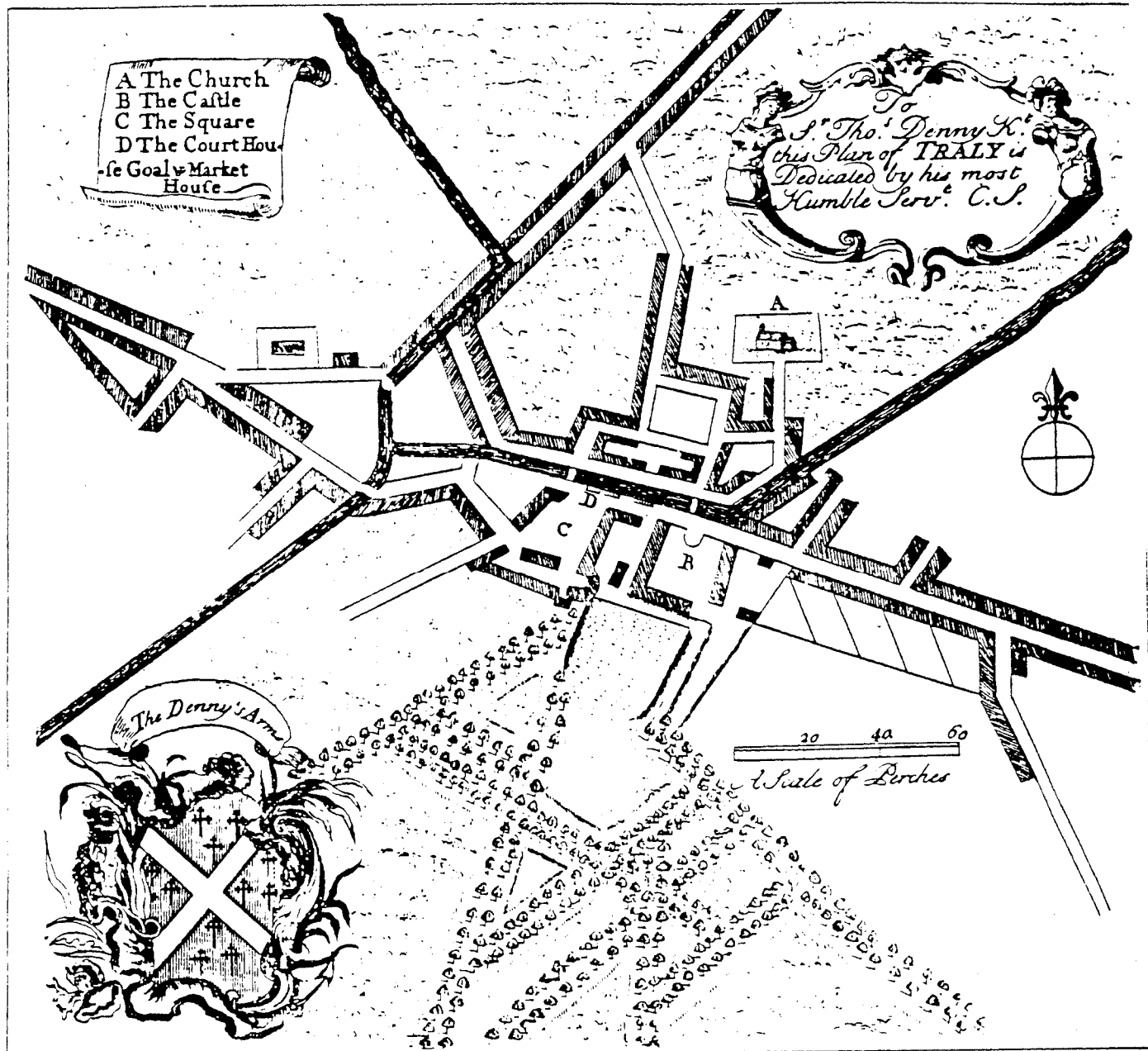


# COUNTY KERRY



## THE URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY

URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY

PART XIV

COUNTY KERRY

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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. KERRY

The present urban network of the county developed in relatively recent times and there are only four centres in the county which claim the attention of the urban archaeologist, Ardfert, Dingle, Rattoo and Tralee. Ardfert and Rattoo are well known as examples of Early Christian monastic sites and may have had some urban functions prior to the coming of the Normans. It was the Normans, however, who were responsible for creating the first urban network in Kerry, establishing boroughs at each of the above mentioned sites. These settlements had a mixed fate. Rattoo was deserted and there is nothing there today to indicate its former urban status. Ardfert shrank but because it was the episcopal seat it retained at least village status throughout the Middle Ages. By contrast Tralee and Dingle retained their urban status and function today as towns within the modern county network.

The modern network of towns in Kerry has a relatively late origin, owing much to the influence of landlord patronage. Killarney was established in the seventeenth century but it only began to grow after 1750 when Viscount Kenmare began to develop the tourist business and exploit the scenic possibilities of its location. Kenmare was laid out in 1775 by the Marquis of Lansdowne. Cahersiveen is a nineteenth century creation which developed as a result of the

construction of the coast road. Killorglin and Castleisland<sup>are</sup> both ancient sites which were occupied by the Anglo-Normans but there is no evidence of the existence of a town at either site until the nineteenth century.

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

Pink: the zone of archaeological potential.

Red: extant archaeological monuments.

Purple: sites of known monuments.

Uncontrolled redevelopment will destroy Kerry's fragile heritage of urban archaeology 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.

## ARDFERT

The Ardfert of today is a small village located on the Tyshe river in the lowlying coastal plain of north Kerry approximately midway between Tralee and Ballyheigue. Throughout the Middle Ages, however, Ardfert was one of the most important settlement sites in Kerry, an episcopal see, and, under the Normans, a borough. The placename, "Ard Ferta", means the height of the burial mounds. Sometimes it is referred to as Ard Ferta Brenaind, after its patron saint.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The church of Ardfert is generally regarded as a sixth century foundation of St. Brendan of Clonfert but nothing is known of its history until the eleventh century (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 62). In 1031 a reference occurs to one MacMara fasting 'against' Brendan at Ardfert (AI) while in 1032 the death of Ailill Ua Flaithim, "erenagh of Ard Ferta ... leading jurist of Mumu" is recorded. In 1046 the stone church (dam liac) of Ardfert was destroyed by lightning (AI) and the burning of Ardfert is recorded in 1089 (AFM).

In 1111 at the Synod of Raith Bressail Ratass was chosen as the centre of the diocese of Kerry but it was soon

replaced by Ardfert which remained the episcopal see throughout the Middle Ages (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 62, 95). In 1117 the death of Anmchadh O hAnmchadha, bishop of Ardfert, is recorded (AFM). In 1152, however, Ardfert was burned by O Cuilein, king of Ui Chonaill Gabhra (O hInnse 1947, 35). It was burned again in 1179 (AI, AFM) and in 1180 it was plundered by the Clann Charthaigh who "carried off all the livestock they found there ... [and] killed many senior clergy within their sanctuary and graveyard" (O hInnse 1947, 71; AI).

The earliest evidence for Anglo-Norman activity in north Kerry is a grant of the area to Meiler FitzHenry by King John in 1200 but it is not clear to what extent, if any, this grant led to actual settlement in the area (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 123; Otway-Ruthven 1968, 86). Around 1214-15 there was a renewed Anglo-Norman thrust into the north Kerry area with the construction of a string of castles along its southern boundary, the river Maine. North Kerry was largely granted to the antecedents of the Geraldine houses of Desmond and Kerry or Lixnaw, whose exact identity has been a matter for debate (Nicholls 1970, 23-9). It is in the wake of this development that the first evidence of direct Anglo-Norman influence on Ardfert appears. In 1217 the justiciar, Geoffrey de Marisco, attempted unsuccessfully to impose an English bishop on the vacant see in preference to the Irish candidate already elected (Watt 1970, 73).

Thirteenth century references to the settlement are few,

however. It has been suggested that the Franciscan friary was founded by Thomas FitzMaurice, lord of Kerry, c.1253 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 242; cf. Nicholls 1970, 25, n.8). By 1286 it was sufficiently well established for Thomas FitzMaurice to be granted customs on all merchandise sold in the vill of 'Ard' for seven years in order to enclose it. A reference to John le Draper, burgess of 'Ardart' occurs in 1297 (Mills 1907, 128) and the existence of a municipal authority is evident from the reference to the provost of Arfert in 1295 (Mills 1907, 21). A royal receipt roll of 1293 notes that £8 18s. was received in customs on 44 hogsheads and one pipe of wine at Ardfert (Sweetman 1875-86, iv, no. 21). Ardfert was also a legal centre, having a royal prison (Mills 1905, 44; 1914, 416) and the justiciar held court there in 1295 (Mills 1902, 21).

Little more is known of the history of Ardfert until the late sixteenth century and the references of this period to the borough indicate that it continued to function throughout the Later Middle Ages. In 1580 it was reported that the Spaniards had established a camp at Ardfert and that they had besieged the castle in conjunction with the earl of Desmond but had been repulsed (Hamilton 1867, 256, 261). In 1581-2 the English had a company of foot and a half-company of horse quartered in Ardfert being provisioned by the sovereign ("pronnse") of the town (AFM). In 1582 Thomas FitzMaurice, lord of Kerry (or Lixnaw) rebelled and besieged the English garrison at Ardfert (Hamilton 1867, 365-6) but the garrison was later relieved by the governor of Munster (Hamilton 1867,

373). Later in the year, however, the garrison were again besieged by Lixnaw and Desmond and eventually forced to withdraw from the town with many losses, committing the castle to the custody of James Oge, the sheriff (Hamilton 1867, 399, 403-5; AFM).

Following the defeat and death of the earl of Desmond, English control was re-established in Ardfert. In 1584 the Franciscans were ejected from the friary (Jennings 1934, 153) and in the same year a survey of Desmond's forfeited possessions was drawn up, which noted burgages, lands, buildings, etc., held by him in "the late burgh of Ardarte" (PRO 1881, 7). The survey also noted that the town and cathedral were nearly "prostrated and devastated" on account of the rebellion (PRO 1881, 31). Desmond's holdings in Ardfert, as well as the friary, were given to Sir Francis Walshingham, Edward Denny, and other English planters, in the plantation of Munster in 1587 (Brewer and Bullen 1868, 451) but it is not clear if Ardfert ever really recovered from the devastation of the Desmond revolt. The fate of the cathedral, which was apparently still ruined in 1611, may well be illustrative of the settlement as a whole. Thomas FitzMaurice, baron of Lixnaw, was granted a weekly market and yearly fair at Ardfert in 1612 and the borough continued to function into the nineteenth century (Ir Rec Comm 1830, 225). A description of c.1682 states that the cathedral, four other churches, the anchorites cell, the hospital, and castle were all burnt or destroyed during the Confederation wars (O'Sullivan 1971, 40). In the census of 1659, a population of



47 was returned for Ardfert (Pender 1939, 248) and in 1687 Sir Richard Cox described it as "of late soe decayd that it contains onely a few Cabbins" (De Brun 1972, 39).

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. MARKET CROSS
3. DOMESTIC HOUSES
4. TOWN DEFENCES
5. THE CASTLE
6. EARLY CHRISTIAN MONASTIC SITE
  - ST. BRENDAN'S CATHEDRAL
  - TEMPLENAHOE
  - TEMPLENAGRIFFEN
  - OTHER CHURCHES
  - ROUND TOWER
7. FRANCISCAN FRIARY
8. MISCELLANEOUS

#### 1. SITE OF BOROUGH

The site of the medieval borough cannot be accurately determined in the present state of knowledge but its most likely position was in the strip of ground between the cathedral and Ardfert Abbey. The road south of the cathedral

widens into a triangular space known as the Fair Green which looks to be of recent date.

## 2. MARKET CROSS

King (1908, 17) states that there was a dispute in 1312 concerning the market cross and pillory.

## 3. DOMESTIC HOUSES

The 1584 survey of Desmond's lands and the 1587 grant to the English planters list various houses and burgages in Ardfert but none is described in any detail (PRO 1881, 7; Brewer and Bullen 1868, 451). Some details are known of two buildings, however. The first is "a new castle, lately built anew with lime and stone", forfeited by the earl of Desmond and listed in the survey of 1584 (PRO 1881, 7). The second is a mansion built near the Franciscan friary by David Crosbie in 1633-4. Hickson (1874, 2-3) recorded the discovery in the grounds of its eighteenth century successor of a stone inscribed:

HOC OPUS INCEPTUM Ao. DNI. 1633

ET FINITUM Ao. DNI. 1635

DAVID CROSBIE ARMI;

UBI FIDES ET VERITAS DEUS PROVIDEBIT

The house did not survive for long, however, and was probably burned during the Confederate wars. This may explain why in 1645 Edmund FitzMaurice ordered the portreeve and inhabitants

of Ardfert to assist him in demolishing David Crosbie's house (Hickson 1874, 14). The Molyneux description of c.1682 noted "an infinite deal of stone walls and traces of old foundations, which show the place to have formerly appeared in a better figure than it bears at present" (O'Sullivan 1971, 40).

The 1635 slab described by Hickson was not located (see Mems Dead 1 (1888-91), 399).

#### 4. TOWN DEFENCES

In 1286 Thomas FitzMaurice, lord of Desmond, received a murage grant for seven years to pay for the enclosure of the vill of 'Ard' (Sweetman 1875-86, iii, no. 226). This grant must have been followed by a later one because in 1311-12 it was recorded that Reginald Brun owed 46s. 8d for the murage of 'Ardard' (Tresham 1828, 19: nos. 15, 21). No other information is available on the enclosure of the borough and because of the absence of standing remains it is likely that these defences were of earth and timber.

#### 5. THE CASTLE

Although the references to a royal prison at Ardfert in 1295 and 1307 (Mills 1905, 44; 1914, 416) suggest the existence of a castle, the earliest positive evidence occurs in the late sixteenth century when the FitzMaurice barons of Lixnaw had a castle there. In 1580 this castle was besieged

unsuccessfully by the earl of Desmond in association with Spanish troops (Hamilton 1867, 261) and it is likely that the English garrison stationed at Ardfert in 1581-2 were based in the castle (Hamilton 1867, 405).

Smith (1756, 204) states that this castle was built by Nicholas, third lord of Kerry, in 1311 and re-edified by Thomas, the eighteenth lord in 1590. In 1600 it was garrisoned by nine men when it was captured by the English under Wilmot after a siege of nine days (O'Grady 1896, i, 116). Thomas, lord of Kerry, received a grant of the castle in 1612 (Ir Rec Comm 1830, 225). This was replaced in 1637 with a more elaborate house by Patrick, nineteenth lord of Kerry, but it was destroyed in 1641 (Smith 1756, 204), and was described by Molyneux c.1682 as "a considerable castle or manor-house of the lords barons of Kerry ... burnt down in the late troubles" (O'Sullivan 1971, 40). Smith states that the ruins were visible in his day but unfortunately he does not give their location. Hickson (1874, 3) located it "close to the old cathedral", while Nunan (1950, 38) placed it "adjacent to the cathedral on the East side". Neither writer produces contemporary records, however, to support their statements.

## 6. EARLY CHRISTIAN MONASTIC SITE

No trace survives of an enclosure but the curve in the main road to the West of Templenagriffen may preserve the line of the former western boundary. The long rectangular graveyard is all that remains of the old monastery and it contains the ruins of two Romanesque buildings, Templenahoe and the fragmentary west end incorporated into St. Brendan's Cathedral. The site of a round tower is also known.

## ST. BRENDAN'S CATHEDRAL

Historically, almost nothing is known of this building from medieval documentary sources but it can be suggested on architectural grounds that the cathedral was built, incorporating older fragments, c. 1260 (Leask 1955-60, ii, 114). It clearly suffered serious damage in the Desmond rebellion, and in 1584 it was described as "nearly prostrated and devastated" (PRO 1881, 31). This state of affairs existed up until 1611 when it was listed among a number of ruined cathedrals in an act for their edification. In Ardfert's case, however, it was proposed to remove the cathedral see to Dingle (Brewer and Bullen 1873, 155). There is no evidence that the cathedral was ever restored and Smith's (1756, 68, 202-3) statement that the cathedral was destroyed in 1641, which is repeated by many later writers, is without foundation (but see O'Sullivan 1971, 40).

## Description

The church consists of a long nave and chancel, measuring 44 by 8 m, a south aisle and transept, and a vestry/mortuary chapel north of the chancel. At least five periods of building are present. The oldest portion is twelfth century Romanesque work belonging to this building's predecessor. The nave, chancel and south aisle are of thirteenth century workmanship. The south transept was added in the fifteenth century; the vestry/ mortuary chapel in the sixteenth century, and alterations were made to this in 1668.

## The Romanesque Remains

The Romanesque section of the west wall is built of sandstone and consists of a round arched door of two orders set in the north end of the wall with parts of a blank arcade on the north and south. The northern arcade consists of only one arch but it is evident that it originally extended beyond the present north wall, constructed in the thirteenth century. The wall surfaces of the arcades were faced with evenly cut and dressed blocks of sandstone, with the lower blocks set diagonally in a diamond pattern on either side of the door. The diamond pattern on the N side of the door rests on a long broken stone which has an elaborate interlaced design. The outer order of the door and the jambs have a chevron design and the capitals have trumpet capitals. The arches and soffits of the arcades are also decorated with chevrons and the pillarette to the south of the door between

the arcades is decorated with a sugar barley twist. The centre section of the north wall is constructed of very large roughly coursed blocks of limestone, and it has been suggested by Hill (1870) that it is also of Romanesque date. It is out of alignment with the west end, however, and, if it is of Romanesque date, it can only be explained as part of another church because it is too long to have functioned as the chancel of the twelfth century cathedral.

### The Thirteenth Century Cathedral

This was constructed of uncoursed rubble limestone with occasional blocks of sandstone; the quoins are of pink, yellow and grey sandstone. The building survives to its original height, with the gables standing to c.10m and the side walls to c.7 m, and topped by 15th/16th century crow-stepped battlements.

### The Chancel

The east wall has three graded lancet windows, with sloping sills, flanked internally by two wall niches rising from an internal string-course, now 30 cm above ground level. The external jambs are chamfered and the internal ones are moulding with banding 1.3m apart. The top of the mouldings are crowned by small capitals with worn stiff leaf foliage or openwork interlace. There are simple hood mouldings internally and externally with small floral stops on the internal arch. Above the window is a splayed flat arched

rectangular opening with chamfered jambs in the gable. The two niches are similarly decorated but the arches have dog-tooth decoration. The east gable originally had two angle-buttresses but only that on the south-east survives. The angle mouldings of the buttress have three-quarter columns with stiff leaf capitals.

The north wall contains a rectangular wall-niche/aumbry, a narrow single-light window, and a door leading into the vestry. The vestry is a later addition and originally the north wall would have been plain except for the rectangular wall-niche/ aumbry, which is divided by a central pillar. The jambs are chamfered and one side of its rectangular hood-moulding has a weathered head with fleur-de-lys crown. The single-light rectangular window has chamfered limestone jambs opening into the church, and is an insertion. It is splayed with a flat rear arch and indicates the presence of a western extension to the vestry. The vestry was entered through a fine ogee-headed door with concave limestone jambs.

The south wall has a row of nine lancets with cusped rounded rear arches. The external jambs are chamfered and the internal ones have a banded roll moulding. The eastern four are smaller than the other five because they were placed over two wall niches/ sedilia. These niches are badly damaged and lack most of their original jambs but sufficient survives to show that they were contemporary with the niches in the east wall. The hood moulding which runs over the western niche continues as a string-course under the remaining five



windows. Under the sixth window from the east there is an inserted pointed door, splayed internally, with flat lintelled rear arch. West of the ninth window two projecting corbels, matched by two similar ones in the north wall, indicate the position of the rood screen. A rectangular window with glazing bars and flat rear arch was inserted later between the corbels, and its sill-stone is a re-used drainage channel from a wall walk.

### The Nave

Above the older masonry in the north wall are two twinlight windows, splayed internally, with pointed rear arches and sloping sills. The separating mullions and jambs are of chamfered sandstone. Close to the west end is a pointed sandstone doorway with chamfered jambs and flattened rear arch. The west wall was thickened to incorporate the Romanesque section and the occurrence of steps to the south of the door internally may indicate a former gallery above. South of the Romanesque arcading the thirteenth century wall has an external batter. In the south wall only traces of the external jambs of two pointed windows survive above the eastern arch of the south aisle, where they were blocked up when the south transept was built.

### South Aisle

Only small fragments of the west and south walls of the south aisle remain. The south wall is represented by about 1m

of footings at the east end and the west wall is very collapsed. The former roof line is indicated by a series of corbels in the south wall of the nave. The aisle was linked to the nave by three pointed arches, with chamfered rectangular piers and responds.

#### South Transept (15th cent.)

This is a long rectangular structure with a chapel projecting from the centre of the east wall. It is entered from the nave through two pointed chamfered limestone arches with a central octagonal column. The walls stand to their full height, 5m internally and 3m externally. The S gable is 9m high and its coping stones are in situ.

The chapel was flanked by a window on either side. The northern one, which had a pointed niche on either side, was originally twin-light and ogee-headed with hollow spandrels but the central mullion was cut away and the mullion removed to form a single-light rectangular window. The rear arch consists of a flattened arch of upright voussoirs. The chapel is lit by a pointed window of four round-headed lights window with switch line tracery above. Externally it has a pointed hood mould with large ivy-leaf terminals and a foliated apex.

The southern window of the east wall is similar to the northern but it does not have hollow spandrels. The south wall is battered externally and it has a pointed door with chamfered sandstone jambs and flattened rear arch. Externally it has a sandstone hood mould with floriated stops. Above the

door is a quatre-foil light of limestone with pointed rear arch and above the gable there is a rectangular bell-cote with a pointed opening for a bell.

The west wall had three windows but the southern two are blocked internally with modern wall memorials. The central rectangular window was a narrow twin-light opening with hollow spandrels, glazing bar recesses and a rectangular hood moulding with floral stops. This was changed into a single-light like those in the east wall. The southern window is similar but the spandrels have a tri-lobed design and the label stops have a fish on one side and a hen on the other. The northern window has a twin-light opening with cusped pointed lights and flattened rear arch. The internal jambs and lintel are of re-used sandstone. The roof weathering line survives in the south wall of the nave.

#### The Vestry (16th cent.)

The two storeyed vestry is built onto the north-east end of the chancel and it incorporates the cathedral's north-east buttress in its southern wall. It was originally much larger as is evidenced by the roof line on the external north wall of the chancel. Parts of the north, east and south walls survive. On the west a pointed arch rises through the height of two floors. There is no trace now of an external entrance but on the south is an internally splaying pointed door with chamfered jambs. These jambs are plain, apart from the lower stone on the inner west jamb which is decorated with an animal biting a spray of foliage. Externally the north-east

and south-east corners are heavily buttressed.

There is a single-light rectangular window with chamfered jambs and flat rear-arch in the east wall of the ground floor. The north wall has a flat-arched and lintelled rectangular window in the east end of the wall; it is splayed internally and has chamfered jambs. The sill stone is a re-used grave slab.

The first floor was supported on timbers resting on corbels in the north and south walls, and was morticed into the east and west walls. The east wall had a twin-light multi-cusped window with hollow spandrels and rectangular hood moulding. Internally the window was splayed and it had a flattened rear-arch and a window seat. Inserted into the base of the window internally is a heraldic shield (see below). There is a similar window at the east end of the south wall and a small rectangular window in the gable of the west wall. It is lintelled and is set off-centre above the arch. In the centre of the north wall is a single-light ogee-headed window with lintelled rear-arch.

Corbels in the north wall of the cathedral suggest the former existence of another floor.

#### Monuments

#### Ogham stone

Mounted on concrete supports SE of the cathedral, close to the graveyard entrance. It was found in a field opposite the

present protestant church. Badly damaged limestone pillar with an inscription on one edge. The decipherable letters read 'CTAN .... QLOG' (Macalister 1945, 132-3).

Dims: H. 156 W. 28 by 19

Effigy of a bishop. 13th cent.

Set upright into the niche on the south side of the east window. Carved in false relief under a cusped pointed arch with foliate decoration on a green sandstone slab. Bearded figure dressed in alb, dalmatic and chasuble, with mitre, amice and fringed embroidered orphreys. His right hand is raised in blessing and the left hand holds an inturned crozier with animal head. Angels rest on his shoulders.

Dims: H.186 W. 44 T. 24

Hunt 1974, 151-2, Pl.75.

Effigy of a bishop. 13th. cent.

Rectangular limestone slab set upright in the niche on the north side of the east window. The head and feet of the effigy are carved in relief but the centre of the badly fragmented slab appears to be uncarved. The surface is very worn. The figure wears an alb, chasuble, an amice and mitre. The ears are carved flat, the right hand is raised in blessing and the left hand holds an inturned jewelled crozier. Two angels rest on his shoulders.

