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SM7/DOWN 36:8

DRUMAROAD : Canal near house and about
White Fort.

DRUMAROAD
CS 36; IG 223

CASHEL
'White Fort'

500 ft + OD
J 365 440

This fairly large subcircular cashel is on the summit of a hill. It is demarkated by a wall of small granite stones with the occasional large one. Although the E-W and N-S diameters are similar - 46 m [DMW] and 45 m respectively - the site is not circular but pear-shaped with the narrower end at the W. and the broader at E. The uneven interior, which includes natural rock outcrop, slopes from E. down to W. and outside the wall a scarp runs from SW-W-N. There is a break in the wall at S. which may be an original entrance and here the wall has been widely spread and natural rock outcrop can be seen. For most of its circuit the wall has been spread, although nowhere to such an extent as at the 'entrance'. It is used as a field boundary and is adjoined by the more recent stone walls of a rectilinear field system. An almost centrally-positioned square house platform is clearly visible as is the line of a souterrain in which rushes are growing.

The house site was excavated in 1953 and found to be of two periods. The first house was approximately 6.0 m square and set on a platform. It has a stone-paved floor with central hearth and a centrally placed S. entrance. The roof was supported on posts and the walls were clay. Excavation showed that the souterrain to the N. had never been completed and also disclosed a paved area with a stone-built hearth to the NE. Finds dated the occupation to the latter part of the 1st millennium AD [UJA 19 (1956), 73-86].

DOWN 36:8

May 1993

FW

*Claire,
please file in same
manner.
Claire 12/8/93*

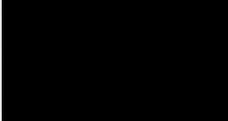


**ENVIRONMENT
SERVICE**

Department of
the Environment
for Northern Ireland

*Mr Mc Cartan's letter
on Smg Down 22:33*

Mr Sean McCartan



Date: 12 August 1993

Dear Mr McCartan

Brian Williams has passed me your letter of 26 July, as I deal with the archaeology of Co Down at the moment. You have three queries and I will number them as you have.

- 1) Killygoney in the townland of Glassdrumman (our ref. Down 22:33). This is a multi-period site which has been puzzling for many years. I am pleased to be able to tell you that only last year I got a positive identification of the stone structures here from Dr S O'Nuallain, recently retired from the Megalithic Survey in Dublin, who has seen more megalithic tombs than any other person in Ireland. He has identified it as the remains of a court tomb. The structure aligned east west is the remains of the main burial gallery and the other structure is what we call a subsidiary placed in the cairn at right angles to the main axis. The surrounding circular enclosure is thought to be a little graveyard with some unmarked headstones and may have been for burying unbaptised infants although there is no tradition of this.
- 2) Drumaroad townland. The only site we know of here is the rath also called 'White Fort' (our ref. Down 37:8). It has no known 17th century associations. *6*
- 3) Annadorn Castle (our ref. Down 37:66). You have given us a clearer indication of the position of this than we have had to date. However we have no recorded details of a structure or any finds from this site. No doubt excavation might bring something to light but this would be an expensive option and would not be undertaken lightly at present.

Thank you for contacting us about these sites. We are always glad to hear from interested people as it all helps in piecing together the past.

Yours sincerely

Claire Foley

CLAIRE FOLEY

T009/CEH

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DRUMAROAD

CASHEL

500ft OD

CS 36; IG 223

'White Fort'

J 365 440

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DOWN 36:8

May 1993

FW

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch DOENI

SMR Downs 36 = 8	Td DRUMAROAD	Type CASTLE	
A No.	Site Name 'WHITE FORT'	Parish	Alt 500ft OD
IG 223	GR	Barony	DC DOWNS

OS

NB

Condition substantial remains	Threat none apparent improvements	Check/Action	Schedule
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Land use unimproved grassland	Field boundaries forms field boundary
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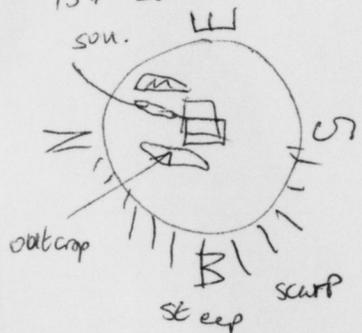
Site description	Photos? —
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$$\begin{array}{r} 30.50 \\ 15.25 \\ \hline 45.75 \\ 150 \\ 3 \\ \hline 450 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 30.50 \\ 122.00 \\ \hline 15.25 \\ 137.25 \end{array}$$

E-W 150 ~~ft~~ (DMW) = 46 m.
 N-S 45 m.

Interior slopes \nearrow down from E ~~from~~ to W
 and is uneven



line of southern \nwarrow rusher
 house platform clearly visible

Scarp from N \rightarrow W \rightarrow SW. SW-W-N
 Entrance - walls spread & natural
 rock outcroppings at entrance;
 walls of small granite stones, with
 the occasional large one.

OVER

Visited by Dianmala Williams.	Date of visit 24.5.93	SM.2	Input
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DRUMAROAD	CO DOWN	PARISH: LOUGH/INISLAND	O.S. 36.8
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Cashel with house and souterrain. White Fort.
Excavated DMW 1953.

500' +	J 365440
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1st. 'Fort' + dotted polygonal
2nd. 'White Fort' + irregular platf.
3rd. regular platform
H.B.

