

URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY

PART XI

COUNTY WEXFORD

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and

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LIST OF CONTENTS

List of Figures.....	xi
Acknowledgements.....	xii
General Introduction.....	xiii
Introduction to Co. Wexford.....	x.ii
 BANNOW.....	 1
Archaeological Inventory.....	3
Site of Borough.....	3
Streets and houses.....	4
Market Place.....	6
Mill.....	6
Quay.....	6
Castle.....	6
St Mary's Parish church.....	7
Miscellaneous.....	9
Archaeological problems and potential.....	10
Recommendations.....	11
 CLONMINES.....	 13
Archaeological Inventory.....	15
Site of Borough.....	15
Market Place.....	15
Domestic Houses.....	16
Mill.....	17

Quay.....	17
Town Defences.....	17
Castle.....	18
St Nicholas' Parish Church.....	18
Fortified Church.....	18
Augustinian Friary.....	19
List of Archaeological Stray Finds.....	21
Archaeological problems and potential.....	21
Recommendations.....	22
 COURTOWN.....	 24
Archaeological inventory.....	25
Site of Borough.....	25
Castle.....	26
Parish Church.....	26
Miscellaneous.....	27
Archaeological problems and potential.....	27
Recommendations.....	28
 EDERMINE.....	 30
Site of Borough.....	31
Parish Church.....	31
Archaeological problems and potential.....	32
Recommendations.....	32

ENNISCORTHY.....	34
Archaeological and historical background.....	34
Archaeological inventory.....	37
Streets and street pattern.....	37
Market place.....	38
Bridge.....	38
Quays.....	39
Mills.....	39
Castle.....	40
St Mary's Parish Church.....	41
Augustinian Priory of St John the Baptist.....	41
Franciscan Friary.....	41
Suburbs.....	42
Templeshannon Church.....	42
List of archaeological stray finds.....	42
Archaeological problems and potential.....	43
Recommendations.....	45
 FERNS.....	 47
Archaeological and historical background.....	47
Archaeological inventory.....	51
Site of Borough.....	51
Mill.....	51
Castle.....	52
St. Maedhog's (Aidan's) Cathedral.....	53
Chapter House.....	56
Monuments.....	57
Augustinian Priory of St Mary.....	59

St Peter's Church.....	60
List of archaeological stray finds.....	61
Archaeological problems and potential.....	61
Recommendations.....	63
 FERRYCARRIG.....	 65
Archaeological inventory.....	67
Site of Borough.....	67
Ferry.....	67
Mills.....	68
Promontory Fort (Castle).....	68
Tower House.....	69
St Nicholas' Parish Church.....	70
Archaeological problems and potential.....	70
Recommendations.....	71
 FETHARD-ON-SEA.....	 73
Archaeological and Historical Background.....	73
Site of Borough.....	74
Streets and street pattern.....	75
Domestic Houses.....	75
Fortified House.....	76
Port.....	76
Episcopal Castle.....	76
St Aidan's parish church.....	77
Miscellaneous.....	78
Archaeological problems and potential.....	78

Recommendations.....	79
 GREAT ISLAND.....	 81
Archaeological inventory.....	83
Site of Borough.....	83
Domestic Houses.....	83
Mill.....	83
Castle.....	84
St Mokea's Parish Church.....	84
Leper Hospital.....	85
Miscellaneous.....	85
Archaeological problems and potential.....	86
Recommendations.....	86
 GOREY.....	 88
Archaeological inventory.....	89
Streets and street pattern.....	89
Market place.....	89
Domestic Houses.....	90
Tholsel.....	90
Town Defences.....	90
Fort.....	91
Parish Church.....	91
Archaeological problems and potential.....	91
Recommendations.....	92

MAYGLASS.....	94
Archaeological inventory.....	95
Site of Borough.....	95
Episcopal Castle.....	95
St Fintan's Parish Church.....	95
Archaeological problems and potential.....	96
Recommendations.....	97
 NEW ROSS.....	 99
Archaeological and Historical Background.....	99
Archaeological inventory.....	104
Streets and street pattern.....	104
Market Places.....	105
Market Cross.....	105
Bridge.....	106
Ferry.....	106
Quays.....	106
Domestic Houses.....	107
Custom House.....	108
Schoolhouse.....	108
Mills.....	108
Town Defences.....	109
North Gate.....	110
Maiden Tower.....	110
Maiden Gate.....	110
Mary's Gate.....	112
Weaver's Tower.....	112
Brogue Maker's Tower.....	112

SE Angle Tower.....	112
Three Bullet Gate.....	112
Mary's Tower.....	113
South Gate.....	113
Citadel and Blockhouse.....	113
St Mary's Parish Church.....	113
Monuments.....	116
St Evin's Chapel.....	118
St Michael's Chapel.....	118
St Saviour's Chantry Chapel.....	119
Augustinian Friary.....	120
Dominican Friary.....	120
Franciscan Convent of the Third Order regular..	121
Franciscan Friary (St Saviour's).....	121
Hospital of the Fratres Cruciferi.....	122
Hospital of the Holy Trinity.....	123
Jesuit Residence and College.....	123
St Stephen's Hospital.....	123
Suburbs.....	124
Irishtown.....	124
Rosbercon.....	124
Archaeological problems and potential.....	125
Archaeology, planning and development.....	129
Recommendations.....	132
 OLD ROSS.....	 134
Site of Borough.....	136
Mill.....	136

Castle.....	136
Tower House.....	137
St Mary's Parish Church.....	137
Archaeological problems and potential.....	138
Recommendations.....	138
 TAGHMON.....	 140
Streets and street pattern.....	142
Market Place.....	142
Mill.....	142
Town Defences.....	142
Castle.....	143
St Munna's Parish Church.....	143
Miscellaneous.....	144
Archaeological problems and potential.....	144
Recommendations.....	145
 WEXFORD.....	 147
Archaeological and Historical Background.....	147
Archaeological inventory.....	154
Streets and Street Pattern.....	155
Market Places.....	155
Tholsel.....	156
Domestic Houses.....	156
Kenny's Hall.....	157
Stafford's Castle.....	158
Wadding's Castle.....	158

Mills.....	158
Port.....	159
Ferry.....	160
Town Defences.....	160
West Gate.....	162
St John's Gate.....	163
Fryer's Gate.....	163
St Peter's Gate.....	164
St Bride's Gate.....	164
Castle Gate.....	164
Intramural Gates.....	164
Castle.....	165
St Brigid's Parish Church.....	166
St Iberius' Parish Church.....	166
St John's Parish Church.....	166
St Mary's Parish Church.....	167
St Michael's Parish Church.....	167
St Olave's (Dulogue's) Parish Church.....	168
St Patrick's Parish Church.....	168
St Peter's Parish Church.....	169
Chapel of the Holy Trinity.....	169
Augustinian Priory of SS Peter & Paul of Selsker	170
Franciscan Friary.....	171
Priory of SS John & Brigid (Knights Hosp.).....	171
Hospital of St Mary Magdalen.....	172
Suburbs.....	172
Faythe.....	172
John Street.....	172

Miscellaneous.....	173
List of archaeological stray finds.....	173
List of archaeological excavations.....	173
Archaeological Problems and Potential.....	174
Archaeology, planning and development.....	178
Recommendations.....	181
 Bibliography.....	 183

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1. County Wexford: Location map of boroughs and towns.
- Fig. 2. Bannow: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 3. Clonmines: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 4. Courtown: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 5. Edermine: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 6. Enniscorthy: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 7. Ferns: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 8. Ferrycarrig: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 9. Fethard: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 10. Great Island: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 11. Gorey: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 12. Mayglass: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 13. New Ross: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 14. Old Ross: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 15. Taghmon: zone of archaeological potential.
- Fig. 16. Wexford: zone of archaeological potential.

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

Development of Urban Archaeology

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

It was at Novgorod in Russia that the potential of urban archaeology was first revealed. There, organic remains were found in large quantities and it became possible to reconstruct entire streetscapes and to chronicle the changes which happened in them as one generation succeeded the next (Thompson 1967). Gradually as excavation took place in England and Germany it became apparent that the rich archaeological material in towns was not just a side-light on urban life but it could contribute greatly to our understanding of the archaeology of entire periods and regions. In Ireland the first scientific excavations were commenced at Dublin Castle in 1961 and excavations were to continue in Dublin for the next twenty years. The interest aroused by the High Street and, later, the Wood Quay excavations was widespread and it created an interest in the archaeology of other towns. To date, excavations have taken place in about twenty Irish towns.

Urban sites are important to the archaeologist for a number of reasons. Firstly, in all towns archaeological deposits form the earliest archive. Only a handful of Irish towns are referred to prior to 1200 AD and it is only during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries that references become anyway common. Yet the urban life of many towns has continued unbroken since the twelfth or early thirteenth century, while the origins of others lie in the Viking, Early Christian and Prehistoric periods. Even when references occur they rarely throw much light on daily life and tend to be more concerned with political and administrative events. Indeed, most individual properties within towns have no

documentation relating directly to them until the late-seventeenth or early-eighteenth century. To all intents and purposes, then, individual sites within towns may have remained completely prehistoric, in so far as they have no documentation, until the seventeenth century or later. Accordingly, archaeological excavation is important if one is to gain any knowledge of the initial period of a town's foundation or of how a particular area evolved and was used.

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

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

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

Purpose and Aim of the Present Survey

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

1. "To evaluate critically the archaeological potential, both above and below ground of the listed towns".
2. "To emphasise areas where the archaeological deposits could be preserved by the judicious use of new building

techniques and the presentation of open spaces, etc."

3. "To assess the level of destruction of the original townscape".

4. "To measure the effects of urban expansion on originally rural archaeological sites".

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

The identification of sites which were urban centres before 1700 AD is not without difficulties. In many cases such an identification is dependent on the survival of documentary evidence. However, it was felt that it was better to follow the existing work of Graham (1977) and Martin (1981) rather than impose new criteria. Accordingly the sites which are included here are those for which there is evidence of their status as boroughs prior to 1700 AD.

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

INTRODUCTION TO CO. WEXFORD

There are fifteen sites within the county which are of importance to urban archaeology. Some of these sites are deserted and consist simply of open farmland, while others, like Wexford, Enniscorthy and New Ross, are thriving modern towns.

The urban network which characterises the modern county has formed over many centuries. Wexford, founded by the Vikings in the late ninth century is the oldest town in the county and the excavations conducted at the corner of Bride Street and Main Street have shown that it was a thriving port with extensive overseas connections in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. The Vikings were not the only ones who were active at founding towns during this period. Ferns, the capital of Diarmait MacMurchadha, was clearly an important urban site before the coming of the Normans.

It was the Normans, however, who were to have the single greatest impact on moulding the urban network of the county. They enlarged the towns of Wexford and Ferns and established two new towns at New Ross and Enniscorthy. In addition they founded a series of boroughs, places which had the privileges of towns, and which their founders hoped might one day graduate into towns. The spectacular complex of ruins at Clonmines amply illustrates how this settlement was once of much more importance than it is today. Bannow, Courtown,

Edermine, Fethard-on-Sea, Great Island, Mayglass, and Old Ross were also of much more importance in the middle ages than they are today and were all village centres. Taghmon is the only one of these small boroughs to have survived as a nucleated community into the present day.

The thirteenth century was the great period of town foundation for the Normans but their colony declined during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and it was probably during this time that most of the smaller boroughs declined. The revival of English interest in the conquest of Ireland during the sixteenth century, however, also witnessed a revival of interest in founding towns which were meant to function as bastions of government interest. Gorey was the principal town founded during this phase of development.

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

Pink: the zone of archaeological potential.

Red: extant archaeological monuments.

Purple: sites of known monuments.

Many of the settlements are deserted or have shrunk in importance, but Wexford, New Ross, Enniscorthy, Ferns and Gorey are thriving towns where modern redevelopment can threaten archaeological deposits. Uncontrolled redevelopment at any of these sites will destroy the fragile archaeological heritage of Wexford's historic towns and it is the hope of this report that the recommended steps will be taken in order to ensure that urban development and archaeological research may go forward together.

BANNOW

The deserted medieval borough of Bannow sits on a promontory jutting out into St George's Channel, overlooking Bannow Bay, famous as the landing place of the Anglo-Normans under Robert FitzStephen in 1169. The placename is derived from Banbh, a proper name probably connected with Banba one of the poetic names for Ireland. The site lies some 2.5 km north east of Fethard-on-Sea and, today, only the ruins of the parish church survive to indicate its former importance.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Bannow only enters the historical record with the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in 1169 but it is likely that its sheltered harbour was known to vessels which plied the Irish Sea for sometime before. The reference in post-medieval documents to St Toolock's Street (Lewis 1837, i, 184) suggests that there was a church site here dedicated to St Olaf. This in turn suggests that there may have been a Hiberno-Scandinavian rural settlement at Bannow. Unfortunately the position of this potential church site cannot be pin-pointed.

Bannow formed part of the territory granted by Diarmait MacMurchada to Hervey de Montemarisco who later conferred it

on the Prior and Chapter of Christ Church, Canterbury. In 1245 they in turn granted the island of Banewe to Tintern Abbey (Hore 1900-11, ii, 27). The borough was formed around the seigneurial manor of the Marshalls and it seems to have been formed and granted privileges by Geoffrey FitzRobert (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 88). Its existence as a borough is clear from the references in a charter of Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk, to New Ross made c.1283-6 (MacNiocaill 1964, 300, 313) in which New Ross was granted a number of the privileges held by the burgesses of Bannow, Kilkenny and Wexford.

An inquisition of 1307 states that the borough was then valued at £7 18s 6d (Hore 1900-11, iv, 452) a sum which would suggest nearly 160 burgages. In 1324 the manor was valued at about £26 (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 88). Incidental references indicate that the borough continued to function during the later middle ages and ships were still frequenting the harbour in the mid sixteenth century (Hore 1900-11, iv, 455). The ferry, presumably between the town and Bannow Island is regularly mentioned and the dues from it belonged to the abbey of Tintern until the Dissolution (ibid). With the silting-up of the channel the town began to decline. An account of 1684 describes Bannow as:

a considerable place of trade for many years until the sand filled up ye River mouth between ye towne and the Island of Banno before mentioned, and turned the current to the west side of ye Island where it discharges itself now into the sea at a streight between the said Island and ye land of Fetherd ... a dangerous place for any

ship of burden to come in at. The towne of Banno is now quite ruined, there being nothing there but the ruins of an old Church and of several stone Houses and antient streets of some few cabbins (Hore 1900-11, iv, 440).

By the early nineteenth century the site of the borough had become a regular stopping point for visitors and Lewis's (1837, i, 183) reference to it as the Irish Herculaneum indicates the position which it had acquired among antiquarian researchers.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. STREETS & HOUSES
3. MARKET PLACE
4. MILL
5. QUAYS
6. CASTLE
7. PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY
8. MISCELLANEOUS

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

Contemporary accounts indicate that the parish church was at the hub of the settlement but no surface trace of the houses or streets referred to survives (Hore 1900-11, iv, 458-61). Tuomey (in Hore 1900-11, iv, 443) writing about

1850-1 states that the line of the former streets was traceable in the vicinity of the church at that time but he adds that the foundations of all the houses had been effaced.

2. STREETS & HOUSES

The account of Bannow in 1684 by Robert Leigh mentions the existence of "antient" streets as well as the remains of several stone houses (Hore 1900-11, iv, 439-40). The Rev. Walsh's account, written in 1826, describes the site as:

undulated with hillocks, between which were long straight depressions, having an appearance more formal and regular than is usually seen among sand hills. Rising from these was a square mass of hollow masonry about 7 feet high, which with the exception of the ruined church walls, was the only appearance of the work of man visible around us ... On more closely inspecting these remains it was easy to trace the plan of the town, which consisted of several wide streets crossing one another, and extending generally 80 or 100 yards before the traces were lost. One of them ran down to the mouth of the sea at the Harbour; we followed its traces and there found what appeared to have been a fine Quay at the edge of the water, the remains of which were nearly 200 yards in length, and higher up was the foundation of a very extensive edifice, evidently some public building ... I cut across one of the hollow ways and ascertained that it was paved beneath the soil and so had been a

street. I dug into one of the mounds and came to the foundations of walls of masonry, and so was convinced they had been houses (Hore 1900-11, iv, 440)

This account of the remains at Bannow was regarded as fanciful by both O'Donovan and James Graves who pointed out (correctly) that the town was on top of a headland and was not in a position where it could be silted up with sand (ibid., 442). Accordingly it would seem that the Rev Walsh's remarks relate to the remains of a later fishing village.

The quit-rent rolls mention the existence of a number of streets: High, Weaver, St George, Upper, St Toolock's, St Mary's, St Ivory's, Lady and Little Streets (ibid., 443, 458-61).

The valuation of 1665 in the Book of Survey and Distribution lists a variety of houses, some built with stone others with mud in addition to cabins (ibid.). In the course of extending the graveyard in 1864 the foundations of a house were discovered outside the southwestern wall of the churchyard. Thick slate slabs and walls of "solid substantial houses" were present and a dedicatory stone with a fragmentary inscription was found:

[JA]MES COLLI[N] F[IT]Z[LAWR]ENCE BUILDED THIS HOUSE IN
THE YEERE OF OWRE LORD 1598 AND MARION SINOT HIS WIFE

Hore (1900-11, iv, 444) states that the stone was removed to a nearby farm. Its present whereabouts is unknown to us.

3. MARKET PLACE

This would appear to have been at the junction of High Street and New Street where seventeenth century documents refer to the existence of a cross (Hore 1900-11, iv, 460).

4. MILL

The inquisition of 1323-4 notes the presence of a watermill which is described as ruinous and nearly down (Hore 1900-11, iv, 454). In 1634 this mill, described as being in the "Burgage of Bannow" belonged to John Cullen (ibid., 457). Hore (ibid., 443) states that, according to tradition, the remains of a water mill stood to the east of the quay site on a small embanked stream.

5. QUAY

The Rev Robert Walsh's account of his visit to Bannow in 1826 mentions the existence of a quay almost 200 yards long (Hore 1900-11, iv, 440). Tuomey (in Hore 1900-11, iv, 443) states that tradition maintained that there was a quay of "red brick" in the vicinity of the Old Coastguard Station.

6. CASTLE

As the caput of a seigneurial manor Bannow would have possessed a castle from early Anglo-Norman times. Next to nothing is known of it, however. The inquisition of 1307

mentions that there was a house belonging to the countess of Pembroke at Banna (Hore 1900-11, iv, 452); this is presumably to be identified with the manor house. The medieval manor passed to the de Valence family and in the inquisition of 1323-4 it is described as "one hall, one grange, thatched with straw nearly prostrate" (Hore 1900-11, iv, 453).

In 1616 Sir Dudley Loftus of Kilcloghan held a "ruinous Castle" at Bannow (Hore 1900-11, iv, 456) but it is not clear if this is the same as the manorial castle or not. It may simply have been a fortified house in the town. O'Donovan (quoted in Hore 1900-11, iv, 449) described a fragmentary castle 25 feet in height standing almost directly on the sea coast. The remains were pulled down later in the nineteenth century (ibid.).

7. ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

The church is first mentioned in a charter of c.1200 which nominates Nicholas the priest to the church of St Mary of Banewe (Hore 1900-11, iv, 452) and vicars are recorded from 1319 (Lewis 1936, 122).

The remains consist of a thirteenth century nave and chancel church with porches, added in the later middle ages, on the north and south sides. The nave measures 19 by 8.3m, the chancel 9 by 6m; the chancel walls survive to a height of about 4m while those of the nave are 6m high with a stepped parapet 1m high above. The east window was a three-light

switchline of fourteenth century date and replaces an original window of three lancets. There are two pointed windows (one of which is mullioned) in the south wall of the chancel and one in the north wall. The chancel arch is round and unmoulded but the jambs below it have roll mouldings. The south door into the NAVE is lintelled with a round rear-arch. There is one window in the south wall and two in the north. All seem to have been pointed originally with round rear-arches. Only parts of the west and south walls of the south porch survive. The west gable fell c.1830 but according to Tuomey (quoted in Hore 1900-11, iv, 448) there was a window in the west wall of which the lower portion alone is visible.

Font

An early thirteenth century cushion font decorated with beaded bands was moved from this church to that of Carrick-on-Bannow (Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 561).

Monuments

John Colfer. Late 13th cent.

Coffin-shaped slab with moulded edge, carved in high relief and decorated with a floriated cross. Above this are the heads of a civilian and a lady lying upon a flat rectangular cushion. There is an inscription in Black Letter of three lines on the sinister side of the cross stem. It is now almost completely worn away. Du Noyer read it as:

HIC IACET IOANES COLFER QUI OBIIT ANNO DNI ... ORATE ...
AUCE LUSGIN QUE OBIIT ... QUOR ANBS PROPIETUR (DEUS)
AMEN

The inscription is out of character with the style of the monument and was probably added in the late fifteenth or sixteenth century. The letters DSS are cut into the male's headband.

Hunt 1974, no. 260.

Cross-slab and sarcophagus. Late 13th-14th cents.

Limestone sarcophagus cemented into a plinth beside the south wall of the nave. Penannular head with low pillow. One soakage hole. The cross-slab has a hipped section with bevelled edges and is decorated with an incised fleur-de-lys cross running down the centre.

Bradley 1988, no. 1.

Cross-slab. 13th-14th cent.

Plain cross-slab with knobbed terminals. In the chancel.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

Lady's Well

O'Donovan (in Hore 1900-11, iv, 449) described the former existence of this holy well about a furlong south-east of the church in the position shown on the OS map. Patterns were held here on August 15th (Mems Dead ix (1913-16), 558).

Other Churches

References to St Toolock's Street and St Ivory's Street (Hore 1900-11, iv, 442) suggest the former presence of chapels dedicated to Saints Olaf and Ibar. O'Donovan (in Hore 1900-11, iv, 449) describes the ruins of a church about a furlong to the north in a field called the "old town". According to Tuomey (ibid) the remains of another chapel existed on the island of Bannow in a field known as the "chapel field" while a third is said to have stood about half a mile distant at a place called Oversandes (ibid.). References to St Brendan's Chapel at Bannow (ibid. ii, 28) may relate to one of these churches or alternately to a chapel in the parish church.

Long Stone

On a hill north of the church. Granite standing stone with alleged cup-marks. Probably to be identified with the "steane" of Fethard (Hore 1900-11, iv, 450; JRSai xvi (1883-4), 39).


ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Bannow is an example of a deserted medieval borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that the borough was the scene of human occupation between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries. Documentary records of Bannow are relatively few, however, and in the future

archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained. Due to its relatively isolated situation there has been little disturbance to archaeological deposits within the borough. Wave action, however, is continuing to erode the cliff-face and will ultimately threaten the site's archaeological deposits.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig.2) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Bannow. Its extent is based on the likely location of the borough which the documentary sources indicate was focused on the church. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CLONMINES

The site of the deserted medieval town is located on low-lying ground beside the River Scar about 1km from Wellington Bridge. The placename is derived from Cluain min, "the smooth meadow".

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Clonmines formed part of the lands granted after the Anglo-Norman invasion to Harvey de Montemorency and it is possible that the borough was established by him. Clonmines reverted back to the Marshalls, as lords of Leinster, in 1205 and from an inquisition of 1277 it would appear that William Marshall (d.1219) granted privileges to the settlement (Sweetman 1875-86, ii, no. 1330). In 1306 the manor was worth £11 6s. 8d. and an inquisition in that year specifically mentions the burgesses of the vill (Sweetman 1875-86, v, no. 538). The town is rarely mentioned in later medieval documents but the imposition of fines on the "provost and bailliff" of Clonmines in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries provides clear evidence that the town continued to function (Hore 1900-11, ii, 224-5).

During the late sixteenth century the town acquired an importance because of the extraction of silver at nearby

Barrystown on the opposite bank of the river. These mines were opened up in 1546 and were subsequently exploited by Dutch and German engineers. A series of scandals in the 1550s and 1560s ensured that this part of Clonmines' history is more fully known than any other (Hore 1900-11, ii, 233-62). The mines seem to have lasted into the early years of the seventeenth century by which time the town was already in decline. The decay of Clonmines, like that of Bannow, seems to have been occasioned primarily by the silting up of the channel linking Bannow Island with the mainland. This made the sea route to Clonmines unnavigable.

In 1684 Robert Leigh described Clonmines as:

a very ancient Corporacon, but now quite ruinated, there remaineing onely four or five ruinated Castles, and an old ruined Church called St Nicholas, and a monastery also ruined which did formerly belong to the order of Augustin and is called St Augustins ... It is confidently reported that this Clonmines was a place of greate trade in times passed, and a harbour for shipping of indifferent bulck, until that the sand filled up the ancient passage neere the towne of Banno ... which was the destruction of both these townes

Today only the ruins survive to indicate that this was once a prosperous town.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. MARKET PLACE
2. DOMESTIC HOUSES
4. MILL
5. QUAY
6. TOWN DEFENCES
7. CASTLE
8. PARISH CHURCH
9. AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY
10. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

The surviving concentration of ruins beside the River Scar indicates that the medieval town was sited close to the medieval parish church. It seems likely that it extended as far west as the Lime Kiln which would appear to be the remains of a town gate.

2. MARKET PLACE

There are no references to the market place of Clonmines but there is a reference in 1356 to the pillory (Hore 1900-11, ii, 224). Since it was normal practice to locate the pillory in the market-place it can accordingly be concluded that a defined market area formed part of the medieval town.

3. DOMESTIC HOUSES

As with virtually all concentrations of ancient ruins in Ireland, Clonmines has its tradition of "seven castles". In view of its ubiquity, however, no credence can be attached to this piece of lore. Nonetheless, parts of three fortified town houses still survive and it is likely that there were a number of others within the settlement. The most prominent of these is called BLACK CASTLE, an ivy clad four-floored tower house to the north of the Augustinian Friary. It has been suggested by Hore and others that this was constructed by the FitzHenrys in the fifteenth or sixteenth century. The architectural details bear well with this date but documentary evidence is lacking. On the south side of the concentration of ruins and incorporated into Clonmines House is SUTTON'S CASTLE, a tower house which has had its upper story removed. Midway between these two houses is a chunk of masonry (marked "castle in ruins" on the OS plan which was probably part of another fortified house.

Among the possessions of the Augustinian Friary at the time of the Dissolution was "one tenement with a small tower" (Hore 1900-11, ii, 232). This may relate to one of the existing structures but alternately the "small tower" in question may have since vanished. Writing about 1840 Brewer states that "the foundations of numerous other buildings may also be traced throughout an extent of at least twenty acres" (quoted in Hore 1900-11, ii, 211). The surface evidence for these foundations is not as clear now as it was in Brewer's

time but there is no reason to question the veracity of his account.

4. MILL

A mill at Clonmines is referred to in 1306 (Hore 1900-11, ii, 222) but no trace of one is now visible. That this may have been a windmill is suggested by the reference in 1634 to the existence of such a mill here (ibid., 264).

5. QUAY

The remains of what appears to be the harbour wall, built of large stones, can still be seen at the river's edge running for a distance of about 10m.

6. TOWN DEFENCES

Lewis (1837, i, 372) states that the town was originally surrounded by a vallum and fosse. The only surviving evidence for the former presence of such defences is the lime kiln immediately to the north of the entrance avenue into the town. It is a rectangular structure with a base batter and would appear to incorporate the original entrance gate to the town.

7. CASTLE

As a seigneurial manor Clonmines would almost certainly have possessed a manorial castle in Anglo-Norman times. Earlier historians have endeavoured to identify this with one of the surviving fortified town houses, either Black Castle or Sutton's Castle. Neither of these is substantial enough to be regarded as the seigneurial castle, however, which may well have been a substantial earthwork structure. Its position remains unknown.

8. ST NICHOLAS' PARISH CHURCH

This church is first mentioned by name in 1521 when a legal case concerning Robert Newell, merchant of Clonmines, was heard there (Curtis 1933-43, iv, pp 73-4). There can be little doubt, however, but that it was in existence from a much earlier time particularly as the rectory was inappropriate to the abbey of Tintern at the Dissolution (Hore 1900-11, ii, 81). The surviving remains consist of a fifteenth century nave and chancel church with part of a tower at its west end.

FORTIFIED CHURCH

Northeast of the parish church is a unique fortified church which would seem to have functioned as an ancillary chapel. Externally it looks like a tower house but internally it is divided into a residential sector and an oratory. The interior has a groined vault occupying about two-thirds of

the building, on which a low-pitched roof of large slabs was placed. The western third is of two storeys and the upper one was evidently partitioned off from the church proper; the vault above is plain and slightly lower than that of the oratory portion. The upper storey was supported on corbels and was entered from the mural stairs through a pointed door in the NW angle.