Dims: H. 226 W. 54 T. 6 (min)

Hunt 1974, 151, Pl. 76.

Cross-slab. 13th/14th cents.

Tapering limestone slab with chamfered edges. Inside

chancel's south door. The wide end is decorated with a Maltese cross in very low relief.

Dims: L. 182 W. 44-29 D. 17.5

FitzGerald 1917-20, 205.

Uninscribed tapering slab. ?13th/14th cents.

Limestone. In chancel. Moulded edges.

L.218 W. 79-58 T. 16

Uninscribed tapering slab. ?13th/14th cents.

Limestone. In chancel. Moulded edges.

L.195 W. 61-51 T. 12.

Uninscribed tapering slab. ?13th/14th cents.

Limestone. In chancel. Chamfered edges.

L. 181 W. 68-52 T. unknown.

Cross-slab. 15th. cent.

Tapering limestone slab inserted as the sill of the north window in the ground floor of the vestry. It has moulded edges and what is possibly the end of a shears on one side. There are two parallel lines with cross-hatching between on the inner side of the slab.

Dims: L. 119 W. 53-47 T.16 (min).

Heraldic plaque. 16th cent.

Limestone shield decorated in false relief within a moulded frame. On transept's E wall. The arms are on a heater shaped shield, divided per pale. Dexter a lion rampant with two left hands in chief for Crosbie; sinister, three martlets in pale with a lion passant-guardant on the flaunches for Browne. The

shield is surrounded by mantling and the crest is a circle pierced by three swords, a rosette and a wolf with wings? couped. The inscription below the shield is in Gothic lettering INDIGNANTE/ INVIDIA FLOREBIT IUSTUS.

Dims: H.56 W.52.

FitzGerald 1917-20, 210-11

Heraldic plaque. 16th. cent.

Inserted in east wall of vestry. Rectangular. Carved in relief with a heater shaped shield which has ermines in chief above a saltire.

Dims: H. 41 W. 32

Honora, Lady Dowager of Kerry 1668.

Limestone table tomb. In the vestry. Undecorated. Incised marginal inscription in Roman capitals:

THIS MONVMENT WAS ERECTED AND CHAPPLE REEDIFIED IN THE  
YEARE 1668 BY THE RIGHT HONOVVR/ ABLE HONORA LADY DOWAGER  
OF KERRY FOR HERSELF HER/ CHILDREN AND THEIR POSTERITY  
ONLY ACCORDING TO HER AGREEMENT [WITH THE DEAN AND  
CHAPTER]

Dims: L.213 W.105 T.11.

Hickson 1888-91, 403-4.

Gable cross? Date uncertain

Small Latin style cross in a niche on the south side of the chancel.

TEMPLERNAHOE

Only the nave of this church survives and originally it would have stretched further to the east, close to the Romanesque west front of the cathedral. Its features suggest a date of c. 1170-80.

It was a simple nave and chancel structure but only the nave survives at present, measuring 11 by 6.5 m. Short sections of the N and S walls of the chancel are still attached to the crossing wall and the gable line of the steeply pitched chancel roof is present. The masonry consists of uncoursed limestone and sandstone with dressed red sandstone quoins and jambs. The quoins are marked by three-quarter columns and there is an eaves-course along the side walls with short returns onto the E and W walls. The eaves course and quoin capitals (based on cushion forms) are decorated with scallop patterns, bosses and heads. The NE quoin and corner of the building is largely rebuilt.

The east wall stands to a height of c.8m and has a large weathered chancel arch of two orders, but originally consisting of three. The inner arch is decorated on the internal face and soffit with a chevron design of low rounded mouldings and nail head ornament. The imposts had foliage patterns, bosses and buds. The face of the outer arch has three bands of mouldings separated by bands of nail-head which is very weathered. The N wall stands to a height of 6m and the east end, where Leask (1955-60, i, 155) noted the position of a window, is largely rebuilt. Towards the W end is a single-light round arched window with sloping sandstone



sill. It originally had sandstone jambs but these are largely replaced with pick-dressed limestone. The rear arch is flat lintelled. The S wall is of similar height and the middle section is rebuilt. There is a very fine round arched red sandstone window at the E end of the wall. The opening is narrow but is widely splayed internally and it has a sloping sill. The window is bordered internally and externally with a frieze of floral and foliage patterns separated by whorls and mouldings. The W gable is complete, c.9.5m high, with a trabeate window with sandstone jambs high in the gable and a round arched door of two orders. The jambs and voussoirs are damaged and undecorated. Externally the inner order was stepped and chamfered and the outer order projects outwards from the wall surface. The hood moulding over the door is decorated with conical bosses and the stops consisted of animal heads although only the S one survives.

#### TEMPLÉNAGRIFFEN

Small single-aisled fifteenth century church, measuring 14.5 by 7 m internally. The masonry is roughly coursed limestone with small amounts of red and green sandstone inclusions. The corners have dressed limestone quoins and the east and west walls are battered externally. The walls stand to full height of about 4m for north and south walls and 8-9 m for the gables. A rectangular bell-cote rises above the west gable. The east wall has a tall splayed cusped twin-light window. The limestone jambs are chamfered and a

segmental rear arch is also chamfered. The north wall has a small single light window at the east end. The arch and most of the jambs of the window are gone but the dressed limestone segmental rear arch survives. One stone of the internal east jamb has interlaced wyverns biting each other's tails above a plaited pattern. The south wall has a piscina with circular basin at east end. The pointed arch over the piscina is limestone but the jambs are of chamfered red sandstone. There are two windows in the wall but the eastern one has lost its arch and most of its jambs. The west window is a single-light pointed opening with chamfered jambs of mixed limestone and sandstone and a flat lintelled rear arch. In between the windows is a round headed splayed doorway with rounded rear arch. The chamfered jambs of the doorway are of red sandstone but the arch is of limestone as are the internal dressed jambs of the rear-arch. The west wall is featureless.

#### OTHER CHURCHES

A description of c.1682 noted at Ardfert, apart from the cathedral and hospital, "the walls of four other churches [and] an anchorite's cell" (O'Sullivan 1971, 40).

#### ROUND TOWER

A round tower stood to the west of the cathedral until 1771 until it fell in a storm. A modern sign south-west of the cathedral states that its foundations were uncovered in 1949

(Barrow 1979, 113).

## 7. FRANCISCAN FRIARY

Since at least the seventeenth century the foundation date of this friary has been placed at c.1253 (Jennings 1934, 153) but it is likely that this date is based on the misreading of a fifteenth century inscription (Nicholls 1970, 24-5; FitzMaurice and Little 1920, 19). The earliest surviving contemporary reference to the friary occurs in 1307 when grain was stolen from a chest in the church (Mills 1914, 408). Thereafter little is known of the friary's history until 1584 when the friars were expelled by the English (Jennings 1934, 153). Hickson (1895, 33) states that the church tower was subsequently occupied by English soldiers. In 1587 the friary was granted to the English planters, Walshingham and Denny (Brewer and Bullen 1868, 451). Brady (1867, xvii) states that John Crosbie, who was appointed bishop of Ardfert in 1600, settled at the friary, which remained in the hands of the Crosbie family until the twentieth century.

In 1629 the Franciscan historian Matthews noted that the family of FitzMaurice of Kerry, one of whom was the founder, had their tombs in the friary (Jennings 1934, 153) and later writers also describe the friary as the main burial place of the FitzMaurice lords of Kerry or Lixnaw (FitzMaurice and Little 1920, 20; Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 242).

## Description

The friary consists of a church and a cloister with remains of the claustral buildings on its north side. The church is essentially a thirteenth century structure onto which a transept and west tower were added in the fifteenth century. The cloister and north range is of fifteenth century date.

### The Church

This is an undifferentiated nave and chancel building with a west tower, and an aisle and an aisled transept on the south. The long undifferentiated nave and chancel measures 41 by 7.6m and its thirteenth century rubble masonry consists of uncoursed mixed limestone and sandstone. The jambs and quoins are of red and green sandstone.

### The Chancel

The east gable, supported by stepped angle buttresses, stands almost to its full height of c.10m and its moulded sandstone coping is in situ. In the east wall are five graded lancets with dressed chamfered jambs under a conjoined pointed hood moulding. Internally they have pointed rear arches and dressed chamfered jambs. The north and south windows are missing their rear arches but the jambs consist of a banded roll moulding, with nail head ornament, rising from moulded bases. Above the central lancet is a small splayed pointed window with chamfered jambs and flat

lintelled rear-arch, which lit a loft above the chancel. At either side of the gable the parapet, in roughly coursed grey limestone, continues from the side walls. The angle buttresses contain some jambs indicating that some rebuilding has occurred.

The north wall stands to an average height of 5m but much of the internal facing was rebuilt in grey roughly coursed limestone in the 19th century. This rebuilding included the construction of two round arched recesses which are supposed to imitate the original ones.

The south wall stands to a height of 9m, the lower 6m of which is thirteenth century masonry. The upper 3m includes the parapet with a drainage course some 6.5m above ground level. The wall is lit by nine lancets with externally chamfered jambs; they have rounded rear-arches, some with traces of plank centering, and a wide internal splay. The sconsions are trefoil-headed with dressed sandstone mouldings and jambs. Below the windows are five niches. The first two of these from the east are probably sixteenth century insertion. They are round arched with chamfered limestone jambs and one contains a nineteenth century memorial. The third niche is also round arched, with rounded pilasters and one nailhead capital on the west; it had a sandstone hood moulding with pinnacles but only the west side survives. The fourth has a trefoil headed arch of sandstone supported on sixteenth century demi-octagonal limestone pilasters. The fifth recess is an inserted sixteenth century tomb niche with

rounded moulded arch and an ogee headed hood moulding, crocketed and pinnacled, of limestone. Externally stepped buttresses of grey limestone, probably of fifteenth century date and contemporary with the parapet, are present between the third and fourth, and the sixth and seventh windows from the east.

### The Sacristy

This building had two floors but only the east wall survives to its original height of 5m. A short low section of the north wall also remains. A modern door opens from the chancel of the church. The ground floor was lit by a small twinlight ogee-headed window with tooled, chamfered limestone jambs and flattened rear-arch.

### The Nave

The north wall survives only at the west end where it stands to a maximum external height of 9m. It is largely rebuilt but it includes a flat lintelled opening from the west range into the nave, and a large round arched recess.

The west wall was substantially rebuilt following the construction of the west tower but there are two lines of dressed sandstone jambs which probably belonged to the original 13th century west windows. The wall is now pierced by six openings from the tower. An external batter rising to a height of 1.5m survives on the west wall of the nave and south aisle.

The south wall consists largely of an arcade of four arches linking the nave with the south aisle and transept. At its northern end, a round headed doorway with chamfered limestone jambs of 16th century style, opens into the transept, and inserted above it is an ogee headed chamfered limestone window. Two corbels protrude east of this door, and below the western corbel is a vertical row of put-log holes which may indicate the location of the rood screen. The parapet was evidently added after the construction of the transept because it contains two flat lintelled doors which open onto the former east and west wall-walk of the transept. It is also later than the west tower.

#### Tower

This six floored structure is built of well dressed regularly coursed masonry. The entrance to the ground floor is from the NW corner of the nave. The walls are very thick and the room was lit by deep splayed embrasures with narrow flat arched and lintelled slits. The openings to the south and west have sloping sills and that on the south has an internal and external splay. There is a small wall cupboard in the east wall. The first floor timbers were supported on corbels in the N and S walls and morticed into holes in the E and W walls. Over the first floor is a pointed barrel vault. Opening east into the church is a large rectangular door, missing its rear-arch and internal jambs. Two slits similar to those on the ground floor light the room from the south and west.

The second floor is reached from an external stair, incorporated into the west range, and the chamber is entered through a flat lintelled passage in the thickness of the north wall. The passage has a small chamber close to the entrance on the west which is lit from the west by a splayed rectangular slit with chamfered limestone jambs and flat lintelled rear arch. A stair (now blocked), east of the passage, led onto the north wall-walk of the church and continued to the third floor of the west range. Further to the south the passage has a round-headed opening looking into the nave of the church. The second floor chamber was lit from the west by a splayed ogree-headed window with chamfered limestone jambs, flat lintelled rear-arch and window seat. Opening from the north end of the west wall is a flat lintelled passage running NE and N to the west range; it is lit by a splayed flat lintelled slit in the west wall. The east and north walls are featureless although there is some blocking in the east wall. A rectangular door in the east end of the south wall opens onto two sets of stairs; one runs SE and opens onto the wall walk over the S wall of the nave. The other, entered through a round-arched door, climbs through the thickness of the S wall to the third floor, and is lit by splayed flat lintelled slits in the south and west walls. The third floor was supported on corbels in the S and N walls.

The third floor chamber has a pointed barrel vault with wicker work centering. There is a rectangular flat-arched and lintelled window high in the east wall, and an ogree-headed single-light window with flat lintelled rear-arch and window



seat in the south wall. A flat-arched door opens at the east end of the north wall into a chamber or garderobe and there is a damaged wall cupboard in the centre of the north wall.

Access to the fourth floor is by a stair which climbs through the thickness of the west wall, lit by two splayed lintelled slits on the NW. The chamber is lit on the E and S by ogee-headed windows with chamfered limestone jambs, a flat rear-arch of upright voussoirs, and window seats. In the west wall is a large wall cupboard while a door in the NW angle leads to the stair. A narrow flat-arched door in the east end of the north wall opens into a small chamber (? garderobe), lit by a splayed flat lintelled slit.

The fifth floor (the belfry stage) is set on timbers supported on ledges where the internal walls of the tower were reduced in width. A flat-arched door opens into the NW angle and the room is lit by twin-light windows with flattened arches and window seats in the four walls. The lights in the W and N walls are cusped, and the W window has a cusped quatrefoiled light in the central spandrel. A modern concrete roof has been built over this floor and access is by a spiral stair in the NW angle lit by splayed flat-arched and lintelled slits in the N and W walls. At roof level some of the original drainage stones remain on all sides except the east.

#### South Aisle

Only the footings of the south wall survive but the nave

arcade leaves no doubt of the aisle's former existence. The arcade consists of four large pointed arches of dressed sandstone, the westernmost of which has been rebuilt. The arches are supported on large round sandstone pillars with moulded capitals and the responds are of dressed limestone. Stepped buttresses of grey limestone, similar to those against the south wall of the chancel, support the west pier of the arcade and the external west angle. A plaque, inserted into the pier buttress, bears the following inscription in a debased Lombardic script:

DONALDVS NIGER O'HEA FRATER MINOR FECIT HOC OPVS PRO AO  
D MCCCCLIIII

It has a height of 39 cm, a width of 70, and a depth of 24 (FitzGerald 1910-12, 569).

### The Transept

The east and west walls stand to their full height of 5m while the south gable is 8m high with most of its coping stones in situ. The masonry is roughly coursed rubble limestone with dressed limestone quoins. The east wall had three twin-light pointed windows, with flat lintelled rear-arches and limestone jambs, but only the central one survives, although missing its central mullion. It had two rounded lights with a flame-shaped light above. Externally the stops, apex and spandrels of the pointed hood moulding were decorated with foliage designs. The lower jambs and sill stone of the southern window survive. In between the windows there are two small wall cupboards.

The south wall has a narrow aumbry with a shelf protruding from the wall above; traces of plaster survive in the aumbry and under the shelf. The window is a pointed opening with four rounded lights and switch line tracery above. It has chamfered limestone jambs and a pointed rear arch of undressed voussoirs. Externally it has a pointed hood moulding with concave chamfers. The triangular apex stone has three ivy leaves and the stops have leafy sprays with a bird pecking the foliage on the western stop.

The west wall is represented only by footings but three rounded arches indicate the presence of an aisle. The arches are supported on rectangular piers of rough limestone, and the northern arch rests against the rounded pier of the nave.

#### The Cloister Ambulatory

The arcade openings are grouped in deep embrasures, defined by piers which support flat segmental-pointed arches, within which the pillared triple arcades are deeply set. The arcades themselves have four-centred arches, a type of rare occurrence in Ireland. The south arcade stands to a height of 2.5m and traces of the roofing, which consisted of a stone version of the Roman system of roof tiling, survive at the west end. The west and north walls of the arcade are 1.5m high.

#### The East Range

This has two floors, a ground floor consisting of a

passage and two chambers, and a large dormitory on the first floor. Immediately north of the chancel is a narrow passage linking the ambulatory with the sacristy. At its west end a spiral stair, of dressed limestone, provides access to the first floor. The stair was lit from the east end of the cloister arcade by a splayed rectangular slit with chamfered limestone jambs.

The small ground floor chamber is also vaulted and is entered from the passage through a flat arched doorway with chamfered limestone jambs. This room originally had two flat lintelled slits in the east wall but these were blocked when the sacristy was built. The room is now used as a store.

The large ground floor chamber has a pointed vault and is entered from the ambulatory through two round-headed doors with chamfered limestone jambs. The southern door is evidently rebuilt, however, because the arch is wider than the jambs. The room was lit by two rectangular windows with flat lintelled rear-arches, and pecked limestone jambs with bar holes. A small wall cupboard is present in the north wall and a flat lintelled doorway opened into a room of the north range now only represented by a gable. The vaulting has collapsed on the south side of the chamber. Corbels in the east and west walls suggest the former presence of a loft.

On the first floor, the north gable of the range survives to its full height and, in general only the foundations of the side walls survive. It is clear, however, that the floor was lit by four windows in both the east and west walls. One

window in the north end of the west wall survives; it is rectangular with a lintelled rear-arch and chamfered limestone jambs. The splays, lintels and window seats were also dressed. A flat arched door in the north wall opens into a passage which runs east in the thickness of the north wall to a now vanished room of the north range. Underneath the north gable is a round-headed single-light window with tooled, chamfered limestone jambs and a lintelled rear arch.

#### The North Range

A pointed door with chamfered limestone jambs opens into this range from the east end of the ambulatory and built into the NE angle is a limestone head with ear-length hair and damaged features.

#### The West Range

This may have been three floored but only a single-roomed barrel vaulted structure, with a loft over the ground floor, survives. This was originally a passage as is clear from the blocked arches of chamfered sandstone on the east and west sides. A lintelled rectangular door with limestone jambs replaced the eastern arch. Placed externally in the blocked arch is a limestone angel's head. Three corbels in the south wall may have supported a loft. A modern parallel-sided opening in the N wall of the nave, provides access to the chamber.

## Monuments

Cross-slab. 13th/14th cents.

Limestone. Chamfered. Set into recess in the chancel's S wall. Incised floriated cross.

Dims: L.191 W.52-35

FitzGerald 1910-12, 569.

Episcopal slab. 13th/14th cents.

In chancel. Tapering limestone slab with moulded edges, and missing the lower left corner. The wide end of the slab has the head of a bishop under a multi-cusped and pinnacled ogee-headed canopy in deep false relief. There are three small heads carved in the cusps, a circular trefoil design in the left spandrel and a worn circular design in the right spandrel.

Dims: L. 144 W.57-38.

Harbison 1973, Pl. 3b; Hunt 1974, 152, pl. 80.

Knight's effigy (lost).

Hickson (1892-4, 137; 1895, 330-6) describes seeing an effigy of a knight with a sword.

Cross-slab. ?14th/15th cents.

Tapering limestone slab decorated in false relief with a cross on a stepped calvary. There is a possible INRI in the base. The head of the cross consists of six square panels of foliage and the stem is a two line twisted stem.

Dims: L.179 W.62-39

Hickson 1895, pl. opp. p. 38.

Undecorated grave slabs.

Nine limestone slabs of undetermined date lie on the ground in the floor of the church.

#### Chapel

The 1584 survey of the earl of Desmond's lands noted "another church there in a ruin, but repairable with little cost", adjacent to the friary (PRO 1881, 31). Nothing is known of this church, unless the reference mistakenly refers to one of the chapels beside the cathedral.

### 8. HOSPITAL

In 1597 George Isham received a grant of lands in Ardfert which included "a ruinous house, called the Spittle House of Adarte" (Morris 1862, 413). This lends weight to Smith's (1756, 204) unsubstantiated statement that Nicholas FitzMaurice, third lord of Kerry, who died in 1324, founded a leper house in Ardfert. It may also be of some significance that at precisely this period, 1324-5, the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem are recorded as holding half of Ardfert (McNeill 1932, 155). The modern townland of Gortaspiddle preserves the memory, and possibly the location, of this hospital.

### 9. MISCELLANEOUS

Tobar na Molt

The side panel of a limestone table tomb is set up beside the holy well at Tobar na Molt, SE of Ardfert. It is carved in deep false relief with three figures in ogee-headed niches with foliated spandrels. The figures are a bishop, a figure in a shroud, and a veiled female figure.

Dims: H.99 W. 64

Harbison 1973, 21, Pl.8a; Hunt 1974, 152.

#### St. Brendan's Well

A swampy area, west of the cathedral. The well has not been in use within the present landowner's memory.

Ringfort. Brandonwell.

Single bank and ditch. Local tradition of a souterrain.

Ringfort. Tubrid More.

Double bank and ditch.

#### 10. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. Flat copper axehead (type Lough Ravel). "From Ardfert".

British Museum W.G. 1528. Harbison 1969, 10: no. 8.

2. Iron key. "From site of Ardfert Castle". NMI 1950:6.



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Ardfert is a good example of a decayed borough. The surviving remains indicate its former wealth and greatness but it is difficult to know how much of its archaeological deposits survive below ground. Indeed the actual site of the borough is itself a problem. It has been argued above that it was located in the area between the friary and the cathedral and this makes most sense in topographical terms. Low banks and earthworks remain in this area and may well be the last survivals of the original borough. These need to be firmly protected from interference, because their survival is a good indication that archaeological deposits survive in good condition, except in those areas which have been built up.

The historical references indicate that Ardfert was a place of considerable importance in the Early Historic Period, and it was probably the existence of a settlement around the monastery which prompted its expansion into a borough during the thirteenth century. We know next to nothing of the physical appearance of this borough, not even its exact size, although it was apparently substantial enough in 1286 to merit being walled. Archaeological deposits almost certainly survive within the grounds of Ardfert Abbey, where very little disturbance has occurred and it is imperative that any development in this area should be preceded by archaeological excavation.

Ardfert is undoubtedly one of the most important

archaeological sites in the county and it is of particular interest to the urban archaeologist because excavation there will permit an examination, not just of the growth of the early monastery, and the form of the medieval borough, but it will also shed light on the the nature of the transition from Early Christian monastic site to Anglo-Norman borough.

In summary, it can be said that Ardfert has been the scene of human activity in Early Historic, Medieval and post-medieval times. Documentary records of the site are few and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained. Accordingly it is important that its archaeological remains should be protected.

#### Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 22) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Ardfert. This is based on (1) the probable site of the borough, between the cathedral and the friary; (2) an area around the friary which probably accommodated outbuildings within the monastic precinct; (3) an area around the cathedral to allow for an originally extensive monastic enclosure of the type well known from Early Christian sites elsewhere in the country; and (4) an area to the south, stretching between "Glandore Gate" and the "Rectory", the axis along which seventeenth century development may have occurred. West of the town, the ringfort in Brandonwell townland is also

highlighted.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## DINGLE

Dingle is a small coastal town located at the junction of a small valley with Dingle harbour on the south side of the mountainous Dingle peninsula. The placename is a corruption of An Daingean, the fort or stronghold, but the origin of this name is unclear. There is also a great deal of uncertainty over the fuller form, now generally rendered Daingean Ui Chuis, after references in AFM sub anno 1579 and 1580. O'Donovan (1983, 113) translated this as "the fastness of O'Cuis or O'Hussey". The Hussey family were connected with the town in the sixteenth century (Hogan 1878, 192 fn. h, 282) but the earliest contemporary record of the extended name form occurs in 1322 as "Dengenyhonysh" which predates the known Hussey connection (PRO 1910, 160). The Ui Cuis family are otherwise unknown.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There is no evidence of any significant pre-Norman settlement at Dingle and it seems likely that the town was an Anglo-Norman foundation on virgin ground. the main reason for the town's existence was its function as a sea-port but it was also an administrative centre. Nonetheless its origins are obscure. It appears in the early fourteenth century as

the manorial centre of the cantred of 'Osurre's' (Aes Irruis), which was held by Thomas de Clare, and therefore it may be assumed that it was included in the grant of the cantred of 'Ossurys' to Robert, son of Geoffrey de Marisco, c.1216 (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 133; Otway-Ruthven 1968, 87). Robert's daughter, Christiania, sold the cantred to Sir Maurice FitzMaurice later in the thirteenth century (Brooks 1931-2, 65, n.104). In 1289-90 Sir Maurice FitzMaurice demised the manor of Killorglin to Thomas de Clare (Sweetman 1875-86, iii, no. 1028) and it may be assumed that Dingle came into their hands around the same time. In 1322 an inquisition noted that Thomas de Clare had his capital messuage of the cantred of 'Osurre's', as well as courts of free tenants and of the hundred at 'Dengenyhonysh' (PRO 1910, 160). Dingle is not mentioned, however, in any of the earlier documents relating to Ossurys which may perhaps indicate that it was not yet in existence. It is first mentioned in customs returns of 1278-9 (Sweetman 1875-86, ii, p. 415), which is clear evidence that the port was functioning. In 1299 the villata, or men of the vill of 'Dengen' were fined for the escape of Walter Laundry (Sweetman 1875-86 iv, pp. 294, 314) which suggests the existence by that time of a structured community.

