URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY

PART I

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COUNTY LOUTH

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WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY

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

By its nature archaeology is concerned with the past of ordinary people. The fragmentary building remains, pottery sherds and scraps of worked stone or wood which the archaeologist discovers cannot be used to reconstruct political movements or great administrative changes. These parts of our past can only be glimpsed from documents, from what people who were alive at the time have observed themselves or heard related. Archaeological data, however, can tell us a great deal about the everyday life of ordinary people and the quality of that life in terms of the technological and economic resources of the particular time and place in question.

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

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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 depost at all: τ 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, $m{ au}$ archa $m{ extsf{k}}$ eological 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 Bublin, considerable depths of archaeological deposits have accumulated.

In Western Europe, Urban archaeology is a product of the sixties, but there is nothing new about archaeological discoveries in towns; indeed, it has quite a respectable ancestry. One of the characteristics of the Renaissance was the search for antiquities, and although much plundering occurred it generated an interest in ancient Rome. In Ireland, Dublin has been the main focus of attention. In 1646, Sir James Ware recorded the discovery of an inhumation burial at Nassau Street. Much of the Ray collection, now housed in the National Museum of Ireland, is composed of Viking and Medieval objects found during the laying of sewage pipes between 1856-59. The amount of material uncovered brought on $\ref{such a great demand that even fakes were manufactured and$ sold. As the city expanded and the railways were built more discoveries were made. In 1846, 1866 and again in 1932 large numbers of Viking weapons and ornements were discovered at Kilmainham-Islandbridge, and although originally interpreted as the remains of a battle, they are now seen to form part of $_{m{ au}}$ an early ViKing cemetery, apparent $\chi_{
m ly}$, indeed, the largest cemetery outside of Scandinavia. During the 1880's timber structures were noted at the Four Courts and again at St. Michael's Hill and digging had taken place as part of the restoration of Churches such as St. Patrick's Cathedral, Christ Church Cathedral, St. Mary's Abbey and St. Audeon's Church. However, although this material was gathered in Bublin, as in other towns, little was done with it.

The breakthrough in the concept that towns had an archaeology of their own occurred shortly after World War II. Bomb damaged sites became available for excavation in many ١

cities which were not going to be developed immediately and consequently excavation became more easily possible than before. In London, for instance, bombing destroyed one-seventh of the medieval city and between 1947-62 a campaign of excavations took place (Grimes 1967). Initially these excavations were oriented towards the discovery of Roman remains: the finding of the Templee of Mithras for instance caused a great public sensation at the time. Over large parts of London no medieval deposits were left, because of the cellar digging of earlier centuries but gradually people became aware of the existence of medieval deposits and of the need to examine them.

The real advance, however, occurred in Russia, at Novgorod where excavations were conducted between 1951 and 1962. There for the first time 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 (Thomson 1967). Gradually as more work 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 because of its very richness 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 $\tilde{b}y$ 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 fifteen Irish towns.

The archaeological importance of urban sites may be summarised under four headings:

1. In order to Know what happened in the town itself: how a ≁ particular area Was used and how it evolved.

 $oldsymbol{arepsilon}$. For all towns, archaeological deposits are the earliest \mathbb{P}_{1} 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 then such references rarely throw much light on daily life and tend to be more concerned with political and administrative events. Indeed, most individual properties within towns will 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, to gain any Knowledge at all excavation is important.

3. Because of the depth of stratigraphy and the wealth of finds. Most towns are located beside water and generally waterlogged deposits are present with the consequent preservation of organic material. The combination of many layers and many objects means that it is usually possible to date structures and layers closely. This is particularly important because it makes tight chronologies possible for artefacts.

4. At a more advanced level where the archaeology is concerned it is impossible to understand it without Knowing what happened to the town itself. Each town is a unique expression of the history of its region 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 + evoidence 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 archaeelogical 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 religous 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.

This report is devoted to County Louth and it considers eleven sites (Fig. 1). Two of these, Drogheda and Dundalk, are large modern towns whose archaeological heritage is faced with threats both from redevelopment within the old town centres and suburban expansion outside. Accordingly their treatment here is somewhat more extensive than the smaller towns where modern redevelopment has not occurred on so great a scale. In the accompanying maps which outline the zone of archaeological potential for the towns of Louth, the following colour code is used:

PinK: the shading used for the zone of archaeological potential. Red: extant archaeological monuments. Purple: sites of Known monuments. ARDEE

Location [®]

The town is situated within the flat undulating lowland forming the southern part of the ancient plain of Muirtheimme beside a fording point on the River Dee, some fifteen miles north west of Drogheda and eleven miles south west of DundalK. It derives its name Ath Fhirdia, "the ford of Ferdia", from its traditional association with the legendary combat in which Cuchulainn and Ferdia were Killed. The geological base is limestone and the soil cover is formed of grey brown podzolics.

The Archaeological and Historical Background

Even if its legendary associations are ignored the site of Ardee was certainly Known in prehistoric times. The earliest evidence for man in the area is during the Mesolithic when the river Dee formed an important routeway from the coast into the interior (Woodman 1978, 309). A scalene triangle belonging on typological grounds to the earlier Mesolithic has been found near[®]the town itself and other similar flints are Known from Richardstown and Whitemills closeby (Woodman 1978, 309). The number of prehistoric objects from the vicinity of the town is small, however, and consists of a flint arrowhead, perhaps of Neolithic date; a bronze spearhead of Later Bronze Age date; and a bronze bridle pendant of Iron Age type (see list below). Despite their small quantity these are sufficient to show that the site was frequented by man during the prehistoric period and perhaps used as a ford.

It has been suggested that Ardee was the site of an early monastery during the Early Christian period but if so its site remains unKnown and indeed the historical evidence on which the identification rests is very slight indeed (O'Donovan 1851, ii, p. 719). Annalistic references, however, make it clear that the site was attaining increasing importance as the meeting place of rival armies. In 943 Muirchertach mac Neill met a Danish army here and was slain in battle (O'Bonovan 1851, ii, p. 647). In 1075 Toir<u>r</u>dealbach + ua Briain marching northwards to assert his rule over Ulster was met here and defeated (8'Donovan 1851, ii, p. 909). In 1128 it was the scene of the battle in which Tigernan Ua Ruairc, King of Breifne was defeated by Magnus Mac Lochlainn (O'Donovan 1851, ii, p. 1029). In 1140 Conchobar Ua Briain obtained hostages from Donnchad Ua Cerbaill at Ardee (O hInnse 1947, p. 27). In 1159 the rival armies of Ruaidhri Ua Conchobair, King of Connacht, and Muirchertach Mac Lochlainn, King of Ulster, met here with victory going to the Ulstermen (O'Donovan 1851, ii, p.1135). Although none of these

references indicate that there was any sort of settlement here it is evident that the geographical importance of the ford as a crossing point was well established by the middle of the twelfth century.

The growth of Ardee as a town can be assigned to the thirteenth century and its founder was most likely Gilbert Pippard who was given the Barony of Ardee in 1185 by Prince John (Curtis 1933-43, i, p. 364). What attracted Pippard to Ardee is not Known. It may have been because the fording point was in existence and that it was accordingly the focus for routeways. Gilbert probably established the motte south east of the town in 1185 or shortly thereafter, but in 1189 he went on crusade leaving his Irish lands to his brother Peter who succeeded fully in 1192 after Gilbert's death at Brindisi (Gwynn 1946, 80). The full nature of the role played by the Pippards in the formation of Ardee can only be guessed at but the parish church was in existence by 1191 and this suggests that a settlement of some form had come into being.

Documentary sources relating to the town are few in the Middle Ages and the incidental references that occur in the Dowdall Deeds and the Armagh episcopal registers are not sufficient to reconstruct the topography of the town. The long street now formed by MarKet Street and Castle Street is mentioned on a number of occasions, the earliest as far as I am aware being in 1344 (McNeill and Otway-Ruthven 1960 No. 150). This was also the market place as its width indicates and the town would appear to have functioned primarily as a collecting point for the agricultural produce of its hinterland. Indeed geese and eggs are specifically mentioned in 1450 as being offerred for sale here (Quigley and Roberts 1972, 302). The fisheries of Ardee also seem to have been important and the three mills present here in 1304 were clearly sizeable commercial affairs (Gwynn 1946, 82, 87; Lydon 1980). The only other street referred to by name is Shepe Causey, referred to in 1484, which unfortunately cannot now be identified.

The lack of sources makes it very difficult to study the development of Ardee. Since the bridge is obviously the origin of the town and the parish church was in existence by $ec{s}$ 1191 it may be guessed that the long street stretching from the bridge to the church was established at an early date. It is interesting to note that when the Hospital of St. John was founded in 1207 it was set up on the south side of the river. Since the usual practice was to found hospitals outside towns this would suggest that there was a considerable settlement on the north bank by this time. The fourteenth century murage grants suggest that the town had taken on its walled area by the middle of the fourteenth century but exactly what stages were involved in this growth are unKnown. It seems unliKely that all of the area east of Market Street and Castle Street was built up and the references to orchards within the town in the Armagh diocesan registers indicates that not all of the town was built up (Quigley and Roberts 1972, 300). Once

established the walls appear to have acted as the bounds of the town until the end of the Middle Ages when the extra-mural suburb of Irish Street would appear to have formed.

Gwynn's (1946, 83) suggestion that Ardee functioned only as a manorial vill throughout the thirteenth century until it was taken into the hands of the crown in 1302 seems on the evidence of other towns to be unlikely. Elsewhere in Ireland urban functions appear to be well established in most "towns before the end of the thirteenth century. Politically the town was very much an outpost of the Pale during the Later Middle Ages. In 1315 it was captured by Edward Bruce but there is no evidence that it was taken again until the seventeenth century, During the rebellion of 1641 the town was occupied by Sir Phelim O'Neill but it was later recaptured by Tichbourne after the relief of Drogheda. It was +subsequently garrisgoned by Ormonde's men who withdrew leaving the town to Cromwell in 1649. James II stayed here for a time in 1689.

INVENTORY

- 1. STREET PATTERN AND MARKET PLACE
- DOMESTIC HOUSES 2.
- THE BRIDGE з.
- 4. MOTTE AND BAILEY
- 5. TOWN DEFENCES
- 6. ST. MARY'S CHURCH
- 7. CARMELITE FRIARY
- 8. HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
- 9. CHANTRY COLLEGE 10. SUBURBS
- 11. EXTRA MURAL TOWER HOUSE
- 12. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN

The street pattern of Ardee is essentially linear with one broad street, formed by MarKet Street and Castle Street running north-south to which a number of streets are aligned •at right angles. Principal among these is Ash Walk 🗁 Lambs Lane which form a sort of east 🚆 west axis maKing an intersection referred to in 1540 as the "great cross of the town" (White 1943, 223), MarKet Street, first mentioned as main street ("in magno vico") in 1344 (McNeill and Otway-Ruthven 1960, No. 150) would have functioned as the medieval market place and the cross at present in St. Mary's Church would appear to have stood here (<u>King 1983</u>), perhaps ? No Ref indeed at the intersection mentioned above. It appears to have replaced a wooden market cross, referred to in the mid-fifteenth century (Quigley and Roberts 1972, 302). A lane "vulgarly Known as the Shepe Cowsey" is mentioned in 1484 but the name has been lost locally and it is not Known which modern street is its equivalent (Murray 1939, 193).

2. DOMESTIC HOUSES

The burgage plot pattern survives well along both sides yof Market Street and a number of narrow lanes which may have once separated medieval houses are present. No evidence survives as to the nature of early medieval housing in Ardee but two splendid fifteenth century fortified houses are present in MarKet Street. These are Known today as "Pippard's Castle" and "Hatch's Castle" but both names appear to be of relatively recent origin. The former now functions as the Courthouse and this name is to be preferred in order to avoid confusion with the motte and bailey castle consrtucted by Roger Pippard at the end of the twelfth century. Castles are occasionally referred to in fifteenth century sources but none is precise enough to be equated with a site on the ground. For instance, a will of 1463 quoted by Murray (1939, 195) refers to "a castle in Ardee, [with a] house adjoining" but it is not Known if it is one of these examples or others that are intended.

"The Courthouse" (Figs. 4-5; Pls. 3-4)

This is the largest fortified medieval town house to survive in Ireland. Rectangular with two turrets projecting along the street front, the space between them being occupied by modern infill. Four floors with wall walk and turret levels above. Coursed limestone masonry and quoins. Renovated 1805-10 after it was purchased by Co. Louth Grand Jury from Ardee Corporation. Buring the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries it was used as a prison and the remains of the cells survive at the rear. The house still functions as a courthouse but despite some alterations it survives in very good condition. Leslie (1911, 107) notes that it was called St. Leger's Castle; if this is the case it may be identified with a castle mentioned on a number of occasions during the fifteenth century (Murray 1939, 134)

The site was visited in the eighteenth century by Wright and Grose (Pls. 3-4). Both show a turret at the NE angle of which there is now no trace and the crenellations were ruinous at that time. There was also a gabled roof. Grose - depicts a single light wighdow with cusped ogee head on both the second and third floors which have been replaced since by large modern windows.

The original entrance was through a pointed door in the northwest angle, protected by a machicolation at wall walk level with a fine murder hole on the interior. This leads into a small trapezoidal hall which gives access via a , segmental arched door to the main chamber. The ground floor has a rounded barrel vault and access to the upper floor is * by a stair in the north west turret, lit at ground * floor level by an attractive twin-light cusped ogee-headed window. With the exception of the windows which light the turrets all of the windows of the ground, first and second floors are insertions. From this point of view the fourth floor is the best preserved and retains three of its original windows, all of which are single loops with internal splay. One of those in the west wall which has an ogee head is blocked. A rectangular recess in the south east angle present on the first, second and third floors functioned as a garderobe. The wall walk has crennelations supported on an external string course. The turret crennelations are stepped and have their own string course.

The building is given a thorough description by Murtagh (1982, 50-65).

∦ "Hatchs" Castle" (Figs. 6-7; Pl. 5)

This smaller house is still occupied as a residence and although many of the original windows have been replaced it survives in good condition. Sub-rectangular with two semi-circular turrets projecting at the rear (east). Four floors with wall walk and turret levels above. The masonry consists of roughly coursed stone covered with plaster. The hood mouldings of the door and windows of the street front are modern. It derives its present name from the fact that it came into the possession of the Hatch family during the eighteenth century (Dolan 1908, 214).

The ground floor is entered through a modern door in the west wall which may occupy the site of the original entrance. It has a round barrel vault and access to the first floor is via an external stair on the east side. The original method of climbing to the first floor was by a spiral stair in the larger of the projecting turrets. Its lower steps have been removed but it is intact from the first floor up. All of the openings on the ground, first, second and third floors are recent replacements with the exception of the pointed doors +leading from the stair and a single light lintelled loop with internal splay which survives intact in the east wall of the third floor. There are the remains of a garderobe on the second floor. The parapet has a water shoot on the east side.

The muilding has been the subject of an intensive survey by Murtagh (1982, 66-72).

3. THE BRIDGE

The ford which gave its name to the site undoubtedly played an important role in the development of the town. The date of the establishement of the bridge is not Known but it is first referred to in 1306 when the townsmen were commanded to repair it with stone and lime receiving a grant of pontage for three years to cover the expense (Mills 1914, 192). In 1483 an indulgence of forty days was granted by the archbishop of Armagh to all who contributed towards the repair of the bridges (sic) of Ardee (Leslie 1930, 279). Richardson's map of 1677 shows a three arched bridge of stene. The present structure is built on the lines of the earlier bridge and would appear to be of eighteenth century date. It is possible that like Drogheda the foundations of an early timber structure may survive here.

4. MOTTE AND BAILEY

Known as Castle Guard or Dawsons Moat this is situated on a narrow ridge outside the town to the east. It would appear to have been constructed soon after 1185 by Gilbert Pippard whe was granted the barony of Ardee by Prince John (Gwynn 1946, 78; cf. Orpen 1911-20, ii, 122-4). It was the centre of an important manor and came into the hands of the crown in the early years of the fourteenth century as a result of which it is frequently mentioned in the Pipe Rolls. In 1319 it was among the properties granted to John de Birmingham when he was created Earl of Louth. In the fifteenth century the manor was in the hands of the Faunt family (Murray 1939, 196) and it was most likely here that James Butler, fourth earl of Ormond, died in 1452 (O'Donovan 1851, iv, 981). During the latter half of the sixteenth century it was used as a base for mounting attacks against Ulster and its last constable was Sir William Taaffe of Smarmore, appointed in 1597 (see MacIvor n.d., 2, who mistakes the reference for the "courthouse"). After the Restoration it was given to Theobald Taaffe, Earl of Carlingford (Dolan 1908, 213) after which it appears to have been deserted. During the eighteenth century the site was visited by Wright (1748, Book I, Pls. 17-18) and his plan depicts the foundations of an octagonal Keep surrounded by an octagonal curtain wall; the motte itself was encircled by two ramparts and ditches.

Description

Although very overgrown the motte consists of a round mound, 9.2 m high, with a basal width of 60 m and having a flat top 16.4 m across. It was probably surrounded by a fosse on all sides but these are now partially filled in and the only definite evidence is on the SE. Here too there is slight evidence for an outer bank. The bailey would appear to have been on the north side but it is not possible to determine

5. TOWN DEFENCES

The defences enclosed an area of 25 hectares (60 acres) and had in the seventeenth century at least, an extra-mural suburb on the north, Irish Street. The outline of the walls is derived almost totally from Richardson's map of 1677 which is essentially a birds-eye view but it shows that the town was protected by five gates. A sixth gate "Blind Gate", en the west side of the town is Known from placename evidence. Nothing is Known of the manner in which the defences developed but a series of murage grants in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries suggest that this was a major period of building. The Known grants are for 1376, 1379, 1389, 1399 and 1413 (Irish Record Commission 1829, 73, 77, 87; Tresham 1828, 203: No. 15). The remains of a substantial earthen artillery bastion on the west side indicate that the defences were considerably revamped in the seventeenth century but the extent of this remodelling is unKnown.

The defences were tested on a number of occasions. In 1315 the town was captured by Edward Bruce. In 1539 it was burnt by Conn O'Neill and Manus O'Donnell and during the rebellion of 1641 it was captured by Sir Phelim O'Neill.

Description

The wall enclosed a roughly rectangular area on the north side of the river Dee. The south side was bounded by the river and there is no evidence for a river wall. No convincing fragments of the wall survive apart from a fragment of Cappock's Gate and it is not possible to arrive at any conclusions about the defensive features that may have formed part of it. The position of the gatehouses may be plotted but nothing definite can be said of their features or form. No mural towers are Known and only the outline of the wall may now be traced. In short, there is a considerable dearth of Knowledge of Ardee's defences between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries.

On the west side the wall ran northwards from the river to Malone Terrace where the foundations of a wall, about 80 cm wide, can be seen. However it is not clear if this is a part of the original town wall or not. From here the wall appears to have followed the west side of the lane as far as the site of BLIND GATE, which would appear to have been called West Gate in 1540 (White 1943, 223). A portion of wall, 1 m thick, is incorporated into the SE corner of the Chair Factory immediately north of Blind Gate; it may be a part of the town wall. From here the wall ran north along the west side of the lane to the site of ASH WALK GATE. North of this gate the wall follows the line of the long boundary delimiting the burgage plots on the west of MarKet Street. In places the wall is embanKed but at no point does it appear to be convincingly original.

About 130 m north of Ash Walk Gate is a large pentangular earthen artillery BASTION of seventeenth century form. It consists of a rampart, 1 m high and 5.4 m broad, which delimits a space with maximum dimensions of 125 by 60 m. The rampart has been planted with trees and in recent years earth has been pushed up against it on the south and west sides during ground clearance for a modern car park. The rampart has been cut through at a number of points but nowhere is there a clear section.

The northern side of the bastion would appear to have curved inwards to meet the north wall of the town near the Market Yard from where the wall continued to HEAD GATE. This may be the same as the North Gate mentioned in 1484 (Murray 1939, 193). East of here the wall appears to have been on the north side of Markethouse Lane from where it ran to the north east angle. The line of the east wall survives as a property boundary along most of its length.

CAPPOCKS GATE is the only surviving portion of the defences and the fragment that survives is a very battered piece of the north wall. It is of coarsed limestone masonry with external batter. There are traces of what may be the rectangular socket of a bar hole. Max. length 2.60 m; max. height 2.90 m; the width expands from 86 cm at the top to 1.25 m at the base. It has no dateable features.

Immediately south of CappocKs Gate is a boundary wall between two bungalows which is considered to be the town wall. However, its insubstantial nature makes this unlikely; the piece is 60 cm wide and 90 cm high. South of this point the line of the wall is again continued as a property boundary as far as the Dee. There may have been a gate where the Avenue cuts the line of the wall, and if the location suggested for the Carmelite Friary (No. 7, below) is correct, this might be equated with Fryers Gate mentioned in 1540 (White 1943, 223). The entrance to the town on the south was through the BRIDGE GATE which stood on the north side of the bridge.

Irish Street

This extra-mural suburb is shown by Richardson to have had a NORTH GATE and a portion of it appears to have been discovered during pipe-laying in the 1920's. The piece was described as "about two feet under the present level, four yards into the roadway from the corner of the last house on the west side of the street" (Co. Louth Archaeol. Jrl. 6 (1925-8), 254). It would appear from Richardson's map that

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this area was unwalled but the long boundary wall on the west side of Irish Street suggests the former presence of defences. A thick wall forms the north end of the northernmost cottage on the west side of Irish Street and it may have foremd part of such defences but in the present state of Knowledge it is impossible to be certain.

6. ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH (Fig. 8; Pls. 7-9)

This consists of a nave, chancel and south aisle. The present nave and chancel are of nineteenth century date; the west tower bears a date stone of 1812 but it may incorporate medieval fragments. The west front has a blank elevation on the north side of the tower which appears to mark the site of the north aisle, mentioned by Isaac Butler in 1745 (Deane 1922, 97) and partially shown in Grose's view of 1791 (Pl. 7a). The medieval masonry consists of coarsed limestone rubble with limestone quoins.

The church was established at an early date in the Anglo-Norman occupation of the barony of Ardee. Gilbert, "parson of Ardee" is mentioned in 1197 (Lawlor 1915, 316-7) and the earliest direct reference to the church is in 1207 (Archdall 1786, 446). In 1315 it was destroyed by Edward Bruce: Beate Viginis Atmo Dei, mulicribus er parvulis

Ecclesia Maride (de Atordet plena viris, et faeminis comburitur a Scotus et Hibernás...

The church of St. Mary of Ardee, full of men and women, burned by the Scotch and Irish... (Butler 1349, 84; cf. Gilbert 1884, ii, 345).)

It is frequently mentioned among the episcopal registers of Armagh during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries but nothing is Known of its condition at this time. However, its importance is evident from the number of chantries which were founded (Murray 1939; see below No. 8). Throughout the mid-seventeenth century the church appears to have been ruinous but in 1693 it was rebuilt. For the eighteenth and ninetenth centuries the vestry books provide much evidence of repairs. In 1793 the entrance was changed to the west front. The interior was plastered in 1867 and the chancel was restored in 1899 (see Kieran n.d., 3-5). Since the time of Archdall this building has been confused with the Hospital of St. John the Baptist but it is evident from medieval documentary sources that these were quite different. The source of the confusion may rest in the fact that the Hospital originally provided the vicar to the church and paid his salary (Murray 1939, 184; White 1943, 225).

The south aisle is of fifteenth century date and is separated from the nave by an arcade of four arches supported on octagonal piers with moulded capitals, new plastered over. The arches are pointed and have three chamfered orders, the immermost of which rises from below the abacus; each also has a moulded label. No bases are exposed. At the east end of the k

aisle is a round-headed door giving access to a stairs which would have led originally to the rood screen. The door leading out to the rood screen itself is lintelled with an external hood mould. The east wall is heavily plastered. The east window is peinted with switchback tracery which appears to be original; the rear arch is pointed with a moulded label, probably of plaster. The north wall is lit by four pointed windows all of which are now filled with tracery of nineteenth century date. In the south east corner is a rectangular cupboard, probably for holding altar vessels. The easternmest of the piers contains a small water stoop decorated with two lines of rather faded beaded ornament. The chancel arch is pointed and springs from heavily plastered +capitals which are in Keegping with those of the south aisle; the general treatment of the arch, however, suggests that it is of nineteenth century date. In the south west angle is a stair, which gave access onto the wall-walk, entered through a modern door in the south wall; the original entrance was from the south aisle through a doorway that is now blocked up. Portion of the west tower may survive within the present structure and the pointed chamfered arch linking the tower with the nave may be original. However, the masonry is plastered and it is impossible to determine this.

East of the chancel are the remains of a structure of uncertain date, entered through a door in the east wall; the interior is now much overgrown. It has coursed limestone masonry with many red brick inclusions. There is a recess in the south wall and one angle that may mark a window opening. It survives to a maximum height of 2.25 m.

Medieval Cross. Mid-sixteenth cent. (P1. 3)

Fragment of a disc-headed cross set on a concrete shaft immediately outside the west door. Fossiliferous limestone, lacking its lower and upper shafts and one arm. West face: upper part of a crucifixion under a triple pointed arched canopy with shafting. East face: Virgin and Child under a shafted ogee-headed canopy. North arm: slightly damaged IHS in false relief Gothic lettering. A mid sixteenth century date is suggested.

Dims: H. 50 W. 74 D. 20 cm

King 1983.

Medieval Font, ?15th cent,

Rectangular with circular bowl. Fine grained sandstone. Situated at the west end of the nave and set upon a modern base. Originally from Mansfieldstown (Killanin and Duignan 1967, 64). Decorated immediately below the rim with a scalloped floral moulding on a raised border which extends down over the four corners. One corner has a monster's head. Dims: H. 47 W. 60 T. 58 Int. Diam. 43 Int. Depth 20 cm.

Burial Monuments (1) John Smart, 1686. Rectangular granite slab on the SE of the church. Incised inscription in Roman lettering: F 'HERE VNDER LYETH / THE BODY OF IOHN / SMART MERCHANT / OF ATHERDEE WHO / DEPARTED THIS LIFE / THE 25 DAY OF OCTO / BER ANNO DOMINE / 1686 Dims: H. 198 W. 80 cm (2) Mary Hatch. 1695. Rectangular limestone slab enclosed within railings on the S of the church. Pocked inscription in Roman capitals: 'HERE LIE / THE BODY / OF MARY / HATCH IT / FELL BY TRA / VIL ON THE / 17 DAY / OF MAR / CH IN THE / YEAR OF OV / LORD / 1695'. Dims: H. 124 W. 44 cm. Miscellaneous Fragments a) Voussoir. A crudely rounded granite fragment, placed on the ground behind the north side of the west facade. + Dims: H. 36 W. 77 B 30 cm. b) Piscina? What appears to be a hexagonal granite piscina is almost completely buried in the ground beside a) above. c) Coffin shaped slab. The lr. half of a fossiliferous limestone slab lies against the S wall of the ruined chancel. Undecorated. Dims: H. 69 W. 45-50 T. 19 cm. d) Grave marker to William Hynes. ?17th cent. Set between two modern grave stones at the east end of the church. Blue limestone slab, gabled on top with an incised celtic cross and a small Latin cross on top of the circle. Incised inscription: 'WILLIAM HYNES / WHO DIED / 19 YELARS] / JUNE 11TH ..94'. Dims: H. 60 W. 38 T. 5 cm. e) Grave marker. Uncertain date. A crude limestone grave marker with an incised latin cross is set in the ground E of the church.

→ Dims: H. 80 W. 40 D. 13 cm.

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7. CARMELITE FRIARY

Nothing now remains of this friary founded before 1302 by Ralph Pipard (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 286) and even its location is a matter of some uncertainty. Richardson's map shows a building which may be the friary lying near the river and bounded on the east by the town wall. Nothing is Known of its extent or size. Several provincial chapters of the Carmelites met here during the fourteenth century which would suggest that the buildings were commodious (MacIomhair 1979).

8. HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (Fratres Cruciferi)

Nothing remains of this religous house, founded c.1207 by Roger Pippard (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 210). It has been frequently confused with St. Mary's parish church (e.g. Lewis 1837, i, 47). Being a hospital it is likely that it lay outside the town and it appears to have been in the vicinity of Moor Hall and its precinct probably extended to John Street which presumably derives its name from the hospital (see MacIomhair 1979). Richardson, in his map of 1677, shows what appears to be a church site south of the Dee, on the east side of the bridge (P1. 1).

9. CHANTRY COLLEGE

This building, locally called "the college" was identified by Murray (1939, 202) with the "recently built" chantry college described in 1487 as lying to the east of the "cemetery of St. Mary's church. It was the residence of a number of chaplains employed in St. Mary's and was the residence of the church sexton until c.1875.

Rectangular, of four floors with high pointed gables on the east and west sides. The north wall is an insertion and it is evident that the original structure was larger than at present and extended to the north. Coursed rubble masonry, mainly slates, with limestone quoins. The ground floor has a rounded vault and is entered in the north west corner through a pointed door, with brick infill, which appears to be of recent date. The original door seems to have been in the west wall but it is now blocked and concealed. In the east wall is a blocked fireplace while in the south is a blocked window of indeterminate form. The internal dimensions of the ground floor are 6.38 by 4.28 m. There is no direct access between the ground and first floors and it would appear to have been approached originally from that portion of the building which is missing on the north side; alternately the large rectangular opening in the south wall may have functioned as the entrance, if reached from outside by a wooden stair. The masonry on the first floor has been interfered with considerably but it would appear that the broken opening in

the east wall is a fireplace because of the chimney flue rising in the thickness of the wall above it. Beside it is a small lintelled recess. A broken opening in the north wall may represent a window. There is a recess in the north east corner which may have held an internal stair of wood giving access to the floors above. There are two openings in the south wall one of which is flat-headed and appears to form part of an original window, or perhaps a door; the other is a broken opening, probably of modern date. The internal splay of a window survives in the west wall but the jambs are missing and the window has been blocked with masonry of modern origin. All that survives of the second floor is preserved in the east and west gables; there is a fireplace in the east wall and a lintelled window with internal splay in the west. Above the second floor there appears to have been a loft, lit on the west side by a rectangular slit with chamfered jambs externally. An archway was added to the west side of the building in the eighteenth or nineteenth century.

10. SUBURBS

Richardson's map of 1677 shows an unwalled suburb outside the north wall of the town in Irish Street (Pl. 1). It would appear to coincide with the well defined series of burgage plots present along both sides of the modern street. It is unlikely that an undefended settlement would have existed here during the Middle Ages and it may be suggested that this suburb is of late sixteenth or seventeenth century origin.

11. EXTRA MURAL TOWER HOUSE

Situated west of the town on the north side of Jervis St., it now forms the SW corner of an enclosed farmyard. Coursed limestone masonry with limestone quoins. Rectangular, of three floors with a stair turret projecting above second floor level in the south east angle. Fifteenth century. The west wall contains a large number of putlog holes which are absent on the other sides. The building has undergone considerable re-structuring and repairs which have disfigured much of the original work. The proximity of this tower house to the town is puzzling because the land on which it is built should have formed part of the burgagery of the town. It may have belonged to a religous house. On Richardson's map it is shown with a small building attached on the east side (PI. 1).

The ground floor is cobbled and has a pointed barrel vault. It is entered via a modern door in the south east angle; the original door appears to have been immediately north of the present one. The floor is lit by an inserted window in the north wall. There are six wall cupboards and

remains of a seventh in addition to a large round-arched recess in the east wall. The floor is cobbled. The stair leading to the first floor lacks its initial steps. The first floor is entered through a lintelled door with a barhole. There is a garderobe in the north wall entered by a flat-headed door and lit by a single flat-headed loop. Four single-light windows, each of which appears to have had a flat rear arch illuminated this floor; three are now blocked up. The east wall contains two wall cupboards and there is a large recess in the north wall. The second floor was also entered from the south east and it appears to have been the principal room of the house. The eye on which the door hung is intact. There is one window in the north wall and two in the west all of which have window seats but their jambs are missing and the window recesses have been blocked with red brick. The south wall had a twin-light ogee-headed window with flat rear arch; it is also blocked and only the window spandrels survive externally. The east wall contains a lintelled window, with flat rear arch and internal splay, flanked by a rectangular recess. A blocked door in the NW corner probably led to a garderome. From the second floor the stair rises to the wall-walk which is at present inaccessible but traces of the gable can be seen rising on the inside of the wall-walk on the south side.

13. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

Prehistoric

1. Mesolithic microlith (scalene triangle). From near Ardee. Private possession (Woodman 1978, 309).

2. Flint arrowhead. From Ardee. NMI 1942:534.

3. Bronze spearhead. From near Fair Green at Ardee. NMI 1929: 1356. (Co. Louth Archaeol. & Hist. Jrl. 7 (1929-32, 289; Dept. of Education Report on the National Museum of Ireland 1928-9, 9 and Pl. II:9).

4. Bronze axehead. From Ardee. British Museum, London 1843.12-26.13.

5. Bronze bridle pendant of Iron Age date. From Ardee. NMI 1929: 1357 (Raftery 1983, 53-4: No. 144).

Other

6. Decorated upper stone of rotary quern. From Ardee Castle, Co. Louth. Private possession. [This may have been moved into Ardee in recent times].

7. Scored stone. Found one foot below ground level in Dawson's Demense, Ardee. NMI 1968: 413.

-8-9. Iron hilt of a small dagger (?post-medieval) and a flint-lock pistol with long barrel. Found in the Mill Pond near Dawson's Bridge, Ardee. NMI WK. 130, 132.

10. During the laying of a water pipe in the 1920's "a range of Kitchen middens was found just inside the west footpath along Church Hill in MarKet Street" (Co. Louth Archaeol. Jrl. 6 (1925-8), 255). The whereabouts of this material is unKnewn but it would appear to indicate the presence of archaeological deposits in MarKet Street.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF ARDEE

Archaeological excavations have not taken place in Ardee and the only indication of the depth of archaeological deposits is the account of the discovery of "Kitchen middens" in Market Street in 1927 and of the foundations of the North Gate which are described as ocurring two feet below the surface.

The small number of prehistoric finds indicate that Ardee was probably a fording point from early times but it is not until the Anglo-Norman period that there is evidence for a town. The role which the bridge played in the origins of the town is not clear but it must have been a factor which influenced the choice of site. The vicinity of the bridge is particularly important from an archaeological point of view because it is here that organic materials are most likely to survive and it is also a likely area in which objects would have been dropped or lost in prehistoric times.

The town appears to be essentially a creation of the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries. Its defences enclosed a large area and it is not Known if all of this was actually built up. It can almost certainly be assumed that domestic houses existed along both sides of MarKet Street - Castle Street from at least the thirteenth century but it is not clear if much of the area east of this was built up. It is possible that, like Athenry, Co. Galway, the town shrunk during the course of the Middle Ages but it is also possible that portion of these areas formed gardens or orchards. + Because of the expense of building defences, however, it was an unusual practice to enclose land which was not an integral part of the town and it also posed difficulties in terms of defence. Perhaps the eastern line of the wall reflects seventeenth century expansion? The facts of the matter are simply not Known and can only be Known through excavation.

The surviving remains indicate that Ardee was a wealthy town in the fifteenth century and as such it might be hoped that deposits of that period might exist. These would be particularly important because despite the intensive series of excavations in Dublin, for instance, material of this

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period has not been found and as such it could "fill out" an important lacuna in Knowledge of town life during the fifteenth century.

The archaeology of the town during the seventeenth century is hardly Known except for the construction of the artillery bastion on the western wall. Archaeologically this feature is particularly significant because it is one of a very small number of artillery bastions that are Known on Irish town defences of this period. This is an indication of prosperity at this time and it is likely that the other long stretces of wall were similarly protected but the remains of such bastions await discovery.

It is difficult to assess the level of destruction that has occurred to deposits because the data on their depth is not available. Modern housing estates have been built over much of the north eastern part of the town but these are by and large single storey dwellings and it is not Known if their construction has interfered with archaeological deposits or not. It may well be that their foundations were sufficiently shallow to leave such deposits intact.

Ardee is an important town in terms of the variety of monuments which have survived to the present. These include its castle, parish church, a seventeenth century artillery bastion, two late medieval domestic houses, and the unique chantry college. The future of none of these buildings is secure, however. "The courthouse" is Kept in repair for judicial purposes but if internal changes were to occur these could alter the whole nature of the building. Hatch's castle, the extra-mural tower house and the motte in Dawson's Demense are in private hands and belong at the moment to owners who have a sympathetic interest in them but a changes of + ownership could put their future in danger. The medieval remains of St. Mary's form part of the parish church which is still used for wership but the decline in the numbers of Protestant worshippers has caused many churches like St. Mary's to be closed, after which they are generally exposed to vandalism. The most unique monuments within the town, however, are the ones most exposed to danger. The artillery bastion is made of earth and could easily be removed by modern machinery while the chantry college is in a deplorable state of dilapidation and runs the risk of weing declared unsafe. These monuments are an integral part of Ardee's townscape, and some like the "courthouse" are among its most striking buildings, and sit is important that steps should be taken to ensure that these buildings are properly valued and maintained.

The archaeological deposits of Ardee are as yet untested. However, the sites of some monuments, such as the Priory of St. John and the town wall, are Known from documentary and cartographic sources and although all trace has vanished above ground it is likely that their foundations survive awaiting excavation. The town poses many archaeological problems and in the present state of Knowledge excavtions should be encouraged when the opportunities arise. In those circumstances where excavation cannot take place because of financial or other constraints trial trenches should be dug in order to determine the depth at which foundations may be put in without disturbing the archaeological levels. In any event, no place within the shaded area on Fig. 2 should be destroyed without prior archaeological investigation.

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CARLINGFORD

The town is situated at the foot of Slieve Fey along narrow ledge of land where the mountain slopes meet the sea. The medieval tewn lay between the castle, on the north, and the parish church, on the south, with its long axis aligned north - south, accomodating itself to the narrow corridor of low ground. Both the castle and church are on high points but it is the castle built on a rock outcrop projecting into Carlingford Lough and forming a sheltered harbour which dominates the town. The medieval parish church, dedicated the Holy Trinity, is sited on top of a ridge which may * panyly added to by burials. Two mountain streams run into **b**e the lough at this point and would appear to have formed the town's water supply. Isaac Butler, who visited Carlingford in 1744, records that the northernmost stream gave its name to "Spout Gate" at the west end of River Street where the stream still flows in an open conduit beside the street (Deane 1922, 101). Its course would suggest that it ran down the centre of Market Street to the harbour. The southern stream supplied the Dominican Friary and probably operated its mill. The present quay front is not the original one and is the result of mid-nineteenth century reclamation made in order to construct the railway station, which is now disused. The old railway line now functions as a road.

The anglicised form of the placename is derived from Old Norse Kerlingafjorthr "the old woman's fiord" which in turn would appear to be based on the Irish Cairlinn, i.e. (?) rough lough (Marstrander quoted in Walsh 1922, 28).

Historical BacKground

The placename indicates that the lough was frequented Ьγ the Vikings but the exact nature of their presence is unclear. In the early Irish annals the lough is referred to as Snamh Aighneach and in 852 it was the scene of a battle between rival Viking fleets (O'Donovan 1851, s.a. 850; Radner 1978, p. 91). In 921 the "foreigners" of Snamh Aighneach are referred to suggesting that there was a settlement somewhere on the lough and in 1149 the "harbour" of Snamh Aighneach is mentioned (O'Donovan 1851, s.a.). Although these latter references could indicate that there was a settlement on Carlingford Lough there is no evidence to connect it with the site of the present town. Indeed from a purely topographical point of view such a settlement, if it existed, would be more liKely placed further up the lough, perhaps in the vicinity of Narrow Water.

The first references to the town occur at the end of the twelfth century and it is clear that it was established by the Anglo-Normans at an early date. It is significant that

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the earliest reference to the site relates to the "ferry n f Carlingford" and its initial importance undoubtedly rested in the easily defended harbour from which men, equipment and livestock could be transported across the lough into Co. Dewn. The founder of the town may well have been John de Courcy who gave the ferry dues to the Priory of Downpatrick in 1185. The earliest definite reference to the town is in 1192 when "four burgages in the new vill of Carlingford with fishing rights on the lough" were included with the grant of Ferrard to Peter Pippard by Prince John (Curtis 1933-43, i, p. 364). The allusion to fishing is noteworthy because i t would appear to have formed the economic basis for the town's continued existence throughout the Later Middle Ages. Herring would appear to have been the principal fish caught and it is evident that during the mid-sixteenth century they were present in large shoals in the north Irish Sea. In 1535 it is Known that an English fishing fleet of 600 boats was operating around Carlingford because the fishermen offerred to make 3000 fighting men available for two or three days to the Lord Treasurer who was campaigning in the area (Cal. Carew Mss. 1515-74, 85). Similarly in 1540 the Dissolution documents note that the church was "reserved for the accomodation of those who resort to the place in large numbers with the fleet of ships every year to catch herrings and other fish" (White 1943, 245-6). Shellfish were also caught and whelks, periwinkles, cockles, mussels and scallops have been found in association with thirteenth 🕒 fourteenth century pottery in a midden close to the town (Nyham 1948, 🕇 283). The earliest reference to the town as a port is in 1282 when it is listed together with Dundalk, Strangford, Carrickfergus and Coleraine as one of the ports of Ulster (Sweetman 1875-86, ii, p. 417).

The town and its liberties formed an enclave in the Cooley peninsula between the vast tracts of land which belonged to the Cistercian monasteries of Newry, on the north side of the peninsula, and Mellifont on the south. These church lands seem to have fallen into the hands of the native Irish during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries and it seems that the town was essentially an outpost of the Pale during this time. Indeed the murage grants of 1409 and 1501 specifically refer to attacks on the town by the Irish. These grants also mention attacks from the Scots, presumably some of the pirate fleets based in the Western Isles, which also indicates how isolated the town was. In 1358, Lionel, Earl of Ulster, as lord of the town, received a grant of a weekly market on Tuesdays and an annual fair (Irish Record Comm. 1829, 60); and the town received an additional weekly market in 1450 (Berry 1910, 205). These show that trading continued despite the town's apparent isolation.

The town probably derived much of its initial importance from the castle, established most likely by John de Courcy but not referred to until 1210 when monies were spent on its repair (Orpen 1811-20, ii, 252). After De Courcy was outlawed in 1205 it was granted to the De Lacys and it was sold by their heir in 1305 to Richard de Burgh, Earl of Ulster. On the murder of William de Burgh in 1333 the castle reverted to the crown and throughout the remainder of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries it was manned by a series of royal constables.

Few documentary sources are of value in reconstructing the topography of the medieval town. A number of incidental references occur in the Gormanstown Register and the Dowdall Deeds while a view of the town survives in a late sixteenth century map (Patterson and Davies 1939). The limited nature, of the source material, however, means that little is Known of how Carlingford developed.

The later sixteenth century saw renewed attempts to colonise the hinterland of the town and remove it from Irish hands. After the Dissolution much of the monastic lands in the Cooley peninsula came into the hands of the Bagnalls. In 1596 an attempt to capture the castle by Hugh O'Neill's son-in-law failed. During the Confederacy period the town was loyal to the Dublin administration but was taken by the Royalists in 1643 who surrendered to the Cromwellians a few months later. In 1689 the town was burned by Jacobites retreating before the Williamite army. The Williamites appear to have used the harbour to land reinforcements from England; their hospital ships were also stationed here and Tempest (1983, 87) states that over 1500 men died of fever in these ships. There is no evidence to suggest that the political importance of the town during the seventeenth century was matched by any expansion of the town itself. Indeed it would appear that economic decline was already beginning to set in. This was probably caused by the decrease in the role of fishing and the development of land communications between Dundalk and Newry which isolated the whole Cooley peninsula (Jones Hughes 1961, 159). The town failed to prosper during the eighteenth century and did not attract any of the institutions such as worKhouses, hospitals and gaols which, . as Jones Hughes (1961, 158-9) comments were "largely to govern the relative standing of small towns in Ireland for more than a century.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

- 1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN
- 2. DOMESTIC HOUSES
- 3. CASTLE
- 4. TOWN DEFENCES
- 5. HOLY TRINITY PARISH CHURCH
- 6. DOMINICAN FRIARY
- 7. CHAPEL
- S. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN

The street pattern of Carlingford consists of two parallel streets running north-south, Newry Street - Tholsel Street and Back Lane - Dundalk Street, cut by three cross streets of which Market Street is the largest. There are no medieval references to streets but the fact that the burgage plot pattern survives so well suggests that this street pattern is the original one.

2. DOMESTIC HOUSES

Like Ardee, Carlingford is fortunate in that a number of its late medieval fortified houses survive intact but there is nothing to indicate what the form of pre-fifteenth century domestic housing was like. The two buildings that survive are important structures: Taaffe's Castle and "The Mint".

Taaffe's Castle (Fig. 14; Pl. 11a)

Rectangular fortified house, with protruding stair turret in the SW angle which is lit by three round-headed loops so positioned as to illuminate the stair between floors. There are four floors with wall walk and turret levels above. On the north is a rectangular annex of two floors with a parapet tabove. The masonry, mostly of slate, is coarsed with limestone quoins. There is a slight base batter and the tremains of what appers to have been an archway can be distinguished in the masonry of the ground and first floor levels at the SE corner. An unusual feature in the east wall at first floor level is a putlog with the beam still present. Tower: late fifteenth - early sixteenth cent.; annex: mid late sixteenth cent.

The ground floor is entered at present through a large rectangular opening of modern origin in the east wall. In the masonry above this, externally, is a small arch which suggests that there may have been a window in this position originally. The original entrance was on the west side, however, protected by a machicolation supported on corbels projecting from the parapet level of the turret; this entrance is now blocked with masonry and internal changes make it difficult to determine how it communicated with the rectangular chamber of the ground floor. There are two straight loops in both the north and south walls but those on the north have been built-up. Like those elsewhere in the building these loops have lintelled rear-arches with an internal splay. A pointed door with a pointed segmental arch at the west end of the south wall appears to be a recent insertion; at present this provides access to the stair. An opening has been broken through the ground floor to * communicate with the annex.

The first floor has a rounded vault and was reached through a flat segmental arched door from the stair. In the

south wall is a blocked straight loop, a rectangular opening of modern date, and a rounded loop while the west wall has a single loop,partly blocked. There is a garderobe chamber in the NE corner lit by an angle loop, looking onto the harbour. ' In the north wall is a fireplace.

The second floor appears to have been the principal chamber of the building and has a fireplace in the north wall. The east wall is lit by an attractive cusped ogee-headed light with moulded label terminating in ereded foliage leaves; north of it is a round-headed loop. The south wall appears to have been lit by a large window but its jambs are missing and the space has been filled with modern masonry. The west wall contains a single round-headed loop.

The third floor has a chamfered rectangular window in the east and west walls, a similar window and a round-headed loop in the south wall, and three loops in the north wall, two of which are straight while the third is round-headed. The west wall contains a lintelled fireplace.

The parapet level is reached through a lintelled door from the stair and the pitched gable of the eriginal roof is evident from the weathering course in the west wall. The crenellations have been thrown down all round but the parapet is best preserved on the north side where the chimney survives supported on a corbel course placed above the level of the third fleor. The west wall and turret are carried up above parapet level, and there is a narrow chamber in the thickness of the wall. Two rectangular musket loops are present, one in the machicolation projecting between turnet and tower, the other in the north wall. A lintelled door in the north west angle of the turret would suggest that the wall walk continued along the north wall also. The turret crenellations are also missing.

The original masonry of the annex has been tampered with considerably. There are two large rectangular openings in the east wall both of which are of recent date and are blocked with timber hoardings. The east wall also contains a partially blocked rectangular window and, in the north wall, is a round-headed chamfered loop, now filled with loose stones. The first floor has three rectangular windows in the east wall, the northernmost of which has been clearly expanded because it retains the original chamfered james on the north side. The west wall also contains a rectangular window similar to those in the east wall. Above the first floor is a drainage course supporting the parapet which consists of simple merlons, stepped at the NE angle.

The style of decoration on the cusped ogee-headed window together with the musKet loops and fireplaces would suggest that this building was constructed around the close of the fifteenth century or perhaps the early years of the sixteenth. The annex is clearly an addition and a date in the mid- to late sixteenth century may be suggested for its construction.

The accompanying elevation and section (Fig. 14) were prepared by Ms. Beth Cassidy B.A.

"The Mint"

Fortified house with three floors and plan of parallelogram shape, incorporating the remains of an earlier building as the east wall.

The ground floor is entered from Main street through segmental flat arched door in the north wall of which only the chamfered basal jambstones survive in situ. This is protected from above by a machicolation supported on corbels. +Immegdiately above the door is the remains of a very weathered head in relief. The east wall is lit by three ogee-headed windows with chamfered hood mould and lintelled +internally; two of these are single Tlight windows but the westernmost is a twin-light. The james of these windows and the door are highly decorated with pecked tooling forming panels of ornament in Late Medieval Celtic Revival style. These include bands of lozenges, triangles, a quatrefoil and cross in circle. The window spandrels are decorated in false : relief with interlaced motifs, including interlaced circles and triquetras, and zoomorphic forms, among them a snake, a horse and a human figure (Pl. 11 b and c). The north and south walls are built onto the east wall which has four rectangular wall recesses. There are two doors in the south wall, the eastern of which is lintelled; the other door opens into the building from the south suggesting that there may have been a structure on this side. Between these doors is a + lintelled window with an asymmetrical splay.

The first floor was supported on corbels placed just above the level of the ground floor windows in the north wall. In the SE angle is a small garderobe lit by a single ogee light. The garderobe is given added support from a batter in the wall at ground floor level. The south wall has a pointed window, chamfered externally, and a round-arched door splaying outwards to provide access, presumably, to a building on the south. The north wall has one blocked up window and a twin-light transomed ogee-headed window with chamfered hood mould and window seats internally; between these two features is a small wall cupboard. Like its counterparts on the ground floor the jambs are decorated with pecked ornament and the spandrels in false relief.

The second floor has a tall twin-light round headed window with a chamfered hood mould in the north wall. The west wall contains a single chamfered straight rectangular loop. The south wall has two straight lintelled lights the easternmost of which is chamfered externally. There are wall cupboards in the south and west walls. Clearly visible in the east wall is the gable line of the earlier building that stood to the east. The roof of the "Mint" itself, hewever, was higher and four beamholes in each of the north and south walls, all angled upwards, appear to have held the rafters.

The parapet is supported on a drainage course and has stepped battlements on the north and west sides but the east and south have simple merlons only. Almost all of the merlons have small pistol loops.

The style of the ogee-headed windows with their decoration together with the presence of pistol loops would suggest a date in the mid to late sixteenth century for the building.

Medieval house (?) fragment

North of No S Newry St. within its own burgage plot is a high pitched gable at right angles to the street, the only remnant of a house. On the east side is a head in relief carved in Late Medieval style. A fragment of the front wall also survives.

Medieval house (?) fragment

South of Taaffe's Castle is a building with narrew rectangular loop-like windows in its south wall. It may be of late medieval date.

3. THE CASTLE

Located on a peninsular rock the castle was so located as to command the harbour and control the crossing of the lough between Carlingford and Greencastle. Carlingford was the site of an important manor apparently founded by John de Courcy. It passed from him to the De Lacys and through their heirs to William of London who sold it in 1305 to Richard de Burgh, Earl of Ulster (Mills and McEnery 1916, 149). In 1408 Janico Dartas was its constable but little is Known of its subsequent history (McNeill and Otway-Ruthven 1960, No. 371). In 1210 when King John captured the castle he made payments to carpenters, quarriers, ditchers and miners which suggests that he strengthened its defences (Orpen 1911-20, ii, 252). Again in 1262 while the castle was in royal hands repairs were effected and records of the transportation of quarried stone and mortar survive (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 279).

In plan the castle is roughly D-shaped with a gatehouse on the west. There is an open courtyard on the western side, which originally contained apartments on the north and south sides of the gatehouse, and a large building on the east which probably functioned as the hall. The masonry is of coursed limestone and slates with sandstone quoins. Ξŧ.

🛫 The GATEHOUSE consists of two rectangular towers with a passage between. Only the basal parts now survive and the north tower alone provides an idea of its original appearance. This tewer contains four loops at ground level, two in the north wall (now blocKed) and two in the east, all of which would appear to have been lintelled with an internal splay. Originally they would promably have formed parts of larger arrow embrasures. The north wall contains the remains of two loops at first floor level. The tower was entered from the east and a spiral stair in the north east angle gave access to the upper floors. The south tower has been almost completely removed and only its outline can be determined. It was also entered through a door in the least wall, however. The base of the portcullis slot survives in the passage. A modern wall has been built across the south tower linking the northern part of the gate with the curtain wall.

Timber buildings stood originally on both the north and south sides of the gatehouse but all trace of these has vanished except for the presence of window embrasures in the outer wall. On the north side the ground floor has four windows, all straight loops with a pointed rear arch; the southernmost is the best preserved. There are two similar embrasures on the second floor and an opening, on the north, appears to have led into the first floor level of a tower of which all trace is now gone. The roofline is visible above + this level in the west wall of the hall.

South of the gatehouse was a building following the line of the curtain as far as the hall with a tower on the south side. Between the gatehouse and the tower are two window embrasures, the northernmost of which forms the present entrance te the castle. Like their counterparts on the north these are also straight loops with a pointed rear arch. East of the tower are two smaller embrasures, both of which are pointed. The easternmost has been blocked by the wall of the hall which is of later date. The ground floor is separated from the first floor by an offset indicating the position of the floor itself which was higher on the north than on the east of the tower. On the first floor are five embrasures, three north of the tower, all of which are pointed, and two on the east which are round-headed. At ground level in the south wall is a vaulted space, now blocked up, which would appear to have been a loop originally.

The tower is rectangular and projects from the south west angle. It is protected at ground level externally by a plinth which is continued for a distance of about 9.5 m along the south wall. It was entered from the north through a large pointed archway and on the ground floor are three window embrasures with straight plunging loops. The first floor is featureless except for a blocKed-up cupboard in the east wall. The first floor was probably used for storage and may have been reached via a ladder from the ground floor. Access to the second floor was had from the adjoining apartments through a door in the north wall, chamfered externally with

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internal splay. The remains of what may be the spiral stair survive in the north wall. On the second floor the tower becomes five-sided in plan and has two straight loops with a rounded rear arch on the south and west.

