NEWTOWN JERPOINT
COUNTY KILKENNY

AN
CHOMHAIRLE
OIDHREACHTA

THE
HERITAGE
COUNCIL

NEWTOWN JERPOINT
COUNTY KILKENNY

CONSERVATION PLAN

Oxford Archaeology

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta The Heritage Council

C O N T E N T S

PART IV: GAZETTEER

Appendices C1 (Ecology Report) and C2 (River Barrow/River Nore SAC Site Synopsis) may be examined by arrangement with the Heritage Council.

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF PLATES

FOREWORD

The deserted medieval borough of Newtown Jerpoint, County Kilkenny, located to the west of the Cistercian Abbey of Jerpoint, was once an important town. While Jerpoint is a well-known State property, the importance of Newtown Jerpoint is recognised mostly within academic circles. Its medieval church of St Nicholas now stands in ruins amid the grassed-over streets and the mounds of former houses.

This Conservation Plan presents the significant historic documentation for Newtown Jerpoint, notably the first survey of the site in over 150 years. This attempts to make the information accessible to a wider audience.

The preparation of the Newtown Jerpoint Conservation Plan would not have been possible without the co-operation of Joe and Maeve O'Connell, the private owners of this important site.

This Plan is the result of a number of years' partnership and co-operation between the private landowners, Kilkenny County Council, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Office of Public Works, and the Heritage Council, all of whom are delighted to see this Plan brought to completion and publication.

While experts have written about Newtown Jerpoint, the burden of caring for this historic place has fallen upon its landowners. It is now at the stage where resources are required to stabilise the church of St Nicholas. A vision and policy are also needed to assist in managing the site for future generations. The Conservation Plan process draws together all the elements of the natural and built heritage, providing a forum for all parties to come together and agree a way forward.

Dr Tom O'Dwyer
Chairperson

Michael Starrett
Chief Executive

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology

Oxford Archaeology is the largest archaeological practice in Britain, with bases in Oxford (formerly Oxford Archaeological Unit) and Lancaster (Oxford Archaeology North). Formed in 1973 from an amalgamation of local archaeological committees, the Oxford Archaeological Unit was a pioneer in contracting archaeology throughout England, and has recently undertaken major field projects in France and Turkey, and consultancy work in a number of countries, including Ireland. The work of Oxford Archaeology comprises the full range of field survey, prospection, and excavation, heritage management, buildings and industrial archaeology.

Oxford Archaeology	t: (44) 1865 263800
Janus House	f: (44) 1865 793496
Osney Mead	e: mail@oxfordarch.co.uk
OXFORD OX2 0ES	w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk
Oxford Archaeology North	t: (44) 01524 541000
Storey Institute	f: (44) 01524 848606
LANCASTER LA1 1TF	e:mail@oxfordarch.co.uk
	w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background and Purpose

Background

On behalf of the then owner of Newtown Jerpoint, Mr Joseph Teesdale, and Kilkenny County Council, in partnership with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works, the Heritage Council commissioned Oxford Archaeology to produce a Conservation Plan for the site of Newtown Jerpoint, County Kilkenny. The deserted medieval town is of great importance both locally and nationally, but the condition of the standing buildings and the potential vulnerability of the site as a whole have been a cause of concern.

Newtown Jerpoint

Newtown is a deserted medieval town, dating back to c. AD 1200, when it was founded near a crossing point on the River Nore not far from Thomastown and the Cistercian Abbey of Jerpoint. The site contains the standing remains of St Nicholas' Church and a domestic tower, both of which are partly overgrown and tending towards dilapidation. The site also contains the well-preserved outlines of burgage plots, some of which contain the remains of house platforms which have survived despite clearing works on the site in the 19th century.

The site of Newtown Jerpoint is on the Record of Monuments and Places, and is protected under the National Monuments Act (1930-2004). Belmore House and farmyard is a Protected Structure of Regional Importance under the Planning and Development Act (2000). Until recently, the farm (of which 46 hectares/115 acres lay west of the River Nore) operated under the Rural Environmental Policy Scheme (REPS). Jerpoint Abbey is a National Monument in State care. The Kilkenny County Council *County Development Plan* (2002) identifies Belmore House as a Protected Structure (ref. 351); the Jerpoint Abbey Grain Mill as a Grade 3 structure; and the nearby railway viaduct as a Grade 1 structure on the Industrial Archaeology list (Section 9 and Appendices).

A large part of the site is located within the River Barrow/River Nore Special Area of Conservation (SAC site code 002162), designated under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The *County Development Plan* (2002) identifies this SAC (§9.3.1), and also the general areas as an Area of High Amenity (§9.4.2). The site is also of significance owing to the presence of Red Data Book species Autumn Crocus *(Colchium autumnale)*.

The site is an important site for Irish archaeology, in particular for addressing research questions on Irish urban settlement and rural economy, with potential for further discovery. Its visible remains and its close proximity to one of Ireland's best-known and well-preserved Cistercian abbeys makes Newtown Jerpoint one of the most important sites in the study of medieval settlements in Ireland. The site also has landscape and ecological value.
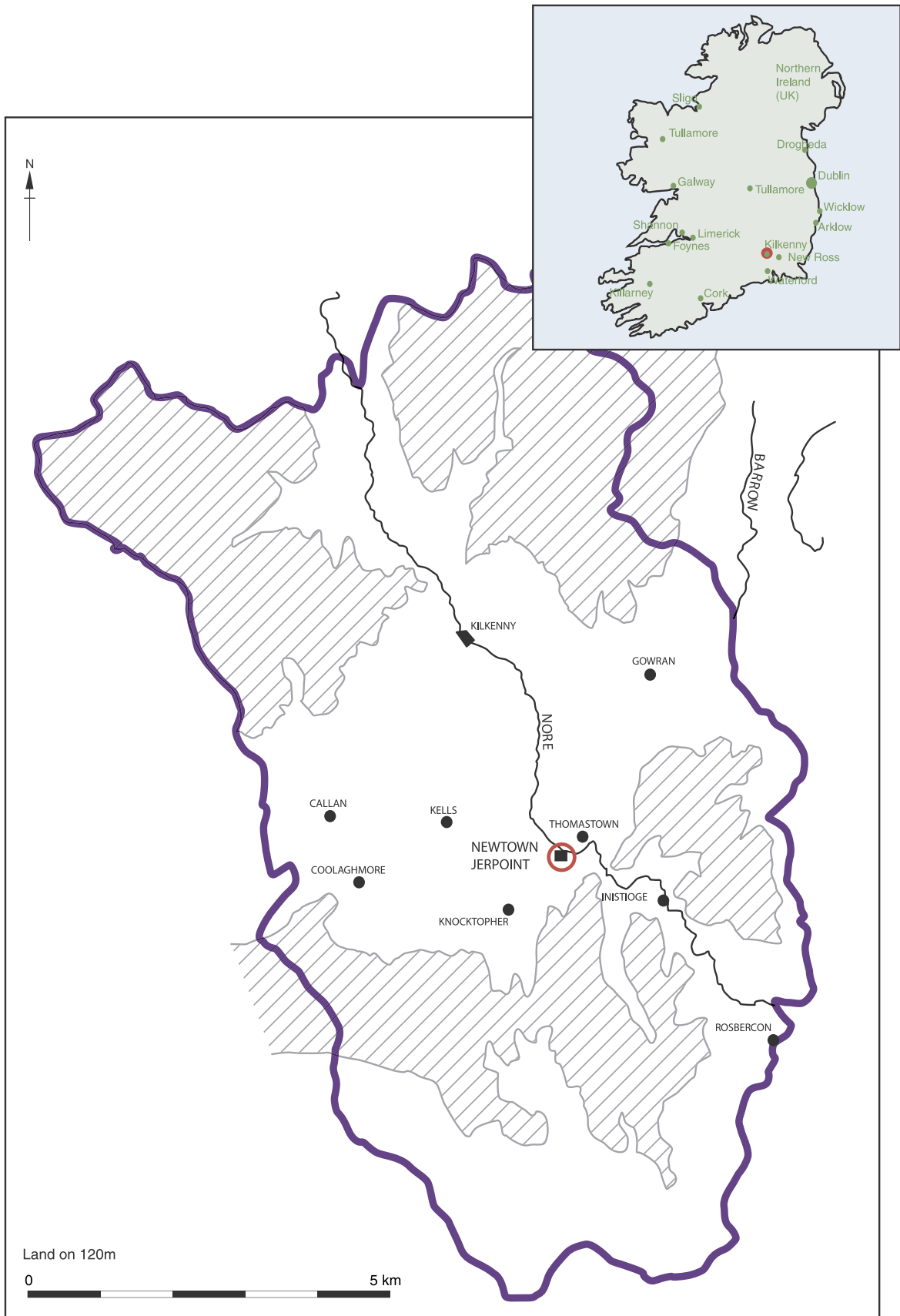
Figure 1: Newtown Jerpoint: Location plan in relation to medieval towns of County Kilkenny

Issues and Threats

The history, development and archaeological potential of Newtown Jerpoint are not fully understood. The surviving buildings are fragile, and the important earthworks could be damaged by unsympathetic agricultural practices. A site of this nature in close proximity to a national monument naturally raises questions of public access and presentation, and the impact of increased visitor access.

The Heritage Council

The Heritage Council was established on a statutory basis with a responsibility for proposing policies and priorities for the national heritage, both built and natural. Recognising the importance and issues at Newtown Jerpoint, the Heritage Council offered support for the preparation of this Conservation Plan as a first step towards addressing the problems raised by the site.

The Conservation Plan

This Conservation Plan has been written in order to:

- Describe the site and explain its setting, its current protected status and its historical context with a Gazetteer of the elements that make up the site.

- Assess the significance of the remains, their landscape and ecological context.

- Assess the vulnerability of the site and provide policies to protect that significance.

Policies for the site will aid the following:

- The conservation of the standing remains and buried features.

- The conservation of the entire site and its wider landscape, through sympathetic management of land usage and visitor access.

- The archaeological and research potential of the site.

- Improved access and understanding.

Objectives

It is anticipated that the Conservation Plan will be of use for:

- Improving a wider local and national understanding of the site and its significance.

- Promoting the recognition and protection of the site.

- Encouraging management schemes for effective maintenance.

- Guiding repairs and conservation.

- Protecting the setting through land management.

- Improving access to the site.

In addition, the Conservation Plan brings together the documentation relating to the site found in local records, historical mapping and national documents. The Conservation Plan is now being published so that the future management of the site can be determined.

1.2 Basis and Structure

Background to Conservation Plans

The underlying principles of the plan are derived from *The Conservation Plan* (James Semple Kerr, 1996). It also takes into account the series of international charters summarised in the *Guide to International Conservation Charters* (Historic Scotland, 1997), the principal ones being the *International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites* (The Venice Charter 1964); the UNESCO Recommendations (1976); the Congress on European Architectural Heritage (Council of Europe, 1975); the Valetta Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage January 1992 (European Treaty Series 143); and the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (referred to as the Burra Charter November 1999). Guidance has been sought from sources such as *Commissioning a Conservation Plan (*English Heritage, 1998) and in *Conservation Plans for Historic Places* (Heritage Lottery Fund, 1998), Conservation Management Plans (HLF 2005) and *Informed Conservation* (Kate Clark, English Heritage, 2001), as well as through other Conservation Plans produced by the Heritage Council of Ireland.

Organisation of the Plan

This Conservation Plan follows a four-part structure:

Part I — Significance [Sections 2 - 5] summarises the evidence for the monument and its historical development. It identifies key phases of development and sets out the elements of significance for each of these and for the monument's overall significance.

Part II —Issues and Policies [Sections 6 - 8] develops principles for protecting and enhancing the elements of significance and making it accessible to public understanding and enjoyment, and sets out the policies.

Part III — Implementation [Section 9] sets out a possible means of implementation of the Conservation Plan.

Part IV — Gazetteer [Section 10] is a descriptive schedule of individual elements of the site, related to the recent Topographical Survey (Figure 10).

Appendices A-D — provide: (A) Bibliography and list of sources; (B) Historical sources for the town; (C) Ecology and SAC Synopsis; and (D) Methodology of the Site Survey.

Part I: Significance

2. Understanding the Monument

2.1 Scope of the Study

The site of Newtown Jerpoint is located in the townland of Jerpointchurch, in the Barony of Knocktopher, County Kilkenny (Nat. Grid ref. 561 409). The site of Newtown Jerpoint is taken to include the landholding around Belmore House that includes the majority of the remains of the deserted town, and other relevant elements outside that area. A topographic survey of the site has been undertaken by Oxford Archaeology to create an accurate plan of the visible features. In addition, the condition and significance of the features have been considered and the site as a whole has been assessed. The survey has helped to locate those features that had been previously mapped by the Ordnance Survey in 1839, while additional features were also found in the Town Field and in other surrounding fields. The church was also investigated and photographed and the condition of its fabric was assessed.

2.2 Review of Sources

A number of primary sources survive which mention Newtown Jerpoint. In the Public Record Office of the National Archives (England), there are a number of medieval manorial records, including an important rental or 'extent' of 1289 which lists the burgage plots, and other surveys and inquisitions. Also important are the copies of lost medieval records from the Dublin record office, and the surviving Ormond Deeds in the National Library in Dublin which include many references to the history of the town, dating from the 14th century through to the end of the 17th century. Later estate records are few, but there are modern farm plans, and drawings and photographs from the 19th century. The unusual depiction of the site on the first edition OS map leads to the records of the Ordnance Survey, Dublin (now in the National Archives of Ireland) which are of exceptional importance towards understanding the production of the large-scale draft maps of parishes.

Printed histories of Kilkenny and Ireland have been consulted, as well as the growing body of historical studies on Medieval Ireland. Recent significant publications have included guides to archival sources (Connolly 2002; Dryburgh & Smith 2005), a reprint of Orpen's *Ireland under the Normans* (2005), and the exemplary monograph on *Medieval Trim* (Potterton 2005). Numerous journal articles have proved useful. Of particular importance are papers published in the journal of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society (later the *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* [RSAI]) and more recently the *Old Kilkenny Review* (OKR). Sources used for reference include the National Archives in London and Dublin, and sources in local libraries and collections.
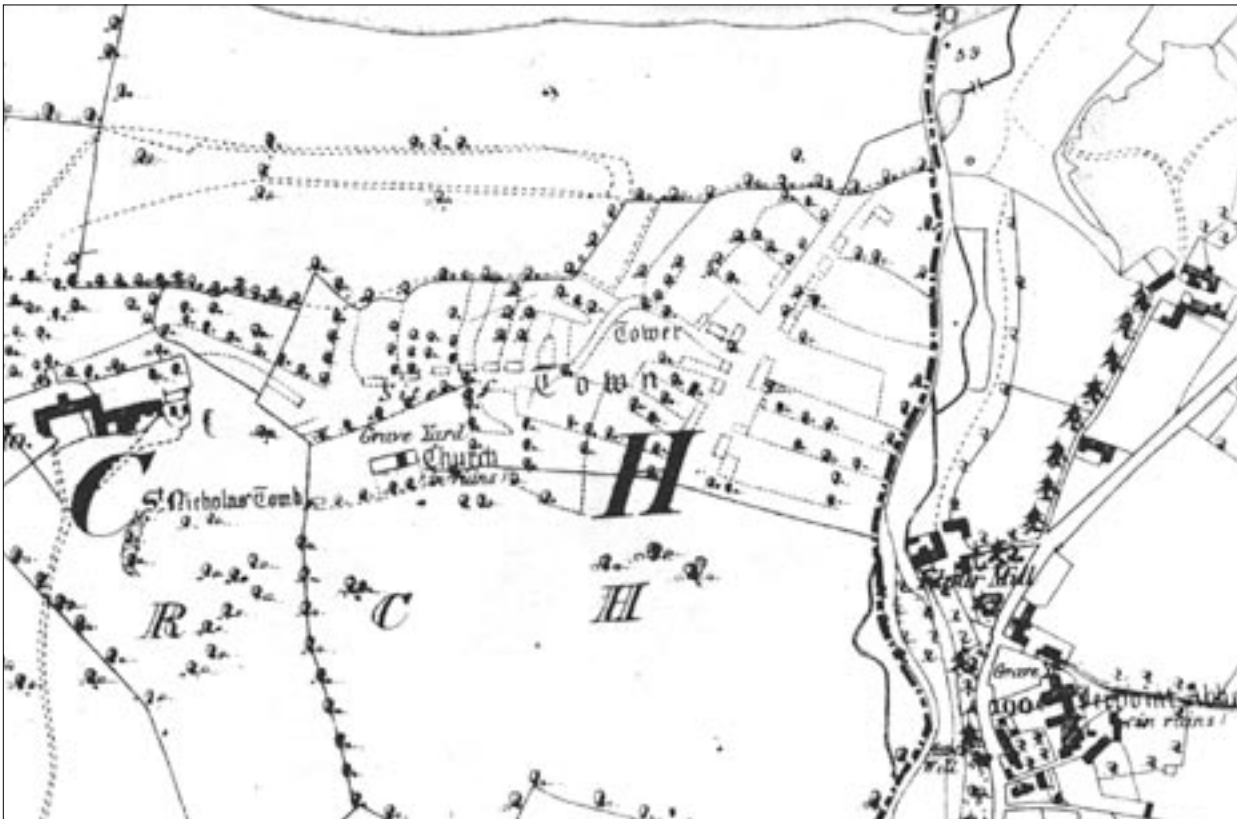
Figure 2: Ordnance Survey 6-inch map (1839)

2.3   Previous Research

Previous research on the site began with the explorations of the owner following on from the publication of the Ordnance Survey map in the 19th century (Graves 1868), and Prim's earlier work (Prim 1914). More recent studies have included work by Pilsworth (1958); discussion of Newtown by Terry Barry in *The Archaeology of Medieval Ireland* (1987, 75-81); and O'Conor's report on rural settlement for the Discovery Programme (1998, 49-51). Site investigations have included Ben Murtagh's investigations leading to the Conservation Plan for St Nicholas' Church and his article in the *Old Kilkenny Review* (1997), while the excavations of the nearby farmstead in 1973 have been published by Claire Foley (1989). The study of urban development and rural history in Ireland has been the subject of numerous recent works such as those by Bradley, Glasscock, and Graham, while the neglected topic of local administrative divisions has been studied by Empey (1971, 1990). The result of this work has been to place Newtown Jerpoint centrally in the debate about the nature of Irish small towns/boroughs/rural boroughs and of manorial settlement generally. Because the site is known and located, and has surviving remains, it thus has great potential to address some of the outstanding questions through further research and investigation.

3. Historical Overview

3.1 Topography and Setting

Newtown Jerpoint is located approximately 3.2km (2 miles) south-west of Thomastown, County Kilkenny. It sits on the bank of the Little Arrigle River opposite the Cistercian Jerpoint Abbey, and on the south bank of the River Nore. A submerged island and shallow crossing point to the west of the junction of the Nore and the Arrigle was one of the *raisons d'etre* for the town and was the location for a bridge, now gone. The site is currently situated in farmland, and has in recent years been used as light grazing land for sheep. Under new ownership, there is a likelihood of cattle grazing the site.

Since the name Jerpoint preceded the 'New Town', it must be assumed that the bridge *[pont]* was there first; the name 'Jerpoint' simply means 'Nore bridge'.[1] The road from Knocktopher towards Thomastown passed through the town and across the bridge. Since the loss of the bridge in the early modern period, the road has had to pass to the east of the Little Arrigle River, and through the former abbey precinct, only crossing the River Nore at Thomastown.

The underlying geology is near the boundary of the Devonian sandstones to the south-east and the Carboniferous limestones that cover much of County Kilkenny to the north-west. Part of the site lies within the alluvial plain of the River Nore, but most is on higher land, with the farmhouse occupying the highest point in the vicinity of the town.

The townland of Jerpointchurch lies within the civil parish of Jerpoint Church in the Barony of Knocktopher (for once almost equivalent with the medieval cantred of that name). The civil parish is likely to equate with the medieval manor of Jerpoint, which was part of the Earl Marshal's inheritance. This is all quite distinct from: (i) the townland and parish of Jerpoint Abbey in the Barony of Gowran (once cantred of Ogenty), which was monastic and therefore 'cross land'; and (ii) the townlands forming the parish of Jerpoint West (probably also monastic land) in the Baronies of Ida (once cantred of Iverk), Gowran and Knocktopher.[2] What this amounts to is that the townland of Jerpointchurch may well represent the area assigned to the new town, but that there were other parts of Jerpoint manor that were not included in the new town (including the townland of 'Oldtown'), while all the parts of 'Jerpoint' lying to the east in Gowran bear no relation to the town and were probably all monastic. Equally, the nearby Thomastown (with its own bridge over the Nore) is also in Gowran Barony, but was under a different lordship. So like many of the new urban settlements in Ireland, Newtown Jerpoint had neighbours whose interests were not necessarily shared with the prospective settlers.

Plate 1: Vertical aerial photograph of Newtown Jerpoint and surrounding area, July 1995 [Reproduced courtesy Ordnance Survey Ireland]
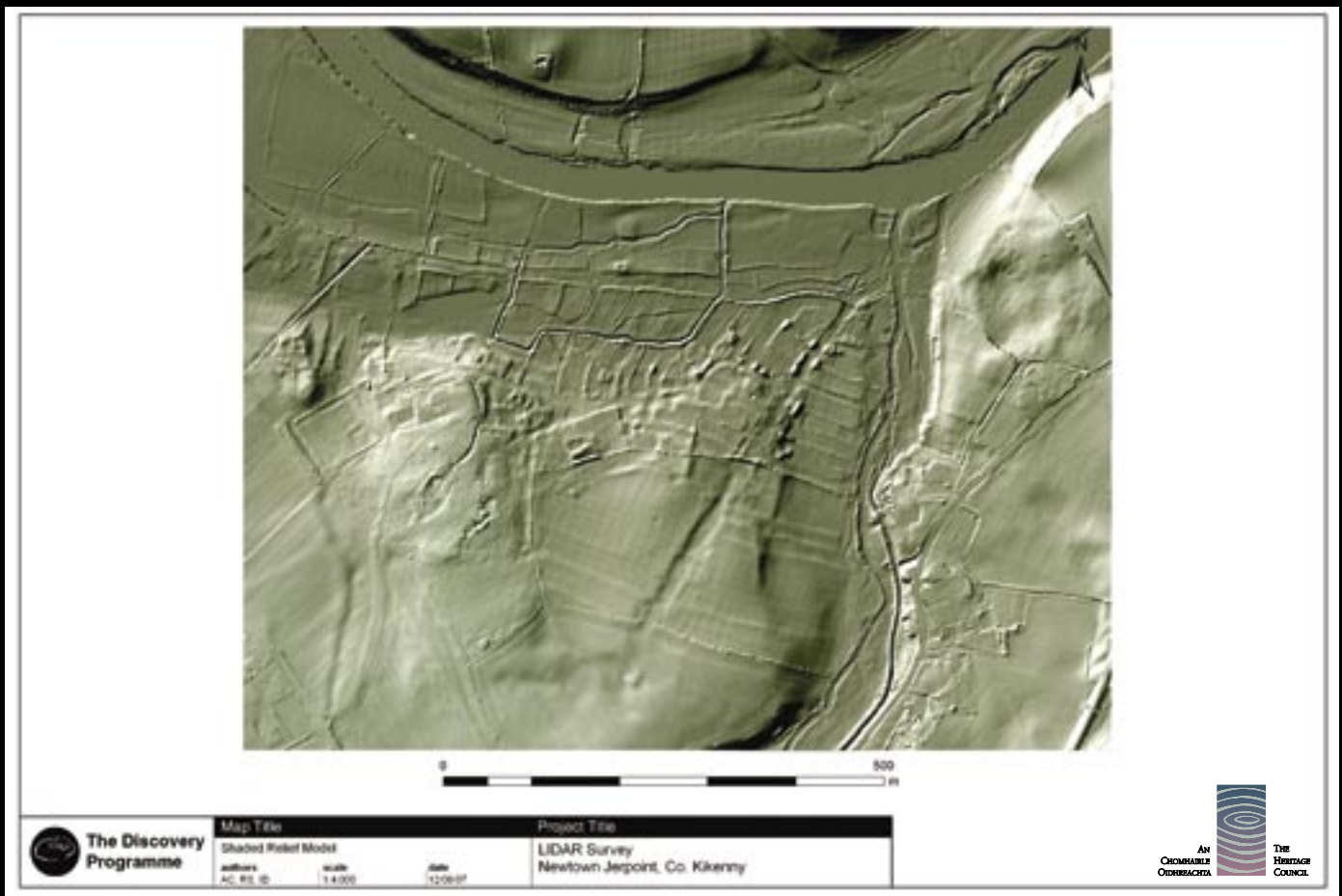
Plate 2: Lidar image of Newtown Jerpoint. The River Nore forms the northern edge of the survey area, and the River Arrigle bounds it to the east. Streets, house platforms and plot divisions are clearly visible. Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) is a remote sensing system used to collect topographic data. [This survey was commissioned in 2007 by the Heritage Council and the Discovery Programme and was carried out by BKS Ltd]
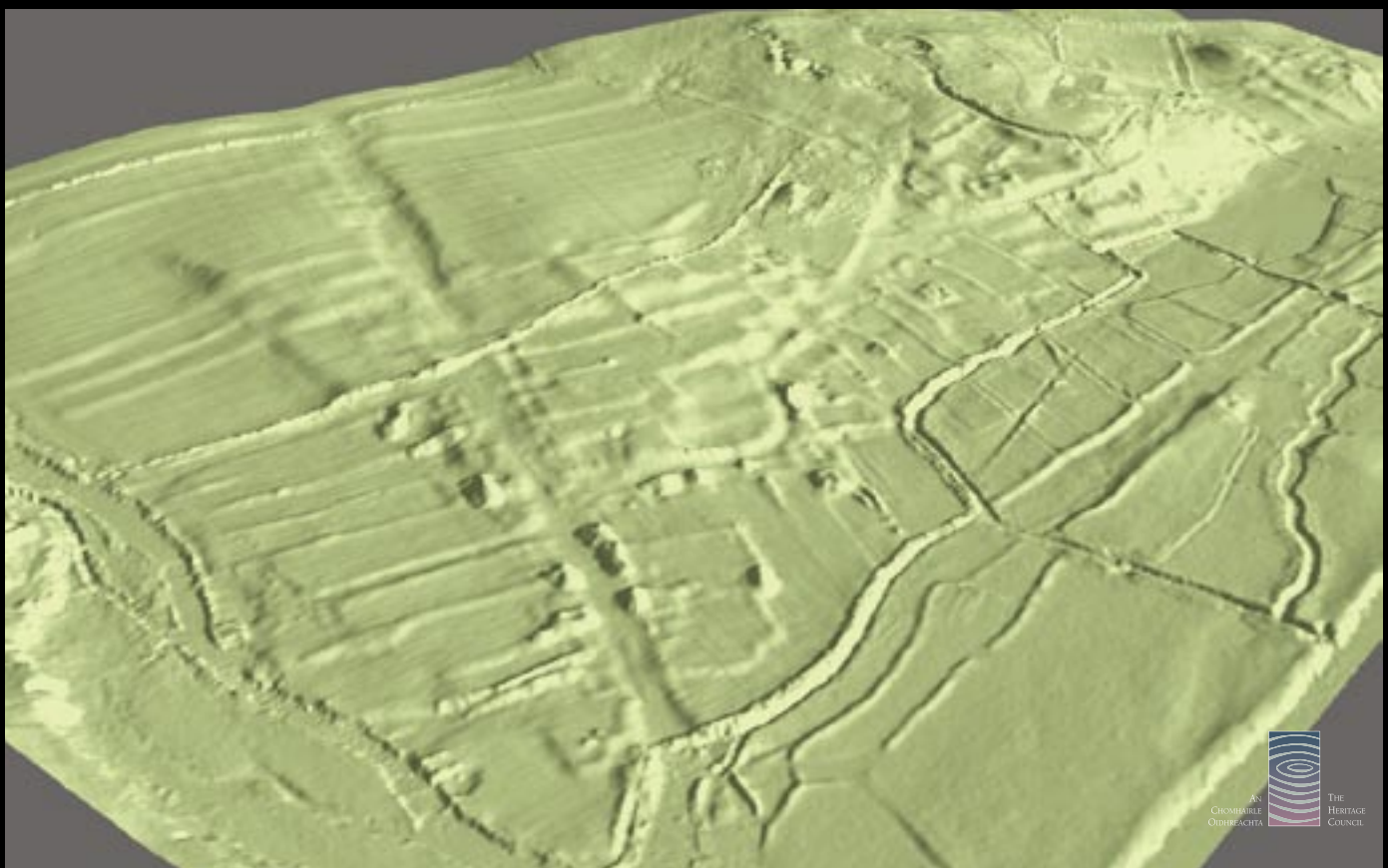
Plate 3: Oblique lidar image of Newtown Jerpoint viewed from the north-east

Plate 4: Aerial view of Newtown Jerpoint from the east, showing plot boundaries aligned on the sunken 'Long Street' [Cambridge Collection Ref BGK 78, 17 July 1971]

Plate 5: Aerial view of Newtown Jerpoint from the north-east, showing the sunken 'Long Street' [Cambridge Collection Ref BGK 76, 17 July 1971]

Plate 6: Aerial view of Newtown Jerpoint [Archaeological Survey of Ireland, Michael Moore, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government]

Plate 7: Aerial photograph of Church of St Nicholas from the north. The remains of the former graveyard boundary are visible to the east. Sheep are present in the interior of the church [Ian Doyle/Heritage Council, 2005]

Plate 8: Aerial photograph of site from the west showing plot boundaries to the north of the church and the roadway to the south-east [Ian Doyle/Heritage Council, 2006]

Plate 9: Aerial photograph of the site from the north-east showing plot boundaries to the east of the roadway (visible left of centre) and the drainage channel running parallel to the River Nore [Ian Doyle/Heritage Council, 2006]

3.2 The Urban Context

Kilkenny lies within what may be termed the south-east urban province of medieval Ireland, the combined area of the watershed of the rivers Suir, Nore and Barrow containing a high percentage of towns of varied sizes that were founded by the Norman colonists and their descendants. Whereas the traditional Irish economy does not appear to have always required towns as market centres, there were vibrant 'central places' at monasteries and cathedrals before the Norman invasion (Butlin 1977). Interestingly, the majority of cathedrals retained their status after the conquest without becoming Norman towns (and without being moved to towns, as happened in England). The main originator of urban growth was rather to be seen as the Viking coastal settlement on rivers with adequate seaports, which established the main trading towns that were to continue into later times as the backbone of the urban network.

The Anglo-Norman rule was established with castles around which the major towns (such as Kilkenny) grew, and a network of smaller towns established by the new landowners. It is important to remember that in Ireland, as elsewhere throughout these islands, there was always a hierarchy of urban settlements. At the top was a network of prominent walled and chartered cities and boroughs, provincial or county centres with recognisable urban characteristics in their size and topography. A neat measure of the successful towns of the early 13th century (throughout these islands, and elsewhere in Europe) is the extent of the mission of the mendicant friars.[3] Bradley (1985) has suggested a list of some 56 Irish towns in the major category, of which Callan, Gowran, Kilkenny and Thomastown are the examples from County Kilkenny (and only Kilkenny had early friaries).

