



AN INTERPRETATION PLAN FOR CLARECASTLE, COUNTY CLARE

PRODUCED FOR CLARECASTLE TIDY TOWNS & CLARECASTLE BALLYEA HERITAGE & WILDLIFE GROUP
WORKING UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF CLARECASTLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLG - JULY 2019
ABARTA HERITAGE

Summary

The key aims of this project are to:

- Evaluate the core stories and locations that best represent the story of Clarecastle
- Identify appropriate interpretative content
- Recommend appropriate and innovative ways bringing the story of Clarecastle to life

Clarecastle is a significant town which has a history of settlement dating back over 800 years. Established beside a strategically important bridging point over the River Fergus, it gives its name to the county of Clare. The Irish for Clarecastle is Droichead an Chláir (another commonly used Irish term for the town is Clár Átha an Dá Choradh). The word *clár*, meaning a wooden plank, is a reference to the earliest bridge over the river here.

The land around Clarecastle was granted to the Norman Lord Robert de Muscegros by King Henry III in around 1248. Three years later the castle was under construction on an island in the River Fergus. In 1253, the King granted permission for weekly markets and an annual fair in Clarecastle. Fair Green in the town was the location for these commercial events and the Fair of Clare was held annually until 1968.

The castle was central to events in Clarecastle in medieval times when it was the seat of the O'Briens of Thomond. It was the scene of military engagements during the Cromwellian conquest and the Williamite Wars in the seventeenth century. At this time British troops were garrisoned here. The barracks was built in the mid-18th century and continued to house troops until the late 19th century. Around 1780, a beautiful five-arch stone bridge was built over the Fergus adjacent to the barracks but was replaced by a modern bridge in 1971.

In 1845, the quay at Clarecastle was built and the Port of Clare became important for the hinterland of mid and east Clare, including Ennis. There was a passenger service to Limerick and a regular trade in all manner of goods, such as wheat, butter, timber and coal. Buildings associated with the port trade appeared around this time.

Clarecastle has expanded greatly in recent decades due to its proximity to Ennis, Shannon Airport and Limerick City. It was once on the main road from Limerick to Ennis, but the construction of the M18 motorway has taken traffic out of the town. This has undoubtedly opened up opportunities to showcase Clarecastle to visitors.

Many of the key events and trends in Irish history have left their mark on Clarecastle. This is reflected in the built heritage of the town and other tangible reminders of Clarecastle's past. It is a story that is well worth telling.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

TELLING THE STORY OF CLARECASTLE

This interpretation plan sets out proposals to highlight Clarecastle's heritage. The plan will guide Clarecastle Community Development CLG and other stakeholders in their work to promote Clarecastle as a visitor destination. Implementing this plan will bring the story of Clarecastle to life for locals and visitors.

Good interpretation is fundamentally about telling the story of a site, a historical period or a place. It communicates the meaning of a place in a compelling way. The best interpretation helps people to understand and appreciate a place. As a result, they will be more likely to value, protect and conserve it. In the case of Clarecastle, the focus is on telling the story of the place as a whole with an emphasis on its diverse heritage which spans many centuries.

The audience to be targeted by the interpretation is a very important consideration. The type of interpretation that we are proposing has been informed by Fáilte Ireland market research on the Wild Atlantic Way and the Shannon Estuary Way. This has identified two core target groups for heritage-related tourism in Ireland. **'Culturally Curious'** visitors are typically in the 40+ age bracket and have a particular interest in history and heritage. They want to get off the beaten track and discover new and interesting places. **'Great Escapers'** are couples who range in age from late 20s to late 30s. They are interested in rural holidays and want to connect with the landscape and places they visit. They sometimes travel with small children. These two market segments comprise the principal audience for tourism in Clarecastle and interpretation of the town's story should bear this in mind.

Good quality interpretation should catch people's attention and be easy to understand. It should be relevant and authentic and relate the true story of a site or place in a way that resonates with visitors and locals alike. In terms of how best to communicate the story of Clarecastle, there are many forms of interpretation from guided tours, signs, brochures or artwork. Interpretive signage is the most widespread and visible form of interpretation at most heritage sites. Such signage can use a combination of text and graphics to relate information. Consideration can also be given to other forms of interpretation that use innovative methods and installations along with modern technology to impart the story of a place. This interpretation plan will consider some of these options for Clarecastle, with recommendations and indicative costings provided where possible.



2.0 CLARECASTLE HERITAGE TRAIL

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Shannon Estuary Way is a new tourism initiative linking places along the river estuary in three counties. It extends from Listowel in County Kerry through Limerick and along the north side of the Shannon estuary in County Clare. The Shannon Estuary Way aims to entice those travelling along the Wild Atlantic Way to take a diversion and explore the estuary of Ireland's longest river.

Abarta Heritage produced the Shannon Estuary Way Heritage Recording project for Clare County Council and Failte Ireland in 2018. This focused on communities and points of interest in County Clare from Bunratty in the east to Killimer in the west. The report identified heritage sites along the route, recorded local stories and folklore, and made recommendations for infrastructural development such as heritage trails.

Clarecastle is one of the principal towns on the Shannon Estuary Way and stands to benefit from this new marketing brand. Clarecastle Community Development CLG participated enthusiastically in the Shannon Estuary Way Recording Project. It was through this project that the concept of a heritage trail linking points of interest around the town was identified and developed.

