

SH8 / DOWN 57:3

GREENCASTLE

1966-70 Excavations

Reprinted from
ULSTER JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY
Volume 42 (1979)

EXCAVATIONS AT GREENCASTLE, COUNTY DOWN, 1966-1970

by CYNTHIA GASKELL-BROWN*

(Formerly Ancient Monuments Branch, Ministry of Finance (N.I.))

INTRODUCTION

The exploratory excavations carried out at Greencastle, Co. Down in 1951 by D. M. Waterman and A. E. P. Collins were part of a research programme for the Archaeological Survey of Co. Down. They successfully established the basic plan and building history of this Anglo-Norman castle and the results were published soon after (Waterman and Collins 1952). The structural history of the standing remains has also been published in the *Archaeological Survey of County Down* (H.M.S.O., 1966), and the site was taken into State care in 1970. Extensive conservation work has now been completed and in conjunction with this work the NE. angle tower and the deposits between the keep and the N. and E. curtain walls were excavated between February 1966 and March 1970. A total of 8 months work was done on the site by C. Warhurst; in the winter of 1970 further major work was done by C. J. Lynn (Historic Monuments Branch) on the castle ditch. This will be reported separately.

The purpose of the excavations was to elucidate the relationship of the small two-period building in the N. ward and to establish the plan and relationship of the NE. angle tower with the curtain wall (Fig. 1). Some success was achieved in both cases and the excavations produced a quantity of medieval pottery and small finds.

The position of sections and the sequence of excavation was partially affected by the need to maintain a public right of way across the E. ward. As the excavations showed that there was also a certain hiatus between the N. and E. wards caused by the natural topography, the description which follows will describe the N. ward first, followed by the E. ward, links between the two areas being indicated whenever possible.

THE EXCAVATION

A brief summary of the history of the castle is included here to set the excavations in their context. Current examination of the documentary material relating to Norman castles in Ulster by

Dr T. E. McNeill (Department of Archaeology, Queen's University, Belfast) and Mr C. J. Lynn has modified the conclusions of Waterman and Collins published in the reports mentioned above.

The castle was in existence by 1254 (Pipe Roll 38 and 39 Henry III) when it was victualled from Dublin. The Pipe Roll of 44 Henry III, 1259-1260, provides an account of building materials used on the keep, either for strengthening or repair. At about the same time the castle was attacked and 'destroyed' (1260, Annals of Ireland, Chartularies of St Mary's, Dublin). Extensive alterations were made to the keep in the late 15th or early 16th century, which included adding another storey to the castle and providing a new ground floor entrance in the SW. corner. In the mid-16th century large windows were opened in the keep on the first floor and a two storey house was built onto the W. wall. The early occupation of the castle was frequently disturbed by Irish raids and the 15th and 16th century rebuildings must in part account for the extensive layer of rubble and building debris which covered the early medieval deposits in the ward. Recent use as farm buildings, and the general decay since the end of the 16th century have also left their marks.

Pre-Castle Occupation

The rock outcrop chosen for the site of the castle was partially covered by a natural deposit of stiff orange-brown clay, which, within the ward area, survived in places to a depth of 1 ft. This is shown on all sections as layer I. The old turf on its surface was identified in some areas, particularly in the E. ward, as a darker peaty band up to 6 in. thick. In two areas there was evidence of some human activity on the site before castle-building began. A hollow 6 in. deep and probably about 5 ft in diameter containing dense black peaty soil with some scraps of animal bone, a great many winkle shells and two body sherds of souterrain ware was found sealed beneath the corner of wall B (Fig. 2, B-B). Another pocket of occupation soil was found on the bedrock in the angle between the E. curtain wall and the NE. tower; a similar deposit was noted in the 1951 excavations beneath the site of the E. curtain wall (Waterman and Collins 1952, 89). The only small find from the surface of the bedrock was a perforated bone disc (Fig. 8, 5).

* Formerly Cynthia Warhurst. This report was completed in 1971 but an opportunity for its publication has not been presented until now. The text has not been up-dated.

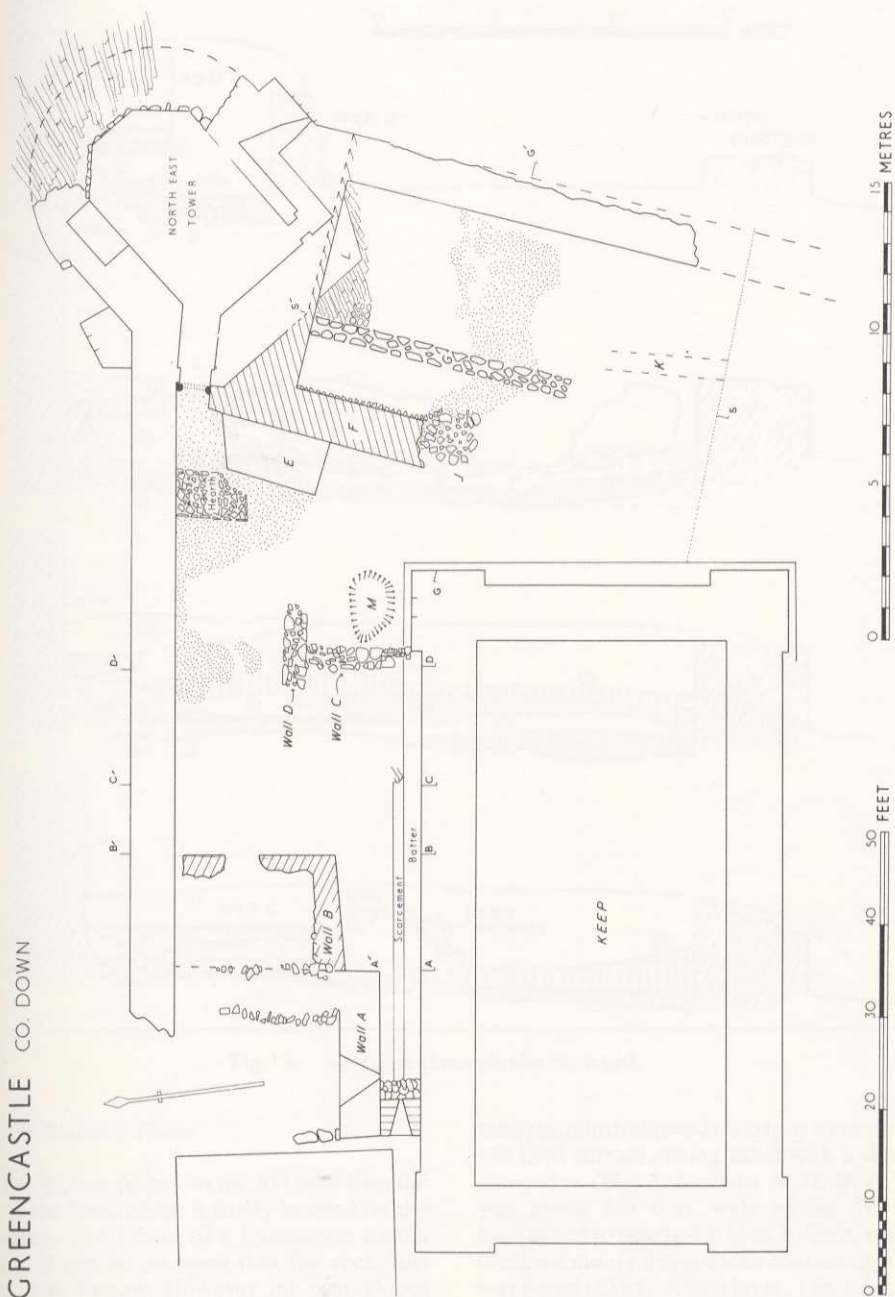


Fig. 1. Plan of excavated area.

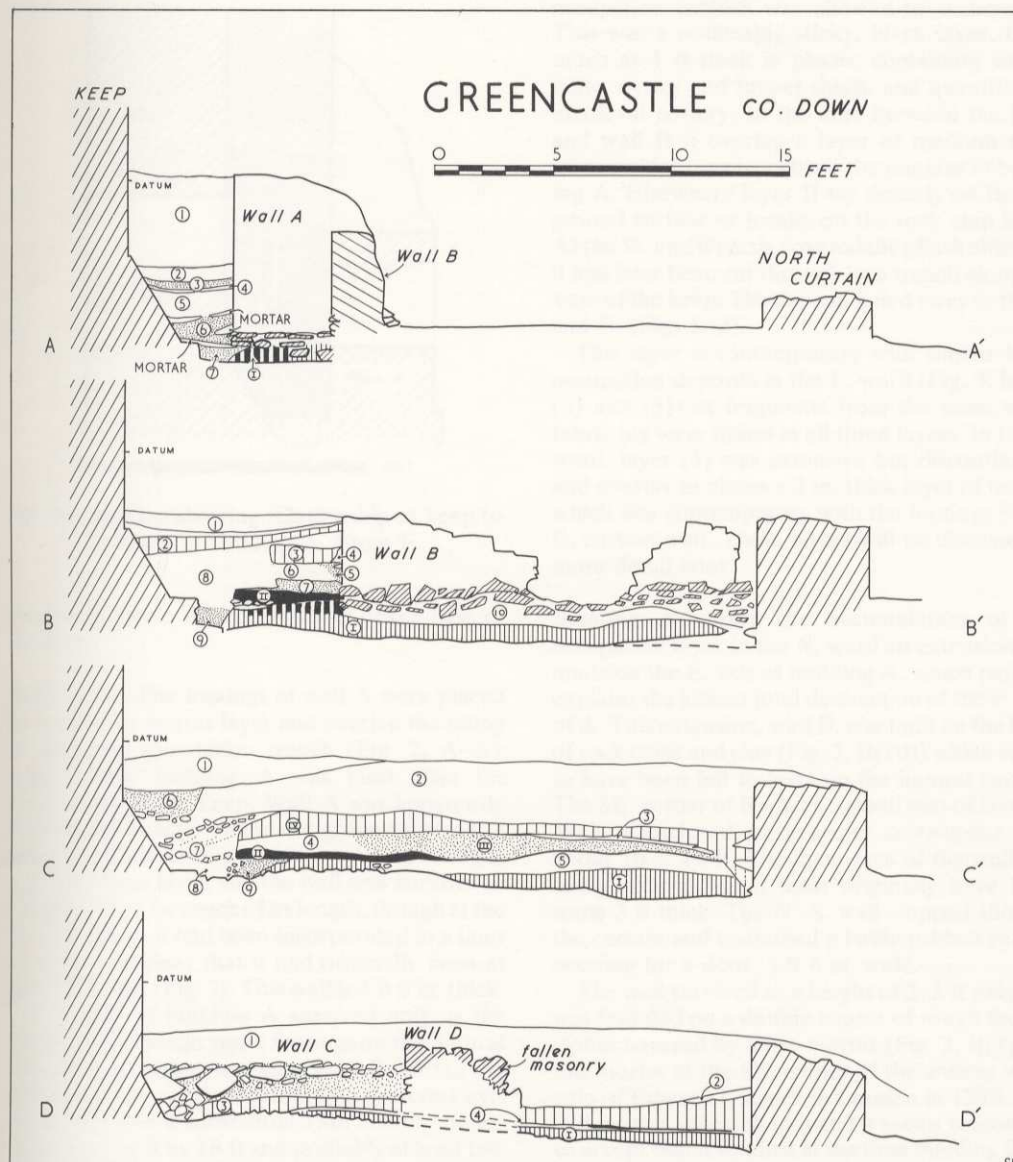


Fig. 2. Sections through the N. ward.

The Initial Building Phase

One of the highest points on the hill underlies the E. wall of the keep which is firmly bedded on the rock surface; as no trace of a foundation trench was found it can be assumed that the rock outcropped at this point. However the rock slopes away westward and in order to provide a level platform for the N. wall of the keep a stone plinth or scarcement was constructed. This plinth projected 1 ft N. of the base of the keep and extended along two thirds of the N. wall. The trench dug to

take the plinth showed clearly as a cut through the old land surface, being filled with a dark brown stony clay (Fig. 2, Sections A(7), B(9), C(9)). It was about 1 ft 6 in. wide at the W. end and broadened to nearly 4 ft at its E. limit, where some local secondary disturbance containing a stony fill was noted (C(8)). A thin layer, 1 in. thick, of clean orange clay upcast from the foundation trench sealed the patch of pre-castle occupation material beneath wall B. This foundation trench was sealed at the W. end in the narrow area between the keep and wall A, by a thin layer of sandy mortar derived

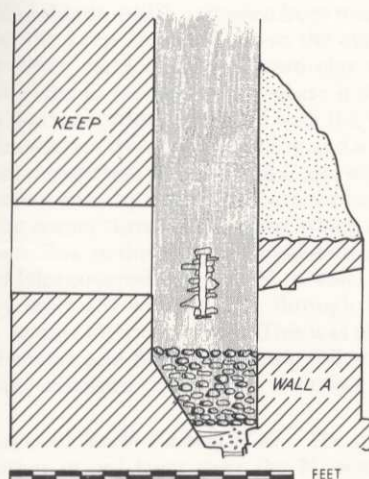


Fig. 3. Section showing relationship of keep to window in building A. From E.

presumably from the construction of the base of the keep.

Building A The footings of wall A were placed on top of this mortar layer and overlap the filling of the keep foundation trench (Fig. 2, A-A); quite clearly building A was built after the foundations of the keep. Wall A was apparently constructed directly on the old ground surface; it contains a 13th century window-opening facing S. at ground floor level, and the wall now survives to a height of 8 ft for much of its length, though at the W. end, where it had been incorporated in a later building, it is clear that it had originally been at least 15 ft high (Fig. 3). This wall is 4 ft 6 in. thick. The E. wall of building A survived only as the lowest row of rough stone footings on the natural clay and rock surface and stopped 5 ft short of the curtain wall at a rock outcrop. The surviving evidence indicates a substantial 13th century building at least 18 ft by 18 ft and probably at least two storeys high. As the whole of the interior of this building had been completely disturbed by modern activity it was impossible to relate it to the curtain wall, which at this point survived only as footings.

To the E. of building A a layer of rock chips and clay was laid on the natural surface, perhaps in an attempt to level up the ward area (Fig. 2, sections B(10), C(5)). This may in part have been upcast from the foundation of the N. curtain wall. This layer was generally 9 in. thick and extended from the curtain wall southward, tailing away towards the keep, where it was partially covered by layer II (Fig. 2, C-C).

To the E. of building A an extensive area of

occupation rubbish was allowed to accumulate. This was a noticeably sticky, black layer, II, as much as 1 ft thick in places, containing animal bone, oyster and limpet shells, and quantities of medieval pottery. In the area between the keep and wall B it overlay a layer of medium sized stones which may have been the remains of building A. Elsewhere layer II lay directly on the old ground surface or locally on the rock chip layer. At the W. end it partly covered the plinth although it had later been cut through by a trench along the base of the keep. The deposit tailed away to the N. and E. (Figs 1, 2).

This layer is contemporary with similar black occupation deposits in the E. ward (Fig. 3, layers (3) and (5)) as fragments from the same white fabric jug were found in all three layers. In the E. ward, layer (5) was extensive but discontinuous and overlay in places a 3 in. thick layer of mortar which was contemporary with the footings of the E. curtain wall. These layers will be discussed in more detail later.

Building B After the accumulation of the occupation layer in the N. ward an extension was made on the E. side of building A, which perhaps explains the almost total destruction of the E. wall of A. This extension, wall B, was built on the layer of rock chips and clay (Fig. 2, B(10)) which seems to have been left to level up the natural surface. The SE. corner of B sealed a small part of layer II. Wall B enclosed an irregular rectangular area about 10 × 14 ft. The inner face of the wall was badly robbed but it must originally have been some 3 ft thick. The N.-S. wall stopped short of the curtain and contained a badly robbed central opening for a door, 3 ft 6 in. wide.

The wall survived to a height of 2-3 ft only and was founded on a double course of rough footing stones covered by loose mortar (Fig. 2, B(7)). In this mortar at the SE. corner of the annexe was a coin of Edward I, struck in London in 1279. This had mortar adhering to it and it seems reasonable to accept that it was lost at the time building B was constructed. If this is so it provides a *terminus ante quem* for the occupation and pottery in layer II, a small area of which was sealed under the corner of building B, and the mortar from the footings of the S. wall.

Deposits in the North Ward Against the S. wall of building B irregular lumps of mortar droppings from the wall construction were noted (Fig. 2, B(4),(5)) amongst the stony clay deposit (B(6), C(4)) which surrounded the building.

This layer was mixed with pockets of sand and stone and was as much as 1 ft thick in places. Between sections B and C it merged with layer III of soil and rock chips, with occasional bones, oys-

ter shells and sherds, which extended from roughly 10 ft N. of the keep almost as far as the curtain wall. This layer merged into a brown clay with rock chips to the E. (section D(3)) where it overlaid a thin mortar scatter associated with the very shallow foundation trench for the keep and a thin tail of black occupation II. E. of wall C and wall D it had been cut away by a sump beneath the latrine chute in the corner turret of the keep, which consisted of a hollow in the rock, M, filled with large stones and later covered with clay. N. of wall D the stony clay layer (3) was also cut through by a rough pit against the curtain wall. This was about 3 ft in diameter and filled with dark soil which sloped away eastward to the natural surface.

Building against North Curtain Wall The origin of this rather mixed layer over the N. ward is unclear; it seems probable that it resulted from clearance and dumping of spoil from other areas of the site. It is treated as a single deposit because it was sealed by the remains of a plaster floor which survived in patches over much of the N. ward. The more substantial areas, where the plaster was hard and some 2–3 in. thick are indicated on plan (Fig. 1, Fig. 2, C(3), D(2)). The plaster floor had been continuous with the rendering of the face of the curtain wall from this level upward. These traces seem to indicate a building against the inside of the N. curtain wall perhaps 15 ft wide extending from the interior of the NE. angle tower (where the plaster lay on the natural rock surface) through the doorway, round buttress E and at least 44 ft westwards. To the W. of this was a rather indefinite sandy layer which tailed away before reaching building B. As a result the relationship of this lean-to building to building B remains uncertain; at this end the level of the plaster floor was approximately that of the threshold of the doorway in B. However just outside the door was a hollow 2 ft wide and about 9 in. deep continuing layers of mortar and charcoal, cut into the rock chip and clay deposit III. The fill of this hollow was 2 in. of loose mortar, covered by 3 in. of sticky, black occupation with a few sherds; this was covered by further mortar and another occupation layer, 3 in. thick. Animal bones ran through from one layer to another, the whole area being very soft. This deposit corresponds in part to the stratification noted by Waterman and Collins in 1951 on the W. side of this wall. As it apparently accumulated in a hollow cut into the deposits of stony clay outside the building, it is tempting to suggest that the opening in this wall was not original and was broken through later. If this suggestion is correct the tentative association of the doorway with the plaster floor level to the E. would be reinforced.

As already mentioned, the plaster floor lay on

top of early deposits at its W. end and sloped down to the natural surface in the doorway of the NE. angle tower. Here it had been cut through by two post holes, 9 in. in diameter and 9 in. deep, one on either side of the entrance, connected by a shallow hollow along the threshold. Just outside the doorway were small patches of sticky black occupation debris containing a few small medieval sherds lying on top of the plaster floor.

Overlying the plaster floor was another mixed layer of clay with rock chips and mortar patches. This could be traced from the outside of wall B eastward (Fig. 2, C IV) and contained a scatter of bones and medieval sherds. It tailed away indefinitely between sections C and D. From this level a substantial trench was dug along the base of the keep cutting through all the earlier deposits onto the plinth at the foot of the base batter. This cut started about 1 ft E. of the eastern corner of building A and could be traced as far as the wall C, which had obliterated the evidence and was clearly at least as late as this trench. This later trench prevented the linking of deposits in the N. ward with those in the narrow area between the keep and wall A, (Fig. 2, section A) where the only narrow strip of complete undisturbed deposits survived. Here the black occupation layer II was covered by brown clay and by a 2 in. spread of mortar, which might be contemporary with the mortar spread over the footings of wall B; above this (5) was brown clay, some 18 in. thick – perhaps equating with B(6). Next was a narrow band of dark soil (4), covered by a thicker sandy layer (3). Finally layer (2) of brown clay contained scraps of bone and shell and, most significant, some roofing slates. It was from this level that the trench along the base of the keep was dug. These roofing slates were similar in colour and size to those remaining on the 16th century roof line of the keep.

Clearly layers A(2) and C IV probably consist in part of material upcast from the lower deposits by this trench; from C IV were medieval sherds indistinguishable from those in layer II. The evidence from A(2) however suggests very strongly that the major clearance along the base of the keep can be dated to the 16th century. Also belonging to this period is the length of wall inserted at the W. end, between the keep and wall A. This insertion was achieved by digging away the deposits between the keep and wall A for a distance of 10 ft, and constructing a crude buttress 2 ft thick and 3 ft 6 in. high on the outside of the base of the new wall, which is 4 ft thick and not quite at right angles to the keep (Figs 1,3). The hollow behind it filled with miscellaneous layers of stone, clay and soil. Layer (1) section A is largely the upcast from this 16th century excavation.

The fill of the 16th century trench was mostly

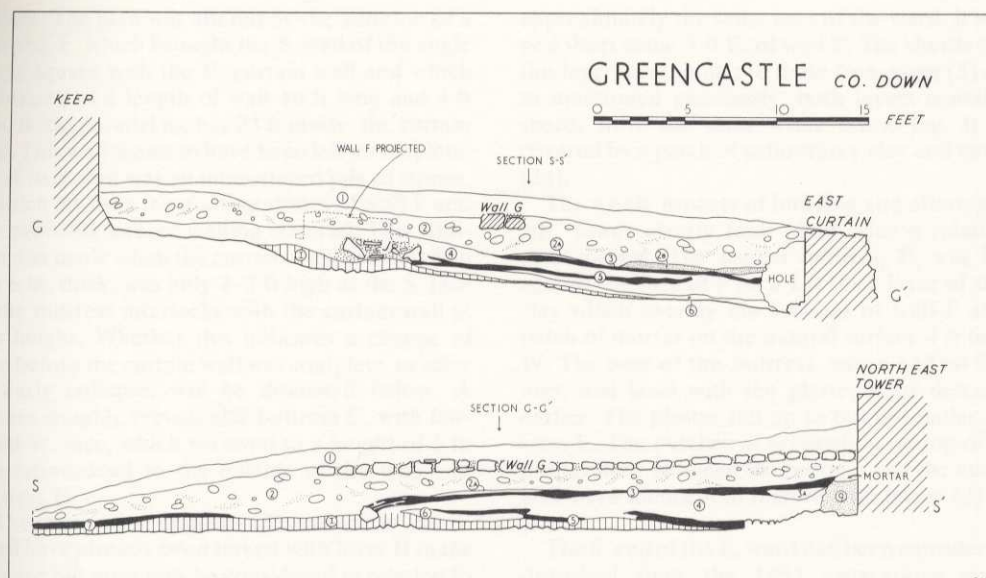


Fig. 4. Sections in E. ward.

mortary rubble, with a few medieval sherds and bones (B(8), C(7),(8)). This merged with the general accumulation of loose mortary rubble which covered the whole of the N. ward area (C(2), D(1)). As this contained a few bricks the pockets of mortar and clay above it are clearly post-16th century and indicate the decay of the castle buildings.

Walls C and D These walls of crude construction were built on rubble and fallen masonry and so far as the very loose filling at the E. end of the keep allowed a decision, appeared to be later than the 16th century trench at the base of the keep. The earlier sump, M, at the corner was levelled up with stones set on yellow clay; wall C was one course thick, built of selected but undressed stones set in yellow clay and it incorporated at the N. end a rough stone drain. Wall D, at right angles to C and at a slightly higher level, was of similar construction, merging to the E. with the general area of stones. The function of these walls remains obscure. They seem to be part of a late occupation of the ward which blocked up the doorway of the NE. tower with stones and the distinctive yellow clay to a height of 1 ft 6 in. (level with the decayed surface of the buttress E) and which incorporated the stone hearth built against the curtain wall at the same level. This hearth was carefully made of flat stones set in clay with a neat edging of vertical stones, supported by the surrounding packed clay floor, which was separated from the earlier plaster floor by 1 ft of mortary clay and stones. There was an extensive layer of charcoal and burnt clay on,

around and to the W. of the hearth. This layer was covered by a mound of yellow clay 3–6 in. thick which incorporated three dressed stone mullions from the 16th century windows of the keep.

The Curtain Wall and NE. Tower The curtain wall and NE. tower were constructed essentially as one unit. The N. curtain wall survived to a maximum height of 4 ft 6 in. and was 4 ft 9 in. wide on a single course of footings. The E. curtain was badly robbed on the outside but survived to a height of 6 ft 6 in. adjacent to the corner tower. The main features of the angle tower were described by Waterman in 1966. The present excavations confirmed the line of the foundations on the N. where all but the inner edge of the very shallow foundation trench had disappeared. It can be seen on plan that this trench was angular but enough survived of the outer wall face to show that the tower was originally D-shaped. The NW. wall of the tower had incorporated an internal rectangular opening 6 ft 6 in. $\times$ 3 ft 6 in. perhaps for a stair or fireplace but only the lowest course of stones survived. The doorway into the tower was adjacent to the N. curtain wall and, due to a building inaccuracy, the opening in the 6 ft thick tower wall deviates slightly to the SE. from the line of the curtain. The entrance is marked by door checks on the ward side of the passage, of one built with the tower, and a bar socket in the S. wall.

The S. wall of the tower appears to have been altered at an early stage in its history; the original line is indicated by the wall base L, which survived as a single course of walling on the natural rock

surface. The plan was altered by the addition of a buttress, F, which brought the S. wall of the angle tower square with the E. curtain wall and which incorporated a length of wall 16 ft long and 4 ft 6 in. thick, parallel to, but 23 ft inside, the curtain wall. This wall seems to have been left incomplete, for at its S. end was an unmortared pile of stones, J, which lay on a few footing stones of wall F and was probably unused walling material. This addition was made when the curtain wall, which is also 4 ft 6 in. thick, was only 2-3 ft high as the S. face of the buttress interlocks with the curtain wall at this height. Whether this indicates a change of plan before the curtain wall was complete, or after its early collapse, will be discussed below. A further roughly rectangular buttress E, with battered W. face, which survived to a height of 1 ft, was later added to the outside of the wall and buttress F.

The occupation deposits (3) and (5) in the E. ward have already been linked with layer II in the N. ward but must now be considered in relation to the NE. angle tower. Although the natural soil overlying the rock survived in places in the E. ward (Fig. 4, G and S.(1)) it had been removed beneath the keep, the curtain wall and the NE. tower. The tower was built on a projecting knob of rock and the uneven hollows outside its S. wall had been filled in one place with a short length of walling (Fig. 1), and elsewhere by mortar. An irregular mortar spread (6), 2-3 in. thick, associated with the footings of the curtain wall, covered the natural surface over a considerable area of the E. ward. This probably indicates an area where mortar was mixed before use rather than a deliberately laid floor as it was irregular in thickness and extent. This mortar was locally covered by 6 in. of clay with rock chippings (7), but elsewhere directly by the sticky black occupation soil (5), 2-3 in. thick and containing medieval sherds, bone and shell.

The extent of this occupation layer is shown in Fig. 1; it finished beneath wall F and the associated heap of stones J. The addition to the NE. angle tower, F, was then constructed leaving an accumulation of loose mortary lumps at its base (Fig. 3, G(9)), on top of 1 ft of stony clay (4) which extended some 26 ft to the S. and ran W. under and around the footings of wall F and stone heap J. W. of J it merged indefinitely into a sandy stony layer (4a) while W. of wall F it tailed off onto the rising natural surface. It seems likely that this deposit was made to bring the ward surface more nearly level with the area to the W. while providing a foundation for wall F. Adjacent to the tower were pockets of mortar and stones (section S (3a)) and a second layer of sticky black occupation (G and S(3)) accumulated on layer (4). This was not quite as extensive as layer (5) although it covered

approximately the same area of the ward; it stopped short some 3 ft E. of wall F. The sherds from this layer were similar to those from layer (5) and, as mentioned previously, both layers contained sherds from the same white fabric jug. It was covered by a patch of yellow/grey clay and mortar (2a).

The whole process of building and altering the NE. tower clearly took place over a relatively short period. The second buttress, E, was built against the face of F on a 1 ft thick layer of stony clay which overlay the footings of wall F and a patch of mortar on the natural surface 4 ft to the W. The base of this buttress, which had no footings, was level with the plaster floor described earlier. The plaster ran up to but not under buttress E. The patches of occupation on top of this plaster floor between the buttress and the curtain wall were identical in texture with layers (3) and (5).

The S. end of the E. ward had been considerably disturbed since the 1951 excavations mainly because of the right of way. Only fragmentary traces of the wall and occupation layers noted by Waterman and Collins at that time were found. The possible extent of the fragmentary wall is shown on Fig. 1. K. The lowest patch of occupation associated with it lay on a skin of mortar on the slightly disturbed subsoil. This occupation was covered by a 2 in. layer of baked clay with a further thin band of occupation on top. This sequence seems to correspond in part with layers (6) and (5) further to the N. and the flimsy partition K may therefore be tentatively assigned to the earliest phase of occupation. Other irregular patches of occupation soil on the natural surface were noted closer to the keep; one of these contained the iron buckle and part of a pair of scissors (Fig. 8. 4, 5).

A layer of mortary rubble and clay (2), up to 2 ft thick, covered the E. ward, overlying layer (3) and buttresses E and F. On this rubble the lowest course of a crude wall, G, survived. This ran parallel to the E. curtain wall enclosing an area 15 ft wide and some 30 ft long. The E. face of this wall had been plastered in one with the S. face of the NE. tower. Though clearly a late feature, subsequent to the decay of the castle, there was no other dating evidence for wall G. The final layer (1) shown in the E. ward was recent soil and rubble deposited during the conservation work.

THE FINDS

POTTERY

The bulk of the pottery came from the lower occupation, layer II, and the equivalent layers (3) and (5) in the E. ward. A smaller but noticeable quantity was found in

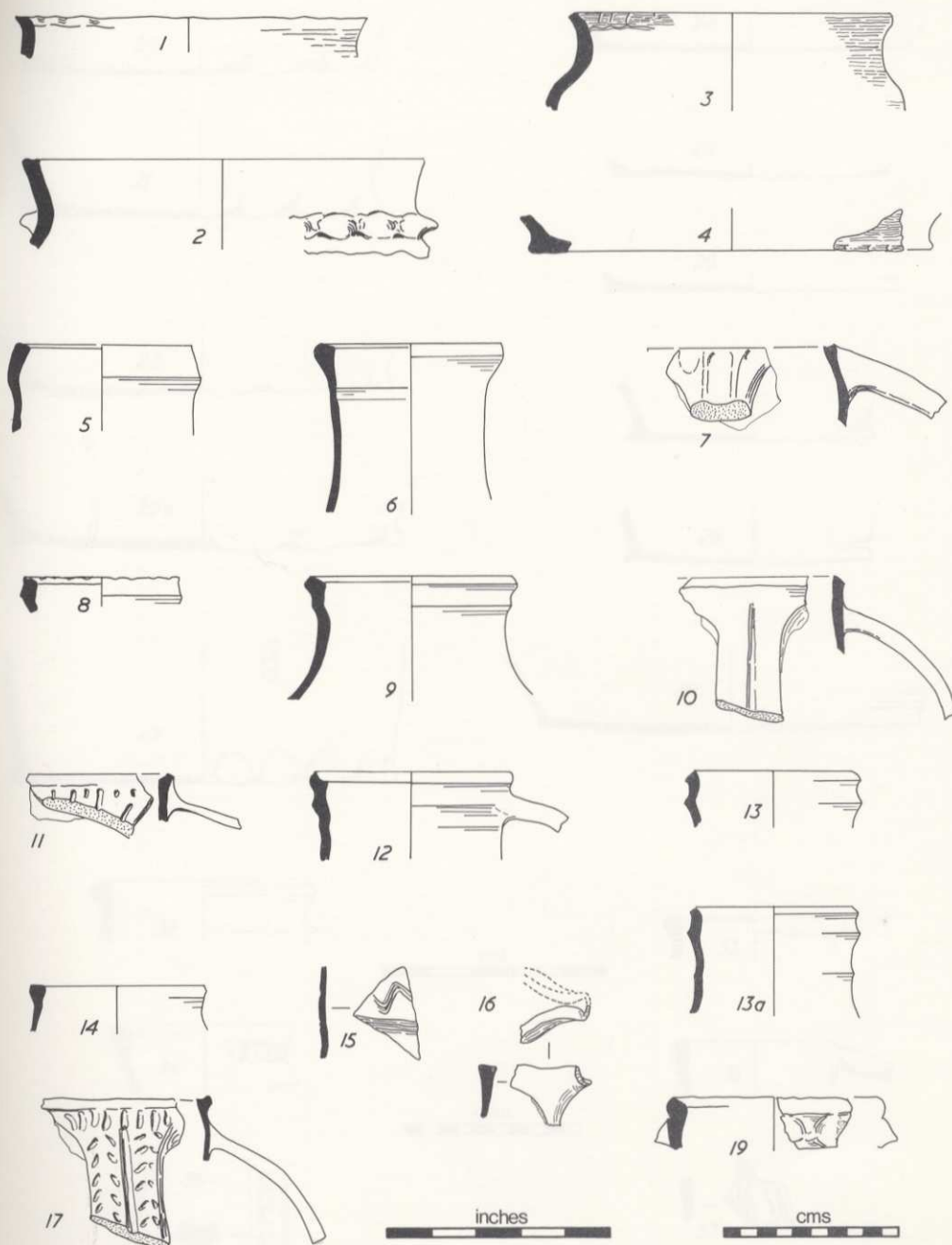


Fig. 5. Pottery. 1-4, cooking pottery, layers II, IV. 5-19, glazed wares, layer II ($\times \frac{1}{4}$).

layer III within ten feet of wall B, and the occasional medieval sherd was found in several other layers as noted in the main description. Amongst miscellaneous sherds from the loose rubble covering the whole site were a few medieval sherds, a few that might tentatively

be assigned to the 16th or 17th centuries and the remainder to the 19th or 20th centuries.

