

APPENDIX 6

Archaeological Assessment

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2.11 CULTURAL HERITAGE

2.11.1 Baseline Survey

The Record of Historic Sites and Monuments for county Wicklow was consulted for the relevant parts of Co. Wicklow Ordnance Survey 6" Sheets 24, 25, 30, 31. All sites within a radius of c. 1.5km of the proposed development were identified. The relevant files for these sites, which contain details from aerial photographs, early maps, OS memoirs, OPW Archaeological Survey notes and other relevant publications, were then studied in the Sites and Monuments Records Office, Dublin. These monuments are listed in Appendix 2.11.1.

The topographical files in the National Museum of Ireland were consulted to determine if any archaeological artefacts had been recorded from the area. Other published catalogues of prehistoric material were also studied: Raftery (1983 - Iron Age antiquities), Eogan (1965; 1983; 1994 - bronze swords, Bronze Age hoards and goldwork), Harbison (1968; 1969a; 1969b - bronze axes, halberds and daggers) and the Irish Stone Axe Project Database (Archaeology Dept., U.C.D.). The finds from the area are listed in Appendix 2.11.2.

Aerial photographs of the area of the proposed development were examined in the Geological Survey of Ireland and in the National Museum (Cambridge-St. Joseph Collection), in addition to a commissioned set provided by K.T. Cullen & Co. Ltd.

Primary historical sources consulted included the Hearth Money Roll for County Wicklow (1664), Griffith's Primary Valuation (1854) and The Ordnance Survey Wicklow Letters (1839).

Primary cartographic sources consulted consisted of the Ordnance Survey 6" maps, sheets, 1st, 1839 and 2nd editions, 1910 (T.C.D. Map Library & SMR), Jacob Neville's map of County Wicklow, 1760 (reproduced in Hannigan & Nolan 1993) and a depiction of '*Sir Hen. Harringtons defeate neere unto Wickloe, anno 1599*' (reproduced in MacEiteagain & O'Byrne).

2.11.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

Refer to figs. 2.11.1 and 2.11.2 for areas of archaeological potential and for field numbers.

2.11.2.1 Prehistory (c. 4000 BC – AD 500)

The geography of east county Wicklow, bounded by mountain and bog to the west and by the sea to the east, has fostered a relatively self contained and localised settlement history. Ireland was first occupied in the Early Mesolithic period (c. 7000BC), but no evidence for such early occupation has been found in the vicinity of the site to date. However, hunter gatherers had certainly begun to make inroads into this part of Wicklow by the Late Mesolithic period (c. 5500 - 3500BC). Their settlement sites were mainly confined to

coast and the rivers - accessible and rich sources of food in what was otherwise an extensively wooded landscape. Finds of flint tools have led to the identification of a settlement site in a cave on Bride's Head, 1 km south of Wicklow town, while similar discoveries have been made along the coast, such as at Brittas Bay (Stout 1993, 4. 5).

An influx of immigrant farmers c. 3500BC gave rise to the Neolithic in Ireland. They began a process of major landscape transformation, cutting down woodland for pasture and tillage (see Cooney, 2000). The construction of megalithic tombs during this period may be seen as an attempt to monumentalise the landscape and they provide the most tangible indicator of Neolithic occupation. A portal tomb at Brittas, near the coast (Grogan & Kilfeather 1997, 3), is one of only a few examples in the region, which suggests that area had yet to be heavily settled. Nonetheless a flint axehead found in a stream at Coolbeg (NMI Ref. 1955:05), suggests that there was at least a small patch of cleared farm land in the vicinity of the site.

A wider range of archaeological sites and finds suggests that the area was more extensively settled by the Bronze Age. Evidence spanning everyday occupation to burial ritual reflects an established community in the Coolbeg area during the Bronze Age. An early Bronze Age flat axe of Harbison's Killaha type was uncovered in a field southeast of the Beehive crossroads, while a *fulachta fiadh* and a cist burial were uncovered in the adjoining field to the north (Gowen 1996, 20). Another possible *fulachta fiadh* (located in field 31/34, according to the National Museum topographical files) was not visible (see also Gowen 1996, fig. 8), while another potential site noted (Gowen 1996, 34) in the north east of field 36 may actually relate to quarrying. *Fulachta fiadh* consisted of water-filled cooking troughs and diagnostic horseshoe shaped mounds of heat shattered stones, which had been used to heat the water. Flint flakes recovered during ploughing in the same field (no 36) confirms the likelihood of extensive prehistoric settlement in the vicinity.

As in much of Ireland, evidence for Iron Age occupation remains scant, although a Crannog type iron axe head was uncovered in a local wood in 1935 (MacEiteagain & O'Byrne, 3).

2.11.2.2 Early Medieval Period (c. AD 500 – 1169).

The earliest historical evidence suggests that the east coast of Wicklow was by then a refuge for those vanquished from the richer lands of Kildare and south Dublin. The parish of Glenealy formed part of the territory of the Dal Messin Corb who had been pushed there from the plain of Kildare (Smyth 1993, 41). The major churches in the region were Glenealy and Ennisboyne. Kilcandra church (WI031:001), immediately to the northwest of the development was the local centre of religious devotion at this period. It lay within a circular enclosure, which is indicated on the 1st edition O. S. map (Fig. 2.11.2). Both the church and the enclosure were levelled by Colonel Acton in 1830 (Ronan 1928).

Settlement in the vicinity is attested to by ringforts, which are the remains of enclosed farmsteads. Two such sites lie within 1.5km of the site at Ballinameesda Upper (WI031:004) and at Kilnamanagh More

(WI031:008) Two enclosures at Ballinameesda upper (WI031:013; WI031:014) could also be the degraded remains of two ringforts.