The hall was created by dividing the castle with a wall running north-south linking the curtain walls. The wall is largely featureless except for a centrally placed doorway at ground level which appears to be of modern date, and a segmental arched door at first floor level at the northern + end, which appears to have formed the entrance 'to the hall from the west. The wall has a base batter on the west side and is crenellated at parapet level, above the second floor. The ground floor chamber consisted of a large room of trapezeidal rather than rectangular plan. Beneath it was a vault running the length of the east wall giving access to the south-eastern part of the building, on the one hand, and also to a door in the east wall which opened onto a breastwork above the harbour. The northern part of this vault is now completely blocked off and its existence is conjectured from the presence of two straight loops in the external face of the wall. The deor leading to the breastwork has a round-headed segmental arch but it is now blocked with masonry. On the south side of this door the vault is rounded, with traces of its wickerwork centering present, and was lit by two elongated straight loops one of which has been completely filled and is now visible only from the exterior. The vault is entered on both the north and south sides through a lintelled doorway. The ground floor has two large window embrasures and the remains of a third in the east wall; all have a rounded rear arch but the windows themselves are reconstructed except for the southernmost which was round-headed. The south wall is incomplete and an opening has been broken through it on the south-west side to give access to the buildings in the south east angle of the castle; this opening is probably of late date. In the north east angle is a spiral stair, lit by three straight loops, giving access to the first floor.

The first floor of the hall communicated directly with the apartments on the west side of the castle through a segmental arched door in the west wall. There is an offset running around the south, east and west walls at this level showing the position of the floor; there are also supporting corbels in the east wall. Except for an opening broken through the south wall this floor is featureless. There was also a second floor but only the featureless west wall survives. Above this is the crenellated parapet.

The buildings in the south east angle of the castle appear to be insertions of the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century. The curtain wall of the thirteenth century structure must have continued around the rock on this side but no clear trace new survives. However, the sandstone jambs of a thirteenth century window survive at first floor (described below however as ground floor, in Keeping with the

hall) level in the south wall indicating that apartments on the west side of the dividing wall originally continued along the south curtain. A segmental door, with the weathering for a roof, at second floor level leading to the parapet is also probably part of the thirteenth century building. The late medieval additions consist of a north-south cross-wall linking the line of the curtain with the south wall of the hall, and running east from this an arcade of rounded arches springing from octagenal piers and supported on external segmental arches. In addition the east side of the thirteenth century dividing wall was thickened. The purpose of this remodelling and the exact nature of the new rooms, is unclear. The cross wall created a rectangular structure on λ west but it +is not clear if the arcade was meant to be an external feature or an internal division. The rectangular structure had a room below the ground floor level of the thirteenth century hall which may have functioned as a cellar; it has a lintelled door on the east side and on the south is a pointed archway leading to the exterior, new blocked. Beam-holes in the wall above indicate the ground floor level which was entered from the hall through an opening in the north wall and a flat-headed door in the north-south cross wall: There was a fireplace in this wall and it was lit by the thirteenth century window in the south wall of which only the western jamb survives. The first and second floors were linKed directly into the thirteenth century dividing wall. The first fleer communicated with the buildings on the east via a round-headed door in the east wall. East of this structure the picture is less clear because the south and east walls are missing but the presence of a fireplace at ground floor level on the south side of the arcade would suggest that the arcade was an internal feature. There is a fireplace with a sandstone lintel in the west Wall at second floor level and the remains of a splaying window (?door) at the east end of the north wall.

The construction of the castle would appear to fall into three periods: 1) probably in the early thirteenth century when the gatehouse and curtain wall, with $lean_{\overline{A}}$ to apartments + and towers on the north and south sides, were built; 2) the remodelling of the eastern side of the castle to form a large hall, probably in the years after 1262; and 3) the remodelling of the south east angle, probably in the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century.

4. TOWN DEFENCES (Figs. 12, 17; Pl. 14a)

The precise course of the town wall is uncertain at a number of specific points but it would appear to have enclosed a roughly rectangular area of about 8 hectares (20 acres). Knowledge of the line of the wall is based almost entirely on extant remains because there are no Known early maps or topographical views of importance. A late sixteenth century map published by Patterson and Davies (1839) is so small and general as to be of no topographical value as far as the town wall is concerned. A deed of 1426 refers to "land without the gate of the town of Carlingford" but it is not clear which particular gate this refers to (MacNeill and Otway-Ruthven 1960, No. 431). Murage grants were made in 1326, for six years, in 1409 and again in 1501, the latter being for twenty four years (Tresham 1828, p. 34: No. 24; p. 196: No. 75; p. 272: No. 4). The town appears to have been by-passed during the Bruce invasion but the murage grants make it clear that it was subject to attack from both the Irish and Scots during the fifteenth and sixteenth century.

Description

The position of the north wall of the town is not Known but it is to be presumed that it joined up with the castle defences. Indeed the sixteenth century view reproduced by + Patterson and davies (1939) shows the castle in the north east angle of the town. There is no positive evidence to show whether the wall had one or two gates on this side. However, that portion of Back Lane which links it to the Omeath road has an intrusive appearance because it isolates a triangular block on the east that would appear, from the curve of the Omeath road as it enters the town, to have belonged originally to the land on its west. This, together with the fact that the name Back Lane indicates a side street, suggests that there was but one north gate, probably located at the north end of Newry Street.

The west wall would appear to have followed the line of the north-south boundary delimiting the burgage plots of Back Lane and the northern half of DundalK Street but its precise north and south ends are unKnown. A portion of the wall survives behind Back Lane where it consists of rougly coursed limestone rubble masonry reaching a maximum height of 2.8 m and having a thickness of 1 m on average (Pl. 14a). It contains four rectangular gun loops, an indication that it was built in the late fifteenth or sixteenth century. Outside the wall is a gully which appears to have been part of a fosse. It is 4 m wide and 1 m in maximum depth. The amount of protection afforded to the town by the west wall 15 questionable because it is overlooked by higher ground to the west which would have made the wall very difficult to defend. It is difficult to Know where exactly the south end of the west wall was. The natural line of the long north-south boundary terminates in DundalK Street at a point opposite the Bominican Friary. The sixteenth century view of Patterson and Davies (1939), however, shows that the Friary was outside the wall. The situation is further complicated by the fact that the Ordnance Survey mappers show portions of the town wall surviving on the south west side of the town. This would appear to be in error, however, because none of the surviving fragments have any distinctive features which would make a positive identification possible. The southern boundary of the west wall is more likely to have been at a point opposite the parish churchyard which would appear, from the existence of the Tholsel Gate, to have been delimited by the town wall.

The presence of a church in the angle of the town wall is a feature paralleled in a number of towns, including St. Mary's at Drogheda. Fig. 12 shows this suggested southern line with a series of question marks. It may be noted that the sixteenth century view shows three towers on the west wall but their exact position is unKnown. There may have been a gate in the west wall at the point where River Street cuts the line of the town wall but this is also unKnown.

The THOLSEL GATE (Fig. 17; Pl. 14b) is a rectangular gatehouse of three floors that has been somewhat remodelled. The masonry is mainly of slate and limestone rubble with limestone quoins. The northeast corner has been rebuilt above first floor level. The second floor has been truncated and a slate roof parallel to the long axis of the building has been put en. Two large pointed windows were opened in the north and south walls of the first floor and an external stair has been added. These alterations were probably carried out during the nineteenth century by the Marquess of Anglessey. A fifteenth century date may be suggested for the gate on analogy with other gatehouses of similar form such as those at Athenry and Loughrea (see Turner 1971).

The ground floor consists of a barrel vaulted passage with a small rectangular chamber on the east side which is entered from the north through a flat-arched door. There is no evidence for an internal stair and the first floor would appear to have been reached from the wallwalk of the town originally. The first floor is entered through a wall reconstructed door in the north wall and the appearance of the chamber has been altered by the insertion of two pseudo-Gothic windows. The large window in the north wall, however, still has part of a chamfered limestone jamb with barholes indicating that there was a window in this position originally. In the east wall is a lintelled loop with internal splay together with a garderobe chute, probably part of a separate chamber, lit by a small lintelled loop in the south wall. The west wall has a narrow straight loop with stepped internal splay and incised into the plaster beside it are ship designs of eighteenth or early nineteenth century date. In the north west corner is a small rectangular cupboard. Apart from the large window the north wall is also * lit by a small opening, rectangular internally but rounded externally; this does not appear to be original. The second floor is featureless except for two straight lintelled loops in the east and west walls.

From the Tholsel Gate the wall probaly continued north eastwards as far as the old quay where the sixteenth century view reproduced by Patterson and Davies (1939) suggests that there may have been a corner tower. There is no evidence for a wall on the east where the quayside delimited the town. At the time of the construction of the railway the harbour immediately in front of these quays was reclaimed but the old line of the quays can be seen as a roadway.

5. HOLY TRINITY PARISH CHURCH (Fig. 18; Pl. 15).

The earliest reference to the existence of this church is in 1237 when Hugh de Lacy granted the churches of Carlingford and Rooskey to St. Andrew's in Scotland in return for hospitality which he had received (Leslie 1911, 163). Little is Known of the building until post-medieval times. In 1622 the church was repaired and the chancel was described as ruinous (Leslie 1911, 164). By contrast in 1692 the church was out of repair but the chancel was roofed. The present 1837, i, 254). The building was built before 1837 (Lewis tower at the west end is the only ancient feature. It lacks those diagnostic architectural features which could provide a close date and it can only be dated by analogy with other similar church towers which were built in Ireland between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries. The theory proposed by Patterson and Davies (1939), and repeated by Killanin and Duignan (1962, 124), that it was a mural tower may be dismissed. The building which they label as "The Mint" is clearly the church because it has a spire with a cross on top of it.

The tower is rectangular and has four floors with a parapet level above. There is an external batter at the base splaying from a string course on the west wall which separates the ground floor from the first floor. The masonry consists of coarsed limestone and slate rubble. It is entered in the south wall through a round-headed door of modern date. In the east wall is a pointed chamfered arch which would have linked the tower with the nave originally. A lintelled rectangular window in the west wall, blocked with masonry, is visible externally but no trace shows through the plaster of the interior. Access to the upper floors would have been by ladder or wooden stair originally. On the first floor there is a rectangular opening in the east wall, a lintelled rectangular window in the west wall (visible externally) and a large pointed window in the south; all have been built u#. The second floor has a lintelled rectangular opening in the east wall, a small straight lintelled slit with internal splay in the west wall and a blocked up window of uncertain form in the north wall. The third floor was the welfry stage and has a large window placed centrally in each wall. Unfortunately none of their tracery survives although it may be noted that while the east window alone is pointed, all have flat rear arches. The parapet is stepped and is supported by an external string course.

Medieval grave slab (Fig. 18). A chamfered coffin shaped slab is set upside down at the head (flaking badly) of a grave in the south of the graveyard. Only the lower portion is visible but it would appear to bear a cross design in relief springing from a decorated base consisting of a pointed reticulated arch.

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6. DOMINICAN FRIARY (Fig. 19; Pl. 16)

The founder of the friary is not Known for certain but it was most likely Richard de Burgh, Earl of Ulster, c.1305 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 222). In 1423 an indulgence was granted in order that monies might be raised to repair the church because of damage caused by robbers (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 223). After the Dissolution it fell into private hands and most of the domestic buildings appear to have been removed. The site was depicted by Grose (1791, ii, Pl. 44; see Pl. 16 infra) who shows it in much the same cendition as it is today.

Description

The remains comprise the church and a portion of the claustral buildings. The church consists of a nave and chancel divided by a tower. The masonry is primarily of coarsed slate with sandstone quoins.

The chancel had a large pointed east window now missing its base and most of its jambs, which have a plain external chamfer with an eroded label where they survive. The Keystone has an eroded protrusion, perhaps a face. In the gable above the window is a small pointed chamfered light. The north wall has three windows, all of which are now blocked and lack their jambs; the easternmost is flat-headed but the others are pointed. Externally a door jamb is visible in the north wall but it does not appear on the interior. The south wall has one flat-headed window, alsomissing its jambs, and a + pointed door giving access to the claustral area and to the tower.

The tower is rectangular with a projecting stair turret in the SE angle rising from above the level of the vault. Although there is a straight joint with the nave on the ground floor, which would suggest that the tower is an insertion, the stair providing access to it is built into the thickness of the chancel wall indicating that both are contemporary. The vault is pointed with chamfered jambs on the arch. Portion of the wicKerwerK centering en which the farch was built is visible. Part of the vault has collapsed but the rectangular hole for a bell rope is present. Above the vault are two floors, the lowermost of which has a rectangular opening in the east and west wall giving access into a loft abeve the nave and chancel. The gable coping of both are visible above this level. The ringing stage would appear to have been above this and portion of a window, , unfertunately lacking its top, survives in the west wall with a drainage course above which presumably supported the parapet.

The nave was lit by four windows in the north wall all of which are now built up. Three of these have segmental arches?

the fourth is pointed. The south wall has three segmental arched windows, two of which are blocked up; all are placed high in the wall so as to be above the line of the cloister roof. There is a pointed recess at ground floor level in the south wall but its function is unclear. The west wall has an attractive pointed door with external moulded label; internally its rear arch is rounded. It is of late fifteenth or perhaps early sixteenth century character. The west window was pointed but it has been completely blocked up. Turrets rise from the NW and SW angles with a crenellated parapet in between and a machicolation above the west door. Fragments of what would appear to have been a similar gabled parapet survive on the north and south walls.

The claustral area is now an open field but the south wall of the east range survives together with a portion of what may have been the prior's castle. The south wall of the east range has a pointed gable lit at first floer level by a window with a segmented arch and internal splay. Above it is a small rectangular loop which must have provived light to a loft. Externally the gable is supported by a sloping buttress added at a later date. A fragment of the east wall survives where it is attached to the prior's castle and at ground floor level there is a segmental arched doorway splaying inwards but which is now blocked.

The prior's castle is a secondary structure of rectangular plan built onto the east range and surviving to a height of three floors. The ground floer contains no features but the north and east walls have been damaged. The first floor has a rectangular window in the north, south and east walls, and above this in the north wall is a corbel for the second floor. The second floor contains three windows, one in each of the north, south and east walls. That on the south is the best preserved with a fine cusped ogee head and external chamfer. Above the level of the second floor is a drainage course externally which was most likely the support for the parapet.

An external string course in the south wall of the nave marks the line of the cloister roof in this area while the gable line of the east range is preserved as a line of slates in the south wall of the chancel.

7. CHAPEL

A short distance south east of the town in the townland Liberties of Carlingford, and adjoining the shore, is the "chapel field", the site of a chapel shown on the late sixteenth century map reproduced by Patterson and Davies (1939). Neither its date nor dedication are Known.

In 1348 a midden, 1 m thick, composed of animal bones, charcoal and shells was discovered in this field. It contained sherds of fourteen pottery vessels of thirteenth = early fourteenth century date (Nyhan 1948).

8. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. Stone arrowhead, barbed and tanged. From Carlingford. Private possession.

2. Bronze flat axehead of Harbison's (1969, 34: No. 885) Ballyvalley type. Wells Collection, Sudbury.

3. Forty-seven sherds of medieval pottery, representing fourteen vesses. From a midden on a raised beach at Chapel Field, Liberties of Carlingford, NMI M1948: 9-54 (Nyhan 1948).

4. Glazed potsherd, post-medieval. From street surface at foot of Tholsel steps, Carlingford. NMI 1975: 28.

5. Three eighteenth century potsherds. From a midden near the shore in Liberties of Carlingford. NMI 1377: 2189-91 (Kelly 1378).

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF CARLINGFORD

Archaeological excavations have not taken place in Carlingford and there are no records of the depth of archaeological deposits here. However, little disturbance has been caused in recent times and there can be little doubt that deposits exist over most of the area shaded on Fig. 11.

The two prehistoric stray finds indicate that the area was Known to prehistoric man but the earliest evidence for a settlement on this site is in the late twelfth century. Its importance rested on its port and ferry and one of the most important areas of the town in this regard is the vicinity of The railway station where land was reclaimed during the nineteenth century on the site of the medieval quays and it is to be expected that portions of these survive below ground level. If the architecture of the castle may be used as a guide it indicates that the thirteenth century was a prosperous one for the town but that there was a decline in the fourteenth century and a revival at the close of the Middle Ages. The two fortified houses, the "Mint" and Taaffe's Castle provide additional evidence for prosperity in the late fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The seventeenth century is hardly reflected, however, in the building record and the decline of Carlingford as a port appears to have recommenced at this time. It might be expected then that the archaeological deposits in the town should be rich in thirteenth and fifteenth century material.

The monuments which have survived above ground are important ones and three of them, the castle, Dominican -Friary, and "The Mint" are in state care. Taaffe's castle is structurally sound but it is in private hands at the moment. The parish church of the Holy Trinity has been abandoned and vandalism is beginning to commence; it is particularly + important that this building should come into communal control before it decays too much. The stretch of town wall is an important one with a unique row of musket loops. At present it is overgrown with ivy and in a neglected state. These buildings together with the narrow streets of the town convey an exceptional impression of a medieval townscape. It is important that the integrity of this townscape should be maintained and accordingly these streets should not be widened, nor should high rise buildings be permitted within the shaded area on Fig. 11.

Carlingford still retains many mysteries for the archaeologist. For instance, the course of the town wall is not Known precisely, nor are the locations of its mural and gatehouses. Archaeological Knowledge towers of. Carlingford is in many ways still in its infancy and it is particularly important therefore that excavations should take place where possible. In those circumstances where excavation cannot take place because of financial or other constraints trial trenches should be dug in order to determine the depth at which foundations may be put in without disturbing archaeological levels. In any event no place within the area shaded on Fig. 11 should be destroyed without prior archaeological investigation.

CASTLERING

This townland has been identified by Orpen (1911-20, ii, 125) as the site of the medieval borough and manor of Castlefrank. The focal point of the manor was undoubtedly the motte in Castlering Td. set on top of a Knoll overlooking the River Fane in undulating countryside about 6 Km north east of Louth (Fig. 20a)

The manor is referred to on a number of occasions during the thirteenth century usually in conjunction with the manors of Louth and "Ays" (now Mount Ash). It formed part of the crown lands in the barony of Louth and was given to Richard Carbonel in 1234 (Sweetman 1875-86, i, Ne. 2127). In 1256 it was granted to Geoffrey de Lusignan who retained it until his death in 1307 (Sweetman 1875-86, ii, No. 524; Mills 1914, 358). However, in 1296 it came into the King's hands for a short time and monies were spent on the defence of the castle (Tempest 1983, 121). A church is mentioned here in 1622 but its site is not Known.

MOTTE AND BAILEY

This is situated on a Knoll just above the one hundred foot contour beside a mill-race which joins the River Fane. It is considerably overgrown with trees and bushes. The motte consists of a round mound ranging from 8 to 10 m in height having a basal width of about 30 m narrowing to 10.5 m at the top. There are the remains of stone foundations on the top at the north west side which may form a part of the hexagonal building drawn by Wright when he visited the site in 1748 (P1. 17). Insufficient remains today, however, to determine the former plan of this structure. On the north west side of the motte is a crescentic shaped bailey having maximum dimensions of 28 by 17.5 m. It has an external fosse between 4 and 5 m broad, and a bank 2 m high and 1.5 m in width.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES IN THE VICINITY

1. Ash Little Td. Univallate ringfort.

2. Mount Ash. Motte.

3. Castlering. Cloghafuchagh: this would appear to have been a standing stone but it is no longer visible.

4. CarricKabuiliwin: on top of the hill here is a small mound which may be a tumulus.

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THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF CASTLERING

The existence of a borough at Castlering is evident from a reference in 1320 to burgages and a mill here (42 Report Deputy Keeper Public Records Ireland (1911), 16) but the precise whereabouts of the borough site is unKnown. It may be guessed that it was located close to the motte and accordingly in the accompanying map (Fig. 20a) the area within a 200 m radius of the motte has been isolated as having archaeological potential. It may be noted, however, that the townland of Newtown, located a short distance to the east, could also represent the site of the medieval borough.

CASTLEROCHE

Prominently sited on a rocKy outcrop commanding extensive views over the immediate countryside of Cos. Louth and Armagh. Although now entirely deserted it was the site of a borough which would appear to have been located in the bailey immediately to the east.

Despite the fine remains of the castle and its evident strategic position little is Known of its early history. On the basis of local tradition and an ambiguous reference of 1236 the building of the castle has been attributed to Rohesia de Verdun who inherited the Verdun lands in Louth in 1231 and died in 1246 (Co. Louth Archaeol. Jrl. 7, No. 1 (1929), 60; Murphy 1895, 320-2; Sweetman 1875-86, i, No. 2334). The earliest clear reference to the site of which I ame aware, however, is in 1284 when Theobald de Verdun was granted the right to hold a weekly market on Thursdays and an annual eight day fair "at his manor de Rupe" (Sweetman 1875-86, ii, Nos. 2303-4). This indicates that there was a settlement here by this time but the earliest reference to the borough is in 1332 (Otway-Ruthven 1968, 421; cf. 47 Report Deputy Keeper of Public Records Ireland (1915), 30). A chapel, probably within the castle, is mentioned here in 1297 (Mills 1905, 113). In the early fifteenth century the castle and manor passed into the hands of the Bellews (Tresham 1828, 174, No. 85) who held it until the late seventeenth century (Tempest 1983, 110).

The castle was burned in 1316 during the Bruce invasion (42 Report Deputy Keeper of Public Records Ireland (1911), 24) and this may have initiated the settlement's decline. According to Tempest (1983, 110), however, the tolls of Ardee were granted to John Bellewe in 1368 in order to enclose "the town of Roche". Buring the late sixteenth century the castle acted as a focal point for the gathering of English armies in the Ulster wars (Tempest 1915, 394) but there are no indications that the borough was in existence at this time. arepsilon In 1849 the castle was captured by the Cromwellians after it had been occupied by Royalist forces. The destruction of the north east angle tower is attributed to this capture (Tempest 1983, 110). After this date there are no further references to Castleroche and it may be assumed that it was deserted. It was visited by Wright in 1748 and he depicts the south side of the castle in much the same condition as it is today (Pl. 19a) and there has been little change to the north side since 1791 when it was drawn by Grose (Pl. 18).

THE BOROUGH

This would appear to have been located on that part of the promentory east of the castle. The area is irregular in

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; shape and followed the natural contour of the rock; it has maximum dimensions of 100 by 110 m (Fig. 20b). Within this area are the foundations of two structures, portion of the delimiting wall together with a mural tower, and a number of haphazardly arranged ridges which may be the remains of further buildings. A rectangular feature c. 11 by 5.25 m is present on the east side and an oval enclosure 7.3 by 6.6 m lies directly opposite the entrance to the castle. Along most of the promontory's edge it is only the footings of the delimiting wall that survive and these are on average 80 cm high. A larger fragment, of coursed limestone rubble, 6.9 m long, 2.3 m high and 35 cm thick is `present on the south side. The outline of what appears to have been a rectangular mural tower with internal dimensions of 3.4 by 2.9 m is at the north west corner; its wall is 65 cm thick and 50 cm high on average.

THE CASTLE (Fig. 21; Pls. 18, 19)

This has an irregular triangularly based plan entered through a gatehouse in the east wall. On the south are the remains of a rectangular hall and centrally placed within the complex is a rectangular tower, perhaps an earlier Keep. There are pieces of collapsed masonry over much of the interior and these are further obscured by undergrowth. The masonry consists of coursed limestone with sandstone quoins. The castle was separated from the bailey by a rock cut fosse. Immediately in front of the entrance are two stone plinths which probably acted as supports for a drawbridge.

GATEHOUSE has been damaged considerably The hut it originally consisted of a passage flanked by towers. Its internal walls on the west and south are missing but it would appear that the towers were rectangular in plan with an APSE projecting on the east wall giving them a rounded appearance from outside. The towers had four floors and were surmounted originally by parapets, which have been removed. Externally putlog holes are present at third floor level and these may indicate that the parapet was surmounted by а wooden machicolation. The passage was entered through a pointed segmental arch, now blocked and having a smaller pointed arch into it. The space above the inserted passage would presumably have held the portcullis chamber but of this only the web between the towers survives. At first floor level there are two slits in this wall but the northernmost of these has been almost completely defaced and only its internal splays survive; the other is a straight loop with sandstone quoins. The second floer has one straight loop in the east wall which is flanKed by an internal corbel. On the third floer are two small rectangular openings (?gun loops) facing east.

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The north tower has an embrasure, with a reconstructed 🐑

straight loop facing east, on the ground floor. The first floor had two embrasures, the larger having a reconstructed straight loop facing east with a pointed rear arch and internal sandstone quoins; the other, which is badly damaged, faces north. The second floor has an embrasure facing east while, on the third floor, is a straight loop also facing east.

The ground floor of the south tower was vaulted and traces of the wicKerworK centering survive. The first floor has an embrasure with pointed vault facing east and a round-headed door in the south wall giving access on one hand to a garderobe, whose chute is visible externally, and on the other, to a passage east of the hall; this passage is lit by four straight loops. On the second floor is an embrasure with pointed vault in the east wall and there are traces of a second embrasure in the south wall. The third floor has the remains of two loops facing east and south east.

The HALL is rectangular in plan and at present consists of two floors but the height of the east gable would sugest 🕂 that there was at least one additional floor, and possibly two, originally. It measures 17.5 by 12 m and although putlog holes are present there are no corbels and it is difficult to envisage how such a large space was originally floored. The east wall is gabled and was clearly built onto the the gatehouse. Behind the gable is a passage reached from the first floor of the gatehouse. The entrance to the ground r floor is through a broken opening in the west end of the north wall but it is not clear if this was the original entrance or not. At ground floor level the north wall consists of a combination of exposed bedrock and the return wall of the gatehouse. The south wall contains four arrow loops, two of which are straight, the third is round-headed while the fourth is blocked. The east wall has a vaulted chamber which would appear to have been a sally pert. In the west wall is a broken door giving access to a vaulted stair which leads to the first floor. The principal chamber was on the first floor and was lit by three large pointed windows in the south wall. Their outer mouldings are missing but the internal sandstone quoins survive. Access to the chamber was via a pointed door in the west wall; another larger opening in the west wall may be the remains of a window. The north wall contains part of the internal splay of a window.

Built onto the north side of the hall is a small rectangular annex with a doorway in the west wall and a straight joint in the north wall indicating the former presence of a door or window. In the north west corner is an angle butress. The interpretation of this feature is hampered by fallen masonry.

Only the ground floor of the rectangular TOWER survives together with a sunKen rectangular cellar. The masonry is of coursed limestone rubble with traces of plaster internally. The only feature of note is a badly damaged pointed door in 1 the east wall. There is a noticeable downward slope in the ground floor from east to west.

The NORTH EAST ANGLE TOWER is the only tower on the " curtain wall and only fragments of its north and east walls survive. It would appear to have been D-shaped and it stood to a height of at least four floors. Only the south wall survives above ground floor level but this is plastered on the north side showing the former presence of rooms here. The tower has been in this condition since at least the time of Grose (see Pl. 18a). The ground floor consists of two vaulted chambers separated by a cross wall. The northern chamber, which is of rounded plan, is the larger of these and has wickerwork centering. The southern chamber is incomplete but it would appear to have been rectangular originally. At second floor level there are two pointed windows in the north wall and there was also access to the curtain wallwalk on the east side which also led to a stair giving access to the floors above.

The CURTAIN WALL rises straight from the bedrock on all sides except the north where it has an external battered plinth. Between the gatehouse and north east tower it had an internal wallwalk at battlement level which linked up with + 🚺 the first floor of the gatehouse and the second floor of the north east corner tower. This stretch has nine merions pierced by eight straight loops. Rectangular drainage channels open at wallwalk level onto the exterior. The north curtain also has nine merlons each of which has one straight loop. The east curtain south of the gatehouse has four merlons each of which has a straight loop; the drainage course is also present. The presence of windows at first floor level in the west wall indicate that there was a STRUCTURE beside the west wall. There are three windows all of which appear to have been rectangular with a rounded rear arch. Running parallel to the curtain is a wall which would seem to have been the east wall of this structure. If this is the case the building would have been a rectangular one measuring about 28 by 9 m. At the south end of this structure is a rectangular area cut into the bedrock; its function is unknown. Oppesite this depression is a blocked door in the west wall which would appear to have functioned as a sally port. Externally there is a garderobe chute projecting at the north west corner of the curtain wall. However, there is no trace of it on the interior and it is not clear if it dropped +from the first floor or walwalk levels.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN THE VICINITY

1. A circular enclosure probably a ringfort is visible on

aerial photographs to the south east of the castle. It is shown intact on the last edition of the Ordnance Survey maps and would appear to have been removed about fifteen years ago.

2. A small mound, perhaps a clearance cairn, is fenced off in a field east of the castle.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF CASTLEROCHE

At present this site does not appear to be endangered by development and the castle itself is a national monument in state care (No. 460). The castle poses a variety of problems, some of which are pertinent to the site itself and others to thirteenth century castles in general: the date of its foundation, the possibility of the central rectangular structure being an early Keep, the layout of buildings within the courtyard, and the relationship between it and the borough. The absence of later alterations would suggest that there is the strong possibility intact.

The site is particularly important, however, because it forms what is perhaps the most striking and best preserved example in Ireland of the combination of castle and borough, the classic features of medieval colonisation, for which both Denbigh and Drysylwin in Wales provide close parallels. The documentary sources indicate that the borough was occupied during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries after which it is likely that it declined and it is likely that the surviving features on the promontory belong to this period. There is no evidence for disturbance and the body of evidence on the promontory is in fact of paramount significance in terms of its potential to reveal the features and appearance of a small borough.

CASTLETOWN DUNDALK

This borough, the site of the earliest Anglo-Norman settlement of DundalK, is situated on a ridge two miles west of the town of DundalK. There are substantial remains of a motte, church and fifteenth century tower house but little is Know of the extent of the borough and few documentary sources survive. It has recently been the subject of an intensive archaeological study by Gosling (1983).

The site has been identified since the last century with Dun Dealgan, the fort of Delga, associated with the legendary Cuchulainn (Orpen 1908, 257). Archaeologically it is evident that the site was Known in prehistoric times: a Bronze Age cist burial was discovered near the motte (Gosling 1983, 161: No. 22d), and a standing stone survives north of the motte (Gosling 1983, 162: No. 29). Within the motte is a souterrain and this suggests that the motte was built over a pre-Norman residence (Gosling 1983, 161: No. 22a). The builder of the motte was most likely Bertram de Verdun who was granted large areas in the north of Louth after 1185, and he is certainly associated with the foundation of the parish church (McNeill 1923, 167-8). The motte was the centre of a large manor which remained in the hands of his family throughout the thirtenth century but passed to the Bellews, who built the tower house, in the fifteenth century. The borough was also established at an early date and is first referred to c. 1200 (MacNeill 1923, 167). In 1226 Nicholas de Verdun received the grant of an annual fair "at his manor of DundalK" and the duration of this fair was increased in 1230 (Sweetman 185-86, i, Nos. 1387, 1829) The Anglo-Norman settlement is likely to have been concentrated around Castletown Cross and the southern end of Mill Road but the documentary sources are lacking to show just hew much of it was built up. Gosling (1983, 86) suggests that the settlement may have been laid out in two parallel streets along the axis of the present Mill Road and a road, now ploughed out, to the S of Castletown Cross. A map of 1855 by Symone Garstin makes it clear, however, that burgage plats and streets existed here (Gosling 1983, Fig. +3). A watermill, probably attached to the manor, is Known from documentary souces but its precise position cannot be plotted (Gosling 1983, 175: No. 186). A second tower house is . + menVioned in the documentary sources (Gosling 1983, 174-5, No. 185). The site was most likely deserted during the eighteenth century when Dundalk began to expand, probably attracting the last occupiers of Castletown to it.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. MOTTE AND BAILEY

- 2. TOWER HOUSES
- 3. PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
- 4. OTHER FEATURES
 - 5. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. MOTTE AND BAILEY (P1. 20)

This would appear to have been the site of the De Verdun manor during the late twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The motte is exceptionally large and is prominently sited on the ridge commanding extensive views in all directions. It is almost certainly built upon an earlier earthwork because there is a souterrain in the south slope suggesting that the site was ocupied in Early Historic times. The motte consists of a round mound about 14 m high and ranging in basal width from 70 to 80 m rising to a flat top, some 40 m across, on which the ruin of a castellated folly, constructed during the eighteenth century, stands. The sides are steeply scarped and it is surrounded by a ditch and outer bank. The motte and \star bank have been landscaped by the planting of trees.

The bailey was situated on the south side of the motte and a greund plan of it prepared by Wright in 1749 survives (Pl. 20). This shows it to have been rectangular and protected by a bank outside which was a ditch with a scarped outer bank. Wright's plan shows a small annex on the north side of the motte (Pl. 20: C) of which there is now no trace. Orpen (1908, 256) considered this to be a broadening of the rampart to leave a lune-shaped platform on the counterscarp of the motte ditch and he notes that it also occurs at Donaghmoyne, Co. Monaghan.

The souterrain consists of a passage 11m long entered through a modern opening about half way up the south scarp. The passage drops down into the mound and turns left at a distance of 2.46 m from the entrance from which it continues westwards for approximately 6.m before turning northwards again to terminate in an earthen wall. It is constructed of drystone walling and has a lintelled roof supported on corbels. It is likely that the souterrain forms part of a feature which pre-dates the motte.

A cist burial of Bronze Age date is Known from the foot of the motte. (Gosling 1983, 161: No. 22d).

2. TOWER HOUSES

Two of these are Known from documentary records but only

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one survives, on the north east side of the motte. Both were built by Richard Bellew in the years 1472 and 1479 respectively. In 1472 he received a grant of £10 in order to build a new tower of the statutory dimensions set out in 1429 (Tempest 1943, 184). Seven years later he received another grant to build a second tower "in the Castleton of Dundalk" (Tempest 1943, 184-5). The present building is larger than the statutory dimensions of 1429 and it may be suggested that it is the later of the two buildings, and was commenced in 1479. The 1472 building stood at Castletown Cross and its approximate position is marked on the acompanying map: (Fig. 22; see Gosling 1983, 174-5, No. 185).

Tower House within St. Louis Convent (Figs. 23, 24; Pl. 21)

The building is rectangular in plan with projecting turrets at the corners and has four floors with parapet and turret levels above. Coursed limestone masonry with ashlar quoins. A carved head projects from the second floor level in the south east angle.

There are seven openings at ground level but originally the only entrance was the arched doorway in the south wall pretected by a machicolation at parapet level and by a murdering hole immediately inside the door. Immediately inside the door a spiral stair rises in the south west turret providing access to the floors above. The first floor roofed by a barrel vault in which traces of the wickerwork centering survive. It was lit by two large windows in the east and west walls and a narrow rectangular loop in the north. The east window is of three-lights with transom and mullions, and an external hood-mould with foliated stops. A similar window probably existed in the west wall but it has been removed. Both windows are of sixteenth century character. The north west tower contains a garderobe.

The second floor had large windows in the east, north and west walls but only the eastern example is intact, and is almost identical its companion on the floor below. These windows also appear to be of sixteenth century date. The south wall contains a fireplace with moulded jambs and mensa of sixteenth century style. In the north-west and south-east angle turrets a separate stair connects with the chambers on the floor above. The north-east turret has a small fireplace immediatly inside the door. The chamber in the south-east turret is lit by attractive twin-light ogee-headed windows and Tempest (1943, 192) suggests that the room may have been used as a chapel. The third floor contains two large windows in the east and west walls which would appear to be insertions of the sixteenth century. That in the east wall is blocked up. In the north wall is a blocked fireplace and a door leads into a garderobe in the north west corner. There was no access originally to the north-east or south-west towers from this floor. However, the door to the north-east tower has been blocked up. The parapet or wall-walk level is

relatively featureless except for chimneys on the north and south walls and the presence of chambers in the corner turrets; that in the north-west angle has a small fireplace. The top of the turrets is reached by a short stair. The crenellations are probably of eighteenth century date.

The castle most likely functioned as the centre of the Bellew manor of Dundalk during the late fifteenth century and the map of Symone Garstin of 1655 shows it protected by a bawn wall and enclosing some outhouses (Gosling 1983, Fig. 3). Portions of this bawn wall survived until the late eighteenth century and were delineated by Grose in his View of 1791 (Pl. 21a).

3. PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (Fig. 25)

Situated within a graveyard on a prominent ridge southeast of the tower house, the building consists of an undifferentiated nave and chancel. The masonry is of roughly coursed limestone with jambs of granite and sandstone. The building lacks any diagnostically dateable features but the + form of the Window mouldings suggests the thirteenth century.

The north and south walls stand to their original height of about 4 m, while the east gable is about 7 m high, but the west wall appears to be partially rebuilt. The east window is positioned slightly off-centre; it has granite mouldings internally and it is set within a limestone frame externally. The entrance in the west end of the south wall is modern but it is probably on the site of the original one. There are four windows in the north wall all of which are damaged. They have simple rounded mouldings of granite on the interior and splay internally. The south wall has three windows with an internal moulding, all of which have been damaged; the moulding on the most easterly window is concave rather than \downarrow rounded. χ

Monuments

Walter Bellew. 17th cent. Chamfered limestone slab mounted on a rough altar-like plinth in front of the east window. Part of the left corner is lying on the ground and parts of the right side are also damaged. Marginal inscription in false relief Roman capitals:

'WALTER BELLEWE PRIEST ERECTED THIS / ALTAR IN HOLNOR OF 1/ SALINT JOH IN BAP / TIST THE LEFTRS IT OF LANVARIE ANNO DNI [1631]'

Dims: H. 175 W. 77 T. 12 cm. The missing letters are supplied from the Journal of the Memorials of the Dead Ireland VII (1907-09), 138.

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Bellew Memorial Slab Re-erected in 1912 on top of a plinth as a table tomb. Fossiliferous limestone, in poor condition. Traces of a double-line marginal inscription in Roman capitals read as follows in 1912:

THIS MONUMENT WAS ERECTED BY DAME ISMAIE TAAFFE/ ALIAS BELLEWE VNDER/ WHICH LIETH THE BODY OF ROBERT BELLEWE/ LATE OF DONAGHMORE WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE/ THREE AND TWEN/ TIETH DAY OF IANVARY 1630. TO WHOSE/ SOVLE THE LORD BE MERCIFUL AMEN.

Dims: H. 206 W. 94 T. 12 cm. Journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead XI (1921-25), 65

4. OTHER FEATURES

Standing Stone A large granite erratic, Known as Dealg Fhinn "Finn's thorn", situated in the field immediately north east of the motte and bailey. It is a flat topped pillar stone of rounded section. Dims: H. 114 W. 108 cm.

Medieval Head (P1. 21c) Large limestone "mouth-puller" set in the south face of the north wall of the sunken garden in front of the St. Louis Convent. The face is deeply lined, and has bulbous eyes with two hands grasping the sides of the mouth pulling it back to reveal two rows of evenly spaced teeth. Dims: H. 30 W. 37 cm.

5. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

All appear to be of medieval or post-medieval date.

1. Iron arrowhead (medieval). Found in a "fort" at Castletown, Co. Louth. NMI WK. 138; 1879:38.

2. Pottery (medieval and post-medieval), slag, animal teeth, etc. From topsoil disturbed by school construction, c.105 m west of west wall of Castletown Castle, Co. Louth. NMI 1977: 2192-8.

3. Two earthenware jars containing cider (?) from a mound at Castle Bawn, Castletown, DundalK, Co. Louth. NMI 1941: 1122-3.

4. Iron axehead. Possibly from Castletown, Co. Louth. NMI 1873:37.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF CASTLETOWN

The presence of a souterrain within the motte indicates that there was a centre of occupation here prior to the coming of the Normans. Despite the folklore associations of the mound with Finn and its identification with the Dun Dealgan of the Tain, nothing is Known of the nature or extent of this early settlement, or of the Anglo-Norman impact on the pre-existing settlement. The surviving remains indicate that the thirteenth century was a period of prosperity but the map by Symone Garstin indicates that the borough did not decline completely until after the seventeenth century. + Accordingly it is to be expected that there should be a range of archaeological deposits surviving here from Early Christian times until the seventeenth century.

Archaeological excavations have not taken place at Castletown and there are no records of the depth of archaeological deposits. Hewever, it is evident that some disturbance occurred with the building of the St. Louis Convent in the 1950s and the De La Salle schools during the late 1970s. The re-structuring of the Castleblayney and Mill roads, the re-piping of the stream on the east of the Mill Rd. and the construction of waterworks by the Urban District Council have also removed archaeological deposits. The settlement is situated on the western approaches to DundalK and consequently it is likely to come under threat from urban expansion in the near future. However, resulting from a survey of its archaeological potential by Mr Paul Gosling (1983), the area shown on the accompanying map (Fig. 22) has been accepted as an archaeological zone by the Urban District Council and suitable restrictions will be placed on development there.

COLLON

This town is situated in undulating countryside about mid-way on the road between Slane and Ardee. It is based around a cross roads at the intersection of the main roads between Slane-Ardee and Dunleer-Navan. It is located on the slepe of a ridge overlooking the river Mattock and which rises steeply from the bridge to the north end of Ardee Street. The present street pattern appears to belong entirely to the early eighteenth century when the tewn was laid out by the Fosters, the local landlords.

Collon was the site of a medieval borough founded by the abbots of Mellifont and forming part of their manor of Collon. It is first referred to as a borough in 1472 when the abbot described the burgages as waste because of non-residence and alienation. However, it is likUAy that it was established during the thirteenth century (Morrisey 1939, 29-33). A weekly fair was granted to the abbots in 1227 and a weekly market in 1229 in their "vill of Callan" (Sweetman 1875-86, i, Nos. 1550, 1735). It was burned by the Be Verdon's in 1312 and by O'Neill in 1539 (Colmcille 1958, 101, 170).

There are no remains of pre-1700 date within the town. However, an Early Bronze Age cremation burial in a pit covered by an encrusted urn was found north of the town in 1960 (O Riordain 1958).

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF COLLON

The discovery of the urn burial indicates that this area was Known to man in prehistoric times and the possibility of further burials, forming part of a cemetery, should not be overlooked.

The present town has obliteratd all trace of the medieval borough and it can only be guessed that they occupy the same site. In the accompanying map (Fig. 26) the core of the present town is shaded because it is the area most likely to have archaeological deposits.

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DROGHEDA

The town of Drogheda is based around a narrow bridging point on the tidal estuary of the River Boyne some 8 Km from the open sea. It lies in a fairly central location within the coastal plain formed by the Central Lowlands as they merge with the east coast. The geological base is of carboniferous limestone with a soil cover formed mainly of grey brown podzolics. In the 1981 census the population was 23,173.

The south bank of the river is steeply scarped and rises to a height of just over 30 m with an average gradient of 1:7 (Fig. 29). The high ground of the scarp comes nearest the river above St. Mary's Bridge at the spot occupied by the Millmount which affords the natural defensive advantages of a commanding view with control of the river crossing. This scarp is cut by two streams, each occupying a steep-sided ravine, flowing northwards into the Boyne. On the north bank the ground rises much more gently with an average gradient of 1:23. This contrast in land formation has influenced the development of the town both during the Middle Ages and in more recent times: the north bank offered space for expansion whereas settlement on the south bank was huddled together on the slope below the Millmount.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Drogheda was one of the largest and most important towns in medieval Ireland but its story begins long before that time. The situation has many natural topographical advantages and one of the first problems it raises for archaeological research is the nature of Prehistoric and Early Historic activity on the site. In what follows the evidence for settlement in the area prior to the foundation of the town is briefly recounted; the present state of Knowledge of the medieval and post-medieval town is reviewed and an inventory of the Known archaeological features is presented.

I. PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT IN THE DROGHEDA AREA (Fig. 28)

The earliest evidence for man in Ireland comes from the gravel quarries at Mell, immediately north of the town, where a palaeolithic flint flake of c.100,000 BC has been discovered (Mitchell and SieveKing 1972). This flake may not have originated in the area, however, and was most likely transported with the gravels in which it was found from

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somewhere in the Irish Sea basin. More definite evidence for the activities of man in the Drogheda area occurs during the fourth millenium b.c., in the final phases of the Mesolithic period. Objects of flint have been found on the coast at Clogher Head and near the Boyne at Newgrange, Co.Meath (Woodman 1978, 308, 314). These objects would appear to have belonged to hunter-fisher communities living in the area.

On present evidence farming was introduced into this region shortly before 3000 b.c. and with its arrival commenced an unbroken chain of settlement that has continued until the present day in the Drogheda area. The Boyne Valley was one of the most intensively utilised areas of Neolithic Ireland and the river would appear to have been an important routeway. Neolithic occupation sites have been discovered overlooking the river at Knowth and Townleyhall (Eogan 1984; Eogan 1964; Liversage 1960) but it is from burial mounds that our Knowledge of settlement is primarily derived. The great cemetery of megalithic tombs based on Knowth, Dowth and Newgrange appear to have been constructed throughout the third millenium b.c. although some may have been commenced slightly earlier (Eogan 1984; Herity 1974, 245-51;6⊄=−0'Kelly 1978, 45-64; M. J. O'Kelly 1982; G. (O'Kelly 1983). Since at least the mid-eighteenth century claims have been advanced that the Millmount is such a tomb adapted into a motte but there is no evidence to prove this (Buckley 1909, 170; D'Alton 1844, i, 86). However, two polished stone axeheads, most likely of Neolithic date, have been found. One came from near the Boyne at Shop Street and is now in the Millmount Museum. The other is from Beltichburne immediately to the east of the town (Cooney 1982). Single objects such as these do not indicate a settlement here but they suggest that the site of Drogheda was Known to Neolithic man. Whether the site was already a fording point at this time or not, however, is something that only future work can determine.

There is greater evidence for settlement in the vicinity during the Earlier Bronze Age, At Knowth (Eogan 1984), Newgrange (C. O'Kelly 1978, 117-8) and MonKnewtown (Sweetman 1976) evidence for Beaker settlement and activity dating to c.2000 b.c. and the centuries immediately following has been discovered. At the Hill of Rath a large cemetery alleged to have contained over 150 urns was found during the last century (Gogan 1929). These included Encrusted Urns (Kavanagh 1973, 554-5), Cordoned Urns (Kavanagh 1976, 369-70), Pygmy Cups (Kavanagh 1977, 85) and Food Vessels which would suggest that the cemetery was in use from c.1800 B.C. to c.1400 B.C. Cist burials of this period are Known from Oldbridge and Monasterboice (Waddell 1970,). Five bronze flat axeheads, typologically of Early Bronze Age date, have been found within or near the town but unfortunately the precise find spots were not recorded. Harbison (1969, Nos. 561, 1288, 1893) has published three of these; the others are in the National Museum of Ireland (NMI 1968: 297; 1937: no number). Very little is Known of settlement in the area after 1200 b.c, during the Later Bronze Age, but stray finds of this ۶Z

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period have been discovered including a bronze socKeted axehead (NMI: E92:384); a bronze sword of Eogan's Class 4 dating to c.700 B.C. (Eogan 1965, 73 No. 214); a piece of gold "ring money", perhaps discovered on the site of St. Augustine's Church in 1863 (Taylor 1980, 108; cf. Duffner 1979, 32). These objects are sufficient to show that the area in the vicinity of Drogheda was occupied during the Bronze Age and that the site itself was frequented.

Evidence for settlement in the area during the Iron Age is slight by comparison with that for the Neolithic and early Bronze Age but numbers of sub-Roman objects have come to light in the excavations at Newgrange (Carson and D'Kelly 1977) and Knowth (Eogan 1977, 70). At Knowth indeed there is evidence for a defended settlement and a cemetery of burials dating to the first centuries A.D. At Ninch, near Laytown, a mound covering two Iron Age burials has been excavated (Sweetman 1982-3), while at nearby Bettystown a pit burial was discovered containing two iron penannular brooches, probably dating to the 2nd-4th centuries A.D. (information from Mr E. P. Kelly).

In summary then, there is evidence to show that the vicinity of Drogheda was well explored and settled at various periods in prehistory. There are no indications of occupation on the site of the future town but it may have been a fording point for communication across the river estuary.

II. EARLY HISTORIC SETTLEMENT IN THE DROGHEDA AREA (Fig. 28)

The evidence for occupation during this period is considerable but by contrast with the prehistoric period it is derived mostly from settlement sites rather than burial places. The sites of a number of ringforts are Known both north and south of the town; these are plotted on the basis of Barrett and Graham (1975) and Barrett (1982). Souterrains have been noticed at Townley Hall (Mooney and Carson 1974), Dowth (C. O'Kelly 1983, 154-6), Baltray (O Riordain 1956, 447), and closer to the town at Mell; these are plotted from Rynne and Prendergast (1962) and Mr P. Gosling (pers. comm.). During the tenth-twelfth centuries Knowth was occupied by a community grouped around the mound in an almost village-like fashion (Eogan 1977, 70-75). The long period of occupation at Knowth shows that it had become a focal point in the settlement pattern of the region and similar foci can be distinguised in the larger monastic sites like Monasterboice (Roe 1981), Duleek (Swan 1973), Slane and Termonfeckin. Indeed it could be said that one of the features of this period was the appearance of stabilisation in the settlement pattern. The founding of Mellifont in 1142 and the grants to it of huge tracts of land between Drogheda and Slane, however, must have disrupted this pattern (Colmcille 1958, map 1). This disruption came shortly before the coming of the Anglo-Normans and it would seem that when the new town of

The excavations at Knowth have shown that the area was a wealthy one during the Early Historic period and this is also supported by stray finds such as the "Tara" brooch, found at Bettystown (Whitfield 1974). The town itself has also produced a number of stray finds although their precise find-spots are not Known. Two penannular brooches from Drogheda are in the British Museum -(-1854-7-14,---139;---140;-Kilbride_Jones-1930,-99:-No.-49>. A double spiral-headed pin, perhaps of seventh-eighth century date and five bronze stick pins of types current between the tenth and twelfth centuries have been found. The precise findspot of these objects, however, is not Known and they seem to have been found during dredging of the Boyne. All are now in the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto (Pryor-1976, Nos--8-,-25, -39, -43-, -59, -78), A large coin-hoard, deposited c.905, was found in a railway cutting near the town in 1846. The hoard contained silver pennies from York and Kufic dirhams from the orient (Dolley 1966, 26, 49). Like the prehistoric objects all of these are probably best accounted for as casual finds and cannot be taken as indicators of an Early Historic settlement on the site of the future town. Nonetheless, the presence of an Early Historic population in the vicinity of Drogheda is clearly attested.

III. MEDIEVAL DROGHEDA

The beginings of Drogheda as a town commence in the last quarter of the twelfth century and it is to this period that the townscape owes much of its form. The street pattern and property boundaries were laid out, the town walls and churches were constructed, and the administrational framework and functions which have endured to the present day were instituted. Documentary sources for the history of Drogheda also begin to occur and it is possible to supplement the archaeological record with written evidence to reconstruct its growth and development.

The town of Drogheda was founded in the years immediately prior to 1186 by Hugh de Lacy, Lord of Meath (Bradley 1978, 105). It derived its name from Droichead Atha, ford of the bridge, which Fr. Colmcille (1958, 295) has shown was the name originally applied to Oldbridge, 4.5 Km to the west. Recent research has indicated that, despite the statements of earlier writers, there is no evidence for any settlement at Drogheda prior to the coming of the Anglo-Normans (Bradley 1978, 103). The annals refer to Viking fleets on the Boyne during the ninth century but there are no clear references to a settlement. The alleged construction of a fort by the Viking leader Turgesius during the ninth century is not based on any contemporary record but seems to rest upon a story 87

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n invented in the twelfth century (O Corrain 1972,91-2).
Indeed, it is unlikely that any form of permanent settlement
could have been established in the area/with the royal centre
of the Kings of North Brega close-by at Knowth, Co. Meath.

The Synod of Kells in 1152 defined the Boyne the as boundary between the dioceses of Armagh and Meath and this γ meant that two parishes had to be created if the town was to be built on both sides of the river. This may explain whyDrogheda was originally founded tωo as towns: Drogheda-in-Meath and Drogheda-in-Louth (Uriel). Both parishes were founded by Hugh de Lacy before his death in 1186 but it is not clear whether they were established simultaneously or not (Bradley 1978, 105).

The earliest surviving charter to the town is one of 1194 from Walter, Hugh de Lacy's son, to Drogheda-in-Meath (MacNiocaill 1964, 172-3). It is a short charter, confirming the Laws of Breteuil to the burgesses and permitting each burgess to hold a burgage plot fifty feet wide, as well as three acres in the fields outside the town; it also stipulated that they may have free access along the Boyne as far as Trim with their boats. In return for these privileges the burgesses were to pay 12d. per annum to de Lacy. The Laws of Breteuil, a town in Normandy, consisted of a series of privileges originally conferred on that borough which came to be regarded as one of the best codes of burgess rights and was granted to new towns all over England, Wales, France and Ireland during the late twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The earliest charter to Drogheda-in-Louth is dated 1213 and is a simple confirmation of existing privileges by King John (MacNiocaill 1964, 184-5). Both towns received many subsequent royal charters. The status of a free borough was in 1229 on Drogheda-in-Louth and conferred in 1247 on Drogheda-in-Meath, charters which granted the burgesses a series of privileges including the right to form a merchant guild (MacNiocaill 1964, 185-8, 174-8). In 1252 Henry III granted to Drogheda-in-Louth the right to elect a mayor who would be responsible for enforcing justice within the town. The two towns were incorporated by a charter of 1412 which separated them from both Louth and Meath and created Drogheda into a separate county, to be administered by a single mayor (MacNiocaill 1964, 200-210). Until the municipal changes of the nineteenth century this charter remained the legal basis upon which the town was governed.

Drogheda was an important marKet place for the agricultural produce of the Meath area, and its significance is evident from the number of references it receives in charters. The royal charter of 1247 to Drogheda-in-Meath permitted a weekly market there every Wednesday, and an annual fair on the feast of the Assumption (15th August) and the six days following. In a grant of 1318 a second weekly market was permitted on Saturdays (MacNiocaill 1964, 179). Drogheda-in-Louth received the right to hold an annual fair for fifteen days commencing on the eve of the feast of St.

