

# **The Urban Archaeological Survey County Kilkenny**

**compiled by**

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## ABBREVIATIONS IN TEXT

J.I.A.	Journal of Irish Archaeology
J.R.S.A.I.	Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland
O.K.R.	Old Kilkenny Review



## INTRODUCTION

The aim of this survey is to highlight the archaeological potential of the urban centres of Co. Kilkenny and present the information in a form which can be used by the relevant local authorities in planning matters. The Urban Archaeological Survey accompanies the Sites and Monuments Record (S.M.R.) for Co. Kilkenny, which highlights archaeological sites in a rural context. The archaeological inventory of sites in Volume I is to be used in conjunction with Volume II, which contains a set of complementary maps. It is important to stress that the present survey is not definitive, as the research was limited primarily to certain secondary sources.

Some primary map and documentary sources such as the Down Survey and Civil Survey (important seventeenth-century sources), were examined. In addition to this, most of the sites were visited, described and photographed. Some of the sites had been planned as part of John Bradley *et al* unpublished Urban Survey Notes (1990) and augmented by fieldwork (1992). All the information gathered on any particular site is kept in an individual site file and can be consulted in the Office of Public Works, on request.

Sites which are "not precisely located" are those which are known from an old map source or documentary evidence but whose position is too imprecise to include it on the constraint map. The seventeenth-century Down Survey maps, for example, were not drawn to scale and therefore sites indicated cannot be precisely located on current maps. A more in depth study of both secondary and primary sources, as well as further fieldwork, may reveal the exact location of these sites, as well as bringing additional sites to light and adding new information to known sites.

It follows, that the constraint boundaries are not to be taken as the exact limits of the sites. The constraint boundary is the zone of known or suspected archaeological potential but this may be subject to alteration, with an area being extended or contracted, based on the findings of further research. In the case of Kilkenny City and the four scheduled towns, Callan, Castlecomer, Graiguenamanagh and Thomastown, each has their own Development Plan and the entire area enclosed by the Development Plan Boundary (see Volume II, maps 6, 8, 13 and 18) was examined for sites of archaeological potential.

Twelve urban centres have been included in the present Urban Archaeological Survey Report. In order to be included, the urban centre must fulfil two basic criteria:

- they are urban centres in a modern context
- known or suspected archaeological sites are present

The first criterion needs some explanation. Many towns were founded in medieval times; some survive only as a ruined castle, church and/or earthworks in a modern rural environment. These deserted settlements have, for the purposes of this work, been treated as rural sites, and are included as such in the *Sites and Monuments Record* for Co. Kilkenny. Others have thrived and are still inhabited today as towns and villages. With the pressures of recent urban development on towns, it is important to emphasise what still exists of our archaeological heritage in modern urban centres, so that archaeologists, planners and developers alike can take measures to preserve and/or record these remains.

It cannot be over stressed that for all the urban centres, but particularly in the case of Kilkenny City and other walled towns (with their dense concentration of early settlement), that the whole area within the archaeological zone of potential should be treated as a single

monument. Thus any part of this zone, whether or not it is specifically marked as an archaeological site, should nevertheless be treated as such and dealt with accordingly.

## GENERAL FORMAT

In **Volume I** each urban centre is presented in the following format:

**- Historical Background.**

This is a brief chronology outlining the main historical events, which have shaped the city/town in question.

**- Archaeological Inventory.**

Each site has two numbers, the first number refers to the map in Volume II on which the site is indicated and the second number refers to the site itself. For example, Kilkenny Castle is 4c:78, as it is indicated on map 4c and is number 78 in the archaeological inventory.

The type of site, its name (as depicted on the Ordnance Survey maps and a local name, if any), and its location in the town are given. Where possible, a brief summary of the history of the site is provided. This is followed by a short description of the surviving remains, based on the information contained in the documentary sources and on field inspection. After each inventory entry there is a list of the sources which were relevant to that particular site. Those sources from which quotes or specific information has been taken are footnoted. If more detailed information is required, the field reports and documentary sources can be consulted, either in the site file (which contains both), or in the relevant book or journal.

For Kilkenny City itself the archaeological sites are grouped, where possible, under street headings.

#### **- Complementary Maps in Volume II**

As stated above each site is indicated on a complementary map in Volume II, designed to be used in conjunction with the text in Volume I. Sites which are not located are not numbered.

The most recently revised 1:2,500 maps have been used as the base maps for this report. These maps have been colour-coded as follows to highlight the archaeological sites:

- sites which survive above ground are coloured red
- sites which have been destroyed, but which may have surviving archaeological deposits below ground, are coloured yellow
- possible sites (i.e. sites which may pre-date 1700) are coloured blue
- possible sites which have been destroyed are coloured yellow-blue
- the zone of archaeological potential is delineated by a dot-dash line coloured green.

## KILKENNY CITY

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6th C.** St. Canice or one of his disciples founded a monastery here. Hence the City's name Cill Chainnigh, Canice's church.
- late 9th C.-** The monastery of Kilkenny grew in importance as it was centrally placed in the territory of a powerful political group, the Osraige. During this period Kilkenny developed as a proto-urban centre.
- 11th C.**
- c.1169** With the coming of the Anglo-Normans, the settlement at St. Canice's became the centre of a borough called Irishtown.
- c.1173** Kilkenny castle was constructed by Richard FitzGilbert de Clare.
- c.1176** A second borough was established, between the River Breaghagh and Kilkenny castle and was known as Hightown or Englishtown.
- 1207** William Marshall issued new charters to the town of Kilkenny.
- 1207-c.1225** A Franciscan Friary was founded in the north-east angle of Hightown.
- c.1211** The town was extended over to the east bank of the Nore as the result of the foundation of an Augustinian Priory there and the subsequent growth of settlement around it.
- c.1240-1250** There are references<sup>1</sup> to a third borough in Kilkenny, on the south side of the town, called Donaghmore. This

settlement probably grew up outside the town wall, though a pre-Norman settlement may already have existed there, centering on St. Patrick's church.

**1366** The "Statutes of Kilkenny" were enacted, enforcing segregation between the Anglo-Norman settlers and the native Irish population.

**1391** The Butlers, Earls of Ormond bought Kilkenny Castle.

**c.1550** The Dissolution of the Monasteries meant the transfer of the religious establishments to the civic authorities.

**1609** James I granted a Royal Charter which gave Kilkenny city status. The Sovereign and Council of Twelve were replaced by a Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.<sup>2</sup>

**1642-48** The Catholic Confederation assembled in Kilkenny and acted as the National Parliament.

**1650** Cromwell attacked and conquered the city.

**1690** James II granted the city a new charter and gave Kilkenny College university status.

**1843** Irishtown and Hightown (Englishtown) were united as one city, with one Corporation and one civic head.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Berry, 1908, 119-120.

<sup>2</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 11-14.

<sup>3</sup>Birchistle, D., (O.K.R.), 1966, 7.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

### Streets and Street Pattern

The town was based along a single main street, High Street. Two streets, Walkin Street and James Street, ran perpendicularly from it towards the west, and a back street, now known as St. Kieran's Street, ran diagonally from it on the east. In addition there were a number of narrow lanes, such as Black Freren Lane, providing access to individual houses or churches.

On the south side, High Street intersected with Patrick Street, Castle Street (the Parade) and Rose Inn Street, forming a junction which became known in the Later Middle Ages as Crocker's Cross.<sup>1</sup> High Street, broader in the middle than at either end, also functioned as the market place. It was here, near the present Tholsel, that the market cross was erected in 1331.<sup>2</sup>

On the east bank of the river the only street was John Street, linking the Augustinian Priory with the bridge. The pattern of settlement at Donaghmore is difficult to discern, but Upper Patrick Street probably preserves some vestige of this.

<sup>1</sup>McNeill, 1931, 104.

<sup>2</sup>Prim, 1852-53, 219-30.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

## City Defences

Kilkenny City developed from two adjacent towns, Irishtown and Hightown or Englishtown, each of which had an enclosing town wall erected during the medieval period. A suburb of Kilkenny, the ward of St. John's was also enclosed by a wall, but the date of this is unclear. The specific defences of each of these areas have been dealt with separately (see following). However, a list of the main sources, containing detailed discussion and description of the City's defences, are outlined here:

Bradley, J., (*O.K.R.*), 1975-76, Part I, 85-103, Part II, 209-18.

Bradley, J. and King, H.A., (*O.K.R.*), 1992, 973-81.

Birchistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 5-9.

Kenealy, C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1948, 32-38.

Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 34-37.

Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.II, 126-32.

Watters, P., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1872-73, 205-222.

Down Survey map (1655-58).

Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

### 4a/4b: Irishtown Town Wall:

- 1 Irishtown's wall enclosed a roughly rectangular area of c.10 hectares.<sup>1</sup> There was no need for a wall on the eastern and southern sides of Irishtown, with the River Nore and River Breaghagh, respectively, forming a natural defence line. It has been suggested that the construction of this wall was completed by c.1400.<sup>2</sup> The western and northern wall in St. Canice's Cathedral yard is part of the original Irishtown wall.



There were four gates into Irishtown, Dean's Gate, Green's Gate, Troy's Gate and Water Gate. Mural towers do not appear to have been a feature of the Irishtown defences, however, it is possible that Blackrath Castle (see 4a:), which originally may have formed part of the Cathedral's defences, later became a corner bastion of the city wall.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.II, 128.

<sup>2</sup>Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 68, 70.

<sup>3</sup>Woodworth, Rev. D., (*O.K.R.*), 1970, 7-9.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 4-6, 11.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 351-55.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 324-25.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 38-39.

### **Irishtown Gates:**

#### **4a:2 Dean's Gate (site)**

This was situated on Dean Street, where the street was intersected by the city wall.

This was the entrance from the Butts into Irishtown. In 1650 Cromwell gained access to Irishtown through this gate.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Birchistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 8.

Gibb, J.S., and Phelan, W.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1955, 30.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 540.

**4a:3 Greens Gate (site)**

6

This stood at the eastern end of Green Street, which led onto the former Green's or Great Bridge.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Birthing, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 8.

Gibb, J.S., and Phelan, W.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1955, 30.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 545.

**4a:4 Troy's Gate (site)**

This was situated at the north of Vicar Street, where it meets Troy's Gate street.

According to tradition<sup>1</sup> the tower which originally stood over it fell during the reign of Queen Elizabeth and was not rebuilt.

<sup>1</sup>Birthing, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 8.

Gibb, J.S., and Phelan, W.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1955, 30.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 91.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 535.

**4a:5 Watergate (site)**

This stood on the north side of Watergate Bridge, on the River Breaghagh, separating Irishtown from Hightown (Englishtown).

"In 1609 Walter Lawless rented for 200 years the castle over this gate...and undertook to build a Corbel-tower for better defence within 4 years".<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Birthing, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 7.

Gibb, J.S., and Phelan, W.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1955, 30.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 84.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 517-18, 520, 538-39.

**4a-4d: Hightown (Englishtown) Town Wall:**

7

6 This town wall encloses a roughly rectangular area of 29 hectares,<sup>1</sup> though there is no wall on the eastern side of Hightown, as the River Nore acts as a natural line of defence. There are eleven known murage grants between c.1250 and 1460 and it appears that the wall took over a hundred years to complete.<sup>2</sup> Good stretches of the Hightown wall are still preserved, for example, the length running south from James's Street survives to a height of 4.6m and has two cruciform arrow loops.<sup>3</sup> The datable sections of wall which survive are mostly of late thirteenth-/early fourteenth-century or fifteenth-century date.<sup>4</sup>

Excavations at the south-western section of the wall, in the vicinity of "Myler's Tower" (4d:9) revealed that there had been a fosse outside the town wall.<sup>5</sup> Another limited excavation<sup>6</sup> in the carpark behind the Club House on Patrick Street, nearer to Lower New Street, revealed a fosse running parallel to and 35m out from Hightown wall. The excavator suggests that this was an additional defence constructed in the turbulent years of the mid-seventeenth century, which was back-filled once hostilities had ceased.

According to Rocque's map<sup>7</sup> there were four mural towers in the western length of the wall and one on the northern section. Of these three survive, Talbot's tower (4d:8), Evan's turret and a mural tower with a sally-port (4d:9). There were seven

gates in the town wall, Castle Gate, Black Freren Gate, Irishtown Gate, St. James' Gate, St. John's Gate (Inner), St. Patrick's Gate and Walkin's Gate.

<sup>1</sup>Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.II, 128.

<sup>2,4</sup>Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 68, 70.

<sup>3</sup>Cotter, C., (*Excavations*), 1989, 34.

<sup>5</sup>Bradley, J. and King, H.A., (*O.K.R.*), 1992, 973-81.

<sup>6</sup>Gittins, A. (*Excavations*), 1991, 30.

<sup>7</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

Anonymous, (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1854-55, 178.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 4-6, 11.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1858-59, 469, 476.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 324-25.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 36.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 38-39.

#### **4a:7 Mural Towers on the Hightown (Englishtown) wall: "Evan's Turret"**

Situated at the junction of the River Breaghagh and the River Nore, at the north-eastern end of the Hightown wall, presently in the grounds of Smithwick's Brewery.

It became known as "Evan's Turret" when the land around it was leased by the Corporation to Alderman Evans in 1724 and remained in his family for over a century.<sup>1</sup> This appears to be a two storey rectangular tower, which is accessed by a wall walk along the city wall.

<sup>1</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 36.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 110.

Robertson, J.G., 1851, Plate.

#### **4d:8 Mural Tower "Talbot's Tower"**

Located on the west side of Ormond Road, in the grounds of the City Technical School.

This circular tower, 9m high with walls are 1.7m thick, forms the most southerly bastion of Hightown's defences. It has been ascribed a late-thirteenth/early-fourteenth century date.<sup>1</sup> It successfully repelled an attack by Cromwellian forces in 1650 and a small canon and canon-ball<sup>2</sup> found embedded in the wall of the tower are now stored in the National Museum.<sup>3</sup> It was known as "St. Patrick's Tower" in 1692 and "Wattle's Bastion" in the nineteenth century.

<sup>1</sup>Kenealy, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1976, 209.

<sup>2</sup>Anonymous, (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1854-55, 312-13.

<sup>3</sup>Kenealy, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1986, 286.

Grose, F., 1791, Vol.I, Pl.52.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 36.

#### **4d:9 Mural Tower/Sallyport "Myler's Tower"**

Located in a section of the town wall, west of Patrick Street, in the garden of Provincial House.

This is a rectangular tower, 3m high, 7.6m long and 1.4m wide. At the base of the tower there is an arched recess 2.4m high and 3m wide, which is probably a sallyport.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Kenealy, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1986, 283.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 36.

**Hightown (Englishtown) Gates:****4d:10 Castle (site)/Gate (site)**

Located in the centre of the road, immediately to the south-east of Kilkenny Castle.

Though the town wall ended at the castle stables, there was a separate castle and gate on the Parade defending the eastern entrance into the city. This castle was not above the gate but beside it and in 1628 William Shea paid the Corporation 6s. 8d. for an annual lease of it.<sup>1</sup> Cromwell unsuccessfully tried to breach the city's defences in this area. The castle and gate were still standing in the eighteenth century, as is indicated on Rocque's map<sup>2</sup>, but nothing is visible of them today.

<sup>1</sup>Kenealy, C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1948, 34.

<sup>2</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

Birchistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 5.

**4b:11 Friars Gate "Black Freren Gate"**

This is situated on Abbey Street where the city wall running south from the River Breaghagh turns west along Abbey Street.

"In 1633 Stephen Daniel rented the Upper Rooms over the Castle of Inner Friars Gate for 99 years...and undertook to build the said Castle and cover same with Oaken Timbers and slate withing 3 years".<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Birchistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 6-7.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 36,81.

**4a:12 Irishtown Gate (site)**

This stood on the south side of Watergate Bridge, on the River Breaghagh, separating Irishtown from Hightown (Englishtown).

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 84.

**4b:13 St. James' Gate (site)**

This is situated on James' Street.

"In 1599, Walter Archer Fitz Walker got the lease of this Castle for 101 years" and it provided that "That the Burgesses and Commons should have the use of the said castle in time of war or danger, for the defence of the town".<sup>1</sup> The gate was removed in 1860 when the Christian Brothers built their establishment here.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Birthistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 6.

Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1862-63, 152.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 502-03.

**4c:14 St. John's Gate Inner (site)**

This was situated on the city side of John's Bridge.

This functioned as an inner gate in the city. In 1544 the gate and its associated castle were swept away in a flood, but were, however, rebuilt in 1580. This gate came under attack by the Cromwellians in 1650.<sup>1</sup> In 1763 the castle, gate and John's Bridge itself were washed away in a flood but this time the

castle and gate were not rebuilt.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 36.

<sup>2</sup>Birthingale, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 7-8.

#### **4d:15 St. Patrick's Gate (site)**

This was situated between Upper and Lower Patrick Street, between Butler House (at the point where the latter kicks out into the road) and another house which was demolished in 1973 and replaced by one built by the I.T.G.W.U., which was set further back from the street.<sup>1</sup>

This gate and the castle over it were granted to Richard Rothe FitzEdward by the Mayor of Hightown, in 1626.<sup>2</sup> The gate and castle were demolished c.1903.

<sup>1</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 51.

<sup>2</sup>Birthingale, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 5.

O'Dwyer, M., (ed.), (n.d.), Plate.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 538, 551.

Walsh, P., (*O.K.R.*), 1955, 12-13.

#### **4b:16 Walkin's Gate (site)**

This was situated on Friary Street (formerly Walkin's Street).

This gate is mentioned as early as 1305.<sup>1</sup> In 1628, David Rothe rented rooms over this gate from the Corporation.<sup>2</sup> According to one source<sup>3</sup> this gate was removed c.1788, while another source<sup>4</sup> states that the gate was removed c.1809 and a row of houses (Garden Row), which have since been demolished, was



built on the site of the wall.

<sup>1,4</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 68.

<sup>2</sup>Birthingale, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 6.

<sup>3</sup>Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1858-59, 470.

### **Sites not precisely located:**

#### **Gray Freren Gate (site)**

This gate "led from the Chancellors Orchard to the Abbey grounds and was not a public highway and had no castle over or beside it".<sup>1</sup> It appears to have been in the north wall of the Hightown defences<sup>2</sup> and gave the friars from St. Francis' Abbey access to Irishtown,<sup>3</sup> via this gate and over a bridge on the River Breaghagh, probably Coterel Bridge. Hogan,<sup>4</sup> locates this bridge at the point where Vicar Street once forded the River Breaghagh (east of the bridge at the Watergate) and joined Horse Barrack Lane.

<sup>1</sup>Birthingale, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 7.

<sup>2</sup>Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1858-59, 469.

<sup>3</sup>Bradley, J., (*O.K.R.*), 1975-76, 215.

<sup>4</sup>O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 30.

**4c:17 St. John's Wall**

An area of c.4.5 hectares<sup>1</sup> around St. John's was walled though there appear to be no references to it until the seventeenth century.<sup>2</sup> The line of the defences can be traced on the south side and appear to have run northward from the corner bastion on Maudlin Street towards St. John's Outer Gate. The position of the defences on the north side is more difficult to determine, but it is likely that the wall enclosed, rather than bisected, St. John's Priory.

<sup>1</sup>Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.II, 128.

<sup>2</sup>Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 68, 70.

Doyle, J., 1990, 73.

Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

**St. John's Mural Towers:****4c:18 Corner Bastion**

This is located on Maudlin Street.

This is the circular bastion at the north-east corner of the wall enclosing the area around St. John's.

Doyle, J., 1990, 94.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 98.

**St. John's Gates:****4c:19 Maudlin Gate (site)**

Situated on Maudlin Street, adjacent to Maudlin towerhouse.

Gaps in the stonework on the south face of the towerhouse indicate where a stone-arched gate was formerly attached. This gate appears in a picture painted c.1760<sup>1</sup> and was either an outer gate into the city itself<sup>2</sup> or a gate into the precincts of the Magdalen hospital.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.III, 243, pl.opposite.

<sup>2</sup>Lanigan, K. M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 98.

<sup>3</sup>Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 72.

**4c:20 St. John's Gate Outer (site)**

This was situated in the middle of Michael Street and Maudlin Street.

It functioned as an outer gate, giving admission to St. John's Priory and then by the inner gate to the city.<sup>1</sup> In 1638 James Bruin rented the rooms over the gate from the Corporation.<sup>2</sup> It was removed before the year 1757.<sup>3</sup>

Buggy, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1974, 45.

<sup>1,3</sup>Finn, J. and Murphy, J.C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1962, 30.

<sup>2</sup>Birchistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 8.

**Sites not precisely located:****St. Michael's Gate (site)**

This was a postern gate which gave access from St. John's Priory to Michael's Lane. It was probably situated behind the Evans Home (see John Street) but there are no surviving remains.

Birthistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 8.

Egan, P.M., 1884, 409.

**Abbey Street****4b:21 Dominican Abbey "Black Abbey"/Monuments**

Located between Abbey Street and Black Mill Street and bounded on the north by the River Breagagh.

The Black Abbey (the Convent of the One and Undivided Trinity) was founded by William Marshall in 1225. In 1543 the abbey was dissolved and converted into a courthouse. It remained a courthouse, except for two brief periods in 1603-04 and 1642-50 when it was once again used as a church, until the end of the eighteenth century.<sup>1</sup> In c.1770, the Dominicans once again took over the abbey, demolishing the chancel to make way for a new convent<sup>2</sup> and in 1778 a portion of it was re-roofed and restored. In 1840 the church was reopened for regular public worship.

The present building consists of a nave with a south aisle of probable thirteenth-century date, a south transept built c.1330,

a crossing tower inserted in 1527 and a west tower of fifteenth-century date.<sup>3</sup> The claustral buildings extended north of the abbey, with the River Breagh forming the boundary. The only visible survival of this range is a fifteenth-century two-light window in the abbey wall on the bank of the River Breagh. An excavation in 1987-88 outside the east window, in an area which was originally inside the medieval chancel, revealed two coffin burials of probable post-1500 date and some late-fourteenth/fifteenth-century floor tile fragments.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 27.

<sup>2</sup>Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 325.

<sup>3</sup>Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 71-72.

<sup>4</sup>Ó Floinn, R., (*J.I.A.*), 1987-88, 74.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.I, 78, Vol.III, 176-90.

Clifford, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1977, 277.

Craig, M. and the Knight of Glin, 1970, 68.

Fenning, H., 1986.

Gaffney, Dr. H., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 44-47.

Grose, F., 1791, Vol.I, 35-36, Pls.41, 42.

Harbison, P., 1970, 135.

Leask, H.G., 1966, Vol.II, 128-29, Pl.XXVa.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 27-29.

Ó Fearghail, F., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 198, 210.

Simington, R.C., (ed.), 1942, 544.

Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758

## **Monuments**

### **Statue of the Trinity**

This is a late-fourteenth/early-fifteenth-century alabaster statue. A date of "1264" carved on it is not thought to be original. The statue is to be found inside the church.

Fenning, H., 1986, 11-12.

MacLeod, C., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1947, 59-60, Pl.XVI.

Roe, H.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1972, 33-36.

Roe, H.M., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1979, 137, fig.37.

### **Statue of St. Dominic**

This oak statue dates to Penal times and is to be found in the Dominican priory museum.

Fenning, H., 1986, 19.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 325.

MacLeod, C., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1947, 129, Pl.XIV.

### **Statue of the Madonna and Child**

This is a sixteenth-century Flemish statue which has been painted in recent times. It is presently located in the Dominican priory.

Fenning, H., 1986, 17.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 325.

MacLeod, C., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1947, 57, Pl.XIV.

- **Statue of St. Catherine of Alexandria**

This stone figurine, dating to the fourteenth century, is said to have been found in a cavity in the abbey walls in 1825. It is presently located in the Dominican priory.

Fenning, H., 1986, 11-12.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 27.

- **Monuments**

Fifteen monuments have been found in the garden and precincts of the church and are now located in the yard west of the south transept, except for one inscribed slab which is in the inner face of the priory wall on Abbey Street. These include inscribed slabs and coffin-shaped slabs.<sup>1,2</sup> Two thirteenth-century examples bear the head of a woman, a sixteenth-century effigy of a woman and the lost effigy of a Cantwell or Richard Marshall.<sup>3</sup> There are four limestone sarcophagi in the yard outside the south transept. Three of these were uncovered by Prim inside the south transept c.1850 and were reburied and re-excavated in 1863.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 453-62.

<sup>2</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 181-83.

<sup>3</sup>Hunt, J., 1974, Vol.I, 183. Vol.II, 178, Pl.93.

<sup>4</sup>Bradley, J., (eds. Mac Niocaill, G. and Wallace, P.F.), 1988, 83, 85-87.

Bradley, J., 1980, (*O.K.R.*), 11-13, 20-21.

Phelan, M.M., (in Fenning, H.), 1986, 47-53.

**4b:22 Holy Well (possible) "Angel's Well"**

Located in the garden across the road from the priory, where Abbey Street forks.

This covered well, with five steps down to it, has a heavy rendering of concrete. A plaque on the external face of the adjacent wall reads "William Grace Esqr. Mayor. Angel's Well. A.D. 1835." This may date the renovation of the earlier well; the name suggests a possible holy well.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field report (unpublished), Oct. 1992.

**4b:23 Bridge (possible) "Blackfriars' Bridge"**

This is located where Abbey Street crosses the River Breagagh.

This is a three-arched limestone bridge, with cut-waters on the west side and the possible remains of cut-waters on the east side. It is of possible pre-1700 date and is likely to be the "Fryars' Bridge" marked on Rocque's map.<sup>1</sup>

Immediately to the west of this bridge there are the remains of another bridge. Only the arch springs survive and if completed it would have been a single-span bridge.

<sup>1</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field report (unpublished), Oct. 1992.

**Archer's Street**

**Sites not precisely located:**



- **Borough "Flemings Town"**

In the thirteenth century a colony of Flemish artisans took up residence in a suburb of Kilkenny City. This settlement appears to have had its own defensive wall with towers and gates and was called "Flemingstown". The earliest mention of the town is in a charter of Edward III, dated to 1339. A seventeenth-century manuscript on the history of Kilkenny describes how these "foreigners" were "located in the neighbourhood of the castle".<sup>1</sup> He remarks that "from the extent of the pavement and other remains existing in his time, the town or street of the Flemings must have been a settlement of some size and importance but the pavement is now broken up and divided by ditches and hedges".<sup>2</sup> Prim locates this settlement in the vicinity of Archer's Street, immediately south of Castle Road.

<sup>1,2</sup>Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 37-40.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 551-52.

- **Dwelling (site)**

In 1417 William Archer paid the Corporation of Kilkenny a high rent for a building in the vicinity of Archer's Street. Prim<sup>1</sup> speculates that it must have been a very large dwelling to demand such a large rent.

<sup>1</sup>Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 40.

## **Barrack Lane**

### **4c:24 Dwelling (possible)**

The wall to the west of the gateway to Evans Home appears to be the gable of a possible pre-1700 building. It has a substantial projecting stone chimney.

Clohoosey, Rev. T.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1946-47, 62.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), October 1992.

## **Bishop's Hill**

### **Sites not precisely located:**

#### **Bowling Green (possible site)**

The site is marked on Rocque's map of 1758 north of Bishop's Hill Road. However, it is unclear what the extent of the site was when correlated onto a modern map of the city and whether this site had a pre-1700 origin.

Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

## **Black Mill Street**

### **4b:25 Bridge (site) "Blackmill Bridge"**

Located where Black Mill Street crosses the River Breagagh.

This bridge is mentioned in a document dating to 1718<sup>1</sup> when money was raised to replace an old timber structure at this site with a two-arch limestone bridge. It is depicted on Rocque's map as "Black Bridge".<sup>2</sup> In 1991 the bridge was demolished in

order to widen the river which is prone to flooding at this point. A new concrete bridge was built 100m upstream.

<sup>1</sup>Watters, P., (*O.K.R.*), 1953, 42.

<sup>2</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field report (unpublished), Oct. 1992.

## The Butts

### 4a:26 Butts Green

The Butts was an area outside the city walls where in medieval times archery was practiced. Butts Green is marked as 'Bull Ring' on Rocque's map,<sup>1</sup> which suggests that bull-baiting took place here. The area has undergone large-scale redevelopment since the 1980s.

<sup>1</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 87.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 20.

### 4a:27 St. Nicholas's Chapel (possible/site) / Graveyard (possible/site)

This chapel, situated outside the city walls<sup>1</sup>, was taken down by Bishop Richard de Ledrede (1317-60), together with two other chapels, in order to provide building material for a new episcopal palace.<sup>2</sup> According to tradition,<sup>3</sup> there was a graveyard in the area where Grange Road meets Lord Edward Street and extending towards the Loretto school. There was also a church associated with it, which was supposedly

dedicated to St. Nicholas and as Carrigan states, "if their (the local people) statement be reliable, then there is no reason why we should not identify this church with the Church of St. Nicholas".<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 71.

<sup>2</sup>O'Kelly, O., 1985, 21.

<sup>3</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 192.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 353.

#### **4a:28 Wayside Cross "Butts Cross"**

Located on the east side of the road, where Lord Edward's Street meets Butts Green. It has been moved c.10m-15m south-west of its position on the 25" Ordnance Survey map.

The pseudo-celtic cross which is fixed into a stone plinth appears to be of late date, perhaps a nineteenth-century replacement of the original cross as a plaque on the cross base states, "Improved by Kilkenny Corporation. Michael Kennedy Mayor 1891".<sup>1</sup> In 1852 Prim<sup>2</sup> identified the faint traces of an armorial plaque and an inscription on the cross base. The arms of the Fagan family were discernible and the initials R.S. and M.F., which would suggest that the cross was erected by Margaret Fagan after the death of her husband, Richard Shee, in 1608. These inscriptions are no longer visible.

<sup>1</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 87.

<sup>2</sup>Prim, J.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1852, 212-13.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 191.

Prim, J.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1852, 184.

Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

## Church Lane

### 4a:29 St. Canice's Cathedral/Monuments

Located in the north-west corner of Irishtown.

In the sixth century St. Canice, or one of his followers, founded a monastery here. The round tower<sup>1,2</sup>, located immediately south of the south transept, is a remnant of the original monastery. There are references to the burning of a church on this site in 1085 and 1114<sup>3</sup> and decorated stones from a Hiberno-Romanesque church of this period have been found here.<sup>4</sup> The cruciform Cathedral, with nave, choir transepts and chapels was begun by Bishop Hugh de Rous (1202-08)<sup>5</sup> and finished by Bishop Hugh de Mapilton (1251-56) and Bishop Geoffrey St Leger (1260-1286).<sup>6</sup> In the fourteenth century a new tower was added, since the original had fallen in 1332.<sup>7</sup> In 1553, after the Reformation, the first Protestant bishop of St. Canice's tore down and defaced all the statues and pictures in the Cathedral.<sup>8</sup> Further destruction took place in 1651 during the Cromwellian presence in the city.<sup>9</sup> Restoration work, including the re-roofing of the Cathedral, was carried out in 1866.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Barrow, L., 1979, 129-32.

<sup>2</sup>Anonymous, (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1868-69, 276-78.

<sup>3,7</sup>Harbison, P., 1970, 135.

<sup>4</sup>Harbison, P., (*O.K.R.*), 1974, 26-29.

<sup>5,8</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.I, 32-35, 39; Vol.II, 40;

Vol.III, 6-9, 142-73.

<sup>6</sup>Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 325-27.

<sup>9</sup>Craig, M. and the Knight of Glin, 1970, 68-69.

<sup>10</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 28-30.

Anonymous, (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1864-66, 293.

Bligh, A., (*O.K.R.*), 1963, 48-51.

Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 64-66, 70.

Clohoey, Rev., T.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1955, 44-45.

Empey, C.A. (ed.), 1985.

Gibb, J.S., (*O.K.R.*), 1953, 50-53.

Grose, F., Vol.I, 1791, 33-35, Pls. 43-44.

Leask, H.G., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1949, 1-9.

Leask, H.G., Vol.II, 1966, 103-08, 141, Pls.XVIII-XX.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 24-26.

Phelan, M., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 99, 104.

### **Monuments:**

#### **Effigial-tombs, thirteenth- to seventeenth-century tomb-stones and floor-slabs**

Over a hundred monuments, inscribed and uninscribed, have been described in detail in a various sources. The main sources are Carrigan,<sup>1</sup> Hunt,<sup>2</sup> and Rae.<sup>3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 149-73.

<sup>2</sup>Hunt, J., 1974, Vol.I, 183-94; Vol.II, Plates.

<sup>3</sup>Rae, E.C., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1970, 22-32, Plates.

<sup>4</sup>Rae, E.C., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1971, 20-21, 35 Plates.

Bradley, J., (*O.K.R.*), 1980, 15-16.

Bradley, J., (eds. Mac Nicaill, G. and Wallace, P.F.), 1988, 83-84.

- Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.
- Burrell, M. and I., 1978.
- Crae, E., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 62-71.
- Hunt, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1950, 24, Plate II.
- Kenealy, C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1960, 13-15.
- Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 325-27.
- Langrishe, R., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1904, 365-79; 1905, 21-33.
- Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 28-30.
- Phelan, M.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 60-75.
- Prendergast, J.P., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1883-84, 185-86.
- Prim, J.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 217-21.
- Roe, H.M., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1979, 137-38, fig.38.

### Font

A thirteenth-century limestone baptismal font is located in the aisle of the south nave of the Cathedral. It has fluting on all sides, typical of the Ossory fonts and a Fleur-de-lis design on the top surface.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 28-30.

Pike, H.K.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1989, 573-74.

### Font

A second font, from Inchiholohan, Co. Kilkenny, is placed in the Gash Chapel. It is a 'cushion capital' type which is square inside.

Pike, H.K.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1989, 573-74.

### Chair "St. Kieran's Chair"

This thirteenth-century chair is located by the doorway in the north transept.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 325-27.

#### **4a:30 Ecclesiastical Residence/Almshouse**

Located on the north-west side of St. Canice's Cathedral precinct, adjoining St. Canice's Library.

One source<sup>1</sup> argues that this building, formerly the Manse House of the Prebendary of Killamery and an almshouse, was in existence in 1291. The western wall of this building also forms part of the Irishtown wall.<sup>2</sup> It is described in the Civil Survey<sup>3</sup> as being "convenient for an Hospitall for Sick people ye Walls stone & ye ruffe Slates"

<sup>1</sup>Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 354.

<sup>2</sup>Woodworth, Rev. D., (*O.K.R.*), 1970, 5-7.

<sup>3</sup>Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 545.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 175.

#### **4a:31 St. Canice's Library/School**

Located in the north-west corner of St. Canice's Cathedral precincts.

Parts of this structure date to the thirteenth century when it was the Manse House of the Prebendary of Blackrath and the lower portions of the western and northern walls formed part of the defences of Irishtown (see 4a:).<sup>1</sup> Piers Rua Butler, (died 1539) the eighth Earl of Ormond, founded a public schoolroom here.<sup>2</sup> The library was founded by Bishop Thomas Otway in



1679, and houses a notable collection of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century books.<sup>3</sup> A blocked-up sixteenth-/seventeenth-century square-headed, chamfered window is visible in the north gable of the library, above ground floor level.

<sup>1</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 30.

<sup>2</sup>Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 327.

<sup>3</sup>Craig, M. and the Knight of Glin, 1970, 68.

Anonymous, (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 47-48.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 354.

Ó Fearghail, F., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 207.

Woodworth, Rev. D., (*O.K.R.*), 1970, 5-10.

Woodworth, Rev. D., (*O.K.R.*), 1971, 15-22.

#### **4a:32 Castle (possible) "Black Rath Castle"**

It is located on the 1839-40 edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey map and on the 25" Ordnance Survey map 40m north-west of St. Canice's Library, behind the houses on the south side of Church Lane. Other sources<sup>1,2</sup> indicate that it was partly incorporated in the structure of St. Canice's Library (see 4a:31). It appears that this castle originally formed part of the Cathedral's defences and later become a corner bastion of the city wall.<sup>3</sup> In 1842 "repair work" on the castle involved "the removal of the upperworks of the castle, and roofing the remainder".<sup>4</sup> The thickest wall of the castle, according to the Rev. Graves,<sup>5</sup> is that shared by St. Canice's Library, behind which there was a rough stairway. In the area where the castle

site is marked on the Ordnance Survey map there are no visible remains.

<sup>1</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 89.

<sup>2-5</sup>Woodworth, Rev. D., (*O.K.R.*), 1970, 7-9.

### **Sites not precisely located:**

#### **Dwellings (site)/ Buildings (site)**

In the Civil Survey (1654-56) there are references to properties in or near St. Canice's Cathedral yard, including a stone house called "Chanters Court".<sup>1</sup> There was also a small house to the north of the Cathedral, called "the Paradise", which Peter Butler, the Earl of Ormond, would use as a retreat house coming up to Easter.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 540-45.

<sup>2</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 9.

### **Coach Road**

#### **4a:33 Dwelling (site) "Deanery"**

Located 80m south of St. Canice's Cathedral.

The present Deanery, built between 1755 and 1784, was erected on the site of the former Dean's 'manse' or ecclesiastical residence.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 174.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 89.

#### **4a.:34 Architectural Fragments**

Incorporated in the arched entrance to the front yard of the Deaneary are a number of architectural fragments, including a trefoil window head and two corbels.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), October 1992.

