WONDER WANDER CAPPOQUIN

NATIONAL INVENTORY of ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Waterford City & County Council
Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge

INSTRUCTIONS

TAKE A 'WONDER WANDER' THROUGH CAPPOQUIN:

- Stroll through our streets on this self-guided tour, find the picture clues, and delve into the stories our town tells through its rich architectural heritage.
- Pause to discover often-overlooked architectural details in our scavenger hunt, or simply relax and enjoy a carefully curated self-guided tour of Cappoquin.
- Always remember to glance up, peer down, and never cease to WONDER!

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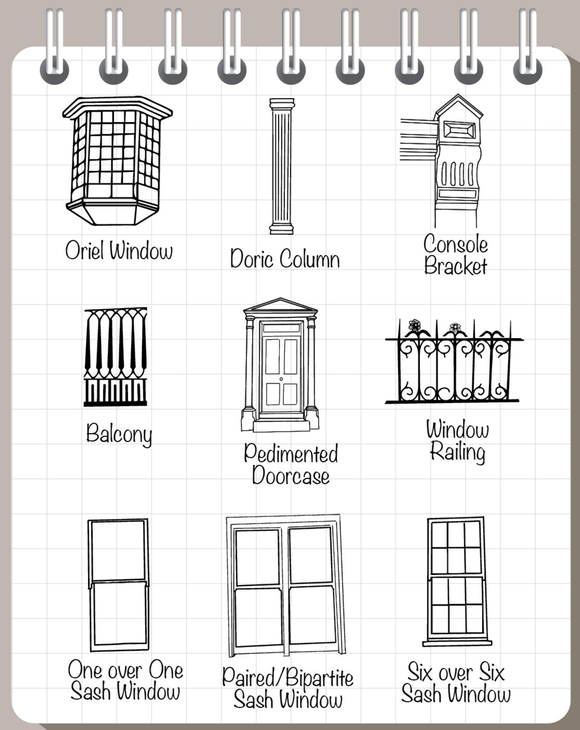
SCAVENGER HUNT

HOW MANY OF THESE ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS CAN YOU SPOT ON MAIN STREET?



THE STORY OF CAPPOQUIN

Located on the River Blackwater, Cappoquin or 'Ceapach Choinn' in Irish has been a hub for trade and goods transport since the 16th century, when Richard Boyle, the first Earl of Cork, laid claim to the area. Prior to this, a 15th century castle, believed to be associated with the Fitzgerald family, stood here, though its exact location is uncertain.

The river was a vital economic channel, allowing vessels to navigate its deep waters, bringing goods to and from the surrounding agricultural area and beyond.

As the road network developed, communication improved within the county and to the neighboring areas of Tipperary and Cork. In 1630, the construction of a wooden bridge at Cappoquin further boosted the town's trade links. Building on the existing commercial activity along the Blackwater, the town's first Market House was constructed. The development of a military barracks during the 17th century marked the growing importance of Cappoquin during this period.

The 19th and early 20th centuries saw Cappoquin continue to develop as a flourishing market town, aided by the arrival of the railway in 1878.

The wealth of shops lining Main Street and Barrack Street, reflect this period of substantial expansion in trade and retail.

The influential Keane family of Cappoquin House, who were major landowners, also played a pivotal role in the development of the town throughout time.

In recognition of the special historical, social and architectural character of Cappoquin, Waterford City and County Council has designated an Architectural Conservation Area. Together with the diligent efforts of the local community, this designation helps in the management and enhancement of its unique social history and wealth of architectural treasures. It is hoped that this much loved town will continue to be cherished and enjoyed by future generations.

Want to learn more about Cappoquin Architectural Conservation Area and other Architectural Conservation Areas in the county? Contact Waterford City and County Council's Conservation Officer.

With special thanks to the local community for their assistance in developing the trail.

TICK THE BOX ✓ AS YOU WONDER

1. THE MARKET HOUSE ☐

A market house is thought to have existed on this site since the 17th century, although the present structure dates to the 1840s. Local produce such as wheat, barley, and oats were among the goods traded in the arcaded ground floor of the building. The upper level served as a courtroom until the 1970s.

The adjacent 'Salmon of Knowledge' sculpture, by Justin Laffan, symbolises the link between the town of Cappoquin and the River Blackwater, bridging land and sea. Have you spotted the three salmon that are beautifully carved into the stone?

Take a moment here to enjoy the delightful aromas from Barron's, one of the county's oldest commercial bakeries dating back to the mid-1880s. A cornerstone of Cappoquin's rich commercial history, the bakery retains its original Scotch brick ovens, showcasing traditional baking methods at their best.

2. LINCOLN PLACE ☐

This red brick terrace on Lincoln Place is a good example of Victorian architecture. Queen Victoria was the reigning monarch of the British Empire from 1837 to 1901, the period during which these houses were built. Compared to some earlier building styles, architects of this era placed particular emphasis on decorative detail.

