

URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY

PART XIX

COUNTY GALWAY

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AND

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LIST OF CONTENTS

List of Figures.....	viii
Acknowledgements.....	ix
General Introduction.....	x
Introduction to Co. Galway.....	xvii
Ardrahan.....	1
Archaeological inventory.....	2
Site of borough.....	3
Street pattern.....	3
Market place.....	3
Borough defences.....	3
Castle.....	4
Early Christian site.....	5
Church.....	5
Round Tower.....	5
Probable Souterrain.....	6
Miscellaneous.....	6
Mill.....	6
Archaeological problems and potential.....	6
Recommendations.....	7
Athenry.....	9
Archaeological Inventory.....	13
Streets & street pattern.....	14
Market place.....	14
Market cross.....	15

Domestic houses.....	16
Town defences.....	16
Castle.....	22
St Mary's Parish Church.....	25
Monuments.....	27
Dominican Priory of SS Peter & Paul.....	28
Monuments.....	33
Hospital of St Mary Magdalen.....	41
Miscellaneous.....	42
List of archaeological stray finds.....	42
Archaeological problems and potential.....	43
The problems.....	43
Archaeological potential.....	47
Archaeology, planning and development.....	48
Recommendations.....	51
Claregalway.....	53
Archaeological and Historical Background.....	53
Archaeological inventory.....	54
Site of borough.....	54
Castle.....	54
Parish Church.....	56
Franciscan Friary.....	56
Monuments.....	58
Archaeological stray find.....	62
Archaeological problems and potential.....	62
Recommendations.....	63

Dunmore.....	65
Archaeological inventory.....	66
Site of Borough.....	67
Borough Defences.....	67
Castle.....	67
St Nicholas' Parish Church.....	68
Augustinian Friary.....	69
Miscellaneous.....	70
List of Archaeological stray finds.....	70
Archaeological problems and potential.....	71
Recommendations.....	71
Galway.....	73
Archaeological and Historical Background.....	73
Archaeological inventory.....	79
Streets and street pattern.....	79
Market Places.....	81
Bridges.....	81
Quays and Port.....	82
Domestic Houses.....	83
Civic Buildings.....	84
Mills.....	85
Martin's Mill.....	85
Town Defences.....	86
Castle.....	103
Forts and Citadels.....	105
Bollingbrook Fort.....	105
The Citadel.....	105
East (or Upper) Citadel.....	106

Mutton Island.....	106
Renmore Fort.....	106
Rintinnane Fort.....	107
St Augustine's Fort.....	107
West Citadel (Cromwellian).....	109
West Fort.....	110
St Nicholas' Parish Church.....	110
Monuments.....	112
College.....	119
Augustinian Friary.....	119
Carmelite Friary.....	120
Dominican Priory.....	120
Franciscan Friary.....	121
Franciscan Nunnery.....	122
Hospital of St Brigid.....	122
Hospital of St Mary.....	123
Miscellaneous.....	123
Suburbs.....	124
List of archaeological stray finds.....	124
Archaeological problems and potential.....	126
Recommendations.....	128
Kilcolgan.....	131
Archaeological Inventory.....	132
Site of borough.....	132
Castle.....	132
Early Christian monastic site.....	133
Miscellaneous.....	134

Archaeological problems and potential.....	135
Recommendations.....	135
Loughrea.....	137
Archaeological inventory.....	139
Streets and Street Pattern.....	139
Market Place.....	140
Town Defences.....	140
Castle.....	143
St Brendan's Parish Church.....	144
Carmelite Friary.....	144
Hospital.....	145
Miscellaneous.....	145
St Brigid's Church.....	146
List of archaeological stray finds.....	147
Archaeological problems and potential.....	147
Recommendations.....	149
Meelick.....	151
Archaeological Inventory.....	152
Site of Borough.....	153
Castle.....	153
Franciscan Friary.....	153
List of archaeological stray finds.....	154
Archaeological problems and potential.....	155
Recommendations.....	156

Portumna.....	158
Archaeological Inventory.....	159
Site of Borough.....	159
Castle.....	160
Black Castle.....	161
Dominican Priory of Mary & SS Peter and Paul...	161
List of Archaeological stray finds.....	163
Archaeological problems and potential.....	163
Recommendations.....	164
 Tuam.....	 166
Archaeological and Historical Background.....	166
Archaeological Inventory.....	169
Streets and street pattern.....	169
Market place.....	170
Mills.....	170
Castle.....	170
Early Ecclesiastical Site.....	172
The monastic enclosure.....	172
Temple Jarlath.....	173
Romanesque Carved Heads.....	174
Guesthouse.....	174
High Crosses.....	174
St Mary's Cathedral.....	177
College.....	178
Augustinian Priory of St John the Evangelist...	179
Premonstratensian Abbey of the Holy Trinity....	179
Templenascreen.....	180

Miscellaneous.....	180
St Brigid's Chapel.....	180
List of Archaeological Stray Finds.....	181
Archaeological problems and potential.....	181
Recommendations.....	184

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1. County Galway: Location map of boroughs and towns.
- Fig. 2. Ardrahan: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 3. Outline map of Athenry showing the principal archaeological features.
- Fig. 4. Athenry: zone of archaeological potential
- Fig. 5. Claregalway: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 6. Dunmore: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 7. Galway: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 8. Kilcolgan: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 9. Loughrea: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 10. Meelick: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 11. Portumna: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 12. Outline map of Tuam showing the principal archaeological features
- Fig. 13. Tuam: zone of archaeological potential.

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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 desirable, 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, religious 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 deposits 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 chronicle 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 cannot 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 archaeological 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 described 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. GALWAY

The county of Galway 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 three periods which are important, pre-Norman monastic settlements (c.10th-12th cents), the towns of the Anglo-Norman period (13th-16th cents), and the Plantation towns of the seventeenth century.

A number of the places considered here, such as Ardrahan, Dunmore and Kilcolgan, were already important before the coming of the Normans but only one of them, Tuam, can be regarded as having been a town.

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 Ardrahan, Dunmore, Galway and Kilcolgan and they were responsible for the foundation of two new towns, Athenry and Loughrea and three smaller urban centres or boroughs, as they were called: Claregalway, Meelick and Portumna. They expanded the settlement at Galway considerably and it was to become the largest and the wealthiest town in the county. Both Ardrahan and Dunmore were nucleated settlements of some size, protected by defences. Although they declined in size during the later middle ages, nonetheless, they survived to function as small urban centres

today. Claregalway, Kilcolgan and Meelick, by contrast, declined sharply and appear to have been largely abandoned completely in the fourteenth century as was Portumna although it was to recover its fortunes after the Clanricard Burkes made it their principal seat in 1610.

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. Evidence for the existence of another former borough at Kilcorban was only discovered after the completion of survey work while the location of another documented borough, "Rotheba" remains unknown. Previously published sources and maps were consulted in preparing the reports as well as visiting the sites on the ground. It is not possible to include all details within these covers and further information on the individual sites will be found in the archival records of the Urban Archaeological Survey.

The reports outline 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. 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.

It must be pointed out, however, that the sheer quantity of archaeological remains in Galway city has made it impracticable and confusing to shade every extant house and house fragment. Accordingly the map of Galway (fig. 7) confines itself to determining the archaeological zone, the area which is important for planning purposes. This map must be read in conjunction with the Galway Heritage Survey. Key maps showing the principal archaeological features in Galway city and providing a detailed bibliography of all the references in this report are available as a supplementary volume.

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.

ARDRAHAN

Ardrahan is a village situated in the south of the county on the main road between Gort and Oranmore. It is prominently located on a ridge affording commanding views, particularly to the north, east and west. The castle occupies an elevated platform in the NE corner of the settlement while the C of I parish church (on the site of its medieval and Early Christian predecessor) dominates the NW angle.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The remains of the round tower within the churchyard indicates that Ardrahan was a settlement of importance prior to the coming of the Normans. It is all the more puzzling then that no documentary references are known to this pre-Norman church site. It is not mentioned in the annals nor does it appear to have been associated with any particular saint of importance.

Ardrahan is first mentioned in 1225 when, according to the Annals of Loch Ce, Aedh O'Conor's army constructed a "tigh longpuirt" here. After 1235, when the Anglo-Normans had established themselves in Connacht, the cantred of Ofetherath (Hy Fiachrach Aidhne) was granted to Maurice Fitzgerald by Richard de Burgo (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 205). In 1289 an extent of the manor records that the burgesses of Ardrahan paid an

annual rent of £4 12d (MacNiocaill 1964b, 56). In 1321 an inquisition noted that half of the burgage rent (then £4 4s) could not be raised because of war and adds the interesting information that there was a bakery, butcher's shambles and a market in the borough (Knox 1911-12, 81). By 1333 ownership of the manor had passed to the heirs of Richard de Clare and to the earl of Ulster. In the Later Middle Ages the manor and castle of Ardrahan belonged to the Burkes and Knox (1911-12, 80) records that in the sixteenth century it was the property of the earl of Clanricard. The date of the decline of the borough is unclear but it is likely that it occurred in the fourteenth century. The layout of the present village would appear to be of seventeenth and eighteenth century origin.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. STREET PATTERN
3. MARKET PLACE
4. POSSIBLE BOROUGH DEFENCES
5. CASTLE
6. EARLY CHRISTIAN SITE
 - CHURCH
 - ROUND TOWER
 - PROBABLE SOUTERRAIN
7. MISCELLANEOUS

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

The borough was almost certainly centred on the site of the present village, an interpretation strongly supported by the close proximity of the castle and parish church.

2. STREET PATTERN

The street pattern of the present village is linear and is based on a triangular market place. It is not clear if this street pattern is earlier than the seventeenth century or not.

3. MARKET PLACE

The market of Ardrahan is mentioned in the inquisition of 1321 (Knox 1911-12, 81) but the regular form of the present market-place suggests that it is of post-medieval (probably seventeenth century) origin. The present market cross, a limestone pillar, is of eighteenth or early nineteenth century date (King 1986).

4. BOROUGH DEFENCES

Knox (1911-12, 78 and plan opp. p. 83: D, I, J) has suggested that a defaced bank north and west of the castle may indicate the line of the borough defences. The bank is only barely visible now and, in the absence of excavation, it is impossible to say what period it belongs to.

5. CASTLE

The castle was at the centre of the manor of Ardrahan established by Maurice FitzGerald shortly after 1235. In 1258 it was burnt during an outbreak of war between the settlers and Conchobhar O Briain (ALC). The extent of 1289 describes the manorial buildings (presumably centred on the castle) as consisting of the castle, a stone chamber, two cellars, a grange and a curtilage all valued at 40s per annum (MacNiocaill 1964b, no. 60). It is described as ruined in 1321 (Knox 1911-12, 81) and it is not clear if the castle was rebuilt in the Later Middle Ages or not.

The surviving remains of the keep stand in a rectangular earthwork with a deep ditch on the east and on part of the south side. The west part of the south ditch is filled in and the west ditch has been obliterated but there is a slight trace of a counterscarp bank on the north side. The ditch reaches a maximum depth of 4m and in places there are traces of an enclosing bank. Parts of two sides of a substantial stone castle, probably the structure referred to in 1321 as "the walls of a tower", survive (Knox 1911-12, 81). The walls are not bonded and diagnostic features such as windows and doors are missing. It is possible that the west wall is not original. The north wall collapsed after a storm in January 1983. Photographs taken before the collapse indicate that it was about 8.5m high and had a battlemented wall-walk. A hollowed groove, 2m below the wall-walk, appears to have represented an upper second floor above the main first floor

hall (Lynn 1985-6, 93).

Redington (in Knox 1911-12, 74-5) noted the presence of a number of rectilinear earthwork banks east, north and running west of the castle. Traces of these are still apparent but it is difficult to know to what date they belong. The boundary of Redington's Platform E (which she regarded as a potential bailey, to the north of the castle) is no longer apparent.

6. EARLY CHRISTIAN SITE

The remains of the round tower indicate that Ardrahan was an Early Christian ecclesiastical site of some importance. The history of this settlement, however, remains obscure.

CHURCH

Parts of the east, south and north walls survive of the rectangular church. Although overgrown, the remains appear to be of medieval date. The east gable stands to a height of just over 9m and the surviving remains measure 12 by 8m. No monuments of pre-1700 date were located. The church is referred to in the inquisition of 1321 when it was taxed at 10 marks per annum (Knox 1911-12, 82).

ROUND TOWER

Basal fragment surviving to a maximum height of 2.9m in the SW corner of the churchyard and partly incorporated into

the graveyard wall. The masonry consists of limestone (Barrow 1979, 97).

PROBABLE SOUTERRAIN

This site, marked as "Cave" on the OS 25" map, is no longer accessible and no description of it is known. The appellation "cave" suggests, however, that this may be the site of a souterrain.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

Mill

The extent of 1289 mentions the existence of a mill worth 13s. 4d. per annum (MacNiocaill 1964b, no. 60). The location of this structure, which may have been a windmill, is unclear.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Ardrahan is an example of a small Anglo-Norman borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it has been the scene of human occupation since pre-Norman times. 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. 2) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Ardahan. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ATHENRY

The placename appears to be derived from Ath na Ri, "ford of the kings", but it is possible that it may be simply Ath Henri, "Henry's ford". The ford on the river Clareen is undoubtedly the factor which accounts for the siting of Athenry and it is clear from the discovery of a number of prehistoric objects in and near the river that the ford itself is an ancient one.

There are no documentary references to Athenry before the coming of the Normans and the settlement seems to have been a town founded de novo on virgin soil. Meiler de Bermingham received Athenry in 1235 in return for supporting Richard de Burgo in the invasion of Connacht (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 212). He constructed a strong castle to control the ford and his founding of the Dominican Friary in 1241 indicates that Meiler lost no time in establishing the town of Athenry. In 1244 he received the right to hold an annual fair (Sweetman 1875-88, i, no. 2674) and five years later in 1249 he succeeded in beating off a hosting by Toirdealbach mac Aedh O Conchobair which had attacked the new settlement (ALC). The Register of the Dominican Friary indicates that there were burgesses in the town by the middle of the thirteenth century (Coleman 1912, 206). It seems fair to infer from these references that the essence of the town had been established, with castle, parish church, Dominican Friary, streets,

market-place, town defences and a corporation, by about 1250.

The earliest defences may have been of earth but in 1310 the townsmen received a murage grant to assist them in enclosing the town (Ir Rec Comm 1829, 43; Hardiman 1846, 266-7). That defences were necessary at this time is indicated by the battle fought outside the walls in 1316 by King Fedlimid O Conchobair. Felimid had taken advantage of the Bruce invasion in eastern Ireland to attack the Anglo-Norman colony but he was heavily defeated and over 8000 men were reputedly slain. According to subsequent tradition the town walls were completed out of the profits of the arms and armour captured from the Irish on that day. The battle was a pivotal one in the history of Athenry because it was not until the sixteenth century that the native Irish were again to pose a threat to the town.

Throughout the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries as the Gaelic resurgence gradually encroached on the Anglo-Norman colony the town seems to have endured as a frontier bastion of the colonial way of life. It returned members to the parliament of Richard II and there are a few incidental references which indicate that it endeavoured to keep in touch with the Dublin government (e.g. Tresham 1828, p. 105). Nonetheless, if one is to judge by sixteenth century accounts, it is clear that the town declined in prosperity and shrunk in size from its heyday in the second half of the thirteenth century. In 1567 Sir Henry Sidney described it as:

" ... a greate and an aunciente Towe in Connoghte

called Anrye ... The Towne is large and well walled, and it appearith by Matter of Record there hath be in it three hundred good Howseholders, and since I knewe this Land there was twentie, and now I finde but fower, and they poor, and as I write readie to leave the Place. The Crye and Lamentation of the poor People was greate and pityefull, and nothing but this, Succor, Succor, Succor. The Erle of Clanricarde could not denye but that he helde a hevie Hande over them. For which I ordered him to make them some Recompence and bounde him not to exacte upon them hereafter" (Hardiman 1846, 268).

In 1574, however, the town was captured and burned by the sons of the Earl of Clanricard who had broken out in rebellion. Two years later Sir Henry Sidney visited the town again and described it as:

"the most wofall Spectacle that ever I looked on in any of the Queen's Dominions, totally burned, Colledge, Parishe Church, and all that was there, by the Earles Sonnes; yet the mother of one of them was buried in the Church. I tooke Order for the reedifinge of the Towne and the Woorke is begonne; and I have taxed for the Satisfieng of the old Inhabitants indifferently upon that Countrie, weyenge the Abilities of eche Person, and the Qualitie of their Fawlte, as I thought most reasonable ... and the Somme of this Taxation amounted to twoe Thowsand Pounds and I doubte not to levye it ... I have cut the Towne almost into two equal Partes, it

beinge before full as bigge, with a faier high Wall, as the Towne of Callyce" (Hardiman 1846, 268-9).

Sidney's repairs had only barely commenced, however, when the town was attacked and captured again (in 1577) by the Earl of Clanricard's sons. They destroyed the church and houses which had recently been rebuilt, set fire to the new gates and drove away the masons and workmen who had been employed in repairing the fortifications (Hardiman 1820, 87). In 1577 the town recieved an important charter of incorporation from Elizabeth and it was to be the town's governing instrument until the abolition of the borough in 1843. It was addressed to "the Portreeve, Burgesses and Freemen of the Corporation of the Town and Liberties of Athenry", and it empowering them to have a town clerk, sergeant-at-mace, craner, pound-keeper, two appraisers and a bellman, in addition to giving them the privileges and such officers as the town of Trim had (Lewis 1837, i, 83). In the same year the townspeople were granted the site and precincts of the Dominican Friary while in 1578 they received a number of rectories and tithes. There can be little doubt from these grants that the Dublin administration was endeavouring to regain its hold on Athenry by offering sweeteners. In 1584 Robert Foyle and John Browne, on behalf of the town, petitioned the Queen's Council to grant incentives which would enable them to bring in English artisans and tradesmen to settle in Athenry, rebuild and improve it and support a sufficient force for its protection (Lewis 1837, i, 83). Whether such planters were introduced or not is unclear but the capture and destruction of the town in

1596 by Red Hugh O'Donnell effectively sealed its fate. The castle, Dominican Friary and parish church alone escaped the conflagration and the town never recovered its former prosperity.

In 1629 Athenry was granted a weekly market (on Fridays) and an annual October fair at the behest of Sir William Parsons. Throughout the Confederate Wars Athenry stood firm for the Confederate cause having had a garrison placed in the town in 1643 by General Burke who was endeavouring to curb the actions of the earl of Clanricard. The Dominicans returned to Athenry in the following year only to be ejected after the Cromwellian takeover. As in Galway, the citizenry seem to have been removed in Cromwellian times when new settlers were introduced. Nonetheless, Athenry was now overshadowed by Galway and it never succeeded in regaining the prominence which it held in medieval times.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACE
MARKET CROSS
3. DOMESTIC HOUSES
4. TOWN DEFENCES
5. CASTLE
6. ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

7. DOMINICAN FRIARY
8. HOSPITAL OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN
9. MISCELLANEOUS
10. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN

Athenry is an example of a shrunken borough, clearly of more importance in the middle ages than at any time since. The original street pattern of the town seems to have consisted of two major north-south streets, Chapel Street-North Gate Street and Cross Street (which would have continued to Spittle Gate) together with one major east-west street, Chapel Lane- Davis Street- Bridge Street. The presence of a number of cross streets such as Clark's Street, St Donald's Lane and Barrack Lane, preserve the remnants of what would seem to have been a thirteenth century chequer street plan (Bradley 1985, 435). It is likely that the river originally formed the eastern boundary of the town and that the Dominican Friary was established outside it, only to be subsequently enclosed in the manner known from Drogheda and a number of other Irish towns.

2. MARKET PLACE

The grant of an annual fair to Athenry in 1244 almost certainly indicates that a weekly market was also a regular part of the the settlement's economy. The present market

place is triangular but it is likely that it was originally much larger and probably occupied the whole of the space marking the intersection between Bridge Street, North Gate Street and Chapel Street. The triangular block immediately west of the present market place, bounded by Davis Street and Burke's Lane, would seem to represent market colonisation.

MARKET CROSS

Incomplete remains of a late fifteenth century cross of pillar type, consisting of the base and part of the shaft. The broken piece of rectangular shaft (probably from near the top of the cross) shows a Virgin and Child on one side and a Crucifixion on the other. Both are portrayed beneath Gothic crocketed canopies. The narrow sides of the shaft are decorated with plain crocketed Gothic canopies surmounting plain niches. The rectangular base is double chamfered and the upper chamfer is decorated in relief with animals (many of which are now badly worn) including deer and unicorns with their necks intertwined. There is also the figure of a demi-angel on one angle of the base. The shaft section is inserted into the mortice of the base and the base itself sits upon a larger base and a flight of steps which is probably of post-medieval origin. This is the only Irish medieval market cross to survive in situ.

Westropp 1895, 298.

3. DOMESTIC HOUSES

The burgage plot pattern of medieval Athenry survives well on the west side of Chapel Street and in other places but no domestic residence of pre-1700 date survives within the town. Knox and Redington (1920, 12) describe the existence of what appears to have been a fortified town house at the north east corner of the market place. They add that it had quoins and a twin-light ogee-headed window (see Westropp 1895, 298). The section of town wall, containing a number of window loops, immediately west of the site of Spittle Gate has been identified as the remains of a house of late sixteenth or seventeenth century date (see below).

4. TOWN DEFENCES

Although Athenry has one of the best preserved stretches of medieval town wall in Ireland (and arguably the best) medieval documentation of the wall is regrettably slight. Essentially all that is known, as already outlined above, is that murage was granted for three years by Edward II in 1310 (Ir Rec Comm 1829, 43; Hardiman 1846, 266-7) and that tradition states that the walls were completed with the profits from the spoils of the Battle of Athenry in 1316. Much of the surviving wall and the towers probably dates to the late thirteenth and early fourteenth century. The style of the surviving North Gate suggests that it is of fifteenth century date but the presence of a portcullis groove indicates that it may also be of early date. Nothing survives

of the works carried out by Sir Henry Sidney in 1576 when he bisected the town and once can only assume that his fortifications were earthen.

A survey of the walls conducted by Professor Rynne in 1980 revealed that the structure of the walls was not in good condition (Rynne 1981) and nothing has been done to improve their condition in the intervening years. The walls are built of mortared stone and average 1.1m in thickness. They are generally somewhat higher on the outside than the inside but their original height would seem to have been about 4.5m on average. Evidence for the presence of a parapet, 1m high and 50 cm thick, was discovered in the course of Professor Rynne's survey. Outside the walls was a wide, apparently flat-bottomed, moat averaging c.8m in width with a counterscarp bank about 1m high. It seems likely that this moat was water-filled with water diverted from the Clareen.

The names of the original town gates were recorded by John O'Donovan in his Ordnance Survey Letters but unfortunately he did not record their exact positions and subsequent identification has been somewhat hit and miss (JGAHS vi, 130; Knox and Redington 1920, 5 and map opp. p. 26; OS maps). In the following account the description starts at the castle and continues clockwise.

The wall immediately south of the CASTLE is missing where it would have run along the west side of River Lane. Archaeological excavations were carried out in 1985 by Professor Rynne across the line of the rubbish-filled moat

between the castle and Brittin Gate. This part of the moat had been lived in until the present century and only the lowermost 25cm of the fill was of ancient date. The fosse itself was flat-bottomed, 1.7m deep and some 5.5m wide. There was little doubt that it would have been water-filled originally in view of the fact that its base was 1.5m lower than the level of the River Clareen at the castle. The original town wall survived to a height of 1.35m, the lower 60cm of which projected to form a plinth, 20-30cm wide (Rynne 1985).

Brittin Gate

The position of the eastern gate of the town, at the head of Bridge Street, has been identified by Rynne (1981) as Brittin Gate due to the fact that the owner of land here in the thirteenth century was Robert Braynach.

South of Brittin Gate the boundary wall of the Dominican Friary has been wrongly marked as the town wall on the O.S. map. This is, in fact, a wall of relatively modern date and it stands 7m west of the actual line of the town wall, now marked by an earthen bank with a fosse and the remains of a counterscarp bank. The bank is 3m wide at its base and just over 1.5m high. The counterscarp bank is 90cm high and just over 2m wide. The bank would seem to be the remains of the wall rather than the bank on which the wall was built as Knox and Redington (1920, 7) supposed. A stretch of original town wall, 14.6m long, connects with tower 1 at the SE angle.

Tower 1 (SE angle)

This is the remains of a D-shaped tower of late thirteenth century type. It is some 7m high and rises 3m above the height of the town wall itself. The basement consists of solid masonry for a height of 4m. The tower was entered from the wallwalk and has three long splaying arrow loops of thirteenth/ early fourteenth century type.

From Tower 1 the wall runs SW for a distance of about 150m crossing the River Clareen where it has partly collapsed and is in poor condition.

Spittle Gate

This has been identified as the Spittle Gate because of the tradition that there was a hospital immediately inside the wall. This tradition would seem to be inaccurate, however. Knox and Redington (1920) suggested that Spittle Gate was the south-western gate of the town.

The stretch of wall immediately west of the gate site is the facade of a building with nine arrow-slits (internally splayed) and three at first floor level and seem to be the remains of a building of late sixteenth or more probably seventeenth century date.

Tower 2

This is a circular tower projecting from the wall almost mid-way along the southern facade. It was originally entered

from the wall-walk.

Loro Gate

So identified by Rynne (1981). Knox and Redington (1920) regarded it as the Swan or Spittle Gate. There are no surviving remains.

Towers 3-5

The western wall was more strongly defended than that of any other side and the remains of two circular towers survive along the southern stretch of wall which is intact here for most of its length. The lower courses of the circular Tower 5 survived until 1980 when it was removed by a bulldozer.

Nicholas Gate

So identified by Rynne (1981). Knox and Redington (1920) regarded it as Chapel Gate. There are no surviving remains. Two short plain fragments of wall survive between Nicholas Gate and Tower 6, one of which is appended to the southern side of tower 6.

Tower 6 (NW angle)

This, the best preserved tower, is situated in the grounds of the Presentation Convent. It rises 10.1m in external height and has a base batter. Like the other towers it was originally entered at first floor level from the

wall-walk. Within the tower was a short stair leading to a partitioned room which had internally splayed slit-like windows.

North Gate

O'Donovan in his OS letters calls this "North Britton's Gate also called Nicholroe's Gate" (see Knox and Redington 1920, 5). It is the only surviving gate of the medieval town.

Much of the present structure is restoration work. The bordering stones of the arch itself are of nineteenth century date and the upper eastern half of the gatehouse was restored by the Local Authority in the 1980s.

At ground floor level the gatehouse consists of a plain vaulted passage, 3.1m wide. A portcullis groove is present and there was a murder hole centrally placed within the arch outside the portcullis. The gatehouse was entered at first floor level from the wall-walk on the western side and although there is no sign of a similar entrance on the east it is likely that there was a similar door on that side. Access to the top of the gatehouse would have been by means of a ladder but in the recent restoration this was blocked off. Knox and Redington (1920, 8) state that a rubble foundation was discovered under the gate during drainage work and probable ditch fill was also noticed.

East of North Gate the wall continued on to meet the castle. Knox and Redington (1920, 6 and map facing p. 26)

placed Britton Gate beside the Castle, at the head of Court Lane, but there is no evidence for the existence of a gate here. Court Lane itself does not appear to have penetrated the wall and it may well be a street of post-medieval origina. Knox and Redington add that "a jamb 15 feet high, the western side of which shows "free" masonry [i.e. was faced], while the eastern formed part of a building; and above it is evidence of a window ope". No trace of this fragment now survives.