Two pointed doorways lead into the building. That in the west wall gives access to the residential section and is protected by a machicolation on the roof-level above, while the door in the north wall gives access to the church itself; adjoining this door externally is an arched recess of uncertain function. The east wall contains a small twin-light, ogee-headed window. Most of the other windows are simple loops. There is a piscina in the sill of the window on the south side and a stoop beside the door on the west wall. Consecration crosses are inscribed on the walls near the E and S windows.

The parapet is stepped and turrets rise from the NE and NW angles. At parapet level there is an oven-like recess below the NE turret. The church has overall external dimensions of 11.3 by 8m.

9. AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY

This monastery seems to have been founded in 1317 by one of the Kavanaghs (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 297). There are few

documentary references to it but Ware records that the church was enlarged by Nicholas FitzNicholas in 1385. The Dissolution documents describe it as "a church, a campanile, a dormitory, a hall, three chambers, a kitchen, a cemetery, and a close, with a small tower" (Hore 1900-11, ii, 230).

The remains consist of a late fourteenth century chancel (probably to be identified with the enlargements carried out by Nicholas FitzNicholas in 1385), a tower (added in the fifteenth century) and a short, narrow south aisle. The nave is missing.

Grose (1791, i, pl. opp. p. 44) depicts the east window of the CHANCEL as a mullioned three-ight with elaborate tracery of daggers, mouchettes and pointed quatrefoils above. Since Grose's time, however, this tracery has collapsed. The south windows of the chancel were each three lights as the surviving heads show. These are ogee-shaped and cusped with a high central light. Traces of an ogee-headed sedilla and piscina remain but lacking any carved stones. A window on the north side of the chancel was blocked when the belfry tower was inserted.

The TOWER is square in plan with a slight batter. It has two string courses, the lower above the roof-ridge level and the upper just above the belfry stage. There are stepped parapets, higher to the north-west and south-west. Leask (1955-60, iii, 53) has suggested that it belongs to the early decades of the fifteenth century.

There is a plain strip of wall with a tower at the northern end immediately NE of the church. This probably represents part of the monastic precinct wall.

10. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. Stone axehead. From Clonmines. Cat. Thomas Crofton Croker Coll. (1854), 10: lot 153.
2. Bronze socketed gouge. From Clonmines. JRSOI ci (1971), 219.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Clonmines, like Bannow, is an example of a deserted medieval borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that the borough was the scene of human occupation between the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries. Documentary records of Clonmines are relatively few, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained. Due to its relatively isolated situation there has been little disturbance to archaeological deposits within the borough.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig.3) delimits the area of archaeological potential within

Clonmines. Its extent is based on the likely location of the borough which, while concentrated in the vicinity of the surviving monuments, would have stretched as far as the gatehouse represented by the limekiln. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

7. [REDACTED]

COURTOWN

Courtown, best known today for its sandy beaches, is located on low ground beside the coast at the junction of the River Owenovorrhagh with the Irish Sea. In medieval documents it is referred to as Killellin or Ballinacourte from which it may be concluded that a pre-Norman ecclesiastical site (now Kiltennel) was replaced in Anglo-Norman times by a manor to which the name "court" was applied.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The name Killellin, Kyltennell, Kilchennyll, found in late medieval documents (Leslie 1936, 206-7), indicates that this was the site of a pre-Norman church site. The identification of the patron was lost by the nineteenth century when Reeves, in response to a query from the earl of Courtown, identified it as Sinchell whose patron day is June 25th (JRSAI vii (1862-3), 199). Leslie (1936, 209) regarded this identification as doubtful, however.

Courtown has been identified since the time of Orpen (1911-20, iii, 90) with the medieval manor of Curtun first mentioned in 1281 when Christiania de Marisco transferred it to the crown (Sweetman 1875-86, ii, no. 1801). She held the manor in fee of Aylmer de Valence, lord of Wexford, without

suit or service (ibid., ii, no. 2010) a fact which explains why Curtun is not found in the feodaries. The king granted the manor to Raymond McMurrough before 1309 but in 1314 it was granted to Thomas de Brotherton (Hore 1900-11, vi, 642-3). By 1333, however, it had been granted back to the McMurroughs (ibid.) in whose control it would appear to have remained until the end of the Middle Ages.

The evidence for the existence of the borough rests on the notice in the extent of 1281 that one carrucate of land was held in burgage tenure at an annual rent of 32s. (Sweetman 1875-86, ii, no. 1801). There are no subsequent references to the borough and it can only be presumed that with the decline of the Anglo-Norman colony in Wexford during the fourteenth century that the borough was abandoned.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. CASTLE
3. PARISH CHURCH
4. MISCELLANEOUS

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

The site of the medieval borough is unknown. It is likely, however, that in common with other Anglo-Norman boroughs it was located beside either the castle or the

church. The site of the medieval castle or manorial complex is unknown. It is possible that it may have preceded the present Courtown House, built for the Stopfords (later created earls of Courtown) in the eighteenth century. In the absence of any positive evidence of such, however, it is impossible to delineate an area within the present townland of Courtown as the site of the borough.

2. CASTLE

Although the 1281 extent makes no mention of a castle it can nevertheless be presumed that since Courtown was the site of a substantial manor there was a castle or some form of fortified manorial complex here. Neither a tradition nor remains survive.

3. PARISH CHURCH

The church of Courtown is mentioned in the extent of 1281 (Sweetman 1875-86, ii, no. 1801) when it is noted that the advowson was in the hands of Christiania de Marisco. The first rector whose name survives in documentary records is John Nyvell presented to the church in 1386 (Leslie 1936, 206). In 1615 the Royal Visitation describes the nave and chancel as being in repair but as Leslie (1936, 209) points out this building, constructed c.1609, was at a different site to the medieval church and was replaced in 1770 by the church in Courtown Demesne.

The building survives in very poor condition within a rectangular graveyard located on high ground close to the sea. The north and south walls stand to a height of 2m but only the footings of the east wall remain; the west wall is 60cm high. The masonry consists of a slaty, green, limestone. It is 5.4m in width.

No monuments of pre-1700 date survive within the graveyard.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Cross. Ballintray Lower Td.

In wood about 30m from the main road. Partly buried, on high ground above the River Owenavorrach. Latin cross of slaty, green, limestone. Incised single-line cross within a circle in the centre of both cross-heads.

Max H. 210. W across arms 102. W of shaft 45. T. 18cm.

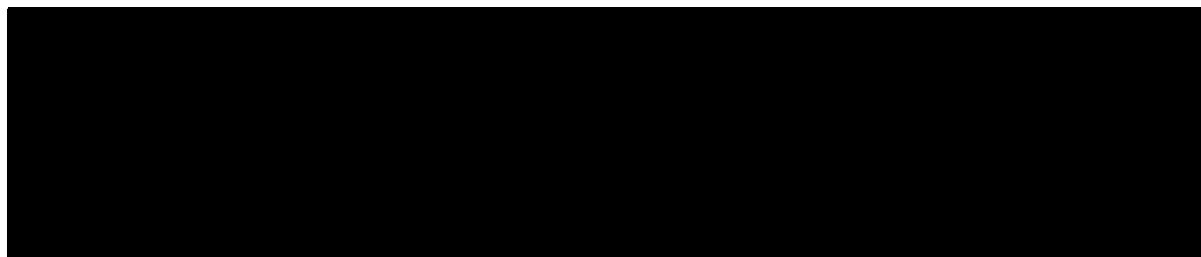
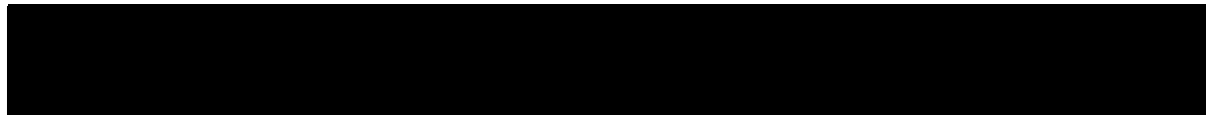
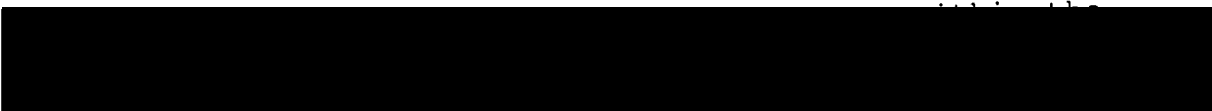
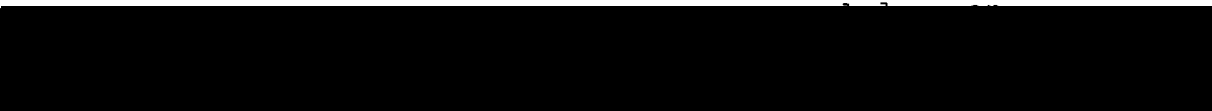
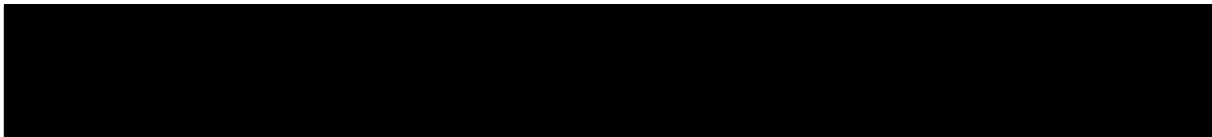
Hore 1900-11, vi, 642.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Courtown is an example of a deserted medieval borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that the borough was the scene of human occupation in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Documentary records of Courtown are relatively few, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 4) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Courtown. Its extent is based on the likely location of the borough around the old parish church. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits.



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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

EDERMINE

The deserted medieval borough of Edermine is located some 8km south of Enniscorthy on the river Slaney. The name is derived from Eidir druim, "the intermediate ridge".

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Edermine seems to have formed part of the seigneurial lands of the lords of Leinster but in 1232 it was given by Richard Marshall to Alianore, countess of pembroke, the widow of his brother William, as part of her dower (Sweetman 1875-86, i, no. 1950). Between that date and 1302 little is known of the settlement but in that year an inquisition, taken after the death of Reginald de Dene, stated that he held the town of Edirdrim from Joan de Valence (Brooks 1950, 50-1). The earliest indication of an incorporated settlement is provided by an entry of 1300-1 which records that Geoffrey Mare, provost of Edirdrum, paid half a mark into the exchequer receipts (Hore 1900-11, vi, 581). In 1324 the "burgesses of Edirdrym" were free tenants of the Valence fee of Wexford (Brooks 1950, 45: n. 2). From this it would seem that the burgesses held Edermine as a free tenement with the Denes as intermediate lords. In 1324 they rendered only 60s, less than one third of their former rents, because of war (Cal. inquis. post mortem, vi, 324). The decay of the

settlement, suggested by this reference would appear to have continued throughout the fourteenth century.

In 1422 the manor of Ederdrom, formed part of the lands of Sir Gilbert Talbot (Hore 1900-11, vi, 582) and it was still in Talbot hands in 1589 when it was described as all waste and occupied owing to Irish enemies (ibid.). Hore states that a ferry operated across the Slaney where the bridge stands now. This may also have been a source of revenue for the burgesses.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. PARISH CHURCH

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

The site of the medieval borough is unknown. It is likely, however, that in common with other Anglo-Norman boroughs it was located beside the parish church in Glebe Td.

2. PARISH CHURCH

The presence of the name Cooraun Bridge and of the tradition of a St Cooraun's Well suggests that the original patron of this church site was St Ciaran. The churchyard is located on top of a prominent ridge. No trace of the medieval

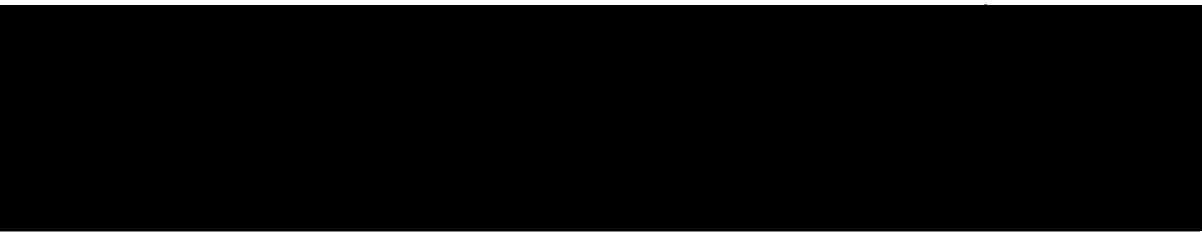

church or of medieval graveslabs remains.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Edermine, like Courtown, is an example of a deserted medieval borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that the borough was the scene of human occupation in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Documentary records of Edermine are relatively few, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 4) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Edermine. Its extent is based on the likely location of the borough around the old parish church. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits.



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[REDACTED]

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ENNISCORTHY

Enniscorthy is the principal town in north central Wexford, located some 15 miles north of Wexford town and 19 miles southwest of Gorey. The placename is derived from Inis Coirthe, "the island of the standing stone". The site had a strategic importance in prehistoric and early historic times as a ford at the head of the tidal waterway of the Slaney.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Despite the recovery of two prehistoric objects from the town it is only in Early Historic times that there is evidence for the foundation of a permanent settlement at Enniscorthy. This was established at Templeshannon, on the east bank of the Slaney, where a church dedicated to St Senan existed in pre-Norman times. The foundation date of this church is unknown but its presence may well have been one of the factors which influenced the Anglo-Normans to found a more substantial settlement at Enniscorthy.

Enniscorthy seems to have been the principal manor of the Duffry, a wooded district to the west of the Slaney, granted after the Anglo-Norman invasion to Robert de Quency (Orpen 1911-20, ii, 322). De Quency was killed in 1172 and the descent of the fee devolved on his daughter Maud who married

Philip de Prendergast. The development of a manor at Enniscorthy seems to have been hindered by the bishop of Ferns who held the land on the east bank around St Senan's (Templeshannon). Indeed the first mention of Enniscorthy in Anglo-Norman times occurs in 1226 when John de St John, the first Anglo-Norman bishop of Ferns, was granted a weekly market and annual fair at his manor of Enniscorthy (Sweetman 1875-86, i, no. 1429). The following year the bishop exchanged his land "on the St Senan's side of the town of Inscordy" with Philip de Prendergast in return for lands elsewhere in the diocese (Hore 1900-11, vi, 343). From this it can be concluded that Enniscorthy began as two opposed manors, one on each side of the Slaney, and was only united in 1226-7.

Philip de Prendergast was succeeded by his son Gerald who died in 1251 when the manor passed through his daughter to Maurice de Rochford. An inquisition of 1323-4 describes the manor as waste and "destroyed by the war of the Irish", a reference perhaps to the Bruce Invasion (Hore 1900-11, vi, 349). The manor was put under increasing pressure by the McMurroughs in the later fourteenth century but in 1391, when records relating to the castle cease, it was still in the possession of the de Rochford family although, because of a minority, it was being administered by the crown (Hore 1900-11, vi, 352). C.1425 the Duffry is included among a list of Leinster fees as held by the "heirs of John de Rochford" but whether they were in actual possession or not is unclear (Brooks 1950, 141). By 1460, however, Enniscorthy was clearly

in the hands of the McMurroughs when, in that year, Donnell Reagh founded the Franciscan Friary.

A century later the McMurroughs were still in possession although the Mountgarret Butlers were endeavouring to gain control of Enniscorthy with government support (Hore 1900-11, vi, 368-9). In 1568 the town was granted the right to hold a weekly market on Thursdays (ibid., 371) which is an indication of its growing prosperity. In the following year, during the rebellion of James FitzMaurice FitzGerald, Sir Edmond Butler attacked Enniscorthy on August 15th, while it was holding its annual fair. Those attending the fair (which would have been held outside the town) were maimed, raped and killed but it is not clear if the settlement itself was attacked or not (ibid., 372-5). In 1585 Sir Henry Wallop purchased the lease of Enniscorthy and he rebuilt and repaired the castle (ibid., 410). Soon after he seems to have set about rebuilding and planting the town. In 1587 Enniscorthy received a new grant of a weekly market (ibid., 415-16) and writing in 1596 Wallop states that among those English planters he brought to Enniscorthy were "timbermen and Casque board makers [coopers]" who manufactured casks for use on the routes to the Madeiras and Canaries as well as Bordeaux and La Rochelle (ibid., 438). The manufacture of such casks seems to have been an important part of the local economy. In a fortnight in 1598, Wallop was able to provide and send 100,000 pipestaves and hogshead boards to a ship waiting in Wexford harbour (ibid., 445). In 1613 the town became a borough, consisting of a portreeve, twelve free

members and commonalty and, as such, it returned members to parliament until the Union.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACE
3. BRIDGE
4. QUAYS
5. MILLS
6. CASTLE
7. ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH
8. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY
9. FRANCISCAN FRIARY
10. SUBURBS
- TEMPLESHANNON
11. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN

The street plan of Enniscorthy consists essentially of a long linear axis consisting of Main Street, Market Square, Castle Street, and Castle Hill. North and south of this, streets such as Blake Street, Church Street and Old Church Street, run away at angles which show that their layout has been influenced by the topography of the site rather than by a drawing board plan. On the east side of the Slaney the street pattern was linear, consisting of the street known

simply as Templeshannon.

2. MARKET PLACE

This is of triangular form and is located at the junction of Main Street, Castle Street, Blake Street and Rafte Street. Its size and position suggest that it is of sixteenth or seventeenth century date rather than being of medieval origin.

3. BRIDGE

In 1581 the lord deputy, Lord Arthur Grey, commissioned Paul Finglas, carpenter, to build a bridge across the Slaney at Enniscorthy of:

"good sound and substantial timber, to be in length 240 fote, or thereabout, and in bredeth within the railes 11 fote. The said bridge to stand upon 14 arches, every arch to contain 3 pillar, and every pillar to be in square 18 ynches, and in height, the shortest of them, 24 fote, and some of them 28, and some 30 fote, accordinge the depth of water, and shodde with yron, and every shoe to contain 2 stone of yron ..." (Hore 1900-11, vi, 406)

In the centre of the bridge a square tower of lime and stone was to be constructed. The bridge was only partly built, however, and in 1585 the sum of £200 was made available for

its completion (ibid., 407). By 1635 this bridge had been swept away and it was replaced by a ferry until c.1680 when a stone bridge was built by Col. Colclough (ibid.). The present bridge would appear to be on the site occupied by these earlier bridges.

4. QUAYS

The former existence of quays may be inferred from Sir Francis Walshingham's account of the sack of Enniscorthy in 1569. He states that Wexford merchants had come to the town on the day of the raid (which was a fair day) up the River Slaney because passage "by water was easier both for men and goods than by land and was also sometimes safer" (Hore 1900-11, vi, 372: n. 5). The likely position of these quays is in the position occupied by Shannon Quay on the east bank and Abbey Quay on the west.

5. MILLS

A grant made in 1230 by Gerald de Prendergast of St John's to St Thomas's, Dublin, mentions the presence of his mills at Inscorth. This may be the same as the water mill mentioned as being near the Franciscan Friary in 1575 (Hore 1900-11, vi, 393). The likely position of these mills is in the vicinity of the Manor Mills shown on the OS map at the southern edge of the town.

6. CASTLE

Architecturally the castle of Enniscorthy belongs to a type which is also attested at Carlow, Ferns and Terryglass. This consisted of a rectangular keep with rounded turrets at the corners. Although little is known about the castle in the middle ages it seems reasonable to conclude that it was built by Philip de Prendergast. It does not figure in historical documentation until the sixteenth century. Writing in 1594 Sir Henry Wallop states that when he took the castle it was ruined and defaced and that he had fortified and rebuilt it (Hore 1900-11, vi, 419). Some of the windows were widened, chimneys added and hood-mouldings inserted during this restoration work.

The castle is situated on an outcrop of green slaty rock which juts out towards the River Slaney and rises some 10 to 12m above it. It is a rectangular structure measuring 12.5x11m with three-quarter projecting round towers at the corners. That on the north-east angle was added in restoration work of 1903 (Hore 1900-11, vi, 338). Access to the upper floors is provided by a spiral stairs of granite steps in the SE tower. There is a circular prison chamber and an attached rectangular chamber underneath the ground floor of the SW tower; incised into the plaster of this chamber is a man in sixteenth century dress. Hore (1900-11, vi, 337) states that a rockcut trench, presumably the defensive fosse, was uncovered when the foundations of the Atheneum building were being dug on the west side of the castle.

7. ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

The earliest evidence for the dedication occurs in 1433 when John Purll is recorded as rector of St Mary de Vessordie (Leslie 1936, 149). There can be little doubt, however, that the parish dates to the Anglo-Norman foundation of the town. The present church was constructed in 1846 and the tower and spire were added in 1850. There are no visible pre-1700 monuments.

8. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Founded about 1227-9 by Gerald de Prendergast as a daughter house of St Thomas' in Dublin (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 175). It was located about one mile south of the town in parish of St John's beside the Urrin River. There are no surviving remains.

9. FRANCISCAN FRIARY

Founded in 1460 by Donal Reagh Kavanagh (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 250) this monastery was dissolved in 1541. At the time of the Dissolution the friary consisted of a church and belfry, chapter house, dormitory, hall, four chambers, kitchen, two orchards and three gardens (ibid.). In 1582 Sir Henry Wallop destroyed the house and killed the guardian and in 1595 the site of the friary together with a watermill was granted to Wallop (ibid.).

The tower, supported on four arches, survived until 1839 and the last remaining parts of the conventual buildings were blown down in 1910 during a storm (Hore 1900-11, vi, 354-5).

10. SUBURBS

TEMPLESHANNON

The east bank of the Slaney, centred on Templeshannon, was effectively a suburb of the medieval town of Enniscorthy. Mention has been made already of the fact that the church site is of pre-Norman origin and was dedicated to St Senan. It is likely that both sides of Templeshannon, from the Slaney as far as the church site, was built-up during the middle ages.

Templeshannon Church

This consisted of a nave and chancel. The nave measures 12 by 6m. The side walls, which appear to retain the original height, extend the entire length of this portion of the church are about 5.5m high. There is a round-headed window in the south wall. Only the northern portion of the west gable remains, and at the southern end is a large stone which seems to have been the lower stone of a doorway.

11. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. Stone axe or adze-head. From Enniscorthy. NMI 1932:5604.

2. Bronze socketed axehead. Found at Enniscorthy in 1836.

Cat. Day Coll. (1913), 34: lot 246.

3. Gold brooch. 13th-14th cent date. Found in the ruins of the Franciscan Friary, Enniscorthy, in 1832. BM 1849.3-1.32.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Enniscorthy is important to archaeological research as an example of an Anglo-Norman town which was replanned during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Although it has a clear Anglo-Norman ancestry the character of the town today is essentially plantation.

The castle is the principal archaeological monument surviving above ground and as Wexford's County Museum its future existence is not in any doubt. Enniscorthy also possesses archaeological deposits below ground level as records of the old excavations west of the Castle indicate. The archaeological and documentary data shows that Enniscorthy has been the scene of continuous human occupation from the thirteenth century while the area around Templeshannon has been inhabited for an even longer period. Documentary records are relatively scarce, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge can be obtained. Excavation at Enniscorthy could reveal significant information about the economy and layout of the medieval town and, in particular, about how life in the town changed

between the thirteenth and the seventeenth centuries.

Enniscorthy's street pattern still retains its plantation layout and this should certainly be preserved in any future developments. The foundation piles of the pre-1700 bridges probably survive in the riverbanks and tidal muds of the Slaney and any opportunity to investigate them should be availed of. Next to nothing is known about the form of medieval housing in Enniscorthy. Some of these houses should have left substantial remains of their foundations below ground. With correct excavation, the form and layout of wooden buildings can be discovered.

From this survey of the town's archaeology it can be concluded that there is the strong likelihood of recovering by archaeological excavation the remains of house foundations, refuse pits, industrial areas, and workshops. In order to exploit this archaeological resource successfully it is vital that a concerted effort should be made to safeguard Enniscorthy's archaeological heritage and that adequate provision is made for investigation in advance of any redevelopment. This is best achieved by making the realisation of Enniscorthy's archaeological potential one of the objectives of the development plan. The objective may then be achieved by judicious use of planning constraints and by conditions attached to planning consents.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map delimits the

area of archaeological potential within modern Enniscorthy. This shaded area is based on the extent of the seventeenth century town on the west bank of the river and it also includes an area around Templeshannon, the medieval suburb and pre-Norman church site, on the east bank.

The major disturbance to archaeological deposits seems to have occurred along the street frontage with the building and rebuilding of houses and shops. It is likely, however, that archaeological deposits survive behind the street frontage where one would expect to discover the remains of outhouses and workshops as well as refuse pits.

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FERNS

Ferns, the ancient capital of the Ui Chinnsealaig lands of Wexford, is located in the north of the county 13km north of Enniscorthy and some 17km southwest of Gorey. It gives its name to one of the principal dioceses of Leinster and the Church of Ireland cathedral is still located in the town. The placename is derived from Fearnna, "the place of the alder trees".

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

According to tradition Ferns was founded in the early years of the seventh century by Maedhog (Mogue) who established a church here (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 78-9). Abbots are recorded in the eighth and ninth centuries and the monastery's rise to prominence is indicated by the fact that it was plundered by the Vikings in 835 (AFM: 834) and on a number of subsequent occasions in the ninth and tenth centuries. Its position as the principal settlement of Wexford was formalised at the Synod of Rathbresail in 1111 when it was chosen as one of the five cathedral sees of Leinster.

By the twelfth century Ferns had become not only the ecclesiastical capital of Wexford but also its political

capital. From the time of Diarmait macMael na mBó (d.1072) the Ui Cheinnselaig dynasty succeeded in obtaining and holding the kingship of Leinster. As the capital of Ui Cheinnselaig power in the twelfth century Ferns acquired a regional importance. It possessed a strongly fortified castle (referred to in 1166 as caisteal) and a royal residence (possibly within the monastic enclosure) referred to in the same annalistic entry as teach (AFM).

After the coming of the Normans Ferns became one of the principal seigneurial manors of Strongbow's heirs, the earls Marshall. As old church land, Ferns was also the centre of one of the principal episcopal manors in the diocese and the friction which developed between the bishop and William Marshall, lord of Leinster, over disputed lands at Ferns is well known (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 29-31). In 1226 the bishop was granted the right to hold a weekly market and an annual fair at his manor of Ferns (Sweetman 1875-86, no. 1429). The Marshall manor is first referred to in 1232 when "the manor and castle of Ferns" were offered as part of the dower to his brother's widow. From these references it is clear that there were two manors in medieval Ferns.

In 1245 the Marshall manor was valued at £81 15s (Hore 1900-11, vi, 6) but by 1307 it was worth only £38 16s 6d and the burgesses contributed £8 0s. 4d. of this (Hore 1900-11, vi, 6, 9). The decline in revenues had begun some time earlier. In 1296 the accounts of the Valence (inheritors of the Marshalls) manor of Ferns state that it was largely waste

and that 49.5 burgages in Ferns lay waste (*ibid.*, 192). An inquisition of c.1280 reveals that the episcopal manor was then worth £11 10s. 9.25d and that the burgesses of Ferns contributed £2 of this (Hore 1900-11, vi, 190-1). From these accounts it can be calculated that there were some 200 burgages at Ferns during the later thirteenth century.

In the fourteenth century Irish encroachments increased and Ferns was captured during the Bruce Wars and again in 1331 (Hore 1900-11, vi, 195-6). The inquisition jury of 1324 reported that:

there was at Ferns a stone castle, the value of which none of them was able to assess, nothing being derived from it, that it stands on the borders close to the Irish, and badly needs repair and maintenance. They say there are in the town of Ferns 160 burgages belonging to the aforesaid Castle, which used to return an annual rent payable half-yearly at Easter and Michaelmas of £8 0s. 4d. And that a Hundred Court was kept there, but now nothing, as all is waste owing to the Irish war. They say there was there a water Mill which used to be worth 5 marks a year, but now returns nothing, as it is thrown down and destroyed in the [late] Irish war (Hore 1900-11, vi, 9).

