Location of the Walled City

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Under a Royal Charter of March 1613 granted by King James 1, the City of London and its Livery Companies were ordered to form an organisation for the purpose of conducting a Plantation in County Londonderry. This became known as The Honourable The Irish Society, or Irish Society for short.

Amongst much else, the Charter required the Irish Society, within a short period, to build and fortify the old town of Derry, which was now renamed Londonderry. Within six years this had been achieved, at a cost of about £11,700, which was more than one fifth of the entire budget for the Plantation. The Irish Society had put the project in the capable hands of Captain Sir Edward Doddington, who designed the walls, a surveyor, Thomas Raven and Peter Benson, a master builder. Whilst their names may be obscure to us today, their achievement in Londonderry was considerable, under very difficult circumstances. The fact that the walls enabled the inhabitants to survive three separate sieges in the 17th Century amply bears this out. Additionally, a number of cannon for the defence of the city were sent from London at that time, many of which are still on the walls today.

Since that time, the Irish Society has maintained a close, benevolent interest in the city of Londonderry, and of course in its walls which, until 1955, were maintained at its sole expense. As a charitable organisation, the Irish Society is still involved in many ways in County Londonderry, using the income from its assets for the benefit of all parts of the community and seeking to bring the expertise and influence of the City of London to assist local projects. As such, it is a firm supporter of the Conservation Plan, which it hopes will preserve the walls for future generations, whilst enabling today’s citizens of Londonderry to make the most of the tourism potential that they offer.

Edward Montgomery
Representative (Ireland)
The Honourable The Irish Society

Environment and Heritage Service

EHS and its predecessors have now looked after Derry’s Walls for 52 years. Our guardianship agreement with the owners - the Honourable the Irish Society - has been exactly that. We have looked to protect them from the ravages of time and to ensure that they can be appreciated as an important historic monument by our own and future generations.

The period has been one of immense change both for the host city and for the development of heritage conservation. In 1955 there were no listed buildings or Conservation Areas in Northern Ireland. The international charters on heritage protection were still couched in very general terms. Only large historic monuments such as the walls were afforded any sort of state protection. The city had also changed very little in the preceding 100 years. Who could have predicted that large parts of the historic city would be destroyed and rebuilt and that the walls themselves would become closed from public access for an extended period?

The walls are now situated at the heart of an extensive heritage protection regime for the historic city. They are surrounded by many listed buildings and are the centrepiece of the recently extended Walled City Conservation Area. They have been open to all again for over ten years and have been subject to sustained restoration works which have improved their appearance and interpretation. The work associated with the Signature Destination Project is part of this development. Heritage is no longer just about preserving the old it is an economic opportunity. Increased tourism brings investment. Distinctive and pleasant places can attract international business.

EHS is glad to be associated with this Conservation Plan which has developed from detailed discussions. We will use this as the basis for our future decisions in regard to the walls and seek to establish the inclusive management structure which it recommends. This will establish the basis for the next phase of our guardianship one which we hope will continue our history of protecting this important structure while realising its maximum potential.

Richard Rogers
Chief Executive
Derry City Council

It is certainly a relief for us today that the Corporation did not excise its authority to pull down the Walls under the Londonderry Bridge Act of 1880! The Historic City Walls of Derry now sit proudly alongside the Giant’s Causeway and the Titanic Belfast as tourism icons for Northern Ireland. But the Walls are more than just an ancient monument of interest only to visitors. The Walls and its Gates define the very heart of the modern city of Londonderry, providing a sense of enclosure and a feeling that you are entering and exiting a very special urban space.

In ancient times, the City Walls were built to keep the Planter and the Gael apart; today the Walls are being fashioned into a shared space which brings together the communities which live “within” and “without” the Walls. A monument of such national and international importance clearly requires a plan which sets out the standards expected for its conservation and management.

The need for a Conservation and Management Plan for the City Walls was first identified in Derry City Council’s “Walled City Public Realm Plan” published in 2004. I am pleased that the Council’s Economic Development Section and the Department’s Environment and Heritage Service have delivered on this action point by jointly commissioning Alastair Coey Architects to carry out the necessary surveys and consultations to produce the plans. The financial support of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board through the Integrated Development Fund is also much appreciated.

On behalf of Derry City Council, I am happy to endorse the Plan and to commit the City Council to work in partnership with the DOE Environment and Heritage Service and the Honourable the Irish Society and all of the other stakeholders to ensure the City Walls continue to play a key part in the life of this City and country as they have done during the past 400 years.

Alderman Andrew Thompson
Mayor

Northern Ireland Tourist Board

Tourism in Northern Ireland is flourishing, with visitor numbers continuing to rise and tourists spending more while they are here. The world’s leading travel publication, Lonely Planet, recently nominated us as a must see destination. This recognition captures a very real sense that Northern Ireland’s moment has arrived as a discovery travel destination. The Walled City of Derry has played a pivotal role in this progress and will continue to be an integral part of our world class tourism products.

The Walled City Signature Project is one of the five iconic projects identified in the Northern Ireland Tourist Board’s Strategic Framework for Action 2004 – 2007. The walls are surrounded by buildings of historical and cultural importance and now play a central role in welcoming visitors to the city.

As a unique tourism asset, the Walled City of Derry Signature Project has the potential to create world class excellence for Northern Ireland. Quality orientation and interpretation schemes now ensure that visitors are able to explore this area’s unique culture and history through the city walls. This Conservation Plan will guarantee that the monument is conserved to the highest possible standards while also allowing for a significant number of visitors to enjoy it.

NITB wholeheartedly endorses the Conservation Plan and continued partnership with the DOE Environment and Heritage Service, the Honourable the Irish Society, Ilex, Derry City Council and all of our other partners in delivery of the Walled City Signature Project. We look forward to the future with much optimism and expect to welcome many more visitors to the Walled City of Derry.

Alan Clarke
Chief Executive
INTRODUCTION

The ‘Walls of Derry’ are a historic monument in state care, ‘state care’ being the highest form of heritage protection in Northern Ireland. Still owned by those responsible for their original construction: The Honourable the Irish Society of London, but under a far reaching guardianship agreement, the State has maintained and been responsible for all decisions on their future since 1955. Environment and Heritage Service, (an Agency within the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland), is currently responsible for this care. Significant funding has been put into the structure since 1955 with an extensive repair programme, in particular, over the last ten years.

Many other agencies and stakeholders are involved in issues involving the maintenance and long term care of the monument. This may be by default or because of a statutory remit. For example, Roads Service of the Department of Regional Development currently maintain the road surfaces and lighting on the monument, Derry City Council own the cannons and clean litter and remove graffiti with support from the NW Development Office of the Department of Social Development and have been closely involved in providing signage. The North West Development Office has funded improvements to the road surfaces and previous lighting and signage schemes. The Centre Initiative has become involved in day to day management on the wall and in security issues. Other organisations provide tour guides, stage events, or own land which is adjacent or relevant to the future development of the monument. Most of this work is to the benefit of the walls but it is important that all involved are clear about the value of the monument and potential impact of their actions upon this asset. This is one of the main purposes of this plan.

With the transition to peace in Northern Ireland the opportunity to develop the potential of the historic city as a catalyst for economic regeneration has been grasped by the City Council and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NTB). This is likely to increase the stakeholder involvement with the walls. Jointly they commissioned a Walled City Public Realm Plan in 2004 and the tourist board designated the walled city as one of six Signature Tourism Projects in Northern Ireland. A committee with representation from all interested agencies, EHS, Ilex Urban Regeneration Company and the North West Development Office, was set up in 2005 to progress the implementation of the plan. This is supported by European Peace funding and the Integrated Development Fund. A number of projects have been identified and are being developed, including funding for training, events, lighting and new signage, the restoration of historic buildings and historical interpretation and exhibitions.

The city walls are a crucial part of this tourism product and will be the focus of visitor orientation to the city. In this context Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) felt it important to bring forward the development of a Conservation Plan to establish what is important about the structure and to set out agreed policies for its future development and to commission a Management Plan for the co-ordination of management on the monument. The Development Committee of Derry City Council have been particularly supportive in this aspiration and through the Economic Development Section have facilitated the project by tendering and commissioning the work. Funding for the project has been principally from NTB through the Integrated Development Fund with remaining costs being borne by EHS and the City Council.
WHAT IS A CONSERVATION PLAN?
A Conservation Plan is a document which is intended to explain in clear language what is important about a historic structure and why this is so. It considers conflicting demands upon a structure and offers solutions. It provides policies for future reference. A key issue is that it should become the basis of an agreed way forward for a monument. As many groups and stakeholders will be involved in achieving true potential and a sustainable future it is important that a wide consultation takes place. This project has endeavoured to carry out such a consultation with a public meeting wide stakeholder comment and subsequent development guided by a representative management committee. This committee has sought further comment from key stakeholders. It is hoped that the finished document will form an essential reference point for future decisions.