Field Visits			Files <i>sm5/19:517: SM111</i>
			Plans
Scheduled	Listed	State Care	Photos <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rbt 66870 5(M) 12/75 TP

P

V.J.A. 19 (1956) D.M. Waterman 'The Excavation of a House and Souterrain at White Fort, Drumaroad, Co. Down' 73
Co. Down Survey 175-6, figs 73, 111.
OS Fieldnotes Reports no. 320
+ another for i. td. = 322
Warner, R. *The Irish Souterrains and their Background in Subterranean Britain*, H Crawford (ed) (1979) 100-144 p116 (sm5/29)

from: UJA 19 (1956)

THE EXCAVATION OF A HOUSE AND SOUTERRAIN AT WHITE FORT, DRUMAROAD, CO. DOWN

by D. M. WATERMAN

INTRODUCTION.

BETWEEN the granite massif of Slieve Croob and the sea at Dundrum Bay in Co. Down is an area particularly rich in the remains of stone- or earth-built forts, two of which, in Ballywillwill demesne, were excavated by the Archaeological Survey of Northern Ireland in 1951. During a preliminary investigation of the sites in this area, a stone fort, or cashel, known like similar monuments elsewhere as the White Fort, was visited by the writer and appeared from surface indications to enclose the foundations of a free-standing structure, presumably contemporary, and probably domestic in character. In the past, little research has been devoted to forts in Co. Down and details of their internal arrangements are almost entirely lacking; consequently, the opportunity of recovering the complete plan of a structure at White Fort was not lightly to be dismissed and a small excavation to explore the nature of the visible foundations was therefore carried out in 1953.

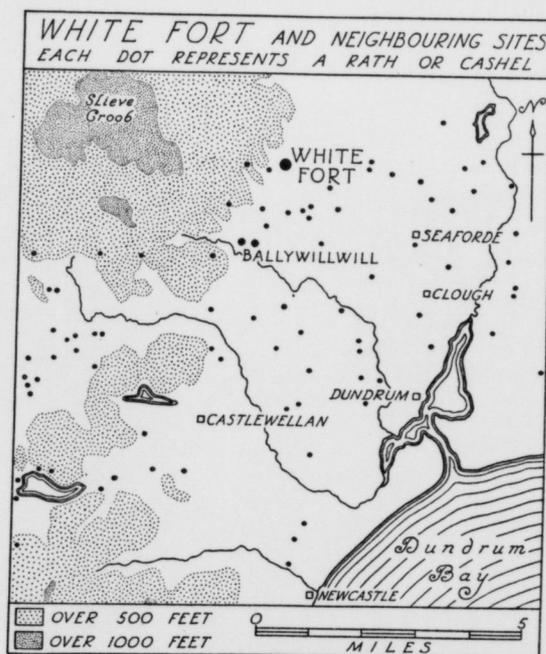


FIG. 1

White Fort is situated in the townland of Drumaroad, 3 miles north-west of Seaforde and just over $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-north-east of the raths at Ballywillwill (O.S. 6 in. Down Sheet 36); here, where the foothills of the Slieve Croob mountains fall south-eastwards towards the coastal plain, an isolated knoll of rock, its summit more or less delimited by the 500 ft. contour, was chosen for the site of the cashel (fig. 1). The area enclosed is broadly pear-shaped (fig. 2), about 150 feet across from east to west, but the containing masonry wall is now greatly ruined and, where not entirely obliterated, the surviving stonework is much spread and scattered. Over part of the southern half of the circuit, however, original wall faces, reduced practically to ground level, can be located, and here the cashel wall, where measurable, appears to have varied from 8-11 feet in thickness. Little can be said concerning the cashel wall on the north, but a modern dry-built wall, outside

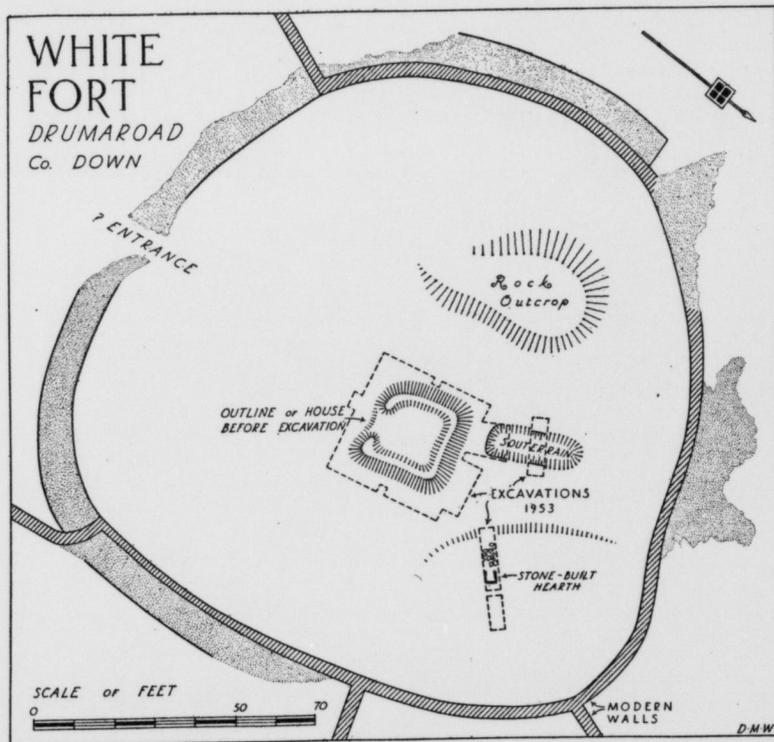


FIG. 2

of which lie the tumbled stones of the original structure, no doubt follows the course of its inner face. Where so much destruction has occurred, the certain identification of an entrance is impossible but there is a ragged gap, 8-9 feet wide, in the cashel wall on the south and the natural, consequently the easiest, approach to the site is certainly from this direction.

