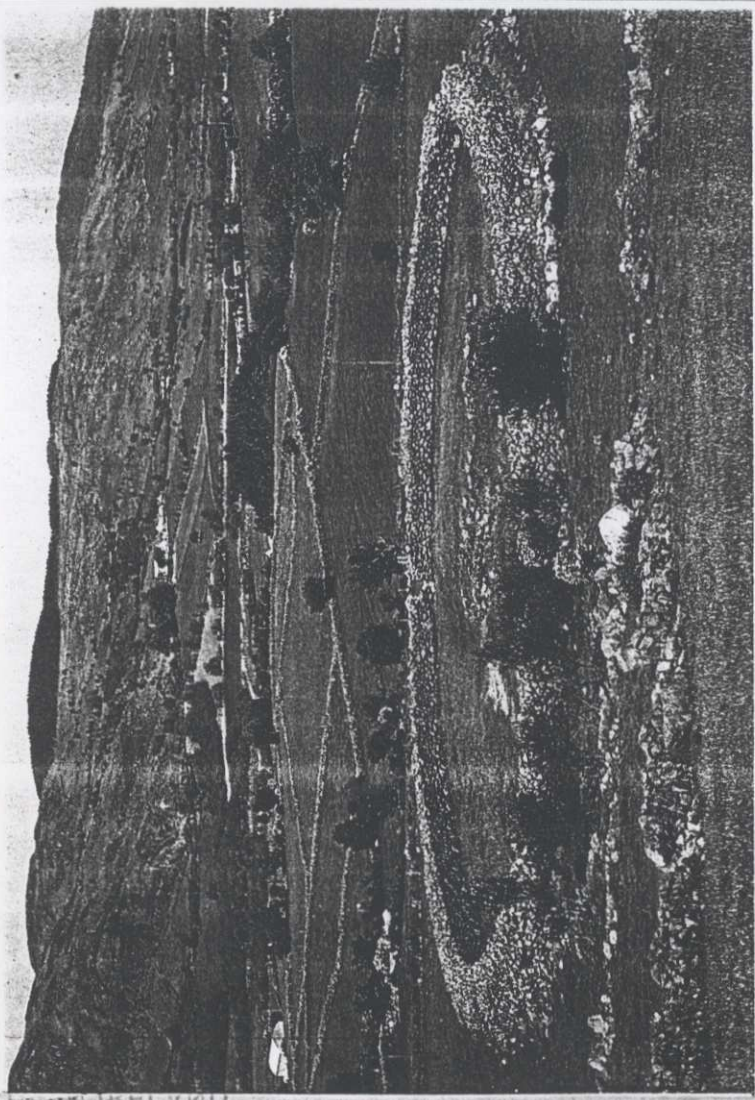


Terry

# Historic Monuments of Northern Ireland

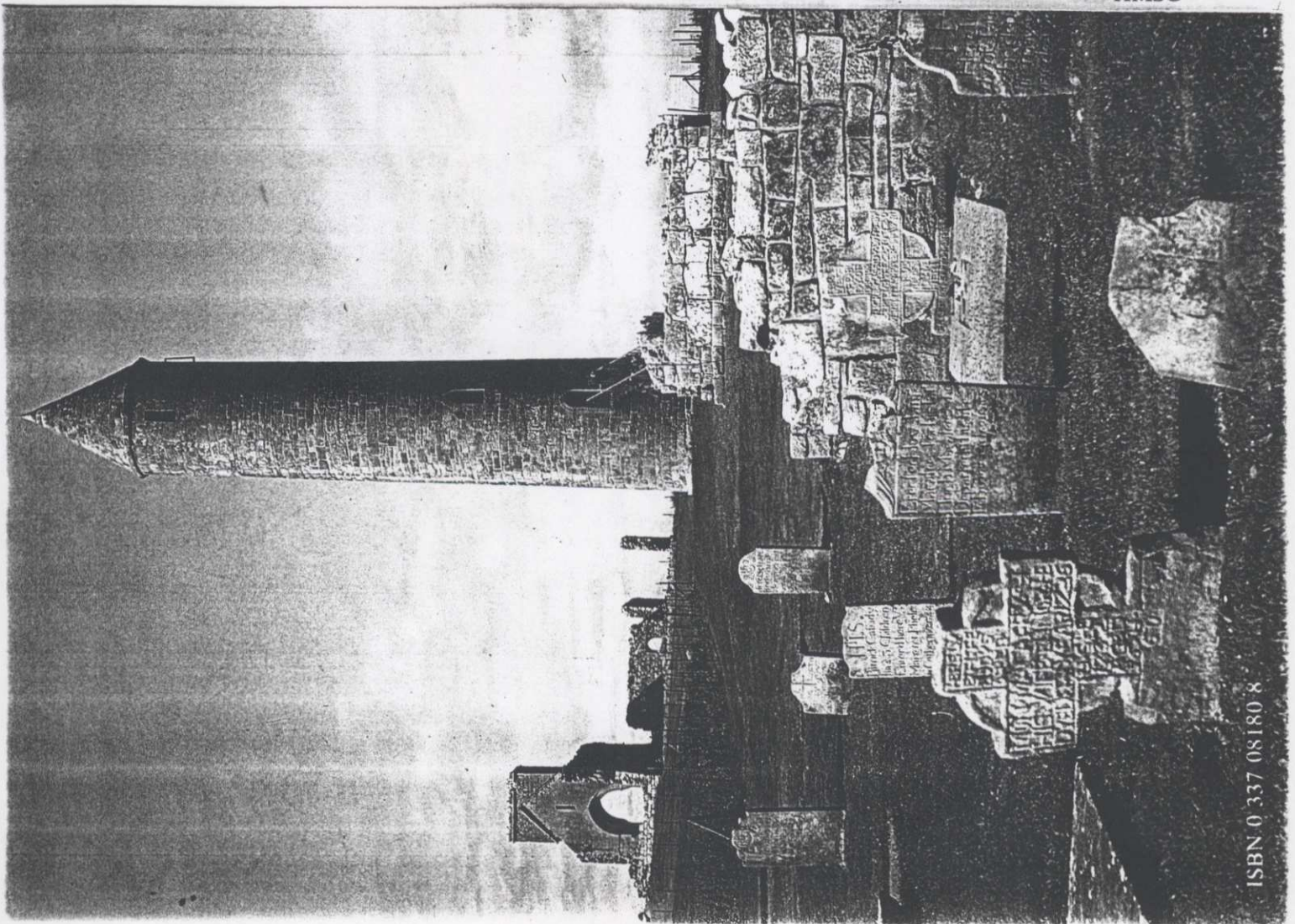
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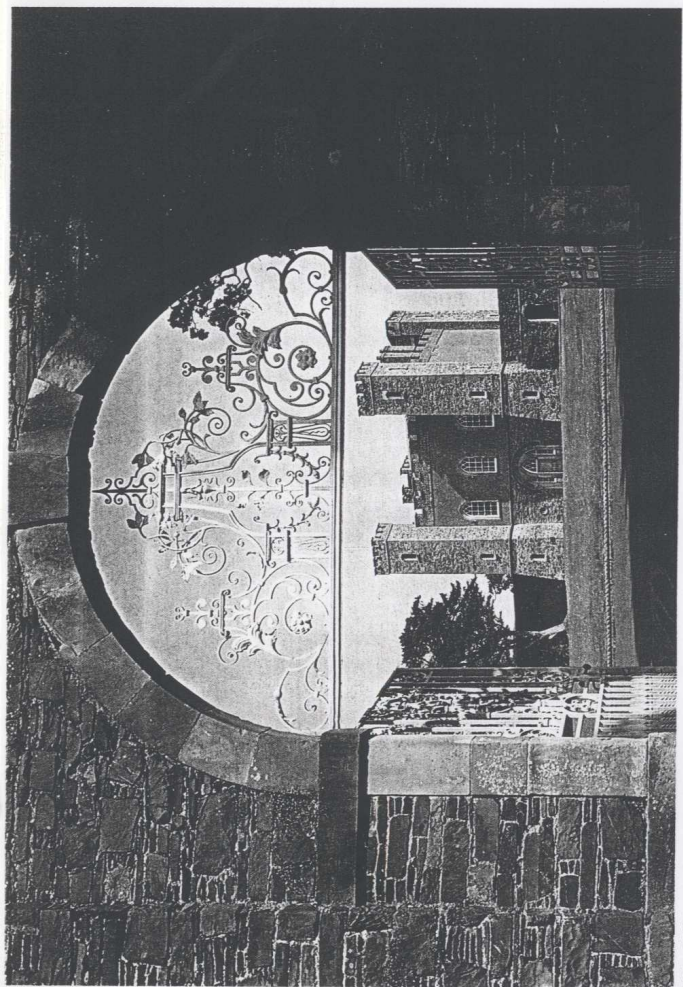
HISTORIC MONUMENTS OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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XI Hillsborough Fort Gatehouse (Dozon).

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 ⅝ 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 Killeel, reached by minor roads off the A2 from Killeel 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.

100 *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)

3/4 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 Cumhsraigh*, 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