WHAT IS A MANAGEMENT PLAN?
The Management Plan commissioned along with this document is a detailed but easily adaptable manual which will be used by those involved in the day to day management of the monument. It sets out contact details, clarifies current practice and includes information on future maintenance programmes, best practice and event planning guidelines. It also contains detailed survey information on the monument. It is envisaged that this document will change and evolve in response to the formalisation of management procedures set out in the conservation Plan.

WHAT IS A GAZETTEER?
A gazetteer has also been developed as part of this project. It gives a detailed description of the walls and their associated history which will be of use to those involved in the future management of the structure. It will also be of interest to anyone keen to find out more about the walls in detail.

EXTENT OF THE PLAN
The colonial city of Londonderry was designed as an ideal new town based upon classical ideals derived ultimately from Roman town planning. Four principle streets radiate from a central town square or ‘diamond’ with a secondary network of streets as a further enclosing square. Much of this original plan survives though the original buildings (with the exception of the slightly later cathedral and some archaeology) are gone. The city walls though adapted to landscape conditions and military priorities are an integral part of this city plan. This conservation plan however does not extend to the consideration of the city within the walls. That is potentially a larger and more complex project. This plan aims to provide an agreed basis for the sustainable development of the Monument in State Care and its associated archaeology.

TERMS OF REFERENCE
The Conservation Plan for Derry’s City Walls was prepared by Alastair Coey Architects, appointed in October 2005. The plan provides the background to a Management Plan which was commissioned at the same time and is drafted to take into account the policies outlined in this document.

THE STEERING GROUP
The Conservation Plan was evolved in consultation with a Steering Group consisting of the following people:
- Manus Deery, Principal Conservation Architect, Environment and Heritage Service, Historic Buildings Unit
- Bob Bleakley, Assistant Director of Regional Operations, Environment and Heritage Service
- Claire Foley, Acting Principal Archaeologist, Environment and Heritage Service, Historic Monuments Unit
- Ian McQuiston, Chairman, Historic Buildings Council
- Richard Black, Chairman, Historic Monuments Council
- Siobhan McCauley, Northern Ireland Tourist Board
- Tony Monaghan, Economic Development Section, Derry City Council
- Gary McCloud, Tourist Development Unit, Derry City Council
- Tony Candon, Heritage and Museum Service, Derry City Council
- Alastair Coey, Alastair Coey Architects

THE CONSULTANCY TEAM
The team leader was Alastair Coey. Expert opinion was provided by the following people:
- Archaeology - Dr Colm Donnelly, Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen’s University, Belfast
- Ecology - Jo Whatmough, Consultant on Environmental Management
- Historical context - Dr Brian Turner
- Planning - Sharon Brown, Conservation Planner
METHODOLOGY

The following methodology was adopted in the preparation of the plan.

Each expert was briefed as to the required input in the context of the conservation plan and visited Derry prior to preparation of their focused reports.

A photographic record was prepared.

A public meeting was held on Thursday, 17 November 2005 in the Tower Hotel, Butcher Street, Derry. Members of the public were invited to attend this meeting through a newspaper advertisement and other media publicity. Elected representatives and other key people were invited by letter.

Approximately fifty people attended the meeting, including many representatives from the local community. A list of attendees was retained.

Regular Steering Group meetings were held at which the team leader reported on progress and issues emerging from the research were debated and discussed in detail.

Stakeholders’ meetings were held on Thursday 1st and 15th December 2005 and on April 7th 2006, at which the draft Statement of Significance and conservation policies were discussed. Approximately thirty stakeholders attended the first meeting twenty the second (around a third of whom had not attended the first meeting) and twenty six the third.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The lead consultant wishes to thank all who contributed to the preparation of this Conservation Plan. The members of the Steering Group, chaired by Manus Deery, gave freely of their time.

We are grateful to the expert members of our team who provided important and pertinent input to the study on a wide range of issues.

Invaluable assistance was provided by Annesley Malley, who gave unstintingly of his time and knowledge of the walls and provided many of the illustrations included within this document.

We would also acknowledge the contribution of members of the public who attended the public meeting or contacted us to impart their memories of, and opinions about, the City Walls and their views as to where their future might lie.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION

The Conservation Plan has been developed in the context of current governance arrangements in Northern Ireland. It should be reviewed after the implications of the Review of Public Administration is embedded to ensure that policies are amended in an appropriate manner to ensure no dilution of their import.

TERMINOLOGY

The use of the titles ‘Londonderry’ and ‘Derry’ are used as seems contextually appropriate throughout the text. Individual occurrences should not be interpreted as conveying any secondary meaning or bias. ‘Ireland was always a paradox: Ulster is no exception.’ (Curl, The Londonderry Plantation 1609-1914, p121).
Historical and social development of the Monument

On the island in the Foyle, where the city later grew, there was an Early Christian monastery which carried the great prestige of association with Colmcille or Saint Columba, the first Christian saint of Irish birth. The monastery reached its greatest religious and secular importance in the twelfth century, although the seat of the diocese was not moved to Derry, from Maghera, until the middle of the thirteenth century. The site included a major church building (Tempull Mór) that was constructed in 1164, and an Augustinian monastery (Lacey 1990, 39-53). In addition, the O’Dohertys built a tower house here for their overlords the O’Donnells, in lieu of certain taxes, on land purchased from the Ua Lochlainn for 20 cows (Lacey 1999, 19).

The nature of any place is greatly influenced by its geographical position, and the way in which people use or interpret that environment. The low hill of Derry, formerly an island, is near the mouth of the River Foyle in north-western Ireland, easily accessible by sea, but also deep in the interior of Ulster. In early history it also lay at a conjunction of the two main parts of the territory of the Cenél nEógan, people, in Inishowen and Tirowen, whose leading families are represented in more modern times in the surnames of McLaughlin and O’Neill, and by the Cenél Conaill, whose name is the main element of Tirconnell and who are represented by the surname of O’Donnell and others.

On the island in the Foyle, where the city later grew, there was an Early Christian monastery which carried the great prestige of association with Colmcille or Saint Columba, the first Christian saint of Irish birth. The monastery reached its greatest religious and secular importance in the twelfth century, although the seat of the diocese was not moved to Derry, from Maghera, until the middle of the thirteenth century. The site included a major church building (Tempull Mór) that was constructed in 1164, and an Augustinian monastery (Lacey 1990, 39-53). In addition, the O’Dohertys built a tower house here for their overlords the O’Donnells, in lieu of certain taxes, on land purchased from the Ua Lochlainn for 20 cows (Lacey 1999, 19).

All the elaborated names by which the place has been known, Daire Calgach, Doire Cholmcille, and Londonderry are linked by the single Irish word, Doire - Derry, referring to an oak-grove. This word appears in many Irish place-names and may sometimes, as in the present case, carry implications of the ancient sacred significance of that tree.
In the late sixteenth century, when Elizabethan England was eventually destroying the structure of Gaelic Ireland, Derry lay between the lands of the O’Neills and O’Kanes to the east and south and those of the O’Donnells and O’Doherty’s to the north and west. Its strategic position was not lost on the English government although its wider significance was not exploited until the end of the century.

Elizabethan forces, led by Colonel Edward Randolph, under the command of the Lord Deputy, Sir Henry Sidney first occupied Derry in 1566 and threw up defensive earthworks for the garrison. They made some progress in establishing themselves but withdrew in the following year after a devastating accident when their powder magazine most likely located in the former nunnery at the highest point of the hill, exploded, killing at least thirty soldiers, and wounding many others. In 1600, during the Nine Years War, the Lord Deputy Mountjoy sent Sir Henry Docwra with 4,000 troops to occupy Derry as part of a pincer movement against the army of Hugh O’Neill of Tyrone. He found Derry to be ‘a place in manner of an island … the river called Lough Foyle encompassing it all on one side, and a bog most commonly wet and not easily passable except in two or three places, dividing it from the main land.’ Docwra established two forts on the island of Derry, one by the riverside, and one up the hill near the site of the present St Augustine’s church, together with a small settlement of houses.

Some Gaelic chieftains came over to Docwra’s side, including Cahir O’Doherty who was knighted for his service. ‘Derrie’ received a city charter from James VI & I in 1604 which described it as ‘… a place very convenient to be made both a town of war and a town of merchandize …’. However Docwra, who had been made Provost of the city for life, was disappointed at subsequent lack of support for the city and departed in 1606. Cahir O’Doherty revolted against his successor Paulet in 1608 and, although his rebellion failed, the little fortified town was badly damaged.

In 1607, the Flight of the Earls — the departure abroad of the principal Gaelic chiefs of Ulster — unexpectedly left the Crown with a wide swathe of territory covering two thirds of the province, which came to be used for the Plantation of Ulster with settlers from Britain. This was at the beginning of the age of colonial expansion and it was calculated that Protestant settlers would both safeguard the country from foreign invasion and speed its development in the money economy of western Europe.

The London trade guilds, or Companies, undertook to carry out this plantation in the area which became known first as the County of Coleraine and later as the County of Londonderry, and to build two walled towns, one at Coleraine, and the other at Derry. In 1613 a company was incorporated for the purpose, by the name of ‘The Society of the Governors and Assistants of London of the New Plantation of Ulster within the Realm of Ireland’, later known as the Honourable the Irish Society. Derry received a new charter and name, the City of Londonderry.