Clarecastle Community Development CLG and Clarecastle Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife Group are the principal drivers of the heritage trail. As part of the Shannon Estuary Way project, the group identified sites for inclusion on the trail. Abarta Heritage worked with Clarecastle Community Development to refine the heritage trail concept and to assess individual sites. This interpretation plan takes this groundwork a step further to make specific recommendations about trail development and the most appropriate form of interpretation.

Fourteen historical and architectural sites were identified in Clarecastle. Each of these sites were evaluated to assess tourism potential and suitability. As a number of sites were close together, there is no need to have separate signage at each site. Other sites have a better visitor experience when viewed from a distance (Clarecastle Castle & Barracks and Clare Bridge) so

interpretation for these sites should be located at the Quay. The sites were assessed according to the following criteria:

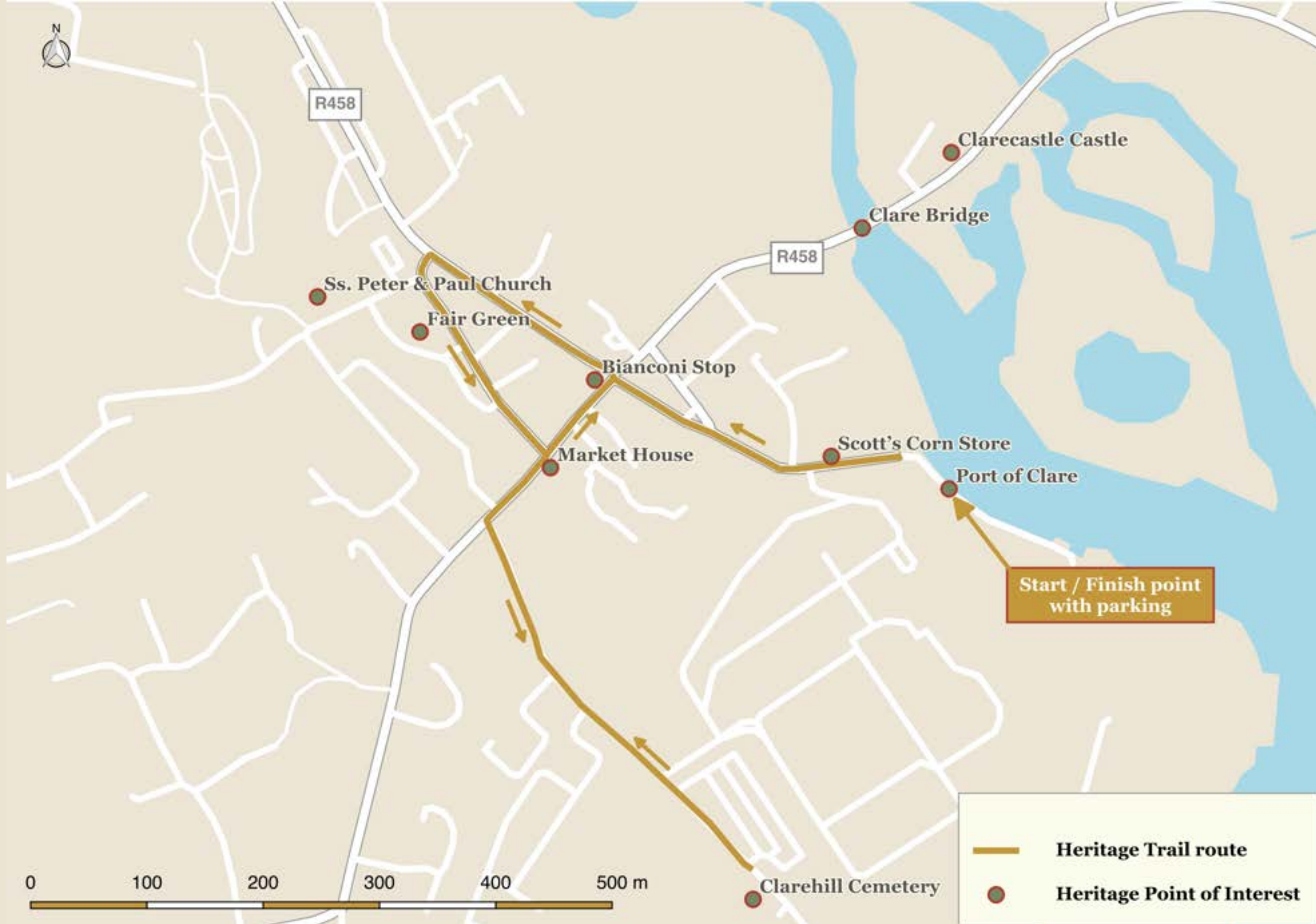
- **Safety and Access** – is there safe access or parking for vehicular transport? Are there existing signposts? Will the point of interest itself be put at risk through increased footfall by inclusion on tourism trails?
- **Visual Aspect** – Is the point of interest (or journey to it) likely to excite and enthuse visitors?
- **Story** – Does the particular point of interest have an engaging and compelling story?

Recommendations for Trail Development

Abarta Heritage recommended that from the fourteen sites initially identified, nine have the potential to form part of a heritage trail. A walking trail route of about 2km was devised and mapped. All sites along the proposed trail are within easy reach of the town centre by foot. The aim is to make the trail a user-friendly and compelling route for visitors.

