

Tipperary County Council

N62 Slievenamon Road Phase 2
Road Improvement Scheme
Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report

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Executive Summary

The proposed N62 Slievenamon Road Phase 2 Road Improvement Scheme is located on the N62 Slievenamon Road, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The road length under consideration extends from the Slievenamon Road Roundabout at Thurles Shopping Centre at the southern extent to Liberty Square at the northern extent. The scheme is approximately 450m in length. The purpose of this Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) is to provide a survey and analysis of known cultural heritage sites which lie within the study area; assess the impact of the proposed scheme on cultural heritage; and make recommendations for any cultural heritage investigations/surveys or other measures that may be required to mitigate any predicted impacts/adverse effects on cultural heritage.

Thurles is classified as an historic town, Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) No. (SMR TN041-042-), as defined in the Urban Archaeological Survey of Thurles. In Thurles no traces of a walled town have ever been found and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) has recommended that the town defences designation (TN041-042007-) should not be included in the next revision of the Record of Monuments and Places. As the proposed scheme involves an upgrade of one of the main thoroughfares of Thurles, the works will have a direct impact on the Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) of the historic town, an area also encompassing a portion of the Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) of the town. This area of impact measures *circa* 200m length situated between Liberty Square and the N62/R659 Fianna Road / Thomond Road Junction.

The CHIA recommends that archaeological works in the form of Monitoring During Construction be undertaken on the portion of the scheme between the northern end at Liberty Square to the N62/R659 Fianna Road / Thomond Road junction, a distance of *circa* 200m. The CHIA report has shown that one previous archaeological investigation in this area revealed medieval archaeological deposits and features at *circa* 0.60m below the surface. It is recommended that no archaeological monitoring is necessary elsewhere on the scheme, south of the N62/R659 Fianna Road / Thomond Road junction as far as the southern end of the scheme at Thurles Shopping Centre.

The CHIA report has identified no impacts on the architectural heritage of the study area and it is recommended that no architectural mitigations are required. The scheme involves enhancement of the public realm in this part of Thurles and this proposal is appropriate when considering that the road was originally designed as a recreational route, and historically known as *The Mall*.

It is recommended that a licenced archaeological consultant is engaged by Tipperary County Council to undertake these archaeological services during the construction phase of the project. It is recommended that at the conclusion of all archaeological works a fully illustrated report will be produced and published supported by public dissemination events.

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Introduction

This Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report (CHIA) for the N62 Slievenamon Road Phase 2 Road Improvement Scheme (the scheme) has been prepared on behalf of Tipperary County Council (TCC). The CHIA report describes the potential cultural heritage impacts of the scheme and makes recommendations as to how these impacts may be avoided or reduced.

Project Background

The proposed scheme is located on the N62 Slievenamon Road, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Tipperary County Council (TCC) proposes to upgrade the N62 Slievenamon Road from the Dunnes Stores Shopping Centre roundabout at the southern end of the scheme to the junction of the N62 road at Liberty Square at the northern end of the scheme. The entire scheme is approximately 450m in length (Figure 1). Phase 1 of Liberty Square Urban Improvement scheme has concluded and Phase 2 is in the pre-planning/preliminary design stages. These Liberty Square schemes adjoin the northern end of the proposed scheme.

Report Methodology

The CHIA report involved the collation of all cultural heritage data within the study area and the analysis of this data to determine any likely cultural heritage impacts associated with the proposed scheme, the northern portion of which is situated within the Historic Town of Thurles, CHS1 (RMP TN041-042-) and also within Thurles Town Defences, CHS2 (RMP TN041-007-) (Figure 2). The CHIA report was supplemented by a visual and photographic survey of the area carried out in February 2022.

Site Location/Description

The N62 Slievenamon Road scheme is located in the townlands of Thurles Townparks (*Pháirceanna Baile Dhurlais*) and Stradavoher (*Shráid an Bhóthair*), in the civil parish of Thurles and in the barony of Eliogarty (*Éile Uí Fhógarta*). The N62 Slievenamon Road forms part of the main access into Thurles from the south linking the M8 Cork-Dublin motorway to the town centre. The site extends from Liberty Square – the main commercial centre of the town – at its northern end, to the 5-leg roundabout located at Dunnes Stores Shopping Centre at its southern end. Slievenamon Road is bisected by the N62/R659 Fianna Road / Thomond Road junction with a short *cul-de-sac*, Kavanagh place, located at its southern end beside the *Gardaí* Station.

The scheme involves upgrading the N62 road and local road junctions, the footpaths, and new utilities services. The drainage services will include a new culvert from the N62/R659 junction down Thomond Road, to connect to the existing Phase 1 Liberty Square drainage network. The scheme involves to impacts on the River Suir.

The buildings to the north of the N62/R659 junction are primarily commercial with “over the shop” residential units. The northern portion of the scheme comprises a portion of the historic core of medieval Thurles, with those properties fronting Liberty Square / Main Street being located on the original medieval burgage plots of the town. Some of the oldest architectural buildings within the scheme are therefore located north of the N62/R659 junction, and are nineteenth-century and later in date. The buildings to the south of the junction are primarily residential comprising semi-detached and terrace properties with intermittent commercial units including a service station. These buildings are chiefly twentieth-century in date, with the occasional nineteenth-century building still surviving. Slievenamon Road has a distinctive

wide linear pattern in comparison to the other streets of Thurles and this report will show that this pattern derives from the road itself having been designed at the end of the Recency Period, 1830's onwards by being part of *The Mall* walking/recreational route of the town. This new urban design radically replaced the narrower curvature of the medieval street pattern, which survives elsewhere in the town.

Planning Policy and Legislation

All archaeological monuments listed on the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM), the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or the register of national monuments are protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930–2004 (Figure 3). A monument—as defined by Section 2 of the Act—includes, in effect, all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. Further definitions of terms such as archaeology, archaeological object, architectural heritage, heritage building, heritage gardens and parks, heritage objects and monuments are provided by the Heritage Act 1995.

Recorded Archaeological Sites

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is the statutory list of protected places and monuments established under Section 12(1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. In the Record of Monuments and Places (and accompanying Sites & Monuments Record, SMR) no archaeological sites are recorded for Stradavoher; the following archaeological sites are recorded for Thurles Townparks (Table 1):

SMR / RMP No.	Townland	Site Type	Legal Status	ITM
TN041-042-	Garryvicleheen, Monacocka, Thurles Townparks	Historic town	SMR	612638, 658672
TN041-042001-	Thurles Townparks	Castle - tower house	SMR	612493, 658667
TN041-042002-	Thurles Townparks	Castle - tower house	SMR	612818, 658694
TN041-042004-	Thurles Townparks	Castle - motte	SMR	612469, 658703
TN041-042005-	Thurles Townparks	Sheela-na-gig	SMR	612576, 658566
TN041-042006-	Thurles Townparks	Bridge	SMR	612850, 658706
TN041-042007-	Thurles Townparks	Town defences	SMR	612608, 658669
TN041-042008-	Thurles Townparks	Religious house - Carmelite friars	SMR	612928, 658793
TN041-042009-	Thurles Townparks	Church	SMR	613280, 658867
TN041-042010-	Thurles Townparks	Tomb - effigial	SMR	613301, 658860
TN041-042011-	Thurles Townparks	Graveslab	SMR	613277, 658852
TN041-042012-	Thurles Townparks	Memorial stone	SMR	613272, 658876
TN041-042013-	Thurles Townparks	Castle - Anglo-Norman masonry castle	SMR	0,0
TN041-042014-	Thurles Townparks	Fortification	SMR	0,0
TN041-042015-	Thurles Townparks	Gateway	SMR	612528, 658623

TN041-042016-	Thurles Townparks	Gateway	SMR	612833, 658699
TN041-042017-	Thurles Townparks	House - indeterminate date	SMR	612500, 658660
TN041-042019-	Thurles Townparks	Graveyard	SMR	613262, 658834
TN041-042020-	Thurles Townparks	Bawn	SMR	612507, 658666
TN041-042021-	Thurles Townparks	Stone sculpture (present location)	SMR	612422, 658772
TN041-090----	Thurles Townparks	Battlefield	SMR	0,0
TN041-091----	Thurles Townparks	Battlefield	SMR	0,0

Table 1: List of SMR/RMP Sites in Thurles Townparks townland. Source: <https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>

As can be seen from four of the above SMR entries, (TN041-042013-, TN041-042014-, TN041-090- & TN041-091-) the exact location of some of these archaeological sites within Thurles Townparks remains unknown.

Under Section 14 of the *National Monuments Act 1930* (as amended) the consent of the Minister is required for archaeological works at or near a National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a local authority or to which a preservation order applies. The Minister is required to consult with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland in relation to such an application for Consent.

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires that a local authority set up and maintain a Record of Protected Structures which consists of structures that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. Designation confers protection on land and structures within the curtilage of the Protected Structure. Curtilage is not defined within the legislation but can be taken to include the parcel of land immediately associated with the structure and which is (or was) in use for the purposes of the structure (DoEHLG 2004, 191). In the case of a country house the curtilage may include such features as the stable buildings, coach-house, gate piers, gates, walled garden and lawns, unless they are located at a distance from the main building. Attendant grounds are defined as lands which lie outside the curtilage of a protected structure, but are intrinsic to its appreciation, function or setting (*ibid.*, 192). The entire demesne of a country house may be considered as attendant grounds, along with any structures/features within it such as follies, plantations, earthworks and lakes. However, structures/features within the attendant grounds are not automatically protected and require specific inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures (*ibid.*), (Figures 4 & 5).

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) also requires that a planning authority include an objective in its development plan to preserve the character of a place, area, group of structures or townscape if it is of the opinion that its inclusion is necessary for the preservation of the character of that area. Such an area is known as an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) and is defined as a place, area, group of structures or townscape that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or that contributes to the appreciation of a protected structure (*ibid.*).

Tipperary County Development Plan 2014–2020 (As Varied)

The Tipperary County Development Plan 2014–2020 sets out the Council's objectives in terms of the protection and promotion of built and cultural heritage. The objectives of particular note with regard to the present scheme are set out below (Tipperary County Council 2010, 96-99).

Section 7.5 Built Heritage

Built heritage describes unique and irreplaceable architecture of particular significance and merit preservation for future generation. It includes all aspects of the man-made environment including, buildings, cemeteries, streetscapes, sites, bridges, roads, railways, and monuments. These elements have acquired special interest and significance over time. Built heritage contributes to a sense of place and identity and its protection and enhancement is a key aim of the Plan (as varied).

Section 7.5.1 Protected Structures

The Planning and Development Act 2000, (as amended) sets out a legal framework for the protection of built heritage and requires that Development Plans incorporate a Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Buildings or structures included in the RPS may have particular importance in terms of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. Works which would materially alter the character of a protected structure or any element thereof which contribute to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest require planning permission. Owners and occupiers intending to carry out works to a protected structure may seek a Declaration under Section 57 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000, (as amended). This Declaration states what types of work can be carried out without materially affecting the character of the structure and hence not require permission. Applicants proposing to carry out works to a protected structure are advised to seek the advice of a conservation professional in preparing development proposals. The Council, having regard to the nature and scope of proposed works may require the submission of an Architectural Impact Assessment and method statements to facilitate the assessment of the development proposal. The RPS for the county is set out as a separate volume to this Plan (as varied).

Policy LH13: Protected Structures

It is the policy of the Council to encourage the sympathetic restoration, re-use and maintenance of protected structures thereby ensuring their conservation and protection. In considering proposals for development, the Council will have regard to the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities, (DAHG 2011) or any amendment thereof, and proposals that will have an unacceptable impact on the character and integrity of a protected structure or adjoining protected structure will not be permitted.

Section 7.5.2 Architectural Conservation Areas

Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) are places, areas, groups of structures or a townscape which are of special interest or contribute to the appreciation of a protected structure. ACAs are designated in certain towns and villages for the purposes of maintaining the unique character of such townscapes and villages. In an ACA, the carrying out of works to the exterior of a structure will be exempted development only if these works would not materially affect the character of the area. Furthermore, works must be consistent with the appearance of the structure itself and neighbouring structures.

Policy LH14: Architectural Conservation Areas

It is the policy of the Council to ensure the enhancement and management of ACAs. Within the ACAs the Council will have regard to (a) The impact of proposed

development on the character, appearance and integrity of the ACA in terms of compatibility of design, colour and finishes, and massing of built form; (b) The impact of proposed development on the existing amenities, character and heritage of these areas; and, (c) The need to retain important architectural and townscape elements such as shopfronts, sash windows, gutters and down pipes, decorative plasterwork, etc.

Section 7.5.3 Architectural Heritage of Local Interest

The Council recognises that structures of architectural merit, not included in the RPS may make a contribution to the built fabric of local areas. These structures include the many examples of vernacular architecture or traditional building forms and types which have been built using local materials, skills and techniques. These buildings contribute, both individually and collectively to the character, heritage and identity of the county, therefore, the Council will encourage the retention, maintenance and positive re-use of such buildings and features where feasible.

Policy LH15: Architectural Heritage of Local Interest

It is the policy of the Council to encourage the sympathetic restoration, re-use and maintenance of buildings/features which are considered to be of local architectural importance.

Section 7.5.4 Archaeological and Cultural Heritage

Archaeological heritage and cultural heritage includes all structures, constructions, groups of buildings, developed sites, recorded monuments and their settings and includes both terrestrial and underwater features. Archaeological Sites are legally protected under the National Monument Acts, 1930 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000, (as amended). The National Monuments Act 1994 made provision for compilation of all known monuments in the county, known as the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). In addition, there are a number of monuments protected by virtue of being in state ownership or guardianship.

Policy LH16: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

It is the policy of the Council to safeguard sites, features and objects of archaeological interest, including monuments on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the Record of Monuments and Places (as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994) and archaeological remains found within Zones of Archaeological Potential (ZAPs) located in historic towns and other urban and rural areas. In safeguarding such features of archaeological interest, the Council will seek to secure the preservation (i.e., preservation in situ or in exceptional circumstances preservation by record) and will have regard to the advice and recommendation of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Where developments, due to their location, size or nature, may have implications for archaeological heritage, the Council may require archaeological assessment to be carried out. This may include for a requirement for a detailed Visual Impact Assessment of the proposal and how it will impact on the character or setting of adjoining archaeological features. Such developments include those that are located at or close to an archaeological monument or site, those that are extensive in terms of area (1/2 ha or more) or length (1 kilometre or more), those that may impact the underwater environment and developments that require an Environmental Impact Statement.

Current Tipperary County Council Planning Policy and Objectives

The policy and objectives in the Thurles and Environs Development Plan 2009–2015 are supported in the current County Tipperary Heritage Plan 2017-2021, which aims to raise

public awareness and appreciation of Tipperary's rich heritage and to protect it for future. Three key objectives and associated actions for Tipperary's heritage are listed and relate to (a) the promotion of awareness and appreciation, (b) active conservation and (c) supporting the gathering and dissemination of information on the heritage of Tipperary.

As a framework for the economic development of Tipperary the current Local Economic and Community Plan 2015-2020 (LECP)¹⁰ compliments the County Development Plan's policies on spatial planning, settlement and land use policies. It recognises the importance of the creation of top-quality living places which will enhance the 'wellbeing' of their residents, and that developments should 'be *appropriate to the location* and must be supported to meet the needs of the potential investors for that area', with tourism development in line with current Fáilte Ireland tourism initiatives (Ireland's Ancient East, Hidden Heartlands, Destination Tipperary and Munster Vales)¹¹ being a key economic priority.

The current County Development Plan in place for Thurles is the North Tipperary Development Plan 2010 (as varied)¹². This plan lists a number of policies and objectives relating to cultural heritage including policies governing the treatment of architectural buildings of significance (Policy LH15: Architectural Heritage of Local Interest); archaeological heritage (Policy LH16: Policy LH16: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage).

National Monuments and Places

A Zone of Archaeological Potential has been identified by the National Monuments Section of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in Thurles Town (Figures 3 & 6). This zone along with other sites and features of archaeological significance are listed by the National Monuments Section in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and are protected by National Monument legislation.

The Council will require the preparation of archaeological assessment where a proposed development is located at or close to known archaeological monuments or sites, including site works that are extensive in terms of area (ground disturbance of half hectare or more) or length (1 kilometre or more) and developments that require an Environmental Impact Statement. In this regard the Council will consult with the DECLG and other statutory consultees when considering applications for planning permission for development on or in the vicinity of archaeological sites and/or monuments.

Policy AH 3: Archaeology

It is the policy of the Council to safeguard sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally and the Council will protect (in-situ where practicable or as a minimum, preservation by record) all monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places and sites, features and objects of archaeological and historical interest generally.

County Tipperary Heritage Plan 2017-2021

The three key objectives of the plan Tipperary Heritage Plan 2017-2021 are:

- Promote Awareness and Appreciation of the Heritage of Tipperary.
- Promote Active Conservation of the Heritage of Tipperary.
- Support Gathering and Dissemination on the Heritage of Tipperary.

Cultural Heritage Assessment

The following Cultural Heritage Sites (CHS) have been identified within the scheme extents. A full description of these CHS sites is contained in Appendices 1 & 2 below.

CHS No.	Townland	Site Type	Legal Status	RMP No.	Dist. from Scheme (m)
CHS 1	Garryvicleheen, Monacocka, Townparks	Historic town	SMR	TN041-042	0
CHS 2	Townparks	Town defences	SMR	TN041-042005	0
CHS 3	Townparks	Sheela-na-gig	SMR	TN041-042007	52

Table 2: List of SMR/RMP Cultural Heritage Sites (CHS) within the scheme extents

CHS No.	Townland & Location	Name	Rating	RPS & NIAH Nos.	Dist. from Scheme (m)
CHS 4	Townparks. 14 Liberty Square	Permanent TSB, Bank	Regional	RPS 86. NIAH 22312086	0
CHS 5	Townparks. 15-16 Liberty Square	DD's Boutique, Shop	Regional	RPS 87. NIAH 22312087	0
CHS 6	Townparks. Slievenamon Road	<i>Coláiste Éile</i> , Office	Regional	RPS 110. NIAH 22312110	0
CHS 7	Townparks. Slievenamon Road	Dawn, Public House	Regional	RPS 111. NIAH 22312111	0
CHS 8	Townparks. Slievenamon Road	<i>Lár na Páirce</i> , GAA Museum	Regional	RPS 112. NIAH 22312112	0
CHS 9	Townparks. Slievenamon Road	16th Heavy Mortar Battery Hall, Centre	Regional	RPS 113. NIAH 22312113	0
CHS 10	Townparks. Slievenamon Road	Carrigan and Co. Solicitors, Office	Regional	RPS 114. NIAH 22312114	0
CHS 11	Townparks. Slievenamon Road	Office, House	Regional	RPS 115. NIAH 22312115	0
CHS 12	Townparks. Slievenamon Road	Bamboo Garden Restaurant, Shop	Regional	RPS 120. NIAH 22312120	0
CHS 13	Townparks. Slievenamon Road	Terraced house	Regional	RPS 121. NIAH 22312121	0
CHS 14	Townparks. Slievenamon Road	Terraced house	Regional	RPS 122. NIAH 22312122	0
CHS 15	Townparks. Slievenamon Road	Terraced house	Regional	RPS 123. NIAH 22312123	0
CHS 16	Townparks. Slievenamon Road	Elm Lea, Terraced house	Regional	RPS 124. NIAH 22312124	0
CHS 17	Townparks. Slievenamon Road	Terraced house	Regional	RPS 125. NIAH 22312125	0
CHS 18	Townparks. Slievenamon Road	Dwelling, detached house	Regional	RPS 126. NIAH 22312126	0
CHS 19	Townparks. Thomond Road	End of terrace house	Regional	RPS 127. NIAH 22312127	0

CHS 20	Townparks. Thomond Road	Terraced house	Regional	RPS 128. NIAH 22312128	0
CHS 21	Townparks. Thomond Road	Terraced house	Regional	RPS 129. NIAH 22312129	0
CHS 22	Townparks. Knox Community Hall, Slievenamon Road	Community Hall	Regional	RPS 132. NIAH 22312132	0
CHS 23	Townparks. Parochial School, Slievenamon Road	Parochial School, House	Regional	RPS 133. NIAH 22312133	0
CHS 24	Townparks. Dawn Cottage Pets, Slievenamon Road	House, Shop	Regional	RPS 135. NIAH 22312135	0
CHS 25	Townparks. Slievenamon Road	End of terrace house	Regional	RPS 136. NIAH 22312136	0
CHS 26	Townparks. Slievenamon Road	Terraced house	Regional	RPS 137. NIAH 22312137	0
CHS 27	Townparks. Slievenamon Road	Terraced corner house	Regional	RPS 138. NIAH 22312138	0
CHS 28	Townparks. Slieve Bloom, Kavanagh Place	Semi-detached house	Regional	RPS 139. NIAH 22312139	0
CHS 29	Townparks. Slieve Donard, Kavanagh Place	Semi-detached house	Regional	RPS 140. NIAH 22312140	0

Table 3: List of RPS/NIAH Cultural Heritage Sites (CHS) within the scheme extents

Cartographic Representations

Thurles town is depicted on the mid seventeenth-century Down Survey map, but with no level of detail regarding town defences, street patterns, etc. shown. The earliest map of Thurles showing individual buildings is a Rocque's map dated to 1755 (Figure 7), which primarily charts the military encampment of Thurles, focused on the grounds of Cabra Castle and undertaken on behalf of the earl of Rothes (O'Sullivan 2008, 118). This map, the earliest surviving engineering survey of the town, shows block outline buildings at either side of the River Suir and as far as the western limit of Liberty Square; Black Castle or the motte of Thurles are depicted, with castle gardens laid out to the north, northwest and northeast of the tower and house, and Castle Avenue is in place. Tentative evidence for a possible town ditch or boundary along the southern side of burgage plots in the south of the town is also shown on this map, possibly within the proposed study area.

An 1827 map of part of the earl of Llandaff's estate survives, surveyed in 1818, and provides a record of properties and estate leaseholders in Thurles in this period (Figure 8). This map depicts the surviving extent of the medieval burgage plots running at right-angles off Main Street. The plots extended down the northern end of the study area, before terminating at an east-west boundary running approximately between what later became properties CHS 8 and CHS 9. It is unclear from the map what this boundary consisted of but by this period it could be assumed that the boundary was walled. A number of narrow laneways following the line of the burgage plots indicate a street network linking down to the west bank of the River Suir. This street pattern evolved into *The Mall* as is represented in early photographs of Thurles (Plates 1 & 2).

The first-edition six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map (published October 1843; Figure 9) indicates the first surviving cartographic evidence of what we now know as Slievenamon Road; however, the new street is un-named on this map. The new street is distinctive by its wide, linear pattern extending from the junction with Liberty Square southwards to the junction with Deerheen Street (also un-named on this map). On this map buildings CHS 4, CHS 5, CHS 6, CHS 9, CHS 10 and CHS 11 are indicated along the new street, with the east side of the street lined with trees fronting agricultural lands to rear. The N62/R659 junction did not exist, with a road known as *The Mall* [Thomond Road] running from the new street along the west side of the river and terminating at Barry's bridge. One large building is indicated along *The Mall* [Thomond Road], now occupied by CHS 19, CHS 20 and CHS 21 although at this time these buildings did not exist. An un-named stream leads off the new street toward the river at ITM 6122688, 658353. This location is now built over (Figure 10).

Another very important cartographic source for the urban development of the town in the Victorian period are the Estate Maps of Viscount De Chabot, dated 1859, when the Thurles part of the estate was auctioned. One map shows *The Mall* as a defined walking route skirting the west bank of the river, heading south to Clongour and returning into the town via Stradavoher (Figure 11). Named features within and near the study area include an *osiery*, *Obins Holding*, *The Mall* (opposite *College Land*) and *The Mall Walk* (opposite *Moonakeeba*) along the west bank of the river (Plate 1). Another Estate Map of Viscount De Chabot shows the sale of Lot 12, a portion of which includes building and property No.282 (CHS 4), on the road *From Turtulla*. CHS 9, the newly-built 16th Heavy Mortar Battery Hall is indicated at lower right of this map (Figure 11).

The twenty-five-inch OS map (surveyed 1901–5; Figure 13) shows a more developed town, with more extensive ranges of buildings fronting onto the streets and with associated buildings to the rear of many plots in the town. Between Liberty Square and the N62/R659 junction, Slievenamon Road was called Bank Street; this name obviously derived from the National Bank (CHS 8) being located on the street. The buildings CHS 8, CHS 10 and CHS 11 are depicted, in addition to those already recorded on the first-edition six-inch OS map. CHS 9, the 16th Heavy Mortar Battery Hall is now indicated as Wesleyan Chapel. Across the road there was a large garden around the National Bank (CHS 8), between it and buildings/offices CHS 10 and CHS 11.

The N62/R659 junction shows both side streets named North Mall [Thomond Road] and Deerheen Mall [Fianna Road] respectively. The south side of Deerheen Mall is lined with new terraced houses and the north side of this street is un-occupied, presumably agricultural land still. The North Mall has new terraced houses partially along both sides of the road; buildings CHS 19, CHS 20 and CHS 21 are indicated as part of a terrace extending east to the corner of the riverbank. Beyond N62/R659 junction two short streets extend eastward from Slievenamon Road to the riverside; South Mall [Kavanagh Place] is indicated and a narrow, un-named street further to the south, the location of which is now occupied by the *Gardaí* Station. A *Pump* is indicated at the corner of South Mall [Kavanagh Place] and Slievenamon Road within a field 1.346 acres in size; the location is now also built over. Further along South Mall [Kavanagh Place] a *Smithy* amongst a small cluster of buildings is shown on the southern side of the street with five buildings shown across the road. Trees still line the eastern side of Slievenamon Road on either side of South Mall [Kavanagh Place], (Plates 3 & 4). The western side of Slievenamon Road remained undeveloped with only the Parochial School, CHS 23 shown on the map. The school is set back from the road with gardens on

each side. One large triangular field, 1.510 acres in size occupied the remainder of the western side of Slievenamon Road to its junction with Deerheen Road, now named on the map (Figure 14).

In summary, the cartographic and early photographic representations of the study area depict an urban streetscape slowly extending southward along the new Bank Street/Slievenamon Road from the 1830's onwards, with a rural landscape largely remaining in place between North Mall [Thomond Road] and Deerheen Mall [Fianna Road] as far as the junction with Deerheen / Davis Road. The new shorter sections of roads linked Slievenamon Road with the footpath (The Mall) which followed the west bank of the riverside and enhanced this new suburb for recreational activities (Plates 1 & 2).

Archaeological and Historical Background

The etymology of the anglicised place name *Thurles* may provide some suggestions regarding the origin of this town. Irish references to Thurles include *Durlas Éile Uí Fhogartaigh*, with the *Durlas* (Thurles) element interpreted as meaning a strong oaken fort, *Éile* being the territory within which the *Uí Fhogartaigh* (O'Fogarty) were the prominent family during the early medieval period and until the late twelfth century (Nolan 1989, 1; see also www.logainm.ie). This name implies that the principal early medieval settlement and fortification of the O'Fogartys was located in this area and the suggested location is at the northwestern limit of the historic town (site of a subsequent Anglo-Norman motte (TN041-042004). In 1995, an archaeological excavation in the vicinity of the motte (Excavation Licence 95E0150; DIER entry 1995:261) did identify possible evidence for a 3.7m deep ditch-like feature which was tentatively interpreted as being a ditch or fosse associated with either the motte or the later fifteenth-century Black Castle (TN041-042001).

The presence of an early medieval monastic site in Thurles has been suggested (O'Flanagan, 1930) at *Religbreeda* – or St Bridget's burial ground (TN041-042018) at the western side of the Cork–Dublin railway line, but this claim has not been archaeologically substantiated to date. No traces of a monastic enclosure survive fossilised within the modern streetscape, and evidence for relict features typically associated with or defining a monastic enclosure are not depicted on the six-inch OS map of 1843. The earliest documented sources for this site include a reference from 1293 which records the site as the *Chapel of Codach* (Johnstone 1989, 187), belonging to the Cistercian Abbey of Owney (Abington) in Limerick. As a possession of the Cistercian Abbey, it was used as part security for a loan of £1,000 from Italian bankers in 1293 (ibid). While a medieval church (TN041-042003) occupied this site, the Civil Survey of the 1650s does not include any reference to a church or graveyard at this location, suggesting that the church was demolished by this time (Simington 1930)

In the Ordnance Survey of the 1840s, O'Donovan associated the adjacent named road *Bohermanave* ('the road of the saints') with the site and used that as a determining factor in suggesting that this was a monastic site (O'Donovan c.1840 in O'Flanagan 1930, vol. 3, 8). The graveyard of Religbreeda continued in use until c.1929. A previous archaeological investigation in the car park of the adjacent railway station in Thurles (Appendix 1: excavation licence no: 06E0495; DIER entry 2006:1925;) did not identify any features of archaeological significance.