Surprisingly little cooking pottery was found. There were sherds of three everted-rim vessels, and of perhaps five souterrain pots, but no English-style cooking pots of

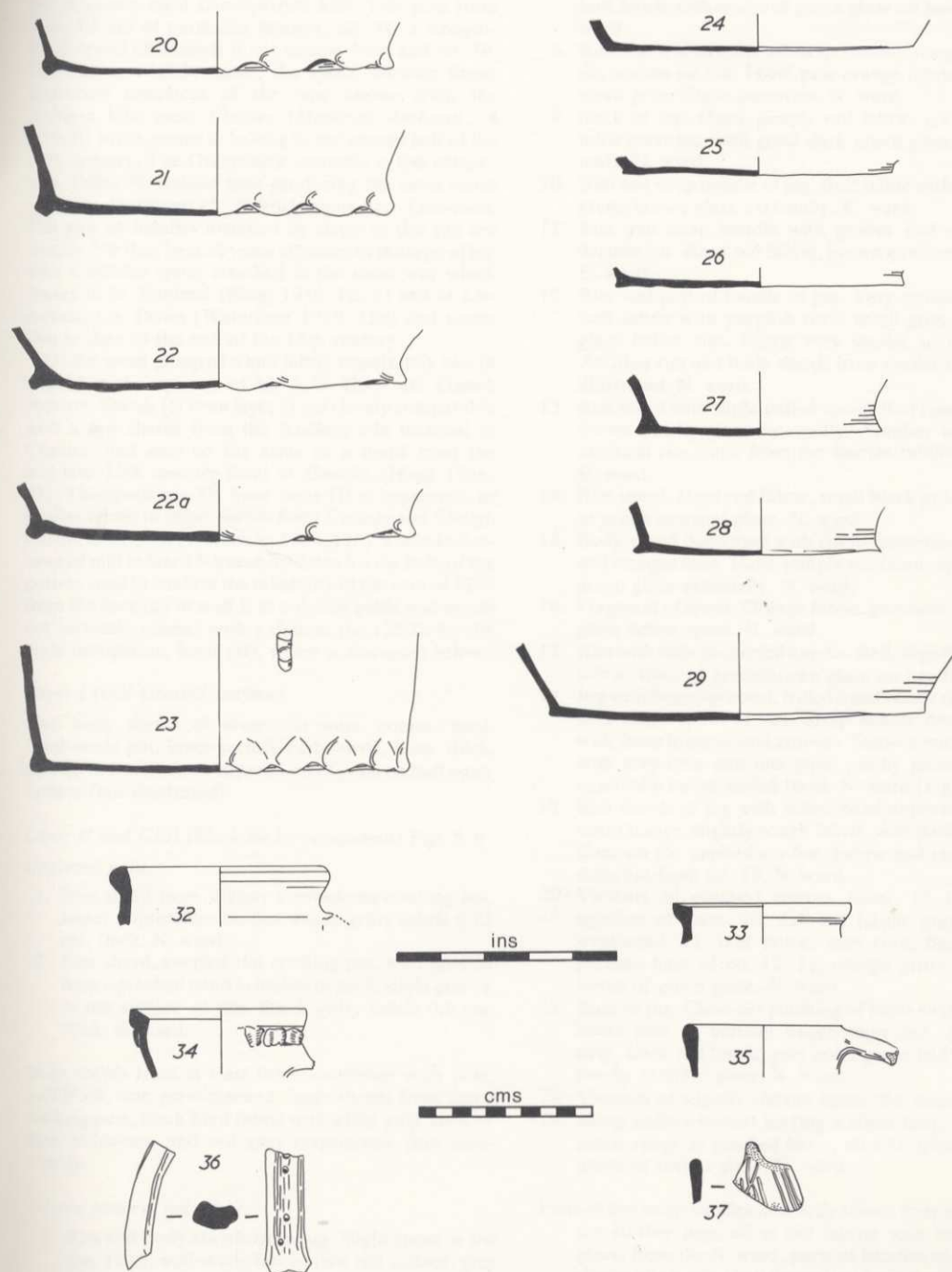


Fig. 6. Pottery, 20-29, glazed wares, layer II. 32-37, glazed wares, layer III ($\times \frac{1}{4}$).

the type found for instance at Clough Castle (Waterman 1954, 128, 133). The remainder of the pottery was virtually all from glazed jugs or pitchers, and there was no clear distinction to be made between sherds from layer II and layer III. There were three examples of jugs

with frilled bands below the rim (Nos 18, 19, 34) a type apparently originating in the hinterland of Bristol (Waterman 1959, 160). There was noticeable variety of fabric and rim form, consistent with the importation of jugs for the garrison. None of the pottery came from

the relatively local Downpatrick kiln. Two pots from layer III are of particular interest; no. 31, a straight-sided vessel of unusual if not unique form and no. 30. This last is crudely made, the spout showing finger impressed ornament of the type known from the Audlem kiln, near Chester (*Medieval Archaeol.*, 4 (1960)) which seems to belong to the second half of the 13th century. The Greencastle example is less competent. Other N. Ireland sites producing the same spout type are Downpatrick, Carrickfergus and Lismahon. The pair of handles attached by struts to this jug are unique, but they bear obvious affinities to the type of jug with a tubular spout attached in the same way which occurs in N. England (Hogg 1956, fig. 5) and at Lismahon, Co. Down (Waterman 1959, 158) and seems also to date to the end of the 13th century.

Of the small group of white fabric vessels only two (a and b) in the opinion of Mr J. G. Hurst are French imports. Sherds (f) from layer II are closely comparable with a few sherds from the Audlem kiln material in Chester, and may be the same as a sherd from the mid-late 13th century level at Carlisle (Hogg 1956, 93). The spout no. 33, from layer III is apparently of similar fabric to other sherds from Carlisle and Clough Castle, Co. Down (Waterman 1954, 126). These indications of mid to late 13th century dates for the bulk of the pottery tend to confirm the reliability of the coin of 1279 from the footings of wall B as a dating guide and would not seriously conflict with a date in the 1250's for the main occupation, layer (II), which is discussed below.

Layer I (Old Ground Surface)

Two body sherds of souterrain ware, coarse, hard, hand-made pot, inner surface carbonised, 1 cm. thick, grits up to 2 mm., faint impressions of grass on buff outer surface (not illustrated).

Layer II and G(5) (black sticky occupation) Figs 5, 6

Unglazed pottery

1. Rim sherd from slightly everted-rim cooking pot, finger impressions on rim. Black gritty fabric 0.75 cm. thick. N. ward.
2. Rim sherd, everted-rim cooking pot, with applied finger-pinched band in hollow of neck, slight groove in top surface of rim. Black gritty fabric 0.5 cm. thick. E. ward.

Body sherds from at least three souterrain ware pots, buff/black, one grass-marked; body sherds from three cooking pots, black hard fabric with white grits, shell or lime inclusions, and red grits respectively (not illustrated).

Glazed pottery; red fabrics

5. Rim and body sherds from jug. Slight spout in the rim. Hard, well-made fabric, pale red surface, grey core, with marked internal rilling and thin pale green glaze externally. N. ward.
6. Rim, plain strap handle and body sherds of jug. Hard, slightly rough-surfaced red fabric, mica particles and grits up to 3 mm. Thin, white slip on inside of neck and outside of jug; patchy green glaze on exterior. N. ward.
7. Handle and rim sherd. Simple rim and strap handle,

buff fabric with traces of green glaze on handle. E. ward.

8. Rim sherd with trace of strap handle; rough slash decoration on rim. Hard, pale orange fabric, a few small grits. Glaze uncertain. N. ward.
9. Neck of jug. Hard, pimply red fabric, grey core, mica particles, with good dark green glaze externally. N. ward.
10. Rim and strap handle of jug. Buff fabric with patchy green/brown glaze externally. E. ward.
11. Rim and strap handle with groove and stabbed decoration. Hard red fabric, brown external glaze. E. ward.
12. Rim and part of handle of jug. Very smooth, pale buff fabric with purplish core, small grits. Green glaze below rim. Fabric very similar to no. 18. Another rim and body sherds from similar pot, not illustrated. N. ward.
13. Rim sherd with slight pulled spout. Red fabric with brown patchy glaze externally. Another virtually identical rim came from the mortar rubble layer. E. ward.
14. Rim sherd. Hard red fabric, small black grits, trace of green external glaze. N. ward.
15. Body sherd decorated with comb-impressed wavy and straight lines. Hard, pimply red fabric, splash of green glaze externally. N. ward.
16. Fragment of spout. Orange fabric, grey core, brown glaze below spout. N. ward.
17. Rim with stab-decorated handle. Red, slightly gritty fabric, trace of green/brown glaze on handle.
18. Jug with finger-pressed, frilled band below rim, and very slight spout in rim. Strap handle decorated with three longitudinal grooves. Smooth buff fabric with grey core and fine grits, patchy green glaze externally below frilled band. N. ward (Fig. 7).
19. Rim sherds of jug with frilled band applied below rim. Orange, slightly rough fabric, with dark green glaze on the applied cordon. Fabric and rim form different from no. 18. N. ward.
20. Variants of pinched convex bases, all bearing
22. splashes of glaze. 20, dull red fabric, grey core, weathered. 21, buff fabric, grey core, fine grits, perhaps base of no. 12. 22, orange gritty fabric, traces of green glaze. N. ward.
23. Base of jug. Close-set pinching of basal angle, with lower part of vertical finger-impressed, applied strip. Dark red fabric, grey core, green and brown patchy external glaze. N. ward.
24. Variants of slightly convex bases, the basal angle
29. being knife-trimmed leaving a slight foot. Similar fabric range as pinched bases, all with splashes of green or brown glaze. N. ward.

Parts of five strap handles and body sherds from eight or ten further jugs, all in red fabrics with traces of glaze, from the N. ward; parts of handles and body sherds of a further half dozen jugs from the E. ward, layers (3) and (5).

Glazed pottery; white fabrics (not illustrated)

- a) Five sherds from the same jug. Very hard, white fabric with slightly grey core, marked internal rilling and thin, pitted green glaze externally. 4 mm. thick. Possibly French import. Two sherds from layer II

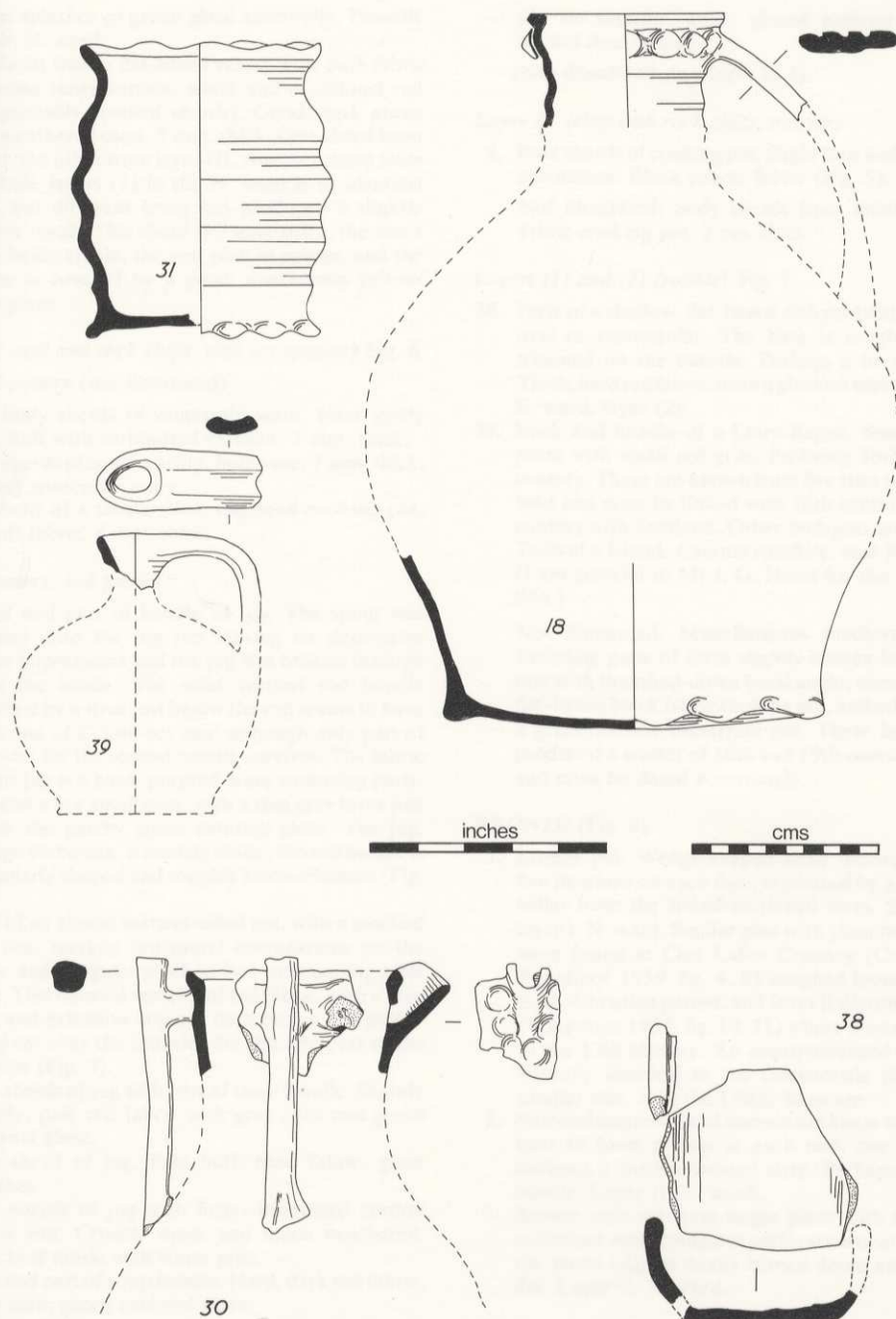


Fig. 7. Pottery. 18, layer II. 30, 31, layer III. 38, 39, layers (1) and (2) ($\times \frac{1}{4}$).

- near section C, two sherds from G(5) and one from G(3).
- b) Sherd of hard, white fabric, with grits up to 1.5 mm., marked internal rilling, good, dark green external glaze. 4 mm. thick. Possibly French. N. ward.
 - c) Sherd of white fabric, smooth inner surface, grey core. Thin, uneven green glaze. 3 mm. thick. Possibly English. N. ward.
 - d) Sherds of hard, pimply white fabric with black grits and a fine porous appearance, yellow/green glaze externally. 5 mm. thick. Possibly English. N. ward.
 - e) Sherd of hard, white fabric, small grits, cream outer

surface, splashes of green glaze externally. Possibly English. N. ward.

- f) Two sherds from a flat-based vessel. Pale pink fabric with white inner surface, white and occasional red grits (probably crushed sherds). Good, dark green glaze, weathered matt. 5 mm. thick. One sherd from layer II, the other from layer III. Another sherd from the rubble layers (1) in the N. ward is of identical fabric, but different firing has produced a slightly different result. This sherd is 7 mm. thick, the inner 4 mm. being cream, the rest pink in colour, and the exterior is covered by a good, continuous yellow/brown glaze.

Layer III (soil and rock chips, with occupation) Fig. 6
Unglazed pottery (not illustrated)

- a) Eight body sherds of souterrain ware, black gritty fabric, buff with carbonised exterior. 7 mm. thick.
b) Three sherds of coarse, gritty, buff ware, 7 mm. thick, probably souterrain ware.
c) One sherd of a thin-walled, unglazed cooking pot, fine buff fabric, 4 mm. thick.

Glazed pottery; red fabrics

30. Spout and part of handle of jug. The spout was pressed onto the jug rim leaving six decorative finger impressions and the jug was broken through from the inside. The solid vertical rod handle attached by a strut just below the rim seems to have been one of a close-set pair, although only part of the strut for the second handle survives. The fabric of this jug is a hard, purplish ware with mica particles and a few small grits, with a thin grey layer just below the patchy green external glaze. The jug, though elaborate, is crudely made; the rod handle is irregularly shaped and roughly knife-trimmed (Fig. 7).
31. Half of an almost vertical-sided pot, with a pinched out rim, marked horizontal corrugations on the body, and a regular pinched foot surrounding a flat base. This unusual vessel is of red fabric, with a grey core and extensive areas of dark brown and greenish glaze over the outside, the rim and part of the interior (Fig. 7).
32. Rim sherds of jug with part of strap handle. Slightly pimply, pale red fabric with grey core and green external glaze.
33. Rim sherd of jug. Pale buff, hard fabric, glaze splashes.
34. Rim sherds of jug with finger-impressed cordon below rim. Crudely made and much weathered. Pale buff fabric with white grits.
35. Rim and part of strap handle. Hard, dark red fabric, grey core, green external glaze.
Body sherds from perhaps four other jugs (not illustrated).

Glazed pottery; white fabrics

36. Thick strap handle with stab decoration in the external hollow. Grey/white fabric, porous texture, completely covered with a good pale yellow/green glaze. Possibly English.
37. Fragment of spout. Cream, porous fabric, orange

slip on interior, green glazed exterior. Rough, incised decoration.

(Not illustrated. See layer II, f).

Layer IV (clay with rock chips, mortar)

4. Base sherds of cooking pot. Slight foot with notched decoration. Black coarse fabric (Fig. 5).
Not illustrated; body sherds from another black fabric cooking pot, 1 cm. thick.

Layers (1) and (2) (rubble) Fig. 7

38. Parts of a shallow, flat-based dish probably roughly oval or rectangular. The base is roughly knife-trimmed on the outside. Perhaps a herring dish. Thick, hard red fabric, brown glaze on inner surfaces. E. ward, layer (2).
39. Neck and handle of a Loire flagon. Smooth buff paste with small red grits. Probably 16th or 17th century. These are known from five sites in E. Scotland and must be linked with 16th century French contact with Scotland. Other findspots are Ayr, St Tudwal's Island, Caernarvonshire, and Plymouth. (I am grateful to Mr J. G. Hurst for this information.)

Not illustrated. Miscellaneous medieval sherds including parts of three slightly convex-based jugs, one with thumb-down basal angle; sherds from a flat-based black fabric cooking pot, and others from a grass-marked souterrain pot. These layers also produced a scatter of 18th and 19th century sherds and must be dated accordingly.

BRONZE (Fig. 8)

1. Bronze pin. Wedge-shaped head decorated with five incisions on each face, separated by a moulded collar from the round-sectioned stem. Surface of layer I, N. ward. Similar pins with plain heads have been found at Clea Lakes Crannog (Collins and Proudfoot 1959, fig. 4. 8) assigned loosely to the Early Christian period, and from Ballyronney Motte (Waterman 1955, fig. 10. 11) where it was assigned to the 13th century. An unprovenanced example, virtually identical to the Greencastle pin but of smaller size, is in the Ulster Museum.
2. Narrow bronze strip of uneven thickness and width, bent to form a loop at each end; one of these encloses a further twisted strip. Perhaps a rough handle. Layer II, N. ward.
3. Bronze strip cut from larger piece with shears. It contains a subrectangular perforation near one end, the uncut edge is neatly turned down and beaten flat. Layer II, N. ward.

WORKED BONE (Fig. 8)

4. Plate from bone comb, decorated with two parallel grooves and ring and dot ornament. Cf. combs from Clough Castle (Waterman 1954, fig. 15. 1. 2). Layer II.
5. Bone disc with hourglass perforation and scratched ornament on the upper surface. Weight 17.5 gms. Cf. Clough Castle (Waterman 1954, fig. 15. 4). From rock surface beneath wall C.

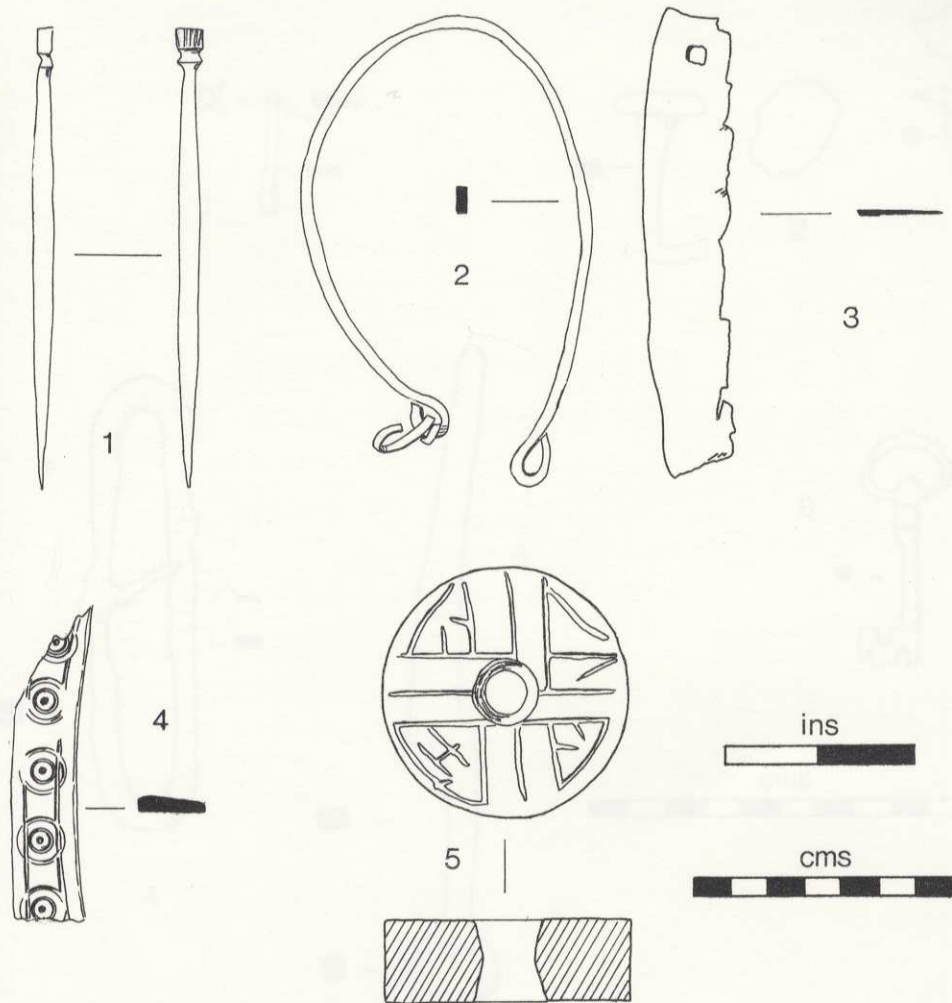


Fig. 8. Objects of bronze (1-3) and bone (4, 5) ($\times \frac{1}{2}$).

IRON (Fig. 9).

1. Decorative iron stud or pin, circular section stem, broken at one end; the other end inserted through a thin silver plate in the form of a four-pointed star. Layer III, near wall B.
2. Iron nails, from layer III. Some dozen nails from this layer, all badly corroded, two only illustrated.
3. There were half a dozen corroded nails from layer II, with flat heads *c.* 2 cm. square, and rectangular shafts *c.* 6 cm. long. Numerous nails were found amongst the rubble layers, some of which may be medieval, others are modern.
4. Iron buckle. A simple oval shape with prong, to take a strap 10.5 cm. wide. Perhaps for horse harness, or heavy sword belt. From a patch of occupation soil on natural surface, S. end of E. ward.
5. One blade of a pair of iron scissors. Possibly 13th/14th century (see *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, p. 151). Found with no. 4.

6. Iron key, with apparently solid shank. *cf. London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, Pl. xxx, no. 19. Probably medieval. Found on top of wall D. Not illustrated. Iron knife. Found in lower part of rubble, N. ward. Two iron cannonballs, 6.5 cm. diameter. From rubble in N. ward.

COIN

Silver penny of Edward I, struck in London in 1279. Lost while still quite new, perhaps before 1285. From mortar in footings of wall B (I am grateful to Prof. M. Dolley, Queen's University, Belfast for this identification).

ANIMAL BONE

A considerable quantity of animal bone was recovered from layer II, and a scatter from layers III and IV. This has not been analysed. Large quantities of winkle shells

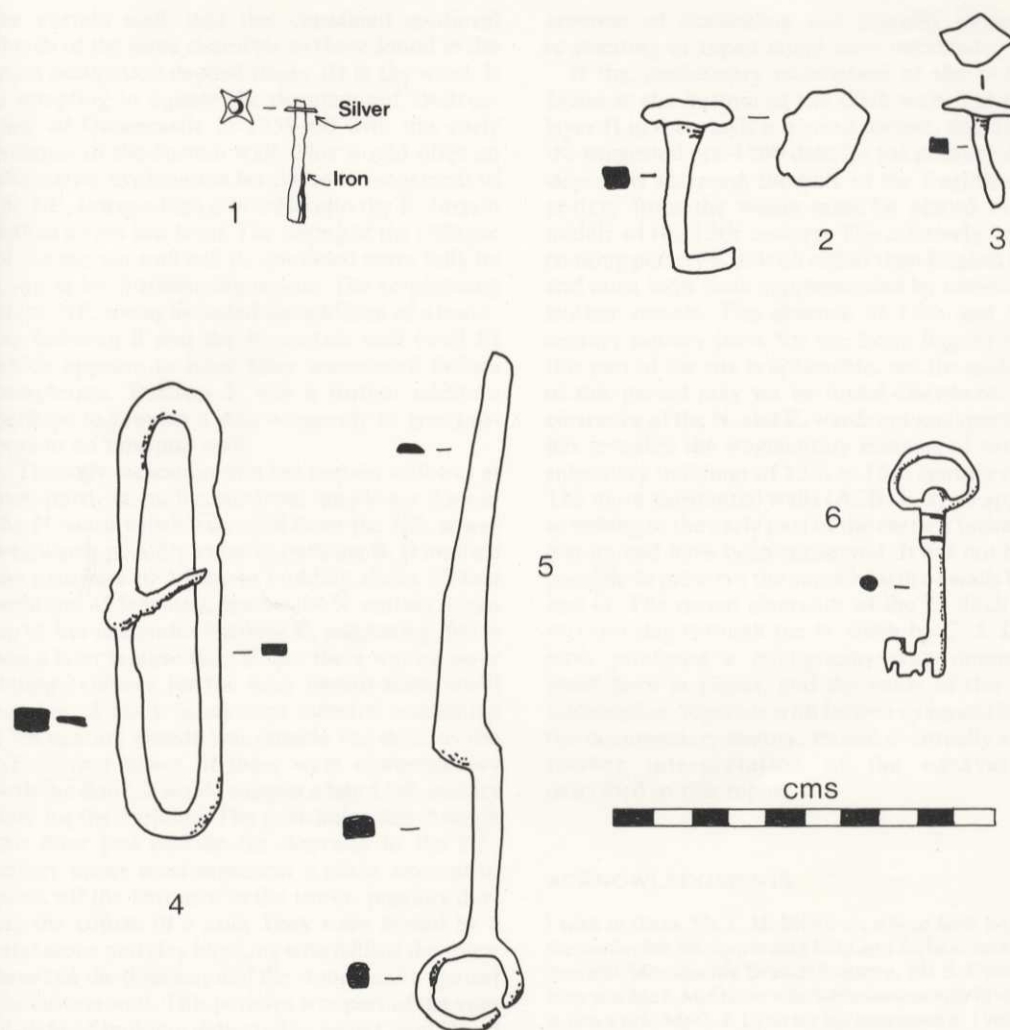


Fig. 9. Objects of iron ($\times \frac{1}{2}$).

were found in the pockets of pre-castle occupation material. These were absent in layer II which produced a few limpet shells, and large quantities of oyster shells.

DISCUSSION

One of the puzzling features of Greencastle noted by Waterman and Collins in 1951 was the existence of the small building in the N. ward (building A) which contains a 13th century window opening looking onto the blank wall of the keep only 4 ft 6 in. away. It was suggested that this building was put up before the keep was completed. The current excavations have shown that the foundations of the keep were in fact laid before those of building A. However it seems possible that the foundation courses of the keep were first laid out and that the small two-storey building, now surviving as

wall A, was then built as a protective blockhouse for the soldiers and masons engaged on construction work. It may not have survived in its original form for very long, for apart from the enlargement of the building indicated by wall B, a ground floor window opening of the keep would in turn have looked onto wall A. The re-alignment of the S. wall of the NE. corner tower might also have been no more than a modification soon after the laying of the foundation courses. However, the evidence found in 1951 suggested that large parts of the curtain wall had either fallen or been pushed into the ditch very soon after its construction; clearance of the ditch on the E. side of the castle by C. J. Lynn in the winter of 1970 has confirmed this discovery. Only a small deposit of silt was found in the bottom of the ditch beneath the rubble from

the curtain wall, and this contained medieval sherds of the same character as those found in the main occupation deposit (layer II) in the ward. It is tempting to equate the documented 'destruction' of Greencastle in 1259-60 with this early collapse of the curtain wall. This would offer an alternative explanation for the re-arrangement of the NE. tower which is bonded into the E. curtain wall at a very low level. The dating of the collapse of the curtain wall will be discussed more fully by Lynn in his forthcoming report. The re-planning of the NE. tower included the addition of a building between it and the E. curtain wall (wall F) which appears to have been abandoned before completion. Buttress E was a further addition perhaps to provide a stair or merely to give support to an unsound wall.

The only indication that the curtain wall was at least partly re-built came from the plaster floor in the N. ward which extended from the NE. tower westwards possibly as far as building B. It implied the existence of a lean-to building about 15 feet wide and 45 feet long, against the N. curtain. It ran up to but not under buttress E, suggesting that it was a later feature than E, but there was no clear dating evidence for the floor except some small patches of black occupation material containing 13th century sherds just outside the door to the NE. corner tower. If these were contemporary with the floor, it would suggest a late 13th century date for the building. The post-holes dug through this floor just outside the doorway to the NE. corner tower must represent a crude attempt to block off the entrance to the tower, possibly during the course of a raid. They were sealed by a later stone and clay blocking which filled the space between the doorway and the stone hearth against the curtain wall. This perhaps was part of the very ill-defined building indicated by walls C and D and likely to be at least 16th century in date. The extensive clearance along the base of the N. wall of the keep also belongs to the 16th century and could perhaps be contemporary with the insertion of the large windows on the first floor, when the

erection of scaffolding and possibly extensive re-pointing or repair could have occurred.

If the preliminary correlation of the pottery found in the bottom of the ditch with that from layer II in the wards is proved correct, and also if the suggested pre-1260 date for the primary ditch deposit is accepted, the bulk of the English-style pottery from the wards must be placed in the middle of the 13th century. The relatively scarce cooking pottery is of Irish rather than English type and must have been supplemented by wooden or leather vessels. The absence of 15th and 16th century pottery (save for the Loire flagon) from this part of the site is noticeable, but the middens of this period may yet be found elsewhere. The clearance of the N. and E. wards not unexpectedly has revealed the fragmentary remains of various subsidiary buildings of 13th to 16th century date. The more substantial walls (A, B, F, J) all appear to belong to the early part of the castle's turbulent history and have been conserved. It has not been possible to preserve the stone hearth or walls C, D and G. The recent clearance of the E. ditch and sections dug through the N. ditch by C. J. Lynn have produced a stratigraphy with numerous small finds in places, and the study of this new information, together with further examination of the documentary history, should eventually allow further interpretation of the excavations described in this report.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank Mr T. H. McElroy, whose farm adjoins the castle, for his continuing help and forbearance; the Ancient Monuments Branch foremen, Mr S. Cunningham and Mr J. McGlone who were successively involved in this work; Mr C. J. Lynn for his assistance in 1969, for information about his 1970 excavations and discussion of historical evidence; Dr T. E. McNeill for discussion of the documentary sources; and above all the workmen, particularly Mr S. Maginnis and Mr J. White whose interest survived the arctic weather of early 1966 and enabled the work to be carried out skilfully thereafter.