The sites proposed for the trail are:

- Port of Clare (other sites that can be included in this stop are; Clarecastle Castle & Barracks and Clare Bridge)
- Scott's Corn Store
- Bianconi Stop
- St Peter & Paul's Church
- Fair Green (including the GAA Stone and the Famine Memorial Stone)
- The Market House, Bannatyne's Corn Store and Miller's House
- Old Clare Hill Cemetery



Map 1: Points of Interest in Clarecastle showing the start / finish point of the trail



3.0 POINTS OF INTEREST



3.1 Port of Clare (including view towards Clare Bridge and the former castle and barracks)

Location and Access

The Port of Clare is located at the end of Quay Road, which is a cul de sac, and on the shores of the River Fergus Estuary. The area is now a landscaped park and is accessible to the public. There is car parking at the entrance. From here, there is a view of Clare Bridge and of the former castle and barracks on the opposite side of the river. We recommend this location as the start / finish point of the Heritage Trail.

Existing Infrastructure:

The area has been landscaped and tree planting has taken place here. There are benches along the quay and other interesting features such as a ship's anchor. There are two existing interpretive signs here with information about the historic importance of the Port of Clare. A Shannon Estuary Way interpretive panel has also been installed at the Port. Any new interpretation here should focus on the

story of the bridge and castle, which are visible from the quay. A plaque commemorating the construction of the Port is barely visible due to its location at the side of the Port. A replica plaque could be erected for visitors to see.

Visitor Experience:

This is a tranquil area along the River Fergus with a view of the estuary and of Clare bridge and Clarecastle Barracks. The Port of Clare offers the best visitor experience of all the points of interest along the proposed heritage trail due to its combination of natural and built heritage, including the view towards Clare Bridge and the castle and barracks. It is an ideal place to begin relating the story of Clarecastle.

A mapaboard highlighting the Heritage Trail and other areas of interest in the locality could be placed close to the steps down to the river.



3.2 Scott's Corn Store

Location and Access

Scott's Corn Store is on Quay Road close to the entrance to the Port of Clare and at the entrance to the Slí an Fhearghas housing development. The building is clearly visible from the public road but it is currently derelict with no public access to the interior.

Existing Infrastructure:

There is no signage or interpretation on site at present to indicate the historic significance of this building.

Visitor Experience:

The building is close to the Port of Clare and is linked to the history and heritage of the port. At present, the visitor experience is limited due to the appearance of

the building and the lack of public access. However, good quality interpretation highlighting the importance of the mill and its connection to the Port would improve the experience here. Much of the Corn Store is covered with heavy vegetation - predominantly ivy, and it would greatly improve the visitor experience if this vegetation could be removed by specialists (the removal of ivy from historic buildings without specialist advice can lead to the collapse of the structure).

The heritage trail plaque should be located in the gravelled area close to the entrance to the housing estate '*Slí na Fhearghas*'.



3.3 Bianconi Stop

Location and Access

The Bianconi stop is located on the side of Barrack Street outside the Castle Coffee House and is accessible to the public at all times. Its location provides scope for visitors to get close to a distinctive item of built heritage.

Existing Infrastructure:

There is no signage or interpretation on site at present to indicate the historic significance of this item.

Visitor Experience:

In the absence of interpretation on site, visitors are unlikely to be aware of the significance of the Bianconi stop. As the stone is not in its original location currently,

moving the stone to a prominent location could be considered. An ideal location would be across the road close to the playground where a suite of interpretation relating to Bianconi could be created including a wall mural of the stage coaches on a blank wall at the car park and street furniture replicating the stage coaches. Any suitable location should be assessed based on public access, increased exposure to weathering, security from theft, vandalism and / or accidental damage. A plaque that explains the history and function of the Bianconi Stop would greatly improve the visitor experience along with the addition of a wall mural and street furniture. If the junction boxes were removed from their current location, space would be available to animate that area and make it a focal point for the town.



3.4 Ss. Peter & Paul Church

Location and Access

The church is located on the north-western side of Fair Green. Although it is a large building it is set back from the road and the surrounding trees can obscure the view of the church during summer months. There is a large car park in front of the church. The interior of the church can be accessed during the daytime.

Existing Infrastructure:

There is no existing heritage-related infrastructure on site providing details of the church's history or architectural significance. There are two small plaques located at the entrance pillars to the church but these are difficult to read.

Visitor Experience:

This 19th century church was expanded and altered during the 20th century. It is of social and historical importance in Clarecastle and is an obvious point of interest for visitors. The modern glass atrium at the entrance is a noteworthy feature. Interpretation on site would give visitors an appreciation of the church's importance. A plaque could be placed close to the entrance of the Church.



3.5 The Fair Green

Location and Access

The Fair Green is an expanse of open space of approx. 1.5 acres which is bisected by roads and footpaths and surrounding by modern housing. It is at the northern end of Barrack Street/Old Road. It is accessible to the public at all times with car parking on the roadside.

Existing Infrastructure:

There are two modern-day monuments on Fair Green. The Famine Stone was unveiled in 2013 and commemorates victims of the Great Famine from the parish of Clarecastle. The GAA stone was erected in 1987 and commemorates the centenary of the formation of Clarecastle GAA Club. There is currently no interpretation explaining the area's former use as a fair green. The area has been landscaped in modern times with tree planting and installation of seating.

Visitor Experience:

This is a pleasant open area at the northern side of Clarecastle that gives visitors an opportunity to relax and take a break during a walking tour. Some interpretation to explain its former role as the Fair Green with a history dating back to medieval times would improve the visitor experience.

