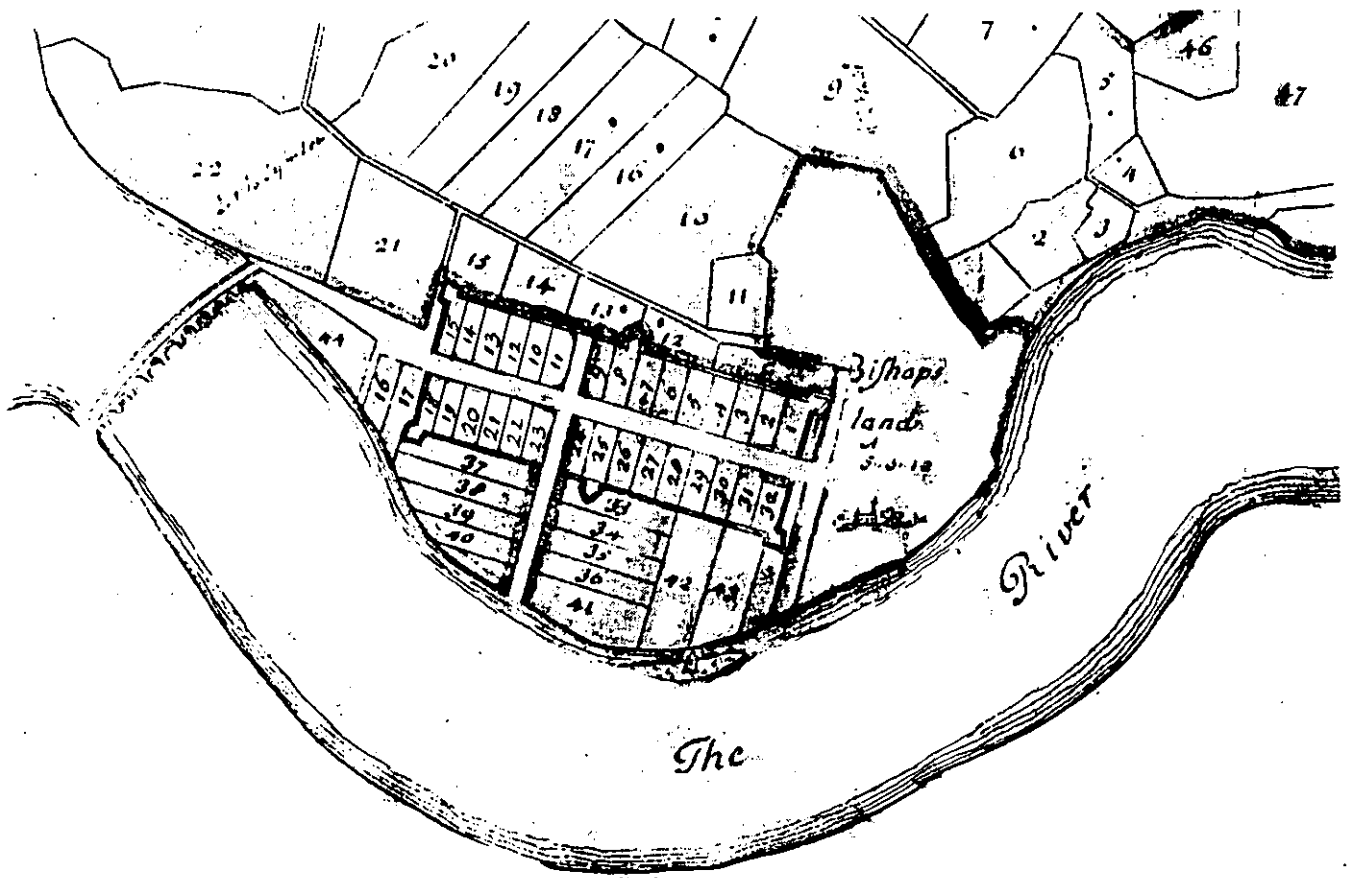


COUNTY LEITRIM



THE WALLED PLANTATION TOWN OF JAMESTOWN, COUNTY LEITRIM
Detail of a map by Thomas Moland drawn in 1730

THE URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY

URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY

PART XXII

COUNTY LEITRIM

JOHN BRADLEY

NOEL DUNNE

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

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

By its nature archaeology is concerned with the past of ordinary people. The fragmentary building remains, pottery sherds and scraps of worked stone or wood which the archaeologist discovers cannot be used to reconstruct

political movements or great administrative changes. These parts of our past can only be glimpsed from documents, from what people who were alive at the time have observed themselves or heard related. Archaeological data, however, can tell us a great deal about the everyday life of ordinary people and the quality of that life in terms of the technological and economic resources of the particular time and place in question.

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

Development of Urban Archaeology

For long the study of the urban past has largely been the preserve of historians, sociologists and geographers and it is only recently that the potential of archaeology to uncover

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

It was at Novgorod in Russia that the potential of urban archaeology was first revealed. There, organic remains were found in large quantities and it became possible to reconstruct entire streetscapes and to chronicle the changes which happened in them as one generation succeeded the next (Thompson 1967). Gradually as excavation took place in England and Germany it became apparent that the rich archaeological material in towns was not just a side-light on

urban life but it could contribute greatly to our understanding of the archaeology of entire periods and regions. In Ireland the first scientific excavations were commenced at Dublin Castle in 1961 and excavations were to continue in Dublin for the next twenty years. The interest aroused by the High Street and, later, the Wood Quay excavations was widespread and it created an interest in the archaeology of other towns. To date, excavations have taken place in about twenty Irish towns.

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

foundation or of how a particular area evolved and was used.

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

Thirdly, the archaeology of a region cannot be understood without knowing what happened to the towns within it. Each town is a unique expression of the history of its area and the destruction of its archaeology would leave an irreplaceable gap in knowledge of the evolution of the region.

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

Purpose and Aim of the Present Survey

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

1. "To evaluate critically the archaeological potential, both above and below ground of the listed towns".
2. "To emphasise areas where the archaeological deposits could be preserved by the judicious use of new building techniques and the presentation of open spaces, etc."
3. "To assess the level of destruction of the original townscape".
4. "To measure the effects of urban expansion on originally rural archaeological sites".

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

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

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

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

INTRODUCTION TO CO. LEITRIM.

There are two sites of importance to urban archaeology in Co. Leitrim. These are Carrick-on-Shannon and Jamestown (fig. 1). Urbanization came to Leitrim at a relatively late date in comparison to the neighbouring counties of Sligo and Roscommon. It was not until the early 1600s that the first towns were established in the county and when they arrived they came as agents of Plantation. Indeed Leitrim's urban history is much closer to that of Fermanagh and Donegal rather than to the counties immediately south or west.

This report provides an account of the archaeological remains at Carrick-on-Shannon and Jamestown together with an assessment of the town's importance to archaeological research. It outlines the areas within the towns where archaeological deposits are likely to survive and highlights the potential of these sites to increase our knowledge of the development of urban life in Ireland. Finally, recommendations are made as to how this potential can be best realised. Each town is provided with a map outlining its zone of archaeological potential in which the following colour code is used:

Pink: the zone of archaeological potential.

Red: extant archaeological monuments.

Purple: sites of known monuments.

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON

The position of Carrick-on-Shannon must have been utilized from early times as a fording point but it is only documented for the first time in 1530 when O'Donnell crossed the Shannon at Carradh Droma Ruisc on a predatory raid (AFM). The circumstances behind the creation of the borough in 1613 are unclear but the town's strategic location was undoubtedly significant. In 1611 it is listed as a settlement which is about to be created a borough (Russell and Prendergast 1877, 161). The following year the order was given to draw up the charter of incorporation (ibid., 294) and the charter was granted in 1613.

