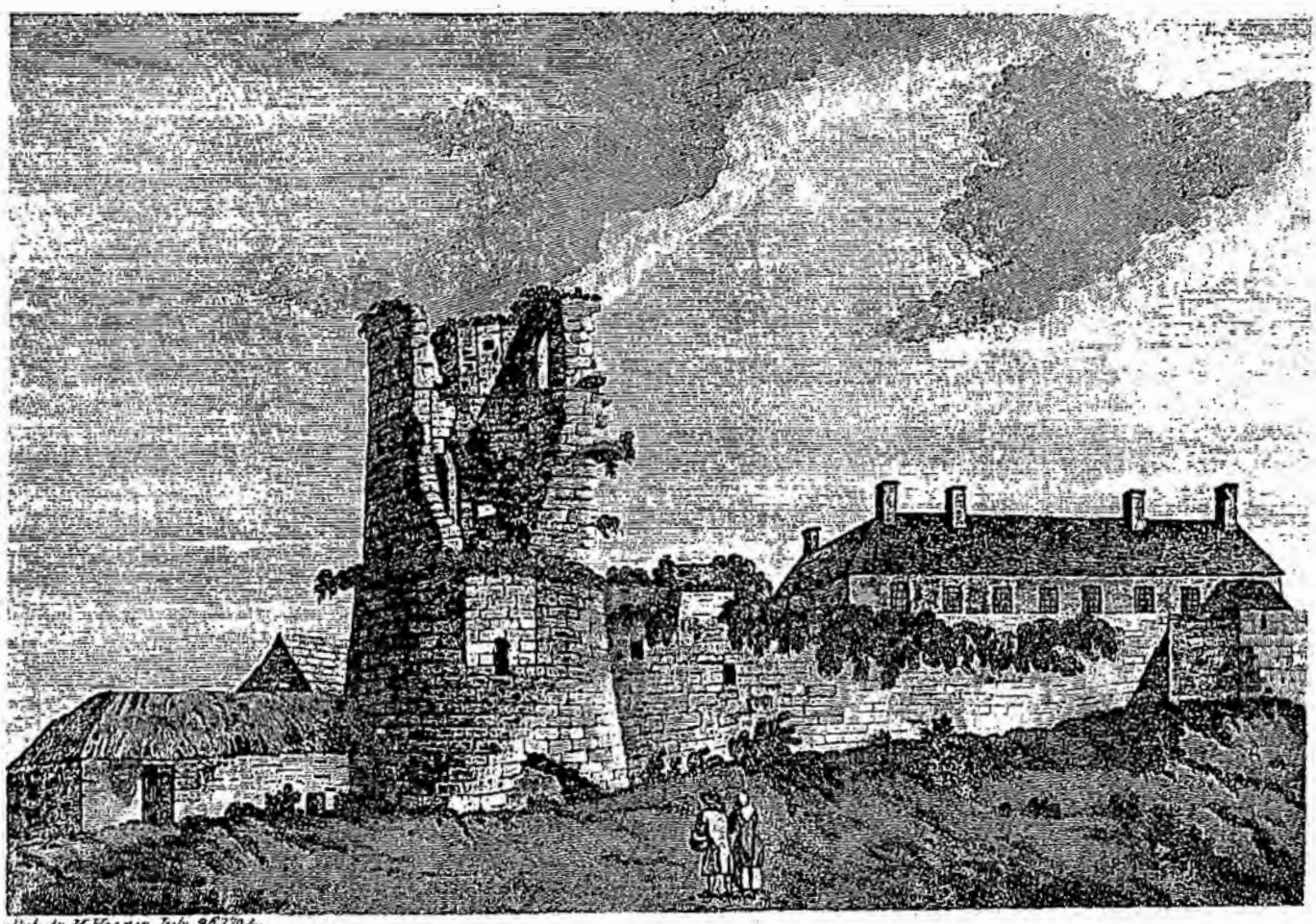
COUNTY WICKLOW



THE URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY

URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY

PART IX

COUNTY WICKLOW

JOHN BRADLEY

AND

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A REPORT COMMISSIONED BY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS

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LIST OF CONTENTS

List of Figures..... vi

Acknowlegements..... vii

General Introduction..... viii

Introduction to Co. Wicklow..... xv

Arklow..... 1

Archaeological inventory..... 3

Streets and street pattern..... 3

Market place..... 4

Harbour..... 4

Town defences..... 4

Castle..... 5

Parish Church of St Mary..... 6

Dominican Friary of the Holy Cross..... 6

Cistercian Abbey..... 7

Miscellaneous..... 8

List of archaeological stray finds..... 8

Archaeological problems and potential..... 8

Recommendations..... 10

Bray..... 12

Archaeological Inventory..... 13

Streets and street pattern..... 13

Mill..... 14

Castle..... 14

Parish Church of St Paul..... 14

Miscellaneous..... 15
List of archaeological stray finds..... 16
Archaeological problems and potential..... 17
Recommendations..... 18

Burgage..... 20
Archaeological inventory..... 21
Site of borough..... 21
Castle..... 21
Parish Church..... 22
Miscellaneous..... 23
List of archaeological stray finds..... 24
Archaeological problems and potential..... 25
Recommendations..... 26

Carysfort..... 28
Archaeological Inventory..... 28
Site of borough..... 29
Schoolhouse..... 29
Castle..... 29
Parish Church..... 29
Archaeological problems and potential..... 30
Recommendations..... 31

Donaghmore..... 33
Archaeological Inventory..... 34
Site of borough..... 34
Motte..... 34

Parish Church..... 35
Archaeological problems and potential..... 35
Recommendations..... 36

Dunlavin..... 38
Archaeological Inventory..... 38
Street pattern..... 39
Market place..... 39
Mill..... 39
Parish Church..... 39
Miscellaneous..... 41
Archaeological stray find..... 41
Archaeological problems and potential..... 41
Recommendations..... 42

Ennisboyne..... 44
Archaeological Inventory..... 44
Site of borough..... 44
Parish Church of St Baitin..... 45
Miscellaneous..... 45
Archaeological problems and potential..... 45
Recommendations..... 46

Hollywood..... 48
Archaeological Inventory..... 48
Site of borough..... 48
Motte..... 49
Parish Church of St Kevin..... 49

Miscellaneous..... 50
Archaeological problems and potential..... 50
Recommendations..... 51

Killickabawn (Kilmacberne)..... 53
Archaeological Inventory..... 53
Site of borough..... 53
Miscellaneous..... 54
Archaeological problems and potential..... 54
Recommendations..... 55

Mulsoes Court..... 57
Archaeological Inventory..... 57
Site of borough..... 57
Motte..... 58
Holy well..... 58
Archaeological problems and potential..... 58
Recommendations..... 59

Newcastle..... 60
Archaeological Inventory..... 61
Site of borough..... 61
Motte..... 61
Castle..... 62
Other castles..... 63
Mill..... 63
Gaol..... 63
Parish Church..... 64

Archaeological problems and potential..... 64

Recommendations..... 65

Wicklow..... 67

Archaeological inventory..... 68

Streets and street pattern..... 68

Motte..... 68

Black Castle..... 69

Parish Church..... 69

Franciscan Friary..... 72

Benedictine Convent..... 72

Hospital..... 73

Miscellaneous..... 73

Archaeological stray find..... 73

Archaeological problems and potential..... 73

Recommendations..... 74

Bibliography..... 77

LIST OF FIGURES

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

Fig. 2. Remains of Arklow Castle from the north.

Fig. 3. Arklow: zone of archaeological potential

Fig. 4. Bray: zone of archaeological potential.

Fig. 5. Early Christian cross and cross base, Burgage, Co. Wicklow.

Fig. 6. Burgage Castle, viewed from south-west.

Fig. 7. Burgage: zone of archaeological potential.

Fig. 8. Font at Carysfort, Co. Wicklow.

Fig. 9. Carysfort: zone of archaeological potential.

Fig. 10. Donaghmore: zone of archaeological potential.

Fig. 11. Dunlavin: zone of archaeological potential.

Fig. 12. Ennisboyne: zone of archaeological potential.

Fig. 13. Motte at Hollywood, Co. Wicklow.

Fig. 14. Hollywood: zone of archaeological potential.

Fig. 15. Killickabawn: zone of archaeological potential.

Fig. 16. Newcastle: remains of castle, viewed from south-west.

Fig. 17. Newcastle: zone of archaeological potential.

Fig. 18. Powerscourt: zone of archaeological potential.

Fig. 19. Wicklow castle viewed from north-west.

Fig. 20. Franciscan Friary, Wicklow, viewed from south.

Fig. 21. Wicklow: 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 desireable, but of recording standing buildings and archaeological levels before they are destroyed. The unfortunate truth is that what is not recorded now has little chance of ever being recorded later.

By its nature archaeology is concerned with the past of ordinary people. The fragmentary building remains, pottery sherds and scraps of worked stone or wood which the

archaeologist discovers cannot be used to reconstruct political movements or great administrative changes. These parts of our past can only be glimpsed from documents, from what people who were alive at the time have observed themselves or heard related. Archaeological data, however, can tell us a great deal about the everyday life of ordinary people and the quality of that life in terms of the technological and economic resources of the particular time and place in question.

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

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 deposts 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 oannot 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 archaeologioal 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 desoribed 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. WICKLOW

The county of Wicklow contains a variety of small towns and villages which illustrate the urban history of Ireland. For the urban archaeologist, however, it is the archaeological remains of three periods which are important, Viking (10th-12th cents), Anglo-Norman (13th-16th cents), and Plantation (16th-17th cents).

There are two settlements in the county which have a Viking origin: Arklow and Wicklow. Unfortunately there is no evidence to indicate that either of these places actually functioned as towns in the Viking period but it is likely that they were coastal villages of some description. They were certainly of sufficient importance to attract the Anglo-Normans to them when they arrived in the late twelfth century.

The Anglo-Normans were great town builders and wherever they went in Ireland towns quickly followed in their wake. Historically, they were an important influence in the creation of the county's urban network. They expanded and developed the settlements at Arklow and Wicklow and they were responsible for the foundation of nine new urban centres or boroughs, as they were called. These were located at Bray, Burgage, Donaghmore, Dunlavin, Ennisboyne, Hollywood, Killickabawn, Mulsoes Court (Powerscourt) and Newcastle. With the possible exception of Bray all of these settlements were

to be abandoned or at least partly deserted in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. In the seventeenth century, however, settlers were to return to Dunlavin and estaablish the present town there while in 1628 the borough of Carysfort (Macreddin) was established. This borough seems to have been little more than a garrison, however, and it was largely deserted by the late seventeenth century.

This report provides an account of the archaeological remains in all of the towns and boroughs mentioned above and it provides an assessment of their importance to archaeological research. It outlines the areas where archaeological deposits are likely to survive and highlights each town´s potential to increase our knowledge of the development of urban life in Ireland. Finally, recommendations are made as to how this potential can be best realized. In the map outlining the zone of archaeological potential the following colour code is used:

Pink: the zone of archaeological potential.

Red: extant archaeological monuments.

Purple: sites of known monuments.

Uncontrolled redevelopment can destroy a town´s fragile archaeological heritage 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.

ARKLOW

Arklow is a port town situated on the south bank of the Avoca river. It is about forty miles south of Dublin on the Wexford road. The medieval town was situated at the foot of a hill along the south bank of the river Avoca.

Arklow is one of the small handful of Irish places whose name is genuinely of Scandinavian origin. The precise meaning of the name is a matter of debate. There is no doubt about the suffix "-lo", a meadow, but the prefix Ark- has not been fully explained. One suggestion is Arkell-lo "Arkell´s meadow", another is Ar-lo "river meadow". The presence of the placename, however, together with the well-known ninth century Viking burial indicates that there was a Scandinavian settlement in the vicinity. The nature of this settlement is unclear. The absence of documentary references almost certainly indicates that it was not a town but it is possible that it was some form of hamlet or fishing village, or perhaps simply a way-station on the Dublin-Bristol routes.

Arklow´s beginnings as a town appear to commence with the coming of the Normans. Theobald FitzWalter was granted the manor of Arlow by Prince John in 1185 and he probably commenced to settle the area soon afterwards (Orpen 1911-20, i, 371). The property was to remain in the hands of Theobald´s descendants, the Butlers, throughout the middle ages and consequently incidental references are

to be found to the town in the Ormond deeds. One of Theobald's first actions was the foundation of a Cistercian abbey on the "island of Arklow" (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 126: sub Abington). The presence of this monastery suggests that there no Scandinavian settlement of any size here at the time because the Cistercians preferred isolated rural locations to urban settings. In 1205 the monks were moved by Theobald to Abington, Co. Limerick, a move which probably indicates the beginnings of an Anglo-Norman urban settlement at Arklow. References are few during the middle ages, however, and it is not until 1571 that there is the first clear evidence that the settlement was actually incorporated (Curtis 1932-43, v, p. 211).

In the fourteenth century Arklow began to come under pressure from the native Irish. The castle was captured in 1331 (Power 1981, 30) but it seems that the town survived the Gaelic resurrgence as a bastion outpost of the Pale. The sixteenth century witnessed the Butler family reasserting its interests in the manor and an important document of 1571, an agreement between the earl of Ormond and the townsmen, sheds some interesting light on the appearance of the town at that time (Curtis 1932-43, v, p. 211-2). It is clear that the town was in a state of delapidation and the castle, harbour and defences are specifically mentioned as being in poor condition. The town remained loyal to the crown during the Nine Years War and it was a supporter of the Confederate cause in 1641-9. The town surrendered to Cromwell in September 1649 as his army passed through en route to

Wexford. In 1700 the Butlers sold out their interest in the town and manor of Arklow to John Allen of Stillorgan an event which effectively closes the history of the medieval town (Power 1981, 55).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACE
3. HARBOUR
4. TOWN DEFENCES
5. CASTLE
6. PARISH CHURCH
7. CISTERCIAN ABBEY
8. DOMINICAN FRIARY
9. MISCELLANEOUS
10. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN

The stret plan is linear based on Main Street which runs east-west following the line of the river and has an extension at the east end towards the south. The burgage plot pattern is clearly visible on the O.S. map where narrow properties run back to the river on the north side and have what is virtually a common boundary along the south. The bridge, and Bridge Street, connecting the town with Ferrybank clearly cuts across this pattern and it is evidently a later

insertion. The very name "Ferrybank" indicates that contact between the north and south banks of the Avoca was originally by ferry rather than by bridge. Narrow lanes still survive between many of the properties but it is not possible to say if any of the houses have a pre-1700 core.

2. MARKET PLACE

This is likely to have been located in Main Street.

3. HARBOUR

The presence of a harbour can be inferred from Viking times when the location at a river estuary would have been its most attractive feature. The repair of the "haven" is among the features mentioned in the 1571 covenant between the earl of Ormond and the townsmen (Curtis 1932-43, v, p. 212). The harbour was probably located on the east side of the town where there are still quays today. Lewis (1837, i, 60) states that, in the early nineteenth century, the harbour was accessible only to small boats because the passage was sinuous and subject to shifting sands.