Also in 1613 the surveyors first ‘viewed and trode out the ground’ for the line of the walls as they are today, and their building was largely finished in 1618, although there were some minor additions a few years later.

By the late 15th century, the development and use of artillery in Europe had degraded significantly the effectiveness of traditional Medieval forms of fortification. High walls could now be demolished by direct bombardment with cannon. Fortified coastal castles, such as those constructed by Henry VIII at Deal and St. Mawes represent examples of attempts to modify mediaeval architectural ideals to meet the threat of ordnance. Based on the writings of Albrecht Dürer at the end of the 15th century, they were, however, an evolutionary sideshoot and only a few were constructed in England and on the continent.
The response to artillery — most clearly seen to have developed in 16th-century Italy — was to construct defences comprising low, thick ramparts with angular bastions and surrounded by ditches with outer counterscarp banks. Although represented in many versions of defensive layouts, the *trace italien* allowed ordnance to be mounted securely, provided wide flanks allowing crossfire both from small arms and cannon to bear down along an external ditch, and eliminated any patches of dead ground which had existed in front of circular or rectangular towers of mediaeval fortifications. In Britain this new system is best represented by the line of bastioned defences at Berwick-upon-Tweed, constructed between 1560 and 1569, and the most costly fortification programme undertaken in England during the reign of Elizabeth I (Kerrigan 1995, 3). In Ireland, the earliest bastioned fort would seem to be that at Corkbeg, Co. Cork, dating to pre-1569. Campaign forts designed for use with artillery and guns had been constructed in Ulster during the course of the Nine Years’ War (1594-1603) by both English and Gaelic Irish forces. These forts were constructed with earthen ramparts and timber palisades and with bastions or demi-bastions at their salient angles, and were often hastily erected as a means for strategic locations to be either held or protected. The Dutch had pioneered the use of this more economical form of fortification during the wars in the Netherlands of the late-sixteenth century. They had discovered that a suitably revetted wall made of earth and turf was a good substitute for masonry, provided that the wall was sufficiently thick (Young and Emberton 1978, 2). The earthen rampart was protected with timber palisades set horizontally to prevent escalade, and at the foot of the rampart there ran a low outer rampart which gave defenders the complete control of the ditch. This double enceinte was formed into curtins and bastions in imitation of the Italian model. The problem with this system, however, was its durability since the timber palisade would eventually decay and the earthen rampart would subsequently slump. The earliest fortifications constructed by Sir Henry Docwra at Derry were of this form, and he used it also for his garrisons at Culmore, Dunalong and Lifford. These are well seen in contemporary maps of c. 1600, and the text accompanying Everard’s map actually lists the cannon deployed in the main defences at Derry.

While it was recognised as a fine temporary fortification, the construction of ramparts lined in stone was equally recognised as a more durable fortification, especially for those walls designed to encompass a town or city. It is for this reason that we find Chichester (Sir Arthur Chichester, Lord Deputy 1605-15) so keen to construct the walls of Derry in stone following the destruction of Docwra’s settlement by the O’Doherty rebellion in 1608. It would also, no doubt, have been intended to act as reminder to the native population of the permanent nature of the new order’s presence in Ulster.

The design of the walls was undertaken by Sir Edward Doddington and the construction was overseen by Peter Benson, a master builder from London, with the work undertaken between 1613 and 1619. A survey undertaken by Captain Nicholas Pynnar in 1619 reported that:

‘The City of Londonderry is compassed with a strong wall, excellently made and neatly wrought, of good lime and stone, circuit 284 2/3 perches, 18 feet to the perch, the 4 gates contain 84 feet, the wall is 24 foot high and 6 thick. Gates battlemented, but to two there is no going up, so they serve to no great use, there are no leaves for the gates, but 2 drawbridges serve for 2, and 2 portcullis for the other two. 9 bulwarks very large and good, and 2 half bulwarks; upon 4 can be placed 4 cannons or other pieces, the rest are not quite so large. The rampart within the city 12 foot thick of earth’ (Cal. SPI 1615 – 1625, 378-379).

The walls consisted of a 8 metre thick earthen rampart faced with a 2 metre deep outer face of stone. The excavation of the earth for the rampart created a ditch on the outer side of the walls, with the exception of the north-western part of the circuit that now overlooks the Bogside, where the hillside was scarped to provide additional defence (Lacy 1999, 68-69).

‘The faces of the walls have a steep batter rising usually to a string course, above which a straight wall-head with embrasures for artillery rises to breast height. The copings are often of dressed sandstone’ (Rowan 1979, 373-74).
The height of the wall varies, but shows little evidence of having been altered since its original construction. The modern height of 6 to 7.5 metres (Rowan 1979) has been compared to the historical documentation by Thomas (1992, ii, 160) who noted that:

‘Pynnar (1618) gave it as the equivalent of 7 metres and Phillips (1627) of 6 metres. Pynnar’s figures agreed with Walker’s (1689) on the thickness of the stone wall as being between 1.8 and 2 metres. The rampart behind the wall is the only feature to change over time, Pynnar’s figure comes out at 3.5 metres and Rowan’s 4.9 metres.’

The source of stone and lime for construction of the walls appears not to have been definitively identified. Milligan suggests possible sources of stone were quarries in the Rock Road area or, more conveniently, off Fahan Street or Quarry Street. Lime kilns are shown close to Lord Docwra’s Bulwark (Coward’s Bastion) on the c.1625 map The Plat of the Cittie of Londonderry as it Stand Built and Fortyfied but the raw materials for burning were clearly brought from a distance. Docwra referred to using shells from Shell Island below Culmore where the river enters Lough Foyle (Kelly, W.P. 2003, 44).

In essence, the walls have remained intact since their first construction.

Within the walled area a new settlement had been laid out, with four streets leading to a central square called the Diamond. By 1622 there were over one hundred houses in existence in the new streetscape, and a market house had been constructed in the Diamond, while a new cathedral was erected between 1628 and 1633 to replace the old St. Augustine's Abbey. Originally there were four gates that punctured the circuit of the walls, each leading onto one of the four main streets within the enclosed city centre. Lacy (1990, 88 – 90) notes that Derry was the first piece of major urban planning in Ireland, and may well have been influenced by the layout of European towns such as Vitry-le-François on the River Marne in France.

In Raven’s map of 1625 the four gates are depicted as rectangular towers, with battlements, that rise above the parapet level of the city walls. In appearance the gates would have retained a similarity to the gatehouses of the Medieval period, despite their location on a seventeenth century town wall that had been designed for use with artillery and guns.

The four original gates, unfortunately, have not survived. In addition, three new major openings - New Gate (1787), Castle Gate (1803) and Magazine Gate (1865) - were punched through the fabric of the walls to enable easier access to the city centre. A break was also made in the circuit of the walls at Richmond Street, located between the Newgate Bastion and the Water Bastion, in 1861 (Rowan 1979, 374-76; Hippsley 1988, 26-28).

Of the original ten artillery bastions that were erected along the outer line of the walls, three have been totally removed: Gunner’s Bastion (demolished 1810), Coward’s Bastion (demolished 1824) and the Water Bastion (removed piecemeal after 1837).

Two small corbelled circular sentinel houses were added to the walls either side of Church Bastion in 1627 (Rowan 1979, 376). In addition, a triangular defensive wall, or ravelin, was added to the front of the Bishop’s Gate by Colonel Robert Lundy to provide this vulnerable point with additional protection during the siege of 1689 (this is no longer visible).

The popular fame of Londonderry as a walled city principally derives from its withstanding of the 1689 siege of 105 days, during the ‘Glorious Revolution’ that resulted in the deposition of James II and the accession of William III and Mary II to the British throne. But it had acted also as a place of refuge in the years following the outbreak in October 1641 of the great Rebellion, and suffered an even longer siege in 1649, when parliamentary forces under Sir Charles Coote defended the city against a Royalist army. Even as late as the 1790s the Corporation was concerned that the walls should be put in a state of defence during the period leading up to the 1798 Rising and a possible French invasion. It was only in the nineteenth century that people began to remark on the walls as a structure of possible civic benefit and ‘ornament’.

Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the state of the walls was a regular concern for the Corporation, with frequent mention both of their dilapidation and of measures taken to repair them. In the late 1700s, approaching the hundredth anniversary of the 1689 siege, the first demands for deliberate change to the walls began to arise and that was mainly to do with the state of the gates and the gatehouses which were on top of them.
Butcher Gate was rebuilt in a more decorative, rather than fortified, style in 1789. The passage through the walls at the end of London Street (New Gate) had been made in 1787 to provide access to the city's first theatre. Although the Corporation gained authority to pull down the walls under the Londonderry Bridge Act of 1800, it did not do so, but added more gates and rebuilt the old ones in succeeding years. In 1819 an agreement between the Corporation and the Honourable the Irish Society contained a specific undertaking that 'the City Walls shall be preserved and kept up for the use and accommodation of the inhabitants'. The Water Bastion was almost entirely removed by successive attempts to create a crossing from Foyle Street on to the East Wall. This drew a strangely familiar complaint in 1844 when The Londonderry Sentinel observed that 'the passage at night was a lurking place for every description of profligate character.' The last major changes were in the 1860s when the Coward's Bastion was finally removed and Magazine Gate built, and the walls were breached at Orchard Street, through to Richmond Street.