See how the chimneys on these houses differ to those elsewhere on the street.

3. ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ☐

Completed in the early 1800s, this church is cruciform in plan, a common layout for many churches of the period. The popular Gothic Revival style of the time is evident in the tall, narrow pointed arch windows. The adjoining Parochial School and Hall played a vital educational role in the town for much of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Take note of the strip of grass that runs parallel to the parochial hall. This was once the site of a millrace which powered an 18th century grain mill. Though the mill has now gone, the street's name is a reminder of the town's industrial past.

4. MODEL WATER WHEEL ☐

This model water wheel recalls Cappoquin's rich industrial history. In the past, the river banks and quayside were a hub of bustling activity, with mills, an ironworks and a bacon factory providing employment and prosperity.

There are two Victorian 'stink' pipes located in this area. These are similar in appearance to cast-iron lamp posts but were used to vent the town's sewage system. Have you spotted them?

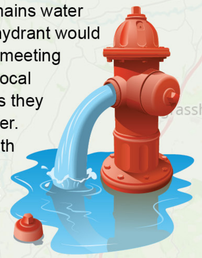
5. RED BRIDGE ☐

A clear view of the Red Bridge can be seen from here. Opened in August 1878 the bridge once carried the Waterford, Dungarvan, and Lismore railway line across the River Blackwater.

A robust construction of iron and stone, its high arches were designed to allow masted boats to pass below unhindered. Despite the line's closure in 1967, the bridge remains an important reminder of Cappoquin's railway heritage.

6. WATER HYDRANT ☐

This cast-iron water hydrant dates to the early 1900's. Before the advent of a mains water system, the hydrant would have been a meeting point for the local community as they collected water. Decorated with an acorn on top, the shaft displays the face of a fierce creature.



Located on Mass Lane, this was a route used by parishioners on their way to the Catholic chapel during the 18th century.

7. THE PRESBYTERY ☐

Built in the 1890s for members of the clergy, this late Victorian building showcases intricate details, such as fish scale roof slates and decorative chimney pots, that add to its architectural charm.

8. THE BOATHOUSE AND THE AVONMORE BRIDGE ☐

This boathouse was built in 1910 by Cappoquin Rowing Club. Founded in the 1860s, it is the club's third boathouse. Beyond is Steamers' Quay, built in 1878. The quay was vital for trade, as well as for the embarkation of passenger excursions, downriver to Youghal.

Built as a Famine relief scheme in 1850, Avonmore Bridge, formerly known as Victoria Bridge, replaced an earlier timber structure and river ferry crossing. The strategic significance of the bridge led to it being partially blown up during the Irish Civil War in 1922. Scarring from the blast is still evident in its masonry.

As you return to the centre of Cappoquin, take note of the rubble stone boundary walls which line the roadside. These, like many construction projects in the 1840s, were built as Famine relief schemes.

9. ST. ANNE'S CHURCH OF IRELAND CHURCH ☐

Built in the early 1800s, and designed in the Gothic Revival style, this church features a clock tower, pointed arch windows, and decorative stained glass. The tower originally had a square clock face that was later replaced with a round one, said to have been moulded from a carriage wheel.

The close proximity of the town's two churches, St. Anne's and St Mary's, is a distinctive feature that enriches the character of Cappoquin, and perhaps reflects the mother-daughter connection of their patron saints.

10. MAIN STREET ☐

Cappoquin's Main Street boasts some of the county's finest traditional shopfronts, dating from the 19th and 20th centuries. The abundance of rich decorative detailing tells of a once-thriving urban centre. It is said that in 1950, the town had twenty-two grocers and seven drapers.

Pause to discover the many often overlooked features on Main Street in our Scavenger Hunt. Features to spot include decorative plaster and timber mouldings, columns, and pilasters, as well as ornamental motifs like shamrocks and flowers.

11. THE CORNERSTONE ☐

Located on the corner of Castle Street and Main Street, the 'Cornerstone' is a well-known and much loved feature for the town's people. While its precise origins are unknown, it is surrounded by numerous local tales. One popular tale suggests that sitting on the Cornerstone ensures a return to Cappoquin. Give it a try and we hope to see you back in Cappoquin soon!

Further up, on the north side of Castle Street, you can find 200-year-old rubble stone outbuildings associated with Cappoquin House.

12. THE CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY ☐

Opened in 1911, this building was built in the Arts and Crafts style, an architectural movement that placed great emphasis on traditional craftsmanship, evident here in the delightful timber frame detailing. Andrew Carnegie, an industrialist and philanthropist who advocated for mass literacy, generously funded numerous Carnegie Libraries around the world.