It is likely that Dingle's main function at this period was as a port. In 1278-9 Perceval of Lucca and his associates accounted for £12 new custom received on the king's behalf from merchants leaving the port of Dingle (Sweetman 1875-86 ii, p.415). Otway-Ruthven (1968, 123) and Graham (1977, 41)

point out that the ports of Dingle and Tralee were important enough in the late thirteenth and fourteenth centuries to be centres in which customs were collected, and although probably never more than a minor port, Dingle was apparently engaged in steady trade during this period.

In 1316 Dingle was burned by Diarmait MacCarthaig, chief of Desmumu (AI) and the effects of this were noted in the 1322 inquisition which described de Clare's capital messuage as unbuilt and stated that many free tenants had withdrawn because of the war (PRO 1910, 160). The Mac Carthaig again raided Corca Dhuibhne in 1398 and "plundered it beyond the town of Dingle and the country from that on" (O hInnse 1947, 111), although it is not clear if the town itself was burned on this occasion or not. In spite of these unsettled conditions, however, Dingle survived and continued both in its commercial and administrative functions. Royal customs officials were assigned there in 1334 and 1395, while in 1461 it was proposed to make a grant to William, lord de bary, from the customs and cocket of Dingle (44 RDKPRI, 51-2; Tresham 1828, p. 152: no. 44, p. 269: no. 68). In 1485 there is a record of the seneschal of the liberty of Kerry holding assizes at Dingle (Brewer and Bullen 1871, 377).

During the late sixteenth century Dingle became quite closely involved in political developments in Kerry because of its strategic importance. In 1569 it attracted government interest when it was proposed to wall the town in order to curb the power of the earl of Desmond and of Mac Carthaig

(Brewer and Bullen 1867, 396). In 1570 Dingle was apparently occupied for a time by a French force during the rebellion of James FitzMaurice (Hamilton 1860, 435) and in 1571 Sir John Perrot, president of Munster, noted "six of James FitzMaurice's men killed at the Dingle when he went there to take the great ordnance" (Hamilton 1860, 457). In his renewed campaign of 1579, FitzMaurice landed at Dingle with six Spanish ships and subsequently burned the town (Hamilton 1867, 173-4). Contemporary reports described Dingle in the aftermath as "wholly sacked", "razed" and "broken" (Hamilton 1867, 197, 216; Brewer and Bullen 1868, 214). In 1580 Sir William Pelham noted that Dingle had been largely abandoned by its inhabitants and urged Sir William Winter to encourage them, especially the fishermen and merchants, to return to the town (Brewer and Bullen 1868, 254). At the end of that year, after the massacre of Dun an Oir, there were 450 English soldiers in Dingle (Hamilton 1867, 273), and by 1582 Sir Henry Wallop, the Vice-Treasurer, noted that "Dingle is now inhabited and should be entered in the schedule concerning imposts on wine" (Hamilton 1867, 387). By this date a permanent ward of thirty soldiers was stationed there (Curtis 1933-43, v, 322; Hamilton 1867, 405). Later that year, however, Dingle was besieged by the earl of Desmond and the baron of Lixnaw, but they were forced to lift the siege, apparently after a sally by the soldiers and townsmen, with Sir Thomas Norreys marching to the town's relief (Hamilton 1867, 419). An English traveller's account of 1589, apparently referring to the 1582 siege, noted that "the



castle and all the houses in the Towne, save foure, were won, burnt, and ruined by the Erle of Desmond. These foure houses fortified themselves against him, and withstood him and all his power perforce, so as he could not winne them" (Hitchcock 1852-3, 140).

The defeat and death of the earl of Desmond in 1583 marked a turning point in Dingle's history with the establishment of English control there. This was reflected in a proposal of 1585 to grant a charter of incorporation to the town, in order to promote "the restoration of their ruinous and decayed estate, through the late rebellion there" (Morrin 1862, 105; 15 RDKPRI, 144-5: no. 4816). It seems, however, that the charter was not actually granted until 1606 (Hitchcock 1852-3, 134; Cusack 1871, appendix v; Weinbaum 1943, 204). References to the portreeve or provost of Dingle in 1579 and 1584, however, indicate that the town was incorporated before the 1585 proposal (Hamilton 1867, 173; PRO 1881, 1).

Further disruption occurred in 1598 when James FitzThomas, the 'sugan' earl of Desmond, landed at Dingle with 2000 Spaniards and the town surrendered to him (Atkinson 1895, 487, 400). Lewis (1837, i, 460) makes the otherwise unsupported claim that the town was burned at this time. In 1645 Dingle was pillaged and burnt by the parliamentarian, Capt. Robert Moulton, with 700 soldiers (McNeill 1943, 215-16). The census of 1659 returned a population of 159 for the town and borough (Pender 1939, 253).

In spite of these upheavals and disruptions it seems that Dingle's commercial and mercantile activity continued largely uninterrupted. This is indicated by records of the appointment of customs officials in 1570, 1579, 1591, 1597, and 1629 (11 RDKPRI, 221: no. 1472; 13 RDKPRI, 111: no. 3515; 16 RDKPRI, 194: no. 5681; 17 RDKPRI, 46: no. 6041; Morrin 1863, 445), and by customs returns noted in 1607, 1664, 1668, and in another undated seventeenth century list (Russell and Prendergast 1877, 96; Mahaffy 1907, 460-1; Mahaffy 1908, 672-3; Mahaffy 1903, 275). These indicate that at this period Dingle was the least important of the twenty-one major Irish ports listed. The importance of trade to the Dingle economy, however, is indicated by pardons of 1586, listing fourteen Dingle merchants of the Trant, Rice and Golding families, and another of 1601 listing eleven merchants (15 RDKPRI, 153: no. 4864; 17 RDKPRI, 178-80: no. 6494).

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACE
3. DOMESTIC HOUSES
4. TOWN DEFENCES
5. CASTLE
6. PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES
7. MISCELLANEOUS

## 1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN

Wright's account of Dingle, written in 1589, noted that "it consisteth of but one maine streete, from whence some smaller doe proceede on either side" (Hitchcock 1852-3, 140). This is Main Street, which slopes downhill from north-west to south-east. The burgage plot pattern still survives on either side of this street, and stretch back to a long linear boundary on the south which almost certainly preserves the line of the town wall. Dyke Gate Lane and Green Street were probably established in the seventeenth century and represent expansion into the harbour area.

## 2. MARKET PLACE

The location of the medieval market place was almost certainly in the expansion at the junction of Goat Street and Main St. The Fair Field at the NW end of Goat St is presumably where the later fairs were held.

## 3. DOMESTIC HOUSES

In 1589 Wright described the houses of Dingle as "very strongly built with thicke stone walles, and narrow windowes like unto Castles: for as they confessed, in time of trouble, by reason of the wilde Irish or otherwise, they used their houses for their defence as Castles ... Commonly they have no chimneis in their houses, excepting them of the better sort". He added that in the aftermath of the attacks of 1579 and

1582, "the Towne is nowe againe somewhat repaired, but in effect there remaine but the ruines of the former Towne" (Hitchcock 1852-3, 140). A later description, by Smith in 1746, stated that several of the houses were built in the Spanish fashion, with ranges of stone balcony windows .... most of them are of stone, with marble door, and window frames.... Many of them have dates on them as old as Q. Elizabeth's time, and some earlier ..." (Smith 1756, 176-7). O'Donovan (1983, 114-5) noted that none of these houses survived in 1841, but Hitchcock (1854-5, 353) states that the sites of three "castles", probably fortified town houses of the style described by Wright, were still pointed out.

#### RICE HOUSE

Smith (1756, 177) states that he saw a building with "an inscription, signifying, that the house was built by one RICE, anno 1563; and on a stone beneath two roses, are carved these words, AT THE ROSE IS THE BEST WINE". This may have been located at the junction of Green St. and Main St. where the O.S. maps show a "castle" site. The present building on this corner is modern. A rectangular stone with the date 1586 (Pl. ) is inserted at second floor level into the second house to the west of this site, in Green Street. The upper part of the stone is roughly dressed, indicating that it is not in its original position. Dims: H. W.25. Cuppage 1986, 380.

#### THE KNIGHT OF KERRY'S HOUSE

It is known that William Fitzgerald, knight of Kerry, delivered up his house at Dingle to Sir Charles Wilmot in 1600 (Hitchcock 1854-5, 354; O'Grady 1896, i, 147). It is possible that this was Dingle castle.

#### HUSSEY HOUSE

Another important building was that mentioned in Dingle's proposed charter of 1585 which granted the corporation a house in the town forfeited by John Hussey "to make of the same a gaol and a common court-house" (Morrin 1862, 105). Smith (1756, 176) claimed that the building was granted on its forfeiture to the earl of Ormond and later bought by the Knight of Kerry; it was functioning in 1756 as the town gaol. O'Donovan (1983, 115) could find no trace of this gaol in 1841 but Hitchcock (1854-5, 355) supplies a description of the building. It was located to the rear of the then market-house and it still displayed "a low dark, doorway, and a small cut stone and grated window", while apparently built into modern walls were "a cut stone doorway ... the shape being something between semi-circular and pointed, but approaching more to the latter", and a stone with "a portion of some raised carving, resembling (as well as I could see it) a tree".

It was located on the south side of Main St., on the site of the present P.T. Fitzgerald's Supermarket. Nothing remains of the pointed door, linteled passag., or room, which probably formed part of a back-house, or middle-house, in the original complex. The decorated stone survives, however,

embedded at second floor level in the east facing wall of a building at the rear of the supermarket. It is decorated in relief with two intertwined ivy leaves. Dims: H.32 W.53. Cuppage 1986, 380.

## TRANT CASTLE

In 1565 a castle in Dingle was sold to Richard Trant by the knight of Kerry (Cuppage 1986, 380). Known as Caislean na bhFiach it stood at the north end of Main Street on the site occupied by the nineteenth century Temperance Hall, now housing the local library (Cuppage 1986, 380).

## HOUSE FRAGMENTS

### House in Main Street

Hitchcock (1854-5, 356) described a building nearly opposite the Market House (Hussey's Castle) as having an arched passage and very thick walls. Only the arch of a medieval door and a decorated stone now survive. The site is at present occupied by Moran's Drapery. The arch stones derive from a chamfered limestone arch with a combined span of 1.5 m. A third stone was present in 1918 (Cuppage 1986, 382, fig.222: a,b). The other stone is in the garden at the rear of Moran's Drapery and is an irregularly shaped six-sided stone with a panel of lierne rib vaulting on one face. The edges of the stone have a border of cable work in relief and a boss on top. There is a mortice in the back of the stone for fitting it into something. Its function is

unknown. Dims: H.89.5 D.137.5 T.9.

#### House in Goat Street

On the north side of Goat Street opposite the house marked as 'Cross House' on O.S. map. Only the lower courses of the walls (90cm thick) survive of the ground floor while the wall fronting onto the street has an additional batter, 50 cms thick. It is now ruined.

#### Wall plaques

Two houses in Green Street have wall plaques which may be of seventeenth century date. (1) The gable of 'Gifts' has two plaques (Pl. ). The upper stone is circular (diam. 22 cm) with an interlaced design of six loops in relief; the lower one is square and has a pair of opposed birds on a perch within a raised border (H.22 W.22). (2) On a house opposite 'Gifts' and adjacent to 'Hands Accomodation' is a plaque with a large bird holding a smaller bird in its claw, and a third bird flying above. An M and three dots are placed above the design (H. 42 W. 42 cm).

#### 4. TOWN DEFENCES

The first of a number of proposals to enclose Dingle occurs in 1569 when it was suggested that the president of Munster should be given £1000 for the purpose (Brewer and Bullen 1867, 396). In 1594 Perrot, the lord deputy, listed Dingle as one of seven towns he hoped to wall, if given extra revenue from England (Hamilton 1867, 533) and in 1585

Elizabeth's proposed charter to the town provided for a grant of £300 "towards the charges of walling their town with stone, three-quarters of a mile compasse" (Morrin 1862, 105). It would appear that nothing came of these proposals because Dingle was described by Sir Thomas Norreys in 1598 as "not being walled nor otherwise defensible" (Atkinson 1895, 400), and in 1603 as a "town of small defence" (Brewer and Bullen 1870, 452). The anonymous author of the 1598 Description of Ireland, however, describes it simply as "a walled Towne" (Hogan 1878, 189).

A contemporary account of 1589, however, stated that "there remaineth yet a thiche stone wall that passeth overthwart the midst of the street which was a part of their fortification" and that "it hath had gates (as it seemeth) in times past at either ende to open and shut as a Towne of warre" (Hitchcock 1852-3, 140). This may indicate that the proposals of 1569-85 referred, not to the enclosing of the town, but to the repair of existing defences, perhaps of medieval date. Smith (1756, 73, 177) described Dingle as the only walled town in Kerry and noted that "the town walls were built of clay mortar, and are gone much to decay". In 1841 O'Donovan (1983, 115) stated that no fragment of it remained but Hitchcock (1852-3, 135) claimed that traces of it were present in his day.

#### Description

Nothing survives of the actual wall itself and its



approximate outline can only be gauged with difficulty. The south-eastern line of the wall evidently followed the long linear boundary at the rear of the burgage plots fronting onto the SE side of Main Street. While on the NE side of Main Street it is fair to assume that the wall enclosed St. John's churchyard. These are the only indicators of the former line, however, and, in the absence of excavation, there is no satisfactory way of establishing the northern and southern extremities of the town. The outline on the accompanying maps is based on the plot pattern and simply follows the course of the major boundaries. On the north these boundaries end at Chapel Street and the gate is positioned at the junction of that street with Goat Street. It is possible, however, that the gate may have been further to the south. On the south side of the town, the block of plots on the north side of John Street are taken as indicating the wall line but it could be that the wall originally stopped at the stream, and that the position of the southern gate should be placed at the junction of The Mall and Main Street. On the north-east side the wall is shown as forming an angle around the church. This is a feature found in many medieval towns. It is possible, however, that the long boundary in the grounds of Grove House, north-east of the church represents the line of the wall. Only excavation will determine its exact course. The name Dyke Gate Lane suggests that there was a gate in this street, but if so, it would imply three gates rather than the two described by Wright in 1589.

## 5. CASTLE

The medieval references to the manor of Dingle and the subsequent sixteenth century references to garrisons imply that there was a castle at Dingle. Its site is unknown, however, and it may be the same as the knight of Kerry's house, mentioned above.

Thomas de Clare's "capital messuage", is described as "unbuilt" in 1322, and this probably means that it was still ruined after the burning of Dingle in 1316 (PRO 1910, 160). It is likely that this or a successor was the "ruinous house or chief mansion" of the earl of Desmond listed in the 1584 survey of the earl's property (PRO 1881, 2). Beside this house was a "parcel of land ... called the Park, formerly a wood, containing 35 acres" (PRO 1881, 2), but unfortunately it is impossible to locate this piece of land. Wright in his account of 1589 refers to the existence of a castle. Could it be in the vicinity of Grove House?

## 6. PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES

Gwynn and Hadcock (1970, 169) note that the church was recorded as a perpetual vicarage of the Augustinian Canons of Killaha in 1428, which is the earliest reference to the church. The rectory was leased to Thomas Clinto in 1576 (12 RDKPRI, 182: no. 2849), to Sir William Standley in 1583 (13 RDKPRI, 216: no. 4219) and to Thomas Springe in 1588 (16 RDKPRI, 69: no. 5172). Smith (1756, 177) recorded the

dedication to St. James, and stated that "it was originally very large, but most of the old structure is gone to ruin, a part only of which is kept in repair for divine service and is called St. Mary's chapel".

The church is situated on the east side of Main St. within a large rectangular churchyard. No trace of the medieval building survives and the present Church of Ireland was built on the site in 1807, re-using some of the old stone as is apparent from the quoins with chamfers, quirks, and glazing bar recesses. A number of cut stones are also used as grave markers. These include three sandstone dripstones and sections of weathered eaves coping, two fragments from door arches, a sixteenth century limestone door jamb fragment and some other chamfered blocks of similar date (Cuppage 1986, 381-2).

#### Monuments

FitzGerald slab. 1504.

Tapering sandstone slab lying SE of the church, now broken into two sections. Decorated with three heraldic shields, the upper containing the arms of the Munster FitzGerald. The second shield contains a heart with the inscription: HM.KT.H, and the lower shield bears a saltire between three objects resembling eagle's heads. At the narrow end is an incised Latin cross with the letters INRI above it, and the inscription B.S.E.C.(S)A INDEOAOA beneath it. Marginal inscription:

TRINITAS:INDIVIDVAS:SALVA:NOS/

O:PATER:M:N.P.P.ET.I.N.AM.AMEN.1504.BEO.B.GAR/ DIE.LE.G/

and separate from the main inscription, the letters EAT.S/ and S.L. The meaning of the inscription is obscure.

Dims: L.187 W.85-53 T.11

Cuppage 1986, 382: no. 1.

Stephen Rice and Ellen Trant. 1629

About 14m SE of the SE corner of the church. In very poor condition. Trapezoidal. Decorated with heraldic shield showing Rice and Trant impaled. The inscription is now almost illegible:

STEP[HEN] RICE: ESQUIER: LI/ES H[ER]E LATE KNIG[HT] OF/  
[PA]R[LIAM]ENT A HAPPY LIF/ [FOR FOUR] SCORE [YE]ARE/  
[FULL VIRTU]OUSLY [HE] SPENT/ HIS LOYAL WIF ELLIN/  
TRANT, WHO DIED FIV/ YEARES BEFORE LIES HERE/ ALLSO LORD  
IESVS GR/ANT THEM LIF FOR EVERMORE/ MDCXXII.

STE[PH]ANVS ECC.8V9 AC/.TR. DE STEMM[AT]E NATV/ MAXIMVS  
AST..VIVS/ FAMA PERENNIS ERIT/ HUIC SVCCVRRE TVIS VO/TIS  
PIA MA[TER ET] JESU:/ INSVPER ADDE TVAS/ LECTOR AMICE,  
PRECES.....AD, SANGV/INEM OBIIT I FEB: 1629

It is difficult to translate the Latin inscription because so many letters are unclear but its general tenor is that Stephen Rice was an upright (?astantivus) member of his race, and that his fame will endure. It concludes "Succour him with your prayers O Holy Mother and Jesus. Friendly reader add your prayers...died 1 February 1629".

Dims: L. 194 W.104-89 T.8

FitzGerald (1910-12), 344-6.

Frederick Mullins. 1695

Tapering sandstone slab, set in an upright position into the east side of the Ventry mausoleum on the south side of the church. Relief inscription in Roman capitals:

HERE LYETH THE :/ BODY OF FREDER/ICK MVLLINS: SON/ AND  
HEIRE OF/ FREDERICK: MVL/LINS OF BVRN/HAM: ESQVIR: W/HO  
DECEASED/ THE: 22: DAY: OF/ OCTOBER: AN/NO DOM 1695/ AND  
THE 31/ OF HIS AGE

Dims: L. 126 W. 81-61 D. 18

Cuppage 1986, 382

Grave slab. Medieval.

Tapering slab on the ground to the south of the east end of the church. Decorated in relief with a swastika and an interlaced pelta motif.

Dims: L. 193 W. 92-77 T. 7.5

Hickson 1888-91, 404-5; Cuppage 1986, 382

Holed stone

South of the E end of the church is a rectangular holed stone with hour-glass perforation. Dims: H. 20 W. 34 T. 10. Diam. of hole 5.

Font. 16th cent.

Inside the church. Undecorated octagonal limestone font with chamfered lower edges and a low moulding around the base. It has a straight sided basin and the drainage hole has been re-cut and fitted with a modern stopper. The pedestal and base are late.

Dims: H. of basin 38; Diam. 66; Depth 22.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Augustinian House

References to the Augustinians at Dingle actually alude to the parish church to which the Augustinians of Killagh appointed a vicar.

### Dominican House

In 1584 the possessions of the Dominicans of Tralee included a house and two acres at Dingle (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 233). It has been suggested that this house was located in Garranabraher, east of the town (Cuppage 1986, 383).

### St. John's well and cross.

There was a small covered well in a yard on the east side of a house in the Mall. The yard was recently tarmacadumed and the cross inscribed stone which stood beside the well has been broken in two. It is a pillar incised with a Latin cross with expanded terminals and the letters FD.

Dims: H.51 W. 22 T.12

O Danachair 1960, 73.

### Mill

The 1584 survey of the earl of Desmond's property included "a water-mill ... with a house and garden" in Dingle (PRO 1881, 4). This mill was apparently adjacent to the parcel of land called 'the Park' beside the earl's house, and seems to be that referred to in the 1587 grant of "the park and half the mill in Dingle" to the English planters Walshingham and Denny (Brewer and Bullen 1868, 451). The mill

and park of Dingle is also referred to in 1671 (MacLysaght 1941, 83). The most likely situation for this park is in the grounds of Grove House.

#### Ogham stone

Supposed to have been found in the stream near Dingle parochial School. Now missing. Macalister (1945, 171-2) described the fragment as measuring 1' 3" by 1' 1" by 8" with the ogham inscription 'ETORIGAS' on the top of the pillar.

#### Bullaun stone

Limestone block with five deep depressions and two shallow ones. On the east side of Goat St. near Bothar an tSeipeil. O.S.: 'Holy Stone'.

Dims: L.345 W. 175 T.85

Weir 1980, 155.

#### Ringfort. Farran.

The site of the ringfort is now in use as a playing field (Cuppage 1986, 224: no. 680).

#### LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. Beaker vessel. Cork Public Museum. Clarke, 1970, 526, No. 1896f.
2. Stone jetton mould. NMI 1959: 23.

## The Problems

Dingle is important to archaeological research because it is one of the small number of Anglo-Norman towns in the west of Ireland in which occupation continued throughout the Middle Ages. In this respect the town offers the best parallel to Galway, which became one of the wealthiest towns of Ireland in the Late Middle Ages, although it was far outside the Pale. The importance of Dingle then rests in the fact that while it was an enclave of Anglo-Norman settlement it was also, perhaps, the most Irish of medieval towns in Ireland.

The street pattern is linear and is of a type often found in Anglo-Norman towns, and together with the burgage plot pattern it represents an important survival into modern times. It is known that the town had a number of fortified town houses similar to those known in towns such as Kinsale and Carlingford, but the form of pre-sixteenth century housing within the town remains unknown. Excavation of houses of this period would shed important light on building methods and techniques, and particularly the degree of influence from native Irish sources.

The course of the town defences is somewhat speculative and the outline suggested above needs to be tested by excavation in order to determine whether it is correct or not. The possibility that mural towers and gatehouses were present needs to be borne in mind as does the likelihood that the defences were strengthened by the addition of earthen



ramparts in the seventeenth century. Excavation is likely to reveal traces of these because even if the wall has been removed it is likely that a ditch would survive intact.

### Archaeological Potential

Archaeology does not consist solely of excavation nor does it stop at ground level. The archaeological evidence for Dingle's past comprises all the physical remains of man's activities on the site of the town, from the thirteenth century until 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 Dingle, but for the wide range of human activity omitted from the written accounts and for the early periods when documentation is slight 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.

The survey of its archaeology indicates that the town is particularly important as an example of an Anglo-Norman town which survived in a predominantly Gaelic environment. The only standing remains of pre-1700 date are the footings of a

house in Goat Street. Otherwise, the destruction of buildings above ground has been total. The street pattern of the medieval town is largely intact, however, and archaeological deposits are likely to survive behind the street frontages.

Unfortunately Dingle has already lost some of its most important archaeological deposits. The park of Grove House is now a housing estate. This area should have been archaeologically investigated because it is the potential site not only of the medieval manorial castle but also of a watermill. Its very proximity to the line of the town wall should have alerted attention but an important opportunity was lost. SE of the town wall, in Dyke Gate Lane, bulldozing has revealed a build-up of archaeological deposits 2m deep, but their exact date is unclear. Nonetheless their presence here indicates that archaeological levels have almost certainly survived in other parts of the town as well.

