Lead, Stone, Iron, Clay Pipes and Tiles	Medieval and post medieval
1977:2351-2354	Gardens	St. Canice's	Medieval Finds	
E590:1-30	Gardens	St. Canice's	Excavation finds from house site	Post medieval, Dean St
2011:138	Gardens	St. Canice's	Glass	St. Canices Cathedral
RSAI 116:23-27	Gardens	St. Canice's	Ceramic Tiles	St. Canices Cathedral

APPENDIX 2 - CATALOGUE OF KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

This catalogue details the archaeological sites recorded in the vicinity of the proposed development. It consists of three sites which are recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Urban Archaeological Survey (UAS). The catalogue entries provide locational information, a description, an outline of the potential impact of the development and recommendations towards the mitigation of this impact.

Archaeological RMP number / UAS number	Location	Description	Impact Assessment	Proposed Mitigation Strategy
KK019-026	Kilkenny City	The medieval city of Kilkenny includes Irishtown and particularly Vicar St., Green St., Troy's Gate, and St. Canice's Place. Archaeology relating to the medieval City of Kilkenny has been found in several excavations in Irishtown and Vicar St.	Unknown	Construction stage Archaeological Monitoring of ground disturbance works.
KK019-026001	Kilkenny City	Medieval town walls of Kilkenny. The route of the medieval town defences has been postulated as continuing towards the Troy's Gate / Green St junction.	No Impact	Construction stage Archaeological Monitoring of ground disturbance works.
KK019-026119	Junction of Vicar St. and Green St.	16-17 th century Tudor house	No impact	Construction stage Archaeological Monitoring of ground disturbance works.
KK019-026123	Bishop's Palace, Church Lane	Post medieval ecclesiastical residence incorporating medieval building fabric.	No impact	N/A
KK019-026120	Kilkenny Inn Hotel	16-17 th century Tudor house identified during excavations prior to development.	No impact	N/A
KK019-026121	17 Vicar St.	16-17 th century Tudor house identified during excavations prior to development.	No impact	N/A

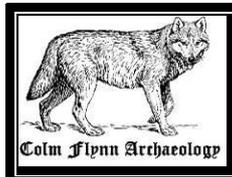


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Archaeological RMP number / UAS number	Location	Description	Impact Assessment	Proposed Mitigation Strategy
KK019-026122	22 Vicar St.	16-17 th century Tudor house identified during excavations prior to development.	No impact	N/A
KK019-026107	Bull Inn, St. Canice's Place	Site of 16-17 th century Tudor Inn, known as the Bull Inn. This was a three- storey gable-fronted building (dims. c. 17m N-S; c. 6.5m E-W). Demolished in 19 th century.	No impact	N/A
KK019-026186	St. Canice's Place	Relocated 17 th century memorial stone. The Latin inscription in Roman Capitals in false relief reads: R.D. JACOBUS SHEE VICARIORUM COMMUNIS AULAE PROVVISOR ANNO DNI 1647. The inscription refers to the 'Common Hall', a building which had been part of St. Canice's Cathedral complex.	No Impact	N/A
KK019-026029	St. Canice's Cathedral, Church Lane.	Medieval limestone cruciform Cathedral that was built in the English Gothic style. Situated on the site of an early medieval monastery.	No impact.	N/A.

APPENDIX 3 Previous Archaeological Excavations Within Study Area

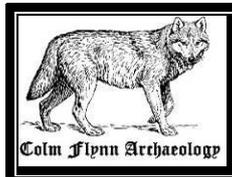
Archaeological Licence Number	Location	Description
97E0318	St. Canice's Place, Kilkenny	Excavations by Ed O Donovan in advance of the redevelopment of a building at the corner of St. Canice's Place and Irishtown identified a post medieval stone building.
97E0481	Vicar St / Green St, Kilkenny	Archaeological monitoring by Patrick Neary for the Kilkenny Main Drainage Scheme identified medieval stone walls along a lane on the east side of Vicar St.
99E0042	Green St	Excavations by Sheila Lane in advance of a commercial development on the south side of Green St identified no archaeology.
99E0057	St. Canice's Place / Vicar St, Kilkenny	Archaeological monitoring by Paul Stevens for the development of a service station at St. Canice's Place identified no archaeology.
99E0713	Green St	Excavations by Mary Henry in advance of the construction of three dwelling houses identified archaeological deposits relating to the post medieval period at a depth of 44.5m OD.
00E0170	19 Vicar Street, Kilkenny	Excavations in advance of the development of a new house at 19 Vicar St. identified archaeological deposits and features dating to the medieval period.
01E0632	Guinness Ireland Complex, Horsebarrack Lane, Kilkenny	Excavations in advance of the River Breaghagh PCB Remediation Project works identified medieval archaeological deposits and features including an iron sword.
02E0593	Bishop's Palace, Troy's Gate, Kilkenny	Excavations by Teresa Bolger and Ian W. Doyle (02E0593 ext) in advance of the redevelopment of Bishops Palace for the Heritage Council identified medieval metal working, a kiln, some stone walls buildings, and post medieval deposits.
03E0707	15-16 Vicar St., Kilkenny	Excavations by John Tierney in advance of development of the Kilkenny Inn Hotel at Vicar St. identified archaeological deposits and features including hearths and refuse pits that