The foundation, the excavation of which forms the subject of this report, was situated more or less centrally within the area of the cashel, sheltered from the west by a rock outcrop. It comprised a platform, about 25 feet square, with rounded corners, raised about a foot above the general level of the interior of the cashel, the edge of the platform marked by a low, spread bank, which was continuous save for a gap mid-way in the south side. To the north was a shallow, reed-filled depression, about 9 feet in width, situated west of, and obliquely to the north-south axis of the platform, which extended to within 5 feet of the platform and was about 24 feet in total length. When first visited, the platform was considered to represent the foundation of a structure, probably a house of the cashel period, the gap in the bank on the south suggesting the site of the entrance, while the depression on the north indicated the position of a filled-in souterrain.* Subsequent excavation confirmed these tentative interpretations.

The work described was carried out as part of the programme of excavation in Co. Down by the Archæological Survey of Northern Ireland, and the drawings and photographs are reproduced by permission of the Ministry of Finance.

THE EXCAVATION.

Excavation showed that the house was of two periods of construction, and while it proved impossible to obtain full details of the primary structure a complete plan of the secondary building was recovered. At the same time, it should be pointed out that no evidence was forthcoming to demonstrate the relationship of the souterrain-trench to either, or both, phases of house construction; for this reason, the building periods of the house will be described in chronological sequence, leaving the souterrain-trench for separate description thereafter.

PRE-HOUSE OCCUPATION. Sealed beneath the primary make-up of the house was an oval pit, 3' 6" long by 2' 0" wide, excavated to a depth of 1'-1' 3" into the natural boulder-clay. The flat bottom of the pit was partially paved with flat stones and covered by a deposit of charcoal, above which the pit was filled by loose sandy till up to the natural surface. A few sherds of pottery, indistinguishable in character from those associated with the occupation of the house, were found in the charcoal layer.

This pit presumably served as a cooking-hole and its presence indicates that, in strict point of time, the superimposed house cannot be considered a primary feature of the cashel occupation.

*The use of the term souterrain is not intended to imply the original existence of a functional structure; it will be suggested that although the preliminary excavation work was carried out, the construction of a souterrain was not completed. The term, souterrain-trench, may better be employed, therefore, in the following pages.

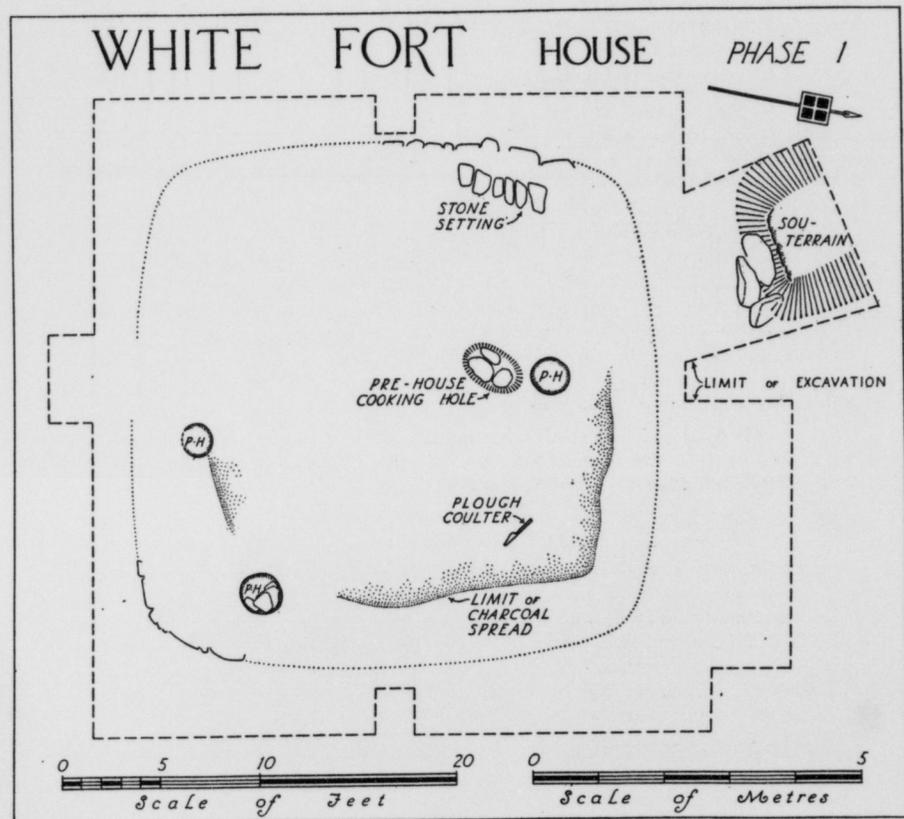


FIG. 3

THE HOUSE, PHASE I. Over an area about 25 feet square a platform, averaging a foot in height and tailing off at the edges, composed of very loose gravelly-till, was thrown up to provide a foundation for the house (fig. 3). Overlying the surface, but not, save at one point, extending to the limits of the platform, was a considerable deposit of charcoal, including carbonized sticks of hazel and ash.*

*Kindly identified by Mrs. F. L. Balfour-Browne of the Department of Botany, British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

containing numerous potsherds and an iron object which can be identified as a plough coulter. Where definable, notably on the north-east, the edge of this deposit has been indicated on the plan and it will be seen to terminate abruptly 2-4 feet from, and roughly parallel to, the edge of the platform. Midway along the west side of the platform, however, the charcoal deposit extended as far as, and even somewhat beyond, the edge of the gravelly-till make-up (Section, fig. 5), while immediately to the north, the make-up tailed out at a point where a number of flat stones had been set, roughly in line, on the natural surface.

