



Public Art Commission – Carlow Town ARTISTS BRIEF

Carlow County Councils Public Art Working Group invite Artists to tender for this new Public Art Commission that will be managed by the Arts Service of Carlow County Council.

We wish to commission an artist(s) under the **FÁILTE IRELAND DEVELOPED & EMERGING DESTINATION TOWNS CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME (2019).**

This competition seeks to elicit the most creative, compelling, artistically excellent and outstanding proposal for this Public Art project. While there are no pre-conceived ideas regarding the design or content and applicants are free to choose any durable medium for its expression, an original sculpture as a stand-alone installation or a sculpture group is required to be part of the proposal.

Location: On Carlow Town Trail and situated in Carlow Town Park (See Appendix 1 for imagery)

Timescale:

Stage 1 deadline: 19 May 2022 at 4pm

Assessment of applications: 23 May 2022
Recommended artist to the PAWG and Approval of PAWG: 26 May 2022
Artist notified: 30 May 2022

Installation and completion by: It is hoped the piece will be installed and completed by Q4 of 2022.

Final timeline to be worked out with artist.

Budget Available: €75,000 fully inclusive of ~VAT, all materials, all health and safety requirements, all groundwork and installation

costs.

Background:

Carlow Town stands at the confluence of the Barrow and Burrin rivers. Tradition has it that the junction of the two rivers once formed four lakes. The name 'Carlow' means Four Lakes. The river remains an important focus for the town, with a long-established Rowing Club and annual regatta, as well as offering a place of quiet contemplation in its natural environs. Carlow Town has a long and lively tradition of Irish language use, culture, and heritage. Carlow town has a rich history and important industrial past, and the river played an enormous role in the development of the town historically.

A Carlow Town visitor orientation and interpretative sign plan is currently being commissioned by Carlow County Council to enhance visitor's navigation around the Town. A series of indicative locations have been identified to form the main Carlow Town Trail which are sites of interest in the town. The signage will reflect and communicate the history, heritage, themes and stories of people and place connected to that location, as well as adding some navigational and mapping information to aid visitors. **See Appendix 2 for further information.**

How visitors orientate themselves when arriving into Carlow Town depends on how they arrived at the town, whether as pedestrians, cyclists or by car. The aim of the Town Trail Interpretation signs is to build connectivity and help visitors navigate intuitively by landmarks and sequencing of the trail. The Carlow Town visitor orientation and interpretative sign plan combines historical themes with wayfinding opportunity to express a narrative about the place and it engages the public that reveals something about the place that is beyond simple navigation that they may not have known before.

The location for this commission is situated in Carlow Town Park on a public open green space surrounded by natural environment as well as backing onto an area that hosts a Children's Playground (opened in daylight hours). The site is central to pathways through the Town Park and visible as you arrive by car into the park or as you walk through the park on foot from the Millennium footbridge over the River Barrow. Carlow Town Park is a 12.8-acre site on the banks of the River Barrow.

Aim of the Commission:

Carlow County Council Public Art Working Group will lead this Commission through the Arts Office of Carlow County Council. The Public Art Working Group would ask the Artist to consider the following aims in submitting their application:

- This **permanent** artwork(s) will **complement in a cohesive way** its natural environment and complement the Town Park.
- This compelling artwork will enhance the visitor experience to Carlow Town and the use of the Trail to encourage them to discover, find, explore, create, and possibly interact through and with the artwork(s) commissioned on this site.
- This commission will be mindful of the public that use the park as the immediate audience to the work as well as to visitors to Carlow who use the Trail.

• Artists may wish to draw inspiration from the following themes relating to Carlow Town:

Recovering traces of **History and Heritage** of the Town from Medieval History and the 18th Century Town both which exist in street pattern and a few buildings (Castle, Assembly Rooms, Brown Street) to 1798 Events and commemoration in 1898 and 1998 and/or post 1798 recovery and appreciation of the important built heritage of the town in terms of significant architecture (Courthouse, Cathedral, Carlow College etc).

Victorian Science and Engineering: Celebrating the works of Carlow scientists Samuel Haughton, John Tyndall or William Dargan (Railway Engineer).

Industrial Carlow, including recognition of the Sugar Industry in Carlow. Mineral Production near Corcoran's Inn (near Wellington Bridge), Governeys Boot Factory located in the town or its Engineering manufacturers.

Arts, Craft and Architecture, both historically and in contemporary times Carlow Town is a place where the arts have thrived. Historically the architecture of the town, Thomas Cobden (architect of Carlow Cathedral), or the architecture of the spire of St. Marys church, or the Presbyterian Church, Presentation Chapel/Building (now housing the County Museum and Central Library), or the stained glass in St Mary's and Presentation Chapel, Sculpture as you enter the town – Contemporary commission by artist Michael Warren Ceatharloch (2001) at the Dr Cullen Roundabout as you enter Carlow Town, or Eileen McDonagh Medusa Tree sited at the footsteps of VISUAL Carlow to historical sculptures John Behan's Tree of Liberty on Kennedy Avenue to name a few. Or the juxtaposition of historical Carlow College beside Award Winning Architect Terry Pawson's lightbox design of the extraordinary VISUAL Carlow Gallery and Theatre.