A castle, described as newly built in 1611 (Ir. Rec. Comm. 1830, 189), was granted to Maurice Griffith in that year for a period of twenty-one years. In 1623, however, the same Maurice Griffith requested money to build a fort and wooden bridge at the site of Drumrussie (Russell and Prendergast 1880, 406, 430). This fort, it would seem, was built on the opposite bank of the river. In 1627 Thomas Dutton was granted the fort and castle newly erected at Drumruska in 1627 (Morris 1863, 251).

During the Confederate Wars the town was held by the earl of Clanrickard and attacked by Owen Roe O'Neill. In 1659 the garrison was listed as consisting of twenty men (Cal. S.P. Ire. 1647-52, 279-80). In overall strategic terms, however,

the importance of the fort diminished after the construction of Jamestown (Kerrigan 1980-1, 140).

There are two descriptions of Carrick-on-Shannon c.1683 (Logan 1971, 327, 333) when fourteen families are described as living there, governed by a provost and twelve burgesses. It had then a large wooden bridge and a strong castle in the possession of Sir Oliver St George.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACE
3. BRIDGE
4. CASTLE (of 1611)
5. FORT (of 1623)
6. ST. GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN

The street pattern of the initial town was linear and was based on the curving shape of Bridge Street. Main Street represents an extension which probably towards the close of the seventeenth century, if one is to judge from the positioning of St George's Church.

2. MARKET PLACE

The expansion at the foot of Bridge Street immediately outside the castle suggests that this was the location of the original market place. The construction of the market square at the north end of Bridge Street was a later development.

3. BRIDGE

The first reference to a bridge occurs in 1684 when Maurice Griffith requested money from the crown to build a wooden one (Russell and Prendergast 1880, 406, 430). This is described in an account of c.1683 as a large timber bridge (Logan 1971, 332). Tolls were granted to Sir George St. George in 1684 in order to keep it in repair (Lewis 1837, i, 275). It was replaced in 1718 by a stone bridge of eleven arches.

4. CASTLE (of 1611)

This was situated on the east (Leitrim) bank of the Shannon and is described in 1611 as "newly built" (Ir. Rec. Comm. 1830, 189). In local tradition it was referred to as O'Rourke's Castle. Its site was taken over for use as a police barracks. It was demolished in 1984 in order to construct the by-pass road.

All that survives today is the base of a tower located on the grass verge on the south side of the by pass (fig. 4). It

consists of a small arc of a circular bastion with a wall facing standing to a max. external height of 1.33m. The surviving length of the outer circumference is 5.2m (inner circum.: 1.25m). The wall is 1.5m thick at the base. The splay of a window or gun-loop survives at a height of 63cm above ground. The masonry consists of roughly coursed limestone.

5. FORT (of 1623)

As outlined above this structure was built after 1623 by Maurice Griffith on the west (Roscommon) bank of the Shannon. The building which is pointed out locally as part of this fort is obscured by ivy and by its incorporation into sheds. It does not show any features which are diagnostic of the seventeenth century.

6. ST. GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH

The parish church moved into the town from Kiltoghart in 1698. The church was rebuilt in 1829 (Lewis 1837, i, 276). No pre-1700 features are evident.

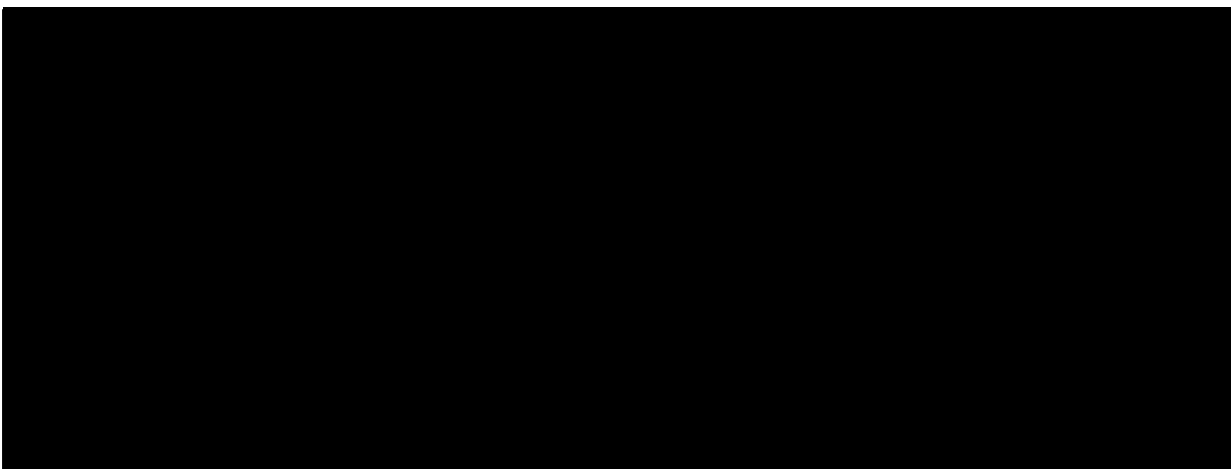

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

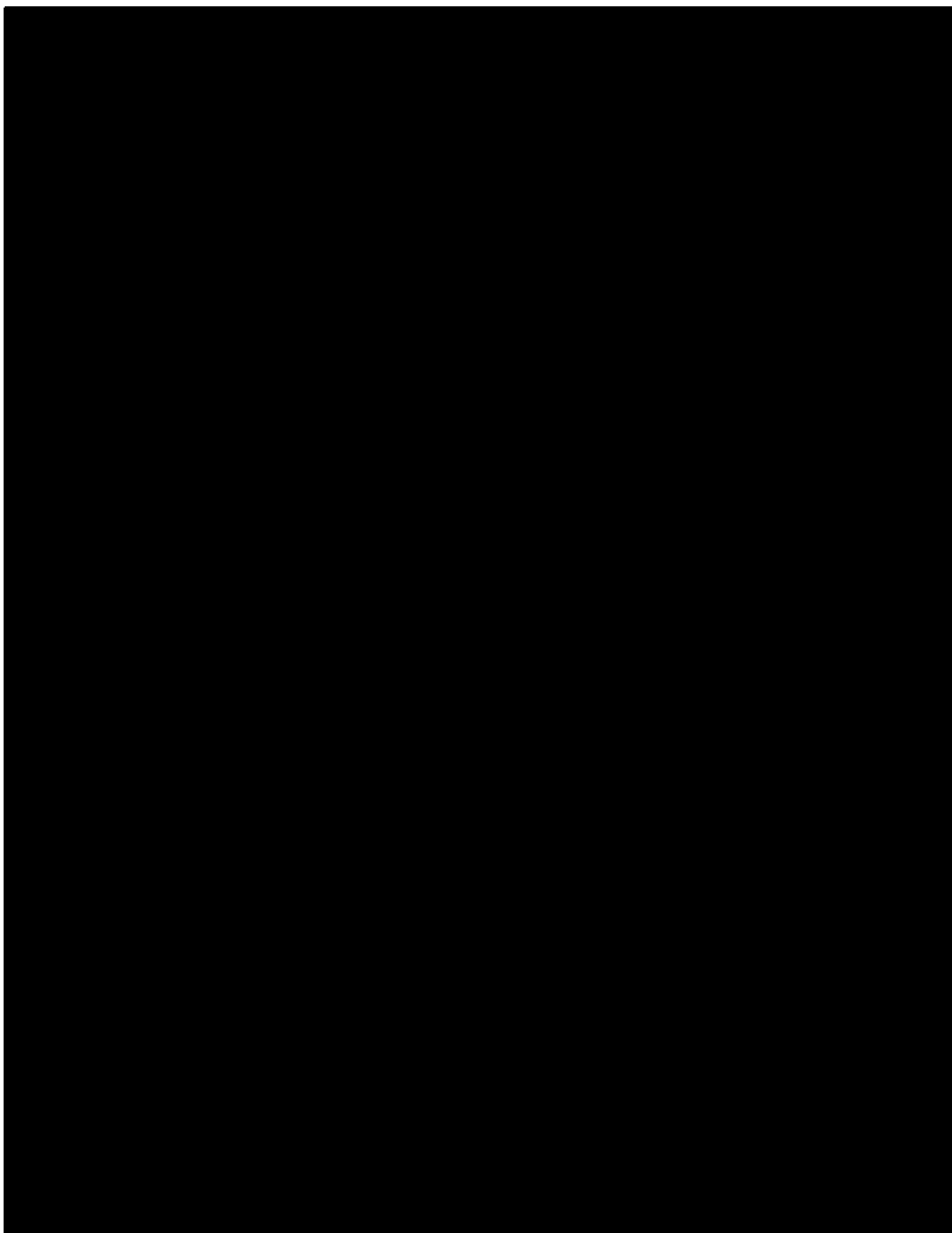
Carrick-on-Shannon is an example of a seventeenth century plantation town and archaeological deposits of that age are to be expected there. An important opportunity was missed