#### ARCHAEOLOGY, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

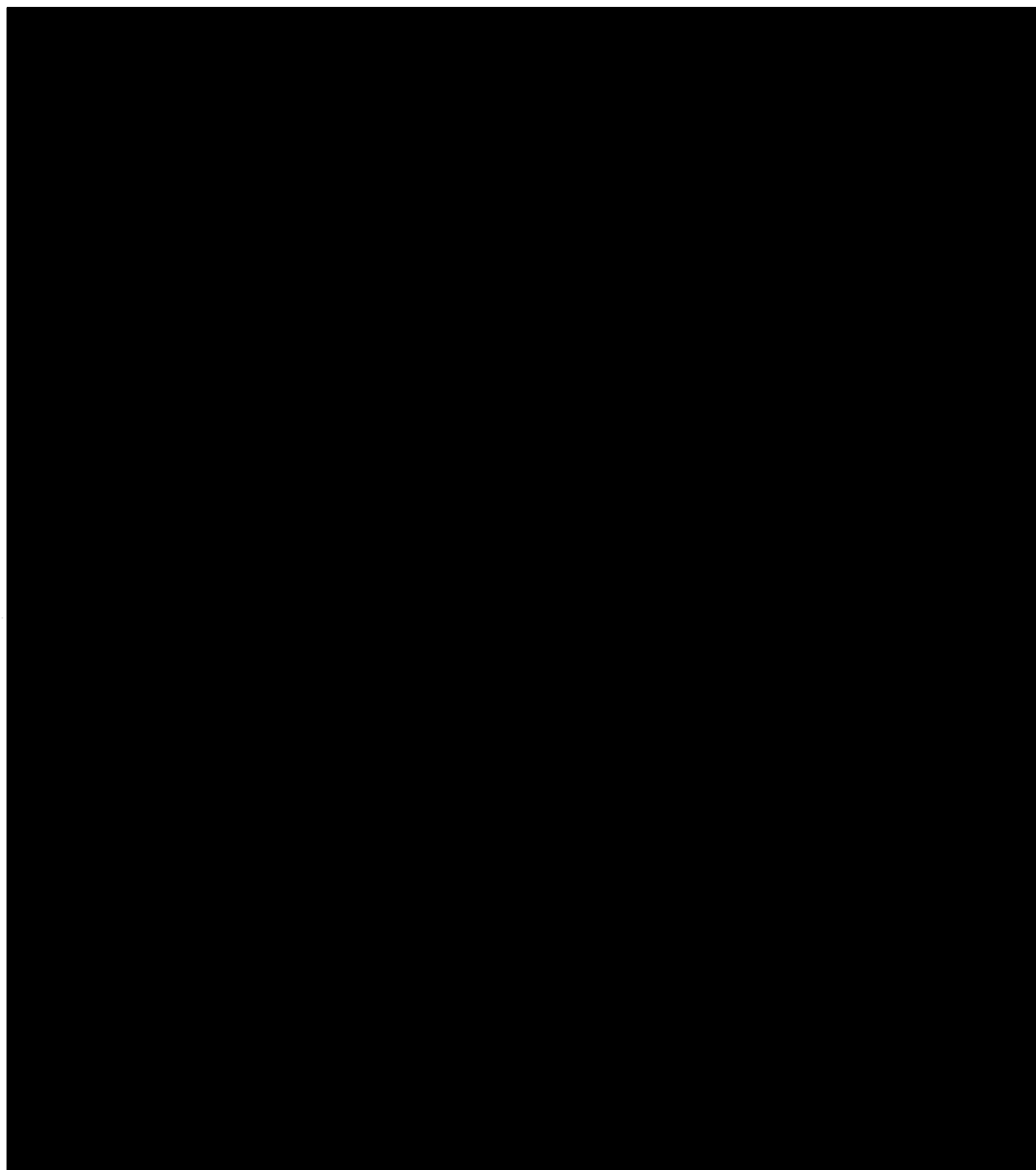
It is evident from the foregoing that archaeology is an important means of learning about Dingle's past and of understanding the character and detailed form of the town today. This is more than just an academic pursuit because without an appreciation of the factors which have shaped Dingle's present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

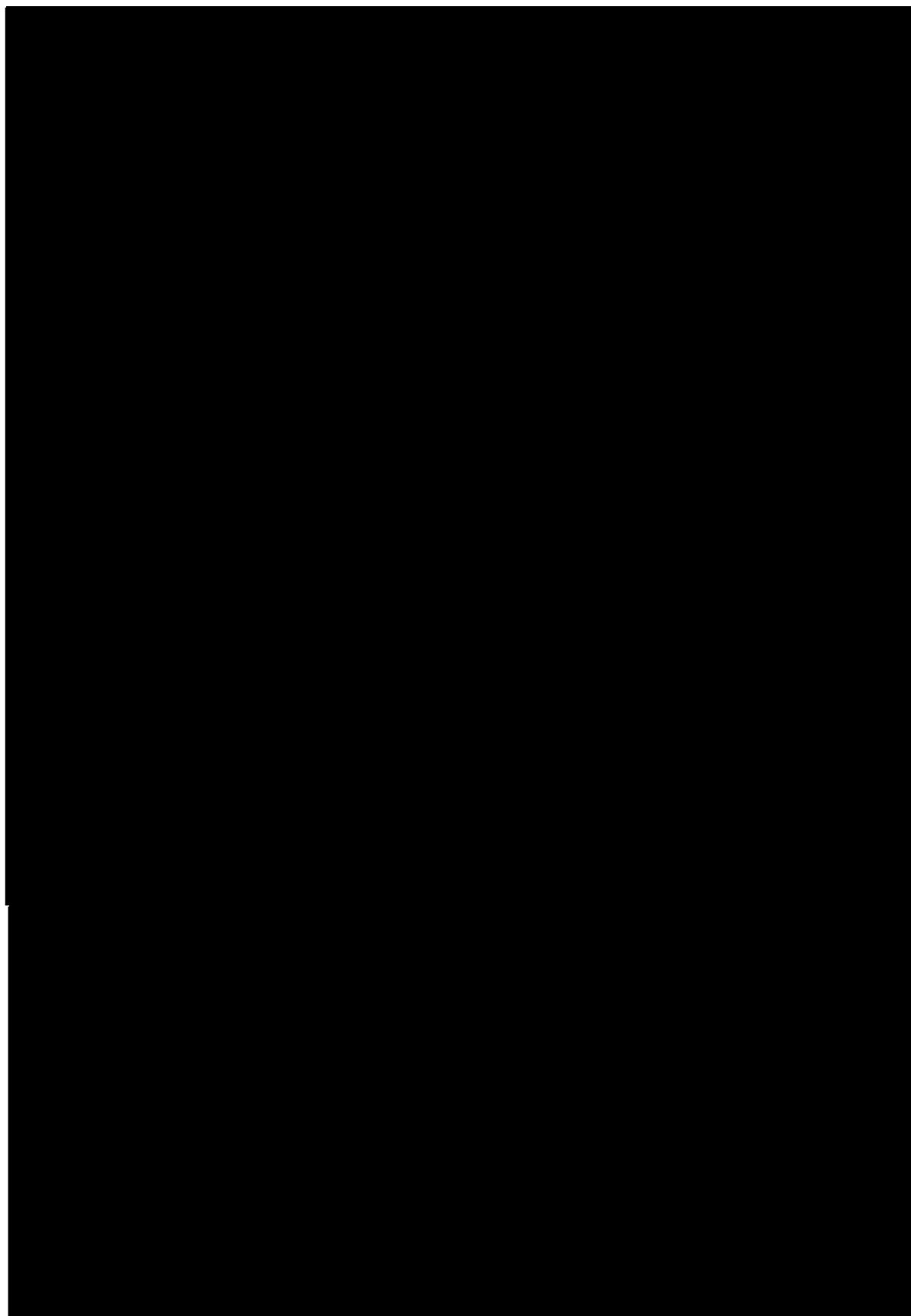
The protection of buried archaeological evidence presents serious problems for not only is there the pressure of redevelopment and the high value of urban properties with which to contend, but the sites themselves are often difficult to define or evaluate; their full archaeological potential may only 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 Dingle'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 (Fig. 30) delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern Dingle. This comprises the suggested walled area of the medieval town, together with an area south-west of this, towards the harbour, which may represent the extension of the town during the seventeenth century. An area outside the proposed wall line, is also included to allow for any structures or features which may have been constructed on the perimeter. Within this area the main disturbance to archaeological deposits has occurred along the street front

as a result of the rebuilding of houses here in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Elsewhere, however, deposits are likely to survive and there is the strong likelihood of recovering house foundations, refuse pits, industrial areas, and workshops of medieval and seventeenth century date.





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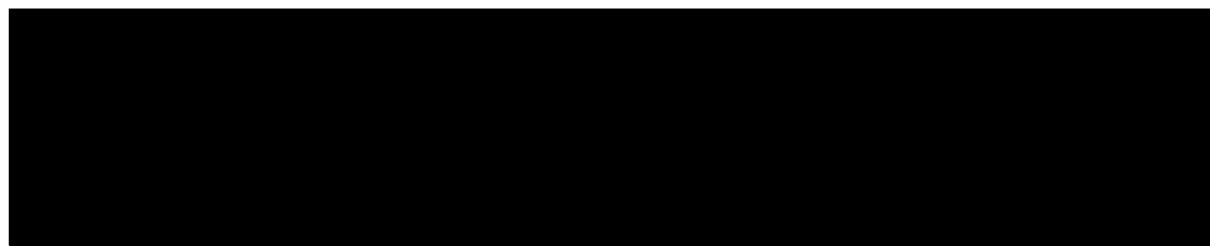
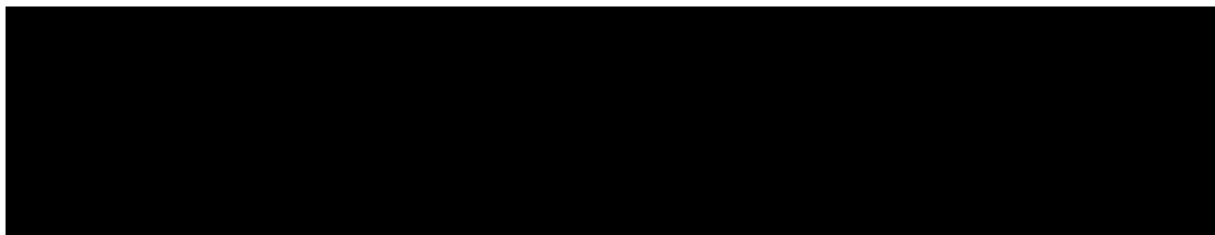
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## RATTOO

The deserted borough of Rattoo is situated about one mile south-east of Ballyduff, twelve miles north of Tralee and seven miles west of Listowel, on the flat coastal plain of north Kerry. Although it is uninhabited today, Rattoo was the site of an ecclesiastical centre in the Early Historic period and of a borough which was probably founded in the thirteenth century. The placename is a corruption of Rath Tuaidh, or more fully, Rath maigi tuaidh, i.e. the fort of the northern plain.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The presence of a round tower indicates that Rattoo was the site of a wealthy early ecclesiastical site, but documentary information on it is very scanty. Gwynn and Hadcock (1970, 43) suggest that it may have been an early sixth century foundation associated with Bishop Lughach. It is likely that the church site continued to function into the thirteenth century because it is otherwise difficult to understand why it was chosen by the Anglo-Normans as a borough site.

The earliest definite evidence for the existence of the



borough is in sixteenth century sources but its origins can be traced to c.1210, when Meiler Fitzhenry was granted much of north Kerry by King John (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 123; Otway-Ruthven 1968, 86). A hospital dedicated to St. John the Baptist (Fratres Cruciferi) was founded at Rattoo by Saivinus, son of Cynan.

Documentary references are scarce throughout the Middle Ages. In 1597 a burgage in Ratowe, which had belonged to the Arrousians, was granted to Trinity College Dublin (17 RDKPRI, 65: no. 6123). The Civil Survey of 1654 noted various lands and tenements in the town and burgagery of Rattoo, which were mainly held by Morris McDaniel (Simington 1938, 498-9). The impression, however, is that the borough had long ceased to function by this date and the census of 1659 gives a population of only six and twelve for the townlands of Rattoo and Burgessland, respectively (Pender 1939, 250). In 1687 it was described by Sir Richard Cox as "a poor inconsiderable village of small note" (de Brun 1972, 40).

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
  2. DOMESTIC HOUSES
  3. EARLY MONASTIC SITE
- ROUND TOWER
- PARISH CHURCH

4. HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (FRATRES CRUCIFERI) &  
ARROUASIAN ABBEY OF SS. PETER & PAUL
5. MISCELLANEOUS

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

There are no superficial traces of the borough site and it is reasonable to assume that these were in the vicinity of the church and round tower. This area has been tilled for many years and no trace of earthworks is to be expected.

2. DOMESTIC HOUSES

Although references to messuages and tenements in Ratoo occur in late sixteenth century documents, such as the grant of six messuages there to Edmund Barret in 1594 (16 RDKPRI, 263: no. 5912), the only reference of any topographical value is that in the Civil Survey of 1654 to "two house Roomes nere the west end of the Church of Rathowe" (Simington 1938, 498-9).

3. EARLY CHRISTIAN SITE

No trace of an enclosure is visible on the ground and the ruined church is medieval in date.

## ROUND TOWER

One of the finest in the country, this round tower is

complete, the top two-thirds of the conical cap having been replaced in 1880-1 by the Commissioners of Public Works (Barrow 1979, 109). It is built of dressed and evenly coursed yellow sandstone and stands to a height of approx. 27m. It is evenly battered from an off-set 20cm wide at the base to a cornice just below the cap. A limestone plinth is present under the off-set. There were six floors set on projecting rings of corbels but there is no access to the floors now. There is a round headed door in the SE 2.6m above the off-set, a small pointed window in the fourth floor above the door and four windows in the top of the tower. The door has a low flat moulding carried around the arch and jambs and the sill projects from the face of the tower giving the effect of a continuation of the moulding. There is a rounded moulding with two curved spirals on the top of the arch and two others two around the sides of the flat moulding and terminate in a spiral on either side of the door. When the tower was being repaired in the late nineteenth century a shiela-na-gig and some pellet mouldings were discovered on the inner frame of the north window (Barrow 1979, 112).

#### PARISH CHURCH

This church is probably the successor of the pre-Norman church but nothing is known of its history. It was probably granted, along with the vill of Rattoo, to the hospital/abbey, because in 1597, when George Isham was granted the tithes of Rattoo it was noted that these had belonged to the abbey (17 RDKPRI, 44: no.6034).

## Description

Small rectangular building of uncoursed rubble masonry, measuring 10.2 by 5.5m internally. It was built mostly of yellow and pink sandstone but some limestone and shale were also included. The east end of the interior is built up with modern vaults.

The east wall is 5m high externally but lacks its gable. It has a narrow twin-light ogee-headed window with hollow spandrels and flattened rear-arch. The limestone jambs are tooled and chamfered but the central mullion is missing. Externally there is a rectangular hood moulding with plain stops. Several re-used dressed stones are set in the splayed surrounds and inner jambs indicating that the window was inserted. The north wall, between 2.5 and 3m high internally, is featureless except for some very large stones in the external masonry which may indicate the remains of an earlier structure. Part of an external plinth also survives. The west wall stands to a height of 4.5m and has a pointed door with tooled and chamfered limestone jambs, and a lintelled rear-arch. The chamfers have pointed stops and the lower part of the outer face of the jamb is battered. Wall footings project from the SW corner indicating the former presence of a structure here. The south wall was lit by a blocked single-light window with chamfered limestone jambs; it is now blocked and its arch is missing. A small lintelled slit at the east end may be modern. There is an external batter at the east end of the S wall, 56cm wide and rising to a height

of 3m.

#### Monuments

Wall plaque. 17th cent.

Limestone. On internal south jamb of the west door. Incised lettering in Roman capitals, conjoined and abbreviated:

X MARG/= O DINIGIHAN/ EIS 1666 VXOR/ HIC IACET =

Dims: L.40 W.35 D.16

J. Assoc. Preservation Mems Dead Ireland 3 (1895-7), 85-7.

#### 4. HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (FRATRES CRUCIFERI) & ARROASIAN ABBEY OF SS. PETER & PAUL

The hospital of St. John the Baptist was founded by Brother William c.1200, during the initial Anglo-Norman settlement of north Kerry (Brooks 1936, xvi; Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 191, 216). In two charters of c.1200, the hospital was granted the vill of 'Rahtuahc' by Saivinus son of Canann (Cynan), and confirmed in its endowments by Meiler, son of Meiler FitzHenry (Brooks 1936, 357-9, nos. 563-4).

Ware was the first to state that this hospital subsequently became an Arroasian abbey dedicated to SS Peter and Paul and although this statement is unsubstantiated, the absence of any later references to the hospital strongly suggests that it is correct. Gwynn and Hadcock (1970, 191) follow Walsh and O'Sullivan (1949, 56) in dating this transition before 1207, but in fact this statement is without

foundation. The transition took place before 1276, however, when the first reference to the arroasians at Rattoo occurs (Sweetman 1875-86, ii, no. 1227).

Little is known of the abbey's history. In 1318 an escheator's account for its temporalities noted that they were "not sufficient for the maintainance of the monks there, as the temporalities were destroyed and burnt by the Irish of the locality" (42 RDKPRI, 18). The date of the effective dissolution of the abbey is not clear. The earl of Desmond held a lease of the abbey by 1573 (Brewer and Bullen 1867, 437) and this was renewed in 1576 (12 RDKPRI, 177: no. 2820), but it has been suggested that the monks remained until the Desmond rebellion and the granting of the lease to the English commander, John Zouche (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 191; 13 RDKPRI, 145: no. 3758). In 1600 the abbey was held by the Irish against Sir Charles Wilmot (O'Grady 1896, i, 149) and Smith (1756, 214) states that it was burned by the Irish on this occasion but he quotes no reliable source.

No detailed description of the abbey is known but documents of 1610 and 1693 respectively, describe it as containin "one church or dormitory, and divers buildings within ye said scite", and "one Church, one Churchyard and divers edifices within ye cite" (Byrne 1910-11, 19).

#### Description

Situated on lower ground NE of the round tower in the grounds of Rattoo House. It is a long rectangular building

with an undifferentiated nave and chancel, measuring 22.5 by 7m internally. It is built of uncoursed red and yellow sandstone, and limestone rubble. The quoins are largely missing but seem to have been pick dressed limestone. The church was built on a plinth which can be seen projecting under all walls. The S, E and E end of the N wall have a batter of 20-30cm rising up the wall to a height of 1m. The church is essentially 15th century but a large part of the north wall and almost all the west wall was added in the 16th century. During this rebuilding the upper 2m of wall, with the parapet, was added to the N and S walls, new windows were inserted and the original sandstone mouldings were occasionally copied in limestone. Stepped buttresses were added to the west end of the north and south walls. The walls and gables are almost complete although parts of the parapet which is 1m high above a narrow string course with drainage holes is damaged.

The east gable stands to a height of 7m but lacks its apex and coping stones. It has a pointed triple-light window, inserted in the 16th century, with three round headed lights in the lower register and switch line tracery above. The chamfered jambs and mullions are of limestone with glazing bar recesses and holes. The rear-arch is pointed and the internal jambs are a mixture of red, grey and yellow sandstone. Externally there is a pointed hood moulding with concave chamfers and terminals which end in leafy sprays. On the N side of the window there is a wide pointed recess and a small rectangular wall cupboard on the south side.

The N wall stands to an average height of 6m. The drip stones under the parapet, which are largely missing on this wall, are supported internally at regular intervals by tapering dressed limestone corbels. Close to the east end in the original wall is a shallow pointed niche which has one chamfered sandstone jamb on the E side. West of this there may have been a rectangular opening between the original wall and the later wall. Five meters of the new section of wall are missing and only the lower course survives. There is a jagged opening with a modern round arch of upright voussoirs almost opposite the door in the south wall. East of and above the opening externally the wall thickens and there are dressed sandstone quoins. Further to the west there is another jagged opening about 2m above ground level. It also has a modern rounded arch of upright voussoirs, lacking jambs.

The south wall stands to a height of 6m. Most of the parapet and sloping wall-walk with drainage channel is intact. Only two of the supporting dressed corbels survive on this side. Close to the east end there is a widely splaying opening with flattened rear arch, possibly for a single-light window. The outer jambs are gone but some of the dressed inner sandstone jambs remain. To the west is a splayed ogree-headed slit with a single block of limestone in the arch which is chamfered and tooled. The outer jambs are of modern cement but the inner jambs are dressed sandstone. The rear arch is flat lintelled close to the external wall while the inner arch consists of a flat-rounded arch of upright



voussoirs and is probably a replacement. There is a similar window about 2.5m to the west but only the limestone sill and rear lintel remain. Above it is a splayed opening directly under the wall walk. The jambs and rear-arch are missing. Four meters west is a widely splayed opening similar to that at the E end. The rear-arch consists of a flattened arch apparently rebuilt. The outer jambs are missing but the inner jambs of sandstone are present. About 4m from the west end is a rectangular door with flattened rear-arch. No jambs remain. Between the door and the west wall is a single-light ogee-headed slit similar to the second and third windows from the east. The west wall, the centre of which is rebuilt, stands to a height of 7m and is featureless.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Rattoo is a good example of a deserted borough. Indeed without the documentary evidence one would never suspect that the site had formerly been built up, let alone that it functioned as a town. The historical sources indicate that it was the scene of much activity in Early Historic and medieval times. The precise site of the borough is not known but it is reasonable to assume that it was in the vicinity of the early church site. Despite the fact that the area has been tilled in the vicinity of the round tower and church site, archaeological features such as drains, pits and ditches are likely to survive below ground level, even if the actual occupation layers have been disturbed. By contrast there is

little trace of disturbance around the abbey site, although the absence of earthworks delimiting its outbuildings indicates that disturbance has occurred here also.

Like Ardfert it was probably the existence of a settlement around the monastery which prompted the expansion of Rattoo into a borough during the thirteenth century. We know nothing of the physical appearance of this borough, of the number of houses within it, or even of its actual size and extent. Documentary records of the site are few and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of Rattoo's past can be obtained. Accordingly it is important that its archaeological remains should be protected.

#### Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 39) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Rattoo. This comprises the land between the early monastic site and Rattoo abbey, together with an area to the west where a curving boundary may preserve the last remains of the original monastic enclosure. The land within the vicinity of Rattoo House is also included because the settlement may have stretched this far.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## TRALEE

Tralee, the county town of Kerry, is situated on fertile low-lying ground near the southern end of the north Kerry coastal plain. The placename is derived from Tra Li, "the strand of the Lee". In fact, the town sits not on the Lee, but on the Gyle or Big river, which is now largely covered over but which was an important topographical feature in the town's development (Hickson 1894, 257).

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1121 the annals record that Toirdhelbhach Ua Conchobhair plundered Des-Mumha "from Magh Feimhin to Traigh-Li, both church and territoery" (ALC, AU), there is no evidence for any settlement at Tralee before the foundation of the Anglo-Norman borough there in the thirteenth century. Hickson's (1879-89, 578) claim that 'Gwyar's burgage', which is mentioned in a late sixteenth century document, preserves the memory of a pre-Norman church of St. Guaire is very unlikely and must be regarded as unproven. Tralee was, apparently, an Anglo-Norman foundation on virgin soil.

Details of the initial foundation have not survived and

it is not known whether it was Meiler FitzHenry, who was granted north Kerry by King John c.1200 (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 123) or John FitzThomas, ancestor of the earls of Desmond, who was the founder of the town. It may be assumed that some form of settlement was in existence by 1234 when "the defeat of Tralee was inflicted by the Galls on the Gaels" in an attack by the Mac Carthaigh and Ui hEidirsgeoil (AI; O hInnse 1947, 99; Orpen 1911-20, iii, 137). An important Dominican friary was founded c. 1243 by John FitzThomas, and the settlement was clearly flourishing by 1286 when John FitzThomas' grandson, Thomas FitzMaurice, was granted customs on the sale of merchandise on the vill for seven years in order to pay for its enclosure (Sweetman 1875-86, iii, no. 226). The earliest definite evidence that Tralee had achieved borough status occurs in 1298 when an extent of the lands of Thomas FitzMaurice noted that the burgesses of Tralee paid 100s in rent annually, which suggests the existence of one hundred burgages (Sweetman 1875-86, iv, no. 551, p. 255). The borough, however, is almost certainly of earlier origin.

Records of Tralee in the Later Middle Ages are scarce. In 1346, during the outlawry of the earl of Desmond, Maurice FitzDavid and William Stakepoll, knights, were appointed custodians of the vill (Tresham 1828, 51: no. 29), but Tralee remained in the hands of the earls of Desmond throughout the Middle Ages (cf. Curtis 1933-43, iii, 35). Evidence of trading activity in the town is provided by a record of 1375 which notes that Henry Peverell, a merchant of Bristol, was robbed of goods to the value of 100 marks at Tralee (Tresham

1828, 94: no. 168).

