

## **Architectural Conservation Area**

### **ENNIS**

**In accordance with Part IV, Chapter II, Section 81 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, it is an objective of Ennis Town Council to preserve the character of certain areas of the town of Ennis, which are considered to be of special architectural, historic, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, technical or social interest.**

Certain areas within the town of Ennis are designated as Architectural Conservation Areas. These are outlined as follows:

#### **(a) Ennis Town Centre**

Ennis is a town which has steadily developed since the mid thirteenth century. Although many changes have occurred in the town since the medieval period, it still retains its ancient character to a great extent. This is indicated by its narrow streets, stone buildings, lane ways and bow-ways etc. As much of the centre of Ennis existed before the year 1700 it is designated as an Archaeological zone (No.CL033-082-, Historic Town) in the Record of Monuments and Places, published by Duchas, The Heritage Service.

The older part of Ennis which for the most part consists of narrow, winding streets and lanes following the pattern of the River Fergus predominantly dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. This is confined to the area around Abbey, O'Connell and Parnell Streets while the later impressive public and private buildings of the 19<sup>th</sup> century are found toward the outer boundaries of the ACA.

These include the fine Georgian buildings of Bindon Street, the mills and corn-stores of Old Mill Street and the Classical Courthouse and nearby attractive simple formality of Steele's Terrace to the north. The older haphazard, medieval street pattern stands in contrast to the wide, formally planned Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian streets to the north of the river. Most commercial activity is still confined to the old centre of Ennis while the later buildings on the outskirts in general retain their original professional, educational and residential use.

#### **(b) Our lady's Hospital Complex, Gort Road**

This extensive complex of ashlar-limestone buildings, originally known as The County Lunatic asylum was completed in 1868. Although many additions have since been made to the original buildings it still retains practically all its original structures. These were invariably built using high quality materials, techniques and design, which the large open areas of lawn and vegetation create an illusion of tranquillity and space. The complex contains eight protected structures and it is important that any future development on this site will respect the integrity of the existing building and features.

- (c) St Claire's Terrace, Clon Road
- (d) Terrace of single storey houses, New Road, c.1870
- (e) Terrace of single storey houses, beside barracks, Kilrush Road. C. 1870
- (f) Terrace of single storey houses, Station Road / Clonroad. 1928
- (g) St. Flannan's Terrace, Clare Road, 1904 and Clonroad Mor 1912.
- (h) St. Patrick's Terrace, Limerick Road, c.1890.

The above ACAs consist of terraces of single and two storey houses constructed between 1870 and 1935. Although less formal than many other buildings in Ennis their simple and well proportioned designs and their use of natural and local building materials give them a high visual amenity value which makes a considerable contribution to the character of the various approaches to the town.

**What works might alter the character of ACAs and so require planning permission?**

- a) Altering the design of roofs e.g., pitches, barges.
- b) Changing the type of slate on a roof.
- c) Installing fascia or soffit boards.
- d) Removing or altering chimneys.
- e) Changing design and materials of windows, doors and cills.
- f) Erecting signage.
- g) Changing the finish of external walls, e.g. stone cladding, plaster.
- h) Erecting or altering existing shopfronts.

**Map of the Architectural Conservation Areas in Ennis**