A second tier would include the intermediate market towns and centres, often at nodal points on road systems, and typically surviving in some form until the present day (*e.g.* Knocktopher, Kells). Many of these were Norman foundations on sub-infeudated land, brought into existence by a lordly grant of a market or borough status. Typically (and as in England), a town with a weekly market and annual fair might include a range of specialised trades alongside peasant villagers who still owed labour duties to the lord, whereas a borough would at least include some 'burgesses' with the distinct freedom of owing nothing to the lord save a fixed ground rent for their burgage plots (Hilton, 1992). It is clear from the improbably large number of grants or claims of 'burgage' status in Ireland (Martin 1981, Graham 1977, 1985) that the promise of this status was used as a means of attracting settlers to what may have been little more than a village (or even less). It was still the case in 18th-century colonial America that borough charters were granted to woodland clearings in New England in order to attract prospective settlers.[4] As Empey has suggested, the foundation of towns was likely to belong to the primary phase of feudal division, and was economically necessary to concentrate the profits within the landholding (Empey 1990). Thus in County Kilkenny, the earl's demesne lands included Kilkenny and Callan, Thomas fitz Anthony established Thomastown in the cantred of Ogenty, Griffin fitz William probably established Newtown in the cantred of Knocktopher, and so forth.

The third tier of settlements could be said to be those which never actually 'took off', or never survived at more than village level. Some may have failed to attract settlers, having been no more than a hope, while others may have existed and shrunk under the onslaught of plague and population decline, or Irish resurgence in the 14th-15th centuries (Barry 1993). The appearance of these places on distribution maps of urban Ireland, while eloquent of one-time colonial aspirations, gives a wholly misleading impression of the actual distribution of towns (Graham 1985, 1977), and it is not clear that distinctions between 'rural boroughs' and 'villae mercatoriae' are meaningful or can reliably be drawn from the sources (Graham 1988). It must be admitted, however, that the nature of the evidence rarely allows any degree of certainty about the status of 'lost' places.

The late medieval geography of settlement in a county like Kilkenny was probably something of a patchwork of 'Irish' and 'English' occupation centred around a shrinking core of solid Anglo-Norman landholding dependent on the towns, with marginal wooded and mountainous areas increasingly under the control of the Gaelic Irish. Thus Thomastown could be seen as being 'in the marches', and Inistioge as a safe haven on a dangerous pass to Rosbercon and New Ross. One key piece of evidence for the more prominent towns that remained active into the 15th century is the collection of a lay subsidy by the Ormond administration in 1420-21.[5] This was put into the hands of the 'provosts' *(praepositi)* of a small number of boroughs, as shown on the table of *Medieval Boroughs of County Kilkenny*.[6] All of these places had some reason to be counted as significant, with charters, or walls, and either a friary or a hospital. Another 25 places in Kilkenny have some evidence for the presence of burgesses, but would not otherwise feature on this list.

Medieval Boroughs in County Kilkenny								
Name	*Castle*	*Charter*	*Walls*	*Friars*	*Other*	*1420 tax*	*1586*	*1591*	*Incorp.*
Callan	✓ (towers)	✓	✓	✓ late		✓	✓	✓	
Coolaghmore	✓	✓				✓			
Gowran	✓		✓		College Hospital	✓			✓ 1608
Inistioge		✓	✓		Canons	✓	✓	✓	✓ 1608
Kells	✓	✓			Canons				
Kilkenny	✓	✓	✓	✓ ✓	Canons Hospital	✓	✓	✓	✓ 1574
Kilkenny Irishtown			✓		Cathedral	✓			✓ 1605
Newtown Jerpoint	(tower)		(bridge)			✓		✓	
Rosbercon		✓		✓					
Thomastown	✓ (towers)	✓	✓		Hospital	✓	✓	✓	✓ 1553

Although Newtown Jerpoint is perhaps the least prominent among these places, it evidently held its place and did not disappear at the first opportunity in the 14th century. Even as late as 1591, a list of towns 'of name' in Kilkenny gave *Jerypond* along with Kilkenny, Callan, Thomastown and Inistioge.[7] On the 1586 court roll of Knocktopher, it was noted that the burgesses had to assist with the delivery of goods purchased by the lord in Waterford and the towns of Thomastown, [New] Ross, Jerpoint and Inistioge.[8] Jerpoint did not, however, rank high enough to gain a mention in Camden's *Britannia* of 1586 where the short account of County Kilkenny reports that there were but four boroughs: Kilkenny, Callan, Inistioge and Thomastown.[9] The more successful towns might achieve

formal incorporation by charter, and these were Thomastown (1553), Kilkenny (1574), Irishtown (1605), Gowran and Inistioge (both 1608).[10] Others, of course, continued as local market towns of lesser status.

Towns of all ranks were abandoned at different times for varied reasons, and Ireland is fortunate to possess at least three remarkable examples — at Rindown (County Roscommon), Clonmines (County Wexford), and Newtown Jerpoint (County Kilkenny) — of towns which have been abandoned but whose visible remains survive. As a walled frontier town on the upper Shannon, Rindown was certainly of the first rank, though it may well have been lost in the 14th century (Barry, 1987). As neighbour and rival to Thomastown, Newtown Jerpoint was almost certainly of the second rank. It clearly survived the traumatic 14th century and lasted until at least the 17th century, but eventually declined, perhaps from the loss of its bridge and the re-routing of the road.

3.3   Origins of Jerpoint and Newtown

Jerpoint Abbey was probably founded by Donnell MacGillpatrick, King of Ossory, in c. 1160. It was a daughter house of Cistercian Baltinglass (founded in 1148-51), and was built in the second half of the 12th century.[11] Jerpoint was a manor of William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, who took possession of his Irish lands in 1192, and was present in Ireland 1207-13 when much of his activity in Kilkenny was concentrated. Kilkenny received a charter from the Marshal in 1207x11, but it is interesting to note that William fitz Geoffrey's charter to Kells of 1211x16 made reference to the laying out of the town by Geoffrey fitz Robert (Seneschal of Leinster, c. 1200) at some earlier date.[12] The sub-infeudation of central Ossory began in the 1190s, soon after the creation of the castle at Kilkenny.[13] The new town of Jerpoint was most likely created in this decade by William Marshal's tenant in Knocktopher, Griffin fitz William (Carew), brother of Raymond le Gros,[14] who was succeeded in turn by his three sons, Gilbert, Matthew, and Raymond.[15] In the May 1247 feodary, Matthew son of Griffin (or Reymund son of Griffin in another version) held 1¾ knight's fees at *Knokechnoker* and *Nova Villa*.[16] This would imply that the place had been sub-infeudated rather than being a demesne manor of the Earl Marshal. The church of Newtown (with the tithes of Oldtown) was confirmed to St John's Priory in Kilkenny by the young Marshal in the 1220s (and not, as earlier thought, c. 1211).[17] It was named *nova villa de Jeriponte,* implying a new foundation rather than suggesting the existence of an 'old' town which does in fact exist as a townland in Jerpoint parish. It was located between the south bank of the River Nore and the west bank of the River Arrigle, across from Jerpoint Abbey on the east. The town grew to the south of the bridge that crossed the shallow meeting point of the two rivers, to the north-west of the abbey. Remains of the town show that it consisted of a north-south street leading from the bridge, and an east-west street with house platforms on either side. Remains of the house platforms survive, together with the standing remains of a tower and a church (see further description below).

3.4   The Marshal's Heirs

The later history of the town is somewhat confusing, but the main outlines are clear once the divisions of the Marshal's inheritance are understood. It would

appear that, within a few years, the lordship had returned to the Marshal, for Matilda widow of Anselm Marshal (9th Earl of Pembroke) held the old and new town, even though she was not strictly entitled to dower since the Earl had died in 1245 before taking possession [seisin].[18] Matilda was still alive in 1247 at the time of the great partition of the Marshal's estates, so they were not accounted for in the description of the estates at that time.[19] However, following her death in 1252, the Justiciar of Ireland was ordered to take into the king's hands all her lands held in dower.[20] Shortly afterwards, the 'new and old town in the county of Kilkenny' that had belonged to Matilda were ordered to be extended (valued) in the presence of the heirs of Walter Marshal, and to be shared among the co-heirs of Walter Marshal (8th Earl of Pembroke).[21] While neither this extent nor the details of the division have survived, something can be learned from later records of each share (purparty).

The Marshal inheritance had been divided among the five daughters of William Marshal and their heirs. The Kilkenny lands passed mostly to the third daughter, Isabel Marshal, wife of Gilbert de Clare, 4th Earl of Gloucester and Hertford. His portion, as described in May 1247, did not then include Jerpoint, as explained above, but did include the homage and service of 1½ and ¼ knight's fees in Knocktopher and Newtown *(Nova villa)* held by Reymund fitz Griffin.[22] In 1289 on the death of Maud, the widow of Richard de Clare, 5th Earl of Gloucester, the manor of Jerpoint was now surveyed with other manors.[23] This detailed and very informative manorial extent indicates that the rent for each burgage plot with its 6 acres of land was 1 shilling a year, and that there were 24 burgesses holding 22½ burgages (with a total rent of 22s. 6d), approximating to the number of house sites recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1839. The total number of acres was 138 (it should have been 135), which were variously sub-let or redistributed between burgesses. Additional land in the form of a carucate (totalling 120 acres) was let out to 41 burgesses and others, and then there is a separate rental of 25 tenants in old town. The burgesses and other tenants were mostly exclusive groups, though both shared in the carucate, and the jury was divided half-and-half between them. Other features associated with the borough were the prise of ale taken by the lord from the burgesses when they brewed, and the perquisites of the hundred (court) of the borough; the tenants of old and new town owed suit of court and to the lord's mill. The names in the extent are mostly English, with one reference to 'David fitz Thomas and other Welshman', and very few names of Irishmen (*e.g.* David Kynchelach). One burgess (William Sequard) paid a pound of pepper annually from the avowry of his Irishmen (betaghs?) and he can be followed through a number of later surveys. The demesne in 1289 included 127½ acres of arable and 10 acres of meadow, and there were 34 acres of common pasture, with other pastures on 'heathland and the mountains above the abbey of Jerpoint' (the 'mountain' featured in later surveys and was mapped on Petty's Down Survey of 1657). Comparison can be made with the contemporary surveys of the countess's boroughs at Thomastown, Coolaghmore, and Gowran.[24] Thomastown had about 24 burgages worth a shilling a year (often subdivided into fractions), and a number of houses, with suit of a common oven as well as a mill. The demesne was larger, producing wheat, barley, rye, oats and beans. The extent of the borough of Coolaghmore (*burgi veteris Coillach*)[25]

shows that the burgages again had 6 acres of land and were worth a shilling. Although there were over 60 of them, they were usually held in groups of two or four, as if only for their associated land. Suit was owed to the (wind)mill, and tenants with their own mills had to pay the lord for the privilege. At Gowran (*Balligaveran*), the burgages are not listed, but some part of their landholding produced over £25 a year. There were four mills reckoned at over £26 a year, but nothing was received from 'stallage, market toll, the prise of ale or other customary renders'.[26]

The Gloucester holding can be followed into the next century. In May 1307, the Inquisition Post Mortem for Joan, wife of the 6th Earl, Gilbert de Clare, records various holdings in the old town of Jerpoint, including 135 acres of arable and several tenants of carucates, and 'burgages held by the burgesses of the new town of Jerpoint who render 22s 6d and do suit at their hundred [courts], and they hold a carucate of land in Roslygan rendering 40s yearly, and John Sacwart renders ½lb pepper yearly to have protection for his Irishmen; an old garden, prise of ale, and perquisites of court'.[27] Earl Gilbert was slain at Bannockburn in 1314, after which his lands and honours returned to the Crown.[28] His post-mortem inquisition only deals with his lands in outline since an earlier inquest (which does not survive) had already been returned to Dublin.[29] There is a set of post-mortem accounts for his lands in County Kilkenny which include the new and old towns of *Geripontis,* but without any details of the estate.[30] The accounts only survive because of a later inquiry in the accounting of the Treasurer Walter Islip.[31]

Gilbert's lands were divided in 1317 between his three sisters, and it was Margaret, wife of Hugh Audley (and formerly of Piers Gaveston), who received Newtown (along with Kilkenny and Thomastown).[32] A description of this division was recorded in Chancery,[33] and was later copied into the *Liber Primus* of the Kilkenny city records. The manor of *Jerpoint* old town was then worth £6, and the burgage of the new town of Jerponte was apparently worth £76 3¼d (76s is perhaps more likely).[34] This share did not, however, include the knight's fee in Knocktopher and New Town (the 1¾ fee of the fitz Griffins), which passed to the elder sister Eleanor, wife of Hugh le Despenser, and in 1317 was held by James Butler.[35] After a complicated descent in the Hotham and Ferrers families, this returned to the Despensers and was sold to the Earl of Ormond in 1391.[36] The later descent of the Audley share is uncertain. Hugh Audley (by now Earl of Gloucester) died in 1347, but when his wife died in 1342, his Irish estates had passed to her heir, Margaret Baronness Audley, married to Ralph Earl of Stafford.[37] She died c. 1348, and he died in 1372. Neither of their inquests mention land in Ireland, but the Stafford estates still existed as a separate entity a century later when they were under the care of the Earl of Ormond.[38]

Having dealt with the Clare/Gloucester share, we can turn to the shares of land in Jerpoint that were held by other descendants of the Marshal, evidently received after the distribution of 1252. With regard to the first heiress, Matilda Countess of Norfolk, there is no evidence that their estates (chiefly in County Carlow) included any part of Jerpoint. But the Marshal's second daughter Joan (and her heirs, the Earls of Pembroke), with estates chiefly in Wexford,[39] had a not inconsiderable interest in Jerpoint. On his death in 1296, Earl William de

Valence owned a 'piece *[particulam]* of land in at *Jeripound'* of the inheritance of his wife, Joan.[40] She died in 1307, and the Inquisition of the Irish lands of Joan de Valence, Countess of Pembroke, included a brief extent of her holding in the 'new town of *Geriponte'*, 54 burgesses worth 54s.[41]

Joan's son and heir, Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, died in 1324 and had land in the old town. An inquisition at the old town of *Jeripont* showed that there were no buildings, but 120 acres demesne arable worth 70s, and 40 acres pasture worth only 6s 8d since there were no animals. The tenants included the heirs of John Sekeward (still paying 4d for the avowry of their Irishmen), and certain burgesses paying 46s for their burgages and suit at the Hundred court; however the pleas and perquisites of the Hundred were only worth 12d because of poverty *(et non plus quia pauperes)*.[42] The Countess of Pembroke survived him by 50 years; he was succeeded by nephew Lord Hastings (died 1348) and another (died 1375),[43] but the fate of the landholding has not been traced.

The Marshal's fourth daughter was Sibyl, wife of William de Ferrers, who inherited lands in Kildare, and whose seven daughters inherited her share.[44] Only two of these are recorded with land in Jerpoint. Isabel, wife of Reginald de Mohun, seems to have acquired part of *Jerpoint* since, on the death of William of Mohun in 1282, the Inquisition into his lands included 28 demesne acres in *Jeripunt* worth 28s, and the eighth part of the mill, 6s 8d.[45] Another of Sibyl's daughters, Agatha, wife of Hugh Mortimer, recovered possession in 1277 in the king's court of £12 6s 10d worth of land and rent in New Town by *Geripons* as heiress of Anselm Marshal, which had been withheld from her by her sisters (or their husbands) but who did not contest the claim, and so she recovered by default.[46] On her death in 1306, the Inquisition into her lands records 160 acres of land in *Jeripontem* worth 40s, and a mill with 40 acres worth 50s.[47]

The fifth daughter was Eva, wife of William de Braose. She had three daughters who inherited her share of land in Dunamase and elsewhere.[48] The portion of Eleanor, wife of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, passed to their son Humphrey, who granted his land in Ireland to his brother Gilbert,[49] and in 1307 Gilbert of Bohun had part of the mill at Jerpoint.[50] The portion of Eva, wife of William de Cantilupe, descended to John of Hastings, which may account for the 1313 inquisition for Joan of Hastings, including the fourth part of the mill and 40 acres of land in *Geripound*, now held as a parcel of the manor of Oboy.[51]

There is presumably no special reason for these tortuous divisions of land in Jerpoint, beyond ensuring that the co-parcenors obtained fair shares of the rental. It is clear that the partitions were undertaken with some care to make the shares equal. It may be that Jerpoint was large enough and prosperous enough to allow divisions into minor shares that could be dispersed as cash at the end of the year. It is also clear that the lands were not all in the new town, and were often in Old Town or elsewhere in the manor. It is perhaps significant that even small shares in Newtown were considered worth having. Quite what happened to all the shares after the 14th century is not always clear, and while some may have been abandoned, it is more probable that they found their way to the Earls of Ormond.

3.5 Defence and Survival

Had it not been successful, the town might have vanished in the troubles of the 14th century. Yet it survived, despite being in an area that came to be regarded as frontier territory which was subject to increasing lawlessness.[52]

An example of this may be the case reported in the Justiciary Rolls of 1311 when Walter Been was on trial in Dublin for burning a house belonging to the abbot of Jerpoint 'in the new town of *Geripont*'. He was found guilty and hanged. His goods included 6 sheep, his clothes, 2½ crannocks and 2 bushels. An interesting aspect of the case is that at least half of the 12-man jury seem to have come all the way from Jerpoint (four of them being named in the 1289 extent, and two coming from local families).[53] In 1331, a raid by the Irish kerns *(satellites)* of William de Bermingham (connected with the Earl of Desmond's rebellion) killed 24 men from Thomastown and Jerpoint and did 'many evil deeds in the county'.[54] The provision of private or public defences was in reaction to this, and in Thomastown there were at least three fortified town houses in the town.[55] In March 1374, Thomastown also received a murage grant from the crown for its defence. This was addressed to the reeve and community, with the telling preamble: 'considering how your town is in the March of the county next the Irish our enemies and rebels', and that 'our faithful people nearby have been destroyed by them…'.[56]

The following April, there was a royal grant of 'pontage murage and pavage' to Jerpoint, addressed to the provost and community of the town *[preposito et communitati ville de Jeriponte]*, for the 'repair of bridge on the Nore next the town and for support and repair of the tower and gate at the south end of the bridge for resisting our enemies and rebels crossing the bridge by day or night'. It granted the right to collect customs on goods coming, carried or crossing over the bridge for ten years, and has an instructive list of goods that can be compared with those for Kilkenny.[57] The moneys were to be spent only on the bridge, tower and gate by witness of the Bishop of Ossory and Abbot of Jerpoint.[58]

Life in the town was evidently continuing, and not least the land market. A curious confirmation of this is found in the evidence of Edward Watoun which was recorded before the Common Bench in Dublin in 1364, following a fire in his house which had destroyed his records (the fire was witnessed by a monk of Jerpoint and may indeed have been in his town house). Watoun claimed an estate in Newtown Jerpoint, based on a rental of the town, which gives the burgage rent as 25s, and lists a number of burgages held by Maurice Marchall, William Hethyn, Thomas Shorthals, the Prior of St John the Evangelist at Kilkenny, Richard Stewyn, and Patrick Mordyn.[59] Both Marchall and Hethyn were from families present in 1289. In 1388, the vicar of Jerpoint (presumably of the church in Newtown) granted 'lands, tenements, ponds and fisheries' in Jerpoint and Gowlan to feoffees, and again at least one of the witnesses, Walter Hethyn, was of a burgess family present a century earlier.[60] In 1391, James Butler, Earl of Ormond, having recovered custody of County Kilkenny in 1389, purchased the Despenser interest in Newtown (i.e. the Gloucester holding, with the knight's fee in the *nouvell villa de Jeripont)*.[61]

Although later evidence for the town is slender, there is no reason to suppose that it did not continue, and a reference in 1420 implies that Newtown remained in place as one of the small group of towns of secondary importance in the county. The provost of *Jeripont* acted as collector for the subsidy in 1420-21 for County Kilkenny, along with the provosts *[prepositi]* of Kilkenny and Kilkenny Irishtown, Callan, Thomastown, Rosbercon, Inistioge, Jerpoint, Cooleagh and Gowran.[62] This may possibly represent the total number of the more prominent boroughs operating in the county at that date. At the very least, it must show that these places had provosts and a population from whom a tax could be raised.

The services of the knight's fees continue to be documented, if increasingly in monetary terms. A late 14th-century list still gives the rating as 1¾ fees in Knocktopher and Newtown Jerpoint,[63] and a list of the royal services in 1413 and 1419 reckoned the share of Newtown Jerpoint to be worth 21s 8d.[64] At the same time, an inquisition was taken to determine the division of service between Knocktopher Barony and Newtown Jerpoint; Knocktopher was charged with '38s 4d of royal service when scutage runs, and Newtown of Jerpoint with 30s 8d *[sic]*... and because the three lords of Jerpoint are not able to raise the said 21s 8d from their free tenants, they are accustomed to pay commonly by equal portions out of their own goods'.[65] Another listing of about the same date notes that the royal services of the Earl of Ormond in Kilkenny (which included Newtown of Jerpoint at 21s 8d) total £30 5s, of which the king receives £22 4s 5½d. We can suppose that the earl received the usual 'third penny'.[66]

That the rents continued to be collected is shown by several rentals in the Ormond deeds. In 1426, the Earl of Ormond was drawing rent from the 'burgagery of Knocktopher', but nothing from Jerpoint. He had, however, leased the rents of the Earl of Stafford, and thus received 12s from the 'burgagery of Jerpoint'.[67] Another rental of 1464 covers the 'burgage of the town of Knocktopher, also of Jerpoint and Callan' with a total of £5 9s 4¾d,[68] and in 1472 there were rents from the boroughs of Knocktopher and Jerpoint.[69] Perhaps by this date, the Stafford manors had finally been acquired by Ormond.

Canon Leslie noted the names of several vicars of Jerpoint between 1324 and 1418, to which a few more can be added from more recent publications.[70] James O'Hedian, an illegitimate son of the Bishop of Ossory, was appointed to the vicarage in 1487. It was then attached to the prebendary of Mayne in St Canice's along with other livings, though he was not bound to reside if he was engaged in study.[71] O'Hedian was succeeded by Thomas O'Corregan, between 1500 and 1509 (though the validity of his orders was questioned by no less than three contenders to the living) and he held it with the chancellorship or prebends of St Canice's.[72]

3.6.   Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries

The reputed burning of the town by Silken Thomas in 1534, reported by Prim as a local legend, may have some basis in fact.[73] Stanihurst's account of the Fitzgerald rebellion describes his 'invasion' of County Kilkenny in 1534. It states that, on his approach to Thomastown, 'The earl of Ossorie, and his son the lord Butler, with all the gentlemen of the countrie of Kilkennie, assembled neere *Jeripon*, to determine what order they might take, in withstanding the

invasion of the rebels'.[74] It might be thought that they had gathered to hold the bridge at Jerpoint, though the description of their subsequent flight states that they were assembled on a hill (perhaps Jerpoint hill). If the town was burnt, it clearly recovered soon enough. The survey of former monastic lands in January 1541 describes the estates of Jerpoint Abbey (dissolved in March 1540). The abbey had a large estate in their part of Jerpoint, with 16 messuages, 8 cottagers and 240 acres of arable. The mill was worth 53s 4d a year, and the tithes 66s 8d, with a total of £9 6s 8d.[75] It also had a small landholding in the Newtown of *Jerypounte*, which consisted of 'a burgage with five gardens, 4s 8d and another burgage called *Marschalls corte*, 6s 8d; now detained by the earl of Ormond, who pays nothing'.[76] The name of the property is presumably that of the Marschall family, present in 1289 and 1364. At about the same time, the ownership of the church passed to the Kilkenny corporation with the dissolution of St John's Priory.[77] The Ormond interest in Jerpoint continued. The 1546 will of James Butler contains an interesting legacy to James White of £10 'of the ferm of *Geripont'* to pay for his studies at the Inns of Court, 'he being bound to my son as his father was to me'.[78] His post-mortem inquisition includes 3 meases, 60 acres arable and 20 acres pasture in *Gerepont,* and 'holdings in the new town of Gerepont by 26s 8d royal service'.[79]

Thomas Earl of Ormond obtained a grant of the former monastic land of Jerpoint in 1558, with the part in Newtown still described as it had been in 1541;[80] he surrendered this in 1596 and received a grant for another 21 years.[81] This seems also to have included the tithes of the rectory of Jerpoint, which were surrendered and regranted in 1603.[82] The Earl's tenants in Jerpoint were listed in 1595-6, when they agreed to pay their rent to the Earl's feoffees. There were seven 'tenants of the Long street of *Jeripond'* with predominantly Irish names, in contrast with the late 13th-century extent.[83] Although this number of tenants could be taken as a sign of decline, just a few years earlier, in 1591, Jerypond occurs in a list of towns 'of name' in Kilkenny, along with Kilkenny, Callan, Thomastown and Inistioge.[84] That the town survived yet longer is evidenced by a deed of 1603 for a property in the town, and reference in 1608 to the Provost (*i.e.* Mayor) of the town.[85] A rental of 1614 in the Ormond Deeds lists eight 'Cottiers of the Longe Stret in Jeripond', with messuages paying 2s 6d each; most of the recognisable names are Irish.[86] The survey of the lands of the Countess of Ormond, carried out in 1653, mentions the manor and tenants of Jerpoint as parcel no. 46 in the Barony of Knocktopher. The survey lists ' ...a small old castle, a corn mill in repair, a pigeon house and several thatched cabins', implying that it had shrunk to a hamlet.[87] The schedule for Jerpoint parish accompanying Petty's 'Down Survey' of Knocktopher barony in 1657 shows 'Jerpoint' townland (parcel 61, of 605 acres) as in the ownership of the Earl of Ormond, as was about 65% of the parish. Ormond owned another 221 acres of 'furzy and pasture' (parcel 61p) in the south of the townland, while 23 acres of 'mountaine' was regarded as being 'in controversie' with neighbouring townlands.[88]

Petty's 'Census' of 1659 gives 29 inhabitants of 'Jerpoint' (27 Irish and two English) in Knocktopher Barony, though their location is not certain [S. Pender (ed) *A Census of Ireland circa 1659* (Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1939, new edn. 2002)].

3.7 Desertion

It is thought that the town was deserted at some time in the 17th century, though this cannot be certain. In discussing 'desertion', a distinction must be made between the existence of the 'town'; the continued use of the church; the survival of the bridge; the persistent use of the place by inhabitants of a shrinking village or hamlet; and its final desertion.

Records of the church continue into the 17th century. The rectory belonged to the Kilkenny Corporation as owners of St John's Church, and we learn from the Kilkenny archives that, in 1605, the corporation sold the presentation to the vicarage (for the next three turns) to Lucas Shee, which shows that the church was still in use.[89] Leases of the manse land in 1615 and 1633 are less conclusive, as are similar references down to the 1680s.[90] Records of clergy institutions show a continuous succession of vicars appointed between 1624 and 1818, but the vicarage was usually held in plurality with other rectories or vicarages and often with cathedral offices (e.g. prebendary, Archdeacon, Treasurer, Dean). This is therefore no proof that the church was in use, although curates were also appointed from 1742.[91] Regal visitations also indicate that the church was in use in the early 17th century. That of 1615, for example, found there was no book of common prayer,[92] while in 1622 it was reported that 'The Church and Chancell of Jerpont is well repayred, Walter Barry is vicar thereof, and serveth the Cure himself'.[93] A ledger stone memorial to William and Alice Den, 1623, situated in the south-east corner of the chancel of the church, would also indicate that the church was still in use, whereas upright memorials from the 1770s show that the church had been abandoned and was being used for burials.[94] Except as a place of burial, the church (like many parish churches) is less likely to have survived the 17th century, given the declining number of Protestant parishioners and in the absence of a Protestant landlord.

The disappearance of the bridge and the consequent diversion of the road would have been key factors in the decline of the place as a town. They were probably more significant than the dissolution of the abbey in 1540. On William Wright's map of Knocktopher Barony from Petty's 'Down Survey' of 1657, neither buildings nor the bridge are shown in Jerpoint, although houses are indicated in Waltongrove and Old Town, suggesting that the town may have been deserted by this time.[95] However this is not conclusive, since Waltongrove and Old Town were both listed as places with built 'improvements' (while Jerpoint was not). Neither is Thomastown shown with any buildings in the 1657 map of Gowran Barony, while Jerpoint is however named (with a church symbol) on Petty's printed map of County Kilkenny in 1663-85.[96] The nearby Thomastown, situated on the north side of the River Nore, certainly did exist throughout this period, becoming the single small town in the area that survives to the present day. The local tradition, recorded by Prim, of the army of William of Orange marching over the bridge would allow the one remaining *raison d'etre* of the town to be in existence as late as 1690. If it did survive into the 18th century, a likely date for the final loss of the bridge is the great flood of 1763 which took out all the Nore bridges down to New Ross.[97]

Figure 3: 2003 Survey overlaid on c. 1780 Hunt Estate map

Figure 4: 2003 Survey overlaid on 1839 OS plan

The most likely scenario is that the town declined in the late 16th century, surviving into the early 17th century as a hamlet, and finally becoming extinct by the early 18th century. In the end, the date of desertion may depend on archaeological evidence rather than historical sources. In the 1860s, the discovery of a 'globular wine bottle', window glass and a quantity of Castlecomer coal (Anthracite) would suggest continued habitation into the late 17th century, if not later.[98] The excavation may of course have been on the most obvious and best-preserved ruin, perhaps even the one last inhabited house. Further investigation would be required to see how typical this was.

3.8 Belmore House and Estate

The Ormond estate at Jerpoint was acquired by the Hunt family in the 18th century, by which time the site was farmland (burials of the Hunt family in the churchyard date from 1771 to 1975).[99] Belmore House was built c. 1780 as a hunting lodge by the Earl of Belmore, who leased part of the estate from the Hunt family. The Belmore family fortunes were depleted by the building of Castle Coole, and then ruined by the effects of the Act of Union on their parliamentary ambitions. The second Earl married the daughter of the Earl of Carrick from the neighbouring Mount Juliet. Although sliding towards bankruptcy, he was reported by his agent — in an act of 'liberal frugality' — to have spent £5,000 on building at Belmore.[100] He also had stables designed by the well-known architect Sir Richard Morrison (1767-1849); an undated design for an extension to the house, signed by Morrison, perhaps dates from this time (Figure 6). This was not built, though the stable yard was apparently built to his design.[101]

While it might be thought that Belmore House occupies the site of an earlier manorial residence, there is no evidence that this is so (and a large medieval house has been excavated nearby).[102] The Earl of Belmore was listed in Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary* (1837) as being resident, though the house returned to the Hunt family, perhaps after the Earl's death in 1841. Edward Hunt 'of Belmore' (1810-87) was the son of Edward Hunt; he married his cousin, Anne Georgina, in 1846 and raised his family there.[103] It was Edward Hunt who encouraged the investigations in the ruins of Newtown in the 1860s (see below). His last surviving son, Paul Frederick Hunt (1845-1924), was succeeded by his daughter Nancy Hunt (1896-1975), who leased the house to her unmarried aunt Georgina Annie Hunt, who died in 1945.[104] The estate was bought by the Teesdale family in 1953, with whom it remained until 2005.

