



Northern Ireland
Environment
Agency

NISMR: Main Details

SMR Number DOW 045:013
Townland SAINT JOHNS POINT
Edited Type CHURCH & GRAVEYARD, site of MONASTERY with BULLAUN & HOLY WELL: ST. JOHN'S POINT CHURCH
Grid Ref J52803386
Council DOWN
Protection State Care



Site Summary Small pre-romanesque church with sloping jambs, antae to E & W, & S window, almost certainly on site of earlier wooden church. May mark site of early monastery associated with Eoan (John) son of Cairland. Med chapel. The site was excavated in 1978& burials were found under N wall, but no radial arrangement as previously claimed. There is a holy well, St.John's Well at the roadside, & a bullaun stone nearby .See SM7 for further details, excavation report,etc.

Last Described Described By

Map IG257

Altitude

Site Name ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ST JOHN'S POINT CHURCH, JOHN'S WELL, ST. JOHN'S WELL

Parish RATHMULLAN

Barony

LECALE UPPER

Town

Other Ref

General Type ECCLESIASTICAL SITE

General Period

E.CHRIST.

Specific Type

Specific Period

CHURCH

E.CHRIST.

BULLAUN

E.CHRIST.

MONASTERY

E.CHRIST.

GRAVEYARD

E.CHRIST.

HOLY WELL

E.CHRIST.

Land Use on Site

Land Use Around Site

State Care Monument

Threats

Condition

SUBSTANTIAL REMAINS

NONE APPARENT

Input By

Date

Last Edited By

Date

Print

TD SAINT JOHN'S POINT	CO DOWN	PARISH RATHMULLAN	O.S. 45 : 13
St John's church (pre-Romanesque), holy well + bullaun.			J 52803386

Graves - Wakeman reported radially arranged graves, but evidence for this unknown

Bullaun near well at roadside (St. John's Well)

1. 'John's Well'
- 2-4. 'St. John's Church'
5. 'St. John's Well'

NFB small excavation at church 1977 in connection with consolidation work.

Field Visits	Files 547. Plans
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Scheduled	Listed	State Care	Photos
U.T.A. (I) 2, 1854.	The Archdeacon of Down	Ancient Chapel	✓ St. John's Point' 22-25.

Ref: 66870 (M 12/75 TP 1744) 139, 271.

Reives DCD 33-4, 163-4.

O'hawery (1879) I. 142-5

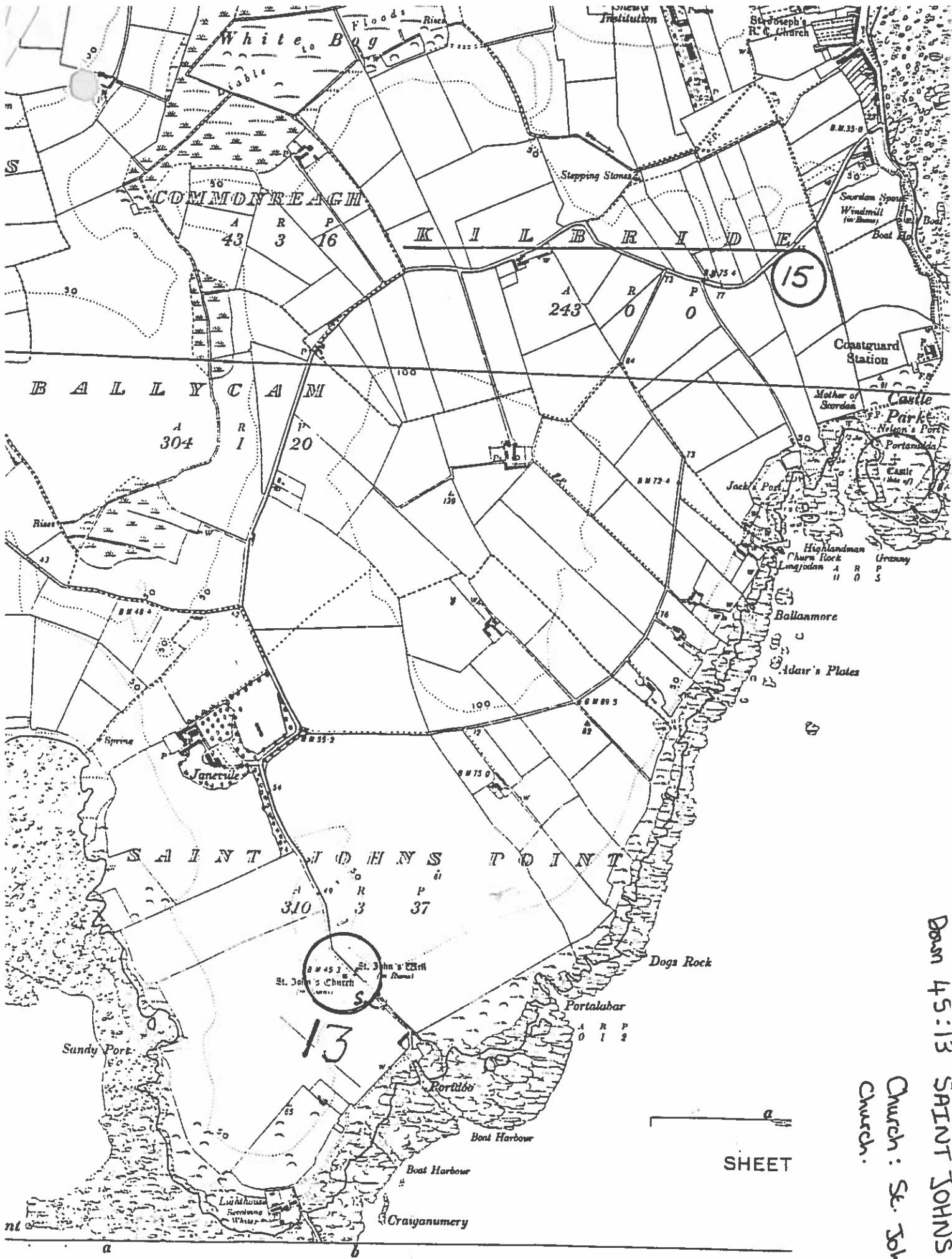
Wakeman, Handbook of Irish Antiquities (3rd ed, 1903) 331

Co. Down Survey. 295.6 fig 193 pl. 84.

Hamlin (1976) 688-9

Well is no. 472 in OSFR.

Brannon USA 43 (1980) 59-64



Down 45:13 SAINT JOHN'S POINT

Church: St. John's Point Church.

suggests scraped with point, not cut with chisel. Slab about 2 ft 6 ins by 1 ft 6 ins. Presumably destroyed, or entirely obliterated by pounding. Clearly Early Christian memorial stone, but original provenance unknown. Not impossible rath and souterrain marked early ecclesiastical site, but equally stone could have been brought from elsewhere. No certainly early church very near (Downpatrick, Inch, Tyrella 4 m., Maghera 5½ m.).

Dubourdieu 1802, 277-8; Ferguson, S., 'On Some Evidence Touching the Age of Rath-Caves' in P.R.I.A., 2nd ser., I (1870-4), 129-36; Petrie 1878, 72; O'Laverty 1878, 91-2 (believed C. of I. church occupies earlier church site); Crawford 1912, 225; Macalister 1949, 121-2; Co. Down 1966, 116.

175.

ST JOHN'S POINT townland, Rathmullan parish. O.S. 45;

J/527338. At 17 Aug. M.T. has Eoán son of Cairlánd, unlocated, but in M.G. glossed 'from Tech Eoin in Ulster', also M.D. Stechian among lands granted by Malachy to abbey of Down about 1183. Chapel of Styoun listed 1306. Ruined church in state care. SITE: about 50 ft on gentle E. and SE.-ward slope to shore, m. away.

MATERIAL: No enclosure visible or reported. 1) CHURCH (Pls 80-1 and Fig. 55). Harris wrote (1744, 271) 'the Walls of [St John's] are yet intire', but Reeves lamented E. wall demolished to foundations (1847, 34). Small, rectangular, internally 20 ft by 13 ft, with antae at E. and W. Walls 2 ft 3 ins thick on rough internal and external offset, carefully fitted split stone, larger below, smaller above (Pl. 81). Quoins of dressed granite. W. gable largely intact with steep pitch. Tall W. door (Pl. 80, lower), markedly inclining jambs, some granite quoins, granite

lintel with relieving lintel of shale above. Small window
s. wall with inclining jambs and Reeves reported formerly
flat, lintelled head. He recalled E. window triangular head
of two inclining flags (1847, 34).

ii) CEMETERY. Wakeman: '... in the cemetery adjoining the
very early church at Saint John's Point ... the graves are
arranged in the form of a circle, to the centre of which the
feet converge' (1903, 331). I have been unable to discover
authority for this and am reluctant to believe bald statement
without evidence.

iii) BULLAUN (Pl. 81) E. of church, close to well at roadside,
just outside (modern) enclosure wall. Boulder, rectangular
with rounded corners, 2 ft N.-S. by 1 ft 8 ins E.-W., 7 ins
high visible. Hollow 1 ft 9½ ins N.-S. by 1 ft 1 in. and
maximum depth 5 ins. Long sides steep slope, ends more
gradual. At N. end hollow runs out to edge of stone.
Several deep scores along long axis of hollow (knife
sharpening?). No associated traditions. O'Laverty reports
holy water font from church moved to R.C. chapel at Rossglass.
I did not see this.

iv) WELL. Marked by O.S. as 'St John's Well', close to
bullaun at roadside E. of church. No reports of special
observances.

Harris 1744, 139, 271; Reeves 1847, 33-4, 163-4;
Archdeacon of Down 'Notice on the Ancient Chapel on St John's
Point, in the County of Down' in U.J.A. 2 (1854), 22-5;
O'Laverty 1878, 142-5; Co. Down 1966, 295-6, fig. 193, pl. 84.
176.

TAMLACHT, Kilkeel parish, Lisnaree townland. O.S. 55;

1/244146. In M.T. at 1 April 'Tuan mac Cairill from

Tamlachta [in] Bairche also M.O. (gloss only), M.G. and M.D.

also at 18 Oct. 'Moluanen of Tamlachta' in M.T. and 'of

Tamlacht in Bairche gloss in M.G., also M.D.



the intersections of arms with shaft and head and, with one exception, the outline is emphasized by a groove (Lawlor, 129-31, plate VIII).

(2) Stone with incised design of intersecting circles, each enclosing a six-pointed star or marigold motif, all set within a circular border (Lawlor, 131, fig. 4).

(3) Fragment of foliated head probably of medieval coffin-lid.

(4) Stone with spoon-shaped mould, $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length (Lawlor, plate X, 19).

(5) Fragments of a sundial, now restored and re-erected at S.W. corner of church (plate 78). It consisted of a shaft, 6 in. thick and 14 in. wide; the main face is panelled and bears a fret pattern, framed by multiple roll-mouldings, some with fillets, at the arrises; the sides of the shaft have a diagonal-fret enrichment. At the head of the main face is a heater-shaped, semicircular panel with moulded surround; it has a socket for the gnomon (now restored) from which radiate nine ribs, five with stirrup-shaped, the intermediate ones with ringed terminals.

For small finds from the 1922-4 excavations, see p. 139, plates 79-81.

914. RAHOLP CHURCH (fig. 192)

O.S. 31. Grid ref. 540479

A small church probably of the Early Christian period stands on a natural outcrop of rock which has apparently been artificially heightened and in part revetted in dry-stone masonry. St. Tassach, who, according to the 8th century Hymn of St. Fiacc, ministered the last communion to the dying St. Patrick, is styled Bishop of *Ráth Colpa* (Raholp) in later sources such as the 11th century glosses to this Hymn (J. F. Kenney, *Sources Early Hist. Ireland* (1929), 340; J. Ryan, *Irish Monasticism* (1931), 79).

The church is a gabled structure, measuring 27 ft. 9 in. by 16 ft. 8 in. internally, with walls of rubble bonded in clay 2 ft. 8 in. thick, rising from a projecting footing course; the building was excavated and extensively restored in 1915. The W. door, despite some rebuilding, is an original feature, 5 ft. 8 in. high, measuring 2 ft. $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. between jambs at the base and 3 in. less beneath the lintel. The E. window, flanked either side by small wall-cupboards, has been restored but retains an original lintel bearing three incised equal-arm crosses on the inner face. There are doors, placed opposite each other, on N. and S. and a small oblique loop in the N. wall close to the N.E. angle, all probably insertions of the Middle Ages or later; the N. door is probably the earlier, since it was found blocked at the time of the restoration, and the S. door is said to have had a semicircular head. The stone-

built altar-table has been restored on old foundations; it overlies a stone-built grave and other burials were found within the church. A number of stones bearing simple pecked or incised crosses or other ornament found during the restoration, are preserved within the building; also a small 13th century coffin-lid, 2 ft. 1 in. long, tapering from 12 to 8 in. in width, bearing a foliated cross at the broader end. A stone bearing a pecked cross is set into the rebuilt apex of the W. gable.

To the E. of the church is the stone base for a cross, now moved from its original position.

J. Roy. Soc. Antiq. Ireland, 46 (1917), 123-30.

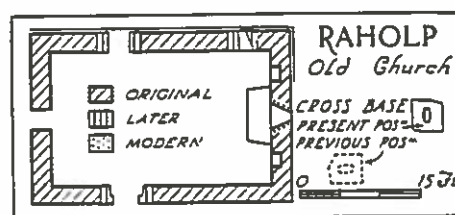


FIG. 192 (No. 914).

915. ST. JOHN'S POINT CHURCH (fig. 193; plate 84)

O.S. 45. Grid ref. 527338

This church seems to have been granted by Malachi, bishop of Down, to the abbey of St. Patrick (c. 1183), and appears in other medieval sources (W. Reeves, *Eccles. Antiq.*, 33-4, 163-4).

The church is a small rectangular gabled building, with *antae* on E. and W., measuring about 20 ft. by 13 ft. internally with walls 2 ft. 3 in. thick. The structure stands on rough projecting footings and is built of split-stone with quoins and dressings of squared granite with some split-stone. The lower walling is of larger masonry; on the exterior of the N. wall, for example, there are three courses in a height of 2 ft. 9 in. at the base, and four to five courses in a height of a foot above. On this side is a large, vertically bedded stone, 2 ft. 11 in. high and 2 ft. 6 in. long, set 1 ft. 1 in. into the wall. The W. gable with steep roof-angle (about 55°) survives to a height of 17 ft., the side walls to a maximum height of 9 ft.; the E. wall has been destroyed but the footings survive. The W. entrance is 5 ft. 6 in. high, 2 ft. 9 in. between jambs at the base, which incline inwards to a width of 2 ft. 2 in. below the squared granite lintel, which has a supplementary split-stone lintel immediately above. In the S. wall is a small splayed light, now headless; it survives for a height of 2 ft. 6 in., with jambs inclining from a width of 1 ft. 9 in. at sill level to 1 ft. 5 in. at the head.

Reeves (*Eccles. Antiq.*, 34, note) describes the S. light as 'surmounted by a single flag instead of an

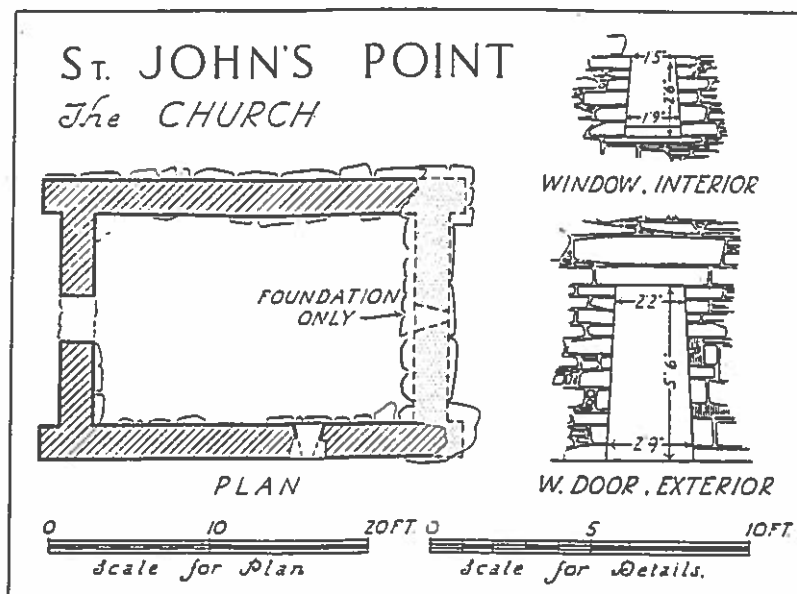


FIG. 193 (No. 915).

arch' and also mentions the E. window 'as having been small and narrow, terminating above in an acute angle, formed by the inclination of two flags'. All four walls were standing in Harris's time (*State of Co. Down* (1744), 271).

There is no adequate evidence by which to date this structure, but it is not likely to be earlier than the 8th century and it might be even several centuries later. It is said to have had a cemetery with graves arranged radially (W. F. Wakeman, *Handbook of Irish Antiquities* (3rd ed. 1903), 331; *Ulster J. Archaeol.* 2 (1854), 24-5; for J. Preston's observations on use of granite here, see in E. M. Jope, *The Rath at Ballymacash* (H.M.S.O. forthcoming)).

916. STRANGFORD LOUGH; CHAPEL ISLAND [11.11]
O.S. 11. Grid ref. 554672

Church and earthwork, on Chapel Island, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile off the E. coast of Strangford Lough, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles W. of Grey Abbey village. The island, which is accessible on foot at low tide, is long and narrow, with a central ridge which rises at the highest point just over the 50 ft. contour, and descends steeply on the flanks to a coastal strip of varying width. The church is sited at the S. end of the ridge, on the edge of the E. facing scarp; it is 29 ft. by $14\frac{1}{2}$ ft. internally, built of boulders said to have been originally bonded in clay but now pointed in cement-mortar. The walls are no more than grass-grown foundations, surviving to a maximum height of 4 ft. on the E.; the E. wall is 3 ft. 6 in., the N. wall 3 ft. wide. In the N.W. angle of the building

is an enclosure, 6 ft. 9 in. by 4 ft. 5 in., of large stone slabs on edge, one of which is 4 ft. 9 in. in length. The church was excavated in 1925 (H. C. Lawlor, in *Prelim. Survey Anc. Mons N.I.* (1940), 88) and the lower jambs of a door were reputedly found on the S. side; the opening is no longer traceable. Pottery 'attributed to the early centuries of the Christian period' (including 'one fragment of early wheel-turned ware') was found during the digging but cannot now be traced; it may indicate a Dark Age settlement on the site which did not necessarily include the present church.

To the N. of the church and apparently associated with it, extending across the width of the ridge, is an earthwork about 36 ft. wide overall, comprising a bank 3 ft. high, of stone and earth construction and possibly stone revetted, and a ditch about 4 ft. deep. The present approach on foot to the island is by firm going to the N. end; the earthwork faces N. and was probably intended as an obstacle to an approach to the church along the ridge from this direction.

917. TEMPLE CORMICK (fig. 194).

O.S. 31. Grid ref. 566505

The remains of a small church of dry-built masonry, set within an enclosure wall, also of dry masonry. The church survives to a maximum height of 2 ft. 6 in. at the E. end. No traces of openings exist in the walls, so the surviving remnants are presumably all below threshold level. The very roughly coursed masonry is of split pieces of the local Silurian shales and grits with pinnings of the

the ground storey is S.W. by N.E., the thrust of the arch pressing against the turrets and the S.W. wall which is specially thickened to resist it. The date of this castle is probably between 1570 and 1600. It had three stories and is about 28 ft. high. Under Ministry of Finance surveillance (see note on p. 3). H.C.L.