Ninth- and twelfth-century annalistic references imply a settlement at *Durlas* (Thurles). Three such examples are cited in the Urban Archaeological Survey (Farrelly & Carey 1994, 8.5)

and include an entry for the year AD844 when St Ciarán arrived at Durlas in order to discipline Feidhimid mac Crimthainn for a raid on the monastic site of Clonmacnoise. The Annals of the Four Masters also record a battle at Thurles in 1174 featuring the successfully combined forces of Ruaidhri Ua Conchobhair and Domhnall Ua Briain vied against an Anglo-Norman army propped up by (presumably) mercenary Ostmen in the heart of the Anglo-Norman colony of Eliogarty (Empey 1989, 32). A second battle of Thurles is recorded in the Annals of Inisfallen in 1192 in which the Irish were again documented as victors against the Anglo-Normans during their advance through Munster.

No medieval town charter for Thurles survives; however, the presence of a substantial settlement in Thurles by the year 1206 is inferred from historical sources. In return for knights' fees and service, Thurles was granted to Gilbert de Kentewell in a grant of the fief of Drum by Theobald Walter. In this grant, specific reference to the castle of Durlas is made (Calendar of Ormond Deeds, vol I, 18, lit. 34; cited in Nolan 1989, 2; Empey 1898, 32; Farrelly & Carey 1994, 9.2). This castle undoubtedly refers to a motte structure on which a (possibly timber) Anglo-Norman castle was constructed, along with a military core and settlement in the heart of the manor and administrative centre of Thurles. A wider settlement was most likely developed around the castle, although little direct evidence for structures or features from this period have been uncovered in excavations in this part of the town to date. As with the destruction of similar castles in Tipperary (Kilfeakle and Knockgraffon mottes built in 1192 and destroyed in the following years by the O'Brien's), the castle of Thurles was attacked and captured by Hugh de Lacy in 1208 (Bassett 1991, 371; Davis-White 1892, 9).

The Knights Templar are associated with Thurles and the supposed construction of an early castle on the site of the fifteenth-century Bridge Castle (TN041-042002) which protected the eastern approach to the town (O'Flanagan 1930, vol. 3, 4). Archaeological investigations (Excavation Licence 02E1841; DIER entry 2002:1765; see Appendix 1) adjacent to the extant tower have not conclusively proven the existence of an earlier castle; however, monitoring works as part of the Thurles Town Water Mains Rehabilitation Scheme (Excavation Licence E4364; Ó Drisceoil 2014) did identify remnants of a later medieval structure, possibly representing the northern side of the later medieval gatehouse.

In the late thirteenth century, a Carmelite Friary (TN041-042008) was established at Thurles under the patronage of the Butler family, on the site of the present Cathedral of Thurles (Farrelly & Carey 1994). By the time of the dissolution of the monasteries in the sixteenth century, it comprised a church, a chapter house, three chambers, a stable and two gardens, all in ruins. The friary was never rebuilt, although the friars did maintain a sporadic presence in the town until the eighteenth century.

The location of the medieval parish church of Thurles remains unclear; however, some suggestions locate it at the site of St Mary's church (TN041-042009) which would have been beyond the limits of the medieval town. An early sixteenth-century double-effigial tomb (TN041-042010) of the Archer family, as well as a possible contemporary grave slab (TN041-042001) and a late seventeenth-century memorial stone (TN041-042012), are located in the graveyard of this church. Evidence for the possible original north-south orientated boundary wall of this graveyard, as well as inhumation burials, were uncovered as part of the archaeological investigations along the Thurles Town Water Mains Rehabilitation Scheme (Excavation Licence E4364; Ó Drisceoil 2014).

In describing medieval Thurles Bradley (1985, 52–54) writes ‘*The medieval town was sited on the west bank of the river Suir. It covered a roughly sub-rectangular area measuring about 275 m E-W and 200 m N-S, giving it an area of approximately 5.5 hectares or slightly more than 13 acres...Its street layout is still largely intact with the burgage plot pattern surviving along Main Street (Liberty Square). Portion of the castle and a fortified town house which also formed part of the town defences are extant while the site of the Carmelite Friary may be plotted. The street plan is linear and consists, like Fethard, of one important street, Main Street. The broad width of the street on the south side [Slievenamon Road], leading to Cashel, suggests that it is of post-medieval date and the original plan of Thurles may have been similar to that of Fethard with the Main Street diverging at the west end, northwards to Borrisoleigh and Nenagh, and south-west to Holycross and Cashel. Main street most likely functioned as the town’s market-place. The importance of the site probably lay in its control of the ford and the bridge [Barry’s Bridge] may be an old feature...The course of the town wall can be traced only from the boundary walls of the burgage plots. South of the bridge the wall followed the river for a distance of about 150 m and then turned westwards where its line is preserved in the south boundary of the plots fronting onto Main Street. The wall turned north to ‘West Gate’, which only survives as a placename and then presumably enclosed the plots on the north side of Main Street before returning to the river. The fifteenth century tower house [Bridge Castle] adjoining the bridge probably functioned as a gatehouse. The town received a murage grant for twenty years in 1356/7.*’ (1985, 52–54).

The subject of the defences of the medieval town of Thurles is enigmatic as little comprehensive physical evidence of these (either in the form of defensive earthen bank and ditch, or later stone wall) has been identified in the many archaeological investigations conducted in the town to date. The postulated line of the town defences as suggested by Bradley (1985) and Thomas (1992) is based on the pattern of streets and property boundaries surviving, and on the layout and development of other Anglo-Norman towns (see CHS 2, illustration in Appendix 1). While provision was made for the collection of murage for the construction of a defensive town wall in 1356–7, it is not clear if a circuit of walls was ever constructed.

Evidence for later medieval gates does survive; indeed, the fifteenth-century Bridge Castle (TN041-042002) at the crossing point on the Suir was part of the East Gate into the town. A West Gate (*Geata na gCoileach*) stood on Friar Street until the nineteenth century, but no references survive for associated mural defences. No evidence for the West Gate was identified in archaeological investigations on Friar Street in 2003), but Ó’Drisceoil noted the presence of a linear ditch feature which may have been an original boundary to the town on Friar Street (Excavation Licence 03E0806; DIER entry 2003:1815).

There is no town wall depicted on the Down Survey map of the mid seventeenth-century, and Rocque does not indicate any circuit of walls on his Thurles map of 1755. Rocque’s map of Thurles possibly shows this line but no corresponding features are shown elsewhere on the map (Figure 7). Along and adjacent to this southern line, archaeological excavations have been conducted at Croke Street (Excavation Licence and DIER entry nos. 10E0065, 2010:632; 00E0540, 2000:0968; 01E0542, 2001:1231; 01E0542 (ext), 2002:1763; see Appendix 1) and at Slievenamon Road (Excavation Licence No. 13E0413, DIER entry 2013:155).

No traces of earthen bank and ditch or stone wall defences on the western side of the river Suir were identified in previous archaeological investigations along the modern line of the

river, although these investigations did show that the river Suir channel was originally wider, extending westwards from its current line (see Appendix 4: Excavation Licence Nos/DIEAR entries 02E1841, 2003:1809; 02E1841 (ext), 2003:1810; 02E1841 (ext), 2002:1765). The original western limit or extent of the medieval riverbank has not been clearly defined to date. Similarly, although several investigations have taken place, little definitive evidence for town defences has been identified along the postulated northern limit of the medieval town (Excavation Licence nos. 03E0269, DIER entry 2003:1812; 13E0017, DIER entry 2013:151). On the suggested western line of the town defences, investigations have taken place at the site of the West Gate (Excavation Licence No. 03E0806, DIER entry 2003:815) but this work did not reveal anything of archaeological significance.

By the fourteenth century, the urban settlement of Thurles had extended to the eastern side of the river Suir, as evidenced in archaeological excavations on the site of the Munster Hotel (Excavation Licence Nos. 98E0598 and 98E0598 (ext); DIER entries 1998:625 and 1998:835) which identified street frontage, burgage plots, medieval structures and evidence for agricultural activity within the burgage plots. Families with the surnames Purcell, Cass, Archer, Cantwell, Brett and Keating are all recorded as living in Thurles by this time (Nolan 1989, 6).

In the mid-fifteenth century, Black Castle (TN041-042001), the extant tower house and associated bawn (TN041-042020), were constructed adjacent to the original castle of Thurles. The tower house was built by the prominent Anglo-Norman Butler family, consolidating their control and influence in the Butler lands of Tipperary. In 1534 one of the Richard Butler descendants was given the title 'Viscount Thurles', and Black Castle remained in the Butler family as home to the famed 'Lady Thurles' (Elizabeth Poyntz), who passed it to her Mathew descendants following her second marriage in the seventeenth century. The tower was constructed at the western limit of the urban centre, at the opposite end of the town to the fifteenth-century Bridge Castle and the late medieval Barry's Bridge (TN041-042006) at the eastern limit of Thurles (Figure 9).

Seventeenth-century records for Thurles provide a clear picture of the condition of the town and surrounding lands during and following a period of turmoil, rebellion and unrest. The Civil Survey for County Tipperary survives, and the record for Thurles provides an account of a town with a small number of stone houses and several thatched cabins centred around Black Castle and its turreted bawn. English-born Elizabeth Poyntz (known locally as Lady Thurles) married the Butler Viscount Thurles in 1608. He died tragically in 1619; however, she continued to reside in Thurles, and constructed and occupied a substantial house (TN041-042017) within the bawn of Black Castle at some point after 1640 when the Civil Survey was undertaken.

The Hearth Money Records of the 1660's (Laffan 1911) constituted a taxation record based on the number of hearths in each occupied property (no reference is made to unoccupied or derelict buildings), from which the quality of the house is inferred.

By the time of the Williamite War (1688–91), Rev Rowland Davies was a chaplain to one of the Williamite regiments during the campaign in Tipperary. Davies' diary accounts of his time in Thurles in 1690 survive and include details of the regiment's activities in Thurles (Marnane & Darmody 2008, 53–6); extracts from the Irish Folklore Commission's Schools Collection from Thurles also record posthumous accounts of these events (Appendix 5); see also Appendix 6 for a description of Thurles town and district in the post medieval period.

Around the same time, the construction of fortifications (TN041-042014) around the town of Thurles are recorded, although the location of these fortifications is unknown (Farrelly & Carey 1994: see Figure 6).

The Mathew family remained as major landowner and landlords in Thurles throughout the eighteenth century; however, the family eventually returned to their father's estate in Wales. For this reason, it is thought that unlike many Irish towns that underwent Georgian transformations through improving measures of resident landlords, Thurles did not enjoy the same fate. Thurles was part of the Mathew family Llandaff Estate, for which the earl of Llandaff estate map of 1827 (surveyed in 1818) survives (Figure 8) and provides significant detail of the town immediately preceding the Great Famine of the 1840s and the first-edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1843 (Figures 9 & 10). The last surviving member of the Mathew family, Lady Elizabeth Mathew, died without an heir in 1842, thus concluding the Butler-Mathew line in Thurles which had survived since the medieval period. She left the Mathew estates to her cousin, the Viscount De Chabot, who eventually sold the 1,173 acres of the Manor of Thurles in 1859 (Figures 11 & 12).

The influence of the Butler family, however, continued to be felt in Thurles during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries through the intervention of the Catholic Archbishops of Cashel whose fine archiepiscopal residence and cathedral (consecrated in 1879) had been established in Thurles. James Butler II introduced the Ursuline order of nuns to the town in 1787, and the Ursuline 'poor school' was opened at the eastern side of the River Suir in 1796 and remains open as a school to the present day. Dr Patrick Everard funded the creation of St Patrick's College in 1821, which was established opposite the 'Big Chapel' (former cathedral) of Thurles. Everard's intention was to provide a seat of learning for young Catholics entering the priesthood and for those entering professional careers. The Presentation Order established a school in 1817, with some 600 Catholic pupils enrolled and with 300 of these being fed and clothed by the nuns (Bassett 1889, 375).

Writing about the history of Thurles streets Hayes (no date, 36) notes that Slievenamon Road was '*one of the two "new" streets to be laid down branching from the Main Street. The other is Parnell Street, first called New Street, which joins into the Square at its north-west corner. Slievenamon Road was first named The Middle Mall, later Turtulla Road, and later still Slievenamon Road. One of the first buildings to be erected there was the Wesleyan chapel, now the FCA Hall. A corn store, built in the late 1850s on the left hand side as one proceeds away from the Square, is now converted into a "Brewpub"...Adjacent to the Brewpub is Lár na Páirce, the G.A.A. Museum...This fine cut-stone building was built for the National Banking Company in the 1880s.*' (Hayes no date, 36).

Other mid-nineteenth century improving measures were sanctioned for Thurles which included an 1851 provision under an Act of George IV for the 'lighting, cleaning and watching of the town' (Kennedy 1978, 42). The nineteenth century was also a period of transformation which saw the arrival of the Great Southern and Western Railway to Thurles, thereby increasing mobility, travel and trade opportunities for the residents of the town. The Great Famine of the 1840s saw the town's urban population reduced as many Thurles natives used the railroad to access transport to new lives abroad; but it would also appear that many impoverished rural dwellers migrated into the town to take their place (Condon 1989, 87). Thurles workhouse, originally built to house 700 persons, opened in 1842, but by 1850 it housed 3,390 persons (Marnane & Darmody 2008, 59).

The economic recession which followed the famine years undoubtedly affected Thurles in the later nineteenth century but was negated somewhat by its position as a large commercial town serving a significant rural hinterland, and by its being connected to the wider world (including access to a regular postal service) by rail. Griffith's Primary Valuation of 1846/7 records approximately 7,500 Thurles residents living in a seemingly prosperous town (Marnane & Darmody 2008, 60), with regular fair days, markets twice weekly and many trades active within the town. In *The Mall* five properties are listed: Mary Coman was a tenant of one house with offices and garden located on 1 rood and 8 perches, the land valued £2, 2 shillings, the buildings valued £8, 15 shillings: her landlord was Viscount De Chabot (see also Figures 11 & 12). Mary Coman herself was also listed as the landlord for one unoccupied property (house and yard) valued £4, 7 shillings. She was also the landlord for three tenants Nicholas Lundrigan, Patrick Healy and James Knaggs, who shared one property (house and yard) valued £7, 17 shillings (most likely property CHS 4). These properties are depicted on the first-edition six-inch Ordnance Survey map and the Estate Map of Viscount De Chabot and (Figures 9-11).

Bassett's Commercial Directory of 1889 records that the maintenance of Thurles streets was taken over from the Grand Jury to the Town Commissioners from 1885 onwards. '*While under the control of the Grand Jury, and during the time of the public works, 1846-7, the streets were nearly all sewered. Of £1,600 borrowed by the Commissioners from the Board of Works, £1,400 was spent on flagging of footways. The water supply is procured from street-pumps, and a well near the eastern bank of the river...The Thurles Young Men's Society was established [c.1883]. It has a house and hall on the Mall [Knox's Hall], and 100 members, paying a subscription each of 10s*' (Bassett 1889, 373-5). In the Mall the following businesses, professions and public bodies are listed: Auctioneer and Valuator, John G. Mockler; the National Bank; Boots and Shoes, Hovsha Bros.; Corn [Merchant] and Grocer, Jas. Dunne; Grocer, Stephen Dunne; National School, Jas. Crotty and Mrs. E. Crotty [teachers]; Spirit Retailer Patk. Cantwell; Farmers and Residents J. P. D'alton (Bassett 1889, 375-85).

In 1920 during the War of Independence Thurles Urban District Council voted to change many of the former street names of Thurles to reflect prominent nationalist figures (Nolan 1989, 22-23). Hence, the modern names Slievenamon Road, Fianna Road and Thomond Road we now associate with the area came into usage (Plates 5-7).

Previous Archaeological Investigations and Finds

The search of the Database of Irish Excavation Reports (DIER) identified numerous previous archaeological investigations within the study area; these are listed in Appendix 1, and details of pertinent findings have been included in the Archaeological and Historical Background section above.

In one investigation evidence for medieval settlement activity of postulated thirteenth/fourteenth-century date, as well as possible burgage plots, were identified off the N62 Slievenamon road. The location of this excavation is incorrectly listed in www.excavations.ie but from the account, it can be deduced that the archaeological discoveries were made at Lyons Tyre Services yard/carpark (ITM 612576, 658566). Archaeological pre-construction testing in July 2004 was followed by a five-day excavation in August 2004. In summary, the results revealed the site was covered by c. 0.6m depth of modern overburden of builders' rubble, which sealed the subsoil and archaeological features,

which comprised a rich organic layer containing medieval pottery, a possible pit, linear gullies 8m apart (interpreted as burgage plot boundaries), post-holes and a soak-pit. The soak-pit and the most western gully were sealed beneath a layer of post-medieval plough furrows that criss-crossed each other. Nothing was recovered from these features to date them conclusively, but the fact that they enclosed the earlier 13th-14th-century remains found during testing and lay beneath post-medieval furrows makes a medieval, possibly 13th-14th-century, date highly likely. An additional test-trench was placed beside the [expected] route of the medieval town wall. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered; the modern wall/site boundary that currently exists appeared to have removed any evidence of the medieval defences (see Appendix 4: Excavation Licence no. 04E0820 (ext), DIER entry 2004:1638 for the complete account).

More recent excavations in the town, associated with the Phase 1 Liberty Square Urban Improvement scheme have revealed a large stone culvert that runs down the length of Liberty Square roughly centrally at the river end but veering to the south side at the western end of the Square, where the road widens. Most of this drainage feature was preserved *in-situ*. There was also a fine dry-stone well in the centre of Liberty Square, roughly opposite Hayes Hotel. The well is depicted on a number of historic photographs of the town, in latter photographs with a water pump. Following a photogrammetry survey the well was also preserved *in-situ* (T. Coughlin, IAC Ltd *pers comm.*)

The online version of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) Topographical Files Database, as made available by the Heritage Council (<https://heritagemaps.ie>), maps no finds within or immediately adjacent to the scheme.

Architectural Heritage

The buildings to the north of the N62/R659 Fianna Road / Thomond Road junction are primarily commercial with “over the shop” residential units. The northern portion of the scheme comprises a portion of the historic core of medieval Thurles, with those properties fronting Liberty Square / Main Street being located on the original medieval burgage plots of the town. Some of the oldest architectural buildings within the scheme are located north of the N62/R659 junction. The buildings to the south of the N62/R659 junction are primarily residential comprising semi-detached and terrace properties with intermittent commercial units including a service station. These buildings are chiefly twentieth-century in date, with the occasional nineteenth-century building still surviving.

Slievenamon Road has a distinctive wide linear pattern in comparison to the other streets of Thurles and this report will show that this pattern derives from the road itself having been designed at the end of the Recency Period, 1830’s onwards. This urban design is synonymous with the Georgian character of larger Irish cities, instead of replicating the narrower, curvature of a medieval street pattern, which survives elsewhere in the town.

Assessment of Impacts

Archaeological Heritage Direct Impacts

Information regarding the early establishment and development of proto-urban and medieval urban Thurles undoubtedly lies buried beneath the modern streetscape of the scheme, as reinforced by the archaeological discoveries on Slievenamon Road in 2004 (see above,

Excavation Licence No. 13E0413, DIER entry 2013:155). Both the Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) as defined in the Urban Archaeological Survey of the town, and the Zone of Notification (ZON) of the Historic Town (TN041-042-) and Town Defences (TN041-042007-) will be directly impacted by the proposed works. There is a very high potential that *in situ* archaeological features, deposits, layers, ecofacts and artefacts will survive along the proposed scheme at these locations. Mitigation in the form of archaeological monitoring has been proposed (see Recommendations Section below).

CHS	Townland	Site Type	Legal Status	SMR / RMP	Dist. from Scheme (m)
1	GARRYVICLEHEEN,MONACOCKA,THURLES TOWNPARKS	Historic town	RMP	TN041-042--	0
2	THURLES TOWNPARKS	Town defences	RMP	TN041-042007	0

Table 4: List of Direct Impacts on Cultural Heritage Sites (CHS)

Architectural Heritage Direct Impacts

As the proposed scheme involves an upgrade of one of the main thoroughfares of the town, the works will have a direct impact on the Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) of the town. However, there are no direct impacts on any Protected Structures (NIAH/RPS sites) within the proposed scheme extents.

Archaeological Heritage Indirect Impacts

One known SMR site *Sheela-na-gig* (TN041-042005) is located outside the western edge of the scheme boundary, where the object had been removed from its original location and inserted into a wall. There are no predicted impacts on this site as there are no works proposed in this area.

CHS	Townland	Site Type	Legal Status	SMR / RMP	Dist. from Scheme (m)
3	THURLES TOWNPARKS	<i>Sheela-na-gig</i>	RMP	TN041-042005	52

Table 5: List of Indirect Impacts on Cultural Heritage Sites (CHS)

Architectural Heritage Indirect Impacts

None of the Protected Structures (NIAH/RPS sites) within the scheme boundary will be impacted by the works as no works are proposed at or on these structures. It is not currently anticipated that there will be any indirect impacts on these structures arising during construction activities associated with the scheme. If any alterations are made to the design, then works that may affect the Protected Structures adjacent the scheme should be devised in consultation with the Tipperary County Council Conservation Officer/Heritage Officer and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Sites identified during this Assessment

No new sites were identified during this assessment.

Recommendations

Archaeological Heritage

In order to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on any potential sub-surface archaeological remains that might survive, a programme of archaeological monitoring of construction activity is recommended. A suitably qualified, licenced archaeologist will be engaged, to monitor all excavations within the Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) of the scheme, extending from the northern end of the scheme to the N62/R659 Fianna Road / Thomond Road junction. It is recommended that no archaeological monitoring is necessary elsewhere on the scheme; south of the N62/R659 Fianna Road / Thomond Road junction as far as the southern end of the scheme.

In the event that archaeological remains of the town wall are indeed identified during monitoring, it will be necessary to obtain Ministerial Consent, in accordance with Section 14 of the National Monuments Act, before any works can be carried out on, or in the immediate vicinity of the remains of the town wall uncovered. All necessary archaeological services will be procured using a specification prepared by TII Archaeology and Heritage Section in accordance with the appropriate national procurement guidelines. The works will be overseen by the TII Project Archaeologist.

The archaeological monitoring shall describe the location, nature, date, character, extent, stratigraphy and significance of any archaeological features or deposits discovered or confirmed. Photographs, plans and sectional drawings of individual trenches, features and deposits (at an appropriate scale) shall be included as appropriate, as well as more general photographs of the work in progress and the sites in their landscape setting. Assessments of significance shall follow the criteria listed in TII's *Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes* (2005).

All archaeological services shall be carried out under the terms of the Directions/Archaeological Licences issued by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and in accordance with the method statement(s) submitted by the Client in support of the application(s) for Ministerial Directions/Excavation Licences. All services shall be carried out in accordance with the method statements prepared by the Archaeological Consultant in support of the application(s) for licence/registration numbers for archaeological excavation(s) and survey(s) and any other relevant archaeological works as required by the Minister.

Officers, servants or agents of the Minister may inspect the archaeological works at any time and full co-operation shall be given to them in carrying out the inspections. All requests from the Director of the National Museum of Ireland for members of his/her staff to visit the works shall be facilitated. The foregoing is without prejudice to any powers of the Minister or the Director and their officers, agents, servants or licences arising under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 or howsoever otherwise arising.

At the conclusion of all archaeological works and in liaison with the Project Archaeologist, a fully illustrated report detailing the findings, if any, from the project will be produced and published by Tipperary County Council and supported by public dissemination events.

Architectural Heritage

Based on the examination of the development proposal, the works will not impact on any of the Protected Structures (NIAH/RPS sites) within the scheme. Therefore no recommendations are required.

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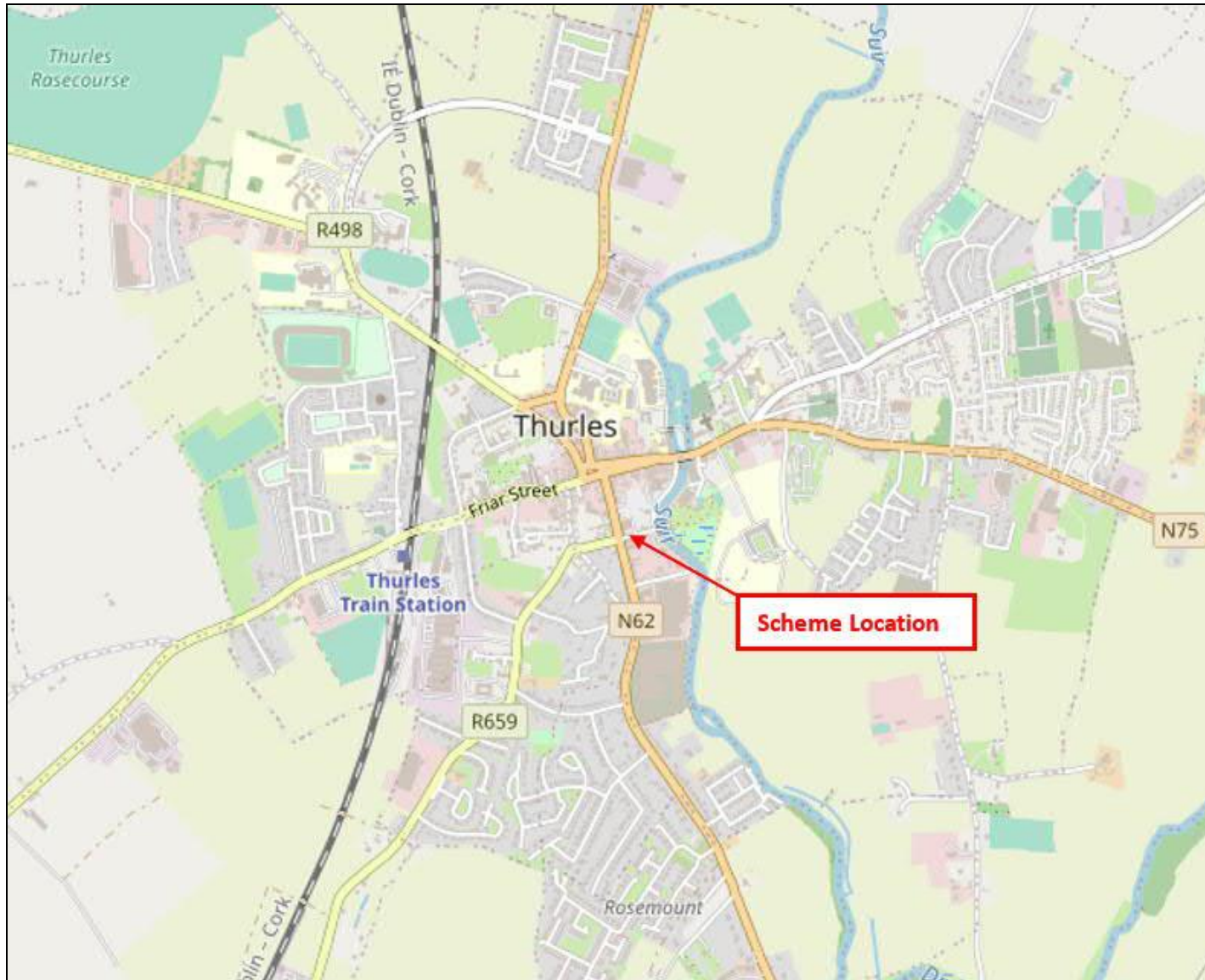


Figure 1: Location of N62 Slievenamon Road Phase 2 Road Improvement Scheme.



Figure 2: N62 Slievenamon Road Phase 2 Road Improvement Scheme extents: Sites CHS 1 – CHS 29 indicated.

