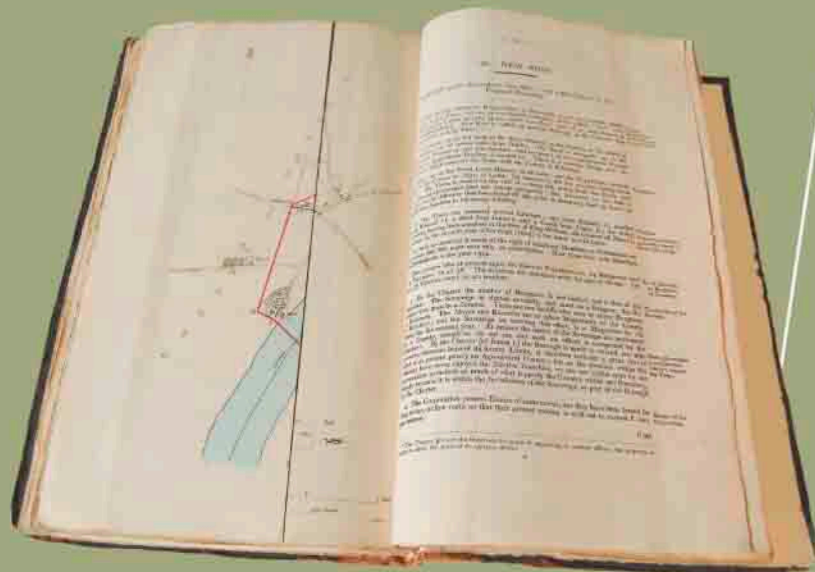


Extract from Parliamentary Representation Ireland 1832  
A window on New Ross - 179 years ago

So, how have things changed? What was the situation in New Ross 179 years ago, when the 'Reports and Plans on Proposed Boundaries of Cities and Boroughs in Ireland' (including New Ross), were ordered by The House of Commons, London, 8 June 1832.

- 1832 - 34 years after the 1798 rebellion.
- 1832 - 13 years before the building of the original Dunbrody Ship.
- 1832 - John Hyacinth Talbot, MP, Repeal Association Party, elected to represent New Ross in the House of Commons.
- 1832 - William Henry Bartlett, Artist and Architect publishes his iconic drawing entitled 'New Ross'.
- 1832 - The Report on New Ross. Read on ...



The full report contains detailed descriptions of 33 Cities and Boroughs. The report on New Ross is reproduced here from the original publication. References are given as to when the town was created a borough, the number of burgesses, bailiffs and freemen in the town. The limits of what are called the Corporation Lands are well defined, as are the extent, population and number of houses of all description. Details of the Assessment whether it be 'Borough Cess' or 'Church Rates' are also given as well as the number of rate payers and freeholders. A very detailed description of the proposed boundary and what direction it takes is given. A table shows the result of the inquiry with all the aforementioned details on it.

A window on New Ross - 179 years ago

PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION, IRELAND.