Ardglass Town, Jordan's Castle

Close to the harbour. Down, Sh. 45, Plan 7, Tr. 6. The early history of this castle is obscure. In 1524 the Earl of Kildare leased the poundage of Ardglass to Harry Duff and Thomas Jordan of Drogheda. Simon Jordan, probably descended from Thomas, is said to have defended the castle against the O'Neills for three years, ending with its relief by Lord Deputy Mountjoy in 1601. The 18th-century historian, Harris, says that "it is most probable that Jordan's Castle was erected by one of that family, whose arms (a cross and three horseshoes) are fixed in a stone near the top." There are several other small castles of the same type in Ardglass, and there is some ground for the belief that they were the defensible residences and storehouses of merchants. In 1911 this castle was acquired by the late Mr. Francis Joseph Bigger of Belfast, who, in a very public-spirited manner, repaired the structure and made it available to visitors. Subsequently he used the castle for the storage and display of a collection of antiquities. On his death in 1926 the structure was presented by his executor, Dr. Joseph Bigger, to the State on condition that, with its contents, it should be preserved as an Ancient Monument.

The tower consists of four superimposed single chambers, each about 20 ft. by 13 ft. On the N. face are two rectangular projections, one containing a stone spiral stair, the other an inner closet at each level, those on the lower stages having outlets to the ground. Architecturally there is little evidence to give a definite date to the structure. The masonry is blue stone rubble with a little freestone in quoins and window jambs. Some of the window details suggest 15th century, but there has been so much reconstruction at these points that it is difficult to make any suggestions as to date. The chamber at the ground level is unfloored and the irregular surface of the outcropping rock may be seen. This may have been a storehouse. The main room is apparently that on the first floor, which contains its original stone floor supported on a pointed barrel vault. The floors on the second and third storeys are at the original levels but are of modern construction, with the beams going at right angles to the original direction. The concrete roof is also an addition. The wall tops retain their stone-flagged rampart walks and turrets; also a large aperture probably for pouring missiles or heated fluids on attackers. The turret to the N. W. contains a dove-cote, the nest-holes of which are contemporary with the main structure. The interest of the whole mainly lies in the preservation of the complete outer shell of a castle of this "peel tower" type, with many of its original internal features intact. In charge of the Ministry of Finance. Plate 31. H.G.L. Ed. T.F.O.R.

A.M.N.I.S.C. (1928), p. 21. *D. B. Quinn, Anglo-Irish Ulster in the Early Sixteenth Century*, in *P.B.N.H.P.S.*, 1933-4, p. 63.

St. John's Point td, Remains of Chapel

In a field on the W. side of the road leading from Killough to St. John's Point Lighthouse, from which it lies $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to N.N.E. Down, Sh. 45, Plan 14, Tr. 4. The ruin is ascribed to the 7th century. It is mentioned in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas, c. 1300. Its age is amply attested by its architectural features—the single-stone

lintel and the doorway narrowing from bottom to top. Only the N. and S. walls remain, together with the W. wall and gable. The E. wall fell a few years before 1846. The W. door is of very antique type—5 ft. 6 ins. high, narrowing from 2 ft. 9 ins. at bottom to 2 ft. 3 ins. at top, and crowned by a single-stone lintel. The external dimensions of the chapel were 24 ft. 6 ins. by 17 ft. 6 ins.; walls 9 ft. high and 2 ft. 2 ins. to 2 ft. 3 ins. thick. There is now only one small narrow window opening—that in the S. wall. This also narrows from 1 ft. 8 ins. at bottom to 1 ft. 4 ins. at top, and was formerly capped by a large single stone. There was a small and narrow window in the vanished E. gable, with a pointed top, formed by the meeting of two flagstones at an acute angle. In charge of the Ministry of Finance.

A.M.N.I.S.C. (1928), p. 24.

ED.

Drummiller td, Mound

$\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of Mount Mill Bridge, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Newry, at the S. end of a prominent ridge round which the Newry river makes a semicircular bend. Down, Sh. 46, Plan 4, Tr. 4. The mote measures on the N. side 30 ft. and on the S. 35 ft. from the bottom of the ditch, which is 15 ft. below the surrounding ground. The top of the mote is circular, 72 ft. in diam. For one third of the circumference of the outer rim of the ditch, on the S. side is a massive rampart, 15 ft. high on the inside and sloping down to the river level 48 ft., so that the perpendicular height of the top of the mote above the river level is no less than 68 ft., and viewed from the river bank, is most imposing. There is no bailey in connection with this mote, and no visible indication that there ever was one, though the natural ridge extending N. of the mote could have been stockaded to serve the purpose.

H.C.L.

Newry Town, St. Patrick's Church

At the top of the town. Down, Sh. 46, Plan 16. Built about 1575 by Sir Nicholas Bagenal as the parish church. His handsome armorial tombstone, dated 1578, is built into the wall of the porch under the tower inside. It was originally a plain rectangular church, 84 ft. by 30 ft. inside, with walls 4 ft. thick; chancel and transepts have been added at later dates. The original window opes have been enlarged and the whole heavily encased in plaster. The imposing tower, apparently part of the original church, with walls 6 ft. thick, is at the W. end. The whole stands on an eminence so steep in parts as to suggest that Sir Nicholas Bagenal selected a disused Norman mote-castle as the site of his new church, having of course partially levelled it.

H.C.L.

Saval More td, Standing Stones

In the private graveyard of the Gordon family, 100 yds. N.E. of the road running S.E. from the Rathfriland-Newry road at Mount Kearney cross roads. Down, Sh. 47, Plan 1, Tr. 5. Alt. 300. Two granite standing stones; in line 8 ft. apart. The W. stone measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by 6 ft. high, and is flat-topped. The E. stone is pointed; it measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by 2 ft. by $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high. There is no trace of a surrounding cairn. In a field across the road 200 yds. to the S.W. is a single granite standing stone, 6 ft. high.

M.G. E.E.E.

Tamary td, Cairn

Nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S.E. of St. Patrick's R.C. Church (Lurgancahone). Down, Sh. 47, Plan 7, Tr. 6. Alt. 700. The remains of a cairn can be traced on a hill. According

Reeves (1847), pp. 33-4, 163-4.

SM7/DOWN 45:13.

(Diocese of Down.)

	The church of Kilschaelyn ^o	— 2 marks —	Tenth, 2s. 8d.
	The church of Staghreell ^p	— 7 marks —	Tenth, 9s. 4d.
<i>Hospit^l</i>	The church of Rathmolyn ^a	— Hospitallers.	
	The vicar's portion	— 40s. —	Tenth, 4s.
	The church of Rosglassce ^r	— 2 marks —	Tenth, 2s. 8d.
	The chapel of Styoun ^r	— 3 marks —	Tenth, 4s.

The

grants, made by John de Courcy to the see of Down, this church is called, as in the Taxation, *Stegrel*.—Rot. Pat. 16, Ed. III. m. 17, 2nd pt., Tur. Lond. '*Starely alias Terrely*'.—Ul. Inq., No. 8, Car. I. The modern parish church occupies the ancient site.

^a *Rathmolyn*.—Now Rathmullan parish.—Ord. Survey, s. 44. The rectory, being appropriate to the Hospitallers, was exempt from taxation, according to the terms of Pope Nicholas IV.'s Bull. In the year 1213, Pope Innocent III. confirmed to that society their possessions in '*Rathmulin*'.—Epist. Innoc. III., vol. ii. p. 655. John Rawson, the last prior of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in Ireland, was seised of the rectory of '*Rathmullin in Lecaile*', being parcel of the possessions of the Preceptory of St. John in the Ards.—Ul. Inq., No. 2, Jac. I. In 1609, the vicarage of Rathmullin was included, by the charter of James I., in the corps of the Chancellorship of Down, and made collative by the Bishop, who exercised this privilege for some time.—Inq. Downp., 1657, MS. But the advowson of the vicarage has accompanied the rectorial tithes, which were granted in 1612 to Sir James Hamilton, and has

been alternately enjoyed by the Lords Carrick and Bangor, the representatives of the original patentee.

^r *Rosglassce*.—Now Rossglass (por-glar 'the green point'), a detached townland of Kilclief parish, lying along the western side of St. John's Point headland, and forming the eastern margin of Dundrum bay.—Ord. Survey, s. 45. About quarter of a mile S. E. of the present R. C. chapel, stood the ancient church of Rossglass. In 1834 the walls were razed, and the site and cemetery submitted to the plough. By the charter of James I., this chapel was annexed to the Archdeaconry.

^r *Styoun*.—Now St. John's Point, a detached townland of Rathmullan parish.—Ord. Survey, s. 45. The name seems to be derived, by the process mentioned in a former note, from *tiġ-Ġoin* '*John's-house*'; in which form it is mentioned in the Calendar at the 17th of August—See *Appendix*. This seems to be the church of *Stechian*, which was granted, about the year 1183, by Malachi bishop of Down, to the abbey of St. Patrick.—Inspex. in Rot. Pat. 42, Ed. III, m. 11, 2nd pt., Tur. Lond. As also the *Stion*, which was annexed,

(Dunenš Dýoceš.)

	α Capella de Kilbride ——— xvij. s. iiij. d. — decia. xxj. d.	
<i>Hospit</i>	α Capella de Baliconyng ^h m — xvj. s. ——— decia. xix. d. q.	
<i>Infirmoz</i>	α Ecclia de Brich ——— viij. m. r ——— decia. x. s. viij. d.	
<i>Vacāt</i>	α Ecclia de Ardglassce — iiij. m. r ——— decia. v. s. iiij. d.	} vacāt p vtq. a?
	α Ecclia de Droneyll — ij. m. r. di — decia. iiij. s. iiij. d.	
	α Capella de Ros ——— xvij. s. iiij. d. — decia. xxj. d.	
	α Ecclia	

by the charter of James I., to the Precentorship of Down. At the Dissolution, the tithes of this chapelry, under the name of 'St. Johnstown', were appropriate to the Preceptory of St. John in the Ards.—Ul. Inq., No. 104, Car. I. 'Capella de Sancto Johanne Jerusalemitano'.—*Terrier*. The chapel, measuring 20 by 13 feet in the clear, belongs to a very ancient class of ecclesiastical buildings. A century ago, the walls were 'yet intire' (Harris, Down, p. 271); but it is to be lamented that the east wall has been demolished to the foundation. The east window, which is remembered by many, is described as having been small and narrow, terminating above in an acute angle, formed by the inclination of two flags, like those represented in Petrie's Round Towers, p. 180. In the west wall is a doorway, 5 feet 6 inches high; 2 feet 1 inch wide at the top, and gradually dilating to the threshold, where it is 3 feet in breadth. In the south wall, near the S. E. angle, is a window 2 feet 5½ inches high; 1 foot 4 inches wide at top, and 1 foot 9 inches at bottom. In both instances, the aperture is surmounted by a single flag, instead of an arch.

¹ *Kilbride*.—Now Kilbride (cill Bhríge 'Bridget's church'), a townland of Bright parish.—Ord. Survey, s. 45. The church of 'Kylbride', an. val. 53s. 4d., having three townlands, was appropriate to the priory of Regular Canons of Down.—Inq. 3 Ed. VI.; *Terrier*. By the charter of James I. it was annexed to the deanry of Down, by the name 'Kilbriditche'. The church stood in a field, now called 'the Church Park', about three-quarters of a mile S. W. of Killough. It was razed in 1830, and nothing of it remains except an ancient tombstone, having a cross traced on it, which is now built into a neighbouring stile.

² *Baliconyng^hm*.—Now Coniamstown, a townland in the parish of Bright.—Ord. Survey, s. 45. The chapel has long since disappeared, but its position is stated to have been at the end of the avenue leading to Coniamstown House. At the Dissolution, the tithes of 'Ballyquonyam', an. val. £8, were appropriate to the priory of Regular Canons of Down.—Inq. 3, Ed. VI. *Terrier*. The marginal note, *Hospital of Infirm*, is borne out by the fact that to this day a place in the townland is called 'Straney's Spital'. John de Baliconing-

non denique quicquam reddituum Ecclesiasticorum seculariumve vel in ipso habuit Episcopatu. Mensæ Episcopali nihil prorsus constitutum vel assignatum unde Episcopus viveret. Nec enim vel domum propriam habuit. Erat autem penè incessanter circumiens paræcias omnes Evangelio serviens, et de Evangelio vivens, sicut constituit ei Dominus, dignus est, inquiens, operarius mercede sua ^e. "What is here said", observes Dr. Lanigan, "of St. Malachy not having any fixed mensal income, cannot mean, that there was no property really belonging to the see of Down, but that St. Malachy, who delighted in poverty, did not choose to exact the mensal portion from the erenachs or corbes, who had got the church lands into their possession and management".^f The see was, certainly, sufficiently endowed before the close of the twelfth century; for Malachi, who was bishop at the time of the Invasion, was able to part with, and consented to the alienation of, certain portions of his possessions, to two religious houses. In 1178 John de Courcy granted the island of Neddrum, with its appurtenances, to the priory of St. Bega of Coupland, reserving a third portion of all the profits to the bishop. He might have granted all, for he had already taken the bishop prisoner, and had it in his power to make any terms he chose. The instrument recording this grant^g was accompanied by one from Malachi, to the same effect, with the same reservation:—"Tertiam autem partem omnium possessionum et beneficiorum memoratæ ecclesiæ in manu mea retineo". Shortly after, when John de Courcy had remodelled the abbey of Down, he caused Malachi to make the following grant to it:—"Sciant futuri tanquam præsentēs, quod ego Malachias, Dunensis episcopus, concessi ad honorem Dei et sanctæ religionis, ecclesiam Sti. Patricii de Dune, cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, ad opus prioris et nigrorum monachorum; quorum ipse episcopus ero, custos, et abbas, sicut sit in Ecclesia Wyntoniensi vel Coventrensi. Concessi itaque eis et successoribus suis, et confirmavi villas ad ecclesiam suam pertinentes; scil. Lochmonne [Loughmoney, in Ballee], Messesarech, Ferrochen [Bally-frooke, in Ballee], Balinscanlan, Arthgothin, Balinrothan, Telagnocrossi [Tullynacross, in Ballee], Balienbrethnaghe [Ballybrannagh, in Ballee], Belgach [Ballee, in same parish], Delen [Dillin, in Ballee], Tipermeni [Tobermoney, in Down], Balimechethe, Dumouere, Balienlemâch, Balienlirnoni, Telagmethan, Balinbothan, Molrath cum pertinentiis, Kno [Ballyno, in Bright], Chengar, Monenmor, Nochenduf, Chemard, Tirgore, Tirestruther [Struell, in Down], Balioconewi, Cremse [near Downpatrick, in Down], Croch, Balindethdume cum pertinentiis, Balima, Celendre [Ballyclander, in Down], Balmangatha, Balinculter [Ballyculter],

^e Messing, p. 386, col. 1.

^f Eccl. Hist., vol. iv. p. 116.

^g It is preserved in a roll, written in the hand of the early part of the thirteenth century, deposited, among

the Cotton charters (No. 40), in the Brit. Mus. Part of it, containing J. de Courcy's grant, is printed in the *Monasticon Anglicanum*, but Malachi's grant is omitted.

[Ballyculter], Balimackelli [Ballykeel, in Down], Kloker [Clogher, in Down], Balienstruthi [Ballystrew, in Down], Balinrimurgam [Ballyorgan(?), in Rathmullen], Kelleiohan [St. John's(?), in Rathmullan], Baliowosan [Ballyvaston(?), in Rathmullan], Lesconan, Kortef, Cronoch, Lanne, Karenlatheri, Feod cum pertinentiis, Balimagereg [Cargagh, in Down], Karennesche [Carrownacow, in Down], Chellemiuien [Killavees, in Down], Rathoop [Raholp, in Ballyculter]. Et ecclesias de Killecleth [Killelief], et de Brichten [Bright], et Stechian [see p. 33], cum pertinentiis suis, in Dalebinu [see p. 44] Latrach, Douenach, Kellagkinere. Præterea, ad honorem et reverentiam Episcopatus mei, retinui in manu mea medietatem oblationis in hiis quinque festis anni, et non amplius; scilicet in Natali Domini, in Purificatione Scæ. Mariæ, in festo Sancti Patricii, in Pascha, et Pentecosten. Hujus concessionis isti sunt Testes, L. Duvelinensis Archiepiscopus; T. Ardmachanus, et multi alii".^b The possessions of the see, as they stood at the end of the twelfth and commencement of the thirteenth century, are recited in a Patent Roll¹ of the Tower of London, to the following effect: "Inspeximus cartam Hugonis de Lascy, dudum comitis Ultoniæ, in hæc verba;—Universis, &c. Hugo de Lascy, Comes Ultoniæ, Salutem in Domino. Sciatis nos dedisse et concessisse et hac præsentī carta nostra confirmasse venerabili patri nostro in Christo Thomæ*, Dunensi episcopo, et ejus successoribus, in puram et perpetuam elemosinam, pro salute animæ nostræ et antecessorum nostrorum, quatuor carucatas terræ de Dominico nostro in Arte¹ jacentes, ex una parte, inter terram prædicti Episcopi de *Arclum*^m et terram *Hospitalariorum*ⁿ in Arte, ex altera. Et ex parte alia inter terram quæ fuit quondam Radulphi

^b Inspeximus in Rot. Pat. 42 Ed. III. pt. ii. m. 11. Tur. Lond.

¹ Rot. Pat. 16 Ed. III., pt. ii. m. 17; "Pro Episcopo Dunensi, de confirmatione". — In 1192 Cencius Camerarius compiled his "Census Romanæ Ecclesiæ" (Baronius, Annal., vol. xii. col. 873), in which work the diocese of Down is thus noticed: "In episcopatu de *Dundaleghlas*. Ecclesia Sancti Patricii de Duno, dimidium uncie auri". — (Cod. Clar., vol. xv. p. 59, No. 4783, Brit. Mus.)

^{*} He governed the see from the year 1218 to 1237. In 1227, Henry III. granted him £20 a year "pro magnis dampnis quas passus est in guerra inter nos et Hug. de Lacy. 26 Mart."—Rot. Cl. 11 Hen. III. (Cod. Clar., vol. xlii. p. 249 a, No. 4789, Brit. Mus.)

¹ Now Ards.—See above, p. 16.

^m Now Ardquin.—See p. 21. The townlands of Ballyward and Dunevly, of Ardkeen parish, form a

tongue which runs in between the parish of Ardquin and Castleboy: they are probably intended by this description, although not at present see property.

ⁿ The lands of Castleboy, otherwise Johnstown, which formerly belonged to the Hospitallers, consist of nine townlands, containing 1358 acres. In the townland Castleboy there remains a small portion of the castle standing; and, a few perches to the N. W., the ruins of the chapel, measuring sixty-three by twenty-one feet. The east window was a triplet of lancet compartments. On the north and south sides were lancet windows, about six feet removed from the west angles. There were entrances on the north and south sides, about twenty-six feet from the west end. A small lancet window was in the west wall, about six feet from the floor. A cemetery surrounded the building; but the ground is now cultivated up to the very walls.