when the bypass was constructed to investigate the archaeology of the town. The roadway cut right through the site of the castle leaving only a fragment as a roadway curiosity. It is important that whatever future developments should occur that archaeological investigations should precede them.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 2) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Carrick-on-Shannon. It consists of the area of Bridge Street, Main Street and St George's Terrace together with an area on the Roscommon bank where a suburb is likely to have existed. Archaeological deposits are likely to exist over the area shown. In the absence of archaeological excavations within the town nothing can be said about the depth of these deposits.





JAMESTOWN

Jamestown was founded in 1622 as a deliberate plantation town carrying into action the decision of 1620 to plant Leitrim with loyal English settlers. In this respect it differs from towns such as Boyle, Roscommon and Tulsk in so far as there is no evidence of any English settlement there before 1622. That is not to say that the site was devoid of settlement, however. The area where Jamestown now stands is first mentioned in 1310 when Aodh Breifneach camped at Ceall Srianain and was murdered there (Misc. I. A.). The church of Cill Trenain is mentioned again in 1492 when Hubert, son of Mulrony MacRannal was burned in it (AU; AFM). Kilshreenan was still the name in the late seventeenth century of the church outside Jamestown's north gate and it seems to have functioned as the parish church (Logan 1971, 323). There are no indications, however, that in 1622 Jamestown was anything other than a rural church site.

Jamestown's founding charter of 1622 granted the usual tolls and customs, together with the power to make whiskey, to buy and sell wine, ale, beer and all kinds of victuals, to keep taverns, ale houses and tippling houses within the town without licence, and to tan leather and to have tanneries (Ir. Rec. Comm. 1830, 521). The first sovereign of the town was Sir Charles Coote and he immediately set about attracting colonists (Russell and Prendergast 1880, 445-6). He made a covenant with Oliver St John by which he received £3000 to

wall the town and build two gates (Russell and Prendergast 1880, 336). The town was laid out in classic Renaissance style along a main N-S street bisected by a narrower E-W street of lesser importance. Subsequently a sister town of Charlestown was proposed on the opposite bank of the Shannon, in Roscommon, but it was never a success despite the grant to it of the same privileges as Jamestown had.

The map of Thomas Moland prepared in 1730 (cover) shows that thirty-two properties were envisaged within the town each one of which would have held the home of a settler. It is not clear, however, how many of these properties were taken up and settled. The borough suffered badly in the Confederate wars when the town "almost went to ruine" (Logan 326-7). By 1683 some sixty families lived at Jamestown but interestingly most of them dwelt outside the walls and the houses within were described as ruinous (Logan 1971, 332). The decay of Jamestown would seem to date from this time.

In the seventeenth century Jamestown was the county town of Leitrim and is so described as late as 1683 (Logan 1971, 332). After the destruction of the town in 1690, when it was successively captured by the Williamite and Jacobite forces, it began to be overshadowed by Carrick-on-Shannon.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACE

3. DOMESTIC HOUSES
4. PUBLIC BUILDINGS
5. BRIDGE
6. TOWN WALLS
7. FORT
8. ST. TREANAIN'S PARISH CHURCH
9. FRANCISCAN FRIARY
10. MISCELLANEOUS

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN

Moland's map of 1730 shows the town's formal layout with a main N-S street and subsidiary E-W one.

2. MARKET PLACE

The foundation charter of 1622 granted a weekly market on Saturdays (Ir. Rec. Comm. 1830, 521). This was almost certainly held in the wide main street. Moland's map shows a triangular space immediately south of the town which would have been suitable for accomodating fairs. The nineteenth century fair ground was in the triangular field immediately SW of Tully promontory fort (section 10 below).

3. DOMESTIC HOUSES

There are hints that some houses may have been built prior to the arrival of settlers, although this would have

been an unusual practice. In 1623 Sir Charles Coote was granted a warrant for timber, slate, stone and workmen to "encourage the inhabitants who are invited to build and reside within the walls of the said town" (Russell and Prendergast 1880, 445-6). A government report of c.1622-3 states that "a range of 6 or 7 English houses of lime and stone" had been built and that more were in the course of preparation (BL Add. Ms. 4756, f.130v). Thirty-two plots were laid out within the walls and this presumably indicates the number of "English houses" that were envisaged (Loeber 1982-3, 81).

4. PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The original charter of incorporation allowed for the appointment of a deputy justice of the peace within the borough with criminal jurisdiction, a borough court with civil jurisdiction of £20 to be held every three weeks, a court of civil pleas, and a court of pie-powder (Ir. Rec. Comm. 1830, 521). A bridewell is mentioned in 1659 (Mahaffy 1903, 688) and both it and the Sessions House are described in a report of c.1683 as being located within the walls (Logan 1971, 326-7; cf. Lewis 1837, ii, 29). The original position of these buildings is now unknown.

5. BRIDGE

A government report of c.1622-3 mentions that Sir Charles

Coote had "made a fair large, wooden bridge over the Shannon" (BL Add. MS. 4756, f.130v). It is depicted on the Down Survey map of 1657 and is described c.1683 simply as a wooden bridge "which renders the place very useful" (Logan 1971, 326-7). By the time Moland's map was prepared in 1730 it had been replaced by a stone bridge. The bridge was situated immediately south of the town.

6. TOWN WALLS

In his agreement with Oliver St. John, made in 1621, Sir Charles Coote undertook to wall Jamestown and build two gateways for £3000 (Russell and Prendergast 1880, 336). The covenant gives exact dimensions of the size of the wall. Externally it was to be 160 perches in total length, and each perch is specifically stated to equal 18ft. The base of the wall was to be 6.5 feet wide; it was to be 14ft high, and the top of the wall was to be 6ft wide with a parapet or battlement of an additional 6 ft. £2880 was allocated for the construction of the wall and £120 for the gates. Work on the construction of the walls seems to have started almost immediately (Kerrigan 1980-1, 140). The walls suffered substantial damage, however, in the course of the seventeenth century. The south gate was demolished by the Earl of Carlingford in his assault on the town in 1645 but it had been rebuilt by c.1683 (Logan 1971, 326-7). The town was captured for the Williamites by Col Lloyd in 1689 and the north gate was badly damaged by Sarsfield when he recaptured

the town. The north gate was rebuilt c.1780 by Hugh O'Beirne (Butler 1935, 73)

With the help of Moland's map and the surviving fragments it is possible to reconstruct the course of the wall. It enclosed a rectangular area, it had a gate in the north and south walls, an angled or pointed bastion at the corners, and a bastion or flanker centrally placed along the long sides (fig. 6). The only evidence for a fosse occurs on parts of the west side.

Nothing survives of the eastern side of the SOUTH WALL which was probably removed in the course of landscaping the drive to Jamestown House. The portion of wall marked on the O.S. 25" map immediately east of the site of the south gate is no longer present and it would appear to have been robbed for use in the construction of the relatively modern roadside wall which now stands at this point. There is a modern field bank on the western side of the south gate with a hedge and ditch but there is no evidence to indicate that it incorporates any part of the earlier structure.