5. CASTLE

This was constructed to control the fording point of the River Clareen by Meiler de Bermingham. Stylistically the surviving remains, consisting of a keep enclosed by a curtain wall, is of early date and it is likely that it was commenced in 1235, immediately after Meiler de Bermingham took possession of Athenry. Accordingly a date of c.1235-40 seems appropriate for the construction of the initial castle. It should be noted, however, that Leask (1951, 36) preferred a date of c.1250 for the structure but the grounds on which he dated it remain unclear. It seems to have remained in the possession of the de Bermingham family throughout the Middle Ages although there is little architectural evidence of later occupation apart from the gables of the keep which were heightened in the fifteenth or sixteenth century. The castle withstood the attacks on Athenry by the sons of the Earl of Clanricard in 1574 and 1577 but it was captured and plundered

by Red Hugh O'Donnell in 1596 (Hardiman 1846, 269-70). Subsequently garrisons were housed in the castle and it was also used for a time in the seventeenth century as a gaol (Hardiman 1846, 272-3).

The Keep

This is located on the western side of the enclosure. The masonry consists of roughly coursed rubble but the quoins and window mouldings appear to be of English oolite (probably Dundry stone). It has a prominent base batter. Professor Rynne has pointed out that the building shows evidence of having been built in three stages. The original keep (c.1235-40) was low and squat, the roof being at the level of the present second floor where the break is indicated by the two large drainage holes halfway up each gable. Subsequently, in the mid-thirteenth century, the castle was raised by another storey, while in the fifteenth century the gables were raised to accomodate a new and higher roof rising above the battlements.

The rectangular basement is divided along its long axis into two chambers by vaults which rest on a central arcade of three square pillars. The vaults are late insertions and the chamber was originally roofed with a timber floor and its beam holes are evident at the south end of the NW wall. The chamber was lit by a pointed loop, in each wall, with an embrasure behind. The door in the SW wall was broken through the wall at a later date.

Access to the great hall (at first floor level) was by means of an external wooden stair on the SE side. This may have been protected by a wooden outwork because the projecting slabs which integrated it with the keep still survive above the entrance door. The door has a pointed moulded arch supported on engaged columns with foliage capitals. The hall was originally lit by four splaying windows, one in the centre of each wall. That in the NE wall is missing while that in the SW is a simple foliated lancet. The windows in the SW and SE walls are moulded on their inner jambs and have decorated and moulded capitals (Leask 1951, 39). At the northwest corner is the remains of a garderobe chamber which projected outside the line of the keep's walls.

Access to the second floor was presumably by means of an internal wooden stairs. The function of this room is unclear, however, since it lacks windows. Access to the third floor (the battlement stage) was by means of an intra-mural stair in the east wall. The battlements are of simple thirteenth century style and the merlons are pierced by long cruciform loops. The later gables rise inside the parapet so that the walkway remains unobstructed.

The Curtain Wall

The curtain wall encloses a roughly D-shaped area and was protected by towers at the NE and SE angles. The entrance to the courtyard appears to have been on the SW, in the position of the modern gateway. Portion of the entrance gate was

uncovered in the course of recent excavation work by Cliona Papezian. Externally the curtain wall, like that of the keep, is battered and the plinth is most emphasised on the north and west sides. The curtain wall itself averages 4m in height and it is pierced by loopholes, four in the south wall, three in the east and three in the north. There is no evidence for internal buildings apart from a possible lean-to structure along the east wall immediately north of the SE tower. Both of the towers are of circular plan. The SE example is the best preserved and survives to a height of two stories. It has two long loops, pointing E and SE.

Other Features

Knox and Redington (1920, 8-9) describe a great bailey to the north of the castle which they regarded as a potential suburb of the town. This feature seems to be entirely natural, however.

6. ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

It was normal practice for the Anglo-Norman towns in Ireland to contain one parish church and these parishes were usually among the first features of the new town to be established (Bradley 1985, 445). The earliest documentary evidence for the parish church of Athenry is the 1289 reference to William de Bermingham, rector of Athenry, who became archbishop of Tuam in that year. In the ecclesiastical taxation of 1306 it was valued at 40 marks per annum but in

1411 it was in need of considerable repairs, particularly to its roof (McNeill 1920, 134). The church was made collegiate before 1484-5 by Donatus, archbishop of Tuam. The college was founded by John de Burgh, a canon of Tuam cathedral, for a warden and eight priests. De Burgh became the first warden but in 1489 the pope issued instructions dissolving the college because de Burgh had burnt the abbey of Knockmoy. The papal instructions were ignored, however, and the college continued to function until 1574 when it was burnt together with the church in the revolt of Clanricard's sons (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 359). The medieval church was never fully rebuilt and the community made do with a smaller building. The present structure, used as a community hall, was built by the Board of First Fruits in 1828.

The medieval church was cruciform in plan with transepts on the north and south and an aisled nave. The site of the chancel and crossing is occupied by the Board of First Fruits building and a tower with a prominent steeple. The oldest parts of the building is the thirteenth century south arcade of the nave which is now block up. This blocking appears to have occurred in the later middle ages since two of the blocked arcades are filled with pointed windows of fifteenth century date. The arcade itself was supported by cylindrical piers with moulded capitals and plain arches. The south door is pointed and there are remains of a porch. Two of the nave pillars have been rebuilt as gate-posts at the churchyard entrance. The west gable is missing.

The North Transept has a broken window in Decorated Gothic style and consisted of three lights with quatrefoils above. The masonry of the South Transept is superior to that of the Nave and it has the remains of a pointed window in the south wall. It originally had three lights with interlaced tracery above. The inner jambs of the splay have moulded capitals and bases. In the east wall is a double piscina with a square fluted basin and a smaller round basin. An arch across the north end of the south transept appears to be of late medieval date and its presence suggests that the church may have had a crossing tower in the later middle ages.

"Cave"

Knox and Redington (1920, 8, 12) state that an "opening" or "cave" was found in the churchyard grounds (which they considered to be the Franciscan Abbey). It is not clear how reliable their information was and it is likely that it indicates the presence of burial vaults rather than a souterrain.

Monuments

Thomas Hesin. 1685

Tapering slab, with a floriated cross, near the base of the tower. Roman inscription:

PRAY FOR THE/ SOVLES OF THOM/ AS HESIN AND HIS/ WIFE AND
THEIR/ POSTERETIES 1685

Lord Walter FitzGerald reported the additional letters S:mc:G

1633 and D MA'G.

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 491.

Dermot O'Daly. 1648.

Small square slab outside S end of S Transept. Roman inscription:

IHS MA THIS IS DER/ MOT O DALY FIZ GOF/ RY OF NEW
CASTLE/ S TOMBE AND HIS W/ IFE AND THIRE SC/ EPT LATVLLY
GOT/ EN BY THEM P/ RAYING ALL XT/ IAN PEOPLE W/ HO MAY
SEE IT TO/ PRAY FOR THEM 1648

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 491.

17th cent.

Small irregular slab just outside E doorway of the S aisle of the nave. Fragmentary Roman inscription in high relief:

... ECAHY: [A]ND: CATHARINE MAC:KILLE

Lord Walter FitzGerald reported seeing two uninscribed coffin shaped slabs here in 1894 but these were not located in the course of our survey.

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 491.

7. DOMINICAN PRIORY OF SS PETER & PAUL

This religious house was founded by Meiler de Bermingham in 1241 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 221) and, according to the Register of Athenry he was buried here after his death in

1252. Orpen (1911-20, iii, 213) has pointed out, however, that Meiler was still alive in 1264 but while the compilers of the Register may have got the date of his death wrong, it is likely that the tradition of his burial in the friary church is correct. Work on the buildings must have commenced rapidly because a monastic chapter was held there in 1242 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 221). William de Burgh (d.1324) helped to enlarge the church and it was rebuilt in the years between 1327 and 1345 (ibid). In 1400 an indulgence was granted for the preservation of the fabric and another was made in 1423 because the buildings had been burned by accident (ibid). In 1445 thirty friars are mentioned as being here when, in the aftermath of a second fire, another indulgence was granted (ibid.). The friary was not dissolved at the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries (1541) because it lay outside of the are of government control and in 1568 the Earl of Clanricarde was informed that he could retain the friary as a burial place (ibid). In 1574, however, it was granted to the town and the friars seem to have stayed on until the end of the sixteenth century being spared in the destruction that followed O'Donnell's capture of Athenry in 1597. By 1622 the Dominicans had been evicted, however, and although they returned to the town during the Confederation period, they did not succeed in recovering the buildings until 1685. They retained them for thirteen years until the general exile of 1698 (ibid., 222). The domestic buildings survived into the eighteenth century and there is a record that the refectory was still standing in 1725, complete with

a bogus inscription ascribing its construction to Cathal Crobhdearg O Conchobair (Grose 1791, i, 61). The buildings were converted into a barracks and although Grose's view shows the church as roofless the tower was still standing when he visited.

Description

The original church would appear to have been an oblong building with an undifferentiated nave and chancel. In 1324 the chancel was extended to the east, the west front was repaired and the north aisle and transept were added. During the fifteenth century a tower (shown on Grose's print) was inserted. Some repairs appear to have occurred in the late seventeenth century when a fourlight east window was inserted and the transept windows were also repaired. The building is 47.3m long.

The Chancel

Only fragments of the cusped tracery of the five-light east window added in 1324 now survived because it was replaced in the seventeenth century by a four-light window with switchback tracery. At the top of the gable is a small lancet window which would have lit the roof-loft. There is a side window in the north and south walls consisting of twin-light trefoil-headed windows. That in the north has a sex-foiled spherical triangle above while that on the south has a multifoiled circle; both are enriched with cusps (Leask

1955-60, ii, 128). Six lancets survive on the north side of the choir and half of another cut away when the transept was constructed. The lancets are all deeply splayed and plain. In the north wall is the remains of a triple arched arcade tomb. On the south of the chancel is the sacristy, a rectangular vaulted chamber with a flat-headed window of three lights in the east wall. It is used as a store for architectural fragments and cut stone.

The Tower

This was probably inserted in the fifteenth century and it survived until at least 1791 when it was illustrated by Grose in his *Antiquities of Ireland*. All that remains are the southern piers which still retain the vault springing, indicating that it had a groined vault. Grose's drawing shows that the tower rose above the nave in two stages. The remains of the stairs giving access to the upper floors of the tower survives externally on the south side about 4m above ground level.

The Nave

Five lancets survive on the south side of the nave and half of a sixth, blocked up by the insertion of the tower. There was a door with a plain pointed arch underneath the westernmost lancet on the south side of the nave.

A half-hexagonal squint, supported on a corbel, projects into the nave on the south side. It was approached by means

of an external stairs. Between the third and fourth lancet from the east is a round-headed niche, of sixteenth century date, which would have accommodated a statue. Below it is a moulded octagonal console supported by the demi-figure of an angel (for a detailed description see Hunt 1974, 148). West of this is a decorative feature consisting of three moulded arches supported on slender columns. East of the statue niche is a similar feature with the addition of three moulded quatrefoil openings inserted in the wall above. The remains of another lie immediately to the east.

In the west wall is a cusped four light window with daggers and mouchettes above, added in the rebuilding of 1324. The lower part of this window was blocked up to construct a ball-alley.

The North Aisle

This was added in the rebuilding that occurred after 1324. An arcade of five bays supported on circular columns with partly octagonal capitals was constructed. The arches of the arcade were chamfered. In the later seventeenth century the piers were enclosed in large rectangular blocks of masonry and the arches were reduced in size. There is a window in the west wall of the aisle and two in its south wall. These are cusped twin-lights with a pointed quatrefoil above (Leask 1955-60, ii, 128).

The North Transept

This had a great four-light window in its north wall, the surviving tracery of which shows that it consisted of spherical triangles, two small and one large, all sex-foiled. The east wall was lit by two cusped twin-light windows, the northernmost example of which is a modern replacement. Underneath the north wall is a blank arcade of eight trefoil-headed arches. Macalister (1913, 209) interpreted this feature as the remains of three "arcade tombs".

The North Transept Aisle

This was added in the rebuilding that occurred after 1324. It is lit by a twin-light cusped window in the west wall and there is a plain pointed door of two orders in the north wall. The aisle was divided from the transept by a continuation of the nave arcade, blocked up in similar fashion in the late seventeenth century to form a cross wall with a single arched opening. Macalister (1913, 203) regarded the entire feature as a porch. In the north wall are two tomb recesses surmounted by twin, cusped, ogee-headed arches separated by a moulded mullion.

Monuments

Coped grave-cover. 13th cent.

Trapezoidal limestone block broken in two. Flat ridge running the length of the gable. A small raised cross decorates the

end panels. Uninscribed. Rynne has plausably suggested that this is the memorial of Meiler de Bermingham.

L. 208; W 52 narrowing to 29; H 34 tapering to 22 cm.

Rynne 1987-8.

Arcade tomb. 13th cent.

In N wall of chancel. Remains of a wall tomb with three ogee-headed arches. The hood moulding at the western end terminated in the head of a bishop but the face is now missing. The Walls slab of 1682 has been inserted into it. Hunt 1974, p. 147: no. 57.

13th-14th cent.

There is a group of five coffin-shaped slabs in the church. These are decorated with fleur-de-lys cross-heads and having fleur-de-lys rising from the stems. Four similar slabs are in the churchyard. All are uninscribed.

Tomb-front. Late 15th/ early 16th cents. Two fragments, one showing an ecclesiastic the other an angel. A third fragment, representing St Dominic, was stolen from the church and is now missing.

Hunt 1974, p. 148, nos. 59, 60, 62.

Gabled tomb. Early 16th cent.

On the N side of the chancel. Much of the canopy tracery has been destroyed and part of the plain tomb chest is broken. The eastern jamb of the tomb is decorated with a Virgin and

Child in a niche with two dolphins above.

Hunt 1974, p. 148: no. 58.

Mariota de Burgo. 1615.

In the chancel. Rectangular slab with the lower end obliquely cut off. Remains of an eight-armed interlaced cross-head with a plaited stem. Marginal Roman inscription:

HIC IACET DNA MARIOTA DE BVRGO FILIA WALTERI ALS DORHANM
BARO PRO CUIUS AIE SPECTARE PRECES FUNDITE 1615

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 494; Macalister 1913, 210 and pl. vii:
no. 2

John Burke. 1627.

In the chancel. Rectangular slab with a stylised fleur-de-lys cross-head entwined with knotwork. At the base of the shaft is a rectangular plaited panel. The cross is flanked by animals and a diamond star-like motif. Marginal Roman inscription:

THIS IS THE TOMB OF ION BVRKE AND OF HIS ANCESTORS AND
KATHREN BVRKE HIS WIFE THE 12 OF 10BER 1627

The words ION BVRKE 1627 appear on a small projection at one end.

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 495; Macalister 1913, 210 and pl. ix:
no. 12.

Grave-slab. 1631.

In the porch. Tapering slab with an interlaced lozenge-shaped head rising from a plaited stem. The slab is also decorated with a triquetra, a tetraskelion, a six-armed cross in circle and a range of blacksmith's tools. Roman inscription: IHS 1631.

Macalister 1913, 212 and pl. vii: no. 4.

Mathew Semper. 1670.

Mural plaque under the westernmost lancet of the chancel.

Roman inscription:

PRAY FOR THE S/OVLE OF MAT/HEW SEMPER W/HOSE SOVLE Y/E
LORD RECEAVE/ 1670

Mems Dead vi (1904-6), 322; Macalister 1913, 212.

Thomas and John Burke. 1676.

Under the sedilla. Roman inscription:

PRAY FOR THE SOVLES OF [THE]/ VERY REVEREND FATHERS/
DOCTOR THOMAS BVKE AND/ FA. IOHN BVRKE WHO CAVSED/ THIS
STONE TO BE MADE FOR/ THEMSELVES AND THE FAMILIE/ OF
MACWALTER 1676

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 491; Macalister 1913, 212.

Brigid and Mary Bermingham. 1677.

Inscribed slab in the chancel:

HERE LYES BRIDGID/ AND MARY BERMING/ HAM DAUGHTERS TO/

EDWARD LORD BARON/ OF ATHANRY AND/ THE LADY MARY BVRK/
HIS WIFE. THEY DYED/ IN THEIR INFANCY IN 1676/ AND 1677

Mems Dead i (1888-91), 365; Macalister 1913, 212.

Thomas Tanian. 1682.

In nave. Cross-slab decorated with a number of smith's tools,
including a bellows, pincers, anvil and horseshoe. Roman
inscription:

FOR THE VSE [OF T]HOMAS TANIAN AND HIS [POSTERITY] 1682

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 496; Macalister 1913, 214 and pl. ix:
no. 13.

Walls. 1682.

Rectangular slab set into the arcade tomb in the chancel. It
is decorated with the Wall coat of arms and bears the Roman
inscription:

THE MISTCALL SENCE OF THE ARMES IN THIS VERSE
POVR HONEVR DE CONQVESTRANT ET VN ILLVSTRE MARQVE DE
GLOR IL VOLEVT Q[V]E LE LION REMPENNT PORTA LE PRIS DE
LEUR VICTOIRE
HERE IS THE ANTIENT SEPVLCHRE OF THE SEPT OF WALLS OF
DROGHTY LAT DEMOLISHED BY CROMELLIANS AND NOW REEDIFIED
BY WALTER WALL FICH PEETER OF THE SAID SEPT FOR HIS OVNE
AND POSTERITIES VSE ANO DOMNI 1682 INSIGNIS HVIVS
FAMILIE CRUX ET LEO ET NOTAT H ... SVS NBILIS ANTIQVVM
RETNIET GENS VALLIA STEMA NAM LEO MAGNANIMAM CV...

Mems Dead vi (1904-6), 321; Macalister 1913, 220-1.

Sir John Burke. 1683.

Mural plaque on the south wall of the chancel. It is decorated with a shield and bears the following Roman inscription in relief:

HERE LYES THE/ BODY OF SIR/ IOHN BVRKE/ OF DERRIMAGH/
LAGNIE/ KNIT DECEASED IN THE/ 36 YEEARE OF HIS AGE/ 1666
THIS TOMB WAS ER/ RECTED FOR HIM AND/ HIS POSTERITIE BY
HIS/ WIDOW AND THE LADIE MAR/ Y BVRKE NOW BARRONESS/ OF
ATHENRY IN 1683

Mems Dead i (1888-91), 365; Macalister 1913, 214-15.

Fynne. 1684.

Slab decorated with a plough-sock and coulter and bearing the marginal inscription:

PRAY FOR THE SOVLES OF HUGH/ THOMAS/ DERMAD AND EDMVND
FYNNE AND/ THIR POSTERITIE 1684

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 493.

Hugh Higgen. 1684.

In the aisle. Rectangular slab decorated with what appears to be a coulter and plough-sock. Marginal inscription in false relief:

[PRAY F]OR THE SOVLES OF HVGH/ HIGENN AND/ NOVLLE CONENN
HIS WIFE/ AND HIS SON/ THOAS HIGENN AND DONELL/ HIGENN

AND/ THEIR POSTERTY 1684.

Mems Dead i (1888-91), 365; Macalister 1913, 215 and fig. 8:
no. 15.

Florence Heyne. 1686.

Fragmentary slab with the Roman inscription:

IHS/ PRAY FOR THE/ SOVLE OF FLOR/ ENCE HEYNE/ WHOE
DEYED/ THE 24 OF MAR/ CH 86 THIS M/ ...

Mems Dead vi (1904-6), 322; Macalister 1913, 215.

Owen Cravan. 1686.

Re-used thirteenth-fourteenth century cross-slab. Roman
inscription in false relief:

FOR THE VSE OF OWEN CRAV[AN] AND CATHERIN MONAGHAN [AND
THIRE] POSTERITY 1686

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 493; Macalister 1913, 215 and pl.
viii: no. 10.

Oliver Browne. 1686.

Rectangular slab in north chapel. It bears a coat of arms
impaling Browne and Lynch and the inscription:

PRAY FOR THE/ SOVLES OF PT/ OLIVER BRO/WNE ESQR OF CVL/
ARAN AND IVLIAN LY/ NCH HIS WIFE WHO EREC/ TED THIS
MONVMENT FOR/ THEM AND THEIR POSTE/ RITY ANO DNI 1686

Mems Dead i (1888-91), 364; Macalister 1913, 215.

Bryn Vaghan. 1686.

Broken coffin-shaped slab in the nave. Inscribed:

PRAY FOR [THE] SOVLE OF BRYN VAGH[AN] 1686

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 493; Macalister 1913, 216-17.

Grany and Higin. 1688.

Cross-slab with the Roman inscription:

PRAY FOR THE SO/ VLE OF ROGER GR/ ANY AND HIS/ WIFE
KATHERIN/ HIGIN AND THE/ IRE POSTERITY/ 1688

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 493.

William Boyne. 1697.

Rectangular slab with the worn inscription in false relief:

PRAY FOR THE SOVLE/ [OF] WILLIAM BOYNE/ AND HIS WIFE
IOCNESE BODAN/ AND SARA MORAN/ AND HIS CHILDREN 1697 IHS
MARIA

Underneath is the depiction of a plough.

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 492; Macalister 1913, 217 and fig. 8:
no. 16.

17th cent.

In the church. Four cross-slabs decorated with what appears to be a coulter and plough-sock on either side of the cross-shaft. All are uninscribed. One was reused as the memorial of the Kennamore family. Macalister regarded the

implements as a knife and bellows.

Macalister 1913, 212, 217-18 and pls. vii: no. 1; viii: nos. 8-9.

17th cent.

In the porch. Coffin-shaped slab decorated in relief with what appears to be a hammer and anvil. Uninscribed.

Macalister 1913, 212 and pl. viii: no. 7.

Cross-shaft

Fragment of a pillar-cross with the Roman inscription: IHS
M[AR] THIS CROSS WAS MADE BY IAMES BACGACH COIL.W...

Mems Dead x (1917-20), pl. opp. p. 324; King 1985, 29.

8. HOSPITAL OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN

This is known from a solitary reference in 1400 when Pope Boniface IX granted an indulgence to the hospital of Athnaracgh for the repair and conservation of the chapel (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 346). It was almost certainly located outside the town and suggestions that there was a leper colony immediately inside the southern wall are based on mistaken assumptions. The normal practice in Anglo-Norman towns was to position the hospital some distance outside the town walls so as to try and contain disease (Bradley 1985, 445).

9. MISCELLANEOUS

Bridge

Immediately south of the town, on the road to Loughrea, is a three arched brodge which may be of late medieval date.

Earthworks

Knox and Redington (1920, 9-10) describe the presence of a series of earthworks immediately outside the town but it is not clear if any of these were of significance. Most are now built over.

10. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. Copper halberd of Breaghwy type. From Athenry, Co. Galway. NMI 1936: 3461. Harbison 1969b, 46: no. 295.
2. Bronze winged axe/ palstave. From Athenry, Co. Galway. Cat. Day Coll. (1913), 30: lot 227.
3. Bronze basal-looped spearhead. From Athenry, Co. Galway. Cat. Day Coll. (1913), 47: lot 331.
- 4-5. Bronze spearhead with lunate openings in the blade and a bronze sword. Both found at Athenry, Co. Galway, prior to 1852. JRSai lxxxxix (1969), 27-30, fig. 3:1 and fig. 5:5.
6. Bronze shield of Late Bronze Age date. Found in an earthen mound or rath together with a large spearhead (now lost) at

Athenry, Co. Galway. BM 1888.7-19.1. JRSAI cxii (1982), 10-17; Eogan 1983, 87-8.

7. Bronze scabbard chape of La Tene style. From Athenry, Co. Galway. BM. 1868.7-9.3. Raftery 1983, 105.

8. Two bronze maceheads of medieval date. From Athenry, Co. Galway. NMI 1881: 216, 225a. Halpin 1988, nos. 1-2.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

The Problems

Athenry has a unique place in archaeological research as the best preserved medieval town in Ireland. The almost complete circuit of walls with the stretch of open ground outside them; the intact ruins of the castle, Dominican Friary and parish church (together with their important collections of medieval and seventeenth century tombs), the market cross, the undisturbed street system together with an appropriate low scale of buildings within the town, all combine to make this the most complete and authentic medieval town in Ireland. It is all the more surprising then that this has not been translated into tourist revenue in the manner which Kilkenny has achieved because Athenry's potential for tourism is very considerable indeed. Accordingly it is vital that any developments in the town should be in harmony with the archaeological character of the town because to tamper with this character is to destroy the potential of the town.

Apart from the remains surviving above ground, however, it is clear that Athenry also possesses archaeological deposits below ground level as the excavations at the Castle and along the line of the town wall have indicated. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that Athenry has been the scene of continuous human occupation from the thirteenth century. Documentary records are relatively few, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge can be obtained. Excavation here 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.

Athenry'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 bridge linking the town with the Dominican Friary but it is likely that the foundation piles survive in the waterlogged deposits beside

the riverbank and in the river itself.

Next to nothing is known about the form of medieval housing in Athenry. The building in the market place with the ogee-headed windows was demolished earlier this century. It is possible that some medieval buildings may be concealed behind the plaster of modern facades and indeed it is desirable that no building within the walled area of the town should be demolished without a quick architectural inspection. It is likely that there were a number of fortified houses within the town, similar to those which still survive in Galway but one would also expect to find timber-framed buildings and structures which were built of both wood and stone. Some of these houses should have left substantial remains of their foundations below ground. 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 Athenry'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.

Athenry is one of a handful of Irish towns which retain substantial portions of its medieval town walls. These need to be maintained, protected and properly presented to the

public. The wanton demolition of sections of the wall, such as that which occurred at tower 5 on the western side of the wall in 1980 is intolerable and results only in the depletion of an asset which has considerable economic, educational and scientific potential. It should be superfluous to have to point out that this is an asset which Ireland happens to be very poor in and that by retaining its wall Athenry has the opportunity of presenting itself as a "real" medieval town to the visiting public. Ideally the fosse should be excavated, the wall maintained (and perhaps partly reconstructed) and a walkway established around the outside. It needs to be remembered, however, that our knowledge of the historic and architectural development of the walls is slight and that there is a need for excavation to reveal the true story of the construction of the town defences. Athenry's great asset is the fact that there is an area of open space in front of the walls and no buildings of any description should be permitted here. A green belt or cordon should be maintained around the walls so that their full potential can be exploited. It is desirable to remove the industrial complex which disfigures the prospect of the walls on the south and relocate it elsewhere.

The Castle and Dominican Friary are national monuments in state care and the structure of both survives in very good condition. Plans are afoot to roof the castle and restore it and this will increase tourist interest in the town. The North Gate is in good condition but it is desirable to have some easy means of access to the chamber above the entrance

passage. St Mary's parish church is in poor condition and unless something is done soon to the decaying remains of the nave and transepts some parts of the building seem likely to collapse. The churchyard, also, is overgrown and needs to be properly maintained. Only a fragment of the market cross survives and in its present state conveys little information to the non-specialist viewer. It should be a relatively inexpensive task to restore this feature.

Archaeological Potential

Archaeology does not consist solely of excavation nor does it stop at ground level. The archaeological evidence for Athenry's past comprises all the physical remains of man's activities on the site of the town, from its first use as a monastery to the present day. The surviving street pattern, property boundaries and standing buildings constitute the uppermost levels of the archaeological stratigraphy, and all are relevant to the study of the town's past. Documentary evidence also plays a role in reconstructing the history of early Athenry, but for the wide range of human activity omitted from the written accounts and for the early periods without documentation archaeology is our only source of information. The evidence of archaeology and topography, of architecture and of documents, is complementary; each gains from the existence of the others and the unrecorded destruction of one form of evidence not only removes part of a town's archive but also diminishes the usefulness of those which are preserved.