A plaque could be placed close to the Famine Stone explaining the significance of the Fair Green.



3.6 The Market House, Bannatyne's Corn Store & Miller's House

Location and Access:

This collection of buildings are located on Patrick Street at the junction with Old Road. They can be viewed from the street but there is no access through the distinctive red-brick archway.

Existing Infrastructure:

There is no signage or interpretation on site at present to indicate the historic significance of these buildings. This collection of buildings has the potential to become a very valuable asset to the visitor experience at Clarecastle and it has the potential to greatly enhance the streetscape of the town.

Visitor Experience:

The Market House and Bannatyne's Corn Store are currently in a ruined state and unlikely to be restored in the immediate future. The Miller's House is in private ownership and is still in use as a residence. Although they are a noteworthy part of Clarecastle's heritage, their visual aspect is not appealing at present. Good quality interpretation will be required here to give visitors a sense of the site's history and significance.

Other improvements to this site could include: (under the guidance of a conservation specialist):

- Removal of ivy from the back wall
- Restoration of iron gates and removal of the black panels on the gates
- Create a view into the courtyard for visitors to get a sense of the history of the buildings and use fencing to provide screening and privacy for landowner.



3.7 Old Clare Hill Cemetery

Location and Access:

The old cemetery is located on Clarehill on the southern side of Clarecastle close to the end of a cul de sac. It is located about 500 metres or a five minute walk, from the previous stop on the trail. There is parking adjacent to the old graveyard in front of the new graveyard. The Old Clare Hill cemetery is accessible at all times.

Existing Infrastructure:

There is no signage or interpretation on site at present to indicate the historic significance of the cemetery.

Visitor Experience:

The cemetery is likely to be of greatest interest to those with ancestral connections with Clarecastle and/or who have relatives interred here. Clarecastle Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife Group have carried out extensive graveyard surveys of the site and uncovered many of these very interesting stories. The stories about those that are interred here and information or stories about significant burials in the graveyard would help to enliven the experience here.

4.0 TRAIL DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

It is clear that the Clarecastle Heritage Trail has great potential to provide a visitor with the opportunity to understand more about the development of the town. The potential of the Trail could be realised through a number of steps

Clearly defining a trail route and the sites to be included on the trail. (see Map 1).

Putting in place proper infrastructure, such as interpretive and directional signage. Interpretive signage is particularly important as it will bring each site to life and provide. In order to animate the trail through Clarecastle, appropriate signage is the main requirement.

Mapboards (see Map 2):

A map board should be installed at the car park in the centre of the village (opposite The Castle Coffee House) and at the Quay. These map-boards will help to orientate visitors and highlight the heritage and amenities of the town. The map-board at the carpark should be A0 sized and feature high-quality design and content. The map-board at the Quay should be A2 or A1 sized. There is an existing pole at the Quay close to the steps down to the river. A sign could potentially be mounted on that pole. There are two detailed and very informative information panels at the Quay so more interpretation about the history of the Quay is not needed. The Quay does provide a great vantage point for other points of interest such as Clarecastle Castle & Barracks and Clare Bridge. We recommend including information about these points on the map-board rather than including these sites individually on the trail as they are not very accessible for visitors walking through the town.

Heritage Plaques (see Map 3)

For other points of interest on the trail, heritage plaques should be considered. These plaques are an attractive and durable option to animate the Clarecastle Heritage Trail and they come in A3 size. Depending on the building and planning considerations, the plaques can be wall mounted or freestanding. As the etched zinc plaques are only A3 size, we recommend no more than 40–50 words per plaque. If historic images of the buildings or site can be obtained, these should be also used (where appropriate) on the signs.





Fingerpost signs (see Map 4)

Along with interpretive signage at the sites, fingerpost signage will be required to direct visitors along the trail. Based on the proposed route, six fingerpost signs will be required at junctions and at sites at the extremities of the trail route.

Including a distinctive logo and lettering on the signs would help to distinguish them from other road signage in the town. It would also link with an overall brand image for the trail. The text on each sign could read: Clarecastle Heritage Trail

Animating the trail with unique features would help to tell the story of Clarecastle in different ways appealing to wider audiences. Distinctive interpretation, some of which can be interactive, can really bring a heritage trail to life. The following are some suggestions that would be appropriate for the Clarecastle Heritage Trail. They would give the trail added visibility and enhance the visitor experience. Consideration of any of these options would depend on the availability of funding.

The Port of Clare should be the focus for animation of the story of Clarecastle as the Port is a wonderful place to view a number of points of interest including the Castle and Barracks, the bridge and the River Fergus. It is now a peaceful and quiet place with benches where visitors can sit and enjoy the wildlife. It was once a bustling and busy port and recounting this era could be a focus for future interpretation. How this could be achieved is by investing in interpretive furniture listed below.

Wall Murals

Wall murals depicting scenes related to the history and heritage of an area are an eye-catching way of presenting stories. There is an added bonus in that they can brighten up the streetscape.

There are some suitable locations in Clarecastle where wall murals could be considered, subject to discussion and agreement with the relevant property owners. They include:

- Gable of former National School (now community centre)
- Former saw mills adjacent to the Port of Clare
- Wall on Patrick Street adjacent to The Castle cafe
- Wall of the Antique Loft opposite the current location of the Bianconi Stone

An image of a Bianconi stage coach would bring that important historical connection to life for locals and visitors.