U.S.A., vol. I (1852) pp. 22-5.

SM7/DOWN 45:13.

NOTICE OF THE
ANCIENT CHAPEL ON ST. JOHN'S POINT,
IN THE COUNTY OF DOWN.
BY THE ARCHDEACON OF DOWN.

THE investigation of the ancient remains, to be found in various parts of Ireland, illustrative of the history of the several tribes that at different periods have occupied its soil, has become of late years a subject of interest to many, who might previously have passed by such remains with a careless glance, or, perhaps, with even a contemptuous feeling at the rudeness of the period of whose arts they are the sole existing memorials. Yet it has happened that some buildings, erected at a period, and by persons, of which there is existing no historical memorial—the only clue to whose probable age is to be found in internal evidence, and constructed so rudely, that one wonders they have not long since been utterly obliterated—remain to the present day records, however humble, of the piety of former ages, of warlike achievements, and even of territorial dominion.

How many of such memorials, well worthy of the notice of the antiquarian, the historian, or the artist, some fifty years, or more, ago, have, during that period, been utterly wiped from the face of the earth, by reason of the ignorance of some, the sectarian rancour of others, and the apathy of more—by the joint instrumentality of the spade, the crowbar, and the mason's hammer—it is, perhaps, impossible to say. But it is certain, that even within the memory of many, who *now* would gladly preserve every relic of antiquity, many a curious piece of architecture has mouldered to ruin, or been destroyed; an opportunity thereby lost for ever of illustrating, perhaps, some interesting fact connected with the ancient art of this country.

Even at the present time, when the minds of intelligent men are alive to the many curious and interesting subjects of Irish antiquities, and when the eminently acute and argumentative investigations of Petrie have opened to the light a region hitherto overshadowed in darkness almost Cimmerian, there are many among us Northerners, who are inclined not only to believe, but to assert, that investigations relative to Irish antiquities, may be successful and satisfactory in the South of Ireland,—where the *old stock* of inhabitants has had a longer continuance, and where, therefore, such remains may be cherished and preserved—but that there is little hope of finding in the counties of Down and Antrim much, if anything, worthy of an antiquarian's examination at all. There is, probably, a prevailing opinion, that from the many changes of population which these counties have undergone, and especially from the great change which took place in the 17th century, under James I., and at subsequent periods, and the very general demolition of ancient, or at least, Romish edifices, there is now

little remaining worthy of an individual antiquary, and far less of an Antiquarian Society, wherewith to occupy the attention.

The observation of Mr. Wm. F. Wakeman, in the "Introduction" to his well executed "Hand-book of Irish Antiquities," with regard to such as are "within easy access from Dublin," is equally true with regard to the counties of Antrim and Down; and we may venture to affirm that there are in these two counties, and consequently, within easy access from Belfast, "examples, many of them in a fine state of preservation, of almost every object of antiquarian interest to be met with in any part of the kingdom." And if, as stated in the preface of the same publication, it is desirable that "a feeling should be awakened in the breasts of the people generally, to preserve with scrupulous care, the numerous remains of early Irish art, with which the country abounds;" and if it be true as it is believed to be, that many such remains have been permitted to perish from natural causes, or to be destroyed by violence, from sheer ignorance of their interesting character; it will not be considered out of place, if one who lays claim to no higher title than that of a mere investigator and pioneer, endeavours to put before his fellow countrymen, some fruits of his own inquiries.

The counties of Down and Antrim contain a few examples, some of them in a good state of preservation, of different objects of antiquarian interest. Among these are specimens of ecclesiastical structures, some of which bear internal evidence of very high antiquity; and of these there is, perhaps, scarcely any one more deserving the notice of the curious, than the small, remote, and ruined Chapel of St. John's Point, at the eastern extremity of the outer bay of Dundrum, in the barony of Lecale, and county of Down.

A brief preliminary notice of the characteristics of the early Christian churches of Ireland, may not be considered inappropriate. These buildings are oblong, but of *small* dimensions, rarely exceeding 60 feet by 20, and frequently much smaller; they are often of one apartment only, but frequently consist of a nave and chancel, separated by a circular arch.

The masonry of these buildings is massive, but rude; the walls are always thick as compared with the dimensions of the building, and often are very massive and composed of very large stones:—the stones are generally cemented with very good mortar; but in several instances with a kind of clay, tempered for the purpose; sometimes there is no cement at all.

The doorways are generally flat, covered with a single massive stone, or sometimes the door has a circular head, cut out of a single large stone. The jambs of the door are built of large and massive stones, and invariably incline inwards, so that the opening is 3 or 6 inches narrower at top than it is at bottom.

The windows are few in number, and very small, very much splayed inwards, often the jambs (as of the doors,) inclining, so that they are narrower at the top than below, and at the top are either covered with a single flag, or brought to a point by the junction of two flags, or have a circular head cut out of a single, or of two conjoined, stones, or have a rudely constructed arch formed of small stones wedged together.

The roofs of these buildings were very steep, and in many cases they were covered with stone roofs of which curious instances remain ; but none, it is believed, in these two counties.

Of such ancient buildings, one of the most interesting in this country is the chapel on St. John's Point, between Tyrella and Killough in the county of Down, formerly recorded in the Taxation as the *Capella de Styoun*, evidently a corruption of St. Jon. Of this venerable building, when visited in September, 1846, the north and south walls were standing, and the west wall and gable ; the east gable had fallen a few years before, but its position was clearly marked, so that the dimensions of the building were easily ascertained. The length inside is 20 feet 2 inches, and the breadth 13 feet ; outside length, 24 feet 6 inches ; breadth, 17 feet 6 inches ; the north and south walls 9 feet high, and 2 feet 3 inches thick ; the east and west gables are 2 feet 2 inches thick. The doorway is in the west gable, measuring 5 feet 6 inches high ; 2 feet 9 inches wide at the bottom, and the opening narrowed to 2 feet 3 inches at the top, where it is covered by a single stone as lintel, 3 feet 6 inches long, 7½ inches deep, and in width 2 feet, being nearly the thickness of the wall ; and above this, on the outside, is another larger stone, laid horizontally, being 4 feet 7 inches long, and 11 inches deep. In this building there were only two small windows. The east gable, now fallen down, contained one, which has been described to the writer as very small and narrow, and covered at the top with two flagstones placed at an acute angle, so as to give the window a pointed head. The other window was in the south wall, its eastern jamb being 6 feet from the east wall : like the east window as described, it was when accurately examined, small and narrow ; its height being 2 feet 6 inches, and its width outside only 1 foot 8 inches, at the bottom, and 1 foot 4 inches at the top ;—for, like the doorway, it too, narrows upwards. It had been covered with a single flag, 2 feet long, and 7 inches deep ; but this had been removed. The only other particular that occurs as remarkable about this curious building is, that there is on each side of the west wall, externally, a buttress-like projection, about 18 inches from the wall, and there seems to have been a similar projection at the east end ; probably intended to assist in bearing the weight of the gables.

Of the age of this curious building it may not be easy to speak with any degree of certainty. Its characteristics agree very strikingly with those of St. Mary's Church, and the Reefert Church at Glen-da-lough, and of some other buildings described and delineated in Dr. Petrie's *Essay on the Round Towers and Ancient Architecture of Ireland*, and assigned by him to the early part of the seventh century.

Of its early history nothing appears to be known ; and even tradition ventures to say no more than that it was founded by St. Patrick, which amounts only to an expression of an opinion as to its remote antiquity.

In the Taxation of Pope Nicholas, A.D. 1291, it is thus named : "*Capella de Styoun* iij. marks decima. iiij. s." and the following is the note of Dr. Reeves, in his elaborate "*Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Down, Connor and Dromore*," p. 33. "*Styoun*.—Now St. John's Point, a detached townland of Rathmullan Parish. (Ord. Survey, sheet 45.) The name seems to be derived, by the process

mentioned in a former note, from TIGH EORN, 'John's House,' in which form it is mentioned in the Calendar, at the 17th August. This seems to be the church of Stechian, which was granted about the year 1183, by Malachi, bishop of Down, to the abbey of St. Patrick. (Inspex. in Rot. Pat. 42. Ed. III. m. ii. 2nd. pt. Tur. Lond. As also the *Stion*, which was annexed, by the charter of James I. to the Precentorship of Down. At the Dissolution, (viz. of the monastic bodies,) the tithes of this chapelry, under the name of 'St. Johnstown,' were appropriate to the Preceptory of St. John in the Ards. (Ulst. Inq. No. 104. Car. I. 'Capella de Sancto Joanne Jerusalemitano.' *Terrier*.

Harris (Topographical Survey of Down, 1745.) mentions it briefly, page 271, stating that at that time, the walls were "yet entire." The east wall, as above mentioned, has been demolished to the foundation.

ULSTER ROLL OF GOAL DELIVERY.

(Continued from page 270.)

No. 7.

Monaghan.—A General Session was held at Monaghan, on the 2nd day of March, 12 James, 1, (1615,) before Gerard Lothar, Esq., one of the Judges of the Common Pleas, and John Beare, Esq., Sergeant-at-Law, under a Commission dated the 15th February in the same year, and an Inquisition taken before the following Grand Jurors:—

James Fielde,
Toole McKena,
Adam Kelkelly,
Rice Evans,
Thomas Warren,
Robert Morgan,
William Pugbe,

Piers Harris,
Marcus Connolan,
Hugh McShane Roe McMahon,
Edward Corbett,
William Price,
John Harforde.

Who say that Brian McToole boy, of Ballenagar, yeoman, on the 16th September, 12 James 1, at Ardell, stole "a brasse kettle" worth 30s., "twoe firkins of butter" value £4, and a sword worth 6s. sd., belonging to Robert Cowell, Esq. He says he is not guilty; which being denied by John Walker, Esq., the Attorney-General for Ulster, is put upon his trial, found guilty, adjudged, and ordered to be executed.—That Sallowe O'Hananan, of Corfenlaghe, yeoman, on the 2nd December, 1614, at Ballydromaran, stole 4 cows worth 20s. each, the property of Patrick McToole McKena.—Not guilty.—That Toole McCabe, of Balleleke, Shane McEgowne, of Tetallon, and Hugh McEgowne, of same, yeomen, on the 18th December, 1614, at Ergill, stole 10 pigs worth 6s. each, belonging to Tirlagh McArt. O'Neile.—Not Guilty.—That Patrick O'Kenechan, of Crymorne, yeoman, on the 11th June,

SMITH/DOWN 45:13.

Harris (1744), pp. 139, 271

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not *Cane-Isle*, as Sir William Petty has it. An impetuous Sea runs on all this Coast in Storms and Spring-tides.

St. John's Point stands a Mile and half from *Killough* to the South, and is denominated by Sea-faring Men *St. John's Fore-land*, the *Isamium* of *Ptolomey*, called so, as *Camden* conjectures, from *Isa* or *Ifel*, a *British* Word, which signifies *low*, or, perhaps, from *Isbeal*, an *Irish* Word of the same Signification, from its flat low Appearance. It is remarkable for nothing but its ancient Name, unless one should except a great Quantity of *Buckthorn*, with both red and white Flowers, and Abundance of *Sampbire*, which grows on the Rocks about it, and between that and *Killough*.

St. John's Point.

From *St. John's Point* the Coast bears first to the North, and from thence W. N. W. to the Entrance into the Inner-bay of *Dundrum*; and all along that Tract you have for the most part a light Sandy Shore. The outer Bay of *Dundrum* is large and spacious, and formed by *St. John's Point* to the East, and the Point of *Bealach-a-neir* to the West, standing upwards of two Leagues asunder; both which Points are surrounded with Rocks. It is one of the most dangerous Bays for Shipping in the Kingdom, by reason of Sand-banks, which shift their Stations almost in every Storm; yet it is mentioned as a safe good Haven by Dr. *Boat*, and the Author of the *Atlas Maritimus*: But we suppose they both mean the Inner-bay, which is small and very secure. It extends from the Entrance near 3 Miles northward, and is in Breadth about one at a Medium; except a Spur that stretches out from the South end Westward, and receives a little River called *Slideryford* River. But the outward Bay is shallow, and dangerous; only small Vessels can ride in the Middle of it, and that too at high Water. The northern and southern Tides meet off it, and break upon *St. John's Point*, which occasion a greater Eddy or Suction inwards than in other Places; so that Ships have often found themselves

Bay of *Dundrum*.

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the old Church of *Crumlin* having been in Ruins ever since the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*. There is in the new Church a handsome dry Vault, in which most of the Family of the *Hills* are interred ; but no Monument or Inscription for any of them.

P. 141. l. 35. To the Castle of Narrow-Water add, —Built since the Restoration by the Duke of *Ormond*.

P. 136. l. 20. Add — *Quintin Bay can receive a Vessel of 50 Tuns.*

P. 139. To the Description of *St. John's Point*, add —Though the Lands of this Point be not more than a Mile across, yet they have had three Churches on them, viz. *St. Bridget's*, *St. John's* (from whence the Name) and *Ross-Glas* ; the Walls of the second of these Buildings are yet intire.

The following Additions are taken from a Geographical Description of *Ireland*, printed in the Year 1642.

Newry was called *Bagnal*, in Remembrance of *Marshall Bagnal*.

The Church of *Ardglas* was founded by *St. Patrick*.

The *Smyths* of *Kent* have the Dignity of Viscount *Strangford*, being enobled in the Reign of King *James I.*

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On the 4th of March, 1305, the King's Escheator, Walter de la Hay, returned into the Irish Exchequer an account of rents received by him during the vacancy of the see, of a part of which the following is a translation:—"And £4 6s 1d of the rents of the farms of the hill of Byscopille, of the land of Ballybeghys (Ballyviggis), of a house of Richard, son of Allan; of the prizes, of the services, and perquisites of the court there." Of the service of the tenants of "Britte" he makes no return, because all is paid in Autumn. "Of £3 16s 6d of the rents of farms, of a mill, of prizes, services, fisheries, and of the perquisites of the court of Rosglass for the foresaid term." We have seen that the lands of Rosglass passed into the possession of the Earls of Kildare. The church of Rosglass was reported, in 1622, by the Protestant bishop as a ruin. In 1834 what remained of the walls was removed, and its old and long disused cemetery was subjected to tillage. Near it is a little creek commonly called Bridge's Port, which in 1829 was proposed, under the name of "St. Bridge's Cove," by the Fishery Board, to be made the site of a fishery harbour, but why it was so named is not known. Rosglass, Commontreegh, and Carrondreegh belonged in ancient times to the parish of Kildief.

St. John's Chapel was valued at three marks in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas, under the name of "the chapel of Styoun," which name seems to have been formed from the Irish words Tigh-Eoin, "John's house." In the calendar of the O'Clerys, the festival of its patron is mentioned on the 17th of August, "Eoin MacCarthain, of Tene Eoin." Immediately after the coming of the English, Malachi, Bishop of Down, granted the church of "Scechin" to the Abbey of Down. At the Dissolution the titles of this chapel, under the name of St. Johnstown, were appropriate to the Preceptory of St. John in the Ards. The church, which was of a very

ancient style of architecture, measured twenty by thirteen feet in the clear. Harris describes the walls in his time as "yet intire," but the east wall is now demolished to the foundation. Dr. Reeves says—"The east window, which is remembered by many, is described as having been small and narrow, terminating above in an acute angle, formed by the inclination of two flags, like those represented in 'Petrie's Round Towers,' p. 180. In the west wall is a doorway 5 feet 6 inches high, 2 feet 1 inch wide at the top, and gradually dilating to the threshold, where it is 3 feet in breadth. In the south wall, near the south-east angle, is a window 2 feet 5½ inches high, 1 foot 4 inches wide at top, and 1 foot 9 inches at bottom. In both instances the aperture is surmounted by a single flag instead of an arch." Lewis, in his *Topographical Dictionary*, says that near the church "several stone coffins of singular shape were dug up recently, together with massive gold ornaments and curious coins." The stone coffins were the stone lined graves which occur in all the ancient cemeteries of this part of Down and Connor. Mr. Wakeman's *Hand Book of Irish Antiquities*, makes the following remark on the interments at this church:—"The direction of the grave is generally from east to west, but in the cemetery adjoining the very early church at Saint John's Point in the County of Down and elsewhere the cists are arranged in the form of a circle, to the centre of which the feet converge." It is remarkable that during the recent explorations at Ephesus, the graves in the Christian cemetery were found radiating from a central point, which was supposed to have been the tomb of St. John the Evangelist. It cannot be doubted that St. Patrick's ecclesiastical training in the south of France caused many of the ceremonies of Ephesus to be carried to Ireland, for the great commerce between Marseilles and the ports of Asia Minor brought the South of France into im-

mediate connection with Ephesus. Stone-lined graves have been found at nearly all the ancient churches of the diocese of Down; in some cases flat stones are placed under the body, and in other cases that arrangement is omitted. The writer of the *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, Vol. ii., page 1x., properly remarks, "that the occurrence of long stone cists is not to be regarded as a mark of age by itself will also appear from the following facts, for which I am indebted to Captain Thomas. At Ness, in the Island of Lewis, till quite recently, no one was buried in a wooden coffin. There was only one big coffin in connexion with every church-yard, which the people called 'the chest of the dead.' When the body was brought to the church-yard in this coffin, a coffin of stone was made in which the corpse was placed. This manner of burying lasted till comparatively recent times, for the name of the man who was buried in the chest of the dead is quite remembered even yet." We, in the pride of what we call our civilization, may pronounce interment in a rude stone coffin formed of separate flag stones as barbarous, yet such coffins have for many centuries faithfully fulfilled their trust in guarding the frail remnants of humanity, while the modern oaken coffin passes into dust and ashes in a few years; perhaps the true source of our preference is that we cannot afford a grave to each corpse, and the older dead, no matter how rich they were in life, must as soon as possible make room for fresh tenants of the grave. Groups of graves resembling those just described have been found in various portions of England and Scotland; by the English antiquarians they have been ascribed to the Anglo-Saxon period, and said to date from the sixth to the end of the tenth century. Cists formed of rough stones, set on edge and covered with flags, have been found at the west end of the Church of Cupar-Angus, in a portion of the old cemetery at Durham Cathedral, to the eastward of the Priory

of North Berwick, at the Church of Kelsø, and all round the ruined Church of Kirkcough. This mode of interment throughout Scotland and portions of England, is no doubt owing to the Irish customs disseminated through the influence of Iona, yet from the words of Adamnan it would appear that the body of St. Columba was rolled in clean sheets and placed in a coffin, "venerabile corpus, mundis involutum sindonibus, et preparatum positum in tabulis, debita humarum veneratione."

The holy-water font of the church at St. John's Point was removed to the present chapel of Rossglass. The old holy well is situated along the roadside, at a short distance from the church. The townland of St. John's Point is in the civil parish of Rathmullan, though it is detached from the main body of that parish. This union arises from the fact that in early times both the church of Rathmullan and the chapel of St. John were appropriate to the order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Kilbride (*Gill Brigide*, "Bridget's Church,") was situated in the townland of Kilbride. In the Taxation of Pope Nicholas it was valued at 17s 4d. At the Dissolution of Monasteries it had three townlands attached to it, and was of the annual value of 53s 4d. At that time it was appropriate to the Priory of Regular Canons of Down. In 1622 it was a ruin. The field in which it stood is called "The Church Park," but the ruins were removed in 1830; until lately an ancient tombstone having a cross inscribed on it was built into a stile, and remained the sole surviving relic of the old church, but even it has been carried off by some ignorant tourist. This stone is enumerated by a writer in "Willis's Current Notes," among the cuneiform monumental stones of Ireland. Stone lined graves are found around the site of this church, its cemetery was very extensive, but it is now all under cultivation.