**Sites not precisely located:**

**Gate (site)**

An entry in the Chapter Book of St. Canice's Cathedral dated to 1689 records the decision to build a coach road "forthwith from Dean Street in Irishtown to the south door, of the said Cathedral for the convenience of the Duke of Ormonde's family and other persons of quality resorting to the said Church".<sup>1</sup> Before the Coach Road was built there was a gate here giving access to the Dean's residence.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 86, 89.

## **Dean Street**

### **Street**

When Irishtown was surrounded by a wall in the late fourteenth century one of the three gates into the town was on Dean Street. In the 1980s this street was scheduled for road widening which involved the demolition and redevelopment of the entire street.

Excavations were carried out in several areas of the street<sup>1</sup>, though none took place on the site of the medieval street frontage, which would have been in the centre of the modern

street. Because the areas excavated were likely to be garden plots no archaeological layers were encountered, except in the plot immediately north of the Breagagh Guest House. The results of this excavation<sup>2</sup> showed that the site had been reclaimed from marsh in the thirteenth century and an oven had been constructed which possibly continued in use up to the early fourteenth century. The site appears to have been unoccupied again until the seventeenth century, when there is some indication of a dwelling on the site.

<sup>1</sup>Bourke, E., Excavation report (unpublished), 1990.

<sup>2</sup>Cotter, C., (*O.K.R.*), 1992, 1065-76.

#### **4a:35 Dwelling**

Located on the south side of Dean Street, in front of the Breagagh Guest House (no.41).

Before Dean Street was widened in the 1980's, the north (facade), east and west walls of this sixteenth-/seventeenth-century house were still *in situ*.<sup>1</sup> It contained a number of original features including, two round-headed doorways and three stone window surrounds. A tudor fireplace and an armorial plaque bearing the arms of the Archdeacon family were also found in nearby walls. The plaque is now located in Rothe House<sup>2</sup>. In 1984 the walls were taken down and rebuilt c.10m south of their original position, incorporating two round-headed doorways and a square-headed window. The

present location of the other two windows and the fireplace is uncertain.

<sup>1</sup>Bradley, J., Pers. Comm., February 1993.

<sup>2</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 39, 86.

Kenealy, C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1952, 40.

Simington, R.C.(ed.), 1942, 539.

#### **4a:36 Chapel (site)**

Located on the north side of Dean Street, c.30m north of St. Canice's Catholic church.

St. Canice's chapel and Dean Street chapel appear to be different names for the same site. An inscribed slab inserted in the wall of St. Canice's Presbytery mentions the building of a 'house' by a Father Kavanagh, who died in 1682. Carrigan<sup>1</sup> interprets this as the chapel of St. Canice. It remained in use until c.1830, when the new parish church of St. Canice was built. The location of Dean Street chapel is clearly indicated on Rocque's map<sup>2</sup> and c.1905 some pieces of the wall were still visible.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 203-05.

<sup>2</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 353.

Ó Fearghail, F., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 227.

**Sites not precisely located:**

**Dwelling (site)/Plaque**

Located on the corner of Coach Lane and Dean Street.

This building bore a plaque dated to 1704 and an inscription to George Gaffney.<sup>1</sup> It was demolished during the road widening scheme in the 1980s.

<sup>1</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 86.

**Evan's Lane**

**4b:37 Architectural fragments**

Located on the south side of the lane:

Fragments of chamfered stone window jambs and a mullioned sill, of tudor date, are incorporated in this wall. They do not appear to be in their original position.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), October 1992.

**4b:38 Architectural fragments**

Located on the south side of the lane:

Just above ground level, on the facade of a derelict building, which projects into the lane, there are a number of tudor window fragments. On the east side there are two stone window jambs and a sill and on the west side there are three chamfered window jambs.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), October 1992.

## **Friary Street**

### **4b:39 Almshouse (site)**

Located on the south side of Friary Street, where the present friary now stands.

An almshouse was opened at the end of the seventeenth century by Fr. Tobin and it was endowed in his will in 1699 to cater for twelve people.<sup>1</sup> It remained an almshouse for almost two hundred years and was taken down in 1897 when the present friary was built on the site.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>O Fearghail, F., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 226-27.

<sup>2</sup>Birchistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1964, 62.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 71-73.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 68.

## **Green Street/Greensbridge Street**

### **4a:40 Bridge (site) "Green's Bridge"**

Located c.50m north of the present Green's Bridge, it was a direct continuation of Green Street.

According to one source<sup>1</sup>, Green's Bridge was the only bridge at Kilkenny c.1178. In 1447 this bridge, which was called the "Great Bridge of Kilkenny", was destroyed by flooding and

replaced by another bridge of the same name.<sup>2</sup> Later it became known as Green's Bridge. This bridge was itself swept away by a flood in 1764.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 42.

<sup>2</sup>Egan, P.M., 1884, 410.

<sup>3</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 92.

Doyle, J., 1990, 62, 111.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 541-43.

Down Survey composite map, 1655-58 and later.

Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

#### **4a:41 Weir (possible)**

Located immediately south of Green's Bridge.

This V-shaped weir is possibly of early seventeenth-century date.

Doyle, J., (*O.K.R.*), 1985, 156-57.

#### **4a:42 Watermill (possible/site)**

Located on the east bank of the River Nore, c.30m north of the present Green's Bridge, but would have been immediately east and slightly south of the old Green's Bridge, which was washed away in 1764.

A watermill is mentioned in the Civil Survey as "standing upon Grenes Bridge".<sup>1</sup> It is possible that this is the same watermill



which is clearly indicated on Rocque's map.<sup>2</sup> There are no remains of this structure above ground.

<sup>1</sup>Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 549.

<sup>2</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

Doyle, J., (*O.K.R.*), 1985, 149-150.

#### **4a:43 Mill Stream**

This mill stream flowed from an inlet on the east bank of the River Nore at Noremount and re-entered the river below Green's Bridge.

The mill stream was constructed in the twelfth century to power the watermills at Green's Bridge. It has been associated with the Augustinian Priory of St. John's, founded in 1211.<sup>1</sup> The mill stream is indicated on Rocque's map<sup>2</sup> and on the first edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey map. This mill stream does not appear to be visible today.

<sup>1</sup>Doyle, J., (*O.K.R.*), 1985, 149-50.

<sup>2</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

#### **4a:44 Church (site)/Graveyard "St. Maul's Graveyard"**

Located on the east side of Greensbridge Street, on the high ground east of the Nore.

In 1300 this church is referred to in the *Red Book of Ossory* as *Capella Sancte Malle*.<sup>1</sup> The identity of St. Maul or Malle is somewhat doubtful. According to tradition<sup>2</sup>, the name refers to St. Canice's mother, though it has also been attributed to St. Mel, the first Bishop of Ardagh and cousin of St. Rioc.<sup>3</sup> No

visible trace of the medieval church survives and the graveyard is presently in a very neglected state.

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 193-94.

<sup>2</sup>Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 71.

<sup>3</sup>Shearman, J.F., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1877-78, 204-05.

Doyle, J., 1990, 116.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, 85.

### **Sites not precisely located:**

#### **- Wayside Cross Base**

This was noted by Prim,<sup>1</sup> lying near Green's Bridge Street, at the bottom of Broguemaker's Hill, where it was being used as a door-seat at a house. According to his description, faint traces of armorial bearings and inscriptions were visible on it. The present location of this cross base is unknown.

Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 184.

## **High Street**

### **4b:45 Tholsel (site)**

**No.3** This is the site of the first Tholsel in Kilkenny which was built possibly as early as the fourteenth century. It served as an administrative centre for local government as well as being a Court House, which may have had a jail in the cellar below. In 1517 the first floor was either modified or added. A new Tholsel was built in 1575 on the site of the present Tholsel. The old Tholsel was taken down in the beginning of the nineteenth

century and replaced by a dwelling, which in turn was replaced by the Victoria Hotel. According to Hogan<sup>1</sup>, who was writing in the late nineteenth century, a section of the old Tholsel was still visible in the back wall of the Victoria Hotel. This, however, was demolished in 1921-22 when the Allied Irish Bank was erected.

<sup>1</sup>Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1879-82, 236-242.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 47.

Phelan, W.J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1948, 48.

Phelan, W.J. and Lanigan, T., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1953, 28.

Simington, R.C.(ed.), 1942, 536.

**4b:46 Almshouse (site)**

**No.4** This is the site of the Ormond almshouse, known as the "Hospital of Our Blessed Saviour". It was established by Royal Charter in May 1631 and remained here until the building was demolished in 1840.

Birchistle, D., 1964, (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 61-63.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 60.

Phelan, W.J. and Lanigan, T., 1953, (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 29.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 41.

Ó Fearghail, F., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 207.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 536.

**4b:47 Jail (Site)**

**No.9** Site of the old city jail which is mentioned in the Civil Survey<sup>1</sup> (1654-56) and named on Rocque's Map<sup>2</sup> of 1758.

<sup>1</sup>Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 536.

<sup>2</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 352.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 60.

Phelan, W.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1948, 48.

Phelan, W.J. and Lanigan, T., (*O.K.R.*), 1953, 30.

**4b:48 Dwelling**

**No.11** This building is a modified late sixteenth-/early seventeenth-century dwelling. Surviving features can be seen in the north gable, where there are two small windows with

hood-mouldings near the apex of the gable and a third at a lower level. The modern roof slope is lower than the original one. A round-headed doorway in the south gable, visible in an illustration of 1850<sup>1</sup>, could be seen in the internal north wall of no. 10 until relatively recently.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, Vol.III, 22.

<sup>2</sup>Burke, E. Pers. Comm., February 1993.

Graves, J., 1849-51, (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 41,43.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 60.

Phelan, W.J. and Lanigan, T., (*O.K.R.*), 1953, 31-32.

#### **4b:49 Dwelling**

**Nos.17-19** This house was built by Martin Archer and there is an armorial plaque on the front of the building, bearing his coat of arms and the date "1582". It consisted of a number of buildings divided by courtyards. The main house on the street front contains some late sixteenth-/seventeenth-century features, including cut-stone doorways and original chimneys, one with an octagonal top which is now stored in Rothe House.

Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, Vol.III, 74-75.

Graves, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 849-51, 43-44.

Kenealy, C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1952, 39-40.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 38-39, 61.

Phelan, W.J. and Lanigan, T., (*O.K.R.*), 1953, 35-36.

Phelan, W.J., 1954, (*O.K.R.*), 23-24.

Robertson, J.G., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1899, 31.

**4b:50 Inn "Hole in the Wall Inn"**

**Behind Nos.17-19** This two-storey building was a famous tavern known as the "Hole in the Wall". It is dated to the late sixteenth century and was originally the most westerly of the Archer houses (see Nos. 18-19 High Street).

A good portion of this structure is still intact. Among the visible remains are a round-headed doorway and a single-light with chamfered jambs on the ground floor and four double-light windows with segmental heads and hood-mouldings on the first floor. There are also two square-headed windows with hood-mouldings in the south gable and an elaborate octagonal chimney-top on the west wall.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 352.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 325.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 38-39, 61.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 55-56.

Ó Cochláin, C., 1986, 116.

Phelan, W.J. and T.Lanigan, (*O.K.R.*), 1953, 33-35.

Prim, J.G.A., 1862-63, (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 169-77.

**4b:51 Dwelling (possible)**

**No.20** This stone building may date from the late sixteenth /seventeenth century. In the rear wall there are the remains of a three-light window-head, the jamb-stone of another window and a projecting chimney.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), October 1992.

#### **4b:52 Memorial slab**

**No.33** The house on this site was burned down in 1894 and during rebuilding in the same year a **memorial slab**, inscribed with the name of "Jose de Kettler" and dated "1280", was found. It is now in St. Canice's Cathedral.

Egan, P.M., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1895, 72-78.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 63.

Phelan, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1968, 5-27.

#### **4b:53 Building (site)**

**Rere 33** A sixteenth-century building existed on this site. Several opes from this period were still visible in the late nineteenth century, including two pairs of doors and windows and the jamb of another window. Two tombstones were also discovered under the foundations of this building, one decorated with a floriated cross in relief and the other with an incised cross. Any remaining architectural fragments were destroyed recently when a new building was erected on the site.

Bradley, J., Pers. Comm., January 1993.

Egan, P.M., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1895, 74-76.

#### **4b:54 Church (site)/Dwelling (site)**

**Nos.34-35** This is the site of an early Anglo-Norman church and sixteenth-century dwelling of Sir Richard Shee. A number of architectural fragments from both these periods still

survived in the later buildings until they were destroyed by fire in 1946.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 63.

Phelan, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1968, 15-19.

#### **4b:55 Slaughter Yard "The Shambles"**

**Nos.53-57** "The Shambles" was the name given to an enclosed area where cattle were slaughtered. There are references to "shambles" in the seventeenth century<sup>1</sup> and this particular one is marked on Rocque's map of 1758<sup>2</sup>. It was possibly removed when High Street was widened in 1883.

<sup>1</sup>Kenealy, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 30-31.

<sup>2</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 64.

#### **4b:56 Dwelling**

**Nos.70-71** There is a seventeenth-century gable and chimney in the south gable of no.71 (G.L.Ryan, Jeweller).

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 65.

#### **4b:57 Window**

**No.76** A fifteenth-century ogee-headed window was uncovered during alterations to the building in 1973.

Anonymous, (*O.K.R.*), 1974, 6.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 65.



**4b:58 Dwelling**

**No.78** This tudor house of the Shee family, dating to 1582, extends from High Street back to St. Kieran's Street. During renovations in 1854, many original features came to light, including a fireplace with the Shee arms over it, with the initials E.S., probably for Elias Shee, and the motto "Deu Donest", God gives.

External tudor features in the south gable, which is on St. Kieran's Street, include a chimney which projects at first floor level and rests on a row of corbels, a chamfered, square-headed, single-light window at second floor level and a blocked, chamfered, square-headed, double-light window just below the chimney. There is also an early chimney located on the north wall of the this building, between High Street and St. Kieran's Street.

Anonymous (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1854-55, 83-84, 132.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 39, 65, 78-79.

Phelan, W.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1961, 58.

**4b:59 Dwelling**

**Nos.79-81** This house was built by Nicholas Langton in 1609 and remained in the Langton family for almost two hundred years.

The building occupied both sides of the Butter Slip and extended back to St. Kieran's Street. It was originally a gable-fronted building surmounted by a chimney. There are surviving tudor windows in the rear and traces of street arcading at the front on High Street, including the arched

entrance to the Butter Slip itself. There are also early features in the interior, such as cut-stone doorways, deep window embrasures and a tudor fireplace. Though now removed, an escutcheon on the front of the house bore the arms of Nicholas Langton and his wife, Lettice Daniel.

Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, Vol.III, 82-84.

Graves, Rev. J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 44.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 352.

Kenealy, C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1952, 40-41.

Langton-Hayburn, Fr.E., (*O.K.R.*), 1974, 30.

Langton-Hayburn, Fr.E., (*O.K.R.*), 1984, 75-77.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 39.

Murphy, J.C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1954, 10,12.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 45-47.

Phelan, W.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1960, 46-47.

Prim, G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1864-66, 74-78.

#### **4b:60 Dwelling (site)**

**No.82** This was the house of Edward Rothe during the seventeenth century. It had retained some sixteenth-century features in the rear but these were demolished in the early years of the nineteenth century when the house was replaced by the present brick building. A tudor fireplace/chimney-piece was removed to Rothe House in 1973.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 39, 65.

Phelan, W.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1960, 43, 45.

#### **4b:61 Tholsel (site)**

**No.83** In 1575 a new Tholsel was built in front of the existing buildings, causing the street line to project out. It's depth was only half that of the present Tholsel, which replaced the "new" Tholsel in 1761. The design of the present Tholsel may reflect that of its predecessor.

Craig, M. and the Knight of Glin, 1970, 68.

Dickson, D., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 337.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1879-82, 243-53.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 325.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 40, 66.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 47-48.

Phelan, W.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1948, 48-49.

Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

#### **4b:62 Dwelling**

**Nos.91-93** This was the home of Henry Shee in the late sixteenth/early seventeenth century. The house, which had survived intact until c.1928, was gutted when taken over by Woolworths. An escutcheon on the street facade bears the arms of Henry Shee and his wife, Frances Crisp and is said to have had a date of 1580, this portion of the stone has been broken off. It originally had two gables fronting onto High Street, only one of which is still *in situ*, though its octagonal

chimney and roof are gone. Near the apex of this gable are two small square-headed windows with hood-mouldings.

Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, Vol.III, 22,79-82.

Graves, Rev., J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 41, 43.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 352-53.

Kenealy, C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1952, 37-38.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 325.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 39, 67.

Phelan, W.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1954, 21-22.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 508.

### **Sites not precisely located:**

#### **- Dwelling**

The precise location of the Raggett house, which was owned by Alderman Ragget in the late sixteenth/early seventeenth century, is unknown. In his will, he described the location of the house on High Street as being next to the house of Nicholas Langton (nos.79-81). However, these houses appear to have been occupied by the Shee and the Rothe families at this period.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 88.

Murphy, J.C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1954, 14.

- **Prison (site)**

There is a Civil Survey reference<sup>1</sup> to "ye Towne Goale" on the east side of High Street, near the Market Cross and closed to St. Mary's Church.

<sup>1</sup>Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942.

- **Castle (site)**

Mentioned in the Civil Survey<sup>1</sup>, 1655-58.

<sup>1</sup>Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942.

- **Dwellings (site)**

When two houses in High Street (between nos. 44 and 47) were being demolished in the mid nineteenth century, the arches of the original street arcade were revealed.

Graves, Rev. J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 46.

- **Market Place/Market Cross (site)**

The medieval market place was located at the widest section of High Street. Here, just north of the Tholsel, in the centre of the market place, an elaborate market cross was erected in 1335. In the early seventeenth century several repairs were carried out on the market cross. In 1650 the Cromwellians used the sculptured crucifix on the top of the structure as a musketry target. The market cross was taken down by the Corporation in 1771 as it was considered to be in a hazardous condition.

However, according to Prim<sup>1</sup>, it had by this time become a meeting place for undesirables and this is what prompted its removal. What has become of the market cross after it was taken down is unknown.

<sup>1</sup>Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1852-53, 219-30.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.I, 37, Vol.III, 5, 12-13, 46, 59-61.

Clohoosey, Rev. T. J., (*O.K.R.*), 1955, 43-44.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 63.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 11, 48-49.

Ó Fearghail, F., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 211, 213.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 501, 510-12.

- **"Croker's Cross" (site).** This marble cross was located at the junction of four roads, Patrick Street, High Street, Rose Inn Street and the Parade. It was erected in 1407 to commemorate the victory of the burgesses of Kilkenny, under the leadership of John Croker, at the battle of Callan. When the cross was removed and what became of it is unknown.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 5.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 352.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 68.

Murphy, J.C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1954, 23.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 30.

Phelan, W.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1954, 23.

Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1852-53, 219-20.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 508, 538.

## James Street

### 4b:63 Dwelling (site)

Located at the junction of James Street and Black Mill Street, on the site of the present St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral.

At the end of the seventeenth century John Burrell built a house on this site. There are no traces surviving above ground.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 57.

### 4b:64 Chapel (site) "St.James's Chapel" or "St.Mary's Chapel"

Located in the grounds of the Catholic Bishop's Palace, south of James's Street.

This chapel was built c.1700, outside the city wall and close to James's Gate, with money provided by the Shee family.<sup>1</sup> It is indicated on Rocque's map as a cruciform building.<sup>2</sup> In a fund-raising letter, written in 1771, the chapel's walls are described as being "in so ruinous a condition as to require buttresses for their support".<sup>3</sup> As a consequence of this, a new chapel was erected adjacent to the old one between 1772-74. Presumably the old chapel was taken down at this time.

<sup>1</sup>Ó Fearghail, F., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 226-27.

<sup>2</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

<sup>3</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 124-28.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 353.

**4b:65 Green (possible)/Church (possible-site)**

Located at the west end of James's Street.

This green is indicated on Rocque's map.<sup>1</sup> Carrigan<sup>2</sup> suggested that the fourteenth-century church of St. James, known to have been outside the city wall, was located on this green. It was taken down by Bishop Richard de Ledrede (1317-60), together with two other chapels, in order to provide building material for a new episcopal palace.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the city of Kilkenny*, 1758.

<sup>2</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 192.

<sup>3</sup>O'Kelly, O., 1985, 21.

Bradley, J., (Nolan, W. and Whelan, K. eds.), 1990, 71.

### **John Street Lower**

**4c:66 Dwelling**

**Nos.78-80** The facade of no.79 bears the coat of arms of the Fitzgeralds and the Shees, a latin inscription and a date of "1638". According to Carrigan<sup>1</sup>, it was erected to commemorate the marriage of Peter Fitzgerald to a woman of the Shee family. At the rear there is an early fireplace and part of a chimney at first floor level in the east face of the return wall of no. 80. In the east boundary wall at the rear of no. 78 there are two corbels projecting at second floor level.

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 262-63.

Doyle, J., 1990, 98.

Finn, J., and Murphy, J.C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1962, 34.



Kenealy, C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1952, 38-39.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 96.

#### **4c:67 Dwelling**

**Nos.88-89** "The Bridge House", which belonged to the Ormonde Butlers, dates to the late sixteenth/seventeenth century though it was much modified and remodelled in the eighteenth century. In the rear of the building, tudor hood-mouldings protrude at second floor level. Two blocked single-light windows and early doorways are also visible. The south gable of no. 89 is substantially raised over the older roof slope. There is a possible early window-head in the east wall of no. 88, at ground level.

Doyle, J., 1990, 96-97.

Finn, J. and Murphy, J.C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1962, 35.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 39, 40, 97.

#### **4c:68 St. John's Priory**

This was founded in 1211 by William Marshall for the Canons Regular of St. Augustine (also called the Brethern of the Hospital of St. John the Evangelist), but the monks continued to reside in their earlier foundation near John's Bridge until 1325. When the Priory was suppressed in 1540, the property including "a church, belfry and cemetery, a hall, dormitory, six chambers, a kitchen, store, granary"<sup>1</sup> was granted to the Corporation of Kilkenny. Then in 1645 the Priory was given to the Jesuit Order in order that they establish a college there. This only lasted until 1650, when the Jesuits were expelled by

Cromwell. Forty years later, under James II, the Jesuits applied to the Corporation to be restored to the Priory but in the meantime the Capuchins had taken over a plot in the Priory grounds and the Corporation was reluctant to move them. However, within a few years the catholic Corporation was disbanded and both the Jesuits and the Capuchins were banished.

In c.1780 the nave of the church with its two square towers and the domestic buildings were knocked and the materials used to construct an infantry barracks. This barracks was converted into an asylum in 1818 and is now the Evans Home. The Blessed Lady Chapel, built c.1290, was re-roofed in 1817 and converted into a protestant church of St. John's. An ancillary building of this church was built in the chancel.

The Priory extended from Michael Street to the mill stream which was about 25m to the rear of the Carnegie Library on John's Quay. A small fragment of the claustral buildings, with the remains of groin vaulting and sculpted capitals, survives on the western side of the boundary wall of the Evans Home.

In the chancel there is an altar-tomb with carvings of the crucifixion and nine of the apostles. Resting on it is a double effigy of the Purcell family, dated to 1500 A.D. Other monuments and tomb-slabs found in the Priory are described in detail by the following :

Bradley, J., (*O.K.R.*), 1980, 5-6, 17, 19.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 255-259.

Doyle, J., 1990, 70.

Hunt, J., 1974, Vol.II, Pl. 6, 155, 289-91.

Phelan, M.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 61.

Rae, E.C., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1971, 25-28, Pls. 2c, 7b, 11a, 12a.

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 248-260.

Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 71.

Clohoey, Rev. T.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1946-47, 61-62.

Doyle, J., 1990, 62-66, 68-73, 99.

Finn, J. and Murphy, J.C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1962, 30.

Grose, F., 1791, Vol.I, 31-33, Pl. 51.

Harbison, P., 1970, 136.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 328.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 32, 95.

Leask, H.G., 1966, Vol. II, 106, 109-10.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 32-33.

Robertson, J.G., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 433-36.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 548.

#### **4c:69 Dwelling (site)/College (site)**

Located on the east side of the street, between nos. 72 and 73.

A late sixteenth-/early seventeenth-century house was built here by the Seix family. In 1666, this building was altered by James Butler, the 1st Duke of Ormond to house Kilkenny College, a school for boys. In his capacity as Viceroy in 1684, he granted it a charter and it is this later date which is inscribed on the entrance-gate. In 1689, the Protestant owners of the college, alarmed by James II's pro-Catholic policy, fled Kilkenny. As a result of King James II's visit to the city the following year, the college was granted a charter giving it university status and calling it the "Royal College of St. Canice". However, within months Kilkenny was occupied by the

Williamites and the college was returned to its former status under Protestant ownership.

The college building was in line with the present street front. All that survives of it today are two round-headed doorways with hood-mouldings, which are incorporated into the present gateway. In 1782, the college was rebuilt further back from the street.

The eighteenth-century building is currently being modified to house new County Council offices. Before work commenced, limited excavation was carried out in the area where the original college stood. It appeared that the Seix house had been built on earlier, thirteenth-century deposits and when it was knocked, in 1782, a layer of cobbles was laid over the remains.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bradley, J. and King, H., (*O.K.R.*), 1992, 974, 981-87.

Browne, Rev. J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 221-29.

Craig, M. and the Knight of Glin, 1970, 68.

Finn, J. and Murphy, J.C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1962, 33.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 327-28.

King, H., (*Excavations 1991*), 28.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 96, 98.

Leonard, J., (*O.K.R.*), 1990, 770-79.

Ó Fearghail, F., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 220-221.

MacAlister, R.A.S., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1910, 32-37.

Simms, J.G., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 10-26.

#### **4c:70 Bridge (site) "John's Bridge"**

This is located on the River Nore between Rose Inn Street and John Street Lower.

John's Bridge, originally the "Bridge of Kilkenny" had been built by 1211, at which time it was mentioned in the charter of St. John's Priory.<sup>1</sup> In 1564 and again in 1763 this bridge was swept away by a flood and a new bridge erected at the same location.<sup>2</sup> The present bridge was built in 1910 and renovated in 1969/70.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Egan, P.M., 1884, 409-10.

<sup>2</sup>Dickson, D., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 337.

<sup>3</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 97.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 242, 248.

Doyle, J., 1990, 62.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 31, 41-42.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 527-28.

#### **4c:71 Bridge**

Situated on the mill stream, 75m south of St. John's Priory and immediately north of the entrance to Kilkenny College.

The foundation charter of 1211 for St. John's Priory mentions the mill stream which crosses John Street and the small bridge over it. This bridge is not visible on the street today.

Finn, J. and Murphy, J.C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1962, 28-29.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 41.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 545, 548.

**Sites not precisely located:**

- **St. John's Priory (site)**

The original priory of St. John stood at or just east of John's Bridge. Some time before 1200, the Canons Regular of St. Augustine established a priory here. In 1211, however, William Marshall granted the Priory new land further up John Street Lower, where the present ruins of St. John's Priory are situated.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 248.

Clohoey, Rev. T.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1946-47, 61.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 328.

- **Hospital (site)**

This was located on the west side of John Street Lower, close to the small bridge over the mill stream.

This is mentioned in the Civil Survey (1655-58) as being a house which was formerly a hospital.

Simington, R.C., (ed.), 1942, 548.

- **Gallows (site)**

This was located on the north side of Wolfe Tone Street, in the yard of the old County Infirmary, indicated on the first edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey map (1839-40). The railway line was built on this site.

Execution sentences were carried out on "Gallows Hill" which is depicted on Rocque's map.<sup>1</sup> After the erection of the County

Infirmary in 1767, the place of execution was moved to the centre of John's Green, formerly called Gallows Green.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

<sup>2</sup>O'Kelly, O, 1985, 93.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 355.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 102.

### Kenny's Well Street

#### **4b:72 Holy Well "St. Canice's Well" or "Kenny's Well"**

Located on the north side of Kenny's Well Street, on the south bank of the River Breagagh and c.320m south-west of Black Abbey.

Between 1244-50 the Bishop of Ossory, Geoffrey de Turville granted a conduit of water from the well to the friars of Black Abbey, which was to be no thicker than his episcopal ring. His successor, Hugh de Mapleton, granted the well and the field in which it was contained, to these friars. In a work by Archdeacon Lynch, c.1670, the well is referred to as "an arched building...[where people]...having drunk of the health-giving water of the holy well, and invoked the Divine help, have been very frequently restored to perfect health".<sup>1</sup>

The well is covered by a small stone building with a steep-pitched roof, originally surmounted by a stone cross and has internal stone benches. The water from the well flows into the adjacent River Breagagh.

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.I, 38-40, Vol.III, 190-91.

Anonymous, (*Kilkenny People*), 28-6-1985.

Fenning, H., 1986, 7-8.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 35.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 23-24.

Sparks, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1960, 32-37.

**4b:73 Watermill (possible/site)/Mill Pond (possible).**

Located on the River Breagagh, between Kenny's Well Street and Water Barrack Street, c.160m north-west of Black Abbey.

A corn mill called the "Black Mill" is mentioned the Civil Survey as lying near the Dominican abbey on the River Breagagh.<sup>1</sup> On Rocque's map<sup>2</sup> and on the 6" Ordnance Survey map (1st ed.), mills on this site were called the "Black Mills", on the latter map a mill pond is also indicated just north of the mills themselves. It is likely that these buildings are on the site of the pre-1700 abbey mill.

<sup>1</sup>Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 549.

<sup>2</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.



## Maudlin Street

### 4c:74 Towerhouse/Gate (site)/Hospital "Magdalen Castle"

Located on the north side of Maudlin Street, c.60m south-west of St. John's graveyard.

This is a towerhouse of four storeys with a stair turret continuing up to the battlement level. According to one source<sup>1</sup> this was one of three towerhouses built by William Marshall in the early thirteenth century to protect an agricultural enclosure of Kilkenny Castle. This towerhouse, however, appears to be of later fifteenth-/sixteenth-century date. It is mentioned in 1541 as "a small castle roofed with tiles which was built for the defence of the lepers and the dwellers in the suburbs".<sup>2</sup> In 1598 the Corporation of Kilkenny leased the towerhouse as a leper hospital.<sup>3</sup>

Gaps in the stonework on the south face indicate where a stone-arched gate was formerly attached. This gate appears in a picture painted c.1760<sup>4</sup> and was either an outer gate into the city itself<sup>5</sup> or a gate into the precincts of the Magdalen hospital.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1,5</sup>Lanigan, K. M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 98.

<sup>2,6</sup>Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 72.

<sup>3</sup>Wray, K., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 12.

<sup>4</sup>Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.III, 243, pl.opposite.

Birchistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 8-9.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 43-44.

Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.2, 126.

**4c:75 Church (site) /Graveyard "St. John's"**

Located in St. John's graveyard, south of the Dublin Road and c.60m north-east of "Magdalen Castle".

The presence of a thirteenth-century coffin-shaped slab in the graveyard suggests that there was a medieval church at this site.<sup>1</sup> In 1541 a chapel which served the "Magdalen" or leper hospital is described as being "old and ruinous, without a roof".<sup>2</sup> During the Penal era the old leper chapel was reused for Catholic worship. At the end of the seventeenth century the chapel was renovated. It is this cruciform chapel which appears on Rocque's map as "St. Magdalens Chapple",<sup>3</sup> and which was also called St. Stephen's Church. In 1847 this chapel was taken down and the graveyard extended into this area.<sup>4</sup> There are no remains of this structure visible above ground.

Pre-1700 monuments include a coffin-shaped slab with incised crosses, mentioned above, and one seventeenth-century tombstone dated to 1699.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1,4,5</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 242, 244-47.

<sup>2</sup>Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 72.

<sup>3</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

Clohoosey, Rev., T.J., (O.K.R.), 1961, 41-47.

Doyle, J., 1990, 66, 78, 81-82, 93.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 354.

Ó Fearghail, F., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 227.

Wray, K., (O.K.R.), 1969, 12,13.

**4c:76 Watermill "Magdalen Mill" (site)**

Located on the north bank of the River Nore, opposite the Ormonde mills and 50m south of Maudlin Street.

The mill stream feeding this watermill is referred to in William Marshall's charter to St. John's Priory of 1211.<sup>1</sup> After the Reformation the mill became the property of Kilkenny Corporation.<sup>2</sup> It is described in the seventeenth-century Civil Survey as being a corn mill with "walls stone and ye [sl]ates".<sup>3</sup> The name "Magdalen Mill" suggests that this was the mill used by the Magdalen leper hospital.<sup>4</sup> The mill is indicated on Rocque's map<sup>5</sup> and on the first edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey map as "flour mills". It was removed in the 1930s, though one source mentions that "some remains of the medieval mill can still be seen".<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 41.

<sup>2</sup>Egan, P.M., 1884, 409.

<sup>3</sup>Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 549.

<sup>4</sup>Doyle, J., 1990, 68.

<sup>5</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

<sup>6</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 95, 98.

Wray, K., (O.K.R.), 1969, 14.

**4a/4c Mill Stream**

**77** This mill stream flowed from an inlet on the east bank of the River Nore, below Green's Bridge. It continued as far as the "Magdalen Mill", 50m south of Maudlin Street and re-entered the Nore at this point, almost directly opposite the "Ormonde Mills".

The mill stream was constructed in the twelfth century to power the watermill associated with the Augustinian Priory of St. John's (see above).<sup>1</sup> The mill stream is indicated on Rocque's map<sup>2</sup> and on the first edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey map. It has now been filled in.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,3</sup>Doyle, J., (*O.K.R.*), 1985, 149-50.

<sup>2</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

Finn, J. and Murphy, J.C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1962, 28-29.

### **Sites not precisely located:**

#### **- Bawn**

An area in the vicinity of Maudlin Street was enclosed in the early thirteenth century by William Marshall to protect the barns and agricultural store of the castle. It is unclear what the nature of the enclosure was but there appear to have been three towerhouses incorporated in the defences.<sup>1</sup> According to one source<sup>2</sup> the area, known as the "Barns", extended from "Magdalen Castle" to the mills south of Maudlin Street (indicated as "flour mills" on the first edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey map) and included the graveyard and gardens between the Dublin Road and Maudlin Street. In the sixteenth century the enclosure was destroyed as a result of the intrusion of the Dublin Road *via* the 'new' "Wind Gap" road.<sup>3</sup> There are no visible surviving remains of this enclosure.

<sup>1</sup>Birchistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 8-9.

<sup>2,3</sup>Wray, K., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 11-12.

Doyle, J., 1990, 65-66.

## Ormonde Road

### Tombstone (portion)

Located on a wall in Cleeres yard on Ormonde Road.

This seventeenth century tombstone, belonging to the Cleere family, originally came from St. Patrick's Graveyard on Patrick Street, where a small fragment of it still remains. However most of it is now incorporated in a wall in Cleeres yard, c.100m north-west of the graveyard.

O'Dwyer, M. *et al*, 1990, 7, opposite 45.

## The Parade

### 4c:78 Kilkenny Castle

Located on the north side of the Parade, south of the River Nore.

Strongbow probably built a motte and bailey here in 1172.<sup>1</sup> A year later the English garrison evacuated the castle on the approach of Donald O'Brien, who subsequently destroyed the town.<sup>2</sup> In the early decades of the thirteenth century William Marshall built a strong stone castle<sup>3</sup> which would have been surrounded by a fosse and outer wall.<sup>4</sup> A 1307 description refers to "a castle in which are a hall, four towers, a chapel, a mote and divers other houses".<sup>5</sup> In 1391, James Butler, the third Earl of Ormond, bought the castle and it became the principal seat of the Butlers in Kilkenny.<sup>6</sup> The castle was damaged by the Cromwellians in 1650 and in the 1660's it was renovated by the first Duke of Ormond, which involved the

removal of two sides of the courtyard and the tower at their junction.<sup>7</sup> The gateway in the west wall dates to c.1700. The present pseudo-medieval appearance of the castle is largely due to reconstructions by William Robertson in 1826-37<sup>8</sup>, including the replacement of one of the missing sides of the courtyard with a new wing containing the great picture gallery.<sup>9</sup> In 1967 the castle was presented to the citizens of Kilkenny and the gardens and parkland were given to the Nation.<sup>10</sup> Detailed references on Kilkenny Castle are Grose,<sup>11</sup> Lanigan<sup>12</sup> and Robertson.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>1,3</sup>Harbison, P.1970, 134.

<sup>2</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 10, 47-58, Pls. 16, 35, 48, 50.

<sup>4</sup>Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 68.

<sup>5</sup>Orpen, H., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1909, 316-17.

<sup>6</sup>Ó Cochlain, C., 1987, 12.

<sup>7,9</sup>Bence-Jones, M., 1987, 167-68.

<sup>8</sup>Craig, M. and the Knight of Glin, 1970, 68.

<sup>10</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 18-21.

<sup>11</sup>Grose, F., 1791, 29-31.

<sup>12</sup>Lanigan, K., (*O.K.R.*), 1977, 248-53.

<sup>13</sup>Robertson, J.G., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1852-53, 115-19.

Clohoosey, T.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1950, 50-53.

Dickson, D., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 336.

Doyle, J., 1990, 57-58.

Foley, C., (*O.K.R.*), 1975, 103.

Graves, Rev., J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 297-98.

Kenealy, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1982, 343-46.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 323-24.

Leask, H.G., 1986, 57.

Maher, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1934, 46-47, Pls. X, XI.

Murtagh, B., (*Excavations*), 1991, 29-30.

Neely, W.G., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 120-21.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 18-21.

Phelan, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1978, 326-27.