This survey of its archaeology indicates that Athenry has been the scene of continuous occupation since the thirteenth century. A number of impressive medieval buildings survive within the town and archaeological deposits are likely to exist over the area enclosed by the walls. Accordingly there is the strong likelihood of recovering by archaeological excavation the remains of house foundations, refuse pits, industrial areas, and workshops.

ARCHAEOLOGY, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

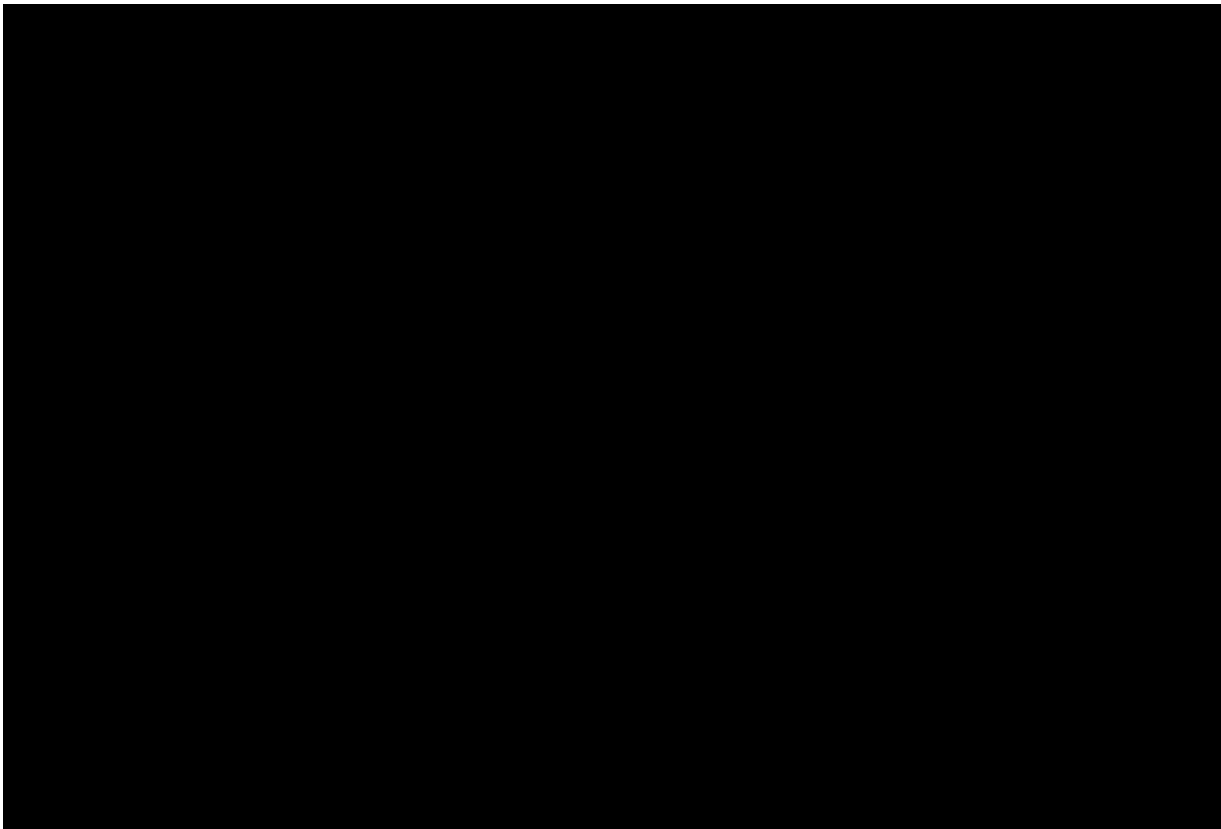
It is evident from the foregoing that archaeology is an important means of learning about Athenry's past and of understanding the character and detailed form of the town today. This is more than just an academic pursuit because without an appreciation of the factors which have shaped the town's present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

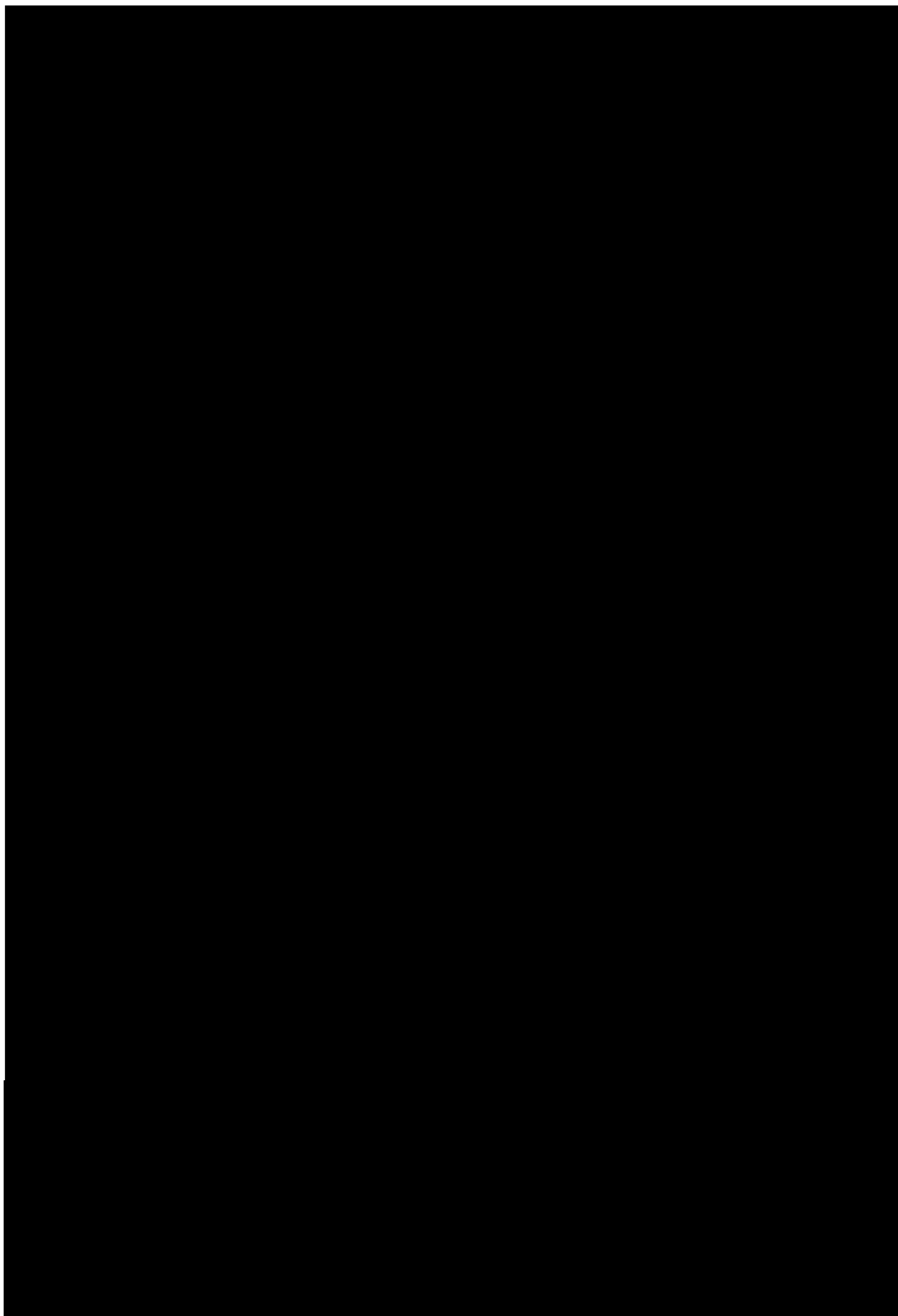
The protection of buried archaeological evidence presents serious problems for not only is there the pressure of redevelopment and the high value of urban properties with which to contend, but the sites themselves are often difficult to define or evaluate; their full archaeological potential may only become apparent when an excavation is undertaken in advance of development or by observations made 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 Athenry'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.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern Athenry. This shaded area is based on the surviving extent of the town walls and it has been continued outside the walls slightly in order to allow for the fosse.





[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CLAREGALWAY

Claregalway is a deserted medieval borough situated on the main road between Galway (6 miles) and Tuam (14 miles) situated at a fording point on the river Clare.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Claregalway does not appear in documentary sources until after the Anglo-Norman invasion and it is likely that they were attracted to it by its strategic position on the River Clare. John de Cogan, head of the Anglo-Norman family which had invaded Cork and established themselves there, took part in Richard de Burgh's Connacht campaign of 1235. He was rewarded with the southern part of the barony of Clare and it was at Claregalway itself that he established his principal manor. In 1252 he was granted the right to hold a weekly Saturday market and an annual fair there (Sweetman 1875-86, ii, no. 121). It is likely that the borough was also established around this time although it is only first referred to in 1307 (Graham 1978, 42). The early foundation date for the borough, however, is suggested by the fact that the Franciscan Friary was established by c.1252 and perhaps, if the architectural evidence can be relied on, even earlier (see below). The subsequent history of the borough is unknown but the absence of references to it suggests that it was

probably abandoned when the Anglo-Norman colony began to come under pressure in the fourteenth century. The friary was to survive until after the Reformation, however, and the lands of Claregalway were eventually to pass into the hands of the Clanricard Burkes.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. CASTLE
3. PARISH CHURCH
4. FRANCISCAN FRIARY
5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FIND

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

The borough was almost certainly centred on nexus formed by the parish church, friary, castle and fording point. In view of general comparative work elsewhere in Ireland it is likely that the settlement concentrated in the vicinity of the parish church on the south side of the River Clare. Its precise extent, however, is unknown.

2. CASTLE

This late fifteenth century structure was one of the strongholds of the Clanricarde Burkes. It was captured in 1538 by the lord deputy Edward Grey. In 1642 it was

garrisoned by the earl of Clanricard and it was here that he recieved the proposals for the surrender of Galway. It was captured by the Confederates in 1643 and held until it was recaptured by Parliamentary troops under Sir Charles Coote in 1651 (Nolan 1900-1).

A four-storied tower house of late fifteenth century date with part of the bawn still intact. The structure is a larger than usual tower house and has a prominent base batter. It is entered at ground floor through a pointed door in the south wall. This gives access to a short passage with a small guard-chamber on the west and a spiral stairs on the east. There is a murder hole above and the entrance door was protected by a portcullis worked from a small chamber on the first floor. The rectangular ground floor chamber is lit by five windows.

The first floor chamber has a fireplace in its west wall while on the east side is a mural passage; there is a small portcullis chamber at the south end and also a garderobe chamber. The second floor chamber a fireplace and garderobe chamber and it is roofed with a pointed vault. The third floor is heavily overgrown with ivy and bushes. There is a large pointed twin-light mullioned window in each wall. A stairs gives access to the parapet level only the base of which survives.

3. PARISH CHURCH

Three walls (N, E and S) survive of an undifferentiated nave and chancel church of medieval date within the graveyard on the south side of the river. No monuments of pre-1700 date were located.

4. FRANCISCAN FRIARY

This was founded c.1252 by the first John de Cogan (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 245). An indulgence was granted in 1291 to penitents visiting the church and in 1296 the pontificalia of the bishop of Annaghdown was stolen from the church (ibid.). After the dissolution the friary was granted to Richard de Burgo in 1570 but friars seem to have remained in its vicinity until Richard Bingham converted the buildings into a barracks c.1589. The chapel remained in use until the nineteenth century (ibid., 246).

The extensive remains consist of the largely thirteenth century church, a north aisle added in the fourteenth century and a cloister constructed in the fifteenth century. Leask (1955-60, ii, 94) regarded the building as dating, on architectural grounds, to c.1240 and it may be that the foundation date is earlier than the documentary sources suggest. An outline plan has been published in JRSAI xxxi (1901), p. 329.

The church is on the north side of the cloister and is divided by the inserted belfry into a nave and chancel. The

chancel is lit by a run of six (originally seven) widely spaced lancets on the north and south. The east gable was originally lit by three lancets, replaced in the fifteenth century by a pointed five-light window with switch-back tracery.

The belfry rises above the church roof in three stages, each marked externally by string courses, and is lit at the belfry stage by pointed twin-light windows in the east and west walls.

The nave is plain except for a series of short lancets overlooking the cloister. The west gable has collapsed but Grose's (1791, i, pl. opp. p. 63) view shows that it was originally lit by two tall lancet windows replaced in the fifteenth century by a traceried window. The remains of the north aisle survive with an arcade of four pointed and chamfered arches rising from cylindrical pillars with simple moulded capitals. At the east end of the aisle is a chapel which may have functioned as a transept

The east range of the cloister is the best preserved. Traces of the chapter room survive and it is evident that the dormitories were situated at first floor level of this range. The site of the kitchen and refectory is on the south side of the range. To the south of the cloister are the detached remains of the monastic mill with its water-channel.

Monuments

The majority of the monuments at this friary are of seventeenth century date but in addition to those described in detail here there are also at least five uninscribed cross-slabs of thirteenth/ fourteenth century date. These are a further indication of the wealth of the early borough.

Tomb niche. c.1400.

A canopied niche in the N wall of the chancel. It is supported on short half-columns with moulded capitals having small heads facing into the chancel. The inner order of the arch is cusped. There are indications of the presence of further tracery, finials and crockets above. Set into the niche is a mural plaque to Thomas de Burgo dated 1646.

Thomas de Burgo. 1646.

Mural plaque in tomb niche on the N wall of the chancel. It bears the Burke coat of arms with the Roman inscription below:

HVNC LOCVM: SIBI: ELEGIT: D THO/ DE BVRGO DE ANBALLY:
FILIVS/ RIKARD DE DEREMACLAGHNI/ AN: DNI 1648

L. 89. W. 57 cm

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 76, 130; x (1917-20), 65.

Charles Garaghane. 1676.

Rectangular mural slab in the E wall of the north transept:

LAVDETVR SANCTISSIMVM SACRAMENTVM IHS

PRAY FOR THE SOVLE OF/ FATHER CHARLES GARAG/HANE PARISH
PRIEST OF/ KILLMACREAN WHO CAVSED/ THIS STONE TO BE MADE
IN/ OCTO: ANNO DOMINI 1676

L. 184; W. 82; T. 11 cm.

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 75-6. x (1917-20), 72.

Quely. 1676.

Mural plaque on the north wall of the chancel to the west of
the tomb niche. Decorated with a chalice and wafer above:

IHS CHRISTE FILI DEI VIVI/ MISERERE NOBIS
ONE AVE MARIA FOR THE/ SOVLES OF THE REVEREND/ FATHERS
GYLDAS BRVOD=/ ER AND LAGHLEN QVELY/ WHO ERECTED THIS
TOMB/ FOR THEMSELVES IN/ OCTOBER ANNO DOMINI/ 1676

L. 130; W. 76; Available T. 8.5 cm

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 76; x (1917-20), 66.

Fiaghy Burke. 1683.

Slab beneath the piscina and sedilla on the floor of the
chancel, adjacent to the S wall and facing W:

PRAY FOR THE SOVL/ OF FIAGHY BVRKE/ AND ALL HIS WHOLE/
POSTERITIE WHO DI/ RECTED THS TOMB/ IN THE YEARE/ 1683

L. 119. W. 97 cm

Mems Dead x (1917-20), 67.

Leoghelly and Burke. 1685.

Rectangular slab in chancel:

PRAY FOR THE/ SOVLES OF MO/ RTAGH LEOGHEL/ LY AND HIS
WIFE/ MARY BVRKE/ XIII/ IVN 1685

L. 176. W. 51. T. 14 cm

Mems Dead x (1917-20), 67.

Sidy and Fahy. 1688.

Broken slab on the floor of the nave:

PRAY FOR THE SOVLES OF/ WILLIAM [SIDY AND] HIS WIFE/
ONORA FAHE AND THEIR/ POSTER[ITIE 1688]

L. 105. W. 94. T. 10 cm.

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 75; x (1917-20), 83.

Munighan and Fahy. 1696.

Wedge-shaped, bevelled slab on the floor of the chancel.

Decorated with a plough:

PRAY FOR THE SOVLE OF DANIEL MVNIGH/ AN AND HIS WIFE
IOAN FAHY AND HIS SON/ HVGH MVNIGHAN 1696 IHS

L. 150. W (at top) 43 tapering to 31 at base. T. 16 cm.

Mems Dead x (1917-20), 69.

Slab. 1696.

Rectangular slab in the nave decorated with a butcher's knife
and a chopping block. Marginal inscription:

PRAY FOR THE SOVLES OF WALTER/ LANG AND/ HIS WIFE SARA
GAVNA/ R I [P]/ 1696

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 74; x (1917-20), 76.

McCathe and Kien. 17th cent.

Immediately north of the central cloister column. Decorated with a plough and a small cross at the top of the slab:

PRAY FOR THE SOVLE/ OF HVGH MCCATHE/ IVNE KIEN HIS WI/
FE AND/ THEIRE SON & THEIR/ POSTERITY

L. 182. W. 76. T. 15 cm

Fragmentary cross-slab. 17th cent.

Broken slab on the ground along the south wall of the nave. Decorated with a cross in relief:

PRAY FOR .../ VLES OF / ALY AND .../ ...A..

L. 71. W. 61. T. 11 cm.

Fragmentary slab. 17th cent.

Lower half of a rectangular slab, decorated with a cross in relief, just inside the doorway from the belfry to the N aisle chapel:

...THEIR CH ... IL ..

Slab. 17th cent.

Later reused in 1867 when a new inscription was cut across the earlier one:

PRAY FO[R THE] SOVLS/ OF IAM[ES] & MAT/ THEW ...

L. 192. W. 84 cm.

Slab. 17th cent.

On floor of N aisle chapel. Reused in 1869:

[PRAY] FOR THE SOVLES/ [OF] IOHN LYNCH & .../ BR ...
LYNCH ... WHOSE/ ...N LYE HERE

L. 165. W. 69 cm.

Slab. Late 17th cent.

Adjacent to, and east of, the cloister column nearest the tower. The top is decorated with a small cross:

PRAY FOR OF/ DANI ...

L. 172. W. 79. T. 15 cm.

In addition to the above there are four slabs of seventeenth century date with inscriptions almost completely worn away and on which only isolated letters can now be determined.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FIND

Iron key. Found in digging a grave at the Franciscan Friary.
NMI 1965:37.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Claregalway is an example of a deserted medieval borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it has

been the scene of human occupation from the thirteenth until the seventeenth centuries. 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. 5) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Claregalway. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DUNMORE

The modern village takes its name from the great fort constructed here by Toirdealbach O Conchobair, high king of Ireland between 1118 and 1156 as part of his policy of encastellating Connacht. It was here that Toirdealbach died and his fortress was attacked and burnt two years later in 1158 (Misc. Ir. A). From this reference it has been concluded that the fortress was built of timber. Recent interpretation suggests that the great earthwork underneath the thirteenth century castle, regarded by previous scholars as a motte, is in fact the remains of Turlough O Conchobair's earthwork castle (Graham 1988, 115). This conclusion has much to commend it but it is unusual that the Anglo-Norman borough was sited so far away from the castle.

The suggestion that there was an early Patrician church at Dunmore is the result of confusing the site with Donaghpatrick, Co. Galway (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 380). There is no evidence for the existence of a pre-Norman ecclesiastical site here.

After the Anglo-Norman conquest of Connacht the barony of Dunmore was granted by Richard de Burgh to Piers de Bermingham (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 211). De Bermingham died in 1254 and it seems that his descendants remained connected with their ancestral lands at Tethmoy in Offaly rather than with Dunmore. John de Bermingham, who was created earl of

Louth for his defeat of Edward Bruce, inherited Dunmore and despite the fact that he died without male heirs in 1329 Dunmore seems to have remained in the Bermingham family until the time of the Cromwellian transplantations.

Very little is known of the borough established by de Bermingham at Dunmore. It was burned by the sons of the king of Connacht in 1249 (AC) and it is known that it recieved a grant in aid of constructing a defensive wall in 1280 (36 RDKPRI, 47). Indeed, in the absence of this latter reference the very existence of the borough would remain unknown. The subsequent history of the settlement is unclear. The fact that the Augustinian friary was established in 1425 suggests that the borough continued to exist into the fifteenth century and the present village is presumably its descendant.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. BOROUGH DEFENCES
3. CASTLE
4. ST NICHOLAS' PARISH CHURCH
5. AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY
6. MISCELLANEOUS
7. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

The conjunction of the medieval parish church and Augustinian Friary indicates that the medieval borough was concentrated in the vicinity of the present village rather than Dunmore Castle. It is presumably the presence of the ford which was the influential factor in siting the town at this point rather than at the castle. In view of the mendicant preference to locate friaries outside built-up areas it may be that the borough was concentrated on the north side of the River Sinking.

2. BOROUGH DEFENCES

In 1280 the borough received a grant in aid of enclosing the settlement with walls (36 RDKPRI, p. 47). Nothing survives of the defences constructed at this time, however, nor can their outline be traced. It seems likely that the defences consisted of earth and timber ramparts rather than a stone wall.

3. CASTLE

Located almost one mile to the west of the borough this consists of two features, a great raised earthen mound and the stone castle constructed on top of it. The castle was probably burned in the attack on Dunmore by the sons of the king of Connacht in 1249 (AC), and again in 1284 by Fiachra O Flainn (AC) and by Rory O'Connor in 1315. Little is known of

the structure during the latter middle ages. It was captured by Sir Henry Sidney in 1569 but it remained in de Bermingham hands until Cromwellian times and it was inhabited until the nineteenth century.

The remains consist of a rectangular keep set within a raised upper ward (the pre-Norman O Conchobair fortification) which is cut off by a roadway from the rectangular lower ward and bailey. The whole was surrounded by a curtain wall of which some traces remain as well as part of what appears to be a gatehouse. The keep is a thirteenth century structure of four stories. It is similar in plan to Athenry Castle having its great hall on the first floor and also having alterations in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries on the upper floor when the walls were heightened and mullioned windows were added. See JRSAI 1911, p. 305.

Henry (1970, 30) noted "traces of a vast fortification" in the vicinity of the castle with the remains of a rath and of two round stone platforms, perhaps bases of wooden towers. She added that the ridge from one side to the other seems to have been fortified.

4. ST NICHOLAS' PARISH CHURCH

This site marked "Abbey (in ruins)" on the OS plan is located on Chapel Street on the north side of the village. No trace of the "ruins" now survives and the churchyard is quite overgrown.

5. AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY

This was founded in 1425 by Walter Mor de Bermingham (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 299). In 1430 indulgences were granted to those helping to build and furnish the church. It was suppressed at the dissolution because of the intercession of Lord Bermingham who stated that it was but a poor monastery amongst the Irishrie without profit or lands. The buildings were leased out in 1569 but the friars remained in the district until 1809 when they moved to Athlone (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 299).

The remains consist of a fifteenth century nave and chancel church divided by a tower. Its principal feature is a perpendicular west doorway with the Bermingham coat of arms in a rectangular panel to one side above. The inscription on the panel (which is not entirely readable) names Gaulterius de Bremwyham (d. 1428) but it may be nothing more than a memorial since the door appears to be later in date than 1428 (Leask 1955-60, iii, 76). The door is decorated with three shallow orders which have fluted chamfers and moulded capitals. The side pinnacles and that at the centre of the ogee-hood terminate in poppyheads. The chancel was used for a long time as the parish church.

Memorials

There is a fifteenth century slab in the west wall and portion of a possible medieval slab in the chancel.

Grave-slab. 1691.

Recumbent slab in the centre of the church with the Roman inscription:

HERE LYETH TH/ E BODY OF ANN/ N..XDOE WHO/ DEPARTED
THIS/ LIFE XRE THE 12/ ANNO DNI 1691/ ... H THE/ SO...S
MVX/ OE...ANO/ D / PS

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Old Road

There is a right of way along the south bank of Sinking River, representing the old road into the town. Immediately west of the abbey is a lane which joins this at the river edge where there is also a dry ford.

"Mote"

This feature, east of the remains of the Augustinian Friary seems to be the remains of a barrow. It is small and irregular in shape but it tending towards being a conical mound. A hollow way leading up to it from the SE. The north side is formed by a scarp, the south by a bank.

7. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

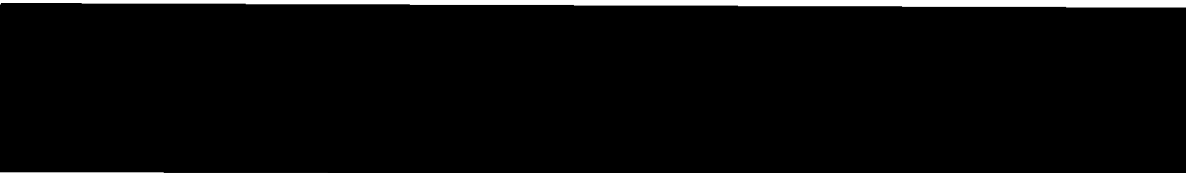

1. Stone axehead. From Dunmore, Co. Galway. NMI 1930:73.
2. Bronze spearhead. From Dunmore. Galway Museum.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Dunmore is a good example of an Anglo-Norman borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it has been the scene of human occupation from the twelfth until the seventeenth centuries. The site of the castle is a particularly interesting one because excavation here would enable one to study the nature of the transition from pre-Norman Irish fortress to the Anglo-Norman castle. 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. 6) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Dunmore. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

GALWAY

The town lies at the mouth of the River Corrib which opens into one of the finest natural harbours on the west coast of Ireland. It is situated on a neck of land between Lough Corrib and the sea and this "land-bridge" is still the major communications route between Iar Connacht and the east of Ireland. The medieval town was hemmed in by the river and the sea and dominated by the rising ground of two ridges to the east, and also by Fort Hill, the site of an early seventeenth century bastioned fort. "All in all, the town of Galway was, from a military point of view, badly sited" (Walsh 1981, 3).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The first reference to Galway occurs in 1124 when the annals record that the Connachta erected a castle at Bun Gaillimh (AFM; AI). This fortification was part of the deliberate encastelation of his lands which Toirdealbach Ua Conchobair pursued in the second quarter of the twelfth century and it shows that Galway's strategic position was already recognised. The castle was burnt in 1132 by a fleet of Munstermen (AFM) but it was rebuilt to be burnt again in 1149 by Toirdealbach O Briain (AFM). The presence of a settlement in the vicinity of this castle is suggested by the entry of 1154 which states that the fleet of Dun Gaillimh was

among those which Toirdealbach Ua Conchobhair led northwards to plunder Tir Conaill and Inis Eoghain (AFM). The castle was burnt in 1161 and again in 1170, references which suggest that this structure was of timber. The castle was destroyed in 1177 in order to prevent it falling into the hands of Milo de Cogan (AFM; ALC; AU).

