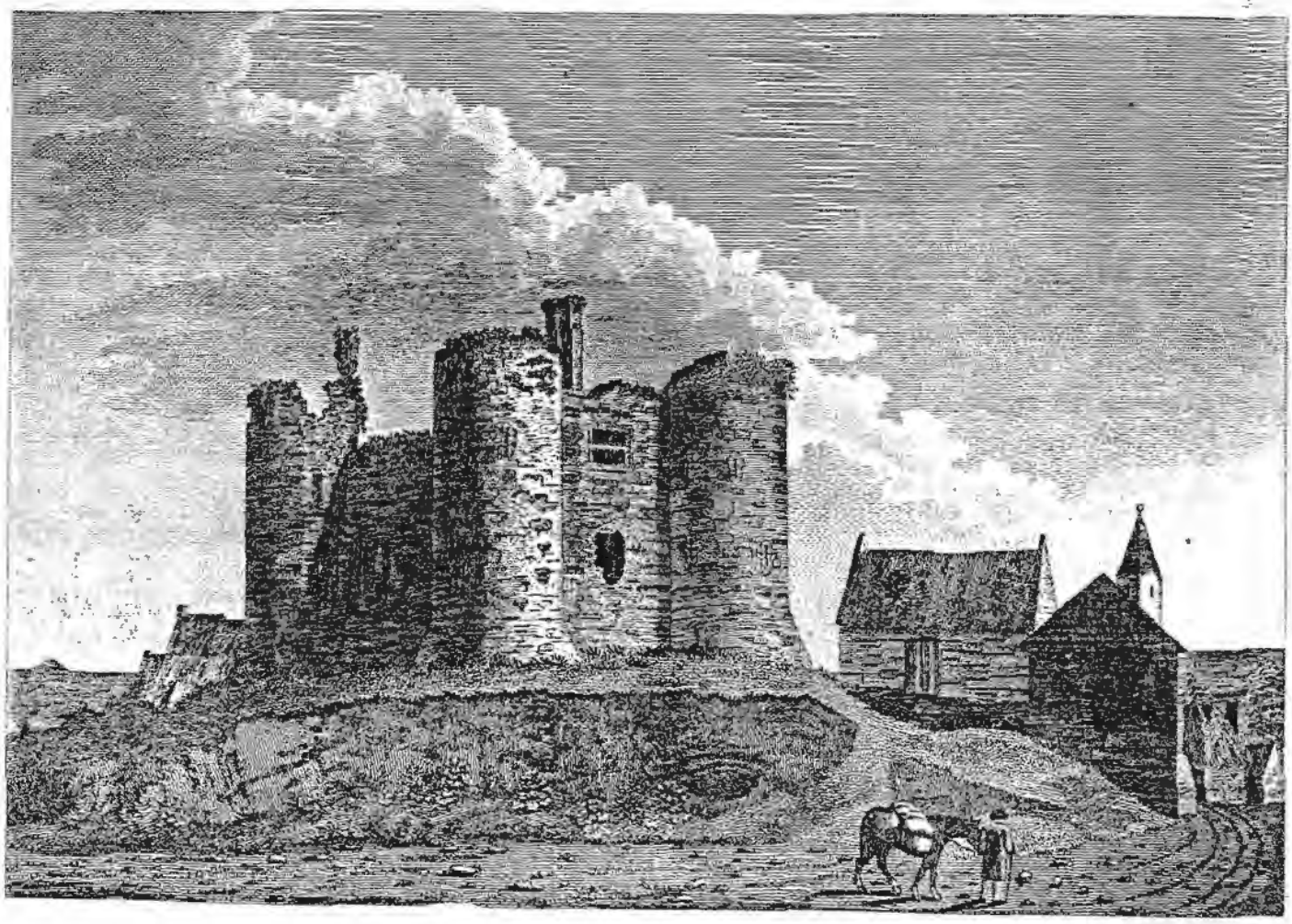
COUNTY CARLOW



THE URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY

URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY

PART X

COUNTY CARLOW

JOHN BRADLEY

AND

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A REPORT COMMISSIONED BY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Towns pose one of the most formidable problems faced by archaeology today. Lived in and occupied over long periods of time, and often covering quite large areas, they are the most complex form of human settlement that we know of. Deep archaeological deposits have accumulated in most towns as a result of the long period of occupation and, accordingly, towns are among the most important areas of our heritage. However, towns are also the homes of modern communities, and are the centres of present-day business, industry and cultural life. The requirements of modern life has brought considerable change to many towns with extensive road widening, building schemes, housing estates and industrial development. The demolition of buildings and the digging of deep foundations has brought about irrevocable change in the appearance of towns, and change, in this century, means more thorough destruction than anything that has gone before. The problem for archaeology is not one of preservation, although this may be desireable, but of recording standing buildings and archaeological levels before they are destroyed. The unfortunate truth is that what is not recorded now has little chance of ever being recorded later.

By its nature archaeology is concerned with the past of ordinary people. The fragmentary building remains, pottery sherds and scraps of worked stone or wood which the

archaeologist discovers cannot be used to reconstruct political movements or great administrative changes. These parts of our past can only be glimpsed from documents, from what people who were alive at the time have observed themselves or heard related. Archaeological data, however, can tell us a great deal about the everyday life of ordinary people and the quality of that life in terms of the technological and economic resources of the particular time and place in question.

Urban archaeology may be defined as the study of the evolution and changing character of urban communities from their earliest origins until modern times; more especially it is concerned with the reconstruction of the natural and human environment within which and as part of which human actions take place. A methodical definition such as this, however, should not obscure the fact that urban archaeology is fundamentally concerned with the past of ordinary citizens, of the form of their houses and streets, of the business of their markets and workshops, of the style and arrangement of their churches, of health and disease, of the variety of cultural, religous and economic activity; in short, it is concerned with the life and death of communities ancestral to our own.

Development of Urban Archaeology

For long the study of the urban past has largely been the preserve of historians, sociologists and geographers and it

is only recently that the potential of archaeology to uncover the past has been realised. Part of the reason for this is the general lack of awareness that almost all towns have archaeological deposits. This stems in part from the incomprehension of the ordinary man-in-the-street that a town which is lived-in can have archaeological deposts at all: purely because it is lived in, one tends to think that everything of past ages, unless it is visibly standing has been swept away. In part it also stems from the fact that the construction on a vast scale of buildings requiring deep foundations has only occurred recently, and it is only as a consequence that archaeological deposits have come to light. It is also due to the fact that, in previous centuries, archaeological methods and techniques were not advanced enough to take advantage of opportunities even if they did arise. Until relatively modern times the buildings of one generation have been constructed upon the foundations of the last. As structure replaced structure the ground level rose slightly and over the centuries, in cities such as Dublin, considerable depths of archaeological deposits have accumulated.

It was at Novgorod in Russia that the potential of urban archaeology was first revealed. There, organic remains were found in large quantities and it became possible to reconstruct entire streetscapes and to chroniole the changes which happened in them as one generation succeeded the next (Thompson 1967). Gradually as excavation took place in England and Germany it became apparent that the rich

archaeological material in towns was not just a side-light on urban life but it could contribute greatly to our understanding of the archaeology of entire periods and regions. In Ireland the first scientific excavations were commenced at Dublin Castle in 1961 and excavations were to continue in Dublin for the next twenty years. The interest aroused by the High Street and, later, the Wood Quay excavations was widespread and it created an interest in the archaeology of other towns. To date, excavations have taken place in about twenty Irish towns.

Urban sites are important to the archaeologist for a number of reasons. Firstly, in all towns archaeological deposits form the earliest archive. Only a handful of Irish towns are referred to prior to 1200 AD and it is only during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries that references become anyway common. Yet the urban life of many towns has continued unbroken since the twelfth or early thirteenth century, while the origins of others lie in the Viking, Early Christian and Prehistoric periods. Even when references occur they rarely throw much light on daily life and tend to be more concerned with political and administrative events. Indeed, most individual properties within towns have no documentation relating directly to them until the late-seventeenth or early-eighteenth century. To all intents and purposes, then, individual sites within towns may have remained completely prehistoric, in so far as they have no documentation, until the seventeenth century or later. Accordingly, archaeological excavation is important if one is

to gain any knowledge of the initial period of a town's foundation or of how a particular area evolved and was used.

Secondly, towns usually possess a much greater depth of stratigraphy than any other type of archaeological site. Stratified deposits are important because they preserve the sequence of developments on a particular site and the wealth of finds associated with urban sites means that it is usually possible to date both structures and layers quite closely. This is particularly important because it makes it possible to establish tight chronologies for artefacts.

Thirdly, the archaeology of a region oannot be understood without knowing what happened to the towns within it. Each town is a unique expression of the history of its area and the destruction of its archaeology would leave an irreplaceable gap in knowledge of the evolution of the region.

The recovery of this information is threatened, however, by the increasing redevelopment and gradual expansion of our cities and towns. It is very difficult to foresee the effects of this redevelopment when the extent of archaeological deposits is generally not known to the Planning Authority and it has happened in the past that the archaeological significance of a site has only become apparent when building work was about to commence. It is important then that the areas containing archaeological deposits should be identified if the potential of this important part of our heritage is to be realised.

Purpose and Aim of the Present Survey

The Urban Archaeology Survey was established with monies allocated for the purpose by the Minister for Finance in 1982. Its purpose was to compile a corpus of archaeological information on Ireland's towns and to present it in such a way that it could be used effectively by the archaeologist, urban planner, property developer, or interested layman. In this regard the survey has been guided by a submission prepared by the Royal Irish Academy on Urban Archaeology which recommended that the report should have four aims:

1. "To evaluate critically the archaeological potential, both above and below ground of the listed towns".

2. "To emphasise areas where the archaeologioal deposits could be preserved by the judicious use of new building techniques and the presentation of open spaces, etc."

3. "To assess the level of destruction of the original townscape".

4. "To measure the effects of urban expansion on originally rural archaeological sites".

The chronological cut-off point beyond which material would not be included was 1700 AD.

The identification of sites which were urban centres before 1700 AD is not without difficulties. In many cases such an identification is dependent on the survival of documentary evidence. However, it was felt that it was better

to follow the existing work of Graham (1977) and Martin (1981) rather than impose new criteria. Accordingly the sites which are included here are those for which there is evidence of their status as boroughs prior to 1700 AD.

In the reports the material is presented as follows: the situation of the site is outlined and a brief account of its archaeological and historical background is provided. This is followed by an archaeological inventory which endeavours to catalogue both extant sites and those which are known from documentary sources. Although the amount of information on each town may vary the catalogue follows the same format for each entry, firstly detailing the information on streets and street pattern, and following this with an account of the domestic buildings, market places and economic features such as quays and industrial areas. The seigneurial castle and town defences are desoribed next together with the religious buildings of the town. The evidence for suburbs and activity outside the walls is then outlined and the inventory concludes with a summary of the archaeological excavations and a list of the stray finds. The inventory is followed by an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site.

INTRODUCTION TO CO. CARLOW

The county of Carlow contains a variety of small towns and villages which illustrate the urban history of Ireland. For the urban archaeologist, however, it is the archaeological remains of two periods which are important, pre-Norman monastic settlements (c.10th-12th cents) and the towns of the Anglo-Norman period (13th-16th cents).

There are two settlements in the county which have a clear pre-Norman origin: Old Leighlin and St Mullins. Unfortunately there is no evidence to indicate that either of these places actually functioned as towns before the coming of the Normans but the indications are that Old Leighlin was the largest settlement in the county at that time. Both Old Leighlin and St Mullins were certainly of sufficient size and importance to attract the Anglo-Normans to them when they arrived in the late twelfth century.

The Anglo-Normans were great town builders and wherever they went in Ireland towns quickly followed in their wake. Historically, they were an important influence in the creation of the county's urban network. They expanded and developed the settlements at Old Leighlin and St Mullin's and they were responsible for the foundation of five new urban centres or boroughs, as they were called. The largest of these new settlements was Carlow town which, throughout the middle ages, was to remain the largest settlement in the

county. The other new boroughs were founded at Dunleckny, Forth (Castlemore), Leighlinbridge and Tullow. Both Tullow and Leighlinbridge were nucleated settlements, protected by defences, and although they declined in size during the later middle ages, nonetheless, they survived to function as small urban centres today. Dunleckny and Forth (Castlemore), by contrast, declined sharply and appear to have been abandoned completely in the fourteenth century.

This report provides an account of the archaeological remains in all of the towns and boroughs mentioned above and it provides an assessment of their importance to archaeological research. It outlines the areas where archaeological deposits are likely to survive and highlights each town's potential to increase our knowledge of the development of urban life in Ireland. Finally, recommendations are made as to how this potential can be best realized. In the map outlining the zone of archaeological potential the following colour code is used:

Pink: the zone of archaeological potential.

Red: extant archaeological monuments.

Purple: sites of known monuments.

Uncontrolled redevelopment can destroy a town's fragile archaeological heritage and it is the hope of this report that the recommended steps will be taken in order to ensure that urban development and archaeological research may go forward together.

CARLOW

Carlow is situated on the east bank of the Barrow river in the north-west of the county on the border with County Laois. A small river called the Burren flows into the Barrow to the south of the town. The placename is derived from Ceatharleach 'the city on the lake', an allusion to its situation on what was formerly a broad expanse of the Barrow.

Throughout the middle ages Carlow Castle appears to have been located on an island separated from the town by an expanse of bog known as Moneen (Horner 1978, 123-5). This bog was reclaimed in the eighteenth century and built over to link the castle with the town. The town was located on the east bank of the river on gently sloping ground whose highest point, in Tullow St, is only some 30 feet above the present level of the Barrow.