Scarry, J., 1991, 66.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 534-35, 552.

Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.II, 130.

#### **4c:79 Bowling Green (site)**

Located immediately to the north-east of Kilkenny Castle.

This appears to have been fairly elaborate affair. It is described in the *Civil Survey* of 1654-56 as being "walled on ye east: and north: with a stone wall upon which there are 3 flankers".<sup>1</sup> By the time of the first Duke of Ormond's death in 1685 the "great bowling green and garden around the Castle dominated the prospect of the city from the south-east".<sup>2</sup> The area where the bowling green was located is part of the castle grounds and has been planted with trees and shrubbery.

<sup>1</sup>Simington, R.C., (ed.), 1942, 535.

<sup>2</sup>Dickson, D., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 336.

Clohoosey, T.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1950, 52.

Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

**4b:80 Inn (site) "Smulkin Inn"/Dwelling (site)**

Located on the south-west corner of the Parade, where the Bank of Ireland is situated.

In 1615 the "Smulkin Taverne" is mentioned in a lease by Kilkenny Corporation to Pierce Archer Fitz John<sup>1</sup> and there are further references in the Corporations records to this inn and a neighbouring house.<sup>2</sup> The inn is also mentioned in a charter of Charles I dating to 1639.<sup>3</sup> In the *Civil Survey* (1654-56),<sup>4</sup> an inn on Castle Street (now the Parade), is described which may be the Smulkin Tavern. The site of these buildings is now occupied by the Bank of Ireland, which was completed in 1871.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1,3</sup>Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1862-63, 155-56.

<sup>2,5</sup>Kenealy, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1970, 53.

<sup>4</sup>Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 532.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 51.

**4c:81 Watermills (site) "Ormonde Mills"**

Located 400m north-east of Kilkenny Castle, on the southern bank of the River Nore.

The "Ormonde Mills" were the property of the Dukes of Ormonde. In the *Civil Survey* (1654-55) these mills are described as "being 3 in number under one ruffe Whereof 2 are Corne Mills & 1 Tuch Mill ye walls stone ye ruffe Thatch: 1 Corne loft".<sup>1</sup> These are indicated on Rocque's map as "Castle Mills"<sup>2</sup> and on the 25" Ordnance Survey map as the "Ormonde



Woollen Mills". The buildings on the site today are in a ruinous condition.

<sup>1</sup>Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 549.

<sup>2</sup>Rocque, J., *A survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

#### **4c:82 Watermills "Lacken Mills"**

Located on the north bank of River Nore, 650m north-east of Kilkenny Castle.

In the *Civil Survey*, the Lacken Mills are described as being "3 in number under one ruffe, whereof there are 2 Corne Mills & 1 Tuck Mill ye walls stone ye ruffe Thatch".<sup>1</sup> A stone slab was found in the lower part of a wall in the mill, which bears part of what appears to be the Archer coat of arms.<sup>2</sup> In 1856, the mill was gutted by fire and though restored in 1876, milling here ceased early in the nineteenth century.<sup>3</sup> According to Doyle,<sup>4</sup> "part of this mill was built on the walls of an ancient building which was probably built around 1500".

<sup>1</sup>Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 549.

<sup>2-4</sup>Doyle, J., 1990, 54-55.

**Parliament Street****4b:83 Dwelling**

**Nos.1-3** This is the site of a sixteenth-century dwelling which was largely demolished early in the 1960s. At the back of this house, however, there is an early chimney stack with the mark of the original roof still visible. The house had carried a plaque dating to 1580, which bore the arms of the Archer and the Shee families and which is now in private ownership. A sixteenth-century window surround from the house is now kept in Rothe House.

De Loughrey, A., (*O.K.R.*), 1976, 175-76.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 39, 79.

**4b:84 Dwelling**

**No.6** The arches of the original street arcade were revealed in the party wall when the house next to it was demolished.

Graves, Rev. J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 46.

**4b:85 Dwelling "Rothe House"**

**No.15-16** This complex of three houses with dividing courtyards was erected by John Rothe, a wealthy Kilkenny merchant. The first house, which fronts onto Parliament Street, was built in 1594. This date and the Rothe coat of arms are carved on an armorial plaque on the facade. An arched passage through the ground floor gives access to a courtyard. Many of the features common in Kilkenny's late sixteenth-/early

seventeenth-century buildings have survived in Rothe House. The facade presents an arcade, two- and three-light windows with hood-mouldings and a gable crowned by an ornamental chimney-top. The building was fully restored in 1965-66 by the Office of Public Works. This work included the reconstruction of the oriel window and the internal timber fittings. It now houses the museum and library of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society.

A second house and courtyard were built at a slightly later date beyond the first courtyard. In the ground floor of this house there is a narrow arched passage giving access between the courtyards. The second courtyard contains a brewhouse and a well with a stone slab bearing a latin inscription and a date of "1604". In the wall beside the well there is another slab bearing the Rothe and Archer coats of arms and the date "1610". While this house still retains many of its original features, it was greatly altered in the late nineteenth century when the top floor was added.

Later again, a third house with a third courtyard behind was erected. In John Rothe's will of 1619,<sup>1</sup> he refers to this as his "new house". It contained a kitchen and bakehouse on the ground floor, while the floors above were living quarters. Though the house has been derelict for many years, the external walls and some internal features, including a fire-

place, have survived.

The building is currently being restored by the Kilkenny Archaeological Society.

<sup>1</sup>De Breffny, B. and ffolliott, R., 1975, 27-28.

Anonymous, (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 83-85.

Barry, T.B., 1987, 116-17.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.I, 20-21; Vol.III, 76-79.

De Loughry, A., (*O.K.R.*), 1976, 181.

De Loughry, A., (*O.K.R.*), 1979, 60.

Graves, Rev. J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 44-46, opp. 42.

Halpin, A., (*Excavations*), 1991, 30-31.

Harbison, P., 1970, 134-35.

Harbison, P., (*O.K.R.*), 1973, 34-41.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 353.

Hurley, S., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 19-20.

Kenealy, C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1952, 39.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 325.

Lanigan, K.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1963, 31.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 24-25.

Murphy, J.C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1954, 15-16.

O'Doherty, S., (*O.K.R.*), 1988, 547.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 58-59.

Ó Cochlain, C., 1987, 13.

Robertson, J.G., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1899, 30 and plate.

Roe, H.M., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1979, 138-39, fig.39.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 504.

Sparks, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1948, 12-13.

**4b:86 Dwelling**

**Rere Nos.19-20** This three-storey late sixteenth-/early seventeenth-century dwelling is in a very bad state of preservation. The west gable, which has partly collapsed in recent years, is crowned by a massive stone chimney. The north wall of the building now forms the dividing wall behind nos. 19 and 20. It still retains a number of tudor windows, including two with hood-mouldings at ground and first floor levels.

Ó Cochláin, C., 1986, 115.

**4b:87 Dwelling**

**Rere Nos.19-20** This stone building is situated further west of the previous dwelling. It can be accessed from an unnamed lane to the north of New Buildings Lane. The presence of chamfered stone windows and an early chimney in the east wall suggest a late sixteenth-/seventeenth-century date for this dwelling. It now only survives to first floor level.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), October, 1992.

**4b:88 Dwelling**

**Rere No.21** This three-storey late sixteenth-/seventeenth-century building is in a dilapidated state, though the exterior is intact and a corrugated iron roof affords some protection to the interior, particularly the original roof timbers. Both the west and east gables are topped by stone chimneys. An impressive fireplace in the west gable has been damaged by the insertion

of a later doorway. The house was entered through a square-headed cut-stone doorway in the north wall and some of the original windows are still *in situ*.

Ó Cochláin, C., 1984, 82-84.

Ó Cochláin, C., 1986, 115.

Shaffrey, P. and M., 1983, 15.

#### **4b:89 Inscribed grave-slab/grave-slab**

**No.27** An inscribed grave-slab, decorated with a cross of floriated design, was uncovered in the yard of this house in 1992. It is of thirteenth-/fourteenth-century date. Another grave-slab was also found in this yard a few years ago and is now stored in Rothe House.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), October 1992.

#### **4b:90 Building**

**No.28** In the back/east wall of the building there are two square-headed single-light windows of late sixteenth-/early seventeenth-century date.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), October 1992.

#### **4b:91 Dwelling**

**Rere Nos.40-41** Though this four-storey, T-shaped building presents a Georgian exterior on the street front it is basically of late sixteenth-/seventeenth-century date. This is very evident at the rear of the house, where a number of tudor features

survive intact. In the south gable there is a round-headed doorway with an arched hood-moulding at ground-floor level and a number of two-light windows with hood-mouldings on the first and third floor. There is also a large stone chimney at the apex of this gable and a drip-stone projects from the third-floor of both the south gable and the west wall.

Added onto the south gable was a house of tudor date which only survives up to first floor level. In the south wall of this house there are two two-light windows with hood-mouldings overhead. There are also corbels projecting from the party wall which would have supported the first floor of this house.

This house may be associated with the "Red Lion Inn".

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), October 1992.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 351.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987,

#### **4b:92 Dwelling (possible)**

**Nos.42-43** These three-storey over basement buildings appear to be Georgian in date. However, in the basement of each there are two two-light windows which are possibly late sixteenth-/early seventeenth-century in date, thus suggesting an early date for the whole structure.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), October 1992.

**4b:93 Castle (site) and Prison (site)**

**Between Nos.44/45** A castle and prison stood on the site of the present courthouse. In the thirteenth century, William le Gros built a castle here<sup>1</sup> which became known as "Grace's Castle". In 1566, it was yielded to the Crown for use as a "Sheire Gaol".<sup>2</sup> It seems to have served this function until c.1794, when it was probably rebuilt as a courthouse. In the nineteenth century, the upper portion of the building was modified and the balcony and stone steps were added. Since then it has remained unchanged. Though nothing of the original castle or prison is now visible, it is possible that some early remains are incorporated in the later phases of development.

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 69-70.

<sup>2</sup>O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 32

Craig, M. and Knight of Glin, 1970, 68.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 325.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 83.

**4b:94 Dwelling (site)**

This was located between the courthouse and the Bank of Ireland. Currently the north entrance-way to Dunnes Stores carpark. This was formerly the site of Robert Shee's house, where at least one of the Confederate Assemblies is supposed to have taken place in 1642/5. Because of this it became known as "Parliament House" and "The Confederation Hall". The rear of the building had many tudor features, such as, "arched doorways, massive stone chimney shafts, gargoyles, mullioned windows with drip labels; and internally, massive



chimneypieces".<sup>1</sup> It also had a large hall which was converted into a drapery establishment called the Commercial House in 1839. In 1861/2 it was pulled down in to build a gate giving access to the New Market.

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 22, 61-63.

Bassett, G.H., 1884, 49.

De Loughrey, A., (*O.K.R.*), 1976, 189.

Graves, Rev. J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 46.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 325.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 39, 83.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 37.

Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1862-63, 152.

## Parnell Street

### 4d:95 Dwelling

Located at the junction of Parnell Street and Friary Street, facing New Street.

Thomas St. Ledger built a house here in the latter part of the sixteenth century.<sup>1</sup> This appears to be the house Hogan<sup>2</sup> refers to as supposedly "the oldest house in Kilkenny"; he goes on to suggest that "from the projection of the chimney through the gable walls, as well as from the general style of the masonry, the house would appear older than those of the Elizabethan period". According to O'Carroll<sup>3</sup>, remains of this building still

survive "behind the garage and on the corner of Friary Street and Parnell Street".

<sup>1,3</sup>O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 40.

<sup>2</sup>Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1858-59, 470.

Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

### Patrick Street

#### 4d:96 Dwelling

**No.5-6** This was originally one house and dates from the seventeenth century. In the basement there is a three-light cut-stone window with a hood-moulding and a second window with a hood-moulding which is just visible under the later steps. A blocked round-headed cut-stone doorway is centrally placed in the basement between both houses. There are three octagonal limestone chimneys of seventeenth-century date, one on either end of the roof and one in the centre. A slop-stone and a Tudor fireplace have been found in the basement of No.5, the latter was removed to Rothe House in 1974

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 38, 50.

Kenealy, C. J., (*O.K.R.*), 1963, 8.

Kenealy, M., Pers. Comm., December 1992.

#### 4b:97 Architectural Fragments

**Rere No.30** A number of architectural fragments are located in the boundary wall between Avonmore House (formerly the Hibernian Bank) and the property to the south. These include

the chamfered jambs and sill of a single-light window, part of the jambs and sill of a possible double-light window and an ogee-headed single-light window, with chamfered jambs and sill and a relieving arch above it.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), October 1992.

#### **4d:98 St. Patrick's Church (site) and Graveyard**

This is located at the southern end of the city, off Patrick Street Lower.

This site has been identified with a church mentioned in the life of St. Patrick and with the early monastic site of Donoghmore (St. Mary's). The latter was established before A.D. 600 and is mentioned in the life of St. Canice. The line of the monastic enclosure may be preserved in the curving of the graveyard wall. The early church was superceded by a medieval parish church. After the Reformation the church was taken over by the established church. It returned briefly to Catholic possession in 1603 and again between 1642 and 1650. In 1650 Cromwell attacked the town from this church. Nothing survives of the building today, though there are sixty-six known tombstones in the graveyard which date from the thirteenth century to the seventeenth. There is also a seventeenth-century wayside cross bearing the Purcell coat of arms, an inscription and the date "1625". The tombstones have been described in detail by the following :

Bradley, J., (*O.K.R.*), 1980, 7-9.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol. III, 209-16.

O'Dwyer, M. *et al*, (n.d.).

- Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.
- Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 70-71.
- Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol. III, 9.
- Keane, J.E., (*O.K.R.*), 1964, 76-77.
- Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 327.
- O'Dwyer, M. *et al*, (n.d.).
- O'Kelly, O., 1985, 187.
- Phelan, M.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1989, 687.
- Prim, J.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 181-84.
- Roe, H.M., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1979, 145-46, fig.44b.
- Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 552.
- Walsh, P., (*O.K.R.*), 1955, 13-15.

#### **4d:128 The "Dean's Castle" (site)**

This building was located in the grounds of St. Joseph's Industrial School, in the townland of Deansground, which is situated between the Waterford Road and Asylum Lane. The Dean of St. Canice's is mentioned as living at 'his manor of Donoghmore' in 1628.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Walsh, P., (*O.K.R.*), 1955, 14.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 89.

#### **Sites not precisely located:**

##### **- St. Patrick's Chapel (site)**

This was located on the north side of Chapel Lane. Its site is now inside the garden wall of Butler House. It was reputedly

the first church built in Kilkenny after the Battle of the Boyne (1691) and was in use until 1781/82. It was taken down to accommodate Walter Butler's plans for landscaping the gardens of Butler House, which he had just built. He erected a new church nearby, at the eastern end of Chapel Lane.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 232-34.

Lanigan, K.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1983, 454.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 34.

O'Dwyer, M. *et al*, 1991, iii.

Ó Fearghail, F., 1990, 227.

Walsh, P. (*O.K.R.*), 1955, 12.

Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

## Rose Inn Street

### 4b:99 Inn (site) "The Sheaf Inn"

**Nos.17-19** This was formerly the site of "The Sheaf" Inn. In 1702, a house and stable with a smaller house and stable adjoining it were rented from the Duke of Ormond by a Thomas Blunt. It is probable that his intention was to set up an inn as in 1715 there is a reference which describes Blunt's house as being "a publick alehouse".<sup>1</sup> The building had a high pitched roof with a gable to the front. It remained an inn up to 1816, after which time the building was knocked.

<sup>1</sup>Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1862-63, 156-59.

De Loughry, R., 1966, 14.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 352.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 50.

**Sites not precisely located:**

- **College (site)**

In 1642 the General Assembly of the Catholic Confederation founded a college on Rose Inn Street known as "Bishop Rothe's College". It was short-lived, being forced to close by the Cromwellians in 1650. The college was located in the vicinity of Nos. 20-21 Rose Inn Street.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 328.

Sparks, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1948, 11-12.

- **Dwelling (site) "Emlyn's Hall"**

This was one of the town houses of Richard Shee and may have been located on the southern end of Rose Inn Street on its western side. It is supposed to have been very similar to Richard Shee's house in Parliament Street.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, 61-62.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 352.

**Rose Inn Street/St.Mary's Lane****4b:100 "Shee Alms House"**

This Poorhouse was erected in 1582 by Richard Shee to provide a home for six men and six women. It became uninhabitable in the early nineteenth century. In the 1820s it was repaired and remodelled and served its original function until 1895. It became a store in 1912 and continued as such for sixty years. From 1978-1981 the building was restored by Kilkenny Corporation with advice from the Office of Public Works.

The almshouse is a two-storey building. Originally, the ground floor was divided into two rows of cells off a central passage which ran the length of the house. A similar arrangement existed on the second floor. There is a communal limestone fireplace on each floor.

The east gable, which fronts onto Rose Inn Street, still retains its original tudor features. These consist of a round-headed doorway, two double-light windows with hood-mouldings and another similar window higher in the gable. Also in the wall there is a plaque with a hood-moulding over it, bearing Richard Shee's coat of arms and a foundation inscription dating to 1582. A second armorial plaque, bearing the Poer O'Shee coat of arms, was placed there during the restoration.

The west gable, which fronts onto St. Mary's Lane, also preserves its original tudor features. It is entered on the ground floor through a round-headed door, above which there is a large two-light window with a hood-moulding. On either

side of this window there are stone plaques with hood-mouldings over them. One bears the coat of arms of the Shee and Sherlock families and an inscription with the date "1582". The other is a latin inscription which translates "Alms free from death, expiate sin, and open the way to mercy and eternal life". The apex of the gable is surmounted by a bellcote. A cross-base bearing the arms of the Shee family and inscriptions referring to Richard Shee and his first and second wives, Margaret Sherlock and Margaret Fagan, respectively, was to be seen in this building in the mid-nineteenth century but has since disappeared.

Anonymous, (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1893, 81, 293, 299.

Birchistie, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1964, 61.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 63-69.

De Breffny, B. and ffolliott, R., 1975, 28.

De Loughry, R., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 9-16.

Graves, Rev. J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-50, 43.

Graves, Rev. J., (*O.K.R.*), Reprint 1950, 10-11.

Kenealy, C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1952, 36-37.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 325.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 21-23.

McCullough, N. and Mulvin, V., 1987, 99.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 49-50.

Ó Cochlain, C., 1986.

Ó Fearghail, F., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 207.

Prim, J.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 179-81.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 536.

Shaffrey, P. and M., 1983, 12, 31, 34.



### Smithwick's Brewery

#### 4a:101 St. Francis' Abbey/Holy Well "St. Francis' Well" /Monuments

Located in the angle formed by the River Breagh to the north and the River Nore to the east. It is now within the precincts of Smithwick's Brewery.

This friary was founded by Richard Marshall in 1234 and given a royal grant in 1245. The only parts of the friary which survive are the chancel, which had been extended in the 1320's and the central tower, which was added c.1340, though it was not completed until the fifteenth century.<sup>1</sup> A chapel or sacristy and some remains of the domestic buildings of the friary were situated to the south of the church. The sacristy has been restored as an oratory by Smithwicks.<sup>2</sup> After the Dissolution, the friary fell into disrepair, although in the early seventeenth century mass was being celebrated there.<sup>3</sup>

In c.1700, the cloister, south of the friary were taken down to erect a barracks, referred to as "Horse Barrack".<sup>4</sup> In the eighteenth century the chancel was being used as a ball-court.<sup>5</sup> Some repair work was carried out on the tower and chancel c.1870<sup>8</sup> by the Board of Works and again in 1889, at which latter date the site became a national monument.<sup>6</sup> In 1969, excavations were carried out (O hEochaidh, Unpublished), which revealed the presence of a large transept and an aisle in the nave, on the north side of the church.<sup>2</sup>

St. Francis' Well was a large spring or pool, located c.45m north-east of the friary. The water from the well was piped and channelled into the workshops of the friary and then by a different channel, carried off all the sewage to the river.<sup>7</sup> Ledwich (1804), wrote that this enclosed well was famous for its miraculous cures.<sup>6</sup> Hogan, writing c.1860, states that it "is now frequently used for bathing".<sup>5</sup> The well is at present under one of the brewery buildings and has presumably been blocked up.

<sup>1</sup>Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 72.

<sup>2</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 26.

<sup>3</sup>Ó Fearghail, F., 1990, 198-99.

<sup>4</sup>O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 30-31.

<sup>5</sup>Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 351.

<sup>6</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W, 1905, Vol.III, 13, 104-119.

<sup>7</sup>Mooney, Rev. C., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1957, 37, 121-22.

<sup>8</sup>Anonymous, (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1872-73, 192-93.

Barry, T.B., 1987, 160.

Conlon, P., (*O.K.R.*), 1975, 80-84.

Doyle, J., (*O.K.R.*), 1985, 151.

Grose, F., 1791, 36-37, Pl.45.

Harbison, P., 1970, 135.

Hunt, J., 1974, Vol.I, 194.

Hunt, J., 1974, Vol.II, Pls.55-59.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 325.

Leask, H.G., 1966, Vol.II, 93-94, 133-34.

Mooney, Rev. C., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1955, 169-70.

Robertson, J.G., 1851.

Simington, R.C., (ed.), 1942, 518-19.

Smithwick, P., (*O.K.R.*), 1988, 521-525.

### **Monuments:**

#### **Font**

A thirteenth-century limestone font, decorated with flutes in Romanesque pairs and fleur-de-lys, was found in St. Kieran's Well and is now kept in St. Francis' Friary, in a niche at the base of the tower.

Pike, H.K.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1989, 574.

#### **Inscribed Slabs**

A number of fragments of inscribed-slabs were uncovered by M. Ó hEochaidhe (Unpublished), during his excavation of the friary in 1969. Other fragments are incorporated in the east wall of the chancel. A fragment of an effigial tomb of probable sixteenth-century date was found in 1862 in a house adjacent to the friary. Bradley provides a description of each of these fragments.

Bradley, J., (*O.K.R.*), 1980, 13-17, 21.

### **4a:102 Bridge (site) "Cotterals Bridge"/Road (site)**

According to Carrigan<sup>1</sup>, an inquisition of 1269 mentions a stretch of land which ran "from Keveroke's Well (St. Kieran's Well) to the water called Bregathe, running under Coterel bridge". Hogan,<sup>2</sup> locates this bridge at the point where Vicar Street once forded the River Breagagh (east of the bridge at

the Watergate) and joined Horse Barrack Lane. He speculates that this bridge was removed when the town wall was being built and that the road passing over it became obsolete at the same time.

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.III, 6, 11.

<sup>2</sup>O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 30.

### **St. Canice's Place**

#### **4a:103 St. Canice's Steps/Gateway**

In 1614 Robert Jose (Joyce), a clergyman attached to St. Canice's, built these limestone steps and the gateway at the top of them. A stone plaque commemorating the event is inserted over the gateway arch, with a similar inscription on both sides.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1967, 35, 90.

Prim, J.G.A., (*O.K.R.*), 1950, 23.

#### **4a:104 Architectural Fragments/Plaque**

Located on the east side of St. Canice's Steps.

The plaque was found in the wall of a stable-yard, at the back of the house which stands at the foot of the steps. It has an inscription bearing the name of Jacobus Shee with the date "1647". It is currently inserted in the wall on the east side of the steps.

The house at the foot of the steps is in a very ruinous state. A number of cut stones, which appear to be of pre-1700 date are incorporated in the west wall of this building.

Farrelly, J. and Loughran, A., Field report (unpublished), Dec. 1992.

J.G.R., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1893, 214.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 90.

#### **4a:105 Dwelling (possible/site)**

Located at the top of St. Canice's Steps, on the east side, opposite the Sexton's house.

This site appears to be the location of the Archdeacon's house, possibly of pre-1700 date. The plot is currently vacant.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 174.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 353.

#### **4a:106 Dwelling/Plaques**

Located at the top of St. Canice's Steps, on the west side.

This dwelling was the Sexton's house in the seventeenth century. The house has been much altered and is now divided into four separate houses.<sup>1</sup>

Inserted in the east gable are five plaques, two of which are set into small square-headed chamfered windows. One of these bears the arms of Edward VI, which indicated a date between 1547 and 1553 for the plaque.<sup>2</sup> There is also a round-headed doorway at ground floor level decorated with rope moulding.

<sup>1</sup>Phelan, W.J. and Gibb, J.S., (*O.K.R.*), 1956-57, 6.

<sup>2</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 90.

Craig, M. and the knight of Glin, 1970, 68.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 353.

#### **4a:107 Inn "Bull Inn"**

Located on the south side of St. Canice's Place (formerly Bull Alley).

This was a three-storey gable-fronted stone building, the apex of which was surmounted by a stone chimney. There were four windows in the north gable, each with a hood-moulding; a doorway was centrally placed at ground level. Between the two windows on the second storey there were two plaques, one of which bore the name of Robert Jose with a date of 1602. The other, with the inscription "Bull Inn - the name of the house is called", depicted a bull and a dog pursuing a deer below it.<sup>1</sup> According to O'Carroll<sup>2</sup>, the sign on the inn, rather than referring to an animal, derives from the latin word for seal or bulla, indicating that the inn was licensed under the seal of St. Canice's Cathedral, the ecclesiastics being obliged to act as host for travellers. The plaques were still present in 1926<sup>3</sup>, but their present location is unclear.

By the end of the seventeenth century the inn had fallen into a ruinous state. When Bull Alley was being widened in 1862 the inn was taken down to second-storey level, as it was considered to be in a dangerous condition.<sup>4</sup> At present only the east wall survives, partially up to first-floor level, with a cut-stone, square, chamfered window at ground-floor level.

<sup>1,4</sup>Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1862-63, 152, 177-78.

<sup>2</sup>O' Carroll, J.C., 1983, 50.

<sup>3</sup>Phelan, W.J. and Gibb, J.S., (*O.K.R.*), 1956-57, 3.

Gibb, J.S.(ed.), (*O.K.R.*), 1954, 30-32.

### **St. Kieran's Street**

#### **4b:108 Holy Well "St. Mary's" (possible site)**

**No.6** This is the possible location of a holy well. It seems to have been in the building which occupied this site up to the late nineteenth century. There were steps down to the well and it seems to have been used for domestic purposes until early in the twentieth century.

Kenealy, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 25-26.

#### **4b:109 Dwelling (site)**

**No.17** This building was demolished in 1985 to make way for the Dunnes Stores complex. It had a number of tudor features including a massive chimney with dressed quoins.

Lanigan, K. and G. Tyler, 1987, 77.

#### **4b:110 Dwelling (possible/site)**

**Rere No.17** This three-storey building was demolished in 1985 to make way for the Dunnes Stores complex. According to Lanigan and Tyler<sup>1</sup> this was "possibly a seventeenth-century dwelling...with a...stone doorcase featuring a lintel with four lozenges containing a stylized flower in relief".

<sup>1</sup>Lanigan, K. and G. Tyler, 1987, 77.

**4b:111 Inn "Kyteler's Inn"/Holy Well/Font**

**Nos.25-26** This two-storey over basement building is reputed to be where Alice Kyteler lived in 1324. In the late fifteenth century the building was the property of Kilkenny Corporation and seems to have served as an inn. There are a number of references to rents paid for the property from 1473 up to at least 1639. In 1702, it became the property of the Ormonds. It was restored in 1966 and is now a restaurant.

The vaulted cellar is possibly of fourteenth-century date, but the upper portion of the building is late sixteenth-/seventeenth-century in date. The building retains many architectural details typical of this latter period. In the north gable, for example, there are a number of single- and double-light chamfered windows, two with hood-mouldings. In the wall which continues the gable eastward there is a round-headed double-light window.

The front elevation has been much altered. Only the upper part of a round-headed doorway with hood-moulding is visible, indicating that the original street level was considerably lower. There are two domestic wells in the yard behind which were revealed during restoration work in 1966.

St. Kieran's Well is located in the yard behind Kyteler's Inn. A thirteenth-century font, which was found in this well, is now kept in St. Francis' Abbey.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 104.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 352.

Kenealy, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 22-31.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 325.



Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 78.

Ó Cochláin, C., 1987.

Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1862-63, 155.

Walsh, R.A., (*O.K.R.*), 1966, 94-96.

#### **4b:112 Dwelling**

**No.27** This building is probably of sixteenth-/seventeenth-century date. In the south gable, at first floor level, there is a tall, chamfered, square-headed, tudor window.

Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 78.

#### **4b:113 Dwelling**

**Rere of No.78 High Street** This tudor house of the Shee family extends from High Street back to St. Kieran's Street. During renovations in 1854 many original features came to light including a mantelpiece with the Shee armorial plaque over it, with the initials E.S., probably for Elias Shee, and the motto "Deu Donest", God gives.

External tudor features in the south gable visible on St.Kieran's Street include a chimney which projects at first floor level and rests on five corbels, a square-headed, chamfered, single-light at second floor level and a blocked, square-headed, double-light, chamfered window just below the chimney. There is also a tudor chimney located on the

north wall of the connecting building between High Street and St. Kieran's Street.

Anonymous (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1854-55, 83-84.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 39, 65, 78-79.

Phelan, W.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1961, 58.

#### **4b:114 Dwelling (site)**

**No.53** According to one source<sup>1</sup>, this building is reputed to occupy the site of a dwelling which belonged to John Rothe before he built Rothe House, prior to the construction of the family's Parliament Street residence in 1594. However, a second source<sup>2</sup> claims that "Rag Castle" or "Ragget's Castle" stood on this site. The hood-mouldings on the east gable are nineteenth-century Tudor Revival.

<sup>1</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and G. Tyler, 1987, 79.

<sup>2</sup>Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 352.

#### **Sites not precisely located:**

##### **- Church (site)**

St. Kieran's Well, described above, is associated with a pre-Norman church site which was handed over to the Earl Marshall before 1200. The church is mentioned in a seventeenth-century reference<sup>1</sup> and it appears that some remains were still visible up to the early nineteenth century

at which time they were removed to make room for a fish market.

<sup>1</sup>Kenealy, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 30-31.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 104.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 352.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 78.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V.,

- **Hospital (site)**

The seventeenth-century Civil Survey<sup>1</sup> describes a house on the west side of St. Kieran's Street as being a former hospital.

<sup>1</sup>Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 536.

- **Fish Shambles (site)**

In 1688 Kilkenny Corporation granted a lease for "a waste in St. Ciaran's Well" to a William Jackson on condition that he establish a "fish shambles" there.<sup>1</sup> This seems to have been located between Kyteler's Inn and no. 27 St. Kieran's Street.

<sup>1</sup>Kenealy, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 30-31.

Lanigan, K. and G. Tyler, 1987, 64.

## St. Mary's Lane

### 4b:115 St. Mary's Parish Church/Monuments

This church of Blessed Mary was built between 1202 and 1218 and served as the parish church for Hightown. It is cruciform in shape and was originally aisled. The nave, transepts and part of the chancel are all original. The present steeple, erected in 1819-29, replaces an earlier tower which dated to 1343. This tower stood at a remove from the church and south of the nave.

After the Reformation the church was taken over by the Established Church. It returned to Catholic possession for some years in 1603 and for the last time between 1642 and 1650. Since 1963 the nave has been in use as a protestant parish hall. To accommodate this change all the medieval monuments in the church were moved to the north transept. The monuments include a font which was found in St. Kieran's Well and which dates to the thirteenth century. It is decorated with gothic fluting and rests on four supports.

Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 70.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 5, 9, 90-102.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 352.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 324-25.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 23.

Leask, H.G., 1966, 149.

Ó Carroll, J.C., 1983, 22-23.

Ó Fearghail, F., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 210.

Phelan, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1972, 4-5.

Pike, H.K.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1989, 576.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 507, 526-27.

Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

### **Monuments:**

The church and graveyard of St. Mary's contain a large number of thirteenth-century to seventeenth-century grave-slabs, fourteenth-century effigial tombs and sixteenth- and early seventeenth-century coats of arms and altar/monumental-tombs, which have been described in detail in the sources listed below. The graveyard is in a much neglected state and the results of vandalism are very evident.

Bradley, J., (*O.K.R.*) 1980, 9-11, 20.

Bradley, J., (eds. Mac Niocaill, G. and Wallace, P.F.), 1988, 86-87.

Buggy, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1979, 38-44.

Buggy, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1980, 73-78.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 90-102.

Craig, M. and the Knight of Glin, 1970, 68.

Crotty, G., (*O.K.R.*), 1978, 306-13.

Crotty, G., (*O.K.R.*), 1979, 36-37.

Hunt, J., 1974, Vol. I, 196-97, Vol. II, Plates 25, 53, 94, 114, 288.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 324-25.

Lanigan, K. and Tyler, G., 1987, 23.

Phelan, M.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 61.

Phelan, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1978, 352-55.

Pike, H.K.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1989, 576.

Prim, J.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1864-66, 304-06.

**Tilbury Place (formerly James's Street Sconce)****4b:116 Brewery (site)**

Located on the east side of Tilbury Place.

In the Civil Survey of 1656 a malthouse is mentioned "standing backward in James' Street."<sup>1</sup> This was probably on the same site as the brewery which was established here in 1702 by the Archdeakin family. The Sullivan family bought the brewery in 1810 and continued to run it until it closed in 1914. Some years later it was acquired by Smithwicks, who continued to brew here until 1983.<sup>2</sup> It is possible that some of the original features of the early building survive in the present building.

<sup>1</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 73.

<sup>2</sup>Halpin, T.B., (*O.K.R.*), 1989, 583-86.

**4b:117 Font**

A medieval baptismal font is located in the grounds of the Christian Brothers school, James's Street (Tilbury Place), behind the houses on Tilbury Place. Its original location is unclear.

Farrelly, J. and Loughran, A., Field report (unpublished), Dec. 1992.

**4b:118 Figure Sculpture**

Located in the garden of the Christian Brothers' house, at the west end of Evan's Lane, where it had been dug up in the 1970s.

This is a limestone statue of a man, whose head is missing and portion of his upper left side and arm have been damaged and broken. Bradley assigns a late fifteenth-century date to the piece and postulates that the figure represents St. James of Compostella, a saint who is associated with the area.<sup>1</sup>

Bradley, J., (*O.K.R.*), 1983, 542-45.

**Sites not precisely located:**

- **St. Bridget's Chapel**

This chapel, situated outside the city walls<sup>1</sup>, was taken down by Bishop Richard de Ledrede (1317-60), together with two other chapels, in order to provide building material for a new episcopal palace.<sup>2</sup> According to Kenealy<sup>3</sup>, this chapel may have been in the vicinity of "Tilberry or Kilberry Tower", at the west end of Evan's Lane; Kilberry being supposedly a derivation of Kilbride or Bridget's church.

<sup>1</sup>Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 71.

<sup>2</sup>O'Kelly, O., 1985, 21.

<sup>3</sup>Kenealy, C.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1948, 35.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 192.

Phelan, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1968, 6.

## Vicar Street

### 4a:119 Dwelling (site)

Located on the corner of Vicar Street and Green Street and is now a vacant lot.

According to Hogan,<sup>1</sup> Alderman Connell, the Town Clerk towards the end of the seventeenth century, lived in a house on this site. No trace of it is visible above ground.

<sup>1</sup>Phelan, W.J. and Gibb, J.S., (*O.K.R.*), 1956-57, 5.

### 4a:120 Dwelling (site) "The Common Hall" or "Vicar's Choral"

Nos.15-16 Located on the east side of Vicar Street.

There is some discrepancy between the locations given for the Common Hall of the Vicar's Choral. It is possible that there was an earlier residence on Common Hall Lane<sup>1</sup>, perhaps that given by Geoffrey Saint Leger, who died in 1287<sup>2</sup> or that there were two distinct buildings, the Common Hall in Common Hall Lane and the Vicar's Choral on Vicar Street.

Lanigan<sup>3</sup> places the Vicar's Choral at nos. 15-16 Vicar Street. These buildings, with walls 1.2m thick,<sup>3</sup> incorporated a number of late sixteenth-/early seventeenth-century features, including cut-stone doorways and windows.<sup>4</sup> It is likely that the gabled building in Robertson's sketches<sup>5</sup> is in fact the Vicar's Choral. The general location and description would seem to correspond with the written descriptions. The buildings were demolished in recent years and replaced by a bar/lounge and supermarket, at some remove from the street front. The line of the northern steeply-pitched gable,



surmounted by a stone chimney, is still visible in the gable of no.14.

<sup>1</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyer, G., 1987, 91.

<sup>2</sup>Graves, Rev. J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 42.

<sup>3</sup>Phelan, W.J. and Gibb, J.S., (*O.K.R.*), 1956-57, 6.

<sup>4</sup>Lanigan, K.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1963, 32.

<sup>5</sup>Robertson, J.G., 1851.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 175-76.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 354.

Simington, R.C., (ed.), 1942, 541.

#### **4a:121 Dwelling**

**No.17** Located on the east side of Vicar Street.

It is likely that the Vicar's Choral extended down as far as no. 17.<sup>1</sup> This building appears to be of sixteenth- or seventeenth-century date, as is indicated by the round hood-moulding to the window on the ground floor. It is possible that this hood-moulding originally formed the arch of a large entranceway or slip.<sup>2</sup> According to one source there are also "Tudor rear windows".<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Phelan, W.J. and Gibb, J.S., (*O.K.R.*), 1956-57, 4.

<sup>2</sup>Bradley, J., Pers. Comm., Feb. 1993.

<sup>3</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 91.

**4a:122 Dwelling (site) "Prebendary of Tascoffin"**

No. 22 The end house on the eastern side of Vicar Street.