Richard de Burgh commenced his invasion of Connacht in the years after the death of Cathal Crobhdearg and in 1230 he captured Galway and erected a new and improved fortification on the site of the old one (AFM). This Anglo-Norman castle did not last long, however, and was demolished in 1233 by Felimid O'Conchobair. The castle was rebuilt the following year and despite the occasional destruction by fire it subsequently remained firmly under the control of the de Burghs. The first annalistic reference to the Anglo-Norman town occurs in 1247 when the Connachtmen burned the town and castle and slew many of its inhabitants (AFM; ALC; A. Conn). It was burnt once more c.1266-7 (Hardiman 1820, 49: n. y)

It is probably to Walter de Burgh, created earl of Ulster about 1263 (Otway-Ruthven 1968, 191, 196) that the credit belongs of having taken seriously in hand the building of the town. The main evidence for this comes from the fact that murage is known to have been collected between 1272 and 1280 (Hardiman 1820, 49-50; 36 RDKPRI, 47-8). Details are given of the cost of burning lime, procuring tools, and paying wages to tradesmen and labourers engaged on making walls towards the sea, constructing a tower beyond the great gate and

rendering other improvements in the defences of Galway (O'Sullivan 1942, 16). Evidence that murage went on being collected is indicated by a notice of 1298 that Robert Bayon, the collector of Galway's murage, was in arrears with his account (Sweetman 1875-86, iv, no. 550). By the end of the thirteenth century the town probably contained between 150 and 180 burgages for which it returned £9 yearly to the lord of the town.

It was not until the fourteenth century that Galway became noteworthy at all; indeed it was only when, at the end of that period and throughout the fifteenth century, it cultivated the Spanish wine trade that it acquired any great commercial prestige. It is very significant, for instance, that the town does not appear on the series of portolan maps of Ireland, issued in Italy, in the fourteenth century. Aran, however, does and it is possible that at this early period it may have functioned as the port of Galway (O'Sullivan 1942, 24). In 1275-6 Galway yielded £21, compared to New Ross' £743 in customs dues (ibid., 26); nonetheless it was the highest on the west coast. It was not until about 1350, when a rapid development took place, that the port acquired any commercial prestige. Progress after that was remarkable and in spite of some setbacks, by 1386 the customs dues had reached £200 (ibid., 26). O'Sullivan (1942, 29) attributed this growth in the town's wealth to the wool trade but the growing importance of the fish trade is another possible factor (O'Neill 1987). In 1396 the town was given a charter by Richard II which effectively removed it from de Burgh

control. the provost and burgesses were to yearly elect a sovereign from among themselves and they were to enjoy all of the privileges used in the town of Drogheda. This grant was followed by in November 1396 by a grant of perpetual murage and pavage, and the town's new status was confirmed in 1402 by Henry IV.

Galway's importance in the fifteenth century is reflected in the foundation of a mint (O'Sullivan 1942, 45) but in 1473 the town was almost completely destroyed in a fire which broke out as a result of lightning (A. Conn). In 1484 Richard III gave Galway a new charter allowing it to elect a mayor and bailiffs, giving it almost autonomous control over its own affairs (Hardiman 1820, app. xx). In 1485 the wardenship of Galway was established giving the town effective ecclesiastical independence as well (Coen 1984, 1-7). Previously the parish of St Nicholas had been dependent on the Cistercian abbey of Knockmoy

The first half of the sixteenth century is generally seen as Galway's finest hour (Longfield 1929, 31; O'Sullivan 1942, 66, 77; Walsh 1981, 49). A relative period of peace seems to have followed on the defeat of Clanrickard Burke at Knockdoe in 1504 and it lasted well into the middle of the century. In 1548 the Dublin Government became interested in the defence of Galway, probably because of its well established trade with France and Spain and an instruction was sent by St Leger, the lord deputy, that the corporation should ensure that the town was defended (Walsh 1981, 50). In 1558 the town

was visited by the lord deputy, in person (Cal Carew Mss 1515-74, 277).

An Italian traveller visited Galway in 1568 and is known only from an incidental reference in the seventeenth century account of Galway (TCD Ms 886, fol. 19, quoted here from Walsh 1981, 54: n. 98):

"Dominick French, being mayor came on an Italian traveller to this town of Gallway who observing the scituation of the said town, the cut and manner of building, and he being at mass in some house or other in the first year of the Suppression who observing the Sacrament as he was sitting at a window and boats coming and going on the river, and on the other side a ship comeing with full sails, a salmon kill'd with a lance or spear & saw hunters chasing a deer, observing these things, alone, instantly said in goodfaith, I travelled the best part of Christendom, & never saw such a sight as this is".

The Dublin government took a more active interest in Galway, particularly in the light of the Spanish landing at Dingle in 1579, and in that year it placed a garrison of 100 soldiers in the town and another similar sized garrison at Athenry (Cal. Carew Mss. 1575-88, 167-8). Due to conflicts between the garrison and the citizens it was decided in 1582 to build a citadel overlooking the town (O'Sullivan 1934-5, 9). It was in connection with this decision that the earliest maps of Galway were drawn up, those of Barnaby Gooche and John Brown

(O'Sullivan 1942, pls. opp. pp. 116, 117).

Throughout the upheavals of the late sixteenth century the town solidly supported the Dublin government. O'Donnell arrived at Galway in January 1597 but the citizens had closed their gates to him and he burned part of the east suburbs before departing (AFM). The upset caused by O'Donnell's raid was such that the Corporation had to send factors to England to obtain food ((CSPI 1598-9, 56). In 1610 the town was erected into a county and at the same time proposals were put forward to improve the quays and harbour. The 1630s were a period of active urban expansion. The green outside the east gate was enclosed in 1630, the highway to Castlegar was completed and work at Wood Quay and the Great Gate completed, while the main street from the gate to the cross was paved.

In 1641 the town declared itself for the king but the commander of the fort, Captain Willoughby was loyal to parliament. Squabbles broke out between the townspeople and the garrison and the townspeople ended up besieging the fort, building earthworks on its east side and raising a battery against it. In May 1642, however, the townspeople gave up the siege (Walsh 1981, 80-1). In November 1642 the size of the garrison was increased and some new outworks were added to the fort (Walsh 1981, 83). Eventually the fort became estranged from the people who were falling increasingly under the influence of the clerical party within the Confederacy. In May 1643 the fort was again besieged (Hardiman 1820, 118-21) and this time they were successful. Subsequently the

fort was pulled down and levelled (Moran 1874, i, 290).

In July 1651 the town was beseiged by a Parliamentary army under Coote. Embassies were sent to the duke of Lorraine, seeking for help but this was not forthcoming and in April 1652 the town surrendered. The corporation was deposed in 1654 in favour of the "English and Protestant" and by the end of the following year all the "Irish and other Popish inhabitants" were cleared from the town "that the better accomodation may be made for such English Protestants" (Dunlop 1913, ii, 546-7). The projected settlers from Gloucester and Liverpool did not come, however, and the town seems to have been largely left to decay.

In 1686 James II decreed that Catholics should be admitted as freemen of the town and by the end of the year they were in the majority and elected a Catholic, James Kirwan, as mayor. On Galway's surrender to the Williamite forces in 1691 large numbers of natives left the town and thereafter Catholics were excluded from positions in the Corporation. The last decade of the seventeenth century was effectively a period of military occupation in the town and it was not until the close of the eighteenth century that the town began to expand significantly beyond its medieval bounds.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACE
3. BRIDGES
4. QUAYS & PORT
5. DOMESTIC HOUSES
6. CIVIC BUILDINGS
7. MILLS
MARTIN'S MILL
8. TOWN DEFENCES
9. CASTLE
10. FORTS & CITADELS
BOLLINGBROOK FORT

CITADEL
EAST or UPPER CITADEL (CROMWELLIAN)
MUTTON ISLAND

- RENMORE
RINTINNANE
ST AUGUSTINE'S FORT
WEST CITADEL (CROMWELLIAN)
WEST FORT
11. ST NICHOLAS' PARISH CHURCH
COLLEGE
 12. AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY
 13. CARMELITE FRIARY
 14. DOMINICAN PRIORY
 15. FRANCISCAN FRIARY
 16. FRANCISCAN NUNNERY
 17. HOSPITAL OF ST BRIGID
 18. HOSPITAL OF ST MARY
 19. MISCELLANEOUS
 20. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN

From documentary references in the fifteenth century it is clear that the principal street pattern of Galway was already in place. But in view of comparative work elsewhere on Anglo-Norman towns it is likely that this street pattern dates to the foundation of the town in the thirteenth century (Bradley 1985). Although technically Galway's street pattern is of chequer plan its principal component is the Y-axis

formed by Shop St, High St, Quay St and Shop St, Main Guard St, Bridge St. This forked street-plan is evidenced in the fifteenth century when references occur to the street "leading westward from the great gate" which branched in two: one street leading to the western "great bridge" and the other to the quays at the SW end of the town (Walsh 1981, 41; Blake 1902, 23). The eastern section of this main street occupies the highest ground in the town and was known as the High Street. St Augustine Sreet (New Tower Street) is first referred to in 1424 (Blake 1902, i, 22) and it can only be assumed that the other principal streets of the town, Middle St, Market St, Lombard St, Cross St, etc. were in existence at the same time.

The foundation of the Franciscan Friary on St. Stephen's Island in 1296 must have generated a road leading to it which probably increased the importance of the town's N-S streets.

Galway is fortunate in the number of early town maps which assist in establishing the appearance of the medieval and seventeenth century town. In particular these include the Barnaby Goche map of 1683 (reproduced in O'Sullivan 1942, opp. p. 116), the Speed map of 1610 (reproduced in Hardiman 1820, opp. p. 22), a map of 1625 (reproduced in O'Sullivan 1942, opp. p. 214) and the Pictorial map of 1651 (a version of which is reproduced in Hardiman 1820, opp. p. 30).

Although much of the Pictorial map is clearly influenced by the symbolism of the numbers 7 and 14, its graphic detail is of considerable use in reconstructing the appearance of the

town in the mid seventeenth century.

2. MARKET PLACES

The principal medieval market-place was located at the junction of Shop Street with High Street and Main Guard Street. The Pictorial map (and others) shows the presence here of a Latin market cross on steps.

The Pictorial map indicates the presence of seven markets: one at the junction of Market Street and Upper Abbeygate Street for freshwater fish; the Shambles (meat market) at the western end of Main Guard Street; the Cow Market at the junction of St Augustine Street with Lower Abbeygate Street; the Horse market on Spanish Parade; the fish market at the junction of Cross Street Lower and Flood Street; the little market in Cross Street; and the Corn Market immediately north of the market cross.

The pictorial map also shows a cross outside the walls on the north side of Eyre Square and it is possible that an extra-mural market may have existed here.

3. BRIDGES

The strategic significance of Galway lay in its position as a crossing point of the Corrib and it is likely that a bridge was an early feature of the town. These early bridges may have been timber structures and according to Hardiman

(1820, 297) the first stone bridge was not constructed until 1342. It is referred to as the "Great Bridge" in a document of early fifteenth century date (Walsh 1981, 41; Blake 1902, 23) and in the account of Galway by Richard Bellings (1641) he describes the Corrib as passing "by the westerne walles of the towne, under a bridge of stone into the sea" (Gilbert 1882-91, i, 96). The Pictorial map shows it as having nine arches and it was formidably defended with three gates. The gate and tower at the western end were constructed by Thomas Martin in 1558 (Hardiman 1820, 297). The bridge was located on the site of the present William O'Brien Bridge.

On the northwestern side of the town, just outside the site of Abbeygate, the Pictorial map shows a small bridge across a channel of the river linking the gate with Mary Street. The Pictorial map also shows a small bridge linking the Bridge Mills and the Franciscan Friary with the town. It was located northwest of Mary Street in the building block marked "Woolen Factory" on the OS map.

4. PORT & QUAYS

Galway's natural harbour gave it an importance as a port from its foundation and it is probably true to say that it has always been the most important port on the western seaboard of Ireland. An account of 1602 states that ships of 60 tons could come into the port while ships of 500 tons could reach Mutton Island (Jones 1950-1, 10).

The quays were located in the modern Fish Market immediately NW of the "Spanish Arch", between it and Wolfe Tone Bridge. The pictorial map shows two harbours and three jetties in this position.

5. DOMESTIC HOUSES

In the later middle ages and into the seventeenth century Galway was ruled by an oligarchy, a series of families known as the "tribes" who between them effectively managed every important position of church and state. These were the families of Athy, Blake, Bodkin, Brown, Deane, Darcy, Font, French, Joyce, Kirwan, Lynch, Martin, Morris, and Skerrett (O'Sullivan 1942, 17). As an example of the grip of such families on positions of power it is often pointed out that the Lynchs gave 84 mayors to the city between 1485 and 1654 (ibid., 18). The wealth which these families generated through mercantile activity with Britain and the continent was reflected in the splendour of their domestic housing.

More fragments of late medieval and seventeenth century dwellings survive in Galway than in any other Irish town. These range in scale from entire houses such as Lynch's Castle to moulded window heads and fireplaces. The sheer numbers of these testify to the great wealth of the city in the seventeenth century. Although some of these buildings were effectively small Renaissance palaces late medieval fortified houses continued in use as Lynch's Castle indicates (see for instance Fynes Morrison's Itinerary, (1908 ed.) iii,

316).

The remains of houses within the city and the structural parts derived from them form a considerable inventory. In view of the fact that these have been comprehensively catalogued by Higgins for the Galway Heritage Survey it is not proposed to repeat the list here. The position of the surviving town house fragments has also been shown by Paul Walsh on his annotated Pictorial Map of Mid-17th Century Galway (Galway 1984).

It may be observed, however, that while a great deal is known about the size and nature of late sixteenth and seventeenth century dwellings in Galway, nothing at all is known about housing in the city between the thirteenth and early sixteenth centuries.

6. CIVIC BUILDINGS

Old Tholsel and Gaol

This is shown on the Pictorial map at the western end of Main Guard Street, jutting out into the street itself. According to the key to the map the gaol was located below the Tholsel. In 1686 the gaol was relocated in the former fortified town house of the Blake family (Hardiman 1820, 302), immediately north of Bridge Street (Ell on Walsh's edition of the Pictorial Map).

New Tholsel

This is shown on the Pictorial map at the SE side of St Nicholas' Churchyard fronting onto Shop Street. It was commenced in 1641 but its completion was delayed by the Confederate wars and it is depicted on the map as incomplete. It was completed during the early eighteenth century (Hardiman 1820, 298-9).

The Exchange

This was an open area where, according to Hardiman (1820, 299n) the merchants gathered to discuss commercial concerns. It is shown on the Pictorial map as a chequered pavement immediately southeast of the "Spanish Arch".

7. MILLS

Martin's Mill

So labelled on the 1625 map. The pictorial map describes it as "the third [gate] which is nearest the city".

In 1558 Thomas Martin received the grant of "the site of a water-mill to be built on the lower part of the Bridge of Galway; provided that within two years he should build, for its defence and security, a gate of suitable height and dimensions, and a tower of stone and lime" (Morris 1861, 390: no. 37). There is a surviving rectangular stone plaque, bearing the arms of Lynch and Martin and the inscription which may be derived from this structure:

THOMAS MARTIN ET EVELINA LINCHE HOC OP[VS] MVLIND[I]NV[M]
Q[VE] FIERI FECERV[N]T AD 1562

This structure projected from the walls into the Corrib
between Quay Street and Bridge Street.

Walsh 1981, 52-3.

Other Mills

The Pictorial map lists four other watermills. St Francis's Mill which was attached to the Franciscan Friary; the Bridge Mills beside the bridge connected the franciscan Friary precinct with the town; St Michael's Mills near the Salmon Weir and Little Gate Mills, outside Abbeygate, on the north side of Bowling Green.

Possible Windmill

The 1625 map shows a structure near St Augustine's Fort. A decayed windmill is noted in this area in 1602 (Blake 1902-5, i, 117, 125; ii, 2).

8. TOWN DEFENCES

The defences of Galway have been studied in detail by Paul Walsh (1981) who has examined and assessed both the archaeological and documentary evidence. At present excavations are revealing much of the foundations of the seventeenth century bastions and a sixteenth century circular tower attached to the town wall in Merchant's Road Upper and the corner of Victoria Place. Most of the seventeenth century

bastions built in front of the medieval town wall, including Pipar's (Penrice's) Tower and Shoemaker's Tower, have now been uncovered by excavations.

In 1312 Nicholas Lynch built the Great Gate, which must have been a new structure on the site of the earlier one existing in 1278, and the works adjoining it at his own cost and charge (O'Sullivan 1942, 33). According to Walsh (1981, 36) however the 1312 reference mentions simply a work, so O'Sullivan has inferred it to be the "great gate".

In 1361 Edward III granted Galway a murage grant for five years and this seems to have been renewed subsequently until at least 1374 (Hardiman 1820, 58: n. p). It is likely that much of the wall was built by the end of the fourteenth century but it is unclear if the town was completely enclosed (Walsh 1981, 37). In 1395 the town received a murage grant from Richard II which stated that it was to enable the town "to be enclosed with a stone wall, as of the parts adjacent" (Hardiman 1820, addenda pp. xviii-xix). The implication of this statement is that the walls had not been completed by 1395. A document of 1424 indicates that there was a tower by that time at the south-east angle of the wall but the disposition of the other towers and gates at this time remains unknown (Walsh 1981, 39-40).

Work on the walls continued in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries when the southern curtain appears to have been rebuilt with work recorded at the Shoemaker's tower and near the present "Spanish arch" (Walsh 1981, 45). A

branch of the river may have also been diverted into a fosse on the east side of the town at this time (Walsh 1981, 46; Hardiman 1820, 77). In 1519 the wall was brought 40 yards west of Michael's Tower (Hardiman 1820, 77; Walsh 1981, 47). In 1521-2 the Corporation passed a statute prohibiting the building or repairing of thatched cottages within fourteen feet of the town walls for fear of fire, and even granted a new mill to a merchant because that which he had was too close to the walls of the town near the little gate (Walsh 1981, 47-8). The gates of the town, when closed for the night, were ordered to be kept shut and no one allowed out till daybreak, not even the fishermen (ibid., 48). In 1536-7, "the new Tower gate being the south gate of the key was built" (Walsh 1981, 49) and in the following year half of the fee farm of the town was set aside for repairing the defences (ibid.).

In 1592 the lord deputy forwarded a plan which had been drawn up by his brother to fortify the hills overlooking the town on which the former abbies of St Augustine's and St Dominic's stood and Muttone Island which controlled the entrance to the haven (CSPI 1588-92, 470-1). There is mention of an outer wall of the town in 1597 when "four great pieces of ordnance were discharged on the outer wall, without the gate of the town" (Cal Carew Mss 1589-1600, 482). As Walsh (1981, 62) has remarked this may be fortified work or a barbican shown outside the east gate of the town on the maps of Goche and Speed.

In 1641 Richard Belling described the fortifications of the town as follows:

"To the south, att noe great distance from the towne, upon an eminent neck of land that shoots out into the sea, stands the forte built upon the ruines of a monastery dedicated to St. Augustine, regularly fortified. The space between the forte and the towne is, for the most part, overflowen every tide; so as it might be said the waters concurred on all sides to the defence of it, save to the eastward, where it was as strong as a large drye ditch, and a thicke high wall, flancked with towers, could make it. The walls about the rest of the towne were likewise high and firmly built, and in most parts of them broad enough for three to walke abreast, and both they and the houses in towne were of marble, with which they are abundantly furnished from the quarryes near adjoyning" (Gilbert 1882-91, i, 96).

Major works were conducted on the defences between 1643 and 1652, during the period of the Confederate Wars, and a number of artillery bastions were added. In 1643 the Corporation Records note that:

"the east south east rampier of Galway, beginning at the bullworke of the east gate and drawing doen from thence to the little bridge leading to St Augustines Abbeye, begun and considerable proceeded in ould time by this Corporacion, was this year recontinued and raised to a good height and was compounded for to be finished at the

publick and common charge of this towne" (Walsh 1981, 86).

Walsh (ibid.) suggests that this was probably a continuation of the rampart running along the outside of the dry ditch. In the same year the wall stretching NE from the quay was rebuilt (Walsh 1981, 86). In 1646 a polygonal bastion was built around the Lion's Tower at the northern tip of the town while in 1647 a salient angled bastion was erected at the junction of the southern and eastern curtains (Walsh 1981, 88). A ravelin was added on the west side of the bridge in 1650 immediately outside the tower at the west end (Walsh 1981, 89). The year 1650 also saw the construction of a new bastion outside the great gate and a new wall leading from there to Edmund Kirwan's tower (Walsh 1981, 90; cf. Hardiman 1820, 122).

In July 1651 the parliamentary siege under General Coote commenced (Walsh 1981, 92). Coote built a line of earthworks across the eastern side of the ridge leading to the town, from Lough Atalia to the bog through which the Terryland River flowed. The earthworks consisted of a central square fort with corner bastions on the top of the main ridge and two smaller forts to the north and south linked to one another by linear earthworks, some of which may have had redoubts (Walsh 1981, 93). After the capture of the town in 1652 two further citadels were built by the Cromwellians. Both commanded the two main entrances to the town. They were square in plan with corner bastions projecting into the

streets and they utilized existing houses.

With the approach of the Williamite wars the walls were repaired, the ditches scoured, the drawbridge on the west bridge was repaired, and the blind gate on the quay was closed up (Rabbitte 1930-3, 86-8). A great earthwork was constructed at Woodquay on the north side of the town walls (Walsh 1981, 109) but in general the condition of the defences does not appear to have been good. It seems that it was not until the arrival of a French engineer in the spring of 1691 that the defences were put in order (Murtagh 1975-6, 3). He laid earthen counterguards against the east, north and south curtains and he initiated works on Fort Hill but these were unfinished when the Williamite forces under Ginkel arrived outside the walls on 19th July 1691. Two days later the town surrendered. The cartographic evidence would place these works about mid-way between Forster Street House and Forthill Cemetery.

After the Williamite capture new defences were commenced. A half-moon was constructed in front of the Great gate and another at the end of the West Bridge and it was about this time that Goubet drew his plan of the fortifications. The full extent of the Williamite alterations and additions to the Jacobite defences can only be guessed at, however, in the absence of clear documentary evidence (Walsh 1981, 116). Following the pattern of their Irish towns the defences fell into decay during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Sections of the wall collapsed while gates were swept away to

facilitate road widening and ease of access to the town (Walsh 1981, 116-35).

Much of the defences appear to have survived into the early nineteenth century and Hardiman (1820, 192) states that:

"soon after the commencement of the present century the principal part of the town wall was prostrated and several extensive stores and timber yards were erected and laid out upon their ruins. The buildings in the east and west suburbs at Dominick Street, Newtown Smith and Meyrick Square were still carried on and all within the walls got the name of the old town to distinguish it from these new improvements".

Walsh's study of the walls has isolated eighteen gates and towers. His analysis of the cartographic evidence shows considerable agreement between the names on Browne's (1583) map and that on the 1625 plan of the town but some of these differ from those on the recorded map. The principal problem in using the Pictorial Map is that features tend to be gathered together in groups of seven or fourteen. Thus Galway is represented as having fourteen principal families, fourteen fortifications, forts or ramparts, fourteen towers, and fourteen gates. In this respect the nature, and even existence, of Alexander's Tower, Athey's Tower and Agnes' Tower are dubious (Walsh 1981, 147-8). The walls enclosed an area of 12 hectares (27 acres). The following account is substantially based on Walsh (1981) and follows his

identifications, nomenclature and cartographic analysis.

Description

The wall is described in a clockwise direction starting at the site of the Lion's Tower continuing past the site of the Great Gate to Lower Merchant's Road and from there to Spanish Parade where a segment survived until 1984. From there the account continues past the Bridge Gate and returns to Lion's Tower.

LION'S TOWER

So labelled on the Browne (1583) and 1625 plans. A polygonal bastion was added in 1646 and a plaque commemorating the work was placed on the wall. With the exception of two plaques nothing now survives of this bastion whose final remnants were pulled down about 1965. Photographs taken before demolition show it to have had a prominent batter surmounted by a string course, above which the parapet wall rose vertically (Semple 1973, 57; Walsh 1981, pls. 14-16). The interior of the parapet wall had regular shallow embrasures for cannon. A plaque originally set in the east face below the string course has been reset in the northwest corner of Tower Buildings which were constructed on the site. It is rectangular, displaying the arms of Galway with the Roman inscription in false-relief:

THIS WOORK WAS MADE/ BY THE TOWNE AND COR/ PORACION IN
THE YEAR/ OF EDMUND KIRWAN FITZ/ PATRICK HIS MEARALTY/

1646

Walsh 1981, 171-2.

LYNCH'S TOWER

So labelled on the 1625 plan. The pictorial map gives it as the "middle tower". The remains of the tower are of sixteenth century date and a number of gun-loops survive.

GREAT GATE

The reference to the construction of a "tower beyond the great gate" c. 1272 may refer to the construction of a barbican (Hardiman 1820, 49-50).

Shown on both the Browne map and the 1625 plan. Labelled on the pictorial map as "old rampart before the greate gate". In 1621 the Corporation ordered the demolition of all "the arches or patches and vau[ll]ts" at the great gate (Walsh 1981, 72). A stair was inserted in 1632 (Walsh 1981, 77). In 1638 a tower and clock were erected over the gate (Walsh 1981, 78).

PIPAR'S TOWER

So labelled on the Browne map (1583). The 1625 plan gives it as Pipe Tower and the Pictorial map as Penrice's Tower. The foundations of the circular tower, built of ashlar, have

been uncovered in the course of recent excavations.

A stretch of wall south of Pipar's Tower has been preserved due to the fact that it formed the eastern boundary of Castle Barracks. Built of rubble (mostly limestone), the surviving stretch is c.69.5m long and some 7.15m high at the northern end falling to 5m at the southern corner. The remains of the south-east citadel bastion survives as a wall-walk at the northern end of the wall (Walsh 1981, 162) and part of this feature has been rebuilt with concrete blocks

NEW TOWER

This is first referred to in a document of 1424 (Blake 1902, i, 22) and is so labelled on the Browne map (1583) and the 1625 plan. It appears on the pictorial map as Shoemaker's Tower.

A salient angled bastion was constructed in 1647 when a plaque was placed on the wall. This is now in the Galway City Museum. Rectangular. Arms of Galway in relief with the date 1647 and the Roman inscription:

THIS FLANKER AND WOORK/ WAS BUILT IN THE YEAR OF/ JOHN
BLAK FITZ NICHOLAS/ ESQUIRES MERALTY. DOMINICK/ BLAK AND
NICHOLAS BODKIN/ SHERIFS UPON THE COMON/ CHARGE OF THE
CORPAR/ [ACTI]ON AND COMONALTY

Walsh 1981, 172-3.

Parts of both the tower and bastion together were uncovered in the course of excavations in 1987 (pers comm: Marcus Casey).

POKES TOWER

So labelled on the Browne map (1583). The 1625 plan gives it as Pooke Tower and the pictorial map as New Tower.

MICHAEL'S TOWER

So labelled on the Pictorial map

In the Corporation Car Park between Merchant's Road Upper and St Augustine Street is a segment of the wall, 1.3m long, 96cm thick and 4.6m high. On the north side of Merchant's Road, forming the northern boundary of a nineteenth century warehouse (Craughwell's, formerly Naughton's) is a substantial wall, some 5m long, 1.5-2m thick and 5.2m high. It may be part of the stretch rebuilt by the Corporation in 1643 (Walsh 1981, 163-4).

MARTIN'S TOWER

So labelled on the pictorial map.

A segment of town wall and what is possibly the base of the tower survive here. It consists of a thick curving base

with a prominent batter. At second floor level is a pointed doorway of medieval/ late medieval type (see The Connacht Sentinel, 9 June 1987, p. 4).

LERPOLE TOWER

So labelled on the Browne map (1583). The 1625 plan gives Lyrcoole Castle while it is given on the pictorial map as "old fortification near the quay or ceann an bhalla.