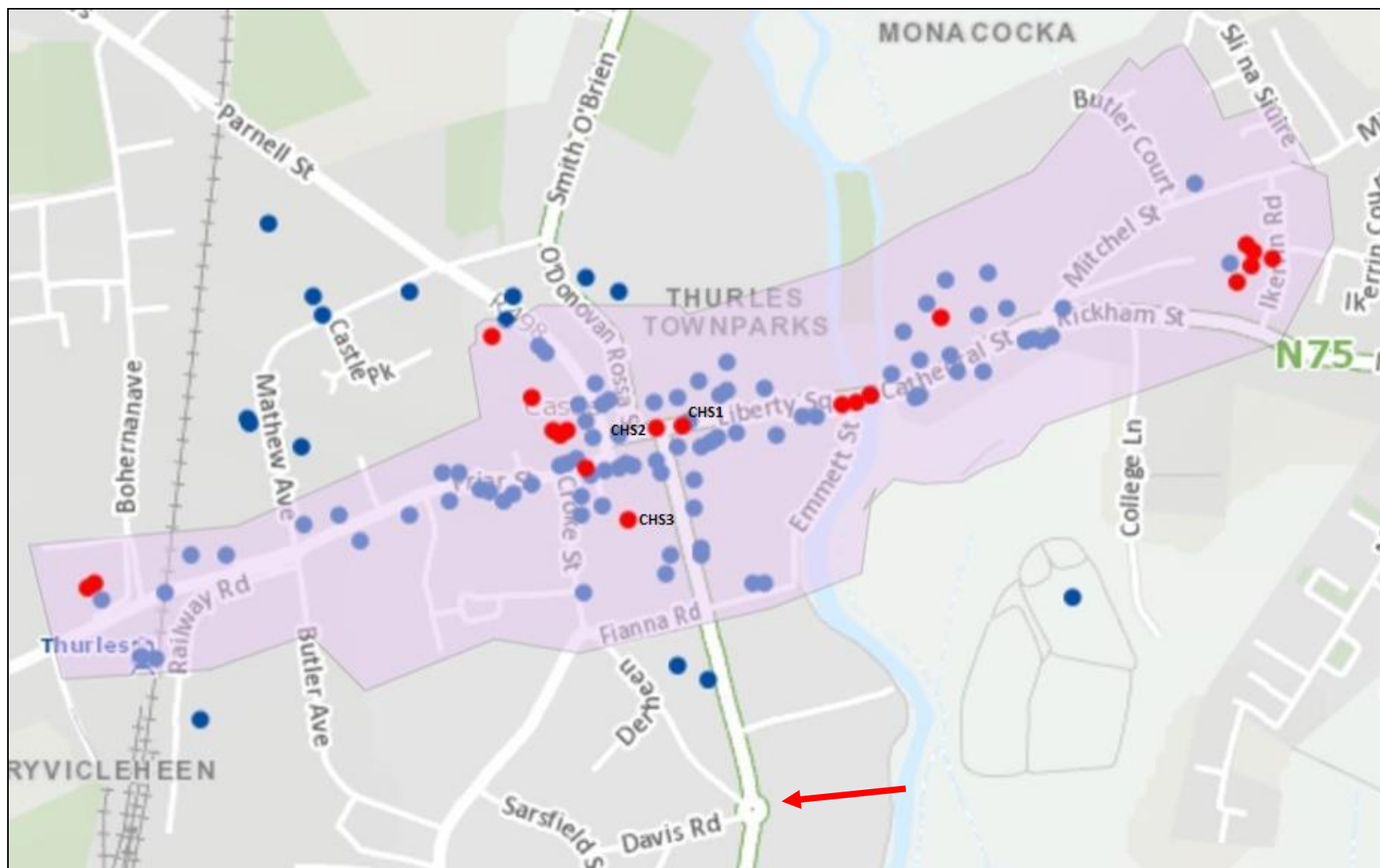


Figure 3: Thurles Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) showing Historic Town (TN041-042--) CHS 1, Town Defences (TN041-042007) CHS 2 & *Sheela-na-gig* (TN041-042005) CHS 3.

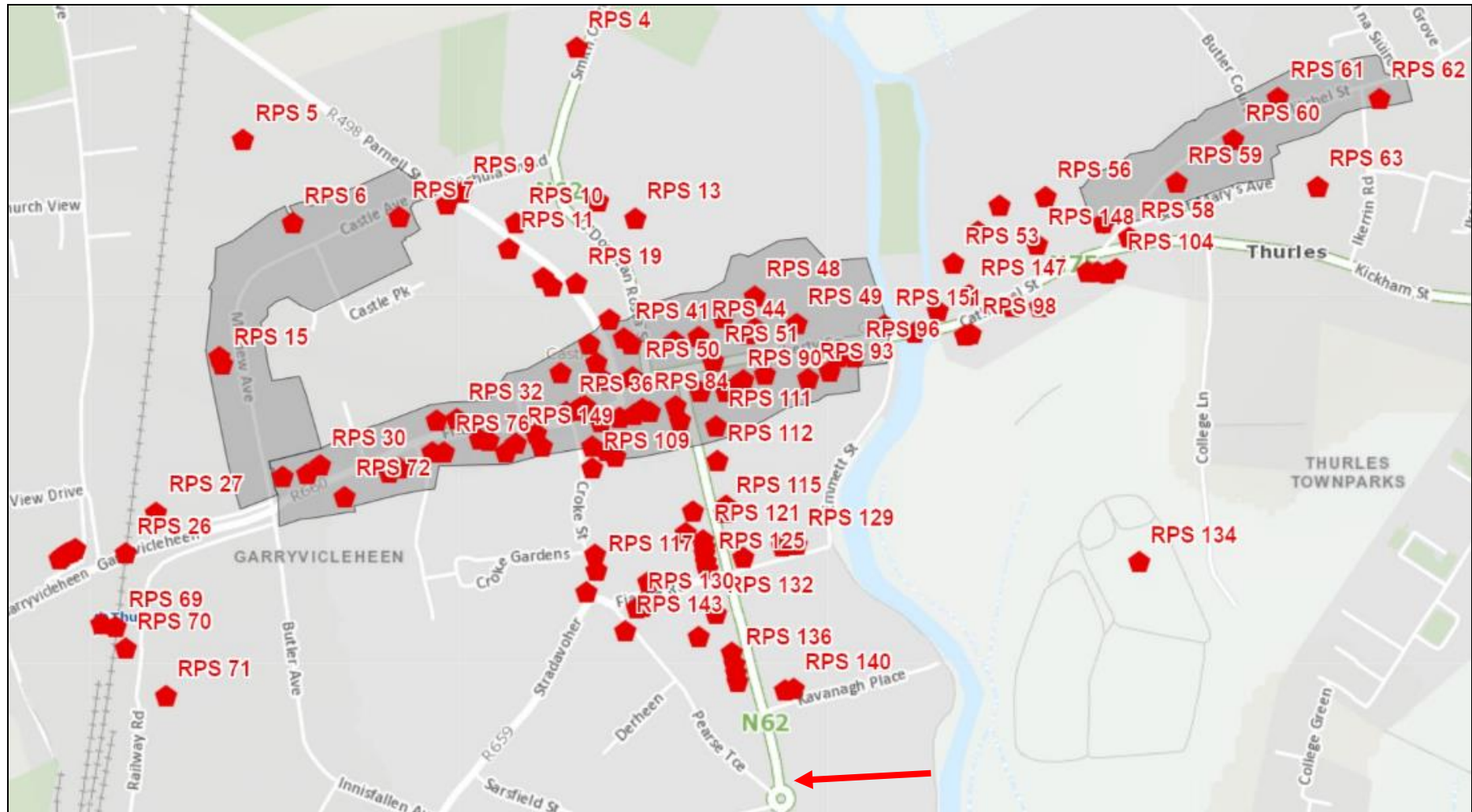


Figure 4: Thurles Town Council Record of Protected Structures map, showing RPS sites and ACA areas (shaded grey).

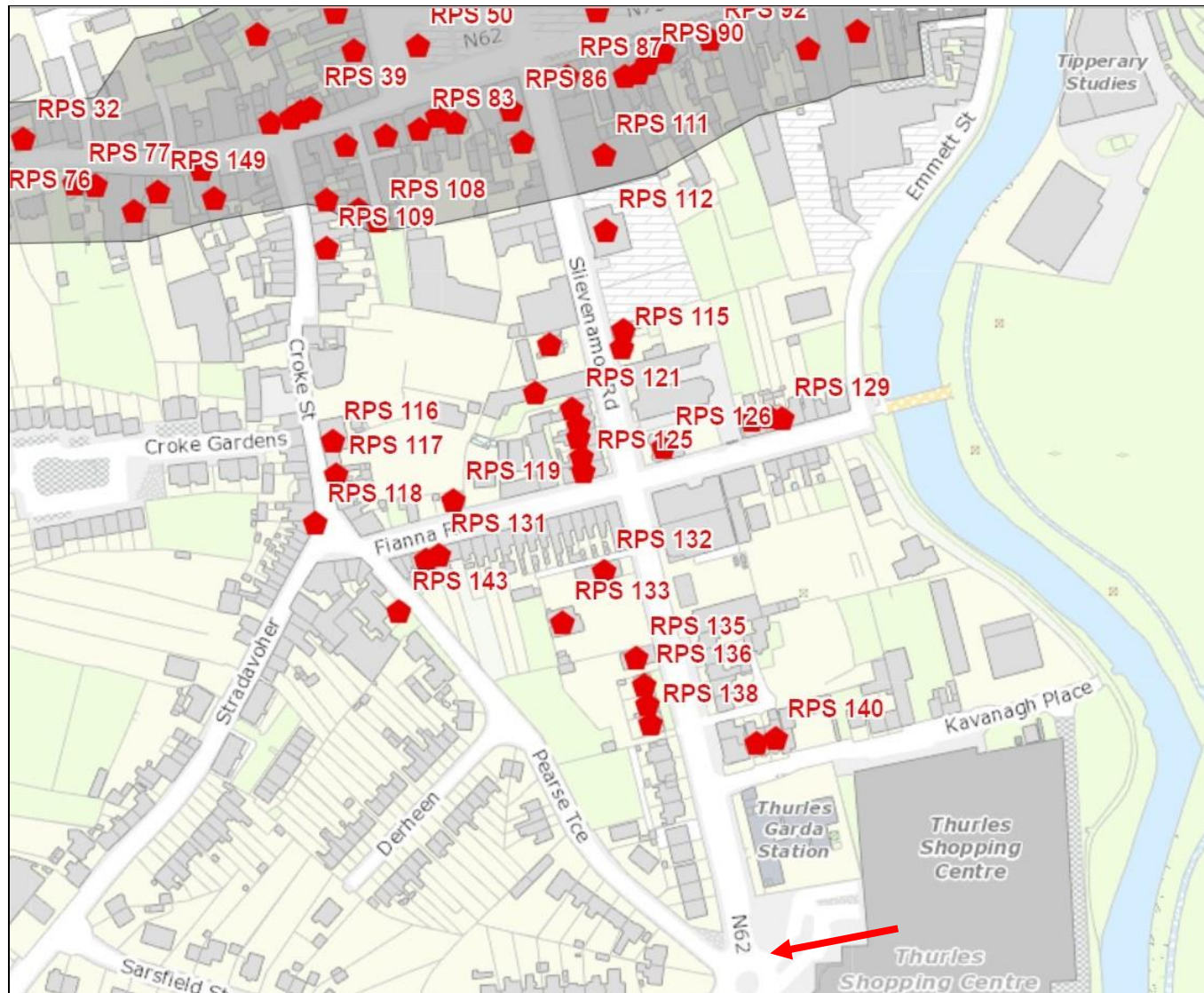


Figure 5: Close-up of Thurles Town Council Record of Protected Structures map, showing extent of RPS sites along the scheme.

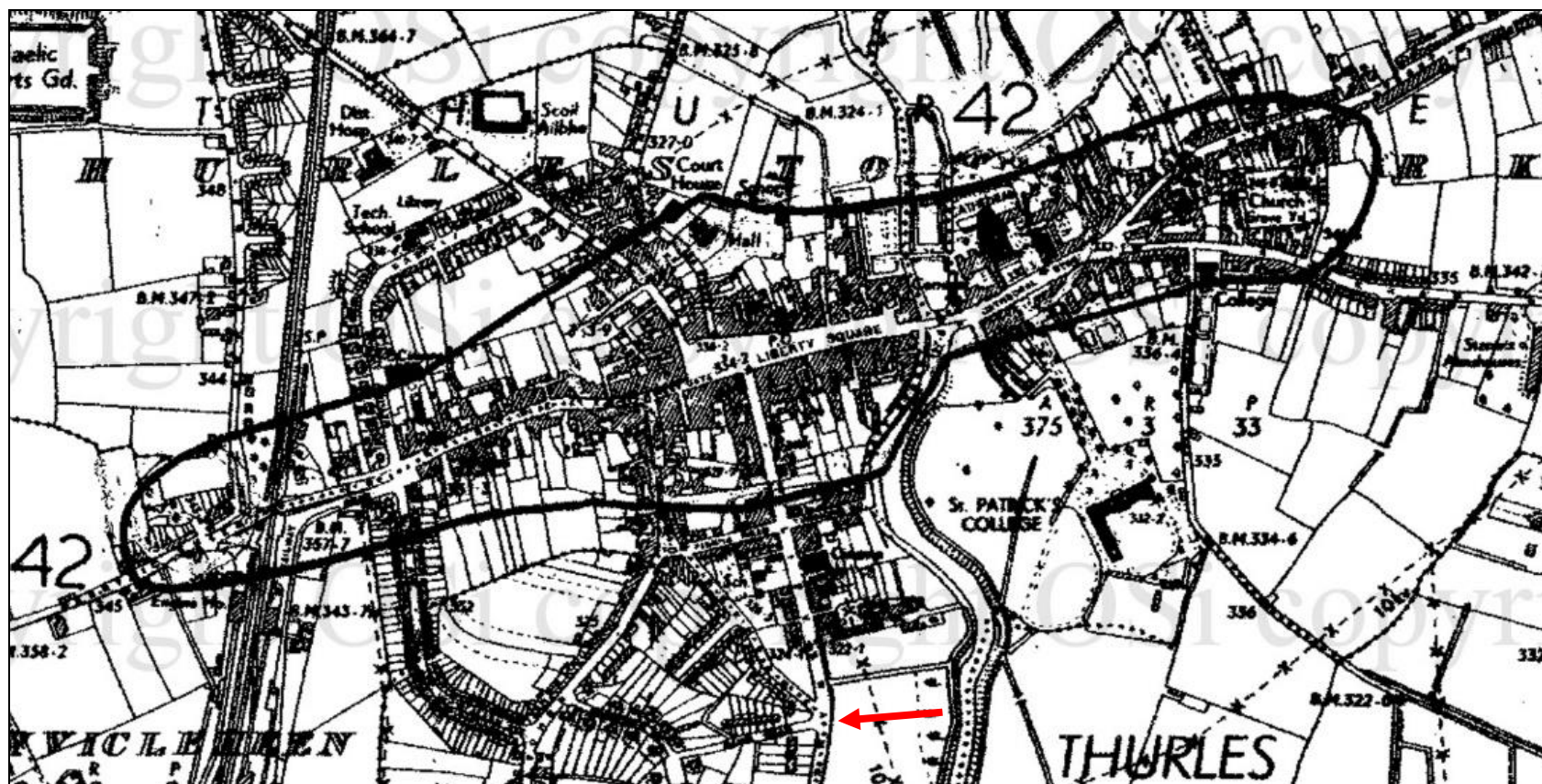


Figure 6: Urban Archaeological Survey of Thurles (1994) showing boundary of Historic Town Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) No. TN041-042--).

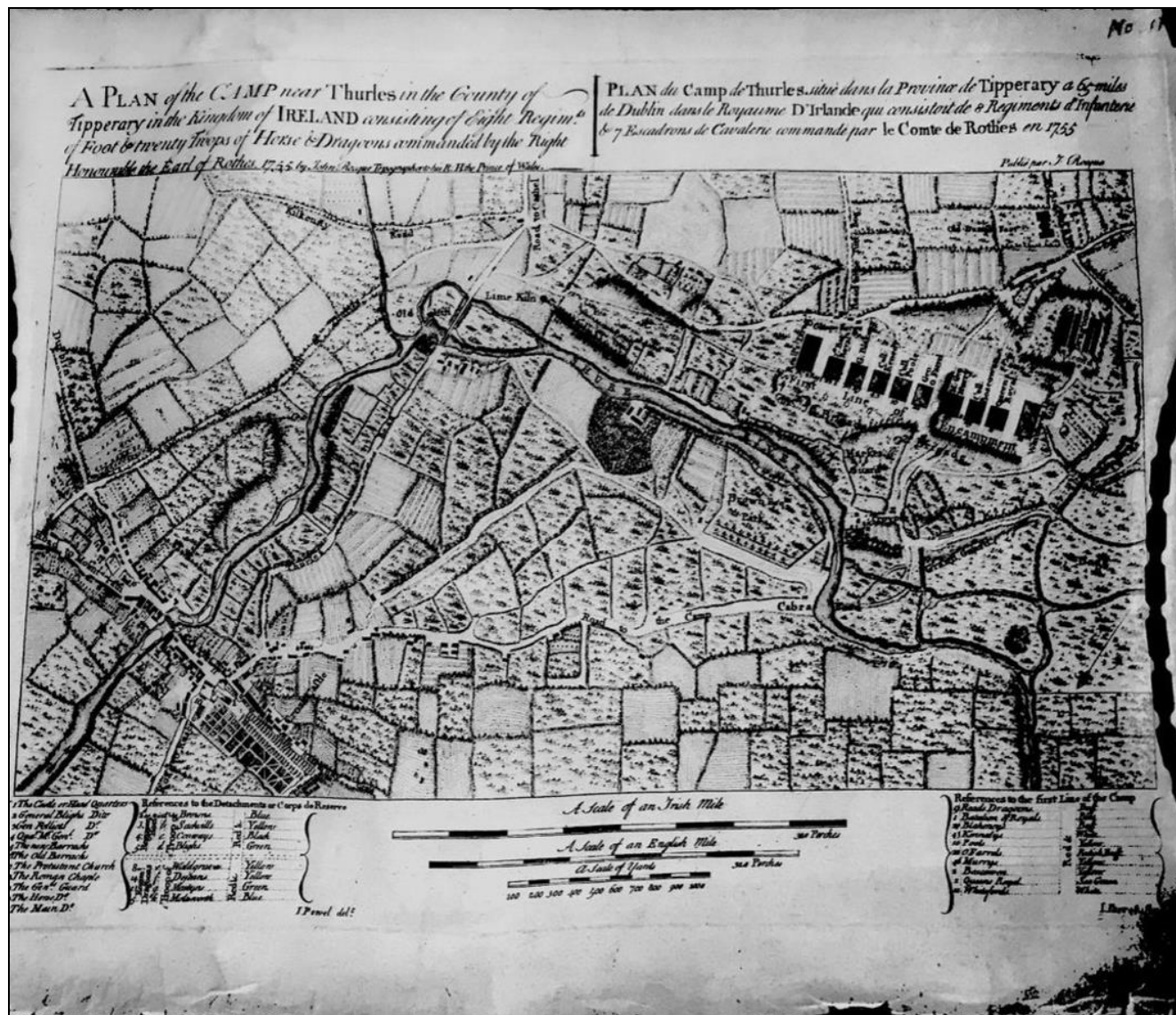


Figure 7: Rocque's map of 1755: note north is reversed (south at top of image). Source: Tipperary Local Studies, Thurles.



Figure 8: The Earl of Llandaff Estate map, dated 1827 (surveyed 1818). Source: Tipperary Local Studies, Thurles (Dunnes Stores Roundabout arrowed).

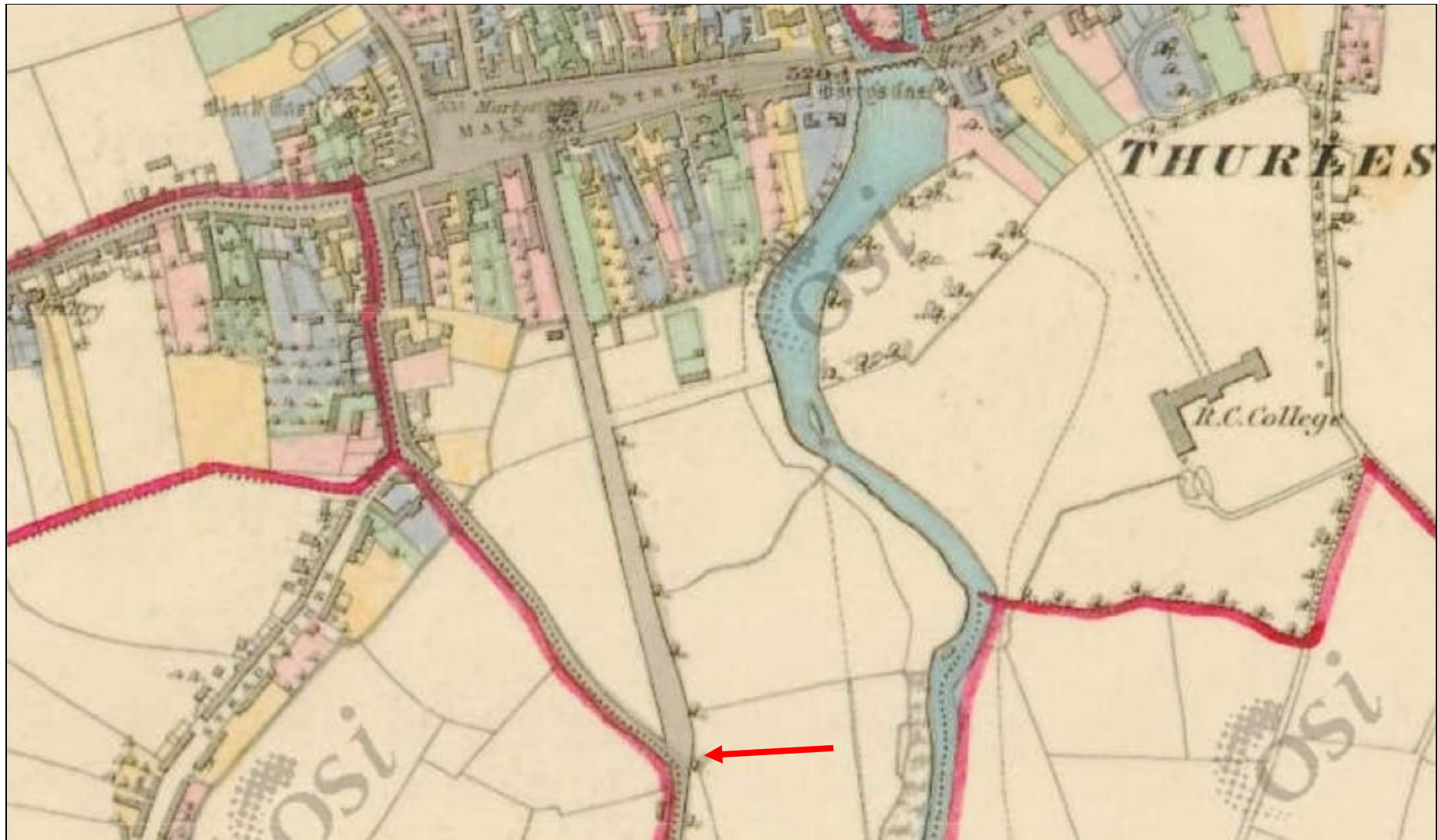


Figure 9: First-edition six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map of Thurles, dated 1843. This map illustrates the agricultural nature of the lands at the southern end of the scheme.

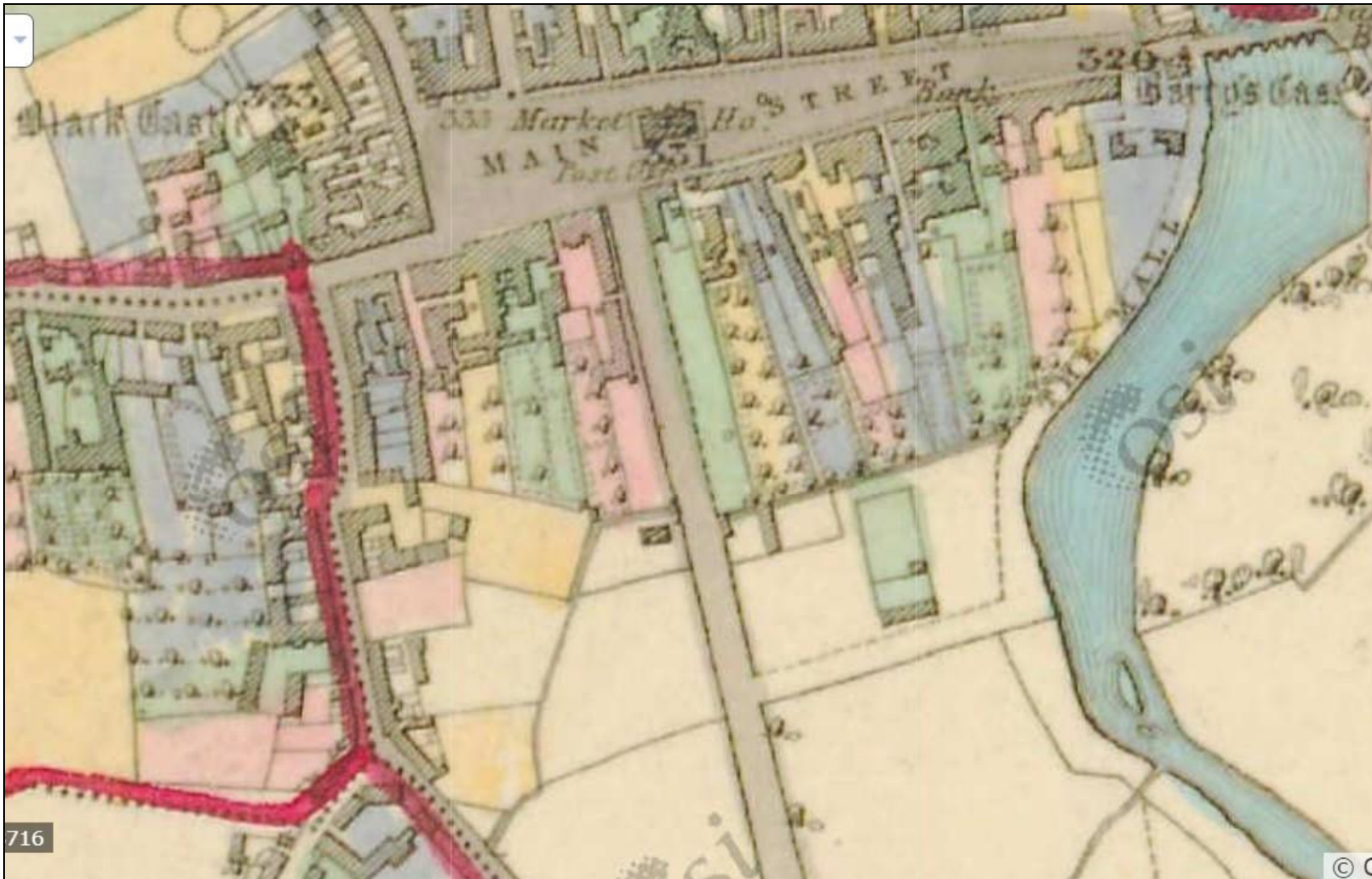


Figure 10: Close-up of first-edition six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map of Thurles, dated 1843. The linear pattern of plots fronting Main Street replicate the medieval burgage plots.

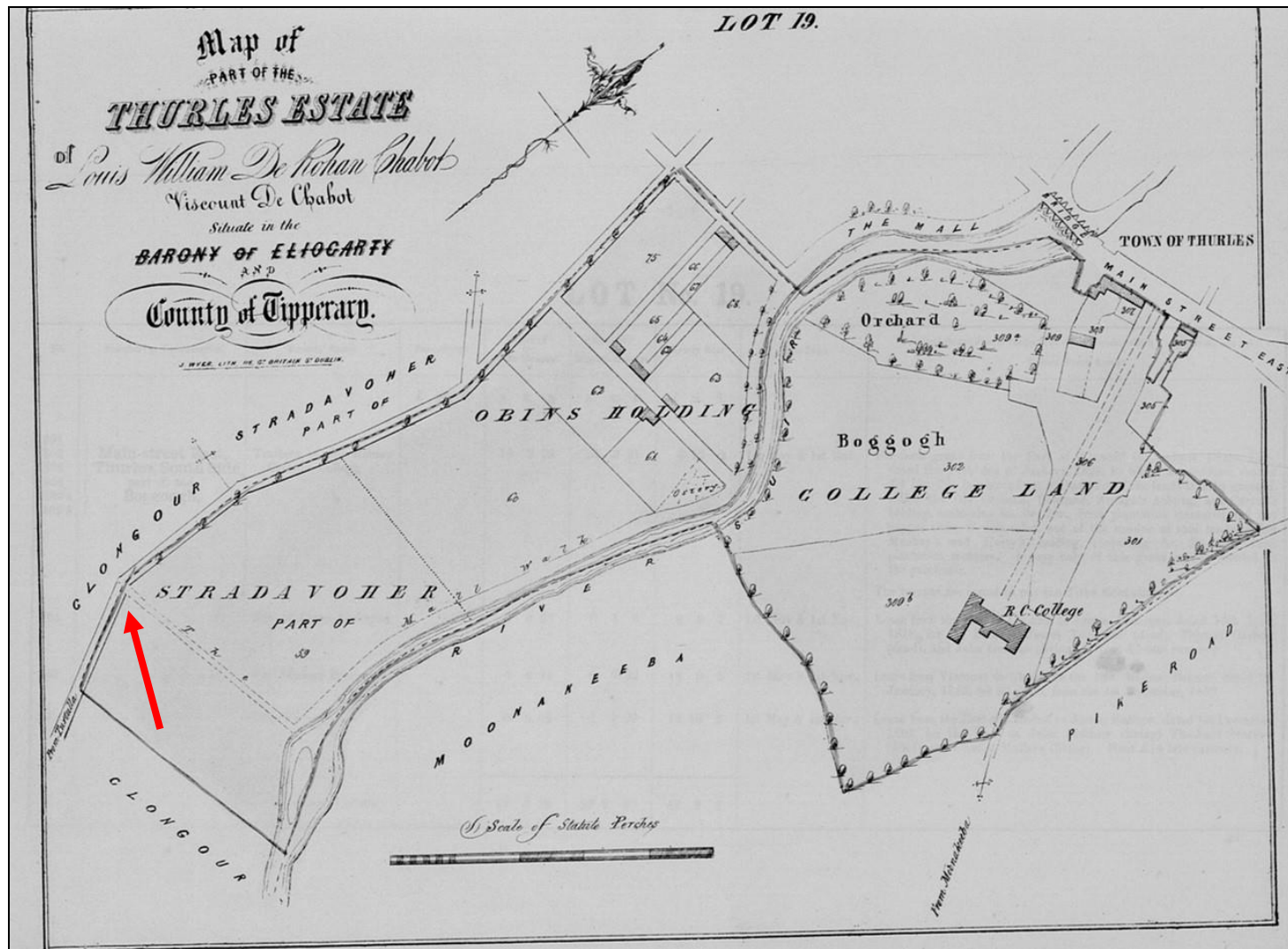


Figure 11: Estate Map of Viscount De Chabot, 1859. Source: Tipperary Local Studies, Thurles. This map shows The Mall as a route skirting the west bank of the river, heading south to Clongour & returning into town via Stradavoher.