Hogan,<sup>1</sup> and subsequent writers, have identified this as being the site of the dwelling belonging to the Prebendary of Tascoffin. The house presently occupying the site was built in the 1860s.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 354.

<sup>2</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 91.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 175.

Phelan, W.J. and Gibb, J.S., (*O.K.R.*), 1956-57, 3.

**4a:123 Bishop's Palace**

Located between Vicar Street and Church Lane, c.50m north-east of St. Canice's Cathedral.

This episcopal palace was built by Bishop Richard de Ledrede (1317-60) and was called Nova Curia or New Court. In order to provide building material for the palace, three churches outside the city walls were demolished. After the Dissolution, the Catholic bishop was replaced by a Protestant and it was only during the Confederation period that a Catholic bishop, Bishop Rothe, returned briefly to this residence.<sup>1</sup>

The palace was altered in the seventeenth century by Bishop Griffith Williams (1641-72) and Bishop John Parry (1672-77) and between 1735-41, further additions and renovations were made by Bishop Charles Este.<sup>2</sup> However, as one source attests of the medieval palace, "a considerable portion is incorporated in the present palace, but its

distinctive features have been obliterated by successive alterations".<sup>3</sup> During renovations in 1962/63, a stone staircase was discovered in the east wall of the first floor and a slit window was uncovered in the north wall.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 173-74.

<sup>2</sup>Bligh, A., (*O.K.R.*), 1963, 46-47.

<sup>3</sup>Graves, Rev. J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 42.

<sup>4</sup>Lanigan, K.M. and Tyler, G., 1987, 31-32.

Bence-Jones, M., 1988, 167.

Craig, M. and the Knight of Glin, 1970, 68.

Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 543.

#### **4a:124 Watermill (possible/site)**

Located on the west bank of the River Nore, at the eastern end of Mill Lane (on 25" Ordnance Survey Map), at the back of the houses on the eastern side of Vicar Street.

This mill is marked as "woollen factories" on the 6" Ordnance Survey map (1839-40) and as "corn mill" on the current 25" Ordnance Survey map. Milling ceased here c.1950.<sup>1</sup> Though now in ruins itself, it is likely that this is on the site of the ecclesiastical mills attached to St. Canice's Cathedral.

<sup>1</sup>Doyle, J., (*O.K.R.*), 1985, 157-158, Plate.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 354.

Robertson, J.G., 1851, Plate.

**Sites not precisely located:****- Dwelling (Treasurer's House)**

Both Carrigan<sup>1</sup> and Hogan<sup>2</sup> place the Treasurer's House between Alderman Connell's house, which was at the corner of Vicar Street and Green Street and the Vicar's Choral, which latter appears to have been on the site of nos. 15-16 Vicar Street.

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 175.

<sup>2</sup>Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 354.

Phelan, W.J. and Gibb, J.S., (*O.K.R.*), 1960, 5.

**- Dwelling (Chancellor's House)**

According to Carrigan<sup>1</sup>, the Chancellor's House was bounded on the north by the lands of the Vicar's Choral (nos.15-17, Vicar Street) and on the south by the lands of the Predendary of Tascoffin (no.22, Vicar Street). It was taken down in 1800 and a Georgian building erected in its place.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 174-75.

<sup>2</sup>Phelan, W.J. and Gibb, J.S., 1956-57, 3-4.

**- Castle, Malt house, Inn**

These sites are mentioned in the Civil Survey<sup>1</sup> as being located south of the outer gate of the city, i.e. Troy's Gate, which was located at the north end of Vicar Street.

<sup>1</sup>Simington, R.C. (ed.), 1942, 541, 545.

**Walkin Street****4d:125 Church (site)/Graveyard "St. Rioc's Graveyard"/Figure Sculpture**

Located on the north side of the western end of Walkin Street, called "St. Rock's Graveyard" on the 25" Ordnance Survey map.

St. Rioc's is mentioned in an inquisition of 1623<sup>1</sup> and again ten years later when the Corporation of Kilkenny were paid six shillings for a garden at the corner of "St. Roch's churchyard".<sup>2</sup> In the early nineteenth century a cesspool was dug just south of the graveyard, which at that time was unenclosed. During the excavation a number of human skeletons were discovered, indicating that the graveyard originally extended further south.<sup>3</sup>

There is no trace of the church above ground. Although none of the tombstones pre-date 1757,<sup>2</sup> a number of the tombstones appear to be re-used architectural fragments. Also in the graveyard there is a figure sculpture representing the Holy Trinity, similar to one in Callan, Co. Kilkenny which has been dated to the first half of the sixteenth century.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bradley, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 71.

<sup>2</sup>Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, Vol.III, 192-93.

<sup>3</sup>Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1858-59, 471-72.

<sup>4</sup>Roe, H., (*O.K.R.*), 1972, 110.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 26.

**4d:126 Holy Well (site) "St. Rioc's Well"**

Located north of St. Rioc's graveyard, close to Gaol Road.

According to tradition this holy well was covered over in antiquity by the waters of Walkin's Lough.<sup>1</sup> In c.1812, when Walkin's Lough had evaporated for the summer, an attempt was made to locate the well.<sup>2</sup> A local man is reputed to have discovered steps down to an "irregularly shaped enclosure of stones" but these disappeared when the lough level rose again.<sup>2</sup> The precise location of this well is uncertain.

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 193.

<sup>2,3</sup>Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1858-59, 472-73.

Anonymous, *Kilkenny People*, 28-8-1987.

O'Carroll, J.C., 1983, 26.

**4d:127 Green (possible)**

Located in the junction between Walkin Street and Gaol Road, extending west to St. Rioc's graveyard.

This is indicated as a "Walkin's Green" on Rocque's map<sup>1</sup> and is possibly of pre-1700 date.

<sup>1</sup>Rocque, J., *A Survey of the City of Kilkenny*, 1758.

Hogan, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1858-59, 470-71.

## BALLYRAGGET

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- c.1200**      The land of Tullabarry, which has been identified with Ballyragget, was granted to St Thomas' Abbey, Dublin.
- 1220**      The lands were held by Richard le Ragged, from whom the town got its name.
- 1408**      The Shortals sold the castle and town of Ballyragget.
- 1600**      Black Tom, the Earl of Ormond, was captured here by his cousins the Mountgarret Butlers, who had broken out in rebellion.
- 1619**      The third Viscount Mountgarret was in possession of the manor of Ballyragget and was granted the right to hold two annual fairs here.
- c.1650s**    The town was reshaped, centering around a triangular green.
- 1700-1800** The town prospered under the direction of George Butler and his grandson Robert, who held the Ballyragget estate during this period.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.II, 86-93.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 104.

Lyng, T., (*O.K.R.*), 1946-47, 11-24.

Lyng, T., (*O.K.R.*), 1956-57, 32-41.

Cullen, L.M., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 277.

O'Kelly, O, 1985, 38.

Nolan, W., 1979, 45-50, 63-64, 69.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

### Site of Borough

5:1 Castle

5:2 Enclosure (site)

5:3 Ford (site/possible)/Bridge (site/possible)

5:4 Watermill (site/possible)

### Miscellaneous

### Site of Borough

The position of the medieval borough is uncertain. There are four potential focal points for this settlement:

- The motte of Tullabarry, situated in the townland of Moatpark, 1.6km to the north of the town which seems to have been the Anglo-Norman centre.
- The parish church at Kilcormick which has been associated with the ecclesiastical remains in Sraleagh townland (S.M.R. 5:60), 1.6km north-east of Ballyragget.
- The parish church at Donaghmore (S.M.R. 10:5), located 1.2km south of Ballyragget.
- The fifteenth-century towerhouse within the present town.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Lyng, T.P., (*O.K.R.*), 1956-57, 32-41.

Nolan, W, 1979, 45-46.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 38.



### 5:1 Towerhouse and Bawn

The present structures are of late fifteenth/sixteenth-century date and consist of a five-storey battlemented towerhouse surrounded by a fortified bawn. The external dimensions of the towerhouse are 13.2m x 9.4m. It is vaulted below the fourth storey where there is a chimney-piece with the initials "E.M." and the date "1591". The building is entered on its east side through a pointed doorway. Corbels in the east wall indicate the former presence of an adjoining structure.

The bawn wall has turreted corners and is surrounded by a fosse. The wall is 1m thick at the base and sections of the parapet, which contains gunloops, survive to a height of 3m. There are two entrance gates in the east and west sides of the bawn, both flanked by gun loops. The west gate has a fine machicolation above it.

In popular tradition the building is ascribed to Máiréad Ní Ghearáid, wife of Piers Rua, Earl of Ormond, who died in 1542. On the death of Piers Rua, the castle fell to his younger son, Richard Butler and it was occupied by his descendants until 1788. In 1798 the towerhouse served as a British military post. In more recent times, in 1963, it was modified for use as a sawmill and timber store. It is roofed and in good condition, despite the alterations.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.II, 92-93, 117.

Craig, M. and the Knight of Glin, 1970, 15.

Gibb, J.S., (*O.K.R.*), 1948, 28.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 104.

Lyng, T., (*O.K.R.*), 1946-47, 11-13.

Lyng, T., (*O.K.R.*), 1956-57, 40.

Nolan, W., 1979, 46, 63-63.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, Vol.I, 67-68.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 38.

Down Survey Parish Map, 1655-58.

### **5:2 Enclosure (site)**

According to Carrigan<sup>1</sup>, there was a large circular earthen enclosure adjoining the eastern wall of the bawn and which was known as "a rath". He postulates that if Ballyragget castle is built on the site of the old Tullabarry castle, then Tullabarry chapel may have been located close to it and possibly within this enclosure. It was levelled about 1850.

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.II, 89.

### **5:3 Ford (site possible)/Bridge (site possible)**

Located at the western end of Bridge Street.

Ballyragget translates in Irish as Béal Atha Ragat, the pass of Ragged's ford. It is possible that there was a ford giving access to Ballyragget in the broad, shallow part of the River Nore where the present Ballyragget Bridge now stands. A bridge, depicted on the Down Survey Parish Map, appears to be also at this site.

Lyng, T., (O.K.R.), 1946-47, 11.

Lyng, T., (O.K.R.), 1956-57, 32.

Down Survey Parish Map (1655-58).

#### **5:4 Watermill (site/possible)**

A listing of Edward Butler's possessions in 1692 mentions the watermills of Ballyragget. On the Down Survey composite map, a watermill is depicted as being west of town, on the west bank of the River Nore. A "flourmill/cornmill" marked on the Ordnance Survey 6" maps, is located in roughly the same area and may be on the site of the earlier mill.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.II, 86.

Down Survey Composite and Parish Maps (1655-58 and following).

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Church**

There is no church of medieval origin in the town of Ballyragget itself. The parish church of Ballyragget was located at Kilcormick, which has been associated with the ecclesiastical remains in Sraleagh townland (S.M.R. 5:60), 1.6km north-east of Ballyragget. After the Reformation, the church of Kilcormick was united with that of Donaghmore (S.M.R. 10:5). The latter is situated 1.2km south of the town and served the Mountgarret Butlers.

Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.II, 86-91.

Lyng, T., (O.K.R.), 1956-57, 34,39.

**Sites not precisely located:**

**Watermill**

The watermills of Ballyragget are mentioned in 1692 as being part of the possessions of Edward Butler. On the Down Survey composite map, a watermill is drawn on the north side of town.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol:II, 86.

Down Survey Composite and Parish Maps (1655-58 and following).

**Castle**

According to Lyng a thirteenth-/fourteenth-century castle was present in Ballyragget before the existing late fifteenth-/sixteenth-century towerhouse was built and was possibly located in the vicinity of the latter.

Lyng, T., (*O.K.R.*), 1946-47, 14.

**Market Place/Fair Green (possible)**

Ballyragget was granted a weekly market and an annual fair early in the seventeenth century. As the position of the medieval borough is uncertain it is not possible to equate the medieval Fair Green with the one which is marked on the Ordnance Survey map on the north side of the town, c.400m to the north of the towerhouse.

Nolan, W., 1979,69.

## CALLAN

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1217            The town was granted a charter by William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke.
- 1286            Callan was burnt.
- 1344            The Parliament was summoned to meet at Callan but was disbanded before it sat.
- 1391            The Manor was purchased by the Butlers.
- 1408            A battle was fought here between the Butlers and the O'Carrolls.
- 1585            The town was empowered to send representatives to Parliament.
- 1660            Callan was beseiged and captured by Cromwellian forces.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 290-95.

Kennedy, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 289-95, 672-73.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 133-34.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 176.

Walsh, F.R., (O.K.R.), 1952, 16-22.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

### Streets and Street Pattern

7:1-7:5 Fortified Town Houses

7:6 Market Cross (site)

7:7 Town Defences

7:8 Towerhouse "Skerry's Castle"

7:9 Motte and Bailey/Castle (site)/Mound (possible)

7:10 Parish Church "St.Mary's"

7:11 Augustinian Friary

7:12 Holy Well "St. Augustine's"

7:13 Mound (site) "Cromwell's Moat"

7:14 Watermill (possible/site)

7:15 Watermill (possible/site)

### Miscellaneous

### Streets and Street Pattern

The surviving street pattern, based on the crossroads on the south side of the King's River and the linear extension formed by Castle Street on the north, would seem to be original to the medieval town.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

### Fortified Town Houses

According to Carrigan,<sup>1</sup> there were a number of fortified town houses within the town. These are depicted in a panoramic view of Callan which was sketched in 1812/13<sup>2</sup>:

7:1 stood about midway between the Town Hall and the Bank on

the east side of Green Street.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W, 1905, Vol.III, 292-3.

<sup>2</sup>Robertson, W. and J.G. and Miller, G., Book 7, 164-65, (unpublished).

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

**7:2** stood beside the bridge on the west side of Upper Bridge Street, on the present site of the Adelphi Hotel.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W, 1905, Vol.III, 292-3.

<sup>2</sup>Robertson, W. and J.G. and Miller, G., Book 7, 164-65, (unpublished).

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

**7:3** stood on the corner of West Street and Upper Bridge Street.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W, 1905, Vol.III, 292-3.

<sup>2</sup>Robertson, W. and J.G. and Miller, G., Book 7, 164-65, (unpublished).

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

**7:4** stood near the crossroads, on the south side of West Street and east of Green Street, where in 1905 one of its cut-stone Gothic doors was still preserved.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W, 1905, Vol.III, 292-3.

<sup>2</sup>Robertson, W. and J.G. and Miller, G., Book 7, 164-65, (unpublished).

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

**7:5** stood at the northern end of Green Street on the eastern side.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W, 1905, Vol.III, 292-3.

<sup>2</sup>Robertson, W. and J.G. and Miller, G., Book 7, 164-65, (unpublished).

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Robertson, J.G., 1851, Plate.

**7:6 Market Cross (site)**

This formerly stood at the intersection of Green Street, West Street and Mill Street, in the former market place.

The Market Cross is indicated on a 1681 map<sup>1</sup> and stood here in 1779 when it was described as having "a square glass lanthorn that gives light in the night to travellers that come from the four cardinal points of the compass"<sup>2</sup> The date of its removal and its present location are unknown.

<sup>1</sup>Stuish, T., Estate Map, 1681, copied by Frizell, R., 1765.

<sup>2</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 296,317

Kennedy,J. (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 294.

O'Kelly, O. 1985, 176.

Thomas, A. 1992, Vol.II, 30.

Down Survey Map, 1655-58.

### **7:7,7a-7c    Town Defences**

Although there are references to murage grants in the fourteenth century, the exact extent and nature of the town defences are difficult to establish. A map of 1681<sup>1</sup> shows a defensive circuit south of the Kings River, covering an area of 8-12 hectares, which is reflected in the present street alignments of Chapel Lane and Fair Green Lane. This circuit had three gates (see map 7 and sites 7a,7b,7c). One of these gates (7c), seems to have been incorporated in the towerhouse known as "Coorthfeerish", or "Pierce's Court", formerly situated at the east end of Mill Street. Some fragments of this were still visible in 1905<sup>2</sup> but none survive today.

There may also have been an inner wall surrounding the core of the town, with a towerhouse, "Skerry's Castle" (see 7:8 below), forming an inner gate, while the suburbs were defended by a fosse.



The 1681 map also shows that the portion of the town to the north of the river was defended by a fosse. It is a small area of under 2 hectares, being restricted by an escarpment to the north, friary lands to the east, the river to the south and castle lands to the west.<sup>3</sup>

No visible remains of the fosse or wall survive today.

<sup>1</sup>Stuish, T., Estate Map, 1681, copied by Frizell, R., 1765.

<sup>2</sup>Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.III, 292-6, 317.

<sup>3</sup>Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.II, 30-2.

Kennedy, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1984, 47-51.

Kennedy, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 290-1.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 134.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, 40-3.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 176.

Walsh, F.R., (*O.K.R.*), 1952, 19-20.

Down Survey Map, 1655-58.

### **7:8 Towerhouse "Skerry's Castle"**

Located on the north side of West Street.

According to Carrigan this was a roofless, but substantial ruin. Only the eastern wall and the foundations of the others survive today. The wall is up to c.8m high and there are the remains of a possible stair turret at first floor level in the north-east corner and a chimney in the centre of the wall, which may not be original. The internal diameter was c.8.6m x c.12.6m. "Skerry's Castle" was reputedly the last stronghold before Callan fell to the Cromwellians in 1650. During digging works near the site in c. 1850 the remains of some 150 burials were uncovered.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, 293-5

Kennedy, J., (*O.K.R.*), 1984, 47-51.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 134.

Robertson, W. and J.G. and Miller, G., Book 7, 164-65, (unpublished).

Walsh, F.R., (*O.K.R.*), 1952, 19-21.

### **7:9 Motte and Bailey /Castle (site)/Mound (possible)**

Located c.150m north of the Kings River and west of Lower Bridge Street.

In the initial phase of settlement William Marshall adapted a hillock to build a strong motte and bailey, surmounted by a wooden fortress<sup>1</sup>. In an extent of 1307 this is described as "a castle in which there was a hall constructed of wood, with wooden shingles, a stone chamber, a kitchen and other wooden chambers"<sup>2</sup>. In 1650 it was garrisoned by 1500 men when the town was besieged by Cromwell. The remains consist of a roughly rectangular mound measuring 41m x 21m and some 12m high, with traces of the bailey visible to the east.

To the west of the motte and separated from it by a fosse, there is an irregular mound 20m in diameter and 4m high. The function and date of this mound are not clear.

<sup>1</sup>Walsh, F.R., (*O.K.R.*), 1952, 16-7.

<sup>2</sup>Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 317.

Harbison, P., 1970, 127-8.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, 45.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 176.

### **7:10 Parish Church."St. Mary's"/Font/Monuments**

Located on the north-eastern side of Green Street.

This is one of the finest and largest late-medieval parish churches in Ireland. The remains consist of a chancel and aisled nave with a tower at its western end. This tower appears to be the oldest surviving part of the building, being roughly of thirteenth century date. The chancel and aisles are of late fifteenth-century date, but were added at slightly different times. There is a chapel on the south side of the chancel with a late sixteenth- or seventeenth-century window and traces of another chapel on the north side.

In 1837 the chancel was modified to serve as the Church of Ireland parish church. This is no longer in use and is now part of the National Monument.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes and Plan (unpublished), 1990.

Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.III, 296-308.

Craig, M. and Knight of Glin, 1970, 22.

Harbison, P., 1970, 127-8.

Kennedy, J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 292.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 134.

Leask, H.G., Office of Public Works Topographical Files (unpublished), 21-5-1948.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, Vol.II, 39-40, 43-4.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 176.

Rae, E.C., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1971, 14, Pl. 13.

Robertson, J.G., 1851.

Walsh, F.R., (*O.K.R.*), 1952, 19.

Walsh, F.R., (*O.K.R.*), 1963, 14-18

### Font

A fluted baptismal font of typical Ossory style, standing on four supports is in the chancel.

Pike, H.K.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1989, 576-7.

### Monuments

Twenty-two pre-1700 monuments are listed and described by Carrigan.<sup>1</sup> In addition, there is an effigy of a layman, probably of early fourteenth-century date,<sup>2</sup> a fragment of a sixteenth-century tomb-panel<sup>3</sup> and an early sixteenth-century carving of a woman's head.<sup>4</sup>

In the present Catholic church of St. Mary's, on the west side of Green Street, there is a carved panel showing the Holy Trinity which originally came from the medieval parish church of St. Mary's,<sup>5</sup> and another carved fragment showing a figure and a beast.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, 296-308.

<sup>2-4</sup>Hunt, J., 1974, Vol.I, 165, Vol.II, Plates 51, 174, 321.

<sup>5</sup>Roe, H.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1979, 129-131, Fig.29b.

<sup>6</sup>Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), Oct. 1990.

### 7:11 Augustinian Friary/Monuments

Situated c.120m north of the Kings River and east of Lower Bridge Street, in what is now a pitch and putt course.

Though founded in 1461, the actual construction of the friary took place between 1467-70. At the time of the Dissolution, in 1540, documents described it as consisting of "a church and belfry, a dormitory, hall, three chambers, a store, a kitchen with three gardens ...a bakehouse...and a watermill in ruins."<sup>1</sup>

The church consists of a nave and chancel separated by a tower. In the north wall of the nave there is an arch which originally opened into a north transept of which no trace now survives. The claustral

buildings were located on the south side of the church, as the projecting corbels and weathering of the junction of the former cloister roof indicate. The southern gable of this eastern cloister, which no longer stands, is depicted in a sketch drawn in 1812/13.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>O'Donovan, J., 1839, Vol.II, 36-8,40.

<sup>2</sup>Robertson, W. and J.G. and Miller, G., Book 7, 164-65, (unpublished).

Anonymous, (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1890-91, 500.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, Vol.III, 310-16.

Harbison, P., 1970, 127-8.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 134.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 176.

Down Survey Composite Map, 1655-58.

### Monuments

There is a fragment of an inscribed cross-slab with the date 1499 and bearing the name of O'Knavy and an uninscribed cross-slab of sixteenth-century date.

Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, Vol.III, 313.

**7:12 Holy Well "St. Augustine's"**

Located in the pitch and putt course c.80m south of the Augustinian Friary.

This is a clear spring well surrounded by a stone wall 3m x 4.63m, with an entrance-way on the south side. The water emerges over a limestone dripstone which may have come from the friary. The well water flows to the Kings River, c.40m to the south.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), 1990.

**7:13 Mound (site) "Cromwell's Moat"**

Formerly located on the Fair Green to the south of the town.

This mound, whose dating and function are uncertain, was c.3m high and was apparently used by Cromwellian forces as a battery for cannon. It seems to have been levelled by the Corporation in 1850 when the Fair Green was enclosed.

Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.III, 295,317.

Kennedy, J, (O.K.R.), 1984, 49.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 176.

Orpen, G.H., (J.R.S.A.I.), 1909, 319-320.

Walsh, F.R., (O.K.R.),1952, 17.

**7:14 Watermill (possible/site)**

Located 75m north-west of Callan Bridge.

A watermill is depicted on the Down Survey map,<sup>1</sup> roughly north of the King's River and west of Callan bridge. It may be on the site of the bacon factory shown on the 25" Ordnance Survey map, which was a flour mill in the nineteenth century (6" Ordnance Survey map, 1st ed.).

This may have been the mill which belonged to the Augustinian Friary, located 75m to the south-east, at the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1540.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Down Survey Map, 1655-58.

<sup>2</sup>Carrigan, Rev.W, 1905, 304-5.

### **7:15 Watermill (possible/site)**

Located on the south bank of the King's River and north-west of the western end of Mill Street.

A watermill depicted on the Down Survey map,<sup>1</sup> may be on the site of the saw mill shown on the 25" Ordnance Survey map, which was a flour mill in the nineteenth century (6" Ordnance Survey map, 1st ed.).

<sup>1</sup>Down Survey Map, 1655-58.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **"Glooncailne"**

Located under Callan Bridge, in the King's River.

In 844 Niall Caille is reputed to have drowned in the River Callainn or the King's River while attempting to save his servant's life.<sup>1</sup> According to a local historian this king's kneeprints are embedded in a rock under Callan Bridge, at the spot where he is supposed to have drowned, hence the name "Glooncailne".

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 290-95.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 176.

**The following sites are not precisely located:**

**Chapel (site)/Dwelling**

This seems to have been situated in the vicinity of the present St. Mary's Catholic church, on the south-western side of Green Street.

A late seventeenth-century document refers to "one stone-house by the Green, two storey high, out of repair, with a garden, and made use of as a Mass-house".<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.III, 309.

Ó Fearghail, F., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 227.

**Dwellings / Buildings**

There is a record<sup>1</sup> of a grant made to Edward Comerford in 1639 which refers to a number of stone, slated houses and thatched houses in Callan and there are also dwellings depicted on the Down Survey map<sup>2</sup> which was drawn approximately sixteen years later.

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 304-05.

<sup>2</sup>Down Survey composite map (1655-58).

**Fords (possible site)(x 2)**

There were two fords in Callan which were in use before the "Little Bridge" and "Big Bridge" were built in c.1791.<sup>1</sup> One was at the site of the "Little Bridge", which is on the Kilkenny road, while the other was at the point where Clothiers Lane terminated at the rivers edge.<sup>2</sup> Neither ford has been located yet.

<sup>1,2</sup>Walsh, F.R., (O.K.R.), 1952, 18-20.



**Tholsel (possible)**

One source<sup>1</sup> mentions the presence of a tholsel in Callan but there is no information about its date or location.

<sup>1</sup>Kennedy, J., (Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 292.

## CASTLECOMER

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- pre-1200** William the Marshall erected a motte and castle.
- 1200** The motte and castle were destroyed by the O'Brennans but were rebuilt soon afterwards.
- 1328** Castlecomer was burnt by William de Bermingham.
- 1635** Castlecomer was awarded to Sir Christopher Wandesford. He built a new town based on an Italian town of Alsinore and began the exploitation of the coal mines. A royal grant was given for the holding of weekly markets and annual fairs.
- 1641** The town was captured by Confederate Catholics.
- 1798** The town was attacked and partly burnt by the insurgents.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.II, 158-59.

Craig, M., and the Knight of Glin, 1970, 25.

Graves, Rev. J. (ed.), (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1860-61, 301.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan M.V.,1967, 152.

Nolan, W., 1979, 49, 69.

Smyth, W.J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 152.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

9:1 Motte and Castle (site) "The Garrison"

9:2 Dwelling (site)

9:3 Holy Well

9:4 Hollow (site) "Cromwell's Pit"

9:5 Church (possible/site)

### 9:1 Motte and Castle (site)

This motte is located 200m east of Castlecomer Bridge and 150m north-east of Castlecomer House. It is marked "The Garrison" on the Ordnance Survey maps but the origin of this name is unclear.

It was erected by William the Marshal in the late twelfth century and was rebuilt after an attack by the O'Brennans in 1200. In 1641-42 the Confederate Catholics besieged and captured the castle situated on the summit of the motte. Of this castle there are now no visible remains.

The motte is a large steep-sided, flat-topped mound, 55m long, 27m wide and 7.6m high. On top of the motte, on the north-east side there is a denuded stone structure, marked as "Castle in ruins" on the 25" Ordnance Survey map. It is an irregularly shaped polygon, the longer sides of which are c.6m in length and its battered north-east and east walls are built into the slope of the mound. It appears to be a relatively modern structure, perhaps a late defensive bastion or an ornamental feature associated with the nearby Castlecomer House which dates from the end of the seventeenth century. Directly below this structure and built into the base of the mound is a brick ice-house. Also on top of the mound are the foundations of stone walls which perhaps are associated with the bastion feature.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.II, 157-160.

Killanin, Lord and M.V. Duignan, 1967, 152.

Nolan, W., 1979, 66.

O'Donovan, J, 1839, Vol.I, 44.

Orpen, G.H., 1909, 318-19.

### **9:2 Dwelling (site)**

Castlecomer House was located c.120m south-east of Castlecomer Bridge.

It was built in 1692/4 by the Wandesfords as their principal residence in Castlecomer. The house was rebuilt c.1800, with many later additions and modifications. It has now been almost completely demolished, with only a portion of the ground floor service-building surviving in a very ruinous state. In 1979 a two-storey house was built on part of the site.

Bence-Jones, M., 1988, 64.

Nolan, W., 1979, 82, 112, Pl.IV.

### **9:3 Holy Well**

This is located 450m east of Castlecomer Bridge, opposite the Protestant church at the base of a steep slope. It is marked as "Holy Well" on the 25" Ordnance Survey map.

The "Well of the Holy Cross" was known locally as "Wood Well" or "Cruckny Well". Up to early in the twentieth century, old people still visited it. It is a simple rectangular stone-lined well which is now much overgrown and completely neglected.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.II, 160.

**9:4 Hollow (site) "Cromwell's Pit"**

Located 500m south-east of Castlecomer Bridge, in a wooded area on elevated ground.

According to O'Donovan, this is an apparently artificial hollow from which Cromwell is supposed to have besieged the motte, which is situated 450m to the north-west . The area in which this site was located has been subject to land disturbance and no trace of this hollow was visible, nor was there any local knowledge of its whereabouts.

Buckley, V., Pers. Comms, 1993.

O'Donovan, 1839, Vol.I, 44.

**9:5 Church (possible/site)/Church (possible/site)**

Both or either of these churches may have been on the site of St. Mary's Protestant church, which is situated c.45m east of Castlecomer Bridge.

a. There are some references to the medieval church of Castlecomer. In 1374 the church was confirmed to the Prior and Canons of St. Johns' Abbey, Kilkenny and in 1399 Henry IV ratified the parson of the "Church of the Holy Cross" of Castlecomer. It is unclear what became of the church after the Reformation.

b. In 1635/7 a new church was built by Christopher Wandesford as part of his new planned town. It appears to have been destroyed in 1641 by the Confederate Catholics as a number of planters had taken refuge there when the town was being attacked. It is possible that the present Protestant church was built on the site of this earlier one. The earliest tombstone in the present church dates to 1704.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.II, 158-60.

## **Miscellaneous**

**The following sites are not precisely located:**

### **Watermill (possible/site)**

There is a watermill marked on the Down Survey in the settlement of Castlecomer. There are no traces of it today and the derelict mills c.50m south of High Street seem to be of nineteenth-century date.

Nolan, W., 1979, 66.

Down Survey (1655-58).

### **Inn, Forges, Dwellings**

Carrigan refers to Thomas Comber's text (1778) which mentions a number of a buildings erected by Christopher Wandesford in 1635-37.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.II, 158-59.

## **DUNGARVAN**

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 13th C.**       Dungarvan, though a relatively small manor, gained borough status.
- c.1330**       Dungarvan was in the possession of Hugh fitz Randulf, who granted to his son William and his heirs land on "the burgagers of Dungarvan".<sup>1</sup>
- 1529**       Piers Butler was granted the manor of Dungarvan.

<sup>1</sup>Curtis, E., (ed.), 1937, Vol.I, 261-62.

Empey, C.A., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 80, 85..

Neely, W.G., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 109.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY**

- 10:1   Motte
- 10:2   Church (site) and Graveyard
- 10:3   Castle (site)
- 10:4   Graveyard (possible)

#### **Miscellaneous**

##### **10:1   Motte**

Located at the western end of the village on the south side of the road. This is a steep-sided mound c.6m high, with a flat top 22m x 30m in diameter. In 1954, a Marian grotto was cut into the motte on the northern side and some quarrying has taken place around the base on

the west side. There is a curving bank c.27m to the west of the motte which may be associated with it.

Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.III, 417.

### **10:2 Church (site) and Graveyard**

Located on the eastern side of the village, 50m south of the modern Catholic church.

This was the site of the ancient parish church of Dungarvan, dedicated to St. David. In 1811, a Protestant church was built in its place, removing in the process the ruins that had stood there. This nineteenth-century church is now itself in ruins.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 417-18.

### **Monuments**

The following are located in the graveyard:

- Several coffin-shaped, uninscribed slabs, all with incised crosses.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 417-18.

- An altar-tomb of Donald fitz Piers Archdekin, alias McOdo or Cody, dated 1581. This stood within the ancient church and is now in the graveyard south of the Protestant church. The carvings include a miniature effigy of an armoured knight and his lady.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 417-18.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 302.



- The head slab of a woman, dating to the thirteenth-century. This carving, in high relief, depicts a woman's head above a floreate cross.

Hunt, J., 1974, Vol.I, 166, Vol.II, Pl.92.

### **10:3 Castle (site)**

On the 25" Ordnance Survey map this site is located 25m east of the modern Catholic church.

Today there is no visible trace of the castle referred to in the Down Survey as "a small castle in repair"<sup>1</sup> It apparently belonged to the Shortalls of Rathardmore, the ancient lords of the manor of Dungarvan.

<sup>1</sup>Down Survey (1655-58).

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 419.

### **10:4 Graveyard (possible)**

Denoted "graveyard" on the 6" Ordnance Survey (1st ed.) map. Subsequent editions have failed to mark this graveyard, whose origins may precede 1700 A.D. According to Carrigan, this churchyard could be the remains of the 'church or abbey' mentioned in the Down Survey.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 419.

Down Survey (1655-58).

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Sites not precisely located:**

##### **Dwelling**

There are no visible remains surviving of a large house which was situated close to the church and castle (sites 10:2-10:3) in the mid-seventeenth century.

Down Survey (1655-58).

**FRESHFORD****HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 622** St. Lachtain, Abbot of Achadh-ur (i.e. "fresh field", wrongly translated as "Freshford") died.
- 836** The church of St. Lachtain at Freshford was burned by "foreigners".
- 1169** The King of Ossory, Dermot McMurrough, was defeated by the Anglo-Normans in the vicinity of Freshford.
- 13th C.** Freshford was granted to the Bishop of Ossory.
- 1245** Henry VIII granted Geoffry de Turville, Bishop of Ossory, a yearly fair of eight days and a weekly market in his "manor of Athethur" (Freshford).
- 1250s** The Episcopal Palace of Uppercourt was built.
- c.1500** The Bishop of Ossory, Oliver Cantwell, built a castle beside the Episcopal Palace.
- 1675** Freshford was incorporated into an expanded market and fair network as part of a general drive towards the commercialisation of the agricultural economy in the south-east of Ireland.<sup>1</sup>
- 1730** The church at Freshford was rebuilt for Protestant worship.

<sup>1</sup>Smyth, W.J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 154.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.I, 37; Vol.II, 247-50, 253-55.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

11:1 Church and Graveyard

11:2 Wayside Cross Base

11:3 Watermill (possible)

11:4 Fonts (x 2)

### 11:1 Church and Graveyard/Monuments

Located in the angle of Kilkenny Street and Newbridge Street, at the north side of the town square.

An early monastic foundation was founded at Freshford by St. Lachtnain, who died in 622. In 836, this church was burned by "foreigners". The present Protestant church at Freshford incorporates a number of building phases. There is an elaborately-decorated twelfth-century Romanesque porch in the west gable and the nave itself is substantially Romanesque or pre-Romanesque, though it has been altered and new windows were added in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The chancel, with a blocked up pointed doorway and a pointed, single-light window in the south wall, appears to be of fifteenth-century date. A sacristy was added in the nineteenth century and the windows of the church itself appear to date from this period<sup>1</sup>. The church is still in use today.

The carvings on the Romanesque porch are severely weathered. This deterioration is worsening due to the constant pollution from the heavy volume of traffic which passes immediately in front of it, on the main Kilkenny-Urlingford road.

<sup>1</sup>Murtagh B., Plan of church (unpublished), 1982.

Anonymous, (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1890-91, 116-17.

Anderson, P., 1850, 62-64.

Brash, R.R., 1875, 101-02.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.I, 37.

Craig, M. and the Knight of Glin, 1970, 55.

Harbison, P., 1970, 129.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 282-83.

Lanigan, K.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 5-10.

Leask, H.G., 1977, 154-61, Pl.XVIIIa.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, Vol.I, 184-87.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 13.

Down Survey parish map (1655-58).

#### **Monuments:**

- There are two seventeenth-century grave-slabs in the graveyard. One, of which only a fragment remains, is built into the graveyard wall beside the entrance gate.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.II, 255.

- An alabaster carving, of which only a portion survives, from the Protestant church at Freshford, is of possible pre-1700 date. It depicts a human head surrounded by several figures in attitudes of adoration. The sculpture was donated to the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland in 1868-69.

Anonymous, (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1868-69, 345.

**11:2 Wayside Cross Base**

Located on the north side of the square.

This wayside cross base was moved from its original location, at the back entrance gate of Uppercourt Demesne, to the square in Freshford, about 1800. It was erected in c.1622 to commemorate Lucas Shee of Uppercourt and his wife, Ellen Butler. It consists of a three-stepped, square plinth of limestone blocks, on which rests the base of the cross itself. This stone bore the armorial shields of the Shee and Butler families, the emblems of the Passion, and an inscription, none of which are discernible today.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.II, 255-56.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, Vol.I, 187.

Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 170-71.

**11:3 Watermill (possible)**

A watermill indicated on the Down Survey, is possibly on the site of the Cascade flour mill, marked on the 25" Ordnance Survey map (surveyed 1900).

Down Survey parish map (1655-58).

**11:4 Fonts**

Located outside the Catholic church, south-east of the square.

Both of these medieval limestone fonts may have come from the monastery of St. Lachtain. One is typical of the Ossory type, being square with round-headed fluting decorating two sides and gothic arcades on the alternate sides. The other is octagonal, with a man's head

sculpted on one side of the bowl. Other heads may have been broken off the font.