In the nineteenth century there were numerous complaints about building on or up against the walls, and about lesser encroachments such as people using them as advertising hoardings. In the twentieth century a plan to hollow them out and use them for air-raid shelters during the Second World War was turned down!

There have been dozens of towns surrounded by walls in Ireland, but Londonderry, the last walled city to be built in Europe, stands as the most complete and spectacular. It is part of a long European tradition of walled cities - it is really a city with walls around it rather than a heavily fortified citadel. It was built at a time of European expansion and this also brings it into comparison with Quebec City in Canada which was founded, and began its defences, in the same period.

The significance of the walls of Derry in European history, and in Ulster Protestant folklore deriving from the late-seventeenth century siege, is an important part of the Irish heritage. The remarkable survival of the walls is probably due, in large measure, to this particular interest. There is now an opportunity for careful management and use of the walls not only to conserve a national monument, but also to contribute to popular education and developing civic identity.

All elements of the history of Derry and Londonderry make it a very particular place in Irish history, and one in which there is a wide interest in preserving and interpreting. One helpful factor is that there is a considerable amount of first-hand documentation, plans and maps, right from the very beginning of the walls, which can help to trace their history in the overall Irish context.

While the city walls are the most obvious distinctive feature of Derry, other aspects of its history, particularly its early Christian associations and its possible proto-urban medieval development do not have a clear manifestation. Progress in this respect will partly depend on archaeological investigation. However the creation and enhancement of linkages between the walls and adjacent areas of the city, particularly the Long Tower and St Columb's Wells area, would provide considerable opportunities for recovering and interpreting all facets of the history of the place, within a context of integrated environmental improvement.

The City of London built the walls in the seventeenth century during a period when its modern mercantile and financial basis was being developed. The Honourable the Irish Society still owns the walls although, in 1955, the Society appointed the then Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland (now Department of the Environment, Environment and Heritage Service) as guardian with responsibility for the ongoing upkeep of the Monument. The Society continues to this day to take a benevolent interest in the walls.

Somebody once wrote that ‘…it is never possible to feel that Derry is an ordinary city’. All its people concur with that statement. The walls are its most visible symbol, and present opportunities for serious and open-hearted care and development.
DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The map of the city shows the Monument sub-divided into twenty-nine discrete sections falling into three categories – gates, bastions and ramparts. It is proposed that these section designations should be adopted in all future technical references to the Monument.

‘The Monument’ means not only the city walls comprising the gates, bastions and ramparts but also adjoining land and property and associated below-ground archaeology which form its setting. For detailed descriptions of the seven gates, seven bastions and fifteen discrete rampart sections see the separately published Gazetteer. For clarity and ease of reference, the layout of the Monument is deemed to form an approximation to a rectangle with the short side to the north facing Shipquay Place. The long east and west sides are roughly parallel to the central north-south axis of Bishop Street Within and Shipquay Street.

The inner and outer walls are largely constructed from random rubble shale with dressed brown sandstone used on the outer walls for copings to parapets, dressings to embrasures and loops and quoins to bastion angles. The inner walls generally have low parapets capped with rubble stone soldier courses. The entire wall walkway was re-surfaced in exposed-aggregate concrete about 1985. The walkway is sub-divided by a number of sets of palisade fences and gates, erected for security purposes during the ‘Troubles’.
A clockwise circuit of the Monument commences at Magazine Gate (Section 01). This was a new gate, built in 1865, of rubble stone with ashlar sandstone dressings. It has a single segmental-arched opening.

The rampart between Magazine Gate and Shipquay Gate (Section 02) is almost level and is one of the most striking sections with its outer wall rising high above the wide public space of Shipquay Place. The rampart’s walkway is enlivened by a row of, recently restored, cannon with their barrels protruding through the crenellated parapet of the outer wall. The inner face rises above the narrow Union Hall Place. Shipquay Gate (Section 03) was the site of one of the four original gates.

The present structure was built in the first decade of the nineteenth century of ashlar sandstone and has a single elliptical-arched opening. From Shipquay Gate the rampart (Section 04) descends gently to the site of the former Water Bastion (Section 05). Its outer face is almost completely obscured by the backs of nineteenth century properties which face onto Ferryquay Street. The inner wall rises above Bank Place from which the walkway can be accessed by two flights of steps and a ramp. All that remains of Water Bastion is an incongruous railed-off platform overlooking the public library from which a flight of steps descends to Ferryquay Street.
EAST SIDE

From the site of Water Bastion the wall turns south and the rampart (Section 06) rises towards Newmarket Street which was formed in the 1860s and is the only point at which the walls are breached. The outer wall rises above the library car park, a space which steadily tapers towards the south until it is completely closed by the gable of St Columb's Hall. The inner wall is obscured by the Millenium Forum the east elevation of which is congruent with the wall head. At the south end the walkway terminates at a broad flight of steps which rise to Newmarket Street. Beyond the street a further flight of steps climb to the walkway of the next short section of rampart (Section 07). Most of the high outer face is visible from a recently created, public space on the west side of Orchard Street. The inner face rises only a little above the pavement of Market Street.

All four gently battered outer faces of New Gate Bastion (Section 08) are visible from Orchard Street. The next short section of rampart (Section 09) continues to rise more steeply to Ferry Quay Gate. Its high outer face towers above another public space in Orchard Street and its inner face rises above the pavement of Market Street. Ferry Quay Gate (Section 10) is also located on the site of one of the four original gates and is one of the busiest entrances to the city centre. The present structure was built in 1866 of brown ashlar sandstone. It has a central semi-circular-arched vehicular opening flanked by two semi-circular-arched pedestrian passages. From Ferry Quay Gate the rampart (Section 11) widens as it rises gently to Artillery Bastion. The outer wall overlooks the rear yards of residential properties facing onto Fountain Street, while the height of the inner wall tapers as Artillery Street rises below. The outer walls of Artillery Bastion (Section 12) also face onto the rear of Fountain Street properties and the, soon to be restored, fire station on Hawkins Street. The bastion is separated from the main walkway by recently installed railings on a low ashlar stone wall with new gateposts flanking an entrance gate.

The walkway of the next section of rampart (Section 13) continues to rise to New Gate. This gate (Section 14) was first opened by the Corporation in 1787 and was subsequently replaced by the present segmental-arched opening in 1866. The rampart from New Gate to Church Bastion (Section 15) tapers towards the south and is separated from the church yard of St. Columb's Cathedral by railings on a masonry plinth wall. The outer wall rises above the Fountain Estate and increases in height towards the south with the change in height being marked by the remains of a circular bartizan.
Church Bastion (Section 16) marks the point at which the wall turns west. The rampart (Section 17) between Church Bastion and Bishop's Gate narrows significantly at the boundary between the Cathedral and the Courthouse. It was at this point, on the north side of the wall, that a terrace which included the Apprentice Boys' Reading Room was demolished following bomb damage in the second half of the twentieth century (see photo below). At its west end, the walkway splits with one flight of steps descending to Bishop's Street within and another rising to Bishop's Gate. Bishop's Gate (Section 18) was also one of the four original gates.

In 1789 the present gate was erected in a triumphal arch style to celebrate the centenary of the 'Shutting of the Gates'. The gate is constructed from buff ashlar sandstone and has a central semi-circular-arched vehicular opening flanked by two flat-arched pedestrian passages.

In the nineteenth century the rampart between Bishop's Gate and Double Bastion (Section 19) was enclosed on the north by residential properties which opened onto the walls and by the rear yards of properties which faced onto the Long Tower. All of these were demolished in the second half of the twentieth century.

The Verbal Arts Centre, formerly a school, still opens onto the walls at this point. Double Bastion (Section 20) occupies the south-west corner of the layout of the walls and, following removal of surrounding nineteenth century housing in Nailor's Row, is one of the most prominent parts of the Monument and the site of one of the best known cannon 'Roaring Meg'. The bastion is separated from the rampart walkway by a low stone plinth wall and, during the nineteenth century, was planted as a private garden.
LA Yout of cItY W ALLs

WEST SIDE

The walls turn north onto Grand Parade (Section 21) which is one of the most formal sections of the Monument. It is straight and wide for the whole of its length and falls gently towards Royal Bastion. Seven sycamore trees, planted to commemorate the Apprentice Boys, are an important feature of this section.

A level grassed area extends from the foot of the outer wall before it falls steeply towards the Bogside. The inner wall, in the form of a high rubble stone wall, is only visible above walkway level. At the north end, the churchyard of St. Augustine’s Church shares a common boundary with the walkway. Royal Bastion (Section 22) is enclosed and contains the base of the Governor Walker memorial pillar, which was erected in 1826-1828 to commemorate the shutting of the gates by ‘the brave thirteen Apprentice Boys of Derry’ and blown up in 1973.