Two trenches were excavated, one on each side of the N. wall of St. John's Church, to examine possible causes for structural movement of the wall.

The inner, S. trench had a stratigraphy disturbed greatly by burials. These were all simple inhumations in unlined graves, and included a number of children's burials in upper levels. In each case the head was to the W. At the bottom of the trench was a small rubbish pit which cut two burials, and contained a single sherd of souterrain ware as well as animal and human bones.

The stratigraphy under the N. wall showed no foundations other than previously observed footings. These stood upon a layer of redeposited marine-type gravel, possibly brought into the area to increase depth available for burials. Beneath this, at a depth of 80-90 cm. was the end of a long cist burial, stone slabs lining and covering a grave. This ran NNE. under the N. wall. The collapse of a long-cist burial was expected to be the cause of the wall movement, but in fact the burial was in perfect condition. It was not further excavated. Its alignment corresponded with two other long-cist burials found outside the church. This burial is evidence for burial pre-dating the church's construction, and one may therefore assume the presence of an earlier ^{present} church-structure, although no traces were found. ^{interment} ^{perhaps}

The trench on the outside of the N. wall recovered simple inhumations immediately under the turf level. At a greater depth two long-cists were found. Neither of these could have had any effect upon the wall's stability. They were examined but not removed.

*Extract from a Summary of Excavations carried out in 1977.
Complete summary can be found on B 3190/77.
G. Campbell.*

The excavation had determined that there was no structural underground reason for the wall movement, and was therefore halted. A small section was cut to establish subsoil level. This revealed an unexpectedly deep, although simple, stratigraphy 1.5m. in depth, with a charcoal level near the bottom. No finds were ~~recovered~~^{recovered}. The trenches have been backfilled.

Ref. A.S.C.D. (1966) 295-6.

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B. Brannon

2
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A TRIAL EXCAVATION AT ST JOHN'S POINT CHURCH, Co. DOWN

by

N.F. BRANNON

(Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch, Department of the Environment (N.I.))

In autumn 1977 a small excavation was conducted at St John's Point Church, Co. Down (O.S. 6 in. Down sheet 45; grid reference J527338; Waterman, 1966, 295-6) to examine possible archaeological causes for an inwards bulge of the N. wall. Subsidence of the N. wall of the S. church at Derry, Co. Down, was shown to have been partially caused by the displacement of a cist beneath (Waterman, 1967, 56), and a similar occurrence was thought likely at St John's Point. The excavation was also intended to examine, if possible, the statement that graves in the cemetery were arranged radially about the church (Waterman, 1848, 97).

THE EXCAVATION

Two trenches were excavated, one on either side of the N. wall where movement appeared to be the greatest (Fig. 1). Trench I, located inside the church, proved difficult to excavate because a minimum of sixteen inhumations, and a long cist, were unearthed. Conventional stratigraphy was therefore absent because of the degree of disturbance. However, four levels were recognised at which changes in soil type or texture became apparent. These were labelled A-D in descending order, and skeletal material ~~was~~ associated with them. The levels from which graves were cut could not be determined, although a relative succession was noted. To save lengthy description these relationships are presented in diagrammatic form (Fig. 2) which can barely be associated with the stratigraphy beneath the N. wall (Fig. 1). Between each horizon, and distinctly in lower levels C and D, it was possible to distinguish relative sequences; in the upper levels A and B the relationships could not be determined. The excavated soils were so mixed that edges of graves could only be followed with difficulty, though the shape of a grave might be expected to be standard. As a consequence, upper levels A and B were stripped horizontally. In all cases where articulated remains were found these were aligned E.-W. with feet to the E., and no traces of coffins or other materials were found. Skeletal material is noted in the Appendix, with Fig. 2 expressing the stratigraphy, so details of the trench I excavation are limited here to the horizons and specific burials.

At the time of excavation the ground level inside and outside the church lay immediately below the level of the foundation plinth. Beneath the turf the ~~topsoil was loose and mixed~~ 18 cm. deep topsoil was mixed and

loose, containing large quantities of unworked stone, pebbles and slates. These latter, occasionally piced, were generally in small fragments and may derive from a church roofing, although it has been suggested that the steep pitch of the ~~roof~~ gables makes this unlikely. At this level there were no articulated remains, although quantities of human and animal bone were recovered. However, a number of stones lying underneath the offset plinth of the N. wall were noted; these were all loose within the soil and of apparently random distribution, but were not found within the trench beyond the overhang of the plinth. The stones were neither firmly enough positioned to have been structural, nor could they be related to any feature inside the church. They may have served as an insecure bed for the plinth within a slight foundation trench, the edges of which were later dug away by burial.

Beneath topsoil lay horizon A, generally a mixed brown soil. Six burials were located within this level, 20, 21, 22, 4, 5 and 6, with 21, 4 and 5 being those of infants. It would appear that this horizon post-dates decay of the church building, as it contained one stone of granite and a number of smaller fragments - of the type used for quoins in the church.

Horizon B was of a similar soil type. Burials 1, 2 and 3 were excavated at this level with 1 having lost lower torso and limbs due to disturbance from horizon A. Burial 2 had also been disturbed, the skull lying upside down. Three quartz stones were found in this level, none definitely associated with specific burials, but nevertheless of interest (see below).

Horizon C was a dark, nearly black, gravel zone, most clearly seen in the N. half of the trench where it concentrated as the surrounds of burials 7 and 8. Burial 7 was of interest in that two quartz pebbles were found in close association with the skeletal remains. One lay underneath and behind the slightly upraised skull; the other lay between the legs near the pelvis. Both graves lay close to and parallel with the N. wall of the church, 8 being so close that it undercut the offset plinth (Fig. 1, section). Burial 7 was the latest of a succession of burials in horizons C and D (Fig. 2). The most interesting grave uncovered was the stone-built long cist revealed in the N. edge of grave 7. This lay on a NE. - SW. alignment, significantly distinct from the simple inhumations within trench I. The SW. end of the cist protruded from the N. ~~end~~ section of the trench and ran under the N. wall of the church, presumably predating the wall construction. However, as far as could be determined without tunnelling under

the wall, the cist was in excellent condition. The cist was not opened, ~~for~~ ~~other~~ and is not thought to have been a major cause of wall movement.

Also of interest was feature 24, a shallow pit in the centre of the trench, against the S. section. A group of eight small stones lay in the upper fill, a clayey black soil flecked with shell, which spread ~~from~~ 1 m. E.-W. and continued beyond the section to the S. At a lower level in the feature, which survived to a depth of 30 cm., were large pebbles (not quartz), occasional charcoal flecks, human and animal bones and a sherd of souterrain ware. The shape and fill of the feature would rule out a burial deposit. However, it distinctly post-dated four burials (Fig. 2), cutting for example graves 16 and 17, removing the lower limbs of those skeletons, and also destroying the upper torso of burial 18. These clearly early interments, with burials 14 and 15, have been grouped as horizon D. Feature 24 would seem to suggest a hiatus, however temporary, in the succession of burials within the church.

Trench II, excavated outside the church, ~~is~~ was fortunately less encumbered by burials. There is no doubt that the ground level outside the church had been considerably reduced at some period. Immediately beneath the turf three burials were recovered, 9, 10 and 11. Beneath those was a well-mixed brown soil layer II A, which sealed a stone long cist located 30 cm. below ground level, and cut into an ~~orange~~ orange gravel. The cist lay on a NE.-SW. alignment with six stone lintels, laid in overlapping succession from the NE., ~~extending~~ covering the burial. The cist was edged with upright slabs of uneven size, heavier stones being employed at the NE. end (Fig. 1). The skeleton enclosed, 23, lay with the ~~head~~ ^{head} to the SW., with the ~~fragments~~ skull and upper torso stained nearly black. Beneath this lay the extremely fragmented remains of another, the skull being behind and below the upper skull. It seems that this was a reburial. The cist was not floored. Adjacent and to the SW. lay another cist, on the same alignment. It was opened but not removed.

Having determined at this level that neither simple inhumations nor long cists had contributed directly to the movement of the N. wall of the church (though a prolonged burial sequence may well have loosened the foundation soil) the excavation halted. However, a small cutting was made in trench II to firmly establish the subsoil level, and this revealed an unexpectedly deep series of layers (diagrammatic section, Fig. 1). Beneath the orange gravel, in which the cists lay, was a 36 cm. layer of hard grey clay.

mixed with stones and charcoal. Beneath this was a charcoal spread, of unknown extent, which lay upon pebbles. Beneath this a pure white clay was considered to represent undisturbed subsoil.

DISCUSSION

The discovery of a stone long cist lying under the N. wall of the church, pre-dating it, indicates that it, and probably the two cists outside the church, represent traces of a graveyard pre-dating the stone church and perhaps belonging to an earlier site.* There was no evidence to suggest a radial or circular distribution of graves about the church.

Inside the church, there is no reason to doubt that the majority, if not all, of the simple inhumations revealed post-date the stone church. All graves conformed to the interior dimensions, lying on an E.-W. alignment and respecting the N. wall. However, it has been noted that there appear to be a number of phases of burial activity, presumably reflecting the usage of the church. The shallow pit 24 must post-date the introduction of souterrain ware. The existence of this feature within the church and the inclusion in its fill of animal bones, indicates a hiatus, however brief, in the church's function. At a later period granite fragments denote structural decay, and infant burial took place at this time (c.f. Waterman, 1967, 63).

The excavation of burial 7, in firm association with two quartz pebbles, and the likelihood of other burials being similarly accompanied in horizon B, is of interest. The association of white stones and shells with prehistoric and later burials is not a rare occurrence (e.g. Mitchell, 1884, 288; Lynn, 1974, 26-7; de Paor, 1973, 5) although for the Early Christian period in N. Ireland there is little evidence of stratified relationships (Hamlin, 1976, 206-7). The tradition would appear to be of unknown origin (although see O'Laverty, 1879, 107 for a Christian explanation).

The long cists are assumed to be of Early Christian period date, though at St John's Point this is purely by association (c.f. Waddell, 1970, 94; Raftery, 1941, 301).

The depth of stratigraphy recorded in the exploratory cutting in trench II poses a number of questions. In trench I it was thought that undisturbed subsoil had been reached when burials and burial disturbance gave on to a marine-like orange gravel. The trench II cutting demonstrated the existence of levels beneath this. It has been observed or conjectured in a number of instances that sparsely-soiled areas used for burial were

insert
at *
above

heightened by the importation of soil (Hamlin, 1976, 199). It is possible therefore that gravel had been brought, perhaps from the nearby shore, for that purpose. The gravel revealed, however, predates the earliest burials recovered and also leaves unresolved the underlying stratigraphy. It is possible that further excavation on this site might well reveal a lengthy period of occupation, pre-dating the stone church as well as elucidating problems briefly touched upon in this very limited excavation.

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APPENDIX : Report on Skeletal Remains from St John's Point Church
by
W. J. D. McClean, Archaeology Dept., The Queens University
of Belfast

METHOD

The skeletal remains from this excavation varied significantly in condition and degree of fragmentation. Most were well preserved whilst some were badly decayed and incomplete.

The sex determination was based primarily on the pelvis, particularly the greater sciatic notch, sub-pubic angle and general shape. Where the pelvis was incomplete or absent, the skull was used, particularly such features as shape, size, mastoid processes and supra-orbital ridges. The shape and size of the long bones was also used in conjunction where necessary.

Age determinations were based on the appearance of the pubic symphyseal surfaces ¹, cranial sutures, degree of ossification and general developmental stage of the bone. Dental state and eruption were used primarily on the children and youths present in the sample.

Stature determinations were reliant on long bone measurements, utilising the equations of Trotter and Gleaser ², on combined femoro-tibial lengths where possible, otherwise measurements were used from single long bones. Signs indicating cause of death, disease or deformation were rare.

It must be stressed that the above traits were the primary characteristics used where possible. However, there are numerous others which apply equally well, and which were utilised in the absence of those noted above.

1 McKern, T.W. and Stewart, T.D., 'Skeletal age changes in young American males', Headqu.: Q.M. Res. and Dev. Command, Tech. Rep., EP-45 Natick, Mass., 1957

2 ~~Froese~~ Trotter, M. and Gleaser, G.C.;
'Estimation of Stature from long bones', Amer. J. Phys. Anthropol., n.s. 11
(1952) 463 - 514

— 'A re-evaluation of estimation of stature', Amer. J. Phys. Anthropol.
n.s. 16 (1958) 79 - 123.

The Skeletal Remains

Trench I

1. Sex : male . Age : 20 ± 2 . Ht : 158 cm. (5 ft 2 in.)
Disarticulated skeleton comprising skull ; left humerus ; left ulna and radius ; various ribs and vertebrae fragments ; both clavicles , right ramus of ischium and left tibia . Epiphyseal union of clavicle , humerus and tibia at stage typical of young adult .
2. Sex : male . Age : 45 ± 5 .
Skull only ; classic adult male type , of large and heavy build .
6. Sex : female (?) . Age : 9 ± 1
Skull only : small and delicate permanent dentition not completely erupted . Marked deformation of skull base and swelling of posterior aspects , most likely caused by soil overburden .
7. Sex : male . Age : 18 ± 1 . Ht : 135 cm. (4 ft 5 in.)
Small disarticulated skeleton comprising skull , left clavicle , left scapula (part) , various ribs and vertebrae ; left and right humerus ; left radius and ulna ; part of pelvis ; left and right femur ; left and right tibia and fibula ; one third molar (right) present .
8. Sex : female . Age : 8 ± 2
Left ilium ; left femur ; both very immature .
12. Sex : male . Age : 13 ± 2
Parts of right humerus ; ribs and vertebrae ; pelvis ; parts of left and right femur ; left and right tibia ; remains are pre-adolescent , epiphyseal union only at distal end of humerus .
13. Sex : male (?) . Age : 12 ± 2
One incisor and canine (permanent) ; parts of right clavicle ; unossified head of left humerus ; rib fragments ; complete sacrum .
All bones are unossified and indicate child , probably very early teenager .

14. Sex: male. Age: 19 ± 1
Parts of mandible; right humerus and ribs; complete right radius and ulna; pelvis; sacrum; left and right ~~fem~~ femur; left and right tibia. Epiphyseal scars still evident, no third molars.
15. Sex: male. Age: old.
Fragments of ribs and vertebrae; pelvis; left and right femur. Remains are advanced and mature in type. Both the left and right femur are deformed, typical of rickets. However, there is a malignant bone growth on the surfaces (periostitis?) which may or may not be connected with the bowing.
16. Sex: male. Age: 40 ± 10 . Ht: 160 cm. (5 ft 3 in.)
Right clavicle, scapula and humerus; fragments of ribs and vertebrae.
The bones are large, robust and adult.
17. Multiple, one male.
Extremely fragmented bones of a male, fragments of four femur are present; right tibia; greater sciatic notch of a male.
It is impossible to say which fragments belong to which.
There are a minimum of two skeletons present.
18. Sex: male. Age: mature
Fragmentary remains of: ribs; vertebrae; pelvis; sacrum; right femur.
19. Sex: female. Age: 14 ± 1
Parts of: left and right humerus; right radius; left ilium; left and right femur; proximal end of left tibia.
Remains are adolescent, small and light.
Epiphyseal union has commenced.
- Disturbed bones in horizon A.
20. Sex: female (?) Age: 25 ± 3
Complete mandible. Third molars erupted but not as worn as other teeth.
21. Age: 10 ± 1
Mandible of child, eruption of permanent teeth advanced.

22.

Age : 7 ± 1

Fragment of mandible containing two deciduous premolars and a molar. Permanent teeth can be seen erupting in some places.

Infants

3.

One fragment of a skull comprising a suture edge, possibly juvenile

4.

Baby $\textcircled{1}$ Fragmentary pieces of skull, ribs and vertebrae.

5.

Baby $\textcircled{0}$ Four skull fragments.

Trench II

23.

Sex : male. Age : 45 ± 5 . Ht : 170 cm. (5 ft 7 in.)
Complete skull; clavicles; ribs and vertebrae fragments; left and right humerus; left and right ulna and radius; parts of pelvis and sacrum; left and right femur; left fibula; left and right tibia.

Age: adult.

9.

Sex : female. $\wedge$ Ht : 152 cm. (5 ft 0 in.)
Lower skeleton only, comprising: fragments of pelvis and sacrum; left and right femur; left and right tibia; parts of left and right $\textcircled{\text{fibula}}$.
Epiphyseal union has occurred and bones are concurrent with adult morphology.

Age: adult

10.

Sex : female. $\wedge$ Ht : 153 cm. (5 ft $\frac{1}{2}$ in.)
Fragment of left ilium including greater sciatic notch; left femur; parts of right femur; left tibia; proximal end of right tibia; partial left fibula.

Bones are small and light, female and adult.

11.

Sex : male. Age : adult

Fragments of left and right ilium; fragments of sacrum comprising sacral body and alae.

CONCLUSIONS

The remains from St John's Point Church, Co. Down, total a minimum of 23 persons. Grave 17 and horizon B contained other bones on which no assessment could be made. The total is made up of the following: 11 adults (20+ years) of which there were 8 males and three females; 4 teenagers (12-19 years) 3 males and 1 female; 8 children, consisting of 1 male, 2 females, 2 babies and 3 unknowns.

Height estimates were obtainable for only three skeletons adult males and two adult females. These heights are below the modern average equivalents. Only one individual lived to old age, the remainder dying before 50. This is below modern life expectancy, but it is not known how typical this is of the Early Christian and medieval periods.

The remains contain a high proportion of children and teenagers, accounting for 50%. However, as the excavations were very small it is likely that these results are biased. A late usage of the site for child burial must be noted.

4th draft
June 80

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N.F. ^{by}BRANNON

(Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch, Department of the Environment (N.I.))

In autumn 1977 a small excavation was conducted at St John's Point Church, Co. Down (O.S. 6 in. Down sheet 45; grid reference J527338; Waterman, 1966, 295-6) to examine possible archaeological causes for an inwards bulge of the N. wall. Subsidence of the N. wall of the S. church at Derry, Co. Down, was shown to have been partially caused by the displacement of a cist beneath (Waterman, 1967, 56), and a similar occurrence was thought likely at St John's Point. The excavation was also intended to examine, if possible, the statement that graves in the cemetery were arranged radially about the church (Wakeman 1848, 97).

THE EXCAVATION

Two trenches were excavated, one on either side of the N. wall where movement appeared to be the greatest (Fig.1). Trench I, located inside the church, proved difficult to excavate because a minimum of sixteen inhumations, and a long cist, were unearthed. Conventional stratigraphy was therefore absent because of the degree of disturbance. However, four levels were recognised at which changes in soil type or texture became apparent. These were labelled A-D in descending order, and skeletal material ~~was~~ associated with them. The levels from which graves were cut could not be determined, although a relative succession was noted. To save lengthy description these relationships are presented in diagrammatic form (Fig.2) which can barely be associated with the stratigraphy beneath the N. wall (Fig.1). Between each horizon, and distinctly in lower levels C and D, it was possible to distinguish relative sequences; in the upper levels A and B the relationships could not be determined. The excavated soils were so mixed that edges of graves could only be followed with

difficulty, though the shape of a grave might be expected to be standard. As a consequence, upper levels A and B were stripped horizontally. In all cases where articulated remains were found these were aligned E.-W. with feet to the E., and no traces of coffins or other materials were found. Skeletal material is noted in the Appendix, with Fig. 2 expressing the stratigraphy, so details of the trench I excavation are limited here to the horizons and specific burials.