The upheavals in Munster caused by the struggle between the house of Desmond and the English government in the late sixteenth century had a major impact on Tralee. This was foreshadowed in 1579 when two senior government officials, Arthur Carter and Henry Davells, while on their way to Dun an Oir were murdered in Tralee castle by brothers of the earl of Desmond (AFM). In 1580 the earl of Desmond, by now in open rebellion, was forced to abandon Tralee on the advance of the Lord Justice, Sir William Pelham, but before leaving he burned the town so that Pelham found "all the houses at tralighe burnt and the castles razed, saving the abbey" (Hamilton 1867, 223; Brewer and Bullen 1868, 237). The defeat and death of Desmond led to the establishment of English control in Tralee, and one of the first results of this was the preparation in 1584 of a survey of Desmond's property (PRO 1881) which provides valuable information on Tralee, and on the devastation caused in 1580. It is described as "a certain large town or village called Tralee, which was formerly a well-inhabited borough, with a castle and edifices in it, formerly well and fully repaired, but now ruined and broken", and it is noticeable that many of the buildings, burgages and tenements are described as "prostrated", "waste", or "broken" (PRO 1881, 10-11). In the plantation of Munster that followed Tralee was granted in 1587 to Edward Denny (16 RDKPRI, 39: no. 5043) but any attempts at reconstruction were interrupted by the rebellion of the 'sugan' earl of Desmond in 1598-1600. In 1598 Tralee was

abandoned by its English garrison and settlers (Atkinson 1895, 325) and occupied by the rebels who were recorded as intending, on the advance of an English force, to "break down the Abbey of Tralee ... with all other buildings fit to receive any garrisons" (Atkinson 1895, 415). On his advance into Kerry in 1600, Sir George Carew noted that Denny's castle at Tralee was "utterly defaced" (Atkinson 1903, 367). Carew replaced a garrison in Tralee (AFM) and in the same year (1600) proposals for the government of Ireland recommended "a town to be builded at Castlemange or Traly; but at Tralie rather, for that it is more open to the sea and land than the other, and more convenient for the whole shire" (Brewer and Bullen 1869, 505).

The early seventeenth century saw the gradual building up of Tralee by the Denny family. In 1612 Arthur Denny got government approval to wall the town, although this proved to be abortive. In 1613 the town was granted a new charter of incorporation by James I which, as well as regulating the functioning of the corporation, etc., granted a weekly market and yearly fair (Cusack 1871, appendix vi, lii-lx; Weinbaum 1943, 223). Sir Edward Denny received another grant of a weekly market and yearly fair at Tralee in 1630 (Morrin 1863, 542). English colonists were attracted to Tralee and a survey of 1622 noted that thirty-two new English households had been established there (MacCarthy-Morrogh 1986, 174-5). This growth was interrupted in 1641, however, when the town was attacked by a large force of Confederate Catholics. The townspeople took refuge in two castles, where they were

besieged for six months before eventually surrendering (Smith 1756, 301-12; Rowan 1854, 161-5, 177-80). In 1642, one of the townspeople, Edward Voakley [Vauclier] testified that "the besiegers of Tralee burnt Sir Edward Denny's castle there, with the greater part of the town, to the number of one hundred houses at least" (Hickson 1872, 198). An English force under Bridges and Story reached Tralee in 1643, and found it burnt by the retreating confederate forces (Smith 1756, 313). Further destruction may have occurred in 1652, when the Dominican friary was apparently destroyed by Cromwellian forces (O'Sullivan 1971, 38), and in 1691 when the town and castle were burned by Jacobite forces (Smith 1756, 322, note b). The census of Ireland of 1659 returned a population of 277 for "Traly Burrough" (Pender 1939, 245).

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACE
3. DOMESTIC HOUSES
4. PORT
5. TOWN DEFENCES
6. CASTLE
7. PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN
8. DOMINICAN PRIORY
9. CASTLE MORRIS



## 10. MISCELLANEOUS

### 1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN

It is difficult to determine the form of the medieval street pattern because of the substantial alterations which have occurred during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Smith provides a plan of the town in 1756 which shows that it had a long east-west axis running from the west side of High Street, via Bridge Street and the Mall to Castle Street. Much of this pattern may well be of eighteenth century date, however, a period which is characterised by linear extensions to urban cores.

The concentration of small streets on the west side of the axis on Smith's map suggests that this is the old core of Tralee, despite the fact that the castle, parish church and Dominican friary are located outside it. It was a normal feature in medieval towns for the castle to be located on the edge of the town, while friaries were normally outside or on the periphery. The location of the parish church is more problematic, however, and can only be explained on the grounds that it began as a hospital and consequently it would have been located away from the main area of settlement.

Only one document provides any information on the early street plan, the 1584 survey of Desmond's property. This refers to "several other burgages and gardens there, being in the street or broad-ways, called the Burgess-street and Great Castle-street", and to "a street in Tralee called the street of the New Manor, together with several lands, tenements and

gardens in the said street, which are now nearly prostrated and waste". It is tempting to identify "Great Castle Street" with the present Castle Street, but it is more likely to have been The Mall or the portion of Bridge Street leading towards the castle. The "street of the new manor", presumably the street leading to the manor, is probably the present Castle Street or perhaps the street known as Moydore Well. Burgess Street is unidentifiable but it may be suggested that it is High Street.

## 2. MARKET PLACE

Smith's account of the 1641 siege, apparently based on a contemporary account by Elkanagh Knight, mentions that the gaoler of Tralee was hanged by the Irish at the market cross (Smith 1756, 307). The location of this market place is unclear, however, and it can only be suggested on the basis of the street pattern that it was at the street junction in High Street.

## 3. DOMESTIC HOUSES

There are no standing remains of pre-1700 houses in Tralee but the former existence of a number of "castles" is known of in Tralee. One of these was the "manor called the New Manor, with an old and broken castle called the Countess's Manor and Castle ... which were always used and occupied by the countess of Desmond" (PRO 1881, 10-11). This

"new manor", which was noted as part of the demense of the earl of Desmond in 1420 (Curtis 1933-43, iii, 35) was located to the south-west of the town (see map opp. Hickson 1879-89, 161). Also located within the new manor was "another small castle with a mill there", held in 1584 by John Oge FitzGerald (PRO 1881, 10-11). In 1587 the new manor was granted to Edward Denny (16 RDKPRI 39: no. 5043).

Other castles listed in the 1584 survey were "the burgage and castle called Farren McBrandon alias Brandon's Lands" and two castles belonging to Robert Ryce (PRO 1881, 10-11). One of these may have been the "Short castle" said to have been the property of "one Rice, a roman Catholic", in which 105 people took refuge during the siege of 1641 (Smith 1756, 301-2). In 1638 Richard Prendeville was seised of "the Short castle, a stone house within the town of Tralee and of another stone house ... in the dame town adjacent to the Short Castle (Hickson 1874, 245). A contemporaty account of the siege notes that communications were kept up between the "Short castle" and the main castle by means of a line suspended from the battlements of the castles (Smith 1756, 311), which, if true, would suggest that they were very close together. Hickson (1879-89, 577) suggests that the Short castle stood on the east side of what is now the Square.

Another castle was "Castle Mac Ellistrum", held in 1641 by Christopher Walsh (Hickson 1874, 246), and a detailed description of the remains of this castle, which survived until the mid 1870s is given in the Ordnance Survey letters

(O'Donovan 1983, 79; see Hickson 1879-89, 577).

The 1584 survey also makes reference to the more common domestic houses, burgages and tenements, many of which were laid out along the three streets named as Burgess-street, Great Castle-street and the street of the New Manor, although it was specified that these were located both "within and without the said town" (PRO 1881, 10-11). A reference to "the burgage and lands of Terence Og, called Ratass", illustrates how widespread the burgagery of Tralee was. The takeover of Tralee by Denny after 1587 and the introduction of English settlers probably led to the construction of many new houses and in 1641 it is recorded that at least one hundred houses were burned (Hickson 1872, 198).

#### 4. PORT

Otway-Ruthven (1968, 123) and Graham (1977, 41, 59 n. 47) suggest that Tralee and Dingle were the "Kerry ports" mentioned in customs returns of the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries. Tralee was certainly functioning as a port in the seventeenth century. A ship moored in the "Harbor of Tralee" is referred to in 1612 (Edwards 1938, 61), and in 1628 a Hamburg ship of 120 tons was captured when it came into Tralee harbour with a cargo of pipestaves, timber and tar (Mahaffy 1900, 402). And in a description of c.1682, Tralee was described as "formerly a town of some trade and a resort of shipping but now seldom applied to but in stress of weather (O'Sullivan 1971, 38).

The 1584 survey noted that the Dominican priory, which seems to have been located in the Abbey Street/ Mary Street area, was situated "on the river called the Guye near the Port of Tralee" (PRO 1881, 31-2). The Guye is evidently the Gyle or Big river, which today flows underground past the site of the priory, down Stoughton Row, Godfrey Place and Princes Quay to join the river Lee just below Mulgrave Bridge. The port of Tralee was presumably located somewhere along this stretch.

## 5. TOWN DEFENCES

In 1286 Thomas FitzMaurice, lord of desmond, received a murage grant for seven years for Tralee (Sweetman 1875-86, iii, no. 226) but there is no evidence of whether the town was actually enclosed at this or any subsequent date. In 1612, in response to a proposal by Arthur Denny, on behalf of the townspeople, the Lord Deputy authorised a voluntary tax on the county of Kerry to pay for the walling of Tralee, but by 1613 no money had been collected and the scheme was apparently abandoned (Rowan 1854, 49-51; Cusack 1871, 236-42).

There are no standing remains of the town defences and their course is unknown.

## 6. CASTLE

The existence of a seigneurial castle of the earls of

Desmond at Tralee throughout the medieval period may be assumed, although nothing is known of its origins, or of its history prior to the mid sixteenth century. The earliest direct reference to it is the enigmatic record that Sabina, heir of Robert Mac Learnye, granted "the Great Castle in Tralighe" to James, earl of Desmond in 1548-9 (Brewer and Bullen 1871, 397). It seems to have been burned by the earl on his flight from Tralee in 1580 because Pelham noted that the castles were razed on his arrival and that the Dominican priory was the only place suitable to receive a garrison (Brewer and Bullen 1868, 237). The 1584 survey of Desmond's property refers to "the site of the broken castle of the manor of Castellanmore, alias the Great Castle of Tralee" (PRO 1881, 10-11). The castle was granted to Edward Denny in 1587 (16 RDKPRI, 39: no. 5043), but when Sir George Carew advanced into Kerry against the "sugan" earl of Desmond in 1600, he found it "now utterly defaced, nothing being left unbroken but a few old vaults" (Atkinson 1903, 367). This was apparently the work of the sugan earl's bonnaughts, although Rowan (1854, 130) has suggested that the castle was never repaired after its burning in 1580 until it was restored by the Dennys in 1627 (Hickson 1879-89, 580-1). The restored castle was besieged for six months by confederate Catholics in 1641 (Smith 1756, 301-12; Rowan 1854, 161-5, 177-80) and on the surrender of the garrison it was burned (Hickson 1872, 198). The castle was rebuilt in 1649 and again in 1700, after it was burned by Jacobites in 1691 (Hickson 1879-89, 580-1). A description of it c.1682 refers to it as "a very large

castle, called the Great Castle" (O'Sullivan 1971, 38). Smith's (1756, opp. p. 340) map of Tralee shows that the castle occupied the north end of Denny Street. It was finally demolished in 1826.

#### 7. PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN

This was probably a thirteenth century foundation and is first referred to in the ecclesiastical taxation of 1302-6, when it was valued at 40s (Sweetman 1875-86 v, p. 296). Little more is known of its history, although a visitation by Bishop Crosbie in 1615 noted that "Trally Church is upp and soe is the Chancell" (Hickson 1874, 27). Hickson (1879-89, 297) suggested that the church was held by the Knights Hospitallers because of its dedication to St. John. There are no contemporary records to confirm this but a document of 1587 noted among the lands allotted to Sir Francis Walshingham, Edward Denny and their associates "an hospital, sometime parcel of St. John's, Jerusalem, with some small closes near Tralye" (Brewer and Bullen 1868, 451). Gwynn and Hadcock (1970, 338) suggest that it may have been a preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers.

#### Description

The church appears to be a 19th century construction but substantial sections of a rectangular building oriented E/W were incorporated into the present ediface. In the west end are two pointed windows and there are four flat lintelled

rectangular openings in the west end of the north wall, all of which are now blocked. The north transept, the apse on the south, and the tower to the east are all additions (Denny 1907-9, 363-4).

#### Font

17th cent. Limestone. Octagonal basin with chamfered lower edge, sloping internal sides and lacking a drainage hole. The facets are tooled vertically and horizontally along the edges. One facet has I.C. in Roman lettering and PVOST in Gothic lettering. A second facet ANNO DNI 1623 in Roman lettering. The shaft and base are carved from a single block. The drum shaped shaft with sugar barley twist, rises from a rectangular base to an octagonal support which is too narrow for the basin. There may have been a further section between the shaft and the basin. One corner of the base is broken.

Dims: H. 94; W. of basin 69; Diam. of basin 46; T.14.

Denny 1907-9, 366.

#### 8. DOMINICAN PRIORY

This priory was founded in 1243 by John FitzThomas FitzGerald who was buried there in 1261 together with his son Maurice, after their deaths in the Battle of Callan. In 1295 Nicholas Strange was charged with stealing four ells and one mark of silver from the priory and also wheat from the chapel of St. Mary there. In 1325 Diarmait Mac Carthaig, king of Desmumu, was killed in the priory by Nicholas FitzMaurice or



his son, William (AI sub 1320, 1328; Butler 1849, 17). The friary also served as the burial place of the FitzGerald lords and earls of Desmond. Contemporary records are known of the burial at Tralee of Maurice, 1st earl of Desmond (d.1356), Thomas, 8th earl (d.1468), and Joan, daughter of Gerald, the 3rd earl, and wife of Tadhg MacCarthaig, king of Desmumu (d.1411) (Brewer and Bullen 1871, 166; AFM, A. Conn.; A.I. sub 1428). Rowan (1854, 33-4) lists three lords of Desmond and seven earls said to have been buried in the priory.

The date of the priory's suppression is not known but it could hardly have functioned later than 1580, when the Lord Justice, Sir William Pelham, garrisoned it with 300 footmen and a company of horse, because it was apparently the only suitable building not destroyed by the retreating earl of Desmond (Brewer and Bullen 1868, 237). The 1584 survey of Desmond's possessions, however, described it as "ruinous and in great decay" (PRO 1881, 31-2). The survey added that the priory "was large and ample before the rebellion, [and] had a certain church adjoined to it in which the ancestors of the said late Earl were honourably buried". The priory was granted to Edward Denny in 1587 (16 RDKPRI, 39: no. 5043). In 1598 it was reported that the 'sugan' earl of Desmond intended "to break down the Abbey of Tralee ... with all other buildings fit to receive any garrisons" on the approach of any English force (Atkinson 1895, 415), but it is not known whether this threat was carried out. A description of Tralee in c.1682 states that "the footsteps of the ancient

friary in this town are at present not discernable, for it was first burnt doen in Desmond's wars with Queen Elizabeth, and about the year 1652 it was totally defaced by Cromwell's army and the stones employed in building houses and fortifications" (O'Sullivan 1971, 38). In 1756 Smith noted that the priory formerly had a steeple but that nothing now remained of it except some of the vaults (Smith 1756, 161). In 1758 Pococke noted the only remains of the priory as "one near arch'd building, which probably was the chapel for the burial of the Desmond family, for near it are found pieces of a fine old monument it may be of that family (O Maidin 1959, 44).

The 1584 survey described the priory's location as "in the Borough or Town of Tralee, on the river called Guye near the Port of Tralee ... by which river vessels of the burthen of five tons may come to the walls of the said house" (PRO 1881, 31-2). The Gyle is now covered over by Ashe Street, the Mall, Bridge Street, Stoughton Row, Godfrey Place and Prince's Quay (Hickson 1894, 257). Hickson (1879-89, 585) located the site of the priory in the area east of Stoughton's Row and Mary Street, and both Rowan (1854, 2) and Hickson (1874, 107) suggest that the Square occupies the site of the priory's cloisters. At present, however, all that can be said is that while the priory was clearly located in this general area, the documents do not allow of greater precision. Hayward (1976, 264) illustrates a series of fifteen blocked arches, reputed to be part of the cloisters, which he had seen near no. 43 Abbey Street, but he quotes

Leask's opinion that they did not form part of a cloister arcade.

#### Architectural Fragments

The rockery in the garden of the modern Dominican church is built of limestone masonry, dressed stone, drip stones and claustral fragments from the medieval abbey. In addition there are segments of roof vaulting and a seventeenth century grave slab in the garden (Denny 1907-9, 361).

Knight's panel. 15th cent.

The figure is flanked by two pilasters resting on bases. He wears an ankle-length belted aketon with a large heater shaped shield over the left arm. The sword with round pommel and straight cross guard is under the shield. The right hand rests on the right thigh while the head and feet are damaged.

Dims H.71 W.61 D.14

Hayward 1976, 262-3; Harbison 1973, 17-18, Pl.6b

Dragon panel.

Rectangular block decorated with a four-strand knotted design which is the tail of a basilisk or dragon. The head is hidden at present.

Dims: H.23 W.17

Harbison 1973, 19, Pl.7a

Foliated pilaster

Limestone pilaster expanding into a rounded column with concave and convex mouldings. The decoration consists of a

vertebrate stem of grapes and foliage, a geometric foliage design and another stem with vine leaves and fruit.

Dims: H.40 W.30

Fleur-de-lys fragment.

Partly squared and partly rounded piece of sandstone with an incised fleur-de-lys on the rounded section and a chamfer, quirk and pick-dressing on the square end.

Dims: L.35 H.12

Virgin and angel panel

Badly damaged. The top of the panel has an angel with outspread wings in a full-length belted tunic. The face and shoulders are smashed. Below on the left is another damaged figure which may be the virgin and on the right are two sets of triple light lancets. Harbison suggests that it may have been a depiction of the Virgin and Child but the occurrence of windows suggests a room and therefore an annunciation.

Dims: H.53 W.41

Harbison 1973, 16-7, Pl.6a

Heraldic crest.

Rectangular block with a wedge shaped panel carved in false relief having an arm holding a dagger above a torse and moulding.

Dims: H.27 W.34

Foliated jamb

Rectangular block of sandstone, ornamented on two adjacent faces with leafy sprays in false relief.

Dims: H.39 W.17 D.-

#### Roof boss

Now lost. This was in the Dominican garden. It had two dragons; their tails were interlaced and each animal had the wing of the other in his mouth.

Harbison 1974, 143-4.

#### Claustral fragments

Four different forms of cloister pillars are represented. (1) pillar with chamfered edge shafts on one face and moulded edge shafts on the other. (2) pillar with rounded edge shafts with small vertical fillets. (3) pillar with sugar barley edge shafts. (4) pillar with moulded edge shafts.

#### Other structural fragments

Chamfered door jamb. H.64 W.16 T.16.

Chamfered door jamb. H.59 W.18 T.28.

Chamfered pick-dressed window jamb. H.29 W.30 T.26.

Window jamb with glazing groove. H.28 W.36 T.15.

In addition there are some concave mouldings and pick-dressed blocks of limestone and sandstone, and also sections of limestone rib vaulting indicating a former lierne vault.

#### Quern stone.

Upper stone of a rotary quern with large central hole and two smaller ones. Placed in front of the Marian grotto.

Dims: Diam. 47 T.10 Diam. of hole 10

#### 17TH CENTURY GRAVE SLAB

Set into a wall at the SE side of the garden is a fragmented limestone slab with an incised Roman lettered inscription

HERE LYETH THE BODY/ OF DAVID ROCHE ESQ Co/ NCELLER ATT  
LAW WHO DECEASED THE 13 DAY Of/ avgvst ANNO DOMINI/ 1686  
and THE BODY Of his/ DAVGHTER MARY dec/ eased IN THE  
year 1685

The slab is supposed to have a cross, year and date on the opposite face.

Dims: H. 118 W.60

Mems Dead 3 (1895-7), 287; Mems Dead 6 (1904-6), 87-8; Denny 1907-9, 362-3; Hayward 1976, 263

Chalice. 1651

There is a chalice with the inscription 'ORATE PRO CAROLO  
SUGHRUE / QUI ME FIERI FECIT PRO CONVENTU TRALIENSI / PRIORI  
THADEO O MORIARTY 1651' in the Dominican church.

#### 9. MONUMENTS IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY

Castle Morris.

Situated SE of Tralee. Four floored castle but only the ground floor and the SE corner of the remaining floors survive. The ground floor had a pointed barrel vault and there is a stair in the thickness of the S wall.

#### 10. MISCELLANEOUS

Assumption panel. 15th cent.

Rectangular, set into the N facing wall on E side of the Church of St John the Baptist. Its original position is not known but it probably came from the Dominican friary. The Virgin is carved in false relief under an ogee-headed canopy. Four angels, two on either side, lift the mandorla while the lower left angel presents a kneeling figure dressed in a cloak and pleated tunic. This figure, which Harbison identifies as St. Thomas, holds the belt of her skirt. The right side of the panel is decorated with a triple light pointed window. The spandrels above have a rectangular interlace pattern and there is another small angel and flower in the center of the curve. The inscription at the base is in Gothic lettering ? 'IILTUNO PR MARIE'.

Dims: H.78 W.55

Harbison 1973, 14-6, Pl.5

Chrysoms. 14th cent.

Two are depicted in high relief on a slab which has been mounted on the internal east eall of the babtistry on the west side of the the Church of St John the Baptist. The edges of the tapering slab are chamfered and the figures are shown under cusped pointed canopies which are crocketed and pinnacled.

Dims: H.90 W.60-46 (est)

Harbison 1973, 10 Pl. 2c; Denny 1907-9, 360-3

## 11. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. Flint arrowhead. "From a shallow bog at Tralee". NMI L 1944: 865.
2. Copper axehead. "From near Tralee". In private possession.
3. Silver penannular brooch. From Tralee. Brit. Mus. 1888: 7-19. 104
4. Plain silver armlet. "From near Tralee". Cat. Day Coll. 1913, 66: Lot 457, Pl. xvii.
5. Sandstone object, possibly a knife handle. "From a bog at Tralee". NMI L1944: 863.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

### The Problems

Tralee is important to archaeological research as an example of a small medieval market town. Larger towns, such as Cork and Dublin, have been the subject of detailed archaeological and historical research but little is known of the smaller, more typical, towns. It is a good example of an Anglo-Norman town and its siting was probably chosen deliberately to exploit its setting, close to the sea. There is no satisfactory evidence for a pre-Norman settlement and it seems to be an Anglo-Norman town on virgin soil. For this reason the initial years of its growth are particularly important. Why, with all of north Kerry to choose from, did



the Anglo-Normans pick this site for their principal town in Kerry?

It is difficult to know whether much of the medieval street pattern survives in the modern town or not. Superficially the present pattern would seem to have little in it that is medieval but comparison with Smith's map of 1756, shows that the long axis of High Street to Castle Street is an ancient feature. It is certainly a pattern which should be maintained and not interfered with if at all possible.

Nothing survives now to indicate the form of houses within the town prior to 1700, but from documentary evidence it is clear that there were a number of fortified houses, of the type also known in Dingle, and which still survive in Kinsale and Carlingford. The foundations of these stone dwellings, particularly the "Short" castle, the gaol, and MacEllistrum's castle, should almost certainly survive, but it is to be expected also that the wooden foundations of the more common timber dwellings will be preserved in places.

The port area of the town presumably lies under what is now the Town Park, Princes St., and the housing estates on the west side of Princes St. Although there has clearly been disturbance in this area, it is quite possible that archaeological deposits containing remnants of wharves and quays survive here.

There is no trace of town defences today and it is

impossible, in the present state of knowledge, to even suggest their original course, but the murage grant of 1286 suggests that they once existed. The question is where? How large an area did they enclose, and what was their form?

Tralee was almost certainly the site of a seigneurial castle throughout the Middle Ages but almost nothing is known of it. It is only in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries that references become more frequent, but even then they tell us little about its form or appearance. Although demolished in 1826, the foundations almost certainly survive below ground, awaiting discovery.

St. John's, the old parish church of Tralee, is curiously sited to the north of the town, while the Dominican friary was situated to the south. The developement of the friary site for Quinnsworth and the laying out of the car-park afforded a prime opportunity to investigate the area and ascertain where precisely the friary was situated. The failure to do so has to be regarded as one of Tralee's great lost opportunities. The quality of the surviving sculpted fragments indicates that this must have been a magnificent building in its day. The architectural features and extent are only one aspect of religious houses, however, and the excavation of the medieval cemetery, which would have been attached to the friary, would provide otherwise unobtainable information about health, disease, diet and mortality rates.

Archaeological Potential

Archaeology does not consist solely of excavation nor does it stop at ground level. The archaeological evidence for Tralee's past comprises all the physical remains of man's activities on the site of the town, from the thirteenth century until the present day. The 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 Tralee, but for the wide range of human activity omitted from the written accounts and for the early periods when documentation is slight 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.