The surviving remains at Spanish Arch constitute the best known section of the walls of Galway. The building of this section seems to have occurred between 1586 and 1588 (Walsh 1981, 164-5), although both 1583 maps show the existence of the wall and a tower in this area. The surviving masonry shows three divisions. The westernmost section, 13m long, comprises the two arches. There is a blocked-up door with rubble jambs in the centre of the closed arch. The opening of the south wall of the eastern arch was probably done to facilitate access to Eyre's dock which had been built before 1739. The buttress-like batter on either side of this arch may be refacing of an original feature, and a small section of batter is visible at the south-west corner. This section is composed of ashlar blocks with typical sixteenth century punched dressing (Walsh 1981, 167). The central section, 3.5m long, projects slightly. It is supported by six corbels and contains a blocked-up single-light window with trefoil head. The eastern section of wall, 18.8m long, contains a blocked up machicolation which runs for 12.5m. The four-tiered,

double-stepped corbels of the machicolation are of simple hammer-dressed limestone blocks. Interpretation would suggest that the masonry consists of a fifteenth/ early sixteenth century section revamped in 1586-8 (Walsh 1981, 168-9).

BRIDGE GATE

So labelled on the Browne map (1583) and the plan of 1625. The pictorial map states "Three gates on the bridge--the first and most distant at An Sparra thiar".

TOWER

This is shown on the 1625 plan and is labelled on the pictorial map as "the second or middle gate with a turning door".

WEST GATE & MARTIN'S MILL

So labelled on the 1625 map. The pictorial map describes it as "the third [gate] which is nearest the city".

In 1558 Thomas Martin received the grant of "the site of a water-mill to be built on the lower part of the Bridge of Galway; provided that within two years he should build, for its defence and security, a gate of suitable height and dimensions, and a tower of stone and lime" (Morrin 1861, 390: no. 37). There is a surviving rectangular stone plaque, bearing the arms of Lynch and Martin and the inscription

which may be derived from this structure:

THOMAS MARTIN ET EVELINA LINCHE HOC OP[VS]
MVLIND[I]NV[M] Q[VE] FIERI FECERV[N]T AD 1562

The plaque is now set into the south wall of Davy and
Martin's shop-front in Shop Street.
Walsh 1981, 52-3, 176.

RAVELIN

Constructed outside the west gate on the west bank of the
river in 1650 (Walsh 1981, 89), where it seems to have been
partly constructed on the site of the West Fort (see below)

ALEXANDER'S TOWER

So labelled on the pictorial map.

ATHEY'S TOWER

So labelled on the pictorial map.

GAVIA'S TOWER

So labelled on the pictorial map.

LITTLE GATE

So labelled on the pictorial map.

A thick segment of wall positioned at the back of a store belonging to the Connacht Tribune complex in Market Street runs parallel to Bowlinggreen and would seem to be on the line of the town wall. It survives as a low rendered shelf of masonry, 6.6m long, 1.2m high, and 1.3m thick.

AGNES' TOWER

So labelled on the pictorial map.

A small section of wall survives behind the former Galway Baking Company premises in Mary Street. A length of about 11.9m remains and survives to a height of c.3m and is some 1.5m thick (Walsh 1981, 171). It is composed of rubble and split limestone blocks and has a base batter.

COLMAN'S TOWER

So labelled on the 1625 plan. The pictorial map describes it as the "tower of the Little Gate river".

CASTLE GATE

Mentioned in a document of 1632, its site is unclear (Walsh 1981, 77).

THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY EXTENSION

Considerable sections of the north-east demi-bastion, built in 1650, survived into the present century but only a small stretch of the north wall can now be identified. It is built of limestone rubble and has a slight batter. The eastern section has evidence for a blocked-up opening (Walsh 1981, 174-5; Irish Travel vii (1931-2), 6).

At the north-west end of Ball Alley Lane there are a number of sheds built against an acute angled building which contains the remains of a string course and appears to be part of the bastion erected in front of the Great Gate in 1650 (Walsh 1981, 175).

RAVELIN

Constructed outside the west gate on the west bank of the river in 1650 (Walsh 1981, 89), where it seems to have been partly constructed on the site of the West Fort (see below)

MISCELLANEOUS

Tunnel

In 1979 a tunnel was found at the Salmon Weir Lounge Bar site on the west side of Upper Abbeygate Street (Walsh 1981, 169-71). It was 1.5m wide and 85cm high. Its construction date lies between 1685 and 1747.

Plaque

Set at third storey level in the exterior face of the

Imperial Hotel, Eyre Square. This depicts the arms of Galway in relief and has an incised inscription which may replace an earlier one in relief:

THIS WOORK WAS MADE/ AT THE PUBLICK CHARGE/ OF THE
CORPORACION

The original position of the plaque is unknown but it was probably set in either the north-east demi-bastion or the bastion before the Great Gate, both of which were built in 1650.

Walsh 1981, 173.

Plaque

At second storey level in the north wall of the Galway Arms Bar on the north-west corner of Dominick Street. This depicts the arms of Galway but only part of the inscription is visible:

THIS WOORK WAS MADE AT . . .

It was probably set in one of the works built in 1650.

Walsh 1981, 173-4.

Fragmentary Plaque

Set at third storey level in the front of the Ard Ri Hotel in Lower Abbeygate Street at the junction with the southern premises. Inscription in false relief:

O - EAST TO/ WEAST BY THE COAPORA/ CION & COMEN[S]/ 1595

The use of the phrase "east to west" suggests that this plaque commemorated the completion of some work on the town walls

Walsh 1981, 176.

Plaque

In the grounds of University College, Galway. It shows the royal achievement of Charles II in relief. The initials CR and the date 1664 are carved in false relief at the top. The inscription at the bottom reads:

COLOL IOHN SPENCER GOVERNOR OF GALWAY IR[ELAND]

The original location of the arms is unknown but since Spencer was responsible for repairs to the walls in 1666 this achievement may have formed part of a similar work ((Walsh 1981, 177)).

9. CASTLE

In 1124 the Connachta constructed a castle of the Gaillimh (AFM), variously referred to as the castle of Bun Gaillimhe or Dun Gaillimhe (AFM: 1132, 1154). Its construction would seem to have been part of the deliberate encastellation of Connacht carried out by Toirdealbach Ua Conchobhair at this time. The exact location of this structure cannot now be established. A. Conn (sub 1230) place

it on the west bank of the river Galway but O'Flaherty's *Iar Connacht*, recording the same event, places it on the east bank (Hardiman 1846, 32).

It is not clear if the castle built by Richard de Burgo in 1232 was built on the site of the earlier castle or not. In view of Anglo-Norman practice elsewhere, including Dunmore, it remains a likely possibility. According to Walsh (1981, 189-92) the available evidence suggests that it stood on or near the site of the present Custom House in Flood Street. This conclusion is based on the depiction in the Pictorial map of the "ruined building of the Red Earl, Richard de Burgo" in this position. The depiction shows a large rectangular hall-like structure illuminated by a series of lancet windows. It is not clear exactly what is represented but it may be worth pointing out that the building has affinities (even if they are rather vague ones) with the keeps of Athenry and Dunmore.

It is possible, of course, that this building was nothing other than a grand town house rather than a castle. It is referred to in 1556 as "a ruined house caled Erles stone" (O'Sullivan 1930-3, 9) and subsequently as "Clogh-an-hiarla" (Hardiman 1846, 33). It seems reasonable to interpret it as a house which was owned by the de Burgo's and which may have stood on the site of the original castle built by Richard de Burgo (Walsh 1981, 189-94).

10. FORTS & CITADELS

The pivotal role of Galway as "gateway to the west" in the wars of the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries led to the construction of a series of forts and citadels. The earliest of these is referred to simply as the Citadel below.

BOLLINGBROOK FORT

This is the northernmost of the three forts which were erected in mid-July 1651 by the Parliamentary forces besieging the city. The pictorial map shows it as a quadrangular stone-faced fort with bastions at the corners. Its name is derived from the fact that the land was owned in the later seventeenth century by a John Bollingbrook (Walsh 1981, 183). Situated on the flat shoulder of a ridge the site would appear to have been quadrangular originally. The surviving remains consist of the southern bank which is some 28m long and is some 1.8m high above the exterior. The remains have been surveyed by Walsh (1981, 181-4, fig. 34).

CITADEL

In 1582 a decision was taken to provide the Galway garrison with a citadel and it was in response to this that Gooche's map was drawn up. All that seems to have happened, however, was that a school on the quay was converted into a fortification c.1586-8 (Walsh 1981, 58; O'Sullivan 1942, 117).

EAST or UPPER CITADEL (CROMWELLIAN)

Built in 1652. One of the walls still stands and forms part of the premises of Messers Corbett & Sons, Ltd. It incorporated two doorways and two blocked-up cusped ogee-headed windows of 15th-16th century date (Walsh 1981, 98). The north-east bastion of the citadel cut off all access to the Great Gate and caused all traffic to pass through the citadel and the passageway was not opened up again until about 1690 (Walsh 1981, 105). By 1663 both the east and west citadels were in ruin (O Duigeannain 1936-7, 152-3) and they seem to have remained in poor condition until the mid 1680s (Walsh 1981, 103). A barracks was built near the site in 1734 which still functions as a store for Messers Corbett & Sons. A doorway in its southwall incorporates a section of a seventeenth century fireplace lintel, the broad face of which is carved with an incised pattern (Walsh 1981, 123).

MUTTON ISLAND

There was a watch tower or beacon here in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries (Walsh 1981, 67-8; Jones 1951-2, 10). Shortly after the preparation of Bodley's report in 1611 (see St. Augustine's Fort, below), a small artillery fort seems to have been built on the island (Cal. Carew Mss. 1603-24, 292). This was added to during the Confederate war when bulwarks were built (Walsh 1981, 84).

RENMORE

Fortified in 1643 during the Confederate war together with

Rintinnane in order to prevent ships reaching the harbour (Walsh 1981, 84). When erected this would have been a quadrangular earthen fort with salient angled bastions at the corners and an external ditch. The fort was about 30m square. Only the north-east and south-east bastions survive but the northerne outline of the north-west bastion can still be traced. The interior of the fort shows signs of levelling. The south-west side of the fort has been eroded by the sea leaving exposed sections of the fort between 1-3m high. The remains have been surveyed and published by Walsh (1987-8).

RINTINNANE

Fortified in 1643 during the Confederate war together with Renmore in order to prevent ships reaching the harbour (Walsh 1981, 84). The defences probably consisted of an earthen redoubt (Walsh 1981, 149).

ST AUGUSTINE'S FORT

Early in 1602 Sir Oliver Lambert was sent to Galway to prepare a report on how it could best be fortified in order to withstand a siege (CSPI 1601-3, 320). It was probably as a response to this report that work commenced later in the year on the construction of a fort outside the walls on the southern ridge where St Augustine's had formerly stood (Cal. Carew Mss. 1601-3, 320). By November 1602 a garrison of 150 soldiers was quartered there under the command of Capt. Thomas Rotheram (CSPI 1601-3, 523) and between 1602 and 1604 some £2400 was spent on the works (CSPI 1603-6, 202). The war

between England and Spain (begun in 1585) ended in 1604 and the garrison of the fort was consequently reduced (CSPI 1603-6, 394-5). It was probably as a result of this that the fort appears to have been left unfinished (CSPI 1606-8, 139-40). The completion was left until 1611 when two plans of the fort were prepared and a report on it by Sir Josias Bodley records that:

"the fort at Galway being raised by the first plotters with earth and sods against the sides of a hill, grew shortly so subject to sliding, that how to remedy the same and support that huge mass of earth which they had cast up they knew no better expedient than by binding in the fort round about with a stone wall of between 10 and 12 feet, which notwithstanding that the earth above that wall shot out, and divers breaches successively happened. To meet this inconvenience and reduce that place to terms of true fortification, finding that the wall could bear no greater height, I caused another stone wall on a new foundation to be made, leaving 4 or 5 foot distance between that and the former for a passage between both the walls, and raised the same to some 18 foot of height, that it might be equal with the plan of the rampier. On the lower wall I set a parapet of 5 foot high of stonework, and on the other a parapet of sods, which I judged fitter for that place; caused a ditch to be digged about the fort, vaulted passages through the rampier for sallies into the lower defences, erected a dwelling house for the commander and officers,

with lodgings for the soldiers, made up the draw-bridge, gate, gatehouse, and guard house, and so divided the chancel and body of the church within the fort by partitions of stone, from the ground to the roof, thus leaving sufficient space for divine service, of which the rest may conveniently be employed for the store of munitions and victuals. This fort has little command over the haven, being somewhat remote, for which, if one the island that lies between the mouth of the haven and the fort, there were a small blockhouse made (which for the expense of 2 or 300l., might be effected), it would remove all doubt of safety and security of those parts, that fort being of such strength that I dare confidently assure you neither this kingdom nor many others affordeth any comparable unto it" (Cal. Carew Mss. 1603-24, 216-17).

Further additions, including residential quarters, were made to the fort shortly after 1625 (CSPI 1625-32, 102). By this time the parapet had eroded and weather away and the stone facing of the fort was in poor condition (Walsh 1981, 74-5). Further repairs were carried out between 1635 and 1638 (Walsh 1981, 78). The fort remained loyal to parliament until it was captured by the townspeople in June 1643, after which it was demolished and levelled (Moran 1874, i, 290).

WEST CITADEL (CROMWELLIAN)

The west or lower citadel had as its "principal entrance ... a very large Gothick Gate of black marble, of remarkably fine

workmanship, immediately at or very near the foot of the great west Bridge". The gate was pulled down when a barracks was erected on the site (JGHAS viii (1913-14), 86).

WEST FORT

In 1625 it was decided to build a new fort at Galway (CSPI 1615-25, 495-7). This was built near the West Bridge but it went unfinished because of the lack of money (Walsh 1981, 74).

11. ST NICHOLAS' PARISH CHURCH

The foundation date of this church is unclear but it is likely that as with other Anglo-Norman urban parish churches in Ireland, its foundation is coeval with the establishment of the town. Until 1484 when the wardenship of Galway was established the rectory and vicarage of St Nicholas' was attached to Abbey Knockmoy and in the ecclesiastical taxation of 1302-6 it was valued at 100s (Sweetman 1875-86, v, pp. 226, 235). A Lynch manuscript in TCD states that the parish church was founded by the Lynch family in 1320 (Leask 1936, 5). The statement that the church was founded by the Lynchs is patently false and one must be suspicious of the contents of the document itself, since it is a Lynch eulogy written to depict the Lynchs of the sixteenth century as part of a long line of ecclesiastical patrons. Architecturally, however, it is worth noting that the earliest datable major building phase occurred c.1320-30.

In 1484 Dominick Lynch and Donatus, archbishop of Tuam promoted St Nicholas' into a collegiate church with a warden and eight secular priests living in a college beside the church (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 360). The warden had semi-episcopal jurisdiction, without the power to confer orders, over the town of Galway and some of the neighbouring parishes (Coen 1984). The warden and vicars were dispossessed in 1551 by Edward VI who changed its name to that of the Royal College of Galway.

The building is the second largest medieval parish church in Ireland. It consists of a chancel, a crossing tower, transepts, various chapels, an aisled nave and a south porch. The overall length is 45.6m feet and the breadth across the transepts is 40.1m. The architecture of the building has been studied in detail by Leask (1936) and it is sufficient to summarise his conclusions here.

The earliest parts of the building survive in the south wall of the chancel which is lit by three twin-light windows with pointed trefoil heads and plain bar-tracery above. These are of late thirteenth or early fourteenth century date as is the aumbry, plain sedilla and priest's door also in the south wall. The east window contains five lights and is of similar design to those in the chancel's south wall. The transepts and nave arcade belong to the early years of the fourteenth century. The south aisle was widened c.1508-10 by Dominick Lynch and the crossing tower seems to have been built about this time also. The carved gargoyles on top of the south

aisle belong to this time while the porch with its rib-vault was added after 1510. The eastern half of the north aisle was widened by Mayor John French in 1538. The chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, to the north of the north aisle, was built between 1538 and 1561. The southern part of the south transept was added in 1561 by Nicholas Lynch and as a result of this work the height of the transept roofs was raised to bring the roofs into line with one another. The western end of the north aisle was constructed in 1583. The west window lighting the nave is a seventeenth century insertion. The oaken timber framing of the spire was erected in 1683.

St Nicholas' had a number of chapels. St Michael and the Angels, Blessed Mary Major, and the large chapel of the Blessed Virgin in the south transept; the chapel of the judgement of Christ, St Anne (fd. before 1420) and St Patrick in the north transept.

Monuments

"The Confessional"

A structure re-erected in modern times in the built-up archway of the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament in the N aisle. Much of the stonework is modern but the twisted pillar, ogee heads and label over seem to be original. Leask (1936, 22) believed that it was the reader's pulpit removed from the refectory of a religious house, perhaps the College attached to St Nicholas' itself.

Benetier or Holy water stoop. 15th cent.

In three pieces. Plain octagonal base splayed outwards at the foot. Intermediate octagonal stone decorated with boldly conventionalised leaves, one to each face and angle of the octagon. The round bowl stone projects over that below and has, below the rim, a decorative border of vine stalks from which depend conventionalised vine leaves. The bowl itself is very roughly worked.

Leask 1936, 22-3.

Font. 16th cent.

Square in plan tapering downwards. Decorated on two of its faces with tracery designs and on another face are the Lynch trefoil and lynx.

Leask 1936, 22.

Bells

Of the eight bells, one is dated 1590, one was cast in 1631, two in 1684 by Tobias Covey, two in 1726, and two at the end of the nineteenth century.

Mems Dead i (1888-92), 373.

Tombs

A complete inventory of all tombs at St Nicholas' is at present (March 1990) being carried out by a team under the direction of Mr Jim Higgins. The following is simply a list of the tombs which came to our notice.

Graveslabs. 13th-14th cents.

Two plain tapering slabs. One, in three fragments, is re-used as a paving stone outside the north corner of the church. The other was recovered recently in the graveyard (information: J. Higgins).

Adam Bu.. 13th-14th cents.

In northernmost side chapel of the south transept. Limestone. Bevelled coffin-shaped slab with a semi-triangular foot. Raised rim. Fleur-de-lys cross in relief with roundel at the junction of the cross and stem. Pendant U-shape with fleur-de-lys terminals suspended over the stem from the roundel. Incised inscription on bevel:

+ADAM: BV DEVS: DE: SA ALME: E.T MERCI

+ QUI POR SA ALME: PRIERAVINT GORS DE PARDVN: AVER

W. at head 57; L. 184; H. 6 cm.

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 466.

The "Joyce" Tomb. Late 15th cent.

On the eastern wall of the south transept. The tomb chest is decorated with niches having floriated crocketed ogee arches above. Above the chest is a canopy with flamboyant tracery. On the southern niche is a figure of Christ as Judge, displaying the five wounds.

Hunt 1974, no. 63.

"Archer" Tomb. Early 16th cent.

On the eastern wall of the south transept. It is placed below a window whose reveals are decorated with carvings of angels in high relief below escutcheons bearing arms.

Hunt 1974, no. 64.

John FitzTeig. 1566.

Floor-slab in south aisle. Decorated with three Maltese crosses set in circles and an anchor. Marginal Roman inscription:

HIER LEITH THE/ BODI OF IHON PORT FIZTHEIG ET ELYN/
LINCHE HIS WIFE/ 1566

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 466; Berry 1912, 65.

On Morford. 1577.

Coffin shaped cross-slab in the wall of the south transept. Roman inscription:

[Here lieth the body of On Mo]RAFORD SHVMAKER AND/ HIS
WIF IVA[ni]/ NLAGHLINGE WH[o died 1577]

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 464; Berry 1912, 66.

Moriert O Tiernagh. 1580.

Foliated cross-slab in south transept. The stone is broken and crudely repaired with cement. Roman inscription:

HIR LIETH THE BODI OF ON MORIERT OTIERNAGH AND/ HIS WIF
KATE/ RINA NI GONO[HW].... [AND] HIS BROTHER TEIGE OG
CU=/ PERS AN DNI 1580

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 465; Berry 1912, 67.

Browne. 1635.

In the south transept. Slab with Roman inscription:

HERE LYETH THE BODYES OF/ RICHARD BROWNE AND HIS WIFE/
CATE BROWNE THEIRE SONE/ MATHEW BROWNE AND HIS WIFE/
MARY TERNY AND THEIRE/ CHEILDREN GOD REST THEIRE/ SOVLES
AMEN 1635

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 464.

Graveslab. 1641.

Nave. Damaged slab with three crowned hammers. Marginal
inscription:

+HERE LIETH THE BODY OF W.... ...R POSTERITY WHOES
SOVLES THE LORD RECEAV 1641

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 462.

Stephen Lynch. 1644.

Over an altar tomb in the east wall of the south transept.
Mural plaque with Roman inscription:

+ STIRPE CLARVS/ AMOR MILITVM/ TERROR INIMICOR/ VM
AETATE IVVENIS/ SENEX VIRTVTIBVS/ MVNDO NON DIGNO/
EXALTATVR AD CAE/ LVM 14 MARTII ANO/ DOMINI 1644 STEPHE/
NVS LYNCH

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 463; Berry 1912, 64.

John Mure. 1647.

Floor slab in the south transept. Roman inscription:

IOHN MVRE/ CATE TVLI/ 1647

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 464.

John Pope. 1666.

Graveslab with Roman inscription in the chancel:

HERE LYETH THE BODY/ OF IOHN POPE WHO DY/ED THE 5 OF MAY
1666

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 463; Berry 1912, 65.

Katherine Warner. 1667.

Floor slab in south transept. Roman inscription:

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF/ KATHARNE WARNER WIFE/ TO ROBERT
WARNER BUR/ GES AND HER 4 SONNS RO/BERT THOMAS IAMES
AND/ SPENCER WITH HER TWO/ DAVGHTERS ALICE AND KAT/ E
DIED THE 22 DAY OF IVLY/ 1667
HERE LYETH THE BODY OF/ ALDERMAN ROBERT WARNER/ HVS BAND
OF KATHERINE/ WARNER WHO DYED THE THIRD/ DAY OF FEBVARY
1684

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 465.

John Shaw. 1675.

Nave. Slab with the Roman inscription:

HERE LIETH THE BODY OF JOHN SHAW SOMETIME/ A VICAR OF

THIS CHVRCH WHO DIED IVLY 19 1675

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 461.

James Vaughan. 1684.

Nave. Slab with Roman inscription:

HERE LIETH YE BODY OF/ IAMES VAVGHAN DOCTOR/ OF DEVINITY
WARDEN/ OF GALWAY YE FOVRTH/ SONN OF EDWARD VAVGHAN/ OF
TROWOS COED ESQVIRE/ AND OF YE COVNTY OF/ OLD CALED YE
DEMETRE/ NOW CARDIGON SHIRE &/ OF LETTICE HIS MOTHER/ YE
DAUGHTER OF IOHN/ STEDMAN OF STRATA FLO/ RADA IN YE SAME
COVNTY/ ESQVIRE & DIED YE 28th/ DAY OF IVNE ANNO/ DOMINI
1684

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 462; Berry 1912, 69.

John Slingsby. 1690.

South transept, east wall. Mural plaque with the Roman
inscription:

HERE LYETH THE/ BODY OF IOHN/ FINGLAS/ SLINGESBY/ OBIIT/
AE VI AD M DC XC/ RIP

Written just above the inscrrption are the words: LIES IOH.

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 463; Berry 1912, 66.

George Tayler. 1694.

Nave. Mural plaque with the Roman inscription:

HERE LIETH THE BODY OF/ GEORGE TAYLER WH/ O DIED THE 28

DAY/ OF OCTOBER IN THE/ YEAR OF OVR LORD/ GOD 1694.

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 461.

17th cent.

Fragmentary slab in the wall of the south transept.

Interlaced rectangular panel. Roman inscription:

....[ANIM]ABVS WILLIA[M] .../ ...ILN ET MARGAR/ETV
NIGVAINE N....

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 464; Berry 1912, 66.

In the churchyard are the tombs of Humphrey Lanfear (1684), Elizabeth Kinghorne (1684) and William Moynes (1685). See Mems Dead viii (1910-12), 81-4; Berry 1912, 68.

COLLEGE HOUSE

The seventeenth century "Account of Galway" (TCD Ms 886, fol 9r) states that a "college house" was built in the late fifteenth century. It was probably located close to St. Nicholas' parish church. The Pictorial map shows it in the position of the reconstructed bogus Lynch window, fronting onto Market Street.

12. AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY

This was the last pre-Reformation Augustinian Friary to be founded in Ireland. Founded in 1508-9 by Margaret Athy and

Stephen Lynch FitzDominick (Walsh 1985-6). It was located outside the walls on top of a hill on the east side of the town in what is now the railway yard. The buildings were demolished in 1652 because of their commanding situation (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 300).

13. CARMELITE FRIARY

This friary, established c.1332, is said to have been founded by a de Burgo (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 289). Almost nothing is known about it however and no pre-Reformation documents have been found relating to it. The Pictorial map (1651) shows a residence for Carmelite nuns in St Augustine Street.

14. DOMINICAN PRIORY

This was located in the Claddagh on the site of the former chapel of St Mary on the Hill which was granted to the Dominicans in 1488 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 225; cf. *ibid.*, 204). James Lynch FitzStephen, mayor of Galway paid for the constrion of the chancel in 1493 (*ibid.*). In 1570 the friary was granted to the town of Galway but friars still appear to have been present here in 1629 (*ibid.*). The buildings were demolished by the townspeople during the Cromwellian siege of 1651-2.

15. FRANCISCAN FRIARY

This friary, on St Stephen's island to the north east of the town, was founded by William de Burgo in 1296 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 250). In 1494 it was given licence to annex a chapel of Our Lady then adjoining one of the town gates (presumably at Abbeygate?) and the community seems to have continued here after the Dissolution until about 1583 (ibid., 250-1). Subsequently the friars had to leave Galway but they returned in 1612 and began to rebuild the church (ibid.). The commanding position of the church remained a concern, however, and in 1645 it was demolished (Walsh 1981, 85; Hardiman 1820, 273). There are no surviving structural remains.

Monuments

The following survive in the graveyard at the rear of the present Franciscan Friary.

Burke. 1645.

Rectangular slab decorated with the Burke coat of arms and a sword. Marginal inscription:

+ MEMORIAE GO ILLMO DNO GVLL DE BVRGO SVAE NATIONIS
PRINCIPI ET HVIVS MONASTERII FVNDATORI QVI OBIIT 1324
POSVIT F.V.B.G 1645

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 305.

Sir Peter French. 1631.

Panels of a highly decorated tomb now set into a wall. The panels include depictions of SS Patrick, Nicholas, Andrew, James, John, Thomas, James, Philip, Peter, Paul, Clara, Anthony, Bartholomew, Matthias, Simon, Matthew, Michael, Dominick as well as a depiction of the Trinity and of the Crucifixion with Mary and Mary Magdalen. The monument was originally even more elaborate until it was defaced and cut up by Cromwellian soldiery in 1652.

Mems Dead ii (1892-4), 309.

Two memorials to Anne Blake (1682) and Elizabeth Lynch (1626) which were in the churchyard were recorded by Lord Walter FitzGerald (Mems Dead viii (1910-12), 80-81).

16. FRANCISCAN NUNNERY

In 1511 Walter Lynch granted a house to his daughter, near the church of St Nicholas, which was afterwards known as "the house of the poor nuns of St Francis" (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 317). This may be the "hospice for pious ladies" shown on the Pictorial map between Kirwan's lane and Bridge Street. Note that the Pictorial map also appears to show a similarly labeled house in High Street.

17. HOSPITAL OF ST BRIGID

This is referred to in 1542 as the poor house of St Brigid (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 351). It was burnt by Hugh

O'Donnell in 1597 (AFM). It was situated on the south side of Prospect Hill, beyond Eyre Square, on the NE side of the town and is shown in this position on the Pictorial map.