13. CAPPOQUIN HOUSE AND GATES ☐

For almost 300 years, Cappoquin estate has been in the Keane family, descendants of the O'Cahans of Ulster. The estate has evolved over time and once included a medieval castle of the Fitzgerald's and an Elizabethan house. The present house, designed by the noted Waterford architect, John Roberts, sustained substantial damage during the 1920s, but was subsequently restored by Sir John Keane in collaboration with the architect Richard Francis Caulfield Orpen.

The gardens are open all year, excluding Sundays. The house is open during specific times. There is a visitor charge.

The urns that decorate the entrance are classical features inspired by ancient Rome. Other classical motifs were also used in the elegant Georgian design of Cappoquin House.

14. WALSH'S HOTEL / THE BARRACKS ☐

Built in the 1830s, the building originally served as a military and constabulary barracks which was later converted to a hotel by the Walsh family in the 19th century. It is a well-proportioned, substantial building, with an attractive doorcase showcasing well-executed Classical detailing.

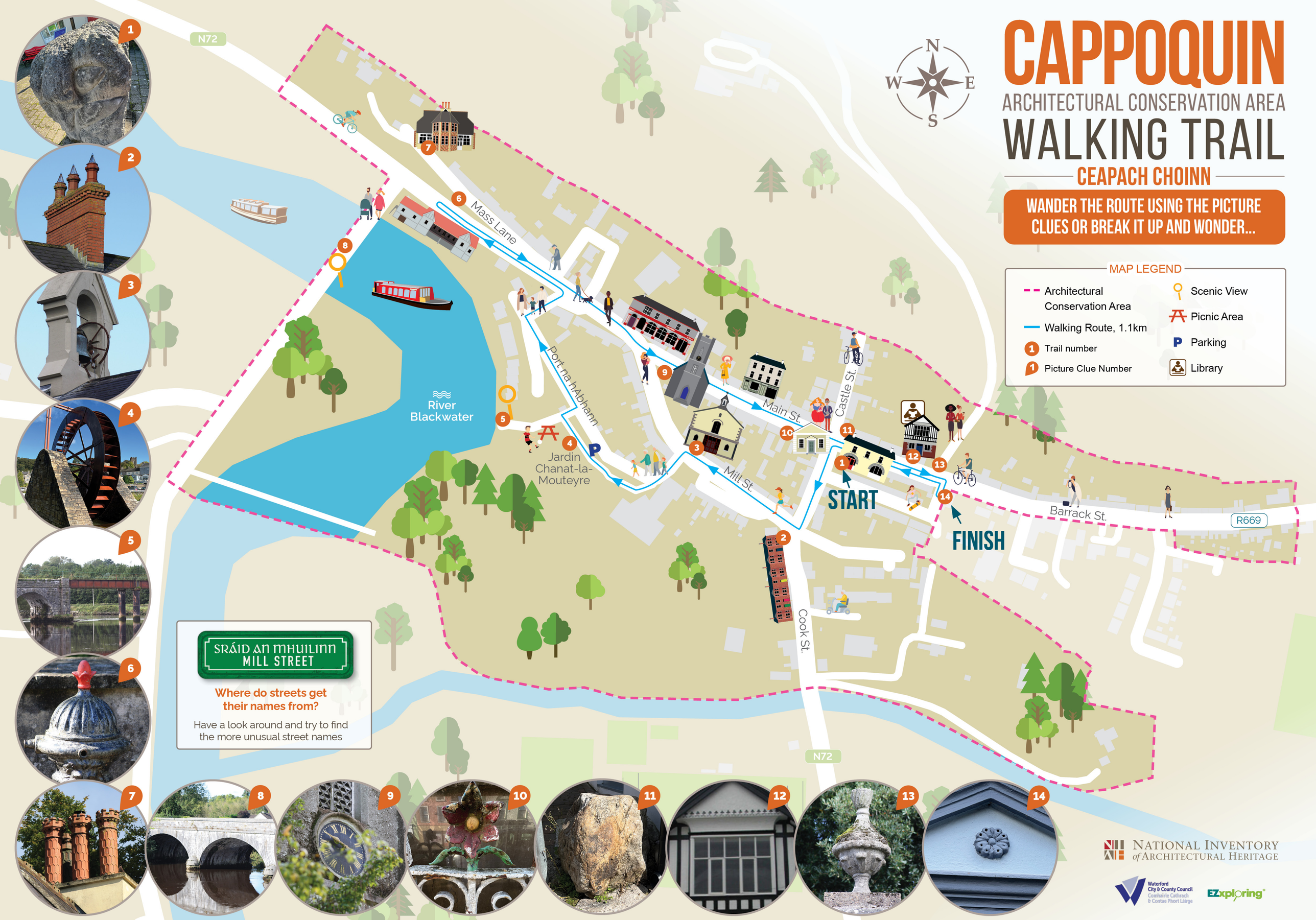
CAPPOQUIN

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION AREA

WALKING TRAIL

CEAPACH CHOINN

WANDER THE ROUTE USING THE PICTURE CLUES OR BREAK IT UP AND WONDER...



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