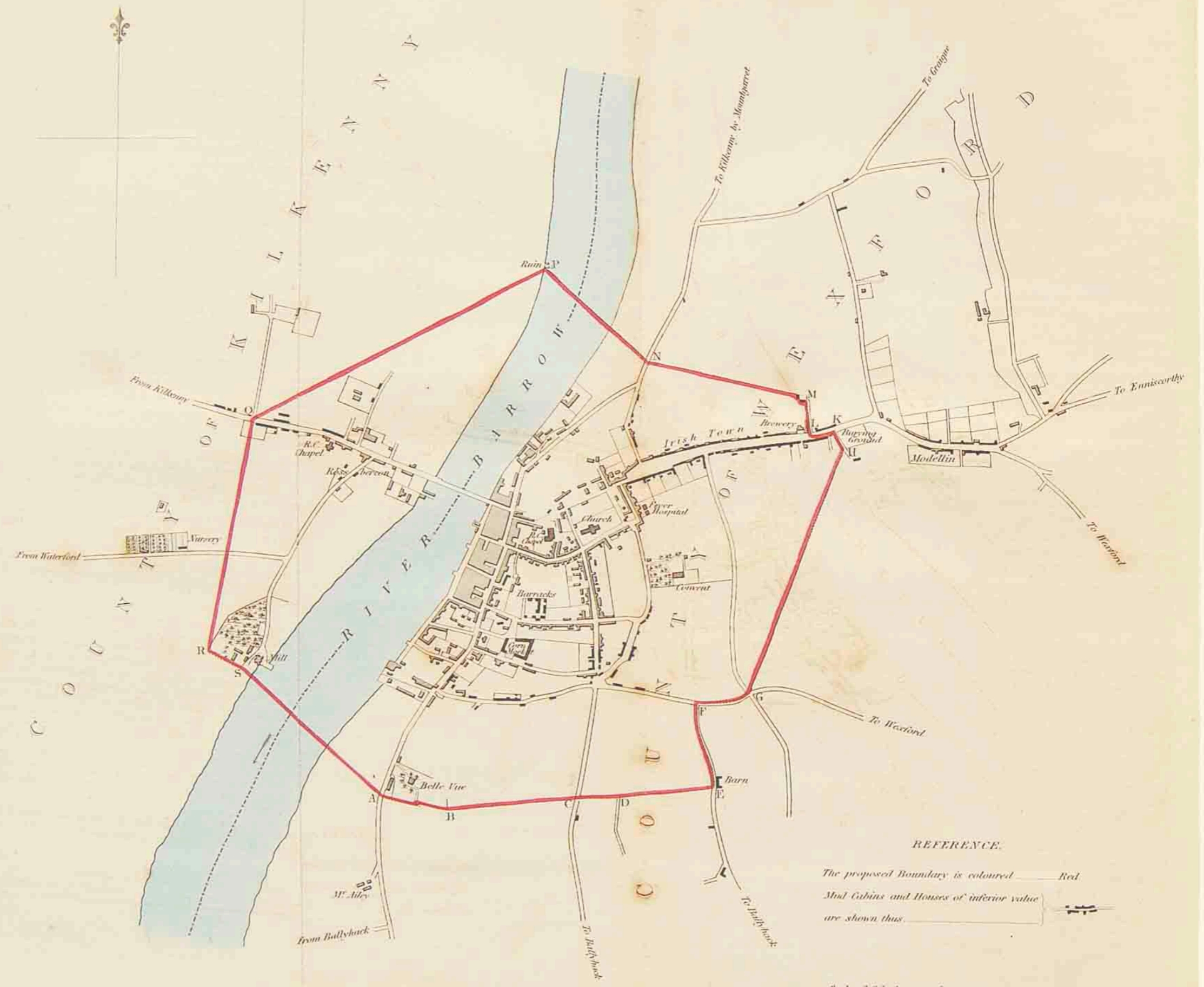
FURTHER RETURNS to an Order of the Honourable House of Commons, dated 8th May 1832;—for,

Copy of INSTRUCTIONS given by the CHIEF SECRETARY for *Ireland* with reference to the CITIES and BOROUGHS in *Ireland* sending Representatives to Parliament; likewise, Copy of any LETTER or REPORT received by the CHIEF SECRETARY, in answer to such INSTRUCTIONS.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND PLANS.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
8 June 1832.

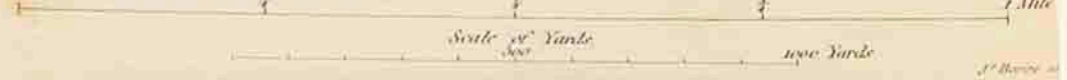
# NEW ROSS.



**REFERENCE.**

The proposed Boundary is coloured — Red  
 Mud Cabins and Houses of inferior value  
 are shown thus

Scale of 6 Inches to a Statute Mile.



## 28.—NEW ROSS.

REPORT on the Borough of *New Ross*; with a Description of the Proposed Boundary.

