

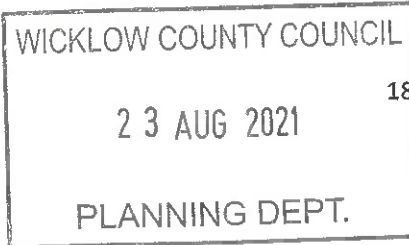
# HISTORIC BUILDING CONSULTANTS

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Draft County Development Plan  
Forward Planning  
Wicklow County Council  
Station Road  
Wicklow Town  
A67 FW96



18<sup>th</sup> August 2021

## Re: Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2021-2027

I wish to lodge a submission in relation to the Record of Protected Structures as set down in the draft Wicklow County Development Plan, 2021-2027. Some of my points relate to errors in the present record of protected structures or the proposed additions, while others relate to proposals for additions to the record:

### 1. Vartry water works

Proposed addition ADD-21 to the record of protected structures refers to an "overflow shaft" at the lower reservoir at Roundwood. Correctly this is an overflow spillway weir, not a shaft, and is different to the overflow shaft at the upper reservoir.



#### *Recommendation:*

I recommend that entry ADD-21 in the proposed additions to the record of protected structures be amended to read "Overflow spillway weir".

**Rob Goodbody BA(mod), DipEP, DipABRC, MA, MUBC, MIPI**

## 2. Waters Bridge

It is proposed to add Waters Bridge to the record of protected structures (reference Add-17). The proposed text should be amended to read “piers” rather than “pillars” and “in the centre of the Lower Reservoir” rather than the Vartry dam (which doesn’t have a bridge on it). The address should read Lower Reservoir, not Upper Reservoir.

## 3. Old Bridge at Lower Reservoir

The old bridge that carried the R765 still exists beneath the waters of the Lower Reservoir immediately to the south of Waters Bridge. This appears to be an early eighteenth-century bridge, if not older.

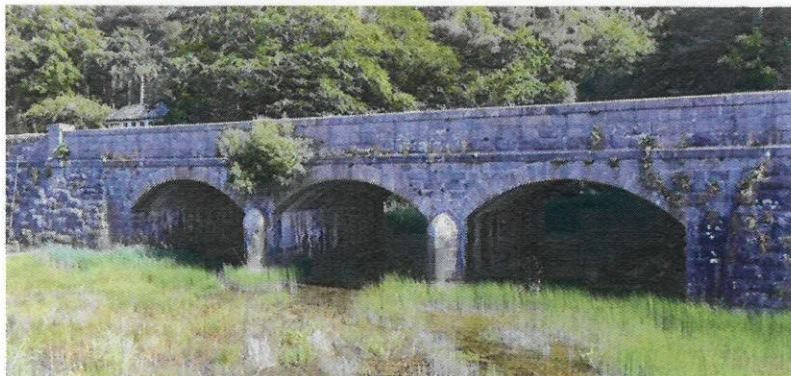


### *Recommendation*

That the old bridge be added to the record of protected structures with the description “Ruined three-arched bridge surviving in the Lower Reservoir”.

## 4. Bridge on R764

As it is proposed to add Waters Bridge to the record of protected structures it would be consistent to consider adding the bridge that spans the spillway weir on the R764.



### *Recommendation*

That the bridge over the Vartry spillway be added to the record of protected structures with the description “three-arched bridge of dressed granite over the Vartry waterworks spillway on the R764.”

## 5. Enniskerry Bridge

The entry in the record of protected structures for Enniskerry Bridge (ref. 03-23) refers to “iron balustrade with granite coping”. The balustrade is not iron, but stone.



### *Recommendation*

I recommend that the description of the bridge be amended to read “High single-arched bridge with balustrade and granite coping”. I also recommend that the address be changed to “Enniskerry Bridge, Monastery Road”.

## 6. Glendasan – mine workings

Entry number 17-01 in the record of protected structures places the mine workings at Glendasan in the townlands of “Glendasan and Wicklow Gap”. There are no townlands of that name. The mine workings are in the townlands of Brockagh and Seven Churches or Camaderry.

## 7. Derrybawn Bridge

Entry 23-07 in the record of protected structures refers to “decorated stones from the Seven Churches” built into Derrybawn Bridge. As far as I am aware there are no decorated stones in Derrybawn Bridge. The description of the bridge in *Irish Stone Bridges*, 2016 edition, states that “one gets the impression that many of the larger wrought stones, especially in the piers of the bridge, may have come from those ruins.” I inspected the bridge when working on that volume and while there are wrought stones – i.e. stones cut to shape – I could see no decorated stones. The book also quotes Thomas Davis, from an article in *The Nation*, stating that some of the carvings from churches at Glendalough “were removed and used as keystones for the arches of Derrybawn Bridge.” Inspection of the bridge shows that this is not the case and there are no carvings on the keystones. The date of the bridge has not been proven, but it is thought to have been built c1802 as part of the Military Road and not in the eighteenth century.