A small section of the southern half of the WEST WALL survives for a distance of 8.2m (fig.8). It has a max. surviving internal height of 3.35m (2.5m externally) and a max. width of 1.2m. The masonry consists of blocky limestone and spalls, very roughly coursed; its outer face is missing. The remainder of the wall in this area was sold, according to a local informant, earlier this century to the County Council for road metal. This short section was preserved because the

landowner had a lean-to shed built against it. South of the surviving fragment a slight break in slope indicates the original line of the wall. For the first 25.7m to the north there is a slight bank immediately outside the original line of the wall (fig. 9); the wall itself is represented by a depression formed as a result of the robbing of the wall down to its base below the level of collapse which had built up outside to form the bank. A fragment of the northern section of the west wall survives behind two gardens where it has a max. external height of 3m but much of the inner facing has been robbed. A building course is evident in the outer face 80cm above ground level. The portion of the town wall marked on the O.S. maps immediately south of the NW bastion no longer survives but its line is indicated by a break in slope.

The position of the NW BASTION was covered by a dense scrub at the time of inspection but no evidence was noted of the plan shown on Moland's map nor of the angled form shown on the O.S. maps. A low tumbled garden wall with a hedge is located along the original line of the western side of the NORTH WALL. The only part of the wall to retain its original height is located immediately west of the north gate and survives for a length of 2.8m. It is 4.45m (14' 7") high at the gate and tapers to 2.3m. West of this the inner facing has been rebuilt outside the original line and forms the south gable of a house which has been constructed against the outer face of the town wall. The original inner face is formed with blocky and angular limestone and some spalls. the

outer facing has a max height of 5.07m and is capped with a coping course 10cm high; above the coping stones are merlons surviving to a height of 37 cm. The coping stones and crenelations are almost certainly later than the town wall and were probably added when the north gate was rebuilt in 1780. The total wall width here is 2.03m (6' 8").

The NORTH GATE was badly damaged by a lorry in 1973 after which the arch was removed and concrete caps were added to the sides at springing level. The gateway consists now of two blocks projecting inwards from the inner face of the town wall. Its sides have rounded outer corners and splay inwards. Immediately east of the gate a modern wall is present for a distance of 6m along the original line of the town wall. East of this stretch there is no evidence even for the line of the wall. Only a small fragment of the WEST WALL survives. A postern or Watergate stood south of the site of the bastion (Logan 1971, 326-7) but it does not appear on Moland's map of 1730.

7. FORT

The town may have had temporary garrisons in its early stages but it is in 1643 that the first reference occurs to a company of soldiers being stationed at Jamestown (Mahaffy 1901, 380) and in 1646 the garrison consisted of 100 men (ibid., 654). They were almost certainly stationed at the fort.

The fort is located on the marshy crest of a N-S orientated ridge. The outlook to the west is over undulating terrain, while to the SE and ENE is the town of Jamestown and the river Shannon. The site consists of a small, roughly square, earthen star-shaped fort (fig. 10). The interior is in the form of a platform with square bastions at each corner, the outer edges of which project partly beyond the line of the sides of the platform core. A fosse forms the outer perimeter of the site. The fort is cut in two by a modern bank and ditch running roughly N-S. West of this boundary the site has been partly ploughed out. East of it, the fort is covered in dense scrub.

8. ST TREANAIN'S PARISH CHURCH

This is first mentioned as a parish church in 1477 (Twemlow 1955, 65) and it probably continued to function as such after the construction of the town. It is mentioned as Kilshreenan in a description of c.1683 (Logan 1971, 323). The building consists of an undifferentiated nave and chancel church. It is entered through a modernized opening in the west wall. There are the remains of three windows in the south wall and one in the east wall. The presence of pick-dressed limestone suggests that it was largely rebuilt in the seventeenth century. It is suggested that the Franciscans established a friary here c.1640 (see section 9).

9. FRANCISCAN FRIARY

The earliest evidence for the existence of this friary is a chalice belonging to the house, dated 1644, and now kept in Mount St Joseph on the Ohio, in Cincinnati. The foundation date seems to have been close to 1640 because in 1662 Fr Anthony Doherty wrote to Rome that the friary had been founded 20 years or more before (Mooney 1946). The friary was the scene of the meeting of Catholic clergy in 1650 who issued the Jamestown Declaration, a complaint against the marquis of Ormonde's conduct of the war against parliament (Masterson 1935, 1-17). In 1658 the Franciscans held a chapter at Jamestown.

The site has been identified with St Trenain's Church but a problem with this identification is the fact that the Franciscan house was dedicated to St Mary.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

Cropmarks

To the west of Tully Promontory Fort (not shown on fig. 5). A ploughed out enclosure, possibly a ringfort. The site was brought to our attention by Mr Tom Condit of the Sites and Monuments Record Office, after fieldwork had concluded and it was not inspected on the ground.

Fish weirs

These existed south of the town in the 1680s when pike, eel,

bream, trout and white salmon were caught (Logan 1971, 326-7). This is probably to be identified with the eel weir just south of the bridge which was removed by the Shannon Commissioners (Shannon Commissioners 4th report, pl. 15).

Island structure

Moland (1730) shows a crescent shaped island at the meander in the river Shannon and depicts a structure on it. The island no longer survives. No other references to this structure are known.

Promontory Fort. Tully Td. (Fig. 11).

Located on the west bank of the Shannon the site consists of a roughly semi-circular area enclosed by an earthen bank with external ditch. Dims: N-S (crest of bank to crest of bank): 57m; E-W: 30m.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

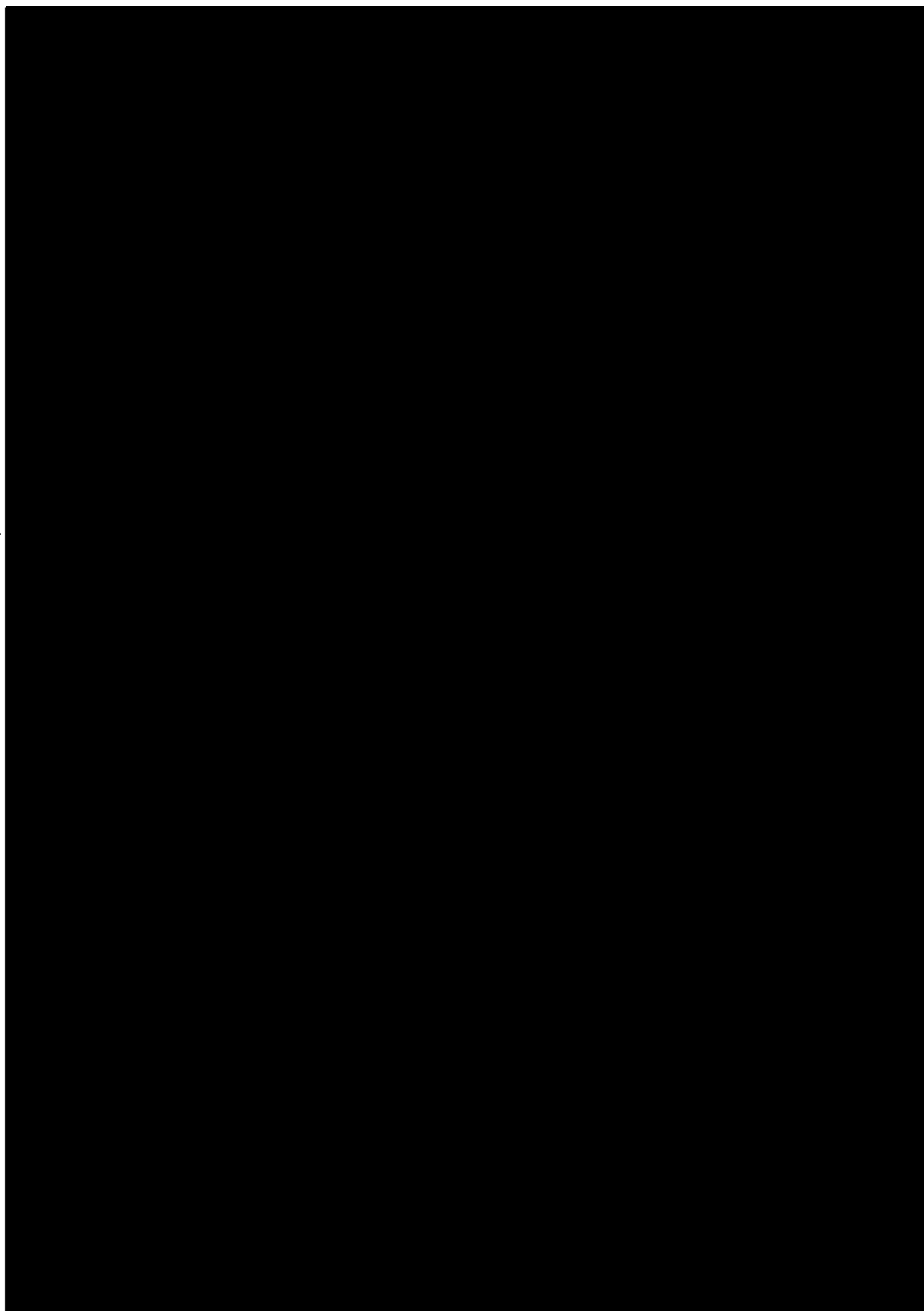
Jamestown is one of the best preserved examples of a seventeenth century plantation town in Ireland. The surviving remains and documentation provide an unusually good picture of what a small seventeenth century plantation town looked like. Archaeological deposits of seventeenth century date are likely to exist within the walled area particularly in the southern half of the town which has been deserted and remained undeveloped for over two hundred years. It is quite likely that the foundations of the "English houses" and