From this it would seem that by 1324 the whole manor, consisting of 19,200 acres, was largely waste. The Anglo-Norman community did not abandon Ferns however. In 1346-7, shortly after Sir William FitzEustace de la Rupe had

been appointed constable of the castle, it was attacked and taken by the Kavanaghs but Rupe succeeded in recapturing and repairing the castle (*ibid.*, 11). In 1350 the bishop of Ferns, William Charnells, paid 40s for the privilege of holding fairs and markets at Ferns an action which suggests that there was still a mercantile community there (Hore 1900-11, vi, 200). In 1357-8 the castle was attacked by the Kavanaghs and its walls were levelled but once more the Anglo-Norman community succeeded in repairing the walls and rebuilding the bridge into the castle (*ibid.*, 13).

After 1360, however, the castle seems to have fallen into the hands of the Kavanaghs and Ferns does not appear again in government records until the revival of English interest during the mid-sixteenth century. Despite the temporary reversal of the castle to the Lord Deputy in 1540 the Kavanaghs appear to have remained in residence at Ferns until the third quarter of the sixteenth century. During the 1570s and 1580s, however, government inroads encroached more and more on Ferns until in 1583 the castle and manor was granted to Thomas Masterson (*ibid.*, 81). Despite the efforts of this ambitious planter the town does not seem to have recovered its medieval prominence. The Description of Ireland of 1598 describes it simply as an "ancient ruined Town" (Hogan 1878, 56). Such it was to remain until the present century.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. MILL
3. CASTLE
4. ST MAEDHOG'S CATHEDRAL
CHAPTER HOUSE
5. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF ST MARY
6. ST PETER'S CHURCH
7. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

There can be little doubt but that the medieval borough was located along the main street between the castle and cathedral. The present street pattern, however, probably dates from the late sixteenth century and may not reflect that of the Anglo-Norman town.

2. MILL

The inquisition of 1307 mentions the presence of a watermill worth 56s 8d annually (Hore 1900-11, vi, 9). In 1324 it is stated that it was thrown down and destroyed in the Bruce war (ibid.). Its site is unknown.

3. CASTLE

The site of Diarmait MacMurchada's castle at Ferns is not known. It may have occupied the site of the present castle or alternatively it may have been much closer to the pre-Norman monastery.

Giraldus Cambrensis mentions the building of a castle at Ferns by the sons of Maurice FitzGerald (Scott and Martin 1978, 171) in the late 1170s or early 1180s. The present castle can be dated on architectural grounds to c.1220 indicating that it was built during the period of Marshall control of Ferns (Sweetman 1979, 218). It remained the caput of the manor until 1360 when it was lost to the Kavanaghs who in turn held it until about 1540 after which it was staffed by a succession of English governors (Hore 1900-11, vi, 35-80). It was burned in 1577 by Fiach McHugh O'Byrne and two years later it was described as old and ruinous (ibid., 56).

The castle is an example of a towered keep, similar to the castles at Carlow, Lea and Terryglass. These consist of a rectangular keep with three-quarter projecting round towers at the angles. The west wall is missing and, of the towers, only the SW and SE survive to any substantial degree. Internally the keep measures approximately 27.5 by 18.5m. The original interior would have contained partition walls while the windows indicate that it had three storeys with large apartments on each floor. These have trefoil pointed heads, and are either single or grouped in pairs beneath pointed, round, or trefoil-pointed enclosing arches. The first floor

of the south-eastern tower contains a circular chapel, covered by a ribbed vault which rises from corbels in the form of capitals with short shafts. It is illuminated by three lancets. A cellar in the SW tower was probably used as a prison.

Archaeological excavations conducted between 1972 and 1975 showed that much of the castle was built on bedrock but the interior seems to have had a split-level appearance originally. The ground floor of the southern half of the keep was some 2m higher than that of the northern half (Sweetman 1979, 220). The keep itself was enclosed by a rock-cut fosse of flattened U-shaped profile, 3.5m deep and 5m wide at the mouth. Part of a second fosse was also uncovered on the east side of the castle. Evidence for the existence of a draw-bridge was also uncovered on the south side. The fosse appears to have been filled-up with debris by the beginning of the fourteenth century and this would have rendered the castle more difficult to defend. Evidence for limited occupation during the period 1360-1540 was also found.

4. ST MAEDHOG'S CATHEDRAL

A church has probably existed on this site since the seventh century but none of the surviving remains is earlier than the Anglo-Norman period. Mention in AFM under the year 787 of Lia Ferna, translated by O'Donovan as the "stone church of Ferns" may indicate the presence of a stone building here at an early date. Among the possessions granted

by Diarmait macMurchada to the newly founded Augustinian priory of Ferns was the cell of Finach of Ferns (Hore 1900-11, vi, 180). This Finach is probably to be identified with the abbot of the same name who died in 794 (AFM). The whereabouts of this cell remains unknown, however.

The chancel of the cathedral and perhaps some of the other parts seem to have been built by John de St John (1223-43), the first Anglo-Norman bishop. By 1570, however, the cathedral was in such a bad state of repair that an attempt was made to move it to New Ross. In 1575 it was burnt by Fiach MacHugh O'Byrne (Hore 1900-11, vi, 243) and it was still in ruins in 1611 (ibid., 258). In the royal visitation of 1615 it is described as having remained waste since it was destroyed by rebels (ibid., 266). Further rebuilding work was carried out in 1672 as is evident from a dated and inscribed beam: " 1672: Dr Doyle: Bishop: Henry Taylor: Carpenter" (ibid, 165). In 1816 the west end of the building was thrown down and it was extended as far as the tower which had stood separate until this time.

The form of the building before the restoration of 1816-17 is shown in a drawing by Austin Cooper of 1786 and by a contemporary plan in the OPW Archive. Clapham (1952) has shown that these drawings can be used to reconstruct the original appearance of the medieval building as a cruciform church with an aisled nave, crossing tower, north and south transepts, and north and south aisles flanking the presbytery for half of its length. Only the eastern end of this building

survives today incorporated into the present cathedral. Excavations in 1956 uncovered the foundations of a massive east wall some 55 feet to the east of the chancel. Leask (1955-60, ii, 100) interpreted this as the remains of either an abandoned original scheme or the foundations of a later extension which was not proceeded with.

The east wall contains two lancets on either side of a restored late medieval window. These have double banded shafts to the splays and moulded caps and bases. There are two vesica-shaped windows in the gable above and pairs of lancets in the side walls at the east end. These features are shown in the Cooper's drawing much as they exist now except for the filling of the central window. There is a double piscina in the SE wall underneath the easternmost lancet. The arcade responds built into the north and south walls of the present building are also of the period of Bishop St John (1223-43) and it is likely that the splayed buttresses of the east wall are of the same date. Beneath the chancel are two ranges of rubble vaults which extend some 24 feet from east to west (Hore 1900-11, vi, 168-9).

Part of the relieving arch of the north-west arcade of the chancel can be seen on the outside face and it indicates the spacing of the bays; Claphan (1952, 37-9) was able to conclude from this that the chancel aisles consisted of three bays. The eastern arcade capitals are carved with stiff-leaf foliage. The western responds are similar but with simple moulded capitals.

The present boundary wall of the churchyard appears to incorporate the southern aisle wall of the original NAVE.

CHAPTER HOUSE

The ruined building, 75ft to the east of the cathedral, is also a structure of the first half of the 13th century. Its floor level is about 1m below that of the cathedral. The east wall has fallen but the side-walls, 23 feet apart and 41 feet long, were originally filled by seven evenly spaced lancets. Only five of these survive in the north wall and one on the south side remain complete. They rise from a continuous moulded string course and also have a continuous hood-mould. The capitals are of foliage and support moulded arches decorated with a row of dog-tooth ornament. At the west end of the south wall are the lower stones of a relieving arch showing that here (and no doubt also on the north) an arch sprang westwards. There is, however, no indication how far the building extended to the west.

Clapham (1952, 36-9) has shown that this building did not form part of the cathedral. It is unlikely that it was the choir of the Augustinian Abbey to the south as Leask (1955-60, ii, 101) has suggested. It also appears to be too ornate a structure to have functioned as a chapel enclosing the tomb of St Maedhog. From the likelihood that rows of stalls were fixed below the string course it seems more reasonable to interpret this building as the diocesan chapter house. The presence of a collegiate residence for the chapter

of Ferns is evidenced in a document of 1570 (Hore 1900-11, vi, 239-40).

Architectural Fragments

A large collection of decorated and ornamented stone has been accumulated within the chapter house area. Fragments of cut and dressed stone have also been gathered at the west end of the cathedral and some pieces have been incorporated in to the entrance piers of the churchyard also.

Monuments

South Cross. Prob. 11th-12th cent.

Reputedly marking the tomb of Diarmait MacMurchadha. Broken granite shaft ornamented with Greek key and fret patterns. Prominent edge mouldings. Set into a large granite base with a moulded edge.

H. 91. T. 60x34 cm. The base measures 116 by 137cm and is some 16 cm high.

78th Annual Rep. Commissioners of Public Works (1909-10), 6-7.

East Cross. Pre-1150.

Situated NE of the cathedral. Only the granite upper shaft survives set on a modern shaft in an original roughly rectangular base. When complete it would have been solid ringed with a rounded edge mouldings.

W across arms c.139; W of lower shaft 29x23 cm.

North Cross. Pre-1150.

Large solid ringed granite cross set in a two-tiered base.

W across arms 110. T of shaft 36x31 cm.

West Cross. Pre-1150.

Situated at the west end of the cathedral. Granite Latin cross set on a modern shaft and base. Solid-ringed with moulded edges on one face only. The lower shaft had mouldings on three angles but not on the fourth.

W across arms 108 cm. T of Shaft 32 by 32cm.

Cross. Pre-1150.

Set against a wall in the Chapter House. Plain granite cross with a solid ring, missing its upper shaft.

H. 106. W across the arms 86. T. 34 cm.

Graveslab. 11th-12th cent.

Placed against a wall in the Chapter House. Slightly tapering granite slab decorated with a ringed cross in false relief.

The upper end has a shallow mortice.

L. 108; W 46 tapering to 42 cm.

Effigy of a bishop. Probably John St John (d. 1243).

In a niche in the south wall of the cathedral. Limestone.

L. 230. W 86 tapering to 58 cm.

Hunt 1974, no. 262.

5. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF ST MARY

Founded by Diarmait MacMurchada c.1158 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 175). The abbey was dissolved in 1538 and granted in that year to Thomas Alen (ibid.). At the time of the Dissolution it possessed a church, belfry, dormitory, chapter house, hall, and other buildings. Alen seems to have been unable to take possession of his grant, however, and in 1583 it was granted to Thomas Masterton (ibid.).

The remains are situated in open fields at the east end of the town. The masonry consists of an orange-red slaty stone. Much of the quoins, jambs and arches are repair work of mid-nineteenth century date. Excavations at the beginning of this century revealed that the remains consist of nave, chancel, sacristy and west tower of the abbey church as well as the outline of the cloister garth (78th rep. Comm. Public Works, Ireland (1909-10), 4). The chancel had a ribbed barrel vault similar to that at Cormac's Chapel, Cashel, and a twelfth century date is likely for the remains.

The most striking feature of the complex is the square WEST TOWER which becomes circular at roof level. The N wall of the NAVE survives to a height of 8m and is featureless except for one round-headed doorway leading to a small vaulted sacristy chamber on the N. This has a small round arched window and two round-arched niches in the E wall. The S wall has a door at the E end opening to a stairs in the thickness of the wall which gave access to a floor above; this was also lit from the E by a small round-headed window

with a flat-lintelled rear arch. Most of the vaulting is now gone. The west wall of the nave also has a round-headed niche giving access to the stairs within the tower. In 1846 it seems that the jamb of a Romanesque doorway still survived in a central position in the west wall (78th Rep. Comm. Public Works Ireland 81909-10), 5).

The CHANCEL had a barrel vault with transverse ribs. On the N wall there is a small round-headed window flanked by two round-arched niches with moulded jambs. Some stone with decorated half-capitals in low relief has been collected at the west end.

Monuments

Cross base

At E end of nave. Badly damaged.

H. 64. W. 100. Mortice: 38x36; D. 19 cm.

6. ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Situated on a low knoll at the NE end of the town this building is separate from the main concentration of ecclesiastical remains. The building consists of a nave and chancel divided by a rubble arch. The east gable is 6.5m high with two narrow lancets which were originally taller than at present. In the south wall of the nave is an inserted Romanesque window which Leask (1955-60, i, 163) states was removed here from Clone.

The date of this church site is unclear. It has been generally assumed that it is of post Reformation origin. This view stems from the OPW report of 1909-10 (p. 6) which quotes a description of 1537. This description, however, is not an inventory of churches at Ferns and therefore it cannot be relied upon to indicate whether the church is older than 1537 or not. It is worth pointing out that the curve of the road on the E suggests that the church once sat within its own enclosure. The origin of the dedication to St Peter is unclear and there is no evidence that it ever functioned as a parish church.

7. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. Enamelled bronze buckle (?). Found in a field near Ferns Abbey. NMI 1931:315. Report NMI 1931-2, 15; Mahr and Raftery 1932-41, p. 141 and pl. 41:4.
2. Iron rowel spur. Found nine feet deep in the graveyard at Ferns. NMI Wk.108.
3. Two silver coins (groat of Edward IV and a dollar of John IV of Portugal). Found at Ferns Castle. JRSAI x (1867-9), 50.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Ferns is important to archaeological research as an example of an important early Irish ecclesiastical site which was successfully promoted into a fully fledged Anglo-Norman

town. In the twelfth century it functioned as Diarmait Mac Murchada's capital and accordingly it holds out considerable potential to illuminate the form and nature of a native Irish town of this period. The precise extent of this pre-Norman town is unknown. Evidently it was centred on the cathedral but it is not known whether or not there was a dependent settlement based on the castle. Indeed the whereabouts of Diarmait MacMurchadha's caisteal is itself unknown.

In Anglo-Norman times Ferns was an important settlement with some 200 burgages. When the colony began to decline in the thirteenth century, the government made repeated efforts to hold onto Ferns but it finally gave up on it about 1360. After its takeover by the Kavanaghs Ferns seems to have declined.

Accordingly one may summarise by saying that the archaeological and documentary data indicates that Ferns was the scene of human occupation between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries. Documentary records of Ferns are relatively few, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained. The extent of disturbance to the archaeological deposits is unclear but it can be observed that the construction of modern houses along the street frontage is likely to have caused some interference.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 7) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Ferns. Its extent is based on the likely location of the medieval town between the castle and cathedral. An area has been included to the west of the castle and to the south of the cathedral in order to allow for possible archaeological fallout. An extension has also been made to the north to include St Peter's Church which may be of pre-Norman origin. In the absence of archaeological excavations in the town nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits.

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FERRYCARRIG

The deserted medieval borough of Ferrycarrig is located some 3km east of Wexford town. It occupied a position which was important strategically in terms of guarding the river mouth and also communicationally in that it linked areas east of the river with Wexford town. In the middle ages the settlement was known as Carrick-on-Slaney ("the rock on the Slaney") to differentiate it from Carrick-on-Bannow in the same county.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Even before the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in Ireland the town of Wexford and the territory appertaining thereto was given by Strongbow to Robert FitzStephen and Maurice FitzGerald as an inducement for them to come to Ireland. In 1170 FitzStephen (according to Giraldus) or FitzGerald (according to the Song of Dermot and the Earl) constructed a fortress on the steep rock of Karrech two miles from Wexford, "a place strong by nature and rendered stronger by art" says Giralsus. After Diarmait MacMurchadha's death in 1171 there was a revolt of the Irish which resulted in the capture of Wexford and the Anglo-Normans were confined to the fortress at Ferrycarrig which surrendered after a short siege.

After the arrival of Henry II, Wexford and Ferrycarrig were taken from FitzStephen and FitzGerald and reserved to the crown. In 1173, however, they were granted back to Strongbow and it was as a result of this grant that the manor of Carrick descended to his heirs. An extent of 1307 describes it as having a castle, together with £5 11s. 9d. in annual burgage rents, two watermills, a hundred court and a ferry (Hore 1900-11, v, 33, 102). In an inquisition of 1323-4, however, the castle is described as vacant and ruinous, without a custodian and it was valued at nothing; it is described as being protected by an enclosure within which was a hall and a chapel, both of which were unroofed and almost thrown down. There were also 110 burgages for which the burgesses paid £5 10s as rent and 3 burgages are described as waste for want of tenants (Hore 1900-11, v, 33).

There are no further references to the borough settlement and it is unclear whether it survived the middle ages or not. In 1420 the castle of Carrick was described as burned and ruined (*ibid.*, 34) but the fact that reference was made to it at all indicates that the place was still viewed as important. The mention of burgesses at Carrick in 1519 indicates that the settlement had not completely declined (*ibid.*, 133). In 1537, however, as a manor of the king's it is described as "wasted" (*ibid.*). By 1581 it seems to have been completely deserted when "the scite and precincts of an old Castle of the Manor of Carge, containing half an acre and two acres of pasture near the said Castle" was granted to Thomas, earl of Ormond (*ibid.*).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. FERRY
3. MILLS
4. PROMONTORY FORT (CASTLE)
5. TOWER HOUSE
6. ST NICHOLAS' PARISH CHURCH

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

The precise site of the medieval borough is unknown. It is likely, however, that in common with other Anglo-Norman boroughs it was located beside either the castle or the church and in view of the importance of the ferry crossing the likelihood is that the borough was sited either beside the early Anglo-Norman earthwork castle or more likely, in the vicinity of the later medieval tower house.

Archaeological excavations south of the Anglo-Norman earthwork castle showed that this area was almost totally sterile, the only finds being of nineteenth and twentieth century date from the topsoil (Bennett 1984-5, 33).

Accordingly the north bank of the river would appear to be the most likely site of the medieval borough.

2. FERRY

The ferry was one of the most important sources of

revenue throughout the Middle Ages forming as it did the principal crossing point of the Slaney between Enniscorthy and the sea. In 1307 it was worth 10s per annum but in 1323-4, in the aftermath of the Bruce War, it was worth nothing at all (Hore 1900-11, v, 33). The family of Roche or de Rupe were connected with the ferry from the thirteenth century and they were still involved here in the seventeenth century (Hore 1900-11, v, 28).

3. MILLS

The inquisition of 1307 states that there were two watermills at Ferrycarrig then worth £1 10s per annum (Hore 1900-11, v, 33). A watermill is mentioned again in 1399 (ibid.) and 1519 (ibid., 133). The location of these mills is unknown.

4. PROMONTORY FORT (CASTLE)

Sited on top of a precipitous rock on the south bank of the River Slaney, this site is to be identified with the fortress described by Giraldus and referred to in 1231 as the *Castrum de Karrek* (ibid., 32). It was still in existence in 1307 but by 1324 it was described as *vacuum et fractum* with a ruined hall and chapel within the enclosure (Orpen 1911-20, iii, 87). In 1420 the castle of Carrick is again mentioned when it is also described as burned and ruined. It is likely that this reference relates to buildings on the present site

rather than on the site of the tower house which probably belongs to the later fifteenth century. Tradition, recorded in the nineteenth century, stated that a castle known as "Shan-a-Court", 'Old Court' stood on this site (Hore 1900-11, v, 29-30).

The tip of the rock was cut off by a bank and ditch forming a naturally defensible site. Excavations by Bennett (1984-5) have shown that the eastern end of the fosse was 5.2m wide at the mouth tapering to 1.8m at the base and it was 1.9m deep. Within the enclosure were the foundations of a stone reveted bank of mid-thirteenth century date (Cotter 1987). Subsequent work in 1986-7 showed that the fosse narrowed to 2m in width at the west end and evidence for thirteenth century occupation was uncovered in the interior including the foundations of a substantial stone building, probably the Old Court referred to in nineteenth century sources (Cotter 1986; 1987). Possible evidence for the earthworks described by Giraldus were also found in the form of post-hole features beneath the bank. A monument to the Crimean War, in the form of a round tower, was found to have destroyed much of the archaeology of the interior. The site has been included by Barry (1983, 303) in his tentative list of Irish ringworks.

5. TOWER HOUSE

A structure of four floors prominently sited atop a rock outcrop on the north side of the river. It has been described

in detail and surveyed by Hore (1900-11, v, 22-7). On architectural grounds the building can be dated to the late fifteenth or sixteenth centuries. The first clear description of the tower house occurs in 1587 (Bennett 1984-5, 32). In order to strengthen it on the north side the rock here was cut away to form a trench 3m wide at the bottom.

6. ST NICHOLAS' PARISH CHURCH

The remains of Carrick Church lie in a churchyard 1km south of the castle. Only the wall foundations survive of a small building. Its first recorded cleric is Nicholas Talbot who was appointed to Carrick by the crown in 1385 (Leslie 1936, 131). In 1404 the church was granted to St Selskar's in Wexford (Hore 1900-11, v, 34).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Ferrycarrig is an example of a deserted medieval borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that the borough was the scene of human occupation between the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries. Documentary records are relatively few, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 8) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Ferrycarrig. Its extent is based on the likely location of the borough around either the Anglo-Norman earthwork castle or the late medieval tower house. The construction of the Wexford by-pass has altered the landscape here considerably and removed much of the archaeology. What survives should be carefully investigated in advance of any redevelopment.

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FETHARD-ON-SEA

Fethard-on-Sea is located on the eastern side of the Shelbourne Peninsula at the entrance to Bannow Bay, some 4km south of Duncannon. The placename is derived from Fiodh Ard, the high wood.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The church of Fethard appears to have formed part of the diocesan see lands prior to the Anglo-Norman invasion and throughout the later middle ages it was an episcopal manor of the bishops of Ferns (Hore 1900-11, iv, 308-10). The founder of the borough is unknown but it is possible that it was John de St John (1223-43) who is known to have developed the manors of Ferns and Enniscorthy. In the account roll of 1282 the burgesses of Fethard rendered £6 annually to the bishop (Hore 1900-11, vi, 189). The heirs of Strongbow also seem to have had an interest in Fethard as is indicated by an inquisition of 1304 into the lands of Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk. These valued the borough and manor of Fethard at £34 18s 1.5d in 1304 (Sweetman 1875-86, v, no. 367).

There are only a handful of references to the settlement during the later middle ages. In 1406-7 and again in 1409-10 references occur to the sergeant of Fethard (Hore 1900-11,

iv, 321) which indicates that the borough continued to function. In 1532 the Bishop of Ferns together with the Kavanaghs sacked the town and plundered the houses of more than twenty burgesses (ibid., 322).

In 1613 the town was incorporated as a free borough, incorporated by the name of the "provost, free burgesses and commonalty of the borough of Federt" (Hore 1900-11, iv, 328). Power was given to elect a provost annually, to appoint two sergeants at mace and have a guild market, to hold court on Thursdays and to return two members to parliament. Despite this charter, however, the size of the settlement remained small.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. STREETS & STREET PATTERN
3. DOMESTIC HOUSES
TOWER HOUSE
4. PORT
5. EPISCOPAL CASTLE
6. ST AIDAN'S PARISH CHURCH

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

The layout of the seventeenth century borough is evident in the plot pattern shown on the modern OS map. This

indicates that houses flanked the east and west sides of Main Street. It can only be assumed that the medieval borough was located in the same situation.

2. STREETS & STREET PATTERN

The street pattern of the modern village with its broad main street derives from the late-sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. A valuation of 1655-6 mentions the existence of two streets: Church Street and High Street (Hore 1900-11, iv, 333-4). Church Street may have been the northern part of High Street.

3. DOMESTIC HOUSES

The account of the raid on Ferns in 1532 by the Bishop of Ferns and the Kavanaghs mentions that the houses of more than twenty burgesses were plundered (Hore 1900-11, iv, , 322). Nothing, however, is known of the form of these houses. The Down Survey refers to the existence of two castles at Fethard, one of which can be identified as the existing structure, the other presumably being the episcopal castle. An account of 1684 describes the town as having "two or three small Castles and also a stone house and a brick house" (Hore 1900-11, iv, 314). The house of Nicholas Keating at Fethard is referred to in 1568 (ibid., 325). A valuation of 1655-6 mentions the presence of cabins and mud-walled houses (ibid., 333-4).

FORTIFIED HOUSE

This building is located close to the C of I churchyard and is labelled "castle" on the OS map. It is an oblong house with an attached tower of late fifteenth or early sixteenth century date with a gate tower on the east and an extension to the north, added in the later sixteenth century. The building has been surveyed and described in detail by O'Callaghan (1980-1, 16-22). Hore (1900-11, iv, 314-15) identified this as the residence of the Sutton family.

4. PORT

The position of Fethard at the entrance to Bannow Bay indicates that its port must always have been of importance. There are relatively few references to it, however. A ship, called the "Sondaye of Fethard" is mentioned in 1547 (Hore 1900-11, iv, 325). According to a description of 1684 there was no quay at Fethard but rather a creek which ships could pull into (*ibid.*, 340). In 1798 a harbour was built on the north side of Inguard Point (*ibid.*, 342).

5. EPISCOPAL CASTLE

A seigneurial castle at Fethard is first mentioned in a charter of c.1200 (Hore 1900-11, iv, 312). Although it was then in private hands it subsequently returned to the bishops of Ferns. A map of 1771 indicates that this castle was located south-west of the town near where the later rectory

was constructed (ibid., 339-41).

Within the bishop's castle at Fethard, in 1482, was a chapel (ibid., 322) while in 1569 reference is made to a prison or dungeon within the castle called "Gadde Blacks Pit" (ibid., 325). It was captured in 1641 and garrisoned by Capt James Downes for the Confederates (Hore 1900-11, iv, 328). In the later seventeenth century it belonged to the Loftus family. There are no surviving remains.

6. ST AIDAN'S PARISH CHURCH

This is first mentioned in a charter of c.1200 (Hore 1900-11, iv, 312). In 1615 the nave and chancel were described as "in repair" (Leslie 1936, 163) but by 1684 the church was unroofed (Hore 1900-11, iv, 340). Rectors are recorded from 1358 (Leslie 1936, 76). There are no remains of the medieval building which a map of 1771 suggests was located closer to the road than the present building (Hore 1900-11, iv, 339-41).

Monuments

Font. Late 12th/early 13th cent.

Fine cushion font decorated with a foliated fleur-de-lys. It is said to have been moved here from Dunbrody Abbey but it is unlikely that a Cistercian Abbey would have possessed a baptismal font.

Hore 1900-11, iv, 338.

Thomas de Ancayne. Late 13th cent.

Bevelled coffin-shaped slab in the churchyard. Incised fleur-de-lys cross with eight dagger-like objects arranged around it. Lombardic inscription:

THOMAS DE ANGYNE GIST ICI DIEU DE SA ALME EIT MERCI
AMEN

Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 176-7; *ibid.* viii (1910-12, 448);
Hore 1900-11, iv, 317.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

Mound. Possible motte.

Behind the tower house is a low circular mound which may be the remains of a motte, perhaps to be identified with the castle mentioned in a charter of c.1200 (Hore 1900-11, iv, 312).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Fethard is an example of a both a medieval and a plantation borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it was the scene of human occupation from the end of the twelfth century until the present day. Documentary records are relatively few, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 9) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Fethard. Its extent is based on the extent of the borough as shown in the map of 1771 (Hore 1900-11, iv, 339-41). In the absence of archaeological excavation, nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits.

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GREAT ISLAND

The deserted borough of Great Island is located beside Campile in the south-east of the county. In the middle ages it was known simply as "The Island" or "Hervey's Island" or "Dubarry's Island" but since the channel at Campile silted up in the nineteenth century it no longer exists as an island and is now attached to the mainland.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Great island appears to have formed part of the grant made to Hervey de Montmariso by Diarmait MacMurchadha in 1169 (Scott and Martin 1978, 35). This reverted back to Strongbow's heirs after Hervey ended his days as a monk at Canterbury. Some information on the manor can be obtained from a series of account rolls of the 1280s and 1290s.

The account of 1281-2 gives the value of the "burgh of The Island" at 100s annually (Hore 1900-11, iii, 200) while the account of 1285 mentions the purchase of millstones at the Island which were then transported to Carlow (ibid., 201). This suggests that the manufacture of millstones may have provided a source of income for some of the burgesses. the account of 1280 indicates that beer was brewed within the borough and that there was also a common oven (ibid., 205);

the ferry across the Barrow is also mentioned. In 1283-4 the burgesses paid an annual rent of 110s 4d (ibid., 207-8) but the account for 1285-6 states that "scarcely any tenant remains in the town" (Hore 1900-11, iii, 210) and this would seem to have resulted from an inundation of the settlement by the sea during the previous year (ibid., 210: n.1). In the following year, however, the rent was back to normal and repair works are mentioned on the mill (ibid.). This rent was also being paid in the returns of 1306 (ibid., 219) suggesting that the settlement had returned to normal. There are incidental references throughout the fourteenth century. In 1397 it is first referred to as "Dubarresilaunt" (ibid., 223).