There are a number of artists across Ireland who produce murals. They work on a commission basis. Cost depends on the location and scale of the mural in question.

Listening Posts

Listening post allow visitors to play short audio recordings about a nearby heritage sites by simply pressing a button on the post, which has built-in speakers. They are manufactured to be durable and weather-proof. Solar powered versions mean that there is no need to worry about power supply. Audio content can be uploaded to the post via a USB connection. Up to 16 minutes of content can be added to each post.

Blackbox AV, a UK-based company, supply wooden and metal solar powered listening posts at prices from £850 to £1,000.

Listening posts would need to be sited in relatively quiet areas with little background noise from traffic or other sources. If they are to be considered for Clarecastle, the most suitable location would be the Port of Clare. Local consultation would be necessary to identify precise locations.

As part of the Shannon Estuary Way Recording Project, interviews about the history and heritage of Clarecastle. Local historian Eric Shaw was recorded relating the history and stories of the Port of Clare. The use of this content (with permission) provides a valuable resource, and there is potential to record other voices telling engaging local stories about sites along the trail. This would dovetail with interactive interpretation points such as listening posts.

Stone Plaque Replica

There is a large plaque erected when the Quay was completed located at the steps that lead down to the River Fergus. The plaque is usually covered by water and can only be seen at low tide. A replica of this plaque could be commissioned and erected on the wall of Scott's Corn Store (permission must be sought from the landowner).





Outdoor Community Library

To encourage people to sit and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere at the quay and to raise awareness about the heritage of Clarecastle and the surrounding area, an outdoor community library could be installed beside one of the benches. This is a small weatherproof box mounted on a pedestal that contains books. Local history publications could be left in the library box and visitors could sit and read them and place them back in the box when they are finished. To combat vandalism, CCTV warning signs could be erected at the quay and the library could have a combination lock (the pin code could be available on the Clarecastle website and a QR code on the library box could allow visitors to access the code).

In Ireland, a national community of outdoor libraries has been created by The Free Wee Library (www.freeweelibrary.com). Wooden boxes have been installed in public spaces and stocked with books donated by the community. It works on an honesty policy, if you take a book you return a book. The project aims to promote literacy, encourage exercise, promote community arts programmes and positive mental health. The addition of an outdoor community library at the Quay would greatly enhance the area and help to promote the area as a place to sit back and relax and it offers a free amenity to visitors to the area.



Animating street furniture

There are a number of large metal grey traffic control boxes at the main car park in Clarecastle. If these cannot be removed as part of road realignment works in the area, then there could be an opportunity to use these pieces of everyday furniture to tell the story of Clarecastle and brighten the streetscape. A very successful inclusive public art project called *Dublin Canvas, Colour in the City* has been running in Dublin City and County since 2015 with the aim of creating less grey, more play. Artists from all walks of life apply to paint a box and submit an idea with the objective of creating colour. As of Spring 2019, there are over 325 pieces completed right across County Dublin. Dull, grey boxes have been transformed in beautiful bespoke pieces of art creating a walking public art gallery. A similar scheme could be launched in Clarecastle to encourage submissions from local artists to have the opportunity to showcase their work. More information about Dublin Canvas can be seen here: <https://www.dublincanvas.com/>



QR Codes

A QR code is a black and white barcode that can be read by smartphones / tablets which links to a website. QR codes could be used on the two map-boards erected at the Quay and at the car-park which would link back to content about local heritage and history that Clarecastle and Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife Group are currently developing with the Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) in collaboration with the National Museum of Ireland.