Although claims have been made that Carlow was the site of an Early Christian monastery (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 375) the earliest direct evidence for settlement occurs in Anglo-Norman times. Carlow was one of the principal castles of William Marshall, Strongbow's successor as lord of Leinster, and it is likely that it was its strategic position and easy defensibility that attracted him to the site. He also appears to have been the founder of the town because its earliest charter, dating to c.1223, mentions that its burgess rent was fixed in the time of Geoffrey FitzRobert, William

Marshall's seneschal, about twenty years before (MacNiocaill 1964, 134). The town had 160 burgages and was valued at £24 12s. 6d. in 1247 when it passed into the hands of the Bigods, earls of Norfolk (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 81). The account books of its period in the hands of the Bigods (1247-1306) still survive in the Public Record Office in London but they shed no light on the internal administration of the town although they show that the Liberty of Carlow was run effectively and efficiently. The fifth earl of Norfolk, Roger Bigod, appears to have made an arrangement with Edward I whereby he was cleared of his debts by surrendering his estates and on his death in 1306 Carlow returned to the crown. It was administered by the king until 1312, when the lands were granted by Edward II to his half-brother Thomas de Brotherton from whom they reverted to the crown after his execution for treason in 1338. It was presumably because of the fact that the town was in crown hands in 1361 that it was chosen by Lionel, duke of Clarence, as the new seat of government in Ireland. Subsequently Carlow was granted to the Seagrave family and then to the later dukes of Norfolk, Mowbray (1377-1475) and Howard (1483-1537) (Nugent 1955, 75-6).

From the mid thirteenth century the manor of Carlow was run by absentee lords. For the first fifty years or so the administation by deputies appears to have been effective but the native Irish, particularly the MacMurroughs began to exploit the absence of strong committed leadership by descending on the plains of Carlow from their strongholds in the Blackstairs and Wicklow Mountains. The two expeditions of

Lionel, duke of Clarence, (1361-4, 1365-6) seem to have been mounted specifically to redress this situation. The administration of the colony was transferred from Dublin to Carlow because it was the most convenient centre for attacking the MacMurroughs as well as the O´Moores and O´Connors of Laois-Offaly. By 30 September 1361 the exchequer was already sitting at Carlow and there was a small force there defending the town (Otway-Ruthven 1968, 287). During the next few years large sums were spent on the repair of the castle and walls of the town but this does not appear to have prevented the Irish from attacking and burning the town (ibid.). In 1364 a newly appointed official, complained that ´the place of the exchequer of Ireland at Karlak, being as it were on the frontier of the Irish rebels, there is no safe access to it by the king´s lieges" (ibid.). The town was burnt again by the Irish in 1376 and 1391-2 but the exchequer remained at Carlow, nevertheless, until 1394 (ibid., 309-10, 324, 327).

In the fifteenth century, however, much of what had been the Anglo-Norman liberty of Carlow fell into Irish control and the town appears to have been cut off from the Dublin administration. It was not until 1482-3 when Gearoid Mor, the eighth earl of Kildare, began to build up a power-block for himself in Leinster that Carlow again came back within crown control (Bryan 1933, 60-1). In 1534 it was captured by Silken Thomas during his short-lived revolt but thereafter it remained firmly in government hands. During the Confederate Wars the town was burnt in 1641 but the castle was held by

royalists until 1647 when it was captured by the Confederates. Cromwellian forces under Ireton besieged it in 1650 and captured the castle after a bombardment in which it was severely damaged. In 1659 the Census of Ireland gave Carlow (with Graigue) a population of 666 placing it twentieth in the ranking of all Irish towns (Horner 1978, 123).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACE
3. BRIDGES
4. DOMESTIC HOUSES
5. COURTHOUSE
6. MILLS
7. QUAYS
8. TOWN DEFENCES
9. CASTLE
10. PARISH CHURCH
11. MISCELLANEOUS
12. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN

The reconstruction of Carlow´s medieval topography is particularly helped by the presence of two pre-Ordnance Survey maps of the town, one by Moland (1703) and the other

by Colombine (1735) both of which have been published and critically analysed by Horner (1978). Moland´s map names five streets in the town: Dublin St, Tullow St, Castle St, Chapel Lane and Bridewell Lane. Accordingly it would seem that the street plan of the medieval town was of cross-linear pattern formed by the intersection of Dublin St and Castle St/Tullow St.

2. MARKET PLACE

This was probably located originally in Dublin Street, the broadest of the medieval streets. The Hay Market and the Potato Market are later developments.

3. BRIDGES

Bridges over both the Burren and Barrow were in place by the mid sixteenth century and the Down Survey maps of the early 1650s show a "Stone Bridge" over the Barrow and a "Timber Bridge" over the Burren in locations similar to those occupied by the present bridges (Horner 1978, 123). The bridge across the Burren is shown on a late sixteenth-century map of the barony of Idrone (PRO London, MPF 70) while the bridge across the Barrow appears to have been in existence in 1569 (Horner 1978, 125: n.36).

4. DOMESTIC HOUSES

Thomas Dineley who visited Carlow about 1680 states that:

> The Buildings of this are not unlike those of an ordinary English market Town, encrease in number and beauty daily by the expence, Industry, and Diligence of Thomas Spaight and Thomas Critchley, Esqrs., the former whereof hath lately built the fairest Inn of the Town, of the best accomodacon, and adjoining to four of the principal roads (JRSAI vii (1862-3), 41)

From this description the inn would appear to have stood as the intersection of Dublin St with Castle/ Tullow St.

The only remnant of a pre-1700 house occurs in Nos. 16-17 Dublin St, once a single three-bay two-storied house. On the wall is a plaque to Jonathan and Ruth Watson who rebuilt the house in 1699. At the gable end is a cut-down, bracketed, projecting stack (Garner 1980, 31). There is little in the way of documentary evidence for pre-1700 domestic buildings but the vestry book of St Mary´s mention the building of a wall from the church to ´ye front of ye Frenchmans house´ in 1699 (Mems Dead v (1901-3) 302).

5. COURTHOUSE

The 1307 inquisition, made after the death of Roger Bigod, mentions that the pleas and assises of the county were held in a hall "opposite the castle" (Mills 1914, 345). This

information is not exact enough to indicate a precise location. It may have been located close to the castle itself, in the vicinity of the later barracks, on the west side of the town or on the Graigue-Cullen side of the river.

6. MILLS

Three mills were present in the town during the middle ages and are referred to in the 1307 inquistion taken after the death of Roger Bigod (Mills 1914, 346). It is likely that these were located on the Burren rather than the Barrow and a mill is shown on Moland´s map beside the bridge over the Burren. Colombine´s map of 1735 shows two further mills to the east. Since these are not shown by Moland, however, it is difficult to know whether they indicate the sites of the medieval structures or not.

7. QUAYS

The Barrow was navigable as far as Athy in the Middle Ages and it is likely that the medieval quays were sited immediately to the west of the castle. Dineley, writing about 1680, adds that flat-bottomed boats traded with Carlow from New Ross (JRSAI vii (1862-3), 40).

8. TOWN DEFENCES

There is documentary evidence that during the period of

Lionel, duke of Clarence´s lieutenancy in Ireland (1361-6) the defences of Carlow were fortified (Otway-Ruthven 1968, 287). There are no surviving traces of these defences now and it is difficult to trace their exact course although a number of suggestions have been made (Hadden 1961; Cunane 1980). Horner (1978, 125) has pointed out that there are several references in eighteenth century deeds to parts of the town wall at the north end of Dublin St and on the south side of Tullow St, as well as many references to Dublin Gate, Tullow Gate and Castle Gate. The outline of the walls shown on fig. 3 is based largely on Horner´s work with the dashed lines showing the conjectural course. It is possible that there was no wall on the west where the Barrow and Moneen Marsh would have provided a natural defence.

9. CASTLE

Mentioned in the charter of c.1223 (MacNiocaill 1964, 131, 133) this castle is typologically linked with those at Ferns and Lea and appears to date to the early years of the thirteenth century (Leask 1951, 47). It was the seat of administration of the liberty of Carlow throughout the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries (Nugent 1955, 69) and it was proably the location of the government exchequer between 1361 and 1394. The present structure, badly damaged as a result of an explosion in 1814, consists simply of one wall of a rectangular towered keep. Medieval documentation, however, indicates that there were other buildings, including

a hall, kitchen and prison, and an outer enclosing wall or palisade (Leask 1951, 49). According to Nugent (1955, 69-70), the treasurer of the liberty of Carlow maintained his office and court in a wooden outbuilding within the castle wall and the treasure and account rolls were stored in the castle vaults.

Description

Situated on high ground above the Barrow river on the west side of the town. Originallly a large rectangular keep with near-circular towers at the angles. The remains now consist of the western wall (105´ long and 70´ high) with the south/west and north/west corner towers. It is built of evenly coursed dressed limestone and was three storeys high. Short returns of the north and south walls remain with evidence for round arched or flat headed openings on each floor. One 16th century window with rectangular hood mouding survives in the south wall at second floor level and a small mullioned window remains in the north/west tower at third floor level, indicating that there were alterations at this time. The corner towers have a high batter but the internal stairs and floors are missing. The main entrance was at first floor level in the west wall where there is a large hole.

10. PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY

Located NE of the castle, the medieval churchyard may have extended westwards across John St since there is a

disused burial ground to the rear of the houses on the west side of that St. The vestry books dating to 1675 survive and record two graveyards attached to St. Mary's (Mems Dead v (1901-3), 301-5). Moland's map of 1703 shows the church as having a square tower topped by a spire, and as being oriented on a NW/SE axis. This axis had changed by the Colombine map of 1735 (Horner 1978, 116), presumably reflecting the construction of the present church in 1731-2.

Monument associated with the church

The Hartpole tomb 1594
This tomb consisted of an effigial slab and side panels with figures in niches and was originally located in St Mary's Church. The effigial slab is now in Kilnacourt, Portarlington and the side panel is in Oak Park near Carlow
Mems Dead vi (1904-6), 137; ibid. vi (1907-9), 521-2; see also ibid. iii (1895-7), 135-7.

11. MISCELLANEOUS

White Castle
This name survived in leases and title deeds for a structure, presumably of tower house form, which stood on the west bank of the river in Graigue-Cullen (JRSAI x (1868-9), 162-3). Moland's map of 1703 shows houses on the Graigue-Cullen side of the river and it is likely that there was a suburb here even in medieval times.

Stone plaque 1700

A stone plaque, probably from Bestfield, is recorded in an outhouse on Castle Hill with the inscription IBE S/IF 1700 (Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 202-3). Not located.

Chapel

According to Lewis (1837 i, 263) there was an old chapel on the site of the Cathedral of the Assumption. No graveyard is attached to this Cathedral and there are no pre 1700 graveslabs in the area.

12. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. Stone axehead. From River Barrow at Graigue, Carlow Town. NMI 1933:1258.

2. Fragment of a bronze sword. "Found with many others" in River Barrow at Carlow, Co. Carlow. BM 1847.1-13.1.

3. Two bronze swords (one fragmented). From River Barrow at Graigue, Carlow Town. NMI 1930:518-9.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

The Problems

Carlow's importance to archaeological research lies in the fact that it was an Anglo-Norman town founded in the initial years of the thirteenth century and which has been

occupied continuously since. Historically, since its foundation it has been the most important town in the county. Excavation could reveal significant information about the economy and layout of the medieval town and, in particular, about how life in the town changed between the thirteenth and the seventeenth centuries.

Carlow's street pattern still retains its medieval layout and this should certainly be preserved in any future developments. There are unanswered questions, however, about its streets, the nature of the road surface at various times, for instance. Streets should be examined archaeologically if at all possible because they permit not only an examination of their surfaces but also allow the results of excavations on one side of a street to be linked with those on the other. This in turn enables the reconstruction of entire streetscapes in the manner which has proved so successful at Novgorod in Russia.

Nothing is known of the form of the bridges spanning the Barrow and Burren but it is likely that the foundation piles survive in the waterlogged deposits beside the riverbank and in the river itself.

The fact that so few remains of medieval Carlow survive above ground should not blinker us into thinking that no remains exist below ground. Medieval Carlow was filled with houses and buildings of stone and timber. With correct excavation, the form and layout of wooden buildings can be discovered. It is important to know what sort of buildings

the medieval inhabitants of the town lived in and how these changed through time. Only when such houses have been found can assessments be made of the impact of native Irish, British and continental building techniques on Carlow's craftsmen. A great deal of information about changes in building methods and fashions can also be derived from stratified sites in which the remains of successive houses are preserved.

Not a trace of the town walls so laboriously paid for by Lionel, duke of Clarence, in the mid fourteenth century now survives and even their exact course is uncertain. It is important that every opportunity to excavate along the potential line of the wall is grasped if the exact boundary of medieval Carlow is ever to be established.

The castle is a national monument in state care but the upstanding fragment is but a tiny part of a once substantial structure which had an outer enclosing wall and buildings such as a hall within it. The foundations of these structures should almost certainly survive under modern street level since the fosse, particularly, would have been cut deep into the ground.

The medieval parish church of St Mary sits within a churchyard which may have been larger originally and it is possible that any work in its vicinity will uncover burials.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]

It is evident from the foregoing that archaeology is an important means of learning about Carlow's past and of understanding the character and detailed form of the town today. This is more than just an academic pursuit because without an appreciation of the factors which have shaped the town's present character, steps taken to conserve that character will not be wholly effective, or worse, features basic to its unique identity may be unwittingly destroyed.

The protection of buried archaeological evidence presents serious problems for not only is there the pressure of redevelopment and the high value of urban properties with which to contend, but the sites themselves are often difficult to define or evaluate; their full archaeological potential may only become apparent when an excavation is undertaken in advance of development or by observations make while development is in progress. It is crucial, therefore, that a concerted effort should be made to safeguard its archaeological heritage and that adequate provision is made for investigation in advance of any redevelopment. This is best achieved by making the realisation of Carlow's archaeological potential one of the objectives of the development plan. The objective may then be achieved by judicious use of planning constraints and by conditions attached to planning consents.

[redacted]

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (fig. 3) delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern Carlow. In the absence of archaeological excavations within this area, however, little can be said of their extent and depth. This area shaded area is based on the size of the town in Moland´s map of 1703 and the extent has been continued outside slightly in order to allow for an external fosse. On the west the shading is extended to include the possible suburb around White Castle in Graigue-Cullen.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

DUNLECKNY

This deserted medieval borough is situated on the east bank of the Barrow in the west of the county, near Bagenalstown on the road between Carlow and Borris. Although the placename suggests that there was a pre-Norman settlement here, possibly some form of earthen fort, the first direct evidence for settlement occurs with the coming of the Normans.