- The artist may choose to respond to a theme or themes above or may choose to respond specifically to site/location by revealing something about the place that will capture the imagination of Carlow Town Park visitors.
- The artist must consider public usage of the Town Park and the selected site/location.
- Consideration may be given to the potential of an interactive and fun artwork that appeals to families and children.

- The artist may consider incorporating into their proposal a process which engages with the public in order to co-design the artworks with an outline of your methodology for this included.
- Artists are asked to consider that the artworks should be of a high artistic quality with consideration given to the durability of chosen materials and environmental considerations for the long-term maintenance of the work.
- Consideration will be given to the due care and attention of the immediate surrounds and choices made in terms of scale/installation/landscaping/ground works/any other site requirements, planning permissions and health and safety requirements to protect both the public and the site/installation of work(s).
- If sound is a feature incorporated into the work consideration is to be given of the surrounding infrastructural requirements and location of the sculpture in relation to its natural surrounds. Also, evidence shown by the artist of previous works that incorporate such features will need to be submitted.
- While low lighting directed at a sculpture during Park opening hours may not be problematic, the artist is asked not to include any direct lighting or lighting feature or element that could create light disturbance at the river corridor.

Application Process:

Applications are open to all artists. At Stage 1 artists will be asked to demonstrate **experience working on public art commissions** or relevant past experience, outlined further below.

We ask that artists respond in their outlined proposal to the above Public Art Working Groups agreed **aims of the commission** when submitting their application and read this Brief carefully as all information is contained within this.

PLEASE NOTE The proposed development will have to comply with any relevant statutory planning requirements (e.g. planning permission/ exemption certificate etc.) as maybe applicable under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and associated Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Also note that due to COVID 19 all health and safety requirements associated with the development and installation of the work or site visit will need to be complied with and it is the responsibility of the artist to do so.

Stage 1 application proposals to be emailed to: pawg@carlowcoco.ie with CLEARLY LABELLED supporting materials by 19th May 2022 at 4pm.

Please note artists are asked not to enter into correspondence with Carlow County Council Arts Office prior to submitting your application. Artists will receive an acknowledgement from the Arts Office once your application is received, ahead of the closing date.

Stage 1:

Artists are invited to submit outline of proposal and outline costs by 19th May 2022 at 4pm

Artists are requested to submit the following with their completed application form:

- 1. A typed proposal (max 200 words) outlining in detail your concept and final design. This should indicate how it meets the aims outlined above of the commission.
- 2. Details of materials to be used, timescale for the completion of the project and estimated budget in Euro.
- 3. Current Curriculum Vitae and highlight 3 examples/evidence of previous public art projects undertaken for the selection panel to be able to assess your previous experience and suitability for the commission.
- 4. Confirmation that artist can provide Public Liability Insurance if awarded contract.
- 5. <u>Confirmation of Tax Compliance in the Republic of Ireland.</u>
- 6. <u>Evidence</u> of who the Artist will appoint as a competent and adequately resourced project supervisor for the design process (PSDP) and project supervisor for the construction process (PSCS).

Assessment of Stage 1 applications will take place on 23rd May 2022 and artists will be notified by 30th May 2022.

Selection Process:

The Public Art Working Group will nominate the Selection Panel which will consist of representatives from the Public Art Working Group and external assessor(s) and an independent professional artist to assess the applications and select both short listed and final commissioned artists.

Shortlisted Artists to Stage 2:

Artists who score marks of over 80 on the selection criteria, below, will be short listed from Stage 1 and will be notified as above. If so, artists will be requested to develop their Stage 1 proposals further and submit the following:

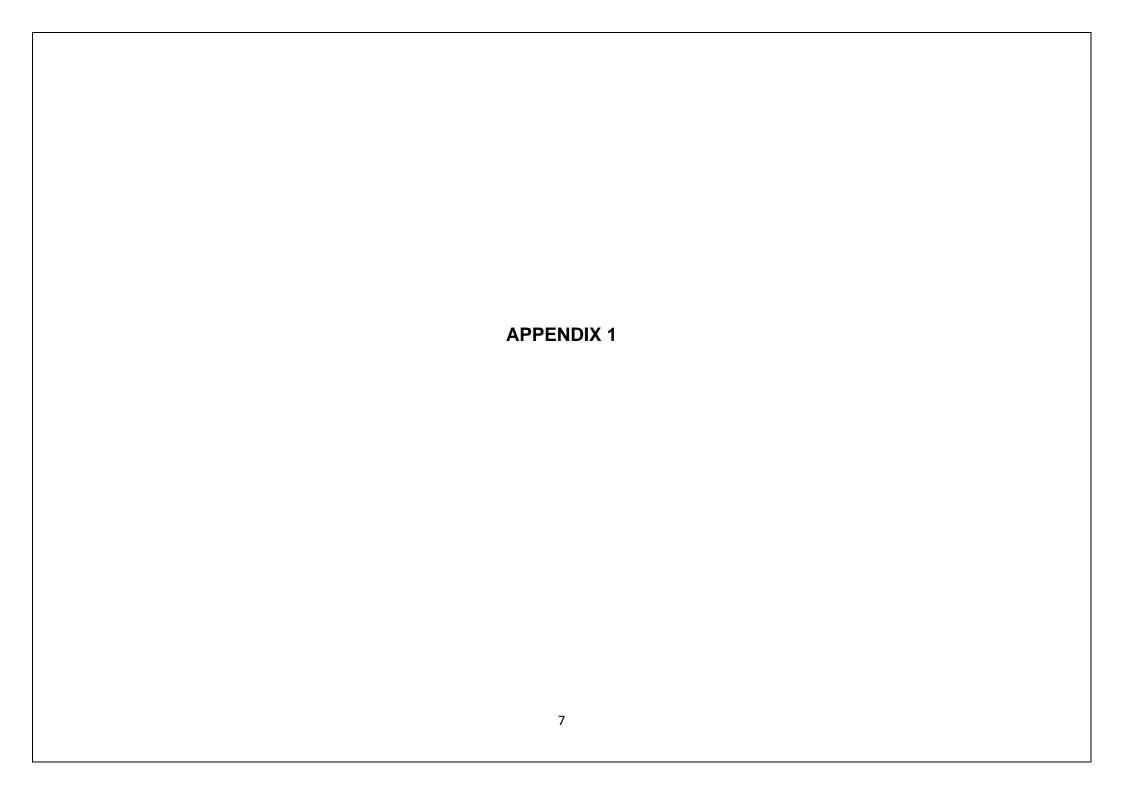
- <u>Detailed</u> design drawings, photo's, Marquette / digital model, video etc. (Sufficient drawings, photographs, illustrations for the purpose of communicating the scale, proportion, and artistic content of the developed project. Please label all items).
- <u>Detailed</u> explanation of proposal with timeframe and completion date and satisfactory evidence of safety, durability, and maintenance requirements for the proposed work.
- <u>Detailed</u> breakdown of commission budget (cost of installation of the commissioned work must be shown separately)
- Artists may be invited to give a presentation to the Selection Panel (Due to COVID 19 this may be facilitated on-line).