REFERENCES

- Collins, A. E. P. and Proudfoot, V. B. (1959). 'A trial excavation in Clea Lakes crannog, Co. Down', *Ulster J. Archaeol.*, **22** (1959), 92-101.
- Hogg, R. (1956). 'Excavations in Carlisle, 1953', *Trans Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeol. Soc.*, **55** (1956), 59.
- Waterman, D. M. and Collins, A. E. P. (1952). 'Excavations at Greencastle, Co. Down, 1951', *Ulster J. Archaeol.*, **15** (1952), 87-102.
- Waterman, D. M. (1954). 'Excavations at Clough Castle, Co. Down', *Ulster J. Archaeol.*, **17** (1954), 103-163.
- (1955). 'Excavations at Seafin Castle and Ballyrone motte and bailey', *Ulster J. Archaeol.*, **18** (1955), 83-104.
- (1959). 'Excavations at Lismahon, Co. Down', *Medieval Archaeology*, **3** (1959), 139-176.



Northern Ireland
Environment
Agency

NISMR: Main Details

SMR Number DOW 057:003
Townland GREENCASTLE
Edited Type CASTLE & WELL: GREENCASTLE
Grid Ref J2473011840
Council NEWRY AND MOURNE
Protection State Care with Proposed Scheduled Area

Site Summary This royal castle, commanding the mouth of Carlingford Lough has an eventful history. It was built in C13th, taken by Edward Bruce in 1316, attacked at least twice by the Irish in late C14th & maintained as a garrison up to 1590. It is approached across a rock-cut ditch, which excavations revealed to be 7m wide at top, 3m at base & 3.5m deep. The curtain wall had 4 corner towers, of which only the bases of 2 remain. The 4 storey keep, 18m x 8.5m internally, is C13th with later alterations. See SM7 for detailed description.

Last Described 01/10/1993 **Described By** EH
Map IG284 **Altitude** 0050+F
Site Name GREENCASTLE

Parish KILKEEL **Barony** MOURNE
Town **Other Ref**

General Type FORTIFICATION **General Period** MEDIEVAL

Specific Type **Specific Period**
 CASTLE MEDIEVAL
 WELL MEDIEVAL

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

On a rocky outcrop commanding the mouth of Carlingford Lough with Carlingford Castle clearly visible. This was the site of a royal castle, built in the 13th century, with an eventful history. It was besieged and taken by Edward Bruce in 1316, attacked and spoiled by the Irish at least twice in the later 14th century and it was maintained as a garrison, by Queen Elizabeth up to 1590.

The castle is approached from the S. across an impressive rock-cut ditch, partly excavated and left open. Excavations revealed the ditch to be some 7.0 m wide at the lip, 3.0 m wide at the flat-bottomed base and up to 3.5 m deep. The curtain wall originally with four corner towers enclosed a trapezoidal area measuring roughly 50 m E-W by 40 m transversely, but it is badly ruined and only the bases of two of the towers, the NE and NW are clearly visible. The large rectangular keep is 13th century in date but with substantial 15th and 16th century alterations. It measures 18 m by 8.5 m internally with 1.8 m thick walls. It was originally entered through a first floor door in the S. wall, protected by a forebuilding. A ground floor door in the W. wall is a 15th century alteration and a rough gap near the SE angle is a late force entry. The cross walls dividing the ground floor into three vaults are also 15th century insertions. At first floor level was the great hall with late medieval windows and fireplace and a latrine in the NE corner. The upper part of the keep with mural passages, wall walks and angle turrets are a 15th century remodelling.

Fragments of other buildings in the castle ward include part of a long rectangular structure SW of the Keep.

The castle is in state care. It is described in ASCD (1966) pp 211-9 and Historic Monuments of Northern Ireland HMSO (1987) pp 101-2

metre
0 10 20 30 40 50
yards
0 10 20 30 40 50

Green Castle
(ruins of)

Car
Park



STATE CARE MONUMENT.

S.M. No.: 57:3

B Files:

County: DOWN

Townland: GREENCASTLE Map Ref: J2473 1184

Official Name: GREENCASTLE

Other Names:

Drawings (date):

Ownership: ownership / guardianship / lease / other

Date of agreement:

Name of owner:

Address:

Henry McElroy
83 Greencastle Pier Road, Kilkeel, BT43 4LR

Restrictions:

Telephone No.:

Access: ~~open~~ / timed / not accessible / special conditions

July, Aug and school on request.

Details if relevant:

Special Events:

Date of Form: 5/2/92

Publications: ~~UNKNOWN~~

S.A. No.: 57:3

B Piles:

County: DUBLIN

Townland: GREENCASTLE Map Ref: J2473 1104

Official Name: GREENCASTLE

Other Names:

Drawings (date):

Ownership: ownership / guardianship / lease / other

Date of agreement:

Name of owner:

Henry McElroy

Address:

83 Greencastle Pier Road, Kilkeel, BT43 4LR

Reconstructions:

Telephone No.:

Access: open / timed / not accessible / special conditions

July, Aug and school on request.

Details if relevant:

Special Events:

Date of Form: 5/2/92

At length the "Rosgh-Catha" (battle-call) was sounded, and Conn marched forth from Northern Iveagh at the head of his troops and made for Narrow-Water Castle, as there was a double debt to pay there.

On reaching the stronghold he fiercely attacked the outworks, his clansmen wading through the deep moat that then protected it to the landward side, and dashing into the river that washed its walls to the west, they swarmed like wasps round all sides of the doomed Keep, raising their scaling ladders and mounting to beard the lions in their den. The arquebuses of the garrison roared forth with leaden hail on the devoted clansmen as they attacked the outer-defences at all points, shouting their fierce battle-cry "Shanbodach Abu," and undaunted by the defenders' ring of spears and the steady fire of the garrison, they scaled the walls and leaped in amongst them, crashing helmets and skulls with their battleaxes. The defenders recoiled from the attack and retreated to the main building, but the Clan Aongus entered with them, killing them on the stairs and in the rooms. The Warden and remnant of his men retreated to the battlements, and the victors pressed up after them, and with their long spears forced them out over the awful brink. Some were dashed to death in the courtyard below and some fell across the outer walls. The Warden was last to go, and preferring death by drowning, he shot out over the river, turned in the air and fell. His bright armour flashed for a moment, he struck the water and sank, where the harper and the girl had sunk to death, in the dark rushing tide.

Often in the storm the harp-music is heard mingling with the sound of the waves at the "Harper's Ferry": the shadow-figure of Lassara floats down from the Castle-top, and the harp-notes cease as she sinks beneath the Narrow-Water.

THE HIDDEN BELL OF BRONACH

FERGUS, THE young chieftain of Glen Secis, rode forth one morning in spring, attended by his retainers and wolf-hounds, to hunt the wild red deer in the fastnesses of the Mourne Mountains. Soon they succeeded in starting a hind, and the chase led them far away to the Deer's Meadow, and just as the deer was brought down and slaughtered, a storm of great violence broke upon them, and the whole party were obliged to seek shelter inside a great cave mouth, which they opportunely came on, just as the fierce storm assailed them.

While watching the storm rage across the Deer's Meadow from their safe retreat in the cave entrance, they noticed an enormous stag, his head surmounted with great antlers, branching out widely. He was braving the storm, climbing the steep side of a high mountain opposite, straining every sinew in his mighty efforts, and making large boulders roll far down below into the meadow as he went up the steep ascent, and soon he was lost to sight in the rain clouds, which now hung low over the mountains.

The hunters thought it the mate of the hind which they had lately killed, and he looked such a noble animal that Fergus resolved to capture him. He bade his gillies and retainers await his return in the cave, and taking his favourite hound with him started in pursuit of his quarry, soon disappearing from their sight as the deer had done.

As Fergus worked up the side of the mountain the storm passed away as quickly as it had come on, and when he had caught up on the stag, and his hound had rushed forward to attack it, he was surprised to see Chief Artan of Lecale, with his hound, pursuing the same deer also. The brow of Fergus darkened when he saw him, for between the people of Artan and the clan of Fergus there was at present bitter feud.

As the two hounds attacked the great stag he turned at bay on the mountain top, and gave vent to a great bellow, which is only given when hard pushed or wounded to death, and the stag appeared to be badly wounded, although he had made such heroic efforts to escape. The dogs sprang at him again, but he was now thoroughly infuriated and gored to death with his sharp antlers the hound of Artan, who seeing his hound killed by the enraged beast fired his javelin at the stag, but killed instead the hound of Fergus, which was still hanging on to the stag.

Then a wild rush of anger came over Fergus, who thinking Artan had killed his favourite hound on purpose, on account of their feud, and being very quick of temper, he fitted an arrow to his bow and fired at Artan, hitting him in the breast, when he fell and rolled down the mountain side, until his body caught against a small mountain ash tree, and held there.

Fergus turned about, and slinging the dead body of his loved hound across his shoulders, made his way back to his attendants, like one demented, crazed with grief, and not caring what became of himself, the stag, or the body of Artan, the chief of his hated rival clan. So great was his grief for the hound, that he felt gratified at having killed the dog's slayer, and avenged his death, so terrible was his raging anger.

GREENCASTLE FAIR

"Who has ere had the luck to see Greencastle Fair,
A Mourne-man all in his glory was there."

GREENCASTLE VILLAGE lies on the shores of Mill Bay, an incurve of Carlingford Lough, nearly opposite to Greenore. Its castle was an important stronghold during the wars, and the town once the capital of the Mourne Kingdom, while its fairs were the most famous in Ulster, for buying or selling, and for frolic and diversion they rivalled, if they did not exceed, the great Donnybrook itself.

The old castle, which gives name to the place, was built by De Courcey, and after his death it was fortified and garrisoned by his rivals, the Burkes, under Richard, who founded Carlingford Abbey. It is a good example of the early Norman-Irish Castle, a high rectangular building, with square towers at the angles. Inside, the ground floor is black and dismal as a dungeon, having no windows or loop-holes to light it. The second storey is supported by massive arches and a spiral stone stairway leads to the battlements, from whence a glorious view of the mountains, Lough, and surrounding country can be obtained.

Two famous marriages are recorded as having been celebrated within its walls in 1312, that of Maurice FitzThomas and Catherine, daughter of "The Red Earl of Ulster", and the other of Thomas FitzJohn, second Earl of Kildare, to Lady Joan, another daughter of the Earla Ruadh.

The Castle was stormed and captured by the Clan MacGuinness in the year 1343, it was afterwards restored, and in 1356 it is recorded that the constable, William De Down, received pardon for having imprisoned in the dungeon of Greencastle, a girl named Rosea, the daughter of Richard Foy. The hoary Keep still towers above the "Mui Leann Loughan" (Little Bay of the Mill), though the "Pale" it once guarded is gone for ever, and the warring races of Celt and Norman-French have blended in peace.

'Tis said that one of the great Gaelic fairs was held at Greencastle in ancient times, as the Fair-Green was called "Clonaenachmore", the Great Fair Meadow. These celebrated fairs were attended by traders from all parts of Europe, Hellenic speakers coming from Marseilles and other places. The King of the province presided in state, during the six days which they lasted. The Irish Fairs more resembled the Isthmian, than the Olympic festivals of the Greeks, as intellectual contests were added to the physical; poets, story-tellers and musicians competing with one another, as well as the chariot-drivers and jockeys; and the teams representing the different clans, in hurling and other Gaelic games.

Three markets were fenced off apart from the arena — the market of live stock and horses, the market for food and clothes, and the market for foreign merchants. The most famous fairs in ancient Ireland were Carmen, Tailltinn, and Ushnagh. The fair at Greencastle was revived by Arthur Bagnal, under patent granted by James the First in 1613, when it was held on 12th January and 12th August. It was sometimes called "Ram Fair" on account of a custom that prevailed for a good while of enthroning a great ram, high on top of the old Green Castle's walls, when he presided over the

greatest sheep fair in South Down, where thousands of his bleating subjects from the surrounding mountains were penned in flocks beneath him, and jolly crowds of people of the Fair came to pay him homage, crying out "The King of the Benns" for ever, and never did the Golden Ram of old receive greater homage from his worshippers than did the Mourne Ram, from the jolly crowds who came to the carnival at Greencastle.

The Irish fair of today is a grave and serious affair, compared to what it was half-a-century ago when the people were not afraid to enjoy themselves in the open, threw dull care aside, for a time, and forgot the sorrows of life. The market report was always the same — stock, scarce; whiskey, in abundance; fun, good supply. Oh! Greencastle Fair, your like was not under the sun.

The people left their homes at dawn, coming from all arts and parts, dressed in all the extravagant display of their Sunday-best clothes, and descending on Greencastle for business and frolic. Every road led to the Fair, and every road was black with people, hastening thither, and the sea too, was dotted with boats, yawls, and yachts, bringing people from the Louth shore, and distant places outside the Bar, far along the coast. Old men and women, bouchals and colleens, all packed together and calling gaily to each other as the boats passed, and the boatmen rowed their best or tacked and sailed to beat each other to the Mill Bay Feis.

Some farmers drove their cattle and pigs in the night before, and stabled them there, to rest them and have them look their best on Fair morning; others came at daybreak in farm carts, jaunting cars, donkey carts, and low-backed cars, bringing meslins of butter, baskets of eggs, and lots of fowl — geese, ducks, hens, and turkeys — in crates, or slung over the cart-side, with gaping mouths and dizzy heads, as they were jolted along the roads, and the shrill squeaks of squalling suckers were borne on the breeze from high-topped carts and floats.

All the farmers who came in with stock were not there for business, however, for many a man drove in a lean-looking pig or an ancient cow, or steed, all skin and bone, merely as a pretext to get the day at the fair. They never were sold, but lay all the time under the hedges around the Fair Green, while their owners spent the day dancing on the boards to the music of bagpipe or fiddle, or smoked, drank and sung in the tents.

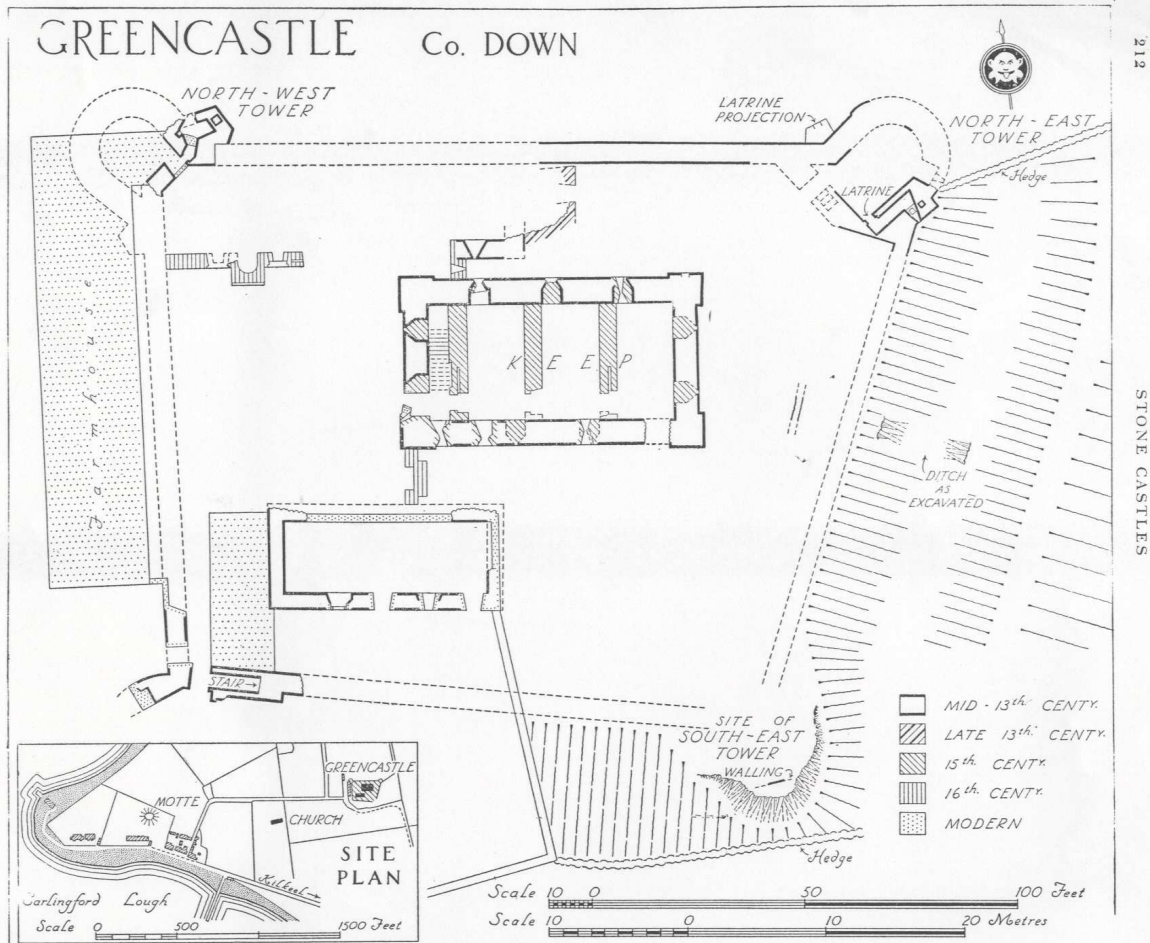
By noon the Green near the Castle was alive with people, all thrilling with the excitement of the carnival. There were gipsy-vans with fortune-tellers and astrologers, the star-gazers foretelling the future, and recounting the most secret events in their clients' past lives; there were platforms where wrestling bouts took place, and arenas where the "noble art" of self-defence was taught, and boxing exhibitions given; recruiting parties beat their drums and marched about with flaunting ribbons, in all the glory of their war-paint, to capture the hearts of the bouchals, while soft with the uiscebauch, and induce them to take the soldier's shilling and march to fame and glory; there were wood-turners, selling wooden spoons, trenchers, churns, egg-cups, ladders and every variety of wooden articles; there were brogue-makers, woollen-merchants, and travelling tinkers — regular outlaws in drink, who were feared and avoided by the people; there were refreshment "bothans" and stalls, with rich cakes, ginger-bread, a great variety of sugar goods, and other tempt-

When the husband returned to the house he found the cradle overturned and the child lying on the floor. Over it stood a great sow, which they kept and which he had let out of the sty for a man on the grass, and it had one of the child's hands nearly eaten off. The distracted farmer hastily snatched the babe and ran to the doctor with it, shouting excitedly in English, a language which he knew but imperfectly, "O doctor, doctor dear; chile ate han off pig."

GREENCASTLE Co. DOWN

212

Fig. 196 (No. 82a).

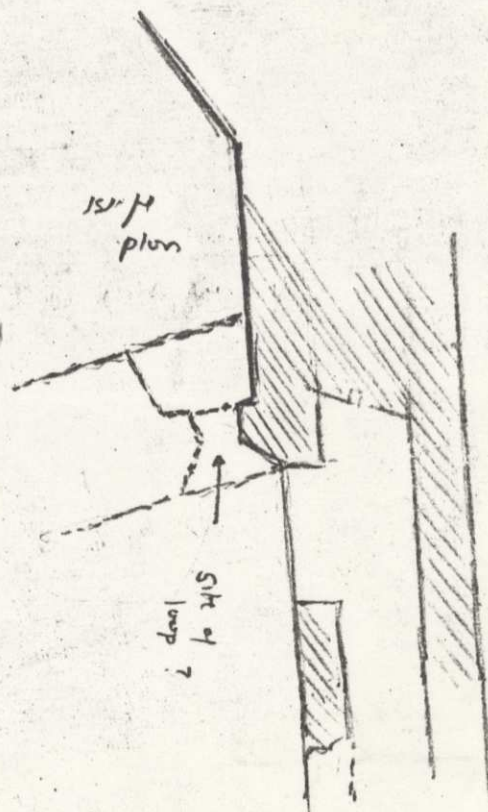
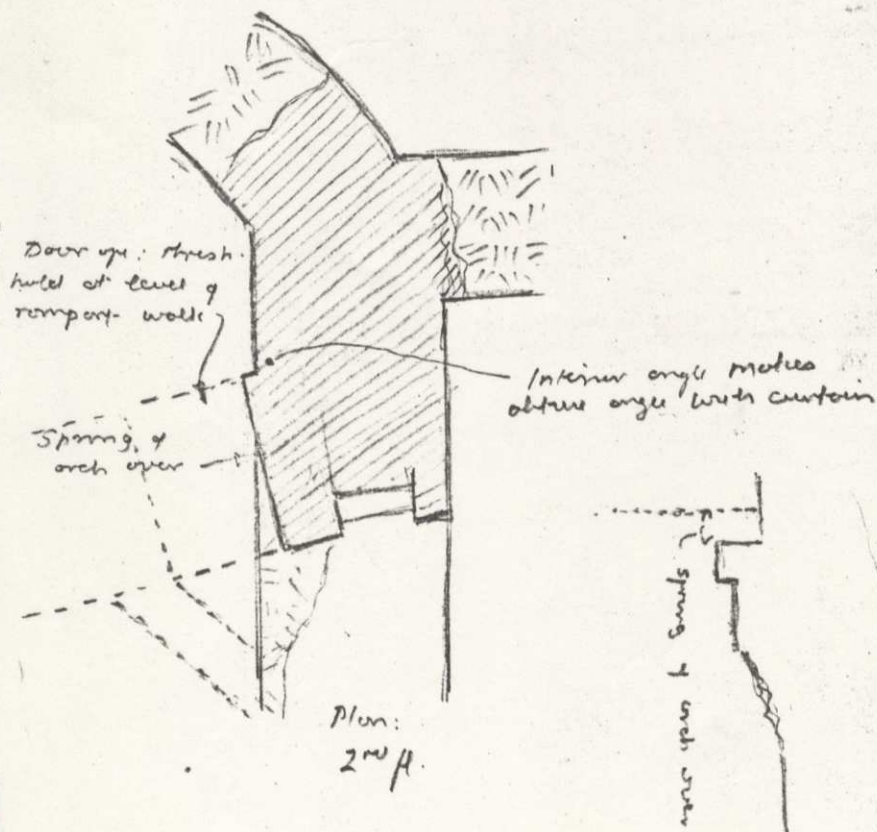
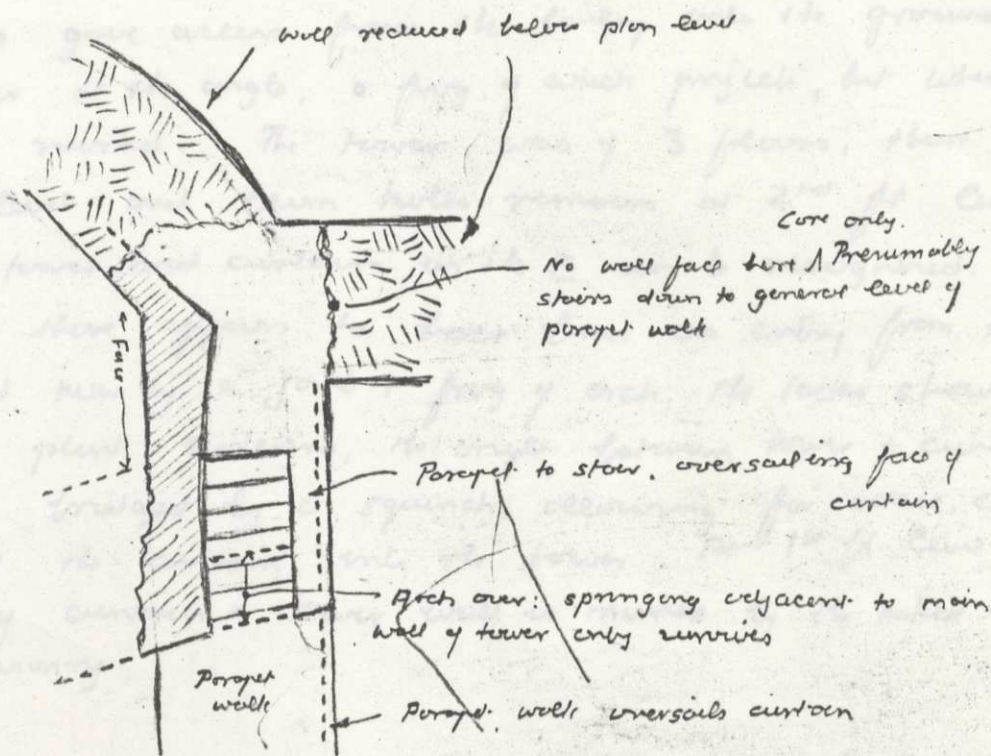


STONE CASTLES

GREENCASTLE

130% enlargement

S.W. angle.



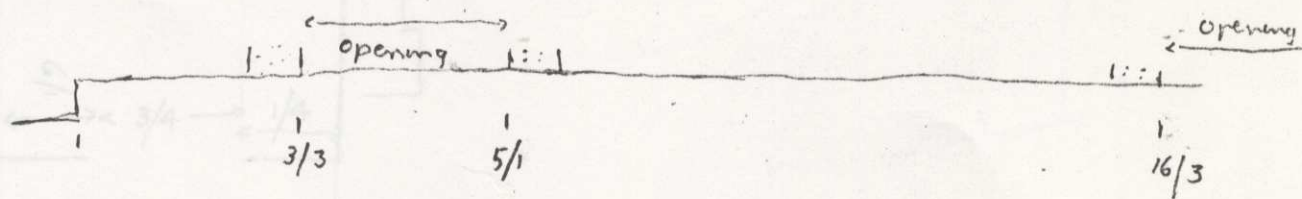
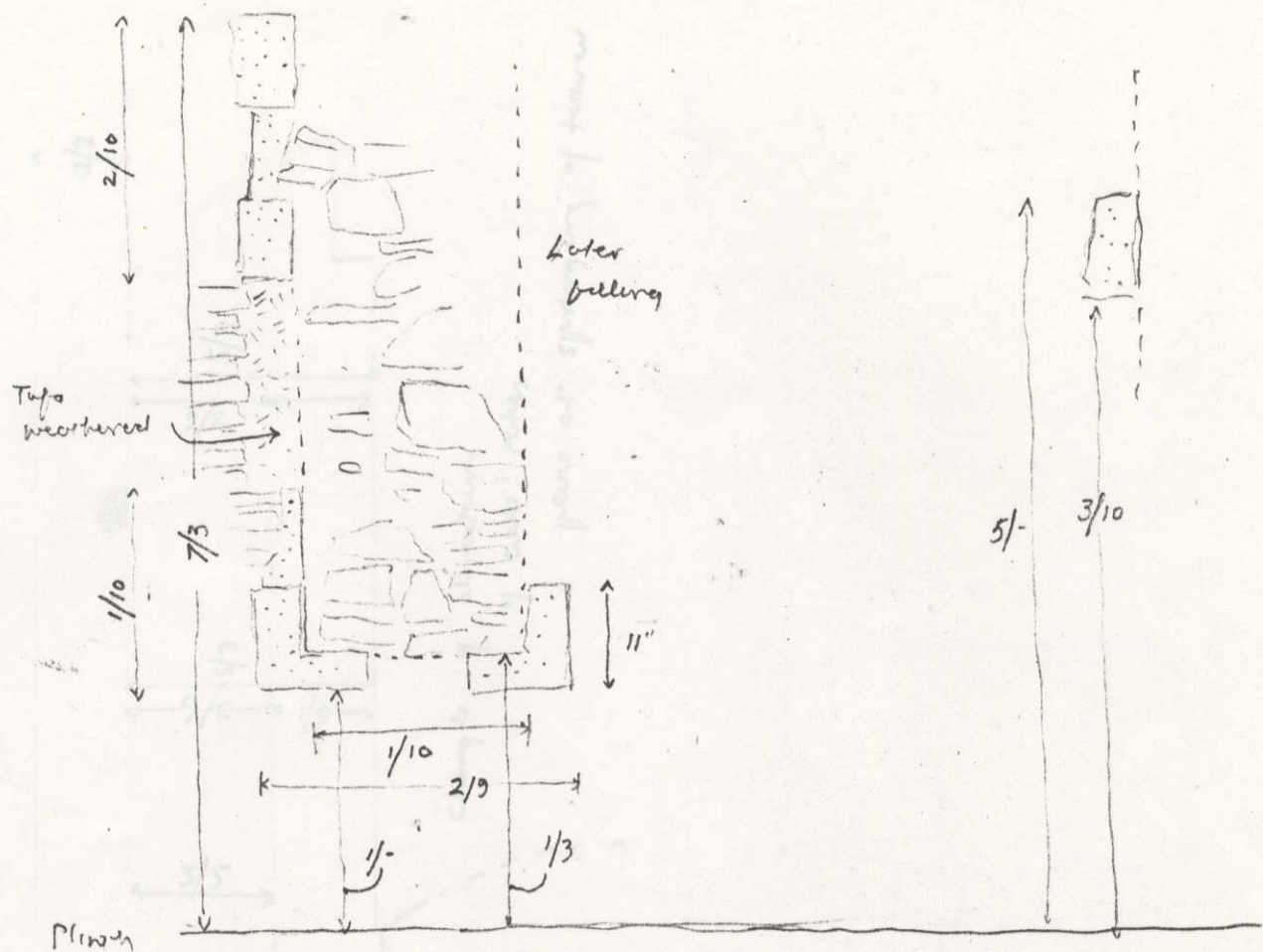
ng.

The S + W curtains meet in an obtuse angle, and in the S curtain adjacent to the point of junction is an opening, with depressed pointed arches inside and out; on the E of the opening, in the thickness of the wall is a stair, with rough segmented vault, now partially converted to a hen-house. so that no signs of steps remain.

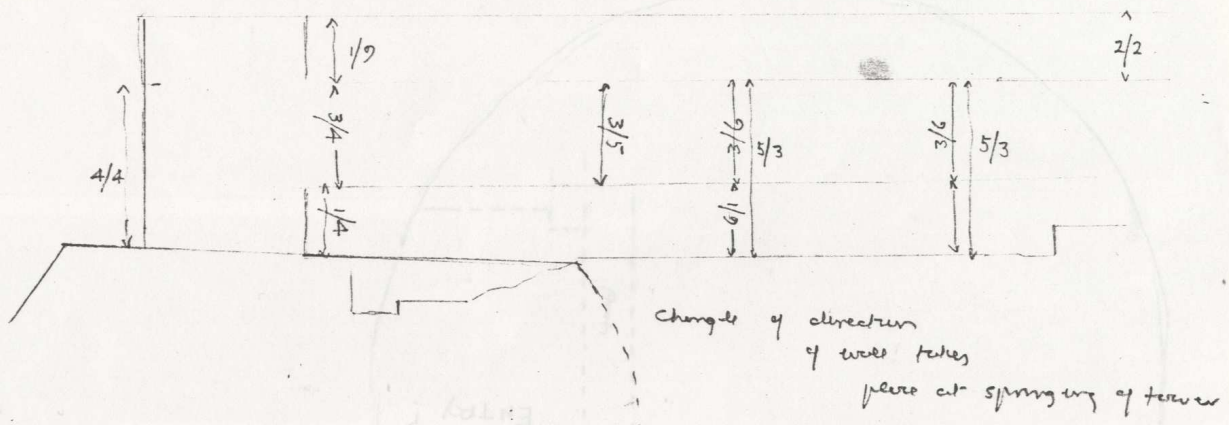
This opening gave access from the Bailey into the ground fl of a drum tower at the angle, a frag of which projects, but which is now otherwise ruined. The tower was of 3 floors, there is a offset at 1st fl level, and beam holes remain at 2nd fl level. The point of abutment of tower and curtain on the E can be recognized, and at 2nd fl level there appears to have been an entry from the alluvium, represented now by a joint + frag of arch, the latter showing the impressions of plank centering; the angle between tower + curtain was presumably bridged by a squinch, allowing for access, covered by the parapet of the curtain, into the tower. At 1st fl level the point of contact of curtain + tower wall is marked by the naked core of the curtain masonry.