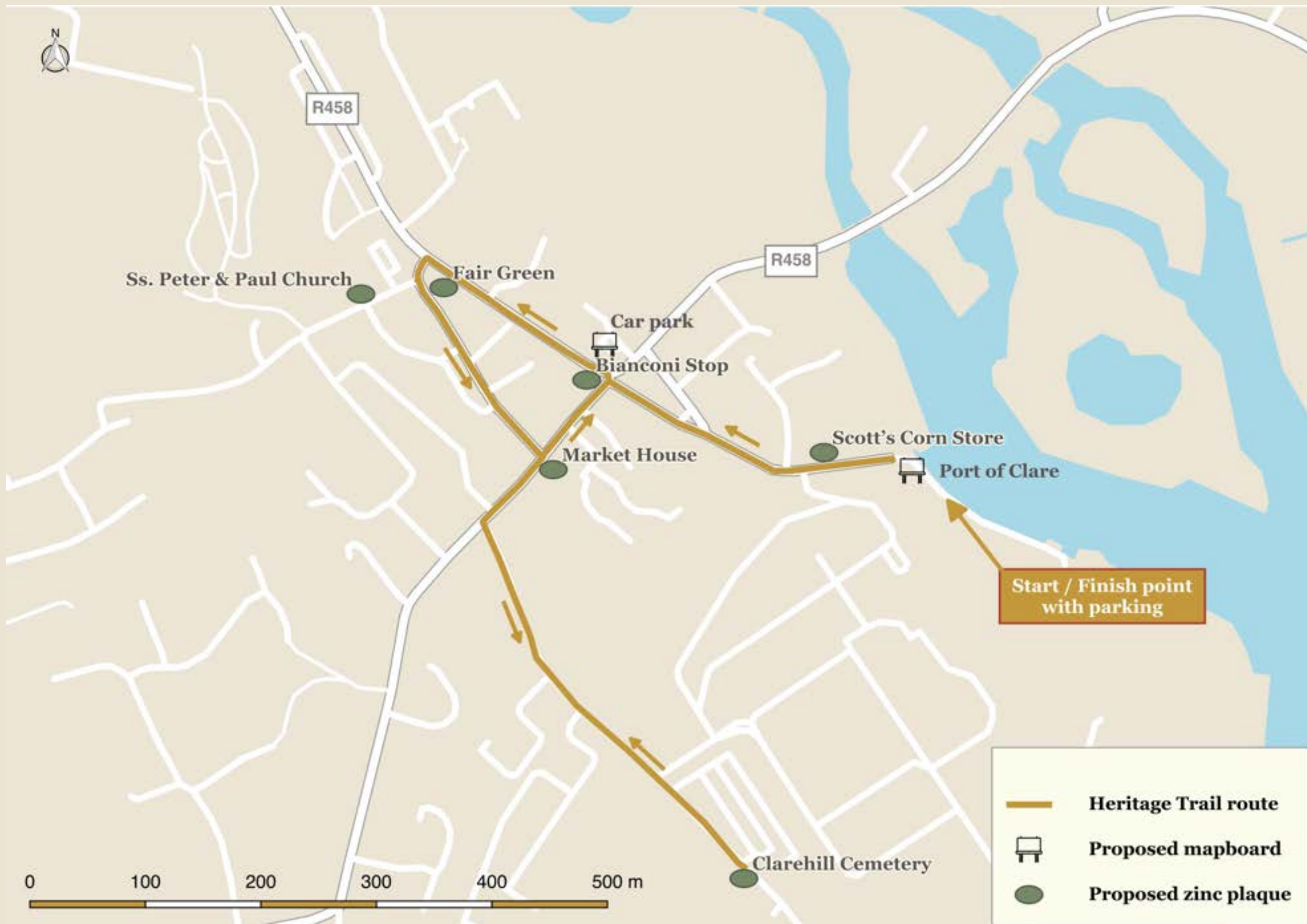


Historiscopes

Historiscopes are devices mounted on a post which contains a circular glass panel. Historic photographs can be inserted into the panel that shows scenes from the past at a particular location. The visitor experiences a “window on the past” which evokes a stronger connection with the history of the site.

The historioscopes at Derrigimlagh Bog, a Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point, near Clifden in Connemara, are an example of this kind of interpretation. They depict old photographs of historic events that took place here i.e. the early 20th century Transatlantic radio station built by Marconi and Alcock & Brown’s landing after their Transatlantic flight in 1919. The historioscopes give the visitor a much stronger sense of the important events that took place here. In the case of the radio station, the building was destroyed in the 1920s so displaying a historic image gives visitors a sense of what it looked like.

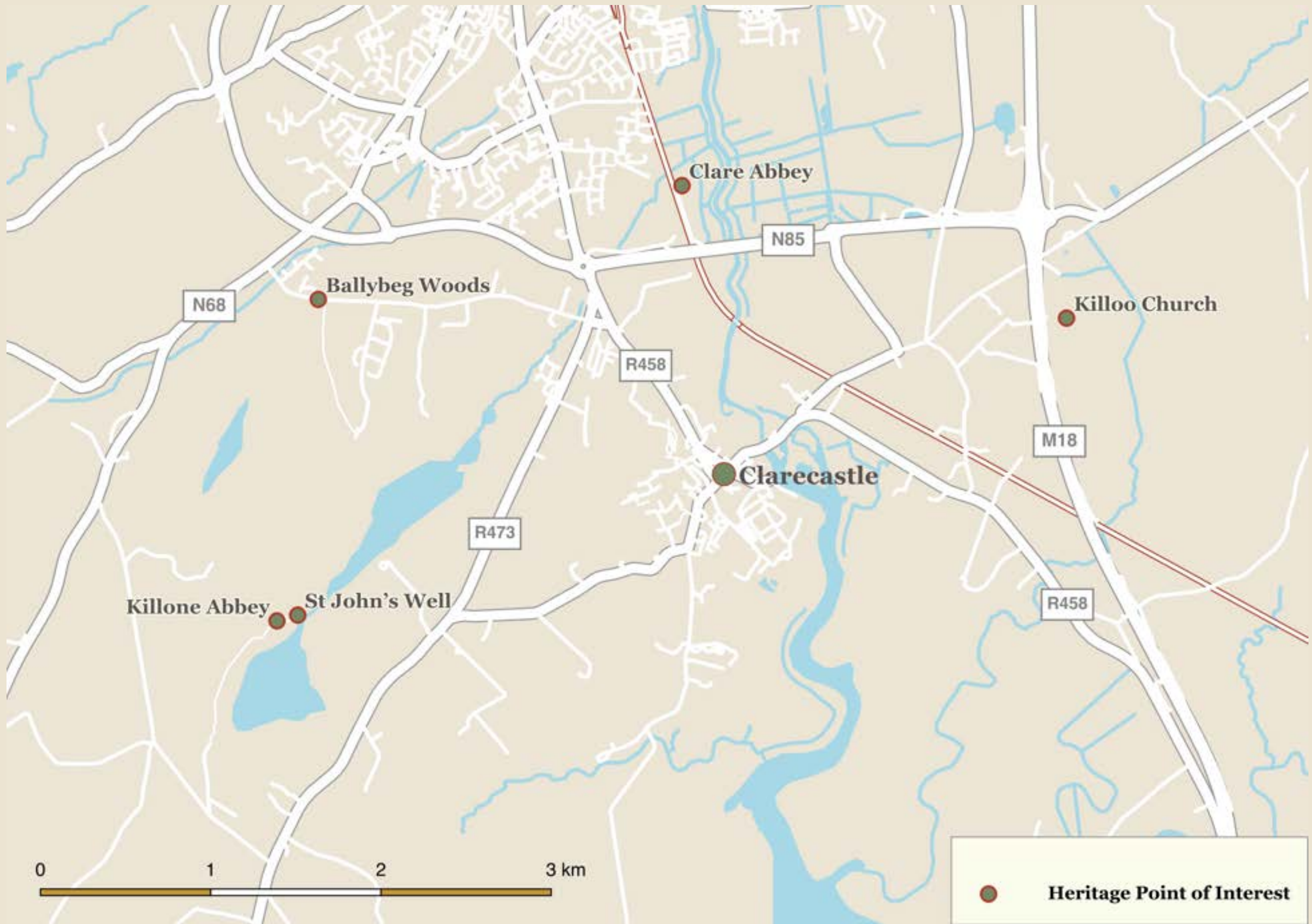
The most suitable location for the historioscope is the Port of Clare as there are many historic images available of large steamer boats unloading cargo at the Port. Historic images have been compiled by Eric Shaw of Clarecastle Community Development. (They are included in a book Clarecastle Quay: Ships, Boats and People published by Clare Roots Society). The cost of a historioscope is currently unknown as the examples in Derrigimlagh Bog were a bespoke commission from an artist. A similar commission would need to be formulated for Clarecastle, by putting it out to tender or a similar process.