IX

101

103





*IX Inch Abbey (Down).*

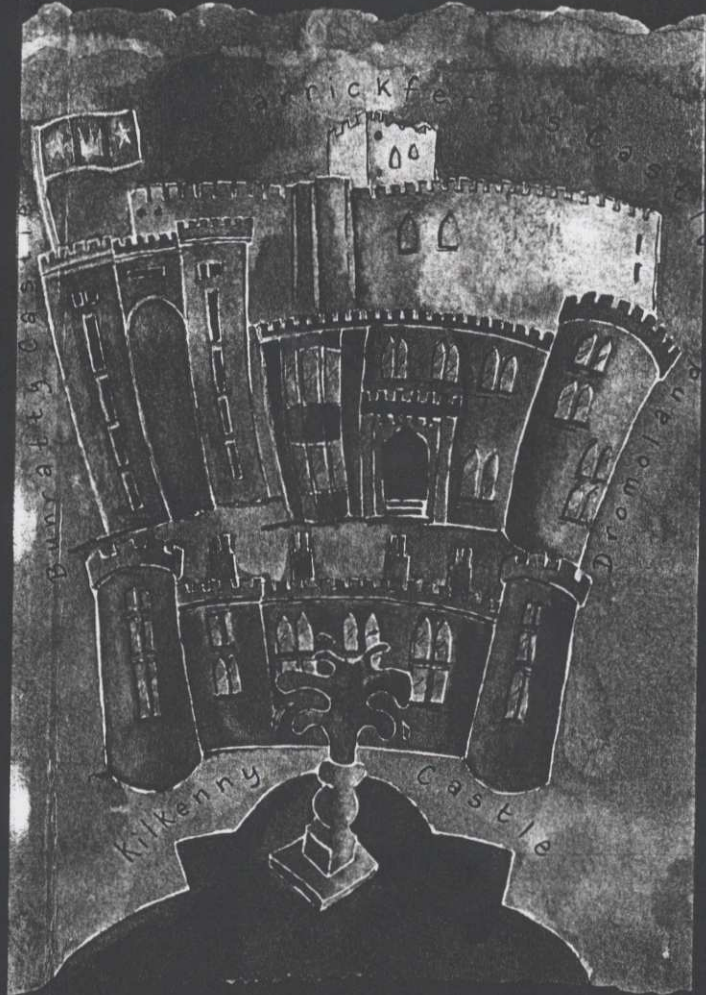


*X Greencastle with rock-cut ditch in foreground (Down).*



# Irish Castles

TERENCE REEVES-SMYTH

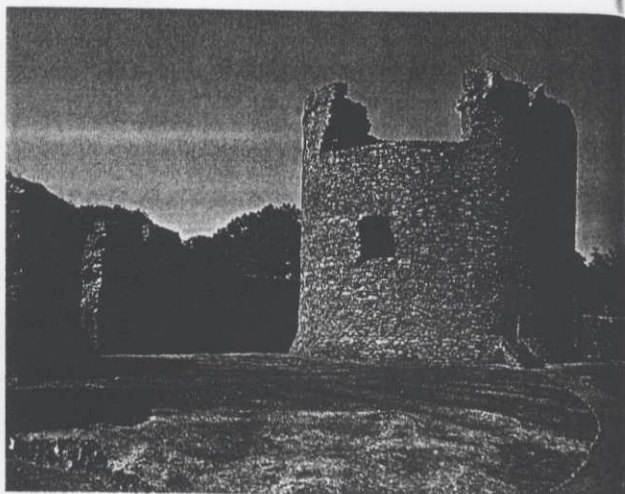


APPLETREE GUIDE



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 Killeel, 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.



SH8 / DOWN 57:3

GREENCASTLE

1966-70 Excavations

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## 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.