The first lord of Dunleckny was Raymond le Gros who was enfeoffed by Strongbow of both Idrone (Dunleckny) and Forth (Castlemore) (Orpen 1911-20, i, 387). Shortly afterwards, however, le Gros appears to have granted Dunleckny to his nephew, William de Carew and it was to remain in the hands of his descendants until 1324 (Brooks 1950, 60-2). The borough was established before 1207 as is clear from the granted of burgages there to the nunnery of Graney, Co. Kildare (ibid., 61). Burgages were also granted to St Mary's Abbey, Dublin, about the same time (Gilbert 1884, i, 112-13). There are no further references to the settlement after 1324 and it is likely that the borough was abandoned later in the fourteenth century.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. MOTTE
3. PARISH CHURCH
4. MISCELLANEOUS

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

It is likely that this was located close to the motte and parish church. The crossroads may have acted as a focal point.

2. MOTTE

There is a large oval shaped mound encircled by a ditch to the west of the graveyard. This was presumably the administrative centre of the medieval Carew manor but its relationship with Idrone motte, some 500m to the south, is unknown. It is tree covered and inaccessible at present.

3. PARISH CHURCH

This church was in existence by 1207 when its advowson was granted to the nunnery of Graney, Co. Kildare (Brooks 1950, 61).

The ivy covered uncoursed rubble walls of a single aisled building survive in a large rectangular graveyard. The east

and west gables stand to a height of 6m and the side walls are some 4m high. It is in very poor condition with large sections of the west end of the north and south walls missing. The east wall appears to have had two deeply splayed lancets but an 18th century burial vault and memorial slabs obscure most of the wall. The remains of two openings survive in the south wall but there are no identifying features while there were three openings in the north wall; the one nearest the east end having a round arch. The west wall is featureless.

Monuments

?Font

A large, almost square, granite basin is partly buried in the ground to the north of the church. It is undecorated and internally the basin slopes from one side to the other where there is a corner drainage hole.

Dims: H. 30 (min) W. 80 by 77 D. of basin 36-20

Memorial. 1692.

This upright limestone memorial, which is partly buried, is located close to the south/west end of the church. A recent clean-up of the graveyard has involved the re-blackening of the lettering on all slabs and of numbering them and this slab is numbered 271. The surface of the stone is damaged and the inscription in Roman lettering below an IHS and heart is: HERE LIETH THE BODY OF LERS/ BRYAN WHO DEPT/ NOVEMBER/ YE 7TH 1692 AG..... / HIS ...

Dims: H.102 (min) W.65 D.13

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Dunleckny manor. Alleged castle.
The present Dunleckny Manor is reputed to incorporate a pre-1700 building. At the time of our visit it had just been sold and was not open for inspection. The suggestion seems unlikely, however, in view of the fact that the present structure was built c.1850 in Tudor-Gothic style to the designs of Daniel Robertson of Kilkenny (Bence-Jones 1978, 116).

St Andrew's Well
This is 300m south-east of the churchyard. Its date is unknown.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Dunleckny is an example of a deserted Anglo-Norman borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it was the scene of human occupation during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, after which it seems to have been abandoned. Documentary records of the settlement are relatively few, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained. The extent of disturbance to its archaeological deposits is unknown.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 5) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Dunleckny. In view of the absence of detailed information on the extent of the original borough this consists of an area around the church, motte and cross-roads. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

[redacted]

FORTH (CASTLEMORE)

This deserted medieval borough is situated in the east of the county, close to the Slaney, and immediately north-west of Tullow. Although the modern name is Castlemore, throughout the middle ages this settlement was known as Forth ("Fothereth") or Forth O´Nolan ("Fodredunolan" Fotharta Ui Nuallain). After Carlow it was the largest Anglo-Norman settlement in the county but its site was lost until the beginning of this century when Orpen (1906) succeeded in identifying it with Castlemore.

Forth, an area somewhat larger than the modern barony of that name, was granted by Strongbow to Raymond le Gros in 1174 on the latter´s marriage to Basilia, Strongbow´s sister (Orpen 1906, 368). The centre of the manor was established at Castlemore, referred to in the earliest documents as Rathsillan, a name which suggests that there may have been a pre-Norman settlement here (Orpen 1906, 376). After the death of Raymond le Gros without issue the land reverted to Strongbow´s heirs, the Marshalls, and passed from them to the Bigod, earls of Norfolk. The inquisition taken on the death of the earl in 1307 reveals that the burgesses held 79 burgages and rendered 69s. per annum. There were also twenty nine cottagers and at least one blacksmith (Mills 1914, 346). Subsequently, however, the settlement was abandoned when the Irish succeeded in regaining control in the later fourteenth

and fifteenth centuries.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. MOTTE
3. PARISH CHURCH OF SS MARY & DAVID
4. MISCELLANEOUS

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

As Orpen (1906, 379) has remarked it is likely that this was located close to the motte and parish church.

2. MOTTE

According to Giraldus Cambrensis this was constructed in 1181 (Scott and Martin 1978, 195). It consists of a truncated cylindrical mound 9m high, of ovoid plan, with basal dimensions of 19.2 by 11.5m, which is enclosed by a fosse. There is a standing stone near the east end with a Latin cross cut in relief. There are the remains of a bailey on the north west and Orpen (1906, 379) mentions that traces of masonry were visible. It is likely that the:

> "stone chamber covered with shingles and boards, valued at nothing, and no one will hire it, and a grange [?barn] of ten principal beams (furcis) almost fallen,

of no value, except the beams" (Mills 1914, 346)

described in the inquisition of 1307 were located here.

3. PARISH CHURCH OF SS MARY & DAVID

This church, also known as the church of villa castri (now Fennagh), was granted to St Thomas´, Dublin between 1201 and 1217 (Orpen 1906, 372, 376). Nothing now remains of the church but the churchyard, known as Lemaneh, is about 200m east of the motte.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Mill

The mill of Fothered was an important source of income for the lord of the manor and was worth £9 6s. 8d. in 1283 (Mills 1892, 58). By 1307 it was decayed and worth only £3 6s 8d (Mills 1914, 346)

Orpen (1906, 370) suggested that this was located on the Slaney at the junction of the townlands of Cannonsquarter and Tullowbeg.

Castle

Orpen (1906, 376) suggests that there was a castle near the present Castlemore House which belonged to the Eustaces in the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. He also adds (ibid., 379), following O´Donovan, that "about five chains north of Castlemore moat is the site of an old castle which

belonged t the Eustace family. None of it remains".

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Forth (Castlemore) is an example of a deserted Anglo-Norman borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it was the scene of human occupation during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, after which it seems to have been abandoned. Documentary records of the settlement are relatively few, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained. The extent of disturbance to its archaeological deposits is unknown.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 6) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Forth (Castlemore). In view of the absence of detailed information on the extent of the original borough this consists of an area around the motte and churchyard. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

[redacted]

LEIGHLINBRIDGE

Leighlinbridge is situated on the river Barrow in the east of the county, forty-five miles from Dublin, on the road between Carlow and Bagenalstown. Although located close to the Early Historic site of Dinn Rig the earliest evidence for settlement on the site of the present town does not occur until after the coming of the Normans.

The castle of "Leighlin" was built before 1186 by Hugh de Lacy on the west bank of the Barrow (Scott and Martin 1978, 191). This can be identified with Ballyknockan or Burgage motte immediately south of the town, which occupies the traditional site of Dinn Rig. This motte appears to have been the centre of a manor held by Strongbow's heirs because an inquisition of 1292 describes Leighlinbridge as part of the lands of the earl of Norfolk (Sweetman 1875-86, iii, no. 1087: p. 485). This is an important reference because it helps to distinguish Leighlinbridge from Old Leighlin which was part of the manorial lands of the bishops of Leighlin.

There can be little doubt that the settlement owes its origin to its importance as a crossing point. It is surprising, however, that the earliest evidence for its existence occurs relatively late in the thirteenth century and even then the evidence is indirect. The pipe roll of 1275-6 mentions "Old Leighlin" and this suggests that there was already a settlement at Leighlinbridge (36 Rep. DKPRI,

30). It is referred to as New Leighlin in a court case of 1305 which also sheds some light on houses, smiths and possible crockers in the town and adds that Thomas le Chapman was then its provost (Mills 1914, 42). The earliest direct evidence of borough status occurs in 1292 when Bidald Castiner "burgess of Leighlin" is mentioned (Sweetman 1875-86, iii, no. 1087). The murage grant of 1310 was made to Leighlinbridge, rather than Old Leighlin, as the name of the grantee, Adam le Bretoun, indicates (Ir Rec Comm 1829, 43-4). He was the seneschal of Carlow and steward of the old Norfolk estates after they had been inherited by the crown in 1306.

The bridge was built in 1320 (Orpen 1911-20, iv, 209) but after this date references to the settlement decrease and in the later fourteenth and fifteenth centuries Leighlinbridge seems to have fallen into Irish hands. The castle was recaptured by the earls of Kildare in 1480 as part of their policy or extending government sway over south Leinster (Ellis 1985, 65). Although this, in effect, brought Leighlinbridge back within the Pale it was not until 1549 that the government, in the form of Sir Edward Bellingham, lord deputy, succeeded in establishing a garrison there (Ellis 1985, 229). Its purpose was to prevent the raids of the O´Moores and O´Connors of Laois and like Athy, it was to play a role in the plantation of Laois-Offaly and the subsequent colonisation of that area. In 1556, after O´Moore and a Kavanagh leader were captured by the lord deputy Thomas radcliffe (subsequently created earl of Sussex) it was at Leighlinbridge that they were hung in chains and exposed to

public view (Ellis 1985, 235). The defeat of the O´Moores and O´Connors took some time, however, and as late as 1577 the town of Leighlinbridge was burnt by O´Connor (ibid, 273).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACE
3. DOMESTIC HOUSES
4. BRIDGE
5. TOWN DEFENCES
6. BLACK CASTLE
7. WHITE CASTLE
8. PARISH CHURCH
9. CARMELITE PRIORY

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN

The principal focus of the town appears to have been on the east bank of the river where the street plan was of T-linear plan, formed by the intersection of Main St/ High St and Carlow St with Tullow St also running in from the east. Although streets are mentioned in Anglo-Norman documents none is given a specific name (Mills 1914, 42-3). It is likely that there was some form of settlement at the west end of the bridge but it was probably too small to be regarded as a suburb.

2. MARKET PLACE

This was located at the junction of Main St/ High St and Carlow St and was of triangular form.

3. DOMESTIC HOUSES

The court records of an incident in 1305 in which the bishop of Ossory was assaulted in the town mentions specifically the house of Ralph le Tanere and from the context it was evidently protected by a strong door. The description also indicates that there was a yard behind the house from which there was access to the street. This suggests that the house occupied a burgage plot of fairly standard Anglo-Norman form (Bradley 1985, 439).

The only possible pre-1700 structure is the house at the head of Carlow St (i.e., on High St) which has a steep gable and may be of late seventeenth century date.

4. BRIDGE

Although there can be little doubt that the importance of the Anglo-Norman settlement rested in the fact it was a crossing-place of the Barrow, a bridge does not appear to have been built here until 1320 (Orpen 1911-20, iv, 209). Lewis (1837, ii, 251) describes the bridge of his time as having nine arches and this may well have been the fourteenth century structure. It is illustrated by Grose (1791, ii, pl.

opp. p. 93).

5. TOWN DEFENCES

In 1310 Leighlin recieved a grant of murage to enclose the town. Since the grantee was Adam le Bretoun, seneschal of Carlow, rather than the bishop of Leighlin, it is evident that this grant was made to Leighlinbridge. The course of the town defences is unclear, however. It is to be presumed that they enclosed the east bank of the town. The only surviving remnant is a turret on the south side of the town with a short stretch of wall running westwards towards the Barrow from it. The turret is of circular plan but it is now completely overgrown and it was not possible to distinguish individual features. The wall is some 3.5m high and runs for a distance of some 10m.

6. BLACK CASTLE

The date at which a castle was constructed to protect the bridge is unknown but it was recaptured in 1480 by Gearoid Mor, the eighth earl of Kildare, indicating that it was in existence by that time. It is likely that a castle was constructed at much the same time as the bridge (1320) in order to protect it. The present structure appears to be of sixteenth century date and it consists of a three-floored tower set within a rectangular bawn on the east side of the Barrow. Parts of the bawn wall survive on the north and west

to a height of c.3.5m.

The rectangular tower is built of roughly coursed limestone rubble; its south-west corner is missing, having collapsed in 1888 (JRSAI xviii (1887-8), 479). The entrance, which does not retain any original features, was from within the bawn, on the east, and was protected by a machicolation externally, and internally by a murder hole. The east wall contains the stairs to the second and third floors which were lit by slits in the east and north walls. The ground floor was covered by a wooden ceiling supported by beams set on corbels and into put-log holes; the room was lit by two narrow slits to the north and south while there was a large chimney in the east wall. The first floor was reached via the stairs in the east wall and was covered by a pointed vault. Narrow flat-lintelled loops opened to the west and north and there is a small chamber in the thickness of the north-east curtain of the vault.

The second floor has narrow flat lintelled windows with window seats and segmental arches in the north, west and probably the south walls, also. The window in the east wall is a single ogee-headed light and the opening for the murder-hole is below the window seat. There are small wall cupboards in the south and east walls. A second small chamber incorporated in the vault of the first floor can be entered via stairs in the north-west corner. It is lit by two slits from the east.

The third floor has flat lintelled passages on the north

and south walls with a small corbelled chamber over the stair turret in the north-east angle. The east and west walls have an open wall walk and the walls were crennelated.

7. WHITE CASTLE

According to Lewis (1837, ii, 251) this was built in 1408 by Gerald, fifth earl of Kildare. Its location is unknown, however, and since Lewis does not indicate his source it may well be simply a piece of inventive folklore based on the fact that there are known "White Castles" at Carlow and Athy.

8. PARISH CHURCH

There is no medieval parish church site within the town nor is there evidence that the Carmelite Friary functioned as such. From this it must be concluded that the parish church was located outside of the town. Although technically split between the parishes of Agha and Wells it is likely that St Lazerian's Cathedral at Old Leighlin played the role of the parish church since it is closer to the town than the other two sites.