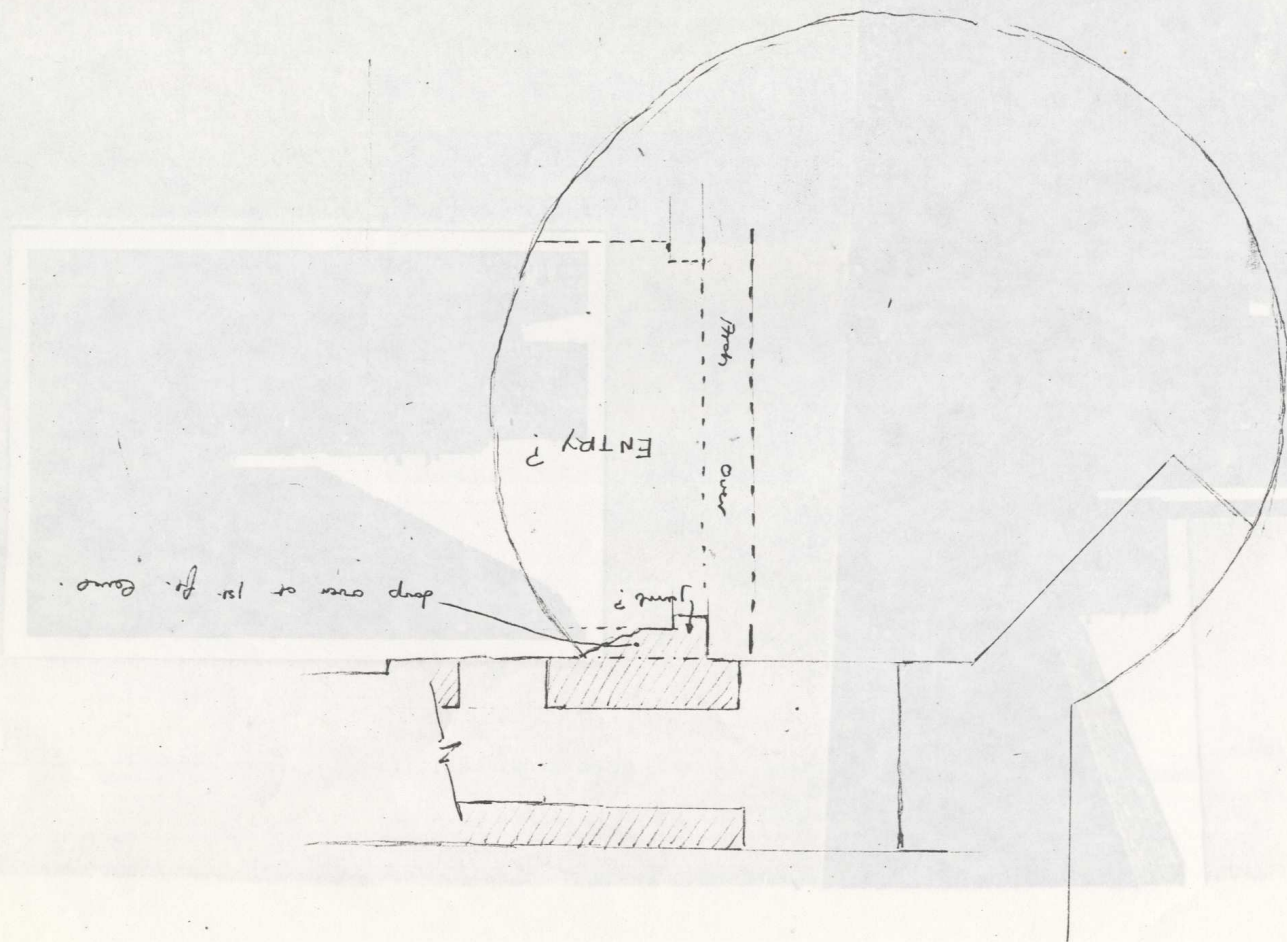


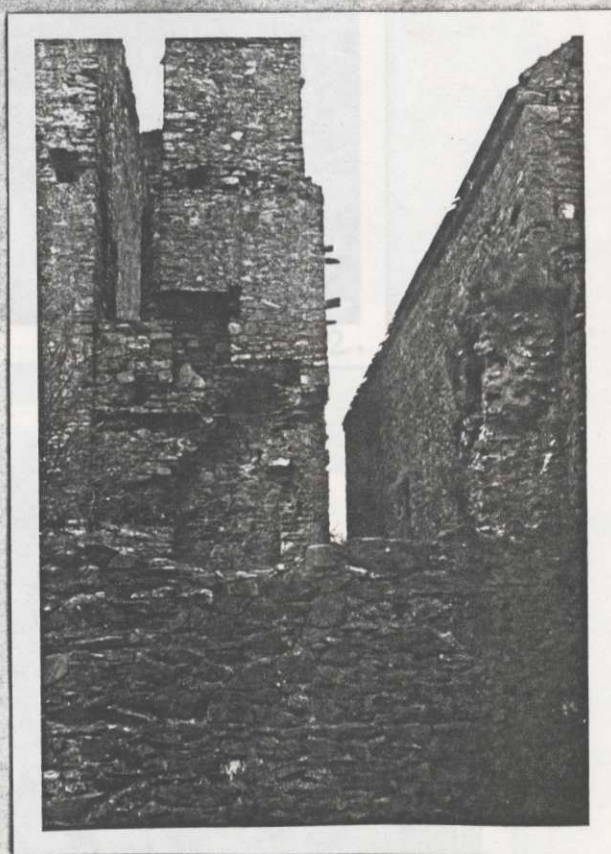
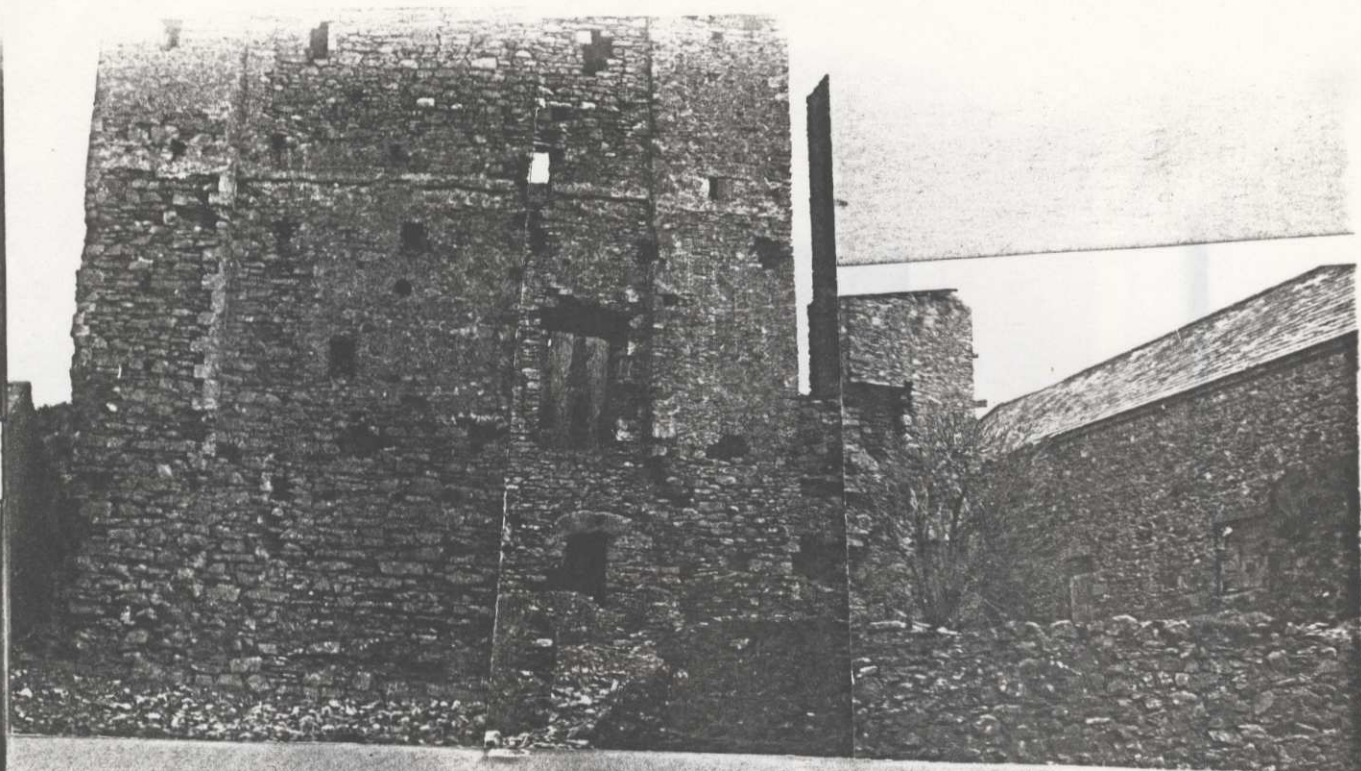
Early loops, ground fl. w elevation

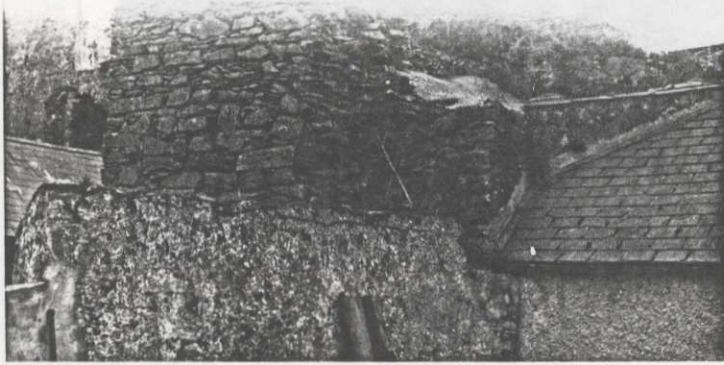


14' of tufa given
asbestos 7"-12"

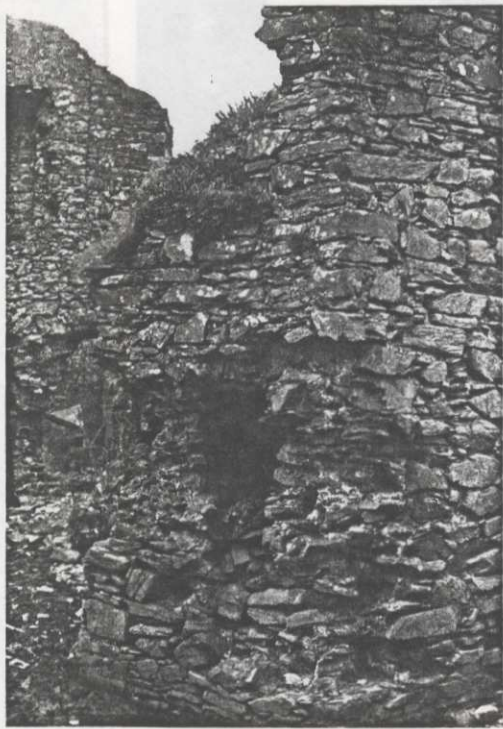








1.

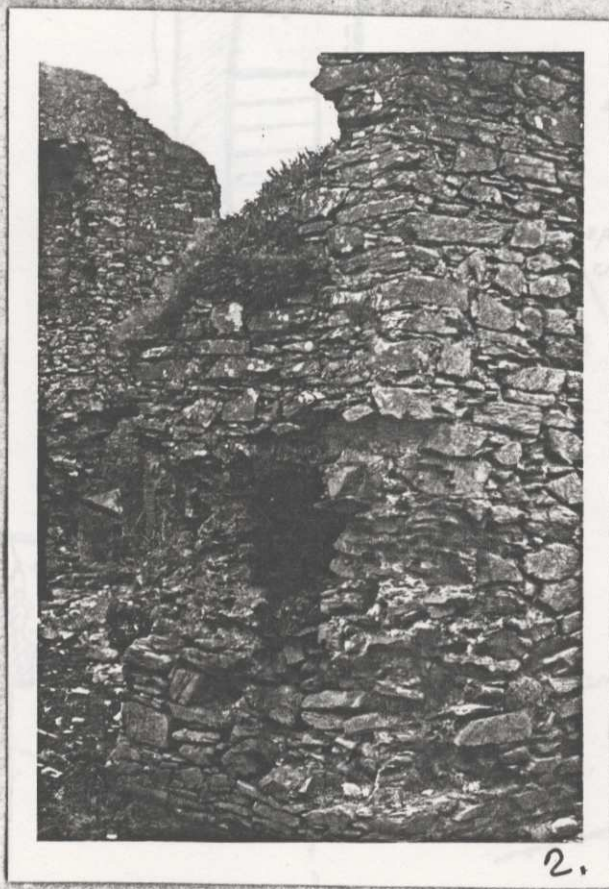


2.

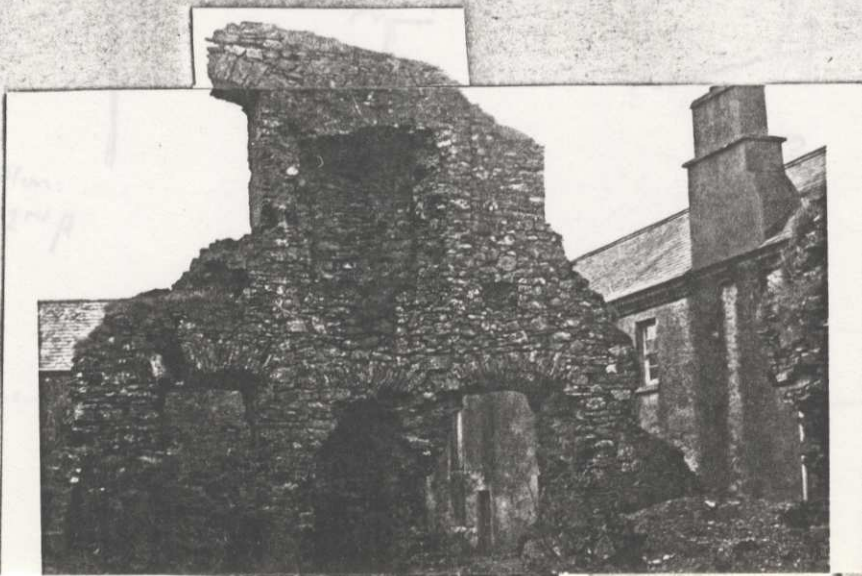




1.



2.



C Lynn
2002

GREENCASTLE

1252 Mandate from the Justiciar to pay Adam Talebot, custodian of the king's castle of Greencastle what he has expended in the custody of said castle

1253 Constables of Greencastle, Maynooth... to arrange to send to the king in Gascony... x wagonloads of wheat and salt pork

1260 Ulster pipe roll records expenditure on Castle of Rath and Greencastle (Viride castris Regis) including the manufacture of 'hurdisia' and roofing of the 'aula turris' and the provision of picks and tools from Drogheda and the wages of a blacksmith to make nails

1260 Annals of Pembridge and the Black Book of Christchurch record 'Arx viridis in Ultonia prosternitur'

1280s A legal judgement stated that a certain knight from Co. Meath had to pay scutage in respect of failure to turn up to a muster because he 'has served with his body in "the army of Greencastle" in 1260

A royal castle, built at the King's expense and held in the custody of the de Burghs, Earls of Ulster. Erected about the middle of the 13th century, became the centre of a manor, with a church and a village and ferry connection to Carlingford

1312 Scene of the marriages of the daughters of Richard the Red Earl taken by Edward Bruce, but soon relieved by the men of Dublin and garrisoned for the king. Custodian, Robert de Coulrath starved to death in Dublin

1333 An inquisition described Greencastle as worth nothing beyond the charges of upkeep

15m/18m - raised 2 storeys + taken up corners.
Entrance at SE (I think SW)

- C. Lynn
2002
- 1334 Defences strengthened by the deployment of six ballistae and twice besieged by the Irish and twice relieved by Henry de Maundeville (then appointed custodian)
 - 1343 Stormed and wrecked by the Irish, soon repaired
 - 1356 William de Doun, constable
 - 1361-5 Geoffrey Whyt, Lionel Duke of Clarence 2nd son of Ed III, was king's lieutenant
 - 1375 Taken and wrecked by Magennis of Iveagh
 - 1382 Walter Somy
 - 1386 Roger Whyt de Duno
 - 1387 William Syngleton
 - 1400-01 Stephen Gernon + Carlingford succeeded by John More
 - 1408 The great hall of the keep damaged to the extent of 40shillings for want of a roof, More removed from office.
 - 1469 Edmund White
 - 1495 Decreed that no one but an Englishman by birth should hold office of governor
 - 1505 granted to Gerald, Earl of Kildare
 - 1535 approx 'almost destroyed'
 - 1536-7 included in a list of castles and payments to custodians John Prowse and Matthew King are recorded.
 - 1539 material from Drogheda was assigned for the repair of Greencastle
 - 1549 'in a wretched condition'
 - 1552 Granted to Nicholas Bagnal
 - 1597 royal garrison

Used during 9 yrs war

*Industrial stuff car park side of dam
Vivid castles*

GREENCASTLE of constable at Greencastle and at Carlingford were amalgamated County Down from the start of the 15th century onwards. In 1505 the castle was granted to Gerald, Earl of Kildare, but funds from the sale of goods from the N. shore of the narrow mouth of Carlingford Lough. It was clearly some Irish monasteries were sent for repair of the king's castle of Greencastle in 1538. In 1552 the place was included in a grant of lands to Nicholas Bagenall, and in 1597 could be included as one of the few peninsulas may be an Anglo-Norman motte, the predecessor of the stone strongholds retained for the crown in ^{stand}. The castle was not garrisoned castle. The ruins of a medieval church in a field below the castle to the W., and to the N. rise the jagged peaks of the Mourne Mountains.

HISTORY

Greencastle is a good example of the numerous strongholds erected in Ireland by the Anglo-Normans around the middle of the 13th century. The Norman colony in E. Ulster was separated from the main area of English greatest area of Norman expansion then was in Connaught, where the closest settlement in Leinster by Irish-held areas, frequently hostile, in S. parallels for Greencastle can be found, for example at Athenry, Co. Galway, Armagh and S. Down. In 1252 a mandate was issued by Henry III that Adam Talbot should be paid by the exchequer 'what he had expended on the custody quadrilateral curtain wall, with a projecting D-plan angle-tower at each of Greencastle of the king'. The castle was destroyed in 1260 when annals record that 'the green fortress in Ulster was demolished'. Details of the W. area is occupied by a private dwelling *a surviving fragment copy of* repairs carried out at this time are preserved in the Ulster Pipe Roll ~~for~~

A Tour of , including work on the roof of the main hall of the keep. It is not clear if the repairs were done as a result of the demolition, and presumably carried out by the local clans, or before it in anticipation of the unrest culminating in the Battle of Down in 1260. At about this time a feudal army was stationed at Greencastle to supplement its small rounded garrison. The ditch on the E. side has been cleared of its fill of medieval rubbish and rubble in recent excavations, but elsewhere its line is invisible, though its position has been checked by small excavations, for example by Bruce in 1316 and by Magennis in 1375. Presumably the function of the ditch was twofold: it served as a quarry to provide damage was repaired after each sacking, but Greencastle - like many other castles - appears to have been maintained and garrisoned only grudgingly. effectively increased the height of the wall by the depth of the ditch. It

The offices of constable at Greencastle and at Carlingford were amalgamated from the start of the 15th century onwards. In 1505 the castle was granted to Gerald, Earl of Kildare, but funds from the sale of goods from some Irish monasteries were sent for repair of the king's castle of Greencastle in 1539. In 1552 the place was included in a grant of lands to Nicholas Bagenall, and in 1597 could be included as one of the few strongholds retained for the crown in Ulster. The castle was not garrisoned for long in the 17th century, but by that time had given service for over 350 years.

Greencastle is a good example of the numerous strongholds erected in Ireland by the Anglo-Normans around the middle of the 13th century. The greatest area of Norman expansion then was in Connacht, where the closest parallels for Greencastle can be found, for example at Athenry, Co. Galway. The castle consists of a large rectangular keep within an irregular quadrilateral curtain wall, with a projecting D-plan angle-tower at each corner. The main part of the site was taken into State Care in 1964, but the W. area is occupied by a private dwelling and farmyard.

A Tour of the Castle

The visitor approaches the castle from the carpark at the SE. side and crosses the eastern, outer defences. The large bank (1) sloping up W. from the carpark^{is} man-made, of clay and rock chips. Immediately within it is a massive rock-cut ditch (2), 7m. wide and 3.5m. deep, which surrounded the castle. The ditch on the E. side has been cleared of its fill of medieval rubbish and rubble in recent excavations, but elsewhere its line is invisible, though its position has been checked by small excavations. The function of the ditch was twofold: it served as a quarry to provide stone for the buildings, and its proximity to the base of the curtain wall effectively increased the height of the wall by the depth of the ditch. It

It is possible that the builders hoped that the ditch would serve as a wet moat as the excavations revealed a small but complete masonry dam (3) seen immediately N. of the path across the ditch.

The path skirts a small outcrop of rock, site of the SE. angle-tower (4). The angle-towers and the connecting curtain wall though now so fragmentary formed the main defence of the castle. They were perhaps 6 or 7m. high, and originally would almost have hidden the keep from anyone outside the castle. The line of the E. curtain wall (5) runs northwards to the NE. angle-tower (6), the plan of which, alone of the four corner towers, has been fully revealed by excavation. The tower was designed to allow archery fire in a wide arc from the outer face of the N. wall to that of the E. curtain, and also provided accommodation and storage space. A small ground floor latrine chamber with its original cobbled floor suggests that the tower was residential. A second latrine chute runs through the wall thickness from the floor above, and a third latrine was provided outside the tower on the N., perhaps so that the wall-walk sentry did not have to leave his post or disturb the occupants of the tower. The S. wall of the tower facing into the ward was adapted as the N. end of a rectangular building, little trace of which survives, which also used the inside of the E. curtain as one of its long walls. From the NE. tower the lower courses of the N. curtain can be seen running to the remains of the NW. tower (7), which are incorporated in the modern farmhouse.

The back of the farmhouse visible from the keep (stippled on plan) corresponds approximately to the outside of the W. curtain wall, and leads the eye to the tall surviving fragment of the SW. corner-tower (8) which gives some impression of the original height of the outer defences. The original entrance through the curtain wall may have been adjacent to, or part of, this tower on the E. side.

Before entering the keep through the modern opening at its SE. angle, the remains of other medieval buildings in the courtyard should be noted. North of the keep are fragments of 13th-century buildings (9), perhaps originally temporary dwellings for the castle-builders, but continuing in use for most of the castle's history. SW. of the keep is a much-altered medieval single-storey building, now used as a barn (10). Between this and the keep are the foundations of a fore-building (11) attached to the keep. This would have protected the stair to the original keep entrance at first-floor level. Their insertion destroyed the lower parts of some narrow 15th-century windows, the best preserved of which is at the E. end of the E. wall. The large fireplace in the E. wall dates from the 15th century. It has shallow pilaster angle buttresses with quoins of calcareous tufa and a bold base-batter. The ground floor room was originally undivided, with eight embrasures giving access to narrow loops, the inner edges built of dressed red sandstone, but some were blocked by later changes and other converted into double-splayed loops for use with firearms. Probably in the 15th century the room was sub-divided with inserted walls into three barrel-vaulted chambers. The doorway in the W. wall, with its musket loop in the lintel, is also of the 15th century, and in the 16th century it connected directly with a large house built in part as a lean-to against the W. face of the keep. Remains of its N. wall can be seen (13) and its massive chimney stack between the barn (10) and the keep. A door at first floor level linked the 16th-century house with the keep. Excavations W. of the keep have revealed foundations of medieval walls, now covered over.

The first floor of the keep is reached by a flight of 15th-century stairs in the SW. angle. This was the main hall of the castle, used for dining and administrative purposes. Facing the original entrance in the S. wall are

remains of a doorway in the N. wall, which probably communicated with the N. curtain wall (bridge visible in our 13th-century reconstruction drawing). The original windows have been much altered by subsequent openings and fireplaces, but in the N. wall are remains of three narrow original windows, the raised E. example suggesting a dais at the E. end of the hall. At the E. end of the S. wall are remains of an early fireplace, and there is a small latrine chamber in the NE. angle. The large rectangular window openings are of 16th-century date and originally had sandstone transoms and mullions. Their insertion destroyed the lower parts of some narrow 15th-century windows, the best preserved of which is at the E. end of the S. wall. The large fireplace in the S. wall dates from the 16th century; E. of this, a straight joint is all that remains of a 15th-century opening. On the inner face of the E. wall are traces of the weathering of two successive ridged roofs, presumably of 15th- or 16th-century date.

The appearance of the upper part of the keep dates from the 15th century when the E. and W. walls were heightened and turrets added at the angles, reached by the spiral staircase in the SW. angle. This leads to the wall-walk on the S. wall, onto which the roof sloped, the water draining out through a row of holes ('weepers') in the S. wall, and to a mural passage in the W. wall and a chamber in the NW. angle. There is a similar passage in the E. wall, and stairs against the N. and S. walls lead to the upper chambers in the NE. and SE. turrets. There were latrines in the NW. and SE. turrets, reached by stairs from the wall-walk.

Excavated Evidence

Recent excavation^s of the outer defences in conjunction with conservation work have produced much evidence for the vicissitudes of the castle and many finds

of equipment used by the garrison, including wheel-thrown pottery of English style, local hand-made cooking vessels, sherds of Continental origin, and iron objects such as knives, tools and arrowheads (illustrated). Parts of the original battlements of the E. curtain were found collapsed into the ditch, and some of these have been reassembled at the E. side of the carpark to show the appearance of the original battlemented wall-walk, which crowned the high curtain walls.

Further Reading An Archaeological Survey of County Down (H.M.S.O. 1966), 211-219; Gaskell-Brown, C. in Ulster J. Archaeol. 42 (1979), 51-65.

Access 4 miles S.W. of Kilkeel (grid ref. J247119), reached by minor roads off the A2 and along lane to carpark at castle.

Other castles in State Care in Co. Down include Dundrum, Clough and Narrow Water.

Text and illustrations by C.J. Lynn.

Published by Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch, Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland.

Crown Copyright 1984

10p net including work on the roof of the main hall of the keep. It is not clear if the repairs were done as a result of the desecration, presumably carried out by the local clans, or before it in anticipation of the unrest culminating in the Battle of Down in 1260. At about this time a feudal army was stationed at Greencastle to supplement its small garrison.

In the 14th century the castle was captured and wrecked on several occasions, for example by Bruce in 1315 and by Magennis in 1375. Presumably the damage was repaired after each sacking, but Greencastle - like many other castles - appears to have been maintained and garrisoned only grudgingly.

Site A

GREENCASTLE County Down

The medieval fortress is prominently sited on a low rock outcrop, 300 metres from the N. shore of the narrow mouth of Carlingford Lough. It was clearly designed to secure the routeway into Ulster by ferry from Carlingford, visible across the lough in Co. Louth. A grassy mound at the tip of the peninsula may be an Anglo-Norman motte, the predecessor of the stone castle. The ruins of a medieval church^{stand} in a field below the castle to the W., and to the N. rise the jagged peaks of the Mourne Mountains.

bold

Site B

History

The castle was probably built in the mid 13th century, when the Anglo-Norman colony in E. Ulster was separated from the main area of English settlement in Leinster by Irish-held areas, frequently hostile, in S. Armagh and S. Down. In 1252 a mandate was issued by Henry III that Adam Talbot should be paid by the exchequer 'what he had expended on the custody of Greencastle of the king'. The castle was destroyed in 1260 when annals record that 'the green fortress in Ulster was demolished'. Details of repairs carried out at this time are preserved in the Ulster Pipe Roll for , including work on the roof of the main hall of the keep. It is not clear if the repairs were done as a result of the demolition, presumably carried out by the local clans, or before it in anticipation of the unrest culminating in the Battle of Down in 1260. At about this time a feudal army was stationed at Greencastle to supplement its small garrison.

In the 14th century the castle was captured and wrecked on several occasions, for example by Bruce in 1316 and by Magennis in 1375. Presumably the damage was repaired after each sacking, but Greencastle - like many other castles - appears to have been maintained and garrisoned only grudgingly.

The offices of constable at Greencastle and at Carlingford were amalgamated from the start of the 15th century onwards. In 1505 the castle was granted to Gerald, Earl of Kildare, but funds from the sale of goods from some Irish monasteries were sent for repair of the king's castle of Greencastle in 1539. In 1552 the place was included in a grant of lands to Nicholas Bagenall, and in 1597 could be included as one of the few strongholds retained for the crown in Ulster. The castle was not garrisoned for long in the 17th century, but by that time had given service for over 350 years.

Greencastle is a good example of the numerous strongholds erected in Ireland by the Anglo-Normans around the middle of the 13th century. The greatest area of Norman expansion then was in Connacht, where the closest parallels for Greencastle can be found, for example at Athenry, Co. Galway. The castle consists of a large rectangular keep within an irregular quadrilateral curtain wall, with a projecting D-plan angle-tower at each corner. The main part of the site was taken into State Care in 1964, but the W. area is occupied by a private dwelling and farmyard and is not accessible to visitors.

A Tour of the Castle

The visitor approaches the castle from the carpark at the SE. side and crosses the eastern, outer defences. The large bank (1) sloping up W. from the carpark^{is} man-made, of clay and rock chips. Immediately within it is a massive rock-cut ditch (2), 7m. wide and 3.5m. deep, which surrounded the castle. The ditch on the E. side has been cleared of its fill of medieval rubbish and rubble in recent excavations, but elsewhere its line is invisible, though its position has been checked by small excavations. The function of the ditch was twofold: it served as a quarry to provide stone for the buildings, and its proximity to the base of the curtain wall effectively increased the height of the wall by the depth of the ditch.

It is possible that the builders hoped that the ditch would serve as a wet moat as the excavations revealed a small but complete masonry dam

(3) seen immediately N. of the path across the ditch.

The path skirts a small outcrop of rock, site of the SE. angle-tower

(4). The angle-towers and the connecting curtain wall though now so

fragmentary formed the main defence of the castle. They were perhaps

6 or 7m. high, and originally would almost have hidden the keep from anyone

outside the castle. The line of the E. curtain wall (5) runs northwards

to the NE. angle-tower (6), the plan of which, alone of the four corner

towers, has been fully revealed by excavation. The tower was designed to

allow archery fire in a wide arc from the outer face of the N. wall to that

of the E. curtain, and also provided accommodation and storage space. A

small ground floor latrine chamber with its original cobbled floor suggests

that the tower was residential. A second latrine chute runs through the

wall thickness from the floor above, and a third latrine was provided outside

the tower on the N., perhaps so that the wall-walk sentry did not have to

leave his post or disturb the occupants of the tower. The S. wall of the

tower facing into the ward and the inside of the E. curtain wall formed two sides of a rectangular building, of which few other traces survive.

From the NE. tower the lower courses of the N. curtain can be seen running to the remains of the NW. tower

(7), incorporated in the modern farmhouse.

The back of the farmhouse visible from the keep (stippled on plan)

corresponds approximately to the outside of the W. curtain wall, and leads

the eye to the tall surviving fragment of the SW. corner-tower (8) which

gives some impression of the original height of the outer defences. The

original entrance through the curtain wall may have been adjacent to, or part of, this tower on the E. side.

Before entering the keep through the modern opening at its SE. angle, the remains of other medieval buildings in the courtyard should be noted. North of the keep are fragments of 13th-century buildings (9), perhaps originally temporary dwellings for the castle-builders, but continuing in use for most of the castle's history. SW. of the keep is a much-altered medieval single-storey building, now used as a barn (10). Between this  and the keep are the foundations of a fore-building (11) attached to the keep. This would have protected the stair to the original keep entrance at first-floor level.

The keep (12) is rectangular in plan, two storeys high, with walls almost 2m. thick. It has shallow pilaster angle buttresses with quoins of calcareous tufa and a bold base-batter. The ground floor room was originally undivided, with eight embrasures giving access to narrow loops, the inner edges built of dressed red sandstone, but some were blocked by later changes and others converted into double-splayed loops for use with firearms. Probably in the 15th century the room was sub-divided with inserted walls into three barrel-vaulted chambers. The doorway in the W. wall, with its musket loop in the lintel, is also of the 15th century, and in the 16th century it connected directly with a large house built in part as a lean-to against the W. face of the keep. Remains of its N. wall can be seen (13) and its massive chimney stack between the barn (10) and the keep. A door at first floor level linked the 16th-century house with the keep. Excavations W. of the keep have revealed foundations of medieval walls, now covered over.

The first floor of the keep is reached by a flight of 15th-century stairs in the SW. angle. This was the main hall of the castle, used for dining and administrative purposes. Facing the original entrance in the S. wall are

remains of a doorway in the N. wall, which probably communicated with the N. curtain wall (bridge visible in our 13th-century reconstruction drawing). The original windows have been much altered by subsequent openings and fireplaces, but in the N. wall are remains of three narrow original windows, the raised E. example suggesting a dais at the E. end of the hall. At the E. end of the S. wall are remains of an early fireplace, and there is a small latrine chamber in the NE. angle. The large rectangular window openings are of 16th-century date and originally had sandstone transoms and mullions. Their insertion destroyed the lower parts of some narrow 15th-century windows, the best preserved of which is at the E. end of the S. wall. The large fireplace in the S. wall dates from the 16th century; E. of this, a straight joint is all that remains of a 15th-century opening. On the inner face of the E. wall are traces of the weathering of two successive ridged roofs, presumably of 15th- or 16th-century date.