The rampart forming (Section 23) descends from the southern edge of Royal Bastion to Butcher Gate to the north. A long rectangular platform protrudes from the west side and the grounds of St. Augustine’s Church bound the southern part of the east side before it joins Magazine Street Upper. A broad flight of steps descends to Society Street at the corner of St. Augustine’s and a further flight of steps and ramp descent to Magazine Street Upper. Butcher Gate (Section 24) is one of the four original gates. It is constructed from a mixture of buff and red ashlar sandstone and has a single elliptical-arched opening over which the walkway is humped. The rampart between Butcher Gate and Castle Gate (Section 25) varies in width and snakes on plan, descending steadily towards Castle Gate. A flight of steps descends to Magazine Gate on the east side. The outer wall is not accessible because it faces into private property. Castle Gate (Section 26) which was opened in 1802 is mainly constructed from uncoursed rubble shale and has a single segmental-arched opening over which the walkway is humped. It is used only for pedestrian access.

The rampart (Section 27) from Castle Gate snakes downwards to Hangman’s Bastion. A double flight of steps descends on the inner face to Magazine Street. The rear yards of houses facing onto Waterloo Street abut the outer face. Hangman’s Bastion (Section 28), often incorrectly referred to as Gunner’s Bastion, is rectangular on plan and completely enclosed by abutting buildings. It is separated from the walkway by a low stone wall. The final section (Section 29) descends gently towards Magazine Gate and then rises abruptly. It is bounded on the east side by Magazine Street, to which a ramp and steps descend. The high outer wall is not accessible as it faces onto private property. A fine set of stone steps with wrought-iron balustrade descend to the archway of Magazine Gate.
Vision

‘You have a chance of creating a feature at once interesting, beautiful and useful; of doing in a different way something for which Paris and Vienna have made themselves famous for two hundred years.’

(Denis Winston, Chief Architect to the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland, October 1943 in an address to members of Londonderry Corporation, builders, architects and other citizens)

Derry’s City Walls will be preserved in perpetuity for the enjoyment of citizens and visitors alike. The walls will be maintained to the highest possible conservation standards and will be accessible to all.

In order for this Conservation Plan to become an effective tool in the delivery of this vision, a number of actions need to be prioritised. Most important is the establishment of a clear and strong executive management structure for the future care of the walls. Closely associated with this will be acceptance and implementation of the guidelines contained in the Management Plan which has been prepared in parallel with the Conservation Plan. Finally the method of resourcing the implications of both documents will need to be resolved.
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MONUMENT

The general approach to assessing the nature of the significance of Derry’s City Walls is adapted from that set out in The Conservation Plan by James Semple Kerr. It relies on an understanding of the physical attributes, uses, relationships and associations of the place up to and including the present.

Derry City Walls represent the finest historic town walls to be found in Britain and Ireland. While impressive stretches of medieval town walls can be seen in places such as Athenry, Co. Galway and York in England, the walls - built between 1613 and 1618 - that encircle the historic city centre of Londonderry have retained their complete circuit and have survived relatively intact for 400 years. In addition, the Monument represents the last walled town of its kind to have been constructed in Europe, and is the final representation of a tradition that stretches back to the Roman Empire. As such, Derry City Walls represent a unique cultural treasure for the people of Northern Ireland.

The walls of Derry are of exceptional significance and require conservation and management in the public interest because:

1. They constitute the largest monument in State Care in Northern Ireland, the most intact surviving walled town in Ireland, and are among the most complete in the British Isles.
2. They are an expression of the strategic significance of Derry in north-west Ireland and, both in themselves and in relation to other walled towns, they illuminate Irish history.
3. The walls are an intact example of seventeenth century military architecture.
4. The well-preserved physical structure of the walls and gates, with their various repairs and alterations, are a visually impressive artifact.
5. They contain archaeological and other physical evidence which illustrate their history and that of the city.
6. They enclose, defend and were designed as an integral part of the ‘ideal plan’ cruciform street layout of the 17th century city. This is further reinforced by the Historic City Conservation Area designation.
7. Their symbolism in Irish history is powerful.
8. The walled city relates not only to the history of Ireland but also to other walled cities in Europe (for example Vitry-le-François in France and Lucca in Tuscany) and to north America (Old Quebec City is the only remaining city north of Mexico with intact surrounding walls).
9. The City of London built them at a period when its mercantile and financial basis was being developed. Although now in the guardianship of the Environment and Heritage Service, The Honourable the Irish Society still own, and take an active interest in, their preservation, thus perpetuating a historic relationship with one of the world’s greatest cities.
COMPLEMENTARY SIGNIFICANCES

10. The walls, bastions and some areas in their immediate vicinity are a ready-made promenade and grandstand, which have the potential to be both a venue for major events, and an important educational and recreational resource that could attract and entertain citizens and tourists alike.

11. The walls and their immediate hinterland are a habitat for various flora and fauna.

12. The walls are integral to the lives of the people of the City. As such they have the potential to assist in developing understanding between two divided communities and offer a distinct opportunity to enhance and extend the city’s sense of identity.

13. A number of cultural events, organised by the various arts venues located in adjoining streets, use the walls as a backdrop.

THREATS TO SIGNIFICANCE

The principal threats to the contextual significance of the Monument are:

1. Lack of knowledge and failure to appreciate the asset.

2. Incremental degradation of the historic fabric as a result of natural weathering and erosion and mechanical damage caused by traffic and other uses.

3. Neglect or inappropriate management and maintenance regimes.

4. Inappropriate development which may have adverse visual and other impacts upon its setting.

5. Loss of potentially important open space adjacent to the walls.

6. Vandalism and anti-social behaviour resulting in physical damage and under-use.

7. Inappropriate modern interventions such as street furniture including seating, signage and railings.

8. Health and safety measures which might compromise authenticity.

9. The negative impact of security installations.
**EXPLANATION**

The purpose of the conservation policies is to provide a guide for the future development and management of Derry’s City Walls, taking into account practical requirements for use as well as the retention of significance.

The policies are framed to:

- be flexible enough to facilitate the continued use of the Monument;
- retain or complement the character and quality of the existing structures when planning repairs, adaptations or development;
- identify existing or future patterns of development which might adversely affect the Monument and which might be in need of modification;
- inform the future development outside the immediate boundaries of the City Walls which could affect its continued significance;
- emphasise the need to include conservation advice within the decision-making process for future developments.

The recommended policies are set out in italics. They are preceded by the information on which the policies are based and, where thought appropriate, are followed by examples of treatment or options following from the policies. Policies should be read in conjunction with the accompanying text. The section-by-section analyses contained in the Gazetteer and Management Plan will make the context clear and help interpretation.

The first section covers policies with a general application. The sequence of following sections is not in a particular order of importance.

The following definitions are taken from the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (a copy of ‘the Burra Charter’ is included in the Management Plan):

- **Fabric** means all physical material of the place.
- **Conservation** means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance. It includes maintenance and may, according to its circumstance, include preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these.
- **Maintenance** means the continuous protective care of the fabric, contents and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction and it should be treated accordingly.
- **Restoration** means returning the existing fabric of a site to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the addition of new material.
- **Reconstruction** means returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of materials (new or old) into the fabric. This is not to be confused with either re-creation or conjectural reconstruction, which are outside the scope of the Charter.
- **Adaptation** means modifying a place to suit proposed compatible uses.
- **Compatible use** means a use which involves no change to the culturally significant fabric, changes which are substantially reversible, or changes which require a minimal impact.
BASIS OF APPROACH
The current legislative position undergirds every policy contained in this Conservation Plan. In addition, the Burra Charter is a useful general guide to the conservation of places such as Derry’s City Walls. It provides a philosophical framework that can be flexible and recognises the need for the continued development that is associated with continuing occupation of a site. Application of policies 01 to 04 will help achieve consistency and continuity of approach.

Policy 01 The future conservation and development of the Monument will be guided by relevant legislation and the principles of the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter) as revised 1999.

Policy 02 The Statement of Significance will be accepted as the basis for future planning and work.

Policy 03 The policies recommended and options discussed throughout this document will be a guide to planning of future work on the Monument.

Policy 04 A note stating the existence of the Conservation Plan should be appended to the existing statutory designations of the place.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AND POLICY
In general, the greater the level of significance of a part of the Monument, the more care is needed in planning its future treatment. Significance changes with time as alterations are made, original fabric is lost, and new information is unearthed. The intention should always be to retain and, where appropriate, reinforce significance.

Policy 05 The more significant a fabric, relationship, space or vista, the more care should be taken in planning work which may affect it, so that the work will not reduce, and may reinforce, its significance.