Stage 2 Artists will receive €500 towards the cost of developing proposals.

Selection Criteria:

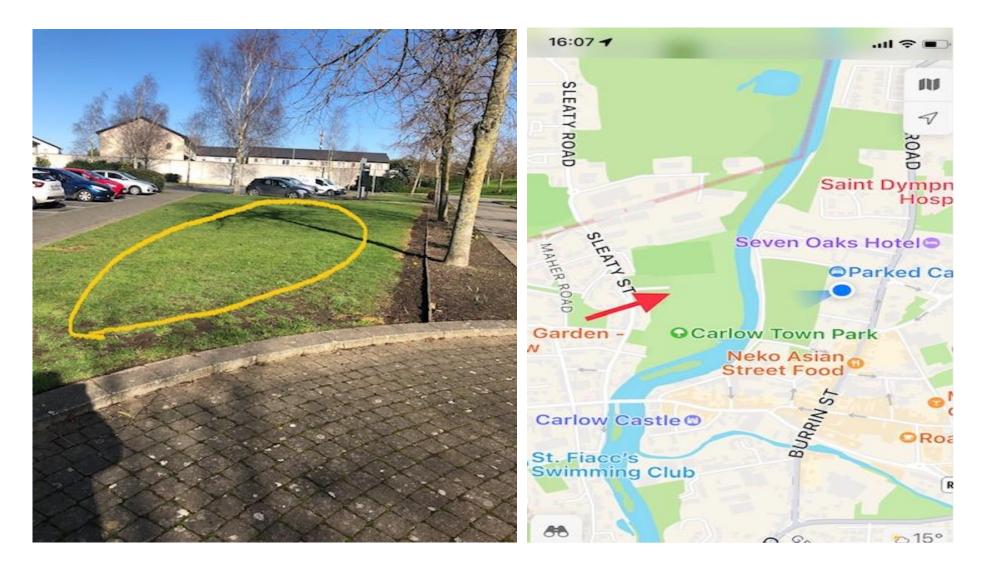
The Selection Panel will assess the proposals under the following headings:

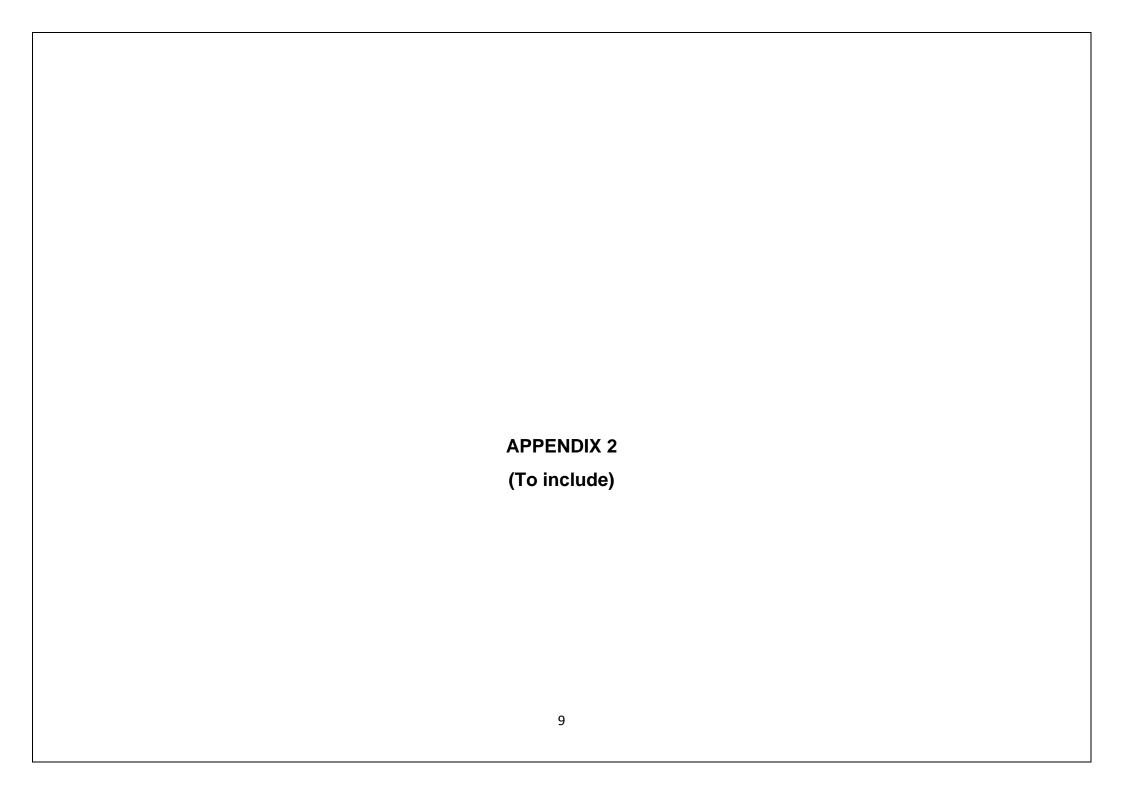
 Proposal meets the outlined aims of the commission and is a compelling public a 	artwork. 20 marks
 Evidence that the project proposal can deliver on time and within budget. 	10 marks
 Evidence that the chosen materials are durable and suitable to site. 	15 marks
 Artists proven track record and artistic quality/evidence of previous artistic work 	. 25 marks
 Artistic quality of idea presented for this commission. 	20 marks
 Evidence of deliverability of schedule of works and installation. 	10 marks



LOCATION:

The site location can be found upon entering Carlow Town Park via the Sleaty Street entrance. Continue through carpark and site is the grass area directly on the right, in close proximity to children's playground.





in Burren 12 0 00 mhetstonice Tobacco med field pair of Jettha mi Holding ullensland T= HOUSE

Combining historical themes with wayfinding is an opportunity to express a narrative about a place, it creates wayfinding that is unique and of the place, it asks questions and engages the user in ways that are beyond simple navigation. This can be done through interpretation information on signs or by integrating public art into a wayfinding strategy. Whichever route is taken Carlow has a range of historic narratives that can be explored.

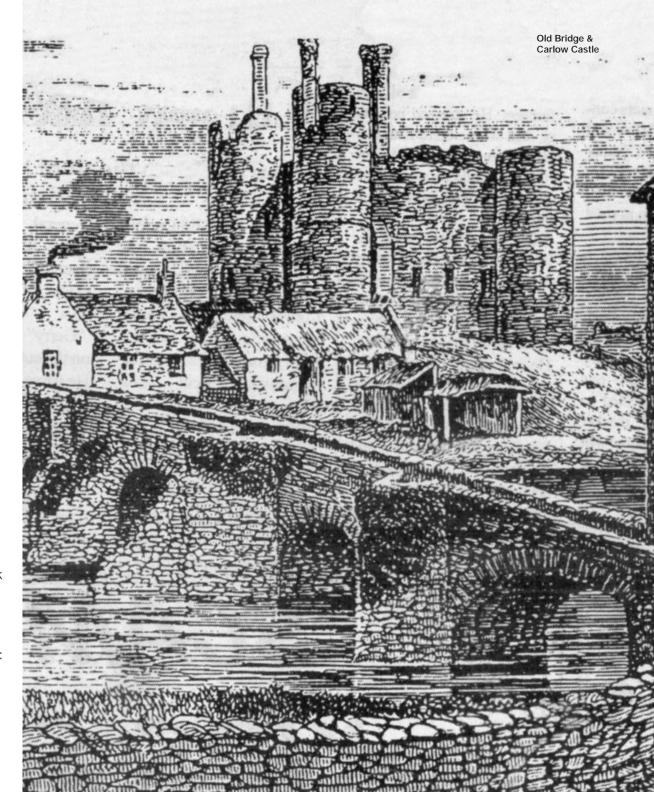
Signage provides a wonderful opportunity to present and communicate this narrative, with signs or public art acting as a series of storytelling touch points, referencing and revealing the historic layers of the town as well as directing people to a series of destinations.

Thomas Moland's Survey of Carlow, 1703



We have set out some initial themes to review and to provide a possible focus for further exploration and inclusion in the subsequent wayfinding design.