9. CARMELITE PRIORY OF ST MARY

Founded during the reign of Henry III, Gwynn and Hadcock (1970, 291) regard this as the earliest Carmelite foundation in Ireland. It was situated south of the castle on the east

bank of the Barrow and the friars were responsible for the upkeep of the bridge (Ir Rec Comm 1829, 92). It was suppressed in 1541 and was subsequently used as a barracks for Sir William Bellingham´s garrison in 1549. There are no surviving remains above ground although the turret has frequently bee regarded as part of the remains (see town defences, above).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Leighlinbridge is an example of an Anglo-Norman town founded on virgin ground. Its site appears to have been chosen as preferable to that of Old Leighlin because it commanded the crossing point of the Barrow. It is unclear, however, whay it was located upriver from Ballyknockan motte rather than beside it. Indeed, the townland name Burgage may indicate that there was originally a settlement at the foot of this motte. The bridge site proved to be a good one and the town appears to have remained a functioning entity throughout the middle ages.

To summarise briefly, the archaeological and documentary data indicates that Leighlinbridge has been the scene of human occupation since the thirteenth century. Documentary records of the settlement are relatively few, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained. The extent of disturbance to its archaeological

deposits is unknown but there is the strong likelihood of recovering house foundations, refuse pits, workshops, the remains of the town defences and of the Carmelite Friary.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 8) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Leighlinbridge. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.



[redacted]

OLD LEIGHLIN

Old Leighlin is a deserted medieval borough situated in the west of the county about one mile west of Leighlinbridge on the road between it and Castlecomer. It lies along the top of a ridge to the north of the Madlin river.

Traditionally, St Gobban is said to have been the first abbot of Leighlin c.600 but he handed over the abbacy to Lazerian (Lasrain or Molaise), who died in 639 according to AU. The importance of the monastery in early times is indicated by the documentary notices of its abbots who are recorded from 737 to 1045, while bishops and lectors are also noted. The monasstery was plundered by the Vikings in 916 (AFM), presumably en route from Waterford to refound Dublin. In 1060 the whole of Leighlin except the oratory was burned (AU), a statement which suggests that there was more here than simply churches. In 1111 at the Synod of Rathbresaill it was chosen as one of the five bishoprics of Leinster.

After the coming of the Normans the see was offered to Giraldus Cambrensis but he turned it down. Herlewin, the first Norman bishop of Leighlin (c.1202-17) may have been the founder of the borough. Lewis (1837, ii, 249) states that he granted the burgesses the customs of Bristol and that they held their burgages at an annual rent of 12d. Clear documentary evidence for the borough's existence is provided by a reference to burgages at Old Leighlin in the pipe roll

of 1275-6 (36 RDKPRI, 30). The location was not an ideal one, however, and in 1248 Bishop William petitioned the pope to transfer the see to a more convenient location because the cathedral was situated "in the midst of a wicked and perverse nation, at the far boundaries of the diocese, in a mountainous, inconvenient and barren place" (Sheehy 1962, ii, 141). The settlement at Leighlinbridge may have been in existence by this time and it would appear that during the fourteenth century Old Leighlin was gradually abandoned. About 1376 Bishop John Young complained that he was robbed of all his possessions by Irish rebels here while during the episcopate of Richard Rocomb (1400-19) Leighlin was so plundered and destroyed that the only things worth seeing were the cathedral and bishop's house (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 89). Another indication of decay is provided by the fact that in 1432 the Augustinian priory of St Stephen which had been derelict for forty years previously was suppressed and granted to the cathedral chapter (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 184). Lewis (1837, ii, 249) states that there were 86 burgesses in Old Leighlin in 1399 but the borough seems to have continued to decline during the fifteenth century. In 1688, however, the borough was reconstituted and continued to return two members of parliament until the union.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. EARLY CHRISTIAN SITE
3. ST. LAZARIAN´S CATHEDRAL
4. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF ST STEPHEN
5. HOSPITAL

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

The borough was probably centred on the stepped crossroads to the north-east of St.Lazarian´s Cathedral although there is no evidence today for either burgage plots or buildings of pre-1700 date.

2. EARLY CHRISTIAN SITE

The boundaries of the Early Christian site are unclear. It is likely that it was centred on St.Lazarian´s Cathedral. There is a curve in the south and east boundary wall of the churchyard which may reflect the line of an early enclosure and the base of an early cross also lies in the churchyard, although evidently not in its primary position. Two wells (one dedicated to St Molaise) are located on higher ground, to the west, and an early cross has been mounted within the modern enclosure. This cross, however, is not in its primary position.

Monuments

Cross Base

Granite cross base lying upsidedown in the graveyard to the north-east of the cathedral. The original upper surface is dressed but it is not possible to ascertain whether there is a mortice or not. The present upper section is undressed and has been hollowed out to provide a mortice with flat bottom and splaying sides.

Dims: H.63 W.78 by 63

Mems Dead xi (1921-5), 11.

Early Christian Cross

Small granite ringed cross located within a modern enclosure at St Molaise's Well to the west of the cathedral. It has short arms and the lower shaft tapers into a granite base which is set on a modern plinth. It is undecorated except for moulded edges.

Dims: Shaft: H.127 W across arms 60 T.15

Base: H.15W. 70 by 70

Mems Dead xi (1921-5), 11.

St Molaises Well

Situated on the lower slope of the ridge to the west of the cathedral. It is now within a modern enclosure.

Mems Dead xi (1921-5), 11.

3. ST.LAZARIAN´S CATHEDRAL

Ware states that Bishop Dongal Ua Caellaide (c.1152-1181) rebuilt the cathedral after a fire but there is no evidence in the present building of any work of such an early date. Matthew Sanders (1527-49) rebuilt the choir (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 90) and evidence of this work is visible in the stonework of the east end. The nave is plastered both internally and externally, however, and accordingly building phases cannot be determined. Nonetheless the greater part of the building appears to be of thirteenth century date. It consists of a long nave and chancel to which two transepts, a low crossing tower and a chapel, north of the chancel, were added. The northern transept is now roofless and the southern one has been removed. The masonry consists of mixed rubble with dressed granite used for the jambs of the doors, windows and sedilia.

The east end is lit by four triple-light windows, one in the east wall and three in the south wall. Some of the stonework was replaced in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries but the internal jambs of the windows seem to be original thirteenth century work as is the cusped pointed sedilia and the fragmentary arch of a tomb niche underneath the windows dating to c.1300 (Leask 1955-60, ii, 142). The east window, a transomed switchback of four lights, is an insertion of Bishop Sanders time. The north chapel is a fifteenth century addition and has a flamboyant three-light east window (ibid., iii, 184). The tower rests on plain

chamfered piers but has a fine lierne vault with pointed arches with chamfered soffit ribs opening to the nave and chancel and from its similarity to that at St Canice´s, Kilkenny, was evidently insertd in the mid fifteenth century. The nave is unlit except for a three-light window with intersecting tracery in the west wall. The west door has simple thirteenth century mouldings with a hood moulding terminating on one side in a very worn head. The chapel on the north of the chancel is lit from the north, east and west by three-light windows.

Monuments

Font A

This thirteenth century font of Kilkenny limestone is situated inside the south entrance door of the nave. It has a large square bowl decorated with rounded arcades resting on a large drum-shaped base (? modern) with four smaller corner supports which in turn rest on a low plinth. The four corners of the basin have elongated trefoil designs and the basin is straight-sided with central drainage hole.

Dims: H. overall 118W.78 by 78

Basin D. 24 W.57

Font B

This large square undecorated limestone font is beside the north pier of the crossing tower. It is mounted on a large drum-shaped base and has four smaller corner supports which rest on a low plinth. The basin is straight sided and has a

central drainage hole.

Dims: H. overall 92 W.64 by 64

Basin D. 24 W. 54

Brass matrix. Matthew Sanders 1549. Thomas Filay. 1567. Rectangular limestone matrix set into the centre aisle of the chancel. Originally the brass of a bishop with crozier and a brass label below an eight armed fleur de-lys cross but the brasses were removed. The stone was recut and used as the grave slab of Bishop Mathew Sanders in 1549. Gothic inscription:

HIC IACET MATHEVS SANDERS EPVS LEGHLINEN QVI OBIIT
XXIIIo DIE DECEMBRIS Ao Di MCCCCCXLIX CU [AI]E DEVD
PROPITIET AMEN
THOS FILAY EPS LE[GH]LEN OB 1567
XXIII DECERIS XL IX MB

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 34-5.

John FitzDavid O´Brien. 1555.

Polished black limestone slab in three pieces, set into the centre aisle of the chancel. It is rectangular in shape with a tapering foot and is decorated in false relief with an eight armed cross, rosettes and an inscription on labels:

IHS HIC JACET JOHANNES MUTUS FILIUS WILLELMI FILII DAVID
RUSI YBRAIN ET EIUS UXOR MABELLA CHAVANAHG FILIA DONATI
VILBMONENSIS QUOM AIABUS PROPIC[IET]UR DEUS AMEN
ANNO DOMINI MI CCCCC LV OVOS OES QVI TRANSITIS ROGO NRI
MEMORES SCITIS FUIMUS QUOD ESTIS. FUE ... RITIS .

ALIQUANDO QUOD SUM.

Mems Dead Vol. 2, 32-3

Dims: L.189 W.49

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 32-3.

William O´Brien. 1559.

This limestone table-tomb is situated at the north east end of the nave opposite the south entrance. The covering slab has an eight-arm fleur-de-lys cross on steps with a marginal and internal inscription in Gothic lettering in relief:

IHS HIC IACET WILLELMIVS OBRIN FILIUS INOMI NATI FILII WILLELMI FILII DAVID RUFI G[ENE]ROSs DE CORRALOSKI [E]T BALLENEBRENAGH AC BVRGESIS VETERIS LEGHLENIE OBIIT XVII DIE MESIS JUNI AD Mo CCCCCo LXIXo ET EIVS UXOR WINNA KEWANAGH FILIA MAURICI FILII DONATI VILBMONENSIS Q OBIIT [ ] DIE MESIS [ ] Ao DI Mo CCCCC CORU AIAB PPICIETVR DES AMEN

The side panels carry a further inscription with architectural motifs, heraldic devises and symbols of the Passion.

Dims: L.186 W.78 T.11

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 23-24, 33.

Limestone panel

This panel with an architectural pattern of a ribbed vault is set beside the O´Brien tomb in the nave. It is probably the end panel of a table tomb which is nowmissing.

Dims H.53 W.66 T.14

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 33.

Murtagh Cavanagh. 1590.
Rectangular slab set in the centre aisle of the chancel, decorated in false relief with a cross and marginal inscription:

> HIC JACET CORPVS/ MVRTAGH OGE CAVENAGH QVI OBIIT XXlX DIE [JVLII AN]NO DNI 1581 E[T] JOANNAE BIRNE VXORIS EJVS QVE OBIIT DIE XV MARTII/ ANNO DNI 1590

Dims: L.187 W.86
Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 22.

4. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF ST STEPHEN

According to Ware this was founded by Burchard son of Gurmund, a Norwegian. Gwynn and Hadcock (1970, 184) suggest that it was founded at the instance of St Lawrence O´Toole after 1163 for canons who wished to follow the rule of Arrouaise. In 1432, after being vacant for forty years and exposed to ruin, it was suppressed and granted to the chapter of the cathedral (ibid.). Its site is unknown.

5. HOSPITAL

In 1578 Sir Edmund Downye recieved the custody and mastership of the "spittle houss or magdaleines of Leghlin

and Balligawran [Gowran]" (Carrigan 1905, iii, 242). The grant adds that Downye had lately built chapels at both places and that Leighlin had been recently burned by rebels, presumably an allusion to the attack of Rory Oge O´Connor on Leighlin and Leighlinbridge in 1577. The location of the hospital is unknown.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Old Leighlin is an example of a deserted Anglo-Norman borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it has been the scene of human occupation since the seventh century. Documentary records of the settlement are relatively few, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained. The extent of disturbance to its archaeological deposits is unknown but due to its relatively isolated situation there appears to have been little disturbance to archaeological deposits within the former borough.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 11) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Old Leighlin. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

[redacted]

[redacted]

ST. MULLINS

The decayed medieval borough of St. Mullins is situated in the south of the county on the east bank of the River Barrow. The site is one of strategic importance in that it occupies a prominent ridge which commands the first shallows on the river from the sea. It was undoubtedly this factor which attrated the Anglo-Normans and, for a short time in the ninthe century, the Scandinavians. The placename is derived from the early monastery founded here by St Moling, who died in 697 according to the Annals of Ulster.

St Moling was one of the first Irishmen to be called a Ceile De and he seems to have established this monastery as a refuge and hermitage. Although it was to grow into a substantial settlement it was never to acquire the importance of Leighlin in pre-Norman times. A great deal of nature poetry is attributed to Moling but of his actual life almost nothing is known. It seems that the Norsemen established a settlement here for a short time in the ninth century when the monks fled to Kildare and established themselves at Timolin. In 888, however, the Scandinavians were driven out. The monastery was plundered in 951 and again in 1138 (AFM). c.1160-2 St Mullins was granted to the newly founded monastery of the Augustinian Canons at Ferns (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 44).

The initial Anglo-Norman grant of St Mullin´s was made

c.1170 by Strongbow to Peter Giffard (Brooks 1950, 26, 61n) but subsequently it was granted to Raymond le Gros and from him it passed to his nephew William de Carew. Carew was also the lord of Dunleckny and before 1207 he granted burgages at both Dunleckny and St Mullins to the nunnery of Graney, Co. Kildare (Brooks 1950, 61). Further grants of burgages were made by him to St Mary's, Dublin, and one of these grants has been dated as early as 1202 by Gilbert (1884, i, 112-13). By 1280-1 the manor had reverted to Strongbow's inheritor, the earl of Norfolk, and in that year it was in the possession of Sir John Bigod (ibid., 77n). By 1301 it had been granted to Richard Talun and while his descendants lived in the area until the sixteenth century, the Kavanaghs appear to have become its effective overlords. The church was probably a place of pilgrimage in pre-Norman times and Clyn tells us that it was thronged in 1349 by people seeking to avoid the ravages of the Black Death by doing penance here.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. MILL
3. MOTTE
4. EARLY CHRISTIAN SITE AND CHURCHES
5. MISCELLANEOUS

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

The borough was centred on the motte and church sites as is indicated by the grant of a burgage "super magnam aquam convenienti loco in villa mea de Techmulin" by William de Carew before 1207 (Gilbert 1884, i, 112).