Policy 06 Where some reduction of significance is necessary to achieve overall conservation objectives, alternatives should be tested using a risk impact assessment methodology to reveal the least damaging approach and mitigate adverse impacts. In general, the alternative involving least alteration of the fabric is preferable.
MANAGEMENT

Without pro-active monitoring the Conservation Plan will be ineffective. A properly functioning Management Group will, therefore, be essential to the co-ordinated management of the Monument and to encourage wider participation of stakeholders in future developments. Implementation of the policies contained in the Conservation Plan can only be achieved successfully if progress is monitored on an ongoing basis by such a group of individuals familiar with the policies and committed to their implementation. Where relevant, the Group should also be responsible for setting out timescales for the delivery of policies. The Group should be convened under the aegis of, and chaired by a suitably qualified senior representative of the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS), the State agency with overall responsibility for the Monument.

In addition to Environment and Heritage Service, the Management Group should include in its membership representatives of Derry City Council, the City Centre Initiative, The Honourable the Irish Society, the Divisional Planning Office and DRD Roads Service. Most of these organisations are already involved in aspects of management of the walls. The Management Group may appoint representatives of other groups and organisations as might seem appropriate. Needless to say, it is important that the Management Group be afforded sufficient authority, otherwise, its comments and reports will not be acted upon. As part of its remit, the Group should ensure periodic consultation with the wider group of stakeholders.

CONTINUITY OF CONSERVATION ADVICE

Irreparable damage can be caused to historic monuments by inexperienced and/or inadequate professional advice. Implementation of the recommendations contained within this Conservation Plan can only be successfully achieved if progress is monitored on an ongoing basis by a range of properly experienced and qualified individuals familiar with the policies and committed to their implementation.

In addition to Environment and Heritage Service, the Management Group should include in its membership representatives of Derry City Council, the City Centre Initiative, The Honourable the Irish Society, the Divisional Planning Office and DRD Roads Service. Most of these organisations are already involved in aspects of management of the walls. The Management Group may appoint representatives of other groups and organisations as might seem appropriate. Needless to say, it is important that the Management Group be afforded sufficient authority, otherwise, its comments and reports will not be acted upon. As part of its remit, the Group should ensure periodic consultation with the wider group of stakeholders.

REVIEW OF POLICIES

The policies contained in this Conservation Plan inevitably will need adjustment both to meet unforeseen circumstances, and in response to developing needs.

Policy 10 This Plan, and the policies in it, should be reviewed as the need arises, but not later than five years after their initial acceptance by the Steering Group. Procedures for review mechanisms should be established by the bodies responsible for the implementation of the Plan. Environment and Heritage Service will reconvene a meeting of the Steering Group for this purpose.
Systematic, regular maintenance and prompt minor remedial works will ensure that the Monument will continue to stand for the foreseeable future. The Management Plan sets out clear guidance for maintenance and repair procedures.

**Policy 11** The value of preventive maintenance should be promoted and best practice in repair should be demonstrated in all work to the Monument through rigorous implementation of the Management Plan.

**ARCHAEOLOGY**

Writing in 1979 Rowan stated that: ‘of the Gaelic community and Medieval city nothing now remains’ (Rowan 1979, p365). If any further information relating to the pre-Plantation settlement is to be discovered, then it will have to be obtained using an archaeological methodology. Given the long duration of historic settlement on the hilltop at Derry, it might be assumed that the city would have been the scene of numerous programmes of archaeological excavation. This, however, has not been the case and much of the redevelopment that has occurred within the city centre in the last thirty years has not involved archaeological mitigation in advance of construction work. As Logue (forthcoming) has noted:

‘The foundation regimes associated with modern buildings are highly destructive to sub-surface archaeological remains and it is almost certain that those areas of the city that have been redeveloped have had their heritage destroyed forever.’

The exception to this was the small number of rescue excavations - mostly undertaken by Brian Lacy - in the period between 1976 and 1988. Only a few of these investigations have reached final publication (eg: Lacy 1981; Brannon 1986), and information relating to the majority of the excavations undertaken during this period can only be found in Excavations - the annual bulletin of summary accounts.

During the period from 1977 to 1979 Brian Lacey excavated in the Fountain Street and Nailor’s Row area and investigated parts of the town ditch, which proved to be some ten metres in width and two metres in depth. He had previously investigated two ditches of probable seventeenth century date in the Fountain Street area during 1976. Another segment of what was interpreted as the town ditch was investigated in 2002 by Cia McConway at the rear of St Columb’s Hall on Orchard Street. The excavation uncovered a one metre deep deposit of black organic silty clays containing seventeenth century pottery, most of which was of English origin.
In 1983 Nick Brannon excavated at the site of the demolished Water Bastion in the north-east corner of the walled area. This work revealed a section of the externally-battered foundation of the bastion, 1.83 metres in width. Brief investigations were also undertaken in 1988 by Brannon on Bishop's Street Within, at a site located immediately within the city walls and adjacent to the Bishop's Gate. Demolition of modern buildings exposed the inner face of the wall, with two ovens and fireplaces built into the wall face. These features would seem to have been associated with two houses built up against the wall and separated from each other by a wide open stretch of cobbling, but it was possible only to infer that the structural remains were of eighteenth century or earlier in date.

Evaluation work was undertaken by Brannon in 1998 at the site for the Millennium Forum due to the proximity of the development to the city walls. This work identified a series of seventeenth-century house frontages and associated cellars. Stephen Gilmore undertook further investigation at the site of the new theatre in the same year, and encountered the surviving portion of a range of seventeenth-century brick cellars. Also, in advance of this development, it was noted that a twenty-five metre long stretch of the inner face of the city wall required major repair and in 1999, Paul Logue undertook the excavation of five trenches along the stretch of damaged wall. This work provided evidence relating to the seventeenth century earthen rampart that lay behind the wall's inner face. The rampart was shown to have originally been seven to eight metres in width and two to three metres in height at this point in its circuit.

The archaeological evidence for the Siege has also been recorded. Some remains of the ravelin constructed by Lundy in 1689 outside the Bishop's Gate were retrieved by Paul Logue during his 1999 excavation at Bishop's Street Without. A north-west to south-east orientated ditch, 2.8 metres wide and 0.57 metres deep and interrupted by a 2.6 metre wide sally-port, was interpreted as being the ditch that

fronted the ravelin. A larger ditch, 9.8 metres wide and 2.8 metres deep, was identified to the north-west of the ravelin and this feature may have formed part of an earthwork constructed to protect the flank of the ravelin and the Double Bastion during the Siege. A raised platform and a scarped area cut into the hill-side at Woodside Road on the eastern bank of the River Foyle were investigated by Cia McConway in 2001. It was thought that these features might represent the location for Jacobite mortar batteries from 1688-89, but the excavation revealed that they were the result of modern activity.

All future ground work proposed in the immediate vicinity of the Monument should be carried out in such a way that any loss of archaeological significance is minimised and any opportunities for learning more about the nature and extent of uses of the particular site are not lost. All intrusive archaeological work will, of course, be subject to the relevant statutory requirements. Areas of particular interest include Gunner’s Bastion, the sites of the former Coward’s Bastion and Water Bastion, the point at which Newmarket Street crosses the walls, the area to the west of the former Bishop’s Palace and the site of the outer bastion to the south of Bishop’s Gate.

Policy 12   Any ground work taking place within the immediate vicinity of the Monument must comply with all statutory requirements.

Policy 13   All extant archaeological records shall be collated and archived in a suitably-located dedicated Monument archive.
PLANNING

Through the long years of civil unrest and the destruction of property wreaked by the bombing campaign, which blighted the city from the late 1960s to the new millennium, the Londonderry Divisional Planning Office persisted, against almost insurmountable odds, in striving to facilitate economic and social development within the City which would ultimately assist in its more recent revival. The planning authority will undoubtedly fulfil a key role in ensuring the successful implementation of this Conservation Plan.

The following documents provide the relevant statutory framework within which all planning decisions, which might have a bearing on the Monument, are made:

- The Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025 (RDS),
- Planning Policy Statement 6 - Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage (PPS6),
- Derry Area Plan 2011 (DAP),
- Londonderry Historic City Conservation Area Guide (published 1977), and

Together these provide a comprehensive framework which, if rigorously applied, will help ensure that the significance of the setting of the Monument is not diminished as a result of inappropriate development proposals. In this context it should be noted that existing conservation area guidance, as set out in the Londonderry Historic City Conservation Area booklet, is now out-of-date and the publication itself is no longer available. The Interim Document revised the Conservation Area boundary. However a new, comprehensive, accessible and high-quality conservation area guidance document is long overdue and urgently required. The Department committed to the publication of a new special guidance document at the launch of the interim Guide on 06 June 2006. This should provide an invaluable basic reference for anyone anticipating carrying out development within the Conservation Area which might also impact upon the Monument. It is essential that the existence of this Conservation Plan should be prominently referred to in the new publication and also in the next revision to the Derry Area Plan.

Policy 14  The contents of this Conservation Plan should be taken into account in the preparation of a new Historic City Conservation Area guidance document.

