

URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY

PART I I

COUNTY MEATH

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WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

Development of Urban Archaeology

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

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 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 ornaments were discovered at Kilmainham-Islandbridge, and although originally interpreted as the remains of a battle, they are now seen to form part of an early Viking cemetery, apparently, 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 Dublin, 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

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 Temple 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 by the High Street and, later, the Wood Quay excavations was widespread and it created an interest in the archaeology of other towns. To date, excavations have taken place in about 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.

2. For all towns, archaeological deposits are the earliest archive. Only a handful of Irish towns are referred to prior to 1200 AD and it is only during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries that references become anyway common. Yet the urban life of many towns has continued unbroken since the twelfth or early thirteenth century, while the origins of others lie in the Viking, Early Christian and Prehistoric periods. Even 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 evidence of their status as boroughs prior to 1700 AD.

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

INTRODUCTION TO CO. MEATH

This report considers seventeen sites within the modern county boundary which are known to have been urban sites prior to 1700 (Fig. 1). Some of these are now deserted, others have shrunk in importance but three, Kells, Navan and Trim, are expanding towns while Athboy, Duleek, Ratoath and Slane have the potential for redevelopment in the near future.

The towns considered here are all essentially Anglo-Norman foundations established in the last quarter of the twelfth or early in the thirteenth century. It is clear from documentary and archaeological sources, however, that most of these were already important settlement sites prior to the coming of the Normans. Some such as Duleek, Kells, Slane and Trim were monastic sites, while others such as Ratoath and Syddan were secular dwellings. These centres are particularly important for archaeology because they have the potential to illuminate the hazy period of transition between the pre-Norman period and their emergence as urban sites.

Our knowledge of these towns prior to 1700 consists of only the meagrest historical details but the potential of archaeology to illuminate social and economic life during this period is considerable. This report assembles the known archaeological data on each site and reviews their potential for future research. Each town is provided with a map outlining its zone of archaeological potential in which 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.

ATHBOY

Athboy is situated in lowlying flat countryside equidistant from Kells and Trim. The medieval town was centred on the axis of a long gently curving street now divided into O'Growney-, Main-, and Bridge Streets, and lay largely to the west of the Athboy river, a tributary of the Boyne. The river was evidently an important factor in the location of the town because the placename is derived from Ath Buidhe, i.e. "yellow ford", a crossing point. In early sources it is referred to as Ath Buide Tlachtgha, "the yellow ford of Tlachtgha" (Hogan 1910, 54) and was so-named from Tlachtga (The Hill of Ward) which was traditionally the site of an important Oenach held at Samhain. The site was identified by O'Donovan with a low hill to the north-east of the town on top of which an earthwork, consisting of a central raised enclosure surrounded by four banks and ditches, is sited (O.S. Letters, 181-2). O'Donovan also recorded a local tradition that the site had been entrenched in 1641 but Macalister (1949a, 264) was of the opinion that it was not a fortification at all. The plundering of the site in 903 (AFM) would suggest that it was functioning as a settlement site at that time and the presence of subsequent habitation is suggested by the fact that Tighernan Ua Ruairc, King of Breifne, was slain here in 1172 by Hugh de Lacy. Indeed it is interesting to note that as late as 1496 fires were lit on top of the the hill in order to warn the settlers of the Pale of approaching Irish attackers (Conway 1932, 89).

Historical Background

The legendary associations of Tlachtga suggest that the immediate neighbourhood of Athboy was settled in Pre-Christian times but the earliest references to the site of the present town occur in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. In 1022 Ath Buidhe Tlachtga was the site of a battle between the Norse of Dublin and Maelsechlainn of Meath (O'Donovan 1851, II, sub anno). In 1090 AFM notes that Muirchertach Ua Briain plundered Brega "as far as Ath Buidhe", while in 1167 it was the scene of a synod convened here by Ruaidhri Ua Conchobhair, King of Connacht, at which a number of civil and ecclesiastical laws were passed (O'Donovan 1851, II, sub anno). These references indicate the geographical importance of the ford in the period immediately before the coming of the Normans and suggest that it was becoming a focal point.

Under the Normans Athboy became the centre of an important manor and was probably the caput baroniae of the barony of Lune, granted to William de Muset by Hugh de Lacy in the early 1170's (Orpen 1911-20, II, 86). On his death in 1213 it passed briefly into the hands of the Tuites and then

to the Loundres (de London) family who held it until 1386. In that year the manor was partitioned between the two daughters of William Loundres, one portion going to the Prestons and the other to the Browns (Mills and McEnery 1916, xi, 16). For the historian the Preston involvement is fortunate because information on the manor is preserved in their family cartulary, the Gormanston Register (Mills and McEnery 1916).

The earliest reference to a Norman fortification occurs in the Irish Pipe Roll of 14 John (1211-12) which notes that the castle of Athboy was then being fortified (Davies and Quinn 1941, 39). The exact site of this motte has not been previously determined (cf. Graham 1974, 43; 1980, 47), but it is likely that it was constructed on top of the hill of Tlachtha, which O'Donovan described in 1836 as "four (perhaps five) concentric rings, with a moat in the centre now much lowered" (O.S. Letters, 181). The Castletown of Athboy is mentioned on a number of occasions in the Gormanston Register suggesting that the motte was some distance from the town (Tresham 1828, 257 no. 51). Indeed as late as 1598 the "Castle-towne of Athboy" is listed among the castles of Meath (Hogan 1878, 92), a fact which would explain why Tlachtha was refortified in the 1640's. There was a mill attached to the manor and the rental in the Gormanston Register would suggest that it was near the town (Mills and McEnery 1916, 5).

The date of the foundation of Athboy as a town is not known and, indeed, there is little information on its history or development during the Middle Ages. The earliest direct reference to the borough is in 1337-8 (45 Report Deputy Keeper of Public Records Ireland (1913), 48), but the mention in 1329 of John le Forester, provost of Athboy, shows that the town was incorporated earlier, probably in the thirteenth century (Mills and McEnery 1916, 156). The town had all the trappings of a medieval borough including its corporation and court (Morrissey 1939, 155). It received a number of royal charters of which the most important was that of 1612 (Irish Record Commission 1930, 218). In 1407 the provost and commonalty received a charter from Henry IV granting a number of privileges including the right to establish a merchant guild, for which it is recorded that they paid 10 marks (Tresham 1828, 187 no. 7; p. 188 no. 14). In 1423 the town subscribed 20s. towards the expenses of defending the Pale against O Conchobair Failghe in the previous year (Tresham 1828, 230, no. 118). This was an amount equalled only by Kells among the towns of Meath and Westmeath and suggests that Athboy was one of the wealthier towns of the Pale at this time. There is little to indicate what the source of its wealth was based on. It was a marketing centre for the agricultural produce of its immediate hinterland and there is a hint that skins and furs may have played a role in local trade (Tresham 1828, 215 no. 130). A bakehouse is mentioned in 1402 (Tresham 1828, 162).

The town was on the edge of the Pale and functioned as a frontier post in the Later Middle Ages. It was burned, for

instance, in 1443 during the raid on the Pale by O Conchobhair Failghe and was captured by Owen Roe O'Neill in 1643. The monies spent on its defence are an indication of its importance. A charter of 1306 included the right to collect murage (PROI/1A/53/23 p. 180) while in 1446 Henry VI granted customs for 60 years, and these appear to have been continued by the Irish Parliament of 1462 (Berry 1914, 25).

Little is known of life in the town during the seventeenth century and the lack of documentary references does not necessarily imply that it declined in importance. However, the plague of 1575 recorded in AFM must have been a setback. The Civil Survey of 1654 records thirteen castles in the town together with an abbey, a church, a bridge and one (?) stone house (Simington 1940, 210). Topographically, however, this is the time when Connacht Street and Lower Bridge Street were most likely established and the known trader's tokens suggest that this was a time of prosperity (Macalister 1931, 26). The borough returned two members to parliament from 1560 until the Act of Union.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREET PATTERN AND MARKET PLACE
2. CASTLE
3. TOWN DEFENCES
4. ST. JAMES' CHURCH
5. CARMELITE FRIARY
6. OTHER FEATURES
7. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. STREET PATTERN AND MARKET PLACE (fig. 3)

It is difficult to determine the exact size of medieval Athboy because neither maps, documents nor archaeological data throw any precise light on the extent of the town. The existing stretch of town wall provides a boundary for the town on the south but elsewhere its limits can only be guessed at on the basis of the burgage plot pattern. The long property boundary running westwards from the Athboy river and forming the northern end of the burgage plots on the north side of Main Street and Upper Bridge Street is the most likely indicator of the northern extent of the town. The eastern boundary may have been formed by the Athboy river because the burgage plots on the east side of the river, in Lower Bridge Street, are smaller than those within the town to the west. The western edge was probably formed by the long property boundary running diagonally onto Connaught Street from the north and continuing to the town wall on the south. If this outline is correct then most of Connaught Street and

Lower Bridge Street would have been outside the medieval town.

The street plan of the medieval town was essentially linear and consisted of the present Main Street and Upper Bridge Street. Main Street is cigar-shaped in plan and it functioned as the market place. It is to be identified with the High Street referred to in 1416 (Tresham 1828, 212 no. 98). It is also presumably the street recorded in 1442 as being burnt (Cogan 1862, 163). The date of Connaught and Lower Bridge Streets is not known for certain. The burgage plot pattern in Connaught Street is particularly well defined, a feature which suggests that it may be immediately post-medieval, i.e. seventeenth rather than eighteenth century, in date.

Despite the references in documentary sources, such as the Civil Survey, to the existence of stone houses here prior to 1700 none appears to survive. However, some of the houses in Main Street have cellars and there are arched laneways between many houses opening into back lanes and outhouses. The Ulster Bank has a very steeply pitched roof which may be of early date.

2. CASTLE

It has been suggested above that the castle of Athboy referred to in 1211-2 is to be identified with the earthworks now on top of Tlachtga, north east of the town.

3. TOWN DEFENCES (Figs. 3-4)

Athboy was one of the four walled towns of Meath and received its first grant of murage in 1308 (PROI/1A/53/23 p. 180). Further grants of monies were made in 1446 and 1462 (Berry 1914, 25). In 1598 it was still listed as one of the walled towns of Meath (Hogan 1878, 91).

The course of the town wall, as outlined above, would have run westwards from the Athboy river and parallel to Main Street for a distance of about 275 m before turning southwards for about 160 m and crossing Connaught Street to Main Street at a point where the WEST GATE presumably stood. From here the wall ran south-east to the present surviving stretch, and thence back to the river. It would have enclosed an area of roughly 4 hectares (10 acres).

The surviving stretch of wall is located east of St James' churchyard, from which it extends east and west for a total length of 100 m. It is of roughly coursed limestone masonry with a rubble core. The average height is between two and three metres and it is 90 cm wide. An open-backed mural

tower (Fig. 4) projects from the wall. It is extremely overgrown with vegetation and accurate measurements could not be obtained because the interior has been landscaped in order to incorporate it within the car park design of The Kirwan Hotel. The following dimensions are therefore approximate. The tower has an internal diameter of 2.45m and an external one of 4.4 m. It projects some 2.65 m from the wall; it is 1 m thick at ground level. Two metres above external ground level it narrows leaving an internal ledge which may have functioned as a wall-walk. A fosse, about 3 m deep, exists outside the wall to the south of the graveyard but its fresh appearance suggests that it was recently dug. However, it may be on the line of an ancient feature.

The Athboy river probably formed the town boundary on the east but it is difficult to know whether there was a river wall or not. It is a feature that existed in some towns, such as Drogheda, but was dispensed with in others, such as Kilkenny, where the river was regarded as forming sufficient defence. A GATE must have existed beside the bridge, probably on the west side.

4. ST. JAMES' CHURCH (Fig.5; Pl. 1a)

This was the parish church of the medieval town and although it has been confused with the Carmelite Friary by previous writers (Killanin and Duignan 1967, 63; Graham 1974, 47), it is evident from the Civil Survey and the differing dedications that these were different sites. A number of references to Simon, parson of Athboy, suggest that a parish church was present c.1200 and the dedication indicates that it was of Anglo-Norman origin (Brooks 1953, 34; Clarke 1941, 65; Gilbert 1889, 13, 264, 272). However, the earliest direct reference to the parish church of St. James occurs in a deed of c. 1400 (Mills and McEnery 1916, 141; see Tresham 1828, 178 no. 76). The Gormonston Register shows that the advowson of the church was originally in the hands of the lords of the manor but by 1472 the right to appoint the parson was held by the archbishops of Armagh (Morrissey 1939, 21). A chantry to the Blessed Virgin was established in 1416 (Tresham 1828, 212 no. 98). The building seems to have been badly damaged in the assault on the town in 1643 and Bishop Dopping records in his Visitation Book of 1682-5 that the church was finished in 1679 and was now in good repair, but that the chancel was ruined and had been unrepaired since the 1640's (Ellison 1972, 9). He further records a reading desk, font, silver chalice and pewter flagon there. The present church was built in 1770 and incorporates a fifteenth century tower at the west end.

West tower

This has a rectangular plan with a protruding stair turret in the north-east angle. The masonry is of coursed limestone as are the quoins and jambs. It has five floors

with battlements above and rises to a height of 22.84 m. At ground level its length is 7.84 and the width is 6.45 m. The base has a shallow batter of 14cm which slopes into the wall about 80 cm above present ground level. There is a string course above the second floor and the wall is stepped back slightly above it. The entrance is on the east through a small modern lintelled door but traces of the original arch are visible above. The thickness of the east wall cannot be accurately gauged at ground level and it is concealed from view by plaster; accordingly its date could not be determined. The ground floor has a pointed barrel-vault with wickerwork centering and one small round-headed window in the west wall. The stair-turret is lit by eight rectangular slit windows with internal splay; the lower two are in the east wall, and the remaining six are in the north. The first floor has small rectangular windows in the south and west walls and a blocked up door or recess in the east wall. The second floor has a similar window in the north wall and the third floor has one in the east wall. The third floor is barrel vaulted in brick and stone which would appear to be of recent date. The fourth floor, the belfry stage, has pointed twin-light windows with transoms in each wall. All of these windows are splayed internally. The battlements are largely reconstructed. A roofline in the east wall, with its apex on the second floor, indicates the former position of the nave.

Other structural remains

The east window of the present church is considered locally to be ancient and according to the caretaker, Mr Daniel Douglas, it was brought here from the medieval manor church of Rathmore. The mullions and jambs, however, are not medieval but the label stops on the exterior are decorated with a form of 16th century ivy-leaf spray. The church at Rathmore still retains its late fifteenth century windows. It may be that portion of a window from the medieval church was re-used in the present building. Within the graveyard is a partially buried fragment of a medieval window moulding used as a grave-marker.

Monuments

Effigial tomb. c.1500 (Pl. 2a).

This badly damaged double effigy slab rests on fragmentary surrounds beside the south wall of the tower. It depicts a knight and lady in relief. The lady is dressed in a fur-trimmed pleated gown having a V-shaped neckline with yoke, over which she wears a long mantle, also fur-trimmed. The hem of her gown is drawn up to show the pleated kirtle underneath and she wears a high necked bodice with a twisted chain and pendant cross around her neck. Her hands are joined and she has a horned head-dress with veil and wide brow-band. Her head rests on a double rectangular cushion and her feet, in pointed shoes, rest on a dog. The knight is wearing a

narrow waisted body harness of many lames. He grips a slender sheathed sword attached to his belt by a ring and straps. His head is damaged but he has a visored bascinet decorated with rosettes. The pauldrons, couters and poleyns are also decorated with rosettes. Around his neck is a thick chain with a large circular jewel attached. Hunt has suggested that this may be a crown of thorns. One foot is now missing but Hunt shows them encased in sabatons and resting on an animal. The material is limestone. Hunt has dated it to the early sixteenth century.

Three fragments of the tomb surrounds survive. One, showing an ecclesiastic, lies on top of the tomb and the others have been placed together to form the side panel. These depict St. Michael, Christ in Judgement and the Resurrection.

Dims: Table: L.222 W. 128 D. 13
 Left panel: H. 58 W. 67 D. 12
 Right panel: H. 54 W. 78 D. 8

Hunt 1974, 202-3; FitzGerald 1907-9, 418

Talbot slab. 17th cent.

Limestone. Rectangular slab set on 4 legs near the south exit of the graveyard close to the path. It has a talbot in false relief on a rope moulding and a marginal Roman inscription. Only the letters 'AES AND .N' are now decipherable. The remainder is supplied from FitzGerald (1907-9, 420):

HERE VNDER LIETH THE BODY OF IAMES TALBOT OF ATHBOY /
 BVRGAES AND ONE OF THE HOVSE OF DARDISTON AND / WAS
 BORNE IN ATHBOY IN THE YEAR OF OVR LORD GOD / ON THE /
 IN THE YEAR / GOD BE MERCIFVLL

Dims: H 229 W 114 D 16 cm.

Deborah Brunton slab. 1698.

Slate. It forms part of the paving between the tower and the north door of the church. It is extremely worn and has been recently used for mixing cement. Incised Roman inscription, badly worn. The missing letters are supplied in lower case from FitzGerald (1907-9, 418):

here LIETH THE Body of mistRIS DEborah BRUNton wife of
 mr HENnery BRUNton who dePARTed THIS LIFE the 1(-) day
 of iune ANNO DOMINI 1698'.

Dims: H 120 W 90 cm.

Head on north wall of tower.

A large worn granite head is situated about 4m above ground level. It has bulging eyes, a recess for the mouth and protruding ears.

Head on east wall of church

A small head lies in the apex of the east wall. It has pointed ears, overhanging eyebrows, deeply socketed eyes, a protruding nose and thick lips. There is a slash on the left side of the face and a bulge on the right side of the mouth.

Heads similar to these are frequently found on fifteenth and sixteenth century churches in the Meath area.

Font

Octagonal with circular basin and central drainage hole. It rests on an octagonal shaft and base. Although it is machine dressed Roe (1968, 189) considers it to be medieval rather than modern.

Dims: Diam. of basin 58, Depth of basin 25.3 cm.

MISSING MONUMENTS.

The mid-seventeenth century writer Isaac Butler noted two tombs which have been missing since at least 1908 (FitzGerald 1907-9, 423).

1) Elizabeth Smith. 1631.

Formerly on the south wall of the church, it had the following inscription:

HERE LYETH THE BODIE OF ELIZABETH SMITH, THE DAUGHTER OF ROBERT COLLIER PARSON OF ST. COLLIERS CHURCH IN CHESTER AND WIFE OF WILLIAM SMITH VICAR OF ATHBOY TO WHOM SHE BORE SIX SONNES, WHEREOF THREE WERE HERE INTERRED BEFORE HER. SHE DIED DECEMBER 13, 1631'.

Jrl. Assoc. Memorials Dead Ireland II (1892-4), 165

2) Plunket and Golden nee Collier. 1635.

This was in the chancel and was described as large with the arms of Golden and Plunket in the centre and a marginal inscription:

HIC IACET PETRUS GOLDWEN / QUONDAM DE ARCHERSTON FILIUS ET HERES RICARDI / GOLLDEN HUTCHESTON QUI OB: 9TH MARI 1597 / ORATE PRO ANIMABUS GULIELMUS / GOLLDING ET ANNE PLUNKET UX / ORIS EIUS QUI HOC MONUMENTUM FE-/ CERUNT PRIMO DIE AUGUSTII / ANNO DOMINI 1635, QUORUM / (AN) MABUS PROPITIETUR DEUS.

Jrl. Assoc. Memorials Dead Ireland II (1892-4), 165.

5. CARMELITE FRIARY

In 1317 William Loundres granted to the Carmelites a site for their friary in Athboy lying between the river and the land of "Hencelini Mulghan" (Tresham 1828, 22 no. 38). This may be identified with Mullaghstones on the east of the town and it suggests that the friary lay on the east of the bridge. In 1405 an indulgence was granted because the church was in need of repair (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 287). At the Dissolution the jurors reported that the site contained the friar's church with a belfry and a stone tower, a mansion occupied by the farmer, Thomas Casey, who had repaired it with stones from the cloister, an orchard and six gardens; they add that Casey had constructed a horse-mill in the church (White 1943, 266).

6. OTHER FEATURES

Earthworks

1. Situated south-east of the river outside the line of the town wall in Danes Court. It consists of a low figure-of-eight platform with shallow external ditch. It is planted with trees and is probably a modern landscaping feature.

2. Situated in the Fair Green. It is a low platform with traces of a very shallow ditch. It is also planted with trees and is probably a landscaping feature.

Dims: Diam. 16.40 H. 1.00 m.

Crucifixion Plaques (Pls. 1b, 2b)

Both are inserted into the wall of St. James' R.C. church.

1. Fragment of a small limestone panel, decorated in false relief, on the south side of the west wall (Pl. 1b). It is divided into three ogee-headed sections with a crucifixion in the centre, flanked by the figures of Mary and John. Christ is shown wearing a perizonium with His arms outstretched and His head slightly inclined to the right. The cross is not depicted.

Dims. (approx): H. 29 W. 63 cm.

2. Three panel fragments set above the west door (Pl. 2b). The centrepiece has a panel divided into three ogee-headed sections by sugar-barley pillars and the spandrels above are decorated with scroll-work and interlace. Decoration is in very low false relief. It shows a crucifixion similar to that on plaque 1 in the centre, with Mary and John on either side

wearing pleated tunics, belted at the waist. On the right side of this panel is the lower half of an ecclesiastic and on the left side is a panel containing an angel with large wings.

Dims. (approx.): H. 30 W. 70 cm.

St James' Well.

South of the town at the rear of the rectory.

Missing monuments.

Two late medieval crosses were noted by Moore (Navan Library: Notes on Athboy, unpublished). One is said to be built into the creamery wall, on the site of Athboy Lodge, and to be plastered over. The other is said to have been near Plunket's shop in a basement which is now closed up.

7. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. Stone axe. From "vicinity of Athboy". Private possession.
2. Bronze flat axehead of Harbison's Ballyvalley type. - From Athboy, Co. Meath. British Museum, London: W. G. 1534. (Harbison 1969, 33: No. 822).
3. Bronze socketed axehead. From Athboy, Co. Meath. British Museum, London: W. G. 1571. (Evans 1881, 140: Fig. 172).
4. Bronze club-headed stick pin. From Athboy, Co. Meath, September 1850. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto: Sturge (ex Bateman Collection) 918.33.61 (Pryor 1976, 76: No. 30).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

The Problems

The basic importance of Athboy for archaeological research is that it is a good example of a small market town. Larger towns, such as Drogheda and Dublin, have been the subject of detailed archaeological and historical research but little is known of the smaller more typical towns. It is an early example of an Anglo-Norman town and its location appears to have been deliberately chosen although it is not known why. Accordingly the initial years of its growth during the late twelfth and thirteenth centuries are particularly

important. The ford was clearly the feature which gave the town its importance yet nothing is known of the form, date or size of the first bridge and its successors.

The street pattern has probably remained intact since the Middle Ages but the nature of the road surface at various periods is not known. Indeed streets should be examined if at all possible because they also permit the results of excavations on one side of a street to be linked with those on the other. This enables the reconstruction of entire streetscapes in the manner which has proved so successful at Novgorod.

Nothing is known of the form or size of pre-seventeenth century housing in the town. It is important to know what sort of buildings the medieval inhabitants of Athboy lived in and how these changed through time. It is only when houses have been found that assessments can be made of the impact of native Irish, British and continental building techniques on Athboy's craftsmen. A great deal of information about changes in building methods and fashions can also be derived from stratified sites in which the remains of successive houses are preserved.

The course of the town defences outlined above needs to be checked by excavation to determine whether it is correct or not, and much remains to be discovered about the periods of construction, the variations in building, the forms of mural towers and gatehouses, and the extent of the town fosse.

It is unlikely that the opportunity will arise to excavate on the site of the medieval parish church of St. James' but it is worthwhile recalling that our knowledge of the form, size and character of this church is confined to its west tower.

There is an almost total lack of information on the nature of the Carmelite friary and even its location is uncertain. The architectural features and extent are only one aspect of the archaeology of religious houses, however, and the excavation of a medieval cemetery, such as that conducted at York, can provide otherwise unobtainable evidence about health, disease, diet, and mortality rates.

The extent of settlement outside the walls in Connaught and Lower Bridge Streets is unknown and the contrast between buildings there and those within the wall is also unknown at any period prior to 1700.

The group of stray finds indicate that the site was a focus for human activity in prehistoric times and an important archaeological problem is the determination of exactly what forms this activity took and its date.

Archaeological Potential

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

The survey of its archaeology indicates that the site of the town has been the scene of human activity in Prehistoric, Early Historic and Medieval times. Both documentary sources and the known archaeological remains indicate that the town was occupied continuously from the thirteenth century into the post-medieval period. Most of the town wall, gatehouses, mural towers and the principal medieval buildings were demolished prior to 1800. The only remains which survive above ground are the towers of St. James' parish church and a stretch of the town wall including a mural tower. However, although the destruction of buildings above ground has been almost total, the street pattern of the medieval and post-medieval town is largely intact. Archaeological deposits are likely to exist over most of the area of the town and accordingly there is the likelihood of recovering house foundations, refuse pits, industrial areas, and workshops.

ARCHAEOLOGY, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT


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

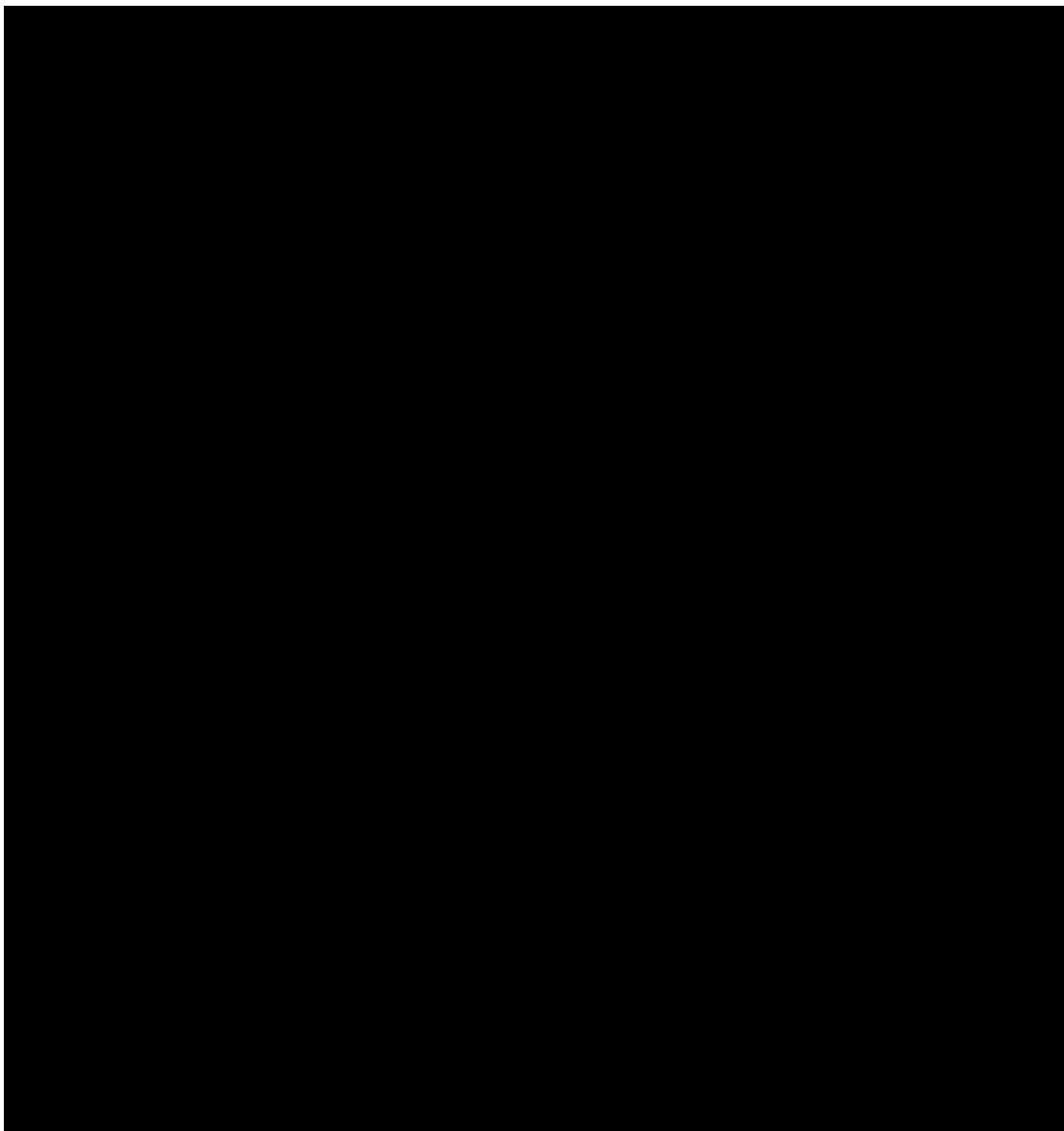
The protection of buried archaeological evidence presents serious problems for not only is there the pressure of redevelopment and the high value of urban properties with which to contend, but the sites themselves are often

difficult to define or evaluate; their full archaeological potential may only become apparent when an excavation is undertaken in advance of development or by observations made while development is in progress. No structure enjoys statutory protection as a scheduled National Monument and because of the difficulties of scheduling urban properties, sites within Athboy are unlikely to be given this protection. It is crucial, therefore, that a concerted effort should be made to safeguard its archaeological heritage and that adequate provision is made for investigation in advance of any redevelopment. This is best achieved by use of planning constraints and by conditions attached to planning consents.

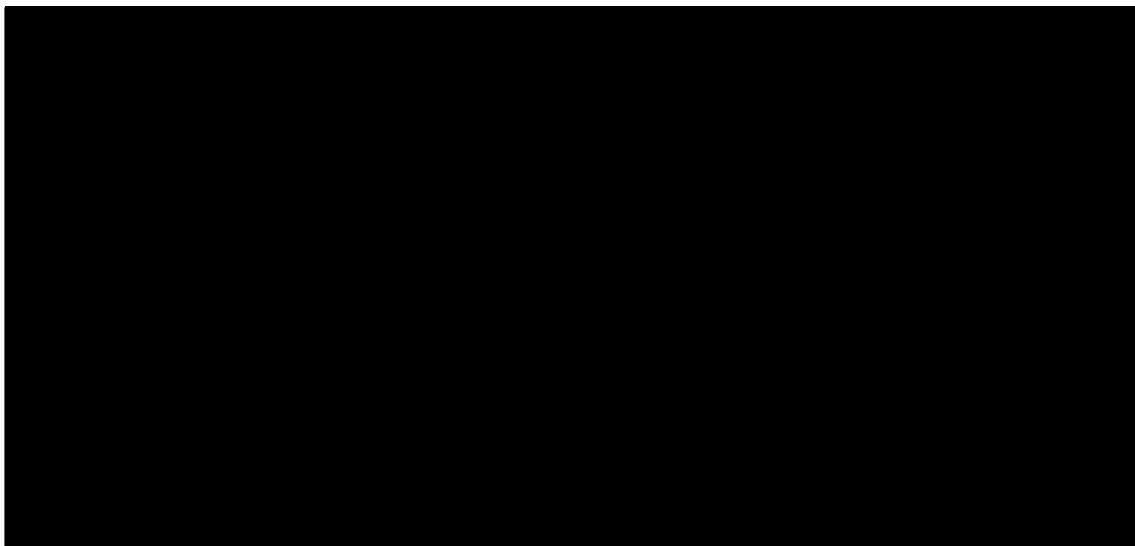
Area of Archaeological Potential

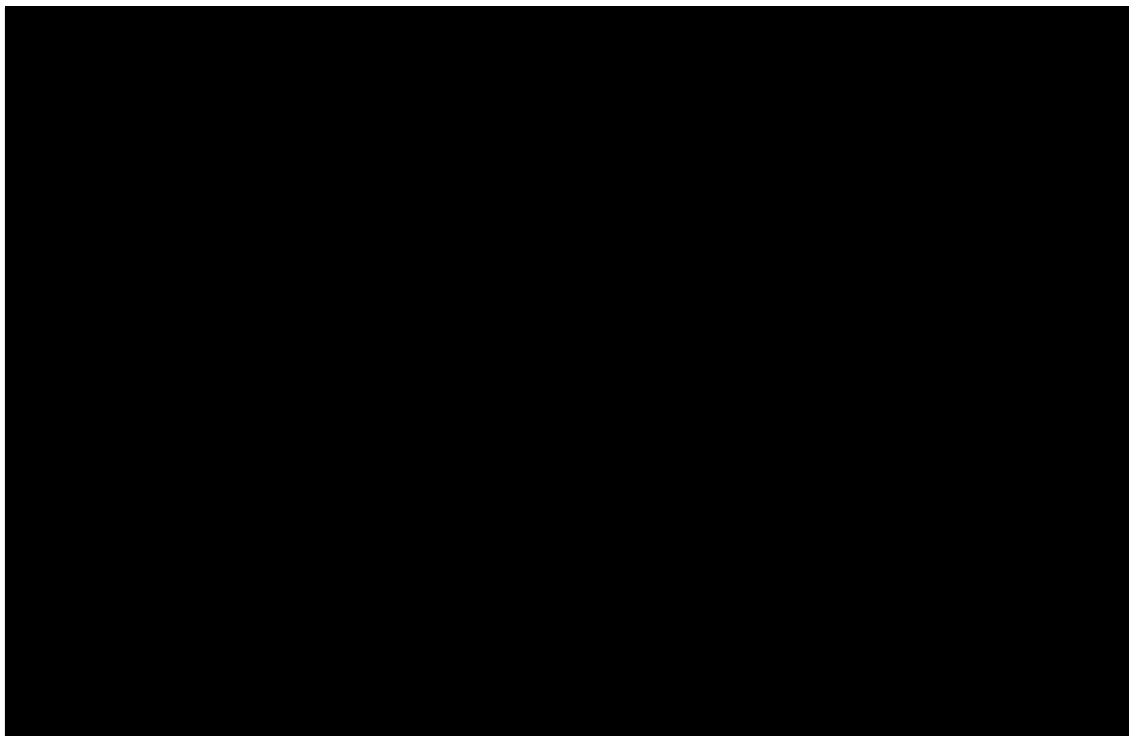
The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 2) delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern Athboy. In the absence of archaeological excavations little can be said of the extent and depth of archaeological deposits. Development in recent times at the Kirwan Hotel and McIlhennys on Main Street have probably removed some archaeological deposits but elsewhere there is little evidence for modern disturbance. Accordingly, archaeological deposits are likely to exist over the area of the walled town, and in Connaught Street. This area is shaded pink on Fig. 2 and the extent has been continued outside the walls slightly in order to allow for a possible fosse. An area is delimited on the east side of the Athboy river where the Carmelite friary may have been sited and where the presence of a pattern of long burgage plots suggests a potential suburb (seventeenth century). An alternative site for the friary, according to local informants, is the house known as Danes Court, south of the town. Any development within this area should also be monitored. Finally the vicinity of St. James' well may also contain potential archaeological data.





[REDACTED]





COLP

Colp is situated near the coast in the low lying countryside of east Meath about 5 kilometres south of Drogheda. The site of the former borough is now occupied by a small scatter of houses grouped around the parish church. The placename is derived from Colpa, one of legendary brothers of Heremon, the Milesian chief who was drowned in the Boyne. The Boyne estuary was known in early times as Inbher Colptha and the mound near the parish church is said to be his burial place.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Hugh de Lacy founded a monastery for Augustinian Canons here c.1182 and made it a cell of Llanthony Prima in Monmouthshire (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 166), and a certain amount of information about the medieval settlement survives in the Llanthony cartularies (Brooks 1953). It was dedicated to St. Columba and this together with the surviving remains of a high cross suggests that it was already a church site in Pre-Norman times. The foundation date of the borough is not known nor is its founder, and the fact that there was a manor of Colp, owned by the Belejambe family in the thirteenth century, suggests that its founders need not have been the Augustinians (Brooks 1953, xxvi, 118). The borough is first referred to in the extent of Colp in 1408 (Brooks 1953, 181). After the Dissolution of the Monasteries the site was granted to the Draycott family. The castle was captured during the rebellion of 1641 and recaptured the following year by the government forces under Lord Moore. By the time of the Civil Survey (1654-56) the settlement had decayed to one house and a number of cabins (Simington 1940, 4).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. CASTLE AND EARTHWORKS
2. ST. COLOMBA'S CHURCH AND AUGUSTINIAN CELL

1. CASTLE AND EARTHWORKS

The site of a castle known to have been captured during the rebellion of 1641-2, was pointed out to O'Donovan in 1836 (O.S. Letters, 128). Sir Henry Tichburne writing of the incident shortly after 1642 describes it as "an old tower", and it was still habitable in 1654 (Waters 1965, 262). It lay to the north of the church. Nothing is known of its form but

the description of it as a tower suggests that it was a tower house, a suggestion also supported by the mention of a narrow stair there by Bernard (1642, 65).

Within the same field are a small motte and a series of earthworks, probably representing the remains of the borough. The motte is a raised flat-topped platform with a diameter of 32.4 m, and similar in form to that at Dunshaughlin. It has an external ditch, about 7 m wide, on the west, north and part of the east sides. Its height varies from 4 m on the north side to 2 m on the south. It may well have been the centre for the Belejambe manor.

The earthworks consist of a series of low mounds flanking two intersecting sunken ways, one running north-south into the next field on the south-west, and the other running east-west at right angles to this. In the area pointed out as the castle site is a notable concentration of ridges.

2. ST. COLOMBA'S CHURCH AND AUGUSTINIAN CELL.

This Augustinian house was established by Hugh de Lacy c.1182 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 166). Throughout the Middle Ages it maintained the status of a grange rather than a monastery, insisting that it was merely a cell of Llanthony Prima, its mother house in Wales. Its possessions were substantial but the extent of 1408 suggests that it functioned mainly as a farming centre (Brooks 1953, 178ff). The Llanthony cartularies contain surprisingly little topographical information about Colpe but they suggest that the monastic buildings were located to the north-east of the church (Brooks 1953, 142). A charter of c.1206, in which Ranulph Wyterhell granted four acres to the monastery in order that the cemetery might be extended, contains the additional information that a causeway and parson's house were nearby (Brooks 1953, 112-3). The monastic buildings may have extended south of the road, because it is otherwise difficult to explain the traditional site pointed out to O'Donovan in 1836 and subsequently marked on O.S. maps. In 1559 the dissolved monastery was granted to Henry Draycott, when the grant refers to "a great stone house, the lands of Colpe, alias the Grange of Colpe" (Morris 1861, 419). The church appears to have suffered in the rebellion of 1641 and forty years later it was still unrepaired (Ellison 1971, 34). Archdall (1786,) noted that

"the walls of a church are still to be seen here, the arches of which are both in the Saxon and Gothic styles, and the east window appears much older than the other parts of the building and made as we suppose a part of the abbey; on the north side is a small chapel, and to the south are two chapels, one of which is at present the burial place of the family of Bellew".

Less than eighty years later all trace of this building had vanished (Cogan 1862, 177-8). The present church was constructed in 1809.

The possible indications of an Early Christian church site consist of a curving field boundary delimiting a disused roadway south of the church, and a the decorated cross-head of a high cross.

Monuments

Cross. Early Christian (Pl. 3).

Recently found in the graveyard and now placed inside the church porch. Small ringed unpierced cross lacking it's upper arm. One face has a crucifixion with the sponge and lance bearer above a pelta design. The other has geometric designs with what is possibly a small figure in the centre.

Cross Base. Date uncertain.

Large rectangular granite base in the south-east end of the graveyard. The upper half of the stone is damaged and the mortice is now very shallow.

Dims: H.32 W.72 D.60 cm.

Mortice 25 by 15 cm.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Colp is an example of a deserted borough. There is little evidence of disturbance and it is likely that archaeological deposits are intact over a large area of the site. It is located beside an Early Christian church site and this suggests that evidence may survive regarding the nature of its transition from monastery to borough. The period of its desertion is not known and from the historical evidence it is likely that the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are the ones best represented in the archaeological record.

Knowledge of the nature of the settlement in medieval times is scant. Was it merely a rural borough or did it have genuine urban functions? Nothing is known about domestic dwellings, street pattern, defences, or of the settlement's extent. Nonetheless the archaeological data indicates that the borough has been the scene of human activity in Early Historic and Medieval times and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge is obtained. The borough is not under direct threat from development at present but its proximity to Drogheda means that it will come under increasing pressure from development as a dormitory town.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 5) delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern Colp. This is based on the extant monuments on the north side of the borough and on the site of the Augustinian grange identified by the Ordnance Survey fieldworkers in the nineteenth century. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said depth of archaeological deposits.



DRUMCONDRA

This borough is located in undulating drumlin country in north Meath, midway between Nobber and Ardee. The present village sits astride a short main street, running north-west south-east. It lies in a patch of low ground dominated to the north by a large drumlin rising to 200 feet with a well preserved motte atop it. South of the street, on a gentler rise is the site of the old parish church, dedicated to SS. Peter & Paul. The Garra river, a tributary of the Dee, runs through the west end of the village and then swings north and east to encircle the drumlin on which the motte was built.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The large motte indicates that Drumcondra was settled early in the Anglo-Norman invasion of Meath and Graham (1974, 43-4) has suggested that it was established as a strategic stronghold to protect the northern border of Meath. There is no evidence to support Graham's (1974, 54) statement that the borough was established before 1241 by Walter de Lacy. The earliest evidence for the existence of the borough comes from an early fourteenth century document in the Dowdall Deeds (McNeill and Otway-Ruthven 1960, No. 31). However, the settlement was a border one because it was on the edge of the Pale. In 1412, Thomas Fleming, Baron of Slane, had a licence for a weekly market and an annual fair here (Cogan 1867, 294). By the seventeenth century, however, the settlement had almost completely declined and the Civil Survey, of 1654-6, records the manor of Drumcondra as having two waste castles and a church (Simington 1940, 365).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. MOTTE AND BAILEY
2. PARISH CHURCH OF SS. PETER & PAUL
3. MOUND
4. MISCELLANEOUS

1. MOTTE AND BAILEY

Nothing is known of the history or ownership of this motte. It is almost completely overgrown and has not been surveyed. The bailey is rectangular and is located on the east side of the motte which is surrounded by a ditch.

2. PARISH CHURCH OF SS. PETER & PAUL

Sited within a rectangular churchyard on a low knoll to the south-west of the village. The earliest reference to the

church is in 1368 when Nicholas Fleming was rector (McNeill and Otway-Ruthven 1961, no. 386). Bishop Dopping, in his visitation of 1682 refers to it as being in a state of ruin since 1641 (Ellison 1973, 5).

The simple cross-slab in the graveyard suggests that this may be a Pre-Norman church site. Indeed, the present dedication may well be a replacement because Cogan (1867, 294) notes that there was a well dedicated to St. Colmcille nearby.

Monuments

Font A

Square sandstone font on the right of the door of the St. Peter's (C of I). It has four wide and four narrow sides and the lower edges of the panels are chamfered inwards. Circular basin with a central drainage hole and holes for fastening a lid. Two opposing corners have projecting lips possibly as a stand for cruets.

Dims: H. 37; Ext. diam. 58; Int. diam. 47; Depth of basin 27

Roe 1968, 114

Cross-slab

Rough sandstone block used as a grave marker about 10 m south-east of the church. The base is buried and portion of one long side has been knocked away. Ringed cross cut deeply into the stone leaving the quadrants raised.

Dims: Exposed L 58; W 32; T 12 cm.

The graveyard is much overgrown and further slabs may yet come to light.

3. MOUND

Large motte-like mound on the south side of the village behind the church site in low-lying ground. It lacks evidence for a bailey or surrounding ditch.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Font B

Tub-shaped limestone font in the grounds of the R.C. church. Circular basin with four corner lugs, and a central drainage hole. This may be the font recorded by Cogan (1867, 114) as ornamenting a mound in the rector's demesne.

Holy Well.

Cogan (1867, 294) refers to a holy well near the village

dedicated to St. Columbcille (1867, 294). There is a covered well at the west end of the village opposite the modern R.C. church but it is not clear if this is the same as that mentioned by Cogan.

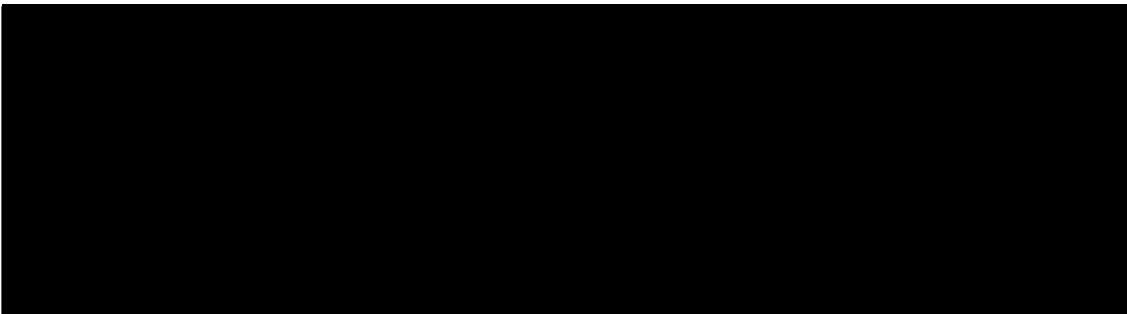
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

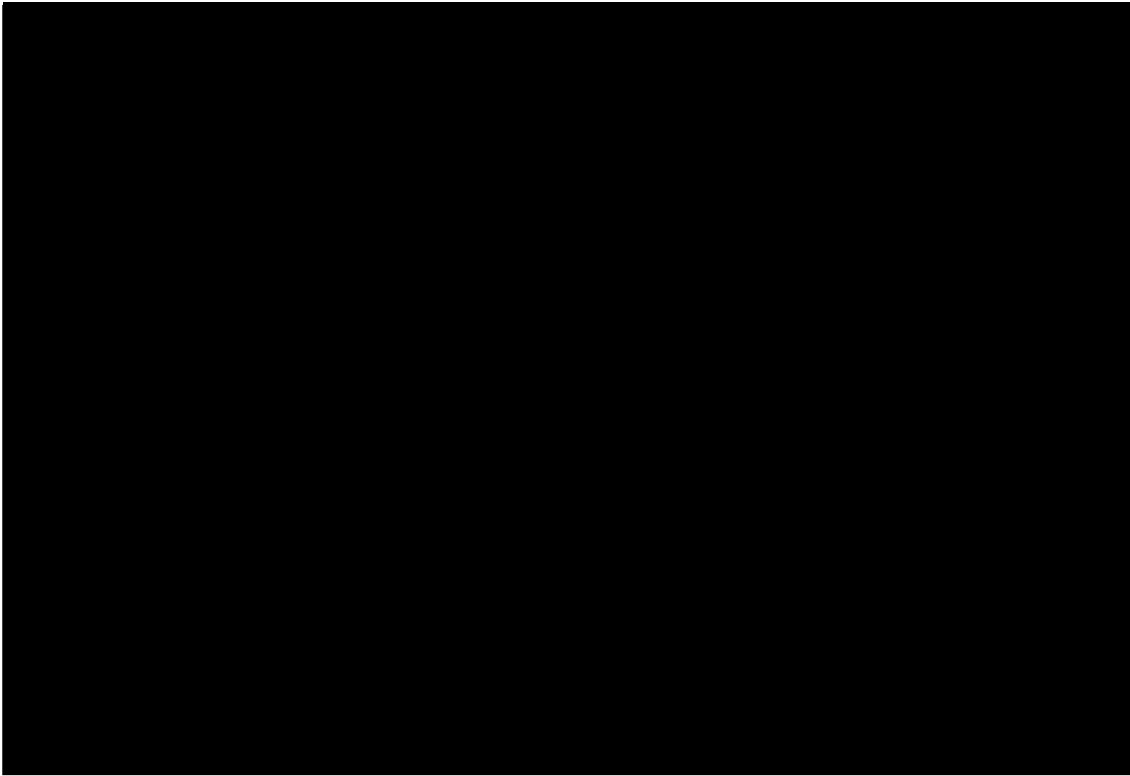
The layout of the present village with its broad Main Street, like that of Nobber, suggests that its present plan is of eighteenth century date and probably the result of landlord interest. It is clear from the documentary and archaeological data, however, that there was a borough here during the Middle Ages. Knowledge of this borough and of its extent is extremely limited. It may have been located beside an Early Christian church site but even this is not certain. The period of its desertion is unknown and from the historical evidence it is likely that the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are likely to be the ones best represented in the archaeological record. The construction of the present village may have destroyed some pre-existing archaeological deposits but in the absence of excavation there is no information on the depth or nature of deposits.

Knowledge of the settlement in medieval times is scant. Was it merely a rural borough or did it have genuine urban functions? Nothing is known about domestic dwellings, street pattern, defences, or of the settlement's extent. Nonetheless the archaeological data indicates that the borough has been the scene of human activity in Early Historic and Medieval times and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge is obtained.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 7) delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern Drumcondra. This is based on the extant monuments on the north and south of the village and on the built-up area of the village itself.





DULEEK

The town is situated to the north of the river Nanny in the rolling countryside of east Meath. Main Street follows the course of a ridge that runs parallel to the river in a north-east south-west direction. The highest point is occupied by St. Cianan's church (C of I) which lies off-centre within a large squat-oval-shaped area that Swan (1973) has identified as the outline of a pre-norman monastic enclosure. There is no evidence for prehistoric activity within the town but a number of Early Bronze Age burials were discovered at Keenoge, immediately outside to the south-west. The earliest settlement evidence is of Early Christian date and is attested by both the surviving remains and the documentary sources. The placename is derived from Damh liac, stone building (i.e. church), a structure traditionally regarded as the first stone church built in Ireland.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The name Damliac Cianain first occurs in the Vita Tripartita (written 895-901) but it is evident from the use of the expression domum episcopi Cennani, id est lapidum by Tireachan, who was writing an account of St. Patrick c.700, that the name was in use almost two centuries before (Mulchrone 1939, 64; Stokes 1887, 318). Nothing is known of Cianan himself and the date of his death (d. 488 Ann. Tig.) is about seventy years before the period when the annals begin to become contemporary. Indeed it is quite possibly a calculation made by a chronicler at a much later stage designed to indicate that SS. Patrick and Cianan were contemporaries. The historicity of Cianan is open to question. The similarity of his name with that of the Cianachta, the people who were settled in the area, suggests that like Brigit he may have been a Christianised form of tribal ancestor deity (see Kenny 1929, 357-8). Abbots of Duleek (coarbs of Cianan) are recorded in AU and AFM from 783 to 1098, and prior to the twelfth century, bishops are mentioned in the years 783, 872, 885, 907, 920, and 929. The monastery was of sufficient size and importance to be plundered on a number of occasions between the ninth and twelfth centuries: by Norse in 831 (AU), 880 (AU), 1023 (AFM) and 1037 (AFM), by Irish in 1028 (AU), by Irish and Norse in 1149 (AFM). In addition it is known that the monastery was burnt in 1050 (AFM), 1123 (AU) and 1169 (AFM). In 1014 the settlement was a resting-stop for the bodies of Brian Boru and his son on their formal route to burial at Armagh. At the Synod of Rathbreasail in 1111 Duleek was named as the centre of a bishopric but in the same year a Meath synod, held at Uisneach, dropped Duleek in favour of Clonard as the see of east Meath. Duleek was still regarded as a suffragan of the archbishop of Armagh at the Synod of Kells in 1152 although it does not appear to have been represented by a bishop at

the synod. About 1174 Duleek was merged with Clonard, Ardbraccan, Kells, Slane, and Trim to form the diocese of Meath which endures to the present.

The annalistic entries and notices of Duleek as a diocesan see indicate that the settlement must have been regarded as an important one by the twelfth century. An entry of 1123 (AFM) records an attack by the Gailenga on Murchad O Maelsechlainn, King of Tara, at Duleek in which eighty houses were burnt. Even allowing for exaggeration on the annalist's part this entry taken together with the known remains would suggest that Duleek was a sizeable nucleated settlement during the twelfth century and perhaps slightly before. An Augustinian priory, dedicated to St. Mary, was founded at Duleek prior to the coming of the Normans (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 173) but its exact location remains unclear. Some writers, including Leask (1933) have identified it with the parish church of St. Cianan but Brooks (1953b, 142) has hinted that it may be in the townland of St. Mary's Abbey some three miles south-east of the town. Certainly, there is no factual basis for identifying it with any site in Duleek. This abbey continued in use until the Reformation when it was dissolved (see White 1941, 317-8).

In 1171 Duleek was attacked and burned by Anglo-Normans under Miles de Cogan and an earthen motte would appear to have been constructed soon after. This was burnt in 1175 but it was subsequently repaired and it became the centre of a manor belonging to Hugh de Lacy. A grange of the Augustinian house of Llanthony Secunda (Gloucestershire), dedicated to St. Michael, was established by de Lacy c.1180 and the thirteenth and fourteenth century descriptions (Brooks 1953a, 213, 290) make it clear that it stood on the south-west of the town between the river Nanny and the main road. The grange survived until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1541 when it was granted to Sir Gerald Moore.

The borough of Duleek may have been established by Hugh de Lacy but its earliest charter appears to be from his son Walter (Morrissey 1939, 929-31). A hospital or leper house dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen was present from the early years of the thirteenth century (Brooks 1953a, 213). An annual fair was granted to Duleek in 1284 (Sweetman 18). The town is only referred to incidentally during the later Middle Ages and it is difficult to determine whether the Reformation brought changes or not. In 1598 it is listed as one of the market towns of Meath, together with Kells, Trim, Athboy, Navan and Drogheda (Hogan 1898, 91). In 1654 the Civil Survey records the presence of 51 houses, St. Kenan's church, a priory, a stone house called the "colledge", a mill and two stone bridges (Simington 1940, 16). With the increasing development of better communications in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries Drogheda began to take over the town's market functions and Duleek fell into decline.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN
2. BRIDGES
3. MOTTE
4. TOWN DEFENCES
5. EARLY CHRISTIAN MONASTIC ENCLOSURE
6. ST. CIANAN'S CHURCH
7. ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH
8. ST. CARBAN'S CHAPEL
9. AUGUSTINIAN GRANGE OF ST. MICHAEL
10. HOSPITAL OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN
11. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS
12. MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES
13. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN (Fig. 9)

The borough was aligned along the present Main Street, which is generally described in medieval documents as the *via regia*. Le Marketstret is mentioned in a thirteenth century deed (McNeill and Dwyer-Ruthven 1960, No. 237) and was evidently a north-south running street perhaps to be identified with the lower part of Larrix Street. Both Main Street and Larrix Street delimit the Early Christian monastic enclosure and their origin may well be pre-Norman. The narrow streets criss-crossing the monastic enclosure are little more than lanes and their date is unclear.

2. BRIDGES

Duleek had an added significance as a crossing point of the Nanny, a locational advantage demonstrated by its choice as the retreat route after the battle of the Boyne. Although the Nanny is now little more than a stream it is evident from medieval and later documents that much of the land on both sides was boggy and liable to flooding. The Civil Survey of 1654-6 refers to the existence of two bridges but there is only one at present. The earliest direct reference to a bridge is 1381 when the bridge of St. Mary Magdalen is referred to (Brooks 1953a, 308). This would appear to be on the same site as the present two-arched bridge which was erected in 1587. On the bridge are two rectangular limestone plaques (Pl. 11b) now cemented with one above the other but it is evident from their proportions that they were set differently originally. The larger plaque displays the arms of Bathe and Dowdall within a wreath, flanked by the letters W.B. [William Bathe] and I.D. [Jenet Dowdall], and with an IHS above the arms. The inscription is in Roman letters:

THIS BRIDGE WITH THE CAVSIES WERE REPAIRED AND BVILDED

BI WILLIAM BATHE OF ATHCARNE IVSTICE AND IENNET DOWDALL
HIS WIFE IN THE YEARE OF OVR LORD GOD 1587 WHOSE SOVLES
GOD TAKE TO HIS MERCY AMEN

The location of the second bridge mentioned in the Civil Survey is not certain but immediately south of the Augustinian grange are shallows which are pointed out locally as the site of a bridge.

3. MOTTE

Duleek was the centre of an important manor established by Hugh de Lacy, which passed after 1244 to the de Verdun family and, on the division of the lands of Theobald de Verdun in 1332, to Bartholomew de Burghersch from whom it had passed by 1372 to the Flemings of Slane (Otway-Ruthven 1968, 417, 425). The earliest reference to the castle is in 1175 when it was rebuilt after being burnt by the Irish (Orpen 1911-20, II, 78). In 1783 a drawing of the motte was made by the antiquary, Austin Cooper, who noted that it was on the north side of the town and was in the process of being removed for gravel (Price 1942, 33-4). There is now no trace of the motte and its exact site has been a matter of some discussion. Orpen (1907, 234) placed it near the Nanny while Simms (1979, 161) placed it on the south-east side of Main Street. Neither of these suggested locations is likely to be correct, however, in view of Austin Cooper's remark that it was sited on the north of the town. The most likely situation is immediately east of the stream running into the Nanny from the north, a spot known locally as "the moat" (Synnott 1980, 19). Excavations on the site by Mr. Kieran Campbell in 1981 showed that the field had been quarried and subsequently levelled removing all trace of the motte. A handful of medieval pottery sherds were present.

4. TOWN DEFENCES

In 1598 Duleek and Navan were listed together as the unwall'd towns of Meath (Hogan 1878, 91). However, while it may not have been enclosed by a stone wall references to earthen banks in the extent of the Augustinian grange in 1381 suggest that it may have been defended by earthworks (see Brooks 1953a, 290).

5. EARLY CHRISTIAN MONASTIC ENCLOSURE

The outline of this enclosure is preserved in the street pattern, which forms a large squat-oval-shaped area. This is delimited on the south and south-east by Main Street, on the north by Larrix Street, and along the north-west by a disused lane and field boundary; it measures approximately 350 m east-west and 300 m north-south, an area of about 15 acres (6

hectares). At least three churches are known to have stood within the enclosure in Early Christian times: St. Cianan's, St. Patrick's and St. Carban's.

6. ST. CIANAN'S PARISH CHURCH
(Figs. 10-12, 54; Pls. 6-8, 10b)

The presence of two Early Christian high crosses, the traces of a round tower, and the early graveslab and Romanesque fragment indicate that this is almost certainly the site of the pre-Norman monastic church dedicated to Cianan, and presumably of the original damh liac. The extent of the Augustinian grange in 1381 further mentions that the tomb of Cianan himself lay at the north side of the chancel (Brooks 1953a, 295). After the coming of the Normans the church was granted by Hugh de Lacy to the Augustinians of Llanthony Secunda and the parish was administered by them until the Reformation.

Nothing is known of the form of the pre-Norman buildings but it is evident from the surviving Romanesque fragment that the church was rebuilt in the twelfth century, prior to the coming of the Normans. The medieval church consisted of a chancel and aisled nave of which only the west tower and south aisle survive. The remains have been studied in detail by Leask (1933) who assigned portions of the nave wall to the thirteenth century; the arcade was inserted and the south aisle added in the fourteenth, the tower was built in the fifteenth, and the east window of the south aisle was constructed in 1587 (Fig. 10).

Description

The south wall of the aisle contains two window openings spanned by rough pointed arches but lacking either mullions or tracery; a third window, of uncertain date, is blocked up. The south doorway has a rough semi-circular arch. The three-light east window is an insertion of 1587 as is evident from a tablet (Pl. 10a) underneath the window bearing the Bellew and Nugent arms with the following inscription:

THIS WINDOW WAS/ MADE BY SIRR JOHNE/ BELLEWE KNIGHT AND/
DAME ISMAY NUGENT/ HIS WIFE IN THE YEAR OF/ OVRE LORD
1587.

The west wall is missing except for the foundations. The north wall, linking with the nave, contains an arcade of four pointed arches. These are formed of thin slates and are evidently insertions into a larger arcade. The corbels of the nave roof are present in the wall above and on the east side of the easternmost archway is the basal part of a spiral stairs which may have led to the rood loft. Internally the aisle is 21.65 m long and 5.85 m wide.

The tower is of rectangular plan measuring about 8.1 m north-south and 7.8 m east-west with a projecting turret at the south-west corner. The highest point of the battlements is 23 m above ground level at the end of the nave. The walls are about 2 m thick at the base and have a strongly marked batter. Access to the upper floors is provided by a spiral staircase in the south-west corner of the tower. The tower arch communicates directly with the nave and has a blunt pointed vault. In the west wall beneath it are the remains of an inserted window of four lights similar to the sixteenth century east window of the south aisle. Above the tower vault, on the east side, is the stone flashing course of the nave roof and a small doorway which would have originally led into the roof space above the nave. Opposite this doorway, in the west wall, is a fragmentary inserted twin-light ogee-headed window with a hood moulding of 15th-16th century character; beneath it is a shield bearing a worn chequer pattern. At this level in the north-west angle of the projecting turret is a small carved head, facing both north and west, decorated with incised lines on the face (Pl. 6b). A similar example exists at Athlumney church, near Navan. The belfry windows were transomed twin-lights on the east and south sides; the western window would appear to have been similar but it has lost its mullions and heads. The north window is a single light. Above the main roof level the corners are carried up as turrets, the largest and highest being that above the staircase at the south-west. The turrets are linked by thin parapet walls which, except on part of the west side, have lost their stepped battlements.

On the exterior of the tower's north face is a tall elongated recess of roughly semi-circular plan which tapers in width to a point 14.3 m above the level of the nave. Leask (1933) and Barrow (1979, 169-70) both suggest that this is the remains of a former round tower about 5.5 m across which was in existence when the west tower was built.

Monuments

North Cross. 10th cent (Pl. 7a).

Cemented into a rectangular base which has exposed dimensions of 53 by 48 cm and projects at present to a maximum height of 7 cm above the ground. The north side of the base is decorated with two parallel bands in relief. Cross and shaft form a single piece of sandstone; a tenon projects from the top which would have held the missing capstone. It is ornamented in false-relief with figured-scenes and interlaced patterns set in panels.

West face: Crucifixion centrally placed in the cross-head with Christ restoring Malchus' ear, above, and seated figures with crosiers on either side; below: David and Jonathan, the anointing of David, Virgin and Child;

South face: winged quadruped with book (?St. Luke), winged quadruped (?St. John), interlaced serpent, with

two panels of humanoid interlace below;

East face: interlace panel of seven bosses in cross head with three interlaced panels occupying the shaft below, the arms and cross-ring are also decorated with interlace;

North face: man with book (St. Mathew?, winged quadruped (?St. Mark), interlaced serpent with two panels of interlace below.

An early tenth century date can be suggested on the basis of comparisons between these scenes and those on the crosses at Monasterboice.

Dims: H. 172 ; W. across arms 97; Av. T. of shaft 35 x 23 cm.

South Cross. c. 10th cent (Pl. 7b).

Cross-head with solid recessed ring set into a truncated pyramidal base. West face: crucifixion with circular interlaced patterns at the intersection of the ring and arms. The other sides are very worn and it is not clear whether they were ornamented or not.

Dims: H. 89; W. across the arms 103; Av. T. of shaft 17 cm.

Base: H. 64 cm; basal dims. 104 x 80 cm.

Cross-slab. Pre-Norman.

Roughly rectangular. Incised cross with the head set within two concentric circles. max. L. 135 cm. max. W. 39 cm. T. 20 cm.

Romanesque corbel. 12th cent.

Under tower arch. Face mask with hair terminating in interlaced bands. max. dims. 42x23x18 cm.

Preston-Plunkett tomb. c.1450-1500 (Pl. 8a).

Tomb chest surrounds in south aisle. North side: six ogee headed niches with floriated heads displaying five coats of arms including Preston and Plunkett, Preston and Bellew, St. Laurence and Bellew, and the Arms of the Passion. South side: similar to north but with the Bermingham and FitzGerald arms. East end: four ogee-headed niches depicting a Crucifixion between Our Lady and St. John; St. Michael with shield and dragon below. West end: similar to east but showing a mitred bishop (?St. Patrick), St. Catherine, an archbishop (?St. Thomas Becket), and St. Peter. Hunt (1974, 204-5) compares this tomb chest to those at Dunsany, Rathmore and Howth and it is evident that it belongs to the Pale group of sculptures (cf Hunt 1974, 114-5).

Gargoyle. 1589

Underneath the tower. Limestone. Decorated with the upper part of a human head. The eyes, ears and nose are present but the mouth was part of a separate piece. The date is inscribed in relief. L. 112; W. at head 23; depth of channel 6.5 cm.

Cusack Tomb. 1688 (Pl. 8b).

Rectangular sandstone slab with representation of a mitred bishop on two faces. Traditionally identified as the tomb of Dr. Cusack, Catholic bishop of Meath (1679-88).
L 230 W 113 T 13 cm.

John Bellew 1692.

Slate slab with a weathered inscription and a worn coat of arms, presumably Bellew, set on top of the 15th century Preston-Plunkett tomb chest. Incised inscription in Roman capitals:

THIS TOMBE HATH BEEN REPAIRED AND/ THE VAVLT MADE BY
DAME MARY BERMINGHAM/ OF DVNFERTH WIFE TO JOHN LORD
BELLEW/ WHOE WAS SHOT IN THE BELLY IN OVGHIRM FIGHT THE
FIRST OF JVLY 1691. AS SOONE/ AS HE FOVND HIMSELF ABLE
TO VNDERTAKE A IVRNEY HE WENT TO HIS LADY TO LONDON/
WHERE HE DEYED THE 12 OF JANVARY 1692/ HE WAS LAID IN A
VALT IN WESTMINSTER/ ...L THE APRIL FOLLOWING. HIS CORPS
..... HER

Dims: L. 139; W. 67; T. 13 cm.

7. ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH (Fig. 13; Pl. 9)

Situated in a field north west of St. Cianan's parish church. This site has been previously called "St. Cianan's church" on O.S. maps and elsewhere but the arguments for its present identification are set out in Bradley 1980. The present building appears to occupy the site of an Early Christian church which functioned in the later Middle Ages as a chapel and is described as having its own graveyard attached to it (Brooks 1953, 222, 292, 293).