4. TOWN DEFENCES

The 1571 covenant between the earl of Ormond and the burgesses of Arklow mention that the burgesses shall "at their own charges make strong gates, ditches and pales for

the better defence of said town" (Curtis 1932-43, v, p. 211). There is no positive evidence that these defences were built and there are no surviving remains. The alignment, however, and length of the long boundary which delimits the burgage plots on the south side of Main Street suggests that some form of defence probably existed, possibly an earthen rampart and fosse.

5. CASTLE

The castle was the administrative centre of the medieval manor and in view of its position, on high ground at the west end of the town overlooking the Avoca river, it possibly replaces a pre-Norman structure. The remains consist of a stretch of curtain wall and an circular corner tower built on rock outcrop and consisting of randomly coursed rubble stone. These are essentially of thirteenth century date.

The tower is now three floored (8m high) but Grose's (1791, ii, opp. p. 62) view shows that it was originally higher. There is no access to the ground or first floor and the walls of the second floor are largely missing. There is a basal batter c.2.5m high on the north east side. The first floor has a flat lintelled opening on the east but the jambs are missing. A small section of wall with a pointed doorway and chamfered sandstone jambs and a short flight of steps (possibly leading to a wall walk) remain in the south west side of the second floor. The curtain wall, some 8m high at its western end, runs south-east from the angle tower before

turning almost due south where it reduces in height from 6m to 4m. In the high section of the wall beside the tower there are two loops with sandstone jambs and above these, close to the tower, there is a jamb of a large window with bar-holes for glazing. The angle at the south east appears to be largely rebuilt as does the section of wall running south from there.

6. PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY

The medieval parish church was located on the north side of Main Street. No remains survive above ground today and the site has been turned into a small public park with a series of eighteenth and nineteenth century tombstones arranged around the walls.

7. DOMINICAN FRIARY OF THE HOLY CROSS

This was founded in 1264 by Thomas Theobald FitzWalter and he was buried there in 1285 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 221). It was suppressed in 1539 but parts of the church and claustral buildings survived until the mid eighteenth century (ibid.). It was located in the rectangular site marked "graveyard" on the south side of Main Street. No building remains survive. The site itself has been turned into a public park with the eighteenth and nineteenth century gravestones arranged around the walls.

8. CISTERCIAN ABBEY

Before 1204 Theobald Walter granted the island of Arklow to the Cistercians of Furness (Lancs.) for the foundation of an abbey but in 1205 he transferred the monks to a new monastery at Abington, County Limerick (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 126). Presumably the Cistercians established some form of temporary church but it is not clear what happenened to it after 1205. O´Curry (O.S. Letters: Wicklow) noted that "an ancient graveyard with he site of a church was found on the north side of the Bridge of Arklow in a sandbank in Ferrybank townland in this [Kilbride] parish. Several graves containing skeletons were found here, which were covered with large flags, the sides being built with stones of various sizes and forms. The surface of the place is still covered over with human bones. A tombstone now lying at Lord Wicklow´s farmhouse [Sheldon Abbey] was found here a few years ago whic is 6 feet long, 2 feet broad at one end and 1 foot 8 inches at the other and 7 inches thick in the centre along the whole length, whilst the edges on each side are but 3 inches in thickness" (Ronan 1927, 103-4, note 9). This church site has been identified by O´Curry and Ronan with the site of the Cistercian Abbey. The description of the abbey as being founded on an "island" and the discovery of this graveyard in a sandbank supports this view.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

?Tumulus

O´Curry states that "immediately to the west of [the suggested Cistercian abbey site] there was a green mount, in which whilst digging and carrying away for manuring land, there were found some sepulchral urns containing ashes and bones partly consumed by fire. Several pieces of broken urns are still visible on the spot" (Ronan 1927, 103-4, note 9).

10. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1-2. Two oval tortoise brooches. From a Viking burial at Arklow. NMI S.A. 1901:50-52. JRSAI xxxii, 1902, 71-3.

3. Hoard of three Anglo-Norman coins, deposited c.1207. Found in 1834 on a sand-bank at the mouth of the river Avoca. UJA xxix (1966), 133-4.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTTIAL

Arklow´s importance to Irish archaeological research lies primarily in the fact that it is one of the very small number of Viking coastal settlements, other than towns, which were developed by the Anglo-Normans into towns. We do not know exactly what sort of Scandinavian settlement was located here. As explained above it is likely that it was some form of village or hamlet rather than a town. The discovery of a Viking burial in 1902 almost cetainly indicates that there is

a larger cemetery of Viking-age date awaiting discovery. The identification of the precise position of the Scandinavian settlement is one of the principal problems which remains to be addressed in Arklow.

The Anglo-Norman town, based on Main Street provides a good example of the linear street plan which is characteristic of Anglo-Norman towns in Ireland. There can be little doubt that this street and the burgage plot pattern running off it is of thirteenth century origin. We know nothing of the appearance of the houses of the medieval town and our information on the Dominican Friary, Cistercian abbey, parish church, castle and town defences is very flimsy. It is to be expected, however, that archaeological remains survive below ground level at all of these sites and consequently that important new information can be discovered about them in the future. The extent of disturbance to archaeological deposits in the town is difficult to quantify. It is likely that disturbance will have occurred along the street frontages but whether this destroyed all levels or only the uppermost ones is unknown. It is likely, however, that in common with most other Irish towns archaeological deposits still survive across the area occupied by the medieval town. Accordingly, it is to be anticipated that traces of the original house foundations, refuse pits, property boundaries, and so forth, still survive below modern ground level.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 3) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Arklow. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits in the town.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

BRAY

Bray is situated on the Dargle river and is divided into two sections, Little Bray on the north side in county Dublin, and Great Bray on the south side of the river. The placename appears to derive from Bre, a hill or headland, an allusion to Bray Head which rises 807 feet above the sea to the south of the town.

Although Bray formed part of the rural hinterland of the Scandinavian kingdom of Dublin nothing is known about the settlement in Viking times. The suggestion has been put forward by Scott that the medieval church of St Paul's occupied the position of the dearteach ("oak church") mentioned in early Anglo-Norman records but it is impossible to be certain of this (see below).

After the coming of the Normans, the manor of Bray together with other lands in Wicklow and Dublin, was granted to Walter de Ridelesford before 1176 by Strongbow (Brooks 1951-2, 118-25). It was to remain in the hands of the de Ridelesfords until 1280 when it was resigned to the crown (Sweetman 1875-86, ii, no. 1798). Subsequently the manor appears to have been divided between the Butler family and the crown (Scott 1913, 222-3). In 1213 Walter de Ridelesford was granted a weekly market at his manor of Bray (Sweetman 1875-86, no. 471). The first reference to burgages occurs c.1225 when a burgage "opposite my castle beyond the river"

in Bray was granted by de Ridelesford to St Mary's Abbey, Dublin (Gilbert 1884, i, 29). Subsequent to this Walter II de Ridelesford granted another burgage to St Thomas' Dublin in the vill of Bray, next the burgage assigned to the monks of St Mary's, towards the sea (Brooks 1936, 170). Despite the topographical information contained in these deeds it is not possible to plot their location exactly. Despite the Gaelic resurrgence the borough continued to function in the fourteenth century. A lease of 1352 to the vicar of bray of one burgage and a half in the town of Bray (Scott 1913, 223-4). Its subsequent history in the middle ages which is essentially the story of the descent of the manor has been charted by Scott (1913, 224-30).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN
2. MILL
3. CASTLE
4. PARISH CHURCH OF ST PAUL
5. MISCELLANEOUS
6. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN

The present street pattern of the town is linear with one long street running from north to south, where it forks.

While it is likely that this street follows the line of its medieval predecessor, the exact length of the medieval street is unclear. The present street pattern appears to be of post-medieval origin and there are no buildings of pre-1700 date.

2. MILL

The medieval mill of Bray, associated with the castle, appears to have stood on the narrow strip of low ground below the castle (Davies 1986, 22).

3. CASTLE

The castle was located on high ground overlooking the Dargle river at the north west end of the town. It stood between the present Herbert Road and the old barracks building in Church Terrace (Davies 1986, 22). Although seventeenth century drawings show what looks like a tower house it is likely that it occupies the site of the Anglo-Norman castle, known to have been in existence by 1225. No trace of it now survives.

4. PARISH CHURCH OF ST PAUL

Scott (1913, 75) suggested that this was the site of Dearteach "the oak church" mentioned in a number of early Anglo-Norman documents (Brooks 1951-2, 122). If correct the

name would suggest an Early Christian origin for the church site. [illegible] Lewis (1837, i, 222) stated that parts of the church dated to 1609 but on what evidence is unclear (Scott 1913, 201). The stonework is concealed by pebble-dashing and the windows would appear to belong to the nineteenth century restoration. It is now used commercially.

Monuments

Grave slab of Richard Whichil. 1697.
This upright memorial with moulded edges is said to be located to the south of the church opposite the most westerly window in the nave. It is inscribed: ´here lieth the body of ricHARD/ WHICHIL DES/ EST THE 9 DAY OF/ DECEMBER/ 1697
Mems Dead vi (1904-6), 415.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

Roman Burials
A number of burials were found when levelling a sandbank in 1835. This was located near the present Esplanade Terrace frontage between Victoria Ave and Convent Ave (Davies 1989). The bodies were lying east/west with a stone at the head and foot of each skeleton along with several coins of the Emperors Hadrian (AD 117-38) and Trajan (AD 97-117).
PRIA lxxiii, C (1973), 45, 78.

Cross base from Old Court, Bray.

A cross base with Early Christian motifs on three sides was found on the right side of the road between Bray and Old Court Ave.

O hEailidhe 1988.

Rahinacluig church

South of the town on the slope of Bray head. It may be an earlu church site.

Little Bray Castle

At the north end of Castle Street. This modern castellated structure appears to stand on the site of a late medieval tower house (Scott 1913, 162-4).

6. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. Barbed and tanged flint arrowhead. Found at Bray, 1898. NMI 1899:7.

2. Decorated bronze flanged axe. From "near Bray". Private possession.

3. Bronze winged axehead (?palstave). Found in shallow water in front of Milltown Tce, close to Bray Bridge. NMI 1920:68. PRIA xlii, C (1943), 57, fig. 10:1.

4. Bronze ecclesiastical bell. From Bray. Hunt Coll., Limerick. JRSAI cx (1980), 66.

5. Small stone vessel. From a garden near Bray. NMI 1935:795.

6. Cross-inscribed slab. Found 3-3.5 feet below surface at rear of 24-25 Castle St, Bray. NMI 1965:50.

7. Decorated stone mortar. From Little Bray, Co. Wicklow. NMI 1932:6581.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Bray is an example of an Anglo-Norman borough which has evolved into a town of considerable size. Its precise medieval extent is unknown but it is likely that it was confined to the lower part of Main Street. The suggestion that it has an Early Christian origin, based on the identification of St Paul´s Church with the "dearteach" of twelfth century sources, can only be determined by excavation in and around the church site. Nothing is known about the nature of housing in the medieval settlement but the sites of the castle, mill and parish church can be plotted reasonably accurately. It is to be expected that excavation on these sites would uncover the stone foundations of these buildings. Unlike many of the Anglo-Norman boroughs, Bray was not deserted but it appears to have functioned throughout the middle ages as a small community. In view of Bray´s history of settlement continuity from the late twelfth century (at least) until the present, it is likely that, in common with most other Irish towns, archaeological deposits still survive in the area occupied by the medieval town. It is to be anticipated then that traces of the original house

foundations, refuse pits, property boundaries, and so forth, survive below modern ground level.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 4) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Bray. In view of the absence of detailed information on the extent of the original town this area consists of a broad swathe based on Main Street with an area around Little Bray on the north side of the Dargle where settlement may also have extended. In the absence of more extensive work nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

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BURGAGE

The deserted medieval borough of Burgage is situated on the north bank of the river Liffey to the south of Blessington and some fourteen miles south of Dublin. The creation of a reservoir by the E.S.B. has considerably changed the landscape and high levels of water in the reservoir are eroding the surviving walls of the castle.

Burgage can be identified with Domhnach Imleach, a pre-Norman ecclesiastical site which formed part of the diocesan see lands of the bishops of Glendalough in the twelfth century (MacNeill 1950, 5-6) and its patron has been identified as Mo-Lomma (Killanin and Duignan 1967, 122). The impressive Early Christian crosses indicate that it was probably a wealthy church site. After the unification of the dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough in 1216 the land passed to the see of Dublin and was run as an ecclesiastical manor. In conjunction with many of these manors a borough was established there which is first referred to in a documented dated to between 1256 and 1266 (MacNeill 1950, 120). By 1326, however, the borough had declined. It is described as largely waste and of little value because it was "near the Irish" (ibid., 190-1). There are no subsequent references to the settlement and it must be presumed that it was abandoned shortly afterwards. The presence of a late medieval tower house at Burgage, however, indicates that the land there

continued to be farmed and worked in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. CASTLE
3. PARISH CHURCH
4. MISCELLANEOUS
5. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

This may have been located to the west and east of the castle and church complex which were situated on slighlty raised ground. Much of the surrounding area is now flooded and it is likely that parts of the medieval borough are completely under water.

2. CASTLE

Only the north and west walls (with a short return of the south wall) of this four floored castle survive. It is built of uncoursed rubble consisting of limestone and granite; the quoins and jambs are of granite. High water levels are undermining the south corner of the west wall and a large crack has developed in the centre of the wall rendering it in a dangerous. Internal dimensions are c.4.65m E/W by 5.05m

N/S; the west wall is c.8m high and the north wall c.6m high. Floors were supported on granite corbels. The west wall has a pointed doorway at ground floor level and flat arched single light windows on the first and third floors with a pointed window on the second floor. There was also a large fireplace on this floor to the north of the window. There is a large hole in the east side of the north wall while the second floor was lit by a round arched window with flat lintelled rear arch. Much of the east and south walls are lying on the beach beside the castle. FitzGerald (1913-16, 395-6) thought that this was a church tower and noted a stairs in the east and south wall.

3. PARISH CHURCH

A few courses of overgrown stone walling can be seen at the edge of the raised ground to the north east of the castle but it is not clear whether this is part of the church or possibly an enclosing graveyard wall.

Monuments

It would appear that memorials and pieces of masonry from the old church were removed to Burgage new cemetary in 1940 where they have been set up in rows.

Cross

A large granite solid ringed cross head with fracture across the centre is set in a badly damaged base in the new

cemetary. It has a small damaged tenon on top of the upper shaft and may have had a central boss. One arm is broken and the lower shaft is missing.

Dims: H.133 W.of shaft 36 by 21

Base. H. 60 (min) W.86 by 90

Mems Dead ix (1913-16), 396.

Cross slab

Tapering Early Christian slab ornamented with a Latin ringed cross with a crosslet at the foot of the shaft.

JRSAI ciii (1973), 60.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Cross base.

A roughly shaped rectangular granite base with mortice is located on the shore to the south/west of the castle. The upper part is shaped but the lower part was intended to be buried.

Dims: H.44 W.65 by 39

Mortice H.11 W.22 by 13

St. Mark´s Well

This unenclosed well was located to the west of the graveyard. According to FitzGerald (1913-16, 397) the dedication was to St. Mathus.

St. Marks Cross

Early Christian cross, originally located beside St. Marks Well but moved to Burgage new cemetary when the lake was created. In the nineteenth century the cross was known as St. Beoithin´s cross. It is a large granite solid ringed cross with central boss set in a large granite base.