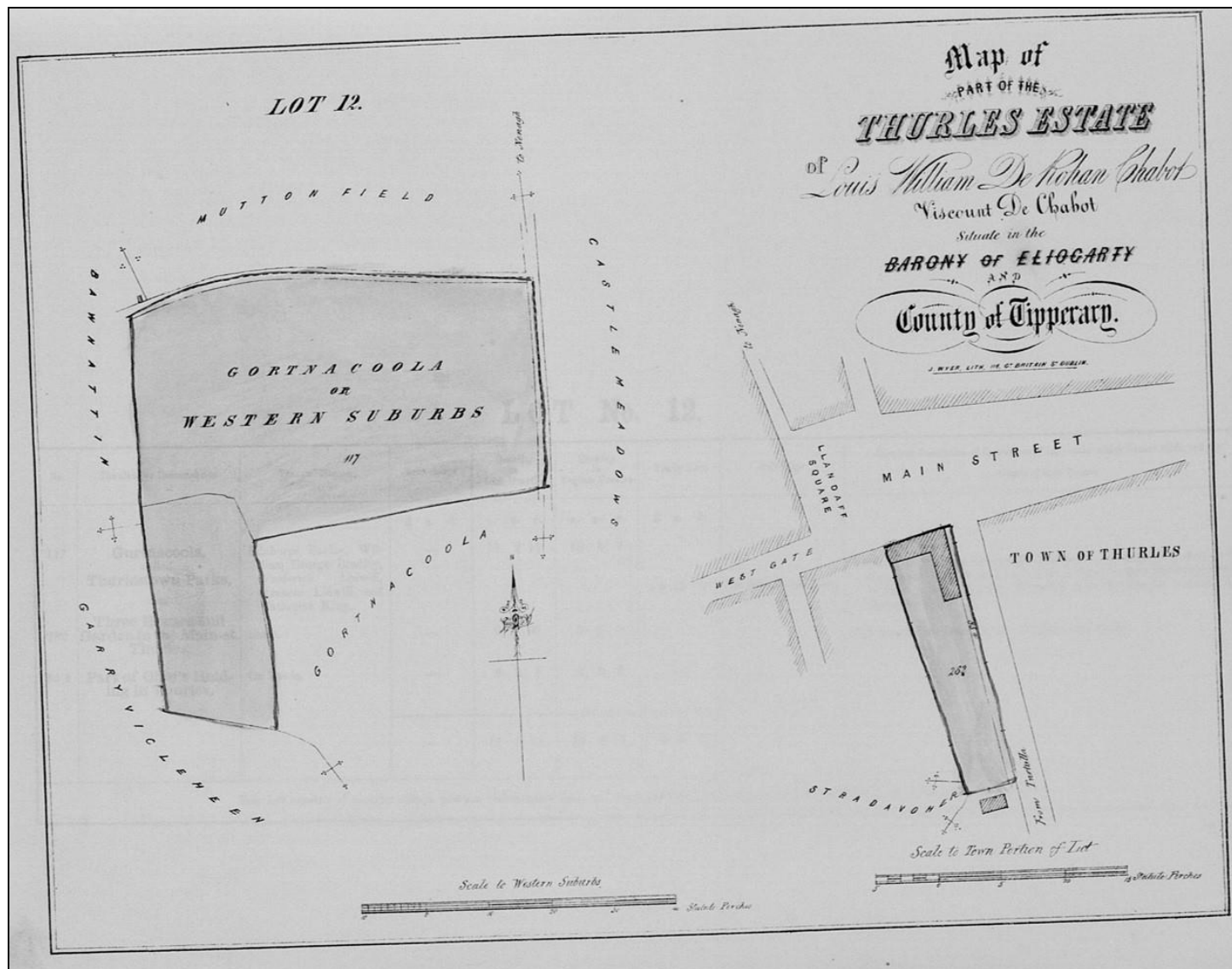


Figure 12: Estate Map of Viscount De Chabot, 1859. Source: Tipperary Local Studies, Thurles. This map shows Lot 12, a portion of which includes building & property No.282 (CHS 4). CHS 9 is indicated at lower right.

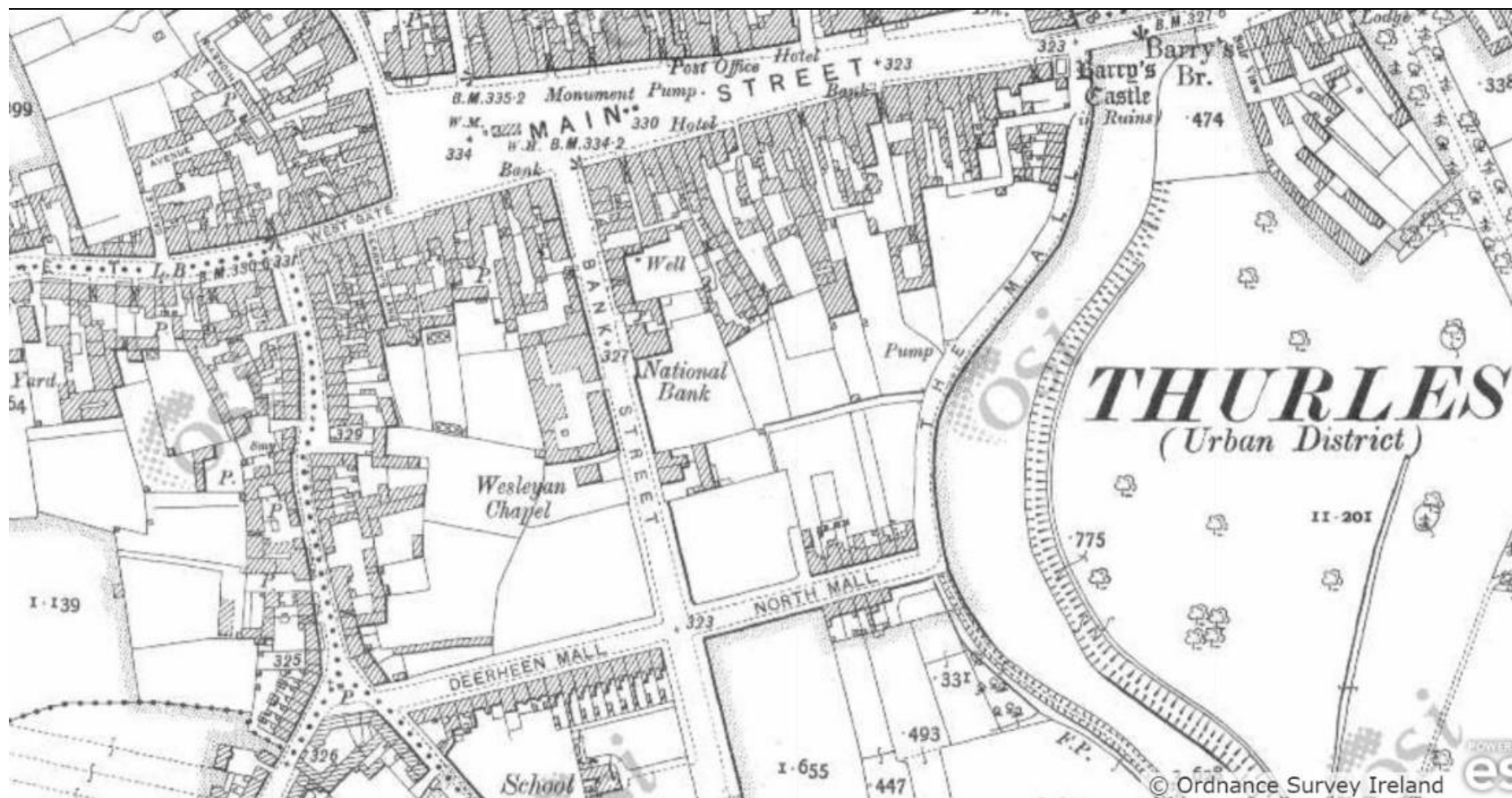


Figure 13: Twenty-five-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map of Thurles (surveyed 1901–5). The original street names are apparent as is the southerly expansion of the urban town. National Bank CHS8, Wesleyan Chapel CHS 9 & School CHS 23 are evident.

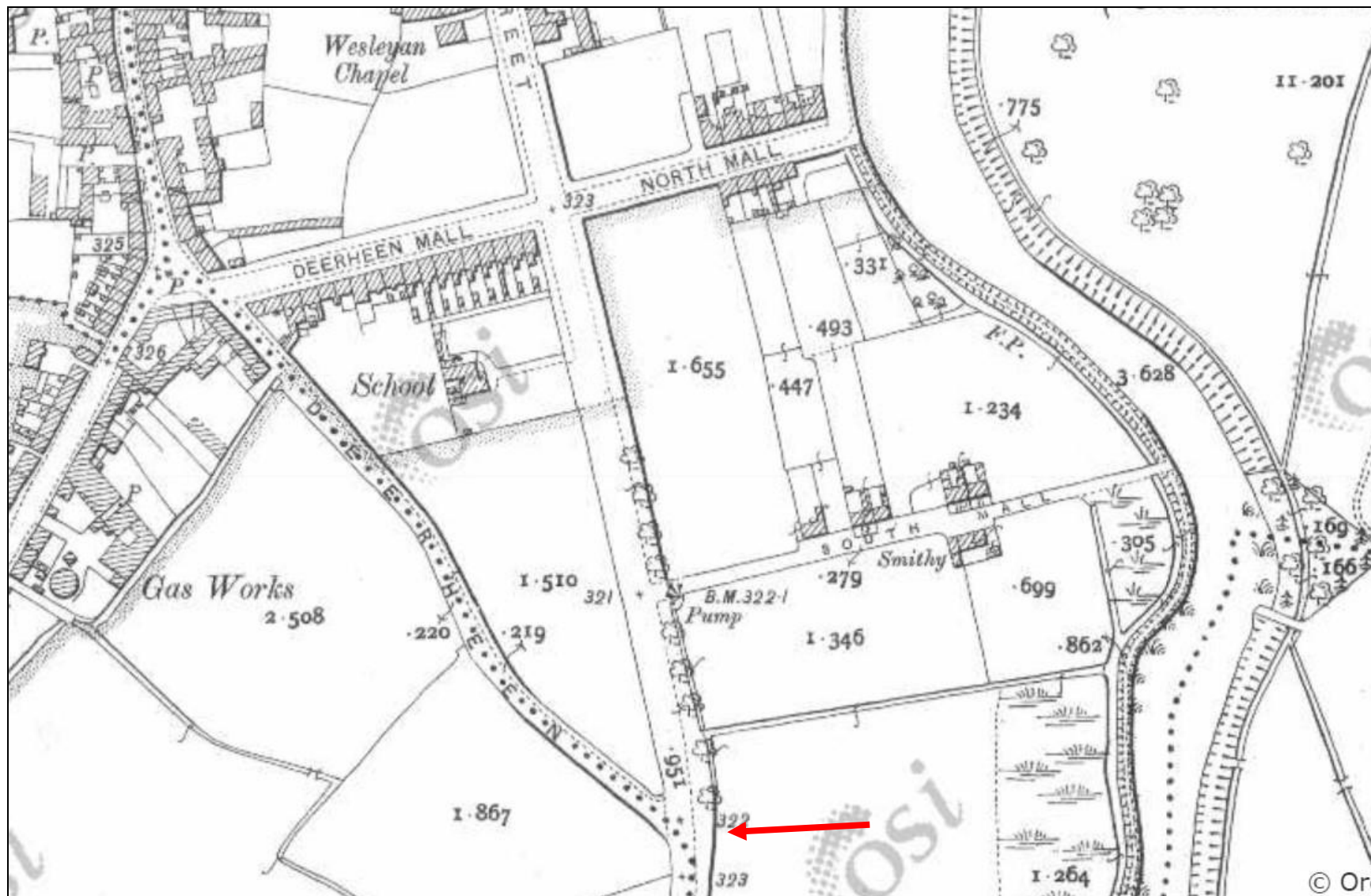


Figure 14: Close-up of twenty-five-inch (OS) map showing the southern end of the scheme. The tree-lined aspect of the road is evident, as recorded in Plate 1. The footpath along the river was previously known as The Mall.

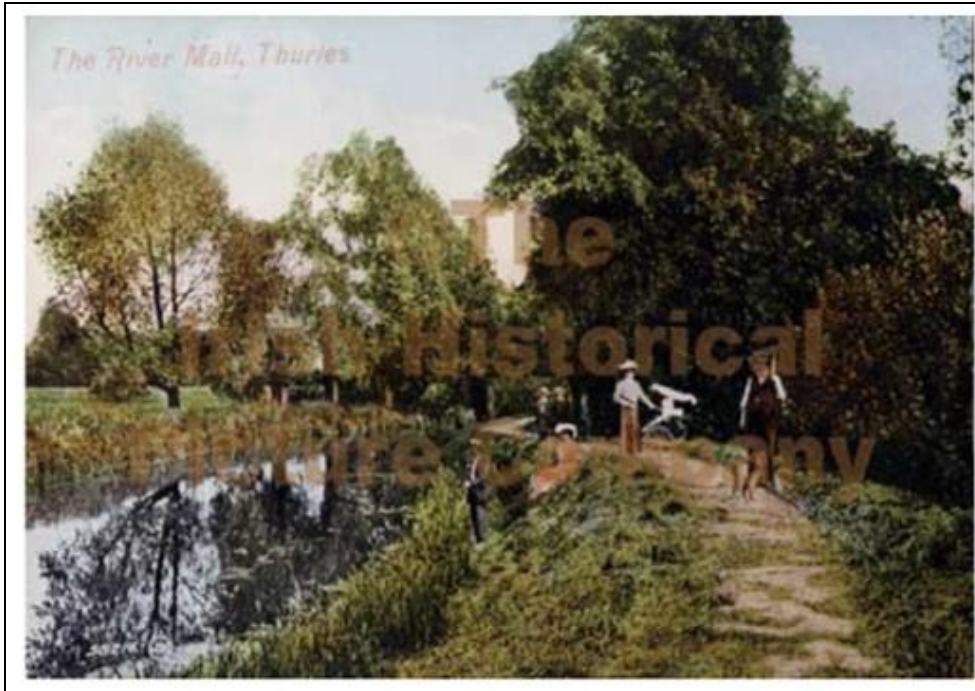


Plate 1: Early photograph by J. Valentine, Dundee of The River Mall, late 19th century. The riverside footpath is recorded in the OS & estate maps. Source: <https://www.historicalpicturearchive.com/shop/pictures/tp-00276/>



Plate 2: Early photograph by J. Valentine, Dundee of a tree-lined footpath on The Mall, late 19th century. The tree-lined avenue is reflected in the OS & estate maps. Source: www.tipperarystudies.ie



Plate 3: Photograph of Bank Street/The Mall, late 19th/early 20th century. The building at right is CHS 10/CHS 11. The building at left has scaffolding erected. Source: www.tipperarystudies.ie



Plate 4: Photograph of Bank Street/The Mall, late 19th/early 20th century. The railings at left may have fronted the Wesleyan Chapel CHS 9. Source: <https://www.historicalpicturearchive.com/shop/pictures/tp-00163/>

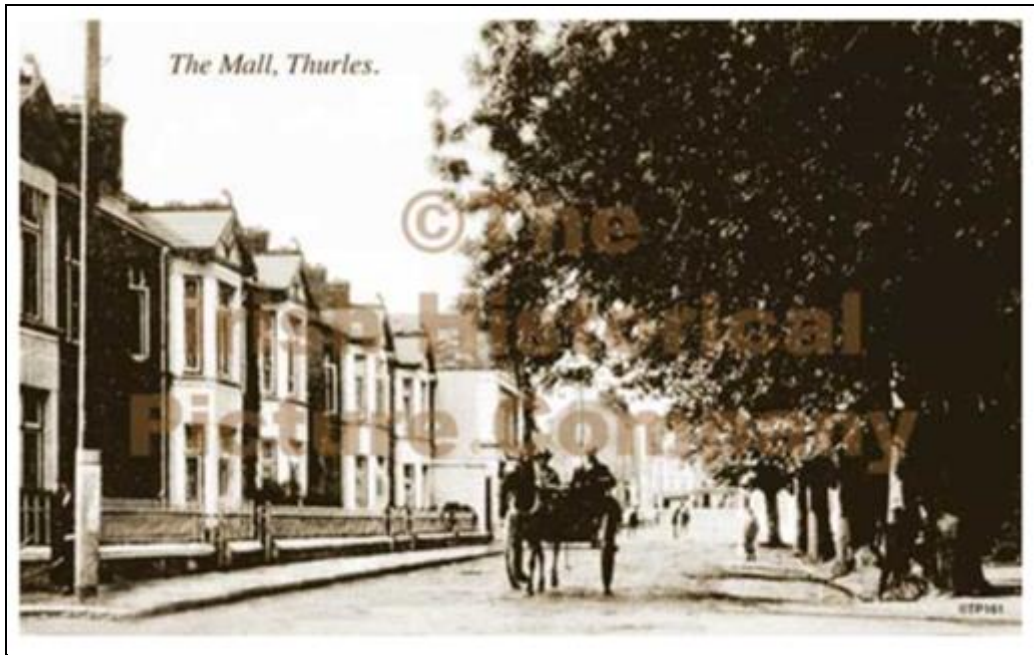


Plate 5: Photograph looking north along *The Mall* taken in the 1930s. Terraced buildings CHS 13-17 at left, which were built c.1925. Source: <https://www.historicalpicturearchive.com/shop/pictures/tp-00161/>



Plate 6: Postcard view looking north along Slievenamon Road. Terraced buildings CHS 13-17 at left, which were built c.1925. Note fuel pumps at right where Centra Station is now. Source: www.tipperarystudies.ie



Plate 7: Photograph from the 1920s looking west along Thomond Road toward the junction. CHS 19 & CHS 20 at right. Note roadside drain at left. Source: Lawrence Collection
<https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000319071>



Plate 8: CHS 4 looking south from Liberty Square.



Plate 9: CHS 5 looking south from Liberty Square.



Plate 10: A photograph from the late 1930s of The Cash Drapery on Slievenamon Road. Premises later known as *Marie Therèse & Flowers R Us*. Source: Munster Glass Plate Collection www.tipperarystudies.ie



Plate 11: CHS 5 & adjacent buildings along north end of Slievenamon Road. No.4 Slievenamon Road is largely unchanged since the 1930s photograph.



Plate 12: Looking north along the Liberty Square end of Slievenamon Road.



Plate 13: Looking northeast along Slievenamon Road with CHS 7 at right.



Plate 14: Building CHS 7 from opposite the road.



Plate 15: Junction of buildings CHS 7 & CHS 8 showing original carriage archway.



Plate 16: Building CHS 8 showing original ashlar limestone work with carriage archway at left & blind arch at right. This was the location of the National Bank on what was then known as Bank Street.



Plate 17: View northeast of new Council carpark off Slievenamon Road between CHS 8 & CHS 10.



Plate 18: View northwest of Slievenamon Road opposite building CHS 8.



Plate 19: View west of Slievenamon Road opposite building CHS 8.



Plate 20: View northwest of Slievenamon Road opposite building CHS 10. Roadside boundary wall of CHS 9 at left.



Plate 21: View west of building CHS 9. This is the earliest, c.1848 surviving structure on Slievenamon Road.



Plate 22: View east of buildings CHS 10 & CHS 11. These buildings marked the approximate end of Bank Street/The Middle Mall, south of which was largely agricultural land on both sides of the road.



Plate 23: View south along east side of Slievenamon Road from the junction of Fianna Road/Thomond Road.



Plate 24: View southeast of Slievenamon Road junction with Fianna Road/Thomond Road. Building CHS 18 at left.



Plate 25: View southwest of Slievenamon Road at the junction of Fianna Road.



Plate 26: View west from corner of Thomond Road showing junction with Fianna Road. Frontage of property CHS 18 at right.



Plate 27: View southwest of terraced buildings CHS 13-CHS 17.



Plate 28: View east of Slievenamon Road from the junction of Fianna Road/Thomond Road, showing Ryan's funeral parlour & CHS 18 at right.



Plate 29: View west along Thomond Road toward its junction with Slievenamon Road.



Plate 30: Building CHS 20, part of terraced two-bay two-storey house, with adjoining houses to east & west.



Plate 31: View east along Fianna Road toward its junction with Slievenamon Road.



Plate 32: View northeast of garage & Centra shop south of Thomond Road junction.



Plate 33: View south from Centra shop showing Filling Station forecourt.



Plate 34: View northeast of Centra shop & Filling Station.



Plate 35: View northeast along Slievenamon Road showing modern buildings on the east side of the road.



Plate 36: View northwest from Slievenamon Road showing setting of CHS 22 & CHS 23.



Plate 37: Building CHS 22 known as 'Knox Hall' on the west side of Slievenamon Road.



Plate 38: Building CHS 23 the former Parochial School on the west side of Slievenamon Road. This is the oldest surviving structure in the southern part of the scheme.



Plate 39: Building CHS 24 on the west side of Slievenamon Road beside CHS23.



Plate 40: Terrace of three-bay two-storey houses CHS 25-CHS 27, on the west side of Slievenamon Road.



Plate 41: View south along roadside of terraced houses CHS 25-CHS 27.



Plate 42: View south along roadside opposite terraced houses CHS 25-CHS 27. The buildings between here & Kavanagh Place are modern in date.



Plate 43: View northeast along Kavanagh Place with terraced buildings CHS 28 & CHS 29 at right.



Plate 44: Terraced buildings CHS 28 Slieve Bloom & CHS 29 Slieve Donard on Kavanagh Place.

Appendix 1: Inventory of SMR/RMP Sites within the Scheme

SMR Ref.	TN041-042----
CHS No.	1
Legal Status	Recorded Monument
Townland	Thurles Townparks / Garryvicleheen/ Monacocka
Site Type	Historic Town
Coordinates (ITM)	612639 658672
Description	<p>Situated on flat pasture with good views in all directions. The town appears to have been established along a fording point of the River Suir which runs N-S along the E side of the present town. Barry's Castle (TN041-042002-) and stone bridge (TN041-042006-) are located on or close to the site of the medieval fording point over the River Suir.</p> <p>Thurles was established as an Anglo-Norman town by Theobald Walter in the late twelfth century around which time the earth and timber motte-castle (TN041-042004-) was constructed (Bradley 1985, 54; Empey 1989, 32, 36). This Anglo-Norman fortification known locally as the 'Moat' was located 70m NW of Liberty Square in the NW quadrant of the medieval town. It is possible that there was a pre-Norman fortification located here which gave its name Durlas / Thurles meaning 'oaken ringfort' to the town. No evidence of a pre-Norman fortification has been uncovered at Thurles although the ringfort at Bowling Green (TN041-041--) is an example of such a ringfort. It is recorded that Donal Mór O'Brien won a military victory here in 1192, presumably his target being the newly established settlement (Smyth 1991, 166-7; Nolan 1989, 12). The earliest reliable reference to a castle in Thurles is in a charter granted by Theobald Walter, who died in 1206 (Curtis 1933, 18). In the year 1211-12 Theobald Walter paid King John an annual sum of £26 13s. 4d. for the 'farm of Thurles' (Davies and Quinn 1941, 69).</p> <p>A manor court had been established at Thurles in the 13th century, on the 2nd of April 1309 the King wrote to the sheriff of Tipperary ordering him to 'forbid the bailiffs of Edmund Butler of Thurles to hold the plea which is in the said lord's court of Thurles between Thomas Broun, plaintiff, and Philip Baroun, tenant, 6s 8d concerning 6s 8d rent in Sythan in a writ of right, because Philip who is tenant put himself in the grand assize' (Close Roll 2 Edward II, No. 88; RCH 9/88). The borough status of the town is clear from an early fourteenth-century reference (1336) to two knights' fees held as a burgage to the value of £22 17s 2d (Martin 1981, 51; Cal. inq. post mortem, 18). By the fourteenth century the town was probably defended by a wall as is supported by a murage grant to Thurles dated 1356-7 (Thomas 1992, vol. 2, 192). In this year the Chancery Rolls recorded a royal exemption on 'certain specified customs from articles for sale coming to that town' for a period of 20 years, 'to the town of Thurlys [Thurles] in aid of the paving [of that town] and its enclosure with a stone wall' (Patent Roll 30 Edward III, No. 43)</p> <p>In 1432 the reeve and community of Thurles were summoned to the seneschal's court (Martin 1981, 51; Curtis 1933, 95). The Ordnance Survey Letters of 1840 described a destroyed W gate as 'geata na gcoileach', the letters also mention a round building known as Crow's tower which stands on the W side of the town on the road to Cashel (O'Flanagan 1930, vol. 2, 78). This tower may have been a mural tower associated with the town walls of Thurles (Carey and Farrelly 1994, 85-100). It was locally believed that five castles were pulled down to construct the courthouse in Thurles (O'Flanagan 1930, vol. 2, 78).</p>

There is no depiction of a town wall on either the Down Survey map of 1655-9 or Rocque's map of 1755 (NLI 16 I 3/9). The possible footprint of the medieval town and its buildings are depicted on the 1755 map which shows that the town buildings were located on E and W sides of the River Suir. It is not certain whether the town defences were of stone (Bradley 1985, 53) but there were gates at E, N and W that gave access to the town. Only the springing arch of the E gate survives protruding from 'Barry's Castle' (TN041-042002-) - there is only the placename evidence for the W gate while there is no surviving evidence for a N gate.

Cartographic and historical documents along with the monumental remains suggests that by the seventeenth century the town consisted of three distinguishable areas, namely a core area centering on the market square now Liberty Square; an eastern quarter to the E of Barry's Bridge (TN041-042006-); and a western quadrant to the W of the town square and outside the town walls and the West gate (Smyth 1991, 166-7).

The Civil Survey of 1654-56 recorded that James Earl of Ormond and Elizabeth Lady Viscountesse Dowager of Thurles were the proprietors of the town in 1640 and that the town yielded an annual value of £260 (Simington 1934, 53). In 1640 the town of Thurles had 'the privileges of a Mannor and a Marckett twice a week, and a fayre twice a yeare (vizt.) on Eater Twesday and the 9th of August. It is well inhabited. In Thurles there is a faire house wherein the Lady of Thurles liveth with a Castle [TN041-042006-] and severall Turretts upon the Bawne, three stone houses; In the Towne, and severall thatch Cabbins, a stone bridge [TN041-042006-] upon the River Shewer, a small Castle [TN041-042002-] at the bridge foot and old ruinous Aby [TN041-042008-], & the walls of the p[ar]ish Church' (ibid.).

17th century taxation records (Hearth Money Returns) suggested that the areas outside the town defences were the poorest and that the eastern quadrant was the main artisan quarter, containing many kilns, ovens etc. (Smyth 1991).

Within the modern town there are the remains of a destroyed late 12th century motte castle (TN041-042004-), a 13th/14th century Carmelite friary (TN041-042008-), two 15th century tower houses represented by 'Black Castle' (TN041-042001-) and its enclosing bawn (TN041-042020-), and 'Barry's Castle' (TN041-042002-); two church sites, St Bridget's (TN041-042003-) in the western quadrant and St Mary's (TN041-042009-) in the eastern quadrant. Other monuments include the remains of sheela-na-gig (TN041-042005-), the site of a castle (TN041-042013-) and the late medieval 'Barry's Bridge' (TN041-042006-).

In 2002 archaeological monitoring at Croke Street, Thurles carried out by Aine Richardson for a commercial development revealed no archaeological features. Monitoring of the excavation of foundation trenches was carried out at Croke Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The site, on the eastern side of Croke Street, is within the zone of archaeological potential as outlined in the Urban Archaeological Survey. The development proposal involved demolishing the buildings on the site and constructing a larger retail unit with car-parking facilities to the rear. Testing of the site had been carried out by John Tierney as part of an assessment (Bennett 2003, No. 1231, 01E0542). However, the locations of the foundations for the new building were not tested, as the demolition of the old structures had not taken place, so the assessment recommended that all groundworks associated with the development be monitored. Seven foundation trenches were excavated for the development. Although historical research pointed to the possibility of finding the enclosing wall of the medieval town of Thurles, no evidence of medieval activity was discovered on the site. The sediments removed from the foundation trenches were mainly relatively modern or late post-medieval. Only one context showed any likelihood of being earlier, and this was inconclusive: a layer of rubble that may be the remnants of a demolished wall. It was in the centre of the site and consisted of limestone blocks held within dark brown/black, mortar-enriched clay. It was 0.9m deep. The average dimensions of the stones were 0.22m by 0.1m by 0.08m. No coursing was evident, but the wall may have been demolished to create a level ground surface. It is possible that any medieval layers were removed at the time of the construction of the original retail unit. At the eastern end of the site, under the upper modern layers, the sediments were largely natural. This monitoring was carried out under Licence No. 01E0542ext. (Bennett 2004, 482).