There are indications that it may have been set within a small enclosure because a slight drop in ground level is noticeable to the north and west of the church which appears to be continued in the modern field boundary that runs into Church Lane. The surviving remains consist of two side walls and a low cross wall suggesting that the building was originally rectangular. The wall on the north side survives to a maximum height of 3.1 m, and that on the south to 2.8 m above internal ground level; the max. height of the east wall is 70 cm. The doorway in the south wall has a simple pointed arch, 1 m wide externally splaying to 1.4 m internally. There is considerable variation in the coursing of the walls but it is not possible to distinguish building phases. Indeed it is likely that much of the stonework is of relatively recent origin. Writing in 1836, John O'Donovan states that the building was then in use as the workshop of a chandler (Bradley 1980, 46). Jutting out from the base of the north and east walls is a line of stones which appear to form the foundations for a building prior to the present one.

Dims. Max. L. 12.05; max W. 6.3 m.

Monuments

Inscribed slab. Pre-1200 (Fig. 55:1).

Irregularly shaped limestone slab broken into four pieces. Centrally placed across the stone is a lightly incised inscription in insular half-uncials:

OR DO SCANLA.N

The R is faint and the L has a stroke across it. The uncertain penultimate letter may be an N.

Max. dims. 165 x 85 cm.

Cross-slab (Pl. 12a). Pre-1200.

Rectangular slab with incised Latin cross. Now missing.

8. ST. CARBAN'S CHAPEL

This chapel or oratory is known only from incidental references in the Llanthony cartularies. It is first mentioned in a document of c.1205 which describes it as being situated beside the cemetery of St. Cianan's (Brooks 1953a, 221). It may have been called after abbot Carban of Ouleek who died in 754 (Bradley 1980-81, 47).

9. AUGUSTINIAN GRANGE OF ST. MICHAEL

Founded as a cell of Llanthony Secunda (Gloucestershire) c. 1180 by Hugh de Lacy (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 173). It was maintained as a grange throughout the Middle Ages rather than a monastery and was the centre of a very large estate. An elaborate extent, prepared in 1381, and describing the buildings in detail survives (Brooks 1953a, 289ff.; cf. Brooks 1953b, 143-5). According to this extent the buildings were set around a rectangular courtyard. On the east side were the church of St. Michael, an old ruined hall with a straw-thatched kitchen and dairy, and a little stable adjoining; a long room with a closet, and a room called the "knight's room", both roofed with tiles. Under the long room was a cellar serving as a pantry for bread and ale, and under the knight's room a larder, while under the end of the long room a little stable serving for the horses of the proctor. On the south of the court were a bakery and brew-house, a little granary and a trough for pouring malt. To the west of these buildings was a stone gate. On the north was a sheep pen and a second stone gate, while further to the west was a haggard in which corn and hay were stored. Regretably this vivid description does not correspond with the surviving remains, but since these appear to be of fifteenth century date, it may be that the internal arrangements of the grange were re-organised subsequent to 1381. The extant features comprise two gatehouses, part of a church and a number of earthworks.

Description

The WEST GATE is badly damaged and only the ground floor plan may be determined. It would appear to have been of rectangular plan with a centrally placed entrance. The gate arch adjoins the vault of the chamber above and little attempt appears to have been made to bond the two features. On the south side of the vault are two doors, one of which has a granite lintel leading to a spiral staircase providing access to the chamber overhead; the other, with a simple pointed arch 1 m high, opens into a small room, now destroyed, probably for the gatekeeper. A number of putlog holes are present in the arch vault and the pronounced angle at which they lie suggests that they held the vault supports during the construction of the arch. A slot to hold the draw-bar of the gate is present on the north side of the archway suggesting that the gate itself was located at the junction between the two arches. Dims: Max. L. 7.15; Max. W. 3.8; Max. H. 5.0 m.

Immediately west of this gate is a flattened-U-shaped earthwork whose function is unclear.

Inside the gate and perhaps originally connected with it are the remains of a CHURCH or oratory of which only the east wall and a fragment of the north wall survive. The east window has a pointed arch and sufficient tracery fragments to determine that it originally had a four-light mullioned window with switchback tracery. There is no evidence for a division between nave and chancel. Max. external W. 9.4; Max. internal W. 7; Max. surviving internal L. 11.2; Max. external L. 12.8 m.

The EAST GATE has a gate arch and a vault similar to the west gate but the plan is different. There is no evidence of chambers at ground level but a staircase on the north-west gave access to the upper chamber, which contains a chimney flue and fireplace in the south-east corner and the jamb of a window that opened to the west. The south-west corner projects at ground floor level to accommodate the chimney flue. Max. L. 7.2; Max. W. 5.4 m.

Immediately north of the gate is a projecting corner of masonry and running westwards from it is a ridge indicating the former presence of a building.

About twenty-five metres west of the gate are two linear ridges which appear to be the remains of a roadway. South of this are the foundations of a rectangular building measuring about 15x10 m. The whole complex covers an area with max. dims. of 62 m north-south by 54 m east-west.

10. HOSPITAL OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN

A hospital or leper house dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen was present from the early years of the thirteenth century (Brooks 1953a, 213). In 1403 it was in the King's hands and in 1409 Henry V granted the custody of "le Magdelyns" to John Tonour (Archdall 1786,). The field beside the bridge is still known as the "hospital field", and presumably indicates its location.

11. MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES

Dowdall Cross. 1601 (Pl. 11a).

Market Green. Three-piece rectangular-sectioned limestone pillar consisting of lower shaft, belt and upper shaft, set in a rectangular base upon a modern plinth. It is decorated in relief and false relief with figure sculpture and a heraldic shield. West face: Bathe and Dowdall arms impaled with inscription below. North face: SS Peter, Patrick, Cianan; East face: SS. Mary Magdalen, James, Thomas; South face: SS. Andrew, Catherine, Stephen. The belt is a truncated double pyramid with shields bearing the implements of the Passion on each face. The upper shaft has two squat figures on the east and west while the figures on the north and south may represent St. George and St. Michael (but see Roe 1976, 261). Overall height 265; Av. W. of shaft 40; Av. depth 23 cm. Inscription:

THIS/ CROSS/ WAS BVI/LOED BY/ IENNET DO/ WDALL WIFE/ TO
WILLIAM/ BATHE OF/ ATHCARN/ IUSTICE OF/ HER MAIESTIS/
COVRT OF/ COMONPLEES/ FOR HIM AND/ HER AND 1601/ HE
DECEACED/ THE 15 OF OC 1599/ BVRIED IN THE/ CHVRCH OF/
DVLEEK/ WHOSEOV/LES I PRAY/ GOD TAKE TO/ HIS MERCEIE.

The cross is one of a pair set up by Jennet Dowdall for her husband William Bathe, the other being at Annesbrook one mile to the south. The upper shaft may have been more complete originally (cf. Price 1942, 33-4; Wilde 1950, 278).

Berfort Cross. 1635 (Pl. 4b).

Rectangular-sectioned Latin cross of fossiliferous limestone with splayed ends on the arms and upper shaft. Relief inscription in Gothic lettering on north face:

IHS/ PRAY FOR THE SOULES OF THO/MASSINA BERFORD FIRST
WIFE/ TO BERT/ HELEME/ MOUR OF/ DOWAN/ STOWNE/ WHO DIE/
O THE 17/ OF DEC/EMBER/ 1635.

Originally a wayside cross on the Downtown Road this subsequently functioned as the gable cross of Duleek Catholic church before being placed in its present position, east of the town, in 1969. It was badly damaged by a local builder in 1981.

Dims: Overall height 145; W. across arms 73.5; W. of shaft 21; Depth 13 cm.

Moss 1977.

Bathe-Dowdall plaque. Late 16th cent. (Pl. 10b).
A plaque similar to that on the bridge. Now in private possession.

College. Site unknown.

A college is referred to in the Civil Survey of 1654 (Simington 1940, 16).

Mills. Sites unknown.

A deed of c.1260 refers to two water mills in the town, one of which was known as the great mill, the other being associated with the castle (Brooks 1953a, 223)

12. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

One excavation has been carried out on the site of the motte by Mr. Kieran Campbell, to whom I am indebted for the following information:

A series of trenches indicated that the stratigraphy was completely disturbed and consisted of an incoherent mixture of sand, gravel and clay layers. In the loose fill were some thirty sherds of medieval pottery, and about twelve of post-medieval date.

13. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. Medieval coin hoard. Found in 1853. The latest coin is of Edward I (d.1307). (See Dolley and Seaby 1968, B.4).

2. Medieval coin hoard. Found in 1854. The latest coin is of Henry VI (d.1471). See Numismatic Chronicle 1898, 63.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

The Problems

The importance of Duleek for archaeological research is that it is a good example of an Early Christian monastery which was developed by the Anglo-Normans into a town. There are important remains of this monastery but its extent and layout are unknown. It must have been substantial enough to attract Hugh de Lacy and accordingly the initial years of its growth during the late twelfth and thirteenth centuries are particularly important. The ford may have been an important geographical feature in the formation of the town but nothing

is known of the form, date or size of the first bridge and its immediate successors.

The street pattern has probably remained intact since the Middle Ages but the nature of the road surface at various periods is not known. Indeed streets should be examined if at all possible because they also permit the results of excavations on one side of a street to be linked with those on the other. This enables the reconstruction of entire streetscapes in the manner which has proved so successful at Novgorod.

Nothing is known of the form or size of pre-seventeenth century housing in the town. It is important to know what sort of buildings the medieval inhabitants of Duleek lived in and how these changed through time. It is only when houses have been found that assessments can be made of the impact of native Irish, British and continental building techniques on Athboy's craftsmen. A great deal of information about changes in building methods and fashions can also be derived from stratified sites in which the remains of successive houses are preserved.

The course of the town defences is not clear and needs to be checked by excavation. Much remains to be discovered about the periods of construction, the variations in building, the forms of mural towers and gatehouses, and the extent of the town fosse.

It is unlikely that the opportunity will arise to excavate on the site of the medieval parish church of St. Cianan's but it is worthwhile recalling that our knowledge of the form, size and character of this church is limited.

The layout of the Augustinian grange survives in good condition but despite good documentary evidence the description of the site in 1381 cannot be reconciled with the standing remains. By contrast with the hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, however, knowledge of the Augustinian house is considerable. The architectural features and extent are only one aspect of the archaeology of religious houses, of course, and the excavation of a medieval cemetery, such as that conducted at York, can provide otherwise unobtainable evidence about health, disease, diet, and mortality rates.

The extent of settlement in the vicinity of the Bridge and the hospital of St. Mary Magdalen is unknown and it is not clear whether there were extra-mural settlements or not.

Archaeological Potential

Archaeology does not consist solely of excavation nor does it stop at ground level. The archaeological evidence for Duleek's past comprises all the physical remains of man's activities on the site of the town, from its first occupation to the present day. The surviving street pattern, property

boundaries and standing buildings constitute the uppermost levels of the archaeological stratigraphy, and all are relevant to the study of the town's past. Documentary evidence also plays a role in reconstructing the history of early Duleek, but for the wide range of human activity omitted from the written accounts and for the early periods without documentation archaeology is our only source of information. The evidence of archaeology and topography, of architecture and of documents, is complementary; each gains from the existence of the others and the unrecorded destruction of one form of evidence not only removes part of a town's archive but also diminishes the usefulness of those which are preserved.

The survey of its archaeology indicates that the site of the town has been the scene of human activity in Early Historic and Medieval times. Both documentary sources and the known archaeological remains indicate that the town was occupied continuously from c.500 AD into the post-medieval period. Most of the medieval fabric has been demolished and the only remains which survive above ground are parts of St. Cianan's parish church, St. Patrick's Church, the Augustinian Grange, the bridge and the Dowdall Cross. However, although the destruction of buildings above ground has been almost total, the street pattern of the medieval and post-medieval town is largely intact. Archaeological deposits are likely to exist over most of the area of the town and accordingly there is the likelihood of recovering house foundations, refuse pits, industrial areas, and workshops.

ARCHAEOLOGY, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT


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

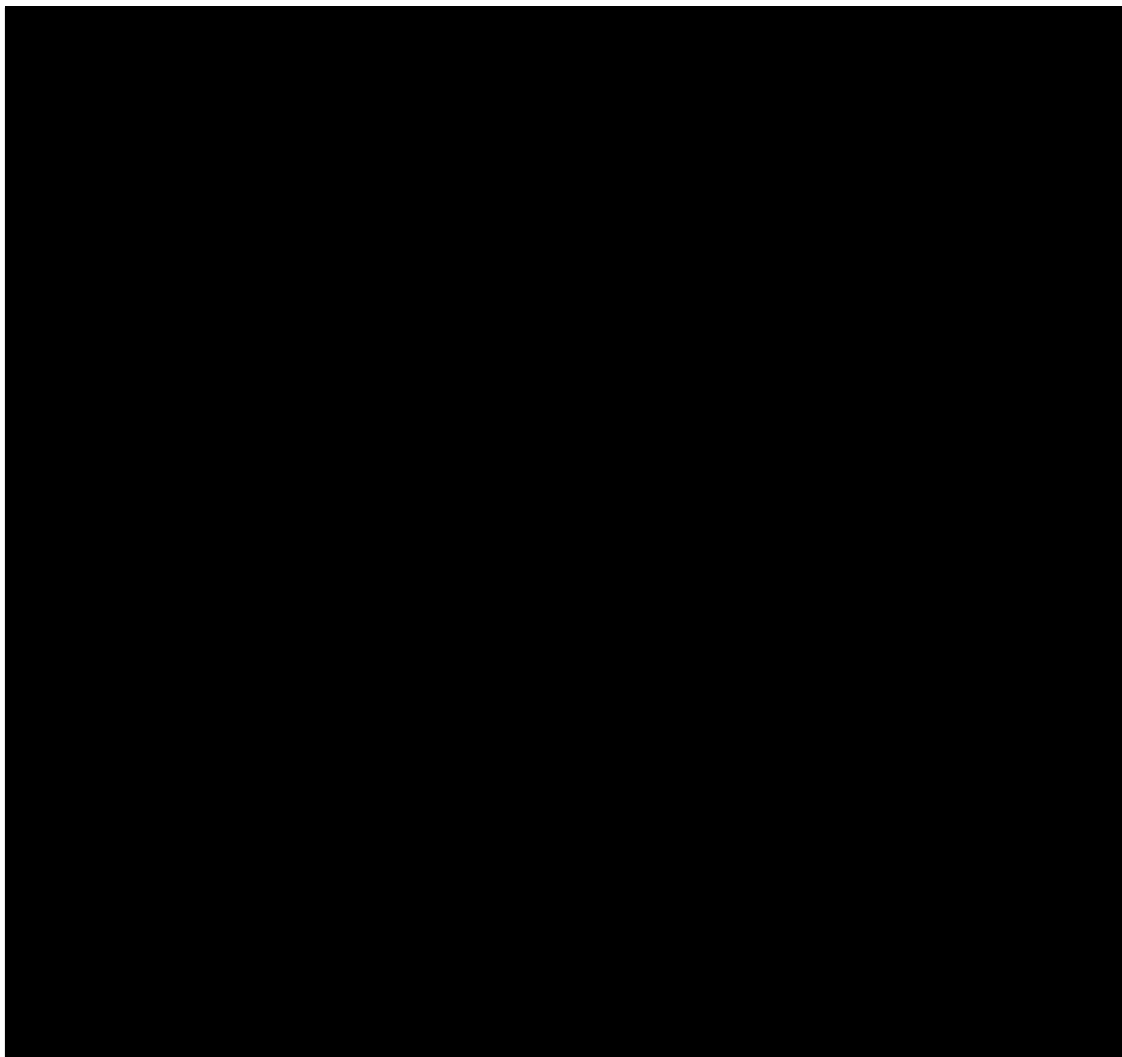
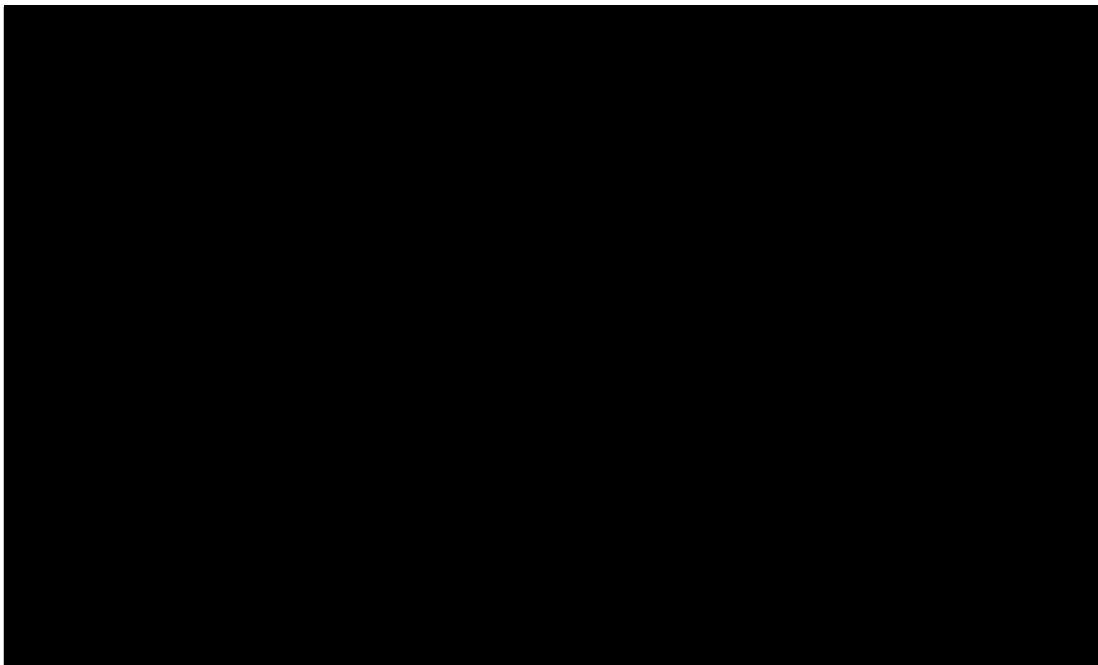
The protection of buried archaeological evidence presents serious problems for not only is there the pressure of redevelopment and the high value of urban properties with which to contend, but the sites themselves are often difficult to define or evaluate; their full archaeological potential may only become apparent when an excavation is undertaken in advance of development or by observations made while development is in progress. Only the remains of St. Cianan's parish church and of St. Patrick's church enjoy statutory protection as scheduled National Monuments and because of the difficulties of scheduling urban properties, other sites within Duleek are unlikely to be given this

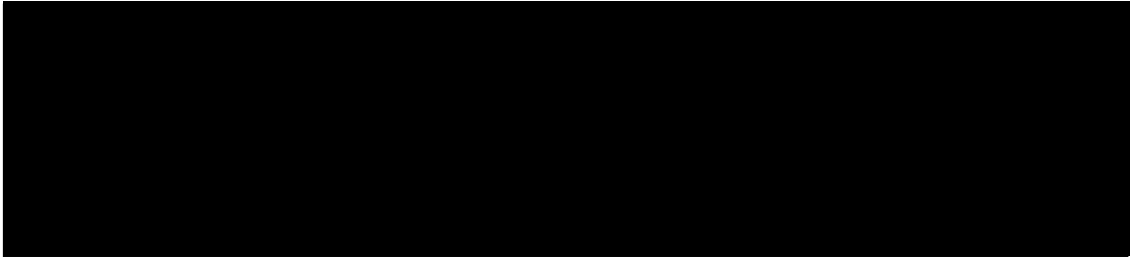
protection. It is crucial, therefore, that a concerted effort should be made to safeguard its archaeological heritage and that adequate provision is made for investigation in advance of any redevelopment. This is best achieved by use of planning constraints and by conditions attached to planning consents.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 8) delimits the area of archaeological potential within present-day Duleek. The archaeological excavations conducted by Kieran Campbell at Commons uncovered disturbed stratigraphy but the finds indicate that archaeological deposits were present. The development of housing estates in Abbey Road and at the east end of Main Street in recent times have probably removed some archaeological deposits but elsewhere there is little evidence for modern disturbance. Accordingly, archaeological deposits are likely to exist over the area of the town shaded pink on Fig. 8.







DUNBOYNE

Dunboyne is situated in the rolling countryside of south Meath about 14 km west of Dublin. It is largely spread along either side of a wide main street with an expansion in the center. The placename is derived from Dun Buinne, fort of the yellow river (Cogan 1862, 188).

Historical Background

Nothing is known of Dunboyne until shortly after 1172 when it was granted by Hugh de Lacy to William le Petit. It received a grant of a weekly market in 1226 (Sweetman 1875-86, i, No. 1389). The rectory was held by the Augustinian canons of Mullingar and Gwynn and Hadcock (1970, 174) suggest that it may have been a cell of that house until about the mid-fourteenth century. There are few references of topographical value to Dunboyne in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The Civil Survey (1654-6) records only one stone house and one mill in the town (Simington 1940, 129).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. MOTTE
2. PARISH CHURCH OF SS. PETER & PAUL
3. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. MOTTE

Dunboyne was the centre of a large manor granted by Hugh de Lacy to William le Petit. In the early fourteenth century it passed out of the hands of the Petits and became the property of the Butler family. Although there are no specific references to the existence of a motte it is almost certain that the original manor was based around one. There are no extant remains.

2. PARISH CHURCH OF SS. PETER & PAUL (Fig. 17)

The medieval parish church was situated on the west side of the modern village. In Montgomery's visitation the chancel of the old church was in ruins (Cogan 1862, 188-193). In 1682 the nave walls were standing but unroofed since 1641, according to Bishop Dopping, but the chancel was in tolerable repair with glazed windows, a clay floor and a slated roof

(Ellison 1971, 38). When Isaac Butler visited Dunboyne in the 1740's only the chancel remained, the rest being in ruins (Roe 1968, 47). There is no sign of this chancel now and the only remains are part of an ivy-clad tower standing to the south-west of the present church.

Description

Three walls survive of a rectangular tower of four floors with battlements above. The ground floor has a round barrel vault now filled in. The first floor has a door leading to a mural-stair and a fireplace in the south wall, and the remains of an ogee-headed window in the west wall. The second and third floors have splayed windows in the south and west walls which are overgrown with ivy externally. Dims: 8.6 x 6.8 m. Cogan (1862, 189) gives its height as 74 feet.

Architectural Fragments

Six decorated window fragments supply evidence for a medieval church on the site. They lie in the outside south porch and against the south wall of the church. The red sandstone fragments (Nos. 1-5) appear to be of fifteenth or sixteenth century date while the limestone mullion (No. 6) is somewhat later.

- 1: Crocketed and cusped fragment. H.58 W. 29 cm
- 2: Fragment with crockets and foliage. H.51 W.30 cm
- 3: Column base. H. 17 W. 24 cm
- 4: Gable finial. H.38 W.34 cm
- 5: Crocketed and cusped window moulding. H.53 W.33 D.24 cm
- 6: Window mullion. H.115 W.14 D.21 cm

Font (Pl. 12b)

Limestone. Octagonal with chamfered lower panels and a one-piece octagonal base. Circular basin with a small central hollow which Roe (1968, 47) considers to be an incompleated boring. Four panels carry an inscription in false relief:

S.W./ C.E.B./ I.W. 1579

Dims: H. 86 Ext. Diam. 64 Int. Diam. 48 D. of bowl 23 cm.

Font/ Tub.

Cogan (1862, 189) refers to an ancient font marking the grave of a priest in the graveyard and the tub shaped limestone vessel now in the outside porch of the church may be this vessel. It is crudely carved, although the basin and rim are well finished, and is four sided with chamfered corners. There is no trace of a drainage hole (Roe 1968, 115).

Dims: H. 39 W. 54 Ext. Diam. of bowl 40 Int. Diam. of bowl 23 cm.

3. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1-3. Three tanged flint arrowheads. From near Dunboyne. NMI 1968: 380-82.

4. Iron bell, bronze-coated (see Bourke 1980, 65). From "ancient earthworks, possibly a monastic site at Dunboyne". NMI 1972: 10.

5. Medieval potsherd. From Dunboyne. NMI 1972: 13.

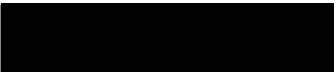
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

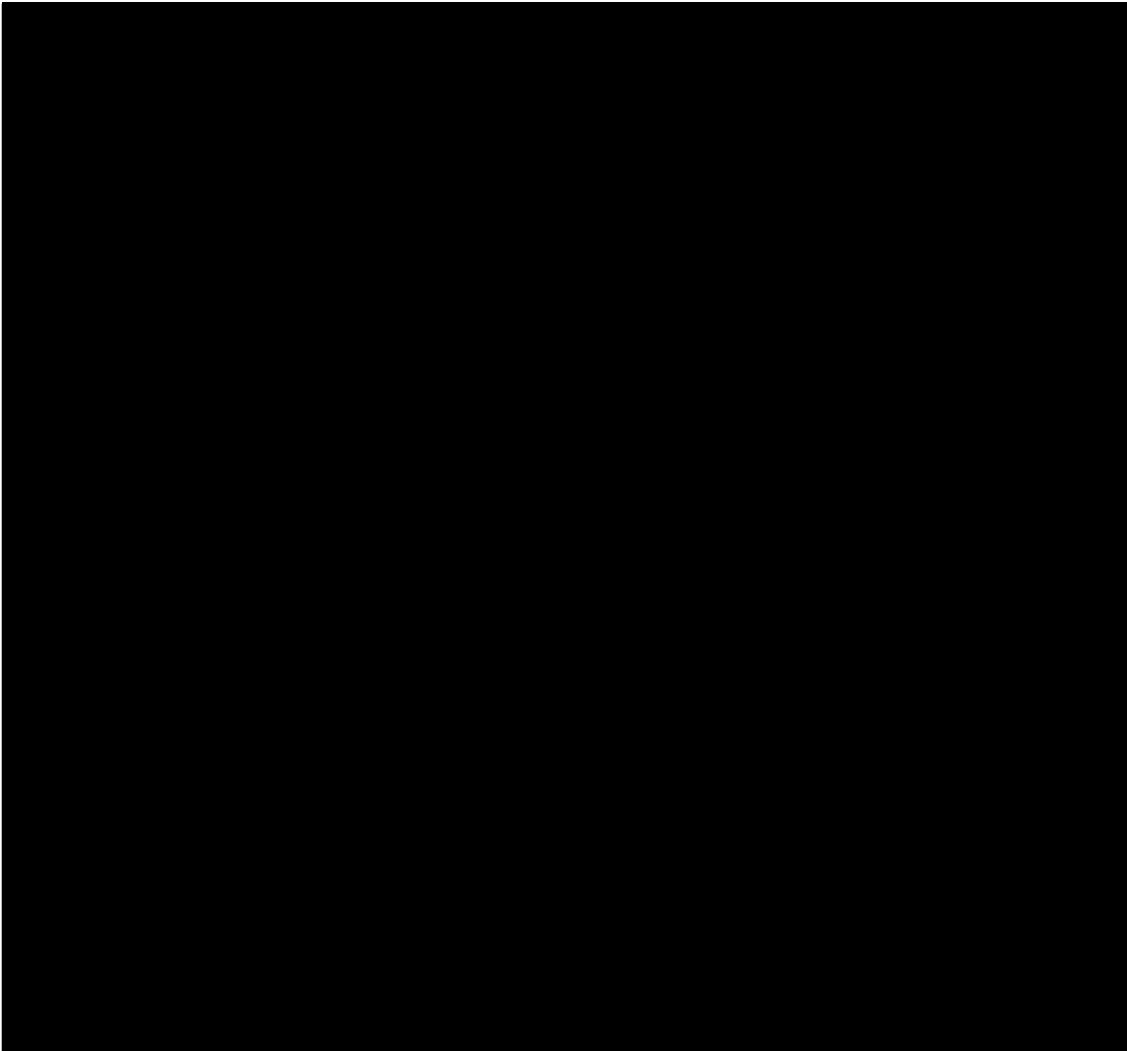
The layout of the present village with its triangular Square suggests that its present plan is of eighteenth century date and probably the result of landlord interest. It is clear from the documentary and archaeological data, however, that there was a borough here during the Middle Ages. Knowledge of this borough and of its extent is extremely limited. It may have been located beside an Early Christian secular site but even this is not certain. The period of its desertion is unknown and from the historical evidence it is likely that the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are likely to be the ones best represented in the archaeological record. The construction of the present village may have destroyed some pre-existing archaeological deposits but in the absence of excavation there is no information on the depth or nature of deposits. It is worth noting, however, that the record relating to the discovery of the iron bell mentions that it was found near human burials. Unfortunately the precise findspot of the bell is not known but it may hint at the existence of an early church site in the village.

Knowledge of the settlement in medieval times is scant. Was it merely a rural borough or did it have genuine urban functions? Nothing is known about domestic dwellings, street pattern, defences, or of the settlement's extent. Nonetheless the archaeological data indicates that the borough has been the scene of human activity in Prehistoric and Medieval times and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge is obtained.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 16) delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern Dunboyne. This is based almost entirely on the built-up area of the village and the line of the major property boundaries.





DUNSHAUGHLIN

Dunshaughlin is situated in south Meath about 32 km from Dublin. The village lies along either side of the main street and the medieval parish church was situated at the north end of the town in a circular enclosure around which the main street curves. The placename is derived from Domhnach Seachnaill, church of Seachnaill (Secundinus), a Gaulish bishop who came to Ireland in the fifth century.

Historical Background

Although there is a sizeable range of prehistoric objects from Dunshaughlin, it is likely that most of these were found during turf cutting in the bog of lagore, rather than in the village itself. Nonetheless they indicate, as does the well-known excavation at Lagore itself (Hencken 1950), that the immediate vicinity of the site was known to man in prehistoric times.

Historically the village is connected with St. Sechnaill (Secundinus) a missionary bishop who died in 447 according to the Annals of Ulster. Abbots are noted from the beginning of the ninth century and in the eleventh and twelfth century the monastery was the object of a number of raids. The importance of the site during the pre-Norman period was in part due to its proximity to Lagore, the seat of the kings of South Brega.

After the coming of the Normans Dunshaughlin became the centre of a seignorial manor belonging to Hugh de Lacy (Graham 1974, 42). The earliest reference to it as a borough is in 1423 (Lewis 1837, i, 589). Nothing is known of the history of the medieval settlement.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. MOTTE
2. PARISH CHURCH OF ST. SECHNAILL
3. MISCELLANEOUS
4. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. MOTTE

Large low mound in the modern graveyard on the south of the town. Sited on fairly high steep-sided ground partly planted with shrubs. There are traces of an external ditch on the east although it is not visible on the west. The mound

has a basal diameter of 19 m narrowing to 17 m at the top; its height is between 2.5 and 3 m. It may have been lowered in modern times.

2. PARISH CHURCH OF ST. SECHNAILL

This church was on or near the site of the present Protestant parish church. In 1682 Bishop Dopping records that the church was in good repair with a slated roof, glazed windows, a clay floor and a bell (Ellison 1971, 38). By Cogan's (1867, 351) time, however, all trace had gone.

The only surviving remains consist of a single rounded limestone arch with a small fragment of another adjoining which suggests that it is the remains of an arcade. The masonry is of coursed limestone rubble.

Dims: Max. surviving H of arch 3.55 W. 2.5 m.

Architectural Fragments

These are placed underneath or beside the arch.

Lintel. 10th-11th cent. (Pl. 13a)

Sandstone. Decorated in relief with a crucifixion showing a bearded Christ wearing a knee-length perizonium. On Christ's right side is the spear-bearer and on his left the sponge-holder, both with knees bent and wearing knee-length tunics. It is almost certainly the lintel from the west door of a pre-Romanesque style church (Henry 1967, 188).

Dims: H 61 W 150 D 18 cm.

Eight fragmentary window mouldings. 15th-16th cents.

Two of these fit together to form a cusped twin-light ogee headed window with plain spandrels.

Monuments

Font. Late 15th/16th cent.

In use within the church. Limestone. Octagonal with chamfered lower panels, octagonal shaft and rectangular base with chamfered edges. Octagonal basin with central blocked drainage hole. Part of the rim and one internal panel are damaged. Roe (1968, 57) suggests that the shaft may not belong to the font because the basin does not fit well with the lower panels. According to Isaac Butler the font had a canopy carved and painted like that of a pulpit (Roe 1968, 57). Five of the upper panels are decorated, one with a head in high relief and the other four with animals in low false relief. The difference in decoration may imply two periods of sculpting (Roe 1968, 58). The decoration is as follows:

- 1) A small triangular shaped head with a fringe.
- 2) Unworked

- 3) A wild boar with long tail. Roe (1968, 58) suggests an ox.
- 4) Unworked
- 5) Unworked
- 6) A swan in the center and a rabbit on the right standing on it's hind legs and another animal on the left.
- 7) A heater shaped shield
- 8) A cow or deer, missing its hind legs, with a small animal underneath which appears to be lying on it's back.

Dims: H 40 Ext. Diam. 66 Int. Diam. 48 D. of basin 25 cm.

Piscina.

Within the church, near the font. Sandstone/ granite. Lozenge-shaped. Four lugs or mouldings on the corners extending from top to base. The base is damaged and holed. The top is worn smooth but the outside is roughly hewn.

Dims: H 19 W 23-20 Int. diam. 16 cm.

Orans slab. 7th/8th cent.

Plaster copy. Original in N.M.I. Dug up in the graveyard in 1969. Carved in relief. The face is indicated by slashes, the arms are turned out at the elbows and the hands are missing. He wears a skirt which comes to just above the knees and the feet are turned outwards (Roe 1970, 212-3).

Dims: H 59 by W 26 by D 7.

Noah Webb. 1696.

Flat rectangular limestone slab in four fragments. Weathered. At the south-west end of the graveyard. The top of the slab has two decorated panels in false relief, on the left a figure above a rope moulding and on the right a star above a rope moulding. The lower part of the slab has the following inscription in incised Roman lettering:

[Hic iacet reue]RENO NOAH WEB.../DECANVS LEIGHLIN
NECNON.../ DVNSHAGHLIN HIC VNACV.../ SA PROLE TVMVLATVS
IACET.../ OBIIT 7mo AVgt ANNO DOM 1[696]/AETAT SVAE [53]
/ HENRICVS FILIVS EIVS PR MOGEN.../ AD DEFT ENCOM MVLT
DESV.../ PAVCES VTI TOTIS VIRIBVS AD ECCL.../ PATRIAE
BONVM SE CONTVLIT'.

Dims: H. 140 W. 98-64.

Grave slab. ?17th cent. (Fig. 56:1)

Also in the SW of St Seachnaill's graveyard is a limestone coffin-shaped slab partially buried in an upright position. Decorated with a simple Latin cross in false relief within a frame.

Dims: H 53 W 40-36 D 8 cm.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

Holy well

In the grounds of Sechnallstown House there is a well of the

same name marked on the O.S maps but it is now covered over and the memory of the name is not known locally.

Hospital?

According to the owner of Sechnallstown House there was a hospital in the field immediately south of this well. There are ridges which may be the remains of earthworks in the field.

4. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. Flat bronze axehead of Ballyvalley type. From a bog at Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath (Harbison 1969a, 36: No. 913). NMI: Swan Coll.

2. Copper dagger of Knocknague type (Harbison 1969b, 7: No. 2). From ?Dunshaughlin. NMI W.172.

3. Bronze dagger of Dunshaughlin type (Harbison 1969b, 11: No.46). From ?Dunshaughlin. NMI W.102.

4. Bronze dagger. Date and type uncertain (Harbison 1969b, 18: No. 117). From Dunshaughlin. British Museum London: 1848.11-1.20.

5. Bronze flanged axehead. From Dunshaughlin bog, 1883. Rothe House Museum, Kilkenny: 1966/16.

6. Bronze palstave. "Said to have been found at Dunshaughlin". NMI W589; B647.

7-8. Two socketed bronze axeheads. From Dunshaughlin. NMI 1941: 650-1.

9. Socketed bronze axehead. From bog at Dunshaughlin. NMI 1931: 435.

10. Bronze socketed axehead. From Dunshaughlin. In Day Coll. 1881 (Evans 1881, 141).

11. Bronze socketed axe. From Dunshaughlin. British Museum London: O.A.112.

12. Small four-sided horn vessel. From Dunshaughlin. NMI W.3.

13-15. Fragments of three bone combs. Found with a skeleton at Dunshaughlin, 1848. NMI 1968: 395-8.

16-19. Three iron knives. From Dunshaughlin. NMI S.A. 1927: 87-9.


ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

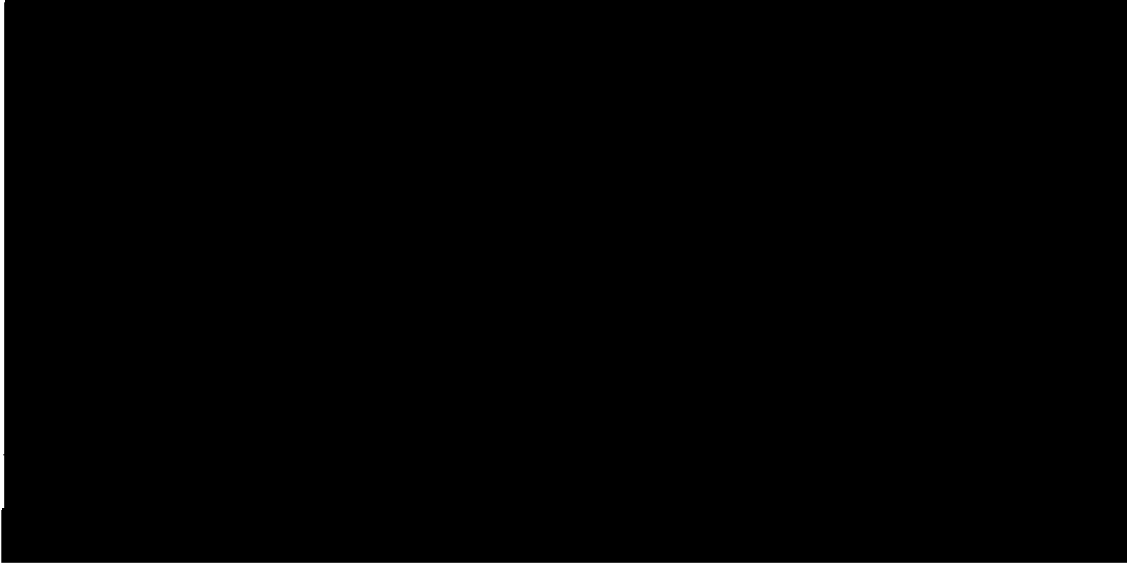
Dunshaughlin is a small borough which is expanding in size as a dormitory town because of its proximity to Dublin. The construction of new houses and shops along Main Street has probably caused some disturbance to archaeological levels but in the area of the old church little disturbance appears to have occurred. Accordingly, it is likely that archaeological deposits are intact over a large part of the village. The presence of an Early Christian church site suggests that evidence may survive regarding the nature of the transition from monastery to borough.

Knowledge of the nature of the settlement in medieval times is scant. Was it merely a rural borough or did it have genuine urban functions? Nothing is known about domestic dwellings, street pattern, defences, or of the settlement's extent. Nonetheless the archaeological data indicates that the borough has been the scene of human activity in Early Historic and Medieval times and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge is obtained. The borough is under threat from development at present because of its proximity to Dublin and the motte on the south of the village is being increasingly encroached on.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 18) delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern Dunshaughlin. This is based largely on the hypothesis that the medieval settlement is likely to have stretched from the motte to St. Sechnall's church. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits.





GREENOGE

Greenoge is situated in the rolling countryside of south-east Meath about 10 km west of Swords. Today it consists of a small hamlet on either side of the Ashbourne-Swords road beside the Broad Meadow river.

Historical Background

The motte was probably established before the end of the twelfth century (Graham 1974, 44). The earliest reference to its existence as a borough occurs in 1228 when a burgage plot was granted to St. Thomas' Abbey, Dublin (Gilbert 1889, 59). The Civil Survey (1654-6) records a stone house, a church, a bridge, a mill, 3 farm houses and several cabins (Simington 1940, 98).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. MOTTE
2. ST. NICHOLAS' PARISH CHURCH
3. MISCELLANEOUS
4. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. MOTTE (Pl. 14a)

This small motte lies in the field immediately south-west of the church, prominently sited on high ground with commanding views in all directions. It has a basal diameter of 13.5 m narrowing to 5 m at the top. It survives to a height of 3 m. There is no trace of a bailey. The sides of the mound have been worn down by cattle and a sherd of medieval pottery was picked up from the spoil during inspection in 1982. The size of the top of the mound seems too small to have allowed for the building of any kind of substantial structure there. On the east is a low bank and ditch running north-south.

2. ST. NICHOLAS' PARISH CHURCH (Fig. 20)

Situated within a rectangular graveyard formerly reached from the road via a sunken pathway which is now overgrown. In November 1983 a new entrance was built on the east of the graveyard. Little is known of the history of the church. In 1682 Bishop Dopping noted that it was dedicated to St Nicholas and that the nave and chancel walls were standing

but out of repair since 1641 (Ellison 1971, 37).

Description

Coarsed limestone masonry with rubble core. Built in three phases, of which the nave is the earliest, probably sixteenth century; this was subsequently extended and a chancel added, while later still alterations were made in the nave converting a portion of it into a dwelling house.

The chancel walls are much overgrown and survive to a max. height of 1 m. The nave is slightly broader than the chancel. The north wall is about 5 m high and has a pointed arched doorway with dressed jambs and a flat rear-arch. The south and west walls are much overgrown but survive to a height of about 1.5 m. The east wall has a pointed arch which may have been the east window of the original church.

In the post-medieval period the north-east corner of the church was adapted for use as a two-storied dwelling house. The entrance was on the north and the walls stand to a height of about 5.5 m. There are two narrow windows with deep internal splay in the south and west walls and one rectangular chamfered window in the north wall of the ground floor. A single-light cusped ogee-headed window with recessed spandrels was re-used at first floor level in the west wall; above it is a worn sandstone head. A chimney was built in the west wall to serve the fireplace on the first floor; there are three narrow windows on the first floor in the south wall and one in the west. There are two recesses in the east wall. The fireplace has some reused dressed stones set above it and another in the chimney. An addition was made to the top of the north wall but its date is unclear.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

Earthworks?

A number of ridges are present between the road and the river leading to the bridge. However, some may be the result of drainage.

Well

To the E of the church on the roadway there is a well with a stone-built round arched covering.

Dims: H 110 W 70 D 75 cm.

4. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. Medieval line-impressed tile fragment. Found in the course of inspection 1982, in disturbed soil immediately north-west of the graveyard wall. (King forthcoming).

2. Sherd of medieval pottery. Found on the side of the motte in the course of inspection in 1982 (King forthcoming).

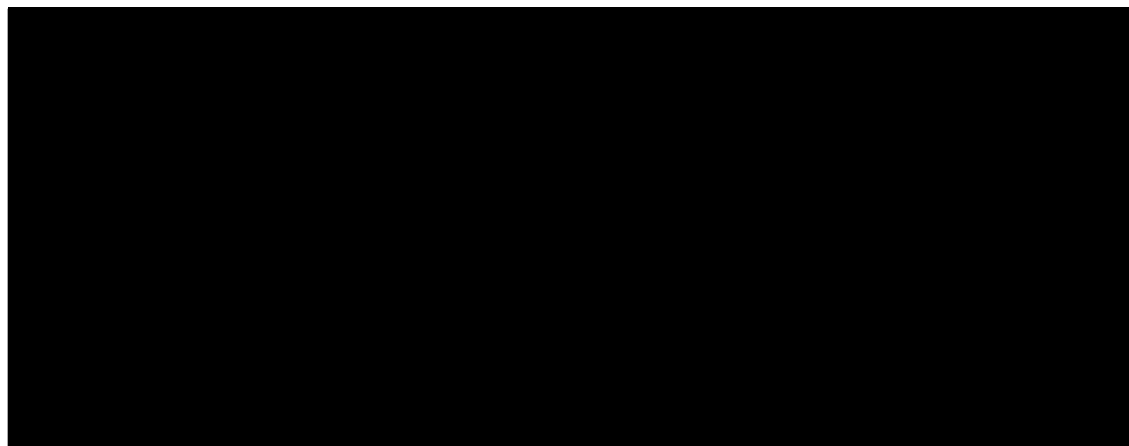
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

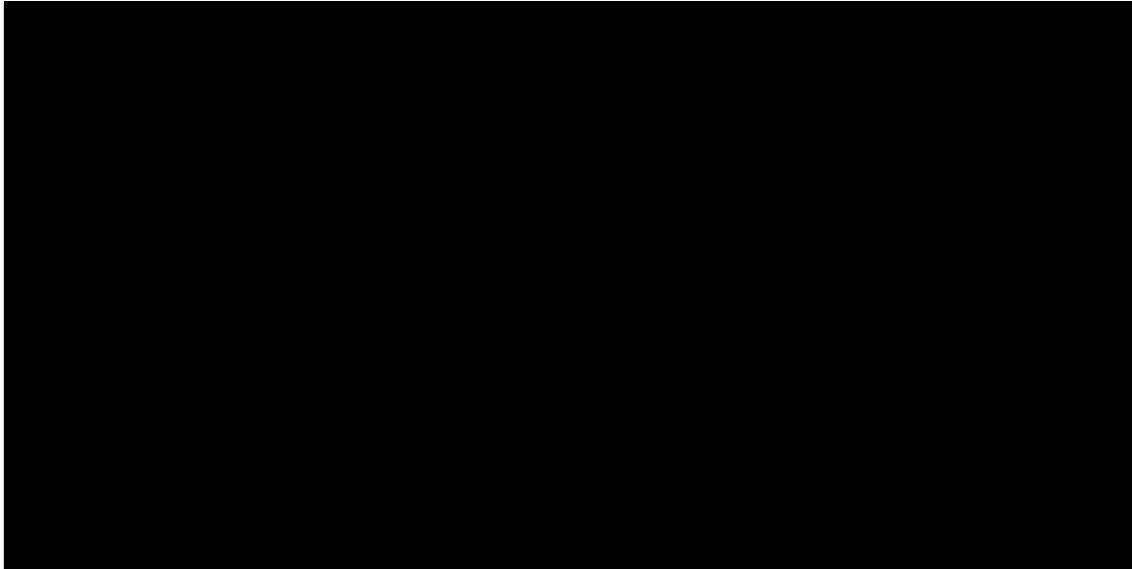
Greenoge, like Colp, is an example of a deserted borough. There is little evidence of disturbance and it is likely that archaeological deposits are intact over most of the area. The period of its desertion is not known but from the historical evidence it is likely that the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are likely to be the ones best represented in the archaeological record.

Knowledge of the nature of the settlement in medieval times is scant. Was it merely a rural borough or did it have genuine urban functions? Nothing is known about domestic dwellings, street pattern, defences, or of the settlement's extent. Nonetheless the archaeological data indicates that the borough has been the scene of human activity in Medieval times and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge is obtained. The borough is not under direct threat from development at present but its proximity to Dublin means that it will come under increasing pressure from development in the near future.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 19) delimits the area of archaeological potential. This is based simply on the extant monuments and the area in their immediate vicinity. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits.





KELLS

Kells is situated on a prominent ridge a short distance south of the River Blackwater. The placename is derived from Ceanannas, "principal residence" and it survives in the English form of Headfort.

The large passage tomb cemetery of Loughcrew is some ten miles to the west and the presence of two stone axeheads from the town suggests that the vicinity of the town was known to Neolithic man. Activity by man in the Early Bronze Age is indicated by the discovery of three cists at Kells in the last century, one of which reputedly contained a "cinerary urn" (Waddell 1970, 127). Stray finds of this period from the town include a copper dagger, a bronze flat axehead and a bronze halberd. The Later Bronze Age is represented by a bronze flanged axehead, two ribbed Kite-shaped spearheads, four bronze socketed axeheads, and a bronze socketed dagger. A bronze fibula of La Tene type indicates that the area of the future town was also known in the Iron Age. In view of the importance of the Early Historic monuments it is perhaps surprising that only three stray finds of this period are known from Kells. In summary, then, the archaeological evidence indicates that the site of the town was frequented by man in prehistoric times but the nature of the activity is unknown. It is possible that there was a settlement here but it is quite likely that the fording point on the Blackwater immediately to the north attracted people to the vicinity.

Historical Background

Kells is first recorded as a monastery in 804 when it was established as a place of refuge for the monastic community of Iona, fleeing from the havoc caused by Viking raids. The site appears to have belonged to Armagh and there may well have been a church here previously. A church was commenced, probably the damh liac referred to in 920, and completed before 914. In 877 the relics of Columba were transferred to Ireland and it is likely that one came to Kells. The succeeding century sees its rising importance as the principal Columban house in Ireland. This importance is reflected in the increasing number of raids, by Vikings and Irish: in 920 the Dublin Vikings destroyed the stone church. In 950 the King of Dublin plundered Kells and made it a base from which to raid the neighbouring monasteries of Dulane, Ardbraccan, Kilskyre and Donaghpatrick. In 969, 996 and 1019 it was again raided by Vikings. Further raids are recorded in 1016, 1036, 1040, 1060, 1073, 1095, 1111, 1117, and 1156.

Despite its importance Kells was not among the bishoprics established at the Synod of Rathbreasail in 1111. However, it was the setting for the second important reforming synod held in 1152 when it became a bishopric. It enjoyed episcopal

status for about sixty years until about 1211 when it was amalgamated with the diocese of Meath (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 92). A further instance of the spread of ecclesiastical reform was the founding of an Augustinian house c.1140-8, largely at the instance of St. Malachy (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 181). In 1170 Kells was burned in a punitive raid on Meath by Diarmait Mac Murrrough.

With the coming of the Normans Kells was selected by Hugh de Lacy as the caput of a manor (Orpen 1911-20, ii, 78). The borough may also have been established by him but the earliest evidence for its incorporation comes from his son, Walter who granted a charter sometime subsequent to 1194 (MacNiocaill 1964, 124-5). Throughout the Middle Ages Kells was a frontier town and was exposed to attack from the native Irish. It was burnt in 1203 (AFM) and again in 1315 when Edward Bruce defeated an army under Roger de Mortimer outside the town (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 173). In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries it was on the edge of the Pale and a portion of the Pale ditch still survives one mile to the north-west. A petition of 1472 emphasises that the town was

"on the borders of the march of the county of Meath adjoining to the Drayllyes [O'Reillys], Irish enemies of our sovereign lord the King, and is the safeguard, defence and relief to all his faithful liege people dwelling in that part" (Berry 1914, 743).

The petition goes on to relate that many of the townspeople were deserting Kells because of the high levels of taxation caused by the maintenance of the town walls, suggesting that there may have been a decline in its population during the later fifteenth century.

In 1598 it was listed among the walled towns of Meath (Hogan 1878, 91) and it appears to have prospered into the seventeenth century. It is significant that in 1642 the Catholic bishops and vicars of the province of Armagh convened a synod here which was to be the precursor of the Confederation of Kilkenny. In 1647 the town was captured by confederate forces. The Civil Survey (1654-6) records that a castle, a church with a steeple, 3 mills, divers houses and cabins, a stone quarry, a watch tower, a fishing weir, 2 ruined mills and the walls of the town which it describes as ruined (Simington 1940, 279). The Down survey describes it as

"a walled town where a market is held every Thursday. [There are] five gates, a castle, a church, a high watch tower, the house called St. Colmcille's cell with several houses and cabins in repair and two abbeys - one without Cannon Gate called Lady's Abbey and the other without Dublin Gate called St. John's Abbey" (McNeill 1938, 425).

At least two late seventeenth century trader's tokens are known from the town and these provide an added indication of prosperity in post-medieval times (Macalister 1931, 87).

THE TOPOGRAPHICAL DEVELOPMENT OF KELLS

The surviving line of the old monastic boundary makes it clear that Kells has grown in stages but in the absence of secure documentary or archaeological evidence it is difficult to know what those stages were. The area within the monastic enclosure would appear to define the extent of settlement before the coming of the Normans. The enclosure is now represented on the north and east by the line of Carrick, Castle and Cross Streets, on the west by Fair Green and on the south by the old line of the town wall. An area south of the enclosure appears to have been known as Siofoic and is mentioned in an annalistic reference of 1156 (AFM) and in a charter in the Book of Kells. It has been suggested that this name is preserved in Suffolk Street (Simmington 1960, 234-5; O'Connell 1960, 13). Accordingly it may be that there was some form of settlement immediately south of the enclosure in pre-Norman times.

The Anglo-Norman addition consisted of extensions on the north, east and south. On the north, Carrick and Maudlin Streets form a unit; on the east, castle Street, John Street and Kenlis Place; while on the south Suffolk and Farrell Streets were developed. The presence of a two-stage plot pattern on the east side of Farrell Street suggests that it may have been extended in two phases with the most southern portion being incorporated perhaps as late as the seventeenth century.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN
2. BURGAGE PLOTS AND PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
3. DOMESTIC HOUSES
4. MARKET PLACE
5. CASTLE
6. TOWN DEFENCES
7. EARLY CHRISTIAN MONASTIC ENCLOSURE
8. ST. COLUMBA'S HOUSE
9. ST. COLUMBA'S PARISH CHURCH
10. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF ST. MARY
11. HOSPITAL PRIORY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
12. HOSPITAL OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN
13. MISCELLANEOUS
14. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN (Fig. 22)

The street pattern of Kells is unusual in so far as it displays two phases of the town's development. The first, reflected in the arcuate pattern formed by Carrick Street,

Castle Street and Cross Street, delimits the extent of the pre-Norman monastic enclosure. The second consisting of linear extensions on the north (Maudlin Street), south (Farrell and Suffolk Streets) and east (John Street) is largely of Anglo-Norman date.

2. BURGAGE PLOTS AND PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

The burgage plot pattern survives very well along Carrick Street, Maudlin Street, Farrell Street, Cannon Street and Suffolk Street. The construction of houses in Church Lane, Fair Green and Columba Terrace has destroyed the plot pattern in these areas. There is a double row of burgage plots on the south side of Farrell Street and these may indicate the expansion of the town in the post-medieval period.

3. DOMESTIC HOUSES

Nothing is known of the form or size of the housing within the medieval town but a valuation of 1663 provides some information for the seventeenth century. The description of buildings in this document suggests that houses were constructed of mud or stone, and most were thatched. One building is described as "a stone and lyme walled castle called the Thoulsell three storeys high and a vault ill-roofed" (Simington 1960, 262). This appears to be the building frequently identified by local historians as the castle of Kells. It was probably something similar to the tholsels of Drogheda which are depicted in seventeenth century maps as fortified houses.

4. MARKET PLACE

This appears to have been located at the junction of Market Street, Castle Street, Cross Street and John Street. The name of Market Street and the width of Castle Street suggests that the market extended into these streets.

Documentary references to it are scant but a statute of the Irish parliament of 1479-80 notes that the market of Kells was declining because of the growth of Irish markets at Cavan, Longford and Granard in O'Reilly's country (Morrissey 1939, 819).

Market Cross (Pl. 16a). 10th cent. ?reused.

Ringed cross missing its upper shaft and sets into a single tiered truncated pyramidal base. Inscription on the west face:

ROBERT BALFE REERECTED THIS CROSS IN 1688

The base is decorated with panels showing horsemen, a battle scene, Noah driving the animals into the ark, and various animals some mythological.

E face: Daniel in the lion's den in the cross head with the anointing of David just below, and the Incarnation above. The sacrifice of Isaac is on the left arm and avarice seized by two demons is on the right. On the shaft: Christ guarded by soldiers in the tomb, Goliath, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel.

W. Face: Crucifixion in the cross-head with the Fall of Simon Magus on the right. On the shaft: Adoration of the Magi, the Marriage Feast of Cana, the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes.

S face: Slaughter of the Innocents, the Healing of the Blind Man, Moses receiving the Law; on the end of the arm: David and the Lion.

N face: Jacob wrestling with the Angel, the Torments of the Damned; on the end of the arm: Paul and Anthony in the Desert.

It is said to have been used as a gallows in the seventeenth century.

Dims: Shaft. H. 258 W. 54 D. 40

Base. H. 65 W. 132 D. 132

Roe 1959, 26-43

5. CASTLE

Kells was the centre of an important manor established by Hugh de Lacy (Orpen 1911-20, ii, 78). A castle was established but it was abandoned in 1176 on the approach of Mael Sechlainn Mac Lochlainn and the Cenel Eogain. It was subsequently re-established and is recorded in 1212 (Davies and Quinn 1941, 31) but nothing is known of its subsequent history. The Down Survey account mentions a castle in the town probably the same as the

"stone and lyme walled castle called the Thoulseil three storeys high and a vault ill-roofed" (Simington 1960, 234)

It is likely that this is also the castle seen by Isaac Butler in 1740 (Simington 1960, 234). From the description, however, this was a fortified town house like those in Ardee and Carlingford rather than a seigneurial castle. O'Donovan records no trace of a castle when he visited in 1836 (O.S. Letters,).

6. TOWN DEFENCES

The defences of Kells enclosed an area of about 20 hectares (45 acres) and had a circumference of 1.8 km (1.15 miles). Almost nothing is known of the manner in which the defences developed and the commencement is also unknown. There were probably defences at the time of the Bruce

invasion but the earliest direct reference to the walls occurs in 1462 when the Irish Parliament agreed to continue an existing murage grant (Berry 1914, 25). This was followed in 1468 by a new grant (Berry 1914, 645-9) but in 1472 it was noted that the cost of the defences was so great that it was impoverishing the town (Berry 1914, 743-7). The walls were maintained into the seventeenth century and were scaled by the Confederate troops in their assault on the town in 1647. They were described as ruined in the Civil Survey (1654-6) but the Down Survey noted that it was a stone wall with five gates (McNeill 1938, 425).

Description (Fig. 22)

Almost nothing is known of the form of the defences and the presence of the gates is known only from seventeenth century sources (Simington 1960). The course of the town wall can be reconstructed largely from the Down Survey map and the Valuation of 1663 (Simington 1960, 267-8). O'Connell (1960, 13) suggested an alternative route but as the full extent of the seventeenth century documentation was not available to him Simington's reconstruction is to be preferred. No source mentions the presence of mural towers and if the one extant example did not exist it might be thought that there were none. As it is this single example highlights the fact that there must have been others.

From CANNON GATE (site only) the wall curved north-east following the south-east boundary of Fair Green to CARRICK GATE (site only). It ran north-east along Pitcher Lane for a distance of almost 100 m before turning eastwards to incorporate the burgage plots on the north side of Carrick Street as far as MAUDLIN GATE (site only). It continued east and then south in a stepped line to DUBLIN GATE (site only). It extended south of Dublin Gate for about 80 m before turning south-west, where its course appears to be preserved in a long property boundary, to TRIM GATE (site only). It continued for about 80 m west of this gate before turning north and then west to link up with Cannon Gate.

The only surviving section of town wall is to the south of Cannon St. It is about 70 m long with an average width of 60cm and consists of coursed limestone rubble. Part of the west end has collapsed showing a considerable build-up of material, mostly modern, on the town side. Externally the ground slopes away steeply from the wall.

About 12 m from the east end is a round mural tower (Fig. 23; Pl. 20a) in poor condition and at present used as a manure container. The masonry is roughly coursed and consists largely of limestone. It had two floors, with a basement below, and with a wall walk level and battlements above. It is 5.1 m in external diameter; the wall varies in thickness

from 1.25 m at basement level to 1 m on the ground floor. The original entrance was on the town (east) side. A modern opening has been made on this side at basement level. The floors were supported on wooden beams and there are 4 narrow arrow loops with wide internal splay on the ground and first floors. A latrine is present on the first floor at the south-west side and its exit is protected by a machicolation above. The wall walk level is largely destroyed.

7. EARLY CHRISTIAN MONASTIC ENCLOSURE

The curving street pattern of the town preserves traces of the old monastic enclosure, whose outline is most evident from a plan or aerial view. The enclosure is now represented on the north and east by the line of Carrick, castle and Cross Streets, on the west by Fair green and on the south by the line of the town wall. The boundary is missing in the south-east quadrant where its line must have continued from the town wall towards Cross Street. The enclosure measured about 360 m east-west by 280 m north-south and enclosed an area of roughly 9.5 hectares (22 acres). Simms (1983, 32-3) suggests that the line of Church Street and Church lane may indicate the presence of an inner enclosure.

8. ST. COLUMBA'S HOUSE

This is situated north-west of St. Columba's churchyard. Rectangular structure with a stone-built steeply pitched roof. The ground level around the house has changed and earth has been removed from the east and south ends and the original entrance at the west end is blocked up. Access is now through a modern door in the south wall which leads into the original basement level. The roof is barrel-vaulted internally with a small room above between the vault and the roof, divided into three chambers. This small room is lit by two small rectangular windows in the east and west walls; Wilde and Patrie record the presence of a flat slab here in the last century but it has been missing for the last 50 years.

This early church is similar in construction to St. Mochta's House at Louth, and St. Kevin's Kitchen, Glendalough and probably dates to the tenth-eleventh century although Leask (1955, 33) suggests that it may be the church completed in 814.

A SOUTERRAIN is said to lead from St. Columba's house to the churchyard although there is no evidence for it now (Roe 1959, 62).

9. PARISH CHURCH OF ST. COLUMBA

This was the principal dedication of the early monastery. The first church was commenced in 804 and was completed by 814. It is probably the same as the damh liac burned in the Viking raid of 920. It is likely that a new church was built by the Anglo-Normans but little is known of it. Bishop Dopping records in his visitation of 1682 that the nave and chancel were out of repair since 1641 but that they were under repair; there were two aisles or side chapels dedicated to St. Mary and St. Nicholas and he notes that the windows were glazed, the roof slated and the floor was of earth (Ellison 1973, 7).

Description

Church Tower (Pl. 15a) 15th cent.

This is the only surviving portion of the medieval church standing immediately north of the modern church. Rectangular with angle buttresses rising to first floor level where they are weathered. Four floors with battlement above; a steeple was added in 1783. Coursed limestone masonry with limestone quoins. A spiral stair giving access to the upper floor is located in the south-west angle and is lit by small rectangular slits. External string course at first and second floor levels; the tower is stepped-in slightly at both. The gable coping for a building aligned north-south (?transept) is present at first floor level in the south wall. Two pointed chamfered recesses are present at first floor level externally and rise from the string course; both have hood moulds. A quoin in the north-west angle bears the Plunkett coat of arms, and the north buttress has an angel with a shield.

The ground floor has a large pointed arch which opened onto the south but is now blocked by a modern cross-wall into which a number of monuments have been built (see below). The chamber is rectangular with a pointed barrel vault. The vault has a rectangular hole through which the bell could be raised or lowered. there is a round arched recess in the north wall and a twin-light ogee-headed window in the east. The stair in the south-west angle is reached through a pointed door with chamfered arch and portion of a bar-hole socket. The first floor is entered through a lintelled door and has blocked-up windows in the north and south walls. That in the north wall has a segmental arch externally; the other is rectangular and chamfered with internal splay. Externally there is an ogee-headed recess with hood-moulding in the east wall, probably to accomodate a statue. Immediately above first floor level is an internal ledge which supported the floor of the belfry stage. The second floor, or belfry stage, is entered through a lintelled door and is lit by tall elegant windows in each wall. These are transomed twin lights with cusped ogee heads, daggers in the spandrel, and a quatrefoil above; all have a pointed rear-arch. Superficially they look

alike but there are slight differences between them. The east window is the most ornate with moulded external jambs surmounted by an elaborate moulded label terminating in clustered capitals supported on two human heads and gathered into a crocketed finial. Internally the east and west windows have chamfered jambs while those on the north and south are chamfered externally with a label but remain plain internally. The joist-holes for the floor beams of the wall-walk level are present but the parapet itself was removed when the steeple was constructed in 1783. The present battlements have corner merlons with false arches and an architrave on consoles, and probably date from 1783. Dims. 9.2 by 7.85 m at base.

Window mouldings. Late 15th/ 16th cents.
Nineteen fragments are placed within the church. They are largely of fossiliferous limestone.

Sheela-na-gig. Whereabouts unknown.
Wilde (1857, 141) mentions the existence of such a figure "in the church at Kells". See Guest 1936, 118: No. 53.

Round Tower (Pl. 15b) 11th cent.

Situated on the south side of the churchyard, this tower is known from documentary sources to have been in existence before 1076 (AFM); the door was probably inserted in the twelfth century. The burial build-up has caused a difference in ground level of about 2 m between that portion of the tower within the churchyard and that outside. It has six floors and is complete to top window level but lacks the conical cap. Constructed on a plinth resting on rock outcrop. The masonry consists of coursed limestone but the doorjambs and the stonework immediately around it are of sandstone. The door, on the north side, is about 1.5 m above present ground level but originally it must have been closer to 4 m. It is round-arched with a very worn head on the right of the door; there was probably another on the left. The four floors immediately above are each lit by a small square-headed window, but the fifth floor is lit by five pointed windows. The interior appears to have been filled to the level of the door sill until 1829 (Barrow 1979, 167). At present the interior is at a depth of 1.3 m below door level. Height 26 m; internal diam. at level of door 2.6 m.

Barrow (1979, 168) comments that Kildare is the only other tower with five windows under the cap level.

West cross (Pl. 17b)

Shaft in large pyramidal base, lacking ring which according to Harbison (Down Survey) was complete in the 17th century. Two tiered base outlined by a heavy moulding.

Macalister (1949b, 34-6) said it had the inscription OROIT DO ARTGAL but nothing is visible now. The figured scenes occur on the wide sides within moulded panels; the narrow sides are devoted to displays of abstract art (Roe 1959, 45-54).

East face: Baptism of Christ, Marriage feast of Cana (?Adoration of the Magi), David with his harp, Presentation in the Temple, Unidentified panel, and the Entry of Christ into Jerusalem (?Flight into Egypt).

West face: Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, and three unidentified panels ? Israelites being led out of Egypt, the drowning of the Egyptians in the Red Sea.

The north face has four panels of interlace and the south face has five.

Dims: Shaft H. 2.30 W.75 D.45
Base H. 90 W.145 D.135

South cross (pl. 17a) ?Early 9th cent.