3.9 Rediscovery of the Site

The site was shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey six-inch map of Kilkenny, published in 1839, and unusually, the burgage plot and house ruins were outlined with some care. The reason for this is not certain (although the Survey did often mark field monuments). The Ordnance Survey records in the National Archives, Dublin, do not entirely reveal how the remains came to be plotted, since no draft plot of the houses survives.[105] The 'OS Content Field Books' for Jerpoint Church consist of 14 books of individual surveys and traverses. Book 6 (Old no. C.11236) was issued to Lieut. Fenwick RE on 18 March 1836 (reissued to John McKenzie, civil assistant, June 1839).[106] The surveyor was this same John McKenzie, and work at the mill (p. 3) started on Saturday 1 June 1839 and continued from 4 to 8 June. On Tuesday 4 June, the surveyors were using Chain no. 496, with chain men John Kerr, Patrick Cahell, Richard Steele & Scott, John McKenzie (p. 6). The area of the majority of the ruins was surveyed on Wednesday 5 June, using traverses with offsets to measure the perimeters of the enclosures. However, the house plots are either not shown, or are indicated by pecked lines that were not surveyed, and there are no annotations to explain the ruins. Since the Field Book itself cannot be the source of the information on the map, there must have been a further stage of field survey, or at least another drawing that has not been kept with the Field Book. The draft plot for Jerpoint

Church is signed by Lieutenant Fenwick on 18 December 1839, and was plotted by Private John Hayes. This shows the triangulation but not the site details.[107] The fair plan for Jerpoint Church was drawn by John McGowan and appears much as the printed version, with the house plots included.[108] The general survey of antiquities and topographical features carried out for the Ordnance Survey, surviving as the 'Ordnance Survey Letters' in the Royal Irish Academy, refers to Jerpoint Abbey, but not Newtown. Eugene O'Curry wrote in October describing the abbey (and WF Wakeman drew the abbey ruins), but neither seems to have been aware of the nearby remains.[109]
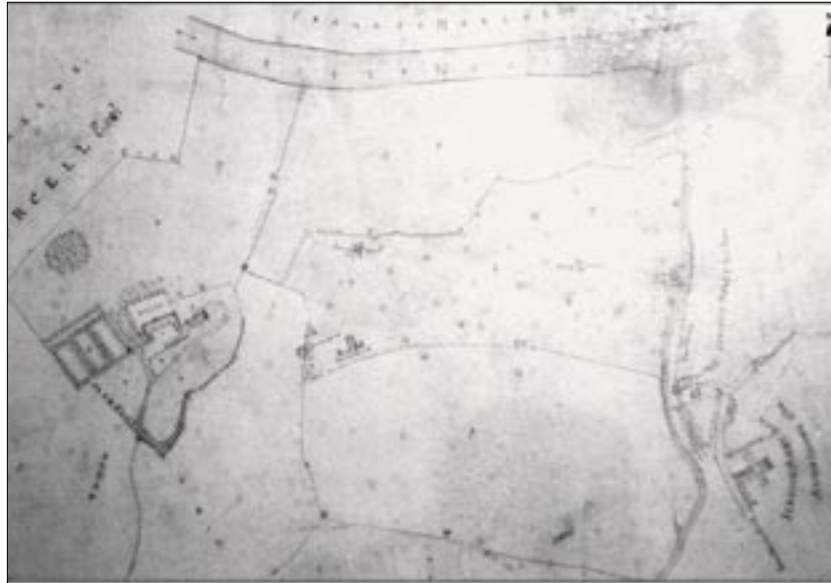
Figure 5: Hunt Estate map of c. 1780 [J. Teesdale]

The site was nonetheless known to antiquaries and was noted briefly in Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary* of 1839. It was also described in 1847 by John Prim in a romantic passage that also records some local historical legends, and positively states that an abutment of the bridge still survived.[110] The remains shown by the OS were somewhat reduced by an episode of ground clearance, which took place when excavations were carried out in the 1860s at the instigation of the owner, Edward Hunt. According to the report of the Rev. James Graves, who exhibited finds that had been found in house ruins to the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, the remains of the buildings had in his youth been more extensive, and he too claimed to have seen the foundations of the bridge in the River Nore. The tenant farmer had allowed locals to plant potatoes in exchange for removing and piling stones. An exploration of the floor plan of one house, found in looking for sand, had been undertaken by Mr Hunt. The general arrangements of the house were described as a large kitchen with a fireplace, with two associated small rooms, divided by plastered mud walls. A measured plan of the excavated house has recently come to light in the library of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, Dublin (Figure 7). This is ostensibly a contemporary site plan, titled 'Plan of house at the Town of New Jerpoint, Excavated by Edward Hunt Esq, 2d January 1868', and is annotated 'by Revd Jas Graves'. It is a scale plan of a room with a tiled floor and a large but regularly shaped fireplace set forward in the wall (perhaps backing onto another fireplace). The plan corresponds exactly with the description given by Graves to the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, and

published in the *Irish Builder* (Appendix B below), of a tiled room thought to be a kitchen with partitioned divisions with a clay floor. On architectural grounds alone, this must be a post-medieval house, and the finds from the house bear this out. As previously discussed, they include a wine bottle and Castlecomer coal, as well as window glass and a red ceramic floor tile. Two years earlier, a 'door-key' had also been found.[111] The site was also shown on the Hunt Estate plan of c. 1870. It details the house, the church ruins, a spring well to the north of the church, the site of the ash tree (which marked the junction between the two streets), the old mill on the west bank of the River Arrigle, the flour mill (still standing on the east bank), the tributary leading to the flour mill, and the site of the bridge over the River Nore to the north-east of the site. Carrigan discussed the ruins of the town in 1905, but the first modern commentator on the interest of the site was Pilsworth in his 1958 article. Terry Barry included the first detailed analysis in his general account of medieval Ireland (1987).
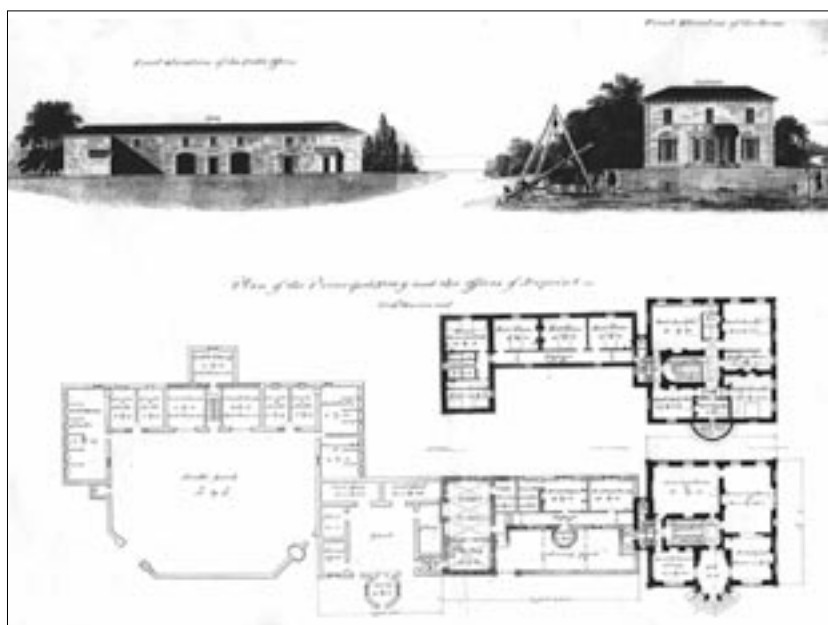
Figure 6: Proposal plan for works at Belmore House by Richard Morrison c. 1800 [J. Teesdale]
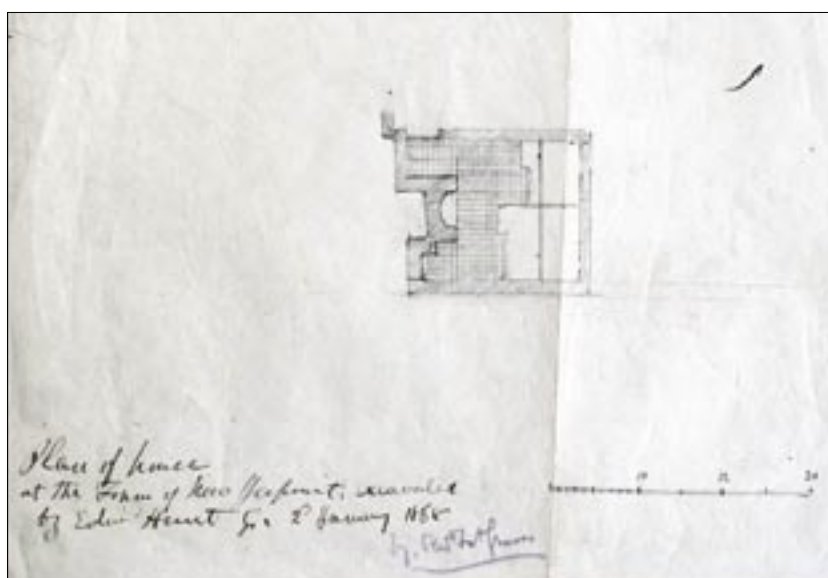
Figure 7: 1868 plan of excavated house [Courtesy of Royal Society of Antiquaries, Dublin]

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1 Setting and Context

Newtown Jerpoint is situated in a plain demarcated by a brow of hills on the south and west and rivers along the north and east. The site slopes gently down from the south-west to the north-east. The remains consist of banks and ditches in rectangular shapes, aligned along an east-west strip and a north-south strip. Standing remains of buildings include St Nicholas' Church which dates from the 13th-15th century, and a secular stone-built tower of medieval date. There are important views of and within the site, while the visual context includes the river and the railway viaduct. Although historically distinct, the town can be seen in the context of Jerpoint Abbey and Thomastown as neighbouring monastic and urban institutions.

Jerpoint Abbey

Jerpoint Abbey was built by the Cistercians as a daughter house of the abbey of Baltinglass in the 1160s. The abbey is a National Monument in the ownership of the State. It is a well-preserved example of the Cistercian monastic plan, with fine remains of the 12th-century church, a 15th-century crossing tower, and an important cloister arcade with sculptures dating from 1390-1400, and some remains of the domestic buildings.[112] There is a fine collection of carved stone slabs and tombs, including two knights in chain-mail, dating to the 13th century.[113] During the 15th century, the abbey was very wealthy, with local possessions including land, cottages, mills and fisheries. By the time of the Dissolution, only the abbot and five monks remained, all of whom received pensions. The monastic possessions were granted to the Butler family of Kilkenny. As with most Cistercian abbeys, the monks would have lived off their own lands, with little formal connection with Newtown Jerpoint except for some property there. Inevitably, the presence of the abbey would have brought visitors and some trade to the town.

Jerpoint Mill

The Jerpoint Corn Mill is outside the site of Newtown, on the east bank of the River Arrigle. Not without interest for industrial archaeology, the large four-storey building still contains remains of the wheels and mill machinery. It appears on the 1839 OS map, and may date from not long before this time, although it is likely to be on the site of a medieval monastic mill. In 1850, two mills were listed at Jerpoint Abbey, as a corn and flour mill.[114] *The County Development Plan* (2002) identifies Jerpoint Abbey Grain Mill as a Grade 3 structure on the Industrial Archaeology list (section 9 and Appendices).[115]

Plate 10: The River Arrigle near the mill sites

Kilkenny-Waterford Railway

A prominent feature of the setting of the site is the railway viaduct over the River Nore, just downstream of Newtown Jerpoint. This is a wrought-iron bowstring girder bridge of 65m (215 ft) span, with twin-arched masonry approaches. The Waterford and Kilkenny Railway was incorporated in 1845 and the first section, from Kilkenny to Thomastown, was opened in 1848, and the next (to Seapoint Hill) in May 1850. The present viaduct was completed in 1877, replacing an earlier wooden bridge, and carries the main Kilkenny-to-Waterford line. The *County Development Plan* (2002) identifies the bridge as a Grade 1 structure on the Industrial Archaeology list (section 9 and Appendices).

Thomastown

Thomastown is of interest as a comparable borough foundation on land sub-infeudated from the Marshal around AD 1210. It was founded by Thomas fitz Anthony and is thus known in Irish as *Baile Mhic Andáin* (the town of the son of Anthony). At the time of founding, burgesses were free to trade and could use fitz Anthony's woods and mills for 12d each annually.[116] Situated a little downstream on the Nore from Newtown, it had its own bridge, at a point where the River Nore is wider than at Newtown Jerpoint. It was navigable for small boats, meaning a larger amount of commerce was possible (*e.g.* wool and hides) as a trans-shipment point for Kilkenny.[117] The town had murage grants and a circuit of walls. The castle (called Grenan) was outside the town, but there were no less than four 'castles' or private tower houses within the walls. Standing remains of two of them, Bridge Castle (or Sweetman's) and Brady's, may be comparable with the ruined 'tower' in Newtown.[118]

The town plan has a broad market street leading from the bridge to the parish church, and one main crossroad. The town seems to have been of comparable size with Newtown, and in 1289 had 24 burgages (see above). Located in the dangerous

marches, it went through the same late medieval vicissitudes as Newtown, but evidently survived better. In 1553, Queen Mary granted a charter of incorporation to the town.[119] It was later an important milling centre, but in the 19th century lost its port with the silting of the river between Inistioge and Thomastown.[120]

Ecology

The site of Newtown Jerpoint is on grassland adjacent to the River Nore, with remnant hedgerows and scattered tree cover. A large part of the site is located within the River Barrow/River Nore Special Area of Conservation (SAC site code 002162), designated under the European Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (see Figure 8 and Appendix C2). The *County Development Plan* (2002) identifies this SAC (§9.3.1), and also the general areas as an Area of High Amenity (§9.4.2). The site is also of significance owing to the presence of Red Data Book species, Autumn Crocus *(Colchium autumnale)*, a very rare plant favouring wet meadows, and with medicinal properties apparently associated with monastic pharmacy: 'In Ireland its stronghold has always been the Nore Valley, County Kilkenny, where it is usually associated with religious settlements, such as Jerpoint and Kells'.[121] As a site relatively undisturbed by arable farming there may be other plant communities of interest. Bats are present in the church ruins. A fuller account of the ecology is presented in Appendix C.

4.2   Remains of Newtown Jerpoint

The earthwork remains of the town, plotted by the Ordnance Survey in 1839, were again surveyed by OA in January 2003 for this Conservation Plan (Figure 10). The methodology of the 2003 mapping is given in Appendix D, and a descriptive account of all the features is given in the Gazetteer. The standing remains include the parish church, a remnant of a possible tower house, and the modern Belmore House.

St Nicholas Parish Church

The 13th-century parish church of St Nicholas survives, showing three clear phases of construction, if not more. The primary construction of the nave remains, with the (possibly rebuilt) chancel, the 15th-century rood screen and gallery, and the residential tower added within the church.[122] A concise description of the most interesting feature is given by Leask:

'A unique feature is the groin-vaulted rood-gallery inserted in the same period west of the chancel arch. It is in three bays with octagonal pillars which have been partly obscured by two later walls of L-shaped plan on the west side. These are the western supports of a small tower, now partly destroyed, in which were three storeys of living rooms: a priest's residence. The approach was by a mural stairs on the south to the level of the gallery which formed the lowest room in the tower.'[123]

The rood screen and gallery are very unusual, and may have been associated with the endowment of chantry chapels in the space below; the provision of a domestic tower on or beside the church is not so unusual, and examples are to be found in Kilkenny at Kilfane and (less certainly) at Dysart.[124] The third phase in the church's history included the addition of buttresses to add support to the

north and south nave walls, probably when still in use. The earliest descriptions of the church report it as being covered in ivy, and early photographs show it more or less obscured. Towards the end of the Hunts' ownership in 1949, the church buildings were cleared. In the last half-century, however, the ivy cover has increased to the point where the architectural features can no longer be seen clearly, and the stability of parts of the structure (*e.g.* wall tops) is threatened. Some clearance was undertaken more recently for Mr Teesdale. The churchyard contains a fine early 14th-century medieval slab effigy of an ecclesiastic, presumably a parish priest.[125] It is popularly associated with St Nicholas, bishop of Myra in Lycia (Southern Turkey), where he was buried before his bones were removed to their present location at Bari (Apulia) in 1087.[126] There is also a medieval font base and remains of the market cross base.

The Tower

The 'tower', to the north side of the street in Newtown, is a small remnant of a secular stone building, with a battered base to the wall in a large enclosure which most likely was a small urban tower house or 'castle' of the type that survives in Thomastown. It will only be better understood through archaeological investigation of its surroundings.

Bridge

The remains of the eponymous Jerpoint bridge over the River Nore are not recorded on the OS map or the Hunt Estate map. The site of the bridge should be beyond the northern end of the north-south road through the town, where the recent survey shows two hollows. In accordance with the previous claims of Prim and Graves, and with a hint of personal testimony, Carrigan in 1905 reported that 'the foundations of one of the piers.... may still be seen, on the left bank of the Nore, a little to the south of the Railway Viaduct'.[127] Since the viaduct lies at least 500m north-east of the probable bridge site, this spot is not easy to locate. It may be that boulders remaining in the river may have formed part of the piers of the bridge, but this can probably only be confirmed by an underwater survey.

Ruins and Earthworks

Burgage plots: The recent site survey has generally corroborated the Ordnance Survey plotting of remains, while demonstrating the changes since 1839 and adding other features. It is certainly possible to make out the sites of 22½ burgage plots, if that was indeed the total number present in 1289; there could be more, but perhaps not very many. The additional earthworks that have been found extending to the south and north-west of the core area may be closes or cultivation divisions, but not necessarily burgages. The burgage plot boundaries are essentially preserved as slight banks, ditches and edges of terraces stepping down to the next terrace. Only those plots ranged along the east side of the main north-south street (Gazetteer sites 10-16) resemble classic burgage plots in length or regularity, with those on the north side of the east-west street (32-36) to a lesser extent. As so often in towns, there is something of a hiatus around the road junction, but the plots are not so well defined.

Houses: The Ordnance Survey map depicts just under 25 ruined buildings, arranged along either side of the main north-south street (probably the 'Long Street' of the historical sources), and the north side of the east-west street that runs back towards the church. A number of the house platforms remain as stone piles which may retain vital evidence for the construction of the houses of the town. Hollows filled with nettles might mark the locations of previously removed house platforms. While the sites of many of the houses can be found on the recent survey, they are less well defined. In 'Long Street', the current stone piles seem to be in locations other than the house sites shown by the OS. While this would be explained by Graves' report that tenants had been allowed to use the site in exchange for removing stones, it raises the question of whether buildings were being reduced to flat heaps of stones — otherwise, the stones were simply being moved from one place to another.

Streets and spaces: The recent survey gives the same outline of streets and spaces, if less well defined. The streets may have been surfaced in some way, perhaps even with drainage ditches to one side. They now survive as longitudinal hollows bordered by rectangular terraces and areas bordered by burgage plots, a number of which contain the remains of collapsed walls from past structures and thus have an irregular front edge. The north-south road is well defined, except where obscured by stone piles, as at the field boundary (at 73-74). The east-west street is narrower and twisting, and loses definition beyond the west end of the churchyard. The T-junction between the two streets was marked on the Hunt Estate map by an ash tree which is said to have been full of nails from the supplications pinned to the tree. The tree was illustrated in a pencil drawing by du Noyer, from 1868.[128] The lowest section and base of a stone cross are located in the graveyard of the church and might have originally been located at the junction of the two streets. The somewhat irregular town plan, along with the peripheral situation of the church, might lead one to question how much the 'new' town was laid out at the time of foundation and how much grew organically (or had even pre-existed).

Plate 11: The base of the Market Cross, now in the churchyard

Field boundaries: The recent survey has identified earthworks in the field south of the main core of the site, where none were plotted by the OS. Some of these (*e.g.* 75-77) may be house sites, but others may be individual tofts or closes, or even parts of common fields. The situation to the north and west of the east-west street is somewhat different, since there is a possibility that the burgage plots were extended northwards across the present hedgerow and into the lower lying meadow ground. The regular divisions in this area are as likely to be allotments of hay meadow (always the most precious resource) as they are to be further burgages. The 'Hollow Way' behind this area may thus be a field pathway.

Water Management

A water cutting or drinking place was found just south of the bend of the river in the field south of the Town Field. This may relate to 'Atty's Well' which is marked and clearly drawn on the OS map but un-named on the Hunt map. The presence of the water channel, running east-west, between the north boundary of the Town Field and the River Nore, may have been an attempt to divert water to limit the natural flooding of the land to one channel. Two small rectangular hollows situated between the north of the channel and the south bank of the river may have acted as sluices, draining excess water from the channel into the river during high-water seasons. It is not known when the channel was created, but its presence is indicated by a pecked line on the OS map.

Mill

The site of the 'Old Mill' is marked on the Hunt Estate map on the west bank (4), where there is a ruin near the point at which a mill stream rejoins the River Arrigle about 100m north of the Jerpoint Mill (3) on the east bank. The stream certainly shallows, and may have been the site of the corn-mill belonging to 'Wyn the Miller' named in the 1289 extent, and appearing (in various fractions) in later records of ownership. There is a further possible mill site just 50m to the north of this, also on the west bank.

Stone Quarrying

The quarried area to the east of Belmore House is clearly evident, but it is not known at present for which buildings it was made, or for how long the stone was extracted. In addition, further deep terracing on the north of the house, together with rocky outcrops, may have been the site of further stone extraction.

The Excavated House

In 1973, Claire Foley carried out an archaeological excavation outside the west end of the farm, and just north-west of Belmore House.[129] Among many findings, the excavations revealed two significant structures dating from the early 13th to mid 14th centuries which were built on an artificial alluvial platform. The first structure was a large rectangular mud-walled house with two rooms. The second was a much more substantial stone-built two-storey structure which may have been a dwelling or a barn. The plan of the first structure is similar to that of the remains of some of the house-platforms preserved in the Town Field,

which also appear to have the remains of two rooms. However, this structure is much larger in size and, together with its associated buildings, it may be of higher status. There is, of course, no need for a borough to have a manor house, and in 1289 the manor included freeholders who could have had their own farms outside the town. One such was described as 'a messuage on which there is a cattle-shed, a tumbledown chamber, a grange and a sheepfold'.[130] This could have been the sort of building found in the excavation. As O'Conor has suggested, this excavated site could actually lie within the western reaches of the town, with the earthworks recorded by the OS surveyors representing the shrunken eastern end of the town as it was in the 17th century.[131] On the other hand, since the number of burgage plots in 1289 can be accommodated within the existing site, the burgesses may always have been concentrated near the bridge, with the excavated farmstead on the western outskirts of the town. Whatever the relationship of this site to the rest of Newtown Jerpoint, the excavation has shown the potential of archaeological investigation to solve some of the questions relating to the arrangement of the town, the built history of the structures described above, and the chronology of the settlement as a whole.

4.3   Summary of Key Phases

The phases of the history of Newtown Jerpoint used in this plan are as follows:

I   Early settlement and foundation of Jerpoint Abbey c. 1160

II   Foundation of Newtown Jerpoint c. 1200

III   Construction of St Nicholas' Church c. 1200

IV   Later history of the town (14th-century rebuilding of the bridge)

V   The Dissolution of Jerpoint Abbey, 18 March 1540

VI   16th/17th-century decline and final desertion of the town

VII   Later use and rediscovery of Newtown Jerpoint in 19th-20th centuries

Figure 6: Newtown Jerpoint, Current OS map (1952) showing site of 1973 excavation.
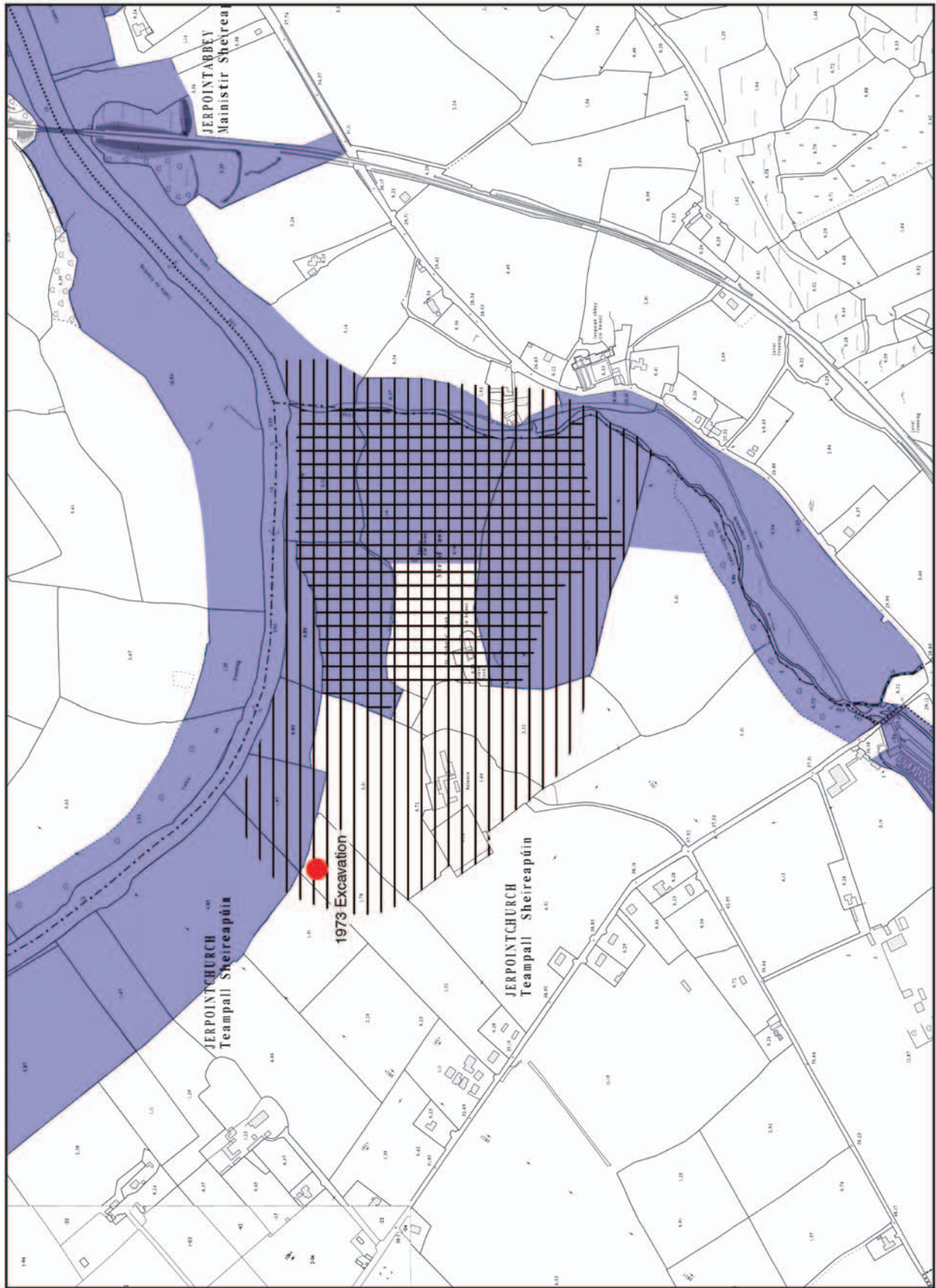
Legend:
- Boundary of river Barrow/Nore
- Area of general archaeological significance
- Area of greater archaeological significance

Figure 8: Current OS map (1952) showing: site of 1973 excavation; the extent of the River Barrow/River Nore SAC; and suggested areas of general and greatest archaeological significance

5. Assessment of Significance

5.1 Levels of Significance

Basis of the Assessment

The assessment of significance reflects the cultural and ecological aspects of the monument as a whole, particularly in relation to medieval towns associated with Cistercian abbeys of Ireland and Britain, while also assessing the sections of the site individually. Significance in other terms is taken into consideration, including an academic context and other values that visitors or users of the land may assign to the monument and its historical perspective.

The components of the settlement are assessed individually, thus providing a detailed framework before being considered in a wider setting. This will be used to identify key elements and to highlight specific areas of consideration.

Levels of Significance

Initially, an assessment is made on the significance of the monument at three levels: national, regional and local. The monument can also be considered on four major aspects: intrinsic architectural and historical interest, historical association, and group (overall) value.

Other factors considered include: the monument's ability to characterise a period; the rarity of survival; the extent of documentation; association with other monuments; survival of archaeological potential above and below ground; its fragility/vulnerability; and diversity.

Less tangible, but still vital to the significance of the monument, are the social and spiritual qualities which it represents. These can be formulated in the following fields: representative value (the ability to demonstrate social or cultural developments); historical continuity; literary and artistic values; formal, visual and aesthetic qualities; the evidence of social historical themes; contemporary communal values; and the power to communicate values and significance.

Values to be Used and Degrees of Significance

In assessing degrees of significance, these criteria have helped to inform assessments of overall significance, the relative importance of key elements or phases, and the judgements on individual elements of Newtown Jerpoint at Gazetteer level. The degrees adopted are:

Exceptional Significance: Elements of the monument which are of key national or international significance, as among the best (or the only surviving example) of an important class of monument, or outstanding representatives of important social or cultural phenomena, or are of very major regional or local significance.

Example: At Newtown Jerpoint, it is of exceptional significance that the site is a rare surviving example of an abandoned medieval town, complete with standing remains, and good quality historical documentation.

Considerable Significance: Elements which constitute good and representative examples of an important class of monument (or the only example locally), or have a particular significance through association, although surviving examples may be relatively common on a national scale, or are major contributors to the overall significance of the monument.

Example: The association with Jerpoint Abbey, a well-preserved Cistercian abbey situated on the opposite bank of the River Arrigle, is of considerable significance.

Moderate Significance: Elements which contribute to the character and understanding of the monument, or which provide an historical or cultural context for features of individually greater significance.

Example: The ruins of St Nicholas' Church, which help to give an indication of the phases of the town's development and decline, are of moderate significance.

Low Significance: Elements which are individually low value in general terms, or have little or no significance in promoting understanding or appreciation of the monument, without being actually intrusive.

Example: The presence of trees around the burgage plots, which have perhaps helped the stone piles to survive but are not otherwise important, is of low significance.

Intrusive: items which are visually intrusive or which obscure understanding of significant elements or values of the monument. Recommendations may be made on removal or other methods of mitigation.

Example: The growth of ivy over the standing remains is not only obscuring the visual aspect of the remains but is a threat to the structure of the remains themselves, and is intrusive.

Plate 12: Newtown Jerpoint Church from the north-west

Assessment of Significance

The assessment of significance is set out from three perspectives:

Overall Significance: a statement of what is special about Newtown Jerpoint as a whole.

