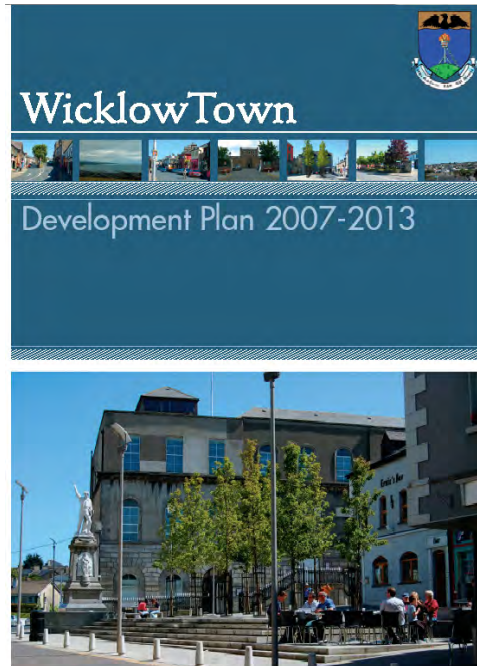




Wicklow Town Development Plan 2007 – 2013



Variation One of 2011

Architectural Conservation Area

5th January 2011

8.7 Architectural Conservation Area

Section 81 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 places a statutory obligation on planning authorities to ensure that all development plans must now include objectives to preserve the character of a place, area, group of structures or townscape that is:

- a. of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value, or
- b. contributes to the appreciation of protected structures.

These areas are to be designated as Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA). The designation of these ACAs is a reserved function of the Council.

Most structures in an ACA are important in the context of their contribution to the streetscape or character of an area. In ACAs, protection is placed on the external appearance of such areas or structures. Any works that would have a material affect on the character of an ACA would require planning permission.

The Architectural Conservation Area extends along Main Street from Fitzwilliam Square to Market Square (see Figure below). The Town Centre ACA has been designated based upon its architectural, historical and cultural importance. It has been identified based upon the following characteristics:

- Uniform Building Line
- Building Height range of between two, three and four storeys
- Buildings constructed in the period 1750 to 1900
- Its role as the historic commercial and civic core of the town
- Plot widths dating from the medieval period in the range 5 to 7.5 metres
- Existence of design features that contribute to a harmonious visual environment including: traditional shopfronts; timber sash windows; smooth render building finishes; vertical emphasis fenestration; wood/timber doors

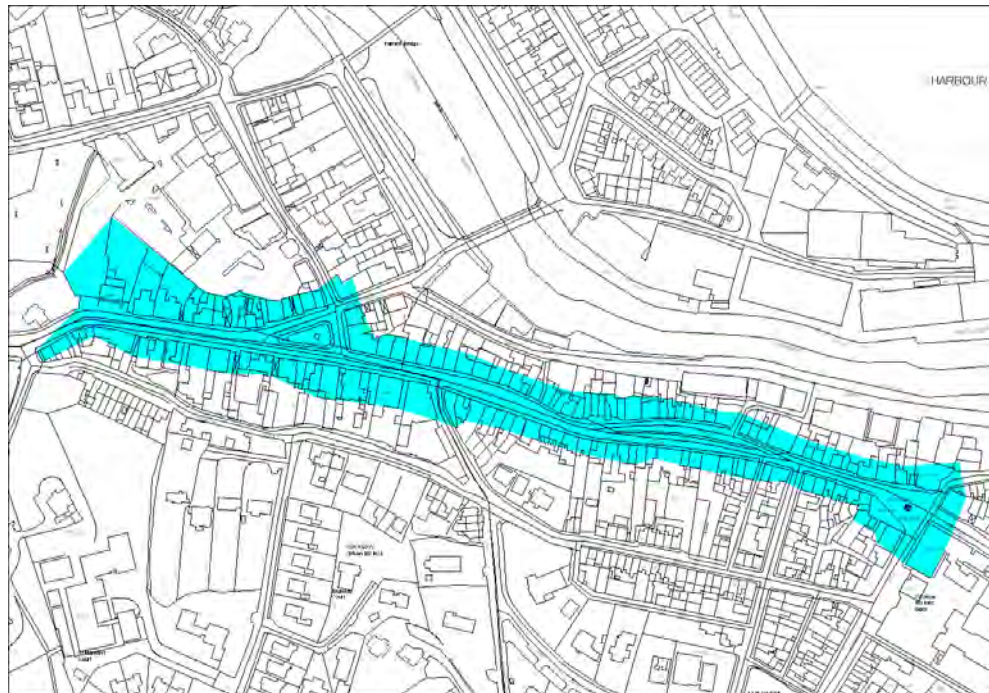


Figure Architectural Conservation Area

The preservation of the character of the Town Centre ACA is essential to safeguarding the identity of the town and maintaining continuity with its development history. The collection of buildings and spaces within the ACA represent a unique aspect of Wicklow Town's built heritage and contribute to its attractiveness.

Having regard to the Town Centre Polices and the Cultural Heritage policies in addition it shall be Council policy:

Policy CH10: To seek to preserve, protect and enhance the character of the Town Centre Architectural Conservation Area (ACA).

Policy CH11: To ensure that any development, modifications, alterations, or extensions affecting a structure within an ACA are sited and designed appropriately, and are not detrimental to the general character of the ACA.

Policy CH12: To encourage the retention of original windows, doors, renders, roof coverings and other significant features of historic buildings within the ACA.

Objective CH3: To publish a character appraisal and ACA Guidance notes on Wicklow Town ACA.