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Luke (17 October) in 1252 from Henry III (MacNiocaill 1964, 190). Some of the produce brought to marKet was exported and throughout the Middle Ages Drogheda was an important port. Acording to the customs returns of 1276-1333 it was the fourth largest port in Ireland, handling a greater trade than Dublin, Galway or Limerick, and only exceeded by New Ross, Cork and Waterford (Graham 1977, 41). This volume of traffic is surprising in some ways because the harbour area is quite small and the estuary is subject to silting; indeed, a report of 1543 specifically described it as a "bad haven" (D'Alton 1844, i, 194). Wheat, oats, flour, animals on the hoof, fish, wool and hides were the principal commodities sent out of Drogheda from the thirteenth century until modern times (Bradley 1978, 123); during the sixteenth and seventeenth tallow became particularly important centuries yarn and (Longfield 1929, 92, 200; Clarke 1976, 176). The trade was a predominantly Irish Sea one based mainly on Chester and Bristol but Drogheda's merchants ranged further afield to * Flanders for cloth; to Gascony, Spain and Portugal for wine; and to Iceland for fish. The wine trade is the one best documented and it is evident that the wine was sold not merely to the townsmen but it was also transported from Drogheda to other parts of Ireland, and was re-exported on occasion to Scotland or England (Bradley 1978, 121).

The town was also an industrial centre and the home of specialist craftsmen. Royal commands to construct galleys during the thirteenth century suggest that ships were built of 1296 to and the murage grant Drogheda-in-Meath specifically mentions large boards, masts, rigging ropes and canvas for ships, perhaps indicating that the building yards were on the south side (Bradley 1978, 123). Cloth was manufactured and Dyer Street, the medieval vicus tinctorum or street of the dyers, may have been the centre of production. Leather workers, skinners and butchers are attested in the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries and the town was the home of ironworkers from an early stage. Artists and craftsmen were also to be found here including at least one "particularly accomplished" goldsmith to whom the archbishop of Dublin Michael Tregury brought his processional cross for repair c.1460 (Bradley 1978, 124).

Politically, Drogheda was important as the largest town north of Dublin that remained loyal to the English administration. The Boyne estuary was the boundary between Leinster and Ulster until the seventeenth century and the town's situation made it a point of transition; on the one hand a bastion of the Pale, and on the other, a point of contact between Gaelic and English culture. The English oriented archbishops of Armagh lived here and many of them are buried in St. Peter's Church. It was here that Richard II northern entertained the chiefs and received their submissions in 1395. Indeed, it was at near-by Mellifont that Hugh O'Neill, earl of Tyrone, surrendered to Mountjoy in 1603, ending the Nine Years War and sealing the fate of Gaelic Ireland. More often than not, however, it is the

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friction between the two cultures that is recorded. The townsmen regularly fielded contingents that assisted the Lord Deputy: at Faughart in 1318 a Drogheda man, John Maupas, was credited with Killing Edward Bruce (Gilbert 1884, 11. cxxviii); a statute of 1468-9 granted the mayor the privilege of having a sword of state carried before him as a recognition of the services of Drogheda against O'Reilly (Morrin 1861, 356); and at Knockdoe, in 1504, they assisted the Lord Deputy, Garret Mor, Earl of Kildare. The town was frequently the setting for parliaments, the best-Known of which was that of 1494 presided over by Sir Edward Poynings, which passed the notorious law subsequently named after him. The parliament that met here in 1465 voted to establish a university at Drogheda which would have "bachelors, masters, doctors and all of the sciences and faculties that are at the University of Oxford" (Berry 1914, 369). It is not clear why Drogheda was chosen but it may have been because of the fame of the Franciscan school of theology (FitzMaurice and Little 1920, 190). In any event, the project never seems to have got off the ground.

The fourteenth century brought setbacks to the expansion of the town. Although it successfully resisted the seige by Edward Bruce in 1315 the area of Louth and Meath forming its hinterland was devastated (MacIomhair 1961, 89-90). Drogheda was one of the first towns in Ireland to be effected by the Black Death which appeared here in early August 1348. The contemporary chronicler Friar Clyn records the death of twenty five Franciscans before christmas (Butler 1849, 35-6) but the number of citizens who died is not Known. The town was again visited by plague in 1479 and 1504 but presumably not to the same effect.

IV. POST MEDIEVAL DROGHEDA

By contrast with the medieval period, which has been the subject of recent study, the story of Drogheda in the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries is not well Known. Politically it is evident that the town remained loyal to the Dublin administration, closing its gates to a threatened siege during the revolt of Silken Thomas in 1534 successfully resisting the rebel siege of 1641 which lasted for nearly four months. The most notorious event in Drogheda's history was its sacking by Cromwell, an event that was ironic because the town had been loyal to the Parliamentary cause up until its capture by the Confederates two months before. It was the first town that Cromwell marched against after his arrival at Dublin. On September 11 1649, after a three day siege, the town was stormed and both the garrison and citizens were massacred except for a handful subsequently shipped out as slaves to the West Indies. The

Size J. G. Shines. "Crannell at Dreyhile", <u>1r. Sward</u> 11(1993-4),212-21.

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Restoration of 1660 does not appear to have significantly altered the Cromwellian settlement. In 1690, the townsmen sat on the sidelines for the Battle of the Boyne and having previously welcomed James II, they opened their gates to William of Orange after his victory (cf. D'Alton 1844, ii, 221-344).

The late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were characterised by the opening up of "communications. Coaches appeared in the seventeenth century (McLysaght 1969, 245) and by the 1730's there were regular coaches between Dublin and Drogheda (Cullen 1972, 85). As the streets were widened to accomodate the increase in traffic the gatehouses of the old defences were swept away and by 1780 almost all had been removed (D'Alton 1844, i, 85). The navigation of the Boyne between Drogheda and the sea was begun in 1761 by Thomas Omer and this led to the issue of stock by the Boyne Navigation Company in 1789 for a canal upriver to Navan. An iron foundry and breweries were established. The manufacturing of cotton and linen increased in the late eighteenth century and the new prosperity was expressed architecturally in a brick Linen Hall constructed in 1774. During the early nineteenth century Drogheda's trade declined and a commercial crisis in 1825-26 forced many in the textile industry to emigrate. Ireland's first major railway, the Dublin-Drogheda line, Was established in 1844 and the magnificent viaduct spanning the Boyne was constructed in 1851-55 (Sheaf 1980, 303).

THE TOPOGRAPHICAL DEVELOPMENT OF DROGHEDA

The early maps of Drogheda are particularly important for reconstructing its former topography. The earliest is a map prepared by Barnaby Goche in 1594 (Thomas 1975). Like other sixteenth century drawings this is more a sKetch than an accurate plan and contains considerable variation in detail. In 1657 a plan was prepared by Robert Newcomen for the Down Survey (Pl. 23b; see D'Alton 1844, ii, 284-5). This also shows the town schematically but pays some attention to the outline of the walls and the principal public buildings. The town was visited by the artist Francis Place in 1698 and he drew informative panoramas of the appearance of the town at that time in addition to illustrating individual monuments (Maher 1934). The map of Joseph Ravell (Pl. 24), completed in 1749, shows the outline of the walls in considerable detail and in addition to a general view of the town it has a series of vignettes illustrating some of the more important buildings at the time. Two panoramic paintings by the Neapolitan artist Gabriele Ricciardelli prepared about 1770 are also useful for reconstructing the outline of the town wall. They are now in Drogheda Public Library, Fair Street.

The topographical development of Drogheda has been

recently analysed and it would appear that the town was established quickly by the Anglo-Normans and the basic street network was in existence by 1215 (Bradley 1978, 120-1). On the north bank, the axes formed by West Street 😑 Laurence Street and Peter Street - Shop Street had been formed by this time. The Hospital of St. Mary D'Urso was established outside the west gate c.1202 but it would appear to have been incorporated ⊌ithin the town defences during the thirteenth-early fourteenth century. Similarly, on the north, the area occupied by the Dominican Friary appears to have been outside the town initially but was subsequently incorporated. On the south bank of the river it is likely that the Hospital of St. James lay outside the walls at first but by the end of the Middle Ages it had also been incorporated as the map of Barnaby Goche, dated 1574, shows (Thomas 1975). Suburbs are alluded to in the royal charters (MacNiocaill 1964, 196, 198, 205) and it is Known with certainty that they existed at least on the east and north sides of the town (Bradley 1978, 120).

The town does not appear to have expanded outside its walls until the seventeenth century when the docks area east of St. Laurence's gate would appear to have been reclaimed. However, on analogy with other Irish towns ,it is likely that there was internal redevelopment arising from the new lands which the Corporation received after the Dissolution of the Monasteries when the town was granted the properties of the Carmelite and Augustinian Friaries, and the hospitals of St. Laurence and St. Mary D'Urso (Morrin 1861, 355). The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries saw linear development along the main roads leading out of town but it was not until the twentieth century and the construction of modern housing estates that the suburban areas outside of the historic core began to be built up.

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INVENTORY

This begins with an account of the streets and street pattern which formed the internal communications network of the medieval town; the domestic, economic, defensive and religous features are then described. The evidence for suburbs and activity outside the walls is next outlined and the inventory concludes with a summary of the archaeological excavations and a list of the stray finds.

- 1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN
- 2. BURGAGE PLOTS AND PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 3. DOMESTIC HOUSES
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1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN

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This may be considered under, the headings of Drogheda-in-Meath and Drogheda-in-Louth. Much of the original street pattern of Drogheda-in-Meath has been interfered with but comparison with Newcomen's and Ravell's maps indicates what the original pattern was like. Barrack Street and Mary Street are post-medieval additions and the original plan was composed of two north-south streets, Pitcher Hill and Cornmarket Hill, and one east-west route, James' Street and John Street. Curry's Hill ran immediately inside the east wall and Newcomen's survey indicates that a road ran westwards behind John Street to the Butter Gate.

The street pattern of Drogheda-in-Louth has survived

almost completely intact into modern times. The Plan is of chequer form with four streets running parallel to the river: 1) Dyer Street - Bessexwell Lane, 2) West Street - Laurence Street, 3) Fair Street - William Street, 4) Rope Walk - Upper Magdalen Street. These are intersected by one main north-south route, Shop Street - Peter Street, and a series of cross streets, of which Scholes Lane - Bolton Street, Stockwell Lane - Duke Street, Patrickswell Lane, Dominick Street, Mayoralty Street, and Freeschool Lane are the most obvious examples. West Street is the broadest of the streets and it is evident from this that it was intended to function as the main marKet place on this side of the river.

The plan of Drogheda-in-Louth is the finest example in Ireland of a medieval chequer plan. It lacks the regularity which is associated with the "Bastide" towns of Gascony; instead the streets follow the natural topography of the site, curving with the bend of the river rather than following a rigid mathematical form. In Ireland, the town plan which apprecessiv which is nearest it in plans is perhaps New Ross, similarly sited beside a river but on much steeper ground. By contrast the plan of Drogheda-in-Meath, although it has a linear emphasis, is without precise parallel and it seems best explained by observing that it, too, made the best use of the natural topography of the site. The surface metal of the streets is not Known. Initially it would most likely have been simply beaten earth but it is possible that timber planks or brushwood mats were also used. A grant of pavage (the right to collect taxes in order to pave the streets) in 1322 suggests that some of the streets were paved with stone and indicates the increasing wealth and self-consciousness of the town (Cal. Pat. Rolls 1321-1334, 219).

The following is a list of the Known medieval street names with their modern equivalents {for sources see Bradley 1978, 127):

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Modern	Medieval	Date
	Upper lane to Friars Minor » Seinte Lenes Lane Lane to St. Elena's well	1313 1323 1335
Bessexwell Lane	Lane to Friars Minor	1320
Curry's Hill	? Street to Carmelite Friars	1363
Dyer Street	Dyer Strete	1329
Fair Street	Feyrstret	1358
Freeschool Lane	Frumboldeslane	1436
Green Lane -	Irish Street	1312
James' Street	St. James' Street	1467-8
John Street	Road near the Castle St. John Street	c.1250 1317
Laurence Street		c.1250 1351
Magdalene Street	Road to the North Gate	c.1250
Oulster Lane	Lyderwederlane	1314
Peter Street	Great North Street St. Peter's Street	1331 1351
Rope Walk	Street to the Friar's Preachers	1341
Shop Street	Bodestrata Bothe Street	c.1214 c.1294
Stockwells Lane	Rochstrete	1407
West Street	Street to the West Gate Great West Street	1247x56 1323
William Street	Wynhalyzereslane Wynhalierlane	1343 1436

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2. BURGAGE PLOTS AND PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

Burgage plots were the standard building units of medieval town planning and their size played a determining role in the form and shape of the house that would be built upon it. They survive in the modern town as property boundaries. Usually they were long and narrow with a ratio between length and breadth of 5:1 (Bradley for theoming). In Drogheda, however, perhaps because it had a chequer plan, there is considerable variety in the form of the burgage plots. At the corner of Dyer Street and Shop Street the plots become gradually smaller and this gradation may be original.

Drogheda is one of the few Irish towns in which the size of the plot is mentioned in the foundation charter. Walter de Lacy, in his charter of 1194 to Drogheda-in-Meath stipulates fifty feet as the frontage width of the burgages. These are the plots which would presumably have fronted onto John Street and James' Street. All of these appear to have been subdivided and, to my Knowledge, none of the existing plots on this side of the Boyne are now fifty feet wide. There is considerable documentation of the ownership of plots in Shop Street and the adjoining streets during the fourteenth century but these do not throw any light upon plot size or the form of the houses or other buildings that stood on them (see Bradley 1978, 111-3). However, they clearly show that this area was built up at the time.

3. DOMESTIC HOUSES

Virtually nothing is Known of the form of Drogheda's housing prior to 1700. Houses of stone and timber are referred to during the mid-thirteenth century in Laurence Street (Brooks 1936, No. 237) but nothing is Known of their shape or size, and at no period is anything Known of the proportions of stone to timber houses. Thatch would probably have been the principal roofing material until the sixteenth century when slate began to become fashionable. Seventeenth century ordinances directing that every house within the walls should be slated indicate that thatch was still in use at this time (D'Alton 1844, ii, 291). Cellars are likely that occasionally referred to in the documentary sources and these would have been associated most-likely with stone houses. During the fifteenth century a number of fortified houses were built, urban versions of the tower houses so common in the countryside, but these appear to have been mainly public buildings such as the Tholsel, shown on Newcomen's map of 1657. One such house referred to as Laundy's Castle may have stood on the corner of West Street and Peter Street (Kelly 1939). The house types for which Drogheda is best Known, however, are its timber framed buildings for which there is

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evidence of at least two.

The Bathe house, on the corner of Laurence Street and Shop Street, was probably constructed in 1570 and was demolished in 1824. The sides of the house towards Laurence Street and Shop Street were drawn before demolition (Frazer 1891; Pl. 23a). These show that it had three floors with the upper one projecting beyond those underneath. The ground floor level was concealed by a number of small shops that were subsequently added on. The first floor was decorated externally with quatrefoil panels and had a semicircular oval window of four divisions at the corner of Shop Street and Laurence Street. A panel underneath the window bore the coat of arms of the Bathe family flanked by the initials N.B. The second floor was decorated externally with quadrants enclosing quarter circles but the windows at this level appear to have been added in the eighteenth century. An oak beam from the house is preserved in the National Museum of Ireland and bears the inscription:

MADE BI NICOLAS BATHE IN THE IERE OF OVR LORD GOD 1570 BI HIV MOR CARPENTER

Portion of a second timber-framed house existed in West Street on the site of the former Imperial Hotel; this was demolished in 1945 (Conlon 1945; Kelly 1941). It is described as having ceilings, staircases and balusters of oak as well as one room, Known as the oak room, panelled and wainscotted with the same material (Kelly 1941, 68). Prior to its destruction the exterior of the house was sKetched and photographed but no drawings are Known of the interior. The house appears to have been altered in the eighteenth nineteenth centuries but the original timber-framed house would appear to have been of sixteenth or seventeenth century date. According to Kelly (1941, 68) there were timber-built houses in Peter Street, West Street and Dyer Street. However, nothing is Known of their age or form.

A mantelpiece of fossiliferous limestone, derived presumably from a house, lies against the north wall of St. Peter's Church. It is decorated with a shield in false relief bearing the arms of Elcock and Duffe. The initials IHS and N.E. are on the left side, and IHS and E.D. are on the right with the date 1584. The individuals may be identified as Nicholas Elcock and Elizabeth Duffe (Tempest 1943). Its dimensions are as follows: H. 42; W. 148; T. 22 cm.

Five plaques, which presumably decorated house fronts, are Known:

1. The Elcock Plaque 1584

Rectangular limestone plaque decorated in low relief on the wall of the house at the corner of PatricKswell Lane and West Street. There is an IHS in a triangular pedimented panel above two angels holding a shield with the letters NE and FD below the shield. The lower half bears an inscription in Roman letters: NICOLAS ELCOCKE / THE YOUNGER

see nedes for Duffe fishele slegne found 1984. / BVILDED / THIS HOUSE / / 1584.

2. The White Plaque 1593.

A stone with two coats of arms was built into a brick wall at the rear of a shop on the west side of Peter Street. It was removed about 1967 and broken up (Mrs. M. Corcoran pers. comm.). It had two coats of arms: (1) White and Thunder with the letters S.W. IHS. I.T. and the date 1593; (2) White and O'Neill with the letters I.W. IHS. M.N. and the date 1593 (Gogarty 1910-12).

3. The Worrall-Wotton Flaque 1609.

This stone was on the front of a building in West Street, close to St. Peter's church. Its whereabouts is now unKnown. It was decorated with an inscription and a coat of arms: JESVS. BLES. VS. IHS. CW MW MARIA. JESVS / THIS . HOWS. WAS. BVILDED. BI / CHRISTOFOR . WORALL . OF DROUG/HEDA. ALDERMAN. AND . MAR/YE. WOTTON. HIS. WIF . IN/ ANNO. DOMINI 1609 (Gogarty 1907-9).

4. Mortimer Plaque ?16th cent.

Tempest (1948) noted this plaque in the wall of a store in Bachelor's Walk. The arms were identified by Hayes McCoy (1949) as those of the Mortimers, Earls of March and Ulster. The device may have been used as the arms of the town during the Later Middle Ages and this plaque may have been placed originally in a public building such as the Tholsel.

5. O'Carroll Plaque. ?17th cent.

Tempest (1948) notes that this stone was found during the laying of a sewer in Shop Street. It bore the O'Carroll arms in relief.

4. MARKET PLACES

Medieval documentary sources imply that the principal market place of Drogheda-in-Louth was at the "cross of the town", the intersection of Peter Street, Laurence Street, Shop Street and West Street, A market cross was set up here in 1501 (MacIomhair 1961, 92, 95) and it is shown on the maps of both Goche and Newcomen; it was taken down in 1666 (D'Alton 1844, ii, 291). In itself this intersection is quite small and presumably the market also extended along West Street which, as already mentioned, is the broadest street in the town. The market may also have continued along Shop Street whose medieval name Bothe (=Booth) Street indicates that it was a trading area. It seems likely that the space in front of St. Peter's Church functioned as a subsidiary marKet place. The "Potato Market" and the "Hay and Milk Market" appear to be of post-medieval date.

. On the south side of the river the broad wedge shaped space where James' Street, Pitcher Hill and John Street converge, now Known as the Bull Ring, would appear to have been a marKet place but in Goche's map the marKet cross of Drogheda-in-Meath is shown at the top of Pitcher Hill, in the open space in front of the Millmount. The date of the "CornmarKet" half way up CornmarKet Hill is not clear.

5. QUAYS

At present these exist only on the east side of St. Mary's Bridge but it is evident from medieval documentary sources that they were present on both the east and west sides. Large boats could not go west of the bridge and it may be assumed that the quays on the west side would have catered for barges and river boats. The quays were protected by a river wall which formed part of the town defences and is clearly depicted on Newcomen's map of 1657. River walls were unusual features in towns mainly because they hindered access to the quays and restricted loading and unloading.

It may be guessed, although it has not been demonstrated, that the present North Quay, Mall and South Quay have functioned as quays from the time of the town's foundation in the late twelfth century. The quay in front of St. Saviour's Church, immediately west of the bridge on the north side of the Boyne, is first referred to in 1218 (Brooks 1953, 101). It may well have been the private quay of the Llanthony Canons who managed St. Saviour's. In 1306 the burgesses petitioned the King for permission to build a quay outside the precinct of the Franciscan Friary on the east side of the bridge (FitzMaurice and Little 1920, 84-5). This was built in association with a tower, most likely St. Catherine's Gate, and may be the projection into the Boyne shown on Newcomen's map at the east end of the town. In 1340 the burgesses received a grant of quayage (the right to collect taxes in order to build quays) which was to be expended on repairing the quays and towers of the town wall (Cal. Pat. Rolls 1338-40, 544). This latter grant would suggest that at least some of the quayside was built with stone. In 1981, during the course of the construction of a coffer dam for St. Mary's Bridge, a number of timbers from the quayside on the south side of the Boyne were salvaged by Mr Kieran Campbell. He informs me that these were of oak and they appear to have formed part of a front braced vertical waterfront, a type which is charactersitic of North West Europe. The timbers were dated by means of dendrochronology to c.1200 A.D. and they provide clear evidence for the survival of portions of the town's earliest quayside which it is to be hoped may be more fully investigated at a future date.

6. INDUSTRIAL AREAS

In most large medieval towns some sectors or streets were predominantly given over to certain specialist activities, and Drogheda was no exception. The placename Dyer Street, Known as the vicus tinctorum "street of the dyers" from the fourteenth century (Mills and McEnery 1916, 75), indicates the position of the medieval textile manufacturers. Potters and Bakers were frequently positioned outside of the town walls because of the fire hazards posed by the ovens which they used but unfortunately the precise whereabouts of the thirteenth century vico furni "street of the ovens" is not Known (Brooks 1953, 105). It might be[®] guessed that it lay outside St. Laurence's gate where a sizeable suburb appears to have existed but there is at present no firm evidence important and at whatsoever for its location. Milling was least two mills are Known. From 1381 until at least the middle of the seventeenth century a windmill stood on top of the millmount (Bradley 1978, 124; D'Alton 1844, ii, 280) and during the thirteenth century, at least, a watermill would appear to have existed near St. Mary's Bridge on the north side of the Boyne (Bradley 1978, 124; D'Alton 1844, ii, 87-8). Drogheda-in-Meath also appears to have been a centre for shipbuilding and it is most liKely that these would have been built on the east side of the bridge where there is direct access to the open sea (Bradley 1978, 123). There is historical evidence for the presence of metal-worKers, leather-worKers, sKinners and butchers but there is nothing to suggest that they lived in separate areas of the town.

Although the sectors mentioned above can be identified on the ground nothing is Known of the process of textile manufacturing. It is not Known whether the cloth was made within separate workshops or in the owner's house, for instance. However it is likely that the waterlogged soil adjoining the River Boyne contains organic excepts which will yield an answer to questions such as this?

7. ST. MARY'S BRIDGE

The origins of Drogheda, as its name implies, centre on the river crossing and the use of the word pons, "bridge", in the earliest documents relating to the town would suggest that a bridge was built when the town was established or, perhaps, shortly before. The first bridge was almost certainly of wood but the grants of pontage (the right to collect taxes in order to build a bridge) which the burgesses received in 1228 and 1229 might suggest that it was soon replaced by one of stone (Sweetman 1875-86, i, Nos. 1582, 1738). Nothing is Known of the form or width of this early bridge but it is Known that repairs were carried out in 1331 87

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(Cal. Pat. Rolls 1330-34, 115), and that following a flood in 1472, which destroyed the bridge (MacIomhair 1961, 95), a new bridge was constructed in 1506 (MacIomhair 1961, 93). This may be the bridge depicted by Newcomen in 1657 which had four arches and was protected by a parapet. Shortly after 1664 a wooden bridge was constructed (D'Alton 1844, ii, 288) and this was replaced in 1723 by a stone bridge of three arches which, with modifications, still functions today.

Archaeologically it is likely that the foundations of the medieval bridges still survive in the muds adjoining the river bank and the timbers uncovered during the construction of the coffer dam for the present bridge show that these are likely to be in a good state of preservation. Very little is Known of medieval bridge building in Ireland and this site may provide important evidence in this regard (see O'Kelly 1961; Stalley 1978, 45).

8. THE MILLMOUNT: MOTTE AND BAILEY (Fig. 31)

Situated in a dominating position overlocking the town on the south bank this consists of a large motte and bailey. It was probably constructed by Hugh de Lacy before his death in 1186 but the earliest reference to it is in 1203 when the custody of the castle was granted to Nicholas de Verdun (Orpen 1908, 247). King John and his successor Henry III regarded it as too important to remain in private possession $^{\circ}$ and endeavoured to take it into royal hands on a number of occasions. In 1220 an agreement was reached between the crown and Hugh de Lacy's heirs in which they received a rent of £20 per annum in return for handing over the castle to the King (Orpen 1908, 248). A chapel within the castle is referred to $^{\circ}$ in 1235, and in 1282 payments were made "for the purchase" of four locks for the hall, chapel, chamber and prison of the castle" (Orpen 1908, 248). In 1358 timber and iron wereordered for repairs because of an outbreak by a large number of prisoners (D'Alton, 1844, i, 99). Throughout the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the castle was in the hands of a constable appointed by the crown. In 1381 it was granted to John Asshewell, controller of customs in the port of Drogheda, who was also given a licence to build a windmill there, from which its present name is most likely derived (Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1381-5, 49). The appearance of the mound does not appear to have changed much between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries. Cromwell described it as follows ; in 1649:

> "Divers of the enemy retreated into the mill-mount, a place very strong, and of difficult access, being exceedingly high; having a good graft [ditch], and strongly palisadoed" (Orpen 1908, 250).

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After the Cromwellian siege the Millmount became a military barracks and the present buildings were constructed in 1808.

Description

The motte consists of a round mound, 20 m high, ranging in basal width from 59 to 63 m with a flat top 29 m across. The top is encircled by a stone wall enclosing a round turret constructed as a martello tower c. 1800, and destroyed by fire during the War of Independence. The base of the mound is retained by a stone wall 1.5 m high. Access to the summit is gained by a flight of steps probably of eighteenth century date. The bailey lay to the west of the motte and was separated from it by a fosse whose outline may be seen in the slope of the ground. This fosse continued round the mound and is occupied by a roadway on the south and east sides. The mound was derived presumably mainly from this fosse.

The bailey was sub-rectangular measuring about 60 by 50 m and was originally connected to the motte by a timber bridge, perhaps on the site of the present stone one (Orpen 1908, 248). Much of the bailey is occupied at present by buildings associated with the military barracks but now housing the museum of the Old Drogheda Society. It is particularly steep-sided on the north and east but the slope is less pronounced on the south where the bailey perimeter formed part of the town defences. A small open rectangular turret and portion of the town wall survives here. The turret is almost completely concealed by modern masonry and garden landscaping but measures about 10 by 5 m and has an internal height of 2 m. In the east wall is a blocked round-arched recess that may have been an artillery port. The stretch of town wall is 18.5 m long and 1 m in average thickness. 1+ contains three straight arrow slits, lintelled internally, and dropping slightly towards the exteior. The south west corner of the bailey has an amalgam of masonry with a medieval core but containing many modern additions. Two long corbels project from this at the junction of the town wall and the bailey; these were probably the supports for а machicolation protecting the wall angle. The medieval masonry of the bailey wall continues for a short distance north of , this junction. Two blocked garderobe chutes measuring 28 by 26 cm and putlog holes are present in this section. There are traces of an external fosse at this point. The wall may have been protected on the west and north sides by towers but this is uncertain. Isaac Butler, who visited the site in 1744, records seeing five bastions which appear from his description to have protected the bailey (Deane 1922, 95-6).

Orpen (1908, 248) considered the area north-west of the bailey to be a second bailey but it is more likely the result of the spreading of earth from the bailey proper. (

9. TOWN DEFENCES (Figs. 32-35; Pls. 25-26)

The defences of Drogheda enclosed an area of 45 hectares (113 acres) and had a circumference of 2.35 Km (1.46 miles), making it one of the most extensive lines of town defences in Ireland. Very little is Known of the manner in which the defences developed and what little there is can be gauged * only from incidental documentary references. The Priory of St. Mary d'Urso, founded between 1206 and 1214 is described in its foundation charter as being outside the walls of the town, suggesting that at the time, the walls terminated in West Street. The town does not appear to have expanded on the east side: the east gate is mentioned c.1206 and in topographical terms there is no reason to identify this with anything other than the site of St. Laurence's Gate. The northern limit of the town is more difficult to gauge. The fact that a leper hospital existed here and was moved c.1206 would suggest that the northen boundary was originally envisaged as the line of St. Peter's Church, but this is only guesswork. On the south side of the river the only observation that can be made is that the hospital of St. James is awkwardly attached and would appear to have been subsequently enclosed. The construction date of the wall would appear to be primarily the thirteenth century with additions in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. No evidence survives of sixteenth century defences or of any attempts to improve the wall against artillery and the defences that withstood Cromwell's attack appear to have been essentially medieval.

The earliest mention of the defences is a reference to the East Gate c.1206 (Brooks 1953, 63). This would appear to have been located inside the barbican of St. Laurence's Gate,which still survives. Drogheda possesses the most extensive series of murage grants of any Irish town and from these it is evident that work was being carried out on the wall during the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The earliest of these grants is one of 1234 to both Drogheda-in-Meath and Drogheda-in Uriel for three years. As it is the earliest of these grants it is perhaps worth quoting in full as it gives an idea of the range of goods coming into Drogheda at the time:

Grant for three years to the King's burgesses of Drogheda, both towards Meath and Uriel, that they may take customs to enclose their vill with walls as follows:

For every crannock of corn and every crannock of flour, as well imported as exported 1/4 d.

A hogshead of wine 1d.

A hogshead of honey 2d.

A weigh of wool 1d.

A dicKer of hides 1d.

A dicKer of stags', goats' and horses' hides 1/2 d. Large ships 16d.

Bussards and smaller ships 8d.

English or foreign cloth 1/2d. Irish cloth 1/4d. A crannocK of woad 1/2d. A weigh of salt 1d. A band of iron 1/2d. A mease of herrings 1/4d. A one-horse burden of other fish 1/4d. Oxen and horses 1/2d. Ten two-year old sheep 1d. A hog and pig 1/4d. One hundred boards 1d. A weigh of suet, cheese, butter and lard 1/4d.

In 1236 the citizens of Waterford and Drogheda were asked to attend to enclosing their towns which suggests that work may have been temporarily suspended (Sweetman 1875-86, i, 2336). The grant of 1234 was renewed for three years in 1240 and for a further two years in 1245 (Sweetman 1875-86, i, 2614). In 1278 a new and more extensive grant was received and granted for three years (Sweetman 1875-86, ii, 1517). This was further augmented in 1295 when a grant for seven years uas given to Drogheda-in-Louth, and in 1296 a different grant for a similar time period was bestowed on Drogheda-in-Meath (Sweetman 1875-86, iv, 251, 311). Further grants were made in 1307, 1333, 1339, 1356, 1362, 1373, 1385 and 1404 (Bradley 1978, 118); these appear to have applied to both towns. the Bruce invasion of 1315-18 County Louth was During devastated but Drogheda was not captured. The defences were hurriedly repaired in 1316 because they were in a ruinous state, presumably to counter Edward Bruce's Spring offensive (MacIomhair 1961, 89-90). The town was avoided by Bruce, however, but the murage grants of 1317 to Drogheda-in-Meath Rolls 1317-21, 54) and of 1319 (Cal. Pat. to Drogheda-in-Louth (Irish Record Commission 1829, 51) probably reflect rebuilding inspired by the Bruce threat.

Drogheda also had an important harbour to protect and there are a number of references to the use of booms, particularly during the seventeenth century sieges. The town was also frequently used as the base for naval vessels. In 1222 the men of Drogheda were requested to build and maintain a galley in the port for the purpose of defence (Sweetman 1875-86, i, 1049). A similar command was issued in 1241 (Sweetman 1875-86, i, 2532); these galleys were armed but occasionally were rented out for the purposes of trade (Sweetman 1875-86, i, 2691). According to D'Alton (1844, ii, 110) it was ordered in 1409 that a ship of war should be built in Drogheda to defend the coasts from invasion by the Scots.

In 1534 the town was threatened briefly with a siege by the forces of SilKen Thomas but it was not until the seventeenth century when three sieges occurred that the defences were fully tested. The first was during the rebellion of 1641-2, the other two happened in 1649. In November 1641 the town was besieged by an army allegedly 20,000 strong according to one contemporary estimate. A number of sources shed light on the defence, and the most important of these is the account of Dean Bernard who records how the governor, Viscount Moore,

"caused many old [artillery] pieces ...to be drawn out and scoured, at eachgate northward some to be mounted, others planted before them; disburthened a merchant ship, then lying at the harbour's mouth of four more, and with good words drew from them some competency of powder, rounded the town walls, had some weak parts farther strengthed, the north port made up strongly, reviewed the companies, pressed the town to a show of two hundred men, the major part proving as we found afterwards but a show indeed" (quoted in D'Alton 1844, ii, 225).

Breast-works were made before each gate, platforms for sentries and cannon were erected in those places where the walls were defective; "morning stars" were set upon the ramparts and an iron chain was thrown across the river (D'Alton 1844, ii, 230). The beseigers cut off access from the sea by sinKing a boat in the channel and stationing two vessels linked by a chain in the estuary. However, this was broken twice by relief ships from Dublin in January and February 1642. Despite attempts made to scale the walls and enter the town by means of a fifth column the siege was raised in March when a force of 3000 infantry and 500 cavalry relieved the townsmen (D'Alton 1844, ii, 238-48).

During the years between 1641 and 1648 maintenance work was carried out on the walls. In 1643 the Corporation paid £98 for the repair of St. Sunday's, St. John's, St. James' and St. Lawrence's Gates as well as the town bridge. . The West gate was also rebuilt and new locks were put on all of the gates. Throughout the period of the Confederacy Drogheda remained loyal to the Dublin government and with the victory of the Parliamentarians it passed into Parliamentary hands on -18--June 1647. Two years layer, in June 1648, Jones the commander of the Parliamentary forces in Ireland attempted to reinforce the Drogheda garrison but he was prevented by a Royalist army under Lord Inchiquin who then beseiged the town and forced it to surrender on 28 June. In August Sir Arthur Aston, a native of Cheshire, was appointed commander of the garrison and the fortifications were revamped in preparation for the anticipated invasion by Cromwell. After landing unnopposed at Dublin Cromwell marched on Drogheda commencing the siege on 9 September 1649. His batteries were positioned so as to play on the south and east walls of the town in the vicinity of St. Mary's church. In response the garrison threw up entrenchments within the wall, three running, according to Cromwell, from St. Mary's church to Duleek gate and three from the east end of the church to the town wall. On 10 September the tower of St. Mary's was hit and half demolished, and although two breaches were made in the wall

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the Cromwellians were repulsed. On 11 September, however, a breach was made near St. Mary's whereupon the attacKers came on the earthworks within the wall and successfully pushing > through these assailed the Millmount and massacred the garrison, except for a handful who managed to escape to the north side of the town. The following day Cromwell pushed into the north side of the town, and finding that both members of the garrison and citizens had taken refuge in St. Peter's Church, he set fire to it and Killed one thousand people, according to his own estimate, as they fled from the flames. Those who took refuge in Bolton tower and the West tower were more fortunate. After their surrender the officers and every tenth man were Killed; the remainder were shipped to the West Indies. The five days following on the towns capture were given to plunder. It is alleged that only thirty of the citizens escaped from this with their lives (D'Alton 1844, II, 279)

After the Cromwellian capture there was a lull of interest in the defences but in 1676 the walls were repaired according to the Corporation Books and again in 1689-90 the walls were revamped in anticipation of William III but it surrendered on the day after the Battle of the Boyne. A regiment of foot garrisoned the town afterwards. Interest in the defences was Kept up into the early eighteenth century. In October 1715 the Corporation ordered that a constable and fourteen protestants should mount guard with flintlocKs every night and in 1718 it was ordered that all of the bye-gates should be closed at 8.00 p.m. except for the West Gate and Dublin Gate which were to close at 12.00 p.m. The developing emphasis on ease of communications, however, and consequent road-widening caused many of the gates to be removed by the late eighteenth century while increasing political stability created an environment in which the walls were allowed to fall into decay.

DESCRIPTION

Drogheda in Meath (fig).

The Millmount was the focus of the defences on the south side of the Boyne, protected by its own curtain wall, with the town wall linking in on the west and south. Stretches of wall survive between tower 1 and St. James' Gate, between St. James' Gate and tower 2, tower 3 and the Duleek Gate, tower 4 and the Butter Gate; the ground floor of the Butter Gate itself is intact. In its best preserved sections the wall is generally about 2 m thick and is between 1.2 and 5.2 m high, excluding a parapet 1.5 m high and 80 cm wide on average. The facing is of fossiliferous limestone concealing a rubble core. The perimeter was 1190 m; 800 m of walling have been demolished.

TOWER 1 (site only) was positioned on the river directly across from St. Catherine's Gate on the north side and was

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most liKely the spot where chains and booms were placed. The sKetch in Newcomen's map (1657) suggests that it had a round plan. The date of its removal is unKnown.

Between tower 1 and St. James' Gate a stretch of wall, 12 m long, was uncovered during excavation in 1982-3 by Mr Kieran Campbell, to whom I am indebted for the following information. The wall had an average width of 1.4 m and was 70 cm high; it was set upon stone foundations that had been inserted 70 cm into thirteenth/early fourteenth century refuse layers to rest on bedrock. Three piers or butresses abutted the inner face of the wall, and associated with the construction of the wall was a small cruciform limeKiln in which the mortar for bonding the wall had been mixed. Outside the wall was a fosse of undetermined width cut into the bedrock to a depth of 1.2 m. The fill of this fosse contained waterlogged organic deposits with pottery of fourteenth or fifteenth century date.

ST. JAMES' GATE (site only) is referred to in the Suppression documents of 1540 (White 1943, 243) and received its name from the nearby Hospital of St. James. Schematic sKetches appear in the maps of Goche (1574) and Newcomen (1657) showing what may have been a bastioned gatehouse. It apears to have been removed in the late eighteenth century (D'Alton 1844, i, 85).

The ground level between St. James' Gate and tower 2 rises sharply and portion of what may be the town wall has been exposed here in the course of excavations in 1981 by Mr. Kieran Campbell to whom I am indebted for the following information. The wall was built on and revetted both boulder clay and bedrock and formed the upper facing of a rock cut trench. The trench was 7.2 m wide at the mouth narrowing to 5.4 m at the base with a maximum depth of 2 m. It may have been the town fosse but it terminated 9 m from the edge of James' Street and the wall was continued around it on the south and east sides. The function of this mural feature is not clear but it may have been associated with the defence of St. James' Gate.

TOWER 2 (site only) is shown on the maps of Goche (1574), Newcomen (1657) and Ravel (1749) in approximately this position. Goche appears to depict an arch and this may be what D'Alton (1844, i, 85) terms the Blind Gate.

TOWER 3 (site only). Newcomen's map (1657) shows a feature, which may have been a tower, in approximately this position. The more schematic plan of Goche also shows a tower in the vicinity of St. Mary's church.

Between tower 3 and the Duleek Gate the town wall skirted St. Mary's churchyard enclosing it within an angle of the town. Ravel (1749) shows an inturn immediately north of St. Mary's which may explain the curious bulge that is shown by Newcomen (1657) in much the same position. Description of pwall pending.

The DULEEK GATE (site only) is first mentioned in a fourteenth century will in the Gormanston Register (Mills and McEnery 1916, 69). Goche (1574) shows it schematically as a tower but Newcomen (1657) depicts a 'rectangular' gatehouse with a barbican similar to that which existed outside St. Sunday's Gate. It is shown on Ravell's map of 1749 but according to D'Alton (1844, i, 85) the gate was removed about '1780. From the Duleek Gate the wall turned northwards to link up with the defences of the Millmount.

TOWER 4 (site only) Ravell's map appears to show an angle tower at the junction of the south and west walls of the town.

TOWER 5 (site only) is shown by Goche, Place and Ravell. Its precise location is uncertain.

A GATE immediately south of the Millmount is shown by Newcomen and can be distinguished in the Place view from St. John's Hill. The Newcomen drawing would suggest that it was rectangular. North of this gate the town wall linked with the defences of the Millmount and a section of its bailey also functioned as the town wall. West of the Millmount and running downhill from it is a plain stretch of wall 3.5 to 4 m high, 30 cm thick and 15 m long. From here the wall turned northwards towards the Butter gate; almost all of this section and the ground it stood on has been removed by quarrying.

The BUTTER GATE (Fig. 35; Pl. 25a) is clearly named on Ravell's map of 1749 and it may be a corruption of Buttress Gate (see Co. Louth Archaeol. & Hist. Jrl. X, 3 (1943), 239). The suggestion that it is derived from "Bebecks Gate" cannot be substantiated (Bradley 1978, 110). It is shown on Newcomen's map (1657) but Goche (1574) omits it. Among the drawings of Francis Place, who visited Drogheda in 1698, is one which can be identified with the Butter Gate (Maher 1934, Pl. vii, opp. p. 44). This is the earliest illustration of the gate and shows it from the—interior. Sketches were also drawn by Du Noyer (see Dublin Penny Jrl. 36/285) and Fleming (1914, 32).

The ground floor survives and is pentangular with an external batter on the west, south and north sides. The masonry consists of coursed limestone rubble with limestone quoins but it has been heavily pointed and it is difficult to distinguish original work from modern. The entrance is raised above the external ground level, and it is difficult to Know whether it was originally reached via a drawbridge or not, because the ground immediately outside the gate has been quarried away. The entrance arch, originally round-headed, contains a portcullis groove. The inner arch, giving access to the town, is also round-headed. The tower above the arch was demolished about 1950. Fleming (1914, 32) describes it as within the wall

octagonal but photographs suggest that it was pentangular, like the ground floor. On the first floor level there was both a round-headed window and an arrow loop in the south wall, and an elongated cruciform arrow slit above the entrance arch on the west side. The parapet may have been above the first floor where a course of drainage holes may be seen. A date in the thirteenth-fourteenth century may be suggested.

Fragments of the town wall project from the gate on the north and south sides. Place's drawing (1698) shows that the wall had an arcaded wall-walk here and the crenellations were not stepped but consisted of merlons alone.

ST. JOHN'S GATE (site only) is first mentioned in the Dissolution documents (White 1943, 241) and obtained its name, like St. John Street, from the Hospital of St. John which was located outside the Gate. It is depicted on the maps of Goche (1594), Newcomen (1657) and Ravell (1749) and also in the topographical views of Place and Ricciardelli. The latter suggest that it was a large rectangular gatehouse, possibly with a barbican.

TOWER 6 (site only) was located beside the River Boyne and is shown on Newcomen's map and in Place's drawings. Its rounded outline is shown on the 1938 Ordnance Survey map of Drogheda, but all trace of it has dissappeared since then.

Drogheda in Louth

On the north side of the river, the wall had a circumference of 1250 m all of which has been demolished except for the barbican of St. Laurence's Gate and about S0 m of curtain wall. The fosse does not survive at any point but the drawing of St. Sunday's Gate by Francis Place shows that one formerly existed. A width of about 4.5 m may be suggested for the fosse on the basis of the distance between the barbican of St Laurence's Gate and the town wall.

TOWER 7 (site only). A river tower shown on Newcomen's 1657 survey. Nothing further is Known of it.

Between tower 7 and the site of the West Gate is a stretch of wall 70 m long of **coarsed** limestone masonry 1.5 m in thickness at the base and tapering to 80 cm at the top of the wall. It has seven straight arrow slits, lintelled with internal splay. Modern windows are broken through the wall in a number of places.

WEST GATE (site only). This appears from the drawings of both Place (1698) and Ricciardelli (c.1770) to have been a twin bastioned structure, similar to the barbican of St. Laurence's Gate, and it may be that the gate itself was located within it. A turret adjoining it on the town wall is

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referred to in 1668 (D'Alton 1844, i, 84). It is last shown on Taylor and Skinner's map of 1778 but it had been demolished by 1808 (D'Alton 1844, i, 90).

FAIR GATE (site only) is shown by Ricciardelli to have been a rectangular gatehouse somewhat similar to the North Gate at Athenry or the Tholsel Gate at Carlingford. It appears to $_\ell$ have been demolished about the same time as West Gate.

A GATE (site only) is shown at the end of the Rope Walk bу Newcomen (1657) but on the maps of Goche (1574) and Ravell it is shown more schematically as a tower.

TOWER 8 (site only) was located east of the Rope Walk Gate and is shown on the maps of Goche, Newcomen and Ravell.

TOWER 9 (site only) was located near the Dominican Friary and was adjoined by its precinct wall. It is clearly shown by Newcomen and Ravell but Goche shows only one tower, which may be either No. 9 or 10.

TOWER 10 (site only) was located north of the Dominican Friary Church and is shown by Newcomen and Ravell. It (or Tooting Tower) may be the "round tower next the gate called St. Sunday's" referred to by Cromwell in his siege of the town (D'Alton 1844, i, 275).

🐃 ST. SUNDAY'S GATE (site only) derived its name from "St. Sunday's Friary", an alternative name for the Dominican Friary derived presumably from an anglicised mistranslation of Domnach, Sunday, instead of Dominic. The age of the name is unclear but this is the name by which Cromwell refers to the gate. In thirteenth and fourteenth century documents it is referred to as the North Gate (Brooks 1936, 237) or the Cow Gate (Mills and McEnery 1916, 71). The gate is the subject of two drawings by Place, which show it to have been a rectangular structure similar to the Fair Gate and Duleek Gate; it had a barbican linked to the tower by two side walls with a single arched bridge spanning the town fosse. The barbican was not as elaborate as that of St. Lawrence's Gate but it would have served to confine attacKers into a limited space where they would have been easy prey for defenders in [] was dismonth the gatehouse. / No trace of the structure now survives although a portion of it formed the wall of a forge when D'Alton wrote (1844, i, 84). In plan and function the gate would appear to have closely resembled the Walmgate Bar at York (RCHM 1972, 142-9).

TOOTING TOWER (site only) stood at the junction of the north / and east walls and is so-named on Ravell's map.

TAYLOR'S HALL TOWER (site only) is also named on Ravell's map. The drawing by Goche suggests that it may also have had a gate. Portion of this tower was still standing at the rear of No. 13 King Street in 1941 (Allen 1943, 240).

in 1795 and (Corrow 1976, 8) (Going 1971, 155) PIGEON TOWER (site only) lay to the north of St. Laurence's Gate and like the latter two towers it is also named on Ravell's map. The drawing of it by Newcomen shows an arch but it is not clear if this covers a road or a stream.

An early eighteenth century view suggests that the Taylor's Hall and Pigeon Tower were round or semi-circular in plan (Murray 1931).

The barbican of ST. LAURENCE'S GATE consists of an arched passage flanked by two rounded bastions (Pl. 26). The masonry is mostly of limestone but the quoins of the outer arch, the portcullis slot, and the round-arched window above the portcullis are of sandstone. The structure was built in two phases which can be clearly distinguished by a break in the masonry above the second floor level. The first phase, rising to the third floor, is of thirteenth century date; the second, during which the fourth and fifth floors were added, belongs to the fifteenth. It derives its name from St. Laurence's Street which led towards the Priory and Hospital of St. Laurence outside the walls. It is first referred to in a charter of c. 1206 when it is called the East Gate of the town (Brooks 1953, 63). It was repaired by the Office of Public Works in 1980.

The barbican stands outside the town fosse and was probably linked originally to the gatehouse by walls similar to those which Place saw at St. Sunday's Gate. The earliest detailed drawing by Wright (1748) / innaccurately shows the town wall linked directly to the barbican, but more importantly it shows the nature of the portcullis chamber above the arch which has since been removed.

The large entrance arch to the passage is rounded with an outer order of chamfered sandstone quoins, now considerably eroded, and an inner one of limestone. A portcullis slot, 12 cm wide with sandstone quoins, is set mid-way in the arch. The passage itself has a rounded vault with a segmental arch on the west face. The passage is bonded to the towers by a pillaster-like feature on each side which would appear to have been originally the support for a portcullis chamber above. These pillaster-like features have two straight loops placed one above the other on the west side. The portcullis chamber is shown on Wright's drawing (1748) with a rectangular window looking onto Laurence Street and, above it, crenellations supported on corbels. Traces of this chamber may be seen in the sides of both bastions. A drawing by J. E. Jones shows that the chamber was removed before 1820 and the present stepped crennelations added (Co. Louth Archaeol. & Hist. Jrl. 15 (1961-4), facing p. 237). The first floor is raised above its original level but the date of this alteration is not Known. The chamber has a single elongated cruciform arrow slit in the east wall centrally placed between two stairs, both of modern date, which give access to the second floor rooms in both towers. The second floor level has two elongated cruciform arrow slits in the east wall.

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Centrally placed above these on the third floor is an aperture with rounded external arch of sandstone quoins, lintelled internally; its purpose would appear to have been decorative. Above it two blocked merlons may be distinguished externally in the stonework. The fourth floor has a segmental arch which supports the battlemented wallwalk connecting the towers above. This has stepped crenellations with a drainage course below; three merlons face inwards and one looks outwards. The wallwalk is at present blocked by a concrete cross wall.

Both of the towers have six floors and are slightly different in plan best expressed, perhaps, by saying that the south tower is more D-shaped than the north. Internally, however, the chamber plans are round and the wall thickness varies from 00 to 00 m in the south tower and 00 to 00 in the north tower. The south tower projects slightly further to the east than the north and both have a slight external base batter. In the following description all of the loops are lintelled with an internal splay unless stated otherwise.

The north tower is entered from the passage through a round arched door with pointed rear-arch which leads into a pointed-vaulted space giving access on one hand to the stairs, and , on the other to a vaulted chamber originally lit by an elongated straight slit, now blocked and completley hidden externally. There are signs of a second similar loop facing SE but the space has been completely filled with masonry. The first floor is roofed by a plank-centred vault with portions of the planks still present. There is an elongated straight slit pointing NE which provides light to the stairs and, facing eastwards, an arrow embrasure with an elongated cruciform arrow slit, blocked internally. On the west side is a small rectangular passage giving access to a garderobe, now blocked, whose chute is visible externally. There is also a small rectangular cupboard in the chamber wall. A round arched door, with pointed rear-vault, leads into the area of the portcullis chamber from which a stair rises to the second floor. The second floor is entered through a round arched door and has two arrow embrasures, one with an elongated cruciform slit facing east; the other with a blocked slit facing north; on the south is a rectangular recess. Portion of the floor on the north side has been floored with tiles of red brick indicating that this chamber was used in the eighteenth or nineteenth century. The third floor is reached via a spiral stair rising now largely destroyed; it has two slits facing NE and ESE and three large lintelled windows facing E, SSE and NW; these windows were formed in the fifteenth century by linking the thirteenth century merlons with lintels. A round headed door, now blocked with red brick, led out to the third floor level (?parapet) above the portcullis chamber. The third floor is separated from the fourth by a floor ledge and access to it would have been via an internal stair. The fourth floor has three straight loops facing W_r , NE and SE; it is spanned by a rounded arch with limestone quoins which supports tuo 9

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corbelled vaults on which the fifth floor rests. The fifth floor is at battlement level and was reached from the south tower. It has six stepped merlons and a seventh adjoining the passage.

The south tower is entered from the passage through a round arched door which leads into a pointed vaulted space giving access on the one hand to the stairs, and on the other to the ground floor chamber which is lit by an elongated straight slit, round arched with internal splay, facing S; 9 there are also two large rectangular recesses. The first floor was separated from the ground floor by a timber floor and is reached by a stair in the thickness of the wall, lit by a straight slit. The first floor chamber has an embrasure with an elongated straight slit and an elongated cruciform slit which provides light to the stairs. There is also a garderobe with external chute. A round arched door with pointed rear vault leads to the portcullis chamber from which the stair rises to the second floor. The second floor has one arrow embrasure with an elongated cruciform slit facing east, two rectangular recesses in the thickness of the wall, a garderobe with external chute and two small wall cupboards, one of which is beside the garderobe. The third floor has two straight slits set within the thirteenth century merlons, and two large windows formed by linteling the earlier merlons; there is a small wall cupboard at ground level and, on the north side, a segmental arched door which must have given access originally to the third floor level above the portcullis chamber. The third floor was separated from the fourth by a floor ledge. The fourth floor has two straight slits and is roofed by a round arch with limestone quoins rising from the merlons and supporting two corbelled vaults on which the fifth floor rests. The stairs to the fifth floor is lit by a single straight slit and the floor itself is at battlement level and has stepped crenellations; five of the six merlons contain straight slits.

Immediately south of the gate is an arcaded fragment of the town wall 13 m in length (Figs. 33-4). It survives to a maximum internal height of 4.94 m but the ground level is lower externally where the height averages 6.80 m. The wall has an external batter and its thickness cannot be gauged at external ground level because of the build-up of soil on the interior; above the batter the wall thickness ranges between 2 and 2.1 m. It has three arcades, the most northerly of which is of modern origin; the internal batter of mortared rubble is also modern. The wallwalk does not survive and the surviving top of the wall has been recently conserved by the Office of Fublic Works. A further stub of wall survives south of this projecting into Bachelor's Lane.

The BLIND GATE lay at the end of Bachelor's Lane and may have functioned as a postern for the Franciscans. It is depicted by Newcomen but is omitted by Goche and Ravell.

ST. CATHERINE'S GATE was located on the quay and seems to

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have been attached to a tower adjoining the river. In 1306 the burgesses of Drogheda petitioned the King for permission to build a tower "on the water of the Boygn next the wall of the close of the Friars Minor", a position which would appear to coincide with that of this tower (FitzMaurice and Little 1920, 84-5). Newcomen shows it with a small wharf or quay attached. It is omitted by Goche and appears to have been removed by the time of Ravell (1749).

TOWER 11. Newcomen depicts a tower west of St. Catherine's gate on the north side of the river.

WATERGATE?. Newcomen shows a tower with an arch immediately to the west of tower 11 which may have functioned as a watergate. It would appear to have stood at the south end of Mayoralty Street.

West of here the wall may have continued to the bridge but this cannot be conclusively demonstrated. Goche shows the entire northern quayside undefended while Newcomen shows the area west of the watergate to have been occupied by buildings. However, since the wall existed on the south side of the Boyne it is likely that it was also continued to the bridge on the north side.

A BRIDGE GATE is shown on Newcomen's map but it is absent from Ravell's and had presumably been removed by 1749. It would appear from his drawing that the bridge was also defended.

TOWERS 12-17 lay to the west of the bridge. However, it is difficult to Know exactly how many towers existed along thiss stretch of river wall. Goche (1574) shows one, or possibly two towers; Newcomen (1647) shows two; Place (1698) portrays at least five, but Ravell (1749) indicates none. The towers shown by Place are reasonably distinct and appear to have been round or semi-circular in plan. On the accompanying map (Fig. 32) an attempt is made to locate these towers. Tower 16 is the only one that may be plotted with any certainty and may have been a corner bastion prior to the incorporation of the Hospital of St. Mary d'Urso into the town.

10. ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH AND PRIORY (Figs. 36-8; P1. 27a)

Situated south of the river in the south-east angle of the town walls, this was the parish church of Drogheda-in-Meath. It was established prior to 1186 by Hugh de Lacy and is referred to simply as ecclesiam de Novo Ponte in a document of c.1202, and more clearly as ecclesiam Sancte Marie de Ponte about ten years later (Brooks 1953, 302, 218, 227). The advowson was held by the Llanthony Canons of Duleek until the Reformation but during the reign of Edward I (1272-1307), according to Ware (in Harris 1764, 283) a

Carmelite Priory was founded here. The priory was in existence by 1309 when the Corporation granted 80 virgates of 1 land to them (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 288). In 1417-18 three bells were presented to the church by William SymcocK and his /wife Agnes (Mac Iomhair 1961, 94). In 1473, according to the Register of the Mayors of Drogheda, William Symcock, a former mayor, built the Lady Chapel and gave the Maudlin Chantry to the Church (Mac Iomhair 1961, 92). In 1477 it is named along \mathfrak{r} with St. Patrick's cathedral, Christ Church cathedral and the Abbey of St. Thomas, Dublin, as one of the four churches Ireland in which the plenary indulgence of Sextus IV could be obtained (App. to 20th Rep. Deputy Keeper Pub. Recs. Ireland (1888), 93: No. 312). In 1492 the roof of the Lady Chapel was repaired and in 1499 the roofs of the chapels of St. Catherine and St. Patrick together with that of the nave were set up and made new (Mac Iomhair 1961, 95). It appears to have been granted to the Carmelite friars by the townsmen towards the end of the thirteenth century (Ware in Harris 1764, 283) and it remained in their hands until its Dissolution in 1540 when all of its buildings are described as thrown down (White 1943, 247). The drawings of Francis Place (1698) show that the church possessed tall a rectangular tower with a narrow arch surmounted by two floors with crenellations above and similar in general form to those which survive from the Dominican Friary and the Hospital of St. Mary d'Urso (Maher 1934, Pl. 5, opp. p. 42). Half of the tower had fallen by the time of Place's visit, probably as a result of damage during the Cromwellian assault of 1649. This tower was standing c.1770 when Gabriele Ricciardelli painted his panoramic view but it had collapsed or had been removed by 1791 when Grose's print was prepared (P1. 27a). Grose (1791, II, 89) refers to the existence of a "castle" near the church which may have been the remnants of the tower. However, even this is uncertain because his account of the of building is mistakenly used to describe the Priory St. Mary D'Urso (Grose 1791, II, 29). His print shows a long building bisected by a roofed chapel with a bell-hang in the gable, of eighteenth century appearance. Unfortunately, the direction from which his view was taken is not clear but the account of it by Ledwich (in Grose 1791, II, 29) and comparison with Place suggests that the remains represent transepts with the roofed chapel occupying the chancel. By this time most of the jambs and mouldings had been removed and it is only possible to note that while both gables had large windows, the north end was lit by an opposed pair of lancets and, according to Ledwich, was decorated with foliage and heads; the south had a large round-headed window in the west wall. No part of this building appears to survive today and the present church was built in 1810 (D'Alton 1844, I, 41).

Structural Features

Immediately south of the church is a small ruin of uncertain date, overgrown with ivy. It consists of three

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sides of a rectangular building of roughly coarsed limestone masonry with rubble core. Portion of the interior was adapted in recent times for use as a tool shed. Gabled at the south end to a height of about 7 m, it has a broad pillaster-like projection externally. The south wall contains a broken door with flat rear-arch and splayed ingoings. Above it is a lintelled window, and in the apex of the gable is a small loop, apparently flat-topped. The east wall contains a bowtelled arch but the wall beneath it has been broken out and it is not clear what it covered. The west wall is featureless excapt for a projecting rubble course, about 2 m above ground level. The north wall is missing. The masonry contains no dateable features but its general appearance suggests a post-medieval date.

Seven cut stones of granite and sandstone are nearby. Three window mullions of fourteenth century character lie in a heap of stones to the east of this building (Fig. 37); three stones with bevelled edges pieces and one moulded piece, possibly a pier fragment (Fig. 37), are built into the east boundary wall of the churchyard.

Burial Monuments

(1) Richard Bryce 17th cent.

Limestone slab. Used as a paving stone in the porch of the modern church and consequently it is extremely worn. Incised inscription in Roman capitals decipherable only on one side. Below the inscription are two coats of arms, but the sinister one is completely worn down. The left has an equal armed cross on a criss-crossed background.

Inscription: 'THIS MONVMENT HATH / BEEN BROVGHT TO THIS CHAP / PELL.LONG ..CE AT THE / COSTS OF MR RICHARD BRYCE / SOMETIME ALDERMAN OF DROGH / DA VNDER WHICH HIMSELFE / THER . IN WALSH + HIS WIFE / BH.. DAROBERT BRYCE / I.LE DI ..GER Y WIFE / IO/ CI ID / OI / I ID / I MO/ OI IIH / ND I S I / I I D / IN GOD / DOMIN '.

Dims: H. 192 W. 110 cm.

(2) Duff Effigial Slab, 1610

Fossiliferous limestone. In sixteen pieces, mounted in concrete on the outside S wall of the modern church. Decorated with a male and female effigy in false relief. flanKed by two classical colomns with a heraldic achievement above. The coat of arms are slightly damaged but appear to have a chevron and fleur de lis. Both figures have their hands joined. The man wears a cloak and Elizabethan ruff while the lady is wearing a cloak with elaborate fastening over a long gown and she has shoulder length hair. The inscription, in Gothic and Lombardic capitals, is in false relief:

'LIETH THE BODIES O. HEN, DUFF, SOMTIME MAIN ..D., THY .. REN / DUFF, HIS WIFF WHO DIED .. 24, OF / NOVEMBER, 1610, ON WHOSE SOLS THE LORD TAKE MERCY CHRISTO... / ...THE BLEASSID VIRGINE MARIE . Dims: H. 230 W. 107 cm.

(3) Christopher Ledwich slab. 1624

Fossiliferous limestone. Broken in two. In the graveyard immediately S of the church. Decorated with an achievement of arms and a long marginal inscription in low false relief. The shield is divided with the letters C.L. and A.B. above the arms. The arms on the left are a chevron with 3 eagles heads(?) and the right supports a star (?). Inscription:

'HEREVNDER LIETH THE CORPSE / OF MR CHRISTOFER LEDWICHE ..F.. OHR SOMTIME SHERIFFE OF DROGHEDA / ... / ... THE CORPSE OF ..GOD ... S AN DERR / AND ..ANA BRA / E .. / WIFE UNTO THE SAYD CHRISTOF..WHOE DECEASED THE / .. MERCY IHC 1624'

Dims; H. 230 W. 107 T. 12 cm.

Grose 1791, II, 29; D'Alton 1844, I, 48-9; Jrl. Assoc. Preservation Memorials. Dead Ireland ii (1892-4), 169.

(4) Richard Hill slab. 17th century Limestone. Badly damaged; repaired with cement and iron rods. Set on the ground S of the church. It had a three line marginal inscription in Roman capitals:

'..LIETH THE / CORPS OF OF RIC ARD HILL SOMETIME WISE /
MAIOR OF THIS TOWN / E OF DROGHEDA DECEASED TH .. / ..
ND OF IEN / ET HILL - A HTER MOTHER VNTO / THOMAS DELAHO
/ IDE SOMTIME MAIOR OF THE .. / .. WHOSE / CORPS
HE-VNDER LIETH DE - EASE / D THHE XVI / OF AVG - 6 AND
ELIZA - / .. HIS W / ... A. S .D '
Dims: H. 197 W. 105 D. 12 cm.

Old Finds (Fig. 38)

In the museum of the Old Drogheda Society at the Millmount are four medieval floor tiles and one fragment of a roof ridge tile found during grave-digging.

No. 1. Inlaid (Fig. 38:2). Quatrefoil within two sets of intersecting arcs. Part of its mortar bedding is still attached. T. 23 mm.

No. 2. Inlaid (Fig. 38:4). Quatrefoliate design within a circle. It appears to be a waster. T. 37 mm.

No. 3. Inlaid (Fig. 38:1). Fragment of a trefoil spray. T. 38 mm.

No. 4. Line impressed. Lion mask. Similar to that from St. Peter's Church, Drogheda.

 Nos. 1-3 belong on typological grounds to the late thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. No. 4 is a fifteenth century type. These few pieces show that a tiled floor was laid down in the church during the thirteenth-fourteenth century and repaired, added to, or perhaps replaced, during the fifteenth.

No. 5. Fragment of a roof ridge tile decorated with linear striations (Fig. 38:3). Dims: 98x63x14 mm.

11. ST. PETER'S COLLEGIATE CHURCH (Fig. 37; Pls. 27b-29)

Sited within its own graveyard on the north side of the river, in the angle formed by the junction of Magdalen Street and William Street, this was the parish church Drogheda-in-Louth. It was established before 1186 because, by that time, both its tithes and advowson had been granted to the Augustinian canons of Llanthony Prima in Monmouthshire by Hugh de Lacy (Brooks 1953, 79). It continued to be administered by them until the Bissolution and their parish rights were confirmed by successive archbishops of Armagh throughout the period (Brooks 1953, 18, 19-28). It functioned as a Pro-Cathedral for the diocese of Armagh and was the scene of numerous Pre-Reformation Synods (Leslie 1911, 246) and for many sittings of ecclesiastical courts. The account of one such synod, in 1524, presents an unusually vivid , picture of the ceremonies which would attend such events:

The Mass of the Holy Spirit was sung by the Primate; the Veni Creator was chanted; and there was a solemn procession to the High Cross of the town where the decrees against those violating the liberty of the church were read by Archdeacon White. The Primate delivered an exhortation to the clergy dealing with clerical life, the sacerdotal ministry and the administration of the sacraments (CLAJ VIII, No. 4 (1936), 340).

It was the burial place of many of the archbishops of Armagh who chose to live at Drogheda or Termonfeckin rather than face the dangers of living among the Irish of Armagh. Among those Known to have been buried here are Primates John Colton (d.1404), Nicholas Fleming (d.1416), John Swayne (d.c.1450), Octavian del Palatio (d.1513), Thomas Lancaster (d.1584), John Long (d.1589), Henry Ussher (d.1613) and Christopher Hampton (d.1625).

Only fragments of cut stone survive from the medieval church which would appear from to have been one of the larger parish churches of medieval Ireland (LeasK 1958, 117). Gravedigging in the churchyard has recovered wall foundations which suggest that the original church stood slightly to the east of the present one (Leslie 1911, 245; Davies 1945, 22). Regretably there are no drawings showing the church in any

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detail prior to the eighteenth century rebuilding but an impression of its appearance can be obtained from the account of Isaac Butler who visited it in 1744 (Deane 1922, 94-5). It appears to have been cruciform with a chancel flanked by two side chapels, presumably opening-off the transepts, a tower at the crossing and a long nave of ten bays. There were at least seven chapels although it is not clear whether all were in contemporaneous use or not. The chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary is mentioned in a will of c. 1365 (Lawlor 1911-2 , No. 178). The chantry chapel of St. Anne was established by John Swayne, archbishop of Armagh c. 1438 and is described as being on the north side of the chancel (Chart 1935, 178-80). In 1444 the King's Council met in the vestry of the chapel of St. John to hear a case of seditious slander (Curtis 1933-43, 143-4). The will of Robert Chillam of Drogheda who died in 1632 directed that his body should be buried "in St. Martin's Chapel in St. Peter's Church...under the Broade Stone by my father..." (Murray 1933-6, 93). The other chapels were dedicated to SS. Catherine, George and Patrick (D'Alton 1844, I, 17; Leslie 1911, 245; Co. Louth Archaeol. & Hist. Jrl VII, No. 2 (1930), 277).

The absence of standing remains is particularly regretable because of the number of references to building work on the church. A document of c.1290 recounts how the light in the chancel was obscured by a chapel on the south wall and in order to allow more light in, a chapel was opened on the north side by Master William of Dublin, mason (Brooks 1953, 145). A number of notices in the fragmentary Register of the Mayors of Drogheda would suggest that sizeable alterations were carried out in the early sixteenth century. In 1515 the window of St. Mary's chapel was erected for John Wyrall, mayor of Drogheda, and in 1525 the south aisle was built and the windows made by Thomas Bath, William Pastow, James White and Thomas Thunder (Mac Iomhair 1961, 93). The latter window may be the one referred to in 1638 by Guillim (quoted in D'Alton 1844, I, 22-3) as having coloured glass displaying the arms of Thunder, viz, argent a chevron engrailed between three trumpets sable. On 27 January 1549 the tower, described in the Register as "one of the highest steeples in the world", was blown down in a storm (Mac Iomhair 1961, 93); its replacement appears to have been of wood. In 1635 the nave is described as in good repair but no use was being made of the chancel which was neglected and in disrepair (Leslie 1911, 247). In 1649 it was the scene of an 🔐 infamous massacre after the Cromwellian capture of the town; the steeple was burned, monuments were defaced and the nave was blown up (D'Alton 1844, II, 274-5). In 1662 a Commission of Inquiry was set up to report on the state of the church and in 1666 repairs were carried out on the chancel (D'Alton 1844, II, 23; Leslie 1811, 247). It is evident that the nave 💡 remained ruinous for the rest of the century, however, because the Visitation of 1690 reported that the chancel was in repair but that the nave was out of repair "ever since the taking of the town by the usurpers"; it notes in passing that the chancel was divided from the nave by a high wall (Leslie

1911, 248). The present church was constructed between 1748-52; the tower and steeple are the work of Francis Johnson and were added in 1792. The Church Register survives from 1653 with some small gaps (D'Alton 1844, II, 33-4; (Leslie 1911, 250).

Structural Fragments

Nine moulded pieces of stone are gathered together and ? set into concrete on the north side of the church. These appear to have been found prior to 1913 (Ledoux 1913, >. Eight are decorated with rosette type ornament and probably belong to the sixteenth century. They are difficult to parallel. In the porch are three further stones of fifteenth-sixteenth century dae. These comprise part of a double cusped light from an unglazed window (Fig. 37), a limestone window moulding and a piece of tracery. A drip moulding mentioned by Davies (1945, 22) is now missing (Fig. 37), Within the church a sandstone corbel is set high above the recess in the west wall on the north side of the nave. It is decorated with foliage in low relief and is of thirteenth _ century character.

Font (P1. 28a-b)

Early 16th cent. At the west end of the north side of the church. Limestone. Octagonal. Circular bowl with a chamfered lower register set upon a modern shaft and plinth. A fragment of the original base lies in the porch. Decorated in high relief. The upper and lower registers are divided vertically $^{\gamma}$ and horizontally into panels by mouldings of twisted vine stem. The upper register is divided into panels, six of which are decorated with two apostles set under round-headed niches, a seventh shows the Baptism of Christ and the eighth displays a coat of arms. Roe (1976, 258) has identified the apostles as SS. Philip (immediately on right of the coat of $r_{\rm fe}$ arms), Matthias, Simon/ St James Minor, Thomas, Bartholomew, Unidentified, John, James Major, Paul and Andrews The coat in 🕫 of arms, viz. two bends dexter with a star impaling 3 lions rampant, have not been identified but Roe has suggested the family of Sharl. Seven of the eight panels of the lower register have angels holding scrolls; the eight has an angel holding a robe and is placed beneath the Baptism of Christ. Dims: H. 55 Diam. 95 Diam. of bowl. 22 cm

The base is fragmentary and consists of a limestone block originally octagonal in shape. It is divided into panels by twisted mouldings similar to those on the font. The decoration on the complete panel shows two beasts (?dragons) with entwined necks, their tails terminating in ivy leaves. The triangular panels on either side have an animal (?an ape) with ivy leaf tail in one and, in the other, a face mask with protruding tongue. Fragments of two further panels are part of a Tudor rose and an animal tail. Dims: H. 16 W. 63 T. c.28 cm

The font is one of the finest examples to survive from the later Middle Ages in Ireland. Davies 1945, 22; Roe 1976.

Monuments

(a) Cross Slab. Early Christian.

In porch. Moved from Marley, Co. Louth. Irregular shape. Two pecked crosses and inscription within incomplete enclosing rounded design. Dexter cross has bifid terminals; sinister, ringed with semi-circular terminals, the whole enclosed by an outline. Inscription:

TNUDACH COCMAN F

The letters are highly seriffed. Macalister (1949, 31) suggests that the F may stand for filius. The name Tnudach is a rare one but it occurs in the genealogy of the Cenel nEnnai (O'Brien 1976, 435) and in AFM sub anno 709. Cocman may be Coeman, a form of Comman.

Dims: H. 80 W. 84 T. 28 cm.

MacAlister 1949, 31; Co. Louth Archaeol. & Hist. Jrl. IV, No. 3 (1916), 104.

(b) Nicholas Darditz slab 1516/1556.

Rectangular limestone slab lying on the ground beside the east wall of the church. Undecorated except for a marginal blackletter inscription in false relief:

+ HIC JACET NICOLAUS / DARDITZ QUODA CTZCS VILLE D[e] DROGHEDA Q OBYT 16 FEBRI 1516 / et Willm Darditz fili/ ei q obiit 18 APLIS 1556 ET MATILDA NETIter] VYLE UXOR EIUS

* Dims: H. 180 W. 88 D. 8(approx) cm.

Jrl. Assoc. Preservation Memorials Dead Ireland IV (1898-1900), 275

(c) Goldyng tomb. Early 16th century (Pls. 27b, 29 b-c). Dismantled table tomb mounted on the east wall of St. Peter's graveyard. Fossiliferous limestone. It originally consisted of a very large slab with two cadavers covering a four-sided box tomb. Parts of the decoration and inscriptions are very worn. The covering slab shows a male and female cadaver carved in high relief. They lie in shrouds which are tied at the head and feet but open to show the decomposing bodies with their attendant worms, frogs, vipers and vermin. Incised blackletter inscription:

..AS FOR EDMUND GOLDYNG OF PERISSTOWNLAUNDY AND ELY / [zabethe Flemyng his/wife and] DAUGHTER OF THE BARON OF SLANE THAT [lieth]... A secondary inscription in Roman lettering is incised between the two figures: THIS IS THE BURIAL PLACE OF... Dims: H. 252 W. 152 D. 16

The side panels show coats of arms supported by angels wearing long skirts which are draped over the edge of the stone. Their wings are carved in a combination of relief and incision: Long panel 1: Arms of Goldyng and Fynglasse.

Inscription: SCUTU EDMUNDI / GOLDYNG / ET JOHANNE / [Fynglasse] Long panel 2: Arms of Goldyng and Cruise. Inscription: SCUTU EDMUNDI / GOLDYNG ET BLANCHE / CRUCE Dims: H. 80 W. 210 End panel 1: Arms Goldyng and Darcy. Inscription: SCUTU [Walter]] / GOLDYNG ET ELIZABETH / DARCE End Panel 2: Arms of Goldyng and Fleming. Inscription: SCUTU EDMUNDI / GOLDYNG ET ELYZABETH / FLEMYNG Dims: H. 79 W. 126 cm.

Roe 1969, 15.

(d) Elcock and Fitzwilliam slab 1571.

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Within railings on the north side of the church. Badly broken rectangular limestone slab with incised blackletter
marginal inscription. Two coats of arms in false relief, one bearing the Elcock and FitzWilliam arms, the other Elcock and an unKnown family whose arms consist of a chevron impaling
three fleur-de-lis. The incised Roman letters G.E. and K.F.W. occur under the upper shield, and N. E. and E.D. under the lower shield. Belew this are the leters F E . IHS . E B

.. OF GEORGE ELCOCK SOME[ti]ME TWISE MAIOR OF DROGHE/ DA DEC[eased] THE 13 OF / APRIL 1571 & K[atheri]NE FITZWILLIAMS HIS WIFE D[eceased]...

Dims: H. 188 W. 88 cm.

Jr]. Assoc. Memorials Dead Ireland IV (1898-1900), 273

(e) Quick /Plunket slab. 1589.

Rectangular limestone slab to the south of the Church. QuicK and PlunKet arms impaled in a rectangular panel. The incised marginal blackletter inscription is very worn:

[Hic iacet Rob JERTUS QUICK, QUOD / A VICECOMES DE DROGHEDA QUI OBYT Z [Novembris A.D.] 1589 / ET KATHERINE PLUNKET UZOR EIUS / QUI OBIIT [unfinished].

The slab was later re-used and the following incised Roman • lettered inscription was added in the centre of the slab:

HERE ALSO LYETH / THE BODY OF ALDERMAN / PATRICK PLUNKITT / WHO DEPARTED THIS / LIFE THE FIRST DAY / OF MARCH 1708 / AND IN THE 64 YEARE / OF HIS AGE'.

Dims: H. 199 W. 96 cm.

· Jrl. Assoc. Memorials Dead Ireland IV (1898-1900), 274

(f) Nicholas Elcock. 1594

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Within railings with (d). Narrow limestone slab decorated with the Elcock arms, wreathed in a recessed roundel. Above the roundel, in Roman capitals, are the letters: N. IHS . E.
 Below the roundel is the following blackletter inscription:

HOC SEPULCHRUM / FIERI FECIT DICTUS / NICHUS ELCOCK / FILIUS DIIJCTI [GeoJRGII / MENSE JIuni] 1594 / QUORU[m] ANIMABUS / PROPITIETUR DEUS / AMEN.

Dims: H. 170 W. 58 T. c.10 cm. Jrl. Assoc. Memorials Dead Ireland IV (1898-1900), 273

(g) Dowdall tomb. 16th cent. (Pl. 28c)

Rectangular sidepanel. Fossiliferous limestone. Set into the east wall of the graveyard. Divided into three round headed panels by sugar barley pilasters with a Tudor rose in one spandrel and an angel's head in the other. The centre panel has a resurrection in relief on a shield. Christ is shown stepping out of the tomb over a sleeping soldier. He holds a cross in His left hand and the right is raised in blessing. Two sleeping soldiers armed with spears are on either side. The two side panels have shields with coats of arms: left, Dowdall impaling ?, and right Dowdall impaling (?)Darcy. There are three small scrolls over the panels; left; P.D.and A.D.; the centre has INRI while the right has P.D.and T.W.

Dims H. 68 W. 182 cm. Jrl. Assoc. Memorials Dead Ireland IV (1898-1900), 279

 (h) Fagan tomb. ?16th cent. Limestone. Rectangular end panel of a box tomb with the heraldic symbols of Fagan. Above the shield a helmet, crest and bust of a man holding a leavy spray. The letters M F are incised below.
 Dims: H. 66 W. 70 T. 13 cm.
 Hunt 1953.

(i) End panel of a box tomb. ?16th cent.

Limestone. Rectangular, missing upper sinister corner. Resurrection carved in relief similar to (g). It may have formed part of the same tomb as (h). Dims: H. 66 W. 63 T. 10 cm. Hunt 1953.

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(j) Robert Cadell slab. 1637 (Pl. 29a).

Rectangular limestone slab, partially buried in the ground against the east wall of the graveyard. It has a shield impaling the arms of Cadell and Waring with the initials R. C. and R. W. below. Marginal inscription in false relief, blackletter with Roman capitals:

THIS MOInument was/ erected by Robartt Cadell sometime (?sheriffe) of Drogheda/ and his wifJE ROOSIE / WARING...FOR HIS SUCCESSORS IN THE .../ YEARE OF OUR L / GOD 1637

Dims: H. 182 W. c.60 cm. Jrl. Assoc. Memorials Dead Ireland IV (1898-1900), 275

(K) Josef Andrew slab. 1695. Broken slaty limestone slab leaning against the north wall of the church. Incised inscription: ...OF JOSEF / ANDREW JVN / WHO DECESED / THE 22d DAY OF JENry 1695

Dims: H, 84 W. 52 T, 5 cm.

(1) Slab. 17th century.

Immediately outside the west door of St. Peter's Church there is a large rectangular sandstone slab (parts of it are misssing) with faint traces of incised decoration and a marginal inscription. Dims: H. 211 W. 126 cm.

Other Finds.

Limoges Enamel Plaque. Thirteenth cent. Placed in a recess in the north east angle of the nave. Circular copper disc with four perforations decorated with the figure of Christ with a halo, His right arm raised in blessing, His left holding a book. It was found in the churchyard during gravedigging before 1911 and probably formed part of a book cover. Leslie 1911, 245.

Medieval Floor Tile. Fifteenth century. Placed with the enamel plaque. Line impressed. Face mask, part of a four tile panel. Similar examples are Known from the Dublin cathedrals and St. Canice's, Kilkenny (Graves and Prim 1857, pl. opp. p. 77)

12. ST. SAVIOUR'S (CHAPEL OF THE HOLY REDEEMER)

, This chapel, first mentioned in 1218 as capelle sancti Salvatoris iuxta pontem de Drochda (Brooks 1953, 101), was located immediately north of the bridge on the west side. It appears to have been maintained by the Llanthony canons of St. Peter's and it probably functioned as a chantry. Newcomen's map shows it simply as a long building with a tower. Its cellars, first mentioned in 1291, were leased out to private individuals after the Reformation and figure in documentary sources as late as 1745 (Brooks 1953, 102; Kelly 1940, 348). The east gable was demolished in 1722 and the remainder of the building appears to have been removed shortly afterwards (Kelly 1940, 349).

13. ST. NICHOLAS' CHAPEL

Just as St. Saviour's appears to have been maintained as a chantry of St. Peter's so St. Nicholas' seems to have functioned as a chantry of St. Mary's. It is first referred to in a deed of 1211 as ecclesia sancti Nicholai de Ponte (Brooks 1953, 77) and was situated close to St. Mary's church but its precise location is unKnown. It had an upper chamber and a cellar which figure repeatedly in the Llanthony cartularies (Brooks 1953, 302-3). Nothing is Known of its form or of its history after the Dissolution.

14. AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY

This was established before 1300 but the founder is unKnown; at the Dissolution it was granted to the Corporation (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 298).

Its location is uncertain. The friary site has been frequently identified with the hospital of St. Mary D'Urso but it is clear from the Suppression documents that they were distinct. A mention in an eighteenth century lease suggests that it may have been in the vicinity of St. Mary D'Urso's, perhaps on the east side of DominicK Street (Kelly 1941, 31), but it is possible that this mention does not relate to the medieval friary. More recently Duffner (1979, 12) has suggested that the present Augustinian Church in Shop Street was built upon the site. In the present state of Knowledge, however, it is impossible to be certain of its original situation.

DOMINICAN FRIARY (Fig. 38; P1, 30 a-b)

 ϵ Located on the north edge of the town and bounded by the town defences the Priory of St. Mary Magdalen was founded c.1224 by Luke Netterville, Archbishop of Armagh who was buried here in 1227 (Ware in Harris 1764, 276; De Burgo 1762, 200). The Dominicans may well have taken over an existing church because a chapel of St. Mary Magdalen is referred to c.1206, in this vicinity (Brooks 1953, 21, 63). In 1271 Patrick O'Scanlan, archbishop of Armagh, was buried here (De Burgo 1762, 200) and in 1285 the friars are specified in a grant of royal alms (Sweetman 1875-86, III, No. 97). By 1394 the friary had become sufficiently prosperous to function as the scene of the submission of four Irish Kings to Richard II, an event which presumably occurred in the Chapter House. In 1399 and 1401 the friars received an indulgence for the , repair of the church and its chapel dedicated to Mary the Mother of God (De Burgo 1762, 201-203). In 1467-8 it received an annual grant from the Irish parliament because it had fallen into decay and poverty as a result of depredations by Irish rebels and English enemies (Berry 1914, 613). Another indulgence was granted in 1496 to recoup monies which had been spent on repairs (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 224). The friary was dissolved in 1540 when the jurors noted that the church and most of the dorter had already fallen down (White 1943, 244). The precinct was evidently a large one if the evidence of Newcomen's map is to be accepted at face value. The buildings also appear to have been extensive and the , drawing of "St. Sunday's Friary" reproduced by D'Alton (1844, I, opp. p. 120) shows an arcaded nave flanked by aisles. This . . would appear to have been demolished subsequent to D'Alton's time and only the crossing tower, supported by fragments of , the nave wall, now survives in a railed-off enclosure within a modern school yard. Place's view of 1698, however, shows it 🕫 in much the same condition as it is today (Sheaf 1980, 186).

The Nave

Supporting the tower on the north and south sides are portions of the nave wall, incorporated into it when the tower was built. The wall is 1.15 m thick on average. The only feature is at the south west corner where about half a bay of the nave arcade survives. This is of creamy-coloured sandstone and contrasts with the limestone used in the tower.

The Tower

Coarsed limestone masonry with dressed quoins. Fourteenth century inserted into earlier (probably thirteenth century) nave wall. Rectangular in plan with projecting stepped stair-turret, rising from the level of the nave roof. Above the pointed arch are two floors marked externally by string courses. On the east and west sides the gable line of the chancel and nave is evident. The arch is open to the east and west and is decorated on the internal faces with a concave moulding, and from the "point of springing" with three rolls

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of sandstone, the central one of which bears a fillet. Above the arch are two stories, the lower one of which is lit by , four twin-lighted cusped ogee headed windows with a dagger in the central spandrel; however, the central mullion and a tracery is missing in all except the north window. This floor is roofed by a quadripartite ribbed vault springing from stylised heads and linked by wall ribs. The rib profile consists of two rolls separated by a groove. Only one of the heads can be clearly seen as the others are covered in soot. This has large ears and a sneering face. The ribs meet "at" a " central circular roof-boss which appears to be ornamented but it is again unfortunately covered with soot. There appear to be two blocked up holes in the vault: these presumably held the bell-ropes. On the south-west side the wall curves 🐲 outwards as it rises to accomodate the nave arch. The upper floor is lit by four twin-lighted cusped and transomed ogee 🌶 windows; only those on the east and west sides are intact. This would appear to have been the ringing stage. Above this level are stepped crenelations but they may be additions of relatively modern date. The stair turret is lit by two rectangular loops and is entered on the north via a pointed door. A wall fragment projects northwards from the tower, perhaps denoting part of the conventual buildings.

Leask (1960, 134) considered the style of the windows as appropriate to the early fourteenth century and the form of the vault would also support this date. The date is significant because it is the earliest stone belfry to a friary church in Ireland.

💡 Öld Finds.

Burials: In July 1960, during construction work about twenty yards east of the school beside the tower, an extended skeleton was discovered oriented east-west (Rynne 1959, 191); It was reported at the time of this discovery that further burials had been found when the school itself was being built and this would suggest that the monastic graveyard was situated in this area.

Floor Tiles: A number of line-impressed tiles were recorded by Tempest (1950, 182; see Jrl. Roy. Soc. Antiqs. Ireland 1 (1849-51), 276.

16. FRANCISCAN FRIARY

This was established before 1245 but the founder is uncertain (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 248). No trace of the friary survives but its location can be determined on the basis of documentary references. The precincts adjoined the town wall on the north side of the Boyne and extended from the river in the south to Bachelor's Lane in the north and from the town wall on the east to the present Custom House on the west (Kelly 1941, 37). According to the seventeenth century writer Father Mooney, the east window of the church pierced the town wall and looked out onto the friary orchard; it had a high tower of cut stone similar to others of the order in Ireland and probably of fifteenth century date (Jennings 1934, 28). In the second quarter of the fifteenth century the friary had a noted school of theology and it has been suggested that its fame was one of the reasons for the choice of Drogheda as the centre for an Irish university in 1465 (FitzMaurice and Little 1920, 190). The cemetery site is unKnown and no tombslabs survive but Mooney records the presence of an altar tomb in the choir during the early seventeenth century (Jennings 1934, 28).

17. HOSPITAL OF ST. JAMES

Nothing at all is Known of the foundation, function or history of this hospital during the Middle Ages. It gave its name to James' Street and it is evident from Goche's map that it was located within its own precinct bordered by the town wall, on the south side of the street. Surprisingly it does not figure in the Dissolution documents.

18. HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN

This hospital, maintained by the Fratres Cruciferi, lay at the west end of John Street, probably on the south side. According to Ware it was founded during the reign of King John (1199-1216), perhaps by Walter de Lacy (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 211). It seems to have stood within its own precinct walls and is described in 1475-6 as being outside the walls of the town (Morrissey 1939, 401). D'Alton (1844, i; 133) states that some walls were standing when he wrote but nothing now remains. It has been suggested that the small rectangular building with a belfry shown in this position in Place's drawings is to be identified with the hospital (Maher 1934, 42).

THE HOSPITAL PRIORY OF ST. LAWRENCE THE MARTYR (Fratres Cruciferi)

This lay ouside the town on the east and gave its name to both St. Laurence's Gate and Laurence Street. Founded by the mayor and citizens according to Ware, it was established c.1206 when a number of lepers were moved from the chapel of St. Mary Magdalen to this spot (Brooks 1953, 63-4). The dwelling house of the master of the priory is mentioned in 1300 when Martin de Termonfeckin Killed Laurence de Hell there (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 211). During the episcopate of Archbishop Mey (1444-1456) the church is described as being in need of repair. It was dissolved in 1540 and granted together with St. Mary d'Urso to the Corporation of Brogheda in 1566.

Structural Remains

Only the east gable and fragments of the returning walls of the chancel survive in the south-east corner of the graveyard. Coursed limestone masonry with rubble core;sandstone mouldings. The east window was pointed with moulded jambs externally and a scontion decorated with a roll moulding rising from decorated imposts. Internally the ground is raised as a result of burial to the level of the window sill, which is missing. There is a small flat-headed rectangular light in the apex of the gable.

Monuments

(a) 1613 slab.

To the south of the gable is a broken rectangular slab of fossiliferous limestone. Deeply chamfered underneath and decorated with a raised maltese cross on steps with skull and crossed bones on either side of the shaft. Geometric design in the upper right corner. Marginal inscription in Roman capitals:

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(b) Stone Cross (P1. 30c).

Fossiliferous limestone block built into the north return of the church decorated with very worn figure sculpture. The west side has the lower half of a pieta but the head of the christ and the Virgin are mising. The north side has the head the under a crocketed ogee-headed arch terminating in a finial.

Although only two sides are exposed it seems most likely that this is part of a cross shaft and similar crosses are Known in eastern Meath during the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries (King in press).

Dims: H. 40 W. 44 D. 24

(c) Gargoyle (P1. 31b).

Granite. On the north side of the mortuary chapel in the cemetary. The spout terminates in a face (bearded?) with large eyes and a hole for the mouth. On the underside there are two hands which appear to be holding something. Dims: H. 83 W. c.40 cm.

THE PRIORY AND HOSPITAL OF ST. MARY D'URSO Fratres Cruciferi (Figs. 40-41; Pl. 32a)

This lay at the western end of the town and when founded $^{\circ}$ it was actually outside the West Gate. It has been regarded $_{\circ}$ as the site of an early Patrician church (D'Alton 1844, I, 108; Kelly 1941, 25) but this is due to its confusion with -Frevet, Co. Meath (see Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 381). In fact there is no reliable evidence to indicate that there was a 🤅 church on this site prior to the thirteenth century. Roth D'Alton and Kelly also err in suggesting that the church -later belonged to the Augustinians or Franciscans because it is evident from the extents made at the time of the suppression that the hospital did not belong to either order (White 1943, 242, 246, 248). The hospital was established c.1206-1214 by Ursus de Swemele, a burgess of Drogheda, and a group of charters survive relating to its foundation (Sheehy 1959). From these it can be seen that before founding the hospital Ursus negotiated with both the corporation of ? the town and the Llanthony canons who administered St. Peter's parish. Little is Known of its subsequent history. It was dissolved in 1540 and granted to the mayor and citizens of Drogheda in 1566, Grose visited it in 1791 and prepared a plate showing it in much the same condition as it is today.

Extant Remains

These consist of fragments of the chancel, tower, nave and north aisle of the church, together with a possible wall of the conventual buildings on the south. The masonry is of coursed limestone with sandstone mouldings although most of these are now gone; in the tower, however, the quoins and window mouldings are of limestone. The remains extend over a number of individual holdings and are embedded in some instances into houses and shops. A narrow street, Abbey Lane, runs through the nave and chancel.

The east gable of the chancel survives to a height, of about 9 m but its apex, is missing. The east window was pointed and splayed internally but its jambs and the wall below the level of the sill are missing. Small sections of the original north and south walls of the chancel survive abutting the gable. The north wall is about 1 m long but the remainder of the masonry on this side is of modern origin. The south wall projects 30 cm from the gable and is followed by a gap of almost 6 m after which the original wall resumes and continues to the tower. In this stretch are the sandstone jamb of a window, a relieving arch, and a pointed limestone door, moulded externally.

The tower is of rectangular plan with a stair turret rising in the south east angle from the level of the roof. It is chamfered internally at the corners and has stepped relieving arches in the vault. It opens to the east and west but it appears to have also opened originally onto the north and south sides, both of which have a rounded chamfered arch blocked up with masonry of uncertain date. Two blocked round-headed doors are visible in the south arch but their date is unclear. The arch on the east-west axis is pointed and has a chamfered soffit roll. Neatly blocked nib-holes are present. Above the arch are two floors separated externally by a string course. The lowermost floor is vaulted and has a flat-headed door on the east and west sides opening into the roof, immediately below the gable line of the nave and chancel; on the north side is a single ogee light. The upper floor or belfry stage is lit by four transomed twin-light ogee-headed windows. None of the original crenellations survive but it would appear from Grose's print that these were stepped (Pl. 32a). Externally the crenellations were separated from the belfry stage by a drainage course.

It is unlikely that any part of the north wall of the nave is original but portions of the south wall survive. Immediately west of the tower is a splayed window, blocked and hidden externally, with a flat rear-arch. The tower appears to be built onto this section of wall and should, therefore, postdate it. Apart from the section in the vicinity of this recess it is difficult to Know how much else of the south wall is original because there are clearly a number of modern inclusions.

Only the west gable of the north aisle survives and is incorporated into the wall of a modern dwelling house. The west window was pointed but its tracery is missing and the * window is blocked with masonry of relatively modern origin. Externally there is a hood moulding of pointed section terminating in a weathered head on the south side. The north side probably had a similar label stop but it is completely defaced. Internally, the scontion is moulded.

Monument (Fig. 41)

In 1977 during the construction of the ring road a medieval graveslab, which is now at the Millmount Museum, was found near the west end of West Street. It is a bevelled limestone slab broken into three pieces and defaced along one of the long sides. It is decorated with a Maltese cross and shears in false relief. The tomb was presumably the memorial of a tailor. It cannot be precisely paralleled but bevelled slabs of this form normally date to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

Dims: L. 170. W at head 46 tapering to 44 cm at base.

21. SUBURBS

east sides and possibly on the west also. The earliest and largest of these was the eastern suburb situated outside St. Laurence's gate and along the present Cord Road. Its original extent is uncertain but it appears to have extended at least as far as Oulster Lane in the fourteenth century (Mills and McEnery 1916, 62, 69; cf. Bradley 1978, 117). This suburb was 💡 in existence from at least 1230 when "burgages outside the East Gate" are referred to (Brooks 1953, 105). The northern suburb is Known from a single mid-fourteenth century reference in which a messuage, seven shops and a garden are described as lying outside the Cow Gate ("St. Sunday's Gate") (Mills and McEnery 1916, 71). The possibility of a western suburb is suggested by the fact that the hospital of St. Mary d'Urso, when established, lay outside the wall but it was subsequently incorporated within it together with Narrow West Street. This suggests that a suburb may have existed outside the wall for a time before being incorporated.

Although it is clear that suburbs existed on the north and east sides of the town during the fourteenth century it is not Known if these continued as occupied areas into the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries or were deserted. Neither the plans of Goche and Newcomen nor the views of Place display suburbs and it is not until the eighteenth century, with Ravell's map, that these suburbs reappear. It may very well be the case then that the extra-mural suburbs flourished in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries but dwindled away entirely during the Later Middle Ages.

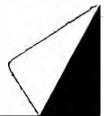
22. MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES

Medieval Font (Pl. 32b)

This is mounted on a modern pedestal outside St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in West Street and according to D'Alton (1844, i, 51) it came from Killineer. Fossiliferous limestone with circular basin and blocked drainage hole. Each face is decorated with an angel in a recessed ogee-headed panel holding a shield, some of which are decorated with the emblems of the Passion. The spandrels are decorated with leafy sprays. Roe (1976, 256) has suggested a late fifteenth or early sixteenth century date.

Wooden Door

The door of Newgate Prison where St. Oliver PlunKett was Kept prisoner prior to his execution was presented to St. Peter's Catholic Church in 1951 by the Mayor of Wrexham. It is now mounted in the south aisle of the church.



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Prior to 1984 five excavations have been carried out:

I. James' Street 1.

Excavations were carried out in 1981 by Mr. Kieran Campbell to whom I am indebted for the following information. Portion of what may be the town wall was uncovered. It was cut into, and also revetted, both boulder clay and bedrock and it formed the upper facing of a rock cut trench. The trench was 7.2 m wide at the mouth narrowing to 5.4 m at the base with a maximum depth of 2 m. It way have been the town fosse but it terminated 9 m from the edge of James' Street and the wall continued around it on the south and east sides. The function of this mural feature is not clear but it may have been associated with the defence of St. James' Gate.

A secondary wall, of medieval date, was built at right angles to the street when the fill of the fosse had accumulated to a height of approximately 1.75 m. The footing for this wall was subsequently sealed by a cobbled floor, and in turn this floor was covered by seventeenth century dump layers. Post seventeenth century features consisted of a cellar inserted at the north of the site, an internal wall with foundation trench bottomed on the earlier cobbled floor, a red brick annexe to the rear of the property and a small stone drain. The finds consisted mostly of pottery and included over three hundred sherds of medieval pottery in addition to a sizeable quantity of post-medieval wares.

II. James' Street 2.

Excavations were undertaken by Mr. Kieran Campbell on the site of the Hospital of St. James prior to the widening of James' Street. Mr Campbell has summarised the results as follows:

> To the E. of the site a 12 m length of the town wall was revealed, and nearby a lime Kiln associated with its construction. The lime Kiln pit and the foundations of the wall were cut into 0.7 m of thirteenth century deposits. Outside the wall is what appears to be the inner edge of a rock-cut ditch which contains waterlogged medieval deposits.

Below the cellar level of the recently demolished nineteenth century buildings substantial remains of the medieval hospital were uncovered. Three parallel stone walls standing 2.6 m high and up to 1.2 m wide survived with several windows and an internal doorway. On top of the fifteenth and sixteenth century material which filled up the building was a circular stone structure, probably the windmill referred to in a lease of 1678. A barrel-vaulted undercroft, 17 x 6 m, which stood on the site until August 1982 has been tentatively assigned, on pottery evidence, a thirteenth or fourteenth century date. Medieval finds included sandstone architectural fragments, pottery, roof slate, ceramic ridge tile and a part of a louver, an iron rowel spur and a bronze lock (Campbell 1983).

III. John Street.

Excavations were conducted by Mr R. O Floinn in 1976 on ; behalf of the National Museum of Ireland. Mr O Floinn has summarised the results as follows:

The laying of a pipe trench in connection with roadworks uncovered occupation debris of medieval date. The trench straddled the SW portion of the town wall. Archaeological deposits at least 1.5 m deep were observed in one area.

In surface collection of the spoil some four hundred pot sherds mainly of thirteenth/ fourteenth century date were recovered. The pottery was largely of local manufacture but one-sixth of the total consisted of imported French wares and a few sherds of Ham Green ware. Non-pottery finds included iron nails, a roof slate and some leather. A small quantity of post-medieval sherds was also recovered (O Floinn 1975-6).

IV. Shop Street.

Excavations by Mr P. D. Sweetman on behalf of the Office of Public Works uncovered quayside timbers dating to c. 1200 in addition to organic deposits of medieval date (Sweetman forthcoming).

V. Dominican Friary.

In July 1960 a burial was discovered during construction work near the tower and it would appear to have formed part of the monastic cemetery associated with the friary (Rynne ? 1959).

24. LIST OF STRAY FINDS.

Mr. Kieran Campbell, M.A., has Kindly provided the following list of provenanced finds (see Fig. 43):

1. The Dale: a dozen or so sherds from building site, 1981.

2. St. Mary's Churchyard: medieval floortiles (decorated and plain), a small number of roof tile fragments and pottery sherds, found between 1976 and 1984. NMI 1977: 1231-52. The museum of the old Drogheda Society houses an additional five pieces (see St. Mary's above).

3. Millmount: Handle sherd from pathway to motte NMI 1977: 1258. Potsherds were also recovered from a trench dug through Gray Coney rout - ridge Hile

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the upper part of the bailey in 1982 which showed the presence of medieval stratigraphy close to the surface.

4. Coffer dams for abutments and transitional wall for new St. Mary's Bridge: over one thousand pottery sherds and a small number of other finds were recovered from spoilheaps. In addition, a number of timbers which came from a revetment/quay or foundation running parallel to the river bank were salvaged. A dendrochronological date of c.1200 A.D. has been obtained.

5. Coffer dam for bridge, on north bank: many hundreds of potsherds were recovered from spoil and a number of waterfront timbers were recorded.

6. Dyer Street: two potsherds were picked up in 1976, NMI -1977: 1256-7. Further sherds were found in 1983.

7. Bachelor's Lane: sherd of hand-made cooking pot discovered in 1976. NMI 1977: 1259.

8. William Street: about six potsherds, all were surface finds.

9. Freeschool Lane: potsherds and roof tile fragment. NMI / 1977: 1253-55, 1980: 22.

10. Laurence Street: three potsherds from shallow foundations for extension to rear of Matthew's Public House.

 West Street: two potsherds from foundation trench for extension to rear of Irish Permanent Building Society premises, 1982.

12. St. Peter's Churchyard: surface find of a line impressed if floertile from graveyard (see above under St. Peter's).

13. South Quay: stratigraphy observed in E.S.B. trench from Bull Ring to town wall. The finds noted included pottery, horseshoes, a ring brooch, and a ewer lid of copper alloy (?medieval).

14. Limoges enamel plaque: found in the churchyard prior to 1911 (see St. Peter's above).

15. John Street: Over one thousand objects (mostly pottery) found in spoil prior to road construction in 1976. NMI 1976: 151-516, 518-531; 1977: 1231-2089; 1979: 91-3.

16. Bessexwell Lane: The National Museum of Ireland record the finding of portions of two medieval tiles and seven medieval potsherds while digging foundations at "Bennex Lane, Brogheda, Co. Louth".

17. Dominican Friary: medieval floortiles were discovered here in 1950 (see Dominican friary, above).

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18. Francis Street: medieval pottery sherds discovered by Mrs. H. A. King on a building site, during the course of this a survey, 1984.

Unprovenanced Finds:

Prehistoric 1. Stone axehead. From the river Boyne near Shop Street. Old Drogheda Society Museum, Millmount.

2. Bronze flat axehead of Harbison's Derryniggin type. From Drogheda, Co. Meath. British Museum, London: W. G. 1538 (Harbison 1969, 56: No. 1693).

3. Bronze flat axehead of Harbison's Ballyvalley type. From Drogheda, Co. Louth. Blackmore Museum, Salisbury: 811 Blackstone Coll. (Harbison 1969, 26: No. 561).

4. Bronze flat axehead of Harbison's Killaha type. From Drogheda, Co. Louth. Blackmore Museum, Salisbury (Harbison 1969, 26: No. 561).

5. Bronze flat axehead. Found in river Boyne near Drogheda, Co. Louth, 1854. NMI 1968: 297.

6. Bronze flanged axehead. From Drogheda, Co. Louth. NMI 1937: no number. "Bonze celt with stop ridges" from R. byne, Hughda. Neiseyside Conty Nuceane, M7141 (Now Cost) (Nordown Polyters 1980, 129: no X5) 7. Bronze socketed axehead. From Drogheda, Co. Louth. NMI E92: 384.

8. Bronze sword. From Drogheda, Co. Louth. British Museum, London: 1855, 12-20, 20 (Eogan 1965, 73).

9. Gold "ring-money". From Drogheda, Co. Louth. Ashmolean Museum, Oxford 1927: 2948 (Taylor 1980, 108).

10-12. Three Bronze Age "weapons" of unspecified type. From Drogheda, Co. Louth. British Museum, London: 1855.12-20. 21-23.

Early Historic 13-14. Two penannular brooches. From Drogheda, Co. Louth. British Museum, London: 1854.7.14 138, 140 (Kilbride-Jones 1980, 99: No. 49).

15. Bronze stick pin of non-functional Kidney-ringed type. Dredged from the Boyne near Drogheda, September 1852. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto : Sturge (ex-Bateman collection) 918.33.57 (Pryor 1976, 75: No. 8).

16. Iron stick pin. From river Boyne near Drogheda, 1852. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto: Sturge (ex-Bateman collection) 918.33.82 (Pryor 1976, 76: No. 25). 18. Bronze stick pin. From Drogheda, county Louth, 1853. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto: Sturge (ex-Bateman collection) 918.33.52 (Pryor 1976, 85: No. 43).

19. Bronze stick pin, polyhedral headed. From river Boyne, near Drogheda, 1852. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto: Sturge (ex-Bateman collection) 918.33.88 (Pryor 1976, 86: No. 59).

20. Bronze stick pin of double spiral-headed form. From river Boyne, near Drogheda, 1853. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto: Sturge (ex-Bateman collection) 918.33.80 (Pryor 1976, 87: No. 78).

21. Coin hoard of ViKing pennies and Kufic dirhams, deposited c.905. Found near Drogheda, Co. Louth. Present location unKnown (Dolley 1966, 26, 49).

Anglo-Norman 22. Floor tile with "indented curvilinear floriated and other decorations" from the floor of an ancient church in Drogheda, destroyed by Cromwell. NMI 1882: 96.

23. Bronze cross. From Drogheda, Co. Louth. British Museum, London: 1855.12-20. 26.

24. Bronze ring brooch. From Drogheda, Co. Louth. British Museum, London: 1868.7-9.27.

25. Bronze harp pin. From Drogheda, Co. Meath. NMI R 1828.

26. Iron dagger (?post-medieval). From Drogheda, Co. Louth. NMI 1936: 1900.

27. Iron cleaver (?post-medieval). Found in river Boyne at Drogheda. NMI R 2017; Wk. 6.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF DROGHEDA

Drogheda is one of the most largest medieval towns in Ireland and one in which the study of the transition in urban life from medieval to early modern times is particularly important. It is evident from the above that the site of the town has been the scene of human activity during all of the major periods of Irish prehistory and in the Early Historic period it is likely that the river crossing was being regularly used as a ford. It was not until the late twelfth century, however, that the town was established and it gradually expanded during the thirteenth century to enclose the area of roughly 45 hectartes (113 acres) shown on Fig. 30. Despite the urban decline which occurred during the fourteenth century Drogheda remained the greatest port on the east coast of Ireland and its prosperity increased in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries as the surviving archaeological remains above ground indicate. During the seventeenth century the town expanded eastwards, reclaiming some of the ground on which the quays were later built, and small linear suburbs appear to have developed on the northern and western outskirts. It is to be expected then that archaeological deposits within Drogheda will range in date from the late twelfth century through the remainder of the Middle Ages, and into the early modern period.

The streetscape of Drogheda on the north side of the Boyne is still largely intact and this should be maintained. On the south side of the river the construction of the James Street - John Street by pass and the new bridge has destroyed much of the original pattern but a number of old streets survive south of this new road. These include CornmarKet Hill, Curry's Hill and DuleeK Street, and where possible an effort should be made to preserve their line.

Of the archaeological remains above ground surprisingly little survives by contrast with what is Known to have existed. Eighty per cent of the town wall has been demolished, both medieval parish churches have been swept away, and there are no surviving remains of the Franciscan or Augustinian friaries, or of the hospitals of St. John or St. James. Of the surviving remains, only one feature, the barbican of St. Laurence's Gate is a national monument in , state care. The buildings on the Millmount are being handed over to the care of the Old Drogheda Society according as they are vacated by the existing tenants. It is unliKely that it will come under any threat from redevelopment but there is the danger that the fabric will deteriorate unless it is properly maintained, and such maintenance may prove to costly * for a voluntary organisation without the imput of public monies. The most extenisve remains within the town are of the hospital of St. Mary D'Urso which extend into a number of private properties, and their safety would probably be best ensured by a preservation order. The remains of the Dominican friary and St. Laurence's hospital are not under any π^{-} immediate threat but there is no body charged with the maintenance of their fabric and consequently it may fall into decay.

The archaeological excavations which have taken place within the town and the discovery of stray finds provides some light on the nature and extent of these deposits. In the James' Street area they survive to a depth of nearly 4 m near the river, while in John Street, on the sloping ground below the Millmount, a depth of 1.5 m has been noted (see Section 23 above). Excavations at Shop Street on the northern side of the river also demonstrated that deposits survive to a depth

of over 3 m. It seems reasonable to infer then that deposits survive better in the low ground near the river than on the sloping ground ground above it where they are likely to be more shallow. The distribution of the isolated finds (Fig. 43) indicates that these deposits exist over a wide area of the town. Disturbance has occurred in some areas of the town, however, in particular on the sites of the Boyne and Abbey Shopping Centres where it is likely that all archaeological deposits have been removed. The construction of the new bridge destroyed important quayside deposits, and the new Dublin-Belfast by-pass road has removed the entire streetscape of James' Street and John Street. Archaeological excavations took place prior to the construction of the James' Street section of this road but the John Street portion was removed mechanically. The building of the Christian Brothers School on the site of the Dominican friary undoubtedly disturbed deposits because a burial was found in the course of construction but it is not clear how extensive this disturbance was. The rebuilding of shops and houses over much of the town centre has interfered with archaeological deposits, as the stray finds show, but because of the depths that have been recorded, it is unlikely that this destruction is total. Indeed, it is probable that deposits relating to the earliest phases of Drogheda's development survive over most of the shaded area on Fig. 27, and the deposits that have been disturbed probably belong to the slightly later period between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries.

To a degree, therefore, the most important archaeological sites within Drogheda are those which may have deposits filling the period between the fourteenth and seventeenth , centuries. In this respect the quayside areas in which Mr. Campbell has recovered material of fifteenth-seventeenth century date are most important; and acquire a national significance when it is realised that comparable strata whas not yet been found in any other Irish towns. The open area of ground immediately north of the Millmount and backing onto the Butter Gate is also important in this respect because it appears to have remained undisturbed since the eighteenth century and accordingly it is likely that archaeological strata of the fourteenth-seventeenth century remains intact here.