Associated with the charcoal deposit were three post-holes, two, on south and south-east, set at the limit of the deposit, the other, on the north, placed 2 feet within its edge. As they stand these post-holes form no intelligible plan; but since they were excavated into the remarkably loose make-up of the platform and only recognisable by the presence of a little charcoal and, in two cases, by packing stones in the filling, further post-holes may well have eluded detection. The post-holes varied from 1' 6"-2' 2" in diameter and from 1' 3"-1' 6" in depth, having fairly vertical sides and a slightly dished bottom; they were filled with loose till, similar in character to the material of the platform.

Although the evidence is insufficient to determine the nature of the superstructure of the building, the limits of the occupation floor, as indicated by the charcoal deposit, suggest that the structure was square in plan, while the extension of the same deposit at the mid-point of the west side may indicate the presence here of an entrance. Whether the central stone-built hearth, present in the house of phase 2, was already in existence during the early period cannot be safely determined; this was probably the case, for the charcoal deposit extended up to the stone surround, but even so, the hearth may be a later insertion. In the circumstances, this feature may best be described in connection with the house of phase 2.

THE HOUSE, PHASE 2. Owing to the loose nature of the gravelly-till make-up, the material of the platform would in time tend to spread, and it was no doubt to arrest any such movement that a stone curb, following the outline of the foundation, was added during the reconstruction of the house (fig. 4). There seems little reason to doubt that this revetment was a secondary feature, for the curb-stones actually overlay the charcoal spread of phase 1 where it extended beyond the platform mid-way on the west side (Section, fig. 5). The revetment, which was composed of fair-sized boulders or split stones, had for the most part been robbed away, but a short length, standing a single stone-course in height and built to a slightly convex face, remained on the west side of the platform, while the rounded south-east angle (pl. VIII) was fortunately likewise preserved. As reconstructed in the drawing, the revetment must have enclosed an area not less than 26 feet square, with convex sides and rounded angles.

The floor of the house was paved with flat stones 2-3" in thickness, some of quite large size, bedded directly on the charcoal spread of phase 1. Much of the paving had been removed, exposing the underlying occupation layer, but it was fairly well preserved over the west half of the house and significant patches remained at the north-east and south-east corners. It was therefore possible to make a reasonably accurate estimate of the original extent of the paving, which must have covered an area, square in shape, with slightly convex sides, measuring about



(a) White Fort: house phase 2. Revetment at S.E. angle.



(b) White Fort: house phase 2. Entrance from S.W. The survey poles stand in the sockets for the door frames.

PLATE VIII

18 feet from north-south, and 17 feet from east-west; the charcoal spread of phase 1 extended beyond the limits of the paving, indicating a reduction of the internal floor space in the house of phase 2.

The distance between the edge of the paving and the face of the revetment varied from 4 feet on the west to 6 feet at the south-east angle, these being the only places where both features were preserved and precise dimensions obtainable; but a similar gap between paving and revetment must originally have existed on all sides of the platform and the space between can only have been occupied by the walls of the house. As already mentioned, the platform was edged by a low bank, complete save for a gap in the centre of the south side, which proved on excavation to be composed of clean, fine sandy till, nowhere more than a foot in height and sloping down on the inside to extend as a thin layer right across the platform. This deposit of till must represent the collapsed and weathered material of the mud walls of the house; whether or not the walls occupied the full width between the edge of the paving and the revetment, as indicated by stippling on the plan, is uncertain.

Centrally placed in the south side, where the gap occurred in the bank surrounding the platform, the entrance to the house was located. Here, midway in the thickness of the wall, were two post-holes to support the wooden door frame, separated by a stone sill, placed transversely to the axis of the entrance (pl. VIII). The post-holes were stone-lined, 3' 6" apart, rectangular in shape and both 18 inches in depth below the level of the sill; that on the east (which was partially cut into the adjacent phase 1 post-hole) measured 8 x 5 inches, that on the west measured 9 x 6 inches. The stone paving of the interior had extended up to the door-sill, although only a single stone remained *in situ*; outside, fronting the entrance, was a rectangular area of paving, about 4 feet wide, projecting for a distance of 2' 6" beyond the outer face of the wall. The door-sill was placed about 6 inches lower than the internal floor level, permitting the door to close against the edge of the internal paving and thus preventing rain from driving in beneath the door; the external paving was in turn placed slightly lower than the surface of the sill, so that two shallow steps had to be mounted when entering the house.

The roof of the house was supported internally by four free-standing posts, the stone-lined holes for which, about 10 feet apart, were disposed to form the corners of a square. The post-holes, 1' 6"-2' in depth below the paved floor, were rectilinear in plan, measuring 10 x 10 inches on the north-west, 15 x 12 inches on the north-east, 11 x 10 inches on the south-east and 7 x 6 inches on the south-west. The holes were found to be filled by loose, fine sandy till, derived from the collapsed material of the walls.

The only other feature to be noticed was a stone-lined hearth, measuring 3' x 2' 6", irregular in outline, which occupied the centre of the house. It was sunk 6 inches below floor level and filled with burnt soil and charcoal.