2.11.2.3 Late Medieval Period (c. AD1169 – 1550)

The Anglo-Norman invasion in 1169AD precipitated major changes in landownership and settlement. The lands of Wicklow, which formed part of Richard de Clare's lordship of Leinster, were part of a grant to Maurice Fitzgerald, who in turn enfeoffed Meyler FitzHenry. The Crown had seized the strategic town and castle of Wicklow, so it appears that Meyler may have built an alternative motte castle, which also served to guard the strategic pass of Glenealy (Simpson 1993, 200). Meyler no doubt subinfeued his land with his own major tenants. Unfortunately, this process is largely undocumented and little is known of the formation of these estates.

It is likely that the castle at MacDermot's Castle/Ballynagran was the centre of one such estate. It has been suggested that it formed the centre of the manor of Kilnamanagh, which belonged to the Fitzdermot family (Price 1936, 48), but that manor appears to have been sited in south Dublin, near their other manor of Rathdown (Simpson 1993, footnote 250)

The castle survives as a rectangular moated enclosure (dims. 37m N-S, 30m E-W), which was entered through a stone vaulted gatehouse (6.65mx3.7m) (Plate 2.11.3). The side walls of the gatehouse remain, but the moat has been largely filled in. O'Curry recorded in 1839 that it was a 'square fort....surrounded by a mound and fosse, the latter about 16 feet wide at the bottom and varying between 6 and 16 feet deep, excepting some parts on the east and south that have recently been partially filled up' (O'Curry 1839).

The site falls into a wider category of rectangular moated enclosures, which are relatively common in Wicklow barony. The majority of these sites are classified as moated sites, rather than castles, as they generally lack any clear evidence for masonry buildings or curtain wall enclosures. Their common diagnostic feature is a wide moat, which may be water-filled or dry. Sites such as Brittas, Ballinapark and Killoughter are well documented enough to suggest that they served as the residences of major Anglo - Norman tenants in east county Wicklow and that they were therefore built in the thirteenth century (Price 1936).

The presence of a stone gatehouse and the butt of an apparent curtain wall means that Ballynagran is best defined as a moated castle (Simpson 1993) and as such is highly significant within county Wicklow. It would have ranked above the more common moated sites, but below the major fortresses and manorial centres, such as the Royal castle of Newcastlemackinagan and the Archbishopal Castle Kevin.

A moated castle at Talbotstown Upper (WI027:051) in West Wicklow may provide some parallels as it consists of a rectangular moated enclosure with a stone faced bank and corner turrets. MacDermot's castle might be seen as a modest expression of a wider fashion for the building of quadrangular enclosure castles,

which reached its *apogée* in the late thirteenth and early fourteenth century in larger and more complex buildings, such as Ballymoon, Ballyloughan and Clonmore in Co. Carlow (see Sweetman 1999, 111-117).

A geophysical survey of the castle environs highlighted a number of previously unknown features (see Gowen /Murphy 1995, Map 8b). A range of buildings may have stood on the western side of the courtyard. There was a bank outside the fosse, with an outer fosse beyond it, which could be interpreted as extensive defences or perhaps as garden features associated with a castle demesne. Geophysical anomalies also appear to reflect part of the original route southwards from the castle in the direction of the county road. A number of 'possible habitation sites' to the south and east of the castle may reflect associated cottage sites or sites of more generalised activity.

It has been suggested that a 'manorial' village sprung up around the MacDermot's castle (MacEiteagain & O'Byrne), but it is quite likely that it was intended to be a relatively isolated residence. For example, there is a tradition that the church at Kilcandra served the castle, which appears reasonable. However, it lies 1.5km west of the castle, which reinforces the appearance of a dispersed rather than a nucleated settlement pattern in the area. Six geophysical anomalies to the east and south of the castle were interpreted as possible habitation sites, which would indicate a small settlement no larger than a hamlet. It is also possible that these sites reflect areas of agricultural or industrial activity directly associated with the castle complex, rather than distinct settlement sites.

A combination of factors such as the cycle of Irish raiding induced by a series of harsh winters in the 1270's and the chaos in the aftermath of the Scottish Bruce Invasion of the 1310's, led to the collapse of the Anglo-Norman colony in east Wicklow. Fighting broke out in the Glenealy district and the area became part of what became known as the '*terra guerre*', or 'the land of war' (Lydon 1993, 152, 158-181) MacDermot's castle may then have been abandoned during the turmoil of the fourteenth century. The many Royal armies sent into the Wicklow region brought only temporary respite for the settlers as the lands were quickly absorbed into the O'Byrne lordship held by the senior branch of *Crioch Branach* (Price 1936).

2.11.2.4 Post Medieval to Modern Period (AD c. 1550 - 1900)

The expansion of the Tudor government in the sixteenth century gradually eroded the independence of the O'Byrne lordship. Nonetheless the O'Byrnes of *Gabhail Raighnall*, based in Glenmalure continued to oppose English expansion. A major battle took place in the vicinity of the proposed development, where Sir Henry Harrington led an army into an ambush after their withdrawal from Rathdrum. A running battle ensued over several miles, centred on a ford at Potter's river, possibly at Carrigmore. A contemporary illustration of the battle indicated that the English *shott* (musketeers) took temporary refuge in a large rectangular 'green close'. It has been suggested that this is MacDermot's castle (MacEiteagain & O'Byrne, 19). However, when the cardinal features depicted on the map are compared to the modern O.S 6" map, it seems that a more suitable candidate for the 'green close' is a large rectangular enclosure (dims. 72m E-W; 50m N-S) located within the townland of Kilnamanagh Beg (WI031:003) to the south west of the site.

The best general picture of early modern settlement in the vicinity of the site is provided by the Hearth Money Roll of 1664. This hearth tax specified the number of houses in each townland and the number of taxable hearths in each house. Ballinaclogh, Coolbeg and Kilcandra are mentioned, although Ballynagran is not referred to. Ballinaclogh then contained 8 houses and Kilcandra had 5 houses, all with chimneys. By contrast Coolbeg contained 9 dwellings, but only one had a chimney (listed in Price 1931, 171). The others were presumably of modest 'cabin' type (see Aalen 1993, 608; Whelan 1997, 75). There is no indication of their location, although it is quite possible that some lie under the farm complex to the west of the castle (within the landfill footprint)

Jacob Neville's map of county Wicklow (1760) is not detailed enough to draw many conclusions. Coolbeg house is marked, while another building appears to be MacDermot's castle (reproduced in Nolan & Hannigan 1993).