18. HOSPITAL OF ST MARY

This structure, said to have belonged to the Premonstratensian Canons, had declined into a simple chapel by 1451 when it was granted to the Dominicans who built thier friary on the site (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 204, 351).

19. MISCELLANEOUS

Carved Stones

An inventory is at present being prepared by Jim Higgins as his Ph.D thesis of all carved sculptural stone within the city. The many fireplace fragments and window heads, etc., are not considered here. Many of these are already included in the volumes of the Galway Heritage Survey, also prepared by Mr Higgins.

Religious Houses

In addition to those described above the Pictorial map shows a number of residences. For the Franciscans, to the north of Abbeygate Street, behind the house of Martin Darcy; Capuchins on the west side of Eyre Square; Dominicans between Middle Street and Augustine Street; Augustinians in Market Street; Jesuits in Middle Street; Carmelites in Cross Street Lower;

Capuchins beside the Great Gate at the north end of William Street; Rich Clares at the northern end of Whitehall; Poor Clares between St Augustine Street and the town wall; Dominican Nuns in St Augustine Street; Augustinian Nuns in Shop Street; and Carmelite Nuns in St Augustine Street. It also shows a convent of Poor Clares within its own precinct walls on Nuns Island to the west of the city and it points out the side of the Templar house as a puddle on the south-east side of Eyre Square approximately in the position of the Great Southern Hotel.

Suburbs

The Pictorial map (1651) shows the presence of suburbs on the north east (on the NE and NW sides of Eyre Square and running along Prospect Hill), and on the northwest (along Mary Street) as well as in the Claddagh (along Dominick Street and approaching the site of the Dominican Friary). The foundation date of these suburbs is unknown but the presence of the friaries outside the walls suggests that these may well have begun to develop before 1500.

20. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. Stone axehead. Found at Galway. Cat. Coll. Crofton Croker (1854), p. 10: lot 152.

2-4. Three polished stone axeheads. From Galway. NMI 1930:76-8.

5. Flat Bronze axehead. From Galway, Co. Galway. NMI W.89.

6-7. Two bronze axeheads. Found at Galway, Co. Galway. NMI W.33; F399; F400.

8. Bronze dagger. From Galway, Co. Galway. BM: W.G.1603.

9. Spearhead (bronze). Found at Galway. Cat. Coll. Crofton Croker (1854), p. 12: lot 201.

10-11. Two bronze socketed axeheads. From Galway, Co. Galway. NMI 1937:3673-4.

12. Iron axehead. From River Corrib near new bridge, Galway. NMI: Wk.21.

13-16. Two iron swords, spearhead and pike. From River Corrib, near new bridge, Galway. NMI: Wk.24; W.6; F502; W.6; F503; F501.

17. Iron pike-head. Found in the River Corrib, near new bridge, Galway. NMI: Wk.37.

18. Massive iron pike-head. Found in River Corrib, near new bridge, Galway. NMI: Wk.39.

19. Coin-hoard deposited after 1645. Found at the Court House, Galway. NMI Coin Register: 2196-2203.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS & POTENTIAL

Established during the early thirteenth century by the Anglo-Norman's, Galway became one of Ireland's most important cities during the Later Middle Ages. A large number of sixteenth and seventeenth century structures survive within the town testifying to the wealth of its merchant class at that time. Indeed, with the possible exception of Kilkenny, Galway has the richest architectural heritage of sixteenth and seventeenth century date in Ireland. Despite Galway's architectural riches we know relatively little about life in the town from its foundation until the seventeenth century.

The size and extent of thirteenth century Galway is still a matter for debate. The town was seriously damaged by fire in 1412 and it may have been replanned afresh at that time. This is a question to which excavation could provide a clear answer. Developments in Galway during the late fourteenth and fifteenth centuries are also unclear. This was a time when towns throughout Ireland were experiencing recession and shrinking in size. Yet Galway emerges during the sixteenth century as a rich, virtually independent, city-state showing no traces of decline. It is quite likely that archaeological deposits of fifteenth century date survive within the town which will provide an answer to this particular problem. The fourteenth and fifteenth centuries are a time about which we know very little as regards town life. Archaeology, however, has the potential to illuminate the darkness caused by the lack of documentary sources. The analysis of pottery can tell

us much about trading connections; and the examination of house plans and building methods will yield information on the comparative lifestyle and relative wealth of citizens within the walls.

Almost nothing is known of the form of houses in the city prior to the late sixteenth century. The layout and internal organisation of its monasteries and churches also remains unknown with the sole exception of St. Nicholas' church. The exact course of the town wall is uncertain in places despite the fact that it is delineated so clearly on the 1651 map and the precise form of some of the towers and gatehouses is also unknown.

This situation of ignorance about our past does not have to continue. The answer to these problems lies beneath the soil. The artefacts and structures from which the archaeologist can reconstruct the past lie sealed beneath the roads, cellars and yards of the modern city. These archaeological layers are extremely vulnerable, however. They can be ripped out and destroyed by laying sewage pipes, by digging foundations and by clearing soil down to bedrock. Very often, in the past, these layers have been destroyed through ignorance because the developer did not realise beforehand that there were archaeological deposits on the site. The purpose of this report is to outline those areas where archaeological deposits are likely to survive.

Zone of Archaeological Potential

The accompanying map endeavours to show the approximate outline of Galway's zone of archaeological potential. This outline is based on the surviving archaeological remains and on the built-up area of the city which is known from seventeenth century maps. Recent excavations have clearly shown that archaeological deposits survive within this zone and future development within this area is likely to uncover further archaeological deposits. The aim of this document is to alert the Local Authority to the need to safeguard these deposits by judicious use of planning controls and by encouraging it to liaise with the National Parks and Monuments Branch of the Office of Public Works, 51 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

The future of archaeological research in Galway is dependent on the monitoring of development and the inclusion of archaeological work as a matter of routine in the planning process. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



KILCOLGAN

The saint associated with Kilcolgan was St Colman mac Aid, a disciple of St Colmcille who was an abbot here towards the end of the sixth century (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 389). The monastery does not appear to have been one of importance, however, and it is rarely mentioned in the documentary sources. The annals of the Four Masters, however, mention the death of Cuaille O Finn, erenagh of Kilcolgan in 1132.

After the Anglo-Norman invasion of Connacht Maurice FitzGerald was rewarded by Richard de Burgh with lands at Kilcolgan. In 1241 he received a grant of a market and fair (Sweetman 1875-86, i, no. 2550; MacNiocaill 1964b, no. 4), a clear indication of mercantile activity; another factor influencing its location may have been FitzGerald's desire to have a centre which could act as a port (Holland 1987-8, 77). The borough was probably founded at about this time but it is only first mentioned in 1289 when the burgesses of Kilcolgan held two townlands and rendered £7 6s 8d per annum (MacNiocaill 1964b, p. 56). The Annals of Connacht record that the settlement was burned in 1258 and it is likely that it was always in a frontier situation. The date of the borough's abandonment is not known but it is likely that it occurred during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries when the Gaelic revival got under way.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. CASTLE
3. EARLY ECCLESIASTICAL SITE
4. MISCELLANEOUS

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

Kilcolgan is now deserted and no surface traces of the medieval borough survive. It is likely, however, that it was located in the vicinity of the castle and the early ecclesiastical site which continued in use as a medieval parish church. Two documents, dating from between 1235 and 1241, survive in the Red Book of Kildare which indicate that Maurice FitzGerald negotiated with the church of Kilcolgan for land between the church and the sea (MacNiocaill 1964b, nos. 48, 49) and it was presumably here that he established the original borough.

2. CASTLE

Founded by Maurice FitzGerald in the years immediately after 1235 by the later middle ages it had fallen into the hands of the Clanricardes. After the Cromwellian settlement it was held for a time by the Frenchs of Monivea before reverting to the Burkes. The OS letters (i, 128) state that "the old castle of Kilcolgan was taken down some years ago by

old [Mr] St. George to build his present house". The site of the castle is now occupied by a castellated structure built in the early years of the nineteenth century.

Knox (1913-15) indicates the site of a motte immediately west of the church but within the ecclesiastical enclosure itself. This feature is no longer as clear as it was in Knox's time and it may simply have been one of the internal divisions of the enclosure itself. In view of Knox's propensity to turn natural features into earthworks, however, it may be that the features he was looking at here, like so many others at Kilcolgan, were of geological origin.

3. ECCLESIASTICAL SITE

The saint associated with Kilcolgan was St Colman mac Aid, a disciple of St Colmcille who was an abbot here towards the end of the sixth century (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 389). The early church was almost certainly monastic but after the reforms of the twelfth century it became a parish church.

The remains of the church are set somewhat off centre within a large enclosure. The building itself is rectangular and has functioned into modern times as the C of I parish church. The building incorporates earlier medieval features, however, particularly in the east gable. A bullaun stone lies beside the north wall.

The outer enclosure delimits a squat-oval shaped area measuring approximately 185 (E-W) by 150 (N-S). It consists

of a low bank delimiting the settlement on the SE, S and W sides of the churchyard. It is missing on the north, where a new house was built in recent years, and also on the NE. There are traces of internal divisions and structures but their date is unclear.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Earthworks

Knox (1915-16, 137-8) indicates the presence of what he terms a "gatemound" east of the ecclesiastical enclosure, close to the entrance to Kilcolgan Castle. The site of this feature is overgrown. East of the church he shows another mound (site I) which appears to be natural rather than an ancient feature. Knox (1913-15, 138-40) also indicates a "wharf" to the north of the ecclesiastical site adjoining the seashore but the earthwork he refers to seems to be natural.

Tobercursaun Altar



The remains of the altar consist of a small stone cairn. On the east side is a cross-inscribed slab set in a socketed stone. The cross has expanded arms and a stepped base. Below it is a stone plaque with the inscription: PRAY IN/ HONOUR/ OF GOD/ AND THE/ SAINT/ 1716. Beside the altar four springs rise from the ground and flow into the Kilcolgan river.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Kilcolgan is an example of a small Anglo-Norman borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it has been the scene of human occupation since pre-Norman times. 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. 8) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Kilcolgan. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LOUGHREA

Despite the presence of three crannogs in Lough Rea, an early ecclesiastical site around St Brigid's church to the east of the town and a possible early church at St Brendan's in the town itself, there are no pre-Norman documentary references to Loughrea and it is not until after the invasion of Connacht that it first appears in history. It is all the more surprising then that when it does appear it is as Richard de Burgh's principal manor, i.e. the intended capital of Anglo-Norman Connacht.

The principal reason affecting de Burgh's choice of site would seem to have been strategic, as Holland (1987-8, 76) has pointed out. Loughrea has a controlling position at the gap between the Sliabh Aughty mountains and the Williamstown-Kilreekil ridge (Holland 1987-8, 76). Little is known about the history of the thirteenth century settlement. The castle was established by de Burgh in 1235 (A. Clon.) and presumably the setting up of the parish church and a regular market soon followed. It was not until 1300, however, that a religious house was established, for the Carmelite friars. This situation contrasts sharply with Athenry where a Dominican house was established by 1241. Although this evidence is negative, for what it is worth it suggests that Loughrea's expansion in the thirteenth century was slow. Evidence for the existence of the borough is to be found in the inquisition taken after the death of the Red Earl of

Ulster in 1333 (Graham 1978).

Despite the Gaelic revival which seems to have caused the smaller boroughs of Galway to be abandoned Loughrea seems to have survived through the later middle ages as a town. It is described in a letter of 1574 as:

"well ditched and trenched and walls fair begun, but not finished, having three strong fair gates made like three castles, the streets well divided and cut; and for the most part it was builded within the walls with houses of stone work, which are now partly destroyed and ruinous. The compass of it is great, and is a very convenient place for a garrison to lie in. It hath been within this thirty years a good market town, but now there is none, and from the first foundation thereof was ruled by a portriffe of English race to be chosen by the inhabitants thereof, as in other places it is accustomed; but about three or four years past the name of portriffe with all that civil jurisdiction was put down by the Earl of Clanricarde, who committed the government of the town to his constable, whereby all English orders ceased there" (Cal. Carew Mss. 1601-3, 476)

The topography of the site in the middle ages was somewhat different from what it is now. The level of the lake water seems to have been higher and it seems to have encroached more on the southern side of the town than at present.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACE
3. TOWN DEFENCES
4. CASTLE
5. ST BRENDAN'S PARISH CHURCH
6. ST MARY'S CARMELITE FRIARY
7. HOSPITAL
8. MISCELLANEOUS
- ST BRIGID'S CHURCH
9. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN

The street pattern of the medieval town was linear, composed of two main east-west streets, Main Street and Barrack Street with a series of short north-south lanes connecting the two. Barrack Street did not extend originally as far to the west as it does today. The 1791 map of Loughrea shows it terminating at the foot of Castle Street (Egan 1950-1, 98). The southern side of the town was obviously replanned in the early nineteenth century when Barrack Street was widened northwards and realigned so as to bypass the medieval town gate. The Market Square was evidently created about this time also.

2. MARKET PLACE

There can be little doubt but that the medieval market place was located in Main Street which was known until 1821 as Market Street.

3. TOWN DEFENCES

Apart from the 1574 reference, quoted above, which mentions that the town was well trenched and that the wall was unfinished at that time, no documentary references are known to the town defences. This is puzzling for a town which was as important as Loughrea and also because the course of the medieval defences can still be traced.

The defences defined a rectangular area still bounded today by a feature known as the "watercourse" which is in fact the remains of the medieval water-filled fosse which protected the town. This runs from Mahoney's Bridge, beside the Court House, where it enters Lough Rea on the west to Dolphin Street on the north, following the line of The Walk to where it joins the stream which connects it up once more with Lough Rea on the south. The watercourse averages 2.5m in width but test work by Gosling along the SW sector of the town in 1986 revealed that it was originally 1.5m wider.

Excavations in the SW corner of the town, in advance of a supermarket development in 1987, revealed the remains of a wall 70cm wide set on a rough uncoursed and unmortared footing of undressed limestone blocks (Hayden 1987-8, 107).

The wall survived to a maximum height of 30cm. Hayden was able to establish that the wall was constructed after the moat was dug because its basal stones rested on a layer of mud deposited by the water of the moat. This may imply, as Hayden suggests, that the fosse is a much older feature, relating perhaps to the towns thirteenth century defences whereas this section of the wall may have been constructed after 1574. There was no wall along the south side of the town where the lake afforded sufficient protection.

The wall originally possessed three gates, one at the western end of Dunkellin Street, a second at the eastern end of Main Street, and the third (which still survives) at the eastern end of Barrack Street. Part of the wall can be seen jutting out from the Barrack Street gate and from this the original height can be estimated at about 6m.

Gatehouse

Rectangular, measuring externally 7.1 by 6.2m. There is a slight batter along the east and south walls rising to the height of the arches. The building was restored in the 1950s for use as Clonfert Diocesan Museum. During this restoration the inner arch of the gate was blocked off with a large oak door and the outer by a window and steel grill; an iron stairway was also inserted through the portcullis slot to give direct access to the first floor chamber (Egan 1956-7, 34-6).

The ground floor consists of a vaulted passage 3m high.

In the eastern arch is a wide portculis groove extending into the upper chamber. Behind it is a hanging eye from which the outer wooden gate was suspended; an inner wooden gate is evidenced by the presence of two similar eyes behind the western arch. Internally the passage broadens slightly probably to accomodate the gates when open. Above the inner gate was a murder-hole, now closed up. Traces of wickerwork centering are present on the mortar of the vaulting.

The first floor consists of a rectangular chamber with a pointed vault running N-S. It is 4.3m high and has internal dimensions of 4.6 by 3.4m. There were wide embrasures on all four sides under low segmental arches. Each contained an arrow loop, apart from the east side where there were two. The chamber was entered originally from the wall-walk on the north side where a plain cut stone pointed doorway provided access. There was a small loft above lit by loops in the N and S (blocked) walls; this would have been reached by means of an internal ladder.

From the embrasure on the western side a narrow stairs, lit by two loops, leads upwards through the SW angle, giving access to the roof. On the S side is the remains of the original gable indicating that the battlemented walkway was probably probably confined to the E and W sides.

The foundations of a stone structure, presumably part of the town wall, were found during excavations carried out in association with drainage schemes near the gate in the 1930s (O'Farrell 1939, 8).

4. CASTLE

According to the reference in the Annals of Clonmacnoise this was constructed in 1236. There are occasional references to it in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and it seems to have been particularly important as a prison for distinguished captives of the earls of Ulster (Orpen 1911-20, iv, 84). In an inquisition held in 1333 the buildings at Loughrea were described as:

"a hall, chamber, a kitchen, and several other houses, in the said castle of Loghry, which are worth nothing beyond the charges because they need large repairs"
(Knox 1902, 133)

Overall, however, documentary evidence for the castle is slight and even its position has not been satisfactorily established. The best guess is that it was on the southern side of Barrack Street, between the Garda Station and the ESB Station. This "guess" is based on references to "Castle Lane" and "Castle Garden" in the 1791 map of Loughrea (Egan 1950-1). It probably backed onto the shoreline of the old Lough. Another likely possibility seemed to be the south-western corner of the town, left blank on the 1791 map, but test excavations here by Gosling (1986) revealed no trace of the substantial structures one would associate with a thirteenth century seigneurial castle.

5. ST BRENDAN'S PARISH CHURCH

The medieval parish church was located within a rectangular churchyard between Main Street and Market Street. All that survives are two medieval grave-slabs and two fragments of window tracery. The present church (C of I) was built by the Board of First Fruits in 1821 and repaired in 1895. The dedication to St Brendan suggests that it may be of pre-Norman origin.

6. ST MARY'S CARMELITE FRIARY

This was founded by Richard de Burgh, earl of Ulster, c.1300 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 291). In 1437 the house was in need of repair and an indulgence was granted to help raise monies (ibid.). In 1562 it was granted to the earl of Clanricard but the friars seem to have stayed on in the town until the seventeenth century. For a time during the Confederate Wars the Discalced Carmelites re-established themselves here but they were ejected after the Cromwellian capture of the town. The Kilcormac missal, preserved in Trinity College Dublin, was written here in 1458.

The surviving remains consist of the nave, chancel, tower, south transept and a small chapel projecting from the south-west end of the nave. The chancel is the oldest part of the remains and, with its line of five twin-lancet windows in the south wall, must date to 1300 or shortly after. The east window is of fourlights with switchline tracery above and was

inserted in the fifteenth century. The nave has been heavily pointed externally but much of it appears to be of fifteenth century date. There is a simple pointed door in the west gable and a pointed window of twin cusped lights with mouchettes above. The slender rectangular tower was inserted in the 15th cent and rises in two stages above the roof line of the nave and chancel. The belfry stage is lit by a twin-light window in the east and west walls. The south transept is also an addition of the fifteenth century and is lit by a S window of three lights with switchline tracery above.

There are six slabs of pre-1700 date in the friary.

7. HOSPITAL

According to Gwynn and Hadcock (1970, 354) there was a chapel or house of lepers here in the middle ages. It was probably dedicated to St Laurence (ibid.). Nothing further is known about it and its location is unclear.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

St Brigid's Church

The remains of this structure survive immediately east of the town. Traces of a potential early ecclesiastical enclosure can be determined in the line of the townland boundary SE of the church, between the townlands of Loughrea and Farranalynch, and also in the curve of Danesfort Road W of

the church site. When complete this would have defined a roughly circular area 200m across. The church itself measures 15m by 7.5m. The east gable has a base batter and the remains of a late medieval window. O'Donovan gives a brief description of it in his Ordnance Survey Letters (Galway, ii, 85-6). The shrine of St Brigid's shoe seems to have been associated with this church (Mahr and Raftery 1932, ii, 166-7 and pl. 130). The Carmelite nuns who established themselves at Loughrea in 1680 appear to have been first based here or near here.

St. Brigid's well

Situated south of St Brigid's Church on the S side of the main road. The well still functions but it has been modernised and there are no ancient features.

Cashel

In Caherwalter Td. immediately NW of the town. Poorly preserved measuring about 45m in diameter.

Crannogs

There are three in Lough Rea. A crozier-head, crucible fragments, objects of wood, bone and chert, etc., were recovered from the crannogs of Shore Is., Ash Is., and Reed Is. in the last century. NMI: Wk.378; R2154-2220; Mahr and Raftery 1932, ii, 160 and pl. 95:1.

9. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. Flat bronze axehead of Ballyvalley type. ?From Loughrea. Whereabouts unknown. Harbison 1969a, 47: no. 1327.
2. Flanged bronze axehead of Derryniggin type. From Loughrea. Blackmore Museum, Salisbury. Harbison 1969a, 57: no. 1719.
3. Flanged bronze axehead. Found in Lough Rea, 1850. NMI: 1968:298.
4. Bronze palstave. From Loughrea. NMI 1968:329.
5. Bronze ring-brooch. From Loughrea. BM: 1868.7-9.29.
6. Fragment of a stone cross with the crucifixion carved in relief. Found in the river bed at Loughrea. Clonfert Diocesan Museum, Loughrea. JGAHS xxvii (1947-8), 77: no. 152.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Loughrea is a good example of an Anglo-Norman town. With its linear street layout, castle, parish church, town defences, and extra-mural friary it conforms to the picture established elsewhere in Ireland of the typical Anglo-Norman town (Bradley 1985). Little is actually known of Loughrea itself, however. The position of the castle is uncertain, the date and nature of the town defences needs to be mor fully established, and nothing is known of the nature of medieval housing in the town. The cemetery of the medieval parish church is quite small and it is likely that it extended

further over properties which are now built-up.

In common with other medieval towns, Loughrea almost certainly possesses archaeological deposits below ground level as the excavations across the watercourse in the southwestern corner of the medieval town have proved important in this respect. As with the other Anglo-Norman towns in Galway it has to be borne in mind that documentary records are relatively few and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of Loughrea's urban development can be obtained. Excavation should be able to 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.

Loughrea's street pattern still retains its medieval layout and this should certainly be preserved in any future developments. The gatehouse in Barrack Street survives in good condition and is well maintained. The Carmelite Friary is still looked after by the order and it is also in good condition. It is desirable to retain the ruins of St Brigid's Church and to preserve the remains of the enclosure line which surrounds it.

It is evident from the foregoing that archaeology is an important means of learning about Loughrea's past and of understanding the character and detailed form of the town today. 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 Loughrea's archaeological potential one of the objectives of its development plan. The objective may then be achieved by judicious use of planning constraints and by conditions attached to planning consents.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern Loughrea. This shaded area is based on the surviving extent of the town walls and it has been continued outside the walls slightly in order to allow for the fosse. An area around the site of St Brigid's early ecclesiastical site is also outlined.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MEELICK

This deserted borough was located on low marshy ground at an important fording point on the Shannon. The handful of prehistoric finds indicates that this ford had been in use from early times but it is only with the coming of the Normans that documentary references begin to occur.

In 1203 William de Burgh made a foray across the Shannon and established a castle at Meelick. From the description of this and the legal battle that subsequently developed it would seem that there was a pre-Norman church site here which de Burgh commandeered. He then constructed a castle around it and converted the church, in time-honoured fashion, into a stable (ALC; Orpen 1911-20, ii, 192). It seems, however, that this castle did not endure for very long.

In 1229 Richard de Burgh, William's son, erected a new castle at Meelick (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 174) and this seems to have remained the core of the manor that was subsequently established here after the conquest of Connacht had succeeded. There is little documentary information on the history of the settlement in the thirteenth century but it is known that the castle was demolished by Felimid O Conchobair in 1316 (ALC). It is not clear if this was rebuilt because in the inquisition of 1333, taken after the death of the Red Earl, the buildings were still in ruins:

There is a castle at Melok, which is enclosed by a stone wall, and is part of the manor of Loghry. In it are a stone chamber, with a chapel annexed, and a kitchen which is ruinous, together with other ruinous houses, which are worth nothing beyond the repairs because they need large repairs" (Knox 1902-3, 393).

The inquisition adds (ibid., 395) that the burgesses of Meelick paid £6 annually in rent but it seems that the borough itself was by now destroyed (see Martin 1981, 46). The attack of 1316 presumably marked the end of the borough of Meelick. The foundation of the Franciscan Friary in the early fifteenth century does not indicate continuity because its founder was a Madden rather than a member of the Burke family, indicating that settlement disruption had occurred in the years between 1333 and 1414.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. CASTLE
3. FRANCISCAN FRIARY
4. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

It seems likely that the borough was probably established in the vicinity of the Franciscan Friary although it should be noted that there is no sign of a motte-like structure in this area nor is there evidence for a pre-Norman ecclesiaastical site.

2. CASTLE

The main documentary references relating to the castle of Meelick have already been cited above. The only feature near the friary which could conceivably represent the castle site is a large squat-oval shaped earthwork to the north of the church buildings. This is somewhat overgrown with trees but measures approximately 75 by 50m.

3. FRANCISCAN FRIARY

The foundation date of this friary has not been precisely established but it is known that it was one of three Franciscan houses for which Pope John XXII issued a mandate to the bishop of Clogher in 1414 licencing him to found a friary if the place was suitable (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 245). The founder was an O'Madden and by 1445 the buildings were in sufficient disrepair to warrant the granting of an indulgence to aid maintenance works (ibid.). In 1559 the friary was suppressed and ruined. It was restored to the Franciscans in 1595 but by 1616 it had again been abandoned.

In 1645 the friars again returned for a time (ibid.).

The remains are situated on a hill overlooking the River Shannon and still function as the (RC) parish church. The church is medieval as are the buildings of the original east and west ranges which still survive. The church originally had a south transept and three aisle arches survive one of which has a figure of St Francis inserted into it. The east window is a modern insertion but the west window probably dates to reconstruction works carried out in the 1640s, when a door to the sacristy was also inserted.

Monuments

There are seventeen pre-1700 inscribed graveslabs and plaques. These are described in *Mems Dead i* (1888-92), 381-9; *ibid.* iv, 415. In addition a fragment inscribed SAC... VERUM was recovered in the course of reconstruction works in 1987.

Also present is a mortar, a stone head and a series of cut stone fragments scattered through the graveyard as well as some found during the 1986-7 reconstruction to the north of the church.

4. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1-2. Two polished stone axeheads. From river Shannon at Meelick. NMI 1955: 99-100.

- 3-4. Bronze rapier and spearhead. From River Shannon at Meelick. Private possession.
5. Bronze sickle. From Meelick ford. NMI 1925:12.
6. Bronze sword. From Meelick. BM 1854.7-14.281.
7. Silver ring (medieval). From Meelick. BM 1854.7-14.279.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Meelick is an example of a small Anglo-Norman borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it has been the scene of concentrated human occupation in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. 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. 10) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Meelick. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



PORTUMNA

Apart from a handful of prehistoric finds Portumna does not appear to have figured in history until the coming of the Normans for whom the crossing point of the Shannon was strategically important.

Surprisingly little is known about the Anglo-Norman settlement, however, and the only references of any significance to it occur in the inquisition taken in 1333 after the death of the Brown Earl of Ulster. This portrays an image of a settlement in decline. The ferry, which had previously been worth £7 in dues, was now yielding only 13s. 4d per annum; the prisage of beer had yielded 13s. 4d but now it rendered nothing. The burgage rent was fixed, however, and they had to return £4 7s 6d per annum (Knox 1902-3, 395-6). From these references it is clear that Portumna was part of the estates of the earl of Ulster and it is all the more puzzling then to discover that the patronage of the church at Portumna was granted to the abbey of Dunbrody before 1254 by William de Cogan rather than by a de Burgh (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 215). The accounts of 1333 show that the Anglo-Norman colony was clearly in decline and by the end of the fourteenth century Portumna would seem to have been abandoned by them because around this time (certainly before 1414) the local Irish lord, O'Madden, granted the old church of Portumna to the Dominicans.