Outside the house, especially on the south adjacent to the entrance, a thin scatter of occupation rubbish overlay the natural surface; it extended up to, but not under, the stone revetment and is therefore presumably an accumulation of phase 2. This deposit contained numerous potsherds, a glass bead and a fragment of a shale bracelet, and two broken quernstones lay alongside the stone paving in front of the door.

THE SOUTERRAIN-TRENCH. The souterrain-trench was explored by means of two cuttings, one exposing the original end of the excavation 5 feet north of the house, the other situated half-way along its length. At its south end, the trench assumed a broad, trough-like section, with sloping sides and flat bottom (fig. 6, section B.B.) excavated into the natural boulder clay and cut partially through the underlying rock; further north its profile was less regular (section A.A.). The excavation varied from 2' 6"–3' 3" in depth below the present surface. The filling of the trench was consistent; over the bottom and extending some distance up the sides was a greyish-brown peaty-soil, whence came the only find, an unidentifiable fragment of iron, above which the excavation was completely choked with loose stone rubble and soil.

The stone rubble clearly did not result from the collapse of masonry which originally had served to revet the sides of a souterrain. In the first instance, no standing masonry was observed *in situ*; more significantly, the presence of the initial peaty layer (itself suggestive of accumulation in an open excavation), which extended without interruption across the floor and partially up the sides of the hollow, precludes the possibility. These conditions, and the irregular and shallow nature of the souterrain-trench, strongly suggest that the work of construction was never completed and that the excavation never served the purpose for which originally it was designed. It presumably remained as an open excavation for some time, sufficiently long to permit the formation of the peaty layer in the bottom, and was then deliberately filled with stone rubble and soil.

Although it was not possible to relate the souterrain-trench directly with either phase of house construction, it may be suggested that it was in existence from the first. It is likely that some, at least, of the spoil excavated from the trench provided the material for the raised platform on which the houses were placed; the siting of the trench, moreover, must surely indicate that the excavation did not serve as a mere quarry for the platform make-up, and that the original intention was to

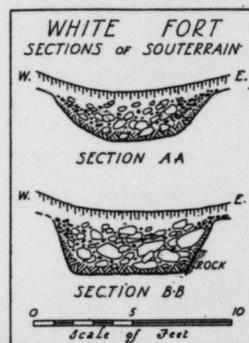


FIG. 6

provide a souterrain adjacent to the houses. There was nothing to suggest why this project was abandoned.

The possibility that the souterrain had been completed with timber roof and timber-revetted sides should perhaps be considered here. Had this been the case, it would seem necessary for the space between the revetment timbers and the sloping sides of the excavation to be packed with material, most probably by spoil removed from the trench. On the decay, or removal, of the timbering, this material would presumably collapse into the trench and must have appeared beneath the peaty layer that accumulated following the abandonment of the structure. This, of course, was not the case, and it must be accepted that a timber-constructed souterrain is unlikely to have occupied the excavation.

OTHER INDICATIONS OF OCCUPATION. To the north-east of the souterrain-trench the ground surface rises sharply in an abrupt scarp, and a trial cutting here, indicated in fig. 2, revealed further evidence of occupation. The upper edge of the scarp was marked by a few stones set on edge, from which a stone paving, bedded on the surface of the natural till, extended up to a rectangular stone-built hearth. The hearth measured 3' x 1' 6", being enclosed on three sides by stones on edge standing to a height of 10 inches, and open towards the south-west. The hearth showed considerable signs of burning and black occupation earth, containing numerous potsherds, occupied the interstices of the stone paving.

It is not clear whether the hearth represents an open-air cooking place or whether it and the adjacent paving had been covered. Further work in this area might profitably be undertaken at some future date.

NOTE ON THE RECONSTRUCTION.

A reconstruction of the house, phase 2, based on the ground plan, fig. 4, has been attempted in fig. 7. It is obviously not the only possible reconstruction, but it appears to me to meet best the conditions imposed by the known ground plan. A rather similar problem of reconstruction was presented by the circular house 1 at the Iron Age farmstead at Little Woodbury, in Wiltshire (*Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, 6 (1940), 84-9); here a design, fundamentally the same as that proposed for the White Fort house, was rejected* in favour of an alternative that in my opinion invites serious difficulties of roof construction.

In the White Fort house the space between the revetment of the platform and the stone paving of the interior, the width of which is known to vary from 4-6 feet, must have been occupied by the walls of the building, which were quite clearly composed of clay. In surviving mud-walled houses, the walls vary greatly in thickness but are said to average 20-30" in width (E. E. Evans, *Irish Heritage* (Dundalk; 2nd Ed., 1942), 61); the space available for the walling of the present structure is therefore excessive, consequently I have assumed the walls to be no more than 20 inches thick, set back slightly from the face of the stone revetment with a low bench, of one build and of the same material, on the inside. The bench, from 2-3 feet in width, would have served as a seat, or for sleeping. The walling

*But now see J. S. P. Bradford in Singer, *A History of Technology*, I (1954), 318.