The manor reverted to the crown with the rest of the Bigod lands in 1306 but it was subsequently granted to the Mowbrays, dukes of Norfolk (1377-1475). In 1462, however, it was taken back into the hands of the crown on the grounds of mismanagement and afterwards constables were appointed (Hore 1900-11, iii, 227). In 1537 "divers burgesses" are recorded as still living here, a reference which suggests that the borough survived the middle ages as an inhabited settlement (ibid., 227). By 1607-8 it had declined, however, and only two castles and a leper house are mentioned as being in "Dunberisiland" (ibid., 229). An account of 1655-6 describes the existence of a passage on foot to Great Island at low water and it adds that there was then one castle, one church and some small houses there (Hore 1900-11, iii, 198).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. DOMESTIC HOUSES
3. MILL
4. CASTLE
5. PARISH CHURCH
6. CHAPEL OF ST MACETHE

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

The borough would appear to have been located in the vicinity of the "castles" and "leper hospital" marked on the OS maps.

2. DOMESTIC HOUSES

The mention of two castles in the account of 1607-8 suggests that there may have been a tower house on the island in addition to the main castle (Hore 1900-11, iii, 229). The sites of two "castles" are shown on the OS map within the borough site.

3. MILL

In 1286 William Souwer and John Malemeys were paid £9 for rebuilding the mill of the Island (Hore 1900-11, iii, 203). The Bigod accounts for subsequent years record the annual

payments from the mill which had been destroyed by an inundation of the sea in 1286.

4. CASTLE

The castle of the island is referred to on a number of occasions in the account rolls of the 1280s and 1290s. The account roll of 1286 mentions the castle moat as well as noting that monies were spent on lime and nails (Hore 1900-11, iii, 202: n. 3). The castle was also reroofed in this year (ibid., 202-3) and various repairs are reported in the following years (ibid.). It was still in existence in 1411 when the inquisition on the death of Thomas de Mowbray, late earl marshall, mentions it as having formed part of his possessions (ibid., 224). In 1462 the castle is described as being in decay (ibid., 227). It is probably to be identified with the large moated site, covering an area of some 4 acres, situated 1km north of the borough site to the east of the ruined church of Kilmokea.

5. ST MOKEA'S PARISH CHURCH

The parish church is mentioned in passing in the account of 1306-7 (Hore 1900-11, iii, 219). As "the chapel of St Macethe di Iland" it is referred to in 1397 (Hore 1900-11, iii, 224). According to Hore (ibid., n.1) this was a cell of the church of SS Andrew and Brigid of Mathelcon and Leslie (1936, 257) says that it was attached to the corps of the

precentor of the diocese. The site is located about 1km north of the borough where a graveyard survives within a large outer enclosure. A number of bullaun stones are present.

It is possible that Great Island should also be identified with the parish of Insula Barra the rectory of which belonged to the abbey of Furness in 1389-90 (Leslie 1936, 175). In 1615 its church is described as being in ruins (ibid.). This may relate to the oval earthwork to the south of the borough site.

6. LEPER HOSPITAL

The only mention of this feature occurs in 1607-8 when a leper house is referred to as being on "Dunberisiland" (Hore 1900-11, iii, 229). A curvilinear earthwork some 150m long survives to the east of the site of the hospital. It may well have been a delimiting feature.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

Earthwork


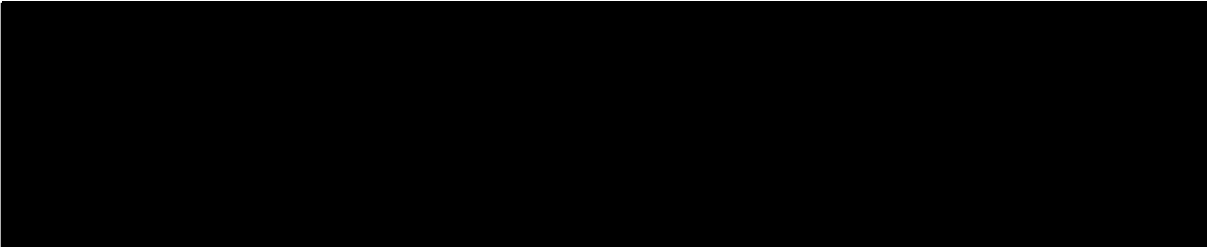

At the southern end of the borough. Low oval platform some 160m across. Its function is unclear. As mentioned above it may possibly be the remains of a church site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Great Island is an example of a deserted medieval borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it was the scene of human occupation from the end of the twelfth century until the sixteenth century. Documentary records are relatively few, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 10) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Great Island. Its extent is based on the earthworks indicated on the OS map, stretching from the site of the Leper Hospital, on the north, to include the oval earthwork which may have encompassed the chapel of St Macethe on the south. In the absence of archaeological excavation, nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits.



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GOREY

This town is situated in the north of the county 41km north of Wexford town. The placename is derived from Gabhrach, "the place of goats".

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Gorey came to prominence in the early seventeenth century as a plantation town but there are indications of the presence of an Anglo-Norman community there in the thirteenth century. This is provided by a reference in 1296 to the payment of 13s from "the community of the town (ville) of Gory" (Hore 1900-11, vi, 609). Nothing further is known of this Anglo-Norman settlement.

In 1605 the district became a barony and in 1619 it was granted a charter of incorporation making it the borough and town of Newborough (ibid., 611). According to this charter it was to consist of a sovereign, twelve burgesses and free commons, modelled on the town of Cavan (ibid.). According to the poll tax account of 1659, 15 adult Englishmen and 74 Irishmen were living there (Loeber 1987, 183).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACE
3. DOMESTIC HOUSES
4. THOLSEL
5. TOWN DEFENCES
6. FORT
7. PARISH CHURCH

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN

The layout of the seventeenth century borough is evident in the plot pattern shown on the modern OS map. This indicates that the settlement had a linear plan, based on Main Street with a series of streets running north and south, Barrack Street, John Street, Thomas Stret, Market Street, etc.

2. MARKET PLACE

The charter of incorporation specified that a weekly market was to be held in the town on Saturdays and a fair twice nnually (Hore 1900-11, vi, 611). Among the activities permitted to the burgesses by the charter was the making and selling of aquavite, the keeping of taverns, ale and Tipling-Houses, and the tanning of leather. The market place was probably located in Main Street.

3. DOMESTIC HOUSES

The episcopal palace of the bishops of Ferns was burnt in 1641. Hore (1900-11, vi, 614) states that it was subsequently converted into an inn and later into a barrack which was taken down about 1835. It was probably located at the head of Barrack Street.

4. THOLSEL

The charter of incorporation in 1619 specified that the new burgesses were to build a "common Hall or Tholsell" (Hore 1900-11, vi, 611). By 1732, however, it seems as if this tholsel had not yet been built (ibid., 630).

5. TOWN DEFENCES

In common with other plantation towns Gorey was protected by defences. From the few incidental references to them it is clear that these were earthen. The ramparts of the town are mentioned in passing in the Corporation records for 1708, while those of 1713 note the construction of a causeway along the rampart to the churchyard (Hore 1900-11, vi, 618, 622). The fact that the town was captured easily in 1641 suggests that the defences were never particularly strong. There is insufficient cartographic information to chart the outline of these defences but one can notice the occasional presence of long linear boundaries at the rear of the burgage plots which may preserve the line of the town defences.

6. FORT

Gorey Fort is shown on the Down Survey map of 1655-6 in the parish of Kilmaclogue. It is depicted as surrounded by a wall (Hore 1900-11, vi, 616, 618). From this depiction it would seem to have been located to the west of the town.

7. PARISH CHURCH

The present building was built in 1861 by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners (Hore 1900-11, vi, 633). It sits on the site of the plantation church described in 1615 as being in repair.

Monument

Bishop Thomas Ram. 1634.

Plain Altar tomb in churchyard. Inscription:

THOMAE RAMI FERNENSIS/ ET LEGHLIN EPISCOPI/ NON NISI
RAMI TUMULO CONDUNTUR IN ISTO/ TOTAM SIBI CONDIDERIM,
FAS MIHI PARTE FUI

Hore 1900-11, vi, 633-4.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Gorey is the best example in Wexford of a seventeenth century plantation town. The street pattern of the plantation settlement is intact although no physical remains survive of

the seventeenth century settlement. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it has been the scene of human occupation since the seventeenth century. Documentary records are relatively few, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 11) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Gorey. Its extent is based on the likely boundary of the town, to the north and south, as based on the burgage plot pattern, and on the east and west by the length of Main Street. In the absence of archaeological excavation, nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits.

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MAYGLASS

Mayglass is located in the lowlying fertile land of the barony of Forth almost midway between Wexford and Kilmore Quay. The placename is derived from the Irish Magh Glas, "green plain".

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The church of Mayglass may well have formed part of the diocesan see lands prior to the Anglo-Norman invasion and during the later middle ages it was an episcopal manor of the bishops of Ferns (Hore 1900-11, vi, 190). The founder of the borough is unknown but it was possibly John de St John (1223-43) who is known to have developed the manors of Ferns and Enniscorthy. Next to nothing is known about the borough apart from a single reference in 1282. This states that the burgesses of Mayglass rendered the small sum of 10s 9.5d annually to the bishop but it was the richest diocesan manor in the county bringing in a quarter of the bishop's revenue (Hore 1900-11, vi, 190). There are no further references to the borough and it can only be assumed that, with its tiny number of ten burgesses, it was abandoned before the close of the middle ages.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. EPISCOPAL CASTLE
3. ST FINTAN'S PARISH CHURCH

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

There are no surface traces of the borough and its most likely location is in the vicinity of the old parish church in the townland of Churchlands.

2. EPISCOPAL CASTLE

Since Mayglass was the most important episcopal manor in Wexford it is likely that there was a castle of some form at its administrative centre. Lewis (1837, ii, 335) states that the Church of Ireland chapel was partly constructed from the stones of a castle which presumably stood near the churchyard. No further information is available.

3. ST FINTAN'S PARISH CHURCH

During the episcopacy of Adam de Northampton (1312-46) the church of Mayglass was appropriated to the deanery of Ferns (Hore 1900-11, vi, 195, 211). According to the Royal Visitation of 1615 the nave and chancel were in repair (Leslie 1936, 212) but the remains were in ruins by the

nineteenth century when Lewis (1837, ii, 335) states that the then C of I chapel had been built from the ruins of an older church and a castle which adjoined it. The remains consist of a long narrow nave and chancel church. The gables are now the only part of the building standing to full height. The east gable is lit by a large, pointed window which was originally traceried. In the south wall is a Hiberno-Romanesque doorway. Dublin Penny J. 1834-5, 276.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Mayglass is an example of a deserted medieval borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it was the scene of human occupation during the thirteenth century. Documentary records are scarce, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 12) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Mayglass. Its extent is based on the likely concentration of settlement around the parish church. In the absence of archaeological excavation, nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits.

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NEW ROSS

This town is situated on the tidal estuary of the River Barrow some 32km west of Wexford. The placename is derived from the Irish Ros mhic Treoin, "Mac Treoin's wooded ridge".

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Orpen (1911, 7) has noted that the first evidence for New Ross is a reference in the Norman-French life of William Marshall to "la Novele ville" which was plundered by Meiler FitzHenry in 1207. Although tradition ascribes its foundation to Isabella, the daughter of Strongbow, it is much more likely that it was established by William Marshall himself who began to develop his Irish puparty during the first decade of the thirteenth century. In 1210 it is referred to as "Pons Novus, villa Willelmi Marescalli" when King John dated one of his letters from here (Orpen 1911, 3).

The position of the new town was evidently selected with care but the most important factor was undoubtedly its position on the tidal estuary of the Barrow over 40km from the sea. This enabled ships to come right into the heart of the marshall lordship without having to sidetrack to the king's town of Waterford. It was also a deep water port and ships of 500 tons could ride by the quay. Oliver Cromwell,

indeed, writing to parliament in 1649 says that ships of 700 or 800 tons could dock there (Hore 1900-11, i, 289, 319). Its advantageous position caused the town to develop rapidly and a commercail rivalry with Waterford was present from the beginning. In 1215 King John gave permission for ships to come directly to New Ross provided it did not injure the trade of Waterford (Hore 1900-11, i, 133; Orpen 1911, 9), itself an indication of the town's trade at this early date.

In 1219 this permission was revoked and ships were commanded to dock at Waterford (*ibid.*, 134). In 1227 William Marshall was granted an important concession which permitted his ships to land directly at New Ross without docking at Waterford. In 1230, however, and again in 1266 Henry III enacted that all ships should load and unload at Waterford rather than Ross and this was re-enacted by Edward I in 1275. Despite these prohibitions, however, the customs returns of 1277-80 show that New Ross was the busiest and greatest port in Ireland (Orpen 1911, 10; Hore 1900-11, i, 66, 141). Trade was conducted principally with Britain, France (especially Normandy, Brittany and Gascony) and Flanders. The first evidence for trade with Spain occurs in 1409 (Hore 1900-11, i, 218) but it is likely that this connection had developed during the later fourteenth century as a result of the closure of French ports during the Hundred Years War and a consequent decline in the wine trade with Gascony. Edward II relaxed the restrictions on docking at Waterford in 1313 when New Ross was granted to Thomas de Brotherton (*ibid.*, 178) and this was reconfirmed by Edward III in 1378. An account of the

rivalry is given in detail by Hore (1900-11, i, 137-40, 205-11) and more recently by MacEneaney.

Hides and wool are mentioned in 1219 among the exports of New Ross (*ibid.*, 134), while oats and grain are noticed in 1296 (*ibid.*, 162). Wheat, oats, barley, wine, meat and fish were bought at New Ross as provisions for Edward I's Scottish wars in 1299 (*ibid.*, 165). Wine, salt and iron appear to have been the principal imports. An insight into trading activities in the town can be obtained from the late thirteenth century poem on the walling of Ross (Seymour 1929, 23-8). This mentions the presence of vintners, mercers, merchants, drapers, mariners, tailors, cloth-workers, tent-makers, fullers, saddlers, cordwainers, tanners, butchers, fishermen, hucksters, carpenters, blacksmiths and masons; in addition to the above goldsmiths, wimplers, nappers, spicers and gaunters are also recorded (Hore 1900-1, i, 143).

The rent paid by the burgesses in the later thirteenth century, both for their holdings inside and outside the walls, amounted to £25 6s. 8d. (*Ibid.*, 142). This suggests that there were over 500 burgesses in New Ross. The privileges of the town developed in a series of major charters, the earliest of which was presumably granted by Willaim Marshall. The first to survive, however, are those of Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk granted in 1283 and 1286 (MacNiocaill 1964, 300). Subsequently important charters were granted by Richard II in 1389 (*Ir Rec Comm* 1829, 85; Hore

1900-11, i, 212), Elizabeth I in 1593 (Hore 1900-11, i, 272-7) and James I in 1609 (ibid., 288). In 1467 the town was granted the right to impose a tax, called the coket, of 13s 4d on every last of hides which was exported from the town (Hore 1900-11, i, 228).

In the later middle ages the town was in an exposed position on the frontier of the colony. It was burnt in 1394 by Art MacMurrough Kavanagh (AFM). In 1518 New Ross was attacked by a fleet fitted out at Waterford but the citizens succeeded in buying off the attackers (Hore 1900-1, i, 232). The charter of 1593 mentions in passing that the town had been lately burnt (ibid., 276). In 1636, it was burnt again, by an accidental fire, which destroyed over 300 slated houses and burnt down the nave of St Mary's Church (ibid., 296).

During the Confederate Wars the town resisted the Ormond's siege in 1643 but after the arrival of Cromwell in October 1649 the town surrendered after a three-day siege. By the later seventeenth century New Ross appears to have had declined in size from its days of medieval greatness and it no longer occupied a predominant position in Irish overseas trade. In 1684 the town was described by Robert Leigh as:

surrounded with a strong wall built of lime and stone, seated upon a rock, which is cut on the outside of the wall in the nature of a ditch, and adds much to the strength of it. It is in circumference above a mile, and is fortyfied by the watersyde, by a Citadel and forte, and has twelve strong towers or castles, and foure gates

to the land side, besides some slipes to the water's syde. The towne (soe much as now remains thereof built, being about 150 stone houses slated and about as many thatched ones) lyes on the side of a steep hill or Rock selving doune to ye River, which River lyes on the west side of it, and is navigable for shipps of grate burden, 100 ships may anchor with safety before the towne and be alwise afloate, and 300 more may lye safe by the walls and Keays thereof; there are two Keayes now in good repaire where a shipp of 500 Tunns may (at ye grand one of them) ride afloate at low water and discharge her loading seemely.

Rosse has pretty good trading for wine and fruits oute of Spaine and France, and alsoe for transporting of Beefe, hydes and tallow; but not above the one halfe of the ground within the walls is built upon, and many even of those buildings ruinated (Hore 1900-11, i, 368).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACES
3. MARKET CROSS
4. BRIDGE
5. FERRY
6. QUAYS
7. DOMESTIC HOUSES
8. CUSTOM HOUSE
9. SCHOOLHOUSE
10. MILLS
11. TOWN DEFENCES
12. CITADEL & BLOCKHOUSE
13. ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH
14. ST EVIN'S CHAPEL
15. ST MICHAEL'S CHAPEL
16. ST SAVIOUR'S CHAPEL
17. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY
18. DOMINICAN FRIARY (ROSBERCON)
19. FRANCISCAN CONVENT OF THE THIRD ORDER REGULAR
20. FRANCISCAN FRIARY
21. HOSPITAL OF THE FRATRES CRUCIFERI
22. HOSPITAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY
23. JESUIT RESIDENCE & COLLEGE
24. ST STEPHEN'S HOSPITAL
25. SUBURBS
IRISHTOWN
ROSBERCON

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN

The town was built on steeply sloping ground rising from the river Barrow and the slope of the ground constrained street development. The resulting plan is of rough chequer form but its principal axes are formed from two sets of intersecting streets: North and South Streets on the one hand and Quay Street and Mary Street on the other. A number of streets are attested from thirteenth century sources. In 1280-1 Beulen (Bullawn), St Michael's Street and Market Street (prob High Hill Street) are mentioned (Hore 1900-11, i, 143). In 1284, St Saviour's Street (prob. Priory Street),

Stoc Street (unidentified) and St John Street (Hore 1900-11, i, 151). From this it can be concluded that the network of principal streets in the town is of thirteenth century origin. Almost four hundred years later (in 1666) the grant of lands to the earl of Anglessey mentions many of the same and other streets in New Ross: Bridge Street Lane, Maiden Lane, Church Lane, Mary Street, St Michael's Lane, South Street, Beale Street and Cross Lane (ibid., 366).

2. MARKET PLACES

In 1306 it is recorded that the revenues from markets and the rent of stalls was worth 60s per year to the earl of Norfolk (Hore 1900-11, i, 171). An account of 1280-1 mentions the presence of stalls in Beulen (Bullawn) and also opposite St Saviour's Church, in South Street (Hore 1900-11, i, 143), suggesting that markets were held in those places. Bullawn was the principal market place of the town in 1686 when it was known as Boone Hall (ibid., 358). Four fairs were held within the town annually, apparently between the streets known as Maiden lane and Bullaun (ibid., 111) but presumably a sizeable part of the fair was also held outside the town in what is still called Fair Green.

3. MARKET CROSS

This seems to have stood at the junction of Quay Street, Mary Street, North and South Streets (Hore 1900-11, i, 103,

114). Hore (ibid., 116) speculates that it may have been built c.1320 and states that it was a calvary cross with a base of three steps and an octagonal shaft and arms. The pillory, which presumably stood beside the market cross, was repaired in 1284-5 (ibid., 151).

4. BRIDGE

The first bridge was a wooden structure built shortly before 1210. Stanihurst, writing in 1586, states that "diverse of the poales, logs and stakes with which the bridge was underpropt, sticke to this daie in the water" (Hore 1900-11, i, 52). In 1313 the town recieved a grant of pontage in order to build a new bridge between Ross and Rosbercon (ibid., 178). The bridge was destroyed in the seige of the town in 1643 and it was not rebuilt until 1796 (ibid., 112).

5. FERRY

Despite the presence of the bridge the ferry across the river still remained important and it was worth 73s 4d in 1280-1 (Hore 1900-11, i, 144).

6. QUAYS

Eighteenth century accounts indicate that the quays were small and Seward says that they were sometimes overflowed with many feet of water (Hore 1900-11, i, 109). A sketch map

of 1650 shows a rather small quay at the foot of Quay Street (ibid., 329). This quay almost certainly ran inside the line of the modern frontage. A rent roll of 1683 mentions the "new Key" and states that it should be paved (ibid., 357). The same document notes that posts and rings were lacking on both the old and new quays so that ships had difficulty in tying up (ibid., 358).

7. DOMESTIC HOUSES

Houses are mentioned in passing in the account rolls of the 1280s and 1290s (Hore 1900-11, i, 143-66). Among them may be noticed a barn in which the seneschal's hay was stored (ibid., 151). In the annalistic account of the burning of New Ross by Art MacMurrough Kavanagh in 1394 mention is made of the destruction of "houses and castles" (AFM). A fire in 1636 destroyed about thirty slated houses (Hore 1900-11, i, 93; elsewhere the figure is given as 300, ibid., 294). In the grant of properties at New Ross to the earl of Anglesey in 1666 a number of stone slated houses and thatched houses are referred to (ibid., 365-6). The same document also notes the presence of a large number of mud cabins.

Despite the documentary evidence for a variety of houses in the medieval town no pre-1700 remains survive of any domestic houses.

8. CUSTOM HOUSE

According to Hore (1900-11, i, 80) this was built on the quays, near the site of St Saviour's (Franciscan) Friary by Thomas Gregory after 1550.

9. SCHOOLHOUSE

There was a schoolhouse in Bullawn in 1284-5 (Hore 1900-11, i, 151-2). Its subsequent history is unknown.

10. MILLS

The mill of "the bridge of New Ross" is mentioned in 1279 but unfortunately, from the context, it is not clear if the mill was located beside the bridge or simply within the bounds of New Ross (Hore 1900-11, i, 142). A subsequent reference, perhaps to the same mill, indicates that it was located close to the Franciscan Friary (ibid., 155). In 1286 repairs were carried out on the mill-dam and water course while new mill stones were also obtained (ibid.).

References in 1287 to the Middle Mill, Southern Mill and Old Mill suggest that there were then three mills at New Ross (ibid., 157). The inventory of 1306 notes that there were five water mills worth £13 6s. 8d yearly and one waste water-course worth £6 13s. 4d. (ibid., 171). At the Dissolution of the Monasteries the Franciscans held a water mill which was presumably located close to their friary on

the quays (ibid., 240).

11. TOWN DEFENCES

The town walls of Ross enclosed a D-shaped area and had a circuit of 1.5km. There were probably earthen defences here from early in the thirteenth century but, if not, these were completed in 1265. A Norman-French poem, written in that year, gives a picturesque account of the walling of Ross (Seymour 1929, 23-8). Mention is made in 1279 of burgess holdings both "inside and outside the walls" indicating that the circuit had been completed by that time (Hore 1900-11, i, 142). The defences were not static, however, and in 1308-9 the Franciscans petitioned that their monastery should be enclosed by the wall (FitzMaurice and Little 1920, 89-90). From this it might be concluded that an earlier line of defences ran down the north side of Cross Street. There are records of the collection of murage in 1320 and again in 1347 (Hore 1900-11, i, 182-3, 189). The town received a murage grant for twenty years in 1374 and the text of this is given in full by Hore (ibid., 202-4). In 1392 it received another twenty year grant (ibid., 216). In 1486 the town was given a relaxation in its rent in order to rebuild the walls (ibid., 231). A sketch map of the walls made in 1650 indicates that "new workes", presumably earthen fortifications, had been built on the east side of the town. The map also suggests that there were three watergates, and perhaps sections of wall, on the river frontage (ibid., 329). Murage was still

being collected in 1686 although it is doubtful if any of the revenue was actually being spent on the defences at that time (ibid., 356-7). The walls still seem to have been reasonably complete in 1786 (ibid., 395) but only fragments of them survived by the mid nineteenth century.

NORTH GATE

This was located at the end of North Street, approximately at the position where Goat Hill intersects with the street. In common with other towns where there was a pomerium it is likely that the wall ran uphill on the north side of Goat Hill.

MAIDEN TOWER

The NE angle tower, so-labelled on a map in Hore (1900-11, i, 51).

MAIDEN GATE

Also known as Bishop's Gate or Fair Gate. This is said to have been rebuilt during the early fifteenth century by Bishop Richard Barrett but the existing portions are clearly of thirteenth century date. These consist of the two side walls of a rectangular gatehouse with a portcullis groove. There are foliated capitals and springers for the rib-vaulted passageway. This would also seem to be identical with the Earl's Gate mentioned in 1282-3 (Hore 1900-11, i, 148; Orpen

In numbering the pages, number 111 was mistakenly omitted.
There is no gap in the text.

1911, 22-3).

MARY'S GATE

At the head of Mary Street. It is called Bunnion Gate on map of c.1700 in Hore (1900-11, i, 51).

WEAVER'S TOWER

So-labelled on a map in Hore (1900-11, i, 51).

BROGUE MAKER'S TOWER

so-labelled on a map in Hore (1900-11, i, 51).

SE ANGLE TOWER

This is referred to as the White Tower on a sketch map of 1650 (Hore 1900-11, i, 329). The remains of this plain open-backed bastion still stand with a small portion of the town wall attached.

THREE BULLET GATE

Also known as Aldgate or Bewley Gate, this stood at the southern end of Bewley Street and Neville Street. The name is said to derive from the fact that three shots were fired against it in 1649 by Cromwell demanding the town's surrender. The shots were found some years later in the walls of the gate (Hore 1900-11, i, 108). The gate was taken down

in 1845 (Orpen 1911, 12).

MARY'S TOWER

So-labelled on a map in Hore (1900-11, i, 51).

SOUTH GATE

Also known as Priory Gate, this stood at the southern end of South Street. East of this gate site, on the north side of William Street, is a short stretch of town wall. It is plain and built of roughly coursed rubble masonry.

12. CITADEL AND BLOCKHOUSE

The castle of Ross would seem to have been an insignificant structure as according to Colonel Solomon Richards who wrote in 1684 it was a "Cittadel by the Watersyde" (Hore 1900-11, i, 128, 368). It is probably to be identified with the Blockhouse shown projecting from the southern tip of the town into the Barrow, on a sketch map of 1650 (ibid., 329). The list of ordnance at the citadel and blockhouse in 1684 is given by Hore (ibid., 370).

13. ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

This was the parish church of the medieval town. Its advowson was granted c.1226 to the Augustinian House of St John's, Kilkenny (Orpen 1911, 11) and they retained it until

the Dissolution of the monasteries. For a short time in 1403 it functioned as the cathedral of the diocese of Ferns (Hore, 217). The nave was destroyed by a fire in 1636 (Hore 1900-11, i, 93). The steeple fell in 1763 and was rebuilt. The present church was built in 1813 on the site of the old nave.

The remains consist of the chancel, north transept and a south transept with a western aisle. The nave is occupied by the nineteenth century church which intrudes as far as the chancel arch and accordingly separates the transepts from the chancel. The original nave would seem to have been aisled and Leask (1955-60, ii, 85) has proposed overall dimensions for the building of 155 feet in length by 136 feet across the transepts. The masonry is roughly coursed. The quoins and jambs are mostly of Dundry stone. The chancel dates to c.1210-20 while the south transept may not have been completed until about the mid thirteenth century.

The east wall of the CHANCEL is lit by three lancets. The splays have banded shafts flanked by hollows and rolls and spanned by moulded arches decorated with a line of nail-head; the capitals have foliage decoration. This pattern is repeated with slight variations on the other windows of the chancel transepts. There is a group of two lancets at the east end of the south wall and a group of three at the west end; the hood-mouldings have human heads and foliage ornaments as stops. In the north wall there are single lancets at the east and west end. The eastern window is the best preserved. In the south wall is a trefoil-arched piscina

with nail-head ornament. Beside it is a rounded sedilia niche, now partly built up. In the north wall is a tomb niche with a trefoil gabled arch ornamented with a row of dog-tooth. The dundry stone has discoloured and turned pink above a line which would seem to represent the effects of the burning of the church in 1636.