Pike, H.K.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1989, 575-81.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Sites not precisely located:**

##### **Dwelling**

A dwelling is indicated on the Down Survey, north of the ancient church and the river and east of the new bridge.

Down Survey parish map (1655-58).

##### **Dwellings**

A cluster of dwellings is indicated on the Down Survey map as being close to the ancient church.

Down Survey parish map (1655-58).

##### **Castle**

In c.1500 the Bishop of Ossory, Oliver Cantwell, built a castle beside the Episcopal Palace. On the Down Survey a castle is indicated between the dairy (at the east end of Bunacresha Street, on the north side) and the square.

Down Survey parish map (1655-58).

**GOWRAN****HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

**Pre-Norman** Bealach Ghabhrain was important in pre-Norman times as one of the main routeways between Ossory /Munster and Leinster.

**1206** Gowran was granted a charter of incorporation by Theobald FitzWalter, ancestor of the Butler family. The manor of Gowran remained in the possession of the Ormond family until about 1700.

**1316** The town was besieged and captured by Edward Bruce.

**1414** The local Irish destroyed the town.

**1609** James I granted the town the right to send representatives to the Irish Parliament.

**1650** It was captured by Cromwellian forces after a short siege.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 399-412.

Drennan, C., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 52-63.

Graves, Rev. J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1856-57, 91-93.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 301.

McEnvoy, F., (*O.K.R.*), 1985, 174-76.

Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1868, 231-32.

Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1871, 535-52.

Sparks, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1950, 43-46.

Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.II, 113-115.



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

### Streets and Street Pattern

- 12:1 Market Place/Market Cross (site)
- 12:2 Fair Green/Market Cross Base
- 12:3 Town Defences
- 12:4 Castle (site)
- 12:5 St.Mary's Parish Church
- 12:6 College (site)
- 12:7 Hospital (site)/Chapel (site) and Graveyard
- 12:8 Dwelling (possible)/Armorial Plaque
- 12:9 Bridge (possible) "Castle Ellis"
- 12:10 Holy Well (possible/site)
- 12:11 Lodge (site)

### Miscellaneous

### Streets and Street Pattern

Gowran is an example of an Anglo-Norman linear town. It is laid out along a single main street, running more or less east-west and described on a map of 1710 as "the street".<sup>1</sup>

Haggard Street is mentioned in 1597 and again on the 1710 map where it is indicated as running along the south side of the town wall towards Gowran Castle. Other lanes shown on the 1710 map have since disappeared from view.

<sup>1</sup>White, J., Estate map: "A Survey of the Towne and Lands of Gowrane...1710/11".

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.III, 401.

Thomas, A., 1992. Vol.II, 115.

**12:1 Market Place/Market Cross (site)**

The original market place of the medieval town seems to have been at the east end of Main Street, opposite the entrance to the present Gowran Castle. The map of 1710 shows a market cross at this point.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Drennan, C., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 58.

Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1868, 232.

Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.II, 115.

White, J., Estate Map: "A Survey of the Towne and Lands of Gowrane...1710/11".

**12:2 Fair Green/Market Cross Base**

The Fair Green further west along Main Street seems to have been located immediately outside the inner town gate and was only incorporated at a later stage. It has now been tarmacadamed and functions as a carpark. The base of a market cross is situated here.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Drennan, C., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 58.

Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1868, 232.

Thomas, A., 1992, II, 115.

White, J., Estate Map: "A Survey of the Towne and Lands of Gowrane...1710/11".

**12:3 Town Defences**

The earliest known murage grant for the town dates from 1415. The outline of the defences is clear from the map of 1710-11 which indicates the presence of a trench or rampart enclosing the north and east sides of the town and a wall running from St.Mary's Parish Church to the castle (site). There were stone gatehouses at the west (3a) and

east (3c) ends of the main street. An inner gate (3b) crossed the street immediately to the west of the Fair Green suggesting that the medieval town may have only stretched from here to the east gate and that the western end of the street, together with the Fair Green, was incorporated in later times. The line of the town ramparts on the north and north-east is still preserved in existing property boundaries. This rampart was probably a bank and fosse construction and while the bank has since eroded, there are still traces of a fosse along the northern line.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, Vol.III, 400.

Drennan, C., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 54-5.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 73.

Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.II, 114-15.

White, J., Estate Map: "A Survey of the Towne and Lands of Gowrane...1710-11".

#### **12:4 Castle (site)/Motte (possible site)**

This was located in Gowran Demesne, 80m north-east of the present "castle".

A strong castle was built here in 1385 by James, the third Earl of Ormond, possibly on the site of an earlier motte<sup>1</sup> erected by Theobald Fitzwalter c.1206. The castle was the strongpoint of the town's defences and it was here that Cromwell met his principal resistance at Gowran.<sup>2</sup> In 1713 the castle was gutted by fire and subsequently rebuilt. It was demolished in 1816 when the present classical structure<sup>3</sup> was built 80m south-west of the original castle, for the second Viscount Clifden.<sup>4</sup> An overgrown mound, with evidence of masonry and rising to c.1.5m above the surrounding ground level, marks the site of the medieval castle.

<sup>1</sup>Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.II, 115.

<sup>2</sup>Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

<sup>3</sup>Moran, M., Pers. Comm., July, 1992.

<sup>4</sup>Bence-Jones, M., 1988, 144.

Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.III, 400-2.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 301.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, Vol.II, 199.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 73.

Prim, J.G.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1871, 536, 538.

Sparks, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1950, 45-6.

Down Survey composite map, 1655-58.

Cuthbert, P., "Map of the Demesne of Gowran...1709".

White, J., Estate map: "A Survey of the Towne and Lands of Gowrane...1710-11".

### **12:5 St. Mary's Parish Church/Monuments**

Situated on a prominent rise on the south side of Main Street.

This collegiate church was built c.1275. The surviving remains of the building consist of the aisled nave and the tower. Of the former only the north arcade survives. The upper part of the tower dates from the fifteenth-century but the lower two storeys date substantially from around 1200. This lower storey is incorporated within the now disused Church of Ireland church. In 1826, in order to build this latter church, the chancel and a side chapel were demolished. To the west of the south

aisle is a mortuary chapel erected by the Keally family in the seventeenth century.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.III, 400-408.

Cochrane, Field Report (unpublished), O.P.W. Topographical Files, 1907.

Craig, M. and Knight of Glin, 1970, 59.

Drennan, C., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 59-63.

Grosse, F., 1791, 40, Plate 46-47.

Harbison, P., 1970, 130.

Hogg, Rev. W., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1910, 340-45.

Leask, H.G., 1966, Vol.II, 116-17, Pls.XXIb, XXIIIa and XXVIIIc.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 73.

Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.II, 115.

Ordnance Survey Name Books.

## **Monuments:**

### **Ogham Stone**

This is located at the east end of the chancel. It is cross-inscribed and has the following inscription : DALO MAQA MUCOI MAQI ERACAI MAQI LI, which translates as "Dalach, grandson of Mac-Eirche, who was son of Lia".<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.III, 403.

Barry, Rev. E., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1895, 348-53.

Brash, R., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1872-73, 437-40.

**Tomb-slabs/Uninscribed cross-slabs**

There are a number of pre-1700 grave-slabs and altar tombs which are described in detail in the following sources.

Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.III, 400-408.

Drennan, C., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 59-63.

Hogg, Rev. W., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1910, 342-45.

Hunt, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1950, 25, Plates.

Hunt, J., 1974, Vol.I, 167-71, Vol.II, Plates.

Phelan, M.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 61, 72.

Rae, E.C., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1970, 9-22, Plates.

**Effigies**

There are a large number of effigial monuments in St. Mary's Parish Church. Most are housed in the disused Church of Ireland church, though some are to be found in the nave, south aisle and north transept. They are all described by Hunt.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hunt, J., 1974, Vol.I, 167-71, Vol.II, Plates.

Drennan, C., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 59-63.

Hunt, J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1950, 25, Plates.

**12:6 College (site)**

This stood 30m east of St. Mary's churchyard.

In 1312, a college was established here by the Earl of Carrick for four priests or vicars.<sup>1</sup> It has been suggested that its rear wall may be incorporated in the present graveyard wall.<sup>2</sup> The foundations were still

visible c.1905 but, apart from the possible rear wall, no trace of them remains above ground today.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

<sup>2</sup>Drennan, C., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 58-59.

<sup>3</sup>Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, Vol.III, 408-10.

White, J., Estate Map: "A Survey of the Towne and Lands of Gowrane...1710/11".

### **12:7 Hospital (site)/ Chapel (site) and Graveyard**

These were situated about 300m east of the parish church, just outside the town wall, in the angle formed by the junction of the roads to Bagenalstown and Goresbridge.

The Gowran Magdalen or Leper Hospital is mentioned in a document dating to 1578.<sup>1</sup> In 1840, the only remaining structure, the chapel, was demolished.<sup>2</sup> In recent times, trees planted on this spot were uprooted during a thunderstorm, bringing up a number of skeletons with them.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Carrigan, Rev, W., 1905, Vol.III, 410.

<sup>3</sup>Moran, M., Pers.Comm., July 1992.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Sparks, M., (*O.K.R.*), 1950, 44.

### **12:8 Dwelling (possible)/Armorial Plaque**

Situated on Main Street opposite the main entrance to "Gowran Castle".

This two-storey, multi-period house has an armorial plaque in its west gable. The plaque, which may be in its original position, bears the initials J.K. and E.N. inscribed on a shield a date of 1650.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), July 1992.

**12:9 Bridge (possible) "Castle Ellis Bridge"**

This bridge is located immediately south-west of the town.

Here, on the 1710/11 map, is a bridge called the "Long Bridge".<sup>1</sup> The present three-arched limestone structure may be this "Long Bridge". Its current name, "Castle Ellis Bridge", is probably a result of its close proximity to a now destroyed towerhouse.

<sup>1</sup>White, J., Estate Map: "A Survey of the Towne and Lands of Gowrane...1710/11".

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Drennan, C., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 53.

Moran, M., Pers. Comm., July 1992.

**12:10 Holy Well (possible/site)**

Located c.50m north of Castle Ellis Bridge.

This well is indicated on the 25" Ordnance Survey map as an ordinary well and is not named. However, it is known locally as "St.Patrick's Well". It is not visible today.

Farrelly J., and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), July 1992.

Moran, M., Pers. Comm., 1992.

**12:11 Lodge (site)**

Located at the present main entrance to Gowran Castle.

This lodge is indicated on Cuthbert's map of 1709 and it is likely that the building was of pre-1700 date.

Cuthbert, P. "A Map of the Demesne of Gowran .... for Lord Viscount Clifden...1709".



## Miscellaneous

### Sites not precisely located:

A number of buildings are indicated on J.White's estate map: "A Survey of the Towne and Lands of Gowrane...1710/11"., however the map is not drawn to scale so the exact position of sites cannot be established. As well as dwellings, sites depicted on this map which are not locatable include:

### Dwellings

According to documentary evidence,<sup>1</sup> oak trees from the woods of the Knight's Templars were used to repair houses at Gowran in 1311-12. These houses, however, may not necessarily have belonged to the Knights Templar. A "Templar's House" is shown on the south side of the Fair Green on a map of 1710.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

<sup>2</sup>Drennan, C., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 56.

White, J., Estate Map: "A Survey of the Towne and Lands of Gowrane...1710/11".

### Castle (site) "Castle Ellis"

This is marked on a 1710 map<sup>1</sup> as standing roughly 100m north-east of Castle Ellis bridge.

The castle was demolished by the Clifden family and the masonry used in other structures.<sup>2</sup> There is no trace of it above ground level.

<sup>1</sup>White, J., Estate Map: "A Survey of the Towne and Lands of Gowrane...1710/11".

<sup>2</sup>Drennan, C., (*O.K.R.*), 1965, 53.

**Brewery (site) and well**

This was roughly located south of St. Mary's parish church.

Moran, M., Pers Comm., July 1992.

White, J., Estate Map: "A Survey of the Towne and Lands of Gowrane...1710/11".

**Malt House (site)**

This is indicated on a 1710/11 map as being on the south side of Main Street, at the market cross.

White, J., Estate Map: "A Survey of the Towne and Lands of Gowrane...1710/11".

**Forge (site)**

White, J., Estate Map: "A Survey of the Towne and Lands of Gowrane...1710/11".

**GRAIGUENAMANAGH****HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 1204** The Cistercian abbey of Duiske was established at Graiguenamanagh, by William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke. The monks came from the abbey of Stanley in Wiltshire and in the same year a cemetery at Duiske was dedicated for the monks.
- 1207** Date of the foundation charter in which the monastery was granted over 20,000 acres in the valley of Graiguenamanagh which it managed with a system of granges. A borough was founded, presumably to act as the market place for the produce of these lands.
- 1280** By this year the town had its own provost.
- 1305** The justiciar held court in Graiguenamanagh.
- 14th C.** References to the settlement fade out and it is assumed that it was a victim of the economic decay which characterised the fourteenth century.
- 1536** At the Dissolution of the monasteries, the abbey was given to the Butlers of Ormond.
- 1703** The Dublin Parliament promoted the development of the Barrow as a trade route which consequently advanced the growth of Graiguenamanagh. In the same year the abbey was purchased by James Agar.
- 1809** The abbey church and portions of its ruins were granted to the Catholics in the town, in perpetuity.
- 1812 and** The abbey was partially restored to serve
- 1886** as a Catholic parish church.

**1973-1983** Further restoration of the abbey took place.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Carville, G., 1979, 95.

Craig, M. and Knight of Glin, 1970, 59.

Empey, C.A., 1990, 85.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 302.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, 7-11.

Down Survey composite maps (1655-58).

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

### Site of Borough

13:1 "Duiske Abbey" (Cistercian)

13:2 Holy Well "Lady's Well"

13:3 Bridge (possible)

13:4 Watermill (possible)

### Miscellaneous

### Site of Borough

The thirteenth-century town, *Nova Villa Iuxta Baruwe* or "New Town beside the Barrow", is usually identified with the modern village of Graiguenamanagh but this ascription is by no means certain. A large part of the modern town is built in and on top of the Cistercian abbey, thus it would appear that the modern street system developed after the Dissolution. Furthermore, it would be unusual if the present town coincided with the medieval borough, as Cistercian houses were normally located away from built-up areas. It is possible that the "New

Town" in question may have been located on the eastern bank of the river Barrow, in what is now Tinnehinch, Co. Carlow.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

### **13:1a "Duiske Abbey" (Cistercian)/Monuments**

The Cistercian Abbey of the Valley of the Holy Redeemer was founded in 1204 by William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, with monks from the abbey of Stanley in Wiltshire. The foundation charter dates to 1207. In 1536 the abbey was suppressed and the possessions given to the Butlers of Ormond, who remained the owners until 1703, when it was bought by James Agar. The abbey was partially restored 1812 and again in 1886. Extensive restoration took place in the years 1973-1983.

The remains consist of the abbey church and portions of the claustral buildings. The church was a cruciform building with an aisled nave, transepts with side chapels, a crossing tower and a vaulted chancel, all of thirteenth-century date. The crossing tower, the south aisle, part of the north aisle and the most southerly side chapel of the south transept do not survive. The modern floor level of the church is c.1.5m above that of the medieval one. The modern baptistry, built onto the south aisle, is at the original floor level and has preserved the thirteenth-century, elaborately sculptured, processional doorway.

During a small excavation<sup>1</sup> outside the north wall of the modern baptistry, in an area which was formerly inside the south aisle, seven skeletons of medieval date were uncovered. It appears that the medieval floor was cut through in order to insert these burials.

The claustral buildings are now incorporated into yards and buildings to the south of the abbey church. Many of these are at present

in the possession of the Office of Public Works and the cloister may be restored at some stage in the future.

According to Carrigan,<sup>2</sup> the precincts of the abbey, covering an area of half an acre, were surrounded by an enclosure with a fosse 3m wide and 2.4m deep. In the mid-nineteenth century this enclosure was levelled and the fosse filled in.

The history, archaeology and ground plans of the abbey church and buildings have been described in a large number of publications. The sources which contain the most detailed information are Bradley and Manning,<sup>3</sup> O'Leary<sup>4</sup>, Stalley<sup>5</sup> and Swayne<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Hayden, A., (*Excavations*), 1990.

<sup>2</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.I, 31, Vol.II, 258.

<sup>3</sup>Bradley, J. and Manning, C., (*P.R.I.A.*), 1981, 397-426.

<sup>4</sup>O'Leary, P., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1892, 237-47.

<sup>5</sup>Stalley, R., 1987, 73, 99-103, 245, appendix 4, fig. 69, 71.

<sup>6</sup>Swayne, S., 1988.

Anonymous, (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1892, 210-22.

Barry, T.B., 1987, 163.

Bassett, 1884, 216-19.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Grose, F., 1791, 39, Pls.48 and 49.

Harbison, P, 1970, 130.

Hughes, Rev. J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1868-69, 62-75.

Hughes, E., (*O.K.R.*), 1964, 42-49.

Hughes, E., (*O.K.R.*), 1974, 4-6.

Hughes, E., (*O.K.R.*), 1977, 254-60.

Hughes, E., (*O.K.R.*), 1981, 239-44.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 302.

Leask, H.G., 1966, Vol.II, 13, 86-89, Pl.XIV.

McCullough, N. and Mulvin, V., 1987, 30.

Moran, M., Typescript (unpublished), (n.d.), 126-27.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, 7-11.

O'Leary, P.W. and J., 1984, 20-23.

Scarry, J., 1991, 55, 76.

### **Monuments:**

#### **High Crosses**

Two tenth-century high crosses, situated in the graveyard south of the south transept, were removed here from Ballyogan and Akyletawn, both in Co. Kilkenny.

Crawford, H.S., 1980, 14, Pls.XVII-XVIII.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 302.

#### **Effigy**

A knight's effigy of thirteenth-/fourteenth-century date is located on the north wall of the north aisle.

Hunt 1974, Vol.I, 171-72, Vol.II, Pl.9.

#### **Memorial Stone/Cross-slabs and one uninscribed slab**

A seventeenth-century inscribed memorial stone is inserted in the external face of a side chapel off the southern transept. It was erected by Edward Butler, who died in 1653.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.I, 31, Vol.II, 258.

O'Leary, P., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1892, 240-41.

**Inscribed cross-base**

Below the former, there is an inscribed cross-base which was erected by Anna Mountgarrett Butler in the seventeenth century.

O'Leary, P., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1892, 240-41.

**13:1b Burials (site)**

A number of burials were uncovered at the junction of Chapel Street and Barrow Lane in road widening and repair schemes in the mid-nineteenth century and onwards. According to a local man<sup>1</sup> the burials had been aligned north-south instead of the usual east-west orientation associated with Christian burials. However, their close proximity to Duiske Abbey graveyard may suggest that the original graveyard extended in an easterly direction beyond the present boundary.

<sup>1</sup>Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), October 1992.

**13:2 Holy Well "Lady's Well"**

This is located north of High Street, c.25m north-east of the "Corn Mills" marked on the 25" Ordnance Survey map. It is on the slope of a hill, on the west side of a mill stream.

The well is much silted up, though there is still a slow flow of water from it to the adjacent mill stream. The spring is just visible under a stone lintel and it is delineated by a semi-circular wall of stone and concrete.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), Sept. 1992.



### **13:3 Bridge (possible)**

This is located north of High Street, c.25m north-east of the "Corn Mills" marked on the 25" Ordnance Survey map. It crosses Douske River, just north of the point where the mill race joins it from the south.

This is a clapper bridge, i.e. a low bridge of simple construction, consisting of long stone lintels resting on stone supports. This particular example is two lintels wide and has five spans. It is of possible pre-1700 date.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B, Field Report (unpublished), Sept. 1992.

### **13:4 Watermill (possible)**

Located on the north side of High Street.

According to O'Leary the site of the abbey mill is now occupied by Duiske Mills, formerly called "Manor Mills". Parts of the earlier mill may be incorporated in the present structure.

O'Leary, P.W. and J., 1984, 22.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Sites not precisely located:**

#### **Castle**

A castle is depicted on the Down Survey as being in the northern part of the town.

Down Survey (1655-58).

**Castle**

A castle is depicted on the Down Survey as being in the southern part of the town.

Down Survey (1655-58).

## INISTIOGE

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 964** The Osraige defeated Olaf Cuaran, King of Dublin here. Although this may have been simply an accidental meeting of armies, there is the possibility that Inistioge was functioning as a Scandinavian settlement at this time. Its position as the lowest fording point on the River Nore gave it a strategic value.
- post-1169** Thomas FitzAnthony was granted Inistioge.
- c.1206** An Augustinian Priory was established by Thomas FitzAnthony and the Priors then developed the town. The text of a charter to the town granted before 1228 still survives.<sup>1</sup>
- 1540** After the Dissolution of the Monasteries the importance of Inistioge gradually declined.
- 1585** The borough of Inistioge sent two members to the Irish Parliament.
- 1608** The town was incorporated by James I and granted an annual fair and weekly market.
- 1649** The town was besieged and captured by the Cromwellians.

<sup>1</sup>Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Anderson, P., 1850, 118-135.

Birchistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 31-47.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 103-04.

Coyle, T., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 17-30.

Empey, C.A., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 85.

Hughes, T.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1948, 42-47.

Martin, G., (eds. Harkness, D. and O'Dowd, M.), 1981, 42.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, Vol.II, 269-83.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

### Streets and Street Pattern.

15:1 Motte

15:2 Market Place/Wayside Cross

15:3 Augustinian Priory of SS Mary and Columba

15:4 Fortified House

15:5 Fortified House

15:6 Town Defences

15:7 Holy Well "St. Columbkille's"

15:8 Dwelling (possible)

### Miscellaneous

### Streets and Street Pattern

The modern street pattern of Inistioge seems to date entirely from the eighteenth century, when the settlement was re-planned as an estate village.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

**15:1 Motte**

Located on the east side of the town, c.90m west of the fortified town house on the market square (15:4).

Presumably built by Thomas FitzAnthony (c.1169), this motte survives up to a height of 10m and is c.12m wide at the top. It is surrounded by houses and house properties and in the nineteenth century the base of the motte was cultivated for flower beds.<sup>1</sup> A small wall around the top of the motte appears to be modern.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Birchistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 40-41.

<sup>2</sup>Orpen, G.H., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1909, 328-30.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Hughes, J.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1948, 46-47.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 311-12.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 80.

**15:2 Market Place/Wayside Cross**

In 1608, James I granted the town a weekly market on Fridays and an annual fair on December 13th.<sup>1</sup> The original position of the market place is unclear due to the replanning of the town in the eighteenth century. In the centre of the eighteenth-century square there is the base of a seventeenth-century wayside cross, which was moved here from a position near the riverside.<sup>2</sup> It is mounted on a stone base and surmounted by a nineteenth-century conical shaft. Dating to 1621, the cross base bears an inscription, the arms of the FitzGerald of Browsford impaled with those of Morris and a shield with the symbols

of the Passion.<sup>3</sup> The present location of the cross is unknown.

<sup>1,2</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 103-04.

<sup>3</sup>Killanin Lord, and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 311-12.

Birthistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 31-47.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Coyle, T., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 17-30.

Hughes, T.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1948, 42-47.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, 269-83.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 80.

Prim, J.A., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1849-51, 174-75.

### **15:3 Augustinian Priory of SS Mary and Columba**

Founded by Thomas FitzAnthony c.1206, the priory was endowed with over 3,500 acres of land in its vicinity, including the site of the town of Inistioge itself. In 1566, the priory and its lands were granted to Sir Edmond Butler.

The priory church originally consisted of a nave, crossing tower, chancel, side chapel called "Lady Chapel" and a north transept. There was a cloister attached to the south wall of the nave and conventual buildings were located to the west of it.

The church has suffered much modification, including the removal of the north transept and most of the nave. The chancel was demolished in 1824 in order to build the present Church of Ireland church. The ground floor of the crossing tower is now used as the vestibule to this church, while the floors above are occupied by a clock and its workings. According to Langrishe<sup>1</sup> the chancel extended a further 3m east of the present church. The Lady Chapel, which stands in ruins at the north side of the chancel was formerly used as a Protestant church.

The "Black Castle" is square in plan at its base, but assumes an octagonal form at a height of 10m-12m. Its original entrance is in its south wall, where it was later joined to the north transept. Of the four storeys, the uppermost contains a fireplace, indicating that it was used as a dwelling. It was converted into the Tighe family mausoleum in 1874 when the present entrance door was inserted in the east wall.

Along the outer face of the south wall of the nave are the corbels which carried the cloister roof. Fragments of the cloister sculpture are now incorporated in the north and east walls of the Catholic church, which was built in the area formerly occupied by the cloister. These fragments have been dated to c.1510-1528.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Langrishe, R., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1896, 370-378.

<sup>2</sup>Manning, C., (*O.K.R.*), 1976, 190-200.

Birchistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 31-40.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.I, 31, Vol.II, 88, Vol.IV, 31-2, 88, 105-113.

Coyle, T., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 24.

Hughes, J.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1948, 42-45.

Hunt, J., 1974, Vol.I, 172, Vol.II, Pl.85, 331.

Killanin and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 311-312.

Leask, H.G., 1960, Vol.III, 52, 182.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, Vol.II, 270-284.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 80.

Roe, H.M., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1979, 136, 366.

Smyth, W.J., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 130.

**Monuments:**

A number of seventeenth-century tomb-slabs and a fourteenth-century effigy are listed by Carrigan and Hunt.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 112-113.

Hunt, 1974, Vol.I, 172, Vol.II, Pl. 331.

**Font**

This baptismal font, of cushion capital type<sup>1</sup>, presently in the Church of Ireland church in Inistioge, came from the now disused Church of Ireland church at Kells. It is thought to have a twelfth-/thirteenth-century date and was originally decorated on three sides,<sup>2</sup> the fourth side having been decorated in the nineteenth century while it was in St. Canice's Cathedral.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Pike, H.K.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1989, 597-8.

<sup>3</sup>Birchistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 36-37.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 311-12.

**15:4 Fortified Town House**

Located on the west side of Market Square.

This is a much modified, three-storey fortified house, 8.35m x 8.6m in external diameter. Only the walls have survived, but the apses in the north and south walls have been blocked up and those in the east face have been altered. There is a possible fireplace in the west wall. The date of this building is unclear.

Birchistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 42.



Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), Oct. 1992.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, Vol.II, 269-83.

### **15:5 Fortified Town House**

Situated 75m east of the square and 30m west of the River Nore

This building is known as the "Courthouse" as it once served as a Court or Petty Sessions House.<sup>1</sup> This is a two-storey, battlemented, fortified house. The ground floor appears to be original, though the windows have been blocked. The first floor has been extensively rebuilt, including the wide windows with granite surrounds. The dating and original function of this structure are unclear.

<sup>1</sup>O'Donovan, J., 1839, Vol.II, 269-83.

Birchistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 42.

Murtagh, B., Plan and section (unpublished), 1980s.

### **15:6 Town Defences**

The foundation date of the town wall, which enclosed an area of c.4-7 hectares, is unknown.<sup>1</sup> The town wall is mentioned in James I's charter of 1608<sup>2</sup> and again in 1649,<sup>3</sup> when the town was besieged by the Cromwellians. The Cromwellians captured the town by setting fire to the gates, one of which was known as "le Burges-gate", possibly located on the Thomastown Road and another as "le courte-gate", possibly located on the road south of Inistioge.

The exact location and nature of the town defences on the northern part of the town are unknown. It is probable that the River Nore was deemed an adequate line of defence on the east side. According to one source "the walls appear to have run up to the mote",<sup>4</sup> though there is no physical evidence today to support this. Surviving

remains of the town wall seem to be incorporated in the long plot boundary and a house gable on the south side of the town and in the gables and garden walls of houses running north-south behind the fortified town house on the market square (15:4).

<sup>1</sup>Thomas, A., 1992, Vol. II, 116-117.

<sup>2,3</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 104.

<sup>4</sup>Orpen, G.H., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1909, 328-30.

Birthistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 31-47.

Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Hughes, T.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1948, 42-47.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 311-312.

Mannion, J. and Maddock, F., (eds. Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 373-376.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, 271-273.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 80.

### **15:7 Holy Well "Columbkille's Well"**

Situated on a small hill to the north-east of the town, 175m west of the Augustinian Priory.

This covered holy well, has an elaborate entranceway in which is incorporated a number of sixteenth-century carved stone panels<sup>1</sup>, a font and architectural fragments, which are probably from the Augustinian Priory. An iron gate hanging in the entrance is damaging the carvings. There is a tradition that if there is no trout in the well it will run dry.<sup>2</sup> Also, there was supposed to have been a wooden statue of "great age" beside the well, which was smashed and thrown into the river in 1788.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Manning, C., Pers. Comm., February 1993.

<sup>2</sup>Birthistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 31-47.

<sup>3</sup>Hughes, J.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1948, 42-47.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 80.

### **15:8 Dwelling (possible)**

This corner house is situated 30m north-west of the fortified town house on the market square.

There appear to old walls incorporated in this building and to the rere there is a portion of the structure resting on corbels

Manning, C., Pers. Comm., February 1993.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Sites not precisely located:**

#### **Domestic Houses**

Several houses are mentioned in an inquisition of 1607<sup>1</sup>, including both slated houses of butchers, bakers and hardware shops and thatched houses of farmers and artisans, but none have been identified on the ground.

<sup>1</sup>Smyth, W.J., (eds., Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 132.

#### **Mills**

Two watermills are mentioned in 1607, one of which was known as the "upper mill".<sup>1</sup> The burgesses of Inistioge were obliged to use these mills and also had to provide labourers to keep them in repair. These are presumably the same mills as are mentioned in the Dissolution documents of the 1540's.<sup>2</sup> A structure, the remains of which lie 20m

north-east of the fortified town house (the "Courthouse"), straddles a canalised stream and may have been associated with milling.

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 109.

<sup>2</sup>Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Smyth, W.J., (eds., Nolan, W. and Whelan, K.), 1990, 130,132.

### **Ford**

It is likely that a ford once crossed the river somewhere in the vicinity of Inistioge Bridge, as this is the lowest fording point along the River Nore.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bradley, J. *et al*, Kilkenny Urban Survey Notes (unpublished), 1990.

Birchistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 31-47.

Hughes, J.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1948, 46-7.

### **Weirs**

There are sixteenth- and seventeenth-century references to the fishing weirs of Inistioge Corporation.<sup>1</sup> There is a salmon weir, constructed of stone and concrete, 75m south of Inistioge Bridge which was rebuilt in 1935.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Coyle, T., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 23.

<sup>2</sup>Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B. Field Report (unpublished), Oct. 1992.

**KELLS****HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 1193** Kells town and Priory were founded by Geoffry fitz Robert de Monte Marisco. The privileges granted to the burgesses of Kells by his foundation charter were further augmented by subsequent charters granted by his sons and successors to Kells, William and John de Monte Mauriso.
- 1252** The town was burned by William de Bermingham.
- 1316** Edward Bruce took possession of the town.
- 1327** The town, which was now the property of the le Poers, was burned by the de Berminghams and the Geraldines.
- 1346** Eustace le Poer was hanged for treason and the King granted Kells to Walter de Bermingham.
- 1540** Kells Priory was dissolved.
- 1653** Under the Cromwellians, Kells, which had been in the possession of the Mountgarret Butlers for over a hundred years, was confiscated.

Anderson, P. 1850, 48-57.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 51-55.

Empey, C.A., (*O.K.R.*), 1984, 32-40.

Empey, C.A., (Nolan, W. and Whelan, K. eds.), 1990, 85.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 314.

Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.II, 243-44.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

- 16:1 Motte/Castle/Bawn
- 16:2 Augustinian Priory/Watermill
- 16:3 Road (site)
- 16:4 Church and Graveyard/Figure Sculpture
- 16:5 Market Cross Base
- 16:6 Bridge (possible)
- 16:7 Watermill (site/possible)
- Miscellaneous

### **16:1 Motte and Bailey/Castle/Bawn**

Situated to the north of the town, c.100m south of Kells Bridge.

It is likely that one of Geoffry fitz Robert's first acts on founding Kells in 1193, was the erection of the motte and bailey. William fitz Geoffry's charter, written early in the thirteenth century, refers to "the common of pasture of the small island which is around my castle of Kenelis, as far as the boundary wall of my garden and castle". According to Carrigan<sup>1</sup>, this castle stood at the west side of the motte within the bawn until c.1864, when part of it was demolished to provide a site for the new Catholic church and the rest was used for road building. However Empey<sup>2</sup> asserts that while the motte may have had a wooden tower originally, no stone structure in the form of a castle was ever built at this site.

The motte, which was 18m high and 10m in diameter at the top, was almost completely destroyed in the 1980's and only part of its western quadrant survives. A good portion of the bawn is still standing.

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 52-55.

<sup>2</sup>Empey, C.A., 1984, 36-37.

Barry, T.B., E.Culleton and Empey, C.A., 1984, 157-170.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 314.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, 70-71.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 147-48.

## **16:2a Augustinian Priory/Monuments**

### **2b Watermill and millrace**

Located c.400m to the east of Kells town and south of the Kings River.

Kells Priory was founded by Geoffry fitz Robert in 1193 for Augustinian Canons. The complex was fortified in the fifteenth century, probably as a result of a number of attacks and the absence of a protective lord. After the Dissolution in 1540, the priory was granted to James, Earl of Ormond. The buildings associated with the priory at this time included a church, a belfry, a hall, a dormitory, a kitchen and granary, two stables and a watermill.<sup>1</sup> Despite the Dissolution it appears that priors continued to be elected up to the 1640's.

The priory walls enclose an area of two hectares and consist of two strongly defensive courtyards. Most of the existing buildings are fourteenth- and fifteenth-century in date. In the north court are the ruins of the cruciform church and its claustral buildings. This church had a tower to the north-west and a 'Lady Chapel' to the north-east the nave had no south aisle, while the north transept had a west aisle. In the fifteenth century, a low tower was inserted over the crossing. There are six mural towers, one attached to the south wall of the chancel, another beside the inner gateway and four more attached to the walls of the larger outer court. The fortified outer gateway was in the east court wall. There was also a watermill in the Priory complex, which appears to have been located in the north-east corner of the outer

court,<sup>2,3</sup> with a millrace entering from the north west. The priory buildings remained in use up to the seventeenth century with the claustral area being extensively cobbled for use as a stable area during this time.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, Vol.I, 30-31; Vol.IV, 56-72.

<sup>3</sup>Barry, T.B., 1987, 152-54.

<sup>4</sup>Fanning, T, 1972, 18-19.

Anderson, P., 1850, 48-57.

Anonymous, (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1894, 193.

Craig, M. and Knight of Glin, 1970, 63-64.

Empey, C.A., 1984, 131-51.

Fanning, T., 1973, (*O.K.R.*), 61-64.

Fanning, T., 1981, (*O.K.R.*), 245-48.

Harbison, P., 1970, 133.

Harbison, P., 1991, 36, Pl.86.

Hardy, P.D., (*Dublin Penny Journal*), 1836, Vol.IV, No.204.

Leask, H.G., 1966, Vol.II, 99.

Leask, H.G., 1985, Vol.III, 182.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 314.

Mc Cullough, N. and Mulvin, V., 1987, 26-27.

Robertson, J.G., 1851.

Scarry, J., 1991, 37.

Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.II, 243-44.

Down Survey maps, 1655-58.



**Monuments:****Tomb slabs**

There are a number of thirteenth-century coffin-shaped slabs.

Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, Vol.IV, 70-71.

Graves, Rev. J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1864-66, 185-87.

Hunt, J., 1974, Vol.I, 171-72, 180-81; Vol.II, Pl.9.

Manning, C., 1991, 848-52.

**16:3 Road (site)**

This road gave access to and from the Priory. It ran from the present road to the fortified entrance in the east wall of the outer court and from an entrance in the west wall of the same court towards the motte at Kells.

Manning, C., Pers. Comm., February 1993.

**16:4 Church and Graveyard / Figure Sculpture**

Located c.500m south-east of Kells and c.180m south of Kells Priory.

This medieval parish church, dedicated to the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, has been greatly modified and there are no medieval features evident in the church. It served as a Protestant place of worship until c.1850. Inserted in the outer face of the graveyard wall is a fragment of a thirteenth-century effigy.

Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, Vol.IV, 56.

Hunt, J., 1974, Pl.21.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 314.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 147.

Down Survey composite maps, 1655-58.

### **16:5 Market Cross Base**

Located in a field c.60m south-west of the medieval parish church.

It consists of a large circular stone, probably a reused millstone, with a smaller circular stone fitted into the centre. This latter has in turn a socket into which the shaft of a cross would have been placed. There are faint traces of arcading on this stone which would be suggestive of a thirteenth-century date.<sup>1</sup> The location of the remainder of the cross is unknown.

<sup>1</sup>King, H., Pers. Comm. 1993.

Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, Vol.IV, 55-56.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 147.

### **16:6 Bridge (possible)**

Located to the north of Kells.

A bridge in this position is indicated on the Down Survey map. The present bridge, whose central arches seems earlier than the outer ones, may incorporate fragments of the earlier bridge.

Down Survey composite map, (1655-58).

### **16:7 Watermill (site/possible)**

Located c.100m north-east of Kells motte.

When the manor of Kells was granted to Walter de Bermingham in 1346, the property included a watermill. Empey suggests that the corn mill nearest Kells Bridge and c.100m north-east of the motte is on the

site of the original castle mill. The present watermill is a three-storey structure with an adjacent two-storey millers house.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 54.

