

Athenry Town Wall Walk Feasibility Study 2021

The feasibility study to define a walkable wall circuit, with signage, lighting and on-site interpretation is underway for the medieval town walls of Athenry. The intention is to improve public and visitor understanding, allowing greater access and appreciation of the Town Walls and associated monuments.

Large sections of Athenry's town walls remain (1.25km survive of the 2km circuit), including five towers and a town entrance known as the North Gate, making Athenry one of the more complete medieval walled towns in Ireland. The circuit enclosed an area of over 28 hectares. The walls are slightly more than a metre in thickness, and four to five metres in height. They were surrounded by a wide, water-filled fosse that would have made them seem more formidable, and there were inner ramparts rather than a wall-walk. A low outer rampart probably also existed. There is a 1310 murage grant, which suggests that funds were needed for maintenance or repair of the town walls.

An earlier 2008 conservation and management plan identified several walk options, of different lengths to meet different user needs. As part of this study we will be reviewing these proposed routes to determine if they would be suitable today, and also if they provide the walker with the best vantage points of the walls, and various features along its length.

The project is funded by Galway County Council, The Heritage Council and the Irish Walled Towns Network





The Loro Gate in Athenry