

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

County Hall Car Parking

Carlow County Council

County Buildings, Old Athy Road,
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CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Carlow County Council - AHIA

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Carlow County Council are proposing to make improvements and expand the existing public car parking to the rear of their County Hall offices. This project is subject to a Part 8 process.
- 1.2. As the proposed works are located within the curtilage of a protected structure, both listed on the Record of protected Structures (RPS) in the County Development Plan, an architectural Heritage Impact Assessment is required to consider the impact, if any, on the protected structure on site.
- 1.3. The assessment has been prepared by Conor Moriarty, MRIAI, Grade 3 accredited in conservation.

2. CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

- 2.1. The proposed project is an extension of Carlow County Council's existing carpark. It is proposed to extend the car park in two directions. Firstly, into the grounds of the former Bank of Ireland site (now owned by Carlow County Council). Secondly, into the grounds to the rear of O'Flaherty Brown Solicitors.
- 2.2. Carlow County Council occupy these premises. It is three storey building to the Athy Road and a two storey building as it goes back into the site. It is the principal offices for Carlow County Council and houses a number of its directorates and departments.
- 2.3. The County Council offices, an award-winning architectural design, is not a listed structure.
- 2.4. This proposal involves the extension to the north of the existing carpark to the rear of the Council offices, as far out as the Andy Murphy road and the construction of a new site entrance. It also includes the extension of the existing car park into the grounds of the former bank premises to the south.

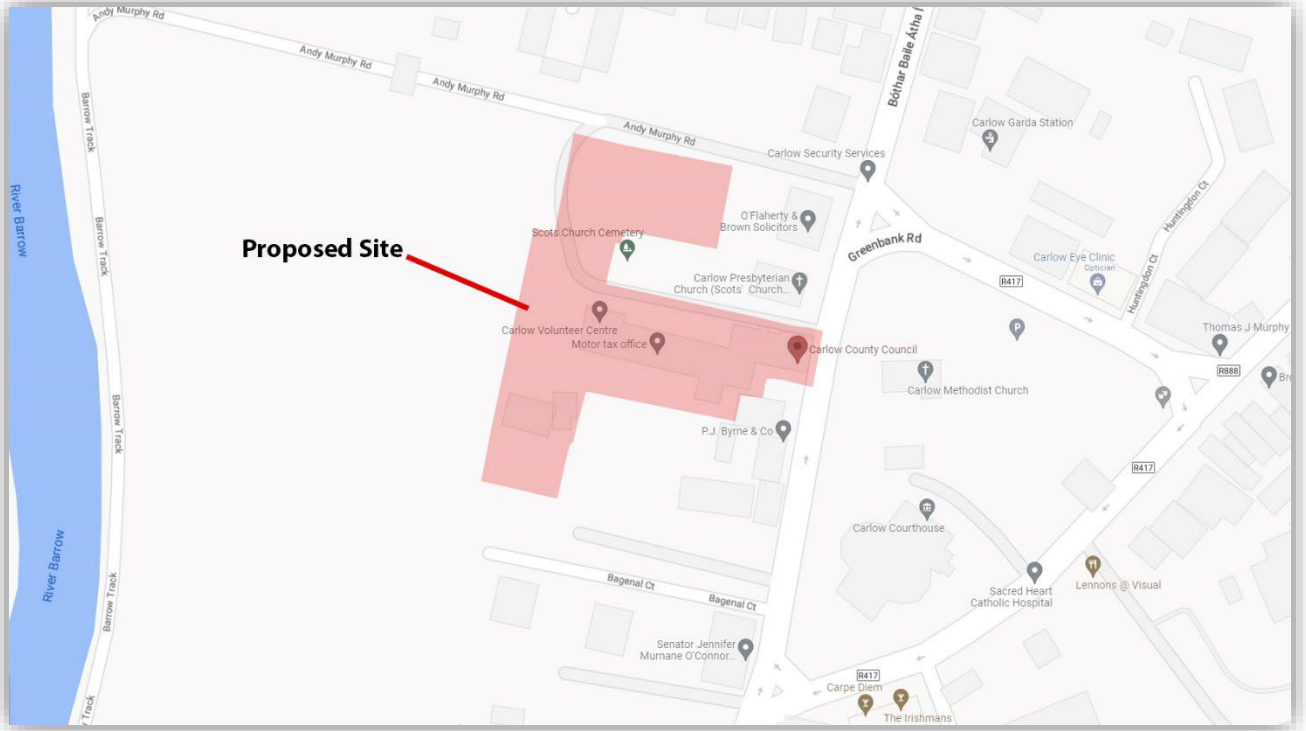


Fig.01 - Street map showing roughly the location of the proposed works.