- Recovering traces of the medieval & the 18th century town, both of which exist in street pattern and a few buildings: Castle, St Mary's (site & body of galleried church), Corcoran's (site & area), Assembly Rooms (built after 1794 (see GBS letter); could include 1735 map of Carlow; Brown Street (laid out in 1720s: fanlights etc survive in nos).
- 2. 1798. Events of 1798 and commemoration in 1898 and 1998.
- 3. Post 1798 recovery, Catholic emancipation, sectarianism and efforts to overcome sectarianism. James Doyle, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, is a central figure. Nationalist and Catholic; but also ecumenical and liberal in terms of education; diplomacy important with Westminster for securing catholic emancipation. Appreciation of the important architectural projects of the early 19th century which relate to this theme: Courthouse (grand jury [orange] ambitions); Cathedral (James Doyle's [Catholic nationalist] ambitions); spire of St Mary's; Gaol 1797–1800 gaol given radial additions in 1828–31. (NB new gatehouse 1841–3.); Carlow College (roots in 18thC)
- 4. Victorian science and engineering. Several men with national/international reputations are associated with Carlow. Samuel Haughton (scientist; work on execution technique still relevant; the family house on Burrin Street has a plaque); John Tyndall (scientist whose work is relevant today. Visual art officer considering an artwork inspired by his work); William Dargan (railway engineer).
- Industrial Carlow. Very little remains, but there is a continuous history documented from at least the early 18thC. Sugar factory (early 20thC). Mineral production near Wellington Bridge (19thC Corcoran's: Inn remains.) Governey's boot factory (building remains).





6. Art, craft and architecture. Thomas Cobden: architect of cathedral (pioneering RC Gothic revival building), St Mary's spire (impressive height; outstanding design), Presbyterian church (Scot's church), Presentation chapel (Museum). He made a very significant contribution to the city, and especially to the skyline.

Stained glass: excellent early 20thC stained glass in St Mary's (Catherine O'Brien working at An Tur Gloine) and Presentation Chapel (Museum: Earley & Co 1931), although the latter is not visible because of need for window blinds. Also 19thC glass in cathedral.

Recently commissioned (2016) stained glass to commemorate 1916 in museum.

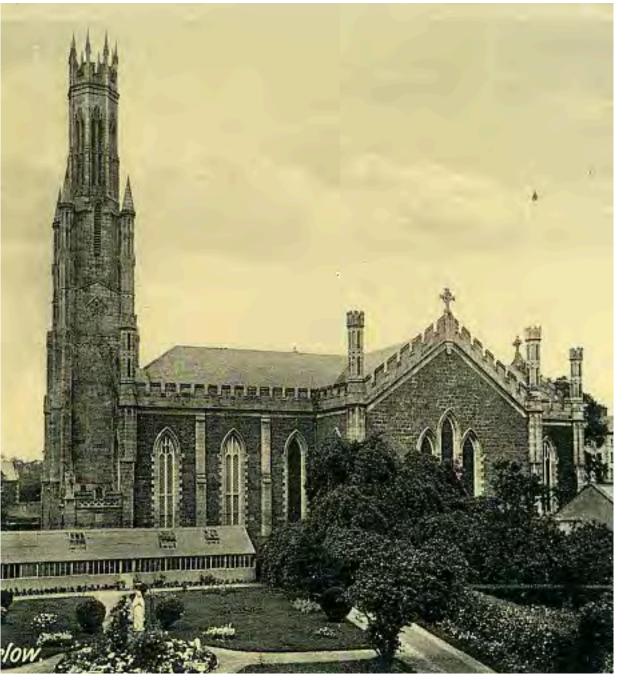
Sculpture: John Hogan's wonderful memorial sculpture to James Doyle in cathedral; two attractive reliefs at back of cathedral (to be investigated); 1798 cross in Croppies' grave; John Behan's Tree of Liberty on Kennedy Ave with maquette in museum; sculpture of virgin and child at Croppies' Grave (date, sculptor and purpose to be investigated); cast of bust of James Doyle (Museum); 1993 granite cross commemorating the foundation of Carlow College in 1793.

Wood carving. Dr Comerford memorial pulpit in museum, designed by Michael Joseph Cunningham Buckley, Youghal and executed by Pieter De Wispelaere, Bruges (1899). Tour de force. Throne in cathedral (find date; prob post 1855)

Joinery: 18thC pews in St Mary's; furniture in courthouse (see photographs). Panelled and gilded ceiling in Presentation Convent chapel, now the museum.

Silver. 1811 chalice to commemorate opening of Presentation Convent. In museum.

Cast Iron: Cannon from Crimea war outside courthouse. (Similar displays also in Tralee, Ennis and possibly elsewhere.)



Carlow Cathedral



Richard Morrison and William Vitruvius Morrison: architects. WVM designed courthouse (outstanding provincial courthouse of the period) RM designed memorial in St Mary's.

Plasterwork. Interior of Assembly Room has example of late 18thC oval plasterwork ceiling. (Not seen.) Cathedral retains early 19thC plaster quadripartite vaulting. Presentation Convent Chapel (museum) retains early 19thC vaulting with oculus in former sanctuary

- 7. Skyline. Visual theme: Three buildings puncture the skyline: castle towers (60 feet); cathedral tower and lantern (151 feet); St Mary's tower and spire (195 feet). Figures from Samuel Lewis, Topographical Dictionary of Ireland (1837). Check today.
- 8. 1916. Michael O'Hanrahan. Plaque on working men's club in Brown Street. Commemorated in Stained glass in museum.



Carlow, 1956



4.1 Trail Routes

Our first thoughts are to develop a series of interconnecting trails to make up the overall town trail.

Breaking the trail routes into varying walking times is a useful tool to show the visitor how much they are able to achieve on their visit to Carlow. Not every user will be able to achieve walking to the entire 12 points of interest on the heritage trail, as they may only be passing with an hour or so spare. By giving visitors an idea of walking times, the wayfinding mapping will give a user confidence in what they can see while also leading them through retail streets despite any lack of time.