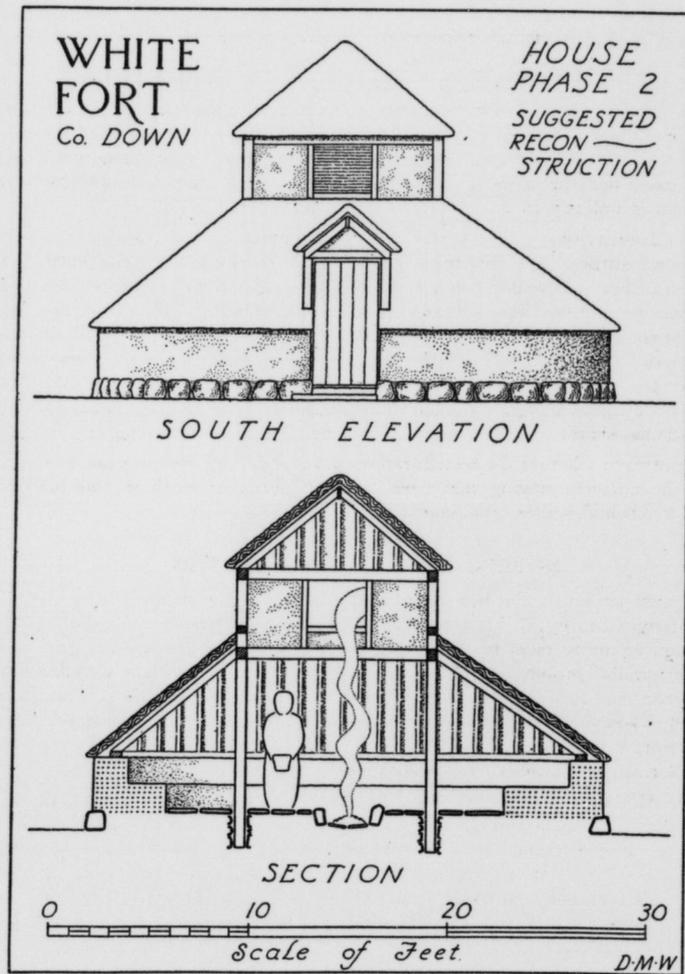


FIG. 7

is shown of little height; the amount of material, identifiable as wall collapse, found during excavation was limited and, even allowing for erosion, cannot be reconstituted as a wall much greater in bulk than that indicated.

The central post-holes, four in number, would support timber posts, in one case no greater than 7 x 6 inches, the others 10 x 10 inches, or more; framed together and sunk to a depth of 1' 9"-2' below the floor, a sound construction could be achieved. I have shown the posts framed at a height of 7' 6" above floor level, to provide adequate, but not excessive, headroom, and continued up to form a clear-storey, 12 feet in total height, the uprights again framed together at the top.

The roofing material may have been of thatch or of sods, or of both; I have elected to follow the construction still surviving in the district, of thatch laid on sods, or "scraws." The textbook requirement for a thatched roof in the British Isles is a pitch, or inclination, of 45° (G. A. Mitchell, *Building Construction* (15th Ed., 1943), 262), but an examination of numerous roofs of this material in Co. Down indicates a pitch more often varying from 40°-45°, and frequently less. In the reconstruction the pitch is indicated at 40°; this would permit a reduction in the scantling of the rafters, here shown rising from a wall-plate to the lower framing of the central posts. The rafter feet, however, may well have been merely embedded in the top of the wall, a practice still frequently to be seen.

I have shown the clearstorey pierced by openings, designed to permit the escape of smoke from the hearth and to admit light to the interior. Such openings could have been fitted with louvres, or entirely closed against the weather by means of shutters; the high standard of wood-working in evidence, e.g., on crannog sites of the period to which White Fort probably belongs, encourages a belief in the quality and finish of the present building. The clearstorey can have been covered by a roof of pyramidal shape, or by a pitched roof with closed gables; either form is possible.

THE FINDS.

Pottery (fig. 8). No complete vessels were recovered although the total number of sherds found was considerable. The pottery consists of fragments of the so-called "souterrain ware" and no distinction in the character of the paste or finish can be made between the pottery from the pre-house cooking pit and the make-up of the house foundation or the material associated with either phase of house-construction. All is uniformly hand-made, of coarse, medium-hard clay, charged with grits and sometimes incorporating stone fragments up to half an inch across; it is reddish-brown in colour but usually blackened through use and often, particularly on the underside of the base, shows impressions of fibrous material, straw or chopped grass which had adhered to the surface of the pot and burnt out in firing. Simple flat or rounded rims (nos. 1-4) occur at all levels and bases (nos. 9-14) are flat with rounded or keeled angle. A few sherds (nos. 6-8) show a plain cordon applied to the upper part of the pot close to the rim; these occur associated with both phases of house-construction but absence from earlier levels may be merely fortuitous.

In general the pottery resembles that from rath 1 at Ballywillwill (*Ulster J. Archaeol.*, 15 (1952), figs. 7, 8) but a single sherd (no. 5) from the floor of the earlier house, with an everted rim bevelled on the inside, can be matched from rath 2 (*ibid.*, fig. 9; 1-2). So little is yet known concerning the development of souterrain ware and the range of date of this class of pottery is apparently so wide, however, that the contemporaneity of the Ballywillwill and White Fort sites can hardly be argued on the basis of pottery finds alone. It is therefore all the more disappointing that other material, susceptible of dating within more precise limits, was not recovered.

Iron (fig. 9). A complete iron plough-coulter, 22½ ins. in length, was found lying on the floor of house 1. The shank, 13 ins. long and of rectangular cross-section, expands into a blade 3¾ ins. in maximum width, of triangular cross-section.

Irish plough-coulters of early medieval times have been discussed by Duignan, *J. Roy. Soc. Antiq. Ireland*, 74 (1944), 136.

Glass (fig. 10; 1). Annular bead of clear green glass and opaque yellow paste. This bead was presumably made by fusion of four simple cable beads, each individual bead produced by twisting together threads of differently coloured glass. This type of bead is usually of zigzag form, in which separate cables appear to run in alternating directions; in the present example the twist of the cables is in the same direction.