In the NORTH TRANSEPT the four lancet windows in the east wall are the best preserved. There are also three lancets in the north gable and two in the west wall. There has been much reconstruction of shafts and arches.

The SOUTH TRANSEPT had two side chapels projecting to the east and a western aisle, separated from it by an arcade of three arches. The lancet windows in the south gable have banded shafts with hollows and rolls. There are single lancets in the south and north end of the east wall. The hood moulding of the latter has attractive carved human head stops including one of a lady with pill-box hat. There is a twin-lancet within a single embrasure in the south wall of the former western aisle. The side chapels too are similarly lit. Above the arches leading into the side chapels is a circular sexfoil window. The aisle arcade is supported on circular columns with rope-like ornament on the capitals. Leask (1955-60, ii, 85) has suggested that the greater use of local stone (rather than Dundry) and the presence of pairs of small lancets within the one embrasure, indicates this transept is some decades later in date than the chancel.

Monuments

These have been recently catalogued and studied by O'Mahony (1987). It is sufficient here to provide a list. The Anglo-Norman tombs are as follows:

1. Lower half of an effigy of a woman. First half thirteenth cent. Dundry stone. N. transept. Hunt 1974, no. 263; O'Mahony 1985, 5: (a).
2. Isabel slab. 13th cent. N wall of Chancel. Hunt 1974, no. 264; O'Mahony 1987, 7: (d).
3. Headslab of a man. 13th cent. N. transept. Hunt 1974, no. 265; O'Mahony 1987, 9: (h).
4. "Bambino" Stone. Late 13th cent. N wall of chancel. Hunt 1974, no. 266; O'Mahony 1987, 5: (c); Hore 1900-11, i, 89-91.
5. Effigy of a man. Late 13th cent. E wall of N transept. Hunt 1974, no. 267; O'Mahony 1987: (e).
6. Alis la Kerdif. Late 13th cent. N wall of chancel. Hunt 1974, no. 268; O'Mahony, 9: (g).
7. Headslab of a woman. Late 13th/ early 14th cent. S wall of chancel. Hunt 1974, no. 269; O'Mahony 1987, 9 (i).
8. Headslab of a man. Late 13th/ early 14th cent. N wall of chancel. Hunt 1974, no. 270; O'Mahony 1987, 10: (j).
9. Fragment of an effigy. 13th/early 14th cent. Cushion fragment of Doultin stone. Chancel. Hunt 1974, no. 271.

10. Effigy of Roger the Clerk. c.1300. E wall of S transept. Hunt 1974, no. 272; O'Mahony 1987, 7: (f).

11. Effigy of a layman. c.1300. N wall of S transept. Hunt 1974, no. 273; O'Mahony 1987, 5: (b).

12. Sarcophagus. c.1300. S. transept. Bradley 1988, 90: no. 15.

13. Julia wife of Simon Gaunter. c.1300. S transept. O'Mahony 1987, 10: (k).

14. Coffin-shaped slab with fragmentary Lombardic inscription. Late 13th/ early 14th cent. O'Mahony 1987, 10: (1).

15. Coffin-shaped slab with foliate cross. N. transept. O'Mahony 1987, 10: (m).

In addition to the above there are also a number of broken fleur-de-lys cross-slab fragments in the chancel.

The memorials of a later date are to Patrick Conway (1487), John White (1569), Felan and Hanroke (1577), Patrick Conway (1587), George Dormer (1594), Peter Butler (1602), Henry Culcupe (1619), Paul Duff (c.1635), John Nevell (1637), Thomas Knowles (1639), Matthew Dormer (1648), William Ivory (1684), and Margaret Raggett (1699). In addition to these there are also a number of uninscribed side panels decorated with the symbols of the Passion and heraldic coats. Hore 1900-11, i, 88-9; O'Mahony 1987 gives references to earlier works.

14. ST EVIN'S CHAPEL

This was granted by William Marshall to St John's Abbey, Kilkenny c.1226 (Hore 1900-11, i, 241: fn.2; Orpen 1911, 11). The name has generally been viewed as a corruption of Abban but it is difficult to be certain. In a document of 1552 the name is given as "St Tewyn" (Hore 1900-11, i, 246).

The presence of this chapel and the fact that it belonged to St John's, Kilkenny, may explain the name St John Street recorded at New Ross from the 1280s. Hore (1900-11, i, 51) suggested that there was a monastery dedicated to St John, run by the Canons Regular of St Augustine, in John Street. There is no evidence, however, that the Canons Regular ever had a religious house in New Ross. Hore (ibid., 102) also adds that "considerable remains of interments have been found here from time to time". It is also worth noting that at the time of the foundation of the Sir John Ivory School (1713) the ground on the NE of North Street was known as "the Abbey" (ibid., 103). From this one may conclude that a chapel staffed from St John's in Kilkenny was located inside the wall on the east side of North Street.

It should be noted, however, that Orpen (1911, 15) was of the opinion that the chapel of St Evin was outside the walls of New Ross.

15. ST MICHAEL'S CHAPEL

The references to St Michael Street, which occur on a

number of occasions in the 1280s indicate that this chapel was constructed in the thirteenth century. The earliest direct reference to it, however, occurs in 1370 when the advowson of the chapel was granted by the townspeople to the Cistercians of Dunbrody (Hore 1900-11, i, 198). In 1700 the churchyard and the ruined chapel were given over for the construction of a barracks (ibid., 374). The chapel stood, according to Hore (1900-11, i, 51, 100) on the site of the soldier's barracks in Michael Street and adjoining it was a large field running eastward which formed the cemetery and precincts.

16. ST SAVIOUR'S CHANTRY CHAPEL

Orpen (1911, 13) has suggested that this chapel was dependent on the Dominican Friary at Rosbercon but the first clear reference to it does not occur until 1370. In that year the abbey of Dunbrody acquired the advowson of the church of St Saviour's, New Ross (Hore 1900-11, i, 77). This must relate to the chapel rather than to the Franciscan Friary since there would be no reason to place a Franciscan house under the jurisdiction of a Cistercian Abbey. The grant was made by the Sovereign and Burgesses of Ross who also gave St Michael's Chapel to Dunbrody at the same time. This suggests that the townspeople were having difficulty staffing the chapels and opted instead to grant them to the Cistercians of Dunbrody. Accordingly it is unlikely that the chapel was ever under the jurisdiction of the Dominicans.

In 1403 Philip Rokely was presented to the free chapel (i.e. chapel-of-ease) of St Saviour, Ross (Leslie 1936, 220). In 1566 this is referred to as the chantry of St Saviour's (Hore 1900-11, i, 77, 254). In a patent roll of 1604-5 it is described as the "late St Saviour's Chapel in New Ross" (Hore 1900-11, i, 76: n.2). Hore (ibid., 76, 77) states that its site was subsequently occupied by the Hospital of the Holy Trinity. According to Stanihurst it was also known as Christ Church Hore (1900-11, i, 53).

17. AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY

Ware simply states that this monastery was founded during the reign of Edward III but Hore (1900-11, i, 100) gives its founder as William de la Roche in 1320. At the Dissolution in 1540 it consisted of "a church and belfry, a hall, dormitory, and some other buildings within the precincts, and a cemetery, the whole containing one acre (ibid., n.2). In 1544 the site was granted to Richard Butler, later Viscount Mountgarret (ibid.). The friary was situated in South Street in the open ground facing the present RC parish church of SS Mary and Michael (ibid.).

18. DOMINICAN FRIARY

This was located on the west bank of the Barrow in the separate borough of Rosbercon. It was founded in 1267 and was dedicated to St Mary (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 229). At the

time of the Dissolution it consisted of a one acre site with a church and belfry, dormitory, cemetery and four chambers (ibid.). There are no surviving remains apart from a cross-slab of Anglo-Norman date.

19. FRANCISCAN CONVENT OF THE THIRD ORDER REGULAR

This was established during the second quarter of the seventeenth century. It stood near St Mary's church and is described as having had good gardens attached to it (Hore 1900-11, i, 93). It seems to have been abandoned by 1690.

20. FRANCISCAN FRIARY (ST SAVIOUR'S)

The Franciscans acquired the site of the hospital of the Fratres Cruciferi on which to build (Hore 1900-11, i, 74; Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 215). According to Ware the friary was founded by Sir John Devereux during the reign of Edward I (1272-1307) but since a provincial chapter was held here in 1256 the foundation date must be placed somewhat earlier (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 257). In 1279 the Franciscans of Ross petitioned the crown for certain oak trees at Polmontagh given to them by Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk (Hore 1900-11, i, 142). In 1300 the friars were granted a duty on all ships coming into the port.

At the Dissolution the site was granted to Piers Butler, earl of Ossory (Hore 1900-11, i, 97). When granted to Thomas, earl of Ormond and Ossory in 1578 it consisted of a ruinous

and unroofed church, cloister and dormitory as well as a hall, kitchen, cemetery and garden (ibid., 258). The remains of this building were pulled down in 1732 and the site was subsequently used as a bacon factory, salt store and maltings (ibid., 98). It stood within the block formed by Priory Street, Priory Lane, the quays and the town wall.

Momuments

At least three coffin lids and three stone coffins are reported as having been found in the Abbey Orchard, Meeting-house (Friary) Lane, before 1875. One of these slabs was seen by Orpen (1911) but we were unable to locate it. As described the slabs are of thirteenth/ fourteenth century date and at least one of them bore an inscription in Norman-French. Human bones have also been found in this vicinity.

Mems Dead iv (1898-1900), 332-6.

21. HOSPITAL OF THE FRATRES CRUCIFERI

This hospital seems to have been founded here c.1195 (Hore 1900-11, i, 74) presumably by William Marshall. Before 1295 it had passed into the hands of the Franciscans who had established themselves in New Ross by 1256 and accordingly the cause celebre in which the townspeople of Ross murdered the Fratres Cruciferi brethren must be dated to before 1295 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 215). It would seem that the hospital was located near the quays within the block of land

delimited by Priory Street, Priory Lane, the quays and town wall. It was replaced on this site by the Franciscan Friary.

22. HOSPITAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY

This was founded by Thomas Gregory in 1578 (Hore 1900-11, i, 80, 256, 267-8). It was built beside the chapel of St Saviour's and those who died here had the right of burial at St Michael's Churchyard (Hore 1900-11, i, 76: n.2). In 1835 it consisted of six houses which accommodated fourteen poor women (ibid., 106).

23. JESUIT RESIDENCE & COLLEGE

About 1625-9 members of the Jesuits were permitted to establish a residence and college at New Ross (Hore 1900-11, i, 74). Their mission was closed shortly after 1678. They seem to have been based at St Michael's Church (ibid., 100).

24. ST. STEPHEN'S HOSPITAL

Hore (1900-11, i, 46, n.2) states that St Abban was associated with this site prior to the coming of the Normans and quotes Colgan's Acta Sanctorum in support of this view. This is perhaps to be identified with the leper hospital mentioned in 1281 as lying between Old Ross and New Ross (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 355).

25. SUBURBS

New Ross had two known suburbs in the middle ages, Irishtown to the east of the walls and Rosbercon on the western bank of the Barrow. Although Rosbercon was an independent borough it functioned in effect as a suburb of New Ross.

Irishtown

This suburb would seem to have grown up in the thirteenth century around the market held outside the Maiden Gate. It may even have had independent borough status because in 1289 the "community of the street called Market Street" paid 40s to have a market there "from the corner" (Hore 1900-11, i, 161). It is difficult to be certain of the date of the cross at present set on a plinth in the middle of the road but it is evidently an ancient feature.

Rosbercon

This borough would seem to have been founded by Gilbert de Clare in the late thirteenth century as an attempt to cash in on the commercial success of New Ross. New Ross formed part of the Bigod estates at this time and de Clare, as lord of Kilkenny, was presumably endeavouring to create a sea-port of his own. The foundation charter, granted between 1289 and 1295, survives (MacNiocaill 1964, 296-9). The borough would seem to have been aligned along the street leading uphill from the bridge towards the Dominican Friary (see above). The foundation of the friary in 1267 may indicate that a

settlement had formed at Rosbercon sometime before the borough charter was granted.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

The Problems

New Ross is important to archaeological research as an example of an Anglo-Norman newtown. It was founded on virgin ground as a deliberate endeavour to maximise on the economic potential of its siting on the tidal estuary of the Barrow. It became the largest and busiest port in medieval Ireland and was a town of considerable wealth with many overseas connections.

The surviving remains above ground of New Ross' days of medieval glory are not extensive: simply St Mary's Church and some fragments of the town defences. No excavations have taken place to date within the town but it is unquestionable that archeological deposits of considerable significance for the understanding of thirteenth century Ireland lie buried here. Documentary records of medieval New Ross are relatively few. Most of them have been quoted in the account above. Accordingly, in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge can be obtained. Excavation here could reveal significant information about the economy and layout of the medieval town and, in particular, about how life in the town changed between the thirteenth and the seventeenth centuries.

New Ross's street pattern still retains its medieval layout and this should certainly be preserved in any future developments. There are unanswered questions, however, about its streets, the nature of the road surface at various times, for instance. Streets should be examined archaeologically if at all possible because they permit not only an examination of their surfaces but also allow the results of excavations on one side of a street to be linked with those on the other. This in turn enables the reconstruction of entire streetscapes in the manner which has proved so successful at Novgorod in Russia.

Nothing is known of the form of the original bridge linking the town with Rosbercon but it is likely that the foundation piles survive in the waterlogged deposits beside the riverbank and in the river itself.

Next to nothing is known about the form of medieval housing in New Ross. It is possible that some medieval buildings may be concealed behind the plaster of modern facades and indeed it is desirable that no building within the walled area of the town should be demolished without a quick architectural inspection. It is likely that there were a number of fortified houses within the town, similar to those which still survive in Galway but one would also expect to find timber-framed buildings and structures which were built of both wood and stone. Some of these houses should have left substantial remains of their foundations below ground. With correct excavation, the form and layout of

wooden buildings can be discovered. It is important to know what sort of buildings the medieval inhabitants of the town lived in and how these changed through time. Only when such houses have been found can assessments be made of the impact of native Irish, British and continental building techniques on New Ross' 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.

New Ross retains very little of its once extensive medieval town walls but what survives needs to be maintained, protected and properly presented to the public. Our knowledge of the historic and architectural development of the walls is slight and that there is a need for excavation to reveal the true story of the construction of the town defences.

St Mary's Church is a national monument; in state care and the structure survives in very good condition but elsewhere in the town only the sites of its former friary and churches is known.

Archaeological Potential

Archaeology does not consist solely of excavation nor does it stop at ground level. The archaeological evidence for New Ross' past comprises all the physical remains of man's activities on the site of the town, from its first use as a monastery 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 New Ross, 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.

This survey of its archaeology indicates that New Ross has been the scene of continuous occupation since the early years of the thirteenth century. A number of impressive medieval buildings survive within the town and archaeological deposits are likely to exist over the area enclosed by the walls. Accordingly there is the strong likelihood of recovering by archaeological excavation the remains of house foundations, refuse pits, industrial areas, and workshops.

The major disturbance to archaeological deposits has occurred along the street frontage with the building and rebuilding of houses and shops. It is likely, however, that archaeological deposits survive behind the street frontage where one would expect to discover the remains of outhouses and workshops as well as refuse pits.

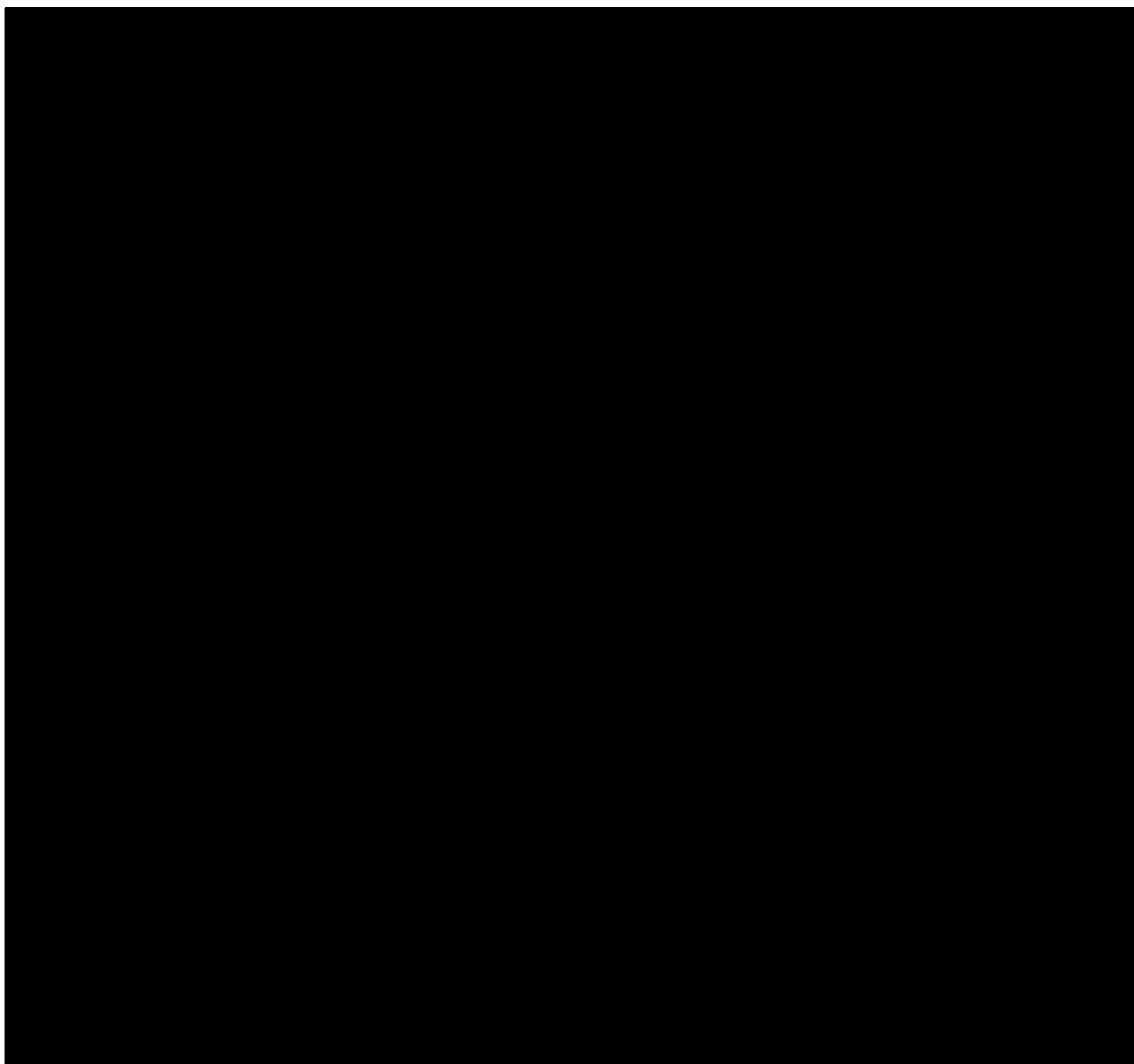
ARCHAEOLOGY, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

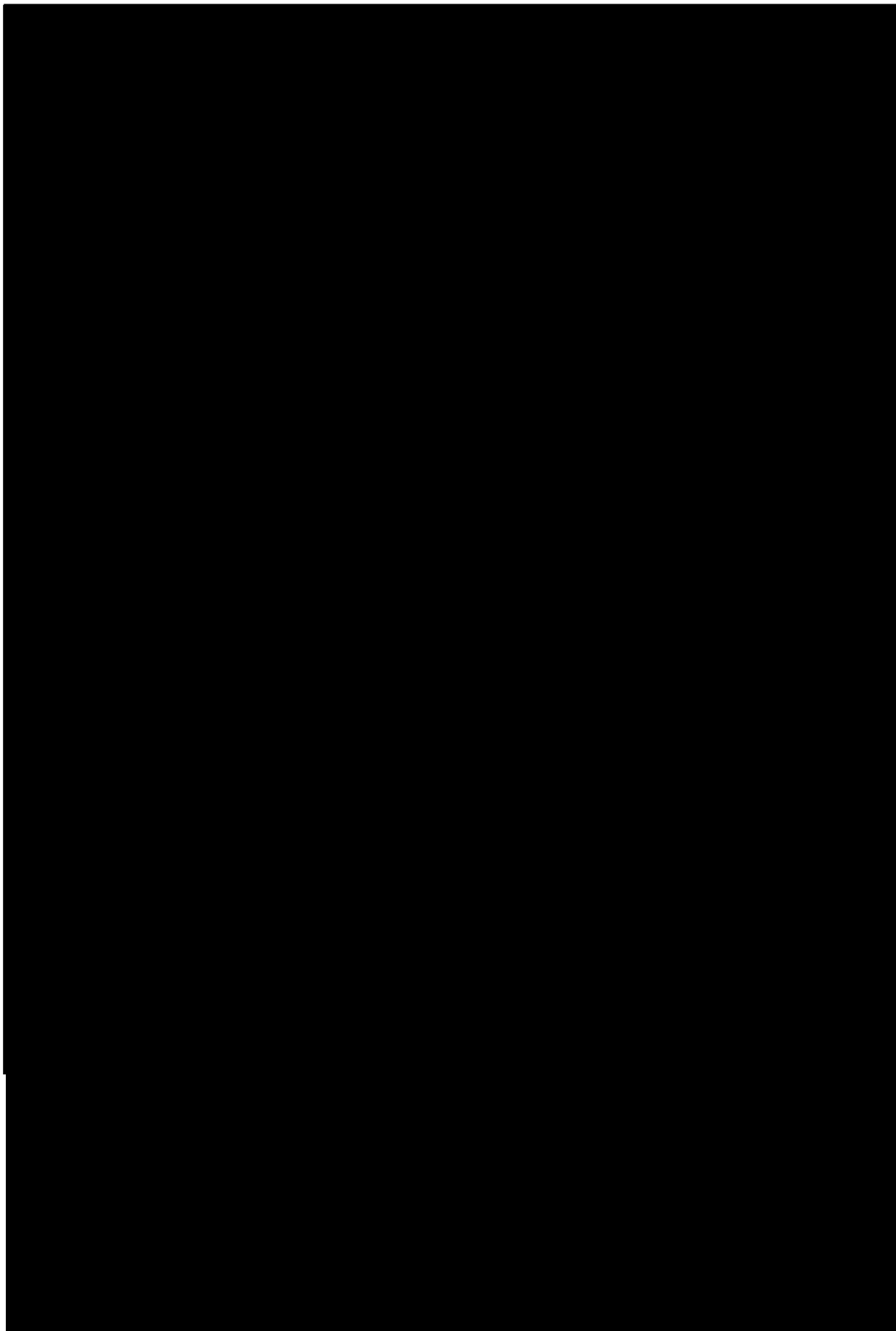
It is evident from the foregoing that archaeology is an important means of learning about New Ross' past and of understanding the character and detailed form of the town today. This is more than just an academic pursuit because without an appreciation of the factors which have shaped the town's present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

The protection of buried archaeological evidence presents serious problems for not only is there the pressure of redevelopment and the high value of urban properties with which to contend, but the sites themselves are often difficult to define or evaluate; their full archaeological potential may only become apparent when an excavation is undertaken in advance of development or by observations made while development is in progress. It is crucial, therefore, that a concerted effort should be made to safeguard its archaeological heritage and that adequate provision is made for investigation in advance of any redevelopment. This is best achieved by making the realisation of New Ross' archaeological potential one of the objectives of the development plan. The objective may then be achieved by judicious use of planning constraints and by conditions attached to planning consents.

Area of Archaeological Potential..

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (fig. 13) delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern New Ross. This shaded area is based on the surviving extent of the town walls and it has been continued outside the walls slightly in order to allow for the fosse. On the east side of the town the suburb of Irishtown is included as far as St Stephen's Church while on the west side the extent of the borough of Rosbercon is also shaded.





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OLD ROSS

This deserted medieval borough is located some 24km west of Wexford and 5km east of New Ross. The placename is derived from the Irish Ros, a ridge or promontory.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Old Ross was the principal seigneurial manors of Strongbow's descendants in County Wexford. At the time of the partition of the Marshall puparty in 1247 it passed with the county of Carlow and Great Island to William Marshall's daughter, Maude, wife of Hugh Bigod, earl of Norfolk. From the Bigods it passed in 1306 to the crown who granted the manor, with the marshallship of England to Thomas de Brotherton, from whom it descended through the Seagraves and Mowbrays to the Howards, dukes of Norfolk. In 1529 these lands were vested in the crown and subsequently they were leased to the earls of Kildare.

A series of accounts survive for the 1280s and 1290s which shed information on the nature of the manor providing much information about its organisation (Hore 1900-11, i, 9-39). In 1280-1 the borough of Old Ross rendered an annual rent of 58s. 10d. (ibid., 9) which would suggest that there may have been some sixty houses here. An inquisition of 1306

reported that the buildings of the manor consisted of:

one old Hall surrounded with a stone wall [unroofed, a stone house beyond the gate, unroofed and nearly levelled to the ground], a smaller Hall, unroofed, attached to which there is a chapel, a kitchen, a grange, a sheep-fold roofed with straw, one garden, with a curtilage, the pasture of which is worth 2s a year (Hore 1900-11, i, 170; Sweetman 1875-86, v, pp. 175-6; Mills 1914, 347).

In that year the burgesses of Old Ross were reported as holding five carucates in their burgh for which they paid 58s. 11d. yearly rent (Hore 1900-11, i, 172). The prisage on beer was worth 5s a year but the market toll yielded only 6d per annum (ibid.). Shortly before 1400 Richard Brown, a burgess of [Old] Ross built a tower for his safety and for the defence of the town of Ross (ibid., 216). A mill which he built at the same time was burnt down by "enemies", presumably the Kavanaghs (ibid.).

Little is known about the settlement in the later middle ages and it can only be assumed that the decline, indicated by Richard Brown's actions in 1400, continued. In 1584 Old Ross was granted to Sir Anthony Colcough and it became the dower house of his widow (Hore 1900-11, i, 41).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. MILL
3. CASTLE
4. TOWER HOUSE
5. PARISH CHURCH

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

There are no surface traces of the borough but it is most likely that it common with many other Anglo-Norman boroughs it was situated in the vicinity of the castle and parish church. Sherds of medieval pottery have been found on the surface of the field surrounding the motte (Culleton and Colfer 1974-5, 22).

2. MILL

The account roll for 1285-6 mentions repairs to the mill dam at Old Ross (Hore 1900-11, i, 35). In 1306 the mill was worth £4 per annum (ibid., 172). East of the rivulet running by the motte is what appears to be a mill stream but the site of the mill itself has not been identified.

3. CASTLE

The castle of Ross is first mentioned in 1233 (Hore

1900-11, i, 2). Repairs to the palisade about the castle are mentioned in the account roll for 1281 (Hore 1900-11, i, 15), while work on the hall and moat is mentioned in the account for 1284-5 (ibid., 34).

The surviving remains consist of a low motte about 6m high and 12m in diameter. It was built around a small natural mound of fluvio^glacial sands and gravels (Culleton and Colfer 1974-5). Sods were incorporated in the upper levels presumably in an attempt to stabilise the mound. A gargoyle from the site of the castle of Old Ross is housed in the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland house at Merrion Square (see Hore 1900-11, i, 1: n.2).

4. TOWER HOUSE

Shortly before 1400 Richard Brown built a tower at Old Ross for his protection and that of the settlement (Hore 1900-11, i, 216). Presumably this was of tower house form and it is probably to be identified with the castle site shown on the OS plan.

5. ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

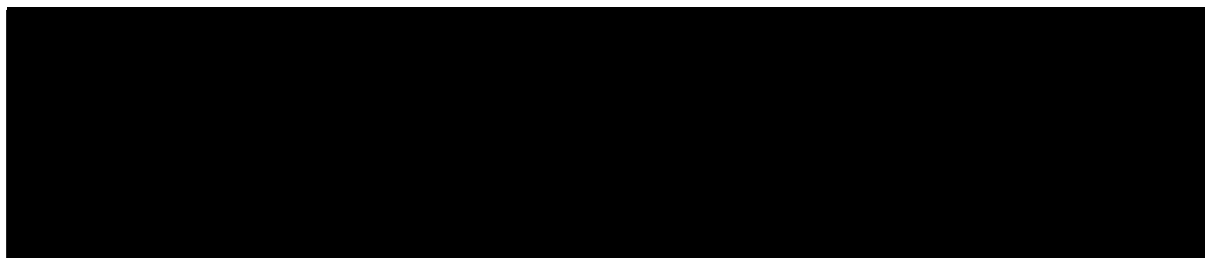
This would appear to have been located on the site occupied by the present C of I church south-east of the motte. Rectors are recorded from 1312 (Leslie 1936, 220). The remains of the old church were destroyed in 1798.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Old Ross is an example of a deserted medieval borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it was the scene of human occupation from the thirteenth until the sixteenth century. Documentary records are scarce, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 14) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Old Ross. Its extent is based on the likely concentration of settlement around the parish church and castle. In the absence of archaeological excavation, nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits.