Empey, C.A., 1984, 37.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Sites not precisely located:**

##### **Dwellings (x2)**

On the Down Survey Composite Maps there is a dwelling indicated to the north-west of the medieval parish church and a building (castle/dwelling) to the east of the priory.

Down Survey, 1655-58.

##### **Font**

A font of twelfth- or thirteenth-century date which was situated in the medieval parish church has now been moved to the Church of Ireland church of St.Mary's, Inistioge.

Birchistle, D., (*O.K.R.*), 1969, 36-37.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 311-12.

Pike, H.K.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1989, 597-8.

##### **Green**

An area called "Common Green" is depicted on the Down Survey map. It is situated west of the priory and between it and the Catholic church.

Down Survey Map (1655-58).

**KNOCKTOPHER****HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 1180-1200** Griffin fitz William built a motte and castle here and was succeeded by his brother Raymond. Some of the subsequent owners of Knocktopher were Edmund Fitz Mile le Bret, Walter de la Hay and Matthew Fitzphilip Maunsel.
- 1312** The Butlers came into possession of Knocktopher and made it one of their principal seats of residence.
- 1356** Knoctopher Abbey, a Carmelite Friary, was founded by James Butler, the 1st Earl of Ormonde.
- 1365** The town was granted a weekly market and several fairs by Edward III.
- 1382** The 2nd Earl of Ormonde, James Butler, died in his castle at Knocktopher.
- 1487** Another James Butler, father of the 8th Earl of Ormonde, died in Knocktopher castle.
- 1540** The Carmelite Friary was suppressed and given to Patrick Barnewall, who later gave it to Nicholas White. The White family retained it until 1677 and built two castles at Knocktopher.
- 1649** Knocktopher castle was captured briefly by the Cromwellians, who then retreated.
- 1650** The Cromwellians returned and this time destroyed the castle.

- 1661** Knocktopher became a Parliamentary Borough and was able to send two representatives to the Irish Parliament until the Act of Union, 1801.

Barry, T. B., 1977, 172-73.

Barry, T. B., 1987, 94.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 21-22.

Empey, Canon, C.A., (*O.K.R.*), 1982, 329-42.

Empey, Canon, C.A., (*O.K.R.*), 1983, 441-52.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 344.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 170-71.

Phelan, M.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1987, 368-75.

Down Survey (1655-58).

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

- 17:1 Motte (site) / Castle (site)
- 17:2 Church "St. David's"
- 17:3 Carmelite Friary/Holy Well
- 17:4 Castle (site) "Manor Castle"
- 17:5 Castle (site) "White's Castle"
- 17:6 Castle (site) "Barretstown Castle"
- 17:7 Road (site)/Ford (possible)
- Miscellaneous

**17:1 Motte (site) / Castle (site)**

These were located at the southern end of the town on the western side of the road, c.100m east of St. David's Church (no.2 below). The motte is indicated on the 25" Ordnance Survey Map (1901 ed.) with "Garrison Castle (site of)" on top. However, the most recent edition (1991) only indicates the site of "Garrison Castle".

The motte and castle were built by Matthew fitz Griffin between 1180 and 1200. In an extent of 1312 the castle is mentioned, together with a hall, a residence and a chapel. These were probably located in a bailey, at the base of the motte, which has long since disappeared from view. When visited by O'Donovan c.1839 the motte was 12m high, 46m wide at the base and 14.6m wide at the top. According to Orpen (1909), there were traces of an octagonal building on top, with sides c.3.6m long. It was surrounded by a deep fosse c.7m wide. It was completely levelled in 1973. Up to then some masonry had survived on the top of the motte, on the north-west side. When the motte was being removed some timbers, a burial and a medieval shoe were retrieved.

Barry, T.B., 1977, 172-73.

Barry, T.B., 1987, 94.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 22, 27-28.

Empey, Canon, C.A., (*O.K.R.*), 1982, 331-32.

Harbison, P., 1970, 137.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 344.

O'Donovan, J., Vol.II, 1839, 120.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 170-71.

Orpen, G.H., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1909, 325-26.

Phelan, M.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1987, 374.

## 17:2 Church

This church is located at the southern end of the town, c.100m east of Knocktopher Abbey (17:3 below).

The parish church of Knocktopher, dedicated to St. David, was affiliated to the Canons Regular of the Order of St. Augustine of the Priory of Kells by Matthew fitz Griffin early in the thirteenth century. After the Reformation, it became a Protestant church and continued as such until c.1820, (or 1870 according to Harbison and Killanin and Duignan), when it was largely demolished.

Of the surviving remains, the most substantial is the west tower of the medieval church with a twelfth-century Romanesque doorway in the west wall. This tower, though square in plan up to a height of 9m, becomes octagonal towards the top. Also standing is part of the north gable of a side chapel with its fifteenth-century two-light window. Below this window there is an altar-tomb dated '1610'. The base and foundations of some walls are traceable c.18m east of the tower. A local person claims there is an underground passage c.10m west of the tower.

A number of monuments are stored in the arched-over ground floor of the tower. These include a fifteenth-century double-effigy tomb, two inscribed grave slabs of ninth- to twelfth-century date<sup>1</sup> and architectural fragments.

Two armorial plaques, which had been inserted in the walls of "Garrison Castle", were subsequently placed in the external face of the north wall of St. David's graveyard. One bears the shield of the Butler family with the word "Ormond" and the other bears the Ormond coat of arms with a latin inscription.

<sup>1</sup>Manning, C., (*O.K.R.*), 1983, 471-74.

Barry, T.B., 1977, 172-73.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 22-24, 28.

Harbison, P., 1970, 137.

Hunt, J., 1974, Vol.I, 197.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 344.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, Vol.II, 111-12, 119-20.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 170-71.

Phelan, M.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1987, 369-70.

Down Survey Map (1655-58).

### **17:3 Carmelite Friary/Holy Well**

Located at the house called "Knocktopher Abbey", c.100m west of St. David's Church.

In 1356 James Butler, the 1st Earl of Ormonde founded a Carmelite friary here. At the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1540 the possessions of the friary included a church and belfry, with an adjacent chapel, two castles, a hall, a dormitory with a castle and two cellars, a kitchen and a bakehouse. These were handed over to Patrick Barnewall, who in turn granted them to Nicholas White. In 1645 the Friars petitioned to be reinstated in Knocktopher, but the friary had been converted into a brewery by a Catholic, Thomas White, descendant of Nicholas, and he continued to brew beer there until the arrival of Cromwellian forces in 1649/50. The White family, however, retained the friary until 1677.

A sizeable portion of the friary is incorporated into Knocktopher Abbey, which itself was rebuilt in 1866 in a High Victorian Gothic style. The north wing of the Abbey was possibly the chapter house. It is divided by a temporary partition and in the northern room a vaulted roof is visible. A blocked, slightly pointed doorway with a hood-moulding is in the external face of the west wall at first floor level. In



the west wall there are two small pointed windows which seem to be early, though the granite surrounds appear to be later. A holy well, called "Trinity Well", is built into the west wall of this wing.

The west wing incorporates the kitchen and a tower of the friary. In the south wall, of what is still a kitchen, there are two large sixteenth-/seventeenth-century chimneys side by side. The more easterly one is battered and projects up from the base, while the other springs from c.1.5m above ground level and is supported on a row of corbels. The three-storey tower, with parapet, is largely intact though it has been subject to some modifications, such as original openings blocked and modern openings inserted. There are vaulted roofs over the ground and first floors.

A sixteenth-century tombstone was discovered in the ground at the north gable of the Abbey in c.1917. It is decorated with an elaborate floriated cross and a latin inscription with the date '1510'. A smaller tombstone, or possibly the side panel of an altar-tomb is situated immediately to the east of the former.

Anonymous, (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1894, 207-08.

Barry, T.B., 1977, 172-73.

Bence-Jones, M., 1988, 179.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, 22, 24-27.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Unpublished Field Report and Annotated Plan, July 1992.

Harbison, P., 1970, 137.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 344.

Logan, P., 1980, 39.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, Vol.II, 112-22.

Ó Fearghail, F., 1990, 212.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 170-71.

Phelan, M.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1987, 368, 374.

#### **17:4 Castle (site) "Manor Castle"**

This was located c.150m north of St. David's church and as indicated on the 25" Ordnance Survey map, seems to have been built over a small river, the Arrigle, which runs in a westerly direction through Knocktopher.

The Corporation of Knocktopher held their meetings in this castle. According to Carrigan it was razed to the ground. No trace of it survives above ground.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 28.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 170-71.

Down Survey (1655-58).

#### **17:5 Castle (site) "White's Castle"**

This was situated on the north-eastern side of town, just south-east of Knocktopher junction.

In 1540 the White family were granted the possessions of the Carmelite Friary. This they retained until 1677 and they also built two castles at Knocktopher, one aptly named "White's Castle". No remains of this castle are visible. Modern sheds have been built on the spot.

The other White castle (S.M.R. 31:67), was located in a field c.300m north of this castle. There are no surviving remains and its precise location is unknown.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 28.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 170-71.

Down Survey (1655-58).

### **17:6 Castle (site) "Barretstown Castle"**

This was situated on the north-western side of town, south-west of Knocktopher junction.

The castle, though not named, is marked on the 25" Ordnance Survey map as "Castle (site of)". A slight rise in ground level is all that remains of it.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 28.

Down Survey (1655-58).

### **17:7 Road (site)/Ford (possible)**

This road ran north-south from Knocktopher junction to St. David's church, parallel to the existing road. The point where it crossed the Arrigle River, c.130m south of the junction, was supposedly the location of the ancient togher after which Knocktopher (the hill over the togher), is named. There is a disused three-arched stone bridge on the site and the road is no longer in evidence.

Barry, T.B., 1977, 172-73.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 21.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, 110-11.

Phelan, M.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1987, 374.

### **Sites not precisely located:**

#### **Market Place/Fair Green**

In 1365 the town was granted a weekly market and several fairs by Edward III. There is no evidence to indicate where these were located within the town.

Barry, T.B., 1977, 172-73.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 22.

Phelan, M.M., (*O.K.R.*), 1987, 368.

**THOMASTOWN****HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- c.1210** Founded by Thomas Fitz Anthony. It was originally called Grenan but later took the name of its founder and became known as Thomastown.
- 1346** Edward III granted the townsmen of Thomastown certain customs and tolls for the erection and repair of the bridge.
- 1374** A charter of Edward III permitted the burgesses of Thomastown to charge tolls on all goods sold in the town or passing through it for a term of twenty years. The proceeds of this were to go towards building the town wall, testifying to the importance of Thomastown as an inland port.
- 1449** A £20 tax was imposed for four years on the county of Kilkenny for the walling of Thomastown.
- 1450** A charter was granted freeing the inhabitants from the payment of all subsidies, etc. for ten years to enable them to keep their walls in proper repair.
- 1553** Queen Mary conferred on Thomastown the right to return two members to the Irish Parliament and also granted the right to hold a weekly market on Mondays and an annual fair from the 30th of April to the 15th of May.
- 1650** Cromwellian forces captured Thomastown.
- 1763** A flood swept away the bridge and an entire street known as Weaver's (or Guter) Lane.

**18th C.** Problems with the flow of the River Nore caused Thomastown to decline as an inland port.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 256-59.

Graves, Rev. J., (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1856-57, 84-91.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 438.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, Vol.II, 244-47.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 96.

Pilsworth, W.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1951, 35-43.

Pilsworth, W.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1952, 1-9.

Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.II, 190-92.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

### Streets and Street Pattern

- 18:1 Parish Church and Graveyard "St.Mary's
- 18:2 Towerhouse "Brady's Castle"
- 18:3 Towerhouse and 'outwork' "Bridge Castle" or "Sweetman's Castle"
- 18:4 Town Defences
- 18:5 Church (site), "Magdalen" Graveyard and Hospital (site)
- 18:6 Holy Well "Lady's Well"
- 18:7 Dwelling (possible) "Abbey View House"
- 18:8 Lane (site)
- 18:9 Bridge (site)
- 18:10 Market Place (site)/Market Cross (site).
- 18:11 Armorial Plaque
- 18:12 Baptismal Font
- 18:13 Church and Graveyard "Temple Tachan"
- 18:14 Castle "Grenan Castle"

18:15 Bridge (possible) "Cody's Bridge"

18:16 Watermill (site/possible)

Miscellaneous

### **Streets and Street Pattern**

The medieval town of Thomastown was set out in a grid-like pattern which still largely survives today. There are two streets running parallel to the River Nore: Marsh's/Pipe Street is furthest from the river and Low Street, as the name suggests, is located closer to the River Nore. Running at right angles to these are Logan's Street and Market Street. There was a third street, Weaver's/Guter Lane, running from the Bridge Castle (see following), to Marsh's Street but this was washed away in the flood of 1763. Market Street, the widest in the town, is centrally located and as its name suggests, was probably the location of the medieval market place.

Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.II, 191.

### **18:1 Parish Church "St.Mary's" and Graveyard/Monuments**

Situated at the north-western end of Market Street, in the junction between Pipe Street and Lady's Well Street.

This church, dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, dates to c.1270 on analogy with Gowran and St. Canice's Cathedral and was attached to the Priory of Inistioge. The church originally consisted of an aisled nave with a tower in the south-western corner and a chancel with a sacristy and detached chapel. After the Reformation, only the chancel continued in use as a place for Protestant worship. Then, in 1809, the south wall and south aisle of the church

were removed to make way for the Protestant church. The chancel was also removed, possibly to provide materials for the new church.

The main surviving features of the church are part of the west gable, the arcaded north wall and north aisle and the chancel arch. In the south pier of the latter there is a doorway leading to a stairs formerly giving access to the roof-walk. The foundations of much of the rest of the church can still be traced.

Anonymous (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1894, 207.

Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, 259-265.

Grose, F., 1791, 38-39, Pls. 53-54.

Harbison, P., 1970, 137-38.

Hunt, J., 1974, Vol.I, 198, Vol.II, Pl.36.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V., 1967, 438.

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O'Donovan, J., -1839, 244-47.

Pike, H.K.J., 1989, 578.

### **Monuments:**

#### **Head of a High Cross**

In the graveyard, south of the church, there is the head of an unpierced ringed cross of unknown date mounted on a concrete shaft.

#### **Effigial Tombs**

A badly weathered thirteenth-century effigy is located in a niche in the north wall of the chancel. There was another effigy in the chancel, but this has disappeared.

### **Tombstones**

A number of sixteenth-/seventeenth-century tombstones are located in the north aisle and former chancel of the church.

### **Ogham Stone**

An ogham stone, which had been recovered from a nearby river, is now located at the base of the north pier of the chancel arch.

### **18:2 Fortified Town House "Brady's Castle" and sculptured stones**

Located at the southern end of Low Street, close to the west bank of the River Nore.

This is a three-storey fortified town house with the remains of a wall walk above. It appears to be of fifteenth-century date and was probably built by a local merchant. It was used as a store and hayloft up until the 1980s but had fallen into a state of bad repair. In 1983, it was renovated and adapted as a dwelling. An entranceway giving access to a yard at the rear was made in the ground floor and the original entrance, which opened onto the street, has been blocked up.

Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.IV, 258.

Murtagh, B., 1988, 554.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, 244-47.

### **Sculptured stones.**

A number of limestone objects are stored on the ground floor of "Brady's Castle":



- **Stoop** This is a rectangular stoop with a circular bowl, which has fluted decoration on three sides. It is of thirteenth-/fourteenth-century date and comes from the medieval parish church of Dunnamaggan, Co. Kilkenny.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hennessy, B., Pers Comm., July 1992.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), July 1992.

**Miscellaneous (of uncertain date) :**

- **Stoop** This is D-shaped and was found in the stables associated with this towerhouse where it had been used as a feeding bowl.<sup>1</sup> Its date is uncertain.

<sup>1</sup>Hennessy, B., Pers Comm., July 1992.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), July 1992.

- **Font** This bears an inscription naming the subscribers to a church gallery. It is possibly of nineteenth-century date. Its original location is unclear.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), July 1992.

- **Cross-base (possible)** This is an octagonal stone which tapers towards the top. It has a square socket in the top, possibly for the insertion of a cross. Its date is uncertain.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Field Report (unpublished), July 1992.

**18:3 Fortified Town House "Bridge Castle" or "Sweetman's Castle" and 'outwork'**

Located at the southern end of the town on the west bank of the River Nore.

This fortified town house, of fifteenth-century date, has three stories and a wall walk with a parapet which encloses a modern gabled roof. There are turrets at the north and south corners rising above the wall walk. The building seems to have been erected by a merchant family primarily as a warehouse. In the sixteenth century the building was modified to make it more habitable. These changes included the insertion of windows and a fireplace on the first floor.

The outwork is an oblong structure which appears to be associated with the original phase of building of the fortified town house. The function of this structure is uncertain.

Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.IV, 258.

Murtagh, B., 1988, 536-56.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, 244-47.

**18:4 Town Defences**

In 1374, a charter of Edward III permitted the burgesses of Thomastown to charge tolls on all goods sold in the town or passing through it for a term of twenty years. The proceeds were to go towards the building of the town wall. In 1449 a tax of twenty pounds was imposed for four years on the County of Kilkenny to pay for the walling of Thomastown. A year later, another charter was granted, freeing the inhabitants from the payment of all subsidies etc. for ten years to enable them to keep their walls in proper repair.

Stretches of the town wall still survive on the south-western side of the town from the river up to Mill View House. In places the wall is up to 1.15m wide and 1.45m high. There is a fosse of undeterminable date, 1.5m wide and 0.3m deep, on the southern side of the wall between the river and Marsh's Street, it may be associated with the town defences. Approximately half way along this stretch of wall, there is the lower course of a possible bastion. The wall continues up to the high ground west of the town, to the front of Mill View House, but is not traceable beyond this point. Where it ends there is a small tower which seems to be a dovecote rather than part of the tower defences.

On the northern side of town, between Chapel Lane and the River Nore, the wall is more difficult to trace. A section of it seems to be incorporated into the plastered buttress to the gable of a house fronting onto the west side of Low Street. Other portions of the wall may be incorporated in the walls of buildings and property boundaries between Lady's Well Street and Maudlin Street and between Chapel Lane and Low Street.

Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, Vol.IV, 258-59.

Pilsworth, W.J., 1951, 36.

Pilsworth, W.J., 1952, 2-3.

Thomas, A., 1992, 190-92.

### **18:5 Church (site), Graveyard ("Magdalen") and Hospital (site)**

Located on east side of Newtown Terrace, c.400m north of the town centre.

There are no visible remains of the church and leper hospital which once stood in the graveyard. A doorway, possibly of medieval date, had been a feature of the old graveyard wall until it was removed in c.1870

and a new wall was erected. An area of higher ground in the eastern part of the graveyard may indicate the foundations of a building.

Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, 269.

#### **18:6 Holy Well (possible) "Lady's Well"**

Presently located on the east side of Lady's Well Street.

This site is at the roadside and is built into a wall. It is accessed by two gaps in the wall on either side. According to O'Kelly, it was originally located in the field to the west of Lady's Well Street and the water was subsequently piped to its present location. It now appears to have dried up.

Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, 262.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, 244-47.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 96.

#### **18:7 Dwelling (possible) "Abbey View House"**

Situated on the north side of a lane running west from Lady's Well Street and c.100m north-west of St. Mary's church.

This two-storey over basement dwelling, though remodelled in the eighteenth century appears to be of seventeenth-century date. It has a projecting chimney to each gable, crowned by three square offset stacks of seventeenth-century type.

There is an architectural fragment in the yard of possible medieval date. It is a chamfered mullion fragment and may have come from St. Mary's church.

According to the owner of the house two human skulls were found under the ground close to the south gable. Whether this was their original position and how old they were is not known.

Farrelly, J. and O'Reilly, B., Unpublished Field Report, July 1992.

### **18:8 Lane (site) "Weaver's/Guter Lane"**

This lane ran from Bridge Castle/Sweetman's castle to Marsh's Street.

It was washed away in a flood in 1763

Pilsworth, W.J., (*O.K.R.*), 1952, 3.

Thomas, A., 1992, Vol.II, 191.

### **18:9 Bridge (site)**

Located c.20m south of the present bridge.

In 1346 Edward III granted the townsmen of Thomastown certain customs and tolls for the erection and repair of the bridge. It is possible that it was this medieval bridge which was destroyed by a massive flood in 1763.

Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, 258-59.

Pilsworth, W.J., 1951, 36.

Pilsworth, W.J., 1952, 3-4.

### **18:10 Market/Fair (site), Market Cross (site)**

In 1553, Queen Mary conferred on Thomastown the right to hold a weekly market on a Monday and an annual fair from the 30th of April to the 15th of May. Market Street, as the name implies, seems a likely location for these markets. It is the widest street in the town and is

centrally placed within the town walls. The fairs may have taken place at some remove from the town. A fair green is marked on the Ordnance Survey 25" edition map just south of Magdalen Graveyard on Newtown Terrace but is not indicated on the first edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey map.

The Market Cross consisted of a series of stepped stones with a cross inserted in a groove in the uppermost stone. It had an inscription and coat of arms inscribed on it. Its present location is unknown.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 259.

Pilsworth, W.J., 1951, 36-37.

### **18:11 Armorial Plaque**

Located in the Bank of Ireland on the west side of Market Street.

This stone plaque originally formed the keystone of an arched gateway in Marsh's Street. It bears the armorial plaques of the Walsh and Brenan families on either side with the initials "J.W." and "C. B." inscribed in an elaborate central frame and a human head carved above this. The date "1645" is carved below with the names of "John Wailsh" and "Catrin Brenan". At some stage, the date "1794" was also incised onto the stone.

Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, 259.

### **18:12 Font**

Located in the porch of the Catholic church on the east side of Thomastown.

This square, limestone font with a cylindrical bowl, dating to the sixteenth century, is said to have come from Jerpoint Abbey. It is

decorated on all sides with a combination of architectural motifs, the coat of arms of the Butler and Fitzgerald families and a pelican plucking her breast.

Anonymous (*J.R.S.A.I.*), 1894, 192-93.

Pike, H.K.J., 1989, 579.

Mac Garry, D., 1980, 34-36.

### **18:13 Church and Graveyard "Temple Tachan"**

Situated c.500m south-east of Thomastown bridge.

In c.1224 this church, "Kiltachan", is mentioned in the Ormonde Deeds in a grant by William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke to the Priory of Inistioge.<sup>1</sup> It seems to have remained in this possession until the Dissolution in 1540. After this it seems to have served as a rectory, at least until the reign of Elizabeth I, after which time there are no further records of the church.<sup>2</sup>

The standing remains consist of an east gable, with a three-light traceried window and part of the north wall. A large vault belonging to the Devereux family occupies the eastern half of the church. The surrounding sub-rectangular graveyard is in bad condition, many of the tombstones are smashed and the graveyard wall has been broken down in several places.

<sup>1</sup>O'Kelly, O., 1985, 95.

<sup>2</sup>Carrigan, Rev., W., 1905, Vol.IV, 265-66.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, 244-47.

Wheeler, H.A., O.P.W. Topographical Files, 1966.

**18:14 "Grenan" Castle**

Situated c.800m south-east of Thomastown bridge.

This early thirteenth-century castle was built by Thomas FitzAnthony. It remained in this family for only two generations when it passed by marriage to the de Denes/Dens. This family retained ownership until dispossessed by the Cromwellians in 1650. It passed through a number of hands before being abandoned in the nineteenth century. The castle was then robbed of any of its internal fixtures, holes were knocked into the walls to give access to cattle and stones were taken from the castle itself and its surrounding bawn and buildings.

The castle was erected on a raised rectangular earthen platform which was surrounded by a moat, now largely filled in. It had four storeys. In the lower half of the castle the three existing vaulted chambers supported a second floor. Above these was the state-room which took up the entire third storey and nothing remains of the fourth floor. The only entrance is in the south wall and it is raised above ground level. Also in this wall is the straight mural stairway which has an interesting example of plank centring.

Carrigan, Rev.W., 1905, Vol.IV, 266-67.

O'Donovan, J., 1839, 244-47.

O'Kelly, O., 1985, 95.

Orpen, G.H., 1909, 320-21.

Pilsworth, W.J., 1952, 4-9.

Robertson, J.G., 1851.

Waterman, D. M., 1968, 67-72, Pl.7.

Down Survey Map, 1655-58.



**18:15 Bridge (possible) "Cody's Bridge"**

Located c.500m east of Thomastown and named on the Ordnance Survey map as "Moneen or Cody's Bridge".

"Cody's Bridge" appears to be on the site of a bridge depicted on the Down Survey map. This bridge may have been associated with "Cody's Castle", a castle which supposedly existed in the vicinity. The present single-arch stone bridge is of no obvious antiquity.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 258.

Down Survey Map, 1655-58.

**18:16 Watermill (site/possible)**

Situated c.500m west of Thomastown and marked as "Corn Mill (disused)" on the 25" Ordnance Survey Map,

It is possible that one of the two watermills depicted on the Down Survey Map might be on the site of this old corn mill, known as "Cody's mill".

Down Survey Map, 1655-58.

**Miscellaneous**

**Sites not precisely located:**

**Castle**

This was located c.500m east of Thomastown in the vicinity of "Moneen or Cody's Bridge".

A castle is depicted here on the Down Survey map. In Carrigan there is a reference by a Rev. Moore, who wrote that the foundations of a castle,

belonging to the Codys alias Archdeacons or the McOdos, were still apparent late in the eighteenth century. No visible trace of them remains today and the exact position of the castle is unknown.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 258.

Down Survey Map, 1655-58.

### **Castle**

A castle is described by Rev. Moore, in Carrigan, as being situated c.20m north-east of Thomastown bridge, in the actual river-bed. It was "20ft high in 1762, and was then used as a forge by a man named Walsh".<sup>1</sup> There is no visible physical evidence of this castle.

<sup>1</sup>Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 258.

### **Dwellings**

A number of seventeenth-century dwellings are mentioned by the Rev. Moore in Carrigan.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 258-59.

### **Plaque**

In Carrigan, an extract from Rev. Moore mentions a plaque "over the door of a little house which stood on where the Churchyard wall is now, near March Street, were these words cut on a smooth stone, in relief: 'Owen Fenel, Ellen Tobin. 1640' " which was visible c.1806. The present location of this plaque is unknown.

Carrigan, Rev. W., 1905, Vol.IV, 259.

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J.R.S.A.I.	Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland
O.K.R.	Old Kilkenny Review

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Freshford	1900
Gowran	1900
Graiguenamanagh	1987
Inistioge	1987
Kells	1987
Knocktopher	1991
Thomastown	1989

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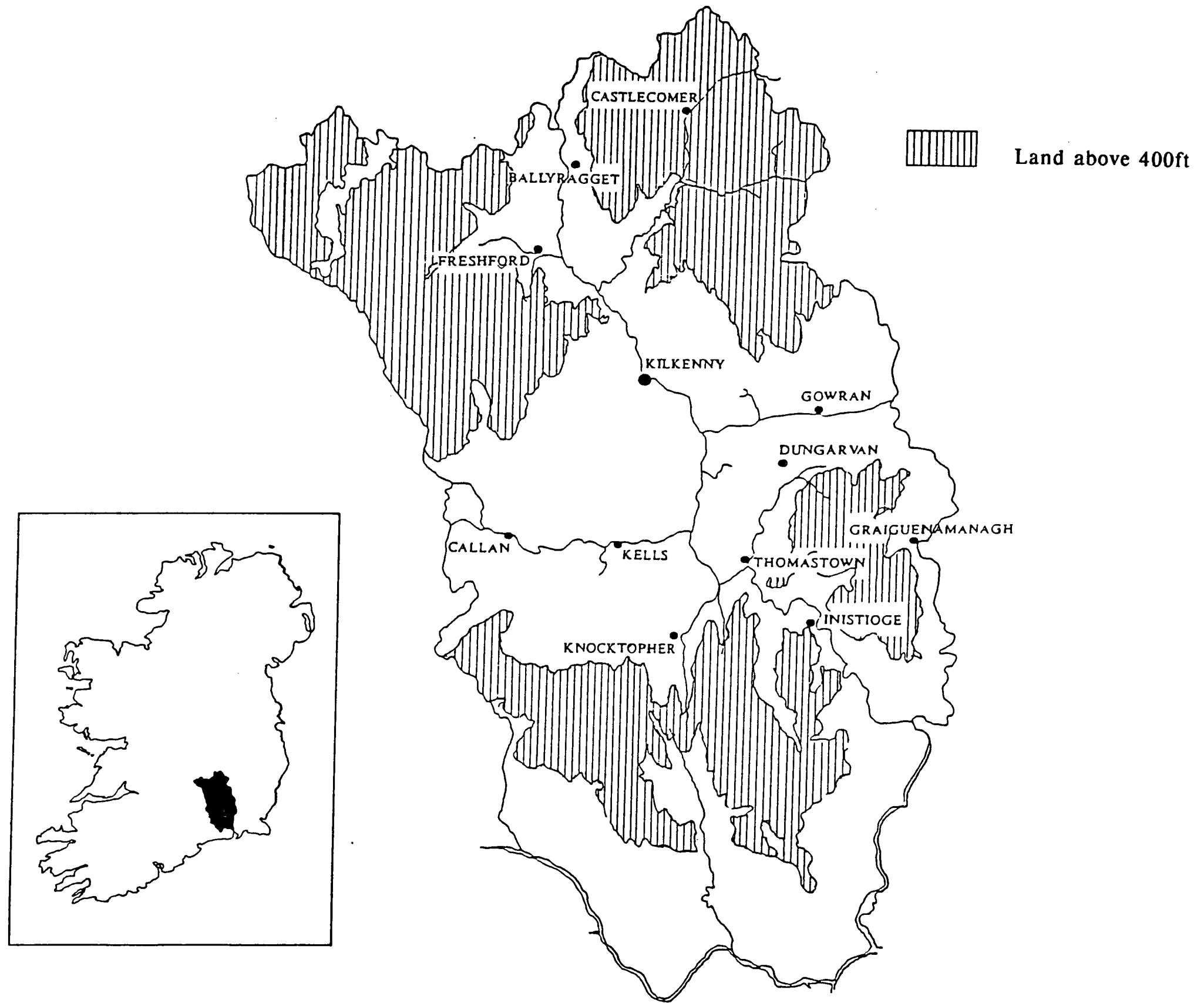
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## MAPS IN VOL. II ACCOMPANYING THE INVENTORY OF SITES.

Map No.	Title
1.	Location of the Urban Centres included in the Urban Archaeological Survey, County Kilkenny.
2.	Kilkenny City. Limit of Development Plan Boundary highlighting the Zones of Archaeological Potential.
3.	Kilkenny City. Index to maps outlining Zones of Archaeological Potential.
4a.	Kilkenny City. Zones of Archaeological Potential.
4b.	Kilkenny City. Zones of Archaeological Potential.
4c.	Kilkenny City. Zones of Archaeological Potential.
4d.	Kilkenny City. Zones of Archaeological Potential.
5.	Ballyragget. Zones of Archaeological Potential.
6.	Callan. Limit of Development Plan Boundary highlighting the Zone of Archaeological Potential.
7.	Callan. Zone of Archaeological Potential.
8.	Castlecomer. Limit of Development Plan Boundary highlighting the Zones of Archaeological Potential.
9.	Castlecomer. Zones of Archaeological Potential.
10.	Dungarvan. Zone of Archaeological Potential.
11.	Freshford. Zones of Archaeological Potential.



12. **Gowran.** Zone of Archaeological Potential.
13. **Graiguenamanagh.** Limit of Development Plan Boundary highlighting the Zones of Archaeological Potential.
14. **Graiguenamanagh.** Zones of Archaeological Potential.
15. **Inistioge.** Zones of Archaeological Potential.
16. **Kells.** Zones of Archaeological Potential.
17. **Knocktopher.** Zone of Archaeological Potential.
18. **Thomastown.** Limit of Development Plan Boundary highlighting the Zones of Archaeological Potential.
- 19a. **Thomastown.** Zones of Archaeological Potential.
- 19b. **Thomastown.** Zones of Archaeological Potential.

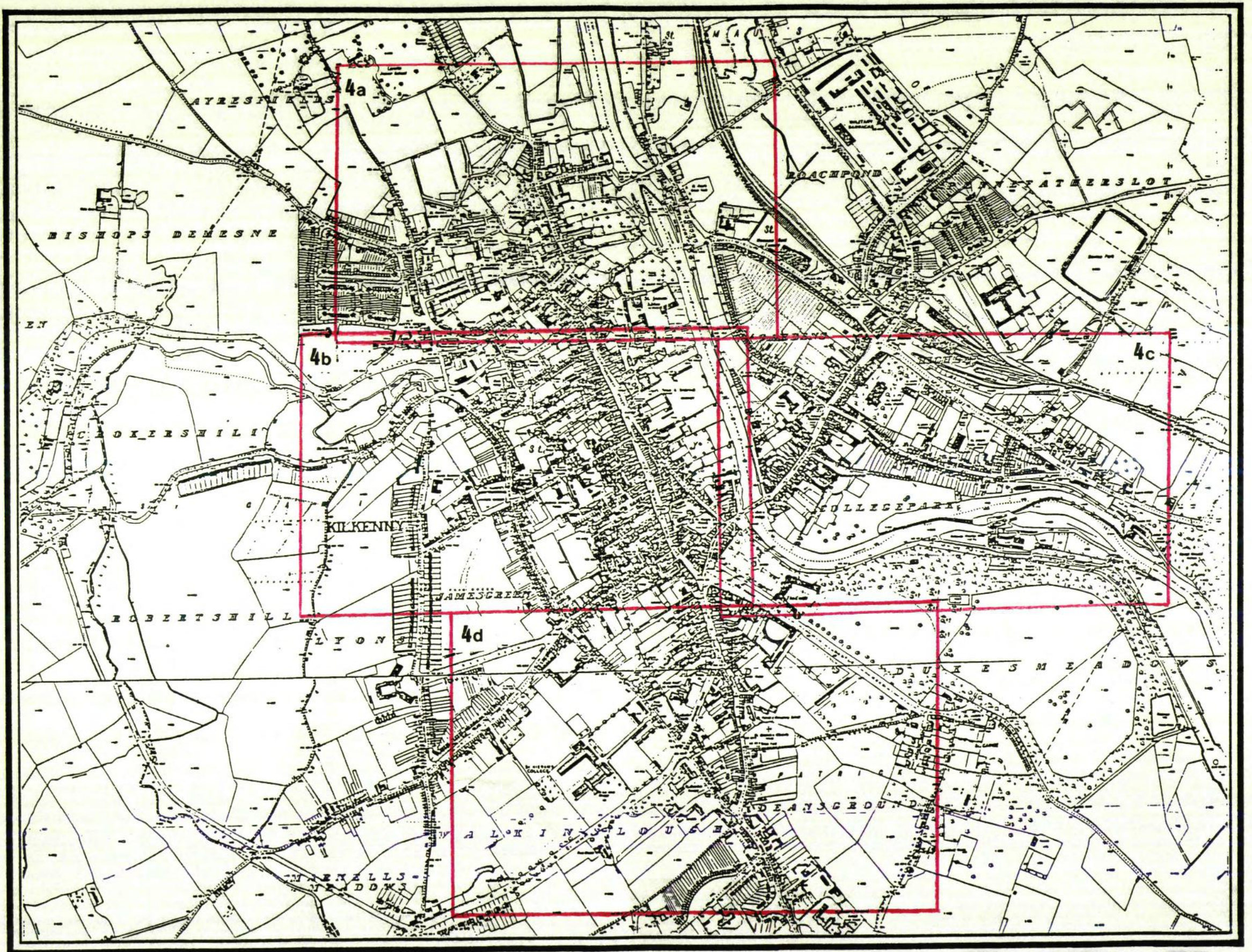


Map 1 : Location of Urban Centres included in the Urban Archaeological Survey, County Kilkenny.