In 2002 archaeological trenching at Friar Street, Thurles carried out by Brian Shanahan for a commercial development revealed no archaeological features. An assessment was carried out before an extension to the rear of street-front premises. The proposed development lies within the zone of archaeological potential of the medieval town of Thurles, adjacent to the Black Castle and within a suburb that had developed outside the West Gate of the town. Rocque's map of Thurles (1755) indicates that the northern part of Friar Street, where the site lies, was then part of the ornamental castle gardens laid out in a geometric baroque style. The north side of the street was subsequently built on. Two test-trenches (5.5m by 1m and 1.5m by 1m) were excavated to cover the area of the proposed rear extension. They revealed that subsoil, beige and orange sandy clays, sloped down from north to south (97.49-97.11m OD). It was covered by the original topsoil, a grey/brown silty clay (0.75m thick) containing a single piece of animal bone. The edge of a pit or an east-west-running ditch (0.6m deep) was cut into this layer. It was filled with orange sand, which also covered the original topsoil to the south of the pit. It was suggested that this may relate to landscaping of the formal garden. Farther south and directly behind the existing dwelling a sump (1.25m deep) containing stone and some red brick was exposed. It was probably constructed to prevent flooding from the sloping yard. The sump and the sand layers were covered by clay and stones (0.3-0.6m thick), which formed a base for the concrete yard surface. No finds of archaeological significance were recovered. This trenching was carried out under Licence No. 02E0775 (Bennett 2004, 482-3).

In 2002 archaeological testing at Bridge House in Liberty Square, Thurles carried out by Mary Henry for a commercial development revealed cobbled surfaces beneath the demolished buildings of unknown date. Pre-construction testing was undertaken on a site known as Bridge House at Liberty Square, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The site is opposite a tower-house, known as Bridge Castle. It backs onto the River Suir. The owners of the site have obtained planning permission to demolish the existing building and construct a mixed residential and retail development. Three trenches were opened on the footprint of the proposed building. Results from the testing revealed that the river had been wider than at present. This was based on the large number of water-rolled stones and sedimentation found at the bottom of the trench nearest to the river. Testing also revealed a structure on the site pre-dating the demolished building (which dated to the early 19th century). The newly revealed structure was confined to the western part of the site, farthest from the river. No conclusive dating evidence emerged to indicate when the walls were built. However, the structure appears to be on Rocque's 1755 map and the 1819 Llandaff estate map, but the date of construction remains unknown. Cobbled surfaces were found to extend beneath the walls. Given the nature of the archaeological features—the walls and cobbled surfaces—further investigative works will be carried out on this site in 2003. This testing was carried out under Licence No. 02E1841 (Bennett 2004, 483).

In 2002 archaeological testing at Townparks, Thurles carried out by Anne-Marie Lennon revealed no archaeological features pre 18th century in date. This testing was carried out under Licence No. 02E1397 (Bennett 2004, 483).

The above description is derived from 'The Archaeological Inventory of County Tipperary. Vol. 1 - North Tipperary' compiled by Jean Farrelly and Caimin O'Brien (Dublin: Stationery Office, 2002). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.

Compiled by: Jean Farrelly and Hugh Carey

Revised by: Caimin O'Brien

Date of revised upload: 9 August 2018

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<p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP</p>	<p>Yes</p>

SMR Ref.	TN041-042007-
CHS No.	2
Legal Status	Recorded Monument
Townland	Thurles Townparks
Site Type	Town Defences
Coordinates (ITM)	612608 658669
Description	<p>Situated on flat pasture with good views in all directions. The medieval settlement at Thurles appears to have been established along a fording point of the River Suir which runs N-S along the E side of the present town. Thurles was established as an Anglo-Norman town (TN041-042----) by Theobald Walter in the late twelfth century around which time the earth and timber motte-castle (TN041-042004-) was constructed (Bradley 1985, 54; Empey 1989, 32, 36). This Anglo-Norman fortification known locally as the 'Moat' was located 70m NW of Liberty Square in the NW quadrant of the medieval town.</p> <p>The earliest reliable reference to a castle in Thurles is in a charter granted by Theobald Walter, who died in 1206 (Curtis 1933, 18). It is recorded that Donal More O'Brien won a military victory here in 1192, presumably his target being the newly established settlement (Smyth 1991, 166-7; Nolan 1989, 12). The borough status of the town is clear from an early fourteenth-century reference (1336) to two knights' fees held as a burgage to the value of £22 17s 2d (Martin 1981, 51; Cal. inq. post mortem, 18) and almost a century later (1432) the reeve and community were summoned to the seneschal's court (Martin 1981, 51; Curtis 1933, 95).</p> <p>It is unclear whether a stone wall was ever constructed around the town of Thurles and no physical remains of a town wall have yet been identified. A stone wall may have been constructed around the town in the second half of the fourteenth century when Thurles received a murage grant dated 1356-7 (Thomas 1992, vol. 2, 192). In this year the Chancery Rolls recorded a royal exemption on 'certain specified customs from articles for sale coming to that town' for a period of 20 years, 'to the town of Thurlys [Thurles] in aid of the paving [of that town] and its enclosure with a stone wall' (Patent Roll 30 Edward III, No. 43). A tentative line of the town wall was suggested by Thomas (1992, 193). The circuit of this proposed wall (area c. 7.5 ha) would only enclose the town of Thurles on the W side of the River Suir, leaving the E side of the town undefended. The wall may have ran parallel to the W bank of the River Suir for a length of c. 250m and then ran parallel to the main street towards 'Black Castle' (TN041-042001-) and the Anglo-Norman motte castle (TN041-042004-) which may have stood close to the NW angle of the town wall. Black Castle, Castle Avenue and Westgate Street may mark the W boundary of the town wall. However Westgate Street may be a reference to the gate of the bawn wall (TN041-042020-) belonging to Black Castle and not to a town wall entrance gate. A gateway may have been located on the E side of the town beside Barry's Bridge (TN041-042006-) and castle (TN041-042002-) where the modern road crosses the River Suir.</p> <p>The Ordnance Survey Letters of 1840 describe a destroyed W gate as geata na gcoileach, they also mention a round building known as Crow's tower which stands at the town to the right of the road to Cashel (O'Flanagan 1930, vol. 2, 78). This tower may have been a mural tower associated with the town walls of Thurles (Carey and Farrelly 1994, 85-100).</p> <p>There is no depiction of a town wall on either the Down Survey map of 1655-9 or Rocque's map of 1755 (NLI 16 I 3/9). It is not certain whether the town defences were of stone (Bradley 1985, 53) but there were gates at E, N and W that gave access to the town. Only the springing arch of the E gate survives protruding from Barry's Castle (TN041-042002-) - there is only the placename evidence for the W</p>

gate while there is no surviving evidence for a N gate.

The above description is derived from 'The Archaeological Inventory of County Tipperary. Vol. 1 - North Tipperary' compiled by Jean Farrelly and Caimin O'Brien (Dublin: Stationery Office, 2002). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.

Compiled by: Jean Farrelly and Hugh Carey

Revised by: Caimin O'Brien

Date of revised upload: 10 August 2018

References:

Bradley, J. 1985 (Reprint 1997) The medieval towns of Tipperary. In W. Nolan and T.G. McGrath (eds), Tipperary: History and Society, 34-59. Dublin. Geography Publications.

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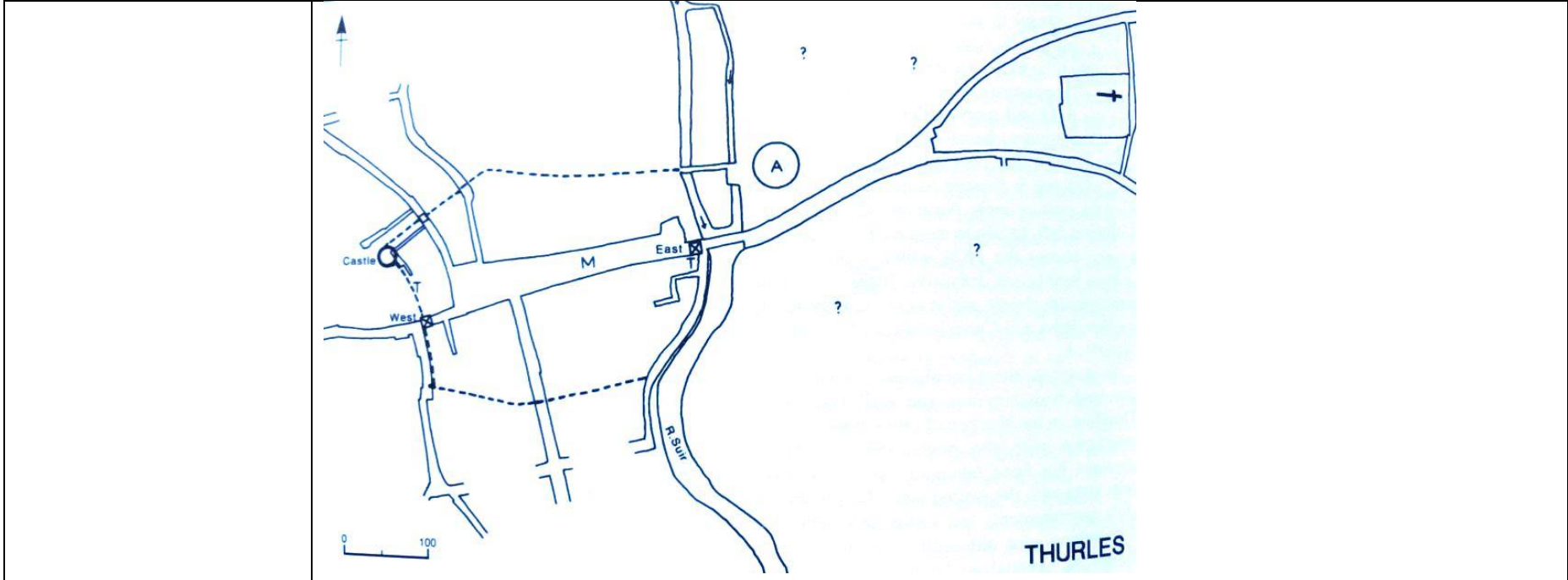
Nolan, W. 1989 Thurles from a distance. In W. Corbett and W. Nolan (eds.), Thurles: the cathedral town, 1-29. Dublin. Geography Publications.

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Smyth, W.J. 1991 Towns and town life in mid-seventeenth century county Tipperary. Tipperary Historical Journal, 163-9.

Thomas, A. 1992 The walled towns of Ireland, 2 vols. Dublin. Irish Academic Press.

See attached image of proposed/suggested line of town wall if it had been constructed around the town of Thurles, taken from The Walled Towns of Ireland (Thomas 1992, 192).





Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP


No


SMR Ref.	TN041-042005-
CHS No.	3
Legal Status	Recorded Monument
Townland	Thurles Townparks
Site Type	Sheela-na-gig
Coordinates (ITM)	612576 658566
Description	<p>Situated on the back wall of Lyon's Tyre and Batteries Centre opposite the GAA museum on the Slievenamon road in Thurles town. According to the OS Letters the W gate of the town was known locally as 'geata na Gcoileach' or the gate of the old woman with a carving of an old woman chiselled on a stone in one of its sides (O'Flanagan 1930, vol. 3, 7-8). It is likely that this reference is to the sheela-na-gig which was inserted in its present location after the demolition of the W gate. The figure consists of a woman carved in relief with a pear-shaped head, almond-shaped recessed eyes, small nose and horizontal mouth on a square body with sagging breasts, splayed legs and arms pulling vulva apart. It has pronounced jug-shaped ears and the lower leg on the dexter side is missing while that on the sinister side terminates in a foot positioned side-ways with pronounced heel and foot. The figure is carved on a limestone block (H 0.49m x Wth 0.47m) in relief.</p> <p>The above description is derived from 'The Archaeological Inventory of County Tipperary. Vol. 1 - North Tipperary' compiled by Jean Farrelly and Caimin O'Brien (Dublin: Stationery Office, 2002). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.</p> <p>Date of upload/revision: 22 September 2008</p> <p>References:</p> <p>O'Flanagan, Rev. M. (Compiler) 1930 Letters containing information relative to the antiquities of the county of Tipperary collected during the progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1840. Bray.</p>
Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP	Yes

Appendix 2: Inventory of RPS/NIAH Cultural Heritage Sites (CHS) within the Scheme

CHS No.	NIAH Location	RPS Reg. No. NIAH Reg. No.	NIAH Description, Appraisal & Rating
CHS 4	Permanent TSB, 14 Liberty Square, Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 86 22312086	<p>Corner-sited end-of-terrace three-bay two-storey bank, built c.1910, with double-height ground floor. Hipped slate roof with rendered chimneystacks, rendered parapet and cast-iron rainwater goods. Smooth rendered walls with moulded eaves cornice and string course to first floor. Channelled render pilasters with impost course and cornice to ground floor. Round-arch fixed windows with render panels to ground floor and square-headed one-over-one pane timber sliding sash windows to first floor, tripartite and with hood-mouldings to front façade. Square-headed doorway with panelled timber double-leaf door with decorative render doorcase and fanlight.</p> <p>This imposing building occupies an important corner site and hence contributes to the streetscape of both Liberty Square and Slievenamon Road. The bold forms and large scale of the render decoration to the ground floor are typical of early twentieth-century buildings.</p>  <p>Date: 1900 - 1920 Original Use: house In Use as: bank/financial institution Rating: Regional Coordinates: 212660, 158590</p>


<p>CHS 5</p>	<p>DD's Boutique, 15-16 Liberty Square, Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles</p>	<p>RPS 87 22312087</p>	<p>Corner-sited end-of-terrace former pair of three-bay three-storey houses, built c.1860. Now in use as shop. Hipped artificial slate roof having rendered chimneystacks. Rendered walls with render quoins to ground floor. Render fascia with modillions to upper façades. Replacement uPVC windows. Timber panelled door with overlight, providing access to upper floors. Shopfront comprises timber pilasters and consoles flanking plate glass windows and double-leaf doors, with cast-iron cresting above.</p> <p>This building occupies an important corner site and hence its broad street frontage contributes to the streetscape of both Liberty Square and Slievenamon Road. The shopfront retains elegant cast-iron crestings.</p>  <p>Date: 1840 - 1880 Original Use: house In Use as: shop/retail outlet Rating: Regional Coordinates: 212685, 158604</p>
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<p>CHS 6</p>	<p><i>Coláiste Éile,</i> Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles</p>	<p>RPS 110 22312110</p>	<p>End-of-terrace three-bay three-storey house, built c.1880. Now in use as offices. Pitched slate roof with rendered chimneystacks. Rendered walls with render quoins and render plinth. Square-headed openings with decorative render surrounds having replacement uPVC windows, wider to ground floor and replacement timber panelled door with overlight.</p> <p>The size, scale and broad frontage of this building make it an imposing feature of the streetscape. The variety of render decoration to the windows and door enliven the façade.</p>  <p>Date: 1860 - 1900 Original Use: house In Use as: office Rating: Regional Coordinates: 212665, 158575</p>
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CHS 7	Dawn, Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 111 22312111	<p>End-of-terrace five-bay four-storey former corn store with blocked integral carriage arch, built c.1855, Now in use as public house. Pitched slate roof with rendered chimneystacks. Exposed roughly-dressed limestone masonry walls with dressed ashlar quoins. Replacement windows with brick block-and-start surrounds. Segmental-headed carriage arch with dressed voussoirs, now window. Late twentieth-century entrance at south end.</p> <p>The size and scale of this building make it an imposing structure on Slievenamon Road. The diminishing small windows in the thick masonry walls and the centrally-sited former integral carriage arch on the ground floor are reminders of its age and function as a corn store. The shopfront is of candidly late twentieth-century design, as are the replacement windows and new door, rather than being a pastiche of older styles.</p>  <p>Date: 1850 - 1860 Original Use: store/warehouse In Use as: public house Rating: Regional Coordinates: 212702, 158569</p>
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CHS 8	<i>Lár na Páirce</i> , Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 112 22312112	<p>Detached five-bay three-storey bank, built c.1885, with slightly projecting end entrance bays and flanked by single-storey screen walls. Now in use as shop and offices. Pitched slate roof with rendered chimneystacks and limestone cornice. Coursed rusticated limestone walls to ground floor and ashlar walls with render quoins and render frieze to upper floors. Segmental-arched window openings with continuous limestone sill course to second floor, bevelled square-headed with render surrounds, cornices and continuous limestone sill course to first-floor and round-arched with dropped keystones and separated by rusticated pilasters to ground floor. Replacement aluminium windows. Square-headed timber panelled double-leaf door with overlights, having render triangular pediments and render consoles and pilasters. Carriage arch in limestone wall to north and blind arch in limestone wall to south.</p> <p>The ashlar limestone work utilized in the construction of this building was clearly executed by skilled craftsmen. The two front doors are interesting reminders of the provisions that were made for the bank manager's residential accommodation on the upper floors of purpose-built banks in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Ireland.</p>  <p>Date: 1880 - 1890 Original Use: bank/financial institution In Use as: office Rating: Regional Coordinates: 212703, 158535</p>
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CHS 9	16th Heavy Mortar Battery Hall, Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 113 22312113	<p>Freestanding three-bay gable-fronted Methodist church, built 1848, having three-bay two-storey side elevation with lean-to extension to rear. Now in use as military hall. Pitched artificial slate roof having rendered chimneystacks. Lined-and-ruled rendered walls to front with square-headed niches with limestone sills and moulded render surrounds, ashlar limestone pilasters, and limestone pediment with fascia and acroteria with anthemion motif. Central square-headed replacement timber panelled double-leaf door with render cornice with consoles and limestone steps. Rendered wall having cast-iron gate with military insignia to site boundary. This is a notable example of the successful re-use of a disused building. This is an interesting example of a temple front motif complete with anthemions, plinth, and steps. The building has played a significant role in the historical and social development of the area.</p>  <p>Date: 1845 - 1850 Original Use: church/chapel In Use as: church/chapel; community centre Rating: Regional Coordinates: 212678, 158483</p>
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<p>CHS 10</p>	<p>Carrigan and Co. Solicitors, Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles</p>	<p>RPS 114 22312114</p>	<p>Semi-detached two-bay three-storey house, built c.1850, as pair with building to south. Now in use as offices. Pitched slate roof with rendered chimneystack and rendered parapet. Lined-and-ruled rendered walls with render eaves course and vermiculated render quoins. Square-headed openings with timber sliding sash windows, tripartite one-over-one pane to ground floor and six-over-six pane to upper floors, with limestone sills. Replacement timber panelled door with overlight.</p> <p>Built as a pair with the adjoining house to the south, the imposing scale and form make it a notable part of the streetscape. The building is enhanced by the retention of interesting features and materials, such as the slate roof, timber sash windows and decorative render detail.</p>  <p>Date: 1830 - 1870 Original Use: house In Use as: office Rating: Regional Coordinates: 212711, 158490</p>
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CHS 11	Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 115 22312115	<p>Semi-detached two-bay three-storey house with attic storey, built c.1850, as pair with building to north. Now in use as offices. Pitched slate roof with rendered chimneystack and rendered parapet. Lined-and-ruled rendered walls with render eaves course and vermiculated render quoins. Square-headed openings with replacement uPVC windows and limestone sills. Replacement timber panelled door with overlight and limestone step.</p> <p>Built as a pair with the adjoining house to the north, the tall appearance of this house makes it an imposing form in the streetscape on this southern approach to Liberty Square. The building is enhanced by the good-quality render detailing.</p>  <p>Date: 1830 - 1870 Original Use: house In Use as: office Rating: Regional Coordinates: 212710, 158483</p>
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<p>CHS 12</p>	<p>Bamboo Garden Restaurant, Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles</p>	<p>RPS 120 22312120</p>	<p>End-of-terrace gable-fronted multiple-bay two-storey former shop, built c.1915. Pitched artificial slate roof with brick chimneystacks and timber bargeboards. Brick walling to north elevation. Rendered walls with decorative render to upper gable and having channelled render piers with fluting detail to tops to each end of facade and having decorative moulded cornice between floors also forming top of shopfront. Fixed and timber casement windows. Shopfront comprising carved timber pilasters flanking timber panelled double-leaf central door, with similar door at end of facade leading to upper floor, and with simple fascia below cornice.</p> <p>This purpose-built commercial premises is a well-designed addition to the streetscape. The gable-fronted form, decorative detail to the gable and large scale glazing are typical early twentieth-century architectural features. The building retains many original features and materials, such as the fine shopfront, and well executed piers and decorative cornice.</p>  <p>Date: 1900 – 1930 Original Use: shop/retail outlet In Use as: Rating: Regional Coordinates: 212672, 158462</p>
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CHS 13	Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 121 [22312121 Thurles & Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015]	<p>Terraced three-bay two-storey house with central canted two-storey bay and integral carriage arch, built c. 1925, as part of terrace with adjoining houses to south. Now also in use as doctors' surgery. Pitched slate roof with terracotta ridge cresting, brick chimneystacks and gabled to canted bay having terracotta finial and cresting and carved timber bargeboards. Red brick walls with moulded brick eaves course, string course and plinth. Rendered walls to canted bay. Timber casement windows and replacement timber panelled door with stained glass overlight. Square-headed carriage arch to north end. Wrought-iron railings and gates and timber gates to site boundary.</p> 
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CHS 14	Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 122 [22312122 Thurles & Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015]	<p>Terraced two-bay two-storey house with canted bay, built c. 1925, as part of terrace with adjoining houses to north and south. Pitched artificial slate roof with terracotta ridge cresting, brick chimneystacks and gablet to canted bay having terracotta finial and cresting and carved timber bargeboards. Red brick walls with moulded brick eaves course, string course and plinth. Rendered walls to canted bay. Replacement uPVC windows and replacement timber panelled door with overlight. Wrought-iron railings and gates to site boundary.</p> 
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CHS 15	Terrace, Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 123 [22312123 Thurles & Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015]	<p>Terraced two-bay two-storey house with canted bay, built c. 1925, as part of terrace with adjoining houses to north and south. Pitched slate roof with terracotta ridge cresting, brick chimneystacks and gablet to canted bay having terracotta finial and cresting and carved timber bargeboards. Red brick walls with moulded brick eaves course, string course and plinth. Rendered walls to canted bay. Timber casement windows and timber panelled door with moulded architrave and with overlight. Wrought-iron railings and gates to site boundary.</p> 
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CHS 16	Elm Lea, Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 124 [22312124 Thurles & Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015]	<p>Terraced two-bay two-storey house with canted bay, built c. 1925, as part of terrace with adjoining houses to north and south. Pitched slate roof with terracotta ridge cresting, brick chimneystacks and gablet to canted bay having terracotta finial and cresting and decoratively carved timber bargeboards. Red brick walls with moulded brick eaves course, string course and plinth. Rendered walls to canted bay. Timber casement windows and timber panelled door with overlight. Wrought-iron railings and gates to site boundary.</p> 
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CHS 17	Terrace, Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 125 [22312125 Thurles & Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015]	<p>Corner-sited end-of-terrace two-bay two-storey house with projecting two-storey bay, built c. 1925, as part of terrace with adjoining houses to north. Now also in use as surgery. Pitched slate roof with terracotta ridge cresting, brick chimneystacks and gablet to canted bay having terracotta finial and cresting and carved timber bargeboards. Red brick walls with moulded brick eaves course, string course and plinth. Rendered walls to canted bay. Replacement casement windows and timber panelled door with overlight. Wrought-iron railings and gates to site boundary.</p> 
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CHS 18	Dwelling, Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 126 [22312126 Thurles & Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015]	<p>Detached three-bay two-storey house, built c. 1920, with canted end bays with gablets. Two-storey return to rear. Hipped slate roof, rendered chimneystacks, decorative eaves and timber bargeboards with finials and having terracotta tiles to gablets. Rendered walls with render quoins and continuous sills to canted bays. Replacement uPVC windows to main block and one-over-one pane timber sash to return. Segmental-arched door opening with timber panelled door having sidelights and coloured glass overlight. Wrought-iron railings and gates to site.</p> 
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CHS 19	Thomond Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 127 22312127	<p>End-of-terrace two-bay two-storey house, built c.1915, as part of terrace of three with adjoining houses to east. Pitched slate roof and rendered chimneystacks. Rendered walls with render eaves dentils, strip pilasters, plinth and moulded surrounds to window openings. Segmental-headed openings to first floor with one-over-one pane timber sash windows and wider square-headed opening to ground floor with timber casement window. Round-headed door opening having timber panelled door with fanlight and label-moulding. Retains interior features. This terrace makes a notable contribution to the streetscape due to the variety of openings employed in the execution of the building. The segmental-arch openings, square-headed opening and round-headed door opening are articulated and enhanced by the decorative render detail.</p>  <p>Date: 1900 - 1930 Original Use: house In Use as: house Rating: Regional Coordinates: 212769, 158450</p>
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CHS 20	Dwelling, Thomond Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 128 [22312128 Thurles & Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015]	<p>Terraced two-bay two-storey house, built c. 1915, as part of terrace of three with adjoining houses to east and west. Pitched slate roof and rendered brick chimneystacks. Rendered walls with render eaves dentils, strip pilasters, plinth and decorative surrounds to window openings. Segmental-headed openings to first floor and square-headed opening to ground floor, with replacement uPVC windows. Round-headed door opening having timber panelled door with fanlight and label moulding.</p> 
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CHS 21	Thomond Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 129 22312129	<p>Terraced two-bay two-storey house, built c.1915, as part of terrace of three with adjoining houses to west. Pitched slate roof and brick chimneystack. Rendered walls with render eaves dentils, strip pilasters, plinth and moulded surrounds to openings. Segmental-headed openings to first floor and wider square-headed opening to ground floor, with replacement uPVC windows. Round-headed door opening having replacement timber panelled door with fanlight and label-moulding.</p> <p>This terrace makes a notable contribution to the streetscape due to the variety of openings employed in the execution of the building. The segmental-arche openings, square-headed opening and round-headed door opening are articulated and enhanced by the decorative render detail.</p>  <p>Date: 1900 - 1930 Original Use: house In Use as: house Rating: Regional Coordinates: 212783, 158451</p>
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CHS 22	Knox Community Hall, Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 132 [22312132 Thurles & Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015]	<p>Detached gable-fronted single-storey hall, built c. 1950, comprising projecting multiple-bay single-storey entrance block with flat roof and having four-bay side elevations. Pitched corrugated-iron roof. Roughcast rendered walls with render plinth and raised render reveals. Metal windows set in square-headed and circular openings. Timber panelled door with overlight. Stone wall with metal gate to site boundary.</p> 
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<p>CHS 23</p>	<p>Parochial School, Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles</p>	<p>RPS 133 22312133</p>	<p>Detached L-plan three-bay two-storey school, dated 1852, with projecting gabled end bay and projecting porch. Now in use as house. Pitched slate roofs with cut-stone chimneystacks with paired and tripled octagonal upper parts. Dressed limestone walls having moulded eaves course and plaque reading 'Parochial School 1852'. Three-centered-arch openings to upper gables with paired round-head windows and square-headed elsewhere, with double and triple timber casement windows. Replacement timber door with sidelights to entrance porch with carved eaves board. Single-storey extension to rear.</p> <p>The steep roofs and cut stone walls of this former school house are evidence of its age as well as the quality of its design as a high status building. It retains original features such as its stone eaves courses, a pleasing variety of window shapes, and cut stone chimneys. Sited on Slievenamon Road which comprises of twentieth-century buildings although it was laid out prior to 1840, this would have been an out of town school before Thurles Town's spread and growth in the twentieth century. As well as being an architecturally-interesting building in its own right, it is an interesting reminder of a time when Thurles was a much more compact town.</p>  <p>Date: 1850 - 1855 Original Use: school master's house In Use as: house Rating: Regional Coordinates: 212684, 158358</p>
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CHS 24	Dawn Cottage Pets, Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 135 22312135	<p>End-of-terrace three-bay two-storey house, built c.1930. Now also in use as shop. Pitched artificial slate roof with red brick chimneystacks with decorative copings. Red brick walls to first floor with rusticated concrete quoins. Rusticated render concrete walls to ground floor with string course above. Replacement uPVC windows to first floor with concrete sills and decorative keystones. Timber-framed plate glass shop front with recessed glazed timber door with overlight and name fascia. Timber panelled door with overlight leading to first floor. This building is a typical example of the exploitation of concrete's decorative potential in the early twentieth century. The moulded concrete blocks, voussoirs quoins and cornice are cast from concrete as a contrast to the brick upper storey and chimneys. This building provides textural and chromatic interest and contrast to the streetscape. The simple shopfront and the well-proportioned façade are typical of unfussy early twentieth-century design.</p>  <p>Date: 1920 - 1940 Original Use: house In Use as: house Rating: Regional Coordinates: 212718, 158342</p>
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CHS 25	Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 136 [22312136 Thurles & Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015]	<p>Corner-sited end-of-terrace three-bay two-storey house, built c. 1930, built as terrace of three with adjoining houses to south. Pitched artificial slate roof with rendered chimneystacks. Lined-and-ruled rendered walls to first floor with rusticated render quoins. Rusticated concrete walls to ground floor. Square-headed replacement uPVC windows with concrete sills, having concrete keystones to ground floor. Timber panelled door with leaded sidelights and overlights. Balustraded concrete wall with wrought-iron gate to site boundary.</p> 
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CHS 26	Maryville, Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 137 [22312137 Thurles & Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015]	<p>Terraced three-bay two-storey house, built c. 1930, built as terrace of three with houses to south and north. Pitched artificial slate roof with rendered chimneystacks. Lined-and-ruled rendered walls to first floor with rusticated render quoins. Rusticated concrete walls to ground floor. Square-headed replacement uPVC windows with concrete sills, having concrete keystones to ground floor. Timber panelled door with leaded sidelights and overlights. Balustraded concrete wall with wrought-iron gate to site boundary.</p> 
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CHS 27	Slievenamon Road, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 138 [22312138 Thurles & Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015]	<p>Corner-sited end-of-terrace three-bay two-storey house, built c. 1930, built as terrace of three with houses to north. Pitched artificial slate roof with rendered chimneystacks. Lined-and ruled rendered walls to first floor with rusticated render quoins. Rusticated concrete walls to ground floor. Square-headed replacement uPVC windows with concrete sills, having concrete keystones to ground floor. Timber panelled door with leaded sidelights and overlights. Balustraded concrete wall with wrought-iron gate to site boundary.</p> 
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CHS 28	Slieve Bloom, Kavanagh Place, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 139 [22312139 Thurles & Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015]	<p>Semi-detached two-storey two-bay house with canted gabled bay, built c. 1925, as pair with house to east. Pitched slate roof having rendered chimneystack and decorative timber bargeboard with finial. Rendered walls. Replacement uPVC windows and door. Wrought iron railings and gates to site boundary.</p> 
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CHS 29	Slieve Donard, Kavanagh Place, Townparks, Thurles	RPS 140 [22312140 Thurles & Environs Development Plan 2009- 2015]	<p>Semi-detached two-storey two-bay house with canted gabled bay, built c. 1925, as with house to west and having porch addition. Pitched slate roof having rendered chimneystack and decorative timber bargeboard with finial. Rendered walls. Replacement uPVC windows and door. Wrought-iron railings and gates to site boundary.</p> 
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Appendix 3: Tipperary County Council Cultural Heritage Objectives & Policies