NEW ROSS, otherwise Rosspontum, or Rosspont, is not, as its name might import, a new Town, but one of considerable antiquity, and is called "New" only to distinguish it from an older place, called also Ross, (now of no importance) in its neighbourhood. New Ross is called an ancient Borough in the Charter that was granted to it by James I.

General  
Description.  
New Ross, an  
ancient Town.

It is situate on the left bank of the River Barrow, in the County of Wexford, at the distance of 86 statute miles from Dublin. The River is navigable up to the Town for Vessels of 200 tons burthen; and by means of it a considerable Export Trade in Agricultural Produce is carried on. There is a wooden Bridge over the Barrow, which connects the Town with the County of Kilkenny.

There are in the Town 1,040 Houses, of all sorts; and the Population, according to the Census of 1831, is 6,284; the increase in the last 10 years being about 500. The Town is seated on the side of a steep hill, rising from the River, and its general appearance does not denote prosperity; this, however, we are told is owing to the difficulty that has existed of late years in obtaining land on leases of sufficient duration to encourage building.

Population.

2. The Town has received several Charters; one from Richard II, another from Edward VI, a third from James I, and a fourth from James II; the latter, however, having been annulled in the time of King William, the Charter of James I, granted in the seventh year of his reign (1609) is the latest now in force.

Charters.

Charter now in force  
granted by James I,  
in the year 1609.

As in it no mention is made of the right of returning Members to Parliament, we conceive that this right rests only on prescription. New Ross first sent Members to Parliament in the year 1374.

The persons who at present enjoy the Elective Franchise are, 24 Burgesses and 14 Freemen; in all 38. The Freemen are admitted solely by special favour. Of the 38 Electors about 20 are resident.

No. of Electors:  
24 Burgesses,  
14 Freemen.

3. By the Charter the number of Burgesses is not limited, nor is that of the Freemen. The Sovereign is elected annually, and must be a Burgess; the Recorder also must be a Burgess. There are two Bailiffs who may be either Burgesses or Freemen. The Mayor and Recorder are *ex officio* Magistrates of the County of Wexford; and the Sovereign on vacating that office, is a Magistrate for the Town for the ensuing year. At present the duties of the Sovereign are performed by a Deputy, though we do not see that such an officer is recognized by the Charter\*. By the Charter (of James I.) the Borough is made to extend one mile in every direction beyond its former Limits, it therefore includes a great deal of what is at present purely an Agricultural District; but as the dwellers within this District have never enjoyed the Elective Franchise, we are not called upon by our instructions to include so much of what is purely the Country within our Boundary, simply because it is within the Jurisdiction of the Sovereign, or part of the Borough by the Charter.

Constitution of the  
Borough.

Borough contains  
a considerable  
District beyond  
the Town

4. The Corporation possess Estates of some extent, but they have been leased for long terms, at low rents, so that their present income is said not to exceed £.200. per annum.

Estates of the  
Corporation.

Until

\* The Charter gives to the Burgesses the power of appointing to inferior offices; but no power to depute to others the duties of the superior officers.

and Tolls

Until very lately they also levied Tolls, which in former times produced £. 400. or £. 500. a year; but these Tolls have latterly been disputed, and are now discontinued.

Union of Parishes.

5. There are six Parishes joined in the Union of New Ross; viz. Old Ross, Clonleigh, Ballyanne, Turreraugh, Cashinstown and St. Mary, in which latter Parish the Town of New Ross is situate. The exact Boundaries of these Parishes could only be ascertained by considerable time and trouble. There is but one Parish Church for the whole Union, that of St. Mary within the Town of New Ross. The Union contains 26,000 statute acres.

Assessments.  
Church Cess only  
10*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* raised  
on 340 Houses.

6. There are no Assessments in the Town except for Church Cess; and on this the sum raised is only for the present year, £. 10. 15. 2. on 340 houses.

This sum being so trifling as scarcely to make the people care about the fairness of the Assessment, we did not feel inclined to put much confidence in it. We therefore employed persons to make a valuation under our own inspection, but we find the result little different from that of the Churchwardens.