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6" map (1838/39) indicates reasonable prosperity. The farm immediately west of the castle had a quadrangular garden, consisting of a central circular path accessed from four corner pathways (the garden site is field 26). The system of dividing a garden into a series of geometric compartments, such as a square quartered by pathways arose during the Renaissance, where large villa gardens were composed of many such square *compartimenti*. This motif continued to develop in the Baroque period. However, the form enjoyed a revival during the Victorian period (1820-1890), when small formal gardens proliferated. The Coolbeg garden is most likely to date to this period in the early 1800's, when such small scale gardening was elevated to a position of moral virtue (see Strong 1992, 24, 37, 88, 94).

The complex of farm buildings indicated on the 1st ed. O.S. 6" (sheet 31), 1838/39AD were largely replaced by the mapping of the 2nd edition, 1910AD. The extant two storey range consists of an original three roomed farm building which appears on the 1st edition O.S. 6" map and a dwelling which has been added to the eastern end (indicated on the 2nd edition O.S. 6" map) (Plate 2.11.4). Red brick has been used extensively in the doors and windows and there are massive granite quoins in the eastern gable (2.11.5).

Griffith's Valuation (1854) recorded that Coolbeg contained 11 houses, two of which were vacant. In effect, the population was broadly similar to the 1660 level. The valuation also reveals a hierarchy of tenure, spanning the great landlords, their middlemen farmers and the simple cottagers. Coolbeg was divided between William Acton of Kilmaccuragh, Rev. Henry Jones and Charles Davis, who held 224 acres, 91 acres and 56 acres respectively. Acton's land was leased by John Byrne, who sublet two houses to Hugh Devlin and Thomas Power. Nicholas Hopkins leased Rev. Jones's land and sublet one house to Michael Brien. John McCoy leased the Davis lands and sublet three houses, including a forge. Two houses in Coolbeg were vacant, perhaps reflecting a drop in population in the aftermath of the famine.

2.11.3 Field Walking Survey

Fieldwork (Fig. 2.11.3) was carried out in fine, sunny weather.

Field 1

Field in crop, sloping sharply to the south. Bounded to the north and west by hedgerows and to the east by a bank, with an overgrown area beyond which leads into a gully containing a stream (forms the boundary between Ballynagran and Coolbeg townlands). It is bounded to the west by a hedgerow. Nothing of archaeological significance visible.

Field 2 & 3

Amalgamated into one field under long grass. The eastern boundary is formed by a wet ditch (c.0.5m deep, 1.5m wide), a bank and a recut natural gully containing a stream. Bounded to the south by a modern fence, a bank and a line of trees. The western boundary is formed by a laneway and the bounds of a farmhouse. Nothing of archaeological significance visible.

Field 4

Field, sloping to the southwest and under grass. Bounded to the north by a line of trees, a bank and a modern fence. The eastern boundary is formed by a wet ditch (c.0.5m deep, 1.5m wide, a bank and a recut natural gully containing a stream. The southern boundary is formed by the county road and the western boundary by a laneway. Nothing of archaeological significance visible.

Field 5, 6, 7A

Amalgamated into one field under crop. Field 5 is south west sloping, while field 6 and 7A are south sloping. The northern and eastern boundaries are formed by a bank supporting 4-9m high trees. There is a laneway outside its eastern half. The southern boundary is formed by a modern wire fence, which divides fields 7A & 7B and by a hedgerow, followed by a 1m drop in slope, which divides fields 6 and 9. The western boundary is a wide natural gully (c. 20m wide, 5m deep) 6-7m tall trees; the vicinity is heavily overgrown with nettles. Nothing of archaeological significance visible.

Field 7B

Field in pasture, sloping to the south. The northern boundary is formed by a modern wire fence. The eastern boundary is formed by a bank supporting 4 - 9m high trees, with a laneway outside. The southern boundary is marked by 6-7m tall trees; the vicinity is heavily overgrown with nettles. The western boundary is formed by a bank (c.1.5m wide and 0.4m high), supporting a gorse hedge. Nothing of archaeological significance visible.

Field 8

A long sub-triangular field. Undulating, under rough pasture. The northern end of the field is separated by a modern field fence and lies under grass. The northern boundary consists of mature hedgerow. The eastern side of the field is bounded by a ditch (c. 0.5m H) covered in gorse. The western edge of the field is

bounded by a wet ditch (D. c. 0.5m) with an outer bank covered by mature hedgerow for the northern portion while the southern half is lined with trees. Nothing of archaeological significance visible.

Field 9

A sub-rectangular field under pasture. Undulating. The northern side of the field is bounded by a bank (H. c. 0.5m) covered by mature hedgerow and gorse. The eastern, southern and western sides are bounded by gorse hedges. Nothing of archaeological significance visible.

Field 10, 11

Amalgamated into one field. Rough pasture and tough grass. Northern boundary (between field 10/11 and 7) consists of a bank (H. 0.5m) supported with stone on the northern side and covered with a line of conifers. Eastern side of the field is bounded by the farmhouse and mature hedgerow. Southern boundary (between fields 10/11 and 19/20) consists of a high bank (H. 1-1.5m) covered in mature hedgerow. The boundary between field 10 and field 16 has been removed. North-western corner of the field (between field 10 and 9) is bounded by a shallow ditch (D. 10cm) with an outer bank (H. 30cm) covered in gorse and hedgerow. Nothing of archaeological significance visible.