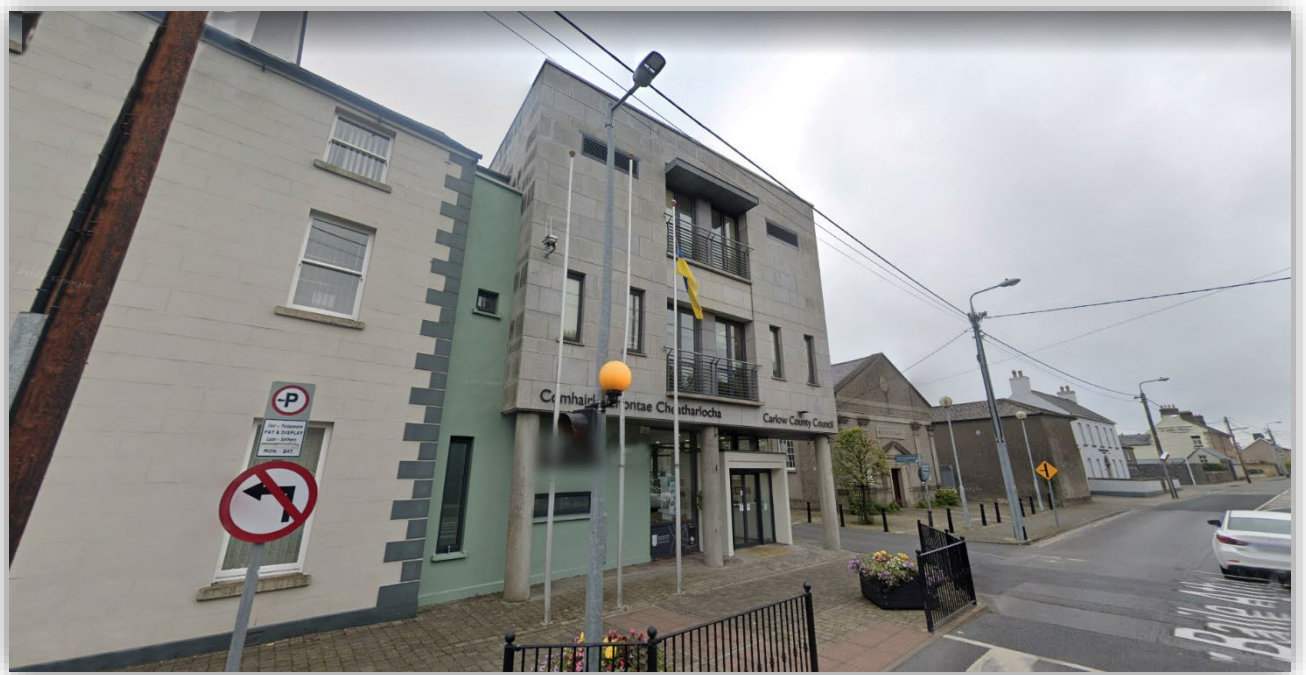


Photo.01 - Street view showing Carlow County Council offices.



Photo.02 - Street view showing the Methodist Church (RPS XXXXXXXX, NIAH XXXXX) beside Carlow Co Co offices.



Photo 03 - Street view showing Carlow County Council offices.



Fig.02 - 1st edition OS Map circa 1840.