Chronological assessments and key elements of significance: an assessment of the monument through time, identifying what is important about each principal stage, and why, including an evaluation of the social and community values of the monument.

The Gazetteer: the identification of the components which make up the monument and their individual significance (built structures, landscape features, buried or lost elements).

5.2 OVERALL SIGNIFICANCE OF NEWTOWN JERPOINT

As one of the best surviving examples of an abandoned medieval town, Newtown Jerpoint is of exceptional significance in Ireland as a whole. The town is exceptionally well documented. The clear demarcation of the town plan, with two streets at right-angles to each other, complete with burgage plots to either side and with physical evidence of structures, is unique. In addition, the presence of St Nicholas' Church, with its rood gallery and tower, are indications that the town continued to prosper into the 15th century. The base of the stone cross, the tomb-stone and the standing remains of the tower are also all of interest. The juxtaposition of Newtown Jerpoint with Jerpoint Abbey and Thomastown presents a significant period in the history of the region, representing the growth and decline of the Cistercian order and its impact on the local community, and the changing fate of small towns in medieval Ireland.

- Newtown Jerpoint is of exceptional significance as the surviving remains of a failed medieval town that has not been occupied since the 17th century.

- The site is of considerable significance for its association with Jerpoint Abbey, with the medieval borough of Thomastown, and the surviving elements of a wider medieval landscape.

- The site is of considerable significance for its historical documentation from the 13th to the 17th century.

- The site is of considerable significance for its remaining church building, the rood screen (a very rare survival in Ireland), the ruined tower, and the ruined walls of houses and boundaries.

- The site is of considerable significance for its earthworks and buried remains.

- The site is of considerable significance for its archaeological potential and important research potential.

- The site is of moderate significance owing to the presence of the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the presence of Red Data Book species Autumn Crocus (*Colchium autumnale*).

- The site has significant potential as a monument to visit in conjunction with other sites nearby.

5.3 KEY PERIODS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Phase I — Early settlement and foundation of Jerpoint Abbey c. 1160

The foundation of Jerpoint Abbey represents the last phase of pre-Norman rule.

The development of the settlement represents the first phase of Anglo-Norman activity, with the settlement near the junction of the rivers Nore and Arrigle where a crossing point was established.

The foundation (and development) of the Abbey may have been a significant factor in the establishment of the local economy.

Phase II — Foundation of Newtown Jerpoint c. 1200

It seems likely that the Earl Marshal's tenant, Griffin Fitz William, founded the town in c. 1200, as part of the initial phase of settlement.

The formation of this new town is of considerable significance in Irish urban history as an example of market growth being encouraged by the process of sub-infeudation.

Phase III — Construction of St Nicholas' Church c. 1200

The church was built c. 1200 to service the growing population of the town. The position of the church suggests that the town had expanded from the bank of the Arrigle to the west, along the east-west street.

The church is of considerable significance as a necessary adjunct to the medieval town.

Plates 13 and 14: Early photographs of Newtown Jerpoint Church [J. Teesdale]

Phase IV — Later history of the town (14th-century rebuilding of the bridge)

The town survived the upheavals of the first part of the 14th century. In 1376, a royal charter was issued which granted a pontage for the repair of the bridge. This indicated not only that the old one was in disrepair but also that the town was still thriving at this time and could be threatened by attacks from the king's enemies.

The documentary evidence for the bridge and its defence is of moderate significance, as would be any surviving remains underwater.

Phase V —The Dissolution of Jerpoint Abbey, 18 March 1540

On the dissolution of the abbey in 1540, one burgage plot, named 'Marschall's Corte', five gardens, and one fishing weir were given to the Earl of Ormond, together with Jerpoint Abbey. The fact that the abbey owned actual properties in Newtown Jerpoint points to links between the abbey and town. The town may have started to decline after the Dissolution.

The end of the Cistercian abbey must have been of considerable significance for the economy of the town.

Phase VI — Decline and Desertion of the Town

Documentary evidence for Newtown continues into the early 17th century. On Petty's map of c. 1656, the area was depicted as having no town or bridge, suggesting that the town may have ceased to be a known settlement by this time, although this is not conclusive. The clearance of one of the abandoned houses in the 1860s and the discovery of coal, window glass and tiles may indicate a later period of abandonment during the late 17th or even the 18th century, though this may be the final phase of a long process of the descent from town to hamlet.

While documentary study might add information on the dating of the desertion of the town, the potential for archaeological investigation of the abandonment of the house sites in the burgage plots is of considerable significance.

Phase VII — Later Use and Rediscovery of the Site

The site was turned into farmland, possibly from the 18th century; certainly there is documentary evidence that the land was cleared to make way for potato planting. The site and its archaeological features had been surveyed in some detail by the Ordnance Survey, and was subject to an early instance of archaeological investigation.

The early antiquarian interest in and careful survey of the site is of considerable significance.

Figure 9: 19th-century drawing of church [Courtesy of Royal Society of Antiquaries, Dublin]

5.4 KEY ELEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Setting and Context

The natural and landscape setting of Newtown Jerpoint is of moderate significance. The following views of the site are significant for the appreciation of the site: from Belmore House, down to the east; from below Jerpoint Abbey, across the Arrigle, west; from top field, north, looking down Long Street; from rivers Nore and Arrigle by bridge, looking south up Long Street; from church to west, north, east over site. The setting of the monument is an important part of its significance, as is the context of the contemporary and later features (*e.g.* Belmore House and the railway viaduct). Although historically distinct, the town can be seen in the context of Jerpoint Abbey and Thomastown as other key elements of the medieval landscape. The landscape around Newtown Jerpoint has considerable potential for a multi-period study of historic landscape change.

Ecology

The ecology of the site is of moderate significance for understanding the landscape history of the site, and for the biodiversity value of the survival of the ruins in grassland.

The Church of St Nicholas

The surviving remains of the parish church of St Nicholas are of considerable significance as a tangible surviving building of a once flourishing town. In its own right, it is significant as an example of a multi-period parish church with an unusual late medieval rood screen and domestic tower integral with the church.

Ruins and Earthworks

The ruined house sites and earthworks of the burgage plots are of exceptional significance for demonstrating the extent of the lost town, and for their potential in preserving significant archaeology for future investigation.

Belmore House

The late 18th-century Belmore House is of moderate significance for demonstrating the continued use of the site for farming, and as an attractive and historic home of architectural significance in its own right.

Documentation

Although discontinuous, the documentary record of the site from the 13th to the 17th century is of exceptional quality and significance, both for the site itself and for many aspects of medieval County Kilkenny and other towns of medieval Ireland.

Significance Mapping

An indicative plotting of the areas of general and greatest archaeological significance is given in Figure 8. This is based on the quality of visible and standing remains, and is shown alongside the designated limits of the River Barrow/Nore SAC.

Part I References

1. Most medieval forms of the name begin Jeri~ or Geri~; Orpen suggests that Jeri~ could represent a latinized form of *Eoir,* the river Nore, Orpen, Normans 2005, 614 (index note). Breandán Ó Cíobháin has confirmed that the modern name of the River Nore, *An Fheoir* does represent the early form An Eoir (or rather *Eoir*), with an initial sound that was represented in English as 'yeo' (*e.g.* Youghal for *Eochaill*). 'As to 'Jerpoint', while the form 'de Jeriponte' is found in the monastic charter of John, Lord of Ireland of c.1185, the form 'de Ioriponte' in the bull of Pope Honorius III of 1221 is a more faithful representation of the Irish sound of the name of the river Eoir at that time – surviving into the 16th century on the evidence of the map of c.1534. It is clear that the initial 'yeo' sound confirmed by '**Io**riponte' soon came to be pronounced like modern 'J' in some quarters, as the forms 'Jeriponte' and 'Geriponte' predominate from the early 13th century on.'

2. See Empey 1971, the OS Townland maps, and the *Parliamentary Gazetteer.*

3. Listed in Gwynn & Hadcock (1970), and shown on the *Map of Monastic Ireland*, (1979). In the case of Ireland the late medieval foundations of friars (often rural) are a separate and distinct phenomenon.

4. E.g. on the Connecticut River in New Hampshire and Vermont.

5. Richardson & Sayles, *Parliaments and Councils,* 132, 161 & 177.

6. Martin 1981, Graham 1988.

7. *Calendar of State Papers: Ireland XI* (1601-1603), 599.

8. David Edwards, *The Ormond Lordship in County Kilkenny 1515-1642* (2003), 53, quoting A.Empey, 'Medieval Knocktopher', OKR (1983), 445-7

9. W.Camden, *Britannia,* 1586 (1610 translation, 85; 1695 edn, 988).

10. M. Weinbaum, *British Borough Charters 1307-1660* (1942), 197-223.

11. Leask 1939, 3; Stalley 1987, 247.

12. Mac Niocaill, *Na Buirgéisí,* I. 129, 135; Orpen, *Normans*, III. 86..

13. Orpen, *Normans* II, 225.

14. As suggested by Pilsworth 1958, 32.

15. Orpen *Normans* I, 18 for pedigree; III. 94.

16. E. St J. Brooks, *Knights Fees in Counties Wexford, Carlow and Kilkenny* (13th-15th Century), Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1950, 191, 249ff; *Cal. Docs. Ireland* II, 326, (1618) (for which see below); (see also the detailed account of Knocktopher Barony on Kilkenny Genealogy and History website: http://www.rootsweb.com/~irlkik/index.htm).

17. Dugdale *Monasticon,* II. 1142; Orpen, *Normans* II. 229 n.65 for date (Gwynn & Hadcock 182 still give c.1211). William Marshall died in 1219, Painter 1933, 154 etc.

18. Orpen, *Normans III,* 77; Pilsworth 1958, 32.

19. The partition of Leinster is described in detail by Orpen *Normans III,* Chapter 26; for the relevant documents see *Cal. Patent Rolls* 1364-67, 271-3.

20. *Cal. Docs. Ireland II*, 16, (107) = *Cal. Close Rolls* 1251-3, 269 [1 November 1252].

21. Carrigan 1905, 301; Orpen *Normans III,* 77; *Cal. Docs. Ireland* II, 16, (110) = *Cal. Patent Rolls* 1247-58, 163 [3 November 1252].

22. *Cal. Docs. Ireland II,* 326, (1618) = *Cal. Patent Rolls (1272-81)*, 353. This is an inspeximus, made in November 1279, of Letters Patent issued at Reading in May 1247 following the partition 'between the heirs by common consent in the king's court at Woodstock'. The king witnessed Letters Close at Woodstock between 26 April and 7 May; (the Letters Patent of 1247 do not appear to have been enrolled).

23. PRO SC11/794; translated in Dryburgh & Smith 2005, 258-63 (together with the surveys of the other manors).

24. PRO SC11/791 (Thomastown), 792 (Old Coillach) & 793 (Gowran); Dryburgh & Smith 2005, 241-57.

25. Dryburgh & Smith 2005, 246 have 'town' as if the word 'villa' had been used, but the word *burgum* is used and that must be translated 'borough' (the document is illustrated at p.247).

26. PRO SC11/793; Dryburgh & Smith 2005, 256 (here using 'burgh', the Scottish word for 'borough').

27. *Cal. Docs. Ireland V,* 188, (655) = *Cal. Inquisitions P.M. IV* (29-35 Edward I), 329 (435) = PRO C133/130.

28. G.E.C. *Complete Peerage,* v.714

29. *Cal. Inq. P.M. V* (1-9 Ed II), 337 (538); in answer to a writ dated June 1315 requesting the returns it was stated that the returns to Dublin had been made a year previously, and dower assigned to Maud.

30. PRO SC6/1239/13 (Keeper's accounts for 7-9 Edward II – 1313-16).

31. R. Frame, 'The Campaign against the Scots in Munster, 1317', *Irish Historical Studies* xxiv (1985), 361-72, repr. in *Ireland and Britain 1170-1450* (1998), 99-112.

32. Orpen, *Normans III,* 96, quoting B.L. Add Ms 4791 (Milles collection) and Carew [Lambeth] MS.

33. PRO C 47/9/23 Partition of the lands and fees of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hereford: purparty of Hugh de Audele and Margaret his wife; with copies of writs to the escheator and the Chancellor of Ireland [11 Edw II].

34. C. McNeill, *Kilkenny City Records. Liber Primus Kilkenniensis.* Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1931, 55; English trans., J. Otway-Ruthven, *Liber Primus Kilkenniensis* (1961), 122. The marginal note 'still in dower' may refer to Jerpoint.

35. Brooks 1950, 193; *Liber Primus* 54.

36. Brooks, 1950, 199-200; *Cal. Ormond Deeds II,* 208 (287) and 213 (297).

37. *Complete Peerage,* sn Gloucester, quoting *Cal. Patent Rolls* (1343-45), 140.

38. *Complete Peerage,* sn Stafford, quoting *Cal. Inq.P.M.* XI (471), and XIII (46 Edw. III, no.62); and see below.

39. Orpen, *Normans* III.86

40. Orpen, *Normans* III.88; *Cal. Docs. Ireland IV*, 143, (306) = *Cal. Inq. P.M. III* (20-28 Ed I), 222 (362) = PRO C133/76/2 [Edw I File 76(2)].

41. *Cal. Inq. P.M. V* (1-9 Edward II), 22 (56) = PRO C134/4/1. [Edw II File 4 (1)]

42. *Cal. Inq. P.M. VI (10-20 Edward II),* 327 (518) = PRO C134/84. [Edw II Files 83-85]

43. See Jenkins article in the *Archaeologia* vol. 66; Cal. Inq. P.M. IX (118).

44. Orpen, *Normans* III.98.

45. *Cal. Docs. Ireland II*, 448, (1963) = *Cal. Inq. P.M. II* (1- 19 Ed I), 251 (436) = PRO C133/30/8 [Edw I File 30(8) – CDI says 10 Ed I, no.19]; see *Complete Peerage* sn Mohun: Reginald had died in 1258 and Isabel died 1260.

46. *Cal. Docs. Ireland II,* 247 (1333), from Coram Rege 31 Edw I, rot. 20 and 32 rot. 8 = KB 27/31 and KB27/32 (Easter 5 Edw. I).

47. *Cal. Docs. Ireland V,* 158-9 (538) = *Cal. Inq. P.M. IV* (29-35 Edward I), 244 (373) = PRO C133/122/6 [Edw I File 122 (6)].

48. Orpen, *Normans* III.103.

49. Orpen, *Normans* III.106; *Complete Peerage VI*.463, quoting Lambeth, Carew Ms 613, f.66.

50. *Cal. Ormond Deeds I,* 160 (411).

51. *Cal. Inq. P.M. V (1-2 Edward II)*, 232 (412) = PRO C134/31/1 [Edw II File 31 (1)] .

52. Murtagh 1988, quoted Bradley & Murtagh 2003.

53. *Calendar of the Justiciary Rolls Ireland, 1-7 Edward II* ed. M.C. Griffith et al. (Dublin, nd), 220-21. The original roll having been destroyed in the 1922 bombardment of the Four Courts it is not now possible to confirm whether the bushels were full or empty.

54. R. Butler (ed.), *The Annals of Ireland by Friar John Clyn* (1849), 23 quoted Bradley & Murtagh 2003. (now see the new edition by B. Williams, Four Courts Press, 2007).

55. Murtagh 1988; Murtagh & Bradley 2003.

56. *Chartae, Privilegia et Immunitates,* 68, from (Irish) Patent Roll of 49 Edw III m.11d.

57. See *Kilkenny City Walls Conservation Plan,* appendix.

58. *Chartae, Privilegia et Immunitates,* 69, from (Irish) Patent Roll of 49 Edw III m.5f.

59. *Cal. Ormond Deeds II,* 340-41 (433).

60. *Cal. Ormond Deeds II*, 209 (288).

61. *Cal. Ormond Deeds II,* 213 (297).

62. Richardson & Sayles, *Parliaments and Councils,* 132, 161 & 177, and see above.

63. *Cal. Ormond Deeds II,* 236 (332).

64. *Cal. Ormond Deeds II,* 316, 319 (424); III, 24 (35).

65. *Cal. Ormond Deeds III,* 23 (35).

66. *Cal. Ormond Deeds III,* 43 (61); the Earl of Stafford still owned fees at this date.

67. *Cal. Ormond Deeds III,* 59 (70).

68. *Cal. Ormond Deeds III,* 197 (220); the deed ('D.1788' in Hayes, *MS Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation,* 7, 701) is 'two feet long'.

69. *Cal. Ormond Deeds III,* 212 (234).

70. J.B. Leslie, *Ossory Clergy and Parishes* (Enniskillen, 1933), 278; I am grateful to John Bradley for supplying the later references.

71. *Calendar of Papal Letters* xiv. 194-5.

72. *Cal. Papal Letters* xvii/1, 352-3; ibid. xviii, 455-6; ibid. xix, 127-8.

73. Prim, *Nooks and Corners,* 7.

74. Richard Stanihurst, *A Continuation of the Chronicles of Ireland, comprising the reigne of king Henrie the eight,* in the second part of Raphael Holinshed's Chronicles (1577, 2nd edn of 1587), p.93.

75. N.B. White, *Extents of Irish Monastic Possessions 1540-41,* Irish Manuscripts Commission 1943, 181-3.

76. *Extents*, 183; Pilsworth 1958, 33.

77. Carrigan 1905, 303.

78. *Cal. Ormond Deeds IV,* 294 (352).

79. *Cal. Ormond Deeds IV,* 303 (361).

80. *Cal. Patent and Close Rolls of Chancery in Ireland, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth,* ed. James Morrin (Dublin 1861), 384 (13 September 1558 [5&6 Philip 7 Mary]).

81. *Cal. Patent and Close Rolls of Chancery in Ireland, Queen Elizabeth,* ed. James Morrin (Dublin 1862), 358-9 (3 March 1596 [38 Eliz.).

82. *A Repertory of the Inrolments of the Patent Rolls of the Chancery of Ireland James I,* ed. J.C. Erck (Dublin 1846), 67, 290.

83. *Cal. Ormond Deeds* VI, 89 (114).

84. *Calendar of State Papers: Ireland XI* (1601-1603), 599.

85. Pilsworth 1958, 33.

86. NLI, Ms 2506, f.55d, 1614 Rents of Knocktopher barony.

87. Manning 1999, 44ff.

88. British Library, Petty Papers, Add. Ms 72872, f.6 (Knocktopher Barony map), and schedule of Jerpoint Parish at f. 7v.

89. 'The Book of Fee farms and Leases' (Kilkenny Borough Council Archives), f.100v-102 (15 April 1605), following an earlier grant to Helias Shee in July 1592, f.90 - ex inf. John Bradley.

90. Ibid., f.130 (3 February 1614) and f.138 (25 October 1633); 'The White Book of Kilkenny Corporation 1656-88', items between f.113v and f.131v (2 May 1679 to 27 October 1683) – ex inf. John Bradley.

91. Leslie, *Ossory Clergy and Parishes,* 278-9.

92. Ibid., 279. For a visitation of 1622 formerly in St Paul's Cathedral (Analecta Hibernica 28 (1978), 98), see next reference.

93. Ibid., 279; *The Bishop of Ossories Certificate of the estate of that Diocese* [1622], Lambeth Palace MS 2013, f.10 (formerly in St Paul's Cathedral Library).

94. Murtagh 1997, 125.

95. *Hibernia Regnum,* Ordnance Survey facsimile (1908) from copy in Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, sheet 101, Knocktopher Barony 'admeasured by William Wright 1657'; also copy in British Library, Add. Ms 72872, f.6 (map) and schedule of Jerpoint Parish at f.7v.

96. W. Petty, *Hiberniae Delineatio* (published 1685, finished in 1663), reprinted Irish University Press ed. J.H. Andrews, 1969.

97. Ex inf. Ben Murtagh, John Bradley.

98. The wine bottle is most likely to date after 1660, but could be earlier; coal was first mined at Castlecomer in the 1640s, and more extensively in the 18th century (mining history by R.C.Prior-Wandesforde: http://www.sip.ie/sip019B/history/history.htm).

99. Murtagh 1997, 126; Kilkenny Archaeological Society, 'Graveyard Inscriptions from the Parish of Thomastown' (undated tss).

100. PRONI, Private Papers: Belmore (website catalogue description).

101. The drawing is assigned to Owen Fahy by the Irish Architectural Archive, who have kindly provided information on Morrison from the *Biographical Index of Irish Architects.*

102. Foley 1989.

103. Edward Hunt was the son of the Reverend Edward Hunt (1761-1818), curate and vicar of Jerpoint, whose brother William Henry Hunt (1788-1837) was the father of Anne Georgina (1823-1911). See Leslie, *Ossory Clergy,* 244.

104. Family tombs at Newtown Jerpoint (transcripts of Kilkenny Archaeological Society), and 1924 lease in KAS deeds collection. According to Canon Leslie, the parish registers from 1839 were destroyed with the Dublin PRO in 1922.

105. National Archives of Ireland, OS records, in which for each class the parish number is c.461.

106. National Archives, OS.58 c.461.

107. National Archives, OS.104 c.461.

108. National Archives, OS.105 c.461.

109. Michael Herity (ed.), *Ordnance Survey Letters Kilkenny* (Dublin 2003), 164-72.

110. Prim 2003 (reprinted from the *Kilkenny Moderator,* 1847-50), 3-9.

111. Graves 1868, 11-14; also printed in the *Irish Builder,* Vol. X, No. 123, p.44.

112. Leask 1939, Stalley 1987, 247.

113. Described in Hunt 1974.

114. W.E. Hogg, *Mills: The Millers and the Mills of Ireland about 1850* (revised edn, 2000), 65-6 (another corn mill was listed at Jerpointchurch).

115. Noted by Fred Hammond, 'Notable Industrial Sites in County Kilkenny' (unpublished report for Planning and Environment Section, Kilkenny County Council, January 1990).

116. The lost charter 'of the usual Kilkenny type' of c.1210 is referred to by Mary Bateson 1904,lii (Mac Niocaill 1964, ii.328); see also Ballard & Tait 1923, 381.

117. Discussed by Murtagh 1988, 500.

118. Thomas 1992, 190-3; Murtagh 1988; Bradley & Murtagh 2003.

119. Weinbaum 1943, 223

120. See Kilkenny *County Development Plan 2002* section on Thomastown.

121. Colmán Ó Críodáin, 'Incorporation of Biodiversity Conservation in to the work of Dúchas - The Heritage Service', *Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy,* Vol. 102B, No. 3 (2002) 189-192

122. See account by Murtagh 1997, and also Carrigan 1905, 299-301.

123. Leask 1960, 184.

124. See discussion in Murtagh 1994, 89, citing Leask 1960, 19-20.

125. Hunt 1974, 198 (168), and pl. 83.

126. There are medieval dedications to St Nicholas at Carrickfergus and Galway, but no certain accounts of relics being acquired. See B. Smith, *Colonisation and Conquest in Medieval Ireland* (1990), 60.

127. Carrigan 1905, 303.

128. Graves 1868, 12; illustrated reproduced in Prim 2003, 202.

129. Foley 1989.

130. Dryburgh & Smith 2005, 262.

131. O'Conor 1998, 49-51 (note also his comment on dating the earlier phase).

PART II: ISSUES AND POLICIES

6. CONSERVATION POLICY AIMS

This section of the Conservation Plan proposes policies to protect and, where possible, to enhance the significance of the monument as it has been identified and described above. The proposed policies are intended both to meet immediate needs and to provide for the long term. The underlying objective is to ensure that what is significant and valuable in the monument survives for the use and enjoyment of the future, whatever the present priorities may seem to be. In implementing the policies, it is important that a balance is maintained between conservation, continued farming use, and public expectation from the monument.

The proposed policies are intended to provide a framework for decision making and a benchmark against which to assess proposals for change. Specifically they aim to:

- Preserve and protect the significance of Newtown Jerpoint for the benefit of present and future generations.

- Establish an effective conservation philosophy for the monument.

- Provide guidance for a sympathetic farming regime.

- Guide the process of monument development by establishing criteria against which the appropriateness of proposals can be assessed.

- Consider how public access can be assured and appreciation of the monument enhanced through schemes of interpretation.

- Define policies to help guide the care and maintenance of the monument.

- Provide guidance on the treatment of features which are intrusive or detrimental to an understanding of the monument.

- Identify elements of significance which have suffered erosion, and which may be restored to understanding.

Plate 15: Parish Church and Abbey seen from the west end of Main Street

7. MANAGEMENT ISSUES

7.1 RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION

The site of Newtown Jerpoint currently appears on the County Kilkenny Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) within a large area classified as a 'deserted settlement', Monument Number KK028-062. This area includes Jerpoint Abbey and all of the fields currently belonging to the farm up to the River Nore, except the field to the north of Belmore House. The site is further subdivided in the RMP list as follows:

> Jerpointchurch Church and Graveyard [KK028-06201]
>
> Jerpointchurch Earthwork(s) [KK028-06202]
>
> Jerpointchurch Tower Site [KK028-06204]
>
> Jerpointabbey Abbey [KK028-06205]
>
> Jerpointchurch Mill Site [KK028-06206]
>
> Jerpointchurch Mill Site [KK028-06207]

The field to the north-west of Belmore House is partially covered by an arbitrary diamond border around Site 56; the north end of the long field to the west contains the site excavated in 1973 (Foley 1989). The numeric and country references (KK) codes used to describe these monuments may be subject to future change due to revision and review of the RMP.

Jerpoint Abbey itself is a National Monument owned by the State and is therefore well managed. However, there is no other special recognition of St Nicholas, Church or Newtown Jerpoint beyond their 'RMP' numbers and their coverage under the former REPS management scheme. The Conservation Plan should lead to an increased recognition as a significant site, especially in the context of nearby monuments such as Jerpoint Abbey and in Thomastown, and the whole of the surrounding landscape.

Plate 16: Jerpoint Abbey from Newtown

SURVIVAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITION

The current state of the site, excluding the standing remains, is stable. The land has been used for sheep grazing in the Town Field and the fields to the north and west, and is likely to be used for cattle in the future. The South Field has occasionally been used for horse grazing, which can allegedly have slightly heavier effects. However, no ploughing is carried out and may not have been since 1855, when the Hunt family Estate map was produced, showing the outlines of the burgage plots, as mapped in the First Edition OS Map of 1839. The survival and condition of the elements of the site are discussed below.

Setting and Context

The natural and landscape setting of Newtown Jerpoint is unlikely to change in ways that would have an impact on the significance of the site. The most significant visual aspects all lie within the site.

Ecology

The ecology of the site is likely to be protected by continued agricultural use. While grazing of the site will be largely beneficial, control of animal movements around the site is important. Localised ground disturbance caused when grazing animals congregate under trees or in sensitive places should be prevented. Protection of the Autumn Crocus habitat within the SAC is also important.

Belmore House

Belmore House may stand on the site of an earlier building and is not likely to be a new build on such a prominent site. The current house was built by the Earl of Belmore, on land leased from the Hunt family. The building is stable, and its physical state is of low vulnerability. Its status as a Protected Structure should diminish the likelihood of future owners making inappropriate alterations.

The Church of St Nicholas

The main issue with St Nicholas' Church is the conservation of the fabric to ensure its continued survival and the arrest of further dilapidation. The church is significant on its own as a surviving parish church, but the presence of the rood screen and residential tower is unusual and important. The church is still under continuous threat from the ivy growth. Although the ivy has been cut back in the past to keep it under control, it continues to flourish. It is clearly desirable to cut down the entire ivy growth, but this must be done in a way that will not simply dislodge more stones. The detail of this process can be addressed in the schedule of conservation works. On recommendations from the consultant architect Andrew Townsend, it is concluded that the ivy must be entirely removed at the root. This must be done by a specialist, with a conservator in attendance to assist with any dislodgement of stones, and an appropriate amount of archaeological recording. This work will depend on the availability of funds, with an understanding about the times of year when the ivy is used as a roost for bats or nesting birds.[1]

---

[1] See also the detailed proposals of Ben Murtagh's *Archaeological Report Concerning Future Conservation Work to the Medieval Parish Church and Graveyard* (1997).

The addition of the buttresses on the north-west corner of the church indicates that the structure of the church was causing concern at that time. This was probably built while the church was still in use, and the buttress appears in all early photographs and drawings. Being of interest as an historic repair, the consolidation works should be limited to stabilising this element, rather than any reconstruction.

The level of conservation works to be carried out depends on recognition of the fact that the building is a 'ruin' as opposed to a building in use. The conservation works should be carried out on the assumption that the building will be entered by the public. Some minimal clearing of the interior may be required, with prevention of weed growth inside the church. The grass in the churchyard, which has been grazed by sheep (with a special sheep-gate constructed in the wall) will need to be kept short, and the memorial slab and other stones kept free of weeds.

The recommended removal of ivy must be accompanied by immediate conservation repairs, with an archaeological survey of the historic fabric carried out before and during these repairs. As a record of the conservation works and the church's construction and condition at the time, a photographic and drawn survey will be needed to record the newly revealed remains. These investigations will serve a wider study of the construction of the buildings, their age phasing, and purpose. The possibility of archaeological clearing around and inside the buildings to reveal more information should also be considered, though the extent of this work would have to be fully agreed and carried out under licence. The graveyard should be subject to a full archaeological survey, related to the KAS record of graveyard inscriptions, in continuation of Ben Murtagh's work.

The 'Tower'

The standing remains of the secular tower, to the north-east of the church, are also under severe threat from ivy growth, and are probably more at risk than the church. As there are fewer illustrations of the tower than of the church, less is known about its original appearance or purpose (it was presumably part of a domestic building). The condition of the remains may call for some temporary works to arrest further decay. It will certainly require equal consolidation work with the ivy removal. During this work, more features might be revealed to give clues as to its construction and purpose. It appears to be of quite small dimensions, but had two or possibly more floors, and the wall has a battered (broadened) base. The clearing of the ivy and plants around the remains is important and should reveal more of the structure. This may have to be arranged with a small amount of archaeological investigation agreed under licence. The survey and recording of the fabric would be as outlined for the church.

Ruins and Earthworks

The earthworks consist of the house platforms, stone piles, burgage plot boundary banks and ditches, the wide ditches of the two streets, and the water channels which are all currently under pasture. It was stated by Graves that, in the mid 19th century, the tenant farmer allowed others to clear the remains of the house platforms, tidying them into neat piles for the purpose of planting

potatoes. Comparison of the original OS and the recent OA survey suggests that walls may have been laid onto piles next to the ruins, and it may be that there was not much more disturbance than necessary to achieve this. As a result, it may be that some of the stone piles mask the presence of *in situ* masonry walling. (Examination of the piles may give a very rough indication of the number of rooms for some of the structures.)

Plate 17: Part of stone pile, Plot 72

The stone piles and platforms have not been touched for some time. The sheep grazing has not damaged them, and there should be no greater threat from cattle grazing. However, a number of the platforms are heavily overgrown by shrubs and trees; this may cause damage from roots, either now or when they die or fall over. This scrub vegetation could be cleared subject to any concerns for its ecological significance. With an agreed programme under licence, it might be prudent to test the nature of the remains and buried deposits prior to the clearance. An archaeological watching brief would be necessary for such work, similar to that carried out by Ben Murtagh during the machine clearing of trees and tree-stumps from the churchyard wall (Murtagh 1999). In the case of scrub growth on the stone piles, it would be advisable to carry out any such clearance by hand. It might also prove less intrusive to cut the vegetation down to stump, treating the stumps with an appropriate substance to kill the roots. It is not certain whether any consolidation work is necessary to prevent the house platforms from subsiding further.