Also known as the cross of Patrick and Columba. Inscription on east face of the base 'PATRICI ET COLUMBAE CRUX'. Ringed cross set into a two-tiered truncated pyramidal decorated base which is decorated with figurative and abstract designs. These include interlacings, animals including a deer and a chariot procession. Roe (1959) suggests that this is the transfer of relics.

East face: Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, the Three Children in the Fiery Furnace, Daniel in the Lions Den; Cross head east face: Left arm, the sacrifice of Isaac; Right arm SS Paul and Anthony in the desert; Above, David with his harp, and the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes.

West face: Crucifixion with the sun and moon, and above that Christ in Judgement. South arm: David Killing the lion; North arm David Killing the bear.

Inhabited vine scroll.

Dims. Shaft. H.2.80 W. 54 D.34
Base H. 60 W. 145 D. 125

East cross (Pl. 16b). 12th cent.

Large ringed cross in a two-tiered base, missing the upper shaft and part of the ring. The shaft panels are cut but the designs are incomplete except for a crucifixion on the east face and the panel immediately to the right of that which has four figures (Roe 1959, 55-7).

Dims: Shaft H. 3.10 W. 72 D. 50
Base H. 70 W. 190 D. 164

North Cross.

Only the weathered base survives. Conical with rectangular mortice. Decorated with a band of interlace (Roe 1959, 9).

Dims: H.55 W.62.
Mortice: H.14 W. 27 by 12

Cross slab (Fig. 55:2; Pl. 18a). Pre-1200.

At the west end of the church. Granite. Sub-rectangular, partly damaged. Interlaced Latin cross in false relief within a border. Above the cross is an Alpha and Omega, an IHS and XPI, and along the left side of the slab are the words OR DO RIAG (Roe 1959, 59).

Dims: H 169 W 56 D 16

Cross slab (Fig. 55:3). Pre-1200.

On the south buttress of the church tower. Limestone fragment with an incised equal armed cross inscribed within a double circle (Roe 1959, 57-9).

Dims: H 54 W 54.

Stone slabs

Also in St Columba's Church there are two thin slaty limestone slabs, one with a incised maltese cross. Both are probably late in date

Effigial slab (Pl. 18a). 14th cent.

Sandstone. Coffin-shaped, at west end of the church. Crucifixion in relief with Mary and John; two civilians separated by the tree of life below. The lady, on the right, wears a wimple and veil, a long robe and mantle held across her breast with a chain. Her hands are joined and her feet, in pointed shoes, rest on flowers. The male is dressed in a pleated gown with tight sleeves and lappets. He has short hair and his head rests on a rectangular cushion, he holds a book and also wears pointed shoes (Hunt 1974, 206: No. 188).

Dims: H 189 W 62-39 D 16 cm.

Plaque (Pl. 18a). 1578.

On the south wall of the church tower, but originally within the church according to Dopping's Visitation of 1682 (Ellison 1973, 7). It consists of two rectangular limestone tablets with an incised inscription in mixed Gothic and Roman lettering:

THE BOOIE OF THIS CHURCHE BEING I UTTER RUYN AND DECAIE
WAS REEDI/ FIED I AND DNI 1578 & IN AND R. R. ELIZABETH
XX THROGHE THE DILIG/ CE & CARE OF THE REVEREDE FATHER I
GOD HUGHE BRADY BYSHOP OF MEAT/ HE & SIR THOE GARVIE
ARCHEDEACO OF THE SAME AND DEANE OF CHRISTCHURCH/ I
OUBLINE BOTHE OF HERE MAIESTIE IS PRIVIE CONSAILE Sr
HERIE SIDNIE/ KNIGHT OF THE NOBLE ORDIRE BEING THENE
LORO DEPUTIE &c. THE SAID/ REEDIFING WAS BEGANE & SEATT
FORWARD BE THE ADVISE & DALIY/ CARFULL TRAVAEILL OF THE
AUNCIENT BURGIS NICHOLAS D.... / THEN BEING SUFFRANIE OF
KENLLIS 2 OF IULII Ao PRDICTO/ WITH OTHER DALY
FURTHERINS BOGHT THE ROWFF OF THIS/ C... UPPO HIS OWIN
PROPIR CHARGIS. GOD IS NOT UNRIGHT / AT HE SHULD FORGET
THE WORKE AND LABOUR THAT PROCEDE I/ WHICHE LOVE IS
SHEWED FOR HIS NAME IS SAKE.

Dims: H.44 W.146 (approx).

FitzGerald 1898-1900, 455

Window plaque. 1578.

On the west wall of the church tower. Rectangular chamfered limestone plaque with an incised inscription in Roman letters:

THYS WYNDOWE / WAS BYVIDED BI RI / CHARD [FLJOVEDII. OF /
KENLIS MERCHEAV / NT THE II(2) OF IVLI / 1578 WHOSE SOVLE /
GOD TAKE TO HIS / MERCI

Dims: H.50 W.64

FitzGerald 1898-1900, 456.

Three heads (Pl. 18a). Late 16th / 17th cent.

On the south wall of the church tower. O'Connell (1960, 22) says that these were found when the present church was being built. All are on square plaques of limestone.

a) Round face with short hair under a flat cap.

Dims: approx. W. 46cms.

b) Bishop with an elaborately embroidered mitre worn over short cropped hair with amice around the neck.

Dims: approx 30cms.

c) Woman wearing a flat cap over short cropped hair.

Dims: approx. W 26.

Heraldic plaque (Pl. 18a). 16th cent.

Fossiliferous limestone. Rectangular. On the south wall of the church tower. Heater-shaped shield, in false relief, depicting a winged horse rampant with staff and banner. The banner has two crossed swords and 4 Tudor roses. The crest consists of a kneeling horse placed between the letters N and D. In the spandrels at the base of the shield are two interlace designs. The initials have been identified as those of Nicholas Daly by O'Connell (1960, 20) although but Bishop Dopping read it as Nicholas Duragon (Ellison 1973, 7).

Dims: H.60 W.61 D.12

FitzGerald 1898-1900, 455-6.

Grave slab. 16th cent.

Limestone. Fragment of a rectangular slab is set into the plinth of the East cross. Decorated in false relief with a weathered shield, quartered: 1st and 4th have 3 demi-lions, the 2nd and 3rd a winged animal. Incised inscription

..AND / HE ... AND 1577 / NATE.. FOST.. / ON WHOS SO /
IS LYFE . XXI OF...

Dims: H 99 W 74 D 23 cm

Grave slab. Late 16th / early 17th cent.

Limestone fragment also set into the plinth of the East cross. Rectangular with a weathered shield in false relief

displaying a lion rampant. Traces of an incised inscription but only the letters G and T are visible.

Dims: H.95 W.63 D.10 cm

Sundial (Pl. 20b). 17th cent.

Placed against the south wall of the church porch. Sandstone. The dial is incised on one end and consists of a double ring divided into 4 quarters by lines which extend beyond the outer ring and terminate in Maltese crosses. These quarters are further divided into 6 divisions while the outer ring is divided into 8 sections. The gnomon hole is not completely perforated. An interlaced letter R is incised above the sundial.

Dims: H.160 W.64 D.12 cm

Diam. of dial 32 cm

Font A.

Inside the church. Well made polished limestone octagonal font of uncertain date. Octagonal shaft and base. The basin is circular with sloping sides and central drainage hole (Roe 1968, 122).

Dims: H.118 W.65 D. of basin 20 cm

Font B. ? Pre-1200.

West of the church tower, a tub-shaped granite font on three short stubby legs. Large central drainage hole and the holes where the cover was attached are visible in the rim. It originally belonged to Kilshine church (Roe 1968, 121-2).

Dims: H.63 W.64 Int. D. 25 cm

Font C/ Piscina.

Shallow octagonal limestone vessel at west end of the church. Central drainage hole. Steeply chamfered sides terminating in a moulding which would have rested on an octagonal shaft. One of the chamfers has a damaged angel in relief with large wings and curling hair. It is described by Roe (1968, 67-B) as from Martry.

Dims: D. 58 Chamfers 8cm.

10. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF ST. MARY

This monastery was probably founded c. 1140-8 at the instigation of St. Malachy. It was destroyed by the Anglo-Normans in 1176 and shortly afterwards it was re-founded by Hugh de Lacy. In 1409 an indulgence was granted to the convent because it was impoverished and its buildings were in ruin because of war. The monastery was dissolved in 1539 and was granted to Sir Gerald Fleming with nearly 400 acres in 1541 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 181). The monastery was at the west side of the town, outside Cannon Gate.

O'Connell (1960, 15) has suggested that it was located in Abbey Field on the south side of Cannon Street.

11. HOSPITAL PRIORY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Founded by Walter de Lacy as a hospital of the *Fratres Cruciferi* at the close of the twelfth century, little is known of the history of this house. It was dissolved in 1539 and granted to Richard Slayne in 1566 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 213). A survey of 1588 showed that the church and several buildings were in ruins; these included the kitchen, a castle, a legate house west of the commandery, the bawn with a stone wall, the granary, and a watermill (O'Connell 1960, 18). The Down Survey of 1655 noted that the priory was outside the Dublin Gate and its site may be identified with the old graveyard of St. John in Headfort Place. There are no standing remains.

Architectural fragment. Prob. 15th cent.

Beside the north wall of the graveyard, a cusped ogee-headed window spandrel of fossiliferous limestone now cemented into a modern base.

Dims. H 42 W 54 T 12.5 cm.

Cross slab (Fig. 55:4) Pre 1200.

Embedded in the east end of the graveyard is a small tapering limestone slab with an incised ringed Celtic cross.

Dims: Exposed H 28 W 26-32 T 7 cm.

Effigial slab (Pl. 19a). 13th cent.

Narrow, slightly tapering, gabled slab of sandstone in the north-west corner of the graveyard. Crudely carved effigy of a woman in false relief. The damaged edges of the slab were chamfered and there is a drainage hole on the right side at shoulder level to prevent water lodging around the figure. The woman wears a pill-box type head-dress, a long pleated gown with brooch fastening the neck opening and belted at the waist with a pendant falling to the hem. Her left hand rests on her hip and the right hand on a tau-shaped walking stick. She has low heeled pointed shoes on her out-turned feet, and below is a crudely carved and damaged triskele in false relief. Above her head in the gable is the remains of an equal armed cross. She is known locally as "the Abbess" (Hickey 1974; Hunt 1974, 206).

Dims: H 145 W 42 T 16 cm.

Grave slab (Fig. 56:2) 17th Cent.

Standing beside the north wall of the graveyard is a portion of a large tapering limestone slab with chamfered edges. It is decorated in relief with a simple cross shaft on a pyramidal shaped base.

Dims: H 128 W 69-61 T 12 cm.

Grave slab. Date uncertain.

In the north-west corner of the graveyard, a small slaty slab with a Latin cross incised within a circle standing on a stepped base. ?18th cent.

12. HOSPITAL OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN

Oengus Mac Gillabain, airchinnech of a hospital at Kells is mentioned in a charter of 1117-22, and subsequently there was a hospital here dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen but nothing is known of its history (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 351). The hospital appears to have been located north of the town in the townland of Townparks immediately north-east of Maudlin Bridge. O'Connell (1959, 23) has suggested that the site of the early monastery of Ath-da-laarg was near here. However, it is difficult to be certain.

13. MISCELLANEOUS

Holy well.

Dedicated to St. Columba and situated in low-lying ground south-west of the town. Access is via narrow lane for about quarter of a mile. There are no particular features of any interest except for a small modern corbelled stone structure which has been built over the well. It is considered by O'Connell (1960, 20) to have been the well of St. Mary's Abbey and a place of pilgrimage.

Ringfort.

According to O'Connell (1959, 24) there was a ringfort in Headford demesne, but much lowered and levelled. Not visited.

Cist Burials.

According to Waddell (1970, 127) three cists (?Bronze Age) were found at Kells not later than 1890-91. Their precise find location is unclear.

14. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. Stone axehead. From Kells, Co. Meath. Cat. Day Coll. (1913), 6: lot 23.

2. Polished stone axehead. From Kells, Co. Meath. NMI 1959: 58. See Jrl. Roy. Soc. Antiqs. Ireland 91 (1961), 69.

3. Copper dagger. From Kells, Co. Meath. Cat. Day Coll. (1913), 37: lot 268.
4. Bronze axehead of Killaha type (Harbison 1969a, 27: No. 579). From Kells, Co. Meath. British Museum, London: W.G. 1532.
5. Bronze halberd of Breaghwy type (Harbison 1969b, 46: No. 300). From Kells, Co. Meath. British Museum, London: W.G. 1598.
6. Bronze flanged axehead. From vicinity of Kells, Co. Meath. NMI 1959:96. See Jrl. Roy. Soc. Antiqs. Ireland 91 (1961), 77.
- 7-8. Two bronze ribbed Kite-shaped spearheads. From Kells, Co. Meath. Cat. Day Coll. (1913), 46: lots 324-5.
9. Bronze socketed axehead. From Kells, Co. Meath, 1844. Ulster Museum: 391:1937. See Jrl. Old Athlone Soc. 1 No. 5 (1978), 48.
10. Socketed bronze axehead. Found near Kells (?Co. Meath). NMI 1901:1.
- 11-12. Two bronze socketed axes from Kells, Co. Meath. British Museum London: W.G. 1561, 1594.
13. Bronze socketed dagger. From Kells, (?Co. Meath). British Museum London: W.G. 1608. See Evans 1881, 207: Fig. 244.
14. Bronze safety-pin fibula of La Tene type (Raftery 1983, 143). From Kells, Co. Meath. British Museum London: 1880.8-2.131.
15. Bronze cruciform mount. From Kells, Co. Meath. Cat. Day Coll. (1913), 58: lot 397. ?= British Museum London: 1923.11-10.
16. Bronze stick-pin of squared-spatulate type (Pryor 1976, No. 71). Found near Kells, Co. Meath, 1853. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto: Sturge (ex-Bateman collection) 918.33.49.
17. Bronze stick-pin of non-functional kidney-ringed type (Pryor 1976, No. 10). From Kells, Co. Meath 1845. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto: Sturge (ex-Bateman collection), 918.33.30.
18. Bronze bowl-like object. From Kells, Co. Meath. NMI 1960: 592. See Jrl. Roy. Soc. Antiqs. Ireland 92 (1962), 162.
19. Brass seal matrix. From Kells, Co. Meath. British Museum London 1862.3-1.1.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

The Problems

The importance of Kells for archaeological research is that it was an important monastic site prior to the Coming of the Normans and it affords the opportunity of discovering what the monastery was like in addition to examining the transition from monastery to town. Accordingly the initial years of its growth from the ninth until the thirteenth centuries are particularly important.

The street pattern has probably remained intact since the Middle Ages but the nature of the road surface at various periods is not known. Indeed streets should be examined if at all possible because they also permit the results of excavations on one side of a street to be linked with those on the other. This enables the reconstruction of entire streetscapes in the manner which has proved so successful at Novgorod.

Nothing is known of the form or size of pre-seventeenth century housing in the town. It is important to know what sort of buildings the medieval inhabitants of Kells lived in and how these changed through time. It is only when houses have been found that assessments can be made of the impact of native Irish, British and continental building techniques on Athboy's craftsmen. A great deal of information about changes in building methods and fashions can also be derived from stratified sites in which the remains of successive houses are preserved.

The course of the town defences outlined above needs to be checked by excavation to determine whether it is correct or not, and much remains to be discovered about the periods of construction, the variations in building, the forms of mural towers and gatehouses, and the extent of the town fosse.

It is unlikely that the opportunity will arise to excavate on the site of the parish church of St. Columba but it is clear that the monastic complex extended considerably beyond the present churchyard in Early Christian times. It is also worthwhile recalling that our knowledge of the form, size and character of this church is confined to its tower and there are almost certainly foundations of pre-Norman churches in its vicinity.

There is an almost total lack of information on the nature of the Augustinian priory and even its location is not precisely known. The location of the two hospitals can be plotted a little more accurately but nothing is known of their form or layout. The architectural features and extent are only one aspect of the archaeology of religious houses, however, and the excavation of a medieval cemetery, such as

that conducted at York, can provide otherwise unobtainable evidence about health, disease, diet, and mortality rates.

The extent of settlement outside the walls is unknown and the topographical growth outlined above needs to be checked by excavation. The contrast between buildings within various parts of the town at different periods also remains to be discovered.

The group of stray finds indicate that the site was a focus for human activity in prehistoric times and an important archaeological problem is the determination of exactly what forms this activity took and its date.

Archaeological Potential

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

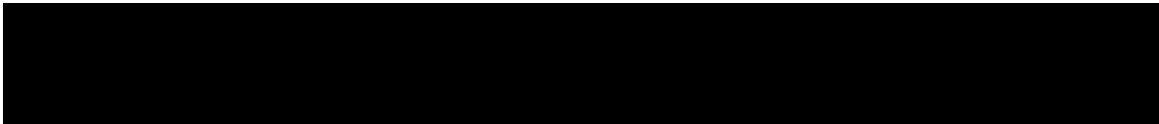

The survey of its archaeology indicates that the site of the town has been the scene of human activity in Prehistoric, Early Historic and Medieval times. Both documentary sources and the known archaeological remains indicate that the town was occupied continuously from the ninth century into the post-medieval period. Most of the town wall, gatehouses, mural towers and the principal medieval buildings were demolished prior to 1800. The only remains which survive above ground are the tower of St. Columba's Church, St. Columba's House, the round tower, five high crosses, a mural tower and a short stretch of the town wall. However, although the destruction of buildings above ground has been almost total, the street pattern of the medieval and post-medieval town is largely intact. Archaeological deposits are likely to exist over most of the area of the town and accordingly there is the likelihood of recovering house foundations, refuse pits, industrial areas, and workshops.

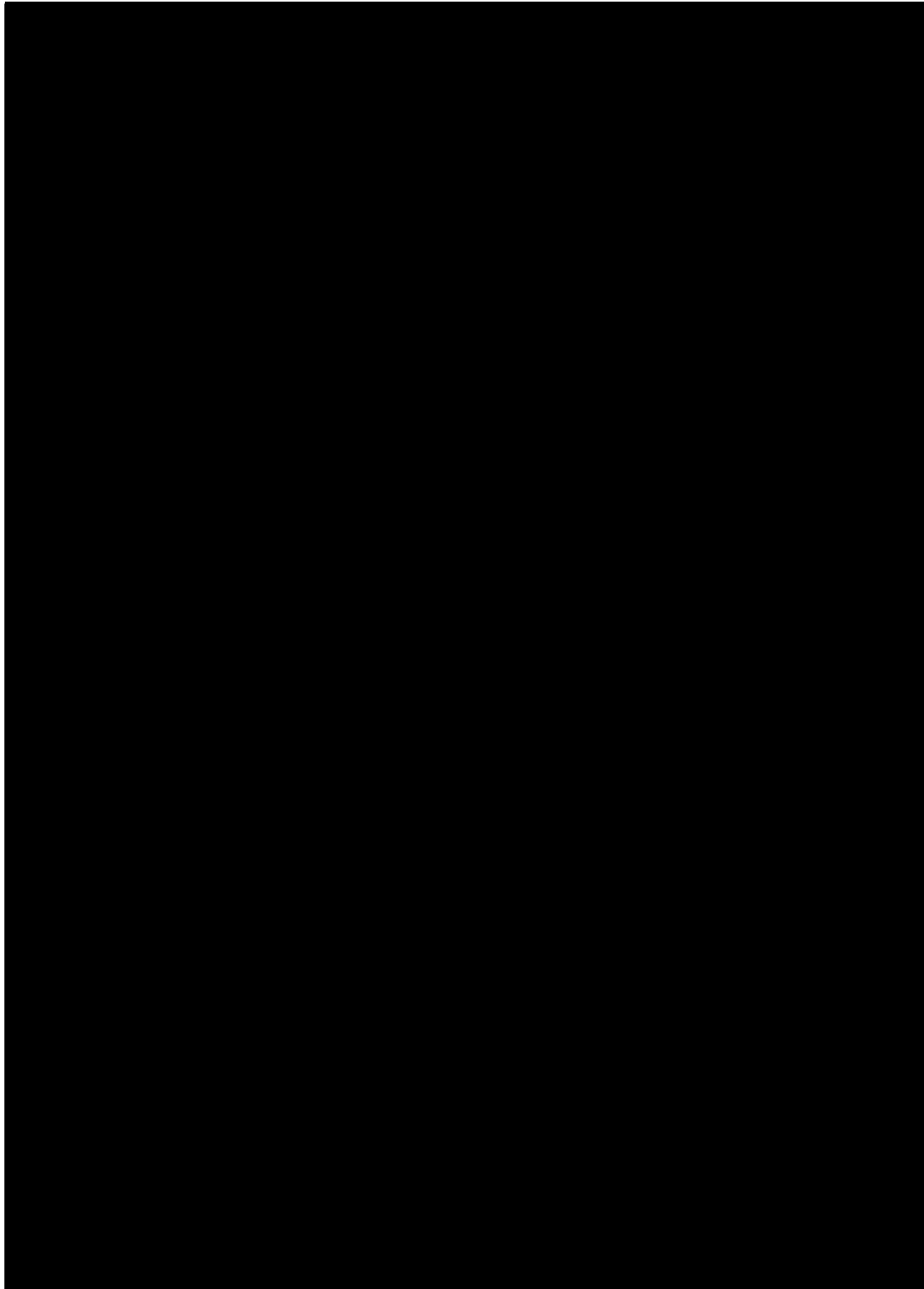
It is evident from the foregoing that archaeology is an important means of learning about Kells' past and of understanding the character and detailed form of the town today. This is more than an academic pursuit, however, because without an appreciation of the factors which have shaped Athboy's present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

The protection of buried archaeological evidence presents serious problems for not only is there the pressure of redevelopment and the high value of urban properties with which to contend, but the sites themselves are often difficult to define or evaluate; their full archaeological potential may only become apparent when an excavation is undertaken in advance of development or by observations made while development is in progress. St. Columba's House, the round tower and the crosses within the churchyard enjoy statutory protection as scheduled National Monuments but because of the difficulties of scheduling urban properties, other sites within Kells are unlikely to be given this protection. The Market Cross is under daily threat from demolition by a passing juggernaut and immediate steps need to be taken to safeguard it, such as making Cross Street a pedestrian zone. The mural tower is one of a handful that survive in Ireland and needs to be properly protected and maintained. In short, a concerted effort is needed to safeguard Kells' archaeological heritage and to ensure that adequate provision is made for investigation in advance of any redevelopment. This is best achieved by use of planning constraints and by conditions attached to planning consents.

Area of Archaeological Potential

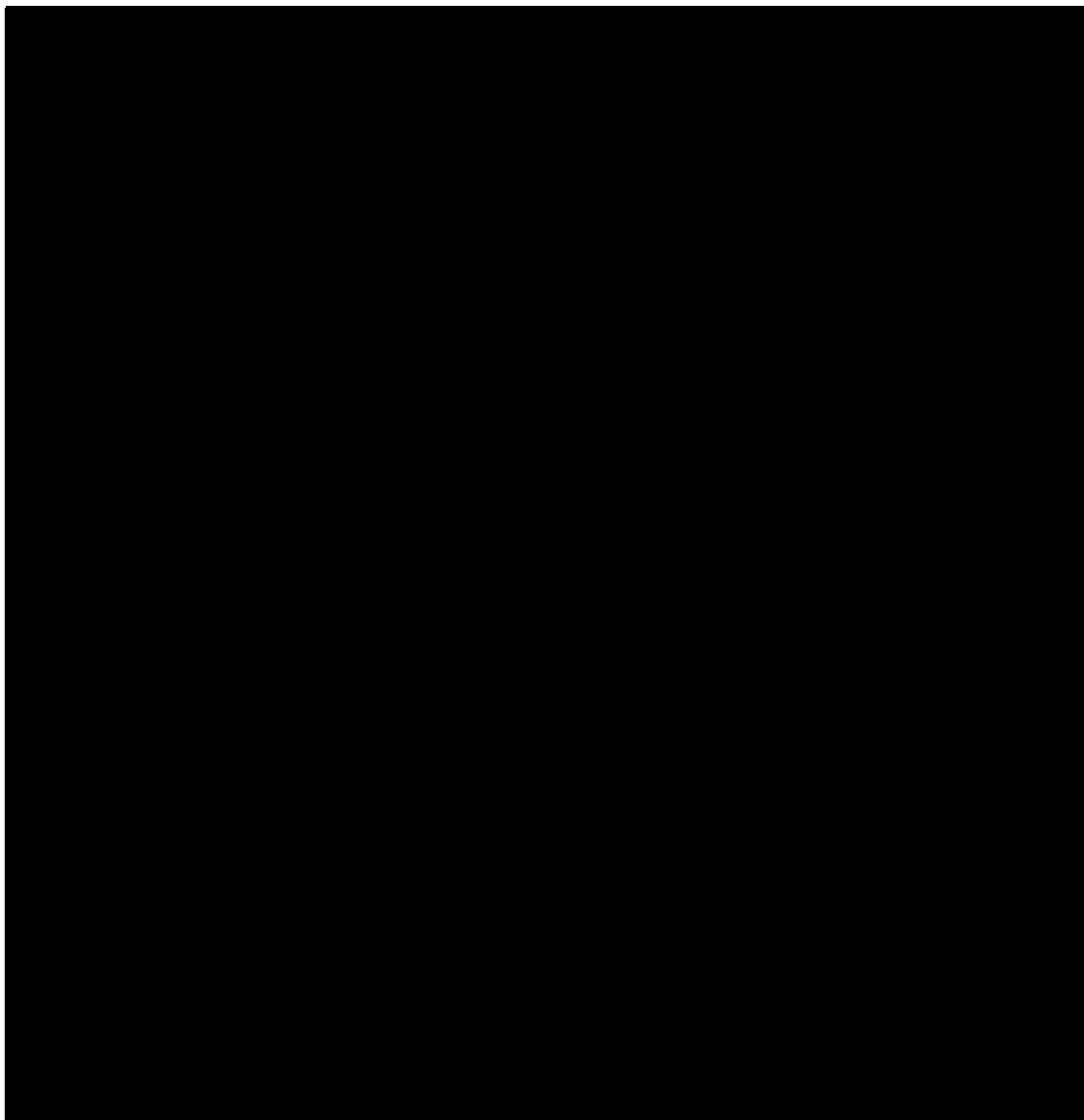
The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 21) delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern Kells. In the absence of archaeological excavations little can be said of the extent and depth of archaeological deposits. The construction of housing estates in recent times near Fair Green has probably removed some archaeological deposits but elsewhere there is little evidence for modern disturbance. Accordingly, archaeological deposits are likely to exist over the area of the walled town, and outside it in Headfort Place and Climber Hall. This area is shaded pink on Fig. 21 and the extent has been continued outside the walls slightly in order to allow for a possible fosse.





[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



MORNINGTON

Mornington is situated in east Meath on the estuary of the river Boyne about 5 km east of Drogheda. Until recently the hamlet consisted of nothing more than a handful of houses but new housing estates have been built because of its proximity to Drogheda and suitability as a dormitory town. In the Middle Ages it was known as Villa Marinarum or Marinerstown.

The settlement was a borough before 1235 (Sweetman 1875-86, i, No. 757). A description in that year shows that it consisted of a church, a stone tower, a mill, a fishery, a harbour and some messuages suggesting that it was little more than a village despite its borough status (Mills and McEnery 1916, 8). It was a manorial centre and probably took its name from Robert le Mariner who died before 1234 when portion of it was granted to the abbey of Furness in England (Mills and McEnery 1916, 8). On the marriage of Matilda de Lacy the manor went to the De Geneville family and from them in 1398 to the Cusacks. In the early fifteenth century it passed to the Castlemartins and it was by marriage to Joan Castlelartin that the manor came into the hands of the Wellesley family c.1423 (Ellison 1966, 315-6). Mornington House, home of Henry Draycott, was burned by government troops in 1642 but his library containing the Registers of Llanthony and St. John the Baptist, Dublin, were rescued. The Civil Survey (1654-6) records one house, some small cabins and a mill (Simington 1940, 3).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

The only archaeological remains consist of portion of the medieval parish church.

ST. COLOMBA'S PARISH CHURCH

Little is known of the church from historical records but it is evident from the Llanthony cartularies that it was held by their house of Colpe and remained so until the Dissolution of the Monasteries (Brooks 1953a, 24, 37-8, 82; White 1943, 314). Dopping's visitation records that it was unrepaired since 1641 (Ellison 1971, 36). There is no evidence that it was ever used subsequent to his time.

The remains consist of the west gable and portion of the south return. The gable is about 8 m high but is now completely overgrown with ivy. A sketch of c.1820 shows a two light belfry atop the gable with a single tall window in the wall below (McCullen 1984, 6). The fragment of the south wall

is about 3 m high and has at least one 19th century grave slab set into it. No pre-1700 memorials are present.

South-west of the church is a well marked as St. John's well but there are no ancient features associated with it.


ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

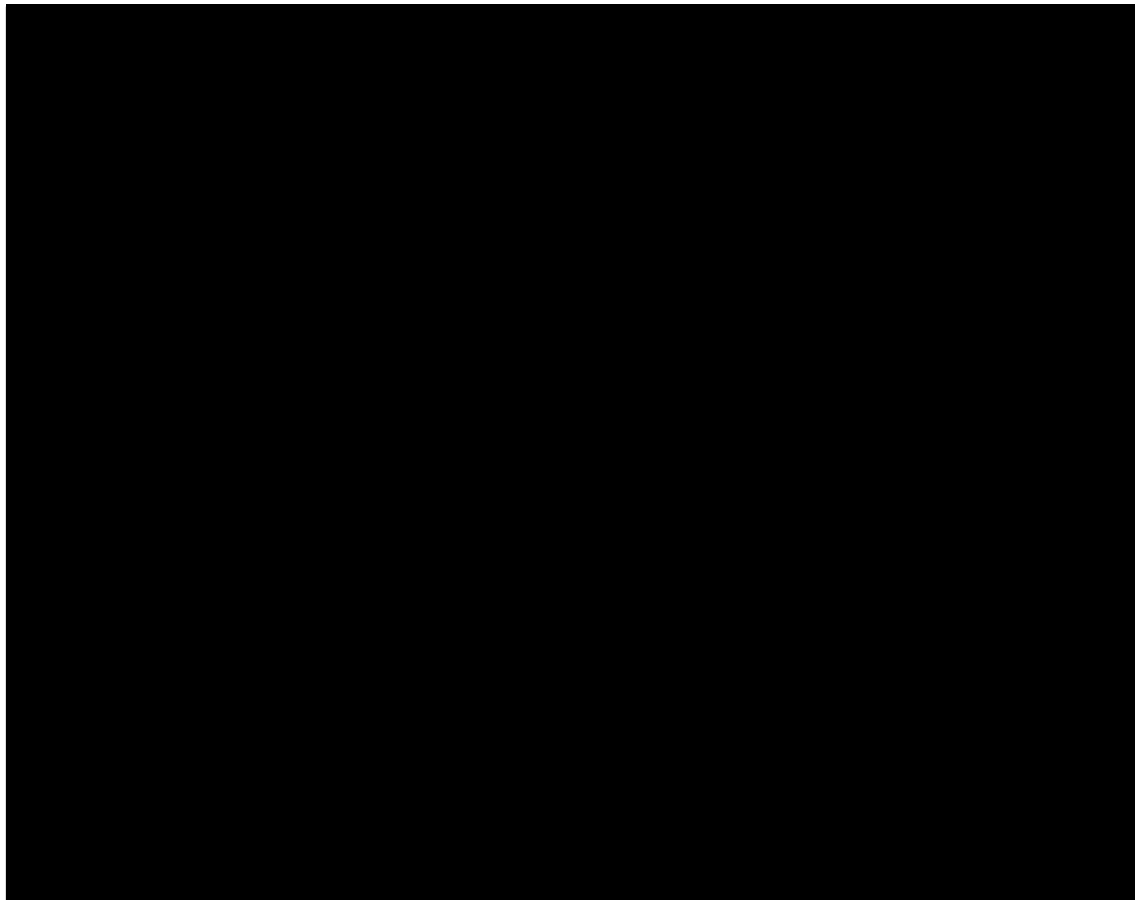
Mornington, like Colp, is an example of a deserted borough. The construction of houses south of the church in recent years may have disturbed archaeological deposits. Immediately east and west of the church, however, there is little evidence of disturbance. The location of the borough suggests that it had a harbour, probably east of the church, and this area is quite important because archaeological deposits here would be waterlogged and organic material would survive. The period of its desertion is not known but from the historical evidence the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are likely to be the ones best represented in the archaeological record.

Knowledge of the nature of the settlement in medieval times is scant. Was it merely a rural borough or did it have genuine urban functions? Nothing is known about domestic dwellings, street pattern, defences, or of the settlement's extent. Nonetheless the archaeological data indicates that the borough has been the scene of human activity in Early Historic and Medieval times and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge is obtained. The borough is not under direct threat from development at present but its proximity to Drogheda means that it will come under increasing pressure from development as a dormitory town.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 26) delimits the area of archaeological potential. In the absence of diagnostic features this is based largely on guesswork and it is possible that deposits may extend as far as Mornington Farm; development in the vicinity of this house should be monitored. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits.





NAVAN

Navan is situated at the confluence of the Boyne and Blackwater on the main routeway between Dublin and Kells. The medieval town hugged the top of a triangular ridge overlooking the river junction. The ground drops steeply along Watergate Street, on the north, and Ludlow Street, on the south, but westwards along Trimgate Street and Breus Hill the drop is much more gradual. The placename is derived from An Uaimh, "the cave".

Historical Background

The small group of prehistoric objects known from the town suggest that it was frequented during the Neolithic and Bronze Age perhaps because of its suitability as a fording point. The nature of this prehistoric activity remains unknown but there is nothing to suggest that there was a settlement here at any time. Perhaps the most significant archaeological discovery from the town is the rich Viking burial discovered in 1848. Burials are usually indicators of settlement and this find suggests that further work may uncover remains of the Viking period, perhaps a rural settlement site.

Navan is traditionally identified with Nuachongbail where an early monastery was established by St. Fachin (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 399). Although no reference to the monastery occurs in the Annals or similar contemporary sources the likelihood of its existence is supported by the foundation of a house for Augustinian Canons prior to the coming of the Normans (Brooks 1933, 40). This monastery appears to have been subsequently patronised by Jocelin de Angulo, to whom Hugh de Lacy granted Navan and Ardbraccan before 1186 (Orpen 1911-20, 94). De Angulo built a motte on an esker ridge south of the Blackwater, and he or his son William was probably responsible for the foundation of the town.

Nothing is known of the early development of the Anglo-Norman town of Navan and the first clear documentary indication of it as a corporate borough is in 1462 (Berry 1914, 25). Corporate charters were granted in 1494, 1605 and 1679 (Cogan 1862, 223). A charter of James II made in 1689, like his other Corporation charters did not come into force after the Battle of the Boyne.

In the Later Middle Ages the town was on the frontier of the Pale and in 1539 it was plundered by O'Neill and O'Donnell. Exposure to attack was so great that the parliament of 1542-3 enacted a charge of 3s 4d on every ploughland in Meath and Westmeath in order to build the walls of Navan.

Only a summary description of the town is provided by the Civil Survey (1654-6) but it notes that there were houses and gardens between Feshings Gate and Sweeney's Bridge, that there were properties on the north side of Cannon-row St., outside West gate and others outside Dublin gate. There appear to have been 2 castles, 4 houses and one mill (Simington 1940, 222-3).

The history of the town in the eighteenth century has been examined by Ellison (1963, 40-51).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN
2. BURGAGE PLOTS AND PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
3. DOMESTIC HOUSES
4. MARKET PLACE
5. BRIDGE
6. MOTTE
7. TOWN DEFENCES
8. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF ST. MARY
9. MISCELLANEOUS
10. EXTRA-MURAL SITES
11. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN

The street pattern of the medieval town was essentially Y-shaped, and consisted of Trimgate Street, Ludlow Street and Watergate Street. New Bridge and the street leading to it from Market Square are additions of more recent times. In the sixteenth century Cannon Row was built up and the Civil Survey makes it clear that by the mid-seventeenth century streets were established outside the gates on the north, west and south giving the street plan the characteristically linear form which it has today. The construction of a link road from the Kells road to Trimgate Street (too recent to appear on the O.S. map) has largely interrupted the medieval pattern while the construction of the new ring road on the north side, linking Kells Road with Drogheda Road (also too recent to appear on the O.S. map), has cut through the site of the Augustinian priory and considerably altered the appearance of the streetscape in Watergate Street.

2. BURGAGE PLOTS AND PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

The area of the medieval town is characterised by a largely intact burgage plot pattern. The plots are almost all of the long burgage variety with the house fronting onto the street and the property extending to the town wall on the

rear. A feature of the town is the large number of narrow laneways which run off the Watergate and Trimgate Streets and some of their names may well date from the medieval period, e.g. Cappock's Lane, Gaunche's Lane. On a long burgage plot the houses were usually set with their long axis perpendicular to the street and access was accordingly via side lane. These lanes may well be the remnant of such a pattern which finds close parallels at Clonmel and Kilkenny.

Another feature of the town was a large number of wells most of which have now been covered over or are disused. An open example is that called "Toberorum" off Ludlow Street which has been given a modern cover although it is obviously unused because the water is stagnant. Other wells are known to have been in use in Gas Lane, Convent Lane, and Christy Lee's well immediately opposite St. Mary's Church in Church Hill. Immediately underneath the bottom step at the rear of Kavanagh's Public House in Trimgate Street was a spring well which has been covered in (information from the owner).

3. DOMESTIC HOUSES

None of the houses in the town exhibit any surviving medieval structural features such as high gables or decorated windows. These are all heavily plastered and may conceal earlier remains underneath. Indeed the very fact that most adhere to a burgage plot width would suggest that some must retain the foundations of medieval houses. On the west side of Watergate Street the houses have large cellars which one owner said was vaulted while another house has an oven. The date of these features is unknown, however.

The only remnant of a pre-1700 house is a plaque from the old Tholsel now set into the courthouse. It bears an inscription in roman letters:

EDMUND MANINGE WAS OVERSEER OF THIS WORK IN THE YEAR OF
OUR LORD 1632. ON WHOSE SOUL THE LORD HAVE MERCY

4. MARKET PLACE

The town charters of 1605 and 1679 refer to markets and fairs and there is little doubt that the importance of the town in the medieval period rested on its function as the market place for its hinterland. The medieval market place was located at the junction of the medieval streets in what was later known as Market Square. It was of triangular form like those at Thurles and Fethard, Co. Tipperary.

The remnants of a market cross of c.1585 are now preserved in the National Museum of Ireland (No. X1639). The material is dark gray limestone from Colp. It is a shaft fragment almost square in section and decorated in false

relief, with a tenon on top and a small hole in the base.
 Decoration:

Side 1: shield with the Nangle arms (quarterly, first and third grand-quarter counter quartered, azure three fusils conjoined in fess or) and Doudall arms (gules a fess between five martlets argent) impaling Herbert (per pale azure and gules three lions rampant argent a border gobony of the last and sable and a cinquefoil in chief pierced of the second).

Side 2: inscription only; the first two letters are shaped like an hour glass and wreath.

Side 3: female figure dressed in Elizabethan fashion.

Side 4: figure in a loin cloth lying sideways holding an hour-glass; three circular objects, possibly intended as skulls and a winged head.

Inscription in Roman letters on three faces in relief:

NANGL/ AND HAR/BART/ .. PESOT/ I O/ SVLINVS/ DEANGVLO/
 THE FIRST/ BARRON OF/ THE NOVAN/ F (...) IS/ S (...) IS
 =/ (...) GIVEN/ HIM BY SIR/ HUGHE/ DE LACIE/ PHIL/ L
 PPVS N./ AQVANDO/ BARO DE/ NOVAN FO/ RYM AC/ NVNDINA/.

King 1934, 109-110.

5. BRIDGES

The early importance of Navan was largely due to its situation controlling the crossing of the Boyne and Blackwater. In the Middle Ages, however, there would appear to have been only one bridge, Pollboy Bridge on the Blackwater. The crossing of the Boyne would appear to have been made at Kilcarne one mile south of the town. It is not certain when New Bridge was added. It is shown on the map by Thomas Williams of 1756 (Connell 1976, 6) and was probably constructed in the early eighteenth century.

6. MOTTE

The Song of Dermot and the Earl provides the information that Jocelyn de Angulo was granted the manors of Navan and Ardbraccan by Hugh de Lacy. The date of this grant is unknown but from the content of the Song, it is unlikely to have been much later than 1176. The manor appears to have remained in the hands of Jocelyn's descendants until the sixteenth century when the family name had changed to Nangle (Hogan 1878, 95). The mound was visited by Gabriel Beranger in 1775 and he portrays it encircled by its ditch (Ellison 1963, 45).

The motte is situated about one mile west of the town on a high natural rise affording superb views in all directions. It has been severely dug into on the south side and partially levelled to provide playground facilities for St. Patrick's Classical School. The mound is conical with a diameter of about 45 m at the base. The top is flat and measures 18.5 north-south by 14.8 m east-west. The height is about 16.5 m.

A deep ditch 6.5 m wide is cut into the natural fall of the ground on the south-west, west and north sides. A flat area on the north, 11.4 by 11.2 m, may have been used as a small bailey; it is described by Moore (1893, 57) as lune-shaped. Below this to the north-west is a sloping platform, 30.6 m north-south, which may also have been utilized.

There is a tradition of a well immediately to the south of the motte but its site now forms part of a football pitch.

7. TOWN DEFENCES

The tradition current among local historians that Hugh de Lacy walled the town (Moore 1893, 58) may be dismissed on the grounds that de Lacy was dead before the town was established. The earliest references to murage occur in the mid-fifteenth century. In 1462 the Irish parliament ordained that Navan could continue to collect the murage customs which had been levied during the reign of Henry VI (1422-61) (Berry 1914, 25). After the sack of the town in 1539 monies were raised to refortify the walls. This would not appear to have been substantial, however, because in 1598 Navan was grouped with Duleek among the market towns as opposed to the walled towns of Meath (Hogan 1978, 91). As with other Irish towns the eighteenth century was the period which witnessed the removal of the gates and the demolition of much of the wall. Dublin Gate was widened in 1786 and Water Gate in 1788 (Ellison 1963, 46). However it was not all destruction. An inscription in Trimgate Street states:

THIS PART OF THE TOWN WALL REBUILT APRIL 19TH 1786.

The walled town enclosed an ovaloid area 320 by 275 m, covering an area of about 5.2 hectares (13 acres), with a circumference of about 900 m. As in many other Irish towns there is no evidence for a river wall. The wall circuit described below is reconstructed on the basis of surviving fragments and placename evidence. It should be noted that it differs from Moore's (1893, 58) and that shown by Connell (1978, 6) on William's map of 1756.

Description (Fig. 29)

The line of the wall on the south side of the town coincided with the long boundary wall formed by the burgage plots on the south side of Trimgate Street. DUBLIN GATE was the only gate in this stretch of wall and it was located at the foot of Ludlow Street. The wall appears to have cut through the grounds of the present Catholic church to Trimgate Street where TRIM GATE was located. A section of the wall appears to form part of O'Reilly's Public House where it is at present hidden by beauty board. On the west side of the town the wall followed the long property boundary northwards for about 275 m as far as Barrack Lane, where it turned to

the east crossing Watergate Street at WATER GATE and thence to the Boyne.

The only visible section of the wall is located on the north side, in the Urban District Council yard at Barrack Lane. This consists of a stretch of wall 15 m long with the remains of a semi-circular bastion at its west end (Fig. 30); it is partly obscured by modern sheds. The thickness of the wall and bastion is about 90cm and it rises to a height of 5.05 m. The masonry is of coursed limestone with a rubble core. The upper half of the tower and the wall are partly reconstructed and the town wall is bonded to the tower at the base but not at the top. The difference in ground level between the inside and the outside of the wall is 5 m.

On the south side of the town, a short section of wall north of the parish house may have a medieval base and the return of the west wall may be buried in the west wall of the Parish Community Centre. On the north side of Trimgate St. the east wall of Dunnes stores may be the town wall. There has been a large amount of redevelopment here with the construction of a new road and car-parks but there is a section of wall bordering the Quinnsworth complex on the east which is 50-60 cm thick and is possibly a remnant of the west wall. On the east side of Watergate Street a short section of the wall appears to be embedded in the Chinese Take-away. It is about 1 m wide and has two splayed openings, perhaps arrow loops.

8. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF ST. MARY

This abbey was established before the coming of the Normans but the precise date of its foundation is unclear. In the Later Middle Ages it was the centre of an important shrine to Our Lady. In 1453 a plenary indulgence was granted for the repair and upkeep of the buildings (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 190). At the Dissolution in 1540 the jurors reported that the abbey church had been parochial from time immemorial, a feature which explains the absence of a parish church within the medieval town.

The abbey was located on the north side of the town between the town wall and the Blackwater. All trace of the abbey is gone and the only indicators of its former existence are a small number of placenames such as Abbeyville and Abbey Street. An impression of its overall appearance can be gauged from the inventory of 1540 which states that it occupied a fortified site in the angle formed by the confluence of the Blackwater and the Boyne with a castle or fortified house called Newcastle but that the houses and other buildings within the site or manor were in ruins (Ellison 1963, 33). It would appear from this that the monastery had its own precinct wall.

After the Dissolution the Abbey passed into the hands of John Wakely. In 1552 he had a lease of property within the Abbey including a house and other buildings, 3 watermills and a salmon weir (Hickey 1974, 4, 7). The Visitations of Montgomery in 1615 and Ussher in 1622 describe the church as in good repair (Ellison 1963, 34). The Visitation Book of Bishop Dopping (1682-5), however, notes that the nave and chancel were in ruins since 1641 (Ellison 1972, 10). Subsequently a military barracks was built on the site. Dopping in 1693 (Ellison 1963, 34-5) and Archdall in 1786 note many gravestones in the churchyard including some with figure sculpture and Cogan (1862, 224-9) says that the effigial slab of a bishop was present. This is now at St. Eric's Hermitage, Slane.

Kelly (1982-3, 80, 84 note 7) notes that during the construction of a sewer human bones and a fragment of a large orange post-medieval tile were discovered on the site. In the course of this survey Mrs O'Connor, now living in the Barracks, informed us of several burials going underneath the back wall of her garden.

One possible remnant of the Abbey precinct is a wall immediately north of the town wall running parallel to the Blackwater along the north side of St. Ultan's Terrace. It is built partially on rock-outcrop and it could have served as an enclosing wall of the abbey. In the course of constructing the new ring road two walls which run at right angles northwards from this wall were breached and some fragments of medieval mouldings were uncovered.

Architectural Fragments

No. 1 is in the church of St. Oliver Plunkett. Nos. 2-4 are in St Patrick's Classical School. All are of limestone. They were found in the course of road widening in recent years.

1. Niche with interlaced frieze with very elaborate cusps.

Dims: H.30 W.26 D. 9

2. Door spandrel decorated with a wheel of 6 divisions and a three lobed design enclosed by a circle.

Dims: H.61 W.42 D.23

3. Cusped ogee-headed spandrel fragment of a twin light window with decoration in false relief on both faces. One side has encircled cusped triskeles and the other is divided longitudinally and has triangular spandrels with a 6 petalled flower in a circle.

Dims: H.37 W.56 D.20

4. Rectangular fragment with a boxed ogee-headed design found

recently and now in private hands.

Monuments

A fragmentary seventeenth century limestone grave slab in 3 pieces is also preserved in St. Patrick's Classical School. The top had a scroll moulding and the incised letters 'HERE UN. / . ISE. / . FETH. / AVE'.
Dims: H.15 W.12 D.12 cm

Missing Monuments

The following monuments were in the church in the late seventeenth century when the inscriptions were transcribed by Bishop Dopping (see Jrl Assoc. Preservation Mems. Dead Ireland 1 (1883-91), 461-3; 2 (1892-4), 174-8).

1 Pulpit 1490.

Basal inscription: ORATE PRO ANIMABUS RIPPERI/ SMYTH ET CATHERINAE/ GAROVAN UXORIS EJUS. QUI/ HOC FIERI FECERUNT AN. DNI./ 1490'.

2 Patrick Manning and Anne Traves 1616.

This was in the nave. Inscription: EDMOND MANNING OF Ye/ NOVAN AND MARGRET HIS WIFE CAUSED THIS MONUMENT/ TO BE MADE IN MEMORY OF/ PATRICK MANNING AND HIS/ WIFE ANNE TRAVES (FATHER/ AND MOTHER TO Sd EDMOND) AND MARY WARREN HIS FIRST/ WIFE , WHO ARE BURIED/ TOWARDS Ye PULPIT. PATRICK MANNING AND HIS WIFE LIVED/ TOGETHER 30 YEARS IN JOYFULL/ AND HAPPY STATE AND/ CHANGED THEIR LIVES, VIZ., PATRICK Ye 1st OF JANUARY/ 1597. HIS WIFE ANNE TREAVES/ Ye 17 MARCH 1611. MARY WARREN FIRST WIFE OF Ye Sd/ EDMUND Ye 13 OF 7br 1613/ GOOD AND CHARITABLE READER/ PRAY FOR Ym AND THEYR/ POSTERITY, Yt GOD RECEIVE/ Ym AND EVERY OF Ym TO Ye JOYS OF BLISS. AMEN / Ye 19 FEB 1616

3 John Maw and Alicia White.

In the side chapel: HIC JACET VENERABILIS VIR JONES MAW, HUIUS CAPELL FUNDATOR, ET ALLICIA WHITE UXOR EJUS CUM EORUM GERMINE, QUORUM AIABUS PROPITIETUR DEUS.

4 John Wakely and Maud Hankore.

In the upper chapel: HIC JACET VENERABILIS VIR/ JONES WAKELY, ARMIGER, ET/ CATERINA RAWSON UXOR EJUS, QUORUM AIABUS PROPITIETUR/ DEUS OBIIT 29br AN DI 1570/ EGO THOMAS WAKELY ET MAUD HANKORE HOC FIERI/ FECERUNT'.

5 John and Johanna Nangle.

In the middle of the choir at the foot of the arch: JONES HIC JACET NANGLE SUB MARMORE, QUI IN SUORE SUO/ VESCEBATUR PANE DEBITO PROTOPLASTI CUM JOHANNA NANGLE/ EORUMQUE GERMINE, QUI QUIEVEREUNT POST OCCASUM SUB.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

Font A. Early 15th cent.

Limestone. Octagonal limestone font in St. Mary's (C. of I.). Circular basin with straight sides, a flat bottom and central drainage hole. The lower part of the basin has chamfered panels and it sits on a modern shaft which in turns rests on the original splayed octagonal base. Two heater shaped shields are on opposing panels of the basin; one has the arms of Christ with an added incised inscription: IN HOC SIGNO VINCES 1716. The other side has the arms of the Butlers and Roe (1968, 89-91) dates it to the earlier part of the fifteenth century and considers that it was a gift from James Butler, 4th Earl of Ormonde, to the Augustinian House of the Blessed Virgin.

Dims: H. ? Diam. of basin 50.5 D of basin 17.7 cm

Font. B. Date uncertain.

This was recently presented to the National Museum of Ireland by Mr G. Keenan, Abbeyland, Navan. Reg. No. 1977, 7. Traditionally it is said to have come from the St. Mary's Abbey. Octagonal font with a side drainage hole. The material is a sedimentary rock, one half of which is missing. It is very roughly finished externally. (See Kelly 1992-3, 84 note 10)

Dims: H.29 Ext. Diam. 40, Int. Diam. 31 D. of basin 23 cm

Piscina. Date uncertain.

Embedded in the wall of an upstairs room of Mrs O'Connor's house. The building is part of the Barracks which were built on the site of St. Mary's Abbey and the room in which it is located is considered to have been an oratory. The piscina is circular, carved of sandstone and externally the bowl is decorated with a type of stiff-leaf acanthus. The stem is also circular and there are the remains of a fluted flared stem. One side is worn.

Dims: H. 32 W. 24

Cross fragment. Early 16th cent.

Fossiliferous limestone. Cemented into a partially buried base on the south side of St. Mary's Church (C. of I.). Decorated in relief. Two faces have figure sculpture; the others two have mouldings. One face has an ecclesiastic, wearing an alb, dalmatic and chasuble; he appears to be giving a blessing with his right hand. The other face has a depiction of St. Catherine, crowned and holding a sword.

Dims. H.60 W.34 D.20 cm

King 1984, 112-13

Gate plaque. 1589 [Missing].

Ellison (1963, 38) quoting Lodge's Peerage notes an inscription on a gateway erected by Martin and Alison Nangle

in 1589.

10. EXTRA-MURAL SITES

Suburbs

It is evident from the Civil Survey that suburbs existed on the northern, western and southern approaches to the town in 1654 (Simington 1940). The Dissolution documents of St. Mary's Abbey indicate that a suburb had already formed in Cannon Row on the west side by 1540 (White 1943).

Athlumney Manorial Village (Fig. 30; Pl. 22).

About one mile south-east of Navan and gradually being encroached on by the expanding town is a complex of archaeological remains including a souterrain, a motte, a fifteenth century tower house with a large seventeenth century addition, and a medieval parish church with monuments. In addition the Civil Survey records a water mill, a tuck mill, two fishing weirs, and two open quarries (Simington 1940, 62).

11. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. Stone axehead. From Navan, Co. Meath. British Museum, London: 1851.7-17.2
2. Stone axehead. From Navan, Co. Meath. NMI 1932:5601 (Dept. of Education Rep. NMI 1931-2, 11).
3. Bronze palstave. From Navan, Co. Meath. NMI 1937:3676.
4. Bronze spearhead. From Navan, Co. Meath. British Museum 1851.7-17.12.
5. Bronze chisel. From Navan, Co. Meath. NMI 1968: 256 (Ex-Salisbury Museum, B.267). See Ulster Jrl. Archaeol. 5 (1942), 131.
6. Roman coin of Faustina (161-175 AD). From Navan, Co. Meath. NMI. See Bateson 1973, 53.
7. Roman figurine. Found in river Boyne, near Navan, Co. Meath. NMI P752.
8. Gravegoods from Viking burial. These included seven decorated gilt-bronze plates, a bronze bridle bit, a harness plate, small bronze buttons, iron rings plated with bronze. Found in railway cuttings at Navan Station (adjoining river Boyne), Co. Meath, 1848. NMI W.558-64; Wk.215 (p.92). See Wilde 1857, 572-5, 605-6, 611; Mahr and Raftery 1932-41, 136 and Pl. 33; Boe 1940, 76.

9. Stone crucible. Found in river Blackwater near Navan, Co. Meath. NMI R446.

10. Bronze pin and four (?) bone pins. From Navan, Co. Meath. British Museum London, 1951.7-17.7,13-16.

11-13. Bronze ringed pin and two bronze stick pins. From near Navan, Co. Meath, 1952. Royal Ontario Museum 918.33.91 (Pryor 1976, 74: Nos. 6, 44, 74).

14. Hoard of 474 silver coins, the latest being of Charles I (1645). Found in a blackglazed vessel at Abbeyland, Navan, Co. Meath, 1921. NMI 1921:6. See Jrl Roy. Soc. Antiqs. Ireland 51 (1921), 79, 179; Antiqs. Jrl. 1 (1921), 341.

15. Iron basket-hilted sword. Said to have been found in a burial ground at Navan, Co. Meath. NMI WK.15.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

The Problems

The importance of Navan for archaeological research is that, like Athboy it is a good example of a small medieval market town. Larger towns, such as Drogheda and Dublin, have been the subject of detailed archaeological and historical research but little is known of the smaller more typical towns. It is also an early example of an Anglo-Norman town and its location appears to have been deliberately chosen although it is not clear why. The existence of a monastery here prior to the coming of the Normans may have influenced the choice of site, but this is not certain. There is the possibility, however, of examining the transition from pre-Norman monastery to Anglo-Norman town. Accordingly the initial years of its growth during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries are particularly important. The ford was clearly a feature of importance yet nothing is known of the form, date or size of the first bridge and its successors.

The street pattern has probably remained intact since the Middle Ages but the nature of the road surface at various periods is not known. Indeed streets should be examined if at all possible because they also permit the results of excavations on one side of a street to be linked with those on the other. This enables the reconstruction of entire streetscapes in the manner which has proved so successful at Noughorod.

Nothing is known of the form or size of pre-seventeenth century housing in the town. It is important to know what sort of buildings the medieval inhabitants of Navan lived in and how these changed through time. It is only when houses have been found that assessments can be made of the impact of

native Irish, British and continental building techniques on Navan's craftsmen. A great deal of information about changes in building methods and fashions can also be derived from stratified sites in which the remains of successive houses are preserved.

Nothing is known about the nature of the buildings associated with the motte nor is the duration of its occupation clear.

The course of the town defences outlined above needs to be checked by excavation to determine whether it is correct or not, and much remains to be discovered about the periods of construction, the variations in building, the forms of mural towers and gatehouses, and the extent of the town fosse.

The site of St. Mary's Abbey is currently being developed as part of a ring-road scheme and a number of important pieces of carved stone have been recovered. The opportunity to examine this site has been passed up unnecessarily and much to the detriment of archaeology. Nothing is known of the layout and extent of this monastery and indeed its precise location is not known for certain. If the opportunity again arises to excavate on the site of this monastery it should be immediately grasped. The architectural features and extent are only one aspect of the archaeology of religious houses, however, and the excavation of a medieval cemetery, such as that conducted at York, can provide otherwise unobtainable evidence about health, disease, diet, and mortality rates. Such an opportunity may arise at Navan more readily than elsewhere because the old monastic cemetery has been abandoned in favour of the graveyard at Church Hill on the south side of the town. According to Mrs O'Connor burials exist at the Barracks on the north side of Abbey Road and this may well represent the medieval cemetery of the town.

The extent of settlement outside the walls on the north, south and west is not precisely known and the contrast between buildings there and those within the wall is also unknown at any period prior to 1700. Indeed the date of the development of these suburbs needs to be established.

The group of stray finds indicate that the site was a focus for human activity in prehistoric times and an important archaeological problem is the determination of exactly what forms this activity took and its date.

The expansion of the town is placing the settlement at Athlumney under threat and while the surviving remains indicate that this was an important manorial centre, the nature and extent of the timber buildings that would have been associated with this manor remain unknown.

Archaeological Potential

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

The survey of its archaeology indicates that the site of the town has been the scene of human activity in Prehistoric, Early Historic and Medieval times. Both documentary sources and the known archaeological remains indicate that the town was occupied continuously from the twelfth century into the post-medieval period. Most of the town wall, gatehouses, mural towers and the principal medieval buildings were demolished prior to 1800. The only remains which survive above ground are a stretch of the town wall including a mural tower and the motte, while at Athlumney there are the remains of a motte, church and stone castle. However, although the destruction of buildings above ground has been almost total, the street pattern of the medieval and post-medieval town is largely intact. Archaeological deposits are likely to exist over a large area of the town and accordingly there is the likelihood of recovering house foundations, refuse pits, industrial areas, and workshops.

ARCHAEOLOGY, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT


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

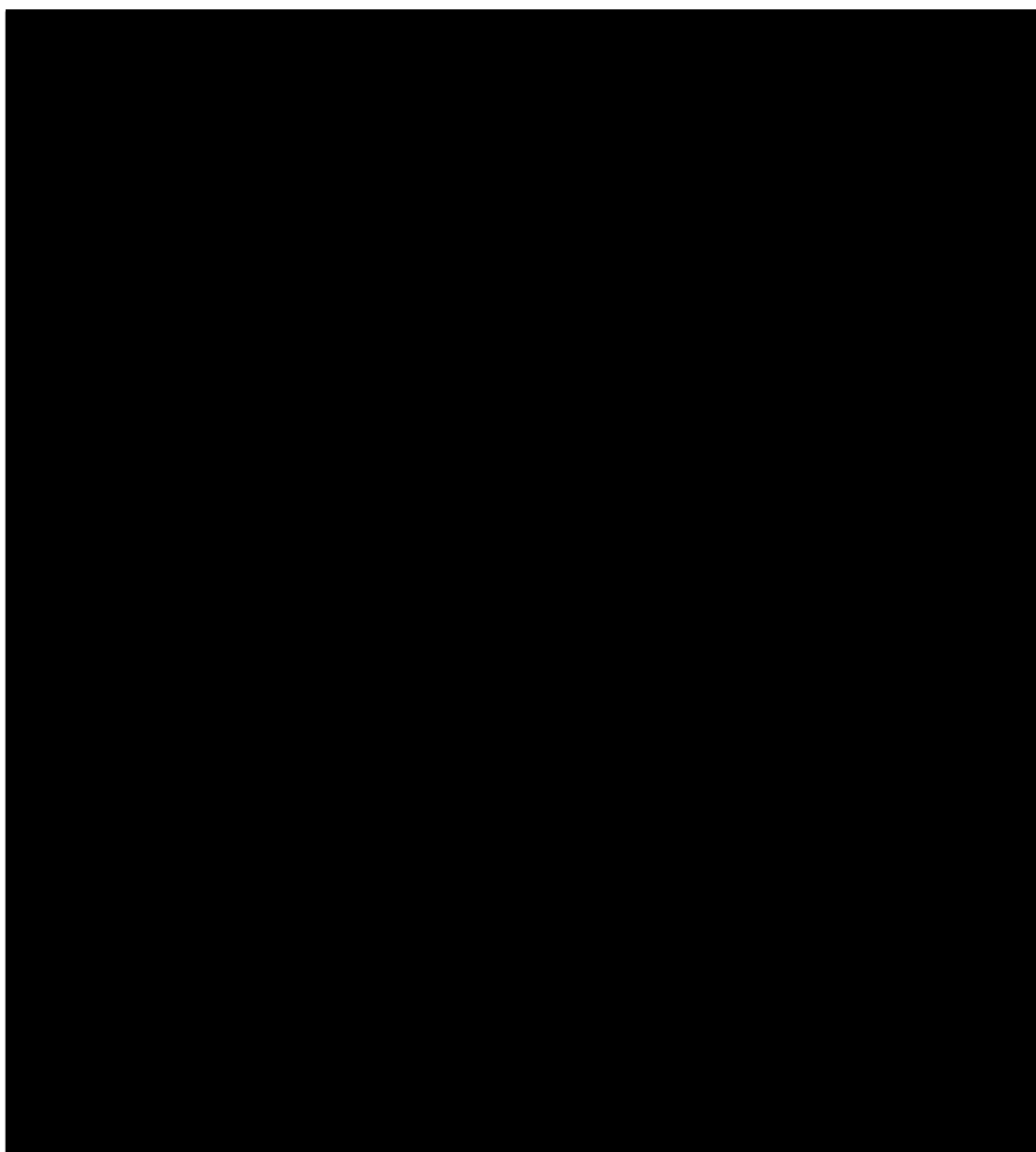
The protection of buried archaeological evidence presents serious problems for not only is there the pressure of redevelopment and the high value of urban properties with which to contend, but the sites themselves are often difficult to define or evaluate; their full archaeological

potential may only become apparent when an excavation is undertaken in advance of development or by observations made while development is in progress. No structure within the town enjoys statutory protection as a scheduled National Monument and because of the difficulties of scheduling urban properties, sites within Navan are unlikely to be given this protection. Athlumney Castle, however, is a National Monument. It is important then, that a concerted effort should be made to safeguard Navan's archaeological heritage and that adequate provision is made for investigation in advance of any redevelopment. This is best achieved by use of planning constraints and by conditions attached to planning consents.