The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries seems to have seen a revival at Portumna, particularly after 1610 when it became the principal seat of the earls of Clanricard. In that year the manor of Portumna was confirmed to Clanricard together with the castle, monastery, fair and markets (Lewis 1837 ii, 469). In 1634 the earl of Strafford held a council at the castle which was to be garrisoned during the Confederate and Jacobite wars. It survived both only to be burned accidentally in 1826. The present town appears to be an estate town largely of eighteenth and nineteenth century date.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. CASTLE
3. BLACK CASTLE
4. DOMINICAN PRIORY OF MARY AND SS PETER & PAUL
5. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

The only indicator of the position of the Anglo-Norman borough is the remains of the Dominican Friary which would seem to have incorporated parts of the thirteenth century parish church into it. All that can be said is that it is

likely that the borough was in its neighbourhood. There are no earthwork or other visible traces of the borough and while some of the ground is open much of it has been planted with trees and shrubery.

2. CASTLE

Surprisingly the castle of Portumna is not referred to in medieval documentarion but since it was the centre of one the de Burgh's principal manors in Galway there can be little doubt but that there was a castle here in the thirteenth century. The traditional site is that marked as Black Castle on the shore of the Shannon immediately to the east of the Dominican Friary. Lewis (1837, ii, 469) observed that "the remains of the ancient castle built by De Burgo, which was situated close to the river, were taken down a few years since". According to a more recent writer MacMahon (1983, 5), however, the "ruins" of de Burgh's motte were present in the "Convent" grounds. These were not seen by us and MacMahon would seem to be mistaken.

The ruins of the successor to the Anglo-Norman castle, that built by the fourth earl of Clanricard in 1610 still survive. This is a symmetrical rectangular house, two rooms wide, rising to three stories over a basement and having square projecting corner towers. The building has been described in considerable detail by both Craig (1970; 1976) and Johnson (1988) and it is not necessary to discuss it further here.

3. BLACK CASTLE

This, the likely site of the Anglo-Norman castle, is listed as a garrison in 1659 when there was a proposal to build a timber bridge across the Shannon (Ir Sword xiv, no. 55 (1980), 137).

4. DOMINICAN PRIORY OF MARY AND SS PETER & PAUL

There was a chapel of SS Peter and Paul here, belonging to the Cistercian monks of Dunbrody but, having become disused, it was regranted to the Dominicans by O'Madden some time before 1414 when an indulgence was granted for its repair (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 228). Little is known about the friary in the later middle ages. In 1582 it was in the hands of the earl of Clanricard and by 1631 it was being used as the Protestant parish church (ibid.). The chancel was converted into a parish church (C of I) in 1762 and in continued in use as such until 1832 when the present church was built in the town.

Part of the pre-Dominican church may have been incorporated into the east end of the chancel which is lit by a small simple lancet, of thirteenth century form, in the north and south walls. The remainder of the building's fabric, however, seems to be of fifteenth century date. The church itself consisted of a nave and chancel, separated by a tower, with a south transept. The church walls stand to full height but only the base of the tower survives. The chancel

is lit by a fine inserted four-light traceried window (illustrated in Leask 1955-60, iii, fig. 49) in the east wall, and by three twin, cusped, ogee-headed windows, two in the south wall and one in the north. There is a small round-headed piscina with an ogee hood above. The nave is smaller than the chancel and there are traces of the presence of a western porch. The south transept was lit by a three light window with cusped comma-shaped, tracery above. The name IO[H]ANNE[S] is cut externally onto the nib of one. This name also occurs at Clontuskert and the window can be dated to c.1470.

A door on the north side of the chancel provides access to the sacristy, a rectangular chamber lit by an attractive quatrefoil window. The remains of the N and W sides of the conventual ranges survive together with the foundations of the E side. Immediately north of the nave an area which may have functioned as the north transept of the church was modified in the late sixteenth century when simple mullioned windows were inserted into what would seem to have become a residential chamber. The refectory was located on the north side and was entered by a plain door from the cloister garth. It was lit by four windows in the north wall. The north and west arcades of the cloister were re-erected in 1954. It has moulded pillars with plain pointed arches and would have had a lean-to roof.

Monuments

In the chancel are three bevelled coffin-shaped slabs of fourteenth-fifteenth century date. One of these is almost entirely decorated, the upper half with six rows of circles while there are heads and a fish. There is also a Madden (1648) memorial slab here. The remaining pre-1700 slabs commemorate Brs Christopher Walsh and Ambrosio Madden (1670); Meagher (1681); Canavan (1688); Hearne (1688); Higgison (1688) and Maddin (1688).

Mems Dead vi, 85.

5. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. Stone axehead. Found at Portumna bridge, Co. Galway. Dept. Education Rep. NMI 1927-8, 12.
2. Stone cleaver. From Castle Demesne, Portumna. NMI 1934: 64.
3. Bronze spearhead. Found on river bank at Fairy Hill, near Portumna bridge. NMI 1929: 1316.
4. Bronze sword. Found at Portumna bridge. Eogan 1965, 181.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Portumna is an example of a deserted Anglo-Norman borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it has been the scene of concentrated human occupation

in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. 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 Portumna. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

granted.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TUAM

The town, the largest in north Galway, is located some 20 miles north of Galway city in an area of good agricultural land.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

According to tradition Tuam was founded by St Jarlaith in the early sixth century but the first definite evidence for the existence of a monastery here comes in 781 when the Annals of Ulster note the death of Nuada O Bolcain, abbot of Tuam. Subsequently abbots are recorded until 1085 when Aod O hOisin is styled comarba Iarlaithe ocus ardepscop Tuama (AFM). Tuam's rise to prominence, however, is undoubtedly linked with the fact that the O Conchobairs decided to establish a castle here and in the twelfth century it became their principal residence. At the Synod of Rathbresail in 1111 Tuam was named as one of the five episcopal sees of Connacht. In 1127, through the co-operation of Toirdealbach O Conchobair, king of Connacht, and Aed O hOisian, bishop and abbot of Tuam, a new enclosure was erected around the monastery and it was endowed with lands (A. Tig.). It is almost certainly this event which is commemorated by the great cross fragments, with their Urnes style decoration.

The position of Tuam as the greatest church site in the west was further strengthened in 1152 when, at the synod of Kells, it was named as the principal see and archbishopric of Connacht. In 1177 it was raided by the Anglo-Normans but their impact was slight and it is clear from the surviving remains that O Conchobair patronage continued into the thirteenth century, with the construction of St Mary's Cathedral, the rebuilding of St Jarlath's in transitional style and the foundation of the Premonstratensian house. Even after the Anglo-Norman invasion of Connacht Tuam seems to have been left undisturbed in the possession of the church. In 1244, however, the annals record that Tuam "with all its churches" was destroyed by fire. The archbishops, however, were the ones responsible for the development of Tuam and although there is no record that it became a borough it was clearly functioning as an important market place in the mid thirteenth century (Sweetman 1875-86, ii, no. 672; Lewis 1837, ii, 646)).

Little is known of Tuam in the later middle ages but it seems to have survived into the sixteenth century as a nucleated settlement, even if it was a small one. An account of 1555 describes Tuam as:

"at one time large and populous but is now in ruins, unfortified and almost uninhabited. The river Corcha flows through its centre; on its western side is situated the cathedral church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary which is a sufficiently large and ornamented

edifice; it has a high altar, a choir, etc, and is sufficiently furnished with crucifixes, etc. It has a cemetery attached and a belfry which is in ruins"

(Burke, History of the Archbishops of Tuam, quoted in Claffey 1966)

In 1561 the Jesuit Fr Wolfe states that there were then not more than twenty or thirty houses in the town (ibid). Because of its westerly situation the town and its monasteries stayed Catholic until 1587-8 but in that year the cathedral and its revenues passed into Protestant hands (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 100). The English conquest of Connacht and the influx of Protestant settlers in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries marks a turning point in the history of the settlement. In 1613 it became a borough.

Tuam received its charter of incorporation from James I in circumstances in which it was required to return a loyal Protestant parliament. It was to be styled "the Sovereign, free Burgesses and Commonalty of the Borough of Tuam". By this charter the corporation consisted of a sovereign, twelve free burgesses, and an indefinite number of freemen assisted by a recorder, treasurer, town clerk, two sergeants at mace and other officers. The charter conferred on the corporation the privilege of returning two members to parliament which continued until the Union (See Kelly in JGAHS, vols. iv and v, where the text of the charter is reproduced).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACE
3. MILLS
4. CASTLE
5. EARLY ECCLESIASTICAL SITE
 TEMPLE JARLATH
 HIGH CROSSES
6. ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL
 COLLEGE
7. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
8. PREMONSTRATENSIAN ABBEY OF THE HOLY TRINITY
9. TEMPLENASCREEN
10. MISCELLANEOUS
11. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN

Tuam retains elements of the concentric street plan associated with important ecclesiastical sites in the alignments of Church Lane, Stable Lane, Vicar Street and Bishop Street. High Street would appear to have been the principal routeway running through this settlement in medieval times. It is also possible, as Swan has suggested, that the market place may be a feature of early medieval date. The Market Square, as it exists today, however, is clearly a feature of the seventeenth century town layout of

Tuam which was based on Vicar Street, Shop Street, Bishop Street and Dublin Road.

2. MARKET PLACE

The market place is triangular of a type frequently found in seventeenth century towns (for instance, Donegal) but it is possibly located as mentioned above on an early medieval predecessor. The market cross was re-erected here in 1874 but it seems that the base had been in this approximate position for some time (see below).

3. MILLS

Bourke's map of Tuam in 1720 shows a number of mills on the river Nanny. It is not known for certain if any of these were in existence before 1700 but it is a likely possibility (fig. 12).

4. CASTLE

Tuam was the site of the "wonderful castle" which John Lynch in *Cambrensis Eversus* (1652) tells us was constructed here by Ruaidhri Ua Conchobair. It is unfortunate that there are no contemporary sources telling us about this building because Lynch's polemical writing cannot be relied on for matters of this kind. It is known, however, that from 1049 the O Conchobairs had a castle at Tuam. After the decline of

O'Conchobair power in the thirteenth century, however, this structure was almost certainly taken over by the archbishops of Tuam, if they had not already done so and the site that is pointed out as "the castle of Tuam" was almost certainly the place of residence of the archbishops of Tuam, the lords of the medieval settlement. Lewis (1837, ii, 646) states that in 1252 when Henry III confirmed to Florence macFlin the Pope's bull for annexing the bishopric of Annaghdown to the see of Tuam that he inserted a condition that he should have a portion of land within the town for the erection of a castle. There are no records, however, of an Anglo-Norman castle being constructed at Tuam. Lewis (1837, ii, 648) added that "some slight remains of the ancient castle [survive] which consisted of a strong keep with a large courtyard defended by lofty massive walls with towers at the angles and at the gateway entrance and was surrounded by a deep fosse into which the waters of the adjacent river were diverted". It seems to have stood across between Shop Street and the Bishop's Palace. A small turret here is pointed out as an ancient feature but it is evidently of fairly recent date. There was a mound here and an urn is said to have been found in it in the 1880s (Waldron in Tuam Herald 16.6.73). Excavation of this mound by Rynne, however, revealed no ancient features (pers. comm.).

The Chair

This was made a few years ago and is based on the drawings of the O'Neill inauguration chair at Tullahoge. There is no

genuine ancient lore concerning the chair. Members of parliament are said to have sat in it after being elected to represent the borough.

5. EARLY ECCLESIASTICAL SITE

The outline history of the early monastery has already been charted above and attention will be focused here on the individual components of the early ecclesiastical site and on the remains on the ground.

The Monastic Enclosure

Only sections of the outline of the monastic enclosure can now be determined. Swan (1985, 89), however, has attempted to reconstruct it. He has identified two enclosures, an inner one defined by the curve of Church Lane and the lane running northwards from High Street to Egan Lane. He has also suggested the former presence of an outer enclosure, bounded on the east by Shop Street and Market Place, on the SE by Vicar Street, on the SW by Stable Lane, and on the NW by the trackway leading from the Galway Road down to Abbey Well. In the absence of excavation it is difficult to know how accurate this suggestion is. medieval documents refer to the abbeys of St John (Augustinian) and the Holy Trinity (Premonstratensian) as being "in the suburbs" and presumably therefore outside of the monastic enclosure. Nonetheless the position of St Mary's Cathedral within this suggested outer enclosure remains curious.

TEMPLE JARLATH

The principal church within the enclosure was Temple Jarlath as is evidenced by both its dedication and its topographical position on the highest ground. The fact that it also functioned as the parish church of Tuam is a further indication of its primacy (O'Donovan, OS Letters, Galway, i, 31). It is presumably the "parish church of Tuam" valued at 100s in the ecclesiastical taxation of 1302-6 (Sweetman 1875-86, v, p. 226). It is all the more puzzling then that the cathedral was not located here in the normal pattern attested at Irish monastic sites and that the cathedral's dedication is to the Blessed Virgin rather than to Jarlath. From this it can only be concluded that there was a testy relationship between the monks of St Jarlath's and the chapter of the cathedral. The nearest parallel to this situation is the founding of a new cathedral at Dublin, St Patrick's, and the move away from Christ Church. The founding of St Patrick's was in part inspired by the desire of the bishop to establish a chapter responsible to him which would be properly endowed. One cannot be certain if the foundation of St Mary's Cathedral at Tuam was motivated by similar concerns but it is interesting to note that Archbishop Catholicus O'Duffy (1167-1201) had instituted a dean and chapter by the time of his death (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 99) and it may be that in order to successfully complete this reform he had to move the cathedral from St Jarlaths. The reign of this archbishop also coincides with the date of the oldest parts of the cathedral fabric. Indeed it is possible

that the collapse of the great church (presumably St Jarlath's) "both roof and stone" which is noted in the Annals of Loch Ce in 1184 may have prompted the move to a new site and a new dedication.

Located in High Street on top of a prominent ridge the remains of this building consist of the transitional three light east window together with parts of the north and south returns. The remains of a small rectangular structure of later date survive at the west end.

Romanesque carved heads.

Set round the inner arches of the east window. Evidently inserted and derived from an earlier building, perhaps that which collapsed in 1184.

Andersen 1974-5

Guesthouse

The guesthouse of Tuam is mentioned in passing in an annalistic entry of 1127 (A. Tig.).

High Crosses

There are the remains of at least three and possibly five high crosses in Tuam. The base and shaft of the market cross constitute parts of a single monument but the head which is on top of it is unlikely to be derived from the same cross. This cross-head may have formed part of the cross whose shaft is preserved in the cathedral or it may have formed part of a

different cross. Fourthly there is a small cross-head discovered in 1926 and fifthly there is a cut stone built into the entrance gate to St Mary's Cathedral which may be derived from a cross. Since the time of Henry O'Neill attempts have been made to link the base and shaft of the market cross with the fragment in the cathedral and the cross-head at present on top of the market cross to produce one massive monument between 25 and 30 feet high. Such "reconstructions", however, overlook the fact that the mouldings of the fragment in the cathedral do not correspond with those on the market cross nor do they explain why the same monument should have two similar inscriptions.

Market Cross

Sandstone shaft, 3m high, inserted into a semi-pyramidal base and surmounted by a cross-head of much smaller width. The base is decorated with figures in high relief on each side. The surface of the shaft is covered with animal and ribbon interlace in Urnes style carved in very low relief. The cross-head shows a bishop flanked by two figures on each side, on one face, and a crucifixion on the other. The N and S ends of the arms show a single figure. Inscription on the base:

[OROIT] DO THAIRDELBUCH U CHONCHUBAIR DOND RIG [OCUS DO
...] RAFLATH ...SIN... DO RIGNE IN SAETHAR-[SA]; and on
the W face: [OROIT DO AED] U OSSIN DOND ABBAID ...

O'Donovan calls this St Jarlath's cross (OS Letters, Galway,

i, 47) and when he saw it it was in three pieces. He says that the cross-head lay at the east end of the cathedral (where its site is marked on OS maps) but he adds that it had previously been used as a market cross, having been set up at the market house gate, beside the Market Square, where he said the pedestal still remained. He goes on to say that there was another cross fragment (the shaft of the market cross) to the east of the cathedral which had a tenon at one end. The cross was erected in its present position in 1874. Henry 1970, 141; Stalley 1981, 182-3.

Cross. 12th cent.

In the aisle of the cathedral's south nave. Sandstone shaft 1.5m high, 23.5cm by 43.5 cm. Decorated with knot-interlacing, key patterns and animal interlace.

Inscription:

OR DON RIG DO THA[I]RDELBUCH U CHONCHOB AIR OR DON THAER
SO GILLU C[H]R[IST] U THUATHAI[L]
OR DO CHOMARBA IARLAI THE .I. DO AED U OSSIN [LAS]IN
DERNAD AN CHROS SA

According to O'Donovan (OS Letters, Galway, i, 49) this cross was found in the earth "under the communion table inside the church" [the fourteenth century chancel] but it had been seen in the cathedral by Ware in the seventeenth century.

Henry 1970, 142-3; Stalley 1981, 183-4.

Cross-head. Late 12th cent.

Sandstone. Found in 1926 when building the Munster and Leinster Bank (now AIB), close to the site of the Augustinian house of St John. It was preserved at St Jarlath's College and subsequently at Tuam Mill Museum until it was stolen in 1981. It averages 65cm in diameter but the outer edge bears pock-dressing indicating possible re-shaping in the later middle ages.

Rynne 1985-6.

6. ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

As remarked already the location of the cathedral is unusual on low ground in a position which appears to bisect the suggested course of the early ecclesiastical enclosure. The modern cathedral was constructed in 1861-3 and it incorporates two earlier structures, the chancel of the Romanesque cathedral (the nave of which was destroyed by fire in 1767) and the Gothich chancel used until recently as the Synod Hall.

Romanesque

The chancel and chancel arch of the Romanesque cathedral survive. The arch is composed of six orders and has a span of 5m. The first jamb-order is square-edged, the next three are three-quarter columns and the innermost is a half column. The capitals are decorated with interlaced patterns and grotesque human heads. Four of the arches have chevron and roll

ornaments, while the innermost has an extended chevron. The chancel itself has a barrel vault and is lit by three windows at the east end and one in the south wall. These are round-headed, internally splayed, and decorated with chevrons as well as zoomorphic interlace, rosettes, lozenges, circles, and two anthropomorphic scenes. It has been the subject of detailed study by Stalley (1981) who has assigned the construction to 1184-90.

Gothic

Leask (1955-60, ii, 131) believed that work had commenced on this structure before 1312 and that it belonged to the early fourteenth century. It is rectangular, measuring 71 by 27 feet, and has a high pointed archway at its west end. This arch supported a slender tower of friary type which was removed by Deane in the works of 1861-3. The east, north and south walls have external buttresses, weathered at each stage, and with foliated niches above the first weathering. The buttresses rise to a continuous arcaded corbel course which supported the original parapet. The east window is of five foliated lights with a quatrefoil centrepiece. In the centre is a large sex-foiled circle. Four of the six side windows are of three lights; the others of two.

COLLEGE

A vicar's college was in existence by 1401 and there were still five vicars in the sixteenth century (Gwynn and Hadcock

1970, 362). It was usual for these to be housed in a separate building.

7. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

This priory was established by Toirdealbach O Conchobair c.1140 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 197). It lay outside of the ecclesiastical enclosure to the south-east, between the present day Circular Road and Dublin Road, and is referred to in the ecclesiastical taxation of 1302-6 as being "in the suburbs" (Sweetman 1875-86, v, p. 226). After the Suppression, in 1562, it was granted to the earl of Clanricard. Its position is shown on the Bourke map of 1720, just a little to the west of where it is marked on the modern OS map.

8. PREMONSTRATENSIAN ABBEY OF THE HOLY TRINITY

The statement that this house was possibly founded by William de Burgh in 1204 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 206) is highly improbable. The de Burghs did not succeed in getting a sufficient grip on Connacht lands until over thirty years later. The abbey was evidently in existence by c.1211 because there is a record of monks from the Tuam house visiting Premontre (ibid.) and the tradition that it was founded by one of the O Conchobairs has more to commend it. It was burned in the destruction of Tuam in 1244. There are incidental references to monks and abbots until the

Suppression. In 1578 it was granted to the burgesses of Athenry (ibid.). The abbey is referred to in the letter of c.1211 as situated "in the suburbs of the metropolis of Tuam" (ibid.) and from this it can be inferred that its position NW of the cathedral lay outside the enclosure of the early monastic site.

9. TEMPLENASCREEN

According to O'Donovan (OS Letters, Galway, i, 31) this was a parish church but as Monester ne Skryne it is included in a list of abbeys in county Galway compiled in 1574 (Cal. Carew Mss. 1601-3, 473). Accordingly its late medieval status remains unclear. The antiquity of the site is also unclear. According to tradition the relics of St Jarlath were kept here and in 1650 the shrine was discovered by men threshing corn on the floor of the disused church (O Murchu 1970, 11) It was said to be a seven-sided (?house-shaped) chest "beautifully carved in solid silver and ornamented by choice designs" but it subsequently disappeared. The position of this church site, in Bishop Street, is marked on the OS map.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

St Brigid's Chapel

According to O'Donovan (OS Letters, Galway, i, 33) a chapel site was reported a short distance SW of the cathedral "at a gate to the N of the Tierboy road directly opposite Mr

Potter's house, near where the road branches to Loughrea and Galway. Human bones were found in the field into which the gate opens, just at the entrance to it, at various periods during the progress of its cultivation". The stream running between the site and the cathedral is called Sruffaun Breedia, the stream of St Brigid.

11. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. Looped bronze spearhead. From Tuam, Co. Galway. NMI 1906: 455.
2. Looped bronze spearhead. From St Jarlath's College, Tuam. NMI 1932: 6439. JRSOI xxxv (1935), 67.
3. Stone lamp. From Tuam, Co. Galway. NMI 1932: 6503.
4. Bronze pin. From garden at Abbey Trinity (Townparks td.), Tuam. NMI 1954: 65.
5. Bronze bell. Found in 1841 near the ruins of the abbey dedicated to the Virgin Mary in Tuam, Co. Galway. Alnwick Castle, Northumberland. Bruce, Cat. Alnwick Castle (1880), 188: no. 912.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Tuam's particular importance to archaeological research lies in the fact that it is an example of a monastic town developed by native Irish kings prior to the coming of the

Normans. The extensive ecclesiastical remains together with the documentary sources clearly indicate that it was the most important pre-Norman site in Connacht. Although the settlement developed in the thirteenth century the impact of the Normans seems to have been relatively slight and Tuam offers one of the few examples in Ireland of continuing development on a native ecclesiastical site. It was still of sufficient importance in the early seventeenth century to be incorporated as a borough. Although excavations within Tuam have been confined to the cathedral, archaeological deposits almost certainly extend below ground level across the extent of the medieval and seventeenth century town. As with the other towns in Galway it has to be borne in mind that documentary records are relatively few and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of Tuam's past can be obtained. Excavation should be able to reveal significant information about the topography and layout of the medieval town and, in particular, about how life in the town changed between Early Christian times and the seventeenth centuries.

Tuam's street pattern still preserves traces in the curving alignments of Vicar Street and Church Lane of its monastic past and these should certainly be preserved in any future developments. It is important too that the old streets of the seventeenth century town be retained and not widened, Shop Street, Bishop Street, Vicar Street, High Street and Dublin Road. The surviving sections of the medieval cathedral are well maintained as are the ruins of St Jarlath's but only

the sites of the other religious houses which formed such an important part of ancient Tuam are known. The Market Cross is in an exposed position where it runs the danger of being hit by a juggernaut and on the whole it would be better if it was taken in and replaced by a replica.

It is evident from the foregoing that archaeology is an important means of learning about Tuam's past and of understanding the character and detailed form of the town today. 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 Tuam's archaeological potential one of the objectives of its development plan. The objective may then be achieved by judicious use of planning constraints and by conditions attached to planning consents.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern Tuam. This shaded area is largely based on the extent of the town in Bourke's map of 1720 together with areas around the known church sites outside of the central monastic complex around St Jarlath's.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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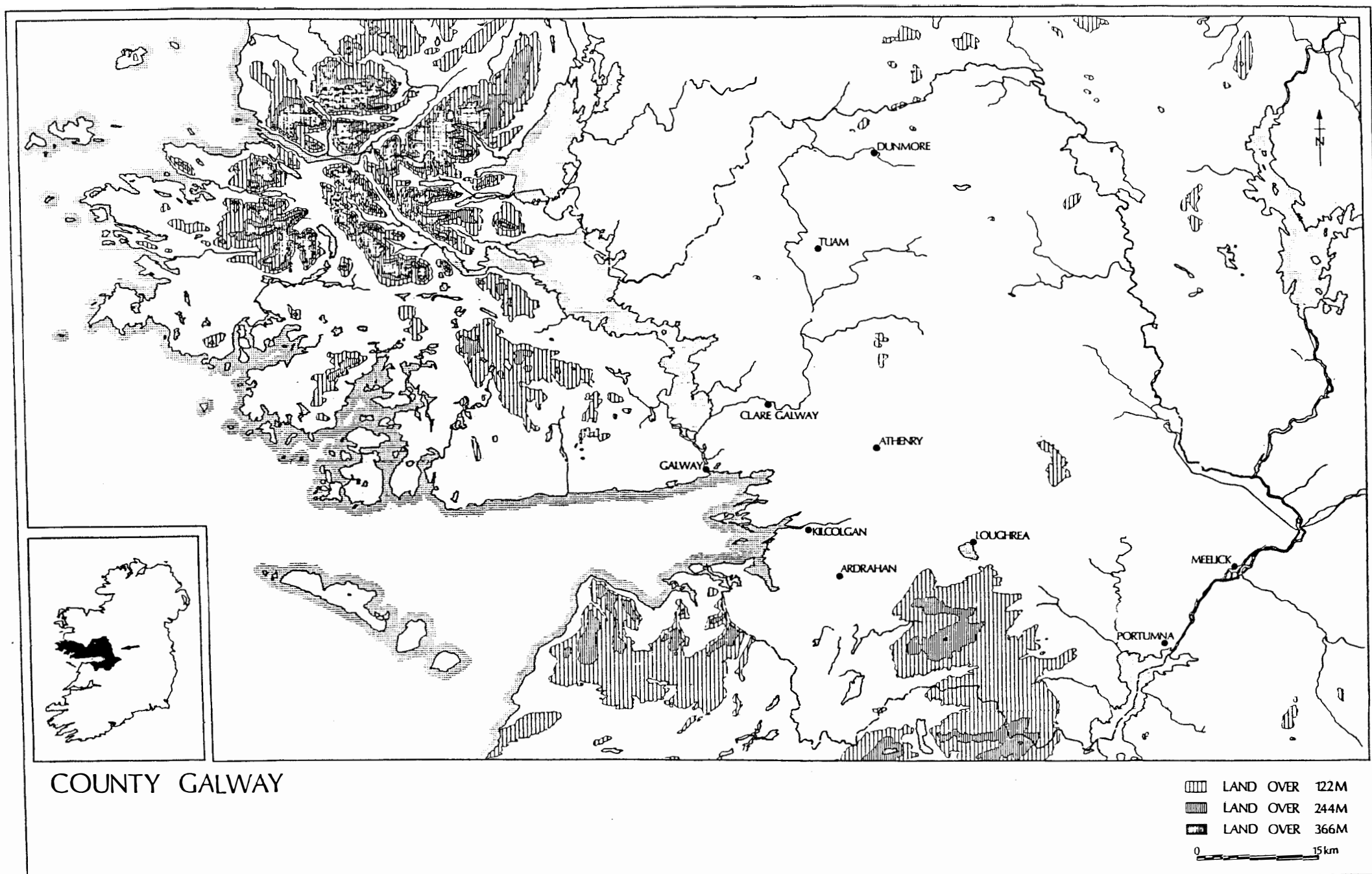


Fig. 1. County Galway: Location map of boroughs and towns.