Dims: H. c.3.5m W. of shaft 44 by 32

Base. H.50 (min) W.128 by 131

Mems Dead v (1901-3), 503; Harbison 1970, 259.

5. LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FINDS

1. Encrusted urn, food vessel and cremated bones. From a cist at Burgage More, Burgage, Co. Wicklow. NMI 1934:5647a-c. PRIA lxxiii (1973), 569; JRSAI c (1970), 138.

2. Five medieval potsherds, 1 piece of slag. 1 flint and 2 pieces of iron. From the lake shore near Castle ruins, Burgage More, Burgage, Co. Wicklow. NMI 1945:165-73.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTTIAL

Burgage is an example of a small medieval Anglo-Norman borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it was the scene of human occupation during the thirteenth and fourtenth centuries, after which it seems to have been abandoned. One of the outstanding unresolved archaeological problems is the relationship between the

In numbering the pages, number 25 was mistakenly omitted.

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Anglo-Norman settlement and the Early Christian church site which preceeded it. Documentary records of Burgage are relatively few, however, and in the future archaeological excavtion is likely to be the principal means by which additional knowledge of its past can be obtained. The extent of disturbance to its archaeological deposits is unknown but it is likely that those areas under water are lost forever to archaeological research.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 7) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Burgage. In view of the absence of detailed information on the extent of the original borough this area consists of the land between the medieval parish church site and the castle, and extending westwards to include the former site of St Mark's Cross and holy well. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

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CARYSFORT

Carysfort (now Moycreddin or Macreddin) is situated on hilly ground in the south of the county about two miles north of Aughrim on the road between Rathdrum and Carnew.

A borough was established here in 1628 by Charles II as part of the plantation of Wicklow. The foundation charter states that it was under the control of a sovereign and twelve burgesses (Lewis 1837, i, 283). It seems to have been essentially a garrison town and a castle was established at much the same time as the borough. The castle was captured by the O´Byrnes in the rebellion of 1641 and it is unclear if the borough ever recovered from this assault. Lewis (1837, i, 283) states that it consisted simply of "a few houses of the humblest class" and that the borough had already ceased to exist. Nonetheless it continued to return two members of parliament until the Union.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

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

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

It is likely that this was located between the site of Carysfort castle and the old graveyard to the south.

2. SCHOOLHOUSE

The charter of 1628, in common with those of many plantation towns, stated that a royal school was to be formed in the new borough. According to Lewis (1837, i, 283) this school was simply a cabin until the early nineteenth century when a large schoolhouse was constructed. It is not clear, however, if this is on the site of the seventeenth century schoolhouse or not.

3. CASTLE

Built between 1625 and 1629 (Lewis 1837, i, 283), all that remains is one wall, completely overgrown with ivy, some 5m long and 3m high. It is located to the south-west of St. Brigid's (RC) church in the new graveyard.

4. PARISH CHURCH

According to the charter of incorporation the church was endowed with 130 acres of land and the chaplain was to be appointed by the corporation. The church was located in the old graveyard down the hill to the south of St. Brigid's (RC) Church. No trace of any buildings remain. The T-shaped church

in St. Brigid's churchyard is post 1700.

Font

A large tub shaped granite font is mounted on a wall inside the gates of the old graveyard. There is a protrusion on one side; it has a shallow basin and the large drainage hole is to one side of the base.

Dims: H.42 Diam. 72 D.16

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTTIAL

Carysfort is the site of one of the few seventeenth century plantation towns established in Leinster. Its existence appears to have been of short duration and it probably functioned for no more than a generation or so. Nothing is known of the form of housing within the borough or even of its exact street plan. In view of the isolated setting of the borough, however, it is likely that the remains of these structures still survive below ground level. Documentary records of Carysfort are few 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

Carysfort. In the absence of archaeological excavation nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

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DONAGHMORE

Donaghmore is situated in the east of the county in the Glen of Imal on ground rising from the north bank of the river Slaney about five miles south/east of Baltinglass. The placename is an anglicization of Domhnach Mor, "the large church".

The placename indicates that this was formerly an Early Christian church site. It is first referred to in late twelfth century documents from which it is clear that it formed part of the diocesan lands of Glendalough (MacNeill 1950, 2, 5, 6). After the union of the dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough in 1216 it became an episcopal manor and it was subsequently granted to the dean of St Patrick's (ibid., 128-9). The dole evidence for the presence of a borough here comes from an extent of c. 1300 in which land at Donaghmore Imaal "which was formerly the land of the burgesses" is mentioned (White 1932, 19). From the description of this and the adjoining lands it is clear that some desertion had already begun to occur. Since the settlement is not subsequently referred to it is to be presumed that it was completely abandoned in the fourteenth century.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. MOTTE
3. PARISH CHURCH

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

This was probably located between the site of the church and the river.

2. MOTTE

Castleruddery motte (Nat. Mon.) is located immediately west of Donaghmore townland and was probably associated with the borough. It is built on a natural rise which has been scarped to heighten the motte and provide ditches. It consists of a steep-sided circular motte c.10m high, measuring 17.6m east/west by 18.15m north/south on top, with an encircling ditch c.3m wide and 1.5m deep. To the south there is a crescent shaped bank (probably natural) enclosed by a further ditch 7.8m wide and 2m deep. South of this ditch is a level area which probably functioned as the main bailey, measuring 35m east/west by 20m north south. There is a sheer drop of some 15m to the low ground beside the river.

3. PARISH CHURCH

Although this is first mentioned in the thirteenth century it is to be presumed from the placename that there was already and Early Christian church on the site (MacNeill 1950, 128-9). The present building dates from 1711 and there is no trace of any earlier monuments. It should be noted, however, that there is a pronounced semi-circular bend in the townland boundary immediately to the south/west of the graveyard which may indicate the presence of an Early Christian enclosure.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTTIAL

Donaghmore is an example of a deserted Anglo-Norman borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it was the scene of human occupation during the thirteenth and fourtenth centuries, after which it seems to have been abandoned. One of the outstanding unresolved archaeological problems is the relationship between the Anglo-Norman settlement and the Early Christian church site which preceeded it. Documentary records of Donaghmore 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. The extent of disturbance to its archaeological deposits is unknown but in view of its isolated location this is likely to be slight.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 10) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Donaghmore. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

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DUNLAVIN

Dunlavin is situated in the east of the county twenty-one miles south-west of Dublin on the old road from Blessington to Timolin.

Dunlavin formed part of the ancient see lands of Glendalough before the coming of the Normans (MacNeill 1950, 2). It would appear to have functioned as an episcopal manor with a borough attached to it. The sole documetary evidence for the existence of the borough comes from an inquisition of 1326 which states that the burgagers of the vill of Dunlouane then held some 4 carucates of land (ibid. 190. The borough is not subsequently refered to and it must be presumed that it fell into decay. The present town is an estate town laid out by the Tynte family in the eighteenth century.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREET PATTERN
2. MARKET PLACE
3. MILL
4. PARISH CHURCH
5. MISCELLANEOUS
6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FIND

1. STREET PATTERN

The present town has a T-linear street plan with the Main St running from north-east to south west and Stephen St set at right angles to its southern end. The street pattern of the medieval borough is unknown.

2. MARKET PLACE

This is located in the centre of Main St. and has a mid-eighteenth century Court House, which Drury (Mems Dead vi (1904-6), 176) states was formerly a gatehouse into the town, at its northern end.

3. MILL

A watermill is referred to on a number of occasions in the fourteenth century (MacNeill 1950, 164, 165, 166, 190). The earliest of these references occurs in 1313. The precise site of the mill is unknown.

4. PARISH CHURCH

The seventeenth century church was located to the east of the Market Place but there is no trace of any building and the graveyard has been turned into a public park with the gravestones arranged around the walls.

Monuments

Grave slab. A. Willkins. 1694.

Thin green limestone slab with an incised inscription: ANN/ WILLKINS/ 1694.

Dims: H.94 W. 59 T.4

Grave slab. K. Hughes. 1668.

Rectangular limestone slab in two pieces on the right side of the park. It has squared bead and reel marginal decoration. Roman lettered inscription in false relief: HERE LIETH THE/ BODY OF KATHER/ IN HVGHES WIFE/ TO OWEN HVGHES/ OF DUNLAVAN/ ..... / 11TH DAY OF DEC 1668 AGED 38/ DORMIT NON MORTVA EST

Dims: H.145 (two pieces) W.71 T.9

Mems Dead x (1917-20), 154.

17th century plaque

Stone plaque from the graveyard, now mounted in the vestry of St. Nicholas´ Church. It has the following inscription: CORNIT ANTHONY/ HATHORNE OUT OF HIS/ PIOUS ZEAL TO THE/ PLACE OF GODS WORSHIP/ BEQUEATHED 50lib STER/ FOR THE REBUILDING/ OF THIS CHAUNCEL/ WHICH WAS FAITHFUL/ LY PERFORMED BY THE/ PIOUS CARE OF MR/ PHILLIP HATHORNE/ HIS NEPHEW AND/ HEIRE ANNO DOM 1681

Mems Dead vii (1907-9), 212.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

Bell

A bell inscribed: EST CONVENTVS S DOMICI KILKENAE ANNO 1647 hangs in the Court House.

Mems Dead vi (1904-6), 176.

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FIND

Bronze flanged axehead (type Derryniggin). Discovered in a lot of scrap iron, brass, etc., removed from Dunlavin in 1860. NMI R.338. Harbison 1969, 56: no. 1696.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTTIAL

Dunlavin is an example of an Anglo-Norman borough which was built over in the eighteenth century. The archaeological and documentary data indicates, however, that it was the scene of occupation during the thirteenth and fourtenth centuries. The exact extent of the medieval borough is unclear as is the degree of damage caused to archaeological deposits when the present town was built in the eighteenth century. Documentary records of medieval Dunlavin 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. 11) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Dunlavin. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

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ENNISBOYNE

Ennisboyne is a small hilly area about one mile from the sea and six miles to the south of Wicklow town.

Ennisboyne is listed in late twelfth century documents among the see lands of Glendalough (MacNeill 1950, 5, 6, 38) and it is likely that there was an Early Christian church on the site. It was probably run as an episcopal manor in the middle ages but the first mention of it as a borough does not occur until 1597 (Morrin 1862, 457). There are no subsequent references to the existence of the borough and it must be presumed that even in 1597 it was already in a state of decay.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

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

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

This borough appears to have been centred around St. Baithin's Church in the townland of Threemilewater. Its exact extent is unclear.

2. PARISH CHURCH OF ST. BAITHIN

The dedication and the fact that Ennisboyne formed part of the see lands of Glendalough from an early date both suggest that there may have been an Early Christian church here. The church itself is first specifically referred to in 1322 when it was became a prebend of St Patrick´s, Dublin (MacNeill 1950, 168).

A church in ruins is indicated on the 1910 edition of the O.S. map. The remains are completely overgrown however and could not be distinguished in the course of our visit.

Monuments

Early Ecclesiastical Slab

The Co. Wicklow SMR notes such a slab but this could not located during our visit.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

Raised platform

There is a low semi-circular raised platform to the south of the Y-shaped junction. Function unknown.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTTIAL

Ennisboyne is an example of a deserted Anglo-Norman borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it was the scene of occupation between the thirteenth

and sixteenth centuries, after which it seems to have been abandoned. Documentary records of Ennisboyne 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. The extent of disturbance to its archaeological deposits is unknown but in view of its isolated location this is likely tohave been slight.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 12) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Ennisboyne. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

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HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood is situated in the east of the county five miles south-west of Blessington just off the Dublin to Tullow road.

There is very little documentary evidence about this settlement. It appears to have formed part of the see lands of the diocese of Dublin and a document of 1256-66 states that its burgeses had the customs of Breteuil (MacNeill 1950, 122). No further references are known to the borough and it is to be presumed that it was abandoned in the fourteenth century in conjunction with many similar boroughs in south Dublin and Wicklow.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. MOTTE
3. PARISH CHURCH OF ST.KEVIN
4. MISCELLANEOUS

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

This was probably located on the site of that part of the village which is immediately north of the castle and the old church of St. Kevin.

2. MOTTE

The motte is situated on a natural ridge running north/east - south/west to the south of the village at the head of a narrow valley, itself oriented north/east - south/west. The highest point of the ridge was adapted for use as the motte and the north east end probably served as a bailey. It is overlooked by higher ground to the south-east and there is a ridge of similar height to the west.

A ditch and bank (1.5m high) surrounded the motte in places although there is a steep scarp of 20-25m to the valley floor on the south-west. A break in the ditch on the north may be an original entrance feature. The top of the motte (c.35m across) is sub-rectangular and has evidence for structures under the grasscover. In addition there are large sections of collapsed masonry on the south slope of the motte.

3. PARISH CHURCH OF ST.KEVIN

First mentioned in a document of 1219-28 when it belonged to the convent of Timolin (MacNeill 1950, 58), the church is located on high ground above the village with the graveyard at a much lower level on the south, west and north. The present building may be of 17th century date. It has a plinth at the east end and a stone roof, but the walls are pebble dashed and the end walls are slated (see Mems Dead v (1901-3), 504).

Monuments

Grave slab. ?17th cent.

Tapering granite slab with incised maltese cross, located to the left of the gate under the trees.

Dims: H.134 (min) W.65-46 T.16

17th century cross.

Small granite disc headed cross with expansions for the arms, located close to the wall to the left of the gate. It is incised with the letters IB, IHS and BB and according to Drury is dated 166-. There are, however, a number of similar crosses in the new graveyard which are dated to the 18th century.

Dims: H.96 (min) W.19 by 12

Mems Dead v (1901-3), 511.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Mortar

There is a small granite mortar/piscina with four lugs in use as a piscina in the modern St.Kevin's Church.

Dims: H.31 Int. Diam. 26

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTTIAL

Hollywood is an example of a deserted Anglo-Norman borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates

that it was the scene of occupation in the thirteenth century, after which it is likely that it was abandoned. 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. The extent of disturbance to its archaeological deposits is unknown but in view of its isolated location this is likely to have been slight.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 14) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Hollywood. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

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KILLICKABAWN

Killickabawn is situated in the west of the county between Delgany and Newtown Mount Kennedy.

It is the site of the medieval borough of Kilmacberne (Price, Placenames of Co. Wicklow, 388-9). Like many of Wicklow's other medieval boroughs it formed part of the episcopal lands of the diocese of Glendalough (MacNeill 1950, 2, 21) and was presumably developed as an ecclesiastical manor. An inquisition of 1326 mentions the existence of 18.5 burgages at Kilmacberne (MacNeill 1950, 195). Subsequently the settlement fades from documentary records and it is to be presumed that it was abandoned in the mid fourteenth century.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. MISCELLANEOUS

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

Topographically it is most likely that it was located on the low ridge on which Holywell House was subsequently built. Only the enclosing walls of this house now survives and its site is completely overgrown. The name Holywell probably preserves a recollection that there was formerly an

ecclesiastical site here.