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TAGHMON

Today the medieval borough of Taghmon is simply a small village some 20 km west of Wexford. The placename is derived from the Irish Teach Munnu, "the house (i.e. church) of Munnu".

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

As its placename indicates Taghmon began as a church site founded by St Fintan Munna who died in 636 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 44). Its growing importance in Early Historic times is reflected in the recording of the deaths of its abbots from the eighth century (ibid.; Hore 1900-11, v, 416-17) and by the fact that it was singled out for plundering. In 917 it was raided by the Vikings and the abbot, Soichleachan, died of his wounds in 925. The last mention of the Early Christian monastery occurs in 1060 (ibid.).

After the coming of the Normans Taghmon became the caput of a seigneurial manor which descended to Strongbow's heirs the Valences, lords of Wexford. An inquisition of 1323 records that the burgesses there held forty eight burgages for which they paid 48s annually (Hore 1900-11, v, 412: fn.1). An inquisition on the death of Agatha de Mortimner in 1305 found that the burgesses of Taghmon held five carucates

in their burgh for which they paid £8 3s 7d. yearly rent (Hore 1900-11, v, 418). An inquisition of 1358 found that Roesia, widow of Robert FitzRaymund Meiler of Duncormick, possessed 21 burgages in the western part of the town of Taghmon, one-third of the mill there and four cottages in the forest (ibid., 418-19). In 1600 Taghmon was burned by the Kavanaghs (ibid., 414) but it is clear that although the borough may have declined in size nonetheless it continued to exist throughout the middle ages. In 1684 it was described as:

an antient Corporacon ... governed by a burgamaster and burgesses. It is now quite waste in a manner, there being there but a ruinous old castle and a small parish church in repaire, and about a dozen cabins and ye ruins of the aforesaid [two] Chappels, yet still it sends two Burgesses to Parliament (Hore 1900-11, v, 414).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

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

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN

The street plan of the town is essentially linear, based on Main Street, with Back Street running more or less parallel to it on the north. Little survives of the burgage plot pattern.

2. MARKET PLACE

This was presumably located in Main Street.

3. MILL

The inquisition of 1358 mentions that Roesia, widow of Robert FitzRaymund Meiler of Duncormick, possessed one-third of the mill of Taghmon (Hore 1900-11, v, 41-19). Its site is unknown.

4. TOWN DEFENCES

In 1453 an order was issued that "none shall breake the fortifications or streyninges of Thamon in the Countye of Wexforde, nor shall make no waies on the same water from the woode of Bannow to the pill adjoininge to the river of Slane (Hore 1900-11, v, 412-13). This reference may relate to the defences of the settlement. There are no indications today of what the course of these defences was.

5. CASTLE

Tradition ascribes the construction of the castle to the Hore family in the early fifteenth century. The Talbots were lords of the manor, however, about this time (Hore 1900-11, v, 426). Custody of the castle was granted in 1547 to William Hore of Harperstown.

The surviving remains consist of a four-floored tower house with angle turret and bartizan rising above the parapet level. It measures 44 by 32 feet and is 70 feet high. Hore (ibid., 425) notes that "there is a field near it in which entrenchments were thrown up ...".

6. ST MUNNA'S PARISH CHURCH

The present church was constructed in 1818 by the Board of First Fruits (Lewis). The account of 1684 mentions the presence of two chapels and in 1543 there is a mention of the church of St Brigid in Taghmon, presumably to be identified with one of these chapels (ibid., 420). It seems that it was part of the possessions of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in Ireland (ibid.) and at least it is so described in 1558. It is referred to again in 1615 (ibid., 421). The site of these two chapels is marked on the OS map to the south of St Munna's church. There is no evidence for the nunnery indicated on the maps.

Monuments

Cross

Known as St Munn's Cross this consists of a solid-ringed cross-head and a semi-pyramindal base. The cross and ring are outlined with a roll moulding and decorated with five bosses. The SW face of the base is also outlined with a roll-moulding and a cross in relief.

JRSAI xxxv (1905), 269.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

Lady's Church

A rectangular structure set within its own graveyard at the north end of Main Street. Nothing is known about its history or date.

Tobermunna

A well dedicated to St Munna.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Taghmon is an example of a small Anglo-Norman borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it was the scene of human occupation from the thirteenth century until the present day. Documentary records are scarce, however, and in the future archaeological excavation is likely to be the principal means by which additional

knowledge of its past can be obtained.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 15) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Taghmon. Its extent is based on the likely concentration of settlement north of St Munna[#] parish church in the area of Main Street and Back Street. In the absence of archaeological excavation, nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits.

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WEXFORD

The county town of Wexford is a port town located at the junction of the River Slaney with the Irish Sea, known as Wexford harbour. In ancient times it was called Loch Garman, "Garman's Lough". The placename is derived from the Old Norse Ueigs-fjord, which seems to have meant "the fjord of the waterlogged island" (Ofstedal 1976, 133).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Although claims have been made by Hadden (1968) and others for the existence of a prehistoric settlement at Wexford the first evidence for human occupation occurs with the Vikings. The first reference to the foreigners of Loch Garman occurs in 888 (Hore 1900-11, v, 12) and they are mentioned again in 928 and 933 (recte 935: AFM, AU: 934). The Scandinavians of Wexford seem to have been politically dependent on Dublin and in 1088 they co-operated with them and the Scandinavians of Waterford in a raid on Cork (AFM; ALC). In 1137 the combined fleet of Dublin and Wexford helped Diarmait Mac Murchadha to besiege Waterford (AFM).

Immediately after the Anglo-Normans under FitzStephen had landed at Bannow they were joined by Diarmait MacMurchadha and together they marched on Wexford town. Giraldus tells us

that about two thousand of the inhabitants came out to do battle with them but frightened by the unfamiliarity of the Normans they burned the suburbs and withdrew behind the town defences (Scott and Martin 1978, 33). The defenders repulsed the first assault but the Normans managed to set fire to all of the ships in the harbour except one which drifted out to sea (ibid., 35). The town surrendered on the following day, however, and afterwards MacMurchadha granted the town and its lands to FitzStephen and Maurice FitzGerald (ibid., 35).

The Hiberno-Scandinavian town of Wexford was a not insubstantial settlement, protected by defences and with extra-mural suburbs. Its southern boundary was marked by the castle and on the north it stretched as far as St Iberius' Church beside which the old Scandinavian North Gate still stood in the seventeenth century. On the west the town was bounded by the wall and on the east by the sea. The principal route of the town, then as now, was Main Street, off which a number of streets and lanes ran eastwards to the sea and westwards towards the town wall. At the northern end, High Street ran parallel to Main Street for a distance. Within this area there were four parish churches. St Mary's would seem to have been the principal of these, but there were also dedications to St Patrick, St Ibar (Iberius) and St Olave (Doologe). Outside the walls were the churches of St Michael and St Brigid. St Michael's was located in Faythe (or Feagh) an area which derives its name from Faiche, the pre-Norman open areas or greens where fairs were held. Similar examples are known from Dublin and Cork. It is likely that it is this

area, south and south-west of the walls, contained the suburbs which Giraldus tells us were burned on the arrival of the Anglo-Normans. The foundation date of the parish churches of St Peter's and St John's is not known but it is possible that they are also pre-Norman.

Recent archaeological excavations by Mr Bourke have provided an insight into the type of houses which existed within the walls. Two conjoined house-plots were excavated and the earliest levels were found to date from c.1000 AD. In all the remains of sixteen houses were uncovered. The earliest was a rectangular post-and-wattle building of a type also known in Dublin (Wallace type 1). Plank-walled and lean-to buildings were also present. Houses in the first three levels of the site (representing the eleventh century) were not aligned to the present street but at Level 4, dating to the late eleventh or early twelfth century, this alignment was begun. Bourke (1988-9, 59) has argued that this may reflect that the site lay outside the original core area of the Viking settlement and that it was only incorporated within it c.1100. A similar pattern has been observed in the case of High Street, Dublin (Bradley 1987, 357).

The first documentary reference to Wexford's overseas trade occurs in 1169 when, during the assault on the town, FitzStephen's men seized an English boat in the harbour which was laden with wheat and wine (Scott and Martin 1978, 35). Herrings were a substantial part of the trade from earliest times. In 1171 £40 was paid for Wexford herrings with which

to feed the army that accompanied Henry II into Ireland (Sweetman 1875-86, i, no. 34). Bales of cloth, both linen and woolen, are mentioned in a document of 1335 (Hore 1900-11, v, 111). After the foundation of New Ross in the early thirteenth century Wexford became overshadowed as a port. The sand bar at the entrance to the harbour limited the size of ships which could dock in the port to 200 tons while navigation of the channel and slob lands was also difficult. Nevertheless the port remained one of the principal features of the town. Trade is attested with La Rochelle in 1548 (ibid., 156) and Spanish wines were being imported into Wexford in 1609 (ibid., 218-19). In 1611 the exports of the town were given as timber, pipestaves, hides, tallow, woolfels and herrings; while the imports were listed as wines, iron and salt (ibid., 228). Sir William Brereton, writing in 1635, states that the port had much decayed due to the fact that the herring shoals had shifted away from the south-east coast of Ireland (ibid., 247). It is all the more surprising then that the port's fortunes seem to have revived in the later seventeenth century and by the 1690s Wexford had overtaken New Ross as the principal port within the county (ibid., 387). This revival of growth may be due in part to the fact that Wexford was the principal port of the Confederates and it was the base for extensive privateer activities (Ohlmeyer 1988-9).

There are few references to crafts or trades within the town but one may presume that much the same range of activities was present as is documented at New Ross. "Le

foyrge" in Cowstreet is mentioned in 1542 (Hore 1900-11, v, 153) and the charter for the butcher's guild is still extant (ibid., 236-7).

Bourke (1988-9, 59) has pointed out that the regular layout of the house plots in Main Street/ Bride Street indicates that there was some form of regulatory body or corporation in the town from the late eleventh century. The existence of such a body prior to the coming of the Normans is further indicated by the fact that in 1171 a deputation of twelve burgesses went from Wexford to Henry II informing him that they had captured Robert FitzStephen (Hore 1900-11, v, 36) while a Wexford burgess is also mentioned in 1172 in a charter to the Templars (ibid., iv, 266, 269).

Henry II stayed at Wexford from early March until Easter Monday 1172, a period of some six weeks (ibid., 37). During that time he resumed possession of the town and on his departure he left William FitzAldelm, Philip of Hastings and Philip de Braose as his custodes in the town (ibid., 37). In 1173, however, in return for services in Normandy the king granted Wexford back to Strongbow. The lordship of Wexford descended to his heirs, the Marshalls. With the partition of the Marshall estates it was carried by William Marshall's daughter Joanne to the Monchensys, and thence to the Valences, Hastings and Talbots until in 1536, with the statute of absentees, the lordship of Wexford was reinvested in the crown (Hore 1900-11, v, 40-51).

The town's growth during the middle ages is reflected in

a series of successive charters which expanded the privileges of the townspeople: from Aymer de Valence in 1317 (ibid., 102-3), Henry IV in 1410 (ibid., 188-94), Henry VIII in 1538 (ibid., 194-5), and James I in 1609 (ibid., 210-17).

In the partition of Wexford in 1246, the borough was valued at £42 1s 5d (ibid., 38). The inquisition of 1307 on the death of Joanna de Valence provides a more detailed breakdown, however. It states that there were 365.5 burgages in the town which used to be worth £18 6s. 6d but now are only worth £11 18s 6d because 127 of the burgages are waste and the tenants have become paupers (ibid., 102). In the inquisition of 1323-4, 221.5 burgages are described as waste and returning nothing "because of the war", an allusion presumably to the Bruce invasion (ibid., 105). A document of 1325 mentions six burgages which are worth nothing because they have been submerged by the sea and also notes the presence of 66 waste burgages in the northern part of the town (ibid., 106). In 1416 much of the town and suburbs were burnt by the followers of MacMurrough (ibid., 129). In 1537, however, the number of burgages was accounted at 345.25 (ibid., 138).

The town remained firmly connected with the Dublin government and in 1580 the lord deputy, Sir William Pelham, wrote that more English than Irish was spoken in Wexford (ibid., 184). There is little information on the state of the town during the Nine Years War but in 1598 it is recorded that 80 rebels were slain at Wexford (ibid., 202). The town

declared for the Confederates in 1641. In 1649 it was besieged and captured (largely it would seem because of the incompetence of the defenders) by Cromwell. The sack lasted about two hours and some 1500 to 1700 of the defenders were slain or drowned trying to escape (ibid., 298-9).

According to the Census of 1659 Wexford had a population of 902. In 1682 it was described by Colonel Solomon Richards as:

a walled town on all sides except to the sea-poole or Harbour, which washeth the north-east side thereof. Its of the form of an half oval divided the long way; it hath five gates for entrance, extends itself in length from north-west to south-east above five furlong. It was in good order and very populous since the last Rebellion, but much depopulated in its taking by Oliver Cromwell. Since that [time] brought by the English into a flourishing condition, but now about two-thirds of it lies in ruins through the decay of the Herring fishing, which was so great that about the year 1654 there was made and entered into the Custom House of Wexford above 80,000 barrells of Herrings, and it was thought above 40,000 more was made that was not entered, which trade is so decayed that about the year 1678 there was not above 200 barrells made in the whole town, nor is there not above 200 barrells made this present year, 1682. The greatest number of the inhabitants are Irish but the magistracy are all English or Protestants ... It was

formerly divided into eight parishes, viz., St Iberin's, St Selskar's, St Patrick's, St Mary's, St Toolock's, St John's, St Peter's and St Michael's ... It hath a well frequented market on Saturdays, and another on Wednesdays ... (Hore 1900-11, v, 363-4).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACES
3. THOLSEL
4. DOMESTIC HOUSES
5. MILLS
6. PORT
7. FERRY
8. TOWN DEFENCES
9. CASTLE
10. ST. BRIGID'S PARISH CHURCH
11. ST IBERIUS' PARISH CHURCH
12. ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH
13. ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH
14. ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH
15. ST OLAVE'S (DULOGE'S) PARISH CHURCH
16. ST PATRICK'S PARISH CHURCH
17. ST PETER'S PARISH CHURCH
18. CHAPEL OF THE HOLY TRINITY
19. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF SS PETER & PAUL OF SELSKER
20. FRANCISCAN FRIARY
21. PRIORY OF SS JOHN & BRIGID (KNIGHTS HOSPITALLERS)
22. HOSPITAL OF ST MARY MAGDALEN
23. SUBURBS
FAYTHE
24. MISCELLANEOUS
25. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS
26. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

1. STREETS & STREET PATTERN

The street pattern of Wexford is essentially a linear one based on Main Street. It developed in two major sections. South Main Street from the castle as far as St Iberius' Church is of Hiberno-Scandinavian origin. North Main Street and Selskar Street were added after the coming of the Normans.

Documentary references to individual streets are not as common as one would expect. Market Street is mentioned in 1280 (Hore 1900-11, v, 92) and Cow Street in 1540 (ibid., 150). Hore the latter as Thomas Street but it is clear from a document of 1618 that it was in the parish of St Selskar's (ibid., 235) and is probably to be identified with Slaney Street. The survey of 1662 mentions St Toolock's Street, St Mary's Street, Hayes' lane (now Harper's Lane), St Peter's Lane, St Bride Street, St Bride's Lane (prob. Mary's Lane), Kenas Lane, St Patrick's Street, St Iberius' Street, St Ivories' Street, Back Street, Market Place, Selsker's Street (now Abbey St), Cornmarket, and Upper Street (Hore 1900-11, v, 338-54). Fore Street was the name used for North Main Street (ibid., 390). Keizar's Lane seems to be first mentioned by name in 1764 (ibid., 400).

2. MARKET PLACES

According to Hore (1900-11, v, 62) Wexford's principal market day was on Saturday and Richards, writing in 1682,

states that there was another on Wednesdays (ibid., 364). In 1307 it is recorded that the market toll was worth 30s per annum (ibid., 102) but in 1323-4 the revenue from the market was down to 20s (ibid., 105).

The principal market places would seem to have been Cornmarket, St Patrick's Square and Main Street itself. A market cross appears to have stood in the Cornmarket place if later tradition is to be relied on (ibid., 302-3). In 1356 the town was fined 3s 4d for having a broken pillory (ibid., 113) which, in common with other towns, was probably located in the market place.

3. THOLSEL

The existence of this building is mentioned in the charter of Henry IV granted to the town in 1410 (ibid., 190-2). The site of the medieval structure, however, has been forgotten.

4. DOMESTIC HOUSES

Archaeological excavations in Main Street/ Bride Street have shown that Wexford's earliest houses, like those of Dublin, were of post and wattle construction (Bourke 1988-9). Beginning about the year 1000 Bourke discovered that this technique of building continued until c.1300 (ibid., 55, 57) importantly indicating that the arrival of the Anglo-Normans was marked by structural continuity rather than by structural

change.

From the documentary sources houses are mentioned from the 1280s (Hore 1900-11, v, 92). There are frequent mentions of burgages but unfortunately it is difficult to locate them with precision (ibid., 207, 232). An inn, called the Sign of the Windmill is referred to in 1635 (ibid., 247). Seventeenth century depositions mention the existence of half-timbered houses, stone houses, mud-walled houses, cabins, thatched, shingled, slated and lime-washed houses (ibid., 322, 338-58, 389-94). References to private castles or fortified town houses are few, however (ibid., 355). Brewhouses, malthouses, bakehouses and red herring houses are also mentioned by name in the survey of 1662.

In May 1894 three walls were discovered running longitudinally towards the Quay by workmen in George's Street. The walls were 4 feet 6 ins thick. Portion of these walls ran into Main Street. The space between the two inside walls was 18 feet. An ancient well was found close to the back wall at the same time (Hore 1900-11, v, 61). These would seem to have been the foundations of a late medieval town house.

KENNY'S HALL

No. 29 Main Street was a castellated house, according to Hore (1900-11, v, 305) occupied by Synnott's hardware shop at the time he wrote. According to tradition it was the house in which Cromwell resided after the capture of Wexford in 1649.

It is described in 1895 as having an oak-panelled room. It is referred to as "Kenny's Hall" in a rental of 1688 (ibid., 383). It was occupied by Woolworth's until recent times. Parts of the wall fabric are probably medieval.

STAFFORD'S CASTLE

This was located at Stonebridge, adjoining Oyster Lane, and was sometimes called the Stonehouse Castle. It was converted into a prison in 1656 (Hore 1900-11, v, 66, 320).

WADDING'S CASTLE

This stood in Peter Street at the corner of Patrick's Lane until c.1850 (Hore 1900-11, v, 86). It is referred to by this name in an inquisition of 1663 (ibid., 350).

5. MILLS

In 1307 there were three water mills in Wexford which were worth £4 yearly (Hore 1900-11, v, 102). In 1323-4, however, only two mills are mentioned and both are then described as "old and fallen" (ibid., 105). Documents of 1377-8 and 1383 suggest that these were located close to the castle (Hore 1900-11, v, 122, 123).

The priory of SS Peter & Paul (Selskars) possessed a water mill and water course within the town (ibid., 234). Hore identified this as the Bishop's Water or Stonebridge River, the only watercourse within the town (ibid., fn. 3).

Subsequent writer's, including Hadden (1968, map), have noted the existence of a watercourse known as Peter's River and have tended to show the mills as sitting on it. The precise location of none of these mills is known.

6. PORT

The account of the Anglo-Norman attack on Wexford suggests that ships were moored a short distance from the town since the attackers were able to fire them before capturing the town (Scott and Martin 1978, 35). Hadden (1968, 11) describes the core of the port as a pool some fifty yards west (i.e. inland) of the Crescent Quay which he says was built in the nineteenth century when the stretch of ground on which the present quays are built was reclaimed (ibid., 11, 15).

There is a river bar at the mouth of the Slaney which prohibited ships over 200 tons from entering the harbour (Hore 1900-11, v, 54). The channel seems to have improved by the seventeenth century, however, and ships of 350 tons are recorded at the port in 1644 (ibid., 262). The "Key and Wharfe called Mornes Key" is mentioned in 1609 (ibid., 208) and a list of quays survives from the following year. These include the quay of the Pale, Richard Hay's Quay, Nicholas Frenche's Quay, Turnor's Quay, Bollane's Quay, Staple's Quay and Hassane's Quay (ibid., 227, where an attempt is made to locate them). The number of quays probably made it difficult to collect duties and in 1651, only two quays, French's and

the Common Quay were recognised as lawful places for the export and import of merchandise (ibid., 306).

Sir William Brereton, writing in 1635, states that formerly there belonged to every great merchant house, seated on the shore, either a quay or part interest in a quay or a private haven to a quay (ibid., 247). He adds that at the time of his visit the quays were in bad repair.

7. FERRY

The ferry between Wexford and Ferrybank to the north remained an important source of income throughout the middle ages and is referred to in many inventories.

8. TOWN DEFENCES

Giraldus' account of the Anglo-Norman siege of Wexford makes it clear that the town was defended by a wall and ditch. The word which he uses to describe the walls of Wexford, Waterford and Dublin is murus which can simply mean an earthen rampart. Archaeological excavations at Waterford and Dublin, however, have shown that the defences of these towns in the late twelfth century consisted of stone walls and it is likely that Wexford was similarly defended.

Various writers have suggested that the town was rewalled shortly after the Anglo-Norman arrival and that the defences were completed in the time of Aylmer de Valence. There is no

evidence for either statement, however.

It is recorded that murage was being collected in the town in 1331 and 1381 (Hore 1900-11, v, 107, 122) while in 1463 the Irish Parliament meeting at Wexford enacted that monies should be spent on maintaining the walls (Hore 1900-11, v, 60). This particular statute indicates that the town was divided into two parts, the southern side (presumably the old Scandinavian town) which was more populated and produced more revenue and a northern part which had less revenue. The statute enacted that monies raised for murage should be spent equally on fortifying both parts of the town (*ibid.*, 132). This would seem to imply that an intra-mural wall survived from Hiberno-Scandinavian times. A petition of 1537 states that one side of the town, which was exposed to Irish attack, had no walls and the townspeople sought a remission in rents (*ibid.*, 141). In 1641 the Confederates entrenched the town walls by digging a fosse eight feet deep and twenty-four feet wide, and cleared the wall of houses and turrets (*ibid.*, 254). Accounts of the Cromwellian siege of 1649 described the wall as "very strong, being rampiered with earth, very thick" (*ibid.*, 291; cf. *ibid.*, 286) and Cromwell himself described the rampart within the wall as being 15 feet thick (*ibid.*, 295).

Hore, writing in 1839, states that the walls were 22 feet high and were supported on the inside by a rampart of earth 21 feet thick (*ibid.*, 60). Three of the towers are still standing, two near George Street and one in the portion of

the wall adjoining the grounds of the church of the Immaculate Conception (ibid., 61).

WEST GATE

On the north side of the town the wall ran back from West Gate behind the plots on Slaney Street to the river. Slaney Street may originally have continued northwards and exited through the surviving gatehouse but it also seems possible that the latter is the postern gate is recorded in the wall beside St Selskars (Peter & Pauls) (Hore 1900-11, v, 234).

West Gate was also known as Cowgate and is referred to in 1561-2 and the gate of the castle of Cow Street (ibid., 170). Hore (1900-11, v, 60) records a tradition that there was a plaque dated 1300 (or 1310) with the arms of Devereux and an inscription from the 127th psalm placed over the gate. Excavations beside the gate in 1988 revealed that no medieval stratigraphy survived and that the town wall stood directly on a deposit of boulder clay and was above the surrounding ground level (Bourke 1988).

The existing structure is a rectangular gatehouse of fifteenth century style. The entrance has been blocked up but the passage with its flanking guard chambers survives in good condition (Fleming 1914, 24). The line of the town wall is intact from West Gate as far as George's Street although it is clear from the masonry that some sections of it represent modern repairs. At the George's Street end is a semi-circular tower with arrow loops and gun loops.

Between George's Street and John's Gate is another extant stretch of wall but, like that at West Gate, not all of it is original. The section is plain except for a projecting semi-circular tower. Excavations here in 1976 revealed the foundation trench of the medieval wall but nothing remained of the wall itself and the soil on both sides was badly disturbed (Cahill and Ryan 1980-1). A shallow trench cut into the subsoil outside the wall appeared to be too small for a fosse. The dimensions of the foundation trench and of surviving wall fragments elsewhere in the town suggest that the medieval wall was between 1.2 and 1.4m thick.

ST JOHN'S GATE

So called in the Survey of 1662 (Hore 1900-11, v, 346). Immediately south of the gate site is a rectangular mural turret supported internally on a round arch. A fourth mural tower was located about 100 yards south of this one, near Rowe Street, and was demolished so that the space could be included within the Church Grounds (ibid, 61). It is probably to be identified with the "little Castell, or towre, over against the Abbay of the ffryers in St Patrick's paryshe" mentioned in 1569-70 (ibid., 176). Adjoining the turret is a stretch of plain curtain wall.

FRYER'S GATE

So called in an inquisition of 1663 (Hore 1900-11, v, 350) it is referred to by Hore (ibid., 284) as Raby's Gate. Hadden (1969, 8) refers to it as Kayser's Gate but there is no

ancient evidence for this name. The curtain wall between here and St Patrick's Church is largely intact and is revetted with an earthen bank.

ST PETER'S GATE

So called by Hore (1900-11, v, 284). The wall along Clifford Street collapsed in 1839 (ibid., 61). A small stretch of it survives in the front garden of one of the houses on this street.

ST BRIDE'S GATE

This was located at the head of Bride Street and although no gate is shown by Hore (1900-11, v, 284) there can be little doubt that there was a gate on this ancient street.

CASTLE GATE

So called in the Survey of 1662 (Hore 1900-11, v, 338). It was also known as the South or Barrack Gate (ibid., 400).

Intramural Gates

Hore (1900-11, v, 284) shows the position of two intra-mural gates which he calls "Ward Gates". One of these is located just north of St Iberius' Church, probably in the spot where the street narrows to this day. It would seem to represent the position of the north gate into the Scandinavian town. A second ward gate is shown by Hore at the northern end of North Main Street, immediately north of the junction with George's Street.

9. CASTLE

The Norman Castle, the site of which is occupied by the present barracks was situated outside the walls on the south-east side on a rocky eminence commanding the port and town. It is first mentioned in 1231 (Hore 1900-11, v, 38). It was probably built towards the end of the twelfth century and may have replaced an earlier Scandinavian fortress. It functioned as a jail until 1656 (ibid., 66, 123). In 1652 the walls are described as out of repair (ibid.) and in 1666 it was still in need of repair (ibid.). In 1644 M. Boullaye le Gouz described the castle as "a small square regularly enough fortified and washed by the sea" (ibid., 66). After the Restoration the castle was granted to a Mr Borr who sold it in the early eighteenth century to the government. The site was converted into a barracks in 1725 (ibid., 68-70).

In the inquisition of 1323-4, taken after the death of Aymer de Valence, the castle is described as a stone building with four towers roofed with shingles. It was then in need of repair. Attached to it was a hall and two thatched houses (Hore 1900-11, v, 104). The same document states that there was a chest of jewels belonging to the earl of Pembroke in the castle (ibid., 105). The "hall of the kitchen" was in need of repair in 1334-5 (ibid., 110). From these accounts it would seem that Wexford Castle was similar in form to Ferns. In 1847 the foundations of the western tower and the wall extending southwards from it were found in the course of excavations (ibid., 70). The wall was found to be 17 feet

thick.

10. ST BRIGID'S PARISH CHURCH

This was located close to Bride Street near the present Church of the Assumption (Hore 1900-11, v, 83). The Dissolution documents of 1541 indicate that the tithes belonged to the Hospitalers of Kilmainham but they were used, nonetheless, for the maintenance of a curate (White 1943, 103). In 1615 the church was described as of little use because it had been waste for the previous fifty years (Leslie 1936, 249).