The appearance of the upper part of the keep dates from the 15th century when the E. and W. walls were heightened and turrets added at the angles, reached by the spiral staircase in the SW. angle. This leads to the wall-walk on the S. wall, onto which the roof sloped, the water draining out through a row of holes ('weepers') in the S. wall, and to a mural passage in the W. wall and a chamber in the NW. angle. There is a similar passage in the E. wall, and stairs against the N. and S. walls lead to the upper chambers in the NE. and SE. turrets. There were latrines in the NW. and SE. turrets, reached by stairs from the wall-walk.

^{bold}
Excavated Evidence

Recent excavation^s of the outer defences in conjunction with conservation work have produced much evidence for the vicissitudes of the castle and many finds

of equipment used by the garrison, including wheel-thrown pottery of English style, local hand-made cooking vessels, sherds of Continental origin, and iron objects such as knives, tools and arrowheads (illustrated). Parts of the original battlements of the E. curtain were found collapsed into the ditch, and some of these have been reassembled at the E. side of the carpark to show the appearance of the original battlemented wall-walk which crowned the high curtain walls.

^{bold} Further Reading ^{italics} An Archaeological Survey of County Down (H.M.S.O. 1966), 211-219; ^{C.} Gaskell-Brown ^{italics} in Ulster J. Archaeol. 42 (1979), 51-65.

^{bold} Access 4 miles S.W. of Kilkeel (grid ref. J247119), reached by minor roads off the A2 and along lane to carpark at castle.

^{bold} Other Castles in State Care in Co. Down include ^{italics} Dundrum, ^{italics} Clough and ^{italics} Narrow Water.

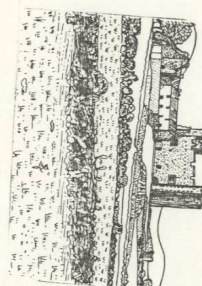
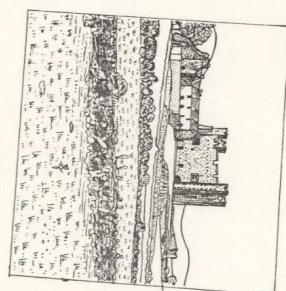
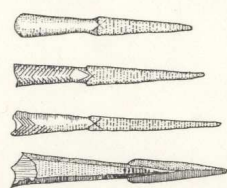
Text and illustrations by C.J. Lynn.

Published by Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch,
Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland 1984.

© ^{italics} Crown Copyright 1984

10p net

If too crowded,
omit other castles section.



NOV 1984 NOV 1982

Please retype,
double spaced + 2
(Amthamlin)

THE SITE

11/10/4
9/10

The medieval fortress is prominently sited on a low rock outcrop 300 metres from the N. shore of the narrow mouth of Carlingford Lough. It was clearly designed to secure the routeway into Ulster by ferry from Carlingford, visible across the lough in Co. Louth. A grassy mound at the tip of the peninsula may be an Anglo-Norman motte, the predecessor of the stone castle which became the centre of a manor. The ruins of a medieval church stand in a field below the castle to the W. and to the N. rise the jagged peaks of the Mourne Mountains.

2/10/3

HISTORY

The castle was probably built shortly before the middle of the 13th century, when the Anglo-Norman colony in E. Ulster was separated from the main area of English settlement in Leinster by Irish-held areas, frequently hostile, in S. Armagh and S. Down. In 1252 a mandate was issued by Henry III that Adam Talbot ^{should} * continue as in typescript

11 x 11
110
180
120
6

GREENCASTLE, COUNTY DOWN

THE SITE

The medieval fortress ^{is prominently sited} stands in a scenic position on a low rock outcrop 300m. from the N. shore of the narrow mouth of Carlingford Lough, ^{clearly designed to} ~~It is likely that the castle was~~ erected shortly before the middle of the 13th century to secure the routeway into Ulster by ferry from Carlingford, ^{visible across the lough in Co. Louth.} Co. Louth, and it may have been built at royal expense. At this time the Anglo-Norman colony in E. Ulster was separated from the main area of English settlement in Leinster by Irish-held areas, frequently hostile, in S. Down and S. Armagh. A grassy mound at the tip of the peninsula may be an Anglo-Norman motte, the predecessor of the stone castle which became the centre of a manor. The ruins of a medieval church stand in a field below the castle to the W.

The castle was built not long before 1252, in which year a mandate was issued by Henry III that Adam Talbot ^{be} paid by the exchequer 'what he had expended on the custody of Greencastle of the king'. The castle was mentioned in two other documents of the 1250s, but was destroyed in 1260 when Anglo-Irish annals record that 'the green fortress in Ulster was demolished' (*arx viridis in Ultonia prosternitur*). Details of repairs carried out at this time are preserved in the ^{Ulster} Pipe Roll ^{for [blank]} ~~for Ulster~~ for the 44th year of Henry III's reign, and these ^{including} included work on the roof of the main chamber of the keep (*aula turris*). It is not clear if the repairs were ^{done} ~~carried out~~ as a result of the demolition, ~~which was~~ presumably carried out by the local clans, or before it in anticipation of the unrest culminating in the Battle of Down in 1260. At about this time a feudal army was stationed at Greencastle ^{to supplement} ~~in addition to~~ its normal garrison, ^{then} which would have been fairly small. The record is ^{about} almost silent concerning activity at Greencastle until the ^{early} 14th century, ^{when} ~~during which~~ the castle was captured and wrecked on several occasions, for example by Bruce in 1316 and by Magennis in 1375. Presumably the defences were repaired and the accommodation made habitable after each sacking, but Greencastle - in common with many others ^{castles} - appears to have been maintained and garrisoned only grudgingly. The names of various constables and their salaries are known from the later 14th and 15th centuries, during which time life at the castle appears to have been relatively uneventful. The offices of constable at Greencastle and at Carlingford were amalgamated from the start of the 15th century onwards. In 1505 the castle was granted to Gerald, Earl of Kildare, but funds from the sale of goods from some Irish monasteries were sent for repair of the ^k King's castle of Greencastle in 1539. In 1552 the place was included in a grant of lands to Nicholas Bagenall, and in 1597 could be included as one of the few strongholds retained for the Crown in Ulster. The castle does not appear to have been garrisoned for long in the 17th century, but by that time had given service for over 350 years.

Greencastle is a good example of the numerous strongholds erected in Ireland by the Anglo-Normans around the middle of the 13th century. The greatest area of Norman expansion at that time was in Connacht, and it is there that the closest parallels for Greencastle can be found, ^{for example} ~~for example~~ at Athenry, Co. Galway.

run on → The castle consists of a large rectangular keep set within an irregular quadrilateral curtain wall, with a projecting D-plan angle-tower at each corner. ~~The W. portion of~~

The main part of the site was taken into State Care in 1964, but the W. area is not

the monument is not in ~~State~~ care and is occupied by a private dwelling and farm-yard. ~~←~~ A TOUR OF THE CASTLE

← The visitor approaches Greencastle through the carpark at the SE. side and passes over the eastern, outer defences of the castle. The large bank (1) sloping up from the carpark to the W. is mainly artificial and consists of clay and rock chips cleared from the site of the castle prior to construction (numbers in brackets refer to locations on the site plan). Immediately within the bank is a massive rock-cut ditch (2), 7m. wide and 3.5m. deep, which surrounded the castle. The ditch on the E. side has been cleared of its fill of medieval rubbish and rubble in recent excavations, but elsewhere around the perimeter its line is invisible (the farmhouse on the W. stands on it), although its position has been checked by small excavations. The function of the ditch was twofold: it served as a quarry to provide stone for the ^{buildings} masonry, and its proximity to the base of the curtain wall, immediately within, effectively increased the height of the wall by the depth of the ditch. It is possible that the castle-builders hoped that the ditch would serve as a wet moat as the excavations revealed a small but complete masonry dam (3) immediately N. of the path crossing the ditch. The dam, with an unquarried rock counterpart on the S. side of the castle, appears to have been intended to prevent water in the ditch from running out at the one point on the perimeter, the SE. angle, where its edges plunged lower than elsewhere.

The path skirts a small outcrop of rock on the right-hand side and on this stood the SE. angle-tower (4), of which only slight traces have been found in excavation. It is important to note that the angle-towers and the connecting curtain wall ^{though now so fragmentary} ~~(so called because it appeared to be hung between the projecting towers)~~ formed the main defence of the castle. The towers and wall were perhaps 6 or 7m. high, and ~~would~~ ^{would} originally ^{have} ~~have~~ almost hidden the keep from the site of the present carpark. The line of the E. curtain wall (5) can be seen running northwards to the NE. angle-tower (6), the plan of which, alone of the four original corner-towers, has been fully revealed by excavation. The tower was designed to ^{make possible} ~~permit~~ archery fire in a wide arc from the outer face of the N. wall to that of the E. curtain, and ^{also} ~~provided~~ accommodation and storage space. ~~The probability that the rooms in the tower were residential is shown by the provision of a small latrine chamber (with original~~

A small latrine chamber with its original cobbled floor, on the ground floor, E. side, suggests that the tower was residential. A second latrine chute runs through the wall thickness from the floor above, and a third latrine was provided outside the tower on the N., perhaps so that the wall-walk sentry did not ^{have} ~~leave~~ his post or disturb the occupants of the tower. ~~then run on as in typescript via~~ @

~~the monument is not in State~~ care and is occupied by a private dwelling and farm-yard. ~~§~~ A TOUR OF THE CASTLE

← The visitor approaches Greencastle through the carpark at the SE. side and passes over the eastern, outer defences of the castle. The large bank (1) sloping up from the carpark to the W. is mainly artificial and consists of clay and rock chips cleared from the site of the castle prior to construction (numbers in brackets refer to locations on the site plan). Immediately within the bank is a massive rock-cut ditch (2), 7m. wide and 3.5m. deep, which surrounded the castle. The ditch on the E. side has been cleared of its fill of medieval rubbish and rubble in recent excavations, but elsewhere around the perimeter its line is invisible (the farmhouse on the W. stands on it), although its position has been checked by small excavations. The function of the ditch was twofold: it served as a quarry to provide stone for the ^{buildings} ~~masonry~~, and its proximity to the base of the curtain wall, immediately within, effectively increased the height of the wall by the depth of the ditch. It is possible that the castle-builders hoped that the ditch would serve as a wet moat as the excavations revealed a small but complete masonry dam (3) immediately N. of the path crossing the ditch. The dam, with an unquarried rock counterpart on the S. side of the castle, appears to have been intended to prevent water in the ditch from running out at the one point on the perimeter, the SE. angle, where its edges plunged lower than elsewhere.

The path skirts a small outcrop of rock on the right-hand side and on this stood the SE. angle-tower (4), of which only slight traces have been found in excavation. It is important to note that the angle-towers and the connecting curtain wall ^{though now so fragmentary} ~~(so called because it appeared to be hung between the projecting towers)~~ formed the main defence of the castle. The towers and wall were perhaps 6 or 7m. high, and ~~would~~ ^{would} ~~originally have~~ ^{have} almost hidden the keep from the site of the present carpark. The line of the E. curtain wall (5) can be seen running northwards to the NE. angle-tower (6), the plan of which, alone of the four original corner-towers, has been fully revealed by excavation. The tower was designed to ^{make possible} ~~permit~~ archery fire in a wide arc from the outer face of the N. wall to that of the E. curtain, and ^{also} ~~provided~~ accommodation and storage space. ~~The probability that the rooms in the tower were residential is shown by the provision of a small latrine chamber (with original cobbled floor) at ground floor level on the E. side; that there was another in the floor above is shown by the presence of a second latrine chute running through the thickness of the masonry from the floor above. Yet a third latrine seems to have been provided outside the tower on the N., perhaps so that a wall-walk sentry need not leave his post or disturb the occupants of the tower.~~ The S. wall of the tower facing into the ward was adapted as the N. end of a rectangular building, little trace of which survives, which also ^{used} ~~utilised~~ the inside of the E. curtain as one of its long walls. From the NE. tower the lower courses of the N. curtain can be seen running to the remains of the NW. tower (7), which are incorporated in the modern farmhouse and which were of similar plan to the NE. tower.

(stippled on plan)

The back of the farmhouse visible from the keep corresponds approximately with the outside of the W. curtain wall, and leads the eye to the tall surviving fragment of the SW. corner-tower (8) which gives some impression of the original height of the outer defences. The original entrance through the outer wall of the castle may have been adjacent to, or part of, this tower on the E. side.

Before entering the keep through the modern ^{opening} ~~aperture~~ at ^{its} ~~the~~ SE. angle, the remains of other medieval buildings in the courtyard should be noted. To the N. of the keep are fragments of 13th-century buildings (9), ^{perhaps originally} which may have been built as temporary dwellings for the castle-builders, but ^{ing} ~~which~~ continued in use for most of the castle's history. SW. of the keep is a much-altered medieval single-storey building, now used as a barn (10). Between this building and the keep are the foundations (revealed in excavations, now restored) of a fore-building (11) attached to the keep. This would have ^{protected and} given access to the original ^{keep} entrance ~~to the keep~~ at first-floor level. Fragments of the mouldings of this entrance can be seen towards the W. end of the S. wall. The original entrance was replaced ^{still} ~~once~~ at first-floor level by another m. to the E., and remnants (jamb stones) of yet another early door at ground floor level, entered through the fore-building ~~(or its site)~~, can also be seen.

The keep (12) was rectangular in plan, two storeys high, and 18m. ^{by} ~~8.4m.~~ internally on plan, with walls almost 2m. thick. It has shallow pilaster buttresses at the angles with quoins of calcareous tufa and a bold base-batter. ~~A modern cobbled path has been constructed around the outside.~~ ~~Three barrel-vaulted apartments were constructed at ground floor level perhaps in the 15th century. There were~~

* The ground floor room, ^{was} ~~originally~~ ^{undivided, with} ~~eight~~ ^{eight} embrasures giving access to narrow loops, the inner edges ~~originally~~ built of dressed red sandstone, but some were blocked by later changes and others converted into double-splayed loops for use with firearms. Probably in the 15th century the room was subdivided into three barrel-vaulted chambers with inserted walls. The doorway in the W. wall, with its musket loop in the lintel, is also of the 15th century, and in the 16th century it connected directly with a large house built in part as a lean-to against the W. face of the keep. Remains of its N. wall can be seen (13) and its massive chimney stack between the barn (10) and the keep. A door at first floor level linked the 16th-century house with the keep. Excavations W. of the keep have revealed foundations of medieval walls, now covered over.

Continue: new para. at ~~A~~ in typescript

(stippled on plan)

The back of the farmhouse visible from the keep corresponds approximately with the outside of the W. curtain wall, and leads the eye to the tall surviving fragment of the SW. corner-tower (8) which gives some impression of the original height of the outer defences. The original entrance through the outer wall of the castle may have been adjacent to, or part of, this tower on the E. side.

Before entering the keep through the modern ^{opening} ~~aperture~~ at the SE. angle, the remains of other medieval buildings in the courtyard should be noted. To the N. of the keep are fragments of 13th-century buildings (9), ^{perhaps originally} which may have been built as temporary dwellings for the castle-builders, but ^{ing} which continued in use for most of the castle's history. SW. of the keep is a much-altered medieval single-storey building, now used as a barn (10). Between this building and the keep are the foundations (revealed in excavations, now restored) of a fore-building (11) attached to the keep. This would have ^{protected and} given access to the original ^{keep} entrance ~~to the keep~~ at first-floor level. Fragments of the mouldings of this entrance can be seen towards the W. end of the S. wall. The original entrance was replaced ^{still} ~~once~~ at first-floor level by another m. to the E., and remnants (jamb stones) of yet another early door at ground floor level, entered through the fore-building ~~(or its site)~~, can also be seen.

The keep (12) was rectangular in plan, two storeys high, and 18m. ^{by} ~~8.4m.~~ internally on plan, with walls almost 2m. thick. It has shallow pilaster buttresses at the angles with quoins of calcareous tufa and a bold base-batter. ~~A modern cobbled path has been constructed around the outside.~~ Three barrel-vaulted apartments were constructed at ground floor level perhaps in the 15th century. There were originally eight embrasures giving access to loops in the walls. The inner edges were originally dressed with red sandstone, but some have been blocked by the inserted vaults and stairs, and others have been adapted to the use of firearms by conversion to double-splayed loops. The doorway in the W. wall with a musketry loop in the lintel is the 15th-century entrance to the keep, and in the 16th century this connected directly with the large house which was built in part as a lean-to against the W. face of the keep. Excavations to the W. of the keep have revealed foundations of medieval walls, now covered over.

Abutting the W. wall of the keep are the remains of a two-storey 16th-century house (13) and, on the S. side, between the barn (10) and the keep, are the remains of a massive chimney stack of this building. A door communicated with the 16th-century house and the keep at first-floor level.

△ ← The first floor of the keep is reached by a flight of ^{15th-century} ~~stairs~~ ~~16th-century~~ in the SW. angle. This was the main hall of the castle and would have been used for dining and administrative purposes. Facing the original entrance in the S. wall are the remains of an early doorway in the N. wall, which probably communicated with the N. curtain or the 13th-century buildings (9) standing between the keep and the N. curtain. The original windows have been much altered by subsequent ^{openings} ~~apertures~~ and

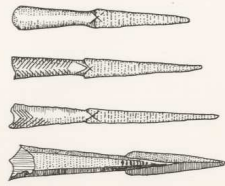
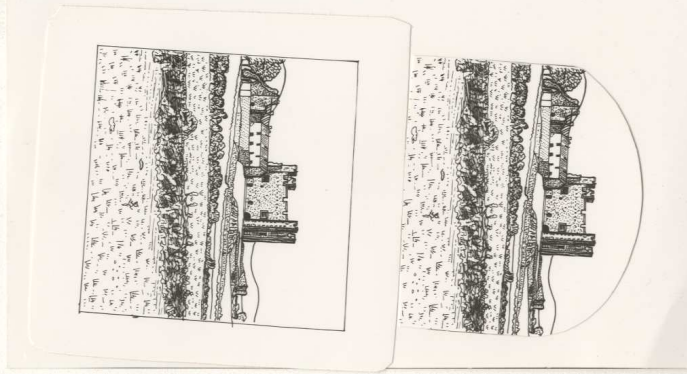
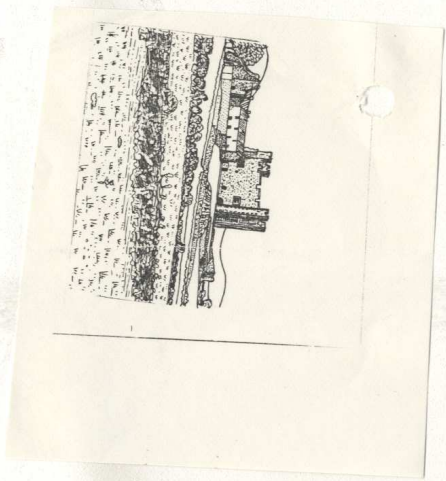
fireplaces, but on the N. wall are the remains of three narrow original windows, the easternmost being raised, indicating the possibility of a dais at the E. end of the hall. At the E. end of the S. wall are the remains of an early fireplace, and there is a small latrine chamber in the NE. angle. ^{run on}

← The large rectangular window ^{openings} ~~apertures~~ are of 16th-century date and originally had sandstone transoms and mullions, some of which, grooved for glass, were found during excavation. Their insertion destroyed the lower parts of some narrow 15th-century windows, the best preserved of which is at the E. end of the S. wall. The large fireplace in the middle of the S. wall dates from the 16th century; to the E. of this, a straight joint is all that remains of a 15th-century opening. On the inner face of the E. wall are traces of the weathering of two successive ridged roofs, presumably of 15th-^{or} 16th-century date.

← The ~~upper~~ ^{upper part of the} appearance of the keep dates to the 15th century when the E. and W. walls were heightened and turrets added at the angles. Access to the upper ^{levels} ~~floors~~ is by the spiral staircase (or vice) in the SW. angle. This leads to the wall-walk on the S. wall (onto which the roof sloped, the water draining out through a row of ^{holes ('weepers')} ~~apertures~~ in the S. wall) ~~at wall-walk level~~, and to a mural passage in the W. wall and thus to a chamber in the NW. angle. There is a similar passage in the E. wall, and stairs against the N. and S. walls lead to the upper chambers in the NE. and SE. turrets. Latrines were provided at roof level in the NW. and SE. turrets, reached by stairs from the wall-walk.

EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

← Recent excavations of the outer defences in conjunction with conservation work have produced much evidence for the vicissitudes of the ^{castle} ~~defences~~ and many ~~small~~ finds of equipment used by the garrison, including wheel-thrown pottery of English style, local hand-made cooking vessels, and sherds of Continental origin. Iron objects such as knives, tools and arrowheads were also found, including a set of possibly 14th-century 'table' knives. Parts of the original battlements of the E. curtain were ~~also~~ found collapsed into the ditch, and some of these have been reassembled at the E. side of the carpark to show the appearance of the original battlemented wall-walk, which crowned the ^{to} 5.6m. high curtain walls.



GREENCASTLE, CO DOWN - EXCAVATION REPORT

From November 1970 to May 1971 that part of the ditch on the east side of Greencastle which lies within state ownership was excavated and conserved. Prior to this excavation the ditch was investigated here by a trial cutting in 1951 and its inner edge was located on the north side for a considerable length early in 1970 during clearance connected with conservation work on the north curtain. On the east only a slight depression outside the line of the curtain indicated the position of the ditch. Last winter a 130' length of the rock-cut feature was cleared of an average of 12' depth of accumulated rubble and occupation debris and has now been conserved and left open for public inspection. The ditch was rock cut, ran parallel to the curtain outside a narrow irregular berm and had a roughly flat bottom and evenly sloping sides. It might be described as a truncated V in section.

The stratigraphy of the excavated section was fairly uniform, the lowest layer up to 1' 6" thick and in places absent (due to irregularities in the ditch bottom) consisted of clean rock spalls with sherds of large portions of 3 glazed jugs scattered over long lengths of the ditch bottom. This was covered by loose rubble 8' thick at the south shallowing to isolated blocks at the north end and apparently derived from collapse or demolition of the east curtain. (The rubble of the curtain was also located in trial sections of the north side and on the south). This in turn was covered by layers of occupation debris, occurring in clearly defined dumps emanating from within the ward and apparently not at a time when the curtain was high enough to prevent rubbish from being tipped out in large quantities. These stratified layers produced large quantities of many different types of everted-rim cooking pottery (no English-style glazed pottery) some approaching classic "crannog ware" in style. There were parts of more than 25 iron knives, some with bone handles and bronze rivets and mounts still in place and many domestic iron objects including hooks, nails, pins, needles, hammers, reaping-hooks, chisels etc. These deposits are all presumably early medieval. The only coin found came from a very high layer probably associated with the robbing out of the remaining stump of the east curtain and was of early 17th century date. A fine bronze rowel-spur bearing incised decoration was found in the topsoil and is 15th-16th century in date.

The excavation also revealed that the slight bank outside the ditch is artificial and has been filled in at one point to a depth of over 12' into what appears to be an original quarry contiguous with the ditch. The partially re-filled floor of the "quarry" was used as an open-air workshop during the construction of the castle. Historical research subsequent to the excavation has shown that it may be possible to date exactly the infilling of the main ditch with rubble and thus provide a very close date for the English-style pottery sealed under it.

C Lynn

September 1971

* GREENCASTLE, CO. DOWN. (O.S.N.I. GRID REF. J.247118)

A small trial-trench was opened across the line of the ditch on the south side of the castle at the point when one might have expected to find a dam-like feature corresponding to that revealed previously in the E. ditch. No masonry structure was found but the rock, here much harder than on the E, had apparently been left unquarried across the line of the ditch. The solid rock was encountered 9ft. higher than it should have if the ditch bottom had run through at this point at a depth similar to that on the E. side. The rock spanning the ditch-line was at precisely the same level as the top of the

* 'dam' on the east side. The cutting was not wide enough to indicate the immediate extent of this apparent rise in the ditch bottom however ~~it does~~

SUPPORT THE CONTENTION

~~indicate~~ that the wall spanning the ditch on the east side could have been designed to function hydrostatically as a dam. C.J. Lynn

from 'Excavations 1972' TG Delaney (ed.)

* SEE 1970, '71

THE RESULTS

GREENCASTLE (figs. 136, 137, 138; plates 45-
O.S. 57. Grid ref. 247118

The castle stands on a low outcrop of rock some 100 yards N. of the shore of Carlingford Lough, and about 450 yards E. of the motte (No. 776). It was a royal castle, commenced about the middle of the 13th century, since it appears to have been approaching completion, at least in part by 1261, in which year payments are recorded for timber, roofing shingles and lead. To this period belongs the whole of the main layout of the castle, including the curtain wall with its angle towers and the keep together probably with other buildings within the ward. The castle was held in the custody of the de Burghs as Earls of Ulster; it was captured by Edward Bruce in 1316, but was subsequently recovered and garrisoned for the King. In the disorders which befell the province after the murder of William de Burgh in 1333 the castle appears to have been fully engaged, despite the fact that in an inquisition of this date, it is described as 'worth nothing beyond the charges of upkeep'; in 1335 its defences were strengthened by the addition of six ballistae and about this time the castle was besieged by the Irish

Down 57:3

The purpose of the excavation was to recover information about the plan of the SE. corner-tower and the southward extent of the E. curtain. Neither feature was visible before excavation, and it was assumed that the bedrock lay only a few inches below the present surface. It was hoped, as in the case of the NE. angle tower, that sufficient would remain of the SE. tower-footings to enable its reconstruction with confidence in plan and to permit the construction of a safety wall along the line of the original walling. In view of the earlier excavations in this position (Waterman and Collins 1952, 93) it was felt possible that in fact no worthwhile remains could survive.

A trench, c. 9 m. by 3 m., was laid out in southward prolongation of the line of the E. curtain (see attached Fig.1). This succeeded in finding the position of a robber-trench, first located further to the N. in 1971-2, which evidently resulted from complete removal of the E. curtain footings, perhaps in the early 17th century. The existence of this trench and, parallel with its W. (inner) face, a line of mortar droppings apparently from its construction, enables us to reconstruct a further 3.5 m. of the line of the curtain wall with accuracy (Wall A, Fig.1).

The artificial deposits behind, over and in front of the curtain wall amounted to more than 1m. in places and not less than 50cm. At no point in the trench, except at the extreme S. and E., did we encounter the natural subsoil (rock), and all of the superimposed deposits are stratified and archaeological. The result has been that we have been unable in the week available to complete the excavation and recording of the trench, and a further 1 week of work will be necessary to do this.

At the mid-point of the trench, an original medieval wall (Wall B) ran in from the W. at right angles to the line of the curtain, and may have been flat-butted against the back of it. Further S., the level of the ground surface became lower and the robber-trench for the E. curtain disappeared. An occupation surface and stone-filled pit (so far unexcavated) occupied a large proportion of the area of the S. half of the trench, and the rock outcropped at the S. and E. ends. It would appear that the excavation of the 'thin soil covering of the outcrop' in the 1951 excavations was limited only to the extreme S. and E. edges of the outcrop.

Finds from the layers so far excavated have been entirely medieval in character: sherds of glazed jugs (2 from Saintonge), an iron buckle, a horseshoe, nails, etc., and

GREENCASTLE: 5 APRIL 1982 To add, should 9 file. CL
a considerable number of animal bones. A large portion of a human skull was found immediately outside the line of the curtain; this isolated skull could relate to several others found in earlier excavations in the ditch which had perhaps been exhibited on the curtain wall. All these finds and the layers in which they were found testify to the amount of archaeology still surviving on the site of the tower. The possibility of recognizing an occupation layer clearly post-dating the demolition of the tower is also very important.

In order to fully examine the area likely to contain remains of the tower, the area under excavation would have to be trebled. (Although the purpose of the work is to uncover foundations of the tower to enable its plan to be reconstructed, this cannot be achieved by minimal digging along the likely lines of its walls; the surviving fabric of the tower must be related to the surrounding archaeological deposits.) It is possible, however, that sufficient walling remains to enable reconstruction of parts of the tower plan at least. If, in view of the increased volume of work required, it is still considered worth proceeding with the excavation (and I would like to finish what I've started), it would probably take a further 3 weeks to finish. I will have to return to Greencastle for a further week in any event to finish excavation and recording of the trench already opened. This work should be brought to a conclusion one way or the other as soon as possible, and I propose to return to Greencastle on 3rd May or earlier, either for one week to finish the already-opened trench, or for 2-3 weeks to examine some more of the early walling exposed.

C. J. L.

19.4.82

C.J.L.

At the mid-point of the trench, an original medieval wall (Wall A) ran at right angles to the line of the curtain, and may have been flat-buttressed against the back of it. Further S., the level of the ground surface became lower and the robber-trench for the S. curtain disappeared. An occupation surface and stone-filled pit (so far unexcavated) occupied a large proportion of the area of the S. half of the trench, and the rock outcropped at the S. and E. ends. It would appear that the excavation of the 'thin soil covering of the outcrop' in the 1951 excavations was limited only to the extreme S. and E. edges of the outcrop.

Finds from the layers so far excavated have been entirely medieval in character: sherds of glazed jug (2 from Saintonge), an iron buckle, a horseshoe, nails, etc., but

GREENCASTLE, CO DOWN - EXCAVATION REPORT

From November 1970 to May 1971 that part of the ditch on the east side of Greencastle which lies within state ownership was excavated and conserved. Prior to this excavation the ditch was investigated here by a trial cutting in 1951 and its inner edge was located on the north side for a considerable length early in 1970 during clearance connected with conservation work on the north curtain. On the east only a slight depression outside the line of the curtain indicated the position of the ditch. Last winter a 130' length of the rock-cut feature was cleared of an average of 12' depth of accumulated rubble and occupation debris and has now been conserved and left open for public inspection. The ditch was rock cut, ran parallel to the curtain outside a narrow irregular berm and had a roughly flat bottom and evenly sloping sides. It might be described as a truncated V in section.

The stratigraphy of the excavated section was fairly uniform, the lowest layer up to 1' 6" thick and in places absent (due to irregularities in the ditch bottom) consisted of clean rock spalls with sherds of large portions of 3 glazed jugs scattered over long lengths of the ditch bottom. This was covered by loose rubble 8' thick at the south shallowing to isolated blocks at the north end and apparently derived from collapse or demolition of the east curtain. (The rubble of the curtain was also located in trial sections of the north side and on the south). This in turn was covered by layers of occupation debris, occurring in clearly defined dumps emanating from within the ward and apparently not at a time when the curtain was high enough to prevent rubbish from being tipped out in large quantities. These stratified layers produced large quantities of many different types of everted-rim cooking pottery (no English-style glazed pottery) some approaching classic "crannog ware" in style. There were parts of more than 25 iron knives, some with bone handles and bronze rivets and mounts still in place and many domestic iron objects including hooks, nails, pins, needles, hammers, reaping-hooks, chisels etc. These deposits are all presumably early medieval. The only coin found came from a very high layer probably associated with the robbing out of the remaining stump of the east curtain and was of early 17th century date. A fine bronze rowel-spur bearing incised decoration was found in the topsoil and is 15th-16th century in date.

The excavation also revealed that the slight bank outside the ditch is artificial and has been filled in at one point to a depth of over 12' into what appears to be an original quarry contiguous with the ditch. The partially re-filled floor of the "quarry" was used as an open-air workshop during the construction of the castle. Historical research subsequent to the excavation has shown that it may be possible to date exactly the infilling of the main ditch with rubble and thus provide a very close date for the English-style pottery sealed under it.

C Lynn

September 1971

Greencastle
CS 57; IG ^{caps}
284

Castle ^{caps}
Green Castle
(in Ruins) ital

50 ft+ ^{OD}
J247311984 #eq.

On a rocky outcrop commanding the mouth of Carlingford Lough with Carlingford Castle clearly visible. This was the site of a royal castle, built in the 13th century, with an eventful history. It was besieged and taken by Edward Bruce in 1316, attacked and spoiled by the Irish at least twice in the later 14th century and it was maintained as a garrison, by Queen Elizabeth up to 1590.

The castle is approached from the S [⊙] across an impressive rock-cut ditch, partly excavated and left open. Excavations revealed the ditch to be some 7¹⁰ m wide at the lip, 3¹⁰ m wide at the flat-bottomed base and up to 3.5 m deep. The curtain wall ~~with four~~ original ^{ly} corner ^{with four} towers enclosed a trapezoidal area measuring roughly 50 m E-W by 40 m transversely, but ^{please leave} it is badly ruined ^{and} ~~with~~ only the bases of two of the towers, the NE and NW ^{are} clearly visible. 1-1

The large rectangular keep is 13th century in date but with substantial 15th and 16th century alterations. It measures 18 m by 8.5 m internally with 1.8 m thick walls. It was originally entered through a first floor door in the S [⊙] wall, protected by a forebuilding. A ground floor door in the W [⊙] wall is a 15th century alteration and a rough gap near the SE angle is a late forced entry. The cross walls dividing the ground floor into three vaults are also 15th century insertions. At first floor level was the great hall with late medieval windows and fireplace and a latrine in the NE corner. The upper part of the keep with mural passages, wall walks and angle turrets are a 15th century remodelling.