At the time of excavation the ground level inside and outside the church lay immediately below the level of the foundation plinth. Beneath the turf the 18cm. deep topsoil was mixed and loose, containing large quantities of unworked stone, pebbles and slates. These latter, occasionally pierced, were generally in small fragments and may derive from a church roofing, although it has been suggested that the steep pitch of the gables makes this unlikely. At this level there were no articulated remains, although quantities of human and animal bone were recovered. However, a number of stones lying underneath the offset plinth of the N. wall were noted; these were all loose within the soil and of apparently random distribution, but were not found within the trench beyond the overhang of the plinth. The stones were neither firmly enough positioned to have been structural, nor could they be related to any feature inside the church. They may have served as an insecure bed for the plinth within a slight foundation trench, the edges of which were later dug away by burial.

Beneath topsoil lay horizon A, generally a mixed brown soil. Six burials were located within this level, 20, 21, 22, 4, 5 and 6, with 21, 4 and 5 being those of infants. It would appear that this horizon post-dates decay of the church building, as it contained one stone of granite and a number of smaller fragments - of the type used for quoins in the church.

Horizon B was of a similar soil type. Burials 1, 2 and 3 were excavated at this level with 1 having lost lower torso and limbs due to disturbance from horizon A.

Burial 2 had also been disturbed, the skull lying upside down. Three quartz stones were found in this level, none definitely associated with specific burials, but nevertheless of interest (see below).

Horizon C was a dark, nearly black, gravel zone, most clearly seen in the N. half of the trench where it concentrated as the surrounds of burials 7 and 8. Burial 7 was of interest in that two quartz pebbles were found in close association with the skeletal remains. One lay underneath and behind the slightly upraised skull; the other lay between the legs near the pelvis. Both graves lay close to and parallel with the N. wall of the church, 8 being so close that it undercut the offset plinth (Fig. 1, section). Burial 7 was the latest of a succession of burials in horizons C and D (Fig. 2). The most interesting grave uncovered was the stone-built long cist revealed in the N. edge of grave 7. This lay on a NE.-SW. alignment, significantly distinct from the simple inhumations within trench I. The SW. end of the cist protruded from the N. section of the trench and ran under the N. wall of the church, presumably predating the wall construction. However, as far as could be determined without tunnelling under the wall, the cist was in excellent condition. The cist was not opened, and is not thought to have been a major cause of wall movement.

Also of interest was feature 24, a shallow pit in the centre of the trench, against the S. section. A group of eight small stones lay in the upper fill, a clayey black soil flecked with shell, which spread 1m. E.-W. and continued beyond the section to the S. At a lower level in the feature, which survived to a depth of 30 cm., were large pebbles (not quartz), occasional charcoal flecks, human and animal bones and a sherd of souterrain ware. The shape and fill of the feature would rule out a burial deposit. However, it distinctly post-dated four burials (Fig. 2), cutting for example graves 16 and 17, removing the lower limbs of these skeletons, and also destroying the upper torso of burial 18. These clearly early interments, with burials 14 and 15, have been grouped as horizon D. Feature 24 would seem to suggest a hiatus, however temporary, in the succession of burials within the church.

Trench II, excavated outside the church, was fortunately less encumbered by burials. There is no doubt that the ground level outside the church had been considerably reduced at some period. Immediately beneath the turf three burials were recovered, 9, 10 and 11. Beneath those was a well-mixed brown soil layer IIA, which sealed a stone long cist located 30cm. below ground level, and cut into an orange gravel. The cist lay on a NE-SW. alignment with six stone lintels, laid in overlapping succession from the NE., covering the burial. The cist was edged with upright slabs of uneven size, heavier stones being employed at the NE. end (Fig.1). The skeleton enclosed, 23, lay with the head to the SW., with the skull and upper torso stained nearly black. Beneath this lay the extremely fragmented remains of another, the skull being behind and below the upper skull. It seems that this was a reburial. The cist was not floored. Adjacent and to the SW. lay another cist, on the same alignment. It was opened but not removed.

Having determined at this level that neither simple inhumations nor long cists had contributed directly to the movement of the N. wall of the church (though a prolonged burial sequence may well have loosened the foundation soil) the excavation halted. However, a small cutting was made in trench II to firmly establish the subsoil level, and this revealed an unexpectedly deep series of layers (diagrammatic section, Fig.1). Beneath the orange gravel, in which the cists lay, was a 36cm. layer of hard grey clay, mixed with stones and charcoal. Beneath this was a charcoal spread, of unknown extent, which lay upon pebbles. Beneath this a pure white clay was considered to represent undisturbed subsoil.

DISCUSSION

The discovery of a stone long cist lying under the N. wall of the church, pre-dating it, indicates that it, and probably the two cists outside the church, represent traces of a graveyard pre-dating the stone church and perhaps belonging to an earlier site. The long cists are assumed to be of Early Christian period date, though at St John's Point this is purely by association (c.f. Waddell, 1970, 94; Raftery, 1941, 301). There was no evidence to suggest a radial or circular distribution of graves about the church.

5

Inside the church, there is no reason to doubt that the majority, if not all, of the simple inhumations revealed post-date the stone church. All graves conformed to the interior dimensions, lying on an E.-W. alignment and respecting the N. wall. However, it has been noted that there appear to be a number of phases of burial activity, presumably reflecting the usage of the church. The shallow pit 24 must post-date the introduction of souterrain ware. The existence of this feature within the church and the inclusion in its fill of animal bones, indicates a hiatus, however brief, in the church's function. At a later period granite fragments denote structural decay, and infant burial took place at this time (c.f. Waterman, 1967, 63).

The excavation of burial 7, in firm association with two quartz pebbles, and the likelihood of other burials being similarly accompanied in horizon B, is of interest. The association of white stones and shells with prehistoric and later burials is not a rare occurrence (e.g. Mitchell, 1884, 288; Lynn, 1974, 26-7; de Paor, 1973, 5) although for the Early Christian period in N. Ireland there is little evidence of stratified relationships (Hamlin, 1976, 206-7). The tradition would appear to be of unknown origin (although see O'Laverty, 1879, 107 for a Christian explanation).

The depth of stratigraphy recorded in the exploratory cutting in trench II poses a number of questions. In trench I it was thought that undisturbed subsoil had been reached when burials and burial disturbance gave on to a marine-like orange gravel. The trench II cutting demonstrated the existence of levels beneath this. It has been observed or conjectured in a number of instances that sparsely-soiled areas used for burial were heightened by the importation of soil (Hamlin, 1976, 199). It is possible therefore that gravel had been brought, perhaps from the nearby shore for that purpose. The gravel revealed, however, predates the earliest burials recovered and also leaves unresolved the underlying stratigraphy. It is possible that further excavation on this site might well reveal a lengthy period of occupation, pre-dating the stone church as well as elucidating problems briefly touched upon in this very limited excavation.

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7

APPENDIX : Report on Skeletal Remains from St John's Point Church

by
W.J.D. McClean, Archaeology Dept., The
Queen's University of Belfast

METHOD

The skeletal remains from this excavation varied significantly in condition and degree of fragmentation. Most were well preserved whilst some were badly decayed and incomplete.

The sex determination was based primarily on the pelvis, particularly the greater sciatic notch, sub-pubic angle and general shape. Where the pelvis was incomplete or absent, the skull was used, particularly such features as shape, size, mastoid processes and supra-orbital ridges. The shape and size of the long bones was also used in conjunction where necessary.

Age determinations were based on the appearance of the pubic symphyseal surfaces¹, cranial sutures, degree of ossification and general developmental stage of the bone. Dental state and eruption were used primarily on the children and youths present in the sample.

Stature determinations were ~~reliant~~ ^{reliant} on long bone measurements, utilising the equations of Trotter and Gleser² on combined femoro - tibial lengths where possible, otherwise measurements were used from single long bones. Signs indicating cause of death, disease or deformation were rare.

It must be stressed that the above traits were the primary characteristics used where possible. However, there are numerous others which apply equally well, and which were utilised in the absence of those noted above.

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2. Trotter, M. and Gleser, G.C.;

'Estimation of Stature from long bones', Amer. J. Phys. Anthrop., n.s.10,
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(1958) 79-123.

The Skeletal Remains

Trench I

1. Sex: male. Age: 20 ± 2 . Ht: 158cm. (5 ft 2in.) Disarticulated skeleton comprising skull; left humerus; left ulna and radius; various ribs and vertebrae fragments; both clavicles, right ramus of ischium and left tibia. Epiphyseal union of clavicle, humerus and tibia at stage typical of young adult.
2. Sex: male. Age: 45 ± 5 .
Skull only; classic adult male type, of large and heavy build.
6. Sex: female(?). Age: 9 ± 1
Skull only: small and delicate permanent dentition not completely erupted. Marked deformation of skull base and swelling of posterior aspects, most likely caused by soil overburden.
7. Sex: male. Age: 18 ± 1 . Ht: 135cm. (4ft 5 in.) Small disarticulated skeleton comprising skull, left clavicle, left scapula (part), various ribs and vertebrae; left and right humerus; left radius and ulna; part of pelvis; left and right femur; left and right tibia and fibula; one third molar (right) present.
8. Sex: female. Age: 8 ± 2
Left ilium; left femur; both very immature.

- 9
12. Sex: male. Age: 13 ± 2

Parts of right humerus; ribs and vertebrae; pelvis; parts of left and right femur; left and right tibia; remains are pre-adolescent, epiphyseal union only at distal end of humerus.

13. Sex: male (?). Age: 12 ± 2

One incisor and canine (permanent); parts of right clavicle; unossified head of left humerus; rib fragments; complete sacrum.

All bones are unossified and indicate child, probably very early teenager.

14. Sex: male. Age: 19 ± 1

Parts of mandible; right humerus and ribs; complete right radius and ulna; pelvis; sacrum; left and right femur; left and right tibia. Epiphyseal scars still evident, no third molars.

15. Sex: male. Age: old

Fragments of ribs and vertebrae; pelvis; left and right femur. Remains are advanced and mature in type. Both the left and right femur are deformed, typical of rickets. However, there is a malignant bone growth on the surfaces (periostitis?) which may or may not be connected with the bowing.

16. Sex: male. Age: 40 ± 10 . Ht: 160cm. (5ft 3 in.) Right clavicle, scapula and humerus; fragments of ribs and vertebrae.

The bones are large, robust and adult.

17. Multiple, one male.

Extremely fragmented bones of a male, fragments of four femur are present; right tibia; greater sciatic notch of a male.

It is impossible to say which fragments belong to which. There are a minimum of two skeletons present.

18. Sex: male. Age: mature.

Fragmentary remains of: ribs: vertebrae; pelvis; sacrum; right femur.

19. Sex: female. Age: 14 ± 1

Parts of: left and right humerus; right radius; left ilium; left and right femur; proximal end of left tibia.

Remains are adolescent, small and light.

Epiphyseal union has commenced.

Disturbed bones in horizon A

20. Sex: female (?) Age: 25 ± 3

Complete mandible. Third molars erupted but not as worn as other teeth.

21. Age: 10 ± 1

Mandible of child, eruption of permanent teeth advanced.

22. Age: 7 ± 1

Fragment of mandible containing two deciduous premolars and a molar.

Permanent teeth can be seen erupting in some places.

Infants

3. One fragment of a skull comprising a suture edge, possibly juvenile

4. Baby. Fragmentary pieces of skull, ribs and vertebrae.

5. Baby. Four skull fragments.

Trench II

23. Sex: male. Age: 45 ± 5 . Ht: 170cm. (5ft 7 in.) Complete skull; clavicles; ribs and vertebrae fragments; left and right humerus; left and right ulna and radius; parts of pelvis and sacrum; left and right femur; left fibula; left and right tibia.

9. Sex: female. Age: adult. Ht : 152 cm. (5ft 0in.) Lower skeleton only, comprising: fragments of pelvis and sacrum; left and right femur; left and right tibia; parts of left and right fibula. Epiphyseal union has occurred and bones are concurrent with adult morphology.

10. Sex: female. Age: adult. Ht: 153cm. (5ft $\frac{1}{2}$ in.) Fragment of left ilium including greater sciatic notch; left femur; parts of right femur; left tibia; proximal end of right tibia; partial left fibula.

Bones are small and light, female and adult.

11. Sex: male. Age: adult.

Fragments of left and right ilium; fragments of sacrum comprising sacral body and alae.

CONCLUSIONS

The remains from St John's Point Church, Co. Down, total a minimum of 23 persons. Grave 17 and horizon B contained other bones on which no assessment could be made. The total is made up of the following: 11 adults (20 + years) of which there were 8 males and three females; 4 teenagers (12-19 years) 3 males and 1 female; 8 children, consisting of 1 male, 2 females, 2 babies and 3 unknowns.

Height estimates were obtainable for only three adult males and two adult females. Those heights are below the modern average equivalents. Only one individual lived to old age, the remainder dying before 50. This is below modern life expectancy, but it is not known how typical this is of the Early Christian and medieval periods.

The remains contain a high proportion of children and teenagers, accounting for 50%. However, as the excavations were very small it is likely that these results are biased. A late usage of the site for child burial must be noted.

8pt

12. Sex: male. Age: 13 ± 2 .

Parts of right humerus; ribs and vertebrae; pelvis; parts of left and right femur; left and right tibia; remains are pre-adolescent, epiphyseal union only at distal end of humerus.

13. Sex: male (?). Age: 12 ± 2 .

One incisor and canine (permanent); parts of right clavicle; unossified head of left humerus; rib fragments; complete sacrum.

All bones are unossified and indicate child, probably very early teenager.

14. Sex: male. Age: 19 ± 1 .

Parts of mandible; right humerus and ribs; complete right radius and ulna; pelvis; sacrum; left and right femur; left and right tibia. Epiphyseal scars still evident, no third molars.

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Fragments of ribs and vertebrae; pelvis; left and right femur. Remains are advanced and mature in type. Both the left and right femur are deformed, typical of rickets. However, there is a malignant bone growth on the surfaces (periostitis?) which may or may not be connected with the bowing.

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The bones are large, robust and adult.

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Extremely fragmented bones of a male, fragments of four femur are present; right tibia; greater sciatic notch of a male.

It is impossible to say which fragments belong to which. There ^{is} ~~are~~ a minimum of two skeletons present.

18. Sex: male. Age: mature.

Fragmentary remains of / ribs; vertebrae; pelvis; sacrum ^{and} / right femur.

- 8 pt 19. Sex: female. Age: 14 ± 1 .
- Parts of left and right humerus; right radius; left ilium; left and right femur ^{and} proximal end of left tibia.
- Remains are adolescent, small and light.
- Epiphyseal union has commenced.

Disturbed bones in horizon A

20. Sex: female (?) Age: 25 ± 3 .
- Complete mandible. Third molars erupted but not as worn as other teeth.
21. Age: 10 ± 1 .
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- Fragment of mandible containing two deciduous premolars and a molar.
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Infants

3. One fragment of a skull comprising a suture edge, possibly juvenile.
4. Baby. Fragmentary pieces of skull, ribs and vertebrae.
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Trench II

23. Sex: male. Age: 45 ± 5 . Ht: 170cm. (5ft 7 in.). Complete skull; clavicles; ribs and vertebrae fragments; left and right humerus; left and right ulna and radius; parts of pelvis and sacrum; left and right femur; left fibula; left and right tibia.
9. Sex: female. Age: adult. Ht : 152 cm. (5ft 0in.). Lower skeleton only, comprising fragments of pelvis and sacrum; left and right femur; left and right tibia; parts of left and right fibula. Epiphyseal union has occurred and bones are concurrent with adult morphology.

[Inside the church, there is no reason to doubt that the majority, if not all, of the simple inhumations revealed post-date the stone church. All graves conformed to the interior dimensions, lying on an E.-W. alignment and respecting the N. wall. However, it has been noted that there appear to be a number of phases of burial activity, presumably reflecting the usage of the church. The shallow pit 24 must post-date the introduction of souterrain ware. The existence of this feature within the church and the inclusion in its fill of animal bones, indicates a hiatus, however brief, in the church's function. At a later period granite fragments denote structural decay, and infant burial took place at this time (c.f. Waterman, 1967, 63).

[The excavation of burial 7, in firm association with two quartz pebbles, and the likelihood of other burials being similarly accompanied in horizon B, is of interest. The association of white stones and shells with prehistoric and later burials is not a rare occurrence (e.g. Mitchell, 1884, 288; Lynn, 1974, 26-7; de Paor, 1973, 5) although for the Early Christian period in N. Ireland there is little evidence of stratified relationships (Hamlin, 1976, 206-7). The tradition would appear to be of unknown origin (although see O'Laverty, 1879, 107 for a Christian explanation).

[The depth of stratigraphy recorded in the exploratory cutting in trench II poses a number of questions. In trench I it was thought that undisturbed subsoil had been reached when burials and burial disturbance gave on to a marine-like orange gravel. The trench II cutting demonstrated the existence of levels beneath this. It has been observed or conjectured in a number of instances that sparsely-soiled areas used for burial were heightened by the importation of soil (Hamlin, 1976, 199). It is possible, therefore, that gravel had been brought, perhaps from the nearby shore, for that purpose. The gravel revealed, however, pre-dates the earliest burials recovered and also leaves unresolved the underlying stratigraphy. It is possible that further excavation on this site might well reveal a lengthy period of occupation, pre-dating the stone church, as well as elucidating problems briefly touched upon in this very limited excavation.

A TRIAL EXCAVATION AT ST. JOHN'S POINT CHURCH, CO. DOWN

by
N.F. BRANNON

(Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch, Department of the Environment (N.I.))

In autumn 1977 a small excavation was conducted at St John's Point Church, Co. Down (O.S. 6 in. Down sheet 45; grid reference J527338; Waterman, 1966, 295-6) to examine possible archaeological causes for an inwards bulge of the N. wall. Subsidence of the N. wall of the S. church at Derry, Co. Down, was shown to have been partially caused by the displacement of a cist beneath (Waterman, 1967, 56), and a similar occurrence was thought likely at St. John's Point. The excavation was also intended to examine, if possible, the statement that graves in the cemetery were arranged radially about the church (Wakeman 1848, 97).

THE EXCAVATION

Two trenches were excavated, one on either side of the N. wall where movement appeared to be greatest (Fig.1). Trench I, located inside the church, proved difficult to excavate because a minimum of sixteen inhumations, and a long cist, were unearthed. Conventional stratigraphy was therefore absent because of the degree of disturbance. However, four levels were recognised at which changes in soil type or texture became apparent. These were labelled A-D in descending order, and skeletal material was associated with them. The levels from which graves were cut could not be determined, although a relative succession was noted. To save lengthy description these relationships are presented in diagrammatic form (Fig.2) although only with difficulty can this be associated with the stratigraphy beneath the N. wall (Fig.1). Between each horizon, and distinctly in lower levels C and D, it was possible to distinguish relative sequences; in the upper levels A and B the relationships could not be determined. The excavated soils were so mixed that edges of graves could only be followed with

difficulty, though the shape of a grave might be expected to be standard. As a consequence, upper levels A and B were stripped horizontally. In all cases where articulated remains were found these were aligned E.-W. with feet to the E., and no traces of coffins or other materials were found. Skeletal material is noted in the Appendix, with Fig. 2 expressing the stratigraphy, so details of the trench I excavation are limited here to the horizons and specific burials.