North Tipperary County Development Plan 2010 (as varied): 7.5.4 Archaeological and Cultural Heritage	
Policy LH15: Architectural Heritage of Local Interest.	It is the policy of the Council to encourage the sympathetic restoration, re-use and maintenance of buildings/features which are considered to be of local architectural importance
Policy LH16: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	It is the policy of the Council to safeguard sites, features and objects of archaeological interest, including monuments on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the Record of Monuments and Places (as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994) and archaeological remains found within Zones of Archaeological Potential (ZAPs) located in historic towns and other urban and rural areas. In safeguarding such features of archaeological interest, the Council will seek to secure the preservation (i.e. preservation in situ or in exceptional circumstances preservation by record) and will have regard to the advice and recommendation of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Where developments, due to their location, size or nature, may have implications for archaeological heritage, the Council may require archaeological assessment to be carried out. This may include for a requirement for a detailed Visual Impact Assessment of the proposal and how it will impact on the character or setting of adjoining archaeological features. Such developments include those that are located at or close to an archaeological monument or site, those that are extensive in terms of area (1/2 ha or more) or length (1 kilometre or more), those that may impact the underwater environment and developments that require an Environmental Impact Statement.
Specific Objectives	It is an objective of the Council to prepare a county-wide Tipperary Landscape Character Assessment over the lifetime of the Plan (as varied).
SO7-1	
SO7-2	It is an objective of the Council to prepare a county-wide Tipperary Heritage Plan and Biodiversity Plan over the lifetime of the Plan (as varied).
SO7-3	It is an objective of the Council to review the Record of Protected Structures over the lifetime of the Plan (as varied).
SO7-4	It is an objective of the Council, through the ongoing participation and support of the Irish Walled Towns Network, to ensure the conservation, management and promotion of the medieval walled towns in the county, as appropriate
SO7-6	It is an objective of the Council to prepare a guidance note on directional and educational signage in Tipperary to avoid cluttering of signage and to ensure that high standards of signage are maintained in the county and particularly in historic towns and in the vicinity of historic monuments.
SO7-7	It is an objective of the Council, subject to resources; to identify and map existing tourism related walkways and way-marked ways in Tipperary over the lifetime of the Plan (as varied).
County Tipperary Heritage Plan 2017 - 2020	
Objective	Actions

1.Promote AWARENESS
AND APPRECIATION of the
Heritage of Tipperary

- 1.1 Enhance and promote access to and experience of heritage sites across the county including monuments, built and cultural heritage and natural heritage sites.
- 1.2 Encourage participation in heritage initiatives and projects at community level including through schools, youth groups, voluntary groups and statutory bodies. Hold a community workshop in each Municipal District during the first 12 months of the plan to engage directly with groups working on heritage projects in the area.
- 1.3 Continue to support heritage events and festivals throughout the year particularly during Heritage Week, Biodiversity Week and others where local buildings, archaeology, food, nature, sport music and local history are celebrated.
- 1.4 Produce a bi-annual heritage newsletter/ezine targeting awareness, heritage events, initiatives and projects around the county.
- 1.5 Produce a suite of booklets posters and an annual calendar over the life of the plan that highlight some of the thematic aspects of our county's heritage.
- 1.6 Develop a logo for the Heritage Forum which will be used on all actions from the Heritage Plan.
- 1.7 Improve content of the website to be a resource containing heritage information, advice, details on current projects and actions being taken for heritage around the county
- 1.8 Pilot a County Heritage Open day, where selected buildings or sites of heritage interest, not normally publicly accessible are open to the public for a specified time with a view to making it an annual event.
- 1.9 Develop a media presence in local newspapers and radio promoting awareness of built and natural heritage sites and other heritage matters.
- 1.10 Maintain an annual Heritage Grants scheme that supports initiatives at local level that raises awareness of local heritage.
- 1.11 Hold an annual awareness day that showcases aspects of the heritage of the county.
- 1.12 Utilise technology to actively promote heritage sites and projects in the county.
- 1.13 Where possible support collaborative projects with stakeholders and N.G.O's and other agencies or bordering counties to promote awareness of shared heritage sites.
- 1.14 Support the work of the Tipperary County Museum with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in developing an exhibition of key objects found in TII road excavations in Tipperary, and to promote the final archaeological reports in Tipperary Studies and Tipperary County Museum and as an online resource.
- 1.15 Work with Tourism Office and Sports Partnership to include heritage interpretation along recreational routes/greenways and blueways being developed in the county.
- 1.16 Conduct an awareness raising campaign on Invasive species and promote best practice in control of same both in-house and for members of the public.
- 1.17 Continue to participate in national projects such as Ireland 2016 and the Decade of Commemorations and other national initiatives such as Culture 2025 and Creative Ireland.

<p>2. Promote ACTIVE CONSERVATION of the Heritage of Tipperary.</p>	<p>2.1 Hold regular training events that will provide advice and guidance to local groups on heritage related topics for e.g. historic properties, graveyards and natural heritage sites.</p> <p>2.2 Support staff training within the local authority on matters relating to built and natural heritage.</p> <p>2.3 Support the development of the 'Tipperary Bird Project' in conjunction with Birdwatch Ireland and other projects that promote active community participation.</p> <p>2.4 Support the actions of the All Ireland Pollinator</p> <p>2.5 Promote pollinator actions at all Council buildings and include signage to promote best practice.</p> <p>2.6 Encourage the re-use of historic buildings within the county and promote awareness of best practice examples</p> <p>2.7 Do an inventory of built and natural heritage sites in ownership of the local authority.</p> <p>2.8 Build on success of previous European projects and where feasible become involved as partner or stakeholder in projects focusing on heritage management and conservation.</p>
<p>3. Support GATHERING AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION on the Heritage of Tipperary</p>	<p>3.1 Audit the existing body of information that has been gathered between North and South Tipperary and do up a programme for research for the lifetime of the plan targeting the main gaps in our bank of knowledge.</p> <p>3.2 Audit material and artefacts from Tipperary that are housed in National Institutions such as the National Museum, National Library and National Archives and promote awareness of these collections</p> <p>3.3 Develop a series of heritage worksheets aimed at primary school level relating to aspects of the county's heritage such as flora and fauna, built heritage etc</p> <p>3.4 Make data gathered by the Heritage Office available to departments within the local authority doing interpretation or drawing up guidelines and plans.</p> <p>3.5 Continue to work with stakeholders and interested parties to increase our knowledge of the built and natural heritage of the county.</p> <p>3.6 Establish a Tipperary Folklore project with a view to gathering the folklore of the county and having a permanent record and resource of this material available.</p> <p>3.7 Develop a programme of oral history around projects on heritage sites which can be used to enhance interpretation of these sites.</p>

Thurles and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015	
Policy:	Specific Objectives:
Policy ECON 12: Obsolete Areas It is the policy of the Councils to identify and secure the redevelopment of obsolete areas. Some sites are identified in Appendix 3, others include areas of backland, derelict sites and incidental open spaces which are or will be identified as opportunity sites for development	E.8 To seek the redevelopment of Derelict Sites and Opportunity Sites within the Plan area.
Policy ECON 13: Opportunity Sites It is the policy of the Councils to seek the appropriate re-use/redevelopment of the sites set out in Appendix 3. Development will be facilitated in accordance with the zoning and/or the guidelines set out set out in Appendix	
Policy HIST 1: Architectural Conservation Area. It is the policy of the Councils that the following areas: 1. Liberty Square/West Gate/Friar Street 2. Mitchel Street/Kickham Street 3. Matthew Avenue/Castle Avenue having particular architectural and environmental qualities which derive from the unique layout, design, unity of character and the mellowing of time, be designated Architectural Conservation Areas. Within the Architectural Conservation Areas the Councils will have regard to: (a) the impact of proposed development on the character and appearance of the Architectural Conservation Area in terms of compatibility of design, colour and finishes, and massing of built form; (b) the impact of proposed development on the existing amenities, character and heritage of these areas; and (c) the need to retain important architectural and townscape elements such as shopfronts, sash windows, gutters and down pipes, decorative plasterwork, etc.	
Policy HIST 3: Protected Structures It is the policy of the Councils to protect structures included in the Record of Protected Structures by encouraging: a) the continued viable use of protected structures, in whole or in part, b) the retention of all features of architectural importance, c) development that enhances the setting of a protected structure.	
Policy HIST 4: Archaeology It is the policy of the Councils to protect (in-situ where practicable or as a minimum, preservation by record) all monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places. The Councils will also seek to protect, where practicable, the setting of and access to sites. The Councils will have regard to advice and recommendations of the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government.	P.1 Preserve the places of archaeological, architectural and historic interest, including the setting and amenity of monuments, which add to the character and appearance of the town. P.5The Councils will consult The Heritage Section of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government on development proposals that impact on archaeology or on buildings of townscape importance.

Appendix 4: Previous Archaeological Investigations in Thurles. Source: www.excavations.ie

Licence No.	Site Name	Excavation Ref.	Author	Summary of Findings (www.excavations.ie)
03E0084	Cathedral Street	2003: 1807	Mary Henry	A series of engineering trial- and boreholes for municipal buildings at Cathedral Street, in the centre of Thurles town, were monitored. Seven boreholes with a diameter of 0.2m were opened. Seven trial-pits were opened measuring, on average, 2.5m by 0.5m. Nothing of archaeological significance was discovered in any of the boreholes or trial-holes.
03E1514	Cathedral of the Assumption, Cathedral Street	2003:1808	Avril Purcell	During the refurbishment of the cathedral a new baptismal font was installed, which required a small amount of ground reduction. This was confined to a very small area, of 1.8m in diameter, in the west transept and was carried out by hand. A portion of a broken headstone was revealed at a depth of 0.27m below the cathedral floor. The inscription was partially legible; it was commemorating the death of a priest in 1840. No human remains were revealed and the slab was left undisturbed. A portion of a wall, two courses high, of sandstone slabs and concrete was also revealed. The wall and the headstone were protected with heavy-duty plastic and the baptismal font was erected.
02E1841	Liberty Square	2003:1809	Florence M. Hurley	<p>This site lies at the eastern end of Liberty Square, Thurles. The River Suir lies to the east, while across the road to the south is the tower-house known as the East Gate. Testing of the site was carried out in early 2003 revealing a series of walls in the central part of the site along with two other walls close to the southern boundary. Two possible cobbled surfaces were also found, in the centre and northern part of the site. No datable material was found.</p> <p>It was subsequently requested that the walls be completely uncovered to determine if they might be medieval or whether any medieval deposits were present on-site. The proximity of the tower-house and the fact that its northern wall contains the springing for an arch also prompted the additional investigation. This work was carried out over a three-day period. A machine was used to remove modern overburden, with the remainder of the work being carried out by hand.</p> <p>The earliest wall uncovered ran north-south across the centre of the site and had two short walls abutting its western face. A cobbled surface lay under the short walls but did not run under the north-south wall. A dark-grey sandy silt lay on top of the cobbles. This produced a bronze stick-pin, a Dublin trade token of 1794 and two sherds of pottery, one post-medieval, the other a very worn piece of local medieval ware. Part of a limestone mullion came from the rubble infill above the walls. No medieval deposits were found. An examination of cartographic sources suggests that the walls belong to a narrow building of early or mid-18th-century date occupying a similar footprint to that which previously stood on the site.</p>

Licence No.	Site Name	Excavation Ref.	Author	Summary of Findings (www.excavations.ie)
02E01841 (ext)	Liberty Square	2003:1810	Mary Henry	Piling was monitored at Bridge House, Liberty Square, in the centre of Thurles town, to ensure that walls which had been previously discovered on the site by Flor Hurley (No. 1809 above) would be avoided by the piles. The piles avoided hitting known walls on the site. The relative ease with which they were driven suggested no new structures were encountered during the process. As regards archaeological layers, it was not possible to determine any stratigraphy due to the waterlogged nature of the site (located on the banks of the River Suir). All displaced material from the piles was a homogenous sludge.
03E0194	Liberty Square	2003:1811	Anne-Marie Lennon	Monitoring was undertaken of all ground disturbance associated with the development, as the site lies within the zone of archaeological potential for the town of Thurles. Nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered
03E0269	St. Mary's	2003:1812	Mary Henry	Testing was undertaken here in advance of construction works. The site is within the zone of archaeological potential for the town of Thurles and 100m from St Mary's Church, the supposed site of the medieval church. Its location between the town wall and the medieval parish church site might indicate that it is within an area of extramural suburbs. No archaeological evidence was found to suggest the presence of settlement. The site was entirely devoid of archaeological remains and consisted of modern infill intermixed with soil, no more than 0.4m thick, overlying sterile subsoil and natural depositions
03E0843	St. Mary's	2003:1813	Anne-Marie Lennon	Monitoring was undertaken of all ground disturbance associated with this housing development, which lies within the zone of archaeological potential for the town of Thurles. Nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered.
03E0795	Slievenamon Road	2003:1814	Mary Henry	Monitoring was undertaken for a building extension at the rear of a structure fronting Slievenamon Road in Thurles. No archaeological remains were recorded.
03E0806	West Gate/ Friars Street	2003:1815	Avril Hayes	Monitoring was undertaken for groundworks associated with the laying of service pipes in Friar Street/Westgate, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The development was located within the vicinity of the zone of potential for Thurles town, SMR 41:42. The area monitored included a 12m-long by 4m-wide stretch of roadway on the east side of Croke Street and the entire 45m length of Westgate. The work involved the laying of two water mains and a sewer. An existing three-inch water main was located towards the centre of Croke Street and Westgate. It was located 0.5-0.6m below ground level. A second water pipe, laid in the last 30 years, was present some 1.2m below ground level and running along the north side of Westgate. Existing ducts (ESB, etc.) ran along the south side of Westgate and the east side of Croke Street at a depth of 0.4m below ground level. The medieval wall of Thurles was believed to cross the road at the junction of West Gate and Friar Street. During excavation there was no trace of the wall in this area. It is probable that any wall in this location would have been destroyed during the laying of the original service pipes. Nothing of an archaeological nature was noted during the works

Licence No.	Site Name	Excavation Ref.	Author	Summary of Findings (www.excavations.ie)
04E0599	Thurles	2004:1632	Bruce Sutton	<p>The Mid-Western Health Board had undertaken to demolish the existing community hospital and to erect a new community hospital, site entrance, car parking and site works at the Hospital of the Assumption, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The hospital is located on the site of the earlier Thurles Union Workhouse. Ground disturbance works associated with the construction were monitored.</p> <p>During the course of monitoring a pipe trench in the south-western corner of the site, a number of grave-cuts were uncovered. After consultation with the National Museum of Ireland, it was determined that six of the grave-cuts required excavation. This resulted in the removal of the skeletal remains of nine individuals, five adults and four juveniles, that dated to the famine period in the mid-19th century. All of the graves were orientated east-west, in the Christian fashion, and all but one of the grave-cuts contained the fragmentary remains of wooden coffins. Osteoarchaeological analysis of the remains undertaken by Linda Fibiger determined that the adults buried on the site had all suffered from some form of degenerative joint disease and dental problems, both indicators of poor health. The four excavated juveniles all showed signs of suffering from longstanding disease. No archaeological finds were recovered from any of the excavated grave-cuts. The remaining grave-cuts were recorded and covered with terram and sand.</p>
04E1022	Cathedral Street	2004:1633	Emma Devine	Monitoring of groundworks before construction of an arts centre on the east bank of the River Suir just beyond the route of the medieval town walls of Thurles was requested. Trenches for storm drains revealed a 19th-century ditch and piled foundations yielded nothing but 19th-20th-century pottery as a result of large-scale reclamation activity at this time
04E1022 (ext)	Cathedral Street carpark	2004:1634	Cóilín Ó Drisceoil	An assessment of a proposed civic development at Cathedral Street Carpark, Thurles, was requested by the client, Tipperary North Riding County Council. Desk-top assessment indicated that the majority of the site was a marshy inlet of the River Suir until at least the mid-19th century. This was confirmed by testing, which, beneath the modern tarmac and hardcore, revealed 19th-century rubble reclamation deposits overlying an organic river mud, which in turn covered the substratum. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted
04E1194	Friars Street	2004:1635	Emma Devine	Testing was carried out at Friars' Street. Test-trenches revealed 18th-century plough furrows and a 19th-century pit, but nothing of archaeological significance.
04E0521	O'Donovan Rossa Street	2004:1636	Ellen O'Carroll	A new school hall was to be built for the Thurles Christian Brothers school. The small-scale development is sited within the zone of archaeological potential for Thurles, SMR 41:42. The site of the new hall is in the vicinity of the medieval town defences and has the potential to uncover subsurface features associated with it. Three test-trenches were mechanically excavated across the footprint of the building. Several modern, stone-filled soak pits were uncovered. No finds or features of archaeological significance were uncovered

Licence No.	Site Name	Excavation Ref.	Author	Summary of Findings (www.excavations.ie)
04E0820	Slievenamon Road	2004:1637	Emma Devine	<p>Pre-construction testing took place on 12 July 2004 and uncovered archaeology of a medieval date in two of the three test-trenches opened. Underneath the modern construction rubble hardcore and tarmac of the existing yard/carpark lay the site's medieval origins. A rich organic layer containing medieval pottery, a possible pit and post-holes was identified.</p> <p>A sheela-na-gig was also noted built into the fabric of the west boundary wall of the site. According to the OS letters, this came from the West Gate in Thurles, as it was known as Geata na gCoileach (the Gate of the Old Woman) and had a carving of an old woman chiselled on a stone on one of its sides. Testing also identified post-medieval garden soil beneath the 19th-century building, now demolished</p>
04E0820 (ext)	Slievenamon Road	2004:1638	Emma Devine	<p>Testing carried out in July revealed archaeology of a medieval date and excavations were undertaken on 17-21 August 2004. Four trenches corresponding to the footprint of the strip foundations were excavated mechanically to remove the modern overburden of builders' rubble, which was c. 0.6m deep, to expose the subsoil and any subsequent archaeological features and/or materials.</p> <p>The two trenches located to the north and east contained nothing of archaeological significance. It became clear during monitoring that this area of the site had been disturbed in more recent times and the subsoil scarped out. Fortunately this activity was confined to the northern area of the site and the areas within the south and west trenches appeared undisturbed. The earliest activity defined on the site was that of three narrow linear features or gullies running north-south across the south and west trenches. Two of these gullies were interpreted as burgage plot boundaries, due their distance apart (8m) and the similarity of their fill and morphology: V-shaped in profile with a dark silty fill, very similar to ones uncovered in an earlier excavation in Thurles town by Paul Stevens at the site of what is now the Munster Hotel (Excavations 1999, No. 835, 98E0598). Also, cartographic and documentary evidence shows that this area was comprised of burgage plots running at right angles to the medieval town wall during that period; the route of the medieval town wall corresponds exactly to the southern boundary of the site, running east-west. The third linear feature was U-shaped in profile and contained a very sterile silted fill in contrast to the others and its function is as of yet unknown.</p> <p>A large pit, 0.7m deep and 5m wide, was located to the north of the west trench; it was probably square in plan but, as only part of it was exposed in the trench, it is impossible to say for sure. Its primary fill was of sub-angular limestone chunks that appeared to have been deliberately dumped; all subsequent fills were sterile silts and the pit was interpreted as a soak pit. This pit and the most western gully were sealed beneath a layer of post-medieval plough furrows that criss-crossed each other, similar again to the excavations at the Munster Hotel. Nothing was recovered from these features to date them conclusively, but the fact that they enclosed the earlier 13th-14th-century remains found during testing and lay beneath post-medieval furrows makes a medieval, possibly 13th-14th-century, date highly likely. An additional test-trench was also required, as a separate planning permission given to build directly beside the route of the medieval town wall was not included in the original remit. This licence was extended to cover it. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered; the modern wall/site boundary that currently exists appeared to have removed any evidence of the medieval defences.</p>

Licence No.	Site Name	Excavation Ref.	Author	Summary of Findings (www.excavations.ie)
04E0562	Wolfe Tone Place	2004:1639	Richard Crumlish	<p>Monitoring of groundworks took place on 29 April 2004 at a development in Wolfe Tone Place, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The proposed development is within the constraint for the town of Thurles (SMR 41:42). The extant three-storey building on the site was derelict. It formerly housed a butcher's hall on the ground floor with residential accommodation above. The building was retained as part of the new development.</p> <p>The groundworks comprised a reduction in the ground-floor level of 0.3m in an area measuring 10.2m east-west by 6.1m wide. It also involved the excavation for two pads which measured 1.4m by 1.4m by 0.5-0.6m deep and 1.6m by 1.5m by 0.5m deep. Below the concrete floor was a fill that consisted of sand and red and yellow brick. Below this was mid- to dark-brown friable silt loam, which covered grey loose sand and gravel. The fill contained modern artefacts and occasional animal-bone fragments. The concrete and fill were associated with the existing modern building on the site. The mid- to dark-brown friable silt loam could have represented the original topsoil. The grey loose sand and gravel was a natural deposit. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered.</p>
06E0495	Thurles Train Station	2006:1925	Maedbh Saunderson	<p>Monitoring here was carried out on an intermittent basis from May to July 2006. The development comprised the excavation of two pits for a large diesel tank and associated auxiliary drainage. The area of the site to the east of the railway line was used as a carpark and monitoring of a large sump hole took place, as well as trenching of associated auxiliary works. The sump hole measured 20m by 18m by 5m in depth. Tarmac, 0.2m thick, lay over hardcore, 0.1m thick, which covered the natural brown silty clay, 0.2m deep. The natural boulder clay was light-yellow and was evident at the base of the excavated hole.</p> <p>A trench was excavated along the length of the carpark oriented north-south. The trench varied slightly in depth but measured on average 1.5m. The stratigraphy of the trench was uniform. The tarmac and hardcore measured 0.4m in thickness. Beneath this was a soft brown silty clay which measured on average 1.1m in thickness. To the west of the railway line another sump hole was excavated. This measured 20m by 20m by 5m in depth. Topsoil measured 0.1m in depth and the subsoil was a yellowish-brown silty clay. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.</p>
07E0585	Cathedral Street	2007:1729	Linda Hegarty	<p>Test-trenching was carried out in June 2007 in advance of the development of a carpark at St Patrick's College, Cathedral Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Nothing of archaeological significance was found on the site.</p>
08E0676	Ursuline Convent, Brittas road	2008:1162	Linda G. Lynch	<p>An impact assessment (including testing) was undertaken on this site prior to the proposed construction of a new convent. The site is located within the town of Thurles and to the north-west and within the grounds of the Ursuline Convent (established 1787). The latter is a protected structure, while two other protected structures are located to the south. These are Hayes' Hotel and Devlin's Medical Hall. The proposed development is located in the former farmyards of the convent. Extant farmyard buildings were demolished prior to testing.</p> <p>Five trenches were opened across the site. These varied from 14m to 20m in length. A series of modern drainage features were uncovered in the trenches, as well as the foundation of a modern structure (concrete blocks), and a large volume of modern levelling fill. Nothing of an archaeological nature was uncovered in the trenches.</p>

95E0150	Black Castle	1995:261	Margaret Gowan	<p>An archaeological assessment was carried out on a small development site close to the northern side of the Black Castle, Thurles. The assessment was carried out after planning permission had been granted for a theatre and community arts centre building and in response to a request by the Office of Public Works to the local authority. The site lies within the ‘zone of archaeological potential’ as defined by the OPW Urban Archaeological Survey and also lies within the supposed circuit of the medieval town defences. Black Castle, near the site, is a substantial, well-preserved, 15th/16th-century tower house which lies off Liberty Square in the centre of Thurles. The tower house has part of an enclosing bawn wall still surviving. The development is positioned on the north-east side of the tower, less than 5m away from what is thought to represent the eastern bawn wall.</p> <p>To the north-west of the site, less than 50m from the development area, lies the site of a motte, a late 12th-century earthen castle which had substantial precincts by the 14th century. In addition, documentary sources suggest that Thurles was a walled town in the medieval period. The line of the town wall is thought to have run some distance to the west of the proposed development site, but the location has not been confirmed by archaeological investigation.</p> <p>The development site measures roughly 23m north-south by 19m east-west and is bordered on all sides by light limestone walls. It lies outside the bawn area and also some 3-5m inside the supposed line of the town wall. The assessment sought to establish:(i) whether the western boundary wall might coincide with the line of the town wall;(ii) whether a small semicircular arc in the southern boundary wall of the site, which appeared to be at variance with the general orientation of the surrounding walls, might be associated with the tower house (perhaps forming part of an outer medieval bawn wall);(iii) whether archaeological deposits exist on the site. The proximity to the supposed location of the Anglo-Norman motte was also borne in mind.</p> <p>Prior to the archaeological assessment four trial-holes had been opened for engineering site investigation purposes in the four corners of the site. These indicated that there was a deep deposit of grey/black silt at the southern end of the site and a natural gravel deposit at the northern end. The archaeological testing revealed that:(i) both the southern and western boundary wall are post-medieval in date; neither are associated with the castle bawn or city wall;(ii) the semicircular arc in the southern site boundary wall was inserted possibly to facilitate the inward opening of the gate;(iii) the upper levels of rubble and stones with the remains of the mortar floor are also post-medieval in date, as was a pit in the south-west corner of the site;(iv) the possible remains of a wall, probably orientated east-west, were badly disturbed at the east of the site (Trench 2, which was positioned parallel to Trench 1, did not pick up the line of a deep masonry foundation recorded in the engineers’ site log, indicating that it did not extend as far north as Trench 2);(v) a deep deposit of dark grey silt with brown organic lenses beneath the upper rubble and stones extended to a depth of 3.7m below the present ground level.</p> <p>Although the organic silt material excavated was intensively searched for artefactual finds, no pottery or other small items were retrieved. Of note, no animal bone or shell were recovered from this deposit. The silt extended for 13m north of the boundary wall and could represent a ditch or fosse associated with the tower house or the motte. The inclusion of fragments of twigs in the organic fill may suggest that it silted up over time. The natural deposits at the north side of the site are gravels, lying just 1.2m below present ground level. The silt, therefore,</p>
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Licence No.	Site Name	Excavation Ref.	Author	Summary of Findings (www.excavations.ie)
				could simply represent a portion of an active natural watercourse in this area. No other archaeological layers or features were located.
10E0065	Croke Street	2010:632	Anne-Marie Lennon	Pre-development testing was requested as the site lies within the constraint zone of TI041–042 (Thurles town). A total of eight test-trenches were opened along the footprint of the proposed development. Test excavations revealed the remains of the foundations of the earlier 19th-century building in the front section of the site, including the deep cut to support a large double chimney, while in the rear of the site, formerly a garden, an enigmatic brick-wall foundation, of 19th-century date, was uncovered in Trench 7. Apart from several glass bottles and sherds of pottery from the 19th/20th centuries, no artifacts or remains of an archaeological nature were uncovered during testing.
10E0249	Kickham Street	2010:633	Mary Henry	<p>Testing was undertaken in relation to planning permission to demolish a building and build a health clinic and car-parking and undertake associated site works close to the south side of the west end of Kickham Street, which is within the zone of archaeological potential for Thurles town.</p> <p>This site is located to the east of Thurles town centre, in a flat area on the eastern side of the River Suir. Located to the east of the walled town, it may have been in the general area of the eastern extramural suburb around St Mary's parish church. No archaeological evidence emerged from the testing to suggest the presence of a medieval suburb in the area of the site. However, an examination of the 1840 first-edition OS map did indicate this general area was developed by the 1830s/early1840s, although the actual site was a vacant plot at this time. By the time of the compilation of the early 1950s OS edition, there appears to have been little change on the plot. The existing building, which partially occupied the site, appeared to date, at the earliest, to the mid-20th century.</p> <p>Three test-trenches were positioned on the site; two west of the building which extended through the centre of the site and one trench to its east. A land drain was revealed within the two western trenches, which appeared to terminate at a stone-filled soak pit. Contained within the fill of this cut was modern glass and factory-made red brick, suggesting it was not of antiquity. All soil profiles recorded in the trench, sited to the east of the existing building, pointed to the area being utilised as a vegetable plot. There was no evidence of any activity prior to the mid- to late 19th century at its earliest from this trench</p>