2. MILL

From the stories told of St Moling it it evident that a mill existed here in pre-Norman times (ffrench 1892, 380). The existing remains consist of three walls of a rectangular building but there are no diagnostic features by which it can be assigned a close date. There are broken granite quern fragments on the pathway which leads from the churches to the mill and well of St. Moling.

1. Dims:Diam. 86. T.18

2. Diam. 77 H.20

3. MOTTE

This inverted pudding bowl-shaped mound, with a rectangular bailey to the north-west, was the administrative centre of the Anglo-Norman manor. Although the site is located on a promontory overlooking the shallows in the Barrow below there are only limited views to the north and south. The motte is surrounded by a ditch on the east and north and by a direct drop to the Barrow on the west. Traces of wall foundations on top of the motte and in the bailey can

be seen but no coherent pattern is apparent.

4. EARLY CHRISTIAN SITE AND CHURCHES

This is located on high level ground with the Barrow river to the west and a steep drop to the Aughavaud river on the east. The remains consists of six ruined buildings, the base of a round tower, and a cross, all within a sub rectangular graveyard. An outline plan of the remains is given by ffrench (1892, 383).

Church A

This small fifteenth century nave and chancel church, 19.46m in length and 5.70m wide, is built of roughly coursed rubble granite with dressed granite jambs. It is situated immediately south of the nineteenth century church. The chancel is intact with gables c.7m high and side walls c.4m high but only the west wall of the nave remains. The east wall of the chancel has a small single light ogee-headed window and there is evidence for a narrow splayed opening in the south wall. At some point the nave fell out of use and the crossing wall of the chancel was heightened, a double bellcote added and the pointed chancel arch filled in and a door inserted. The west wall of the nave has a batter on the south west corner, a pointed doorway and there is a small piscina in the internal north side of the wall. There is a re-used quoin with rounded moulding about 3m above the ground in the north-east angle.

Church B

The ruins of this large granite church, 23.25m in length and 7.14m wide, lie to the south of Church A. Although the north wall is the only wall that is almost intact there is evidence for many alterations and re-use. Originally a nave and chancel church with living quarters over the east end, the nave was susequently provided with a first floor by the insertion of corbels in the north and south walls and the blocking up of the high rounded window in the north wall. The east end, where the top of the east wall was almost at ground level, has been dug out showing that there is almost 2m of build-up within the church. The excavation revealed a stone altar and a fifeenth century cusped ogee-headed piscina and a chamfered rounded tomb niche in the south wall with a thirteennth/fourteenth century grave slab. This end of the church may have been covered by a barrel vault and was lit from the east by an inserted twinlight with limestone jambs. The remainder of the south wall is largely missing except for a section at the west end which had a doorway leading to a spiral stairs within the wall and which may have opened into the round tower which is situated at the south-west angle. The north wall is 1.48m wide and 10-11m high at the east end. There is a round headed window in the chancel and a spiral stairs at the crossing to provide access to the floors above. Only one flat lintelled window remains in the north wall at first floor level.

Church C

This small rectangular structure, 7.3m by 4.85m, is immediately to the south of Church B. It is built of uncoursed rubble granite and the gables are c.5m high and the side walls 2m. The east wall has a small rectangular window which is not visible internally as three Kavanagh memorials are built up against it. The north and south walls have two small flat lintelled openings in each wall: those nearer the east wall are probably inserted. The west door is flat lintelled and there is a splayed flat lintelled opening in the gable. Two further structures, only the footings of which remain, are attached to the east and north of the building. Underneath the building to the north is a small barrel vaulted chamber which is approached from the east by steps. Quern stones and architectural fragments are collected inside these buildings.

Structure D

This building is immediately south of Church C and is in the south-east corner of the graveyard. It is a rectangular building of uncoursed rubble granite, 11m by 6m and the walls are 5m high. The east wall has an inserted diamond shaped window with a small lintelled wall niche to the south and a round headed niche to the north. The north wall has a fireplace and the south wall has a lintelled window toward the west end. The west wall has a lintelled doorway in the center of the wall.

Structure E

A small building 2.09 by 2.47m, lies to the south-east of Church A. Built of roughly coursed rubble granite the north, south and west walls are c.1m high while the east gable with small flat lintelled splayed slit is 3m high.

Church F ("St. Mullin's Temple")

All the walls of this structure, which is situated in the centre of the graveyard, are 1m high except the west end which is 2.5m high and takes the form of a small barrell vaulted chamber with niches, a piscina and a small Latin cross on the gable.

Round Tower

Situated at the south-west corner of Church B the walls, of dressed granite blocks, are only four courses high with a maximum height of 95cm internally. The wals are 116cm thick and the internal diameter is 2.75m.

Barrow 1979, 55.

Early Christian Cross

A badly damaged granite cross with unpierced ring is set on a drum-shaped base to the south-east of Church A. The base has large S-patterns and geometric designs. The east face of the cross has a large figure of Christ with further figurative panels above and below. The west face is very badly damaged but appears to have had geometric paterns similar to the other face.

Dims: H.145 W at baseof shaft 42 by 29

H. of base 55

13/14th century grave slab

Tapering granite slab with Maltese cross and four roundels in false relief is set in a niche in the south wall of Church B

Dims: L.132 W.48-41 D.18

Slab of Daniel Kinsellagh. Missing.

A flat slab with a cross, skull and crossed bones and marginal inscription in Roman lettering:

> SUB HOC LAPIDE LAET CORPVS DANIELLIS KINSELLAGH OLIM DE - QV- OBIIT 8 DIE MENSIS ANNO DO 1646 ETIAM QVE HINC IN MEMORIA SUI L.K.

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 271.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

St. Molings Well

This is situated on low ground to the north east of the churches on the east side of the Aughavaud river. The large circular well is dry at present and the small chamber into which the water flows through two holed slabs is empty. ffrench (1892, 384) suggests that this may have been a baptismal oratory originally. Below one of the holed stones there is a rectangular stone with circular basin/mortice, 27cm in diam.

Templenaboe

This site is on the hill to the north-east of the village of St. Mullins. The footings of a small rectangular structure lie within an embanked enclosure.

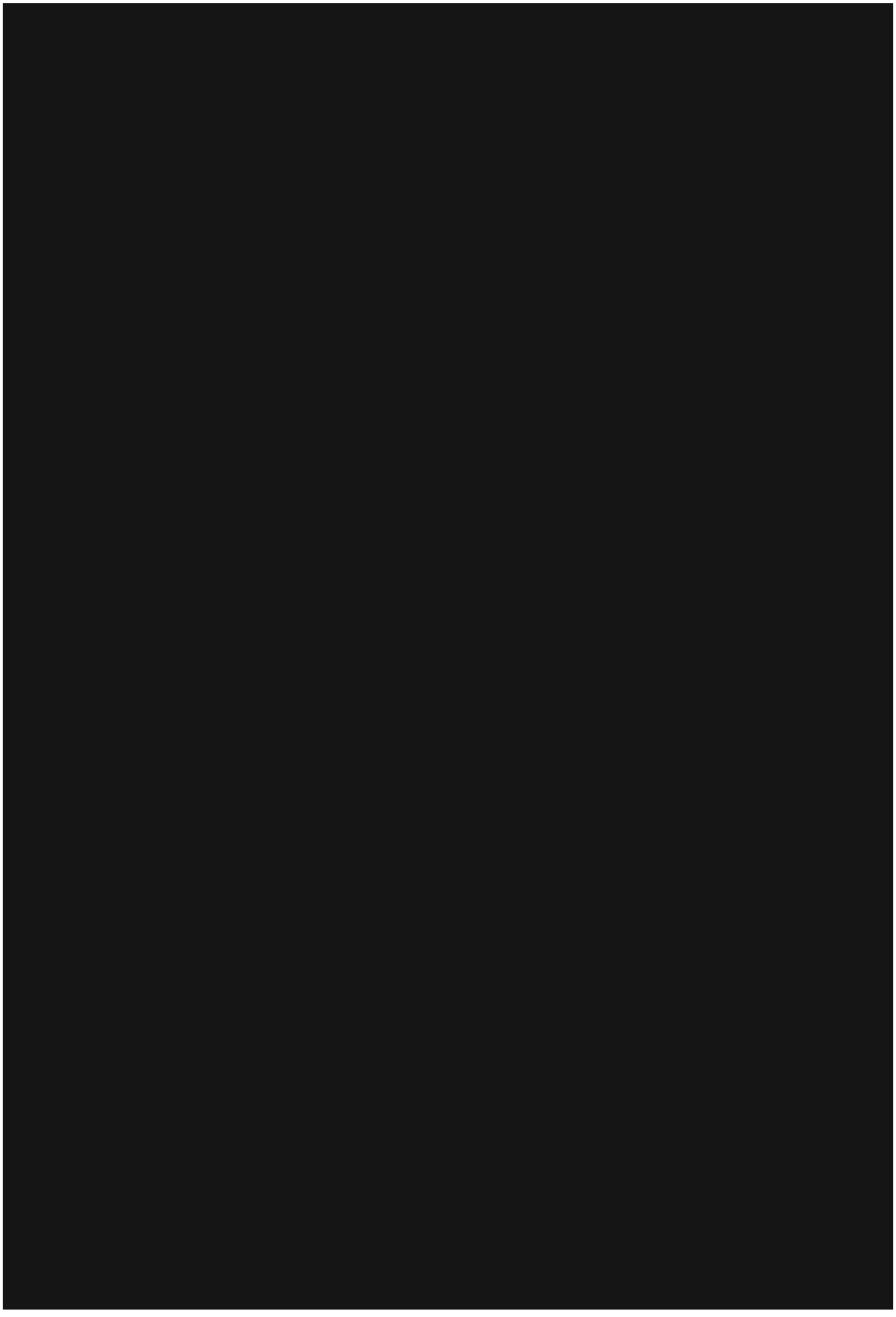
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

St Mullins is a deserted Anglo-Norman borough. Its importance to archaeological research lies in the fact that it provides a potentially good specimen site for examining the transition between Early Irish monastery and Anglo-Norman borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it has been the scene of human occupation since the seventh century. Documentary records of the settlement are relatively few, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained. The extent of disturbance to its archaeological deposits is unknown but its appears to have been fairly limited.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 12) delimits the area of archaeological potential within St Mullin´s. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

[redacted]





TULLOW

Tullow is situated on the Slaney river in the east of the county about forty six miles south of Dublin and seven miles east of Carlow. The placename is derived from Tullach, "a mound", probably derived from the mound which was recently leveled to construct a housing scheme on the south-west side of the town.

Both the surviving monuments and the documentary sources indicate that Tullow was the site of an Early Christian monastery. The parish church is dedicated to St Columba but Fortchern, a disciple of Patrick appears to have been the founder whence the name Tealach-fortchearn or Kilfortchearn (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 408, 390). It is recorded that Diarmaid O Cele, erenagh of Tealach Foirtcheirn and Aghowle died in 1050 (AFM).

After the coming of the Normans the initial grant of Tullow appears to have been to John de Hereford for whom Hugh de Lacy constructed a motte c.1181 (Scott and Martin 1978, 195, 340: n.365). In 1185, however, the lands of Tullowphelim (Tullow Ofelan) were granted by Prince John to Theobald Walter and the renewal of the grant, made c.1192, indicates another earlier grantee named Jordan (Brooks 1950, 79). Throughout the middle ages it remained in the hands of the Butler family and, accordingly, there are references to the manor in the Ormond Deeds. The date of the foundation of thje

borough is unclear but Empey's recent work on Theobald Walter would suggest that it was probably in his lifetime (i.e. before 1206). The earliest direct reference to its existence occurs in 1302 when the burgesses accounted for £4 13s. annually (White 1932, 45). Calculating at the standard rate of 1s per burgage this would suggest that there were 93 burgages in Tullow at that time. In 1303 the burgesses of Tullow held fifteen carucates of land and rendered £10 8s for it together with their burgages (White 1932, 6). The foundation of the Augustinian Friary in 1314 suggests that there was an atmosphere of prosperity in the settlement. In 1343, presumably because it was on the marches with the Kavanaghs, the borough recieved a grant of murage for seven years (Ir Rec Comm 1829, 57). A rental of 1345 values the third part of the "burgagery of Tyllagh" at 61s. per annum (Curtis 1932-43, i, no. 778) indicating that it was still a going concern. Although references are scarce in the later fourteenth and fifteenth centuries there is no evidence that the settlement was actually abandoned. Indeed when it resurfaces again in sixteenth century documentation it has all the appearances of having survived the vicissitudes of the preceeding two hundred years. With the revival of English interest in Ireland during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the town took on a new phase of prosperity and much of its present layout, particularly around Market Square, probably belongs to this time.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACE
3. DOMESTIC HOUSES
4. MILLS
5. TOWN DEFENCES
6. CASTLES
7. ST COLUMBA'S PARISH CHURCH
8 AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY
9. MISCELLANEOUS

1. STREET PATTERN

The street pattern of the present town, centred on Market Square with Bridge St, Barrack St, Church St, and Mill St intersecting with it, is not of medieval origin. The plan is more typical of the estate towns of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to which period it presumably belongs. The crossing of the Slaney was doubtless significant even in medieval times, however, and it is likely that there was a street along the axis of Church St and Bridge St.

2. MARKET PLACE

The location of the medieval market place is unknown. The present Market Sq, however, probably indicates the location of the market in the seventeenth century town.

3. DOMESTIC HOUSES

Dinely in his visit of c.1680 mentions the presence of two "good inns", the Rose and Crown, and Royal Oak (JRSAI vii (1862-3, 49). Their sites are unknown. There is no evidence of any surviving pre-1700 buildings in the town.

4. MILLS

The rental of Tullow in 1345 mentions that there were two mills there worth 60s in time of peace but valueless in time of war (Curtis 1932-43, i, no. 778). There precise situation is unknown but they were probably located on the Slaney, south of the town, at the foot of Mill Street.

5. TOWN DEFENCES

In 1343 Tullow recieved a murage grant for seven years to collect tolls in order to construct a town wall (Ir Rec Comm 1829, 57). These defences probably consisted primarily of earth and timber. No trace of them survives, nor is their course known.