The impact of development on the Monument is not restricted to the streets and spaces in its immediate vicinity. The fact that there are, in some locations, expansive views out from the wall walkways to the surrounding landscape and, in others, views in towards the Monument from distant locations, means that these also need be taken into account. Important views, aspects and vistas will need to be identified and then cherished and preserved. Policy BH1 of PPS6 is relevant in this regard.

Some excellent developments and work to listed buildings have been completed in recent years. These include the revitalisation of the former primary school in Stable Lane as the Verbal Arts Centre and the restoration of the Court House in Bishop Street Within. The Millennium Forum, although the subject of some controversy as it progressed through the planning system particularly in terms of its intimate relationship to the Monument, attracted major external funding and a number of architectural accolades. The Townscape Heritage Initiative is also bringing marked improvements to a number of non-listed buildings and the recently completed project adjacent to Castle Gate is also worthy of mention.

Proposals at the time of writing for the regeneration and re-use of the former fire station at the junction of Hawkin Street and Fountain Street, adjacent to New Gate, are greatly to be welcomed. Also to be applauded is the, soon to be realised, restoration and re-modelling of buildings on Artillery Street by Derry Playhouse Theatre which, given suitable traffic management in Artillery Street, will open up opportunities for imaginative use of the wall walkways as an extension of the theatre’s facilities.

A limited number of development opportunities remain within the immediate vicinity of the Monument. Perhaps the most important of these is the former garden to the east (or rear) of the Bishop’s Palace, an area zoned for commercial development in the Derry Area Plan 2011, now in use as a public car park, office accommodation and military barracks (which has, in its west wall, a built-up door opening giving access to Grand Parade). The Bishop’s Palace, now in use as a Masonic hall, is one of the most important
listed buildings in the City. The aspiration to see the restoration of its former garden for use as a public green space would, if achieved, complement the Cathedral churchyard on the other side of Bishop Street (which is the only other sizable green space within the walls), enhance the setting of the Monument at this location and be physically beneficial to residents, workers and visitors alike.

Other development opportunities arise through the need to find appropriate new uses for redundant, or partially redundant, historic buildings. One such opportunity is presented by the fine little late-nineteenth century former Cathedral National Schools building in London Street.

Potential developers should be encouraged to avoid pastiche solutions for new infill schemes. These, almost inevitably, project a false historicism which, at best, is skin deep and does nothing to enhance the significance of the Monument and its setting.

Proposals under consideration at the time of writing, for upgrading the public spaces at Waterloo Place and Shipquay Place are of relevance to the setting of the northern sections of the Monument and, appropriately conceived, have the potential for enhancement of this area.

A non-statutory Design Review Group (established along the lines of the government's advisor on architecture, the Commission for Architecture in the Built Environment and in the context of the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure's recently published Architecture and the Built Environment for Northern Ireland) to which all relevant planning applications impacting upon the Monument would be referred, could assist in achieving generally higher standards of design and design excellence at particularly sensitive and significant locations. Such a group would supplement, not subvert, the existing statutory consideration of proposed developments and would provide unbiased and expert critical external assessment. How it would be structured should be a matter to be considered as a priority by the Management Group.

Policy 15  The establishment of a Design Review Group should be considered by the Management Group.

The loss of, mainly nineteenth-century, buildings built against overlooking and opening onto the Monument, particularly to the south and south-east sides at Fountain Street, Nailor's Row, and around Bishop's Gate, while well-intentioned and undoubtedly opening up the aspect of the walls in these areas — was, arguably, a mistake which has resulted in the loss of historic fabric and thus historic significance. The rigorous application of PPS6 will ensure that similar losses are not repeated in the future.

Policy 16  No further demolition of nineteenth-century, or earlier, property built against, overlooking, or opening onto the Monument should be permitted unless a compelling case is presented to demonstrate that the outcome will be to the ultimate benefit of the Monument.
ACCESS

Almost by definition, appreciation of the Monument is a three-dimensional experience - from without, within, and above. Each experience is entirely different and affords radically distinctive perspectives which should be available, in as far as is practicable, to all. Many sections of wall walkway are not readily accessible, either because of steep steps, such as those at Bishop’s Gate, or steep inclines, such as that rising from the site of the Water Bastion to Newmarket Street and continuing on to Ferry Gate. Nevertheless, several sections are accessible, including stretches from Magazine Gate to Water Bastion, New Gate to Bishop’s Gate, and Bishop’s Gate to Butcher Gate. In these areas, appropriate provision should be made for those with disabilities such as visual impairment or lack of physical mobility.

Policy 17 An inclusive approach to access to the Monument shall be adopted which will permit enjoyment of it by those with disability.

Perhaps the single most visually disruptive addition to the Walls is the protected pedestrian route from Bishop Street leading to the Fountain housing estate. This was erected for security reasons in the mid 1990’s to control access to the estate and this function is still required. A reconsideration of this solution however with the aim of arriving at a better relationship with the walls, should be a priority.

Policy 18 The existing protected pedestrian route from the Fountain estate to Bishop Street should be removed to be replaced by a new, appropriately designed and located, access route.

TRAFFIC

At present only one gate (Castle Gate) is restricted to pedestrian access. The remaining gates, with the exception of New Gate, are subject to two-way traffic flow. While it is accepted that traffic must be permitted to enter the city centre for essential users, wider unfettered traffic access must be questioned for the following reasons:

• There is considerable potential for direct mechanical damage to the masonry walls of the Monument caused mainly by larger vehicles.

• A negative visual impact is created by rows of cars, particularly when parked against the walls, as at Magazine Street, Market Street and Artillery Street. The two surface-level car parks at Bishop Street and Society Street are also visually unattractive (although the Bishop Street car park is not directly visible from the Walls).

• Hazards to pedestrian safety, particularly at restricted spaces such as the gates.

Policy 19 A traffic strategy with specific relevance to the Monument should be prepared.

Parking for visitors wishing to visit the Monument is difficult. Existing car parks, both within the walls and outside, are not well signposted and access to the Monument on foot from these car parks is currently not well way-marked. On-street parking within the walls is not well regulated. Good directional signage increases confidence and encourages visitors to explore further. There is an obvious need for new and appropriately-located, car parks to facilitate better access to the Monument.

Policy 20 A signage strategy providing clear directional guidance to the Monument from designated car parks should be implemented.
SECURITY

At the time of writing the only major twentieth century military installation to survive in the vicinity of the Monument was at Bishop’s Gate. While this was a source of contention to part of the population and visually unappealing to all, it did nevertheless serve as a vivid reminder of the most recent conflict to have been endured by the City. For this reason the army base, with its incongruous sangar and tall communications mast, was of significance and its removal has lost the clearest physical evidence remaining on or near the walls of this most recent aspect of the Monument’s history.

The security use of the walls over the last 30 years is an important part of the monuments story. Interpretation of this history through signage or the retention of the remaining evidence should be considered.

From the late-1960s, lengthy stretches of the walls were inaccessible as a result of being closed-off by security screens, gates and fences erected by the security forces. As ‘the Troubles’ drew to a close, access to the walls gradually began to increase. Today, it is usually possible to walk around the entire monument at walkway level without physical obstruction. Metal palisade fences and gates, which are still used at a number of locations to close-off, or screen, sections of the Monument, are visually disruptive and create a considerable negative impression. Sometimes their effectiveness is questionable. These should all be removed. It is appreciated nevertheless that, for the foreseeable future, there will be occasions when it will be necessary for some reason to close-off sections of the walls. This could be achieved through the use of demountable screens which would slot into permanent sockets set into the walkway surface.

Policy 21  Access to the Monument’s walkways should be maximised.

A further, less tangible, barrier to access is created by anti-social behaviour at some locations and at particular times. This effectively discourages casual use and make the walls a ‘no go’ zone a certain times of day and night. It is generally accepted that the provision of amenity lighting discourages anti-social behaviour and installation of this should be considered. The location of light fittings is considered in the section on Interventions and Enhancements below. Lighting alone will however not deal satisfactorily with the current problems and it is considered that a properly constituted warden service should supplement a community police presence throughout the day and that the walls should be policed at night. The final strand of security provision could be the installation of comprehensive closed-circuit television coverage of the Monument which should, where possible, be integrated with the lighting installation.

Policy 22  A warden system should be introduced for supervision of the Monument in daytime.

Policy 23  The PSNI should commit to developing a community policing role for the Monument, involving regular foot patrolling, from dusk to dawn.

Policy 24  Comprehensive lighting and closed circuit television coverage of the Monument should be implemented.
**INTERPRETATION**

Interpretation is central to how the visitor experiences an attraction. Good interpretation will leave the visitor with a feeling of attachment, stimulation and inspiration. Therefore the Monument must be represented in a way that the visitor can relate to and enjoy for the attraction to be a success. Interpretation should be designed to be readily understood while being historically balanced and without bias. Physical interpretation is by no means the only method of interpreting the walls. The existing guides provide an excellent service which is capable of further development through the provision of specialist training. The use of good quality printed material and audio devices should also be developed. These have the added advantage of providing a facility to communicate effectively with non-English speaking and visually impaired visitors. Specially prepared material designed to appeal to children should also be available. A visitor orientation project, including interpretation, was being developed at the time of writing as a component of the Walled City Signature Project.