2. MISCELLANEOUS

Enclosure

There is an irregular enclousure to the north-east of Holywell House. Function unknown.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTTIAL

Killickabawn is an example of a deserted Anglo-Norman borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it was the scene of occupation in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, after which it is likely that it was abandoned. 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. The extent of disturbance to its archaeological deposits is unknown but in view of its isolated location this is likely to have been slight.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 15) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Killickabawn. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

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MULSOES COURT

In 1450 the Irish parliament granted permission to Sir Edmond Mulso to establish a borough, to be called Mulsoes Court, in the borderland between the English and Irish in north Wicklow. It was stipulate that the burgesses could elect their own portreeve and two bailliffs annually, and they had the power to hold pleas and collect customs for murage (Berry 1910, 215-19). Price (1953, 117-18) located the projected site on the Powerscourt estate but since Mulso himself was dead by 1463 it is not clear if the settlement was actually established or not. There are no subsequent references to the borough.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. MOTTE
3. HOLY WELL

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

The precise site is unknown but topographically it is likely that it lay in the area between the motte and St Moling's well.

2. MOTTE

This is situated on a natural rise which is now covered by a plantation of young trees and is effectively inaccessible.

3. HOLY WELL

Dedicated to St. Moling, this is located to the north west of the motte.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTTIAL

Mulsoe´s Court is an example of a deserted Anglo-Norman borough. The documentary records indicate that it was probably the scene of occupation in the fifteenth century, after which it is likely that it appears to have been abandoned. Documentary evidence is 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. The extent of disturbance to its archaeological deposits is unknown but in view of its isolated location this is likely to have been slight.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 18) delimits the area of archaeological potential. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

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NEWCASTLE

Newcastle is situated in the west of the county close to the sea on the low road from Bray to Wexford about two miles from Newtown Mount Kennedy.

Known as Newcastle MacKinegan in medieval documents this was a royal manor which appears to have been selected as a place of defence in order to protect the coastal route between Bray and Arklow. The castle was in existence by about 1210 (Orpen 1908, 129) and it was to be an important base in the later thirteenth century for launching attacks on the Irish of Wicklow. A borough was established in conjunction with the manor and a number of burgages were granted to St Mary's Dublin in the early thirteenth century (Gilbert 1884, i, 240). The burgesses are again mentioned in 1282 (Orpen 1908, 132) but the most extensive information comes in two documents of 1304-5 which indicate that there were 191 burgages and two mills in the settlement (Orpen 1908, 135; Mills 1914, 28). Subsequent records recount the burnings of Newcastle: in 1295, in 1315 and 1370 by the O'Byrnes, in 1376 and again in 1405 (Orpen 1908, 132-6). After this latter destruction Newcastle seems to have passed completely into the hands of the O'Byrnes and all record of the borough vanishes.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. SITE OF BOROUGH
2. MOTTE
3. CASTLE
4. OTHER CASTLES
5. MILL
6. GAOL AND COURTHOUSE
7. PARISH CHURCH

1. SITE OF BOROUGH

This was probably centred on the castle and church. Lewis (1837, 427) mentions that it recieved a grant ot tolls for repairing walls in 1303-4 and he mentions the burning of several streets in the reign of Charles II. The sources of these statements have not been located, however.

2. MOTTE

This was one of the most important medieval castles in Wicklow. Its existence is attested from c.1210 and its subsequent history has been fully documented by Orpen (1908). One important reference in 1298 mentions the building of a wall "round the castle and mote (motam)" (ibid., 133) which suggests that although it has the appearance of a ringwork castle it was viewed by contemporaries as a motte.

This very large natural rise (65m east-west by 67m

north-south) with excellant views to the sea has been adapted for defensive purposes. It is flat topped with steep scarp (c.10m) to the north and south with a shallow ditch 3-4m wide on the east. There is level ground to the east which could have served as a bailey but there is no trace of any enclosing feature while the gently sloping ground to the west may have had a ditch separating it from the ´motte´ but this is unclear.

3. CASTLE

The centre block of a large late sixteenth/ seventeenth century building survives on the west side of the motte. Orpen (1908, 137) regards it as having its origins c.1570 when Francis Agard got possession of Newcastle.

It is a four-floored building of uncoursed rubble with traces of plastering and is in very poor condition. There are three niches (one pointed and two rectangular), probably for armorial plaques, with concave limestone frames in the centre of the west wall which probably contained the main entrance. The section to the south of this block was also four-floored with a barrel vault over the ground floor, while that to the north was a smaller three-floored building attached to the east side of the north wall. There is a buttress on the north end of the west wall.

The ground floor is occupied by two barrel-vaulted chambers, with traces of plank centering, orientated

east-west. Because of the adaptation of the building as a farm outhouse no original doors or windows remain. Two arches (one pointed and one round, both of which are now blocked) opened to the south. Stairs in the north chamber provided access to the first floor which had a large fireplace in the north wall. Openings on this floor and those above have been enlarged and all have brick surrounds. There is a possible gun loop (small rectangular splayed opening in the east end of the north wall) with a splayed rectangular window opening above. The upper floors and roof are missing.

4. OTHER CASTLES

Lewis (1837, 427) refers to two other castles near the north end of the village but their sites are now unknown.

5. MILL

The mill of Newcastle MacKynegan is first mentioned in 1228 (Orpen 1908, 129)and it was still functioning in 1565-6 (ibid., 137). A mill (post 1700) and mill-race south east of the castle are probably on the site of this medieval mill.

6. GAOL AND COURTHOUSE

Lewis (1837, 427) refers to 'the vestiges of a strong building' said to have been the gaol and courthouse (cf Orpen 1908, 126). Its date is uncertain, however.

7. PARISH CHURCH

This was granted by John Comyn, archbishop of Dublin (1181-1212) to the convent of Grace Dieu (MacNeill 1950, 31). Nothing survives of the medieval church, however, and the present building dates to the 18th century.

Monuments

17th cent grave slab

A broken stone near the vestry door is inscribed ´E..../ dECESD/ .. ST THE 20TH 1699/ MW 1699. This was not located in the course of our survey, however.

Mems Dead, v (1901-3) 135; viii (1910-12) 462-3.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTTIAL

Newcastle is an example of a deserted Anglo-Norman borough. The archaeological and documentary data indicates that it was the scene of occupation in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, after which it is likely that it was abandoned. 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. The extent of disturbance to its archaeological deposits is unknown but in view of its isolated location this is likely to have been slight.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 17) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Newcastle. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits on the site.

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WICKLOW

Wicklow, a port town on the river Leitrim, is twenty-four miles from Dublin on the coast road to Arklow. The name is derived from Vikingalo "meadow of the Vikings" or Vik-lo, "meadow of the bay" (Øftedal 1976, 130).

According to Giraldus Cambrensis the castle of Wicklow ("castello Guikingelonensi) was granted to Strongbow by Henry II in 1173 (Scott and Martin 1978, 121). The context in which this reference appers together with the placename suggests that this castle was of pre-Norman origin. Whether there was a settlement associated with this castle or not, however, is unknown. Strongbow granted the cantred of Wicklow to Maurice FitzGerald (Orpen 1911-20, i, 379-80). The evidence that it was a borough comes shortly after. Burgages in the town of Wicklow were confirmed to St Mary´s Abbey, Dublin, before 1199 (Gilbert 1884, i, 85) and further burgages are mentioned in a deed of 1256-68 which mentions the "king´s street" (Mac Neill 1950, 131). Although captured in 1301 and subjected to frequent attacks from the native Irish the settlement seems to have endured as an isolated outpost of the Pale until the sixteenth century. With the revival of English interest in Ireland in the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the town once more came to importance as a port and garrison.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN
2. MOTTE
3. BLACK CASTLE
4. PARISH CHURCH
5. FRANCISCAN FRIARY
6. BENEDICTINE CONVENT
7. HOSPITAL
8. MISCELLANEOUS
9. ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FIND

1. STREETS AND STREET PATTERN

The town is situated on the side of a hill at the southern end of a narrow stretch of water which is cut off from the sea by a peninsula called the Murragh. The main street runs parallel to this stretch of water and has smaller lanes and streets running off it to the north and south.

2. MOTTE

There is a steep sided motte c.6-7m high on high ground overlooking the Leitrim river at the north end of the town. It is covered in shrubs and trees and i at present inaccessible. The south east side has been dug away to provide space for a modern bungalow.

3. BLACK CASTLE

The fragmentary remains of this triangular shaped keep, built of uncoursed slaty blue limestone, are located on a rocky promontary to the south east of the town. There is a rock-cut ditch on the west and a steep drop to the sea on the east, south and north. The lower courses of the keep can be traced around the entire perimeter and the walls are c.1.05m thick. Only two sections of the keep survive to a height of over 2m above the interior. The south-west angle (west wall 2m in length and south wall 8m) is c.5m high and has a small splayed flat lintelled angle loop and a small rectangular opening in the south wall while 4m of the east end of the south wall and the east angle are also c.5m high.

4. PARISH CHURCH

The church is said to be of seventeenth century in date but it is covered in pebbledash and the interior is plastered. It is a single aisled building with a west tower. The interior is lit by three round headed windows with chamfered granite jambs in each wall. It has a stone flagged floor in which there are some early eighteenth century memorials. Remains of a fifteenth century church have been seen in the north side of the graveyard when graves are being dug (JRSAI cii (1972), 100). The dedication has been a matter of dispute between SS Mantan, Thomas and Patrick. In 1468 it is referred to as St Patrick´s church Wykenglo (MacNeill 1950, 244).

Monuments

Memorial stone of R. Phelps 1679

This upright memorial is in the graveyard to the south of the church. It is inscribed: HERE LIETH THE/ BODY OF ROBERT/ PHELPS WHO/ DEPARTED THIS/ LIFE THE 15TH DAY OF IVNE 1679

Dims: H.68 (min) W.50 D.10

Mems Dead iv (1898-1900), 159.

Memorial stone of A. Swined 1684

This stone was inscribed ´E LIETH THE BODY/ OF B ABEL SWIN/ ED WHO DECEASD Y/ DAY OF FEBRVARY/ 1684

Mems Dead iv (1898-1900), 158.

Memorial stone of David ... 1696

This slaty limestone upright rounded memorial is on the right side of the path close to the south entrance gate. It is inscribed DAVID ... DECEAISED MAY THE FIRST 1696

Dims: H. 55(min) W.43.5 D.6

Mems Dead iv (1898-1900), 158; ibid., vii (1907-9), 219.

Quern

The lower part of a large granite rotary quern is set under the font in the church.

Dims: Diam.46 H.18

JRSAI cii (1972), 101.

Stone with Romanesque Decoration.

An arch stone, possibly from the Romanesque door inserted in

the south wall, is placed close to the font at the east end of the church. It has chevron, stepped and dot patterns.
Dims: H.33.5 W.29 D.14
JRSAI cii (1972), 97-103.

Font
This early Norman/Romanesque font of slaty limestone is placed at the east end of the church. It is tub shaped with two cushion capitals on the upper edge of the front face and one to either side giving the top of the font a square appearance. The front of the font is further decorated by triangular panels in alternating low and high relief outlined by raised mouldings. The remaining sides and back are decorated with sloping diamond shaped patterns in low relief. There is a raised band around the lower edge and a central drainage hole. The rim and left front of the bowl are damaged.
Dims: H.42 W.56 D. of bowl 24
Mems Dead iii (1895-7), 536; JRSAI cii (1972), 97-103

Romanesque door
This door of three decorated orders is said to have been brought from Old Kilcullen and re-assembled as the south door of this church. The stone is slaty blue limestone and fragments of a later door (probably 13th century) were inserted at the base.
JRSAI cii (1972), 97-103

5. FRANCISCAN FRIARY

Founded during the reign of Henry III (1216-72) the first contemporary record occurs c.1325 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 261).

The ruins, situated at the north-west end of the town beside a small stream, are well maintained. They consist of a section of the north wall of the nave (c.6m high) and parts of three walls of the south transept. It was built of uncoursed slaty limestone with pocked dressed limestone arch stones and jambs. No original features survive in the nave wall with the possible exception of the splay of a window at its eastern end. The south wall of the nave has a large inserted arch opening into the transept. The south wall of the transept has a three light round headed window which has been much repaired but has some red and yellow sandstone jambs. The gable is c.8m high and there is a shallow wall niche below the window to the east. The west wall is missing and there are two inserted arches opening to the east.

6. BENEDICTINE CONVENT

A Benedictine nunnery may have existd at Wicklow for a short time in the fifteenth century (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 325). Its site is unknown.

7. HOSPITAL

There was a "spytle house" at Wicklow in 1578 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 357). Its site is unknown, however.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

Promontory Fort

On the headland south east of the town and cut off from the mainland by a series of ramparts. This feature may be of scandinavian origin since it contains the Black Castle but the presence of gun emplacements indicates that it has been interfered with in post-medieval times.

9. ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRAY FIND

Fragments of an iron sword (?Viking). From marshy land along the seashore at "the Murragh", Wicklow. NMI: S.A.1909:31.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Wicklow's importance to Irish archaeological research lies primarily in the fact that it is one of the very small number of Viking coastal settlements, other than towns, which were developed by the Anglo-Normans into towns. We do not know exactly what sort of Scandinavian settlement was located here. A castle certainly appears to have been here in Scandinavian times but it is not known what sort of

settlement existed in association with it, if any.

Little is known of the appearance of the Anglo-Norman town and even the location of some of its documented buildings is unknown. The extent of disturbance to archaeological deposits in the town is difficult to quantify. It is likely that disturbance will have occurred along the street frontages but whether this destroyed all levels or only the uppermost ones is unknown. It is probable, however, that in common with most other Irish towns archaeological deposits still survive across the area occupied by the medieval town. Accordingly, it is to be anticipated that traces of the original house foundations, refuse pits, property boundaries, and so forth, still survive below modern ground level.

Area of Archaeological Potential

The shaded portion of the accompanying map (Fig. 21) delimits the area of archaeological potential within Wicklow. In the absence of archaeological excavations nothing can be said about the depth of archaeological deposits in the town.

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Abbreviations

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JRSAI Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.

PRIA Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy.