The management of the banks and ditches should include the monitoring of erosion and control of stock routes at points where damage could occur through poaching of the ground (typically where cattle pass through a narrow gate or gather in shelter beneath a tree).

Buried Archaeology

While the site undoubtedly does possess the potential to inform our understanding of medieval settlement and to contribute to research in a meaningful way, the conservation of the site is the current priority. As has been suggested, limited and targeted exploration could be of value in determining the nature of the buried remains, so that their vulnerability is better understood for management purposes (*i.e.* some clarification of whether floor surfaces are close to the surface or buried deeper).

A research programme of controlled excavation could be devised for the site, tied to an agreed set of research aims and subject to licence. A diverse series of explorations might be included: *e.g.* geophysical survey, sections cut through streets and property boundaries, and whole or partial exploration of a group of house platforms in different parts of the town. Since outlines of the burgage plot boundaries survive in the pasture, excavation of the boundaries could discover the structure of the boundaries and the presence of any ditches to either side.

In addition, the clearing of the church and tower as part of conservation works might initiate small shallow excavations. These might reveal dateable material as well as explaining the nature of the walls and foundations. Such works should be properly planned, and would be subject to licence. The T-junction between the two streets on the Hunt Estate map was marked by an ash tree, said to have been full of nails from supplications pinned to the tree. It might therefore be of interest to open a small trench on this site to see what remains of the junction (and possibly the location of the market cross, the lowest section and base of which are now to be found in the churchyard). The market place, and therefore the cross, may have always been close to the church.

Additional sites of interest for excavation include: the bridge area to the north-east of the site which might reveal more of the bridge structure and its defences (*e.g.* by underwater survey); the mill sites; and the quarry (*e.g.* depth of cutting and survival of tools or tooling marks). Further out on the periphery of the site, there is an issue about how far the town extended (to north, south and west), and the extent to which the earthworks in the north and south fields represent field boundaries or house plots. This might best be examined by non-intrusive methods of remote survey such as geophysics and LIDAR.

7.3   GAPS IN UNDERSTANDING

The historical context of the site is better understood now, but questions remain at most points of the narrative, particularly with the later history. The understanding of the date and circumstances of the desertion of the settlement are unclear. It is hoped that this might be clarified through further documentary research and possible archaeological investigation. The nature of the buried remains is also uncertain, and could be elucidated by further fieldwork. While

a site of this quality deserves protection, a carefully designed programme of fieldwork, including excavation and other survey methods, could benefit understanding without harming the integrity of the site, and also increase understanding for management purposes.

7.4 OWNERSHIP AND ACCESS

The site is currently owned by Joe and Maeve O'Connell, who have recently acquired the land. This is a working farm, and permission has to be sought before entering the land, both for reasons of privacy and agricultural concerns.

Previously, access had been from the Stoneyford Road entrance to the farm, walking past the south side of Belmore House and into the west end of the Town Field, by St Nicholas' Church. An alternative access from Jerpoint Abbey could be considered, which would involve the building and maintenance of a bridge, and a footpath to the church. This would remove access from the vicinity of Belmore House, though with the added complication of a road crossing. The historic character of the site could be appreciated from visiting the church and some part of the remains nearest to it without necessarily making much of the site accessible.

The site of Newtown Jerpoint is of sufficient importance for it to be considered as a candidate for State care. This would ensure an appropriate level of public access while coming to some arrangement with the landowners.

7.5 MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Above all, the site needs to be recognised as an important entity which requires protection, a degree of 'ownership', and an agreed management plan that can be followed over an appropriate timescale. The immediate needs of ivy control and stone repair must be met, with regular maintenance thereafter. The Heritage Council will obviously have a part in this, but partnership between the owners and the local authority, national bodies (*i.e.* the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government), and local interest groups will be important. It is recognised that there are financial implications in the establishment of a conservation and management scheme, but much of the work is low-cost ongoing maintenance once the major problems of the standing structures have been addressed at the initial stage.

7.6 PUBLIC AND VISITOR EXPECTATIONS

There is currently no great public expectation of the site, since it is a private site and known mainly to local and specialist groups. However, it has been accessible in the past on a modest basis, and it is likely that it will continue to be so. Once conservation and management works have been carried out, access to the site could be improved by agreement. It will then be possible to consider promoting access to the church and the best way of seeing the remains of the town, controlled in accordance with the landowners' wishes. Access to the church may be fairly straightforward. For the remains of the town, a suitable vantage point for photography would for many visitors obviate the need to enter the site and

walk across it. This may require the creation of a new access into the site (from the direction of Jerpoint Abbey and Mill) as described above. Although the site could be damaged by too much uncontrolled access, it is not likely that large numbers would be attracted to it.

7.7 INTERPRETATION — PRESENTATION OF THE SITE

If public access on some level is agreed, a key part of the presentation of the site would be as an important place for the history of County Kilkenny and medieval Ireland as a whole, especially when seen in relation to other local sites. In part, this will be achieved by making information available in printed material and display panel mapping, but could also be expressed by signage and marking out of features. While Jerpoint Abbey has had some promotion as a tourist attraction, the nearby Newtown Jerpoint has suffered from a lack of recognition, although it is known to locals and specialists. With improved access, both sites can be highlighted as important medieval monuments in the locality, with visitors to one encouraged to see both and note the connection between the two. When access is improved, there would be a clear need for interpretational material to be made readily available (through South East Tourism and Kilkenny Tourism) in Kilkenny, in the Dublin Tourist Office, and in various media. More could also be made of the number of striking medieval sites in the vicinity (Jerpoint, Thomastown, Knocktopher, Kells) that could form part of a heritage trail through this part of the county.

8. POLICIES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NEWTOWN JERPOINT

8.1 INTRODUCTION

This section of the Plan establishes policies for the protection of the significance of Newtown Jerpoint and for realising its full potential for public enjoyment, access and understanding.

Following a statement of overall purpose, six principal policies are set out which cover broad areas of application:

- Protection

- Conservation, repair and maintenance

- Enhancement and improvement

- Access and interpretation

- Research, education and tourism

- Management and finances

These policies are developed into more detailed proposals for action in the succeeding sets of policies, each with subsidiary recommendations.

Policy Aims

The main aims of the conservation policies are:

- Protect and enhance the visual amenity, historic character, setting and landscape of Newtown Jerpoint.

- Promote public understanding and enjoyment of the monument.

8.2 PRINCIPAL POLICIES

POLICY 1: PROTECTION
To place the conservation of Newtown Jerpoint and the protection of its significance at the heart of planning and management of the monument.

POLICY 2: CONSERVATION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE
To implement effective regimes for maintenance and repair, while protecting the monument's significance and historic integrity, and observing exemplary standards of conservation practice.

POLICY 3: ENHANCEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT
To enhance the historic character and visual qualities of the monument, where appropriate, by consolidating eroded elements and removing intrusive elements.

POLICY 4: ACCESS AND INTERPRETATION
To encourage public understanding and enjoyment of the monument, promoting both its physical and intellectual access and meeting the needs of a broad variety of users.

POLICY 5: RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND TOURISM
To develop an understanding of Newtown Jerpoint through informed archaeological investigation and research, ensuring their preservation in an accessible form within a comprehensive monument archive. To promote Newtown Jerpoint as a site of interest and a historical resource for learning about our past, the role of the site in the local and national history, the occupants of the town and their way of life.

POLICY 6: MANAGEMENT AND FINANCES
To suggest/devise schemes for the practical application of the Conservation Plan, and the raising of funds in order to do so.

8.3 POLICIES FOR PROTECTION

POLICY 1: PROTECTION

To place the conservation of Newtown Jerpoint and the protection of its significance at the heart of planning and management of the monument.

Policy 1.1
To protect the historic fabric and character of the site, including the standing remains and house platforms, and the surviving evidence for former use and functions.

- Ensure the recognition of all the elements of Newtown Jerpoint, whether standing or buried, as needing protection.

- Consider recognition of the wider landscape, and linking the RMP Site Nos 56 & 62 into a single site.

- Consider taking the church and other parts of the site into State care.

Plate 18: Approach to Newtown from the west

Policy 1.2
To minimise risk to the historic fabric of the site from normal use and administrative operations.

- Observe effective regimes for the physical security of the monument.

- Provide physical protection where appropriate, *e.g.* the Tower.

- Ensure that farming operations and works do not cause damage to the site.

Policy 1.3
To protect the ecological value of the monument and its immediate environs in the SAC, and to resolve any conflict through knowledge, advice and agreement.

- Conduct any removal or control of vegetation with consideration of ecological concerns.

- Allow the continuation of stock grazing inside the main site, subject to monitoring of areas of potential damage, and protection of vulnerable areas.

- Ensure a policy of light grazing or monitored normal grazing on those fields outside the Town Field that contain elements of the site.

Policy 1.4
To meet all statutory and legal requirements for the protection of the monument, the health and safety of individuals and, where practicable, the requirements of disabilities legislation.

- Prioritise repairs on unsafe parts of the standing remains.

- Where access is agreed, ensure equal opportunities for intellectual access for those not able to enter the site.

8.4 POLICIES FOR CONSERVATION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

POLICY 2: CONSERVATION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

To implement effective regimes for maintenance and repair, while protecting the monument's significance and historic integrity, and observing exemplary standards of conservation practice.

Policy 2.1
To prioritise conservation repairs to the standing remains of the Parish Church and Tower.

- Ensure that the standing remains are protected from further dilapidation by removal of plant growth and consolidation of masonry.

- Establish a code of conduct for the management of standing and buried remains.

Policy 2.2
To ensure regular and effective programmes of structural maintenance, inspection, conservation and repair, reviewing and revising existing arrangements where necessary.

- Establish a cycle of monitoring and maintenance for the protection of the site,

for example a yearly inspection by appropriate representatives of national and local government. Following the inspection, it can be decided whether to carry out any conservation or ivy removal works. A 5-yearly inspection to be carried out by a conservation architect.

- Control tree and shrub growth on the standing remains and house platforms, and discourage ivy re-growth.

Policy 2.3
To ensure that all works are informed by a clear and detailed understanding of the monument. These should be fully recorded and preceded by appropriate investigations of the historic fabric.

- Investigate, survey and record parts of standing remains prior to and during works, for example, the use of rectified photography or photogrammetry.

- To inform future management decisions, ensure that repairs are recorded and logged for the site as a single maintenance archive.

Policy 2.4
To carry out all works in accordance with the highest standards of conservation, retaining significance, avoiding loss of fabric, and adhering to historical accuracy in design, materials and workmanship.

- Employ experienced firms to design and carry out works.

- Ensure that clearance and maintenance are carried out under supervision.

Policy 2.5
To plan and carry out all works being mindful of ecological significance.

- Adhere to provisions of Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2001 in removing trees, shrubs and hedgerows.

- Where possible, allow a reasonable level of non-destructive plant growth, and maintain existing habitats.

- Carry out Bat survey to inform any proposals for removal of trees.

8.5 **POLICIES FOR ENHANCEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT**

POLICY 3: ENHANCEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

To enhance the historic character and visual qualities of the monument, where appropriate, by consolidating eroded elements and removing intrusive elements.

Policy 3.1
To improve the condition and setting of the parish church.

- Exclude livestock from the church interior to enable grass to re-grow (or consolidate floor where grass will not recover). An archaeologist should be in attendance while the church floor is cleared.

- Maintain grass levels in church yard to show the tombstones, the base of the cross and the font in the graveyard.

- Clear the Hunt family grave plot of as much vegetation as possible and treat the railings with a rust-proofing agent.

Policy 3.2
To enhance the appearance and setting of the site, where appropriate, by repairing past damage, removing intrusive features, and seeking to locate key elements which have been lost.

- Locate lost features: for example, house platforms and burgage plot boundaries.

- Remove vegetation to expose more of the standing remains and house platforms.

- Consider removal of modern field barn near the church.

8.6 POLICIES FOR ACCESS AND INTERPRETATION

POLICY 4: ACCESS AND INTERPRETATION

To encourage public understanding and enjoyment of the monument, promoting both its physical and intellectual access and meeting the needs of a broad variety of users.

Policy 4.1
With the agreement of the landowners, improve public access.

- Develop means of access for visitors that does not interfere with the running of the farm or the privacy of the home.

- Ensure that access has minimal physical impact on the site.

- Consider taking all or part of the site into State care.

- Provide modest signage to the site.

Policy 4.2
To extend physical access to the site and its significant features where agreed with the landowners.

- Consider direct access to the site from Jerpoint Abbey and mill across the river.

- Establish viewing points on the site with display panels, indicating which elements of the site are visible from each viewing point.

- Link the man-made elements of the site with a walk along the two rivers, including floral and faunal elements of interest.

Plate 19: The mill site, with 19th-century Jerpoint Mill behind

Policy 4.3
To ensure that understanding of the site and access to information are available to all.

- Provide adequate information and interpretation on-site.

- Provide adequate off-site information (*e.g.* at Jerpoint Abbey) for those who are not able to visit it.

- Make existing information available (*e.g.* this report and subsequent published accounts), and develop future resources (*e.g.* website information).

8.7 POLICIES FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND TOURISM

POLICY 5: RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND TOURISM

To develop an understanding of Newtown Jerpoint through informed archaeological investigation and research, ensuring its preservation in an accessible form within a comprehensive monument archive. To promote Newtown Jerpoint as a site of interest and a historical resource for learning about our past, the role of the site in local and national history, including information about the occupants of the town and their way of life.

Policy 5.1
To create a formal archive or information base relating to the site, distinct from working files and records of current transactions, which includes a record of all interventions in the monument.

- Display/publish the results of the 2003 survey of the site.

- To clarify features on the mapping, carry out further investigation in the form of archaeological works, when any works (agricultural or conservation) are proposed.

Policy 5.2
To promote future research, with a planned agenda for investigations and an

72

ability to respond to opportunities.

- Seek opportunities for archaeological investigation of key points of the site in order to learn more about the arrangement of the site and the buildings and structures present.

- Record future repair and maintenance works.

- Determine the full extent of the site through non-invasive means: aerial photography, remote sensing, geophysical survey and documentary research.

Policy 5.3
With agreed access in place, to promote the use of the site by local schools and the community to improve awareness of the role of Newtown Jerpoint in local and national history.

- Allow occasional open days for local interest groups and guided tours.

Policy 5.4
With agreed access in place, to promote the site as a resource for the improved awareness of the local community, and the medieval heritage of Kilkenny and Ireland.

- Provide modest signage to the site.

- Provide literature on Newtown Jerpoint and Jerpoint Abbey in Kilkenny Tourism Office, through South East Tourism, and elsewhere.

- Encourage South East Tourism and Kilkenny Tourism to promote visits to Newtown Jerpoint and Jerpoint Abbey, as well as other medieval towns and sites in the area.

8.8   POLICIES FOR MANAGEMENT AND FINANCES

POLICY 6: MANAGEMENT AND FINANCES

To suggest/devise schemes for the practical application of the Conservation Plan, and the raising of funds in order to do so.

Policy 6.1
To raise funds for the initial requirements of the Conservation Plan.

- Investigate sources for funding of the site: for example, EU sources; Kilkenny County Council; the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government; Barrow Nore Suir Rural Development; the REPS scheme; and other interested bodies.

Policy 6.2
To create a scheme for the maintenance of the site and the funds in order to do so.

- Liaise with the landowners regarding the continued management and maintenance of the monument.

- Liaise with any future landowner in the event of a sale or change in ownership.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION

9.1 INTRODUCTION

The implementation of the Conservation Plan will require the assumption of responsibility for the site, its formal protection, the adoption of policies, and the planning and implementation of programmes of repair and enhancement. Implementation may need to follow differing time-scales and decision-making processes, with some proposals capable of introduction in the short term, and others, if adopted, coming into play over a longer period.

The following section is a suggested approach rather than a specific and prescriptive plan of action. It is to be noted that under the requirements of national legislation and local planning guidance, many of the proposed works will require consents and permissions of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and/or Kilkenny County Council.

9.2 RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SITE

The extent of the site is contained in the land of Mr and Mrs O'Connell, the current landowners. As long as the entire site is in the care of one owner, as at present, there is no danger that it will become fragmented. This should be safe-guarded. Guardianship of the site is the responsibility of the current landowner, but State assistance may be appropriate for some actions necessary for preservation. State care may be an option to be considered.

9.3 FORMAL PROTECTION

At present, the site is listed as Recorded Monument No. 62 (on Sheet 28 for County Kilkenny). The designated area follows an arbitrary line cutting through the top field of the site, on the north side of Belmore House, while a section of this field is another monument, RMP No. 56. Given that both may belong to the same medieval settlement complex, a re-definition of the monument boundaries would be appropriate, together with a fuller description of what is being protected. If it were to help with the continuing protection of the monument, then St Nicholas' Church should be considered for acquisition as a National Monument, similar to Jerpoint Abbey.

ACTION	MEANS
Ensure that the boundaries of the RMP site 62 are re-defined and submitted for amendment.	Clear mapping of the boundaries of the land to be submitted.

9.4 ADOPTION OF THE POLICIES

The early adoption of policies as a code of practice for the protection of the site will enable the landowners to prepare the withdrawal of livestock if necessary, from areas to be tackled/conserved first.

ACTION	MEANS
Establish a code of conduct for the repair and management of the standing remains.	Adopt a written code to be agreed with the landowners and conservation specialists.

Code to include:

- Protection of standing and buried remains from damage by stock and farming practice.
- Protection of the ecological value of the site and the immediate environs of the SAC.
- Allow the growth of non-damaging species of plants to an appropriate extent.
- Ensure that all works are informed by a clear and detailed understanding of the site.
- Investigate and record parts of the site prior to works.
- Ensure that all works are carried out in accordance with the highest standards of conservation, retaining significance, avoiding loss of fabric, and adhering to historical accuracy in design, materials and workmanship.
- Employ experienced firms to design and carry out works.
- Ensure that clearance and maintenance are carried out under supervision.
- Ensure repairs are recorded and logged as a single maintenance archive for the site to inform future management decisions.
- Ensure that public access to the site is not diminished.

9.5 CONSERVATION REPAIR AND ENHANCEMENT

Works on the site will need to be preceded by a phase of investigation and planning. This will establish the scope of work required, and prioritise what is to be done.

ACTION	MEANS
Establish a cycle of monitoring and maintenance [2.2].	Produce Management Plan.
Prioritise urgent investigations and works.	Commission specification for works.
Monitor and investigate cracks and failures after the initial consolidation work, and investigate the need for localised stone repair/fixing.	Commission specification for works.
Ensure that works programme is informed by understanding and linked to investigation and recording.	See Section 9.7 for Research Agenda.

9.6 IMPLEMENTATION OF REPAIR AND ENHANCEMENT

The stages of implementation can be divided into those needing more immediate action, medium-term actions, and long-term works of lesser urgency.

Short-term recommendations, capable of immediate introduction

ACTION	MEANS
Prioritise conservation repairs to the standing remains of the Parish Church and Tower [2.1]. Of the two, the Tower may be the higher priority.	Clear all ivy growth from St Nicholas' Church and the Tower. Initiate stone repair and consolidation works to St Nicholas' Church and the Tower.
Ensure regular and effective programmes of structural maintenance, inspection, conservation and repair, reviewing and revising existing arrangements where necessary [2.2].	Monitor condition of surviving house platforms. Manage the grazing regime to reduce the growth of grass and shrubs while minimising damage to earthworks and other features.
Protect the ecological value of the monument and its immediate environs in the SAC [1.3].	Conduct Bat survey as part of ecological survey. Adhere to provisions of Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2001 in removing trees, shrubs, hedgerows; also the EU Habitats Directive. Management Plan of SAC to be agreed in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service.
Improve condition and setting of the Parish Church [3.1].	To avoid further erosion of the ground, exclude livestock and consolidate the floor of the church. Maintain churchyard and Hunt burial plot.
Enhance appearance and setting of site [3.2].	To aid visibility of the structures and prevent re-growth, clear trees and ivy from the vicinities of the church, the tower and the house platforms. Consider removal of modern field barn.

Medium-term policies

ACTION	MEANS
With the agreement of the landowners, improve public access [4.1], and extend physical access [4.2].	Develop means of access with minimal damage to site and loss of privacy. Provide modest signage to identify sites. Consider direct access from Jerpoint Abbey and mill, and the provision of viewing places.
Ensure access to understanding and information [4.3].	Provide adequate information both on-site and off-site. Publish the recent mapping and research, undertaken for this Conservation Plan, and other leaflets/maps.
Establish information base [5.1]. Promote future research [5.2]. See Section 9.7 for Research Agenda. With agreed access, promote educational use, community and tourist resource [5.3 & 5.4].	Promote historical research. Archaeological survey (remote sensing, underwater survey) Targetted archaeological investigations to determine character of remains. Allow occasional open days. Provide promotional literature. Encourage Newtown visits in conjunction with other medieval sites in Kilkenny.

Policies for longer-term improvements

ACTION	MEANS
Create maintenance scheme [6.1].	Liaison with landowners.
Assess whether the site should eventually pass into State care [1.1].	Acquisition of the site and compensation to the landowners, and/or lease-back arrangement.

9.7 RESEARCH AGENDA

A research agenda should never be over-prescriptive; nor should it obstruct the development of new ideas and possible avenues of investigation. However, it may be useful to record what seems at this stage to be the range of issues that could be addressed by historical and archaeological investigations. These are shown in the following table, arranged under subject headings:

NEWTOWN JERPOINT RESEARCH TOPICS	
Historical investigations	Later history of church and rectory
	Later history of Ormond estates Belmore family and archives (PRONI)
	Hunt family
	Graveyard survey
	Visits by artists and antiquaries
	Estates, settlements and boundaries in Jerpoint parishes
	Changing patterns of urban network in County Kilkenny
	Thomastown's success vs. Newtown's failure
Architectural investigations	Development of Parish Church
	Character (domestic or otherwise) of church tower
	Character (domestic or otherwise) of secular tower
	Sir Richard Morrison's work on Belmore House
Archaeological investigations [A: Remote sensing; geophysics, aerial photography, LIDAR*, underwater survey. B: Small exploratory evaluation trenches to understand the nature of buried remains or foundations of standing structures. C: Targetted controlled excavations in agreed programme of work with full provision for study and publication of finds.] * LIDAR: 'Light Detection and Ranging' a high resolution technique of airborne terrain mapping.	Extent of town remains
	Identification of streets, lanes and private spaces
	Character of different closes and land divisions (both their boundary divisions and contents)
	Nature and significance of above-ground remains of houses (stone heaps)
	Location of houses and outbuildings
	Location of mill(s)
	Character of the remains in house plots to rear of houses
	Changes over time in size and layout of settlement
	Evidence for decline and abandonment
	Location and remains of bridge
	Evidence of economic activity of town
	Environmental evidence from wet and dry deposits in and around Jerpoint
Landscape and Environmental history	Network of roads and river crossings
	Changing navigability of rivers
	Spatial aspects of Norman settlement
	Boundaries of estates; character of walls and hedgerows
	The course of present and past rivers and watercourses
	The history of changes in woodland cover

9.8 ADOPTION AND REVIEW

The Conservation Plan will be formally adopted by the site owners, Kilkenny County Council, The Heritage Council and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Following formal adoption, the plan will be reviewed every five to ten years to reflect changing knowledge and circumstances, especially changes in legislation and guidance.

Figure 10: Topographical Survey of Newtown Jerpoint, 2003 [Oxford Archaeology]

PART IV: GAZETTEER

NEWTOWN JERPOINT SITE DESCRIPTIONS

[1] ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH

Plate 20: St Nicholas' Church

SUMMARY

St Nicholas' is the medieval parish church of Newtown Jerpoint. It dates from the 12th-13th century, with a late medieval rood gallery and tower for residential use. The church is the one part of the site which has previously been studied in detail (Murtagh 1977, 1979).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The church at Newtown Jerpoint is likely to have been contemporary with the initial foundation of the town in c. 1200. Possession of the church was confirmed to the Priory of St John in Kilkenny by William Marshall the younger in c. 1223. The living remained with them, then with the Corporation of Kilkenny from the 1540s. The church was built initially as a nave and chancel. In the 15th century, the rood screen and loft was built (providing a platform for a sculpture of the crucifixion). Later, a tower was built above this which contained domestic accommodation on the upper floors. The church, which was still in use at the time of a Diocesan visitation in 1622, probably became ruined with the decline of the town in the later 17th century, and the roof and furnishings were lost. Probably when still in use, buttresses were added to the west end of the church, presumably to support a leaning wall; these are shown on the earliest photographs. The church is designated as a monument which is identified under its own number (KK028-06201 — Jerpointchurch Church and Grave-yard) as a subdivision of the RMP given to the entire site.

DESCRIPTION

The church consists of a nave and chancel, with a tower over the east end of the nave above a former rood screen and loft. The church is built of irregular blocks of limestone, mudstone and slate, partly laid in clearly discernible lifts of c. 50cm (c. 20") high; there are ashlar dressings to the doors and windows. The building is a ruin standing to eaves height, with no remains of roof or other fittings. Only the east and north sides of the tower remain. There is a substantial mound on the south side of the nave, presumably an ordered heaping of masonry from the fall of the tower. This has been cleared back to allow a passage to the south door of the nave.

NAVE

The nave of the church is entered through north and south doorways, with two-centred arches, chamfered jambs and remains of a hood mould over, and internal rebates for a door. The west wall has a single lancet window high in the gable. Remains of plaster on the interior face of the walls are likely to be medieval. The north-west corner of the west wall is supported with a pair of buttresses at right angles (north and west). These are built of similar stone to the church but with a different mortar bond which is likely to be a repair.

CHANCEL

The chancel arch (now visible only on the east side) is a plain pointed arch formed of voussoirs of narrow slabs, rendered over. The chancel is small, and of less regular masonry construction than the nave, though it is possibly of more than one phase. There is a modest window in the east wall with twin lancets whose rear-arch has been lowered in recent times. In the north wall is a trefoil-headed window with an ogival arch on the exterior. This window, identical with the one in the tower, appears to be built in a patch of secondary masonry; there was perhaps a similar window in the south wall. A large gap in the south wall of the chancel may have been made purposely in the recent past to let animals enter for shelter — possibly during the 19th century. There were two single-light windows, and a blocked recess. There are around 20 memorials in the chancel, most of which are fairly plain. A flat decorated stone commemorating William and Alice Den (1623) suggests that the church was still in use and roofed at that date (which is also known from the 1622 Diocesan survey). Others for John Delany (1774) and William Daniel (1811) are upright churchyard memorials which can only have been placed here once the church was abandoned and given over to burials.

ROOD LOFT

The screen/rood loft stands in front of the chancel arch. This was built as a masonry vault with an arched central passage and groined compartments on each side, supported at the front by two octagonal limestone columns with octagonal bases and caps. Like the chancel arch, the arches facing the nave are made of limestone voussoirs but here with larger stones. Again, these are devoid

of any ornament, and must have been rendered and fronted by an attached decorative piece of timber. The function of this construction would have been to provide a rood loft — a location for a sculpture of the crucifixion — as well as an elevated stage on which religious dramas could have been performed at major festivals. The formation of two chapels in the side vaults may have been of equal importance. There were windows in the outer walls (details lost, but probably two-light), with an arched recess in the east wall of the south chapel. It is thus quite possible that the loft was constructed as part of the arrangements for a chantry chapel, an endowed altar to provide masses in commemoration of a deceased burgess.

TOWER

Since the masonry base built in the nave blocks the side arches of the rood screen, the tower is clearly of later construction than the rood loft. The tower was built off the east end of the nave (which may already have been partly rebuilt for the rood screen and loft). Indeed the whole wall with the chancel arch may have been rebuilt to carry the tower. Two large masonry piers were built inside the nave to support its west wall: that on the north side was actually two separate piers with an arch between them (allowing continued visual connection between nave and chapel); on the south side, the pier contains a winding stair leading up the first floor (and a narrow slit window to the nave). Details of the upper stages are much obscured by ivy, and only the north and east walls survive to full height, indicating a first floor and two further floors above beneath a parapet. There may have been a decent-sized room on each floor, with windows in the north (but not the east) wall. The first-floor window in the north wall has a trefoil, and an ogee like the window in the chancel; the two above are square headed. An old photograph showing the east wall almost free of ivy indicates a string course or offset at parapet level; a pair of pointed openings above that may have housed the church bells.

Plate 21: Stone base of the church's font

Plate 22: Tombstone of a medieval cleric, popularly believed to depict St Nicholas

Churchyard

The churchyard is an irregular area surrounded by a dry-stone wall, partly re-arranged in recent times (*i.e.* since the 1839 OS map), and includes a sheep-door built by Mr Teesdale). It is likely that the churchyard was once larger and of a more regular shape, as indicated by the surrounding earthworks. It contains some notable antiquities, including:

Memorial slab: A fine slab effigy in low relief of an early 14th-century ecclesiastic, popularly associated with St Nicholas of Myra, but more probably a parish priest of Jerpoint (Hunt 1974). The memorial has been moved since 1839, and has sustained damage in recent years from the fall of a tree (Murtagh).

Font base: A stone base nearby is an elaborate square slab with indentations for the central drum (with drain hole) and four detached corner shafts for a 13th-century font.

Market cross: A 'cross-base' of uncertain age consists of a mill stone with a central hole and a limestone block with a chamfered shaft on a square base. This may have been moved to the churchyard from the central road junction in Newtown.

There are various post-medieval tombstones in the churchyard, including a raised table tomb. The memorials of the Hunt family are gathered in a small walled enclosure west of the church. These date from 1771 to 1975, although the enclosure is not shown on the 1839 OS map (Murtagh).
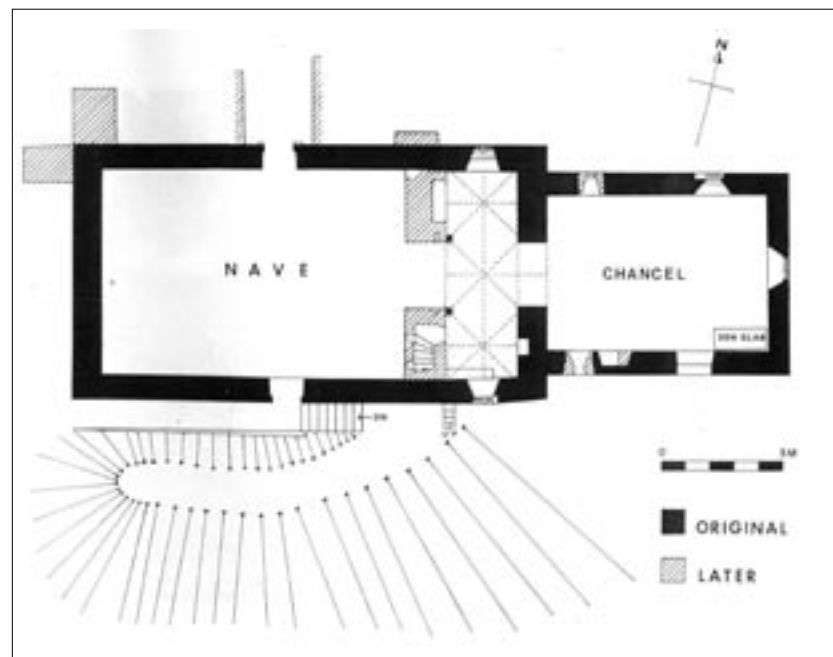
Figure 11: Plan of the church by Ben Murtagh

[2] BELMORE HOUSE

SUMMARY

The 18th-century Belmore House, a Protected Structure, is located on high ground at the west end of the site.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The house was built c. 1780 by the Earl of Belmore, who leased part of the estate from the Hunt family (and later married the daughter of the Earl of Carrick at Mount Juliet). An undated design for an extension to the house was made by the well-known architect, Sir Richard Morrison, perhaps in the first decade of the 19th century (Figure 6). Although this was not built, the stable yard was apparently built to his design.