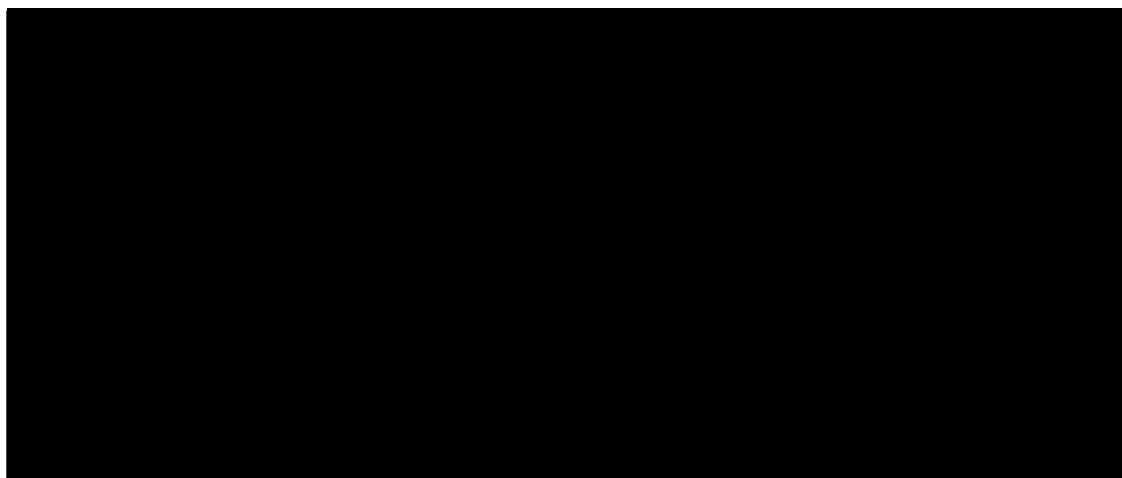
Area of Archaeological Potential

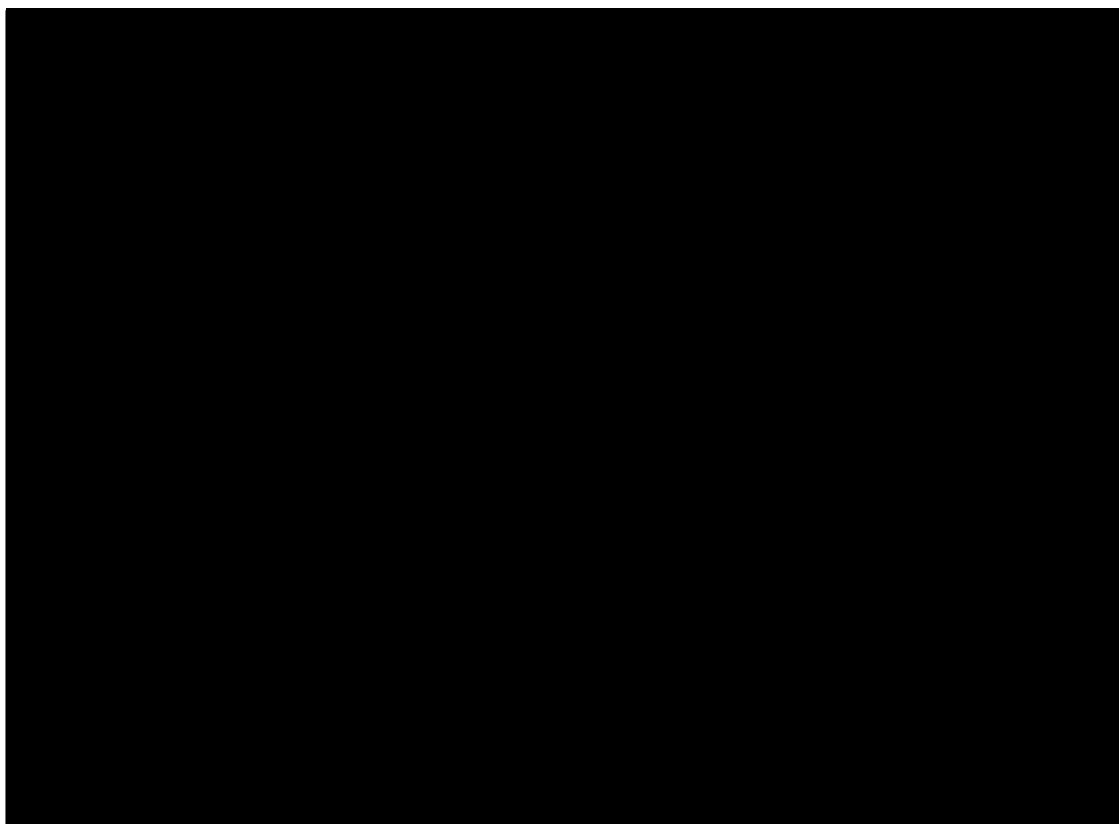
The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 27) delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern Navan. In the absence of archaeological excavations little can be said of the extent and depth of archaeological deposits. Observations of stratigraphy near the river Boyne, however, indicated that no archaeological levels survive there (Kelly 1982-3, 92). Considerable disturbance to archaeological levels has been caused on the north side of Trimgate Street with the construction of a link-route to the Kells Road and of a large shopping complex, while on the north-west at Abbey Road the site of St. Mary's Abbey has been cut through by the new ring road. Elsewhere, however, there is little evidence for modern disturbance. Accordingly, archaeological deposits are likely to exist over the area of the walled town, and in Cannon Row, Railway Street, Brews Hill, Watergate Street and Pollboy Street outside it. This area is shaded pink on Fig. 27 and the extent has been continued outside the walls slightly in order to allow for a possible fosse. An area is delimited on the north side of the Blackwater because there may have been a suburb here in the seventeenth century.





[REDACTED]





NEWTOWN TRIM

Situated one mile down-river from Trim the remains of this deserted borough are perched dramatically beside the Boyne. The size of the borough is not known but the extant remains indicate that the settlement was on both sides of the river.

As its name suggests this was a new foundation deliberately founded by Simon de Rochford, bishop of Meath (d.1216) to rival Trim. There are neither archaeological nor historical indications for the presence of any settlement here prior to the early thirteenth century. The earliest direct mention of the borough is in 1275 (36 Report Deputy Keeper Public Records Ireland, 27).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. BRIDGE
2. CATHEDRAL & AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF SS. PETER & PAUL
3. PARISH CHURCH
4. HOSPITAL PRIORY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
5. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. BRIDGE

It is not clear why De Rochford chose this site for his cathedral but the fact that it was a fording point was certainly important. Parts of the present four-arched bridge are probably of pre-1700 date.

2. CATHEDRAL & AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF SS. PETER & PAUL.

In 1202 Bishop Simon de Rochford obtained permission from the papal legate to transfer his cathedral from Clonard to "the place then called Novi-midia by Trim" (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 97). About the same time he founded the priory and their church was used as the cathedral. In 1255 Hugh de Tachmon, bishop elect of Meath, was given licence to build a cathedral separate from the priory but this was not built. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries the monastery was granted to Robert Dillon. In 1540 the jurors found that:

There were no superfluous buildings save a certain portion of the church still standing; this is suitable for repairing the chancel of the parish church of Newtown by Tryme, a burden which falls on the King. One part of the church, called the Crosse Church, was at the time of the dissolution assigned by the Commissioners to

Francis Herbert for repairing the King's manor of Portelester. Three parts of the cloister and the timber and roof of the chamber called the Priors Chamber were sold by the Commissioners to Thomas Agar, price not known. The site, viz., a hall and other buildings with a garden and an orchard adjacent, cont. 3 acr., are leased to the farmer with the demense lands and are worth nothing above repairs." (White 1943, 292)

This would account suggest that the building was used as a quarry in the later sixteenth century. Accordingly it is remarkable that so much has survived.

Description (Figs. 32, 34; Pl. 23a)

The cathedral originally consisted of a nave, chancel and two transepts with fine ribbed vaulting over the chancel. However, when the nave and transepts fell into disuse in the Later Middle Ages, the nave was shortened by about 80 ft and the present west wall was built, so that the the original church was much longer than the present one. According to Killanin & Duignan (1967, 442) the cathedral was destroyed by fire and the nave-aisles and transepts were never rebuilt. The ruins represent the choir and a short portion of the nave of the de Rochfort church (see Callary 1921).

The cathedral consists today of a single aisled building of evenly coursed limestone. The interior had sandstone mouldings on the pointed lancet windows and sandstone was also used for the string course which ran the full length of the church at arcade level from the east wall angles. The foliated capitals and ribbed vaulting in the nave were also of sandstone as was the two-seater round headed sedilia in the south wall of the chancel. The east wall stands almost to its original height but there is a large hole in the wall and only traces of the original lancet windows survive on the south side. Short lengths of the returns of the north and south walls remain at the east end and there are two pointed lancets in the north wall and one in the south wall. A corbel decorated with an angel is present in the north wall. The middle sections of the north and south walls are now no more than 1 m high although at the west end there are short lengths, almost at their original heights, which show that the nave had a clerestory and triforium with wall walk at both levels. The west wall has a pointed arched door with a rectangular flat-arched window and hood moulding above.

South of the cathedral are fragments of the priory buildings, including the moulded base of a fine 13th century Chapter House door at a point, near a stile, where the east wing of the cloister stood. South of this are the ruins of the 13th century refectory which stands on an undercroft. This is a two storeyed structure although only the south and west walls survive. The lower floor or undercroft had a large chimney with four wide pointed windows in the south wall. The upper floor originally had six pointed windows with sandstone

mouldings which were subsequently altered when the chimney on the lower floor and two windows in the upper floor were blocked off and a twin-light cusped ogee-headed window inserted into the east end of the wall. Another late window was inserted in the centre of the wall and there is a door in the south-west angle. The west wall had two long narrow windows at first floor level and two smaller openings.

North-west of this building is a three storeyed structure of which the north and south walls survive but only the footings of the east and west walls. The ground floor - which is below present ground level - has an oven and there was a spiral stairs in the north-east corner giving access to the upper floors. The south wall has two splayed rectangular windows on the first floor and a chimney; there is one rectangular window in the north wall.

Monument

Effigy (Pl. 24b). Early 13th cent.

Set into a recess in the north wall of the chancel. Badly weathered yellow sandstone coffin-shaped slab carved in high relief with the figure of an ecclesiastic. He wears a chasuble and alb and the hands hold a crozier across the body. The head, which is missing, rested on a cushion and the edges of the slab have foliate decoration. There are three small rosettes beside the head. Hunt (1974, 211) suggested that it may be the effigy of Simon de Rochfort.

Dims: H.146 W.50-33 cm

3. PARISH CHURCH (Fig. 33)

East of the cathedral complex is a small parish church. It is a single aisled structure, without divisions, of fairly evenly coursed limestone. The south wall has been partially rebuilt and the north wall survives to a height of about 80 cm. There are openings in the north and south walls and the south doorway had sandstone mouldings. The east wall had one plain pointed window and a wall cupboard. The west wall has one splayed round arched window.

Architectural fragments

Coronation arch (Pl. 24a). Mid-late 15th cent.

This panel which Hunt (1974, 211) describes as the apex of a niche-head is on the outer south wall of the church. Hunt is not certain whether it is part of a canopied tomb of western type or a doorway. The arch is decorated with crockets and there is the beginning of a pinnacle at the centre. Within the central spandrel there is a depiction of the Coronation of the Virgin. There are two angels swinging censers below their feet. On the outside face below the

coronation there is a female head with hair parted in two plaits and two large birds on either side, their heads turned inwards and their wings half open. It would date to the mid or late fifteenth century.

Capital

Set into the west wall internally is a small sandstone capital with stiff leaf foliage.

Dims: H. 20 W.25 D. 20 cm

Window mouldings. Late 15th/early 16th cent.

Mounted externally on the west wall are two limestone cusped window mouldings with recessed spandrels.

Monuments

Lucas Dillon (Pl. 23b) 16th cent.

This tomb consists of a mensa with two effigies carved in high relief resting on a tomb surround both of which are carved in limestone. The female effigy on the right hand side is wearing a French hood and a decorated kirtle under a loose gown and she has a pomander hanging from the waist. The male figure is wearing ornate Italian embossed armour and both have their hands joined on their breasts. Their heads rest on rectangular cushions. The north and south sides of the chest are divided into three rectangular sections by Renaissance-style pilasters which are fluted and cabled. An armorial shield is placed in each section, those on the outer panels of the two sides being of the same size and surrounded by a similar border of strapwork and swags. The centre panels, which are wider than the others, bear larger shields and more elaborate borders; in addition to the strapwork and swags these panels also contain the heads of putti over each shield and bunches of fruit in the north and ribbons in the south border. The coats of arms on the shields are: S side W panel: Dillon impaling Bathe. Centre: Dillon. E panel: Dillon impaling Barnewall. N side W panel: Dillon impaling Barnewall. Centre: Dillon impaling Sharl. E panel: Barnewall impaling Sharl. The west end of the chest has a depiction of a family group at a lectern. A motto above says "Deus" and "God". There are ten figures in all: three kneeling behind the male figure and five behind the female. Although there is nothing now visible on the east end of the chest, Jocelyn (1973, 169) quoting Lodge gives an inscription which he thinks may have been painted.

Dims: H.120 W.122 L.208 cm

Shaft and base. Date uncertain.

In the west end of the church is an undecorated hexagonal shaft set into a square base with chamfered upper edges and bevelled corners. Perhaps a cross shaft.

Dims: Shaft: H.36 Diam. 30 cm

Base. H.22 W. 51 cm

Holed stone. Date uncertain.

North-east of the abbey in the graveyard is a round topped limestone grave-marker with a hole.

Dims: H.45 W.35 D.13 Diam. of hole 6 cm.

4. HOSPITAL PRIORY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST.

Although this house is not referred to until 1281 it is probable that its founder was Bishop Simon de Rochford (Gwynn and Hadcock). In 1402 an indulgence was granted for the repair of the hospital suggesting that rebuilding may have occurred about this time (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 215). For a general account see Callary (1920).

The remains consist of a church with buildings on the north side surrounded by a bawn with a residential tower and corner turrets. Excavations were carried out under the direction of Mr P. D. Sweetman in 1984 and these have considerably increased knowledge of its building history.

The church seems to have been a long single aisled structure although only the east wall survives relatively intact. It has three slim pointed lancet windows. Part of a rood screen was recently uncovered and there was a small sacristy on the north. This had three bays with pointed arched vaults and finely cut pillars and corbels. A small round arched doorway in the north wall of the sacristy provided access to an external porch and probably to a large rectangular room on the east which appears to have been attached to the bawn wall.

The north range may have been three storeyed although only one section survives to this height. The ground floor consists of four round barrel vaulted chambers. The most complete structure is on the east end and it has a wall cupboard and latrine in the north wall, two windows in the west wall and one splayed window in the east wall at ground level.

The bawn wall is extant on the west and north sides with a short section on the south side and recent excavations have shown that the foundations of the east wall are also present. There are turrets in the north-east and south-west angles which have spiral stairs and presumably provided access to a wall walk. A large three storeyed 15th century residence forms part of the west wall. It is built of evenly coursed limestone. The ground floor has a round barrel vault with a closed up arch in the south wall. There is a garderobe chute opening into the room in the south-west corner, a widely splayed narrow rectangular window in the west wall, a flat arched door opening from the east, perhaps inserted, and a pointed arched door leading into the stairwell in the north-east corner. Fragments of plaster survive on the stairwell. The first floor has a repaired west window and a fireplace in the west wall but only two of the original cut

stones of the fireplace are still in situ. There are wall cupboards in the east and south walls, a flat topped window in the west wall and a garderobe in the south-west angle. There is a recess in the south-east corner. The second floor is missing but the room has a fireplace in the west wall, a window in the north wall and a garderobe in the south-west corner.

5. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. Bronze buckle. Found at Newtown trim, Co. Meath. NMI W 540. See Proc. Roy. Irish Acad. 6, 171.

2-3. Two floor tiles. From Abbey of SS. Peter & Paul, Newtown near Trim, Co.Meath. NMI 1897: 1233-4. Cf. Jrl. Roy.Soc. Antiqs. Ireland 25 (1895), 172-4, Figs. 5, 6, 19.

3. Fragments of stained glass. From Newtown Abbey, near Trim, Co. Meath. NMI W.1-4.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

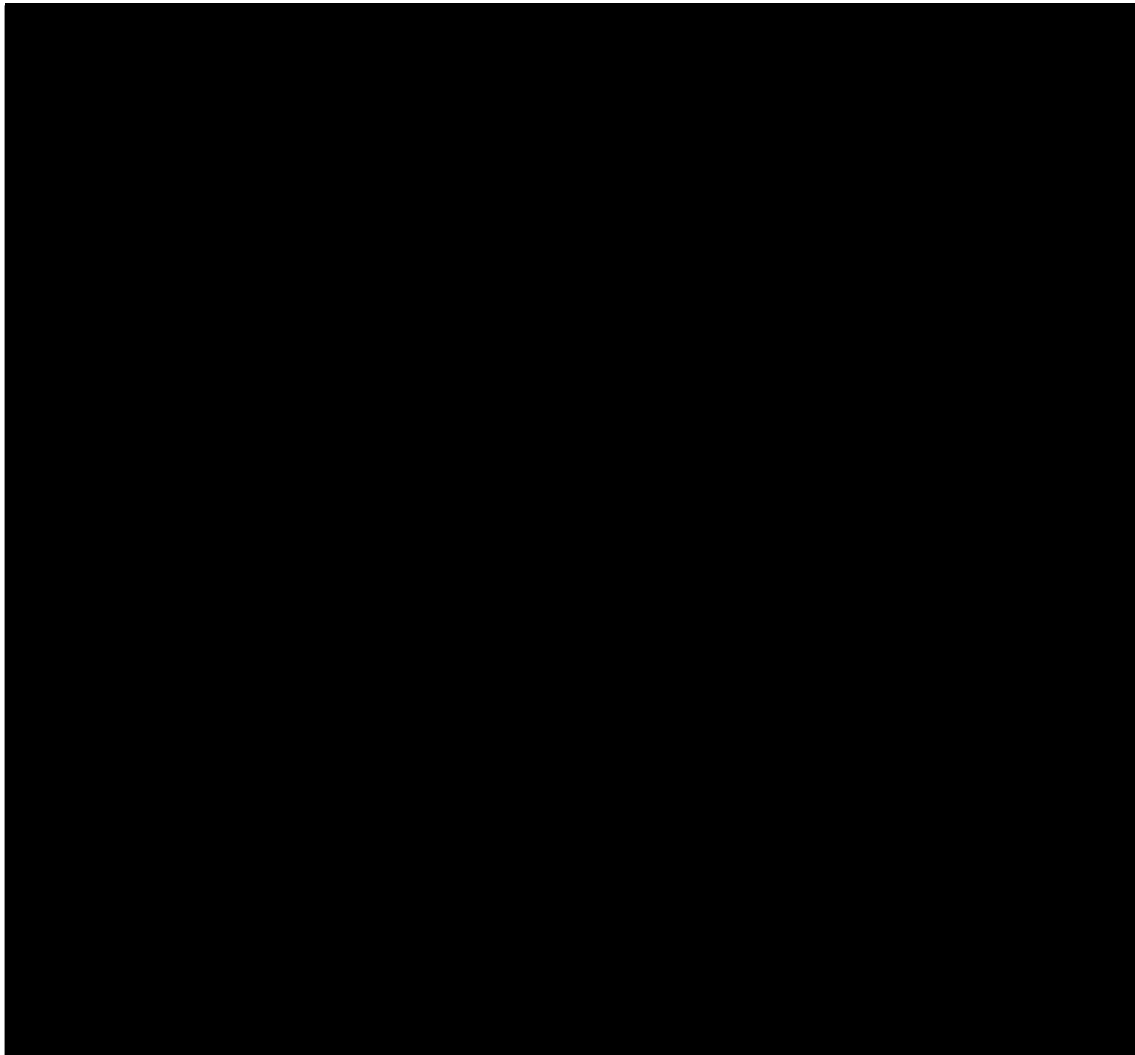
Newtown Trim is an example of a deserted borough. There is little evidence of disturbance and it is likely that archaeological deposits are intact over a large area of the site. It was deliberately founded in rivalry to Trim and would appear to have been established on virgin soil. The period of its desertion is not known but from the historical evidence the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are likely to be the ones best represented in the archaeological record.

Knowledge of the nature of the settlement in medieval times is scant. Was it merely a rural borough or did it have genuine urban functions? Nothing is known about domestic dwellings, street patterns, defences, or of the settlement's extent. Nonetheless the archaeological data indicates that the borough has been the scene of considerable human activity in Medieval times and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge is obtained. The borough is not under direct threat from development at present but its proximity to Trim means that it will come under increasing pressure in the future. The bridge has already come under threat but has fortunately been safeguarded. The present situation, however, in which traffic is controlled by lights is unlikely to prove a permanent solution.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 31)

delimits the area of archaeological potential. This is based on the extant monuments and the course of field boundaries in their neighbourhood. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said depth of archaeological deposits.



NOBBER

Today Nobber is a small village in the undulating drumlin countryside of north Meath. The medieval borough was sited on top of a prominent drumlin ridge which was surrounded on three sides by water, the wetland of the former Moynagh Lough on the west and the river Dee on the north and east. The present broad Main Street, flanked by a number of fine three-storey cut stone houses, bears all of the appearances of an estate village of the early eighteenth century. Neither is there any trace in the present plan of a medieval burgage plot pattern. The placename is derived from An Obair, "the work" (usually considered to be the motte), but it has been suggested that it may be An Abar "the marsh", a derivation which would have more meaning on topographical grounds (see Dinnseanchas I, No. 4 (1965), 95-8).

The recent excavations at Moynagh Lough, 1 km to the west, indicate that the neighbourhood of Nobber was known to man from Mesolithic times (Bradley 1980-81). Among the stray finds from the village are three stone axeheads while flint scrapers have also been found in the vicinity. These indicate a frequentus populi but as yet there is no evidence for prehistoric settlement on the site of the future borough.

The possibility of a settlement here prior to the coming of the Normans is suggested by the presence of an Early Christian style cross base in the churchyard. However the precise provenance of this cross cannot be established and it may have been brought in from outside the town.

The site rose to prominence with the coming of the Normans. Gilbert de Angulo, son of Jocelyn, built a motte and bailey castle here which appears to have been the centre for the lordship of Morgallion granted to him by Hugh de Lacy (Orpen 1911-20, ii, 84). When Gilbert was outlawed in 1196 the lands were granted to Hugh son of Hugh de Lacy, the original grantor. In 1201 John de Courcy, earl of Ulster, was treacherously trapped in the castle by Hugh but was released after De Courcy's men ravaged his lands (Orpen 1911-20, ii, 189-90). Shortly before his death in 1243 Hugh granted the manor of Nobber together with his land of Morgallion to the archbishops of Armagh and despite much litigation by Hugh's descendants it remained in the hands of the archbishops until the end of the Middle Ages. The earliest mention of the borough is in 1227 (Mills and McEnery 1916, 162-3). The Civil Survey (1654-6) records that there was one mansion house, one church, three eel weirs, one mill, one bridge near the said house and another bridge leading to Sallysook (Simington 1940, 333).

1. MOTTE AND BAILEY CASTLE
2. PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
3. HOSPITAL
4. MISCELLANEOUS
5. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. MOTTE AND BAILEY CASTLE

This appears to have been the centre for the lordship of Morgallion granted by Hugh de Lacy to Gilbert de Angulo before 1186. In 1227 Hugh de Lacy granted four carucates of land to the burgesses of Nobber in return for the construction of a causeway between the motte and the town (Mills and McEnery 1916, 162-3). This suggests that it was originally on a promontory jutting out into the wetland formed by Moynagh Lough and the river Dee.

It is situated at the north-west of the village and consists of a steep-sided round mound, 7m high, with a basal width of 13 m and a flat top 9 m across. There is a depression in the top which may be the result of post-medieval alterations or may represent attempts to dig into the motte in more recent times. The remains of a rectangular bailey, 20 by 14 m, may be traced on the south-east where it was ploughed over about ten years ago. An Irish halfpenny of James II was found on the side of the motte in 1991.

2. PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

This was granted by Gilbert de Angulo to St. Thomas's Abbey, Dublin, prior to 1186 (Gilbert 1889, 6). The tithes of the rectory, however, were attached to the Augustinian priory of Newtown Trim (White 1943, 298). In 1544 Henry VIII granted licence to Dr. Staples, Bishop of Meath, to appropriate and unite to the See of Meath the Archdeaconry of Kells with the Rectory of Nobber (Cogan 1967, 330). Bishop Dopping's Visitation of 1692-5 notes that the church was ruined since 1641, and that the tower was open at the top and vaulted at the bottom (Ellison 1973, 4)). The present church was constructed in 1773.

Only the ivy-covered west wall of the four-floored rectangular tower survives. It is said that the stones from the old church were used to build the present late eighteenth century building which has been refurbished as a domestic dwelling. Coursed limestone masonry with rubble core. The north and south returns of the tower survive to a height of 1 m. The ground floor was vaulted and has a narrow rectangular slit window splaying inwardly in the west wall. The first floor has an attractive cusped ogee-headed window, chamfered externally in the west wall. The second floor is inaccessible but has a window that appears to be ogee-headed. The third floor, the belfry stage, has two pointed openings similar to those in the towers of St. Columba's church, Skreen, and the

St. Patrick's Church, Slane. Above this level is a drainage course suggesting that there were battlements above. These features would suggest a late fifteenth century date for the tower.

In the south wall of the later church is a small reset medieval stone head of sandstone.

Monuments

Cross base (Fig. 55:5) Pre-1200.

Truncated cone of pink sandstone decorated with a band of interlace set within two incised lines. Rectangular mortice, now filled with cement. Situated immediately inside the entrance to the churchyard. It is very similar to the north cross base at Kells.

Dims: H.66 Diam. at base 76-8 cm.

Cross-slab. ?Pre-1200.

Latin cross with incised circles around the transom on both faces and an incised cross in the centre

H.76. W.34 D.11 cm

Effigial slab 1 (Pl. 25b) c.1690.

Sandstone. Known as the "Edward Balfe memorial" (see Jrl Assoc. Mems Dead Ireland 2 (1892-4), 179). Recumbent in what was probably the east end of the medieval church. Fragmentary marginal inscription in low false relief and roman capitals:

THIS TOMBE WAS ERECTED BY PATRICK/A.../..S..T O/ ..V/
...ER AND FOR HIS WIFE.

The remainder of the slab is decorated in high relief with heraldic symbols (unidentified) and mortality symbols, consisting of the skull, crossed bones, coffin, hour-glass and bell between two effigies. The male figure is dressed in a complete coat of armour with a sword carved separately by his side, while the lady is shown in a hip-length cape over a long skirt. Her hair is covered by a hood. Both figures have their hands joined.

Dims: L.230 W.128 cm.

King forthcoming.

Effigial slab 2 (Pl. 25a) ?Murtagh Carolan c.1700.

Lying beside No. 1. Known as the "Priest's tomb" (see Jrl Assoc. Mems Dead Ireland 1 (1888-92), 29). Marginal inscription in Roman letters but only a few words can now be deciphered:

THIS TOMBE .../ .../ HIS . A .OW MADE FOR MURTAGH ...

The centre of the slab has the effigy of a priest in false relief in a round-headed recess with arms bent at the elbows and upraised hands. Mortality symbols are carved under his outturned feet. It may be a memorial to Murtagh Carolan, parish priest of Nobber in the late seventeenth century (Cogan 1867, 332; Ellison 1973, 4).

King forthcoming.

Gerald Cruise (Pl. 26b) 1619.

Sandstone. In ten fragments. Situated on the south side of the path leading to the church. It is in an upright position above a vault, which may be part of the medieval church. It depicts a knight in full armour with his sword shown separately by his side. He has a bascinet on his head and wears a hauberk of many lames covering the entire body. There are poleyns at the knees and spurs on the ankles. Two shields on either side of his head show the arms of Plunket and Cruise. Marginal roman inscription in relief:

HERE LIETH THE BODY OF GERRALD CRYS OF THE BRITTAS AND
MARGARET PLVNKET HIS WIF WHICH GERRALD DID BVILD THIS
MONVMENT AND IS HEYRE LINEALLY DECENDED FROM SR MAVRICE
CRVYS WHOE DYED THE FYRST YEARE OF KING HENRY THE THYRD
ANNO DOMINI 1216 TO WHOSE SOVLES GOD GRANT HIS MERCY
AMEN 1619.

Three stones lying on top of the vault record an early repair of the monument or perhaps the move to its present position: REPAIRED IN THE 21YR OF THE REIGN OF GEORGE 3RD 1781. The letters N.G. appear on one of the coping stones above the monument.

Dims: H.214 W.92 cm.

King forthcoming.

Font

Medieval font (Roe 1969, 125). Bowl shaped vessel with two unperforated wing handles at right angles to the bowl. The outside surface is pecked but the inside is smooth. There is a small socket underneath as though it might originally have been mounted on a stand.

Dims: H.25.5 W.42 cm.

3. HOSPITAL

It has been suggested that the placename Spiddal, a townland about 1 km south of Nobber, may represent the site of a medieval hospital (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 356). However, it is also possible that the land was merely owed by a hospitaller order, for instance the Knights Hospitallers who maintained a large house at Kilmainham Wood some 7 km to the north.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Well

The site of Tobernamuck is shown on the O.S. maps at the south west end of the village.

5. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. Polished stone axehead. From Nobber, Co. Meath. NMI 1941:403

2. Stone axehead. From Nobber, Co. Meath. NMI. Dept. of Education Rep. NMI 1929-30, 9.

3. Stone axehead. From Nobber, Co. Meath. NMI 1932: 5603. Dept. of Education Rep. NMI 1931-2, 10.


ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

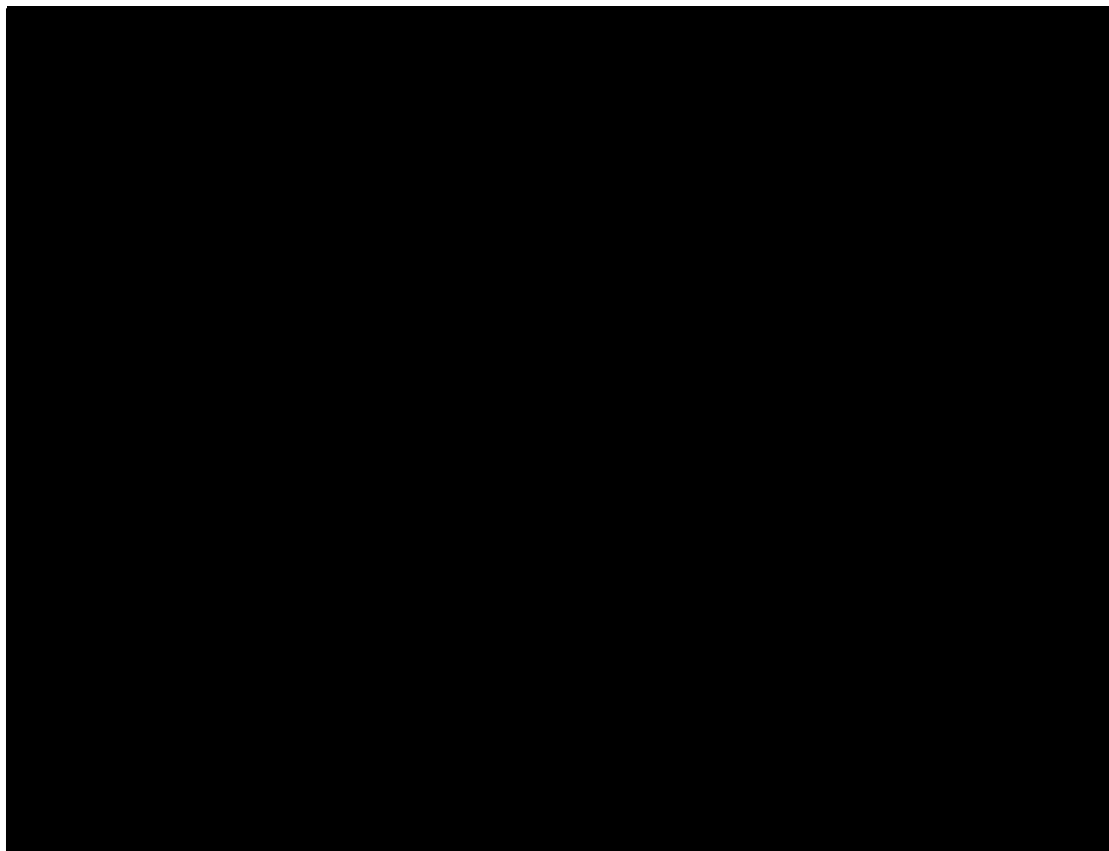
Nobber is an example of a small medieval frontier borough. It is important for archaeological research as an example of a borough which was established early in the course of the Anglo-Norman invasion but which failed to grow into a town. There is the possibility that there was an Early Christian church site here but it is not known for certain. The period of the borough's decay is not known but from the historical evidence the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are likely to be the ones best represented in the archaeological record.

Knowledge of the nature of the settlement in medieval times is scant. Was it merely a rural borough or did it have genuine urban functions? Nothing is known about domestic dwellings, street pattern, defences, or of the settlement's extent. Nonetheless the archaeological data indicates that the borough has been the scene of human activity in Medieval times and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge is obtained. The borough is not under direct threat from development.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 35) delimits the area of archaeological potential. This is based on largely on the contours of the ridge which would have been available for settlement in the Middle Ages; an area around the motte is also included. The present street plan appears to be of eighteenth century date and it has largely obliterated the medieval plan but the extent of the disturbance to archaeological levels is unclear. It is likely that archaeological deposits are intact in the vicinity of the motte but there are no indications of the nature of deposits in the village itself.





RATOATH

Situated in the south-east of County Meath mid-way between Ashbourne and Dunshaughlin. The street plan largely follows the curve formed by the motte. West and south of the motte the village is characterised by a series of long narrow plots of land, perhaps representing a medieval strip pattern similar to that at Newcastle Lyons, Co. Dublin (Edwards, Hamond and Simms 1983, 354). On the south-west the Dunshaughlin road sweeps in a broad curve which may respect an early enclosure. The name is derived from Rath To, "fort of To" which suggests that there was a settlement on the site prior to the coming of the Normans. However, apart from the placename the only other suggestion of pre-Norman activity is the local tradition of a "cave" in the motte, which may be a souterrain.

After the coming of the Normans, Ratoath was retained by Hugh de Lacy as a seigneurial manor and it is recorded that he gave the tithes of Ratoath and Dunshaughlin to the abbey of St. Thomas, Dublin, prior to 1183 (Orpen 1911-20, ii, 76). In 1194 the lordship of Ratoath was granted to his son Hugh together with Morgallion. In 1283 it was granted to Richard de Burgh, earl of Ulster (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 139). In 1317 it was the scene of an ambush when the earl of Ulster attacked the Scots forces under Edward Bruce but the earl was defeated and fled to Dublin (Otway-Ruthven 1968, 230). The earliest mention of it as a borough is in a charter of Hugh de Lacy to St. Thomas' abbey c.1200 (Gilbert 1889, 9). However, almost nothing is known of the history of the borough.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. MOTTE AND BAILEY CASTLE
2. HOLY TRINITY PARISH CHURCH
3. HOSPITAL OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN
4. MISCELLANEOUS
5. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. MOTTE AND BAILEY CASTLE

This was the centre of an important manor established by Hugh de Lacy prior to 1183 (see above). The motte consists of a round mound 12 m high with a basal diameter of 43 m narrowing to 17-18 m at the top which is flat. It is overgrown with vegetation but is surrounded by a deep narrow ditch on the north, east, south and part of the west sides. There is a crescentic bailey, 50 by 30 m, on the east side, now planted with shrubs and trees, and through which the

drive to the presbytery was cut. In the course of the survey a local woman informed us of the existence of an entrance or "cave", perhaps a souterrain, but there is no trace of it now.

2. HOLY TRINITY PARISH CHURCH

The church was granted by Hugh de Lacy to the abbey of St. Thomas, Dublin and remained in their hands until the Reformation (White 1943, 35). O'Donovan (O.S. Letters, 288) notes that the parish was originally dedicated to St. Thomas a Beckett but was subsequently changed to the Holy Trinity. This may explain the foundation, noted by Cogan (1862, 259), of a chantry chapel "in the parish of St Thomas" with three chapels known as the Rocde, St Mary's and St. Thomas'. In 1682, Bishop Dopping records the dedication as Holy Trinity and he notes that the church was in good repair although the chancel was unroofed; it had a flagon, parish registers and the altar was nailed in; the roof was slated and the windows glazed; it had a clay floor and one bell (Ellison 1971, 37).

The church was situated north of the motte and is now represented by a featureless rectangular structure with a tower of 1817 attached. The surviving walls are 1.5 m in height and the interior is filled up with rubble. It measures 13.7 m by 7.5 m. The rectory, north of the church, has some old stone built outhouses but none have dateable features. The owner, however, informed us that on building a new barn immediately north of the graveyard wall (the dotted building on the O.S. map), the workmen uncovered a stone built underground passage leading under the wall. This is now covered in.

Architectural fragments

Nos. 1-3 are placed beside the 17th century cross.

1. Fragment of a door moulding which has a spray of vine leaves and fruit in relief on one face and colonettes with triple roll mouldings at the base on another side.
Dims: H.54 W. 40 D. 30 cm

2. Plain chamfered window moulding fragment, probably 16th century.
Dims: H. 38 W. 15 D. 23 cm

3. Plain chamfered window moulding similar to 2.
Dims: H. 34 W.16 D. 15 cm

4. Plain chamfered window moulding used as a grave marker to the south-west of the church.
Dims: H. 71 W. 23 D. 20 cm

5. Plain chamfered window moulding also used a gravemarker set into the ground to the north-west of the church.
Dims. H. 51 (min) W. 20 D. 15 cm

Monuments.

Effigial slab (Pl. 27b) Late 13th-early 14th cent.
Sandstone. Coffin shaped slab carved in high relief with the effigy of a Knight. He wears a hauberk over which there is a round-necked surcoat to the knee which is belted at the waist. His sword may be held by this belt. His left hand grasps the sword grip and the right hand rests on the blade. The sword has a large pommel and a short crossguard. The legs are missing below the knees and the head lies in a deeply indented pillow with tassels. On the south side is a very worn incised Lombardic inscription:

ORATE ...PANIAM ...ALME FILI FABRI...

Dims: H. 170 W. 54-40 D. 14 cm
Hunt 1974, 213.

Shelley graveslab. 1684

According to FitzGerald (1895-7, 116-8) this lay broken near the door of the old church with the following inscription:
HERE LYETH YE BOD... MARY & JANE SHELLEY SEAVEN MORE IN ALL
.. THE CHILDREN OF JOHN... JANE SHELLEY OF RATH... ANNO
DOMINI 1684. It is now missing.

Cross. 17th cent.

In the south-east of the graveyard there is an octagonal latin shaped limestone cross set in a rectangular base. It was found in 1981 by Fr. Mulvaney when tidying up the graveyard. He had the cross erected here and shortened it by 6" when putting the pieces together.

Dims: Shaft. H.148 W. across arms 44 D. 20 cm
Base. H.0.17 W.66 D.63 cm

3. HOSPITAL OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN

The existence of this house is known only from incidental references. It is evident from a charte of Simon de Rochford that it was established before 1224 (Gilbert 1889, 48-9). It is clear from this charter that it had a cemetery and was dependent on the parish church. Dopping, in his visitation of 1682, notes a chapel called St. Mary's near the parish church which is almost certainly to be identified with the hospital (Ellison, 1971, 37). The site is unknown

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Market cross.

According to O'Donovan (O.S. Letters, 289) the base of a Market Cross was at the meeting of the Dublin and Dunshaughlin roads. The bodies of those who died in the village were brought around it. The base was broken c.1922 by Black and Tans and a cross was erected in the same spot in 1932 to commemorate the Eucharistic Congress. This was removed about 12 years ago and in 1979 the base and part of a plinth were in the yard of a local farmer. The plinth fragments are now gone but the base is still there.

Other Crosses

O'Donovan (O.S. Letters, 290) also recorded a cross known as the White Cross in Ratoath village on the Dunshaughlin road around which funerals were brought. There does not appear to be any memory of this cross but a mound on the Dunshaughlin road was known as the "Red cross" and funerals were said to be carried around it (information from Mrs Gogan). FitzGerald (1895-7, 116-8) records an ash tree on the Dunshaughlin road with incised crosses recording Wexford men who were executed there. O'Donovan (O.S. Letters, 290) states that this was known as the "Red Cross" tree, but he does not record the tradition of the Wexford men.

Monuments in the grounds of the R. C. Church.

These were collected mainly from around the church and in the old graveyard by Fr. Mulvaney and placed south of the church door on the Thunder grave surround.

Font

Octagonal limestone font/piscina with shallow basin. It has chamfered sides with a small roll moulding at the base and a large drainage hole.

Dims: H. 21 W. 43 Diam Int. 32 Hole 9 cm

Window mouldings

Two sandstone fragments possibly 15th century in date.

Dims: 1. H. 33 W. 23 D. 31 cm

2. H. 17 W. 29 D. 14 cm

Piscina

Freestanding hour-glass shaped octagonal piscina with round moulding at the waist. It was probably intended to stand on a shaft as there is a socket in the base. The material is sandstone.

Dims: H. 27 W. 28 Int diam. 23 D. of bowl 11 cm

Rotary Quern fragment

Slightly less than half of the upper stone of a rotary quern of white granite.

Dims: H. 6.5 W. 38 Orig. diam. 44

5. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. Pottery vessel from a cist at Ratoath, Co. Meath (Waddell 1974, 143-5). NMI X192.
2. Carved stone. Found in wall of a farmyard at Ratoath. NMI 1972:1.
3. Iron Key. Found in ploughed field at Ratoath, Co. Dublin [sic]. NMI 1972:339.
4. "Double cone of indurated clay iron stone on which the ancient urns were formed, found in a Danish Fort at Ratoath, Co. Meath" Cat. Sirr Coll. (1841), 11: No. 23.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

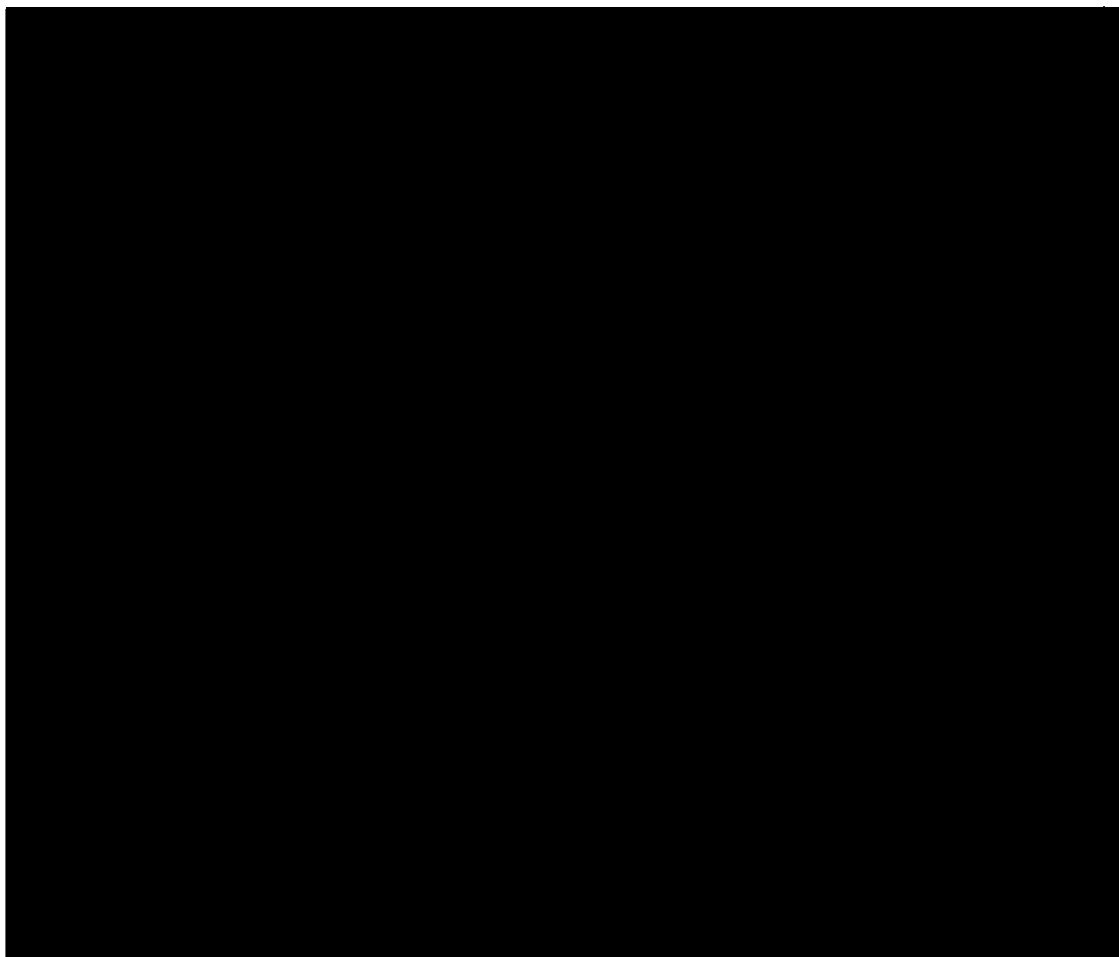
Ratoath is an example of a small medieval borough. There is little evidence of disturbance and it is likely that archaeological deposits are intact over a wide area. Although founded in the thirteenth century the period of its use and the nature of the settlement are unknown. The placename suggests that the site was important in Early Christian times but the nature of the activity here is not known. However, from the historical evidence it is likely that the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are likely to be the ones best represented in the archaeological record.

Knowledge of the nature of the settlement in medieval times is scant. Was it merely a rural borough or did it have genuine urban functions? Nothing is known about domestic dwellings, street pattern, defences, or of the settlement's extent. Nonetheless the archaeological data indicates that the borough has been the scene of human activity in Medieval times and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge is obtained. The borough is not under direct threat from development at present but its proximity to Dublin means that it will come under increasing pressure from development, as a dormitory town.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 36) delimits the area of archaeological potential. This is based on the plot pattern which may well represent a medieval strip pattern. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits.





SIDDAN

Siddan lies in the undulating countryside of north-east Meath. The site of the medieval borough is deserted today, however, apart from a few isolated cottages, derelict stone-built houses and farmsteads. Apart from the borough charter, granted about the middle of the thirteenth century, virtually nothing is known of the history of the borough (MacNiocaill 1964, 319-20).

It has been suggested that the name Sogain occurring in two twelfth century charters in the Book of Kells may be Siddan (MacNiocaill 1961, 20, 34; see O'Connell 1959, 34), which would suggest that there was a secular site here prior to the coming of the Normans. The Normans made the site into a manor and the family associated with it throughout the Middle Ages were the Telings. The borough had declined completely by the mid-seventeenth century when the Civil Survey (1654-6) records two mills, an eel weir, a broken bridge called Ahoybridge, 2 farm houses and cabins (Simington 1940, 360). The two mills were over a mile away and nothing is known of the eel weir. Ahoybridge is not known but there is a bridge immediately west of the church.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. CASTLE
2. ST. DAVID'S CHURCH
3. EARTHWORKS
4. MISCELLANEOUS

1. CASTLE

The family associated with Siddan were the Telings. Simington (1940, 360) noted that the castle was ruined in the 17th century (Civil Survey, 360). The site, on top of a drumlin, affords commanding views in all directions. There is a steep climb up to it from the east and it is sharply scarped on the west. Although there is no trace of buildings today the field boundary on the west is full of slabs of limestone and large blocks of granite. The field boundary running southwards downhill towards the church is a raised flat topped bank about 2 m wide. There is a well on the hill which is now covered in. (Information from landowner).

2. ST. DAVID'S CHURCH

This church was granted by Hay Teling to the abbey of St. Thomas', Dublin shortly after 1200 when it is referred to

as the church of SS. Mary and David (Gilbert 1889, 29-30). It remained in their hands until the Dissolution when the jurors described the chancel as being in need of repair (White 1943, 31). Dopping in his visitation of 1682 notes that the church was ruined since 1641 (Ellison 1973, 5; cf. Simington 1940, 360). The present church was built in 1881.

Traces of foundations can be determined in the churchyard south of the present church but they are almost completely overgrown. In the north corner of the graveyard there is a small stone-built structure covered in ivy with the remains of three walls surviving to a height of c. 5 m. It is built of limestone, roughly coursed, with no dateable features. It measures 5.2 by 8.8 m.

Monuments

Graveslab. ?Pre-1200.

Plain rectangular shaped slab with a raised Latin cross.

Dims:?

Coffin-shaped slab.

Deeply buried. Plain granite slab with chamfered edges.

Dims: H. 72; visible W. 54-43 T.15 cm

3. EARTHWORKS

Cromwell's Battery

This site is on the ridge immediately north of Siddan castle, called "Gun Hill". A long straight field boundary divides the site in two and forms the boundary between Siddan and Polecastle. On the west a bank encloses a raised semi-circular area running south from the top of the hill but there is no evidence now that this continued around to the east. On the east the area enclosed is much smaller and forms three sides of a rectangle on top of the hill.

Polecastle

This castle is also indicated on the O.S maps but there is no trace now of any buildings. Much of the field has been used for quarrying. On the site of the castle there is a standing/scratching stone.

Pale Ditch

The north end of the townland is bounded by a line of ditch pointed out on the O.S. map as part of the Pale ditch.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Wayside Cross

Tempest (1941, 50-4) notes a cross here around which funerals

were carried. The site is still known but there is now no trace of a cross. The site is a small mound in the south west of the field immediately north-west of Polecastle crossroads.

Farm house. ?17th cent.

The farm house immediately north of the Church is regarded locally as 17th century. It has been re-roofed and is now covered in plaster. In the slurry pit at the rear of this house there is a window moulding of 16th/ 17th century date.

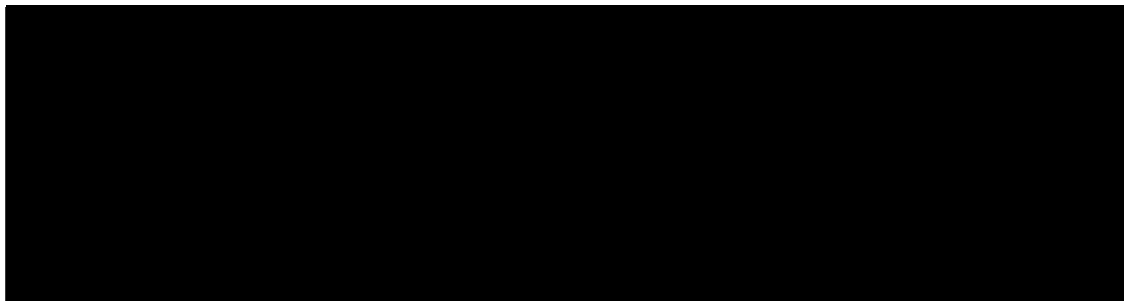
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

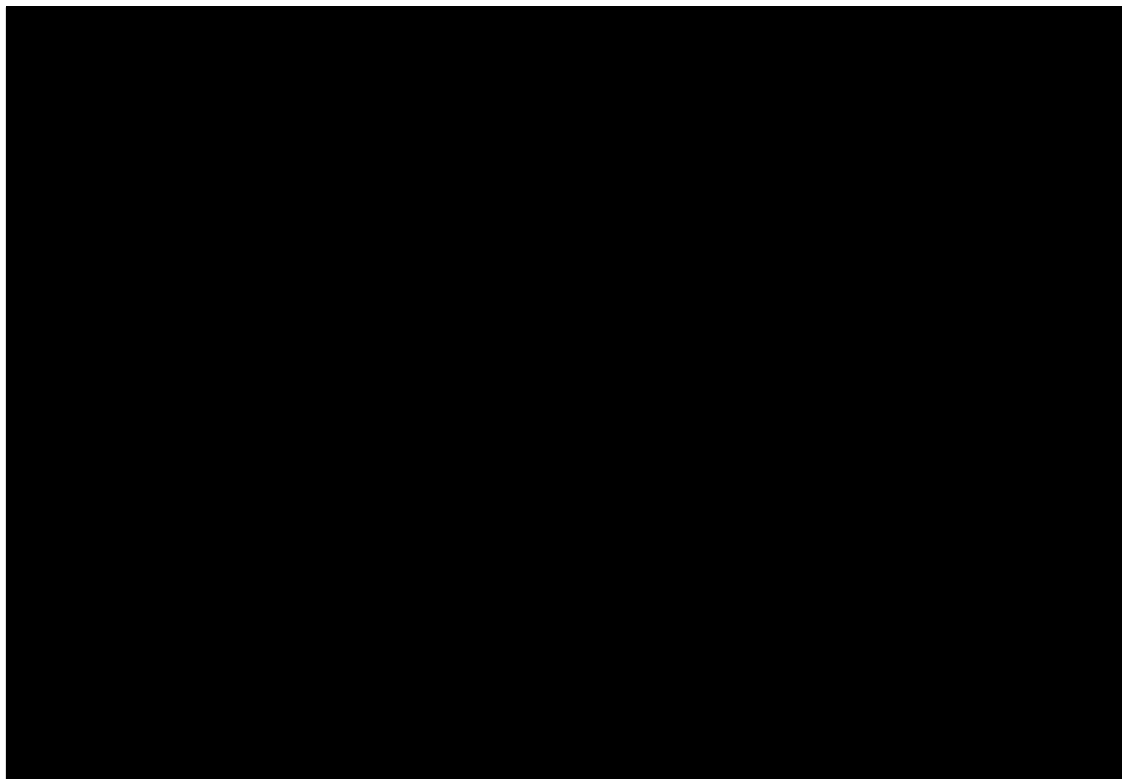
Siddan is an example of a deserted medieval borough. There is little evidence of disturbance and it is likely that archaeological deposits are intact over a wide area. The period of its desertion is not known but from the historical evidence it is likely that the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are the ones best represented in the archaeological record.

Knowledge of the nature of the settlement in medieval times is scant. Was it merely a rural borough or did it have genuine urban functions? Nothing is known about domestic dwellings, street pattern, defences, or of the settlement's extent. Nonetheless the archaeological data indicates that the borough has been the scene of human activity in Medieval times and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge is obtained. The borough is not under direct threat from development at present.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 37) delimits the area of archaeological potential. In the absence of direct knowledge of the borough's extent this is confined to areas around known features. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said of the depth of archaeological deposits.





SKREEN

Skreen is situated on the crest of a ridge above the 500 foot contour about half-way between Ratoath and Navan and immediately east of Tara. The gaunt church tower is a landmark visible for many miles around but the former borough has declined into a small hamlet. The placename is derived from Scrin, "a shrine".

Historical Background

The proximity of Skreen to Tara and the prominence of its ridge would suggest that it was frequented in prehistoric times. However, apart from a saucer barrow and the stray finds of a flanged axehead and trunnion chisel there is little to suggest prehistoric activity.

The site rose to prominence in the Early Christian period as a monastic centre dedicated to St. Columba and it is held by some that the relics of Columba were moved here from Iona in the ninth century, and hence the name Skreen (Cogan 1862, 151). The church is referred to on a number of occasions in the annals which record that it was plundered in 974, 986, 1037, 1058 and 1152. In 1127 the Norse of Dublin carried off the shrine but it was restored to the church within a month (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 44).

After the coming of the Normans the barony of Skreen was granted to Adam de Feipo and he made Skreen his principal manor. The borough was established at an early date and is first referred to during the early thirteenth century (Gilbert 1881, i, 236). The manor of Skreen remained in the hands of the Feypos until the end of the fourteenth century when an heiress carried the barony to the Marwards who remained here until the seventeenth century (Orpen 1911-20, ii, 85). The settlement is referred to during the succeeding centuries but it had declined by the seventeenth. The Civil Survey (1654-6) records that there were two castles, one house, one mill, a church and an abbey (Simington 1940, 67).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. MOTTE CASTLE
2. STONE CASTLE
3. ST. COLUMBA'S PARISH CHURCH
4. ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH
5. AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY
6. SITES IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY
7. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. MOTTE CASTLE

This is to be identified as the castle of Adam de Feypo which was built for him by Hugh de Lacy according to Giraldus Cambrensis (Scott and Martin 1978, 195). The motte is round mound with a diameter of 42 m at the base tapering to 20 m at the top which is flat. It is 7 m high.

2. STONE CASTLE

Portion of a fifteenth century tower house appears to be embedded within the present Skreen Castle but it is plastered internally and externally and no features can be seen.

3. ST. COLUMBA'S PARISH CHURCH (Fig. 39; Pl. 26a)

This is undoubtedly the site of the pre-Norman church referred to in the annals and plundered on a number of occasions prior to the twelfth century. It was granted by Adam de Feypo to St Mary's Abbey, Dublin, before 1186 and it remained in their hands until the Reformation (Gilbert 1884). In 1682 Bishop Dopping records that the chancel was repaired but the nave walls were unroofed since 1641; the windows were glazed, the roof slated and the floor was of earth; it had a desk, font, a silver chalice and paten, and he adds that half the graveyard was walled (Ellison 1972, 6).

Description

The church was originally divided into a nave and chancel but only the nave, west tower and a fragment of the east wall survive. The tower (late 15th cent.) is the oldest part of the present building; the nave would appear to have been added c.1500. The masonry is of coursed limestone with limestone quoins.

The CHANCEL has been completely removed and only a small fragment of the east wall survives as a support for the Marward tomb. It stands to a height of 1.2 m.

The chancel was separated from the NAVE by a rood screen to which access was gained via a mural stair in the north wall. The door leading to the stair is pointed with concave mouldings terminating in a semi-pyramidal stop, and the stair is lit by a single straight loop with internal splay. Externally the wall is thickened in order to accommodate the stair. There is an alcove at the east end with a rounded segmental arch, now plastered over. Set within it is a flat-headed door blocked by masonry; a stone fragment with eroded knotwork is set into one of the jambs. The north door is missing its arch externally but it has a flat segmental

rear-arch. The external jambs are moulded. A small rectangular lintelled recess above the door is empty.

The south wall is lit by three pointed windows with pointed rear-arch. The westernmost of these is blocked up and only fragments of the jambs and tracery survive. Externally it has a moulded label. The easternmost window has two finely decoated label stops terminating in a leafy spray with grapes. There are two mason's marks on the window jambs; one is a lozenge above an elongated rectangle, the other is a fleur-de-lis motif. The south door is missing its arch but it has a flat segmental rear-arch resembling the north door and its external west jamb is similarly moulded to that in the north wall. A small sandstone figure of a bishop is placed in a rectangular recess above the door (Pl. 27a). Hunt (1974, 213) regards this as part of a tomb and dates it to the fourteenth century. A corbel course runs the length of the north wall and has counterparts on the south side just below the level of the tip of the windows.

The TOWER is rectangular with a projecting stair turret, rising from first floor level, on the south-east angle. It has a base batter externally and there are four floors. The ground floor has a pointed barrel vault and is lit by three slit windows with internal splay and pointed rear-arch; the window in the west wall is blocked up. The first floor is entered through a lintelled door and has three slit windows, in the north, west and south walls; on the east side is a rectangular opening which would have led into the nave roof originally. The second floor is approached by a short stair, in the thickness of the south wall, leading off the main spiral stair. The chamber is entered through a lintelled door and is lit by two slit windows. The third floor (the belfry stage) is entered through a lintelled door and is lit by four large windows, probably twin-light originally but only the mullion of the north window survives. Above the belfry stage a stair leads onto the wallwalk level, which has been destroyed.

Architectural fragments

Attached to the walls in the ground floor of the tower are four fragmentary window mouldings:

1. Centre section of a twin light cusped ogee-headed window. Dims: H.43 W.48 D.17 cm
2. As 1 but with a long-lobed trefoil in the spandrel. Dims: H.44 W.51 D.14 cm
3. Half spandrel. Dims. H.45 W. 26 D. 17 cm
4. Similar to 3. Dims: H. 44 W. 26 D. 17 cm

Monuments

Cross slab fragment (Fig. 55:6). Pre 1200.

The mullion of the north window in the belfry stage of the

tower is a re-used cross slab. It is chamfered on one side and bears part of a maltese cross in false relief within a double incised circle on the lower end of the shaft.
Dims: L. 133 W. 17 D. 21 cm.

Cross slab (Fig. 56:3). Early 15th cent.
Attached to the west wall in the ground floor of the tower. Limestone coffin-shaped slab with a raised border. The centre is decorated with a Latin cross on a splayed base with an ornamental knop cut in deep false relief. Above the cross and placed beneath a semi-circular arch is a head in high relief. On the head is a flat cap of Burgundian style which according to Hunt (1974, 213) is of early fifteenth century style.
Dims: H. 176 W. 55-40 D. 13 cm.

Marward tomb. 1611.

Side panel of a table tomb mounted on the remains of the east wall. Rectangular limestone slab decorated in low relief and incision with two coats of arms, four angel's heads, a rayed sun, an hour-glass, and a monk. Inscription, in relief and incision, now almost illegible:

O.O.M./ HOC MONUMENTUM GUALTERO MAR/ WARDE, BARON DE
SCRIN, MARGARETAE PLUNKET PRIMAE SUAE CONJUGI AC
MATILDAE DARCEY MATRI GENER/ GULIELMUS. NUGENTIUS
RICHARDI/ BARONIS A DELVIN MINOR NATU FILIUS ET JENETA
MARWARD HEARES/ ET UNICA NATA POSUERUNT ECCLESIA/
ORNAMENTO HIC VERO SEPULTIS / MEMORIAE PERPETUAE.
JOHANNES / CUSACK EJESDEM GUALTERI EX MATRE/ GERMANUS
FRATER SCULPSIT MANU PROPRIA. ANNO DOMINI 1611.

Dims: H.96 W. 225 D. 11 cm.
Hickey 1973.

Cross. 17th. cent.

Latin granite cross north-east of the church. Decorated on one side with a crucifixion in high relief.
Dims. H.156 W.41 D.17 cm.

Font. Medieval.

Badly damaged limestone vessel mounted on a modern base in the ground floor of the tower. It is held together with iron rivetting bars and is undecorated. Rectangular with four semi-circular sides; the lower part of the basin is tub shaped while the upper part of the panels are raised and may have carried an inscription.
Dims: H.55 W.68 Int. Diam. 52 cm.

4. ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH

This would appear to have been the chapel of the castle (Orpen 1911-20, ii, 35) and according to the O.S. it was sited south of the parish church and north-west of the motte. It was established by Adam de Faypo and is mentioned in a group of late twelfth century charters (Hickey 1952). It became part of the possessions of St. Mary's Abbey, Dublin, but its subsequent history is unknown.

5. AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY

Little is known of this monastery established in 1341 by Francis de Faipo (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 302). The Dissolution documents of 1540 indicate that the church had already been demolished but that the belfry and dormitory were still standing (White 1943, 306). The location of the friary is now unknown.

6. SITES IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY

Earthworks in field south of Skreen Castle.
A saucer barrow and cigar-shaped mound.

Earthworks in field west of St. Columba's Churchyard
A series of apparently irregular earthen features are present and can be seen very clearly from the church tower. Their significance is unknown but perhaps they may be part of the Augustinian friary.

St. Columbkille's Well

This is located about 150 m north of the parish church. O'Donovan (O.S. Letters, 147) recorded a local tradition that it was established by Columba himself.


7. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. Bronze flanged axehead. From Skreen, Co. Meath. NMI 1962: 25. See Jrl. Roy. Soc. Antiq. Ireland 94 (1964), 91.
2. Bronze trunnion chisel. From Skreen, Co. Meath. NMI 1962: 44. See Jrl. Roy. Soc. Antiq. Ireland 94 (1964), 93.
3. Silver penannular brooch. From Skryne (sic) Co. Meath. British Museum London: 1969.7-9.21. See Cat. Museum of Arch. Institute, Edinburgh 1956 (1959), 54.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Skreen is an example of a deserted borough. There is little evidence of disturbance and it is likely that archaeological deposits are intact over a wide area. It is located beside an Early Christian church site and this suggests that evidence may survive regarding the nature of its transition from monastery to borough. The period of its desertion is not known and from the historical evidence it is likely that the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are the ones best represented in the archaeological record.

Knowledge of the nature of the settlement in medieval times is scant. Was it merely a rural borough or did it have genuine urban functions? Nothing is known about domestic dwellings, street pattern, defences, or of the settlement's extent. Nonetheless the archaeological data indicates that the borough has been the scene of human activity in Early Historic and Medieval times and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge is obtained. The borough is not under direct threat from development.



SLANE

Slane is situated on sloping ground rising steeply from the north side of the river Boyne. The present village was laid out in the 1760's by the Conynghams around an intersection, known as "The Square", having four almost identical Georgian houses in the corners. This planning removed all trace of the medieval and seventeenth century town which was probably located between St. Erc's hermitage and the bridge (Trench 1976, 3). The "Hill of Slane", which rises above the town, is a prominent feature in the landscape and can be seen for many miles around. The placename is derived from the Irish Slaine.

Historical Background

Despite the importance of the Hill of Slane as a feature in the landscape there is nothing to indicate that it was frequented in prehistoric times. *Ferta virorum Fiacc*, however, a name associated with Slane in the seventh century suggests that there were tumuli here (Bieler 1979, 85). In addition, it is reasonable to infer from its proximity to the large Neolithic cemetery at the "Bend of the Boyne" that it was known to early man.

There is no doubt, however, about its importance during the Early Historic period. A church was founded by St Erc who died in 513 according to the *Annals of Ulster*. Muirchu, writing in the late seventh century, states that Slane was the site where St. Patrick lit his first pascal fire (Bieler 1979, 95). Whatever the validity of this story it indicates that Slane was important enough in the late seventh century to be associated with the patron of Armagh. The deaths of many of its abbots are recorded during the eighth and ninth centuries. In 833 it was attacked by Vikings and in a more notorious raid in 950 the monastery was sacked by the Dublin Vikings and its round tower was destroyed. Slane was the scene of an important battle in 947 between Ruaidri ua Canannain and an alliance of the Dublin Vikings with the Congalach Cnogba, King of North Brega. The monastery was probably the burial place of the kings of North Brega, who had their residence at Knowth nearby, and Smyth (1979, 139) suggests that the monastery achieved its greatest prominence during the decade 947-58 when Congalach Cnogba was High-King of Ireland. After that date the annalistic entries decline in number although it was plundered again in 1156, 1161 and 1170 when, according to Gwynn and Hadcock (1970, 44) it had probably ceased to be a monastery.

During the Early Historic period there may have been a secular site at Slane also. One of the founding members of the Ui Neill Kings of North Brega was Aedh of Slane who died

in the late sixth century. A reference in the genealogies to the residence of Ochre at Slane (O'Brien 1962, 144) also suggests that there was a secular settlement site here. The souterrain on the north west of the village may mark the location of such a habitation.

After the coming of the Normans Slane was granted to Richard le Fleming who built a motte on top of the hill which was destroyed by Mael Sechlainn Mac Lochlainn in 1176. The Flemings returned, however, and were probably responsible for establishing the borough, first referred to in 1370 (Martin 1981, 50). Almost nothing is known of the subsequent history of the settlement and it is not until the eighteenth century with the construction of the mill and new village that Slane again figures in documentary sources.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. MOTTE AND BAILEY CASTLE
2. ST. ERC'S HERMITAGE (Franciscan Third Order Regular)
3. PARISH CHURCH OF ST. PATRICK
4. COLLEGE
5. OTHER MONUMENTS
6. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. MOTTE AND BAILEY CASTLE

This is to be identified with Richard le Fleming's motte built before 1176 (Orpen 1911-20, ii, 84-5) and the family remained here until the seventeenth century although they appear to have moved to the site of the present castle before 1652 (Westropp 1901, 430). It is situated on the crest of the hill west of the remains of the St. Patrick's Church and affords extensive views in all directions. It is a round mound with a basal diameter of 34 m tapering to 21 m at the top which is flat. The summit was enclosed by a stone wall which survives on the west to a height of 60 cm. The mound is 8.2 m high and was enclosed by a rock-cut fosse 5.5 m wide on average and 2.5 m deep. There are traces of an external bank.

Although there is no definite bailey the ground encircling the motte, particularly on the east and west is extremely disturbed and the entire area is enclosed by a bank and ditch. On the west, approximately 31 m from the edge of the motte, the bank is 1.6 m in height, 2 m wide with an external ditch 2.35 m wide. Further to the west, on the crest of the hill, the ground is also disturbed and could have served as an outer bailey. The bank and ditch continue almost completely around the entire motte but the disturbance on the east side is more intense and the bank and ditch are not so clear here. Westropp's (1901, 416) description of these

features suggests a single outer enclosing rampart [?Early Historic] but it may be that these earthworks represent buildings associated with the manor.

