

**Report to the Irish Walled Towns Network
Re-couplement of Funding Allocation 2009**

November 2009

**from
The Councils of the City and County of Kilkenny**



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1. Introduction

This report details the City Walls projects undertaken in 2009, by the Council's of the City & County of Kilkenny, with funding from the Irish Walled Towns Network. The works were overseen by the Kilkenny City Walls Steering Committee, and all works were informed by the relevant recommendations and policies of the Kilkenny City Walls Conservation Plan, Heritage Council 2005 and in accordance with relevant Ministerial Consents, and best practise.

A summary of the main aims, actions and outcomes of each of the projects is enclosed. Details of all expenditure, and supporting documentation including invoices, are contained in the Appendices.

Projects undertaken in 2009 are as follows:

i. Talbot's Tower

- Completion of the Part 8 Planning Process for permission to complete the re-building/re-presentation works to the Tower and adjoining city wall.
- Welfare facilities for site workers
- Scaffolding
- Security

ii. City Wall at Abbey Street

- Obtaining Ministerial Consent C229
- Monitoring of the structural stability of City Wall
- Conservation Report on the repair works to the city wall
- Repairs to the City Wall

Project Name/Location: Talbot's Tower & adjacent city wall
City Walls Conservation Plan Policy No: 10.23
National Monument Ref: KK019-026
National Monuments Consent No: C240

This project consisted of 4 main elements:

- i. Completion of the Part 8 Planning Process to complete the re-building/re-presentation works to the Tower and adjoining city wall
- ii. Welfare facilities for site workers
- iii. Scaffolding
- iv. Security

(i) Completion of the Part 8 Planning Process to complete the re-building/re-presentation works to the Tower and adjoining city wall.

Kilkenny Borough Council commenced the Part 8 Planning Process in January 2009 and the scheme was approved by the elected members at the Council Meeting in April 2009. Consarc Design Group prepared a number of representation drawings & proposals for the site to the steering committee members and an agreed proposal was decided by the committee for the site. The scope of the works agreed were:

- Re-Building of the stairs to the top of the Tower
- Conservation Works to the Tower and the adjoining Town Walls
- Re-Configuration of the site area and all associated site works

The full Part 8 Planning application is attached in the Appendices.

(ii) Welfare facilities for site workers

Welfare facilities were provided on site. These included:

- Portacabin with office and welfare facilities (Provided by Ronanyne's). This involved the continued hire of the portacabin and then a settlement figure to purchase the portacabin.

Invoices are included in the appendices.

(iii) Scaffolding

This involved the continued hire of scaffolding around a section of the tower to allow access for conservation and repair works and then the final removal of the same section of scaffold. Provided by Swift Scaffold.

Invoices are included in the appendices.

(iv) Security

This involved night patrols of the site by C&C Security to ensure no unauthorized entry.

Invoices are included in the appendices.

TALBOTS TOWER : ENCLOSED IN APPENDICES:

- Figures
 - *Site location*
- Part 8 Planning Permission
- Photograph
- Invoices

Project Name/Location: Black Friars Gate & adjoining city wall
City Walls Conservation Plan Policy No: 10.7
National Monument Ref: KK019-026
National Monuments Consent No: C229

This project consists of 4 main elements:

- (i) Obtaining Ministerial Consent C229
- (ii) Monitoring of the structural stability of City Wall
- (iii) Conservation Report on the repair works to the city wall
- (iv) Repairs to the City Wall

(i) Obtaining Ministerial Consent C229

The scope of the conservation & structural works to the city wall at Abbey Street were identified in 2009 by Mott MacDonald Pettit's, Consultant Engineers retained on the project and formed the basis for the Ministerial Consent application. Kilkenny Borough Council applied for consent in May 2009. The DoEHLG responded in late June 2009 requesting further information and the further appointment of a Conservation Engineer to assess the scope of the scheme from a conservation perspective. Mott MacDonald Pettit's contracted the services of Ivor McElveen, Conservation Engineer and a report was commissioned by Ivor McElveen. The report is enclosed in the appendices and is entitled: 'Memorandum: Appraisal of proposed works to the city wall at Abbey Street, Kilkenny, August, 2009'.

In September 2009, Kilkenny Borough Council submitted all further information requested by the DoEHLG and on the 13th October, 2009, Kilkenny Borough Council received Ministerial Consent for the proposed works (C229).

Invoices are included in the appendices.

(ii) Monitoring of the structural stability of City Wall

Mott MacDonald Pettit, Consulting Engineers, was retained to monitor the stability of the city wall and arch from November 2007 to date. The monitoring was carried out on a monthly basis, in order to monitor any movements to the fabric. See "Monitoring Report City Walls. Mott MacDonald Pettit", in Appendices.

Invoices are included in the appendices.

(iii) Conservation Report on the repair works to the city wall

Under the Ministerial Consent process the DoEHLG requested that the proposed scheme under this phase of works be assessed by a suitably qualified Conservation Engineer with a proven track record in Architectural and Archaeological Heritage projects of a similar

size and to assess the suitability of the proposed method for use on the city wall from a conservation perspective and to assess alternative methods. Mr. Ivor McElveen, Conservation Engineer was appointed and produced a report - 'Memorandum: Appraisal of proposed works to the city wall at Abbey Street, Kilkenny, August, 2009'.

Invoices are included in the appendices. Ivor McElveen was paid through Mott MacDonald Pettit, Consulting Engineers as agreed with Kilkenny Borough Council.

(iv) Repairs to the City Wall

Mott MacDonald Pettit, Consulting Engineers, invited 4 stonemason companies to tender for the conservation and structural repair works to the city wall. Mott MacDonald Pettit prepared all the tender documentation including drawings and provided a tender report recommending - Cumnor Construction Ltd, Cork, to carry out the proposed works to the city wall.

Cumnor Construction Ltd was the lowest tender and carried out the works under the supervision of Mott MacDonald Pettit, Consulting Engineers, and Ivor McElveen, Conservation Engineer.

The scope of the works involved the stabilisation of selected affected areas of the city wall by vertical pinning the wall to the lower retaining wall using a proprietary method of concealed stainless steel rods. In addition to the steel rods the works involved masonry repairs and re pointing plus the re-capping of the wall. This work was carried out to both faces of the city wall.

Details, including photographs, of the repair work undertaken are in the Appendices including the working drawings from Mott Mac Donald Pettit, Consulting Engineers.

Invoices are included in the appendices.

CITY WALL AT ABBEY STREET : ENCLOSED IN APPENDICES:

- Figures
 - *Site location*
- Ministerial Consent No. C229 & W20
- Method Statement for Remedial Works. City Wall. Mott MacDonald Pettit
- Monitoring Report. Mott MacDonald Pettit
- Mr. Ivor McElveen , CV.
- ‘Memorandum: Appraisal of proposed works to the city wall at Abbey Street, Kilkenny, August, 2009’. Ivor McElveen
- Drawings
- Photographs
- Invoices