11. ST IBERIUS' PARISH CHURCH

No trace remains of this church but it is likely that the present parish church marks the site of the medieval building. In 1615 the church was in lay hands but the nave and chancel were described as being in good order (Leslie 1936, 249). The present building was constructed in 1766 (Leslie 1936, 256).

12. ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH

Dedicated to St John the Evangelist this building was demolished during the Cromwellian period when the stone was used to fortify the castle (Hore 1900-11, v, 84). It stood on the right-hand corner of John's Lane as it joins John Street.

In 1532 it is recorded that the sovereign and burgesses of Wexford set fire to the door to the steeple of St John's in order to force out a thief who had escaped from the town jail (Leslie 1936, 255). The Dissolution documents of 1541 indicate that the tithes belonged to the Hospitalers of Kilmainham but they were used for the maintenance of a curate (White 1943, 103). By 1615 the church had fallen into lay hands (Leslie 1936, 249).

13. ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

This stands east of St Patrick's Church and its rectors are recorded from 1349 (Leslie 1936, 249). The parish was united with St Patrick's shortly after 1622 (ibid.). It is said to be the burial place of Luke Wadding (Hore 1900-11, v, 86-7).

Only the gabled western angle of the church survives with the remains of a window and of an eyelet belfry. A plan of the remains is given by Hore (1900-11, v, 79).

14. ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHURCH

Known as St Michael's-in-the-Fields, this was the parish church of Feagh. A graveyard marks the site of the church but there are no surviving remains. Hore (1900-11, iv, 262) has suggested that it should be identified with the church of St Aloch which is mentioned in a charter of 1172. The Dissolution documents of 1541 show that the rectory belonged

to the Hospitallers of Kilmainham, Dublin (White 1943, 103). The church was demolished during the Cromwellian period when the stone was used to fortify the castle (Hore 1900-11, v, 84).

15. ST OLAVE'S (DULOGUE'S) PARISH CHURCH

No trace remains of this church which was situated on low-lying ground between the castle and the stream called Bishop's Water (Hore 1900-11, v, 76). Hadden (1968, 13) adds that it was at the corner of King Street and he notes the discovery of burials there when sewers were laid and when house foundations were dug. No clergy are recorded for the church but there are many incidental references to tithes and dues throughout the later middle ages. In 1615, when it was known as St Cowloke's, it was an appurtenance of the diocesan see of Ferns (Leslie 1936, 249).

16. ST PATRICK'S PARISH CHURCH

This is situated at the east end of the town. Vicars are recorded from 1420 and a chantry is mentioned here in 1543 (Leslie 1936, 249). The church was confirmed to the Knights Hospitallers in 1212 by Pope Innocent III (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 339).

The remains consist of an aisled nave, divided by an arcade of four arches, and an aisled chancel. There are pointed windows in the eastern gables one of which was

traceried. It is difficult to assign a date to the remains but the eastern portion appears to be older than the western part. There are belfries on the west gable and on the crossing gable. A ground plan of the remains is given by Hore (1900-11, v, 76).

17. ST PETER'S PARISH CHURCH

According to Hore (1900-11, v, 83) this stood outside the wall between the churches of St Patrick and St Mary. He adds that human bones have been found here. By 1615 the church was in lay hands (Leslie 1936, 249) and it was demolished shortly before 1684 (Hore 1900-11, v, 84). The churchyard was removed in 1897 when St Peter's Square was created (Hadden 1969, 12). It was sometimes referred to as St Peter's Minor to distinguish it from St Selskar's (SS Peter & Paul). According to the Dissolution documents of 1541, for instance, the tithes of St Peter the Less belonged to St Selskar's (White 1943, 368).

18. CHAPEL OF THE HOLY TRINITY

This was located on Castle Hill. It was demolished and the materials used for the repair of the castle in Cromwell's time (Hore, v, 18, 84). The well of the Holy Trinity is marked on the OS map but the exact site of the church has been forgotten.

19. AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY OF SS PETER & PAUL OF SELSKER

The precise foundation date of this priory is unknown. Dates in the late twelfth century have been suggested but it seems more likely that it was established c.1216 (Hore 1900-11, v, 73). In the Dissolution documents it is described as having a belfry, dormitory, hall, four chambers, one kitchen, two stables, two gardens, four orchards, two parks of one acre, twelve acres of meadow and one pigeon house, all within the site of the monastery (ibid., 153). The "great gate of the monastery" is mentioned in 1551 (ibid., 159) and it is possible that this is to be identified with the surviving gatehouse.

The remains consist of the crossing tower and an aisled nave. The chancel is occupied by the ruins of a Board of First Fruits church built between 1818 and 1826 (Leslie 1936, 255). The crossing tower is rectangular with a projecting turret which accomodates the spiral stairs. It has two floors above the arch and is some 80 feet high. The nave has an arcade of four arches supported on rectangular piers (except for one which is octagonal). The west window of the nave is pointed and originally held a five light traceried window. The west gable of the aisle also held a pointed window. The north wall of the nave stands to a height of 8 feet but the south wall is missing.

Excavations were carried out in 1973 as part of a programme of conservation (Fanning 1973). This revealed mainly structural information which showed that the original

thirteenth century nave had been aisleless and found traces of a rood screen. The work also indicated that the tower had probably been inserted at the same time as the aisle was built, probably in the fourteenth century.

Monuments

Plain sarcophagus of 13th/14th cent. date (Bradley 1988, 90: no. 17); slab decorated with head and rigged ship of c.1300 (Hunt 1974, no. 275); heraldic plaque to Richard Stafford and Anne Sutton (1623); 17th cent mural plaque (Hore 1900-11, v, 75; Mems Dead iv, 338-9).

20. FRANCISCAN FRIARY

According to Hore (1900-11, v, 82) the Franciscans took over this site from the Hospitallers. The buildings seem to have been partly ruined at the Dissolution and some of the stone was used to repair the castle in 1543-4 (ibid., 154). The present Franciscan Friary occupies the site of the medieval one. Hore (ibid.) states that "the front wall from the door to the Mission Cross" is part of the original building.

21. PRIORY OF SS JOHN & BRIGID (KNIGHTS HOSPITALERS)

This seems to have been located at Killaloke outside the town. That it was distinct from St John's Church is clear from the fact that it held the tithes of both the parish churches

of St John and St Brigid (Hore 1900-11, v, 152). It was founded by William Marshall (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 339).

22. HOSPITAL OF ST MARY MAGDALEN

Before 1176 a hospital at Wexford was granted to Nicholas Labench by Strongbow (*ibid*, v, 37). This was located to the south of the town in the parish of Maudlintown. It belonged to the Hospitalers of St John of Jerusalem in Ireland in 1212 (*ibid.*, 421; Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 339).

23. SUBURBS

It is clear from the writings of Giraldus Cambrensis that there were suburbs outside the walls of the Scandinavian town. These seem to have been located in on the south and south-west of the town, around the churches of St Brigid and St Michael.

Faythe

An annual market was held here on August 24th into this century (Hore 1900-11, v, 62). There were 24.5 burgages in the Faythe owned by the monastery of Kilcloghan at the Suppression (Hore 1900-11, iv, 285; cf. v, 182, 249) and it is possible that it may have functioned as a separate borough for a time like its namesake in Cork.

John Street

At the Dissolution the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem held

23.25 burgages in St John Street (ibid., 152, 183) indicating a substantial extra-mural settlement in this area of the town.

24. MISCELLANEOUS

Hospital

The hospital opposite St Selskar's Church is mentioned in the survey of 1662 (Hore 1900-11, v, 349). Hore (ibid., 284) shows its position in Abbey Street. The foundation date of the hospital is unclear.

25. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. Bronze haft-flanged axe. Found at Wexford, August 1838. Merseyside County Museums 1977.117.7.
2. Hore (1900-11, v, 61) states that about 1840 a chalice, gold cross and coins were found in the course of excavations in the town.

26. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

1. St Selskar's (Fanning 1973).
2. Oyster Lane (Wallace 1974).
3. Abbey Street (Cahill and Ryan 1981).
4. Bride Street/ South Main Street (Bourke 1988-9).

5. 89 North Main Street (Roche 1988).
6. Cornmarket (Bourke 1988).
7. Redmond Place (Bourke 1988).
8. Wilson's Yard (Imperial Bar) (Bourke 1988).
9. West Gate/John Street (Bourke 1988).
10. Temperance Row (Bourke 1988).
11. John's Street (Bourke 1988).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

The Problems

Wexford is important to archaeological research for three reasons. Firstly as an example of a Hiberno-Scandinavian town, secondly as a port town expanded and developed by the Anglo-Normans, and thirdly as the most important town in the county during the seventeenth century. Archaeological excavations within the town have shown that deposits survive from Viking times and it is this phase of the town's history which is particularly important for the archaeologist because it is the period of Wexford's beginnings.

The surviving medieval remains in Wexford include a substantial stretch of the town wall including a gatehouse and three towers, St Selskar's and the ruins of the parish churches of St Mary and St Patrick.

Wexford's street pattern still retains its medieval layout and this should certainly be preserved in any future developments. There are unanswered questions, however, about the streets, about the nature of the road surface at various times, for instance. Streets should be examined archaeologically if at all possible because they permit not only an examination of their surfaces but also allow the results of excavations on one side of a street to be linked with those on the other. This in turn enables the reconstruction of entire streetscapes in the manner which has proved so successful at Novgorod in Russia.

Nothing is known of the form of the original quays which presumably survive some distance inside the line of the modern frontage.

Archaeological excavation has shed some light on the form of medieval housing in Wexford. The results of the Bride Street/ Main Street excavations are particularly significant in revealing the continuity of house form and plot pattern from Scandinavian into Anglo-Norman times. It is possible that some late medieval or seventeenth century buildings may be concealed behind the plaster of modern facades and indeed it is desirable that no building within the walled area of the town should be demolished without a quick architectural inspection. It is known from documentary sources that there was a wide variety of houses in the seventeenth century town: half-timbered buildings, fortified houses, and mud-walled cabins, for example. Some of these houses should have left

substantial remains of their foundations below ground. With correct excavation, the form and layout of wooden buildings can be discovered. 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.

Wexford retains a considerable part of its medieval town walls but what survives needs to be maintained, protected and properly presented to the public. Much of the ground in front of the West Gate stretch of wall is open and there is an ideal opportunity to create a pathway around the circuit of the walls on the outside. Such a green space in front of the walls would enable them to be seen as they would have appeared in the middle ages, without the build-up of houses beside them. Our knowledge of the historic and architectural development of the walls is slight and that there is a need for further excavation to reveal the true story of the construction of the town defences.

St Selskar's is a national monument in state care and archaeological excavations took place there in advance of conservation but maintenance work is needed at St Mary's and St Patrick's. Little is known in fact of the nature of Wexford's medieval parish churches.

Archaeological Potential

Archaeology does not consist solely of excavation nor does it stop at ground level. The archaeological evidence for

Wexford's past comprises all the physical remains of man's activities on the site of the town, from its first use as a monastery 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 Wexford, 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.

This survey of its archaeology indicates that Wexford has been the scene of continuous occupation since the late ninth century. A number of impressive medieval buildings survive within the town and archaeological deposits are likely to exist over the area enclosed by the walls and in the ancient suburbs. Accordingly there is the strong likelihood of recovering by archaeological excavation the remains of house foundations, refuse pits, industrial areas, and workshops.

The major disturbance to archaeological deposits has occurred along the street frontage with the building and rebuilding of houses and shops. It is likely, however, that

archaeological deposits survive behind the street frontage where one would expect to discover the remains of outhouses and workshops as well as refuse pits.

ARCHAEOLOGY, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

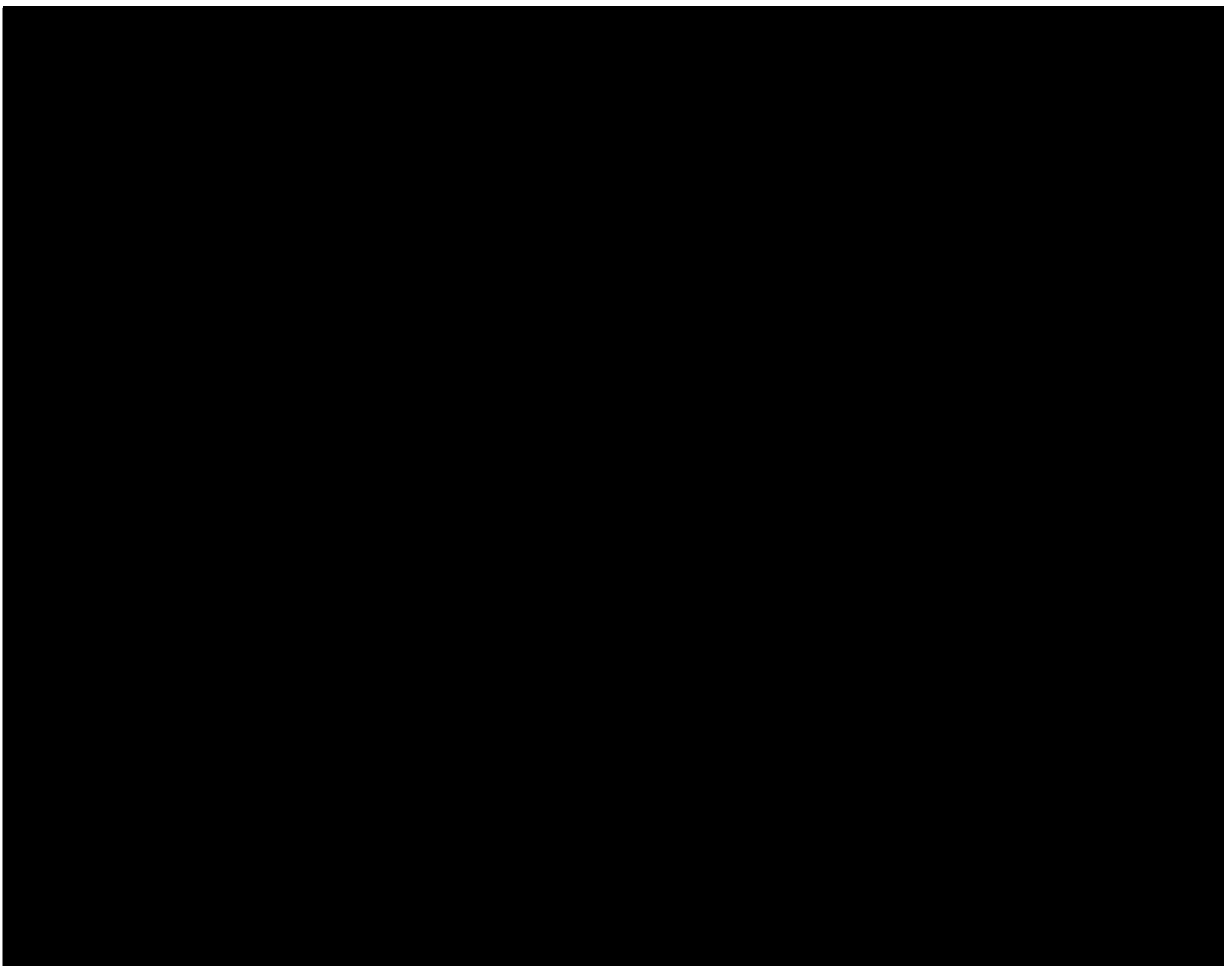
It is evident from the foregoing that archaeology is an important means of learning about Wexford's past and of understanding the character and detailed form of the town today. This is more than just an academic pursuit because without an appreciation of the factors which have shaped the town's present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

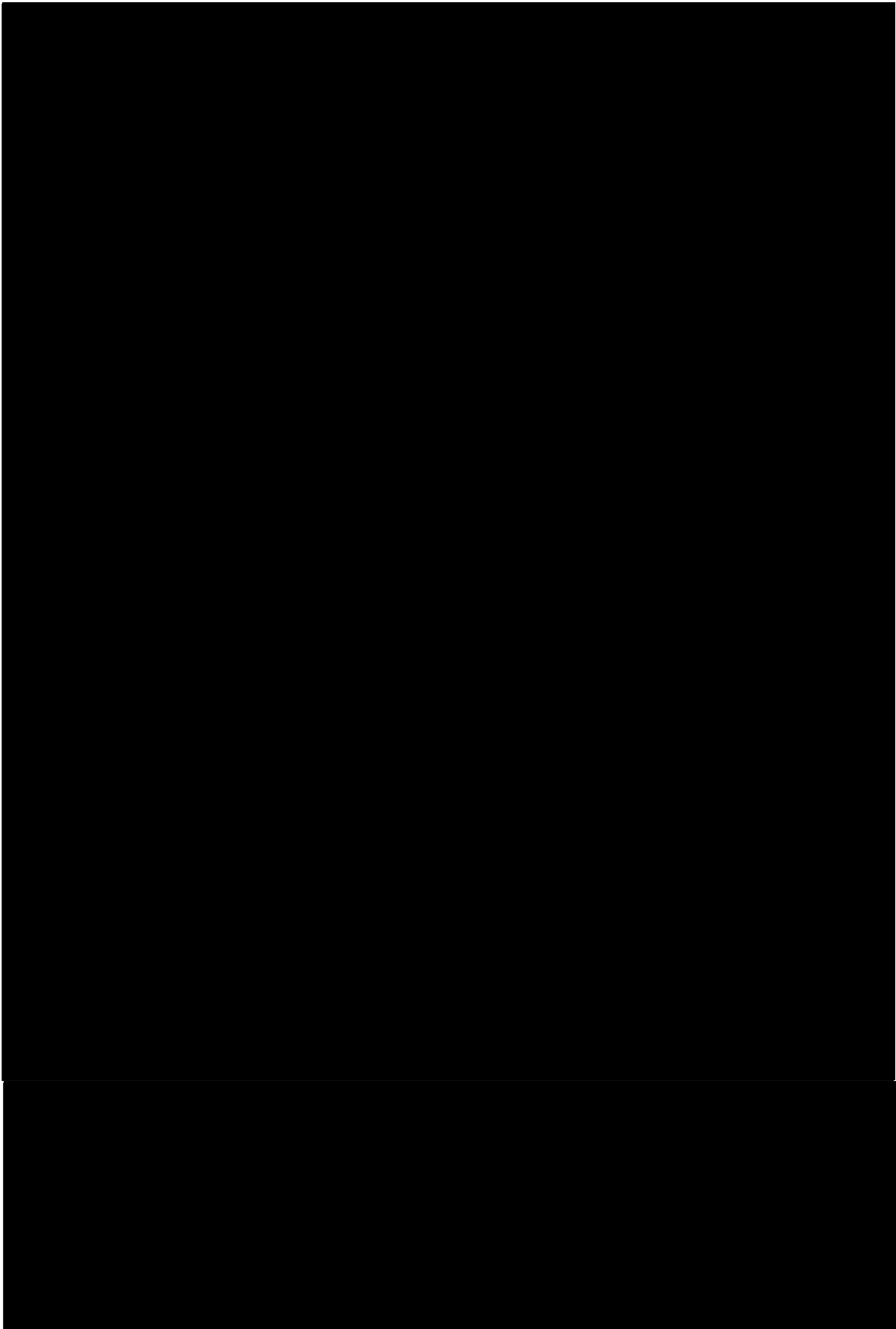
The protection of buried archaeological evidence presents serious problems for not only is there the pressure of redevelopment and the high value of urban properties with which to contend, but the sites themselves are often difficult to define or evaluate; their full archaeological potential may only become apparent when an excavation is undertaken in advance of development or by observations made while development is in progress. It is crucial, therefore, that a concerted effort should be made to safeguard its archaeological heritage and that adequate provision is made for investigation in advance of any redevelopment. This is best achieved by making the realisation of New Ross' archaeological potential one of the objectives of the development plan. The objective may then be achieved by

judicious use of planning constraints and by conditions attached to planning consents.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (fig. 16) delimits the area of archaeological potential within modern Wexford. This shaded area is based on the surviving extent of the town walls and it has been continued outside the walls slightly in order to allow for the fosse and for the documented presence of suburbs.





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- RDKPRI Report of the Deputy Keeper of Public Records, Ireland
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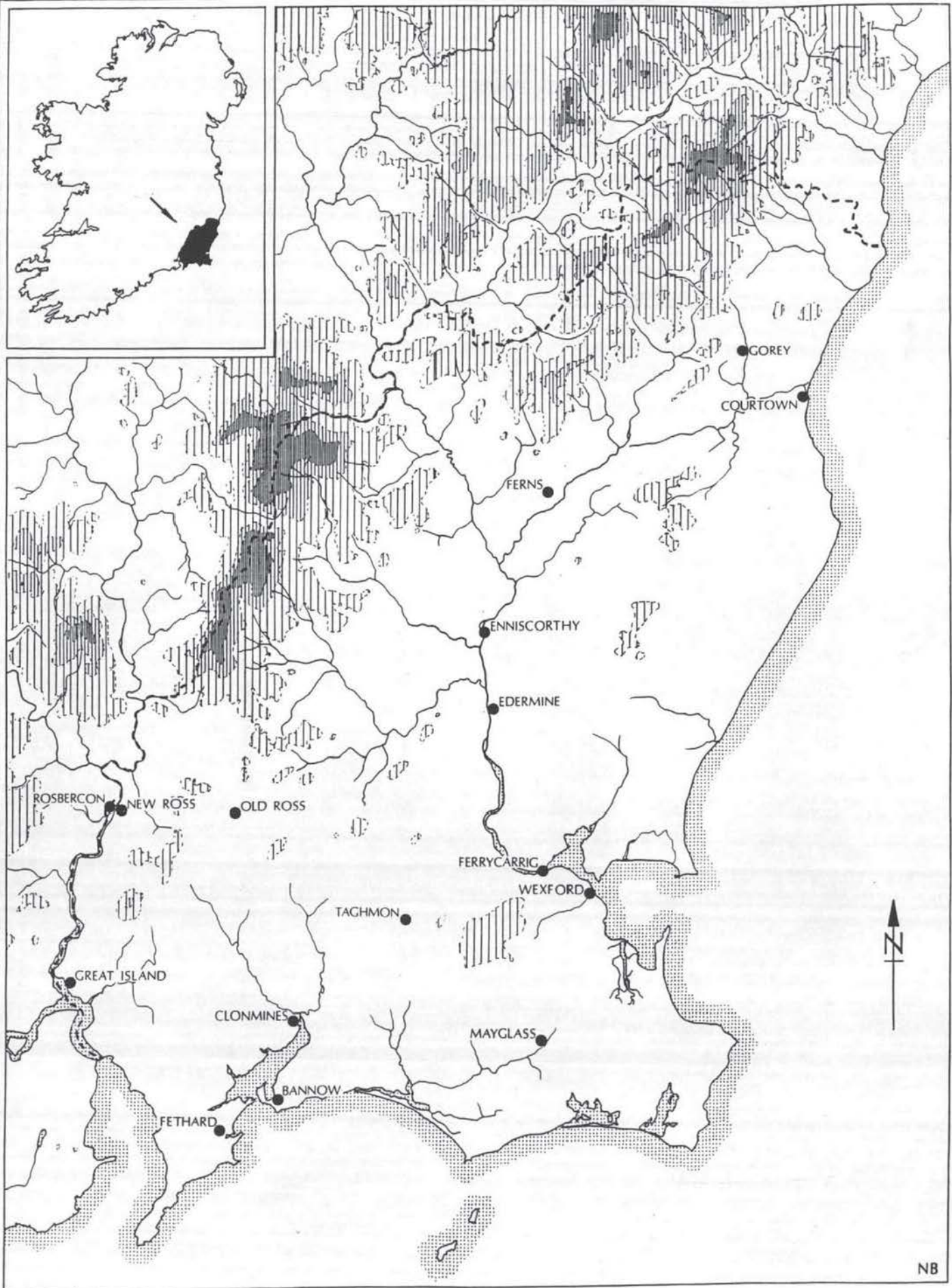
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COUNTY WEXFORD




-  LAND OVER 122m
-  LAND OVER 244m
-  LAND OVER 366m

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

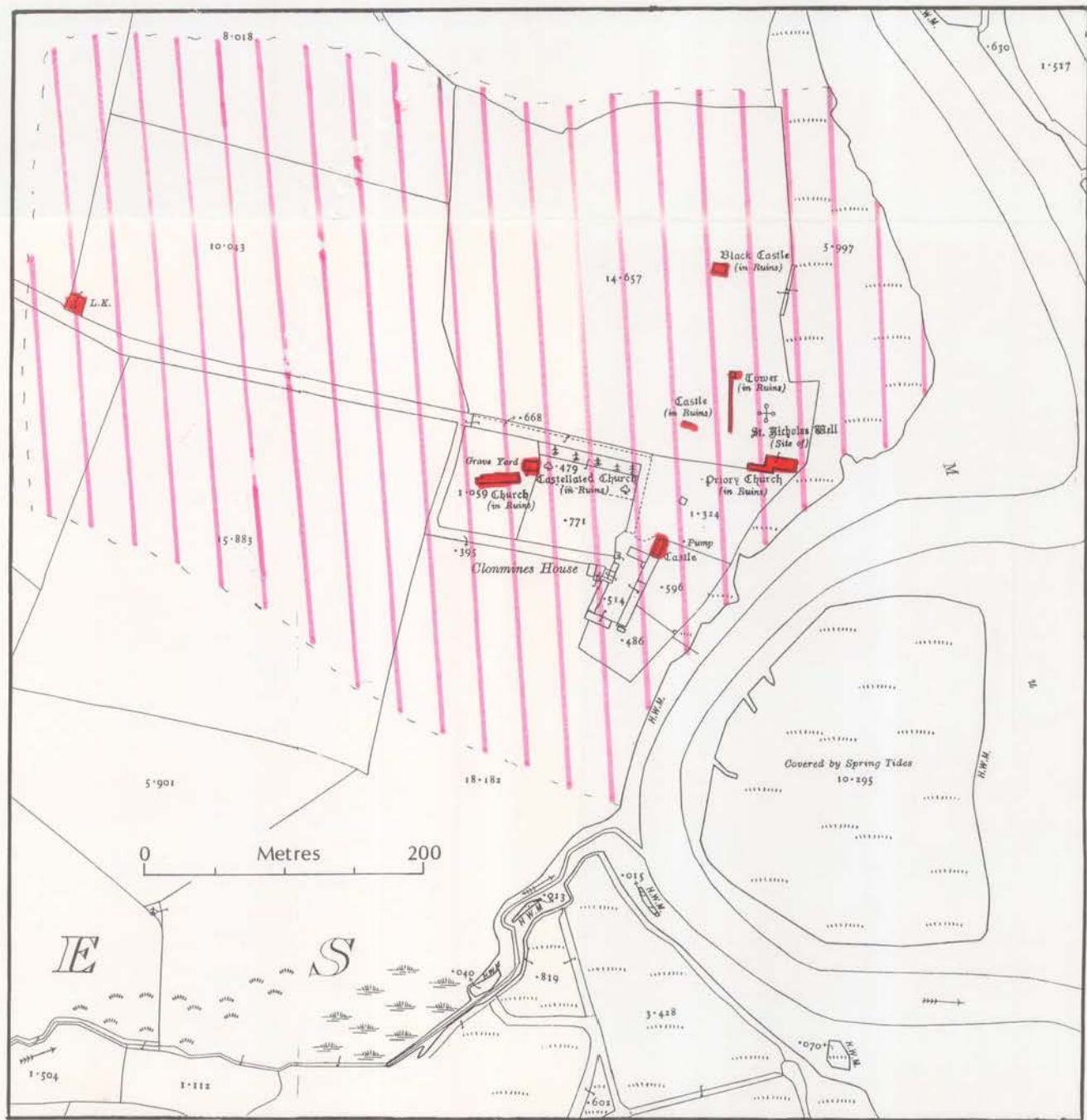


Fig. 3. Clonmines: zone of archaeological potential.