public buildings referred to in the documentary sources survive. It is to be regretted that so much of the town wall has been removed over the years for road metal. Nonetheless care should be taken to ensure that its outline is preserved and not indiscriminately built over or built close to, as happened in the case of a recent development near the north gate. It is important that whatever future developments should occur that archaeological investigations should precede them.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 5) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Jamestown. It consists of the area of the walled town together with an area to the north (which includes the church site) and to the south (where settlement is likely to have taken place between the wall and the bridge. In addition an area around the seventeenth century fort and the promontory fort (in Tully Td.) are ringed. In the absence of archaeological excavations within the town nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits.





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Abbreviations

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- AFM: Annals of the Four Masters, ed. J. O'Donovan, 7 vols. Dublin 1851.
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- Misc I. A.: Miscellaneous Irish Annals AD 1114-1437, ed. S O hInnse. Dublin 1947.

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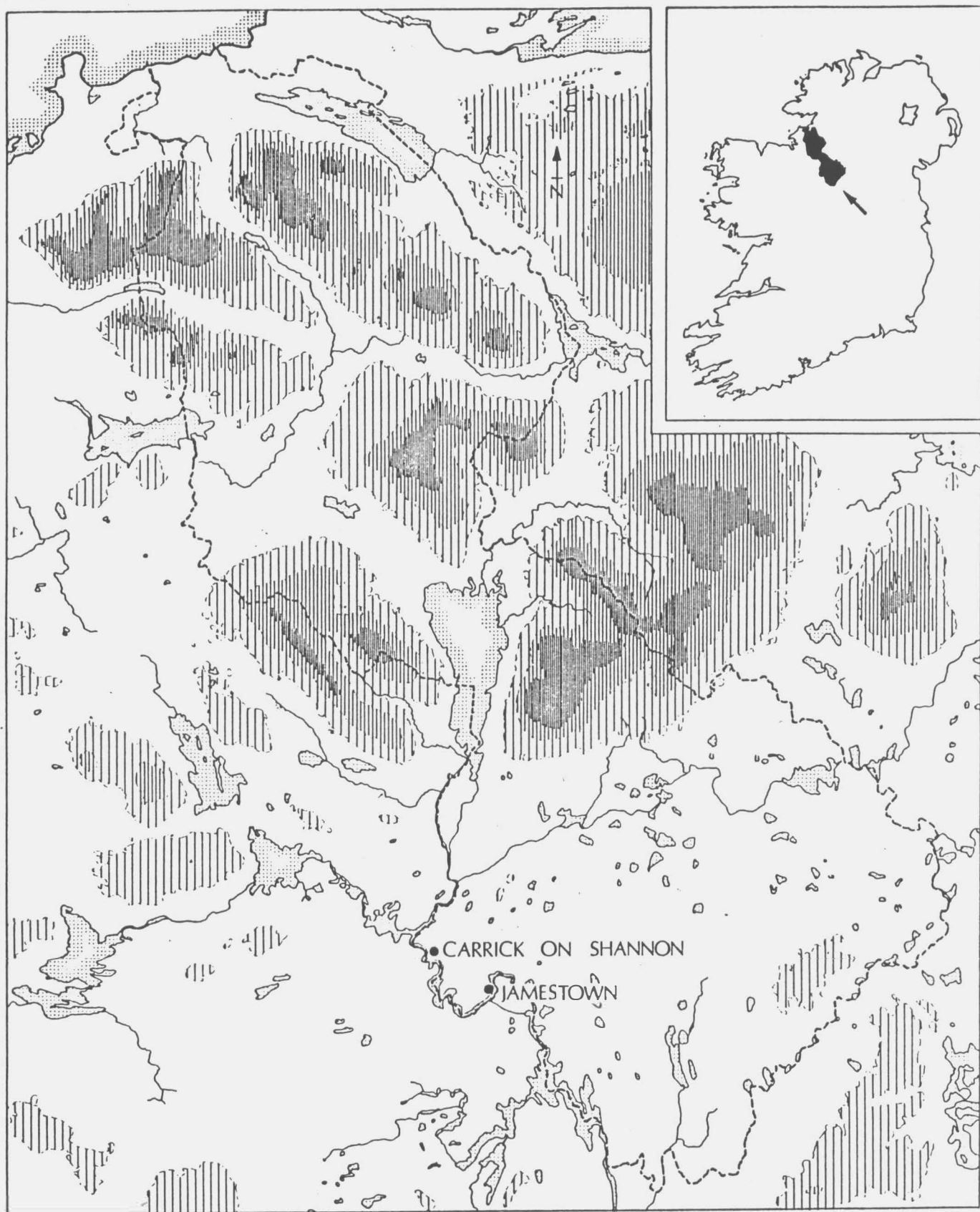
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COUNTY LEITRIM