2. ST. ERC'S HERMITAGE (Franciscan Third Order Regular)

Situated in the grounds of Slane Castle Demesne on a ledge of the steep slope rising above the north bank of the Boyne. The north wall of the church is cut into the slope. Nothing is known of its early history and it is first referred to as St. Eric's Hermitage in 1512 when it was granted by Christopher Fleming to the Franciscan Third Order (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 274). The Dissolution documents mention a church and chancel with a belfry, all of which could be thrown down (White 1943, 313). In 1543 the friary was granted to Sir James Fleming, lord of Slane. The Capuchin friars were introduced in 1631 (Westropp 1901, 412). The name suggests, however, that it may be an early church site.

Description (Fig. 41)

The building consists of a nave and chancel church separated by a crossing tower. The masonry is of coursed limestone with limestone quoins.

The east window of the CHANCEL is missing but fragments of the scotion are pick-dressed in late sixteenth/early seventeenth century fashion; Westropp (1901, 428) notes that it was pointed. The north wall is featureless and has been buttressed internally at the east end. The south wall is lit by two twin-light ogee-headed windows which splay internally and have a lintelled rear-arch. The eastern example is the best preserved and has floral interlace and a marigold motif in the spandrels. The western window has only one surviving spandrel which is ornamented with floral interlace. Bar-holes and glass grooves are present. There is a small cupboard in the south and another in the east wall. There is a vault underneath which is approached by a flight of steps but its entrance is blocked by fallen masonry.

The TOWER is rectangular and has three floors. The ground floor has a round arch rising to first floor level which opens onto the chancel. A lintelled door with chamfered hood in the east wall provides access from the chancel to a rectangular chamber with a small round-headed window, having a lintelled rear-arch, on the north side; the vault is pointed and traces of wicker centering are present. The north wall has a lintelled door leading to the stair. In the south wall a lintelled door with internal pointed arch provides access into the residential building on the south. The west wall is entered through a fine pointed door with moulded jambs and a hood-moulding decorated with alternating rose and quatrefoil patterns. The door is flanked by two round-headed

plastered alcoves.

The first floor has a pointed vault and is entered through a lintelled door near which is a rectangular cupboard; the floor corbels are present and originally it would have been of timber. In the east wall a lintelled passage leads to a garderobe with external chute; it has a small rectangular lintelled window in the west wall and another in the east wall. A lintelled door in the south wall leads to the stair for the second floor but it is now inaccessible. According to Westropp (1901, 427) this floor has a fireplace and chimney. A drainage course, which would have supported the parapet, is present above the second floor and a turret rose in the north-west angle. The gable line of the chancel is apparent as a slot at this level.

The NAVE walls stand to a height of 2 m. The north wall is concealed externally by a build-up of earth and has no visible features apart from the remains of a possible window, with a chamfered granite jamb, against the west wall of the tower. Westropp (1901, 425) saw traces of a low window near the west gable which was decorated with an ornamental shield "with raised corded edges bearing a fess chequy with a fantastic animal in chief"; there is no trace of it now. The south wall is also featureless except for a door at the west end. Only portions of the doorjambs survive, but the hood moulding terminal, a large quatrefoil, is present on the west jamb. A photograph of c.1900 shows that the door was pointed and similar to the west door of the tower (Trench 1976, 29); a drawing of it by Westropp (1901, 427) shows a finial. The west gable is largely intact and has two round-headed and one straight loop haphazardly arranged in the wall. The lowermost of the round-headed windows is chamfered. The top of the gable is ivy covered but has a small belfry of one arch.

On the south side of the church is a rectangular RESIDENTIAL BUILDING separated from the tower by a short passage. The building had three floors with gables on the east and west walls. The ground floor is entered from the passage through a lintelled door. There is a blocked-up door with a flat segmental arch in the west wall. In the east wall is a blocked opening shown by Westropp (1901, 425, 429) as a fireplace. The south wall has the remains of a badly damaged fireplace and a blocked window with segmental rear-arch. The first floor was approached from the passage by a flight of steps with a round-headed hagioscope. There is a fireplace in the east wall and a garderobe with seat and a neatly corbelled roof in the south. In the west wall is a lintelled window with an hour-glass splay. The second floor was lit by a single rectangular window, with hour-glass splay, in each of the gables.

"Apostle Stone" (Pl. 30a). Late 14th/ Early 15th cent.

A large coffin-shaped block of sandstone a short distance

west of the church. Carved in relief with six apostles on each of the long sides and a Crucifixion with Mary and John on the broader end. Many of the apostles are damaged so not all can be identified. They are dressed similarly in a tunic and cloak caught over the left arm. Only SS. Paul and James are clearly identifiable. Hickey (1975) has shown that this is part of a composite tomb removed from Navan in the late eighteenth century. Its covering slab is now at Slane Castle (see below).

Dims. H 175 W 52-42 O 44 cm.

St. Catherine. 15th cent.

Large crudely-shaped block of limestone among loose stones beneath the tower. It is squared off on one side showing St. Catherine with a wheel in her left hand and her right hand across her chest. She is dressed in a cloak caught over her left arm and tunic with a crown. The style is not unlike the apostle stone (above).

Dims: H. 84 W. 48 D. 20-32 cm.

Ellenor Fleming and Penelope Moore. 1667.

Table tomb in the chancel now dismantled except for one table support and the end panel which are in position against the N wall. The mensa consists of a large rectangular slab of limestone, three edges of which have concave and convex mouldings but the fourth side was intended to rest against a wall. The top has an achievement of arms in false relief of the Flemings, Moores and Barnewalls. The supporters are two goats with collars and rings and the motto: BEARNE REGVN. Incised roman inscription:

THIS MONIMENT WAS ERECTED/ BY RANDALL LORD BARRON OF/
SLANE MARRIED FIRST TO ELLENOR/ BARNEWALL WHO HERE IS/
ENTERED DAUGHTER TO Sr RICHARD/ BARNEWALL OF
CHRICKESTOWNE/ KNIGHT & BARONETT & AFTER/ TO THE LADY
PENELOPE MOORE/ DAUGHTER TO HENRY MOORE/ EARLE OF
DROGHEDA/ ANNO 1667.

The side panel is now completely covered by the mensa but it is a large rectangular piece of limestone. Trench (1976, 30-1, 45) describes it as having the arms of Moore impaled with Spencer and the following inscription:

THIS IS THE COATE OF HENRY MOORE/ EARLE OF DROGHEDA AND
DAME ALICE/ SPENCER HIS WIFE WHOSE DAUGHTER/ PENELOPE
MOORE IS SEACOND WIFE TO/ RANDALL LORD BARRON OF SLANE/
THE SAIDE DAME ALICE SPENCER DAUGHTER TO WILLIAM/ LORD
BARRON OF WORME LAYTON WHOSE SONN BEING/ KILLED AT
NVBERRY IN HIS MATIS SERVICE WAS BEFORE BY/ CHARLES THE
FIRST HIS SAID MATIE CREATED EARLE OF/ SUNDERLAND/ THE
MOTHER TO THE SAID DAME ALICE WAS/ PENELOPE WRIOTHESLY/
DAUGHTER OF HENRY EARLE OF SOVTHAMTTON WHOSE/ BROTHER/
THOMAS EARLE OF SOVTHAMTTON SONN TO THE SAID HENRY/ WAS
CREATED LORD HIGH TREASERER OF ENGLAND/ AND DIED ANNO
1667

Dims: H. 214 W. 113 D. 9 cm.

Trench 1976, 30.

Cross. 16th cent.

Now missing, this cross was last seen here in the early 1970s. It consists of a shaft fragment decorated in relief, having a tenon at the base. The decoration consisted of a crucifixion, the Virgin and Child, a bearded ecclesiastic and St. Andrew.

Dims. H c.45.5 cm.

King, 1984, 103.

3. PARISH CHURCH OF ST. PATRICK

Although recognised by successive writers since at least the time of Archdall as the Franciscan Friary this is to be identified as the parish church. The charter to the Franciscan Third Order makes it clear that they were at St. Erc's Hermitage (Gross 1791, ii, 2).

It is the site of the Early Historic monastery referred to in the early annals (see above). The date of its foundation is not known but the association with SS. Erc and Patrick suggests that its beginnings may go back to the fifth century. Apart from the fragmentary remains of a shrine tomb nothing of pre-Norman date now remains on the hill. Incidental annalistic references, however, make it clear that it had a round tower and an oratory (dertheach). Little is known of the church during the Anglo-Norman period but in 1682 Bishop Dopping records that the nave and chancel were in ruin since 1541 (Ellison 1973, 4). A new parish church (C Of I) was built in 1712 in the village "the site of the old being inconvenient, upon a hill of difficult ascent" (Trench 1976, 7, 11).

Description (Fig. 42; Pl. 29a)

The church consists of an undifferentiated nave and chancel with a south aisle, a west tower and an annex at the east end. The masonry is of coursed limestone with limestone quoins. There are traces of internal plaster in the nave and chancel.

The east wall of the CHANCEL survives to a height of almost 5.5 m but it is featureless except for a tall rectangular lintelled recess set 90 cm above ground level on its north side; the recess measures 210 by 72 cm and is 38 cm deep. It has traces of plaster and appears to be an original feature. Externally the gable has a batter and the terminal of the gable coping survives on the north side. The north wall survives to a height of about 60 cm but the original height was closer to 4 m. The north wall is now featureless with the exception of an opening with internal splay, which Westropp (1901, 417) appears to describe as a recess. The south wall survives to a height of about 25 cm for the easternmost three metres but then there is a window and

beside it a blocked-up door with portion of a rounded arch showing on the exterior and a rounded segmental rear-arch.

The annex is entered through a door on the south side of the chancel's east wall. Only the north jamb of the door survives; this is chamfered and has a semi-pyramidal stop. The masonry of the annex seems to be entirely of recent date. The presence of the door, however, suggests that there was a building here in Late Medieval times. Westropp (1901, 416) suggested that it may have been a burial place.

The north wall of the NAVE was constructed in three sections. The oldest and thickest portion is in the centre and additions were made to it in the fifteenth century on the east and west. The wall has one mullioned window and traces of another, both probably of fifteenth century date. The south wall has a pointed door at the west end and a mullioned window similar to that in the north wall. The remainder consists of an arcade of four bays linking the nave with the south aisle. The arches are pointed, except for the westernmost which is rounded, and of different widths. Above the arcade, at clerestorey level, is a blocked round-window, probably of thirteenth century date (see Westropp 1901, 417).

The SOUTH AISLE is of sixteenth century date but the blocked clerestorey window indicates that it replaces an earlier aisle. There is an external string course which would have supported a parapet. The east window is missing except for one corner moulding; north of it is a tapering recess. The south wall has a pointed doorway with a small ogee-headed window above and there are fragments of two twin-light round-headed chamfered windows with square hood mouldings of sandstone. The west window is also missing.

The TOWER (Pl. 29b) is rectangular and is vaulted at third floor level. It originally opened onto the church with a rather wide flat arch but it has been supported by modern infill narrowing the space considerably. Externally the walls are slightly battered with a string course at belfry level and an off-set. The ground floor is rectangular with a four-centred arched door in the west wall and a blocked door in the south which formerly led directly to the stairs. The stair is entered from the nave through a pointed chamfered door, which appears to have been reset. The first floor has a large pointed window with external hood mould in the west wall. The drop tracery consists of three cusped lights; above are two large opposed mouchettes, two daggers and a quarter-ogee quatrefoil. The second and third floors are featureless but were entered through a lintelled doorways. The fourth floor (the belfry stage) has twin-light pointed windows in each wall; externally these are set into a broad recess with corbels above supporting the parapet which has tall angle-turrets. Between the corbels on the south side is a limestone head with a thin pointed face, a lined forehead and sneering expression (Trench 1976, 19).

Architectural fragments

Woman's head.

On the north pier of the main gateway into the graveyard. Sandstone. She has protruding eyes, a long straight nose and a tiny slit for the mouth. The hair appears to be covered in a type of pill-box which is decorated in front with a foliage pattern in false relief while the sides have two different snake-like animals with claws (Westropp 1901, 420).

Dims. H. 36 W. 20 D. 26

Moulded capital.

Set into the south pier of the main gateway into the graveyard

Dims. H. 18 W. 32 D. 36 cm.

Window spandrel.

Limestone. Undecorated. Set into the graveyard wall beside the north pier of the main gateway.

Dims. H. 24 W. 34 cm.

Monuments

Shrine tomb (Pl. 29a). Pre 1200.

South of the tower in the graveyard are two gable shaped stones traditionally regarded as St Ercc's grave. The side panels are missing.

Overall dims. H. 140 W 165 D. 82 cm.

W. Kenwan (Fig. 56:4) 16th cent.

Immediately east of the shrine is a coffin shaped limestone slab with gabled top broken into three pieces. Decorated in relief with an eight-armed floriated cross on steps with a chalice and book flanking the stem. The gabled end has a scalloped border and the sides are moulded. Gothic inscription: W. KENWAN.

Dims. H. ? W. 68-52.

Other Features

Piscina 1.

Set into the north-west corner of the tower there is a rectangular undecorated sandstone piscina.

Dims. H/ 16 W. 32 D. 24 cm.

Piscina 2.

Fragment of a circular sandstone vessel set in the south-east of the south aisle. Angularly bevelled basin with a flat lip and shallow interior.

Dims. H. 18 W. 42 cm.

?Cross fragment.

Set into the lowest course of the west wall in the aisle is a rectangular fragment of sandstone with a running scroll

design.

Dims. H. 13 W. 24 cm.

Well

Within the graveyard wall on the north side of the church, this is enclosed by a modern stone surround.

Dims: Diam. 140 cm.

4. THE COLLEGE

Despite statements by Westropp (1901, 411) and others as to the foundation of this college in 1512, the date of foundation is unknown.

Description (Fig. 43; Pls. 28a, 29b)

This building is constructed around a quadrangle and has four ranges, referred to here as north, south, east and west. The masonry is of coursed limestone with limestone quoins. It is built upon a rock outcrop, clearly visible on the south side.

The GATEHOUSE is a fragmentary structure east of the main buildings. It survives to a height of 4.12 m. It was a two storeyed structure, with a base batter on the east to a height of 1.7 m. It has a fragmentary barrel vault at ground floor level; the remnants of a spiral stair survive on the south-west angle giving access to a room above the gate. The bar holes for the gate are present. There is an external string course at first floor level which probably supported a parapet. There is no trace of a precinct wall associated with the gatehouse.

The original main entrance to the quadrangle was probably on the east, in the section of wall immediately opposite the gatehouse which has been replaced by modern masonry. The present entrance is on the south side opposite St. Patrick's Church.

The SOUTH RANGE is entered through a four-centre arched door with ivy leaf decoration in the spandrels. Above the door is a rectangular sandstone plaque bearing a heraldic shield with the arms of England and France impaled. Overhead at roof level is a gargoyle; the head has overhanging eyebrows, bulbous eyes, double bulging nose, a large open mouth with drooping moustache and what appears to be a small creature crawling down the forehead. The south range is divided into two sections: a Hall/ Refectory on the west, and a Tower on the east.

The Tower is rectangular and is set at an angle to the other buildings; it is earlier than the rest of the complex. Externally it has a base batter on the south side and traces of a plinth at the north-west corner. The ground floor is

entered through an irregular opening in the west wall. The chamber is rectangular with a round barrel-vault having traces of wickerwork centering. It has three slit-windows with hour-glass splay on the south, a rectangular window on the east and two pointed doors on the north, one leading to the east range, the other to a spiral stair. The north-east and south-west angles have turretted spiral stairwells. The south-west stair opens onto the exterior beside the entrance but probably opened into a wooden building originally. The first floor had large large rectangular splayed windows in the south and east walls and possibly also opening north onto the east range. The second floor has been almost completely removed but it has small splayed rectangular windows in the south and another in the east wall.

The Hall/ Refectory is a two storeyed building. The ground floor has two flat-arched doors opening from the courtyard, suggesting that it may have been subdivided. There are two large lintelled fireplaces in the north wall. There are two steps towards the west leading to a dais. There is a small garderobe in the north-west angle and a fireplace in the west wall. The upper floor was divided into two (and possibly three) rooms and was lit by four rectangular mullioned windows, transomed with semi-circular heads in the south wall; except for the eastern two windows, however, only the decorated label stops survive. One of these is a small female head, crowned and wearing a wimple whose ends terminate in a foliage design; the other is a quatrefoil design within a circle having a foliated background. There is a garderobe in the north-west angle and three fireplaces, two of which have lost their lintels.

The EAST RANGE was divided into two parts at ground floor level by a short passage. The southern section is a rectangular chamber lit by a window in the east and west walls. The northern section has a stair turret in the north-east angle leading to the first floor but all trace of this level has been removed. The openings from the north range and courtyard have been broken.

The NORTH RANGE is a residential section. It is two storeyed with two rooms on each floor. Each room has a large plain lintelled fireplace and splayed round-headed windows in the north wall. A double garderobe placed in the centre of the north wall on both floors served the rooms. The lower rooms had splayed rectangular windows opening south onto the courtyard. Access to the ground floor was through two doors opening from the courtyard, whose lower chamfered jambs alone are in situ.

The WEST RANGE was also rectangular but it has been largely removed and only a blocked door survives in its east wall which is otherwise featureless.

Dragon

Fragment of a rectangular sandstone plaque attached to the west wall of the south range. It depicts the upper half of a dragon in relief with wings and claws.

Dims. H. 48 W. 57 cm.

Head

Small head carved in high relief on a limestone panel in the west wall of the courtyard. The face has protruding eyes, a recessed pursed mouth and tightly curled hair; there is a small incised cross beside the head.

Dims. H 8 W 17 cm.

Stone with Tudor rose

Close to the head is a small rectangular sandstone plaque decorated in relief with a large flower above a small Tudor rose and a scalloped design.

Dims. H. 20 W. 16 cm.

Fleming plaque.

On the west wall of the courtyard is a sandstone plaque with the Fleming arms on a heater shaped shield, angled underneath a helm with mantling, crest and mortar (Trench 1976, 21, 42)

Dims. H. 58 W. 48 cm.

Stone with four Tudor roses

On the external west wall of the tower is a long narrow sandstone fragment which may have been a window/ door lintel.

Dims. H. 10 W. 52 D. 9 cm.

Holed stone

In the foundations for a wall in the east range.

Dims: H.13 W.39 D.33 Diam. of hole 12 cm.

Cut stone

Fifty-four fragments are gathered in the ground floor of the tower. These are largely window and door mouldings although one pilaster capital and two decorated label stops are present.

5. OTHER MONUMENTS

Mound

About 300 m north-east of the College. Westropp (1901, 424) describes "a curious long mound with a hump to the northern end". It has been suggested that this may be the remains of the "fearta virorum Feicc" (Killanin and Duignan 1962, 420). This appears to be rock outcrop, however, although several mounds occur in an undulating line across the side of the hill

Souterrain 1

In the field north of the motte on the hillslope is a souterrain running in a north-south direction.

Souterrain 2

At the bottom of the road leading up to the Hill of Slane marked "cave" on the O.S. map (Fig. 40). It is now closed over but Westropp (1901, 424) describes it as having a beehive chamber.

Font

This was originally in the old St. Patrick's Church but it is now situated at the back of the modern Catholic Church in the village (Roe 1968, 32). Undecorated octagonal limestone vessel with chamfered lower edges and narrow roll moulding at the base. Circular basin with blocked drainage hole. There is damage to the upper edge on one side possibly where a cover was attached at one time. It is mounted on a modern iron base.

Dims. H. 32 Diam. 70 D. 19 cm.

Holy well

West of St. Erc's Hermitage in Slane Castle Demesne. This is dedicated to Our Lady and is the centre of a patron on 15 August each year.

Monuments in Slane Castle Demesne

Effigy of a bishop. Late 14th/ Early 15th cent.

Set against the wall in the courtyard of Slane castle. It depicts a bishop under a broken canopy. He is dressed in a chasuble over a dalmatic and alb with amice around his neck. He has a mitre on his head which rests on a double cushion. He has prominent ears, the right hand is raised in blessing and the damaged left hand would have held the vexillum draped crozier. The lower part of the slab is damaged but his feet probably rested on an animal (see Hunt 1974, 214). Hickey (1975) has pointed out that this effigy and the "Apostle stone" at St. Erc's Hermitage were moved here from Navan in the late eighteenth century.

Dims: H. 197 W. 59-49 cm.

Water trough/ cross base

Although it has been suggested that this is a cross base (Jrl. Roy. Soc. Antiqs. Ireland 32 (1902), 210, this is in fact a rectangular water trough.

Dims. H. 55 W. 37 D. 61 cm.

Monuments at St. Patrick's Church (C. of I.).

These monuments were moved here for safe-keeping from Painestown and Stackallan.

Effigy (Painestown). Late 12th/ early 13th cent.

Set in the south wall of the church. Freestone. Ecclesiastic on a coffin-shaped slab with chamfered edges. The foot end is

pointed and the feet rest on a head. The figure is dressed in a pleated garment falling in folds from the shoulders and gathered at the waist. The hands are folded across the body. The upper part of the body with the head is missing. Hunt (1974, 214) compares it to the effigy of Simon de Rochfort at Newtown Trim and Felix O'Dullany at Jerpoint.

Grave slab (Stackallan). Late 13th/ 14th cent.

Slab decorated in relief with a floriated cross flanked by a double-edged sword, with central groove and disc-pommel. Incised lombardic inscription:

PATER NOSTER P CHARITE PVR LA/ LME SIRE RICHARD DEXCETRE
LE SECD'

(see Trench 1976, 7)

Grave slab (Stackallan). 13th/ 14th cent.

Coffin-shaped with incised two-line border. Incised cross with palmette at base and marigolds flanking the upper arms. The centre of the cross-head is also decorated with a floral motif (Trench 1976, 9).

Door (Stackallan). Late 15th cent.

Set into the west wall of the church. Red sandstone door with a low pointed arch. Moulded jambs with hood moulding terminating in label stops with ivy leaves and having a crowned head as a finial.

Heraldic Plaque (Stackallan). Late 15th cent.

Moulded rectangular plaque with basal inscription. Achievement of arms with luxuriant foliate mantling; falcon as crest with helm and shield below. The arms are those of the Barnewalls of Crickstown. (Trench 1976, 41). Gothic inscription:

SCUTU BARNABE BARNEWELLE MILIT' SCDARII/ JUST DE BACO
CAPIT REGIS. MARGARETA PLUKET FUT UXOR EI'

Leask (1960, 32) points out that Sir Barnaby Barnewall died in 1493.

Fennor

On the south bank of the Boyne, about 1km from the village, are the remains of a seventeenth century castellated house, an early church site and a souterrain (Rynne 1965). Archaeological deposits have been recorded in the vicinity of the church site (Swan 1972).

6. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. Six bronze lachets. Dug up in Slane Park in 1781. See Wilde 1857, 566.

2. Club-headed bronze stick pin. From near Slane, April 1848. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto: Sturge (ex-Bateman coll.)

918.33.63 (See Pryor 1976, No. 49).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

The Problems

Slane is important for archaeological research because of its prominence as a church site during the Early Historic period. After the coming of the Normans it was developed as a borough or small town and the years of its transition from monastery to town in the late twelfth and thirteenth centuries are particularly important.

The Medieval street pattern was replaced in the eighteenth century and the street layout of the medieval town remains to be discovered. The ford was an important feature yet nothing is known of the form, date or size of the first bridge and its successors.

Nothing is known of the form or size of pre-seventeenth century housing in Slane. It is important to know what sort of buildings the medieval inhabitants of Slane lived in and how these changed through time. It is only when houses have been found that assessments can be made of the impact of native Irish, British and continental building techniques on Slane's craftsmen. A great deal of information about changes in building methods and fashions can also be derived from stratified sites in which the remains of successive houses are preserved.

The growth and extent of the medieval town is not clearly known. The remains on the Hill of Slane indicate that it was a focal point for settlement but the Down Survey maps indicate that the seventeenth century settlement was nearer the bridge. It is important to determine whether both areas were occupied continuously or if one succeeded the other.

It is unlikely that the opportunity will arise to excavate on the site of the medieval parish church of St. Patrick or St. Erc's Hermitage but it is important to remember that architectural features are only one aspect of the archaeology of religious houses and the excavation of a medieval cemetery, such as that conducted at York, can provide otherwise unobtainable evidence about health, disease, diet, and mortality rates.

Archaeological Potential

Archaeology does not consist solely of excavation nor does it stop at ground level. The archaeological evidence for Slane's past comprises all the physical remains of man's activities on the site of the town, from its first occupation to the present day.

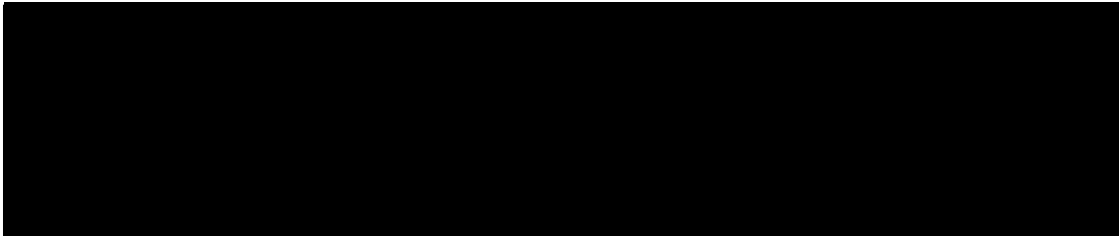

The survey of its archaeology indicates that the site of the town has been the scene of human activity in Early Historic and Medieval times. Both documentary sources and the known archaeological remains indicate that the town was occupied continuously from c.500 AD into the post-medieval period. The only remains which survive above ground are the St. Patrick's parish church, St. Erc's Hermitage, the College, a motte and bailey, and two souterrains. In view of the general lack of disturbance, archaeological deposits are likely to exist over a large area and accordingly there is the likelihood of recovering house foundations, refuse pits, industrial areas, and workshops.

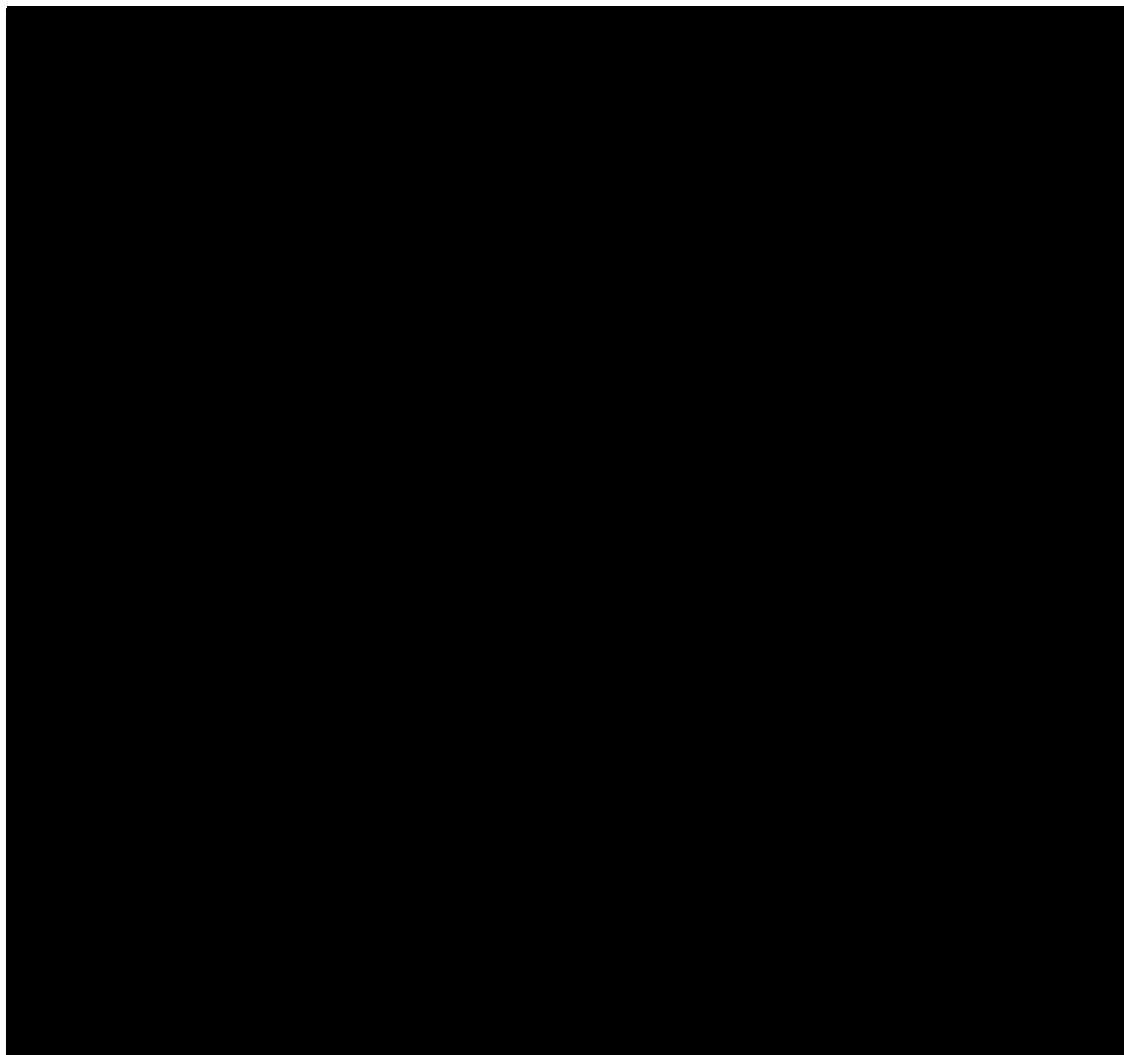
ARCHAEOLOGY, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

It is evident from the foregoing that archaeology is an important means of learning about Slane's past. The protection of buried archaeological evidence presents serious problems for not only is there the pressure of redevelopment and the high value of urban properties with which to contend, but the sites themselves are often difficult to define or evaluate; their full archaeological potential may only become apparent when an excavation is undertaken in advance of development or by observations made while development is in progress. It is important then, effort should be made to safeguard its archaeological heritage and that adequate provision is made for investigation in advance of any redevelopment. This is best achieved by use of planning constraints and by conditions attached to planning consents.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 40) delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern Slane. In the absence of archaeological excavations little can be said of the extent and depth of archaeological deposits. The development of the village in the eighteenth century probably removed some archaeological deposits but on the Hill of Slane and in Slane Castle Demense there is little evidence for modern disturbance. Accordingly, archaeological deposits are likely to exist in the area shaded pink on Fig. 40.





TRIM

Trim is situated in low-lying countryside in the south-west of Meath, on both banks of the river Boyne. The land north of the river is slightly higher than that on the south and the medieval church of St. Patrick (now the Church of Ireland cathedral) sits on the highest point. The ruins of the Augustinian Priory (the "Yellow Steeple") also occupy a rise overlooking the river. The placename is derived from Ath Truim, "the ford of the alders".

Historical Background

Ten prehistoric objects are known from Trim or its immediate vicinity and these range in date from the Neolithic to the Later Bronze Age indicating that the site of the future town was known to man in early times. Its importance to prehistoric man was almost certainly as a fording point but the possibility of a settlement site here cannot be ruled out.

It is with the coming of Christianity that the first clear evidence for a settlement at Trim occurs. It was the site of a monastery founded by St. Loman, a British saint, and is associated from at least the ninth century with St. Patrick. Abbots and bishops are recorded from the mid-eighth century. The monastery was burned in 784 and in 1128 the Annals of Ulster record that many died when the churches of Trim were burnt during a raid on Srega by Conchobar Mac Lochlainn and the Ulstermen. It was burnt again in 1143 and 1155 (AFM). A house for the Augustinian canons appears to have been founded before the coming of the Normans; it has been suggested that St. Malachy was the founder (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 195).

It is difficult to know where the Early Historic monastery of Trim was located because there are no surviving pre-Norman remains. The Augustinian Priory was situated immediately north of the river and the curving pattern formed by High Street and Navan Gate Street may represent an old monastic boundary. On the other hand, the church of St. Patrick is located outside this area, and since Patrick is associated with Trim from an early date it is to be expected that the church site would also be early. Trim Castle was built on church land and the discovery of a small rectangular building, possibly a small church, underneath the Keep (Sweetman 1978, 133) may mean that the monastery spread onto the south bank of the river. Indeed it is interesting to note that the curve of High Street is maintained by Castle Street. Could it be that the Early Historic monastery at Trim was bisected by the river Boyne?

With the coming of the Normans Trim became the centre of the new lordship of Meath. It was selected by Hugh de Lacy as the site for a fortification described in the "Song of Dermot and the Earl" as "une meisun" which he defended with a trench and stockade (Orpen 1892, 11, 3223-5). This has been variously interpreted, by Orpen (1911-20, i, 340) as a motte and by Barry (1993, 303) as a ringwork castle. It was constructed before 1174 because in that year it was attacked and destroyed by Ruaidri Ua Conchobair, King of Connacht (Orpen 1911-20, i, 339). Refortified the following year, Trim was to become the centre of the most important manor in Meath held successively by the De Lacys, De Genavilles, and De Mortimers. Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, inherited the liberty and lands of Trim from Edmund de Mortimer in 1425, and on his death at Wakefield in 1460, the lands passed to the crown (Sweetman 1978, 130). Throughout the Middle Ages its castle was particularly strong, resisting a two-month siege in 1224 and it was bypassed by Edward Bruce during his campaign in Meath in 1315 (Orpen 1911-20, iv, 173).

The town was probably established at an early stage in the invasion of Meath but the earliest reference to it as a borough is the charter of Walter de Lacy issued in the early years of the thirteenth century (MacNiocaill 1964, 74-5). Little is known of the history of the town during the succeeding three centuries but it is evident from the surviving remains that the thirteenth century must have been a period of great growth. In the fifteenth century it was an important place of pilgrimage because of a famous wooden statue of Our Lady, burnt in 1538 after the Reformation (Cogan 1867, 392).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN
2. BURGAGE PLOTS AND PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
3. DOMESTIC HOUSES
4. MARKET PLACES
5. BRIDGE
6. CASTLE
7. TOWN DEFENCES
8. ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH
9. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF ST. MARY
10. FRANCISCAN PRIORY
11. DOMINICAN PRIORY
12. HOSPITAL OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN
13. MISCELLANEOUS
14. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
15. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN (Fig. 45)

The street pattern of Trim is unusual insofar as it does not conform to any of the plan types associated with Anglo-Norman towns in Ireland (see Bradley 1985). Essentially it consists of one large curving street, i.e. Navan Gate Street, High Street and Castle Street, off which Haggard Street, Mill Street and Market Street run in an east-west direction. The pattern was completed by the St Loman Street on the north bank of the Boyne and Watergate Street and Emmet Street on the south, all of which are aligned north-south.

2. BURGAGE PLOTS AND PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

The burgage plot pattern is largely intact over most of the town. The construction of new houses in St Loman Street and the amalgamation of properties on the north of Market Street, however, has largely removed the pattern there. Elsewhere, and particularly in Navan Gate Street, High Street and Emmet Street, the long burgage plot appears to be the rule. The presence of a clear burgage plot pattern outside the town wall in Emmet Street suggests that there may have been a suburb here.

3. DOMESTIC HOUSES

There are no remains of early medieval housing in Trim but two domestic dwellings of the fifteenth century have survived.

Talbot Castle (Fig. 49; Pl. 32a)

Situated in Abbey lane, off High Street, this was built by Sir John Talbot in 1415 and has a sub-rectangular plaque on the north wall bearing the arms of Furnival and Talbot in relief, with talbots as supporters. The present building is constructed in two sections, the westernmost of which is fifteenth century, while the eastern is nineteenth. The castle was not open to us for inspection but it would appear that it consists of two floors, a vaulted undercroft with the main reception room overhead lit by three ogee-headed twin-light transomed windows in the north wall. There was probably a wall-walk level above this but it has been removed and replaced by a slated roof. On the south side is an enclosed garden stretching to the banks of the Boyne with two semi-circular turrets at the waterfront; both appear to be of recent origin.

Nangle Castle (Fig. 50).

Situated in Abbey lane immediately north of Talbot Castle. It is completely neglected and has a galvanised roof enabling it to function as a shed. It is rectangular with its long axis aligned NW/SE. The walls only survive to first floor level and large parts of the south wall have been

rebuilt. The end walls are slightly higher than the side walls. The ground floor is featureless except for a recess in the east wall. There is a small rectangular annex in the north-east corner at first floor level, to accommodate a garderobe, lit by a straight lintelled slit with internal splay. The east wall has a corbelled extension at first floor level lit by a single straight slit. The west wall has a similar slit at first floor level with an eroded stone head projecting at the south-west corner.

The building lacks diagnostic dating features but it can be dated to the fifteenth century on the basis of its similarity to other fortified town houses within the Pale (Murtagh 1982).

4. MARKET PLACE

This was located in Market Street which is broader than any of the other streets in the town. There was a market cross here and a pyramid of seven or eight steps called the "market cross" on which it was believed there had been a silver statue of St. John (Cogan 1867, 312). It survived into the eighteenth century opposite the Court House.

5. BRIDGE

The early growth of Trim appears to be linked to its importance as a fording point. During the Middle Ages there was one bridge, represented today by an eighteenth century bridge of four arches. Watengate Bridge is of nineteenth century date.

6. CASTLE

Situated on the south bank of the Boyne this is the largest medieval castle in Ireland and encloses an area of over 3 acres within its curtain wall. It consists of a central Keep surrounded by a curtain wall having seven towers and two gates; in the north west angle is the remains of a hall.

No evidence was found during the excavations to suggest that the initial castle built by Hugh de Lacy before 1174 was a motte (Sweetman 1978, 185). It is possible, as Barry (1983, 303) suggests, that the initial fortification was a ringwork but it is equally possible that the construction of the keep destroyed the evidence for a motte. The castle was built on church lands and the earliest building on the site (Sweetman's Structure J) appears to be the remains of a small oratory (Sweetman 1978, 131-3). The earliest fortifications

consist of a fosse and gate feature (Sweetman's Structure B) which predate 1200. The architectural style of the Keep also predates 1200 although there are documentary references which suggest that it was not completed until 1220 (Sweetman 1974, 71). The curtain wall appears to have been built in two sections. The towers on the north side are square in plan whereas those on the south are round. Sweetman (1978, 186) has suggested that the Keep was begun and north curtain built c.1200 but that as a result of the disagreements between Walter de Lacy and King John the completion of the keep and the construction of the south curtain did not take place until 1220 or slightly later. The archaeological evidence suggests that the castle was not intensively occupied until the mid-thirteenth century, probably coinciding with the coming of Geoffrey de Geneville to Trim in 1254 (Sweetman 1978, 186). The castle was lived in by de Geneville until 1302 and although some fifteenth century objects were found in the course of excavation the archaeological evidence indicates that occupation largely ceased after c.1350 (Sweetman 1978, 130). In the mid-seventeenth century the castle was reoccupied by Confederate forces but was abandoned in 1649 (Sweetman 1978, 187).

Description (Fig. 46; Pl. 31)

The KEEP is sited on top of a gently sloping hill almost centrally within the bawn. It is square in plan with a smaller square tower projecting from each of its sides, except on the north where it was removed before the beginning of the eighteenth century. It is constructed on bedrock and the base has a battered plinth which excavation showed to have been added in the mid-thirteenth century (Sweetman 1978, 131). There is a clear break in the masonry about half-way up the Keep indicating that it was constructed in two phases. The masonry consists of coursed limestone rubble with sandstone quoins and jambs in the lower portion. Sandstone is lacking in the upper part and the windows are square-headed by contrast with the rounded arches below. The masonry in the lower part is also more compact.

The Keep walls average 3.75 m in thickness and it stands to a maximum height of 21 m. The main part of the Keep is three storeyed but the projecting towers are four storeyed. Externally the building is plain and unadorned. Near the top the main wall faces are set back slightly but the corner turrets and the smaller towers rise vertically upwards. It was entered at first floor level through a round headed door in the north face of the tower projecting from the west wall. This floor is divided by a thick central wall into a large hall and a narrow chamber. The chamber has a fireplace with circular chimney and large round arched windows with internal splay in the north, south and east walls; a lintelled mural passage leads to the west tower which has three arrow embrasures which probably had straight loops originally, but two of them were replaced in the sixteenth century with a

small chamfered mullioned window. The hall has large round arched windows in the north and south walls and lintelled mural passages lead into the north (missing) and south towers; the latter has three arrow embrasures with straight loops. The earliest stage of the keep was no higher than this and the sandstone springers for the roof supports are present in the cross wall while the gable line of the original roof is evident in the north and south walls. The floors above lack the central dividing wall but they are similarly laid out except that the windows are smaller and square-headed. The towers are vaulted on the ground floor and the east tower has a chapel on the second floor, which has a round arched wall recess.

The CURTAIN WALL survives almost completely intact on the south and west and fragments remain on the east side; it had a circuit of about 400 m. It was built against the scarped face of a natural hill and there is an average drop of 5 m between internal and external ground level. There is a wide plinth along the west face and it was surrounded by a moat. It averages 8 m high externally and 3 m internally, and has an average width of 1.3 m. Internally, the wall is broken by square embrasures and long straight arrow loops.

The towers are described below in an anti-clockwise direction beginning with the West Gatehouse (see Sweetman 1978, 147-52).

The WEST GATEHOUSE is rectangular and is divided into a barrel-vaulted passage with a rectangular chamber on the north. The chamber is placed above a cellar with a flagged floor. There is no access to the cellar from outside and it must have been entered originally through a trap-door. Excavation indicated that the cellar was deliberately filled in around the middle of the fourteenth century (Sweetman 1978, 147-8). The first floor level is featureless. The portcullis groove is present in the passage.

TOWER A lay just inside the line of the old town wall. It is open-backed with one straight loop in the south wall. Excavation showed that the basal 5 m of fill consisted of sterile redeposited boulder clay which would appear to have been packed into position when the tower was completed (Sweetman 1978, 149).

TOWER B is open-backed and has two levels, each having two straight loops within almost square embrasures. Excavation revealed that it was back-filled in the seventeenth century probably for use as a gun platform (Sweetman 1978, 149). Immediately east of this tower, at the base of the curtain wall is a small sallyport.

TOWER C is similar to B except that it has a sallyport and a thirteenth century blocking wall. It was divided into two floors each having two straight arrow loops. Immediately to the north is a rectangular stone structure added in the

seventeenth century. Like B, the tower was backfilled in the seventeenth century probably for use as a gun platform (Sweetman 1978, 149-50). The sallyport is approached by a mural stair; it has a segmental arch.

TOWER D is also open-backed and has a thirteenth century blocking wall similar to C but, unlike the other towers, it has three floors. There are three straight loops within embrasures on the ground floor level and one on the first floor. A mural stair rises from the ground floor and led originally to the wall walk of the curtain wall but it is now blocked by modern masonry. This tower was also backfilled in the seventeenth century (Sweetman 1978, 152). Immediately north of the tower is the remains of a lime kiln.

The BARBICAN GATE (Fig. 47) consists of a round tower with a narrow passageway spanning the moat leading to the rectangular barbican on the south side. The tower has three floors but is lacking its wall-walk and parapet levels; the barbican, also of three floors, is complete. The tower is entered from the north through a pointed arch leading into a barrel-vaulted passage, but most of the vault has collapsed. The passage is a narrow rectangle with a mural passage on the east and west giving access to two straight loops on each side; the portcullis groove (of red sandstone) is on the south in a pointed arch. A spiral stair in the western mural passage leads to the upper floors. The first floor has an irregular hexagonal plan and from here the portcullis and drawbridge were operated. It has one arrow embrasure in the north wall and two in the east, all of which have straight loops. A mural passage in the west wall with two straight loops leads onto the curtain wall. On the east a mural passage leads onto the wall-walk of the link-wall between the tower and barbican. A broken door in the east wall leads to the curtain wall on that side, and immediately to the north of it is a lintelled fireplace. The second floor is also somewhat hexagonal in plan and has five arrow embrasures with straight loops, and a fireplace.

The tower is linked to the barbican by two straight walls 2.5 m apart. These are arched at ground level in order to span the moat and are plain except for two straight loops in the west wall and one in the east wall at first floor level. The space was crossed originally by means of a drawbridge.

The barbican is entered through a rounded arch on the north side. The passage is short and narrow and leads through a rounded arch to the exterior; this arch is lower than its northern counterpart but its base is still some 2.5 m above ground level indicating that it must have been approached originally by means of a wooden ramp. The first floor is a small rectangular chamber with a straight-looped arrow embrasure in the south wall and a shorter straight loop in both the east and west walls. A lintelled door in the north wall leads to the wall-walk level of the link-wall connecting the barbican with the tower. The second floor was the

wall-walk level and has four angle-loops and four crenels.

TOWER E is an open-backed angle-tower of three floors. The lower two floors have three embrasures with straight loops on each floor. The upper part of the tower is plain. Almost all of the curtain wall is missing on the east side fronting the Boyne.

An angle fragment of TOWER F was exposed in an excavation cutting. It was sufficient to show that it is of rectangular form.

Only the north-east wall of TOWER G survives. It has an external plinth and stands to second floor height. The ground floor has a single centrally placed straight loop. On the first floor are two straight looped embrasures and on the second floor is one similar embrasure.

The HALL was L-shaped but it only survives in fragmentary condition. It has an external base batter and stands to first floor height. The ground floor on the east side consists of a barrel vaulted chamber. There are remains of four arrow embrasures in the north wall on the first floor. The north end appears to have been a rectangular tower. It has a straight looped arrow embrasure in the west wall and two in the north wall; one of the latter has a modern stair broken through it. An L-shaped wall projects to the north; its function is unclear.

The wall footings of a number of features were discovered south of the Keep in the course of excavation. The large open-ended rectangular structure (Structure B in Sweetman 1978) was commenced in the late twelfth or early thirteenth century as a gate feature and was extended on the east in the mid-thirteenth century (Sweetman's Structure E) and on the west in the seventeenth (Sweetman 1978, 133-5). The wall immediately north of this structure also appears to have been added in the seventeenth century (Sweetman 1978, 156: wall F). Partly underlying the Keep is a rectangular structure surviving to a height of two courses which Sweetman (1978, 131-3) has suggested may be the remains of a pre-Norman oratory.

The excavated portion of the fosse surrounding the Keep consists of two sections termed Fosse East and Fosse West by Sweetman (1978, 135-40). Both are flat-bottomed but the west side was slightly larger than the east. Fosse west was 8.5 m wide at the mouth narrowing to 6.5 at the base and had a maximum depth of 3m; fosse east had a maximum width of 8 m at the mouth narrowing to 3.8 m at the base and was 1.75 m in maximum depth. The fosse filled up during the late thirteenth century and by the late fourteenth it had fallen out of use completely.

7. TOWN DEFENCES

The defences of Trim enclosed an area of 19.2 hectares (49 acres) and had a circumference of 2 km (1.25 miles). Very little is known of the defences themselves or of the manner in which they developed. The earliest indication of the presence of a wall is the murage grant of 1290 (Irish Record Commission 1829, 36) and this was followed by others in 1316 (Butler 1854, 28) and 1393 (Irish Record Commission 1829, 89). The town was avoided by Bruce during his campaigns of 1315-8. It appears to have been refortified during the mid-seventeenth century but no details survive. Only fragments of the curtain wall are extant and there are no sources to indicate the form or number of its mural towers.

Description

Trim Castle formed the defences on the south-east side of the town. From tower B of the castle the wall crossed Castle Street and ran eastwards towards Dublin Gate. Here a plain stretch of wall, 50 m long and 85 cm thick, survives (marked "town wall" on Fig. 44). At its western end it is incorporated into a large eighteenth/nineteenth century building. The wall ran westwards from DUBLIN GATE (site only) for a distance of about 75 m before turning north following the property boundary at the rear of Emmet Street as far as the WATER GATE (site only). Sections of the wall, mostly lacking facing stones are present along this stretch; a rounded bend in the wall-line before it turns for the Water Gate may represent a mural tower. There is no evidence to suggest the existence of a river wall. It may be inferred from the site of Water Gate and the distance separating the north-east wall of Trim castle from the Boyne that the river was originally broader.

The line of the wall on the north side of the river appears to be marked on the west by the property boundary north of Sarsfield Avenue and at the rear of the Rectory from where it continued as far as the ATHBOY GATE (site only). Near the river Boyne is a short section of wall, about 60 cm wide, and behind it another section backing onto an earthen bank which may be part of the wall. The line of the wall continued eastwards from Athboy Gate for about 200 m before turning south to NAVAN GATE (site only). Along the north side of this stretch, a wall survives behind the supermarket in Haggard St. which broadens to become a wide earthen bank and skirts the field in which the Dominican Friary was situated. This bank may well preserve foundations of the wall. From the point at which the wall turns to the south a series of new housing estates have been built obliterating its course.

In the property boundary immediately south of the site of Navan Gate the base of the wall, 95cms wide, is present. The wall-line ran south to the end of this property and then turned south-west, where it has an external ditch, before

running south to Sheep Gate and the river. Here the wall is 80cm wide with up to eight courses of stonework and reaches a height of 1.5 m but it is difficult to know whether it is original or not.

SHEEP GATE (Fig. 49) is the only surviving gate and is bonded into the town wall on the north side. It is rectangular and was two-storeyed; the masonry consists of coursed limestone. The passage has a rounded arch at the east and west ends, that at the east being the narrower. On the south is a barrel vaulted rectangular passage entered through a lintelled door. A door in the north wall with reconstructed lintel leads to a spiral stair in the north-west angle giving access to the floor above.

8. ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH (Fig. 51)

As outlined earlier it is difficult to be certain when this church was founded and it may well be pre-Norman. During the Middle Ages it seems to have functioned merely as a chapel because the Augustinian priory was the parish church. The Visitation Book of Bishop Dopping (1682) notes that the nave was in good repair although the chancel was ruined since 1641. He adds that the roof was slated and the windows glazed (Ellison 1972, 8, 12). It is now the cathedral for the Church of Ireland diocese of Meath.

Description

The medieval remains consist of the ruined chancel and the west tower. The tower is of fifteenth century character and the chancel has an inserted window of sixteenth century date.

The north and south walls of the CHANCEL survive to a height of about 6 m and are built of roughly coursed limestone with a rubble core. Only the foundations of the east wall are present. The north wall is featureless except for a brass matrix set into the wall, and a splaying window jamb. The south wall has a sixteenth century three light cusped ogee-headed window with open spandrels under a rectangular hood moulding terminating in human heads (Pl. 32b); the north terminal is a bishop and the south one is crowned. Leask (1960, iii, 196) regarded the latter as a representation of Richard, Duke of York (d.1460), and dated the window to the mid-fifteenth century. The identification is nothing more than fanciful, however, and it is difficult to parallel this type of hood mould at such an early date. The sandstone mouldings of an earlier window are present in the wall and the east end of the wall has been rebuilt.

The TOWER is rectangular, with a projecting stair-turret on the north-west angle, and has five floors with wall-walk

and battlements above. The masonry consists of fairly evenly coursed limestone. The east wall has some fragmentary masonry jutting out where a buttress may have been attached and the south side is obscured by the modern church nave. Externally the tower has a string course slightly less than half way up and above it the walls are stepped back slightly. On the east side, however, the string course is lower and the wall is sharply stepped. The stair turret is lit by narrow slit windows two of which are in the west wall and six in the north wall.

The ground floor forms the entrance porch of the present day cathedral and has a modern door inserted in the west wall (Pl. 33b). It has a round barrel vault which has been recently repointed. There is a plain pointed door in the south wall giving access to the church. Originally an opening in the north wall provided access to the spiral stair but this has been blocked off and a modern pointed door inserted into the west wall providing access directly from outside. The first floor is featureless except for a plain rectangular deeply splayed window in the west wall. The second floor has a blocked rectangular window in the north wall. The third floor has a splayed rectangular window in the east wall. Externally, in the west wall, is a rectangular plaque with a heater shaped shield bearing the arms of Mortimer and de Burgh; above is a small limestone head. The fourth floor (the belfry stage) has pointed twin-light transomed windows in each wall with smaller cusped, pointed or ogee-headed single-light windows placed above in the east, south and west walls. The twin-light window in the south wall into which a large clock has been inserted appears to have modern mullions; above it is a small limestone head with pointed face wearing a flat cap. The wall-walk is supported on a drainage course and its modern roof is flat. The stair turret rises above the wall-walk level.

East of the tower the foundations of the old north wall of the nave survive externally beneath the present nave wall. Traces of an arch abutting the tower are visible on the interior suggesting that there may have been a north aisle originally.

Architectural Fragments. 15th/16th cents.

Over sixty fragments of cut stone survive in the vicinity of the church. These are gathered beside the chancel and tower while others have been placed beneath a nineteenth century table tomb south-west of the church. These include window mullions, door jambs, capitals and gable fragments. Some are of sandstone but the majority are of limestone. Two, in the porch, are decorated with an undulating branch of ivy and acorn leaves in relief.

?Gargoyle.

Rectangular block of sandstone placed against the left side of the porch re-used as a grave slab. Crudely incised inscription on one side:

PRAVAL/ IIVMPRIS/ DEPAED/ THIS../ LIFE V / NOVE/ MBER
1767

The stone was clearly reused because part of a head with a mane of hair occurs above this.

Dims H 74 W 20 T. 20 cm.

Memorial Monuments

Grave slab. 13th/14th cent.

In the ruined chancel. Fragment of a coffin-shaped limestone slab. It has two chamfered edges and traces of a fleur de-lis cross. Its dimensions suggest that it was probably for a child.

Dims: L 42 W 19 D 7 cm.

Cross slab. 13th/ 14th cent.

Small coffin-shaped limestone slab with an incised cross set in the porch. The terminals, Knop and centre of the cross are made from circles

Dims: L 69 W 2-16 T 15 cm.

Memorial brass matrix. Early 14th cent.

In the ruined chancel. Coffin-shaped conglomerate with indents for a marginal lombardic inscription enclosed by a narrow border and the bust of an ecclesiastic under a pinnacled canopy. It is broken in two and in very bad condition. The lettering is indecipherable now but according to Butler (1954, 155) it read as follows:

...HIC: RECTOR: ET: ARCIHILEVITES]: HIC: IACET: IRA:
DEI: PACIFICETVR: EI:

Dims: L 198 W 80-75 Depth of indent c.2mm

FitzGerald 1921-5, 221

Effigial slab. c.1425-50.

Set within a modern frame in the porch. Red sandstone. Rectangular slab decorated with a male and female head above a crucifixion in relief. The male has short curled hair while the lady wears a barrette. Christ is nailed to a floriated cross with two angels above his head swinging censers. He has a halo and his feet are crossed. John and Mary stand on either side, both dressed in cloaks and tunics. At their feet are two undulating stems of foliage which grow from the tails of two affronted animals. The base has been recut with two shamrock leaves.

Dims: L 191 W 52 cm

Hunt 1974, 215-6.

Walter Thombe. 145B.

In the ruined chancel. Large rectangular sandstone slab set up as a table tomb on a low side panel. Incised gothic marginal inscription:

HIC: [i]IAC[ce]IT:/ [W]IAC[te]IRUS TH/ OVMBE: [de Trym]/ QI:

OBIIT: XVIII: DIE: JUNII: A:D: M:CCCC:LVIII.
 Dims: L 211 W 111 T 12 cm.
 FitzGerald 1921-5, 223

John Ward. 1509.
 Plain rectangular limestone slab now set in the porch.
 Marginal gothic inscription:
 HIC JACET/ JONES WARDE [Decretorum doctor quondam istius
 ecclesiae/ rector qui obiit] XX/ VI DIE FEBRUARII ANNO D
 Mo D VIIIIo
 Dims: L 180 W 77
 FitzGerald 1921-5, 210-20.

Walter Martin and Jenet Delapatrik. 1541 et seq.
 Rectangular limestone slab set in a modern stone frame in the
 porch. It is broken in four pieces. The lower part is
 decorated with an eight armed cross, in false relief within a
 circle, rising from steps; the cross has a diamond shaped
 centre and below the circle is a Tudor rose. The remainder of
 the slab has a raised and incised gothic inscription, much of
 which is now missing:
 HIC Jacet WALTERUS MART/ INUS [quonda]M DE TRYM/
 [burgensis] CU PARENTIBUS/ [avis et pr]IOAUIS SUIS ET
 ETIA/ [Jeneta O]JELA PATRICK UXOR EIUS/ [qui obiit men]SE
 IUNII ANO SAL/utis 1541. HIC QUOQUE JACET/ [Nichol]AUS
 MARTINUS FILIUS/ [dicti] WALTERI ET JENETE CUM/ [uxore]
 SUA KATHERINA ASPOLL/ QUI OBIIT XXVo DIE IUNII ANNO DNI
 1590 CUIUS FILIUS WALTERUS, MA/ [rtinus et Jen]JETA GERRY
 EIUS/ [uxor hoc monumen]TU FIERI FE/

On the bottom step of the cross and the dexter side of the
 slab:
 [hoc est signu humane r]EDEPTIONIS [et insig]NE XRIANI
 [baptisimat]e/ datu quo] MORS XRI [rocolitur] ET DIABOLUS/
 FUGRATUR.
 On the sinister side of the cross an incomplete inscription:
 ... YMIA NOS G[enuit]... NITIS YMIA GA:/... ASTRA
 COLUNT ANIMAE CORPO[ra terra t]JENET
 Dims: L 165 W 63 cm approx.
 FitzGerald 1921-5, 220.

Elizabeth and Thomas Ash. c.1625.
 Rectangular limestone slab in four pieces, in the ruined
 chancel. The upper part has an achievement of arms in false
 relief consisting of a heater-shaped shield with two coats of
 arms impaled, (a chief ermine, three pheons, impaling two
 chevronels for Ash with two crests, a griffins head in a
 coronet and a squirrel for Ash). The lower end has an
 inscription in Gothic lettering:
 LOVE AND AGE HAVE JOINED IN ONE/ TO LAY THE[se two under
 this] STONE,/ [sir] THO[mas ash, his lady] ELIZABETH /
 [both turned to ashes in this house of death/ and now
 both having run their glasses,/ they hope to be revived
 from ashes]
 Dims: L 190 W 100 cm.
 Sir Thomas Ash died in 1625 (FitzGerald 1921-5, 222).

John Greg & William Griffith. 1629.

Fossiliferous limestone table tomb in the ruined chancel.

Marginal gothic inscription in false relief:

HERE LYE Ye BODIES OF JOHN/ GRE[g dea]N OF [Lismore and
first] VICAR OF TRYM/ WHO DYED IAN 21 1629/ AND WILLIAM
GRI[ffith next] VICAR OF TRYM / WHO DYED []

Dims: H 185 W 96 D 13 cm

Fitzgerald 1921-5, 223

Isabell Iaffayes. 1666.

Broken sandstone slab with incised inscription, on the porch floor.

ISBELL IAFFRYES / DEPART[ed] / THIS LYF[e] / NOVEMBr 12/
1666

Dims: L 95 W 31 T. 9 cm.

FitzGerald 1921-5, 73

John Revell. 1694.

At the north-east corner of the tower is a rectangular sandstone pillar with one chamfered edge. Incised inscription:

I R/ IOHN REVELL/ HIS BURING/ PLEACE WHO/ DIED THE 24/
DAY OF IUNE/ 1694

Dims: L 78 W 34 T 22 cm.

FitzGerald 1921-5, 73.

Kenlis. 17th cent.

Grave slab set high up on the west end of the church's south wall. Incised inscription:

HIC JACE/ KENLI/ QV/ PREPOSIT QV/ MA .. N/ HABVT N.../
GARRY/ FILI/.

Dims. L 80 cm approx.

Other Monuments

Font A. ?c.1200.

Harbison (1970, 198) mentions the existence of a large baptismal font of c.1200 at the back of the church. This is now missing.

Font B (Piscina-Font)

Set into the west wall of the nave. Shallow limestone piscina described by Roe (1968, 101-5) as a piscina although it is now used as a font. It has a side drainage hole and a round shallow basin. The four rectangular side panels are decorated with angels carrying shields and traces of the original heraldic tinctures survive. From left the shields are 1) Butler (or, a chief indented azure); 2) the Arms of England; 3) the Royal Arms impaling those of De Burgo and De Mortimer; 4) plain. Above each shield on the concave chamfer below the double moulded rim are a series of animals. From the left 1) a dragon; 2) a mantichora; 3) a scaly creature identified by Roe as a crocodile; 4) a fox and goose. The piscina is set on a moulded octagonal limestone capital which in turn rests on a fluted sandstone column. Set vertically into the wall

behind the font is an octagonal limestone piscina with a shallow basin.

Dims: H 53 W 60 Diam 52 Diam of basin 11. H of panels 35.5 W of panels 18 cm.

Two Heraldic plaques. ?15th cent.

Mounted on the left-hand side of the church porch are two rectangular fossiliferous limestone plaques each divided into 3 rectangular sections with an angel holding a large shield carved with coats of arms. The decoration is in false relief and the angels are similar to those on font B and they may have been designed to accompany it. The arms are:

- 1) On a fesse between three crescents, as many estoiles
- 2) A lion debruised by a fesse, within a border wavy
- 3) Or, four lions rampant in quadrangle; 1 and 4 sable; 2 and 3 gules (Arms of Queen Philippa, wife of Edward III and mother of Lionel, Duke of Clarence).

The second plaque has:

- 1) Quarterly, 1st and 4th A bend, in sinister chief a tower (Plunket). 2nd and 3rd Billety.
- 2) Quarterly, 1st and 4th. A lion rampant. 2nd and 3rd. Two lions passant.
- 3) A heart pierced saltire-wise by two swords.

Dims. H 35 W 60 D 4 approx.

The families represented have not been identified.

FitzGerald 1921-5, 76.

Thomas A' Beckett stone. 15th cent.

Large rectangular granite slab mounted in the porch. Decorated in false relief with two panels, one with an archbishop, his hand raised in blessing under a cusped ogee-headed canopy. The other has eight circles enclosing triskeles arranged in three rows with two cusped semi-circles at either end of the middle row. Miss Roe suggests that it may be a copy of the shrine of Thomas A' Beckett.

Dims: H 98 W 136 T 10 cm.

Fish plaque.

In the porch. Rectangular sandstone plaque with three horizontal fish below a border of ivy leaves. It is probably a heraldic plaque.

Dims: H 63 W 54 cm.

Hexagonal shaft (Pl. 30b) [from Ratoath].

Sandstone. Free-standing in the porch. Decorated with six apostles set in crocketed cusped and pinnacled ogee-headed niches. The base has a small mortice and the upper part is broken. This missing part may have had another set of six figures because the lower part of three figures can be seen on one side. The apostles are all bearded with moustaches; they have curled hair and flat caps, and they wear tunics and mantles. Each hold individual iconographic attributes: 1) Bartholomew 2) James Minor 3) St. John 4) Matthias 5) Andrew 6) Thomas. The function of the piece is unknown.

Dims: H 80 W 33 D 20 cm.

9. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY

Gwynn and Hadcock (1970, 195-6) suggest that this house, dedicated to St Mary, was founded before the coming of the Normans but its earliest recorded patron is Hugh de Lacy. The Dissolution documents indicate that it functioned as the parish church of the town, a feature which would suggest that it occupies the site of the pre-Norman monastery. Although little is known of its history it is clear that it was an important monastery during the Middle Ages. Parliament was held here in 1484, 1487 and 1491. In 1423 an indulgence was granted because the church was in need of repair. A shrine of Our Lady was housed here until 1538 and was an important object of devotion and pilgrimage. The monastery was dissolved in 1539 and granted to Sir Anthony St. Leger in 1542.

The abbey is situated on the east side of the town on a ridge overlooking the river Boyne. The only surviving fragment is the tower known locally as the "yellow steeple".

Description (Figs. 52-3; Pl. 33a)

Only the south and east walls of the TOWER survive but it is evident from this that it was rectangular with projecting turrets and had eight floors. The turrets have a slight base batter and there are four external string-courses. The ground floor is entered on the south side through a lintelled door recently reassembled with fragments of tooled sandstone window mouldings. Immediately above the door is a pointed window also recently assembled and inserted. The ground floor had a barrel vault and there is a blocked rectangular window in the east wall. There is now no access to the upper floors but originally they were reached by a spiral stair in the south-west angle turret. The first floor has a single ogee-headed light with a hood moulding, in the east wall. The second floor has a cusped round-headed window in the east wall with window seats internally; in the south wall is a lintelled window. The third floor was lit by a narrow rectangular slit in the south wall. Two lintelled doors are present in the east wall at fourth floor level together with the fluted springers for a central arch bearing the floor above; there is a single ogee-headed light with external hood in the south wall. The fifth floor (the belfry stage) had a tall pointed window divided into two transomed lights in each wall. The sixth floor has a narrow lintelled slit in the east wall. The seventh floor was the parapet level with the turrets rising above.

In the field immediately east of the tower and near the town wall is a round earthwork 10.5 by 8.9 m. Its function is unclear.

10. DOMINICAN FRIARY

This friary, dedicated to St. Mary, was founded by Geoffre de Geneville in 1263 and he was buried here on his death in 1314 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 230). Little is known of the history of the house but in 1368 the church was burned. The Dissolution documents indicate that the precinct of the monastery, including an orchard, gardens and cemetery, covered four acres (White 1943, 308). In 1542 the friary was granted to Sir Thomas Cusack but the friars returned to Trim in the seventeenth century (Fenning 1961-3).

The friary was situated immediately north of the town near the site of the Athboy Gate. No structural remains are visible. De Burgo (1762, 264) says that the buildings were removed for road metal shortly before he wrote but some fragments remained until the mid-nineteenth century because they are described by Wilde (1850, 85). At present there are six chunks of masonry on the site, one of which has a round arch. However the entire field is full of earthworks and there is no doubt that the layout of the monastery could be rediscovered by excavation.

11. FRANCISCAN FRIARY

The earliest direct reference to this house is in 1318 but it was probably founded in the first half of the thirteenth century (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 260). It was located close to the river on the south bank of the Boyne. It was flooded in 1330 and the Dissolution documents indicate that it had a watermill nearby. In the mid-sixteenth century it was turned into a courthouse. There are no extant remains.