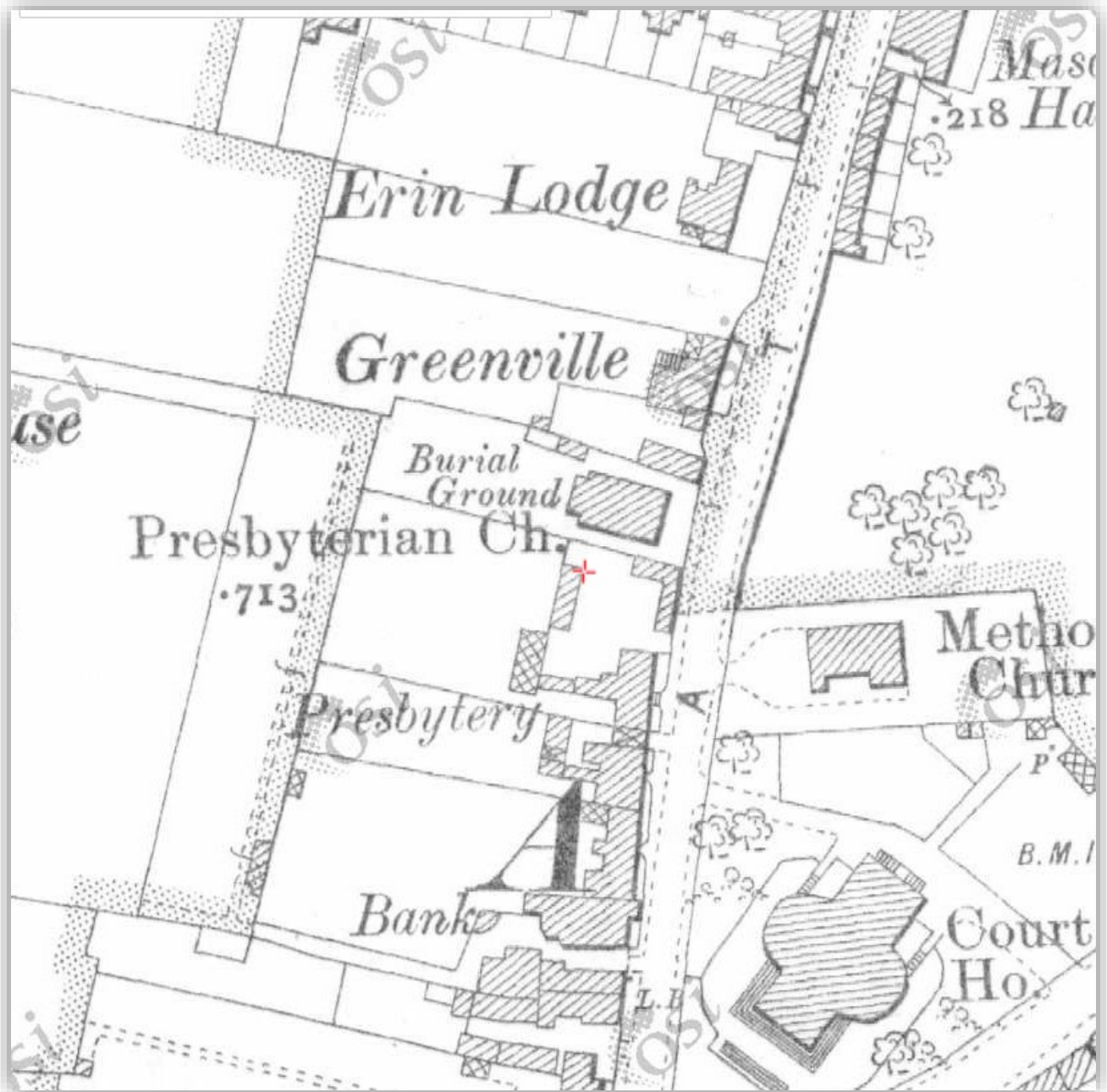


Fig.03 - 2nd edition OS Map circa 1900.

3. PROTECTED STRUCTURES (& THEIR CURTILAGES) WITHIN THE PROPOSED SITE

3.1. Below is a summary of the buildings and their curtilages that are within the redline of the proposed development (as listed in the RPS).

RPS #	NIAH #	Description	Date Range	Rating / Significance
CT32	10000618	A simple classical Presbyterian Church on the Athy Road	1819	Regional (A, Int, P)
CT33	10000619	Greenville - A late Georgian house with outhouses to the left of the building	1839	Regional (A)
CT38	10000614	Former Bank of Ireland premises, Court Place - A complex consisting of a banking hall with a modern addition and two bays of an older Georgian building combined to form a single unit	1900	Local (A, P)