Licence No.	Site Name	Excavation Ref.	Author	Summary of Findings (www.excavations.ie)
10E0044	St Mary's Avenue	2010:634	Mary Henry	<p>Testing was undertaken subsequent to a request for further information as part of planning retention for the demolition of a garage and store and to build a new garage/utility room and connect to services. The new building had been partially built. The site was located to the east of Thurles town centre, along the south side of St Mary's Avenue and close to St Mary's Church and graveyard. St Mary's Avenue is within the zone of archaeological potential for Thurles town.</p> <p>Two trenches were opened within the site to the south and south-west of the partially constructed building, on lines of proposed services. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed, although a rubble floor and pit were recorded both dating to the modern period. It was noticeable the rubble floor was sealed with a layer of redeposited natural imported from outside the immediate vicinity, which was covered with gravel to form a hard surface. The rubble floor was also immediately above the natural deposition and it was considered that this area was stripped prior to the laying of the floor.</p> <p>Local information revealed this site was a brewery until the latter half of the 20th century, with a large lean-to shed aligned north-south along the eastern boundary wall. It was therefore considered the features identified during the archaeological testing are associated with this structure.</p>
11E0291	Leugh Road	2011:580	Caoimhe Ní Thóibín	<p>Monitoring took place of groundworks associated with the construction of a new ambulance base, covered ambulance parking bays, staff car park and dedicated entrance/exit adjacent to the Community Hospital of the Assumption, Leugh Road, Thurles. The area to be stripped and excavated measured 40.6m east-west by 64.4m and was excavated to a depth of 0.7-1m. The site was bounded to the north and east by a large stone wall possibly associated with the original workhouse building. The existing ambulance base and car park were located directly to the south, and a modern boundary wall and community hospital to the west. In 2004, during the construction of the current hospital, 19th-century burials were uncovered by Bruce Sutton (Eachtra) under licence no. 04E0599 (<i>Excavations 2004</i>, no. 1632). Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during this phase of works.</p>
13E0017	O'Donovan Rossa Street	2013:151	Mary Henry	<p>Two test trenches were positioned on the imprint of a proposed three-classroom extension at the CBS Secondary School, O'Donovan Rossa Street, Thurles. The area of the extension is c. 50m to the north of the projected line of the medieval town wall and on the northern edge of the archaeological zone for Thurles town. The new classrooms were located in the eastern part of the site, close to the site boundary. At the time of testing, the area was covered with a tarred surface and used as a sports grounds/play area. It was enclosed by existing school buildings and a block-built boundary wall. The site was raised from the surrounding ground surface by c. 1.2m.</p> <p>Testing works revealed the area of the extension was dominated by modern infill, probably from the time of previous building works at the school. The use of a draft foundation ensured it was not necessary to excavate below this modern infill.</p>

Licence No.	Site Name	Excavation Ref.	Author	Summary of Findings (www.excavations.ie)
13E0413	Slievenamon Road	2013:155	Mary Henry	<p>Planning permission was sought to build a Funeral Home, open a new pedestrian entrance off Slievenamon Road, a new vehicular entrance off Thomond Road, connect to services and undertake associated site works at the Slievenamon Road and Thomond Road junction, Thurles, An Archaeological Impact Assessment was required as part of the planning process.</p> <p>A Geophysical survey was undertaken across the proposed development site. The gradiometer survey was complicated by magnetic disturbance from the surrounding buildings and the data was severely disturbed. No archaeological interpretation could be provided from the gradiometer data set. The resistance survey, however, was less affected by modern disturbance. Although there were no clear responses indicative of archaeology, there was a faint curvilinear trend in the western half of the data. Archaeological interpretation was unclear and it was possible that modern debris may be represented. High resistance responses along the western part of the site may reflect the root system of the adjacent trees bounding parts of the site.</p> <p>Following the Geophysical Survey, two test trenches were opened to determine the anomalous readings identified in the Geophysical Survey. It was considered that the circular feature in the first trench was a soak pit associated with the house to the south of this site, whilst the faint curvilinear trend in the second opening was a result of a change within the underlying natural strata, and possibly reflected a change in the frequency and density of stones present beneath the natural clays. No further anomalies or features of potential archaeological provenance were identified in testing, to those reflected by the Geophysical Survey. It is therefore considered there will be no archaeological impact on this proposed development.</p>
12E196	Various	2012:543	Tim Coughlan	<p>Borrisland South/Gorteeny/Knockanevin/Garrynamona/Lisnasella/Farneybridge/Fertiana/Commons/Ballycarrane/Turtulla/Moycarky/Holycross/Ballycahill/Garrynamon/Abbey Road/Friar Road Thurles. <i>Nothing of archaeological significance in Abbey or Friar Road reported.</i></p>

Licence No.	Site Name	Excavation Ref.	Author	Summary of Findings (www.excavations.ie)
13E0231	Nenagh Road	2013:288	Tim Coughlan	<p>A program of testing was carried out within the site of a proposed development at LIT Thurles Campus, Nenagh Road, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The works was carried out in response to an Additional Information request by North Tipperary County Council relating to Planning Reg. Ref 13/510112, dated 5 June 2013.</p> <p>Testing and/or geophysical survey were recommended in the desktop assessment due to the proximity of possible earthwork (TN041-035) and the greenfield nature of the site. Geophysical survey identified two north–south running linear features in the test area, the westernmost of which appeared to be a ditch-bank-ditch feature. A number of agricultural furrows were noted running north-west/south-east through the site and areas of disturbance were identified in the east of the site.</p> <p>A total of nine trenches were excavated within the area of proposed development which failed to identify anything of archaeological significance. The linear features represent post-medieval field boundaries or drainage channels. They are not shown on the 19th-century mapping for the area. Agricultural furrows and drains were identified corresponding to those identified in the geophysical survey. Deposits of construction debris were identified in the eastern limit of the site. Both the geophysical survey and testing failed to identify anything of archaeological significance within the proposed development area.</p>
13E0083	Mitchell Street	2013:462	Aidan Harte	<p>Test trenching was carried out, from 4–8 April 2013, as part of an overall Archaeological Impact Assessment, ahead of an extension to a school building here. The site is situated on the eastern side of Thurles town near the River Suir in the townland of Townparks. Within the overall historic town, the site is within 500m of the Carmelite Friary (TN041-042008), the bridge (TN041-042006), a gateway (TN041-042016), Bridge Castle (TN041-042002), a graveyard (TN041-042019) and medieval church (TN041-042009).</p> <p>Six trenches were inserted across the area of the proposed extension (17m x 16m). The building of modern walls and insertion of sewage pipes had disturbed material across the site. These mixed layers covered two short and truncated sections of masonry foundation. These foundations were associated with modern pottery. The lowest layer, where found, was dark greyish brown silt with slight amounts of charcoal flecks. A small fragment of post-medieval pottery and clay pipe stem were recovered and the earliest layers appear to have been agricultural in use. Nothing of archaeological significance was found.</p>

Licence No.	Site Name	Excavation Ref.	Author	Summary of Findings (www.excavations.ie)
15E0561	Munster Hotel, Cathedral Street	2015:155	Paul Stevens	<p>Archaeological and building assessment was carried out in advance of a proposed extension to the carpark into the garden area of the former hotel. Work forms part of the re-development of the 'Munster Hotel' into a medical centre and ground floor retail outlet. Testing took place in late December 2015. Work that also included a building recording and survey of the east garden wall was carried out in fulfillment of Planning (Condition 5, Ref. 15/600305). The site is located within the Zone of Archaeological Potential for Thurles, and opposite the site of a medieval friary. The occupying building to be retained and renovated dates to 1999, when an extensive programme of excavation revealed extensive medieval and post-medieval urban features, deposits and artefacts across the site area (see Excavations 1998:625; 1999:835; Stevens 2003). Testing revealed that a number of features and deposits survive across the garden area, similar to the burgage plots discovered in 1999, at depths of between 0.6–1.1m below existing ground level. Modern disturbance from refuse pits and underground services was also encountered. Survey of the eastern garden wall bounding the site shows this is mainly of original fabric, as depicted on 1840 and later OS maps. Two later modern alterations: an entranceway and doorway insertion relate to the 1999 development. The wall foundations sit on an earlier co-linear boundary ditch, possibly marking a medieval burgage plot boundary. Resolution including preservation in situ or by record is recommended, and further archaeological work is expected.</p> <p>References: Stevens, P. (2003) 'The Munster Hotel', Cathedral Street, Thurles: Archaeological excavations 1998-1999. Tipperary Historical Journal. Thurles, 9-30.</p>
17E0365	Mitchell Street	2017:178	Niall Gregory	<p>One 4m test trench was excavated on 24 August within the 80m² footprint of a school extension. The extension comprised the provision of sheltered (and now indoor) access between two school buildings. The trench was situated to maximise on location of potentially least-disturbed ground from modern construction and avoidance of underground services. The exposed stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m tarmac surface; 0.15 – 0.2m stone and gravel bedding; 0.2 – 0.3m modern building debris (red brick, concrete blocks and stone), 0.1 – 0.15m brown grey silty clay, and surface of natural underlying subsoil of grey yellow silty sand. No archaeology was encountered.</p>
17E0299	Mitchel street	2017:505	Tim Coughlan	<p>A programme of pre-planning testing was carried out over one and a half days on 25 and 26 July 2017 at the site of a Primary Care Centre at Mitchel Street, Thurles, Co Tipperary. A total of ten test trenches were investigated however no archaeology was found. The investigation confirmed that the rear (north) of the property had been previously disturbed by a gravel quarry pit.</p>

Licence No.	Site Name	Excavation Ref.	Author	Summary of Findings (www.excavations.ie)
98E0598	The Munster Hotel, Cathedral Street	1998:625	Paul Stevens	<p>An archaeological assessment took place in December 1998 in advance of redevelopment of a site on the east bank of the River Suir, opposite the site of the Camelite Friary (c. 1291-1300) and within the eastern medieval suburb of Thurles. The original Hotel Munster (two neighbouring properties and No. 22 Cathedral Street) was demolished following approval by Dúchas. The assessment consisted of eleven test-trenches across the development area of 7100m² and revealed a substantial concentration of archaeological features cut into subsoil across the site. They include a cluster of pits, linear slots and post-holes parallel to the street frontage, representing medieval and post-medieval structures, with ancillary structures and features to the rear. A series of furrows revealed to the rear probably represents medieval or post-medieval ploughing, within burgage plots. Further work was recommended</p>

<p>98E0598 (ext)</p>	<p>The Munster Hotel, Cathedral Street</p>	<p>1998:835</p>	<p>Paul Stevens</p>	<p>Excavation was carried out between February and March 1999 at the site of the Munster Hotel redevelopment, Thurles. The site measures 53m north-south by 24-28m and is on the southern side of Cathedral Street, opposite the site of the Carmelite friary, built in 1291-1300 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 29). Excavation was at the request of the developers, to facilitate the construction of a larger hotel building with basement on the same site. The street-frontage area (Areas A and B) was found under 18th/19th-century and modern hotel buildings. It revealed archaeological features cutting natural, yellow boulder clay, 0.2m below the level of the present pavement, including the truncated beam-slots and post-holes of a square medieval structure, orientated south-east/north-west, over 7m long and 4.4m wide. A second, rectangular medieval structure was represented by a truncated informal hearth and measured over 11m east-west (continuing under the road outside the area of excavation to the north). In between these was a truncated medieval ironworking furnace. All three features were cut by a number of in-cutting east-west gullies and ditches, probably representing a formal widening and realignment of the main Dublin road. Area C, 13-23m from the street frontage, contained an intense concentration of rubbish and cesspits dating to the medieval, later medieval, post-medieval and even early modern periods. Amongst them was a fine but undated stone-, cobble- and moss-lined square pit and an early modern limestone well. However, this area saw the most truncation by intrusive concrete foundations. The southern portion of the site was represented by Areas D-F, between 23m and 52m from the street frontage. This southern area also revealed a high concentration of rubbish pits, including a pit lined with coppiced hazel and ash (identified by I. Stuijts), wickerwork, a rough limestone well and a stone wall footing. The last contained two sterling silver English pennies of Edward I, dated 1302-7 (identified by M. Kenny, NMI). The southern half of the site was also cut by a number of north-south-running boundary ditches/ gullies, dividing the site into four long, linear burgage plots, dating to the medieval period. These burgage plots were 5.5-6m wide to the east and 15m wide to the west. The western plots appeared far wider than the eastern two. However, there was also some evidence to suggest that the two westernmost plots had originally been one and were subdivided in the later medieval or early post-medieval period. The rear 10m of the site (Area F) was sealed by 0.8m of garden topsoil and contained an unusual and undated multiple dog burial (two adults and a juvenile), within a north-south linear gully and marked by post-holes extending south into the baulk. This area also contained medieval pits and gullies continuing beyond the area of excavation. An extension to the east of Area F (Area G) revealed no further evidence of archaeological features east of the fourth north-south burgage plot gully. The excavation produced a large assemblage of local and imported pottery from the medieval period onwards, as well as animal bone, glass, leather and rope (from early modern contexts), clay pipe and handmade brick. However, the best find from the site was a Class 3b (after Deevy 1998) gilt-edged silver ring brooch. The results of this excavation show near-continuous, if heavily truncated, occupation on the site from at least the early 13th century, around the time of the foundation of the Carmelite friary opposite. It also indicates evidence for a relatively wealthy and semi-industrial eastern suburb to the medieval town, referred to as 'Brogmal' in the 17th century (Simington 1931, 385-8; Bradley 1985, 54; Carey and Farrelly 1985, 85), but it does not rule out the possibility of a twin town as suggested by Thomas (1992, 192-3). References Bradley, J. 1985 The medieval towns of Tipperary. In W. Nolan (ed.), Tipperary: history and society, 34-59. Dublin. Carey, H. and Farrelly, J. 1985 The Urban Archaeological Survey of County Tipperary North Riding, Parts 1 & 2. Dublin. Deevy, M. 1998 Medieval ring brooches in Ireland. Bray. Gwynn, A. and Hadcock, R.N. 1970 Medieval</p>
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Licence No.	Site Name	Excavation Ref.	Author	Summary of Findings (www.excavations.ie)
				religious houses: Ireland. Dublin. Simington, R.C. (ed.) 1931-4 The Civil Survey AD 1654-1656. County of Tipperary, vol. 1. Thomas, A. 1992 The walled towns of Ireland. Dublin
99E0678	Crotty's Bakery, Friar Street	1999:836	Paul Stevens	Assessment was undertaken for a proposed development at Crotty's Bakery, Friar Street, Thurles. The site was in use as a bakery from the late 19th century and continued to be until recently. However, all buildings on the site post-date J. Rocque's Map of Thurles of 1755, and most are late 19th- and early 20th-century in date. Two linear test-trenches were opened for this assessment, in the front courtyard area and the rear garden area. No archaeological soils or features were encountered.
99E0488	Kickham Street	1999:837	Florence M. Hurley	The redevelopment of a site in Kickham Street, Thurles, required archaeological testing. The site is close to St Mary's Church, possibly the site of the medieval parish church. This area may have been a suburb of the medieval town. Two trenches were opened, only one of which produced finds, all of which were 19th/20th-century in date
98E0563	1-2 Parnell Street	1999:838	Paul Stevens	Monitoring was undertaken of a development at 1-2 Parnell Street, Thurles. The site is a mid-19th-century yellow brick townhouse and yard, backing onto the Black Castle, a 15th/16th-century tower-house and partial bawn, within the medieval walled town of Thurles. Monitoring of a foundation trench, 11.5m by 8-9m and 0.5m deep, at the rear of the townhouse on 13 and 14 July 1999 revealed no archaeological features or deposits across the site. During construction, demolition of a lean-to exposed a portion of the Black Castle wall and revealed a blocked arrow-loop at ground-floor level. The loop was of cut and puckered-finished grey limestone and was splayed towards the base, with the opening recessed from the outside to allow greater cover. It measured 1.33m in height, 0.55m in sill width, 0.3m in lintel width and 0.12m in ope width and was blocked with yellow, handmade bricks. The arrow-loop and wall are outside the area to be developed.
00E0540	Croke Street/Friar Street	2000:0968	Anne-Marie Lennon	Pre-development testing was required on this site as it lay within the zone of archaeological potential for Thurles town. The testing was undertaken in two phases from August to September 2000. The first area tested was to the north-west, a greenfield site with no history of prior use. Nine test-trenches were opened. The stratigraphy uncovered within the trenches was very similar. Topsoil, beneath which was ploughsoil, showed evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation, overlying subsoil. In the second phase of testing, a further nine test-trenches were opened. The first of these trenches was within another greenfield area and produced deposits similar to the first phase of testing. The remaining trenches were within the area of the site that fronted onto Croke Street. This part of the site had previously been used as an abattoir. Evidence for the foundations of those buildings was recovered. There was no evidence found from this site to suggest that there was medieval or post-medieval settlement or activity in this area.

Licence No.	Site Name	Excavation Ref.	Author	Summary of Findings (www.excavations.ie)
01E0542	Croke Street	2001:1231	John Tierney	The site at Croke Street was tested prior to the redevelopment of the property. A T-shaped test-trench was inserted at the rear and side of the building before demolition, and this revealed the presence of a former floor layer composed of yellow brick and wood (99.76m OD), over a pale greyish brown, sandy silty clay layer (99.91m OD). No datable finds were retrieved from the sediment, but the floor layer is thought to date from the late 18th/early 19th century. It is thought locally that a coachyard was located in this area. A pair of blacksmith's tongs was recovered from the trench nearer the street front. Further monitoring was recommended.
01E0793	Emmet Street	2001:1232	Anne-Marie Lennon	Pre-development testing was carried out on the site of a proposed housing development on this street, as it lies within the zone of archaeological potential for Thurles. A series of test-trenches were opened across the site using a mechanical digger. Each of the trenches was excavated into the underlying subsoil. Nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered.
01E0542	Croke Street	2002:1763	Áine Richardson	Monitoring of the excavation of foundation trenches was carried out at Croke Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The site, on the eastern side of Croke Street, is within the zone of archaeological potential as outlined in the Urban Archaeological Survey. The development proposal involved demolishing the buildings on the site and constructing a larger retail unit with car-parking facilities to the rear. Testing of the site had been carried out by John Tierney as part of an assessment (Excavations 2001, No. 1231, 01E0542). However, the locations of the foundations for the new building were not tested, as the demolition of the old structures had not taken place, so the assessment recommended that all groundworks associated with the development be monitored. Seven foundation trenches were excavated for the development. Although historical research pointed to the possibility of finding the enclosing wall of the medieval town of Thurles, no evidence of medieval activity was discovered on the site. The sediments removed from the foundation trenches were mainly relatively modern or late post-medieval. Only one context showed any likelihood of being earlier, and this was inconclusive: a layer of rubble that may be the remnants of a demolished wall. It was in the centre of the site and consisted of limestone blocks held within dark brown/black, mortar-enriched clay. It was 0.9m deep. The average dimensions of the stones were 0.22m by 0.1m by 0.08m. No coursing was evident, but the wall may have been demolished to create a level ground surface. It is possible that any medieval layers were removed at the time of the construction of the original retail unit. At the eastern end of the site, under the upper modern layers, the sediments were largely natural.

Licence No.	Site Name	Excavation Ref.	Author	Summary of Findings (www.excavations.ie)
02E0775	Friar Street	2002:1764	Brian Shanahan	<p>An assessment was carried out before an extension to the rear of street-front premises. The proposed development lies within the zone of archaeological potential of the medieval town of Thurles, adjacent to the Black Castle and within a suburb that had developed outside the West Gate of the town. Rocque's map of Thurles (1755) indicates that the northern part of Friar Street, where the site lies, was then part of the ornamental castle gardens laid out in a geometric baroque style. The north side of the street was subsequently built on.</p> <p>Two test-trenches (5.5m by 1m and 1.5m by 1m) were excavated to cover the area of the proposed rear extension. They revealed that subsoil, beige and orange sandy clays, sloped down from north to south (97.49–97.11m OD). It was covered by the original topsoil, a grey/brown silty clay (0.75m thick) containing a single piece of animal bone. The edge of a pit or an east–west-running ditch (0.6m deep) was cut into this layer. It was filled with orange sand, which also covered the original topsoil to the south of the pit. It was suggested that this may relate to landscaping of the formal garden. Farther south and directly behind the existing dwelling a sump (1.25m deep) containing stone and some red brick was exposed. It was probably constructed to prevent flooding from the sloping yard. The sump and the sand layers were covered by clay and stones (0.3–0.6m thick), which formed a base for the concrete yard surface. No finds of archaeological significance were recovered.</p>
02E1841	Liberty Square	2002:1765	Mary Henry	<p>Pre-construction testing was undertaken on a site known as Bridge House at Liberty Square, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The site is opposite a tower-house, known as Bridge Castle. It backs onto the River Suir. The owners of the site have obtained planning permission to demolish the existing building and construct a mixed residential and retail development.</p> <p>Three trenches were opened on the footprint of the proposed building. Results from the testing revealed that the river had been wider than at present. This was based on the large number of water-rolled stones and sedimentation found at the bottom of the trench nearest to the river. Testing also revealed a structure on the site pre-dating the demolished building (which dated to the early 19th century). The newly revealed structure was confined to the western part of the site, farthest from the river. No conclusive dating evidence emerged to indicate when the walls were built. However, the structure appears to be on Rocque's 1755 map and the 1819 Llandaff estate map, but the date of construction remains unknown. Cobbled surfaces were found to extend beneath the walls.</p> <p>Given the nature of the archaeological features—the walls and cobbled surfaces—further investigative works will be carried out on this site in 2003.</p>
02E1397	Townparks	2002:1766	Anne-Marie Lennon	<p>Pre-development testing was carried out at this site after the demolition of the existing structure. No evidence of settlement earlier than the 18th century was uncovered.</p>

<p>20E0500</p>	<p>Community Hospital of the Assumption, Racecourse Road, Gortataggart</p>	<p>2020:208</p>	<p>Niall Gregory</p>	<p>Archaeological monitoring took place on 7/8 September within the grounds of Thurles Hospital prior to the development of 685m² Covid Ward, built as part of emergency Covid-19 legislation. The construction, appended to the northern end of the eastern extent of the current hospital arrangement, is orientated east to west and measures c. 75m by 25m. Monitoring was preceded, on 3 September, by topsoil striping of an adjacent area to accommodate the construction of a site compound and offices.</p> <p>Additional work commissioned was the construction of a Temporary Outpatients' Building between the maintenance building area at the west and the construction compound at the east. The trench for a new electricity supply duct was also excavated to connect to the hospital grounds at the north side of the site and beneath the new Temporary Outpatients' building. This ran to south to circumvent the Covid Ward along its west side and then turned to east to connect to the existing hospital's eastern aspect. The ground works for both the outpatients and the electricity supply took place between 28 September and 27 October. Report were produced on 10 September and 30 October 2020. Supplemental information – survey results, a record of the workhouse infirmary wall and analysis of its mortar composition was included in the 30 October report. Workhouse external walls, drains, a waste water tank, yards, a dining hall, chapel, an infirmary and idiots' ward as well as stairwell foundations, inclusive of subsequent 1861 renovation works, were all recorded during the work.</p>
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Appendix 5: Irish Folklore Commission School's Collection relating to Thurles & District. Source: www.Dúchas.ie

Town-land	Collector / Informant	Extract Detail	Dúchas Archive permanent website link
Thurles	Unknown	<p>The town of Thurles owes its origin to the Anglo-Normans. One of the adventurers, Theobald Walter, was granted large territories in Éile by King John. He succeeded in driving out the native chiefs, the O'Fogarty's and the O'Carrols and at his death in 1206 Anglo Norman colonies had been established in Thurles and at Nenagh in N Eile Theobald was appointed chief butler in Ireland by the King. His descendants adopted the name Butler as a surname and received the title of Earls of Ormond in the 14th Century.</p> <p>The Colony of Thurles was granted the usual privileges of a Norman Municipality. They got power to select their own Councils and Magistrates, establish their own Courts of Law, levy, customs and fairs and market tolls and send representatives to the Anglo Norman Par. For the better protection of the inhabitants the Anglo Norman towns were walled in In 1856 [sic - 1356] the inhabitants of Thurles were granted the right to levy tolls for the walling of the town. The houses of the inhabitants were situated around the market square. This constituted the old town to which there were two entrances, one at the Eastern end, the other at the Western. One of the towers at the Eastern gate remain still at the Bridge. It retains the springing stone of the arch over the gate.</p> <p>The Western Gate tower and arch have entirely disappeared only the name West Gate remaining to perpetuate its memory. The local name 100 years ago was Geata na gCoileach acc to Donovan.</p> <p>The town was the centre of the Manor of Thurles, which comprised the land within an approximate radius of 2 miles of the town. In the manorial area the Normans erected castles at convenient points for the protection of its inhabitants.</p> <p>One of these castles still remain on the Western side of the Square. The Manor Court existed till the beginning of the last century. The Manor also had its mill situated on the river Drish at the he Mullauns.</p> <p>Towards the middle of the 14th Century the Native Irish of Northern Eile - the O'Carrolls and O'Kennedys - reconquered their land from the A Normans. The Butlers had to abandon Nenagh to O'Kennedy and to withdraw from their possessions in N Eile.</p> <p>Thurles now became the northern limit of Anglo Norman influence in Tipperary and became subject to the raids of the Irish chieftains. This probably explains the anxiety of the inhabitants of Thurles to wall in the town in 1356</p>	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4922209/4860874https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4922209/4860874
Thurles	Unknown	<p>In the town of Thurles there are the ruins of two castles. One of these formed a keep on the banks of Suir while the other was built in a part of the town now known as " Westgate ". They were both built by the Éile O'Fogarty or Fógartaighe although a local belief has it that they were built by the Butlers and then taken over by the O'Fogartys' (15th Cent) The castle on the Suir is now owned by O'Meara's who use it as a kind of store for wool and oats. The second ruin is owned by the Butlers. The first of these gave Thurles its name Dúrlas Éile -- strong fortress of the Éile Fhógartaighe.</p>	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4922206/4860718
Thurles	Unknown	<p>Thurles Castles</p> <p>At the moment there stands the ruins of two castles - that behind Miss Mahers of Liberty Sq existed before the coming of the Danes and in this view would belong to O'Fogarty. it was re-edified previous to the year 1208 bu some Anglo Norman. In 1208 it was taken from a Geffrey Morris and was allowed to fall into decay. In 1328 when James Butler was made Earl of Ormond + Lord Palatine of Tipperary, he rebuilt this castle and his kinsmen inhabited it for</p>	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4922208/4860811/5015833

years - one of his descendants in 1535 being created Viscount Thurles. When Cromwell came to Ireland his gunpowder shook the fortress and from that on it became a ruin being soon after dismantled. The view of it in its heyday is magnificent. Such a view may be seen in a photograph in Grosse's Antiquities. Seemingly there were two entrances to it, one from the Square + one from the Friar St. A high wall surrounds it, on the four corners of which there were towers to be used no doubt for defending it in case of attack. Inside the wall was a barrack for the garrison round it a remarkable moat occupying and including the present store yard of Mr Wm. Dwan. This structure existed till about the year 1800 and was then carted away. it rose abruptly to a hight [sic] of 100' and its summit was reached by a spiral pathway. if the writer in the Penny Journal is correct in ascribing a castle at this spot to the chieftain of Eilogarty, this no doubt reconstructed Norman moat of the later years would have existed in some form prior to the Norman Invasion.