The survey of its archaeology indicates that the town has been the scene of human activity since the thirteenth century. The only possible standing building of pre-1700 date is the fragmentary remains incorporated in the present St. John's Church (C. of I.). Otherwise the destruction of buildings above ground has been total. Archaeological deposits are likely to survive, nonetheless, particularly behind the street frontages, and, as detailed above, the foundations of the stone-built fortified houses of the sixteenth and seventeenth century town, are also likely to

have survived.

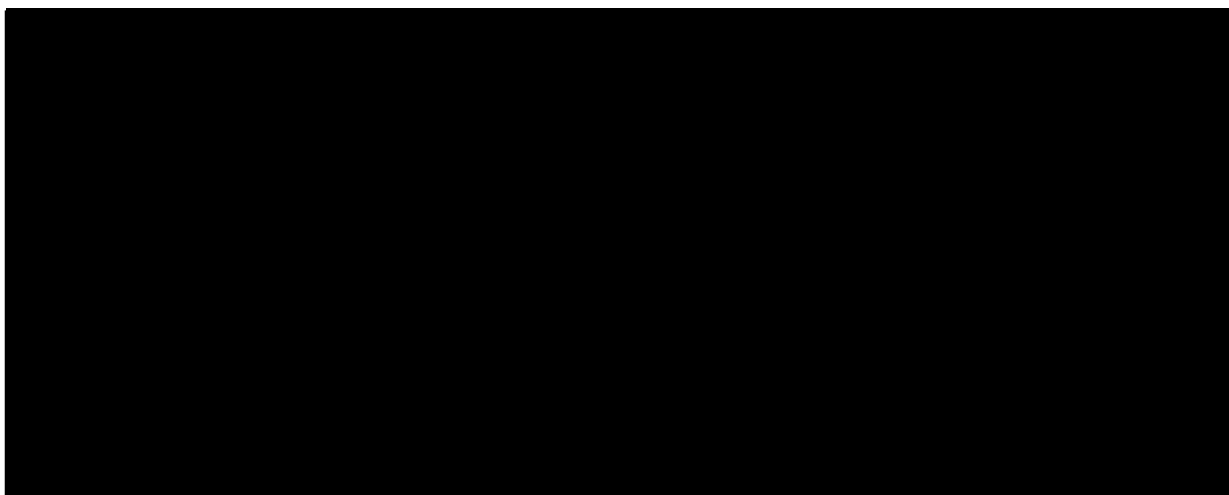
## ARCHAEOLOGY, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

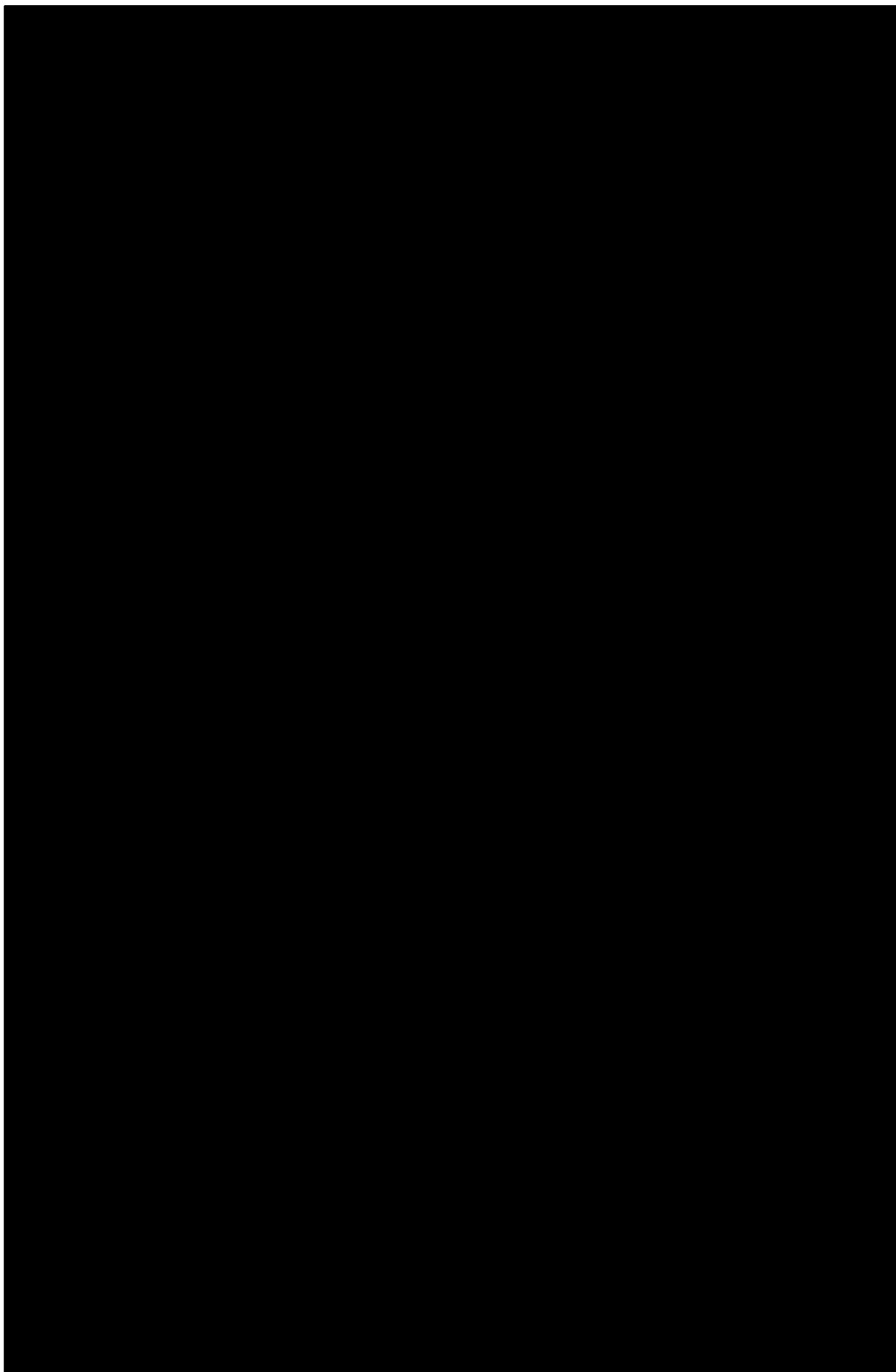
It is evident from the foregoing that archaeology is an important means of learning about Tralee's past and of understanding the character and detailed form of the town today. This is more than just an academic pursuit because without an appreciation of the factors which have shaped Tralee's present 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 Tralee'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 (Fig. 49) delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern Tralee. This comprises the ancient core, as shown on Smith's map of 1756, an extension along Castle Street, which seventeenth century sources (and the burgage plot pattern) indicate was then built-up, the southern half of Rock Street, and Pembroke Street, as far as the site of MacEllistrum's castle. Within this area the main disturbance to archaeological deposits has occurred along the street front as a result of the rebuilding of houses here in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Elsewhere, however, deposits are likely to survive and there is the strong likelihood of recovering house foundations, refuse pits, industrial areas, and workshops of medieval and seventeenth century date. Certain areas, notably parts of Mary St look as if they are ready for demolition and much of the space which is open or used for car-parks should be investigated before building-work is done.





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- JRSAI Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of  
Ireland.
- PRIA Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy.
- RDKPRI Report of the Deputy Keeper of Public Records,  
Ireland
- UJA Ulster Journal of Archaeology

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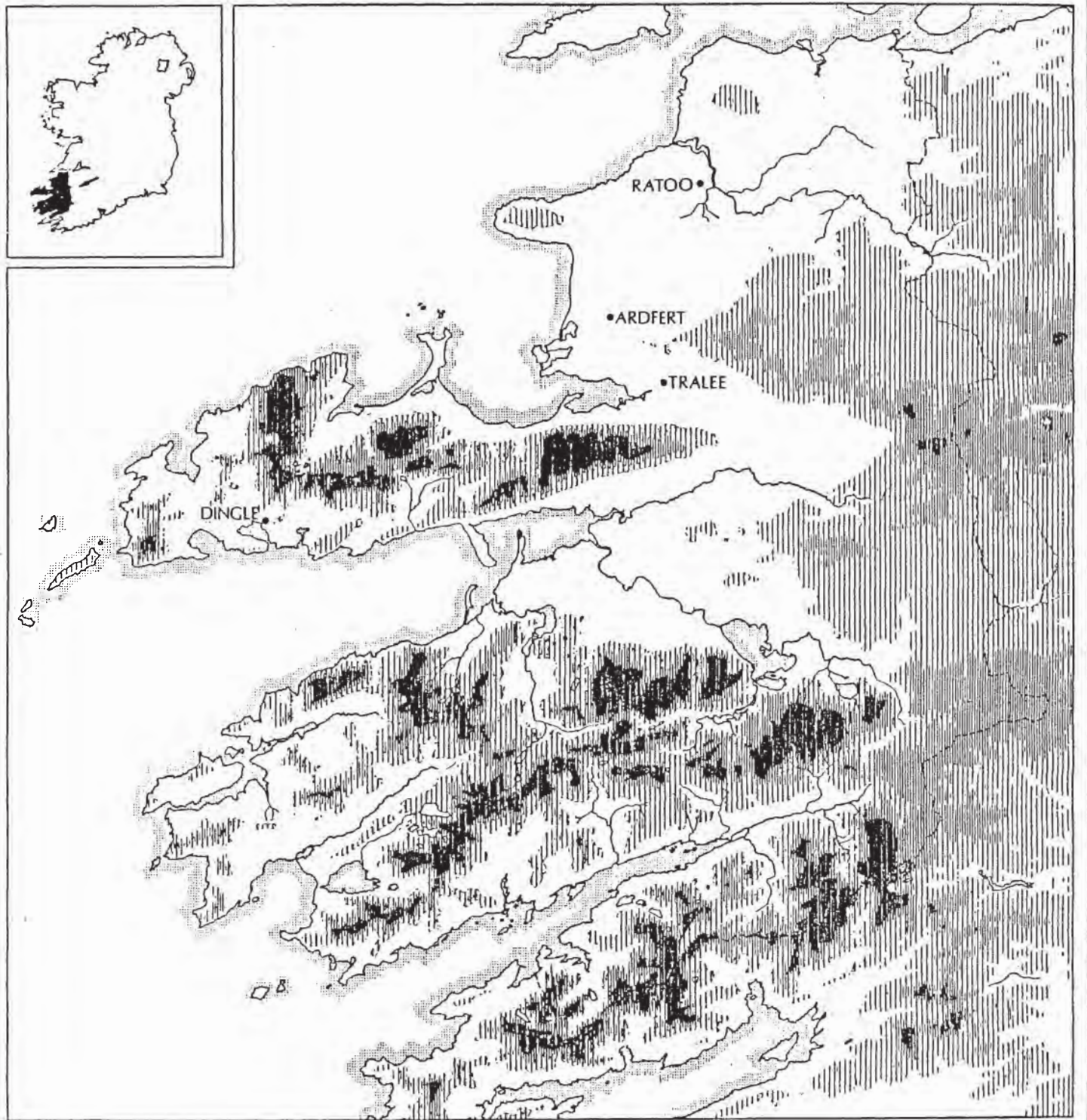
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COUNTY KERRY

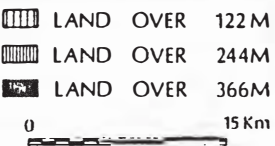
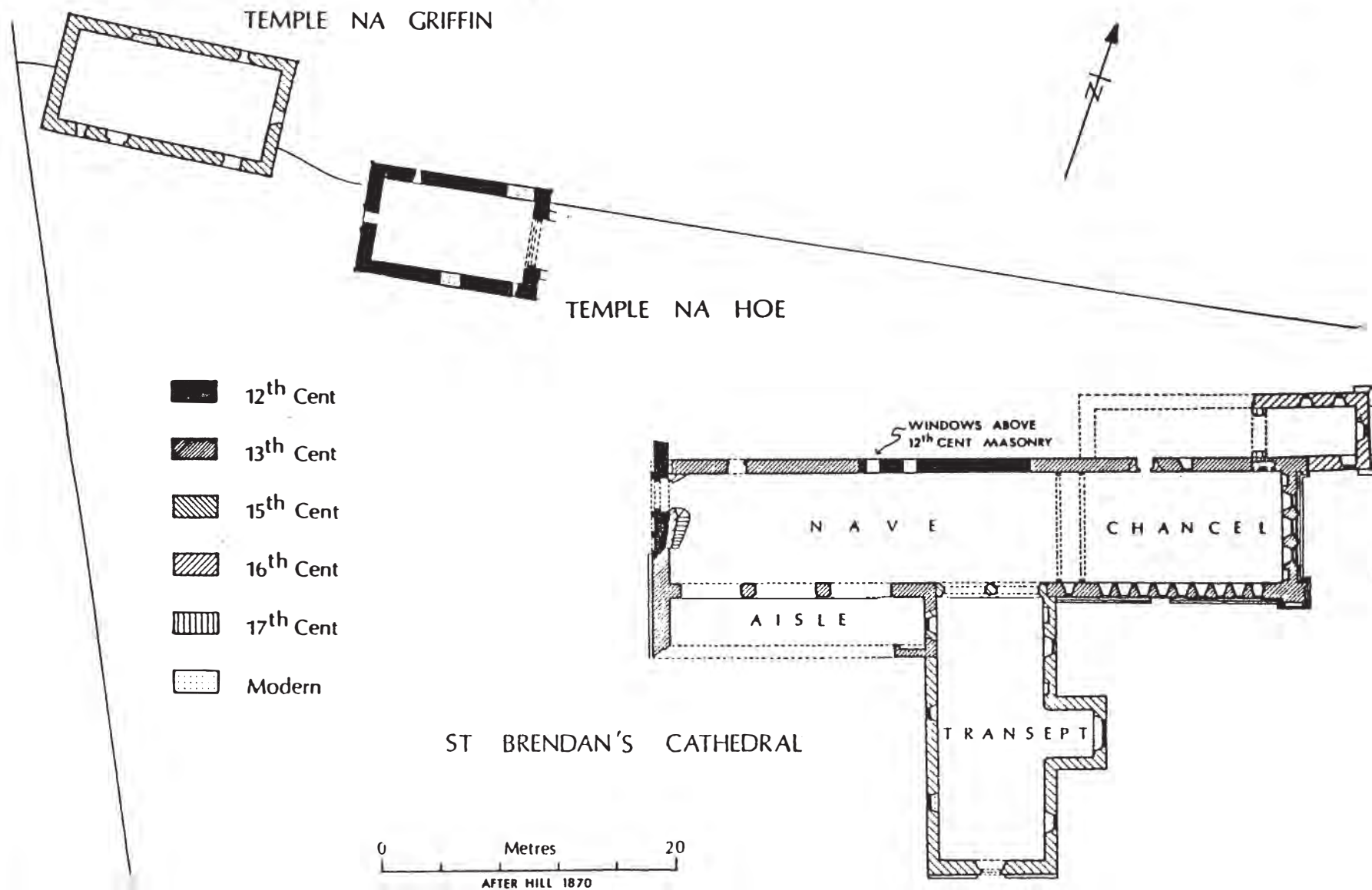


Fig. 1. County Kerry: Location map of towns and boroughs.





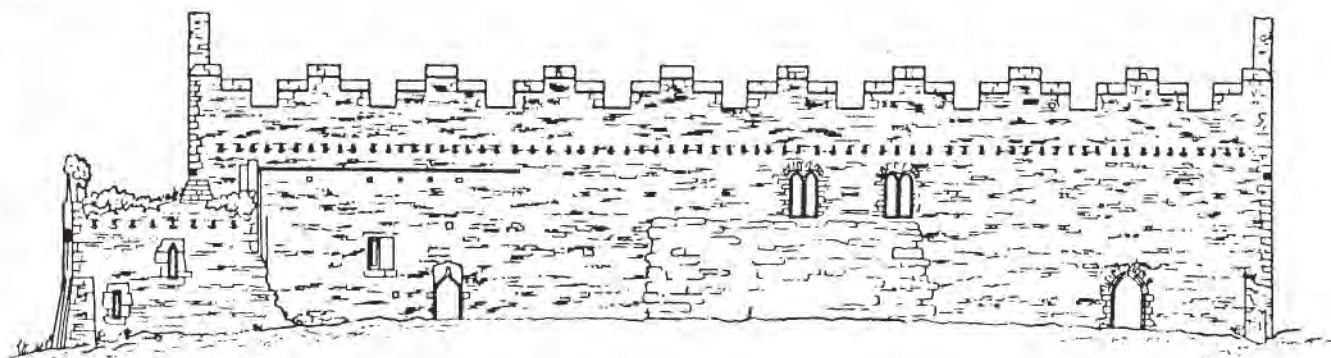
# ARDFERT : CATHEDRAL AND ASSOCIATED CHURCHES

Fig. 2. Ground plan of Ardferd cathedral and associated churches.

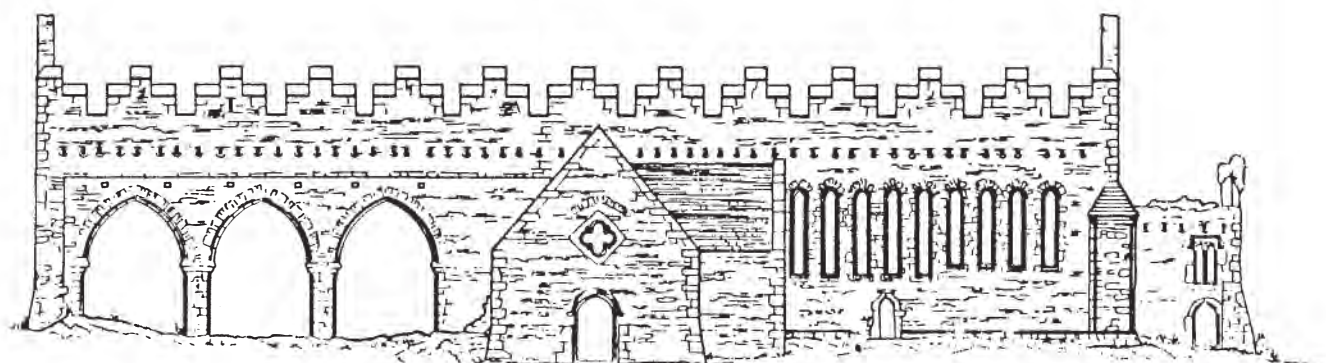


Fig. 3. Aerial view of Ardfer cathedral and churches.  
(Courtesy Cambridge Aerial Coll.)

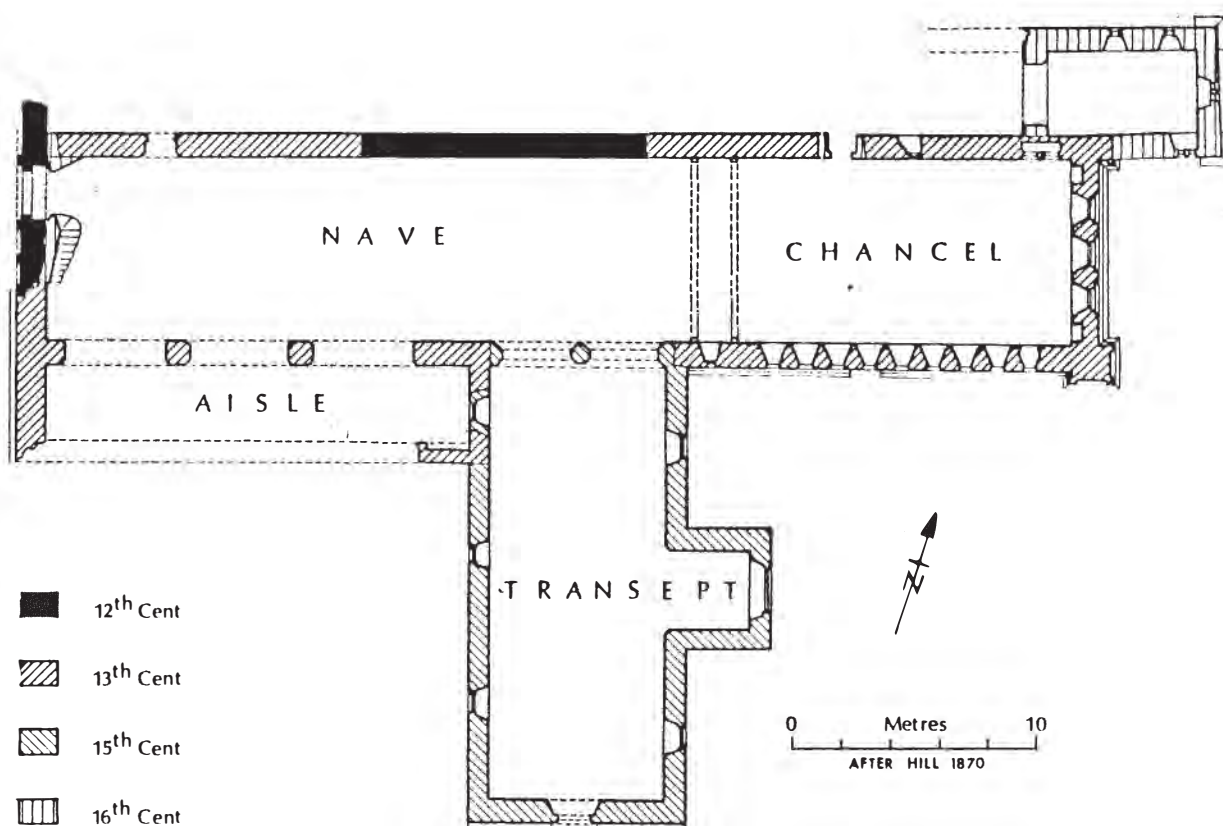




NORTH ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



ARDFERT : ST BRENDAN'S CATHEDRAL  
PLAN AND ELEVATIONS

Fig. 4. Ground plan and elevations of St. Brendan's Cathedral.



Fig. 5. East end of Ardfert cathedral, from the west.





Fig. 6. Ardfer cathedral: the Romanesque west door.





Fig. 7. Episcopal effigy in Ardfert cathedral.





Fig. 8. West gable of Temple-na-hoe, Ardfer.





Fig. 9. Interior view of south window at Temple-na-hoe, Ardfer.





Fig. 10. Panel of intertwined wyverns at Temple-na-griffen, Ardfert.



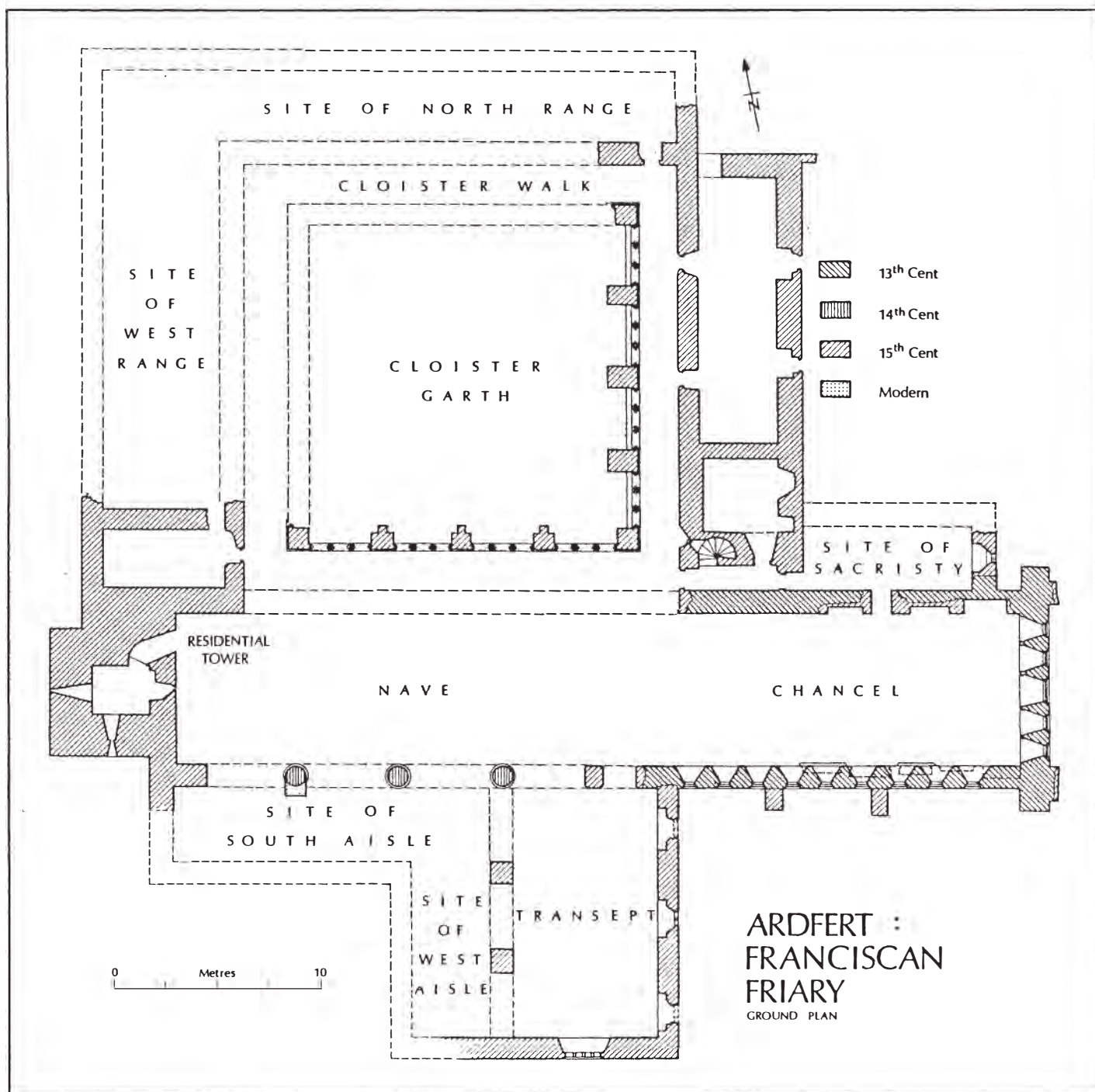


Fig. 11. Ground plan of Franciscan Friary, Ardfert.