### *Recommendation*

That the description of the bridge in the record of protected structures be amended to read “Three-arch bridge, said to have stones from the churches at Glendalough built into it.”

## 8. Derrybawn

While on the subject of Derrybawn Bridge, I note that the description of Derrybawn House in the record of protected structures (ref. 23-08) makes no mention of the outbuildings, which would have been an integral part of the property. It is probable that these buildings are in the curtilage of Derrybawn House, though there is enough uncertainty that the position needs to be clarified. Firstly, because the *Architectural Heritage Guidelines for Planning Authorities* does not clarify the situation, though functional relation to and historical relationship with the main house are relevant factors, as also is the fact that the original ownership included the house and these outbuildings. A second reason for clarification is that it would appear that the main house and the outbuildings are now in separate occupation.



These outbuildings are very prominent, as the Green Road leading to Glendalough passes beneath the archway and through the yard and the photographs were taken from that pathway. The buildings are at least partly in commercial use, and it is not obvious as to whether parts are vacant. The buildings certainly need to be cared for and there are signs of deterioration in parts of the complex.



The entry in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) includes these outbuildings in the description of the property – “large group of outbuildings to west and north” and presumably the inclusion of the property in the record of protected structures was recommended by the minister along with other buildings in the NIAH. Some of the original cast-iron lattice windows survive.

The house is said to have been built in the eighteenth century, though remodelled and enlarged c.1860. Some of the outbuildings alongside the Green Road would thus appear to date from the eighteenth century, as they appear on the first-edition Ordnance Survey map. The balance were built in the nineteenth century, at least some of them at the time that the house was enlarged.

#### *Recommendation*

I recommend that the description of Derrybawn House in the record of protected structures be amended by the addition of the following: “including range of outbuildings to the north, adjacent to the Green Road”. Alternatively, the outbuildings should be added to the record of protected structures as a separate entry.

### **9. Mining Company school, Glendalough**

The Mining Company of Ireland ran the lead mines at Glendalough and Glendasan in the mid-nineteenth century and the lead was brought from the mines to the company’s smelting works at Ballycorus, County Dublin. In early 1862 the company opened schools at Ballycorus to provide schooling for the children of its employees and in the light of its success the company opened a school at Glendalough, known as Seven Churches School. The design of the two schools was identical and was by James Higgins Owen, principal architect of the Board of Works. Seven Churches School closed in 1882 with the decline of mining in the district and was used for a period as a clerk’s office or an assay office for the company. From the 1920s until 1960 it was a Garda Síochána barracks.



The building is beautifully built with granite.

#### *Recommendation*

I recommend that the former school and Garda barracks is added to the record of protected structures.

## 10. Glendalough mines

The entry for the Glendalough mines in the record of protected structures includes the mines themselves, with their associated features, along with the reservoir dam (reference 23-11). This excludes the remnants of buildings and machinery, which form an integral and important part of the mining heritage at this site.



The lead mines in the Glendalough area were based in Glendasan initially and in 1853 the lead vein was identified at the head of the valley at Glendalough. In 1855 the mining company commenced the construction of a significant group of buildings at this location, including a crushing mill and a hopper, seen in the photographs above, along with other buildings and picking floors. Part of the machinery of a crusher from a later period is also to be seen near the Upper Lake and this is illustrated in the photograph below.

### *Recommendation*

I recommend that the description of the Glendalough mines be augmented to be more in accordance with the entry for the Glendasan mines (reference 17-01) with the addition of the following: “settling ponds, water courses, picking floors, cobbled surfaces and buildings including, inter alia, crushing mill, ore hopper and machinery.”



### **11. Pillar box at Church Road, Greystones**

I fully support the inclusion of the pillar letter box on Church Road, Greystones, in the record of protected structures (ADD-13) in view of it being probably the earliest surviving pillar letter box in Greystones and also the most rare. Given the absence of a monarch's cipher or other identifying mark on the letter box its vintage is not obvious, and it would be helpful to include it in the description.

#### *Recommendation*

I recommend that the words "dating from c.1880" be added to the description.

#### **Concluding remark**

I trust that the above is helpful. If you chose to follow my recommendations, I would be glad to supply photographs for the record of protected structures and suggest that you contact me on the email address given in the letter head.

With thanks,

Rob Goodbody