[At the time of excavation the ground level inside and outside the church lay immediately below the level of the foundation plinth. Beneath the turf the 18cm. deep topsoil was mixed and loose, containing large quantities of unworked stone, pebbles and slates. These latter, occasionally pierced, were generally in small fragments and may derive from ^{the church at some stage in its use,} although it has been suggested that the steep pitch of the gables ^{was designed originally for shingles.} At this level there were no articulated remains, although quantities of human and animal bone were recovered. However, a number of stones lying underneath the offset plinth of the N. wall were noted; these were all loose within the soil and of apparently random distribution, but were not found within the trench beyond the overhang of the plinth. The stones were neither firmly enough positioned to have been structural, nor could they be related to any feature inside the church. They may have served as an insecure bed for the plinth within a slight foundation trench, the edges of which were later dug away by burial^s.

⑧ [Beneath topsoil lay horizon A, generally a mixed brown soil. Six burials were located within this level, 20, 21, 22, 4, 5 and 6, with 21, 4 and 5 being those of infants. It would appear that this horizon post-dates decay of the church building, as it contained one stone of granite and a number of smaller fragments of the type used for quoins in the church.

[Horizon B was of a similar soil type. Burials 1, 2 and 3 were excavated at this level with 1 having lost lower torso and limbs due to disturbance from horizon A.

Burial 2 had also been disturbed, the skull lying upside down. Three quartz stones were found in this level, none definitely associated with specific burials, but nevertheless of interest (see below).

[Horizon C was a dark, nearly black, gravel zone, most clearly seen in the N. half of the trench where it concentrated as the surrounds of burials 7 and 8. Burial 7 was of interest in that two quartz pebbles were found in close association with the skeletal remains. One lay underneath and behind the slightly raised skull; the other lay between the legs near the pelvis. Both graves lay close to and parallel ~~to~~ the N. wall of the church, 8 being so close that it undercut the offset plinth (Fig. 1, section). Burial 7 was the latest of a succession of burials in horizons C and D (Fig. 2). The most interesting grave uncovered was the stone-built long cist revealed in the N. edge of grave 7. This lay on a NE.-SW. alignment, significantly distinct from the simple inhumations within trench I. The SW. end of the cist protruded from the N. section of the trench and ran under the N. wall of the church, presumably *pre-dating* the wall construction. However, as far as could be determined without tunnelling under the wall, the cist was in excellent condition. The cist was not opened, and is not thought to have been a major cause of wall movement.

[Also of interest was feature 24, a shallow pit in the centre of the trench, against the S. section. A group of eight small stones lay in the upper fill, a clayey black soil flecked with shell, which spread 1m. E.-W. and continued beyond the section to the S. At a lower level in the feature, which survived to a depth of 30 cm., were large pebbles (not quartz), occasional charcoal flecks, human and animal bones and a sherd of souterrain ware. The shape and fill of the feature would rule out a burial deposit. However, it distinctly post-dated four burials (Fig. 2), cutting for example graves 16 and 17, removing the lower limbs of these skeletons, and also destroying the upper torso of burial 18. These clearly early *interments*, with burials 14 and 15, have been grouped as horizon D. Feature 24 would seem to suggest a hiatus, however temporary, in the succession of burials within the church.

Trench II, excavated outside the church, was fortunately less encumbered by burials. There is no doubt that the ground level outside the church has been considerably reduced at some period. Immediately beneath the turf three burials were recovered, 9, 10 and 11. Beneath those was a well-mixed brown soil layer/IIA, which sealed a stone long cist located 30cm. below ground level, and cut into an orange gravel. The cist lay on a NE-SW alignment with six stone lintels, laid in overlapping succession from the NE., covering the burial. The cist was edged with upright slabs of uneven size, heavier stones being employed at the NE. end (Fig.1). The skeleton enclosed, 23, lay with the head to the SW., with the skull and upper torso stained nearly black. Beneath this lay the extremely fragmented remains of another, *though it was not possible to tell if this was the primary burial in the cist or a reburial following disturbance.* The cist was not floored. Adjacent and to the SW. lay another cist, on the same alignment. It was opened but not removed.

Having determined at this level that neither simple inhumations nor long cists had contributed directly to the movement of the N. wall of the church (though a prolonged burial sequence may well have loosened the foundation soil) the excavation halted. However, a small cutting was made in trench II to ^{firmly} establish the subsoil level, and this revealed an unexpectedly deep series of layers (diagrammatic section, Fig.1). Beneath the orange gravel, in which the cists lay, was a 36cm. layer of hard grey clay, mixed with stones and charcoal. Beneath this was a charcoal spread, of unknown extent, which lay upon pebbles. Beneath this a pure white clay was considered to represent undisturbed subsoil.

DISCUSSION

The discovery of a stone long cist lying under the N. wall of the church, pre-dating it, indicates that it, and probably the two cists outside the church, represent traces of a graveyard pre-dating the stone church and perhaps belonging to an earlier ^{structure}. The long cists are assumed to be of Early Christian period date, though at St John's Point this is purely by association (c.f. Waddell, 1970, 94; Raftery, 1941, 301). There was no evidence to suggest a radial or circular distribution of graves about the church, *but it is interesting to note that the orientation of the cist graves was markedly different from that of the church.* /Inside

8pt

10. Sex: female. Age: adult. Ht: 153cm. (5ft $\frac{1}{2}$ in.). Fragment of left ilium including greater sciatic notch; left femur; parts of right femur; left tibia; proximal end of right tibia; partial left fibula.

Bones are small and light, female and adult.

11. Sex: male. Age: adult.

Fragments of left and right ilium; fragments of sacrum comprising sacral body and alae.

CONCLUSIONS

9pt

The remains from St John's Point Church, Co. Down, ^{represent} ~~total~~ a minimum of 23 persons. Grave 17 and horizon B contained other bones on which no assessment could be made. The total is made up of the following: 11 adults (20 + years) of which there were 8 males and three females; 4 teenagers (12-19 years), 3 males and 1 female; 8 children, consisting of 1 male, 2 females, 2 babies and 3 unknowns.

Height estimates were obtainable for only three adult males and two adult females. Those heights are below the modern average equivalents. Only one individual lived to old age, the remainder dying before 50. This is below modern life expectancy, but it is not known how typical this is of the Early Christian and medieval periods.

The remains contain a high proportion of children and teenagers, accounting for 50%. However, as the excavations were very small it is likely that these results are biased. A late usage of the site for child burial must be noted.

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APPENDIX: REPORT ON SKELETAL REMAINS FROM ST. JOHNS POINT.

By W.J.D. McClean, Archaeology Dept. QUB.

Method.

The skeletal remains from this excavation varied significantly in condition and degree of fragmentation. Most were well preserved whilst some were badly decayed and incomplete.

The sex determination was based primarily on the pelvis, particularly the greater sciatic notch, sub-pubic angle and general shape. Where the pelvis was incomplete or absent, the skull was used, particularly such features as shape, size, mastoid processes and supra-orbital ridges. The shape and size of the long bones was also used in conjunction where necessary.

Age determinations were based on the appearance of the pubic symphyseal surfaces¹, cranial sutures, degree of ossification and general developmental stage of the bone. Dental state and eruption were used primarily on the children and youths in the material.

Stature determinations were reliant on long bone measurements, utilising the equations of Trotter and Gleser² on combined femoro-tibial lengths where possible, otherwise measurements were used from single long bones. Signs to indicate cause of death, disease or deformation occurred infrequently.

It must be stressed that the above features were the primary characteristics used where possible. However, there are numerous other traits which apply equally well, and which were utilised in the absence of the above.

The Skeletal Remains

Trench A Remains ¹C; Sex: Male Age: 20 ± 2 Ht. 158cm (5'2").

Disarticulated skeleton comprising skull; left humerus; left ulna and radius; various rib and vertebrae fragments; both clavicles, right ramus of ischium and left tibia.

Epiphyseal union of clavicle, humerus, and tibia at stage typical of young adult.

Remains ²D: Sex: Male Age: 45 ± 5

Skull only, classic ^{adult} male type, of large and heavy build.

Remains ⁶"h"; Sex: Female (?) Age 9 ± 1

Skull only, small and delicate, permanent dentition not completely erupted. Marked deformation of skull base and swelling of posterior aspects, most likely cause is soil pressure.

Remains ⁷"j": Sex: Male Age: 18 ± 1 Ht. 135cm (4'5")

Small disarticulated skeleton comprising skull; left clavicle; left scapula (part); various ribs and vertebrae; left and right humerus; ~~left tibia and fibula~~ ^{radius and ulna}; part of pelvis; left and right femur; left and right tibia and fibula; one third molar (right) present.

Remains ⁸"k": Sex: female Age: 8 ± 2

Left ilium; left femur; both very immature

Trench B ^{more to have II}

Remains "O": Sex: Male Age: Adult

Fragments of left and right ilium;
fragment of sacrum comprising sacral body and alae

Remains ¹²"P": Sex: Male Age: 13 ± 2

Parts of right humerus; ribs and vertebrae; pelvis; left and right femur (parts); left and right tibia

Remains are pre-adolescent, epiphyseal union only at distal end of humerus.

Remains ¹³"q": Sex: Male (?) Age: 12 ± 2

one incisor and canine (permanent); parts of right clavicle; unossified head of ~~right~~ left humerus; rib fragments; complete sacrum.

All bones are unossified and indicate child, probably very early teens.

Remains "r" ¹⁴

Sex: Male Age: 19 ± 1

Parts of mandible, right humerus and ribs
Complete right radius and ulna; pelvis; sacrum;
left and right femur; left and right tibia.
Epiphyseal scars still evident, no third molars.

Remains "s" ¹⁵

Sex: Male Age: Old.

Fragments of ribs and vertebrae, pelvis and left and right femur. Remains are advanced and mature in type. Both the left and right femur are deformed, typical of rickets. However, there is a malignant bone growth on the surfaces (periostitis?) which may or may not be connected with the bowing.

Remains "T" ¹⁶

Sex: Male Age: 40 ± 10 Ht. 160cm (5'3")

Right clavicle, scapula and humerus; Fragments of ribs and vertebrae.

The bones are large, ~~and~~ robust and adult

Remains "U" ¹⁷

Sex: Male Others -----

(multiple)

Extremely fragmented bones of a male, fragments of four femur are present; Right tibia; greater sciatic notch of a male.

It is impossible to say which fragments belong to which. Thus, there are ^{minimum of} two people present; ~~one is male~~.

Remains "Y" ¹⁸

Sex: Male Age: Mature

Fragmentary remains of; ribs; vertebrae; pelvis; sacrum; right femur.

Remains "Z" ¹⁹

Sex: Female Age: 14 ± 1

Parts of; left and right humerus; right radius;
left ilium; left and right femur; proximal end of left tibia.
Remains are adolescent, ^{small and light} ~~epiphyseal union has commenced~~
Epiphyseal union has commenced.

~~Remains "B"~~

~~Mixed up bones found around excavation of body C in trench A.~~ **Disturbed bones in horizon A**

²⁰ (a) Sex: Female (?) Age: 25 ± 3

Complete mandible. Third molars erupted but not as worn as other teeth.

²¹

(b) Age: 10 ± 1

Mandible of child, eruption of permanent teeth advanced.

Cont. . . .

N.B. ²²
~~Age~~ Age: 7 ± 1

Fragment of a mandible containing two deciduous premolars and a molar. Permanent teeth can be seen erupting in places.

Also (The rest of this material consists of various fragments of ribs and vertebrae; a clavicle; pelvis fragments.)

Trench **B**. Long Cist Upper Skeleton. Sex: Male. Age: 45 ± 5 . Ht. 170cm (^{5'7"}~~5'10"~~)

²³

Complete skull; clavicles; rib and vertebrae fragments; Left and right humerus; left and right ulna and radius; parts of pelvis and sacrum; left and right femur; left fibula; left and right tibia.

Trench B ⁹ "M"

Sex: Female Ht: 152cm (5'0")

Lower skeleton only, comprising: fragments of pelvis and sacrum; left and right femur; left and right tibia; parts of left and right fibula. Epiphyseal union has occurred and bones are concurrent with adult morphology.

Trench B ¹⁰ "N"

Sex: Female Ht. 153cm (5'0").

Fragment of left ilium including greater sciatic notch; left femur; parts of right femur; left tibia; ~~partial~~ proximal end of right tibia; partial left fibula. Bones are small and light, female and adult.

add 11

Infants

Trench A ³ "e"

One fragment of a skull comprising a suture edge. Possibly juvenile.

⁴ "f"

Baby.

Fragmentary pieces of skull, ribs and vertebrae

⁵ "g"

Baby

four skull fragments.

SUMMARY.

Trench

I

	SEX	AGE	HEIGHT
1	M	20±2	158 cm (5'2")
2	M	45±5	—
6	F(?)	9±1	—
7	M	18±1	135 cm (4'5")
8	F	8±2	—
11	M	Adult	—
12	M	13±2	—
13	M(?)	12±2	—
14	M	19±1	—
15	M	old	—
16	M	40±10	160 cm (5'3")
17	M	Adult	—
18	M	Adult	—
19	F	14±1	—
20	12 F	25±3	—
21	12 —	10±1	—
22	12 —	7±1	—
23	M	45±5	170 cm (5'7")
9	F	Adult	152 cm (5'0")
10	F	Adult.	153 cm (5'0")

Trench B.01

Trench

II

Long list upper

Also 2 babies and a possible juvenile (fig 1).

453

Conclusions

These remains, from St. Johns Point Church, Co. Down, contain at least 23 persons. Graves "D7" and "D8" contained extra bones on which no assessment could be made.

The total, is therefore made up of the following; 11 adults (20+ yrs) of which there were 8 males and 3 females; 4 teenagers (12-19 yrs), 3 males and 1 female; 8 children consisting of 1 male, 2 females, 2 babies and 3 unknowns.

Only 3 adult male skeletons were able to give height estimates. These were 158cm (5'2"), 160cm (5'3") and 170cm (5'7"). ~~Two~~ Two adult females had heights of 152cm (5'0") and 153cm (5'0"). These heights are below the modern day average.

Only one ^{individual} skeleton lived to old age, the remainder died before 50 yrs of age. Again, this is below modern life expectancy. However, the extent to which these figures are typical of Early Christian peoples is unknown.

The remains contain a high proportion of children and teenagers, together, they account for 50% of the remains. As the complete cemetery was not excavated it is possible that there is a bias to the results.

It is not possible to say if this population is a normal sample because there are not enough remains from which to base any conclusions about the population as a whole.

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1. Mc Kern, T.W., and Stewart, T.D.:
'Skeletal age changes in young American males'
Headqu.: Q.M. Res. and Dev. Command, Technical Report, EP-45, Natick, Mass., 1957
2. Trotter, M., and Gleser, G.C.:
'Estimation of Stature from long bones' Amer. J. phys. Anthropol. n.s. 10, 463-514: 1952
— 'A re-evaluation of estimation of stature' Amer. J. phys. Anthropol. n.s. 16, 79-123: 1958

- A right leg
 B left side ~~body~~ baby's rib cage
 C Male, early 20's
 D Mature adult male
 E Fragment of a skull
 F Baby
 G Baby skull
 H Female $\approx$ 8-10
 I not used
 J Young male 17-19 4'6"
 K young girl 8-9 yrs
 L not used
 M Adult female
 N Mature Female
 O Mature Male
 P male 12-13 yrs
 Q Male 10-14
 R Male (?) 18-20 yrs.
 S Deformed (diseased?) old male.
 T Mature adult male 5'3"
 U at least a male, other not certain
 V not used
 W not used
 XX feature
 Y Adult Male
 Z Young Female 14-15 yrs

Also. Long List Upper Skeleton - male, 5'8", 45 ish
 SIP A @ = 1 adult female (20/30)
 1 child (male?) $\approx$ 10 yrs
 1 child 7-8 yrs

SKELETON FORM

FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE **SIP A ②**

IN COFFIN? **Mixed up bones found around body c**
in trench A.

FINDS WITH SKELETON? **COMPLETE? DISTURBED?**

ARTICULATED? **COMPLETE? DISTURBED?**

POSITION OF:

SKULL

ARMS

LEGS

REMARKS: **At least 3 people here**
1 adult and 2 children (at least)
2 complete mandibles and a fragment
of a third. Largest is adult female
- teeth are good, 3rd molar not as worn
as others ∴ age late 20's. An adult
clavicle, which may or may not belong to
the female is also present.

REMARKS:

The second mandible is that of
a child losing its milk teeth and
gaining its permanent set ∴ 10 yrs. old
3rd mandible is a fragment containing
2 premolars and a molar - deciduous again!
permanent teeth can be seen breaking through bone
age ∴ 7-8 yrs.

POSITION OF:

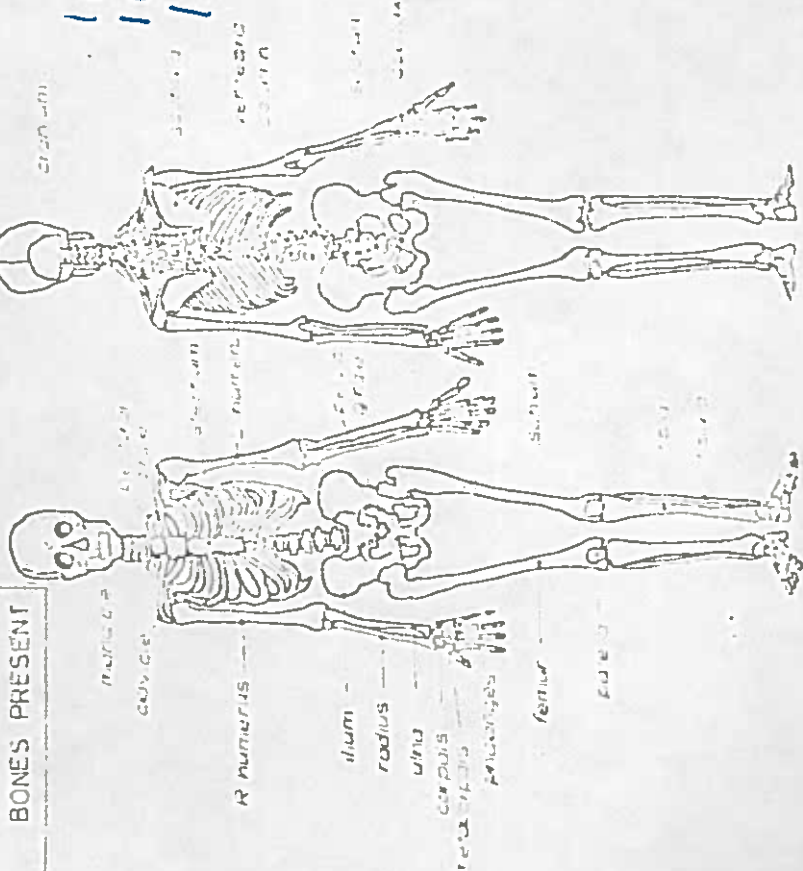
SKULL

ARMS

LEGS

CONDITION OF BONE

BONES PRESENT



BONES PRESENT



SKELETON FORM

FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE

IN COFFIN?

FINDS WITH SKELETON?