6. CASTLE

The initial castle of Tullow appears to have been a motte constructed by Hugh de Lacy c.1181 (see above) but this was replaced in the thirteenth century with a stone castle. Dinely's sketch of c.1680 shows a Jacobean style house

inserted into the remains of a medieval castle (JRSAI vii (1862-3), 48-9). Nothing survives today but it was located on high at the north end of the town, north-west of St Columba's Church (C of I). A modern bungalow has been built on the site.

7. ST COLUMBA'S PARISH CHURCH

The present church was built in 1831 but it replaces an earlier church. In the churchyard are a number of monuments dating to the Early Christian and later medieval perods.

Cross base

Large rectangular granite base set in the ground to the right of the entrance path. It has a rectangular mortice and one corner is damaged. It is thought that this base was brought here from Templeowen (Mems Dead ix (1913-16), 226).

Dims: H. 12 (visible) W.74 by 80
D. of mortice 16 (min) W.23 by 35

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 447.

Font

Circular granite font with straight sided basin and a central drainage hole. On the south side of the church beside the entrance path. It is undecorated except for six cracks/ grooves which run from the rim down the external face of the font and may be an attempt to make the bowl sexpartite. The rim slopes to the outside.

Dims: H. 56 Diam.85 Diam. of bowl 55 T. 26

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 446.

Byrne slab. 1625.

A very worn rectangular limestone slab lies in the graveyard with a five armed cross, symbols of the Passion and marginal inscription in very low false relief:

> HIC IACET EDMVN/ DVS CAROLI BYRNE QVI OBIIT 10 DIE APRILIS ANO DONI 1625/ ET EIVS VXOR MARGARETA/ MASTERSON QUAE OBIIT/ TERRA FUI QUONDA RURSUS SU TERRA NIHIL SUM/ TERRA CADUCA VALE VERMES SALUETE RECUBO/ MORTAGH MVRY MASON

Dims: L. 190 W. 91

Mems Dead iv (1898-1900), 186.

Motly slab. 1626.

A very worn rectangular limestone slab with a five armed cross, symbols of the Passion and marginal inscription in very low false relief:

> HIC IACET WALTER/ VS MOTTLY ET UXOR EIVS IOANA WYSE TERRA FUI QUONDAM RVRSVS SVM TERRA NIHIL SVM TERRA CADVCA VALE VERMES SA/ LVETE R/ ECVBO 1626

Dims: L. 204 W.93-5

Mems Dead iv (1898-1900), 187; ibid. ix (1913-16), 19.

Missing Monuments:

Slab of N.Really 1673

A slab with the inscription: HERE LIETH THE REMAINS OF NICHOLAS REALLY WHO DEPARTED 10TH OF OCTOBER 1673, was not located.

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 445.

8. AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY

This was founded in 1314 by Simon Lumbard and Hugh Talun and they gave a house and three acres of land in "the village of St John adjoining Tullow" to the friars (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 302). In 1542 the buildings are recorded as a church and belfry, a dormitory, hall, three chambers, and kitchen and the friars also held six cottages in Tullow (ibid.). Dinely says that it was located beside the river (JRSAI (1862-3), 48) and Ryan (1833) states that it is to be identified with the churchyard immediately south west of the town, where the name "Abbey well" still survives. There are no surviving remains above ground and Ryan adds that the buildings were taken down in the reign of Queen Anne to provide materials for building a barracks on the site of the court house.

All that survives today is a rectangular graveyard, south of the town, on the south side of the Slaney. Within it are an Early Christian crosshead, a large bullaun stone, and a well. These features suggest that the site is of pre-Norman origin and it seems likely that the Augustinians took over an

earlier church.

Cross

Large granite cross head built onto the top of the well in the Augustinian graveyard. It is ringed and unpierced and is decorated with Greek step patterns and may have interlace on the main faces but this is very worn now.
Dims: H.104 W. across arms 109 cm.

Bullaun

A large earthfast boulder with a socket 22 cm square.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

Mound

A small mound of undetermined nature was located on high ground south of the river and southwest of the town (see OS map). It has been levelled and the site now forms a park in front of a new housing scheme. This is an unfortunate loss as it is quite likely the mound from which Tullow derives its name and consequently it may well have been of prehistoric origin.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

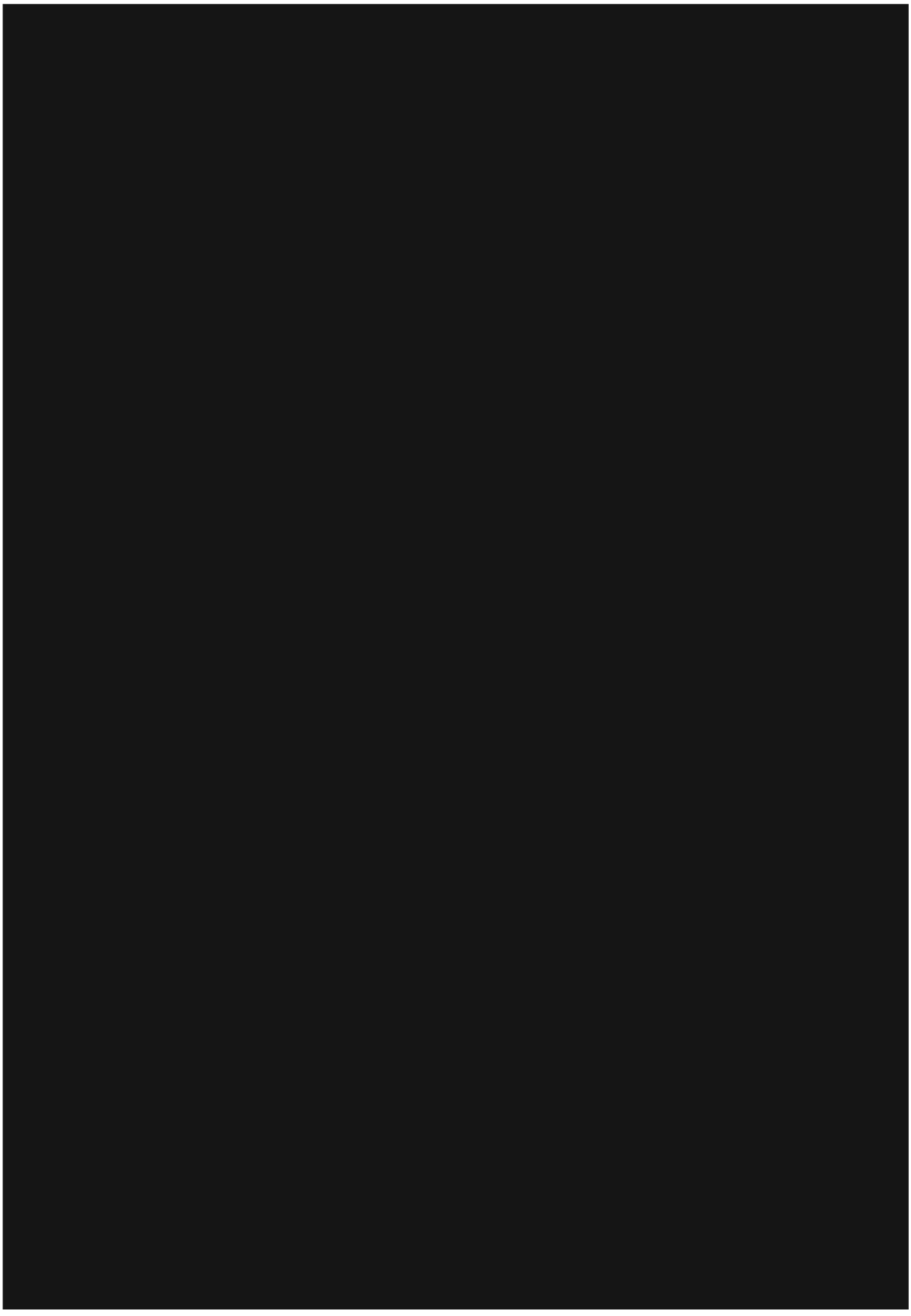
Tullow is an example of a small Anglo-Norman market town. Little is actually known about these inland market towns in comparison with the larger port towns of Waterford and

Dublin. Archaeologically its importance is threefold. Firstly as an example of a pre-Norman monastery which was developed into an Anglo-Norman town. Secondly, as an example of a small Anglo-Norman town, and thirdly, as one of the few Anglo-Norman settlements in Carlow to have survived the Gaelic revival of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, its history during that period is particularly important. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it has been the scene of human occupation since at least the eleventh century. Documentary records of the settlement are relatively few, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained. The extent of disturbance to its archaeological deposits is unknown.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 15) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Tullow. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site. It may be noted, however, that the mound west of the town, from which Tullow probably derives its name and significance was levelled to construct a housing estate and that a bungalow has been built on the known site of Tullow Castle. Both of these are unfortunate developments.

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Abbreviations

Journals

JRSAI Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.

PRIA Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy.

Other Abbreviations

NLI National Library of Ireland

NMI National Museum of Ireland

PROI Public Record Office of Ireland

RIA Royal Irish Academy

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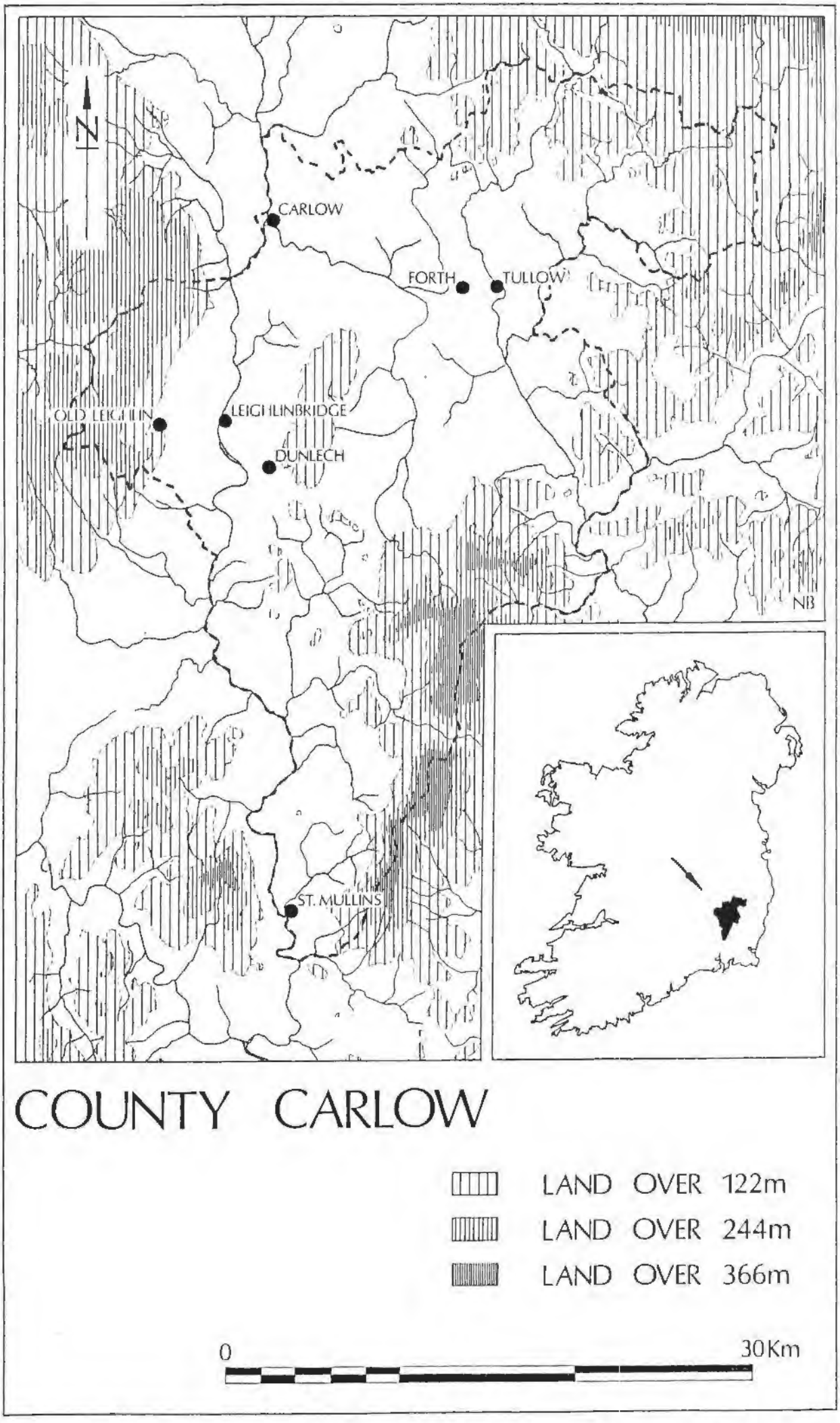


Fig. 1. County Carlow: Location map of boroughs and towns.



Fig. 2. Remains of Carlow Castle from the south-east.

