

TALBOT'S TOWER

Kilkenny

Conservation Report Completion of 2012 Works



Prepared by



8-9 Westmoreland Street
Dublin 2

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1. Introduction

This report addresses the conservation works carried out to Talbot's Tower in September to November 2012.

Talbot's Tower, also known as Talbot's Castle, is the only surviving complete defensive tower of Kilkenny City Walls.

The building is part of a Recorded Monument (Kilkenny City) and forms part of the city wall circuit, which is contained within the Zone of Archaeological Potential RMP KK19:26 *Historic Town* and is included in the Urban Archaeological Survey. The site is therefore protected under the National Monuments Act 1930-2004.

The tower is listed in the Development Plan for Kilkenny City and Environs 2008-2014 as a Protected Structure No: B129 and is within the Patrick's Street Designated Architectural Conservation Area.

All works are being carried out in accordance with: Ministerial Consent No C240 (updated 22 June 2012) and Part 8 Permission, received 14 April 2009.

The team consisted of the following:

Client:	Emir Slattery, Kilkenny Borough Council, City Hall, Kilkenny
Dept of A/H/G:	Maeve O'Callaghan, Government Offices, The Glen, Waterford Nessa Roche, Government Offices, Customs House, Dublin 1
Conservation Architect:	Consarc Conservation, 8-9 Westmorland Street, Dublin 2
Conservation Engineer:	Ivor McElveen, Corrageen, Rathnure, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
Building Archaeologist:	Ben Murtagh, Primrose Hill, Threecastles, Co. Kilkenny
Archaeologist:	Cóilín Ó Drisceoil, Kilkenny Archaeology, Unit 11 Abbey Business Centre, Abbey Street, Kilkenny City
Stone Masonry:	Tallis & Co. Ltd., Bridge Street, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny

2. Conservation works September – November 2012

Works started on site 10th September and were practically complete 23rd November 2012.

The conservation and repair works to the site have been phased over a number of years. Works were carried out in 2008, 2010 and 2011. The works this year, Phase 4, followed on from an overall programme of works and included:

1. Repairs to the north curtain wall
2. Repairs to the east curtain wall
3. Repair and rebuilding to the window embrasures
4. Repair of the flag stones to the roof, damaged by frost in 2010

Detailed drawings and specifications were produced and a list of drawings is enclosed in Appendix A.

Principles of good heritage practice in building conservation have been adhered to throughout the project. The men on site were accomplished stone masons with expertise in medieval masonry.

All materials were stored on pallets and protected to prevent damp penetration and protect against frost. Samples of sand and lime were inspected and agreed before works began. Samples of mortar and pointing were approved in advance and a sample left in-situ as an exemplar of best practice.

The works were well protected against the elements during the course of the project. All new lime work was protected with hessian, insulation and plastic. This was removed during daylight and reinstated at night. The works will continue to be protected over the winter months.

The conservation architect attended site on the following dates:

19 & 26 September;

03, 10 & 24 October;

07 & 21 November.

Ben Murtagh, archaeologist, was on site for much of the duration of the works.

North Curtain Wall Repair and Repointing Work



The section of north curtain wall before work started. Works undertaken included removal of vegetation, repair of wall top and some repointing.



View of the repaired wall top.



Repointing work underway



Detail of the repointing work. Samples of sand and exemplars of pointing were agreed in advance.

East Curtain Wall Repair and Repointing Work



View of the east curtain wall scaffolded and ready to commence work.



There was extensive vegetation and soil on the wall top. This was carefully removed.



Two images of work underway on the east wall



The wall was surveyed. Stones were numbered and removed in small batches before being rebuilt.



Victorian facing stones are numbered removed and reinstated



Detail of the completed wall top.