Fragments of other buildings in the castle ward include part of a long rectangular structure SW of the keep.

The castle is in state care. It is described in A SCD,

Arch Survey Co Down HMSO (1966) p211-9 ^{and}

Evans. E., Field note book IV p108

Historic Monuments of Northern Ireland (1987) HMSO p101-2

^{OWN}
Dn 57:3

Oct 1993

EH

Green Castle. At least 3 periods of building. Tufa giving
 mark original work. [Jeromine stone esp.
 for vaults & arches in Roman times - light - Bersu]
 Castle raised at some period... No tufa in upper part.
 Old road follows rocky outcrop eastward from castle.
 The castle was built to command the sea entrance &
 perhaps to control the main river: no doubt
 settled by the Romans.

Ex E.E. Evans field note - book IV p 108.

SUMMARY REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS 1982

GREENCASTLE, Co. Down The SE. corner-tower (May 1982). No trace of this building survived above ground level but the completion of conservation work and the need to provide a safety barrier required excavation of the site. A small part of the area had been excavated in 1951 and revealed only a short length of surviving masonry (now known to be part of the internal wall-face).

The 1982 excavations revealed:

1. that the tower foundations for the most part had been deliberately removed on one or more occasions in the distant past (perhaps 16th-17th century);
2. that the perimeter of the rocky promontory had been reduced in area by quarrying;
3. that a series of stratified deposits had accumulated within the ground floor of the tower with, at an intermediate level, a carefully laid cobbled floor;
4. that the projecting outer wall of the tower, which was either D-shaped on plan externally (like the others) or three-quarter-round, was completely removed apart from, a. some well-preserved lengths of base batter, lower down the slope of the promontory, and, b. some short straight lengths of the inner, polygonal wall face comprising only a few contiguous mortared stones in situ. These traces can not be linked sufficiently accurately to enable the ground-plan of the front of the tower to be laid out in stone, but a fence could be positioned on its approximate line and a reconstruction can be given on paper. This confirms earlier assumptions that the tower was similar to that on the NE. but probably lacked a ground-floor latrine-chamber;
5. that the ground-plan of the back of the tower could be recovered in detail from clearly-defined robber trenches, the edges of a mortar floor and substantial pieces of surviving masonry up to 60 cm. high, particularly on the E. and including a door-way. The points of junction with the robbed-out S. and E. curtain walls could also be determined. This showed that the

back of the tower was probably angular with a door to the N. and the straight W. wall perhaps forming the gable of a building built against the S. curtain.

6. Finds from the excavation were relatively few: some scraps of iron, several sherds of coarse hand-made cooking pot and some tiny fragments of Saintonge pottery.

CONCLUSION

The excavation was valuable in firmly establishing the line of the vanished S. end of the E. curtain (which can be re-built) and in producing good evidence for the plan of the SE. corner-tower. At the edge of the ditch, where it was hoped that the projecting curved wall of the tower might be re-constructed, insufficient evidence survived for accurate estimation of the wall-line. On the other hand, where the line of the back of the tower could be traced reliably, and indeed substantial masonry survived, the subsequent overburden of archaeological deposits was as much as 2 m. The result is that the back of the tower can not be reconstructed without extensive excavation in the SE. of the ward to establish an appropriate, approximately original, ground level.

GRANSHA MOUND, Co. Down

The mound was first excavated in 1972 and a copy of the original summary of that excavation is attached.

At the end of the 1972 excavation it was agreed with the landowner that the surviving part of the mound could be allowed to remain intact, and surplus spoil from the excavated area was used to revet the unexcavated vertical section of the mound. A quantity of topsoil and gravel was supplied to the farmer via a local contractor to compensate for not using the material of the mound.

In 1979 during a field-club visit to the site (which lies in a relatively inaccessible position not visible from a public road) it was noted that the owner had removed all of the dumped revetment from the damaged face of the monument, together with a further section of unexcavated archaeological deposits. After discussion with Mr Stuart, he once again agreed to leave

* GREENCASTLE, CO DOWN (OS N.I. GRID REF J247118)

A small trial-trench was opened across the line of the ditch on the south side of the castle at the point where one might have expected to find a dam-like feature corresponding to that revealed previously in the E ditch. No masonry structure was found but the rock, here much harder than on the E, had apparently been left unquarried across the line of the ditch. The solid rock was encountered 9 ft higher than it should have if the ditch bottom had run through at this point at a depth similar to that on the E side. The rock spanning the ditch-line was at precisely the same level as the top of the dam on the east side. The cutting was not wide enough to indicate the immediate extent of this apparent rise in the ditch bottom however the results support the contention that the wall spanning the ditch on the east side could have been designed to function hydrostatically as a dam.

* See previous years 1970, 1971

A.S.C.D., (1966). pp. 211-9.

Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland, vol. 3, pp. 52-3.

E.E. Evans field note-book II p. 108.

SM7 / DOWN 57:3.

legendary stories of Carlingford Long
District Ang Crawford (no date)

At length the "Rosgh-Catha" (battle-call) was sounded, and Conn marched forth from Northern Iveagh at the head of his troops and made for Narrow-Water Castle, as there was a double debt to pay there.

On reaching the stronghold he fiercely attacked the outworks, his clansmen wading through the deep moat that then protected it to the landward side, and dashing into the river that washed its walls to the west, they swarmed like wasps round all sides of the doomed Keep, raising their scaling ladders and mounting to beat the lions in their den. The arquebuses of the garrison roared forth with leaden hail on the devoted clansmen as they attacked the outer defences at all points, shouting their fierce battle-cry "Shanbodach Abu," and undaunted by the defenders' ring of spears and the steady fire of the garrison, they scaled the walls and leaped in amongst them, crashing helmets and skulls with their battleaxes. The defenders recoiled from the attack and retreated to the main building, but the Clan Aongus entered with them, killing them on the stairs and in the rooms. The Warden and remnant of his men retreated to the battlements, and the victors pressed up after them, and with their long spears forced them out over the awful brink. Some were dashed to death in the courtyard below and some fell across the outer walls. The Warden was last to go, and preferring death by drowning, he shot out over the river, turned in the air and fell. His bright armour flashed for a moment, he struck the water and sank, where the harper and the girl had sunk to death, in the dark rushing tide.

Often in the storm the harp-music is heard mingling with the sound of the waves at the "Harper's Ferry"; the shadow-figure of Lassara floats down from the Castle-top, and the harp-notes cease as she sinks beneath the Narrow-Water.

THE HIDDEN BELL OF BRONACH

FERGUS, THE young chieftain of Glen Secis, rode forth one morning in spring, attended by his retainers and wolf-hounds, to hunt the wild red deer in the fastnesses of the Mourne Mountains. Soon they succeeded in starting a hind, and the chase led them far away to the Deer's Meadow, and just as the deer was brought down and slaughtered, a storm of great violence broke upon them, and the whole party were obliged to seek shelter inside a great cave mouth, which they opportunely came on, just as the fierce storm assailed them.

While watching the storm rage across the Deer's Meadow from their safe retreat in the cave entrance, they noticed an enormous stag, his head surmounted with great antlers, branching out widely. He was braving the storm, climbing the steep side of a high mountain opposite, straining every sinew in his mighty efforts, and making large boulders roll far down below into the meadow as he went up the steep ascent, and soon he was lost to sight in the rain clouds, which now hung low over the mountains.

The hunters thought it the mate of the hind which they had lately killed, and he looked such a noble animal that Fergus resolved to capture him. He bade his giollas and retainers await his return in the cave, and taking his favourite hound with him started in pursuit of his quarry, soon disappearing from their sight as the deer had done.

As Fergus worked up the side of the mountain the storm passed away as quickly as it had come on, and when he had caught up on the stag, and his hound had rushed forward to attack it, he was surprised to see Chief Artan of Lecale, with his hound, pursuing the same deer also. The brow of Fergus darkened when he saw him, for between the people of Artan and the clan of Fergus there was at present bitter feud.

As the two hounds attacked the great stag he turned at bay on the mountain top, and gave vent to a great bellow, which is only given when hard pushed or wounded to death, and the stag appeared to be badly wounded, although he had made such heroic efforts to escape. The dogs sprang at him again, but he was now thoroughly infuriated and gored to death with his sharp antlers the hound of Artan, who seeing his hound killed by the enraged beast fired his javelin at the stag, but killed instead the hound of Fergus, which was still hanging on to the stag.

Then a wild rush of anger came over Fergus, who thinking Artan had killed his favourite hound on purpose, on account of their feud, and being very quick of temper, he fitted an arrow to his bow and fired at Artan, hitting him in the breast, when he fell and rolled down the mountain side, until his body caught against a small mountain ash tree, and held there.

Fergus turned about, and slinging the dead body of his loved hound across his shoulders, made his way back to his attendants, like one demented, crazed with grief, and not caring what became of himself, the stag, or the body of Artan, the chief of his hated rival clan. So great was his grief for the hound, that he felt gratified at having killed the dog's slayer, and avenged his death, so terrible was his raging anger.

GREENCASTLE FAIR

"Who has ere had the luck to see Greencastle Fair,
A Mourneman all in his glory was there."

GREENCASTLE VILLAGE lies on the shores of Mill Bay, an incurve of Carlingford Lough, nearly opposite to Greenore. Its castle was an important stronghold during the wars, and the town once the capital of the Mourne Kingdom, while its fairs were the most famous in Ulster, for buying or selling, and for frolic and diversion they rivalled, if they did not exceed, the great Donnybrook itself.

The old castle, which gives name to the place, was built by De Courcey, and after his death it was fortified and garrisoned by his rivals, the Burkes, under Richard, who founded Carlingford Abbey. It is a good example of the early Norman-Irish Castle, a high rectangular building, with square towers at the angles. Inside, the ground floor is black and dismal as a dungeon, having no windows or loop-holes to light it. The second storey is supported by massive arches and a spiral stone stairway leads to the battlements, from whence a glorious view of the mountains, Lough, and surrounding country can be obtained.

Two famous marriages are recorded as having been celebrated within its walls in 1312, that of Maurice FitzThomas and Catherine, daughter of "The Red Earl of Ulster", and the other of Thomas FitzJohn, second Earl of Kildare, to Lady Joan, another daughter of the Earla Ruadh.

The Castle was stormed and captured by the Clan MacGuinness in the year 1343, it was afterwards restored, and in 1356 it is recorded that the constable, William De Down, received pardon for having imprisoned in the dungeon of Greencastle, a girl named Rosea, the daughter of Richard Foy. The hoary Keep still towers above the "Mui Leann Loughan" (Little Bay of the Mill), though the "Pale" it once guarded is gone for ever, and the warring races of Celt and Norman-French have blended in peace.

'Tis said that one of the great Gaelic fairs was held at Greencastle in ancient times, as the Fair-Green was called "Clonaenachmore", the Great Fair Meadow. These celebrated fairs were attended by traders from all parts of Europe, Hellenic speakers coming from Marseilles and other places. The King of the province presided in state, during the six days which they lasted. The Irish Fairs more resembled the Isthmian, than the Olympic festivals of the Greeks, as intellectual contests were added to the physical; poets, story-tellers and musicians competing with one another, as well as the chariot-drivers and jockeys; and the teams representing the different clans, in hurling and other Gaelic games.

Three markets were fenced off apart from the arena — the market of live stock and horses, the market for food and clothes, and the market for foreign merchants. The most famous fairs in ancient Ireland were Carmen, Tailltinn, and Ushnagh. The fair at Greencastle was revived by Arthur Bagnal, under patent granted by James the First in 1613, when it was held on 12th January and 12th August. It was sometimes called "Ram Fair" on account of a custom that prevailed for a good while of enthroning a great ram, high on top of the old Green Castle's walls, when he presided over the

greatest sheep fair in South Down, where thousands of his bleating subjects from the surrounding mountains were penned in flocks beneath him, and jolly crowds of people of the Fair came to pay him homage, crying out "The King of the Benns" for ever, and never did the Golden Ram of old receive greater homage from his worshippers than did the Mourne Ram, from the jolly crowds who came to the carnival at Greencastle.

The Irish fair of today is a grave and serious affair, compared to what it was half-a-century ago when the people were not afraid to enjoy themselves in the open, threw dull care aside, for a time, and forgot the sorrows of life. The market report was always the same — stock, scarce; whiskey, in abundance; fun, good supply. Oh! Greencastle Fair, your like was not under the sun.

The people left their homes at dawn, coming from all arts and parts, dressed in all the extravagant display of their Sunday-best clothes, and descending on Greencastle for business and frolic. Every road led to the Fair, and every road was black with people, hastening thither, and the sea too, was dotted with boats, yawls, and yachts, bringing people from the Louth shore, and distant places outside the Bar, far along the coast. Old men and women, bouchals and colleens, all packed together and calling gaily to each other as the boats passed, and the boatmen rowed their best or tacked and sailed to beat each other to the Mill Bay Feis.

Some farmers drove their cattle and pigs in the night before, and stabled them there, to rest them and have them look their best on Fair morning; others came at daybreak in farm carts, jaunting cars, donkey carts, and low-backed cars, bringing mescins of butter, baskets of eggs, and lots of fowl — geese, ducks, hens, and turkeys — in crates, or slung over the cart-side, with gaping mouths and dizzy heads, as they were jolted along the roads, and the shrill squeaks of squalling suckers were borne on the breeze from high-topped carts and floats.

All the farmers who came in with stock were not there for business, however, for many a man drove in a lean-looking pig or an ancient cow, or steed, all skin and bone, merely as a pretext to get the day at the fair. They never were sold, but lay all the time under the hedges around the Fair Green, while their owners spent the day dancing on the boards to the music of bagpipe or fiddle, or smoked, drank and sung in the tents.

By noon the Green near the Castle was alive with people, all thrilling with the excitement of the carnival. There were gipsy-vans with fortune-tellers and astrologers, the star-gazers foretelling the future, and recounting the most secret events in their clients' past lives; there were platforms where wrestling bouts took place, and arenas where the "noble art" of self-defence was taught, and boxing exhibitions given; recruiting parties beat their drums and marched about with flaunting ribbons, in all the glory of their war-paint, to capture the hearts of the bouchals, while soft with the uiscebaugh, and induce them to take the soldier's shilling and march to fame and glory; there were wood-turners, selling wooden spoons, trenchers, churns, egg-cups, ladders and every variety of wooden articles; there were brogue-makers, woollen-merchants, and travelling tinkers — regular outlaws in drink, who were feared and avoided by the people; there were refreshment "bothans" and stalls, with rich cakes, ginger-bread, a great variety of sugar goods, and other tempt-

ing edibles, arranged for the inspection of purchasers; and here the rustics would treat their colleens and rest after the dances, which consisted of Irish jigs, reels and hornpipes, and the famous "Shillelagh Dance" was executed to the music of the Irish bagpipes, by a number of men armed with sticks, who crossed and recrossed them, placing them in different positions relative to each other, and presenting the most complicated figures imaginable; also showing the art of attack and defence, and the rapid twirl of the shillelagh on their finger-tips proved them to be well advanced in the science of the stick. This dance is thought to be derived from an Irish war-dance, only that the stick was substituted for the sword, and the modern sword-dance, which consists of throwing the weapons on the ground and the dancer hopping over them, is a mere travesty on the original dance, which is of the most animated and thrilling character.

The ancient Gaelic dances always meant something, which cannot be said of the modern ones that have superseded them, and are "nothing but limping and twisting", and destitute of all purpose, as meaningless and poor as the modern popular music, to which they are danced.

Bands of musicians went through the Fair supplying the dance-music, in addition to the pipers and fiddlers stationed in the tents, and as the day wore on the men got a more devil-may-care appearance, and once in a while a couple of rival factions — like the Capulets and Montagues on the Continent — would meet, and have a set-to with the sticks, but rarely doing each other any injury, their knowledge of the weapon was so perfect; and the partizans of each faction would not interfere with an outsider, who had nothing to do with their ancient feud, which was handed down from father to son, for generations, perhaps.

The feis of fun and frolic lasted well into the following morning, when the carnival ceased, and the patiently-waiting animals would start upon the return journey, knowing well what they were brought for, and by this time they had to lead their masters, and show them the way home.

As all the world and their wives went to the festival, it was considered a great disappointment, if by any chance, one was deprived of the day's pleasure and was an exception to the rule.

"That sport held sway,
Greencastle Fair Day".

And it is related that one dull plodding miserly farmer in Omeath would not go himself nor allow his wife to go when she asked him. She said nothing, but when he went to the fields to work she hastily dressed herself and ran to the beach, where she boarded a boat bound for the Fair, leaving her child behind in its cradle, and spending the day dancing and enjoying herself, careless of the result of her escapade.

When the husband returned to the house he found the cradle overturned and the child lying on the floor. Over it stood a great sow, which they kept and which he had let out of the sty for a run on the grass, and it had one of the child's hands nearly eaten off. The distracted farmer hastily snatched the babe and ran to the doctor with it, shouting excitedly in English, a language which he knew but imperfectly, "O doctor, doctor dear; chile ate han off pig."

"How did you let that happen, and where is the child's mother?" asked the doctor.

"O Castlegreen Fair, board upon dance," was all the poor man could say in English, although he was a fluent Gaelic speaker, which language the doctor was totally ignorant of.

To an English speaker the man's sentences would appear to be wrong-end first, but not so to one who understands the construction of other languages, and of the one to which the man was used.

The day was a grand day, and the people were not slow to enjoy themselves in the open. There were many stalls for a time, and the market was very busy. The people were not slow to enjoy themselves in the open. There were many stalls for a time, and the market was very busy. The people were not slow to enjoy themselves in the open. There were many stalls for a time, and the market was very busy.

The people had their horses at hand, ready to go at any moment. They were not slow to enjoy themselves in the open. There were many stalls for a time, and the market was very busy. The people were not slow to enjoy themselves in the open. There were many stalls for a time, and the market was very busy.

Some farmers drove their cattle and pigs in the night before, and stabled them there, to rest them and have them fresh for the morning; others came at daylight in farm carts, loaded with donkey carts, and horse-drawn carts, bringing masses of butter, baskets of eggs, and boxes of food — pease, docks, beans, and turneps — to market, or along over the cart-roads, with capfuls of milk, and their heads, or they were jolled along the roads, and the shrill squeals of squealing suckers were borne on the breeze from high-backed carts and hosts.

All the farmers who came in with stock were not there for the day, however, for many a man drove in a lean-looking pig or an ancient cow, or sheep, all skin and bone, merely as a pretence, to get the day of the fair. They were not slow to enjoy themselves in the open. There were many stalls for a time, and the market was very busy.

By what the Omeath man the Gaelic was not slow to enjoy themselves in the open. There were many stalls for a time, and the market was very busy. The people were not slow to enjoy themselves in the open. There were many stalls for a time, and the market was very busy. The people were not slow to enjoy themselves in the open. There were many stalls for a time, and the market was very busy.

osm 3(1990).

Ordnance Survey Memoirs

Parish of Kil

52

length of the main stone 7 feet 2 inches, breadth 4 feet].

Fair Sheets by J. Hill Williams, October 1836

MODERN TOPOGRAPHY

Roads

The road from Rostrevor to Kilkeel and Newcastle enters this parish at Causeway Water bridge and runs in an easterly direction for the distance of 4 and a quarter miles to the town of Kilkeel, its average breadth being during that distance 20 feet. It is macadamized and kept in good order, was made and is repaired at the expense of the county.

Coastguard Station

There is a coastguard station near Cranfield Point, consisting of 1 officer, 1 chief boatman and 4 men.

Cranfield Old Lighthouse

The old lighthouse at Cranfield Point, built about 1804, was found not placed in a proper situation to enable to serve as a guiding mark for vessels, was taken down to the base, and most of the stones used in the construction of the new lighthouse built on a rock to the south west of the point (called Haulbowling lighthouse).

Ballygowan Corn Mill

Ballygowan corn mill, a thatched house in good repair situated in the townland of Ballygowan, is held by Mrs McElevy from Lord Kilmorey. It is an old mill and single geared: diameter of water wheel 14 feet, breadth 2 feet 7 inches, diameter of cog wheel 9 feet.

NATURAL FEATURES

Streams

The Causeway water, which forms the western boundary of the parish and separates it from the parish of Kilbroney, takes its rise in the mountains in the townland of Mourne Mountains West in this parish, and after a southerly course of 4 and a half miles falls into Carlingford Lough. It is a small and insignificant stream, running over a stony bed through a valley between the Rostrevor mountains and Rocky mountain.

MODERN TOPOGRAPHY

Causeway Water Bridge

Causeway Water bridge, over the Causeway water which separates the parishes of Kilkeel and Kilbroney, on the road between Rostrevor and Kilkeel, is a plain rough structure of unhewn stone with parapets 18 feet broad and 110 feet long, including solid masonry, consisting of 2 arches, [signed] J. Hill Williams, October 1836.

ANCIENT TOPOGRAPHY AND ANTIQUITY

Ruins of Green Castle [Greencastle]

The ruins of Green Castle, situated in the townland of Green Castle 220 yards to the eastward of Green Castle Point, is a massive square ruin standing east and west. The masonry is very rough and the mortar used in the building consists of gravel and shells. The quoin stones at each of the 4 outer angles for two-thirds of the total height are different from the stones used in the other parts of the building, being very porous with a number of holes, and also of a whiter colour. Thickness of southern and western walls at the base, 6 feet 3 inches. The doorway with a circular arch is in the southern wall near the eastern extremity. In each of the 4 arches is a turret which with the walls are battlemented. The lower part of the building consists of 3 rooms with arched walls, running north and south, formerly lighted by a loophole at each end, and communicating together. On arriving at the first floor there is a large square window at each end of the apartment, 3 in the western wall and 2 in the southern, on each side of the fireplace. In the turret in the southern western angle at the first floor there is a spiral stone staircase leading to the second storey, where are passages communicating with the apartments in turrets. In the western and eastern walls the passage is within the wall and lighted by loopholes. In the south western turret, which contains the staircase, there is an apartment with a watch station over it, there being 2 apartments and a watch station one above the other in the remaining turrets; these rooms are square and roofed with flat stones, some communicating with that above by a circular skylight and in others there is no communication.

History of Green Castle

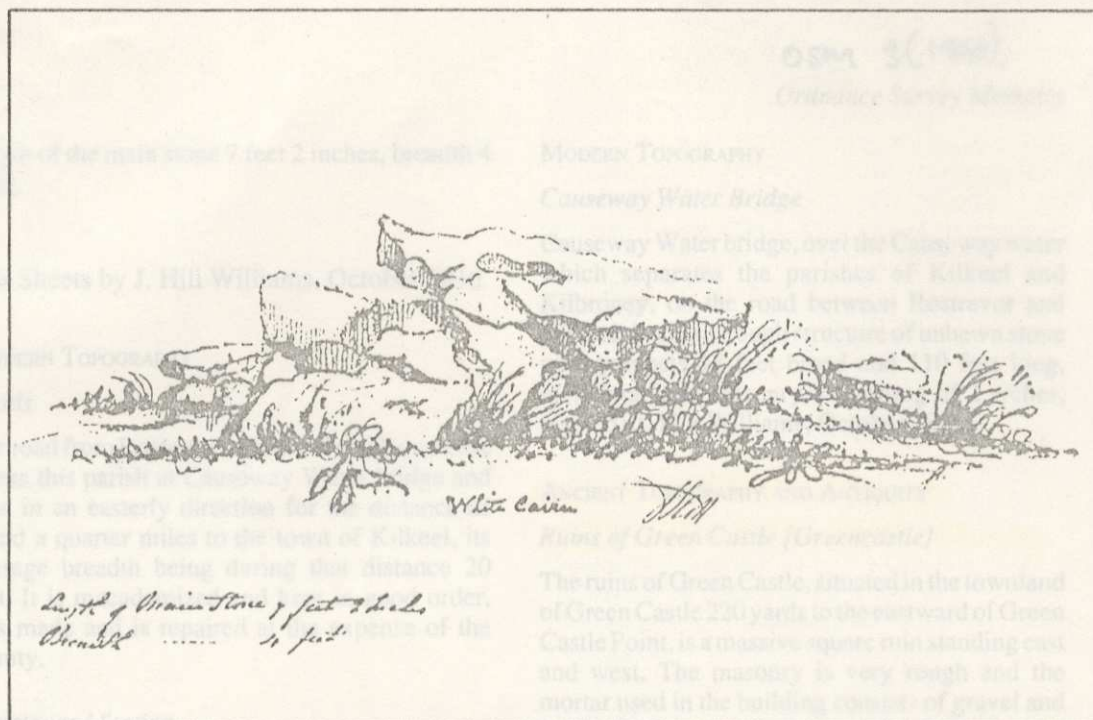
From *Ancient and modern state of county Down*, Dublin, 1774. "Green Castle, anciently reputed a strong castle, was fortified by the Burghs, Earls of Ulster and Lords of Connaught. It was remarkable

for 2 ancient one between daughter to the the other betw daughter of the month. It was soon after repa in Bermingha appears that b Carlingford w better to secu English Pale o ment of the E parts; and the constituted cor had a salary o Castle and 5 po 1495 it was th tance to the C birth was decla It was a garri helped to bridl wild and then u Earl of Ulster, leaving Richa married to Rob to the Earl of

seway water
Kilkeel and
ostrevor and
hewn stone
0 feet long,
of 2 arches,
336.

he townland
ard of Green
standing east
ugh and the
of gravel and
the 4 outer
it are differ-
parts of the
number of
thickness of
ase, 6 feet 3
arch is in the
ty. In each of
he walls are
ilding con-
nning north
hole at each
n arriving at
adow at each
wall and 2 in
lace. In the
he first floor
ding to the
municating
western and
he wall and
stern turret,
n apartment
ing 2 apart-
the other in
square and
eacting with
others there

nty Down,
y reputed a
hs, Earls of
remarkable



White Cairn in Ballyveabeg

for 2 ancient marriages celebrated here in 1312, one between Maurice FitzThomas and Catharine, daughter to the Earl of Ulster, the 5th August, and the other between Thomas FitzJohn and another daughter of the said earl, on the 16th of the same month. It was destroyed by the Irish anno 1343, but soon after repaired and better fortified. By a record in Bermingham Tower of the 1st of Henry IV, it appears that both Green Castle and the castle of Carlingford were governed by one constable, the better to secure a communication between the English Pale of the county of Louth and the settlement of the English in Lecale and other northern parts; and that Stephen Gernon was that year constituted constable of both castles; for which he had a salary of 20 pounds per annum for Green Castle and 5 pounds per annum for Carlingford. In 1495 it was thought to be a place of such importance to the Crown that no person but of English birth was declared capable of being constable of it. It was a garrison in the rebellion of 1641 and helped to bridle the insults of the Irish in those and wild and then uncultivated parts. Walter De Lacy, Earl of Ulster, lived at Green Castle, died 1271, leaving Richard, called the Red Earl, Eleanor, married to Robert Bruce, King of Scotland, Eliza, to the Earl of Gloucester, Jane, to the Earl of

Kildare, Katharine, to the Earl of Louth, Margaret, to the Earl of Desmond, Mary, to Lord Mullan; Richard had 2 sons and 6 daughters." See the peerage of Clanricarde.

PRODUCTIVE ECONOMY

Fairs at Green Castle

There are 2 fairs held annually at Green Castle: the summer fair on 12th August being attended by a very large number of people, who resort to it principally for amusement, dancing, drinking. Tents are spread in the fields about the castle.

The winter fair is held on old twelfthday and is only attended by a small number of people who frequent it for trade, [initialled] JHW, October 1836.

HISTORY

Derivation of Names of Mountains

From *Ancient and present state of county of Down*, 1744, Dublin). The barony or half barony of Mourne "as it is called on account of its smallness", takes its name from the mountains which are called in Irish, Mor-Rinn, i.e. "the great ridge."

Slieve Donard, which is known also by the

TO MR WATERMAN
FOR INFORMATION

B618/68

Ext 247

Mr Henry McElroy
Greencastle
Ballyardle
NEWRY
Co Down

17 April 1970

Dear Mr McElroy

GREENCASTLE

We have received your letter of 13 April. It will be necessary to consult Mr Waterman. We will write again to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

S. Gass.

MR

Mr Waterman
Get information
[Signature]
Ext 263

B76/71
3/60/4494

The Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
Magnet House
81-93 York Street
BELFAST
BT15 1AD

4 May 1971

Dear Sir

HENRY McELROY, GREENCASTLE, BALLYARDLE, NEWRY

I refer to your letter of 16 April 1971 forwarded to us by the National Trust about proposals under the Farm Improvement Scheme.

The work proposed by Mr McElroy will not adversely affect the Ancient Monument of Greencastle and we therefore have no objection.

Yours faithfully

D. M. KENNY (MISS)

PR

SN7 Down 57:3

Green Castle,

Ballyardle P.O.

Newry.

Co. Down.

13th April 1970

Recd 16/4/70

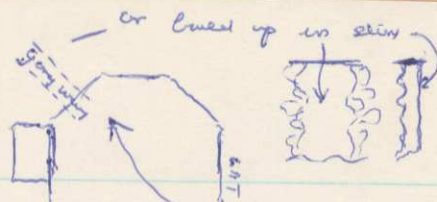
Dear Sir,

Regarding the building which I use as a barn and which is built beside the Old Castle, I intend to re-roof and break two large doorways into this building.

Before starting, I wish to know whether there is any objection to the proposed work,

I remain,

Yours faithfully,
Henry McEneaney

Greenhouse

- ✓ N. of keep ① Cut grass along walls
- ✓ ② Adjacent to modern byre/slabs: clear away rubbish (i.e., slates, etc).
- ✓ ③ NE angle tower. Clean out bottom chamber: clean ^{extensively} at outlets of chamber. Prevent gurgling over foundation on N. Clean steps outside tower
- ✓ ④ Too much grass outside curtain

E. of keepGrass against walls ⁱⁿ cut here.

- ✓ S. of keep Return existing cobble against keep. Mury now colliding with existing

Pitch

Clean out bottom thoroughly

Cut grass on revetted ends: replace such as necessary

Cut grass on berm between curtain & ditch

- ✓ Keep Sweep all surfaces everywhere. Floors, including minor passages, stairs, waste walks.

- ✓ Black painting: this needs to be redone extensively everywhere & cut out old and build set new: not vitrolum painting

HISTORIC MONUMENTS RECORD OF NORTHERN IRELAND

County

Permission must be obtained in writing before this picture may be reproduced

Title

No.

Date

Copyright

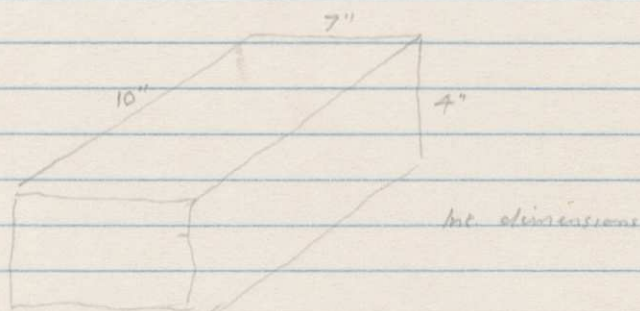


Greencastle (cont.)