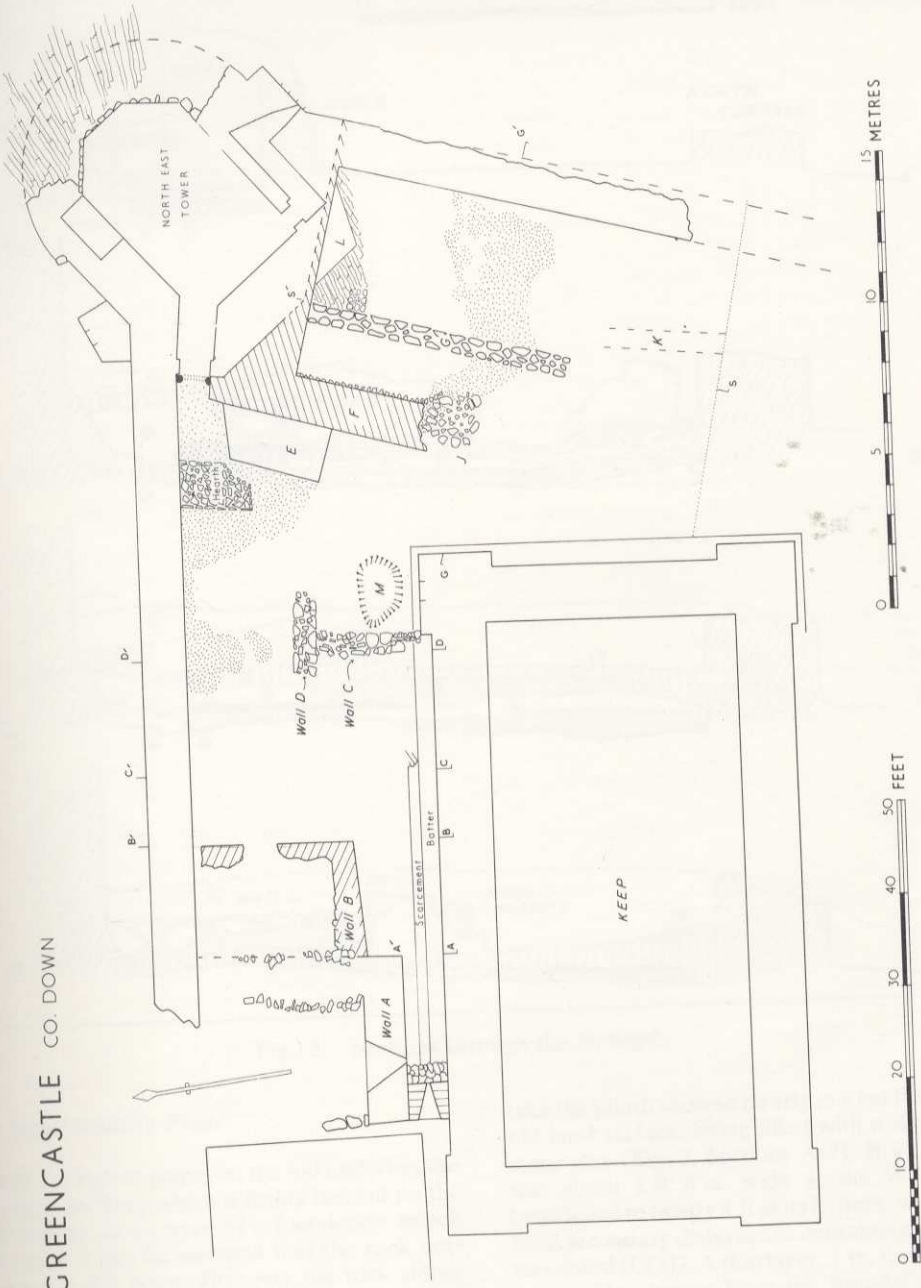


Fig. 1. Plan of excavated area.



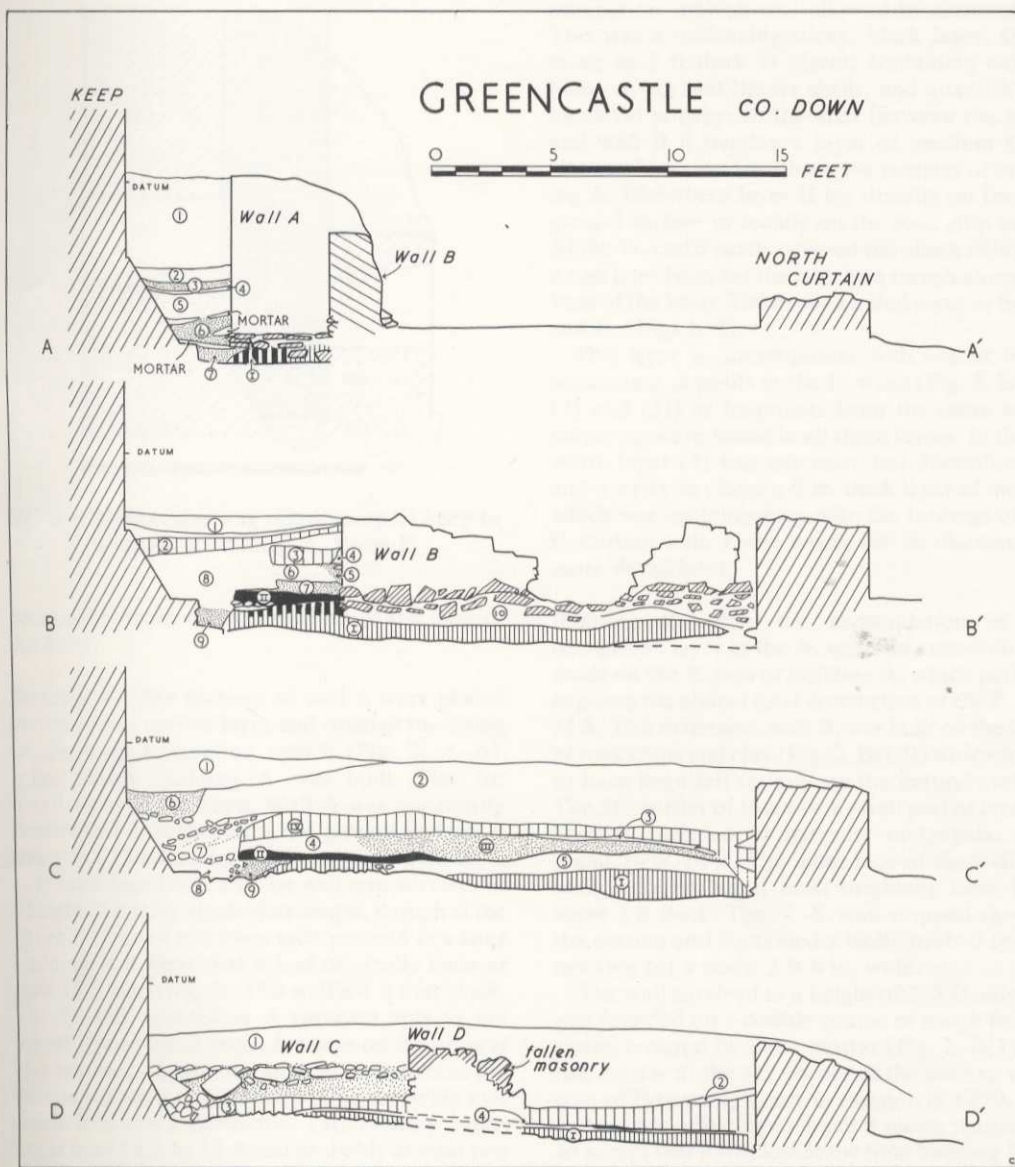


Fig. 2. Sections through the N. ward.