-  LAND OVER 122M
-  LAND OVER 244M
-  LAND OVER 366M

0 15km



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

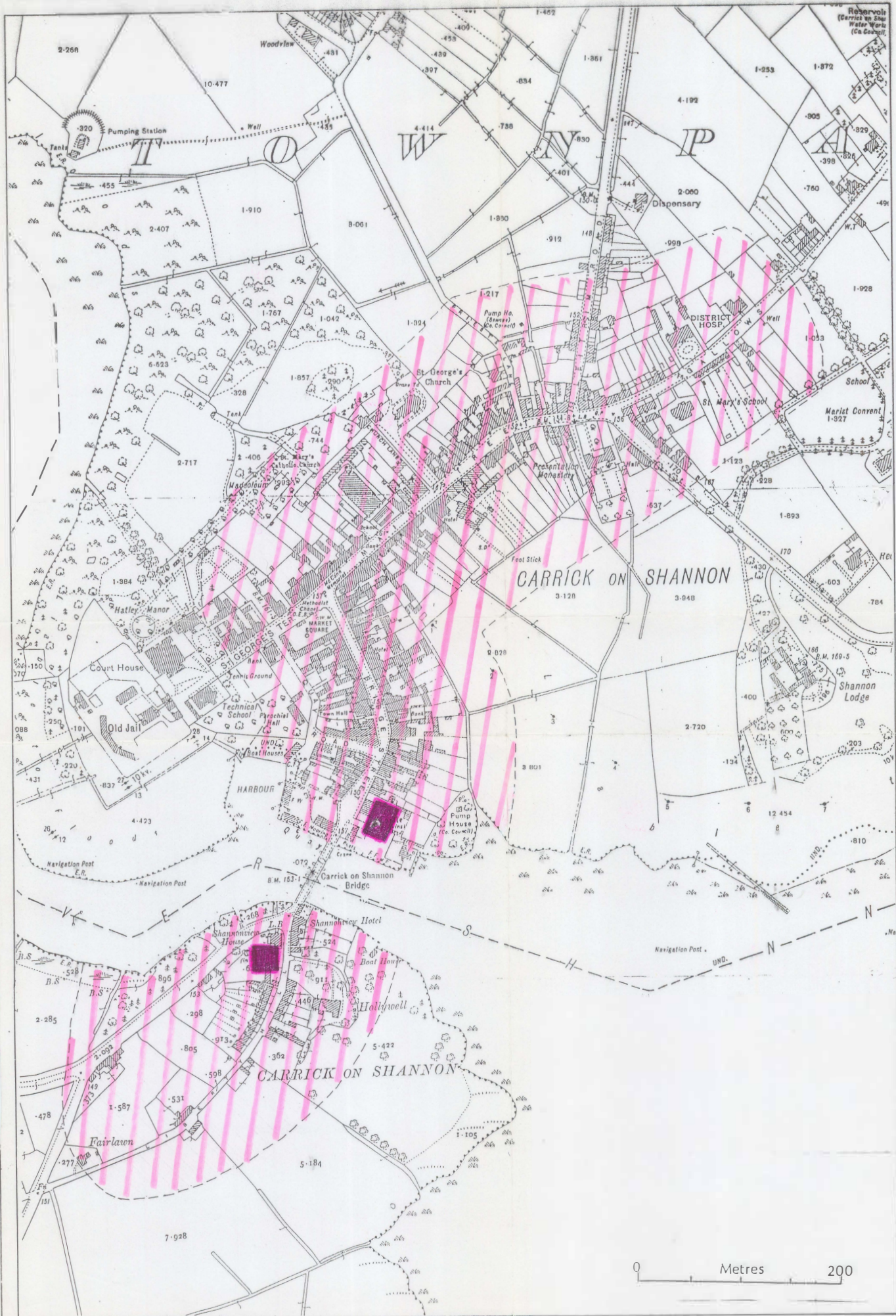


Fig. 2. Carrick-on-Shannon: zone of archaeological potential.

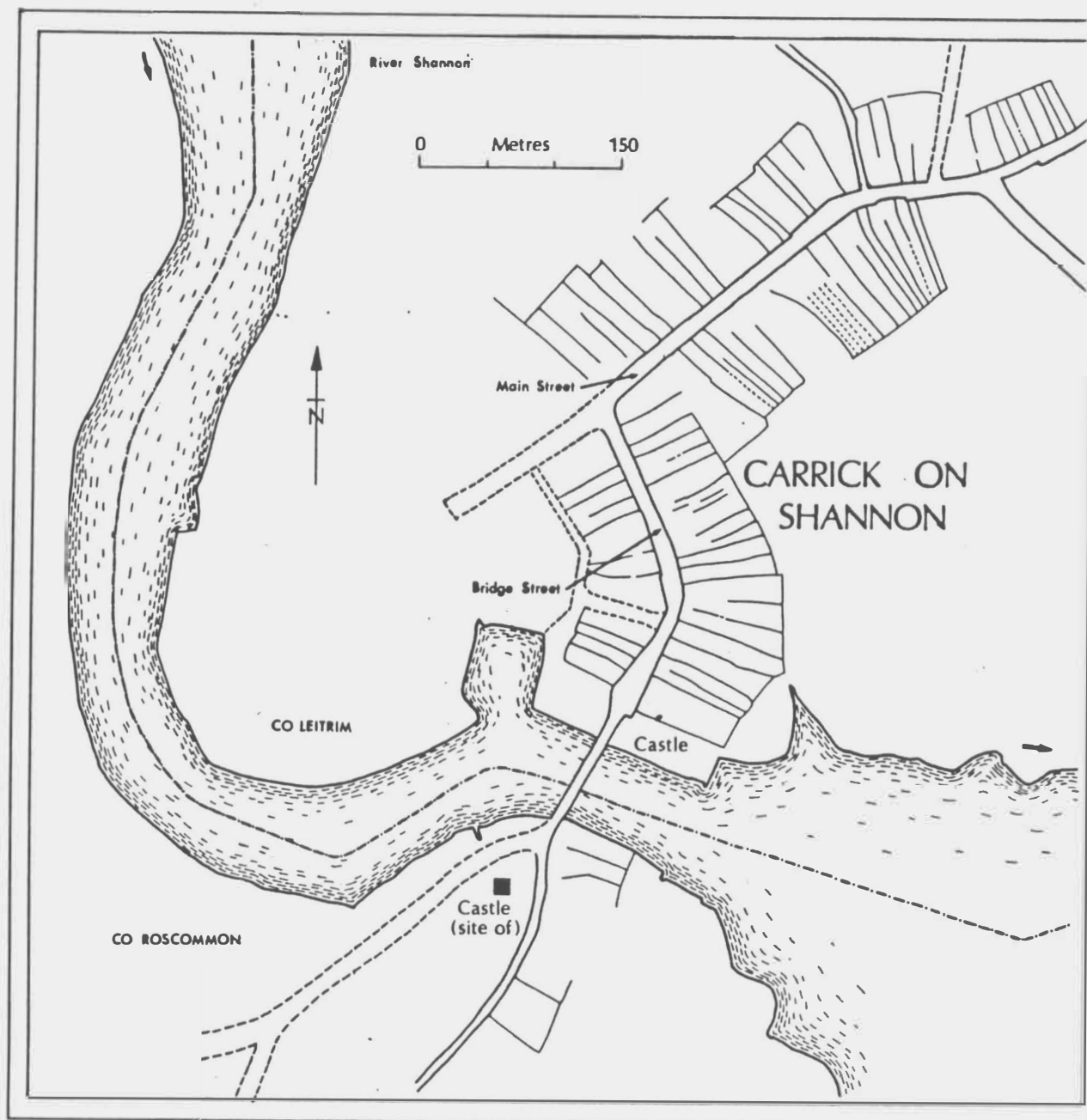
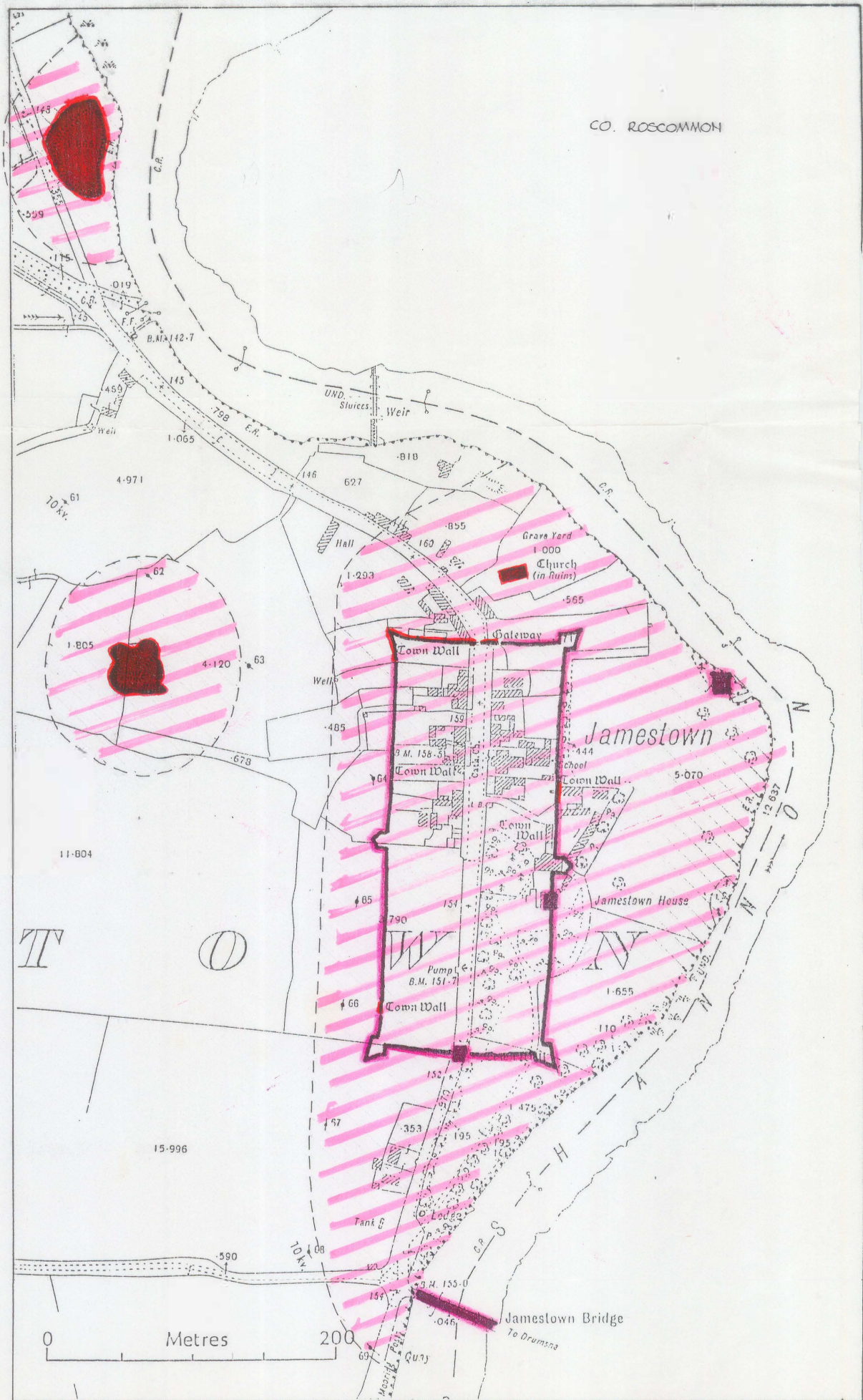