Map 2: Proposed mopboards and heritage plaques in Clarecastle



Map 3: Proposed locations for fingerposts in Clarecastle - Text on Fingerposts should read: **Clarecastle Heritage Trail** in Irish and English



Map 4: Points of Interest in the surrounding area

5.0 SIGNAGE GUIDELINES

The map-board interpretative signage should follow a uniform brand identity and colour scheme. The panels should also point to other nearby monuments to provide a coherent and self-supporting message of the heritage of Clarecastle and the surrounding area encouraging visitors to spend more time in the area. There should be no more than c.250 words on the panel and 40 - 50 words on a heritage plaque.

Colour Scheme

The map-boards should have a consistent colour scheme that is reflective of the overall brand of Clarecastle and that the overarching brand identity be reflective and harmonious with the Fáilte Ireland branding of *Shannon Estuary Way*.

For a consistent brand identity, it is recommended that the heritage plaques follow the same colour scheme - we recommend the blue heritage plaques as supplied by Signiatec.

Materials, Manufacture and Installation

It is recommended that the interpretative panels be housed on free-standing poles that are robust and durable, and would be in keeping with both the setting and the brand identity.

Options for Fingerposts

- The directional signage must be clear and robust to help to ensure the visitor to easily follow the route of the heritage trails. We recommend a total of at least six fingerposts to aid navigation.
- They will be manufactured in accordance with best practice outlined by The Department of Transport (Ireland). Vinyls and inks used are approved for outdoor use to protect from vandalism and the elements. The fingerpost sign portion should measure approximately 700mm x 200mm.
- The text on every fingerpost could read: *Clarecastle Heritage Trail* in Irish and English.



6.0 INTERPRETIVE CONTENT

Draft text for signage at each location which has been prepared by Clarecastle Community Development with guidance from Abarta Heritage.

It is recommended that the content on the large mopboards should be translated into Irish with both the English and Irish translations featuring equally on the sign. As the recommended plaques for the points of interest on the trail are quite small and can only accommodate a small amount of text, we recommend including Irish place names and perhaps interspersing Irish phrases (if possible) through the content.

6.1 Port of Clare - Clár Átha and Dá Choradh - Draft Text for Mapboard

Port of Clare: This was the chief port of Mid-Clare. The range of goods exported through the port here was extensive and included oats, wheat, butter, timber, flour and lead ore from the Ballykickey Mines for smelting in Wales. The main imports were coal, and timber. Trade was mainly with English ports such as Liverpool, Glasgow and London. Timber was imported from Canada and Scandinavia. There was a weekly steamship service to Limerick port in 1836. The main quay was built in 1845 and the lower wharf in 1881.

Clare Bridge / Droichead an Chláir: The bridge of Clare, from which the village and county takes its name, Clár Atha an Dá Choradh. It was the site of the magnificent five-arched bridge designed and built by John Semple c. 1780. This bridge was demolished in 1971 by Clare County Council to facilitate road traffic through the village.

Clarecastle Castle & Barracks / Caisleán an Chláir agus an Bheairce: The Castle dates from the mid sixteenth century and the barracks from 1748-51. This was the main British garrison in Clare from 1691 up to 1881. The Castle was captured by Cromwellians in 1651 and by Williamites in 1691. It continued in use as a British garrison up to 1922. The barracks was built between 1748 and 1751.



6.2 Scott's Corn Store - Stór Scott (Heritage Plaque Text)

A six storey corn store built 1846/1847. It was used as an auxiliary workhouse during the Famine, housing more than 300 women and children between 1848 and 1852, from the Ennis Union. Scott was an attorney in Ennis and the development was of a speculative nature.