- (4) W end of keep. Wide wall abutting keep to S of entrance.
Paint both N + S faces. Cut out top surface, paint and introduce feet
stones as required. Keep the joint with base looking & keep backset
- (5) Low-masonry: sharpened, painted, etc

C. Caulfield

Kerlin, Sproungatilly

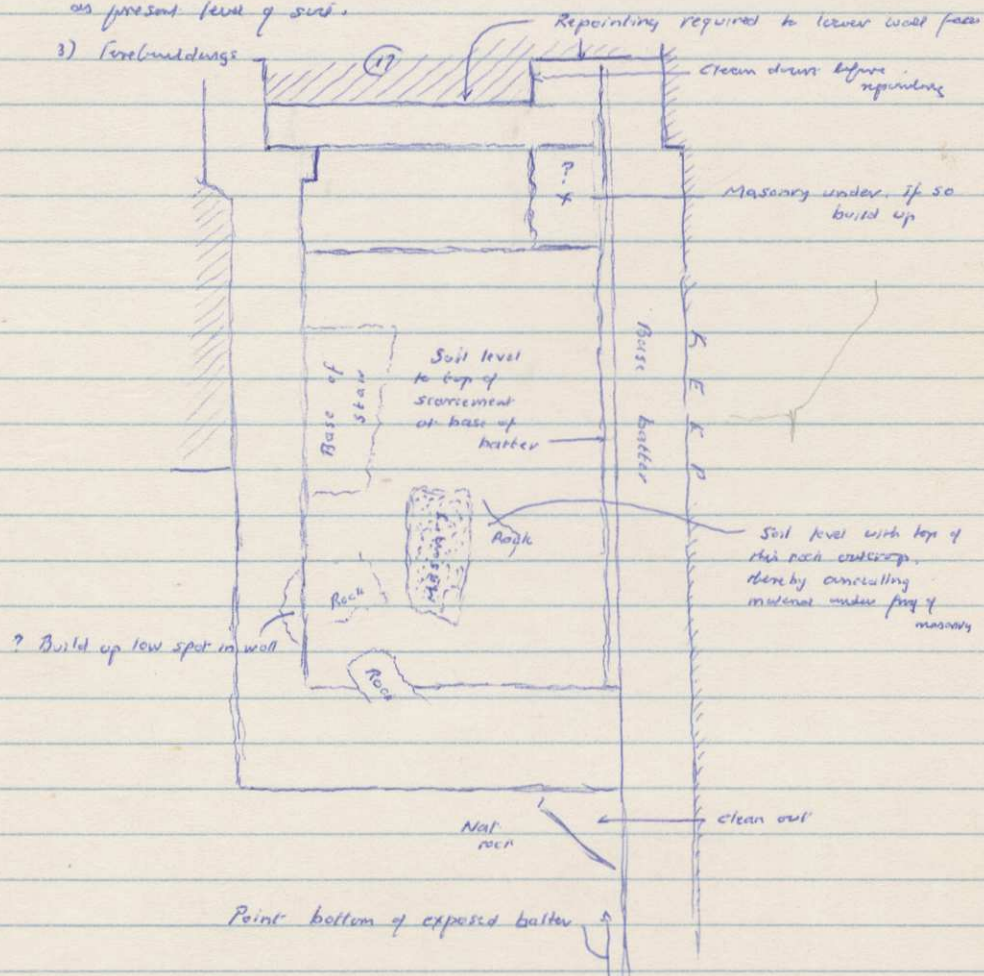


GREENCASTLE

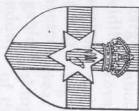
DOWN S7:3

Green castle

- 1) Cur-park. Metal support for reconstructed arch still to be replaced
- 2) East Ditch, inner section. The present levelled bottom could satisfy for leveling with top-soil. Query: why load of chippings on cur-park? East-Ditch, short section between cross-wall and end on S: leave alone with rock exposed in flow. If chippings to go in, dig out present filling so that when depth of chippings placed, surface of chippings to be at same level as present level of soil.
- 3) Forebuildings



An Archaeological Survey of County Down



BELFAST: HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1966

the E. wing is an addition to an original structure now represented by the W. wing, but the difference in date can be but slight and the sequence may indicate no more than an alteration during construction. The evidence is seen in the setting back of the outer face of the N. wall of the E. wing from the corresponding face on the W., the wall of the E. wing meeting the present internal dividing wall in a straight joint; the presence of blocked openings in the dividing wall, probably originally windows lighting the W. wing; and an offset on the E. face of the dividing wall, not corresponding to the ground level of the E. wing, which suggests the revetting of an excavation made when the present dividing wall was already built. The basement of the E. wing is of little height; there is a blocked fireplace opening on the E., on either side of which are cupboards, that on the N. flanked by small splayed loops and there are two further cupboards in the W. wall. On the N., the basement was lighted by an opening, now blocked, and on the S. by three windows, 2 ft. 7 in. square, originally with timber lintels and frame, like most of the larger openings in the building; the central window has been enlarged into a door opening with rebuilt jambs, and the window on the W. has been blocked. The ground floor has a fireplace on the E. now reduced in size with projecting chimney breast, and a second fireplace has been roughly inserted at some period in the N. wall. On the N. was a central window, now blocked, with a smaller light to the W.; the S. wall has a single central window, now reduced in width, set in an embrasure extending to floor level. In the E. wall are three windows set in similar tall embrasures; one is now blocked and another reduced in width. At the S. end of the W. wall is a large window embrasure, the light also reduced in width; adjacent to this embrasure on the N. is an opening communicating with the W. wing. The attic storey has a fireplace and windows on the E. disposed similarly to those on the floor below. The N. gable, which is partially ruined, contains a central window, flanked on the W. by a second light and on the E. by a recess. The S. gable stands to its original height and has a single central window; on the exterior this window and the window below each have a triangular pediment outlined by thin projecting stones. At this level, the angle between the E. wall and the S. face of the chimney projection is bridged by a squinch-arch. The W. wing is entered directly from the lower ward by a door, originally with timber frame, close to the point where the N. wall of the house joins the W. curtain, the former meeting the curtain in a straight joint; further to the E., adjacent to a projecting chimney breast, is the

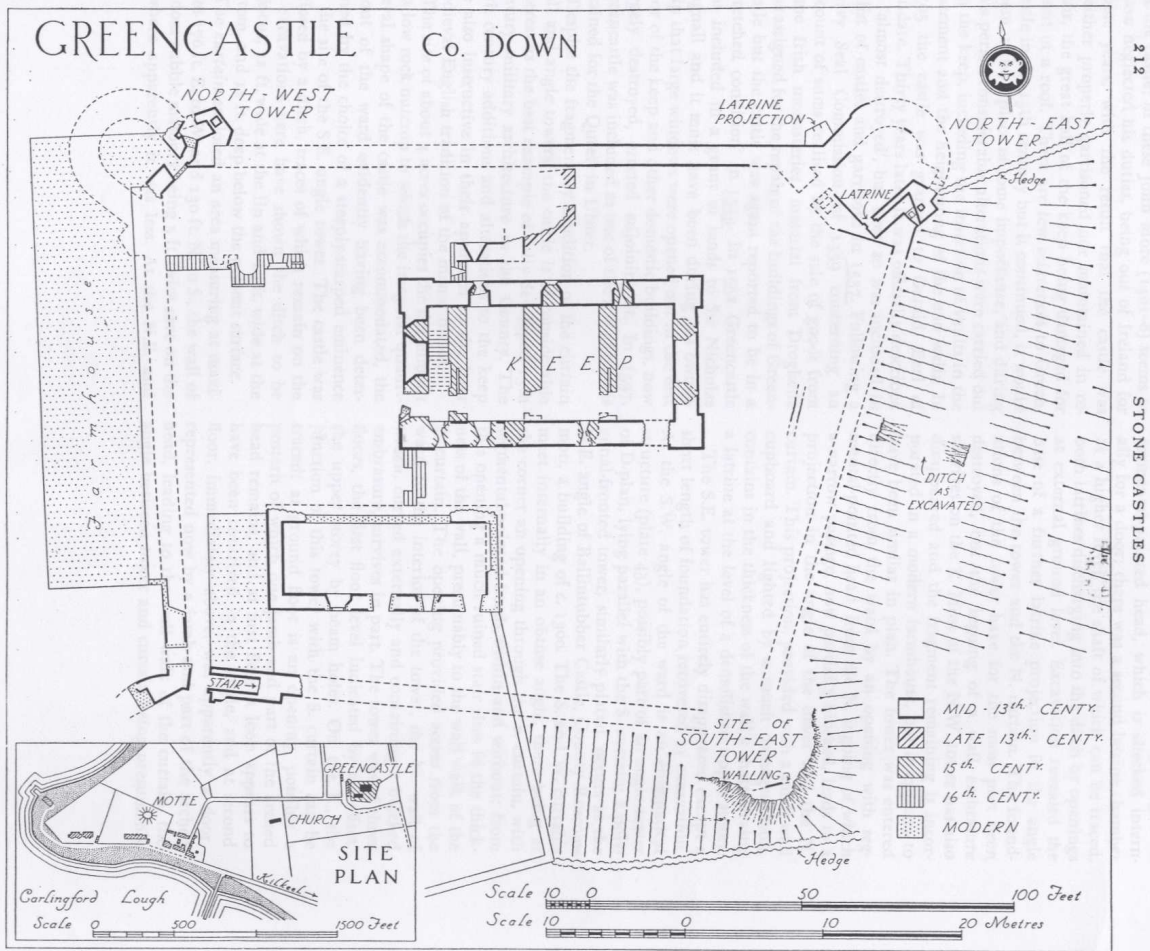
blocked opening of a second door, originally with external porch, either contemporary with, or replaced by, the present entrance. There are fireplaces at both ground and attic storeys; the lower has been reduced in size, the upper has a segmental head to the opening. At ground floor, there was originally a window, indicated by a rebate for the wooden frame, to the E. of the fireplace, and in the S. wall, which has been considerably rebuilt, an original window survives on the E. The W. wall of the house is formed by the 15th century curtain, with 17th century patching internally, which here contains two original narrow loops; the curtain was heightened to form the W. gable and contains a small widely splayed loop. The first floor was lighted by three small openings on the S. and by two on the N.; the upper parts of these lights, which were presumably dormer windows, have been destroyed. The profile of a small gabled roof is preserved in outline in the harling on the inner face of the chimney projection, which is crowned by a rectangular stack.

Dundrum Castle is now preserved as an ancient monument under the guardianship of the Ministry of Finance. The illustration in Grose, *Antiquities of Ireland*, 1 (1791), plate 1, shows that the present degree of destruction had been reached by the later 18th century..

D. M. Waterman, in *Ulster J. Archaeol.* 14 (1951), 15-29; *ibid.*, 21 (1958), 63-6; *ibid.*, 27 (1964), 136-9.

842.1. GREENCASTLE (figs. 136, 137, 138; plates 45-47) O.S. 57. Grid ref. 247118

The castle stands on a low outcrop of rock some 300 yards N. of the shore of Carlingford Lough, and about 450 yards E. of the motte (No. 776). It was a royal castle, commenced about the middle of the 13th century, since it appears to have been approaching completion, at least in part by 1261, in which year payments are recorded for timber, roofing shingles and lead. To this period belongs the whole of the main layout of the castle, including the curtain wall with its angle towers and the keep together probably with other buildings within the ward. The castle was held in the custody of the de Burghs as Earls of Ulster; it was captured by Edward Bruce in 1316, but was subsequently recovered and garrisoned for the King. In the disorders which befell the province after the murder of William de Burgh in 1333 the castle appears to have been fully engaged, despite the fact that in an inquisition of this date, it is described as 'worth nothing beyond the charges of upkeep'; in 1335 its defences were strengthened by the addition of six ballistae and about this time the castle was besieged by the Irish



and twice relieved. In 1343 the fortress was stormed and wrecked by the Irish but was repaired soon afterwards and remained more or less firmly in English hands until again wrecked in 1375 by Magennis of Iveagh. During the following thirty years there are frequent mentions of the constables of the castle; of these John More (1401-8) seems to have neglected his duties, being out of Ireland for some years, with the result that the castle was neither properly garrisoned nor maintained in repair, the great hall of the keep being damaged for want of a roof. There are few references to Greencastle in the 15th century but it continued, it would seem, to be a place of some importance, and during this period considerable alterations were carried out on the keep, including the insertion of vaults in the basement and the heightening of the end walls. In 1505 the castle was granted to Gerald, Earl of Kildare. Thirty years later it was officially described as 'almost destroyed', but even so was included in a list of castles and garrisons in 1537. Following a Privy Seal Commission of 1539 concerning an account of sums realised by the sale of goods from some Irish monasteries, material from Drogheda was assigned for the repair of the buildings of Greencastle but the castle was again reported to be in a 'wretched condition' in 1549. In 1552 Greencastle was included in a grant of lands to Sir Nicholas Bagnall and it must have been during his ownership that large windows were opened out in the first floor of the keep and other domestic buildings, now largely destroyed, erected adjoining it. In 1597, Greencastle was included as one of the few garrisons retained for the Queen in Ulster.

Despite the fragmentary condition of the curtain wall and angle towers, the castle is of considerable interest as the best example of fully developed 13th century military architecture in the County. The 16th century additions and alterations to the keep are also instructive in their approach to the later medieval English tradition of the manor house.

The *site* of about 4 acres occupies the flat summit of a low rock outcrop to which the irregular quadrilateral shape of the castle was accommodated, the layout of the ward evidently having been determined by the choice of a steeply-scarped eminence for the site of the S.E. angle tower. The castle was enclosed by a ditch, traces of which remain on the E.; excavations here have shown the ditch to be rock-cut, 22 ft. wide at the lip and 10 ft. wide at the bottom, and 12 ft. deep below the present surface.

The *curtain* enclosed an area measuring at maximum 170 ft. E. to W. and 130 ft. N. to S., the wall of random rubble masonry being 5 ft. thick save on the E. where apparently it was less. At the N.E. and

N.W. angles were D-shaped towers, the complete plan of the former having been recovered by excavation in 1951. The S.E. wall of this tower was increased in thickness to accommodate a small latrine chamber, with lintelled roof, lighted by a narrow loop and entered by a low opening, with segmental-pointed head, which is checked internally for a door; there was a second latrine chamber at a higher level, the shaft of which can be traced, both latrines discharging into the ditch by openings at external ground level. Excavation revealed the base of a further latrine projection in the angle between the tower and the N. curtain. The foundations of the tower have for the most part been destroyed, but the ingoing of a wall embrasure survives on the E. Most of the N.W. tower has also disappeared and the fragment remaining is incorporated in a modern farmhouse, but it appears to have been similar in plan. The tower was entered directly from the ward by an opening with segmental-pointed head, from the N. ingoing of which a narrow passage, now partially blocked, leads to a projection in the angle of the tower and the N. curtain. This projection, provided with a small wall cupboard and lighted by a much damaged loop, contains in the thickness of the wall a shaft serving a latrine at the level of a demolished upper storey.

The S.E. tower has entirely disappeared except a short length of foundation recovered by excavation. At the S.W. angle of the ward is an enigmatical structure (plate 45), possibly part of an angle tower of D-plan, lying parallel with the S. curtain; a polygonal-fronted tower, similarly placed, occurs at the N.E. angle of Ballintubber Castle, County Roscommon, a building of c. 1300. The S. and W. curtains meet internally in an obtuse angle, there being at the corner an opening through the S. curtain, with segmental-pointed heads within and without; from this opening a much ruined stair rises in the thickness of the wall, presumably to the wall walk of the S. curtain. The opening provided access from the ward to the interior of the tower, the W. wall of which, curved externally and containing a blocked embrasure, survives in part. The tower was of three floors, the first floor level indicated by an offset, the upper storey by beam holes. On the E., the junction of this tower with the S. curtain can be traced; at ground floor is an opening, possibly a postern of which one jamb and part of the arched head remains, and at first floor a loop appears to have been contrived in the angle, and at second floor, immediately above, was apparently a door, represented now by a jamb and part of the arched head, leading to the wall walk of the curtain, the angle between tower and curtain being presumably

THE KEEP

GREENCASTLE Co. DOWN

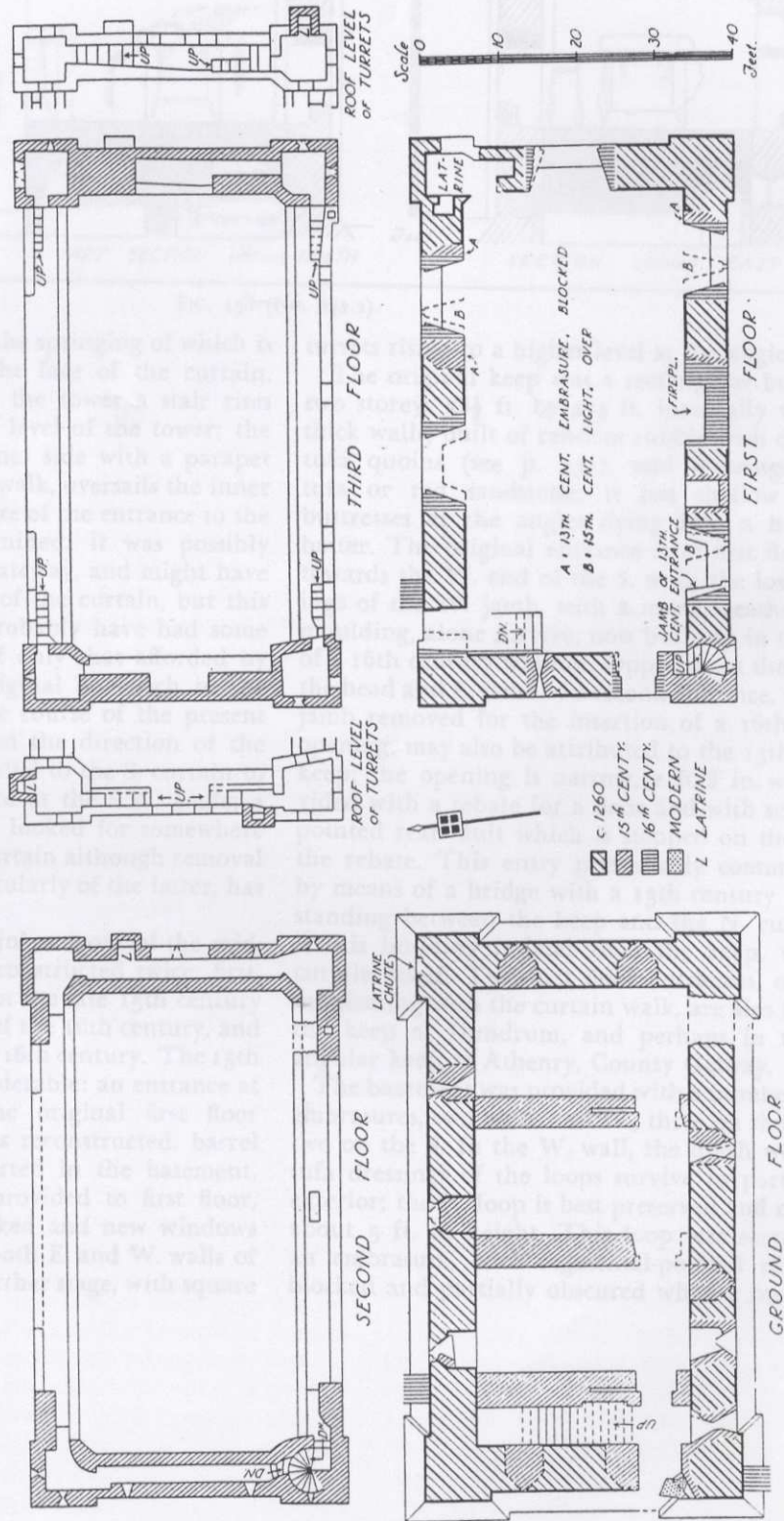


FIG. 137 (No. 842.1).

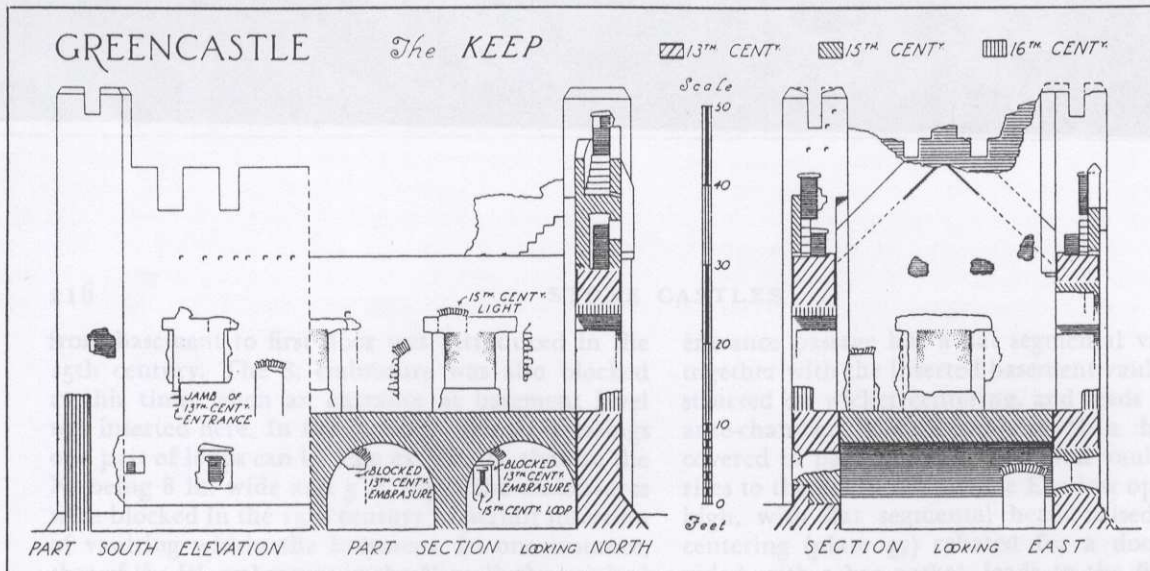


FIG. 138 (No. 842.1).

bridged by a squinch-arch, the springing of which is indicated by ragging on the face of the curtain. Behind the upper floor of the tower a stair rises from the wall walk to roof level of the tower; the stair is provided on the inner side with a parapet and this, as well as the wall walk, oversails the inner face of the S. curtain. The site of the entrance to the castle has not been determined; it was possibly never more than a simple gateway, and might have been anywhere on the line of the curtain, but this is unlikely and it would probably have had some form of flanking defence, if only that afforded by an adjacent tower. The original approach to the castle probably followed the course of the present track to the farmhouse from the direction of the Kilkeel road, ascending parallel to the S. curtain to the general level of the ward at the S.W. angle; a gatehouse may therefore be looked for somewhere on the line of the S. or W. curtain although removal down to the very rock, particularly of the latter, has taken place.

The *keep* (plate 46) is mainly a work of the mid-13th century. It has been reconstructed twice; first, from the style of the work, in the late 15th century or possibly the earlier years of the 16th century, and again about the middle of the 16th century. The 15th century rebuilding was considerable: an entrance at basement level replaced the original first floor entrance, the S.W. angle was reconstructed, barrel vaulted chambers were inserted in the basement, whence a broad stair was provided to first floor, original openings were blocked and new windows and loops constructed, and both E. and W. walls of the keep were carried up a further stage, with square

turrets rising to a higher level at the angles.

The original keep was a rectangular building of two storeys 58½ ft. by 27½ ft. internally with 6 ft. thick walls, built of random rubble with calcareous tufa quoins (see p. 131), and dressings of this tufa or red sandstone; it has shallow pilaster-buttresses at the angles dying into a bold base-batter. The original entrance is at first floor level, towards the W. end of the S. wall; the lower dressings of the W. jamb, with a much weathered roll-moulding, alone survive, now built up in the apron of a 16th century window. Opposite, in the N. wall, the head and E. jamb of a second entrance, the other jamb removed for the insertion of a 16th century opening, may also be attributed to the 13th century keep; the opening is narrow, 2 ft. 8 in. wide, provided with a rebate for a door and with segmental-pointed rear-vault which is stepped on the line of the rebate. This entry presumably communicated by means of a bridge with a 13th century building standing between the keep and the N. curtain, or if this building is later than the keep, with the curtain itself. Two first floor entrances, one communicating with the curtain walk, are also found in the keep at Dundrum, and perhaps in the rectangular keep at Athenry, County Galway.

The basement was provided with a number of wall embrasures, two on E. and W., three on the N., and two on the S. In the W. wall, the much weathered tufa dressings of the loops survive in part on the exterior; the N. loop is best preserved and measures about 5 ft. in height. This loop was served from an embrasure, with segmental-pointed rear-vault, blocked and partially obscured when a broad stair

from basement to first floor was introduced in the 15th century. The S. embrasure was also blocked at this time, when an entrance at basement level was inserted here. In the E. wall, the tufa dressings of a pair of loops can be seen externally, that on the N. being 8 in. wide and 5 ft. high; the embrasures were blocked in the 15th century to permit insertion of vaulting within the basement. In one instance, that of the W. embrasure in the N. wall, the original embrasure was modified and retained in use in the 15th century. The embrasure is 3 ft. 8 in. deep, the bed about 4 ft. above present floor level with the crown of the segmental-pointed rear-vault 6 ft. 4 in. over the bed; the loop with splayed jambs and sloping head was reduced in width by a rebuilding of the W. jamb. The other embrasures in the N. wall, both blocked in the 15th century, were similarly provided with segmental-pointed rear-vaults, the central embrasure showing impressions of plank centering on the soffit, where part of the blocking has been removed. A double-splayed loop was contrived in the blocking of the E. embrasure (plate 45). A similar loop was built in the blocking of the E. embrasure in the S. wall, indications of the embrasure being restricted to a few scotion dressings; similarly a few tufa dressings externally indicate the position of a second embrasure to the W., which is obscured within by 15th century blocking.

Several blocked 13th century openings survive at first floor; the scotion of one, dressed in sandstone below, in tufa above, rises to a height of 6 ft. 8 in. in the S. wall close to the S.E. angle. In the N. wall, openings existed on each side of the E. 16th century window; on the W. the tufa scotion dressings rise to a height of 6 ft. 9 in., the springing of the arch surviving at this level, and the external head of this opening can in part be seen. On the E. a scotion, likewise dressed in tufa, commences 4 ft. above floor level and rises to a height of 10 ft. At first floor, there is a latrine chamber in the N.E. angle, with barrel-vault, now obscured by modern rendering, rising 9 ft. 9 in. to the crown. In the W. wall is an L-shaped cupboard, and at the S. end of the chamber a low recess 4 ft. 3 in. high, both having lintelled heads. The outlet of the latrine discharges on the face of the N. angle pilaster a few feet above present ground surface; the cheeks were dressed in tufa.

The 15th century entrance is situated at ground level in the W. wall close to the S.W. angle and has an inserted four-centered head cut from a single granite block, with a rounded gun-hole over the apex, which rests on rebuilt seatings; a modern pier built to support it partially obscures an oblique loop which is served from the S. ingoing of the entrance and is inclined toward the S.W. The

entrance passage has a flat segmental vault which, together with the inserted basement vaults, was constructed on wicker centering, and leads to a square ante-chamber whence on the N. a broad stair, covered in part by a flat segmental vault (plate 47) rises to the first floor. On the E. a low opening, 6 ft. high, with flat segmental head, raised on plank centering (plate 47) rebated for a door and provided with a bar socket, leads to the first of three barrel-vaulted chambers. These chambers communicate one with the other by openings of similar form, that from the W. to central chamber 4 ft. 6 in. high, that from central to E. chamber 7 ft. 2 in. high, both openings checked for a door, the latter with a bar socket. The basement chambers are lighted by inserted loops, splayed both internally and externally. At first floor level, a number of narrow lights, with splayed ingoings, were constructed in the 15th century although the lower parts of these have been destroyed by the insertion of large 16th century windows. The best preserved is at the E. end of the S. wall; it had a nearly flat rear-vault, centered on wicker-work towards the interior and with lintels towards the loop which is about 6 in. wide, the dressed stone jambs having been removed although the pointed head survives, cut from a single block of sandstone. Other similar lights did not rise so high in the wall; on the soffit of the 16th century window at the W. end of the S. wall the nearly flat rear-vault of an earlier light can be traced, built on wicker centering, at a height of 12 ft. above present floor level and another similarly preserved light was cut away when the 16th century window was inserted at the E. end of the N. wall. The wicker impressions which survive show the splay of the now-vanished ingoings of these two lights, which were about 3 ft. 6 in. wide on the inside. To the E. of the inserted 16th century fireplace in the S. wall is a straight joint, commencing 2 ft. 8 in. from floor level and rising to the springing of an arch at a height of 11 ft. 9 in.; this must indicate another 15th century opening, blocked for the insertion of the fireplace; the width, estimated at 5 ft. 6 in. on the inside is greater than elsewhere. The scotion of yet a further opening, presumably 15th century, can be detected as a straight joint on both inner and outer faces of the N. wall just E. of the W. 16th century window; it commences 3 ft. above floor level, and rises to a height of 10 ft. 6 in.; the head of the opening was removed to provide a seating for the timber lintels of the later window.

In the W. wall is a double-splayed loop; higher up and to the S. is a larger splayed light, 4 ft. 3 in. high, the head of which is formed by lintels which also serve as the floor of the mural passage above. On

the inner face of the W. wall are a number of roughly cut sockets, presumably for a stair, providing access to this upper opening. In the S. wall, W. of the fireplace, a low opening, with nearly flat rear-vault on wicker-work, has been pierced through the full thickness of the wall and then blocked on the outer face. The bed of this opening is raised above floor level by blocking which appears to retain traces of a shallow gully which does not now penetrate to the outside; it may have served for the disposal of slops but its purpose is not clear.

The E. and W. walls of the keep were raised to the height of a third storey in the 15th century with square turrets at the angles rising a further stage, the latter carried on internal squinches on N.W. and S.E. The S.W. angle was reconstructed to accommodate a spiral stair which, lighted by a pair of splayed loops, rises from first floor level to the level of the N. and S. wall walks; a little below this level, a lintelled opening off the stair leads to a mural passage in the thickness of the W. wall and so to a chamber in the N.W. angle. There is a corresponding passage in the E. wall communicating with chambers in the N.E. and S.E. angles; all these chambers open to the passages and N. and S. wall walks by lintelled openings and have corbelled vaults. The N.E. chamber is unlighted, the N.W. chamber has two double-splayed loops, and the S.E. chamber one. The mural passages are covered by flat vaults on wicker centering, and both were lighted by a pair of splayed loops in the outer wall. A latrine is corbelled out from the face of the E. wall and is reached from the mural passage. At the angles of the keep are upper chambers approached by narrow stairs against the parapet of the N. and S. walls; those on N.W. and S.W. have corbelled vaults, those on N.E. and S.E. have flat vaults on wicker centering. The N.W. chamber is lighted by a single splayed loop, the S.E. chamber by two. The N.E. chamber has a splayed loop in the E. wall and a ragged gap on the N. indicates a second; similar ragged openings in the S.W. chamber indicate a pair of loops. These chambers are entered from the stairs by lintelled openings; and in the N.W. and S.E. chambers similar openings lead to the wall walk on E. and W. whence stairs rise to the roof level of the turrets, also entered by low lintelled openings. At the head of the stair to the S.W. turret access is provided to the opening of a machicolation corbelled out over the ground floor entrance. The N.W. and S.E. turrets are provided with latrines at roof level corbelled out over the N. and E. walls respectively. The E. wall walk between the turrets is provided with an internal parapet, the W. wall walk seems to lack this feature. All surviving battlements appear

R

to be of 15th century date; they are coped or weathered and have rain-water outlets at the base. Much of the parapet of the N. wall has fallen.

The 16th century alterations at first floor consist of large window openings once furnished with timber lintels and frames, in the N., S. and E. walls, and the insertion of two door openings on N. and W. to communicate with an extensive range of buildings erected W. and N.W. of the keep. A fireplace was also inserted at first floor midway in the S. wall, the construction of the flue involving the blocking of one of the parapet embrasures. The weatherings of two successive pitched roofs are preserved on the inner face of the E. wall; one is presumably of 15th and the other of the 16th century (plate 46).

Within the area of the *ward* survive fragments of other buildings of the mid or late 13th century. North of the keep is a length of rubble walling, containing a splayed loop with nearly flat vault on timber centering, which originally extended further to the W.; the surviving walling seems to have been incorporated in 16th century building, a wall of this period, containing a loop, linking the earlier wall with the keep. The S.-facing opening suggests that the wall in which it occurs is part of a building earlier than the keep. The original structure was extended, probably in the late 13th century, towards the E., its return wall in this direction being removed in the process. The extension, which was partially excavated in 1951, had a door on the E. with a N. wall built just within, and independent of, the curtain. S.W. of the keep is a rectangular building, 47½ ft. by 16½ ft. within, with walls 4 ft. thick, which although altered and rebuilt for farm purposes, remains substantially a single storey structure probably of 13th century date. The original walling rises in places to about 10 ft. 9 in. and was never higher, since a 16th century wall, projecting S. from the keep, can be seen to have abutted on a building no greater in height. In the S. wall of this building are two original window openings, with segmental-pointed heads on timber centering; both have been adjusted to accommodate modern lights.

