

# Fethard Medieval Town

established by the Anglo-Normans circa 1200 AD



Fiodh Ard  
'The High Wood'  
Fethard

## Town Trail

### (1) TOWN HALL

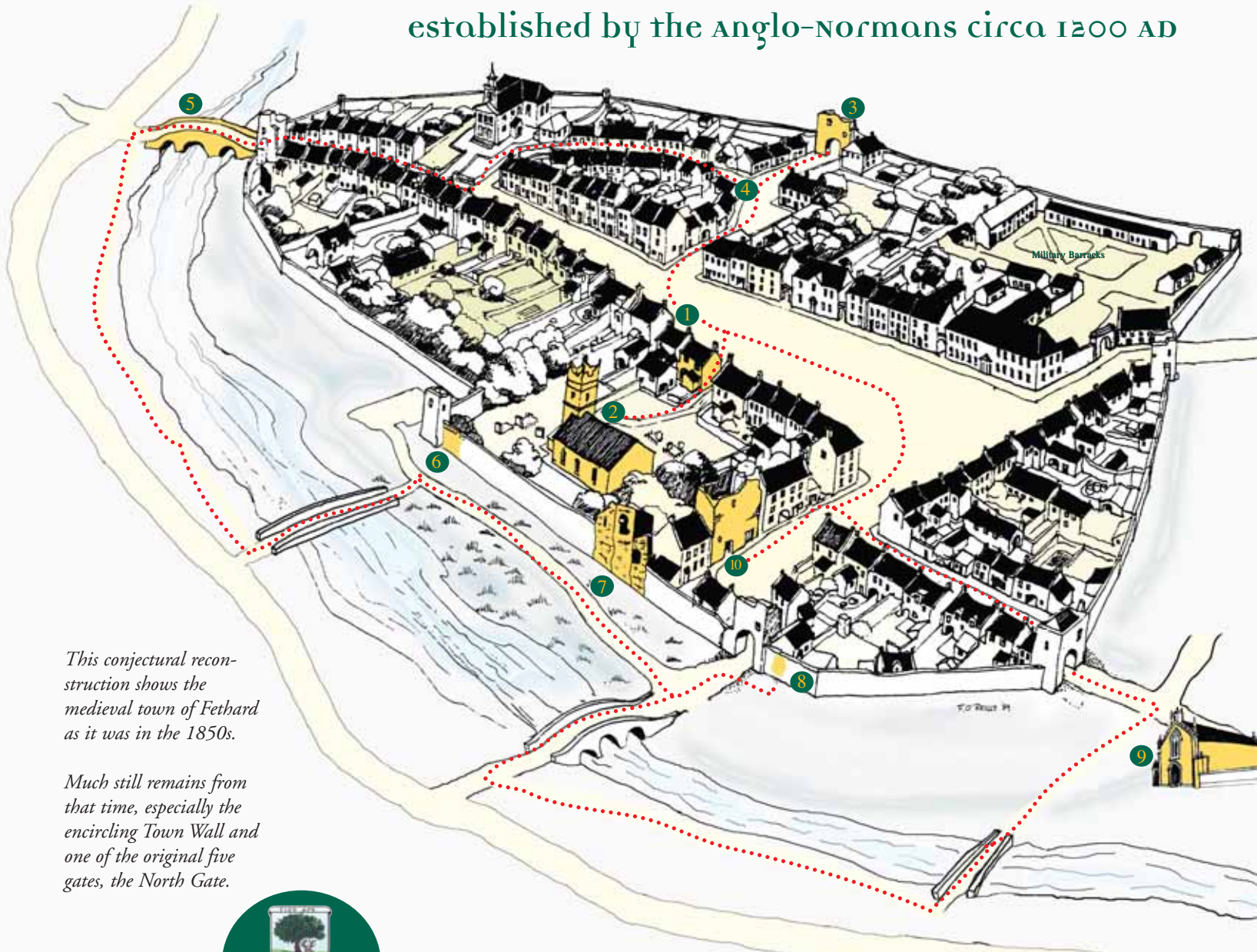
One of the most important historical buildings in Fethard. The town hall was built in the early 1600's by the Everard family as a "Tholsel" or Town Hall. It is one of the largest urban buildings of that period still standing in Ireland.

### (2) HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

The original Norman Church was built in the early 13th Century. The west tower and the two ruined buildings on the south side of the church are late medieval additions. The window in the tower is a fine example of Irish craftsmanship of the period.

### (3) NORTH GATE

The North Gate (also known as Sparagoleith), is the only surviving gate of the five original gates in the town wall. On the underside of the archway are markings left by the wickerwork which was used in its construction.