Fig. 12. Franciscan Friary, Ardfert, from south-east (Photo: Commissioners of Public Works).





Fig. 13. Franciscan Friary, Ardfer, from south. (Photo: Commissioners of Public Works).





Fig. 14. East windows of Franciscan Friary, Ardfert, from interior.





Fig. 15. Franciscan Friary, Ardfert: the chancel from south.





Fig. 16. East range of the cloister, Franciscan Friary, Ardfert.





Fig. 17. Slab depicting an ecclesiastic, Franciscan Friary, Ardferf.



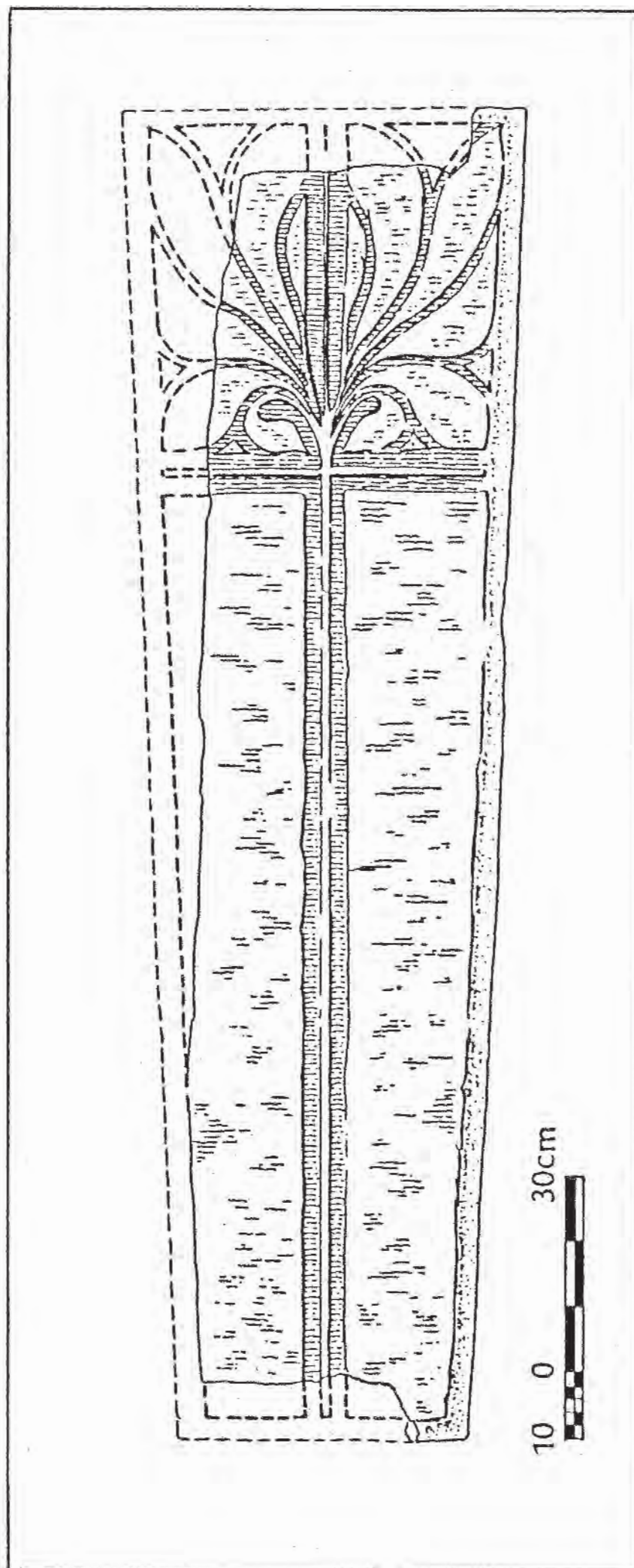
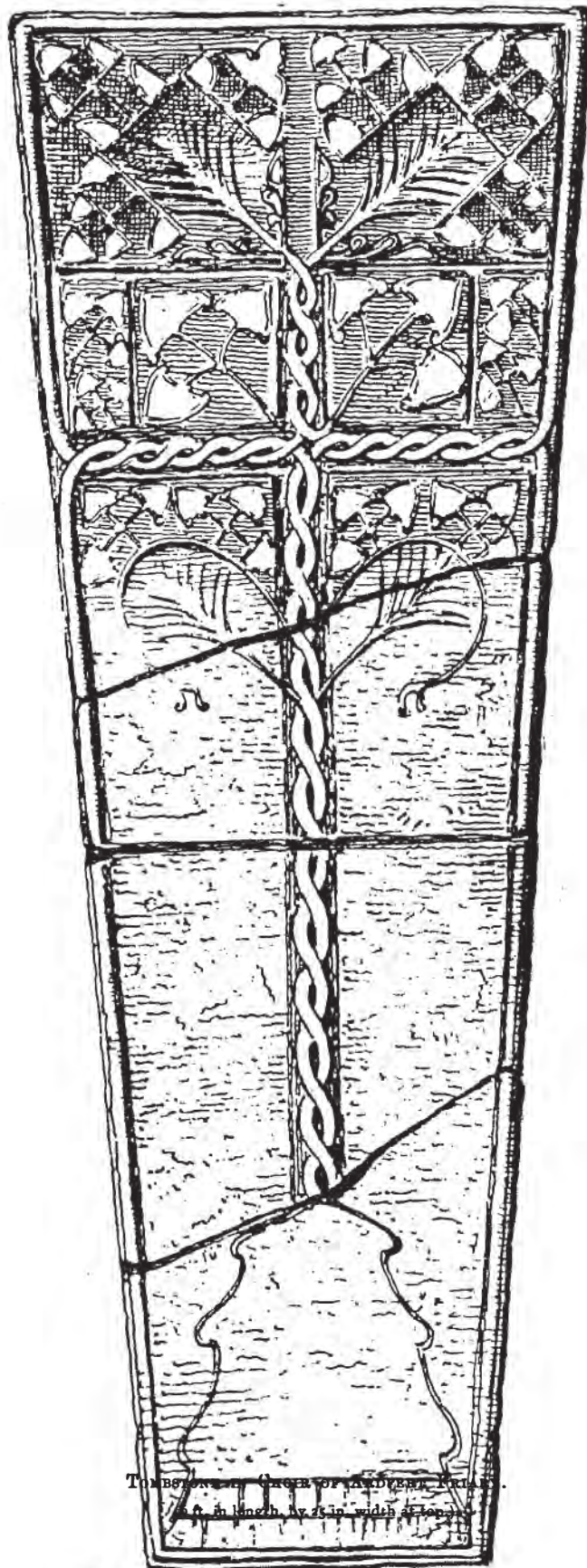


Fig. 18. Cross-slab, Franciscan Friary, Ardfer.



Tombstone of the Franciscan Friary, Ardfer.  
 4 ft. in length, by 25 in. width at top.

*W. T. Wakeman*  
 1894.

Fig. 19. Cross-slab, Franciscan Friary, Ardfer.



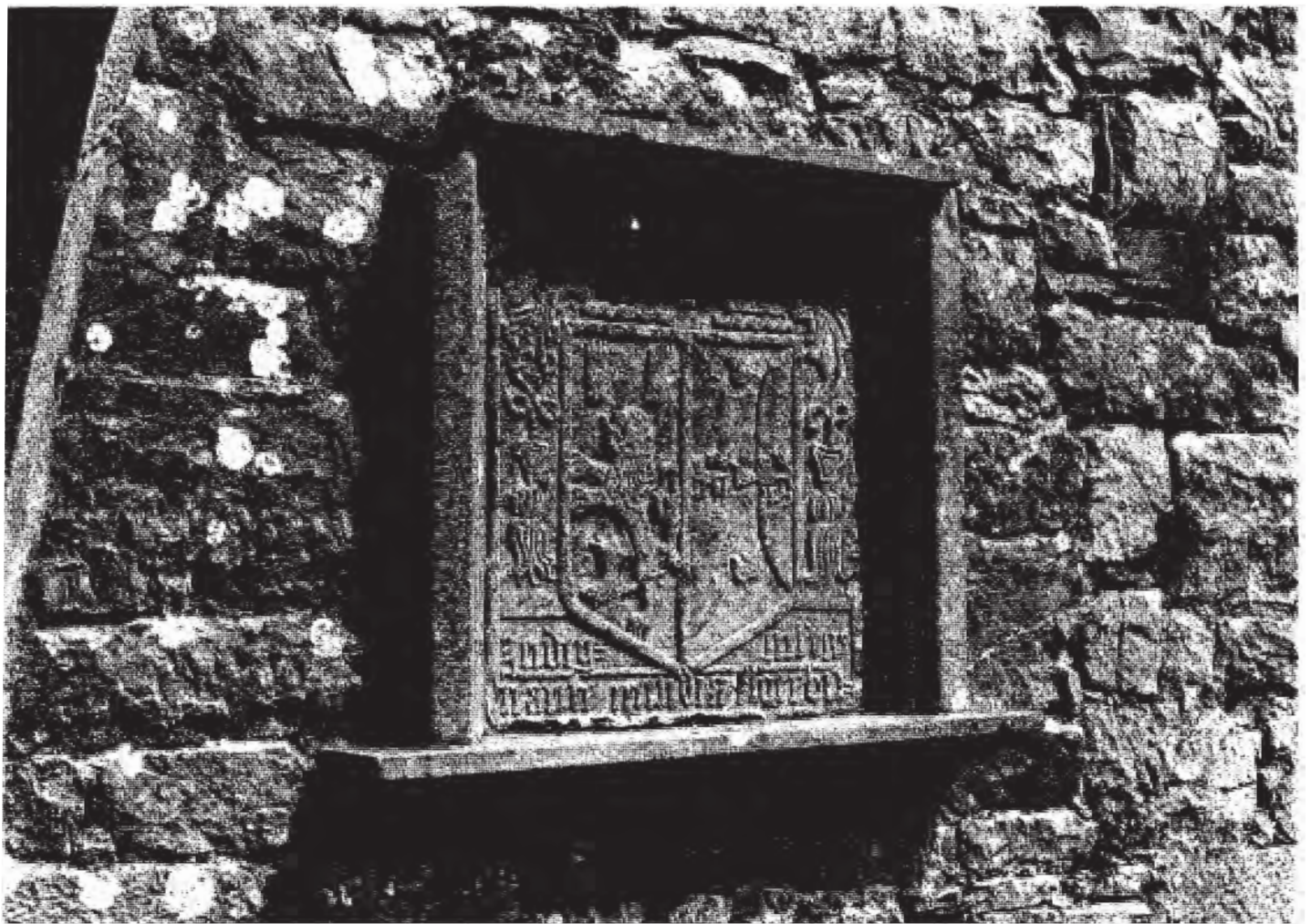


Fig. 20. Crosbie and Browne memorial plaque, Franciscan Friary, Ardfert.





Fig. 21. Side panel of tomb at Tobar-na-molt, Ardfert.





Fig. 22. Ardferd: Zone of archaeological potential

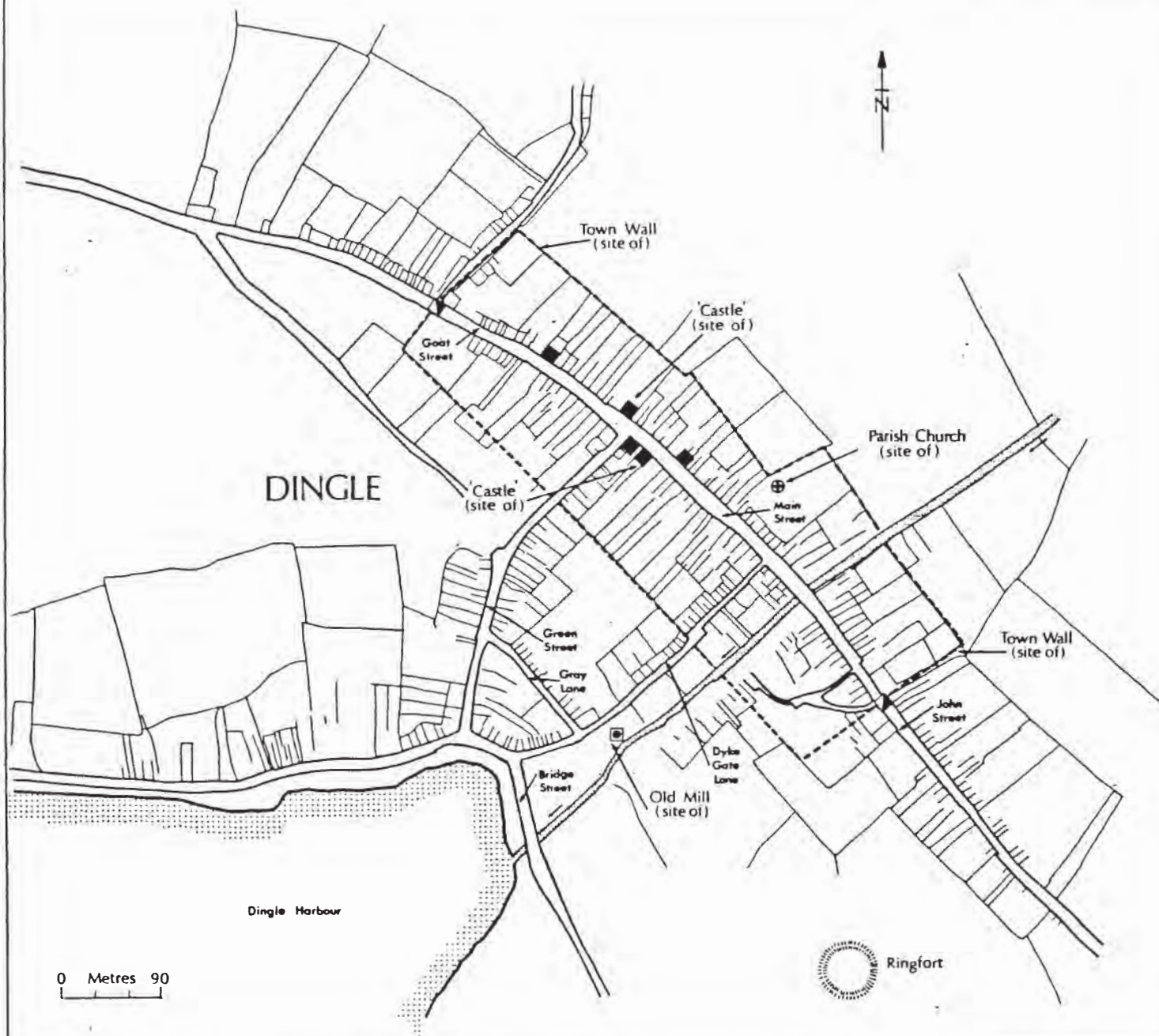


Fig. 23. Dingle: Outline map showing the major archaeological features.





Fig. 24. Aerial View of Dingle (Courtesy Cambridge Aerial Coll.).





Fig. 25. Stone dated 1586, from ?Rice House, Dingle.





Fig. 26. Decorated plaques, Green Street, Dingle.



Fig. 27. Font, St. James' Church, Dingle.



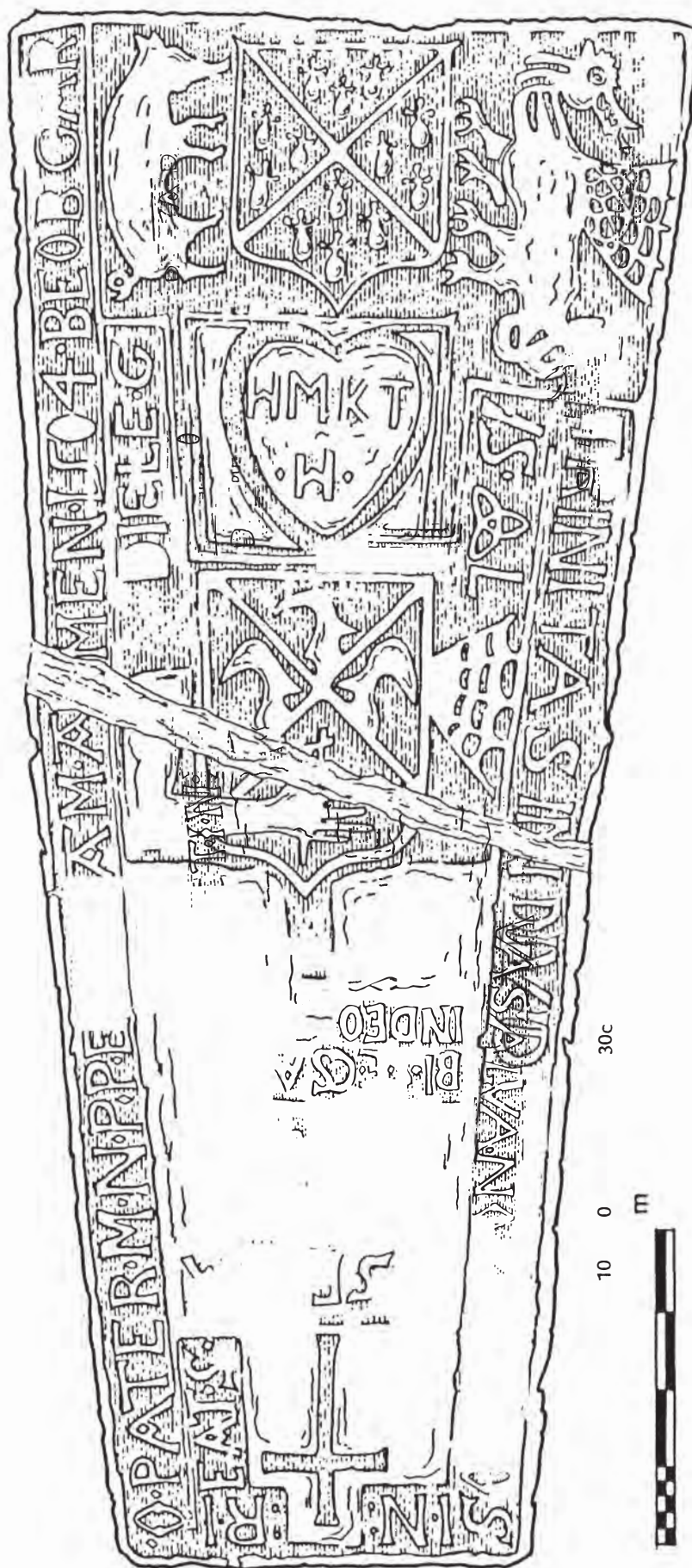


Fig. 28. FitzGerald slab, St. James' Church, Dingle.

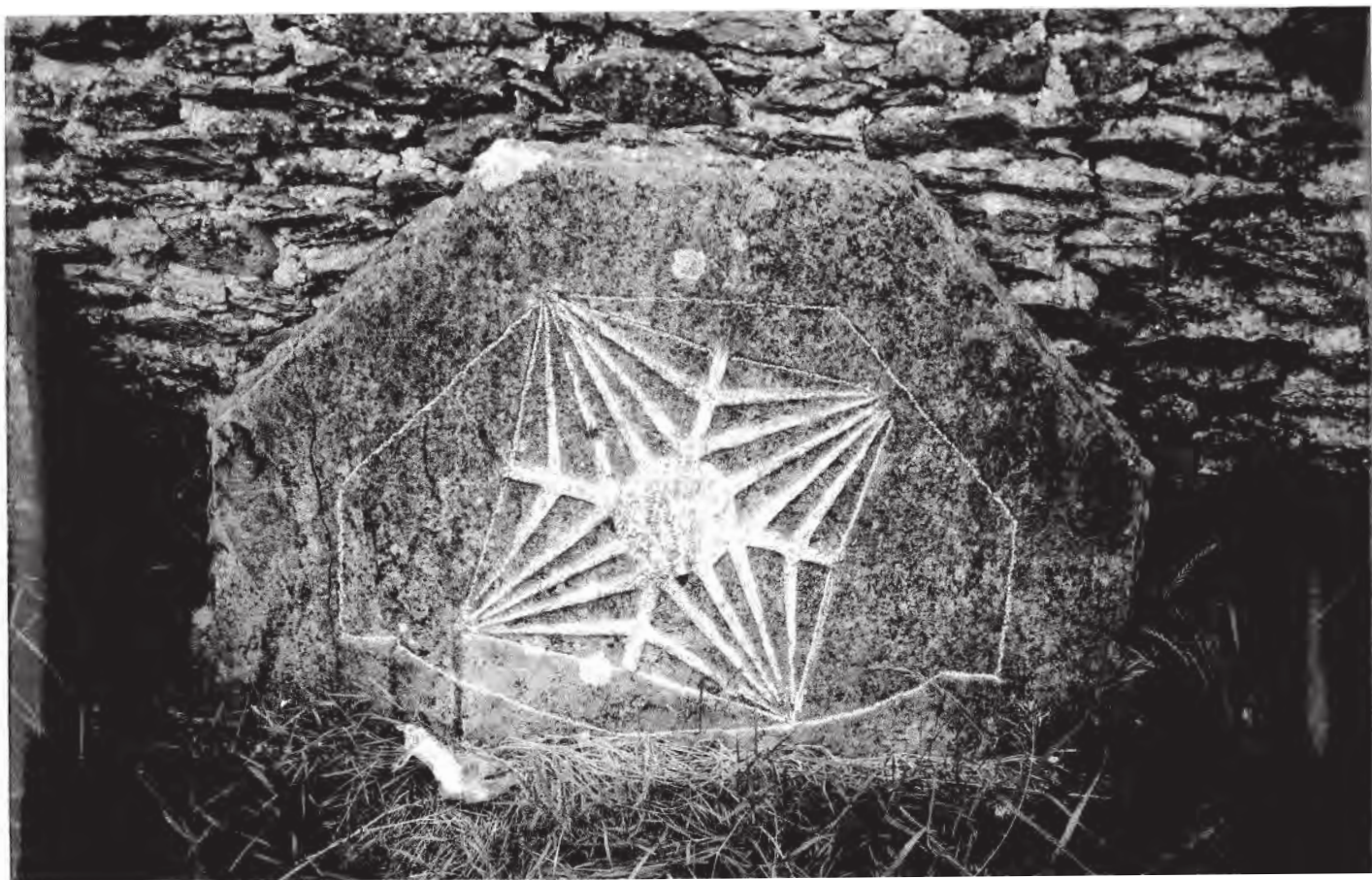


Fig. 29. Decorated stone, off Main Street, Dingle.