**Policy 25**  
The Monument should not be interpreted in isolation, rather, all interpretation should strive to place historical events pertinent to the City in the wider context of Irish, British and European history.

**Policy 26**  
The role of monument guides should be formalised and appropriate training and support should be provided through the Management Group.

**Policy 27**  
A range of interpretation media should be designed to be relevant to a wide range of age and ability.

**Policy 28**  
All written and audio interpretation should, where feasible, be in multiple language format.

Interpretation panels are subject to weathering, vandalism and inadvertent mechanical damage. Therefore they need to be of robust construction while being visually appealing, readily cleaned, easily read and appropriate to their setting. It should also be possible to replace damaged or out-dated panels with the minimum of inconvenience. Generally, fixing of panels directly to the historic fabric of the Monument should be avoided. All fixings should be of corrosion-resistant materials.

None of the foregoing should overrule the basic requirement for high standards of design to be achieved in the design of interpretation materials and the need for design proposals to be subject to rigorous external assessment.

**Policy 29**  
Interpretation panels, and other displays, should be designed to high standards which should be subjected to appropriate expert assessment of design and content before approval is given to installation. All interpretation panels and displays should be freestanding unless otherwise approved by the Management Group and Environment and Heritage Service.
EVENTS

Events organised to take place on or around the Monument should be regarded as a positive and essential aspect in its development. Well-organised events will assist in enlivening the environment of the walls and walkways. The City is fortunate to have a number of arts and cultural venues forming a ‘necklace’ around the Monument and, in the case of the Verbal Arts Centre and the Millennium Forum, opening directly onto the walkways. An imaginative diary of new events, as diverse as fireworks displays and food festivals, could be developed and co-ordinated by the City Council and Environment and Heritage Service. These could be integrated with an expansion in the activities of the existing venues and activities.

The Management Plan will contain guidance, procedures and controls to allow events to be considered in a holistic manner. It will address issues such as impact on residents and businesses not directly involved, crowd control, traffic management, marshalling, capacity calculation, clean-up methodology, health and safety issues, minimising physical damage to the Monument and disaster planning.

It will also be necessary to provide adequate infrastructural services such as mains water and electrical supplies to facilitate the development of events.

Policy 30  The Monument should be positively promoted as the focus for a range of events organised by the City Council, Environment and Heritage Service and other organisations.

Policy 31  Events should only be permitted when a fully developed Event Management Plan has been approved by the Management Group or its nominated representative.

Policy 32  The PSNI should commit to providing appropriate levels of policing for specific events organised on and around the Monument.

Permanent and temporary public art installations will serve to enhance the quality of spaces on the walkways and around the Monument. While this is a desirable goal it cannot be isolated from the need to provide appropriate levels of security to prevent theft and vandalism.

Policy 33  The City Council should initiate a programme of commissioning public art installations and accommodating the placing of temporary public art exhibits in accordance with the procedures contained in the Management Plan.
INTERVENTIONS AND ENHANCEMENTS

Incremental changes, often of an apparently minor nature and well-intentioned, can accumulate and ultimately result in the loss of original significance.

Policy 34 All proposed enhancements and interventions to the Monument should be submitted to Environment and Heritage Service which will consult with the Management Group before issuing approval unless conforming to a previously agreed format outlined in the Management Plan.

Policy 35 All interventions should be designed to be fully reversible in accordance with best conservation practice.

Policy 36 All interventions should be designed to a high standard utilising good quality and durable materials.

Many surface finishes, on and around the Monument, are not to the highest current conservation standards, especially where in situ concrete and concrete-based paving materials have been used. It would neither be feasible nor desirable to replace the surfacing to the main walkways as it is in good condition. However, where the opportunity presents, the use of natural materials such as stone, cobbles and fired-clay products is not only more satisfactory from a visual point of view, but also environmentally sustainable and cost effective in life-cycle analysis. This is of particular relevance to the resiting on the walkways of the recently refurbished cannons.

Policy 37 A palette of natural paving materials should be selected for use, where appropriate, on and around the Monument.

Existing street furniture, found on and around the Monument, including waste bins, seats, bollards, street lamps, recessed low-level walkway light fittings and pedestrian restraint barriers is of an ad hoc nature, sometimes poorly designed and, frequently, not fit-for-purpose. The use of ‘heritage’ street furniture is to be decried while good quality design should be sought and consistently applied. A programme for replacement of all existing furniture should be prepared.

Policy 38 A programme for renewal of existing street furniture with high quality replacements should be prepared for use on and around the Monument.

Directional and information signage on and around the Monument is invariably of an unsatisfactory standard. Signs are necessary for direction for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians; for prohibition and for information. A preliminary review of the existing signage provision suggests that there are too many signs, resulting in clutter, and that there is poor maintenance, duplication, a lack of consistency, inaccurate information, inappropriate mounting and poor design. A review of existing signage is being prepared as part of the Walled City Signature Project.

Policy 39 A signage strategy should be devised which will involve reviewing the existing signage provision and making proposals for rationalising and improving the overall provision.

Artificial lighting should be used to enhance the Monument and to improve security at night. The existing, and extensive, low-level lighting installation at walkway parapet level, which consists of recessed fluorescent fittings each fitted with a clumsy metal grille, is ineffective and entirely inappropriate. A lighting strategy for the City was being devised at the time of writing as part of the Walled City Signature Project. It is suggested that the existing fittings should be removed and, as a general rule, new light fittings should be installed at a distance from the Monument either mounted on buildings or in appropriately-designed ground locations. Existing fence-mounted lamp standards at Church Wall and Church Bastion are visually acceptable but poorly maintained. Opportunity exists for an innovative high-level lighting scheme in and around Grand Parade and Walker’s Monument.

Policy 40 A lighting strategy should be devised which will involve minimal physical impact on the Monument while providing levels of illumination throughout the walkways which will engender a sense of safety.
ECOLOGY

The biological interests associated with the Monument are currently limited, mostly as a result of recent management regimes (in particular the past use of cement-rich mortar and algicides in re-pointing) and its location in a busy air-polluted urban environment. The masonry walls do however offer the potential to support a diverse but typical wall plant community which is of benefit for wildlife and attractive to visitors.

In a number of locations rampant weed growth, particularly buddleia, is causing physical damage to the masonry walls. Seasonal weed growth is also widespread at joints and margins throughout the exposed aggregate concrete walkways.

Trees on Grand Parade, while of iconic significance, appear to be poorly maintained.

The large-scale 1:500 Ordnance Survey map of 1873 shows that, at that time, New Gate Bastion, Church Bastion, Double Bastion and Gunner’s Bastion had all been developed as private gardens accessed from the walkways. Reinstatement of these features would serve to enliven and enrich the walls.

Policy 41  
Guidance should be included in the Management Plan that will ensure existing botanical interests are identified, managed and protected in an appropriate manner.

CONSERVATION OF THE WALLS

Historic fabric once lost cannot be replaced. Sadly, over-enthusiastic restoration in the past has led to the loss of some significance in the Monument. It is important that, in its future management, a scrupulous approach is taken to all conservation work. This should include measures such as researching the composition of original mortar mixes. Likewise, sources for replacement stone should be carefully researched. Written justification for the approach to be adopted should be prepared for all future work to the Monument.

Recording of the relevant section of the Monument, prior to any work being carried out, should be conducted in line with accepted best practice and in accordance with the procedures for the recording of monuments set out by the Environment and Heritage Service, Built Heritage Directorate. Original records should be kept in a safe place.

Policy 42  
Relevant sections of the Monument should be recorded before any scheme of work is undertaken.

Policy 43  
The Management Group should have the opportunity to comment upon any proposed conservation work which may affect the appearance of the Monument.

Policy 44  
All proposed work to the Monument should be subjected to full archaeological assessment and shall comply fully with current regulations and best practice.
CONCLUSION

This Conservation Plan has set out to explain what is important about Derry’s Walls and why this should be considered important.

It followed this with a range of policies which developed from observation, research and the widest possible stakeholder consultation. These will form a basis for future decision making.

The plan has been commissioned along with a Gazetteer, Management Plan and a detailed photographic and drawn record. All of this information can be accessed at the Monuments and Buildings Record at Waterman House in Hill Street, Belfast and through the Derry City Council’s Museum and Heritage Section. Much will also soon be accessible at www.ehsni.gov.uk

There will be major challenges and resourcing issues in the future in regard to the sustainable development of this monument. However this will now take place within a context of increased knowledge and agreed policies.

This is the best assurance we can have that the most appropriate decisions will be made in the future and that the monument will achieve its full potential.

Policy 45 Only appropriately qualified professionals and tradespersons should be permitted to work on the Monument.

Policy 46 All work to the Monument shall be carried out in accordance with best conservation practice.

Policy 47 All work to the Monument should be recorded in a suitable and consistent format and records should be deposited for safe keeping in an archive managed by Environment and Heritage Service.

Conclusion