ARTICULATED?

POSITION OF:

SKULL

ARMS

LEGS

COMPLETE?

DISTURBED?

CONDITION OF BONE

BONES PRESENT



SKELETON FORM

SJP A "p"

FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE

IN COFFIN ?

FINDS WITH SKELETON ?

ARTICULATED ?

POSITION OF :

SKULL

ARMS

LEGS

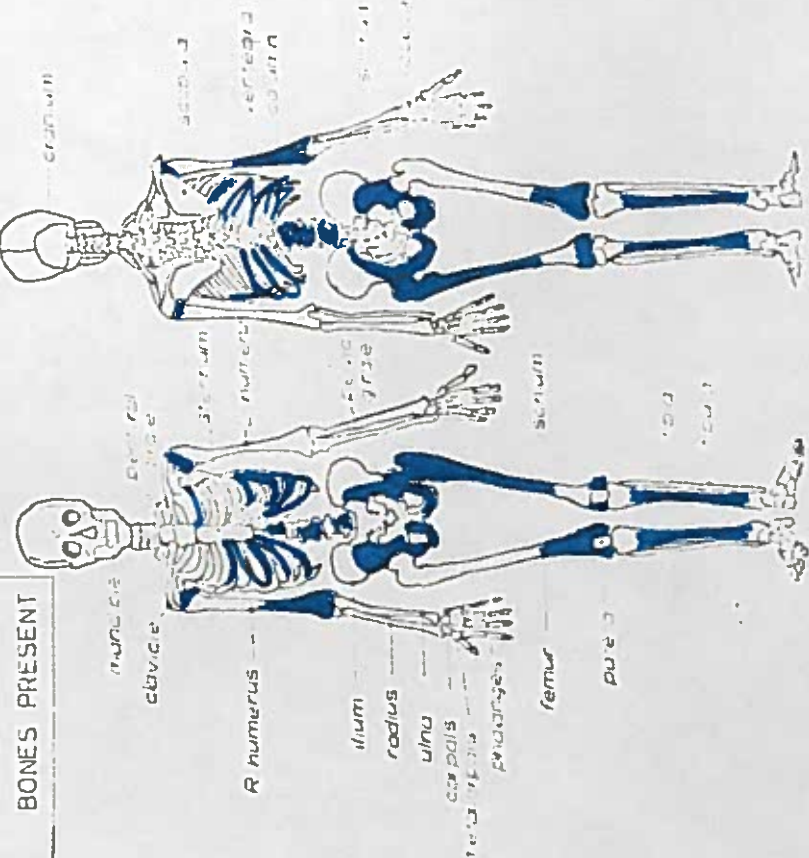
COMPLETE

DISTURBED ?

REMARKS: Pre-adolescent child
very little ossification has occurred
base of humerus - age 12-13
G. S. notch would indicate a male specimen.

CONDITION OF BONE

BONES PRESENT



SKELETON FORM

SJP A "q"

FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE

IN COFFIN ?

FINDS WITH SKELETON ?

ARTICULATED ?

POSITION OF :

SKULL

ARMS

LEGS

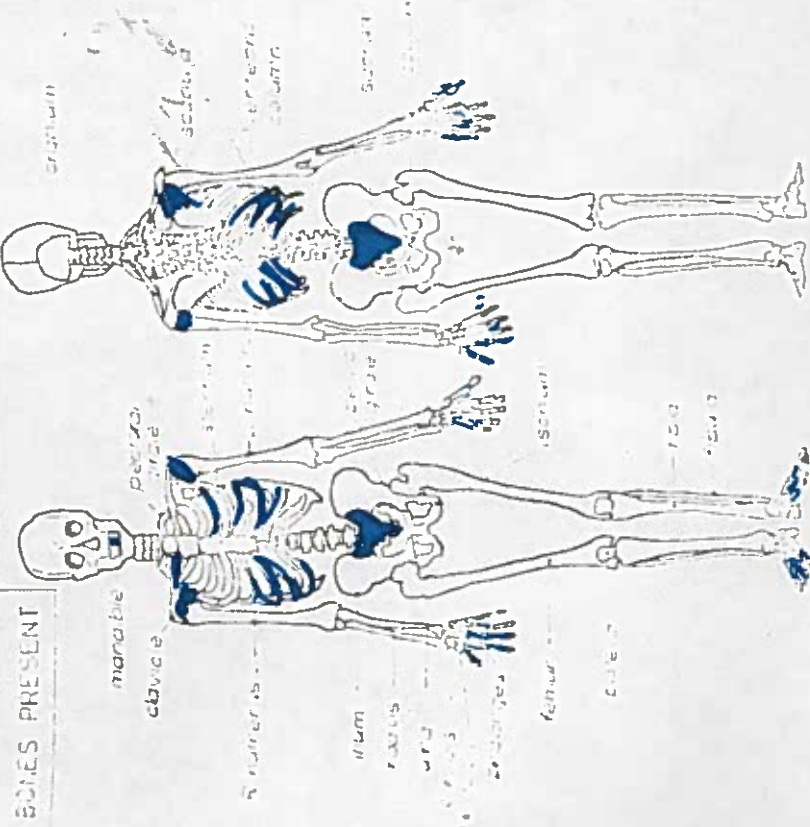
COMPLETE

DISTURBED ?

REMARKS: Fragmentary remains of a youth. incisor + canine of permanent dentition.
All remains appear unossified
- humerus head remains quite separate from diaphysis 10-14 yrs. of age
Sacrum and Sacral body indicate possibly male.

CONDITION OF BONE

BONES PRESENT



SKELETON FORM

FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE **S5P A (T)**

IN COFFIN ?

FINDS WITH SKELETON ?

ARTICULATED ?

COMPLETE

DISTURBED ?

POSITION OF:

SKULL

ARMS

LEGS

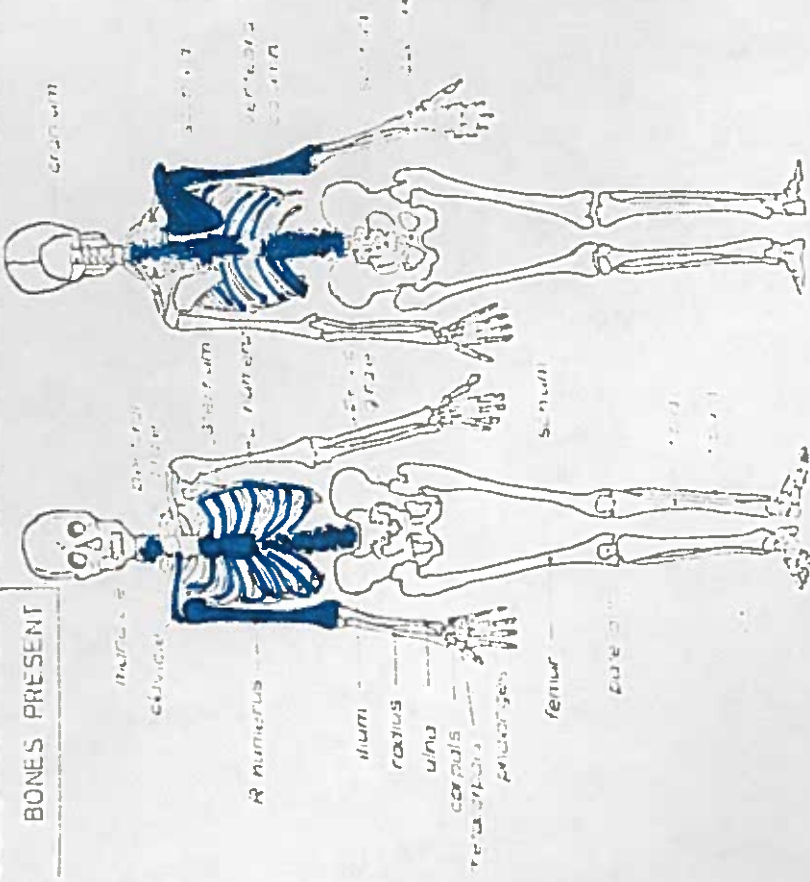
REMARKS: Practically all ribs and vertebral. Right humerus, scapula and clavicle also remain. Glanoid fossa measures 38mm. ∴ of male type - fits with the large robust male type bones.

Humerus is obviously matured and is incised at shoulder end - probably post mortem.

∴ Mature adult male ≈ 5'3"

CONDITION OF BONE

BONES PRESENT



SKELETON FORM

FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE **S5P A 'U'**

IN COFFIN ?

FINDS WITH SKELETON ?

ARTICULATED ?

COMPLETE

DISTURBED ?

POSITION OF:

SKULL

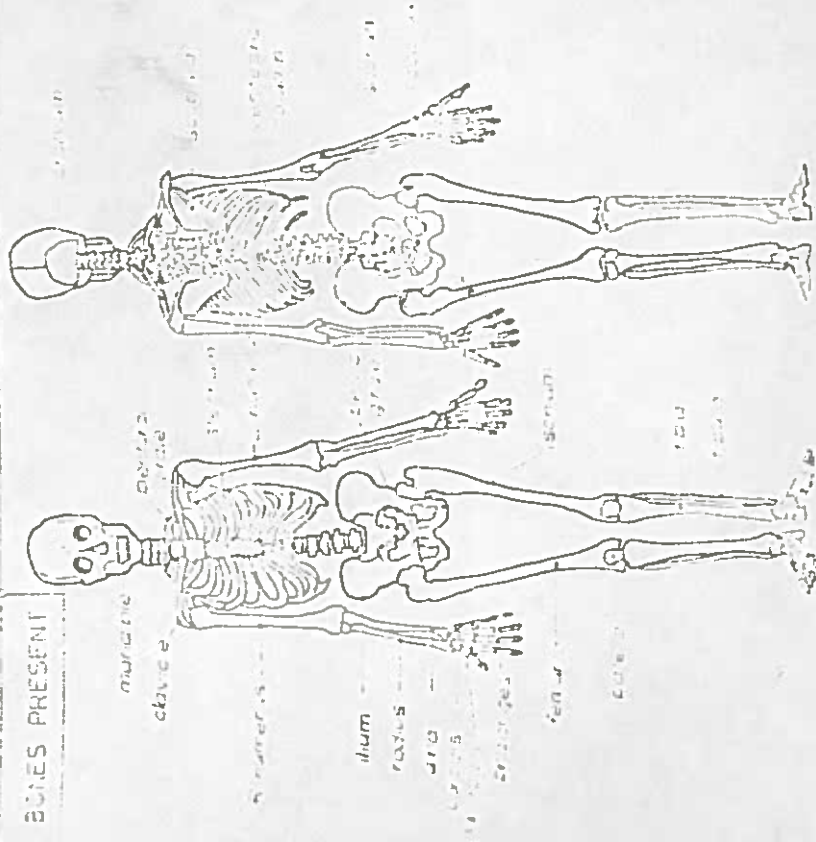
ARMS

LEGS

REMARKS: Jumbled remains of at least 2 individuals - fragments of 4 femurs are present. A reconstitution of a right humerus is possible - indicates a ht of 4'3". A fragment of a male greater sciatic notch is also present. ∴ at least, one male.

CONDITION OF BONE

BONES PRESENT

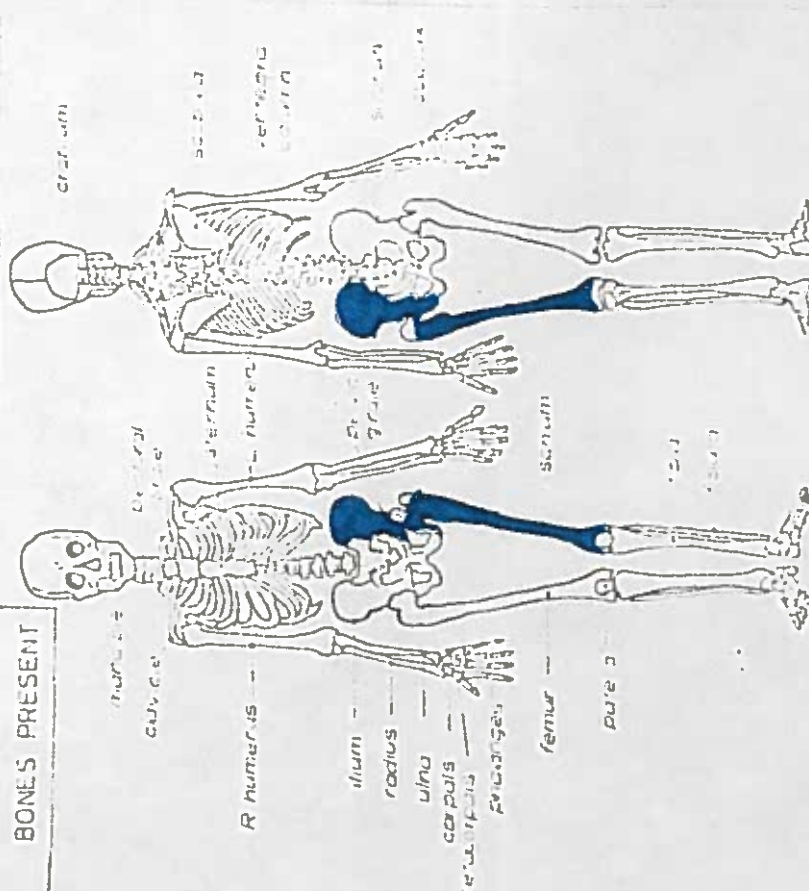


SKELETON FORM

FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE	SJP A "K"		
IN COFFIN ?			
FINDS WITH SKELETON ?	COMPLETE ?	DISTURBED ?	
ARTICULATED ?			
POSITION OF:			
SKULL			
ARMS			
LEGS			

REMARKS: Only 2 bones present
 - left ilium and femur - both
 immature and childlike. Ilium is
 small and thin - greater sciatic notch
 wide and broad of typical female type
 ∴ young girl 8-9 yrs.

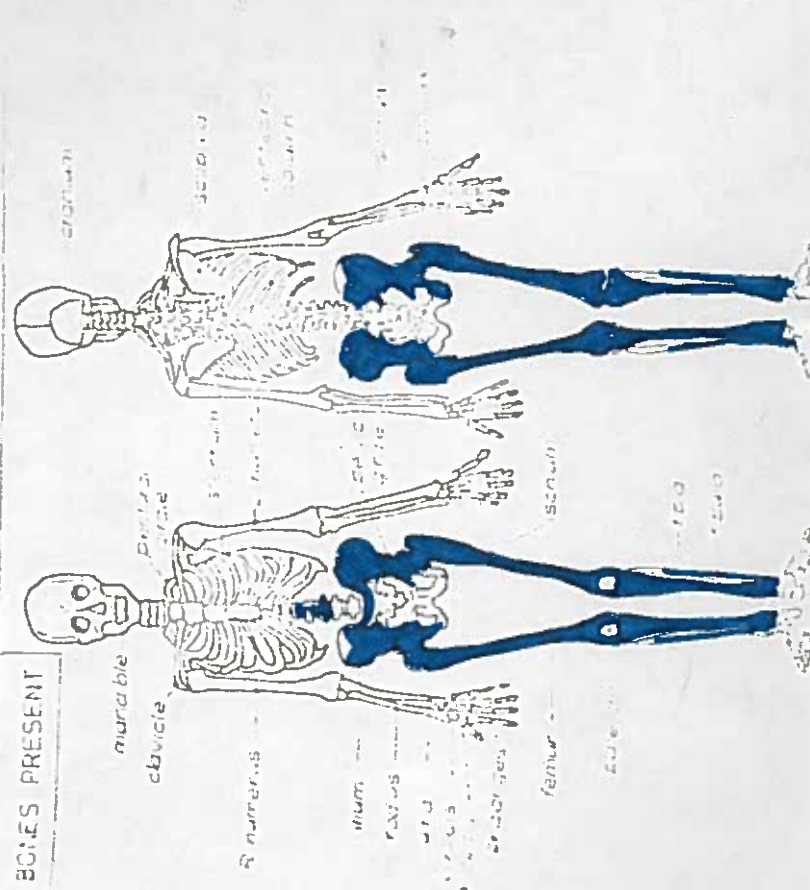
CONDITION OF BONE



FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE	SJP B "M" Tolson		
IN COFFIN ?			
FINDS WITH SKELETON ?	COMPLETE ?	DISTURBED ?	
ARTICULATED ?			
POSITION OF:			
SKULL			
ARMS			
LEGS			

REMARKS: Practically only the lower
 skeleton remains. Ossification is complete
 ∴ an adult person. Femur head = 3.9cm
 & wide of sciatic notch ∴ female
 Adult female

CONDITION OF BONE



SKELETON FORM

FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE **SJP B "n" topsoil**

IN COFFIN ?

FINDS WITH SKELETON ?

ARTICULATED ?

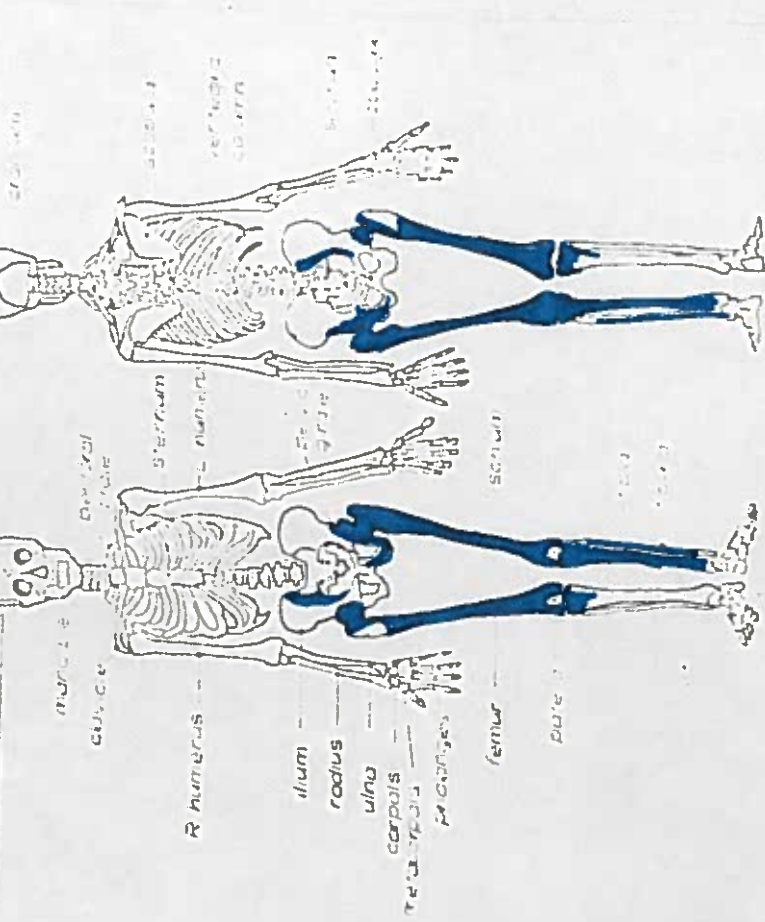
COMPLETE ?

DISTURBED ?

REMARKS: **Few remains - only complete bone is left femur. Bones are smallish, femur = 16" head = 4mm Ossification completed :: mature adult Bones laid to femur - no pronounced muscle markings. Sciatic notch in this case is not conclusively male or female - probably mature female.**

CONDITION OF BONE

BONES PRESENT



SKELETON FORM

FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE **SJP A "O"**

IN COFFIN ?