12. HOSPITAL OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN (Fig. 54)

This is first mentioned in 1335 (McNeill (1932, 60). It is not clear whether it belonged initially to an Order or not but in the mid-fifteenth century Henry VI gave custody of the house to the Franciscans in whose hands it remained until the Dissolution (Butler 1954, 223-4).

It is situated south of the town on a slight rise overlooking the river Boyne. The remains consist of the foundations of a small church. The masonry is of roughly coursed mixed stone. Only the lower courses survive but little information can be derived from them because the building has been repointed recently and the site landscaped. The walls stand to an average height of just under a metre but apart from a pointed arch linking the nave and chancel, the building is featureless. There were doors, almost directly opposed, in the north and south walls of the nave.

Architectural Fragments

Capital

Set into the south corner of the chancel arch. Decorated with a partly damaged woman's head having a large recessed space for the mouth. The eyes protrude under an overhanging forehead and the hair is carved in straight lines away from the face. The abacus is decorated with twisted cord and a cross-hatched border.

Window moulding. 13th cent.

Set into the west wall is the limestone centrepiece of a cusped ogee-headed window with recessed undecorated spandrels.

13. MISCELLANEOUS

Heads on the Boyne Cottages

On the gable wall of the westernmost Boyne cottage are two projecting stones which may be defaced heads. They are now covered in brown pebble-dash.

Greek Church and Nunnery

Wilde (1850, 87) mentions that the sites of these buildings were pointed out on the south side of the town. Their location is now unknown.

14. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

One excavation has taken place at Trim Castle (Sweetman 1978). This uncovered considerable evidence of the structural history of the castle which has been incorporated into its description above. The results were also important for medieval Irish archaeology, however, and enabled the recognition of a native pottery type now known as Trim ware.

15. LIST OF STRAY FINDS

1. Stone axehead. From Trim. NMI 1929: 1593.
2. Stone hammer axe. Trim. NMI 1881: 431.
3. Four bronze axeheads. "From Trim and Tipperary". Cat. Neligan Coll. (1853), lot 9.
4. Bronze flanged axehead of Derryniggin type (Harbison 1969, 62: No. 1903). From Trim. NMI E92: 337.
5. Bronze flanged axehead of Derryniggin type (Harbison 1969, 58: No. 1735). British Museum London: W.G.1546.

- 6-8. Bronze flanged axehead and two bronze palstaves. From Trim. British Museum London: W.G.1552-5.
9. Bronze basal-looped spearhead. From River Boyne near Trim. Private possession.
10. Bronze socketed axehead. From Trim. NMI 1959:123 (see Jnl. Roy. Soc. Antiqs. Ireland 91 (1959), 79.
11. Bronze gouge. From near Trim. NMI 1931: 224.
12. Glass bead. Found with one gold and three silver brooches at Trim. NMI W.58 (Q-84005). The whereabouts of the brooches is unknown.
13. Bronze ring pin. From "St. John's Castle", Trim. NMI 1932: 13.
14. Bronze square spatulate-headed stick pin (Pryor 1976, 96: No. 93). From near Trim, 1942. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto: Sturge (ex-Bateman coll.) 913.23.84.
15. Bronze crucifix (Early Medieval). From Trim. NMI 1902:3.
16. Portion of an iron key. "Found probably in the neighbourhood of Trim". NMI WK. 48: W.31.
17. Iron key. Found "probably in Trim". NMI: WK.25: W.2.
18. Brass thimble. From Trim. NMI W95.
19. Standard weight. From Trim. NMI B1565.
20. Iron spearhead (Post-medieval). From the abbey at Trim (This could be Newtown Trim also). NMI 1909: 77.
21. Portion of an early matchlock. From Trim. NMI WK.170 (p.89).
22. Coin hoard of Charles II. The latest coin is of 1683. From Trim. NMI 1942: 99-101.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

The Problems

Trim is important to archaeological research for two basic reasons. Firstly, it was the centre for an important monastery in the Early Historic times and secondly it was the principal town in Meath during the Anglo-Norman period. It offers an important opportunity of examining the transition from monastery to town and, accordingly the twelfth and thirteenth centuries are particularly important.

The street pattern has remained largely intact since the Middle Ages but the nature of the road surface at various periods is not known. Indeed streets should be examined if at all possible because they also permit the results of excavations on one side of a street to be linked with those on the other. This enables the reconstruction of entire streetscapes in the manner which has proved so successful at Novgorod.

The ford was an important feature in the growth of the town yet nothing is known of the form, date or size of the first bridge and its successors.

Apart from Talbot's Castle and Nangle's Castle nothing is known of the form or size of pre-seventeenth century housing in the town. It is important to know what sort of buildings the medieval inhabitants of Trim lived in and how these changed through time. It is only when houses have been found that assessments can be made of the impact of native Irish, British and continental building techniques on Trim's craftsmen. A great deal of information about changes in building methods and fashions can also be derived from stratified sites in which the remains of successive houses are preserved.

Archaeological excavations have been carried out in the Castle and these have recovered information about its structural history. The excavation results pose further questions, however, such as the nature of activity during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and the nature of former wooden structures within the bawn.

The course of the town defences outlined above needs to be checked by excavation to determine whether it is correct or not, and much remains to be discovered about the periods of construction, the variations in building, the forms of mural towers and gatehouses, and the extent of the town fosse.

It is unlikely that the opportunity will arise to excavate at St. Patrick's Church but the sites of the Augustinian Priory, the Dominican and Franciscan Friaries, and the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalen could become available for excavation. It is worthwhile recalling that our knowledge of the form, size and character of these monasteries is virtually negligible. Architectural features and extent are only one aspect of the archaeology of religious houses, however, and the excavation of a medieval cemetery, such as that conducted at York, can provide otherwise unobtainable evidence about health, disease, diet, and mortality rates.

The extent of settlement outside the walls in Emmet Street is unknown and the contrast between buildings there and those within the wall is also unknown at any period prior to 1700.

The group of stray finds indicate that the site was a focus for human activity in prehistoric times and an important archaeological problem is the determination of exactly what forms this activity took and its date.

Archaeological Potential

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

The survey of its archaeology indicates that the site of the town has been the scene of human activity in Prehistoric, Early Historic and Medieval times. Both documentary sources and the known archaeological remains indicate that the town was occupied continuously from c.500 AD into the post-medieval period. Most of the town wall, gatehouses, mural towers and medieval buildings have been demolished. The only remains which survive above ground are Trim Castle, the fortified houses known as Talbot's Castle and Nangle's Castle, the towers of St. Patrick's Church and the Augustinian Priory, the foundations of the church of St. Mary Magdalen, the Sheep Gate and some fragments of the town wall. However, although the destruction of buildings above ground has been considerable, the street pattern of the medieval and post-medieval town is largely intact. Archaeological deposits are likely to exist over a wide area of the town and accordingly there is the likelihood of recovering house foundations, refuse pits, industrial areas, and workshops.

ARCHAEOLOGY, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT


It is evident from the foregoing that archaeology is an important means of learning about Trim's past and of understanding the character and detailed form of the town today. This is more than an academic pursuit, however, because without an appreciation of the factors which have shaped Trim's present character, steps taken to conserve that

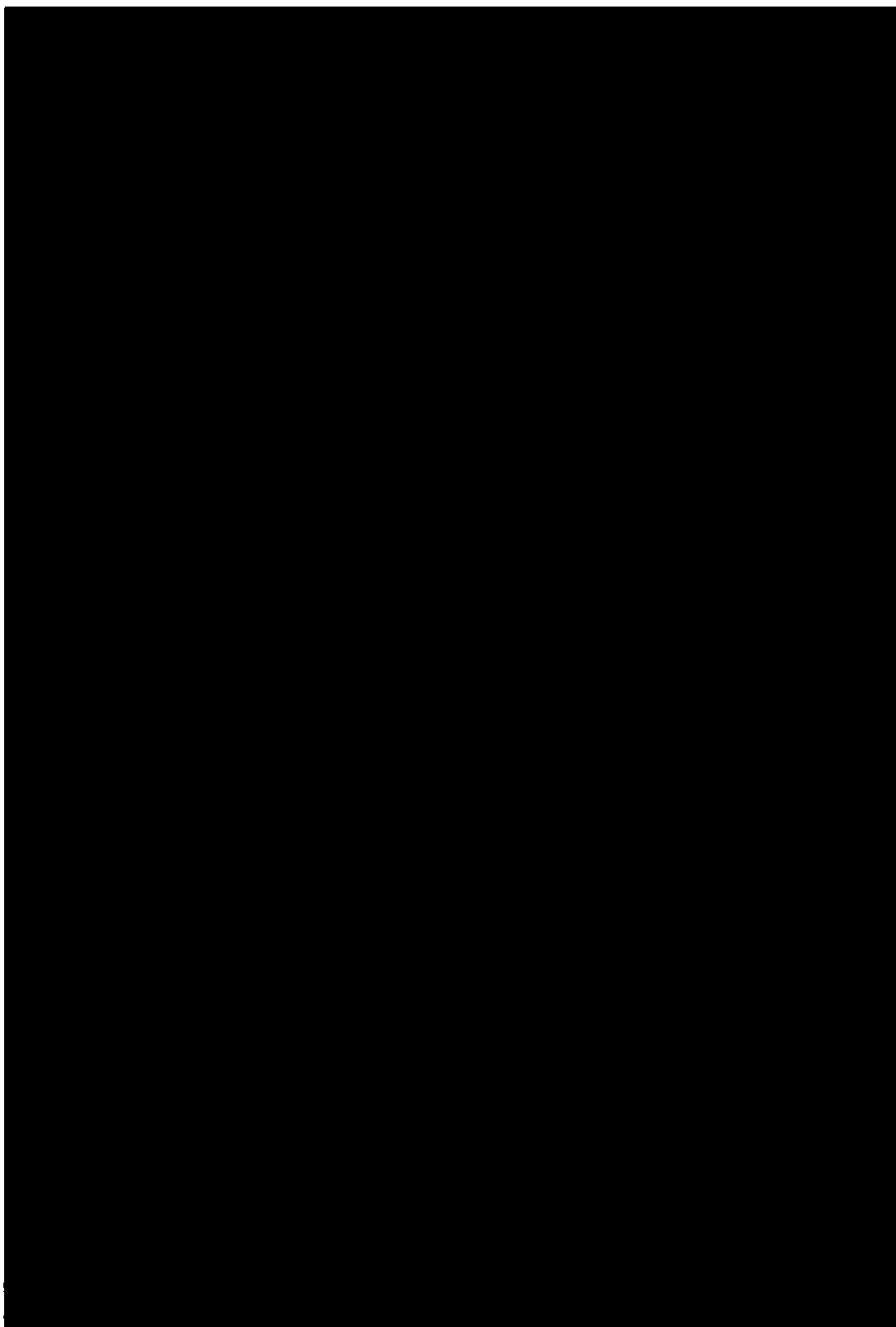
character will not be wholly effective, or worse, features basic to its unique identity may be unwittingly destroyed.

The protection of buried archaeological evidence presents serious problems for not only is there the pressure of redevelopment and the high value of urban properties with which to contend, but the sites themselves are often difficult to define or evaluate; their full archaeological potential may only become apparent when an excavation is undertaken in advance of development or by observations made while development is in progress. Trim Castle, Nangle's Castle, Sheep Gate and the tower of the Augustinian Priory enjoy statutory protection as scheduled National Monuments but because of the difficulties of scheduling urban properties, other sites within Trim are unlikely to be given this protection. It is important then that a concerted effort should be made to safeguard its archaeological heritage and that adequate provision is made for investigation in advance of any redevelopment. This is best achieved by use of planning constraints and by conditions attached to planning consents.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 44) delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern Trim. The archaeological excavations at Trim Castle showed that rich deposits were present there but the absence of excavation elsewhere in the town means that little can be said of the depth of archaeological deposits. The construction of schools in Emmet Street, of houses in Watergate Street and of estates in St. Loman Street and to the north-east of Haggard Street and Navan Gate have removed some archaeological deposits but elsewhere there is little evidence for modern disturbance. Accordingly, archaeological deposits are likely to exist over the area of the walled town, and in Emmet Street. This area is shaded pink on Fig. 44 and the extent has been continued outside the walls slightly in order to allow for a possible fosse. An area is delimited around the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalen on the south side of the town and the Dominican Friary on the north. There are two areas of the town which are particularly important for archaeological research because they would not appear to have been built on since the seventeenth century. These are the field in which the Dominican Friary is sited, on the north of the town, and the area south and west of St. Mary's Abbey (Yellow Steeple) and Talbot's Castle. Both of these are open areas and if at all possible they should remain so in the future.





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 Ireland.
- PRIA Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy.
- UJA Ulster Journal of Archaeology.

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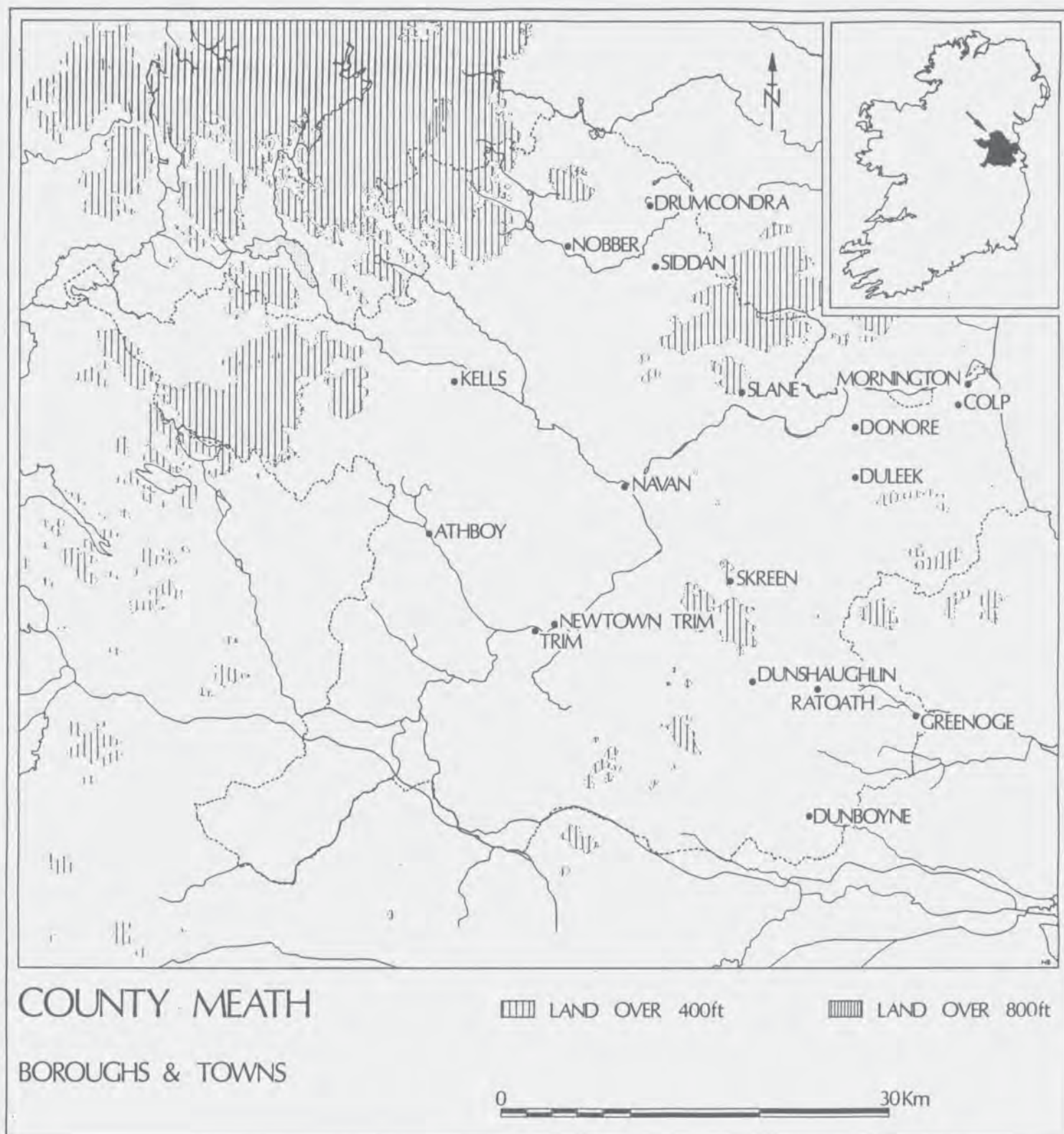


Fig. 1 County Meath distribution map of boroughs and towns.

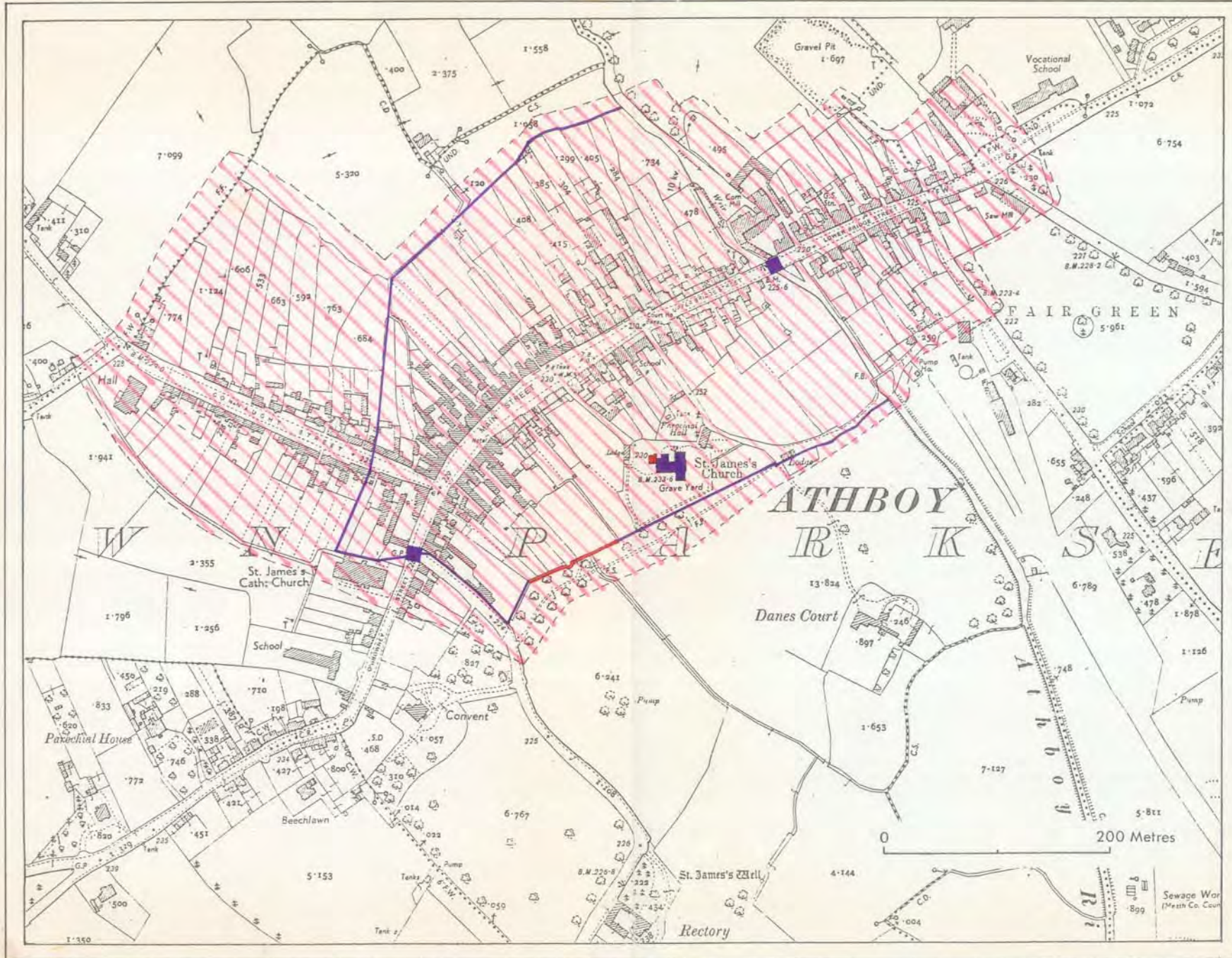


Fig. 2. Athboy Zone of archaeological potential.

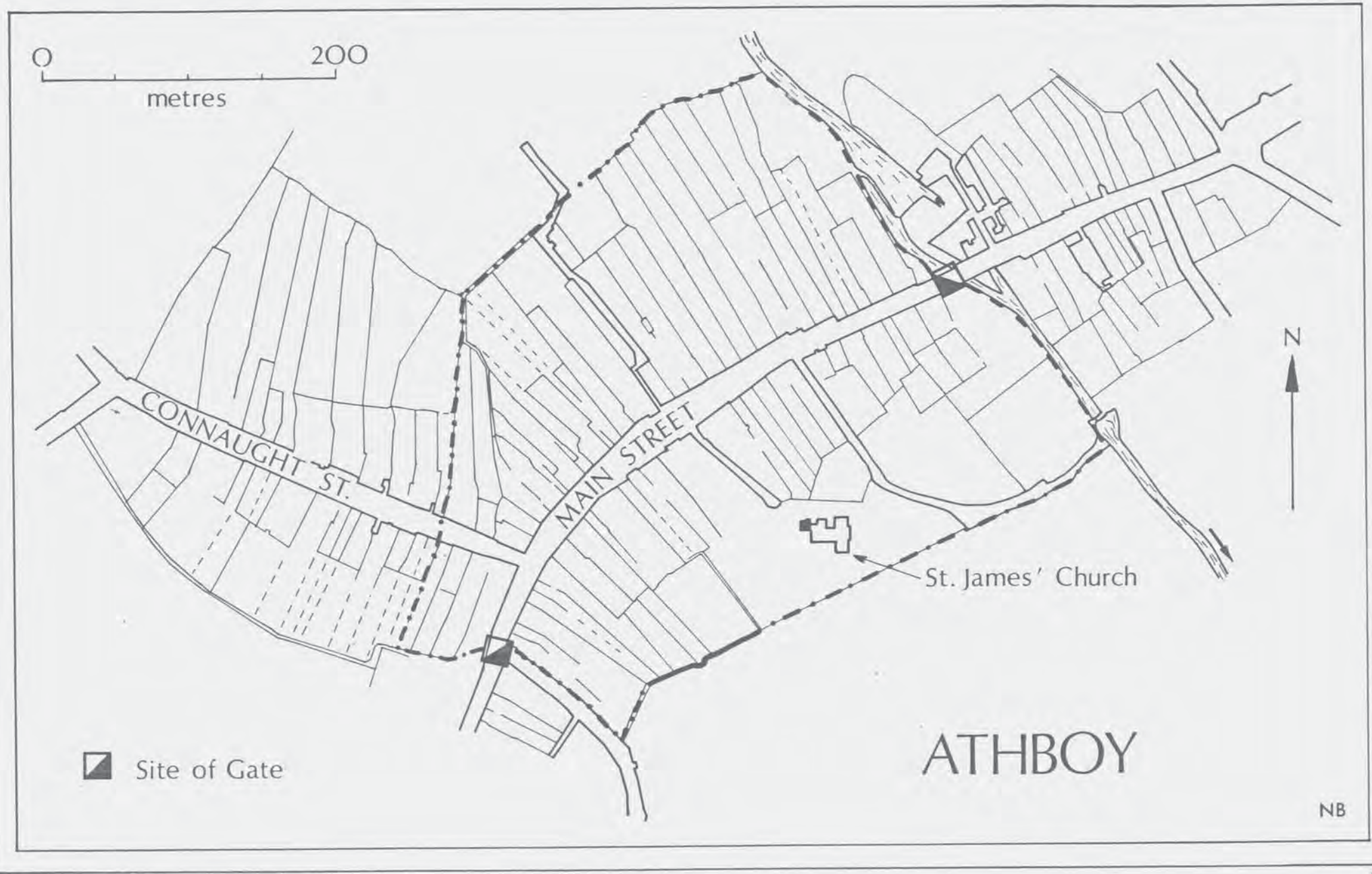


Fig. 3. Athboy: Outline map showing the major archaeological features

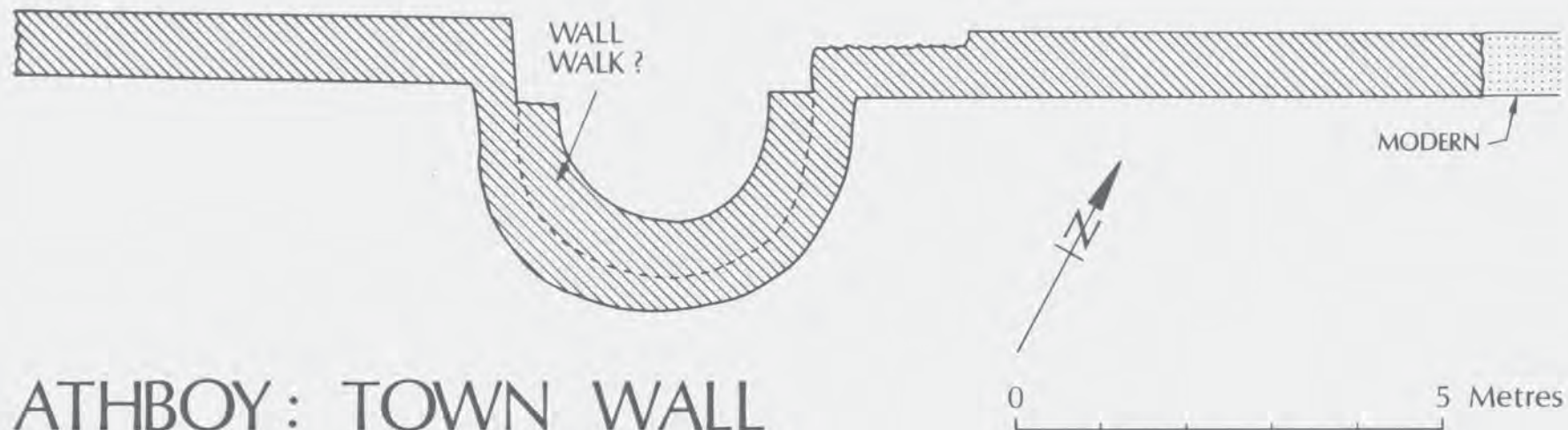


Fig. 4. Athboy: Mural tower: ground plan.

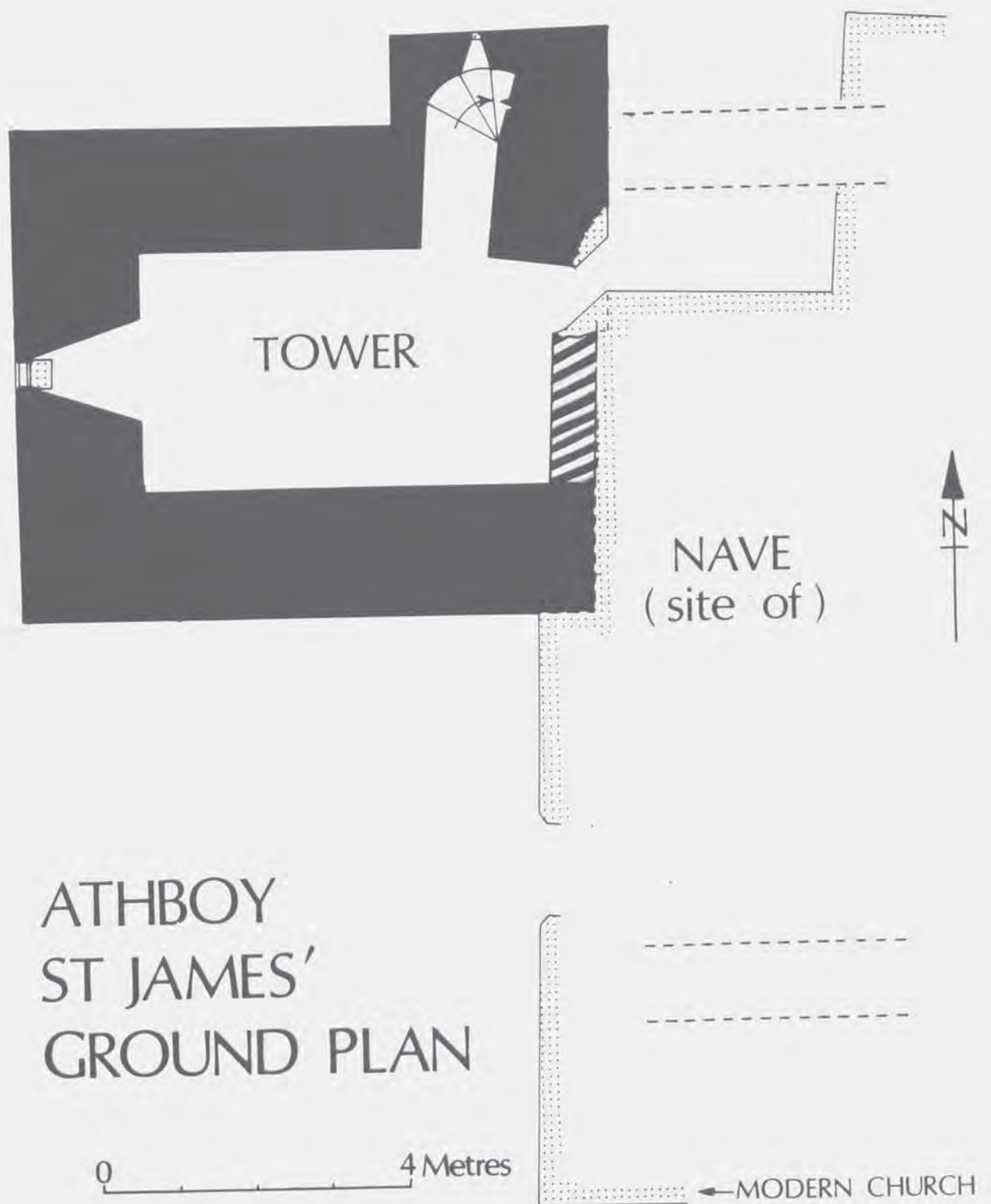


Fig. 5. Athboy: St. James' church: west tower: ground plan.

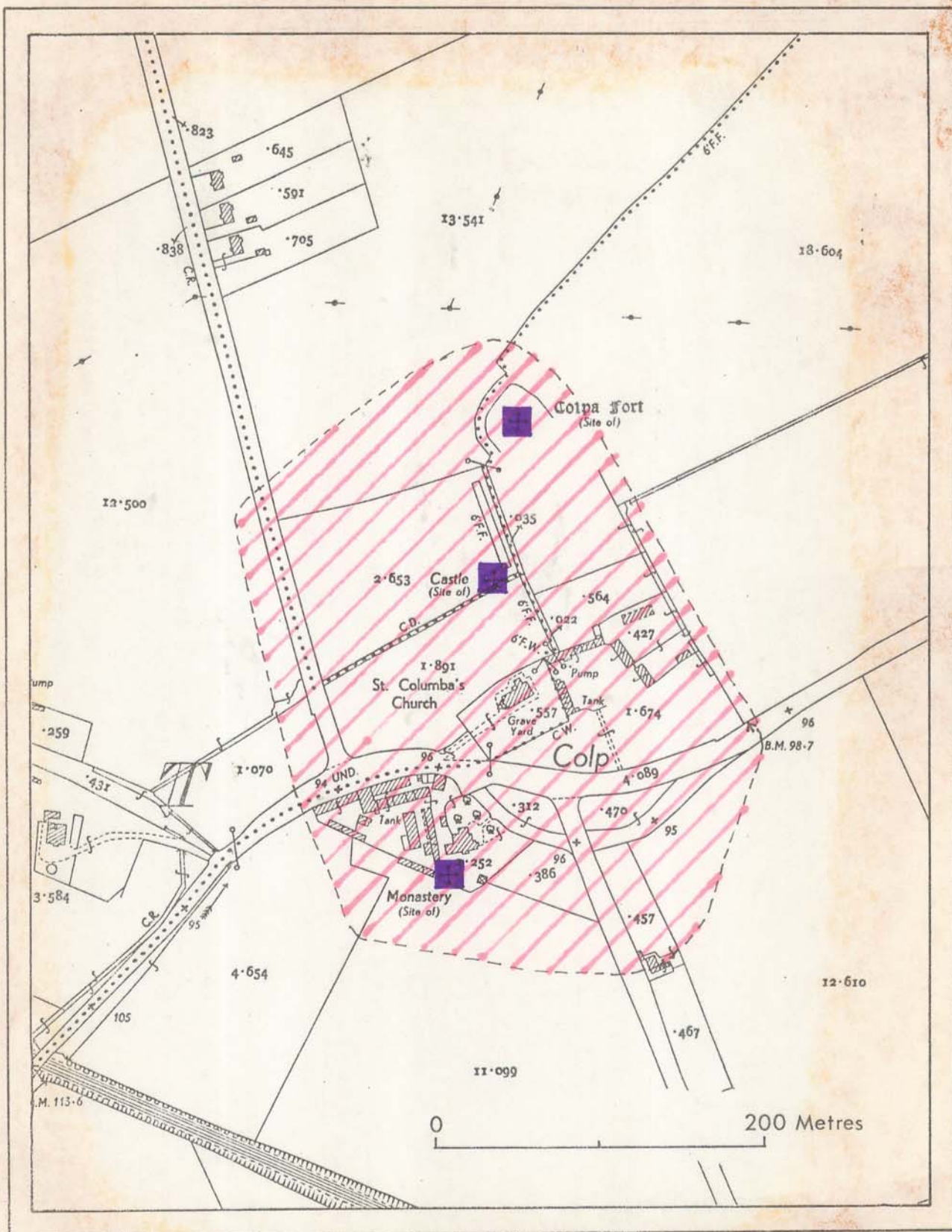


Fig. 6. Colpe: Zone of archaeological potential.

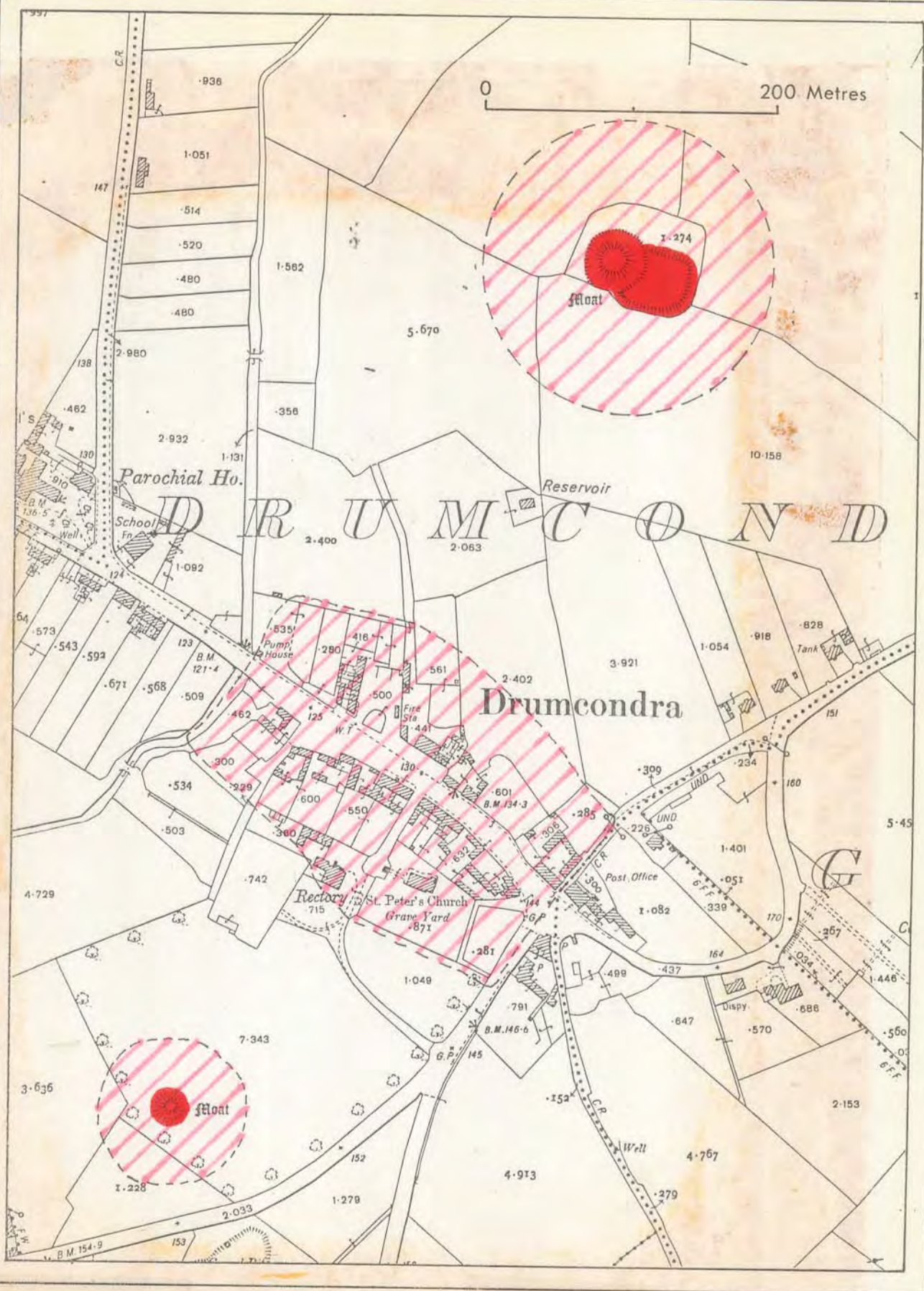


Fig. 7. Drumcondra: Zone of archaeological potential.

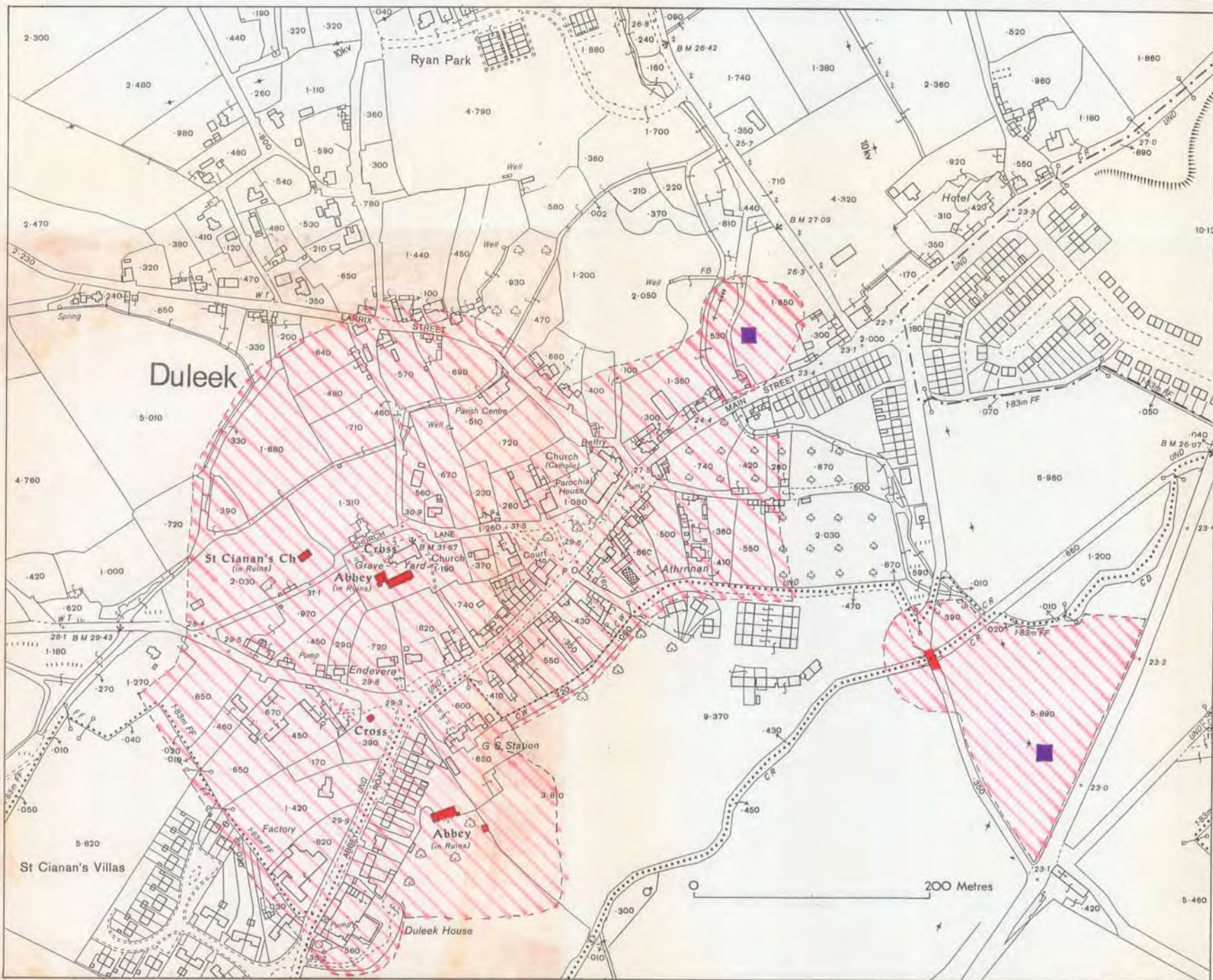


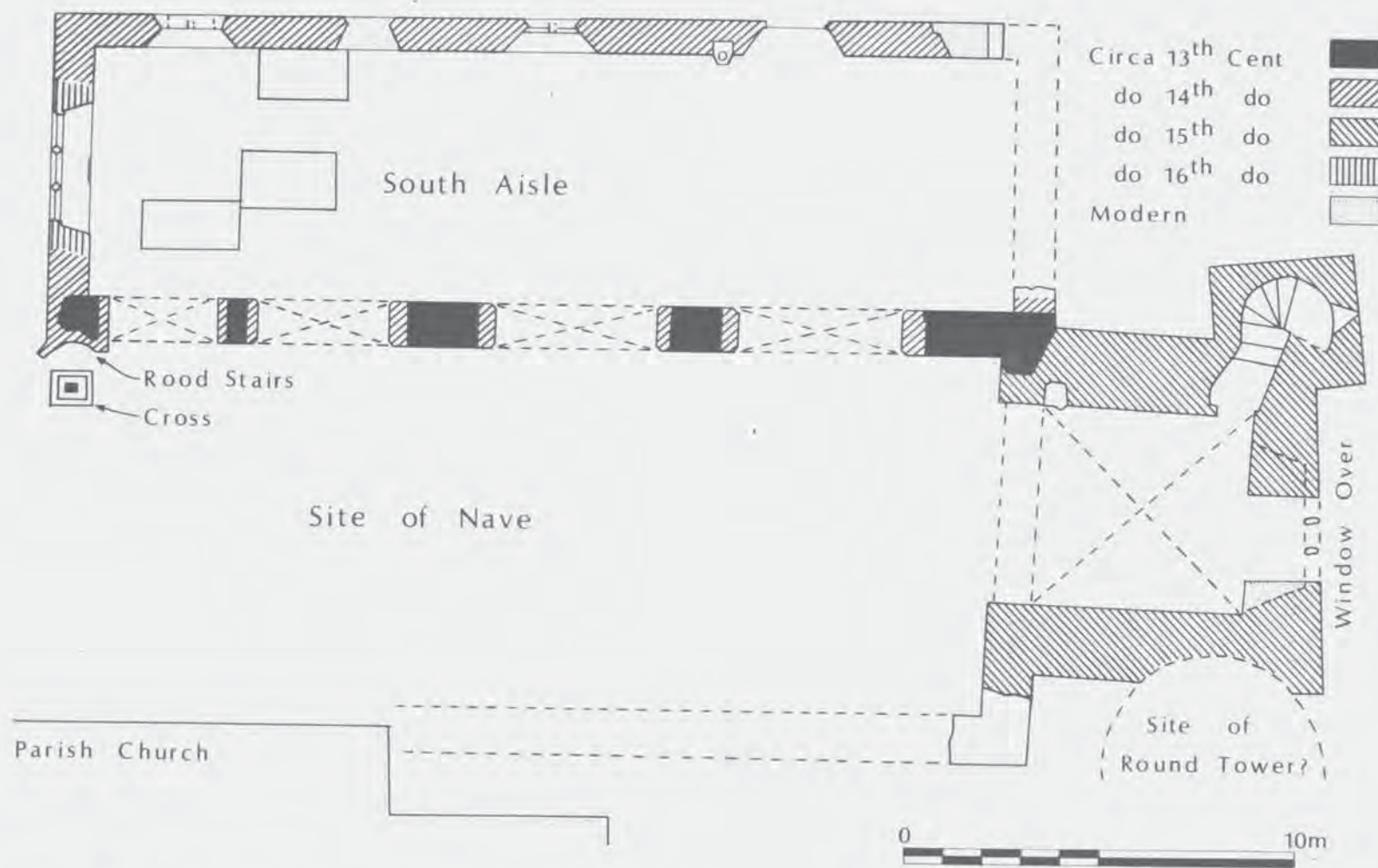
Fig. 8. Duleek Zone of archaeological potential.

DULEEK



FIG. 3. Duleek: Outline plan showing the major archaeological features

Fig. 10. Duleek: St. Cianan's church: ground plan.



ST CIANAN'S CHURCH DULEEK

GROUND PLAN

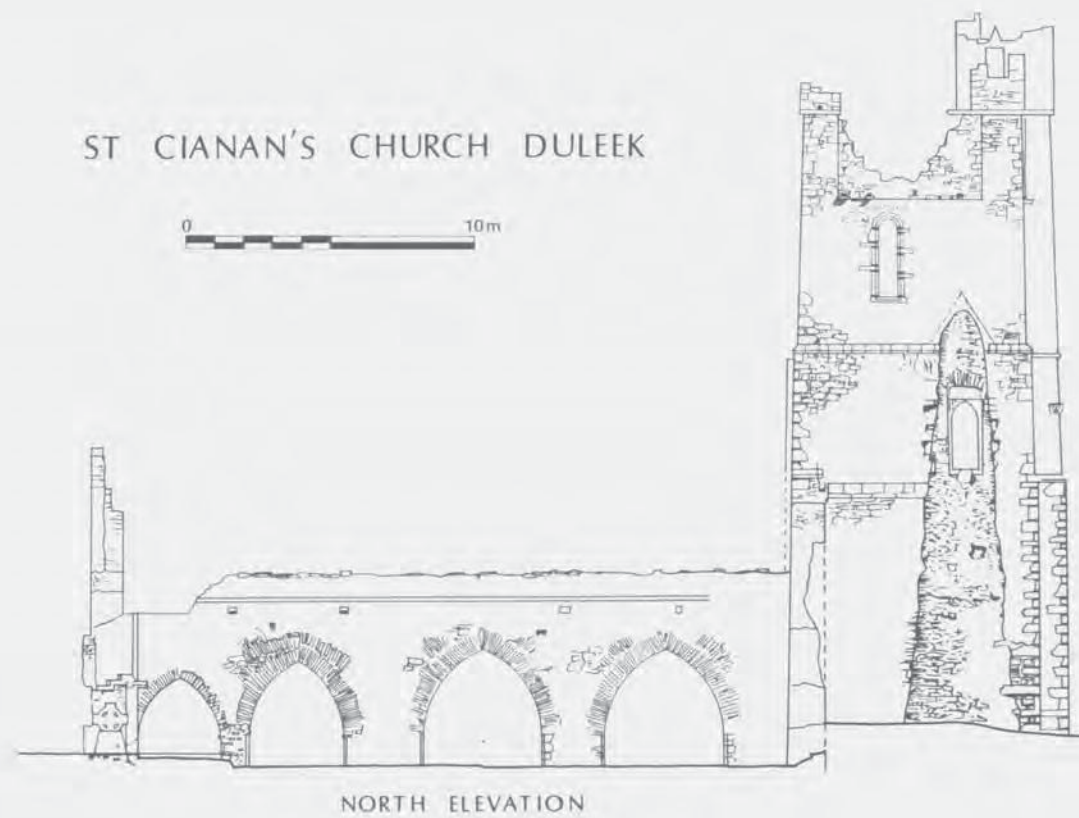


Fig. 11. Duleek: St Cianan's church: north elevation.

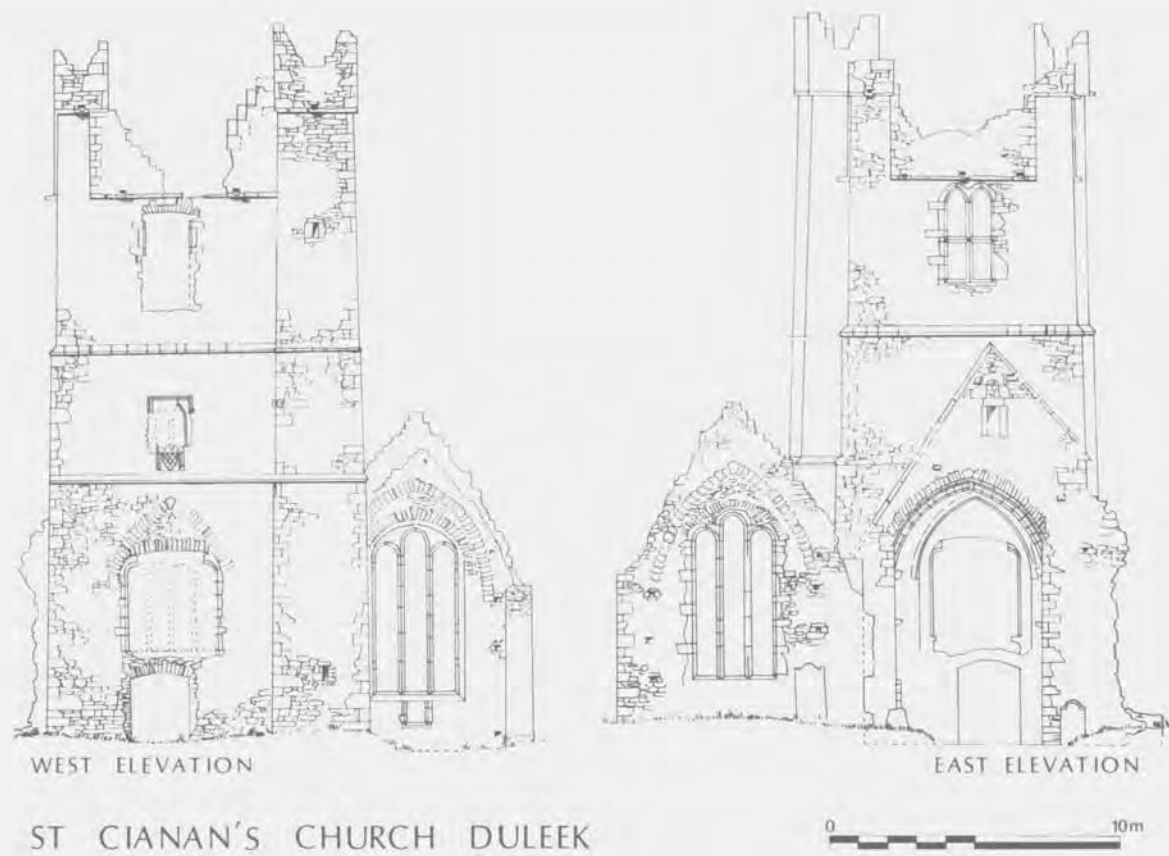


Fig. 12. Duleek: St Cianan's church: east and west elevations.

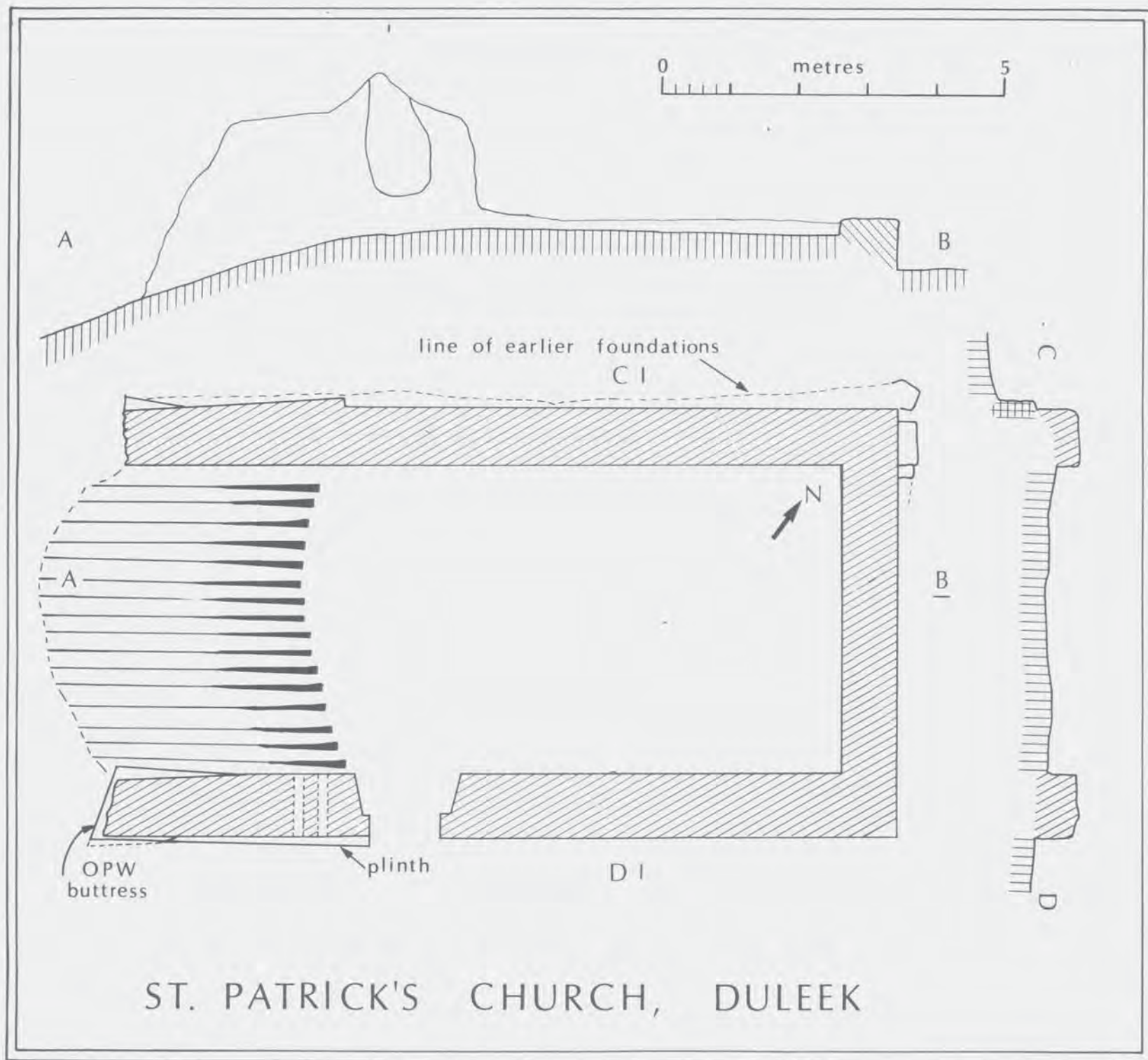


Fig. 13. Duleek: St Patrick's church: ground plan.

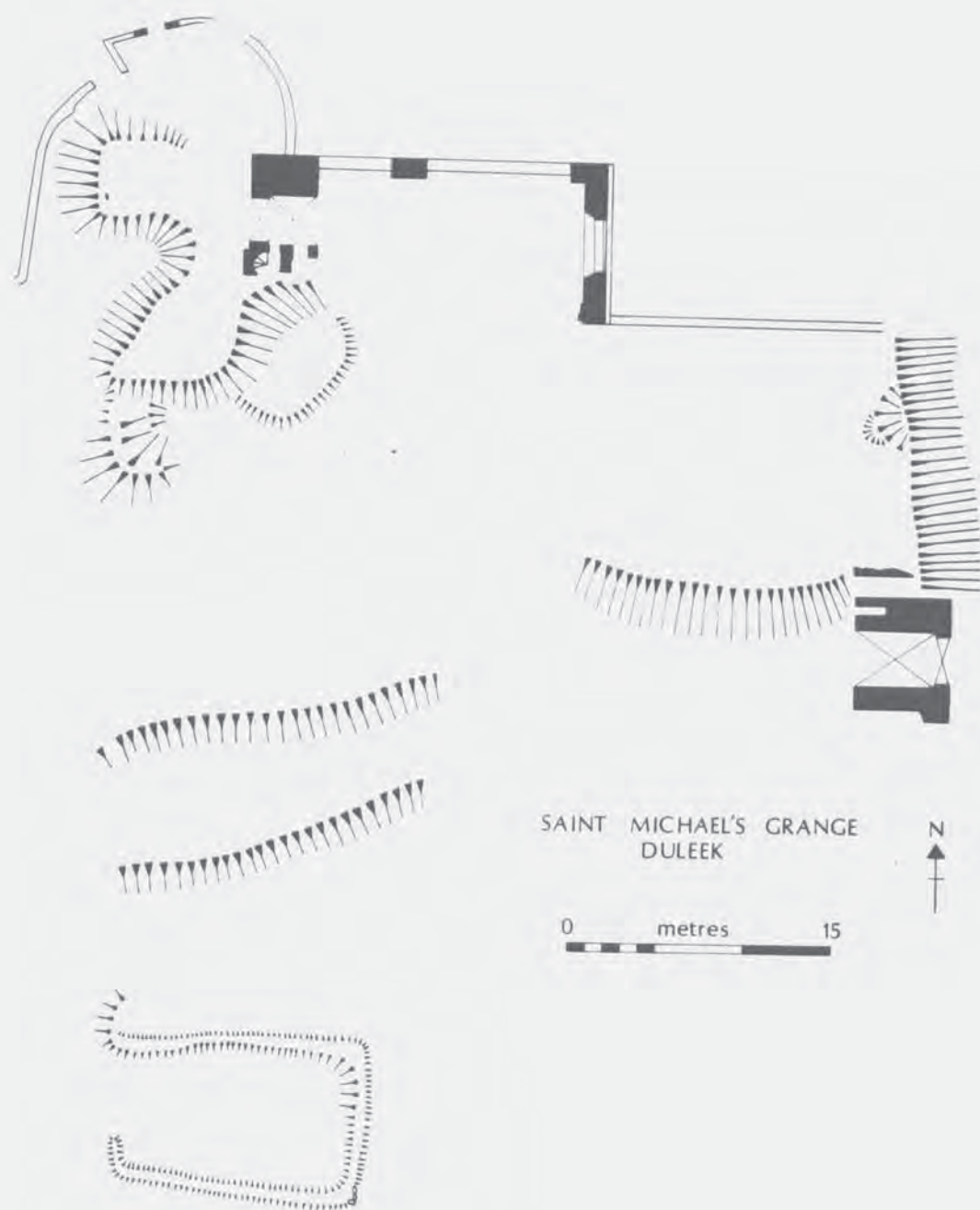
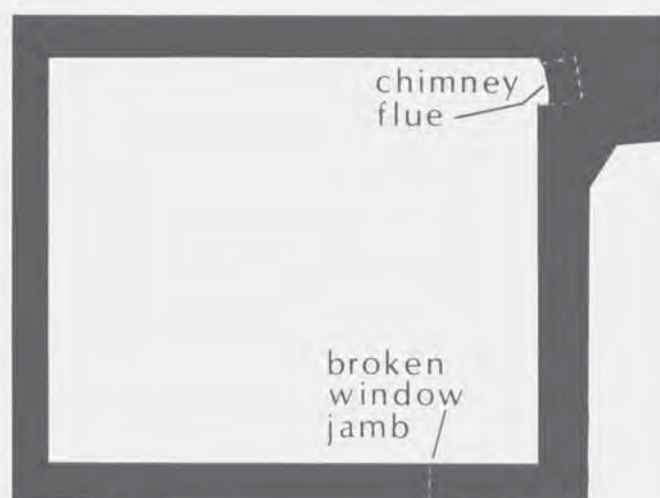


Fig. 12. Duleek: St. Michael's grange: ground plan.



FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR

SOUTH
GATEHOUSE

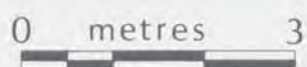


Fig. 15. Duleek: St. Michael's grange: south gate: floor plans.

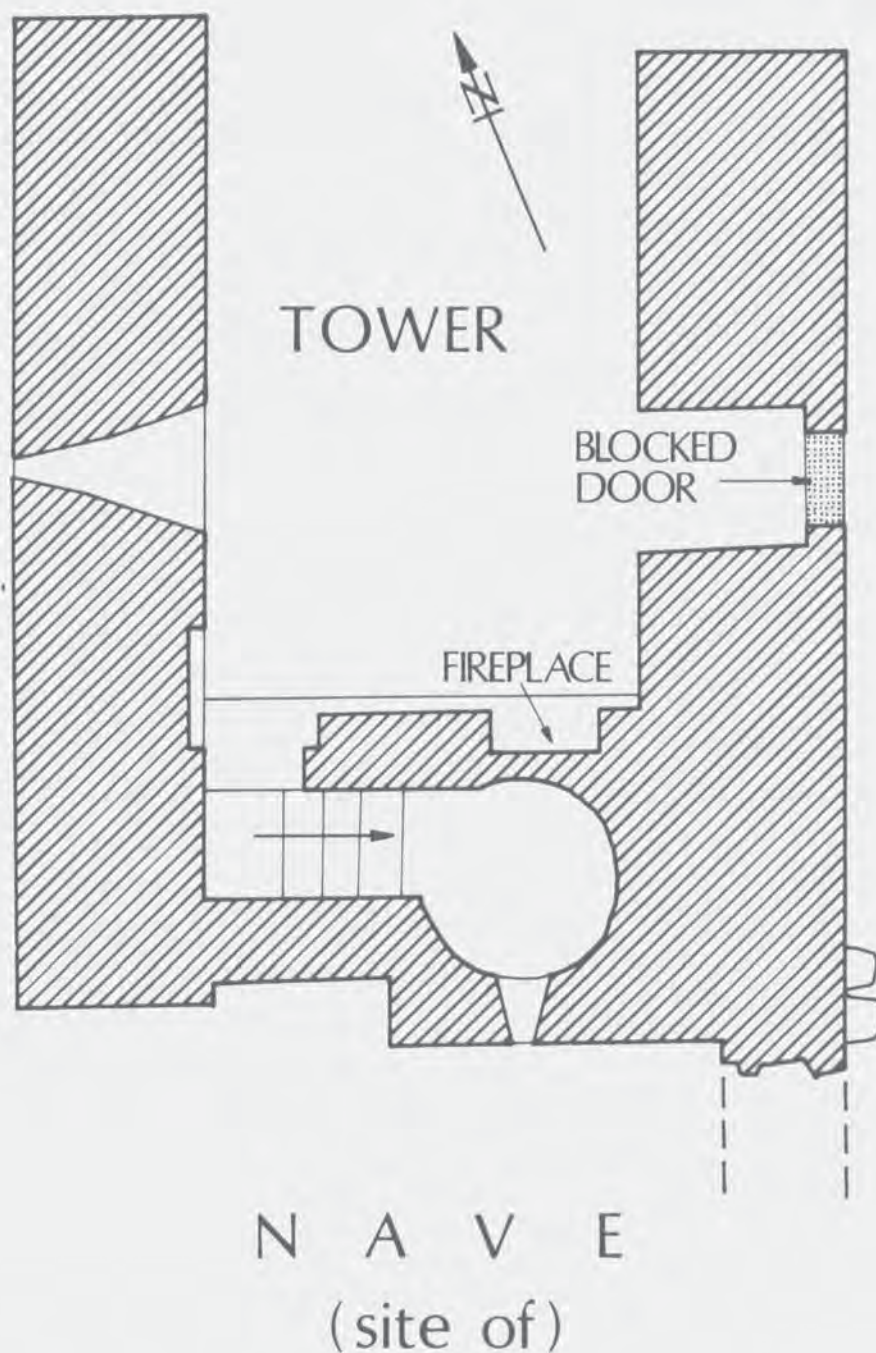


Fig. 17. Dunboyne St. Peter & Paul's church: tower: ground plan (after O.P.W.).