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Archaeological Licence Number	Location	Description
		were medieval or post medieval in date.
03E1826	Troy's Gate / Green St Junction	Excavations in advance of the development of a apartment complex by Tony Cummins did not identify any archaeology.
03E1901	15-16 Vicar St.	Excavations by Catherine McLoughlin in advance of the development of the Kilkenny Inn Hotel at Vicar St. identified archaeological deposits and features including a two-celled rectangular stone building tentatively identified as the 'Vicar's Choral) and dated to the later medieval period. Other post medieval features and artefacts were identified.
05E0652	Bishops Palace Grounds, Troys Gate, Kilkenny	Excavations by Dave Pollock in advance of the redevelopment of Bishops Palace Kilkenny identified post medieval deposits.
06E0189	Bishops Palace, Troys Gate, Kilkenny	Excavations by Brenda O' Meara in advance of the redevelopment of Bishops Palace for the Heritage Council identified medieval walls and post medieval deposits.
09E0457	Church Lane, St. Canice's Cathedral	Excavations by C��il��n O Drisceoil in advance of the construction of a community building at St. Canice's Cathedral identified medieval and post medieval features and artefacts.
E001071	Bull Inn, St. Canice's Place, Kilkenny.	Archaeological monitoring by Gill McLoughlin for the redevelopment of the Diageo Ireland Ltd Complex (former Smithwicks Brewery) at the former site of the Bull Inn (RMP No: KK019-0260110) on the south side of St. Canice's Place across from Vicar St. identified several medieval stones reused in stone buildings and foundations at this location.
18E0213	Sweeney's Orchard, Abbey	Excavations by Kim Rice in advance of a housing

Archaeological Licence Number	Location	Description
	Quarter, Greens St. Kilkenny	development at Sweeney's Orchard, Kilkenny, identified late medieval and post medieval features and artefacts.

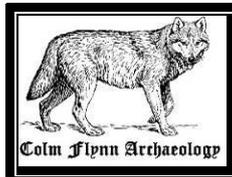


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**Appendix 4 Catalogue of Entries from NIAH & Record of Protected Structures within
Development Area**

NIAH Number	RPS Number	Location	Description and Date
12000003	-	'D. Walsh' St. Canice's Place	Terraced three-bay three-storey house, c.1800.
12000258	-	20 Vicar St.	End-of-terrace three-bay two-storey house, c.1900, possibly originally two separate single-bay two-storey houses incorporating fabric of earlier house, pre-1840, on site.
	B204	Bambricks Troy's Gate Bar, 1-2 Troy's Gate	Terraced two-bay three-storey house, c.1800, with two-bay three-storey rear (west) elevation.
12000002	-	16 Vicar St.	End-of-terrace three-bay two-storey house, c.1850, possibly with dormer attic with two-bay two-storey return to east.
12000001	-	24 Vicar St.	Attached two-bay two-storey house, built 1905, with two-bay two-storey return to east.
12003025	-	Wall of Bishop's Palace, Vicar St.	Freestanding cast-iron vent pipe, c.1900, comprising fluted pedestal having moulded necking, and cylindrical shaft over having moulded bands to parapet. Road fronted on concrete footpath.
12003012	B19	Bishop's Palace, Church Lane / Vicar St.	Detached five-bay three-storey over basement Church of Ireland bishop's palace, reconstructed 1735-6, incorporating fabric of medieval undercroft, between 1354-60, to basement with single-bay three-storey return to north-east. Extensively renovated and extended, c.1825, comprising single-bay three-storey flat-roofed central return having three-bay two-storey

NIAH Number	RPS Number	Location	Description and Date
			flanking range to right (north-west).
12003049	B19	Bishop's Palace, Church Lane / Vicar St.	Gateway, c.1875, comprising segmental-headed carriageway with tooled limestone ashlar piers, yellow brick header course voussoirs, corrugated-iron double gates having wicket gate, coping to parapet, and unpainted fine roughcast flanking boundary wall over random rubble stone construction having coping.
12003050	-	Hillman, Humber and Commer, Green St.	Detached four-bay two-storey gable-fronted garage, c.1950.