Fig. 3. Outline map of Carrick-on-Shannon showing the principal archaeological features.



Fig. 4. View of tower base, Carrick-on-Shannon Castle, from the southeast.



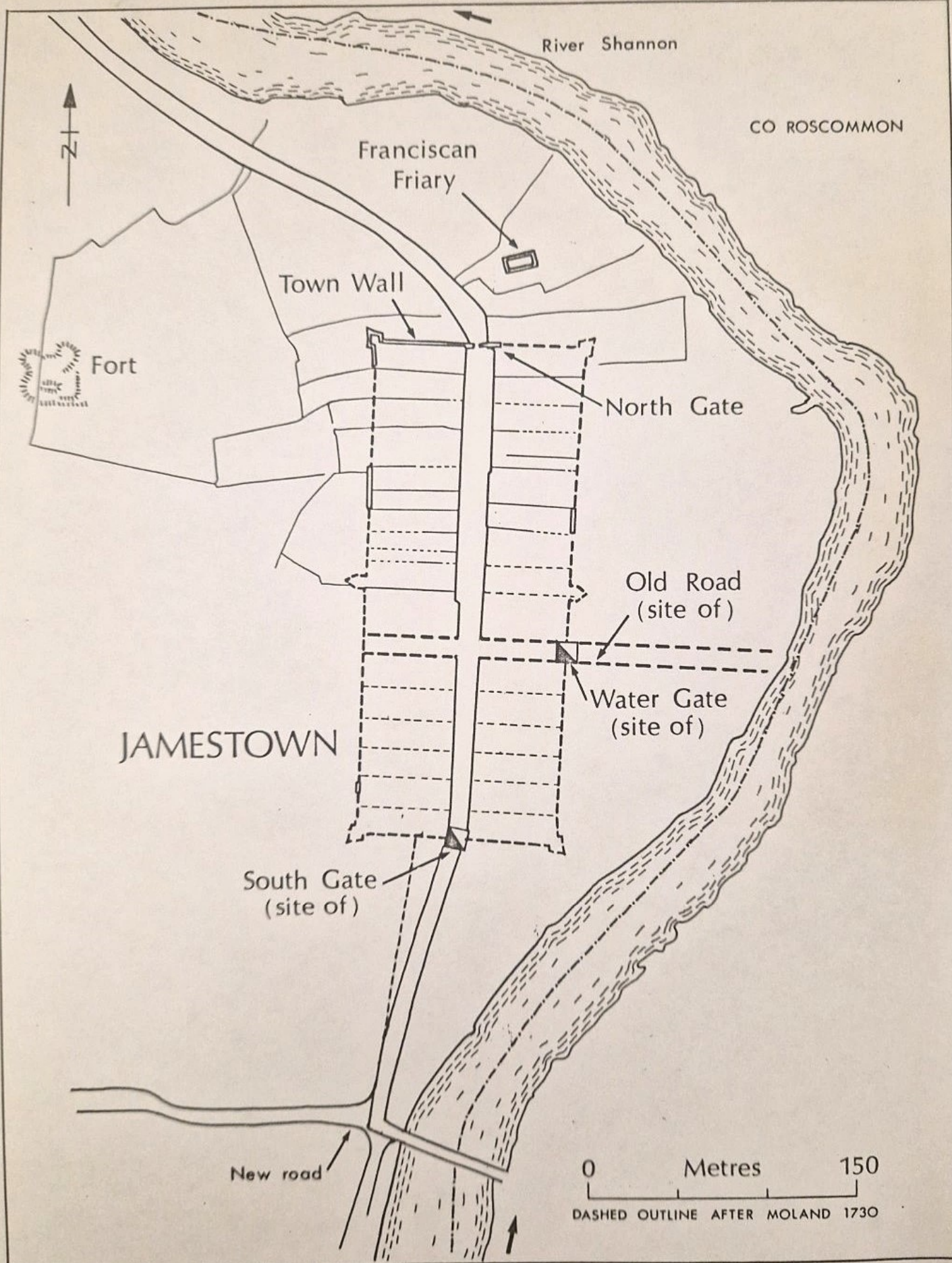


Fig. 6. Outline map of Jamestown showing the principal archaeological features.