DESCRIPTION

Belmore was built as a hunting lodge, in a plain Georgian style, with a rendered exterior and a slate roof. The ground floor is in part decorated with lath and plaster groin-vaulting, mimicking the vaulting of the church rood gallery. In contrast, the first floor has barrel vaulting. The house faces north and east across the site of Newtown. The planned extension was for a square villa at the east end, with the rest of the house becoming a service wing.

The surrounds of the house include a stable yard immediately to its west; its present form is identical to that shown on Morrison's plan. There is a walled farmyard to the north of this, a walled garden to the west, and a terrace garden to the south and east.

Plate 23: Belmore House

[3-4] THE MILL SITES

SUMMARY

The remains of water mills on the west bank of the River Arrigle.

Plate 24: The remains of water mills are likely to date from the origins of the town

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

The mill is likely to date from the origins of the town. The 1289 extent mentions a 'Wyn the Miller', and all the burgesses owed suit to the lord's mill. There are numerous later references to mills, and fractions of mills in Jerpoint which could be on different sites, or be parts of one mill complex. The other mill in Jerpoint was on the east bank. It survives as a large 19th-century structure (see p. 32).

DESCRIPTION

There is a possible mill-site [3] by the stream, near where the watercourse changes direction. South of this there are some standing remains [4] of a structure which was probably part of the mill. Its south-west corner still stands as a low masonry feature, largely overgrown with grass and scrub. It is reached by an east-west path [5] between burgage plots 4 and 6, and is almost opposite the east end of the east-west street. It is situated a few metres back from the current riverbank, but may have had its own branch of the stream for a mill race.

[5] NORTH-SOUTH STREET

SUMMARY

A narrow strip of land — running approximately north-south through the site between the remains of the tenements — marks the site of the main street, probably to be identified with the historic 'Long Street'.

Plate 25: The view from the north end of 'Long Street'

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The principal north-south street through the town, heading towards the bridge, is presumably the same as the 'Long Street' named in the 1595 and 1614 rentals. It formed a T-junction with the east-west street at what may have been a market place with the market cross, and was marked with an ash tree in the 19th century.

DESCRIPTION

The north-south street is a flat, narrow strip of land which is bordered on the east and west by burgage plots and house platforms. It leads through the town towards the site of the bridge. There is now little sign of the road on the approach to the presumed bridge site (*i.e.* the hollow area 54), where it may have been dug away. Sloping gently down towards the north, the road is marked as a gap between the house plots and stone piles. Although only 10m (32 feet) wide at the north end, it appears to have been as wide as 20m (64 feet) south of the central junction with the east-west street. It appears as a shallow depression on aerial photographs (Plate 1). It is rather more marked in the field to the south, where it continues as a slight terrace of variable width, but is less easy to detect beyond the surveyed area (Plate 10). The road connections outside the site cannot immediately be determined, but this road must be the precursor of the route now passing Jerpoint Abbey on the other side of the River Arrigle.

[6] THE EAST-WEST STREET

SUMMARY

A narrow, flat strip running approximately east-west along the north edge of the church terrace, and east towards the junction with 'Long Street'.

Plate 26: The East-West Street looking east

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This east-west street is likely to be a primary part of the town plan, connecting St Nicholas' Church to 'Long Street', though its apparent course at the east end by the junction may not reflect the primary layout. It is possible that this street was a pre-existing feature that determined the layout of the new town.

Figure 12: Newton streets and house plots

DESCRIPTION

The east-west street is a flat, narrow strip of land, generally less than 10m (32 feet) wide, which passes between house platforms. Its west end is uncertain, but it passes by the north side of the rectangular church terrace, and then continues eastwards (gently sloping down), bounded on the north by about six burgage plots. It might be expected that the road would have continued east in a straight line to join the 'Long Street', but it turns to the north towards the tower [plot 38], and then east along the north side of plot 29 and back towards the junction with 'Long Street'. On visible evidence, it is hard to detect whether the site of plots 22 and 23 could have formed an open 'market place' at the junction or whether they were indeed just burgage plots.

[7] THE QUARRY

SUMMARY

Area of humps and hollows to the east of Belmore House, created by the quarrying of stone for the buildings in the vicinity.

Plate 27: Humps and hollows were created by stone quarrying

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Stone may have been quarried from the site as early as c. 1200, when the first buildings of Newtown Jerpoint were erected. The hollows created in this area may date from the building of St Nicholas' Church, or possibly for the building of the adjacent Belmore House. No reference to quarries has been encountered in the historical sources.

A series of humps created by the upcast of quarrying for suitable stone, and also hollows created by the extraction of the stone. Feature 59, the limestone outcrop and hollows immediately to the south, is presumably related to this.

[8] THE TOWER

SUMMARY

The remains of a tower, standing approximately halfway along the east-west street, on the north side.

Plate 28: The tower is likely to be the remains of a medieval tower house

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The tower (so named on the first edition OS 6-inch map) is likely to be the remains of a fairly substantial medieval house. It is quite likely that this is the remains of a stone tower house, perhaps like the series of private 'castles' that do and did exist in Thomastown (Bradley and Murtagh 2003).

DESCRIPTION

Little remains of the stone built tower, though the surviving masonry appears to be of similar construction to the church. The tower is rectangular in plan and is approximately 4 x 5m, with a battered base. The north and west walls survive up to first-floor level, above which may have been one or two floors. The tower is thickly overgrown with vegetation, and there is a stone heap below it which extends to the north at the side of the road. The tower stands on a terrace, around which the ground slopes away; it was presumably associated with the well-defined plot 38.

[9] SITE OF THE BRIDGE

SUMMARY

The site of the bridge that crossed the River Nore, to the west of the junction of the Nore with the River Arrigle.

Plate 29: A bridge was located at the confluence of the Nore and the Arrigle

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The existence of the place-name 'Jerpoint' as the name of the newly founded 12th-century abbey suggests that the bridge existed before the town, since the name means 'Nore Bridge' (see History, page 15, 3.1). In April 1375, there was a royal grant of 'pontage murage and pavage' to the provost and community of Jerpoint. This was for the 'repair of bridge on the Nore next the town and for support and repair of the tower and gate at the south end of the bridge for resisting our enemies and rebels crossing the bridge by day or night'. There are no later references to the bridge, though a local legend recalled that William of Orange marched over the bridge; it is unlikely that it survived later into the 18th century. Claims of surviving bridge piers being seen in the 19th century cannot be verified (or closely located), nor the supposed survival of remains below water.

DESCRIPTION

Nothing remains of the bridge, except for a slight depression in the south bank of the Nore, which may be the site of the robbed foundations of the tower and gate. It would be expected that a substantial stone bridge would have had a stone ramp leading up towards it, so perhaps this accounts for the absence of any remains of the road approaching the bridge. The ruined piers of the latest bridge are still supposed to be visible at low water. Given the recent discovery of significant remains of historic bridges in Kilkenny, it is likely that more could be discovered by underwater exploration. Investigations for remains of the bridge should consider the possibility that it was located further downstream.

[10-18] BURGAGE PLOTS, EAST SIDE OF LONG STREET

SUMMARY

Long Street is bordered on either side by burgage plots, some of which contain house platforms. The houses were largely arranged with their long sides facing along the street. The burgages stretched out from the houses, away from the street, and were approximately as wide as the length of the houses. The burgages are defined by low baulks and ditches running around their perimeters. The house platforms now mainly survive as piles of stones, where the walls have collapsed *in situ*.

Plate 30: Burgage plots are likely to date from c. 1200

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The burgage plots on Long Street are likely to date from the foundation of Newtown Jerpoint, c. 1200. It is thought that the town was deserted during the 17th or 18th century, and some of the houses may have survived as dwellings up to this time. One house platform was excavated in the 1860s by Mr Edward Hunt, in the presence of Rev. James Graves, a local antiquary (Graves 1868). The report described the house as having a large kitchen with red tiled floor and fireplace. This was separated from two smaller clay-floored rooms by mortar-covered mud walls (Appendix B for full description).

DESCRIPTION

The following burgages are described with individual characteristics, based on the general type given in the summary above. (Figure 10)

10. Located at the south end of Long Street by modern fence, on the east side.

    House plot: Wide (?double) plot demarcated by shallow bank on north and ditch along south side, and extending east to river.

    House: The stone pile may indicate two rooms, but has possibly been relocated back from the road. There are other associated mounds on the west side.

Plate 31: Stone piles at House Site 10

11.   **House plot:** Narrow plot marked by shallow bank of 10 to south, and shallow bank on north side. East end of plot forms a terrace with river below.

House: Stone pile aligned east-west, perpendicular to street front and partly overlapping 10. Second pile at right-angles, to the north.

12.   **House plot:** Plot bordered by shallow bank of 11 to south and another to north; the east end is on the same terrace as 11, above the river.

House: Pile of stones along street front, located in north-west corner of plot. Three depressions/piles located towards east end of plot.

13.   **House plot:** Broader plot, marked on the south side by shallow mound of 12, and on the north side by path to the Mill [4], which lies on the river at the east end of the plot.

House: Mound located by street front, which slopes down into the pile of 12.

14.   **Path to Mill:** East-west path at the base of a wide, shallow ditch which runs from Long Street to the river and the mill remains [4]. The path is almost opposite the east end of the east-west street.

15. **House plot:** Narrow plot, bordered on the south side by the mill path 14 and on the north by a shallow bank. The plot does not reach the river, leaving a space by the mill.

    House: A pile of stones including boulders located in the north-west corner by the street, and partly overlapping with plot 16.

16. **House plot:** Broad plot, bordered on the south side by a shallow east-west bank of 15, and on the east by the second possible mill site 3 on the River Arrigle. To the north is a small bank and an elongated pile of stones bordering 17.

    House: A large pile of stones with boulders is aligned along the street front and spreads back into the plot.

17. **House plot:** This has a bank along the south side (see below). The west and north edges of the plot have a shallow ditch, though the boundary with 18 is uncertain. The land falls away to the river on the east.

    House: The plot contains an elongated pile of stones and a shallow bank running along the south side bordering 16. This may have been a wall, as it seems too narrow to represent a house. The plot has some smaller stone piles on the west side and north-east corner.

18. **Open space:** There is a flat area of meadow behind 17, by the modern boundary fence and close to the presumed beginning of the bridge.

[19-28] BURGAGE PLOTS WEST SIDE OF LONG STREET

Plots on the west side of Long Street, from north to south (Figure 10)

19. ***Open space:*** Opposite 18, on the west side of the street, there is another area of flat land. This is bordered by the drain and modern fence to north, the street on the east, and a shallow bank on the south.

20. ***House plot:*** Plot of land bordered on the north, west and south sides by low banks, and bordered on the west by an area of wet ground. [41].

    House: On the east side adjacent to the street is a series of hollow scoops that may have been an area of stone extraction from the remains of a house.

21. ***House plot:*** A large square plot bordered by low banks on the north, west and south sides.

    House: The two large stone piles along the street front may be two separate buildings. A further stone pile is located in the two rear corners at the south-west and north-west.

22. ***House plot or Market Place?*** An area of land bordered on the south side by the east-west street and on the east by Long Street. Defined by shallow bank of 21 on the north side and the bank of 40 on the west, but not very clearly on east and south.

    House: Four stone piles, irregularly spaced on the north-east and south sides, might have formed a building, though the street frontage is uncertain.

23. ***House plot or Market Place?*** An ill-defined area of land in or on the south side of the east-west street [6] and bordered on the south by a hollow and stone pile 24 that may have formed one house orientated east/west along the street. A rock outcrop further east in the middle of Long Street could possibly have been the site of the market cross.

Plate 32: Burgage plots on the west side of 'Long Street'

24. ***House plot:*** Small plot defined by a higher terrace on the south and Long Street on the east, but with an irregular boundary north towards 23.

    House: A small hollow exists at the east end, which may be the robbed site of a building, with a stone heap and hollow at the west end.

25. ***House plot:*** Plot on terrace above that of 24 is of greater depth, marked by a bank at the west end and south side.

    House: Rectangular hollow aligned along the street on the east side, which might be the robbed site of a house.

26. ***House plot:*** A larger plot located between the hollows of 25 and 27, and reaching back further than 25.

    House: Two rectangular hollows orientated north-south along the street front indicate the robbed site of a house.

27. ***House plot:*** A long plot, bordered on the north by a drop down to the terrace of 23, and on the south side by the terrace of 28. The plot continues westwards, possibly as far as the east/west street, though a shallow bank seems to separate it from plot 31.

    House: A rectangular hollow along the street front indicates the robbed site of a house.

28. **House plot:** This plot is bordered on the north by the terrace towards 27, on the east by the street, on the south by a bank running into the modern field boundary, and on the west by a shallow bank.

    House: The large stone pile 73 along the field boundary appears to contain the remains of the walls of a house associated with plot 28.

    Within this field, plot 28 and the opposite plot 10 are apparently the last well-defined burgage plots at the south end of Long Street. However, the street certainly continues south into the next field, and it is likely that there were further house plots there (see 60 to 89 below).

[29-31] BURGAGE PLOTS SOUTH SIDE OF EAST/WEST STREET

Plate 33: Burgage plots on the south side of East/West Street

29.   ***House plot:*** This plot is located on the south-east corner of the bend in the street. It is bordered on the east by a drop to the terrace of 24, on the south by the terrace of plot 30, and by the street on north and west.

   House: A pile of stones is located in the north-east corner, aligned with the street.

30.   ***House plot:*** This plot is bordered on the north by the terrace towards plot 29, on the west by the street, and on the south and east by the higher terrace of plots 26-27. There is no clear indication of a house.

31.   ***House plots:*** The remainder of the south side of the street may be a separate plot, or may consist of the back of plot 27, and the north end of plot 68, where it runs into the east side of the higher terrace of the parish church [1]. The hollows along the street front may be the sites of robbed walls of buildings.

Plate 34: Site 33, looking west

Plots on the north side of the east–west street, beginning at the west end and going eastwards.

32. **Road:** Possible road or path, orientated east-west and leading from the west end of the street to the upper terrace of Belmore House, though lost immediately west beyond the modern boundary.

33. **House plot:** Plot of land orientated north-south, defined on the south side by the street, on the west side by a shallow ditch, on the north side by a step down to the next terrace and a small stone wall, and on the east side by a shallow bank.

    House: A small stone heap is situated in the south-east corner, and a possible house site on the south side on the road.

34. **House plot:** Large plot bordered by a shallow bank on the east and west, the edge of two higher terraces on the south by the street and on the north side by two shallow mounds aligned north-west/south-east (see 35).

    House: In the centre of the plot is a house platform with a stone heap, including remains of a wall.

35. **Path:** A narrow strip of land running north/south, which joins the street at the south end and branches into two towards the north end, presumably a path between the house plots. The west branch is contained between the two shallow banks running along the north side of plot 34. The north branch continues down through the hedgerow into the next plot to the north.

36. **House plot:** This plot (possibly two plots) is bordered by the path 35 on the west side, the street on the south, and an elongated pile of stones along the north-east corner. A shallow bank running down the centre may be a plot division. The plot is cut off at the north end by the hedge, but the west boundary line continues to the north beyond the hedge.

House: There is a pile of stones in the centre of the plot that may represent a house platform, and a mound and stone pile on the road at the south-east corner.

37. **House plot?:** An area of land with the Tower [8] on the east and the street on the south (see 8 above for separate description of the Tower).

38. **House plot:** The well-defined bawn of the tower, consisting of rectangular banks north of the tower (see 8 above).

39. **House plot:** One or more plots at the corner of the street. Not well defined, but containing several stone piles in each corner and sloping down northwards towards wet ground.

40. **House plot:** The ground slopes gently from the east edge next to 22 to the middle of the plot. The west of the plot is defined by a low bank.

House: There are three stone piles aligned along the street which may have formed a building.

[41-48] CLOSES ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE WATER CHANNEL

Plots of land along the water channel are less likely to be occupied plots, and were probably small enclosures for cultivation or animal pasture at the back end of house plots.

Plate 35: Remnant hedgerow near Plot 45

41. Boggy area bordering the south side of an east-west aligned water channel 49, behind plot 20.

42. Plot of land, possibly rear part of 39-40, bordered on the west by two stone piles that might have formed a building aligned north-south.

43. Plot of land, possibly rear part of 39, bordered on the east by the two stone piles, and on the west by a hedgerow that may be marking an older boundary.

44. Plot of land, possibly north part of 36, bordered on the east and south by the hedgerow, on the west by a low bank, and on the north by the water channel 49.

45. Plot divided by low bank, the north part perhaps part of 44, and the south part joining to the path 35, and possibly connected with plot 34. Around here, the hedgerow appears to post-date the plot boundaries and to cut across them.

46. Plot of regular width between bounds of 45 and 47, possibly north part of plot 33, bordered by the channel 49 on the north side.

47. Plot enclosed with banks on all sides (steps down on the east side to plot 46).

48. Plot with banks on north and east, bounded by modern boundary west, where there is an area of wet ground. (See 104 etc. for continuation westwards.)

[49] HOLLOW WAY/?WATER CHANNEL

49. The east-west hollow way (continuing on from 105) takes the form of a wide, shallow ditch with sloping sides. This seems most likely to have been a hollow way (roadway) with a wet ditch on its north side [111]. Due to the high amount of ground water in the area, it may also have been cut to help drain the water off towards the River Nore in the north-east, being used as a track only in drier weather.

Plate 36: The Hollow Way

Plate 37: Water channel, looking east

[50-55] THE NORTH SIDE OF THE WATER CHANNEL

Land divisions along the banks of the Nore are likely to have been areas of pasture divided between the burgesses.

50. Area of land on north side of the water channel stretching down to the bank of the River Nore and bordered on the east side by a step down to the next terrace. The west side is bordered by a hedgerow, but the plot may continue to the west.

51. Area of land on the next terrace to the east, between the water channel and river. It contains a small raised area, possibly an overgrown pile of stones, and a small hollow to the south.

52. A modern culvert over a narrow north-south stream.

53. Area of land on the north side of the water channel, marshy in places.

54. Depression of marshy ground, defined on the north, west and south by gently sloping sides, possibly the robbed foundations of the approach to the bridge [9].

55. East-west area of land enclosed to the north, east and south by sloping sides, stepping down to the surrounding land. Possible dredging upcast?

[56-59] 'RABBIT MEADOW', EAST OF BELMORE HOUSE

Plate 38: The hollow area at Site 58

A series of features possibly associated with quarrying, or with buildings at the west end of the East-West Street, if not manorial buildings such as the dovecote.

56. The outline of three almost rectangular depressions, completely overgrown with grass, forming the outline of possible building with three bays.

(Between 56 and 57, the foundations of a small circular structure might possibly be the base of a dovecote.)

57. Rectangular hollow aligned longitudinally with the south side of the street, indicating the possible presence of a house with a possible plot boundary to the east.

58. A third hollow to the south-east orientated north-south may indicate another building in a possible north-east/south-west plot, leading back from the south side of the street.

59. Out-cropping seams of limestone, with associated hollows, where quarrying activity may have taken place. Located just south of the main quarried hollow.

[60-73] THE WEST SIDE OF LONG STREET, SOUTH FIELD

The field bordering the south side of the Town Field contains further outlines of plots of land, together with the continuation of the street, rising up the hill to the south-west. This field would have been subject to perhaps more vigorous ploughing and grazing than the Town Field, and as a result, the outlines of features are not always so prominent. The plots on the east side of the street are quite well defined, while those on the west side are less so. The field slopes down from the south-west corner, to the north-east, with a general drop-off towards the stream running along the east side.

Plate 39: 'Long Street' south field, looking south

60. **Continuation of 'Long Street':** The street continues from the south edge of the Town Field, through the boundary into the field to the south. It widens as it approaches the southern edge of this second field. East-west aligned plots are seen leading off from the east side of the street, but are less conspicuous on the west side, possibly due to ploughing in the past.

61. A nettle-filled depression in the middle of the street may represent a cleared house platform.

62. A plot of land located by the south boundary of the field, stretching back from the street. It seems to be larger than those of the Town Field, with no house platform, and might have been an agricultural plot or toft.

63. An adjacent plot of similar size, on a lower terrace, bordered by shallow sloping edges, with no house remains.

64. An area of land sloping down to the north-east, containing the remnants of plots and possible structures.

65. A small east-west bank, which may form the north boundary of a plot.

66. A small round hollow, which may be the result of a rabbit burrow, pit or quarrying activity.

67. An elongated hollow on the border of a terrace bank may be the remnants of a house platform.

68. The south end of a plot contained on a terrace that continues north across the modern boundary into the town, and may have fronted on the street (see 31).

69. An irregularly shaped plot on the east side of 67, contained by a bank, and continuing across the modern boundary.

70. A less-defined plot to the east of 68, sloping down to the west side of the street.

71. A partially defined rectangular feature, aligned along the west side of the street, which may be a house platform at the east end of a plot.

72. A nettle-filled depression to the north of 70, by the street edge, which may have been a house platform.

73. A long pile of stones associated with plot 28, aligned along the current field boundary, and the standing remains of a structure, complete with right-angled corners to the internal surfaces of the walls. This is the best-preserved house platform of the site, and may have survived due to its secluded location on the field boundary. The surrounding stone pile is presumably the remains of the collapsed section of the house.

[74-89] THE EAST SIDE OF LONG STREET, SOUTH FIELD

The plots on the east side of the road may have been house plots (and 74-77 could be one or two plots), or just closes for animals.

74. A small nettle-filled hollow east of 72 which may have been the site of a house platform.

75. A partially defined rectangular hollow, aligned with the east side of the street, which may be the house platform for a plot extending to the east.

76. The south-west corner of a plot, defined by the short slope of a terrace. The rest of the south and north boundaries have been lost, but the east side is formed by a gentle slope.

77. A small plot, sloping down to the north-east corner. It is bordered on the west by the street, on the north by the lower terrace of 75, and on the east by a short slope.

78. A north-south slope, forming the remains of the boundaries of plots 74-76.

79. An area of land gradually sloping down from plots 74-76, down to the Arrigle stream.

80. An east-west plot stretching from the east side of the street, sloping down to the east. No signs of a house platform remain.

81. A plot of similar size to plot 80, and located to its east, sloping down to the stream. It is defined by low banks.

82. A plot aligned east-west, defined on the west side by the street.

83. A plot located to the east of plot 82, of similar size

84. A plot located to the east of plot 83, of similar size.

85. A cutting in the riverbank, extending to the north-west. The north side is steep, while the east and west sides slope down to the river. It is thought to have been cut to create a shallow drinking place for livestock. It may have been made while the town was still populated, or after the field was converted to agricultural use.

86. A large terrace which may contain two plots, or as one large agricultural plot. Defined by the street on the west side and the terrace edges on the north and east sides.

87. A lower terrace to the east of 86, which might also have contained two plots.

88. A large area which might have formed one large agricultural plot, or may have been further subdivided by boundaries now gone.

89. An area of similar size to 88, bordered by the south edge of the field.

[90-104] THE LOWER TERRACE, NORTH OF BELMORE HOUSE

Plate 40: A view of Sites 98 and 99

90. This marks the edge of the terrace of Belmore House, enclosed on the south by a hedge, and on the north by the steep slope to the terrace below.

91. A lower terrace which slopes down to the north, but which might have formed a narrow east-west aligned plot.

92. The next terrace below 91, to the north, which might form a narrow east-west aligned plot.

93. A small terrace, bordered by short, shallow slopes, which might form a small plot.

94. A rocky outcrop which may or may not have been worked.

95. A small round depression, filled with nettles, which might have been the site of a house platform.

96. Shallow north-south aligned ditch. It might have been the site of a path leading from Belmore House down to the Hollow Way at the bottom of the hill to the north. Alternatively, it might be a narrow plot of land.

97. An area of land sloping down to the north from the north-west corner of Belmore House terrace.

98. Lower terrace to the north of 97, and to the west of 96, forming a narrow east-west aligned plot.

99. Area of land sloping down from the south-west, towards the bottom of the hill.

100. A north-south aligned plot situated at the north end of the path 96. It may be the continuation of the path, or may be a plot, with a shallow rectangular hollow in the north-east corner, which may have been the remains of a building or boundary wall.

101. A plot of land on the east side of the path, aligned east-west, along the south side of the Hollow Way.

102. A plot of land to the east of 101, aligned along the Hollow Way.

103. A plot of land to the east of 102, aligned along the Hollow Way.

104. A plot of land to the east of 103, aligned along the Hollow Way.

These plots continue across the modern boundary as plots 48 etc.

THE HOLLOW WAY [105]

105. An east-west aligned shallow ditch bordered on the north and south by gently sloping sides. It runs along the bottom of the hill to the north of Belmore House, and leads towards a wider, deeper channel 49 to the east, which may have been a seasonal water channel. The ground along the Hollow Way is quite damp and may have flooded at times, becoming part of the water channel. Plots of meadow land are aligned along either side and there was a possible path leading down to it from Belmore House [96, 100]. Its junction with the water channel is marked by a field boundary and an area of boggy ground.

THE NORTH SIDE OF THE HOLLOW WAY [106-110]

106. A small rectangular plot bordered on the south by the Hollow Way and on the east and west by two shallow slopes that disappear to the north, which may have been ploughed away.

107. A plot of land aligned with the Hollow Way which may continue to the north to plot 110.

108. A narrow plot of land aligned north-south, stretching north from the Hollow Way.

109. A plot of land aligned along the Hollow Way.

110. An east-west aligned plot of land to the north of plots 106 and 107, which may have had similar plots adjacent, but no borders remain.

THE SLUICES OF THE WATER CHANNEL [111-112]

111. A small rectangular hollow, situated on the north bank of the water channel, bordered by short, sloping sides. It may have been employed in an attempt to divert some of the water away from the plots to the south and west, and down to the River Nore to the north.

112. A further rectangular hollow, of larger size, which might have diverted more water, or might be the remains of a plot, with eroded sides.

APPENDIX A

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

Abbreviations

BAR	*British Archaeological Reports*
JRSAI	*Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*
OKR	*Old Kilkenny Review*
PRIA	*Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*

General Sources

Andrews, J.H. (2002)	*A Paper Landscape. The Ordnance Survey in Nineteenth-Century Ireland* (2nd edn, Dublin).
Gwynn and Hadcock (1970)	*Medieval Religious Houses Ireland* (repr. 1988).
Hunt, J. (1974)	*Irish Medieval Figure Sculpture*. 2 vols
Leask, H.G. (1960)	*Irish Churches and Monastic Buildings III. Medieval Gothic, the last Phases* (repr. 1985).
Lewis, S. (1837)	*A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland.*
Orpen, G.H. (1911-20)	*Ireland under the Normans, 1168-1333* (4 vols, repr. 1968, repr. in one vol., 2005).
Ordnance Survey	*Map of Monastic Ireland (2nd edition, 1979).*
Painter, S. (1933)	*William Marshall.*

Record Sources

P.R.O. (1904 -)	*Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem.*
Irish Rec. Comm. (1829-30)	*Chartae, Privilegia et Immunitates, being Transcripts of Charters and Privileges to the Cities, Towns, Abbeys, and other bodies corporate, 18 Henry II to 18 Richard II, 1171 to 1395.*
Ballard, A., & Tait, J. (1923)	*British Borough Charters 1216-1307.*
Bateson, M. (1904)	*Borough Customs* (Selden Society, 18).
Brooks, E. St J. (1950)	*Knights' Fees in Counties Wexford, Carlow and Kilkenny, 13th-15th century* (Irish Manuscripts Commission).
Connolly, P. (2002)	*Medieval Record Sources.*
Curtis, E. (ed) (1932-43)	*Calendar of Ormond Deeds 1172-1603* (Irish Manuscripts Commission), 6 vols.
Dryburgh, P., & Smith, B. (2005)	*Handbook and Select Calendar of Sources for Medieval Ireland in the National Archives of the United Kingdom.*
Morrin, J (1861-4)	*Calendar of Patent and Close Rolls Ireland, Henry VIII – Chas I*

Richardson H.G. & Sayles, G.O. (1947)   *Parliaments and Councils of Medieval Ireland* (Irish Manuscripts Commission).

Weinbaum, M. (1943)   *British Borough Charters 1307-1660.*

Towns and Rural Settlement

Barry, T.B. (1987)   *Medieval Archaeology of Ireland.*

Barry, T.B. (1993)   'Late Medieval Ireland: The Debate on Social and Economic Transformation, 1350-1550', in B J Graham & L J Proudfoot, *An Historical Geography of Ireland,* 99-122.

Barry, T.B. (2000)   'Rural settlement in Medieval Ireland', in T. Barry (ed), *A History of Settlement in Ireland,* 110-123.

Bradley, J. (1985)   'Planned Anglo-Norman Towns in Ireland' in H.B. Clarke & A Simms (eds), *The Comparative History of Urban Origins in Non-Roman Europe* BAR International Series 255 ii.

Bradley, J. (1987)   'Recent Archaeological research on the Irish Town' in H Jäger (ed), *Stadtkernforschung* Bölau Verlag: Köln.

Butlin, R.A. (1977)   'Urban and proto-urban settlements in Pre-Norman Ireland', in R.A. Butlin (ed), *The Development of the Irish Town,* 28-60.

Glasscock, R.E. (1970)   'Moated Sites and Deserted Boroughs and Villages' in N Stephens & R.E. Glasscock (eds), *Irish Geographical Studies.*

Glasscock, R.E. (1971)   'The Study of Deserted Medieval Settlements in Ireland to 1968' in M. Beresford & J.G. Hurst (eds), *Deserted Medieval Villages* .

Graham, B.J. (1977)   'The Towns of Medieval Ireland' in R.A. Butlin (ed), *The Development of the Irish Town,* 28-60.

Graham, B. (1979)   'The Evolution of Urbanization in Medieval Ireland' *Journal of Historical Geography* vol 5, 2, 111-25.

Graham, B.J. (1985)   'Planned Anglo-Norman Towns in Ireland' in H.B. Clarke & A Simms (eds), *The Comparative History of Urban Origins in Non-Roman Europe* BAR International Series 255 ii.