Other Abbreviations

NLI National Library of Ireland

NMI National Museum of Ireland

PROI Public Record Office of Ireland

RIA Royal Irish Academy

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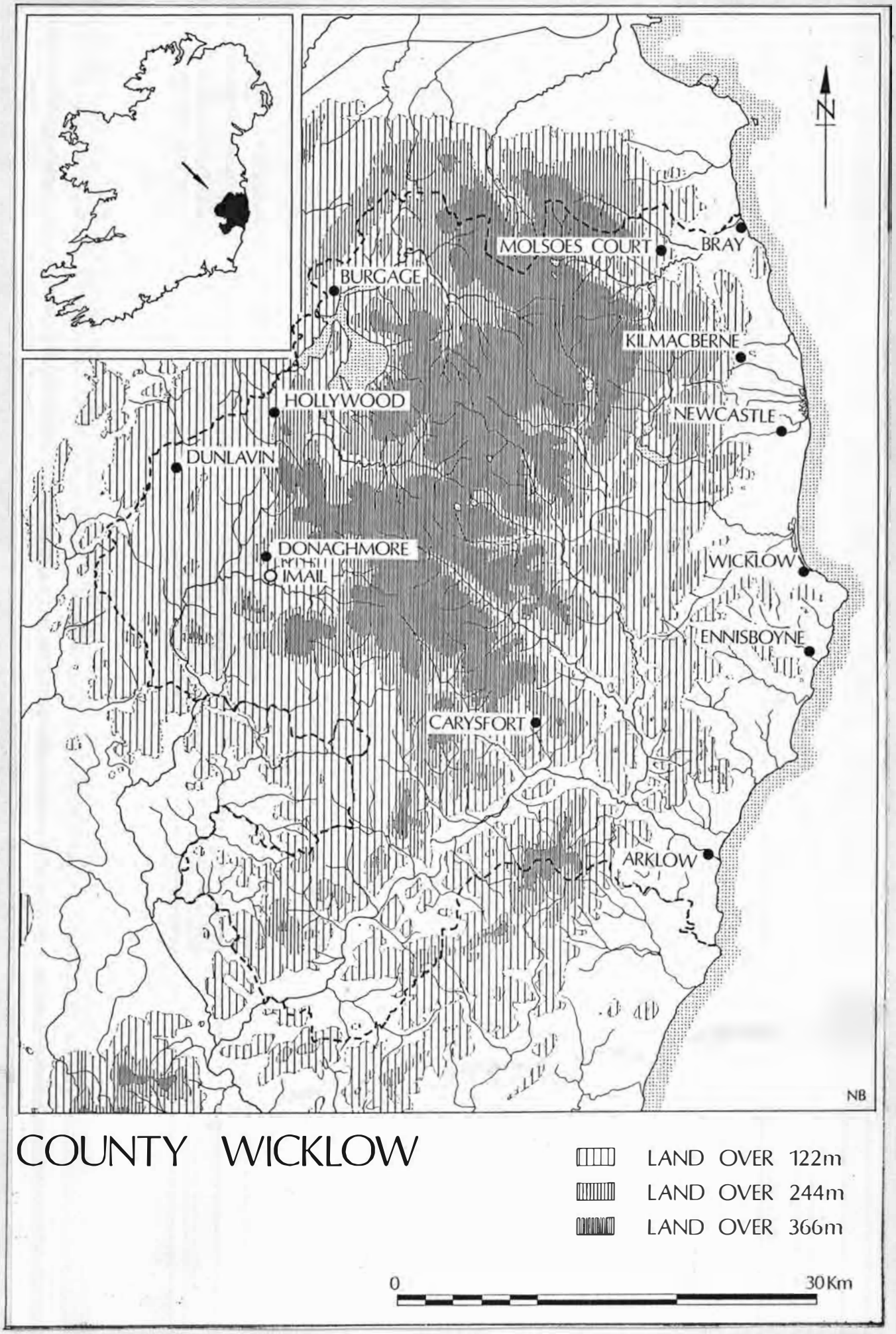

Fig. 1. County Wicklow: Location map of boroughs and towns.

Fig. 2. Remains of Arklow Castle from the north.

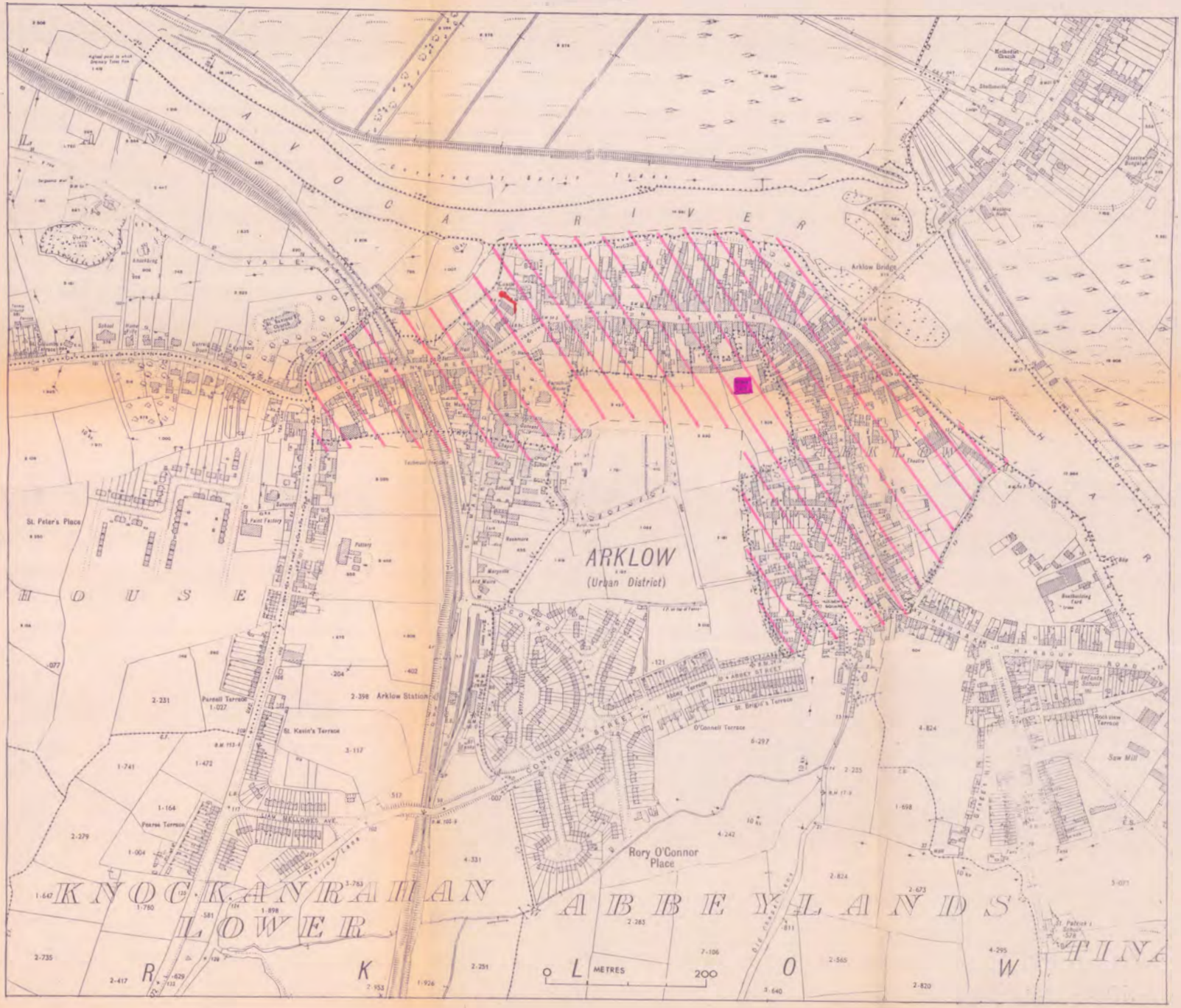

Fig. 3. Arklow: zone of archaeological potential

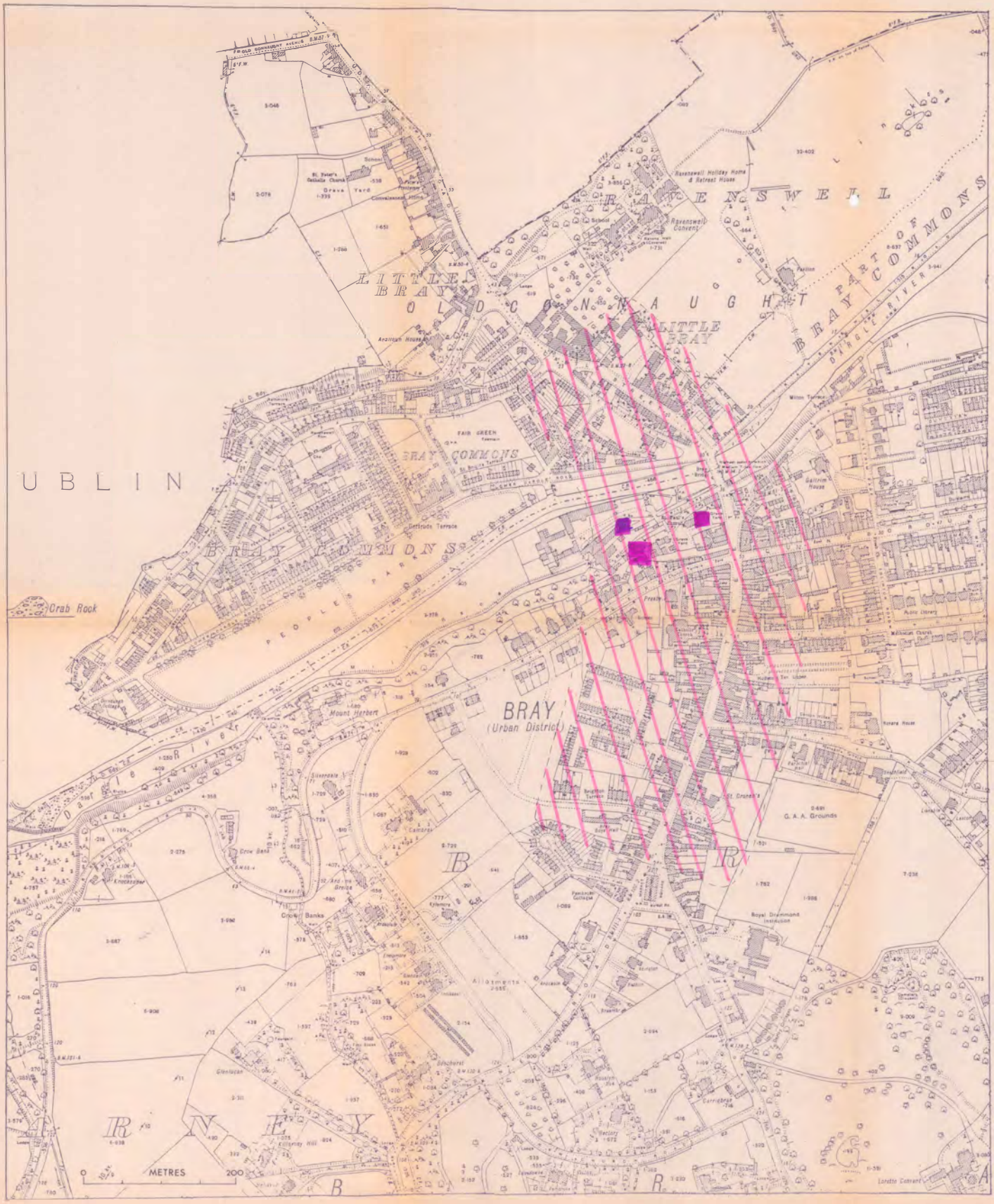

Fig. 4. Bray: Zone of archaeological potential.

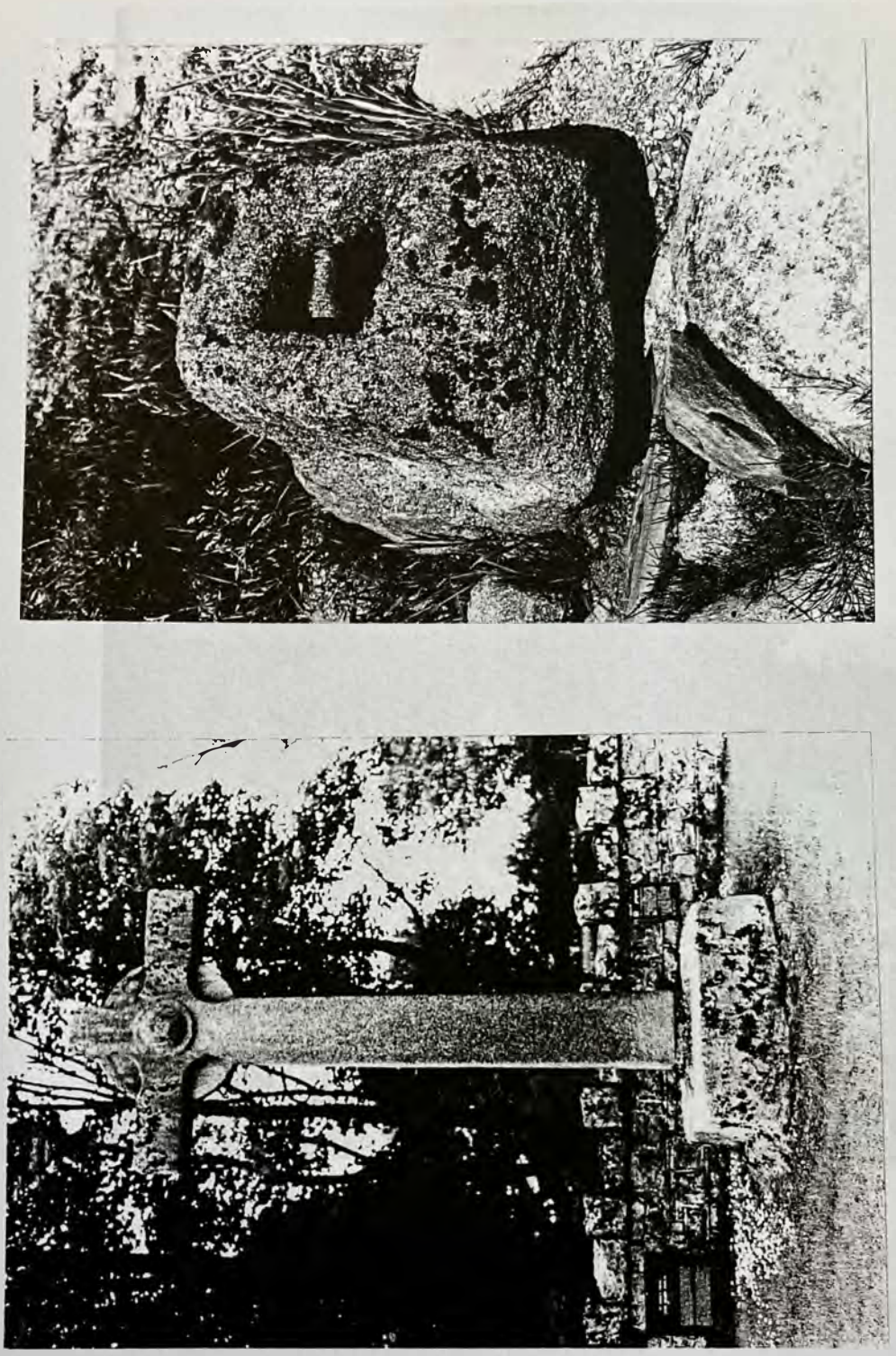

Fig. 5. Early Christian cross and cross base, Burgage, Co. Wicklow.

Fig. 6. Burgage Castle, viewed from south-west.