30 Minute Circular Trail + Dwell time in attractions

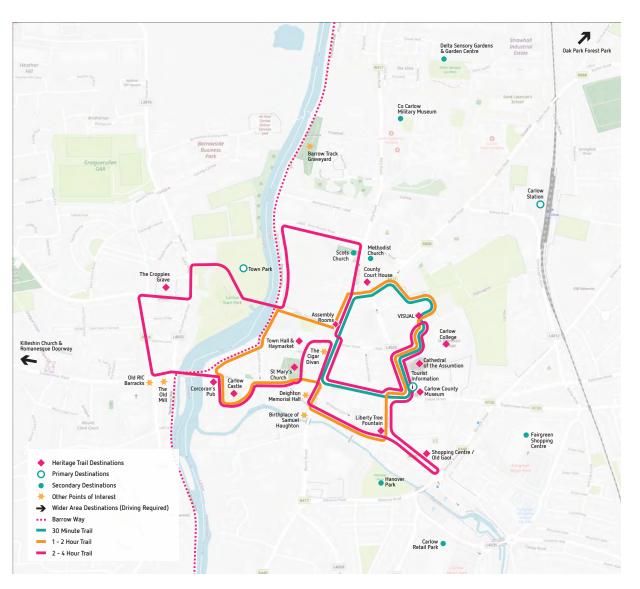
Starting at Visual, walking past Carlow College and Cathedral of the Assumption, turning left towards Carlow Museum. Carry on down Tullow Street, then along Dublin Street towards Assembly Rooms and County Courthouse.

1-2 Hour Circular Trail + Dwell time in attractions

Starting at Visual, walking past Carlow College and Cathedral of the Assumption, turning left towards Carlow Museum. Heading toward Liberty Tree Fountain then Kennedy Avenue to St Mary's Church, Carlow Castle and Corcoran's Pub. Walk along river on Barrow track, turning right at Cox's Lane toward County Courthouse.

2-4 Hour Circular Trail + Dwell time in attractions

Starting at Visual, walking past Carlow College and Cathedral of the Assumption, turning left towards Carlow Museum. Walking down Potato Market to Gaol/shopping centre. Heading toward Liberty Tree Fountain then Kennedy Avenue and Dublin Street to Town Hall square and St Mary's Church. Then Carlow Castle and Corcoran's Pub, crossing over Wellington Bridge, then right to the Croppies' Grave and Town Park over footbridge. Walk along river on Barrow track, turning right at Montgomery Street toward County Courthouse. Continue down Dublin Street towards Assembly Rooms turning left down Tullow Street returning towards Visual.



Carlow Town Centre

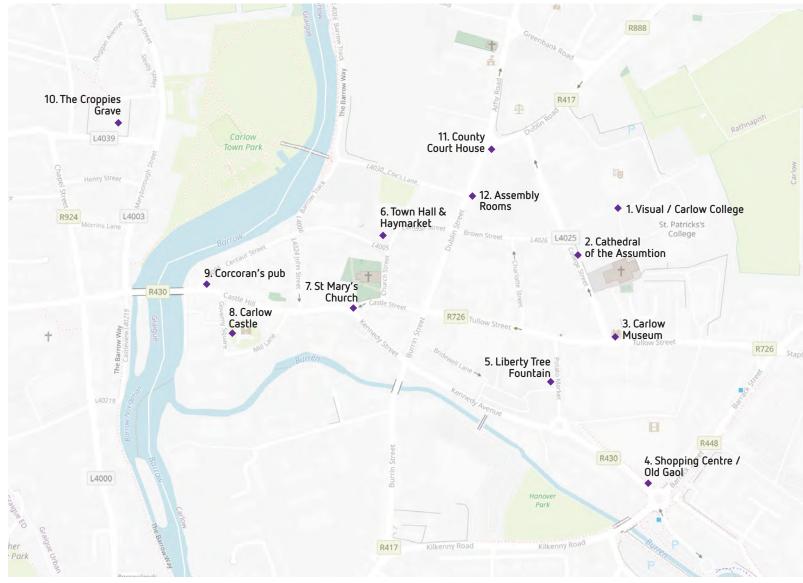
Heritage trail routes



4.2 Trail Sign Locations

We have set out the initial story telling / wayfinding panel locations in the areas where we will be setting out interpretation information for the specific heritage site, but locations that should also be useful to orientate a visitor if they are not walking the heritage trail for general wayfinding.

- 1. Visual / Carlow College
- 2. Cathedral of the Assumption
- 3. Museum
- 4. Old Gaol/Shopping Centre
- 5. Liberty Tree Fountain
- 6. Town Hall
- 7. St Mary's Church of Ireland Church
- 8. Carlow Castle
- 9. Corcoran's Pub
- 10. Croppies' Grave
- 11. County Courthouse
- 12. Assembly Rooms







4.3 Summary of appearance of places/buildings and associated stories & people

1. Visual / Carlow College

Carlow College, opened 1793. Memorial stone 1993. Men educated at Carlow College include: revolutionary and writer, James Fintan Lalor (1807-49), republican, John O'Leary (1830–1907); poet, Richard D'Alton Williams (1822-62), painter, Frank O'Meara (1853-88); churchman and Ireland's first cardinal Paul Cullen (1803-78). James Doyle held chairs of rhetoric and theology here before being appointed bishop of Kildare and Leighlin in 1819 at age of 33.