6.3 Bianconi Stop - Stad Bianconi (Heritage Plaque Text)

The mounting-block is of unique national importance, being the only one of its kind in Ireland. It was used for stepping on and off a coach or horse. Clarecastle was a Bianconi stop on the Ennis – Limerick route. Bianconi founded an extensive stage coach service in Ireland in the 1800s.

6.4 Ss. Peter and Paul Church - Séipeal SS Peadar agus Pól (Heritage Plaque Text)

The Church dates from 1839. It replaced a much older Church that was to the left of the present building as you face it, in Creggaunahilla. A detailed history of the Church is given on a scroll inside the entrance to the Church. The Michael Healy stained-glass window c.1925 is of note.

6.5 Fair Green (including the GAA Stone and Famine Memorial Stone) - Faiche an Aonaigh (Heritage Plaque Text)

The site of perhaps the oldest fair in Clare, The Fair of Clare, which was established by order of King Henry III by a grant to Robert de Muscregos, a

Norman settler, in 1253 AD. The last Fair of Clare was held in May 1968. Also located in the Fair Green are the Famine Memorial Stone and the GAA Stone.

6.6 The Market House, Bannatyne's Corn Store and Miller's House - Teach Margaidh (Heritage Plaque Text)

Dating from c.1765, this building was used as an auxiliary workhouse during the Famine. Bannatynes were an English family, with extensive mills, shipping and corn business in Limerick and Ennis.

6.7 Old Clare Hill Cemetery - Sean Reilig an Chláir (Heritage Plaque Text)

British soldiers and their families that were stationed at the Barracks in the mid 1800s are also buried here. There are over 170 inscribed headstones and a large number of un-inscribed headstones. Victims of the cholera epidemic that broke out in Clarecastle in the 1830s are buried in the lower part of the cemetery. In the 1940's a holy water fount was discovered buried here.

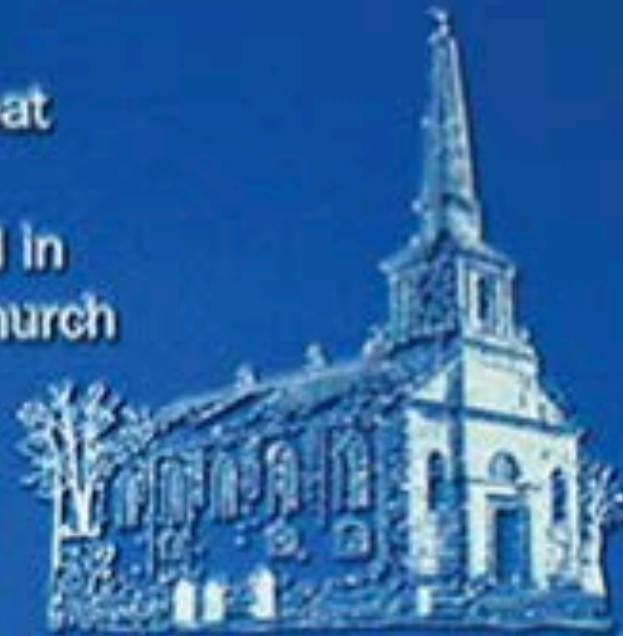
Content for Mapboard at Carpark

This Map board should contain information relating to the development of Clarecastle, information about the Points of Interest on the Heritage Trail and other sites of interest in the surrounding area including Clarecastle Abbey, Killone Abbey, Ballybeg Woods and St John's Well.

PORTLAOISE  HERITAGE TRAIL
COSÁN OIDHREACHTA PORT LAOISE

ST PETER'S CHURCH

The first building to be erected on the Great Green of Maryborough was the Church of Ireland, dedicated to St Peter. It was opened in 1803 as a replacement to Old St Peter's Church which had been built during the reign of King Philip and Queen Mary.



ERECTED BY LAOIS HERITAGE SOCIETY

7.0 APPROXIMATE INTERPRETATION COSTS

Heritage Plaques (Quoted by Signiatec)

	Location	Plaque price	Pedestal price	Drawing cost	Total
	Scott's Corn Store	€560.00	€175.00		€735.00
	Bianconi Stop	€560.00	€175.00		€735.00
	Ss. Peter & Paul Church	€560.00			€560.00
	Fair Green	€560.00	€175.00		€735.00
	The Market House	€560.00	€175.00	€120.00	€855.00
	Old Clare Hill Cemetery	€560.00			€560.00
TOTAL					€4,180.00
TOTAL +13.5%VAT					€4,744.30

A0 Mapboards & Fingerpost (Quoted by Signiatec)

Signage Type	Location	Unit price	Total price
A0 two-pole lectern	Car Park & Quay	€1,590.00	€3,180.00
A0 mapboard design		€550.00	€1,100.00
Fingerposts		€45 per pole x 6 €105 per fingerpost x 10	€1,320.00
Delivery		€120.00	€120.00
Installation			TBC
TOTAL			€5,720.00
TOTAL +13.5%VAT			€6,492.20

Other Animation Costs

Description	Approximate Costs
Replica Stone Plaque (quay)	€500 - €1,000.00
Nameplate for Dromoland Road	€250.00 - €500.00
Listening Post	€1,000 - €1,500.00
Wall Murals	€3,000 - €5,000.00
QR Codes	Free to Generate