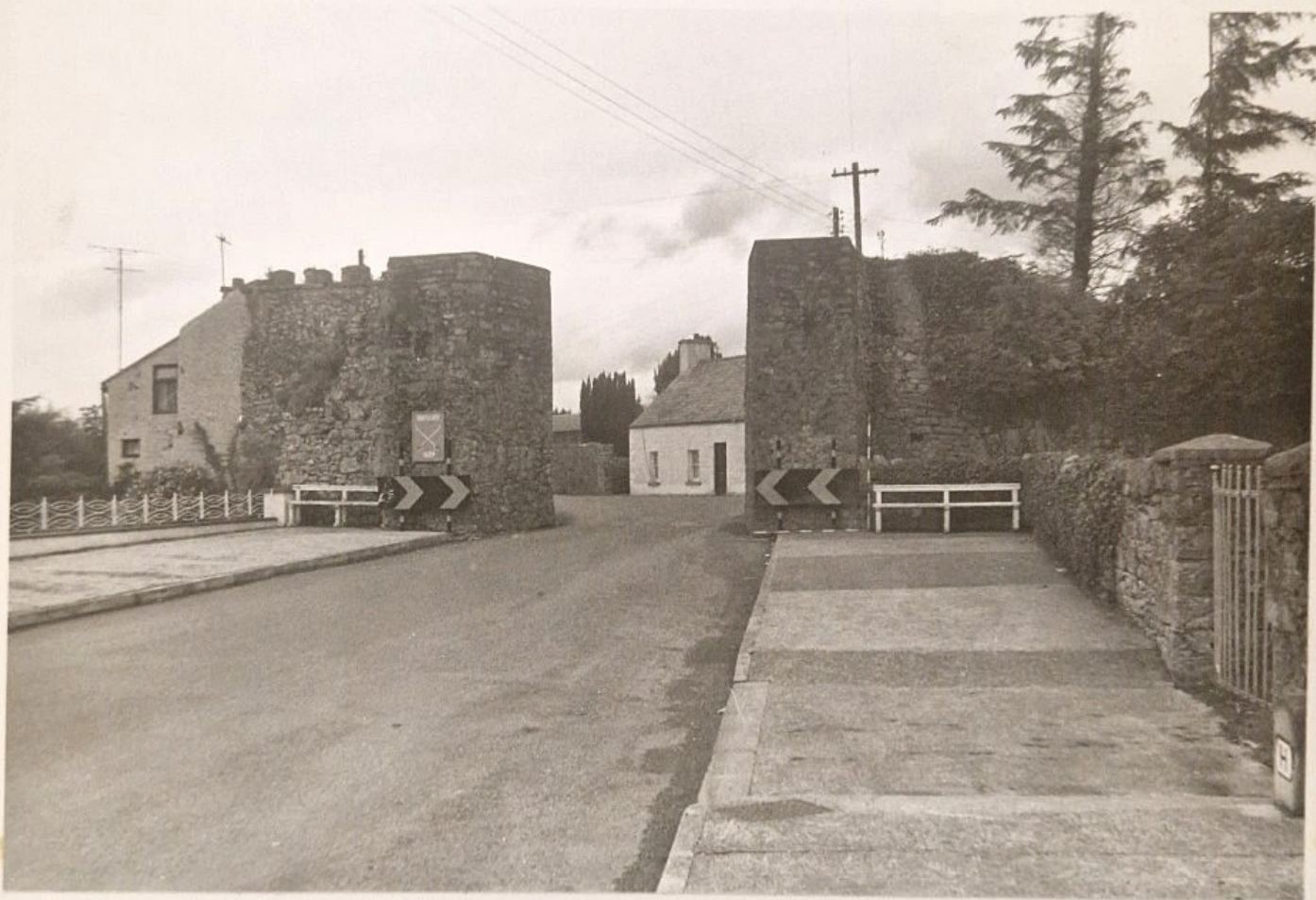


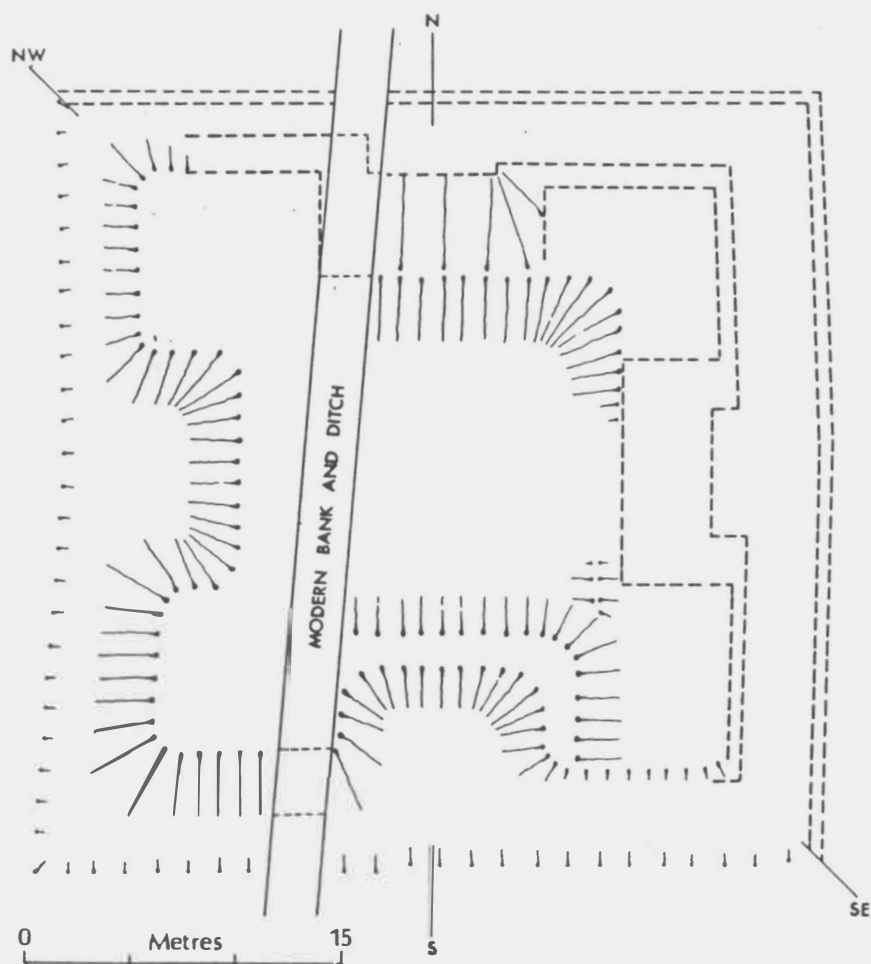
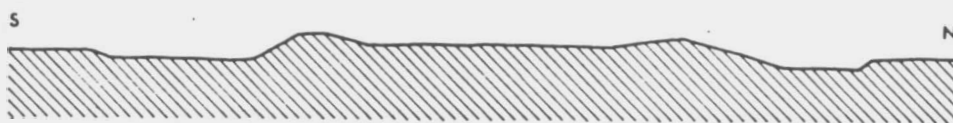
Fig. 7. View of the north gate, Jamestown, from the southeast.



Fig. 8. Surviving fragment of the town wall, Jamestown.
View of inner face of southern end of the town's
west wall.

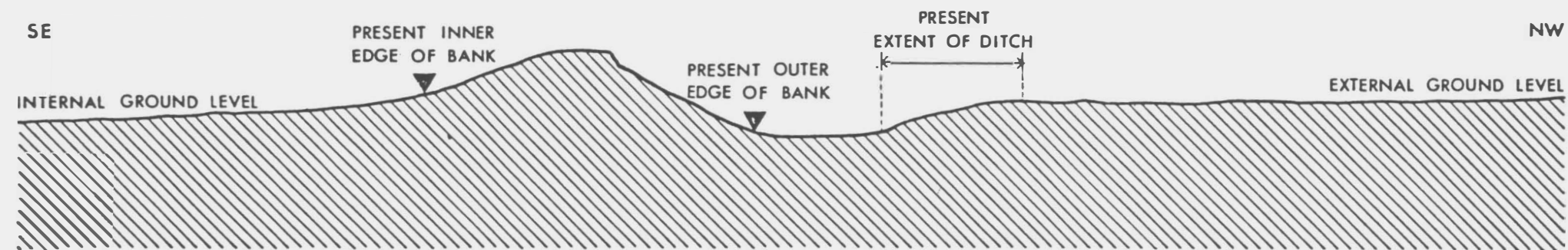


Fig. 9. Ground profile showing the former position of the town wall (depression left), Jamestown, which was removed for road metal. The view is taken from the north and shows the southern end of the west side with the surviving fragment in the background.



JAMESTOWN : FORT

Fig. 10. Jamestown Fort: plan and sections.



JAMESTOWN : PROMONTORY FORT

0 Metres 5

Fig. 11. Profile of Jamestown promontory fort.