There are few apparent archaeological sites within the immediate vicinity of the town but the threat posed by urban expansion should not be disregarded. The recent discovery of a souterrain at Mell, north of the town indicates that archaological sites may exist without any superficial trace. As with most large towns, it is likely that intensive cultivation during the medieval and early modern periods has removed the archaeological remains above ground. Aerial photography coupled with field walking and research in museum collections may reveal evidence for such sites but such intensive work would have to be spread out over a number of years, taking advantage of varied weather conditions, and it lies outside the scope of the present survey. Of the visible remains, it may be noted that the enclosure in Newtown Stabannon is a tree-ring rather than a ringfort. Cromwells mount, the only other noticeable feature, is a seventeenth century counter-siege work.

The shaded area on the accompanying map (Fig. 27) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Drogheda. The area within the outline of the walls is of , medieval date and the shading has been projected slightly outside to encompass the surrounding fosse which is likely to contain organic deposits. On the north, west and east of the town the shading indicates the approximate extent of the -, suburbs and quays as they are thought to have existed at the end of the seventeenth century. Circles with a radius of 50 m . have been drawn around Cromwell's mount, St. Laurence's hospital and the site of the hospital of St. John, because this should encompass any archaeological features which may be associated with these monuments.

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DUNDALK

The town is situated on the north end of DundalK Bay at . 🕴 the mouth of the Castletown river: The land in its immediate vicinity on the north, west and south consists of low undulating farmland rising from the coast to the 100 foot contour. The land on the east, however, was reclaimed from tidal salt marshes during the post-medieval period. geological base consists of Ordovician and Silurian slates with a soil cover of Brown Earths. In the 1981 census the Urban District of DundalK had a population of 25,610. A report on the archaeological implications of development within the Urban District was recently commissioned and much of the following information is based on that report (Gosling 1983).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

I. PREHISTORIC & EARLY HISTORIC SETTLEMENT IN THE DUNDALK AREA

Although no evidence of Mesolithic date has been discovered in the immediate area of the town a number of occupation sites dating to c.4000 BC have been found at Rockmarshall some three miles to the east (Mitchell 1947; 1949). The discovery of flint scatters at Rath, Soldier's Point and the Hill Street area, and the recent discoveries of rock art indicate that the vicinity of the future town was Known to man during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (Gosling 1983, 13; Clarke 1982). Further evidence for the presence of man during the Bronze Age is afforded by the discovery of a looped spearhead in Demense townland and by two bronze axeheads in the collection of the National Museum of Ireland provenanced as Dundalk (see Inventory below). The , two standing stones at Castletown are the only monumental testimony to the presence of prehistoric man in the locality.

The tribal group associated with the area in Early Historic times was the Conaille Muirthemhne and they appear to have retained control until the coming of the Normans. The settlement pattern seems to have intensified during the first millenium AD (Fig. 45). Twenty three souterrains and ten ringforts are Known from within the Urban District, almost all of which exist on the suburbs and outsKirts of the present town. A cemetery of long stone cists was discovered in the townland of Townparks in 1880 and it probably marks the site of an early monastery (Gosling 1983, 14); Excavations have been conducted on sites of this period at Marshes Upper and Ballybarrack, and the isolated find of a bronze stick pin is Known. Gosling (1983, 16) points out that

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there is no archaeological evidence to substantiate the claim made by O Dolain (1907, 52) and others that there was a pre-Norman town at Dundalk. This view seems to have arisen from early references to Traigh Bhaile and Sraid Baile but it is not clear what sort of features or settlements these names were applied to. Sraid baile appears to be the name applied to the thirteenth century town, while Traigh Bhaile has been translated as "Baile's strand" rather than "the strand town".

II. MEDIEVAL DUNDALK

The earliest evidence for Anglo-Norman activity in the area is the motte of Bertram de Verdun at Castletown, two miles west of the town, frequently referred to as "the castle γ of Dundalc" (see infra). The site of the present town appears to have been considered more advantageous than Castletown for the development of a town. In particular, its position beside the sea meant that it could be used as a port. In \cdot 1275-7 it \cdot is listed among the ports of Ulster and its trade appears to have been based on the importaion of wine and the export of rcorn and fish (Sweetman 1875-86, II, p. 417; Mills 1914, 40; Tempest 1983, 9). Throughout the thirteenth century the 'town : was referred to as the "new town of DundalK" in order to distinguish it from the "old town." based on Castletown. The date of Dundalk's foundation is not Known but? it was most likely during the early thirteenth century. The town is first specifically referred to in 1277 when Basilia, widow of Nicholas de Verdon, claimed dower in both the old and new " towns of Dundalk (McNeill and Otway-Ruthven 1960, xi).

The new town was sited on the south side of a fording / point on the Castletown River, at the northern end of a long narrow gravel ridge. East and west of this ridge were poorly / drained alluvial flats which acted as a restraint to expansion in these directions. Accordingly the town developed along a linear plan. The ridge rose to a maximum height of 11.6 m O.D. and it was at this point that the parish church / of St. Nicholas was located. Although the town subsequently expanded along the ridge to Park Street and Dublin Street, it was restricted to the northern end of the ridge during the thirteenth - fifteenth centuries and covered an area of approximately 48 acres (19 hectares) (Gosling 1983, 27-8).

In 1316 the town was captured by Edward Bruce and the Pembridge annals record that it was then plundered and burned (Gilbert 1884, II, 345). Gosling (1983, 42) notes that the town was assaulted on thirteen further occasions before 1600, indicating that it was in a frontier position. In 1394 Richard II visited DundalK and he Knighted O'Neill and three other Irish Kings there. During the sixteenth century DundalK (was, as O'Sullivan (1965, 15) remarKs, the cocKpit in the struggle between the Tudor administration and the O'Neills of Ulster. The O'Neills beseiged the town on a number of occasions and it was here that English armies gathered before marching into Ulster. O'Sullivan (1965, 17) suggests that the Reformation made little impact on the town because although monastic properties were confiscated, most of the population remained catholic.

III. POST-MEDIEVAL DUNDALK

The insurrection of 1641 was an important turning point in the history of the town. A number of the citizens were aware of the forthcoming rebellion and the town fell to Sir Phelim O'Neill without much difficulty. With the failure of the rebel seige of Drogheda the advancing government forces under Sir Henry Tichbourne beseiged the town in 1642 and subsequently captured and plundered it. In 1649 the town surrendered to the Cromwellian forces. After the surrender the town was forfeited to Parliament and a great expulsion of γ_1 the inhabitants took place which appears to have had detrimental effects on the town's prosperity and in 1657 the -Plantation Commissioners were still looking for new settlers to come to the town (O'Sullivan 1965, 18). Little is Known of $^\circ$ the state of trade or industry during the seventeenth century. It has been suggested that the manufacture of linen was introduced, probably with the aid of Huguenot settlers from the Continent after 1685 (O'Sullivan 1966, 12). In 1689 the town was abandoned to Schomberg by the Jacobites but it was subsequently reoccupied by them after the spread of disease forced the Williamites to withdraw. In June 1690 the town was once more abandoned by James' forces as King William advanced southwards to the Boyne. The departure of the armies marked the last time that Dundalk was threatened by siege and in the following two centuries its industry and commerce were to increasingly prosper (O'Sullivan 1966, 18).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY -

- 1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN.
- 2. BURGAGE PLOTS AND PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 3. DOMESTIC HOUSES
- 4. MARKET PLACES
- 5. QUAYS
- 6. THE BRIDGE
- 7. TOWN DEFENCES
 - 8. ST. NICHOLAS' PARISH CHURCH
- 3. FRANCISCAN FRIARY
 - 10. THE HOSPITAL PRIORY OF ST. LEONARD
- 11. SUBURBS
 - 12. MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES
 - 13. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN

The medieval town was essentially linear in plan being based on the north - south axis of Bridge Street, Church Street and Clanbrassil Street. As Gosling (1983, 28) remarks: "The pre-eminence of this street in the overall street-pattern of the town suggests that it was the primary feature around which the town developed. It may also explain the origin of the town's early name, "Stratbali" - meaning Street Town - which is used as an alternative to "Newtown of Dundalk" in two mid-thirteenth century deeds (McNeill and Otway-Ruthven 1960, Nos. 3, 5)."

Gosling (1983, 28-31) has also indicated that there are hints of a more elaborate street plan. A series of secondary streets were laid out at the wider northern end of the ridge: Nicholas Street, Yorke Street, Horse Lane (now defunct) and Camp Street (now Wolfe Tone Terrace). Indeed Camp Street may have been continued westwards to link up with John Street. In addition there was a lane on the west of Bridge Street running northwards from John Street to Maxwell' Row.

The Dowdall Deeds are the principal source for the streetnames of medieval DundalK and while most of them can be identified a number are unlocalised. "Lytlane", mentioned in 1333 may be an early name for John Street or Yorke Street (McNeill and Otway-Ruthven 1960, No. 117). The "common lane" and "Coultstreet" mentioned in 1538 and 1660 respectively cannot now be identified (McNeill and Otway-Ruthven 1960, Nos. 541, 698). The following is a list of the Known medieval street names with their modern equivalents (for sources see * Gosling 1983, Fig. 12):

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» Modern	Medieval & Bost-Medieval	Date
0	Post-Medieval 🖓	
Bridge Street	Northgatstret -	·1538
	North Street 💀 🔹	1689
Church Street	High Street	1543
	Cow Market & Shop Street	1675
Clanbrassil Street	High Street	1477
	-	
John Street	?The lane in le north end	1466
	Markethill Street	1659
Kelly's Court	Horsstret	1538 ×
	Horse Lane	1543
Linenhall Street	CornmarKet Street	1659
	Cornstrette	1689
Nicholas Street &		
Wolfe Tone Terrace	Le Camstret 👘 👘	1318
Nicholas Street	Back Lane	1675
	Back Bane	1010
Wolfe Tone Terrace	Camp Street	1611
Yorke Street	Stafflane-	1594
	The common way leading of	
	to Seatown	1599 🐇
	Lanstaffegate Lane 👘 🖓 💈	1659

The Dowdall Deeds also show the existence of larger subdivisions, termed "quarters" during the fifteenth century, but it is not Known if these were simply descriptive terms or administrative units. Gosling (1983, Fig. 13) has made any preliminary identification of the Known quarters: le north quarter, le midelquarter, the upper quarter, and Seatown.

2. BURGAGE PLOTS AND PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

As outlined in the case of Drogheda these were the standard building units of medieval town planning and were generally laid out at right angles to the street forming a long, narrow strips of ground. Gosling (1983, 32) has analysed plot widths within the town and has concluded that , those along Clanbrassil St., Church St. and Bridge St. average between 39-51 feet in width, while those in John Street and Linenhall Street were broader, averaging between 36-99 feet. This may indicate that the plots in the Linenhall Street and Wolfe Tone Terrace area were laid out after those on Clanbrassil St. = Bridge Street had been established (Gosling 1983, 30, 32).

3. DOMESTIC HOUSES

Nothing now remains of the domestic housing of Dundalk prior to 1700. However, there are documentary references to houses and shops from the thirteenth century and a sixteenth century map (Pl. 34) shows a number of fortified town houses whose location can be plotted approximately and specifically names two of them: Rothe's castle and Mrs. Howth's castle (see O'Sullivan 1963, 288-9). Five other fortified town house sites have been plotted by Gosling (1983, Appendix 6, Nos. 8, 41, 57, 111, 249) and these are shown on Figs. 45-6. Two seventeenth century houses have also been plotted by Gosling (1983, Appendix 6, Nos. 65, 108). It is unfortunate that most of the houses for which there is documentary evidence cannot be precisely localised (Gosling (1983, Appendix 6, Nos. 40, 42, 47, 71, 100, 109, 112, 236, 321, 322, 324-7).

4. MARKET PLACES

The medieval marKet place was of linear form and was located in Church Street. It expanded slightly at both the north and south ends. The marKet cross was situated in the southern expansion, a somewhat oval-shaped area 24 m across. This cross was established during the thirteenth century but the date of its removal is not Known (McNeill and Otway-Ruthven 1960, No. 3). The northern expansion is specifically referred to as Cow MarKet in a 1675 map of Dundalk (O'Sullivan 1966, map facing p. 10). Gosling (1983, 30) suggests that this may be later than the southern expansion. The MarKet Sq., Roden Place, and the Fair Green appear to have been established in the seventeenth century (Gosling 1983, 29).

5. QUAYS

Nothing is Known of the form of the harbour area during the Middle Ages but it appears to have been located on the south side of the Castletown river and probably just outside / the north and north east walls of the town, replaced by the Fair Green during the seventeenth century (Gosling-1983, 164: No. 52).

6. THE BRIDGE

The ford across the Castletown river must have been one of the factors which influenced the choice of site for Dundalk in the thirteenth century and the presence of prehistoric objects in the vicinity, together with the alleged find of three swords beside the bridge (see below) suggests that it may have been used from ancient times. The date of the bridge's construction is not Known but it is likely that a structure was built soon after the town was founded in the thirteenth century. Little is Known of the successor bridges but because of the waterlogged conditions it is likely that archaeological deposits survive intact here. A stone bridge of three arches is shown on Richardson's map of 1680 (D'Alton and O'Flanagan 1864, 264-5).

Gosling (1983, 169: Nos. 114-5) notes the two seventeenth century bridges which spanned the Ramparts river. There was also a mill-race and pond on this river (Gosling 1983, 172: No: 151).

7. TOWN DEFENCES

No visible features remain today of the medieval or post-medieval defences, most of which were removed during the "improvement" of the town by Lord Limerick during the 1730's and 1740's. However, it is possible to plot their approximate outline from documentary sources and the seventeenth century maps of the town, in particular that of Symone Garstin in 1655 (D'Alton and O'Flanagan 1864, between pp. 262-3).

The earliest direct reference to the wall is in 1315 (McNeill and Otway-Ruthven 1960, No. 46) but it is likely that work had been commenced on it sometime before because murage was collected in 1305 (Mills 1914, 126). Further murage grants were made in 1350, 1412, 1415, 1424 and 1445 (D'Alton and O'Flanagan 1864, 63, 76, 87; Tresham 1828, 200: No. 87; Tempest 1943, 182). In 1458 a statute enacted that a trench be dug around the town and linked with the sea (D'Alton and O'Flanagan 1864, 85).

Gosling (1983, 43-6) has identified four phases in the development of the defences. The first phase, during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, saw the construction of the wall on the north, west and south sides. During the second phase, which commenced after the statute of 1458, the eastern side was enclosed by a fosse and probably an earthen banK. The third phase was the construction of a wall on the sixteenth century. The fourth phase saw the enclosing of the southern suburb and Seatown, on the east; this had occurred by the mid-seventeenth century.

Description

The Medieval Town (Fig. 46)

The wall enclosed an irregularly shaped elongated area of roughly 19 hectares (48 acres). The perimeter was almost 2000 m long. Apart from cartographical evidence nothing is "Known of the architecture of the gates and towers and even their precise position is uncertain. TOWER 1 was located in the south west angle of the town and would appear to have been rectangular in plan.

TOWER 2 would also appear from Garstin's map to have been rectangular.

- CASTLETOWN GATE at the west end of John Street was the principal gate on the west side. Garstin's map shows what looks like a circular tower outside the gate and Gosling (1983, 48) suggests that this may be the remains of a barbican.
- TOWER 3 was sited at the north-west angle and is shown somewhat schematically on Richardson map of 1680 (D'Alton and O'Flanagan 1864, 264-5).

NORTH GATE (Water Gate) controlled the bridge and would appear to have been rectangular.

BLIND GATE may be so called because it led to the alluvial flats outside the town on the north rather than to any roadway. Conversely, it may have been blocked up.

TOWERS 4 and 5 appear to have been of semi-circular plan and Gosling (1983, 48) suggests that they may have been of open-backed D-shaped form. Tower 5 appears to have been situated close to Seatown Gate and this has led Gosling to suggest that it may have been built later than the gate. The course of the defences on the east side of the town is based of on Gosling (1983) and it would appear from maps, such as Richardson's, that this side was protected by a trench and earthen bank rather than by a wall.

SEATOWN GATE (Lanstaffe Gate) was probably of rectangular plan.

WARREN'S GATE was the southern entry to the town and would also appear to have been of rectangular plan.

The suburb of Upper End

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The defences of this area, south of the medieval town, would appear to have been constructed during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Gosling (1983, 44-5) suggests that the west side may have been of stone and that the remainder consisted of earthen defences. The east side was bounded by a stream whose name, Rampart river, is derived from the former fortifications. The angled projection of the wall on the north-west and south-east sides (see Fig. 44) indicates the former presence of artillery defence works here. There were three gates in this sector:

The name of the GATE at the south end of Anne Street has not survived. It is schematically shown on Richardson's map and it is not possible to say anything definite about its form. POUND GATE was located in Dublin Street and may have been of rectangular plan.

UPPER SEATOWN GATE was in Francis Street and was probably of the rectangular plan.

Seatown

Gosling (1983, 45, 49) suggests that this area was renclosed by the close of the sixteenth century by the mill-race Known as "the Ramparts". It is not clear, however, , if the Seatown area was enclosed by earthen banks or not.

8. ST. NICHOLAS' PARISH CHURCH

The reference to Roger "Dean of Dundalk" mentioned in 1207 has been taken by most writers, including Leslie (1911, +279), to relate to the parish church of DundalK town but it is at least equally liKely that this refers to a church tat * Castletown Dundalk which was the earlier of the two settlements. The earliest undoubted reference to the church is a dispute regarding presentation to the churches of Dundalk, Castletown and Kene in 1297 which appears to infer that these churches were in existence in the time of Betram de Verdun, a century before (Mills 1904, 112-4). There were three chantries attached to the church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity and SS. Mary and Catherine (Leslie 1911, 285). The , church was rebuilt in 1707 and repairs were carried out throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (Leslie) # × 1911, 286-7).

The church consists of a short chancel with wide transepts and a nave having a bell tower at the west end. Some fragments of medieval masonry are incorporated into the structure. The tower is the most substantial of these. It is rectangular with three stories and a projecting stair-turret on the south-west. The tower is entered through a door in the east wall and a spiral stairs leads from it to the first and second floors. The third floor is taken up with a modern clock and is reached from the second floor by a stair built into the thickness of the west. A number of windows in the tower retain their wickerwork centering. The floor space on each level is occupied with the workings of the clock.

The south wall of the nave may be the inner wall of the south aisle of the medieval church and two old piers are incorporated in the present wall. This restructuring of the south aisle appears to have talken place in 1706. The presence of a piscina in the east wall of the south transept suggests that this is also medieval. The piscina has pointed chamfered mouldings with central drainage hole in the form of a quarterefoil. The chancel of the medieval church extended further east than the present wall and a wall-fragment east of the church, beside the Bellew monument, may be part of the

original south wall. The window mullions on the south and east walls are remnants of the medieval church windows. The 🖓 most easterly window in the south side has a three-light ogee-headed window with small circular windows above. The east window has a drip moulding terminating in two heads; another decorated head is inserted into the stonework nearby." "This window incorporates 22 fragments of medieval and seventeenth century stained glass reset in circular a medallions. The glass was presented to the church by Lord Roden but its provenance is not Known. All appear to be of * Dutch manufacture. Within the nineteenth century vestry on the north-east side of the church is an elaborate window of sixteenthround-headed or early seventeenth-century character. It has three lights with tudor roses and Knots in the spandrels and a hood moulding with decorated label stops. The left side has an entwined four Ieaf vine spray and the right has an animal with a twisted leavy tail.

MONUMENTS (Fig. 47)

Slab. 1565-82.

4 1

* Worn rectangular limestone slab is set in the floor of the porch with a marginal blackletter inscription:

HIC JACENT CORPA IOHANI ... 0 T . CC / / ANO DNI 1565 ET FILIA OBUIT / 17 AUGUST A DNI 1582 AIA NP A PNI HUNC FIERI FECIT ET A DNI 158.

Dims: L. 246 W. 109 cm Tempest 1955, 40

John Bellew & Ismay Nugent, 1588.

Rectangular limestone table tomb designed to stand against a wall. Placed on the east side of the church. The table top is plain except for deeply chamfered sides. One end panel is decorated with the Bellew arms impaling Nugent surrounded by a wreath and having the letters I B and I N in the upper corners. Marginal Roman inscription in low false relief, partially damaged:

[This mon JVMENT WAS / ERECTED THE FOVRTH DAY OF IVNE (1588 BY THE / [appointment] AND AT / THE chardg of Sir John Bellew Knight / and Dame] ISMAEy / nu JGENT HIS WIFE FOR THER BVRIAL1 VNT / O WHOM GOD BE M/ERCIFVLL'.

Dims: Table top: H. 21 L. 234 W. 128; Surrounds: H. 50 L. 204 W. 120 cm.

Jrl Assoc. Preservation Memorials Dead Ireland I (1888-92), 1449; VII (1907-9); 149; Tempest 1955, 15.

John Mortimer & Jennet Brady. 1634 Rectangular limestone slab at the east end of the church with a worn coat of arms in the centre of the slab. Marginal Roman inscription in false relief: HEERE VNDER LYETH / THE BODY OF IOHN MORTIMER OF DVND / 7

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ALKE ALDERMAN WHOE DECEASED THE 8 DAY OF MA / Y ANO DOMINI 1 / 634 VNTO WHOSE SOVLE TH / E LORDE HA /VE MERCIE WHOE HAD TO WY / FE IENNET B / Irady]'. Dims: H. 10 L. 200 W. 106 cm Jrl Assoc. Preservation Memorials Dead Ireland I (1888-92), 449; VII (1907-9), 147; Tempest 1955, 15.

Thomas Feld. 1536. Plain rectangular slab at the east end of the church outside the sacristy window. Marginal blackletter inscription in false relief:

HIC JACET CORPA THOME / FELD HUIS VILLE QUODA FAMOSI BURGESI PRESTE CAPEL / LE FUDATOR MARGARETEQS HO / LYWOD UXORS FUE Q OBIERUT ILLE DR 13 KL IN ET ILLA 16 KL / APLS ANO DNI 1536'

Dims: H. 14 L. 230 W. 120 cm.

Jrl Assoc. Preservation Memorials Dead Ireland VII (1907-9), 142-3.

OLD FINDS (Fig. 48)

In a box in the church vestry are several fragments of fifteenth century line-impressed floor tiles which were discovered in the chancel when the modern floor was put in together with some fragments of very fine glass. During the summer of 1983 a new organ was set into the church floor, at the junction of the nave and south transept, to a depth of 50cm and in the process some burials were noted.

9. FRANCISCAN FRIARY (Fig. 49; Pl. 35a)

The foundation date of the monastery is not Known but it is first referred to in 1246 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 249). The founder would appear to have been a member of the De Verdun family, perhaps Rohesia who died in 1247. When Dundalk was plundered during the Bruce invasion the guardian and twenty two friars were Killed. After the Dissolution the buildings were thrown down and in 1616 only the tower, which survives today, remained of the friary (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 249).

The rectangular tower has four floors with a wall-walk above and measures 7.8 by 6.8 m externally. The masonry consists of coursed limestones and slates with sandstone jambs and quoins. Fifteenth century. The ground floor has a pointed arch on the east and west sides but that on the West has been blocked up with modern masonry. The vault is rounded and traces of the wickerwork centering are present. Entry to the first floor level is via an external porch of modern date. It is lit by two pointed single light windows, one in the south wall and the other in the east. The second and

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third floors are similar to the first but the third has twin-light windows with a medallion in the spandrel on the north and south sides, and single light pointed windows on the north and south. The wall-walk had stepped crenellations and a turret projects above this level in the north west angle. Externally there are carved heads at third floor level on on the west and south walls.

10. THE HOSPITAL PRIORY OF ST. LEONARD (Fig. 50; P1. 356)

This hospital was established at an early date in the development of the town although opinions vary as to whether it was founded by Bertram de Verdun or his son, Nicholas. In either event it would appear to have been a going concern by 1218 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 212). At the Dissolution the monastery consisted of a church, chapter house, dormitory, hall and other buildings (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 213).

The only surviving fragment is part of a vaulted chamber situated at the back of the present County Library buildings. The masonry consists of coursed limestone with a rubble core. The chamber has a pointed vault and is open on the west side. The remains are featureless except for a fragmentary door in r the north wall of which only the jambs remain. Although the features of this building are of medieval character, it is not possible to assign it a close date.

Ten stone-lined graves were discovered in the vicinity of this chamber in 1948 and a small number of memorials survive in the adjoining graveyard which has been turned into a park.

MEMORIALS

Grave slab. 1567. Rectangular limestone slab with traces of foliage decoration (?shield mantling) and a marginal Roman inscription: HERE LIE N AN DN 1567. Dims. H. 53 W. 30 cm.

Uninscribed slab. 16th-17th cent. Fragment of a large rectangular limestone slab with the upper part of a shield. It has an elaborate mantling. The crest is a lion or dog holding a sword above a helmet and the shield has a bar in chief and a chevron. Dims. H. 100 W. 91 T. 19 cm.

Uninscribed slab. 18th-17th cent. Fragment of a rectangular limestone slab with a sub-rectangular recess containig a sKull and crossed bones in relief. Dims. H. 75 W. 92 T. 13 cm. Granite stone

Mounted on a modern pedestal at the west end of the graveyard is a large Kidney-shaped granite stone with concave smoothed exterior, Known as the "font". Its function is unKnown. Dims. H. 52 W. 128 T. 100 cm.

11. SUBURBS

"Upper-End": the Southern Suburb

This suburb was located outside Warren's Gate, the southern entry to the town, and it appears to have been established by the fourteenth century. Its topography was influenced by the elongated shape of the gravel ridge and consequently it has a linear emphasis. By the mid-seventeenth century when a series of maps were made it was a built up area with its own defences. The manner in which the suburb developed is unclear because of a gap in documentation between the fourteenth and the late sixteenth century. On analogy with other towns, such as Drogheda and Kilkenny, it is likely that the built-up area of the medieval suburb was small and that expansion did not occur until after 1570. Gosling (1983, Fig. 16) has listed the street names of this suburb and these show that formal names were not in use until the end of the seventeenth century.

Seatown

It is likely that a medieval suburb existed in the vicintiy of the Franciscan friary and the hospital of St.Leonard. Properties in the "villa maryna" of Dundalk are first referred to in the fourteenth century (McNeill and Otway-Ruthven 1960, Nos. 253, 256).

12. MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES

In addition to the monuments detailed above others are Known from documentary sources but often their precise position cannot be established. Windmills existed in the Seatown area during the late sixteenth century according to Henry DuKes' map of 1594 (Pl. 34; Gosling 1983, 172: No. 149). During the seventeenth century there was a pound in Dublin Street and a number of Kilns and malthouses are also (Known (Gosling 1983, Appendix 6: Nos. 207, 240-6, 250-4).

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Prehistoric

1. Polished stone axehead. Found about 1 ft deep in a garden at Newry Road, Dowdallshill, Dundalk, NMI 1962:244 (Jrl. Roy. Soc. Antiqs. Ireland 94 (1964), 86).

2. Flint scatter. From Ardee Road, Td. Rath. NMI (Gosling 1983, 160: No. 3).

3. Flint scatter. From Point Td. In private possession (Gosling 1983, 178: No. 229)

4. Flint scatter. From Newtownbalregan. In private possession (Gosling 1983, 178: No. 230).

5. Flint scatter. Toberona area. In private possession / (Gosling 1983, 178: No. 233).
6. Flint scatter. From west of Hill Street, Townparks Td. In private possession (Gosling 1983, 193: No. 443).

7. Flint flake. From west of Demense Road, Demense Td. NMI (Gosling 1983, 166: No. 85).

8. Bronze flanged axehead. From Dundalk. NMI 1956:32.

9. Bronze looped spearhead. From south side of Castletown Road, Demense Td. NMI (Gosling 1983, 171: No. 146).

10. Bronze socKeted axehead. Apparently from DundalK. NMI 1956: 288.

Early Historic and Medieval 11. Bronze stick pin. Found near Dundalk in 1849. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto: Sturge (ex-Bateman collection) 918.33.83 (Pryor 1976, 85: No. 38).

12. Disc quern, medieval. From OaKlawns housing estate. NMI (Gosling 1983, 180: No. 257).

Post-Medieval 13. Iron dagger. From stream at Marian Park, Dundalk. NMI 1968: 417.

14. Bronze tripod cauldron. Found 6 ft under ground surface at St. Mary's College, Dundalk. NMI 1957: 130.

15. Silver coin, 17th cent. From Convent of Mercy, Seatown. Coll. unKnown (Gosling 1983, 160: No. 10).

16. Copper toKen, 17th cent. From DundalK. Coll. unKnown © (Gosling 1983, 173: No. 167).

17. Sword hilt, ?17th cent. From Park Villas, Demense Td. (Gosling 1983, 175: No. 190).

Miscellaneous 18. Stone mould for a (?bronze) arrowhead. Found at Dundalk. NMI W.96.

Gosling (1983, 169: No. 121) notes the discovery of three "swords" in the Castletown river, immediately west of the Big Bridge; their location is unKnown.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF DUNDALK

Both the documentary sources and the Known archaeological 🦇 remains indicate that DundalK was occupied continuously from the thirteenth century into the post-medieval period. A large number of archablogical sites are Known to have existed within the town but only a small portion of them can be plotted with any accuracy. The town walls, gatehouses, mural towers and the principal medieval buildings were demolished ouring the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The only remains which survive above ground are the towers of St. Nicholas' parish church and the Franciscan friary, and a vaulted chamber of the hospital of St. Leonard. However, $\tilde{\epsilon}$ although the destruction of buildings above ground has been almost total, the street pattern of the medieval and post-medieval town is largely intact. The town's historic core is further highlighted by the predominance of low-rise 🕴 buildings in its streetscape. In the absence of archaeological excavations little can be said of the extent \sim and depth of archaeological deposits. Gosling \sim (1983, \sim 75-91) has examined the area in detail and it is perhaps convenient here to consider the archaeological heritage under the units identified by him:

The Medieval Town

It would appear that 0.5 hectares or 2.5% of this area has already been archaeologically destroyed. Of the remainder, some 3.4 hectares or 17% lie under the present streets where deposits are likely to have suffered damage from the installation of services. The extent and depth of the surviving deposits in the undisturbed areas is unclear but it is unlikely to exceed three metres in depth. Sub-surface remains of the medieval and post-medieval defences, however, are likley to be somewhat deeper than this (Gosling 1983, 79). A detailed plot has shown that 15.8% of the area is occupied by derelict and vacant buildings or waste properties indicating that the potential for re-development of large areas within the town is high (Gosling 1983, 96-99).

The Suburb of Upper-End

Although there are references to this area in the fourteenth century it is unlikely that it was built-up until the seventeenth. Gosling's (1983, 81-2) examination of cuttings in this area led him to conclude that the depth 'and extent of archaeological deposits is likely to be variable

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- with the oldest and thicKest strata in MarKet Sq., Earl St., and the northern end of ParK St. The destruction of archaeological deposits in this area is not Known for definite but the presence of cellars suggests that it may be extensive. Archaeological deposits in the southern part of
- the area are likely to be shallow and late in date.

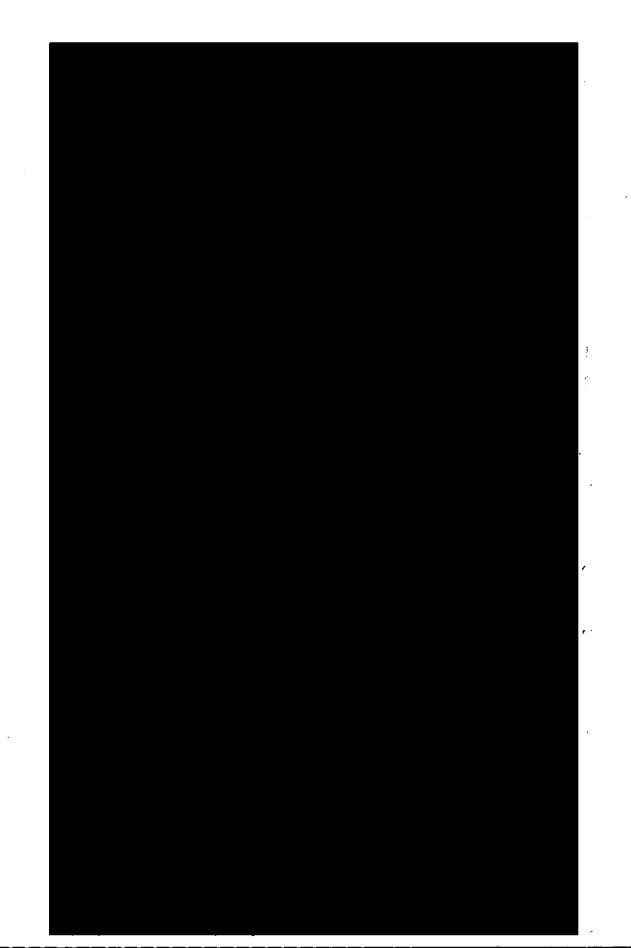
🗸 Seatown

The Franciscan friary and the hospital of St. Leonard were substantial stone buildings and it is likely that their foundations and the archaeological deposits associated with them survive beneath the ground surface. It is difficult to guage the depth of archaeological deposit but it is unlikely to be greater than two metres. The destruction of deposits to date is unlikely to be heavy but Gosling (1983, 85) concludes that due to the relative thinness of the archaeological levels, even shallow foundations may have caused disturbance.

Rural Archaeological Sites

Within the environs of DundalK there are some thirty-six individual sites of archaeological interest whose location is Known (Gosling 1983, Appendix 4). These range widely in date from the neolithic to post-medieval times. 78% of these have no surface indications and are Known only from aerial photography or old accounts. Recent archaeological excavations at BallybarracK and Marshes Upper have indicated that archaeological deposits can extend to 100 m from an individual site and that they may be up to three metres in depth.





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DUNLEER

The town is located in lowlying undulating countryside beside the White River and astride the main Drogheda-Dundalk road. The present plan, which is essentially linear, appears to date from the late seventeenth century when the borough was incorporated. However, the archaeology of the site begins a much earlier as the presence of Early Christian and Anglo-Norman remains indicate.

The name is regarded as a corruption of Lann Leire, "the church of austerity" (Hogan 1910, 475) but when precisely the change from Lann to Dun occurred is not Known. There is a strong local tradition associating the site with St. Briget but the founders of the monastery were SS. Forodran and Baithen who probably established it during the sixth or seventh centuries (O Fachtna 1954, 152; Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 35). The site would appear to have been an important one as it is frequently mentioned in the annals. Abbots are Known from the time of Maenach who died in 721 and their deaths are recorded until the early tenth century. O Fachtna <1954, 152) states that the genealogies indicate that they were all drawn from the Ui Cruinn, a branch of the * Airghialla, to whom the founders also belonged. The monastery was burned by the ViKings in 828 and was subsequently plundered in 921, 940, 970, 1002, 1050 and 1148.

With the coming of the Anglo-Normans Dunleer became the centre of an important manor held from before 1221 by the family of De Audeley in fee from Hugh de Lacy (Sweetman) 1875-86, i, Nos. 994, 1505). The family were still in possession during the early fifteenth century but the subsequent history of the manor is not Known (Tresham 1828, p. 224 No. 19). Incidental references suggest that there was some form of village settlement here during the early thirteenth century and this is further indicated by the grant in 1252 of a weekly market and annual fair to Henry de Audley at his manor of Dunleer (Sweetman 1875-86, ii, No. 22). The $r_{
m f}$ duration and nature of this settlement during the succeeding centuries is not clear, however, because apart from its use as a patronymic Dunleer does not appear again in documentary sources until the seventeenth century.

In 1682 the manor was granted by Charles II to William Legge, Baron Dartmouth, one of his father's royalist supporters and in the following year Dunleer was incorporated, the last of the Irish boroughs to receive corporate status (O Fachtna 1954, 154). The Legge family sold their Irish estates in 1698 and their position as patrons of the borough was taken over during the eighteenth century by the Fosters and Coddingtons (Malcomson 1971).

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The archaeological remains within the town consist of the parish church and motte. There are no visible seventeenth century features.

THE MOTTE

This small round mound lies on the south side of Dunleer on sloping ground overlooking the White River. It is 5 m high and has a basal width of 16 m narrowing to 10.2 m at the flat top. There is no evidence for a bailey but the ground on the south and west of the motte is slightly higher than elsewhere and this may indicate that the bailey has been ploughed down.

PARISH CHURCH

The early history of this site dedicated to SS. Forodhran and Baithen (Frethan and Brethan) has been outlined above. The only remains from the Early Historic Period are three « cross slabs but it may be suggested that on analogy with other early monastic sites such as DuleeK and Kells the broad curve in Main Street as it sweeps northwards around the church preserves the line of the early monastic terminus.

The present church dates largely from a reconstruction in 1881 but the north transept is slightly earlier, having been built in 1831 (Leslie 1948, 109), but it incorporates within the west tower a pointed door and round-headed window, both of two orders, regarded by Killanin and Duignan (1962, 264) as transitional in style. It is not clear when these pieces were reset. Apart from the nineteenth century restorations Leslie (1911, 292-3) records remodelling during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Monuments

1. Early Christian cross slab. Sandstone. Damaged. Decorated with a deeply recessed ringed cross on a stepped pyramidal base. The cross and base are outlined by an incised line. Dims. H. 40 W. 35 D. 7

2. Early Christian cross slab. Grey shaley limestone. Damaged. Decorated with three ringed crosses in relief except for the outer circles which are incised. The lower cross is equal-armed within a double circle. The center example is a form of cross patee within a double circle. The upper cross although damaged appears to f have been similar but is incised within a single ring. Dims: H. 76 W.40 D. 10

Limestone. Incised ringed latin cross with hollowed angles at the crossing, set within a panel framed by two lines. Within \circ the quadrants of the cross are A, ω , IhS, XPI and outside it the inscription:

OR DO MAELPH...

Dims. H. 102 W. 52 D. 7 cm.

Macalister 1949, 30: No. 578.

Nos. 1-3 are situated in the church porch. A second Early Christian inscribed slab was recorded here during the eighteenth century but it is now missing. It bore the inscription: OR AR SUIBNE.

4. Richard Basford 1679. Limestone slab set in an upright position within the south east angle of the graveyard. It is partially buried but the upper half bears an incised inscription set within a shield:

'HERE LIES THE / BODY OF RICH / ARD BASFORD / WHO DECEASED / THE 30 DAY OF APRILL 1679'.

Dims: H. 130 W. 52 D. 20 cm.

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THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF DUNLEER

The evidence outlined above indicates that Dunleer was a centre of human occupation during the Early Historic and Anglo-Norman periods but there is nothing to suggest that it was a town prior to the seventeenth century.

The historical references and surviving grave slabs show that Dunleer was an important monastery during the Early Historic period and in view of the fact that nothing is Known of its layout or features, any opportunity that arises to a examine it should be utilised. The precise extent of the monastery, however, cannot be determined with any accuracy in F the present state of Knowledge. The curving of Main Street as it rounds the church suggests that this may mark the original monastic boundary and on the accompanying map (Fig. 52) this curve is continued on the north, east and south to allow for 🖗 $\cdot \cdot$ a similar spread on these sides. The White River might be considered as a "natural" boundary on the east side but this is unliKely because streams are Known[®] to flow through monastic complexes, such as DuleeK for instance.

The motte is the only surviving feature of the Anglo-Norman settlement but the references to a market and "vill" here during the thirteenth century suggest that some form of village settlement may have existed here. On analogy

with deserted medieval villages in south east Ireland this would most likely have been placed between the motte and parish church. Nothing at all is Known of its status or size: if it contracted or expanded, was there continuous habitation throughout the Middle Ages or temporary desertion?

Knowledge of the seventeenth century settlement is also meagre despite the increase in the amount of source material. It is not clear why Dunleer should have risen from relative obscurity at the beginning of the seventeenth century to being an incorporated borough, returning two members to parliament, by its end. Does the early seventeenth century witness a gradual growth in the settlement's development which was confirmed by the granting of the charter, or did the charter create a borough from nowhere? The borough would appear to have been focused on Main Street and the shaded area on the accompanying map (Fig. 52) includes these houses and their associated plots stretching to the long boundary on the west which would appear to delimit the borough's extent.

LOUTH

Louth is fairly centrally located within the old plain of Muitheimne beside the River Glyde. The immediate vicinity of the site is lowlying with some marshy ground on the north and a prominent ridge overlooking the town on the south. The placename is the genitive form of Lugh, one of the principal deities of the pagan Celts. It suggests, although there is no archaeological evidence to support it, that this was the site of a shrine in pre-Christian times.

It was the site of an important early monastery dedicated to St. Mochta who died in 535 or 537 according to the Annals of Ulster. It was plundered on a number of occasions by the Vikings and the annals record the names of many of its abbots. For a time during the twelfth century it was the see of a bishopric (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 92-3) but its area of jurisdiction was taken over by Clogher and Louth itself became part of the diocese of Armagh. It was burned on four occasions during the twelfth century, in 1148, 1152, 1160, and 1166, a frequency which indicates the importance which the monastery had in the eyes of contemporaries.

1176, according to the Annals of Ulster, In the Anglo-Normans made their first raid on Louth and it would appear likely that they began to settle here shortly after. A castle, probably the present motte, was in existence by 1196 because it was burnt in that year (Orpen 1911-20, ii, 124). The manor of Louth was retained in the King's hands during rthe early thirteenth century and was visitied by King John in 1210 (Orpen 1911-20, ii, 250). In 1221 an annual fair was established "at the King's vill of Louth" and that year is also the earliest reference to a borough here (Sweetman # 1375-36, i, Nos. 337, 1010). There are few references to the settlement after the thirteenth century but a petition of 🔅 1406 recounts how it lies between the English and the Irish enemies, the McMawns, by whom it had been burnt and destroyed so that many of the inhabitants had fled through fear (Tresham 1828, p. 180: No. 13). This decline appears to have continued into the seventeenth century.

THE MOTTE

Louth was the centre of a large manor, held initially by the crown but granted with Castlering to Geoffrey de Lusignan in 1254 (Sweetman 1875-86, ii, No. 524). It formed part of the lands given to John de Birmingham in 1319 when he was created Earl of Louth but by the mid fifteenth century it had come into the hands of the Bathe family (Morrissey 1839, 13). Its subsequent history and the period of its desertion are unKnown.

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The motte is situated at the south west of the town on top of a prominent ridge which affords a commanding view of the surrounding countryside. It consists of a round mound 6.25 m high, having a basal width of 36 m narrowing to 12 m at the flat top. It is surrounded by a fosse on average 5.9 m wide and 1.5 m deep. Wright's drawing of 1748 (Pl. 36) shows that there was a bank outside this fosse with an external ditch. This bank only survives now on the south east where it is 4.1 m broad. The narrow bank shown running to the east and west by Wright is still visible. It is 1 m wide and runs into the present field boundaries. It may have formed part of the town ramparts.

ST. MOCHTA'S HOUSE (Fig. Pl. 38a)

This formed a part of the early monastery established by St. Mochta which has been briefly described above. It is not possible to guage the exact extent of this monastery and this building is the only indicator of the situation of the early church within the present town.

Stone built rectangular oratory with a roof croft. It has external dimensions of 6.2 by 5.05 m and internally is 4.28 by 3.1 m. The masonry is of coursed sandstone with limestone quoins. Probably eleventh or twelfth century in date. Conservation works were conducted by the Office of Public Works in 1934 (Leask 1837).

The entrance was on the west side and it has been reconstructed as a flat lintelled doorway. The ground floor is roofed by a barrel vault and has a window with stepped internal splay in the east wall; this was given a rounded head during reconstruction works. In the south wall is a small rectangular lintelled cupboard. In the north wall is a lintelled door giving access to a curving stair rising to the croft above. The croft has a pointed arched roof and is featureless except for a reconstructed flat-headed window with internal splay in the east wall. The roof is steeply pitched and rises to a height of 7.5 m. It was originally slightly higher but the apex stones are missing.

In the course of conservation in 1934 a cist burial was discovered on the south side of the oratory (LeasK 1937, 35). Immediately inside the door are three granite fragments, two of which - the holed stone and quern fragment - were discovered built into the structure during conservation works (LeasK 1937, 35). The third stone is a voussoir but its findplace is unKnown.

AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF ST. MARY (Fig. ____; Pls. 37, 38 b, c)

It is evident from the Dissolution documents that the

monastery also functioned as the parish church of medieval Louth (White 1943, 228; cf. Leslie 1911, 363). It was established in 1148 by Donnchad Ua Cerbaill, King of Airghialla and Aidan O Caellaidhe, Bishop of Louth (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 186). On his death in 1182 the bishop was buried here. In 1400 it was valued at 400 marKs, maKing it one of the richest monasteries in Ireland according to Gwynn and Hadcock (1970, 186). At the Dissolution there were two castles here in addition to the conventual buildings, of which all trace above ground is now gone. In 1541 it was granted to Oliver PlunKett, Baron of Louth (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 186).

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Only the church survives of the original monastic complex and it consists of a nave and chancel separated by a cross wall, of which only a fragment remains. The masonry consists of coursed limestone and slate with quoins of limestone and sandstone. The main body of the church would appear to be of late thirteenth or early fourteenth century date.

The east gable of the chancel is supported externally by angle butresses with weathering. Some of the gable coping stones are present. It was originally lit by a large pointed 🖗 Window with an internal label, terminating in a human head on the north side, and an external drip mould. This was blocked j up, however, and a smaller window of similar character was inserted in its place. It has a pointed rear arch with , moulded scontions and jambs, and has foliage decoration on the southern impost, Harbison (1973, 40) suggests that the similarity between the larger and smaller east windows that little time indicates elapsed between their 📊 🗉 construction. Above the east window is 👘a small rectangular light. The north wall of the chancel has a pointed window and / a pointed door, both of which are blocked with masonry. The south wall has four pointed windows with fragments of , switchline tracery present (Pl. 38c). Three have a pointed rear arch with moulded scontion and external label but the westernmost has a chamfered scontion and although it is missing its jambs, it would appear to be an insertion. The , label of the second window from the east terminates in a human head. The outline of what may have been either the sedilla or a large mural tablet is present between the easternmost windows. Externally the south wall is supported a by a series of butresses that appear to be late additions.

Harbison (1973, 40-1) has suggested that the remnant of a dividing wall between the nave and chancel may be part of a tower. This seems unlikely, however, because it is referred to as a cross wall in a report of 1692 (Leslie 1911, 362). The wall would have served to separate the monastic community from the general congregation. It may have formed part of a rood screen. Immediately east of the wall is a small recess which may have held a stair providing access to the rood loft. Tempest (1983, 126) states that the church had a tower but according to him it was in the graveyard and portions of it still remained in 1835. The north wall of the nave is entirely modern but the south wall contains a fine pointed window with moulded scontions and decorated capitals at the imposts. The eastern capital is decorated with dog-tooth ornament separated by filleted rolls supported by a head terminating in a Knotted tail (P1. 38b). The western capital has foliage ornament. Nib-holes are present. The doorway west of this window is of modern origin. The west window is pointed with pointed rear arch and external label. Fragments of its switchline tracery are present but the lower portion is blucked up. A number of stones projecting from the exterior of the north west corner suggest that there may have been a mural stair in this position giving access onto the roof.

Monuments

A complete list of the monumental inscriptions in this graveyard has been published by Mallon et al. (1980).

1. Holed stone. Granite. Used as a grave marKer. Dims. H. 53 W. 38 T. 18 Diam. of hole 15 cm.

2. Latin cross. 17th cent. (P1. 39) Sandstone. The lower shaft is missing. The upper part of Christ's body with the skull and crossed bones above is depicted on one face with an inscription on the other:

> ORATE PRO ANIMA BERNARDUS/ KIERAN QUI HOC MONUMENTU/ SIBI POSTERISQUE SUIS CURA/ VIT QUIQUE HIC INHUMATUS/ ERAT [] DIE 17[] ANNOS NATUS /

Dims.: H. 64 Max. W. 84 T. 8 cm

There are three stone mausolea and incorporated into them and into the enclosing wall of the graveyard are several fragments of carved stone which probably derive from the church. A rectangular sandstone fragment with beaded decoration of Romanesque style is built into the gatepost on the west of the entrance (Pl. 39c). Several of the grave marKers within the graveyard are unusual in that they have incised crosses on the surface while others have equal armed crosses within a circle. All are likely to be of eighteenth century date, however.

CHURCH

North of the village is the site of a church Known locally as "the pinnacle" and formerly used for the burial of unbaptised children. The site is a Knoll rising out of boggy ground. A small fragment of roughly coursed masonry survives to a height of 4.06 m on top of the Knoll. It is 1.05 m thick and is 4.5 m in length. There is a small fragment of a cross wall projecting on the south and there are traces of a second floor level on the south side. There are no dateable features. It is possible that this sould be identified with the Church of the Mount of the Apostles (de Monte Apostolorum) mentioned in 1280 (Sweetman 1875-86, ii, Nos. 1710, 1714).

STRAY FIND

Font: Lying in the front garden of the first house on the east of the Iniskeen Road is a small sandstone font, chamfered on two sides with a central drainage hole, in use as a plant holder. Dims.: H. 22 W. 44 T. 44 Diam. of basin 22 cm.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF LOUTH

The placename evidence would suggest that Louth was a shrine in the pre-Christian period but the whereabouts of this feature are not Known. It may be that it the monastery established by St. Mochta replaced it. The extent of this monastery is itself unclear. The surviving remains of the oratory indicate that the monastery was situated in this vicinity but its boundary is not Known. The western boundary on the accompanying plan (Fig. 53) is a conservative guess based on a low ridge running north-south across the field here. The historical references to the early monastery and the surviving remains of St. Mochta's House indicate that the abbey was important but nothing is Known of its extent or features. It is important that advantage should be taken of any opportunity to investigate inthis area.

The Anglo-Norman borough would appear to have been established to the south east of the Early Christian church but its exact extent is unclear. It is evident that it was partially abandoned during the fifteenth century and the built up area shown on the map may be much smaller than the original borough but in the present state of Knowledge, it is impossoble to Know this for certain. The relationship between the motte and town is also unKnown. The bank running north-east and west from it has been regarded as part of the r town defences but it is not clear if the built up area of the borough came close to the motte or not. Knowledge of activity on the site in the Later Middle Ages and in the seventeenth century is missing entirely. It is not Known if the borough continued to shrink or if the settlement pattern had stabilised by this time.

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TERMONFECKIN

Termonfeckin is a small village on the Drogheda to Clogherhead road whose name is derived from Termonn Fechine, the sanctuary (i.e. monastery) of Feichin, a saint who died in 665-8 according to the Annals of Ulster. The monastery was plundered in 1013, 1025 and 1149. The Augustinian Eanons were introduced c.1144-8 and for a time Termonfeckin would appear to have functioned as a double monastery but in 1195 it became exclusively a convent of nuns (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 195). During the Middle Ages the manor was the principal residence of the archbishops of Armagh and it was most likely the archbishops who were responsible for the foundation of the borough. A burgage in the vill is referred to in 1321 (McNeill and Otway-Ruthven 1960, 27-8). The settlement appears to have been devastated in the 1641 rebellion from which it never recovered.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

- 1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN
- 2. TOWER HOUSE
- 3. ST. FEICHIN'S PARISH CHURCH
- 4. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF ST. MARY
- 5. ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE
- 6. OTHER FEATURES

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN

There are no indications of the age of the existing street pattern and the absence of clearly defined burgage plots suggests that it may be of relatively modern origin.

2. TOWER HOUSE (Fig. 57; Pl. 41, 42a)

Isaac Butler's account of his visit to Termonfeckin in A 1744 mentions the existence of three fortified houses but the only remaining domestic structure of pre-1700 date is situated on a slight ridge south east of the village. It is an rectangular tower of three floors with projecting turrets on the north and south corners. The masonry is a mixture of coursed grey, red and orange limeston ender Leslie (1911, 421) (quotes a lost Statistical Survey manuscript of c.1815 which alleged that this was at one time the vicar's residence.

The tower is entered via a modern entrance passage built

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wall

stair horst only projects above list floor and + 13 supported an contable. Was thus a building a the she sive external joint values are present above grain floor level an external

onto the west side leading to an opening

54-42 ontel dow

in

the

west

mol flat house

which provides access to the ground floor. The original entrance, however, would appear to have been in the The ground floor consists of north-east wall. a long barrel-vaulted room running north-south/with a smaller added the chamber/, similarly vaulted with wickerwork centering, on east (The east side of the tower was extensively altered in and order to incorporate this extra room at ground level and on the first floor. Access to the upper floors is by means of unas and spiral stair in the north angle. The first floor has two flat word openings in the north and south walls which may originally have been windows. The east wall was broken through to we have the a ported ender + Ut by a provide access to the added room on this side. There is a partity when the fireplace in the north-east corner, probably and addition, and why when the most of the second states and addition and why the second states are addition. a corbelled garderobe chamber in the south-east; the north we write any about by a flat - here ?) wall contains a small cupboard. The second floor was lit by windows in the south-east and south-west walls, that in the south-<u>east having</u> a fine ogee-head. There is a fireplace in the north corner, which appears to be an addition, a corbelled garderobe in the south angle and a large wall cupboard in the west corner. (This floor has an unusual

corbelled roof lit by two narrow rectangular slits in the north and south walls. The battlements at wall walk level are left are present stepped but all have been replaced during conservation works by the Office of Public Works. The roof is flat with the opposed turrets rising above, one of which carries the stair and the other has a small room with two rectangular windows. Mr. E+5 will + both have a small EI but Kenth's spenalize Jistingwished by an ordered strying course.

drawing of 1791 shows that the Grose's castle Was originally surrounded by a turreted bawn but its precise location is not Known. According to Harbison (1970, 166) the castle was repaired by a Captain Brabazon in 1641 and this may have consisted of the addition of the chamber on the south-east and the alterations which accompanied it, shown as phase 2 in Fig. 57. The basic structure of the castle itself with its neat ogee-headed windows is probably fifteenth century. Used as a grewong in 1783 [opw file].

? date of door - and it-be original - an early change of plan Butteres for chimas (17 - Tabosan

3. ST. FEICHIN'S PARISH CHURCH

Both documentary records and the surviving remains 🏻 indicate that the present Church of Ireland church is on the site of the early monastery established by St. Feichin. These 👔 remains and the early annalistic notices of Termonfeckin sugest that it was an important settlement during the Barly Historic Period. Unfortunately, the extent of the monastery be accurately determined because there cannot are no indications of its delimiting features in the modern field boundaries. The present church is of nineteenth century date but a wall fragment that may have formed part of the east gable of the medieval church is built into a modern memorial on the eastern side of the graveyard. This gable is featureless and is composed of coursed limestone masonry. The early remains within the graveyard consist of a high cross, a

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cross base, an early grave slab, and a crucifixion plaque.