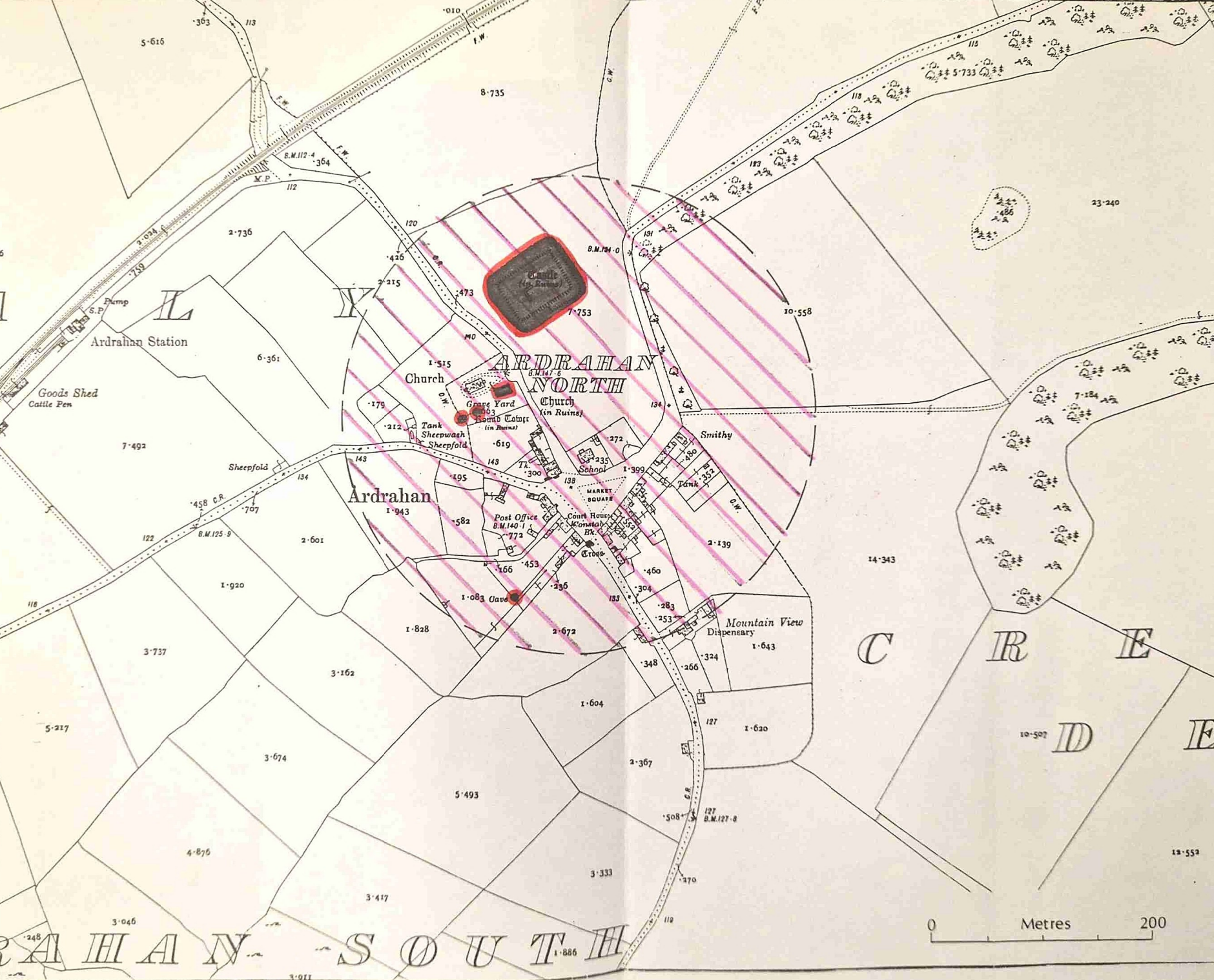


FIG. 2. ARDRAHAN : ZONE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

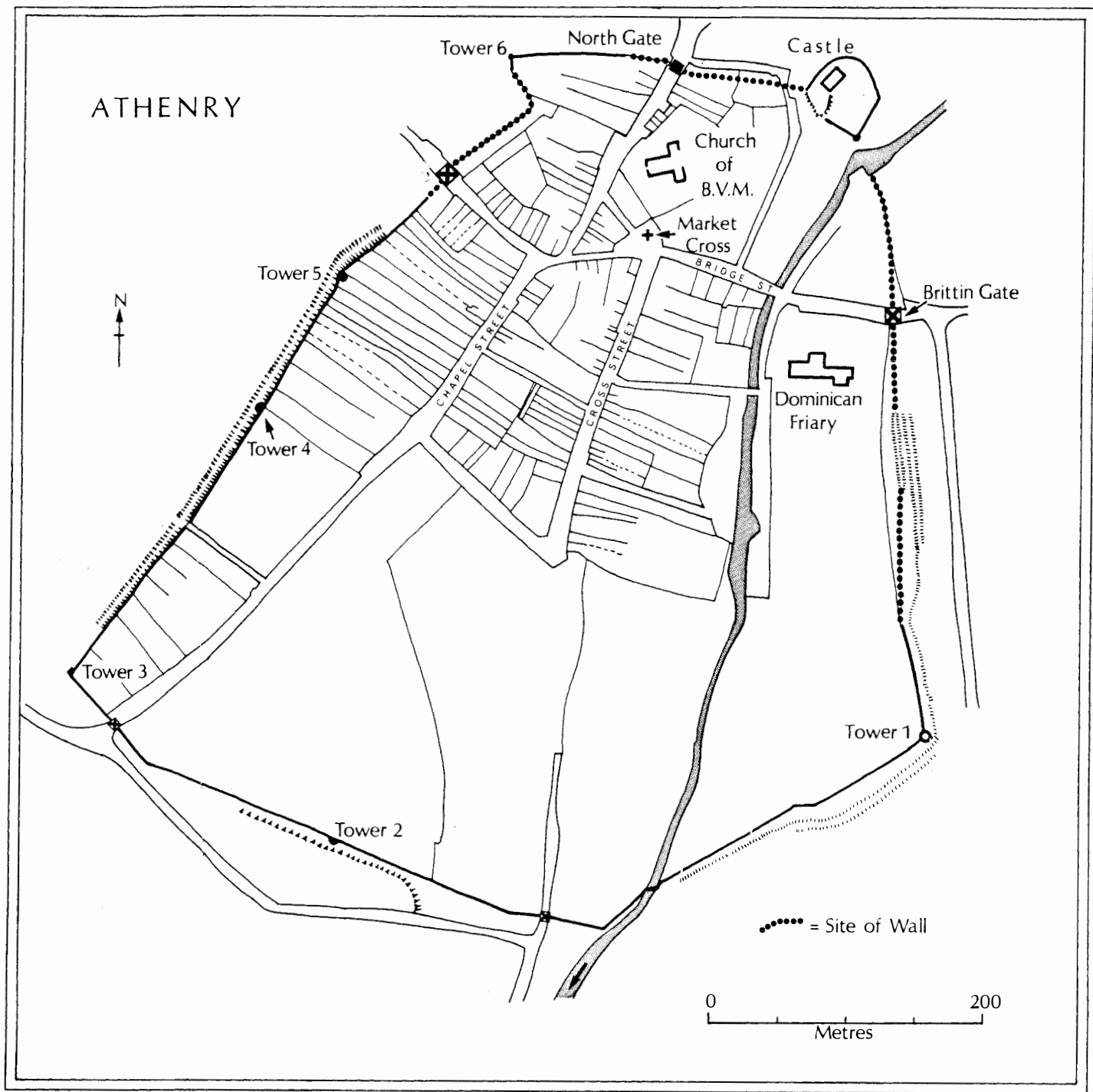


Fig. 3. Outline map of Athenry showing the principal archaeological features.

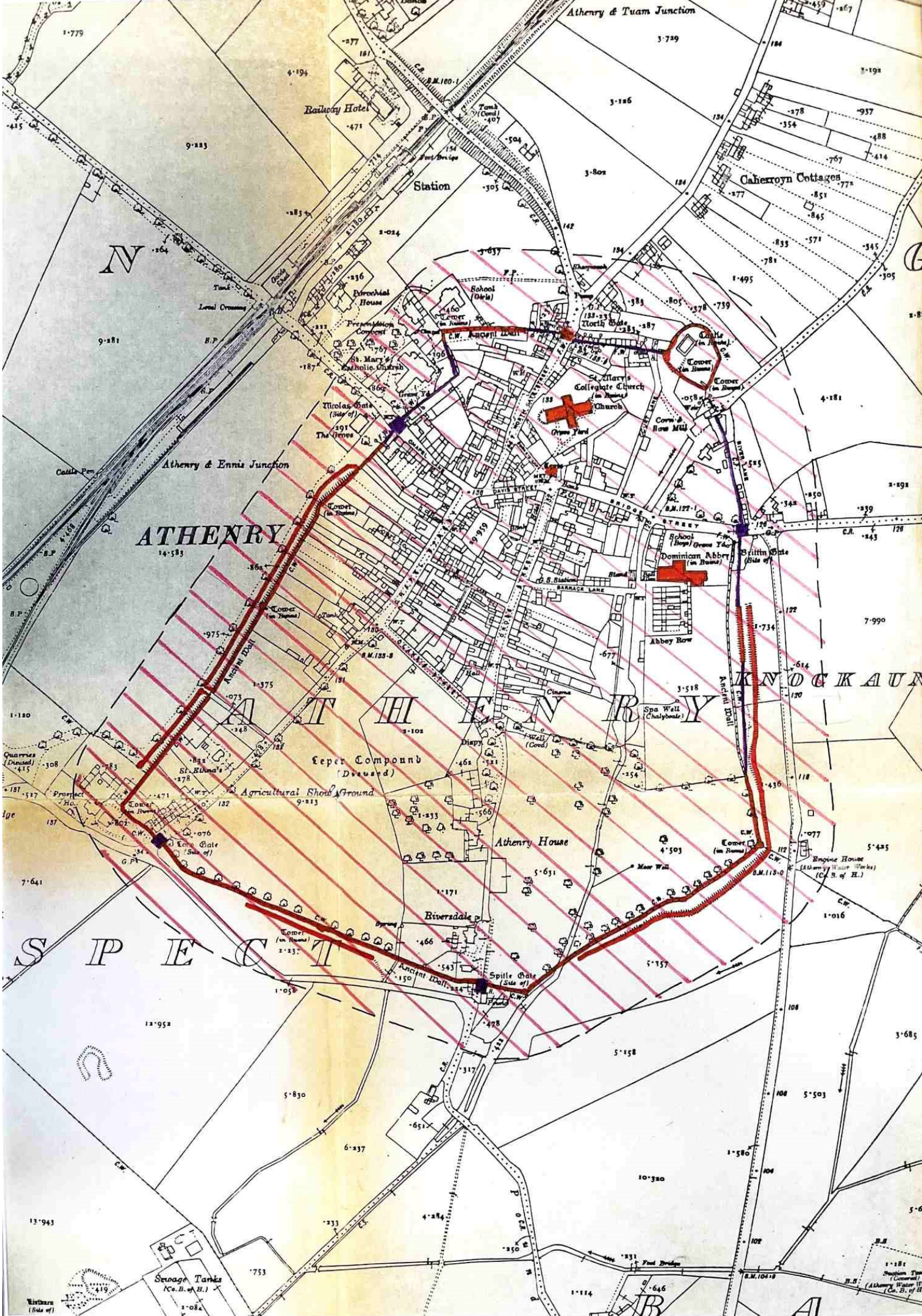


Fig. 4. Athenry: Zone of archaeological potential.



Fig. 6. Dunmore: Zone of archaeological potential.

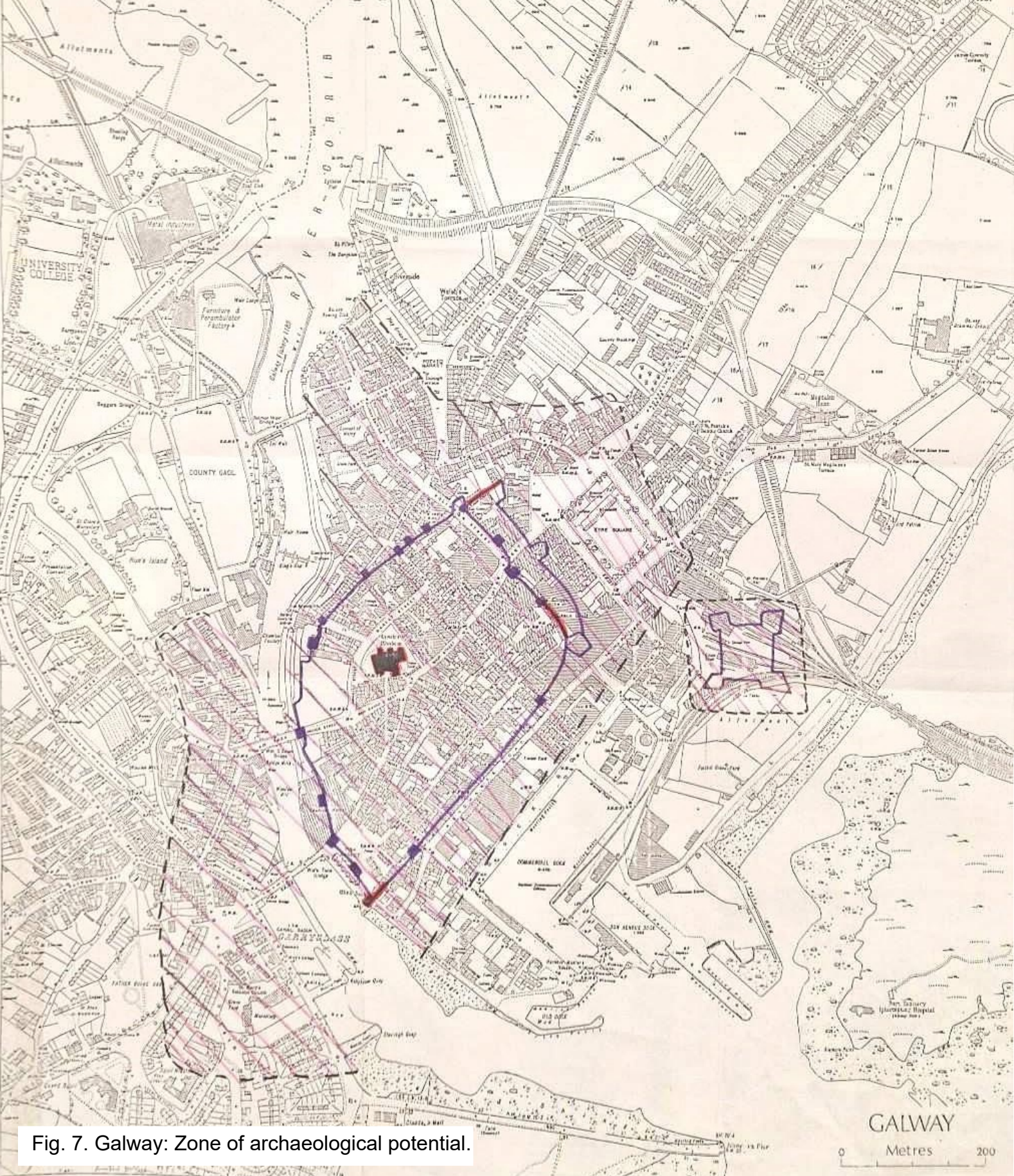


Fig. 7. Galway: Zone of archaeological potential.

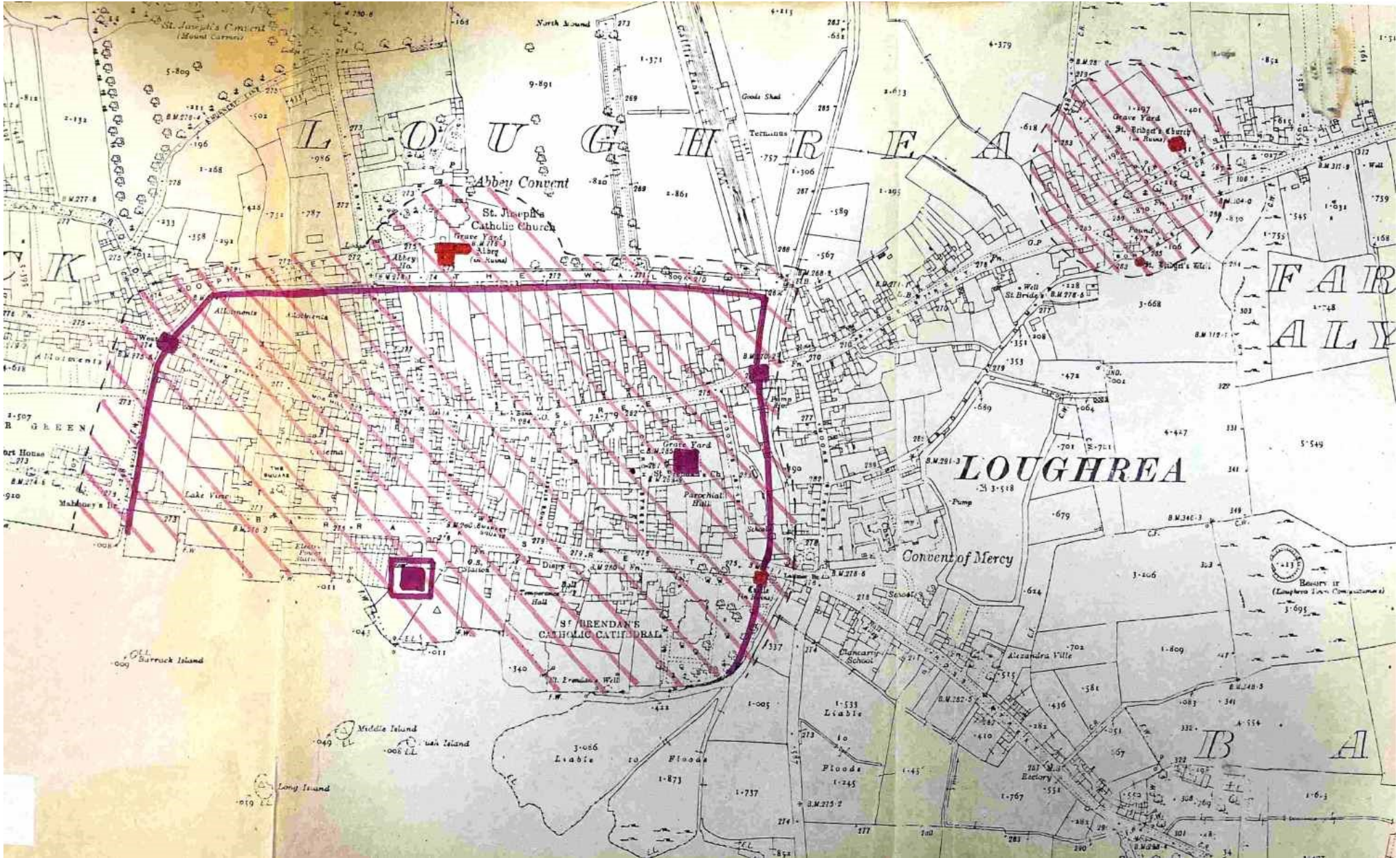


Fig. 9. Loughrea: Zone of archaeological potential.

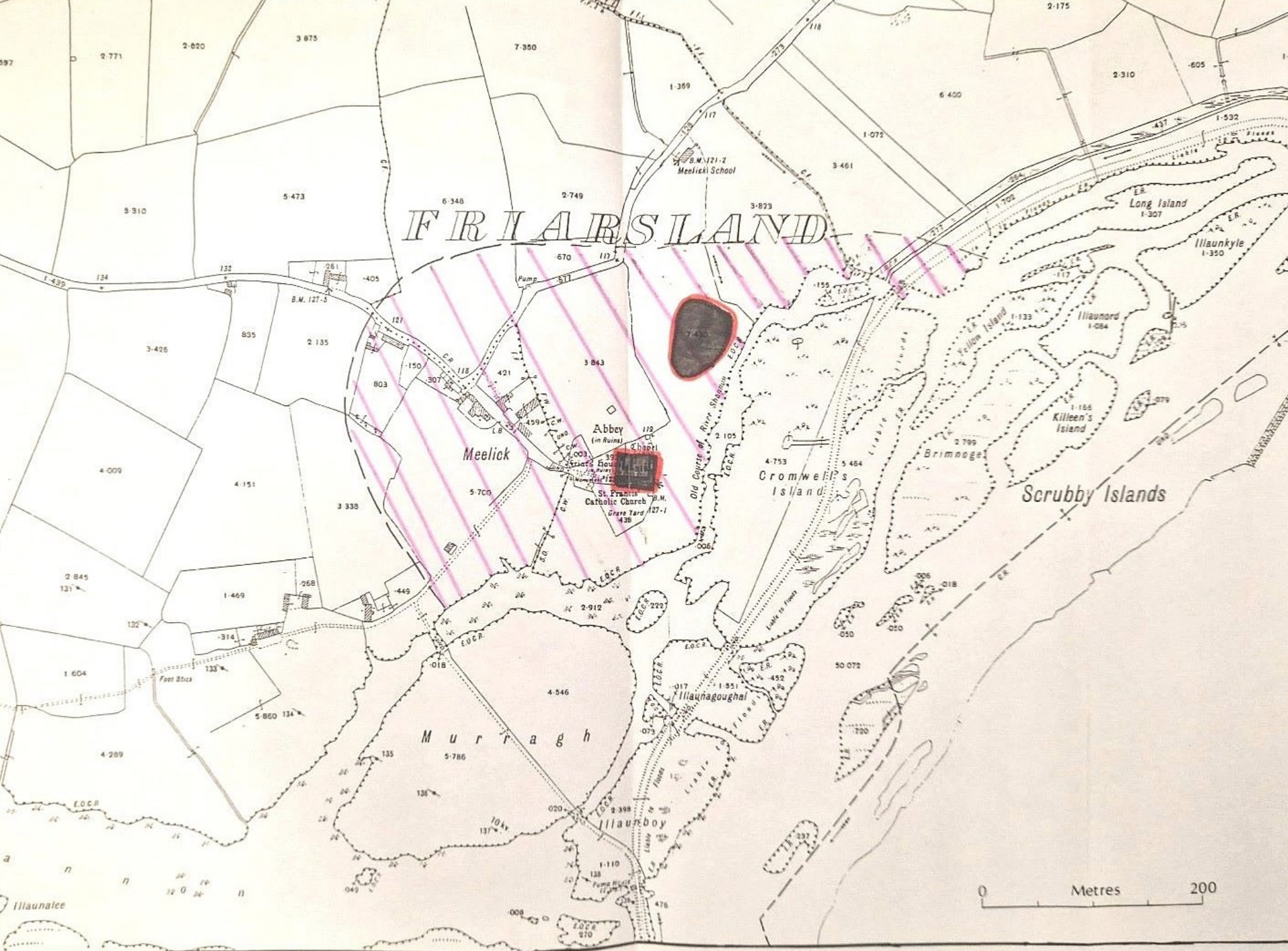


Fig. 10. Meelick: zone of archaeological potential.

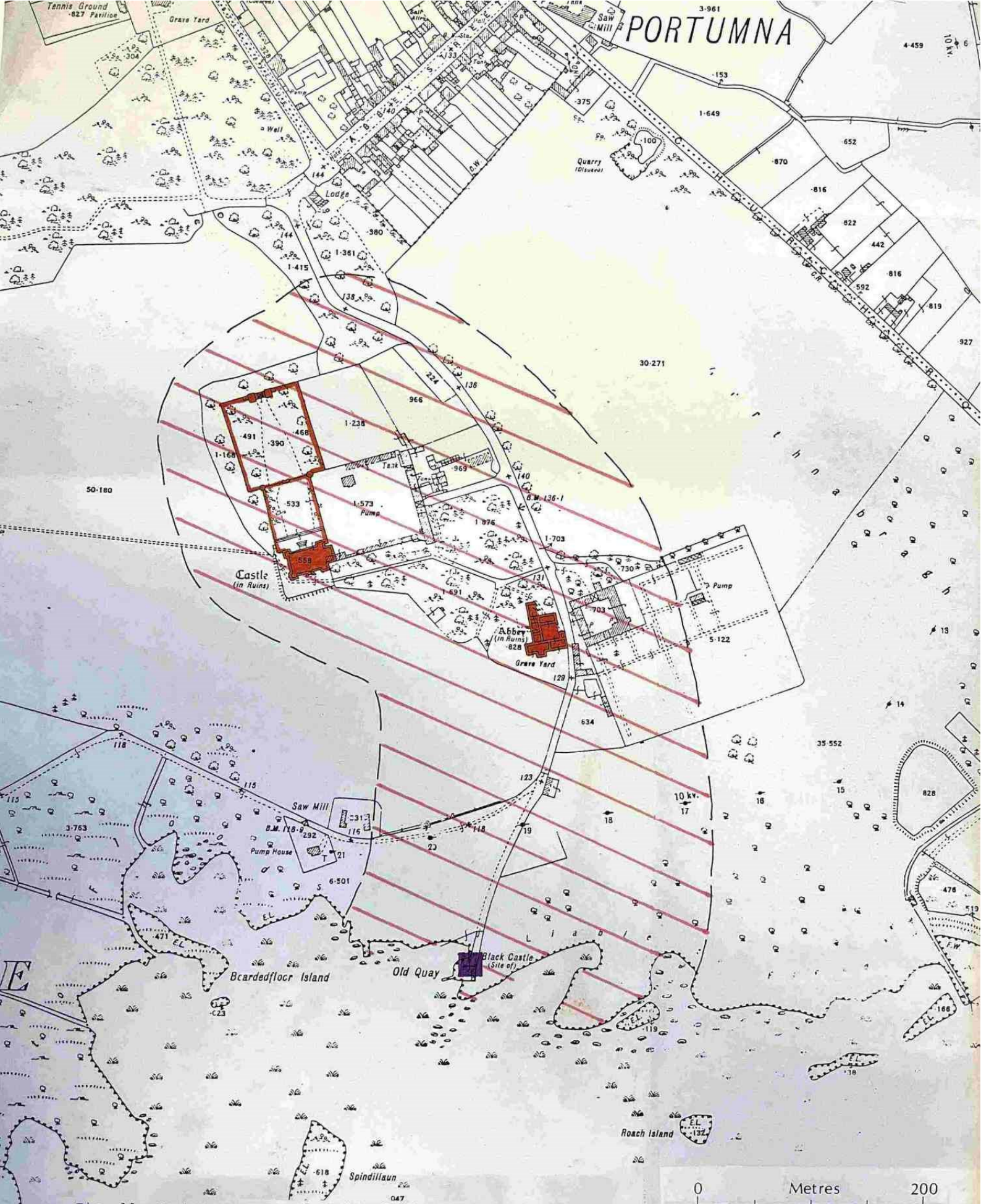


Fig. 11. Portumna: zone of archaeological potential.

Fig. 12. Outline map of Tuam showing the principal archaeological features