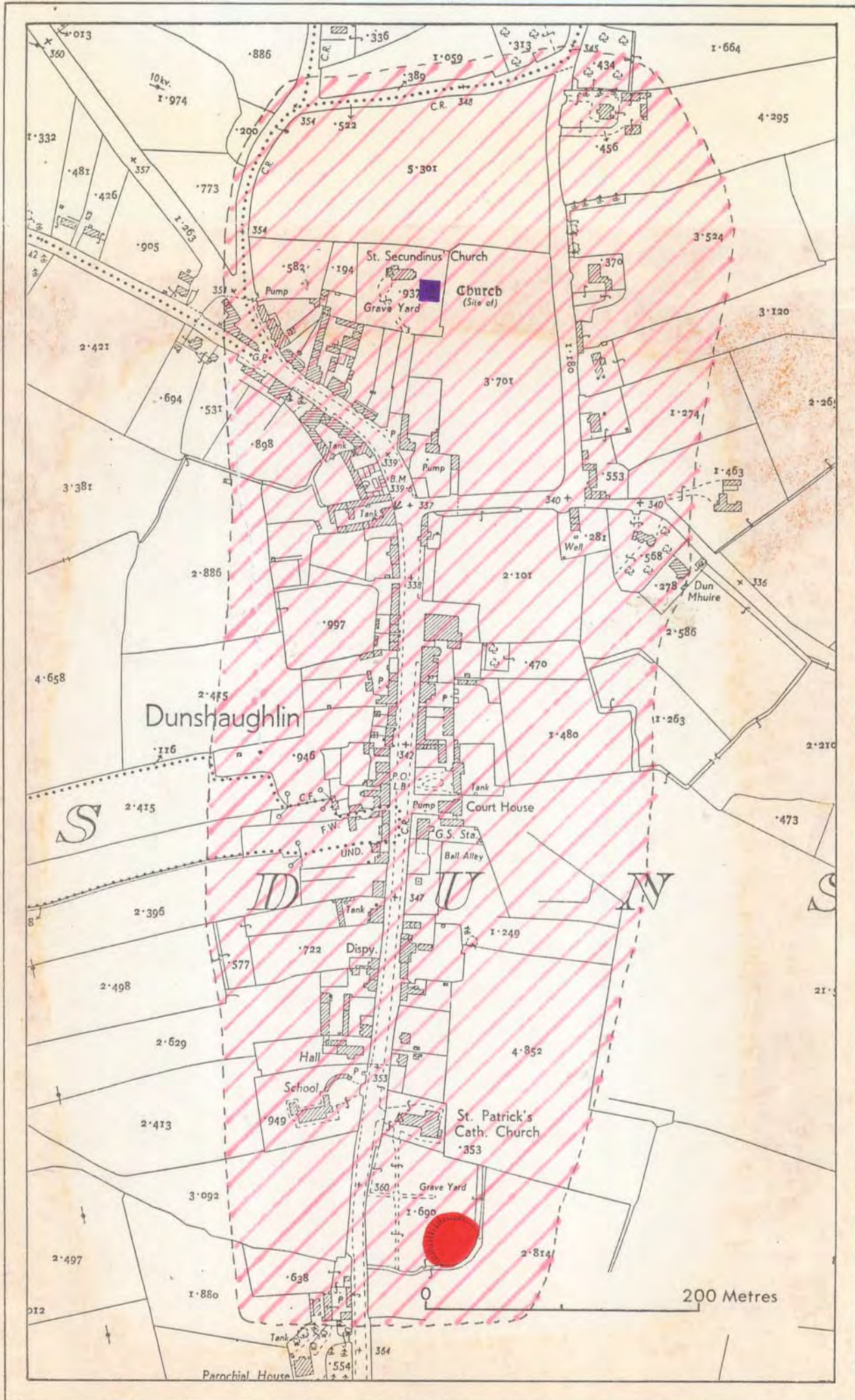


Fig. 18. Dunshaughlin: Zone of archaeological potential.

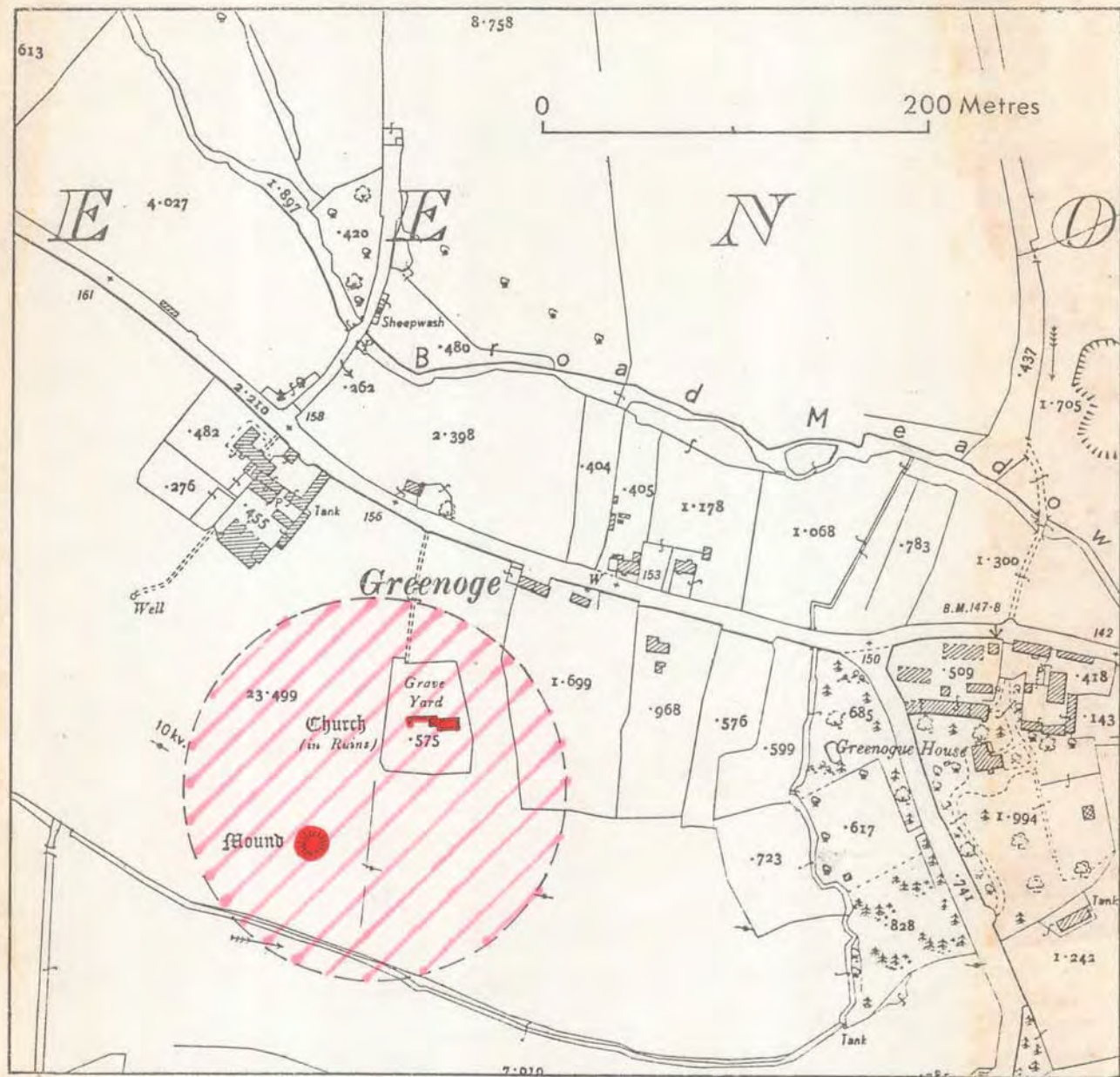
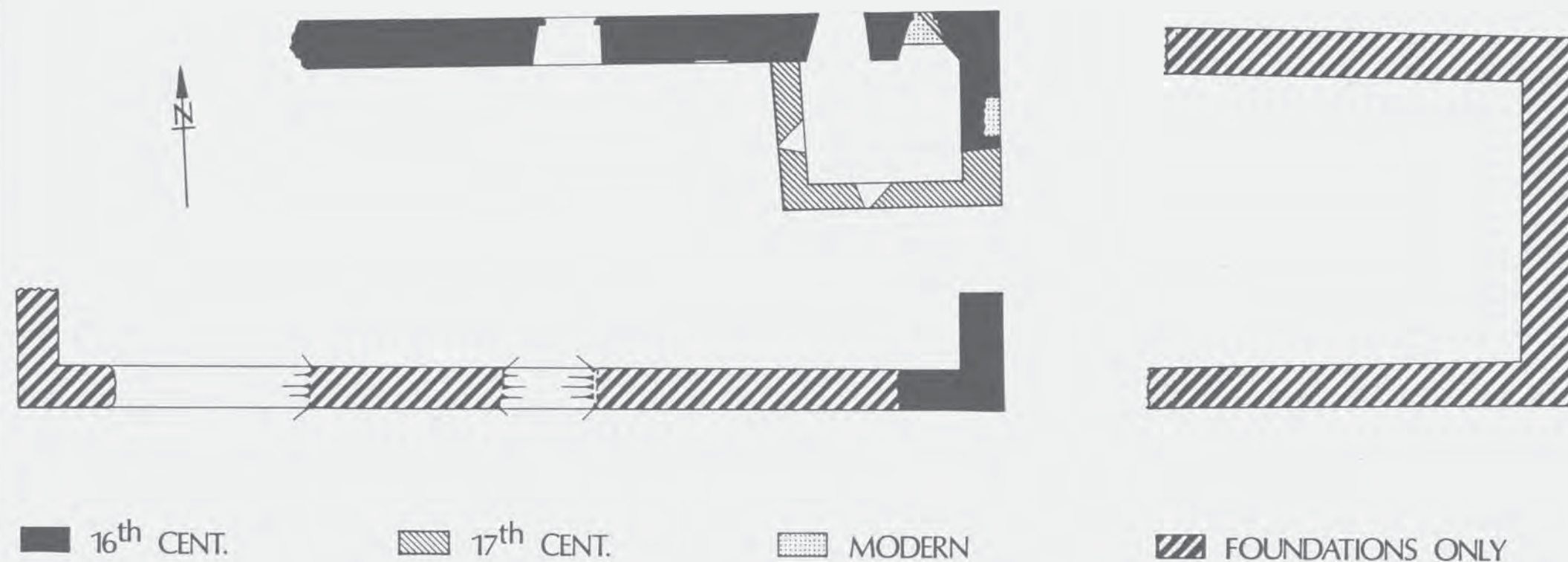


Fig. 19. Greenoge: Zone of archaeological potential.



GREENOGE : ST. NICHOLAS'

0 10 Metres

Fig. 29. Greenoge St. Nicholas' church: ground plan.

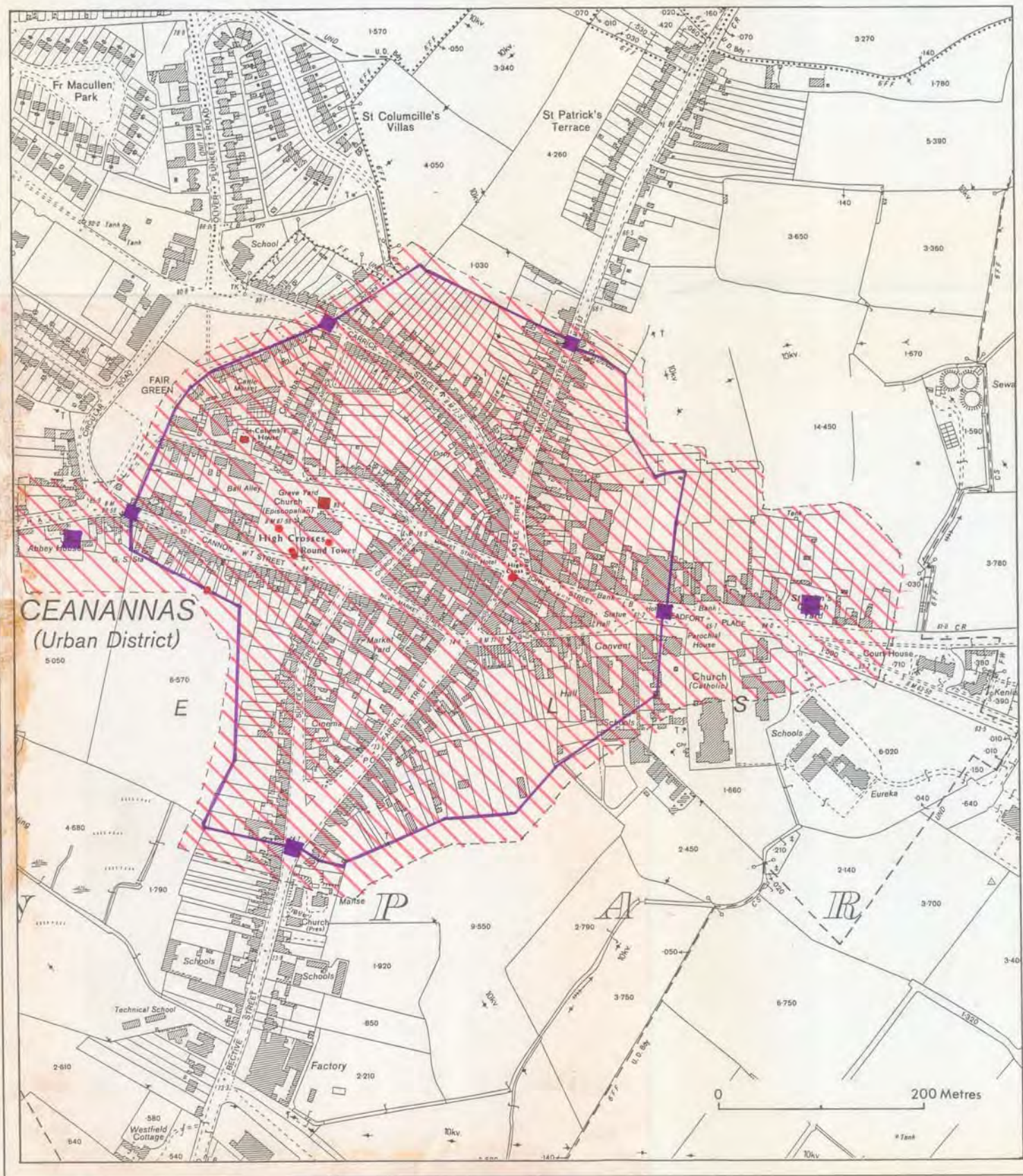


Fig. 21. Keltic Zone of archaeological potential.

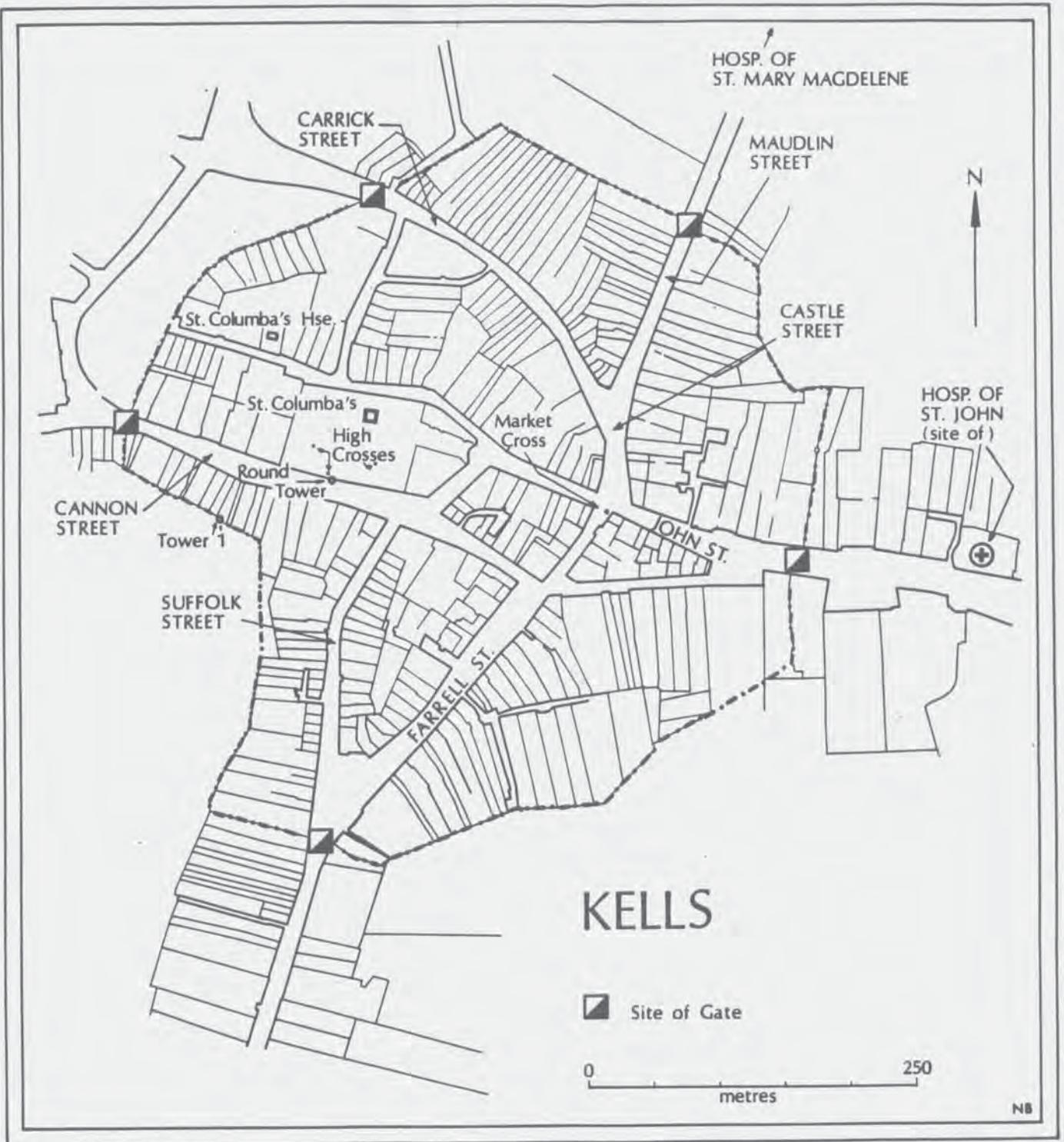
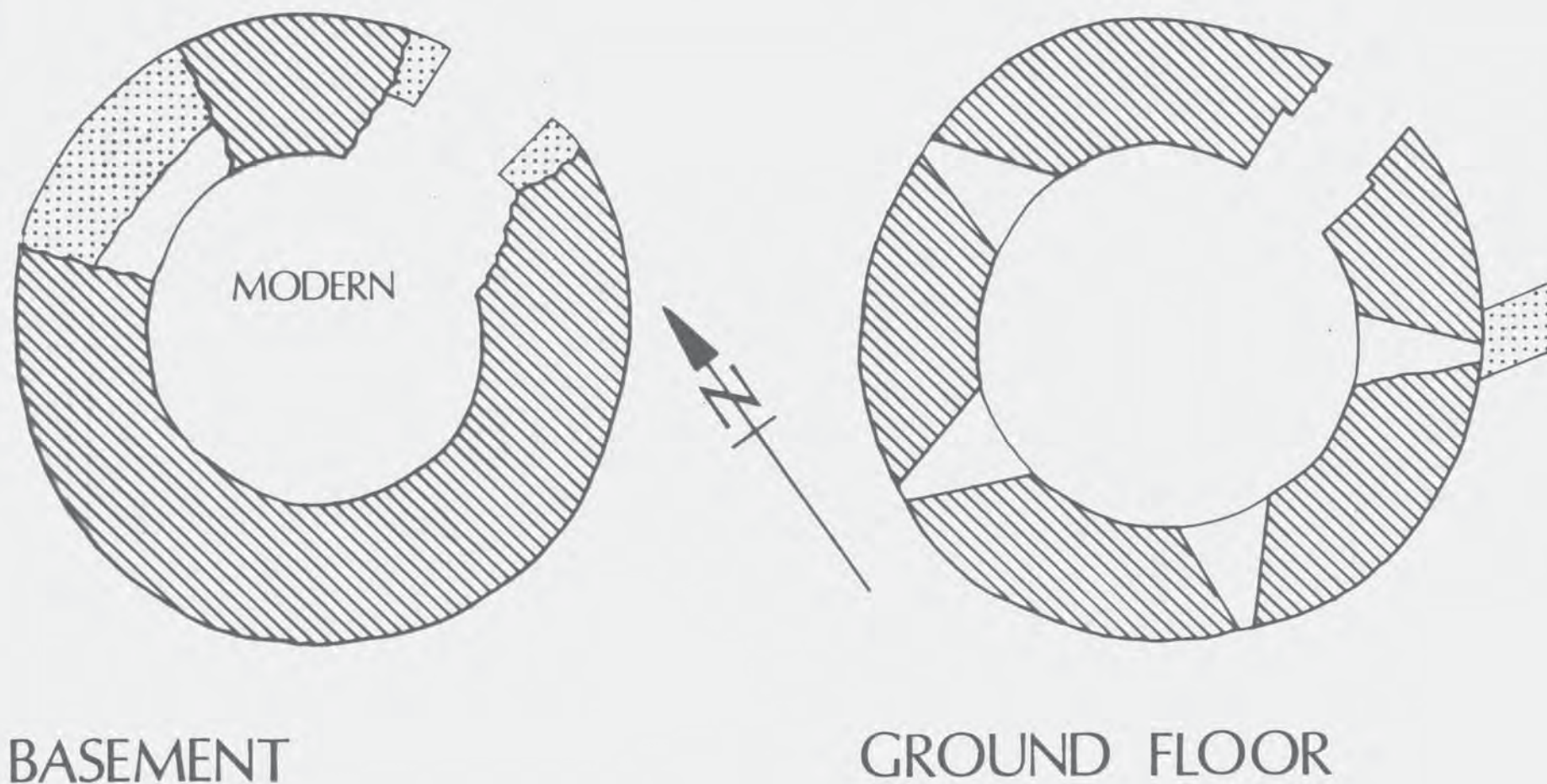
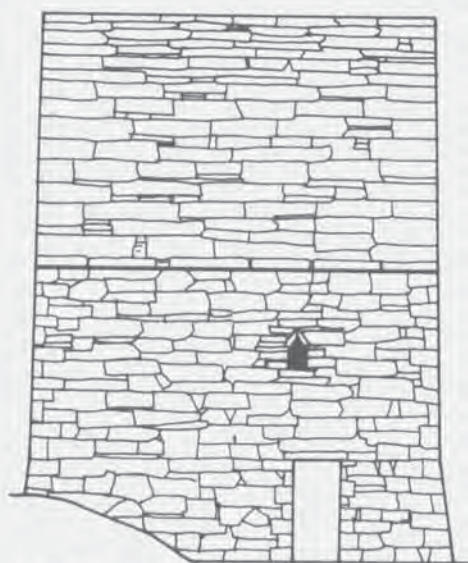


Fig. 22. Kells: Outline plan showing major archaeological features.

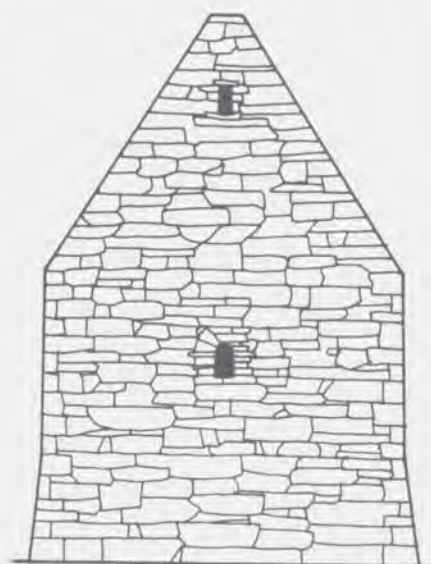


KELLS : MURAL TOWER

0 5 Metres

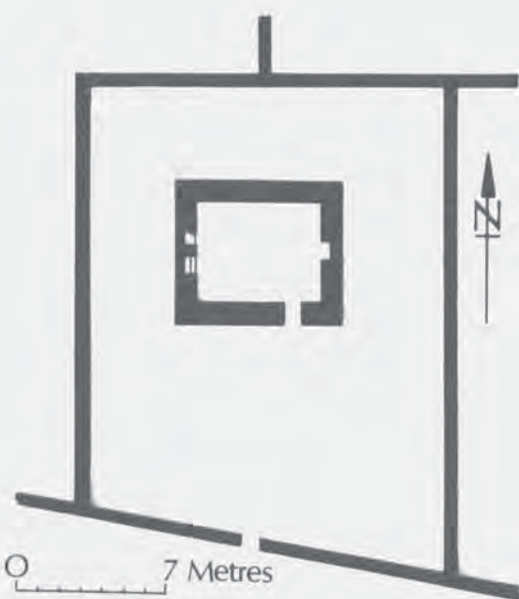


SOUTH ELEVATION

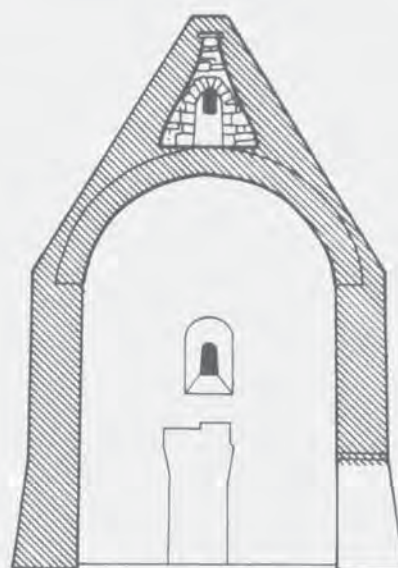


EAST ELEVATION

0 5 Metres

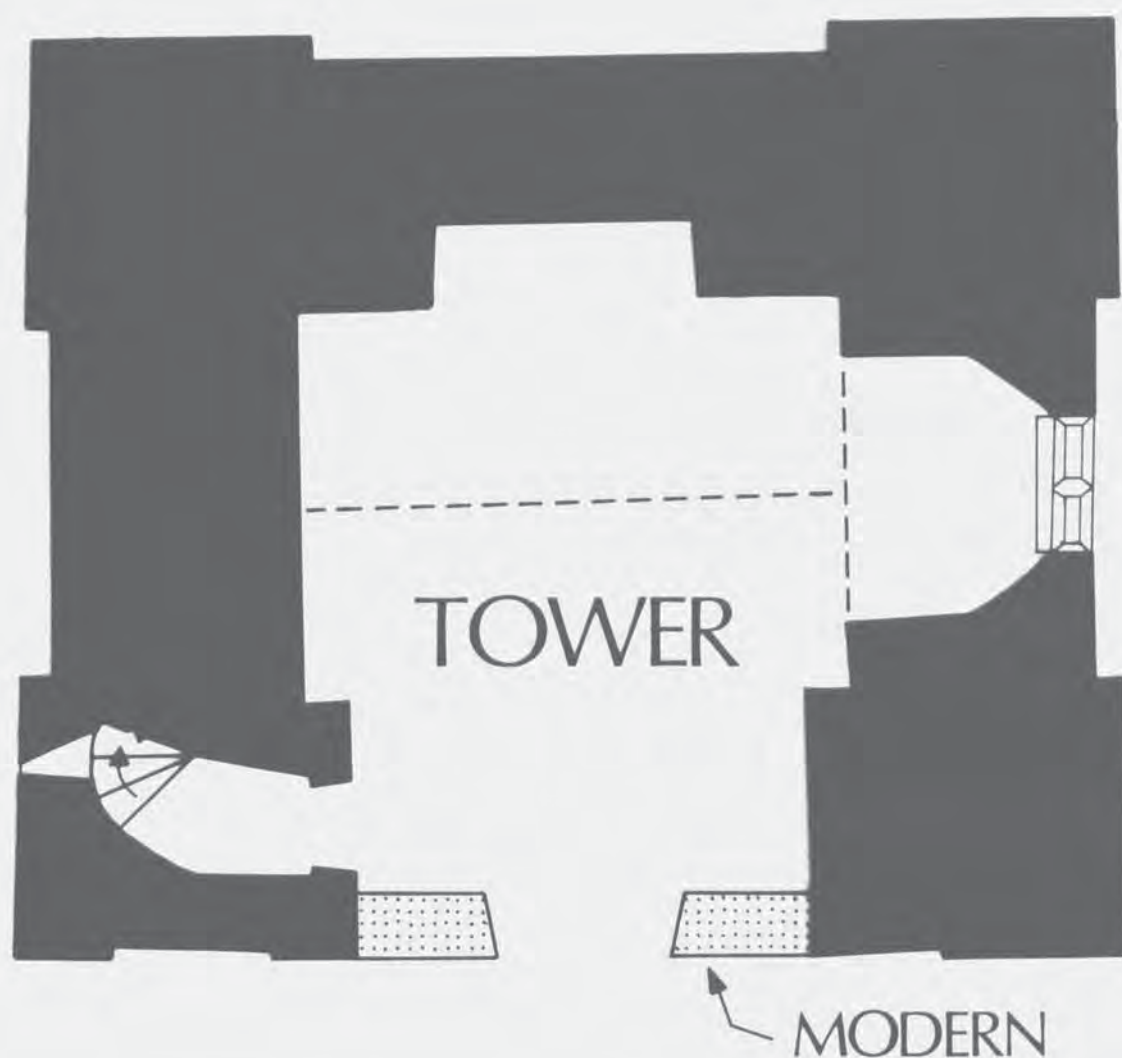


GENERAL SITE PLAN



N-S SECTION

KELLS: ST. COLUMB'S HOUSE



KELLS: ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH: GROUND PLAN



0 5 Metres

Fig. 85. Kells: St. Columba's church: ground plan of tower.

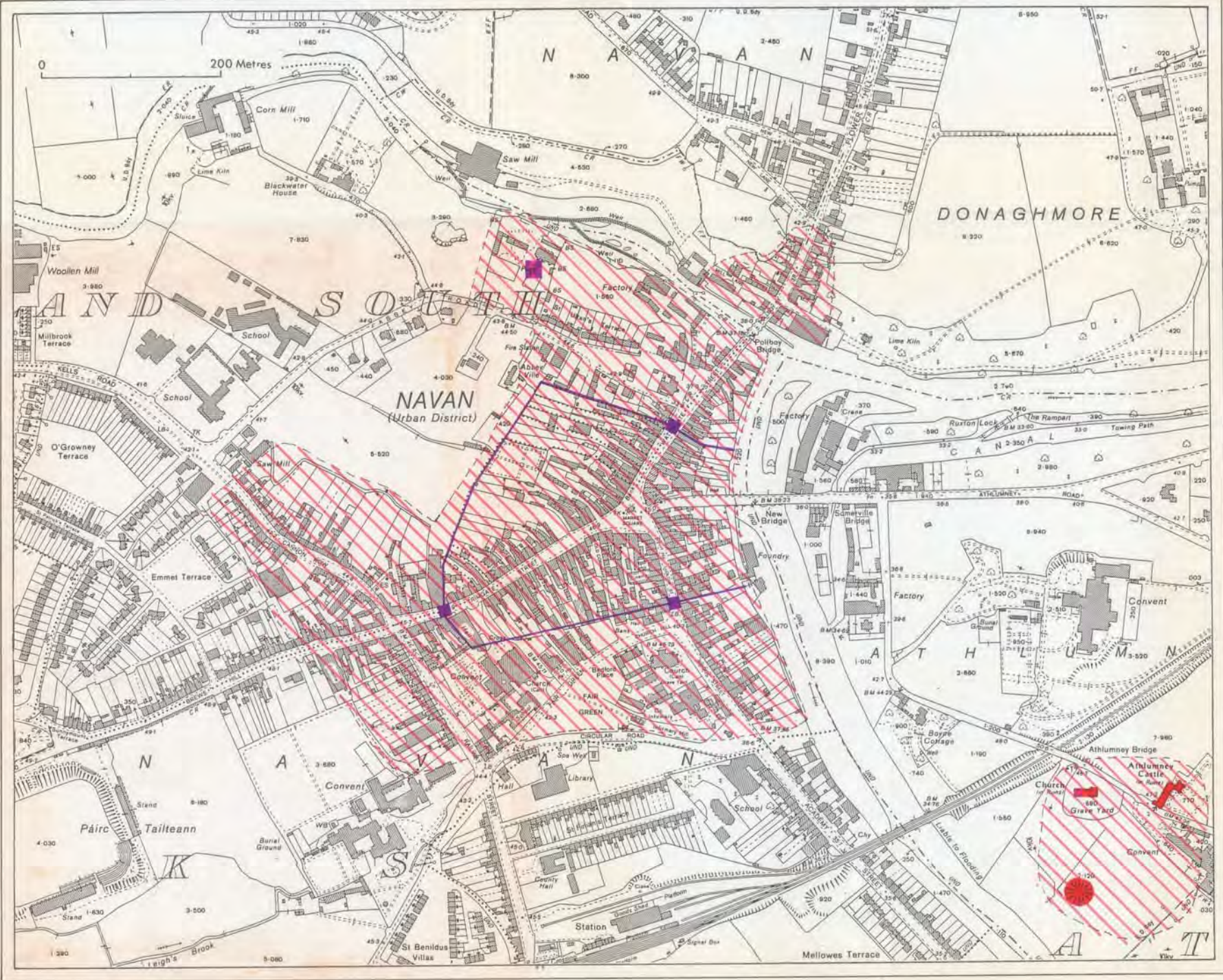


Fig. 27. Navan: Zone of agricultural potential.

NAVAN

0 250
metres

■ Site of Gate

Augustinian
Priory (site of)

RIVER
BOYNE

Trim
Gate

TRIMGATE STREET

LUDLOW
STREET

Dublin
Gate

N

NB

Fig. 28. Navan: Outline plan showing principal archaeological features.

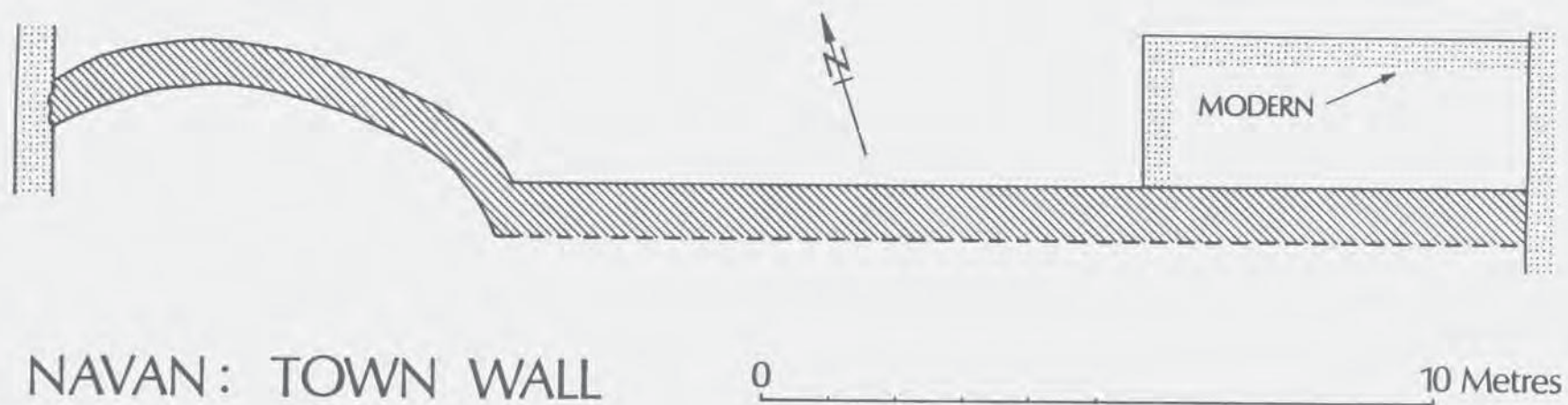
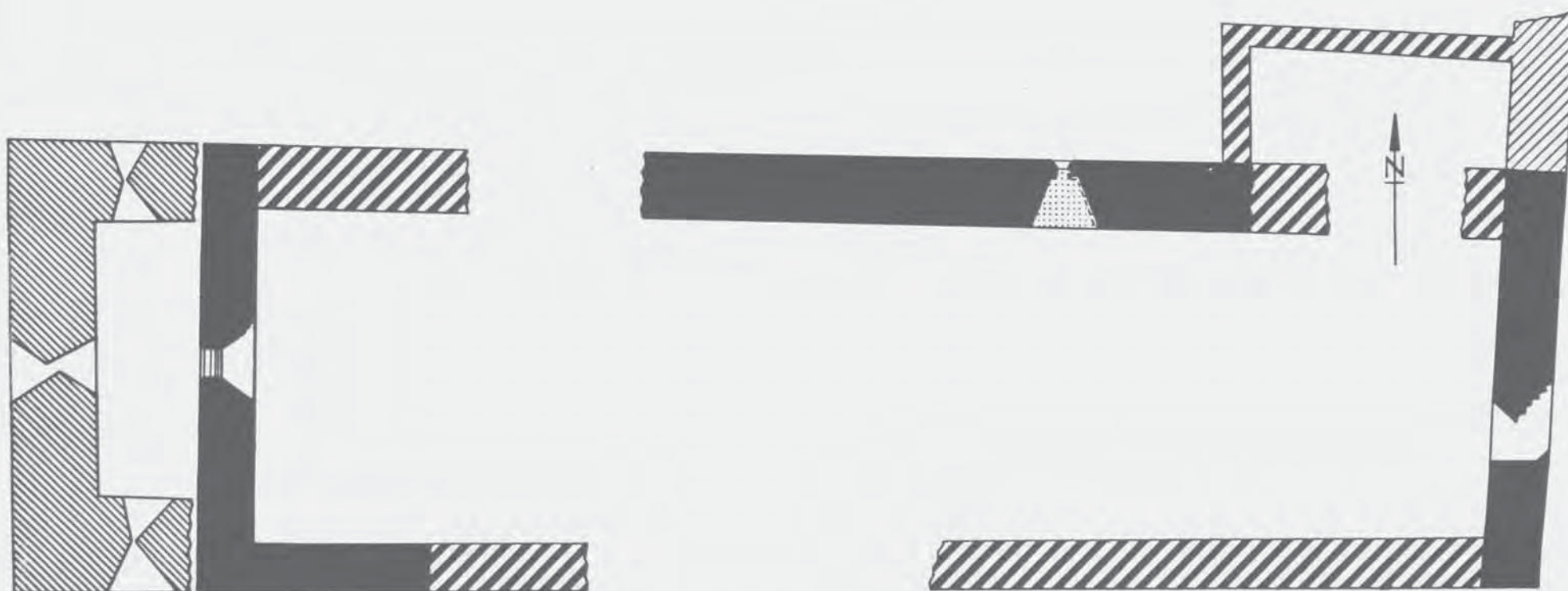


Fig. 29. Navan: Mural tower: ground plan.



15th CENT.

LATER 15th CENT.

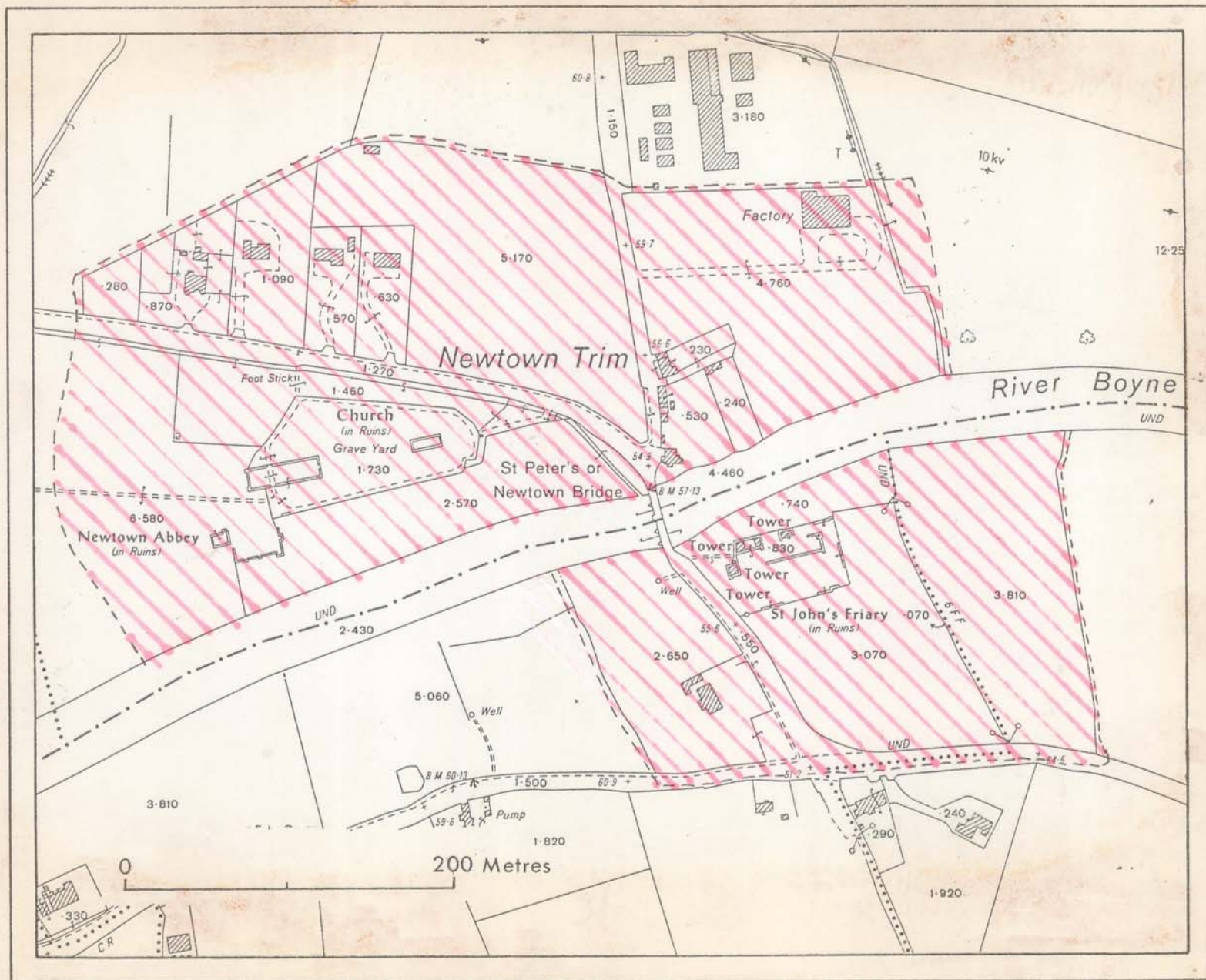
FOUNDATIONS ONLY

ATHLUMNEY: CHURCH

0 8 Metres

Fig. 30. Navan: Athlumney church: ground plan.

Fig. 31. Newtown Trim: Zone of archaeological potential.



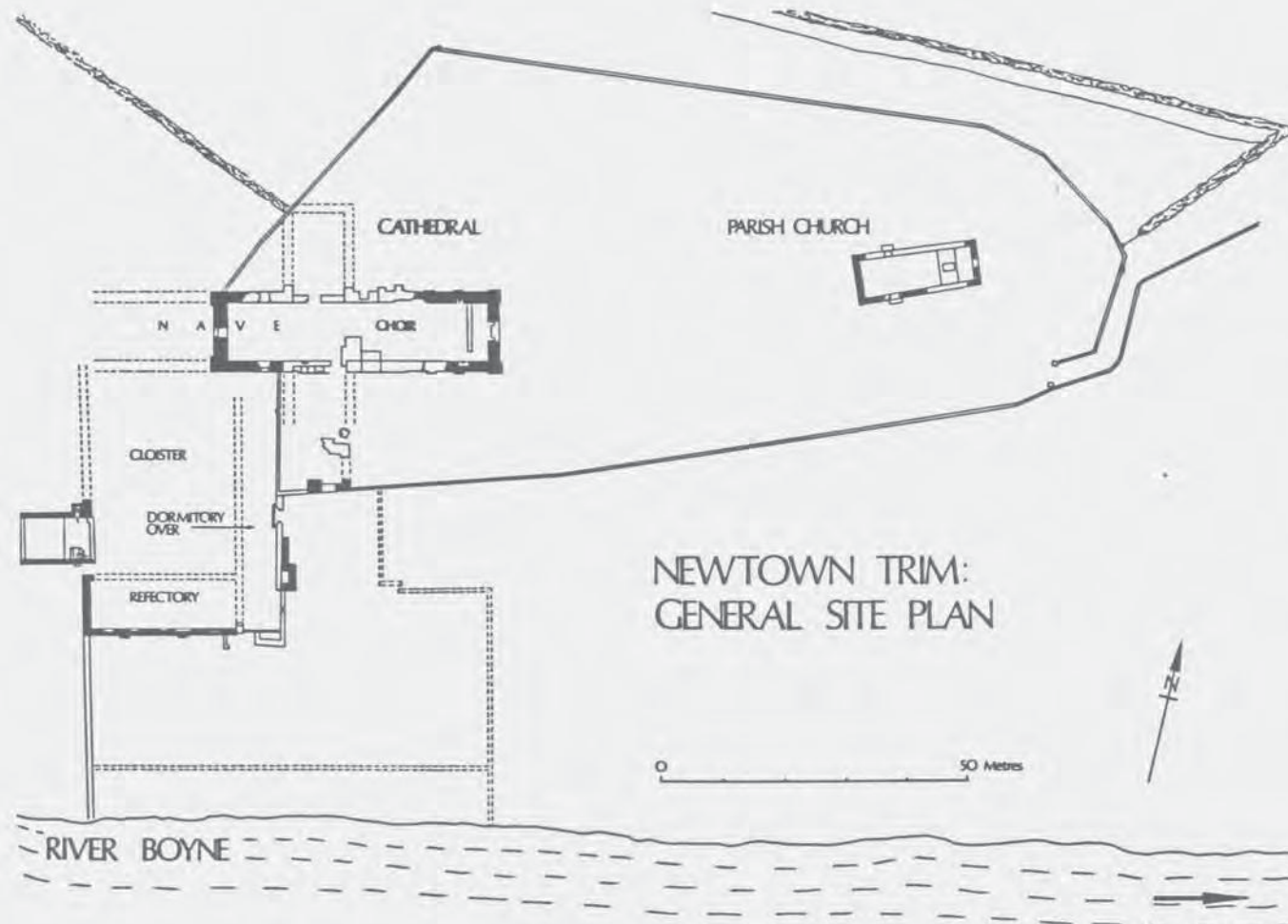
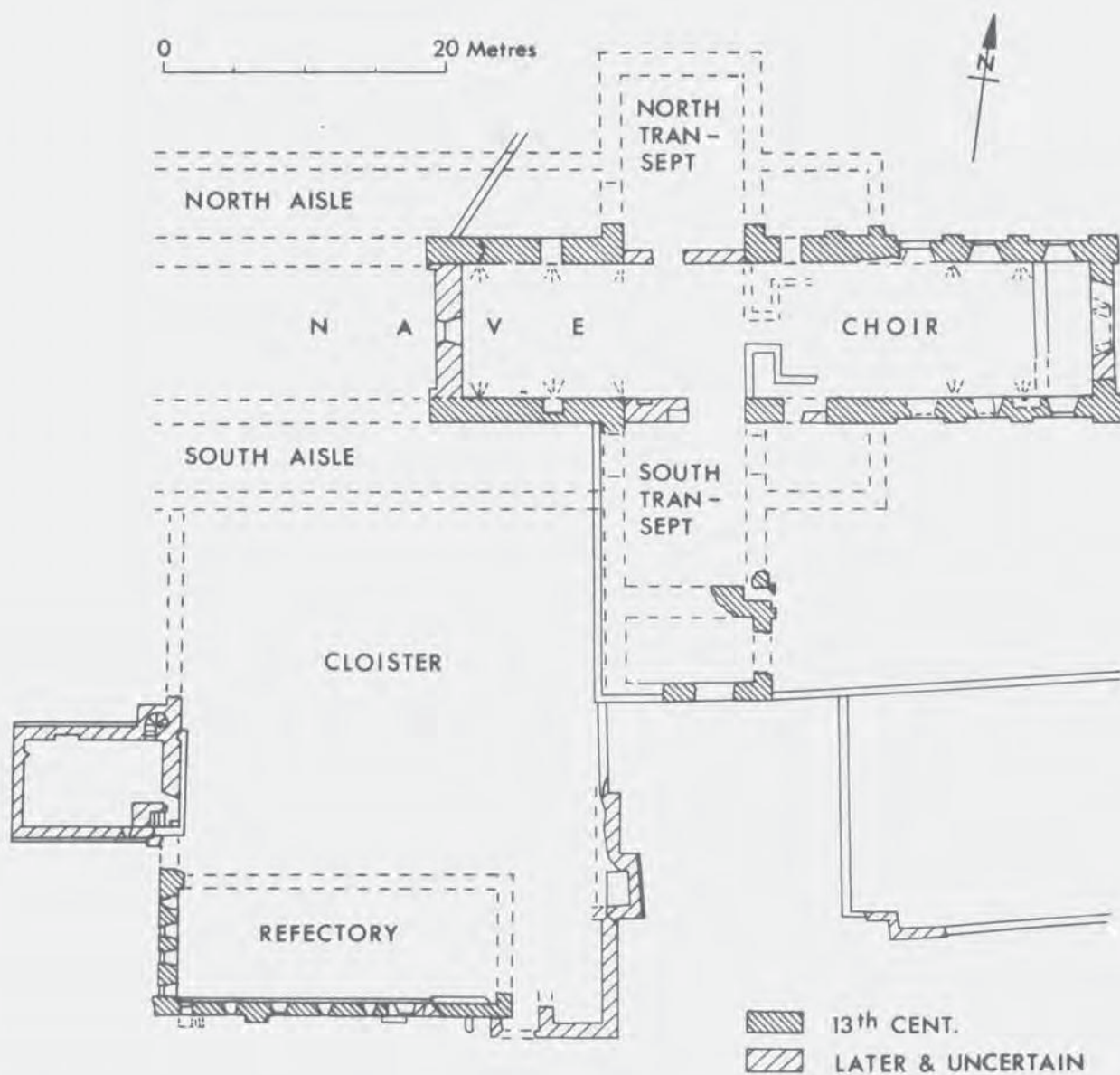


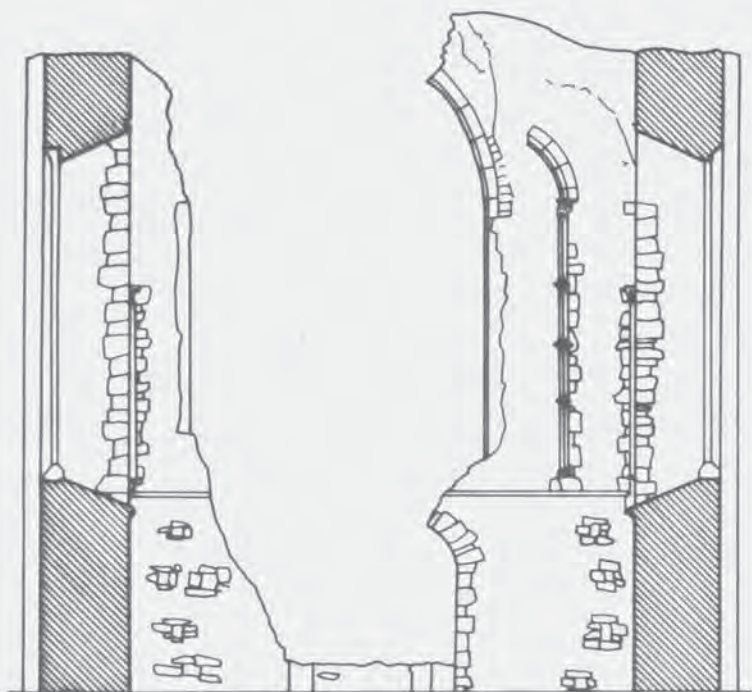
Fig. 32: Newtown Trim: General site plan.



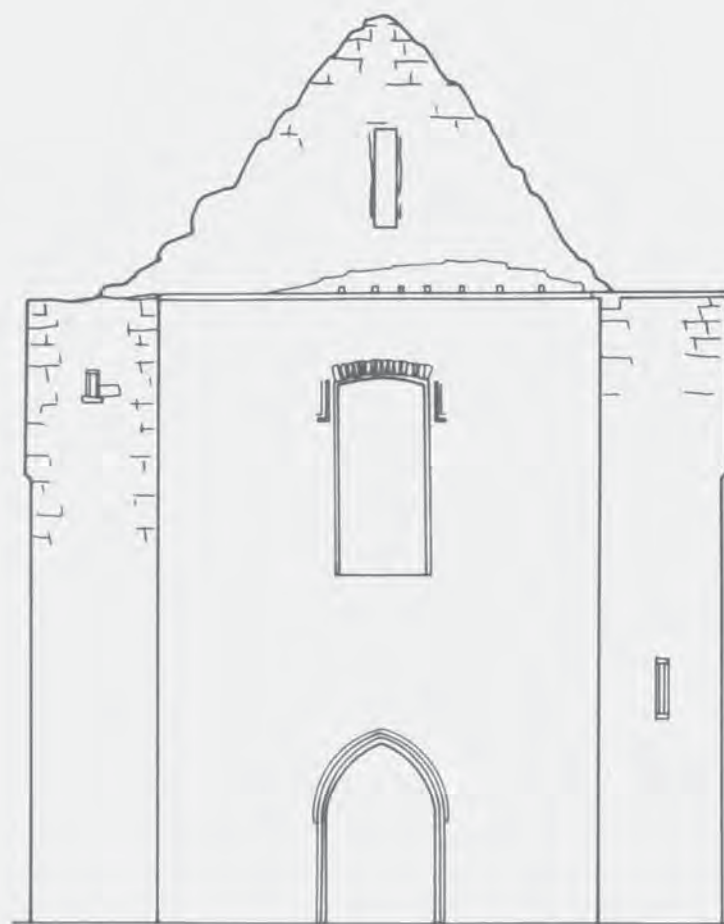
NEWTOWN TRIM : CATHEDRAL OF SS. PETER & PAUL

AFTER LEASK

Fig. 33. Newtown Trim: Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul: ground plan (After H. G. Leask).



SECTION LOOKING EAST

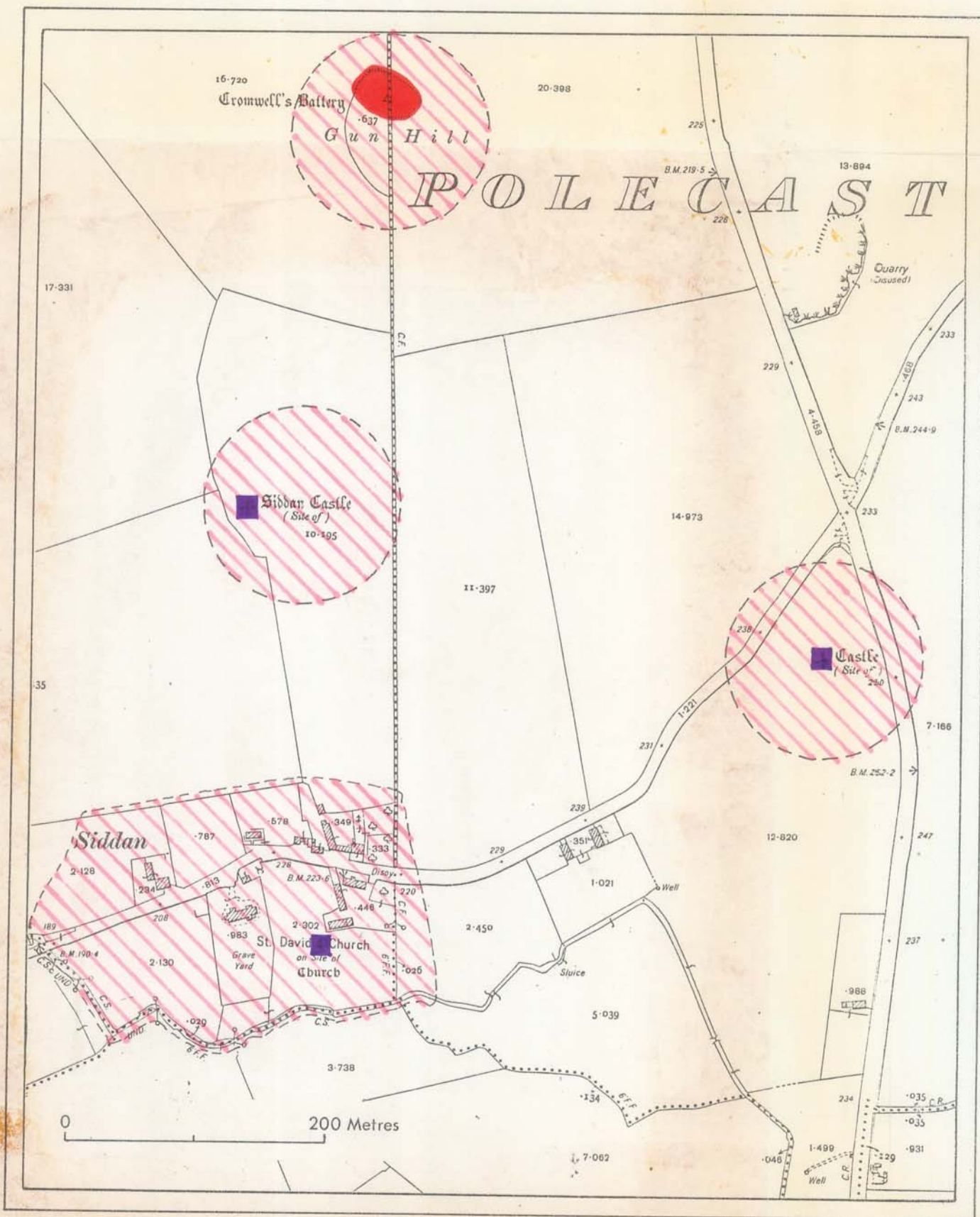


WEST ELEVATION

NEWTOWN TRIM: CATHEDRAL

AFTER O.P.W.

0 10 Metres



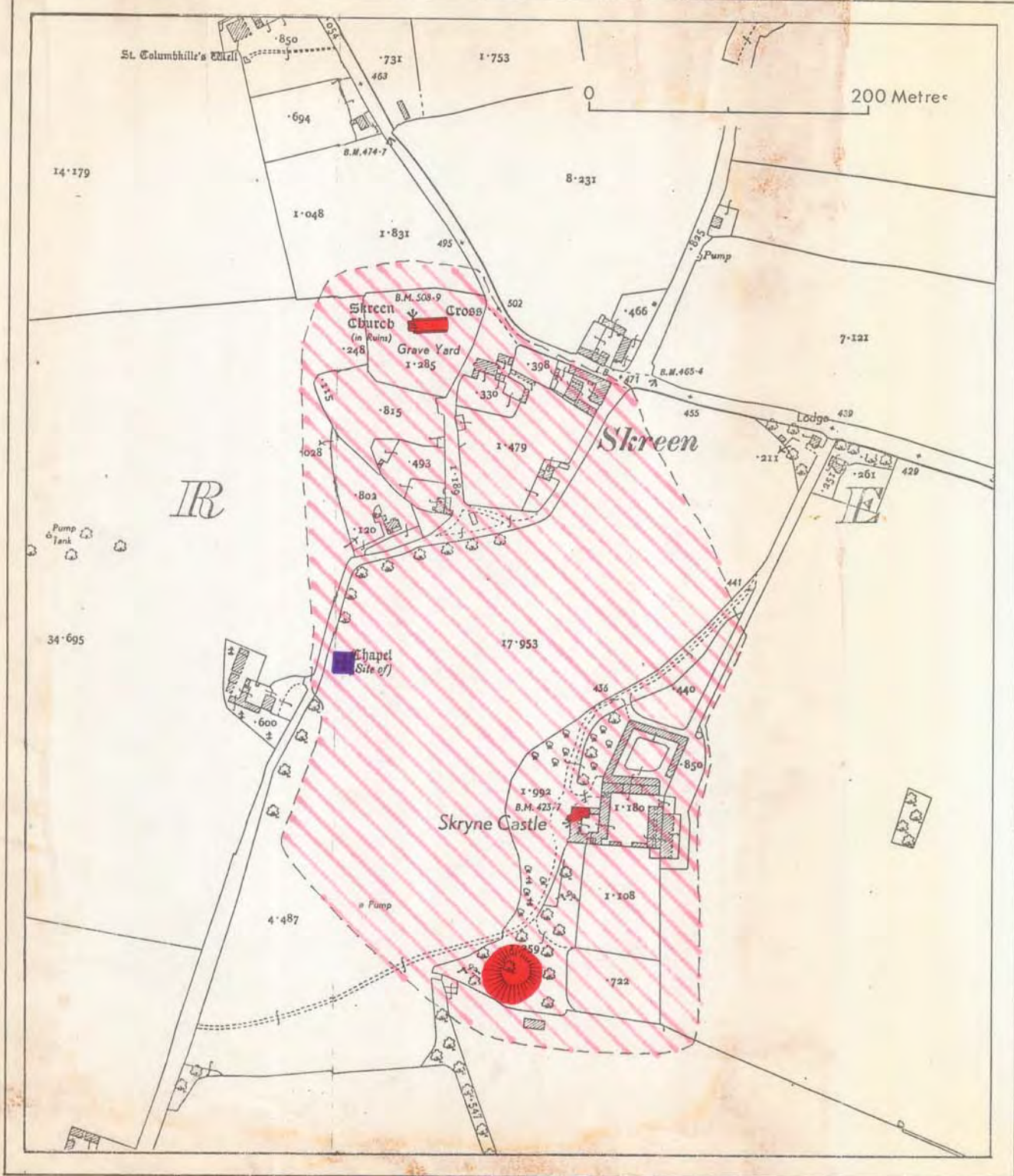


Fig. 38. Skreen: Zone of archaeological potential.

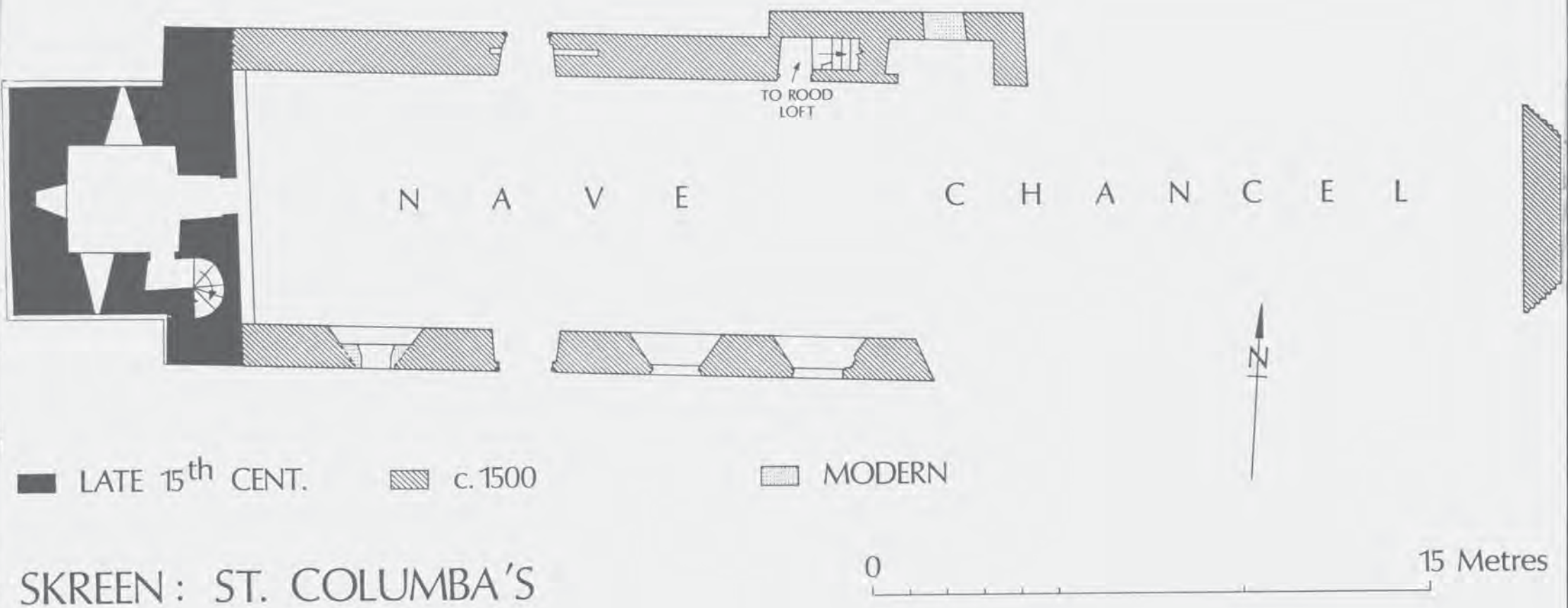
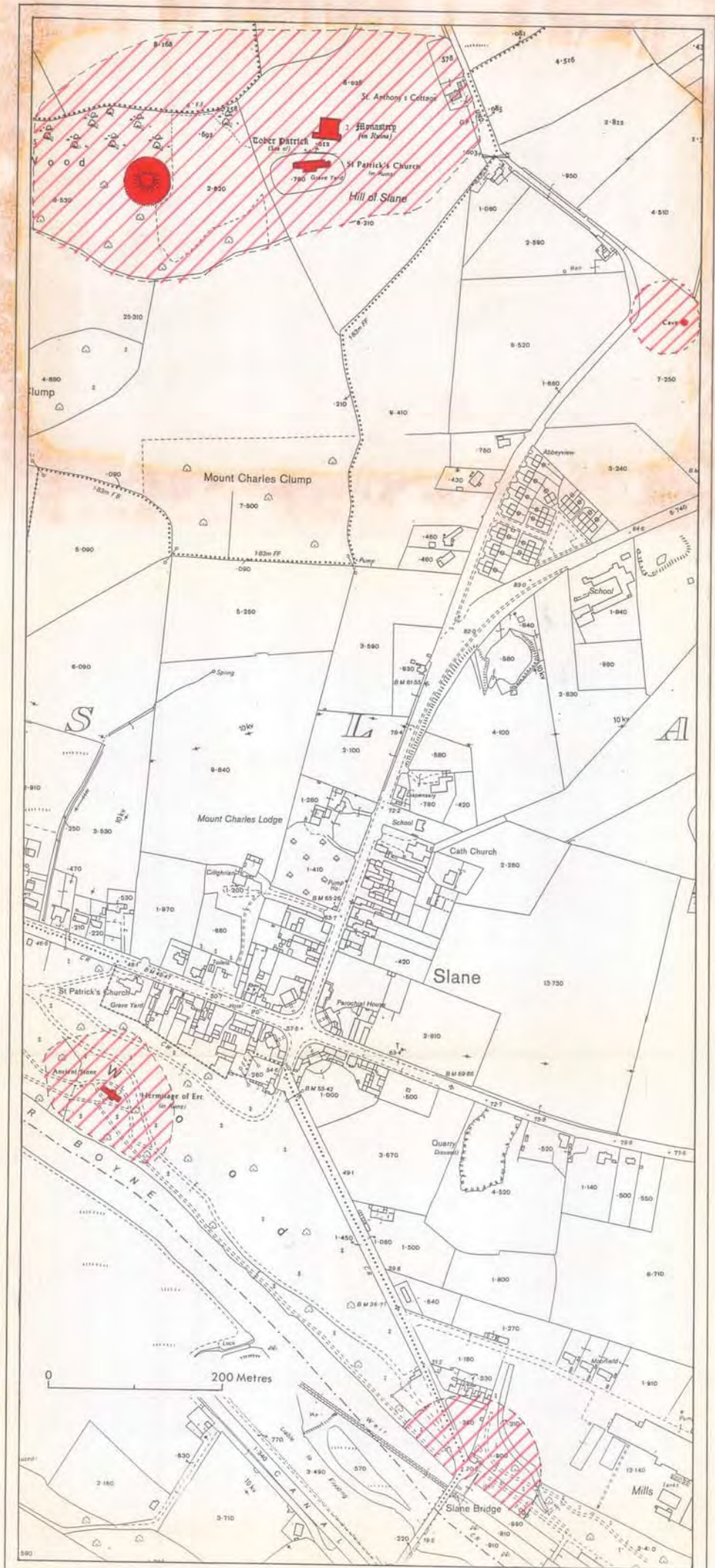
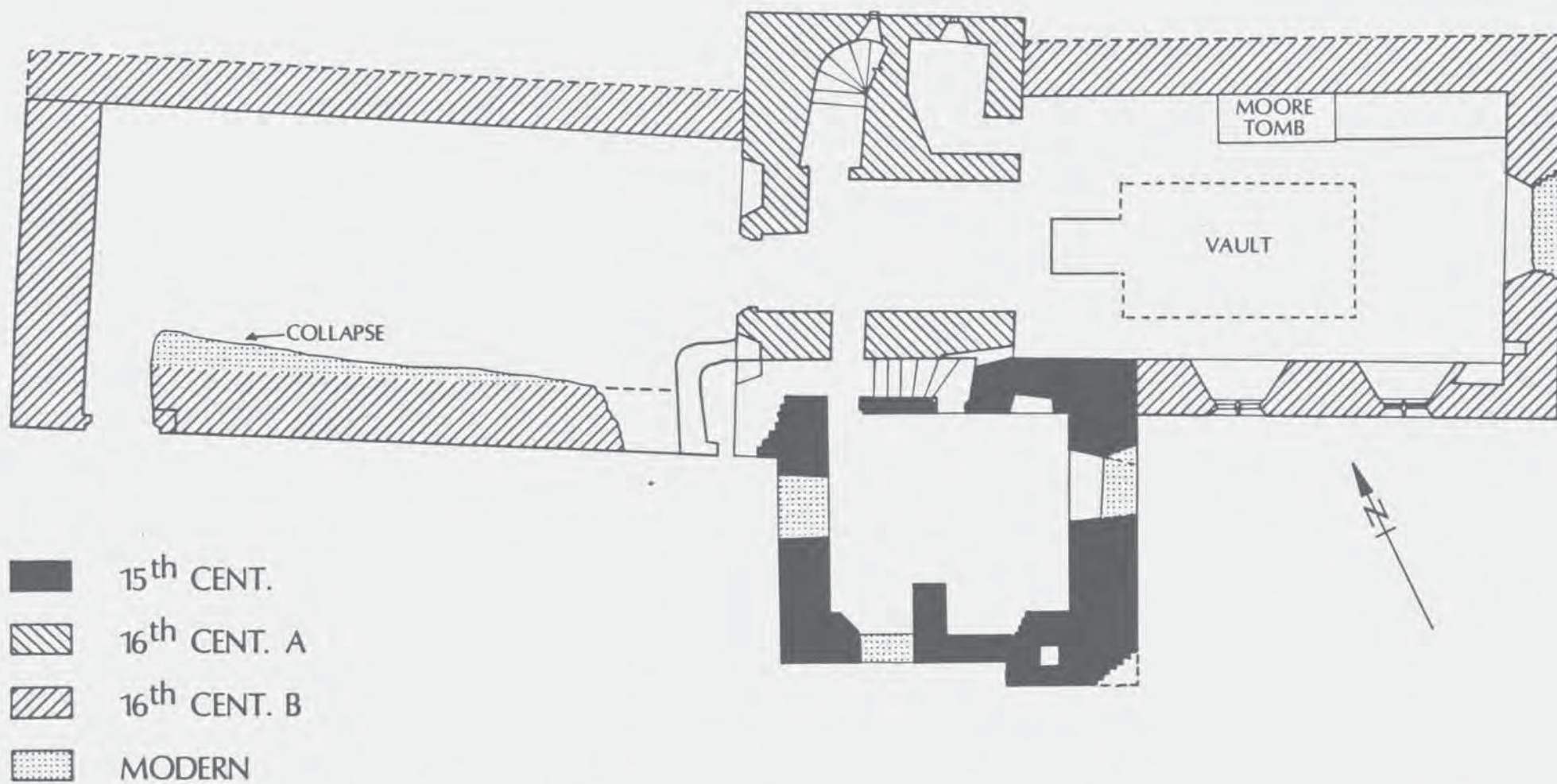


Fig. 39. Skreen: St Columba's church: ground plan.