High Cross (Pl. 43a).

This ringed sandstone cross, set in an undecorated two-tiered circular base and decorated with panels of figure sculpture, is situated north-west of the church. It is not in situ and the base is not original (Stokes 1901, 564). The cross-head is rathered weathered. The east face has a panel $_{\rm I}$ of pelta interlace at the bottom of the shaft with a panel of animal interlace above. The centre of the cross-head depicts the crucifixion with flanking sponge- and lance-bearers and an angel above Christ's head. The west face has two panels of interlace on the shaft with Christ in judgement in the cross-head and a panel of interlace above. There are 8 panels of interlace on the narrow sides of the shaft. On the basis of its parallels with Muireadach's Cross at Monasterboice Henry (1940, 173-5) has assigned it to the early tenth century.

Dims: H. 218 W. 30 T. 26 cm.

Cross Base (Pl. 43b).

Small granite stone of truncated pyramidal shape with a mortice on the upper surface and panels on each of the sides outlined by mouldings. Situated immediately east of the high cross.

Dims: H. 50 W. 38 cm.

Crucifixion Plaque

Rectangular granite plaque, lying on the ground beside the high cross. It depicts Christ in relief wearing a long perizonium with shoulder length hair. On His right hand side there appears to be a lance bearer pushing the lance into His side while the figure on the left may be St John as he has his hand raised to his cheek. A bird is perched on Christ's left arm and an angel is Kneeling on His right. Dims: H. 54 W. 49 T. 18 cm.

Grave Slab.

Built into the interior porch wall and somewhat plastered • over so that the complete piece is no longer visible, this plain rectangular slab bears an incised inscription: ORDIT DO ULTAN ET DO DUBTHACH DO RIGNI IN CAISSEL. * -

A prayer for Ultan and Dubthach who made the cashel. Dims: H. 21.5 W. 70 It was found underneath the floor of the church (Macalister 1949, 32: No. 582).

In addition to the monuments listed above there also a number of rough limestone grave markers with simple incised Latin crosses within the graveyard. Their date is uncertain but they are most likely post-medieval. A memorial slab of 1504 to John de Palatio is mentioned by D'alton (1844, II, 400) and subsequent writers but there is now no trace of it. Davies (1944, 292-3) was the last person to refer to it.

site of Cross - chule O.S. Letters

4. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF ST. MARY

No trace of this structure now survives but its site may be plotted in a field on the south side of the village. A house of Arroasian Canons was established c.1144-8 and appears to have been a double monastery for monks and nuns until about 1195 when it appears to have become exclusively a convent of nuns (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 324). Little is known of its history between its foundation and the Reformation although a number of incidental references survive. At the time of the Dissolution in 1541 the monastery , consisted of an ancient hall and two buildings both of which are described as being in a runous state (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 324).

5. ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE

The manor of Termonfeckin is frequently referred to in the diocesan registers of Armagh and was the principal residence of the archbishops of Armagh throughout the Later Middle Ages. Little is Known of this building except that it was destroyed in the 1641 rebellion and never repaired. It was situated beside the river immediately west of the bridge.

6. OTHER FEATURES

There are three holy wells in the village, one called Trinity Well in the grounds of the St Mary's R. C. church; another (? dedicated to St. Denis) is located south of the tower house, while the third, Known as St Feighin's Well, is situated south-west of the C. of I. churchyard. Leslie (1911, 422) notes that there were three patron days Kept in the parish in 1820 and that these wells were focal points for devetion during them.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF TERMONFECKIN

Although archaeological excavations have not taken place at Termonfeckin the surviving remains indicate that there was activity on the site from Early Historic times until the seventeenth century. However, there is no Knowledge at present of the extent of archaeological deposits or their depth.

The village is poised for development at the moment largely because of its proximity to Drogheda and its consequent use as a dormitory town. Accordingly, it is important that any such developments should take cognizance of the area of archaeological potential delimited on the accompanying map (Fig. 56). In the present state of Knowledge such a map has to be a guess at the extent of the zone of potential. The boundary of the Early Christian monastic site

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is unknown as is the precise position of the medieval borough. However, this map takes the extant structures or Known sites as its guide and the shaded area has been extended slightly beyond them to allow for possible activity in their vicinity.

CONCLUSION

Louth is a county with an extremely rich urban heritage and a high density of sites in proportion to its size. Eleven locations have been examined and these may be grouped as follows in terms of their archaeological extent:

1	Drogheda	
2	Ardee, DundalK	
2	Carlingford, Dunleer 🍸	
3	Louth, TermonfecKin,	
	Collòn.	
З	Castlering, Castleroche	3
	Castletown /	
	2 3	 2 Carlingford, Dunleer 3 Louth, TermonfecKin, Collon. 3 Castlering, Castleroche

"Each of these towns pose their own specific archaeological problems but they share others such as their origin, the degree of continuity within them, and the manner in which the lifestyle of their inhabitants has changed through the centuries. The potential which they have to increase our Knowledge of the past is substantial but it is clear that this must be carefully husbanded if this potential is to be realised.

In most of these towns little of their original medieval or seventeenth century fabric survives above ground, but what does survive is of considerable importance. The barbican of St. Laurence's Gate at Drogheda is easily the finest piece of medieval town fortification to survive in Ireland; the fortified town houses at Ardee and Carlingford are among the very small number of fifteenth century aurban domestic a dwellings Known from this country; the fifteenth century chantry college at Ardee is a unique building of its type; the portions of the town defences that remain at Ardee, Drogheda and Carlingford contain important features. Castles 🖗 are the features which have been least interfered with and all the Known examples survive: Ardee, Carlingford, Castlering, Castleroche, Castletown DundalK, Drogheda, Dunleer and Louth. But the destruction of other monuments has , been considerable.

Town defences have been particularly prone to demolition; Less than one-sixth of the town wall of Drogheda survives. Apart from a splendid seventeenth century earthwork at Ardee, its defences have been reduced to one undistinguished chunk of mortated masonry. At Dundalk nothing at all remains. Indeed, the precise course of the walls at Ardee, Carlingford, Drogheda and Dundalk is not Known because the destruction has been so substantial.

Parish churches have been similarly treated: the most substantial remains are to be found at Ardee, where one aisle survives, but at Drogheda and DundalK it is only the tower that is intact of the pre-1700 structure. The site of the parish church of Castlering is unKnown since the seventeenth century! While at Drogheda and Dunleer 'only architectural fragments survive.

Fifteen religous houses are Known to have been established in the towns of Louth during the Middle Ages hut only fragments of seven remain. Of these, the most intact are: the Dominican friary at Carlingford, monuments the hospital of St. Mary d'Urso at Drogheda and the Augustinian church at Louth. A solitary tower survives of the Dominican friary at Drogheda and the the Franciscan friary of DundalK. In the case of the hospitals of St. Laurence at Drogheda, and St. Leonard at DundalK, only fragmentary portions survive.

Of the present-day towns, the street line of Ardee. Carlingford, Dundalk, Dunleer and Drogheda on the north side of the Boyne, is still largely intact. However, at Louth and Termonfeckin the old street line is not Known because of the decline those settlements experienced in the Later Middle Ages. The boroughs of Castlering, Castleroche and Castletown Dundalk were completely deserted and accordingly even less survives of them. At Collon the Fosters appear to have founded an entirely new settlement in the eighteenth century and even the site of the medieval borough is uncertain. Ωn 1 v at Drogheda on the south side of the Boyne have substantial changes occurred to the street line as a result of the construction of a by-pass road in recent years. Although i + is inaccurate to speak of a medieval streetscape surviving in , any of the Louth towns it may be noted that the existing streetscape in the towns is low-rise and in Keeping with the scale of the streets and of the medieval buildings.

Drogheda is the only town in which large-scale archaeological excavations have taken place demonstrating the survival of substantial archaeological deposits. However: 🤴 archaeological strat have been noted at Ardee and DundalK but the opportunities to examine this in detail have not yet arisen. Archaeological deposits almost certainly survive in all of the examined sites but its depth, extent and 🤉 composition is likely to vary. The depth will vary in accordance with the physical topography of the site. Over three metres of deposit have been recorded at Drogheda beside the river Boyne but further uphill the deposits grow narrower and on one of the sites excavated by Mr. Kieran Campbell at James' St. 1, seventeenth century levels lay directly upon natural boulder clay. In Dundalk, it is unliKely that deposits are more than three metres thick at any point and probably only half that thickness over most of the area. Details of depths are not Known from Ardee, Carlingford or the other sites, but because of the lie of the ground it 15 likely that deposits will shallow be at 🗇 Ardee and Carlingford, except for those areas beside the Dee at Ardee and adjoining the harbour at Carlingford where greater depths are likely to be encountered. An endeavour has been made to chart the extent of archaeological deposits on the accompanying maps but little can be said of its composition.

Simply because of their nature, large monuments, such as town walls, ditches, churches and monasteries, are likely to have left substantial sub-surface remains but this cannot be said of flimsier buildings such as the wooden houses and timber halls which would have characterised most medieval towns. is evident too that not all areas within towns were as intensively occupied as others. The seventeenth century maps of Ardee show large vacant areas within the wall which may have been occupied by orchards or gardens. However, too much reliance cannot be placed on these early cartographers. their methods were notoriously rough and ready, and the end product was often highly selective. In addition, even if the cartographer was correct in his depiction, it is important to remember that an area which was vacant during the seventeenth γ century might well have been occupied during the thirteenth. Nonetheless it is obvious that archaeological deposits ы111 concentrate along the street frontage, the area where houses will be most often rebuilt. However, it appears to have been the normal practice to construct workshops or extra rooms at the rear of these dwellings and back gardens, which are quite distant from the street front, were often used for the disposal of refuse, and pits which are usually rich in finds are frequently found in this situation.

Except in the case of Drogheda and DundalK it is difficult to guage how much of the archaeological record had been destroyed. This is caused in the process of urban regeneration within towns and by their expansion into rural areas bringing rural archaeological sites under threat. In general, it is fair to say that this has only become a serious problem in the last twenty years. However, damage has been caused to most streets by digging in conjunction with the laying off sewage, water and power services but the scale of this damge is unKnown.

At Drogheda and Dundalk the construction of cellars ^a during the nineteenth century and the insertion of deep foundations in recent years have removed archaeological deposits TOTALLY. However, it is unlikely that more that 10% of the archaeological deposits have been so totally removed. Elsewhere, in both of these towns, foundation digging has probably only partially disturbed the archaeological ... evidence. Nonetheless the locations in which no disturbance at all has occurred are extemely small. In this respect twosmall areas of Louth are of great importance. The first, in Drogheda, is the open area immediately north of the Millmount, bounded by the Butter Gate on the west, John Street on the north and Barrack Lane on the east, an open area of ground which does not appear to have been built on since the seventeenth century. Here it is likely that the istreet coming in from the Butter Gate and the medieval houses associated with it are likely to survive. The second, at Carlingford, is the area of the old quayside, reclaimed in order to construct the railway during the last century and now occupied by the CIE bus terminus and community tennis courts. Here, it is likely that the medieval quayside of

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Carlingford is preserved in much the same manner as its Dublin counterpart, Wood Quay, remained intsact. These two , sites are of great importance and should be preserved as open spaces or sealed-over in such a manner that the archaeological levels cannot be interfered with.

In terms of the threat posed by urban expansion into rural archaeological sites it is again the towns of Drogheda and Dundalk which pose the greatest problems because of their rapid development. It has been noted in the discussion of these towns that many of the rural archaeological sites in their vicinity have no surface indications and will most likely be found in the course of development works. This is perhaps most clearly attested by the discovery within the Dundalk Urban District of thirteen souterrains between 1977 and 1982 (Gosling 1983, Fig. 31). Fieldwalking at different times of the year, and in different weather conditions, together with aerial photography in different lights and at varied altitutes may reveal these sites prior to development.



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Abbreviations

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- JRSAI Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.

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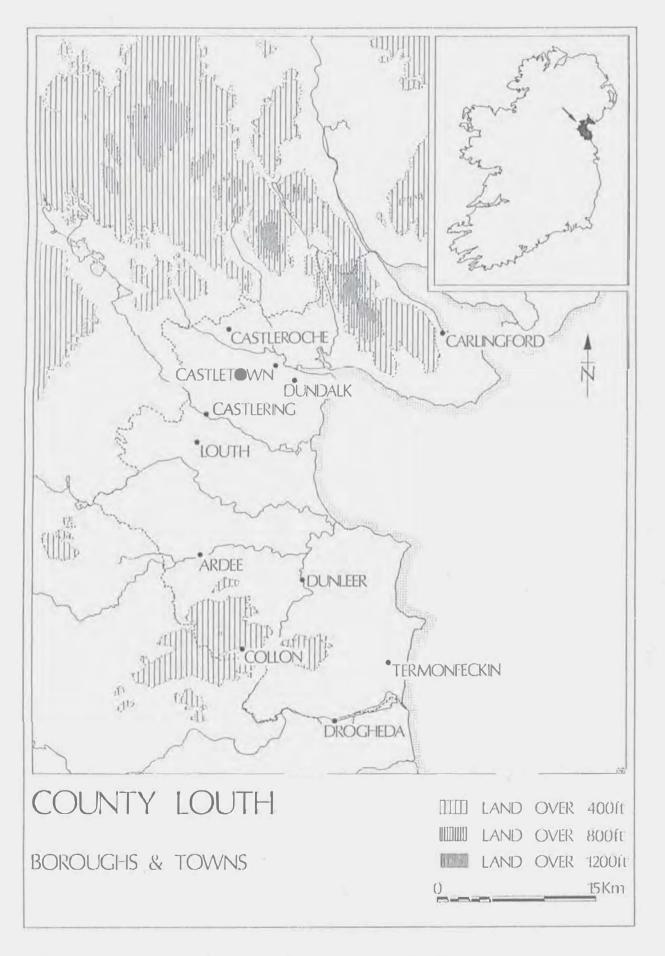
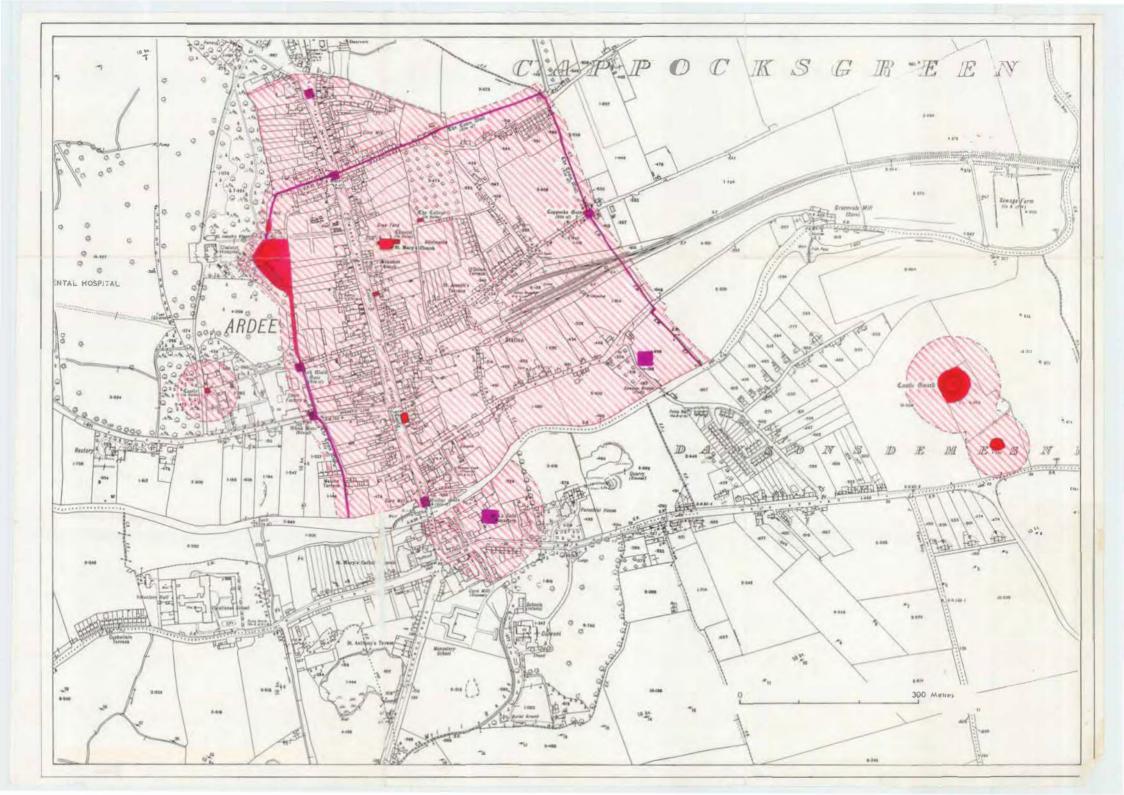
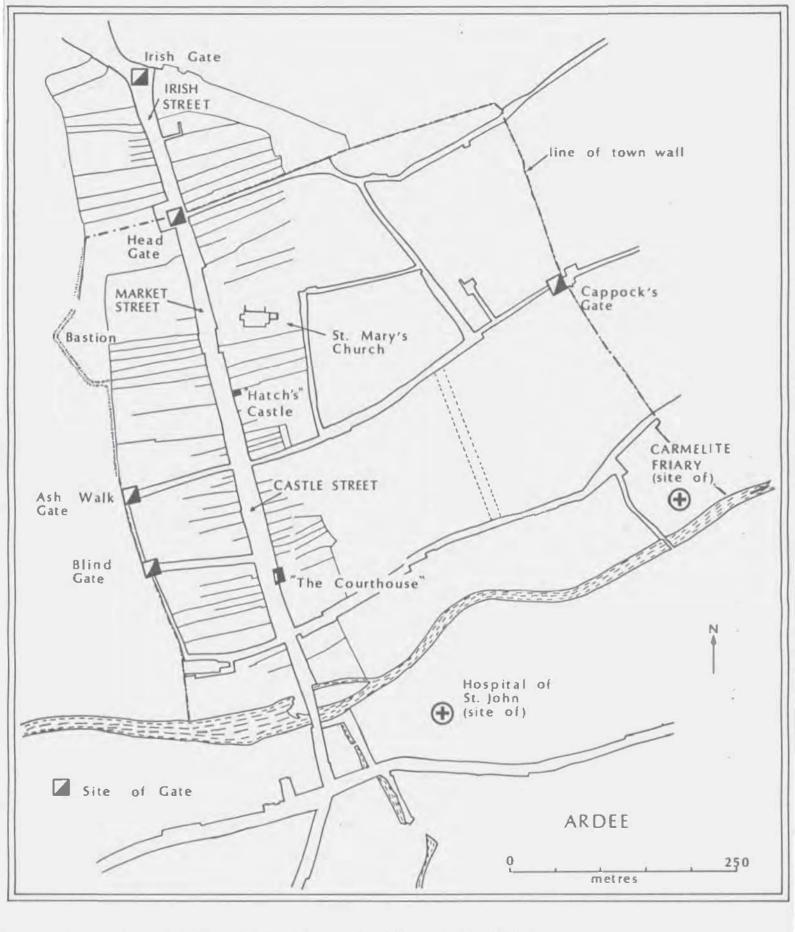
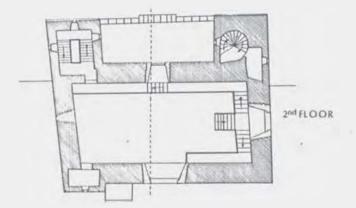


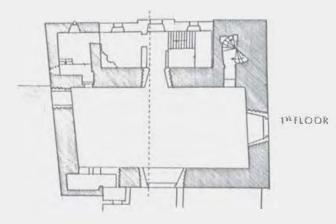
Fig. 1. County Louth: Location map of boroughs and towns.

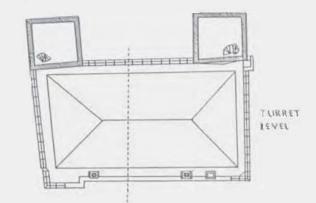


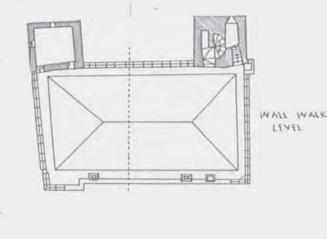


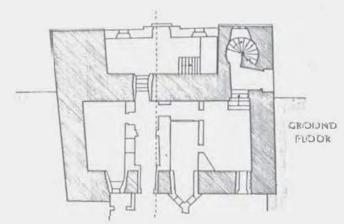
Fig, 3. Ardee: Outline plan showing the line of the town wall and the principal archaeological features.

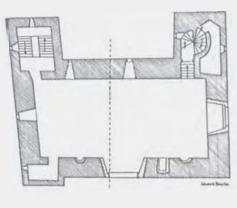












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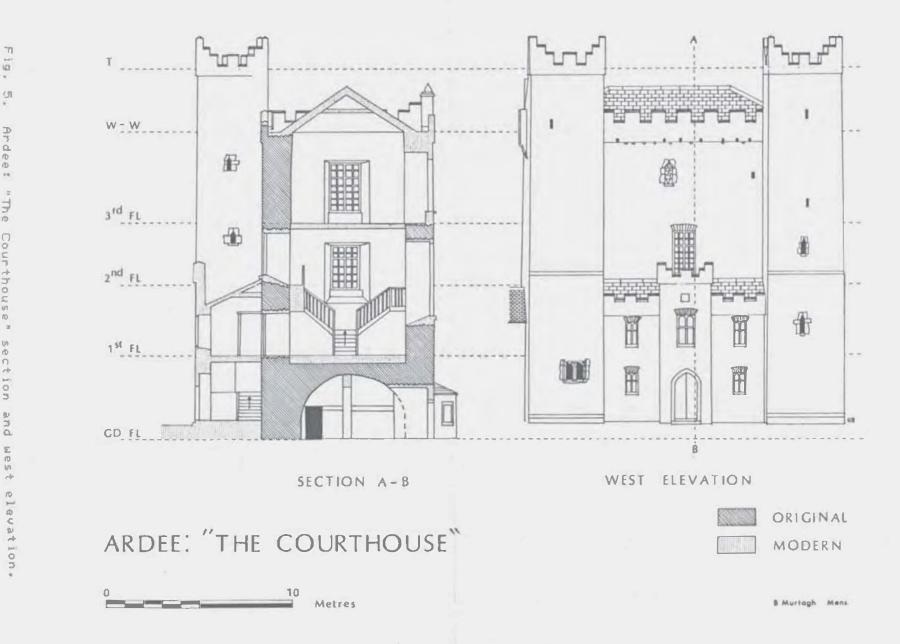


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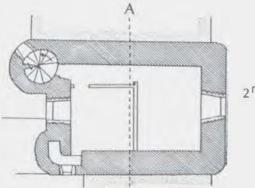


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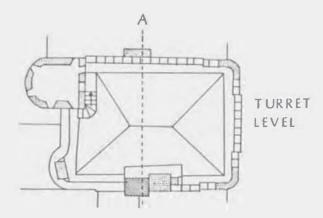
Fig. 4. Ardee: "The Courthouse" floor plans.

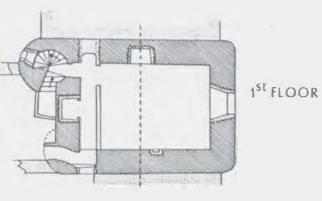


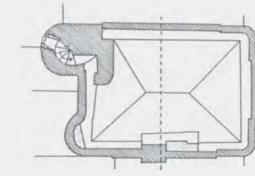
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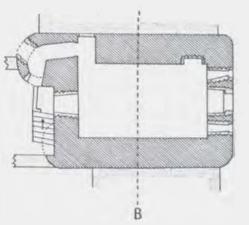




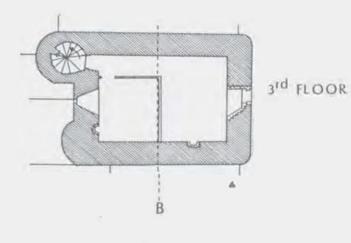












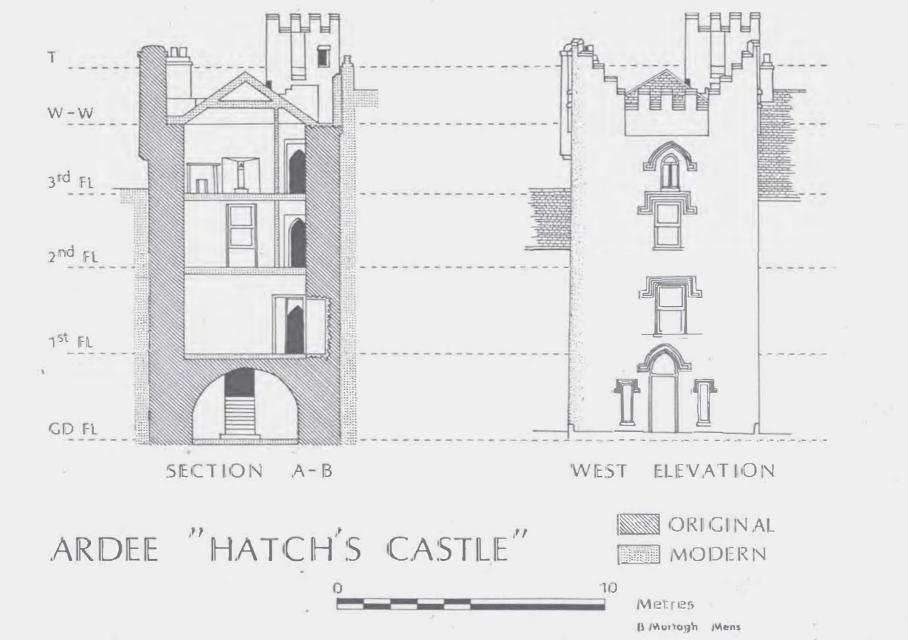


B Murlogh Mens

ARDEE "HATCH'S CASTLE"



Fig. 6. Ardee: "Hatch's Castle" floor plans.



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Ardee:

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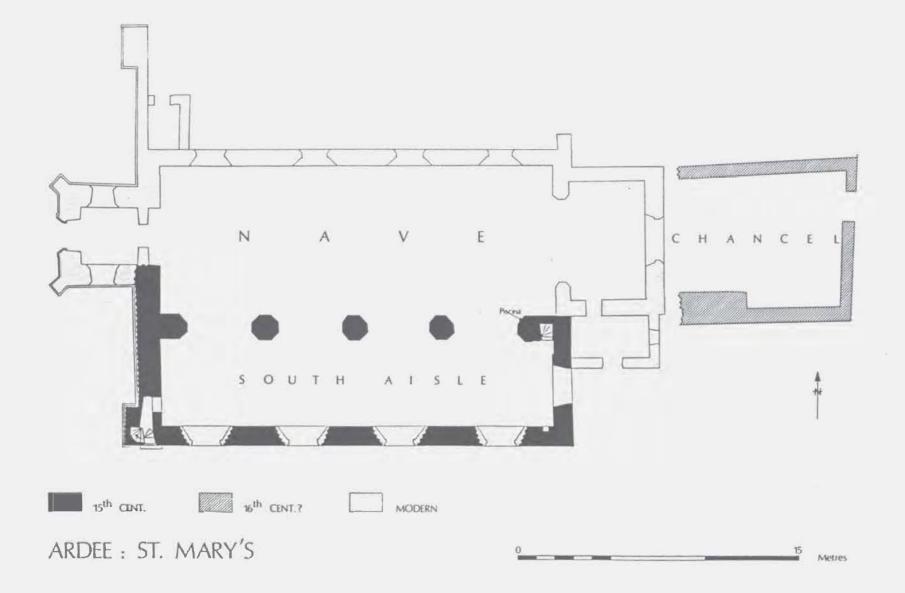
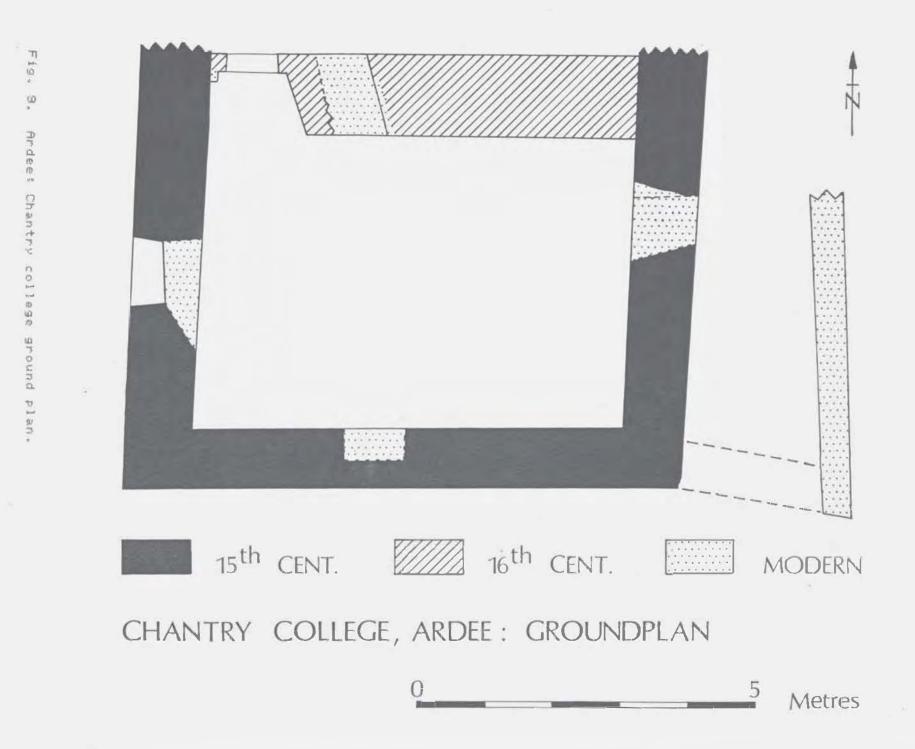


Fig. 8. Ardee: St. Mary's parish church ground plan.



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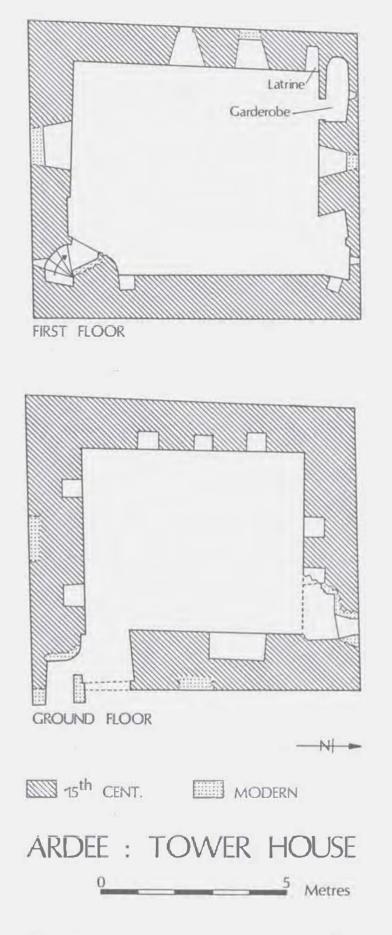
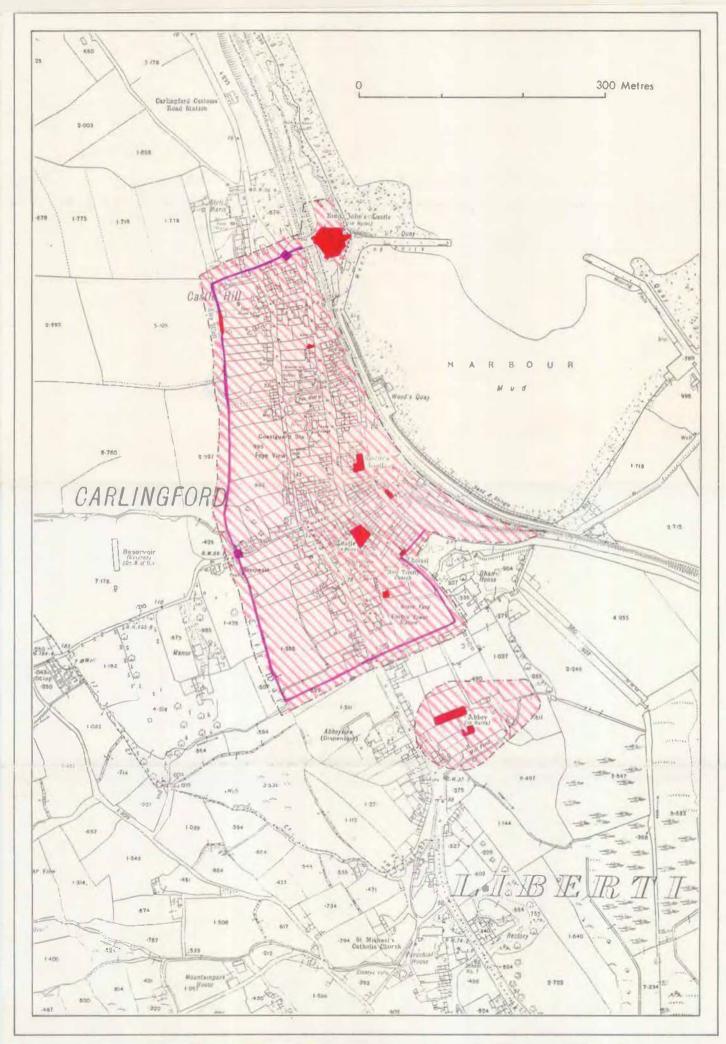


Fig. 10. Ardee: Extra-mural tower house.



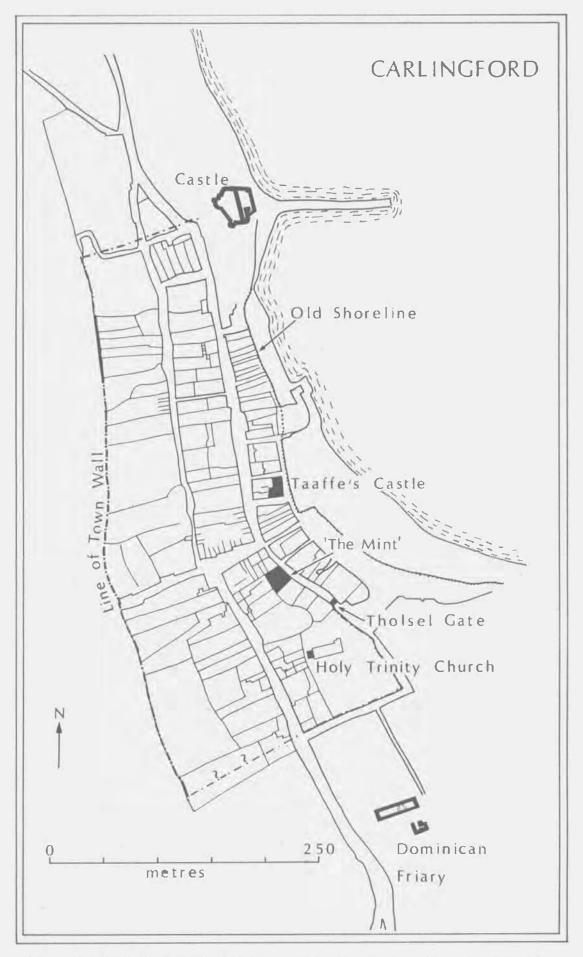
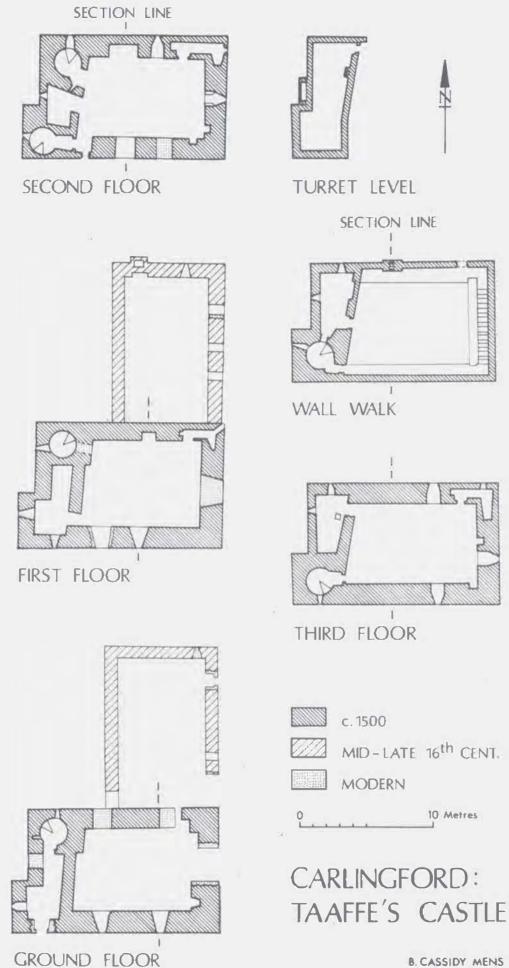
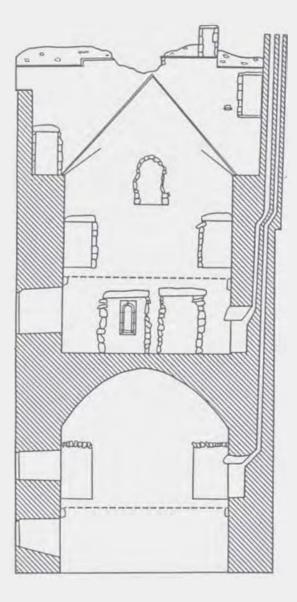


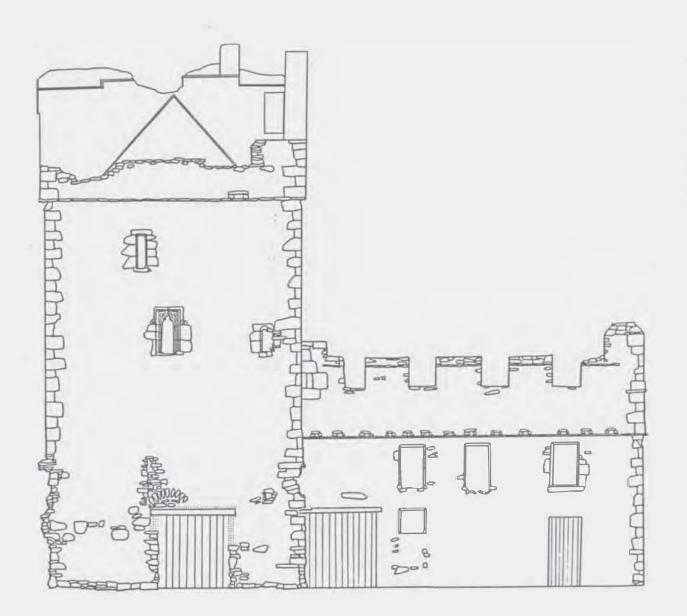
Fig. 12. Carlingford: Outline plan shopowing the course of the town wall and the principal archaeological features.



B. CASSIDY MENS

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SECTION S-N



CARLINGFORD: TAAFE'S CASTLE

Fig. 14. Carlingford: Taaffe's Castle section north-south and east elevation.



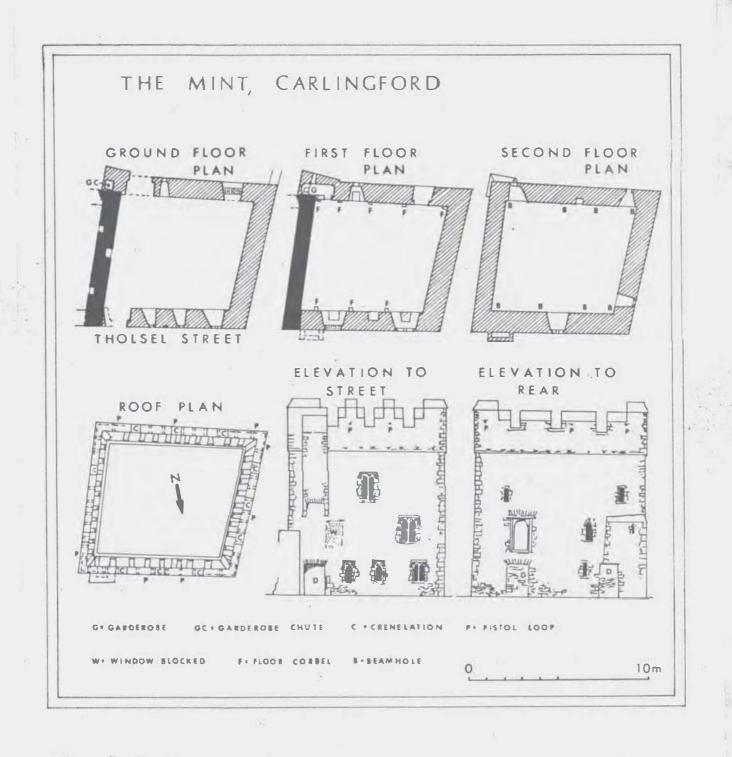


Fig. 1⁵. Carlingford: "The Mint" (After Leask).

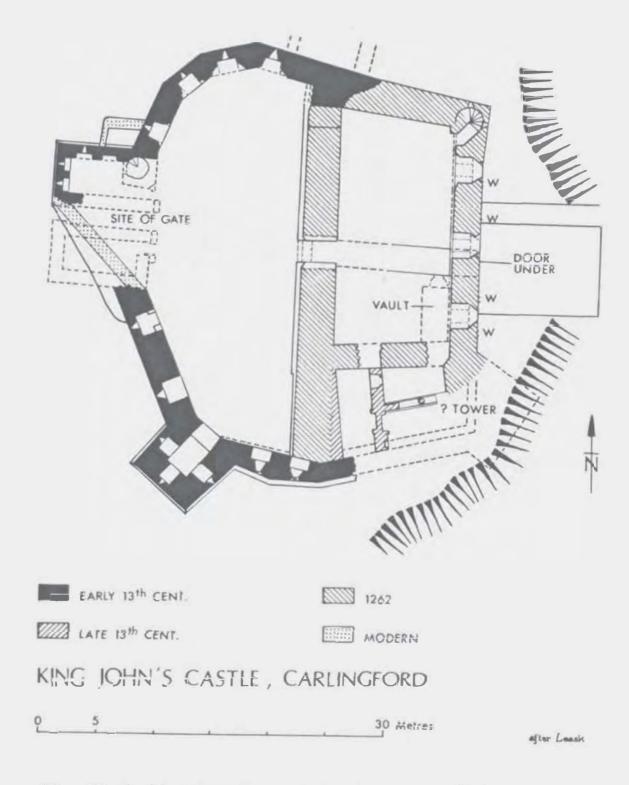
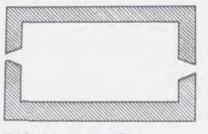
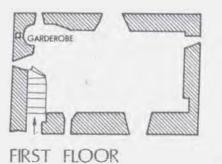
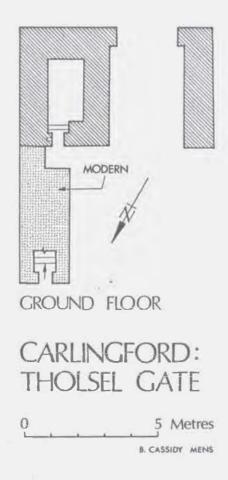


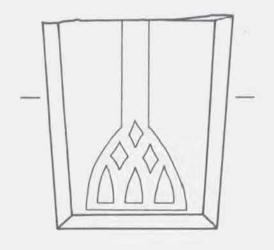
Fig. 18. Carlingford: King John's Castle ground plan.



SECOND FLOOR







1



CARLINGFORD : TOMBSTONE FRAGMENT

0 40 cm

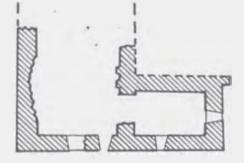
Fig. 18. Carlingford: Holy Trinity churchyard, tombstone





15th CENT. 14th CENT.

CARLINGFORD: DOMINICAN FRIARY: GROUND PLAN





B. CASSIDY MENS

Fig. 19. Carlingford: Dominican Friary ground plan (Courtesy of Ms. B. Cassidy).



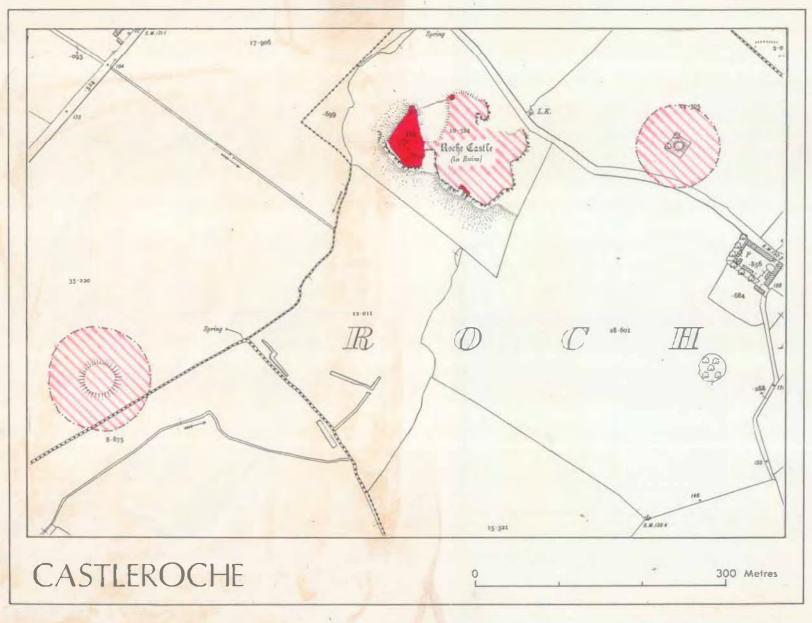
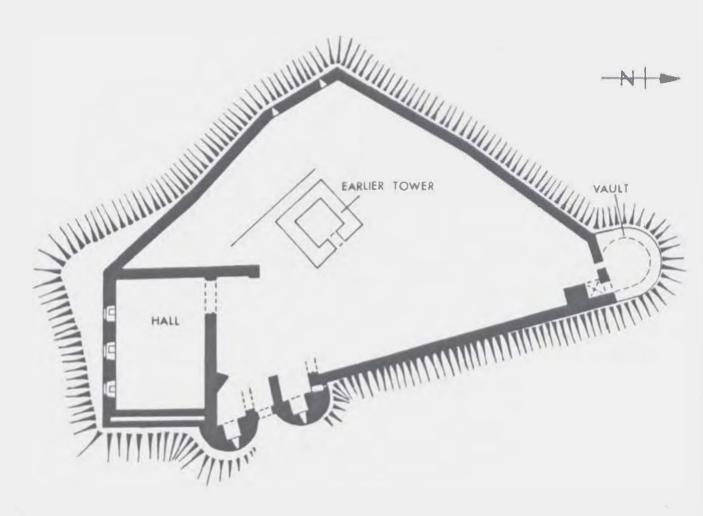


Fig. 20. Castleroche: Zone of archaeological potential.



CASTLEROCHE

1

5 30 Metres 0 after Stalley

Fig. 21. Castleroche: Castle ground plan (after Stalley 1971).

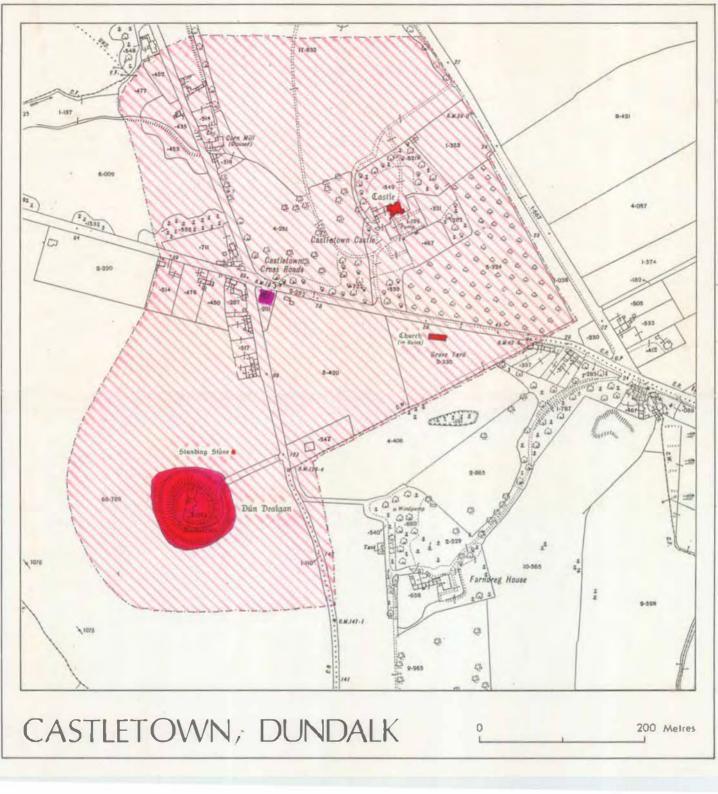


Fig. 22. Castletown: Zone of archaeological potential

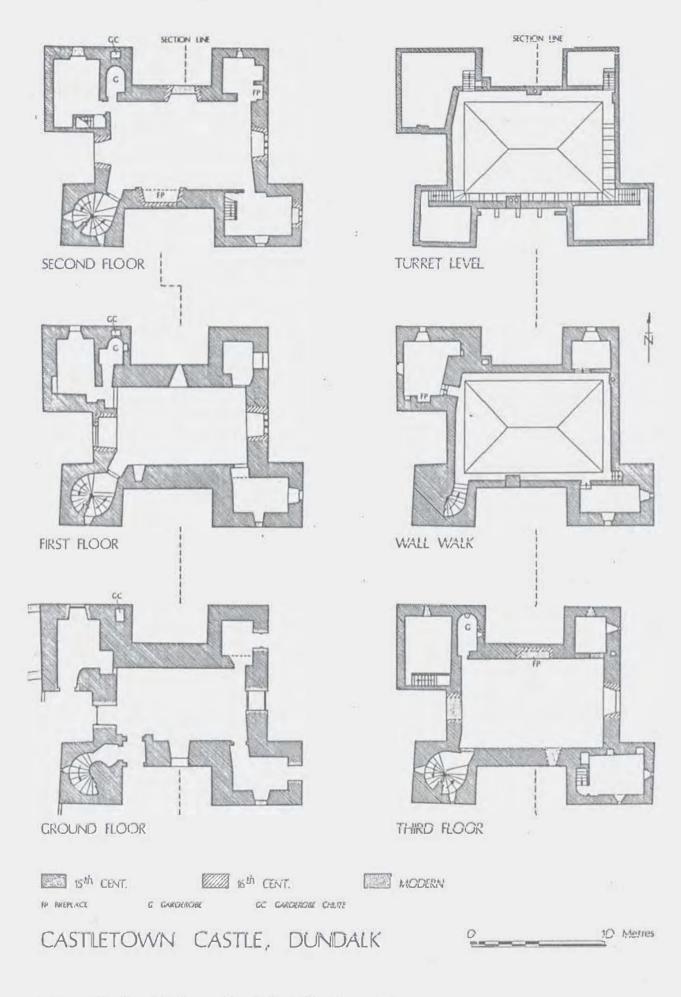


Fig. 23. Castletown Dundalk: Castle, floor plans.

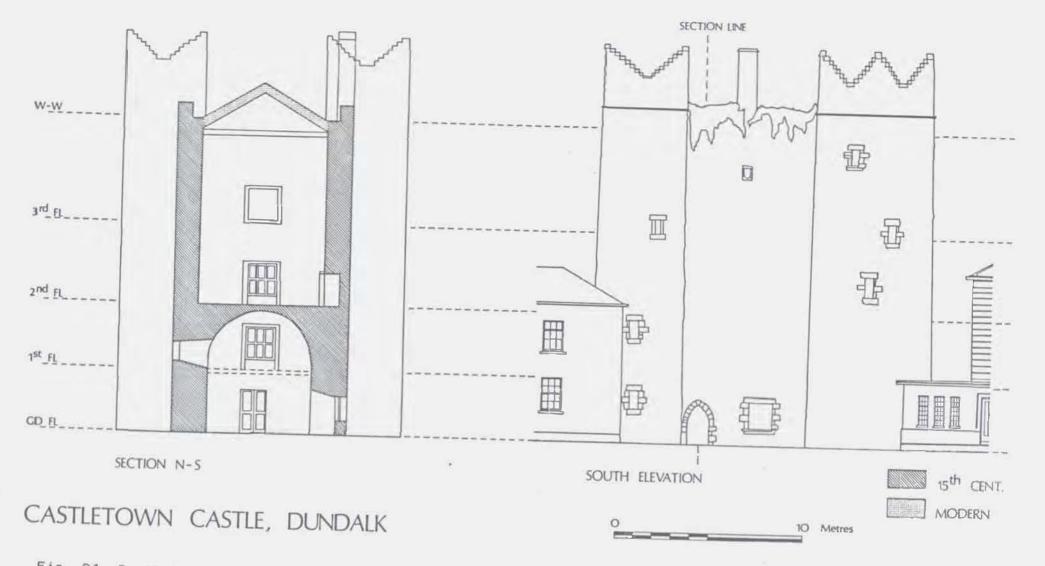


Fig. 24. Castletown Dundalk: Castle, section north-south and south elevation.