2. Cathedral of The Assumption

Built 1828–33 under patronage of James Doyle, bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. Designed by English non-conformist, Thomas Cobden. Doyle is buried before the altar.

3. Carlow County Museum

Former Presentation Convent, College Street & Tallow Street. Local history. The place where the themes intersect. The chapel of the convent is an important part of the display.

4. Old Gaol

New gaol built in this location in 1797-1800. Radial additions, for which governor's house survives, erected in 1828-31. New gatehouse erected to designs of John Semple in 1841–3. (R. Butler) The gatehouse survives as the entrance to a shopping centre and the governors' house of the 1820s scheme survives at the middle of the shopping centre. The execution platform from the gatehouse is on display in the museum.

5. The Liberty Tree

Materialisation of 1798 in 1998. Urban place. Located close to main events in 1798 'battle of Carlow'.

6. Town Hall

Designed in 1881 by William Hague in conjunction with a market, the impressive stone pillars of which survive. It was completed by 1886. The area in front of the town hall was the location of public meetings.



7. St Mary's Church of Ireland Church

6th-century cell on this elevated site. Medieval church preceded present church built in 1727. This church was altered/renovated (interior remodelled (partially?) by Thos Cobden in 1829–30 and he added a tower and spire in 1833.

8. Carlow Castle

Situated on Mill Lane. Early 13th-century structure of which only west wall surviving. After a disastrous effort to convert the building into a psychiatric hospital in the early 19th century. Opportunity for visual reconstruction of the architecture and introduction to the site of Carlow Town situated on the banks of the River Barrow.

9. Corcoran's

Mineral works situated on a deep site next to Mill Lane, which runs round the castle site. This area, close to the river, has been the location of industry since at least the 18thC. The pub, associated with the mineral works survives with late 19thC furnishings and graphics.

10. Croppies' Grave

The events of 1798 and materialisation in 1898 and 1965.

11. County Court House

Situated on Court Place. 1828–34. Exemplary architecture by William Vitruvius Morrison. Lucinda Sly case tried here. Location of election riot 1837. Impact compromised by road signage.

12. Assembly Rooms

On Dublin Street. Built c.1794; striking example of urban classicism. Linked to George Bernard Shaw.



4.4 Heritage Themes and Links

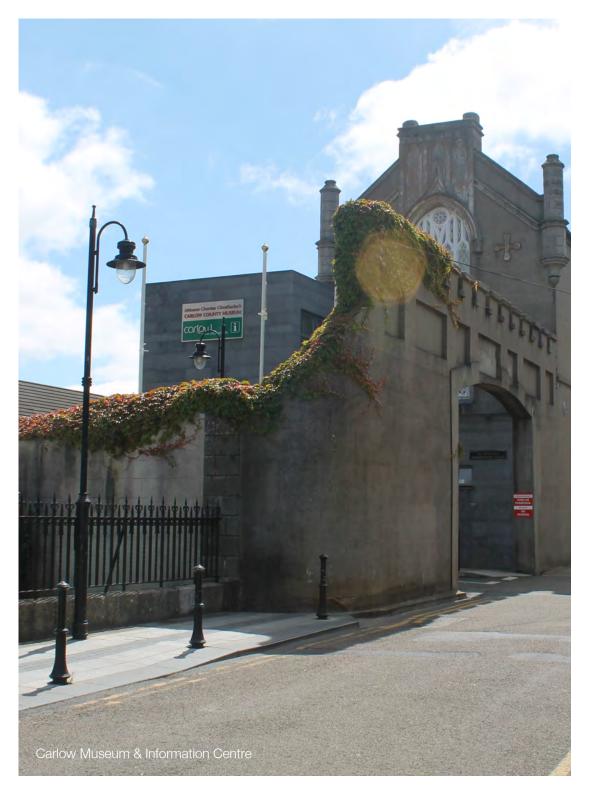
Themes	Icon	Location					
		1. Visual / Carlow College	2. Cathedral of The Assumption	3. Carlow County Museum	4. Gaol	5. The Liberty Tree	6. Town Hall
		Interpretation Text about the specific location	Interpretation Text about the specific location				
1798	ТВС						
Thomas Cobden Architect	ТВС						
Art	ТВС						
James Doyle	ТВС						
Samual Haughton	ТВС				•		
Industrial and Carlow development	ТВС						



4.4 Heritage Themes and Links

Themes	Icon	Location					
		7. St Mary's Church of Ireland Church	8. Carlow Castle	9. Corcoran's	10. Croppies' Grave	11. County Court House	12. Assembly Rooms
		Interpretation Text about the specific location	Interpretation Text about the specific location				
1798	TBC				•	•	
Thomas Cobden Architect	ТВС						
Art	ТВС						
James Doyle	ТВС						
Samual Haughton	ТВС						
Industrial and Carlow development	ТВС		•				