*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



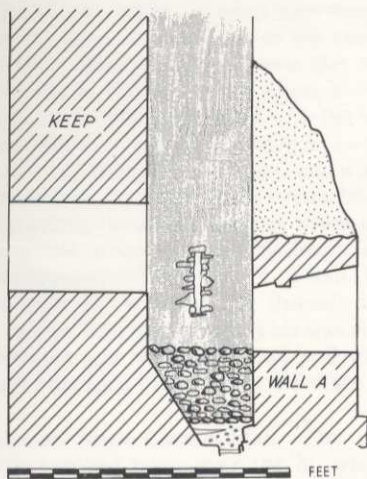


Fig. 3. Section showing relationship of keep to window in building A. From E.

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 overlies 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



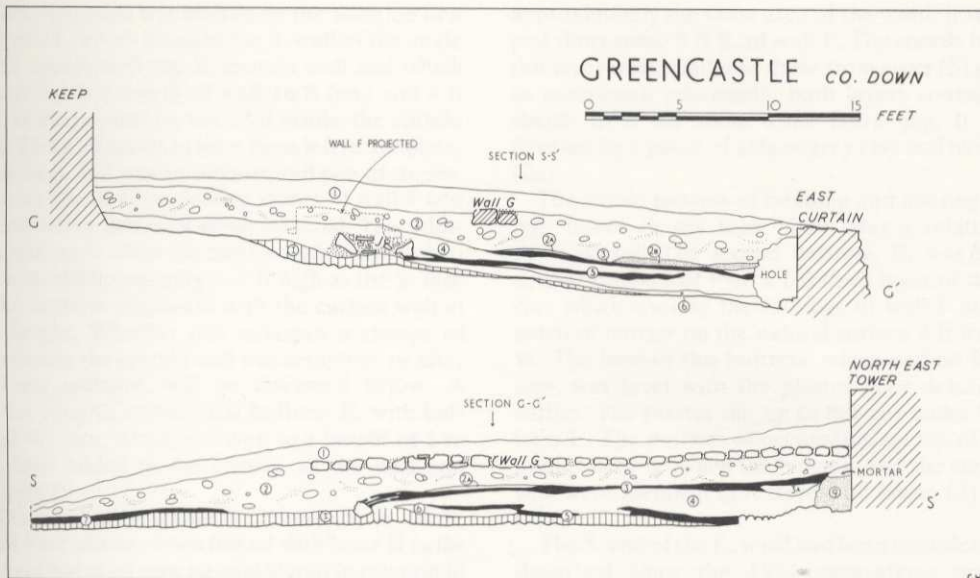


Fig. 4. Sections in E. ward.