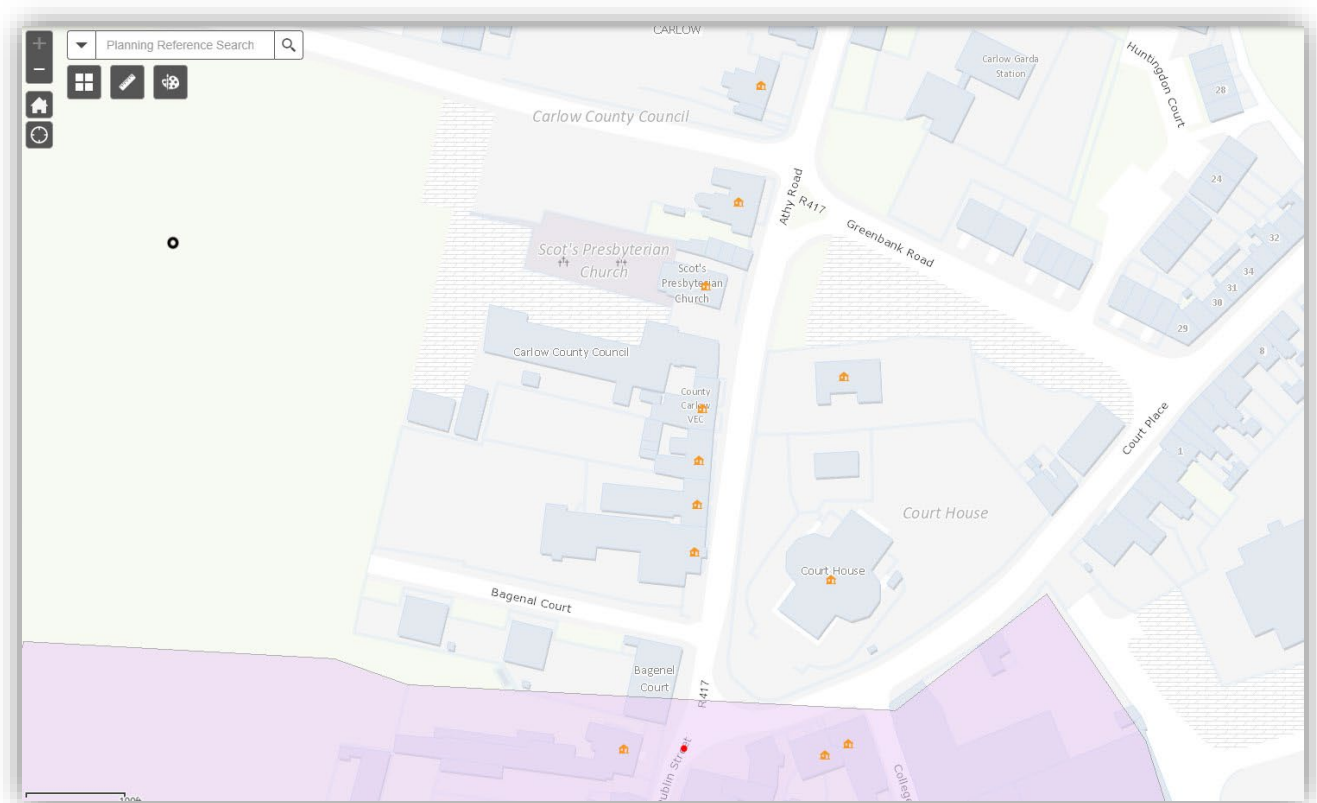


Fig.04 - GIS mapping showing the location of protected structures as recorded in the RPS under the County Development Plan 2022 - 2028.

3.2. Historical Background

- 3.2.1. Extract from: CARLOW TOWN 2040 - REGENERATION STRATEGY
 “.....*The Development of Carlow Town The Carlow Town area has a rich and varied history dating back many millennia, the Browneshill Dolmen to the east of the Town being a prominent megalithic tomb dating to c.3,500 B.C. Following the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland, Carlow Castle was built in the early 13th Century by William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Leinster.*

The Castle was constructed to defend a crossing point of the River Barrow and is likely the basis for the development of Carlow Town in its current location. Carlow once served as the administrative capital of the Lordship of Ireland under King Edward III from 1361 – 1374. Carlow Castle itself had survived largely intact from the 13th Century until 1814 when unsympathetic efforts were made to redevelop it. Parts of the bridge over the River Barrow are also of historical significance, dating back to the 16th Century.

The current layout of the Town dates back to this time when it functioned as a market town serving a substantial rural hinterland. It continued to fulfill this role for over two centuries. The 19th Century in Carlow brought advancements in architecture and infrastructure with the development of Carlow Courthouse, Duckett’s Grove and Carlow Cathedral, one of the first Catholic Cathedrals in Ireland. These stand today as testament to the architectural heritage and development of the Town.”