FINDS WITH SKELETON ?

ARTICULATED ?

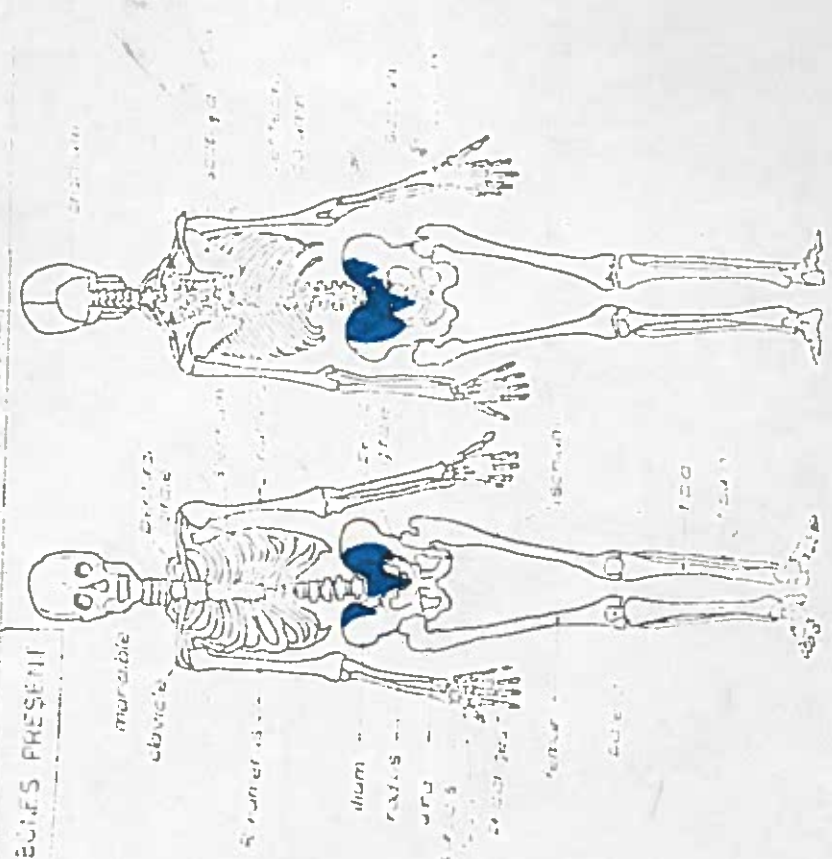
COMPLETE ?

DISTURBED ?

REMARKS: **Remains extremely few - Greater Sciatic notch remains and is of male type. 2/3 of sacrum remains - sacral body longer than alar :: male. Glial crest ossified :: Mature adult male.**

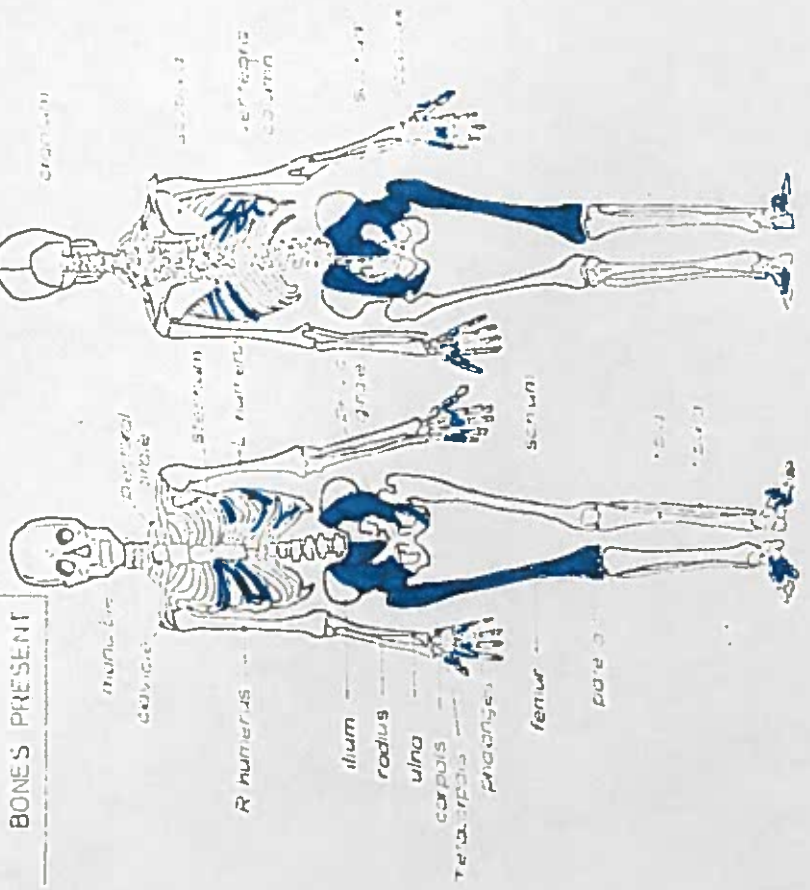
CONDITION OF BONE

BONES PRESENT



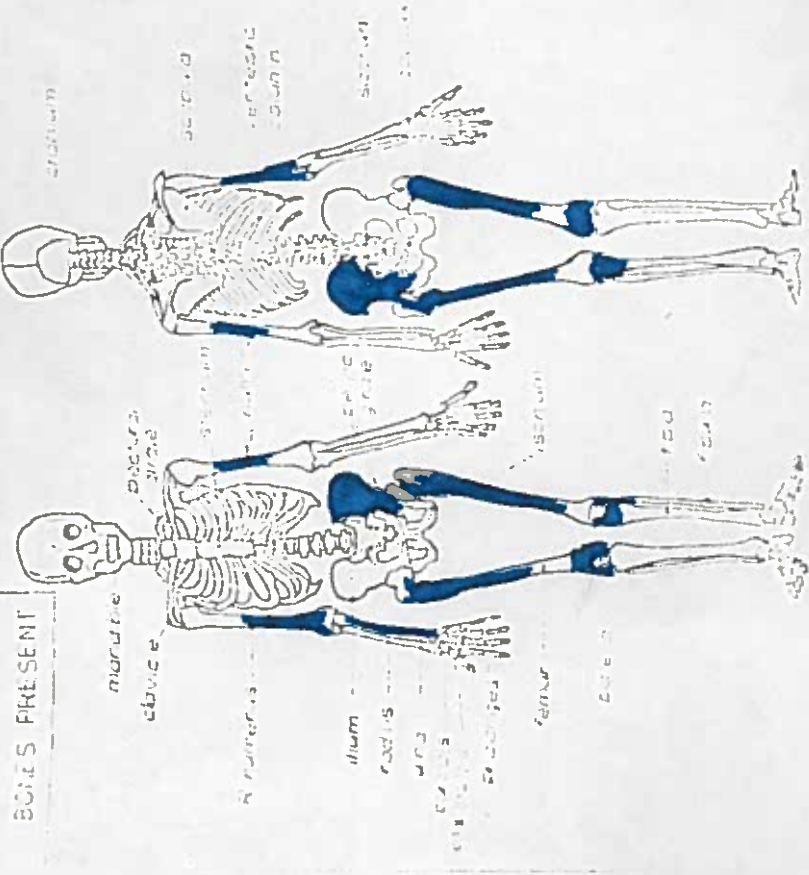
SKELETON FORM

FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE	SSP A "Y"		
IN COFFIN ?			
FINDS WITH SKELETON ?	COMPLETE ?	DISTURBED ?	
ARTICULATED ?			
POSITION OF :			
SKULL	REMARKS: All bones fragmentary and medium sized. Femur is typically male - good muscle attachments defined. Also pelvis shows narrow sciatic notch. No evidence of age. All ossification has taken place. ∴ mature adult male from femur, height is just over 5'.		
ARMS	∴ Adult male, +5.		
LEGS			
CONDITION OF BONE			



SKELETON FORM

FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE	SSP A "Z"		
IN COFFIN ?			
FINDS WITH SKELETON ?	COMPLETE ?	DISTURBED ?	
ARTICULATED ?			
POSITION OF :			
SKULL	REMARKS: Bone fragmentary, flakey and spongy. Remains of pre-adolescent child. Ossification of iliac crest, femur not yet complete. ∴ age 14/15. Greater sciatic notch is broad & female.		
ARMS	∴ female aged 14-15 yrs.		
LEGS			
CONDITION OF BONE			



SKELETON FORM

FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE SJP A(2) "D"

IN COFFIN ?

FINDS WITH SKELETON?

ARTICULATED ?

COMPLETE ?

DISTURBED ?

REMARKS:

POSITION OF:

SKULL

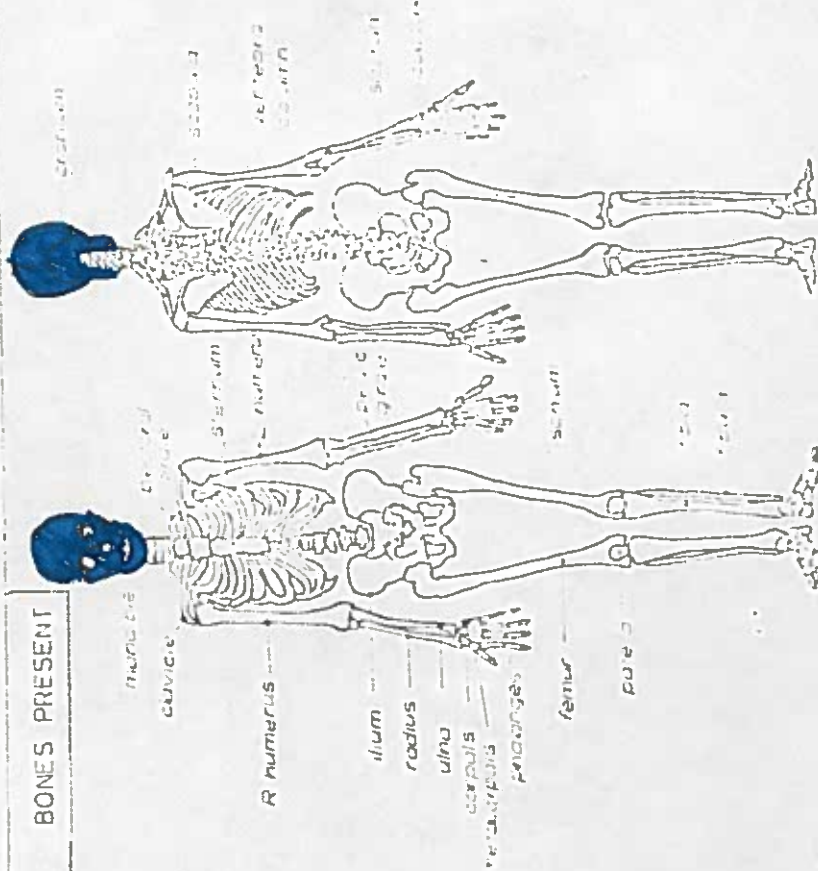
ARMS

LEGS

Male skull, large heavy & rugged. (S. orbs & mast. processes) mature adult.

CONDITION OF BONE

BONES PRESENT



SKELETON FORM

FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE SJP A "h"

IN COFFIN ?

FINDS WITH SKELETON?

ARTICULATED ?

COMPLETE ?

DISTURBED ?

POSITION OF:

SKULL

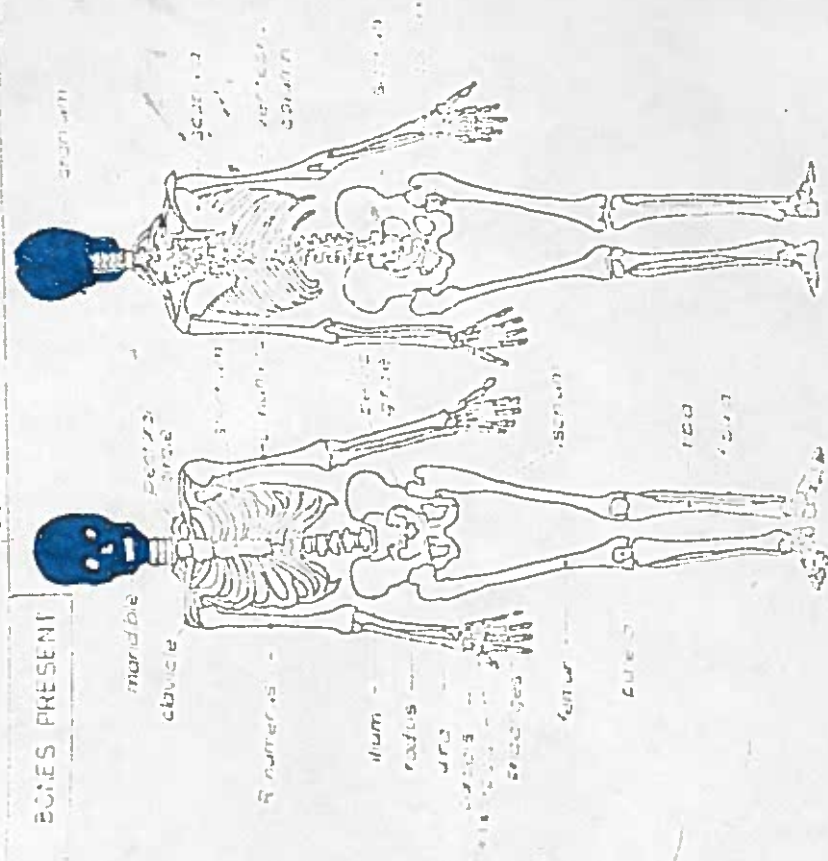
ARMS

LEGS

REMARKS: Skull small & delicate
- supra orbital ridges small & female
Second teeth coming through age 8-10 yrs
Skull appears to be deformed
- medial line very much off centre
most likely occurred after death? (soil pressure)

CONDITION OF BONE

BONES PRESENT



SALES: 100,000

FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE	SJP A (J)
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55p A (J)

IN COFFIN 2

FINDS WITH SOME SKELETON?

ARTICULATED

CONFIDENTIAL

DISPENSE

POSITION OF:

Sixty

ARMS

565

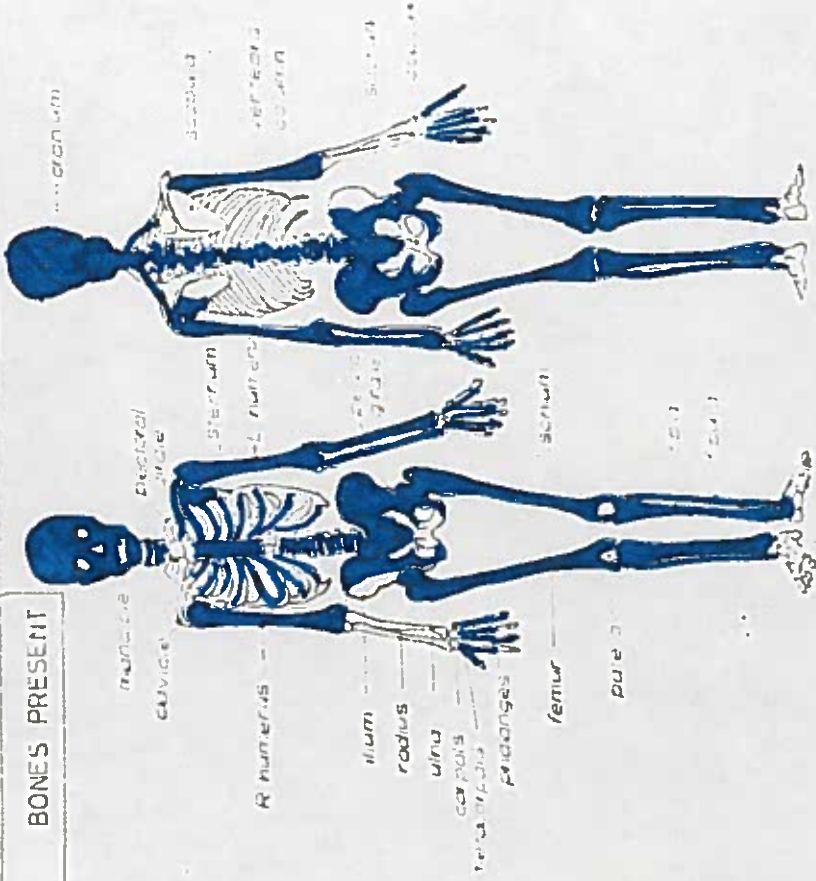
REVIEWS:

Small disarticulated skeleton. Sacral body and greater sciatic notch indicate a male. one third molar present
Young Male, late teens 4'6".

CONDITION OF HOME

1205

BONES PRESENT



SKELTON, J. C.

CHURCH NUMBER 66

5-10-11 (R)

NORTHWOOD

ENDS WITH HILM SÖR?

1. *Introduction*

COMPLETING

DISPENSE

position of:

777X5

4015

503

REMARKS: Framingham skeleton.

Epiphyseal suture still evident on
long bones. Head of humerus
not yet fused to diaphysis.
Pubic Symphysis rugged / horizontal
age 18-20. Sex is not certain
-felinis a borderline case - probably male (?)

CONDITION OF BCNE

GOES PRESENT



SKELETON FORM			
FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE	SJP A 'C'		
IN COFFIN ?			
FINDS WITH SKELETON ?			
ARTICULATED ?	COMPLETE ?	DISTURBED ?	
POSITION OF:	REMARKS:		
SKULL	young male 5'3-5'4		
ARMS	late teens/early 20's.		
LEGS			
BONES PRESENT		CONDITION OF BONE	
		Good.	

SKELETON FORM			
FEATURE NUMBER OF GRAVE	SJP Tr.B long		
IN COFFIN ?			
FINDS WITH SKELETON ?			
ARTICULATED ?	COMPLETE ?	DISTURBED ?	
POSITION OF:	REMARKS:		
SKULL	Male ~ 5'8		
ARMS	35-55		
LEGS			
BONES PRESENT		CONDITION OF BONE	
		Poor/Fragile	

Cist articulated upper skeleton.

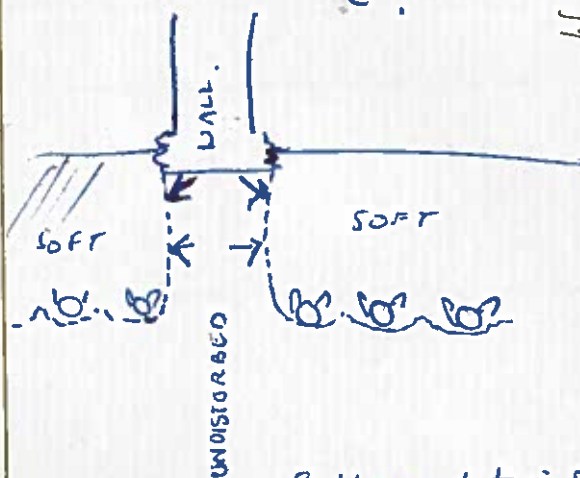
ick,

This seems fine. In the discussion you might mention that radial displacement of ground has also been a tradition elsewhere e.g. Kilmacoggart Co. Downagh (Anc. Mon. in Slate (con)). Also a sentence about the distribution, frequency and dating of long cisterns would be appropriate.

Could it not be suggested that the subsidence of the chert walls is due to leaching but occurred gradually over a long time - due to penetration and softening of the soil around the foundation.

C.

W. 67 76



Could you dot in the

edges of your feet along with above
it might run under the wall?

C.