Field 12

Field in pasture, sloping gently to the south. Northwestern boundary consists of tall pine trees (c.5-8m). The northeastern boundary consists of a dense 3m high hedgerow. The eastern boundary consists of a degraded bank supporting a mixed hedgerow, broken in places, where it is replaced by a modern post and wire fence. The southern boundary is a dense mature, mixed hedgerow. The western boundary is formed by a modern fence, with occasional gorse bushes, beyond which is a laneway. Nothing of archaeological significance visible.

Field 13

Field in overgrown pasture, with a slight slope to the south. The northern boundary is a dense mature, mixed hedgerow. The eastern boundary is modern wire fence, which retains a mature hedgerow containing some trees. The southern boundary consists of a heavily overgrown dry ditch (2m wide, 1m deep) and many trees (c.4-12m tall). The western boundary is a modern wire fence, retaining a mature hedgerow set on a bank (c.1.4m wide, 1.3m tall), beyond which is the overgrown site of an old laneway. Nothing of archaeological significance visible.

Field 14

Field in rough pasture, covered in thistles and rough grass. The terrain is very uneven. The northeastern boundary consists of a line of young trees, beyond which is a low bank and ditch. The southern boundary is a bank supporting a dense gorse hedge. The western boundary is a shallow (c.0.8m) wide (c.5m) flat bottomed stream bed, with trees and hedges on either side. The northwestern boundary is a heavy gorse hedge beyond which is a drop in height (1m), including a 0.3m deep and 2m wide ditch and another gorse hedge. Nothing of archaeological significance visible.

Field 30

A large irregular shaped field. Gently undulating. Under grass and marshy in places, particularly in the western third of the field which is overgrown with reeds. The middle portion of the field consists of a natural marshy hollow which is overgrown with scrub and gorse bushes. The northern and eastern boundaries consist of thick gorse and hedgerow. The southern side is bounded by ditch (D. c. 70cm) with a wide outer bank covered in mature hedgerow. The western boundary consists of a shallow ditch (D. c. 25cm) with a bank (H. c. 0.5m) covered in gorse and mature hedgerow. Nothing of archaeological significance visible.

Field 31, 34

Amalgamated into one field, which is ungrazed pasture. The northern boundary is a thick hedgerow, which grows over a ditch (c.2m deep, 2m wide). The southern boundary is a very overgrown ditch (c.3m wide, 3m deep) with trees (c.5-15m tall). The western boundary is a very overgrown hedgerow, containing trees (c.15-25m tall). A possible fulachta fiadh was said to be located in this field (NMI Topographical Files).

Fields 35, 36, 39

Broken into one field, although traces of the boundary between field 35 and 36 remain. Fields 36 and 39 are under crop. Field 35 is heavily overgrown. The northern boundary consists of a very overgrown thick gorse hedge. The eastern boundary is a 5m wide, 2m deep gully containing a stream. The southern boundary is the county road. A possible fulachta fiadh, in the north of field 36, noted in a previous E.I.S was not visible, due to the crop cover.

Field 37

Field, sloping gently to south, under crop. The eastern boundary is a bank (H. .5m) covered in mature hedgerow, followed by a shallow ditch (D. 20cm). The southern boundary is a bank supporting a mature hedgerow, followed by the county road. The western boundary is 2m deep ditch followed by a very dense hedgerow, containing trees (4-25m tall).

Field 38

A large, roughly square field, under crop. Gently undulating. Northern boundary consists of gorse and mature hedgerow (max W. c. 4m). The eastern side is bounded by a water-filled ditch (D. 0.5m-2m) with an outer bank supporting mature hedgerow and trees. The southern boundary which runs along the roadside consists of a ditch (D. c. 0.4m) with mature hedgerow on the south side. The western side of the field is bounded by a shallow ditch (D. 0.2) with an outer bank (H. 0.5m) covered in mature hedgerow.

Field 41, 42, 43

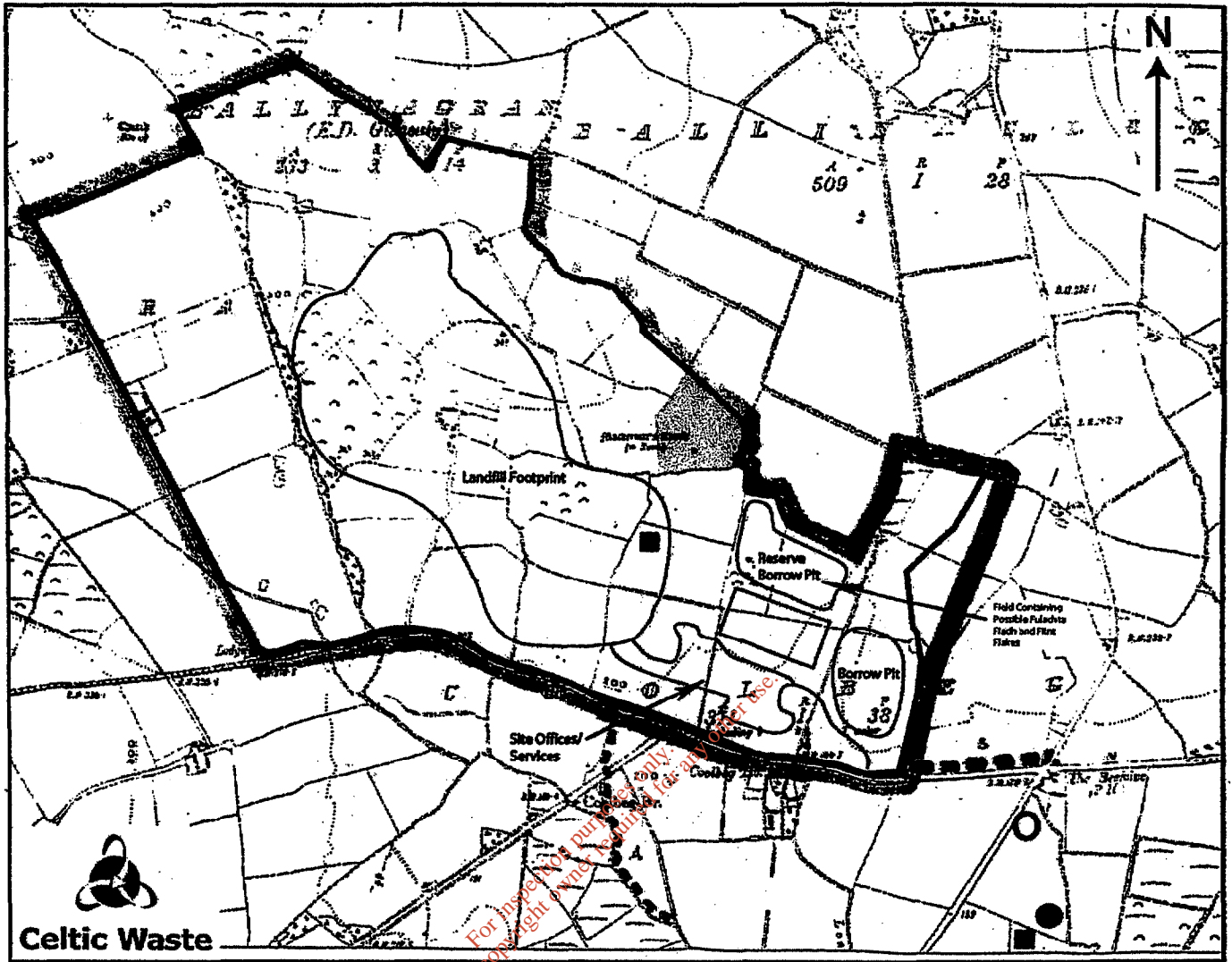
These fields have been quarried and are partly overgrown.