Qualifying Houses  
at 10*l.* or upwards.

7. The following is an account of the Qualifying Houses as far as we could ascertain them:

Above £. 50 yearly value	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
From £. 40 to £. 50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
- 30 to 40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
- 20 to 30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90
- 10 to 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	130
Storehouses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
Houses and Land together, and worth £. 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Total								316

The total number of Houses is 1,040, of which 893 are slated, and 147 thatched.

The Houses may also be divided into those having more than seven windows, which are 314, and those with less, 726.

Number of Qualified  
Occupiers, 246.

8. The 316 Qualifying Tenements will not however furnish an equal number of Qualified Occupiers, for we have to deduct, 1st, For unoccupied Houses; 2dly, For Houses occupied by Females; 3dly, For cases where two or more Tenements are occupied by the same person, as is the case generally with the warehouses; and, lastly, For persons disqualified by office, and if we take all these at 70, we do not reckon on the number of Qualified Voters exceeding 246.

Freeholders registered  
for the County for Pro-  
perty within our Limits  
£50 - - - 15  
20 - - - 3  
10 - - - 4  

---

22

The number of Freeholders registered for the County of Wexford in virtue of property in the Town of New Ross, is 22; of which 18 are resident Householders in the same.

Freemen with  
rights reserved.

Of the 38 persons at present in possession of the Elective Franchise, 20 only are resident in the Town, or within seven miles; and of these latter, 12 are Householders within our limits, so that the number whose rights are to be reserved we do not reckon at more than eight.

Probable Consti-  
tuency.

9. Our probable Constituency will, according to the foregoing statement, be as follows:

Householders who have already Votes	-	-	-	-	12
Ditto - who will acquire Votes by the Bill	-	-	-	-	234
Freemen, with rights reserved, resident within seven miles	-	-	-	-	8
Total					254

Ross-Bercon.

10. We have as yet spoken only of the Town of New Ross, on the left bank of the Barrow; but there is a Village called Rossbercon on the other side of the River, that we consider to have a community of interest with the Town, such as to entitle it to be included with it.

11. We consider ourselves obliged to include the Suburb called Irish Town, but we do not go beyond the Burial Ground, because the houses there cease to be contiguous, and that Modellin beyond it is generally considered to be a separate Village. The distinction is also strongly marked by a considerable fall in the ground. Remarks on the Proposed Boundary.

Nearly the whole of the Town of New Ross is the property of Mr. Tottenham, and we understand that the Leases held under him are generally for short periods.

The Table that we subjoin contains a summary of the information that we have been able to collect. Table.

At present it will not add above 10 or 12 to the Constituency; but being on the bank of the River it may very possibly increase. It is connected with New Ross by means of a wooden Bridge.

The following is the Boundary we propose :

FROM the point (A) on the South of the Town, at which the Lower Ballyhack Road is met by the Southern Fence of the Garden of Belle Vue Cottage, along such Southern Fence to the Eastern extremity thereof (B); thence in a straight line, up a steep hill, to the point at which the middle Ballyhack Road is joined by a Bye-Road, which runs Eastward therefrom, and at which point there is a Gateway and one Pillar (C); thence along the said Bye-Road to the point (D) at which the same turns to the South, and which is marked by a Gateway and two Pillars; thence in a straight line, in an Easterly direction, to the Southern End of the Barn (E), which stands in a Straw Yard, on the Eastern side of the Upper Ballyhack Road; thence, Northward, along the Upper Ballyhack Road to the point (F) at which the same meets the Wexford Road; thence, Eastward, along the Wexford Road to the point (G) at which the same is joined by a Road from Irish Town; thence in a straight line to the South-western corner of the Burial Ground (H) at the Eastern extremity of Irish Town; thence along the Western Boundary of the said Burial Ground to the point at which the same meets the Irish Town Road (K); thence, Westward, along the Irish Town Road to the point at which the same is met by a Lane which runs Northward therefrom on the Eastern side of Mr. Sutton's House and Brewery (L); thence, Northward, along the said Lane for about 130 yards to the point at which the same reaches a Stone Stile (M); thence in a straight line to a Gateway (N) on the Mountgarret Road, which Gateway is the first on the Eastern side thereof, to the North of the point at which the said Mountgarret Road is joined by a Road from Irish Town; thence in a straight line, in a North-westerly direction, to the Ruins of a Quay or Wharf on the Western side of the River Barrow (P); thence in a straight line to the point (Q) at which the Kilkenny Road is joined by the first Bye-Road to the West of the Roman Catholic Chapel; thence in a straight line, in a Southerly direction, to the South-western corner of the Garden (R) of the House attached to the Mill on the Western Bank of the River Barrow; thence along the Southern Boundary of the last-mentioned Garden to the South-eastern corner thereof (S); thence in a straight line to the point first described. Proposed Boundary.