Graham, B. J (1988)   'The Definition and Classification of Medieval Irish Towns' *Irish Geography* vol XXI, 20-32.

Graham, B.J. (2000)   'Urbanisation in Ireland During the High Middle Ages, c.1100-c.1350', in T. Barry (ed), *A History of Settlement in Ireland,* 124-139.

Hilton, R.H. (1992)   *English and French towns in feudal society.*

Mac Niocaill, G. (1964)   *Na Buirgéisí XII – XV Aois*

Mac Niocaill, G. (1985)   'The Colonial Town in Irish Documentation' in H.B. Clarke

	& A. Simms (eds), *The Comparative History of Urban Origins in Non-Roman Europe* BAR International Series 255 ii.
Martin, G.H. (1981)	'Plantation Boroughs in Medieval Ireland, with a Handlist of Boroughs to c.1500', in D.W. Harkness & M. O'Dowd, *The Town in Ireland,* 23-53.
O'Conor, K. (1998)	*The Archaeology of Medieval Rural Settlement in Ireland* (Dublin, Discovery Programme Monographs).
Potterton, M. (2005)	*Medieval Trim. History and Archaeology.*
Thomas, A. (1992)	*The Walled Towns of Ireland* (2 vols).

Kilkenny City and County

Carrigan, W. (1905)	*The history and antiquities of the diocese of Ossory/by the Rev. William Carrigan;* with a pref. by the Most Rev. Dr. Brownrigg. (new edn. with and an introduction by John Bradley 1981), 4 Vols
Empey, C.A. (1971)	'The Cantreds of the Medieval County of Kilkenny' *JRSAI* 101, 128-34.
Empey, C.A. (1990)	'County Kilkenny in the Anglo-Norman Period', in Nolan & Whelan 1990, 75-95.
Hammond, F. (1990)	'Notable Industrial Sites in County Kilkenny', unpublished report for Planning and Environment Section, Kilkenny County Council (January 1990).
Herity, M ed. (2003)	*Ordnance Survey Letters, Kilkenny*
Leslie, J.B. (1933)	*Ossory Clergy and Parishes*
Manning, C. (1999)	'The 1653 survey of the lands granted to the countess of Ormond in Co. Kilkenny', *JRSAI,* 129, 40-66.
McNeill, C. (1931)	*Kilkenny City Records. Liber Primus Kilkenniensis* (Irish Manuscripts Commission); English trans., J. Otway-Ruthven, *Liber Primus Kilkenniensis* (1961).
Murtagh, B. (1994)	'Archaeological Investigations at Dysart, Co. Kilkenny 1989-1994: An interim Report', *OKR* 46 (1994), 78-94.
Nolan, W., & Whelan, K. (1990)	*Kilkenny: History and Society.*
O'Kelly, O. (1985)	*The Place Names of County Kilkenny.*
OPW (1996)	Record of Monuments and Places as Established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. County Kilkenny.
Oxford Archaeology (2005)	*Kilkenny City Walls Conservation Plan* (Heritage Council)
Prim, J.G.A. (1914)	*Nooks and corners of the county Kilkenny* [by John G.A. Prim, formerly attributed to Paris Anderson, with an introduction and notes by Conleth Manning] (new edn., Kilkenny 2003).

Jerpoint Abbey

Conway, C. (1961) 'The origins of Jerpoint abbey, Co. Kilkenny', *Cîteaux; Commentarii Cistercienses,* 14, 293-306.

Hegarty, M. (1971) 'Jerpoint' *OKR* no 23, 4-15.

Langrishe, R. (1906) 'Notes on Jerpoint Abbey, County Kilkenny' *JRSAI 36,* 179-97.

Leask, H. (1939) *Jerpoint Abbey, Co. Kilkenny* (Guidebook).

Leroux-Dhuys, J. (1998) *Cistercian Abbeys: History and Architecture.*

Mould, D.P. (1976) *The Monasteries of Ireland.*

Rae, E.C. (1966) 'The sculpture of the cloister of Jerpoint abbey', *JRSAI,* 96:1, 59-91.

Stalley, R. (1987) *The Cistercian monasteries of Ireland: an account of the history, art and architecture of the White Monks in Ireland from 1142 to 1540.*

Newtown Jerpoint

Foley, C. (1989) 'Excavation at a Medieval Settlement Site in Jerpointchurch Townland, Co. Kilkenny' *PRIA* Vol 89, C, no. 5, 5-126.

Graves, J. (1868) 'Note in Proceedings' J*ourn. Hist & Arch. Assoc. Irel.* Vol I, 11-14.

Kilkenny Arch Soc (nd) 'Survey of Graveyard Inscriptions from the Parish of Thomastown' [including Jerpoint] (unpublished tss).

Kilroy, D. (1990) 'Essay from Project 1989 Irish National Heritage' *OKR 782-4.*

Murtagh, B. (1997) 'An Archaeological Report Concerning Future Conservation Work to the Medieval Parish Church and Graveyard of St Nicholas, Newtown Jerpoint' (unpublished client report).

Murtagh, B (1997) 'The Medieval Parish Church and Graveyard of St Nicholas, Newtown Jerpoint' *OKR* 49, 118-29.

Murtagh, B. (1999) 'Report Concerning the monitoring of the removal of trees and stumps from the graveyard wall surrounding the ruined medieval parish church of St Nicholas Newtown Jerpoint, Co, Kilkenny' (unpublished client report).

Pilsworth, W.J. (1958) 'Newtown Jerpoint' *OKR* 10, 31-35.

Thomastown

Pilsworth, W.J. (1953) *History of Thomastown and District* (repr 1972).

Bradley & Murtagh (2003) 'Brady's castle, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny: a 14th-century fortified town house', in J.R. Kenyon & K. O'Conor, *The Medieval Castle in Ireland and Wales. Essays in Honour of Jeremy Knight,* 194-216.

Murtagh, B (1988) 'The Bridge Castle, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny', in G. MacNiocaill & P F Wallace (eds), *Keimelia. Studies in Medieval Archaeology and History in Memory of Tom Delaney,* 526-555.

Cartographic Sources

National Library of Ireland, Kilkenny Local Studies Library, Bodleian Library, British Library

Down Survey Jerpoint (1657) (Knocktopher Barony); Down Survey Jerpoint (1657) (Gowran Barony). British Library Add. MS 72872; maps repr. Ordnance Survey (1908)

W. Petty, *Hiberniae Delineatio* (1663, published 1685), repr. 1969

Ordnance Survey (1842) *Thomastown and Environs* sheet 28

Ordnance Survey (1842) *Ballyhale, Jerpoint, Inistioge* sheet 32

Ordnance Survey (1842) *Lukeswell and South Ballyhale* sheet 36

APPENDIX B:

HISTORICAL SOURCES FOR NEWTOWN JERPOINT

c.1160   Foundation of Jerpoint Abbey by Donnell MacGillpatrick, King of Ossory.

1192   William Marshal (1146-1219), Earl of Pembroke, took possession of his Irish lands.

c.1200   Newtown presumed founded by Griffin fitz William (Carew), lord of Knocktopher.

1207   The arrival of William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, in Ireland.

1207-11   Kilkenny Borough Charter of William Marshal I
              Chartae Privilegia et Immunitates (1829-30), 33-4 [Memorandum Roll 6 Henry VIII m.15]; A. Ballard, *British Borough Charters* 1042-1216 (1913), xxxiii, cxlvii etc.

1223   William Marshal the younger confirmation charter for St John's Priory in Kilkenny
              William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, confirms to God and St John the Evangelist the site and land in Kilkenny and elsewhere, including 'the church of Haghamaw, and the church of Newtown *[Nova villa],* and the whole benefice of Oldtown *[Veteris villa]*, with all appurtenances in the same vills, both tithes and oblations and obventions, and all other things belonging to these churches. And moreover I have granted, and by this charter confirmed to the same house the tithes of all my mills and my hay in the parishes of these churches.'
              Dugdale, *Monasticon* VI.2 (1830), 1143-44, from transcript of Sir James Ware. The priory or hospital was founded around 1211, but this charter dates from 1223 (Orpen, *Ireland Under the Normans* (1920), iii, 58).

1245   Death of Anselm Earl of Pembroke and division of estate between his sisters.

1247   **Partition of Marshal's estates**
              Henry III orders John fitz Geoffrey, Justiciary of Ireland, to restore to the heirs of Walter Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, all the lands, castles and tenements whereof Walter and Anselm his brother were seised in fee at their death, and whereof partition was made between the heirs by common consent in the king's court at Woodstock.
              [An inspeximus, made in November 1279 for Gilbert de Clare, of letters patent issued at Reading on 9 May 1247 following the partition at Woodstock. The Letters Patent of 1247 do not appear to have been enrolled, but the king witnessed Letters Close at Woodstock between 26 April and 7 May.]
              Cal. Docs. Ireland II, 326, (1618) = *Cal. Patent Rolls* (1272-81), 353.

1247   **Feodary of Richard de Clare, Earl of Gloucester**

The purparty of Richard de Clare, Earl of Gloucester (1222-62),
in Kilkenny includes the homage and services of Matthew son of
Griffin (or Reymund son of Griffin) for 11/2 and 1/4 knights fees in
Knockechnoker and Nova Villa.

> E. St J Brooks, *Knights' Fees in Counties Wexford, Carlow and
> Kilkenny,* (Irish Manuscripts Commission, Dublin 1950), 191.
> [Chancery Miscellanea, PRO[1] C260/77, No. 47 and *Cal. Patent Rolls
> 1364-67,* 271-3 (both these giving fees and names Matthew); *Cal.
> Patent Rolls* (1272-81), 353 (includes place-names and names
> Reymund)].

1252   **Land of Matilda Marshal in Jerpoint**

Mandate to Justiciar of Ireland to take in to the King's hands the new
and old vill *[Novam villam et Veterem]* in the county of Kilkenny which
belonged to Matilda wife of Anselm Marshal, deceased, and look after
it until the king orders otherwise. 1 November.

> *Cal. Docs. Ireland I,* 112 (752) = *Cal. Patent Rolls* 1247-58, 163.

1252   Mandate to John fitz Geoffrey, Justiciar of Ireland, to extend the new
and old town of in the county of Kilkenny, late of Maud sometime
wife of Anselm Marshal, which in consequence of her death the
king has taken in to his own hands, in the presence of the heirs of
Walter Marshal, earl of Pembroke, and to assign their portions to the
coparcenors in his inheritance, and to cause each to have his share. 3
November.

> *Cal. Docs. Ireland II,* 16 (107) = *Cal Close Rolls* 1251-3, 269.

1277   **Agatha of Mortimer's Claim in Jerpoint**

[In the King's Bench, before Ralph Hingham at Westminster, Easter 5
Edward I] Ireland. Agatha de Mortimer appeared on the fourth day
against Agnes de Vescy, William de Mowon, Emeric de Rochechouart,
Matilda his wife, Thomas de Boun, John de Mouhun, and Richard
Bernard, of a pleas, that whereas it appears to the King by inspection
of the rolls of the royal exchequer about the partition of the
inheritance of Walter and Anselm formerly Earls Marshal of England,
that 12 librates, 6 solidates and 10 denariates of land and rent with
appurtenances in Newtown by Jerpoint *[Nova villa iuxta Geripontem]* fell
to the share of Agatha as daughter and one of the heirs of Sibil de
Ferariis sister and one of the heirs of Walter and Anselm, which £12 6s
10d excepting 1 marcate of rent and 27 acres of land in that vill the
defendants unjustly withhold from Agatha against the assignment of
her inheritance and to her great and manifest injury. The defendants
do not come. Robert de Ufford, Justiciary of Ireland, was commanded
to give them notice of judgement, and it is decided that Agatha should
have her seisin in the said purparty by default, and that Agnes and the
others are in mercy.

> *Cal. Docs. Ireland II,* 247 (1333), from Coram Rege 5 Edw I, (31 rot.
> 20 and 32 rot. 8) = KB 27/31 rot. 20, and KB27/32 rot. 8 [now
> number 12] – an incomplete copy of the same.

[1] All PRO references are to the Public Record Office of the National Archives, Kew, London.

1282   **Land of William de Mohun in Jerpoint**

Extent of lands of William de Mohun, died August 1282, made at
Grange Mohun, Ireland...

> *'Jeripunt.* There are 28 acres there in demesne which extend to 28s
> a year, that is 12d an acre. And the eighth part of the mill of that
> vill which extends at 6s 8d. Total 34s 8d.
>
> *Cal. Docs. Ireland II,* 448 (1963) = *Cal. Inq. P.M. II* (1- 19 Ed I), 251
> (436) = PRO C133/30/8 no. 11.

1289   **Extent of the Earl of Gloucester's part of Jerpoint, 22 May 1289**

Extent of the purparty of the borough of the New town of Jerpoint
[nove villa de Jeriponte], and of the Old town, belonging to the Earl of
Gloucester, taken on Sunday after St Dunstan, in the 17th year of the
reign of King Edward by the oaths of:

John Clerk, John le Hethene, Roger le Hethene, John fitz Thomas le
Hethene, William Boneface, Walter le Seriant, Hamund le Seriant,
Thomas Jordan, Henry fitz Gilbert, Roger de Anglia, John Donan, Adam
le Parker and Richard fitz Ralph.

[New town]

**The jurors say that there are certain burgesses there hold 22½
burgages, and pay 12d. a year for each burgage. And to each burgage
belongs six acres of land, of which:**

Thomas fitz John Clerk holds a messuage and three acres of land
paying 6d. a year in equal portions at Easter and Michaelmas, and suit
of court and mill.

Wyn the miller holds 1 messuage paying 12d a year at the same terms
and owing suit as above. To this messuage belong 6 acres of land,
of which Richard fitz Thomas holds 2½ acres by the gift of John de
Logh', Richard fitz Walter holds 1½ acres, Richard fitz John 1½ acres, and
Richard Summoner has ½ acre by the same gift.

William Crekel holds half a messuage and 3 acres of land paying 3d a
year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill as above.

Agnes de Burton' holds 1 messuage and 6 acres of land paying 12d a
year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill as above.

Denis Peris holds 1 messuage and 6 acres of land paying 12d a year at
the same terms and owing suit of court and mill as above.

Walter Godefray holds 1 acre paying 2d a year at the same terms and
owing suit of court and mill as above.

John Colyn holds the third part of a messuage paying 2d a year at the
same terms and owing suit of court and mill as above.

Cristina fitz Walter holds 1½ messuages and nine acres of land paying
19d a year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill.

John Benet holds two parts of a messuage paying 8d a year at
the same terms and owing suit of court and mill as above. To this
messuage belong 4 acres of land which John Clerk holds for a garland
of flowers by the gift of Benedict fitz Walter.

Henry Gebelot holds the third part of this same messuage paying 4d a
year at the same terms. To this third part belong 2 acres of land which
John Clerk holds by the same gift.

William Seccard holds 1 messuage with 6 acres of land paying 12d a year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill.

John de Anglia has 1½ messuages with 9 acres of land paying 18d a year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill.

Richard fitz John holds 1½ burgages with 9 acres of land paying 18d a year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill.

Richard Marescall' holds 1 burgage paying 12d a year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill as above. To this belong 6 acres of land which Walter le Hethene holds by the gift of Robert Arnold paying 12d a year at the same terms to Robert and his heirs.

Juliana fitz Arnold holds 3 burgages and 20 acres of land paying 4s a year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill.

Hamo le Serjant holds 1 messuage paying 16d a year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill. To this messuage belong 6 acres of land which John Clerk holds by the gift of Benedict fitz Walter for a garland of flowers.

Robert Kogyn holds ½ burgage and 3 acres of land paying 6d a year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill as above.

Roysia Longespey holds 2 messuages and 6 acres of land paying 8d a year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill.

John le Hethene holds 1 messuage and 6 acres of land paying 4d a year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill.

Marion' Barun holds ½ burgage and 6 acres of land paying 5d a year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill.

William fitz Roger holds 1 messuage and 6 acres of land paying 13d a year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill.

Richard fitz Thomas holds 2 burgages and 12 acres of land paying 2s a year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill.

Cristina Juvenis holds 2 acres of land paying 4d a year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill as above.

Richard fitz Roger holds 1 acres paying 2d a year at the same terms and owing suit of court and mill.

Total burgesses: 22½
Total rent: 22s. 6d.

They also say that there are certain burgesses, both burgesses and others, who hold a carucate of land paying 4d yearly for each acre, of which:

John Clerk holds in Roslegan	*24 acres paying 8s.a year in equal portions at Easter and Michaelmas.*
John le Hethene holds there	*31½ acres paying yearly at the same terms 10s 6d*
John le Kyng holds there	*6 acres paying yearly at the same terms 2s*
Richard fitz Thomas holds there	*3 acres paying yearly at the same terms 12d*
Walter le Hethene holds there	*2 acres paying yearly at the same terms 8d*
William Sequard holds there	*2 acres paying yearly at the same terms 8d*
John Peris holds there	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
Benet fitz David holds there	*2 acres paying yearly at the same terms 8d*
Richard fitz David holds there	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
Roger Galloc holds there	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*

John fitz Richard holds there	*3½ acres paying yearly at the same terms 14d*
Edmund de Merlawe holds there	*3½ acres paying yearly at the same terms 14d*
Wyn the miller holds there	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
Thomas Barun holds there	*2½ acres paying yearly at the same terms 10d*
Henry Baker [pistor] holds there	*3 acres paying yearly at the same terms 12d*
William Creket holds there	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
Cristiana Giblot holds there	*2 acres paying yearly at the same terms 8d*
Gillastyn holds there	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
Nicholas Godwyne holds	*1½ acres paying yearly at the same terms 6d*
Richard Summoner holds	*1½ acres paying yearly at the same terms 6d*
William Heylot holds	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
Widow of Walter de Aur' holds	*½ an acre paying yearly at the same terms 2d*
Hamo le Serjant holds	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
Richard Reynold holds	*3 acres paying yearly at the same terms 12d*
Walter Jovene holds	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
Roger fitz Thomas holds	*2 acres paying yearly at the same terms 8d*
Richard fitz John holds	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
Richard Marescall' holds	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
Denis Peris holds	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
Widow of Alman' holds	*2 acres paying yearly at the same terms 8d*
The vicar of Geriponte holds	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
Henry Kyng holds	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
William fitz Richard holds	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
Thomas Jordan holds	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
Gilbert de Wautone's heir holds	*3 acres paying yearly at the same terms 12d*
John Godefrey holds	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
John Michel holds	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
Thomas cowherd [vaccar'] holds	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
David Cor' holds	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*
Hugh Polryn[?] holds	*acre paying yearly at the same terms 2d*
Richard Deveneys holds	*1 acre paying yearly at the same terms 4d*

Total acres: 120

Total rent: 40s

[They also say that] ...ugh pays yearly at the same terms 16d for a pasture which is common for other lords of the .... [and] the burgesses of the said borough.

Total 16d.

Sum [total of] rent of the said borough [63s 10d]

More on the back of this extent.

[dorse]

They also say that if a burgess brews, the lord or his bailiff shall have twelve gallons of ale from each brewing *[bracino]*, and a quarter from each gallon before they are sold. And in this way they extend the yearly prise [of ale] by estimate to 3s.

They say that the pleas and perquisites of the hundred of the borough are worth 6s.8d. a year.

If any burgess shall sell his land without any retention, he will give the lord 4d by custom.

Total yearly value of the borough [74s 6d]

OLD TOWN

They also say that John de Rupe holds a carucate of land in Balylawyr by the gift of the Earl Marshal and by his charter, paying 60s a year in equal portions at Easter and Michaelmas, owing suit of court and mill, and relief and maritagium when they occur.

Reginald Levet and Robert, his son, hold two carucates in Killerne that Reginald Gernet once held, doing royal service when it occurs for 4s at the Kilkenny Exchequer, and owing suit of court and mill, and ward, relief and marriage when they occur.

Free tenants by charter:

Geoffrey Calf holds a carucate of land by gift of Robert de Bremelle, paying 16d. a year at the same terms, and also a penny at the same terms which Robert used to receive for warranty *[pro War']*, and owing suit of court and mill as above for everything.

Edmund de Merlawe holds 12 acres of land in Ynchgavellan that John le Taillour once held paying 6s 8d a year at the same terms, owing suit of court and mill for everything.

Total 68s 1d

Tenants at will:

Nicholas Boscher, David fitz Thomas and other Welshmen *[et alii Wallenses]* hold half a carucate of land in Castelgoslyn paying 30s a year (*i.e.* at 6d an acre), which they previously held at a lesser rent while the countess's stud was on that land.

Walter Tony holds 1 acre with a cottage built on it, paying 12d a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court and mill.

Walter le Serjant holds 8½ acres with a cottage built on it, paying 8s 6d a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court and mill, etc.

Adam Galgeyl holds 2 acres with a cottage with a cottage built on it, paying 2s a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court and mill as above etc.

Hugh le Salt' holds a cottage with curtilage, paying 3d a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court and mill as above.

David Kynchilach holds a cottage with curtilage, paying 4d a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court and mill as above.

Adam le Parker has a cottage with curtilage and 1 acre, paying 11d a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court and mill as above.

Walter le Blake holds a cottage, with 3 curtilages and 1½ acres of land, paying 27d a year at the same terms, etc. as above.

Roysia daughter of Richard Batyn holds a cottage with curtilage, paying 3d a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court and mill as above.

Agnes widow of Adam fitz Ralph holds a cottage with curtilage, paying 3d a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court and mill etc.

William Boneface holds a cottage with 2 curtilages and 4½ acres of land, paying 4s 6d a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court and mill.

John Iwenot holds a stang [rood] of land that William Boneface held before, paying 3d a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court etc.

William Boneface holds a cottage with curtilage, paying 2d a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court and mill as above.

John Iwenot holds a cottage with curtilage, paying 3d a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court and mill as above.

Richard fitz Ralph holds 1 acre of land, paying 12d a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court and mill as above.

Richard Deveneys also holds 1 acre of land, paying 12d a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court and mill as above.

Nicholas Oldwhan holds a cottage with curtilage, paying 8d a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court and mill as above.

Widow Malyn holds a cottage with curtilage, paying 3d a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court and mill etc.

Godyn Shepherd [bercar'] holds a cottage with curtilage, paying 3d a year at the same terms, and owing suit of court and mill as above.

<div align="right">**Total: 54s 1d**</div>

They say that all the above cottars who hold at will [ad placitum] give heriot when it occurs, viz. the best beast which he had, and if he had no beast then next what he could pay, and next what he had in goods.

Avowry

They say that William Sequard pays a pound of pepper worth 8d each year from the avowry of his Irishmen [de advocacione Hibernicis suis], of which the Earl takes the third part.

They also say that there is a messuage in which there is a cattle-shed [*boveria*], a tumbledown chamber [camera debil'], a barn [*grangia*] and a sheepfold [*bercar'*], the use [easements] of which is worth 2s a year over and above maintenance. And the same messuage contains, in it self with certain fallow lands lying adjacent, 4 acres and 1 stang, of which two acres are arable. The pasture of each acre is worth 10d, and 2 acres lie outside the close of the haggard. ['2 acres arable' *in margin*]

There is also a garden whose pasture and fruits are worth 3s a year.

They say the pleas and perquisites of the court of *Oldeton'* are worth 4s a year with ward and relief.

Demesne:

In the field of Rathstyng there are 30 acres worth 10d a year for each acre.

In the same field are 2 acres of poorer and fallow land worth 4d an acre.

In the field between the *hagard* and the Grove there are 31 acres worth 10d. an acre.

In the same field there is 1 acre of poorer [*debilior'*] land worth 2d a year.

In the field called Breche there are 35 acres worth 10d. an acre.

In the same field there are 2½ acres of stony ground [*terre petrose*] worth 4d an acre.

In the field by the Grove there are 26 acres of fallow land [*terra frisce*] worth 6d an acre.

In the meadow called *Moraman* there are 10 acres worth 10d an acre.

Total acres: [blank]
Total rent: [blank]

Several pasture:

In Morcony there are 20 acres of pasture worth 4d an acre.

There is also a Grove which contains 14 acres, of which the pasture of each acre is worth 4d.

Pannage of the same grove with nuts [*cum nucibus*] is worth 6d every year.

They also say that all of the above pasture can sustain 12 cows, and the pasture of each cow is worth 8d.

It is also possible to sustain 300 sheep[2] [*bidentes*] on the demesne lands, the pasture, heath [*bruere*] and the mountains beyond the abbey of *Geripont*, by the short hundred [*per minus centum*]. The pasture of ten sheep is worth [*blank*].

They say that the milk [*lactagium*] of one cow is worth 2s. a year de dictis resumption ibus, and the milk of ten mothering ewes [*ovium matricum*]2s.

There is also a pasture there called *Corleth*.

They also say that a suitable plough [una caruca idonea] could plough the entire demesne that was to be ploughed; the ironwork of a plough can be maintained for 5s.6d. a year including the smith's wages; moreover, the shoeing of a horse for ploughing would be worth 12d. a year. The lord's plough can usually plough half an acre of land a day, while a suitable horse can harrow an acre in a day. The ploughing of an acre is worth 8d.in whatever season, the harrowing 2d, and the weeding to ½ d an acre. The reaping of an acre of wheat and oats is worth 7d, the carriage of corn 2½d an acre, and the threshing and winnowing of each ... of corn is as in the extent of Dunfert.

> PRO, Rentals and Surveys, SC 11/794. Transcript of Dr Mary Lyons, compared by JTM to ms and the printed translation by Dryburgh & Smith, *Handbook* (2005), 258-63.

---

[2] Either 300 or 400 (parchment damaged).

1296   **Land of William de Valance, Earl of Pembroke in Jerpoint**
Inquest post-mortem at Wexford, Tuesday after St Catherine, 25 Edward
[27 November]. William held Wexford with its members, viz the manor
of Odough, county Kilkenny 'together with a certain piece [*particulam*]
of land at *Jeripound* in the same county'.

    Cal. Docs. Ireland IV, 143, (306) = *Cal. Inq. P.M. III (20-28 Ed I)*, 222
    (362) = PRO C133/76/2 nos 16 & 17.

1306   **Land of Agatha of Mortimer in Jerpoint**
Inquest post-mortem at Clonmel, Monday before the Nativity of BVM 34
Edward I [5 September] for lands in Wexford, Kildare and Kilkenny.
'And she held 160 acres of land at Jerpoint *[Jeripontem]* in County
Kilkenny, worth 40s a year; and she held a mill there and 40 acres of
land worth 50s a year.'

    Cal. Docs. Ireland V, 158-9 (538) = *Cal. Inq. P.M. IV (29-35 Edward I)*,
    244 (373) = PRO C133/122/6 no. 538.

1307   **Gilbert of Bohun, Jerpoint Mill**
Gilbert of Bohun, knight, grants to Mautrice fitz Maurice and his heirs
forever two marks annual rent which John the Clerk of Jerpoint used
to pay him, viz. for half a carucate of land in *Corbali in Halecan* and
from his [Gilbert's] part of the mill of Jerpoint, which land and free
tenement have come in fee into the hands of the said Maurice by
free enfeoffment of the above John the Clerk. Dated New Ross, Ash
Wednesday, 35 Edward I [8 Feb 1307].

    Curtis, *Ormond Deeds I*, 160 (411).

1307   **Lands of Joan Countess of Gloucester** [1295-1307] **in Jerpoint**
Extent of the lands and tenements which belonged to Joan Countess
of Gloucester and Hertford at the Old town of Jerpoint [*veterem Villam
Jeripont'*] made there before Walter de la Haie Eschaetor of Ireland on
Monday the octave of Trinity, 36 Edward [29 May].
Free tenants include 'Burgesses of the New town of Jerpoint [*nove Ville
Jeripont'*] hold their burgages with the land belonging to them and pay
22s 6d a year and do suit at their hundred. The same burgesses hold
one carucate of land at Roslygan and pay 40s a year. John Sacward
pays the third part of a pound of pepper worth 8d a year for the
advowry of his Irishmen.'

    Cal. Inq. P.M. IV (29-35 Ed I), 329 (435) = PRO C133/130 no. 74.

1307   **Land of Joan of Valence, Countess of Pembroke in Jerpoint**
New town of Geriponte: There are in the new town of Jerpoint [*nova
villa de Geriponte*] 54 burgesses who pay 54s a year. There are also ....
worth £6 15s a year and used to be worth £8 15s. And there are ......
rent who used to pay 16s 4d. Perquisites of court worth 2s a year. Total
£10 (16s?).

    Cal. Inq. P.M. V (1-9 Edward II), 22 (56) = PRO C134/4/1.

1311 **Walter Been found guilty of burning a house in Newtown**
Pleas of the Crown and Gaol Delivery at Dublin, July 1311
Walter Been, charged that he burnt a house of the abbot of Geripont
at the new town of Geripont, comes and defends, etc. Richard son of
John*, Richard Deveney*, Nicholas Godwyn, Richard son of John Clerk*,
John son of ...., John Bowey, William Webbe, Roger Mouner, Roger
Hethene*, Walter Godefray*, John Hykeday, John Michael* jurors, say
that Walter is guilty. Therefore let him be hanged. Chattels, six sheep
worth 6s, for which John the clerk of Cnoktofre will answer, one faling
worth 5s, for which Thomas Box will answer, one over-garment worth
12d, for which the said Thomas will answer, two crannocks and a half
and two bushels worth 5s, for which Richard de Vale will answer. He
has no free land.

> *Calendar of the Justiciary Rolls Ireland I to VII years of Edward II.*,
> 220-21. Note that half the jurors (marked*) are men of Jerpoint.

1313 **Lands of Joan of Hastings in Jerpoint**
Inquest post-mortem at Tristeldermot, Eve of the Ascension 6 Edward II
[23 May], before Walter of Islip, Eschaetor of Ireland, and 18 jurors.
'Manor and castle of Oboy, held in chief of the king... together with the
fourth part of a mill and 40 acres of land in *Geripound'* in the Liberties
of Kilkenny which are members of the said manor.'

> *Cal. Inq. P.M. V (1-2 Edward II)*, 232 (412) = PRO C134/31/1 nos 16-17.

1314 **Death of Gilbert of Clare at Bannocknburn**
Writ sent to Irish Eschaetor to send returns, 20 June 1315; with reply
stating that a full inquest with particulars of lands in Kilkenny were
returned to the Chancery of Ireland more than a year ago, by writ of
said Chancery, by which inquest the Chancellor of Ireland had assigned
her dower to Matilda late wife of the Earl.

> *Cal. Inq. P.M. V (1-9 Ed II)*, 337 (538).

1314-16 **Post-mortem accounts of lands of Gilbert of Clare in Jerpoint**
Accounts of the keepers of the earl's lands from 24 June 1314 to
25 February 1316, with a brief mention of income from *Nove ville
Geripontis,* but no details.

> PRO SC6/1239/13 (Keeper's accounts for 7-9 Edward II – 1313-16).
> For context of account, see R. Frame, 'The Campaign against the
> Scots in Munster, 1317', *Irish Historical Studies* xxiv (1985), 361-72,
> repr. in *Ireland and Britain 1170-1450* (1998), 99-112.