Field 40

This field is under crop. The northern boundary is formed by overgrown bushes. The eastern boundary is formed by a hedgerow. The southern boundary is a modern post and wire fence and the county road. The

western boundary is formed by a gully containing a stream. A circular feature on the ridge in the north of this field appears to be the result of quarrying.

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<p>Cultural Resources Development Services Ltd. Archaeological & Geological Consultancy</p>  <p>Campos Innovation Centre Rocksack, U.C.D., Belfield, Dublin 4. Tel: +353 1 7167890 Fax: +353 1 7167891 email: crds@ucd.ie</p>	<p>○ Fulachta Fiadh (Bronze Age) Field containing Castle</p> <p>● Cist (Bronze Age)</p> <p>■ Bronze Axe (Bronze Age)</p> <p>0  1 km</p>
<p>Figure No: 2.11.1 Client: Celtic Waste/ KTC</p> <p>Drawn By: RC</p> <p>Job No. 01#230 Date: July 2001</p>	

Fig. 2.11.1. Extract from Ordnance Survey 6" Sheet 31 showing the location of the proposed development and recorded archaeological sites and monuments in the area.

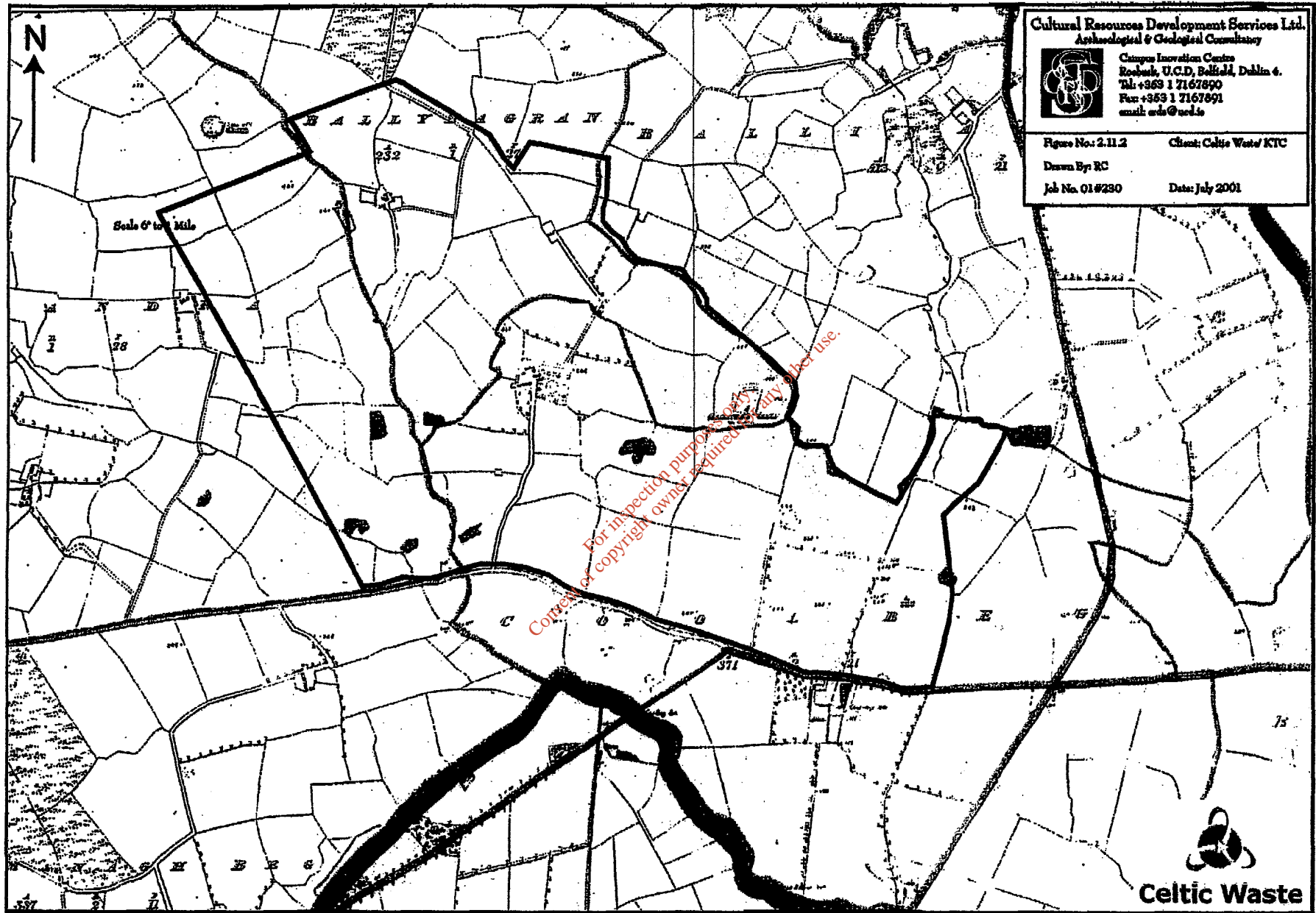
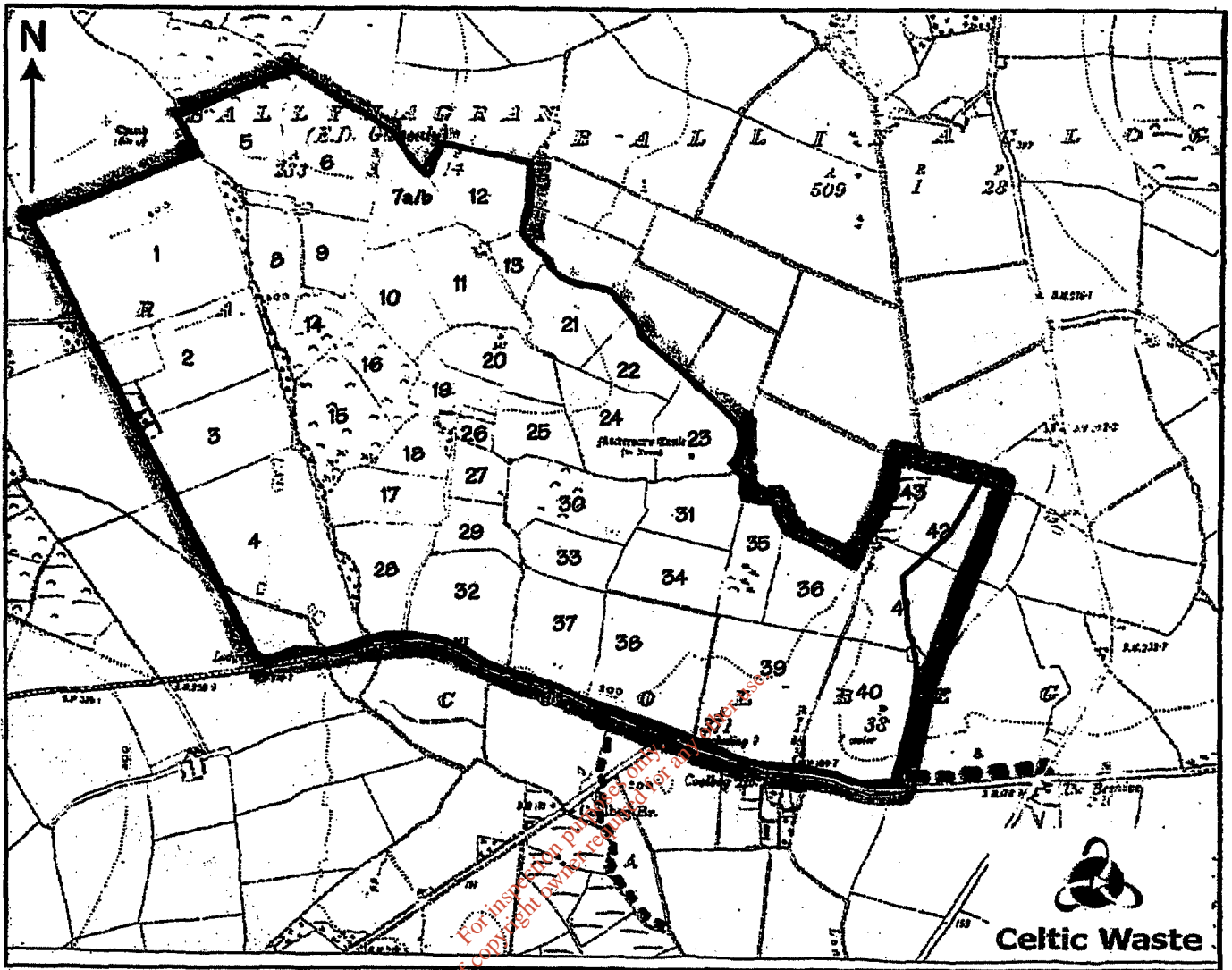


Fig. 2.11.2. Extract from Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" Sheet 31 (1838/39), showing site location.





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<p>Figure No: 2.11.3 Client: Celtic Waste/KTC Drawn By: RC Job No. 01.#230 Date: July 2001</p>	

Fig. 2.11.3. Extract from Ordnance Survey 6" Sheet 31 showing the results of the field survey.