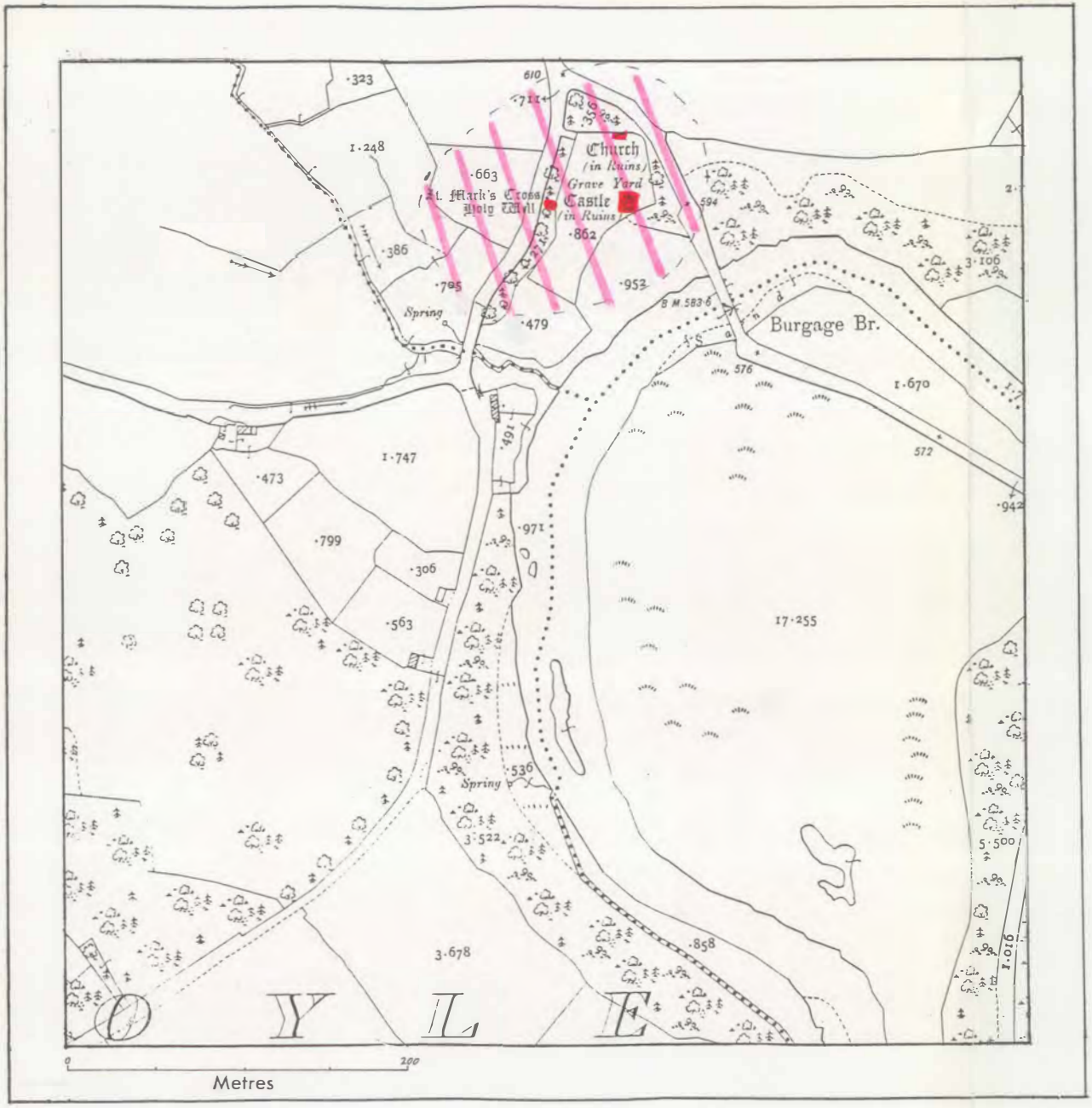

Fig. 7. Burgage: zone of archaeological potential.

Fig. 8. Font at Carysfort, Co. Wicklow.

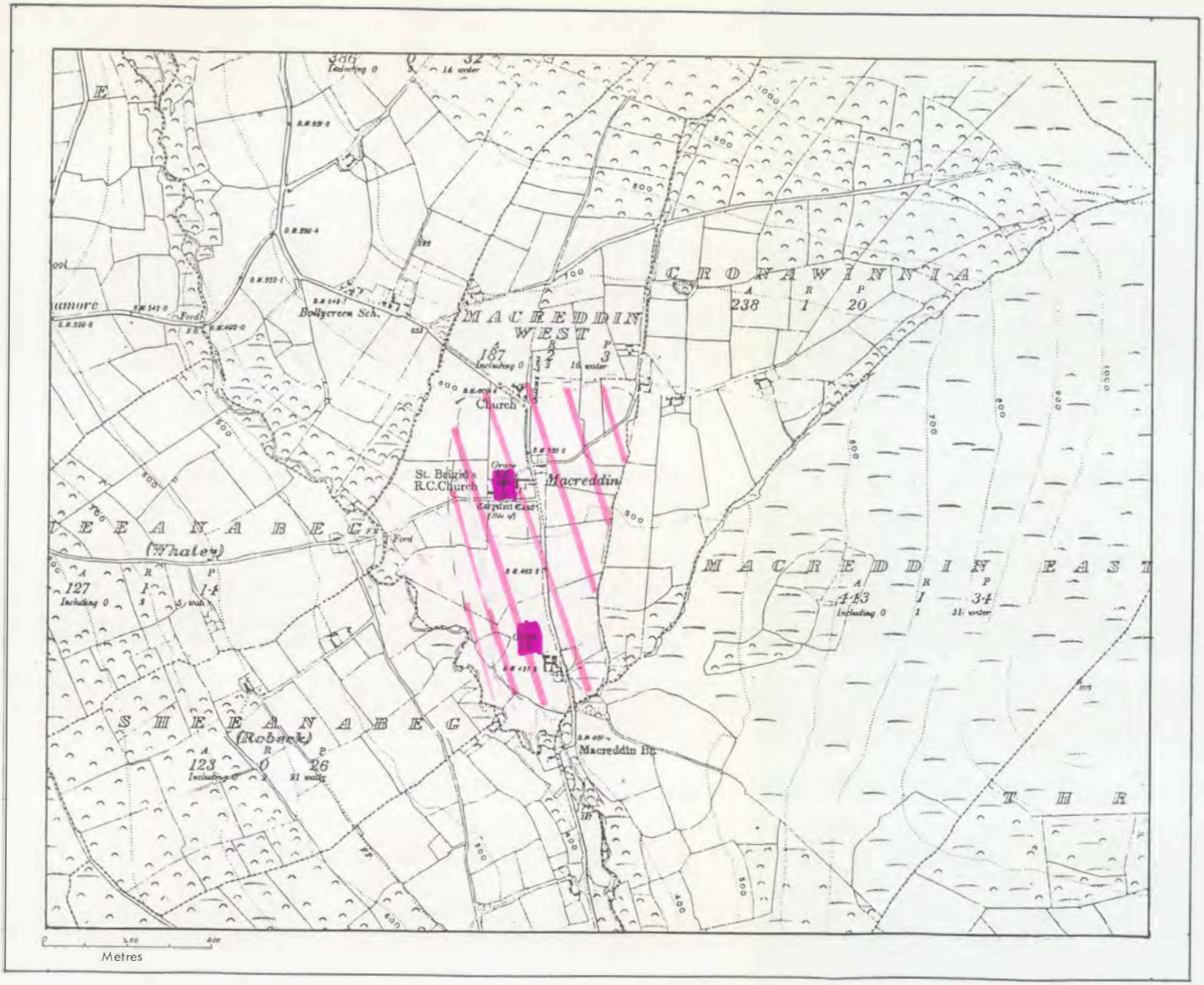

Fig. 9. Carysfort: zone of archaeological potential.

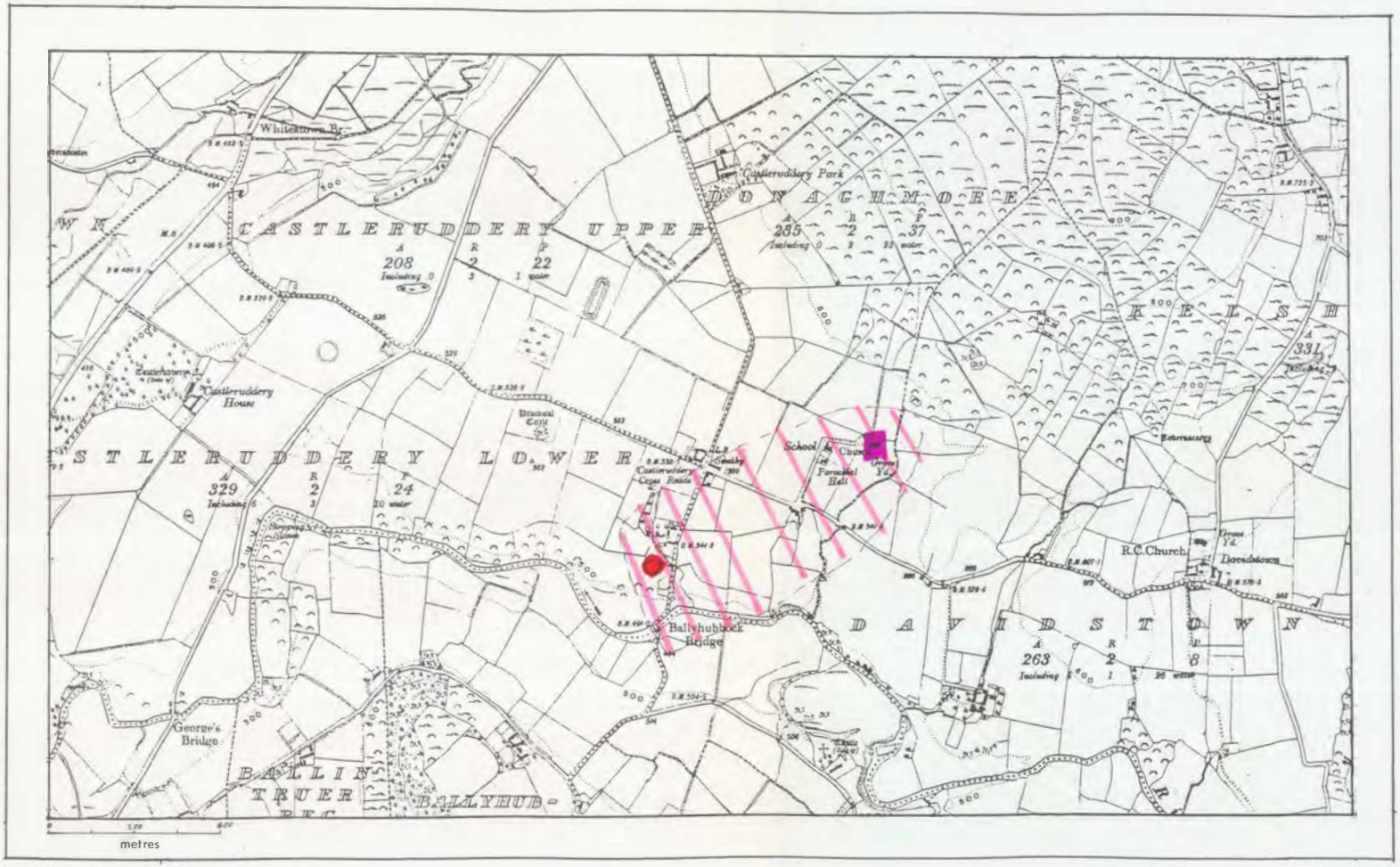

Fig. 10. Donaghmore: zone of archaeological potential.

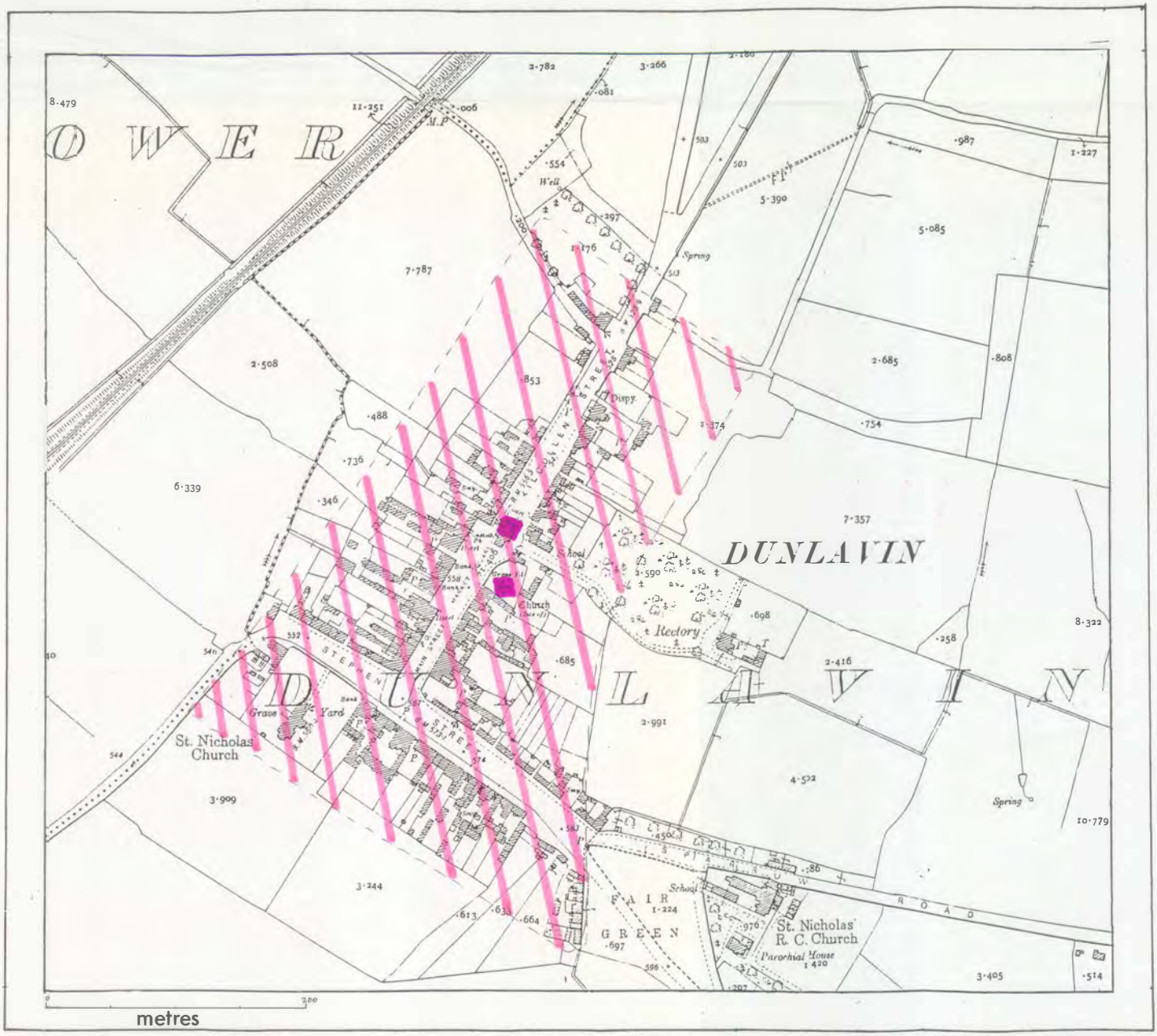

Fig. 11. Dunlavin: zone of archaeological potential.