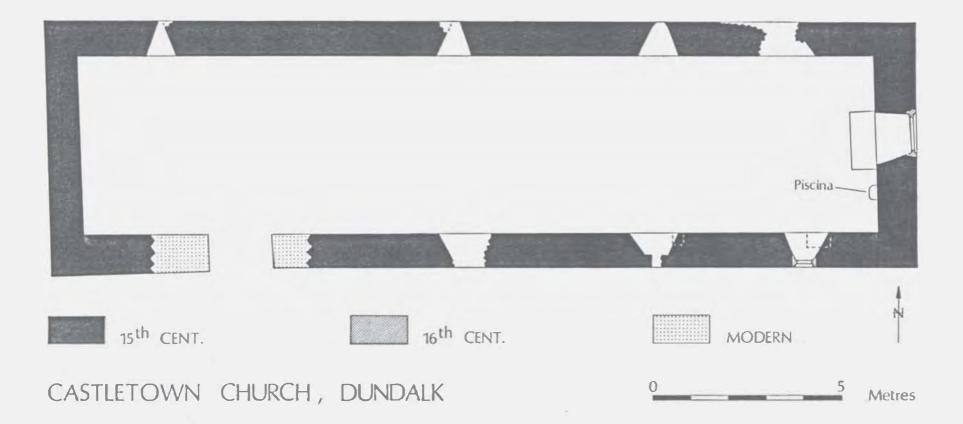
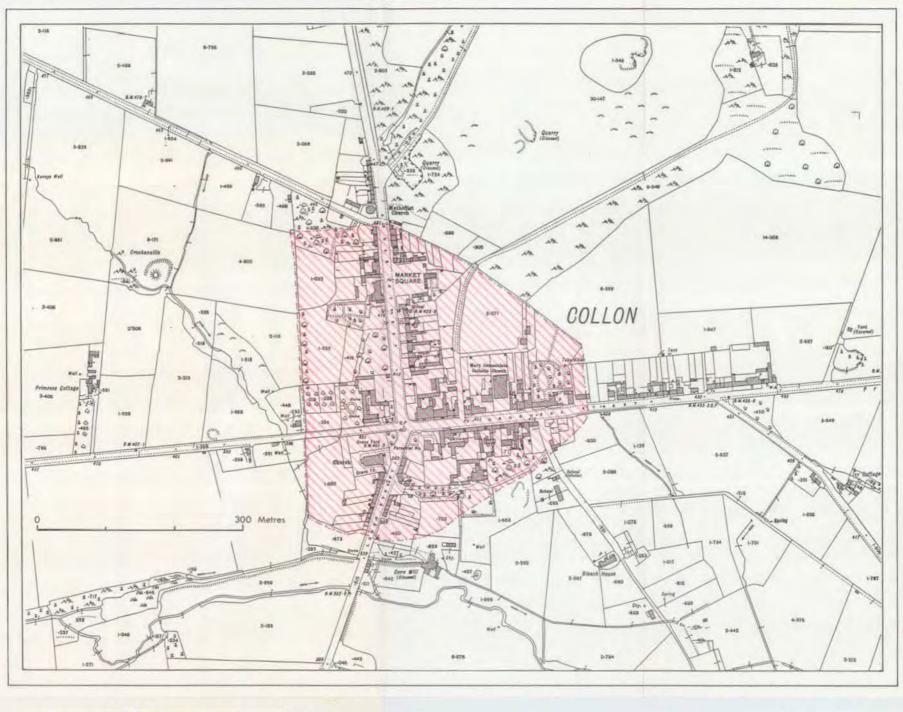


Fig. 25. Castletown Dundalk: Parish church, ground plan.



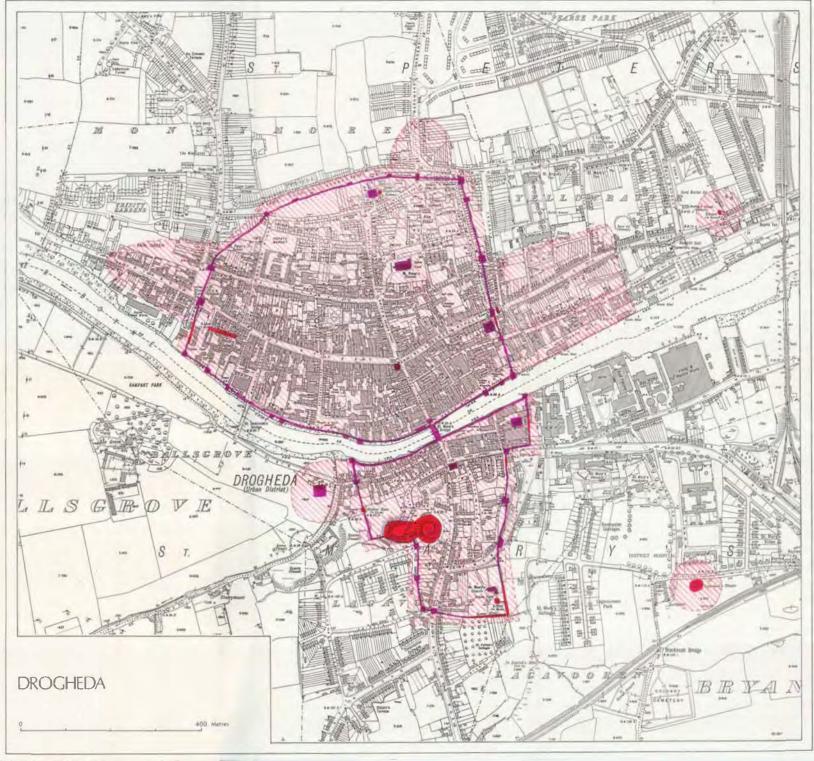
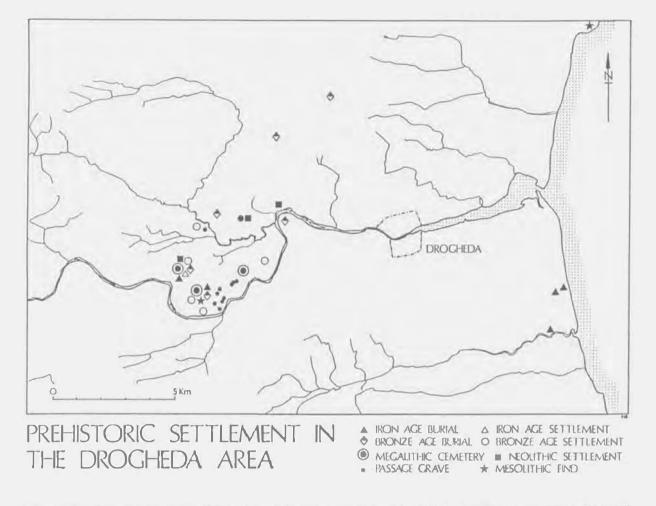


Fig. 27. Brouballo 2nes of arctuminginal synathial



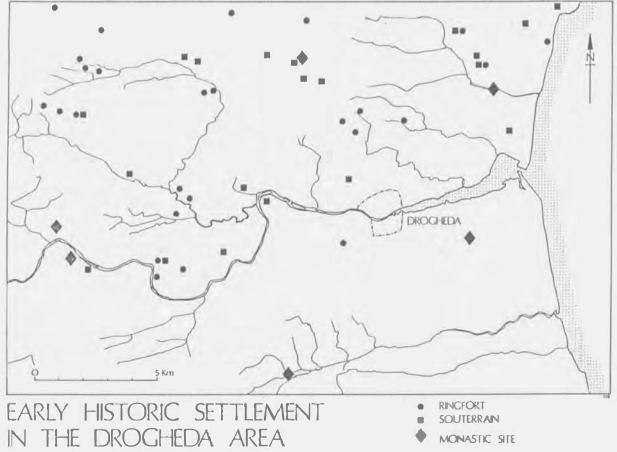


Fig. 28. Drogheda: Prehistoric and Early Historic settlement in the Drogheda area.

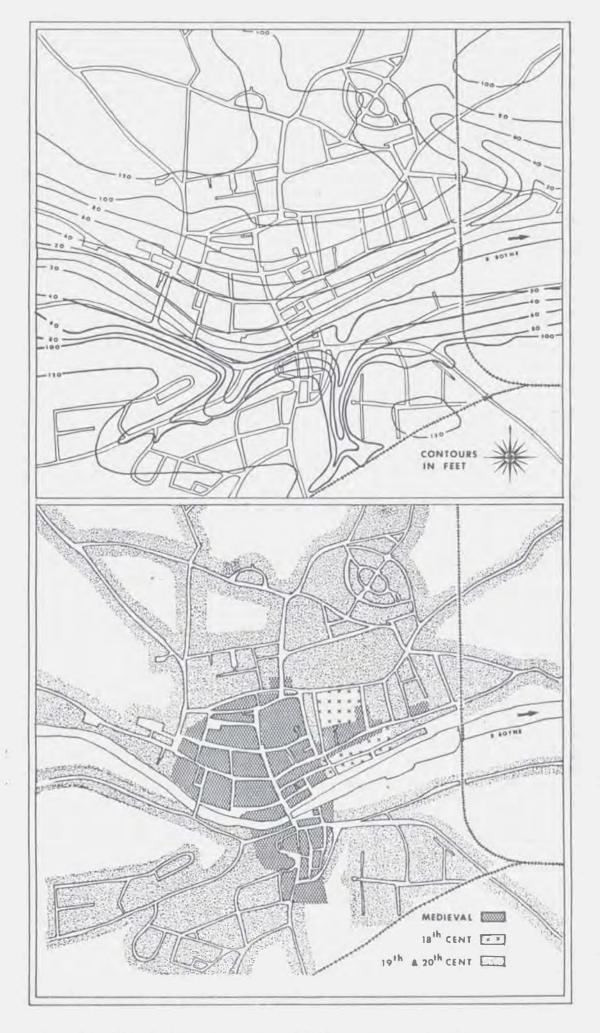
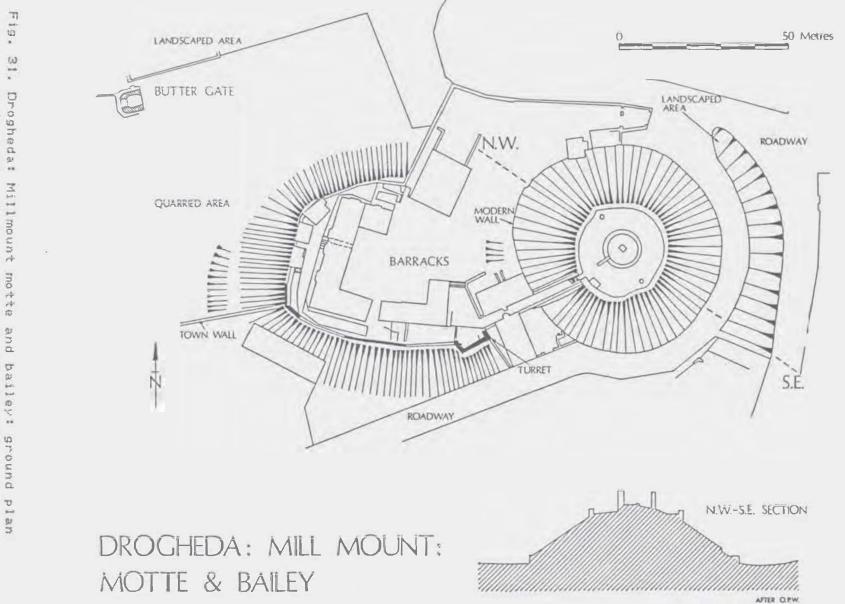


Fig. 29. Drogheda: Contour plan and growth phases.



Fig. 30. Drogheda: Outline plan showing extent of the medieval town.



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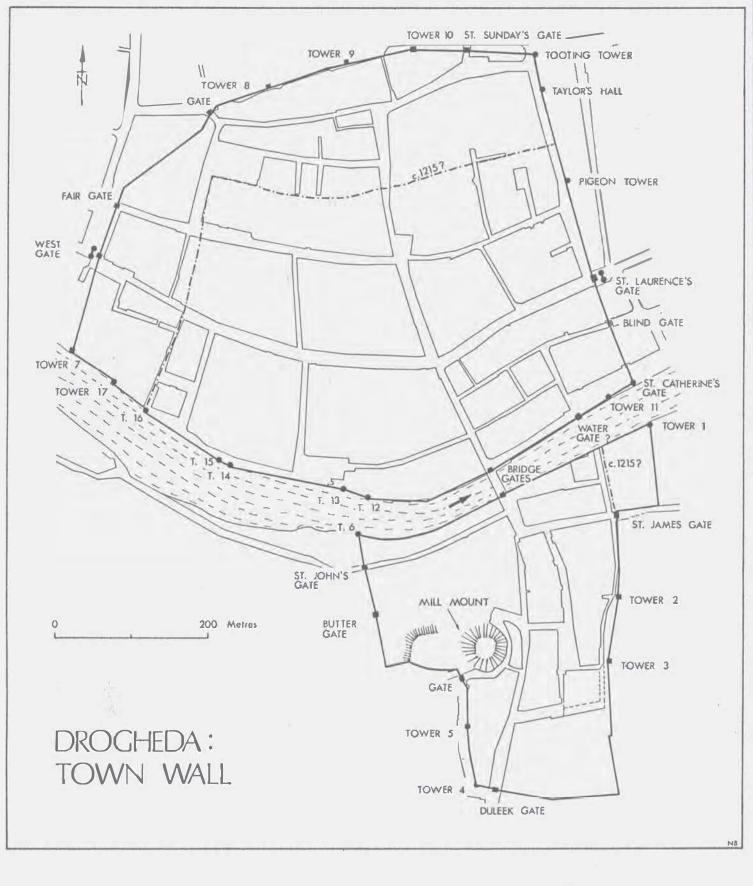
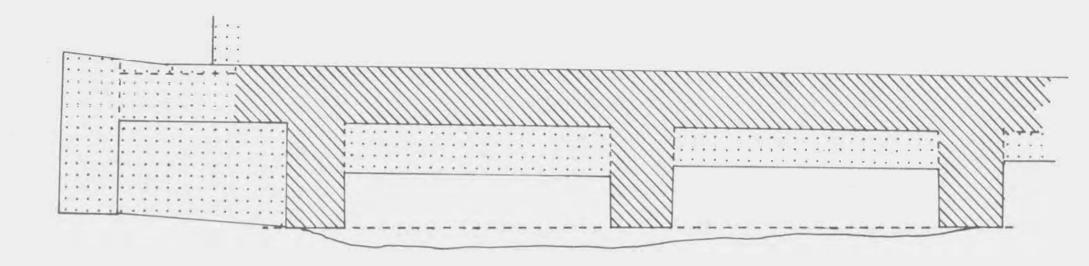


Fig. 32. Drogheda: Town wall.



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DROGHEDA: TOWN WALL SOUTH OF ST LAURENCE'S GATE





Fig. 33. Drogheda: Town wall south of St. Laurence's Gate, ground plan.

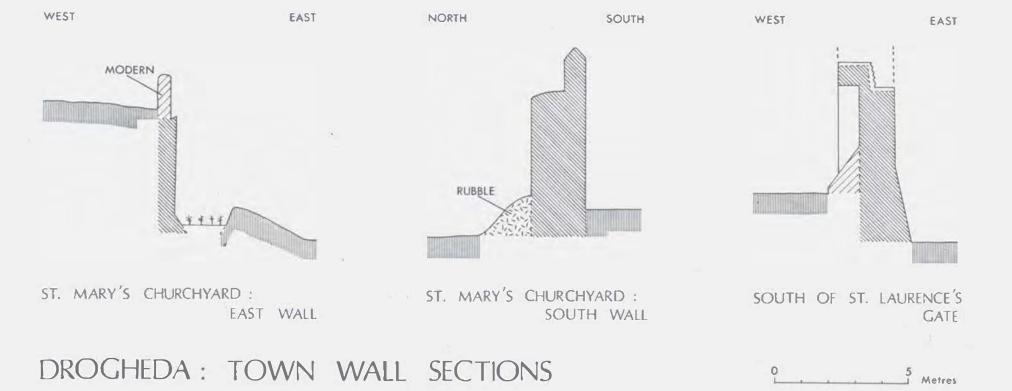
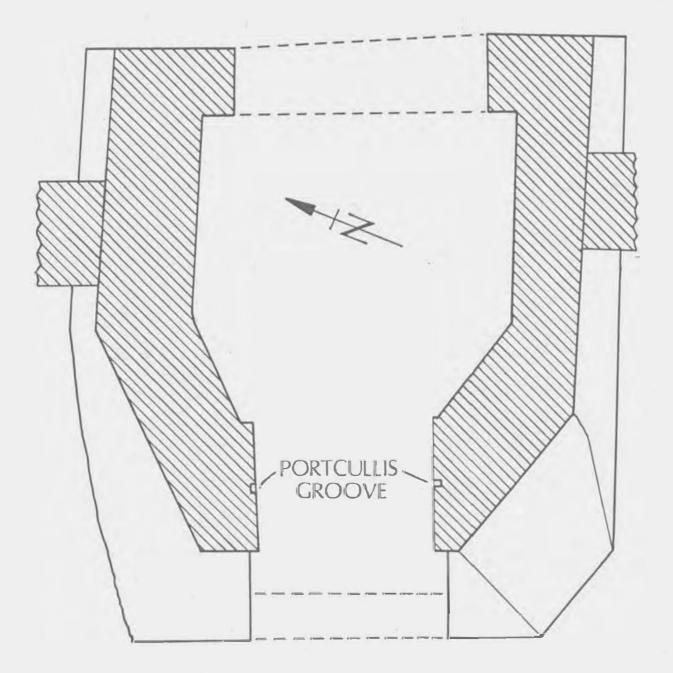


Fig. 34. Drogheda: Town wall, sections.

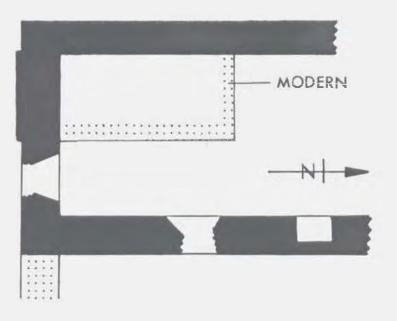


BUTTER GATE, DROGHEDA 0 2 Metres

Fig. 35. Dropheda: Butter Gate: ground plan.

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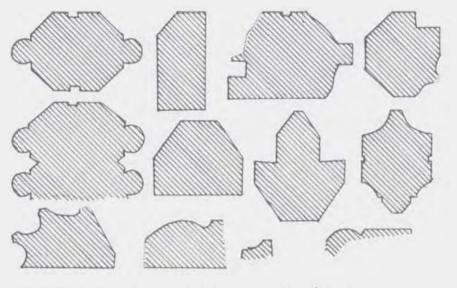
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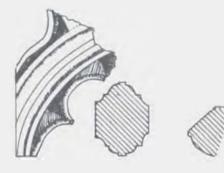
STRUCTURAL REMAINS, ST. MARY'S, DROGHEDA

Metres 0 5

Fig. 35. Drogheda: St. Mary's parish church: structural remains.



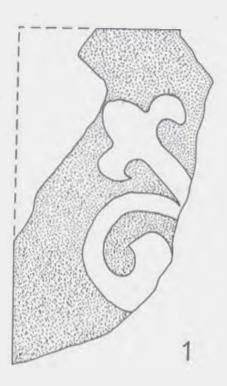
DROGHEDA: ST MARY'S 200m

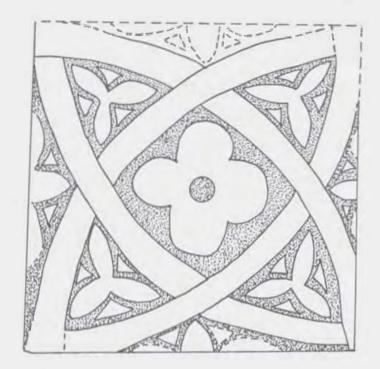


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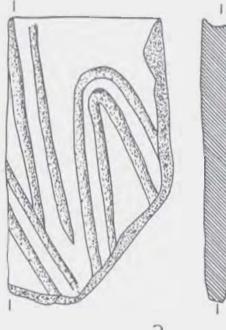
20cm

Fig. 37. Drogheda: St. Mary's and St. Pater's parish churches: cut stone (After Davies 1945).

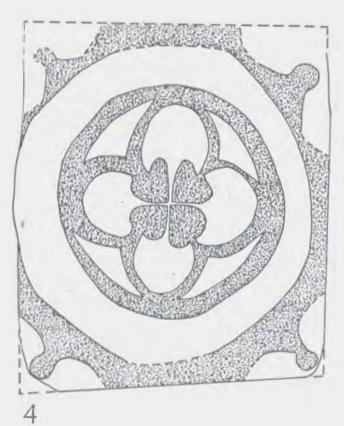




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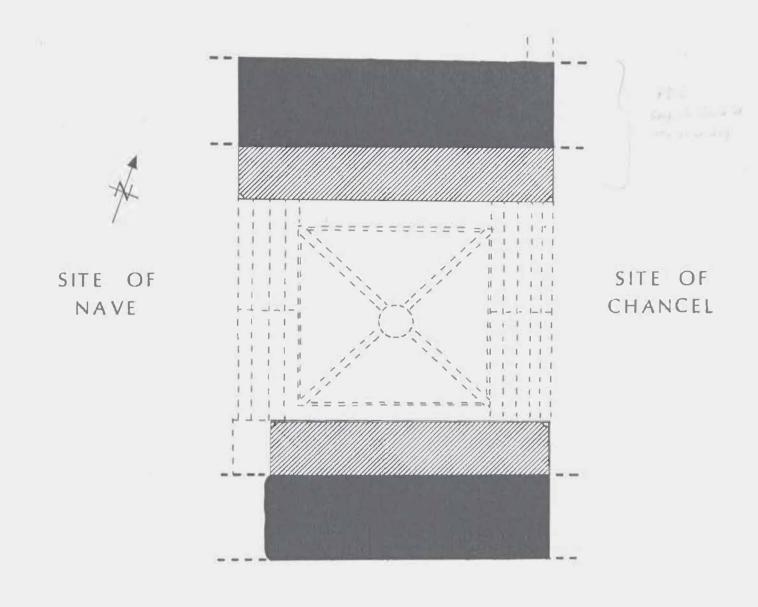


3



ST. MARY'S, DROGHEDA 0____5 CM

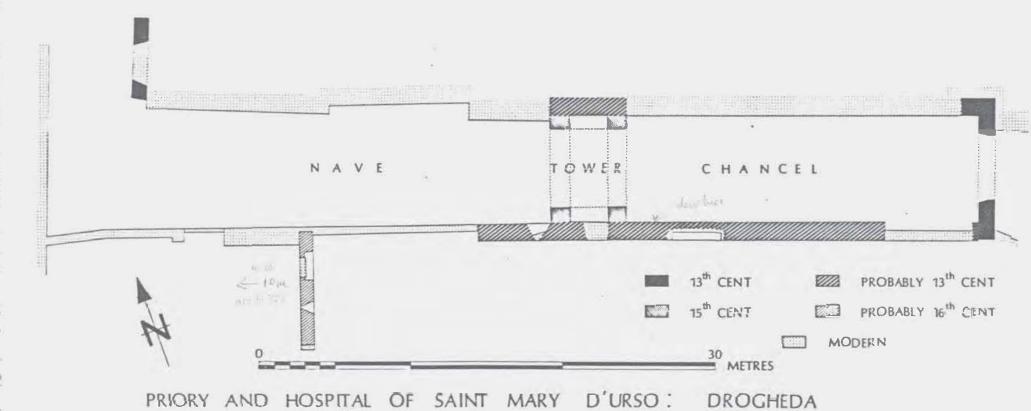
Fig. 38. Droghedat St. Mary's parish church: floor tiles in Museum of the Old Drogheda Society, Millmount.



DROGHEDA: Dominican Friary 13th CENT 14th CENT



Fig. 39. Drogheda: Dominican Friary, ground plan.



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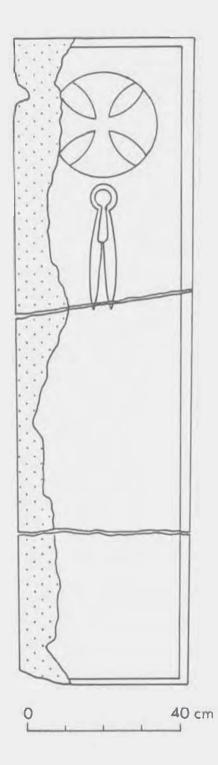
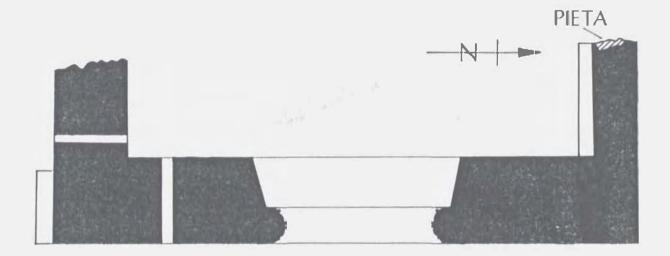


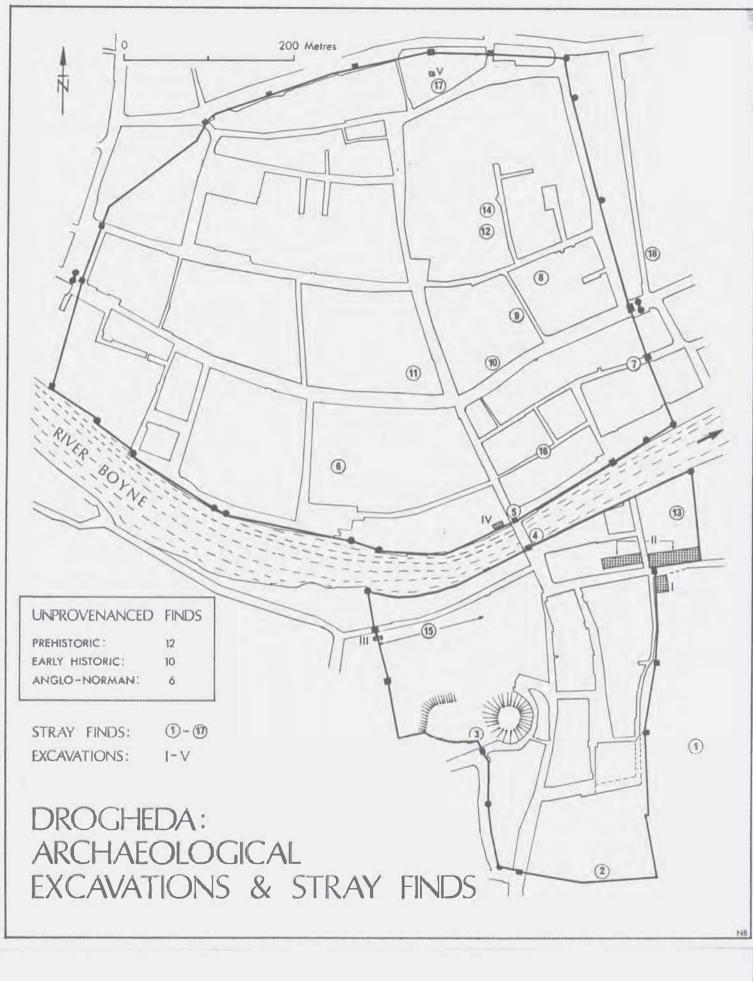
Fig. 41. Drogheda: Graveslab from Hospital of St. Mary D'Urso now in Museum of the Old Drogheda Society, Millmount.



DROGHEDA: ST. LAURENCES (CORD CHURCH): EAST GABLE



Fig. 42, Drogheda: Hospital of St. Laurence: ground plan.



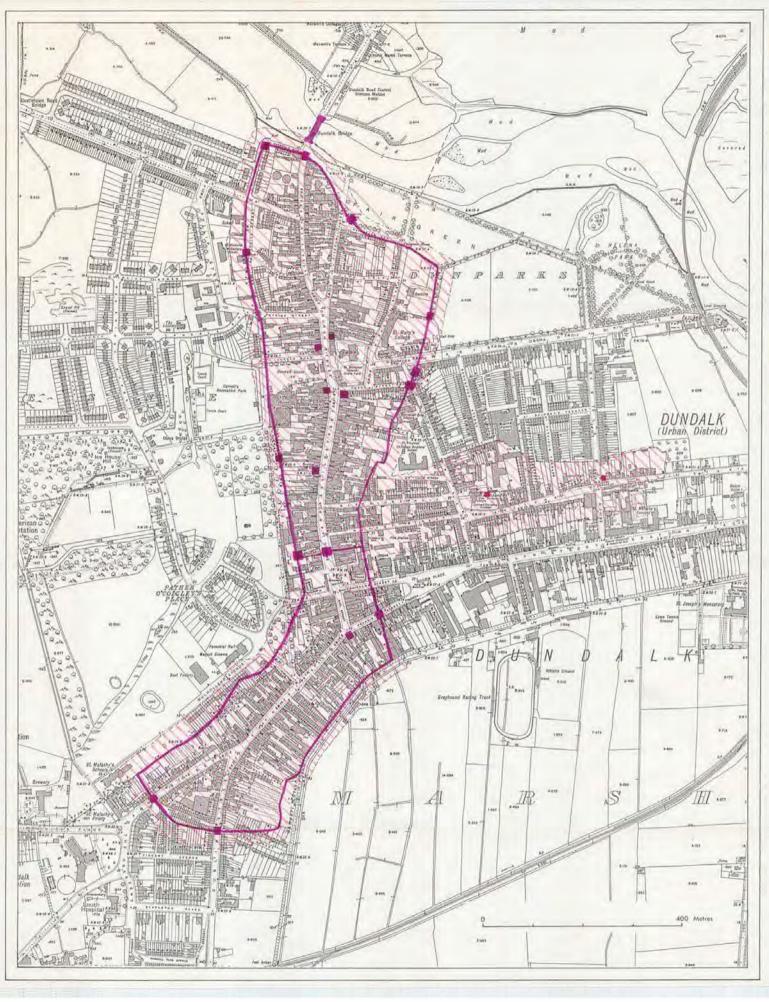


Fig. 44. Dundalk: Zone of archaeological potential.

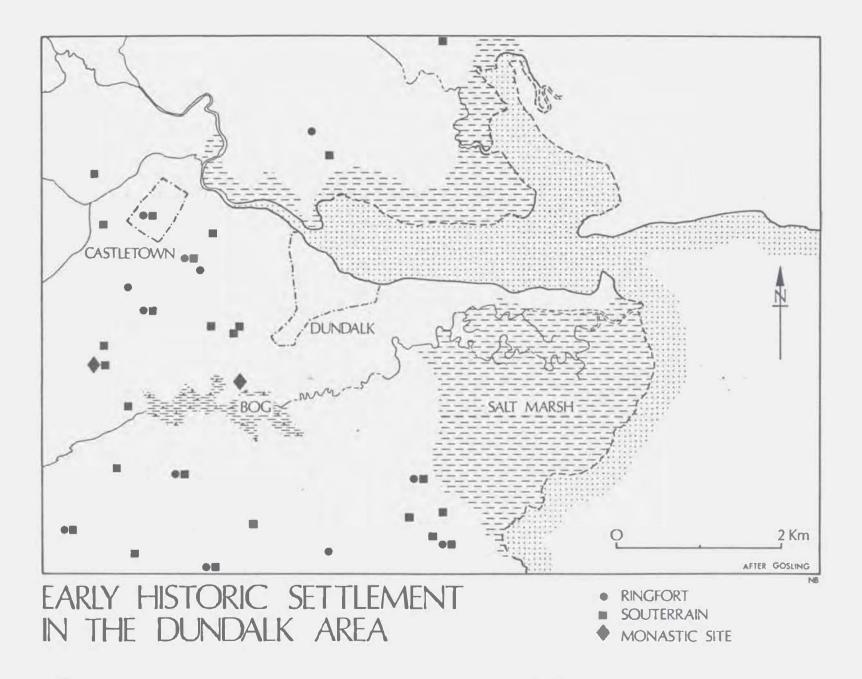


Fig. 45. Dundalk: Early Historic Settlement in the Dundalk area.

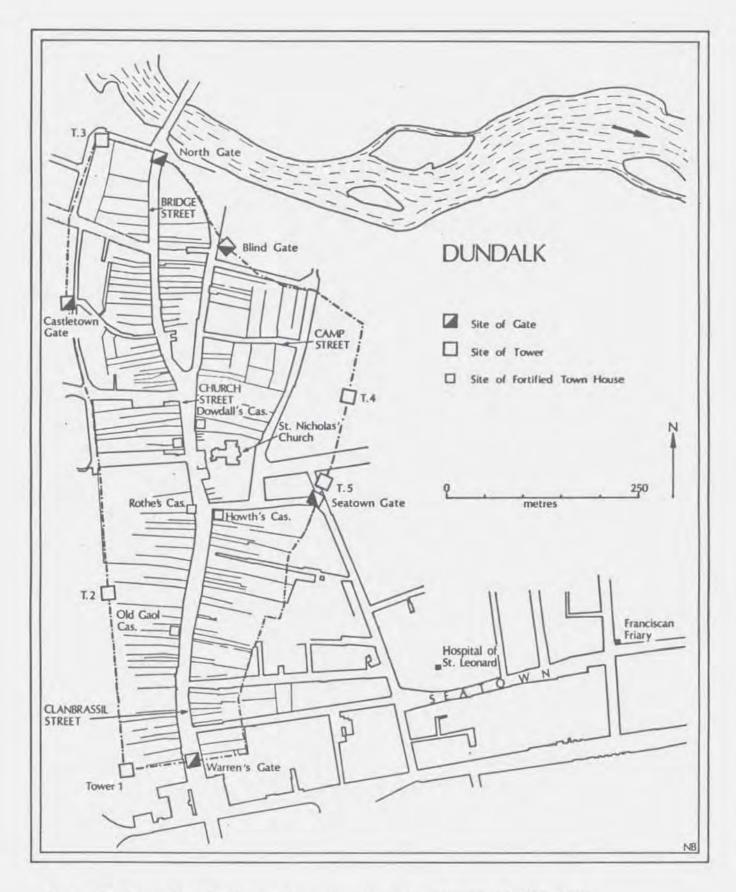


Fig. 46. Dundalk: Outline plan showing the course of the town wall and the principal archaeological features.

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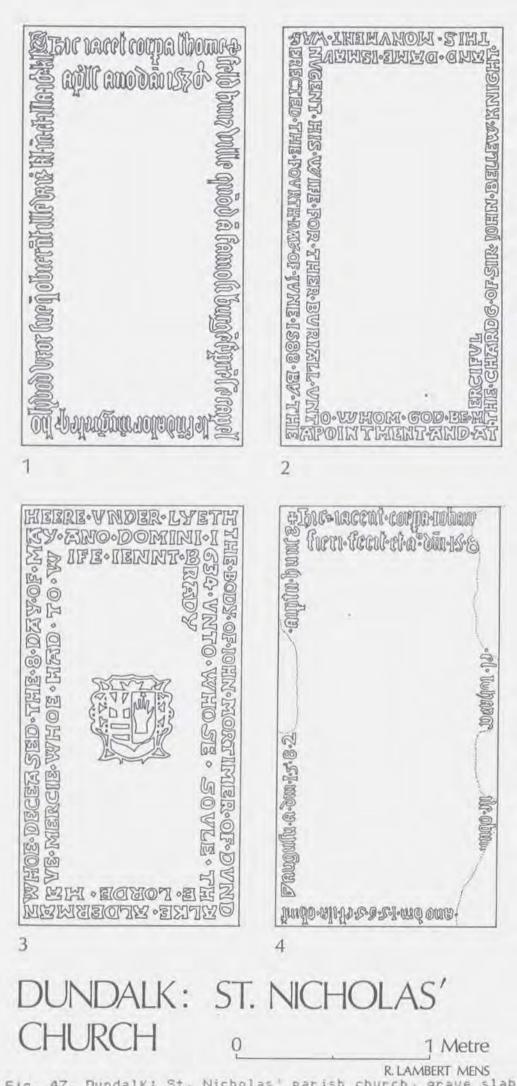
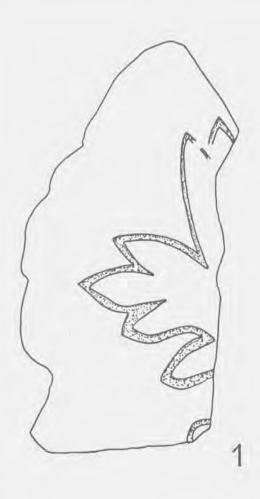
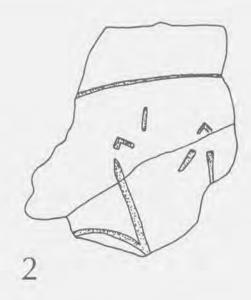
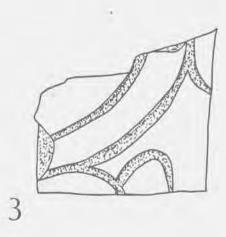
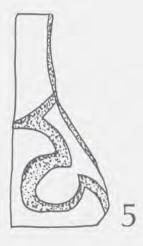


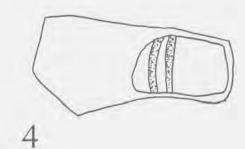
Fig. 47. BundalK: St. Nicholas' parish church, grave slabs (After R. Lambert).











ST. NICHOLAS'S, DUNDALK: FLOOR TILES 0_____5 CM

Fig. 48. Dundalk: St. Nicholas' parish church: floor tiles.

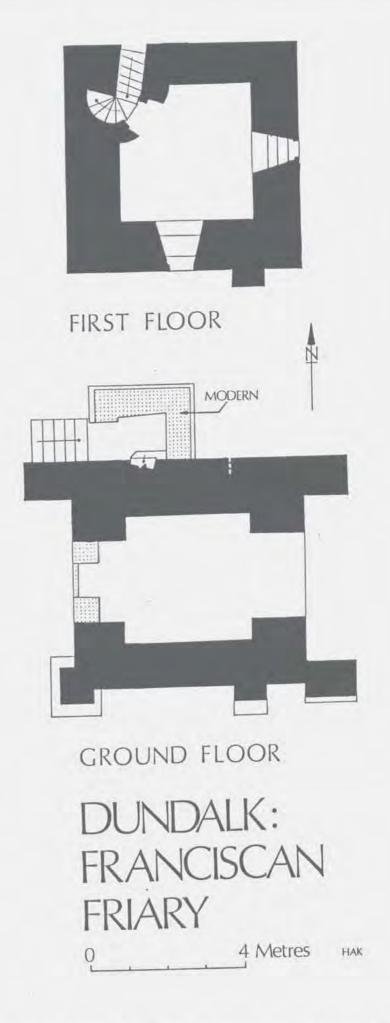
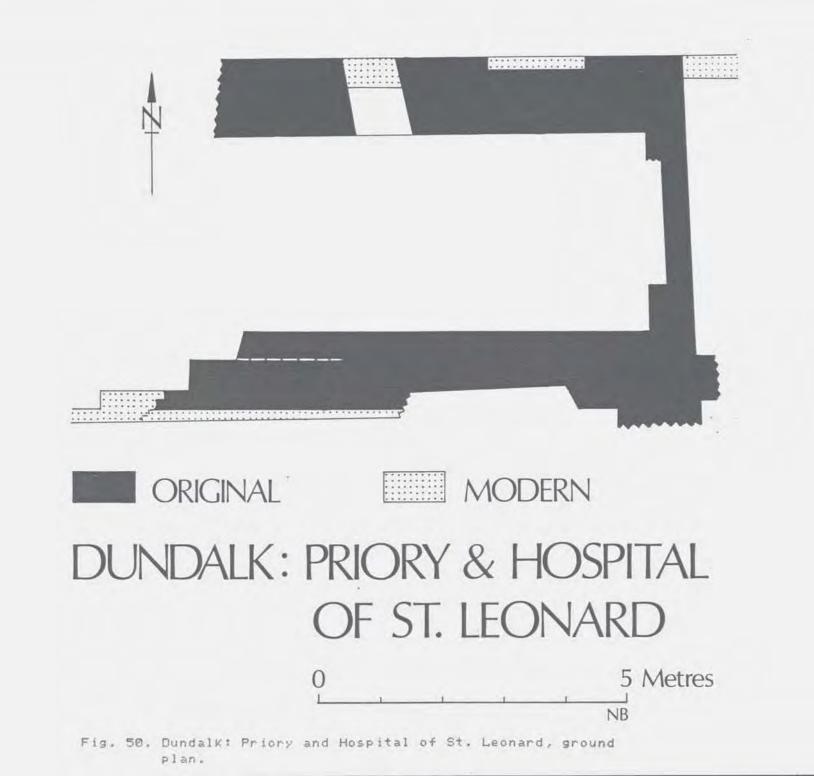


Fig. 49. Dundalk: Franciscan friary ground plan.



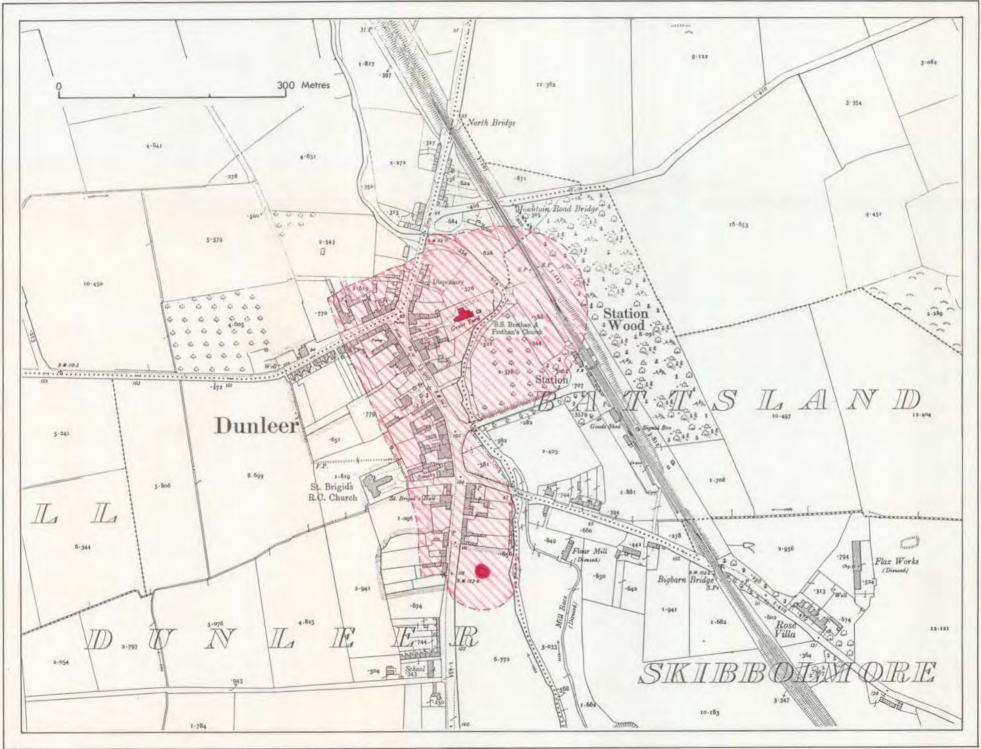
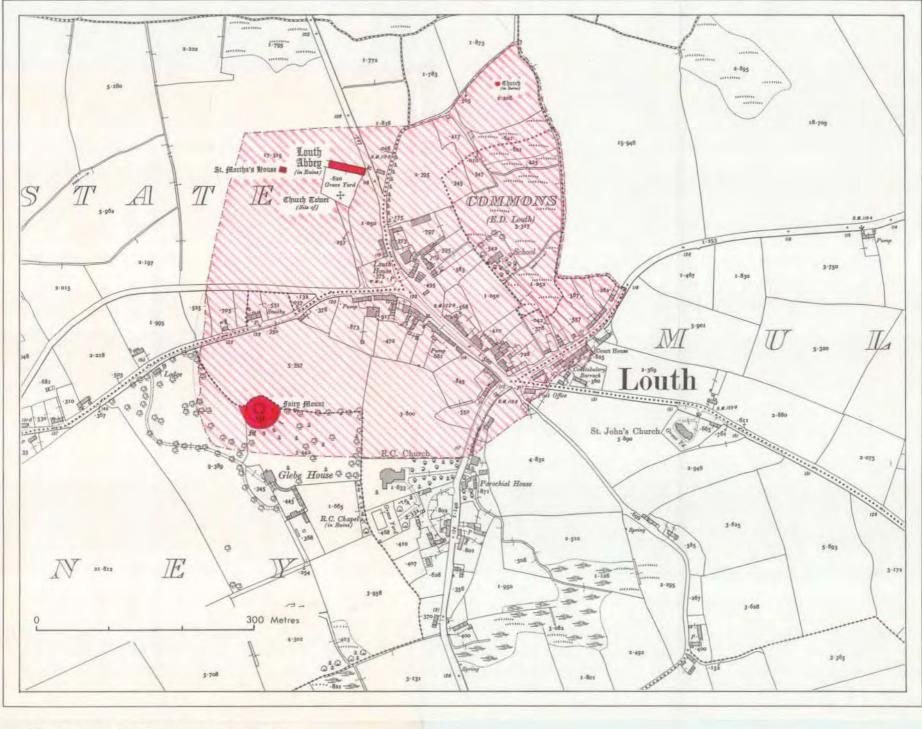


Fig. 51. Dunleer: Zone of archaeological potential.



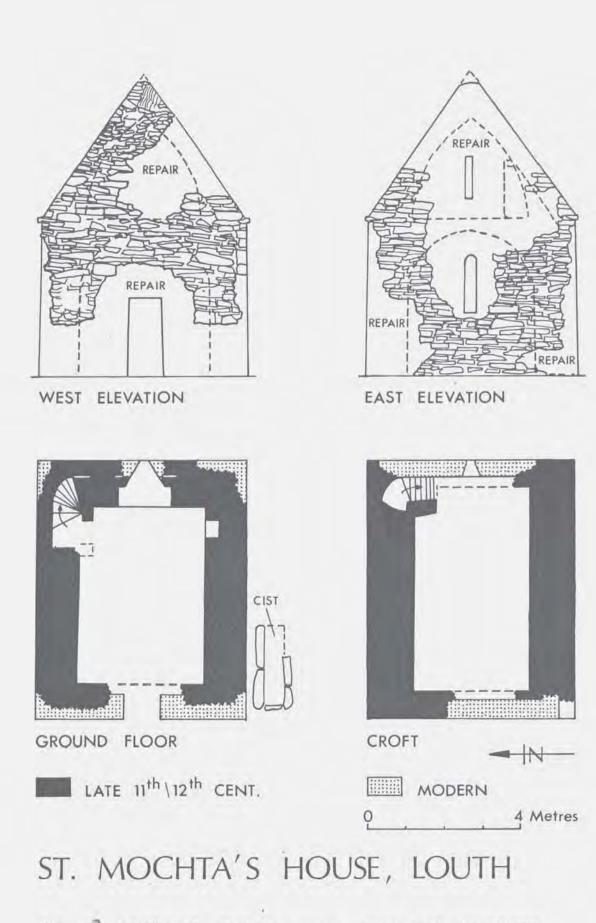
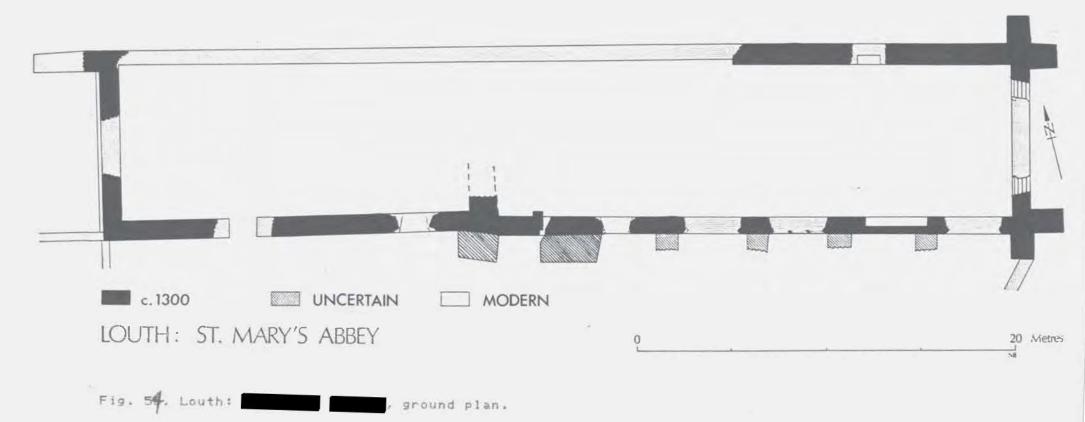
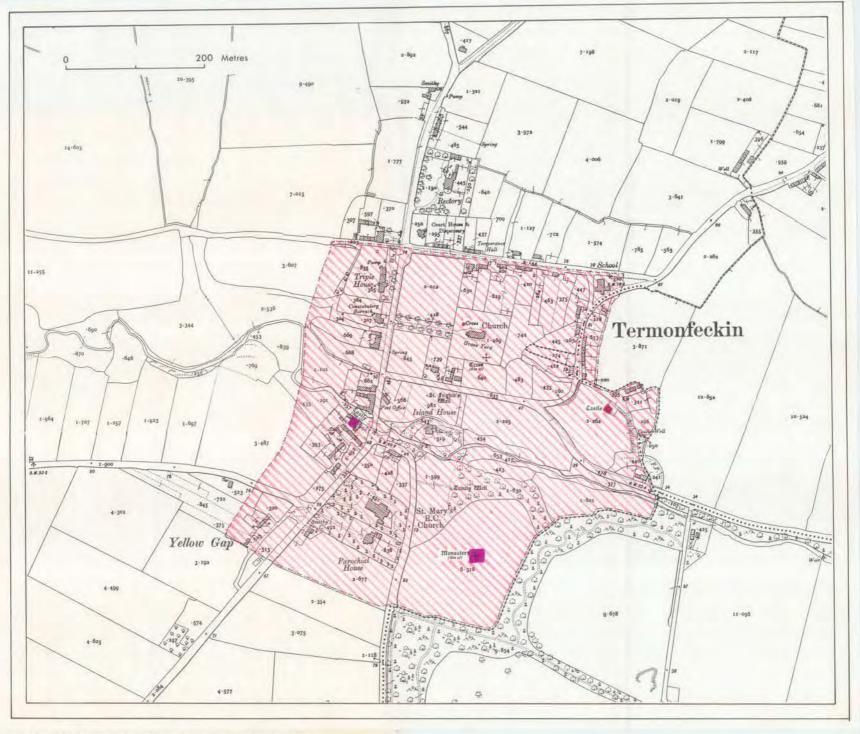


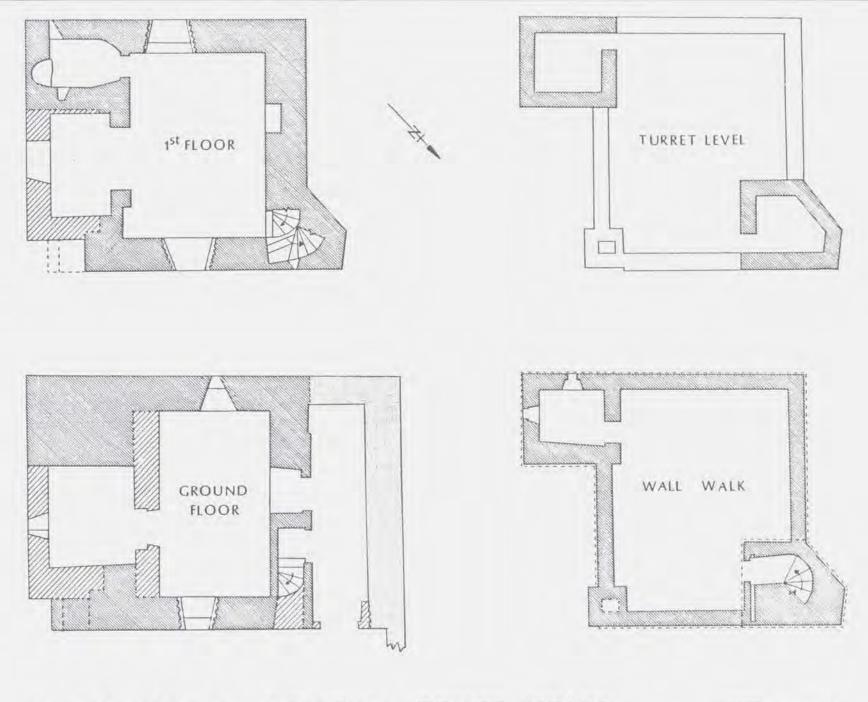
Fig. 5. Louth: St. Mochta's House, plans and elevations (after Leask)



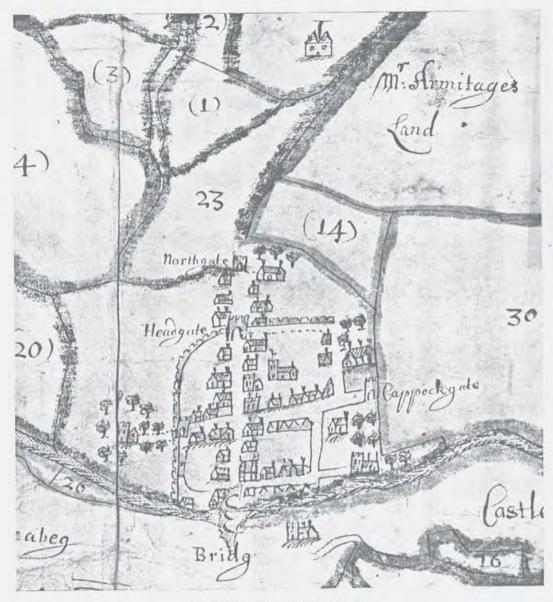




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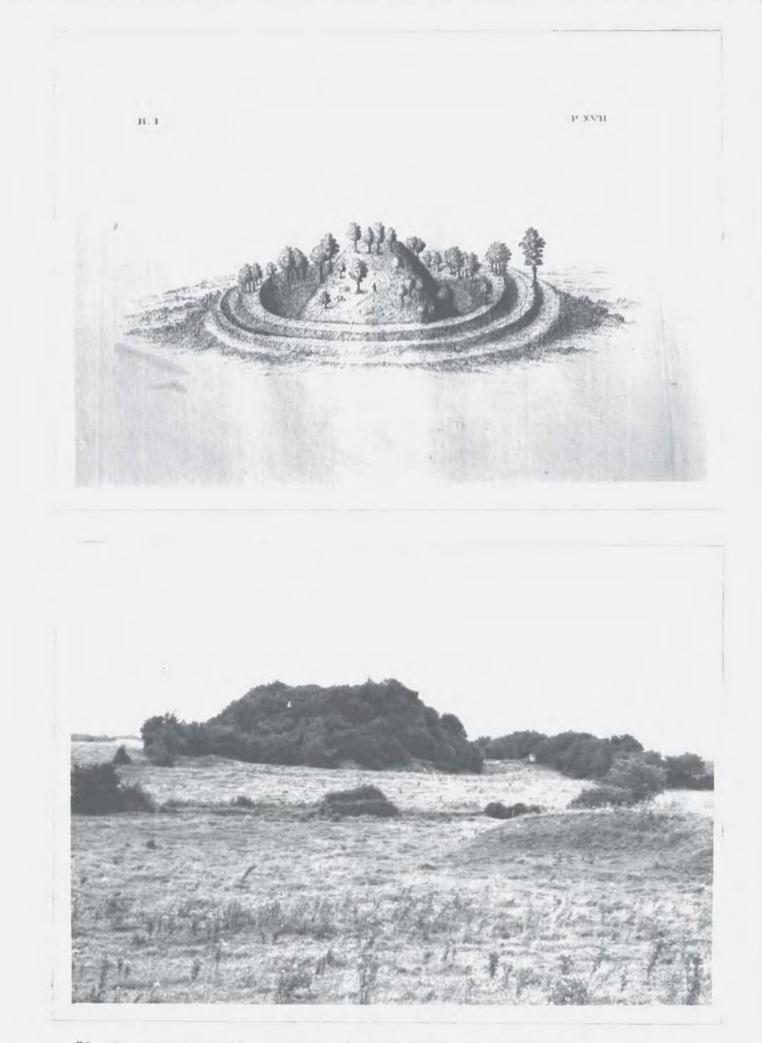


TERMONFECKIN, DOWDALL TOWER HOUSE PHASE 1



THE TOWN OF ARDEE 1N 1677 From a map of the "Commons" of Ardee dated 1677, made by Robert Richardson for the Corporation

Pl. 1. The town of Ardee in 1677. From a map of the "Commons" of Ardee made by Robert Richardson for the Corporation.