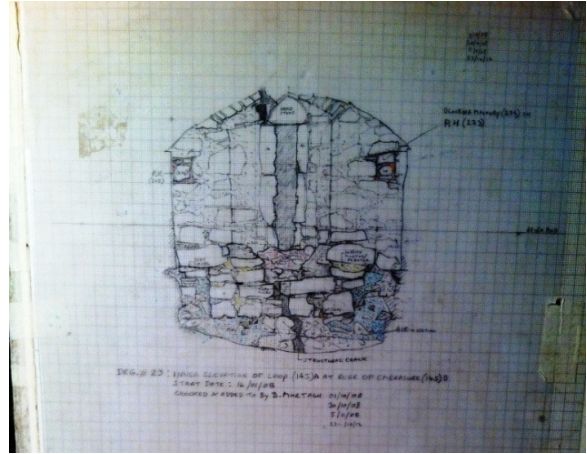


The completed wall top left, and right, protected from inclement weather

The Interior of the Tower



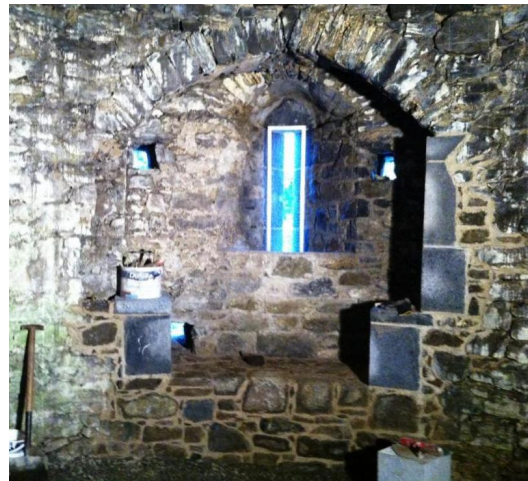
Loop No. 145. Surveying underway, before rebuilding commences



Survey of Loop No. 145 by archaeologist on site



The original footing and cobble floor was uncovered during excavation



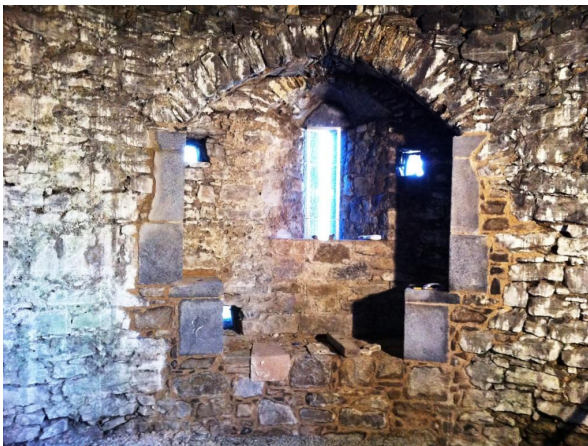
Loop No. 155. Rebuilding of window seats is based on archaeological evidence.



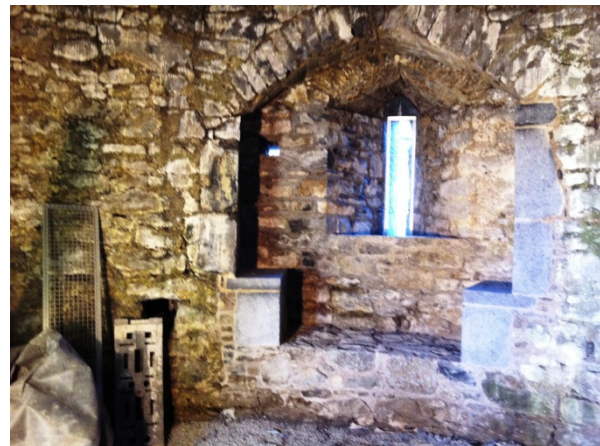
Loop No. 135. Detail of stone tooling and adjacent rubble stonework



Loop No. 135 during rebuilding of stone seats



Loop 155 completed



Loop 135 completed

Roof



The roof has been stripped back. Original flags remain in situ. New flags have been matched and re-laid in a lime bed.



The roof has been stripped back. Original flags remain in situ. New flags have been matched and re-laid in a lime bed.

Site



Samples of aggregate on site before work commenced.



Fresh mortar ready for application



The ditch will be completely protected over the winter with heavy duty membrane, fixed at the top and pinned into the face of the ditch.