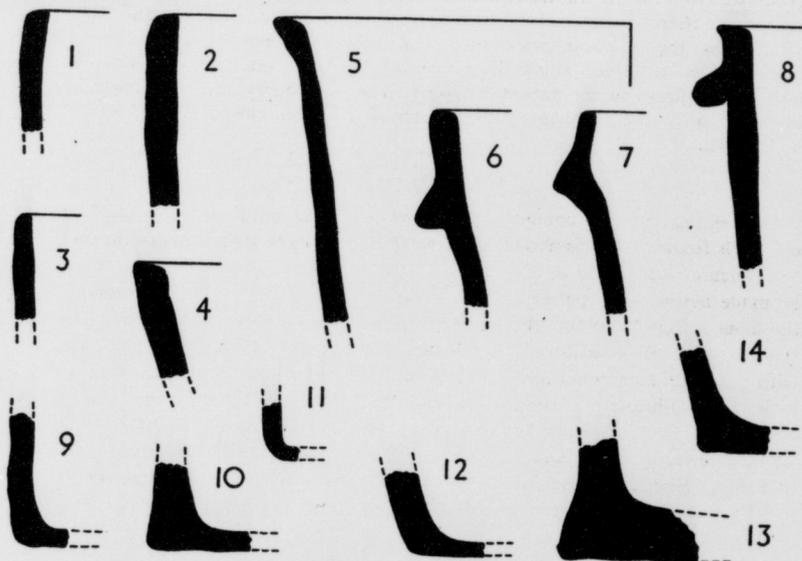


FIG. 8. White Fort: Pottery ($\times \frac{1}{2}$).

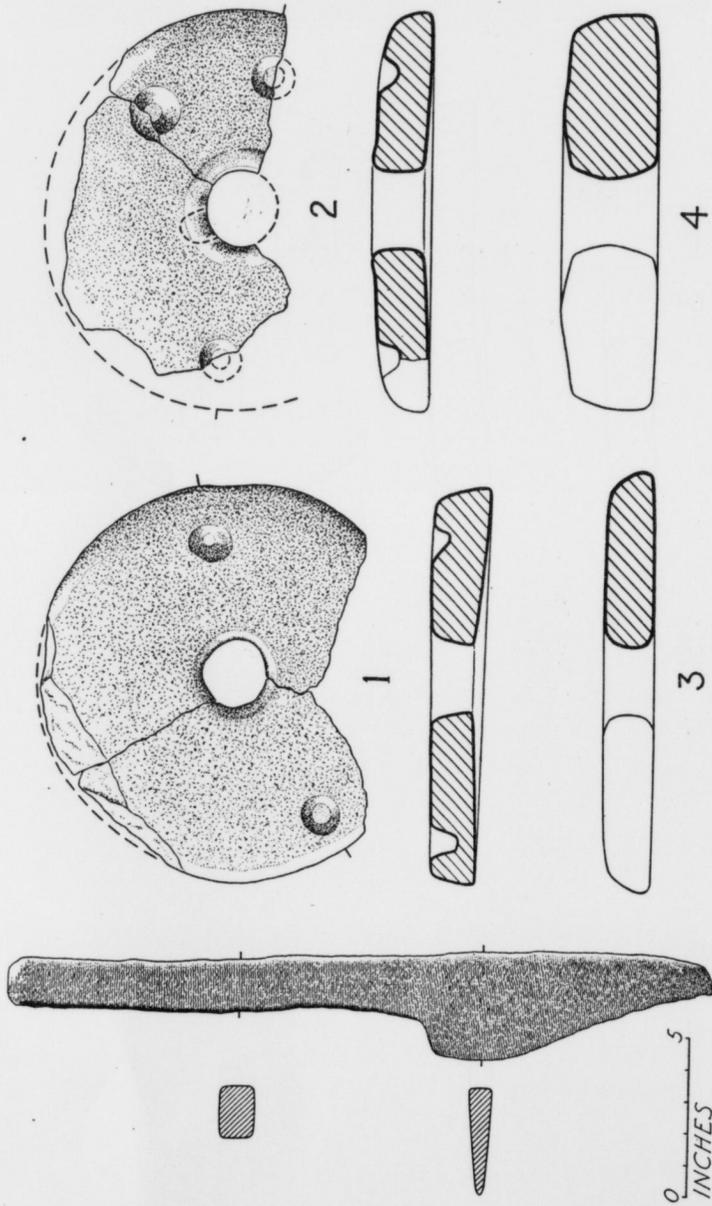


FIG. 9
White Fort: Iron plough-coulter.

FIG. 11. White Fort: Quern stones (x4).

Cable beads have been discussed by Hencken (Lagore Crannog: *Proc. Roy. Irish Acad.*, 53C, 137); the type does not seem to be closely datable but occurs not infrequently on sites of the second half of the first millennium A.D.

Jet or Lignite (fig. 10; 2). Small fragment of bracelet, diameter about 3 ins.

Spindle-whorl (fig. 10; 3). Disc of Silurian shale, about 1 in. in diameter, with asymmetrical perforation.

Flint (fig. 10; 4, 5). A number of flint flakes were found associated with the house occupation levels; of these, two blades show retouching, one (no. 4) across the distal end, the other (no. 5) down both edges, presumably for use as scrapers.

Quern Stones (fig. 11). A number of fragments of the upper stones of rotary querns were found during the excavation, no. 4 in the make-up of the house platform, no. 1 lying outside the house adjacent to the entrance on the south and nos. 2 and 3 in the collapsed material of the structure. Nos. 1-3 can therefore be associated with the house, phase 2.