*This conjectural reconstruction shows the medieval town of Fethard as it was in the 1850s.*

*Much still remains from that time, especially the encircling Town Wall and one of the original five gates, the North Gate.*



1 Town Hall

2 Holy Trinity Church

3 North Gate

4 Chapel Lane

5 Madam's Bridge

6 Medieval Town Wall

7 Edmonds Castle

8 Sheela na gig

9 Augustinian Abbey

10 Court Castle



## Fethard Medieval Town Trail continued . . .

### (4) CHAPEL LANE

This is one of the oldest laneways in Fethard, marking part of the boundary of the original smaller 13th century town.

### (5) MADAM'S BRIDGE

The original Madam's Bridge was a three - arched late medieval bridge protected at the town end by a gate tower of 15th Century type. Part of the square building which originally adjoined the gate tower has been restored.

### (6) MEDIEVAL TOWN WALLS

The first charter to build the town wall was granted in 1292, but building and renovation continued up to the 16th century. Most of the town wall still exists, including one of the five original gateways (The North Gate)

### (7) EDMOND'S CASTLE

This is a late 15th century fortified town house — believed to have belonged to the prominent Fethard family, the Everards.

### (8) SHEELA-NA-GIG

An interesting example of the medieval carvings known as Sheela-na-gigs (Sile nà gCioch). Sheela-na-gigs are erotic sculptures found on medieval buildings, churches and castles. They are sometimes interpreted as fertility figures of pagan origin.

### (9) THE AUGUSTINIAN ABBEY

Founded in 1305, the present Church is the original 14th century building which was modified in the 15th century. The front facade of the existing church dates to circa 1835 when the original medieval tower was demolished.

### (10) COURT CASTLE

This is the largest fortified town house in Fethard, (and indeed one of the largest in Ireland) from circa 1400, with alterations from the 16th and 17th centuries.



### TOURIST INFORMATION

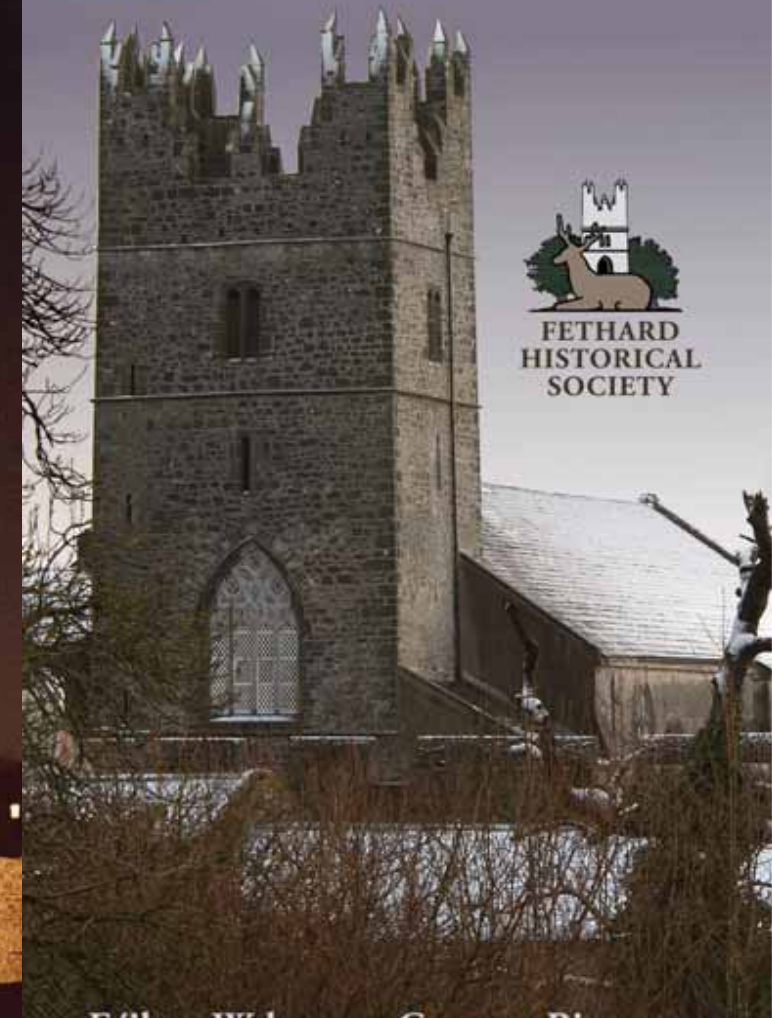
Tel: +353 (0)52 31000

[www.fethard.com](http://www.fethard.com)



# FETHARD Medieval Town Trail

CO. TIPPERARY IRELAND



Fáilte - Welcome - Croeso - Bienvenue