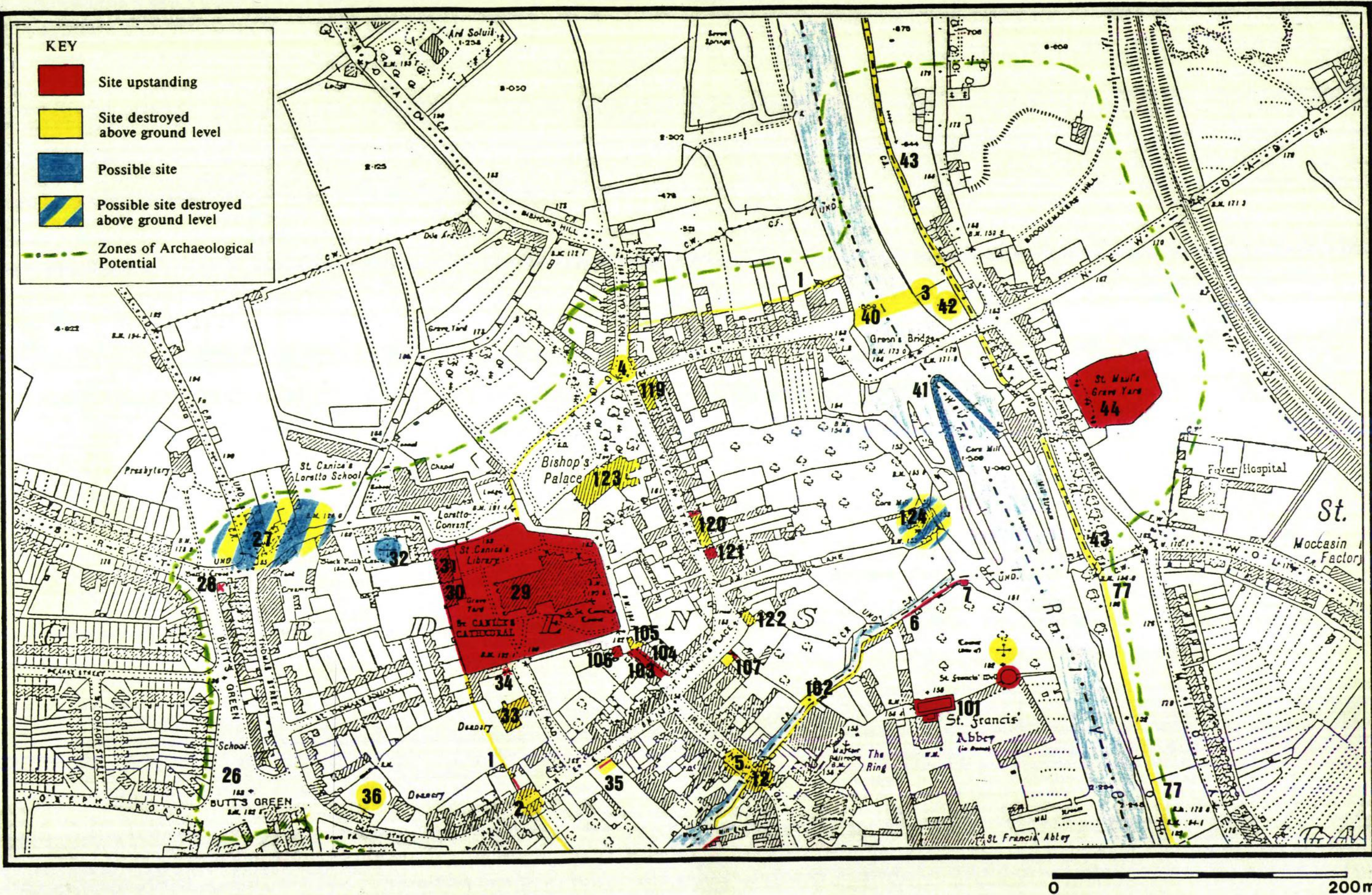






Map 3 : KILKENNY CITY. Index to maps outlining the Zones of Archaeological Potential.





Map 4a : KILKENNY CITY. Zones of Archaeological Potential.





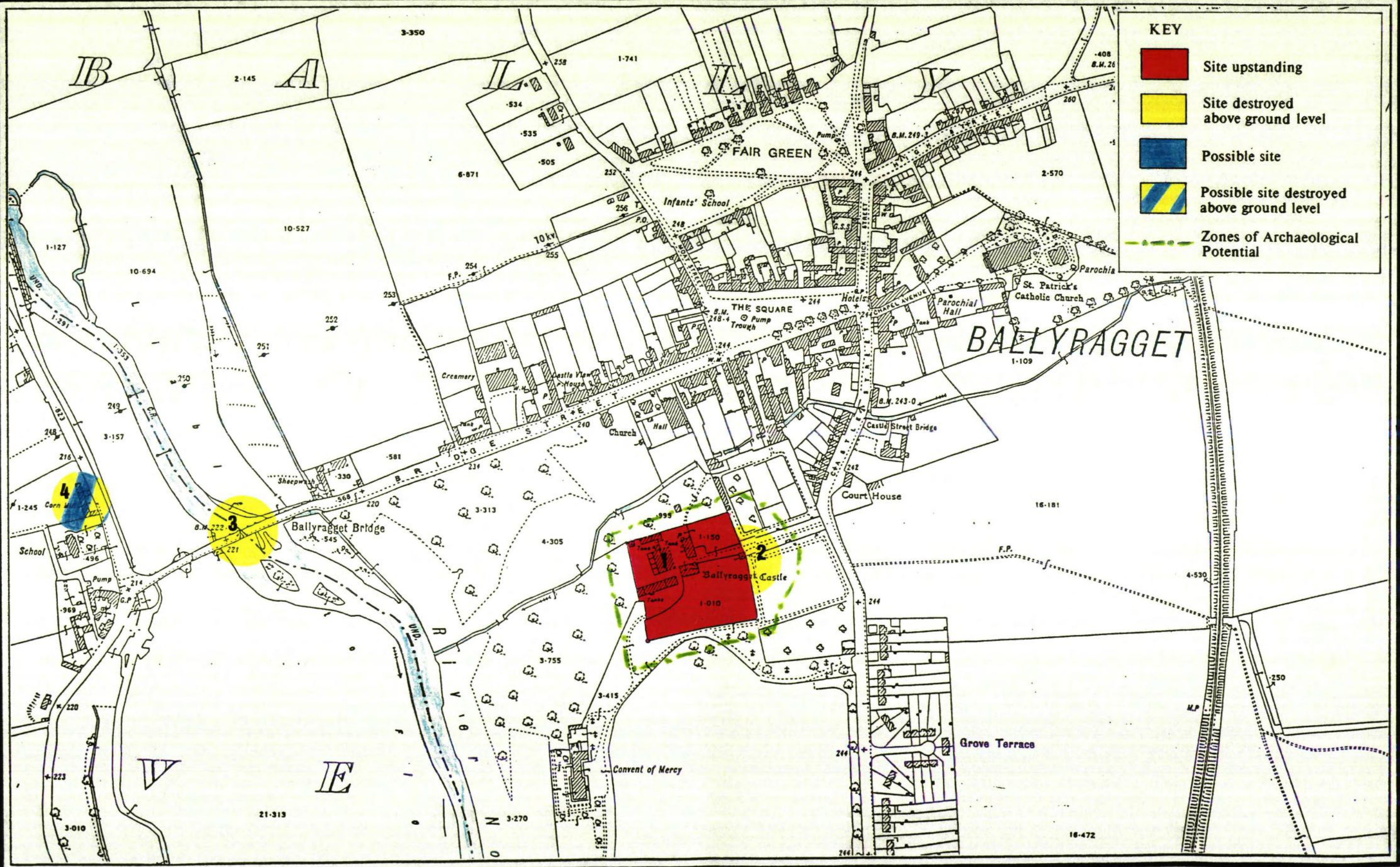






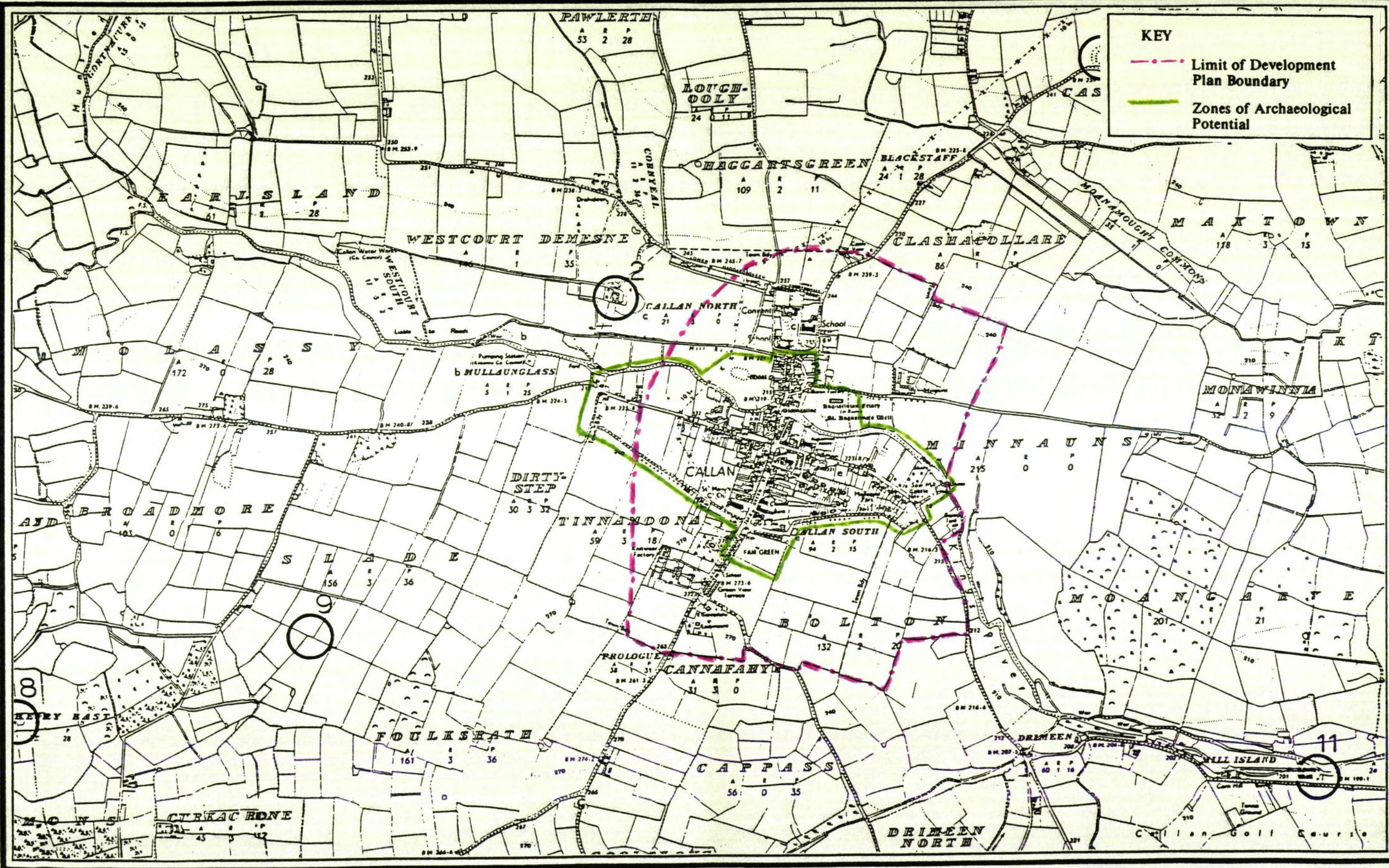






Map 5 : BALLYRAGGET. Zones of Archaeological Potential.





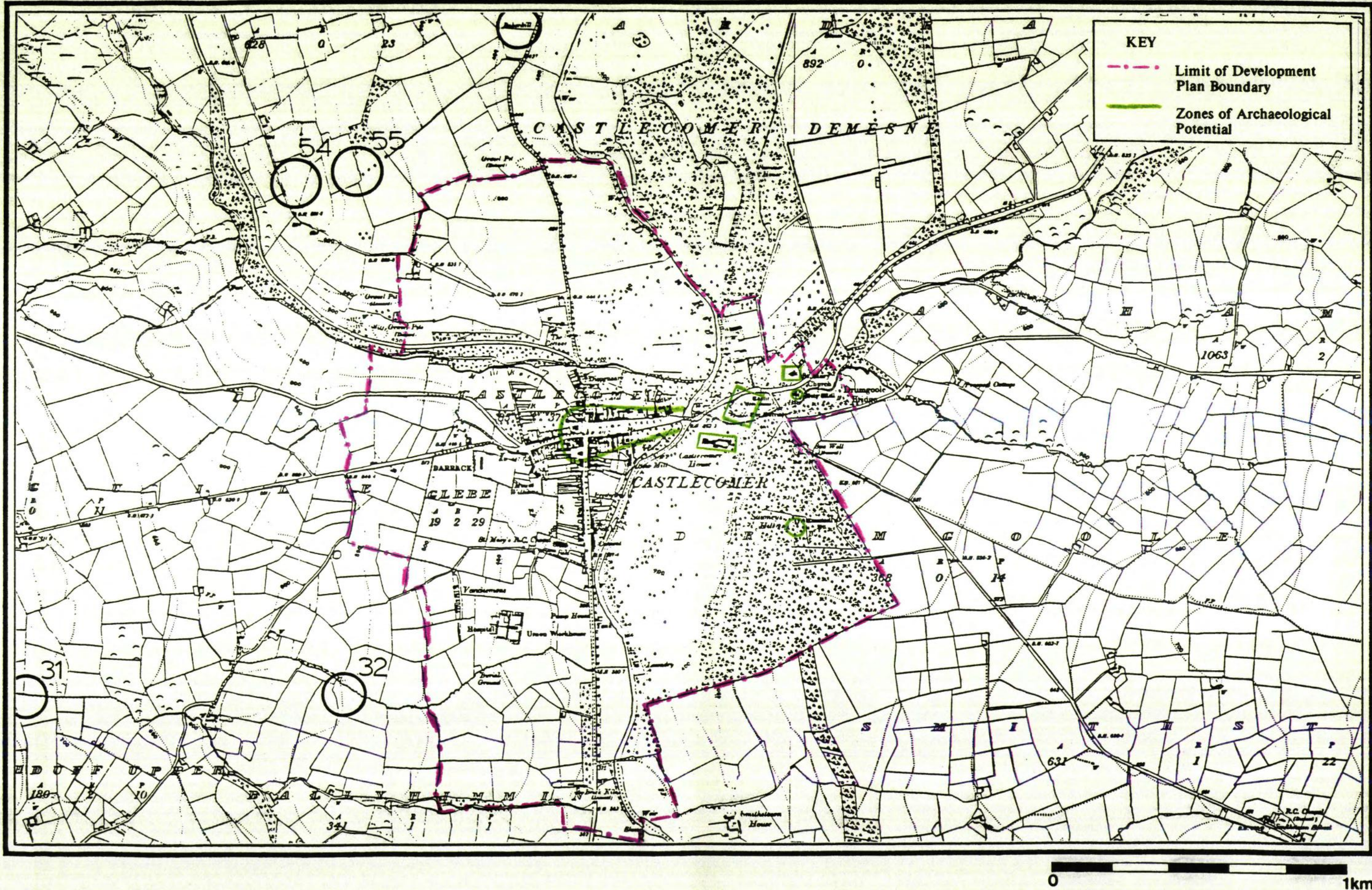
Map 6 : CALLAN. Limit of Development Plan Boundary highlighting the Zone of Archaeological Potential.





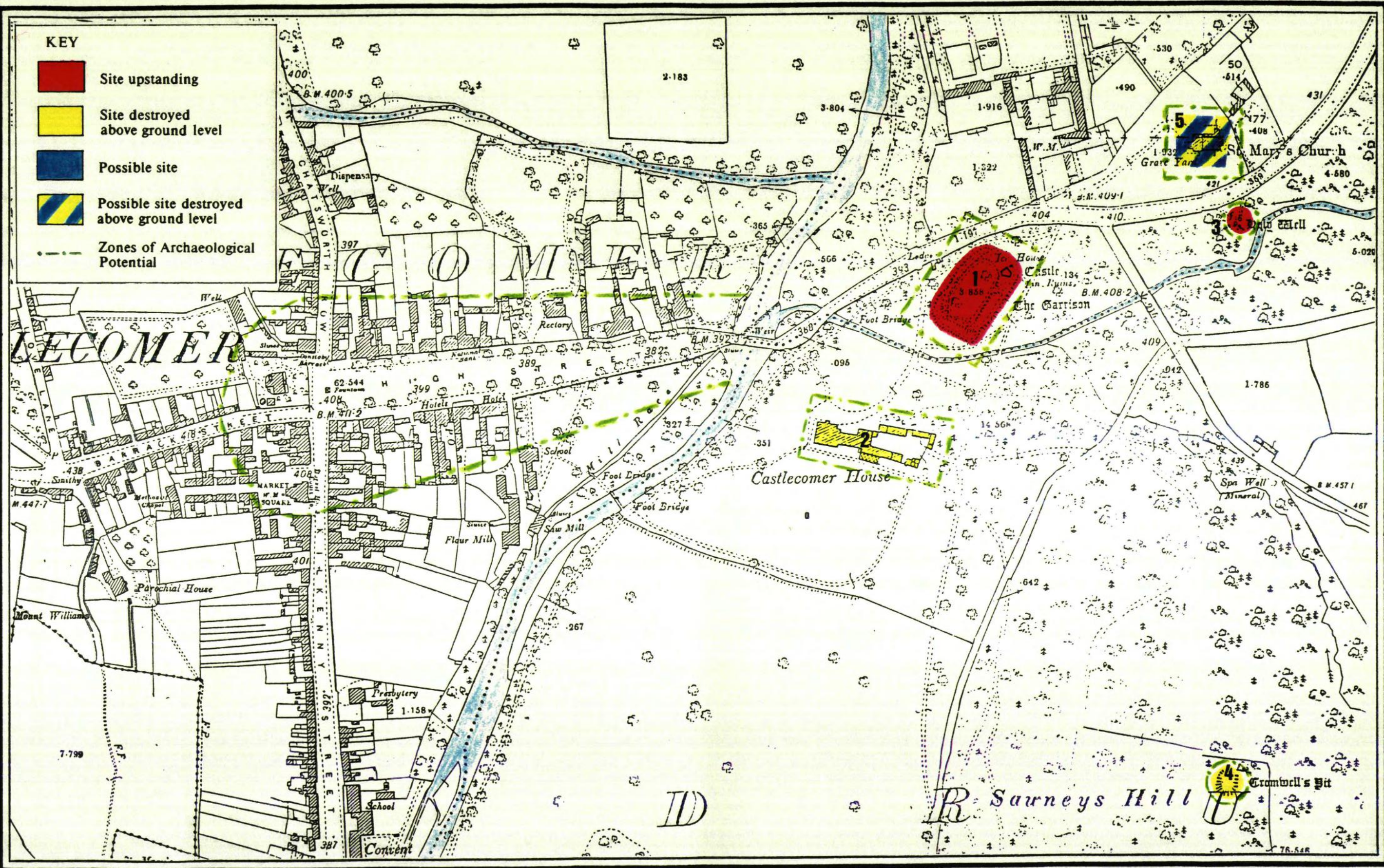
Map 7 : CALLAN. Zone of Archaeological Potential.





Map 8 : CASTLECOMER. Limit of Development Plan Boundary highlighting the Zones of Archaeological Potential.



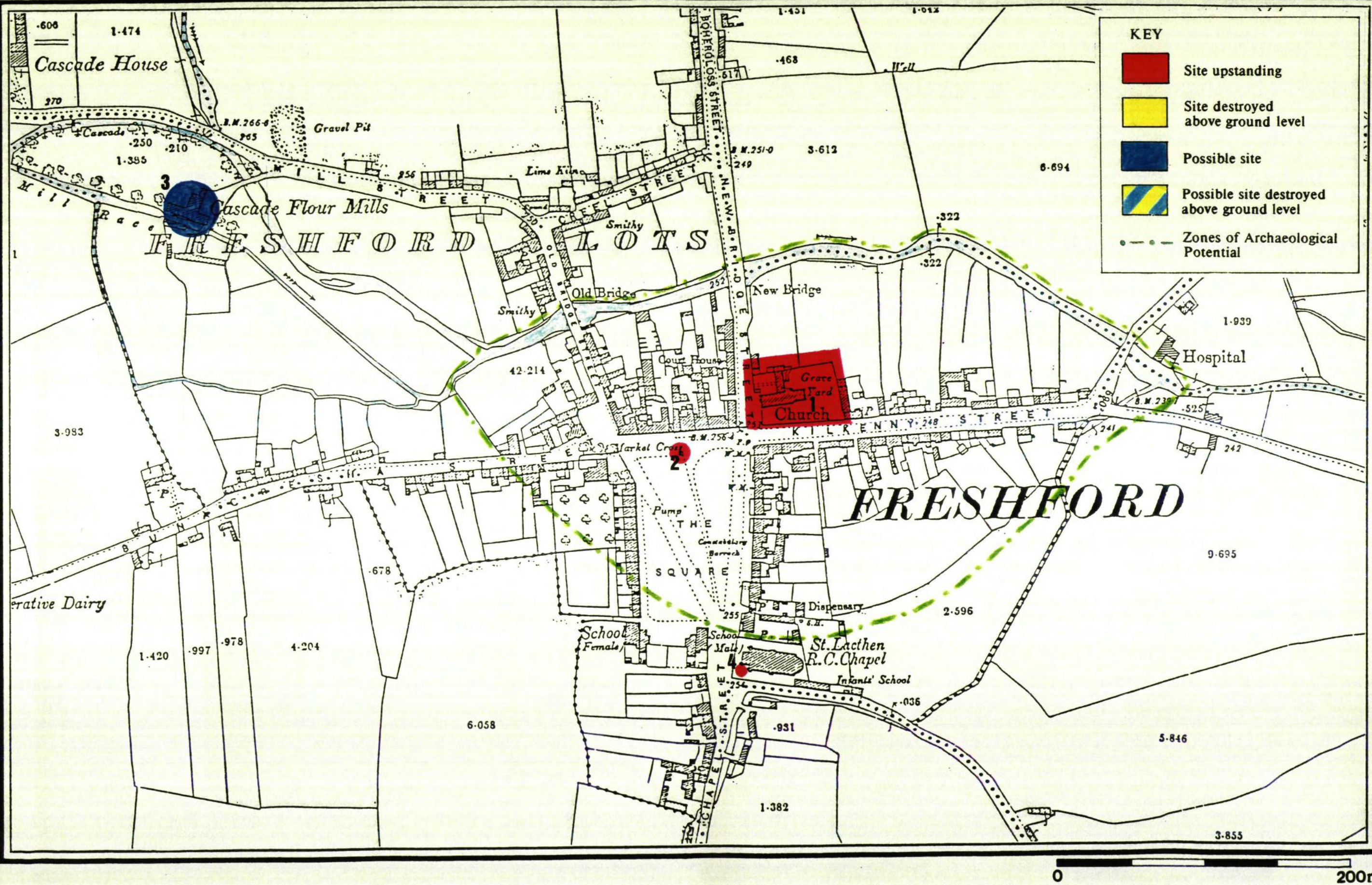


Map 9 : CASTLECOMER. Zones of Archaeological Potential.



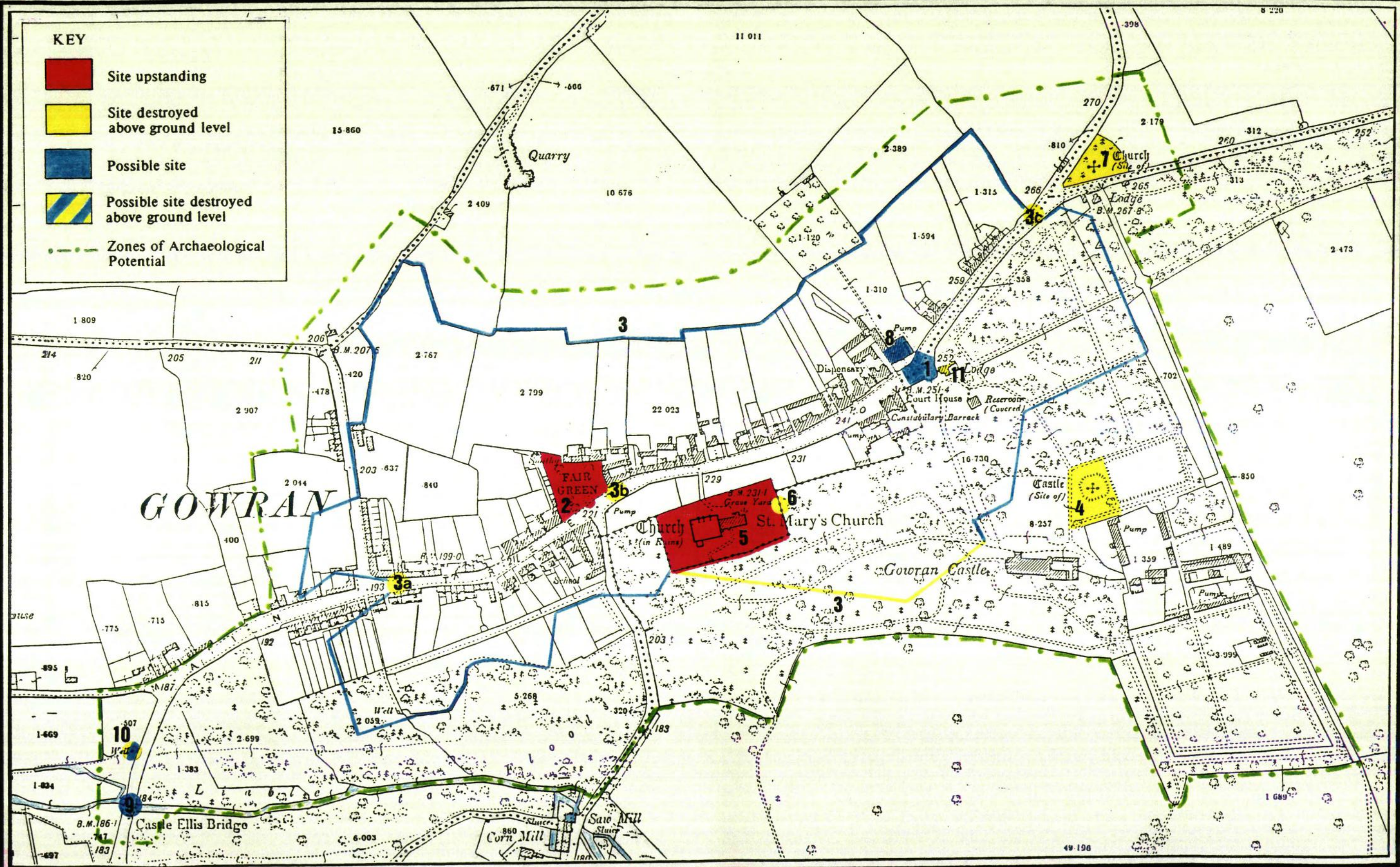






Map 11 : FRESHFORD. Zones of Archaeological Potential.

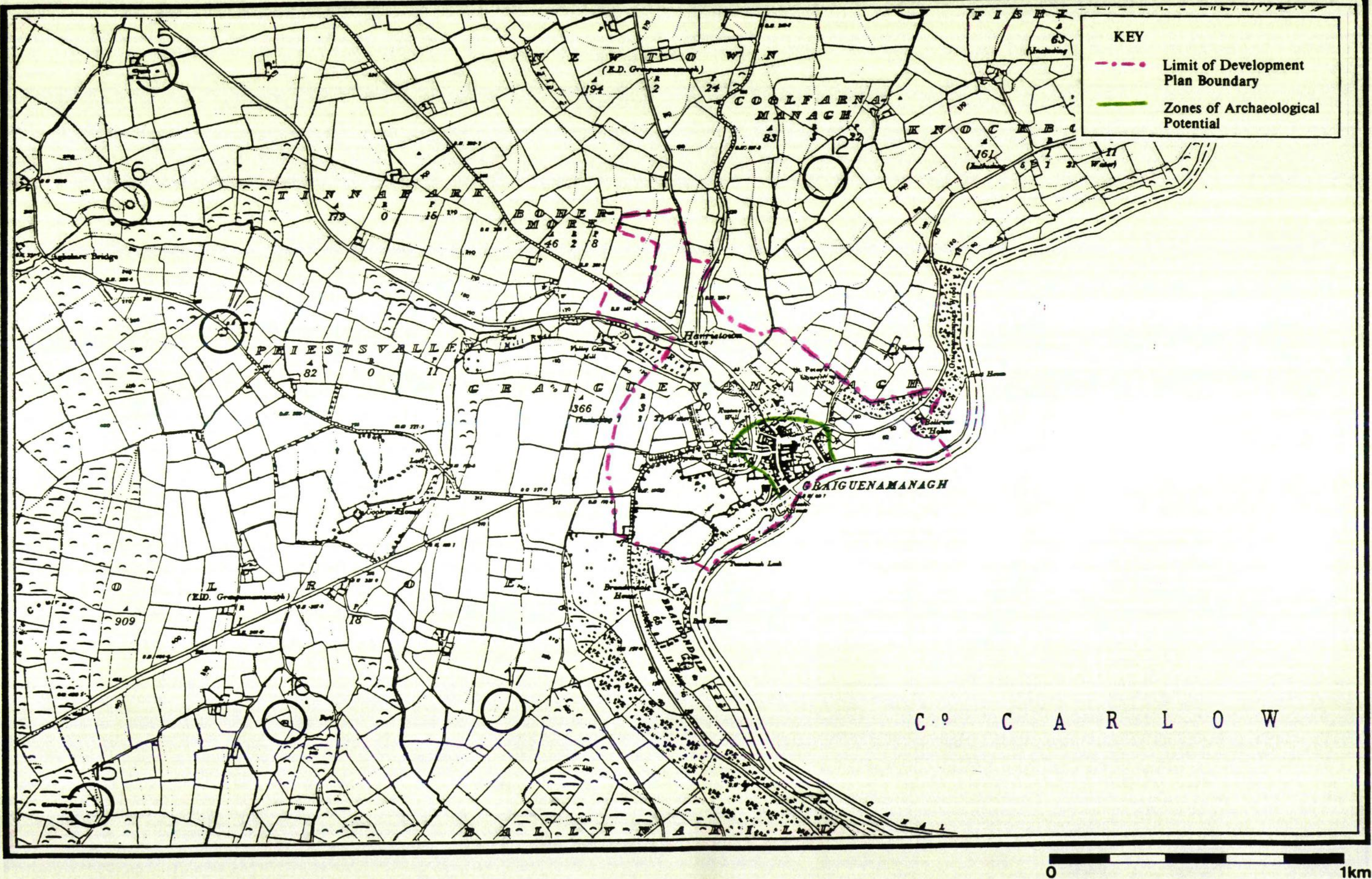




0 200m

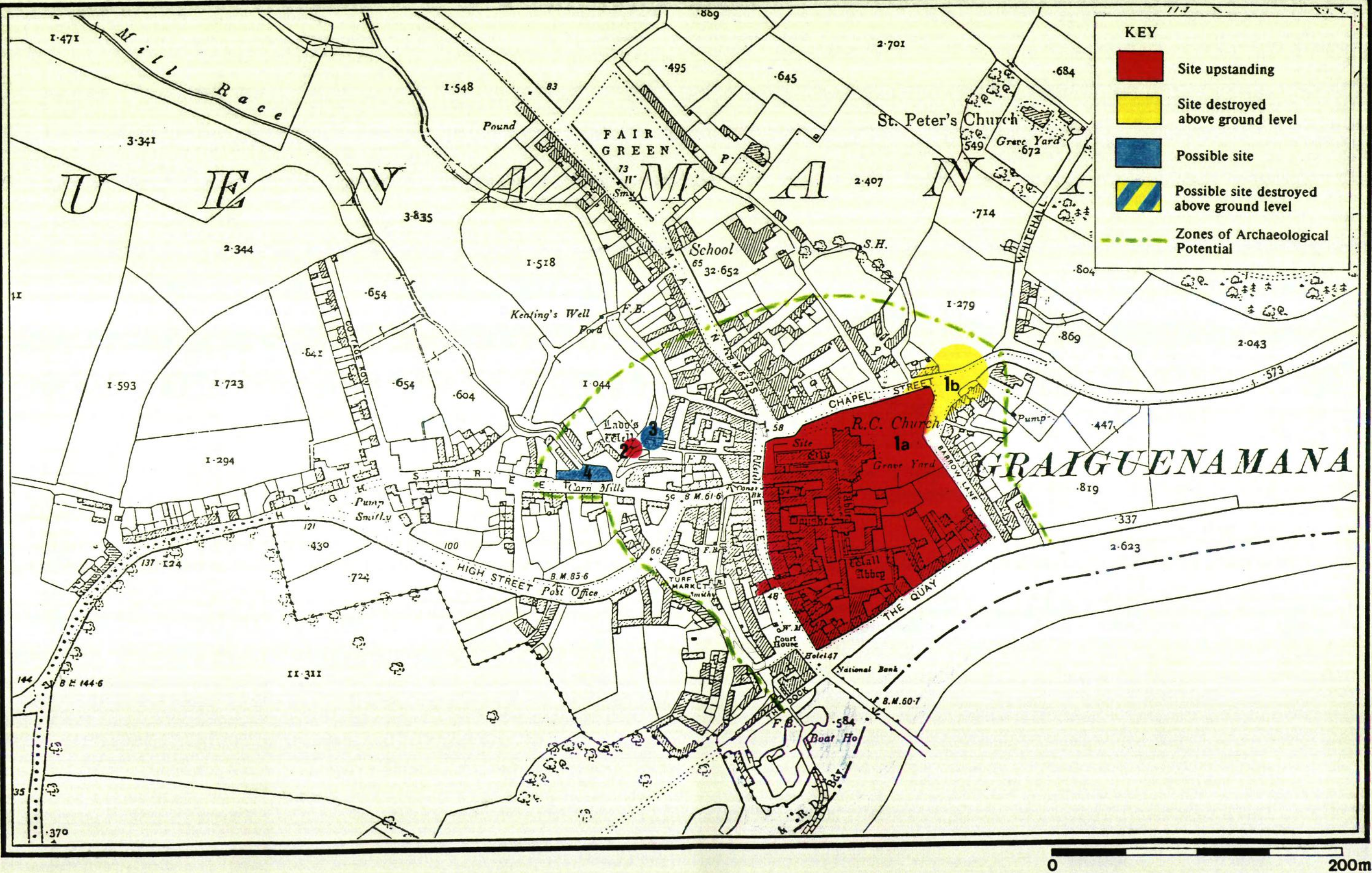
Map 12 : GOWRAN. Zone of Archaeological Potential.





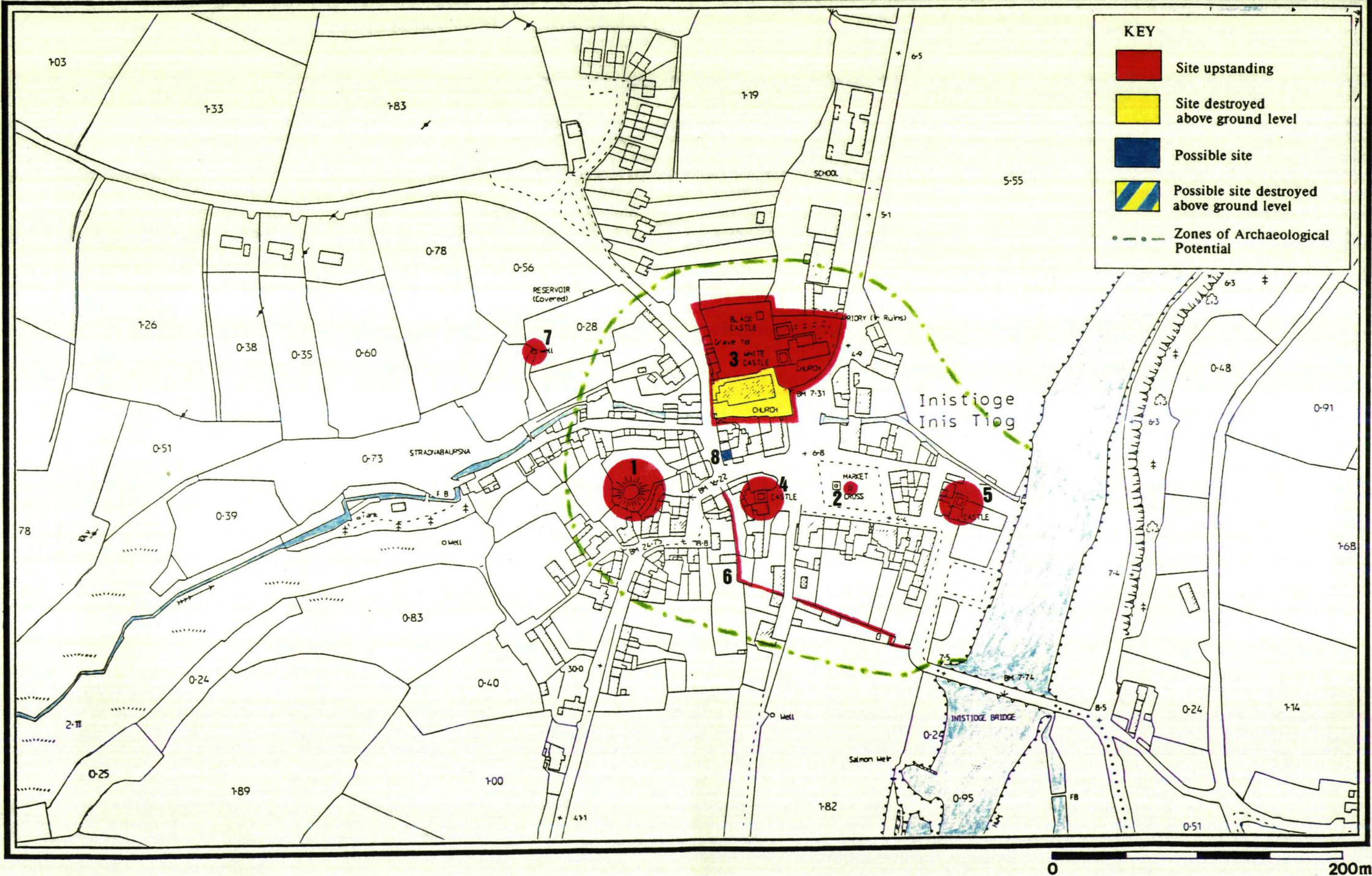
**Map 13 : GRAIGUENAMANAGH. Limit of Development Plan Boundary highlighting the Zones of Archaeological Potential.**





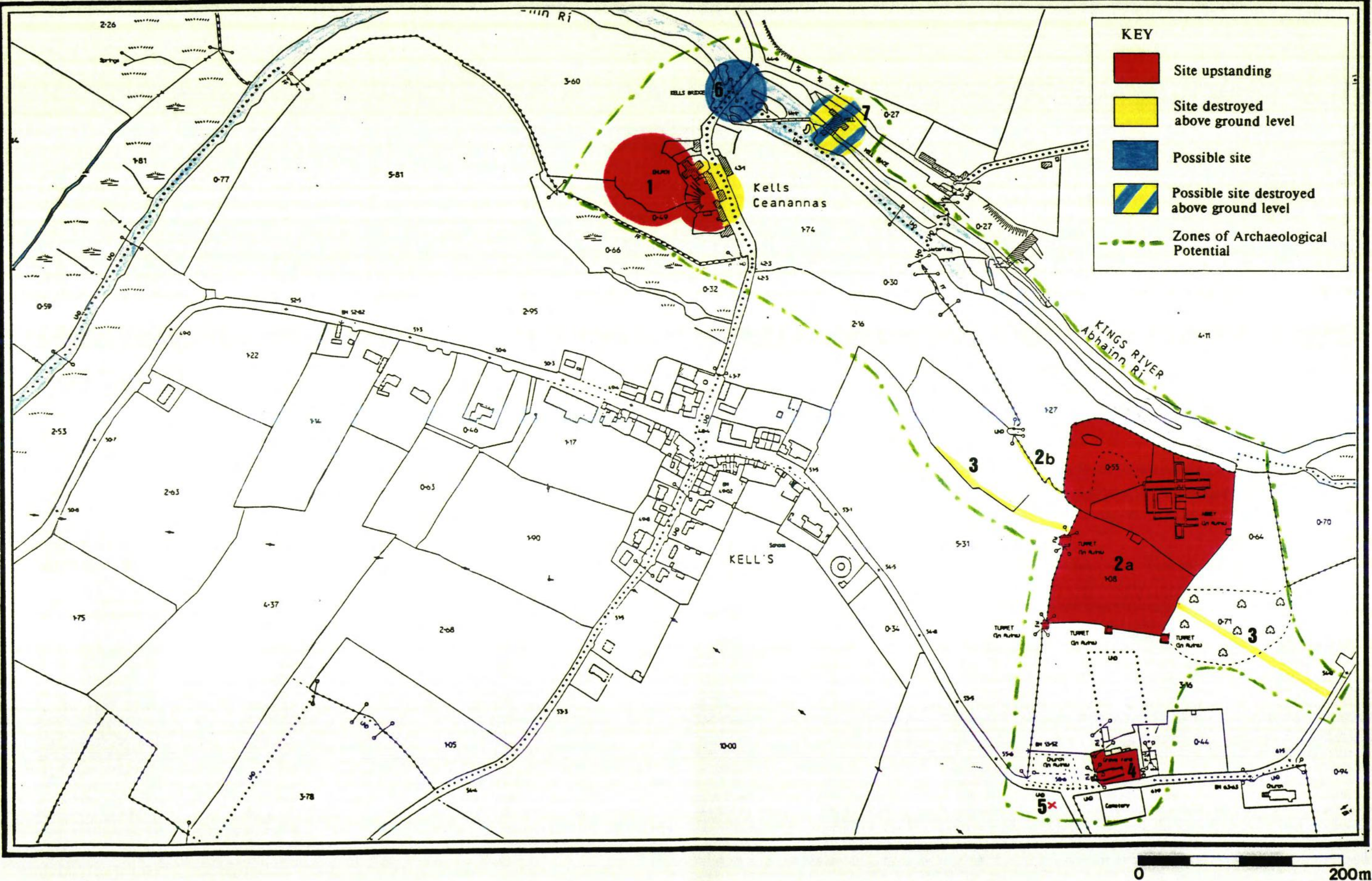
Map 14 : GRAIGUENAMANAGH. Zones of Archaeological Potential.