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



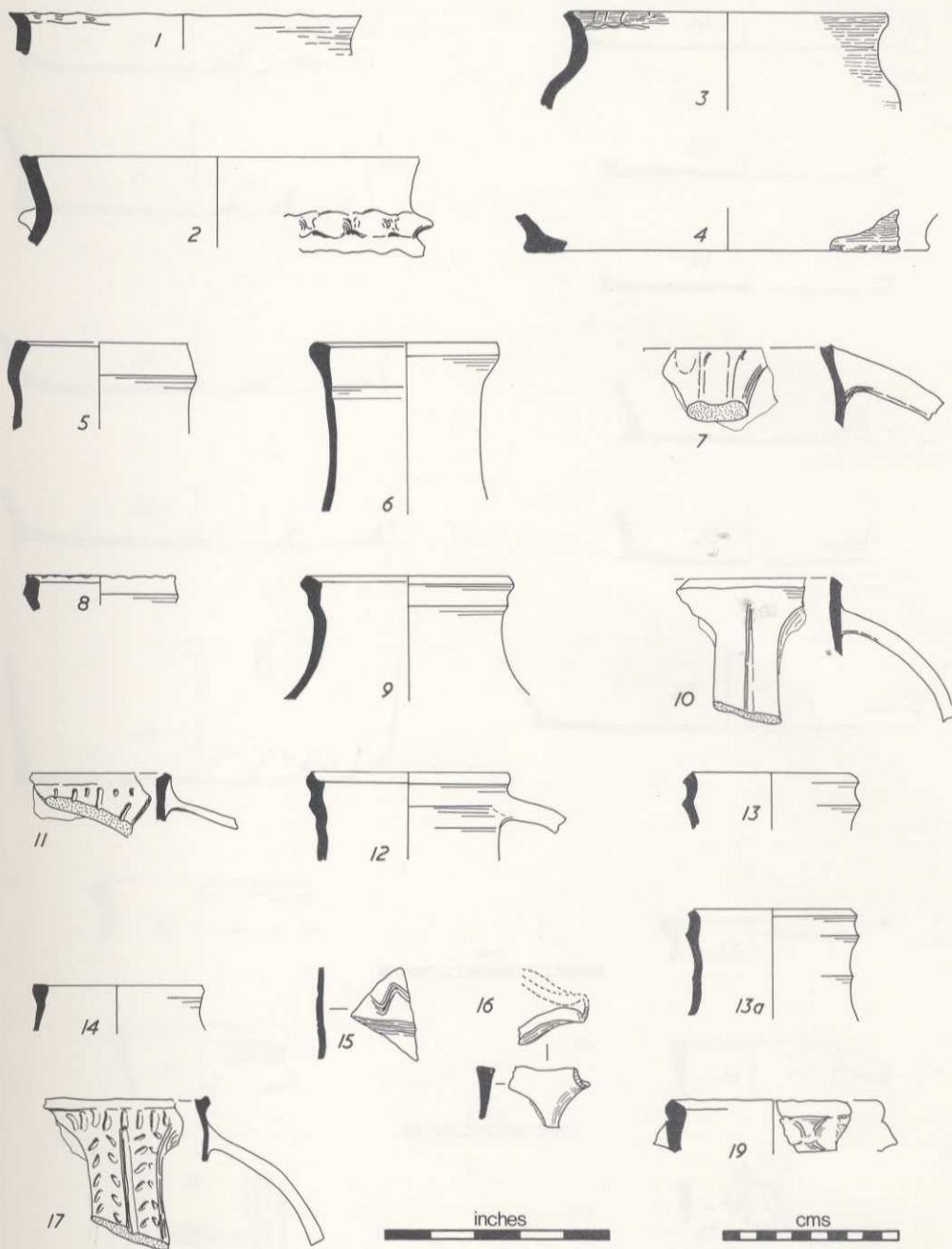


Fig. 5. Pottery. 1-4, cooking pottery, layers II, IV. 5-19, glazed wares, layer II ( $\times \frac{1}{4}$ ).

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



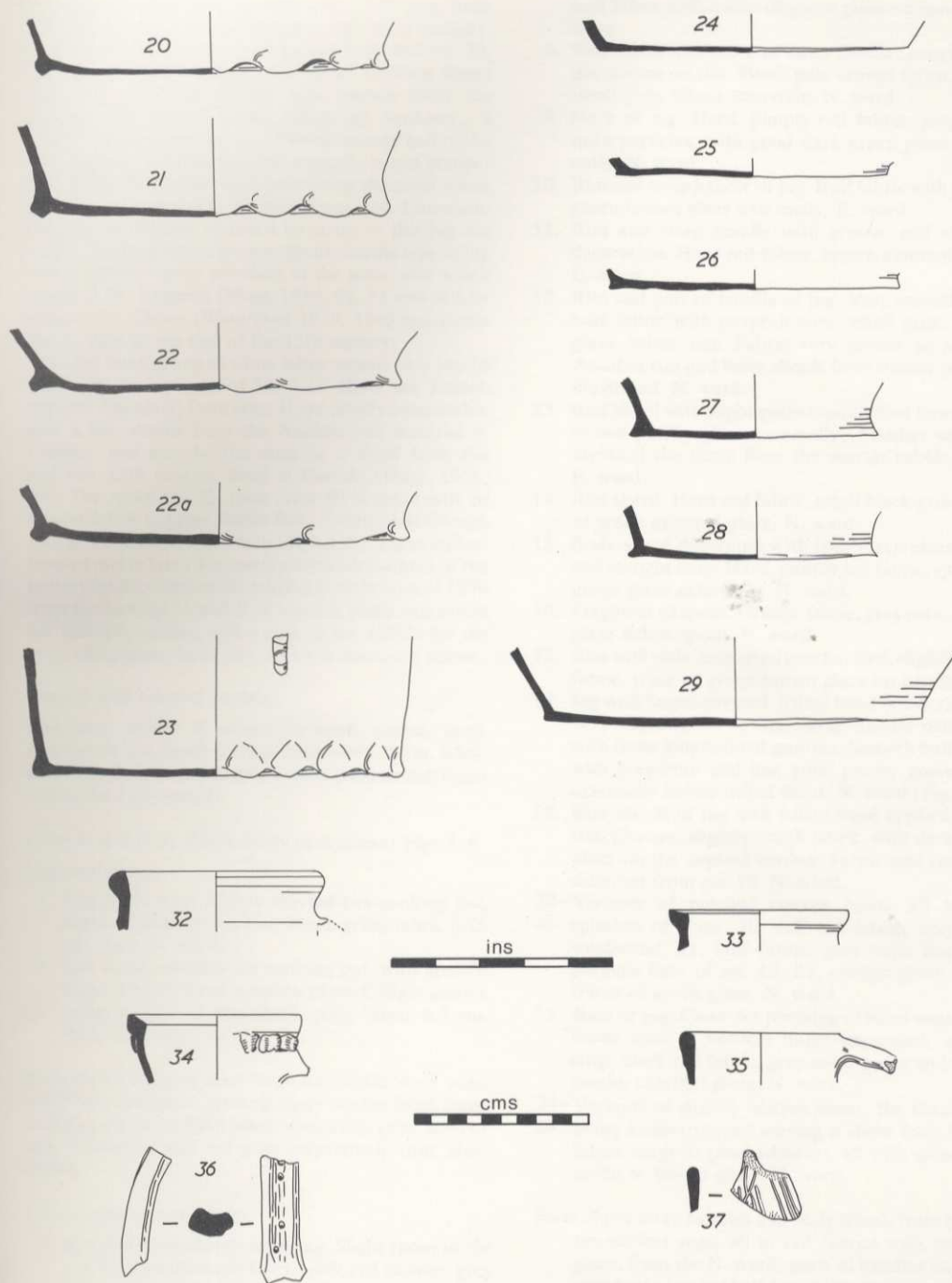


Fig. 6. Pottery, 20-29, glazed wares, layer II. 32-37, glazed wares, layer III ( $\times \frac{1}{4}$ ).