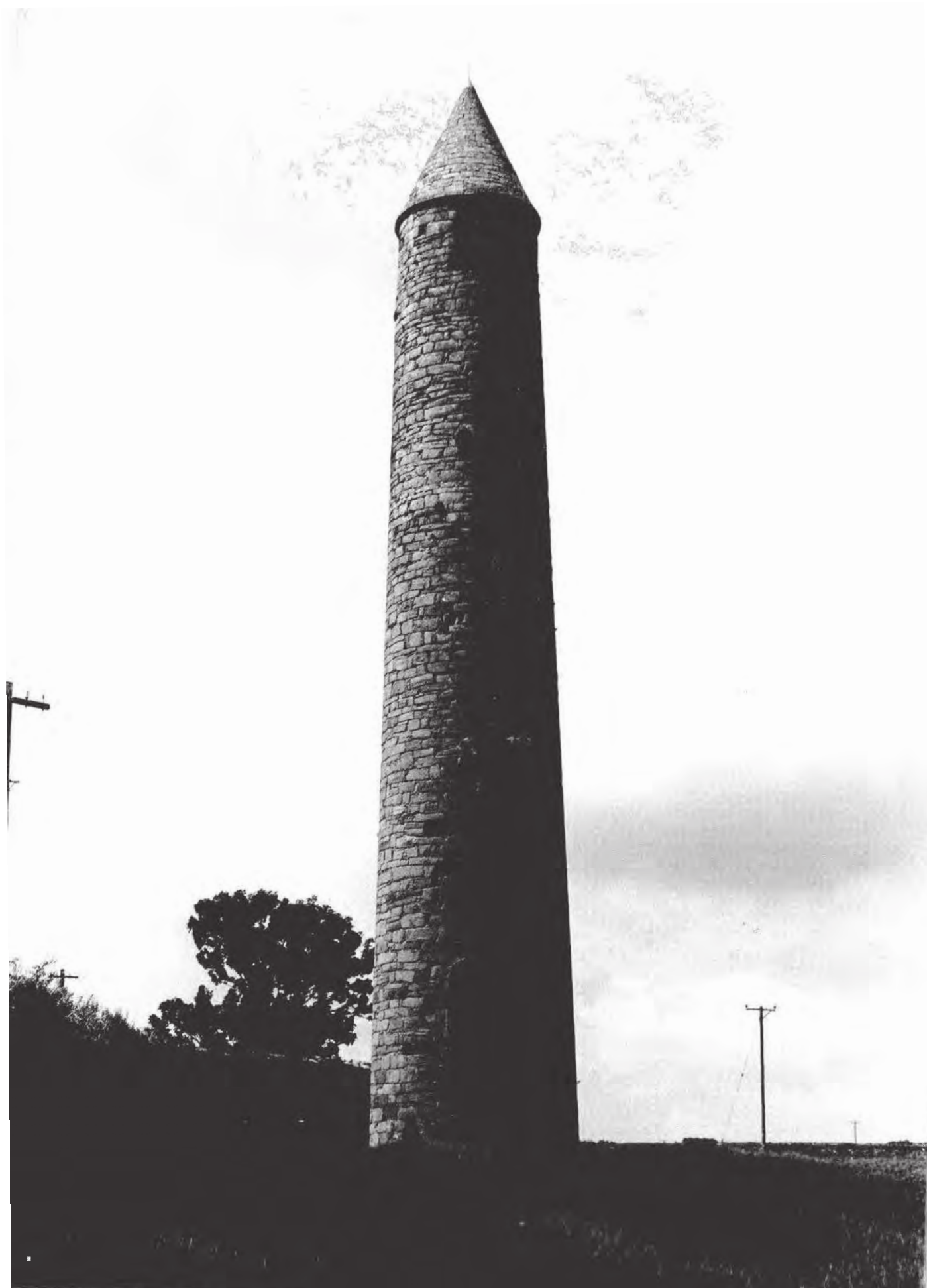


Fig. 31. Rattoo round tower from east.

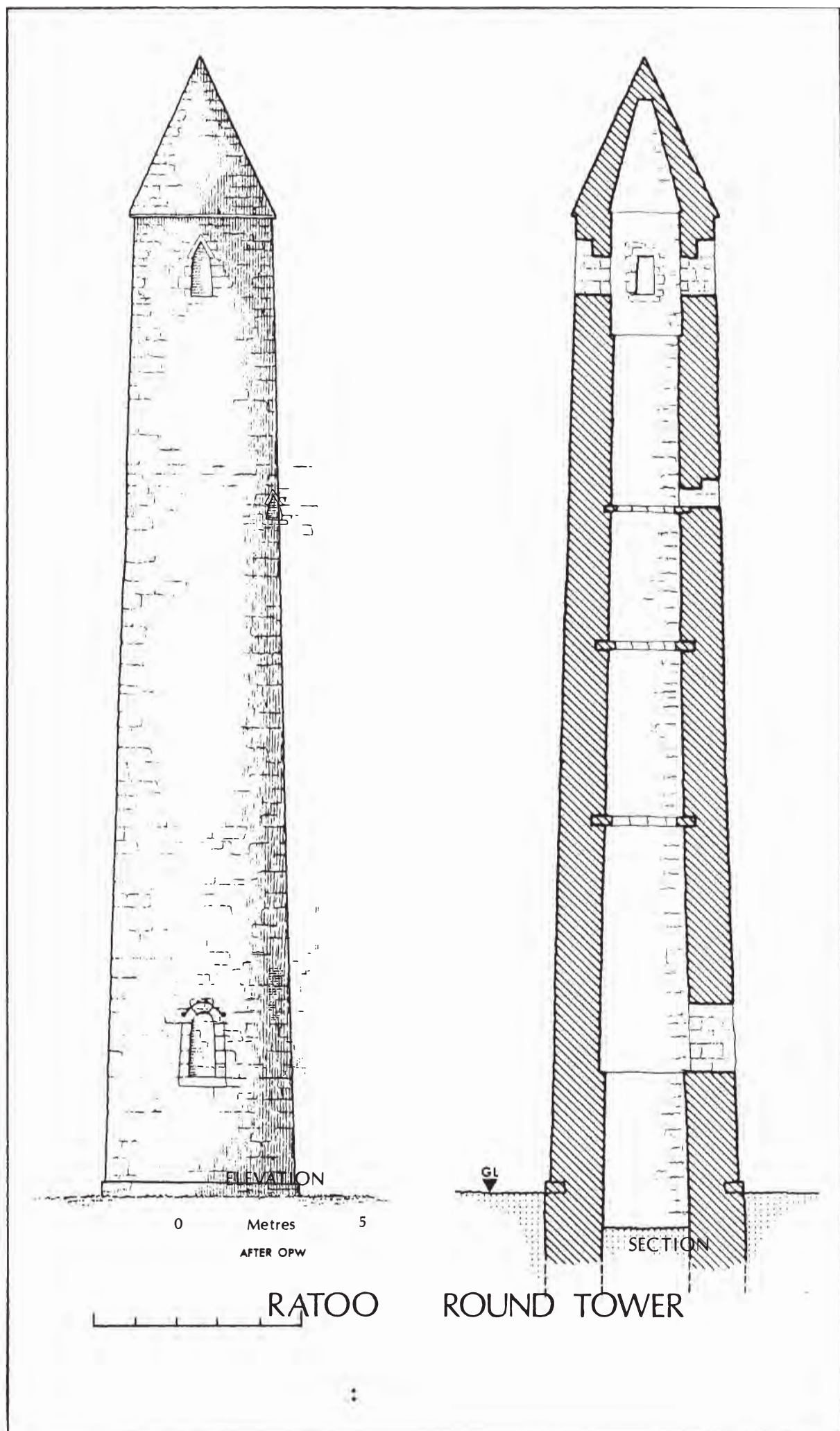


Fig. 32. Rattoo round tower: section and elevation.

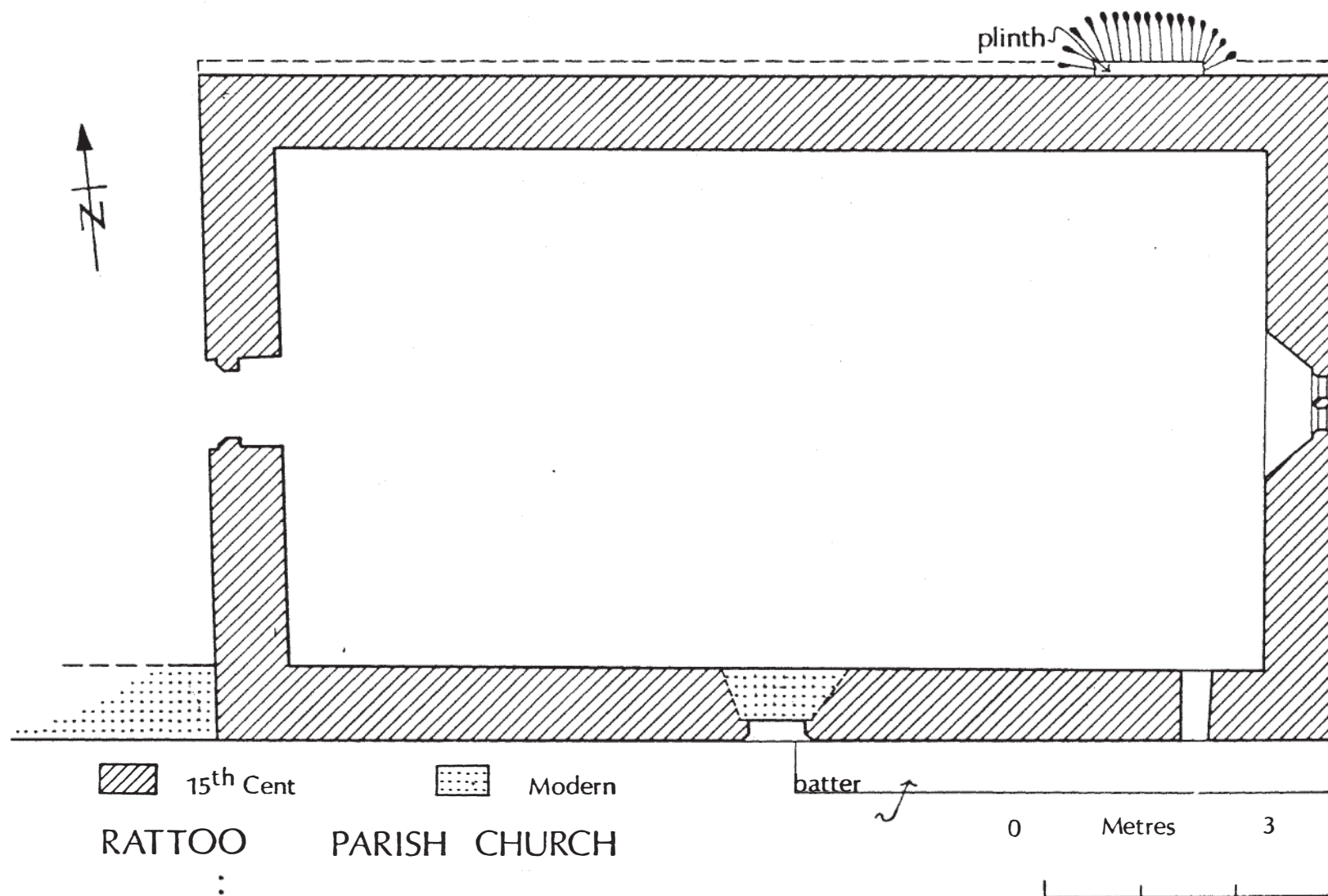


Fig. 33. Ground plan of Rattoo parish church





Fig. 34. Rattoo parish church, from south-west.

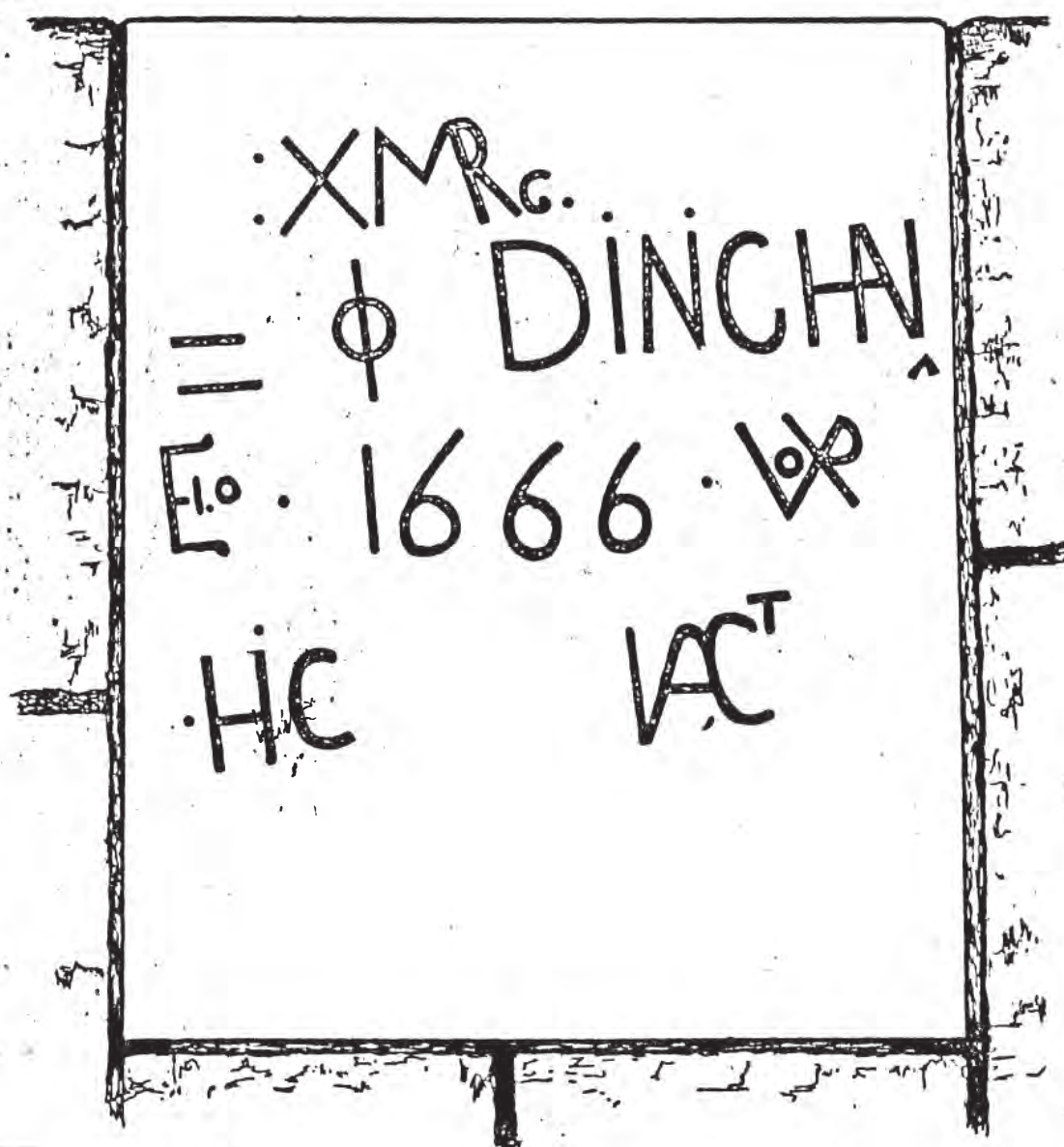
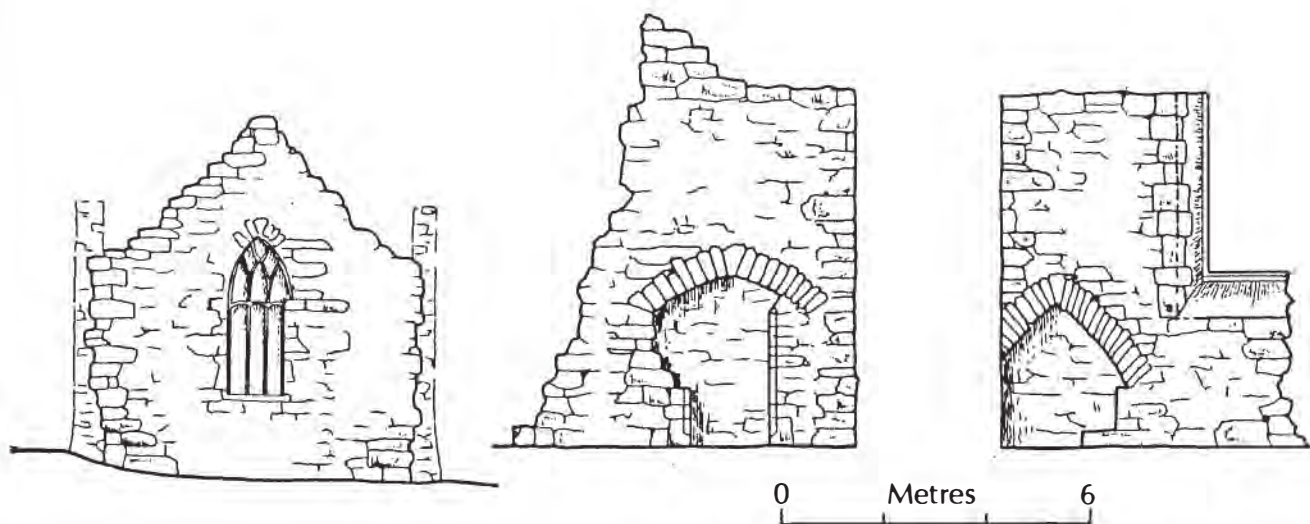


Fig. 35. O'Dinighan memorial slab, Rattoo parish church.

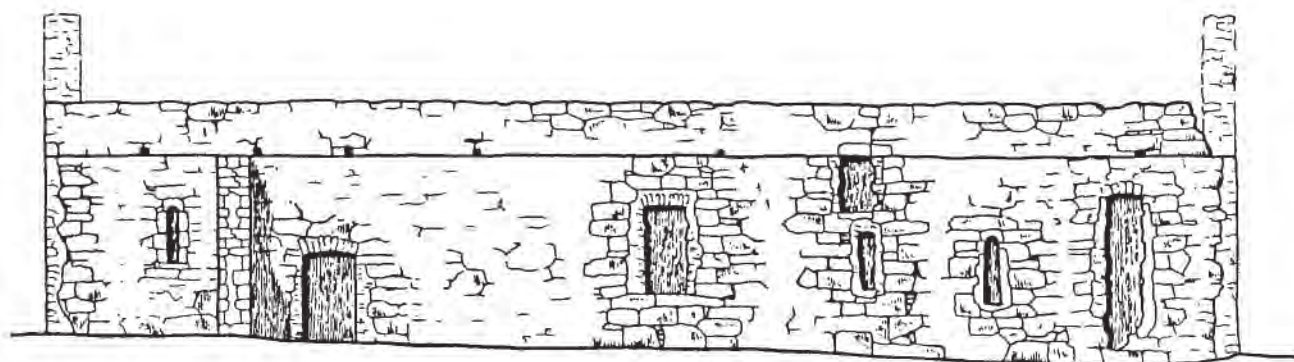




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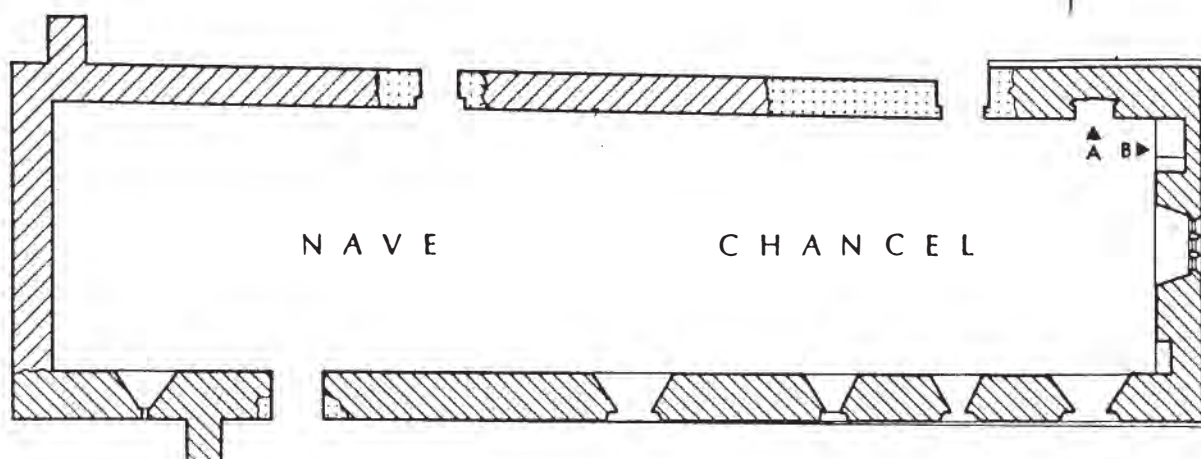
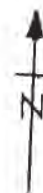


S O U T H E L E V A T I O N

15<sup>th</sup> Cent

16<sup>th</sup> Cent

Modern



G R O U N D P L A N

RATOO : ARROASIAN ABBEY OF SS. PETER AND PAUL CHURCH



Fig. 37. Arroasian Abbey, Rattoo, from south-east.



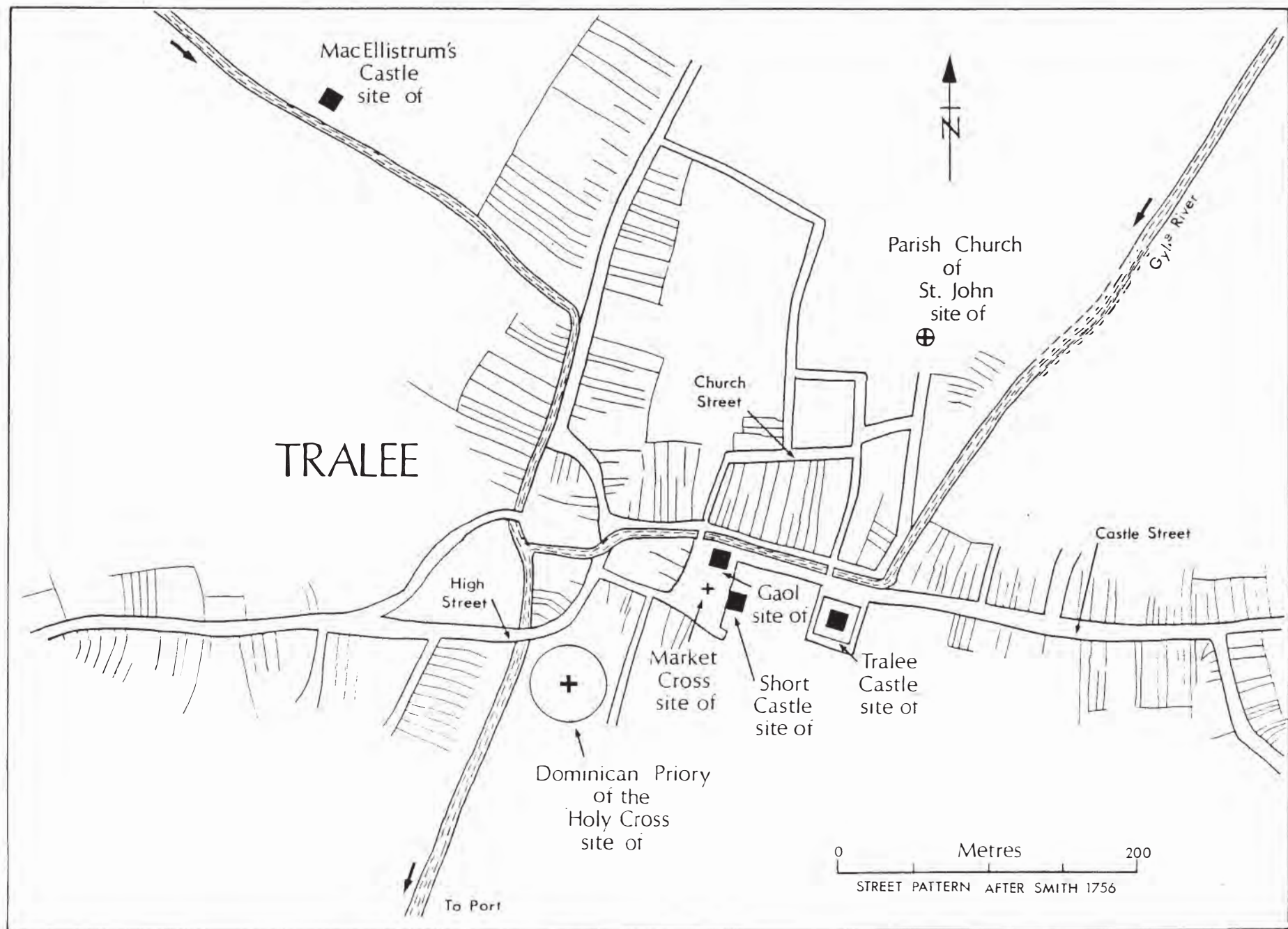


Fig. 38. East window of the Arroasian Abbey, Rattoo.









ig. 40. Tralee: outline map showing the major archaeological features.





Fig. 41. Aerial view of Tralee (Courtesy Cambridge Aerial Coll.).





Fig. 42. Font in St John's Church, Tralee.





Fig. 43. Cloister fragment depicting a Knight, Dominican garden, Tralee.





Fig. 44. Dragon panel, Dominican garden, Tralee.





Fig. 45. Foliated pillarette, Dominican garden, Tralee.





Fig. 46. Cloister fragments, Dominican garden, Tralee.





Fig. 47. Cloister fragment, Dominican garden, Tralee.





Fig. 48. Panel depicting the assumption, St. John's Church, Tralee.





Fig. 49. Tralee: Zone of archaeological potential