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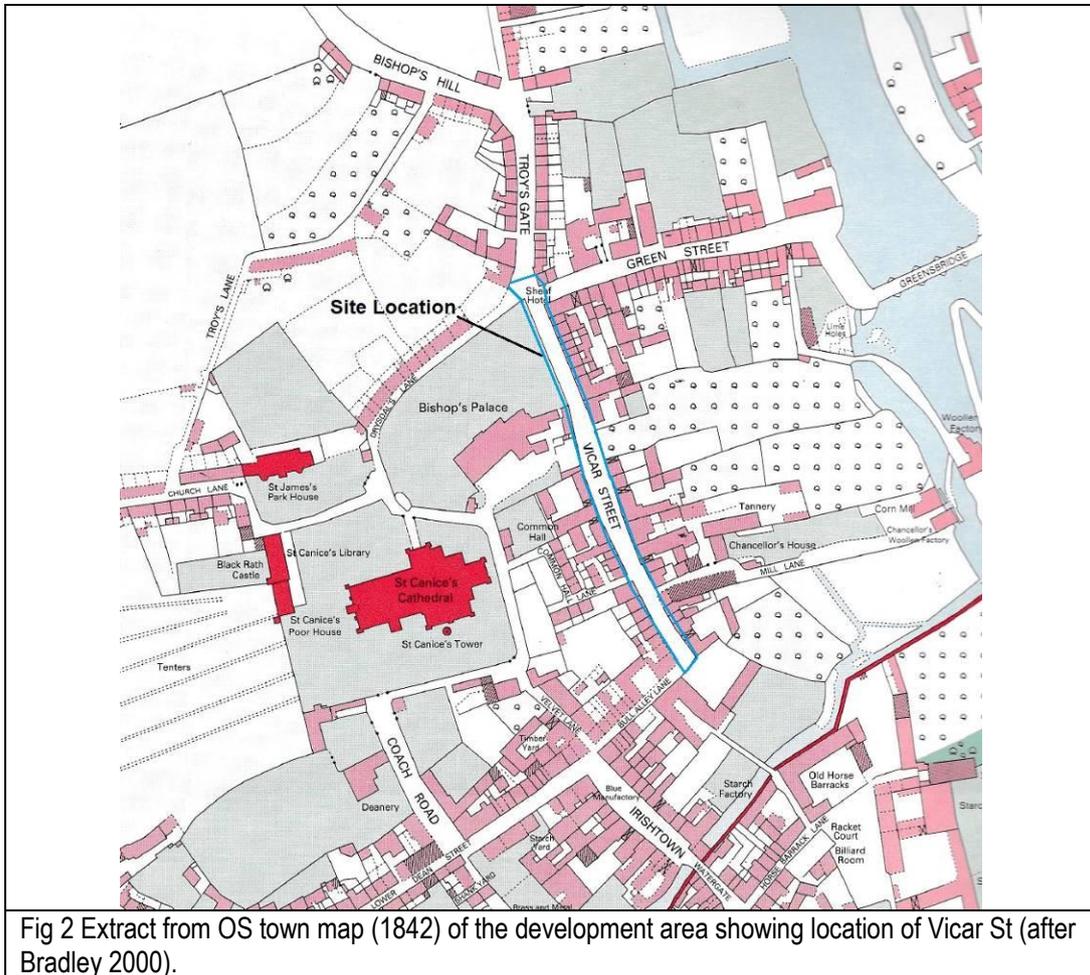


Fig 2 Extract from OS town map (1842) of the development area showing location of Vicar St (after Bradley 2000).