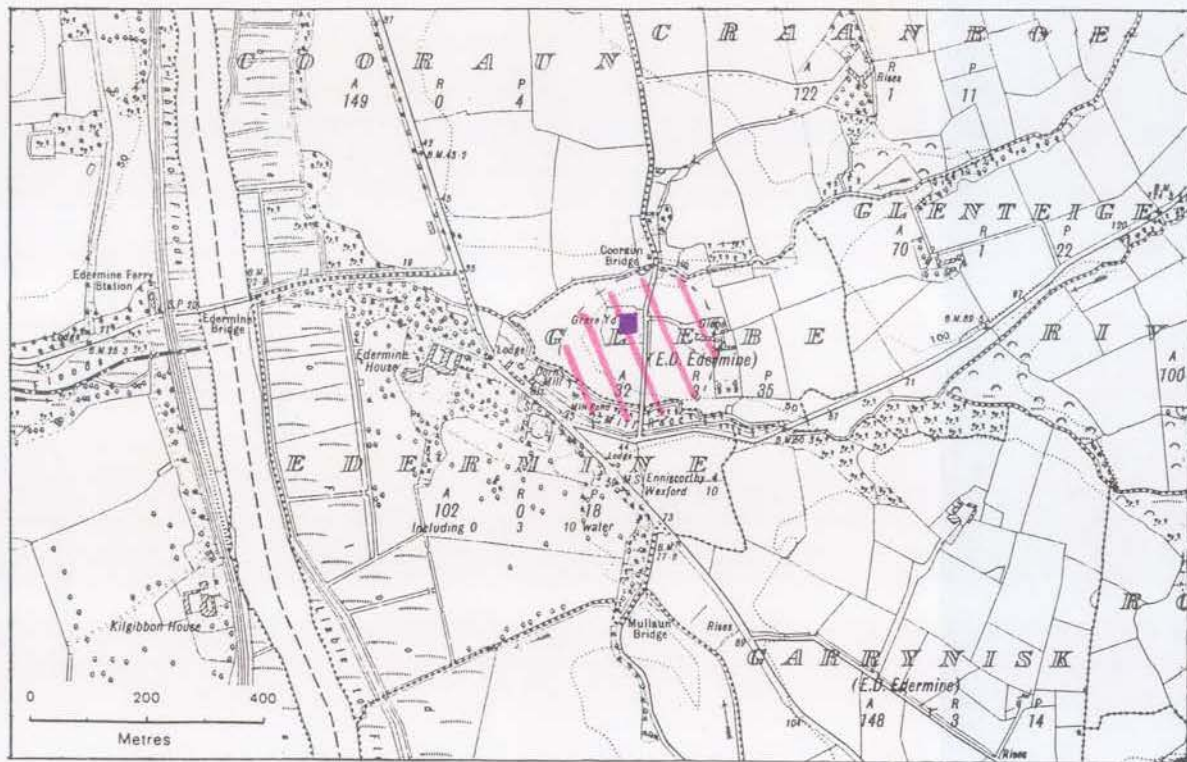


Fig. 5. Edermine: zone of archaeological potential.

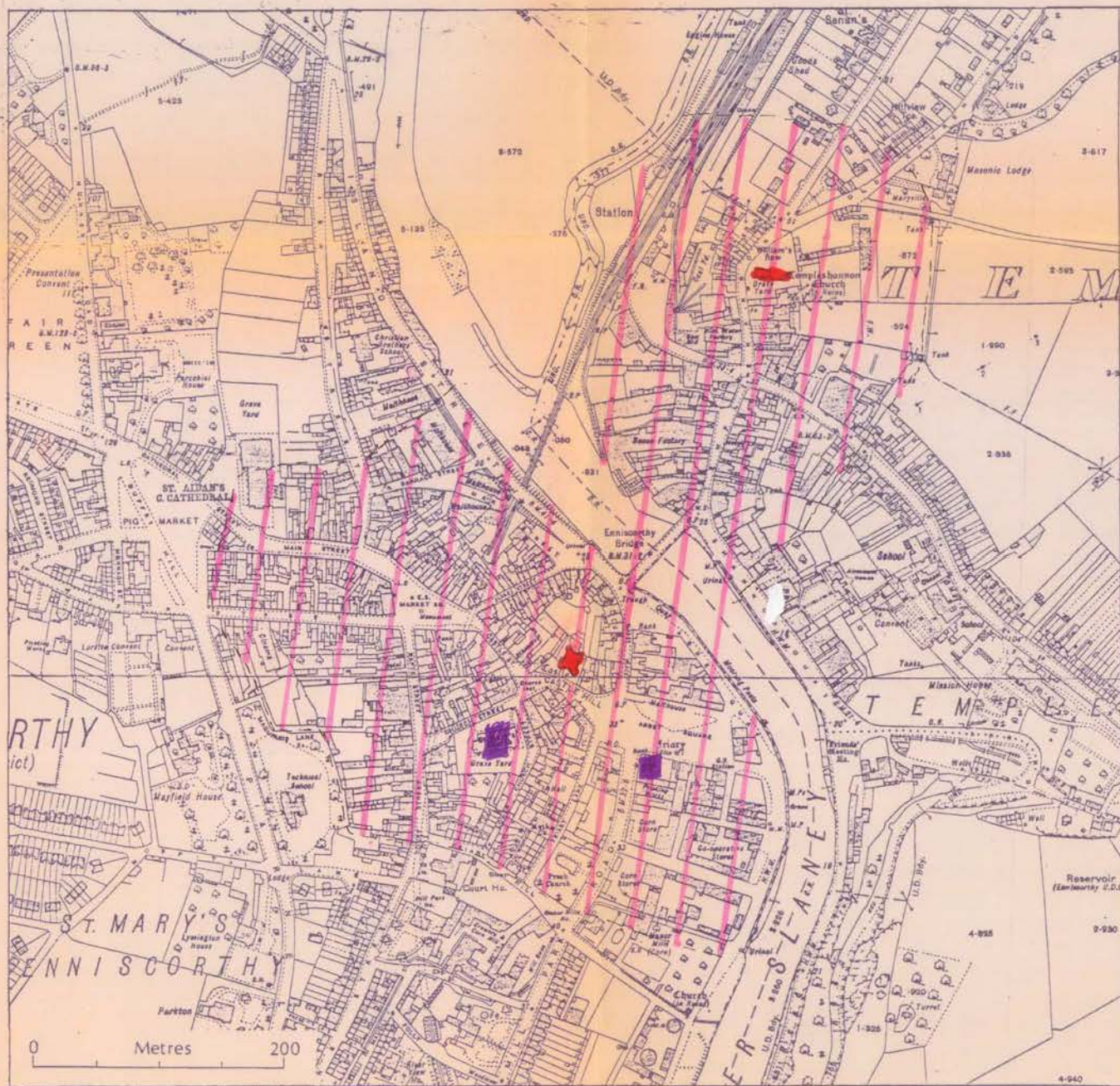


Fig. 6. Enniscorthy: zone of archaeological potential.

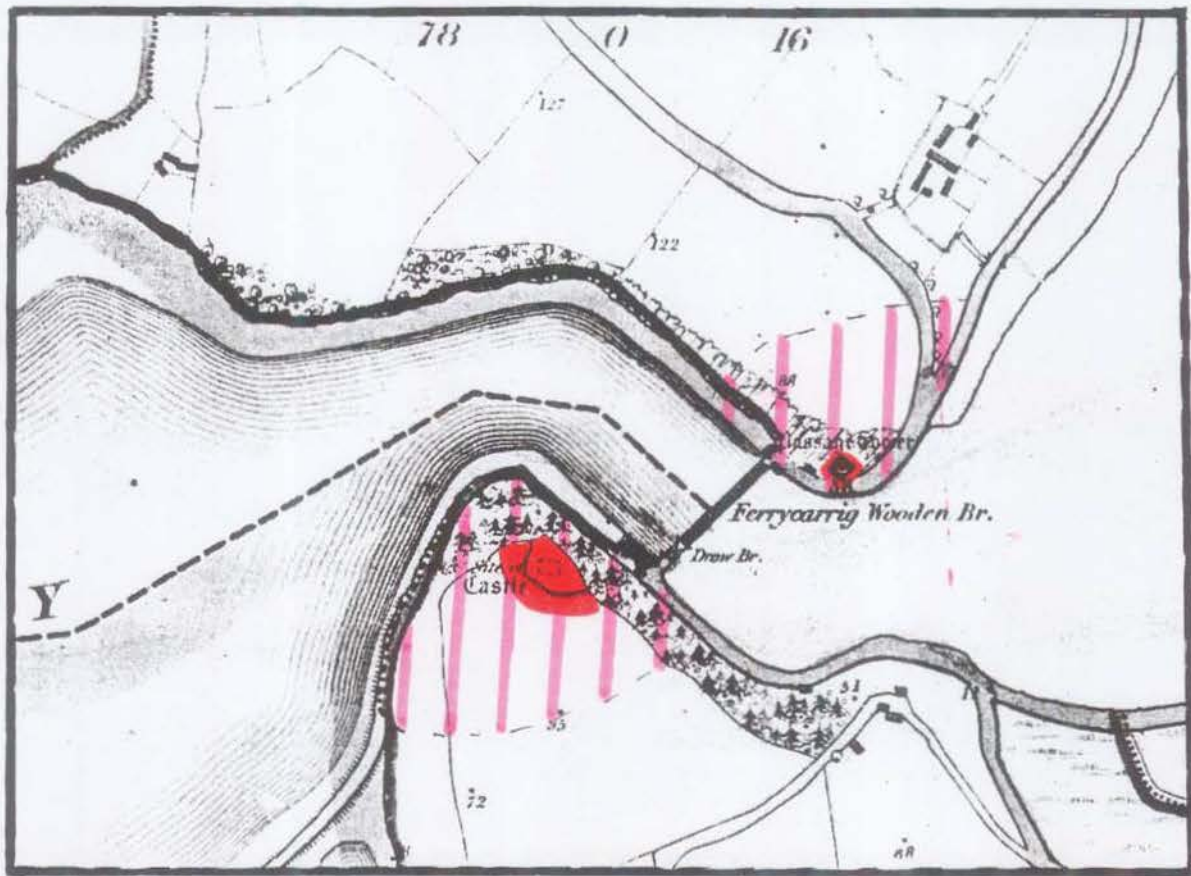
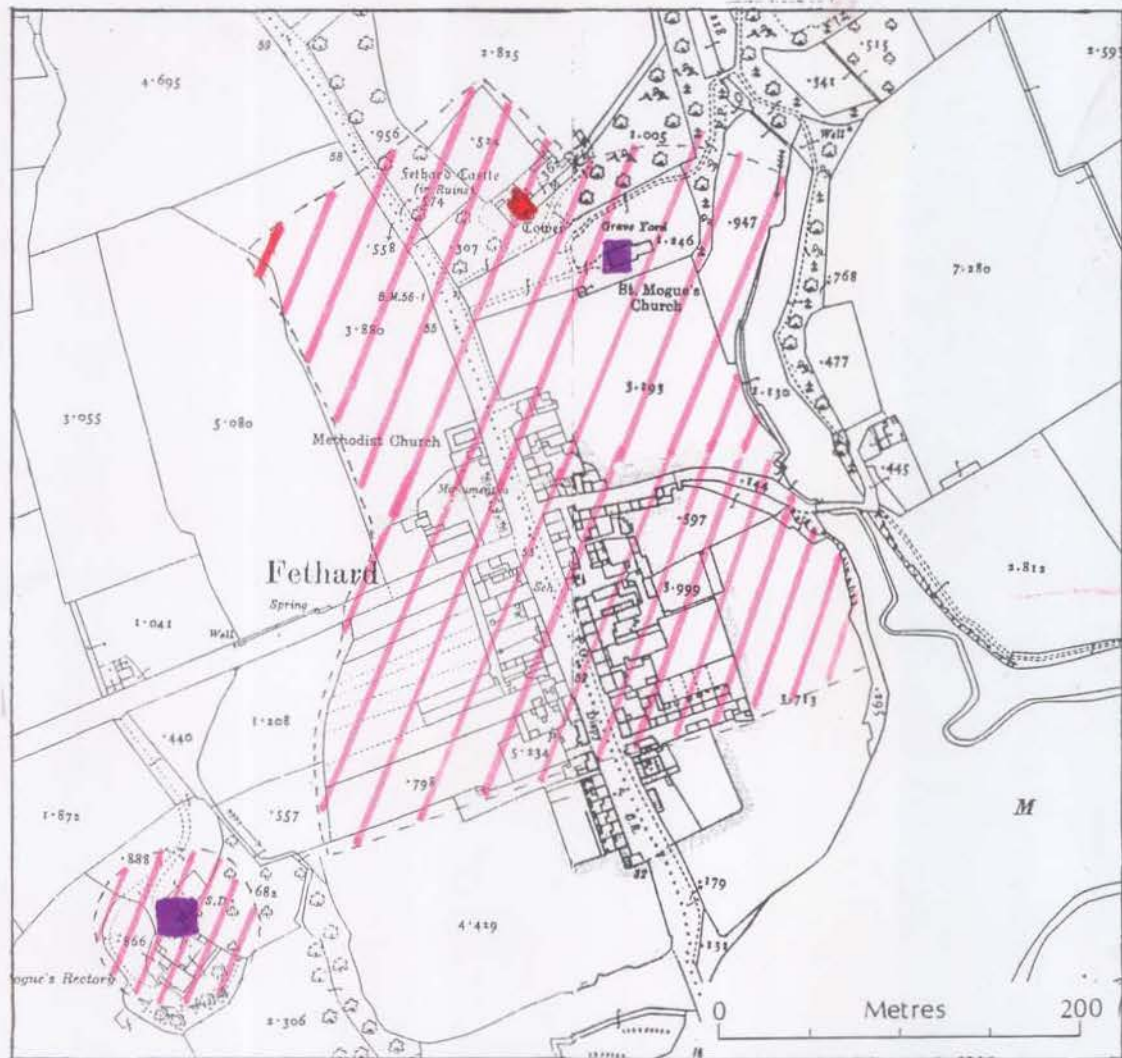


Fig. 8. Ferrycarrig: zone of archaeological potential.



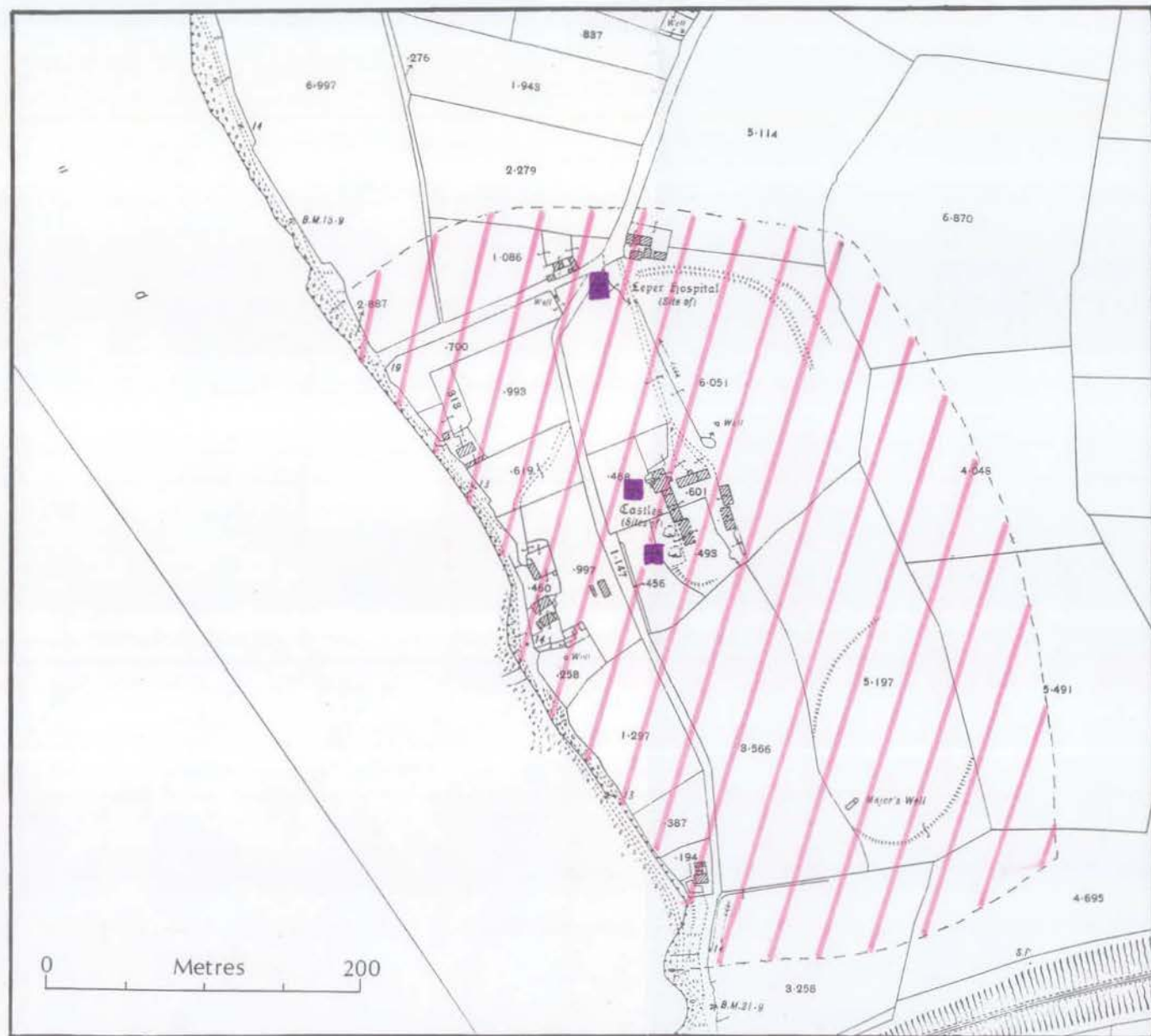


Fig. 10. Great Island: zone of archaeological potential.

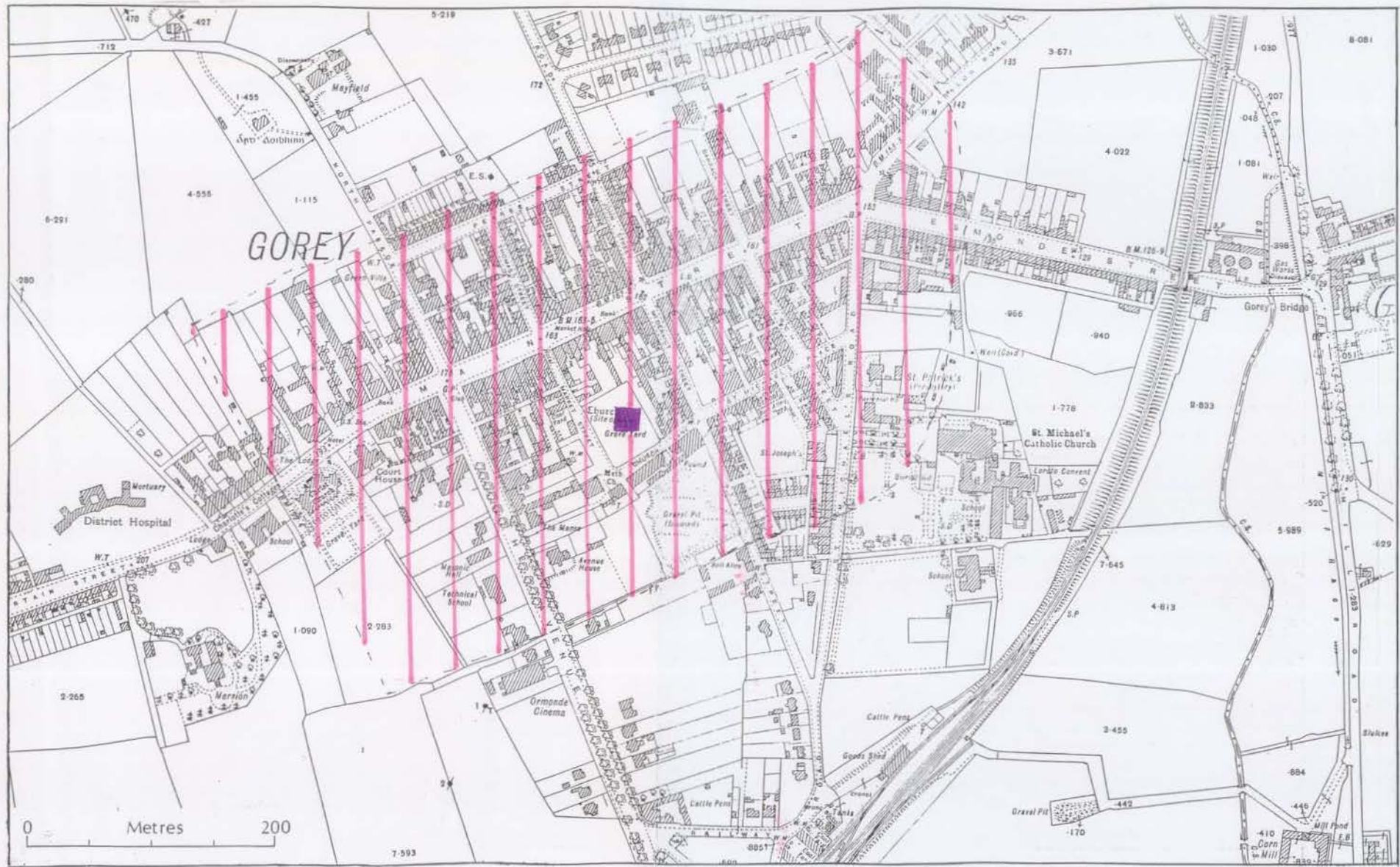


Fig. 11. Gorey: zone of archaeological potential.

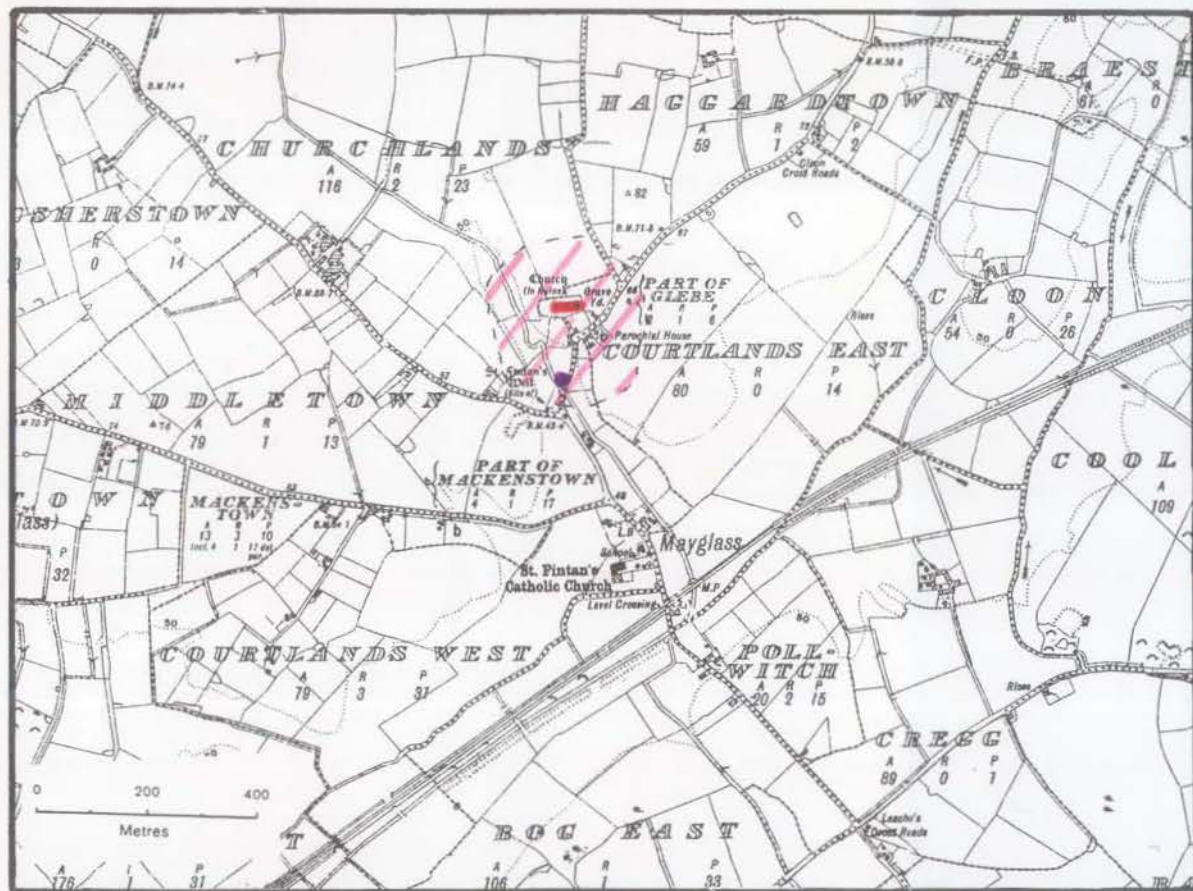


Fig. 12. Mayglass: zone of archaeological potential.

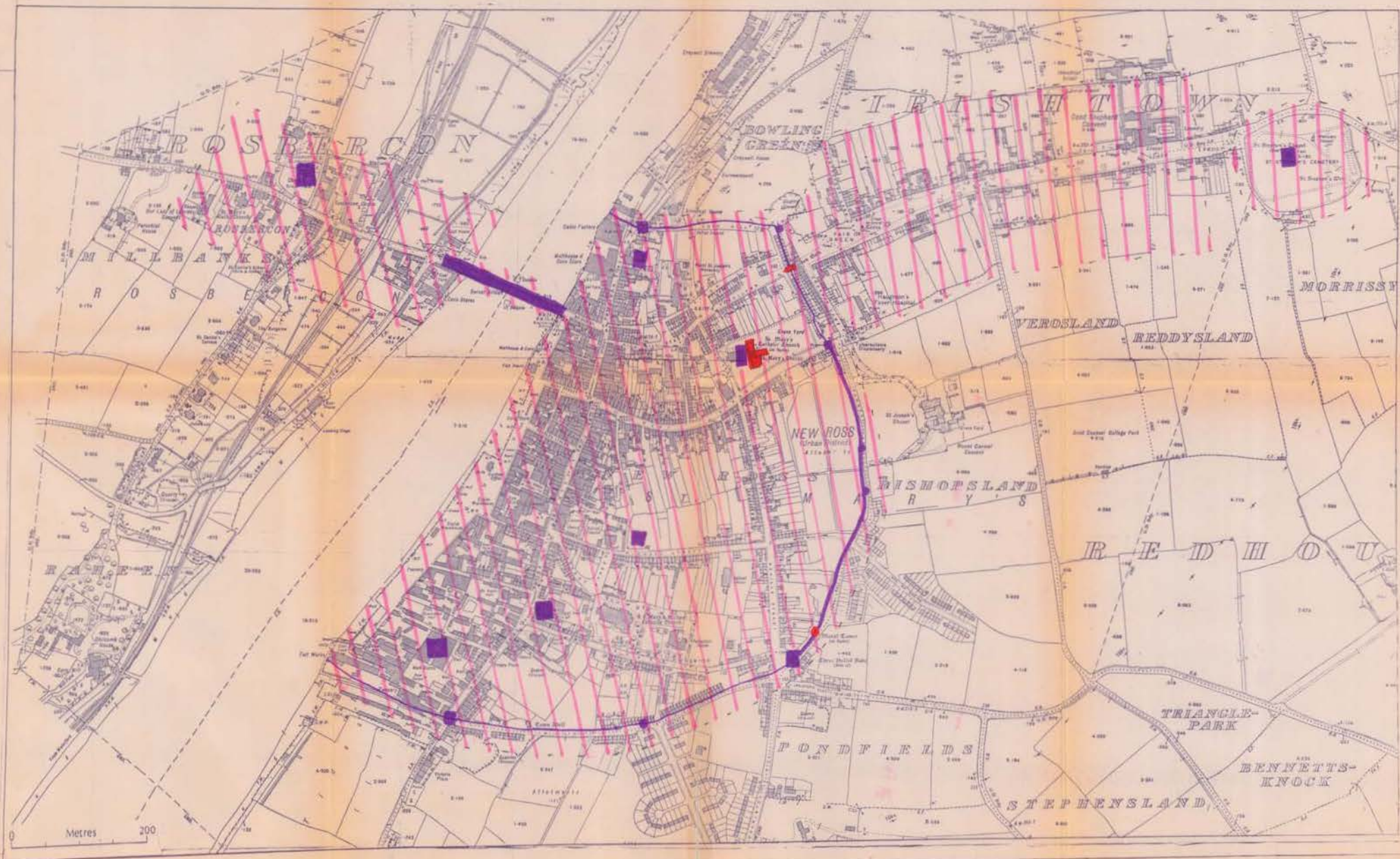


Fig. 13. New Ross: Zone of archaeological potential.