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



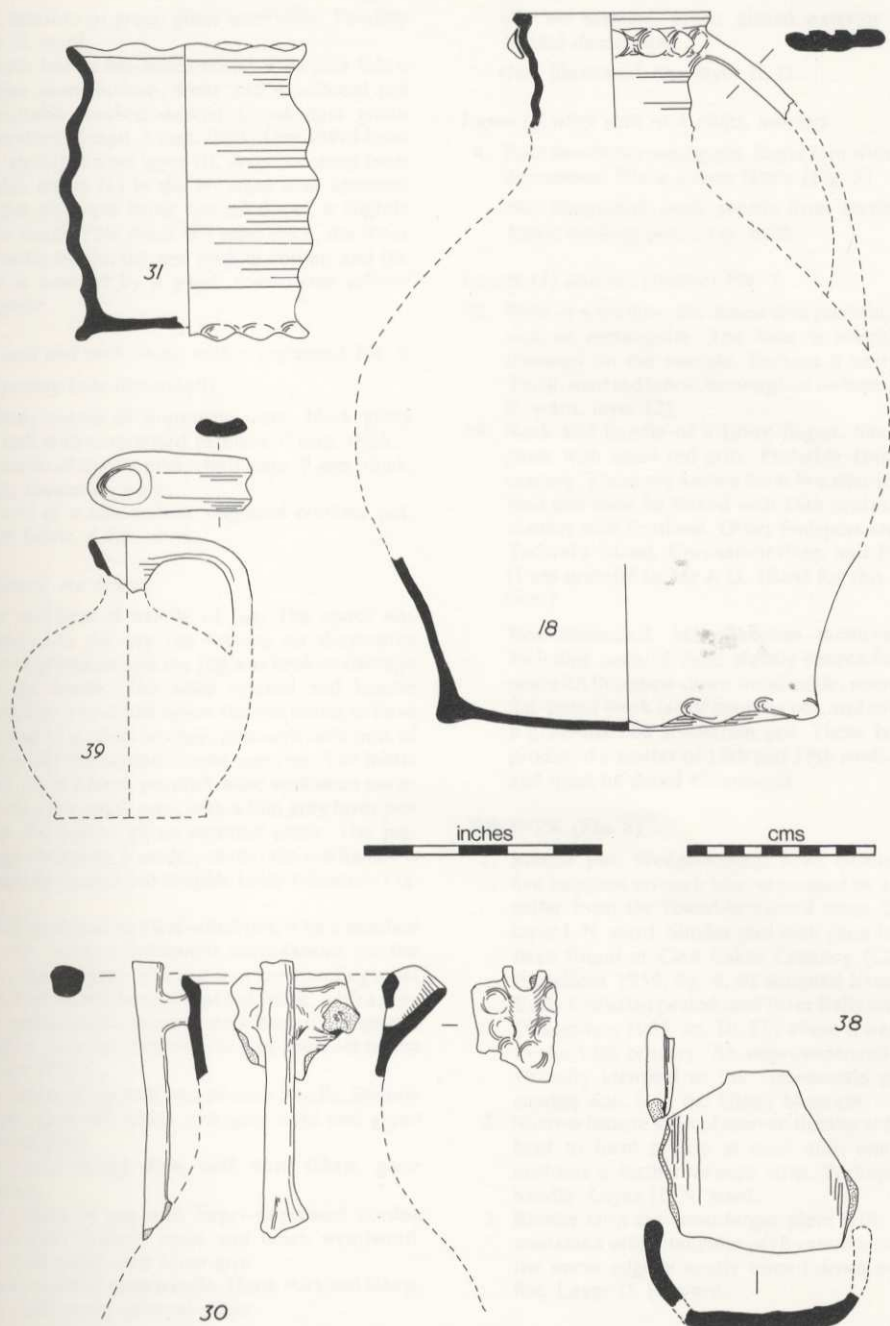


Fig. 7. Pottery. 18, layer II. 30, 31, layer III. 38, 39, layers (1) and (2) ( $\times \frac{1}{4}$ ).

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 Ballyrone 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.