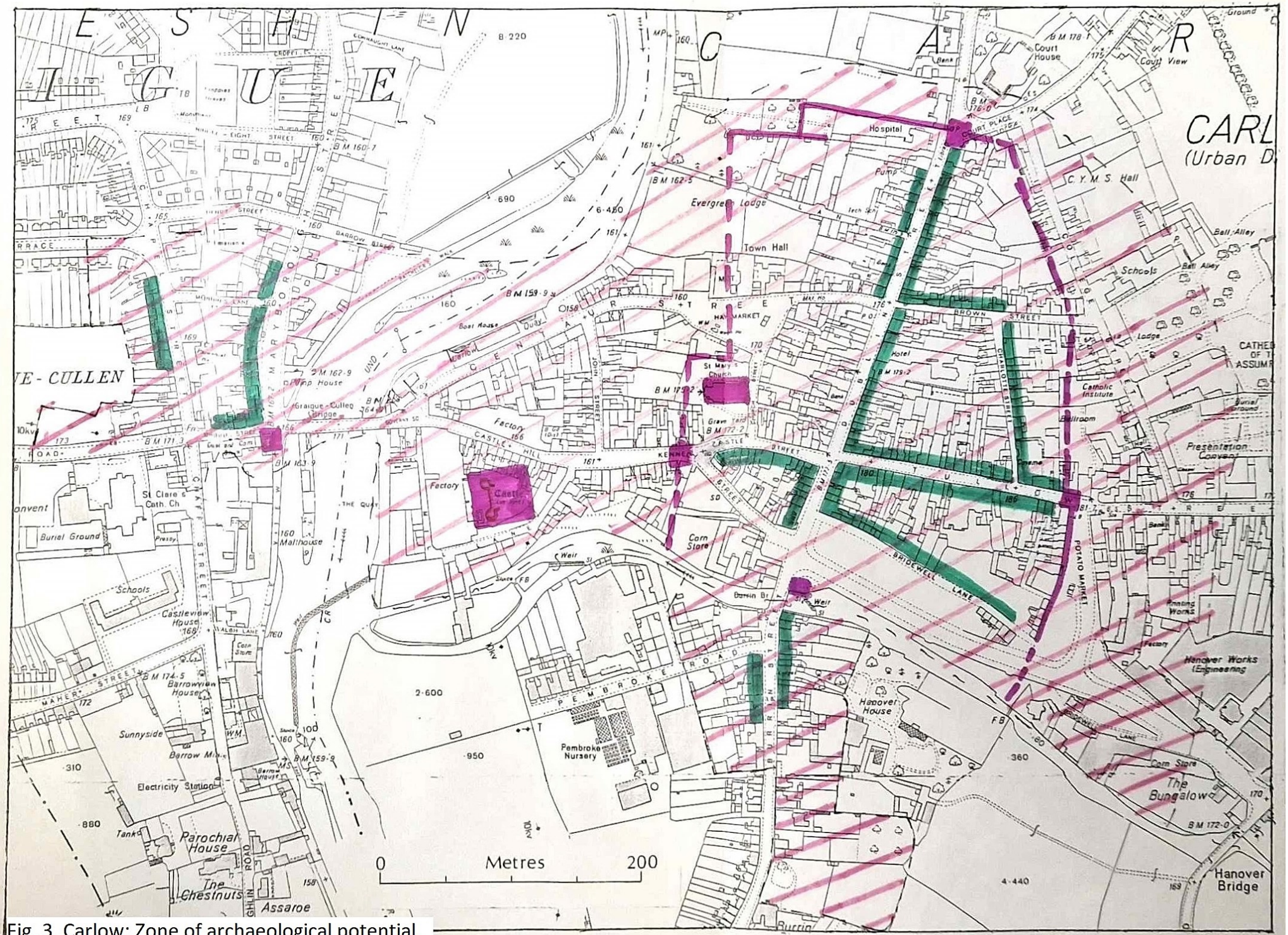


Fig. 3. Carlow: Zone of archaeological potential.



Fig. 4. Dunleckny, possible font.

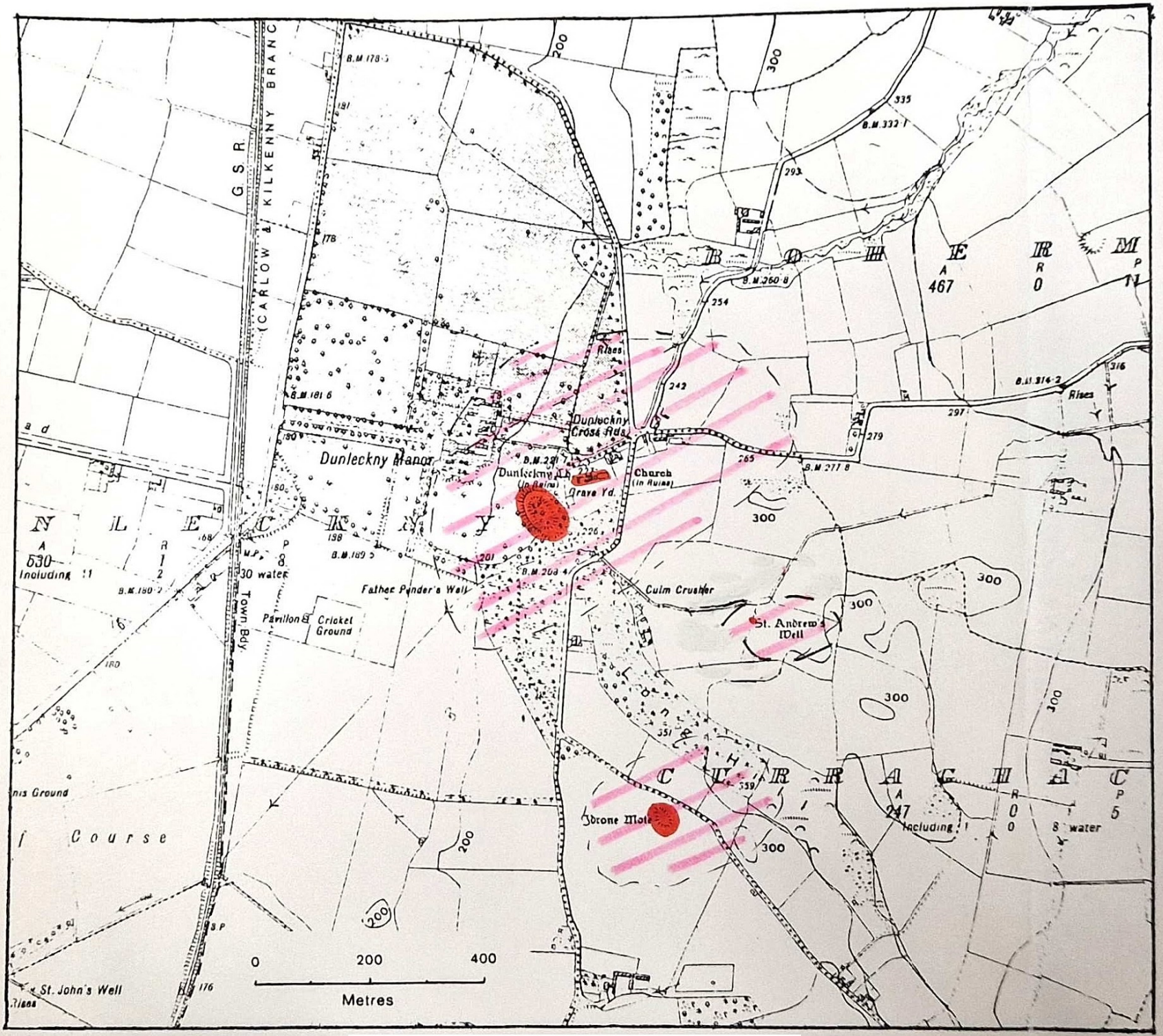


Fig. 5. Dunlecky: Zone of archaeological potential

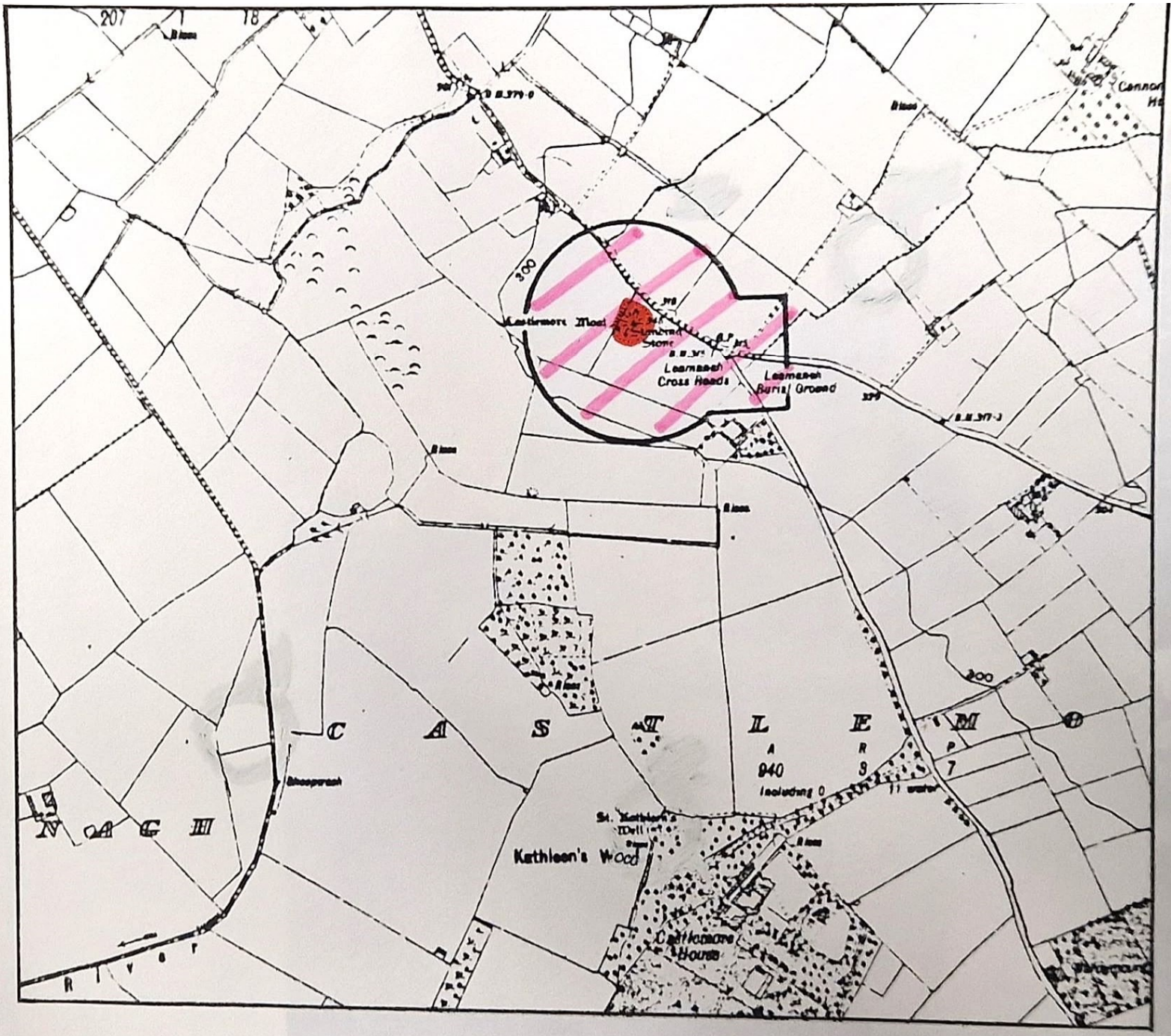


Fig. 6. Forth (Castlemore): zone of archaeological potential



Fig. 7. Leighlinbridge Castle, from west.