- 3.2.2. In 1798 and the outbreak of the Rebellion saw Carlow once more at war resulting in the massacre of 600 United Irishmen at the hands of the British. The bodies were buried in a pit across the Barrow in Graiguecullen. Called the ‘Croppies Grave’. A memorial was erected one hundred years later which still stands to this day.
- 3.2.3. Nineteenth-century architecture features prominently in Carlow town and county. Two of the most notable architects were William Vitruvius Morrison responsible for the design of Carlow Courthouse built in 1830 and Thomas Cobden who designed both Ducketts Grove and Carlow’s impressive Cathedral. During this period Carlow also became part of the great railway boom and travellers were able to journey the length and breadth of the county by train.
- 3.2.4. Carlow became the location for the first sugar beet factory in Ireland in 1926, which thrived for eighty years contributing greatly to the economy of the country. In the 1960s international companies like Braun and Lappel chose Carlow as a location for their industries.
- 3.2.5. Carlow and its environs have also produced many artists and writers throughout the years. Natives of Carlow such as popular children’s writer David Donohue and the multi-talented Val Vousden have contributed to the literary and artistic scene in Carlow. Others have made Carlow their sanctuary as Christabel Bielenberg did on her escape from Nazi Germany in the 1940s or Mim Scala whose electrifying journey in rock n’ roll lead to tranquillity fishing

on the River Barrow. George Bernard Shaw even left his mark on Carlow with his donation of the Assembly rooms on Dublin Street.

3.2.6. It should be noted from Fig. 04 that the proposed site is outside the zone of notification. Despite this an Archaeological Impact Assessment was carried out. This included some onsite trench investigations and it was determined that there were no negative Archeological Impacts as a result of this proposal.

4. DEVELOPEMNT PLAN

4.1. Below is an extract from the Land Use Zoning Map from the Joint Spatial Plan for Carlow & Graiguecullen.



Fig.05 - Extract from the Land Use Zoning Map in the JSP 2012-2018 as extended.

4.2. The proposed site is zone for “Town Centre” use and the car parking proposal is compliant with “Town Centre” zoning.

5. THE PROPOSAL


5.1. The proposed project is relative straight forward. It is for the expansion of the existing County Council car park facilities. This includes an additional entrance/exit, additional car parking spaces, revised car park layout,

Proposal	Justification	Impact
<p>New Entrance/Exit to the north of the proposed site onto the Andy Murphy Road.</p> <p>The lands at the moments are disused and are overgrown and unkept.</p>	<p>To alleviate traffic congestion at the constricted existing entry exit route.</p> <p>To upgrade and improve the existing wall and access onto the Andy Murphy Road.</p>	<p>New entry/exit in the existing rubble stone wall. The required works will result in the repair and improvement of the overall condition of the existing wall, in which there is already an existing ope broken out, which will be repaired.</p> <p>It will have no visual impact on the protected structure to the front of the road (Greenville).</p> <p>It will improve the rear of the site and bring a vacant and overgrown space back into use.</p> <p>It will also offer more oversight onto the Andy Murphy Road.</p> <p>All of which will be positive for the area as a whole.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on the protected structures.</p>
<p>The overall aim of the proposal is to provide additional carparking spaces to serve the County Council offices.</p>	<p>To expand the existing car parking facilities which are often at capacity. The revised layout will result in more “universally accessible spaces”. It will also provide for more charging points for electric vehicles.</p>	<p>The proposed project will bring an disused area back into use will having a positive visual impact on the unkept grounds.</p> <p>The projects includes for a Biodiversity area as well as taking into accounts SUDS for the servicing of the space.</p> <p>All of which will be positive for the site as a whole.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on the protected structures.</p>
<p>Additional carparking spaces to be provided within the curtilage of the former Bank of Ireland premises.</p>	<p>The property is currently unused and when in use the outdoor area was used for carparking.</p>	<p>It has no impact on the protected structure that is the former Bank of Ireland premises as. The more modern single storey extension to the bank actually screens the proposed new car park from the protected structure to the front of the site.</p> <p>It therefore has no adverse impact on the protected structure.</p>

6. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSAL

The proposed project will not have an adverse impact on any of the principle protected structures of, Greenville, the Presbyterian Church or the former Bank of Ireland premises and all the associated buildings and features.

The proposed scheme will help to improve the Council car parking facilities and will be of considerable benefit to the area generally as it will tidy up a number of vacant and overgrown areas will improving passive oversight on the Andy Murphy Road.



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