SLANE: ST. ERC'S

Fig. 41. Slane: St Erc's Hermitage: ground plan.

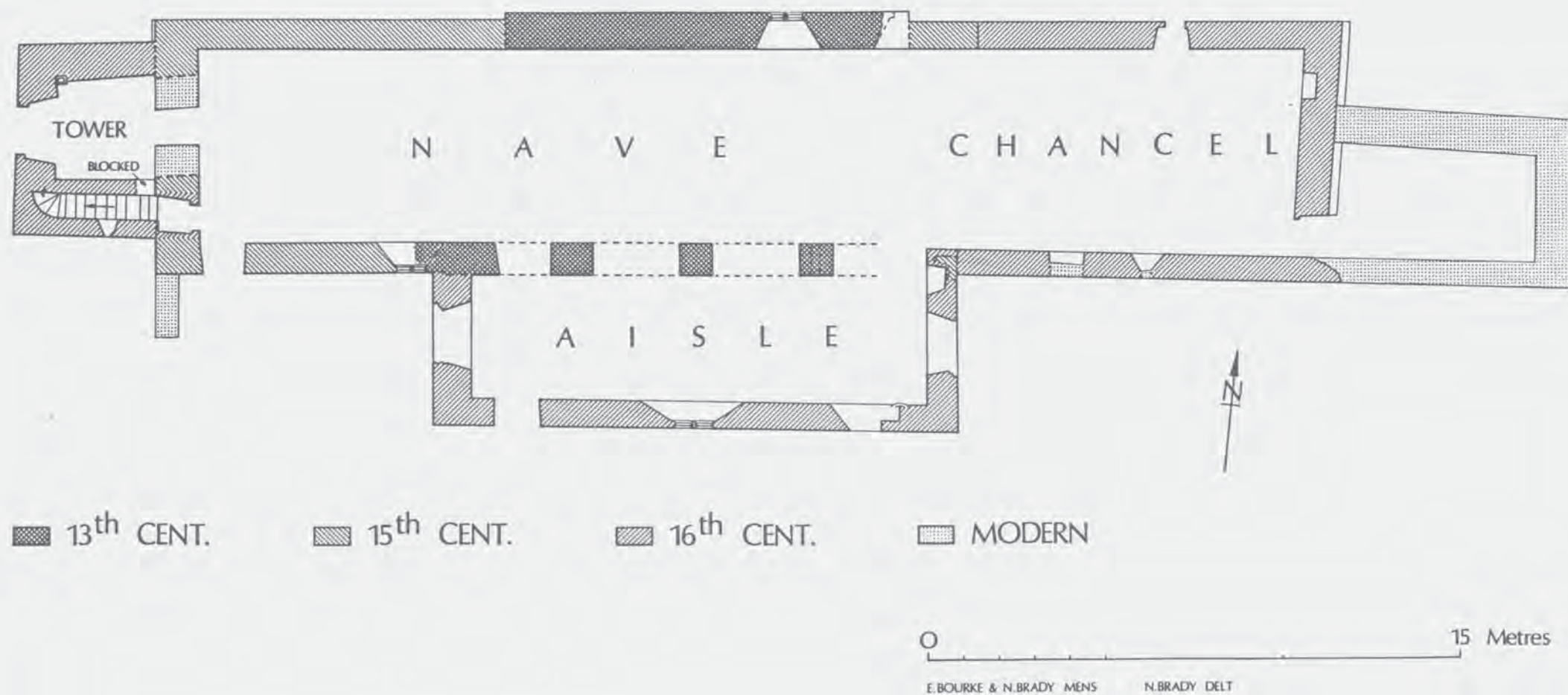
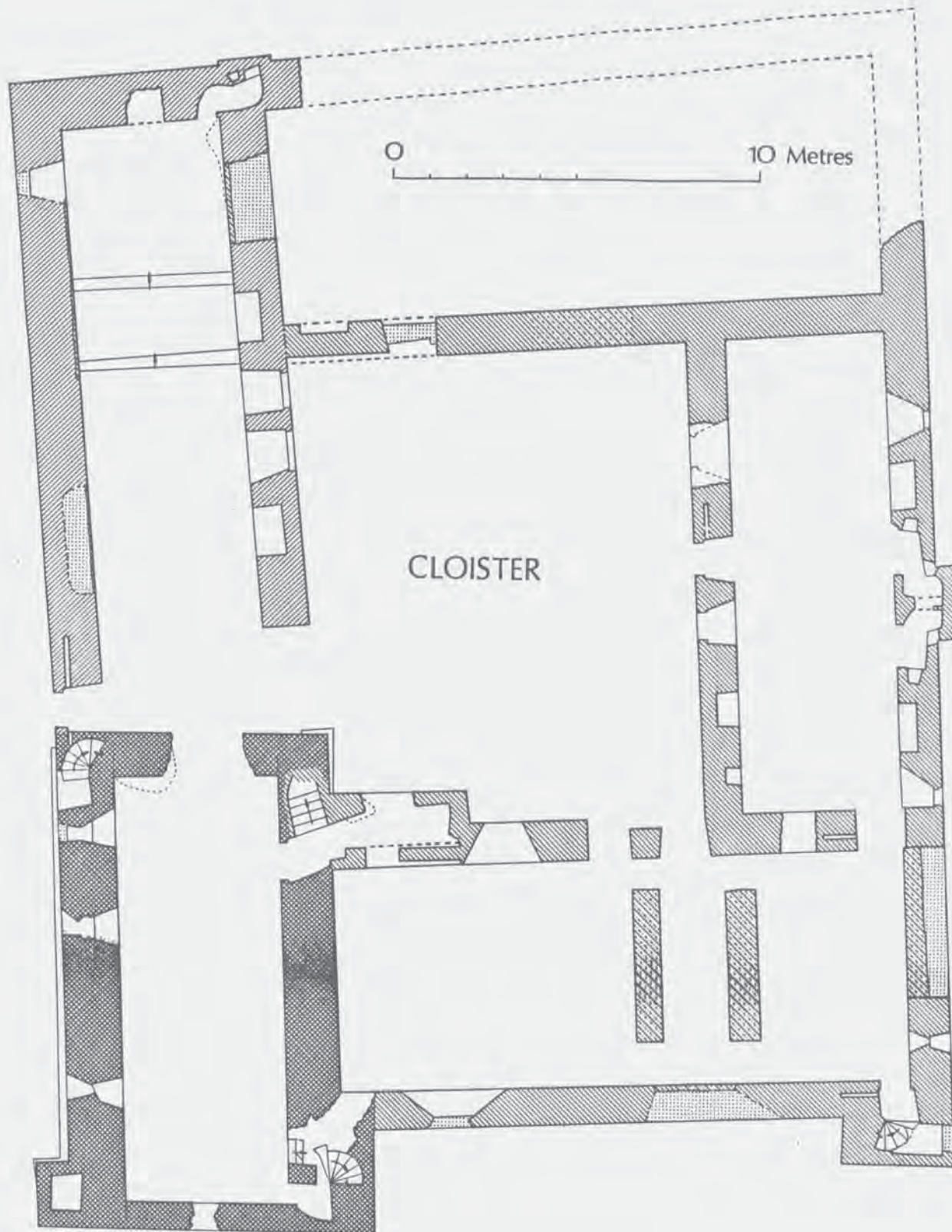


Fig. 42. Clane: St. Paul's Church: ground plan.



- 15th CENT.
- 16th CENT. A
- 16th CENT. B
- FOUNDATIONS ONLY
- MODERN



SLANE : COLLEGE : GROUNDPLAN

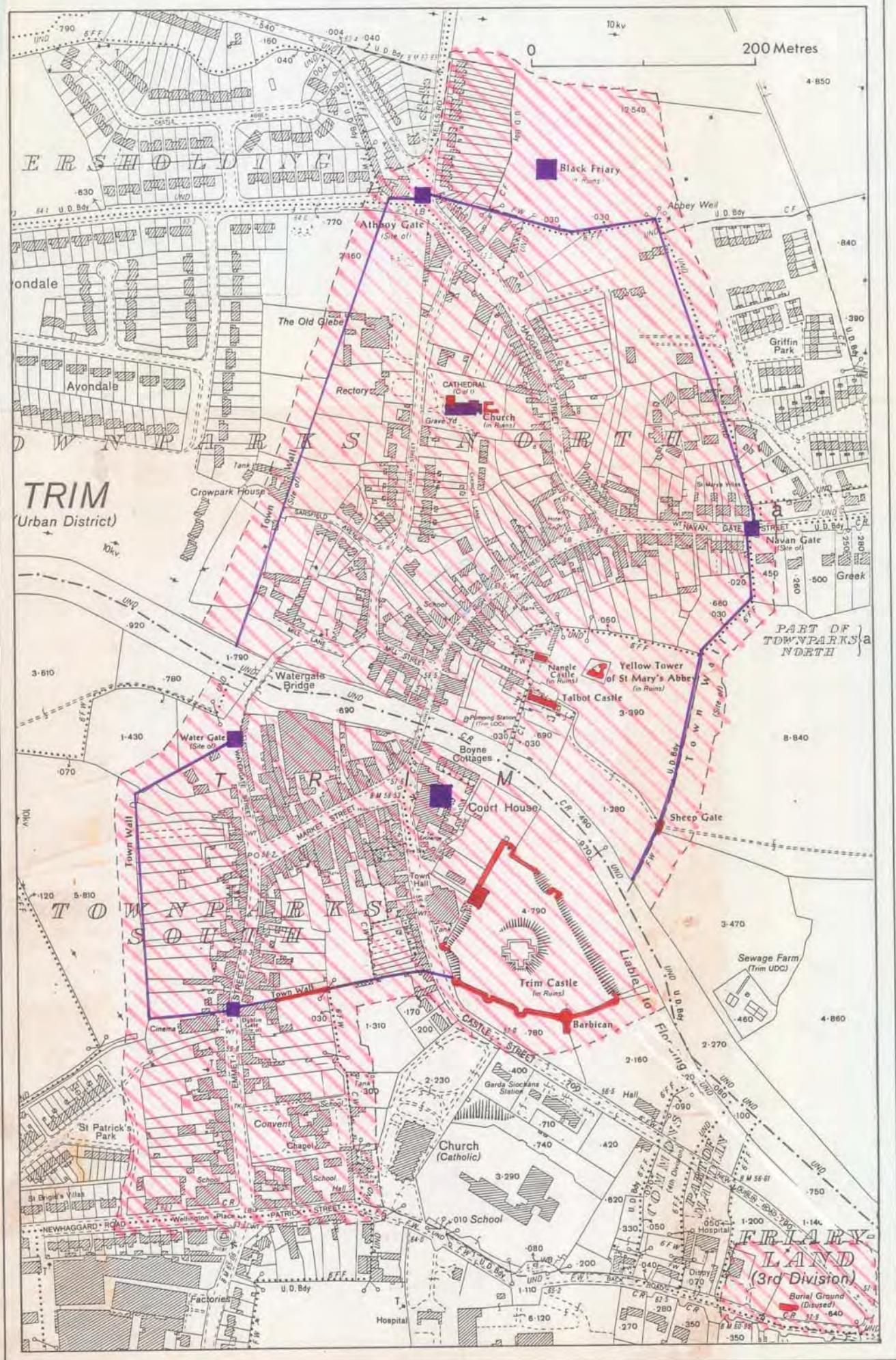


Fig. 44. Trim: Zone of archaeological potential.

TRIM

■ Site of Gate

0 200
metres



NB

Fig. 45. Trim: Outline plan showing principal archaeological features.

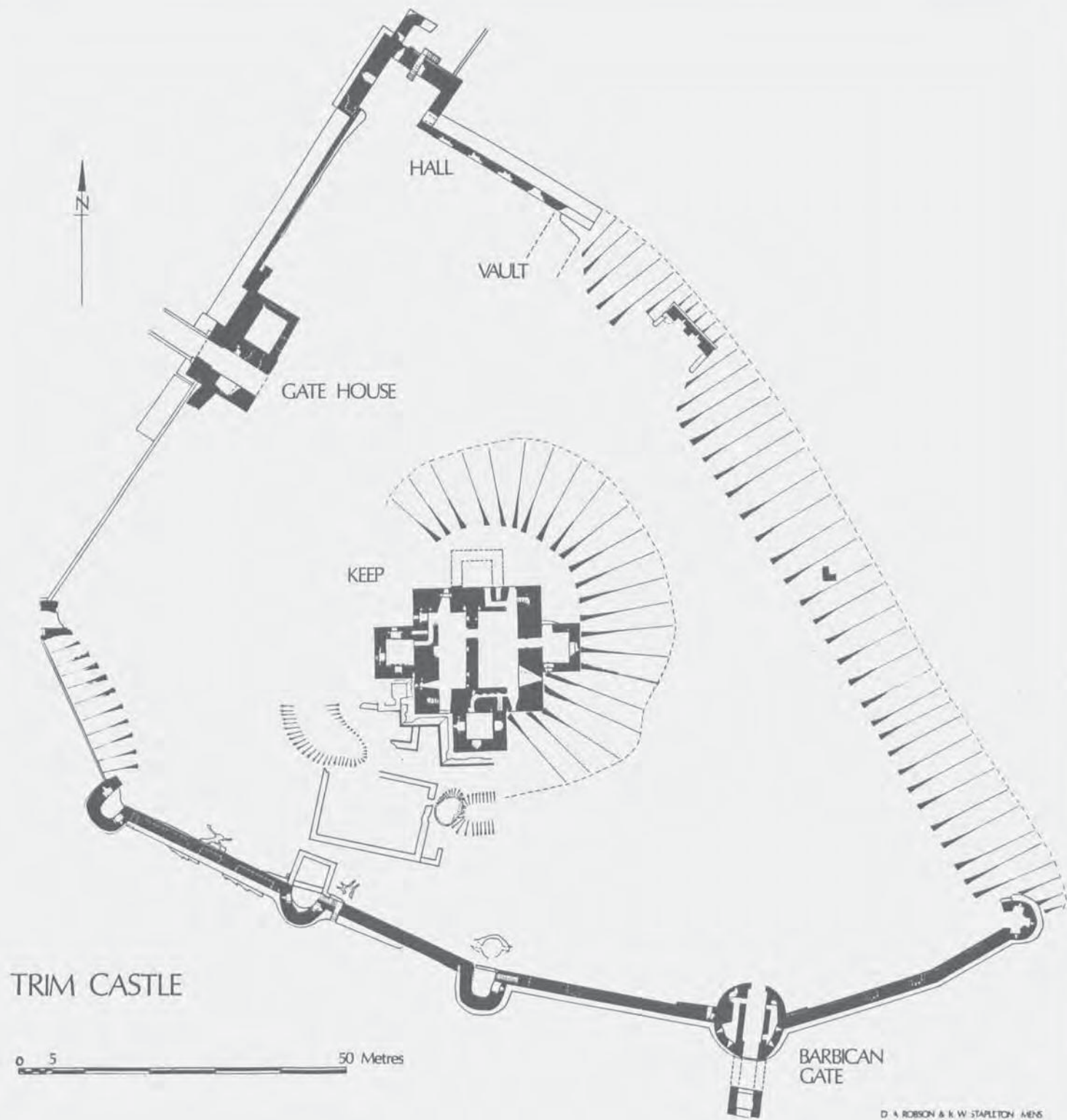
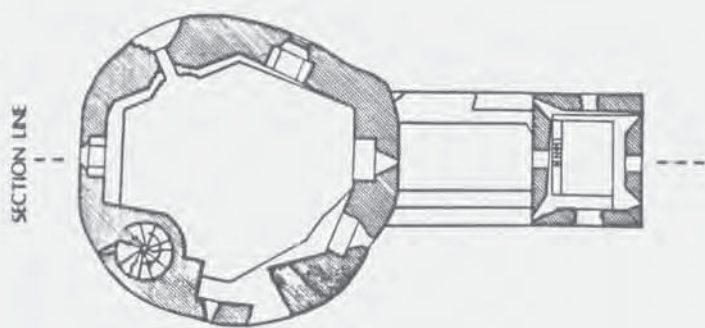
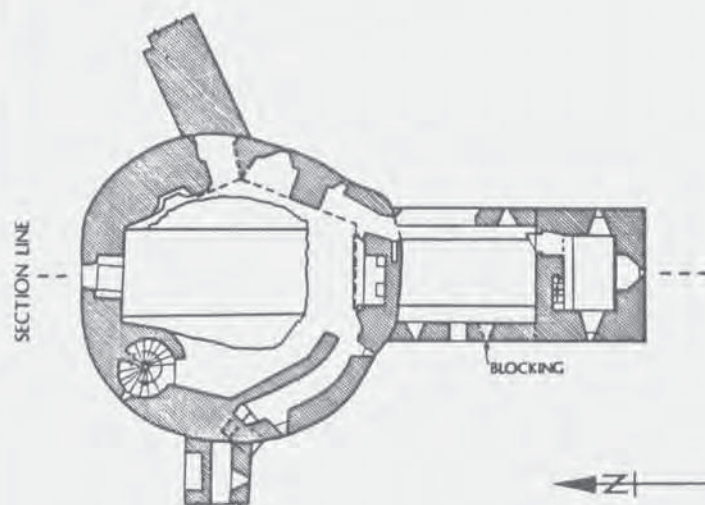


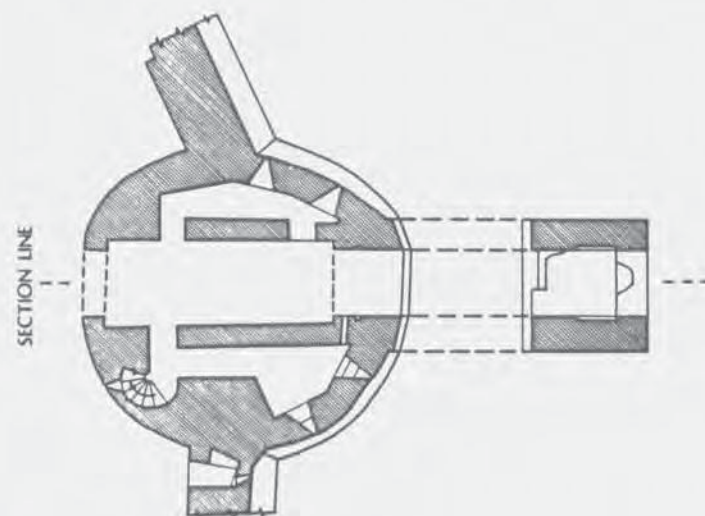
Fig. 46: Trim Castle: ground plan (After D. A. Robson and R. W. Stapleton, OPW).



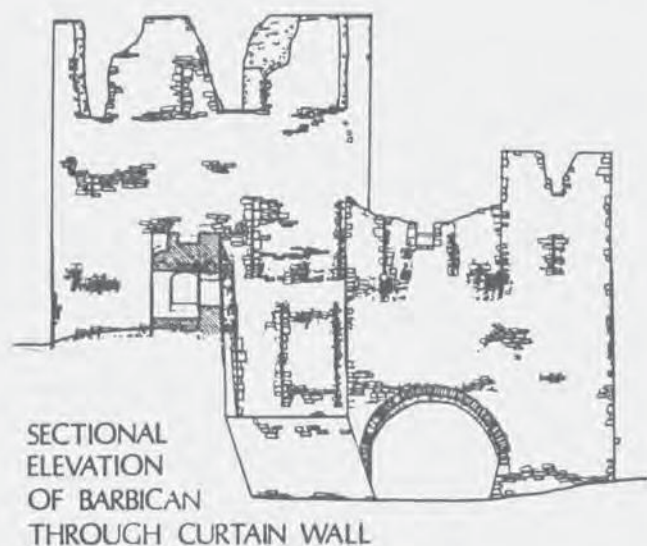
SECOND FLOOR



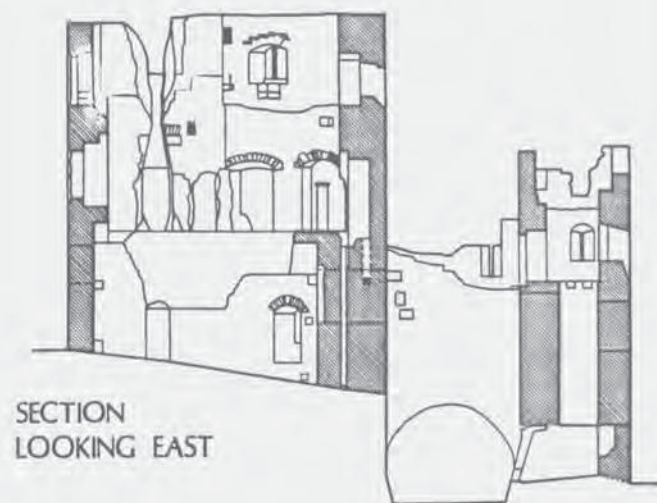
FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



SECTIONAL
ELEVATION
OF BARBICAN
THROUGH CURTAIN WALL



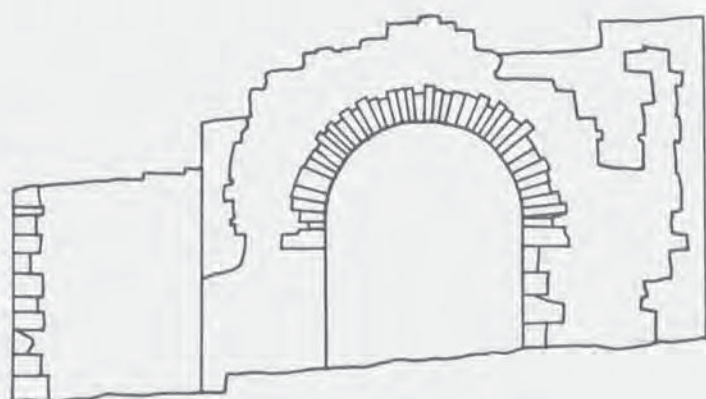
SECTION
LOOKING EAST

TRIM CASTLE : BARBICAN GATE

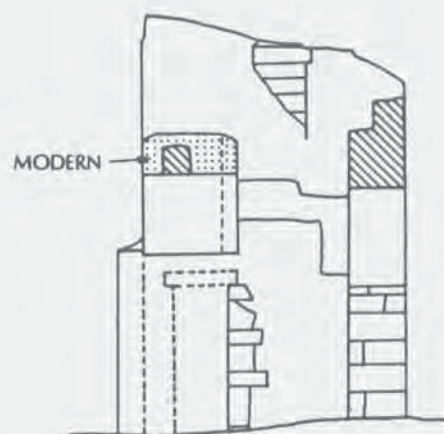
0 20 Metres

R. W. STAPLETON MENS

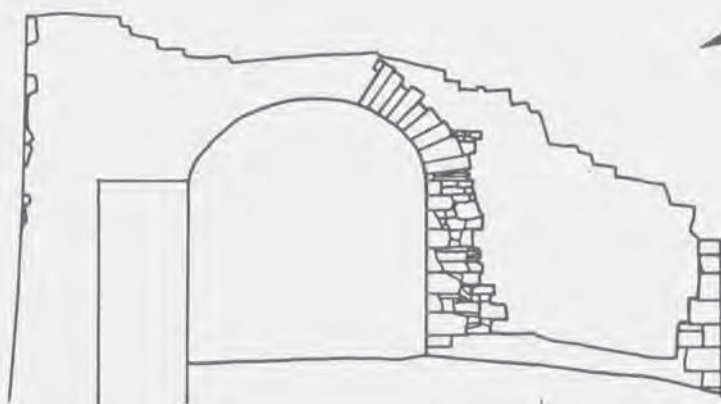
Fig. 47. Trim Castle: Barbican gate: floor plans, section and elevation
(After R. W. Stapleton, OPW).



EAST ELEVATION



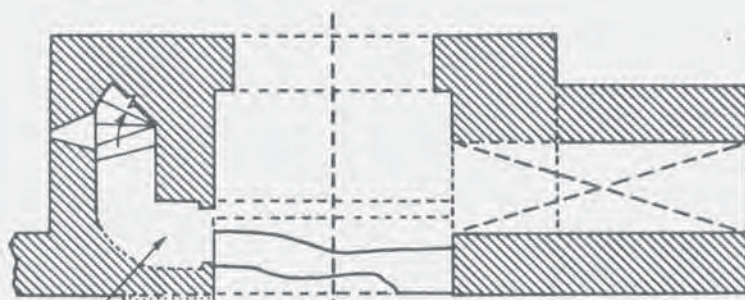
SECTION LOOKING NORTH



WEST ELEVATION



SECTION LOOKING SOUTH



RUBBLE

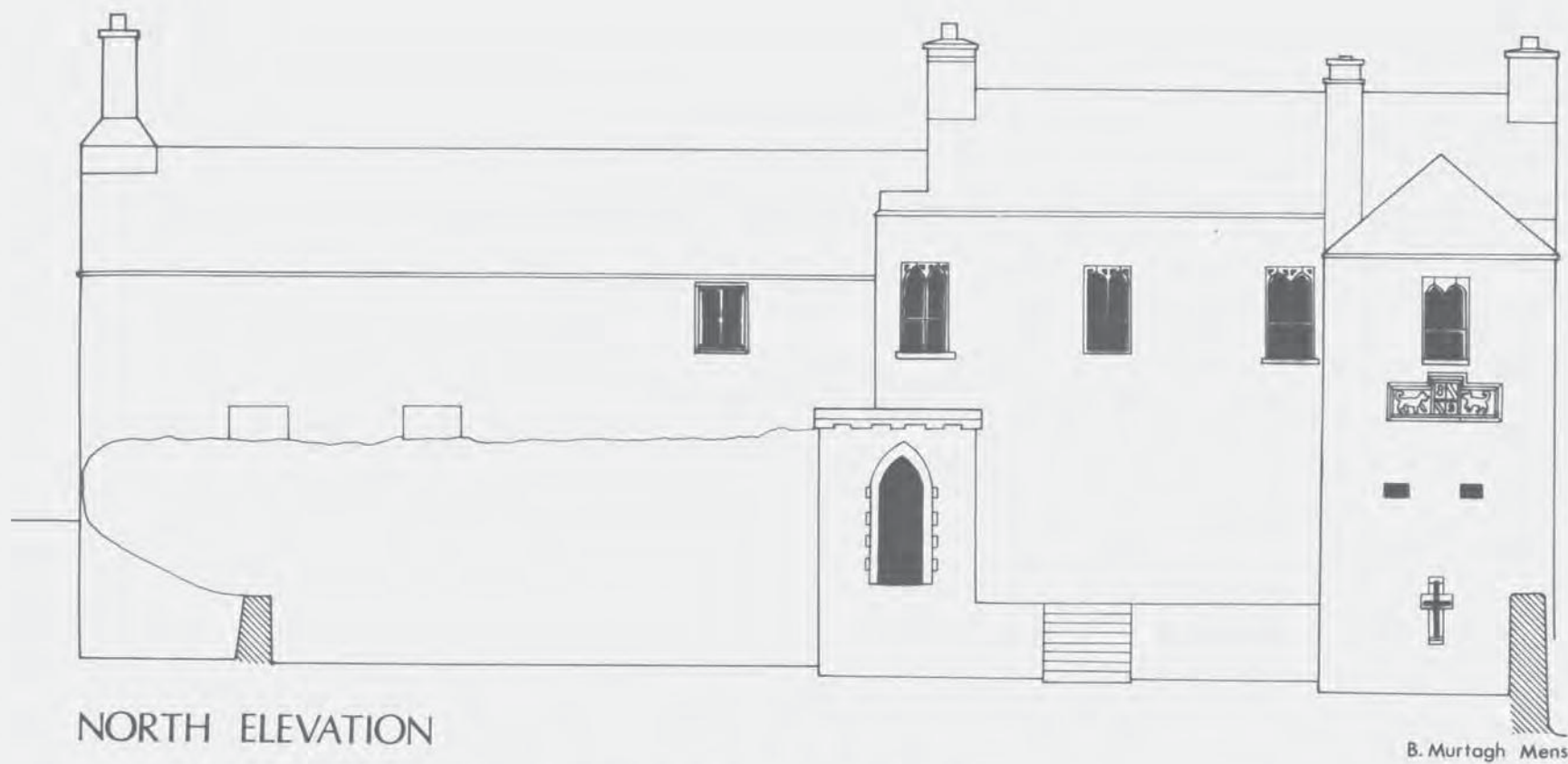
SECTION LINE

GROUND PLAN

TRIM:
SHEEP GATE

0 5 Metres
AFTER O.P.W.

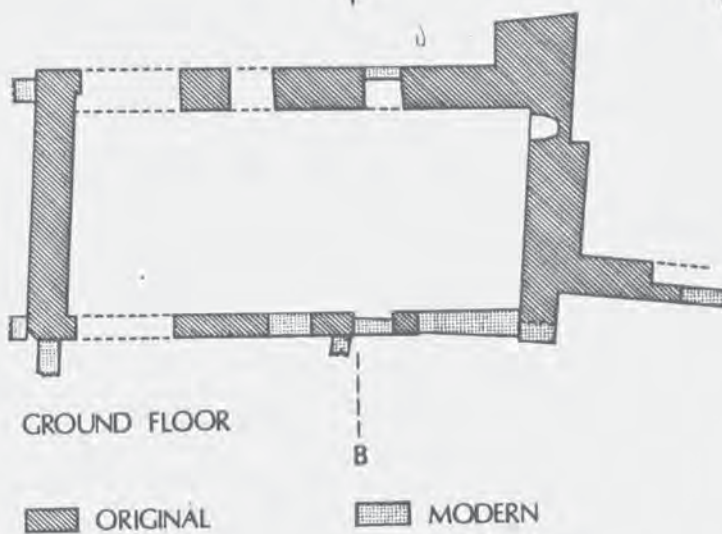
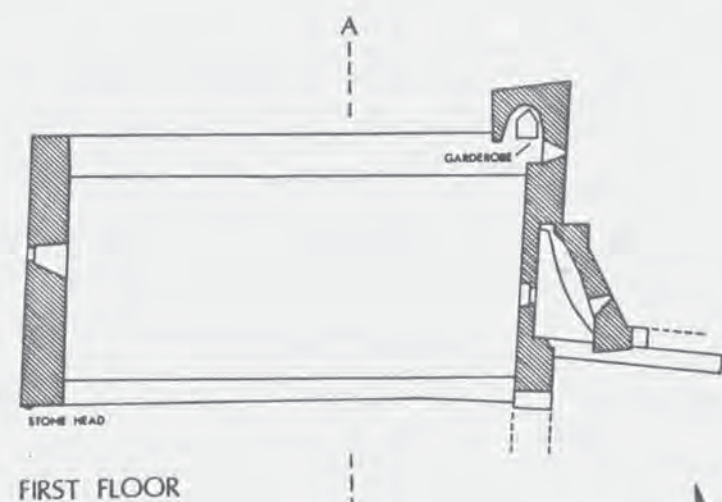
Fig. 48. Trim: sheep Gate: floor plans, section and elevation (After OPW).



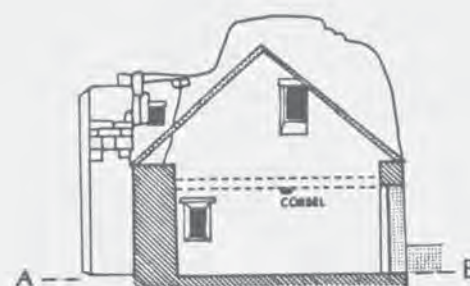
TRIM: TALBOT'S CASTLE

0 5 Metres

Fig. 49. Trim: Talbot's Castle: North elevation.



EAST ELEVATION



0 10 Metres

B. HURTAGH ARCH

NANGLE'S CASTLE, TRIM

Fig. 50. Trim: Nangle's Castle: floor plans, section and elevation.

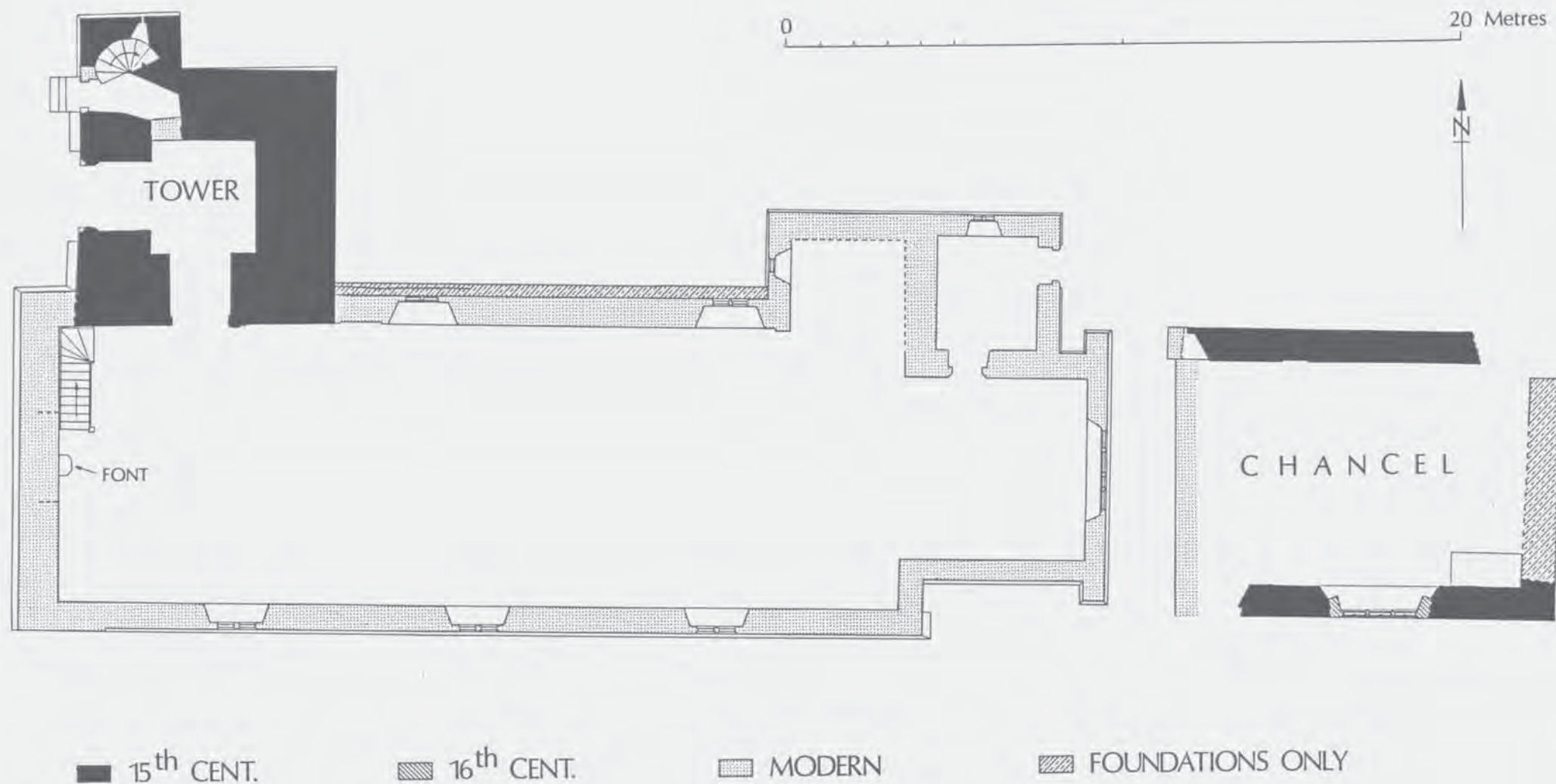
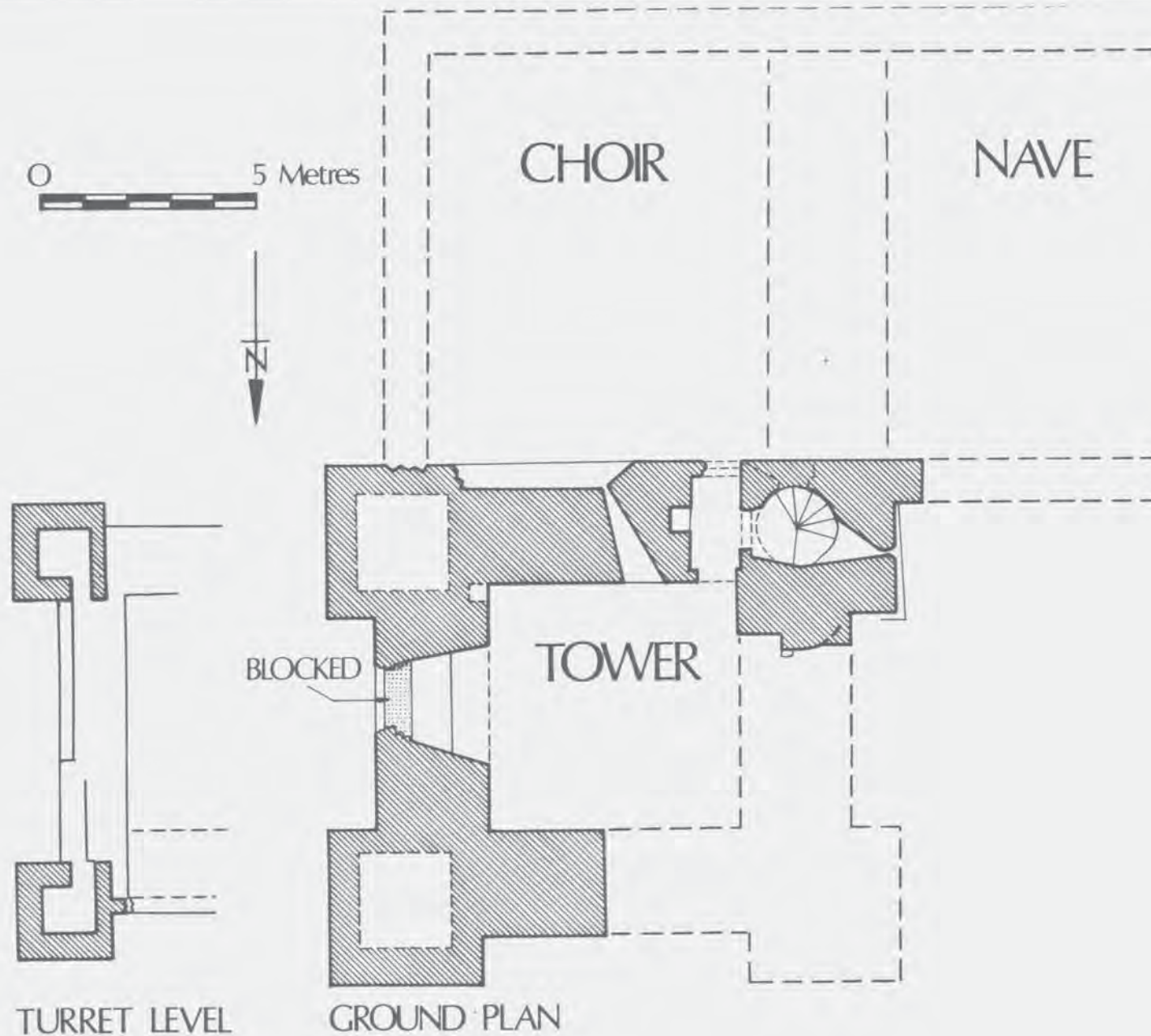


Fig. 51. TRIM : ST. PATRICK'S : GROUND PLAN



TRIM: ST. MARY'S ABBEY: "THE YELLOW STEEPLE"

Fig. 52. Trim: St Mary's Abbey (Yellow Steeple): ground plan and turret level (After R. Corrigan, OPW)



Fig. 53. TRIM: ST. MARY'S ABBEY: "THE YELLOW STEEPLE"

sections and elevations (After R. Corrigan, OPW).



TRIM . ST MARY MAGDALEN

NB

Fig. 54. Trim St. Mary Magdalen ground plan.

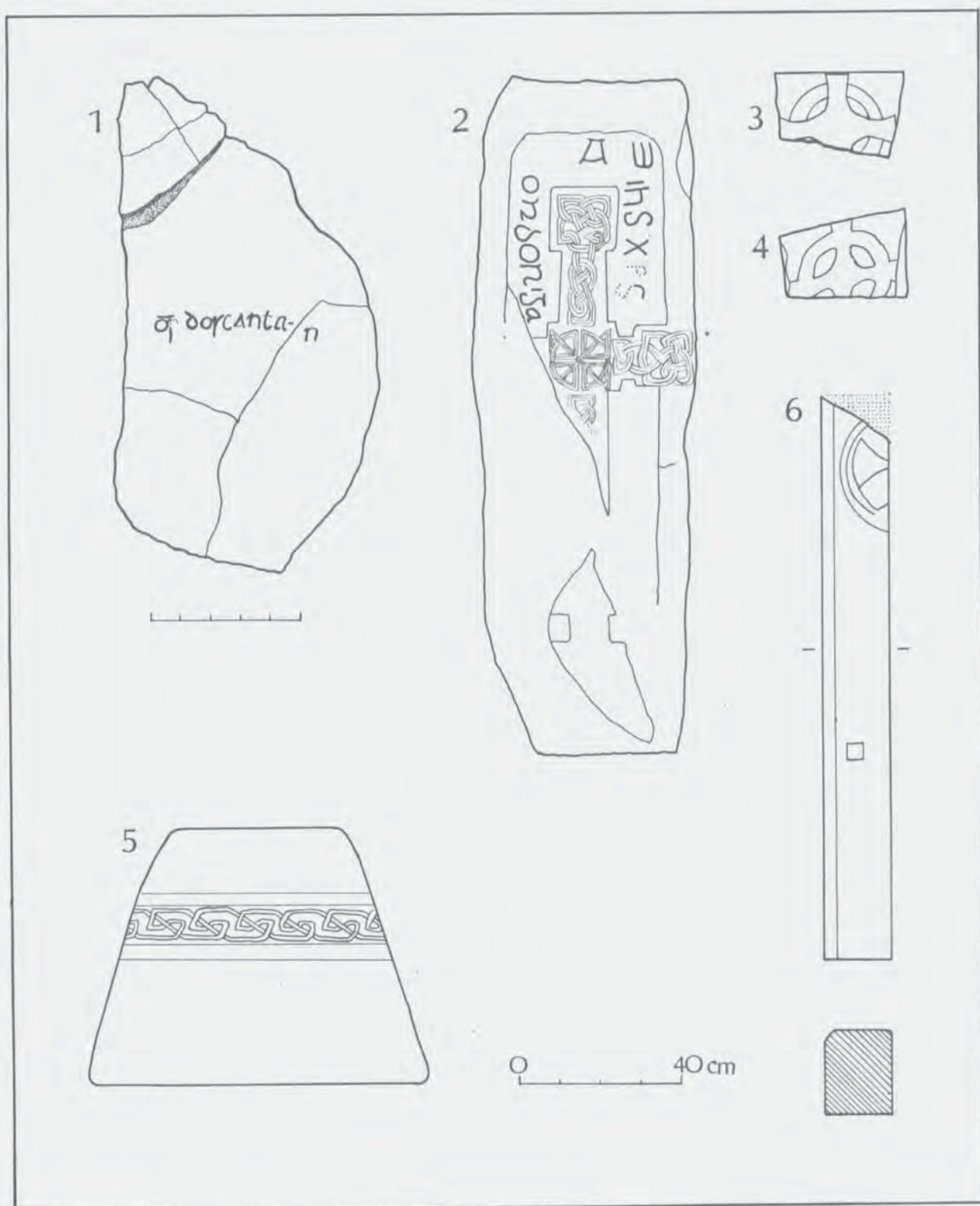


Fig. 55. Early Christian monuments: 1, Dulceek; 2-4, Kellis; 5, Nobber; 6, Skraen.

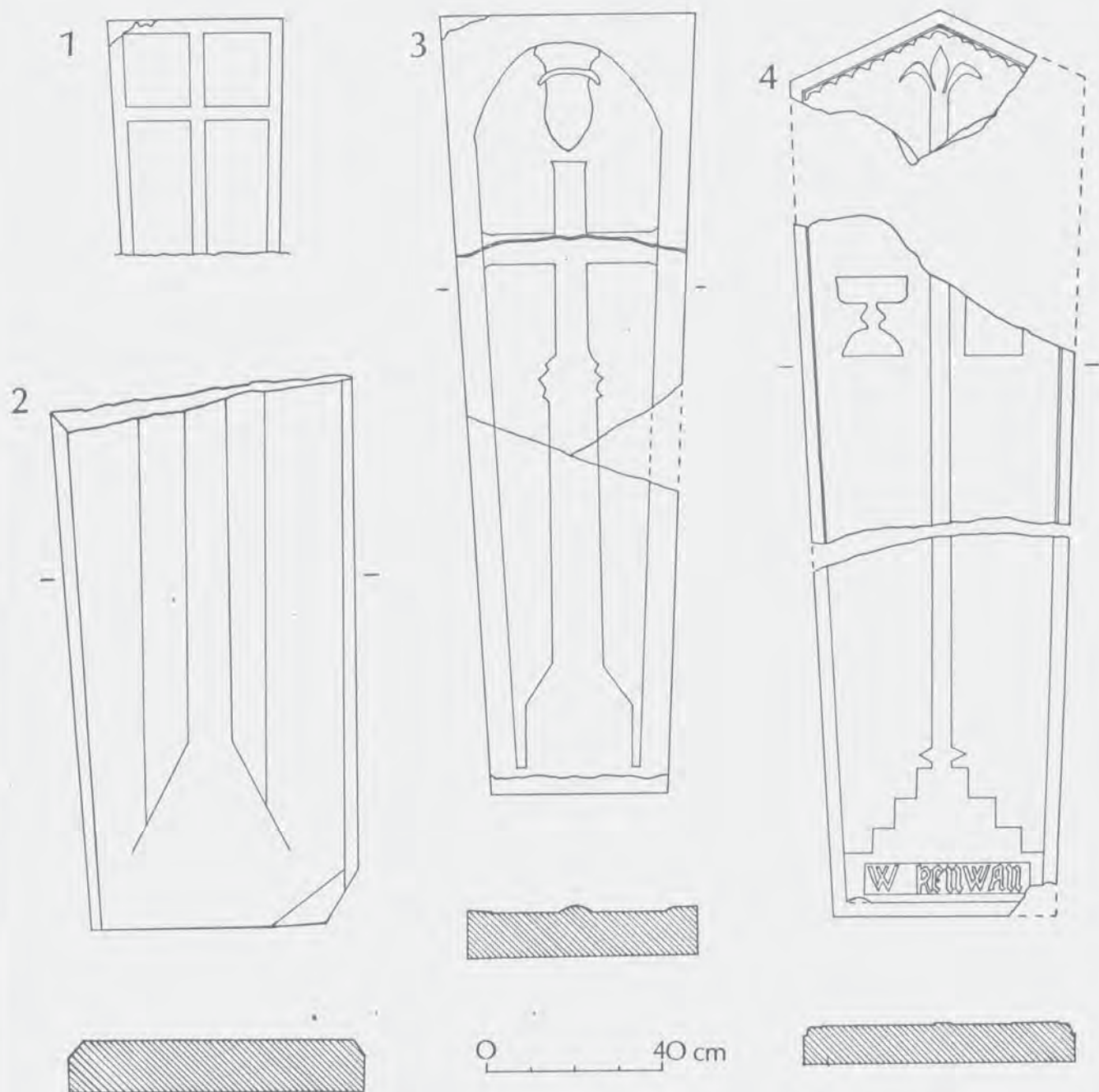


Fig. 56. Anglo-Norman grave slabs: 1. Dunshaughlin; 2. Mellis; 3. Skreen; 4. Slane.



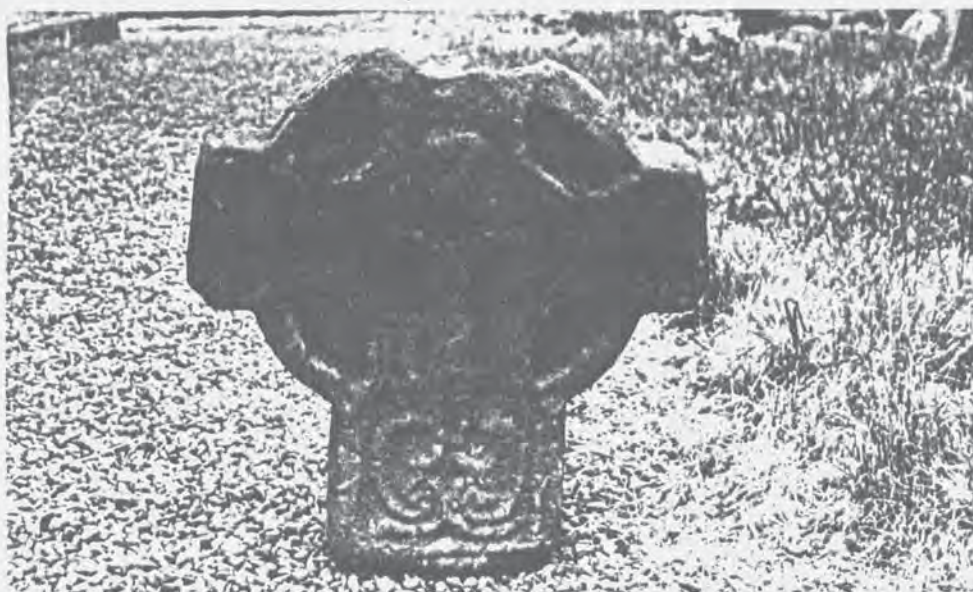
Pl. 1. Athboy.

- a) St. James' (C of I) church: tower from west.
- b) St. James' (RC) church: tomb panel.



Pl. 2. Athboy.

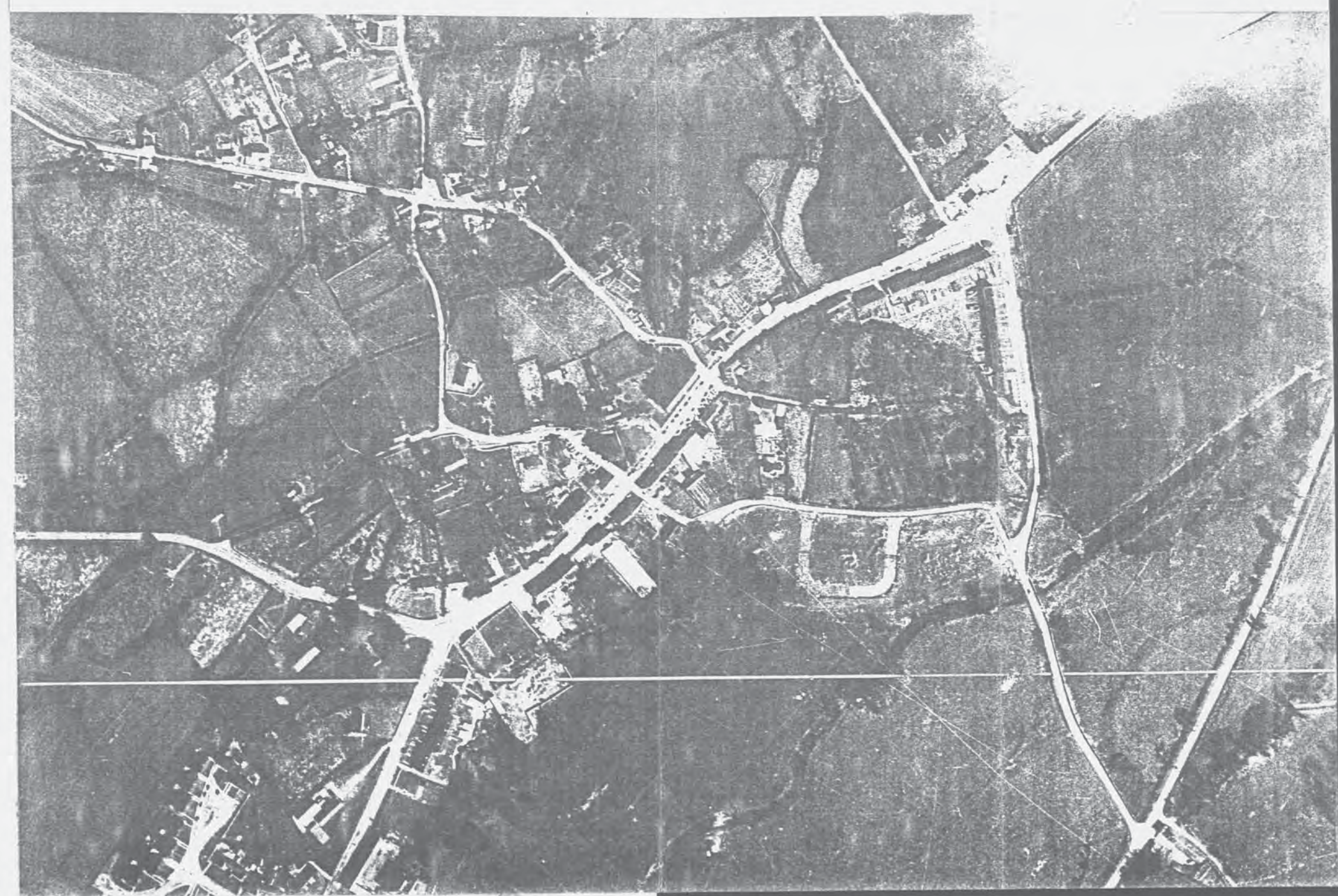
a) St. James' (C of I) church: effigial tomb.
b) St. James' (RC) church: tomb panel.



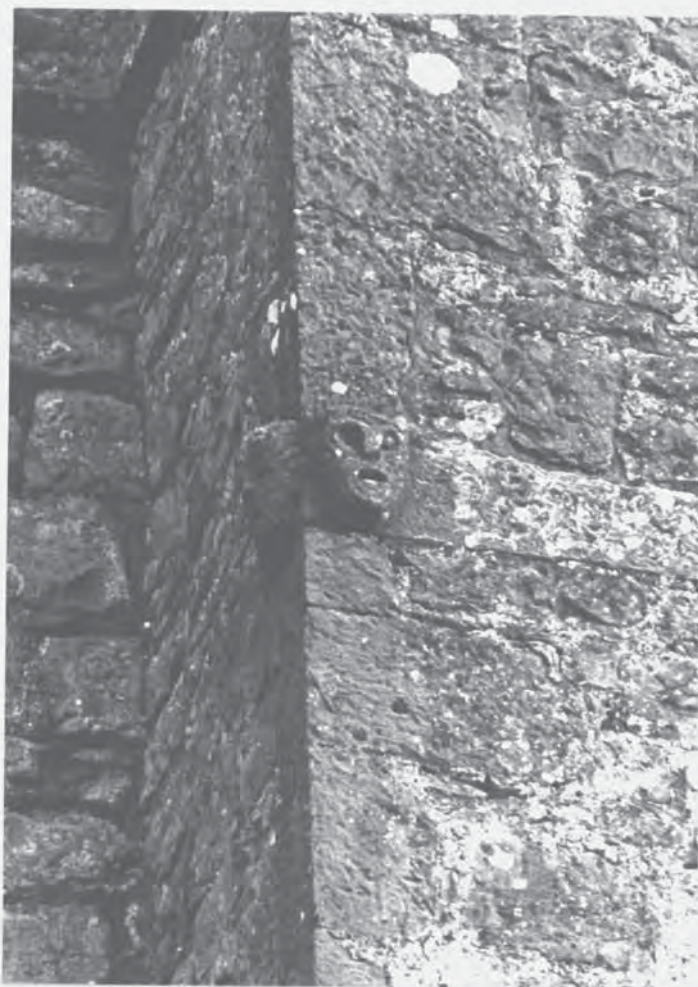
Pl. 3. Colp: Early Christian cross
a) Face 1.
b) Face 2.



Pl. 4. a) Duleek: Berford Cross.
b) Drumcondra: font at RC church.



Pl. V. Aerial view of Duleek.



Pl. 6. Duleek: St. Cianan's church.
 a) View from south east.
 b) Head on west side of west tower.



Pl. 7. Duleek: St. Cianan's church.
 a) North cross, west face.
 b) South cross, west face.



Pl. 8. Duleek: St. Dianan's church.
 a) Plunkett-Preston tomb: west end.
 b) Cusack tomb: south face.



Pl. 9. Duleek.

- a) St. Patrick's church, from south-east.
- b) St. Michael's grange. View from east showing the east gable of the church and the west gate.



Pl. 10. Duleek.

- a) St. Cieran's church, Ballew-Nugent armorial plaque on east window.
- b) Bathe-Dowdall armorial plaque (in private possession).



Pl. 12. a) Duleek: St. Patrick's church: incised cross slab
(now missing).
b) Dunboyne: Church of SS Peter & Paul, font.



Pl. 13. Dunshaughlin.
a) Door lintel.
b) Ogee-headed window.



Pl. 14. a) Greenoge: mound (?motte) from south.
 b) Navan: Athlumney church, head in south wall.



Pl. 15. Kells.

- a) St. Columba's Church: west tower from south-west
- b) Round tower from south west.



Pl. 16. Kells: St. Columba's Church.
a) Market cross: south face.
b) East cross: east face.



Pl. 17. Kells: St. Columba's Churchyard.
 a) South cross: west face.
 b) West cross: east face.



Pl. 18. Kells: St. Columba's Churchyard.
 a) Base of west tower from south.
 b) North cross.



Pl. 18. Kells.

a) St. John's Churchyard: effigial tomb.

b) St. Columba's Churchyard: effigial tomb.



Pl. 20. Kells.

a) Mural tower from south-west.

b) St. Columba's Churchyard: sundial.



P1. 21. Navan: Decorated stones from St. Mary's Abbey at
 St. Patrick's Classical School.
 a) Finial
 b) Window or door moulding.



F1. 22. Navan.

- a) Athlumney castle from south-east.
- b) Athlumney motte from south.



P1. 23. Newtown Trim.

- a) Cathedral of SS. Peter & Paul: general view from south across the Boyne.
- b) Parish church: Dillon tomb.

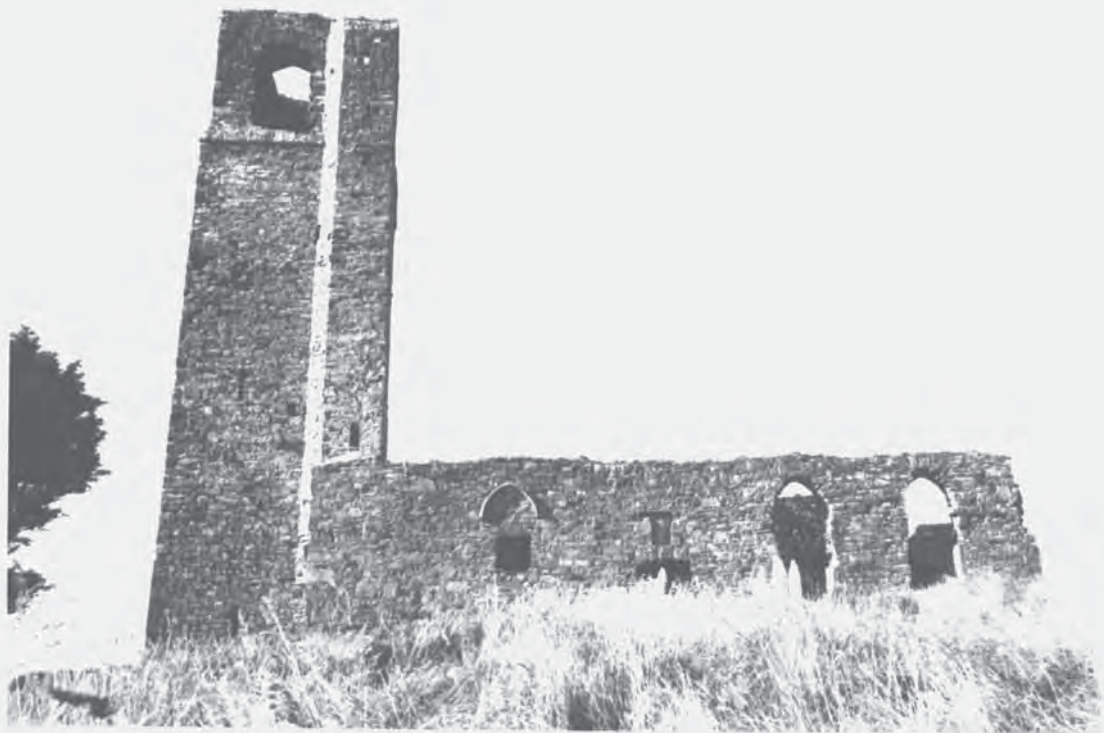


P1. 24. Newtown Trim.

- a) Parish church: reset door jambs showing the Coronation of the Virgin in the apex.
- b) Cathedral: effigial tomb.



Pl. 25. Nobber: St. John's Churchyard.
 a) The "Priest's tomb".
 b) Effigial slab.



Pl. 26. a) Skreen: St. Columba's church from south.
b) Nobber: St. John's Churchyard: effigial slab to
Gerald Cruice.



Pl. 27. a) Skreen: St. Columba's Church: figure of an
ecclesiastic over the south door.
b) Ratoath: Church of the Holy Trinity: effigial tomb.



P1. 28. Slane.

a) The College from south east.

b) St. Patrick's Church from south-west.



P1. 29. Slane.

- a) St. Patrick's Church: shrine tomb in graveyard.
 b) The College: window in south wall.



P1. 30. a) Slane: St. Erc's Hermitage: "the apostles' stone".
 b) Trim: St. Patrick's: decorated shaft from Ratoath.



Pl. 31. Trim Castle.
 a) Aerial view looking east.
 b) The keep from north-west.



Pl. 32. Trim.

- a) Talbot's Castle from east with St. Mary's Abbey
(the "Yellow Steeple") in the background.
- b) St. Patrick's: chancel from south.



Pl. 33. Trim.

- a) St. Mary's Abbey (the "Yellow Steeple") from south-west.
- b) St. Patrick's: west tower from west.