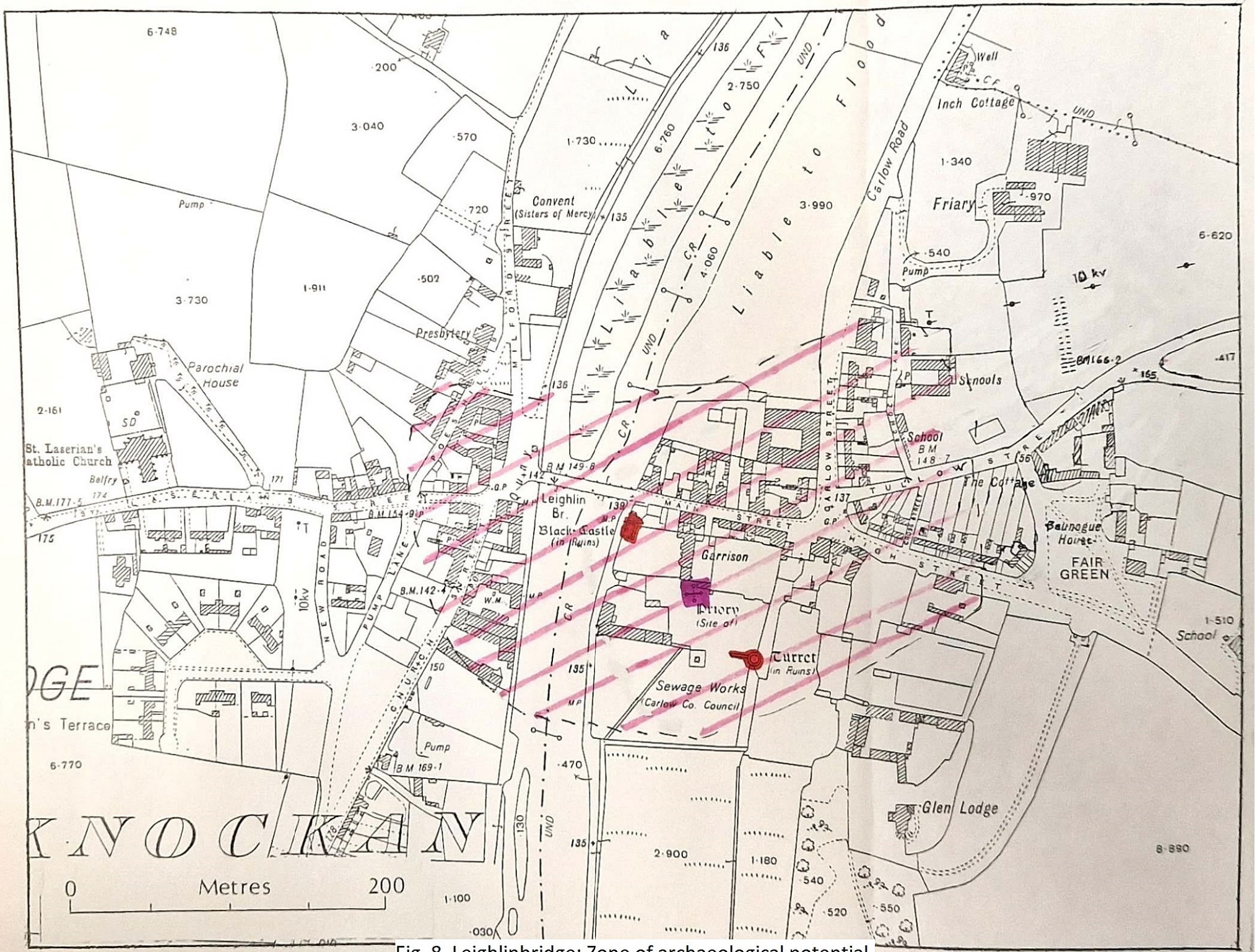


Fig. 8. Leighlinbridge: Zone of archaeological potential

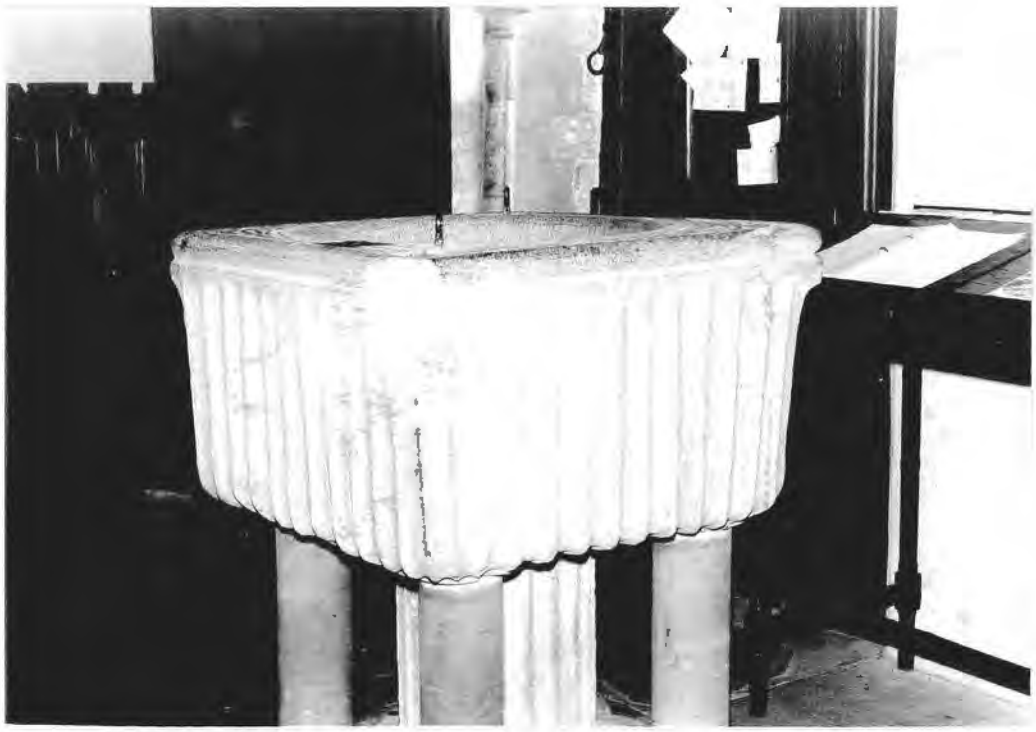


Fig. 9. 13th century font at St Lazerian´s Cathedral, Old Leighlin.



Fig. 10. Early Christian crosss at St Molaisse´s well, Old Leighlin.

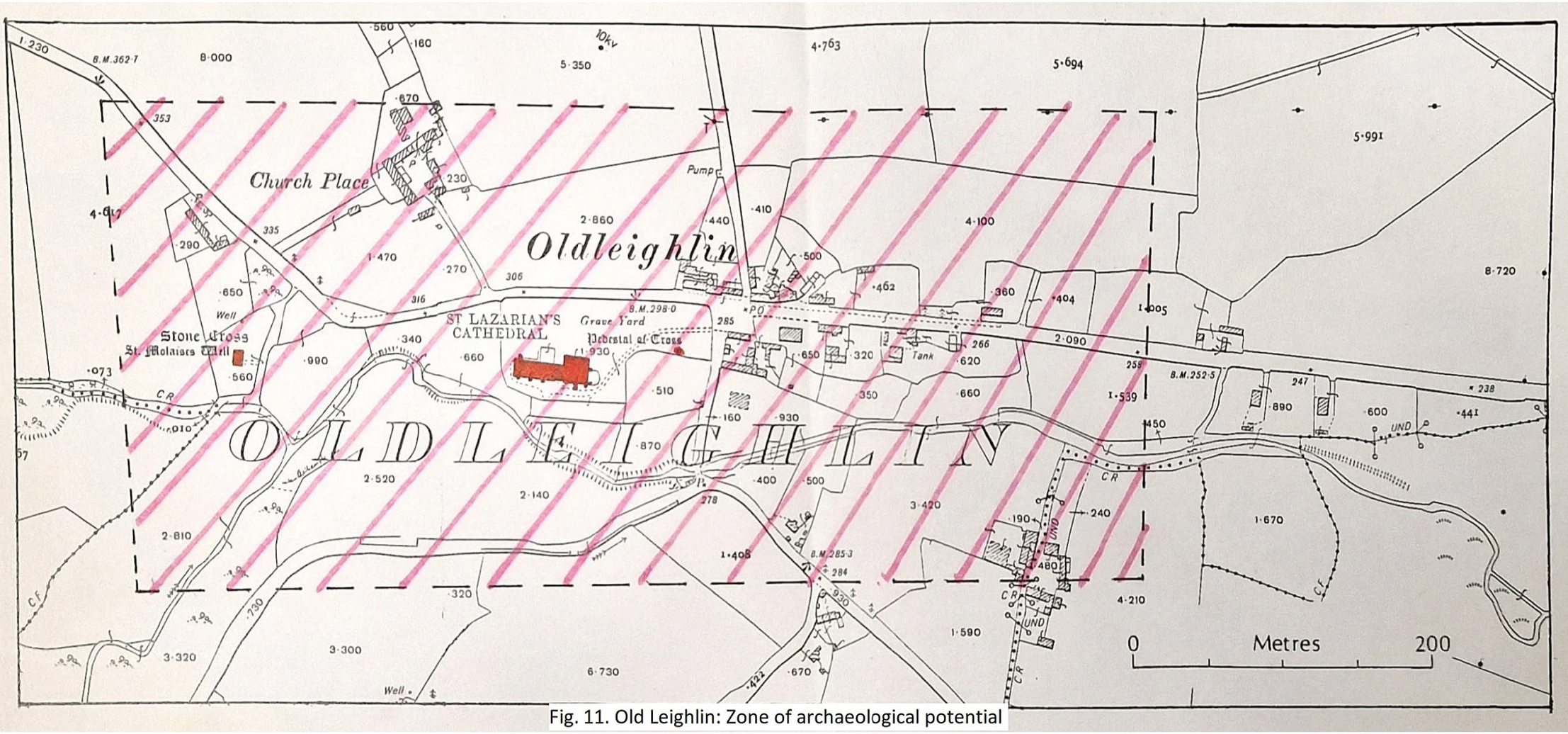


Fig. 11. Old Leighlin: Zone of archaeological potential

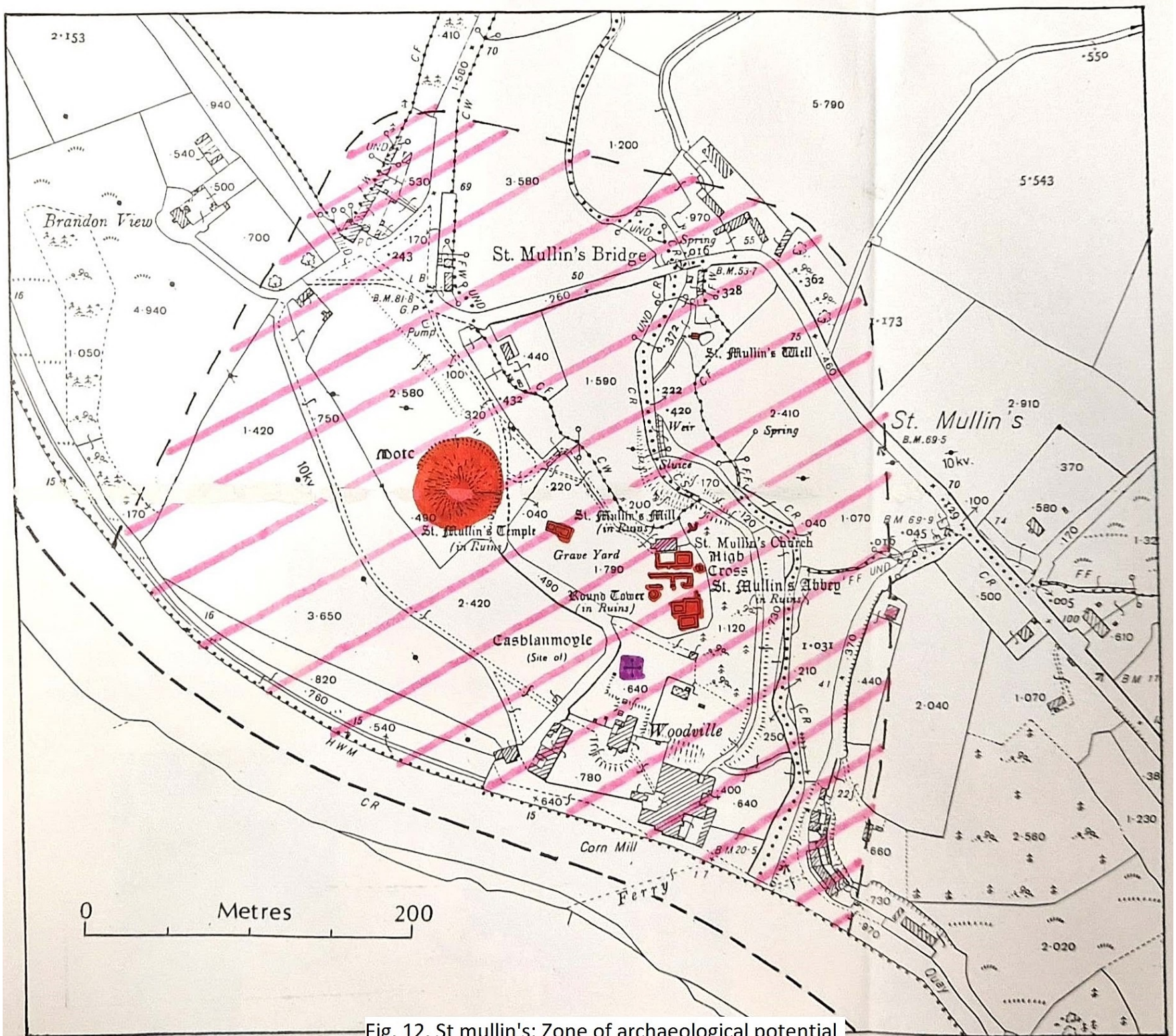


Fig. 12. St mullin's: Zone of archaeological potential



Fig. 13. Tullow: Early Christian font at St Columba´s Churcl



Fig. 14. Early Christian cross-head in the Augustinian Churchyard, Tullow.

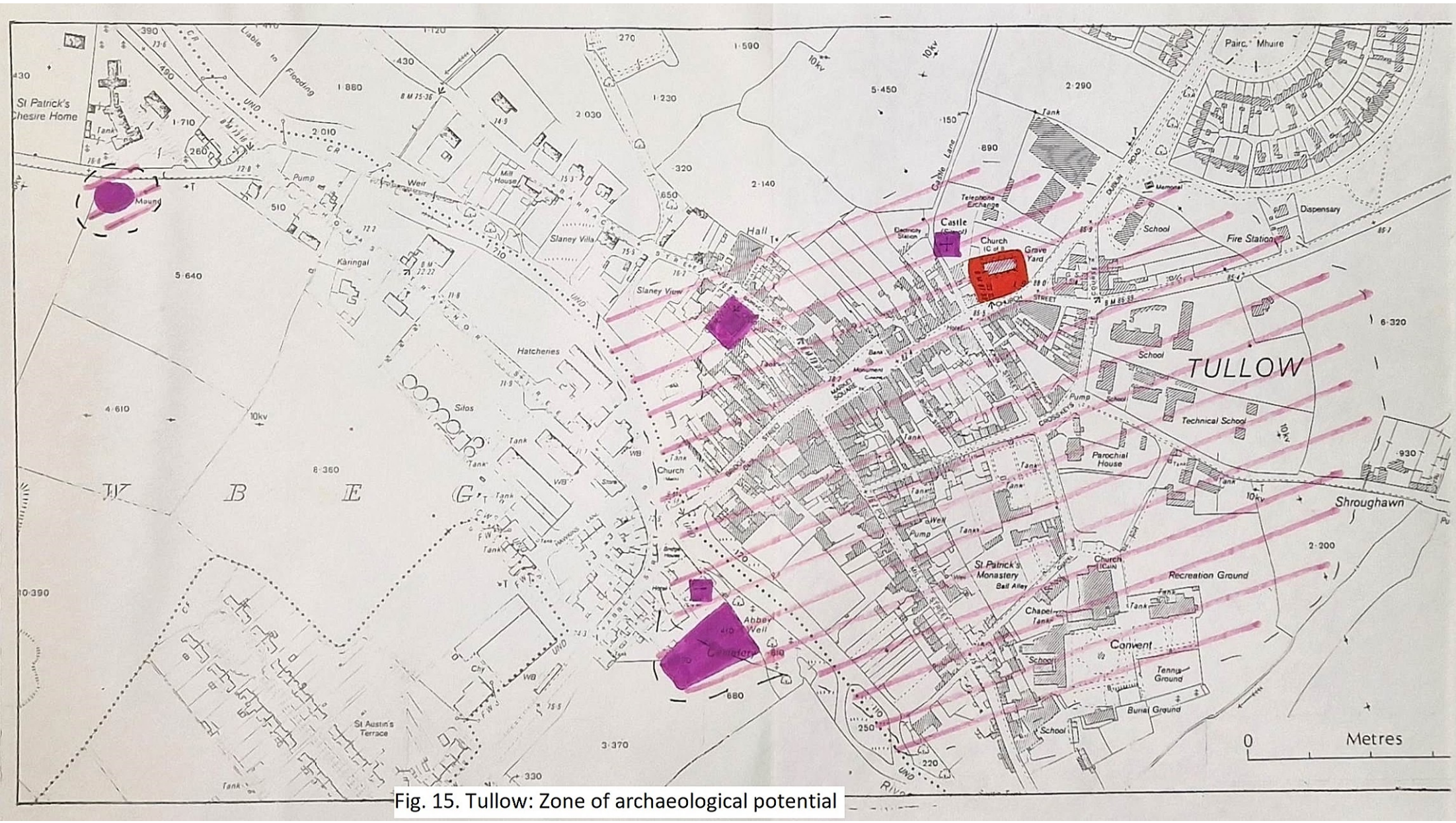


Fig. 15. Tullow: Zone of archaeological potential