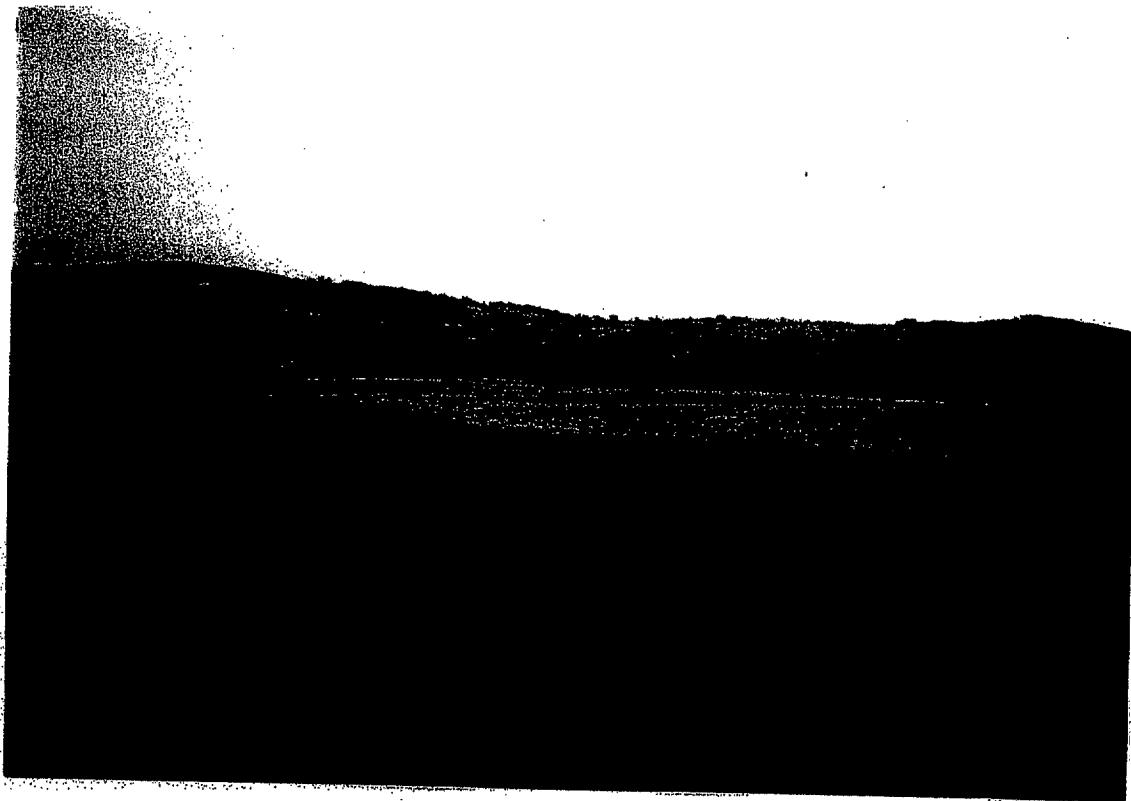
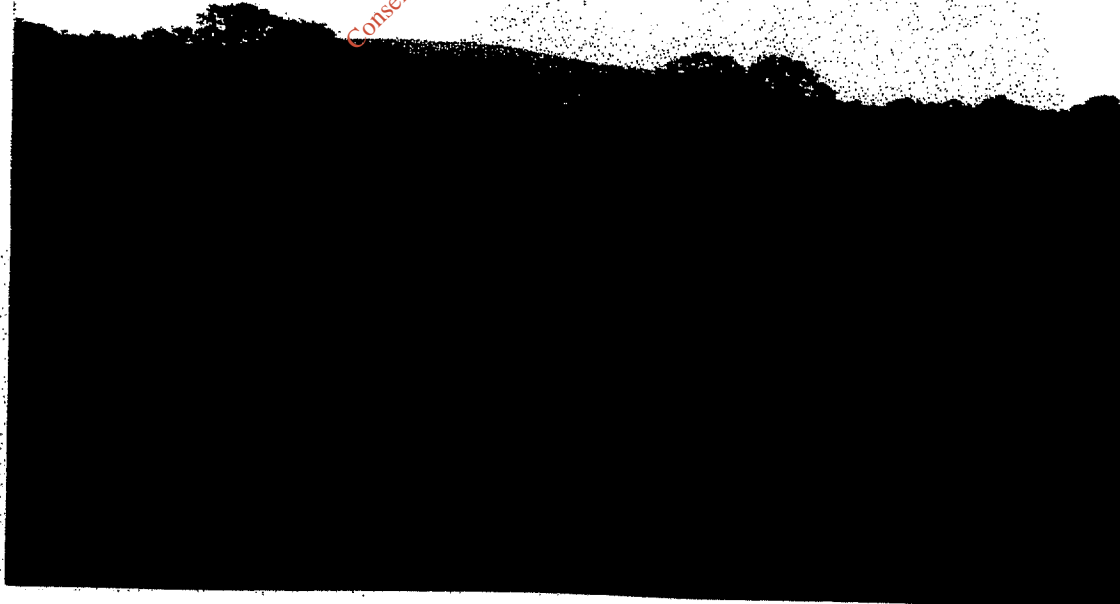


Plate 2.11.1. Fields 35, 36, 39. Facing South.



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Plate 2.11.2. Field 14. Facing West.

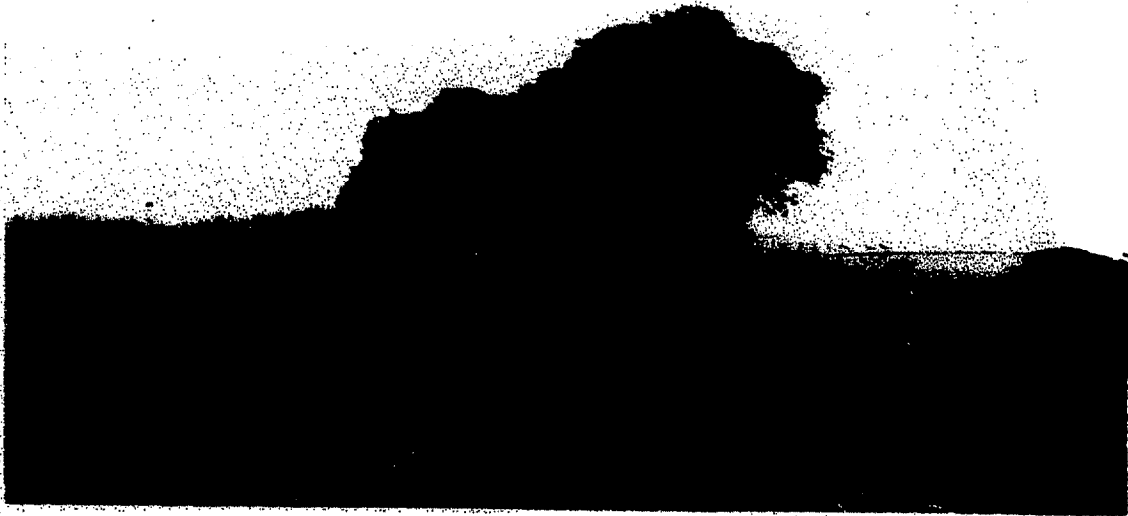


Plate 2.11.3. MacDermot's Castle - Gatehouse. Facing Northeast.