1317   **Division of the Clare estates**

Division of the county of Kilkenny between the daughters of Sir Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hereford.

(i) Sir Hugh Despenser and Eleanor his wife: knight's fees in Knocktopher and Jerpoint (see below).

(ii) Sir Hugh de Audele and Margaret his wife: the manor of the Old town of Jeriponte, £16; the burgagery of the New town of Jeriponte, £76 3s ¼d.

(iii) Sir Roger Damary and Elizabeth his wife: (nothing in Jerpoint).

PRO C 47/9/23 Partition of the lands and fees of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hereford: purparty of Hugh de Audele and Margaret his wife; with copies of writs to the escheator and the Chancellor of Ireland [11 Edw II]. C. McNeill, *Kilkenny City Records. Liber Primus Kilkenniensis* (Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1931), 55; English trans., J. Otway-Ruthven, *Liber Primus Kilkenniensis* (1961), 121-3. The marginal note 'still in dower' may refer to Jerpoint.

1317   **Feodary. Knights fees of Hugh le Despenser and his wife Alianora in Jerpoint**

Walter de Cusac (late of James le Butler), 1¾ fees in *Knottefre et Nova Villa Gerpontes* (*Cnoctofre et Nova Villa Jeriponte*).

E. St J Brooks, *Knights' Fees in Counties Wexford, Carlow and Kilkenny*, (Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1950), 193 [PRO, Chancery Miscellanea, C47/9/24 (and variant from British Library MS Add. 4791)].

1324   **Lands of Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke in Jerpoint**

'Extent of lands and tenements at old town of Jerpoint [*veterem villam Jeripontis*] once Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, taken at Kilkenny before Walter de la Putl' Eschaetor in Ireland, 23 July 10 Edward II.

John de Mayne	John fitz Nich'	Ric fitz Ric	John de Mold
John Calf	Ric fitz Thos	Rob fitz David	Steph. fitz David
John Ch'cum	Thos fitz Ric	Walter Serjante	Will Devenald
John Chernand	Will fitz Thos	John Bullock servient'	Roger Galliard

Buildings: Who say that in the purparty of Aymer de Valence at old town there are no buildings.

Demesne: There are six score (120) acres of arable in demesne which used to be under the lord's plough [*sub carucis domini*] which extends at 70s a year.

Pasture: 40 acres of '*more pastur et bruseti*' extends at 6s 8d a year and no more because there are no animals there. At Balygraynagh there is one carucate of land which extends at 20s a year and is barren and little used [*debil' et minus usitata*]. There is a certain island there which fell to the lord by escheat which extends with the vill.

Free tenants: John de Mayne holds three carucates in Kywlenyn freely paying 25s at Easter and Michaelmas and suit of court. The heirs of John Sekeward pay for the advowry of their Irishmen 4d a year at Michaelmas. There are certain burgesses there who pay 46s a year for

their burgages at Easter and Michaelmas; each of them does suit at the Hundred every fortnight [*de quinden' in quinden'*].

Pleas and perquisites: Pleas and perquisites of the Hundred there extend to 12d a year and no more because they are poor. Pleas and perquisites of the court extend to 6d a year and no more for the same reason.'

> *Cal. Inq. P.M. VI (10-20 Edward II)*, 327 (518) = PRO C134/84, no. 72.

1331 **A raid on Thomastown and Jerpoint, 2 May**

'In the same year on the vigil of Alexander the Confessor the Irish kerns (*satellites*) of William de Birmingham with *Cantitonensibus* and Irish, killed 24 men from Thomastown and Jerpoint and did many evil deeds in that county in this year.'

> R. Butler (ed.), *The Annals of Ireland by Friar John Clyn* (1849), 23. New edition, ed. B. Williams (2007).

1340 **Robberies in Ossory**

King Edward to the Sovereign and bailiffs of Kilkenny, since no merchants dare to come into parts of Ossory on account of recent robberies on merchants and the detention of them and their goods for ransom, commands them to find out who is responsible and apprehend them (18 September 14 Edward I, Kilkenny).

> *Liber Primus Kilkenniensis* (1961), 17.

1364 **Rents of Henry Watown in Jerpoint**

Gilbert Watown was enfeoffed by Richard son of Walter de Burgo[3] with rents, etc. [apparently including the following]:

Copy of rental of chief rents of Henry Watown, made before the reeve [provost] *of Jerpoint 38 Edward III [136-65] as follows:*

Also the burgesses of Newtown of Jerpoint pay 25s and the third part of the [profit of] the court of the said vill per annum.

Also there are in the said vill one messuage and 80 acres of land situated between Thomas Shortals messuage and the land of the vicar of Jerpoint.

Also [land in Balnecroneght and Gortynkeheryn].

Also in demesne in the Oldtown 120 acres of which each acre is worth 1s and a third part of the court of Oldtown.

Also [land in Kylbleyn and Ballenecroneght].

Also Sir Maurice Marchall of Jerpoint renders 3s 4d a year for his burgages.

Also William Hethyn of the same vill 3s 4d a year.

Also Thomas Shortals for his burgages 12d a year.

The Prior of St John the Evangelist near Kilkenny[4] for his burgages 2s 6d

Richard Stewyn for his burgages 2s 6d.

Patrick Mordyn for his burgages per annum 4d.

(Notarial copy (made in 1526) of articles brought by Edward Watoun following a fire in his house which destroyed his box of charters, as witnessed by various people including Sir Thomas Mordyn, a monk of Jerpoint).

> *Cal. Ormond Deeds II*, 339-41 (433).

---

[3] i.e. Richard III, Earl of Ulster, died 1326.

[4] As rector of the parish church

1374 **Murage Grant to Thomastown, 1 March**

The King to the Provost and Community of Thomastown in County Kilkenny, considering that the town is in the marches of the county near the Irish enemies and rebels and that his faithful men in parts adjacent have been greatly plundered and destroyed by those enemies, and the good place that the men of the town hold in those marches, and so earnestly desiring the rebuilding, improvement and fortification of the town by enclosing the town with a stone wall, by his special grace grants that the town may collect customs for 20 years [details given] to be spent on the murage of the town and not elsewhere, and that they clean the streets and lanes of the town of all filth year by year, keeping annual accounts with the Bishop of Ossory and the Abbot of Jerpoint.

> *Chartae Privilegia et Immunitates* (Irish Record Commission, 1829-30), 68 [from the lost Irish Patent Roll 49 Edw. III m.11 d].

1375 **Murage Grant to Newtown Jerpoint, 8 April**

The King to the Provost and Community of the town of Jerpoint [*ville de Jeriponte*] Greeting! **Know that we**, for the aid and repair [*auxilium et reparacionem*] of the bridge on the River Nore [*Noor*] next the said town as also for maintenance and improvement [*sustentacionem et emendacionem*] of a tower and gate on the south end of the bridge for resisting our wandering enemies and rebels with the same bridge by day and night [begun] **have granted** you and your successors that you make take the customs written below from all goods for sale [*rebus venalibus*] carried or crossing beyond the bridge both from cities and boroughs and from other vills and places from which the said goods for sale come or cross from beyond the bridge, from the day of this deed to the end of ten years next following fully completed, that is to say:

From each crannock of all kinds of corn for sale ½ d
From each crannock of salt for sale ½ d
From each horse, mare, nag, ox, cow for sale ½ d
From each carcase of ox or cow for sale ½ d
From every hide of ox or cow, nag, horse or mare, fresh salted or tanned for sale ¼ d
From 5 bacons for sale 1 d
From 10 sheep or goats for sale 1d
From 5 pigs for sale ½ d
From 10 lambs for sale ½d
From 100 skins of sheep, wool fells or shorling [*shorlingorum*] 2 d
From each 100 of skins of lambs, *blotfell*, goats, hares and rabbits, for sale ½d
From each 100 of Irish cloth for sale 4d
From each 100 of linen cloth for sale 2d
From each whole English cloth of whatever colour for sale1d
From each whole Irish cloth for sale ½d
From each frieze coak [*faling'*] for sale ¼d
From each hogshead [*dol'*] of wine for sale 4 d

From each 100 of iron for sale 4 d

From each 100 of hemp [*canabo*] for sale 4 d

From each dozen of salmon or lamprey for sale 4 d

From each wey of tallow grease butter and cheese for sale ½ d

From each cart of tan [*Tandoust*] for sale 1 d

From each mease of herrings for sale 1 d

From each seam of seafish fresh or salted for sale ½ d

From 1000 of whatever nails for sale 1 d

From each 100 of dried fish for sale 1d

From each 100 of eels for sale ½ d

From each 100 of teasles for sale ½ d

From each 100 of whatever brass or copper kitchen ware (*baterie*) worked or not worked 2d

From 2 shilling's worth of whatever goods for sale not listed here ½ d

And therefore we order you that you may take the aforesaid customs coming and going on the said bridge until the end of the said term as aforesaid, and that the money collected is spent on the repair and improvement of the said bridge, tower and gate, and not elsewhere. And that at the end of each year of the said term you will faithfully return the due and customary accounts for it before the venerable father in Christ the Bishop of Ossory and the Abbot of Jerpoint for the time being, or others if required by the Bishop and Abbot, and not at our Irish Exchequer. And at the end of the said term the said custom shall completely cease and terminate. In witness whereof etc. the said Governor at Dublin, 8 April [49 Edward III].

> *Chartae Privilegia et Immunitates* (1829-30), 69 [from the lost Irish Patent Roll 49 Edw. III m.5f].

1375   **Murage Grant to Kilkenny**

King Edward grants the Sovereign and community of Kilkenny, for mending and repair of the walls paving and bridge, licence to take customs on goods brought to the town for sale, for seven years from December 10; [details].

> *Chartae Priv. et Immun.* 69-70 [from lost Irish Patent Roll 49 Edward III m.12f - 1 July 49 Edw III]; printed in Appendix of *Kilkenny City Walls Conservation Plan*.

1388   **Grant of the Vicar of Jerpoint**

Henry Lang, chaplain, Vicar of Jerpoint, gives and grants to Thomas Seys, chaplain, Robert Kyng, chaplain, John Shortals and Roger Ragyut all his lands, tenements, ponds, and fisheries which he holds in Jerpoint and Gowlan. To have and hold to them and their heirs of the chief lords of those fees for ever. Saturday after Octaves of Michaelmas 12 Ric. II [10 Oct 1388]. Witness Walther Hethyn, Gilbert Lang, Andrew Walshe, David Devenysh, Thomas Graunt, Robert Mythe, Walter Cole, and Thomas Shortals [seal].

> *Cal. Ormond Deeds II*, 209 (288).

1391   **Grant of Despenser to Ormond**
Sir Hugh le Despenser grants to James le Botiller, Earl of Ormond, Kilkenny castle, etc, ... and all his lands etc in ... *Cnoctoffre, Novell Villa de Jeripont*. 4 September.
> *Cal. Ormond Deeds II*, 213 (297 (1)) (and other related transactions).

c.1413   **Royal service of Rent to the Lord of Knocktopher**
Total £3 10s, of which Newtown of Jerpoint 21s 8d.
The New town of Jerpoint by the hands of David Chepman 20s.
> *Cal. Ormond Deeds II*, 316, 319 (424).

1419   **Services of the Lord King in County Kilkenny**
(i) A knights fee and a half and a fourth part in the town of Knoctofyr and Newtown Jerpoint £3 10s.

(ii) Inquisition at Corbaliesford, 29 November 1419 about the parcels of royal service divided between the Barony of Knoctopher and the Newtown of Jerpoint. [Jurors named] Who say on oath that the barony of Knoctoffre is charged with 38s 4d of royal service when scutage runs. And it is divided thus, viz. Dyrnechurch 10s, Kiltorcane 10s, Kilhyrrill 5s, Haghbillyr 10s, Ballygeragh 11d, and Gybboteslonde is charged with 16s 8d (?). The Newtown of Jerpoint 30s 8d. And because the three lords of Jerpoint are not able to raise the said 21s 8d (sic) from their free tenants, they are accustomed to pay commonly by equal portions out of their own goods until such time as they are able to assess their tenants by some right of enfeoffment in dischharge of their said obligation to royal service.
(iii) Royal services due from the Lordship of Knocktopher... Newtown Jerpoint 21s 8d.
> *Cal. Ormond Deeds III*, 21, 23, 24 (35).

1420   **Collection of Subsidy in Kilkenny**
Indenture of 8 June 1420 with James Butler, Earl of Ormond, for collection of subsidy in County Kilkenny, names the provost of Jerpoint [*prepositus de Ieriponde*] along with the provosts of other towns as collectors for the county.
> Richardson & Sayles, *Parliaments and Councils of Mediaeval Ireland*, (I.M.C., 1947), 133, from PRO E101/247/16. Also December 1420 (p.161) and October 1421 (p.177).

1426   **Rental of the Lordship of the Earl of Ormond**
Reddit burgagerie de Jeripont 11s [not 12s.]
Reddit' montan' ibidem 3s 4d.
Oldtown 20s.
> *Cal. Ormond Deeds III*, 59 (70); National Library of Ireland, D1598.[5]

1464/5   **Rental of the Earl of Ormond in County Kilkenny**
Parcel of receipts by Walter Glerne;
Reddit' burgagerie de Knoktoffre per annum £3 9s
Reddit' burgagerie de Jeripont per annum 24s 8d
Reddit de Oldtown per annum 13s 4d
(dorse mentions another Jerpoint rent of 7s 21/2d)
 Cal. Ormond Deeds III, 196 (219); NLI, D1787.

1464   **Rental of the burgage of the town of Knocktopher and also Jerpoint and Callan**
[Poor condition; heading illegible]
Reddit' Burg' de Jeripont 10s?
Reddit' Montano ibidem 3s 4d
[Geritlde?] *Rothe per firma de Oldton* – sum illegible
 Cal. Ormond Deeds III, 197 (220); NLI, D1788.

1472   **Memorandum of the rents of the Earl of Ormond**
Memorandum of the rents of John Botyller, earl of Ormond received by James Botiller yearly, from the time when the same had crossed the sea to Portugal in the year 1472.
On the dorse: Parcel of receipts of Walter Glerne:
Reddit' burg' de Knoctofre per annum £3 9s
Reddit' burg' de jeryponte [-] montane ibm' per annum 24s 8d
 Cal. Ormond Deeds III, 212 (234); NLI, D1807.
[The 'heathland and the mountains above the abbey of Jeripoint' were also mentioned in 1289, and were mapped on the Down Survey, 1657].

1534   **Jerpoint in the fitzgerald rebellion**
Thomas fitzgerald and his confederates 'burnt and wasted the countrie of Kilkenny to Thomastown'....'fitzgirald his approach toward these confines bruted the earl of Ossorie, and his son the lord Butler, with all the gentlemen of the countrie of Kilkennie, assembled neere *Jeripon*, to determine what order they might take, in withstanding the invasion of the rebels' An approach being made to fitzgerald 'then readie to encampe himselfe at Thomastowne', they were chased back to the hill where the gentlemen were, and all fled away.
 Richard Stanihurst, *A Continuation of the Chronicles of Ireland, comprising the reigne of king Henrie the eight*, in the second part of Raphael Holinshed's *Chronicles* (1577, 2nd edn of 1587), p.93.

1540   **Dissolution survey of lands of Jerpoint Abbey, 18 March 1540, 7 January 1541**
In Jerepounte 16 messuages, 8 cottages, 240 acres arable and divers tenants, a water mill worth 53s 4d, tithes 66s 8d, altarage 60s.
In 'Newtown of Jerypounte' a burgage with 5 gardens, 4s 8d, and another burgage called Marschalls corte, 6s 8d; now detained by the Earl of Ormond who pays nothing.
Tithes of Great burgage, 13s 4d held by the Countess of Ormond.
 N.B. White, *Extents of Irish Monastic Possessions 1540-41*(Irish Manuscripts Commission 1943), 181-3 [from PRO SP65/3/1 and 3].

1546 **Will of James Earl of Ormond** (died 28 October 1546)

Item, Nicholas White to have ten poundes Irishe of the ferm of Geripont to kepe him at the Ynnes of Courte yerlie, and the Lytle Yland, he being bound to my son as his father was to me according to the discretion of my executors.

    Cal. Ormond Deeds IV, 294 (352 [5]).

1546 **Inquisition of death of James Earl of Ormond**

........Three meases, 60 acres of arable and 20 acres of pasture with appurtenances in Gerepont.........

Members of the manor of Knocktopher: ..... Holdings in the New Town of Gerepont, by 26s 8d royal service.

    Cal. Ormond Deeds IV, 302, 303 (361).

1591 **Kilkenny towns 'of name'**

An account of the province of Leinster in the State Papers reports that the 'Towns of name' in County Kilkenny are Kilkenny, Callan, Thomastown, Jerypond and Inisteocke.

    Calendar of State Papers, Ireland 1601-3, 599.

1595-6 **Agreement with tenants of the Earl of Ormond, 1595-6**

Signed agreements by tenants of the Earl of Ormond to pay rent to his feoffees [bundle of individual slips of parchment, with signatures of tenants or witnesses, dated between October 1595 and April 1596, in this form:]

Be it known that I [name] tenant of the right honourable Earl of Ormond and Ossory, of [place or holding], do agree to pay rent to his feofees to wit Patrick Sentleger, John Lewes Bryan, Thomas Archer, John Alward et al.

[a] *Oliver Walton of the manor of Jeripont and Rosbolte* [with signature].

[b] *Donogh obroder, Nicholas Walshe, Margarett Nyen, Donogh odonle, Derby obrin* [name deleted], *Donogh obrin, Johan Forstall, tenants of longe stret of Jeripond* [none signed].

[c] *Patrick fitz David of Purcells house in Jeripond* [not signed].

    Curtis, *Ormond Deeds VI*, 89 (114); NLI, D3241.

1614 **Rental of Newtown Jerpoint**

'James Hanraghan serjeant of the barony of Knoctopher (f.55 heading; dated 1614 at head of f.55v.)

'Rent belonging to the manor of Knoctopher' includes:

    Jeripond 6s

    Purcels House in Jeripond 7s 6d

    Watons farm in Jeripond £5 10s

    Katherine Jobsy(?) for the mill of Jeripond. The farm being at £4 10s. £5

'Cottiers of the Longe Stret in Jeripond' (f.55v)

Patrick Germent for Derby O Browns mes[suage]e   2s 6d

James White his mese there   2s 6d

Ullige Borkes mese there   2s 6d

Margaret mc ewes mese there   2s 6d

Teig O Broders mese there   2s 6d

Wm mc Doddy his cottage   6d

Padin O Quin for Johan Forstall fearme   15s 1d

Ardshina Piers fitz wm tenant   2s 6d

There are some more entries but it is not clear if they refer to Jerpoint.

Rentals of Ormond properties in Cos Kilkenny, Carlow, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, Kildare and Dublin. [1574-1658]: NLI, MS 2506 (bound volume of 229 folios).

1622 **Visitation of churches in the Diocese of Ossory**

[*Under heading of St John's, Kilkenny*] 'The Church and Chancell of Jerpont is well repayred, Walter Barry is vicar thereof, and serveth the Cure himself [*marg.note:* 'An honest Minister']. Valet Rector' per ann. £40 ster. Valet Vicar' per ann. £15 ster.'

'The Monasterie of Jerpont is all in ruyne, Thearle of Ormond is fermour therof, There is no vicar endowed upon the said monasterie. The Rectorie and vicaradge of Jerpont before Specified is noe part of the said Monasterie of Jerpont, but belongeth to the Monasterie of St Johns aforesaid. Valet £60 per ann.'

Walter Barry was admitted and inducted to Jerpoint vicarage on 13 December 1610 (note at f.44), and was or had been Rector of Listerling (1591), Rector of Bewley (1594), and Chancellor of the Diocese (1610).

> *The Bishop of Ossories Certificate of the estate of that Diocese* [1622], Lambeth Palace MS 2013, f.10; formerly in St Paul's Cathedral Library, as noted by P.B. Phair, 'Seventeenth century regal visitations', *Analecta Hibernica*, 28 (1978).

1653 **Survey of Lands Granted to the Countess of Ormond**

New Jeripont, of arable 307 acres 122 perches; course pasture 1/4 waste 225 ac. 24 p.; rocky mountain 1/15th profitable 307 ac. 122 p.; meadow 5 ac.; Here is a small castle, a corn mill in repair a pigeon house and several thatched cabins. *Total 845 ac. 108 p.*

> C. Manning, 'The 1653 Survey...', *JRSAI* 129, (1999), 57 [NLI, MS 2499, p.172 (6)].

1657 **Down Survey of William Petty**

Map of Knocktopher Barony by William Wright, 1657, includes 'Part of Jerpoint Parish', with numbered townlands (f.6).

Schedule (f.7v) includes:

61 Jerpoint	605 ac.	Earl of Ormond, delinquent
61p Fursy and pasture	221 ac.	Earl of Ormond
61c Mountain controversie	23 ac.	~

66	Old Towne	205 ac	Edmund Shahill
67	Cottrells Boly	576 ac	Countess of Ormond
68	Waltons Grove	319 ac	William Walton

The improvements are as followeth, viz. ..... in Old Towne a Castle and some cabins..... in Waltons Grove a castle and some cabins........'

British Library, Petty Papers, Down Survey, Vol 28 (F), Additional MS 72872.

1837   **Lewis *Topographical Dictionary***

[Jerpoint Church] 'The ruins of the church are almost covered with ivy, and near it are some ancient monuments. The existence of the foundations of houses renders it probable that there was formerly a town here.'

S. Lewis, *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* (1837) ii, 29b.

1839   **Ordnance Survey mapping of Jerpoint**

Survey books and materials for the field survey of Jerpoint Church parish in June 1839.

National Archives of Ireland, OS records (in which for each class the parish number is c.461): OS.58 c.461; OS.104 c.461; OS.105 c.461.

1868   **Meeting of Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society Report on Proceedings:**

THE EXTINCT TOWN OF JERPOINT.

Mr. Hunt, of Belmore, sent a flooring tile, an iron door key, a fragment of a globular wine bottle, and some window glass, discovered in exploring amongst the foundations of one of the dwelling-houses of the ancient but long extinct town of Jerpoint, near the ruins of the abbey of that name. The Rev. James Graves gave an account of the old town of Jerpoint. The only remains apparent at present of it are some piles of stones, pieces of wall, and the ruins of its church. In his youthful days the line of the streets was quite apparent, marked by the foundations of the walls of the rows of houses, and the extent of the town was thus traceable at the time. The abutment of the ancient bridge which connected the town with the east bank of the river Nore was also then more obvious than at present, although he believed a couple of small land arches still remained on the east side. According to tradition, King William III marched with his army over the bridge. If that were so, the bridge would seem to have existed at least a century after the town had gone to utter decay; but when the bridge itself had fallen, did not appear. At what seemed to be the intersection of the two principal cross-streets of the town, and which tradition termed 'the market place' an immense old tree had been growing, and it was said that people scraping its bark found nails and spikes therein, by which notices and proclamations had been affixed to it in

the olden time. The tree certainly had all the appearance of being at least 800 years old, and therefore might possibly have been growing in the market place of the town before the latter had been deserted. Having stood the storms of centuries, this old tree lately, on a calm day, from sheer old age, fell down and now lay upon the ground. It was 21 feet in circumference beneath the spring of the arms. He had stood at one side of the trunk a few days since, and another person six feet in stature at the other side, and they could not see each other over it. The town, which was a trading town in the reign of King John, and possessed a corporation soon after, if not then, was anciently known as 'The New Town of Jerpoint', and sometimes, for shortness, as 'New-town Jerpoint.' Neighbouring it was the townland of 'Old-town Jerpoint,' where possibly a more early town, of which no trace had come down to modern tines had existed. In 1375, King Edward III made a special grant to 'the Provost and Commons of the Town of Jerpoint,' which was on record amongst the Irish Patent Rolls (Rot. Pat. 49 Ed. III., m.52) granting them, 'for the repair of the bridge over the Nore, near the said town, and of the tower and gate on the southern end of said bridge, in order to repel enemies, &c., 'the right of levying certain tolls and customs 'from all saleable commodities carried over said bridge, for ten years.' No doubt a great source of trade to the town was the supplying of provisions, &c., to the great Cistercian Abbey of. Jerpoint, situate within a few hundred yards from it; and probably the chief cause of the town's decay was the loss of that trade when the Abbey was suppressed. The tradition of the district, however, was that when 'Silken Thomas,' of Kildare, went into rebellion against King Henry VIII, having encountered at Jerpoint a force brought against his army by the Lord James Butler, eldest son and heir of Pierce Earl of Ormonde, and the Butlers having been defeated, and their leader, Lord James, severely wounded, Silken Thomas burned the town of Jerpoint, after which it was never re built or re-inhabited. According to the local legends, there had been fourteen wine-taverns among the trading establishments of Jerpoint; and perhaps they had a relic from one of these taverns in the fragment of ancient bottle among the objects now presented by Mr. Hunt. He might mention that Mr. Hunt was the owner of the land, but Mr John Hutchinson had been the tenant in possession till some years since; and as it was fine fertile land – one of the richest alluvial 'inches' on the Nore – Mr Hutchinson had considered the foundations of the old town a great detriment to profitable cultivation, and he therefore gave the land for two years as potato-ground to some labourers, on the agreement of their removing those foundations, and piling up the stones into the number of cairn-like heaps in which they were seen at present. But although the traces of the old streets which he remembered to have been plainly visible, were thus obliterated, still the labourers, as it were, only scratched the surface, removing just as much of the walls as gave sufficient depth for potato tillage, and probably leaving the floors of all the houses untouched, so that an exploration might lay open an Irish Herculaneum

here. One examination, on a small scale, had been already made, and although the results were small — the objects now before the meeting being the produce of the digging — still he had no doubt that more extensive excavations would lead to much more interesting discoveries. In looking for sand, Mr. Hunt had discovered traces of the tiled floor of one of the houses of the old town. He (Mr Hunt) had informed him (Mr Graves) of the circumstance, and invited him to attend a further examination. He went there accordingly, a few days since, and Mr. Hunt's labourers, in his presence, cleared out the ground floor of one house comprising a large apartment, apparently used as a kitchen, from the great fireplace which it contained, and off which were partitioned two small rooms. The partitions were formed of mud, and the floors of the rooms were of clay; but nearly the entire of the kitchen floor was tiled over with large, thick red tiles, of which they a specimen before them — obviously there had originally been an entire tile flooring. The fragment of a bottle and the window glass were found amongst the rubbish cleared out; and a small heap of coal — the Castlecomer anthracite — was found near the fireplace, showing that the 'Kilkenny stone coal' had been in use for firing before this house was deserted. The key was not found on this occasion, but some two years since, when previously looking for sand in the same place.

Report from *The Irish Builder* Vol. X, No. 123, p.44, as also reported in the Journal.

Plate 41: 1307 extent of Countess of Gloucester's lands.

Plate 42: 1277 Agatha of Mortimer's case in King's Bench

APPENDIX D

METHODOLOGY OF SITE SURVEY

Rosey Wheeler

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

A plan of the site was created by Oxford Archaeology in January 2003, on behalf of the then landowner Mr Joseph Teesdale, and the Heritage Council. The purpose of the plan was to locate those house plots drawn on the 1839 OS plan, and to map other surviving features on the site.

The plan was created by mapping the contours of the archaeological features, using a Leica roving GPS unit and base station. The base station consisted of a computer set up in Belmore House, with a connected small satellite dish erected in the north garden. The dish and computer were logged into the Irish coordinate system and located in geographical space. The roving unit, complete with its own dish, was then tuned into the base station and had a range of 20km. It was able to take a 3-coordinate point every time a button was fired, and the dish would take a few seconds to locate the point. Therefore, by walking around the archaeological features and stopping at points along the way, a string could be created for each feature. For breaks of slope, strings were taken at the top and at the bottom of each slope. The survey data was then exported from the base station and put into AutoCad. Hachures were then applied to illustrate the features and the degree of the slopes marking the boundaries of the features.

On overlaying the plan over the OS 1839 plan, it was discovered that almost all of the plots of the 1839 plan had been located using the GPS. The GPS survey was also used in the surrounding fields, to the south and north and west of the Town Field, where further plots and features were located.

The church was also surveyed in order to verify its position on the 1839 plan, using a Leica TCR705 electronic distance measurer (EDM). Some of the features of the church were also recorded using the instrument's reflectorless laser facility. Digital photographs were also taken of the church, and were located using survey targets located by EDM. This was carried out to record the current condition of the building at that time.

LiDAR Survey and Surface Modelling of Newtown Jerpoint

Anthony Corns The Discovery Programme

The aim of the survey was to produce a high-resolution digital elevation model (DEM) of the Newtown Jerpoint site and its surrounding environs. Traditionally, this would be carried out by terrestrial based topographic survey methods such as GPS or total station technologies. This surveyed spot height data can be processed and interpolated to provide a continuous surface model of the landscape, a DEM, which will show in detail the archaeological elements. This process is, however, time consuming, with large areas of landscape taking many person-weeks of fieldwork to survey at the required resolution (i.e. using GPS, a geo-surveyor can collect on average approximately 3,000 individual height points).

In recent years, the development of new survey scanning technology called LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging), which utilises the ability of laser light to determine the position and distance of an object or surface, has become available to the geo-surveyor. The LiDAR device, or laser scanner as it is commonly known, has the ability to collect thousands of surface measurements per second, at a high level of accuracy. Airborne LiDAR systems are used to produce high resolution topographic surveys. For the Newtown Jerpoint survey, the FLI-MAP 400 LiDAR surveying technology mounted below a twin-engine helicopter was implemented as the chosen sensor. The survey involved the helicopter flying several sorties over the site, at an approximate altitude of 130m and speed of 54km/h, constantly recording the elevation of the land surface below. To acquire a high-level accuracy of the helicopter position, two onboard RTK GPS, and an Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) were used, together with several ground based RTK GPS bases around the survey area. Technical details of the FLI-MAP 400 system include:

- Fequency: 10,000 points/sec per laser (2 lasers on board)

- Ground resolution of points: 10cm (approx. 90 points per m2)

- Relative Accuracy: 3 - 5cm

- Absolute Accuracy: 15cm horizontal and 10cm vertical

- Ability to record ground surfaces below vegetation cover a multiple return signal from beneath the vegetation canopy.

- Surveyors are not required to physically occupy the survey area.

The initial product of the LiDAR survey is a point model displaying the elevations recorded of the terrain and the features that sit upon its surface (including the buildings and vegetation). The complete survey consists of approximately 22 million individual height measurements. This data is known as the topographic raw model. Subsequent post- processing of the data allows the removal of the

vegetation layers and buildings, thus providing a terrain model or 'bare earth' model of the land surface. To generate a continuous surface model of the topography from the point data, ESRI ArcGIS software and 3D Analysts Extension was used to produce a TIN (Triangulated Irregular Network) surface model. This model was subsequently rasterised into a 20cm resolution DEM and associated hill shade models were produced to improve the performance when viewing this large data set.

Notes