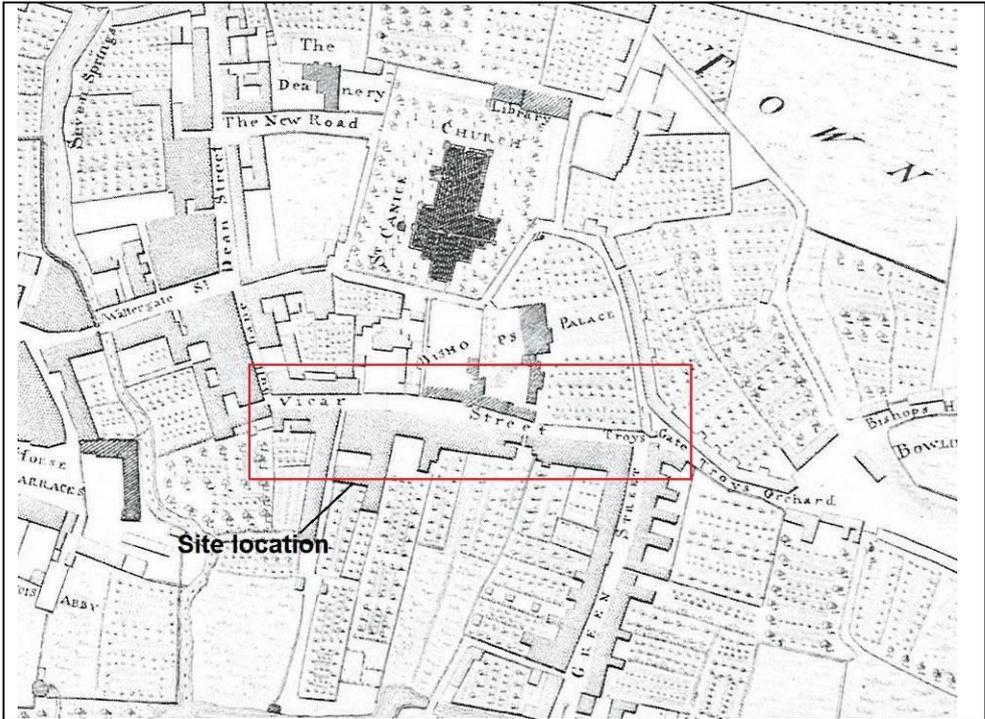
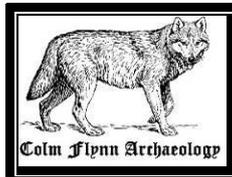


Fig 3 Extract from John Rocques Map of Kilkenny (1758) showing location of Vicar St.



Fig 4 Extract from Down Survey map (1656-8) of Kilkenny City (annotated).



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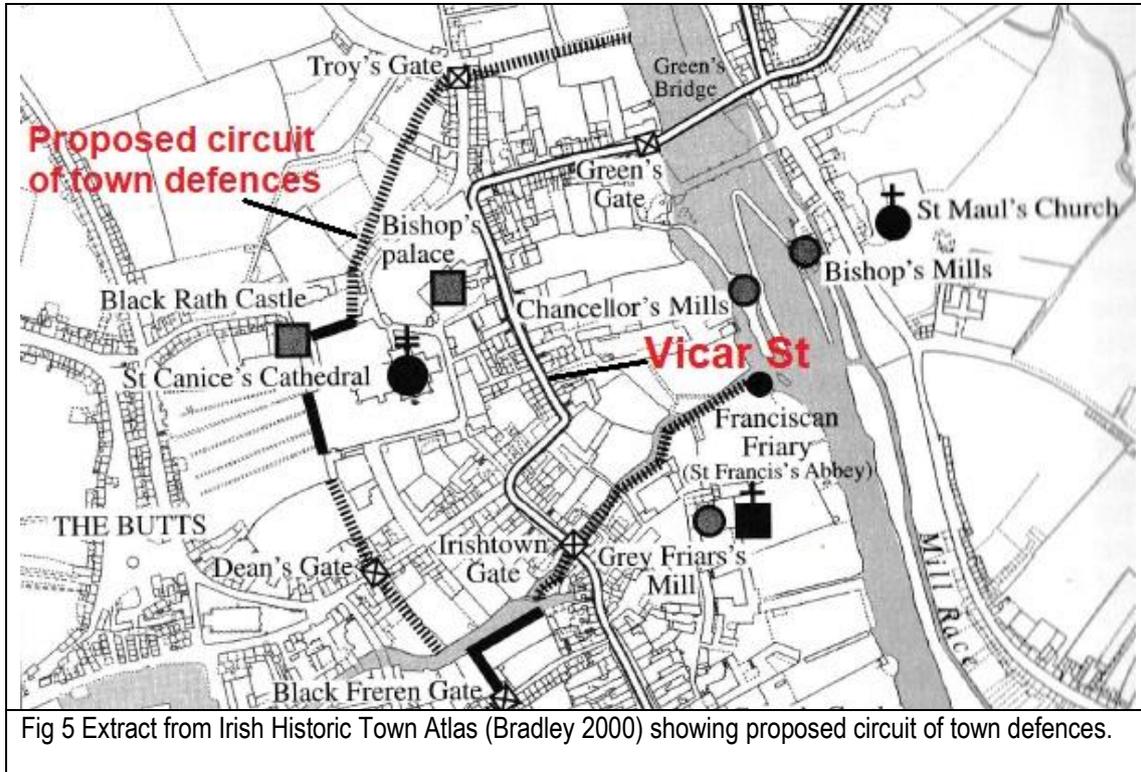


Fig 5 Extract from Irish Historic Town Atlas (Bradley 2000) showing proposed circuit of town defences.