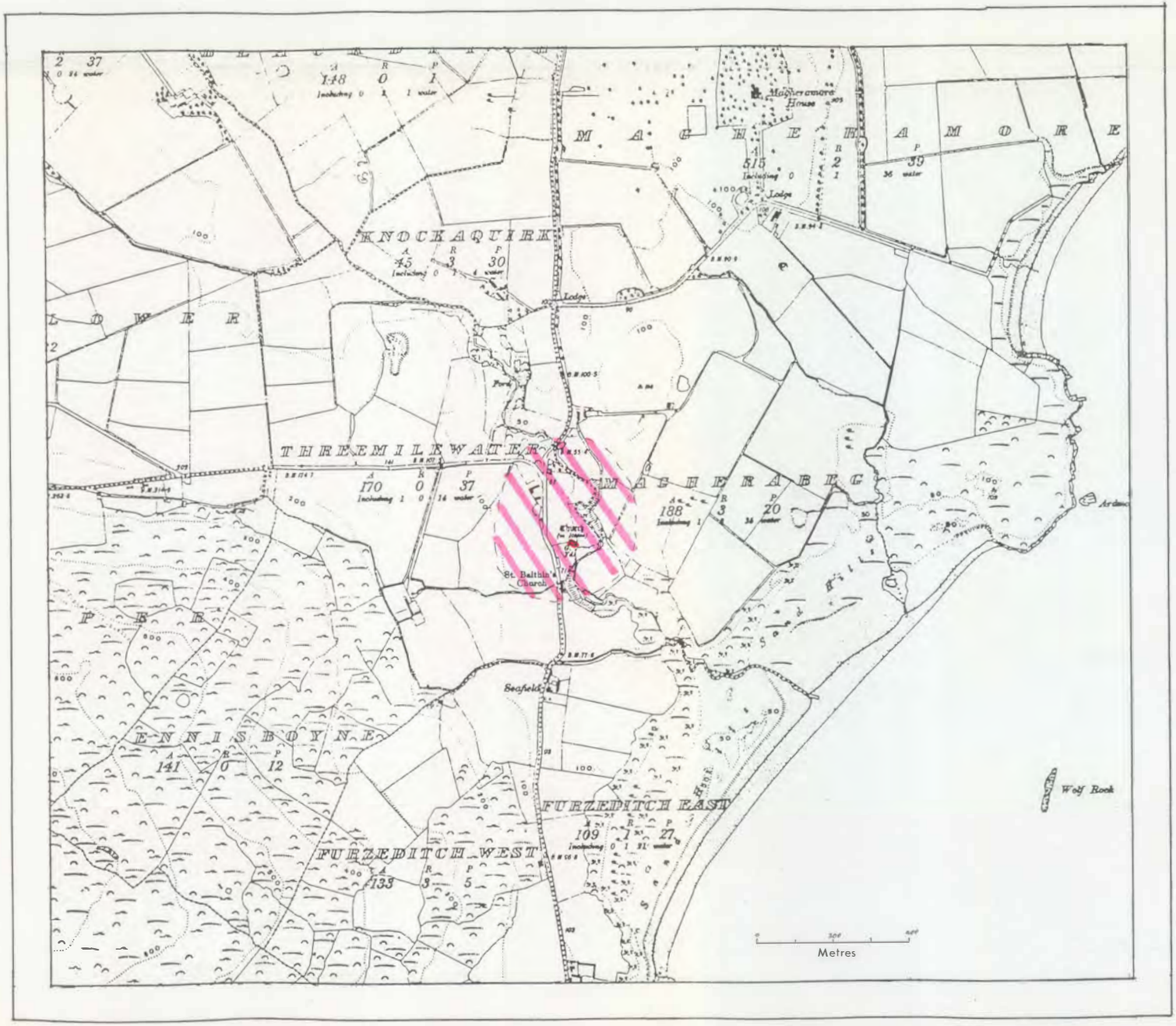

Fig. 12. Ennisboyne: zone of archaeological potential.

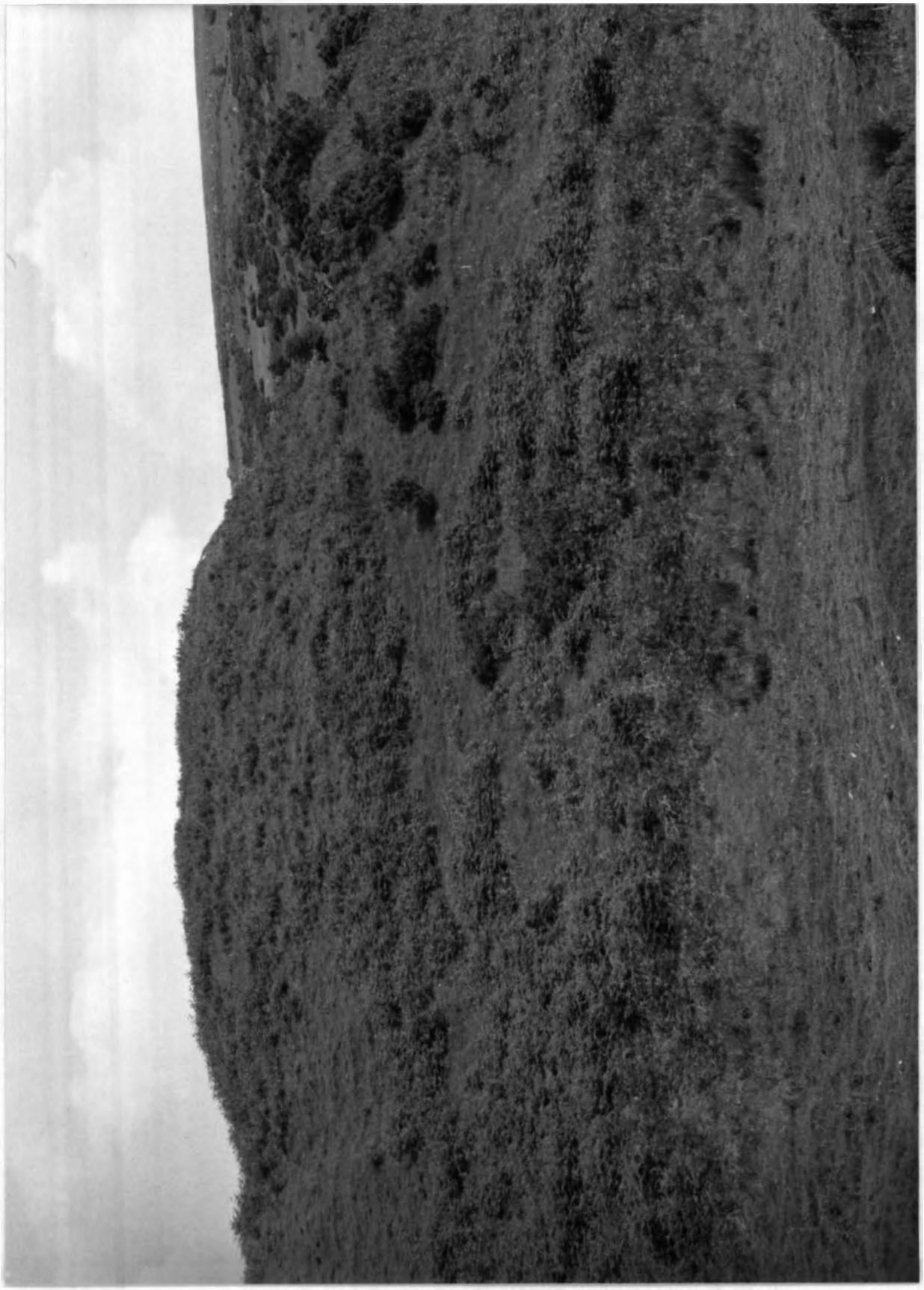

Fig. 13. Motte at Hollywood, Co. Wicklow.

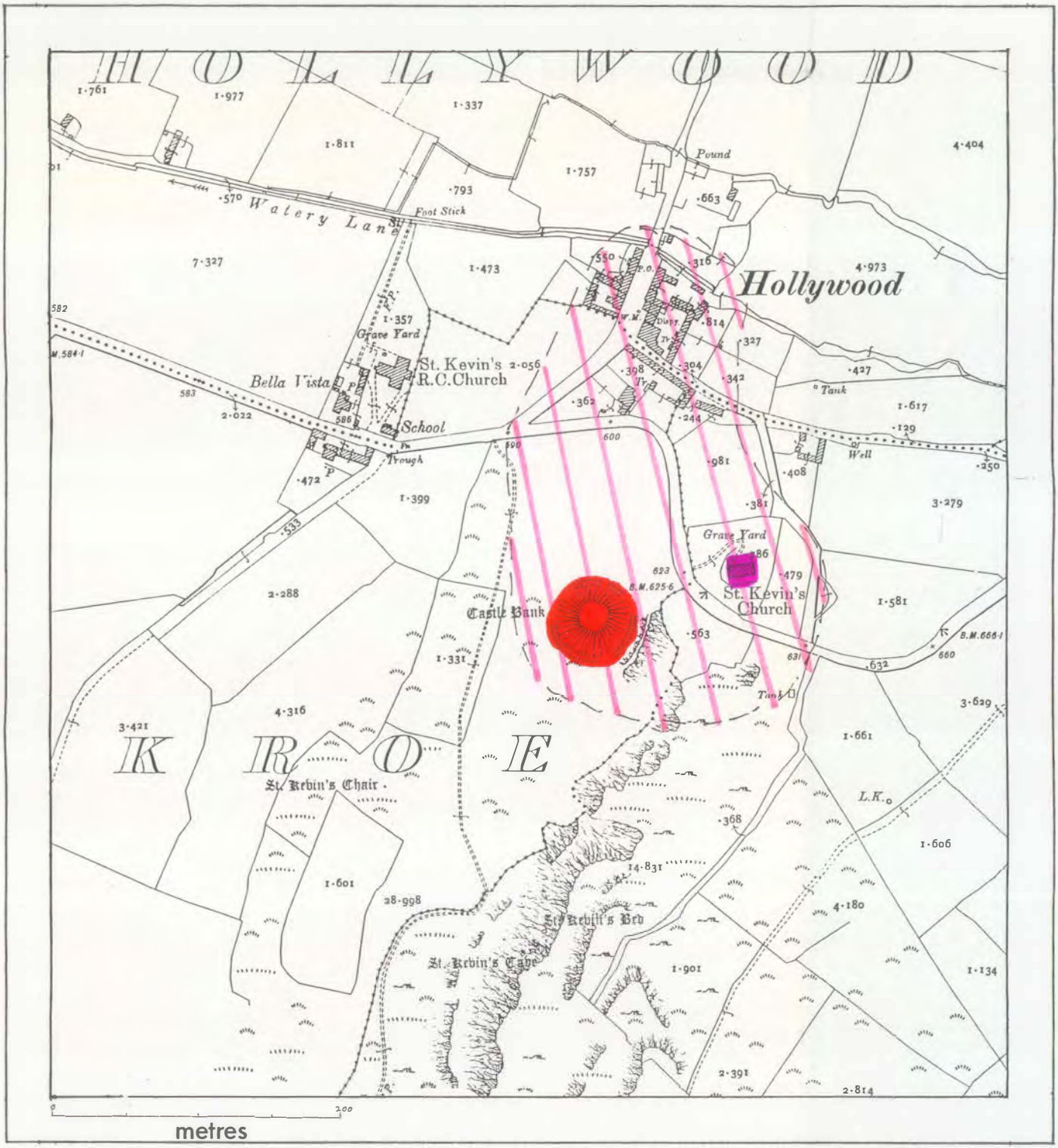

Fig. 14. Hollywood: zone of archaeological potential.

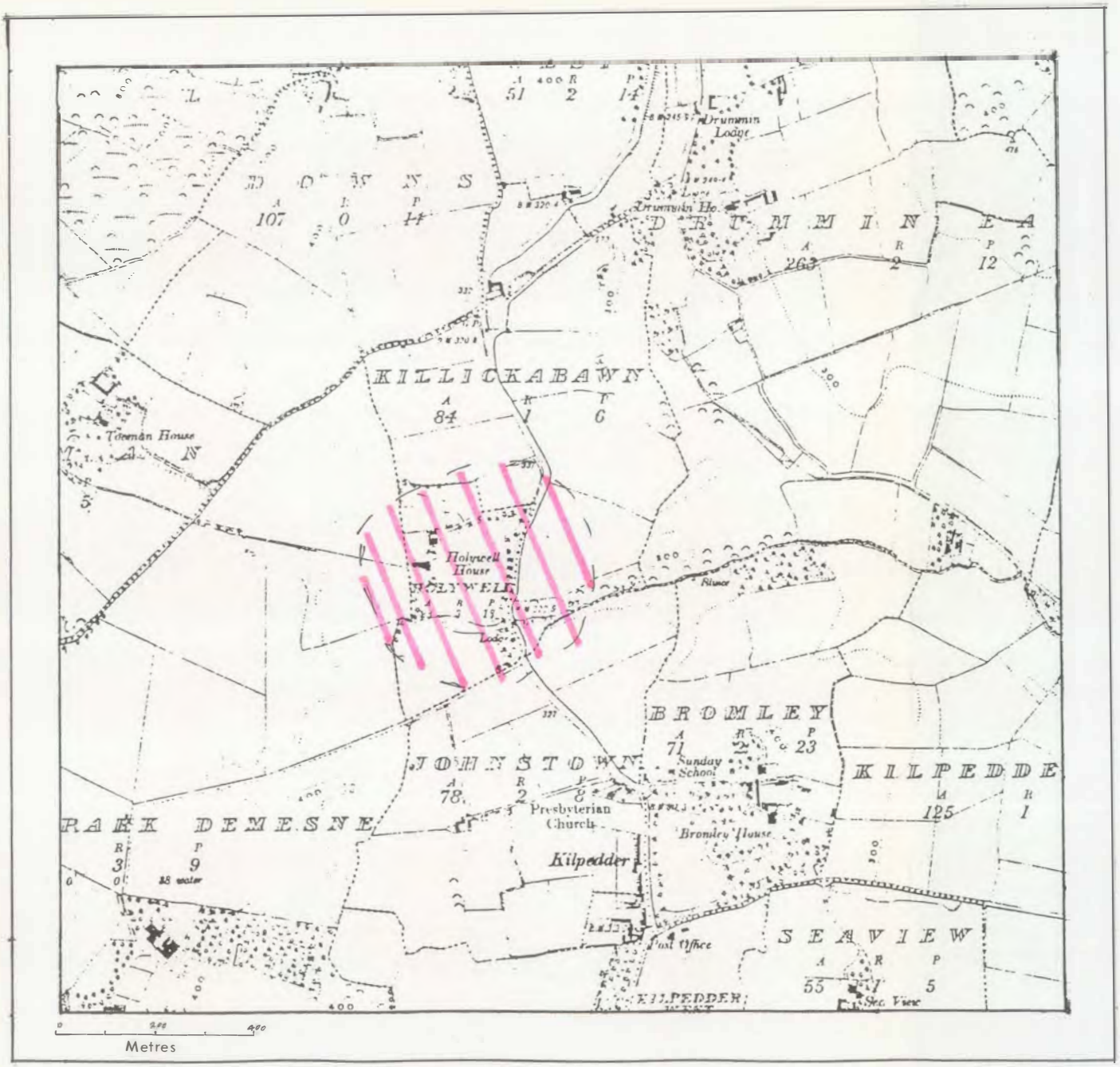

Fig. 15. Killickabawn: zone of archaeological potential.

Fig. 16. Newcastle: remains of castle, viewed from south-west.