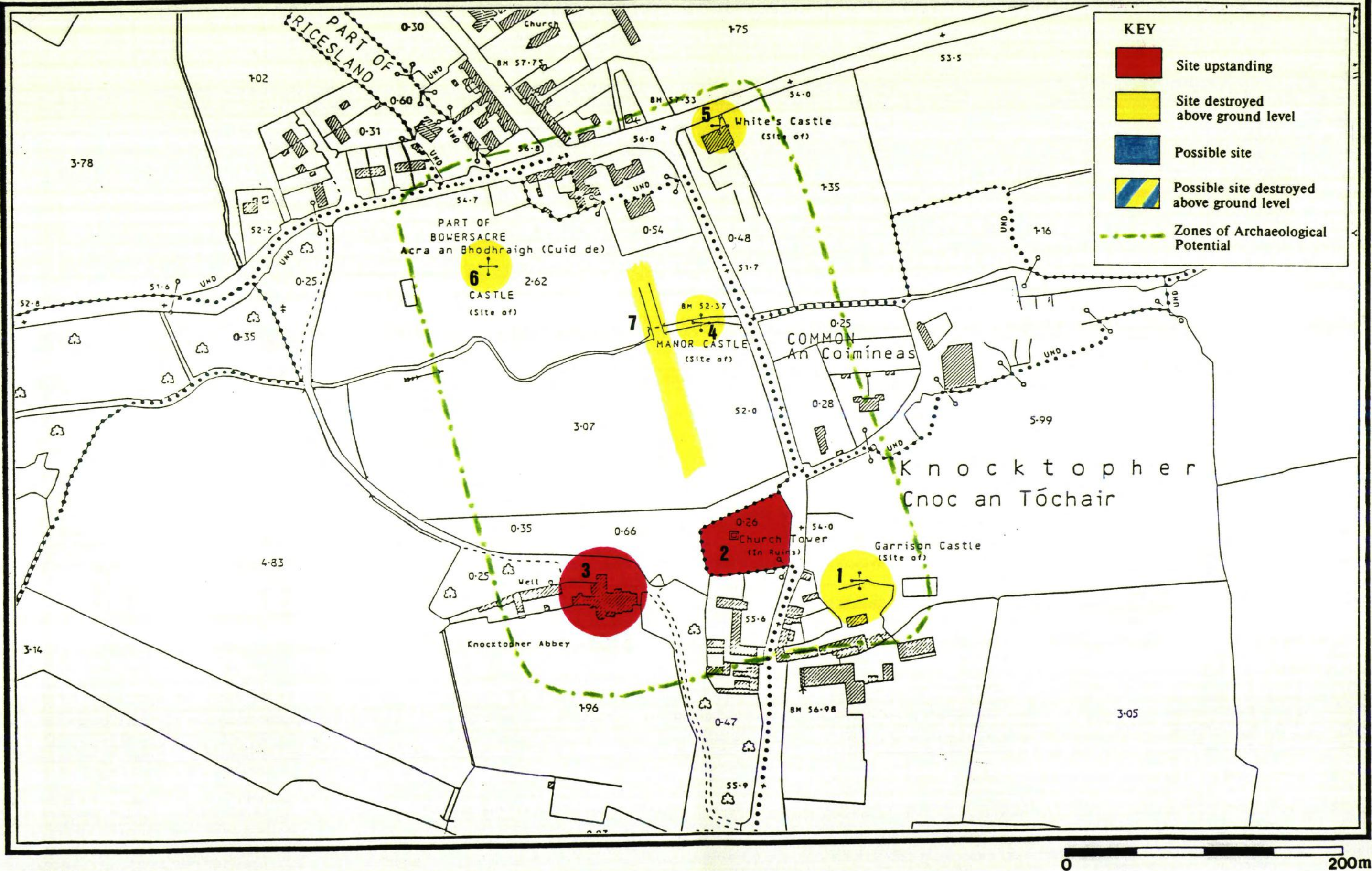
Map 15 : INISTIÖGE. Zone of Archaeological Potential.





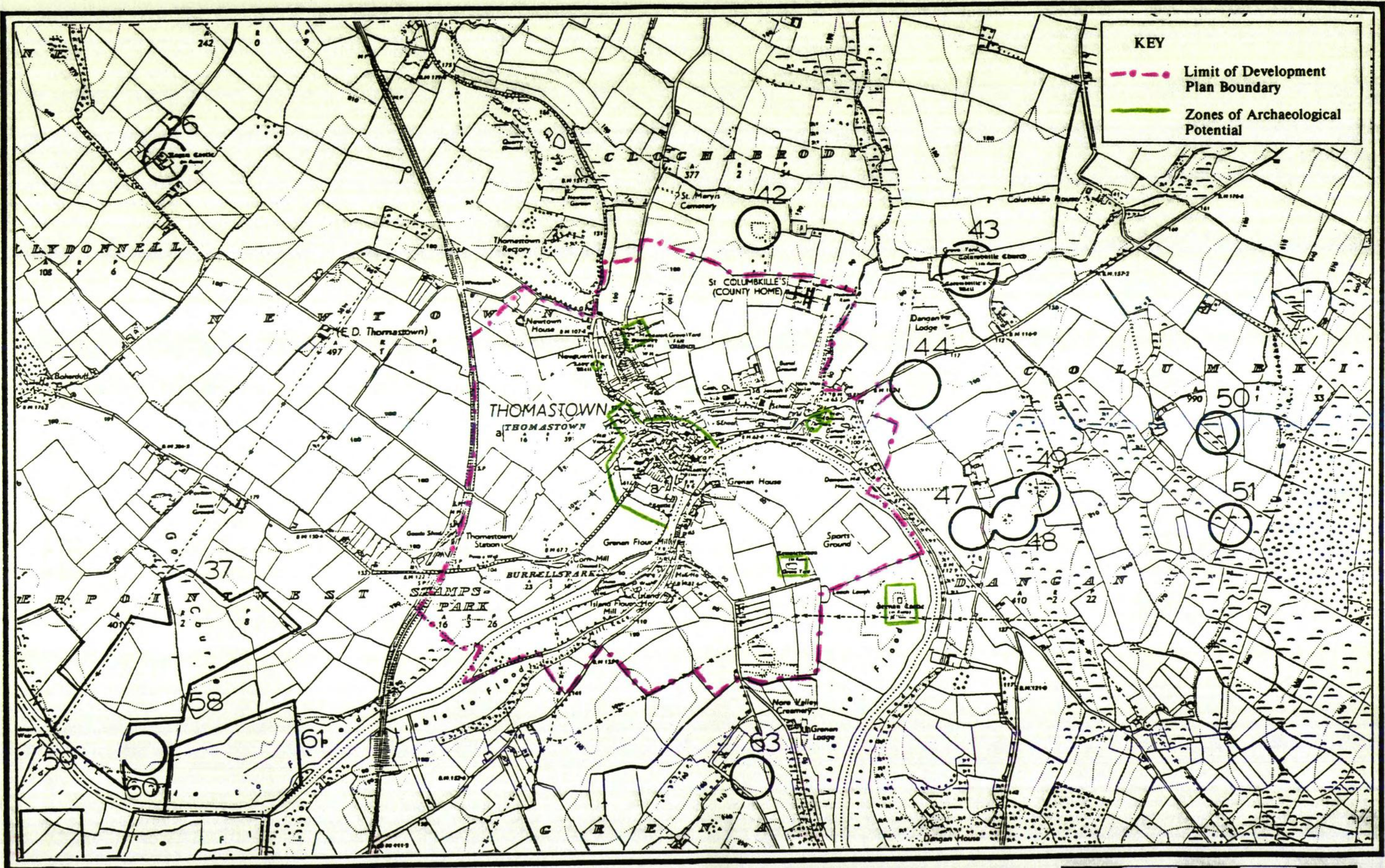
Map 16 : KELLS. Zones of Archaeological Potential.





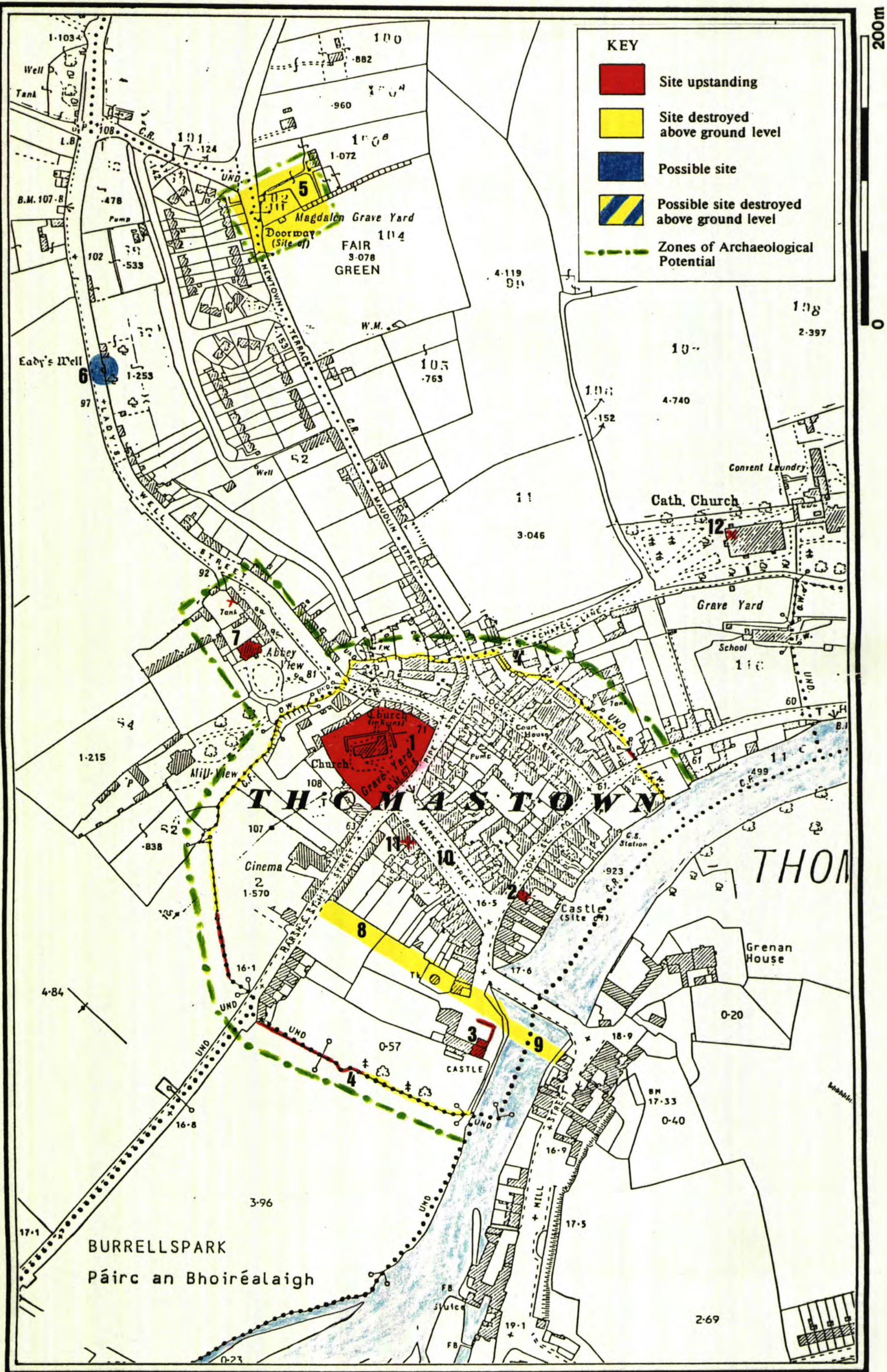
Map 17 : KNOCKTOPHER. Zone of Archaeological Potential.





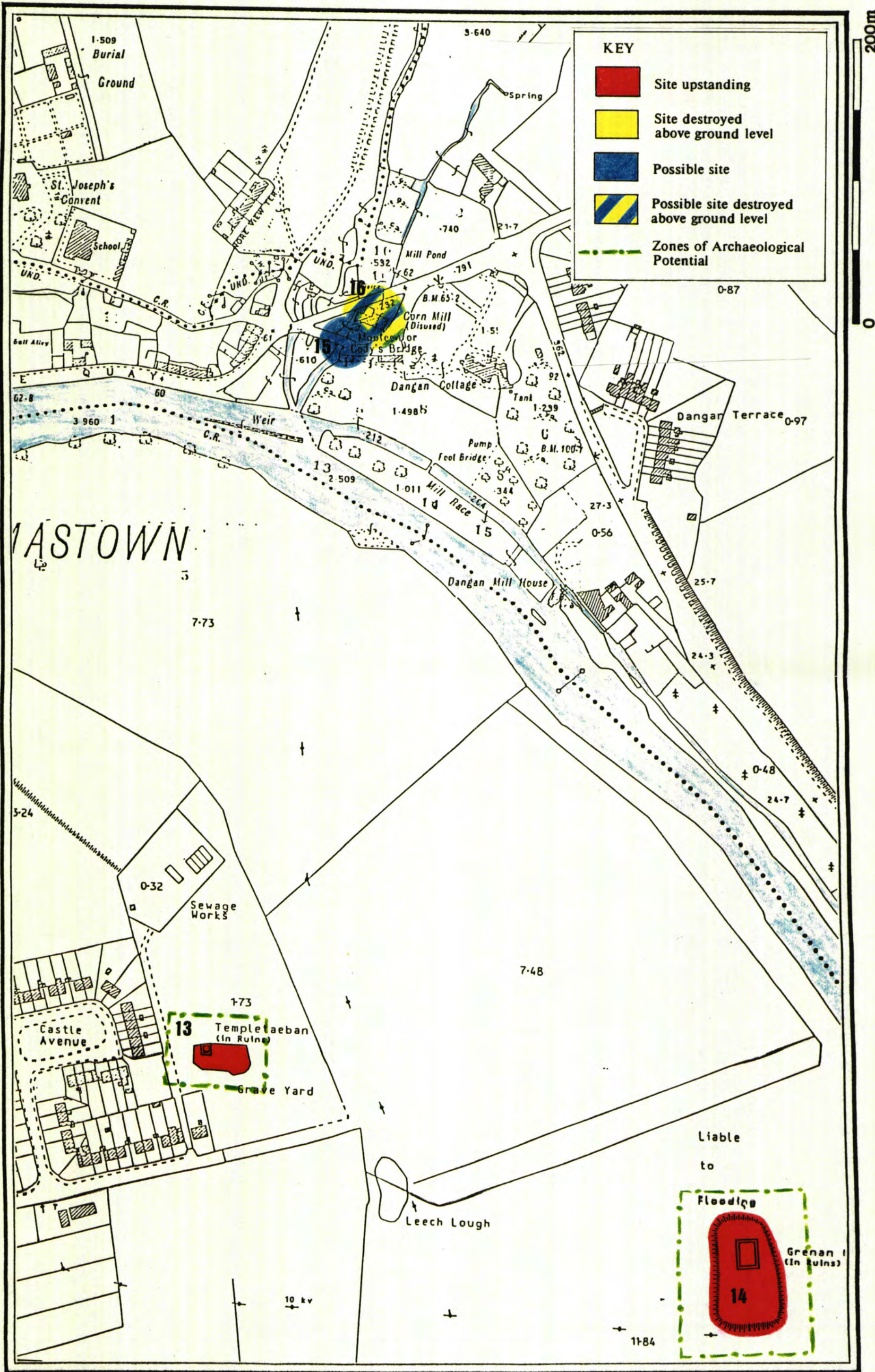
Map 18 : THOMASTOWN. Limit of Development Plan Boundary highlighting the Zones of Archaeological Potential.





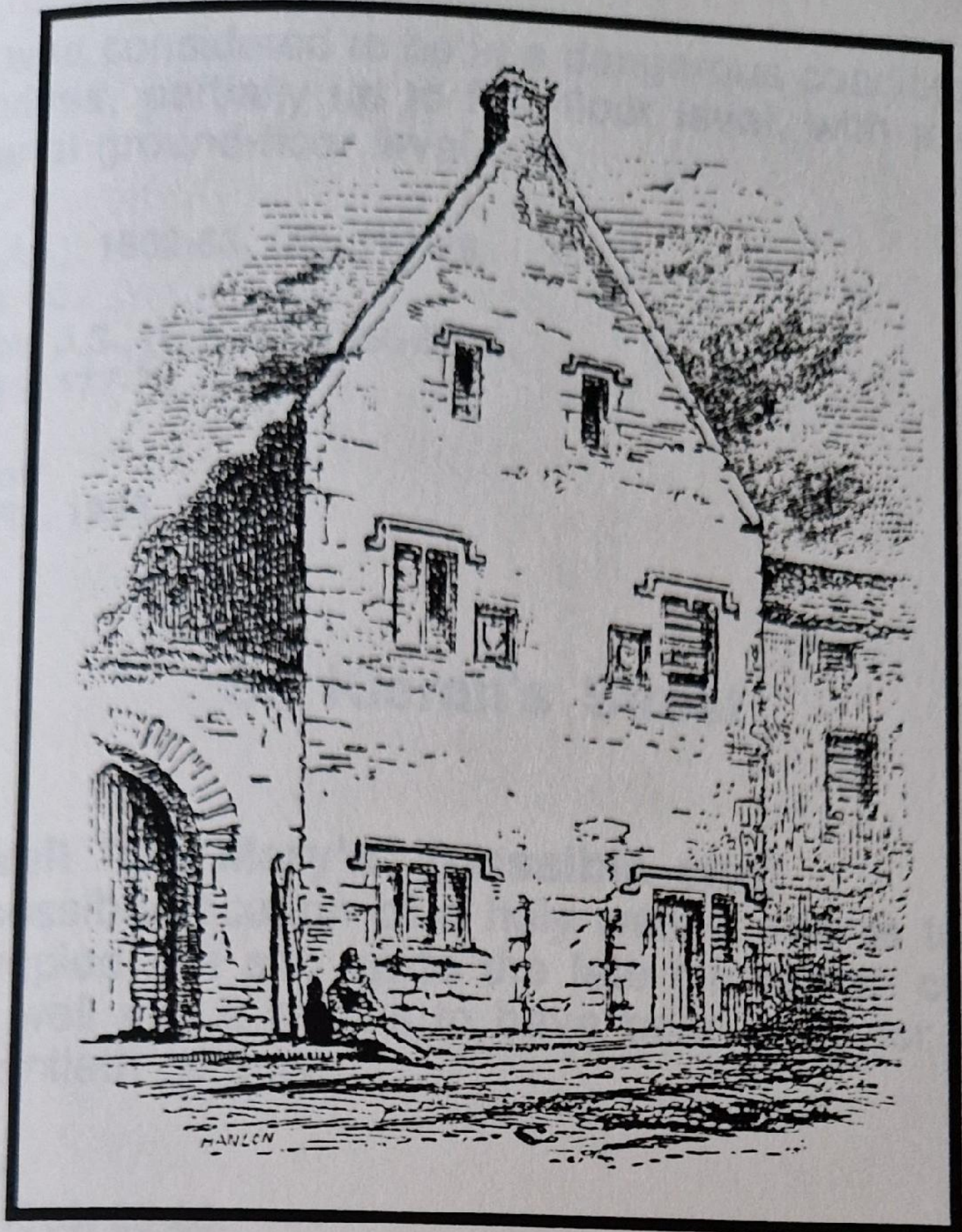
Map 19a : THOMASTOWN. Zones of Archaeological Potential.





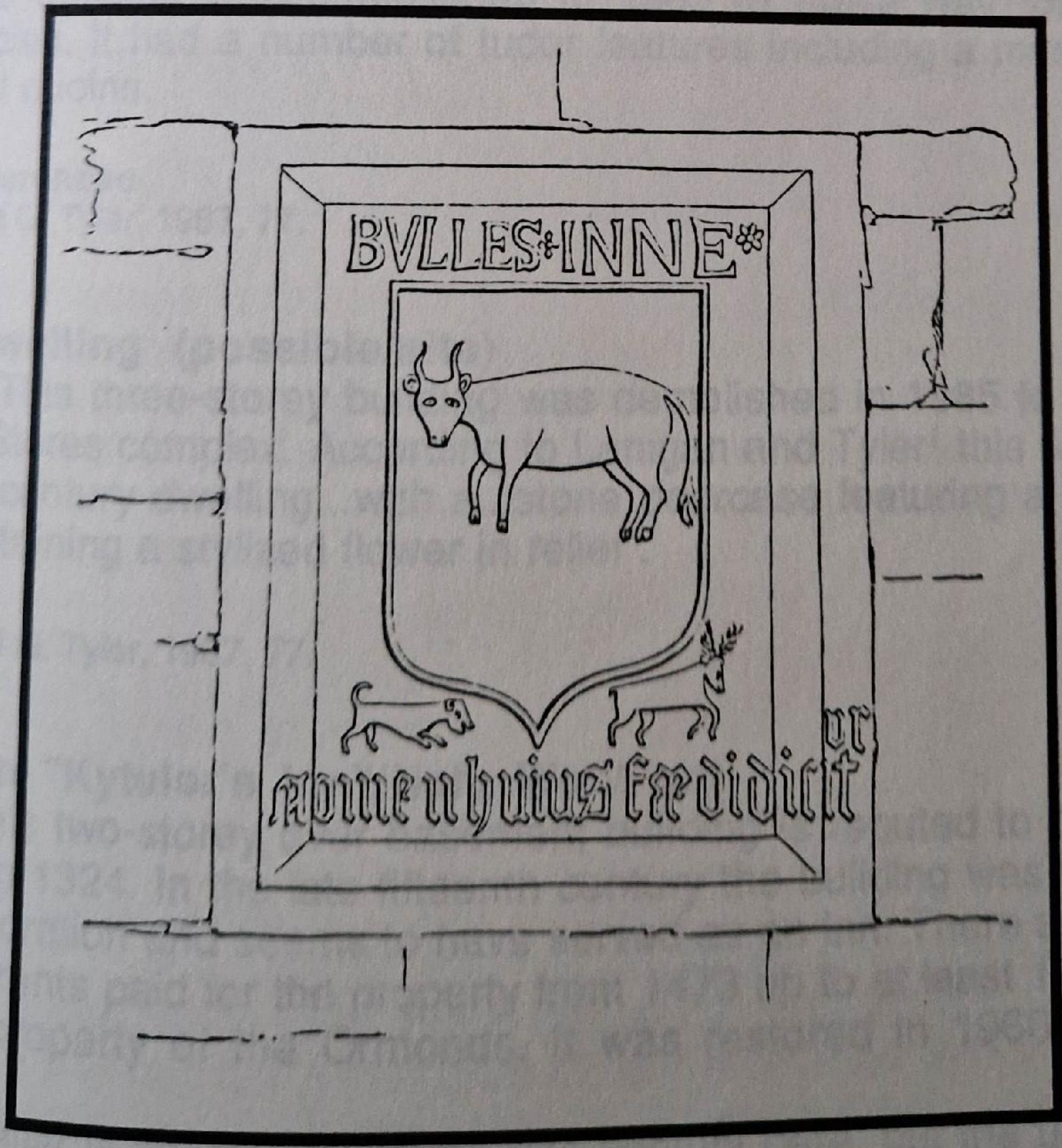
Map 19b : THOMASTOWN. Zones of Archaeological Potential.





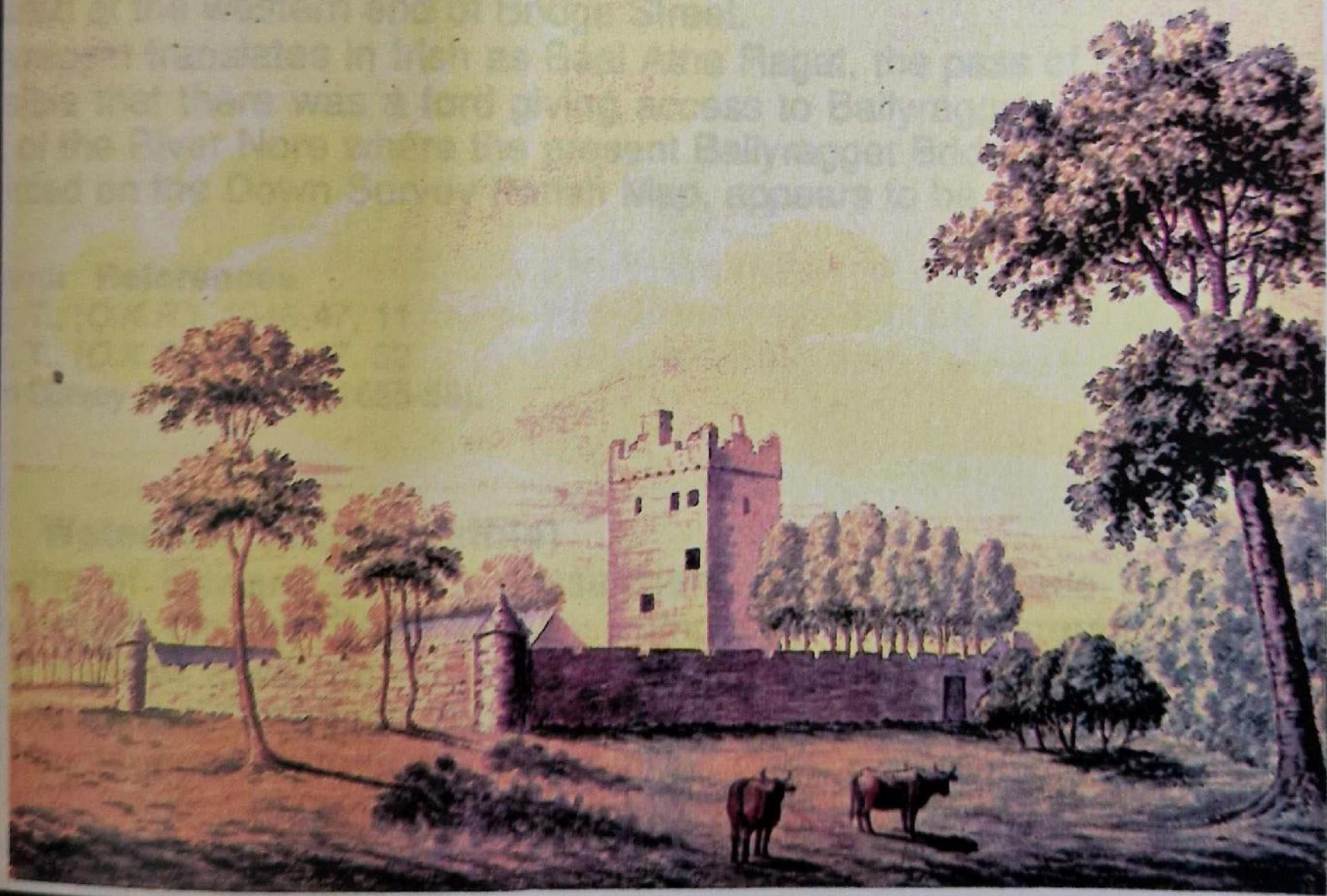
Bull Inn, Kilkenny (reproduced from *J.R.S.A.I.*, Vol. 7, 1862-63)





Bull Inn plaque, Kilkenny (reproduced from *J.R.S.A.I.*, Vol. 7, 1862-3)



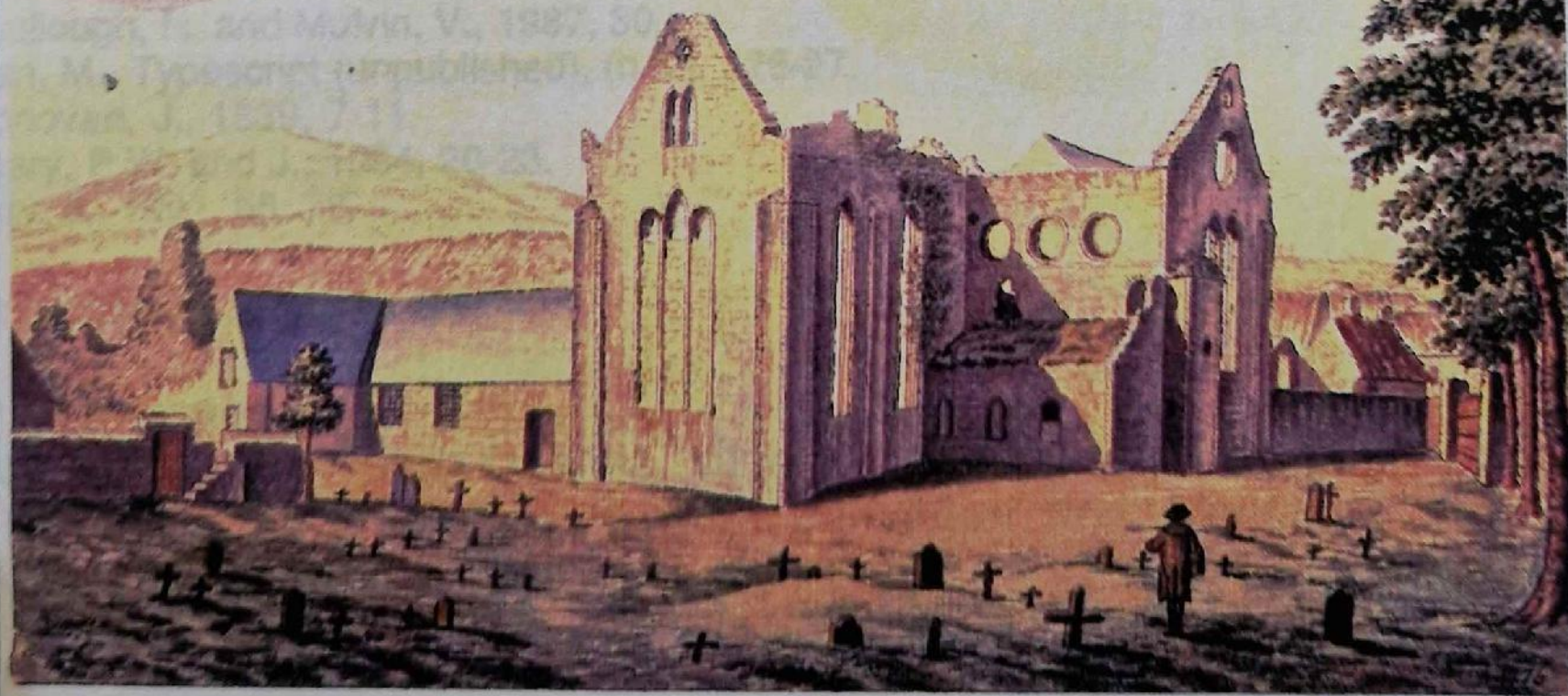


Ballyragget Castle, Co. Kilkenny (Beranger)



The Abbey of GRAIGNAMANAGH, County of Kilkenny.

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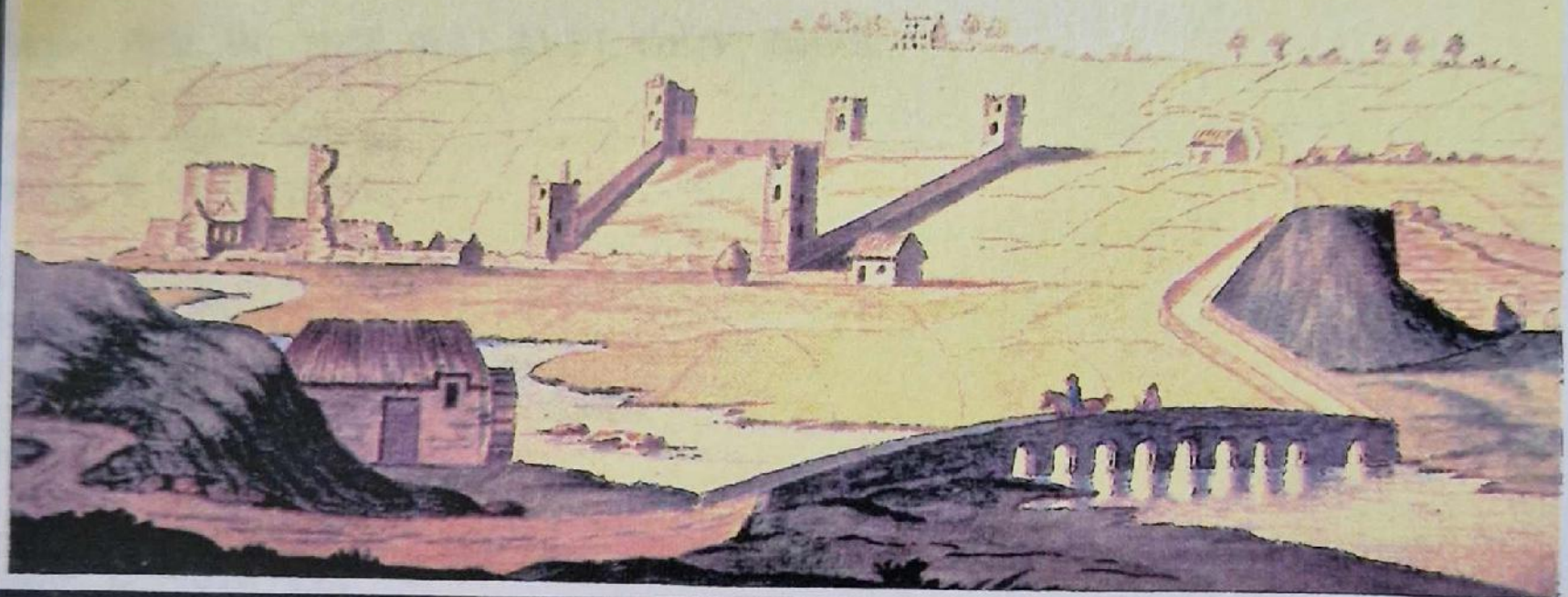


Graignamanagh Abbey, Co. Kilkenny (Beranger)



Kells on Kings river. Co. of Kilkenny.

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Kells, Co. Kilkenny (Beranger)