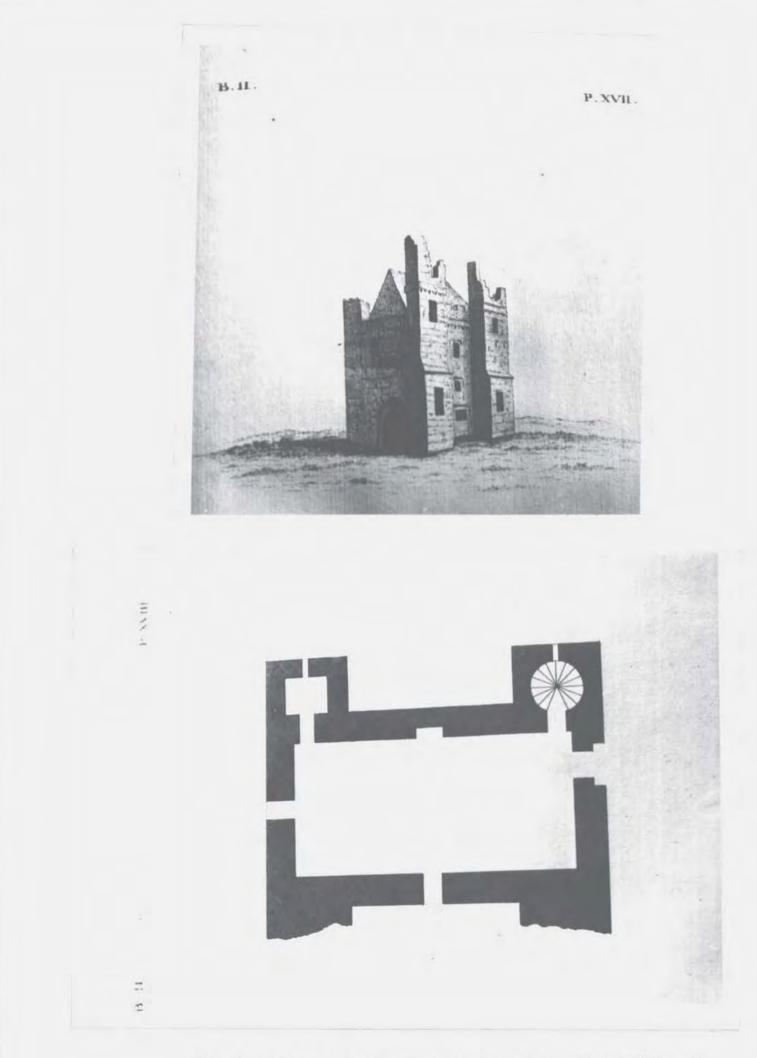


P1. 2. a) The motte of Ardee from Wright's "Louthiana", 1748. b) The motte of Ardee from south east.



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P1. 3. a) Andee: the "counthouse" from Grose's "Antiquities of Ineland", 1791. b) The "counthouse" from West.



Pl. 4. Ardee: the "couthouse" from Wright's "Louthiana", 1748. (a) view. (b) ground plan.



b) Ardee: Chantry College from south.



Pl. 6. Ardee: Chantry College from north.



NWATEW OF ARLESS CHURCH, Coloudh.



P1. 7. a) Ardee: St. Mary's Parish Church from Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland", 1791. The view is taken from the north west. b) Ardee: St. Mary's Church: the south aisle from west.



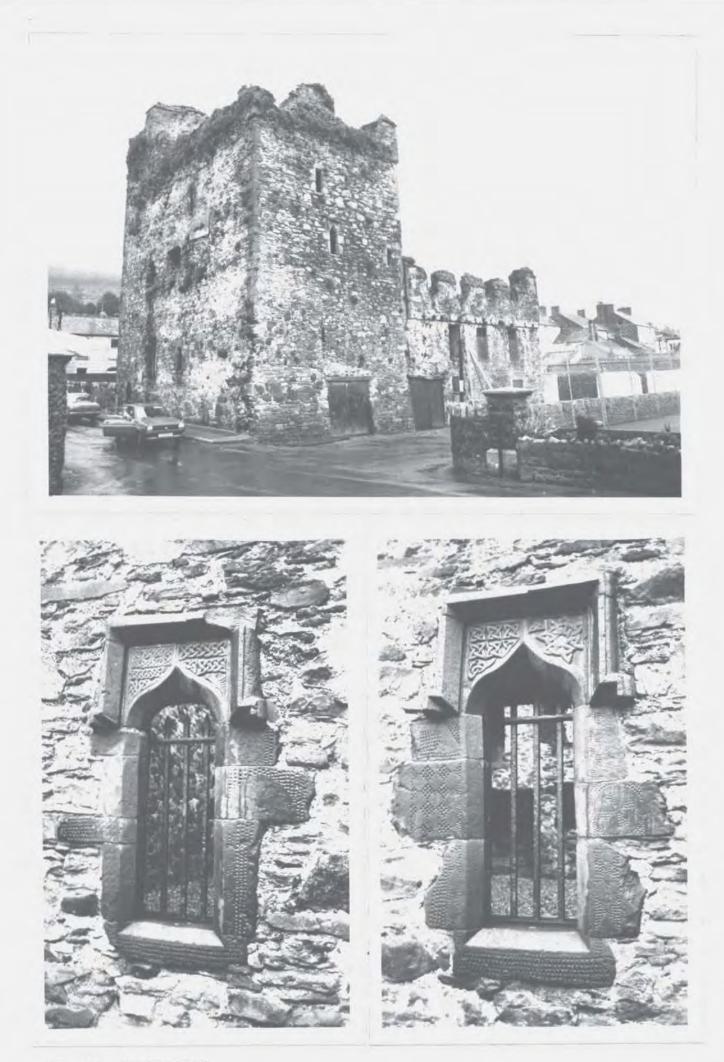
P1, 8, a) Ardee: St. Mary's Church: door to rood loft. b) Ardee: St. Mary's Church: font from Mansfieldstown.



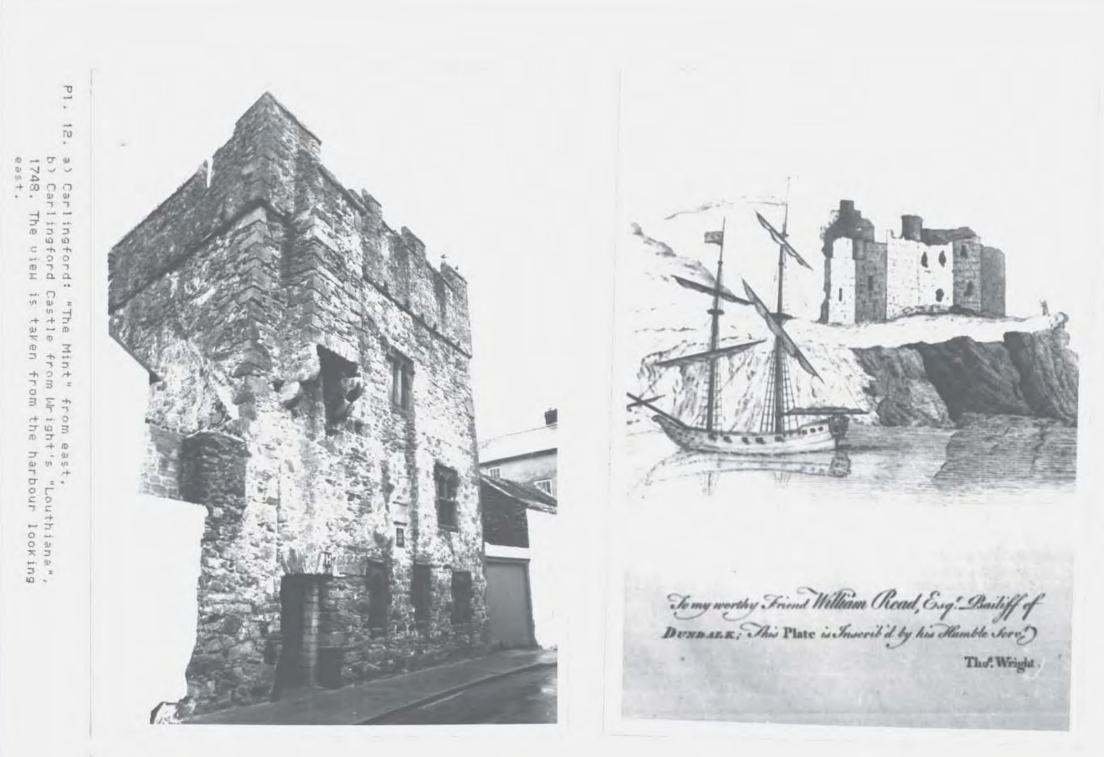


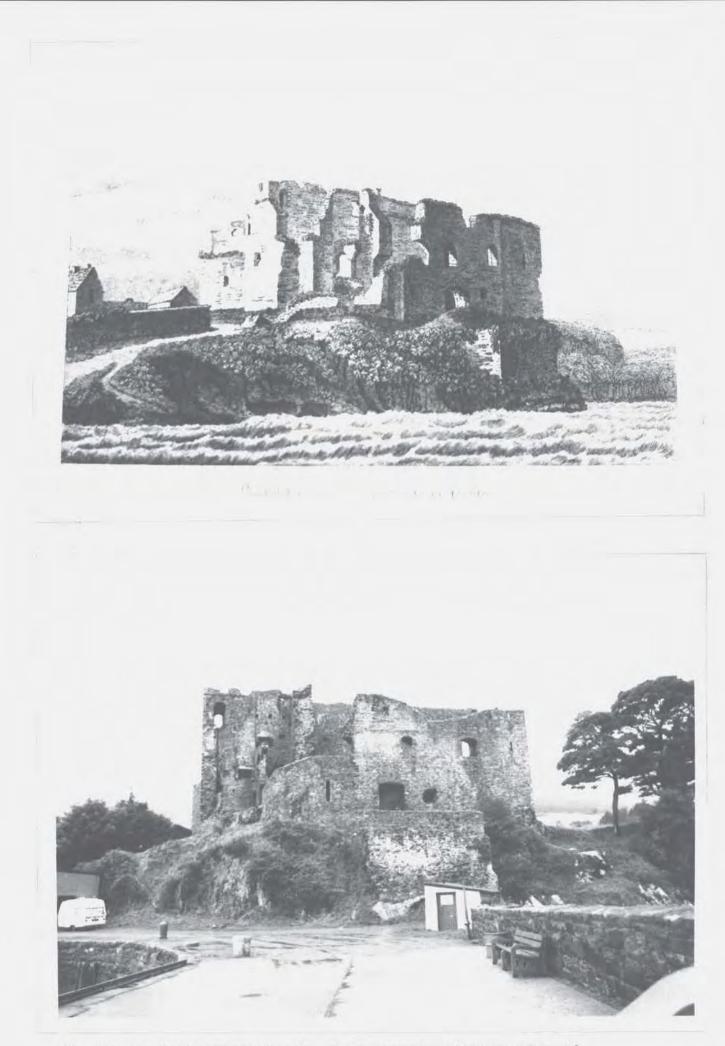
Pl. 9. Ardee: St. Mary's Church: Cross a) East face. b) West face.



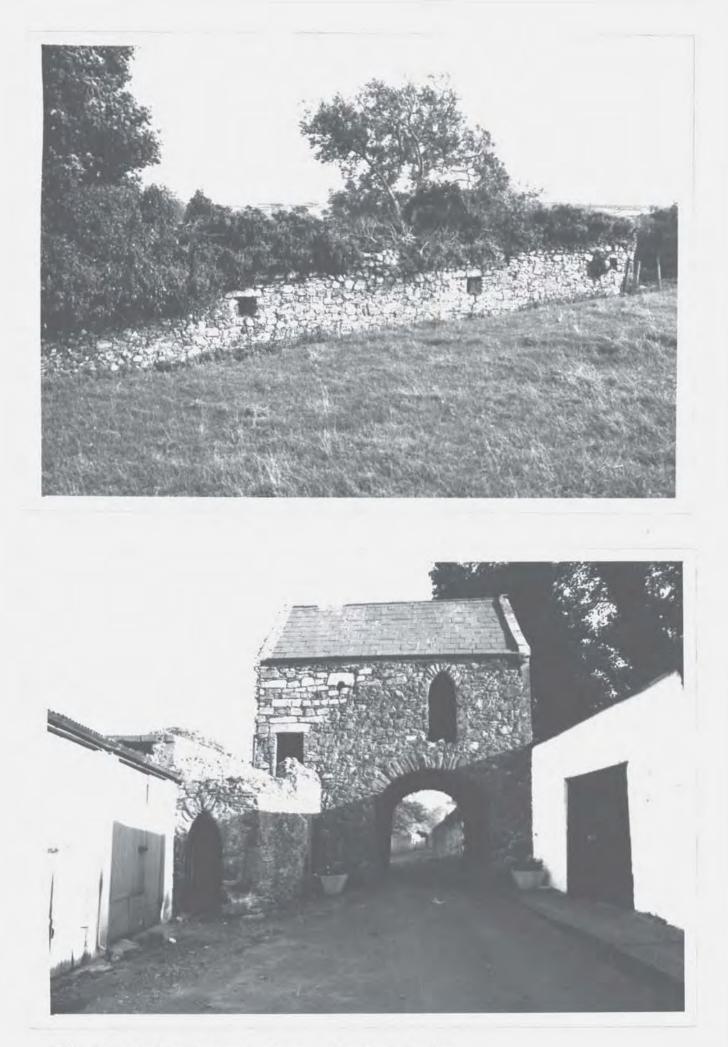


Pl. 11. Carlngford. a) Taaffe's Castle from south east b) and c) Windows in the east wall of "The Mint".



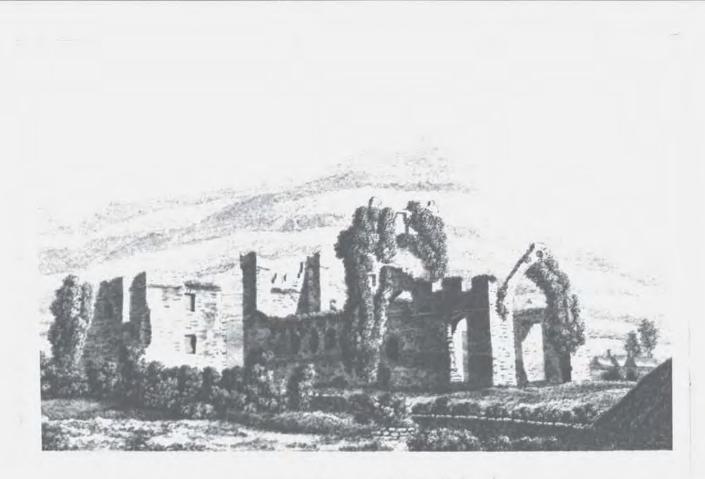


P1. 13. a) Carlingford Castle from Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland". The view is taken from the same angle as P1. 12b. b) Carlingford Castle from east.





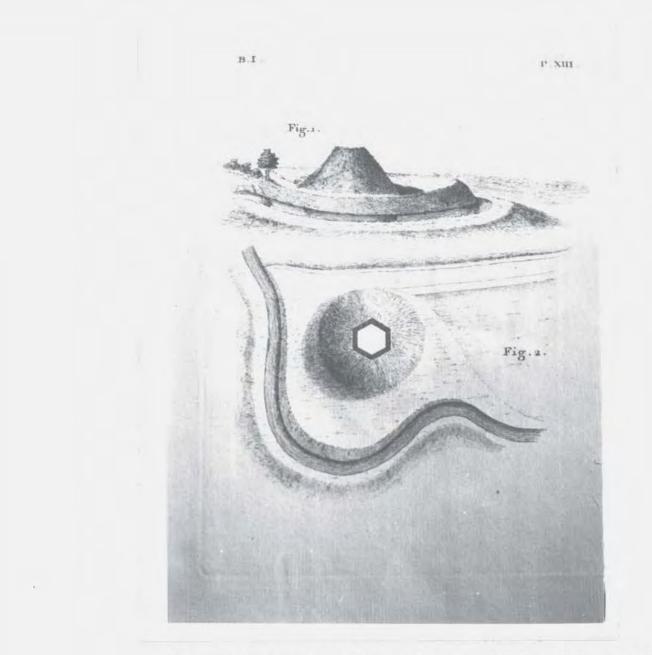
P1. 15. Carlingford: Holy Trinity Church from south.



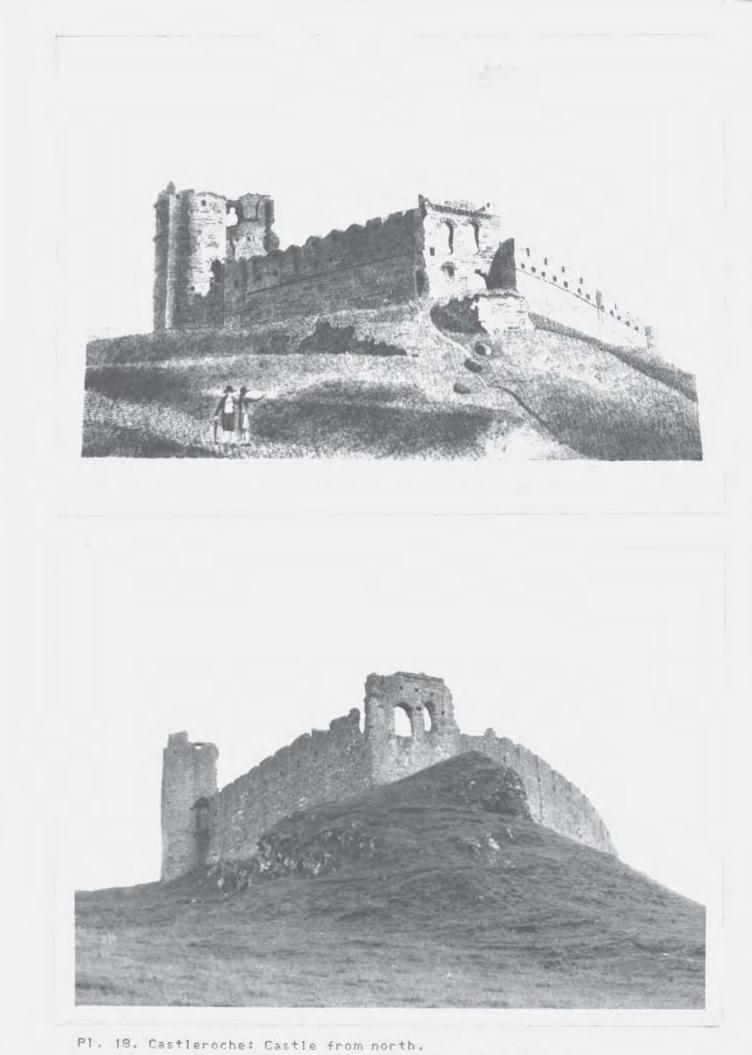
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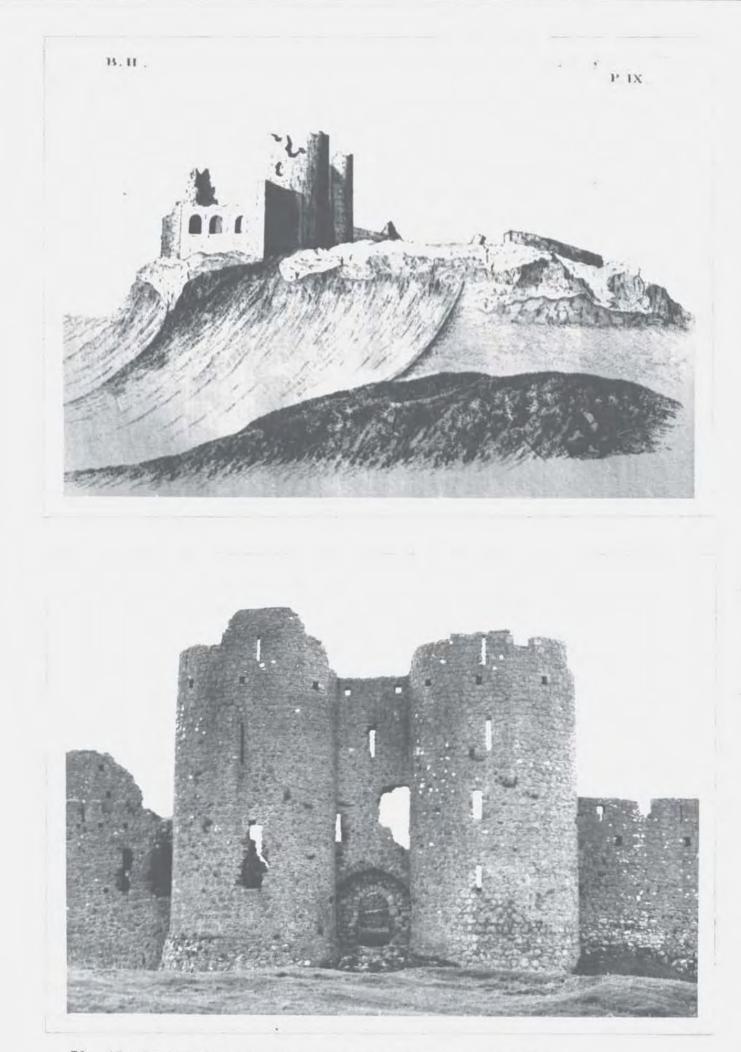
Pl. 16. Carlingford: Dominican Friarv. a) From Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland", 1791. b) From south east.



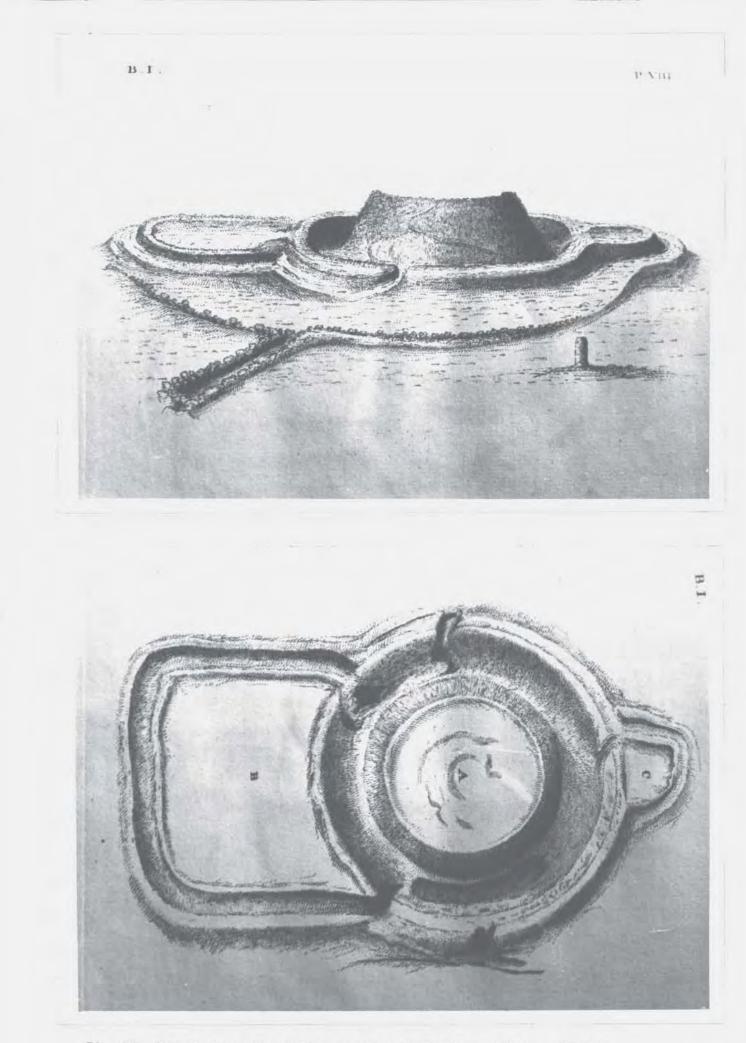
Pl. 17. Castlering: Plan and view of motte from Wright's "Louthiana". 1748.



P1. 18. Castleroche: Castle from north. a) From Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland", 1791. b) From north, 1983.

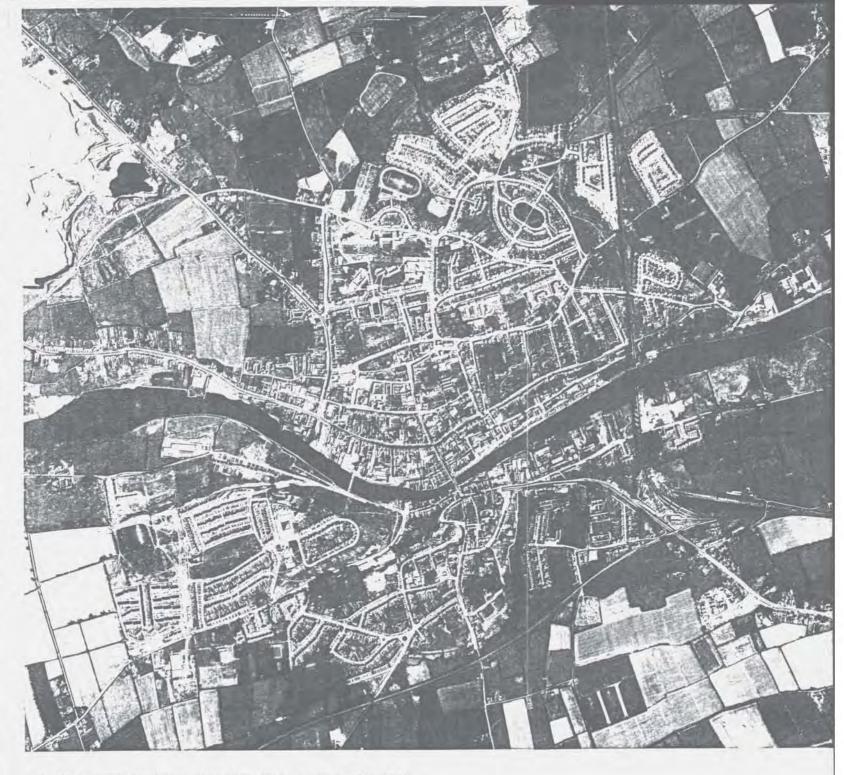


Pl. 19. a) Castleroche from Wright's "Louthiana", 1748. b) Castleroche: entrance gate from east.

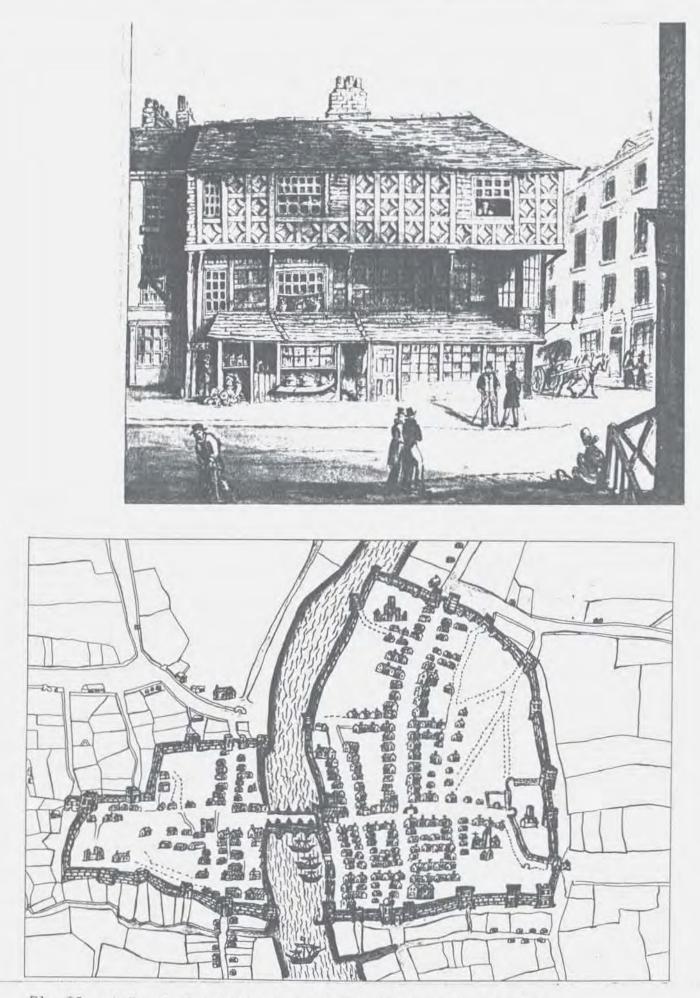


Pl. 20. Castletown Dundalk: motte and bailey. View and plan from Dright's "Louthiana", 1748.

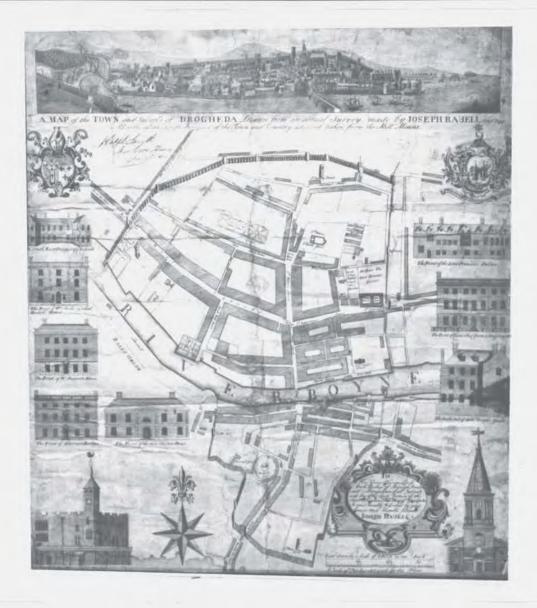




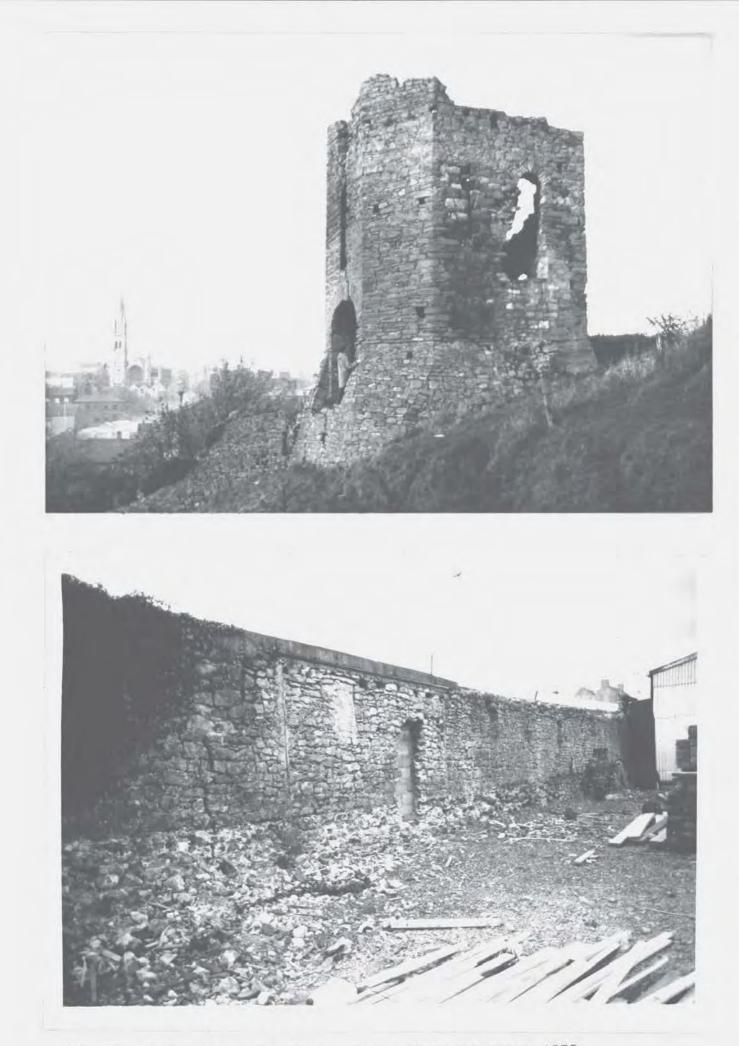
Pl. 22. Drogheda: serial view (Ordnance Survey of Ireland).



P1. 23. a) Drogheda: View of the Bathe House on the corner of Laurence Street and West Street by Robert Armstrong 1823 (Coll. Carnegie Library). b) Map of Drogheda by Robert Newcomen, 1667.



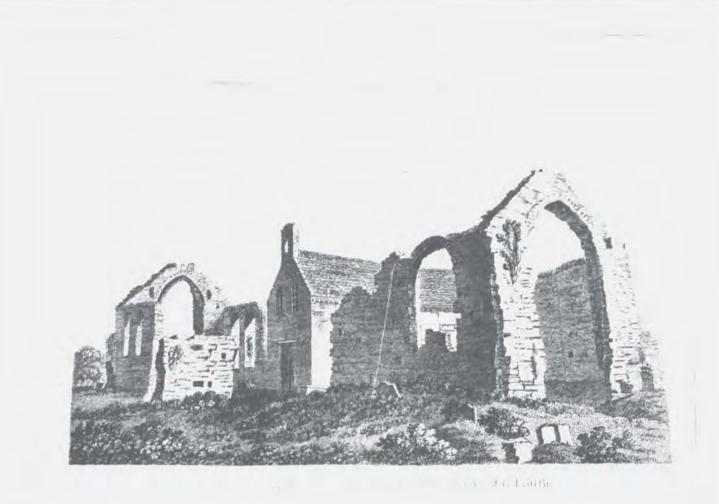
Pl. 24. Map of Drogheda by Joseph Ravell 1749.



P1. 25. a) Drogheda: The Butter Gate. Photographed c.1950. b) Drogheda: Town wall between the river Boyne and West Street, from south east.



Pl. 26. Drogheda: The barbican of St. Laurence's Gate from west.





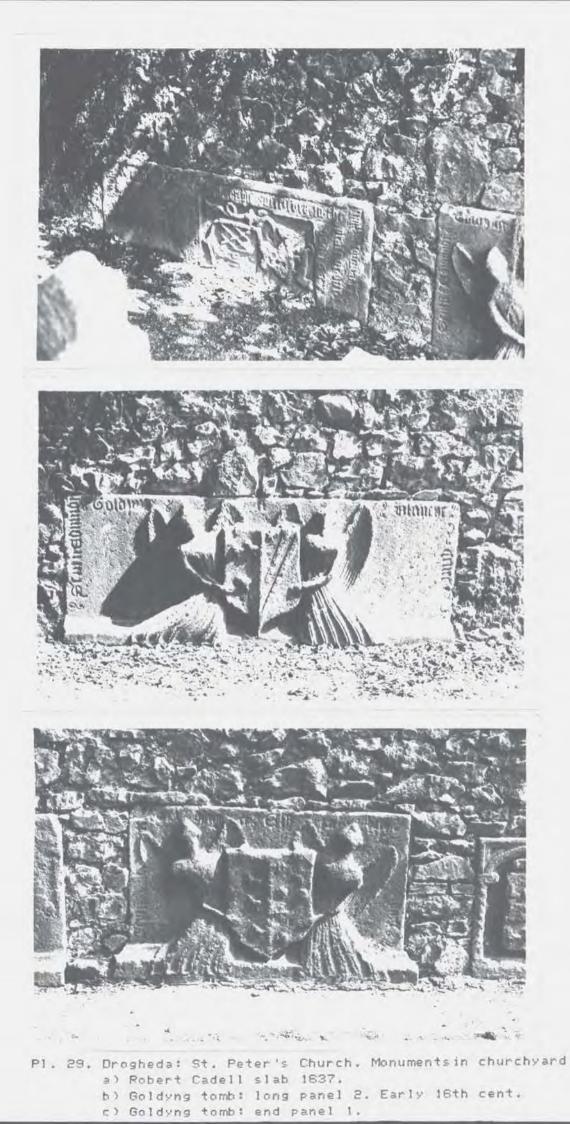
Pl, 27. Drogheda

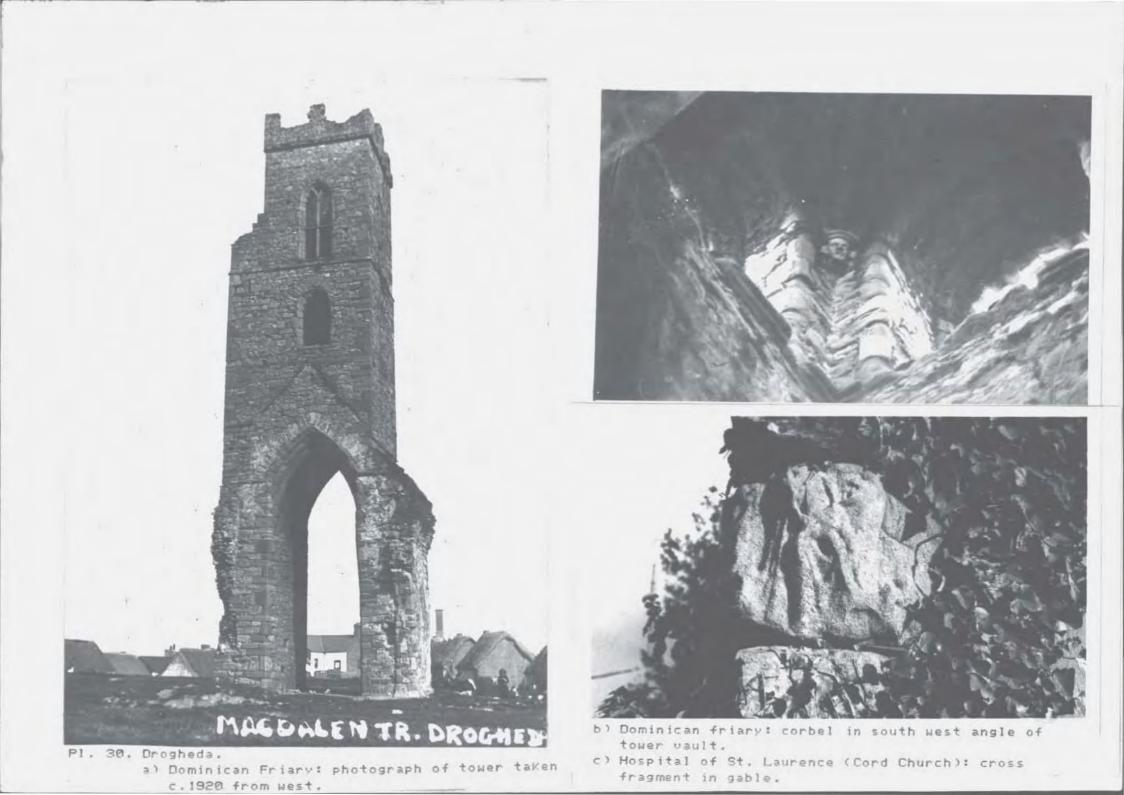
- a) St. Mary's church from Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland", 1781.
- b) St. Peter's Church: The Golgyng cadavers. Early 18th cent.



P1. 28. Drogheda: St. Peter's Church.

- a) Font.
- b) Fragment of the font base, in church porch.
- c) Side panel of Dowdall tomb, in churchyard. 16th cent.







b) Gargoyle.

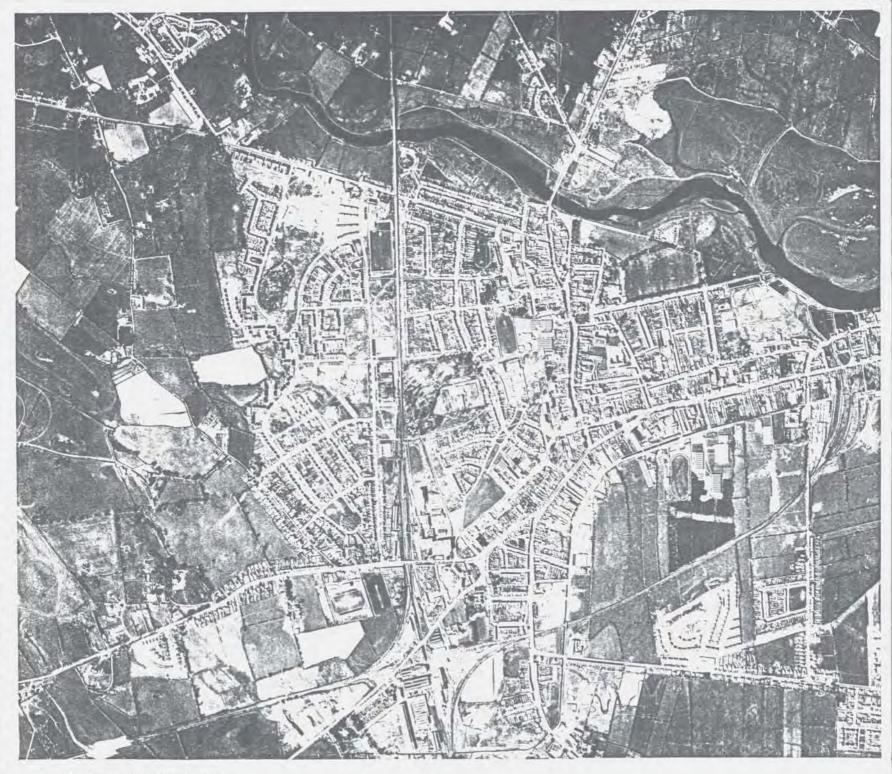


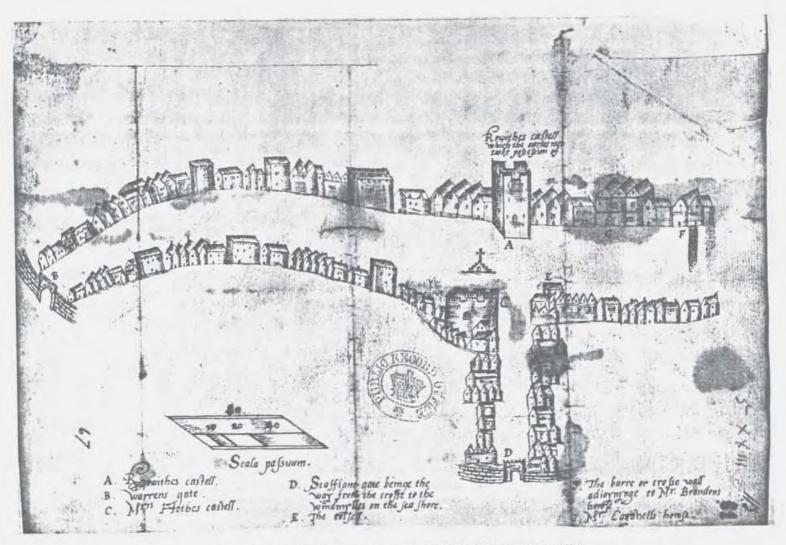
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Pl. 32. Drogheda.

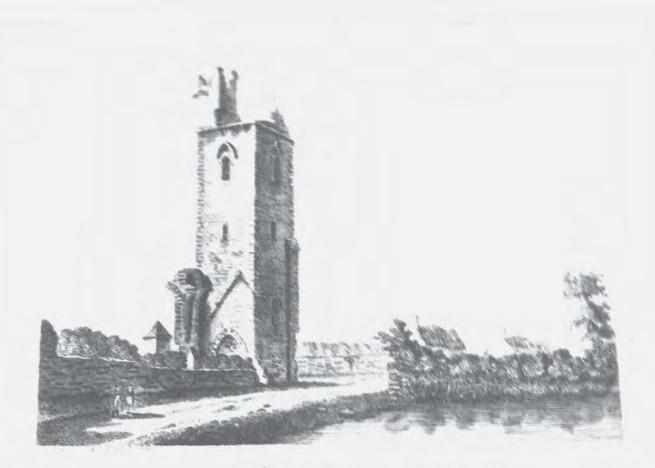
a) Hospital of St.Mary D'Urso, from Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland", 1791. View from south west.
b) Font outside St. Peter's (R.C.) church.





[&]quot;PLOTT" OF DUNDALK TOWN BY HENRY DUKE, JUNE, 1594 (Published by the kind permission of H.M. Stationery Office, London. Copyright reserved)

Pl. 34. Dundalk: "Plott" of Dundalk town by Henry Duke, June 1594.

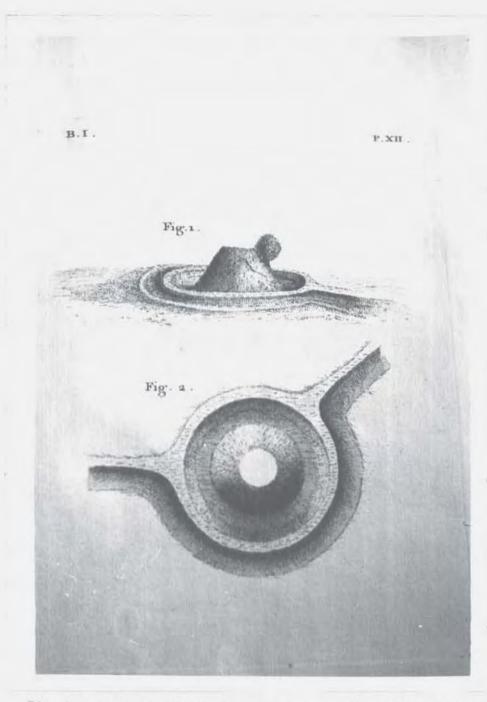


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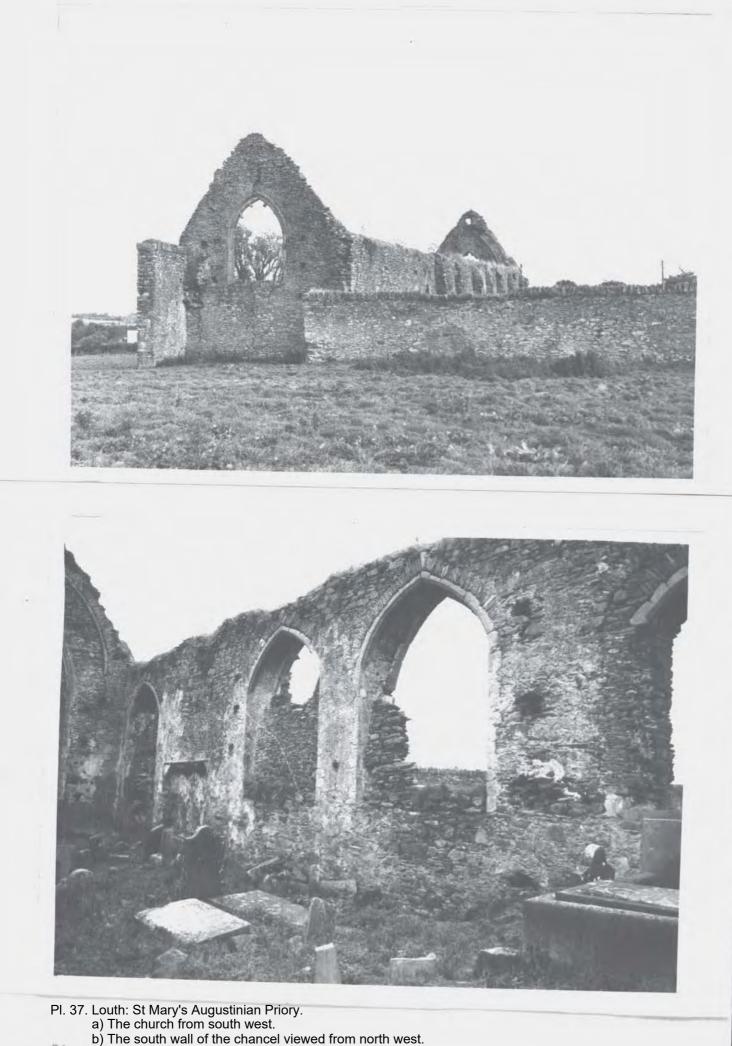


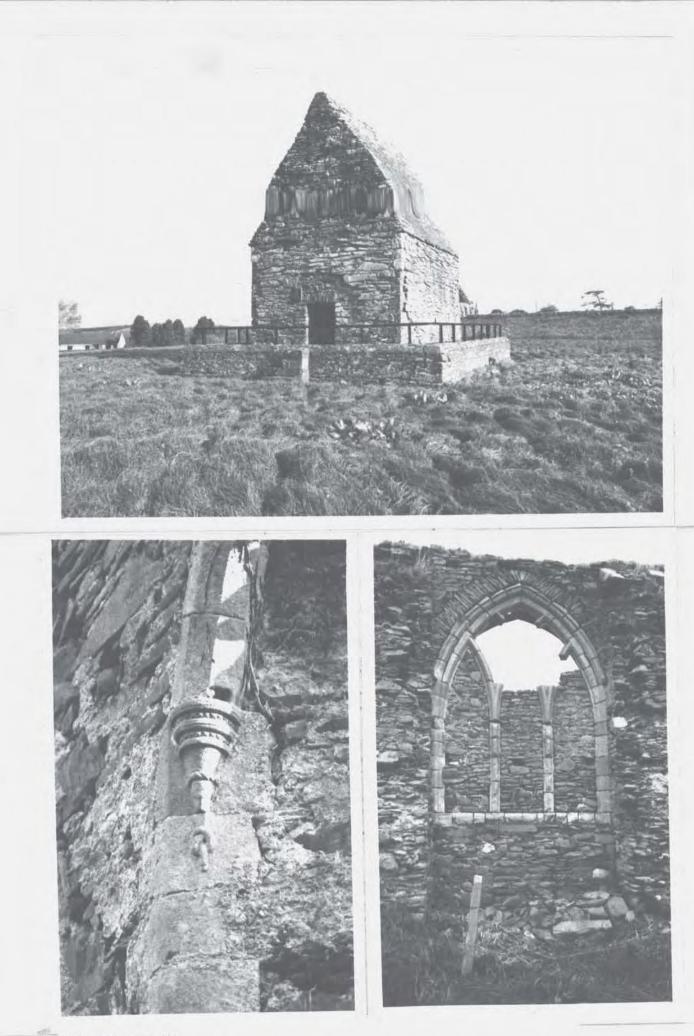
Pl. 35. Dundalk,

a) Franciscan Friary: tower, from Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland", 1791. View from south west.
 b) Hospital of St. Leonard: vaulted chamber.



Pl. 36. Louth: Motte. Plan and view from Wright's "Louthiana", 1748.

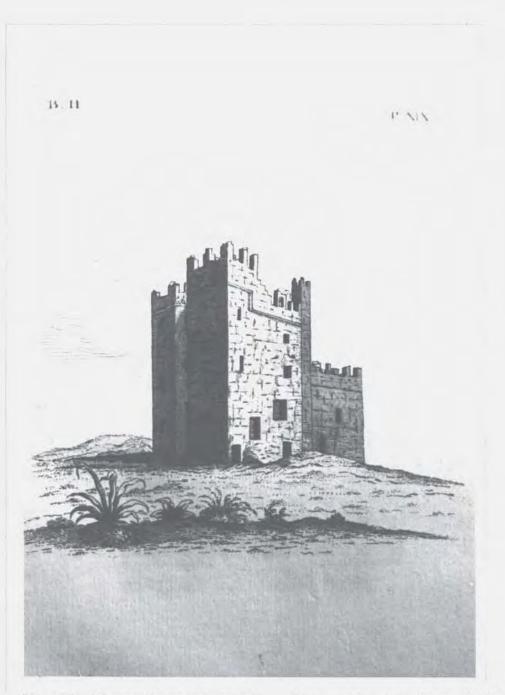




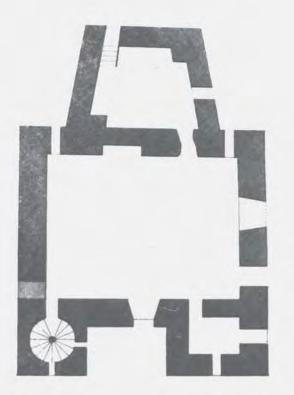
- P1. 38. Louth.
 a) St Mochta's House, from west.
 b) St Mary's Augustinian Priory:detail of window in north wall of nave.
 c) St Mary's Augustinian Priory: window in south wall of chancel



39. Louth: St Mary's Augustinian Priory.
a) and b) Font and back of Kieran cross. 17th cent.
c) Stone with beaded ornament in gate pier. 12th cent.

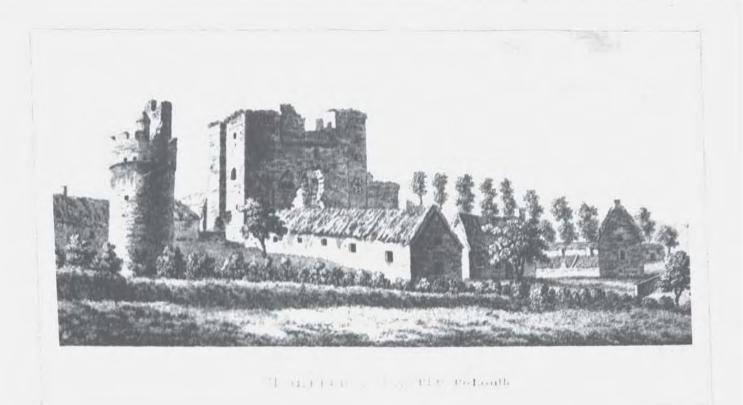


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Pl. 40. Termonfeckin: Castle. Plan and view from Wright's "Louthiana", 1748.







Pl. 42. TermonfecKin. a) Castle from Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland", 1791.

b) St. Feichin's Church: stone crucifixion plaque.



Pl. 43. Termonfeckin: St. Feichin's Church. a) High Cross: east face. b) Cross base in churchyard.