5. CONCEPT DESIGNS

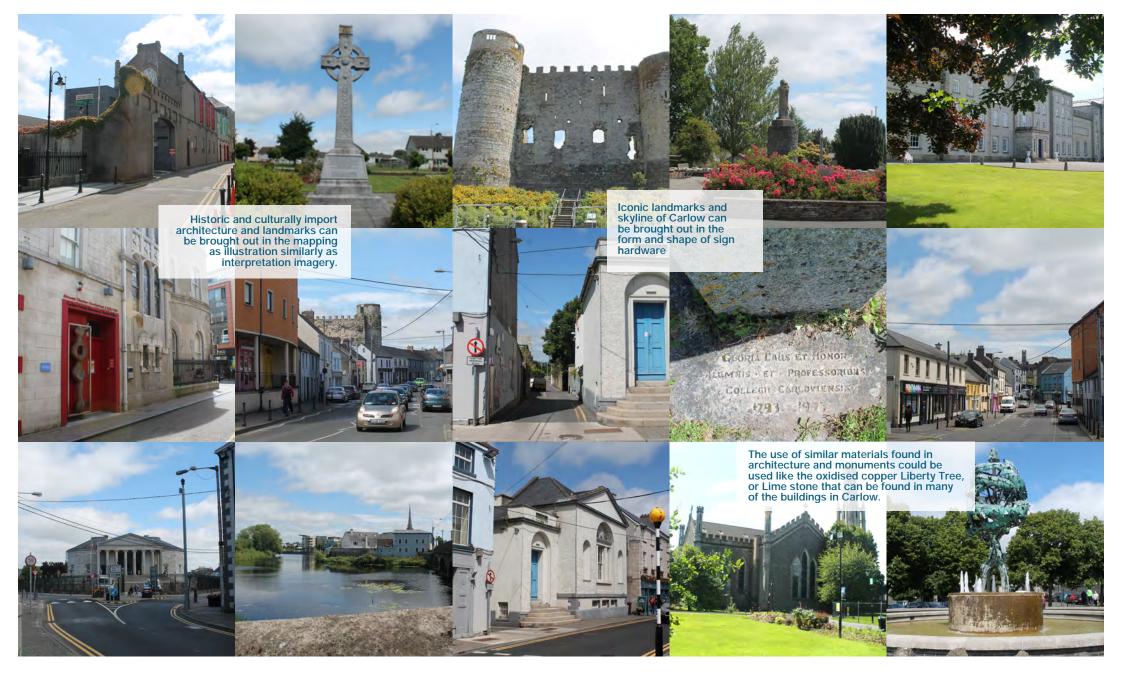
5.1 COLOUR AND MATERIALS STUDY

To deliver vibrant, authentic places that people feel they can identify with, where they have a sense ownership and pride in the place, there is a need to bring together a range of factors and principles to inform a sense of identity.

The aim is to design signs for the interpretation that respond to the public realm of a place, the buildings and its streetscape, creating designs that feel rooted in the place. By doing this the signage feels more embedded, revealing the unique character of a place.

Carlow's historic streetscape should be reflected and complemented in terms of colour materials and style in the signage. This does necessarily require a traditional or historical sign design, often a contemporary solution using sympathetic materials and colour can be both respectful to the town's heritage whilst looking to the future, presenting Carlow as a thriving, forwards thinking place to live, work or visit.

5.1. COLOUR AND MATERIALS STUDY



5.1. COLOUR AND MATERIALS STUDY



5.2 SIGN STYLE - PRECEDENTS





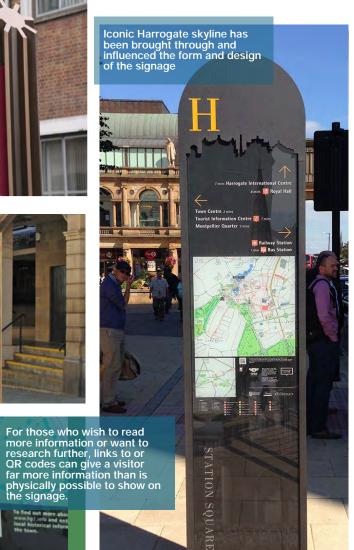














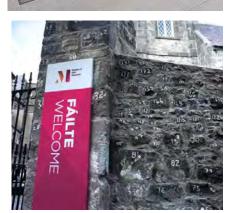


















5.3 DRAFT SIGN TYPE

Graphics applied directly to powdercoated panel.

These are concept options for the trail / interpretation / wayfinding signage, gateway and street name signage.

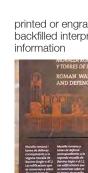


Taking forms from the



Iconic Castle turrets

Sráid Na Tulaí TULLOW STREET



printed or engraved and backfilled interpretation



Colours and materials relate to other interventions around the town





Void in frame that acts as 'Window' or frame to the landscape and architecture.



Engraved or fret cut lettering





Panel to sit beneath recess

Street Name Plaques

Powder coated black panel with corten or rusted VeroMetal finish strip along edge. Street name information and directional information printed direct to powder coat surface. Trail icon markers engraved into edging strip. Could be used additionally as interpretation plaques at certain locations and key buildings.

Trail / Interpretation / Wayfinding Monolith

Corten or Rusted VeroMetal aluminium base and top over a steel sub-frame. Interpretation lyrics, poem, image or information and trail icon markers engraved into base. Castle turret detailing fret cut, also acting as 'Window' which will frame certain views and landmarks. Glass panel with reverse applied graphics.

Gateway Marker

Powder coated body on two sides, corten or VeroMetal rust finish panel to sit in recesses on other two sides and engraved interpretation information and imagery.

Mapping and wayfinding information applied directly to powder coated panels.