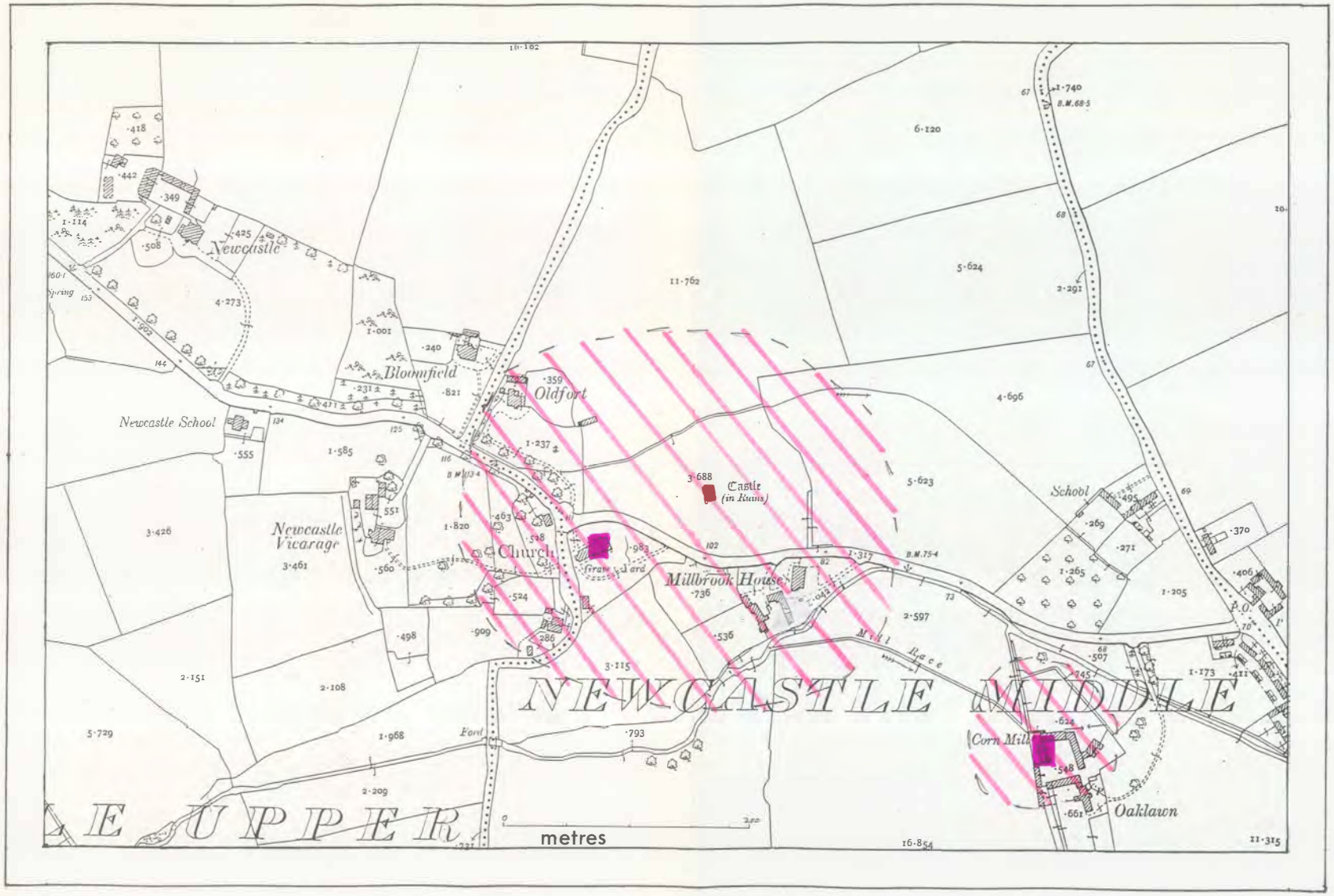

Fig. 17. Newcastle: zone of archaeological potential.

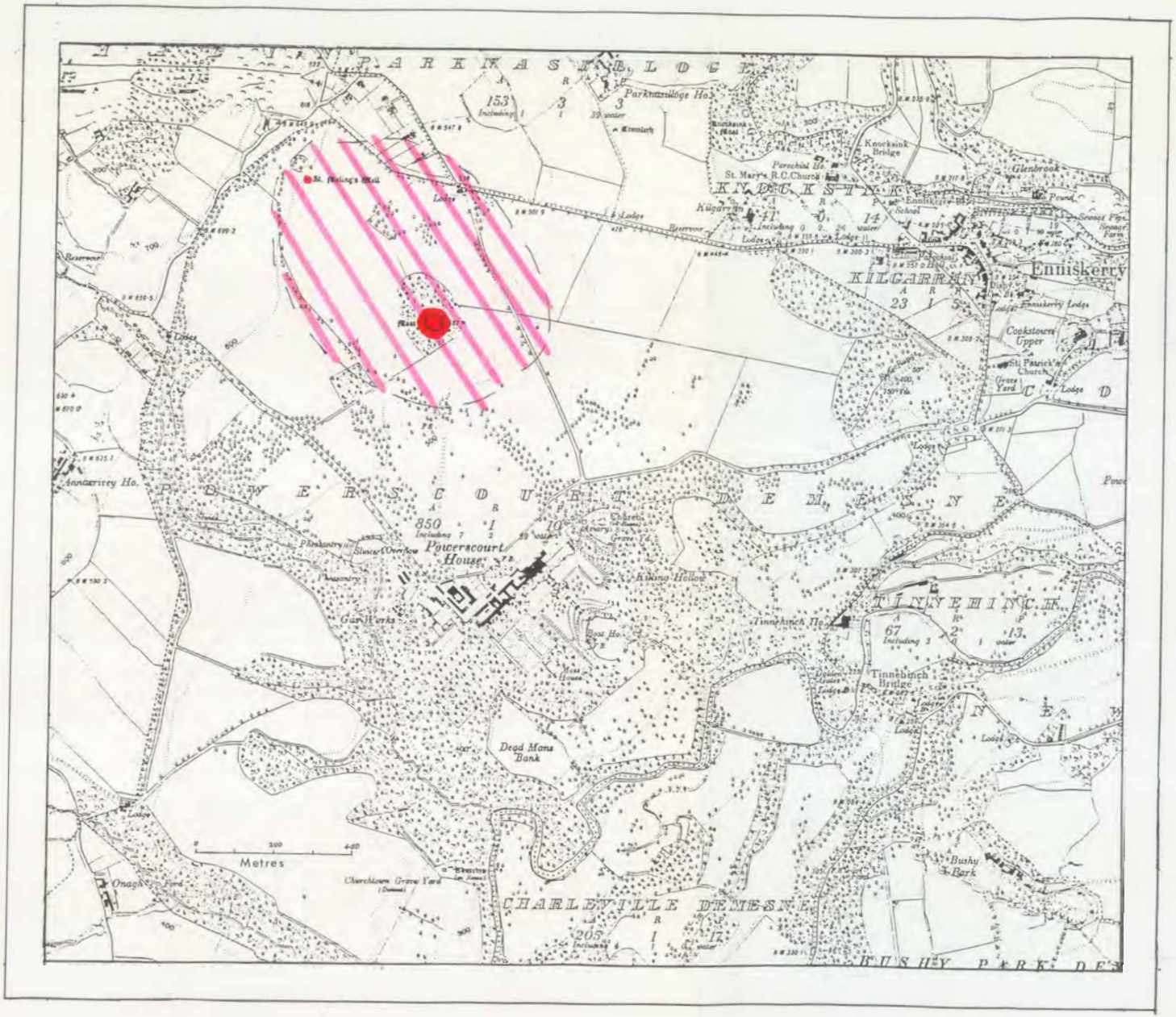

Fig. 18. Powerscourt: zone of archaeological potential.

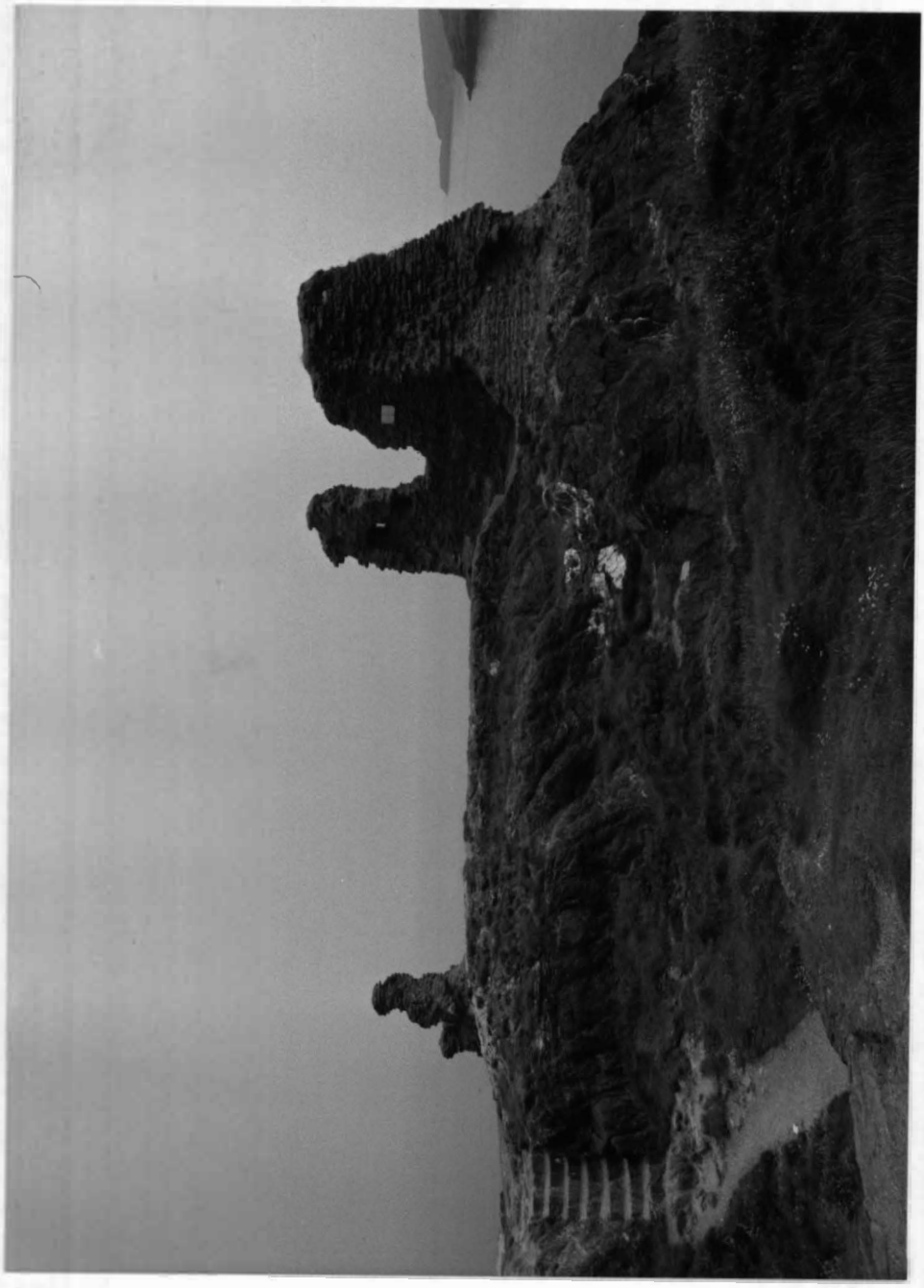

Fig. 19. Wicklow castle viewed from north-west.

Fig. 20. Franciscan Friary, Wicklow, viewed from south.

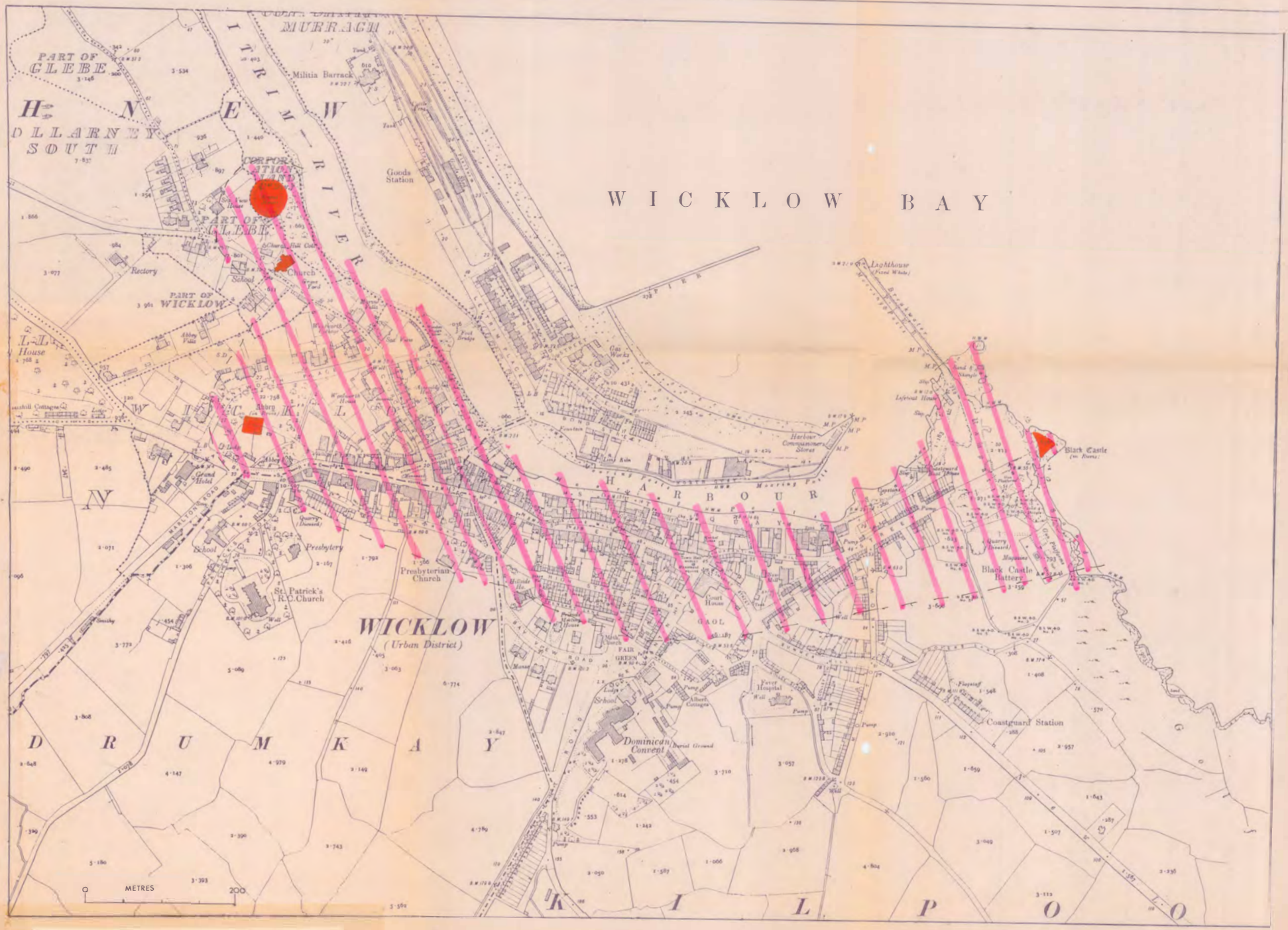

Fig. 21. Wicklow: zone of archaeological potential.