10 December 1831.

*George Gipps.*  
*T. C. Duffy.*

TOWN OF NEW ROSS.

EXTENT, POPULATION, &c. of the Town of New Ross within the Proposed Limits.  
 \* (Exclusive of Rossercon.)

EXTENT in Statute Acres.	POPULATION in 1831.	NUMBER OF HOUSES.		ASSESSMENTS, (Church Cess only.)		No. of £. 10. Qualified Occupiers.	NUMBER OF FREEMEN.			FREEHOLDERS Registered for the County in virtue of Property within the Town of New Ross.	
		Thatched.	Slated.	TOTAL.	No. of Rate Payers.		Amount raised. £. s. d.	Resident.	Non-Resident.		TOTAL.
326	6,284	147	893	1,040	340	316	246	20	18	38	£. 60 - - - 15 20 - - - 3 10 - - - 4 Total - - 22
		With 7 or more Windows - 314 With less than 7 - 726		Total = 1,040							

PROBABLE CONSTITUENCY UNDER THE REFORM BILL.

Householders who have already Votes	-	-	-	-	-	12
Ditto - who will acquire Votes	-	-	-	-	-	234
Freemen resident within seven miles whose rights will be reserved	-	-	-	-	-	8
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-	254

\* If the Village of Rossercon be included it will add about 12 to the above Constituency.

N. B.—The amount of Grand Jury Cess levied on the Town of New Ross is about 5 l. per annum.

G. G.  
T. C. D.

## MEMBERS RETURNED FOR NEW ROSS, SINCE THE UNION.

		Elected.
General Election -	Charles Tottenham, esq. junior, of Ballycurry, County Wexford -	} 10 July - 1802
	Ponsonby Tottenham, esq. City of Dublin, in room of said Charles Tottenham, resigned -	} 26 July - 1805
General Election -	Major Charles Leigh, London -	- 10 Nov. - 1806
Ditto -	William Wigram, esq. London -	- 22 May - 1807
		*
Ditto -	John Carroll, esq. Dublin -	- 26 June - 1818
Ditto -	Ditto, re-elected -	- 20 March 1820
	Francis Leigh, esq. Rosegarland, in room of Mr. Carroll, resigned -	} 9 Feb. - 1821
	John Doherty, esq. Dublin, in room of Mr. Leigh (resigned) -	} 5 March 1824
General Election -	William Wigram, esq. London -	- 29 June - 1826
Ditto -	Charles Powell Leslie, esq. County Monaghan -	- 6 Aug. - 1830
Ditto -	Charles Tottenham, jun. esq. Ballycurry -	- 7 May - 1831
	William Wigram, esq. London, in room of said Charles Tottenham, resigned -	} 15 Aug. 1831

\* There must have been a Return between these two periods, but it could not be ascertained on the spot who was the person returned; it is believed that it was Major Leigh.

**New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017**  
**View of Old Bridge at New Ross**



Above: Print entitled 'New Ross' dating from 1831 by artist William Henry Bartlett (1809-1854).