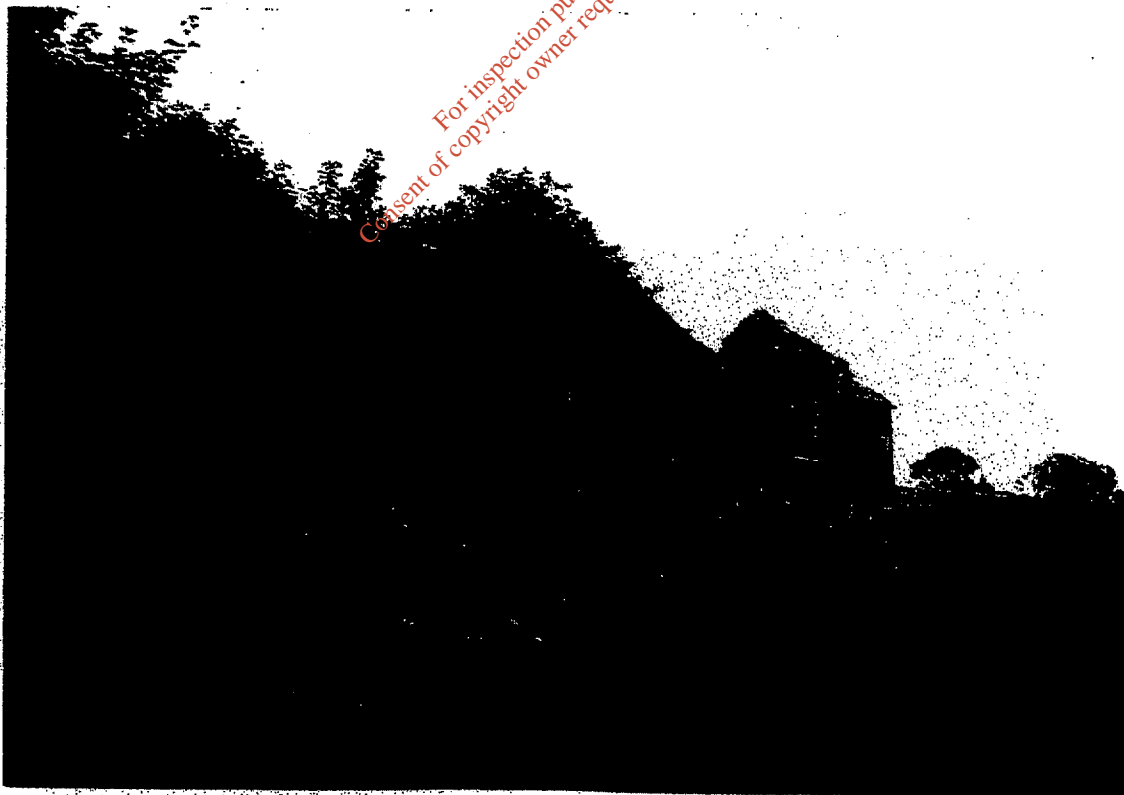


Plate 2.11.4. Farm Buildings. Facing Northeast.

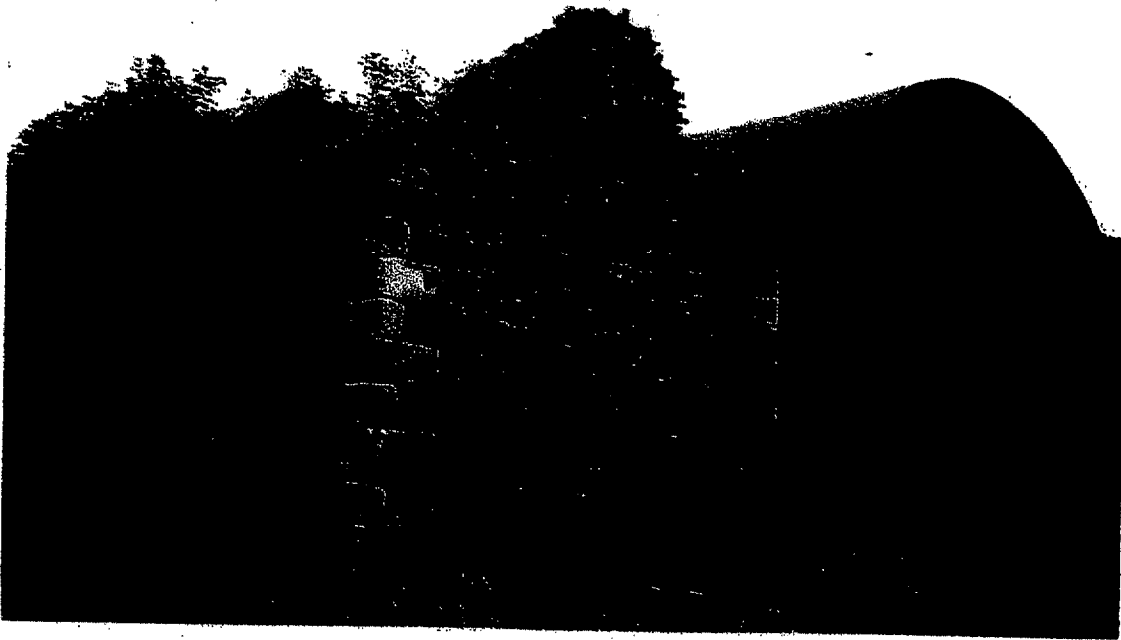


Plate 2.11.5. Farm Buildings. Facing Northwest.

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