The querns have been examined, as hand specimens, by Dr. J. Preston, Department of Geology, Queen's University, who kindly reports that in every case the stone can be identified as Mourne granite, no. 2 (U107) of fine-grained, no. 1 (U106) of medium- to coarse-grained and nos. 3 and 4 (U104; U105) of coarse-grained rock. In two cases the upper surface of the quern exhibits circular sinkings, two on no. 1 and three on no. 2; the latter also has a low moulding enclosing the central opening and retains on the underside a slot to accommodate the rynd.

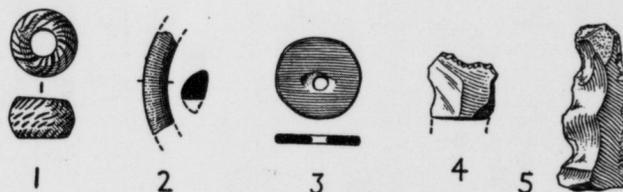


FIG. 10. White Fort: Small finds ($\times \frac{1}{2}$).

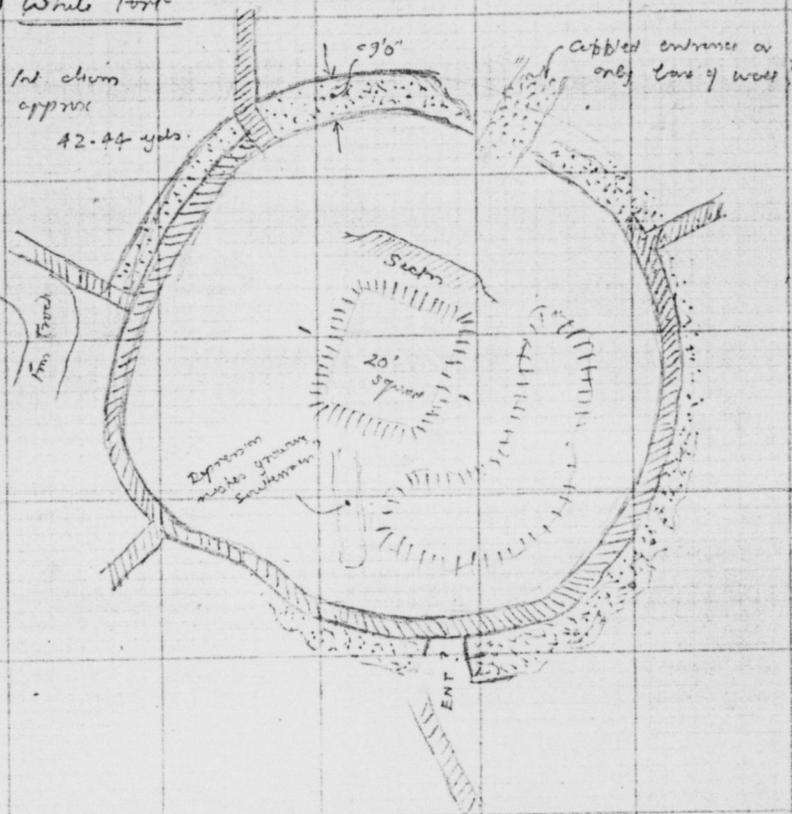
CONCLUSION.

The excavation was successful in obtaining the complete layout of a small house occupied (presumably) by a single family engaged in agriculture during the latter part of the first millennium A.D. The plan stands in marked contrast with contemporary structures, such as the large circular building occupying the whole of the rath at Lissue, Co. Antrim (*Ulster J. Archaeol.*, 10 (1947), 30-58), or the small circular or oval house centrally placed within a rath at Ballyfounder, in the Upper Ards, excavated by the writer in 1955; such diversity of layout emphasizes the complexities revealed by recent work on Dark Age habitation sites in Ulster. It is of interest to note that at White Fort a plan, incorporating rounded corners, so well-suited to dry-wall construction and found, e.g., at Leacanabuaile, Co. Cork (*J. Cork Hist. Archaeol. Soc.*, 46 (1941), 85), has been followed without utilizing the abundant source of stone ready to hand.

⑥ Camropt Fort \times
 30 yds diam, circular ~~foot~~ area, Bank deep towards east.
 not rising much above level of inside, + rather burrowed by rabbits. Signs of stone construction in bank. Entrance on E?
 West of area clear of bushes.



⑦ White Fort



Down 36:8
SH 7/

Keeper of Antiquities
Ulster Museum
Botanic Gardens
BELFAST
BT9 5AB

19 March 1986

Dear Mr Flanagan

You approached me recently seeking our agreement to Brian Scott doing some analysis of the White Fort, Drumaroad, coulter. I understand that this will involve cutting a small piece from the cutting edge and making this up in resin, suitably coloured.

We are happy to agree to this work being done and would simply ask for a copy of the report for our records.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely

AH

A E HAMLIN (DR)

PMcC

To add to SH 7/ Down 36:8.
Please AH



Ulster Museum

Botanic Gardens Belfast
Belfast BT9 5AB 0232 6682515

24 : iii : 1986

Dr Ann Hamlin
Historic Monuments & Buildings Branch
Dept. of the Environment for N. Ireland
66 Balmoral Avenue
BELFAST
BT9 6NY

Dear Dr. Hamlin,

Thank you for your formal grant of permission for Dr. Scott to sample the iron plough-coulter from White Fort, Drumaroad. I have informed him and have requested him to supply you with a copy of the report when it is ready.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. N. W. Flanagan', written in a cursive style.

Laurence N.W. Flanagan
Keeper of Antiquities