One authority says the "Square" Castle behing Miss Mahers was the site of Castle Meyler taken in 1208 by G Morris. others say its site was in Loghtagalla.

A Castle at the Suir Bridge would seem to have existed prior to the present ruin, and would be an outpost of the chief Castle of Durlas O'Fogarty - one to defend the ford over the river. The writer of the "Penny Journal" says "that from its situation a castle should exist at the Suir, and coeval with the other, to defend the ford" There is no doubt of the ford being at the spot for above it, or below it, the crossing of the Suir would be impossible in the floods of Winter time. As regards the present ruin at the Bridge, we have no better authority than tradition for ascribing it in the Norman period to the Knights Templars. Mr Archdall mentions the castle as belonging to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, but could fund no record to throw the smallest light on the time of its erection or its subsequent possessions. There is therefore no authentic record to show that Knights were ever in Thurles. The present independent square-battlemented tower that we see could be re-erected by the Butlers to serve the same purpose that its predecessor served in the days of old. It can be said of Thurles castles that their venerable ruins bear testimony of warlike scenes when they were sacked.

Another writer, and Basset in his Directory, agreeing with him say:- In the Annals of the Four Masters mention is made of a prince of Thurles. [Abaclduin] son of [Furdran] being killed in 660 AD. In 931 AD the prince or chief is caled Lord of Thurles and later even frequent reference is made to him by that title. On the coming of the Danes and in subsequent years, the chieftain of Thurles - called Durles O'Fogarty - had an unhappy time - a fact which proves that the place was not only an important stronghold for military, but that it also possessed treasures to tempt the foreigners cupidity. In the 10th century the Danes attacked Thurles, but it was too strong a fortress for them to capture and they were routed by the [Munster?] army the whole way to Waterford.

Then followed the Norman Invasion and the victory at Lognafulla + Loughtagalla in 1174 for Donald O'Brien. Five years later 1179, the English advanced again on Thurles this time burning churches + temples, for only a small Irish force garrisoned the place. Extending their power, the Saxons came a third time in 1191 but were routed by O'Brien's forces; routed however but unconquered, for in 1208 the intruders were so entrenched, that they began a war among themselves + Thurles was the cockpit of the fight. One Geoffrey Morris raised an insurrection against his fellow adventurers in Tipperary. He was opposed by the King's Justiciary, Hugh de Lacy, who marched with all the troops he could collect to Thurles and laid siege to the Castle Meyler - a castle built by a Norman named Meyler but held by Morris. It is already said that this castle was the old one in the town at present, but a scribe has been found stating that it was situated at Loghtagalle or somewhere between the river bridge and the Glebe. After losing many

		men Lacy was forced to give up his enterprise, but left the castle in ruins. Natives took the side of Morris but this and their instances of their valour availed them nothing, for they were born with hereditary feuds, fomented at every chance by every intrigue. The bulk of opinion seems to favour the view the Castle Meyler was on the site of the castle rebuilt by James Butler, the Earl of Ormond.	
Thurles	Unknown	This was given in 1626 by King Charles I to George Mathew and Lady Thurles. it was to be for a two days fair yearly, beginning on Easter Tuesday, and for a two days fair yearly beginning on the feast of St Lawrence in August. The grant also included a permit to hold markets each week on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The above mentioned fair had the right to collect all bills etc in connection with both. it is mentioned in the King's grant that one of the objects in allowing fairs and markets was "that the rude and wild people of the said region - Thurles - may be led to a human and civil mode of life, + they more easily procure a provision of the necessaries of life" In the time of Lewis 1837 the markets were on the same days but the fairs were held on the first Tuesday of each month also on Easter Monday + on the 2nd of August + December.	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4922208/4860819/5015839
Thurles	Julia Kavanagh	The great novel writer & Irishwoman Julia Kavanagh, was the daughter of Morgan Kavanagh, - himself a writer, - + was born in Thurles in 1824. In her early life, she left Thurles with her parents, for Paris, where she was educated. We next find her in London, novel writing; she even wrote for the "Nation" newspaper, under Mr Gavan Duffy irrespective of its efforts on her own productions. To the "Nation" editor she once penned the following: I am Irish by origin, birth & feeling, tho' not by education, & Ireland, though she is to me distant & unknown, is as dear to me as the faith & religion of my youth. Miss Kavanagh died in 1877, & to the last, remained a true friend of her native land.	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4922208/4860794
Thurles	Unknown	Father Spencer in Thurles Fr Spencer was born in 1799, and was the son of an Earl. He was brought up Anglican, and on converse with Catholics he was amazed to find the [?], even believing in Providence. Knowing the truth he became attracted to their faith and became a convert, sacrificing a portion of £3000 a year to do so. In 1832 he was ordained priest, and given charge of a mission in West Bromwich. Being an Englishman, he devoted his life to the conversion of that country, convinced if he got as help, the prayers of the Irish_victims of English oppression _ such prayers founded on charity would be irresistible. Accordingly he came to Ireland, and preached on the subject in Thurles Cathedral. There he met an old woman who told him, that she said three Hail mary's every day for England. Fr Spencer was delighted to hear it, and asked her to get others to follow her example. "Me get people to pray for England" she said, "I pray myself to get the Indulgence, but I curse 'em three hundred times as well, lest they'd get any good from the prayers." While in Thurles, he visited the National Synod, and met Archbishop Slattery. He stayed with the Christian Bros. and said Mass in their rectory.	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4922208/4860796
Thurles	Unknown	Election of First Town Commissioners In April 1861 the ratepayers of the town met in the Courthouse and elected their first Town Commisiones. These were: Messrs D H Cummins Chairman, Wm Boyton, Wm Moynihan, Daniel Maher, Beny Hayes, Robert Prendergast, Richard Burke, Wm Hickey, Anthony Dyer, Michael Harney, Michael Kenny, Thomas Burke, and John Bergin Town Clerk. The following are some of the Commisioners' exploits down the years. In 1862 they commanded a Peter O'Toole to erect 13 street lamps and gave him 2/4 a week for lighting and caring	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4922208/4860797

		<p>them. In 1864 they allowed pipes to be laid down under the streets for the conveyance of gas. In 1865 they expressed themselves as in favour of a Railway line from Thurles to Clonmel, The same year they ordered the wall around the pump in the Main St to be repaired. In 1867 they contradicted a report in the Irish Times, that trees convenient to the town were cut down by the Fenians to make pike handles.</p> <p>In 1868 they drew the attention of Mrs Butler Ballycarron, Golden, to the dangerous state of the old Castle and houses at the West Gate, in the hope that he would remove that part of the castle that was giving away, to the danger of the public. In 1870 they wrote to Viscount de Jarmac, the landlord of Thurles - through the marriage of the Mathews, to bring to his notice the ruinous state of the market house and its danger to passers by during storm. The same year they granted permission to the Post Office authorities, to erect poles to convey Telegraph Wires for the Railway Station to Thurles Post Office. Thurles workhouse was begun to be built in 1840. Mr Denis Leahy brother of Archbishop Leahy was the contractor. The workman got 10d a day and the tradesmen 2/6. The first pauper to enter it was a man named [Creal?]</p> <p>Part of the Market House was once a jail in charge of one Jerry Crowe a turnkey [hiers?], who often levelled a man with a stroke of the key. Grant the outlaw was in it. On the Main st at the end of the Market House, were stocks, used then and later.</p>	
Thurles	Dominic Maher	<p>There is a holy well in Dr. Barry's field in Turtulla where pilgrimages were held every year in olden times, three days before the 5th August and three days after it. The last pilgrimage was held in 1459 when the Duke of Munster gave safe conduct to the Carmelists of Thurles to conduct the Pilgrimage and hear confessions at the well. A tree known as the "Mass Tree" is still there, But this probably refers to the penal days. The cross on it was placed there by a man named MaCormack, a painter, of Thurles. At the present time this well is supplying water to half the town of Thurles. A field in front of Grant's Cottage on the Cloughmartin road is called the "Camp Field" because the garrison of Thurles encamped there as a Summer Quarters in 1704, 6,000 troops between cavalry, infantry, and artillery were encamped here. This field is owned by Dr Barry, Thurles</p>	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4922210/4860945/5016130
Thurles	Unknown	<p>The Monastic Institutions</p> <p>A Franciscan Monastery must also have existed in the town for its dissolution is mentioned in the State Papers. Where it stood is not clear. Some writers say it was on the suburbs of the town and was built by the O'Meaghers or Bulters in the 14th century. Others say its site was near the present castle at the Suir bridge. Goose would seem to place it in Mr Scully's yard in Cathedral St. The last Abbot of the place - a Maurice O'Feely or Foley refused to surrender it and was in the reign of Queen Mary taken prisoner to Dublin where he suffered a long confinement. It has been also stated that this Franciscan Monastery was situated near the chief Butler Castle and that Mathews, when building his mansion tore down a part of its walls to make room + also to provide material for his new construction.</p>	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4922208/4860815/5015835
Thurles	James Butler	<p>James Butler</p> <p>The men rebuilt the O'Fogarty castle & garrisoned it for the King. It flourished in the brilliance of its military prime till 1651 and was the chief castle of Thurles. Today sufficient of its ruins remains to show its strength. After its downfall a splendid mansion was erected near its ruins by George Matthew who became proprietor of Thurles & marshal of her lands by marrying Lady Thurles, the widow of Thomas Butler, Earl of Ormonde, who was drowned near the Skerries on his way to England. This noble residence ended its existence by its accidental burned.</p> <p>When the Butlers got a footing in Thurles which they did early in the 13th century, their chief object was to build and</p>	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4922208/4860816/5015836

		wall the town, and so entrench themselves King Edward III granted them a patent to do so and to have the place in addition. To carry	
Thurles	Unknown	<p>Evidently Cashel was a distributing centre for sending out soldiers to garrison the surrounding towns. From Cashel Ginkell sent a party of 30 Horse + 10 Dragoons under a Dutch Commander to take + hold the town of Thurles, + disarm the Irish. the opposition must be very wasted when so small an army could overcome them. The Williamites left Cashel at midnight, July 1690 + got lost, - went astray on the way. when they got to Thurles some took up quarters with a Mr Purcell, others in the Castle; and were fed on bread + salt + others different. The papists of the town were ordered to deliver up their arms instantly, or be plundered by the Dragoons. An O'Dwyer, a Mor Ryan, + others brought in + gave up their guns - by the way, out of all given up, only 2 guns of Mr Ryan were in order, a sad state for King James! Each one got a certificate for being good. The Williamites were asked to dine at the house of a Mr Hackett. By now they had gone out, + siezed beer + other things in Loughmore, + in addition they had disarmed Mr John Morris of Knockagh. The next feat followed the complaint of a Thurles butcher, that there was a nest of rogures in Ballinahow, + that they had come + stolen his bullocks. Out went the Horse + Dragoons, + brought in the stolen property, + many more sheep, + cattle also as well as prisoners - the former they put into the great Castle yard of Mathews, the latter into the Bridge Castle.</p> <p>On August 3rd while the foreigners were at prayers Mr Hackett preaching - in an old waste house in which the Protestants of the town met, the cattle were let go. Off they went again on August 4th as far as Annefield + to the Devil's Bit and were returning with considerable booty when at Farney Bridge they were persuaded to let all back except 16 cows which they held. Ballinahow was visited on the way in and the above mentioned released cattle found hidden in the bog under the guard of Rapparees. They were captured + claimed by a Mrs Ragget as her property but the orangemen found they belonged to her son in law - one O'Sullivan who was fighting in King James' army, so she had to do without them. This all happened on August 4th and Ginkle was informed about it. All was quiet on the 5th + 6th and then came an order to Thurles that the party was to march for the siege of Limerick + the cattle and sheep were taken too. The small army went via Dundrum where there was an Orange Camp - when via the wood of Soloheadmore where there was another camp where there was another camp (August 7th). They set out on August 8th for Caherconlish There they halted - the King with them waiting for the heavy cannon to come along from Cashel. This was on August 11th and while there they heard the great burst at Ballyneety to the credit of the immortal Sarsfield. They came to Ballyneety that night + found great consternation - Cannon + ammunition were all gone. Downhearted they reached Limerick + were for a month or so in the fray when suddenly came the order of King William to raise the siege + give the whole thing up as a bad job. King William went home to England via Cullen + Waterford [On September 3rd he sailed from Waterford] His army came via Cullen Tipperary + Golden to Cashel where lots were cast for Winter quarters. In the casting of the lots, Cashel fell to the Dutch, Thurles to the French and Roscrea to the English. In those towns the invaders entrenched themselves to wait the second attempt on the old fortified stronghold of the Shannon.</p> <p>On September 9th General Douglas marched through Thurles with his army for Roscrea and encamped outside the town for a night. Other parts of the army followed him - in all, ten or twelve regiments of foot and numerous cavalry. Davis on September 13th preached at Thurles on Contentment. He visited one Grace living in Brittas who was friendly to the Williamite crowd. he spent a while there killing rabbits. Later he preached in St John's Church at Cashel on September 21st 1690.</p>	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4922208/4860820

Thurles	Unknown	<p><i>Cill Bhrigde</i> Church of Saint (Brigid) Bridget. No trace of the walls are to be seen in it in 1840. On the left side on the front of the post of the gateway to the graveyard are the figures of some animals chiselled – all modern, and one of them the figure of a cat with 2 tails. To the right on front of the post on the left side is a figure representing Saint Bridget with cross and beads on the Bosom.</p>	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4922208/4860804
Thurles	Unknown	<p><i>Relicbreeda</i></p> <p>Near the railway station is a very small graveyard called Relicbreeda, But there are no remains of a church. It is significant that the road by the graveyard bears the name Bohernanave meaning the 'Road of the Saints', hence some would have it that this is the oldest church site in Thurles.</p> <p>In the graveyard there is buried a Father Maher who was a native of Thurles and who died CC of Killeely, about the year 1854.</p> <p>A writer calls Relicbreeda by the name of Killendrenagh and says there was a castle in the vicinity.</p>	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4922208/4860776

Appendix 6: Historical accounts of Thurles & District between 1690–1888

Rowland Davies: *Journal of the Very Reverend Rowland Davies* (1690), [Caulfield (ed.) 1857]

Rev. Davies accompanied a regiment of the Williamite Army and his diary gives us a snapshot of life in Thurles over three hundred years ago, albeit in the unusual circumstances of war. On his arrival in the town on 30th July 1690, he purchased provisions for the army including bread, salt and barrels of wheat, and “employed the mills to grind, and the baker to make it into loaves”. The “papists of the town” (i.e. Catholics) were ordered to “deliver up all their arms instantly” and those who complied were given “certificates for their protection”. Rev. Davies and Captain Aldworth took lodgings in the castle and spent the next few days engaged in similar activities, employing “all the hands we could in making bread” and giving “certificates to those that brought in their arms”, who included a Mr Ryan and O’Dwyer who were described as “gentlemen”. In the evenings, Rev. Davies dined with local personages such as Mr Purcell (of Loughmore?), Cornet Mathew (listed on 1777 Taylor-Skinner road map) and Mr Hacket. His diary also makes reference to “a butcher of the town” who reported “a nest of rogues at Ballynahow”, some of whom had stolen two bullocks from him. A party was sent which returned to town with three prisoners, twenty cattle and about 100 sheep. The prisoners were held in “the Bridge Castle” and the livestock were put into “the great castle-yard”. We also learn that the Protestants of the town met “in an old waste house”, suggesting there was still no church in the town at this time (Caulfield 1857, 132–34).

Francis Grosse: *The Antiquities of Ireland Two Volumes* (1791)

St. Mary’s Church, Thurles: This church is mostly in ruins, except the tower, and much of this is fallen down. It was built in the fifteenth century by the O’Meaghers, who placed Franciscans in it. Manus O’Fihily, the last Abbot, would not surrender this church at the suppression of monasteries, but was brought a prisoner to Dublin, where he suffered a long confinement. Thurles is a town of considerable inland trade and has been for many years the constant residence of the Roman Catholic Primate of Munster, who preserve some relics of St. Cormac, Archbishop of Cashell, viz. his mitre, his crosier, and some of his vestments (Grosse, 1791, 85).

Henry Inglis: *A Journey Through Ireland* (1834 [1835]) Vol 1

The town stands on a wide, scantily wooded, and uninteresting plain. It contains about eight thousand inhabitants, and is a tolerably prosperous town; for having no larger town nearer to it than forty or fifty miles, it supplies an extensive interior district, and is besides an important market for country produce. There are no fewer than fifteen fairs, and two weekly markets held at Thurles. I scarcely saw any beggars in this place; and the cabins in the outskirts were not of the worst kind. There are two nunneries in this town; in one of them, there are twenty nuns and sixty boarders. I also found here, one of the schools belonging to the Roman Catholic institution, of which I have already spoken.

Besides the absence of beggars, I saw several other indications of an improving town. I observed no shops to be let, and I saw several houses in course of being built. Land is high let about Thurles, but it is good land; and farmers paying 3l., 4l., 5l., and even more per acre.... (Inglis 1835, 106–09).

J. K.: *Letters to the North from a Traveller in the South* (1836 [1837])

When ‘J. K.’ arrived in the town late one night in 1836, he found “the inn at Thurles completely filled, and not a bed to be got!” Having no alternative, he continued on for Cashel travelling through what he described as “one of the most notorious of the troubled districts of Tipperary” (J.K. 1837, 20).

Samuel Lewis: *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* (1837)

THURLES, a market and post-town, and a parish, in the barony of ELIOGARTY, county of TIPPERARY, and province of MUNSTER, 243/4- miles (N.) from Clonmel, and 75 (S. W.) from Dublin, on the road from Tipperary to Templemore; containing 10,031 inhabitants, of which number, 7084 are in the town. This place, originally

called Durlas-O'Fogarty, is of great antiquity, and in the 10th century was the scene of a memorable battle between the Danes and the native Irish, in which the former suffered a signal defeat. Soon after the English invasion, the Ostmen of Dublin, on their march to reinforce Strongbow, who was then encamped at Cashel, halted at this place in careless security, when O'Brien of Thomond suddenly attacked and defeated them, with the loss of 400 of their men and their four principal commanders. O'Brien soon afterwards encountered the English borderers, who were extending their power in this direction, and meeting with them at this place, compelled them to retreat. A castle appears to have been erected here at an early period, which in 1208 was besieged by Hugh de Lacy and taken from Geoffrey MacMorris, by whom it was then occupied. In 1300 a monastery for Carmelites or White friars was founded here by one of the Butler family, which at the dissolution was granted, with all its dependencies, to Thomas, Earl of Ormonde. A preceptory of Knights Templars is said to have been also founded here, of which probably the castle before mentioned may have been a part, but no authentic record exists of such an establishment. The principal castle was erected by James Butler, the first Lord Palatine of Tipperary, one of whose descendants was, in 1535, created Viscount Thurles: this castle, during the parliamentary war, was garrisoned for the King, but was afterwards taken by the parliamentary forces, by whom it was demolished.

The town is pleasantly situated on the banks of the river Suir, by which it is divided into two nearly equal parts, connected with each other by a low bridge; and consists of one spacious street, from each extremity of which smaller streets diverge in various directions. In 1831 it contained 1210 houses, most of which are neatly built and several are of handsome appearance: there are infantry barracks on a small scale. The environs in every direction are pleasant and are enlivened by richly varied scenery: the surrounding country is extremely fertile, and the town is the commercial centre of a populous and highly cultivated district and is rapidly increasing in wealth and importance. A considerable trade is carried on in corn, which is sent by land carriage to Clonmel; it has also an excellent retail trade and contains a large brewery and a tannery. The market days are Tuesday and Saturday; and fairs are held on the first Tuesday in every month, on Easter-Monday, and on the 21st of Aug. and Dec. The market-house is a neat building in the western part of the main street. A chief constabulary police force is stationed in the town; general sessions for the county are held twice in the year, and petty sessions every Saturday. The sessions-house is a neat modern building; and near it is a well-arranged bridewell, containing 22 cells, 4 day-rooms, and two airing-yards.

...The Archbishop of Cashel has a handsome residence here, and there is also the residence of a stipendiary magistrate in the parish....The glebe-house, towards which the late Board of First Fruits contributed a gift of £100 and a loan of £1500, in 1820, is a good residence; the glebe comprises 68 statute acres, and the gross value of the benefice amounts to £1022. 3. 6. per annum. The church is a neat edifice at the east end of the town, towards the erection of which the late Board of First Fruits advanced a loan of £2000. The R. C. parish is co-extensive, with that of the Established Church; it is the head of the diocese, and the mensal of the Archbishop. The chapel, which is the cathedral of the diocese, is a spacious and handsome structure, erected at an expense of £10,000, and one of the finest buildings of the kind in Ireland. Near it are the Ursuline and Presentation convents, the ladies of which employ themselves in the gratuitous instruction of poor female children; each has a private chapel. St. Patrick's College, established in 1836 for the liberal education of R. C. young gentlemen upon moderate terms, is a handsome building in an improved demesne of 25 acres, bounded on one side by the river Suir. About 700 children are taught in four public schools, of which the conventual schools are partly supported by a bequest of £2000 from the late Most Rev. Dr. James Butler, and those of the Christian Brethren by a similar bequest from the Most Rev. Dr. Bray, the interest of which he appropriated to the instruction and clothing of poor boys; and the parochial school is supported by the incumbent. There are also 13 private schools, in which are nearly 700 children; and a dispensary. It is said that till within the last 20 or 30 years there were the ruins of seven castles in this parish; there are still vestiges of two, and also of a large mansion, formerly the residence of the Earl of Llandaff. The remains of the principal castle are situated close to the bridge, and consist at present of a lofty quadrangular keep, with various embattled walls and gables: the other, which is situated at the western extremity of the town, and is ascribed to the Knights Templars, appears to have been of very small extent; a little to the north of it was an ancient moat. In this part of the town are also the remains of the ancient monastery, consisting of a great part of a strong tower, with some mouldering walls. Grose, in his Antiquities, states that St. Mary's church, belonging to a Franciscan monastery, founded by the O'Meaghers in the 15th century, occupied the site of the present R. C. chapel. Manus O'Fohily, the last abbot, refused to surrender it at the dissolution, and was taken prisoner to Dublin, where he suffered a long confinement.... The greater part of the parish is the property of Lady Elizabeth Matthew, sister of the late Earl of Llandaff. Thurles gives the inferior title of Viscount to the Marquess of Ormonde (Lewis 1837, 622-23).

Slater's Commercial Directory of Ireland 1846¹

Thurles... an ancient and respectable market town ... pleasantly situated on the Suir, along each bank of which

¹ <https://www.failteromhat.com/slaterm.php>

river the town extends for about a mile. The main street, which is of considerable length, crosses the river, at right angles, from east to west; there are also other streets branching from this, with large and populous suburbs. The knights templars are said to have founded a preceptory here, and possessed themselves of a castle, the latter erected in the early part of the thirteenth century. A castle was subsequently built by James Butler, the first lord palatine of Tipperary, one of whose descendants, in 1535, was created Viscount Thurles: the town now confers the inferior title of Viscount on the Marquess of Ormonde. The old and stately sessions-house stands in the centre of the town, and in an adjoining street has been erected, at the cost of several thousand pounds, a spacious gaol or bridewell, as also a new sessions-house, with commodious accommodation, having a very chaste cut stone front. The town has received many judicious improvements lately, by the agent for Viscount Chabot, the proprietor of the town: new streets have been laid out, and gravelled walks formed—the latter leading to Turtulla, the beautiful residence of Nicholas Maher, Esq. M. P. for the county, form a pleasing promenade. An extensive retail trade and much country business are transacted, and, as the town is surrounded by a rich, fertile, and populous country, the necessities of life are abundant. Turf bogs in detached situations, and extensive collieries six miles distant, furnish a good supply of fuel. There are, in operation in the town branch establishments of the 'National Bank of Ireland,' and the 'Tipperary Banking Company.' The principal inn is Boyton's Hotel, a most excellently conducted house.

The main businesses in the town in 1846 included apothecaries, attorneys, auctioneers, bakers, blacksmiths, booksellers and printers, boot and shoemakers, brewers, butchers, carpenters, china/glass/earthenware dealers, confectioners, coopers, a dyer, grocers, haberdashers, hatmakers, ironmongers and hardware men, leather dealers, linen and woollen drapers, millers, milliners and dressmakers, painters and glaziers, pawnbrokers, public houses, saddlers and harness makers, stonemasons, surgeons and physicians, surveyors, tailors, tallow chandlers, tanners and curriers, tobacconists, a veterinary surgeon, watch and clock makers, wheelwrights, wine and spirit dealers, wool-combers and others.

Asenath Nicholson: *Ireland's Welcome to the Stranger* (1847)

Thurles is an ancient town in the county of Tipperary, somewhat neatly built. It contains a good market-house, fine chapel, college for Catholics, nunnery, and charity-school, with a Protestant church, and Methodist chapel. My reception here was cordial, and the house in quite American taste. My stay was continued a day or two longer than I at first intended; and as Tuesday was market-day, it presented a favorable opportunity of seeing the peasantry, who appeared more cleanly and comfortable than those of many towns in Ireland, though much like Kilkenny (Nicholson 1847, 111).

Louis Énault: *Angleterre, Écosse, Irlande* (1859)

The French traveller, Louis Énault, who came to Thurles in 1859, made similar observations to those of Henry Inglis 25 years earlier. Like Inglis, as he approached the town, he was impressed by the Catholic church with its two or three convents carving out tall silhouettes on an even and monotonous plain. When he arrived, however, he was disappointed, writing "*De loin c'est quelque chose, et de près ce n'est rien!*" ("From afar it is something, and from close it is nothing!"). To him, the town was irregularly built and had no architectural character. Most of the houses were simple one-storey dwellings, the streets lacked cobblestones and sidewalks, and the surrounding meadows and fields extended right up to the town. Nevertheless, this was still the most important town within fifty miles and capital of a whole agricultural district ("*la capitale de tout un district agricole*"). There were fifteen fairs and more than a hundred markets every year selling produce of all kinds from the surrounding countryside, which brought economic activity and a "certain ease" ("*une certaine aisance*") – though not wealth – to the town. He saw no beggars, which he considered a fact not unworthy of notice in an Irish town. In this translated extract, he describes the shops, houses and some of the people of the town:

One finds, in the shops of Thurles, the luxury of Dublin: one hardly meets there only the objects of first necessity, coarse clothes, woollen shirts and cotton, and shoes whose bulletproof leather seems to have been borrowed from the hippo's shoulder. I said that all the houses were small; downtown they are whitewashed. The suburbs are satisfied with stone, brick or natural clay. I entered some of these houses. The furniture was simple, but sufficient, or more or less. There were beds, some furniture everywhere and household utensils in good condition. Only one of these houses consisted of a single bedroom; almost all had two or three completely separate rooms. In several, I saw absolutely naked children. But it was not the nakedness of misery: they were pink and white, fat and fat ['gros et gras'], and frantically frolicking on the straw in front of the fire, watching with anxious eye the pot where

the apple of the breakfast was smoking.

All the men were in the fields; many women had followed them: the harvesters were working far under the eye of masters; the city seemed deserted at noon... (Énault 1859, 444–47).

Wilfrid Scrawen Blunt: *The Land War in Ireland* (1886–88 [1912])

The image of “harvesters ... working far under the eye of masters” foreshadows our next visiting journalist, Wilfrid Scrawen Blunt. Blunt was an English poet and writer who served time in prison for chairing an anti-eviction meeting in Co. Galway in 1888 and came to Thurles on at least two occasions to meet with Archbishop Croke and others. Blunt described Croke as a “strong personality”, though humorous and kind, who had “broken the power of the landlords in his diocese by a stubborn resistance”. He visited the College, the refectory of which was “the scene of one of O’Connell’s great meetings” and of a Land League Convention, and while walking in the garden of the palace or over dinner spoke with Croke at length about current affairs including agrarian unrest and the prospect of Home Rule for Ireland, and about prominent individuals such as Gladstone, Parnell and Davitt:

He showed me the Cathedral, which is really fine, his little dog trotting after him, and he talking loudly and cheerily all the time. There is no hum-bug about this man. He told me he had no debt or need of money. He could get £10,000 any day he chose for the asking. The people are not so badly off here as they are in Connaught. He takes no kind of gloomy view of things, is certain they shall get Home Rule, and is quite ready to fight, with ‘no rent,’ if they don’t....

I returned to the Palace at four and walked round and round the garden with Dr. Croke. It is a nice old-fashioned garden with Irish yews and a weeping willow. The Archbishop is proud and fond of it and pointed out to me the extraordinary fertility of the soil. ‘If you throw down your walking-stick anywhere in it,’ he said, ‘potatoes will grow’—already, though everything is so late this year, there was grass a foot high on the grass plots, though they never manure it and cut it twice a year....

On the other side of the Palace garden there are convent gardens, still more charming and old-fashioned, through which he took me. They have a view of the hills known as ‘the Devil’s bite,’ and are backed by the buildings of the two convents, the Palace, and the Cathedral, making altogether a fine group. I feel as if I could live with pleasure the rest of my life in a quiet place of prayer like this.... (Blunt 1912, 96–104).

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