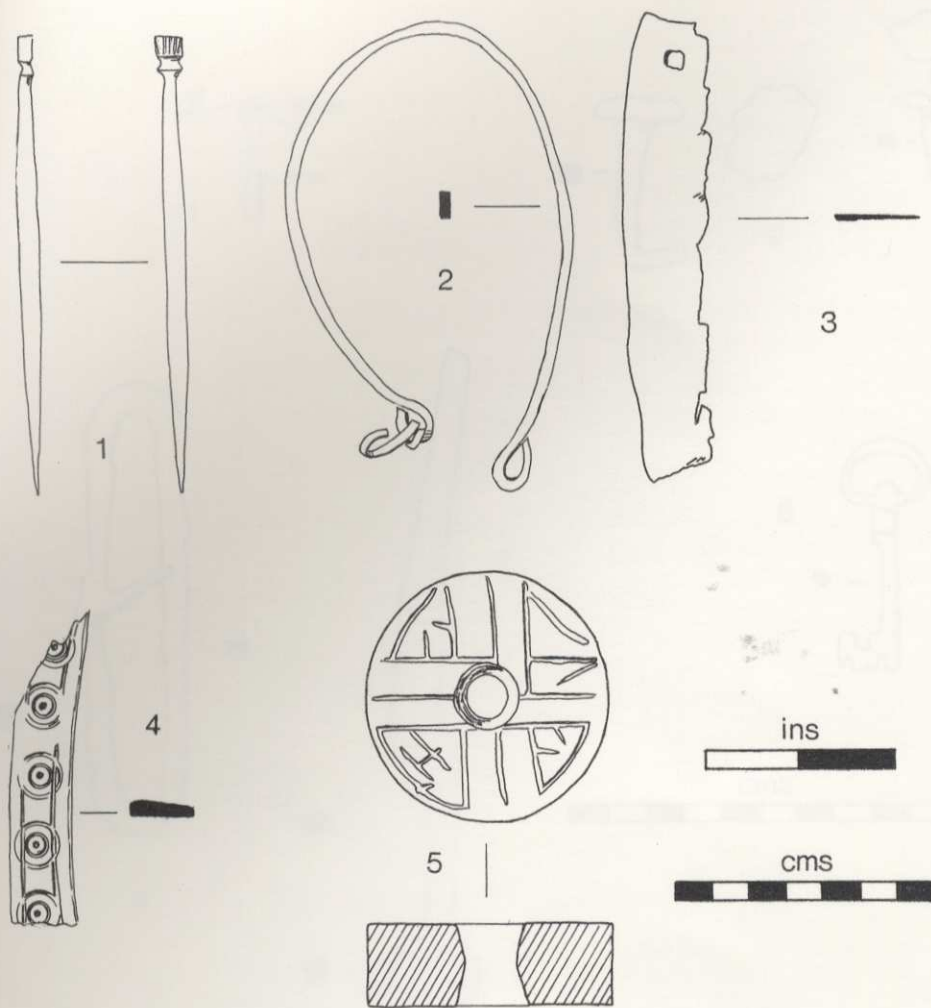


Fig. 8. Objects of bronze (1-3) and bone (4, 5) ( $\times \frac{1}{2}$ ).

#### 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. 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



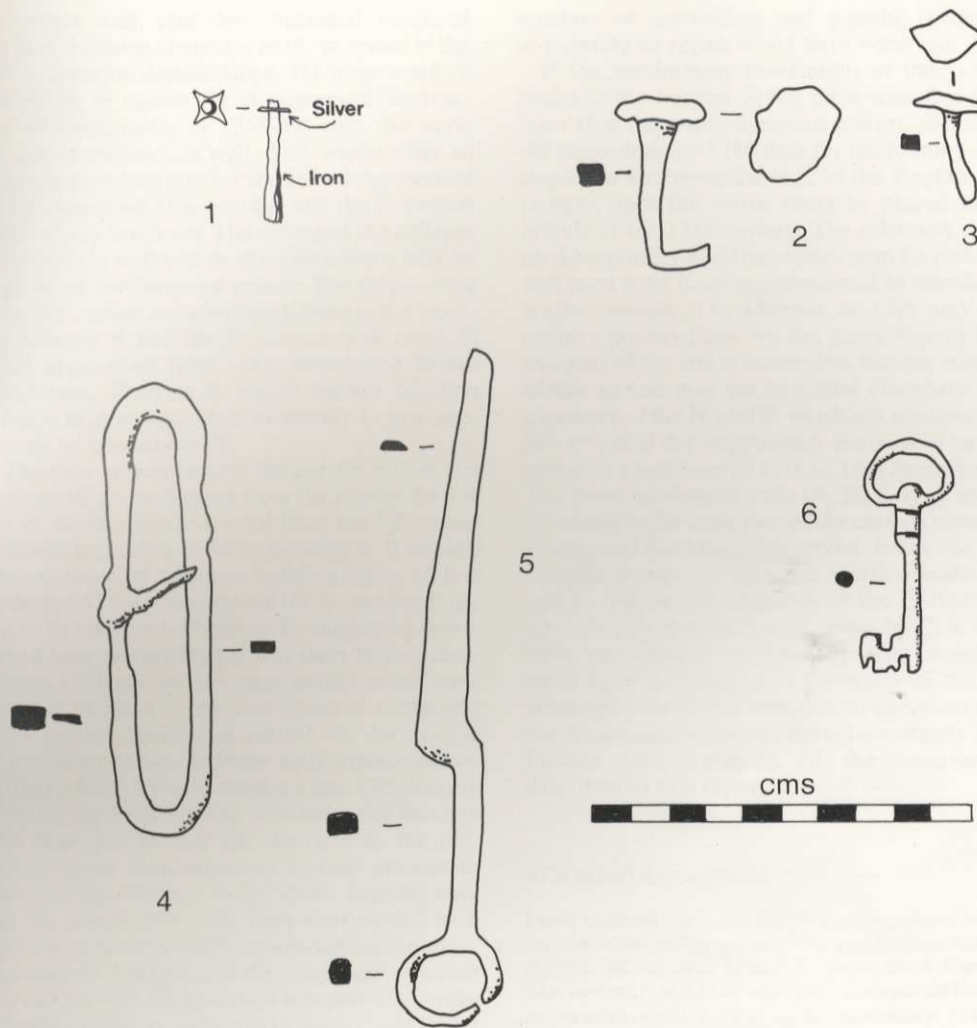


Fig. 9. Objects of iron ( $\times \frac{1}{2}$ ).

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.

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