To the W. and N.W. of the keep was an extensive 16th century building of two main storeys, probably with attics, communicating with the keep at first floor level. This structure appears to have been T-shaped in plan; it consisted of an E.-W. wing, backing on to the N. and W. curtains, 21 ft. wide and at least 67 ft. in length, and a N.-S. wing, of unknown width, set against the W. wall of the keep and extending to the 13th century building S.W. of it. Of this building little remains, save for isolated lengths of random rubble walling and the indications of its abutment against the keep. Part of the

SEAFIN CASTLE

Co. DOWN

STONE CASTLES

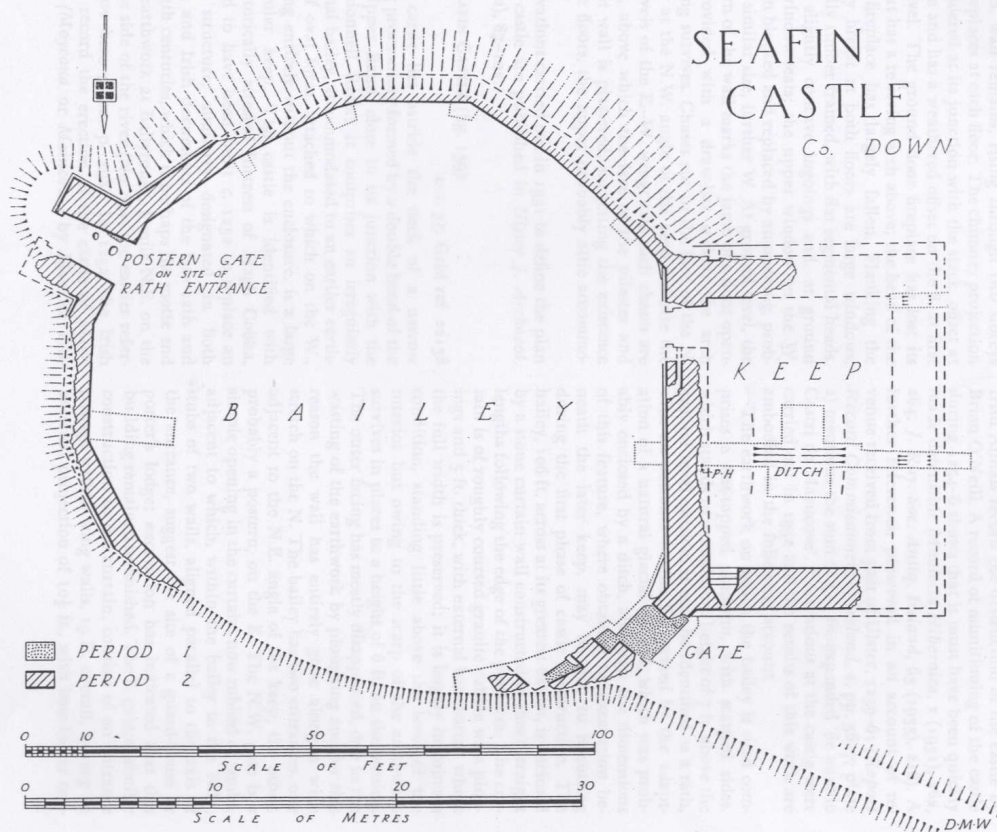


FIG. 139 (No. 843).

E. wall of the N.-S. wing survives adjacent to the S.W. angle of the keep and includes a massive chimney projection reduced internally by offsets and crowned by a heavy rectangular stack; there are fireplaces at both floors and the first floor has a small light between keep and chimney. The weathering of the roof of this wing, and ragged sockets for the reception of floor beams, can be seen on the exterior of the W. wall of the keep. Of the E.-W. wing, part of the S. wall remains, rising through two storeys with fireplaces at each floor. The chimney projection is shouldered at its junction with the stack, offset at the base and has a weathered offset on the S. at first floor level. The ground floor fireplace has lost its head but has a relieving arch above; the head of the upper fireplace has largely fallen. Flanking the chimney breast at both floors are large windows, originally timber framed, with flat segmental heads, having slightly concave ingoings and, at ground level, window-seats; the upper window on the W. has been blocked and replaced by an opening, probably of similar size, further W. At ground level, the E. return of the wall marks the jamb of a door opening, provided with a draw-bar socket; the arch springing survives. Chases cut in the face of the N. pilaster at the N.W. angle of the keep indicate the floor levels of the E.-W. wing; two such chases are present, above which the face of the pilaster and adjacent wall is plastered, suggesting the existence of three floors, the upper probably attic accommodation.

Excavations carried out in 1951 to define the plan of this castle are published in *Ulster J. Archaeol.* 15 (1952), 87-102.

843. SEAFIN CASTLE (fig. 139)

O.S. 35. Grid ref. 22138

The castle lies astride the neck of a narrow curving promontory formed by a double bend of the river Upper Bann, close to its junction with the Drumadonnell River; it comprises an irregularly polygonal bailey, accommodated to an earlier earthwork of oval form, attached to which on the W., but lying entirely without the enclosure, is a large rectangular keep. The castle is identified with the historically attested fortress of Magh Cobha, assumed to have been built c. 1252 to replace an earlier structure, similarly designated in both English and Irish documents of the late 12th and early 13th centuries, which is perhaps the motte and bailey earthwork at Ballyrone, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N.E. on the opposite side of the river (No. 792: the earlier references are here given, p. 198). In 1252, the Irish Annals record the erection of the castle of *Magh Cobha* (*Moicoua* or *Maincoue*) by Maurice Fitz-

Gerald and in this year the fortress is referred to when a mandate (*Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland*, entry under May 9) to John Fitz-Geoffrey, the justiciar, to build a castle in a suitable place in Ulster, is followed by a second mandate (*ibid.* entry under Dec. 16) to the treasurer and chamberlain of Dublin, requiring an audit of the justiciar's account of his expenditure on the fortification of the castle of Magh Cobha. In the following year (1253), the Irish Annals record the destruction of the castle by Brian O'Neill. A record of munitioning of the castle during 1254-6 shows that it must have been quickly made defensible (*Analecta Hibernica*, 2 (1931), 262, 264; *J. Roy. Soc. Antiq. Ireland*, 63 (1933), 218). A further reference, preserved in an account of revenue received from part of Ulster, 1259-61 (*Report Record Commissioners of Ireland*, 1, pp. 56-7; plate 2) mentions the sum of £11 6s. expended 'de auxilio Castri de Mayncove'. Excavations at the castle were carried out in 1952 and the results of this work are embodied in the following account.

The earthwork on which the bailey is sited comprises a flat-topped platform, with scarped sides, which stands to a maximum height of 7 ft. above the ground level outside; it may be identified as a rath, with an entrance on the E., formed by the adaptation of a natural glacial mound, which was probably enclosed by a ditch, although the dimensions of this feature, where obtained by excavation beneath the later keep, may be due to re-cutting during the first phase of castle construction. The bailey, 106 ft. across at its greatest extent, is enclosed by a stone curtain wall constructed in short straight lengths following the edge of the platform. The curtain is of roughly coursed granite rubble with pinnings and 5 ft. thick, with external base-batter, where the full width is preserved; it is largely in ruinous condition, standing little above the level of the interior but owing to the scarp of the earthwork survives in places to a height of 6 ft. on the outside. The outer facing has mostly disappeared, due to the wasting of the earthwork by ploughing and for this reason the wall has entirely gone along a wide stretch on the N. The bailey has two entrances, one adjacent to the N.E. angle of the keep, the other, probably a postern, on the E. The N.W. gate is a simple opening in the curtain, now robbed of jambs, adjacent to which, within the bailey to the N.E., stubs of two walls, aligned parallel to the axis of the entrance, suggest the site of a guard-house or porter's lodge; excavation has indicated that this building remained unfinished. The E. gate, of similar construction to the curtain, consists of an entrance passage within wing walls, 19 ft. overall, having an external projection of 10½ ft., with base-batter con-

Tea 1

Historic Monuments of Northern Ireland

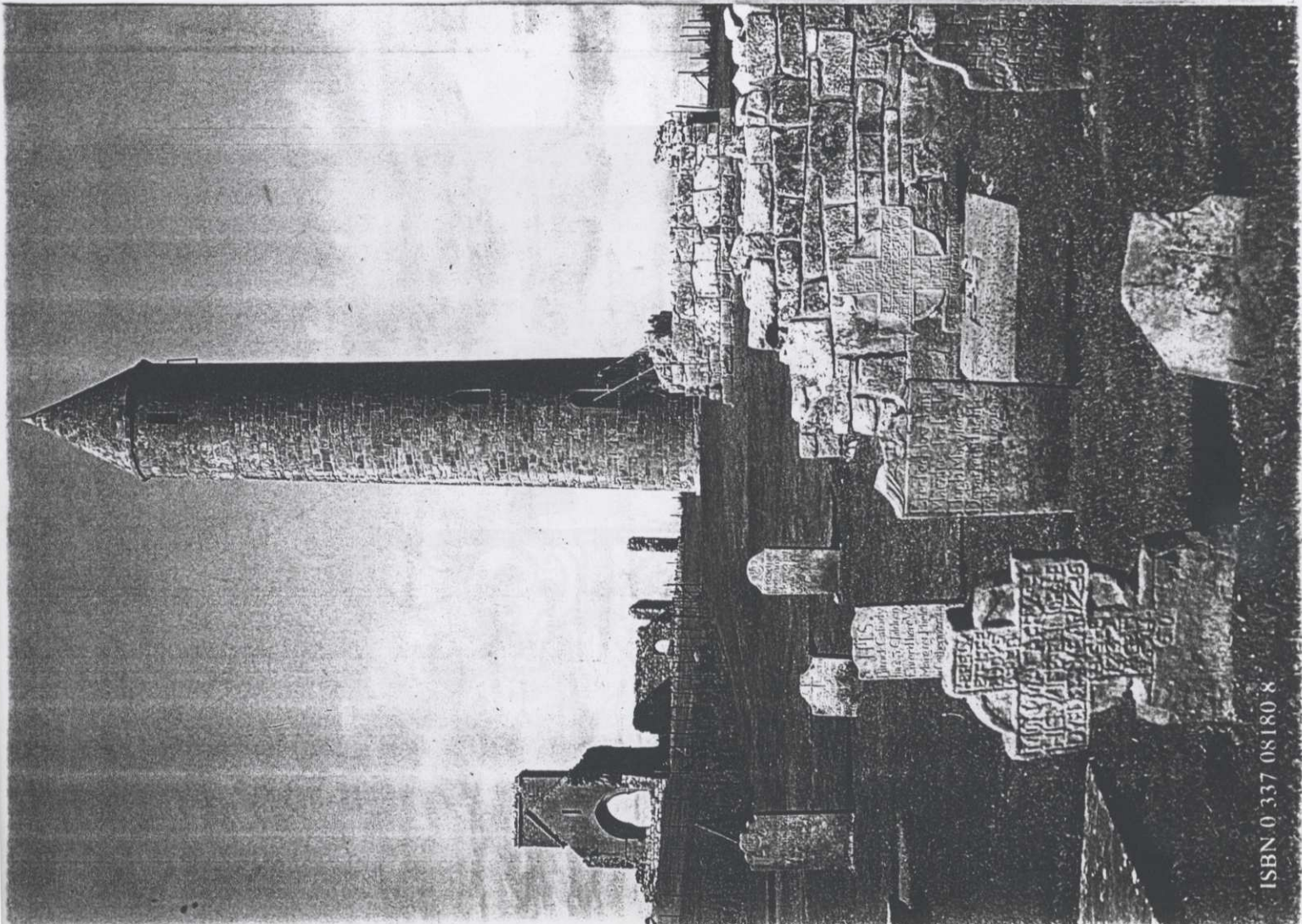
Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland



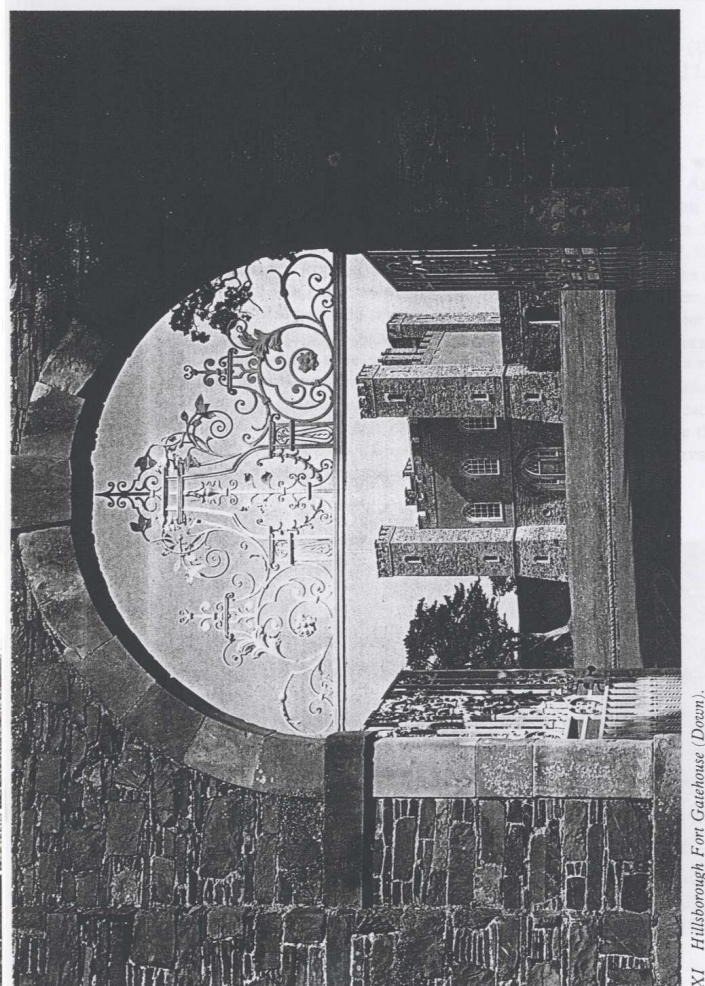
HMSO £4.90 net

HISTORIC MONUMENTS OF NORTHERN IRELAND

HMSO



ISBN 0 337 08180 8



XI Hillsborough Fort Gatehouse (Down).

house in the sw corner, built by the Blundell family in the 17th century, now a tall, gaunt ruin but once a grand dwelling.

D M Waterman in *Ulster J Archaeol* 14 (1951), 15-29 and 27 (1964), 136-9; *ASCD* (1966), 207-211; *DOENI* guide-card (1977).

66 Duneight Motte and Bailey (J278608)

2½ miles (3.8 km) s of Lisburn and ¾ mile (1 km) E of Ravernet. Anglo-Norman motte and bailey strategically sited on the N bank of the Ravernet river to command the valley route. The motte is triangular, separated from the bailey by a ditch. The bailey is a truncated oval in plan, protected by a ditch and bank and an extra ditch to the E, but on the river side (s) the defences are less formidable. Excavation in 1961 showed that the bailey was a remodelled pre-Norman enclosure. Parts of wooden and stone buildings were found in this enclosure and slighter structures outside to the E. It can probably be identified with *Dún Echdach*, mentioned in the annals in 1003 and in 1010, when a distinction was made between the *dún* (fort) and *baile* (perhaps the settlement outside). Excavation also uncovered a collared urn with a cremation burial, evidence of Bronze Age activity beside the river.

D M Waterman in *Ulster J Archaeol* 26 (1963), 55-78; *ASCD* (1966), 205-6.

67 Greencastle (J247119)

4 miles (6.4 km) sw of Kilkeel, reached by minor roads off the A2 from Kilkeel or Lisnacree and down a drive to carpark at the castle. Prominently sited on a rocky outcrop close to Greencastle Point, the castle commands the narrow entry to Carlingford Lough and is within sight of Carlingford Castle. A royal castle, built in the 13th century, it had an eventful military history. Besieged and taken by Edward Bruce in 1316, attacked and spoiled by the Irish at least twice in the later 14th century, it was still maintained as a garrison for Elizabeth in the 1590s. Part of the area is now occupied by a working farm. The castle is approached across an impressive rock-cut ditch, partly excavated and left open. The curtain wall with four corner towers enclosed a trapezoidal area but is badly ruined. Part of the E curtain, found collapsed intact into the ditch, is reconstructed near the carpark. The large rectangular keep is of the 13th century but with substantial 15th- and 16th-century alterations. It was originally entered by a first floor door on the s, protected by a forebuilding (excavated foundations visible). A ground floor door in the w wall is a 15th-century alteration and the rough gap near the SE angle is a late forced entry. The cross walls dividing the ground floor into three vaults are also 15th-century insertions. At first floor level was the great hall (late medieval windows and fireplace) with a latrine in the NE corner. The upper parts of the keep, with mural passages, wall-walks and angle turrets, are a 15th-century remodelling. Fragments of other buildings in the ward include part of a long rectangular structure sw of the keep. A

X

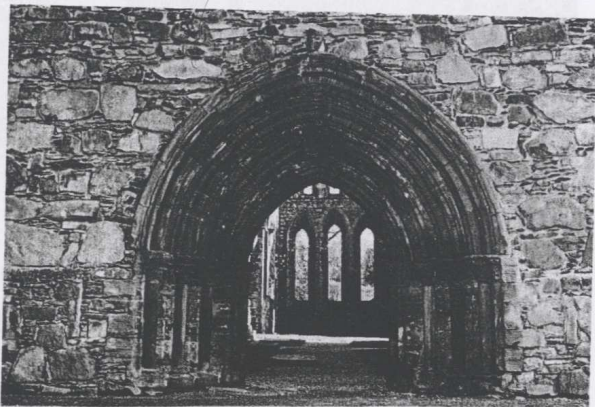
long series of excavations has been done in connection with a substantial conservation programme.

D M Waterman in *Ulster J Archaeol* 15 (1952), 87-102; *ASCD* (1966), 211-219; C Gaskell-Brown in *Ulster J Archaeol* 42 (1979), 51-65; C J Lynn, forthcoming.

53 **68 Grey Abbey** (J583682)

On the E edge of Greyabbey village, beside the Rosemount estate, with a carpark at the entrance. With Inch Abbey the best example of Anglo-Norman Cistercian architecture in Ulster, daughter-house of Holm Cultram (Cumbria), founded in 1193 by John de Courcy's wife, Affreca. Poor and decayed in the late Middle Ages, the abbey was dissolved in 1541, but in the early 17th century was granted to Sir Hugh Montgomery and the nave was refurbished for parish worship until the late 18th century. The remains, in their beautiful parkland setting, consist of the church with cloister and surrounding buildings to the s. The church, entered through an elaborate w door, has an aisleless nave, transepts with two chapels in each and a short chancel lit by tall lancet windows. The buildings round the cloister include a once fine aisled chapter house and a still impressive refectory with reader's pulpit, but the w range and cloister walks have disappeared. The three buttresses propping the s wall of the nave are part of a major conservation programme done early in this century.

ASCD (1966), 275-9; *DOENI* guide-card (1979).



100 Grey Abbey, west door of church.

102

Hollywood Motte (J401795)

On the N side of Brook Street, in Ballykeel townland, originally overlooking Belfast Lough. Anglo-Norman castle mound, formerly probably with a ditch round its base and a timber palisade round the summit, but now with a spiral path and tree-planted, the result of 19th-century landscaping. King John stayed at Hollywood in 1210 and a castle here is mentioned in 1234.

ASCD (1966), 194.

70 Inch Abbey (J477455)

¾ mile (1.2 km) NW of Downpatrick, reached by a turning off the A7 and lane to a carpark at the entrance. This beautiful site, on the N bank of the Quoile, was originally an island in the Quoile Marshes. A pre-Norman monastery here, called *Inis Cumhsraith*, was plundered by Vikings in 1002. Its large earthwork enclosure has been traced from air photos. The visible remains are of the Cistercian abbey, daughter-house of Furness (Lancs), founded in the 1180s by John de Courcy in atonement for his destruction of Erenagh, 3 miles (4.8 km) to the s. The Cistercian precinct was enclosed by a bank and ditch and is mostly in State Care, extending N to S from the parish graveyard to the river and E to W up the valley sides. The buildings are mainly of the late 12th and 13th centuries. The church had an aisled nave, transepts with pairs of chapels, and a chancel lighted, like Grey Abbey, by graceful grouped lancet windows. In the 15th century, when the monastic community was smaller, the church was altered: by walling in the chancel and first bay of the nave and blocking off the transepts, a much smaller church was created and the rest was abandoned. The cloister walks to the s have disappeared but foundations of the E and S ranges remain, as well as outlying buildings towards the river. These include an infirmary and a bakehouse with a well nearby.

ASCD (1966), 279-81; A Hamlin in *Ulster J Archaeol* 40 (1977), 85-88; *DOENI* guide-card (1983).

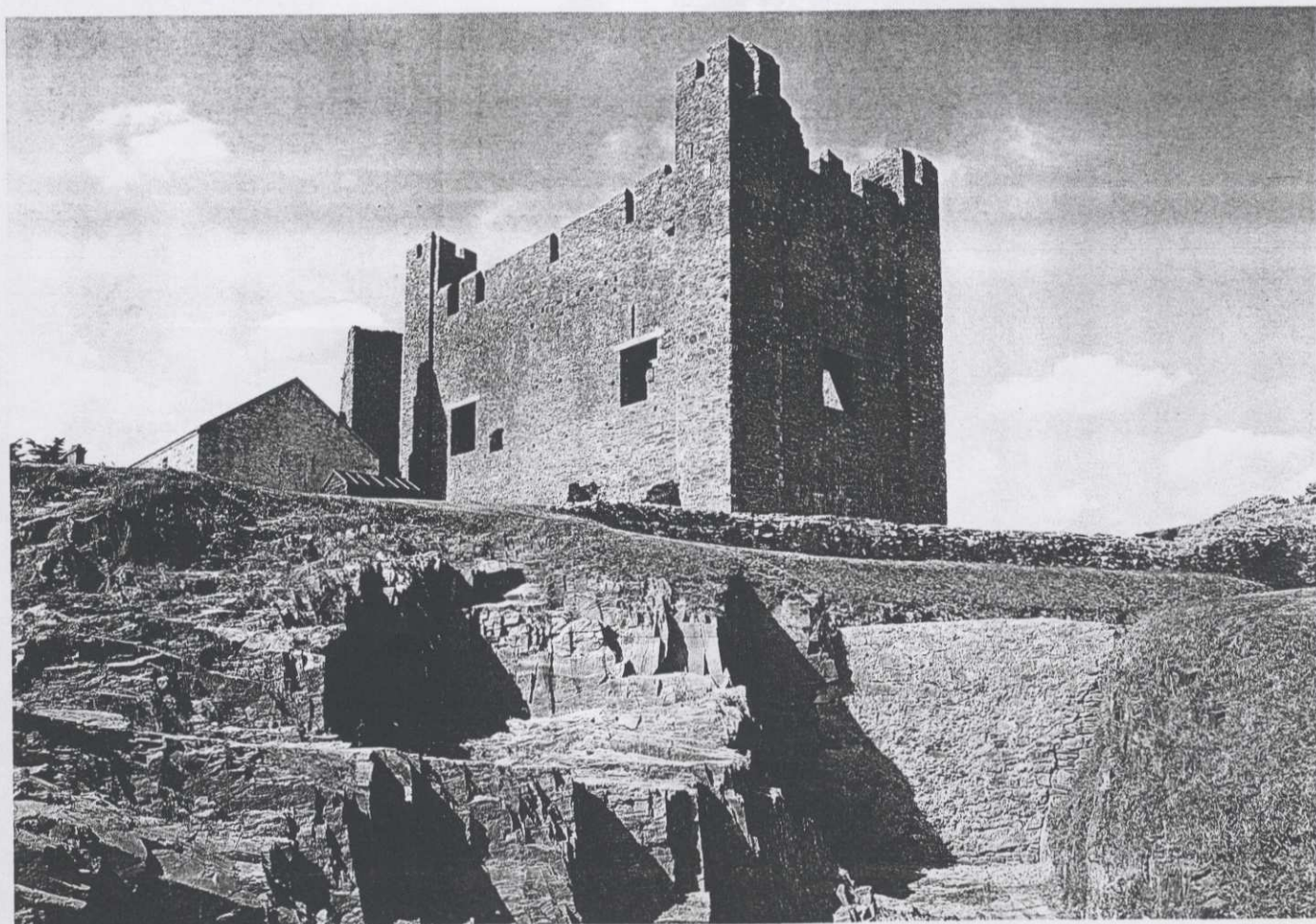
71 Jordan's Castle, Ardglass (J559372)

In Ardglass, between Kildare Street and Quay Street, commanding the harbour. 15th-century tower-house, largest of the impressive group which testifies to the importance of Ardglass as a town and port in the Middle Ages. The characteristic projecting towers with a high machicolation arch face N. The entrance is protected by a smaller machicolation at right angles to the main arch. The W tower contains a spiral stair and the E tower latrines at two levels. The ground floor chamber has a semicircular barrel vault with impressions of wicker centering. There are three chambers above, all with modern wooden ceilings. The antiquarian Francis Joseph Bigger bought the castle in 1911 and restored it, fitting it out with furniture and bequeathing it to the State in 1926. The figure corbels on the third floor are

103



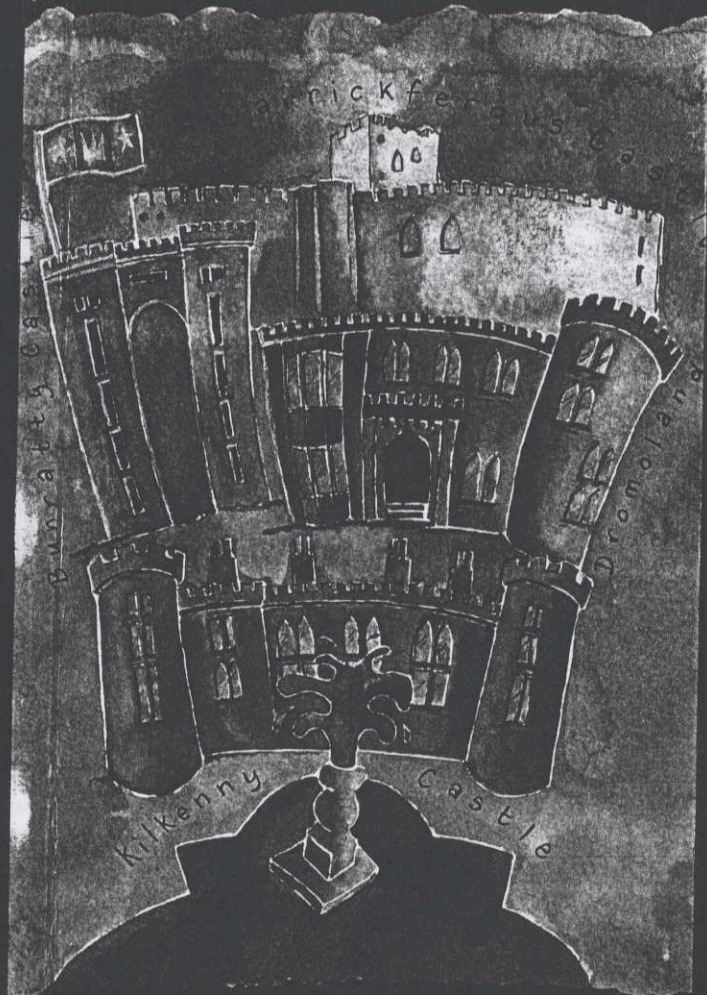
IX Inch Abbey (Down).



X Greencastle with rock-cut ditch in foreground (Down).

Irish Castles

TERENCE REEVES-SMYTH



APPLETREE GUIDE

The castle was captured by King John in 1210 and remained Crown property until de Lacy was allowed to return to his Earldom in 1226. It was probably during de Lacy's second tenure as Earl of Ulster (1227-43) that the twin-towered gatehouse, similar to the one at Pembroke Castle, was inserted into the curtain wall. It has a lopsided design with only one projecting tower to protect the approach along a narrow ramp from the south-west.

The stone curtain wall of the outer bailey is likely to have been built by the Maginnis family, who seized Dundrum in the late fourteenth century and held it intermittently until finally expelled by Lord Mountjoy in 1601. It was made over to Lord Cromwell in 1605 and sold to Sir Francis Blundell in 1636. The Maginnis family retrieved Dundrum in 1642, but later lost it to the Parliamentarians, who dismantled the castle in 1652 after



Dundrum Castle

they withdrew their garrison. After 1660 the Blundells returned and built a gabled L-shaped mansion in the south-west corner of the outer bailey. This dwelling was ruined by the time the property passed to the second Marquess of Downshire in the early nineteenth century, though the trees on the hill were probably planted at this time. The castle and grounds were placed in State Care by the seventh Marquess in 1954.

Located just above Dundrum village. NGR: J 404370. State Care Monument. Open April to September: Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10.00 am – 7.00 pm; Sundays, 2.00 – 7.00 pm; other times by request. Small admission fee charged. Tel: (01232) 235000 extn 234.

JORDAN'S CASTLE

County Down

Ardglass was an important seaport in post-medieval times, whose defence depended upon a ring of fortified merchant's houses. The largest of these is Jordan's Castle, a four-storey tower house of fifteenth-century date, overlooking the harbour. It is the most developed example of the Kilclief-type with a stair turret and a latrine turret projecting from the north side with a high machicolation arch between them and a smaller machicolation at right angles above the entrance. The ground floor has a barrel vault with wickerwork centering marks on its soffit. The wooden floors in the upper storeys are recent reconstructions, while the present flat roof is also modern – originally the roof was probably gabled.

Little is known of the castle's history except that it withstood a lengthy siege during the Tyrone Rebellion, when Simon Jordan defended his castle for three years until relieved by the deputy Mountjoy in 1601. It probably remained a dwelling until the late seventeenth century, but was a ruin when purchased by the antiquarian F. J. Bigger in 1911, who restored it, fitted it out with furniture and bequeathed it to the State in 1926.

Located close to Ardglass Harbour near the junction of Kildare and Quay streets. NGR: J 560372. State Care Monument. Open July and August: Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10.00 am – 7.00 pm; Sundays, 2.00 – 7.00 pm; other times by request. Small admission fee charged. Tel: (01232) 235000 extn 234.

GREENCastle

County Down

A popular mid-nineteenth-century travel handbook exclaimed of Greencastle, "You would go into ecstasies if you

saw such ruins on the Rhine, and quote 'Childe Harold' by the canto". The fortress is impressive, though its dramatic setting at the mouth of Carlingford Lough adds much to its appeal, with views over a sweeping landscape and towering mountains beyond.

The castle was built by Hugh de Lacy almost certainly during the 1230s to protect the southern approaches to the Earldom of Ulster. It was escheated to the Crown after 1243, wrecked by the Irish in 1260 and from 1280 to 1326 was a favoured residence of the most powerful man in Ireland, Richard de Burgh, the "Red Earl" of Ulster. His daughters were raised here, including Elizabeth, who married Robert Bruce, King of Scotland, in 1302 – although this did not dissuade Edward Bruce from sacking it in 1316. After an unsuccessful siege in 1333-34, the Irish



Greencastle

captured and destroyed the castle in 1343 and 1375. The royal garrison was reduced in number *c.* 1400 as an economy measure and amalgamated with Carlingford under one constable. In 1505 it was granted to the Earls of Kildare, but after their downfall in 1534 quickly deteriorated into a "wretched condition". The place was later granted to the Bagnals who lived here until 1635. It was bombarded and destroyed by Parliamentary forces in 1652.

The design of Hugh de Lacy's castle consisted of a quadrilateral curtain wall with a D-shaped tower at each corner – all now in a very fragmentary state. Excavation of the north-east tower revealed that it had a residential use, perhaps as de Lacy's private chambers, while the rather complex south-west tower seems to have had a series

of non-interconnecting rooms, suggesting its use as the private chambers of the de Lacy household. A massive surrounding rock-cut ditch was also revealed by excavation; this served as a quarry for the walls, and judging by the presence of a dam in the east ditch, may have been intended as a wet moat, though if so, the builders would have been disappointed for the rock is porous.

The castle's main feature is a large rectangular block, originally a great hall, raised upon a basement. This was lit by windows on three sides and probably had a dais at the east end for the high table, as indicated by the presence here of a high window, a small latrine and a fireplace. At the west end there was evidently a screen passage with two opposed doors, one giving access to the hall and the other the kitchens to the north. Steps led down to the dark basement store, which was later given crosswalls, vaults, gun-loops and a new entrance. Remodelling of the hall in the late fifteenth and mid sixteenth centuries gave it much of its present keep-like appearance; the walls were raised at the east and west ends, turrets added at the angles, and a spiral stair, mural passages and wall-walks included.

For centuries the green below the castle played host to a great fair every August. It was often called "Ram Fair" as a great ram was customarily enthroned on top of the castle's walls.

Located 4 miles SW of Kilkeel, approached via a minor road off the A2. NGR: J 247119. State Care Monument. Open April to September: Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10.00 am – 7.00 pm; Sundays, 2.00 – 7.00 pm; other times by request. Small admission fee charged. Tel: (01232) 235000 extn 234.

KILCLIEF CASTLE

County Down

The tower house at Kilclief was built sometime between 1412 and 1433 as the summer residence of John Sely, the last Bishop and Abbot of Down (1412-41). Few tower houses can be dated so precisely, but Bishop Sely gained much notoriety for openly living in "castro de Kylcleth" with a married woman called Letys Thomb. Although the Primate served him with a monition in 1434, threatening suspension and excommunication, the Bishop obstinately persisted and was expelled from his offices in 1441. The castle was later garrisoned by the Crown and more recently was used as a farm granary.